

# THE STONY BROOK PRESS

VOL XXXI ISSUE 13

"WOAH, LAURA COOPER'S ACQUAINTANCE!  
YOU'RE HOT!"

APRIL 21, 2010



*Turning  
and turning  
in the widening gyre  
the falcon cannot hear the falconer;  
things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;*



# The Statesman Money Massacre

By Najib Aminy

Following a \$29,000 operating budget deficit for the past two years, the *Stony Brook Statesman's* Undergraduate Student Government budget allocation has been significantly slashed from \$27,000 to \$2,500.

*The Statesman*, founded in 1957, is the self-defined official newspaper of Stony Brook University. The paper prints twice a week, with an emphasis on hard-news and, as an incorporated non-for-profit organization, operates on a budget which has a strong dependency on advertising. However, continuing the trend seen throughout the print medium, *The Statesman's* 2008-2009 ad revenue dropped 30 percent from the year prior.

And while *The Statesman* is not in debt, with \$93,000 in total assets as of their 2008-09 financial statements, the mere fact that the organization ran a \$5,000 deficit in 2007-2008, followed by a \$24,000 deficit in 2008-2009, has convinced members of USG that the administration of the bi-weekly

newspaper is fiscally incompetent.

"Their operational deficit seems to be a growing trend," said Moiz Khan, Treasurer of USG. "Is it responsible to give \$27,000 to a club that lost \$24,000 in the previous year?" he asked. The editors of *The Statesman*, in response to their funding cut, filed a brief in protest to the USG Judiciary in what some Senators implied is an attempt to appeal for budget restoration. But the court's interpretation of the case, at least according to Chief Justice Geordan Kushner, was not so much the issue of *The Statesman's* budget, but about addressing whether budget hearings for USG clubs should be mandatory. (*The Statesman* had not attended such a meeting)

"The decision of the case wouldn't have the influence of giving their budget back," said Kushner. "If they are entitled to it, they can have a budget hearing again." Kushner added that the case served more as a precedent on the status for budget hearings, which, during the hearing, Khan fully acknowledged were optional.

"While they are optional, they are important and beneficial," Khan said. "The burden of proof is on clubs to ex-

plain why they deserve money, which is done at the budget meeting." Khan says he received a budget application from *The Statesman* with a list of expenses, costs and a copy of the club's Constitution, but with no explanation.

The proposed budget, which had allocated \$2,500 to the Statesman—a 90 percent cut from their 2008-2009 USG funding of \$27,000—was rescinded due to the recent closure of the Southampton campus. USG is in the process of re-allocating \$80,000 from the activity fees of Southampton students back into clubs at Stony Brook and into the general fund. *The Statesman's* future remains unclear.

*The Statesman*, during their judicial case, made it clear that USG funding was used for printing and emphasized that \$2,500 would not be enough to sustain their operations. However, Khan said he purposely allocated that specific figure to allow them enough money, which combined with outside revenue sources, to print a couple issues until the fall budget revision in late September of the Fall 2010 semester. "I don't think *The Statesman* have made a case forward as to why they deserve more

funding, nor should they receive special treatment in which they are considered [for budget allocation] after the process is normally done," said Khan.

The situation *The Statesman* is in resembles that of the New York Public Interest Research Group, which had been defunded in 2008 and worked their way towards gaining back a budget of roughly \$32,000.

"They will not go out of business," said Khan, pointing to the \$90,000 the organization has in assets, and the process by which they can regain their funding. "It is the duty and responsibility of that organization to prove that they deserve USG funding, and that student money is well accounted for. I don't believe *The Statesman* has made enough of an effort to do that."

Multiple attempts were made to contact the editors of *The Statesman*. They would not comment.

*The Press*, received roughly \$46,000 in its 2009-2010 budget, after Fall revisions and a \$4,000 grant, which amounts to a 40 percent increase from the previous year's budget.

Additional reporting by Bobby Holt

# New Dorms Named for Yang and Lauterbur

By Carol Moran

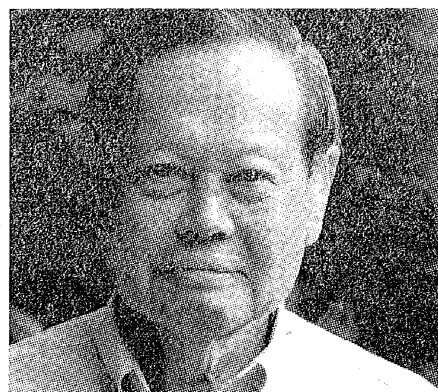
One of the two new residence halls opening to students for the Fall 2010 semester is to be named Yang College, for Dr. Chen Ning Yang, a world-renowned physicist and 1957 Nobel Laureate. A naming ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, at 12:30 p.m., according to George F. Sterman, distinguished professor and Director of the C.N. Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics.

Yang most recently visited Stony Brook nearly two years ago, but is expected to speak at a fundraising gala held in New York City on Thursday, April 22, Sterman said.

He was born on September 22, 1922, in China. After arriving in the United States on a Tsinghua University Fellowship in 1946, Yang became a revolutionary theorist and cultural icon representing better relations between the United States and China. In 1954, he worked with Robert Mills, another distinguished physicist, in formulating

what is now known as the Yang-Mills theories. Their work now serves as the basis for our current understanding of fundamental physics and laws of nature, Sterman said.

"When you have a really profound



discovery like that, it continues to develop for centuries," Sterman said.

Yang spent many summers at Brookhaven National Laboratory. John Toll, the first president of Stony Brook University, approached Yang and convinced him to become a professor at Stony Brook. Yang turned down other jobs at Ivy League colleges to establish

the C.N. Yang Institute for Theoretic Physics at Stony Brook University, where he supervised the hiring of other faculty members. He retired in 1999.

"He was very successful not only in bringing attention to the University at the very beginning, but also because he brought success to others at the University," Sterman said.

The Institute continues to serve as an incubator for important work in physics, but Sterman said they are in the process of reinventing themselves.

"We're hopeful that we're really embarking on a new cycle of leadership built on the foundation that they have laid."

Assistant to the Director of the C.N. Institute Betty Gasparino said it was very enjoyable to work for Yang.

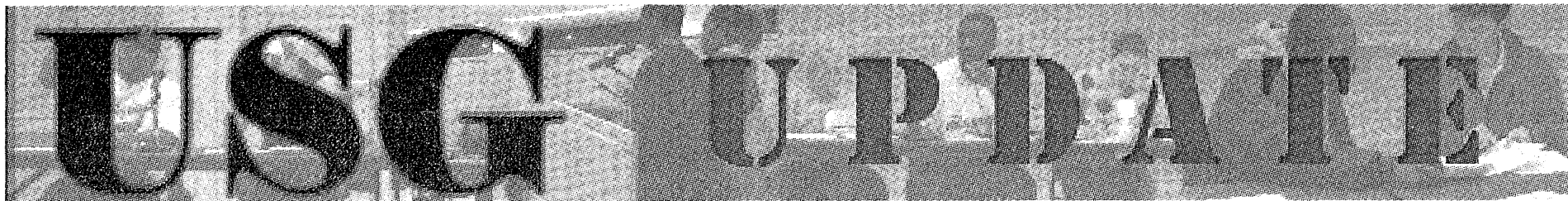
"He's not intimidating at all," She said. "When he does speak to anyone, you get the feeling that he's generally interested in what you're saying."

The second residence hall, according to an official close to the naming process who requested anonymity, is to be named for Paul Lauterbur, an Amer-

ican chemist and 2003 Nobel Laureate who pioneered the development of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). Now widely used, MRI produces multi-dimensional images of organs and soft tissues. Peter Mansfield improved MRI for practical use, and shared the Nobel Prize with Lauterbur.

Lauterbur was born on May 6, 1929, in Sidney, Ohio. He received his B.S. in Chemistry from Case Institute of Technology in Ohio, and then worked for Dow Corning Corporation in their Mellon Institute laboratories, while also taking classes at the University of Pittsburgh. In 1962, Lauterbur received a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh. Lauterbur became an Associate Professor at Stony Brook University in 1969, and remained at the University until 1985, when he left to become the director of the Biomedical Magnetic Resonance Laboratory at the University of Illinois. He died from kidney disease in 2007.

Director of Campus Residences Alan DeVries was not available for comment.



## Your Student Gov't At Work...Sort of

By Najib Aminy

Budget woes, impeachments and a penis scandal, oh my! The offices of the Stony Brook Undergraduate Student Government on the second floor of the Student Activities Center are filling up with gossip, political jockeying and the clashing of power-hungry egomaniacs. Oh, and some governing.

# U

### Southampton

Following President Samuel Stanley's recent announcement on the closing of the Stony Brook Southampton Campus, the Undergraduate Student Government had voted to rescind the original budget passed on March 19, 2010.

With the closing of the former Long Island University campus, USG was left with \$80,000 that would have funded Southampton's student organizations. The money, according to USG Treasurer Moiz Khan, is being allocated accordingly to unique Southampton clubs that don't repeat any of the mission goals of any current USG funded clubs at Stony Brook.

Any additional money will be directed to the general fund to be used for Fall Revisions, emergency funding and grants.

The USG Senate had also voted in favor of allocating \$10,000 towards transportation and other related costs for a student-led protest, against the closure of Southampton and budget cuts to Stony Brook, in Albany. The money would be used for buses and for supplies to make signs and such.

A protest was held last Monday, April 19, in which Southampton students marched for miles to Stony Brook and held a sit-in outside the administration building.

### Penis-Gate

The USG Judiciary ruled to remove Senator Daniel Graber from office following a two-thirds majority vote by the Executive Council to impeach him for inappropriate acts and behavior.

An investigation conducted by the Executive Council, according to a letter sent to Senator Graber on November

20, 2009, found Graber guilty of leaving a pornographic image tiled as a background on a USG Senate office computer on November 5. The Executive Council had signed a contract that offered Graber a chance to regain the council's confidence in his continuing senate service. The contract required that Graber publicly apologize for his actions, write and sign a letter to that effect, coordinate a sexual harassment and diversity education workshop and enroll in an anger management-training course.

The requirement of the anger management course was in response to Graber's reaction to his loss of a USG election for the position of President Pro-tempore of the Senate to Senator Syed Haq. A number of senators, who asked for anonymity due to the pending case, confirmed that Graber had taken Haq's business cards and lit them on fire.

However, for a senator to be impeached, the USG Constitution requires that a three-fourths vote pass, and, given that only eight out of the eleven members had voted, the requirement wasn't fulfilled. Of the three remaining votes, one sided with Graber, another abstained and one member of the Executive Council had been absent during the time of vote.

"The reason they established such a contract is because my actions were not of the level warranting impeachment," said Graber, in an email. "They tried to impeach me based on not fulfilling their contract. To simplify: If my actions were impeachable, then why didn't they do it six months ago?"

Graber said he had fulfilled all but one of the requirements of the contract; coordinating a sexual harassment and diversity education workshop by February 26, 2010. Graber says that such training videos on sexual harassment were not accessible through the university, and that he would not pay \$800 out of his own pocket to pay for the video.

"The truth of the matter is that there are people in the Executive Council that don't like me," said Graber, calling the move a political assassination.

### Impeachment City: Population USG

Since the Judiciary failed to ask for the minutes for the meeting when the Executive Council moved to impeach Senator Graber and failed to acknowledge that a three-fourths vote had not been reached, some senators are considering impeaching the entire judiciary.

Additionally, one senator, Alex Dimitriyadi, who defended Graber, pointed out that the Executive Council had not sent their legal brief to the executive secretary (of the USG professional staff) for filing, when, according to Dimitriyadi, Chief Justice Geordan Kushner had gone on a tirade about the senate overstepping its boundaries.

In the court's decision to not delay Graber's trial, Chief Justice Kushner had gone as far as to say the current USG Constitution violates itself. The Senate's ability to create judicial bylaws breaks the series of checks and balances implied by the framers of the document, according to Kushner.

"It's all about interpretation," Kushner said. "The Supreme Court should have power to review all power and legislation and declare them unconstitutional," said Kushner, who feels that the Judiciary is acting underneath the Senate.

As for the oversight into not asking for minutes and checking for a three-fourths vote against Graber, Kushner pointed blame at the Executive Council. "It was a bad mistake on behalf of the Executive Council, they should've known how many votes they needed."

Dimitriyadi's push for impeaching the Judiciary is based on what he called pure incompetence. "They all [Kushner and the other four Associate Justices] signed documents in which they acknowledged their incompetence by stating the Constitution was unconstitutional."

# S

However, despite calling Dimitriyadi a spin-doctor, Kushner says he isn't worried about being removed from his office. "A justice can be impeached but the Constitution does not say which body removes them," said Kushner, whose term expires next semester. "It's a flaw in the Constitution. There are a lot of flaws."

In fact, the USG Constitution says quite plainly, in a section explicitly labeled as dealing with the impeachment of members of the judiciary, that the Executive Council and Senate remove justices. This is detailed in Article VIII, Section 3, subsection A.

### SAB

For the past year, the USG Senate,

as well members of the Executive Council, have been pushing towards a less sovereign Student Activities Board. Recently, the Senate, through USG bylaws, voted in favor of allowing the Vice Pres-

# G

ident of Student Life to hold power over an SAB event. The SAB would need a two-thirds vote in its general body to overrule the veto. The measure was implemented to try and gain control over the way SAB operates.

However, newly suggested changes would be a lot more drastic. Senator Dimitriyadi introduced a new bill, proposing the creation of the Student Programming Agency—essentially a new version of the current SAB that would operate underneath the umbrella of USG rather than separately—as is currently the case.

"One of the biggest problems with student life on this campus is that there is no representative body that plans events for the entire campus," Dimitriyadi said. "USG is the only one that represents all 15,000 students, and the idea is that we are going to do a lot more on large scaled events, looking to attract 5,000 to 8,000 students."

However, members of the current SAB, who voiced their opposition at last week's Senate meeting, feel the introduction of the SPA is both unproductive and a misuse of Student Activity funding. "Creating a 'new SAB' is just making the exact same SAB now," said USG Senator Aneta Bose. "The only difference is that they [the USG Senators] are giving themselves power and wasting our students' activities fee so they can get paid while the students will see less events on campus," said Bose, a former Vice-Chair of SAB.

While originally the bill had included legislation that would've paid the members of SAB doing the work, Dimitriyadi says the funding was later removed following criticisms from both the USG Senate and SAB. The bill, as it stands, would provide a \$100 per week salary for the sole director of the SPA, who would be nominated by the USG President and confirmed by the Senate.

The proposed bill has since been revised and is awaiting committee approval before being put up to vote on the Senate floor.



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# editorials

## Cutting Corners

The situation at Southampton is indeed a tragic one. The campus, which represented an ideal in sustainability, is an enlightened haven of fresh ideas on energy and the environment. The smaller campus meant more intimate classes and a better learning atmosphere. The campus itself is also a picturesque escape from the doldrums of Long Island strip mall life. Its students are a small but passionate bunch, ardently fighting (and rightfully so) for their right to continue to learn at such a wonderful place. The school represents an ideal that Stony Brook may one day hope to attain at its own campus.

But what's happening at Southampton right now is also the necessary evil that comes when the state dramatically reduces funding for the school. Given the current budgetary conditions that Stony Brook, and all of SUNY, is facing, it is infeasible to think that they can continue running the campus at Southampton and educating the more than 25,000 students at the main campus of Stony Brook.

We would agree with President Stanley on this, but his Southampton opponents question his motives in doing this. According to an April 14 article in *The East Hampton Star*:

*"Mr. Thiele and Mr. LaValle have said that the move to close the Southampton campus, which has been supported by the state university system's chancellor, Nancy L. Zimpher, is part of a political effort to support the Public Higher Education Innovation and Empowerment Act. It would, among other things, allow the university system to charge different tuition rates for different programs and at different campuses."*

LaValle and Thiele aren't really trustable, and we didn't have time to follow up on this with Stanley. Regardless, Stanley's firm insistence that PHEEIA is the way to make up for SUNY's budget shortfalls is the wrong sort of thinking that does not need to be reinforced with legislators.

This crisis is indicative of more than a failure of Stony Brook's administration; it's a failure on the state's legislators and governor. Senator LaValle, Assemblyman Thiele and the rest of New York's legislators were responsible for this when they allowed the tens of millions in cuts to Stony Brook over the last two years. We're seeing for the first time—and probably not the last—a clash of actions and desire. LaValle and Thiele want to drastically cut funding for SUNY (or not to reverse it) and to keep their constituents happy.

One thing is for certain, though; Stony Brook and the rest of SUNY need more money than they're getting. If the crisis at Southampton shows legislators anything, it should be that they need to restore the years of slashed funding to SUNY's budget, they need to make the education of New York's citizens a higher priority and they need to stop pushing the burden for driving New York's economy onto the students.



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# If the Dumb Could Speak

For far too long *The Stony Brook Statesman* has continually provided a huge disservice to the Stony Brook campus community. Aside from its ad-laced razor-thin issues, sycophancy reluctance to hold elections for its officers and occasional plagiarism scandals, the quality of reporting does not impress. It's not so much the fault of the contributing writers who work there, rather the mismanagement of the top editors who have, over time, dismantled the official paper of Stony Brook University.

*The Press'* main concern with the deterioration of what once could be called a rival paper is the absence of competition. With the introduction of *The Stony Brook Independent* and *Think Magazine*, both originated from disgruntled *Statesman* writers, (as was *The Press*) one would think that competition in campus media would be at an all time high, right? Well, it's difficult to determine which is best when you are comparing apples to oranges, pears and grapes, but when one of the more institutionalized contenders is rotten (hint: it's *The Statesman*), that question becomes much easier to answer.

A good argument can be made that *The Statesman* deserves to be cut. There is no excuse for operating a campus newspaper with a consecutive deficit over two years that totals nearly \$30,000. The excuse that advertising revenue has dropped can only go so far, at which point the editors of *The Statesman* should've realized that certain cuts would have to be made, perhaps to the number of issues they printed and the frequency.

But the bigger question at hand lies in the financial future of *The Statesman* and its larger impact on the campus and organizations such as *The Press*.

"The USG takes no stance on the quality of a publication," said Moiz Khan, USG Treasurer when asked about if the quality of *The Statesman* had factored into the decision to cut the budget. "It's their first amendment right to print whatever they want to write. While opinions might be brought up, it would be a violation," Khan said.

But clearly, behind closed-doors, that's what it is. It appears that senators and officials from USG are influenced by the poor quality of *The Statesman* in their decision to cut their budget, despite denying such beliefs in public.

This is both dangerous and im-

man's lack of USG coverage—in fact a number of Senators insultingly post up the one or two articles *The Statesman* published on the walls in their offices—concluding that *The Statesman* is not doing enough.

*The Statesman* does have a responsibility to inform their readers, but the USG has a responsibility to respect the special protections afforded to the media and avoid a potentially self-interested budgetary process favoring groups, which publicize the USG.

The problem with judging quality is that it is highly subjective and that doesn't bode well the attempted objectivity required when allocating funds for clubs on campus.

If *The Statesman* is getting cut because of their fiscal irresponsibility and failure to defend their importance on campus (their budget application and defense was inept and inadequate), then let them be cut. The \$27,000 saved would probably go towards something much more beneficial anyway. But because there seems to be a strong underlying tone of complaints regarding the quality of *The Statesman*, there's no question that those

dealing with *The Statesman's* budget, in an effort to address that tone, should make the process as transparent as possible.

And because *The Statesman* can't seem to do anything right, we would offer our advice—that they start reporting on their own situation rather than leaving other publications like *The Independent* and *The Press* to report on it. Editorialize on it, protest against and get angry about it.

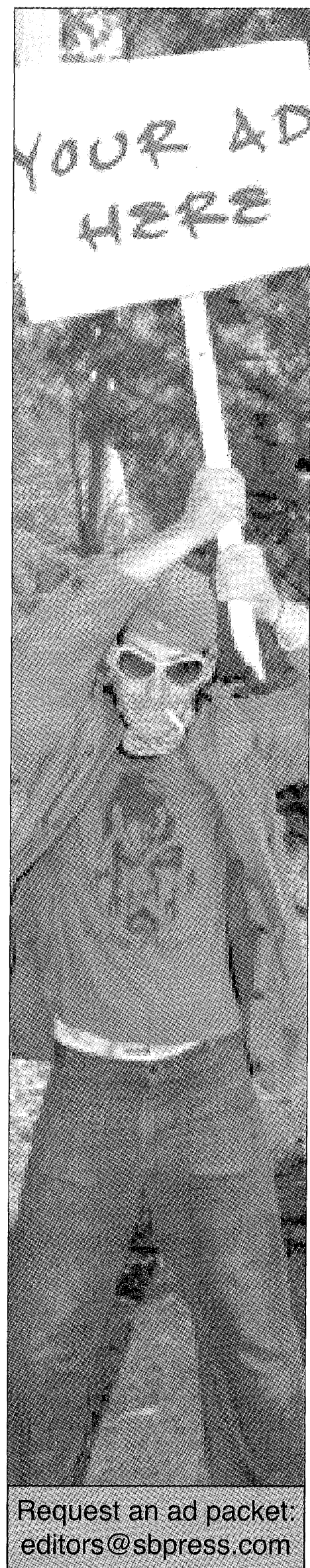
But again, *The Statesman* wouldn't be in the position that they are in if weren't for the leadership.



*The Statesman's* USG Judiciary Hearing

Roman Sheydvasser

moral. Such a precedent would threaten the sanctity of any publication on this campus, importantly to us, *The Press*. The problem with judging quality is that it is highly subjective—hard to reconcile with the objectivity required when allocating funds for clubs on campus. Subjections cutting the news media would impinge a publication's right to free speech; it would be, like Khan said, a huge violation of the USG's responsibilities and more importantly the trust of the students who pay for an activity fee. Consider how there have been numerous conversations amongst USG senators and officials over *The States-*



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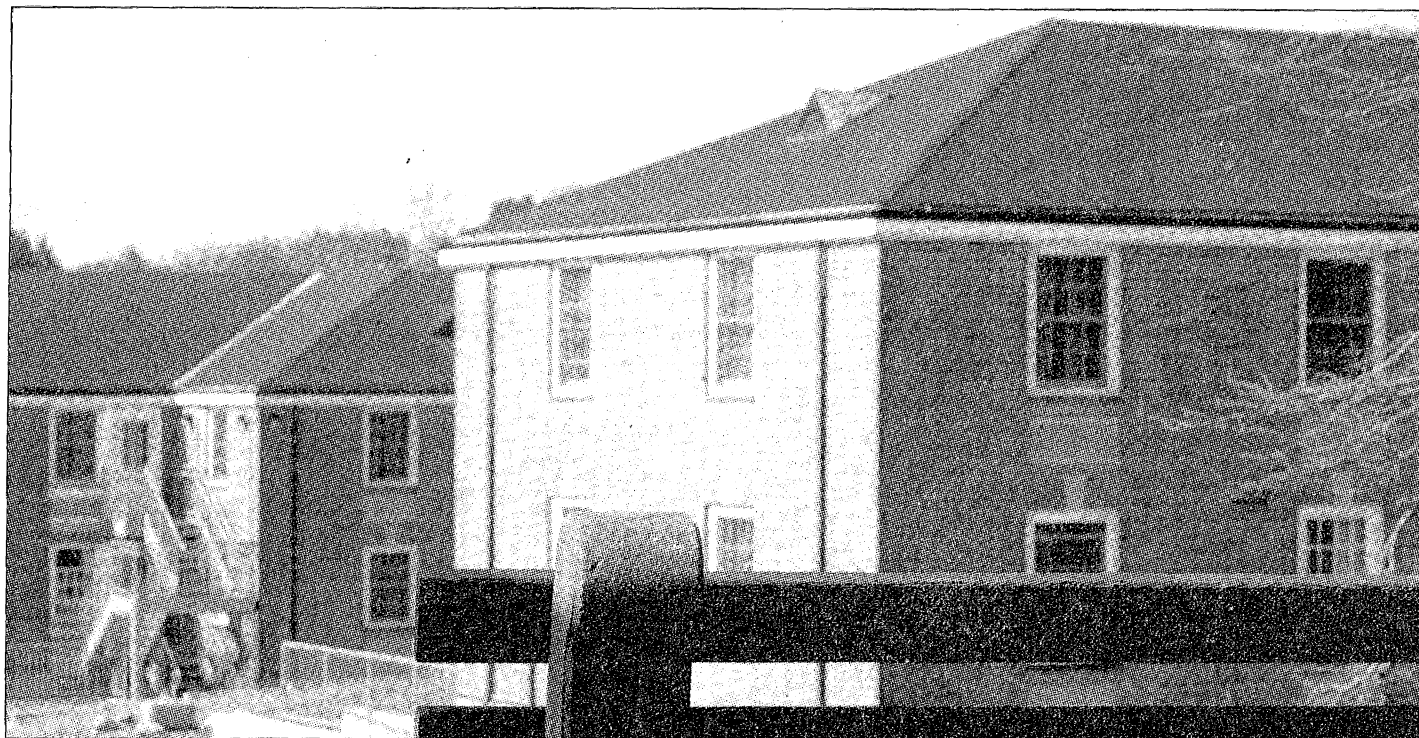
# When the Windmill Stopped Spinning

By Colleen Harrington

Still reeling from President Stanley's gut-punch announcement that the sustainability-centered Southampton campus will be mothballed to cut costs, outraged students are preparing to combat SUNY in court. Student leaders announced Friday night that they have raised over \$20,000 in under a week to hire a law firm and challenge the closure.

After media reports leaked news of the closure last week, Stanley was forced to announce his intentions to shut down all Southampton residence halls, most undergraduate academic programs and most buildings, including a newly completed state-of-the-art library. Stanley said that closing the school will save \$6.7 million annually, and the savings will help offset the nearly \$55 million in cuts Stony Brook has absorbed from the state since 2008. The graduate writing program and some marine science classes will continue, but students in all other programs will be forced to transfer to main campus in the fall, where housing and attendance is already perennially packed, or to find a new school altogether.

"President Stanley needs to realize the message he's sending by closing one of the only schools in the country that's focused solely on environmental sustainability," said sophomore Carly Rorer, who moved to Long Island from Kentucky to attend Southampton after finding the campus online. "He's saying that money and quick fixes are more important than our environment. Saving a couple million dollars rather than saving the planet seems unfathomable



The recently built dorms of Southampton will be closed along with the campus.

Najib Aminy

to me."

The initial shockwave of the closure gave way to fierce determination to prevent it. Student leaders set up a "Save the Southampton Campus" Facebook page, which currently has over 17,000 fans. They've used this page and a Twitter account to solicit PayPal donations to fund their lawsuit through their non-profit organization, Save the Campus at Southampton, Inc. An anonymous donor pledged an additional \$10,000 after the students secured \$10,000 on their own by Friday, a huge feat for the resolute students. The money will be used to hire "one of the top law firms in the country," which will work at discount for legal services, according to the Facebook page. Students are planning benefit events to raise more money, and they have also started an online petition against the closure, which currently has 3,800 signatures.

Local legislators are exploring legal action against Stanley and SUNY as well. First District Assemblyman Fred Thiele and Senator Kenneth LaValle have asked state Attorney General and Comptrollers offices to investigate the closure. The politicians complained the decision was made "unilaterally and behind closed doors," and without any

input from students, community members, or state legislators.

"At this point, legal action is very likely," said Thiele in a telephone interview. "It will probably be a taxpayer lawsuit for the waste of public assets. They've spent \$78 million in taxpayer dollars buying and renovating this campus, which they are now throwing away by mothballing it." Thiele, who likened closure of the 4-year-old campus to "killing the baby while it's still in the crib," argued that Stanley's math doesn't

"Because we expect to honor existing contractual commitments to employees, the realization of those savings will phase in over a 2 to 3 year period." Melucci says that the 500 students enrolled at Southampton are simply more expensive than main campus students. "When one averages the cost of operating the [Southampton] campus over such a small number, the cost per student is 2.5 times greater than at Stony Brook," he said.

Thiele asserted a self-serving agenda rather than financial issues are behind the decision. "I think the real reason behind this move is that there has been a not-so-subtle change in philosophy within the administration," he said. "Shirley Strum Kenny had a broader view of public education, she looked to expand and to serve the broadest possible needs of the public. Stanley seems to be more focused on graduate studies and research, research, at the expense of undergraduate academics."

Liam Keating, 22, was one of the very first students at Stony Brook Southampton and says he unfortunately may be one of the last to graduate from it. "President Kenny tried her hardest to make this a flagship school of sustainability, and now with Stanley, it seems like he's 'publish or perish.' We're not a big research school here, we're about teaching people a new way of life." Keating, an environmental studies major, added, "You can give these students a new campus and new dorms, but you

*"At this point, legal action is very likely," said Thiele in a telephone interview. "It will probably be a taxpayer lawsuit for the waste of public assets."*

compute. "I believe that their numbers of saving \$6.7 million per year are erroneous and will not stand up to scrutiny," he said.

University administrators stand by their decision and their reasoning. "Anticipated base savings from closing the residential campus at Southampton are projected to be \$6.7 million," said Daniel Melucci, Stony Brook's associate vice president of strategy and planning.



President Samuel L. Stanley

Colleen Harrington



can't give them back the time and the effort and the work they've put in, outside of their studies, to make it a place that people from all over the country want to come to. It's really hard for us to walk away from that." He noted that the campus greenhouse and vegetable garden were projects largely conceived and developed by students.

Thiele, who graduated from a then Long Island University owned Southampton in 1976, said the closure has resulted in hundreds of complaints to his office from community members, devastated students and angry parents. He said he's heard from students who forfeited admissions and scholarships to other schools to instead attend Southampton because Stony Brook officials had said the satellite campus was in no danger of being affected by budget issues.

"I'm going to be homeless on May 15," said Rorer, the student who moved from Kentucky to attend Southampton. She's been renting a home in the Hamptons but now will be forced to transfer to main campus, and says she must continue to live off-campus to establish New York State residency to get a tuition break. Rorer says she is now scrambling to find affordable housing close to Stony Brook, where she will grudgingly continue her studies in marine vertebrate biology. "Before coming here, I'd never been a part of something so special and so tight-knit. We're all here because we care about the environment. We've been completely uprooted."

Others affected by the closure said the expenses they have incurred cannot be made up.

"A year at Stony Brook Southampton is half our yearly income," said Robert and Michelle Gagermeier of Redmond, Oregon in an email interview. They saved for months to send their son Robert Campbell and his belongings across nearly 3,000 miles in September for his freshman year at Southampton. "Last week, Robert called us in complete devastation. There was no indication that there were any problems that would cause the school to close. Now us and many other parents are faced with emotional and financial stress, because the President decided to close it."

"This is wrong on so many levels," said Nancy Cerchiera, mother of Southampton Sophomore Giovanni Cerchiera. She does not buy the budget gap explanation that Stanley has given for the abrupt closure. "I believe that there is a lot more to this entire story. Why was so much money invested in

this campus to have it shut down to save a fraction of the dollars spent to renovate it?" Cerchiera says that at this late date, her son has no other option but to register for the fall semester at West Campus. "I can't help but think this was a very calculated plan to wait to tell these kids so they would have no other choices."

The Southampton closure shocked many not only because the campus was so recently acquired, but because of the

a number of our local representatives, the money could have been attainable," he said.

Southampton is not the only Stony Brook campus that is to be abandoned due to budget issues. Stony Brook had been exploring the development of a new campus in Songdo, South Korea, as part of a "global university" where 14 other schools from around the world are represented. One Stony Brook administrator said the university was "in-

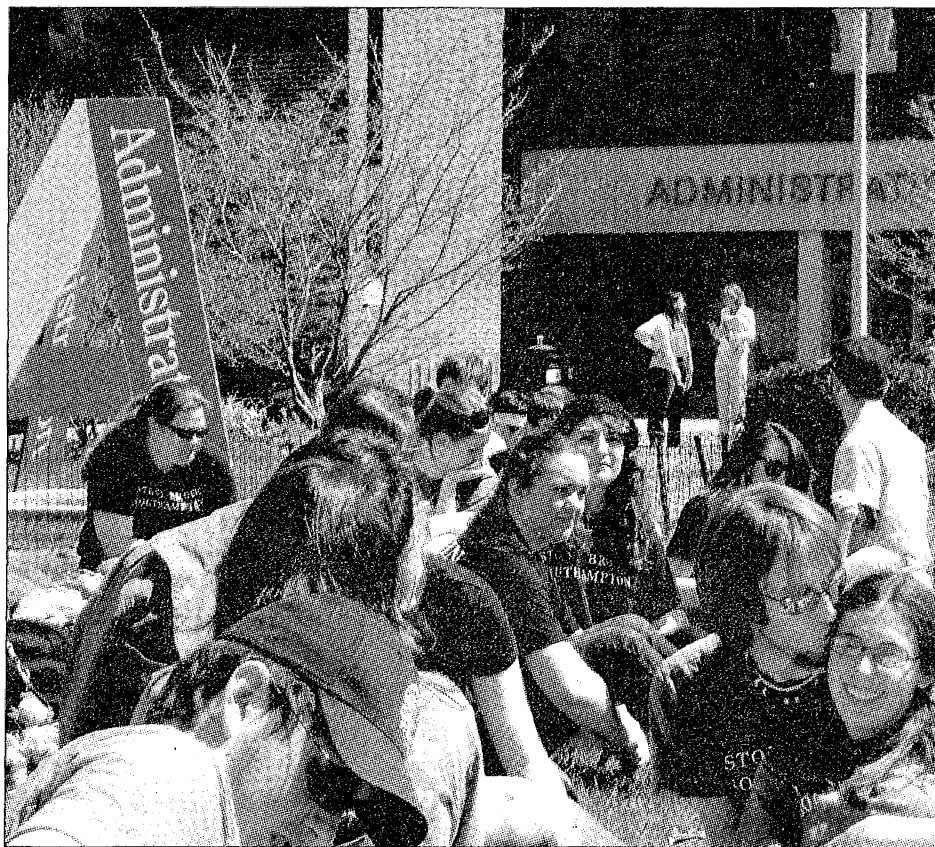
the time, SBU was lacking undergraduate programs in environmental sciences, and university planning committees agreed that Southampton was perfectly poised to become an institution centered on sustainability. Taxpayers footed the \$35 million final purchase price via Stony Brook for the 81-acre campus and its buildings, many of which were in gross disrepair.

Stony Brook quickly set out to invigorate its new location and to rework many aspects of the campus so it would be in line with the sustainability-centered programs they would offer there. Over four years, some \$43 million was invested in the campus, mostly for renovations. In October 2009, Southampton celebrated the opening of its brand new LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified library, the first of its kind on Long Island. LEED certification measures building sustainability by analysis of the structure's water and energy use, materials and practices used in construction, and various other factors. The library is geo-thermally heated and the bathrooms in the facility use rainwater through a collection system on the roof. Now that the campus will be largely shuttered, the new library will close after only 6 months of use. The books housed within will be sent to the main campus, according to student leader Nick Zanussi, who has worked in the library since it opened.

For the hundreds of students who say they have no other choice, making the transition to the main campus next fall may prove to be a challenge. Besides the fact that Stony Brook's main campus has around 50 times as many students, much of Southampton's daily operations were deeply rooted in environmentalism. The students ate using biodegradable utensils and would routinely denounce the rare unsustainable Southampton policy, such as the use of plastic wrap to keep apples in the cafeteria fresh.

"When we were at main campus to protest the other day, we called people out for throwing away bottles in regular trash cans instead of recycling," said Zanussi, a 21-year-old environmental studies major from Sag Harbor. "When we get there, that school's not going to know what hit them."

Most unsettling for Zanussi though is the fact that many of his fellow students have said that faced with the closure, they will abandon their education entirely. "25 percent of students here are probably not going to school at all next semester."



Southampton students protesting outside the Administration building

Dan Woufflin

success the school has seen thus far. "It seems a terrible mistake to close the

*One Stony Brook administrator said the university was "indefinitely suspending plans for a campus in Korea," and that South Korean authorities have not yet been told of the suspension.*

campus, especially when we've been seeing increased enrollment," said Dr. Harold James Quigley, who has taught both political science and environmental planning courses at Southampton. "There's no startup that can see a profit within its first few years. I can appreciate budget constraints, but according to

definitely suspending plans for a campus in Korea," and that South Korean authorities have not yet been told of the suspension. Melucci clarified these remarks by saying, "We will only move forward on the Korean initiative if there are contractual assurances against losses to Stony Brook." It is unclear if the school has any such assurances.

The Southampton closure marks the second time in a decade that the campus is being abandoned. The location was initially established as a satellite campus of Long Island University in 1963 and remained that way until 2005, when a cash-strapped LIU announced it would close the facility and its students would be forced to transfer to their main campus in Brookville. At the time, students, faculty and local legislators rallied to save the school, and were seemingly successful when the campus was bought by Stony Brook University in March 2006 under the leadership of Shirley Strum Kenny. At



# It's Not Easy Being Green

By Matt Calamia  
and Liz Kaempf

The announcement of Stony Brook Southampton losing most of its funding and becoming essentially closed down last week came as a shock to everyone involved, especially students, who found out that day because *Newsday* broke the story before the campus had a chance to tell its student body.

Despite spending over \$78 million dollars on the school in the last three years and over \$3 million in LEED-certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) buildings such as a brand new sustainable library, the decision has been made to cut financing for the Southampton campus in an effort to save \$6.7 million a year. "I felt like we were doing so well. That's what really bothers me," Charlie Conino, a sophomore and Marine Science major at SBS, said about the budget problems.

These cuts and closures mean that all but the Chancellor's Hall will be closed, all students will lose housing at the campus, and eight of the nine majors offered will be cancelled, keeping only the Marine Science major and the Graduate Writing program.

Although some majors will be offered at Stony Brook University's main-campus, SBS students feel slighted by the school. "I can't even make a schedule, I don't know what to do. This is ridiculous," said junior Alla Villafana, who can complete her Business major at SBU, but not with a concentration in Sustainability, which was only offered at SBS.

Other students enrolling at the main campus had to sort through thousands of courses and took hours to register while trying to make sense of all of the changes. Sophomore and Environmental Design Policy and Planning Major Gabrielle Andersen expected to graduate a semester early until now.

"They're (West Campus) offering my major, but none of my classes. What am I gonna do? Take nine credits?"

Due to the time of the announcement that Southampton would be closed, it left students with little or no time to look for options for the upcoming fall semester. In a sense, it was SBU or bust.

"Me, as well as the majority of students and faculty here, are completely distraught that we were not told about this, not given a chance to fight it," said Nikki Neissani, a junior majoring in Business. "It was actually done very sneakily, so we really had no choice to go anywhere else but [West Campus], since most places stopped accepting people a long time ago," said Neissani, who has been at SBS since it opened.

SBS also has had to cease the admittance of incoming freshman to the school. "I was so crushed to hear about Stony Brook Southampton closing," said Matt Lyons, a high school student who was entering SBS in the fall as an Environmental Studies major. "I truly have no idea what I am going to do."

A problem facing some students is the large class sizes that Stony Brook is known for. With a smaller student body comes smaller class sizes, and vice versa. Stony Brook University is home to over 23,000 students, which equates to larger class sizes, especially in introduction and freshman classes.

Lyons said he loved the idea of the "family feeling" that SBS offered. "I have ADHD, so the small classes were definitely one of the positives at SBS," he said. "I was able to deal with 25 kids in a class. I don't think I will be able to focus in a 250-plus student class."

On Monday, April 12, approximately 200 students walked over twelve miles to West Campus, opposing the decision made against their school. Students came together and participated in a sit-in protest outside of the Administration building after being warmly wel-

comed at noon by students of the main campus supporting their cause.

Several of the participating students wore hand-drawn t-shirts that read, "Hello, my name is # \_\_\_\_\_," signifying the ID number of SBU students. One of those students was freshman



Colleen Harrington

and Marine Biology major Michael Virello. "When you come to a big campus you're just another number, but on a smaller campus you're a big family." Virello participated in the walk by driving alongside the students because a knee injury kept him from completing the trek on foot.

"Kids worked so well together," added Joshua Gelbwaks, a sophomore transfer student from ESF (SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse) and Coastal Environment Major, who may need to return to ESF because you can't study the

ocean from the Long Island Sound. "They're there for the same reason," finished Conino.

SBS students are being given priority benefits in multiple areas, such as housing (like the new building in Kelly Quad) and class registration. SBS students will be treated the same as returning SBU students. All freshman students who were going to SBS are guaranteed housing as long as deposits are received. Transfer students who wished to live on campus at SBS will be given campus housing on a space-available basis.

Cristina Amato, a sophomore at Stony Brook's West Campus, doesn't mind that SBS students are getting the same opportunity for housing as returning SBU students. "It's the least Stony Brook can do after closing down SBS. It would have been ridiculous if they left the SBS students essentially homeless."

"At the end of the day, 150 or so SBS students moving on campus might as well be 150 people on top of the current incoming freshman class, so I don't think it's much of an issue," said Amato.

Other students on campus have not been nearly as understanding. Some feel that paying for Stony Brook is their dime and they should not have to pay for other students to get priority over the ones that were here first. Registration is hard with all the cuts the main campus has suffered without adding 500 more students to the mix.

Lyons said he understands why some at SBU may feel it is not fair, but the hand they were dealt is worse than losing dorm rooms. "I have sympathy for [SBU students]. But they need to realize that they are losing dorms, and we are losing our whole school. We are the ones getting the new dorms, but we are also losing our school that we applied to. If we wanted to go to SBU, we would have applied there."

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# “Hey Dr. Stanz, Sustain This!”

By Alan Hershkowitz

Hundreds of students from Stony Brook Southampton, which is slated to close at the end of summer, organized an over 12-mile walk in protest of the administrative decision.

Armed with lawn chairs, guitars, signs, and outdoor games, over a hundred students sat on the grass in front of the West Campus administration building. The message “Save Southampton” could be seen on dozens of signs as many Southampton students shouted organized chants throughout the academic quad.

The protest attracted several news outlets such as News12 and *Newsday*. Every protestor wore a Stony Brook Southampton t-shirt or sweatshirt making their size in numbers easily noticeable. It was a peaceful but utter take-over of the main campus’ academic mall.

The march began at the Kohl’s shopping center on 346 route 25A, in Rocky Point at 7 a.m. and ended at Stony Brook University’s administration building at about 12:30 pm. Though the students were aware that this protest would prove futile, the strong will to fight the decision still existed.

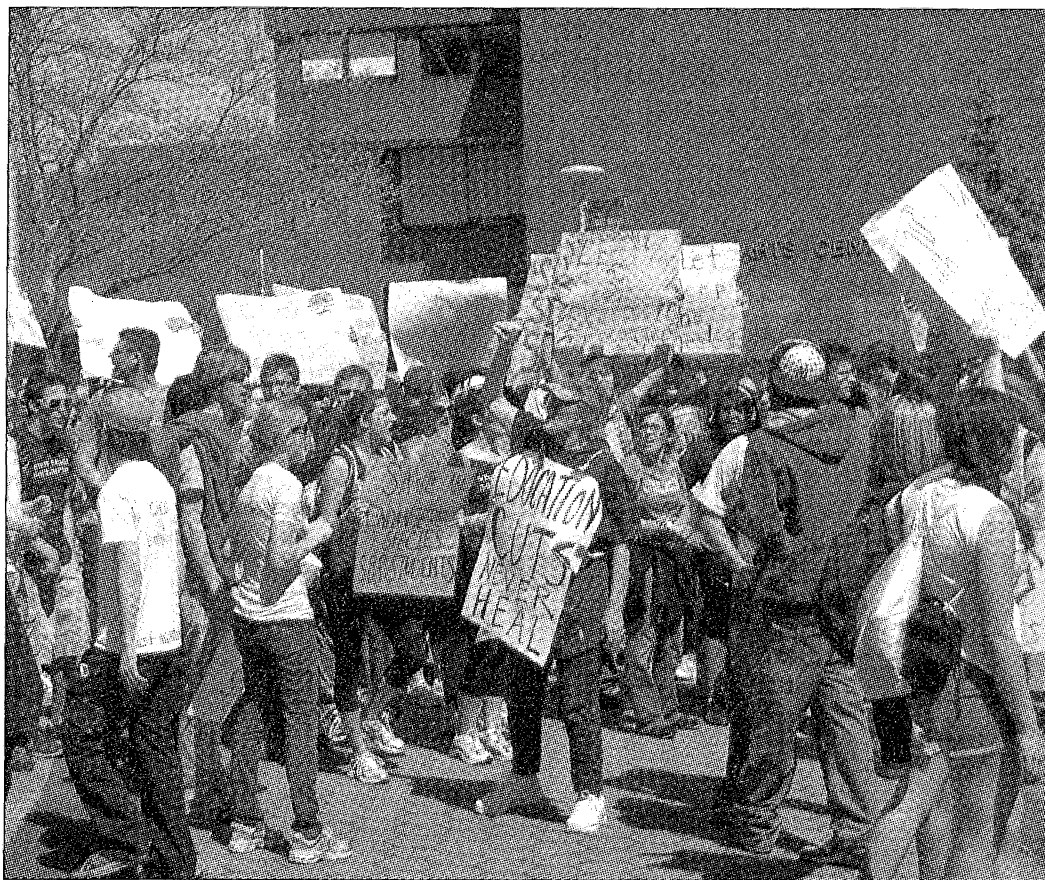
After speaking with News12 and WPIX, Southampton student Nick Zanussi said in a brief interview, “My

peers and I are willing to fight this until the end, but at the same time we realize we have to plan for the changes ahead and make sure we still get an education.”

When speaking to Stephanie Moracles, a sophomore at Southampton, and her teary-eyed mother Beth Moracles, both were heavily disheartened by the University’s decision. “I’ve lost my whole education, my dorm, my major, everything,” Stephanie said. “Now they’re asking me to start all over at a new school, none of it seems fair.”

University President Samuel L. Stanley made his final decision after cutting \$25 million on the main campus and meeting with top administrators to cut another \$33 million in the upcoming year, while inconveniencing the least number of students as possible.

Zanussi and four other student representatives met with Dr. Stanley after their arrival on the West campus to try and change his mind about closing most of the Southampton campus. But, their plea came after the university had made its final decisions.



Stanley said his administration has no choice but to shut down most of the Southampton campus, which only serves about 500 students, because it is inefficient and costs 2.5 times as much per person to run as the main campus. He said the closing would save about \$6.7 million a year.

The funding cut is one of many desperate attempts made by adminis-

trators to keep costs below the new, heavily cut, budget.

Many students realize that the time to move on is now, but they vow to continue the fight against unfair budget cuts. “The situation sucks, but at this point we just want our voices heard,” added Southampton junior Thomas Faines.

## News In Brief

### *Stony Brook Student Struck by Car and Killed*

By Bobby Holt

On Tuesday, April 13 at approximately 9:05 p.m., a student, Shubo Lin was attempting to cross Nicolls Road from East to West Campus at South Drive and was struck by a vehicle. Lin was pronounced dead at the scene. The Suffolk County Police Department is still investigating the fatal accident.

Shubo or Daniel, as his friends called him, was enrolled in the Intensive English Program on campus and was looking forward to a bright future here in the States, said President Samuel L. Stanley. Lin was a transfer student from China Medical University and would

have been an undergraduate at Stony Brook this coming fall.

“Daniel was a very intelligent and creative student and was very much liked by both his classmates and teachers,” said President Stanley. “On behalf of Stony Brook University, deepest condolences to Daniel’s family and friends.” The University is offering advising to students, faculty and staff for those who need it during this difficult time. Students may contact the Office of the Dean of Students (SAC, Room 222), Counseling & Psychological Services (Students Health Center, 2nd Floor) or the Center for Prevention & Outreach (Stony Brook Union, Room 216). Dear

### *Farmville, You’re Welcome*

By Eric DiGiovanni

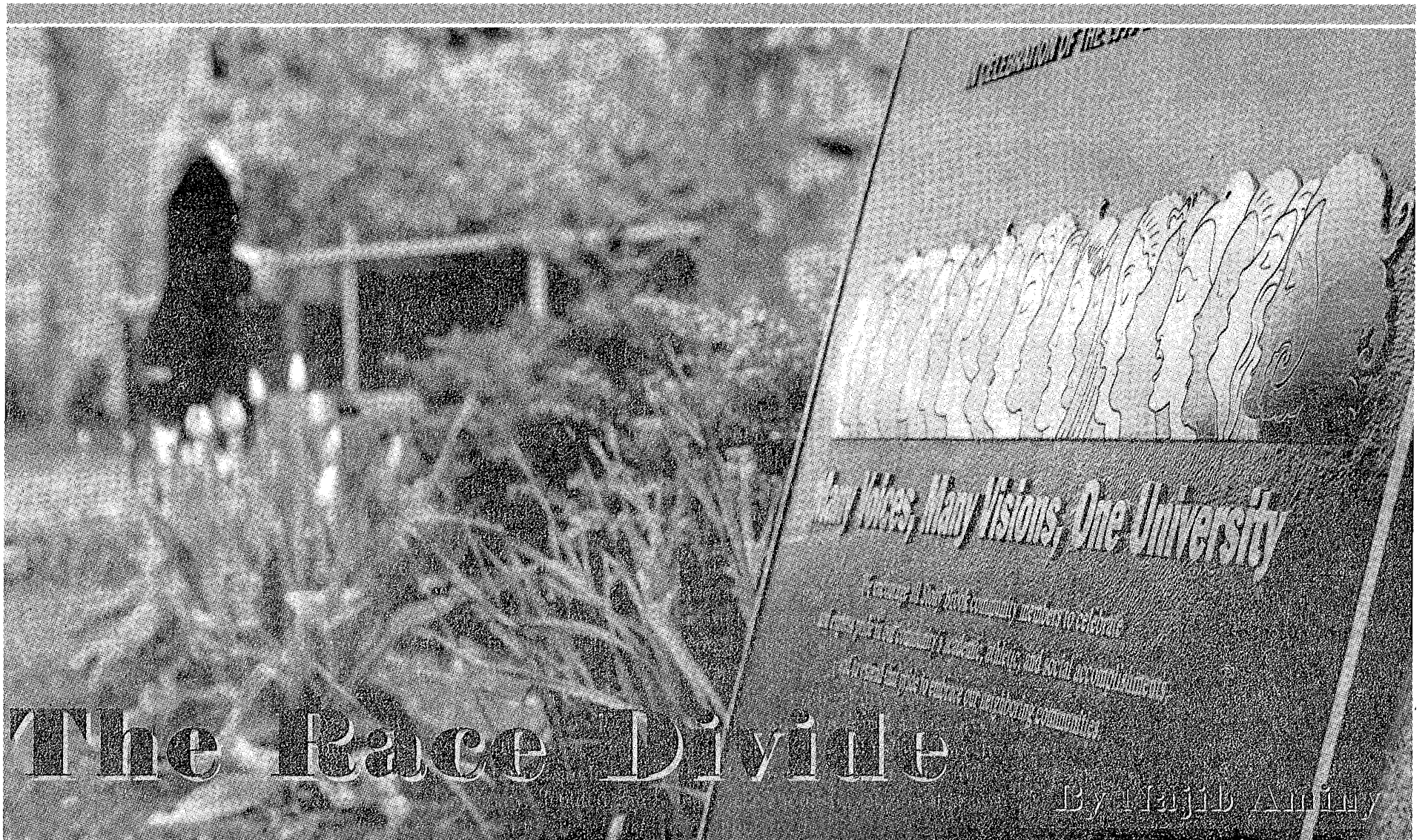
Last week, all Facebook applications, including the popular game Farmville, were inaccessible from on-campus computers.

This was due to an automatic upgrade for the Department of Information and Technology’s malware program, which loaded a signature file that included the blockage of Facebook games.

However, it wasn’t until an e-mail was sent to TelNet for more information regarding the block that they were made aware of this problem. After which, the block was removed and Facebook was saved for everyone. You’re welcome.







# The Race Divide

By Taji Abney

Fu-Lung Chiou's orange shirt and red shorts weren't the only reasons why he stood out in a pick-up game of basketball one fall evening at Stony Brook University's athletic complex.

Nor was it Chiou's less than stellar performance that made the 36-year-old Ph.D. student from the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences noticeable—Chiou played little defense and took a while to heat up before making any shots.

It was the simple fact that Chiou, originally from China, was playing in a game with mostly black players in a gym where likes play with likes.

"It's no problem for me," said Chiou, who has a distinct accent, after the game. "I'll play with anyone. Just for fun." Chiou, whose team consisted of himself, an African American guy and a white guy, went on to lose the game of 21.

"I just play for exercise," he said.

Whether students and locals from the area come out for exercise, competition or just pure love of basketball, there is much diversity at the courts at the athletic complex—very much representative of life on campus. But just like the campus, the courts are visibly segregated. From what students say, that voluntary segregation spans from the cafeteria tables to the library halls, where race brings people together and separates them.

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"I've noticed usually that people will just group together with their races," said Suraj Chalil, who grabbed a bite to eat one Friday evening at the SAC cafeteria. "People are just comfortable with their own ethnicity and they think they know each other more from their culture, where they're from and how they're raised," said Chalil, a senior Information Technologies major.

*"While we have got used to diversity in the work place and classroom, you can still go and stand in the SAC or Student Union and look at who's sitting together..."*

Sitting across from Chalil was Shon Augustine, and to Chalil's right, Daryl Augustine, cousins who are both sophomore Biology majors. The three students share one thing in common—they are Malayalian, people from the Southern part of India—and when the three realized it, they laughed at the irony.

Diversity at SBU is highly visible, one need only to take a walk down the

academic mall to realize that. In 2009, the *U.S. News and World Report* ranked SBU 38th out of a 100 schools in the nation for ethnic diversity. Roughly 40 percent of the more than 16,000 undergraduates are white, followed by a 30 percent of students being Asians and Pacific Islanders. However, while diversity is prevalent, diverse interactions, at least according to students, is not.

"I was actually surprised because I've never seen many races in one school," said Daryl, who had attended St. Mary's High School, where he said he stood out for not being white. "I was expecting more [mixed] interaction, but I guess it doesn't work that way," he said.

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Sitting on the opposite side of the SAC cafeteria from Chalil and his friends, junior Steven Leclerc has met up with a couple friends after a week of classes. Leclerc's table is populated with Caribbean students, all of whom live in New York City. Like Chalil and his friends, Leclerc realizes that he too fits to the Stony Brook stereotype of "likes sitting with likes"

"I feel like that's just the way people go about," said Leclerc, 20, from Canarsie, Brooklyn. "Who you hang out with starts at a young age because that's who you see on your block when you're outside playing. And it transfers to junior high, high school and all the way to

college," said the junior Health Science major.

Looking at the demographics of SBU, a large number of students come from the many diverse culture pockets of the five boroughs and Stony Brook follows trends in the city. "There have been dramatic changes in terms of the university landscape, as Stony Brook reflects the population New York City," said Dean of Students Jerrold Stein. "You can see that in the creation of fraternities and sororities, a number of African and Latino groups surfaced in the 90's, and Asian groups in the last decade. Stony Brook is a reflection of the changes taking place in the city," said Stein, who has worked at SBU for more than 34 years.

But when another significant population of SBU students come from Long Island, the third most segregated suburban region in the US, what happens when the segregation of Long Island communities mixes with the diversity of New York City's population?

"While we have got used to diversity in the work place and classroom, you can still go and stand in the SAC or Student Union and look at who's sitting together. You would see a very similar grouping by nationality or race," said Kathleen Nutter, a professor from the Stony Brook History department. "The comfort level for social interaction has increased in formal institutional set-



tings. but in terms of socializing, there are still barriers out of tradition and out of that, residential segregation," Nutter said.

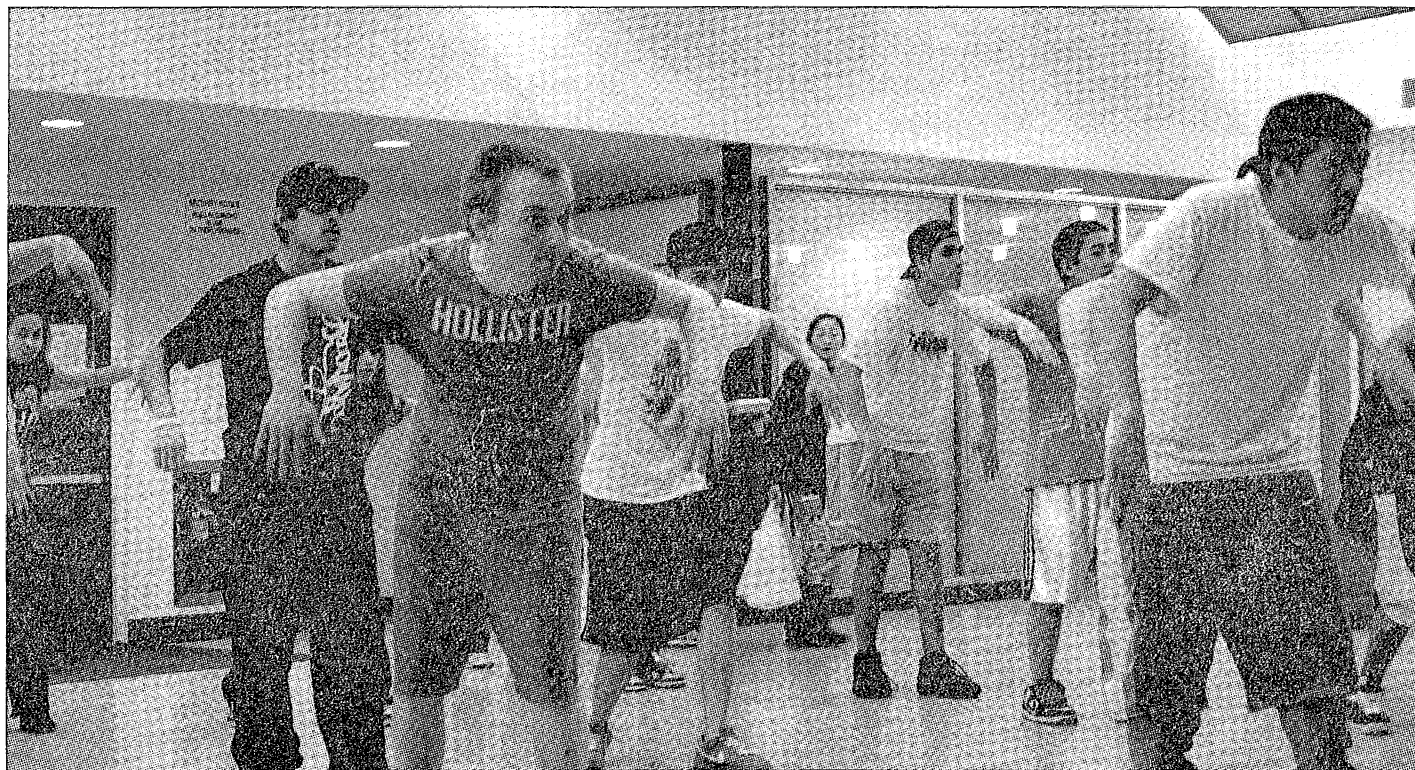
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While Leclerc believes the root of the social diversity gap is relations at home, Chanelle Husbands, sitting to Leclerc's right, says the absence of racially mixed interaction stems from the sheer size of the student body.

"This campus is so large, it's so easy to find somebody else that fits exactly who you are," said Husbands, the Caribbean Student Organization public relations officer. "Because there are so many people on campus, you can have your own small community within a larger community. If it was smaller, we would be forced to have racially mixed interactions," said Husbands, an sophomore undecided major.

But the campus size, says Stein, a former quad director, is a segregating factor remedied by the dorming on campus, primarily for freshman. As students sign-up for housing, they are placed randomly in dorms, increasing their chances of diverse social interaction given the size and diversity of each incoming class. According to a campus survey as late of Spring 2009, roughly 70 percent of resident students (from a sample size of 676 residents) said they had greater than moderate socially diverse interactions. Additionally, nearly 95 percent of the respondents had indicated some-to-extreme benefits from the diverse interactions.

Chalil disagrees with Stein's argument. "There are not enough activities to intermingle," he said. "Everyone has their own stuff going and they are se-



Ryan Messina (left) stands out during dance practice for being a white male in a Filipino-dance crew

Najib Amiry

cluded from what is going on."

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On stage during the Annual Multicultural Affair event, SBU senior Lauren Phillips is one of a handful of performers during a traditional Japanese Taiko drum presentation. The upstate New Yorker from a small town called Windsor stands out—she is clearly not Japanese.

"For a while, I was the only white person," said Phillips, a European Studies major with a minor in Japanese. "It's given me a lot more friends who aren't white and now the majority of my friends are some sort of Asian."

However, Phillips is no longer the



Lauren Phillips (right) performing on stage with the Taiko drum club

Najib Amiry

only non-Asian on the Taiko drum club, something she credits to events like the multicultural show. "Events like these are very vital," she said. "It broadens people's horizons and their outlooks by showing them different cultures."

And while the beat of a drum has put Phillips beyond her comfort zone, it is the drum of multiple beats that has sophomore Ryan Messina dancing with the Philippine United Student Organization.

Messina, now a member of the PUSO try-out dance team, recalls his first unsuccessful attempt to make the team. "It felt weird being the only white kid in this whole thing," Messina said. "I didn't make it and I thought it was because of that, but I've come to accept that and that they're just people. It [the race issue] is really not that big of an issue, you just have to be open minded," he said.

Messina spends his Tuesday and Thursday evenings outside the Benedict Dining Hall in the atrium, dancing to hip-hop, among other themes, for upcoming competitions, continuing to pursue his passion while fighting against what he calls a visible problem.

"Sure, the race line is still there. It's never really going to go away," the linguistics majors said. "Our generation is still learning to accept that, it's based on how we are raised."

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Back on the courts, a diverse group of people joined for another pickup game, with all races represented—but nowhere near as competitive as earlier games. It just so happened that all the other basketball hoops were raised and

the courts closed early.

The hoop on "Court #2" doesn't go up.

As Chiou waited for another game, his teammate and essentially the best player on his three-man team was changing into his street clothes—calling it an end to his day of playing basketball.

"Everybody is scared to play with us," said Shay Seyi, a 21-year old from Medford, to the issue of social segregation on the basketball court.

By "us" he meant blacks. Seyi was born in the US, grew up in Nigeria and moved back to Long Island where he went to a high school with a large black population.

"They are scared to lose; I don't know why. Maybe they think they are not good enough," said Seyi, majoring in Health Sciences about why other students don't play on the middle court.

"I've played over there," Seyi said pointing to the courts on the sides. "When we need people to play, 'ya'll wanna play,' they say 'nah,'" he said.

Seyi expected social integration on the court and off, at Stony Brook. He did not find it.

"Everybody just wants to be segregated from each other which makes no sense to me," Seyi said, talking about similar problems he had during his freshman year.

"I don't know why, but a lot of people just be like that," he said, while putting on his grey t-shirt with President Barack Obama's face on it.

"I don't even know what to tell you. That's Stony Brook."



# In Your Head, Zombieah, Zombieah

By Carol Moran

Fortified with neon-colored plastic Nerf guns and sock grenades, humans walked with caution last week at Stony Brook University, only travelling in groups of five or more, glancing over their shoulders in an uneasy manner. Zombies lurked around corners, behind bushes, under tables. They yearned for human blood. Forty-eight hours without feeding, and in would creep death.

It all started when a dog infected with a mutated swine flu strand bit a human, creating the first zombie. With no remedy in existence, humans' only hope for survival was avoidance and escape. Any contact with a Nerf dart or

a sock grenade, and zombies were stunned for 15 minutes, giving their prey just enough time to slip away.

It's a fantastically realistic game invented by two students, Chris Weed and Brad Sappingtonat, at Goucher College in Maryland. Humans Vs. Zombies, as it is called, brings to life many fantasized aspects of a zombie invasion— impending death, comradeship, Nerf guns, and dead bodies brought back to life by a supernatural force. It gained much popularity among colleges across the country. Campuses run their own versions of HvZ using the software developed by Weed and Sappingtonat.

Kati Overmier, a blue-eyed freshman majoring in Anthropology and Theatre, brought the game to Stony Brook University after hearing about it from a friend.

"I thought, why can't I be the one to bring it to Stony Brook?" Overmier said. "I was just determined to play a game."

It was her determination that led to an overwhelmingly embraced campus-wide game that brought together students of all social groups and majors. There were 630 participants.

"Everyone comes up to you—nerds, jocks, frat boys," David Goetz, a 22-year-old senior, said. "It's a very fun game."

Goetz wandered around campus with his friend, Adib Rahman, last Wednesday, searching for zombies, helping others in need. He waved at another tall student gliding by on his long board, an orange Nerf Gun held to his chest.

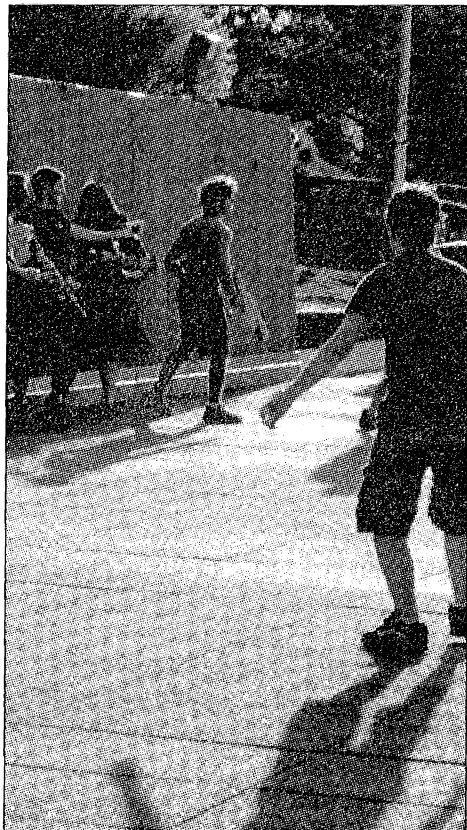
"Do you want an escort or something?" Rahman called to the fellow human. "It's alright," the stranger responded. "I'll ride solo."

Sarah Young, the Associate Director for Student Activities, said in an



Jesse Oney

...And their bombs and their guns. In your head, in your head, they are crying...



Jesse Oney

With their tanks and their bombs and their bombs...

email, "I think it was great to see 391 students participating in an activity together throughout campus." She was the program advisor for Humans Vs. Zombies through the Office of Student Activities.

The administration and campus police were involved with the planning of the game. Police received a list of all the players and their SOLAR ID numbers, and they sat in on one of the rules meetings that players were required to attend. There were no incidents or concerns during the game according to Lauren Sheprow, interim media relations officer.

There are plenty of rules to keep the game safe and the administration happy. The game may not be played inside any buildings, off campus, near the train tracks, or on the hospital grounds. Cars may not be used in game play whatsoever, guns are not to be visible indoors, and darts may not hurt on impact. Humans must identify themselves

with a bandana tied around their leg or arm, and zombies must have one around their head. When a human is touched firmly by a zombie, they have an hour transitional period before they are permitted to continue play as a zombie.

To keep humans from permanently barricading themselves inside buildings, they are required to take part in at least two "missions" during the course of the game. Zombies must participate in one. The missions involve various tasks created by Overmier and her team of about 15 "mods," or overseers.

The final face-off occurred Monday night, when all remaining humans were forced to face the zombies in battle. The zombies had until 7 p.m. to kill all humans, or they would lose the game. Tragically, after six days of battle, the zombies surrounded the last group of humans and reigned supreme.

That is, until next time.

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# The Boston Tea Party...In 2010?

By Natalie Crnosija

Over 100 protestors picketed an April 1 Democratic fundraiser attended by President Barack Obama at Boston's 60 State Building. As the last of the \$500-a-plate guests were being admitted and the streets of Beantown were being prepped for the presidential motorcade, 10 protestors remained. They hoisted handmade signs and decried the president's conduct.

They did not wear tricorne hats and condemn healthcare.

They did not decry taxation.

There was no Tea Party in Boston.

Protestors from the organizations Citizens for an Informed Society, the Socialist Worker's Party and Team-Good.org, with other non-affiliated individuals, demanded Obama end the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and stop off-shore oil drilling. They wanted to get some more of the hope and change Obama's posters had advertised. These activists are a petite part of the growing trend of presidential disapproval. Obama's overall approval rating at the time was 48 percent, according to Rasmussen Press polls. It has since dropped to 47 percent.

"We're disappointed with the Obama administration," said Howard Hayward of the Citizens for an Informed Community of Bridgewater, Mass. "He promised hope and change and all we've seen is a worsening from the Bush policy. He's been elected for a little over one year and we don't expect everything overnight, but he has had ample opportunity to make some changes." Hayward's sign, painted in blue, read, "Foreign Policy=Murder for Profit." Hayward said that the Obama administration had done little to end the war in Iraq, for which Iraqis are paying the ultimate price for the benefit of American corporations.

"The only crime Iraqis committed is that they are Iraqis, that they live in Iraq, that's all," said Hayward. "Just think of how many people are profiting from this war—the Raytheons, the General Electrics, Boeing. How many senators get campaign finance contributions from these corporations? They profit from war. It's unjust." The Department of Defense awarded Raytheon contracts totaling over \$30 million in the most recent deal between the defense company and the U.S. Gov-

ernment. General Electric and Boeing were awarded \$3 billion and \$2.2 billion contracts in 2008.

America's casualties are not limited to the borders of Iraq. "We're out here to stand up against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and for the U.S. withdrawal from Pakistan—to stop the bombing" said Laura Garza of the Socialist Worker's Party. The continuing struggle against the Taliban in the frontiers of Pakistan has prompted the Obama administration to use drones to destroy militant strongholds. The use of drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles, in Pakistan has killed 687 civilians, according to Pakistan's *International News*.

"We're killing innocent people," said Hayward. "Why in America are we so appalled when someone attacks us, but look at what we do to everyone else in the world. We have to consider consequences of our actions."

The combined effect of military action is neither helping the American people nor furthering the spread of democracy, argued Garza. She came to the demonstration with a card table from which she distributed the *Militant Newspaper*, a newspaper published by the Socialist Worker's Party, and sold copies of the speeches of Malcolm X, Che Guevara and Nelson Mandela.

"I believe the policies that [Obama is] enacting are inimical to the interests of the working people in the United States," said Garza. "I think people are being bombed and people are being sent to fight, and not for the furtherance of democracy or anything like that."

Obama's recent opening of offshore drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico and the northern coast of Alaska also prompted the wrath of protestors.

"Drill, baby, drill," Robyn Su Miller, an unaffiliated protestor, shouted at

fundraiser attendees as she craned over the police barriers.

"We're disappointed because the president's environmental policy promised all of this, promised all of that...he is now proposing offshore drilling?" asked Hayward.

Obama's drilling is not going to completely alienate his constituency, said Stony Brook University Political Science Professor Helmut Norpoth. They are less likely to remain supportive of Obama if he, like President Lyndon B. Johnson, continues support of a long-term foreign war. And for all their bluster,

explained Norpoth, the protestors are not representative of the majority of voters.

"It doesn't have much effect in the end," said Norpoth.

"[Obama still has a] pretty good [rating] among the Democrats.... I don't see any drop off there yet." There is, however, more anti-authoritarian energy on the Repub-

lican side, said Norpoth, but the Tea Party's highly-publicized and radical conservatism could alienate Republicans come election time.

"There is no Tea Party movement equivalent on the Democrats' side," said Norpoth. "If Republicans get into a situation where they are undermining their mainstream candidates, it will be more of a problem for Republicans than for Democrats."

Liberal disappointment in Obama is largely a product of voters' inflated expectations of sweeping change during his presidency, said former President of the College Democrats Alex H. Nagler.

"A lot of people projected onto him," said Nagler. Over a year into his presidency, liberal voters are finding that Obama is not as liberal as they had thought. "Obama was always a centrist," said Nagler. "You can't run unless you are centrist, unless you're Sarah

Palin."

The U.S.'s continued military presence in Iraq does pose a problem, explained Nagler. His vow to withdraw U.S. troops within 16 months of his election has yet to be realized, though the 16-month mark was passed in March. Former President George W. Bush also failed to fulfill the terms of his war plan, which intended to reduce ground troops in Iraq to 30,000 by 2003. When Bush left office, there were over 120,000 U.S. soldiers in Iraq.

Michael Ippolito of TeamGood.org said that Obama, through his policies, is not the break from the system Americans needed. TeamGood.org promotes the creation of a people-centered society, a movement that was hit hard when the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision which struck at the spine of the McCain-Feingold legislation and gave corporations the right to political speech. Ippolito argued that Obama should prevent corporate personhood and corporate welfare. "We believe in the constitution," exclaimed Ippolito. "We want democracy and real capitalism—not corporate welfare and capitalism hijacked by these corporations." As the group of protestors hoisted their signs on Congress Street, Ippolito said he hoped people were informed by his fellow protestors.

"People just need to get informed and stop thinking that people who are spreading information are commies," said Ippolito. "We believe in America—in patriotism."

The most enthusiastic of the protestors was Miller, who argued with a suited passerby about offshore drilling. She protested to change the view of liberals' relationship with Obama. "My hope would be that the media narrative would change so that it's not like 'Oh, these crazy right-winger Tea Party people' are out here protesting Obama," said Miller.

She clutched her collection of signs, one for each issue.

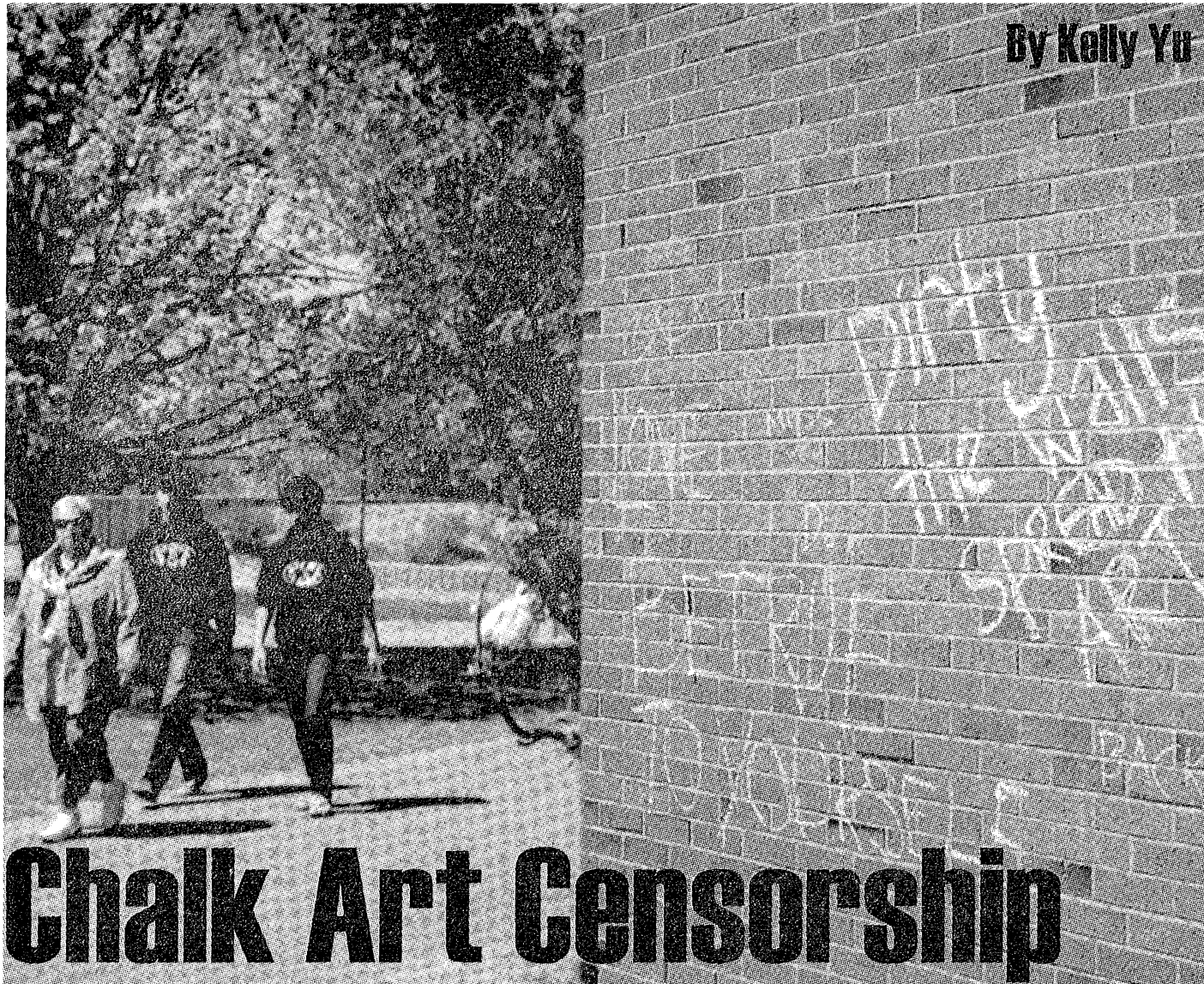
People, not exclusively organizations, were being represented in the protest, said Miller.

"I would hope that [the Obama administration] would see that we are all not from organizations and that each one of us out here is representing a lot of other people with our same concerns," said Miller. "There are a lot of people on the left who are criticizing Obama, too and I would hope that that would become more known."





## arts&amp;entertainment



The average student sees little presence of creative and artistic expression on campus at Stony Brook. Sure, there are random sculptures scattered about, but there isn't anything in the way of student creations. The Shirley Strum Kenny Arts Festival tries to fill this void; it is described online as an event that "showcases the diversity of our students through their creative endeavors." Included in the events of the SSK Arts Festival is the student exhibition Unbound. Unbound isn't the typical gallery and 2D-medium exhibition, but a series of installations stationed throughout the campus interacting with the space and the audience viewing the pieces.

In the past, the Unbound exhibit has seen a bit of controversy. Former President Shirley Strum Kenny ordered the deinstallation of a wire polar bear piece by Masters student Julianne Gadoury, claiming that the piece did not fit with the aesthetics of the Wang Center where it didn't even hang for the exhibition. The removal of this and several other pieces have sent mixed messages about where the fine arts stand on campus as a form of expression and where the administration stands in terms of how much expression they are willing to allow to students.

This year's Unbound exhibit came

as it usually does, understated and with a bit of confusion. One piece that stood out was senior Whitney Harris' "A Hypothetical Collaboration with Kate Gilmore." The objective of her piece was to reference an artist and to make a hypothetical collaboration based on the chosen artist's work. When it first appeared next to the theater entrance of the Staller Center, it seemed to be a large block of chalk that could have been art or remnants of the construction going on from the library. What made it more curious was that students not only observed Harris' piece, but interacted in a way that even she did not plan. After only a night, the walls and part of the floor of the area surrounding her piece was covered in writings from the pieces of plaster that Harris had smashed from the block. Students wrote their names, their organizations, even questions about what the purpose of the block even was.

"Because you have to work with so many other forces, not just administration...you'll never have full control, even though I tried to maintain that throughout the process, even to the end I never knew what to expect," said Harris. "That wasn't my intention to have people write all over, but it happened and I think that says something. There's significance in that."

Despite having the piece on display for a day or so, the next afternoon the piece was moved from its original site and the chalk writing from students was washed away from the floor and walls. The piece wasn't removed indefinitely. In fact, it was returned the following week to its approved placed next to the Staller Center. However, throughout this process, the artist wasn't informed by administrators of the move or of the drawings and writings that the leftovers

*"You'll never have full control, even though I tried to maintain that throughout the process, even to the end I never knew what to expect."*

of her piece inspired. She had heard from her advisor, Professor Nobuho Nagasawa, and a friend who had taken a picture of the scene before her piece was removed.

The piece itself was a chair embedded in plaster, which was exposed after Harris took to the plaster block with a

sledgehammer.

"It was really process oriented and I filmed most of it...it was fun. Got a lot done [by using the sledgehammer]," said Harris.

Her decision to hypothetically collaborate with the artist Kate Gilmore stemmed from taking Gilmore's similar aesthetics and making it her own. Gilmore's work centers around her performance-based videos that depict her struggling through interesting physical feats. One example of Gilmore's performance pieces, called "Everybody Loves Pink," has Gilmore stuck in a corner blocked by a wall of wood. She is sitting in what looks like piles of pink paper while wearing a pink dress and pink stilettos. In order to get out of her uncomfortable situation, she slams her stiletto heels into the wooden wall until it breaks and frees her from her pink prison. In Harris' perspective, Gilmore's pieces include "setting up a task for herself, which is like artists in general...and she finds a destructive means of doing it. It seems like she finds the most difficult way to do things and I related to that."

Despite the administrative headaches and the uncontrollable mishaps, Harris still sees her piece, and the reactions to it, as a jumping-off point for new creations and exhibits.

People always wants to be in control and they can't. So we use art as a means of understanding things...and bring a sensibility to our environment," said Harris. "I think in art there is always that struggle to do that and escape that at the same time."

As a science school, fine arts are underrepresented in terms of importance as well as resources. The SSK Arts Festival and Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities program try to bolster student involvement in the arts, but in a school that is known for scientific research and innovations, sometimes the arts are the first to be left behind.

"American institutions in general need to allocate more resources to the arts. It's just the way it should be," said Harris. "Not to say other things aren't worthy...we are a science and math-oriented school, but there is a way of thinking that art helps bring to people that is very important in a university setting."

"A Hypothetical Collaboration with Kate Gilmore" is no longer next to the Staller Center, as it was removed a second time on Wednesday—due to more writings on the wall. At the time of the interview with the artist, a new location was being negotiated, despite Unbound only running for two weeks.



# Away From the Things of Man

By Liz Kaempf

Imagine living twenty-nine years of your life by the word of God. Now imagine that one day you waited for your wife to get into the shower and then left your entire life behind with only the money in your pocket and the clothes on your back.

That is only the beginning of the story behind Emmanuel "Mani" Garcia's life. He was born May 28, 1973 almost immediately into the life of a Jehovah's Witness (JW), and on August 1, 2002, he left everything he knew behind: his friends, his family, his religion, his culture, his identity. Then in 2006 he started a research project to delve into the power of belief and how it can shape, help or control the people it captivates. Garcia, an admired student of Stony Brook University, debuted the first episode of his miniseries *belief* Wednesday, April 14 on campus. Entitled "Sacred Ground," he creates the first of a series of steps to begin a healing process: a process he likens to the steps generalized for the LGBT community on "coming out."

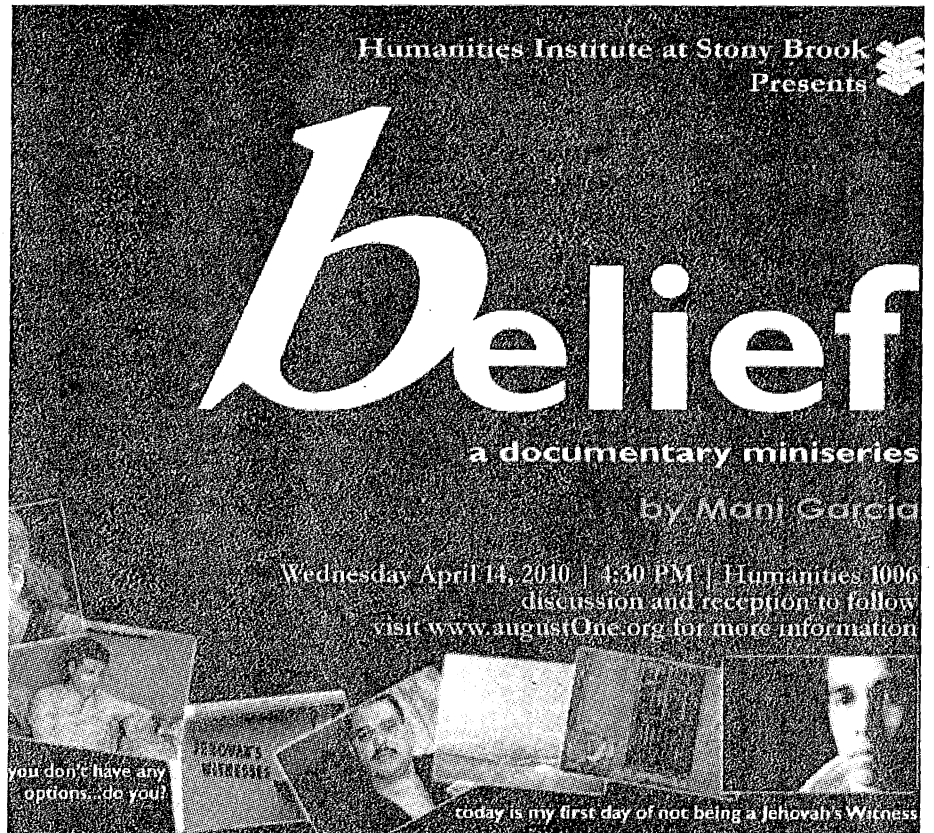
Garcia takes the audience through the timeline that led to his eventual departure from the cult-like religious group. Garcia's father was a rebellious child of the 70s. He heard a knock on the door one day and decided to accept Jehovah's teachings, as told through the Watchtower Organization (the main source of information and leadership for JWs), and this turned his family's life upside-down. There was a drastic move from Chicago to Alamogordo, New Mexico (during the times of nuclear bomb tests) and the tragic and sudden death of a friend were just some

of the events that took place in his early years as a JW. It is edited almost like a French *auterist* film with its quick cuts and spliced scenes, and then brings the audience into long takes of interviews with other former JWs, that would now be referred to as *apostates*, or traitors.

Garcia is one of these traitors, but he found the courage to reach out to others like himself. He does not condemn the religion. He is not looking to expose it. But rather, he is trying to make something so that others will not feel so alone. Many of the former JWs he interviewed would not reveal themselves on camera, as others had done, but did communicate with Garcia through phone calls, e-mails and text messages. Garcia stressed how important it was to understand that, just because they did not show themselves, these people were still as brave as the others because they found a way to say their piece about the religion that was controlling them.

The mode of communication though proved insignificant, as it was the message sent that was most telling. One that hit particularly hard was from someone who contemplated suicide because of the strains and difficulties the organization imposed on his/her life. Many said that if someone knew they were speaking with Garcia they would be ostracized, basically from their own lives. The threat of being found out was extremely serious and could have dire consequences on those that were speaking to Garcia against the Jehovah's Witnesses.

As described by those interviewed, nobody else but a current or former Jehovah's Witness could even possibly begin to understand the toll the organization took on them. It encompassed their whole lives, everything they did,

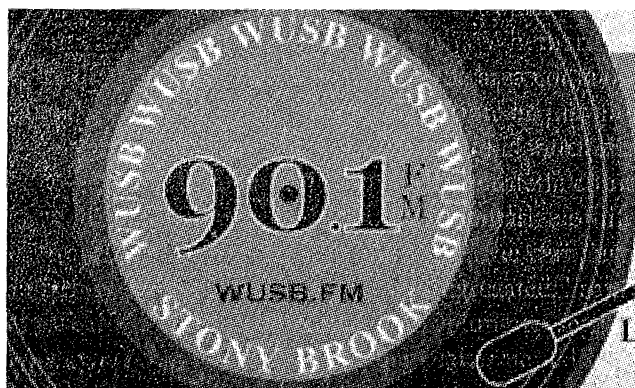


everyone they knew, and everything they believed. A JW was essentially shut up from the entire rest of the world and sought to preach and teach their use of the Bible. The idea was that taking up this practice of the Bible was to sacrifice yourself completely to God, as Garcia informed the audience when he presented Matthew 16:24-25, a verse used popularly by the Watchtower: *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.*

Garcia's first episode of his miniseries proposed finding a "sacred ground" in order to begin the healing process. He goes back to the beginning of his life, to his Spanish roots, he thinks

of the sunset, and he thinks of...*Joe Versus the Volcano*. Believe it or not, he referenced a quote from the movie. Patricia says, "I wonder where we'll end up?" and Joe [Tom Hanks] answers, "Away from the things of man." The miniseries does not necessarily look to bring the audience "away from the things of man," but rather to be aware of the things that try to seize control over us.

Mani Garcia heals by reaching out, and by helping others to start the process of healing. The scars that belief leaves do not have to be forever, and Garcia empowers an audience of any race, gender, or religion to see that you do not always have to believe what you are taught and you are not always alone when you think you are.



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# Who Let the Dogs Out? M.D.

By Kelly Pivarnik

Dr. Dog released their sixth full-length album *Shame, Shame* this past week to strong reviews from critics, though this album did not stray too much from the band's previously successful formula.

Though classified by most as "psychedelic rock," the album sounds more like an upbeat indie-pop album, with vocals that sound like Jeff Tweedy of Wilco and music that resembles Brendan Benson and the early Beatles.

Unfortunately, the world does not need another hipster band like Animal Collective claiming to be "experimental." Luckily in *Shame, Shame*, Dr. Dog shows a little more promise and originality than the rest of the modern day LSD-inspired indie bands.

Though the music is less than im-

pressive and not very progressive for Dr. Dog, the lyrics are substantial, particularly in the song "Shadow People." Co-frontman Toby Leaman told the press the song was mainly about the West Philadelphia scene.

The song starts with Leaman's wondering, sincere voice singing, "It's the right night for the wrong company." Despite the cheery music, the lyrics in this song, and on the rest of the album, suggest something more depressing and melancholy. It suggests empty meaning in Leaman's social scene, "And I know what the look upon her face meant. Something's gone from her eye."

Dr. Dog's other vocalist, Scott McMicken, wrote and sang the song "Station," on *Shame, Shame*. Originally meant to be placed on a previous album, this is McMicken's only song written about touring. The song is reminiscent of the Wilco album *Sky Blue Sky*, in that, despite the band's attempt

to inject soul and blues into their music, the song just turns out boring. The song may have meant to be mellow, but unless the listener is really into Dr. Dog, they are bound to lose interest.

The album's title track, "Shame, Shame," is more promising though. It perfects the trance-like, doo-wop sound Dr. Dog fans have grown to love. The lyrics are narrative, introspective, self-deprecating, and above all else, executed perfectly.

"I was a loner unloved. I really didn't need any help at all. I used to wonder the streets at midnight avoiding any



signs of life."

*Shame, Shame* is by no means revolutionary, but if you're a hipster looking to brag about a potentially great band, go ahead and buy this album. Maybe you'll get some street-cred so you can feel good about yourself.

# Feel It All Around

By Rob Moya

On April 10, at the Music Hall of Williamsburg took e for the first time. Not e as in ecstasy, e as in Ernest Greene. I couldn't get annoyed at the hipsters who were on the real thing (dry sex couple behind me), I was just moments away from experiencing the genius behind my 2009 summer soundtrack, *Washed Out*, in 4-D.

Now, "moments" is a bit of an exaggeration, it was more like three hours. Not three hours of boredom, no no, three hours of synthetic honey into our 700-plus eardrums. First up was a solo act called *Psychobuildings*. Far from the

conventional stage performance, this gentleman was dressed like a gothic ballerino flaunting moves reminiscent of the late Michael Jackson. Having difficulty getting past their giggles, my friends left for a smoke, I remained to admire the weird but appealing man in his unitard.

Second up was *Pictureplane*, a guy from Denver who wanted so badly for us to have an orgy, demanding the lights be dimmed every so often. Half an orgy was what he accomplished (dry sex couple behind me) with his music sounding like sexed-up '80's freestyle beats with dashes of schizo and gay. I enjoyed it to be honest. To my surprise, my friend, a virgin to this scene, was

tripping gleefully, not to mention the three miscellaneous dancers, one of whom was moving her body so sensually, it had to be illegal.

To follow was *Small Black*, a local band I had been following several weeks leading up to the show. Their emo-

tional capacity was brought to my attention when adjacent to me stood a single man, crying out his woe, which would eventually find its way into this atmospheric blend of cathartic humidity, to be rendered insignificant but so relevant.

*Small Black's* sound can be best described as skinny-dipping in a lake full of summer memories with the taste of cigarettes on your lips. Listen to "Despicable Dogs." Lucky are those who saw them perform at our very own University Café this past February.

Then in came Ernest.

He was dressed in a white shirt, a wrinkled pair of corduroys, disheveled hair and complacent smirk. Ernest took his sweet time setting up - each patient movement shouting his reluctance to bid farewell (it was the last show of the tour), each patient movement leaking confidence. There I was, staring at him, a god of my new addiction - chillwave.

*Washed Out* is sweet and simple, not overdone like many bands striving for novelty, but skillfully refined. This is holistic art, to be admired like a Gestalt edifice. Music like this is rare and special. It was a hot July day when I stumbled upon *Washed Out's* "Feel It all Around", my curious ears wanting something nice and fresh. Nice, fresh

and beyond is what I got. A song like this, a privilege for the hearing, should only be discovered by accident.

No surprise that "Feel It all Around" is Ernest's best track which he played last (accompanied by *Small Black*). The familiar 'domp domp - domp -domp' of the opening measure filled the hall, all ears and eyes attuned and eager for the 3 minutes of 'feeling it all around' to follow.

It's hard to recall what happened at that time. I didn't care where my friends were, I didn't care who shoved me, I had no idea when the song began and when it would end, I didn't give a shit at all... I was on e, man.

Unfortunately, this song is a sample of Gary Low's "I Want You" and those people who call themselves music enthusiasts say any form of instrumental recycling disappoints them. Well, optimism would simply call this homage.

There was an encore—*Washed Out's* own remix of *Small Black's* "Despicable Dogs." A few courageous fans climbed onstage, I couldn't help but follow. I danced a bit, my legs buckling under my excited weight. When all was done, I fumbled my way towards Ernest and shook the man's hand, sweat and all.





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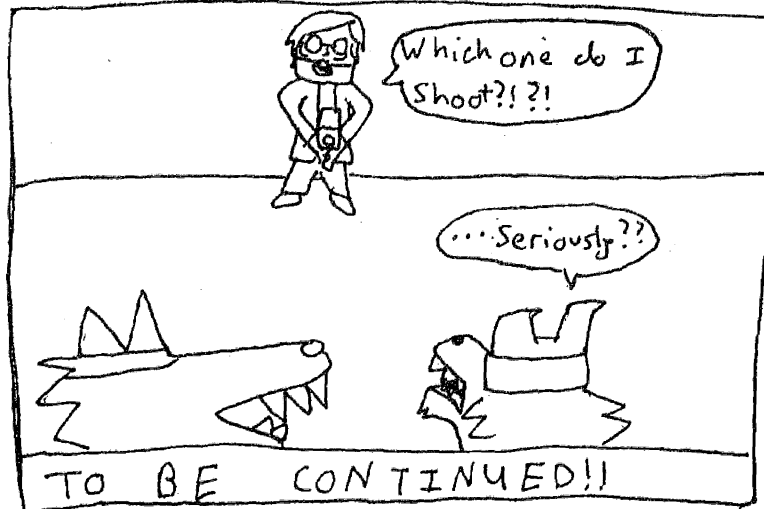
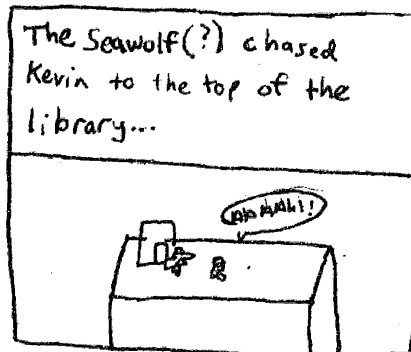
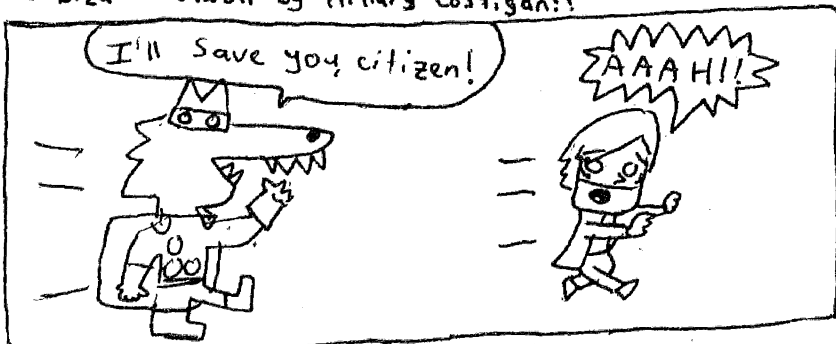


# THE COMICS SECTION

The  
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SEAWOLF**

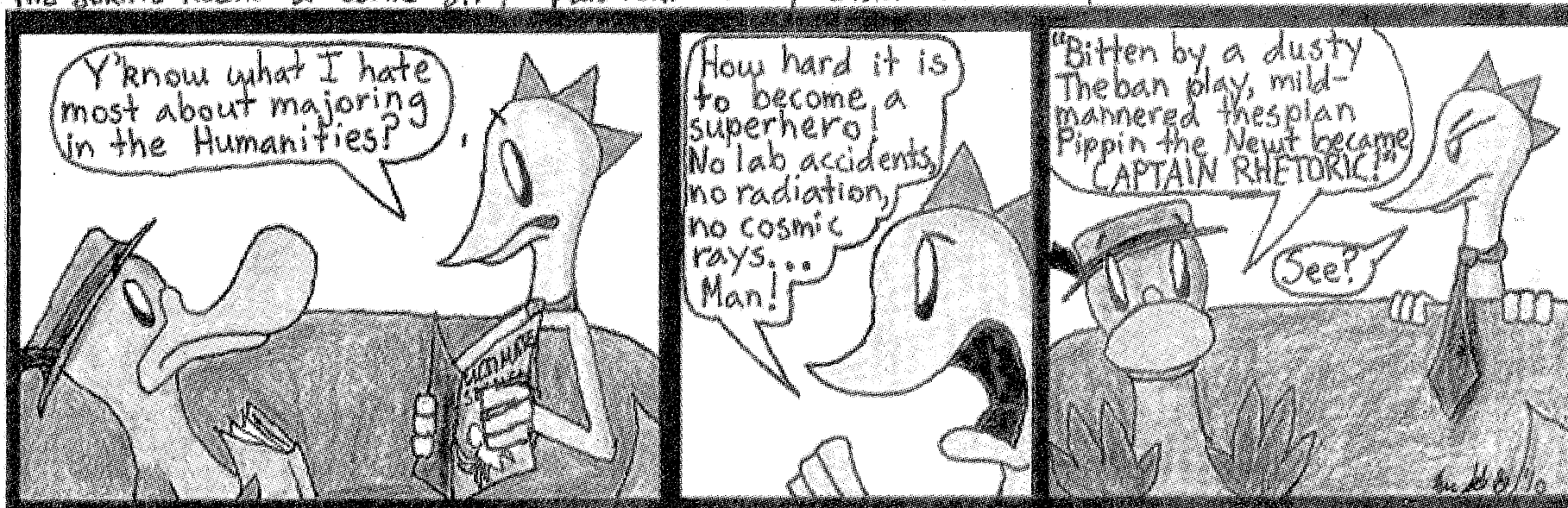
By: Frank Myles\*

\* Bizarro Seawolf by Hillary Costigan!!



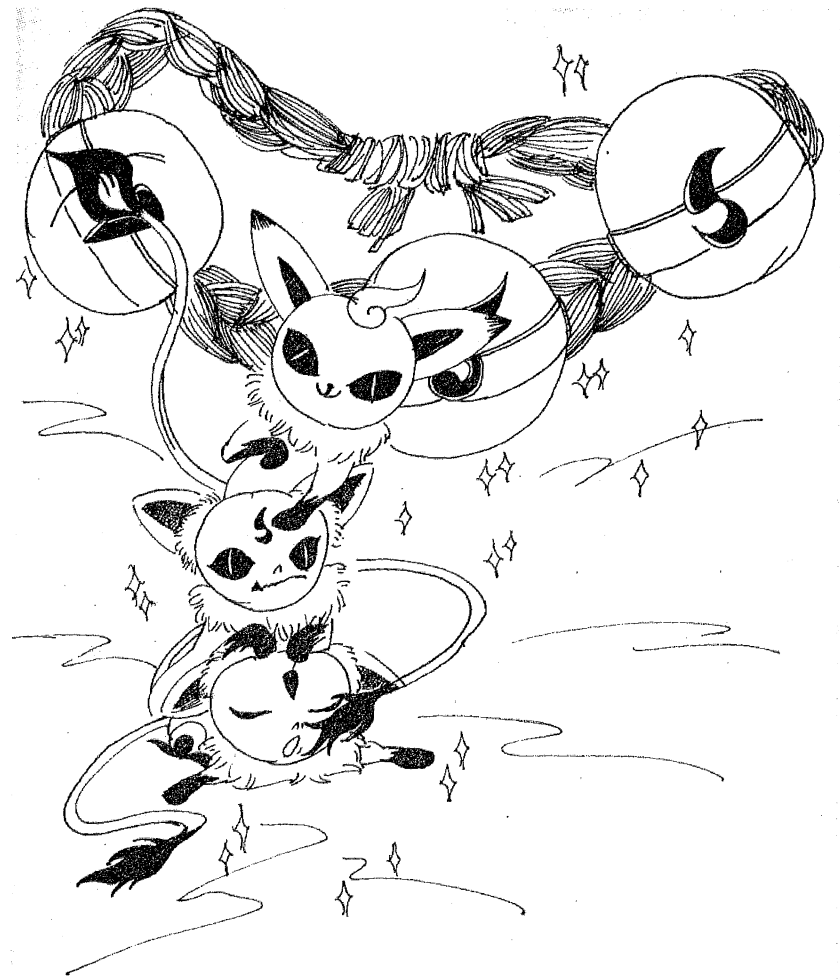
[sites.google.com/site/frankmylescartoons](http://sites.google.com/site/frankmylescartoons)

THE BORING ROCKS a comic strip plaidventure by Evan "SG" Goldaper





# THE COMICS SECTION



**By Yue Si**





# commentary

## A Look Back At Cornell



Lauren Dubinsky

The devastating series of suicides at Cornell University has shone a light on the success of Stony Brook University's Center for Prevention and Outreach and University Counseling Center. Cornell's reputation of being a high-stress "suicide school" was heightened after three apparent suicides were committed in less than a month. Many questions arise as to what SBU is doing differently than Cornell regarding their suicide prevention.

"The recent tragic suicides of three students within a month has shocked Cornell campus and is the talk of the town," Alex Cain, Cornell University senior, wrote in his blog, "Unfortunately, this only perpetuates the stereotype I hear from so many other schools about Cornell being a 'suicide' school. Depression still remains an uncomfortable subject Cornell tries to address with resources." It is well-known that Cornell is considered a "suicide school" because of their extensive accounts of suicides over the years. The recent suicides that occurred in March put Cornell under a microscope. It seems to be a mystery as to why more students at Cornell commit suicide than at SBU. The problems that Cornell students face and the way in which the university aims to handle them must be taken into consideration.

The students and staff of Cornell linked the suicides to the long upstate New York winter, classroom demands of an Ivy League university, and the evaporation of internships and jobs for graduates. Only assumptions can be made because it is almost impossible to determine the cause of suicides in a broad sense. "Cornell is a tough school, there is no way to put it lightly," Cain said, "Regardless of the majors, I have friends from English to chemical engineers and they all have experienced more than their fair share of struggles thanks to Cornell."

Despite the assumptions that Cornell's suicide prevention is obsolete, they have a substantial number of counseling and outreach programs available for their students. The director of Counseling and Psychological Services at Cornell University, Gregory Eells, publishes articles in scholarly journals

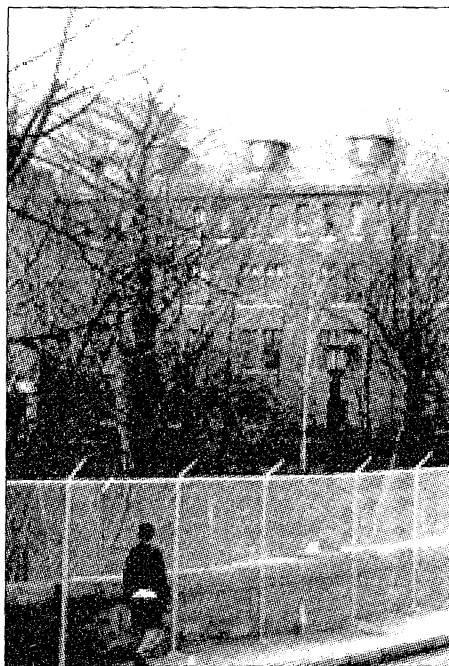
and presents frequently at national conferences. Cornell created a program called "Let's Talk," which involves counselors from their Gannett Health Services having office hours in different locations all over the campus. They found that students who were too intimidated to schedule appointments for counseling were more likely to go to a counselor when it was on their own turf.

"Cornell is fortunate enough to have a number of excellent resources in the Gannett Health Center, our residential communities, faculty advising, and our college advising offices that work together to make this a caring community. Susan Murphy, the vice president for Student and Academic Services at Cornell, said in a video message posted on [caringcommunity.cornell.edu](http://caringcommunity.cornell.edu), "But even those resources together with our faculty and student staff have been strained, as all of us have been coping with the loss of life we have been experiencing as a community." Cornell offers numerous resources for students who are experiencing depression and thoughts of suicide, but that is not always enough. Cornell has made a few changes on their campus to better prevent suicides. Custodians are being trained to look for signs of emotional trouble when they are cleaning the dorms. Therapists are located at 10 campus locations and hold open-door hours. A handbook was distributed to the faculty that explains how to look for students that are in distress.

After looking at the resources that Cornell offers and seeing how they still experienced a devastating series of events, the question as to what SBU is doing differently arises. Four years ago, Dr. Jerrold Stein, associate vice president of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, pulled together a working group to look at the biggest mental health problems on campus. The working group made a suggestion to have an office central to depression. That suggestion led to the birth of the Center for Prevention and Outreach. The CPO has identified depression and suicide as a specific area of focus and has employed one of the four full-time clinical psychologists as coordinator of depression and suicide outreach. Over the past four years that the CPO has been in existence, SBU has experienced two suicides.

The CPO is different from the University Counseling Center in that they

do programs for student orientation, train resident hall directors and run three peer education programs. The UCC provides the counseling and the CPO coordinates the suicide prevention programs. They both work together in helping students know what to look for when they fear that their peers are con-



The Cornell gorge barrier

sidering suicide. Before the CPO, there was not much recognition of the UCC. Michael Bombardier, assistant director of CPO, said, "CPO has been very successful in some specific ways. A lot of students didn't know counseling was offered. Since we were dedicated to putting ourselves out there a lot of students know who CPO is."

SBU has a variety of programs at students' fingertips that are aimed at preventing suicide. The CHILL program is a credit-bearing course that teaches students to plan, co-facilitate and assess educational outreach programs in mental health and wellness under the supervision of a certified health education specialist and a clinical psychologist. CHILL was the silver winner of the 2009 NASPA Excellence Award in the Student Health, Wellness, and Counseling Category. SBU feels that it is important for students to be educated in mental health and wellness so they can help their peers. They believe students are much more likely to turn to their peers when they are going through a difficult time rather than talking to a counselor.

The CPO and the CHILL mental health peer educators came together to develop a depression screening pro-

gram. Over 30 percent of SBU students who had depression screening had scores of moderate to severe depression. In the past two years, 3,000 students have been screened for depression. Those students that fall in the moderate to severe depression category are advised to go to counseling in order to resolve or alleviate their problems. The UCC created the Mindfulness Meditation Program that offers 8-week training to teach students techniques shown to reduce stress level and increase one's ability to manage unpleasant emotions. Cheryl Kurash, staff psychologist for the UCC, said, "Mindfulness practice is both prevention and treatment at the same time, and I believe it has great potential to be useful to students who are depressed, stressed, anxious, overwhelmed. There is much evidence-based research that shows its impact on reducing depression and anxiety and increasing a sense of well being."

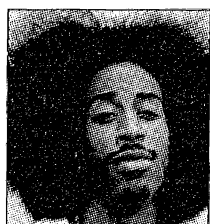
Although SBU appears to be doing an exceptional job at preventing suicide, all the credit cannot be given to them. Julian Pessier, Associate Director of Counseling and Psychological Services at Stony Brook, said, "It is my understanding that at Stony Brook we have been quite fortunate to have few instances of student suicides over the years. But we at CAPS do not 'pat ourselves on the back' for that. We believe in the work we do, and we believe we do it well, but preventing self-harm and promoting psychological well-being are goals that we believe we always need to work harder toward, to improve our understanding of what students who are struggling most need from us."

Many students from SBU come from cultures around the world and they view academics as a way to get ahead. Bombardier said, "I think that Stony Brook is in the same league as Cornell's pressurized environment. Many students want to succeed and excel. They were the top of their classes in high school but when they come here it is much more difficult to maintain that 'top of the heap' status."

As much outreach that is being done in the field of psychology, the way to predict suicides has not been uncovered. "Every year that we have zero suicides, I see it as a combination of fortune and good work," said Bombardier. "I cannot confidently say that we won't have a year like Cornell did. That being said, we have to try."



# Sinister Sisterhoods of Stony Brook



Chris Sorochin

"No matter how cynical you become, it's never enough to keep up."

Lily Tomlin

I've been observing the Stony Brook scene since 1978 and sometimes I stumble across something so excessively ridiculous and petty that I have to check and see if it's an April Fools Day joke. Such is the case with a flyer posted on a Student Union bulletin board.

Said flyer is duly approved ("unauthorized" postings are not allowed; they tend to create a clutter, or express unacceptable sentiments, as freedom often does) through the end of the semester, May 15. It's even on thick, glossy paper, like a magazine page.

"Do you want to JEOPARDIZE your academic career?" it bellows in scarlet lettering. Underneath, in a more restrained funeral black, it informs the viewer that "These sororities are NOT RECOGNIZED at Stony Brook University." And under that proclamation are several triads of Greek letters, all in circles with slashes through them.

A Russian writer, a full century before Yakov Smirnov would cheapen the sentiment, explained the difference between Russian and French societies as follows: In France, everything not expressly forbidden is permitted, while in Russia, everything not expressly permitted is forbidden. Guess where Stony Brook falls in that paradigm?

The door of the WUSB (90.1FM) vinyl library used to be adorned with various band stickers. One fine day, the Union management informed the station that the stickers would have to go, as they violated some building regulation. As is so often the case, no logical reason was given for this regulation. I offered the analysis that, as in militaries and totalitarian societies, uniformity of physical environment was thought to discourage any lapse from orthodoxy in consciousness and behavior. I even cited a previous attempt by the same Union officials to ban students from "chalking" announcements on the sidewalk outside and suggested the building be renamed "the SOVIET Union," only to be branded a crank and a malcontent.

But I digress. This little announcement about the sororities also failed to offer any reason these organizations

were sanctioned. Maybe the University can only approve so many before a state of frat fatigue is reached. Or maybe prospective clubs are expected to cough up some cash in exchange for approval and these had failed to do so.

ersonally, I have never been one for "Greek life" unless it involves souvlaki, ouzo and Aegean beaches and would normally not care too much about people willing to undergo ritual humiliation to belong to a clique, except that the flyer went on to invoke threats against any and all who would belong, or aspire to belong, to one of these klatsches: "Joining unrecognized organizations on this campus is a DIRECT VIOLATION of the Stony Brook University Student Conduct Code!"

Well, aren't all the finer things in life violations of said code? And exactly how much input did students have in their composition?

"Membership and/or seeking membership within these organizations CAN and WILL put your academic career in JEOPARDY."

What, I wondered, could these sororities possibly be doing to warrant such opprobrium from our beloved administration? Are they holding renegade bake sales featuring cookies produced in illegal dorm room toaster ovens? Or throwing unauthorized mixers at which they, god forbid, consume alcohol? Could it be that they posted rush notices not approved by official bodies?

Maybe they're even vicious female gangs, subjecting the campus community to carnage, mayhem and general bitchiness? Or femiNazi terrorists looking to overthrow the patriarchy by any means necessary? Covens of Goddess-worshipping Wiccans seeking victims for human sacrifice? The mind simply reels.

This latter-day witch hunt promises prosecution not only for those found participating in the pledging rituals of the accursed sisterhoods, but also for those bearing their unholy runes: "The wearing of Greek Letters of an unrecognized organization may be viewed as evidence of affiliation." Torquemada, Cotton Mather and Joe McCarthy must be orgasming in their graves over that one.

What is a law-abiding campus citizen to do upon observance of either forbidden sorority activity or its hellish symbols? "If you have been approached by any of these organizations or witness

unauthorized intake/pledging activities, please contact..."

You're supposed to drop a dime, you big rat fink! First given is the number of Kimberly Stokely, Assistant Director for Fraternity & Sorority Life. Okay, so the established sororities don't want upstarts muscling in on their racket. This is quite understandable.

The second number is that of Gary Mis, of the Office of Judicial Affairs, a.k.a the Kampus Kangaroo Kourt, before which one is hauled for burning candles, harboring kittens, having a guest without, there's that word again, authorization, or any of the myriad of petty offenses they've dreamed up. Mr. Mis has been punishing students for behaving like students for at least the past two decades. I'd hate to think campus social life has become so dreary that he's run out of keggers to bust up and is now looking to fill his docket with misguided co-eds to star in the Stony Brook version of "Women in Chains," tasting the leather riding crop of justice, SUNY style.

Finally, it's suggested that it might be desirable to contact the University Police. Imagine the scenario:

"University Police."

"I'd like to report suspicious sorority activity."

"What is your location and the nature of the activity?"

"Javits. I just snuck out of my psych lecture. Two girls in the row ahead of me are wearing pins that say Alpha Sigma Sigma. According to my Student Life List of Approved Organizations, that's not a recognized group."

"Right you are, Citizen. Thank you for your information. We'll dispatch a SWAT team to apprehend them immediately."

Of course, as with other transgressions, this effort may just backfire and it'll become cool, nay, prestigious, to pledge a forbidden sorority. They could even become exclusive secret societies a la Skull and Bones. Those aspiring to bad girl status all over campus will have Tau Iota Tau tattooed in places not usually visible, or Sigma Epsilon Xi shaved into their pubic hair. It'll be a major social coup to hook up with one of these

Do you want to **JEOPARDIZE** your academic career?

These sororities are **NOT RECOGNIZED** at Stony Brook University.

**SIGMA RHO** sorority  
**PHI SIGMA SIGMA** sorority  
**SIGMA LAMBDA GAMMA** sorority  
**SIGMA PHI ZETA** sorority

Joining unrecognized organizations on this campus is a **direct violation** of the Stony Brook University Student Conduct Code!

Membership and/or seeking membership within these organizations **CAN and WILL** put your academic career in **JEOPARDY**.

The wearing of Greek Letters of an unrecognized organization may be viewed as evidence of affiliation.

If you have been approached by any of these organizations or witness unauthorized intake/pledging activities, please contact the Assistant Director for Fraternity & Sorority Life, Kimberly Stokely at 516-632-9307. Gary Mis, the Chief of Judicial Affairs at 632-4300 or University Police at 632-3374.

damsels, and, inevitably, clandestine fraternities will spring up to provide willing swains. College officials will meet to brainstorm new "zero tolerance" policies to halt the "epidemic" of membership in unapproved clubs. Students will be prohibited from gathering in any group larger than three.

This could be an even bigger teacup tempest than the ban on recreational rollerblading and skateboarding, whose cheery signs greet visitors at the railroad station. In your face, local youth! It could even outdo, for sheer Orwellian idiocy, those large East Berlin-style signs that announce the East Campus Total Smoking Ban to any and all driving into the hospital.

So I say let's get the ball rolling. I'm going to institute an unauthorized club right here and now. I'm not of the appropriate age or gender to found a sorority, but in honor of my old high school drinking buddy, Debbie McKinney, I'm reviving the Turtle Club, and I'd like you all to join. It's easy. All you have to do it this: if anyone ever asks, "Are you a Turtle?" you must reply, "You bet your sweet ass I am!"

I'll leave it to more entrepreneurially-minded individuals to come up with appropriate T-shirts, jackets and other swag, but just imagine the conniptions an open-to-all, uncontrolled, *secret* organization will create in the heads that wear the crowns. Can the day be far off when we'll see flyers with pictures of little green amphibians crossed out? Let's make this happen! Join today! It's easy! It's fun! It's subversive!



Get Ready for the Continuation of the Baseball Season:

## It's a Microcosm of Baseball Microcolumns, Comin' Atcha!

### American League

#### New York Yankees

By Vin Barone

Damn, it feels good to be a Yankees fan. Watching the Yanks get their championship rings at the home opener was great (and definitely worth skipping class for). We had just trounced those Beantown bums the previous week—in Fenway—and now we came home, got the bling, and proceeded to give the Angels hell. Shit is awesome right now; the Yanks got me feeling like it's 1998.

This opening series against the Los Angeles Angels was some classic Yankees action. In the home opener, Derek Jeter homered, Andy Pettitte picked up a win (pitching six lights-out innings) and Mariano Rivera notched the save.

After taking two out of three games against the Halos, the Yanks ended the week with a Modern Family-esque sweep of the Texas Rangers in the Bronx. C.C. Sabathia was on his A-game this week; the Yankees ace kicked off the Rangers series, going the distance with nine strikeouts over six innings of a rain-shortened game.

On Sunday, Pettitte picked up his



second win of the week, closing out the Rangers sweep with eight innings of two-run ball. The slumping

Mark Teixeira spanked his first home run of the season, and Rivera closed the game with another save.

The slow-starting Teixeira has been one of the only sore spots in the Yankees lineup. Five Yankees starters posted plus .300 batting averages this past week. The captain, Derek Jeter, lead the team with 12 hits and three homeruns.

The Yankees also had some impressive bench contributions from Marcus Thames, who racked up four hits while splitting time in the outfield with Brett Gardner against the Angels and Rangers.

On the mound the Yankees were just as sharp. The pitching staff racked up a smooth 3.35 earned run average this week.

Let it be known that the Yankees will be going on a West Coast jaunt next week to face the Athletics and Angels sporting an impressive 9-3 record, with all of their pistons pumping.



tearing up the majors straight out of high school, would see his career tragically come to its effective end by a fastball to the face.

Fast-forward to today. The Baltimore Orioles have opened the 2010 season with a 1-11 record. Meanwhile, the Red Sox continue, in a workmanlike fashion, to win more than eight percent of the games they play.

With superstars like Daisuke Matsuzaka, Jacoby Ellsbury and Mike Cameron soon to return from injuries, the sky is the limit. When these wizards of leather come to your town, you'll be singing "Summer gloving, happened so fast" as your local ballplayers reel in shock from the fearsome fielding fireworks.

One thing is for sure, the Red Sox don't have to worry about finding themselves in what Joe Lieberman would call a "three-way tie for third"—i.e., fifth place—with a reliable slugger like David Ortiz metaphorically "pulling the starter cord" on his "gas-powered" plate approach. Viva la Summer of Sox!

### National League

#### New York Mets

By Jason Wirchin

Nearly three weeks into this fledging baseball season, Jerry Manuel's New York Mets are indeed a force to be reckoned with – if, say, you're the Smithtown Little League team. After taking off with a 3-6 record—losing opening series to the Marlins, Nats and Rockies before heading into last weekend's matchup with the Cards—the team appears to be headed for another mid-season shake-up. With ESPN, the *Daily News* and countless blogs spreading rumors of soon-to-be managerial changes, the Mets sure as hell need to hover at or above .500 if they want to save their skipper's job.

Reyes is back, but still claims he feels uncomfortable on the field. Expect Beltran's return in mid-June at best, if not closer to the All-Star break. With new acquisitions Jason Bay, Mike Jacobs and Gary Matthews Jr. putting up subpar numbers, GM Omar Minaya's lackadaisical offsea-

son looks like it has brewed trouble in Queens. The Mets' starting pitching is a wreck after Santana, despite Ollie's sporadic flashes of brilliance and Niese's potential as a developing lefty. Maine's a sour puss and should learn to smile once in a while, and Pelfrey needs to cut down on his balks and throw strikes.

Ironically, the bullpen folk are as steady now as they've been since 2006 and their stellar ERA gives but a tinge of hope to an otherwise precarious Flushing canvas. But it is only April, and as it has been proven time and time again, teams can get lucky and make an unforeseen run for the ages. To clear any doubts, the Mets will not be as bad as they were last year nor will they win 97 games like they did a few years back.

So keep the faith, don't stop believing and keep watching. Who knows? Maybe you'll come across a 20-inning thriller one of these days!



### Philadelphia Phillies

By Michael Srodoski

The Philadelphia Phillies enter play Friday with their best start since 1993, a season that began with low expectations after a last place finish in 1992 and ended with an improbable World Series run. That 1993 team was a team of lovable characters who forever occupy a special spot in Phillies fans' hearts. Led by Darren "Dutch" Dalton, John Kruk, Lenny "Nails" Dykstra and Mitch "Wild Thing" Williams, and featuring a little known 27-year-old fireballer named Curtis Montague Schilling, the 1993 Phillies opened their season by sweeping the Houston Astros on the road. They led from wire to wire, clinching the NL East on September 28<sup>th</sup> and finishing the season with 97 wins.

This season also began with the Phillies sweeping their opening series again on the road, surprisingly against the Washington Nationals. The Nationals have handed the Phillies their only two losses of the season and, despite being predicted by nearly every sportswriter in America to finish fifth

in the NL East, are actually ahead of the lowly Mets in the standings. (The Mets also finished last in 1993, with an NL-high 103 losses.)

On Opening Day, after Barack Obama threw the first pitch, Roy Halladay began building his Phillies legacy. He gave up a run in the opening inning of the season, then shut the Nationals down, then yielded just one more in his second start: a complete game domination of the Houston Astros. He was named National League Player of the Week for the first week of the season, immediately living up to the massive pre-season hype. The Phillies are also bringing the wood. Averaging nearly eight runs per game thus far in the season, the Phillies' offense is picking right back up where it left off after leading the NL in runs scored in 2009. Through nine games the Phillies have served notice to the entire National League that the road to the NL Pennant will go through Philadelphia this year.



### Boston Red Sox

By Matt Willemain

The Red Sox are a proud organization blessed with a storied tradition in American baseball.

Fans can point to the origins of the American League, when the Sox dominated for more than a decade, the Ted Williams era, when the Splendid Splinter entered into legend as the last man to bat .400, or, more recently, to the greatest comeback in the history of professional sports. The chronicles of America's national pastime would be incomplete without the Impossible Dream season of 1967, when the Sox followed an eight year losing streak capped by a ninth place finish, with a pennant-win in a three-way battle that went to the final day. That year the Sox saw superstar outfielders move in very different directions. Carl Yastrzemski would win the triple crown and single-handedly save both a flagging Boston franchise and possibly the popularity of baseball in America with an unforgettable and charismatic World Series performance, while electric phenom Tony Conigliaro, a hometown boy



# Strikeforce Equals Mass Times My Fist

By Matt Maran

Why does it seem like everything that most people find entertaining is almost always labeled as immature or disgraceful?

This past Saturday night CBS aired a Strikeforce fight show. Strikeforce is a small promotion trying to make a splash in the Mixed Martial Arts market that has all but been monopolized by the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC).

In the main event, former UFC competitor and MMA legend Dan Henderson made his Strikeforce debut—and was soundly defeated by Strikeforce Middleweight Champion, Jake Shields.

The big story of the night though was what happened after the fight. As Jake Shields was being interviewed about his impressive title defense, Jason “Mayhem” Miller stepped into the cage.

Miller, the host of MTV’s *Bully Beatdown*, lost to Shields last year in a bout for the Middleweight Championship. He interrupted Shield’s post-fight interview and said, “What’s up? Where’s my rematch?” Then things started to get out of control.

One person shoved another, and soon everybody in the ring was shoving and throwing punches. CBS cut to a commercial break as the brawl ensued.

Miller and Shields have a history and have never been the best of friends. When the program returned from the commercial break, things had settled down, and Shields immediately apologized for his role in the brawl.

It did not take long for people to start saying how disgraceful and shameful this was. MMA columnist

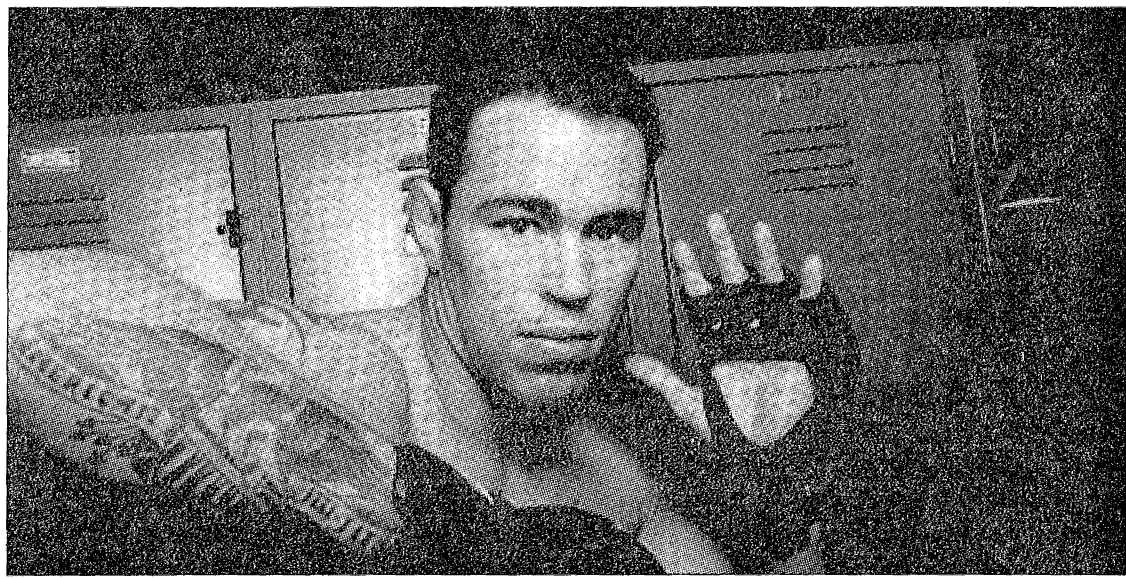
Maggie Hendricks wrote, “The fighters involved in the melee should be ashamed of themselves, as they have now given every opponent of MMA more reason to hate the sport.” Strikeforce announcer, Mauro Ranallo, said that Miller should be ashamed of himself for being so disrespectful.

You know what? Most people watching probably thought that the brawl was awesome. In baseball, fans love it when Lou Piniella kicks dirt on the umpire. They love it when there is a bench clearing brawl, and when two hockey players drop their gloves and punch the hell out of each other. There’s the car crash element to these things.

This stuff happens in all sports, and really at this point the only people who think MMA should be banned are either hyper sensitive or ignorant—but that’s another argument.

The fact is that now, as a fight fan, I would like to see a rematch between Shields and Miller. This brawl has piqued my interest, and I’m sure I’m not the only one. However, this does not mean every fighter should start brawls just to get rematches.

As a fan, when something outrageous and unbelievable happens, I want to see a follow up. If this were to become a common occurrence, then it would not be as shocking. It would just be “Oh here’s another brawl.” (Are you listening, Vince McMahon?)



Jake Shields

mmafight.com

I’m not condoning the actions of Miller. I’m just saying that it was entertaining. Miller’s “disgusting” act excited fans—more than anything else on the show. All three fights shown on the Strikeforce show went to decisions. A whole night with no finishes.

Mo Lawal and Gegard Mousasi were dead tired two rounds into their fight. It was like two zombies fighting for the last three rounds: Shinya Aoki spent most of his fight, with Gilbert Melendez, on his ass moving around the ring like a toddler who hasn’t learned to walk yet.

Jake Shields dominated Dan Henderson on the ground the last four rounds of their fight. I come from a wrestling background so I can appreciate a ground based match, but the majority of fans are bored out of their minds when an entire fight is two guys on the ground working for positioning.

The post-fight melee was all that made this night interesting. As a fan, I would have felt like I wasted three hours of my life watching this show had

that not happened.

The fact is people love to see fireworks. Hell, even Ron Artest got people watching when he attacked a fan during an NBA game. The truth is any publicity is good publicity.

Some people may call it sad that our culture is this way, but it’s human nature. More people know Dennis Rodman than Scottie Pippen. One is a hall of fame basketball player and the other is a freak who happened to play basketball.

All of these detractors need to get off their high horse and accept the fact that simple things excite people. Is it good for someone to drive drunk and speed 100 MPH into oncoming traffic on a highway to get away from the cops? No! But you better believe I’ll be watching it on *World’s Most Amazing Videos*.

And I’m sure I won’t be the only one tuning in to watch and see if Jake Shields gets a chance to shut down “Mayhem” Miller once again.

## And Because the NL Always Has More Teams Than the AL:

### Colorado Rockies

By Andrew Fraley

In my last column, I promised that the Rockies would be winning all of their games. Getting more realistic, they’re only winning about half of them. While this isn’t good, it’s not necessarily bad for them. The Rox have started slow for the last three years, and have wound up making the playoffs in two of those years. The fact that they’re hovering around .500 in the slow months is a pretty good sign. Just wait till September and Rocktober, bitches.

What is troubling about the Rockies at the moment is the fact that their defense has been totally fucking up.

Something like 12 errors in 10 games—yikes. Even Troy Tulowitzki, the best shortstop in the National League (fuck you, Jimmy Rollins), is making mistakes. The Rox are famous for doing everything right. They’re not a team of superstars, they’re a team of fundamentally sound players who are gritty and do their best. When they don’t do everything right, they lose more games. Christ, we almost lost that second game to the Mets based on errors. That’s just embarrassing.


Not only that, but my dream rotation isn’t so dreamy anymore. Aaron Cook seems to have lost some of his magic; he’s not doing so well. Jorge De La Rosa is still pretty good, but a little inconsistent. Greg Smith, some dude I’d

never heard of, is also inconsistent, but he’s a fucking slugger so it’s all good. Our bullpen is also a bit flip floppy; Betancourt is still great, but the others need some work. I look forward to Huston Street’s return.

On the plus side, Ubaldo Jimenez is the best pitcher ever, and just pitched the Rockies’ first no-hitter. Now the exclusive No No-hitters club has just two elite members: The Padres and The (Devil) Rays. Suck on that, bitches.







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