

THE STONY BROOK PRESS

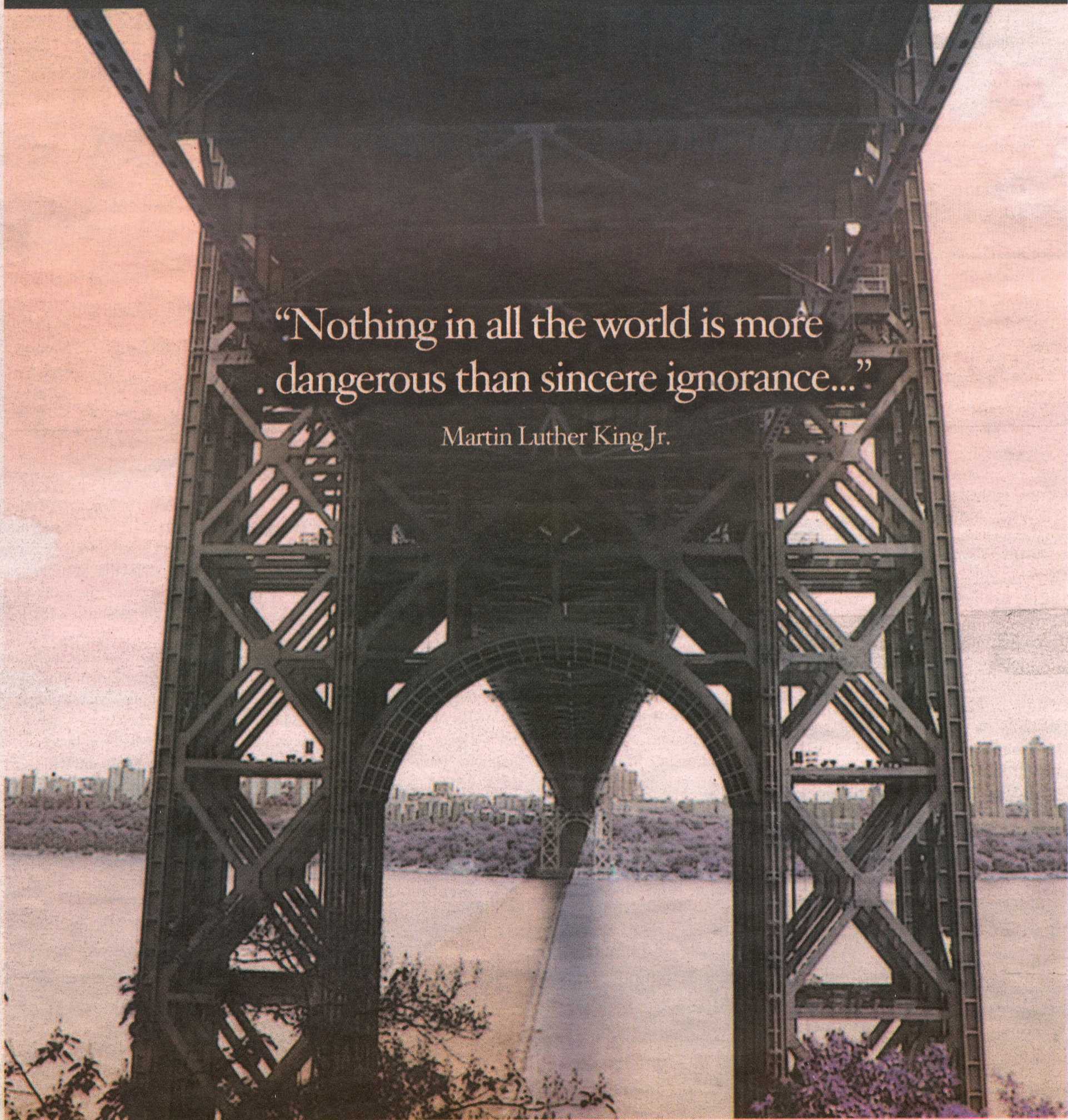
VOL XXXII ISSUE 3

"FACT: I HAVE BEEN PAID TO REPORT NEWS
AT AN AWARD WINNING PUBLICATION"

OCTOBER 14, 2010

"Nothing in all the world is more
dangerous than sincere ignorance..."

Martin Luther King Jr.



Hotel Lawsuit Moves From Big Lights to Street Lights

By Najib Aminy

A New York State Supreme Court judge has ordered a change of venue in a lawsuit between the State University of New York and the Stony Brook Environmental Conservancy regarding the location of a planned hotel on the campus of Stony Brook University. The change in venue has also lifted a temporary injunction that would have legally allowed construction to begin.

However, George Locker, the attorney representing the Conservancy, and SUNY have agreed to a temporary 10-day period where SUNY has said it will not begin with any type of construction on the property. "This will give the court system enough time to move the file from New York County to Suffolk County, assign a judge, and hear my application for a temporary restraining order," Locker said in an e-mail dated October 7.

State Supreme Court Judge Marilyn Diamond ruled to move the case from Manhattan to Suffolk County at the request of New York State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo's office. The argument was over the state's jurisdiction and the location of the land in question, which is across from the Administration parking lot on campus. Essentially, a Manhattan court was determining the outcome of land use in Suffolk County.

Locker said he had filed the case in Lower Manhattan, rather than Riverhead, for multiple reasons. One reason dealt with the convenience of Lower Manhattan, where



Locker works. The other reason touched on Locker's concern over the university's possible influence on local politics and the local judges.

"There is political influence everywhere and if you think otherwise you are fooling yourself," said Locker, regarding his initial concern over the lawsuit and being located in Suffolk County. However, Locker spoke with a tone of confidence when readdressing Stony Brook's current political atmosphere.

"If I were SBU, I wouldn't count on political influence," Locker said. "Stanley has done so much to discredit himself and SUNY that he is no longer credible

or believable."

The Attorney General's office request for the suit to be thrown out however was dismissed. The case will now be heard in the 10th Judicial Court of Suffolk County.

This is one of three lawsuits that involve SBU students suing the administration. In August, a State Supreme Court Justice ruled that the Stony Brook President Samuel Stanley's closure of Southampton was unlawful. Earlier in the year, a group of Research Assistants, Teaching Assistants and graduate students filed a lawsuit claiming that their first amendment rights had been violated when police escorted them out of President Stanley's inaugura-

tion route. That suit is still pending.

As for the future of the hotel lawsuit, Locker says his case is very much related to the Southampton lawsuit, citing what he calls Stanley's repetition of abusing the legal process.

The lawsuit is still pending and is now under the jurisdiction of the Suffolk County State Supreme Court in Riverhead.

"The University is in receipt of the court documents and will follow an appropriate and responsible course in moving forward," said Lauren Sheprow, director of Media Relations at SBU, in an e-mail.

Do you want to know how
I got these scars?

By joining **THE PRESS**

UNION 060 WEDNESDAYS DURING CAMPUS LIFETIME



Heartbreak and Grandstanding; Southampton Stays Closed

By Colleen Harrington

Dealing a devastating blow to the Stony Brook Southampton students seeking the revitalization of their satellite school, the Stony Brook Council (which oversees the President) voted last week to support President Samuel Stanley's April decision to largely close the campus. Despite the setback, students and local lawmakers say they haven't abandoned hope and have pledged to continue the battle for their school.

At the conclusion of a drama-packed October 4 meeting, members of the oversight council voted 7-2 to adopt a resolution proclaiming their support of Stanley's decision, saying it is now "fiscally impossible" to reverse cuts to Southampton. The council's belated vote came in response to NY Supreme Court Justice Paul Baisley's September ruling that the council should have been involved in the decision making process from the start, and a May 11 after-the-fact council discussion of Southampton was insufficient.

The October 4 council meeting in the Wang Center played out over four hours—twice as long as a typical council session. It included a public forum where pre-determined speakers took to the podium, with a three-minute limit, to voice their support for either side of the issue.

Several former Southampton students stood before the crowd and council to plead for the reopening of their school and to complain about the university's lack of transparency. Student Katie Osieki, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit, called for an independent audit into the university.

Faculty members and a couple of students also spoke to support Stanley and advise the council to do so as well, including University Senate President Fred Walters. Walters said that while he hadn't yet discussed Southampton with the full senate, his view is that "Southampton is simply an extravagance we cannot afford at this time."

One of the students who expressed support of scrapping the school was Matthew Graham, president of the Undergraduate Student Government and currently the only student member of the council.

"I've heard the facts and I've seen the numbers," he said. "I've come to the

conclusion, after all that, that the decision to close Southampton is in the best interest of the Stony Brook community. No matter how tough it is to hear it, and no matter how tough it is for me to say it, it's a decision that had to be [made]."

Graham's stance contrasts starkly with a USG resolution that was passed last April, which condemned Stanley's "callous" move and called for the administration to rescind the decision. Graham was not president at the time; Jasper Wilson was. Wilson also appeared at the council meeting to say he had changed his mind and now supported the cuts.

After viewing budgetary presentations and listening to the public speakers, President Stanley and the ten council members holed up in a conference room guarded by university police for an executive session. When they returned, over an hour later, they quickly voted 7-2 to stand behind Stanley (council member Diana Weir left before the vote, citing a scheduling conflict).

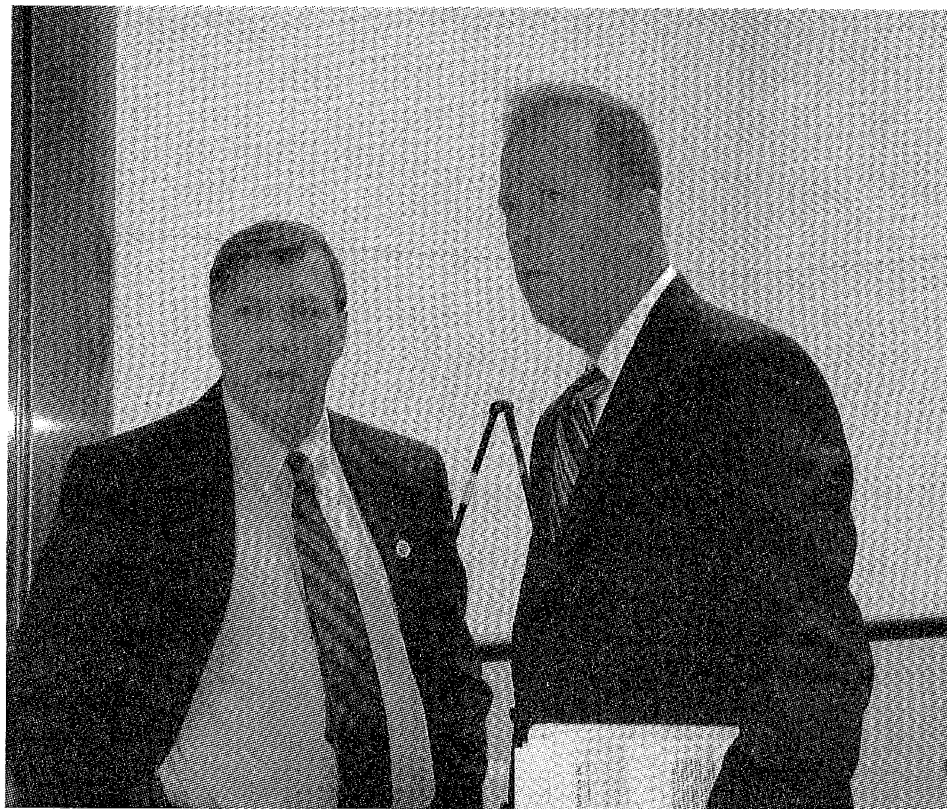
As soon as the council had voted, one Southampton student sobbed as the displaced bunch filed angrily out of the room. A single student stuck around until the meeting's conclusion to say to the council members, in a voice wavering with emotion, "You guys have failed all of us in your role today." The council members did not make eye contact with the student and did not respond.

The meeting appeared to be an emotional one for some council members as well. As the audience was leaving, President Stanley shook hands with and thanked council members. Lou Howard, one of the dissenting members, was overheard apologizing to Stanley, saying, "I just couldn't do it." Council member Jeanne Garant received hugs from Stanley and Law and as she walked out of the conference room, she was crying.

"I'm sorry, now's not a good time," Garant said, brushing away tears, when asked to comment. She did not respond to requests for comment later in the week.

In an interview after the meeting, Law said the undocumented session included a "heartfelt discussion" among council members on both sides of the issue. "I had no idea how it was going to go. But this is about what's in the best interest of the university."

"Everyone was lobbying everyone and everyone spoke very passionately during the executive session," said Gra-



President Stanley (left) and Kevin Law (right) after the meeting.

Colleen Harrington

ham in an interview. "The whole thing has gotten very political. But I think that at the end of the day, people voted to reflect how they feel, and they did the right thing."

In a defiant response to the council's resolution, Assemblyman Fred Thiele (I-Sag Harbor) and other local elected officials held a press conference a week after the council meeting below the landmark windmill that sits at the center of the Southampton campus.

"This campus should not be sitting here vacant like it is today," Assemblyman Fred Thiele proclaimed from a podium before a small, solemn crowd of students and community members. "We want to reach out to Stony Brook University to basically stop the madness, to sit down with us and come up with a concrete timetable and a concrete plan for the reopening of this campus and the return of the students."

Thiele said that the council's resolution is meaningless because they voted to support a decision that had already been annulled by a supreme court justice.

"Eastern Long Island needs a four year residential college and we know that one can be viable here," said Congressman Tim Bishop (D-Southampton), who worked for 29 years at Southampton College, when it was under the previous administration of Long Island University. "We were on a path to having it really, really work and that path was cut short. I believe we can

get back on that path."

"As I walked here to the windmill today, I was a little choked up because this is just an incredible place," said State Senator Kenneth LaValle (R-Port Jefferson). "This place should be moving and shaking and it's not. Processes and laws were scooted around, and that's not what our system of government is all about."

"To think that every elected official at every level that represent the taxpayers of the state of New York have spoken out against the action that's been taken, and have been ignored and defied is a very, very troublesome reality," said Southampton Town Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst. "I encourage all of us to stay united in fighting this."

The legislators signed a letter to be sent to SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher and the SUNY Board of Trustees, who are poised to give their final approval to the council's resolution and finalize the move to mostly scrap the campus. Zimpher has previously expressed her support of the cuts, and one of her top aides sits on the Southampton task force that's supposed to explore new uses for the campus.

Asked to comment on the lawmakers' press conference, Stony Brook Spokeswoman Lauren Sheprow would only say, "Nothing has changed. The SUNY system and each campus must address drastic cuts, and we continue to try to manage them without cutting academic programs."

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The Stony Brook Press
Suites 060 & 061
Student Union
SUNY at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY 11794-3200
(631) 632-6451 Voice
(631) 632-4137 Fax
Email: editors@sbspres.com

editorials

A Cynical View

The Stony Brook University Council's decision to back President Stanley in the closure of Southampton has proven to be very disheartening to Southampton students, but beyond that is an even more disappointing picture for all SUNY students. From Chancellor Nancy Zimpher down to President Stanley and his crew, SUNY administrators at all levels have painted a gloomy outlook for the students.

In a nutshell, President Stanley's decision to shut down residency and undergraduate programs at Southampton has been cast as a move to deal with a worsening budget crisis that's plaguing SUNY on every front. Facing a \$30 million cut alone this year, it can appear that backing Stanley is like backing the numbers and facts—that closing Southampton was the appropriate thing to do. Overall, the University plans on saving roughly \$6 million on the closure over two to three years, a number that has been tweaked several times since the announcement was made last spring.

What is \$6 million in the larger University operating budget of roughly \$1.9 billion? And of that larger operating budget, the \$6 million figure that has been thrown out as the projected savings is just a mere 1.95 percent of the the \$332 million Stony Brook receives in state-aid. What about the millions of dollars in the accounts of the Stony Brook Foundation? Out of all the revenue the University pulls in, it chose to make a drastic and highly visible move in a hasty and deceptive fashion.

It is very difficult to watch the Southampton debacle unfold and not link it to the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act, a bill that would allow SUNY schools to individually raise their own tuition and ease the bureaucratic procedure of pub-

lic-private ventures for state schools. It just so happens that Southampton students have called their former, a now boarded up, university that housed a few of New York's dissenting voices against SUNY's steroid-injection of power. From State Senator Kenneth LaValle (R-Port Jefferson), Assemblyman Fred Thiele (I-Sag Harbor) and now Congressman Tim Bishop (D-Southampton), these East End dogooders felt it was not in the best interest of their constituents to see tuition hikes at the expense of the middle class. Nor did they think it was in their best interest to see the increased revenue stay at SUNY schools; rather have it sit in Albany for pet-project allocations and vague usage. Why should the legislature want to relinquish control of all the money that higher education pulls in?

In a recent interview, Thiele said the Southampton cuts and PHEEIA are directly linked, and he called the cuts a "failed lobbying effort." But who's to say that the legislator's support for this issue isn't just a way to clinch some votes? Where have our local legislators been in fighting for the simple request to fund public higher-education? Rather than fight for the power of who gets to control the money, both SUNY and local legislators should do what seems to be the unthinkable: fight for us, the students. They must stop making moves to intimidate each other, cease the power struggle over our tuition and tax dollars, and do what's right for all of us so we can graduate on time and go on to better things.

In this futile battle of greed, sides are now taking prisoners. Consider Matt Graham, the Undergraduate Student Government President who came out perfecting the little dance-routine of support for Stanley and the so-called

student representation. Graham went against a USG resolution that condemned Stanley's hasty and callous move to shut down Stony Brook's growing sister campus. It's puzzling how Graham has come up with this decision until you speak with him about it. He says he met privately with Stanley to discuss the issue before the council meeting, where he saw "the facts and numbers." But what about the other 20,000-plus students who don't hold office in the student government and are not jockeying for recommendation letters from President Stanley? Every other week there is some sort of protest taking place either in favor of supporting Southampton or heavily against PHEEIA—mind you this is happening frequently on a campus with a high level of student apathy. Graham said he had friends at Southampton and that "this is the kind of job you lose friends over." At least he has a new best friend now—President Stanley.

It could very well be that Southampton was indeed just a matter of tightening Stony Brook's budget during a difficult economic time, but the hastiness with which the campus was closed, the lack of transparency in the procedure, and just how this university has handled the situation has left a visible black eye, even in the wake of what administrators would call a victory. They have alienated legislators who could have been champions of support in this screwed up system New York operates in. At the end of the day, the students, whether it's the 400 or so former Southampton students who are contemplating their future on Main Campus, or the larger body of Stony Brook students, are getting shafted on their best interest—an affordable and promising education.

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More Than a Tribute

This issue's front cover depicts the George Washington Bridge, where just weeks ago Rutgers University freshman Tyler Clementi, 18, had leapt to his death following the streaming of a private encounter he had with another male shot through his roommate's webcam. However, this is just one of the more well-covered stories pertaining to gay-related suicides in the past couple of weeks.

Take Asher Brown and Seth Walsh for example. Both were teens young in their youth who committed suicide after being bullied about liking boys.

What's astounding about this is their age—they were thirteen.

And just this week, Zach Harrington, 19, committed suicide after attending a City Council meeting in Norman, Oklahoma filled with anti-gay rhetoric. In that meeting, a proposal was passed to recognize the month of October as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGTBQ) History Month.

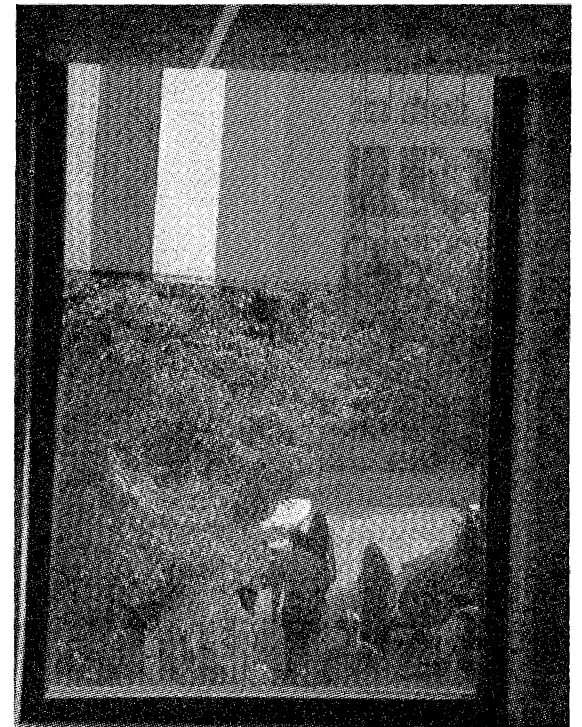
LGBTQ youth attempt suicide at an alarmingly disproportionate rate to their non-LGBTQ peers. This is not a new phenomenon that just sprung up during the past few weeks. It is an ongoing epidemic that

needs to be addressed not only by the LGBTQ community, but our society at large. This includes the Stony Brook community.

There is no easy fix in making Stony Brook a safer place for everyone, especially LGBTQ students. It is important to recognize that holding a memorial, or recognizing the deaths alone isn't enough. That is a cop-out that does not change the culture of harassment that led to and continues to lead to the deaths of so many youth.

Change is not easy in this case, and it is not quick. There needs to be a concentrated effort by the administration to make sure that Stony Brook is safe for all of its students. It's not just cracking down on harassment, it's making sure it doesn't happen in the first place; It's fixing the problem, so that the problem never happens again.

Issues of harassment and bullying can happen to anyone, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This isn't an LGBTQ problem, it's everyone's problem. The university needs to recognize this and make Stony Brook a safer more accepting place for all of us.



A Pride Flag hanging from the Student Union on October 11, National Coming Out Day.

Stonewall Sheprow

The relationship between student media and the University's Media Relations department is an inherently conflicted one. While student journalists take measures to seek out unique stories, Media Relations sees the effectiveness of its role diminished by potentially negative stories or the releasing of information, be it video of a cockroach in the SAC kitchen that could go viral, or a Resident Assistant disclosing residence hall information not provided by Stony Brook's website or withholding permission to shoot a hot-dog eating contest.

Lauren Sheprow, the Director of Media Relations, has spearheaded this tug-of-war with an incessant expansion of control, a frighteningly stalwart commitment to bureaucratic paperwork and a stance on public relations that leaves little growing room for educational journalism. Sheprow has become infamous for her ability to circumvent and stonewall student journalists, as well as exercise Media Relations' grip over an increasing amount of the campus, from RAs to dining hall managers. So much so that School of Journalism Professor Barbara Selvin saw it neces-

sary to post on her public blog a denunciation of Sheprow and how she handles SBU's Media Relations.

The post, titled "University media relations: help or hindrance for j-schools?" begs the question as to how a thriving journalism school can expand in the shadow of a PR iron fist. She [Sheprow] claims that university officials are free to speak with student journalists, but in practice, she has created an atmosphere in which nearly every administrator refers all questions to her," wrote Selvin.

Putting aside the independent motives of Professor Selvin and the attempts already made by the School of Journalism to carve a more productive relationship with Media Relations, the incident is intriguing because Sheprow herself took the time to undermine the post, refute its apparent errors and defend the role of PR at SBU.

Under the name SBU Media Relations, Sheprow, who immediately said that she was the representative in question, meticulously examined Selvin's position for errors, such as the date at which the previous spokesman left the

post (which Selvin did in fact get wrong), and defending her journalism background, saying she had worked for "award-winning publications," but not offering names nor drawing the clear and obvious distinction between whether she has worked exclusively in PR or actually ventured into the realm of real journalism.

Sheprow's decision to defend herself is perfectly within her rights, but to do so on a public blog is not only strange, but also seemingly unnecessary. Being well versed in her field, it's baffling as to why Sheprow would tackle the post so vehemently, while still pulling up walls of ambiguity. She twice refuted Selvin's points with vague responses; first with her comment on having worked for an award-winning publication, and second on her insistence of a past incident where a journalism school student tarnished the program's name.

Instead of employing her time and effort to a blog post that was simply publicly stating frustrations that have been discussed for months, Sheprow could be dedicating her time to estab-

lishing a better relationship with the School of Journalism. Quite frequently, Sheprow "doesn't have the time" to return calls or respond to emails, and often responds to such requests after deadlines. This is quite true considering she holds two posts, one as the University's interim director and as the official Media Relations Director for the Medical Center. But she had time enough to make these remarks, which are only a step backwards and away from what could be a productive and commendable relationship between Media Relations and the School of Journalism.

It is very important for budding journalists to experience a public relations department that may not be that helpful or cooperative, as it encourages them to develop and seek sources in a new light, but the question at hand is why must it be so difficult for a state-funded university to respond to a wide array of inquiries, even if it's as harmless as a hotdog eating contest. I guess the answer lies in writing a blog and hoping that Sheprow responds. We'll keep our fingers crossed.

Silence Contracts Mad Grads

By Nick Statt

The Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU) is currently fighting on two fronts: in a lawsuit concerning the infringement of their First Amendment rights, and in the NY State Senate for a vote on their revised and already-ratified pay bill. On Thursday, October 7, GSEU held a rally in front of the Stony Brook Union to raise awareness and gain support for accelerating the vote on the bill.

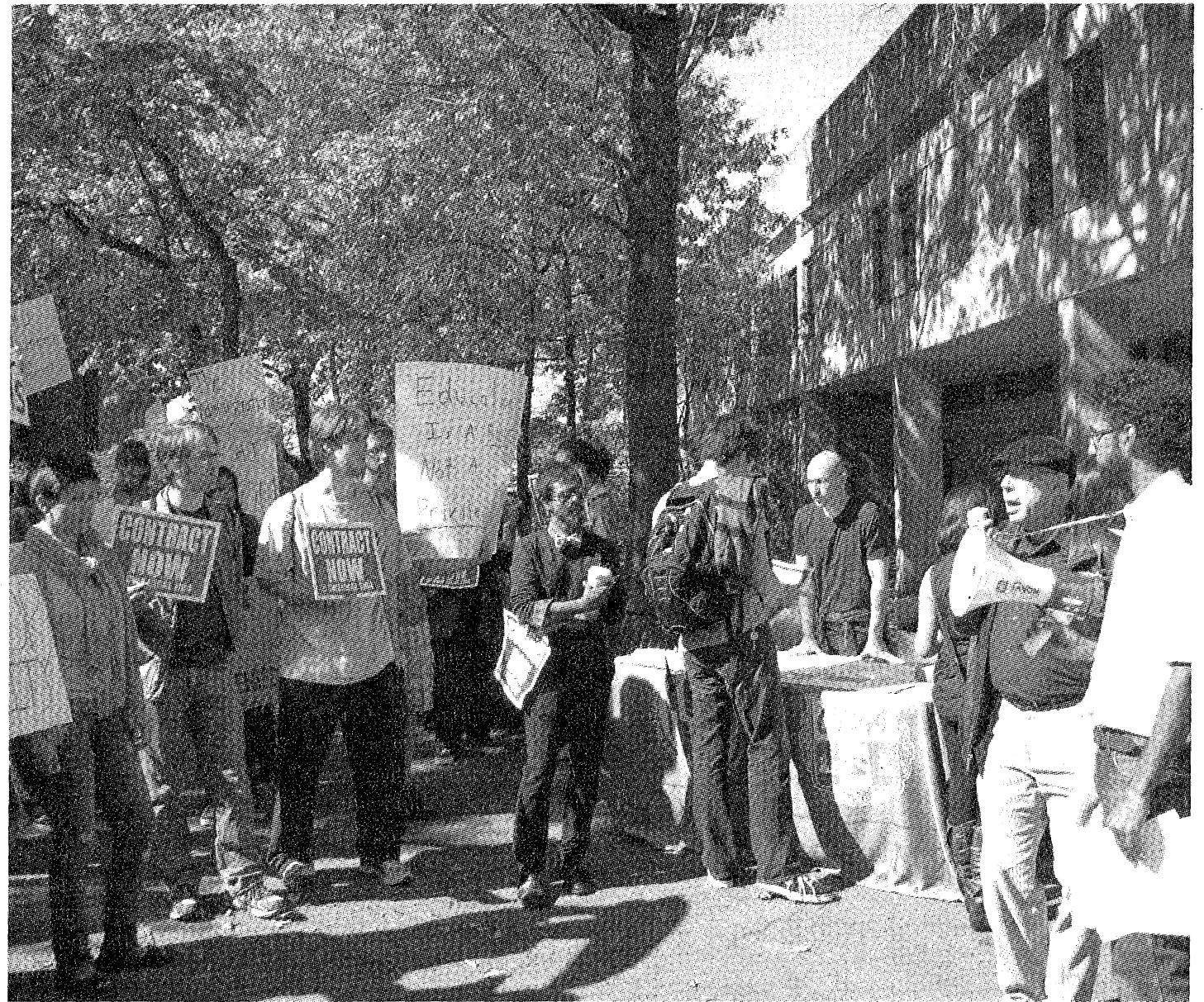
Aman Gill, a megaphone-toting graduate student in ecology and evolution, directed a steadily growing crowd to a table of cell phones where supporters could call their state legislator and demand they pass the bill. GSEU's previous contract expired in 2007. The revised version, which was ratified back in February, has yet to be voted on by the Senate, despite already securing the New York Assembly.

"The agreement has already happened. Now they are just holding back on the money..." announced Gill to the initial rally members.

"That means that a lot of the benefits of the contract are not in place," said GSEU business agent Marcelo Disconzi, a graduate student in the mathematics department. "No salary increases, no money for different funds like professional development funds, recruitment funds..." he added.

The salary increases are a pivotal point being pressed by GSEU. Current teaching assistants and graduate assistants are being paid according to the 2007 contract, while the revised version is calling for a six percent pay raise based on the increases in the standard of living.

The pay bill would also apply retroactively in that it would involve a back pay to compensate TAs and GAs



for the money they would have earned while working from 2007 to 2009, under the pretense that the contract that expired in 2007 should have been revised immediately.

On Oct. 4, the University Administration said they did not break the law, according to GSEU Spokesman Jim McCassey. The lawsuit concerns an incident during President Stanley's inauguration in which members of GSEU were forcibly ejected for wearing t-shirts expressing support for their organization.

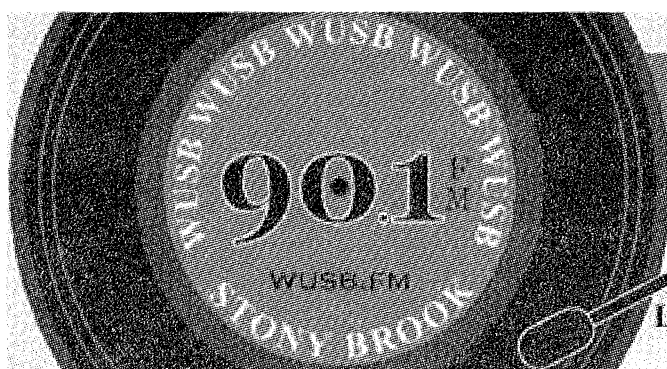
"Members were denied their free

speech by showing their support for the union and our campaign to get livable wages," McCassey said. When asked if GSEU was going to take measures to push the lawsuit forward, McCassey said, "Absolutely. I believe a meeting will be scheduled with a judge within 120 days of October 4."

Jim LaCarruba, N.Y. State Senator Brian Foley's chief of staff, also spoke at the rally in favor of the revised pay bill and the measures GSEU was taking to get it passed. Sen. Foley and LaCarruba are also notable supporters of PHEEIA,

which conflicted with rally members' negative stance on increasing tuition and the privatization of public higher education.

"We did our job. Now it is time for the State to do its job and approve this pay bill," said Disconzi as he prepared to take the megaphone from Gill and share his thoughts with the crowd. "They wouldn't pass our pay bill because they didn't have a budget. But now they do have a budget, so there is no excuse as to why they cannot pass the bill right now."



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Lose Yourself Lately?

By Bobby Holt

Ever been lost and in need of a map of Stony Brook's campus? Ever need to know some facts about each building or see 360 panoramic views of spots on campus? Chances are, probably not. However, all of that plus more is rolled up into the new iTourSB application available for the iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad—listed at the very, very, very low price of absolutely free.

Features

On the home screen of the application, there are eight functions available: Campus Map, Weather, Contact Us, Settings, News, Sports News, Panoramas and Videos.

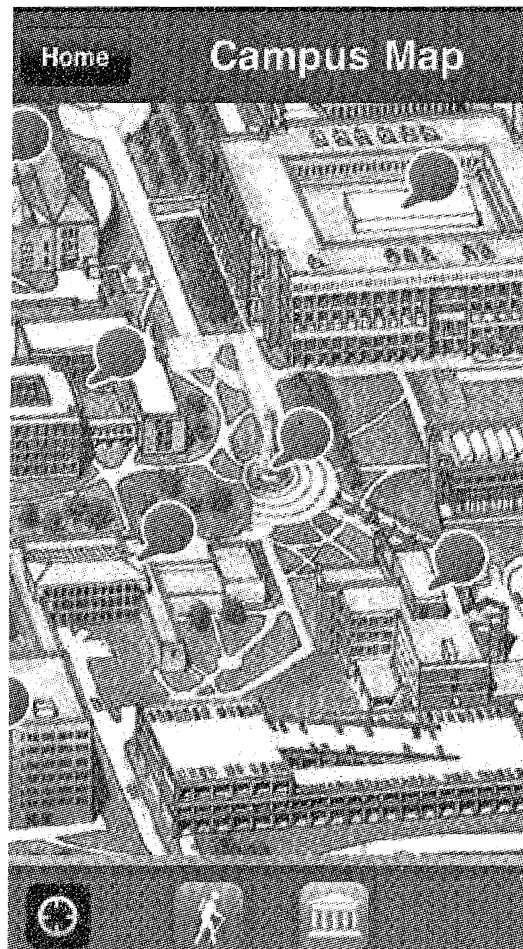
The "Campus Map" allows the user to see all of Stony Brook's buildings in a colorful rendition of the campus (bet you didn't see that coming). Each building has a red clickable point which tells you what the building is and some facts about what goes on there. While the idea is great, this feature caters to someone who isn't a student at Stony Brook, as the facts are pretty obvious. For example, if you were to click on the Humanities Building, you would be told about what offices are there, as well as a

brief history. From this menu you can also see YouTube videos as well as 360 degree, panoramic pictures from various spots in the building. Finally, the user is able to locate themselves on the map by using the device's GPS capability. However, when I tried it, it said I was outside the campus boundaries, because apparently the Union doesn't count as "on campus" anymore. Overall, the map works well and it would definitely be appealing to a prospective student to learn more about Stony Brook's campus without actually being there.

Probably the least useful function is the "Weather" portion of the app. This is not because it doesn't work, it's because there are plenty of other applications that do weather and do it well. It's nice, it does its job, but at the end of the day, who really needs another weather app?

The "Contact Us" page was surprisingly useful. It had a list of all the departments on campus and a phone number or email address where they could be contacted at. It worked well and actually came in handy.

"News" and "Sports News" are mostly comprised of press releases regarding the happenings around campus, or updates on Stony Brook's athletic teams. Unfortunately, you won't



get the rhythmic beauty and lyrical harmony that is *The Press* in the palm of your hand. Someday it may happen, but the technology to contain something as magnanimous as *The Press* in a handheld device has yet to be discovered.

Finally, "360 Panoramas" and "Videos" are as simple as they sound. There are many photos around campus that allow the user to scroll 360 degrees and zoom in on the picture. Almost every building has an accompanying YouTube video to describe it or talk about some cool spots to hang out in. There are also videos that talk about how awesome Stony Brook is and why you should go there (sweet, sweet self promotion).

Does it work and is it worth it?

Yes, quite well in fact. There was really no noticeable lag when selecting a different building or going to a different screen. The only thing that took time was downloading the pictures or buffering videos, which is expected. The app does what it is suppose to do and it does it well. The best part about the application is the cost. It's free. It's tough to complain about something that costs you nothing—believe me, I tried my hardest to find some fault.

At the moment the application is only available on Apple platforms. However, according to the University, they are working on bringing iTourSB to Blackberry, Google Android and other mobile platforms.

SUNY IN BRIEF

The Knife Cuts Deep

The University at Albany announced it is phasing out five liberal arts programs and shedding 160 jobs. In a statement, University President George Phillip said that because the legislature failed to enact PHEEIA and instead slashed SUNY's budget, the school was forced to make cuts. The affected programs, which will no longer accept new students, are Classics, Theatre, French, Russian and theater.

"There's Always Money In the Banana Stand"

According to Barbara Chernow, SBU's Vice President for Facilities and Services, a number of construction projects are underway on campus. The design process has begun for a new food service building in Kelly Cafeteria, programming is underway for a complete renovation of the Student Union building, and construction that will turn the Old Chemistry

building into a state-of-the-art classroom building is set to start in January.

SBU Cleans Up the Trash

Stony Brook University announced it is partnering with the Town of Brookhaven to develop technology for cleaning and utilizing gases emitted from the Brookhaven landfill. "I thank Dr. Stanley and the University's Center for BioEnergy Research and Development for selecting Brookhaven Town to participate in this partnership," said Brookhaven Town Supervisor Mark Lesko in a statement. "The result of the research conducted at the Town landfill could be an international model."

Kanye West Is a Bad Role Model

A new study reveals that dropout students who leave public colleges and universities without graduating cost taxpayers billions of dollars. The report by

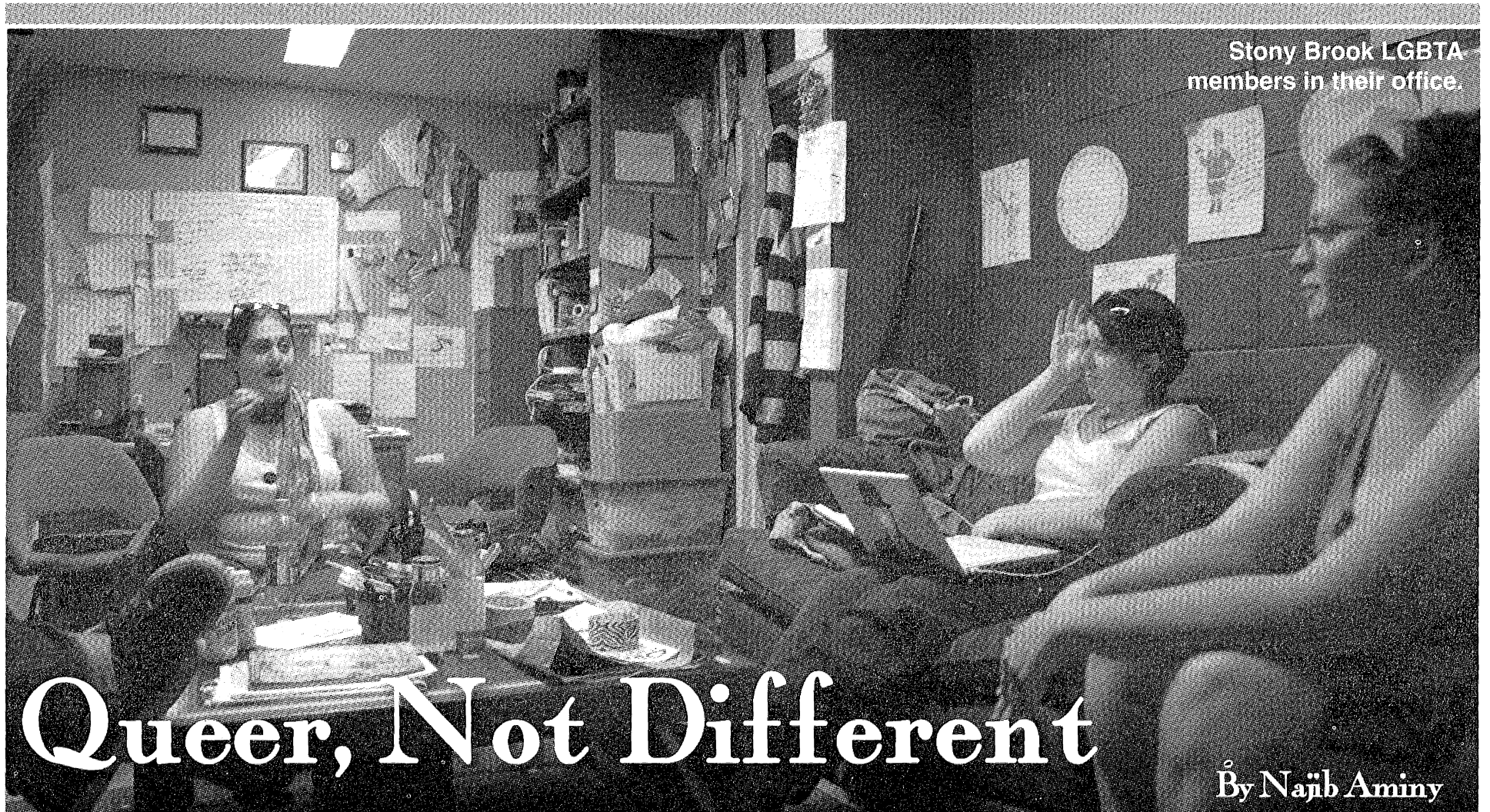
American Institutes for Research says that dropouts cost states \$6.2 billion from 2003 to 2008. According to the report, only 60 percent of students who attend public colleges and universities graduate within six years.

SBU Athletics Injected With Performance Enhancing Donation

SBU alumni Glenn Dubin donated \$4.3 million to the university for its new sports complex. Dubin graduated in 1977 with a degree in economics and now owns Highbridge Capital Management, an asset management company. The new complex will likely be named for him.

Compiled by Colleen Harrington

features



Queer, Not Different

By Najib Aminy

Just before Rutgers freshman Tyler Clementi took his own life, the 18-year-old violin aficionado downloaded a Facebook app on his phone to post what would be his final status update.

“Jumping off the gw bridge sorry.”

This came after Clementi’s roommate posted a YouTube video of Clementi kissing another guy, filmed through the webcam on his computer. This was just one of six similar suicides in as few weeks, where gay youth had taken their lives amidst mounting social pressure and anti-gay sentiments.

In mid-October, 19 year-old Zach Harrington of Oklahoma took his life after attending a City Council meeting in his hometown of Norman. While the council meeting ultimately resulted in the passage of a resolution to acknowledge October as Lesbian, Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer History Month, the debate was filled with anti-gay rhetoric. Harrington’s family said they believe the meeting triggered his suicide.

And so formed the clouds of a media storm that has publicized Clementi’s death, and similar related deaths. The result has been thundering coverage about cyberbullying, sexting and privacy in a digital age.

And while the extreme outcome of Clementi’s situation may differ from that of others who identify themselves within the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) community, the insensitivity Clementi faced is very much the same.

The Privilege

The expressions of that insensitivity, like most things, begin with culture and society; one that some professionals say involves an invisible atmosphere of raging heterosexism.

“If you don’t know someone well, and you see a wedding ring, one assumes they are married to someone of the opposite gender, it’s almost a force of habit,” says Dr. Jenny Hwang, Stony Brook Associate Dean and Director of the Center for Prevention and Outreach, an office dealing with substance abuse, depression, sexual assault and gender issues. “There is a kind of privilege that people who identify as heterosexual have in that they never have to talk about it because it’s just given,” Hwang says.

For non-heterosexuals, not having that privilege creates a level of confusion that constantly challenges one’s identity. It’s the constant possibility of having to explain to someone who they are or what their sexual orientation is and defend it, fostering for many a permanent pull of uncertainty. Now combine both these levels of doubt and the clash against the established societal norms of marriage, love and culture. Thus many queers, or people who identify themselves as either lesbian, gay or transgender face compound obstacles.

“What’s sad to me in the Rutgers case is, if Tyler Clementi were getting involved with a woman, I am not so sure there would be much interest in web-casting that encounter,” said Hwang, a clinical psychologist.

Coming Out

“It kind of hit me like a wave. And I was like wow, my life is going to be radically different from everybody else and I decided to just sit down and take it all in,” recalls Nolan Theodore, an eighteen-year old SBU freshman from Syracuse, about coming to terms with his sexuality when he was fourteen.

At first, Theodore had told just a few close friends who were in his high school’s Gay-Straight Alliance club. But it was after experiencing peer wrath in derogatory terms thrown around in his high school halls, he resolved that he did not want to be silent about his sexuality. Specifically, he wanted to be active in letting others know the effects of hurtful language: calling people faggots, or tacking “no homo” to the end of a phrase. Because even for him, it had hurt him to the point of feeling like a leper.

It took two years after coming out to a few close friends before Theodore would come out to his divorced parents—initially his mother, who he lived with. “I think the only thing scarier that could ever happen to me is a near-death experience,” explained Theodore. “It’s no parade, it’s like a haunted house. You don’t know what’s going to pop out next.”

And while Theodore says he was fortunate that he was not kicked out of the house, his relationship with his mother had been strained at first, with his mother bawling, in tears upon hearing the news. Months passed without Theodore and his mother really talking about his orientation or anything else.

But that all changed earlier this summer, when Theodore had brought home his boyfriend from school.

Afraid that she would not accept his boyfriend or the relationship, Theodore was surprised when his mother became more accepting, even taking an interest in the \$200 half-friendship necklaces from Hong Kong both he and his boyfriend share. “She just took an interest in it, and she’s just been great about it,” said Theodore.

Eventually Theodore would also tell his father, who works in New York City, a cosmopolitan environment, which he feels was one of the reasons why his father was much more accepting than his mother. The process of first coming out, he says, is a burden he will never forget. “Your heart is pounding very hard—so much that you can hear every beat. And when you finally say it, you can’t believe it’s finally out in the open, in the public, for anyone around the area to hear.”

It’s A Never Ending Process

But after the initial burden wears away, coming out continues to be a never-ending tale. With each new person one meets, there is that chance of having to address one’s sexual orientation, followed by the elaborate explanation or defense.

It’s a set of problems that senior philosophy major Daniel Weiss, 21, has come across, but for another reason—Weiss identifies as transgender, specifically gender queer. Weiss, who prefers the pronoun “they,” is neither attracted

to either male or female and does not identify as male or female, rather is gender queer with a sexual orientation of queer.

"I use queer to mostly designate that I am not heterosexual," said Weiss, who grew up in North River, Ill., a suburb outside Chicago. "I am attracted to people as people, not sex or orientation." As for gender, Weiss neither identifies as male nor female. "It gets a lot more complicated regarding my relationship with my body and my interaction."

Weiss had originally identified as gay during freshman year of high school. Like Theodore, Weiss had come out to a small group of people before telling the family—an event, which took place a few years later, during senior year of high school.

"It was very, very scary; mostly for me to acknowledge whether or not I'd lose all my friends or that the possibility of my family hating me," Weiss said. "It's horrifying, it's not ok, but that's what happens." Weiss' family had accepted Weiss coming out as gay, but Weiss' mother had some difficulty in accepting that Weiss was transgender.

When Weiss came out as transgender a few months later, Weiss' mother had suggested that Weiss go through conversion therapy because, as Weiss said, something that Weiss' mother thought could be cured. "I was dumbstruck," Weiss said, who associated the suggestion with notorious types of purported therapy for gays. "It's an incredibly painful thing to go through," said Weiss, who added that such therapy would be forcefully trying to change who one is.

And while the relationship between Weiss' mother and Weiss has since improved, Weiss continues that coming out process, only in a less favorable way. "Everyone thinks I am a queer girl because that's how they associate my presentation," said Weiss, who then decides whether it is necessary to come out to a newly encountered individual. "There's this expectation that I have to explain everything about myself as if it's my job because I am trans[gender]," Weiss says, "[but] I want to walk around and be treated with as much respect as the next person can get."

And it's this sentiment that strikes true for many others within the LGBTQ community.

Just the Beginning

But coming out is just one hill in a chain of mountains that extend beyond the horizon. Despite a Gallup poll released earlier this year in which more than half the people surveyed said they supported the moral acceptability of a gay and lesbian relations, the stereotypes and social stigmas are far from extinct.

"It's as if, now that I am gay, I have to love musicals or watch *Glee*," said Theodore, who would respond nonchalantly whenever his mother asked him for fashion advice. "Many people have the label gay and I think it's subconsciously always running through their head and it dictates whatever they do."

It's something Theodore says should not be the end-all be-all deciding factor of how one is perceived. "It shouldn't dictate how people should treat you," he said. "Everybody should be treated with respect."

For Weiss, life becomes a little more difficult, either when having to use a gender-specific bathroom, being constantly reminded of a legal name and previous identity when using an ID card for meal points, or at the beginning of

ago, the program has grown to have 158 trained Safe Space volunteers, with a list of 42 people waiting to go through the program. "I think everybody realizes [LGBTQ issues and rights] are going to be a long term thing," said Chris Tanaka, Special Project Coordinator within the Center for Prevention and Outreach. "As we see with other diversity issues, it's one issue that will never be [resolved]," said Tanaka, who coordinates the Safe Space program.

And in light of the recent string of queer youth suicides, the question that hits some of Stony Brook's own administrators is, could it happen at Stony Brook?

More or less, the answer to that question is "yes," but tacked on with a growing concern, one that Christina

Vargas Law, the director of the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action, holds. "It becomes a question of whether we are making sure all of our students feel safe, letting them know that there is assistance here and to make contact with those that need help," said Law, who graduated Stony Brook in 1990.

It is within Law's office that discrimination and sexual harassment complaints are filed, but even there, Law says, the cases of queer discrimination are few and underreported. It ranks towards the bottom of the totem pole underneath other discrimination complaints related to sexual harassment, religion and age. "Part of the issue is, at what point do people feel comfortable reporting it and do we find out about it in time," explains Law about the small number of queer harassment complaints filed.

The Answer?

Advocates say part of the solution is the implementation of vital awareness programs, and services that would cater to the needs of the LGBTQ community. Asked what the administration could do to make Stony Brook a safer and more comfortable place for LGBTQ students to live, an increase in transgender-related services tops the list, whether it's increasing the gender-neutral housing program, from one suite in Tabler Quad to a more expansive program or providing more gender-neutral bathrooms all throughout campus.

To quell the dilemma Weiss goes

through every semester regarding a preferred name, members of Stony Brook's own Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender Alliance have also requested that a name-changing service be offered through the university's SOLAR system. This would allow students to submit, on SOLAR, the name they would prefer to be called, which would appear on the professor's roster list and eliminate the need for emails each semester where students feel obliged to come out.

And to address the social awareness of LGBTQ issues, the LGBTQA has also advocated for university administrators to include queer-related awareness programs in the freshman seminar classes, in addition to the courses for university faculty and staff. But the education, some argue, must be more than the just the appropriate way to refer to someone who is gay, it should provide an exposure to the problems at hand. "I think we would do a disservice if we try to cover true bias and hostility by just saying, 'you can't say that, and you have to say this,'" says Hwang. "Otherwise then it just becomes another rule to follow and people still have the feelings without ever having to reflect on them or share them with another person."

A Ticket of Hope

The recent suicides that have come to public attention were fueled by a socially planted and deep-rooted misunderstanding about queers in general. To even call them suicides is contested by advocates. "When someone is hurt, harassed, bashed and has their privacy invaded, and doesn't feel comfortable or safe to the extent that suicide is their only option," said Weiss, "I would call that murder."

While these suicides have, for the moment, caught the media's fickle attention, the problems that surround being queer look to last much longer. For Theodore, the decision to come to Stony Brook and decline an opportunity to go into an honors program at Rochester Institute of Technology was a matter of where he would be accepted. Theodore chose Stony Brook with influence from his father, presuming that the environment would be more welcoming.

"Somebody that's Latino shouldn't pick a school because they are more accepting," Theodore said. "The world shouldn't act that way."

If there's one message Theodore would share with LGBTQ youth confronted with intolerance, it's that eventually everything will work out. His anxieties melted into a positive situation as his parents will be helping him pay for a \$200 round-trip ticket for him to go to Buffalo and visit his boyfriend at the end of October.

"It gets better," Theodore said.

Percentage Calling Gay/Lesbian Relations "Morally Acceptable"

By gender

	May 2006 [^]	May 2009	May 2010	2010 vs. 2006
	%	%	%	pct. pts.
Men	39	46	53	+14
Women	49	51	51	+2
Men 18 to 49 years	42	54	62	+20
Men 50+ years	35	38	44	+9
Women 18 to 49 years	55	57	59	+4
Women 50+ years	41	44	43	+2

Gallup; May 2010

every semester. Weiss will send out emails to the professors of each registered class, and more or less "come out," when requesting to be called Daniel, a process that makes Weiss feel sick to the stomach. That's because the request isn't always well received.

"I've had professors who have called me 'it,' who outed me and called me my legal name," said Weiss. "It was very embarrassing."

Bottom of the Totem Pole

To try and make it easier for students like Theodore and Weiss, the university has implemented a few initiatives that seek to make the Stony Brook experience both a safe and enjoyable one.

It was after a 2008 Campus Climate report, which discovered that many people within the LGBTQ community did not feel comfortable with being queer on campus, that the Safe Space program began. The program is designed to be an informal conversational training for staff, faculty and students regarding education and awareness of LGBTQ issues. The goal of this training is to create an alliance between the LGBTQ community and others on campus.

Since it was established two years

Professor Stars as Senate President



By Matt Calamia

After several attempts over the years, Fred Walter, a Stony Brook astronomy professor, finally accepted to run for president of the University Senate. Or as he put it, he was the only one who didn't turn the position down.

"As it turns out, I was the only person who didn't say no," said a laughing Walter, who took over the position of president when former president Michael Schwartz stepped down. "Be careful what you volunteer for."

The University Senate is a governing body on campus, representing students, faculty and staff making decisions that affect the university's day-to-day life and have influence over academic issues. Below that, there are smaller senate groups, including the Arts and Sciences Senate, Engineering Senate, and the HSC Senate that address more specialized issues.

Walter, who has been a professor at Stony Brook University for 22 years, began attending Senate meetings more than 12 years ago. A few years later, he found himself as the president of the Arts and Science Senate, often looked as a stepping-stone for future key mem-

bers of the University Senate.

The rumblings of Walter becoming president began around 2005, when members of the senate mentioned that he should consider becoming the committee's president. "I didn't actively seek [the presidency]," Walter said. "I said no because I was going on sabbatical in a couple years."

Fast-forward to the present, when then-president Schwartz contacted Walter asking again for him to consider the position. "I was on sabbatical and Michael Schwartz called me up or emailed me when I was in Taiwan, saying 'I want you to run for president of the senate,'" recalls Walter, who declined again because he was away from the senate and the school in general, but that he would reconsider when he returned to the school.

When he finally did return in April 2010, Schwartz was successful in getting Walter to put his name in the hat for president. In fact, no one else ran, thus making Walter the president by default.

Although it wasn't something Walter necessarily wanted, he still has a lot of pride being the president of such an important organization. "[Faculty, staff and students] have obligations to the university," Walter said. "It's our university. It belongs to the faculty, staff and

students as well in addition to the administrators. We have to remind them that we get to control things, too."

"He's spent a long time at Stony Brook, and is very experienced, having worked in many different forms both as a faculty member and as an official in university settings," said Michael Schwartz, former senate president and professor of sociology at Stony Brook. "He's a very qualified person to lead the senate."

Walter knows that this is a difficult job that is very time consuming, and that his personal professional aspirations, such as teaching and research, will be limited during his time as president, but "someone has to do it," he said.

For Walter, coming in as president of the Senate couldn't have come at a more difficult time. The economic hardships have been felt by everyone at Stony Brook, and according to Walter, is the biggest issue facing the senate as he takes over. "The single greatest problem facing the university is the budget," he said. "We've been cut 20 percent in the last couple of years, and we may get cut again. We have to work with the administration to try and come up with solutions that keep the students happy, let you graduate in four years, and let you get into the courses you want."

He also hopes to stop faculty members from being fired or laid off, and limit workloads.

"It's basically, as I see it, us against Albany at this point because they're the ones who are cutting us back and asking us to do more with less," he said. Many, if not all departments at the university have felt cuts from the budget. Members of each department are concerned with the cuts that they will have to work with, and hope that the senate limits said cuts.

"I'm mostly concerned with research my lab does," said Vitaly Citovsky at the Department of Biochemistry and Cell Biology. "In this respect, I hope the president and the senate support the role of Stony Brook as a research institution. We are getting so low on resources that the library is trying to cut critical online subscriptions without which research cannot be done."

Since Walter was away for most of Schwartz's tenure as president, he is looking to start fresh. "Two years ago, I was certainly sitting in the back of the senate watching what [Schwartz] did, but I guess I wasn't paying all that much attention," said a laughing Walter. "This is very much a new slate. This is very much now 'my' senate. Things aren't going to change a lot. I may preside over the meetings, but I have an executive committee that is made up of the other presidents of the other senates as well as a few other people, and all of us set agendas together, so I am not going to stop what the senate is doing on a dime."

The senate is always looking for more people, especially students. Stony Brook has a student body of around 22,000, yet, according to Walter, usually just one member, the president of student government, attends meetings regularly.

"It's your university too," said Walter. "Hopefully you won't be here as long as I have been, but for the four years you're here, you can influence how things work, whether things are better or worse for students who come after you."

"Students can make a difference," Walter continues. "We do listen to [students] and your voices are heard. If you want to sit back and ignore what governance is doing, don't complain when you don't get what you want. If you're at all interested in improving what goes on here, make your voices heard."

A Whole New Meaning To Social Media

By Mark Greek

The tension between Stony Brook University's School of Journalism and SBU Media Relations has gone viral. A recent blog post by Professor Barbara Selvin criticizing Media Relations' reluctance to respond to student reporters has garnered interest from both current and former SBU students, as well as the office itself. Media Relations' Interim Director Lauren Sheprow's initial response was more than twice as long as Selvin's initial 440-word critique. Her 957-word diatribe acted simultaneously as a fact checking resolution, and a defense of the Media Relations Department's handling of journalism student's requests for interviews. The posts are available online at Selvin's Blog: *Internet Revolution, J-School Evolution*.

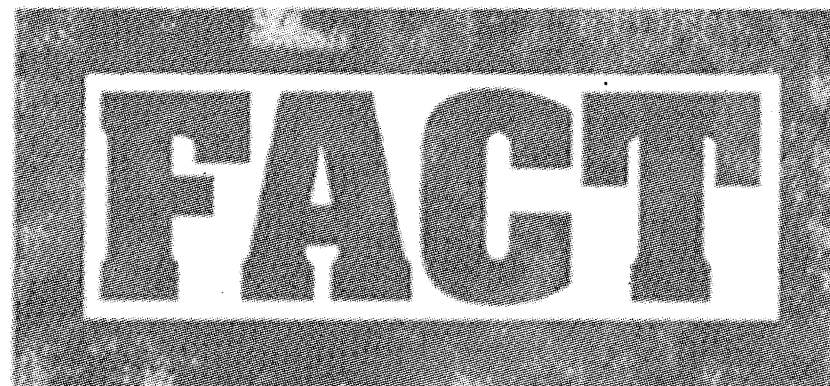
The conflict arises from what journalism professors perceive as a lack of

access to school officials and administrators for journalism students on legitimate assignments. Selvin cites specific examples, such as a seemingly blatant instance wherein a broadcast student was turned away from covering something as ineffectual as a hotdog-eating contest. By comparison, the double-digit amount of comments that the post received is significantly more than any other on the university blog. The surprising amount of activity under Selvin's initial post and its subsequent response has become another chapter in the continuing saga of displeasure and distrust between the School of Journalism and university Media Relations.

"I appreciate that students have assignments to complete... at the same time, it is up to individuals on campus to decide if they want to participate in interviews," said Sheprow in an email response to a question about the perceived difficulty in finding willing University sources for School of Journalism

students. When reached for comment, Selvin said she was preoccupied with class work, and preparation for meet-

ings the next day. "Let the blog speak for itself," she said.



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To help out a struggling, fledgling publication, The Press is turning over its Homecoming spread to the little wonder that is The Statesman.

Photos by Howie Newsberkman



Humans, Zombies and Nerf Guns...Oh My!

By Alyssa Melillo

When walking around campus this week, don't be alarmed if students carrying Nerf guns begin to shoot at other students wearing bandanas on their heads. They're just protecting themselves from virus-infected zombies.

Humans vs. Zombies (HvZ), a giant game of tag that has become popular on many college campuses, is returning for its second year here at Stony Brook. After participation from more than 300 students last year, expectations are high for this week's game, which has a total of 1,000 registered players.

"This year will definitely be much more fun with so many more players," says participant Michael Yen, a student in his fifth year here at SBU.

The week-long game, which starts on Thursday, begins with all players as humans. One is randomly picked to be the "Original Zombie," and from there it is that zombie's job to tag humans to create more zombies. Humans, identified by a special bandana wrapped around an arm or leg, have to fight off the zombies, those wearing bandanas on their heads, with their only means of protection—Nerf guns and clean socks. When hit with a dart or sock, a zombie is stunned for 15 minutes, letting its potential prey escape safely. The goal for both sides is to try and survive, although only one can claim victory.

The rules for this week's game, which can be found on the official website for SBU's chapter of HvZ, are not very different from last year's. Game play is still not permitted anywhere off campus, near the train station, on hospital grounds or in South P lot. Dorm buildings, dining halls, libraries, the SAC, the Union, the daycare center, veterans home, indoor sports complex and health center are considered safety zones. Nerf guns are not to be visible in any buildings, darts may not hurt on impact and the use of cars is prohibited. Shooting non-players with darts will result in a ban from the game.

One of the rules that is new to this year's game is that humans are required to carry provided official Stony Brook HvZ ID cards on them at all times. They must hand over their ID to the zombie that tags them, but the rule stating that they must wait an hour after being tagged to resume game play as a new zombie remains the same.



Welcome to the gun show!

During game play, humans and zombies must participate in missions. Each day there are two to three "mini-missions" and one "major mission," where rewards are given upon completion. Humans must participate in two during the course of the game while zombies must participate in one. These missions are assigned to keep humans from staying in safe zones all the time, as well as to make the game more interesting.

Many students have been preparing for the game for weeks. The Shadow Company, a team founded by Yen that is made up of several different squads, has been holding training sessions twice a week to teach participants various tactics on how to survive. "In the training session[s] we are essentially going over basic survival skills from simply going to class to working with your squads during missions," Yen says. "[Players] learn above all to work and fight together as a team."

Because this is the second year HvZ will be taking place at Stony Brook, many returning participants know what to expect as it progresses, so dynamics have changed. Zombies will be more organized and deadly, while humans will be more knowledgeable and resourceful.

In addition to learning new tactics and skills, players are anticipating using Nerf's two new guns, the Stampede and the Alpha Trooper, which Yen thinks seem to have been designed "with zombies in mind." In response to the humans' new weapons, zombies will now be able to wear ghillie suits that give them the opportunity to camouflage themselves in the bushes. These recent developments will add new dimensions to the game, Yen says.

The success of last year's event has not only resulted in the soaring popularity of the university's chapter of the game, but in the establishment of a new club as well. The Stony Brook Undergraduate Network for the Defense Education and Annihilation of the Dead, or SBUNDEAD, launched just last month. Although there is a distinction between HvZ and the club this year, the club's vice president, senior Max Kammerman, says the game will be held directly through the club in the future. However, SBUNDEAD is not necessarily all about HvZ.

"Ultimately this club gives the freedom to explore some more creative options which should improve HvZ game play," Kammerman says. "[But it] could actually become more of an urban gaming club rather than just as-

sociated with HvZ, which would mean more or altered Nerf related activities."

The game is currently operating with help from the USG, but because of communication issues, Kammerman predicts that the club will not be using its help in the future. "We are willing to help the USG by allowing [it] to be involved, but not at the expense of the club and not if the game suffers as a result," he says.

Last year, HvZ proved to the USG that funding was not really needed. Now that SBUNDEAD is in the picture, though, any funding it receives will most likely go towards prizes for applaudable game play and possible trips to other schools' HvZ games, Kammerman says.

With the increase in amount of players signed up this year, Humans vs. Zombies is sure to liven up the campus for the week it takes place. Zombies will be defending their winning title from last year, but that's not discouraging humans from doing whatever they can to come out on top. Yen is hopeful that humans will dominate this time.

"No matter what," he says, "the humans will have to stand together to ensure a human victory."

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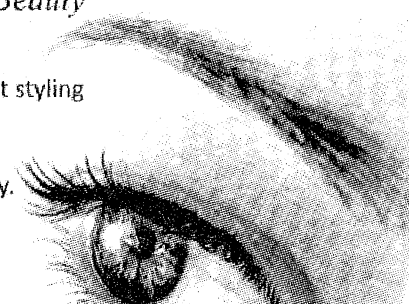
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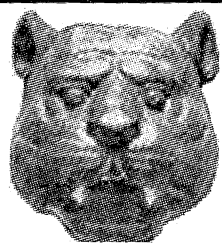
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Dear President Stanley,

Dean Nancy Squires' 'proposal' to the Chairs of a number of departments would include an amalgamation of Asian, European and Hispanic languages into a new "Languages and Translation Department." This merger would mean the dissolution of the Asian and Asian American Studies Department by moving its language programs into the new department while remaining faculty would be transferred to other existing or newly combined departments. AAAS would cease to exist.

We, the undersigned student leaders of Asian and Asian American clubs and organizations, are strongly opposed to this 'proposal'. It will harm the university's reputation, harm the undergraduate educational experience, and destroy the multidisciplinary knowledge our alumni and faculty could bring to world affairs.

Asian and Asian American Studies is unlike many departments at the University, including larger ones. China, Japan and India are the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th largest economies in the world based on GDP and China is poised to overtake the US within ten to twenty years. When asked about the proposal, a Distinguished Faculty member unrelated to AAAS said, "The great virtue of an Asian Studies Department is that Asia is very important for the future economic prosperity and future security of the US. Students should be learning more about Asia, not less. Unlike many other majors, Asian Studies has a very definite economic payout for graduates in the field." With multinational companies competing with each other to get into Asia, knowing more about Asia is a foot in the door for SBU graduates.

But there is more involved than only careers. The dismantling of AAAS would have unfortunate practical consequences for the University and our nation. Asian countries have a long past, with great historical and cultural complexity, and their interactions with the U.S. increase daily in intensity and significance. Our industry and commerce are enmeshed in their productive capabilities; our finances depend on Asian bankers and governments to continue holding our debt; the political order that exists across the globe will increasingly rely on Asian governments to preserve the peace, and even the definition of this 'peace' will increasingly reflect the interests of those governments. If there is any part of the world on which Americans need a better understanding, it is Asia.

But Dean Squires' 'proposal' does the opposite. It takes the current multidisciplinary department and severs linguistic training from its applications in history, philosophy, history of science, politics and sociology. The U.S. needs intelligent, critically-aware diplomats, soldiers and businesspeople with the ability to engage as equals in the Asian conversation through mastery of culture and history, which so profoundly influence present interests and behavior. Students who can only speak Chinese but know nothing of the history of the foreign occupations of China, or students whose analysis of the North Korean strategic posture is unclouded by any knowledge of the Korean language or traditions, are less valuable to America and to the world than students who can integrate many forms of knowledge. Better-informed students will make fewer mistakes.

One of the goals of Project 50 is to "help propel Stony Brook into the ranks of the top 20 public research universities in the country." If you look at Asian Studies in America's best - the Top 10 (Harvard,

Princeton, Yale, Columbia, Stanford, UPenn, Cal Tech, MIT, Dartmouth, Duke, US News & World Report's 2010 rankings), you will again find the opposite of Dean Squires' 'proposal'. With the exception of Cal Tech and MIT which have a specific tech focus, every single University in the Top 10, without exception, has Asian Studies language and culture together in one department.

You yourself graduated from the University of Chicago (#11). Not only does it have its Asian languages and culture courses in one department, last month it even opened a center in Beijing. You also graduated from Harvard (#1). Harvard has the oldest and what is considered the best stand alone East Asian Studies department in the country. Even Washington University (#13) where you made your career, has Asian Studies located within one department.

In none of these highly ranked schools are students expected to jump through hoops to fulfill a major without the resources of a single department backing them. The University cannot say it is simply giving students the same courses but placed in different departments. Without a department of its own, there will be decreased resources, grants, and newly-hired faculty. Dispersed faculty will become small minorities in their new departments with little influence. Without courses and professors, the number of declared majors will decrease. It will become a destructive cycle. It will not make Stony Brook a first class research university but instead will be an insult to all Asians and Asian Americans.

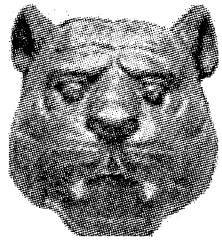
But Asians and Asian Americans are not the only ones affected. The AA E-Zine Secretary is a White female, Asian Studies major, Japanese and Korean double minor. To round out her span of East Asian knowledge, she will be studying Chinese language AND culture. She understands that learning a language is not solely about gaining proficiency, but understanding the context in which it is used in culturally appropriate ways. This is especially important for those who will use their studies in AAAS in international business and research. The VP of the Korean Student Association is an African American Psych major, Korean Studies minor. Asia is the future and they are both smart enough to understand that. Why isn't the University?

There is another aspect to consider when administrators discuss dismantling AAAS, as well as any other ethnic studies. Look at the upper level administrators who deal with academics: You are a White male. Peter Baigent, V.P.S.A., White male. Eric Kaler, Provost, White male. Kenneth Kaushansky, V.P. / Dean SOM, White male. Jack Marburger, V.P., White male. Lawrence Martin, Dean Grad School, White male. Yacov Shamash, V.P. / Dean CEAS, White male. Nancy Squires, Dean CAS, White female. Seven men, one woman, all White. Not one single person who could give you a non-Eurocentric perspective on anything relating to faculty, staff, and students of color.

We understand that you, married to a Chinese American with four hapa children, would be highly offended to be called a racist. But what is further favoring Eurocentric departments where the majority of faculty members are of the same race and gender as you are? Not only are all of the top administrators at SBU White, so are the majority of faculty members in each CAS department except the departments where non-Eurocentric cultures are taught. Institutional racism is still racism.

According to SBU's demographics, 29% of students are Asian/PI,

**Wanted: Writers, photographers, videographers and anyone interested in media * aaezine@yahoo.com
Messages: 631 632 1395 / 911: 631 831 6062 * AA E-Zine meetings Fridays, Student Union 071, 2PM
Excerpt of www.aa2sbu.org/aezine in SB Press, October 2010**



ASIAN AMERICAN E-ZINE

WWW.AA2SBU.ORG/AAEZINE

6% Black/Non-Hispanic, 9% Hispanic, 6% Non-resident Alien (meaning international students, many from Asia), 13% Race/ethnicity Unreported because bi-racials fit no category and many hapas refuse to pick one or the other. So fully 50% of Stony Brook students are not White. Yet as an institution, you cannot offer them one single person of color in upper Administration as a role model.

And if more than 29% of students are of Asian descent, someday that same percentage could be alumni donors if they do not feel they were treated with disrespect. Would the University be saving a penny now to lose a dollar in the future?

Although you claimed at the media briefing for Project 50 Forward that this was solely a proposal under consideration, the administrative staff in AAAS were given their one year CEAS contract required pink slips. 'Proposal' does not seem to accurately reflect how far along it has gone.

Dean Squires' 'proposal' shows a callous disregard for the value of the languages, histories and cultures of Asia. Despite the diversity that SB boasts of in its public relations materials, the dismantling of AAAS communicates that this diversity is only desired when it can be contained and tokenized. It will look like the make-up of the Project 50 Forward Steering Committee - all White with one token.

AAAS is not a small department of its own choosing. It was promised 6 new faculty lines when it was created less than ten years ago but former President Kenny reneged on 4. Aside from not being given the faculty lines it was promised, there are waiting lists to get into courses. It desperately needs more faculty, not less dispersed faculty.

As Stony Brook University faces a budget deficit of nearly \$60 million, we understand that cuts are unavoidable. However, Dean Squires' proposals, which target the not-of-their-own choosing smallest departments and programs, do not look at what makes sense for the whole of each area being cut. They simply lump areas that have nothing to do with each other to save money in the short term. That does not make smart business sense or smart educational sense.

We welcome the opportunity to hear from you on how this 'proposal' could possibly be beneficial to students, to Asian and Asian American Studies majors and faculty, to our national and international reputation, and to the future of Stony Brook University and America.

Sincerely,

James Bello, ASC Co-Chair, PUSO President,
 Melani Tiongson, ASC Co-Chair, AA E-Zine President
 Alyssa Abraham, President, Taiko Tides
 Suraiya Afrina, PR, Bengalis Unite
 Malisa Ali, VP, BU
 Hoi Yan Chan, Treasurer, Taiwanese Students Association
 Peter Chan, Soph Rep, Asian Students Alliance
 Wenny Chan, Secretary, ASA
 Chris Chang, Soph Rep, Korean Students Association
 Anne Chau, Soph Rep, ASA
 Donna Chen, Soph Rep, ASA
 Kevin Chen, Treasurer, Chinese Association at Stony Brook
 Kenneth Chiang, Secretary, TSA
 Rachele-Anne Cruz, Events Coordinator, PUSO
 Christine Dayrit, Fresh Rep, ASA
 Kevin Diangkinay, Webmaster, PUSO
 Daniel DiLauro, Treasurer, Taiko Tides
 Kenneth Ejerta, Treasurer, PUSO, Philippine United Student Org.

Alexandra Freytag, Secretary, AA E-Zine
 Marco Gambino, Sr Rep, ASA
 Zhenxiao Guo, VP, China Blue
 Ayman Haque, President, BU
 Andy Hom, VP, ASA
 Stephen Hsieh, VP, TSA
 Jon Hu, President, ASA
 Kashfin Huda, PR, BU
 Anne Yeji Jang, President, Korean Student Association
 Pardis Kamalzadeh, Sr Rep, ASA
 Lucy Kang, EC, ASA
 Jason Kho, Events Coordinator, PUSO
 Andrew Kim, Soph Rep, KSA
 Grace Kim, Secretary, KSA
 Linda J. Kim, Jr. Rep, KSA
 Takafumi Kinoshita, VP, Taiko Tides
 Willis Ko, Sr Rep, ASA
 Krystal Lau, Soph Rep, ASA
 Brian Lee, Treasurer, KSA
 Crystal Lee, Events Coordinator, China Blue
 Alan Lei, Historian, KSA
 Thomas Z. Lei, Treasurer, AAJ
 Mei-Yang Liang, PR, TSA
 Jeeuk Lim, Webmaster, KSA
 Oliver H. Li, Secretary, AAJ
 Mary Lin, PR, ASA
 Nemo Lin, President, TSA
 Shirley Lin, Soph Rep, ASA
 Jessa Liquido, PR Chair, PUSO
 Brian Loo, Photographer, China Blue
 Kristle Lood, Historian, PUSO
 Maggie Mac, Secretary, China Blue
 Lucy Masu, Soph Rep, ASA
 Yumi Masuda, Events Coordinator, JSO
 DaQuan McCray, VP, KSA
 Susie Moy, DV Team Leader, China Blue
 Elaine Pang, Webmaster, ASA
 Michael Petrucione, President, Japanese Student Organization
 Christopher Reyes, D3 Rep, PUSO
 Neil Salonga, VP, PUSO
 Thomas Su, President, China Blue
 Jose Talentino, Jr Rep, ASA
 Lisa Teramoto, VP, JSO
 Janice Tsang, Treas, ASA
 Helen Tseou, Jr. Rep, KSA
 Jessica Tso, Secretary, PUSO
 Valerie Villanueva, D3 Rep, PUSO
 Ngoc Vu, President, AAJ: Asian American Journal
 Deborah Wang, EC, ASA
 Hui Wang, Webmaster, China Blue
 John Wang, President, UG Free Wheel
 Wingsie Wong, President, CASB
 Jianmei Xue, DJ Team Leader, China Blue
 Wan Pang Yeung, PR, China Blue
 Kenneth Yu, Treasurer, AA E-Zine
 Roxana Zeng, Judiciary Chair, ASA
 Many more wanted to sign when they found out later!

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arts&entertainment



DRINK UP BUTTERCUP

BY ALEXA RUBINSTEIN

PHOTO BY DAN WOULFIN

They hammer on bright yellow drums, pound on a turquoise and hot pink striped keyboard, and batter small tin trash cans until they are completely deformed. The four guys call themselves Drink Up Buttercup. Despite the name, they are not the emo band you might expect.

Front man Jim Harvey said the name Drink Up Buttercup came from one of his other band members, Farzad Houshianejad—who muttered the name in his sleep. He explained that the name takes on the dynamic of the band and the music in that it “sounds sweet, but isn’t.”

Drink Up Buttercup has been described as a 1960s-esque psychedelic band that throws the listener into a spin of sound and color. With forceful head-banging, jumping and flailing that make the floor quiver beneath them, the guys have a rock ‘n’ roll edge that cannot be ignored.

Singer and guitarist Ben Mazzochetti said the band draws inspiration from across the music scene, including artists Queens of the Stone Age, Cake and Eminem. Channeling their inspirations, Drink Up Buttercup produces a sound that is a mash-up of the Beatles, Radiohead and Modest Mouse, intensified with some heavy drumming and screaming into the microphone.

Mazzochetti doesn’t describe the band as very derivative of the ‘60s. “There [are] very select groups

that are still trying to hold that original...heart that was in [rock ‘n’ roll],” he said. “I guess that would be the only way that I think we could be associated with the ‘60s, just in the heart...It’s never been like, ‘oh, we like this band from the ‘60s, do you like that band from the ‘60s?’”

The band utilizes every instrument or tool it has to generate fresh, creative material, from bits of acappella to swelling, uninhibited vocals and instrumentation in the same song. The band’s style especially comes out in the song “Seasickness Pills.” It begins and ends with rock ‘n’ roll elements of powerful drumming and loud, harmonized vocals. But the choruses propel the audience into a trippy journey of questioning. “It’s about everything just being so crazy these days,” said Mazzochetti. “It’s pretty easy to fall into some neurotic pattern... We’re trying to shake people out of that.” “Seasickness Pills” takes on its own personality because of the unexpectedly eerie yet smooth sound of Harvey’s vocals.

In the band’s other music, the beats and nuances seem so meticulously organized, but also playful so that the guys can have fun with their music. They strive to create music they can enjoy playing, and also allows them to be “goofballs on stage,” Mazzochetti explained.

During some of their songs, the band uses a tin trash can as one of their instruments, banging on the

top with a drum stick and smashing the bottom on the stage. The idea came from Mazzochetti, who had worked in a carpentry warehouse before joining Drink Up Buttercup. He explained he loved the great resonance the tin can would make when he threw something in it. When he proposed the idea to his other band members, they loved it and decided to use it as a supplement to their percussion.

Drink Up Buttercup performed on Thursday, October 7 at an event called Stony Brooklyn at Stony Brook’s University Café. Stony Brooklyn invites bands that are neither from the Stony Brook area nor comprised of Stony Brook students themselves, to perform in UCafé as a way to publicize themselves. Drink Up Buttercup has played at several universities in the Philadelphia area, where they are originally from, and said they play in Brooklyn and Manhattan all the time.

Mazzochetti and Harvey both love playing at colleges because the students bring the energy and excitement that Drink Up Buttercup wants to have during their shows. “Bringing it back to the rock greats, that’s what we want,” said Mazzochetti. “We want people to...mosh when it gets hard, sway when it gets soft, dance when it feels like the rhythm is heavy.” Both agree that university shows have a fun atmosphere for both the band and the students, and also allows the band to have an untraditional college experience.

Stallin' It Up Big!

By Emily Torkel

The Stony Brook Staller Center for the Arts is kicking off its new season of concerts and shows on October 21.

The new season begins with Emerson String Quartet on October 21. The diversity of the performances include: Russian ballet, Bollywood, and the tango.

The varieties of the performances reflect not only the cultural diversity of Stony Brook, but of the diverse interests and tastes of the campus as well. "Stony Brook is so diverse, so we try to satisfy many of the interests on campus," said Julie Rulon Greene, the marketing director of the Staller Center.

The Staller Center also tries to book performers with whom students are familiar. On November 7, the Staller Center will host Katharine McPhee, the runner up from season five of American Idol.

They look for performances that appeal to a wide audience. From the first performance of the season, which is classical music, the schedule ranges from a Broadway national tour production of *Spring Awakening* to programs designed for children.

It is important to the Staller Center that their performances are accessible to students. Student attendance is encouraged through their program called "First On Us," whereby all first year students receive a free voucher to one show.

Other options are available to encourage student patronage as well. On the first day of each month, half price tickets are available to students. These are extra seats that the corporate sponsors won't be using, and usually are among the best seats in the house.

Students can also purchase "student rush" tickets, if available, fifteen minutes before the performance for only \$7. Just by presenting their ID cards, students could get \$3 off the full price of their tickets if they purchase two. "We want students to take advantage of the great opportunities," Greene said.

The Staller Center also is showing films throughout the fall semester. These movies were previously released to small audiences and some are foreign films. Students can get individual tickets for \$6 or they can buy a pass for a student special price of \$20. This event begins October 22 and has six different dates running through December 10.

The ticket prices for the live performances range from \$34 to \$42, and



only \$12 for their kid shows. The Staller Center is able to subsidize their ticket prices with the help of their corporate sponsors and the Friends of Staller Center, people from the community who donate.

The box office hours are Monday to Saturday, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., and an hour before each performance. You can also purchase tickets online at [www.staller-](http://www.staller-center.com)

[center.com](http://www.staller-center.com) or by telephone at (631)-632-2787. The profits from the ticket sales go right back into the Staller Center to improve and to provide even better performances.

"One of our main intentions is to bring culture and new experiences to the students of Stony Brook," said Greene. "We are always energized in seeing new faces, so stop by."

Want to know where the
other half is? Then follow the
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The Social Network Gets A Like

By Lauren Dubois

Just imagine, if Erica Albright hadn't broken Mark Zuckerberg's heart, there may have never been a Facebook.

In *The Social Network*, directed by David Fincher (of *Fight Club* fame), and written by Aaron Sorkin (*The West Wing*), we learn the story behind how the greatest Internet phenomenon of the last five years came to be. If at least 50 percent of the story is true, it's one of the greatest ever told.

Based on Ben Mezrich's *The Accidental Billionaires*, the movie takes us back to Harvard University in the fall of 2003. Nerdy sophomore Mark Zuckerberg (portrayed by Jesse Eisenberg in his best role yet) has just been dumped by his girlfriend Erica (Rooney Mara). Heartbroken and drunk, he angrily blogs and sets up a website that rates Harvard girls on their level of attractiveness, effectively crashing the entire university Internet server. After being noticed by twins Cameron and Tyler Winklevoss (both played by Armie Hammer), Mark is asked to help them build a Harvard exclusive computer dating service. He says yes, but the service never comes to fruition. Instead,

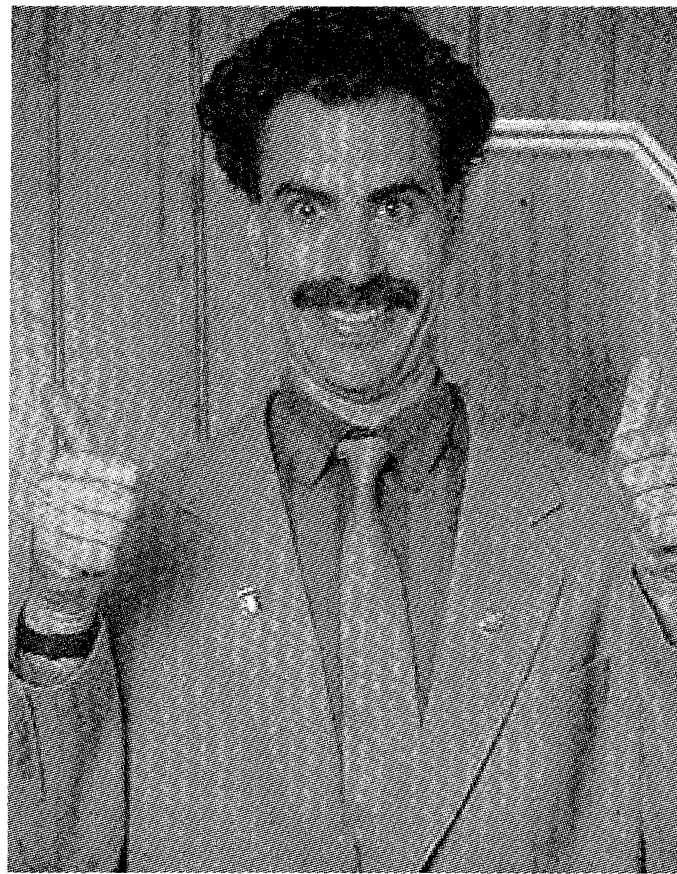
Mark, with the help of best friend Eduardo Saverin's (Andrew Garfield) financing, creates Facebook. The rest of the movie plays out as we watch Facebook's climb to social media giant and Mark to CEO of the biggest thing to hit the Internet since...well, the Internet.

The film is phenomenal, successfully moving back and forth between present day legal depositions and flashbacks to the Harvard dorm room and Silicon Valley house that made Facebook into a site with over 500 million users in 207 countries, and made Zuckerberg the youngest billionaire in the world with a company valued at \$25 billion. It also artfully captures college life and the sometimes-poisonous lures of fame and fortune, as Mark is caught up with Napster founder Sean Parker (Justin Timberlake), and turns on his best friend. Fincher and Sorkin's ability to capture sex, money, genius and betrayal is evident from start to finish.

Sorkin's quick-witted and rapid-fire dialogue manages to blend both the moments of comedy and the moments of betrayal so well, it's almost as if we're not sitting in a theater watching a movie, but are instead actual spectators of the events as they take place. He also constructs the story through multiple points of view, giving us a more bal-

anced look at it, instead of focusing on just how one of these men sees it.

The acting also stands out. Eisenberg not only comes off as a great nerd, but also a hard-ass when need be. He allows us to see the small things that may have gotten to the real Zuckerberg when Saverin and the Winklevoss twins sued him. Timberlake makes for a very convincing Sean, nailing the mannerisms that made Parker so notorious outside of his entrepreneurial adventures. However, the best acting nod goes to Garfield. He plays Eduardo, undoubtedly a good guy, with such an alarming vulnerability that he manages to come off as the only warm character, which maybe he was in real life. Since Mark Zuckerberg is calling the movie complete fiction, we may never truly know.



The Social Network is easily one of the best movies of 2010. We should all just send friend requests to everyone involved with making it. Maybe they'll even end up with more friends than Mark Zuckerberg himself.

Heavy Handed Knocking

By Zach Knowlton

I loved *Let The Right One In*, the 2008 Swedish horror-drama about young love and vampires (suck it, *Twilight*). When I heard that there was going to be an American remake, I was pissed. The original is damn near perfect. They got Matt Reeves, whose greatest achievements are *Cloverfield* and the TV series *Felicity* (no, really), to direct. The remake was set to be in Los Alamos, N.M., which would likely ruin the winter atmosphere of the original, but despite all this, I still had a small bit of hope, maybe it wouldn't be that bad. A few Americanizing changes wouldn't ruin the heart of the movie. But, then the advertising came.

The trailers made me want to the cry. The commercials caused me physical pain. The posters...well, actually, they were kinda neat, but everything

else was a complete disaster. The trailers were cookie cutter horror, with quick cuts, jump scares, gore and excessive body counts. There was an unnecessary focus on the vampire aspect, and almost nothing to say of the relationship between the two main characters. I was devastated, but I was determined to see it anyway, mostly just as an excuse to be angry. And so I did.

In all honesty, *Let Me In* is a decent film, almost nothing like the trailers and previews suggested. It is much more in tune with the original, but it has a number of problems that keep it from being in the same league as *Let The Right One In*.

It really sets itself up for disappointment with the opening scene, a high tension *in medias res* moment that cuts to a "Two Weeks Earlier" screen. It's a cheap way to start the film, a ploy for attention that isn't needed, because this isn't a teenage gore-fest; it's a wonderful story of young love, as cheesy as

that sounds. It's almost sweet at times, a drama that has horror elements. The rest of the movie seems to understand this, but the opening threw me off quite a bit.

But after the atrocity of the opening, I was pleasantly surprised at how much *Let Me In* didn't suck. The worst complaints I can lodge have to do with Reeves' very heavy hand. Simply put, he's a control freak, over-directing scenes in order to make the audience feel and understand the scenes in a very specific way. The amazing subtlety that characterizes the original is completely lost on this remake. The camera work, the music, hell, even the lights were all forcefully crafted to try to specify the audience's experience. Matt Reeves was targeting the type of



crowd that would go see this movie based on the advertising alone, and he failed in that regard.

The worst example of that control is the score. It's horribly cliché and overwrought. All the classics are there: the timpani of terror, the shrieking strings of impending doom. There is almost no room for the movie to just breathe and be. The few instances where there is no

2010 Horror Movie Preview: Boo!

By Liz Kaempf

With so many horror movies ready to debut for the Halloween season, it's going to be hard to sort out the terrifying from the terrible. After politely omitting low-budget, B-movie slasher flicks like *Hatchet II* and *Chain Letter* for you, I've created a better idea of what all those obnoxiously vague previews are getting at so you can find the best place to spend your \$11.50. Let the screaming commence!

Case 39 (In theaters October 1)

This film follows social worker, Emily, as she tries to personally save a young girl (her 39th case) from a family on the brink of her murderous sacrifice. Emily takes the child into her own home only to find that strange happenings follow her wherever she goes. Those who try don't just have to face their fears, they have to face demons looking to claim the girl. It's not just a matter of who's to blame for all of this, but who has to die for it too? Complete with bumblebee swarms, crashing elevators and barking dogs in the backseat of your Honda, I doubt you'll ever want to help children again after this movie.

My Soul to Take (In theaters October 8)

This new flick from horror master Wes Craven tracks the recent slayings in a small town where it is believed that the soul of the "Riverton Ripper" is back to take the lives of the seven children born on the day of his death. The film's possible hero, with the unfortunate nickname of "Bug," is the unwitting son of the deceased killer, and it needs to be determined if the soul of the Ripper is the one wrecking havoc, or if

murder runs in the family. Be prepared for teenage stereotypes, blood-curdling screams, and to chuckle every time someone says, "Hey Bug, what's up?" And, oh yeah, one big ole knife. This kid sure looks good for a *Psycho* remake about this time next year.

Buried (In theaters October 8)

Paul Conroy has been ambushed, kidnapped and buried alive. With no idea how he got there and only a cell phone and a lighter in the coffin with him, he has 90 minutes (real time) to have a five million dollar ransom delivered to his unknown captors. Complications include, but are not limited to; a dying cell phone battery, lack of oxygen, his family in danger and shoddy cell service six feet under. Do we spend our whole time in the box with him, or do some of us actually get out alive to tell the tale? Hey Paul, make sure you're posting minute-by-minute details on Twitter for us while you're down there!

Paranormal Activity 2 (In theaters October 22)

The anticipated sequel to the original *Paranormal Activity*, thankfully, doesn't look like it's going to follow in the footsteps of the *Blair Witch Project*. Just as creepy and night-visioned as ever, this time we watch a family (complete with a baby and a dog!) as they are terrorized by ghosts! At least, we think so anyway. You



Ryan Reynolds...in a box...for 95 minutes (*Buried*)

won't need to see the first movie to see the second, but just remember that every creaking floorboard you hear afterward will make you run for the door ... that is, if you haven't been locked inside your house by ghosts first.

Saw 3D (In theaters October 29)

The end is near. Halloween's favorite yearly gore-fest comes to a close with the seventh and final installment of the *Saw* series and it promises more deaths than ever (would you expect anything else?), and even on a public street with bystanders! Sweet! Jigsaw vows to make everyone, audience included, suffer. And in 3-D every single sharp metal object will look like it's flying right towards *your* eye. If you saw the trailer, get ready to have a speeding spearheaded, train-like vehicle hurtle towards your slutty blonde abdomen. Let's face it, you deserve it.

Heavy Handed Knocking cont.

music are obvious ploys at attention grabbing control. There are few things I hate more than an awful soundtrack.

But there is a lot of good to be found in *Let Me In*. The screenplay is a very faithful adaptation of the original film and the novel it's based on. This is actually one of the few instances I believe the remake has bested the original. *Let The Right One In* was bloated with a few unnecessary subplots; *Let Me In* puts almost all of its focus on the relationship between 12-year-old Owen and the vampire Abby.

Probably the strongest part of this film was the acting by the two leads, Kodi Smit-McPhee and Chloë Moretz,

who play Owen and Abby respectively. These two actors are both incredibly talented, and they brought what I hope is their own youthful naiveté along with an immense amount of subtlety not found among many older actors. The friendship and love that develops between them appears so natural on screen, and they are more than enough proof that there are good child actors out there. The rest of the cast played relatively minor roles in comparison, but there was no weak spot. The acting was by far the most genuinely enjoyable part of *Let Me In*.

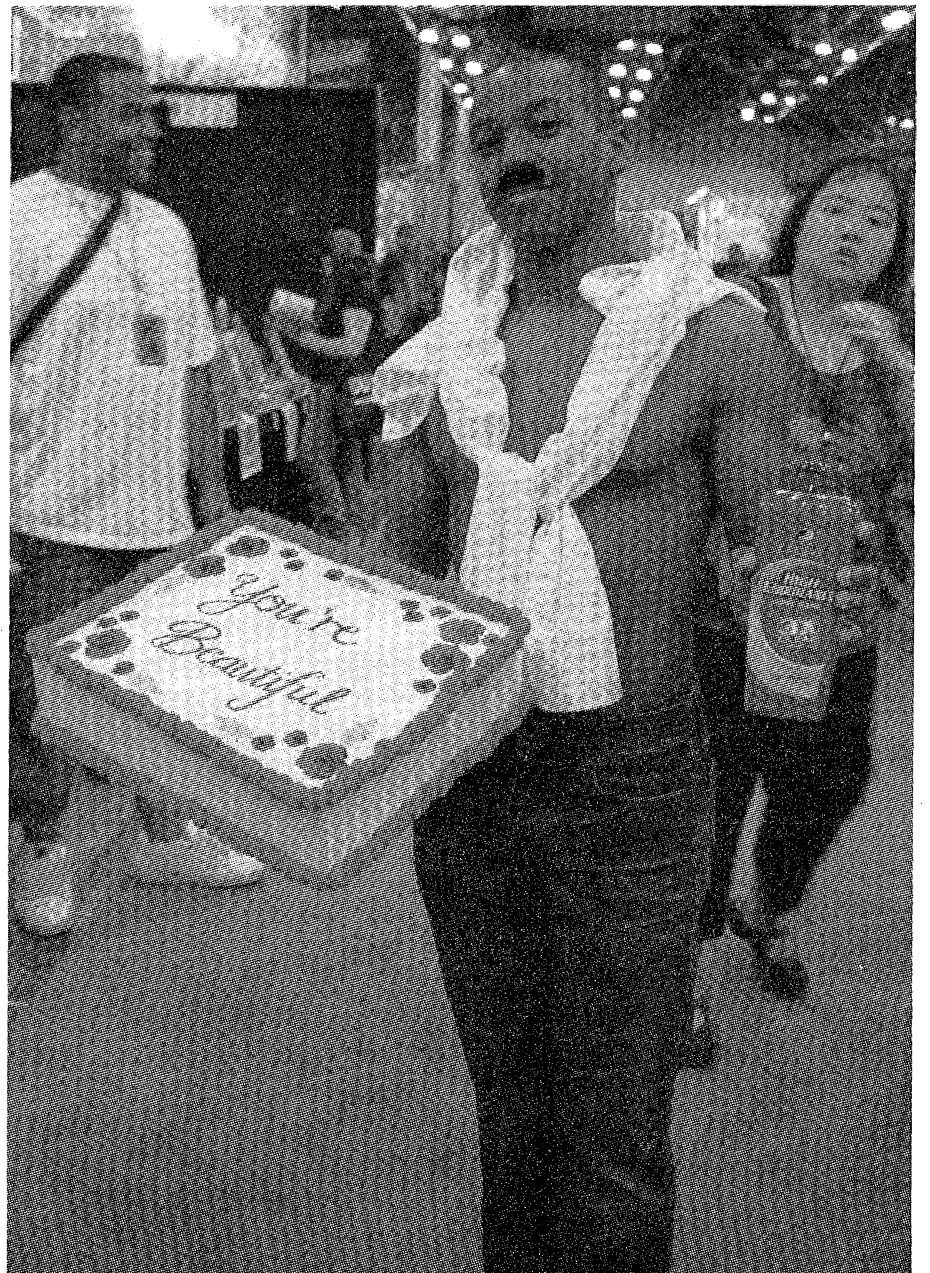
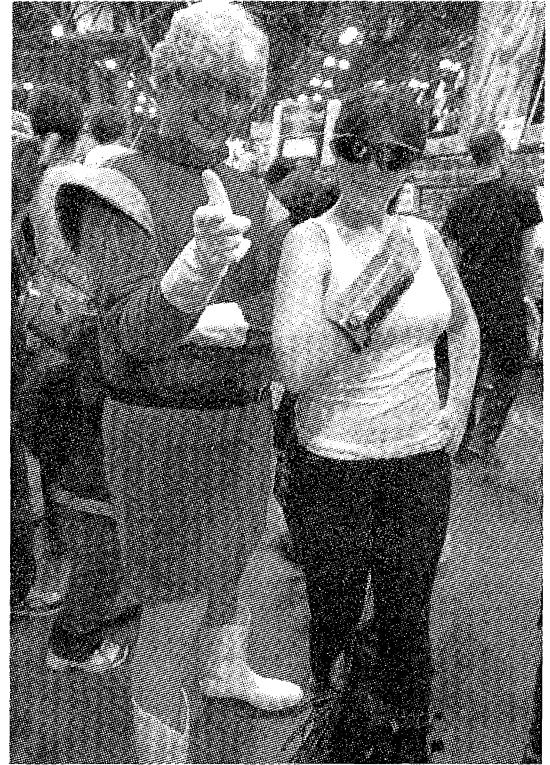
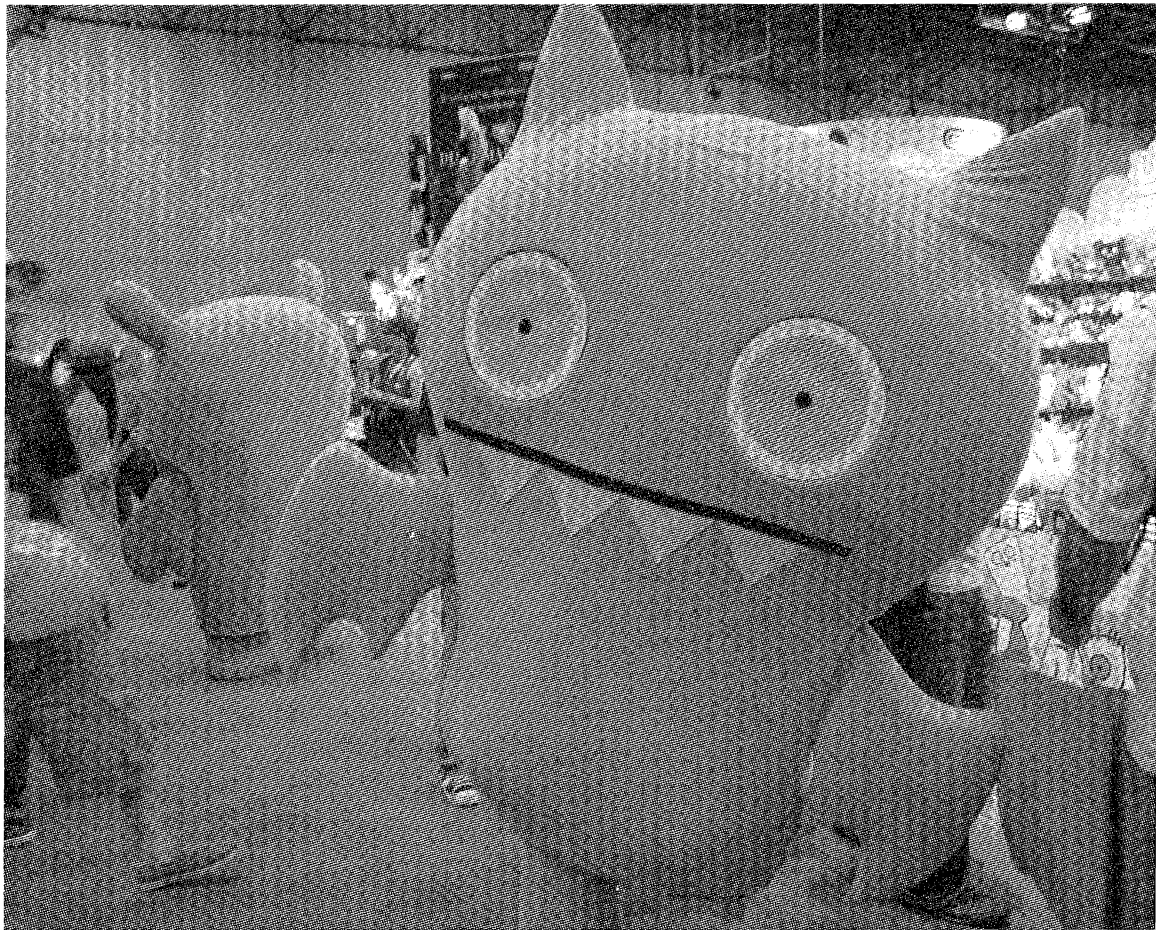
Let Me In isn't *Let The Right One In*, although there are many critics out

there that would disagree. Although in many ways it is a faithful remake, it is just that, a *remake*. It tries to copy almost everything about the original, and acting aside, does not succeed in hitting the same marks. I'd still recommend it if you're looking for a smart drama with horror elements, but please don't believe the advertising, 'cause that's just bullshit.



Comicon 2010!

*Photos by
Tia Mansouri*



Seawolves Come Home, Crush VMI 27-9

By Mark Greek

A dozen white tents were lined up, sitting in a field typically occupied by Stony Brook students practicing soccer or playing lazy wiffle ball games. Rows of fiery grills set up to accommodate the surprisingly receptive and growing crowd of tailgaters. A pleasant, but firm man reluctantly declining to let this disappointed eighteen-year-old reporter ride a pony (as was promised in homecoming ads all over campus). Big Shot, a well-meaning Billy Joel cover band entertained those in attendance. Stony Brook certainly didn't chintz on the activities, and a good time was guaranteed for all continuing the tradition of Stony Brook homecoming.

Since 1911, American institutions of higher learning have been participating in this well-known custom. Generally resulting in the consumption of alcohol and grilled foods, this early Fall celebration of school pride is typically punctuated by another great American tradition—Football.

A decidedly “unofficial” aspect of homecoming is the home team playing a less-than-competitive opponent. The Seawolves have not lost a homecoming game under head coach Chuck Priore since he assumed the position in 2005. A fair accomplishment, made easier by the fact that schedulers are very aware of a school's homecoming game, and might be more inclined to thrust a less competitive team into the waiting jaws of 7,000-plus screaming fans and students.

The institution of Homecoming in its simplest form is a clever way to simultaneously drum up attention for an athletic program and generate pride for former residents and alumni. Stony Brook's Homecoming festivities, humorously called Wolfstock, encompassed an entire weekend of crimson celebration.

Entering with an unimpressive record (1-3), and a need to impress the assembled 7,432 students and



fans, the Seawolves held Virginia Military Institute to nine points with a dominant defense and a surprisingly potent offensive attack. Early field goals and offensive miscues made it look as though the red-drenched masses were going to witness a sniping, low-scoring game.

A lone field goal made the 1st quarter a tedious affair, but a surprisingly efficient red-zone defense made any kind of offense look impossible for VMI. The Seawolves made it difficult for the Keydets to convert on 3rd down or really put up any sort of fight, especially towards the middle of the game. Stony Brook's defense seemed to get more comfortable as the game went on, ultimately holding VMI to 192 yards of total offense (8 rushing). The Seawolf offense awoke in the second half, and much like Wolfie on his tricked-out dirt bike, started riding downfield with reckless abandon.

Running back, Miguel Maysonet, carried the ball 21 times for a total of 99 yards, a feat made all the more impressive by virtue of the

fact that the team had two other runs totaling 30 yards wiped out by penalties.

William Floyd legend, Brock Jackolski, ran for another 91 yards, punctuated by a 25-yard touchdown in the 4th quarter.

Overall, the offense performed admirably for most of the game. Quarterback Michael Coulter looked good, completing 14 of 19 passes, with a 5-yard touchdown pass to Jordan Gush that made it 10-3 before halftime.

Sloppy special teams all around forced “ooh’s” and “aah’s” from the massive crowd, capturing their attention in a game otherwise held firmly in the territory of “Blowout Land”. Sporadic brilliance in the air, coupled with the double-barreled dominance of Maysonet and Jackolski, gave “The Red Zone” something to cheer about. Improving Stony Brook's record to a more respectable 2-3, this Homecoming thrashing of a Big South Conference opponent can leave the Seawolves feeling good, perhaps reducing the sting of last

week's five-point loss to nationally ranked UMass.

At any rate, Saturday was an overwhelmingly successful day for a team and a school determined to silence critics and play the type of football that makes it a long day for visiting teams, and an entertaining display for the loyal red-bathed fans.

Home field advantage can be difficult to quantify, but Homecoming is the ultimate example of this ambiguous phenomenon. The concept of a 12th man in football, or the crowd having an impact on the game can inspire the assembled masses to boo loudly at the visiting team. The psychological aspect of competitive sports is an underappreciated element that can seriously affect the outcome of any contest. Homecoming games can be penciled in as an instant victory on the schedule, giving a boost to an underperforming team, as it did this week for the embattled Seawolves, struggling to remain relevant in the Big South.

**But what
does the
future
hold for
Seawolves
Football?**

