

THE STONY BROOK **PRESS**

VOL XXXII ISSUE 2

"WE LIKE THE MOON
BECAUSE IT'S CLOSE TO US"

SEPTEMBER 29, 2010



SWAGGER IN SPACE

It Was a S M*A*S*H of Science

By Steven Licardist
and Erica Mengouchian

If you were to thumb through any serious scientific journal, you would more than likely find a collection of essays peppered with words that leave many ordinary, competent individuals scratching their heads in confusion. Terms like “qualia,” “comorbidity,” and “presupposition” make it hard for anyone not familiar with their usage to discover exactly what the authors mean.

Indeed, many college students read through their textbooks or listen to their lectures without ever grasping or retaining much of the information. Because of this, science remains a shadowy entity that permeates nearly every corner of society, but whose true essence is only understood by a select few.

For physicist Brian Greene and actor/director Alan Alda, this divide between society at large and the scientific community is a problem of communication, and one that needs solving. On September 23 in the Staller Center, Greene and Alda led an informative discussion into the relationship between science and communication, sharing their personal experiences and how they feel the communication process can be improved.

Alda, best known for his role as Captain Benjamin Franklin “Hawkeye” Pierce on the 1970s television series *M*A*S*H*, began the discussion by asking Greene, whose ability to make complex scientific concepts understandable is world renowned, why the process of communicating science is so important.

Greene’s response took three parts, the first two of which, he maintains, are obvious. First, we live in a nation where science is a prominent part of society and that one cannot have a democracy unless a broad community understands what is going on within it.

His second response was a practical one. Because scientific research is often funded by taxpayers, people should know what their money is going toward. He felt his third and final point was the most important. For some, the experience of science as a listener or observer is vague and unattractive. Yet when led to understand and experience science as the scientist does, they “light up,” as Greene put it.

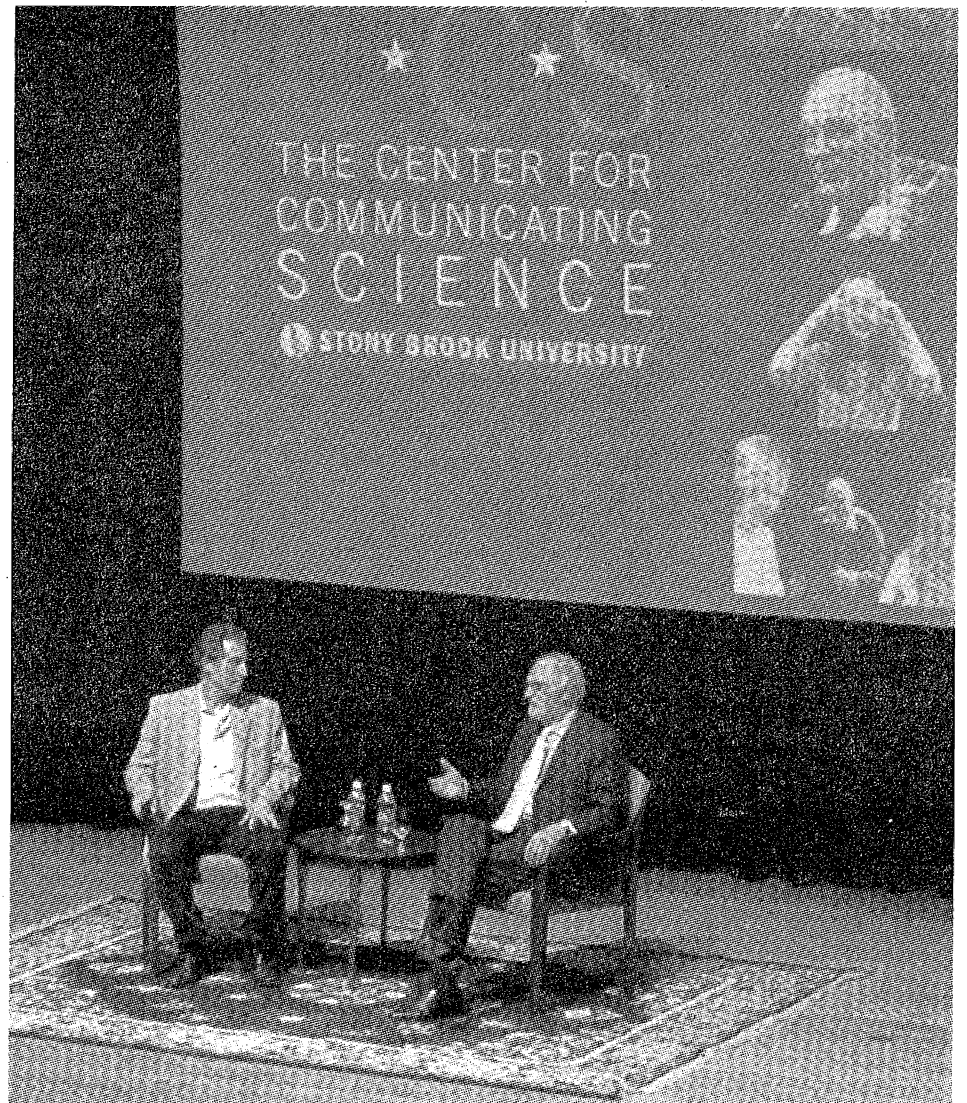
Alda built upon this by saying that,

“Science is the greatest detective story.”

He said the end product takes precedence over the process and most of the time scientists are seen as arbitrarily finding things out. Society often only sees the end result and doesn’t get to experience the mistakes, the trials and the failures that led to a particular discovery. Alda thinks these wrong turns are fascinating and believes that mistakes are scientifically necessary. Greene agrees, stating that “99 percent of science is wrong” and that the journey leading to a result is rarely discussed. It’s not that science can’t make up its mind, he said, but that we haven’t seen it all yet.

Greene also voiced his frustration with the over-dramatization of science. Each new discovery is hailed as rewriting the books, while in reality, most only add another chapter. He said the idea of declaring something a “new discovery” is counter-productive. In his experience working on the PBS NOVA series, *The Elegant Universe*, Greene felt many programs apply arbitrary effects, like drum rolls or flashes of light, adding that, “Sophisticated ideas don’t need explosions to be exciting.” Following from this, Alda asked Greene what he feels are the hallmarks of scientific education. Greene adamantly responded that it’s important not to sacrifice scientific integrity for the sake of others’ understanding. This can be accomplished, he said, by incorporating it into a story. Greene described the approach he uses in his books, which he compares to drawing a bridge between what people know and what they don’t understand, gently introducing them to new ideas as they go along. It is set up to make abstract ideas more comfortable; he makes people feel and reason as the scientist does. Alda agreed, stating, “We are not trying to dumb it down, but to clarify it.”

Alda talked about his experience working on the program *Scientific American Frontiers*, which also appeared on PBS. When interviewing scientists and experts behind the scenes, he discovered that their concepts and ideas were much easier to understand when they were presented in a more conversational manner. It was as if once the cameras were turned on the scientists went into what Alda called “lecture mode.” It got Alda thinking about how a different approach to science could be



Erica Mengouchian

Brian Greene (left) and Alan Alda (right) discussing the importance of communicating science.

implemented. That was the beginning of Alda’s novel idea, which would later become the Center for Communicating Science here at Stony Brook. The center is sponsored by Brookhaven National Laboratory and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

More than just a commercial plug for the Center, the conversation between Greene and Alda illustrated how the relationship between science and communication can be improved for the better of mankind. At the very end of the presentation, an illustration of Alda’s passion and natural gravitation toward science came in the form of a simple experiment. To help answer an audience member’s question, Alda asked Howard Schneider, Dean of the School of Journalism and Co-chair of the Center for Communicating Science, to stand across the stage with an empty glass in his hand and then instructed him to walk over and place the glass on the table between himself and Greene. Bewildered, Schneider did so without

very much effort. After setting the glass down, Alda asked him to repeat the experiment, only this time he filled the glass to the brim with water and told him he could not spill a drop. Schneider was much more engaged this time around, as was the entire auditorium. That kind of concentration and participation, Alda said, is what himself, Greene and everyone working at the Center for Communicating Science are trying to draw from the public.

In a society that emphasizes the importance of science, it is the public’s right to understand and share in that experience. What Alan Alda and Brian Greene are striving toward are solutions to challenges that many college students directly face in every reading and every lecture they encounter. Beautiful and abstract concepts, often lost beneath technical jargon and intoxicating verbosity, once grasped, can fill any human being with awe, wonder and excitement, and that excitement should not be reserved solely for a select few.

Salary Shuffle at SUNY Central

By Colleen Harrington

Bowing to public and legislative scrutiny, SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher announced she and her top deputy would no longer pay themselves housing allowances totaling \$150,000 per year, at a hearing before the State Senate Committee on Higher Education. Zimpher refused to withdraw raises recently awarded to three senior SUNY officials totaling \$30,000 each, but announced she would rescind an offer for two of the officials to receive housing allowances, which would have amounted to \$99,000 per year.

"As the Rolling Stones say, you can't always get what you want," Zimpher said at the hearing. "The decision comes from my belief that a big part of leadership is compromise."

Zimpher had been called on the carpet by the Committee on Higher Education to answer questions after *The Albany Times Union* reported she had awarded \$30,000 raises each to three top executives who were already making more than \$200,000 each per year, in spite of deep funding cuts from the state that prompted Zimpher to furlough 221 SUNY central employees.

The Times Union also reported on multi-million dollar renovations currently underway at SUNY headquarters for "lavish" office suites for Zimpher and her team, citing unnamed SUNY insiders. The paper also publicized the Chancellor's July decision to lay off a ten-member security team at SUNY's Albany headquarters, despite an independent report indicating that the building would be unsafe and vulnerable without security guards.

Alarmed by the media reports, particularly in light of SUNY's desperate pleas for greater autonomy, Higher Education Chairwoman Sen. Toby Ann Stavisky (D-Queens) and Sen. Kevin S. Parker (D-Brooklyn) called Zimpher to testify on September 24, along with Carl Hayden of the SUNY Board of Trustees and Monica Rimai, Zimpher's top deputy and Chief Operating Officer for SUNY. Rimai came to SUNY in 2009 along with Zimpher from the University of Cincinnati, and Hayden had chaired the search for the new chancellor, which resulted in Zimpher's appointment. Zimpher earns a salary of \$490,000 per year and Rimai earns

\$325,000 per year; Hayden's position on the board is unpaid.

To quell concerns, Zimpher and Rimai announced at the hearing they would give up their yearly housing allowances of \$90,000 and \$60,000, respectively, and those savings would be used to fund the \$90,000 in raises awarded this month to three top SUNY officials. The pay raises, recommended by Zimpher and approved on September 15 by the SUNY Board of Trustees, were awarded to John J. O'Connor, Johanna Duncan-Poitier and David Lavallee. The three officials, along with Rimai, make up Zimpher's Executive Committee.

Duncan-Poitier began at SUNY less than one year ago in October 2009. She was formerly a senior deputy commissioner for the New York State Education Department. Zimpher appointed her to the post of Chancellor's Deputy for the Education Pipeline, tasked with overseeing "cradle to college" initiatives by streamlining public education from kindergarten through college. In addition, she was recently appointed to be the Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges, and Zimpher testified that additional responsibilities deserved a \$30,000 raise. Duncan-Poitier now makes \$250,000 per year and has access to a university car.

O'Connor serves as the secretary of SUNY and the president of the SUNY Research Foundation. He was recently given the additional title of Senior Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation. Zimpher testified that O'Connor would be tasked with overseeing SUNY partnerships with private corporations, warranting a \$30,000 raise, bringing his new salary to \$275,000. O'Connor had been offered a \$39,000 housing allowance, which Zimpher rescinded at the hearing.

Lavallee was hired in 2009 as SUNY's interim provost and was formerly the provost of SUNY New Paltz. Zimpher testified that SUNY could not afford to continue searching for a permanent provost, so Lavallee's appointment has been extended for two more years. Zimpher said that he holds the additional titles of Senior Associate Provost and fills "several other positions" in the provost's office. In addition, Zimpher said at the hearing that Lavallee was recently given even more responsibilities.

"I added to his agenda oversight of

the SUNY Global Center and the Vice Chancellor for Global International Affairs, and I felt that I was asking this person to do more than one job," Zimpher said. She felt that his numerous responsibilities warranted a \$30,000 raise, bringing Lavallee's new salary to \$315,000. Records indicate that Lavallee had been receiving a \$60,000 annual housing allowance since 2009, which Zimpher said would be revoked.

But SUNY already pays a Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs \$180,000 a year, plus a \$54,000 annual housing allowance. Records indicate that Mitch Leventhal was appointed to the post in September 2009 and came from the University of Cincinnati, along with Zimpher and her top deputy Rimai.

SUNY officials did not respond to repeated requests for comment on the overlap in positions.

At the hearing, SUNY Board of Trustees Chairman Carl Hayden testified that the salary increases were discussed over two meetings of the SUNY Board of Trustees: the first occurred last May in an undocumented executive session; the second came this September, when the salary increases were approved.

The hearing also included discussion of a \$3 million renovation project underway at SUNY headquarters, which unnamed SUNY sources have characterized as a lavish office makeover in *Times Union* reports.

"Although it pains me to dignify such sleaze by remarking on it, there is no Taj Mahal under construction at SUNY Plaza," testified Hayden. He said the renovations are part of plan to bring obsolete infrastructure up to date, and that Zimpher is moving to the fourth floor of SUNY headquarters so "she and her senior leadership team can be together."

A large portion of the hearing also focused on SUNY central's July decision to lay off its ten-member security force. Sen. Stavisky produced an independent report of a security analysis performed in June by Linstar Security Systems, which said that getting rid of the security force would render the building unsafe and vulnerable. Rimai testified she was unaware of the report and Stavisky promised to provide her a copy.

"Since Chancellor Zimpher's arrival, a pervasive culture of apathy and outright hostility towards security existed," Robert Rogers, formerly the chief

security officer at SUNY, testified at the hearing. He said he and his team were trained emergency responders and now, in their absence, the staff they used to protect could be vulnerable in the event of a situation requiring first aid, or even to invasions by protesters.

The committee demanded that SUNY officials provide several documents to back up their testimony, to be reviewed in coming weeks.

News of SUNY central's spending decisions drew harsh criticism from legislators around the state, including here on Long Island.

"If you want to know why people are so upset with their government and why they have lost faith in so many of their institutions, you don't have to look much further than this recent episode here at SUNY," Sen. Kenneth LaValle (R-Port Jefferson) wrote in a statement that was read aloud at the hearing in his absence. "At a time when middle class families are doing more with less and other SUNY employees are being told to stay home and give back a portion of their pay each month, these raises have sent a terrible message."

"These pay raises are unconscionable," Assemblyman Fred Thiele (I-Sag Harbor) said in a statement. "SUNY, including Stony Brook, has again proven that they have become a top-heavy bureaucracy that is more concerned about preserving their own jobs than public higher education."

Stony Brook spokeswoman Lauren Sheprow declined to comment on the hearing or on SUNY's spending decisions.



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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@sbpress.com

editorials

Oops! We Statesman'd!

The Press is seeking atonement from its readers who could not get past two troubled articles in the Vol. XXXII, Issue 1 edition of the paper. There were two typographical errors in two separate headlines; one in the extensive story covering the closure of Southampton and the other in an editorial about the anniversary of September 11.

Our editors are fully aware that the word "involvement" is not actually spelled as "invovlement." But for those readers who were so disgusted by this blaring error, specifically the part about how the second "v" and "l" accidentally swapped places, and could not get themselves past it to the rest of the issue (the article was on page 2), we at *The Press* sincerely apologize.

On page 5—there was another headline error, in the editorial about the anniversary of 9/11. Whereas the error with "involvement" was a mere one-letter, one-space swap, the editors at *The Press* made an even bigger mistake, this time with a one-letter, two-space swap.

The word "tragedy" was spelled "tradeegy"—the "d" and "g" were swapped. The word tragedy is derived from the Greek, meaning "goat song" or "song at the sacrifice of goat," depending on what scholar or Google search to which you refer. It's argued, at least by Justin Wood of suite101.com, a private Canadian company that serves as an online encyclopedia with professional

writers, that during the winter seasons, the Greeks would sacrifice goats to the gods in hopes of a restored food production in the spring. Wood argues that the sacrifice was also part of reinforcing the value of life through understanding death.

It was during these winter months that the Greeks would face shortened days, fend off nightly predators and more or less do what they had to do to survive. Wood's description of this topic

man could have conducted this blatant act of terrorism against the English language. When the evidence failed to support this theory, we realized that we the editorial staff are duly responsible for the repulsive headline errors.

But wait, we're not done. In an editorial about the closure of Southampton, we stated that months took place between President Stanley's announcement to close the campus and when the University Council met to discuss the closure. It took weeks, not months. We are now fully aware that there are four weeks to every month, and not the other way around.

In a related note, a timeline in a feature article about Southampton indicated that the University Council met in April 2010. However, the University Council had met in February 2010, and in April 2010 Stanley had made his announcement to close the campus.

One or two of these errors in *The*

Press might be unsurprising, but taken together they form a *Statesman*-like matrix of ineptitude.

In an attempt to restore whatever credibility possible, as punishment, the editorial board will now sit through a five-day, sixteen-hour-a-day marathon, watching cliché English and writing movies like *Dead Poets Society*, *Wonder Boys* and *Finding Forrester*, as well as the complete English edition of *Muzzy*.



gets a little more complex with the god-man Dionysus traveling to the Underworld, in which society disperses—but let's leave it at that and say that the Greeks weren't too happy when winter came rolling through and they had to sacrifice their dinner.

We at *The Press* are respectful of Greek culture and of English grammar, which is why we triple-checked to see if our locks were broken, postulating that our respected colleagues at *The States-*

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Hate what you see? E-mail your letters to editors@sbpress.com

Zimpher to Taxpayers: “Keep The Change You Filthy Animal[s]”

SUNY and Stony Brook University officials have been incessantly giving New York an earful. Budget cuts, they claim, are crippling the university system and hurting its 465,000 students. Budget cuts, they say, have pried more than \$500 million dollars from SUNY’s grip over the past few years. But are the state’s struggles with a sluggish economy and the decades of tax cuts for the rich solely to blame, or is the university’s top-heavy administration needlessly soaking up funds?

After SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher was summoned to appear before the State Senate Committee on Higher Education, her foot soldiers of spin sent out a press release touting her “bold and creative leadership.” It heralded Zimpher and her top deputy for waiving their housing allowances to fund huge raises for executive staffers. But if the media hadn’t publicized the raises in the first place, Zimpher’s move to line the pockets of her cronies would have gone unchecked by the legislature.

Her decision to dole out pay raises

of 10 to 13 percent to her executive staff couldn’t have come at a worse time. SUNY Central employs 441 people (78 of whom make more than \$100,000), and more than 200 of those workers have been forced to stay home one or two days a month and lose a day’s pay. And while Zimpher and pals have campaigned ceaselessly for greater autonomy, many New Yorkers have gotten acquainted with the Chancellor by reading about this performance before the State Senate in the papers.

After unpacking her bags in New York last year, Zimpher has few accomplishments to show. Zimpher often mentions that she has visited all 64 campuses, but that tour only took 100 days and cost SUNY more than \$27,000—nearly the annual salary of one of the security guards Zimpher laid off over the summer. She’s spent countless hours simpering about New York’s need for PHEEIA—even while she was testifying before state senators about exorbitant raises and perks she gave to her top officials. Zimpher even managed to

throw in a jab about how legislators failed to pass the PHEEIA legislation. But even if her lobbying had been successful, she doesn’t seem like a leader who needs less oversight.

There is something that Zimpher hasn’t done, and that’s tap into the hundreds of millions in cash currently sitting in an account, waiting for a rainy day. But it’s raining now.

One needs only to listen to SUNY’s claims that budget cuts have created a crisis to realize an umbrella of aid is badly needed. After Senate Higher Education Committee Chairwoman Toby

Stavisky wrote several letters of complaint, Zimpher reportedly gave her word to the Senator that she would release some of these funds. But she hasn’t yet, and if she does, keep your fingers crossed that it doesn’t go towards making her rich staff richer.



Don’t Stagger the Swagger, Pour Non-Stop

It is with pride that *The Press* often editorializes against the mismanagement of this university. It’s hard to be optimistic when you have a new president trying to raise tuition while reducing the amount of classes offered. It’s hard to be positive when parking is as scarce as the number of well-planned and worthwhile events held on this campus. But our disappointment with the university’s leadership aside, we recognize that students should be more aware of the achievements of this under-funded school’s professors.

For one, Stony Brook’s very own Dr. Timothy Glotch, assistant professor in the Department of Geosciences, was part of a team of NASA scientists who discovered a different type of rock on the Moon than expected—take that, Russian studies! This is quite the feat; Glotch and his colleagues’ discovery will help scientists better understand

the history of the Moon. This milestone comes more than 40 years after Oliver Schaeffer, founding chair of the then Department of Earth and Space and Sciences, worked with a team determining the age of the moon as 4 billion years old. SBU’s involvement with the moon continues!

And given that SBU is known for being a science school, where professors do work that wins Nobel Peace Prizes as recently as 2007 (for work on climate change), it’s fitting to have a federally-funded Center for Communicative Science. While all scientists are as intelligent as can be, conveying their brilliance is not as easy as exercising it.

Last February, Stony Brook professor Dennis Sullivan won the prestigious Wolf Prize in Mathematics. The award recognized his work on algebraic topology and geometric analysis—fields that are highly applicable to data-driven

areas of study like biology and economics. The prize went on Sullivan’s shelf next to his National Medal of Science, but not many Stony Brook students have ever heard Sullivan’s name.

Stony Brook adjunct Professor Joanna Fowler shook President Obama’s hand last year when she received the National Medal of Science for her work in neuroscience and the study of diseases like addiction. While only an adjunct at Stony Brook, Fowler is a senior chemist and director of the Radiotracer Chemistry Instrumentation and Biological Imaging Program at the Brookhaven National Laboratory.

It doesn’t stop there. In 2003, the Turkana Basin Institute, led by faculty member Richard Leakey, discovered a set of bones believed to be a precursor to modern man. The bones were believed to be those of a real hobbit. The team called the discovery homo flore-

siensis, and the bones were put on display at the Seventh Annual Human Evolution Symposium in 2008.

And fighting for the voiceless, quite literally, Professor Christopher J. Gobbler, Ph.D. and Stephanie C. Tamage, Ph.D candidate at the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences discovered that shellfish populations may be declining due to rising CO₂ levels in the oceans. The two Stony Brook professors’ report found that increased acidification of the oceans is killing off shellfish larvae.

While these names and honors are only a narrow slice of Stony Brook’s academic achievements, the point is that with increased budget cuts and lack of state support, future breakthroughs are in jeopardy.

Photos of Wolfie C. Seawolf on cover taken by Aleef Rahman



The Grammar Power Hour

By Najib Aminy

Undergraduate Student Government Senator Deborah Machalow doesn't like being called a grammar Nazi, rather a grammar girl. English is one of her minors, the other is history, both on top of majors in political science and economics. But for this sophomore from Valley Stream, the passion and respect for grammar has isolated her amongst student senators.

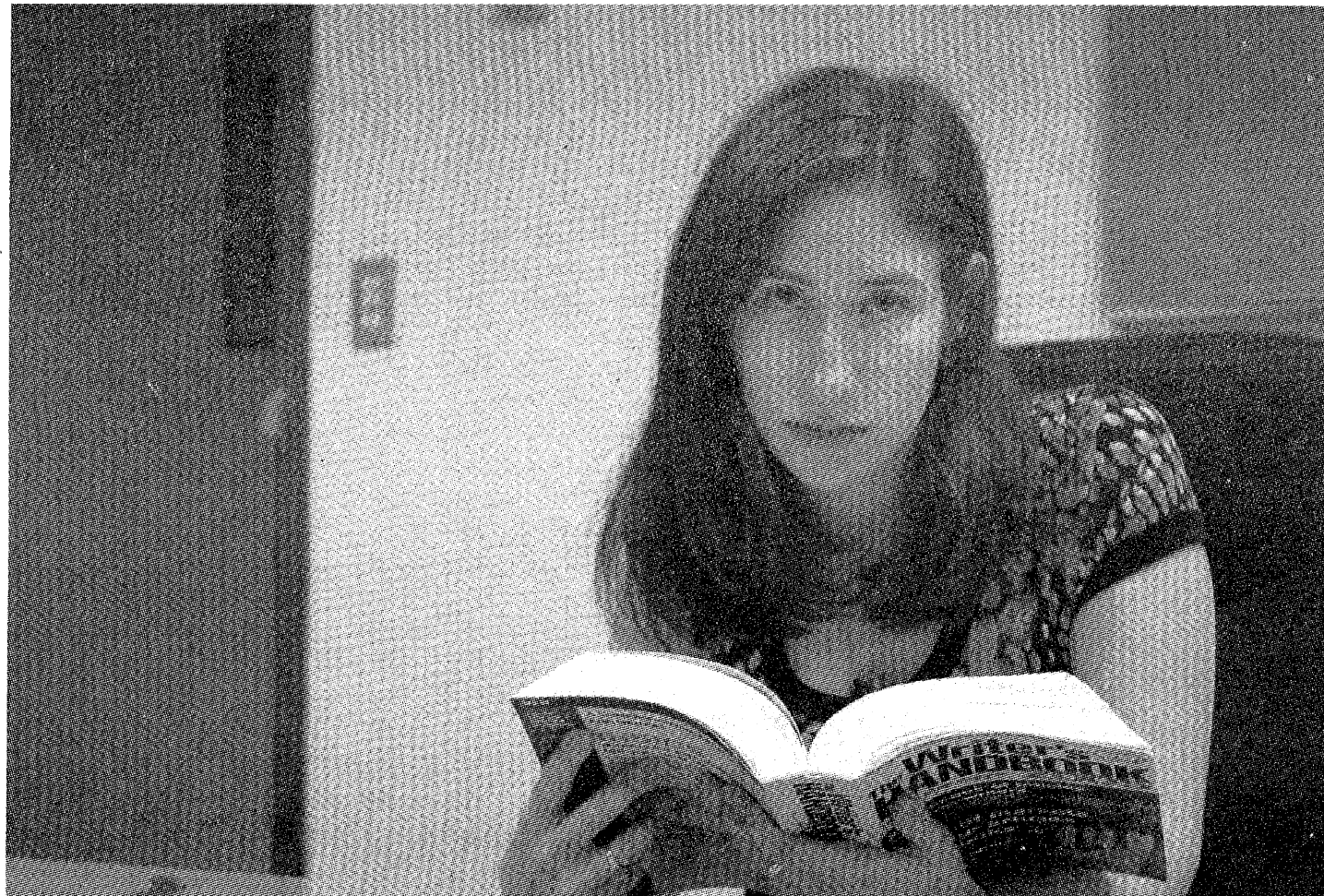
For more than an hour, Machalow called for one amendment after another, citing grammatical errors and clarity issues with proposed legislation reforming the current USG election bylaws. "We are the government of the students; we are supposed to represent and help the students," said Machalow, who ran for re-election with the platform of upholding grammar.

"As a student, I wouldn't take the government seriously if there were grammatical errors."

And with each amendment, explanation and correction, the majority of senators grew even more weary, annoyed and impatient. Every time Executive Vice President Alex Dimitriyadi called on Machalow for another amendment, the tone of disdain in his voice grew.

"I think that having grammatically correct legislation is important, but we have rules that allow ample time to correct grammar in legislation," Dimitriyadi said. "A lot of the changes Senator Machalow proposes are more stylistic rather than incorrect usage of grammar. The time on the Senate floor should be used to debate issues of substance."

At the end of what was a two-hour USG senate meeting, 29 amendments were made to revise the elections bylaws legislation, offered primarily by Senator Machalow. Dimitriyadi, who wrote the legislation, also points to academic focus, saying that his major is part of the reason why there were many grammar errors in the legislation. "As a Computer Science major, I deal primarily with log-



ical operations and binary data," said Dimitriyadi. "We have no time for proper syntax."

The proposed bill was sent to Legislative Review, where it was seen by five other senators. "In committee, if we see significant errors in writing, we correct them—general writing errors—lack of punctuation, incorrect spelling, et cetera," said Tahir Ahmad, sponsor of the bill and chair of the Legislative Review committee. "I am not trying to say, 'Hey, all of us are terrible at writing.' I don't think we are particularly bad writers, I just think the errors picked on weren't significant or substantial grammatical errors," said Ahmad.

There is a little added tension between Machalow and Dimitriyadi, stemming from a vote for the Senate's leader, the President Pro Tempore (PPT). Dimitriyadi, as the USG Executive Vice President, breaks tied votes in the Senate—such as the tied vote for PPT. Dimitriyadi voted Senator Kirin Mahmud into the leadership post, rather than Machalow.

Machalow had previously served as PPT for several days. Machalow was elected in an early meeting, legally attended by less than half the number of current USG Senators—a quick, short-handed election held so that a PPT could help form the committees needed to begin the Senate's business. That meeting, in which Machalow won the election, was later invalidated. The full Senate wanted to choose a leader, so they voted to reject the minutes (the notes taken that become the official record) of the earlier meeting. Machalow lost the PPT spot in a new election. As a result of the way she was removed from the position, Machalow has filed a USG court legal brief challenging both the method of nullifying the meeting with the first election and Dimitriyadi's authority in breaking the tie vote.

Suggesting amendments to the elections bylaws, Machalow insists on adhering to the rules of grammar and strictly following the USG constitution. It's a trait she has that has somewhat

alienated her from the rest of her colleagues—something she says she finds disappointing and sad. "It's embarrassing, we're elected to represent student government, why is it that I am [one of the only few] catching these things?"

But even that debate comes down to a matter of priority. "There are much more serious issues that we as a student government have to deal with, and grammar is the least of our worries," said Dimitriyadi. "We have a 3.1 million dollar budget that is not being utilized to its potential."

And while many of the amendments touched on minor grammar issues, for example, changing the word, "less" with "fewer" or replacing "undergraduate students" with "undergraduates," Machalow insists that every little detail is important.

"There's a joke in law, anything is legal if you put the comma in the right place," Machalow said.

Photo by Najib Aminy

Squeezing Out Efficiency

By Bobby Holt

With an enrollment of approximately 22,500 students on campus and a ratio of 24 students to every one faculty member, waste management is a major issue. One could argue that there is more trash on campus due to the surplus of students. But after facing millions of dollars in budget cuts, the pile of trash is not because of messy students but rather the decrease in frequency of trash pick-up around campus.

With this year's \$34 million budget shortfall, maintaining proper waste disposal and the changing of garbage cans has reached a heavy decline. President Samuel L. Stanley said, "Filling the gap cannot be done without cutting jobs."

According to a Facilities and Services Department e-mail, trash pickup was not the only thing hurt by the budget cut. The cleaning of public spaces, classrooms and hallways by custodial services has been reduced to once a week, while the cleaning of offices, suites and cubicles has been diminished to once a month.

The amount of ground service cleaning has also decreased. Lawn mowing frequency, landscaping and street sweeping have been reduced in

order to save money.

Throughout all of these cuts, Stony Brook has implemented a new solar trash compactor as a part of its green initiative, joining more than 650 institutions in initiating the development of a comprehensive plan to achieve climate neutrality. The university plans to achieve a 25 percent reduction in greenhouse gas.

The new trash cans, made by BigBelly Solar, compact approximately four to five garbage cans worth of waste into one. BigBelly, as advertised on its website, drastically lowers the operating costs, fuel consumptions and greenhouse gas emissions by up to 80 percent. Self-powered and requiring no outside electricity to operate, the cans save on labor costs and are energy efficient.

There are currently solar trash compactors outside the SAC, the Javits Lecture Hall and the Student Union (which is located in the shade).

The cans, priced at roughly \$4,000 each, help bridge the gap between the budget shortfalls by reducing the amount of attention that needs to be given to the changing of garbage cans. Though the vast majority of garbage cans still require frequent pick-ups, the introduction of the solar compactors will lead to a decreased need to main-



Photo by Evan Goldaper

tain at least a few spots on campus.

These trash cans, which require fewer costs to maintain, are implemented to both manage the necessity of

constant garbage changing while saving the University excess spending on custodial service.

SUNY IN BRIEF

UB President Steps Down Following Defeat of PHEEIA

University of Buffalo President John Simpson has resigned, citing a desire to spend more time with family in California and disappointment with PHEEIA supporters' failure to compel the legislature to enact that bill. His resignation is effective in January and a 16-member panel has been convened to search for his successor.

President Stanley Seals Cap on Enrollment

After years of consistent growth in the undergraduate student body, Stony Brook President Samuel L. Stanley, Jr. recently announced that the university will put a cap on undergraduate enrollment. While SBU received a record number of applications this year, enrollment will now plateau at 2,700 new undergrads. Stanley said the move will protect students' ability to graduate on-time and prevent over-crowding in classrooms.

Former Potsdam Students Indicted

Two former SUNY Potsdam basketball players were indicted on September 23 on several counts each of first-degree sexual abuse and first-degree criminal sex acts. Prosecutors say Marco Diaz, 21, and Orlando Minnott, 20, forced a Potsdam student to perform sexual acts on them in a dorm in April. One of the students was expelled and the other was suspended after a college disciplinary hearing last semester.

Employers Go Elsewhere...Not to SUNY... Get it?

The Wall Street Journal published a list this month of the top 25 universities in the nation whose graduates were top-rated by recruiters. The survey checked with recruiters at large corporations, government agencies and nonprofit organizations. While 19 of the 25 were public universities, including Penn State and Arizona State, not a single SUNY school made the cut.

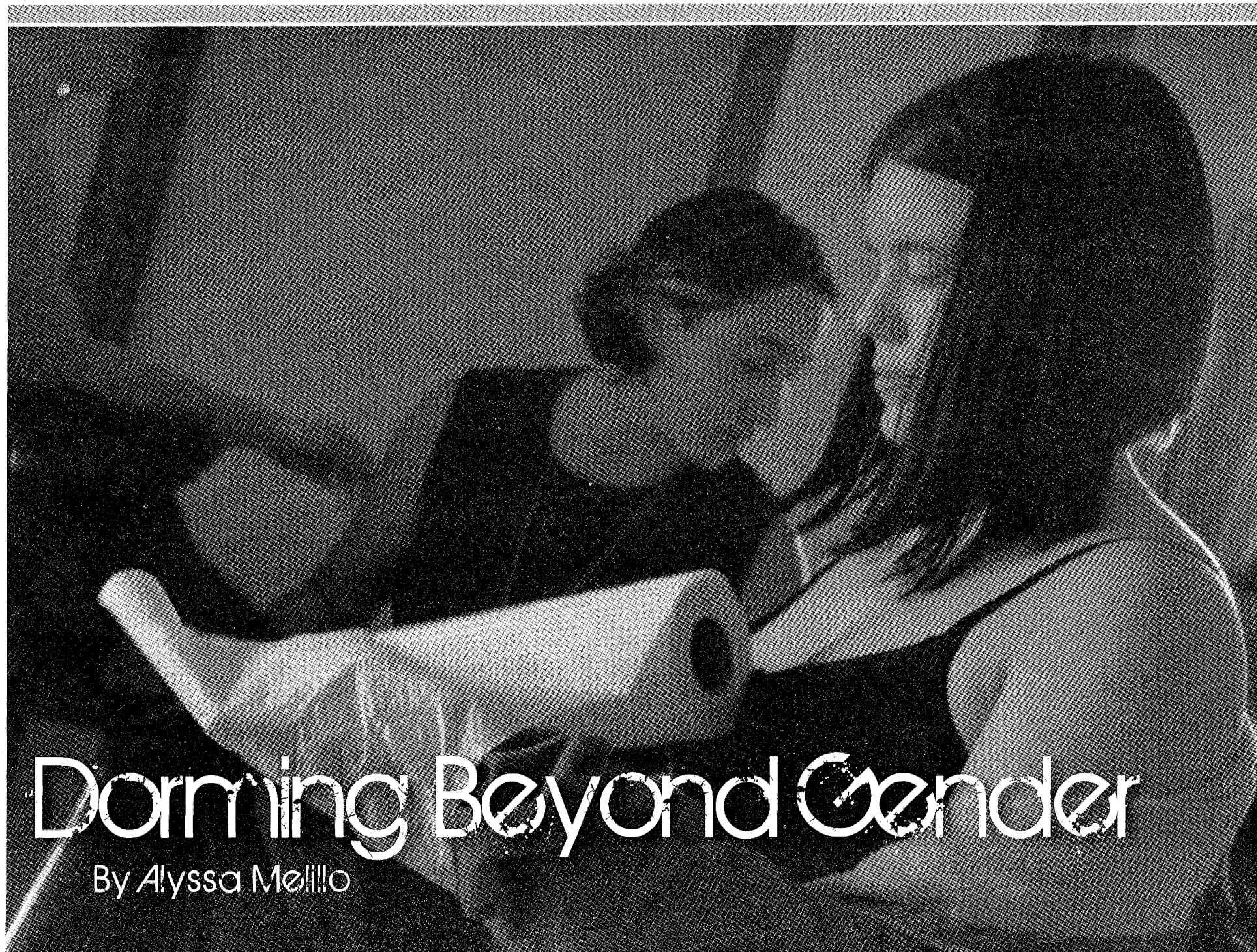
Why Would They Do This In the First Place?

Attorney General Andrew Cuomo has proposed that all New York colleges adopt credit card reforms aimed at protecting students, and SUNY has signed on. SUNY says it will no longer provide student's information to credit card companies without students' authorization, and will offer financial literacy programs to students. Cuomo's initiative also bars schools from accepting a percentage of fees charged by credit card companies to students and requires schools to monitor credit offers being promoted on campus. According to a recent Sallie Mae survey, 84% of college students have more than one credit card and the average student graduates with \$4,100 in credit card debt.

Cuomo is the Democratic candidate in the race for the New York State Governor.

Compiled by Colleen Harrington

features



Dorming Beyond Gender

By Alyssa Mollilo

The walls are blank. Pots and pans are scattered across the kitchen counter, and a half-eaten pie rests atop the table. This sounds like the common room of a typical suite here at Stony Brook University—and it is, except that this is the common room of the very first gender-neutral suite on campus.

This academic year, men and women are sharing a suite for the first time, as a result of a Campus Residences-committee decision, which came three years after the initial proposal.

The suite, located in Hand College of Tabler Quad, is currently the only one of its kind on campus. It includes three rooms, each with two occupants. Hearing about the program through friends and the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alliance at SBU, suite members Zach Knowlton, Polina Malamud and Anne Marie Greco were all very enthusiastic about being a part of it.

“I’m really, really excited that I get to do this,” says Knowlton, a history

major and a *Press* editor. “This is my last year here on campus...and as someone who is transgender, I was really glad that at least for one year this option was available to me, so that I can be comfortable living in a suite that’s accepting of my gender identity.”

To be part of the program, students who were interested had to identify themselves to Alan deVries, the Associate Director of Campus Residences, and say why they wanted to participate. If he felt that gender-neutral housing was appropriate, the student was assigned to the pilot program.

Even though it is only a few weeks into the semester, the suitemates have been enjoying it so far. It’s not any different from living in a single-gender suite, except that they can choose any person they want to live with, regardless of whether they are a man or a woman.

“The biggest difference for me is that I got to choose the people I lived with,” says Malamud, a sophomore. “The gender of my suitemates doesn’t really affect me at all.”

Those who are part of the project are not the only ones who are hopeful about it; Campus Residences is as well. While deVries declined to comment directly, Knowlton feels he has made his opinion clear. “I know that Alan de-

“You don’t have to be transgender, bi or have any other alternate sexuality to be able to accept it, and be able to live with someone who is a different gender.”

Vries, in my conversations with him, has very high hopes for this program. So I’m pretty sure this will prove to have a positive impact on the rest of Campus Residences,” Knowlton says.

As for the reactions of other residential students on campus, a lot of people seem to be really interested and

surprised, because they were not aware that gender-neutral housing existed here at the University.

“I’ve been getting a lot of envious reactions. People will be like, ‘Really? I wish I had that option available to me,’” Malamud says. For the LGBTQA, this project is opening many doors and expanding opportunities. However, it is also broadening horizons for the rest of the campus community as well. You don’t have to be part of the LGBTQA to live in the suite, which is the case for Greco.

“I think I might be the only person in this suite who isn’t a member of the LGBTQA, but it’s important for the whole community to just accept the idea,” the third-year English major says. “You don’t have to be transgender, bi or have any other alternate sexuality to be able to accept it, and be able to live with someone who is a different gender.”

To avoid potential awkwardness, the suitemates have a whiteboard on the bathroom door where they check off what they are doing, so no one acciden-

"I don't have to be put in that uncomfortable situation where I have to declare who I am."

der-neutral suites, they know what building it is," said Joe Flynn, a sophomore English major at SUNY Geneseo where there is more awareness concerning the alternative housing option.

Like Knowlton and the rest of her suite, Flynn had to provide an answer as to why he wanted to live in Genesee Hall, the only gender-neutral environment at Geneseo. His answer, "Because I have friends who are girls," was good

enough.

The goal of this project, the suite-mates say, is to not make gender neutral housing different from other housing choices, but to make it just another option that can be checked on the housing preference form. "It's not about being a separate housing option...it's about being one of many housing options," Malamud says.

Knowlton is predicting that this will

have a positive impact on the university community. "I think it's going to make this sort of housing option just another part of campus residences and another part of campus life at Stony Brook."

Photos by Carolina Hidalgo

tally walks in on someone.

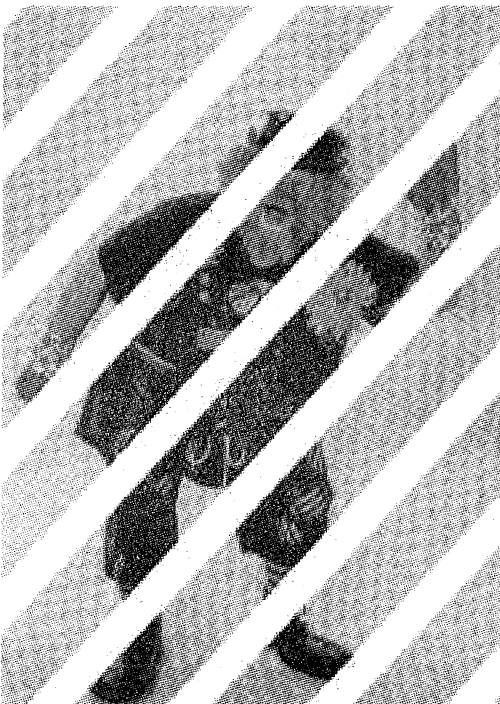
When asked if there is anything that needs to be improved, they all had the same answer: there needs to be more of these suites on campus. "[It's important] to just have the option available," Malamud says. "You need to be able to choose rather than be limited to just one choice."

If the pilot proves to be a success, gender-neutral housing will be open to more students in the future. The suite-mates are confident that this will happen, and each one thinks it is important for the campus to take that step.

Knowlton, Malamud and Greco say there are many advantages to living in a gender-neutral environment, but they all agree on one in particular. "It's all about being able to choose the person you want to live with," says Malamud. "Most of my friends are actually guys, so it makes sense to be able to have a suite where you're actually living with your friends," Greco says.

"I can live with my friends," Knowlton agrees. "I don't have to be put with one gender or the other. I don't have to be put in that uncomfortable situation where I have to declare who I am."

Although at Stony Brook this is a first, SUNY Albany, Purchase, Plattsburgh and Geneseo already offer this housing option to their students. "When they [students] hear about gen-



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Moon News Is Good News

By Natalie Crnosija

The moon's history may not have been as simple as once supposed, according to one Stony Brook University geoscientist.

"So what we're learning here is that the moon is a whole lot more complex than we...thought it was," said Professor Timothy Glotch of the Geosciences department during a September 18 lecture. "Every time we send a new spacecraft to the moon or any other solar system body, we learn a lot more."

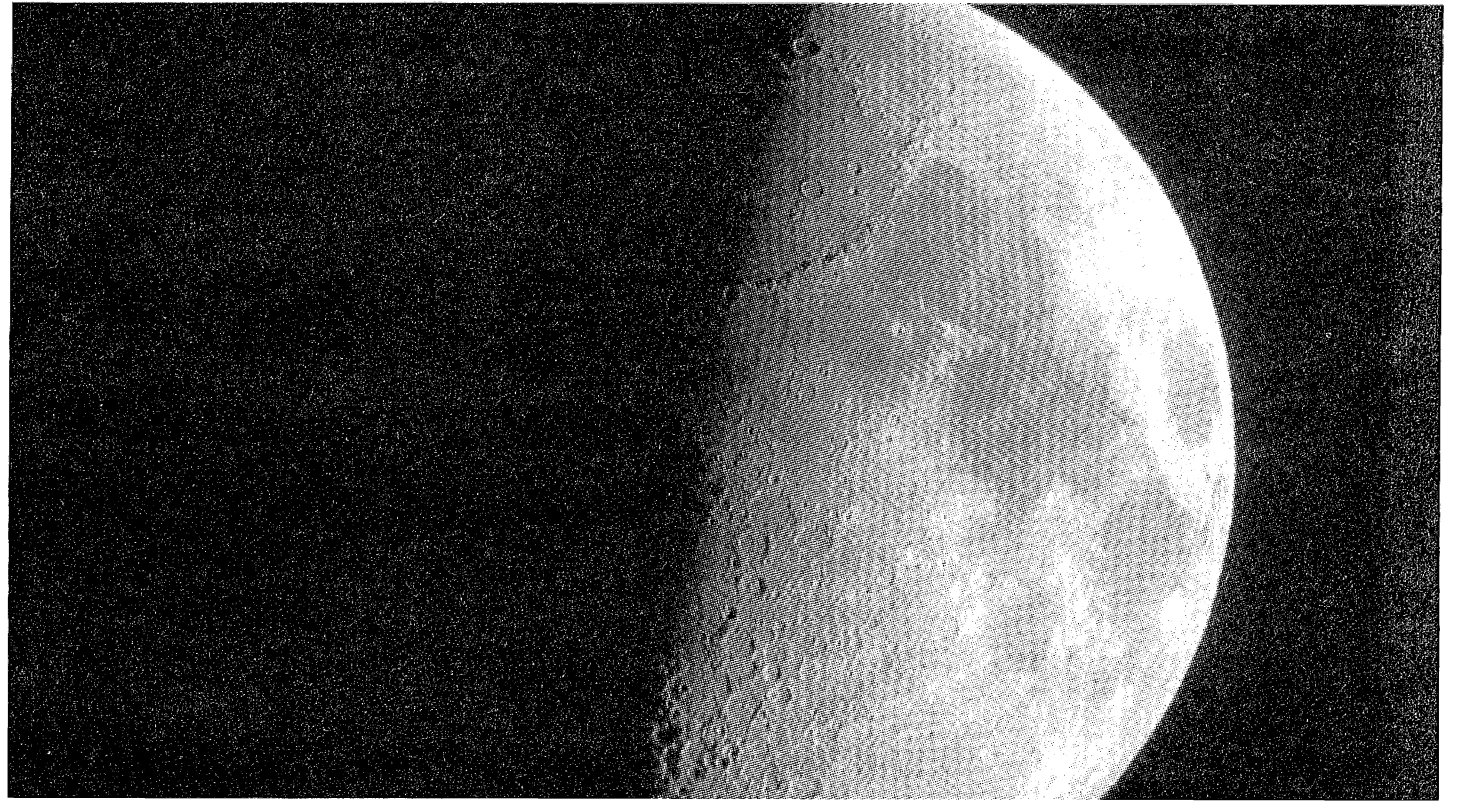
Based on data retrieved from the Diviner Lunar Radiometer on NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter over the past year, Glotch and a team of scientists from NASA and other institutions discovered previously unidentified silica-rich rocks on the moon's pale highlands. All minerals and the rocks they form absorb and emit energy with an identifiable, measurable spectral signature.

These silicates are significant because they indicate that the moon's geologic past included large-scale lava-flows.

"These types of minerals are really important because they indicate extensive magmatic processes," explained Glotch.

The LRO was equipped with other tools, including a camera to image the moon's polar regions, which will permit mapping, and can also identify safe locales for future lunar landings.

After Glotch's presentation, a num-



ber of audience members took to the roof of the Earth and Space Sciences Building to participate in the First International Observe the Moon Night. The event, hosted by the Geosciences and Astronomy departments, was part of the Lunar Consciousness Public Outreach team's effort to get people around the world to focus their telescopes on the moon and look into current lunar research.

Celestial gazers observed the moon and Jupiter through a series of telescopes oriented by the Undergraduate Astronomy Club. Such viewing events are not out of the ordinary for the Astronomy department, which hosts Astronomy Open Night the first Friday of

every month. These events typically feature a faculty lecture, followed by a telescope viewing of the night sky, weather permitting.

"It's great," said Shannon Hicks, a junior Astronomy and Physics double major and member of the Astronomy Club. "Especially for little kids. It's a good way to show...why astronomy is important."

Students and locals, young and old, migrated from telescope to telescope for different lunar views and clear sights of Jupiter and its moons aligned.

Michael Livingston, 9, enthusiastically hoped to see Pluto. His brother, Tom, a Stony Brook Geosciences major, said there was a value in programs like

this one.

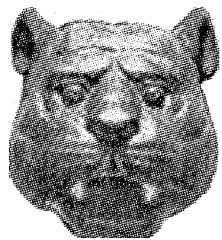
"It gives you a deeper look at what faculty are doing," said Tom.

Professor Dan Davis of the Geosciences department helped with the telescope setup. This night, in particular, allowed these amateur astronomers the opportunity to see the sky relatively clearly because the stadium's lights were off.

He said that events like this make what is being done at Stony Brook tangible.

Davis explained, "It's important that people do what they don't normally do—look up."





ASIAN AMERICAN E-ZINE

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How Three Months at Stony Brook Changed the World The University and Her AIMP China Alumni

In 1978 China decided to do an about face and enter the global economy. It gave the decision a special name, "socialist market economy with Chinese characteristics." That is really just a euphemism for Communist Party controlled capitalism.

But changing a huge bureaucracy and a developing country into the economic powerhouse it is today did not happen overnight. It has been shockingly fast, but its growth has come exponentially. In the first fifteen to twenty years the going was slow.

And how does Stony Brook fit into that at all? In the mid 1990's China was only graduating about 500 MBA's per year. A plan was hatched, we don't know exactly whose brilliant idea it was, to bring 100 of China's rising stars in state owned enterprises to SBU. Theoretically they were all in info technology but little did we know.

It was named CEAS AIMP, Advanced Information Management Program, in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. It was an intense program of grad courses in business and IT, time in large corporate US businesses to see how they operate, and time learning American culture.

In China, those chosen did not get to come to SBU because they knew someone. They really had to be rising stars. They were even sent to Beijing for English language testing - another way for the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) to make sure the best and the brightest were being sent.

Charles Wang, philanthropist, founder of Computer Associates, and now owner of the NY Islanders hockey team, paid for it all. So what happened to those rising stars?

In 2006 one said his goal was to make a larger profit than Exxon Mobil. That year his profit was just a few billion. Last year it was \$9 billion. The Chinese government controls gas prices so his profit may never reach Exxon Mobil's, but the size of his company and its worldwide holdings will surpass it.

Coming here, others realized they had that entrepreneurial spirit. They saw what a single individual was able to do. They left the state run companies they were in and struck out on their own. If you have bought a sheet of plywood in the past ten years, chances are an SBU China alumnus had something to do with it.

Another was named one of the ten most important people in his province and was chosen to carry the torch in the Beijing Olympics. That province, Shandong, has a population of 92 million, larger than California, Texas, New York and Florida combined. He is CIO of his bank and bought China's 5th largest supercomputer for it. When it went public this past summer, it was the largest IPO in the world.

Next month SBU President Stanley and his wife, Dr. Ellen Li, will visit China as guests of Hanban, the Ministry of Education agency that funds Confucius Institutes worldwide. Stanley will be the first President to visit China while holding the office. Our alumni are thrilled. Below is a sampling of those who plan to greet him to express their gratitude for how their three months here not only changed their lives, but changed China. Their titles have been Americanized; a General Manager there is a CEO here, Director of IT a CIO.

ZHOU Rifeng, Managing Director of Jinling Petrochemical, largest subsidiary of Sinopec, is that alumnus who is chomping on Exxon's heels. He wants to send his daughter to Stony Brook too.



SBU senior Yunfan Wang, daughter of AIMP alumnus WANG Zhiwen, AIMP alumnus HU Haitao, and freshman Ken Diyuan Hu - Jan 2010

Dr. KOU Fuping, a chemist, designed the first environmentally friendly glue. It's now used by most plywood makers in Shandong. Why did that make him a multi-millionaire? 75% of the world's plywood is produced in Shandong.

SONG Chuanjie, known as Jack, CIO of Agricultural Bank of China, Shandong. He is also Class of '77, one of the geniuses accepted to college after the Cultural Revolution's ten year hiatus, is also a legislator and political heavyweight.

GU Yong, Managing Director of Shanghai's largest import / export company. HUANG Jie, VP/Board Member, Shanghai Automation, builds computer systems for things like power and chemical plants. LI Guiwen, VP Strategy Development, Hangzhou

Steam and Turbine Group. MENG Lin, CEO Guangdong Sunwah Tech Consulting, former Lenovo VP. WANG Ge, President OSIC, \$660 million annual sales. Dr. WANG Mingyang, VP Dalian Sunyard Software, largest BPO company in China. WANG Shanshan, CIO, Tradestar, China's Morningstar. XU Quoqin, Chief Researcher, Baosteel, China's largest steel company. YANG Hanyu, COO, Stainless Steel, Jiuquon Iron & Steel, largest steel company in NW China with 400,000 employees. ZHANG Jingyan, Board Secretary, Tongrentang, oldest traditional Chinese medicine company. ZHONG Jian, VP/Board member of China's largest shipbuilding company, Guangzhou Shipyard Int'l.

And last but not least, the two whose children are pictured above. Dr. WANG Zhiwen, with a patented drug used worldwide, is Managing Director of Beijing Puzhongtong Investment. HU Haitao heads DTS China. First popularized in Jurassic Park, check any new DVD and you'll see the DTS digital surround sound logo.

Hopefully this visit will be the start of a rewarding relationship between Stony Brook and her AIMP alumni, and all alumni in China!

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Excerpt of www.aa2sbu.org/aaezine in SB Press, September 2010

arts&entertainment

The Press Listens to Markus Schulz, Now the Floor is Lava

By Evan Goldaper

We should've been prepared. After all, Markus Schulz's press release did tell us that his "incredible" new album, *Do You Dream?*, did contain such "floor-igniting" tracks as "The New World," "Dark Heart Waiting," and "Do You Dream?" Thankfully, *The Press's* business manager, Roman Sheydvasser, managed to procure a fire extinguisher before the floor-ignition spread to the rest of the Union. Safely perched on the couch as Audiomaster Kenny Mahoney emptied *The Press's* aquarium onto the smoldering carpet and turned off the album sample, I reflected on the press release Ultramusic had sent us.

Apparently Schulz has "rocked the electronic dance planet to its core" with his previous releases; I must've missed them, as I live on the regular life planet. Over here, on Earth, I hadn't even heard of Schulz, a fact that the release made me feel quite guilty about. "Fans and critics alike have seen Schulz as both the leading-light pioneer and ultimate standard-bearer of trance's new wave." My word, I hadn't been following the *standard-bearer*, never mind the fact that I didn't even know he existed! This had to change! Clearly there was a program I needed to get with, so amidst the dying embers of what once was the Press office, I agreed to shoulder this immense burden and listen to *Do You Dream?* in its entirety.

After alerting my neighbor, sophomore history major Liz Early, that neither I nor the *Stony Brook Press* was to be blamed if her suite burnt down as a result of this "long-player," we sat down to experience Schulz in all his finery. Ultramusic told me that the opening song, "Alpha State," contained "beatless shimmered finery." It certainly con-



Middle-aged white guys can be DJs, too

tained something.

"This is boring," Liz noted, "and it doesn't even sound like techno."

"He's setting a mood," I explained. "It'll pick up." Continuing tracks did little to prove me right. I waited for his "transfixing, uplifting edge," "stunningly-cultivated vibrant trance riffs," and "mesmerizing pathos." By the third track, I was mesmerized alright. The ennui I was beginning to feel was slightly hypnotizing. Schulz was succeeding!

So the initial tracks didn't make us get up and dance. That's okay. I assured my friend that the aforementioned singles would be better. Holding up the release, I reminded her that these songs "have had nitrous-injection-like impacts on Schulz's career." Nitrous-injection! You can't get more intense than that! You'd have to be dead to not like these! The title track, "Do You Dream?" is called an "uplifting vocal mix." Upon

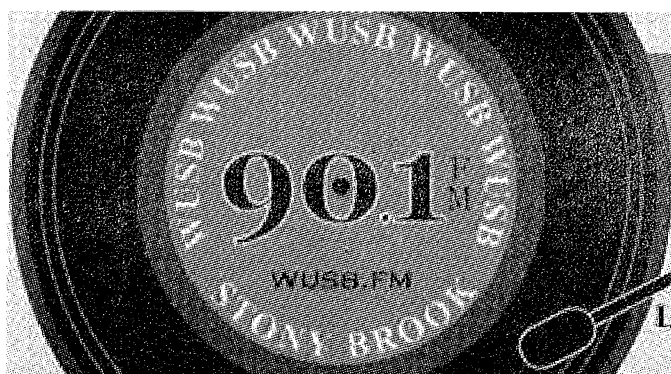
playing the track, I realized that Schulz is capable of lifting his vocal mix so high that it becomes tough to acknowledge or remember its existence. Sort of like how I feel about the Hubble Telescope. To the untrained listener, *Do You Dream?* sounds a bit like the music you might hear on the secret stage of a *Sonic the Hedgehog* game—just minus everything I remembered liking about Sonic music—but it *obviously* must be much more. I could feel the floor grow hotter beneath my feet as the song ended, after more than seven-and-a-half anticlimactic minutes that ultimately sounded mostly like a steady beat. "The New World" was similarly awesome in that I wasn't completely certain I wasn't just listening to *Do You Dream?* a second time, now without the "uplifting vocal" element. Certainly more of the same was stoking the fire, I'm sure. The album was apparently "near impossible to forget." At this point, I can't even re-

member when the tracks began or ended.

"Maybe we should be having a rave. Or playing a board game," I said. "It might be better then. At the moment, I'm finding it hard to listen to."

In fact, I didn't actually make it through the album's final two songs, choosing instead to listen to some indie rock. Does this make me a bad reviewer for not finishing the CD? It was clear that the last two tracks weren't going to change my mind. I guess you could say trance just isn't my genre. You could also say I was genuinely concerned about the flammability of Liz's textbooks.

Liz knows more about music than I, so I figured I'd refer to her for the final thought. "It's not bad music," she said, "just bad techno." That can't be right. It had to be the best. The press release told me so.



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When White People Review Rap

By Joseph Wofford

As a kid, I grew up in the suburbs of New York. Not a very tough neighborhood or so you might think. Until I was eight, my parents and I lived in Ossining (home of Don Draper), which wouldn't mean anything except for three things. Reason one: Ossining is in Westchester County, which frequently ranks among the wealthiest counties in the country. But if you walked down my street you wouldn't know it. My best friend Austin, who lived next to me, was the only other white kid for blocks. We had all the signs of a bad neighborhood: graffiti, boarded up buildings and liquor stores on the street corners. We even had our very own maximum-security prison.

That brings me to reason two: I grew up on the same street as one of the most infamous prisons in the United States. I could walk out my front door and see its gigantic green walls. Often the blaring sirens would pierce the quiet air of night and I'd wonder if a crazy inmate was trying to escape. I don't want to imply that

growing up next to a prison gives me street cred, so I'm just going to come right out and say it does. I'm bad.

Reason three: When we left Ossining to move closer to my mother's job I found myself in the much more sheltered town of Pleasantville (don't laugh, it's a real place). I adjusted to life away from the prison. Even being away from my first home for so long, that little part of the streets never left me; I'll always know that I'm hood at heart even if my hood was just the ghetto of Westchester.

So after 300 words proving to you all that I have more credibility to talk about rap than your average white boy, I'm going to tell you about the best album I have heard all year (which isn't actually a rap album). Sorry to lead you on but hopefully whether you listen to rap or not you will give this album a try. It's called *The ArchAndroid* by Janelle Monae and it truly is something special.

To say this album is ambitious would be an understatement. Monae bends genres on her huge 18 track tribute to science fiction. The most notable reference is to the classic 1927 film *Me-*

tropolis, upon which the stunning cover is based. The album is about Cindi Mayweather, Monae's alter ego, a messiah-like figure sent from the future to save a community of androids. The setup serves as a way for Monae to confront social problems using the guise of androids as minorities. The tracks are full of energy and Monae really has the voice and talent to make her songs come alive. On some songs like the tender "Sir Greendown," Monae's voice is like silk as she delicately delivers a beautiful melody. On others like the rock influenced "Come Alive," Monae's voice is thunderous and powerful as she shows off the chops that make her such a powerful vocalist. The album blends classical overtures, big band swing, tribal funk, glam-rock and hip-hop all seamlessly together.

One of the album's standout songs is "Tight Rope," a lively ballad where Monae taps into a James Brown like sound. Her delivery is half talk/half soul and it works amazingly. Popular rapper Big Boi, one of the members of the rap group Outkast, also contributes a verse to this song. The other standouts are

"Faster," an up beat bluesy song with an engrossing guitar riff and "Cold War," a hook-laden pop/rock stunner that uses synthesizers and shows off just how powerful Monae's voice is.

This is the kind of album that comes along very rarely. A collection of gorgeous songs that blend genres and leave you with something more than what you expected. The lyrics are full of imagery and each song fades into the next, dictating this album be listened to as a whole. Janelle's attention to detail and clear passion for this material helps make this album great. You can tell that not only did she put an enormous amount of effort into this music, but that she has done things with her music that are rarely achieved. To me this album is proof of what you can accomplish with music if you try to be original and make your music what you want it to be. This album is not to be missed and I can say with great conviction that it is my album of the year. Maybe next time I'll talk about some rap. How does that sound?



EVENT IDEAS?

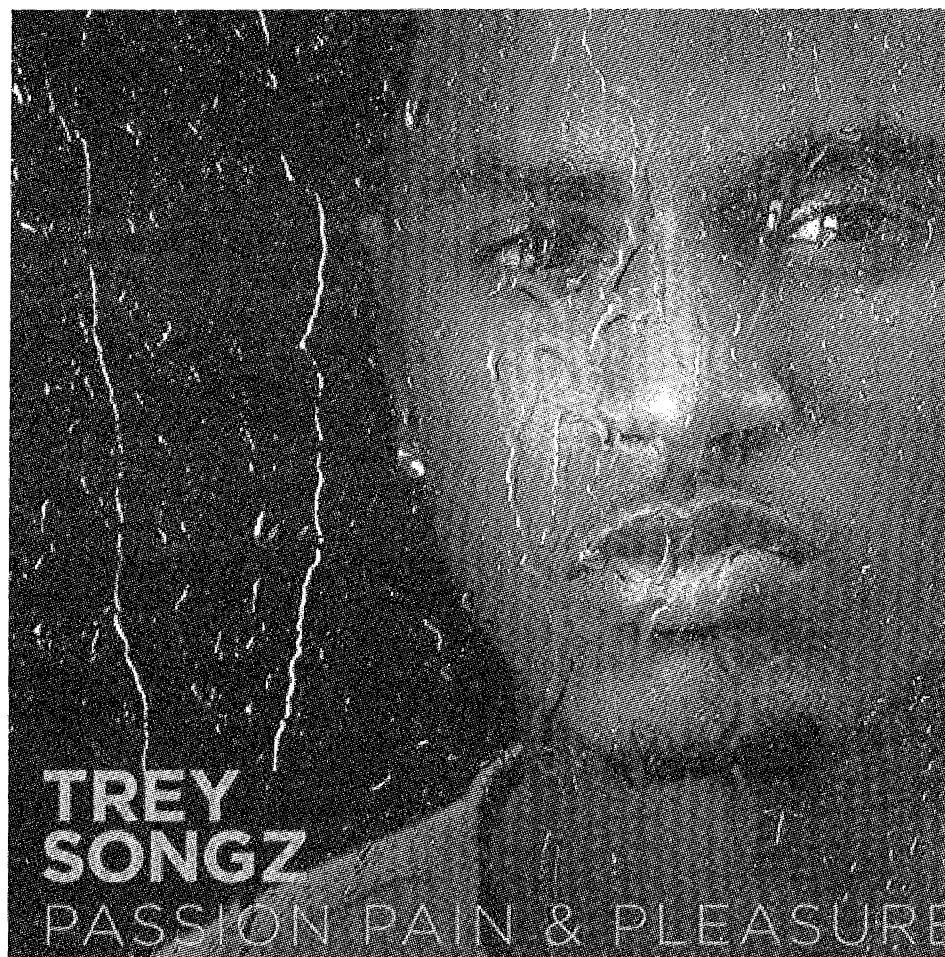
Last year, the Undergraduate Student Government reformed its event planning process. The goal of the reform was to allow for more student input and control over USG events. If you have any suggestions for musicians, comedians or speakers send them to eventideas@stonybrookusg.org!

The Songz Remainz The Samez

By Alex Tamilio

R&B singer Trey Songz released his fourth studio album *Passion, Pleasure & Pain* on September 14, 2010. The album is a follow up to 2009's highly successful *Ready*, which managed to reach the top spot on Billboard's Top 200. While his previous album received general acclaim by fans, his follow up seems rushed and a bit redundant. The lead single, "Bottoms Up," featuring up-and-coming rapper Nicki Minaj, manages to imitate a club atmosphere and seems to be the overall highlight of this album. The other collaboration on the record features Grammy-award winning R&B/Hip Hop musician Drake, whose verse on "Unusual" showcases his smooth flow while saving the track from Songz's stale, emotionless verses.

"Bottoms Up" is one of the few fast-paced songs on the album, and the remainder is mostly devoted to mediocre "slow jams" reminiscent of Boyz II Men. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, but Songz's delivery in several tracks is unenthusiastic and lacks the vocal power of R&B's most esteemed artists. Instead of emphasizing the emotion of the song, it sounds like Songz is struggling to belt out some high note, a recurring trend in the album.



Bringing in a sense of "Pleasure" are the R&B tracks that properly affiliate Songz's vocal range with his actual emotion. Examples of this include the melodic "Message," the ballad "Can't Be Friends," and the simple yet addicting "Doorbell." When Songz isn't trying to

reach a high note, he properly showcases the emotion of the song. Consistent quality is where Songz's latest effort falls flat; if the entire album were comprised of songs like the above, Trey Songz would undoubtedly be a household name in R&B.

The remainder of the album is forgettable and falls in deep between the crevices of the record's highlights. Examples of this include "Made to Be Together," which is completely overshadowed by its similarly paced counterpart "Can't Be Friends." While some of the less noteworthy tracks do attempt to bring an urban hip-hop feel, such as "Alone," they aren't as memorable as Songz's collaborations with his more famous peers.

The album mainly suffers from a lack of originality, a quality that panders to his target audience. The seductive lyrical content and relatively slow beats will likely appeal to his large female fan base. However, it can be argued that these qualities are already present in superior albums released this year. Examples of this would be Usher's latest album *Raymond Vs. Raymond*, or The Dream's *Love King*.

Overall, *Passion, Pleasure & Pain* is a general disappointment in light of Songz's previous efforts. Only the diehard Trey Songz fans will find every song tolerable, but many will leave the listening experience upset that Songz's follow-up to his biggest selling record does not reflect the expected experience. For listeners who anticipate an album that is true to its first single, they should look elsewhere, as *Passion, Pleasure & Pain* is largely the latter.

The Bass Without the Movement

By Joseph Wofford

When it comes to video games everyone knows that the most popular games come from franchises that have been around for a long time. If you look at the list of major titles being released in 2010, most of them have a number at the end -- the few that don't are games like *Assassin's Creed Brotherhood* and *Call of Duty: Black Ops* which are members of popular franchises that don't get the distinction of a number at the end of their name. The way I feel about these illegitimate sequels is the same way I feel about the new Atmosphere EP *To All My Friends*, *Blood Makes The Blade Holy: The Atmosphere EP's*.

In the vast world of underground hip-hop a few names come to mind as the most successful. Most people think of MF Doom or Aesop Rock but for me

underground rap will always start and end with the Rhymesayers Entertainment record label. This label was co-founded by Atmosphere's two members—Slug (rapper Sean Daley) and Ant (producer Anthony Davis)—and is composed of many of the best hip-hop artists from the Midwest. Atmosphere is one of the longest-lived and most commercially successful underground groups ever. They released their first major album in 1997 and currently have six albums and many EP's and compilations.

Part of the reason Atmosphere has been so successful is because they release a lot of material and can attract different fans with their style. Not to mention that almost everything Atmosphere releases is worth listening to even if it's not all great. I find all of the major albums to be very solid with almost all of the songs worth listening to but on the EP's I often find there to be an abun-

dance of songs with poorly chosen samples that don't work with Slug's style of rapping. This is where I return to my video game analogy, in particular the *Call of Duty* series.

For Atmosphere, Ant does all the production, which means that he is responsible for what songs to sample and the beat used in the song. He handles everything that doesn't have to do with the actual rapping. For the *Call of Duty* series there are two studios that make the games: Infinity Ward and Treyarch. All the *Call of Duty* games are de-



signed similarly but there are noticeable differences between the studios. Anyone who knows about video games can tell you that Infinity Ward makes much better games than their contemporaries at Treyarch. It's easy to tell that every-

Superchunk May Cause a Double Rainbow Effect

By Zach Knowlton

I'm a bad indie kid. Before hearing *Majesty Shredding*, I had never listened to Superchunk, which I now realize was a huge mistake and I seriously doubt if I have any real friends left, because if I did, they would not let me go through life not knowing about this incredible and immensely influential band.

Superchunk was formed in 1989 and their last album prior to *Majesty Shredding* was released in 2001, so it's been quite a while, but it seems as though they have picked up right where they left off.

I'm going into this review not having listened to any of their other stuff, just to get a clear view of what Superchunk is all about now, so apologies if you're looking for comparisons to their earlier albums. But let me just say this: despite not having heard anything else they've ever put out, I can safely say that Superchunk seems to be all about awesome.

This band is amazing, and they are probably responsible for almost all of the music that I enjoy listening to now. From the fuzzy guitars to the killer male-female vocal harmonies to the "whoa-ohs," it's all there and all done

beautifully. *Majesty Shredding* is one of the best albums of 2010, hands down.

The album opens with the lead single, "Digging For Something," and even never having listened to anything Superchunk has ever released, I immediately got what they are all about. It kicks in with a super catchy riff, heavy drums and fuzzy chunky power chords. What's not to love? And from there lead singer Mac McCaughan comes in with a nasally, but not obnoxious voice, followed by sing-a-long worthy choruses filled with "whoas." "Digging For Something," sets the tone wonderfully for the rest of the album.

What follows is an amazing album filled with fun, memorable, and instantly familiar tunes. They aren't complex, or even necessarily all that deep, but it doesn't matter because they're so damn good. Driving power chord guitars and fuzzy bass lines dominate musically. There's a solo thrown in here or there, like in "Crossed Wires," but they never feel out of place, more like lead lines than actual wankery. Superchunk seems to be the perfect example of maturing as a band without becoming a joke or cliché.

Lyricaly, things are kept relatively light. There's not a lot of deep metaphor or dense poetry to be found. It's simple, and it hits home and is just relatable.



Mostly they just want to make you find a spot with a view and blast them very loudly from some car speakers while you chill on the hood and watch some stars. Although, if anyone can tell me "My Gap Feels Weird" means, I would be quite grateful. That's the only time Superchunk lost me. It's an amazing song musically, but I just have no idea what the hell they're talking about.

Majesty Shredding isn't for every-

one. If you don't like Superchunk, then this album probably won't change your mind. If you don't like fuzzy pop-punk like Lemuria or Sleater-Kinney (kinda), then you probably won't like this. Also, if you dislike joy and happiness, this isn't the album for you. But for everyone else, there's really no reason to not at least give it a listen. It'll make you happy, and the universe will feel like a slightly better place.

Bass Without Movement continued from previous page

one at Infinity Ward is passionate about the games they make. Treyarch's games, on the other hand, often feel like poor knockoffs of the Call of Duty formula, not offering a new spin and repeating what's been done by the series before. They have their moments but often leave you feeling disappointed about the game as a whole.

I find Atmosphere albums and EP's to have a similar Infinity Ward/Treyarch dynamic. The albums are always fresh and original. Each one reinvents the sound of Atmosphere with changes to the style of production and rapping. Early Atmosphere albums like *Overcast* and *Lucy Ford* use simple beats that highlight Slug's introspective rapping. As they've continued to make albums their style has changed and their most recent album uses all recorded instruments instead of normal sampling. The EP's usually have a couple of good songs

but instead of being something new are more of the styles and sounds we've heard before.

To me, *To All My Friends, Blood Makes the Blade Holy: The Atmosphere EP's* is just another forgettable Treyarch release that doesn't live up to what an Atmosphere album should be. The album hits an early high point with the stand out track "The Best Day," which in typical Atmosphere fashion is about being stuck in a bad situation, but making the best out of it. This song has an infectious piano sample and features a few vintage Slug verses. After that the album has a few worthwhile songs like "Freefallin," "To All My Friends," "Americareful," and "The Number None."

They feature top-notch production and strong verses where Slug shows his chops as a rapper addressing depression, health care and young love. His

smooth flow and unyielding honesty will make Slug one of your favorite MC's. His rhymes are clever and you can hear his experience in his raps. He has a long list of tricks that he uses to keep the songs flowing. Everything from perspective switches to clever half-rhymes that he makes flow smoothly.

The rest of the songs on this release are mostly forgettable. Loud and sloppy beats that don't hook the listener don't help the average rapping which seems phoned in by Slug. These are the types of songs that you might be able to listen to in the background but these songs really don't stand up upon close inspection.

When I describe the album as a whole I can't help but feel disappointed. There are a few really solid songs that are worth having but as a whole it's an underwhelming EP. There are traces of a good album here, but instead of being

a step forward in the evolution of Atmosphere's style, it feels like an uninspired mix of many things they've done before. The same style of beats, the same subject matter, and even a few rhymes that we've heard before. When I review an album I'm looking for something that stands out, something that sets this particular EP apart from what else the artist has done. Unfortunately *To All My Friends, Blood Makes the Blade Holy: The Atmosphere EP's* can't break the trend of mediocre EP's that don't live up to the albums. If you're a new Atmosphere listener I would recommend skipping this EP or at least waiting until you are more familiar with his work before checking it out.

Money Never Sleeps, But You Probably Will

By Lauren Dubois

There are two things in common between the late 1980s and the early 2000s. Both decades have seen financial meltdowns, and both have seen an incarnation of a *Wall Street* film. Unfortunately, there's nothing we can do about either one.

In *Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps*, the new installment following Oliver Stone's 1987 hit, the audience is reacquainted with Gordon Gekko (Michael Douglas), the financier we last saw going to jail for insider trading, who is released in 2001. Fast-forward seven years, and we are in 2008, on the brink of a major financial meltdown. The new Bud Fox is now Jake Moore (Shia LaBeouf), a capable trader at an investment bank who is loyal to his mentor (Frank Langella), and in love with his fiancée Winnie (Carey Mulligan), who also happens to be Gekko's estranged daughter. When his mentor is crushed, in more ways than one, Jake seeks out revenge on rival banker Bretton James (Josh Brolin), and enlists his future father-in-law for help. All Gekko wants in return is Winnie back in his life.

There are a few problems with *Money Never Sleeps*. The first is that it takes excessively long to really get going with the story, and then takes too long to finish up. What takes two hours and 13 minutes to tell could have been told

cleaner and much quicker. There are also too many plots and sub-plots which just get tangled up and become a big mess. What might have originally

friends. If we wanted to see movies about that, we would all run to see *The Last Song* again.

Some characters have no real devel-

supposed to feel sorry. LaBeouf's character is too hard to read. It's impossible to know whether he's supposed to be a crook, or a good guy with the best of intentions who just takes a few wrong turns. In the end the only one it's easy to feel sorry for is poor Winnie, who it seems is just there to serve as a pawn whenever Jake or her father want something.

The film's use of animated diagrams, split-screens, and odd choices in camera angles don't help it much either, serving more as distractions than anything else. Special effects are great, but they need to make sense in order to work.

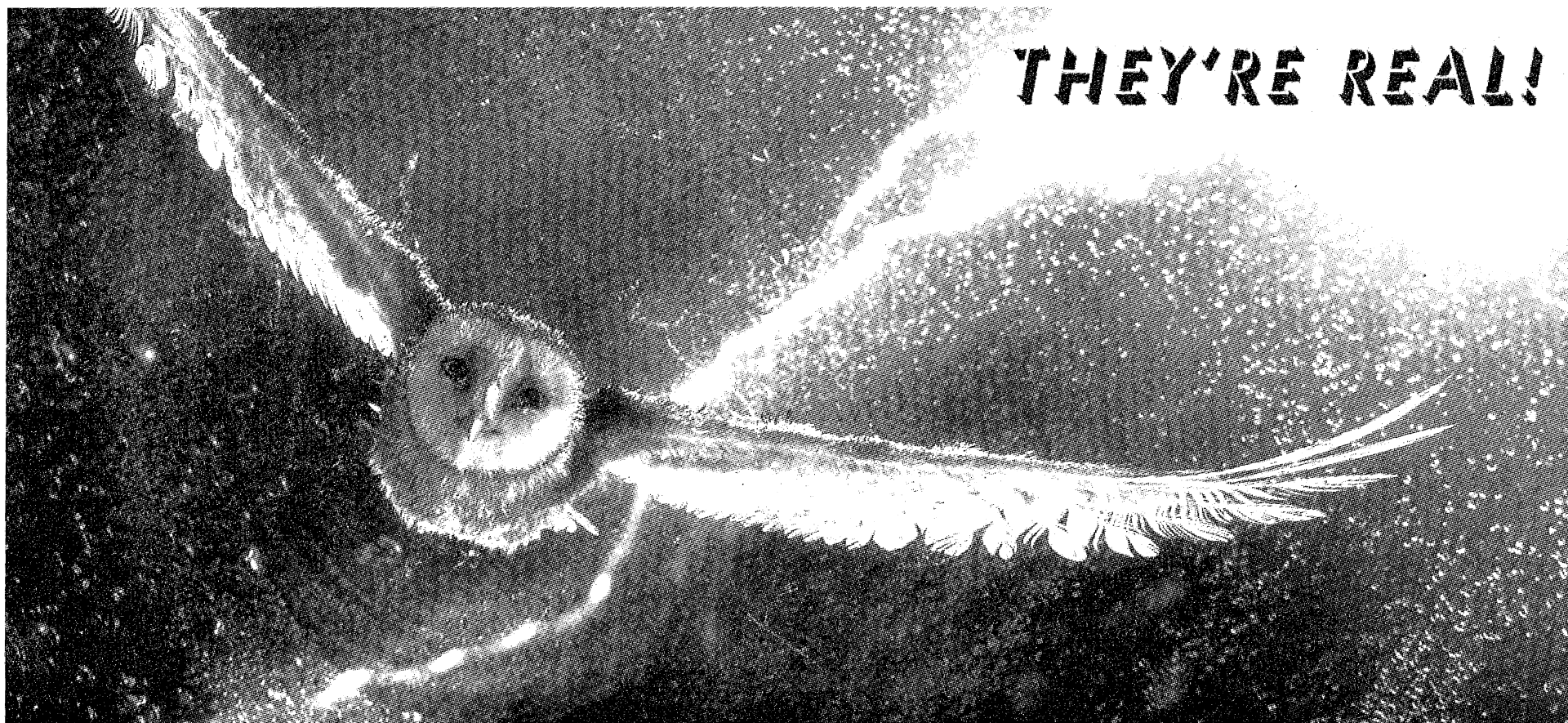
Overall, what makes *Money Never Sleeps* so hard to enjoy is probably just a deathly combo of mediocre writing,



been an attempt to keep all the characters' true motives hidden until later becomes a completely different movie about relationships between fathers and daughters and boyfriends and girl-

opment in the movie, while others end up painted in ways they weren't meant to be. It's hard to tell who is really supposed to be the hero, who we're supposed to hate, and for whom we're

mediocre direction and mediocre editing in a sequel that Stone likely never intended to make until 2008. Unfortunately, too much mediocrity is no better than just plain sucking.



When Keeping It Real Goes Wrong

By Emily Torkel

Reality television is hotter than ever. *The Jersey Shore* is in its second season and its leads have become stars with product deals. *America's Got Talent* just named its season winner. *Dancing with the Stars* is already back with their fantastic cast of celebrity B-listers and C-listers and Bristol Palin. Why do we care? Who cares about those trashy people at the Jersey Shore or those celebrity has-beens and wannabes dancing? The answer is: We do. Why do so many college students love reality television?

"One needs only to take a look at the ratings to see 15 of the top 20 highest-rated programs among the young adult group are reality and unscripted shows," according to *The New York Times*.

Throughout the week, there are reality shows airing constantly, whether they are on ABC, VH1 or MTV. It is impossible to avoid landing on a reality show when you are flipping through the channels.

When asked about the popularity of reality television, Professor Krin Gabbard, from the Stony Brook University Department of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, responded, "So many college students love reality television because it is chaotic and playful."

For many students, watching shows like *The Real World* or *Hell's Kitchen* provides an escape from a stressful reality. Katie Ben, a freshman, said of reality television, "It makes you feel better about your own life." If you watch Snooki or JWoww from the Jersey Shore stumble down the stairs or fall over drunk, it might give you a personal lift. You can look in the mirror and tell yourself that you are not as bad as they are.

"Most college students recognize



themselves or someone they know in reality television," said Gabbard. Many reality stars are college-aged: 18-23.

Watching the show is a way of acting vicariously through their peers. Gabbard continued, "We can watch people we relate to do outrageous things, and not suffer any of the normal consequences."

Many of the popular reality shows like *Jersey Shore*, *Big Brother*, or *The Real World* all take place in college-like settings. They are strangers thrown together to live in the same house. It is just like a dorm room: they live, eat, and sleep together. These intense reality

show relationships mimic typical college life.

With the busy schedule of college students, sometimes reality television is a way to unwind. Freshman "college students are always looking for a diversion from their hectic lives, and reality television offers that," Rebecca Jones said.

Whatever your feelings about reality television, you must face the fact that it will be around for a while. These shows are less expensive to produce than standard dramas or sitcoms, and studios barely have to pay the actors. People line up to get on reality shows

like *American Idol* or *The Real World*.

College students face many challenges, and one of them is preparing for the "real" world after graduation. Watching infantile and immature behavior of people our own age provides a release valve for the stress many students feel.

Reality television is great because it is so ridiculous. The more absurd, the better the show is. There is just something about watching people making fools out of themselves that is priceless. It is like watching a perfectly orchestrated train wreck, or one might say an unscripted train wreck.

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UNION 060 WEDNESDAYS DURING CAMPUS LIFETIME



Cabela! It's Like Halo, But Shooting Deer!

By Nick Statt

If you've ever swallowed your dignity and decided to pay 50 cents to use a large orange rifle at a run-down barbecue restaurant, then you're probably familiar with the *Cabela* hunting series. It's simple, it's sweet and it involves killing helpless does as they graze with their fawns. But where the latest installment, *Cabela Big Game Hunter 2010*, really fails is when it comes to the variety and depth of its combat system and its story mode, while its primary shooting game rival, *Halo Reach*, really knocks those components out of the park.

In *Cabela*, you can switch among a number of high caliber, precision-scope hunting rifles. You can maybe even use a knife if you have to slaughter that rampaging buck that just wanted to have a nice afternoon nap in a meadow. But in *Halo Reach*, you can wield an impressive arsenal of firearms. There are grenade launchers, energy pistols and swords comprised of highly volatile plasma. If *Cabela* had an energy sword, I think I would have enjoyed playing it a whole lot more...and that flying duck wouldn't have stood a chance if I nailed it with that gatling gun that I ripped off the back of my Humvee.

Big Game Hunter 2010 doesn't even have a unique catch to it. Because *Reach* is a prequel, you finally get to fight alongside other Spartan II's, the bio-



Bye bye, deer. Don't worry, it was coming right for him.

chemically-enhanced super soldiers that are near extinction in the time span of the original *Halo* trilogy. Their AI leaps and bounds better than the original trilogy's human counterparts. The enemies AI is also far more fluid, with surprisingly intelligent commanders who can aim and give commands better, as well as devise far more effective on-the-go strategies. The animal AI in

Cabela is pure garbage. Deer don't even send their most expendable minion in as a suicide bomber carrying two plasma grenades. Instead, they just run away.

Cabela is seriously lacking in its story mode too. In *Reach*, you get a detailed account of what the inter-galactic space war between the humans and the alien-alliance, the Covenant, was like

before the original *Halo* trilogy. *Cabela*, on the other hand, has poor voice acting, and not very many Hollywood-blockbuster-quality CGI cut scenes, which really hurts its replay factor. You're never even told why these guys are hunting. Are they hungry? Are they from the South? Do they like to see things die? Nothing. Character development is non-existent.

Do I even need to mention graphics? *Cabela* really stepped up their game for this 2010 installment. I actually feel like I'm ending the life of a bear cub instead of just shooting aimlessly at black blobs in the distance. But again, *Halo Reach* and its \$100 million budget just puts *Cabela* to shame...so much so that I ended up bedridden for two days after playing the two within the same six-hour span.

The developers of the *Big Game Hunter* series just weren't thinking big enough. They could have added jet packs. You know what game has jet packs? That's right, *Halo Reach*. They could have added vehicles too. Who says it's against the NRA-sanctioned tradition of Fair Chase to run over your prey with hover cars? You know what game lets you run over your enemies with hover cars? I'm not going to beat a dead horse here. Don't buy *Cabela*. It's just a *Halo Reach* imitator.

STOP PLAYING WITH YOURSELF AND PLAY WITH US!

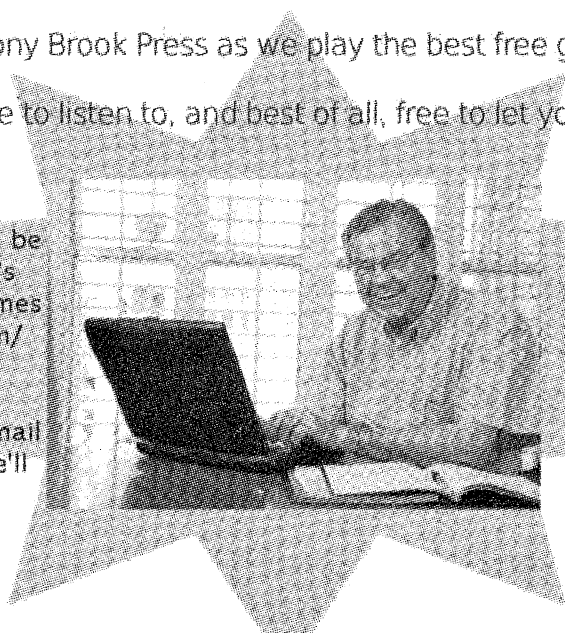
Participate in the Stony Brook Press' new Game Club Podcast!

Join the staff of the Stony Brook Press as we play the best free games on the internet!

It's free to play, free to listen to, and best of all, free to let your voice be heard!

For the debut episode, we'll be discussing Thomas Brush's Coma. Find it on Armor Games at <http://armorgames.com/play/6286/coma>.

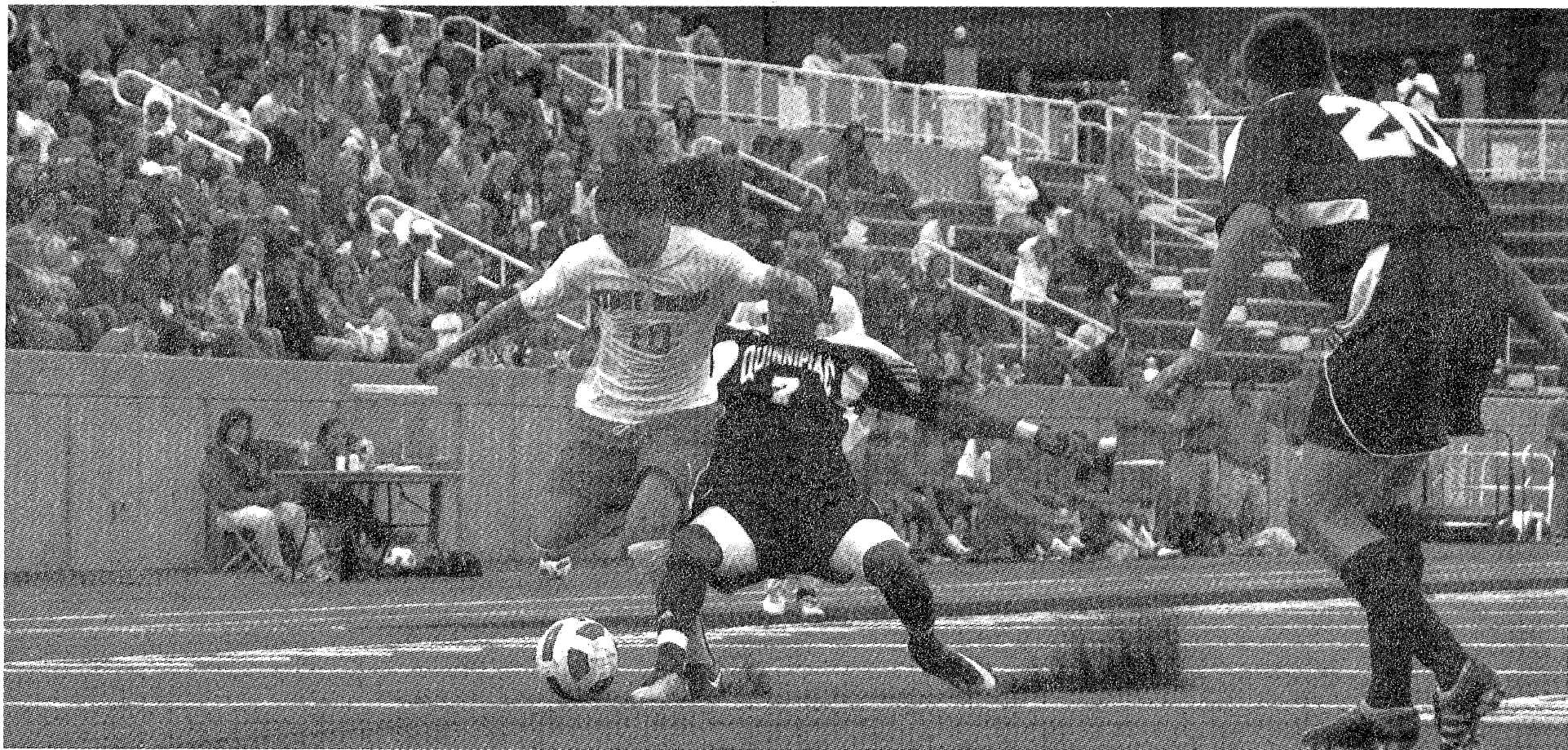
Play through, send us an email with your thoughts, and we'll read them on air!



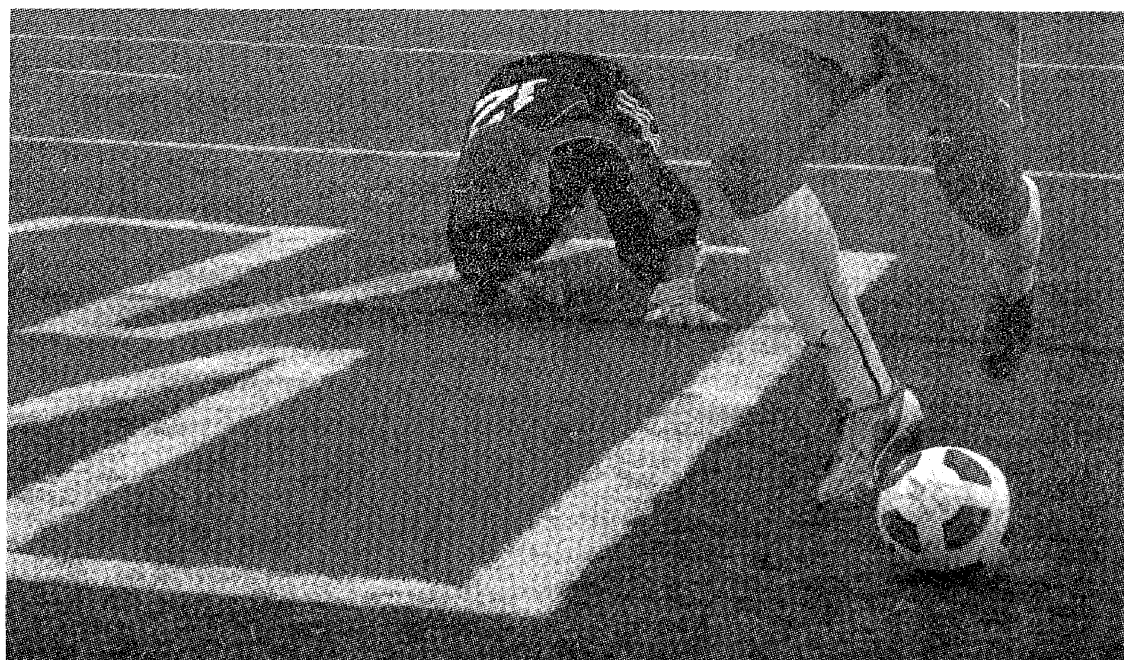
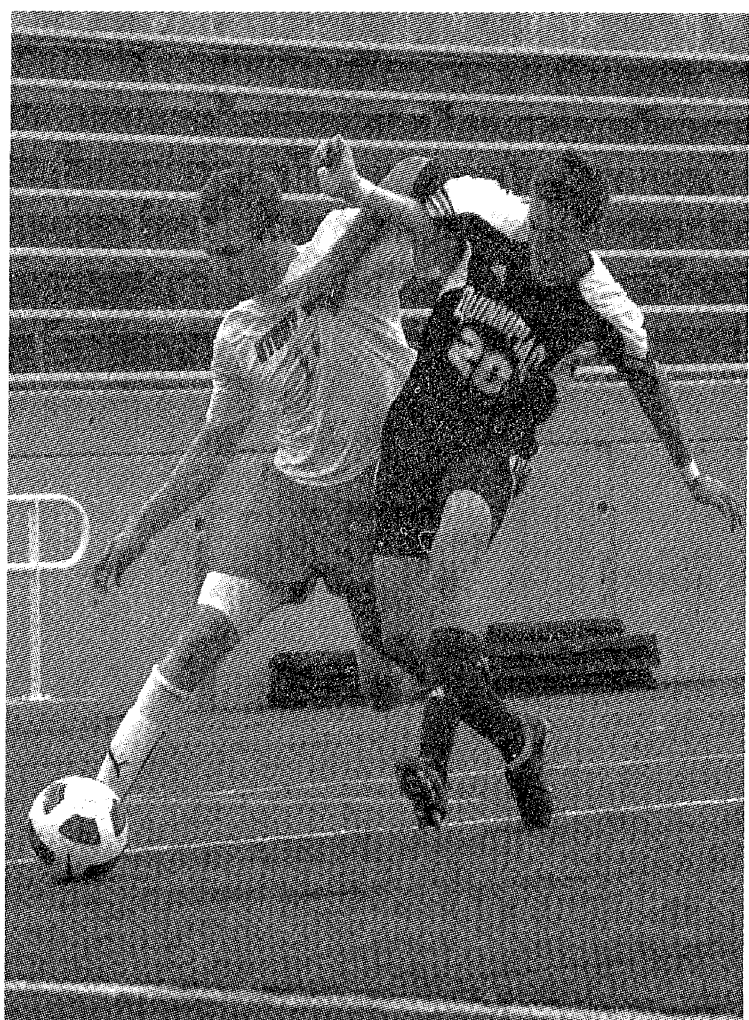
Send all emails to editors@sbpress.com. Put "Game Club: Coma" in the subject so we don't lose your email.

And stay tuned to the Press' website, sbpress.com, for further details!

Seawolves Men's Soccer Beats Quinnipiac 3-2



Stony Brook went down 0-2 in the first 26 minutes of the game but came back in the second half to a 3-2 victory that extended their winning streak to five games. Photos by Nick Statt.



RATE MY PROFESSOR

While many students refer to ratemyprofessor.com as a resource when composing their semester schedule, in reality the anonymous and unregulated nature of the site undermines its utility. In one problematic practice, it is not uncommon for faculty members to pose as students and enter their own reviews of themselves.

Top **10** Actual ratemyprofessor.com Reviews Which Just Might Have Been Written By The Reviewed Professor His Or Herself

10. (Norm Goodman, Sociology): "He's really nice and if you put some effort in you will get a good grade. Very fair!"

9. (Malcolm Bowman, Oceanography): "He does so much to open up opportunities for undergraduates to learn."

8. (Mike Schwartz, Sociology): "Nothing short of brilliant--guy went to Harvard and is so down-to-earth with a great sense of humor."

7. (Neta Dean, Biochemistry): "I am very disappointed with the reviews on display here. Neta Dean is a great Professor who makes the material crystal clear and offers her help to those who seek it."

6. (Alexander Kirillov, Mathematics): "Professor Kirillov is a brilliant mathematician as well as a superb teacher. He lays the expectations down where everyone can see them; there are no surprises. He expounds on the subject with great clarity. For a second language-learner of English, he picks what he says with great care and is extremely clear and concise. Take him!!!"

5. (Paul Zimanski, Archaeology/History): "To quote another student, the guy is a real life Indiana Jones."

4. (Paul Schreiber, Journalism): "do not take a jrn course unless you are truly interested. do not take as a dec.!! you will regret it"

3. (Leo Bachmair, Computer Science): "Hes not as bad as everyone says."

2. (Robert Ettl, Business): "Learned more from him and his Styrofoam cup stories than any textbook out their."

1. (Helmut Norputh, Political Science): "Stony Brook would be much better off if all of the other teachers were like Prof. Norputh."