

The Stony Brook

PRESS

The Community News and Features Paper

Vol. XXVII. Issue 10

"Kids Need To Know
What A Scrotum Is"

February, 28 2007

the stony brook
Statesman
www.sbstatesman.org



The Statesman's
Incompetence:
It's Hard To Swallow

The Kelly Cold

By Lisa Voltaire

There is a cold problem in Kelly. It's causing trouble for the cashiers and the students who are eating there. They have to wear coats and gloves, while struggling to finish their burritos.

Maria Diaz has been a Kelly cashier for sixteen years, and according to her, Kelly has been cold in the winter, but never this bad. Diaz sits close to where the freezing air is running from downstairs. She is wrapped in a blanket, scarf and a hot fan is frequently working behind her. This is the situation Diaz deals with every day. She works for six hours and has one break. She believes it's Kelly's new ceiling that's causing the cold and the downstairs doors to Kelly that are often left open by students. Diaz's supervisor knows about the cold, yet Diaz witnesses no changes.

Dennis Lestrage will be in his office this Friday evening and has promised me a few minutes for my questions. Lestrage is the Resident District Manager of Stony Brook's Campus Dining Services. When he was made aware that the students are negatively affected by the cold in Kelly, he was more generous with his time. Lestrage tells me the doors are the reason why for the cold, not the ceiling. He mentions the Physical Plant. Department,

that he will contact after our conversation, so they can solve the cold problem.

There is no doubt, after walking into the last dining hall, that there is a temprature problem in Kelly.

"It shouldn't be like this," Lestrage says as we walk through Kelly's dining halls to find where it's cold. In the first room, the temperature is moderate. In the second, it's considerably colder.

There is no doubt, after walking into the last dining hall, that there is a temprature problem in Kelly. This is also evident from the crowd who are watching a movie for a Global Studies event, while fully clad in winter coats. In addition, a student asks if we are there because of the cold situation and tells us he brought the audience hot chocolate to make them stay. It's obvious the cold is a problem in Kelly.

I finish my interview with Mr. Lestrage outside the hall, and we both make an agreement to follow the cold issue in Kelly. Lestrage hopes there can be a change in three to four weeks.

Hye Hye Birdie

By Kotei Aoki

After Punxsutawney Phil's prediction failed, the Roth Pond was frozen solid. The temperature stayed in the lower 20s while it felt as if it was in the negative. By early February, students littered on the natural pond rink, threw garbage cans on the ice, pricked bars through the sheet of ice, enjoyed the friction-less surface, played hockey, been caught by university police, and actually skidded on skate shoes. The ice already seemed invincible.



A Water Fowl

Kotei Aoki

changed. The temperature rose above 40 (the day's highest was 49 F). Too ambitious I was. I wore three short-sleeve t-shirts and headed out of my dorm for the day. First thing everyone noticed was that the pond water was being replaced. Yes, water was pumped into the Roth Pond. Amazingly it continued until late at night. While the water was filling up the pond, the sheet of ice became submerged. Thick ice still covered the other half of the pond.

Next day, I could not help grinning at the scene by the Roth Pond. Finally! Geese are back on campus. Still there were only a few. We could expect more arrivals later. They are the sign of Spring for Stony Brook University. I only remember seeing two geese though I am certain there were a few more. One was on the side of the water. The other was already swimming in the icy cold water. I could clearly see the thin chunks of ice floating on the surface. The goose was trying to get through them, as a ship tries to sail through sheets of ice in the Arctic.

Welcome back...shall we just call them...geese? Let's see if more of their pecking around the Roth Pond will start soon. Spring - here it comes!

New York City Wants You to Get Some

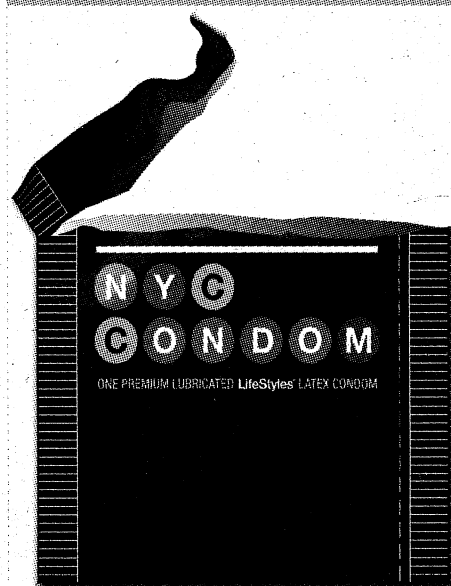
By Amelia Fischer

On Valentines Day, the New York City Health Department introduced the first city-branded condom." The NYC Condom will be free to individuals and clinics, and they will be available at multiple locations throughout the city. The NYC Health Department has been distributing free condoms since 1971, and the campaign has grown steadily over the years. In recent years, the Health Department has distributed about 2.5 million condoms yearly. This new publicity campaign and fresh branding effort are expected to hopefully increase that number to about 18 million condoms per year. Officials hope that distribution of the condom will help stop the spread of HIV/AIDS and other STDs as well as stymie the number of unwanted and

success. The city's decision to promote the condom has come under fire from the Roman Catholic Church. In a joint statement, Cardinal Edward Egan and Brooklyn Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio decried the condom as a promotion of "indecent," stating that they felt City Hall, "fail to protect the moral tone of our community when they encourage inappropriate sexual activity by blanketing our neighborhoods with condoms." Mayor Bloomberg fought back, using his weekly radio show to state that, "This is not an issue of faith, this is a health issue for the city." The Mayor added, "They [The Roman Catholic Church] should preach to their congregants what they think is the appropriate ways to live your lives, but the health department has to work with the real world of people not practicing protected sex, not practicing abstinence, and this is a ways to keep people alive."

"This is not an issue of faith, this is a health issue for the city."

Michael Bloomberg
Mayor of New York City



Take the A Train to Pleasure Town!

NYCCondom.org

unplanned pregnancies.

The new condom is pure New York City: it stands out with a multi-colored, subway-style lettering wrapper, giving a whole new meaning to the Duke Ellington standard "Take The A Train." The ad-campaign is witty and bright, featuring phrases like "NYC Condoms- Get Some," "New York's hottest new wrapper," and "New York, we've got you covered," in Spanish and English. The ads adorn subway cars, busses and posters throughout the city, making it impossible for residents and commuters alike to not be aware of the new offering. Any New York City business or organization can distribute these free condoms. Soon the public will be able to pick up a free condom or two with the morning coffee, or afternoon sandwich, from the local farmer's market, or even from the hot dog vendor while grabbing a quick snack in Midtown. It is this collaboration with local businesses and organizations that officials hope will make the campaign a

The debate over the moral decency of city-sponsored condoms will continue to wage on long after the PR-buzz of the condom itself wears off. What cannot be ignored is the need for the public to become more aware of the fact that condoms are the most efficient way to engage in safe sex, regardless of religious beliefs. This is a frank and sobering effort by the City and is one that deserves some applause.

Right now, most of the locations listed on the website are bars, taverns, clubs and barber shops. This honest acknowledgement that condoms are necessary for the protection of the public's collective health is a great step forward for the Health Department, and New York City as a whole. Hopefully other cities will become jealous and start creating their own brand of condoms. I'd be willing to bet that San Francisco is next with their very own brand of "City By The Bay" condoms. Hopefully, the new ad campaign will drastically increase condom usage, decrease the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and unwanted pregnancies.

To find out more about where to get your very own free NYC Condoms, go to www.nyccondom.org

On Wednesday, February 21, things

Is it Halloween Already? Nope, It's Only Valentine's Day

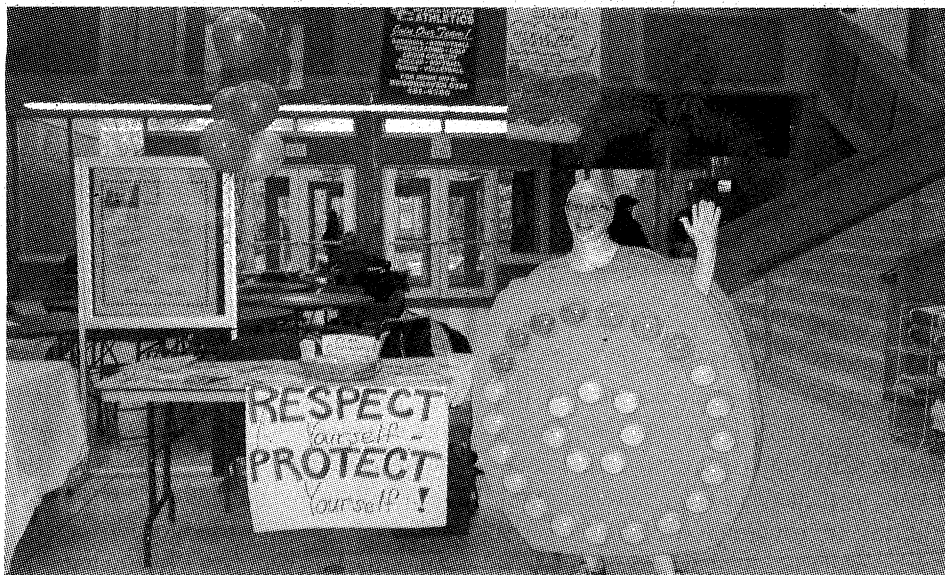
By Ilyssa Fuchs

If you walked through the SAC lobby last Tuesday you might have noticed a woman dressed up in a costume representing a life sized case of birth control pills, you may have even thought to yourself, what is she thinking? No, it was not Halloween, it was almost Valentine's Day, and no she wasn't crazy, she was dressed up as "Packie" the life-size pack of birth control pills in an attempt to promote safe sex before the BIG LOVE (or lots and lots of wild, sweaty, animal sex) holiday. In this joined effort to bring students' attention to preventing unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, the Stony Brook Wo/Men's Center teamed up with Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic (PPHP) and "Packie" (a sure-fire way to attract people towards your table, I mean what is better than a giant birth control costume?). The program

Comprehensive sex education teaches abstinence as well as provides information about contraception, sexually transmitted infections, and HIV/AIDS" (Gina M. D'Andrea, PPHP). Students that visited the table were asked to fill out and sign pre-written post cards

*No, it was not Halloween, it
was almost Valentine's Day,
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"Packie" the life-size
pack of birth control pills*

which requested that NYS Senators support the bill. These postcards also "thanked New York State Assembly member Steven Englebright for sponsoring a bill that would require all SUNY and CUNY campuses to have emergency contraception available on



Walking Talking Pill Containers, Wow, Don't See That Everyday

Ilyssa Fuchs

was also set up to raise awareness about prevention legislation in New York. Currently, the federal government (and that asshole Bush) has been dead set on teaching abstinence sex education in schools rather than teaching safe sex education. Everyone knows this is a bunch of bull because more and more teenagers are having sex everyday and abstinence education is not stopping them, in fact teaching abstinence may even make teenagers more likely to want to get down and dirty for the first time. Recognizing this, PPHP and the Wo/Men's Center are supporting a new legislation, known as The Healthy Teens Act. This act "will create a grant program to fund comprehensive, medically-accurate sex education programs.

campus, as well as providing accurate, up-to-date information about emergency contraception to students" (D'Andrea). As well as filling out postcards, students who dropped by the table were entitled to pick up free condom key chains, pens, and a variety of stickers and buttons. Overall, the day was not only successful, but helped to prove that a little bit of grass roots lobbying can go a long way!

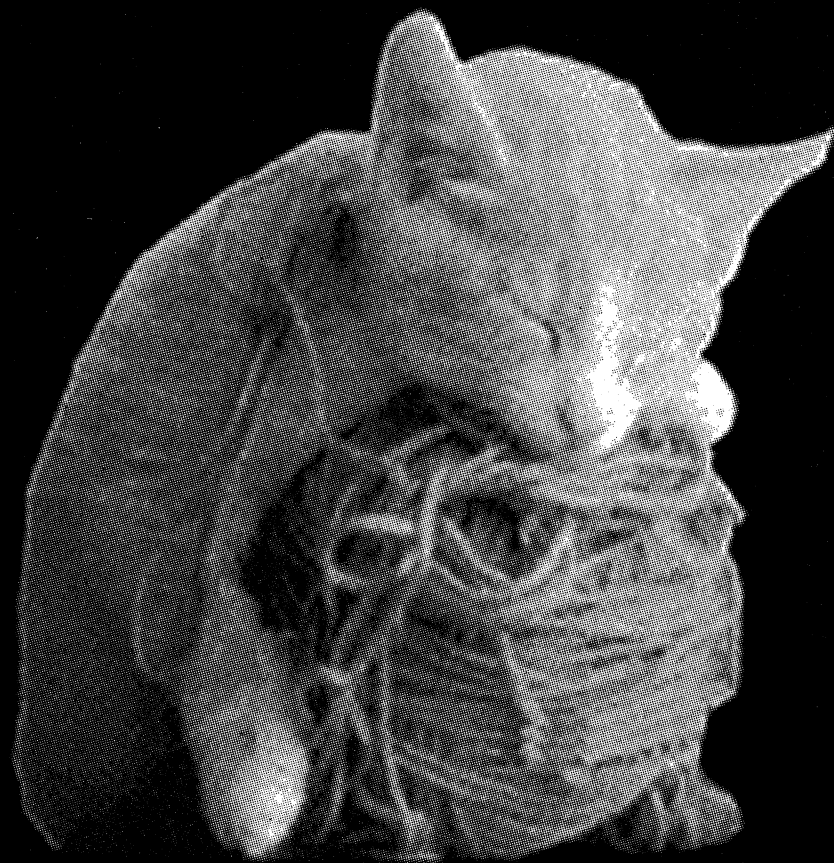
(If you are interested in learning more about how you can support prevention initiatives and what PPHP is doing in Suffolk County, visit their website at <http://www.pphp.org/>)

Put in a lil blurb on the bottom about how the token lesbian wrote an article on birth control lol :)

Play America's Greatest Pastime

"Dead or Sleeping"

Every Wednesday at 1pm
060 Student Union



The Stony Brook Press:

Where dead things and sleeping
things can peacefully co-exist...
and then we guess which is which

Drunken Intruders and Incompetent Police Officers in the West Apartments

By Adina Silverbush

On Saturday, February 17th, five drunken men in their early twenties broke into a female suite located in the West Apartments. Witnesses say they woke up to the sounds of loud banging, male voices, and vomiting. Two of the apartment's residents as well as one guest were present at the time of the crime. The men had entered the apartment through the suite door, which had accidentally been left unlocked. Apparently, these men had been at a party down the hall, though the host of the party claims he doesn't know them.

The residents entered their apartment common room from their bedrooms at about 3 am expecting to find another one of their suitemates and her friends but instead were frightened by the sight of five strangers who, according to the residents, were "obviously very intoxicated." One resident immediately called 911, and police arrived within five minutes. However, it took the police another five minutes to gain access to the building from the RHD (resident hall director) and actually get up to the room.



We Gots Your Shoes Bitches!!! Adina Silverbush

The intruders, who by this point had vomited all over the common room floor and in the kitchen sink, spilled water everywhere, ripped the table cloth, scratched up all the chairs, made a hole in the wall, exploded the residents' food all over their microwave, threw a stuffed animal into the garbage, and "decorated" the walls and floor with the girls' food and hot sauce, had finally, after arguing with the residents, left the apartment. They then proceeded to go down the hall to the party that was still in progress, leaving a pair of sneakers and a black skull cap behind.

The residents took the police officers to the party and pointed out who the intruders were but the officers were non-responsive, possibly overwhelmed by the party (about 100 people) going on. The party was broken up, and some party guests tried to hide

the intruders. The residents were able to point out one of the intruders to the officer, but the officers didn't, according to the residents, write down the man's name or ask him for an ID. He claimed to be a student at Utica College.

The residents saw from their window the men getting away and said, "look officer, they're going into that white car," but still the officers made no attempt to go after them. Bear in mind, these vandals were allegedly very intoxicated, and the officers let them drive away drunk.

These vandals were allegedly very intoxicated, and the officers let them drive away drunk

Since the door was unlocked the officers made the residents feel like there was nothing to be done about the intruders, since they had not technically "broken in." The men did conduct illegal activity though; not only did they trespass, they also caused a lot of damage, as well as threatened the residents. One such threat actually was made in front of the officers by another drunken partier, and again it was ignored by authorities.

Investigation is now being done as to why the police officers were so negligent in their proceedings, as well as why the police report given to the *Stony Brook Statesman* read, "Owners called for assistance and the unidentified males were gone on police arrival." This is obviously completely false information.

The apartment has been cleaned by the campus cleaning maids, but no money in damages has been received at this point. The host of the party said he'd take full responsibility and pay the residents for their ruined food and ripped table cloth. The university also said that the party hosts are responsible because the intruders were "guests" at their party, though, if the host didn't even know these men should he really be responsible for these party crashers?

This investigation hopes to reveal who these vandals were and why, if they were not Stony Brook students, were they on campus at all. If you have any information, please contact us at SBPress@gmail.com. More investigative information on this and other campus news can be found at www.SBInews.org.

Mid-year TAP adjustments

By Amelia Fisher

The Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for New York State students is generally a successful and helpful program for the 60% of full-time students statewide who receive it. In fact, New York State boasts one of the best need-based financial aid programs in the country. However, the program needs serious improvements, especially regarding mid-year adjustments, income ceilings, and time limits.

The award a student receives is based on a sliding income scale, calculated by

very much money, and it would greatly help students who experience traumatic events during the school year.

There is an income eligibility ceiling in place at \$80,000, so no family making more than that can receive TAP. However, this income limit is unnecessarily restraining. Families who make \$80,001 cannot benefit at all from TAP. Many of these families are still in need of the financial aid. A fairer income scale must be put in place to accommodate these families. Students from middle-class families should not be restricted from receiving needed awards.



Google.com

Trying to grapple with material

last year's taxes. However, mid-year adjustments of awards are not allowed. If a student or a student's family experiences a drastic, unexpected change in income during the year, their financial aid cannot be adjusted to accommodate them. These drastic income changes are usually the result of traumatic events such as a death in the family, loss of employment, illness in the family, or having a family member called to active duty in the military. These events are difficult enough for students, many of whom are struggling to pay for their education already. Ensuring that financial aid can be adjusted in the event of an income change would greatly help this group of students.

It is not a trivial population of students who need this mid-year adjustment. However, it wouldn't be an overwhelming cost to taxpayers. 12,866 New York State students applied for adjustment of their federal financial aid (Pell Grants) in the middle of the 2004 academic year. It is imperative that the New York State Legislature supports this student-friendly legislation to allow mid-year TAP adjustments. It would not cost the government

There are other obstacles to making TAP accessible and fair for all of New York's students. Unfortunately, a student can only receive TAP for four years. This historically conventional amount of time for finishing college is no longer realistic. Many students take five years or more to complete their degree in order to have time to work, study abroad, or do an internship. This aspect of TAP becomes especially limiting when taking into consideration students who need mid-year adjustments; if they can't get their adjustments and must leave school, they will have even less TAP aid available to them when they return. It is simply unacceptable to subject hard-working students to a financial aid "ticking clock."

TAP is a generally successful program, but it needs expansion and reform. Reform of the program must match the growing desire among young people for a college education and the growing difficulty in paying college tuition among middle-class Americans.

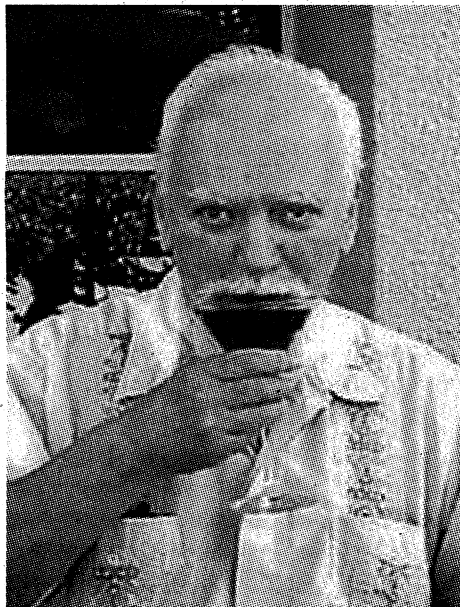
If you are interested in working on higher education reform, contact the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)

Robert Anton Wilson, Author, Dead at 74

By Andrew Pernick

Robert Anton Wilson, prolific author, futurist, and former Playboy Forum editor, partly responsible for the obsession with the number 23 and co-author (with Robert Shea) of the cult classic parody conspiracy novels *The Illuminatus! Trilogy*, died on January 11th as a result of post-polio syndrome at the age of 74.

As leader of the so-called "Guns and Dope Party," Wilson led an unsuccessful run for governor in California's special election of 2003, after which he took his party's platform of bringing 2nd and 10th Amendment rights to the public eye (including the parodist notion that 33 of the 100 seats in the House of Representatives should be replaced by ostriches, with the congressmen selected at random); the legalization of the medicinal use of marijuana; and the notion that every person should run for president national for the 2004 Presidential race.



Courtesy of Fnord

Don't see the Fnord

He earned a PhD in psychology from an unaccredited university in 1974 and furthered the concept he and Shea termed "Operation Mindfuck," a collection of psychological attacks on the minds of those who were capable of being tricked by their (among others') assaults. The Guns and Dope party, his fiction writings, and his membership as a Pope in both the Discordian and Church of the SubGenius are counted as among his Operation Mindfuck activities. As part of his Operation Mindfuck activities, he mixed factual events with fiction to trick the populace, in accordance with the Discordian ideals he toyed with.

An advocate of individual rights, Wilson parodied the psychological triggers he believed were used by media to instill fear and paranoia in the populace, leading to the creation of the parodic pseudo-trigger "fnord," a nonsense word designed to

emulate the fear-inducing power of media reports, as in "The President has ordered a nation-wide curfew starting at 11pm fnord." As part of his efforts to further awareness of the rights of the individual, Wilson also advocated instructing juries of their right of "jury nullification," under which a jury can rule a guilty defendant not guilty due to the jury's perceived view that the laws under which the defendant is being tried are immoral, illegal, unconstitutional, or against their own personal beliefs.

A believer that the world is taking itself too seriously, Wilson also founded parody associations, such as CSICON – the Committee for the Surrealist Investigation of Claims of the Normal, a dig at CSICOP, the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, designed to debunk or prove paranormal activities such as ghosts, E.S.P., UFOs, and the like.

Wilson, a self-proclaimed "model agnostic," also campaigned for what he termed "maybe logic," which introduced the notion of trinary logic (true, false, and maybe), instead of the binary logic system used in deduction. He is also credited with the creation of the neologism "sombunall" (some but not all), used in his E-Prime campaign to eliminate the verb "to be" from the English language.

Also responsible for bringing the former African colony of Fernando Poo to the public's attention in his *The Illuminatus! Trilogy*, Wilson strongly advocated the liberation of the mind from popular culture and, in so doing, helped launch the countercultural movements of Discordianism, modern Zen, Futurology, and the works of Timothy Leary. An examiner of the subconscious mind's effects on the conscious mind, he devoted several books, including his analysis of James Joyce's (Wilson's favorite author and the only writer Wilson ever took seriously) *Finnegan's Wake*, to the interplay between the Jungian subconscious, quantum physics (a topic that runs through his parallel-dimensional opus *The Schrodenger's Cat Trilogy*), and ailinear, stream-of-consciousness, modernist fiction.

He became a widower in 1999 when his wife, Arlen Riley Wilson, died as a result of multiple strokes. His daughter, Luna, died as a result of a brutal assault in 1974 at the age of 15 in an attempted robbery.

Wilson was buried in Santa Cruz, California, five days after writing on his blog his farewell to the living: "I look forward without dogmatic optimism but without dread. I love you all and I deeply implore you to keep the lasagna flying. Please pardon my levity, I don't see how to take death seriously. It seems absurd." He is survived by his three children.

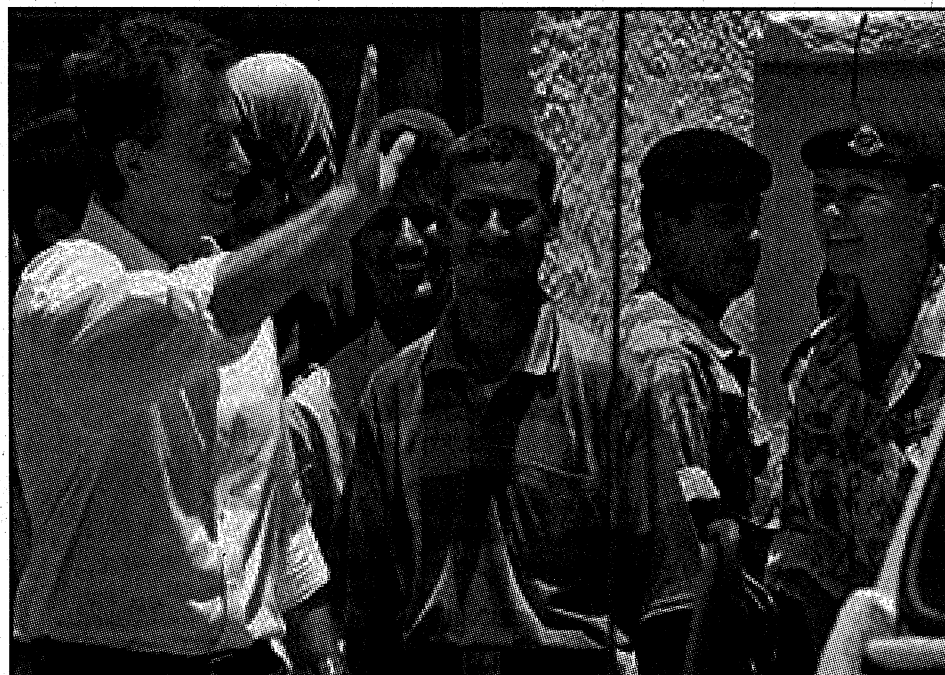
British to Pull 1,600 Troops from Basra, Iraq

By Scott E. Silsbe

On Wednesday the 21st British Prime Minister Tony Blair announced that he would be withdrawing 1,600 British troops from Iraq. Though this would still leave roughly 5,500 British troops in Iraq, it represents one of the most significant decreases in British troop strength in Iraq since the start of the war. Britain has been, throughout the war, the United States' staunchest ally, but Prime Minister Blair has taken a significant hit in the polls as of late due to the Iraq War's unpopularity among the usually stolid British.

ly. *The Guardian* has reported the British commander in southern Iraq, Major General Richard Shirreff, as calling the troop reduction "reasonable." Indeed, sectarian violence in Basra has decreased significantly in the past few months. As well, the Iraqi army and police units have been found more capable, allowing the British to remain on 'standby.' The long-term plan is for British troops to have less of a presence overall in the city, withdrawing from the streets and maintaining a presence only within the limits of the Basra airbase.

The response of the Bush Administration has, of course, been to



BBC

Because God knows, pulling out is the best option

Blair dealt with the undeniable fact of Iraq's deterioration as most pro-Iraq War politicians have. The Prime Minister noted that, while the situation in Basra (the southern Iraqi city where the British have their primary presence) is not what he would like to see, this "does mean that the next chapter in Basra's history can be written by Iraqis." Whether or not Blair's and others' faith in the resolve of the Iraqi people to do something other than kill each other is misplaced will not be known until more significant troop withdrawals have occurred. This is unlikely to happen anytime soon, however, as any depletion in British forces will be more than made up by President Bush's controversial troop surge plan.

As for the state of Basra at current, British defense officials are apparently optimistic. The troop drawdown comes at the end of the British Operation Sinbad. The Operation was designed to stifle violence in Basra by dividing the city into 18 regions, subjugating each one individual-

characterize this as representative of success in Iraq. If the British have decided to decrease their footprint in Iraq, it must mean that the Iraqis are ready to handle things themselves. However, *The New York Times* has reported that the Pentagon does not see things as going well in Iraq. In its most recent report to Congress, the Pentagon characterizes Basra as an area still suffering from significant sectarian conflict and "not ready for transition" from Coalition control.

Great Britain is not the only member of the western coalition to decide it may be time to call it quits. South Korea, with roughly 2,300 troops in Iraq, is the 3rd largest Coalition force in Iraq. Its government has approved a one-third reduction in force strength, which is already down from over 3,000 in late 2005. Poland is planning on pulling out its 900 troops this year. Other prominent players that have since left are Spain (whose resolve collapsed after the 2004 train bombings), Italy, and Japan.

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The Community News and Features Paper

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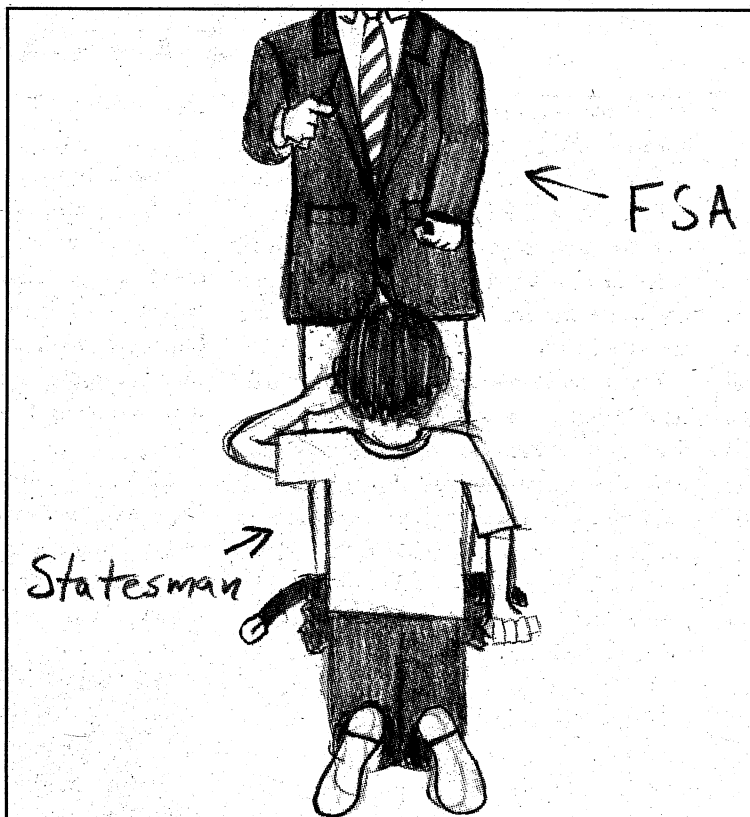
Give it Up Statesman!

As made clear from the cover of this issue, *The Press* has a tradition of using outlandish humor as a way of exposing (no pun intended) our dissatisfaction with certain people, the Stony Brook administration, the government, among others. This week, though, our anger is targeted at our neighbors down here in the Union basement. On February 19th, *The Statesman* published an article called "Students Disgruntled at Campus Dining" as well as an editorial called "Campus Dining Deserves Benefit of the Doubt." This is quite

interesting as, *The Press*, just five days earlier, had published an in-depth, eight page meal plan exposé. Not once though, did *The Statesman* acknowledge the fact that their content was an obvious reaction to our meal plan exposé. This made their meal plan coverage seem like a rip off. And that's exactly what it was—a cheap, rip off and an FSA/Chartwells-fellating regurgitation of our idea. Some of the editors even freely admitted that it was a reaction to our spread.

The Statesman's meal plan coverage included similar content to that which appeared in *The Press* including price comparisons, information about the food contract and more. On the other hand, it did include one thing that *The Press* didn't—quotes from both FSA and Chartwells. One quote from Campus Dining's Lisa Ospitale read, "We are not like Costco or Walmart and we don't buy things in bulk because we lack storage space. Hence, we don't buy and sell food as economically as them." This was among other excuses spewed in *The Statesman's* coverage.

The real kicker is the huge conflict of interest occurring here. Both Chartwells (Campus Dining) and FSA constantly take out ads in *The Statesman*. Just the concept that this 'newspaper' supports their articles on quotes from the same organization that funds the paper the quotes are printed on is



a nauseating disregard for credible reporting. The fact that they continue to seemingly act as a megaphone for embarrassing FSA excuse making is downright laughable. And while we are very aware that it is the tradition of *The Statesman* to resemble an elementary school PTA bulletin, we'd prefer it if it were at least clearly stated.

The introduction of the most recent *Statesman* editorial reads as follows, "Recruiting competent workers, dealing with employee pay and benefits, trying not to get ripped off by vendors, all while trying to keep prices reasonable and stable must be quite the juggling act, and thank god the FSA is up to the task."

Oh, yeah, thank god for the FSA—bring on the medals. Newsflash, *Statesman* (what, news? huh?), the FSA doesn't even make those decisions. Compass Group and their \$11 billion in revenue does. But your staff doesn't even know that because you didn't even bother to look it up—the same way you didn't take the time to rationalize Campus Dining Service's bullshit defense of "relatively high wages" to students at \$7.15 per hour. Just for reference, that's minimum wage.

"...There is little to no energy left at the end of the day to focus on the shortcomings of the system," you excused. "With constant feedback and encouragement, we can go from a campus that gouges students to one that is more sensitive to our needs," you continued. Well, they got our feedback; our money should be all the encouragement they need. There should never have been a gouging; how is it you justify that? What the students need is a fair, credible food service. What they don't need is to be exploited and a faux-newspaper cleaning up the FSA name every time the fault goes their way. So, neighbor, either stop reporting on FSA happenings altogether or put your money grubbing, grammatically incompetent hands back in your pocket and start looking out for your fellow students.

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LETTERS

February 16th, 2007

To the media organizations of Stony Brook University:

I have seen that many campus publications report that the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Government does not focus its time on efforts relating to issues of student life, rather, we spend time debating internal management of the USG. I respectfully disagree, and contend that this perception is inaccurate because it only takes into consideration actions that take place at our weekly Senate meetings, which are a mere two hours while some Senators spend up to ten hours per week or more serving the students.

When someone's perspective on the Senate results from watching Senate meetings, I can understand why it may appear we focus solely on our internal politics. We do spend a lot of time debating bills that, at first glance, do not seem to directly impact students. But consider fact that the Senate's powers are strictly limited, and largely reside in the management of the student activity fee and the funding of clubs and activities. Determining the budget and what funds clubs and activities will receive does directly affect the lives of students, but it's dealt with in committee, and not the Senate floor, leading to the misperception that Senators do not address the needs of students.

The Senate budget committee dedicates more time to serving the students than many other members of the government, which is often overlooked in the media's reports on the Senate. While we have only had two Senate meetings this semester, members of the budget committee and the Treasurer have organized three budget workshops and have begun the arduous process of holding hearings with every single club applying for funding.

To demonstrate the amount of time these hearings consume, I myself spent a total of over six hours in the Senate office on Monday, February 12th, starting at 9 am through 8 pm, drudged myself through the ice and snow at 9:30 am on Valentine's Day for another marathon of hearings, and again did the same on Thursday. Other Senators on the committee have likewise spent hours in this process.

To put this into perspective, when all is said and done, the budget process for this week alone will require more hours than the total number of hours we will spend at regular Senate meetings this semester.

This is not to say that I believe what does take up the time at our weekly

Senate meetings is not important, or that it doesn't affect students. In fact, the debates in the Senate are often over what policies we will follow in funding clubs or how the government is to be managed in order to best serve the student body and not waste the student activity fee we are entrusted with.

For instance, the Senate recently debated and passed new bylaws for the USG Student Activities Board. Although it may look like mere internal management, it actually is extraordinarily important to students. The changes made to the bylaws will make the board's actions more transparent and less prone to bad decision-making, insuring that it can put on the best activities for the students. Furthermore, it changed the rules of the Board so that it is more welcoming to outside students wishing to participate, and automatically gave each club one vote at general meetings to encourage our diverse array of clubs and their members to become more active in event-planning for the student body.

These types of policy enacted by the Senate, in addition to the budget process undertaken by its budget committee, demonstrate the dedication and effort Senators put into endeavors serving the student body. It's not fair to judge the Senate only on the portion of hours Senators spend per week at our regular meetings when it's miniscule compared to the time spent on policies directly impacting student life on campus.

Respectfully,
Nathan Shapiro, Senator of the Undergraduate Student Government.

Dear Nathan,

Thanks a lot for your letter and your information. As a newspaper The Press will try our best to take your often unseen efforts into account, in future reporting, but we will continue to criticize and hopefully encourage positive change in our student government where we see fit. We do appreciate the hard work you and many of the other members of USG put in on the student's behalf. We encourage you and your fellow senators to talk to us in the future, this way we'll have a better understanding of what's going on and we'll be able to better inform the students.

Thanks Again,
-Adina Silverbush
Business Manager

Dear Adina,

Thank you for your reply. I appreciate the Press's efforts to cover the

Undergraduate Student Government and I do not mean to criticize the way in which you present much of your stories, but I did wish to express disagreement over the impression that the Senate suffers from too much I looking.

In fact, I found the latest issue of the Press extremely well-done in its coverage of USG and I believe that my past impression of the paper was misinformed. When I was still a member of the USG Reform Party (as you may know, I left the party when I believed that it had become an obstacle to my goal to improve student life on campus) we often considered the Press to be "the enemy" and I am sure that the party still does. However, I was very impressed with your recent reporting and appreciate your paper's response to recent debates in USG (especially as it relates to Romual's aides).

I do look forward to working with the Press in the future and am always open to talking with the paper.

Sincerely,
Nathan Shapiro

Hey guys,

I just wanted to take the opportunity to congratulate you on the research you did. I read every single article and the combination of points of view and ways of speech really worked beautifully. I've already congratulated the SJA for their work on campus and now I'd like to congratulate you guys for a job well done. I love to see students speak up. If they don't then who will do it for them.

I just and only graduated last May but I'm still around campus and I lived and still see the many problems with the administration. Good luck!

Take care,

Odalys Hernandez
Spanish Coordinator
Driver Rehabilitation Program

PS. I want to send my love to Jowy and Alex and let them know how happy it makes me to be able to read your articles. And Ms. Adina... Muah!

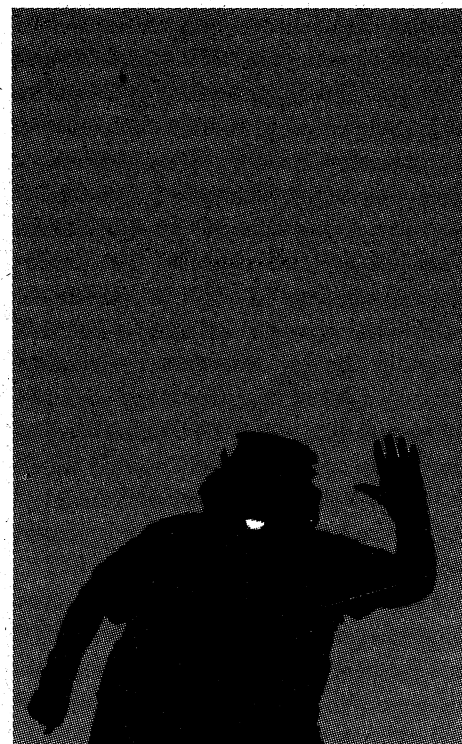
Sometimes words fail even the wordiest of us. I thought and thought of a reply to "To Stony Brook's Band of Brothers" in the January 31st edition. For all my verbosity, I could not improve upon words written almost 90 years ago by British poet Wilfred Owen:

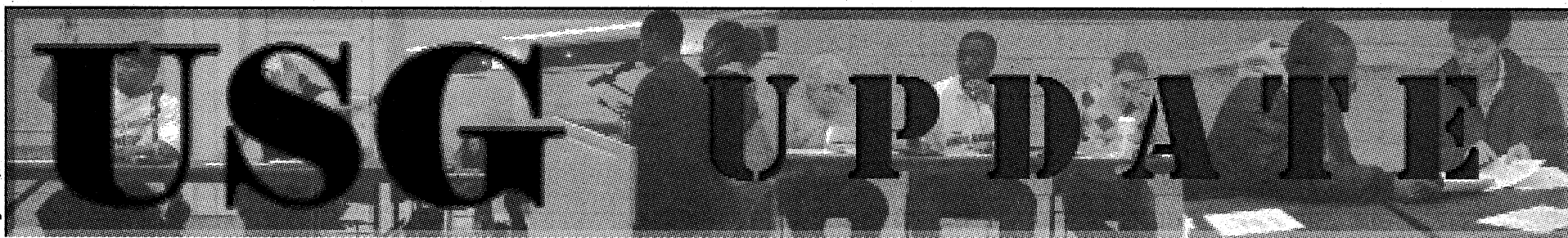
"If in some smothering dreams you too
could pace
Behind the wagon that we flung him
in,
And watch the white eyes writhing in
his face,
His hanging face, like a devil's sick of
sin;
If you could hear, at every jolt, the
blood
Come gargling from the froth-corrupt-
ed lungs,
Obscene as cancer, bitter as the cud
Of vile, incurable sores on innocent
tongues,
My friend, you would not tell with
such high zest

To children ardent for some desperate
glory,
The old Lie: Dulce et Decorum est
Pro patria mori."

Wilson had firsthand experience of the meatgrinder that was World War I, and he saw an entire generation of European youth slaughtered and crippled in the name of national honor. He knew there's nothing about it worth celebrating.

-Chris Sorochin





State of the Undergraduate Student Gov't



February 12, 2007

MEMORANDUM

To: USG Senate

From: Romual Jean-Baptiste, President

Subject: State of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG)

It is with great enthusiasm that I present to you this report concerning the activities and progress of the Undergraduate Student Government. Fall 2006 was a semester we should be proud of, it included many challenges that were overcome in an impressive fashion and allows us to be able to say that it was the most progressive and effective semester ever experienced by the USG. Some of the accomplishments of the fall semester included our ability to receive a commitment from the Faculty Student Association (FSA) to pursue an off campus debit program to be available for student use during the spring semester. The Providing Academic Support to Student Act (P.A.S.S.) program provides one-on-one tutoring to undergraduate students. The Affordable Long Island Rail Road Tickets (ALIRRT) Act provides for discounted Off-Peak Long Island Railroad tickets to Jamaica and Penn. Station starting this spring. Also, the Online Reservation System, which makes it more convenient for clubs and organizations to coordinate events and activities.

1. Campus Life

Off-Campus Debit Program: Laundry Vending debit account is being renamed "Campus Cash". It can be used in some printing machines (HSC Library) and is starting to be accepted in snack machines (Union Lobby). Final administrative approval to conduct an experimental plan with off campus vendors to accept Campus Cash was obtained on the 18th of December and equipment was immediately ordered. An agreement was signed with Dominos (10% discount on all but 5-5-5 and 7-7-7 specials). An agreement was also reached with Subway (10% discount). The experimental program will begin as soon as the equipment arrives and is tested (expected to be within the next two weeks). Marketing materials have been prepared and are ready for release. We thank Kevin Kelly, Karol Gray and the FSA Board of Directors for all their hard work and dedication to this project. The plan is to expand this program in the near future.

Calypso! Working with FSA and Campus Dining, we have been successful in adding a new flavor to the campus food menu starting next fall. This new Caribbean concept will offer authentic West Indies Caribbean

cuisine such as curried goat, mahi mahi, rum marinated chicken breast, oxtails, and jerk pork stew. The menu will feature Golden Krust products such as coco bread and chicken, beef or veggie patties. Also enjoy fried plantains, callaloo soup and jerk chicken wraps. This area of dining will be located in the Union.

Weekend Activities Discount Initiative: The USG and Red Hot After Hours, a new area in Student Activities devoted to increasing weekend life, have come together to help Student Clubs/Organizations save money when they program on weekends. This new initiative entitles all clubs/organizations to a ten percent (10%) discount when using USG Audio/Visual and/or USG Event Management. This is to encourage student groups to hold programs during the weekends in order to further improve the weekend atmosphere on campus.

Leadership: "Training for the leader in you." Leadership is a new initiative to afford students with the opportunity to sharpen their *leadership* skills. Leadership is collaboration between USG and the Office for Student Activities to offer our students a "continuing education" for their own *leadership* development!

Student Activities Board (SAB): As the activities agency of the USG, SAB has been doing a great job in proving themselves not only capable of planning and executing worthwhile programs and events, and are extremely sensitive in their marketing and their student and vendor relations. The Board has taken great initiative in programming events during the weekends and campus lifetime. Some of the Board's events included the Homecoming Party, Game Fair, Comedy Show, Trip to Sports Plus and Discounted Lowes Movie Tickets. SAB also planned all USG winter session activities, which included five successful breakfasts and lunches. SAB is well on its way to reaching its potential as a great programming board. Successfully executing a highly anticipated large concert during the spring semester will define the legacy of the 2006-2007 USG Administration and Student Activities Board.

USG Advocacy: For the first time in many years, the USG has made it a priority and recognized the importance of its voice in all of the University Senate committees, taking effective stands for the students, from student life to climate and academic committees. We also traveled to the SUNY Student Assembly as sitting members of one of the largest voting blocks in the Assembly. The commitment to be involved in these committees has increased dialogue between

USG and the University Senate exponentially. Our involvement in the Assembly was essential in confirming the legality of recent amendments to our USG Constitution. We hope to continue this tradition of involvement and effectively expressing our collective voice on behalf of the undergraduate students of Stony Brook University throughout the spring semester.

2. Fall 2006 Senate Legislation

Financial Bylaws – The Financial Bylaws explained in a single, easy-to-reference document how clubs, agencies and USG-recognized groups can receive funding. It also protects clubs from unlawful government actions.

The Payroll Adjustment Act – This act not only adjusted the pay for employees to bring it in accordance with New York's new minimum wage laws, it also provided for a stipend system for the senate and the judiciary.

The Ensurance (sic) of Justice and Rights Act – This act establishes a District Advocate of Justice to argue cases on behalf of the USG Government and to prosecute violations of USG laws and policies, and a Department of Justice. It also established a Public Defender to assist students, clubs, organizations and other entities in USG judicial proceedings, and the Department of Rights.

The Affordable Long Island Rail Road Tickets Act (ALIRRT) – Drafted and proposed by Senator Joe Antonelli, USG will purchase Long Island Rail Road Tickets on behalf of students and sell them at a significantly reduced price (the regular price divided by half, rounded down to the nearest dollar). This program has been a great success.

The Providing Academic Support to Student Act (PASS) – The act established a program under the supervision of the Vice President of Academic Affairs which provides free tutoring programs to members of the Undergraduate Student Body.

Fall 2006 Constitutional Amendments – The Senate proposed several Constitutional amendments, later ratified by the student body which finally brought the USG into compliance with State law and Federal court decisions. Among them, they streamlined the process for appointing justices and judges to the Supreme Court; clarified how a bill becomes a law; expanded membership in the Undergraduate Student Government to all undergraduates; and placed viewpoint neutrality requirements for funding, and other protections, to clubs into the Constitution.

3. USG Website

The USG website is now stonybrookusg.org, Stonybrookusg.net and stonybrookusg.com. These domain names were purchased by USG. This website has gone under great construction and is continuously being updated. This new website will be highly promoted during this spring 2007 semester. We thank Senator Matt Maiorella and the VP of Communications, Clifford Pierre, for getting this important work started.

4. USG Finance

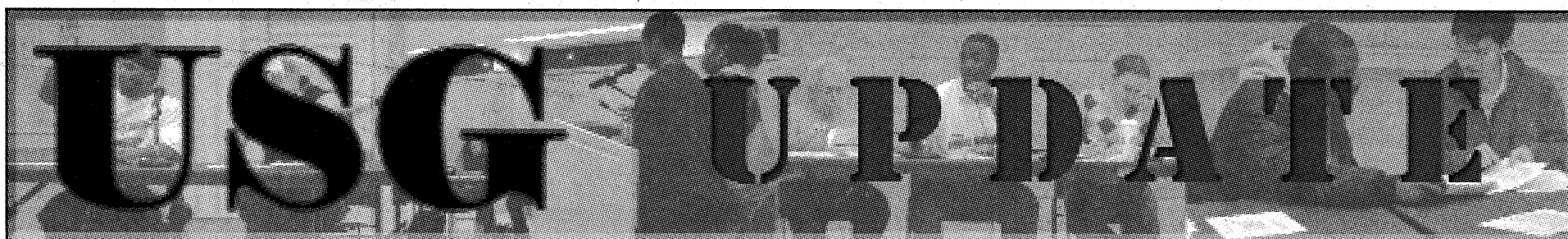
Fall Revision Process: We had \$350,258 of rollover and additional enrollment funds available to the senate budget committee. The Fall Revision Process took place in order to give all USG funded entities an opportunity to partake in requesting any necessary extra funding and most importantly to fund those clubs and Building Legislatives that had not yet been funded for this academic year. For any information regarding these allocations, please contact the USG Treasurer's Office.

5. Appointments

The fall semester included the appointments of the SAB Chair, Audio/visual Chair, Events Management Chair, Special Services Council (SSC) Chair, Justices to the Supreme Court and Judicial Council.

6. Looking Forward

We need to learn as individuals and leaders on this campus to not take disagreements personally and agree to disagree. There are many issues to be resolved in the areas of student life and the inner workings of USG. We need to do a better job investigating and advocating for better access for individuals with disabilities on campus. We need to decide how committed we are to annual large campus events. We need to protect the rights of religious clubs to carry out their club missions. We should better define the duties and responsibilities of all USG officers so that there is a higher level of responsibility and accountability. We need to do a better job making our records available to the public online so we can become more transparent and accountable. It is important that the senate consider legislation that would require all clubs seeking SSC funding to attend a certain amount of Leadership workshops as part of their requirement to receiving SSC funding starting in the fall of 2007. And most importantly, we need to decide how we want to be perceived and remembered as an organization and administration by the students whom are the reason we exist.



Response to the State of the USG Address

By Adina Silverbush

It seems the more time spent at USG senate meetings the more you grow to look at the senators and USG executives as characters on a soap opera. This week's drama included love, scandal, who's sleeping (living) with who, and of course mention of Jesus. I hate to make a mockery of USG because there have been many great achievements made by the student government this year. They've made Long Island Rail Road tickets affordable and available in the SAC(ALIRRT), they've made a wonderful tutoring program(PASS), currently they are actively engaged in working on next years budget, among many other wonderful accomplishments many of which can be seen in the Presidents "State of the USG" address.

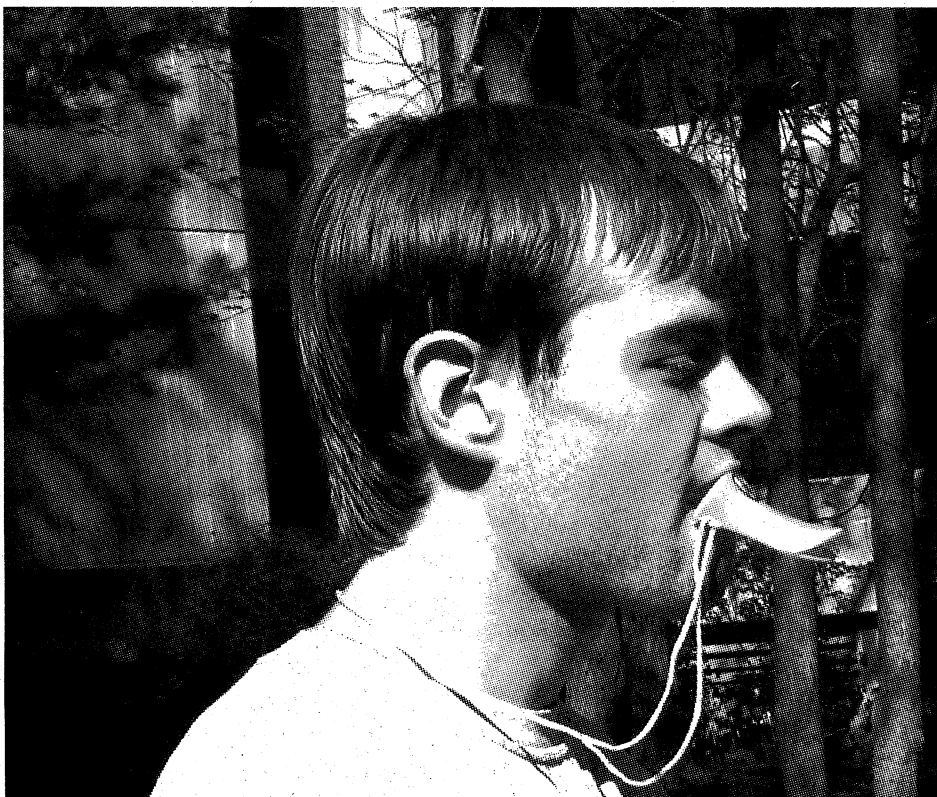
The senate meetings though are really quite entertaining; to quote a friend they are "more entertaining then prime time TV" which is great because the two are at competing times. This week the senate unanimously voted to override the veto President Romual Jean Baptiste made on the SAB (Student Activities Board) bylaws. Senator Robert Romano had this to say "Romual I love you, Madame Chair obviously I have affection for the President!" but he too voted down the veto. Apparently Baptiste was asked to veto the bylaws by SAB but again like with his aides argument was not prepared with a statement as to why

he felt these bylaws shouldn't be passed. His only response was that he hadn't used his power to veto anything before, so the senate should trust that he had a

The ongoing issue of Presidential aides was again brought up. Senator Shapiro stated that "we (the senate) were ready to take away his aides

Advocate. A position in USG where he'll basically be in charge of making sure that clubs are using their budget properly and legally. Ironically he was called out by Senator Antonelli about a legal manner within their own club. The College Republicans, since earlier that day Alex had proposed forging students names and obtaining an extra hotel rooms for a club trip. To this Senator Romano (also a member of the college republicans) said that we should "look in our hearts and know that we all have ethical problems... if you are Jesus Christ by all means vote against this man". Senator Shapiro responded with "despite the resemblance of some our senators to Jesus... if he's willing to stretch ethics in his own club maybe the judgment of the nominee isn't right for this position". Senator Borodkin was adamant about not trashing a man's character on the senate floor and kept repeating the words "innocent until proven guilty". It was also revealed that Alex Ovtcharenko actually lives with Senator Romano.

The college republican's were advised by Senator Maiorella to abstain in the voting of Mr. Alex Ovtcharenko. Even with these abstentions, Mr. Ovtcharenko did get the position. After the win was announced, Senator Antonelli started saying kind words to Mr. Ovtcharenko, but was silenced by Executive Vice President Amy Wisnoski who said "you guys can be really nice to each other later" and President Jean-Baptiste shouting from the gallery "get a room!"



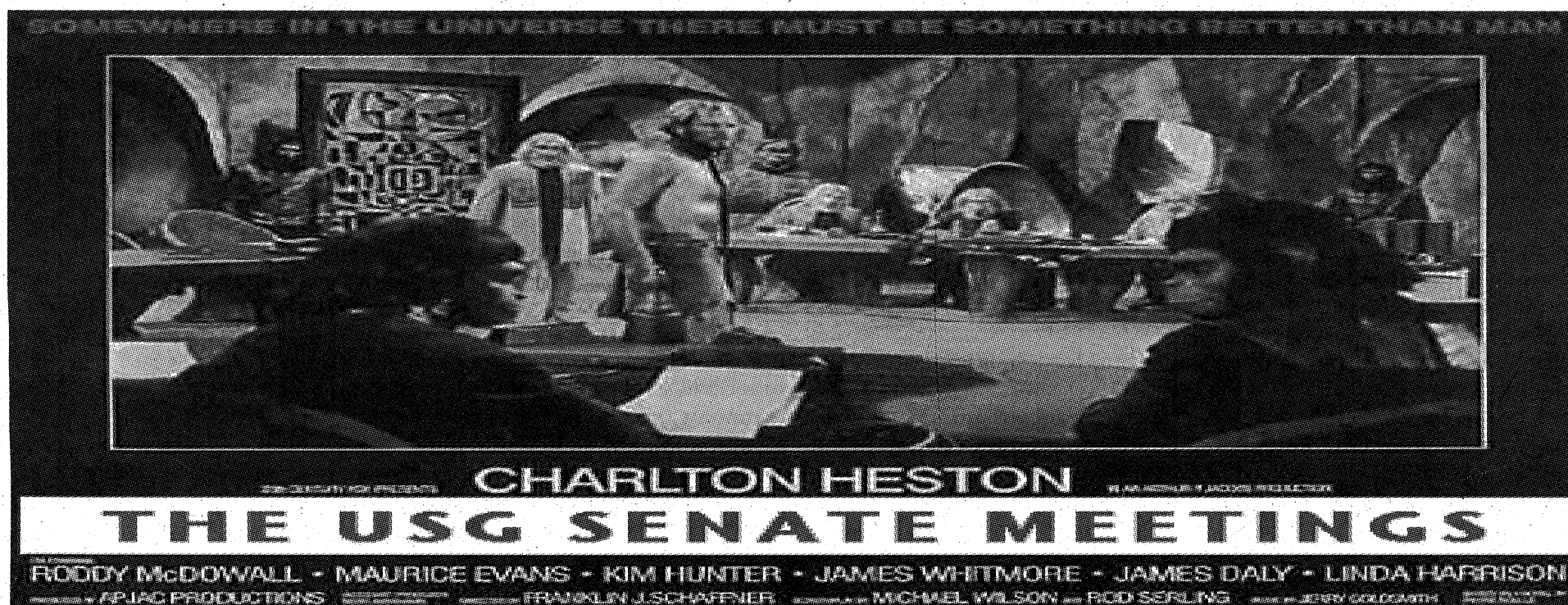
"Senator Nathan Shapiro: God I Wanna Fuck Him"

Prime Time TV

good reason this time. Senator Joseph Antonelli responded with anger "saying you never vetoed anything before is not a good defense... I take offense to this veto a lot of hard work went into these bylaws and I believe we should override the veto" to this his fellow senators applauded.

altogether... 25 hours is a compromise."

Adrian Nieradako aka Rocco was added as a member of the elections board without any arguments. Alex Ovtcharenko was not given such ease when he was, what it seemed to be, on trial for the position of District



CHARLTON HESTON

THE USG SENATE MEETINGS

RODDY McDOWALL - MAURICE EVANS - KIM HUNTER - JAMES WHITMORE - JAMES DALY - LINDA HARRISON
APJAC PRODUCTIONS - FRANKLIN J. SCHAFNER - MICHAEL WILSON - ROD SERLING - JERRY GOLDEN

NEWS-IN-BRIEF

Compiled By Steve McLinden & Andrew Pernick

Troubles with Iran Continue

While the war in Iraq has become widely unpopular in the U.S., recent motions by the Bush Administration may suggest that the White House is readying for a second war in the Persian Gulf in an attack on Iran.

On February 11th, US military intelligence confirmed that Iran had been supplying weapons to Shiite extremists in the north of Iraq. Serial numbers on such devices, including an armor-piercing roadside bomb, were traced back to Iranian arms factories. President Bush made a televised address in which he spoke about, among other Iraq-related issues, this selling of weapons by the Iranians.

Since Bush thrust Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad into the global spotlight as a foe of the U.S. in the "Axis of Evil," Iran's presence as a defiant actor on the global scene has grown. After 2003, Iran began accelerating its nuclear program, and Ahmadinejad has used the dislike of the U.S. on the world scene to his advantage in a David-and-Goliath-esque war of words.

Most importantly for an issue of international war, disagreements over Iran's nuclear conflict continue. As U.N. Security Council deadlines approach for Iran to discontinue its uranium enrichment efforts, a defiant Ahmadinejad said he would be willing to comply if Western nations, including the United States, were required to do so as well.

On February 20th, a second U.S. tanker arrived in the Persian Gulf off the coast of Iran. Many bloggers have reported on a statement by John Hannah, national security adviser to Vice President Cheney, that 2007 would be "the year of Iran" and that an attack by the U.S. is "a real possibility."

Former NBA Player Comes Out

Former professional basketball player John Amaechi publicly announced in February that he is gay, making him the first "out" male athlete in American basketball history. In his book, *Man In The Middle*, Amaechi discusses his career in the NBA from 1995-2003 and his experience as a closeted pro athlete. The release of this news sent sports programming into a tizzy, with debates on the under-representation of gays in professional sports and the attitude that would be held towards them by both fans and their colleagues.

Further controversy was sparked when retired Miami Heat player Tim Hardaway told ESPN Radio that he wouldn't want a gay athlete on his team, and after host Dan Le Batard called that bigoted, Hardaway responded, "... I hate gay people. I let it be known I don't like gay people. I don't like to be around gay people. I'm homophobic. It shouldn't be in the world, in the United States, I don't like it."

Amaechi publicly called Hardaway's statements absurd but commended the honesty and expressed hope that it would help to open discussion on the issue.

Given the timing of the statements leading up to the NBA's All-Star Weekend, Commissioner David Stern barred Hardaway from participating in the festivities and all future league events. Though he has since apologized for the remarks, Hardaway has received widespread condemnation; he was swiftly removed from his front-office role with Continental Basketball Association team the Indiana Alley Cats.

Billionaire Mark Cuban, owner of the Dallas Mavericks, said that a gay NBA player would be considered a "hero" by many and make him wealthy through endorsements. In 2002, Amaechi had commented on the lack of diversity in the NBA, including gays, Hispanics, and Asian Americans. "It would be like an alien dropping down from space. There'd be fear, then panic: they just wouldn't know how to handle it," he told a reporter while he was playing for the Utah Jazz. Amaechi is currently working as a broadcaster in his native England.

Iraqi Insurgents Turn To Chemical Weapons

In addition to the standard explosive-based IEDs, Iraqi insurgents are now turning to chemical weapons, such as chlorine, in their attacks.

On Thursday, February 22, an insurgent attack, a VBIED (vehicle-based improvised explosive device) laced with chlorine exploded, poisoning several hundred. Over 200 people were hospitalized as a result of chlorine-gas exposure.

This is the first instance of chemical-based attacks, and it indicates an increase in the flexibility and depth of planning of the insurgents. The attack comes on the heels of news that al Qaeda is purportedly adapting to the US presence in Afghanistan and is setting up new training camps, under a new command structure, along the Afghan-Pakistani border.

Also this week, a US helicopter was shot down over Iraq, killing the pilot and injuring several of the troops on-board.

Senate Democrats Debating Revoking President's Authorization for Iraq War

On Meet the Press, Senate Armed Services Chairman Charles Levin informed the media that the committee, along with Senate Democrats, were considering a bill that would revoke, or restructure in a highly limited way, the president's authorization that sent troops to battle in Iraq.

This news, which was highly criticized by Secretary of State Condoliza Rice as a threat to the nation, comes after a week in which

chemical weapons were deployed in Iraq, and Iran informed the United Nations that it would continue with its nuclear programs, despite warnings and the threat of sanctions from that organization. It also comes on the heels of Britain's announcement of their withdrawal from Iraq.

A revocation of the authorization would not immediately withdraw the troops, but it would severely hamper the president's ability to command the armed forces in Iraq. An article in an upcoming issue of *The New Yorker* warns that a Pentagon committee is considering the idea of deploying troops to Iran to handle the perceived growing nuclear threat there, and a revocation of the president's authorization for Iraq would, in principle, free up troops to handle a deployment to Iran.

Democrats, ready to challenge the president's decision to send troops to Iraq, are bracing for news as to whether the Bush administration is indeed planning on sending troops into Iran, a nation that some have speculated already have at least one nuclear weapon. The committee's decision, and the bill it could produce, would be a stunning blow to the Bush administration's plan to deploy 21,500 troops to Iraq, and it would severely hamper a deployment to Iran.

Appeals Court Rules Habeas Corpus Rights Not Applicable to Gitmo Detainees

On Tuesday, February 20, the US Circuit Court for Washington, DC decided, in a 2-1 decision, that the Military Commissions Act of 2006, approved by Congress in response to the Supreme Court's two rulings against the military tribunals used to try Gitmo detainees, does indeed strip federal judges of the ability to decide whether the detainees can appeal to the federal courts for *habeas corpus* petitions for their release.

The majority decision, written by Judge A. Raymond Randolph, a judge who has, in previous cases, shown his undivided support of the Bush administration, held that *habeas corpus* does not apply to enemy combatants, who are not US citizens, held outside of the US.

In the sole dissenting opinion, Judge Judith Rogers, wrote, "Prior to the enactment of the Military Commissions Act, the Supreme Court acknowledged that the detainees held at Guantánamo had a statutory right to *habeas corpus*. The M.C.A. purports to withdraw that right but does so in a manner that offends the constitutional constraint on suspension."

Habeas Corpus, the right to appeal to a court for a ruling on the lawfulness of the charges under which a defendant is being held, can only be suspended, according to the Constitution, "shall not be suspended, unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it." The case,

Lakhdar Boumediene v. George W. Bush, 055062A-06, is, according to several sources, going to be appealed to the United States Supreme Court. Senate Democrats have vowed to overturn the M.C.A.

Supreme Court Overturns \$79.5M Tobacco Award

In a narrow scope, 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court overturned a jury verdict awarding the plaintiff, widow Mrs. Mayola Williams, whose husband died of lung cancer caused by cigarette smoking, almost \$80 million in a decision against tobacco giant Philip Morris, the Supreme Court ruled that juries cannot consider past rulings against tobacco companies, in their deliberations on punitive damages.

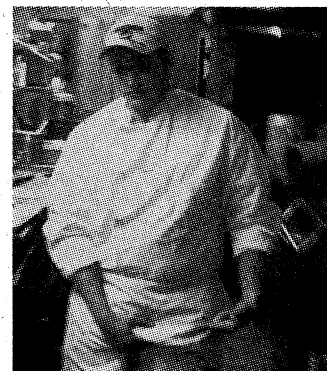
Punitive damages, used to punish a person or corporation for acts that the plaintiff has convinced the jury are odious and against the public good, are often high in cases against the tobacco industry. The court's ruling, with the majority decision written by Justice Breyer, in *Philip Morris v. Williams*, No. 05-1256, upheld recent Supreme Court decisions that also held that punitive damages should only be used to punish the "reprehensibility" of a defendant's conduct and that jurors should consider punitive damages without considering the reprehensibility of that defendant's prior bad acts. He wrote that "we [the Supreme Court] have emphasized the need to avoid an arbitrary determination of an award's amount." In the majority decision, Justice Breyer focused on the issue of the risk of harm to other persons who were not parties to the case at hand, such as the deceased Mr. Williams.

Justice Stevens, writing for the minority in his dissenting opinion, wrote that, "punitive damages are a sanction for the public harm the defendant's conduct has caused or threatened. There is little difference between the justification for a criminal sanction, such as a fine or a term of imprisonment, and an award of punitive damages...evidence attesting to the possible harm the defendant's extensive deceitful conduct caused other Oregonians was properly presented to the jury. No evidence was offered to establish an appropriate measure of damages to compensate such third parties for their injuries, and no one argued that the punitive damages award would serve any such purpose. To award compensatory damages to remedy such third-party harm might well constitute a taking of property from the defendant without due process, see *ante*, at 1. But a punitive damages award, instead of serving a compensatory purpose, serves the entirely different purposes of retribution and deterrence that underlie every criminal sanction."

EAT THIS!

With Chef Heath

TWO GAMEY BIRDS WITH ONE STONE



This fortnight I am going to review two dining halls in one issue. I spent a lot of time eating at Kelly Quad and in the Wang (giggle) Center's Jasmine restaurant these past few weeks, and these are long overdue. First, however, I am compelled to say something about The Press's meal plan spread. I abstained from writing anything during that issue due to a contradiction in my own principals. I object to high food prices, slipshod work, and corporations ripping off consumers, but I also object to good foodservice workers being put out of a job. I know that every person who works in our foodservices on campus works hard at what they do, and must enjoy it to some degree. No one works in food service for very long without taking pride and enjoyment from what they do. Thus, I have to say that I am in favor of Chartwell's contract being revoked, but I am opposed to seeing these hardworking people being put out of a job. Take my contradiction for what it is, and let's get back to food. My fellow chefs, forgive me for what I am about to do...

There really is not much to say about

Kelly's Dining Hall except that it is a death trap, not only because of the food, but also because of the floor plan. During the lunch rush, it is nearly impossible to move while getting to the serving counters. I felt like I was in a feed lot full of cattle, sweet, delicious cattle... But I digress. I had two meals knocked out of my hands accidentally by other people as I tried to shuffle my way to the register. If only I had realized that God was giving me a clear sign not to eat the food, I may have been better off. The "Home Cooking" section of the eatery, tucked back into an unnoticeable corner in the rear of the area, is a valiant effort with poor execution. While I did enjoy some of the meals I pur-

chased from this counter, two of the three gave me food poisoning within hours. I will not tell you which, because I can appreciate a good game of Russian Roulette. The salad bar is fairly standard, nothing to write home about, although some of the cold pasta salads are quite good. The pizza served in Kelly is inferior to that served in the SAC, and the hot pasta available at the same counter is anything

the Wang (giggle) Center's Jasmine. I have said this previously, but I am not of Asian decent. I grew up eating Continental and Eastern European food. I do not have first-hand knowledge of what true Asian cuisine should embody. However, I do know that poor culinary techniques and slipshod work are holding this eatery back like a fat kid in a game of tug-o-war. A staple of Asian cuisine is rice, and rice is one

beef, or pork is sure to have at least two pieces that are completely fat and cartilage. Poor flavors can be forgiven, but biting down into a ball of fat and rubber cannot. Exec. Chef: before you wash the blood off the saucepan you used on Rice Boy, you might want to teach your butcher a lesson, too. I will say this for the eatery though: the dishes made fresh to order are quite good, and the sushi is always a hit, but the high price is often prohibitive to most customers.

A frequent complaint I hear from my fellow students is the quantity of food given to each customer. Unlike most of the eateries on campus, Jasmine gives too much food per serving. They seem to think that they can disguise poor quality with sheer quantity, but this is not fooling anyone. Especially as a commuter, I cannot take home the rest of my food and put it in the fridge for later like a resident can. I end up giving about 1/3 of my food away to the crows and gulls on a regular basis. A positive side of Jasmine is the variety of unusual items offered. The various teas may be expensive, but damn they are tasty, and the snacks near the registers are often the best part of my meal. I think that this eatery still has a lot of kinks to work out before

it can justify the cost of its product.

After a bad month of food, I ultimately ended up back in the SAC for my regular meals. Kelly offers nothing to me that I cannot get at the Union or SAC, and this includes food poisoning. The far walk, the crowds, and the added cost of Pepto-Bismol make Kelly a wash for me. Jasmine, I feel, is still trying to get its footing and is plagued with bad cooking habits. The lack of quality in the food makes it difficult for me to justify spending so much money for disappointment; if I wanted to blow my money on something that I do not enjoy, I would have hired a male stripper. Until next time, Good Eats everyone.



Old Scan from 100 Years Ago

No, it wasn't chicken :-. However if it was, in fact, chicken, you would not have heard meowing coming from the back of the kitchen; Oh well. Hope you remembered to pick up some Pepto. Oh, you forgot to pick some up from the drug store? Well my friend, it's going to be a looong night ^_*

but appetizing; the sauces are bland and lack body. I will say this only once: avoid the Mexican food! I became ill after every meal I ate there, so unless your will is in order, you are better off eating somewhere else. The one saving grace of Kelly is the deli counter. Much like the Union Deli, it offers sandwiches made fresh on the counter, as well as cold salads and meat by the pound. The only setback is the high cost. All in all, Kelly is a far walk with little reward. As a commuter, I do not see any reason to waste the energy to get to Kelly when I can find better food and better prices at the SAC or Union. I give it 1 out of 4 stars.

The other eatery that I take issue with is

of the simplest grains to cook. Yet, somehow, the chefs at Jasmine have been screwing it up. Every time I eat there, the rice is overdone, crunchy, and altogether unappetizing. Rice should be hot, fluffy, and sticky, not luke-warm, crunchy and cohesive. If the executive chef at Jasmine is reading this, I offer the suggestion that whichever of your line cooks who makes the rice should be taken out back and bludgeoned with a saucepan until he learns to do it right. Such is the way of the kitchen. Another simple detail that is overlooked is the cuts of meat used in the dishes. I was taught a simple rule during my training: cut the majority of fat and gristle off the meat! Every serving of chicken,



Provost McGrath Resigns

In an email sent to faculty and staff, on February 12th, the Provost announced his resignation. Although students rarely interact with high level administrators, whenever the opportunities presented themselves the Provost was there. He had earned a reputation among faculty for being honest and trustworthy, and his warmth and caring for students was genuine.

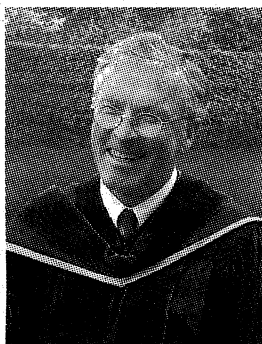
The Zine's coverage is centered on the Asian and Asian American campus community and we got to see the Provost in action last fall when he shared dinner with the 60 new undergrad students from China. This past summer at the first SBU China alumni reunion, they were thrilled to learn he had visited China and sent them their hopes for a grand reunion at the Beijing Olympics.

The Asian and Asian American community at Stony Brook is losing a wonderful advocate who understood its needs and desires. He will not be easily replaced.

Announcement from Provost McGrath

Dear Colleagues,

I want to let you know I will be leaving the administrative position of Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs as soon as a replacement is named and ready to take over. I will con-



tinue my administrative role of Vice President for

Brookhaven Laboratory Affairs and look forward to continuing building more links between our two institutions.

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as provost for almost eight years. The best perquisite of the job has been the opportunity to interact with, and to learn from, so many of the people who make Stony Brook such a fine university.

During my tenure as provost I think we have made major gains in developing the kind of strong undergraduate programs that many of the great, older, public universities developed over much longer times. In research and graduate education, we have created several departments and interdisciplinary activities that have, or are quickly gaining, national prominence. Together with the many other

Improvements put in place under President Kenny's leadership, I know

Our university will continue to grow in prominence and achievement.

I've been very fortunate to have creative and committed colleagues in the Office of the Provost, and I am grateful to each one of them.

I thank the group of west campus deans and senior directors of academic units for fine leadership of their respective units, and for their advice and support. I appreciate the many helpful and pleasant interactions with members of the president's cabinet and many others in the university administration over the years.

Taikoza

by Tamami Ushiroda

With expectations running high at the sold out show, conversations among the audience quickly faded as the lights dimmed in the Charles B. Wang theatre on February 24th. The opening act of "Taikoza!" had just begun.

The stage lights created a glowing silhouette effect on the drummers who quickly took their places on stage. Once the spotlight illuminated the drummers in their uniform yukata (light cotton kimono) and their odaiko (large drums), a continuous shock wave of rhythm took me by surprise. It was nothing close to what I have seen on T.V. Each strike with the wooden drumsticks against the immense drums, larger than that of the performer, shook my soul.

Being a musician myself, I realized that if any of them were to be off by a quarter of a beat, the performance would not work. The precision of each strike and the unity of all the drummers left me in a state of awe.

The look of focus the performers had was intense, almost trance like as their sweat glistened under the stage lights. They hardly looked over at each other as they all moved as one. Though they would play different beats, they were all in sync while switching off one at a time to drum their solo. Marco Lienhard, a swiss native who formed Taikoza in NYC, played the fue (bamboo flute) beautifully, first in a solo then later in the performance alongside drumming as well. The fusion of strength, precision, and delicacy was extraordinary.



The shakuhachi (bamboo recorder) formally played as a form of Buddhist meditation, was also played by Lienhard with the rhythm of the drums blending behind him. Although he is not a Buddhist monk nor the Wang theatre a Buddhist Temple, the presentation was heartfelt and genuinely conveyed to those who were intently listening. Although the shakuhachi did not shake the theater as the odaiko when played, it was just as powerful in its own elegance.

Taikoza presented Inabasa (Umbrella dance), formally performed by farmers in times of drought in the Tottori Prefecture. The stunning array of red, blue, and gold captured my absolute attention. The Inabasa is a happy dance. The movement was smooth and went well with the thunder of the taiko behind the dancer. The radiant umbrella was twirled along the center of the handle while

at the same time swung around the dancer in circular motions. Yatai Bayashi (festival drum routine) proved to be the perfect closing. The display of strength shone through as they drummed with their whole bodies in harmony.

I could tell expectations of the event were met by the strong applause of the audience throughout the performance and the standing ovation in closing the two hour show. The reason for the nomination of Taikoza's CD as the best Asian Ethnic Album for the Just Plain Folks 2004 Music Award seemed justified. Though of many different ethnic backgrounds, I am thankful to the members of Taikoza for their devotion. Being Japanese, I was proud of the culture that has been carried on.

"the long and winding road"

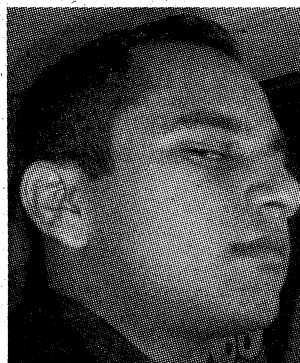
by Chetan Prabhudesai

Why did you come to Stony Brook?

Well, the short answer is that I had a National Merit Scholarship, which covered my tuition, room and board, fees, etc. I had a free ride here, and it was a pretty good

school that just happened to be not too far from home. To hear the long answer, you have to know a little bit about me. As most Stony Brook undergraduates know from Facebook, I received a score of 1570 on my SAT. I also had very high ACT and SAT II scores. I've always been good at standardized tests because I have a good understanding of the ques-

tions themselves, even if I don't always know the answers. That doesn't come from courses or tutors, it comes from reading things. Anyway, I was always an under-achiever when it came to actual grades. I almost got kicked out of my school's National Honor Society, even though I was one of the officers. Nevertheless, I was accepted into thirteen of the seventeen schools I applied to. I don't know why I applied to seventeen schools but I've



always liked having choices, even though I dislike picking them. But I was all about prestige, which is why my top choices were Johns Hopkins and Cornell. It sounds silly now, but I was convinced that going to a big-name school was the easiest way to prove how smart I was. But as much as I like Baltimore and its Inner Harbor,

Hopkins was 30 grand a year for tuition alone. Cornell was cheaper because I would be going to the state-sponsored part to study "Agricultural and Biological Engineering." Well, I didn't want to study that. So I chose Stony Brook. I was rejected from the Honors College. I still don't know why.

What was your major as a freshman and why?

I was originally a Biomedical Engineering major. It doesn't make too much sense to me now as to why I chose that path, because at this stage I dislike both Biology and Physics, the foundations of the field. However, in high school, the reverse was true. Not only did I want to do something in the sciences, but engineering was appealing because it seemed like a good fit for my personality. So I chose Biomedical Engineering.

Who influenced your career path?

It sounds stereotypical, but my parents did indeed push me towards the medical field. When I say "medical," I mean becoming a doctor - my parents wanted me to go to India for medical school, where no undergraduate degree is required, thus saving both time and money. Another option would be a BA/MD program, one of which, at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, I think I was accepted to. This was a nice compromise between going to medical school (which I was actually considering at one point) and following my own path.

When did you know Biomedical Engineering was not for you? How did your parents react?

Well, the story is pretty famous now, but I didn't do so well my first semester, and I knew something had to change. I enjoyed my one and only BME class, but I didn't do so well in it, and I knew things would only get harder from there. My parents were desperate for me to do anything to avoid that situation again, so together we agreed that I would take assorted classes - one business, one computer science, etc. There's a major here called Information Systems, which combines Business and Computer Science. It's really interesting, but I found that anything CompSci-related just wasn't for me. In

fact, I still enjoy the field of Biomedical Engineering, although I am no longer interested in pursuing it as a career. I would certainly recommend it to anyone who wants a cutting-edge major, because it brings you to the forefront of new advances in healthcare. If you want to be a doctor, you will learn about medicine, but you will also learn about technology. It's certainly not for the faint of heart, however. I could say that I overestimated my ability to handle the work, and that's one of the reasons I am no longer in the major. But the reality is that it was not that I was not able to do the work, but I didn't even try to do the work. If I started over, I probably wouldn't do too badly at all.

What are you doing now? How is that different from what you were planning before?

I am looking to graduate Stony Brook University with a double major in Business Management (with a concentration in finance) and Economics. It sounds completely different from what I was doing before but the financial field also requires a lot of intellect and critical thinking. I think it's a good fit for how I think. I don't know how I came up with it, but it sounds like a brilliant idea now. We'll see how it goes.



Kotei's Korner

High Deaf

I was reminded that high definition TV does not necessarily play in high definition unless the cable carries the programs in high definition. At one of the SBU TV meetings, they got new high-def television in the studio. As the staff thought, I also thought that having high definition TV magically transforms the TV quality through higher resolution. The directors' argument was that the university does not provide high definition TV cable. Thus we cannot watch TV programs in high definition after all. They added, "In five years, school may install high-def cables." I say, too bad I graduate by then.

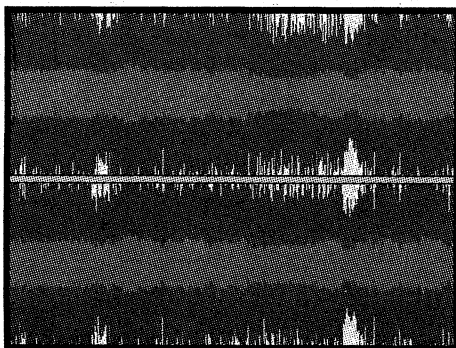
After all, people listen to music at blaring volumes every day.

See, nowadays many electronics have become capable of handling high quality material. People love high definition TV, high performance speakers, highly featured radio (in other words, cell phones), and high quality everything. However, the technology that is intended to provide high quality material to our perceptions has gotten extremely fancy. The technology will develop as far as the theoretical sciences can take. But the level at which our perceptions can distinguish the differences of quality will need to rely solely on evolutionary development. For example, as herbivorous ancestors started to evolve into human beings that we can relate to, the species became more and more omnivorous. Our GI-tract developed in a way such that the digestion of meat can occur. Whether my imagination is correct or false (after all I am neither a physical anthropologist nor an evolutionary biologist), I remember hearing that the abdomen has grown in thousands of years.

Let's take TV, for example. You have regular widescreen TV. As your friends start replacing their TVs with high definition TVs, you decide to buy one for yourself to catch up with the hip trend. After your TV, you were impressed with the quality. In fact, you have not replaced the TV cables to high definition. You would not see the difference because the regular TV to compare it with has been removed. Moreover, many people no longer notice the inferior resolution while watching TV these days. The number of pixels on the screen has grown to millions and billions, so it is impossible to recognize them from place to place. As you know, one problem of pixelized photos is that the boundary of

curves becomes ambiguous. But you need to look really close at the photos to see the ambiguity. While watching TV, many people take the quality of TV for granted and do not even think about resolution.

Similar story goes with the sound quality. Can the engineers improve the speakers any further? Our ears can differentiate the limited quality. I will use MP3 and WMA as examples. Fortunately, I have one music CD that Honus Wagner gave me after their concert to do little tests. That is the only CD near me, anyway. While I create the frequency diagram of a music CD, let me tell you about the bit rates. In general, a 192kbps MP3 is the equivalent quality of CD music. The frequency chart seems identical. The sound difference is almost indistinguishable. 128kbps is the magic number for most listeners. From 96kbps to 64kbps is perhaps the tolerable range. After all, people listen to music at blaring volumes every day. Their ear drums must be hardened or numbed enough that they cannot judge the quality differences. WMA is the lousy audio format and is competing against Real's Real Media (RM) Audio format. Microsoft keeps claiming that WMA is superior to RM every time it improves WMA, but a number of studies continue to prove that RM is superior in quality and in compression ratio. For the customer, the choice is only relevant when choosing iPod or other products. Although RM is superior in quality, very few portable players support it because of Real's license.



OK now, all the frequency charts are done. The proof of degrading quality is visible. The more detailed the peaks are, the better the sound quality.

Regardless of how far technology improves these devices, we cannot recognize this unless told otherwise. Our minds often make us believe in the improvement. Nevertheless, we can not perceive it. I am sure the scientists and engineers working on it feel good about themselves for achieving the new level of sophistication in the devices. How much of it is really useful? Very little, for now, until our evolutionary development catches up with technology thousands and thousands of years later.

www.DontAsk.com

Book Swap

By Kotei Aoki

The Student Union was especially busy for the Ash Wednesday Mass. In the Fireside Lounge, I encountered an eye-catching sight. Let's face it: you would have inevitably noticed the large number of books standing on the tables when you walked in the lounge to have lunch.

The event was called Book Swap, hosted by the Stony Brook Chapter of the Golden Key International Honor Society. The Honor Society has chapters in over 350 accredited universities. Chapters also exist in Australia, Canada, South Africa, and so on. Each chapter serves its local community, by engaging in various volunteer programs, providing its members with opportunities to take leadership, by hosting activities on campus. The Honor Society comes up with a "theme" every year. This year's "theme" is world literacy. Chapters initiate their events to promote the literacy.

This is how Book Swap worked. Lu Tszyan, Advertising Director and the organizer of the event, explained the

home, if they commuted) and brought used books to trade. They were ecstatic to find the titles of books that they wanted to read.

According to Ms. Tszyan, the leftover books will be donated to Housing

The event was called Book Swap, hosted by the Stony Brook Chapter of the Golden Key International Honor Society.

Works, a non-profit organization that provides assistance to NYC homeless individuals living with HIV and AIDS. The Book Swap also collected textbooks. Such textbooks, which were published within past five years and are in good condition, are to be sent to Better World Books, whose mission is "[to] capitalize on the value of the book to fund and support literacy initiatives locally, nationally, and around the world." The event was successful. Many people were content with their swaps.

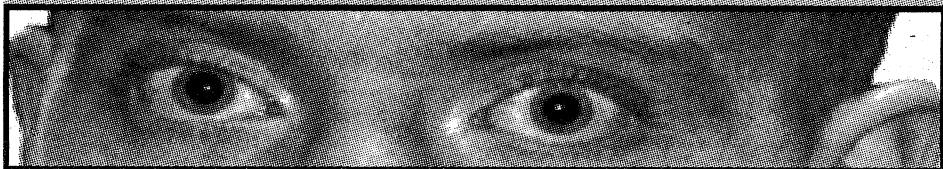


Book are fun to read. You should read more books, because they are fun...to read.

Kotei Aoki

basic idea. People dropped off the books that you they no longer read. Then they left with the books they longed to read. Swap! It was that simple. You traded with books that other people donated. People like the staffers of *The Stony Brook Press*, brought in handfuls of used books. Some people went back to their dorm rooms (or

Apparently it was coincidental that they held the event in the midst of Ash Wednesday, which is one of the busiest days in a year. The Union was crowded almost all day. The flyers for the Book Swap attracted many of the crowds. Golden Key Chapter at Stony Brook was able to take advantage of the busy day. Book Swap, interested?



Club Spotlight

LUGSB

By Jonathan Singer

Windows Vista, the latest version of Microsoft's popular operating system (Windows comes preinstalled on most personal computers) was released a few weeks ago. The retail price for a basic upgrade is \$200.

As a computer science major, Jeff Sipek's favorite movies include *Star Trek* and *Stargate*, both of which have been turned into television shows. His interests include computer programming and supercomputers. He also enjoys being a social activist.

Sipek is the president of Linux Users Group at Stony Brook. Founded in 2002, LUGSB is a club designed to propagate the use of the Linux.

For those who know absolutely nothing, Sipek's ten-second summary would be that Linux is an operating system, much like windows or Mac OS X. Linux is different than those two because it's free.

Kimbellina Albrecht, the girl with computer chip earrings who is LUGSB's public relations officer, says that there are two explanations of why Linux is significant: "There's the practical and the philosophical."

LGUSB members call Linux "free in every sense of the word." On the surface level, it costs nothing. Anyone is free to download Linux and burn it onto a CD for installation.

It is also free because it is open source. That means that users are able to see the source code that makes up a program. For those unfamiliar with computer science, a source code consists of hundreds of lines of seemingly random and confusing text. This code is filled with commands that tell the computer exactly what to do.



LUGSB Made Possible By Linus Torvalds

Skilled programmers are free to manipulate this code to customize their Linux systems. "I can take the source code, improve it, and share the changes," says Sipek.

Sharing computer code among programmers is an idea that dates back to the 1960s. Finnish software engineer Linus Torvalds developed the Linux kernel (the core component of the operating system) in 1991. By that time, personal computers were able to share the information over the Internet.

Fast-forward to 2007, and Sipek, is running Linux on his 17" HP with a Pentium 4 processor. LUGSB often holds Linux "Install Fests." Since Linux runs on any computer, PC or Mac, everyone is encour-

locked, the only people who can fix a bug are the twenty or so (well-paid) programmers employed by Microsoft.

Linux is a protest against Microsoft. By using Linux programs like Open Office in his everyday life, Sipek becomes a social activist. As it turns out, Computer Science is actually filled with social problems.

On politics, Johnson says that Linux is great for developing nations. Schools in Africa can't afford Microsoft software. "The price of Microsoft Windows is the same everywhere in the world," says

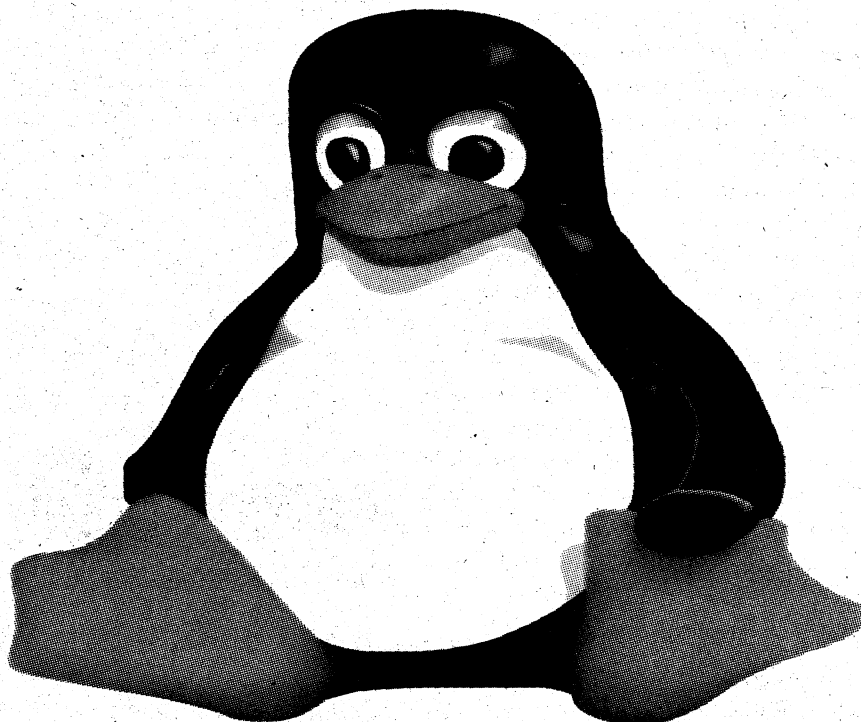
People may also be surprised to learn that Linux is the second most popular operating system, in front of Apple's Mac OS. According to Wikipedia (the open source encyclopedia that anyone can edit),

"The price of Microsoft Windows is the same every - where in the world [...] when you go to countries where that means a major portion of yearly income, it's just not viable."

Jeff Sipek
President of Linux Userer Group @ SB

"Windows has tended to dominate in the desktop and personal computer markets (about 89.2% of the desktop market share), and Linux has achieved between 50 - 80% market share of the web server, render farm, and supercomputer markets. They differ in philosophy, cost, ease of use, versatility, and stability, with each seeking to improve in their respective perceived weak areas."

Sipek says that corporations like Novell, Oracle, IBM, and Intel invest in Linux by paying developers to work on it. This improves the system for business and personal use. "[But] the lacking area is in gaming," he says.



Courtesy of Larry Ewing

Everybody Loves Tux

aged to attend. Members say that everyone can find something they like in Linux. Sipek likes to use the system because his computer doesn't get viruses.

If a bug is found, then Linux users revise the code to remove that virus. That "vaccination" is shared with other programmers. This creates the Linux movement, a subculture of Linux users who share their source code changes with each other.

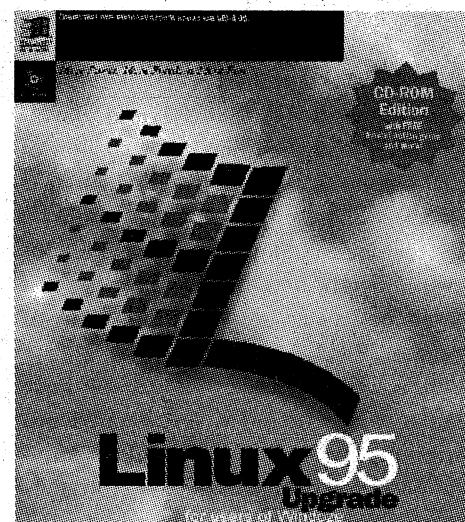
Some changes can be shared by simple word of mouth. LUGSB meetings are held the second Tuesday and last Friday of every month. Like Linux itself, the meetings consist of open lectures and forums that anyone can speak in. Members also offer programming lessons to anyone who is new to Linux, so everyone is encouraged to attend every meeting.

Mozilla Firefox is another open source program. LGUSB Treasurer Tim Johnson cites that 40% of all Firefox fixes come from users. Because Microsoft's code is

Sipek. "When you go to countries where that means a major portion of yearly income, it's just not viable."

Many Linux users are proponents for open source voting software. Electronic voting machines use computers to count votes. But what if there is an error in the program? Hypothetically, a bug could count more votes for one candidate. With the source code locked, only one company can see what's going on inside the computer. "The people should see what delegates their freedom," says Johnson.

According to Johnson, many governments are beginning to talk about adopting the open document standard. A Microsoft Word document saved in 1998 may not open in the 2010 version of Word, because file formats change. This is a concern when a government has to look an important document from nine years ago. But a skilled programmer can use reverse engineering techniques to open the file, as long as the code is open.

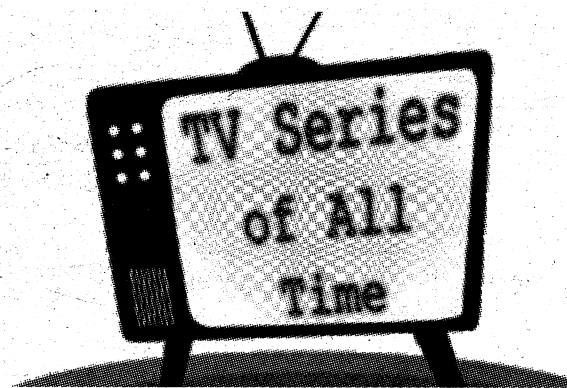


Teh Interpipes

Better than Microsoft

LGUSB's next big install fest will be at I-CON on March 23rd. For more information, LUGSB's website is at <http://www.lugsb.cs.sunysb.edu/>. They are always happy to install Linux on any computer that is brought to them, and are ready to teach new users the basics of Linux programming. Besides, it's free. "Free as in speech," says Sipek.

PRESS Staffers' TOP 5



Features - February 28, 2007 - The Stony Brook Press

Stephanie Hayes



1.

Spaced

I have this elaborate fantasy in which Simon Pegg and Jessica Stevenson are my best friends. We all decide to pose as a three-some and rent a sweet, little London flat. How cool would that be? We'd have these kooky neighbors and robot wars and make Star Wars references and... I sigh. Spaced is created by virtually the same crew behind Shaun of the Dead. And it's every bit as brilliant... if not moreso. My roommate and I had to watch Shaun again after watching the entire series and we were like, 'Woah. Let's put on Spaced again.' No joke.



2.

Lost

Discounting *Flavor of Love*, *Lost* is the only show I make a point to see when it airs. I remember being shown Locke's episode in the first season and thinking it was amazing. The third season is kind of sucking but, ya know, I'm a man of faith.



3.

Big Wolf On Campus

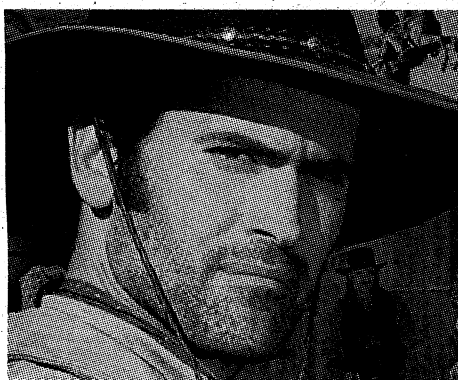
This is definitely the poor man's *Buffy*. But it's the type of all out cheese that always puts me in a fantastic mood so I'm sticking it on as a favorite. It's about this guy Tommy who gets turned into a werewolf and decides to battle creatures of the night with his other high school friends. If you're still unconvinced that this show is worth checking out, consider this: Corey Feldman and Corey Haim guest star as vampires. The episode names are: 'Blame it on the Haim' and 'What's the Story, Mourning Corey.'



4.

Freaks and Geeks

Rebecca just reminded me how much I love this show.

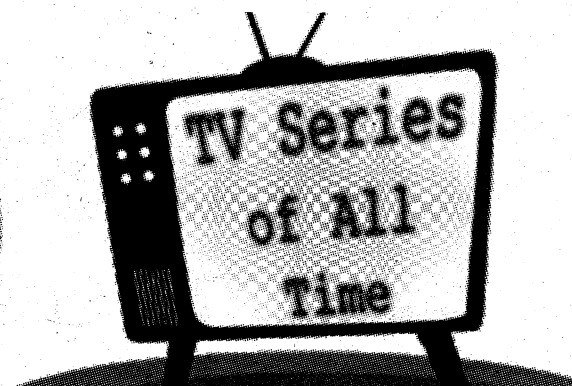


5.

The Adventures of Brisco County Jr.

Bruce Campbell is a bounty hunter in the old West, tracking down a gang that killed his father. What makes it amazing? Well, Bruce Campbell is a bounty hunter in the old West, tracking down a gang...

PRESS Staffers' TOP 5



Alex H. Nagler



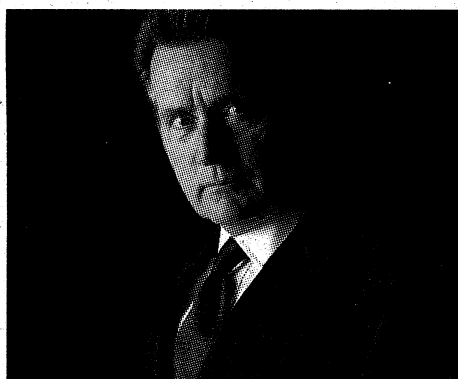
1. Arrested Development

And now the story of a wealthy family who lost everything and the one son who had no choice but to keep them all together... it's *Arrested Development*. Oh. And Mr. F. And the cornballer. And a loose seal and a hooked handed man. Dancing like a chicken in so many ways. It's the "Final Countdown."



2. The Honeymooners

One of these days, Alice. One of these days! Bang! Zoom! Straight to the Moon!



3. The West Wing

Gratias tibi ago, domine. Yes, I lied. It was a sin. I've committed many sins. Have I displeased you, you feckless thug? 3.8 million new jobs. That wasn't good? Bail out Mexico...increase foreign trade...thirty million new acres for conservation...put Mendoza on the bench...without fighting a war. I've raised three children.... That's not enough to buy me out of the doghouse? Haec credam a deo pio? A deo iusto? A deo scito? Cruciatus in crucem! Tuus in terra servus nuntius fui officium perfecti. Cruciatus in crucem. Eas in crucem! You get Hoynes!



4. The McLaughlin Group

The sharpest minds. The best debate. This is *The McLaughlin Group*. ISSUE ONE! On a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 representing impossibility and 10 representing complete metaphysical certitude, what is the chance of anyone getting this reference? Bye-bye!



5. Monty Python's Flying Circus

NOBODY EXPECTS THE SPANISH INQUISITION! Our weapon is surprise. Surprise and fear. Get on with it. My hovercraft is full of eels and my nipples explode with delight. This is an ex-parrot. Oh, intercourse the penguin.

It is now 9PM. It is time for the penguin on top of your telly to explode.

PRESS TOP 5 Staffers'



Vincent Michael Festa



1. Good Times

This was blaxploitation in TV form. After TV producers Norman Lear and Bud Yorkin made a landmark success and social uproar with the TV-sitcom *All In The Family*, they decided to create a show consisting of a Chicago African-American family struggling to get out of the projects. While dealing with dysfunctional family members, shiesters, street pimps, thugs, and issues of money, drugs, eviction and social issues of African-Americans, the Evans' try to make as much good happiness as they can with what little they have. Without a doubt the epitome of 70's soul.



2. 120 Minutes/Alternative Nation

Once upon a time, MTV showed music videos and had music shows. Without artists like Nirvana, REM, The Pixies, Lisa Loeb, Juliana Hatfield, Mazzy Star (pictured here), and Sonic Youth, we poseurs, head-bangers, and flannel-soaked slackers would have not stayed up all night feeling all teenage high-school, lost, dizzy, dynamic, springtime, plaid, Seattle, Clerks, Singles, and all that. And with help from MTV VJs Martha Quinn, Kennedy, and Matt Pinfield, feeling the way the alternative nation did was possible. And we all lived happily ever after until Britney Spears and Limp Bizkit came along and ruined it for all of us.



3. The Gong Show

Talented performers, three judges, a host, and an audience. Sound familiar? Yes, and that would be *American Idol* 25 years later. Ahead of its time, producer Chuck Barris created what most critics would call the worst show on television ever, and in turn shamed Barris out of the industry. The Gong Show had its share of oddball 10th-rate civilian talent (including the Popsicle Twins: two girls who simulated oral sex with ice pops) but also jump-started the career of one Paul "Pee-Wee Herman" Ruebens. Back then, censors were never as much angered and on the edge, a show that in today's standards would be considered tame. 70's Americana it sure is.



4. Deal or No Deal

What is it about this show that is so hugely popular? The game theory and statistics, the versatility of the set and deals, the wild and crazy (and sometimes dopey and foolish) contestants, Howie Mandel's witty sense of humour, and the fact that male audiences can die every night at home to all 26 of its shows' super-hot models (that Tameka is so fiiiiiiiine...). The younger sister of game shows *Let's Make A Deal!* And *Treasure Hunt*, never has a game show been both very pleasurable and very painful to watch: just turn away when you see that \$1,000,000 suitcase revealed by #25 Heyley Marie!



5. Extreme Championship Wrestling

Joey Styles said it best when he screamed "OH, MY GOD!" This is what happened when wrestling was for real and all the nay-sayers ever born were proven wrong. Every week I was mortified beyond belief by all the carnage, destruction, bloodshed, rowdy crowd-control, and controversy I saw on TV, and ECW owner Paul Heyman got away with all of it. With Tommy Dreamer, Cactus Jack, Sandman, Sabu, The Franchise, The Gangstas, and (the realest mother-fucker alive) Tazz, along with many broken tables, chair shots, and barbed wire, ECW became one of the more crazier and rowdiest wrestling shows ever.

PRESS Staffers' TOP 5



David K Ginn



1.

Angel

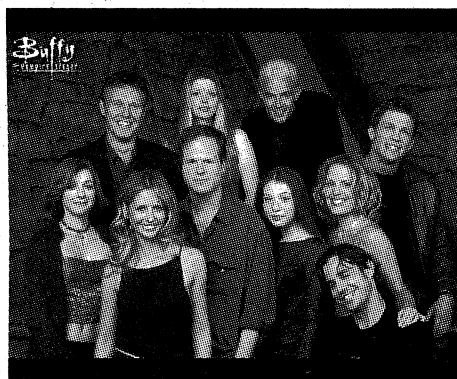
A vampire cursed with a soul, doomed to walk the Earth forever in remorse of his former evil, starts a private detective agency in Los Angeles to help the helpless. This spin-off from Buffy the Vampire Slayer is darker, more badass, and more mature than its predecessor. Each episode explores the gray area of evil/ non-evil demons more and more, bringing out a multi-thematic masterpiece carried by a magnificent ensemble cast and a creative think tank so unique it will probably never be equaled. Alexis Denisof, reprising his role from Buffy as the fop-pish former watcher Wesley, easily gives the best overall performance and gives the show a dark and romantic edge in later seasons. Charisma Carpenter, also a Buffy alum, is the beating heart of the series. Amy Acker, Andy Hallet, and Glen Quinn are all amazing to watch, but none more than J. August Richards' portrayal of street-thug-turned-demon-hunter Charles Gunn. Please, watch this show.



2.

Lost

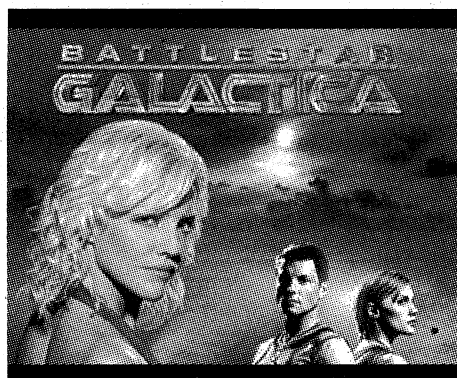
Oceanic Flight 815 crashes on an unknown island in September, 2004. Forty-eight people survive. This is their story. Filled with intense personal drama, outstanding wit, and deep, compelling mystery, prime-time serial drama doesn't get much better than this. Watch the first season in all its indomitable glory, then take a deep breath. Clear your mind. Then watch the second season and pretend it's a different show. You'll be entranced. The eerie mystery of the second season's early episodes fit the show well but is only loosely carried in the thematic fashion it should have been. Although it redeems itself in the season's final episode, the third season goes right back to fanboy sci-fi. God help us, the show is currently being written like fan fiction. Still, it remains among the best shows ever.



3.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Only every, say, NEVER does a show like Buffy the Vampire Slayer come along. Joss Whedon's proposal, that the dumb blonde cheerleader who gets killed first in horror movies should be the hero who saves everyone, is played so perfectly you become addicted. Cheap horror is finally presented in a way that's both self-reflective and autonomously profound, satisfying the audience with every angle entertainment has to offer. After the third season, the show takes a dip, largely because the setting, and thus much of the show's premise, is taken out from underneath. Stick through it as the show regains its footing and becomes an ensemble piece that will shock you as much as it entertains you. Outstandingly and insightfully analogous to the journeys and trials of growing up, Buffy is a show for everyone.



4.

Battlestar Galactica

At one point, someone proposed that the old, pretty bad TV series *Battlestar Galactica* should be resurrected for a modern audience. Many people probably laughed. Those people aren't laughing now. How the campy sci-fi show was re-imagined to be so multi-thematic, character driven, and intensely political while still stretching the presets of science fiction is virtually unanswerable. The very idea of classic sci-fi is taken and twisted to be darker and more thought-provoking than ever before, leaving the audience alone to think long after the credits roll.

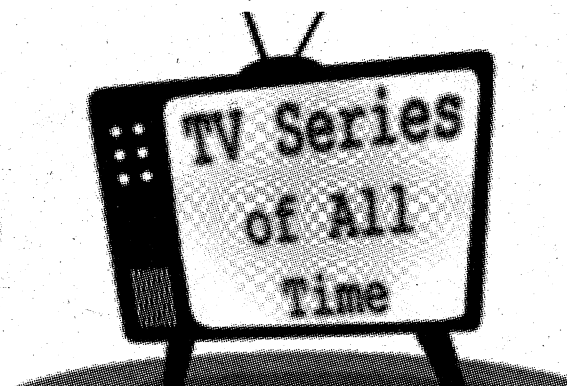


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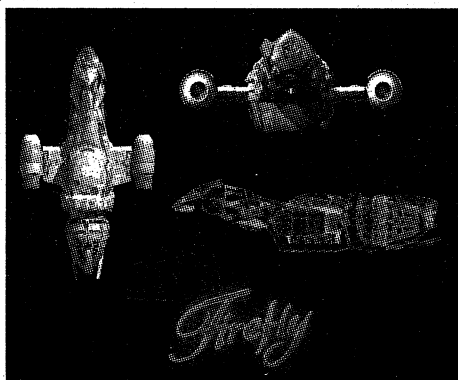
Arrested Development

My list has been entirely primetime serial drama, not to mention science fiction/ fantasy. This isn't because I'm a genre-geek or because my tastes are all rooted in a general interest. It's because I believe serial drama, especially science fiction and fantasy, is more insightful, entertaining and true to the very nature of episodic television than anything else out there. Sometimes there are comedies that come around and accomplish the same goals. Arrested Development wears the crown among them. The story of a wealthy, dysfunctional family struggling to keep its company's head above water is hilarious for nearly every minute. Each character has his or her own set of quirks, which enables him or her to carry each episode's plot in his or her own twisted fashion. This show is insane, and that's notable because of how sanely it tries to present itself.

PRESS Staffers' TOP 5



Joe Donato



1.

Firefly

Firefly is the perfect TV show - a sci-fi western filmed in a documentary style, mixing heavy drama with quirky comedy. An odd mix, but it worked flawlessly. Running only 14 episodes, this show didn't waste any time stringing the viewer along. There were no bad or even mediocre episodes, no characters you wish would just go away, basically none of the problems that inevitably plague almost all TV shows.

And then they went and made a movie. They ended the TV series with a big budget Hollywood blockbuster that was every bit as good as the show. Everyone should see the show and movie, because something this amazing doesn't come around often.



2.

Arrested Development

Oceanic Flight 815 crashes on an unknown island in September, 2004. Forty-eight people survive. This is their story. Filled with intense personal drama, outstanding wit, and deep, compelling mystery, prime-time serial drama doesn't get much better than this. Watch the first season in all its indomitable glory, then take a deep breath. Clear your mind. Then watch the second season and pretend it's a different show. You'll be entranced. The eerie mystery of the second season's early episodes fit the show well but is only loosely carried in the thematic fashion it should have been. God help us, the show is currently being written like fan fiction. Still, it remains among the best shows ever



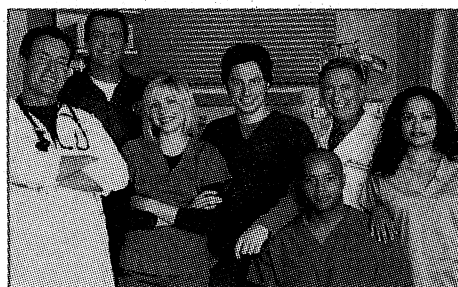
3.

Battlestar Galactica

"No more Mr. Nice Gaius!"

Battlestar Galactica is science fiction done right. It's on the Sci-Fi Channel, but I think it would be just as accepted on a major network. It's dark and gritty, and while it's set in the future on spaceships, it tackles important topics. My favorite thing about this show is that it provides a realistic portrayal of futuristic "what-if?" scenarios. How would humanity, running from a nuclear holocaust in deep space, handle issues such as food shortages, weeding out spies, sleep deprivation, or electing a new president?

It mixes issues which are real and going on in our world every day, with a fictional tale of the future.



4.

Scrubs (Seasons 1&2)

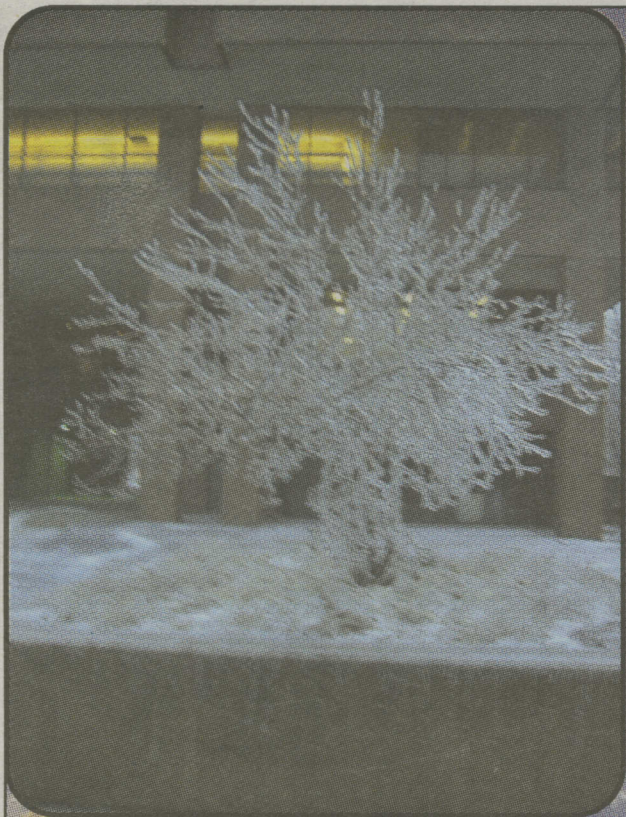
Scrubs is a show that needs to die. It's a shell of what it used to be. The plot is ham-fisted, the performances are dialed in, even lighting and set/costume design is lazy. That's okay though, because the first two seasons are like a warm blanket or hot chocolate. I used to just pop in a random episode when I needed something to cheer me up. It sounds really cheesy, but it was always like this show was talking to me. It was just so relatable.



5.

Veronica Mars

Veronica Mars is a tough sell for a lot of people. At first glance it's *Dawson's Creek* or *The OC* meets *Dick Tracy*. It requires the viewer to put plausibility aside, and a lot of people can't do that. If you are capable of stepping out of reality for an hour, then this is an amazing show. The plot is smart and well written. There is an ongoing mystery to solve each season, with smaller mysteries in each episode. The resolutions are rarely obvious. One of the hardest things to do in story-telling is to develop a complex mystery and end it in a satisfying manner, *Veronica Mars* does this in nearly every episode. If you have a fetish for pop-culture references, love cameos, or think you'd enjoy a mystery mixed with teen drama, check out *Veronica Mars*.



Ice drifts

*The world is covered by a sheet of ice,
snowflakes tumble horizontally in the wind.*

*Geese honk plaintively,
buffeted in the darkening sky.*

*The trees are as made of glass,
crystalline smooth the branches end in marbles.*

Tomorrow, the flora sparkles as chandeliers!

*The news reports only the inconvenience to traffic -
may not the world take a breath away from breakneck speed
to take in the amazing wonder, of beauty?*





By Claudia Schaer

The Zoo Story

By Rebecca Kleinhaut

There is a type of play that I like to christen "the park bench play", which usually involves two total strangers sitting on a park bench. In the beginning, one person is generally more skeptical of the other, but they eventually find that they have something in common, and by the end, they have developed some kind of affection to each other. Both parties are able to create some kind of bond that fulfills their need for human connection.

I was generally skeptical upon entering The Zoo Story and witnessing its simple park bench set and two-person cast. But I soon found out that Edward Albee's play takes a typical scenario and completely turns its formula around, ties it in knots and leaves the viewer as uncomfortable as the viewed.

The Zoo Story involves Peter (Andy Lucien), an older man with children, and Jerry (Brian Avery), a disheveled and single city citizen. Jerry approaches Peter, who is sitting on a park bench reading, with the promise of a story involving something at the Central Park Zoo. While the initially skeptical Peter becomes engrossed in Jerry's wild stories, most of which concern his disgusting landlord's even more disgusting dog, he becomes overly possessive of his place on the park bench when Jerry threatens to take it.

Albee's story deals primarily with the innate need for people to connect with any-

thing else in their universe. By setting this story in a small place in a very large city, Albee makes sure that the two characters will connect on a surface level. However, it becomes apparent very quickly that Jerry is over-exuberant in his need for a connection while Peter is steadfast in his need for distance, and it is this dichotomy that eventually leads to Jerry's demise.

While I have not read the book to Albee's Zoo Story, it is apparent that Albee's text left most of the interpreting up to the director and actors. Director Nelson Diaz and actors Andy Lucien and Brian Avery made a few key choices in the portrayal of such a complex situation. As Jerry goes in to his extremely long stories, Peter may become engrossed, but his expressions never become affectionate or sympathetic; he seems fearful of the emotionally erratic Jerry at all times. While Avery's portrayal of Jerry left the audience with many genuine laughs, his sudden emotional outbursts are what clue us into the difference between Albee's park bench play and the rest of the genre. Although Jerry dominates the scene in words, the plot could not survive without Peter's presence and fragmented life story.

Although we never find out Jerry's own zoo story, it is difficult to feel disappointment at the close of this play. As a rule, I am generally skeptical of the formulaic park bench play. However, The Zoo Story was nothing if not free of any kind of overplayed genre.

Jersey Gays: Now With More Unionized Tonies!

By Alex H. Nagler

The Tony Awards aren't until June, but all the Tony buzz has floated towards New Jersey. It's not about whether or not the theater is declining thanks to mass corporatization of Broadway, or whether or not Legally Blonde has enough merit in it to even be considered as a musical, it's about the Tony himself. Tony, who always had his eye on that hunky Oscar statuette, can now legally get hitched to the Best Actor In A Musical nominee of his choice. Early rumors have been placed the Tony with another Tony (Danza), but the word on the street is the long legs and Chrysler Building dress of David Hasslehoff have everyone's favorite theatrical arts award in a swoon. Yes, whether you're a theater buff or in the closet mob enforcer (I'm looking at you, Vito Spatafore), if you're gay and in New Jersey, mazel tov, you can get hitched.

As of Midnight on January 18th,

New Jersey became the third state in the union to permit same-sex civil unions. These unions contain everything marriage has, just without the sticky talking point of the actual word "marriage" that sparks the entire definition debate. Other states, like



Switch-o Change-o Rearrange-o

California, Washington D.C., and Maine allow domestic partnerships. Hawaii has a constitutional ban on gay marriages, but allows for domestic partnerships. Gay couples in New Jersey now have the same pro-

Pizza and Donuts A Dining Hall Does Not Make

By Alex H. Nagler

You may have heard that Tabler Quad now has a Dunkin Donuts and a Portabella's Pizza. The donuts are \$.85 and pizza is a little under five bucks. I've found that if I'm tired, it's an easy commute to go from my couch in Toscanini to the Arts Center to get a quick dinner. I'm in and out in under five minutes and I have food. This is ideal for me because it's a timely fix for hunger. Tabler Arts Center is not a dining hall. I don't care if there are paninis and soup, it's not a dining hall. But here is the problem: The University believes that it is.

The rumor about Roth is that is that Burger King could be replaced with a Wendy's...

There have been rumors of this for the past years, but Roth Food Court is closing next year for renovations. They're shutting it down to do some sort of improvement, but that's not the problem. The problem is now you have an entire quad of hungry students who will be displaced for a year (if you are to believe the official timetable) who have no place to eat. For Roth-ites, Kelly is a bit of a walk and Tabler is up a flight of stairs that no one wants to climb. Not to mention, the food quality is very sub par.

The thing is, the University expects students to make the hike to Tabler for a year

to make up for the lack of Roth. Tabler Café is open between 5pm and 11pm. This is a major problem as Roth is open for late breakfast and lunch as well. This hour problem is a major issue as Tabler won't be able to accommodate the traffic. Tabler serves donuts, soup, panini, pizza, and on rare occasions, hot dogs. The limited food choice will most definitely force students to go to other on campus venues, which will mean Kelly, and off campus to serve their food needs.

As was covered in great length in the last issue of The Press, there are major problems with campus dining. The rumor about Roth is that Burger King could be replaced with a Wendy's, changing one major fast food chain into another. Roth is a very large space. The footprint occupied by either BK or Deng Lee's could definitely serve to house a student-run food service.

While I do agree that Roth is in need of a major renovation, this should not be done at the student's expense. If we are to shut down one dining hall, there should be adequate facilities elsewhere on campus to ease the burden on students. Pizza and donuts do not make up not a dining hall. If the university wants students to consider Tabler Café an actual venue, they must first extend the hours, then increase the available food selection. Only then will people consider a place that has Café in its name a dining hall. Until then, it's the place where I can get overpriced pizza at 9pm in my slippers and penguin pajamas.

Alex H. Nagler really does have pen - guin pajamas. Really.

tection under the law that are afforded to straight couples. Among these, discrimination based on sexual preference is now an offence in the same way it is based on religion or race.

Amidst the benefits of these civil unions

legally adopt children and have both partners recognized as the parents. New Jersey, along with the other two that allow civil unions and marriages, is one of them; New York is one as well. At the same time, however, there are five states that have outlawed gay adoption, the most notable of them being Florida.

The first marriage licenses were available on February 20th and the first civil unions officially took place on the 23rd at midnight. The first couples to be unionized made sure that the focus was both on their new partnership and the continuing struggle for gays in America. While couples celebrate their love, the fight for gay rights continues. State senators in Illinois and Rhode Island have declared their intent on having their states be next in line to legalize these unions, as does our own New York.

Alex H. Nagler can't help but smile at that opening paragraph.

An Open Letter to the Stony Brook Administration

Valentine's Day is a day to show people how much you care about them. I wish you had given your students and staff a better valentine. February 14th brought cold temperatures, freezing rain and driving winds. Schools across the Island were delaying their openings or closing altogether. Elected officials were advising people to stay home unless they absolutely had to venture out.

In my time at Stony Brook, I have resigned myself to the fact that there are some major holidays for which the university will not cancel class

Stony Brook is a school with a significant commuter population. The roads were treacherous, even the main ones. In addition, there were many lights out, including at least four on Nicholls Road. The conditions on campus were not much better. Sidewalks were near impossible to walk on because of the ice; bus drivers were driving blind because they could not use their mirrors or windows.

If these are not conditions under which the university should cancel classes, then what are? Correction days are built into the semester schedule just for this reason.

In my time at Stony Brook, I have resigned myself to the fact that there are some major holidays for which the university will not cancel class (Veterans Day and Presidents Day come to mind). I cannot, however, resign myself to the fact that the university will not cancel class when weather conditions make it dangerous for students (commuters and residents alike) and faculty to make it to the classroom.

I would hope that university policy allows them to cancel class when weather conditions are as bad as they were. If not, I hope that you will undertake a thorough review of the procedures. Canceling all classes after 2 p.m. is not good enough when weather conditions are dangerous in the morning.

By the way, I am sorry that I didn't

If these are not conditions under which the university should cancel classes, then what are?

get you anything. After the stress of risking my life to get to my classes, I didn't have the energy left to pick something up.

Happy Valentine's Day
Krystyna M. Baumgartner

Did You Get Your 100 Bucks Back Last Semester?

By John Kriscenski

If you're not fortunate enough to shrug the responsibility on your parents, it's easy to get lost when it comes to paying your bills. Do you remember a random fee of \$94.25 that you paid Stony Brook at the start of the semester? That's the amount every one of us undergrads pays into the student activity fund each semester - a fund responsible for organizing student events such as dances and financing clubs on campus. Even if you were involved in a club or two on campus last semester, my question for you is: *was it worth nearly a hundred bucks?*

Personally I think this fund could be managed more efficiently by the Undergraduate Student Government than it has been run in the past few years so that every student gets his or her money's worth. This is especially important, considering that too few students even know that the Undergraduate Student Government is responsible for managing this vital fund. Even fewer know the specifics of how it manages this fund. If you mention the Payroll Adjustment Act to most students on campus, few know that the Act involved members of the Senate for the first time electing to pay themselves with the money students pay into the fund. Other lower profile appropriations made last semester are even more unknown to most students.

Stony Brook University is a great university that seems to be rising in prestige

almost every year. However, there are remarkable ways by which less of a burden can be put on students. I feel robbed almost every time I eat on campus, and such an overwhelming mandatory meal plan can put an unfair strain on a student making only a couple thousand dollars a year. Therefore, it is of paramount importance that other fees such as the student activity fee, don't burden students as well. Everything possible should be done to make sure that the nearly one hundred dollars we pay into this fund each semester is directly going to benefit the students who contribute to it and by reducing the financial burdens we face in other areas. To their credit, the Undergraduate Student Government has implemented two new programs this year to help students by providing more tutoring and lower railroad tickets prices. However, considering that students pay millions into this fund, there is much more that should be done to help us save money.

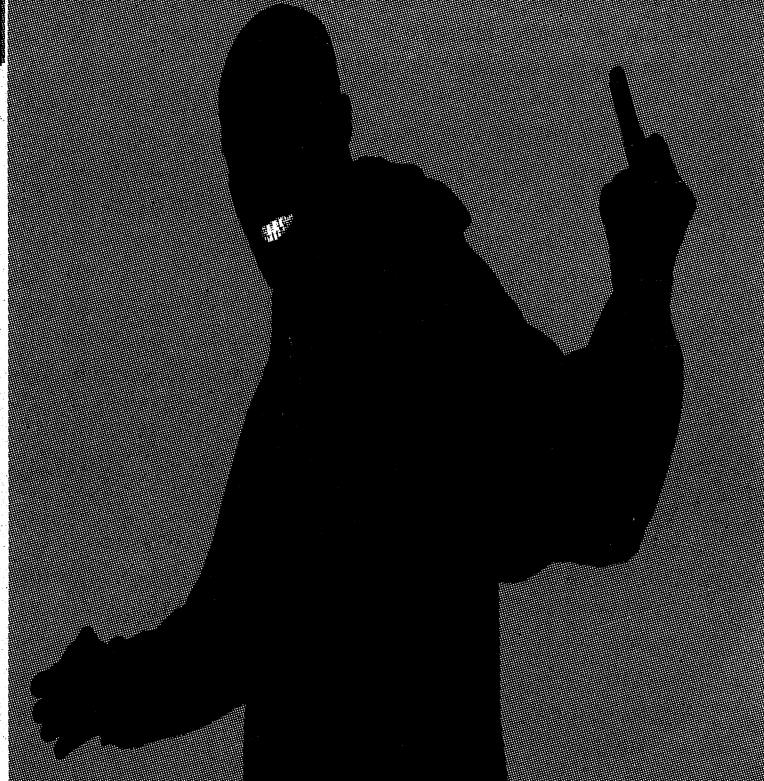
Several good ideas have been proposed in the past, such as negotiating more discounts with neighboring merchants and working to bring lower price food options to students on campus. It is my sincere hope to bring further insight to the Undergraduate Senate next semester, and the only way we can do that is if we students discuss the issues that affect our everyday lives. Therefore, I invite every student to join my Facebook group "John Kriscenski for USG Senate," where we can talk about how to make Stony Brook even better than it is.

By You, the People



Can you make this funny?
Add your own text and send
to SBPress@gmail.com.

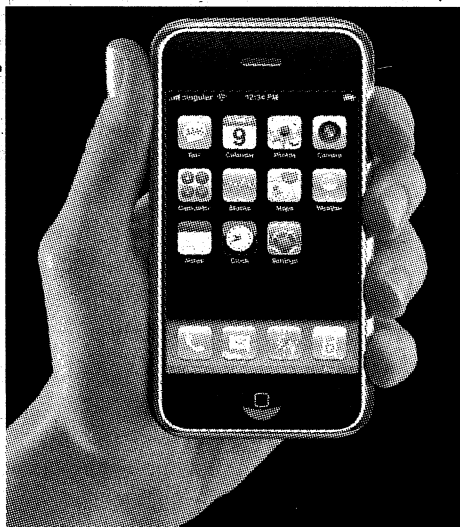
Win A Free T-Shirt!



iRate

A Macintosh Column by Joe Rios
The iPhone... 'nuff said!

Now, despite how tempting it can be to leave a review that brief, the Apple iPhone is such a significant development in mobile technology that it's definitely worth a closer look.



Hello iPhone ^_^

Apple.com

Say hello to the iPhone, the most revolutionary cell phone to ever be made. The rumors on the design and capabilities have been circulation through the web for years and until January was the most talked about product never made. When the iPhone was announced at MacWorld Expo, it put an end to the rumors, and went beyond what anyone expected.

iPhone stands to replace every electronic device you would normally carry with you. It's a PDA, it's a Cell Phone, it's an MP3 Player, and it's a digital camera, all in a form factor roughly the size of a standard iPod. As a PDA/ultra mobile computer, the iPhone features a stripped down version of OSX which gives you access to mobile versions of iCal, the Safari Browser, a text message system, Address book, and even widgets for your odds and ends. Having so many features in one device leads to a few questions though:

That's all I've got for this issue, but check in next issue for the latest in cool Mac Stuff!



Q: How do you operate it?

A: The iPhone is the first device to utilize multi-touch technology. Instead of having a stylus, you have a surface that can recognize more than one touch point at a time, allowing you to do things like zoom in one simple finger gesture. It's very difficult to explain. As soon as it's available in the Apple Store, go and play with it.

Q: How do you connect to the web?

A: The iPhone has a number of wireless connection methods. It features standard Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and Cingular's EDGE data network.

Q: What else makes it so damn special?

A: The iPhone has built in motion sensors that work to your advantage. Looking at a picture and want to see it in widescreen? Just flip the iPhone sideways and the image adjusts accordingly. Apparently, this also applies to anything else you do with the iPhone. The iPhone also has ambient light sensors to make it more power efficient, and includes a proximity sensor that turns off the display to save power and prevent you from accidentally accessing controls while it is at your ear.

Q: Hey, WTF, isn't it an iPod as well?

A: Yes it is! The iPhone has the ability to play music, videos and games just like the iPod. The capacity is however limited to 4 gigs and 8gigs. Rumors have it that apple is toying with the idea of either pushing the capacity to 16 gigs of flash memory, or using actual iPod style hard drives in the next version. Either option will be a significant development.

Q: All that, and it's a phone?

A: Not just a phone, but a camera phone! The iPhone is going to launch as an exclusive to Cingular, but it has a few catches. The iPhone must be accompanied by a 2 year contract (which means you can't just buy one in cash) and in addition, it is quite expensive! The 4 gig iPhone comes in at \$499, and \$599 for the 8 gig model.

Q: Ok, I'm sold! When can I get it and where?

A: Like most Apple products, details are usually shrouded in secrecy, and the iPhone will most likely just appear in a Cingular or Apple Store near you at some point between now and June. To keep up to date on iPhone information, Cingular has a mailing list on their website: www.cingular.com/iphone

Every Time You Fill Up Your Honda, Osama Gets A 25% Cut Of The Profits!!!

By James Laudano

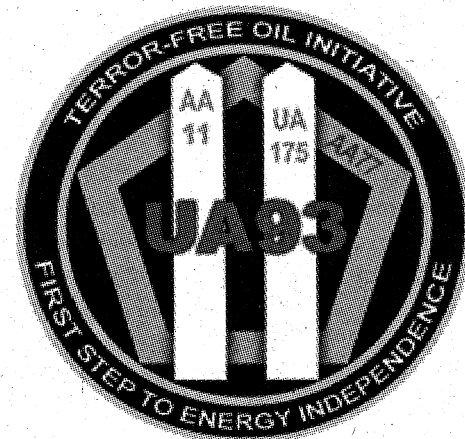
Okay, when I heard about this one, I nearly fell out of my seat. Apparently, a new group here in the United States known as The Terror-Free Oil Initiative has begun to lay the ground work for a new kind of gas station. These new gas stations will be dedicated to only selling gas that comes from nations that do not "export or finance terrorism." So basically, no predominantly Muslim nations. Or Venezuela, for that matter. "We felt like every time we filled at the pumps we were sending our money to a part of the world that wanted our destruction," said the group's spokesperson, Joe Kaufman. He later added, "...we are sick and tired of financing our own demise. We would like to avert the next 9/11."

When drivers pull into each terror-free gas station, they will have the chance to purchase counterterrorism pamphlets and bumper stickers.

Is it just me, or does this rank up there with the whole anti-French "freedom fries" craze of 2003? Or perhaps, even better, this measures up to the small town of Ingles, Florida which "officially banned Satan" from entering their community in 2002. Regardless of these comparisons, however, Terror Free Oil (TFO) is taking their project very seriously. The group's logo, which will be displayed at every Terror Free gas station to come, is an outline of the Pentagon and the Twin Towers, with the letters UA 93, UA 175, and AA 11 (the flights that were hijacked on 9/11) over them. Next to their logo, TFO boasts that it is the "first step to energy independence." In the background, one can see meshed images of armed Muslim militants and oil workers, side by side. (I kid you not. I encourage you to check out their website <http://www.terrorfreeoil.org> so you can see this all for yourself). Claiming that companies such as Exxon and Shell are primary financiers of terrorism, TFO aims to purchase its gas from a Utah based company called Sinclair Oil Corp. Rather than receiving its oil from nations such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, or

(gasp!) Iran, Sinclair and TFO will be extracting its fuel from the VAST oil fields of Canada and the good ol' U.S. of A.

But wait, the oil isn't the only hyper-patriotic product they sell! When drivers pull into each terror-free gas station, they will have the chance to purchase counterterrorism pamphlets and bumper stickers. That way, when you display a brand-spanking new anti-terrorist bumper sticker on your vehicle, every driver who pulls in behind you will know that the gasoline in your tank is as Western and patriotic as an illegal wiretap.



Courtesy of BP

Terror-Free Oil Initiative

The question that immediately comes to my mind is "What exactly are these guys thinking?" I know that it's a smart business move to play off the outbursts of patriotism that still linger in many parts of the country after 9/11. I also know that many people in the nation probably support this initiative. And, while I am not exactly in direct opposition to ending dependence on Middle East oil, I can't help but be both amused and perplexed by the TFO. How exactly do these folks plan to compete with the oil giants Exxon, Shell, and Gulf? Mr. Kaufman stated that "We're not looking to compete" with these energy empires. Yet perhaps the TFO needs to realize that while they may not want to compete, Exxon probably won't be so good-natured. How soon will it be before one of Exxon's business goon squads comes and wipes the TFO out? Does Mr. Kaufman forget that these companies have most of the government at their very beck and call? Oh, well. I, for one, salute the Terror Free Oil Initiative. While I may not care much about buying "terror-free oil," I certainly find this idea to be so outlandish and crazy at its very core that I almost want to see it succeed for the sole purpose of adding to the insanity of it all. Godspeed, TFO...and good luck finding enough oil in Canada.

I Feel like I Am Truman Fucking Capote

By Tim McHale

Why won't anyone talk to me? Fear. Fear of getting bashed. Fear of taking what "I" said and taking it out of context. Fear of getting ripped a new one, being called incompetent, showing a small part what I did and not even asking my goddamn opinion on it. Such was the plight of Ralph Thomas. That's why everyone in the USG is tighter than a freshman Asian international transfer student.

Since the impeachment of Ralph Thomas, and the articles immediately following in both *The Statesman* and *The Press* the new trend in campus politics is to *watch what you say*. Those articles pissed the fuck out of a lot of people, including President Jean-Baptiste, who said he was both misquoted and represented. My conversations with a few executive members of the USG and the SAB were as frustrating as when I was trying to get my high school girlfriend to sleep with me. Even then their lips were tighter than my first sexual experience.

The Players of the USG can be fantastically colorful characters. Get to know them and their opinions, understand them.

I do not fault them for feeling cautious; it's only natural for a person who feels misrepresented to be careful about how they represent themselves in the next issue. I call on the journalists of this campus not to print whatever they think or whatever the foolish people they interview say. We don't all have law degrees or adequate experience in government to know what is the journalistic 9 feet of rope we need to hang you with.

The players of the USG can be fantastically colorful characters. Get to know them and their opinions, *understand them*. If you truly understand a man's opinions you might misquote them, but you cannot misrepresent them.

America, Freer Than Ever, After U.S. Wins Iraq War

A satire by Joey Safdia

VICTORY!! VICTORY!! VICTORY!!
VICTORY!!

After years of fighting in Iraq, soldiers finally returned home on Monday from the war-torn Middle Eastern nation. The last soldiers finally set foot on American soil after an embittered conflict in which the U.S. military, staying the course until the job was done, won freedom for not only the Iraqi people, but the American people as well. Their arrival came on the heels of President George W. Bush's victory speech in which, as he stood in front of a banner that read "Mission Accomplished AGAIN," the Commander-in-Chief declared that the American people were "more freer than ever before."

The soldiers were featured in a victory parade on Tuesday that ran the entire length of Manhattan. All New York City residents were required to attend.

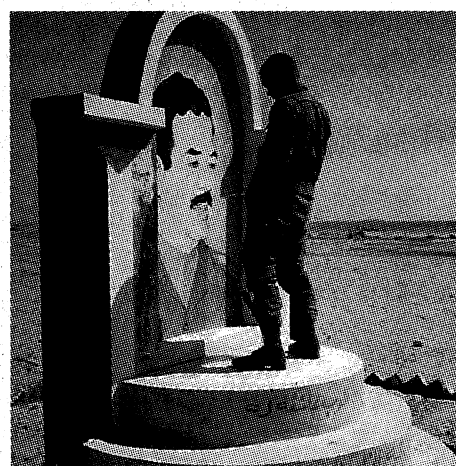
New Yorkers were very supportive of their nation's heroes, who marched down the streets of the city by the hundreds. Riding in fully armed jeeps and tanks, the battalions of men and women in uniform carried both M16s and smiles as they waved to the cheering crowds. Three protestors attempted to ruin the festivities by shouting obscenities at the troops, but they were promptly arrested by police officers, who used their non-lethal tasers to subdue the nonviolent offenders. The protestors and their families currently await deportation.

"Why, even The New York Times had nothing but positive and supportive things to say"

Said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice of America's support of both the war and the troops, "It's truly heartwarming to see the people of this great nation finally coming together. We're winning the war against radical Islam and not only bringing freedom to those who don't have it, but also bringing even *more* freedom to Americans in all 51 states. Afghanistan, the newest addition to the country, had nothing but positive things to say after the American people voted to annex them into the Union. They were overwhelmingly supportive when the President signed into law the Sedition Act of 2007, a law which their own representative proposed a bill to Congress which calls for the imprisonment of those who try to undermine our domestic and foreign policies through anti-government hate speech. And even as we

speak, they show their support of our victory in Iraq by throwing state-sponsored pro-American demonstrations. Just like their 50 predecessors."

"Why, even the *New York Times* had nothing but positive and supportive things to say about the President's handling of the Iraq War," added Rice. The *Times* underwent a drastic "internal renovation" earlier this year after the entire editorial staff was relocated to the Guantanamo Bay detention facility for an article criticizing Bush's justification for invading Iran without congressional approval.



Eliminating Middle Eastern Oppression with the sweet Juice of American freedom

The soldiers were ecstatic to have been able to take part in what President Bush referred to as a "historic endeavor".

"When I first got drafted, I'll admit I was kind of bummed. Especially when they threatened a \$500,000 fine that my family would be responsible for as well as a twenty-year labor camp sentence for my girlfriend if I refused to serve," Private Ronald Stedmann, sixteen, told reporters. "But once I got out of boot camp and started fighting terrorists in Iraq, I was psyched! Every time I broke into the house of an oppressed and terrified Iraqi family, I could feel my countrymen regaining the precious freedoms that the terrorists tried to destroy on 9/11."

"Well, all I can say right now is that I'm glad to be back," said Corporal Mickey "Buzzbomber" Johnson, 27. "Fighting for freedom is great and all, but I've been unloading an M16 full of freedom pellets into Iraqis who hate the U.S. for giving them democracy for so long, that I just miss being here and experiencing everything that makes this country great. Now that I'm home, I get to hold my beautiful wife, finally meet my children, see how my friends and their families are doing, visit my brother who was incarcerated for circulating seditious material, take my boat out for a spin, grab me a burger and Freedom Fries, visit my mother in the retirement home, and take that trip to the parts of Europe still recognized by the U.S." Johnson said that he plans to use his Freedom Travel Points, which Americans

can cash in for permission to vacation abroad, to visit the United Kingdom. The European Union is still on the Terrorist Watch List, and travel to any of its member countries is expected to stay forbidden well into next year.

New Yorkers shared their views of the soldiers' heroic efforts in Iraq to bring more freedom to the United States.

"God bless the troops! I support them!" exclaimed a teary-eyed Jon Parkman, wearing a yellow ribbon sticker on his chest and waving a miniature American flag. "Look at the freedoms they gave us just by winning this war alone. We *finally* have the freedom to be safe. Because of them, and because of President Bush, we now are able to trust that whatever we do and wherever we go, the government will be listening in to make sure that we're safe. I don't know about you, reporter fellow, but I am sure glad that, when I call my buddies, someone is listening in just to make sure they really *are* my friends and not some freedom-haters who have been posing as friends of mine this entire time in order to conduct attacks on America. Oh, and I'm also glad that we now have the freedom to not have endure hearing treasonous speech about how we should have surrendered in Iraq. God Bless the troops! God Bless America!"

One bystander began to question whether or not we could accurately measure whether or not Iraq was "free" or not, and therefore the validity of declaring a "victory" or saying that the "job is done," but he was promptly arrested by military police. It is a federal crime to publish his exact words due to their anti-American sentiment, but rest assured that the man was a traitor to the United States and its people.

In President Bush's victory speech, which aired at night during the national 10 PM curfew so all Americans could watch, he stressed that the War on Islam was far from over.

"There are many countries out there that are not yet staunch U.S. allies," said Bush. "They lack freedom, and it is up to America to show them the way. We will start by launching nuclear weapons at all French cities. Intelligence reports show that France has been sending hundreds of billions of suicide bombers into major metropolitan areas every year to conduct attacks on America, to destroy our way of life and destroy the freedoms we hold dear. I am confident that the survivors of the nuclear holocaust in France will rise up and accept freedom, democratic values, and U.S. military control. But more importantly, once Operation France's Final Surrender is put into effect, the American people will have more freedoms than ever before in our nation's history."

Jeopardy!: An Evening with the MSA

By Alex Walsh

There's something you should know about me. I love Jeopardy.

I think this issue's Top 5 feature is TV shows. If you were to look at my list, Jeopardy would be on there. So when Becca, one of our lovely and talented News Editors, mentioned Islamic Jeopardy as being among the upcoming campus events, I was elated. Elated. That's a word I don't just drag out for any little thing. Alright, I scored some Mint Dibs at the SAC! Am I elated? No. Jeopardy? Shit yeah! I don't know what it is. Maybe the necessity of answering statements with questions tickles my sense of the absurd. Like Ludacris' video for "Get Back." (He has such huge hands! How delightfully improbable!) Or maybe my inner elitist asshole prefers the lack of graphics and almost comically low prize money to the flashy, multimillion-dollar fare that comes out today. Game shows? I liked their earlier work better. So anyway, my 'semi-responsible journalist' guilt pushed me to cover an actual campus event instead of another fun, but essentially space-filling, Top 5 entry. Why not get my quiz show fix at the same time? Sounds like a plan to me.

Now, all the information I had was the event name – Islamic Jeopardy, for those not paying attention – and a shaky date. "It's February 7th," I was told, "Or maybe the 22nd." Being a near-constant denizen of the Union, I figured I'd just take a stroll up to the prayer room on the second floor and ask around to clear up the details. But that plan hit a snag. I've been in recovery from my Irish Catholic upbringing for a few years, and have sort of lost my sense of the proper protocol in religious situations. Somehow knocking on the door-frame of a prayer room – scratch that – a mosque, according to the little plaque on the wall, seemed a bit disrespectful. I mean, who wants someone knocking and being all disruptive when they're trying to have a spiritual experience? I wouldn't. So how do I get the attention of the room's inhabitants? Whistling seemed like an even worse idea. For some reason waving didn't occur to me. But my deliverance came when I glanced back to the wall. A handy-dandy calendar of events! Issue neatly sidestepped.

Armed with an accurate time and location, I felt confident heading to the SAC on the evening of the 22nd. After a quick stop by the food court to pick up some Dibs (Okay, maybe 'elated' is the right word here.), I made my appearance in the Ballroom. One of the first things I was taught back in reportery school was to always introduce yourself as a journalist. I'll leave it up to you to decide if I walked to the first person I saw or if I have an instinctive ability to seek out leadership, but without any means of identification, I approached the MSA President, Adam

Osman. He was setting up the snack table, so it's possible my inner dowser's rod was attuned more to pretzels than charisma. In any case, I talked to Adam for a little while. He's a nice guy, but he seemed a little confused as to why I had decided to show up for this event rather than any of their many other, more interesting occasions. I can understand that. No lie, they schedule more events than most groups I'm familiar with. I've been to a few they co-sponsored with AID (Americans for Informed Democracy, yo.). But the magnetic appeal competitive trivia holds for me is foreign to most people. If I hadn't already digressed too much many times in this piece, I'd tell you about the College Bowl team I was on last year. We called ourselves Oppressive Marxist Orthodoxy.

Being the smooth operator I am, I made

Adam, Amir, and Yaser took the podium for the Trebek role. (Dare I make the pun? Oh, I dare!) A Tri-bek, if you will. I think they pulled it off particularly well. Certainly less awkwardly Canadian than the Man himself, but also less endearingly Canadian. The rules were explained – my personal favorite being "In case of a tie, someone in charge will know what to do" – and the assemblage was divided into three teams: the Sisters made one team, and the Brothers were divided in two. They shall hereafter be referred to as Front and Back. There were some protests that the division wasn't fair because the delinquents tend to sit in the back, but they were ignored because nobody knew that that was foreshadowing yet. No one ever does. The stakes in this competition were kept mysterious, except for the hint that

the Sisters rolled out a hardcore comeback. It started with a Potpourri (pronounced Pot-pourri, of course) question: This is the most common incoherent sound made on the show Pinky and the Brain. I wrote that one down as an example because it was the first one all night I knew the answer to. "What is narf?" The dudes in the back messed up by going for a \$600 history question: At this battle in Palestine, the Mamelukes defeated the Mongol invasion. Or something like that. Nobody got it, but the answer was Ain Jalut. (I stole a book on Mongolian history from my high school library. I would have offered to pay for it, but if they said no and then it went missing... well, they wouldn't have to think too hard about who took it, now would they?) Still, the ladies continued their victorious campaign. At the next score check, they were 200 points ahead of the Frontfellows with 700 points. The Backmen were still one thousand in the red. Their tenacity in refusing to sink lower was hailed.

Several questions and another Pot-pourri joke later, they had done just that. With -1200, they provided a balance to the other two teams, now tied at 1000. By the way, the Potpourri question this time was "This Muslim fought Superman in the comics, and won." I'm sure you're all thinking it's Jaculi, the speedy spear-slinger from the original crappy (and totally un-PC) 1987 run of Suicide Squad. How DC got away with that one I'll never know... But every last one of you is wrong. It's actually Muhammad Ali. Back in '78 they met up to decide who would be Earth's champion to fight an invading alien race's champion. Trash talking and fisticuffs ensued, and The Greatest took down Supes. It was under a red sun, but it happened. The Fates took pity on the aptly named Back team, who uncovered a Daily Double near the



Jeopardy!

Alex Walsh

sure to commit my first social faux pas within ten minutes of entering the room. Another quirk of mine is that I'm a habitual left-sitter. When I enter a room, my tendency is to seat myself a la izquierda. (Musing: would a cool dude from the early '90s with this habit be a radical leftist?) So, obeying my natural impulse, I ganked a chair to the far side of the aisle. This placed me firmly amongst the Sisters. My bad. The event got underway shortly after I realigned myself with the appropriate gender ID. It was at this point that I ran out of Dibs.

In order to kill time for late arrivals to show up, Adam and his co-hosts, VP Amir Sahib and Treasurer Yaser Rad (who has an almost unspeakably awesome name), played some pre-game Ummah Films. For the uneducated, Ummah Films is a videoblog website. The blogger, Baba Ali, is sort of a Zefrank for the religious set. Several attendees noted that Ali bears a bit of a resemblance to Adam. I didn't see it so much, but they were pretty adamant. I'd say the high point of these videos was when Ali introduced me to the phrase "I'm outy like a Saudi." I am so using that. After two episodes ("Don't Be a Seasonal Muslim (Where Are the Muslims At?)" and "Islam and Culture"), the true gamesmanship began.

the victor would bring home an expensive dessert. My mind filled with visions of exotic pies and snack cakes as the categories were read. Madhahib (Islamic schools of thought), the Qur'an (if you need a parenthetical explanation for this, look it up yourself, fool), Ahadith and History (ahadith are traditions relating to the words and deeds of Muhammad), SBMSA (focusing on the words and deeds of the MSA folk themselves), and Potpourri (which, it was explicitly pointed out, is not pronounced POT-pourri, setting up the first running gag of the evening). I really wanted Potent Potables to be on the list, but I'm pretty sure alcohol is harḥm, so that was an unrealistic hope.

Although the Sisters earned the privilege of first play by winning the ancient challenge of "I'm thinking of a number," the Front Bros took an early lead... in a sense. At the first score check, all three teams were in the negative. The Front team held first place with -100 points, the Sisters were close behind with -300, and the Brothers in the Back were in the running for the Spirit Award with a respectable -1000. I decided to root for them, since everybody loves an underdog. I am a Mets fan after all. And if one of them started channeling Sean Connery, I wanted to be there. After the score check,

Being the smooth operator I am, I made sure to commit my first social faux pas with - in ten minutes of entering the room

end of the round. Although they were deep in the hole, the merciful trio of hosts allowed them to wager up to \$1,000. "We're going all or nothing," the Back team's spokesman bravely declared. The inevitable reply came from the Front, "What do you mean all or nothing? You have nothing." At the risk of falling to a ludicrously low score, the Brothers of the Back Rows faced the following challenge: the names of the compilers of the Sahih Sitta (the Six Books, hadith collections seen as authentic by Sunni Muslims). Sadly, the boys dropped the ball and the Sisters got the rebound, picking up 500

Continued on next page

(Jeopardy!: An Evening with the MSA)
Continued from previous page

points and the lead. Pwnage. Luck struck again, and the Back got yet another Daily Double. Once again, they went all in. But could they name the Four Imams? One enterprising Brother, caught using his phone during the deliberation time, declared that he was using a Lifeline. His ruse was uncovered, however, and the points went to the Front team.

Going into Final Jeopardy, the scores were as follows: Front with a commanding lead at 1900, Sisters in second with 1500, and our heroes trailing behind at -1800. A ruling was handed down that they could bet up to 1801 for Final Jeopardy, with the category Early Hadith Scholars. Recognizing that its role in the show was coming to an end, the hosts' microphone broke. As the teams wrote down their wagers, Yaser reminded them all that gambling is harām. I'm sure there's a special exception for Jeopardy, though. So who was the first Muhaddith to grade Hasan differently from Sahih in his collection? Humming of the Jeopardy theme commenced as the several troupes set to work. As if there was any doubt, the Back team clinched the Spirit Award by asking plaintively if they could bet a hug. The answer to the query, of course, is... yeah, I forgot to write that one down. I really should have checked that. But it seems nobody really knows, as all three teams answered incorrectly. Final scores: Front 799, Sisters 2, Back... oh dear, sweet Back... -3601.

Before the awarding of prizes, President Osman took some time out to announce the upcoming Islam Awareness Week. Remember how I said they plan a lot of events? It's okay, you can go back and check. I wrote way too much in this. Well,

here's a whole bunch more. Every day between March 12 and 16, they're having some kind of program or festivity. As Osman announced these activities, Yaser had fun with the Powerpoint. He earned massive brownie points by proclaiming, at one point, "It's good to be the King." Anyway, the Islam Week is kicking off with an ice cream social in the Union Fireside Lounge. So if you go there, you can get ice cream and a schedule of upcoming events. Good deal, no?

Speaking of good deals, the fearless leaders finally revealed the bounty that awaited their champions: two cheesecakes from the Cheesecake Factory. To the victors go the treats. As the game disbanded and the people set about grabbing snacks from the tables, Amir began a performance of his own spoken-word poetry. I missed the beginning, and when I walked in, assumed that he was freestyling. I feel it's best to open and close any evening with demonstrations of ignorance. Had he actually been rapping, though, he would have been following Saul Williams' suggestion to replace hardcore with heartcore. It was good stuff, though, and he may be the only person I've heard successfully rhyme "7.6 magnitude earthquake."

My RDA of quizzery being fulfilled, I grabbed a glass of Coke (Again from the wrong side of the room. I am highly resistant to learning) and headed home. All in all, I had a good time. Next year I'm forming my own team and going for that Cheesecake. The MSA has sown the seeds of their own undoing with those "Free Books" tables. I'm going to study up and score me some cake.

Author's note: The answer to that last one was Imam Tirmidhi. Thanks to Yaser for the fact check.

Rebirth of the Craft

By Tj KM

Since working at the Craft Center I have found a new respect for the idea and purpose of crafts. I'm not referring to a craft, like a skill that one practices and perfects. I am referring to the arts and crafts I grew up thinking were the corny older brother of Fine Arts or simply. I'm thinking about the kind of stuff that, as an artist, I always wanted to avoid because of their apparent non-contemporary, non-conceptual nature. Crafts to me were always the things teachers and adults made me do when they didn't want me to watch TV but weren't creative enough to come up with something better. So it came as quite a surprise to me when I helped with my first Craft Night as a Graduate Assistant. I was amazed at how many students were coming by the Union Ballroom to sit for hours and make crafts for dorm rooms or gifts or whatever. It became clear though that it wasn't where the crafts would go that mattered at all, it was where they were made that was what they were about. The crafts were all made in a very open and social setting. They were made among friends, peers or just other people depending on your perspective. They were made among music, snacks and a big giant room filled with people. They were made at a place to meet, to be approached and to sit alone or however you liked to spend your evenings.

Crafts helped to create social potential. This doesn't mean that you would neces-

sarily want to hang out with other people but you could. It's the same reason that when I go out of state alone for a job I like to walk around shopping malls, just to be around people, not even necessarily to interact with any of them. There are of course many students that do interact very much but what makes the experience so similar for those in a group or those alone is that they are all (more or less) focused on making something with their hands. Its meditative to work on crafts in the same way that focusing on your breathing helps you meditate while doing yoga.

Now why is this so worth writing about? Ask yourself what art is for. Do you have an answer? If you have an answer I would love to listen. I have never been able to satisfy myself with an answer to what art is for. This is partially because I continue to expand my definition of what art is. You can say $2 + 2$ is 4 and $2 + 3$ is not 4, your opinion doesn't matter (unless you create some new mathematical logic or dimension). In fact math doesn't care much about your opinion but art on the other hand IS your opinion. I can say that painting is art and cooking is not but someone could easily say the guy that just painted his house is not an artist but his favorite sushi chef is. I wont bore you with more "one person's trash is another's gold" comparisons, so I hope you see my point. That is art can be anything anyone says is art, so...what's the point?

Now is when it comes full circle and we all get incredibly satisfied. Art is social and cultural navigation and what I saw on Craft Night is proof of this.

"Fuck the Police"

By Jon Pesce

I'm a commuter. I drive a good 50 minutes to SB five days a week, almost every week, and when I get to stadium parking I expect to be able to find a decent place to park. Not an unreasonable request - I'm sure you'll agree, especially after paying such a sumptuous sum of money to obtain said pass.

But I've noticed a funny thing about the stadium lot lately, and maybe you have, too. There are these strange signs that say things like "Parking Reserved for University Police"; as a matter of fact, there are about seven signs that reserve parking for various SBU affiliates and faculty, including the police. Why these individuals want to take my fellow commuter's and my parking spots is one matter; however, it's not the one that's really got me. What confuses me is why they don't want them. Yes, that's right - why they don't. As I'm sure many beside me have noticed, none (and by none I mean zero) of these spots are ever occupied. Ever.

Now we must pose the question: "Why, oh why, would the great and almighty baby-killing, rock salt-covered, zebra-striped, and often-flooded SUNY Stony Brook want to reserve several valuable parking spots for people who never use them?" Never mind that these police who



Fuck the Police

The Stony Brook Press

have these very attractive spots reserved for themselves are often found parked at curb, on the sidewalk, and in that parking lot between the SAC and the Disabilities resource center, specifically on top of that strip of the huge vinyl lettering that states "NO PARKING." It's simply the logic of this entire situation that completely escapes me.

So let's recap. Stadium passes are worth well in excess of \$100.00 (that's two newly released tiles for the XBOX 360, by the way) of your money. There are seven spots (one of which you could be using... but won't) reserved for individuals who never, ever, occupy them... oh... ohhhh...well it seems I forgot something. It's a little story in fact, a true one, maybe you've heard it. It goes like this...

Once upon a time, I was driving into the stadium lot in the wake of a massive ice storm that glassed Nassau and Suffolk counties the night before. After skidding out on the utterly unattended to roads, and inflicting \$500.00 worth of damage on my rear wheel bearings, I was enraged to observe that while those stupid motherfuckers did not even touch the roads, or the stadium parking lot, they had quite diligently cleared seven spots in the stadium lot of all snow and ice.

Ok, story's over. Did you guess which seven spots were plowed when I arrived? If you guessed the ones that are reserved for those fucks who never use them, then congradufuckinglations, you're right!

But why? Why, why, why, why, why, or perhaps how is a more pertinent question. How, how, how, how, could someone so utterly incompetent as to allow such ills to exist be employed at a university of all places? We ask this question and then realize the answer as we shake our heads in disappointment: we're talking about Stony Brook University, remember? (see stonybrooksucks.com)

*Never mind that these police ...
have these very attractive spots
reserved for themselves*

One parking pass, \$500.00 in car repairs, and a ticket later, I think I'm entitled to more than just an answer. Shit, you know what? (That one's a rhetorical question) Fuck answers. I just want the fucking signs out of there before I fucking snap, come in with a Sawzall, cut the motherfuckers down, and then park parallel to the curb in my freshly liberated spots; just to assert myself. Get me?

The End of Privacy, The Beginning of An Orwellian Police State

By Matthew Rammelkamp

In the US, the UK, and other Western countries, we have been secretly moving towards a police state. Privacy is a thing of the past. There are CCTV (Closed-Circuit Television) cameras everywhere, all new cars have GPS (Global Positioning Satellite) "anti-theft" tracking systems in them, and our cell phones have GPS tracking. The logs for phone calls are saved for years by Telecom companies. Companies have sprung up offering a small fee to give anybody your landline or cell phone records. They are advertising this to spouses who think their partners are cheating on them. Companies are monitoring their employees movements while at work to see how long their lunch breaks are, or to tell if delivery workers are using company-paid time to do errands. [Some companies monitor data in the trucks such as the speed and even acceleration of their truck drivers.] Every e-mail sent is saved and kept by internet Service Provider.

In Britain, all license plates of any car driving on a major highway is scanned and run alongside databases of registered vehicles and wanted criminals. Now google has announced that they have plans to listen into your living room. They claim to have developed technology that will be able to audio record anything going on in the room your computer is in, so that they can hear the television to see what sort of shows you listen to and what ads you are already being exposed to. More and more corporations are putting RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) chips in their products. RFID chips are so small that you can't see them, but they are being put in clothing, beauty supplies, cereal boxes, EVERYTHING! Corporations want to trace the real-time location of any consumer product ever manufactured, bought, sold, or stolen. The government is even considering putting them in money to prevent tax fraud, black markets, and to keep an electronic trail of EVERYTHING.

Governments are already using RFID. In London, weekly and monthly subway and train passes have chips in them that can trace and record their journey. I've heard that the New NYS Issued drivers licenses are the same. We can't live without the government monitoring our every move, transaction, and thought.

By May 2008, all states have to issue "National ID" cards to citizens with some sort of biological proof on the cards (fingerprint, biometric data) that the name and picture on the card is who we say we are. Anyone without the card will not be permit-

ted to board an airplane, Amtrak train, open a bank account, or enter a Federal building. Is this Nazi Germany? Airports implement biometric face-scanning technologies that can scan lobby areas and waiting lines for terrorists. Sea World and some other entertainment parks have started implementing biometric hand scans mandatory for all of its customers to enter the park.

The next step will be microchipping everyone. No, I'm serious. A company called Applied Digital Solutions has created implantable microchips for humans. All over mainstream news, right after 9-11, they publicized a volunteer family who said they wanted to be microchipped because they feel safer. First it was pets, now Alzheimer's patients, then prisoners (so we know where they are when they escape), next the entire population. No one will be able to buy or sell without the chip. The threat of immigrants taking away jobs, or terrorists being in the country is the excuse they are using for National ID cards, and they will use them for getting you to accept the microchip.

Hundreds of hospitals are already implanting the chip in people to have immediate access to patients' emergency medical records. Even some club owners are using implantable microchips for their customers - to avoid need for checking IDs or paying in cash. Pretty soon, they will introduce them for supermarkets under the appeal you won't ever have to wait in line for groceries ever again. Police went to grocery stores and asked them to take part in a voluntary program to take customers fingerprints if they pay by check, with a shopper's card, or credit/debit card. The Defense Department developed finger scanning devices for shoppers to use, and then transferred them to private companies to make it look like they aren't behind it.

Right now microchips are voluntary, but they could soon become mandatory if people don't wake up and fight back. All we need is maybe one or two more "terrorist" attacks orchestrated by our own government but blamed on a foreign "enemy" and people will fall for it. Orwell would be having seizures in his grave if he were alive today and knew the direction we are headed.

For more info, go to google video or Youtube and search for "Microchip" "National ID Cards and RFID Chips" "The Cashless Society" and see www.infowars.com and www.planet-prison.com. The most powerful movie about this is called America: Freedom to Fascism which you can watch online for free at <http://www.freedomtofascism.com>. Look for it being screened this semester on campus by SJA.

SBU Journalism Major Forces Transfer Students to Look at Small Print

By Jesse Cozzetti

Imagine this: two SUNY schools, one a community college and the other a senior college, both within miles of each other and both offering journalism courses to satisfy a degree. However, the senior college says, "no way" to receiving transferred journalism courses from the community college.

This isn't just a figment of my imagination, this is a reality for Suffolk Community College journalism transfer students (including myself) who received a slap in the face from Stony Brook University's new journalism major. Those students who completed their Associates degree in journalism (fine arts) or happened to take on several journalism courses and hoped to continue their education in journalism at SBU, will be shocked to discover that SBU does not equate SCCC journalism courses to the new program. This means a student who took six or seven or more journalism courses at SCCC and transferred to SBU will have to meet the new journalism major requirements.

Why is this? Well, supposedly SBU's journalism courses are at the 300 level and SCCC's journalism courses are at the 100 level, so they're just not equal. The only way a student can get at most three journalism courses, or nine credits, to transfer to SBU is if the transfer courses are evaluated individually for equivalency by the undergraduate director.

So what exactly is the point of this? Well first off, I want to be a journalist, and it's my job to inform the public, but I also feel for the future journalism students like Baade and myself who are hard - working students.

When I met up with Dr. Schreiber, the undergraduate director of journalism, back in December to make my schedule, he informed me that basically none of my journalism courses would transfer over from SCCC, with the possible exception of an Investigative Reporting class. When

he told me this, I felt so much anger inside. It was like series of moments running through my mind. I remembered all the times I worked so hard on my journalism papers, homework, and having to hold down two jobs to pay the bills, and for what? Not only was my time and money wasted but I felt a sense of hopelessness, and I just wanted to give my dream up. I thought about my past advisors carelessly passing me along and giving me misleading advice. When I graduated from SCCC, I briefly transferred to Five Towns College in Dix Hills for one semester before going to SBU. My broadcasting professor, Professor Prusslin, who claimed he was affiliated with SBU, told the class on plenty of occasions to think about considering the new SBU journalism program. It was because of him that I decided to go to SBU. I also remember several professors at SCCC saying the same thing. Still, nobody ever mentioned the journalism courses we took would not transfer.

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However, in my sense of hopelessness, I knew I was not alone. Dennis Baade, a SBU journalism student, is also a SCCC transfer student with 59 credits under his belt, including eighteen credits, or six classes, in journalism. When asked if any journalism courses transferred, Baade said, "Nothing. I'm planning on speaking to Paul Schreiber, the undergraduate director, one more time, but the hint I got is that they won't accept anything, and no journalism courses here will be waived."

SBU's new journalism major is designed to prepare the next generation of journalists for careers in broadcast journalism, print journalism, and online journalism. In addition, students will be required to do a dual major or eighteen credits in one of four multidisciplinary

Continued on next page

SBU Journalism (...) Continued

Continued from previous page

areas outside the journalism major. The multidisciplinary areas are Public Affairs, Diversity and Society, Science and the Environment and Global Issues and Perspectives. The journalism major overall requires 65 credits, including 47 credits in journalism and the eighteen credits in the multidisciplinary concentration. On top of this, Journalism students in the journalism 110 class (Reporting and Writing) must pass a six-week immersion lab in grammar, punctuation, and sentence structure. Students will be given a test on their first day of lab; those who pass will be dismissed from the lab and can pursue the journalism major. The students who don't pass must attend the next five weeks of lab until they are administered a second proficiency test. If any student fails both tests, they will not be permitted to declare a major or minor in the journalism program. Talk about pressure! This affects SCCC transfer students in a very big way. Those with their Associates now at SBU not only have to deal with their journalism courses not transferring, but if they don't pass this grammar lab, they cannot go further in the journalism field. I am not trying to imply that the grammar lab is a bad thing; it is actually a very helpful class, and of course a writer needs to know his or her grammar. But it will be devastating for any journalism student like me who doesn't pass and has been in college for several years just trying to get a degree. I guess some of us will just have

know SBU's program is new, but how hard can it be to get a line of communication between the two departments so that there is a coherent system? What's the point of having Suffolk under the State U. umbrella if its programs are not in harmony with what the senior colleges are doing?"

So what exactly is the point of this? Well, first off, I want to be a journalist, and it's my job to inform the public, but I also feel for the future journalism students like Baade and myself who are hardworking students. The point is I think hopeful SCCC journalism transfer students should know the small print in SBU's journalism program. Journalism students should be warned by their advisors or professors, etc.

However, there is a significant underlying problem. Could this have a big effect on SCCC if journalism students, those who knew they wanted to go to SBU and found out no journalism credits transferred over, left SCCC for SBY? Could this possibly cause the SCCC journalism program to dissolve? Baade says, "Obviously, the Suffolk program would stand to suffer more because I think you would see a lot more students in my position, those who desire to stay near home either by choice or by necessity, skipping the program at Suffolk altogether and going straight to SB. If you have a major picked out and know that credits in that field will not transfer over, why hang around especially if the four-year school is practically next door?"



SUNYSuffolk.edu

We're Cheaper and We Have More Pot

to suck it up.

Baade states, "Life ain't fair, I guess, but I can't help but feel that I was somewhat misled. I was, rightly or wrongly, of the belief that not only did the credits transfer, but they would be equivalent to some of the lower level courses. Thinking back I can't remember what gave me an impression- a professor at Suffolk, another student- or did I just assume that because SB was a SUNY school that there was some sort of a relationship between the two programs?"

Should SBU journalism courses be equivalent to SCCC journalism courses? Baade says, "Yeah. Both schools are part of the same system and they're right down the highway from each other. I

It's too early to tell what will happen in this matter. However, when I emailed Executive Dean William Connors at SCCC campus, he stated, "I am very distressed by your email. I will look into this and get back to you shortly." Arlene Feldman from SBU admissions said, "I am waiting to hear back from either Professor Schneider or Professor Schreiber on this issue. The University does accept all of the courses for credit. The issue is about the equivalency, and what Stony Brook courses Suffolk's are equivalent to is made by the major."

This concerning matter is not over, and I plan on talking to the journalism board and SCCC journalism staff to write an updated story on this matter.

Comic Update 19- In and Out

By Mo Ibrahim

Some of us find that during our daily routine, we find ourselves trapped in a small room with a random stranger or two. No, we're never forced into it; nor do we always feel like we're in any danger. Yet for every single second of the day, dozens of people find themselves in this situation. We typically stay with them in this room for a few seconds, maybe a minute, or in some worst case scenarios, a couple of hours. Of course, I'm referring to an elevator and the awkward situations it puts us through everyday.

When I'm alone in an elevator with someone, I think to myself, "Oh crap... what am I supposed to do?" You really do have many different options. There's the "I'm pretending like I don't see you" thing, where you simply keep staring at the floor indicator at the top of the elevator while hoping it gets to your floor soon enough. You know, where you stand there hitting the same button over and over again as if the elevator is going to get the hint and move faster. All the while you try to peek out of the corner of your eye to get a glimpse of your elevator-mate. Of course, there are other options, like talking on the cell phone or reading something. And if you don't have any reading material, your eyes start to wander, trying to find something to read until you can't find anything else but the words on your own shirt: "Oh, so that's what Diesel looks like from up here."

I had this one strange experience on an elevator ride. I get on the elevator with this girl and she just looks at me and says, "I know I stink." I'm just thinking, "wow, that's a good icebreaker." How do you react to that? Someone completely random whom I have never met in my life decides to acknowledge the fact that she stinks. Am I supposed to say, "Yeah, I bet you do- you need a shower"? I simply replied by saying, "Nah, you don't smell bad." But for the record she didn't stink, and we got into a conversation about why she thought she smelled like sweat. Basically by the end of the ride I found out her name, where she lived and that she likes to play handball until she stinks like pig in the middle of the Sahara (although that would be some interesting sight).

Sometimes I make friends from being in an elevator. If you take the elevator at the same time every day and someone else happens to be on the same sort of schedule, you'll start seeing that person often and you'll eventually start saying "Hi" out of politeness. Have you ever seen that same person outside of the elevator? When you're walking outside or in the hallway and you see them, you panic, right? You tell yourself, "That's her, what

am I supposed to do--do I say hi or just walk right past her... will she think I'm rude for not acknowledging her presence? I mean, I see her on the elevator everyday and we never talk so this shouldn't be any different right... okay fine, I'll just look right at her and if she says hi I'll respond with a courteous, 'Hi, how are you?'"

I overhear strange things on an elevator. Someone will be on the phone talking about God knows what, but from your perspective it's always out of context. Someone will just be saying, "Yeah mom, I got it removed," or "I done told that bitch she gun' get killed." Sometimes you'll hear them whisper, "I'm on an elevator, I'll tell you when I get out." I just go all out and amuse the person with me. If I'm on the phone I'll make sure the other person stands there guessing what I'm talking about. I'll say something like, "Last night was one thing I will never try again." Keep them on their toes, give them something to think about.

I sometimes just stand there and talk to the person; you know, just to break the ice. Stare them straight in the eyes and go "I hope we don't die." The look on their face is just priceless. When the elevator door opens they walk really quickly away from you. I think it would be funny to just suddenly pull out a camera and ask, "Can I take a picture of you?"

Why is it that in most stories told about elevators getting stuck, there's usually one person in the elevator? I want to hear something interesting. I want someone to say, "The elevator got stuck and we just popped open the buttons, pulled off the telephone door and the side rails and made a raft. Not that we would need a raft but it was handy, just in case there was a body of water nearby." If I got stuck with someone in an elevator, I think we'd become the best of friends. Two strangers forced to stay in a tiny enclosed area for more than an hour. The elevator would break and I would just look at the other person and say, "Man, am I horny." The person next to you, no matter what gender, is going to feel like they entered a doomed ride. You can just cackle for a minute then pause and say, "Looks like we're gunna die!" with a bright smile on your face. But seriously, I'd break out the broken elevator survival guide. We'd play never have I ever, truth or dare, Simon says you know, the whole nine.

The point is, no matter where you are, if you're on an elevator, you're bound to step into an awkward situation. I say, why not have some fun and say something completely outrageous? I mean, hey, you're never going to see this person again why not? Next time you go on an elevator think about. Look at the person directly in the eyes and say, "I hope you don't have the clap."

Explosions in the Sky - All of a Sudden I Miss Everyone

By Bryan Hasho

A strained, female voice commences Mogwai's mid-nineties epochal Young Team, vowing, "Because music is bigger than words and wider than pictures. If someone said that Mogwai are the stars I would not object. If the stars had a sound it would sound like this." These twenty seconds have become an anthem for post-rock instrumental fans since Mogwai's indie classic, but until lately, the genre has proved stagnant. *All of a Sudden I Miss Everyone* is the latest in the emergence of Explosions In The Sky, and the defining strike in the at-last resurfacing of a genre.

The Mogwai influence, even if an unrealized one, is evident. Explosions, however, is irrefutably progressive. The Austin, Texas quartet came together in 1999 to produce *How Strange, Innocence*, and have evolved their sound to their current rock-symphonist status. Constructed of a drum set and three guitars (and the occasional bass), Explosions is purely instrumental. They are Sigur Rós-esque ambient, as intrinsically crafted as Japan's Mono, and perfectly infused with resounding, grand crescendos that have no comparison.

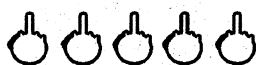
I know cultural relevance as of yet, endlessly dictates the story without overshadowing it. They seem to have evolved since the album, especially in terms of creating inner-track peaks, as supposed to previous albums that highlighted a more album-inclusive climax. This is still very much achieved on their latest work, though the songs more effectively act as stand alone chapters in their epic account.

All of a Sudden I Miss Everyone begins with "The Birth and Death of The Day," a song that opens with a bang and grows into an album both awe-inspiring and understatedly epic. The song's strong beginning and regression

is a perfect introduction to the album, as well as a contrast to their illustrious use of mundane openings and relentlessly intense conclusions.

Following is "Welcome Ghosts," as recently heard on last Tuesday's *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*. Here it is apparent that critics who suggest that *All of a Sudden* is creatively dormant have yet to commit a dedicated listen. The complexities of the album's overlapping instrumental storyline are both extensive and inventive, and the mid-album introduction of a piano proves a well-instilled maturation, a welcome change from punk's recent affliction with uninspired, seemingly pointless additions of pseudo-pioneering violins, trumpets, or tambourines for that matter.

In "So Long, Lonesome," the piano's success creates a new character of the story. It's often times spiraling, yet always dramatic, and transcends to the spine of the album's slow conflict. The latter half of the song serves as the turning point for our protagonist; the soft taps of the snare drum actually seem to create muffled gunshots. The piano fades, and at least within this particular application, death is an occurring motif. Regardless, the song presents a sort of celebratory deep breath; a victory, however unsure. The percussions seem to more-so serve the primary effect of the piece (such is the case for the bulk of the album), a change from a role in support of Explosion's renowned thematic guitar explorations. The meticulous combination of the two, however beautiful, gives off a reserved feeling somehow, an effect that tends to make you believe that the story is yet to reveal so much more. With Explosions, that never really goes away.



All of a Sudden I Miss Everyone

Explosions in the Sky

Ghost Rider

By Justin Meltzer

Many movies nowadays bring a sense of quality to the silver screen. Telling a story through the medium of film is a prestigious and time-honored tradition; from Orson Wells' *Citizen Kane* to the most recent Best Picture Oscar nominees. But every now and then a movie comes along that touches you in such a way that you end up feeling uncomfortable and violated. *Ghost Rider* is such a film.

In the first fifteen minutes of the film, you start to ask yourself, "Where am I, and what am I doing here?" The premise of the film uses a number of clichés that add to its tackiness. To sit and actually witness these clichés causes an uncomfortable laughter to burst out from within, a fact I was privy to a number of times throughout my viewing. The young Johnny Blaze (played by Matt Long) looked nothing like what was supposed to be Nick Cage in his teens. As for the young Roxanne Simpson (played by Raquel Alessi), the love interest of the Ghost Rider, her only resemblance to Eva Mendez was through a prosthetic mole on her face. Let's have a round of applause for the casting department. As the two teens profess their love for each other, the young Roxie mentions that her father doesn't approve of the daredevil motorcycling antics of JB, and she is not allowed to see him anymore. Geeze, that sure would have been nice to know before he just carved both their initials into a tree. But wait, JB knows what to do: "We'll get on my bike and just ride away!" Of course, how simple that'll solve everything. I wish I had thought of that. Plus this has never been done before in any other movie, so it's very original and not clichéd at all.

Further down the road we see young Jaybles discover his father's lung cancer and his spreading lung cancer in the same sentence: "The cancer has spread." Hey, two birds with one stone, right? What is a distressed stuntman to do? Why, work on his motorcycle, of course. As he's fine tuning his ride and contemplating what he's going to do, a mysterious stranger appears and offers to save his father's life if young JB signs away his soul to him. Not really wanting to waste time with questions, JB proceeds to accidentally bleed on the paper, which the devil says is good enough to count as a signature. Personally, the next time I need something signed with a notary, I plan to ask him or her it I can just bleed on the paper. The next morning, his pops is all better but dies in a motorcycle accident performing a

stunt he's done ten thousand times before later that afternoon. "Nooooo!" proclaims a newly relieved distressed Johnny, Vader style. What to do now, grieve for your dearly departed dad, or ride your motorcycle through the desert... I think you see where I'm going with this.

Well, turns out the devil saved, and then killed, your dad, but now, since you're his bitch, you can't die, so continue being a stuntman and don't worry about killing yourself, since the devil's got your back. Just be prepared to do whatever he says, like hunt evil-but-randomly-inserted bad guys who have nothing to do with the plot, because the devil says so. Get it, got it, good. In summation, the acting was atrocious, the script was made of Limburger, and the directing took us right into a methane swamp, one from which there is no return. Now to discuss the best (worst) parts of the movie.

1) JB has a horrible motorcycle crash and should be dead (by non-soul selling standards), but instead of paramedics rushing to his aid, his friends get there first, rip his helmet off, and slap him in the face asking, "Johnny, are you ok?" I wasn't aware slapping trauma victims in the face was proper medical protocol.

2) First time turning into Ghost Rider: six-minute transformation. Everytime after the first: instant. Must get easier to light your skull on fire with practice.

3) After having just ridden up the side of a building on your flaming motorcycle and killing a bad guy made of air with a windmill, you notice the police helicopter that has been pursuing you fly up from underneath the building where you are currently on top. Don't helicopters usually fly above buildings, not below them? Oh, and don't forget to whisper to the pilot, "You're getting on my nerves" over the 105-decibel helicopter rotors and then have the pilot whisper back, "Sorry." To put it in perspective, a chainsaw is 100 decibels.

4) After meeting the old Ghost Rider in a cemetery that he just "knew" how to find, they both have to venture into the desert to stop the bad guys. After they each step onto their respective rides and race across 500 miles of the desert, the old Ghost Rider states, two minutes before they arrive at their destination, that he can't travel any further, and then just turns around and rides back.

5) Don't forget that this movie was made by the same guy who wrote and directed *Daredevil* and who penned *Electra* and (shiver) *Jack Frost*. You know, the one where Michael Keaton actually turned into a fucking snowman. Yeah, that one.

sound is worth money.

(music news and reviews) by Steve McLinden

Make-Ups and Break-Ups

What is it about rock musicians having more drama than, you know, that one friend with the on-again-off-again relationship? After it appeared that Van Halen's reunion tour was set to hit more than 40 venues this summer, the tour was "indefinitely postponed" on February 21st. That's a publicist's way of saying there's no way it'll happen, although it is likely that the band will spend their fifteen minutes together on-stage at the Rock And Roll Hall of Fame induction. So was David Lee Roth upset about Eddie Van Halen's fifteen-year-old son joining on bass? I can only speculate, so that's kind of a stupid question.

After their brief performance at The Grammy Awards, The Police have begun selling tickets for a two-month-plus summer reunion tour. The group will be headlining the Bonnaroo Festival in Tennessee and has confirmed two dates in New York; August 1st and 3rd at Madison Square Garden. Genesis is also getting back together, apparently having bridged the gap between drummer Phil Collins and vocalist Peter Gabriel.

In other break-up news, singer Chris Cornell has quit Audioslave. Citing creative and personal differences with the rest of the band, he's leaving just a few months before his solo album is set to hit stores. The rest of Audioslave is formerly of Rage Against The Machine, who are reuniting with their old singer Zach De La Rocha in April for one show. However, the Audioslave breakup is fueling even more optimism amongst Rage fans that they'll at least stick together a while for a tour and maybe even a new album. Personally, I'm hoping Cornell and Kim Thayil get Soundgarden back together, so it seems that the death of Audioslave revives plenty of hope in other facets.

And in a stunning development of what is possibly the most-delayed album in rock history, Guns N' Roses Chinese Democracy has been delayed again. The March 6th release date has been pushed back to an unknown, though Axl swears that the recording is finished. Yeah, right. I'll be waiting.

The Operation MD – We Have An Emergency (Aquarius Records, 02/20/07)

So have we had enough garage rock revival yet? With their long-awaited *We Have An Emergency*, The Operation MD puts forth a fun high-energy album that may not be groundbreaking, but it's rather well-done. I was listening to the

"new Canadian rock" station on XM last month, and my speakers were pounding out garage/punk chords that sounded like they were straight out of the '70s and yet it seemed so fresh. I looked them up on Wikipedia, only to be horrified that I liked something to come out of Sum 41: it's a side project of the band's bassist. After Sum41's collaboration with punk rock forefather Iggy Pop on "Little Know It All" for his 2003 album, *The Operation MD's* proto-punk influences become apparent on the more frenzied stripped-down tracks. Their MySpace refers to the style as a "blend of street-indie and pop. It's like The Violent Femmes getting beaten up by The Hives and making friends with Tom Petty." While the stripped-down power-chords make for an apt comparison to The Hives, I think the other two comparisons are a little bit wishful name-dropping.

Sum41's bassist Cone McAskin got together to work on a side-project with Juliette And The Licks' guitarist Todd Morse (a bar-band featuring actress/singer Juliette Lewis) at the Warped Tour in 2001 and after more than five years, they've finally put the album together. Of course, to go along with their name and album title, the duo dress in white lab coats and stethoscopes, adopting the monikers of Dr. Dynamite (McCaskin) and Dr. Rocco (Morse).

The better points of the album is when they unashamedly pull off sounds straight out of the proto-punk era of the early '70s, with the apparent first single "Sayonara" sounding like one of those upbeat tracks that end up on the soundtracks to Madden video games. On the other hand, the acoustic and whiny "Someone Likes You" or the I've-heard-it-all-before anthem "Tomorrow's Calling" sound like they belong on, well, an uninspired modern pop-punk album. A few of the tracks are worth putting on a mix for your car, but as a whole, the album isn't that exciting. Supposedly they had almost enough material for two full discs, so maybe a follow-up will feature more of the garage rock style.

Aqueduct – Or Give Me Death (Barsuk Records, 02/20/07)

Who doesn't love soft-electronica indie pop? Despite Aqueduct's similarity to The Postal Service, David Terry never quite took off like Ben Gibbard did. Terry's latest album from what started as a do-it-yourself bedroom-produced project grows more grandiose with more instrumentation and more

backing members on *Or Give Me Death*, and fortunately too many cooks don't spoil the broth. However, it feels like it's lacking an intangible ingredient compared to 2005's *I Sold Gold*, and I think that's the sense of humility that made the debut album feel more inviting, with vocals comparable to Ben Folds and an odd sense of humor like him, too. Is Terry taking Aqueduct too seriously, has Seattle turned the native Oklahoman into an elitist? I hope not, but at least *Or Give Me Death* still sounds good, and the well-crafted pop hooks will get me re-listening happily for a while before I get sick of it.

Kicking off with "Lying In The Bed I've Made" the album sounds inconspicuously similar to *I Sold Gold*. "Living A Lie" takes a much harder-rocking (comparatively, that is) approach matched up with a blippy synth melody and the oh-so-clever hook, "it's not living a lie/if you're not living at all." On "Split The Difference" we get a fast-paced swinging tune complete with horns set against more lyrics about troubles with a girlfriend. "Zero The Controls" has a bass-heavy special effects-laced beat, sounding more like an all-out downtempo electronica track than any piano rock song.

The listener doesn't get any of the pop-culture humor that characterized *I Sold Gold* until the third track, "Broken Records" addresses a girl, singing "like a backwards hat, you better turn it around." However, "As You Wish" is like an overdose of comic genius and almost makes up for the lack of references in the rest of the album. Built almost entirely around quotes from '80s cult comedy *The Princess Bride*, Terry turns the lines "please, I'm begging for my life/your true love waits/you see I must survive the night, sleep well/I'll probably kill you in the morning" becomes an upbeat chorus, and I can't get this song out of my head, in a good way.

On "Wasted Energy" everything seems so lazily-arranged, and then when I stop and think about it, it all just clicks and I realize why I loved Aqueduct so much a couple of years ago. And when the album ends on "With Friends Like These", it feels kind of like crossing the finish line in a long race. It's definitely not as good as *I Sold Gold*, but it's an earnest effort by David Terry and friends.

The Best Color-Coded Albums of All Time

I'm kinda tired of repetitive lists of greatest albums or greatest songs, so I

thought that I would institute new criteria. Plus, winter is a slow time for releases, so I've got nothing else to write about. Here they are; my beliefs on the best albums with each of the following colors in their names.

The Velvet Underground – White Light, White Heat

While VU and Nico always gets on best-album lists, I think WLWH is much more influential. The eighteen-minute fuzzy-guitar-and-feedback-fest that is "Sister Ray" opened doors for entire genres, from shoegaze to noise, to come.

Public Enemy – Fear of a Black Planet

If I'm in the right mood, I will hail this as one of the greatest albums of all time, and undisputably hip-hop's greatest ever. With hard-hitting attacks on racist institution and the media's reception of the group, Chuck D and Flava Flav had a classic.

Red Sparowes – Every Red Heart Shines Towards the Red Sun

You'd think it would be hard for a post-rock band to weave a concept album about Maoist China's peasants' efforts to scare off pesky birds, only to see a plague of locusts destroy the crops even more. But then again, Red Sparowes have a way without words.

Blues Explosion – Orange

I couldn't think of more than a few albums with orange in the name, but the funk revival sound is worth dusting off every once in a while.

Grizzly Bear – Yellow House

Definitely one of my favorites from last year, Yellow House is a modern psychedelic folk masterpiece.

Creedence Clearwater Revival – Green River

John Fogerty is one of the greatest American songwriters and this is a southern rock masterpiece, and that's all I've got to say.

Weezer – The Blue Album

To make it easier on myself, I disqualified those which contained "blues" and not blue. But The Blue Album was a high point for alternative rock, back in the '90s when Weezer was still good.

Prince – Purple Rain

I mean, I could've picked Cam'ron, but Prince is a great guitarist and *Purple Rain* is pretty much a legend for autobiographical music movies.

"One kind word
can warm three
winter months."

- Proverb

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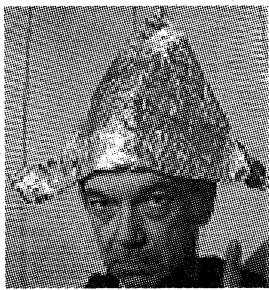
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Marilyn and Anna Nicole: An Analysis By Laura Positano

Goodbye Norma Jean...and Anna Nicole.

As the Elton John song "Candle in the Wind" goes, "You came out of the woodwork/Loneliness was tough/the toughest role you ever played/Hollywood created a superstar/pain was the price you paid/Even when you died/Oh the press still hounded you/All the papers had to say/was that Marilyn was found you in the nude ..."

Marilyn Monroe and Anna Nicole Smith died young, with their candles burning way before their legends ever did, to paraphrase the famous song tribute to Marilyn Monroe. Both died of alleged drug overdoses, receiving much paparazzi coverage and focus on the mystery behind their deaths.

Marilyn and Anna Nicole have a great deal in common. Both came out of the woodwork, coming from humble beginnings. Both appeared to the public eye as dumb blondes, sex toys for men to fantasize about; yet the two were smart businesswomen. Marilyn posed for the first Playboy magazine when she was still Norma Jean Baker. She had an eye for self-promotion, Playboy founder Hugh Hefner once said. Pretty soon, Marilyn was dominating cinemas across the country and had legions of fans. *Some Like It Hot*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, and other popular films of the 1950s led her to become a movie legend.

People did not take Marilyn seriously when she tried to take acting classes; she was just a sex symbol who needed to keep her mouth shut in the back of the class in the eyes of those prejudiced against her. Marilyn was very insecure; she needed constant love, attention, and security, according to the late Yankees baseball leg-

end and former husband of Monroe, Joe Di Maggio, who was a friend of my Uncle Rock. Drinking made her feel better; as they did for Anna Nicole, drinking and pills made her feel better about herself, but after the buzz and the euphoria, she would be an unpleasant person to be around. On *The Anna Nicole Show*, which was on the E! Entertainment channel (ironic because seeing her drowning her sorrows and self-loathing in beer wasn't entertaining, it was troubling), Anna Nicole would many times be shown inebriated.

Marilyn was not a bimbo-she appreciated literature and the theater. Anna Nicole probably was not one either since she had the wisdom to profit from her scandal sheet fame of marrying a rich man in his eighties and getting embroiled in a legal battle for the inheritance. She also posed for Playboy, but her television show and her commercials for weight loss pills really showed her business savvy.

Anna Nicole Smith needed love and attention, according to those close to her, much like Marilyn. Perhaps the attention she received the last few weeks of her life - the urgency of the paternity battle about who was the father of her new child being played on CNN - made her sick of all the fame. CNN considered that worthy of more coverage than the escalating Iraq War, that's how crazy the press was about her. After her death, the press speculated about how she died and who will inherit her fortune, since her will didn't name anyone living as the inheritor. One wonders if Anna Nicole will have the same legacy as Marilyn, whose image is still on posters and handbags and whose films are still adored decades after her death. Marilyn and Anna Nicole, two smart dumb blondes. Both are tragic figures, about whom people still talked after their deaths and wanted to know more than the press could give.

De Rerum Praeternaturalis By Aleister Olswick

Before there was time, there was Their time. Before there was mankind, They walked the Earth. It was Their dominion. They were, They are, and They will be ever more.

In the Dark places between Space, They dwell. Fear is irrelevant for They know it not. They pity not. Lo be unto he who entereth Their Dark places. The South Pole is Their home, as is the Plateau. The Black Ooze is Their Enforcer, the Eye in the Galaxy Their Yellow-Robed King.

His Play will be performed, and Madness shall reign. His Madness, unholy and divine, wild and tame, bloody and virginal, shall envelop the world in preparation of His arrival.

The Chanters shall awaken He who dwelleth beneath the Sea, when the Stars align, when Their time begins again. The Sign shall not be a Ward. Mortal words shall cease to keep Him at bay. The Devourer shall feed, He shall dine, He shall sup, and we shall be His entrée, His wine, His dessert.

She who guards the Woods shall set loose Her young upon our fields and forests, their cloven Hooves ready to trample our sod and bring famine to our world. She shall be forever pregnant, the Incubi and Succubi her ova and sperm.

And the War shall begin. Ancient Gods shall battle each other. Blood shall fall from the skies like rain upon the desert, flooding blood, bloodying flood. Gods shall destroy Gods as the remnants of Man flee in holy, blissful, divine horror.

The Eye shall watch, inciting His madness, on those blessed to survive Their onslaught. Horror and its glorious screams shall be Their chorus.

The Fish-men shall be the footsoldiers, breeding with their bite, infecting their DNA into the blessed survivors, serving under He who shall rise.

Cors non pulsare, sed in timere. Oculus non videt, sed in timere. Insania regnanda est, et omnia abolescendae sunt. Despero regnanda est. Despero sunt. Omnia desperent, quod despero non vident.

Fast, pray, seek salvation. It will not help. They shall reign again.

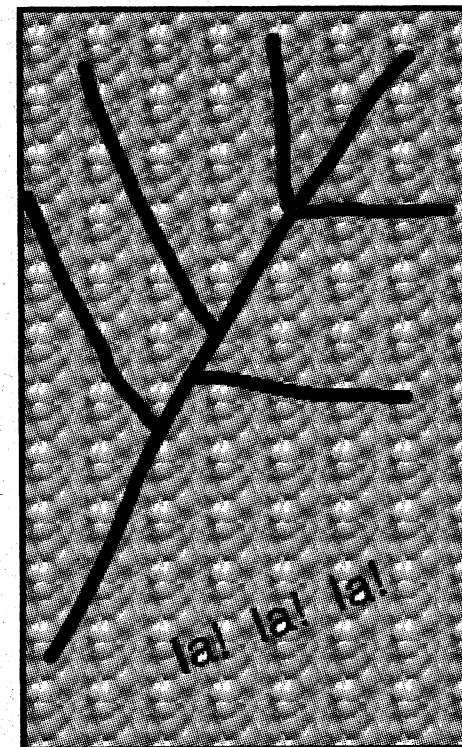
It has been written, and it shall be. They have been waiting, and Their wait is all but over.

Minister vetuli puer Falerni, inger mi calices amariores, ut lex Postumiae iubet magistrae ebrioso acino ebriosioris. at vos quo lubet hinc abite, lymphae, vini perniciēs, et ad severos migrate. hic

merus est Thyonianus.

Tam gratum est mihi quam ferunt puellae pernici aureolum fuisse malum, quod zonam soluit diu ligatam.

When time becomes Their time, when Space becomes Their Space, when the Dark Places we fear become the World entire, we shall die. For death is certain where They are concerned, save for the few who are blessed to live on in divine Madness.



Their Madness.

Sub narem, Deus dormet. Sed, cum stellae commodus sunt, is dormerat exciterit, et is regnarit.

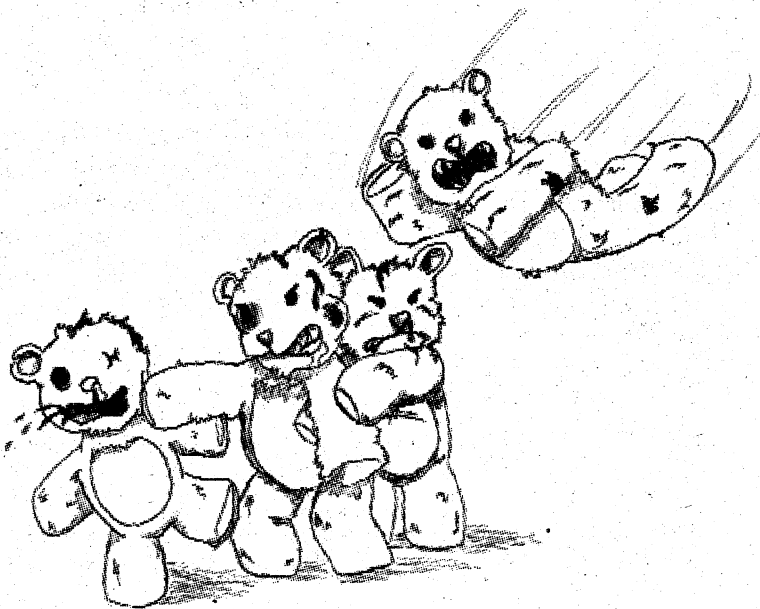
In medius stellarum, Deus custodiet. Cum is quo dormet exciterit, is quo custodiet regnarit, et omnia abolendae sunt.

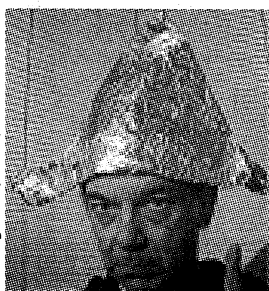
Take heed, O Mortal Man, for They are coming, and Time, true Time, is Their Servant. Our time, subjective, relative, is borrowed. The clock ticks towards Their long-planned return to proper rule.

The Mad One wrote his Book, the whispers of the djinn, the whispers of the wind, in blood. Those who gaze upon the Void that is its pages see the Void gaze at them, causing Their divine Madness. Woe be unto He who gazeth at the Book without taking Heed. The Book is written in blood, and on blood it feeds. It is written for Them, by Them, through the Mad One. He was their Servant, blessed with Their Madness, and now he has joined Their number, as a Fish-man, as a djinn, as a spirit. His form we know not. But his words, in blood wrote, holy and unholy, sane and mad, bloody and virginal, live on.

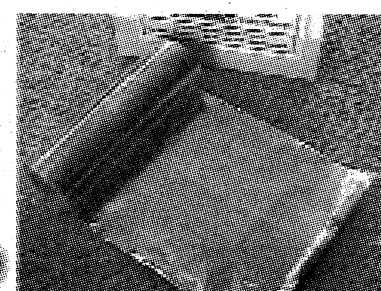
Take heed, Mankind, for the stars are aligning. The frogstar is nearing Venus, and the Eye has swallowed Alderan.

In Their Name. Ia! A.*.A.*. Ia!





TINFOIL HAT ZONE



At The Eastern Shores By Miguel Sanchez

To the eastern shores of Normandy, to the isles of Tripoli, to the brooks of Somerset County, there stands on our shoulder the choice that must be made. Here is a question, but of Empire, and the subsequent other that stands as the future for man and about man.

For this choice, which harbors in itself the consequence of returning the global network to its original configuration or even more, has in itself become a travesty. The last remaining empires of the globe; the five nations whose strategic ambition to gain access to the worlds most valuable commodity, has sent itself astray. They're perplexed by why history is never on their side.

For the other stands towards our side, asking why one has refused to look the other way. The other who has stood wondering why the human race continues to perceive itself as the arbiters of history: as those who control and manipulate the trends. Marx, who wrote about man's historical development, creates a simple illusion that man is in control of the historic trend. That man is the principle vanguard of history. He is in control of its own destiny and fate. This simple idea, though having some merit, excludes the personnel responsibility that once was the cornerstone of intellectual thought in French modernity.

Man is only in control of himself: he is not in control; hold private access; take as his own, history. History or its trends partake its own path, and man must either follow it or be consumed by it. He can be lead towards it, or lead away towards madness. History does not and cannot revel over man's ambitions. The trends that make up the historical development of past and future socio-economic systems, is only its own conscious element. One is an existential criteria, the other is a trend, the One inherently reflects the Other.

There are those who say that history agrees with their idea of a Messianic Vision, that Japan and Germany have achieved democracy, just as Iraq and the entire Middle East could one day achieve as well.

One finds such comments a bit perplexing, for one Iraq and the Middle East many decades ago tried to achieve democracy, and since these regions are thought to hold the most valuable commodities in the world. The last Imperial nations sought to interfere and tamper with the possibility of even achieving any remnant of democracy. For this, the population subsumed with anger, hatred, and fear; attacked, and rid

themselves of the appointed governors of the last Imperial nations; no longer would they be subsumed by colonial aspirations.

In consequence, transferring authority to a radical party would sustain the prospects of success in their revolution, and sustain enough power to become the vanguard party of their own prospective nations. They copy and mimic the very strategies and control mechanisms that are practiced in the last authoritarian and polyarchy states.

The other, it makes no difference whatsoever as to what the leaders of the five remaining Empires say is the goodness of their actions; call it humanitarian intervention, pre-emptive action, or participatory attacks. For here, what does make a difference is the value in which these parliamentary, Republican, and authoritarian states claim is their vigilance and altruism. Little altruism can be shown to be even the case, as Stalingrad became Falluja, as Chechnya became the Balkans.

All this has a reciprocal effect; one inherently reflects the other. Whenever the species decides that they alone are granted the right and authority to change history, history throws it back at them a hundred fold as if there were, truly a subjective consequence to it all. As though there were truly an intelligence that looked after and searches for the time when the One will not try to defeat or take history as its own.

But rather, what is the role of the One who is to say no more to the foolishness and catastrophe that has befallen and kept the world in utter chaos. When ego-mania, and self-centeredness ruling the vanguard parties of those who claim Enlightenment and Critical Theory, have consumed the republics and empires with good intents, state-capitalism, and colonial mastership? What does one mean by all that?

That the subsequent next phase of historical development cannot, should not, and will not be in terms of what the ruling and intellectual institutions want it to be; for any kind of institution whatsoever.

Man is historically powerless, meager, and fallible.

That the role of the One is not to defeat the Other. He is not to destroy history or make history his own. The One is not to claim soul sovereignty over man, as though he were the enlightened one (since that's been tried before). The One cannot preside as the soul jurisdiction of man over man. For here is the path that one must take, that the human race as a collective body has to make.

It is a level that suspends the ethical, where madness could arise but if one passes the test, then clarity can become a true

gift. Kierkegaard had written many years back what the role of the One is-some have chosen to just ignore him. It speaks fundamentally well, as to what the next phase of development will be.

For here Abraham knew no reasons why his God would ask him to sacrifice his only son Isaac. Indeed Abraham pondered, he had been asked by this God to partake in this task willingly, because after all Abraham understood what his role was. He was not there to contradict, or take matters into his own hands. He had to follow a calling, a calling from an intelligence that stood in the forefront of history, and for one, he is the deity, the historical conscious that would bestow upon Abraham a contradiction.

As Abraham took Isaac to the mountain, he could not bear what he had to fundamentally do. In fact Kierkegaard envisions many possibilities. All would end in subsequent failure. The calculation was emerging to a point, that there could be no repetition. Since that was the case, Abraham gripped with sorrow, and anger. A sense of fear struck Isaac. He begged to be perceived as the bad father, since after all, he loved Isaac. He did want to be regarded as the good father that he was. Abraham would be struck with grief in the end.

The model here can be the same for all nations and states, for all republics and parliamentary systems. They can make a choice to differ or defer from histories' commands, but the possibilities will utterly lead to catastrophe. The prime reason would be that history would never agree, and subsequently the contradiction would get worse. There is the risk of autoimmunity that Derrida had spoken about in depth in *Rogue*, for autoimmunity is the contradiction striving for a solution to the equation. The last Imperial states and their vanguard institutions, permit themselves to act in the best interest of democracies, while at the same time lowering the degree which democracy is realizable.

The contradiction would get worse, since the repetition would be continuous. As though there were no end in sight, the more the public panics with continual aggression and participatory attacks; with more terrorism and catastrophic blow-backs, the situation feeds into the rational contradiction of autoimmunity. This makes it even more intolerable towards history, and what befalls it, is its own immediate downfall.

Rousseau calculated the extent in which logos would consume man, and be led only to more despotism. For here logos works well on both sides, it is the contradiction that is most logical in itself.

Autoimmunity is perhaps the most

rational consequence to a historical epoch not capable of following the trend it is forsaking. It is when heads of states, the minority classes, and the majority population panic, and are lead towards their own inhibitions to counteract one another, in almost like a chess game, only this time it is but stalemate that is reached. The stalemate has far reaching consequence for all sides, as democracy inherently comes to a halt. In consequence, the whole social order implodes, classes fight, and humanity is gripped with economic insecurity and malice.

For here the chaotic system may not even have regularity, as some economists and mathematicians may claim. There is no predictability that can sustain a higher definition of regularity and repetition. The only regularity that could be accounted for is the continual resurgence of autoimmunity as a strain that infects the polyarchy, authoritarian, and parliamentary states. This could be in consequence the shattering and tearing apart of the entire global social order.

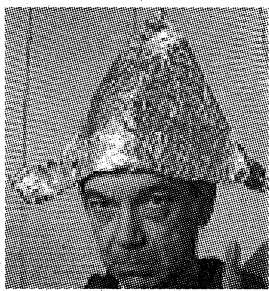
For here the One must make a choice, it is a choice whether to follow its own role in the historical process. For the anti-Christ role is not also to conquer and rule as well, it is to prevent the One from making the right choice. It is to keep the One situated in confusion and utter disharmony. To rest assure the One that, "all is well in the days of the coming." Please him, sexualize him, and make him a tool to be used by the tempest. For anti-Christ will claim he is the historical development, he is the Other. Humanity will listen and follow, they will be lead astray to the grandest lie humanities ever been told.

The last temptation of Christ, Moses, and even Abraham have been the very case of such consequence. For the One must sacrifice all that ever mattered to him: for Christ it was Mary Magdalene, for Moses it was the comforts of the simple life, and for Abraham it was his one and only son.

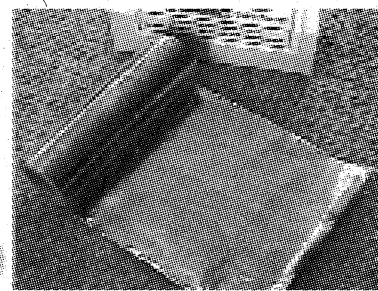
The sacrifice actualizes the very underpinnings of what the One must do. He must necessarily sacrifice those things that mean life to them, and in many ways the Other stands poised to persecute them for it. The anti-Christ, on the other-hand, will seek to prevent this, he will seek to keep the One from doing what the one is to necessarily do, and that is give up what they find to be their object of comfort. The One necessarily must overcome this barrier, and throughout history they have.

As Abraham wraps Isaac in rope, ready to pierce his knife through Isaac's flesh, there is a sense of lamentation. The contradiction is too painful to bear, as autoim-

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TINFOIL HAT ZONE



Continued from previous page

munity is to overwhelming to take.

Evidently, Abraham must take this path, since there is no Other that can do it for him. Before Abraham could pierce Isaac's chest with his knife, there is a reason that is born. In all certainty Christ's resurrection, Moses' Ten Commandments were all reasons in cultural mythology as to why things turned the way they did, why events unfolded so epically, and came to be understood.

For here, in the modern era, the role of the One is not significantly just one against the Other. The level of participation unfolds all over the globe, as a collective agent. But one realizes that autoimmunity exist as the sacrificial lamb that is in terms of Derrida incalculable. Its resolution requires an act of faith that is but a choice to be made by all of humanity as a collective body. The significant Other stands independently of man's choices, it is not to be negotiated or found a truce in. The One must inherently reflex the Other.

But as the autoimmunity should stand as the contradiction from which the One will only be able to resolve, the resolution comes with the conviction to let go of the very things that man as a whole takes for granted. The One really inherently reflects the Other by allowing the conclusion become only the beginning; by ending the repetition that once caught it off guard.

There is an end to all things, there is a finishing line to the turmoil and catastrophe that species has put themselves in. It begins where it must end, it ends only where it must finally let go of all calculability and repetition of events, and let history unfold; and takes course among the stars and galaxies that surround it. No better cure can be found in the testimony that in the end, democracy in all its present form must slowly unfold and be reborn like a "phoenix" out of the string of the spiderwebs that created it. The cocoon that lies dormant, as one can only see in Humanism and essence standing still, must necessarily be reborn to give way to a network of power structures and communities (see also: *The Political Philosophy of Poststructuralist Anarchism*). It grows and flourishes without the contradiction taking its hold.

How these events should unfold, is not for one to answer. The One never has neither an answer as to what should happen before or after. The One is necessarily led in a river towards the final unfolding. Events, histories, and effects necessarily transpire as a consequence of his unfolding, but never as a cause.

The One must necessarily be persecut-

ed, sacrificed, fed to the Gods that created it. Democracy is to be auto-immunized by the very social and political structure that started it.

There are some that argue that democratic socialism cannot exist without the first affirming its existence within Marxism. The Hegel dialect exists throughout Marxism, as the existential dichotomy that cannot be superseded. Both Heidegger and Sartre, two distinguished philosophers of the 20th century spoke of the other as Being and as Being, spoke of man as Dasein. For here it must be contended, that Marxism has reached an impasse, a sort of limitation that cannot be superseded, even if democracy were somehow to be affirmed (with respect to Dick Howard and his *Specters of Democracy*).

I grant that democracy is a virtue with many human qualities that give it an axiomatic scope. It is an axiomatic scope that could inherently strengthen the prospects and future of democratic socialism, but in the form of a vanguard personality that risks subsuming it into further obscurity. Only entails the following: that democracy as defined today cannot be democracy defined tomorrow, democracy as one sees it, as created in all its forms from Kant's proclamation of Enlightenment to Hegel's truth of romantic idealism. It only entails that democracy at its present form leads to the very contradiction that could inevitably, if applied to Marxism, create greater obscurity and failure. This creates a risk and failure that were frequent throughout the world's last remaining saving graces. Democracies are inherently differed and defer; inherently without attainability; aspire for but without being approachable to a feasible limit or convergence.

Those who claim democratic socialism in England, the so-called labor party of the now debunked and unpopular Prime Minister, have failed to realize their failure in all of this. There are catastrophic consequences to putting names and signatures into things that have very little value and sense.

To presume that Marxism is in need of today's standards of democracy: is to presume the obvious mistake that there really does exist a higher signification. That is to say that man has easily defined what democracy is, and now is only capable of applying it elsewhere, as others have tried to do in the past.

Indeed in fact, democracy has no higher signification, it has no sense of a higher order to it. In reality, democracy is a set of a whole group of signifiers converging; localizing; referring back to other signifiers. There are other standards of what

democracy is, in other cultural and social systems unlike the West, unlike the East, and the Southern regions of the world. Here, one can say that the historical trend fits well with what the task of the One is to be, what his role is according to the basic strategy that will be led by it.

The task of the One is to be led towards the rough path of having to come to terms with its own powerlessness. History is calling all the shots, and he is to be led towards it or be consumed by it. Since man as a whole always seeks to be led away from madness, since the collective body always ask to be led towards the clearer picture, towards the truer identity of the self; hence there is no either way. The One must follow towards the path, towards the sacrificial chambers that the One once avoided and condemned, "Why have you forsaken me, father?"

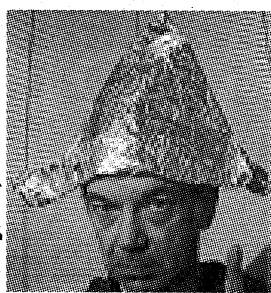
The contradiction becomes resolved when the dichotomy is let loose from its imprisonment, when madness is no longer localized in its prison chambers (see also: Foucault, *A History of Madness*) and can be set free. In other words, as autoimmunity is allowed to be set free, when the sacrificial lamb is to be pierced with the knife, there is in consequence a release of the sudden contradiction that took hold. The implosion occurs only where there is to be subsequent explosion. The Empires of the last remaining nations collapse in an utter implosion that allows the intelligence time, before the lamb is to be sacrificed before the wolves are to take hold, to impart its gift upon the world, a higher order reason embedded within the trends of history. A dichotomy no longer localized at a hierarchal level, but the reason of choice, or "the gift of choice." There is freedom to choose and make due as to what those choices should be, which can be understood to be precedent that sets humanity as a whole to stand side-by-side with the other, and not face-to-face with him (see also: Jacques Derrida, *Writing and Difference*).

The clear transformation that occurs at this level is the foundation for the future's sake. What is found is no longer lost, and what once was lost, is now found. The species must now look to the future and no longer be perplexed by the Other, but be comforted by the opening and unraveling of history towards the end and towards the new beginning that is must have. For a species to deny that, would necessarily dispel what it wants to begin with. It wants to see clearly what was it was blinded from before, and that is the bigger picture, the reality that was once taken from it.

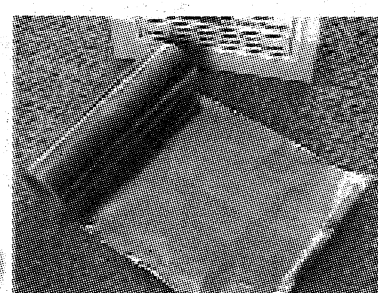
Here that picture has unraveled and one leaves the rest to history.



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Acne and Accutane: Wrong Decision

By Matthew Rammelkamp

"Acne is a terrible problem. I know this first-hand as I suffered with it for over 20 years. It wasn't until I studied natural medicine carefully that I realized there is a virtual surefire solution for acne that does not involve any medications at all."

- Dr. Mercola www.mercola.com

When I was in high school, I had pretty bad acne. I was joyous when my mom thought it was worth going to the dermatologist to treat it. I took whatever drug was prescribed. We tried one thing, then the next, and eventually I went on Accutane. I now look back, and realize that I wish someone would have intervened and given me another solution. When I was that young, I thought I was educated and up to date with most issues in the world. However, no one in the progressive political arena was talking about how to take care of oneself. I was unaware that prescription or over the counter drugs were made by big, bad corporations, or that they were toxic chemicals and potentially deadly, just like the environmental toxins I became an activist over. I never knew that these drugs cause cancer and other diseases, just like the toxins in the drinking water I was so concerned about.

From being an environmentalist, I discovered vegetarianism. This directed me toward animal welfare and the concept of animal rights. Eventually I learned about animal testing. As groups like People for The Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and others would criticize animal tests for household products or cosmetics, they did not discuss or criticize the topic of pharmaceutical testing of drugs on animals.

Through some more radical groups, I learned that these companies were not doing a public service to help society. They were researching drugs that they could make the most money off of instead of ones that would help the most amounts of people. They were making drugs for a few cents a pill and charging hundreds of dollars for them. They were denying apparently "life-saving" medications to those in the third-world who needed it - due to patent disputes. They were delaying the introduction of new AIDS medications until the stocks of the old, less effective ones, were sold. They were not only using millions of animals in experiments, but those experiments were not carried out properly. Scientific procedure and protocol were broken regularly, and approved by management. I learned that data is often falsified to try to get results that will help market the drugs.

These companies were also committing some of the worst human rights

abuses I could imagine. Bayer was caught selling HIV-infected drugs to foreign countries, Pfizer was caught doing clinical studies for their experimental drugs on Africans without their knowledge, and GlaxoSmithKline was testing their experimental AIDS drugs on not only guinea pigs and primates, but human babies in New York City's orphanages. There is a Hollywood movie called The Constant Gardener about the Pfizer debacle; you can get the movie at the public library or Blockbuster. There is a romantic comedy directed by an ex-pharmaceutical sales rep to try to alert the public of the deceptive marketing practices involved in pharmaceutical companies, called Side Effects. It's because of them putting profits before patient safety that doctors were lied to and told by reps that Vioxx was more effective than other painkillers on the market. It wasn't. It was also a lot more dangerous and 100,000 Americans are now dead due to its use.

The combined track record of all these practices compelled me to forgo an Advil when I had a headache, and left me completely open and I began to search for a way that it could be possible to completely boycott pharmaceutical companies and never have to give them a dime of my hard earned money for the rest of my life. At first I didn't think it was possible. I saw an infomercial on TV once that really changed my life. I bought the book, read it front to back in two days and have been researching information, products, and websites from the book ever since. There is a lot of information out there every day, my research is continuously ongoing.

Six years after my acne, I have now obtained more knowledge about how the body heals itself, what causes disease, and how to prevent sickness than I ever knew about environmentalism, animal welfare, or any other issue that has ever concerned me. Yet there is so much to know. I at least have honest, trustful resources at my disposal to check and that I can rely upon to give me information that I need. My friends and family on occasion get sick or have a condition and ask me "I need the natural cures for..." So I look it up for them. I was recently told by my ex-girlfriend that her sister is on the acne drug Accutane. Because she is female, they also have to put her on birth control because Accutane would cause a severely deformed baby if pregnancy occurred. During my hours of research, I came to the realization that a health problem that I am now suffering with is most likely a direct result of my Accutane use.

There is a lot of information I can tell you about how bad Accutane is, or the corruption involved in getting Accutane on the market. In fact, nothing would please me more than to write a book

about it. But for the sake of time, I won't. You should also know that birth control pills are also terrible for you - just think about how unnatural it is! Read http://www.mercola.com/2004/jun/12/contraception_facts.htm to read about birth control drugs and alternatives. Maybe I'll write another article on it. For now, I'll focus on my arch nemesis: Accutane. By the time you're done, my hope is that you will believe it is terrible and you should throw out the pills right now and never get another prescription. I know I am not a doctor; but neither are you - probably. Doctors used to promote cigarettes so your excuse for not taking what I say with accuracy is silly. You can go to any Naturopathic Physician and they will back up what I am saying here. NDs actually go through the equivalent of conventional medical school, then "unlearned" in a sense, and are taught why toxic drugs and cutting open people is not the best way to help them. They are taught all the alternatives and then some. They are taught up to date information that is just coming out now - new paradigms for how we look at nutrition, prevention, and holistic medicine. So, my point is that NDs get more schooling than MDs and they will back up what I am saying.

Here is what you need to know about Accutane. Accutane is an antibiotic. What antibiotics do is kill bacteria. In doing this, they do not discriminate. This means they also kill beneficial bacteria like the critical kind that lives in your gut. These "good" bacteria help you digest food properly, help your body absorb and make the most of the nutrients in the food you eat, and they provide other vital functions for health maintenance. If you have an unhealthy gut, symptoms will spur up all over the body and you will undoubtedly have an unhealthy body. Taking antibiotics, especially long term, will lead to digestive problems. Here's where I come in - since taking Accutane, I have developed the worst digestive problems that have caused me lots of money, embarrassment, and inconvenience.

In addition, antibiotic use may also cause yeast overgrowth and candidiasis. Scientists who have alternative theories on the cause of AIDS even claim that long-term antibiotic use causes autoimmune deficiency (AIDS), because antibiotics are immune-suppressant. Accutane increases suicide risk and shuts down frontal brain activity. Accutane increases risk for inflammatory bowel disease - a digestive problem - big surprise!

I took Accutane for at least an entire year, maybe two. I am convinced it was because of Accutane that I now developed all my digestive problems. I have been tested by a clinical laboratory for these problems and have found out the following. I am allergic to soy, peanuts, mustard, almonds, corn, cashews, can-

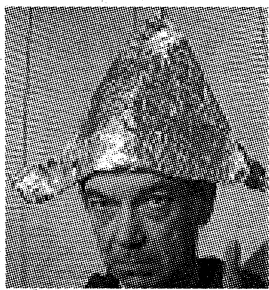
taloupe, the herb astragalus, peas, and a couple others. Being vegan and being allergic to soy and the two main nuts has really been an inconvenience. I have really bad flatulence when I eat these foods and my breath smells terrible all the time (the smell comes from the gut). I have an overgrowth of bad intestinal bacteria and I have spent hundreds of dollars on probiotic supplements to try to counteract the years of taking antibiotics. I would like to take this time to thank Roche (the manufacturers of Accutane), as well as my mom, the dermatologist, and the drug reps who push their drugs on doctors. Thank you for making me have really bad gas every time I have tofu "chicken" or peanut butter sandwiches. I'd also like to take the time to criticize groups who are against cosmetic animal testing but not pharmaceuticals. Because of you, I remained ignorant of alternatives to drugs like Accutane throughout my adolescent years. Thank you to anyone in the progressive arena who did not think that health and wellness is an important social justice issue. Yes, I am being sarcastic.

The manufacturers of Accutane, Roche, are being sued in hundreds of class-action suits for their drug increasing suicide risk. Just do a goodsearch for "Accutane lawsuits" yourself! This company was also fined a record \$500 million for their Trust violations - the largest fine for a corporation in history! And this was even a settlement!

Roche, like all pharmaceutical companies, also torture and kill bunnies, puppies, and marmoset monkeys in experiments. You trust a company like this to treat your acne in the best way possible? They do not care about you or your health; they want you to take a pill every day for as long as possible so they make money off of you every day. That is their one sole legal obligation [see the movie The Corporation which explains corporations' legal rights]. In fact, drugs like Accutane or antidepressants prescribed to teens are both great for them because they really want to get you hooked while you're young. Then, when the toxins in those drugs build up in your system over time, you'll get some other health condition that will lead to you being prescribed more and more drugs. It's a snowball effect.

Taking an antibiotic long-term to treat acne may work over time, but it is surely not treating the cause. And the side-effects? Just look at what it says on the package! Look at the animal tests! Look how many animals died of cancer in the studies. It has warnings that it causes birth defects in humans which is why they make you go on birth control as well! Do you think that it is good for you to swallow two chemical pills every day? The toxic buildup from the synthetically

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tinFOIL Hat Zone



Tinfoil - February 28, 2007 - The Stony Brook Press

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manufactured drug will harm your liver over time and some of your other organs - forcing you to go on more prescription drugs soon in life. By the time you're fifty, you'll be on a few dozen drugs every day. It is a snowball effect; you're rolling down the hill towards toxic oblivion and you won't be able to slow down until you hit a tree. But you can grab hold of the ski lift and fly across the mountain to good health and avoid hitting any trees...only if you choose. The earlier you make this life-transforming decision, the happier and healthier you will be and the less money you will spend on medical bills or supplements. In China, doctors get paid only when their patients are healthy. They have true health-care. In America, we have a sick-care industry.

Here are what I found are the natural cures for Acne. If possible, find a licensed naturopathic practitioner in your area and go see him/her. They are trained in the field and can take your biological individualism into account when assessing getting to the root cause of your acne.

But, here are some of my recommendations; in order of what I think would be most useful. Try to do as many of these as possible because the cause is probably a multitude of factors of not living a healthy physical, emotional, and spiritual lifestyle.

Natural Cures for Acne:

1. Start consuming essential fatty acids (EFA's) daily; since acne may very well be a symptom of an omega-3 fatty acid deficiency. Acne is caused by inflammation and Omega 3's are an inflammation-fighting food. EFA's are available in fish, but so are heavy metals like mercury that can build up in women's bodies over time, leading to brain damage and autism in their children. A safer bet is to consume flax oil - a possible miracle cure for breast cancer by the way - you can get a bottle in the health food store refrigerated section, or buy flax oil supplements online, as well as in the vitamin section of any grocery store (but be careful for sketchy fillers). I use flax oil on my oatmeal, cold cereal, as salad dressing, or conceivable in just about any dish you make or prepare. It has a creamy nutty flavor and can be spooned or put in any beverage (soymilk, juice). You can not heat flax oil but can put it on hot foods. Take one to two tablespoons every day, or more for those with serious omega 3 deficiencies. Another cheaper, yet less absorbable source of daily omega 3's is flaxseeds - but they have to be ground otherwise they just pass right through you. You can add ground flaxseeds to anything. Yes, anything! Just sprinkle a tablespoon on top of every meal you eat - its only two dollars for a pound of this

stuff. This is probably the cheapest way to get your daily omega 3's, but especially since you are deficient, I would highly suggest investing in some flax oil and building up your stores of EFA's. Also, consider supplementing with DHA, an omega 3 fatty acid found in marine algae that fish eat, and usually only found in fish. Go to one of the online vegan shopping stores (veganstore.com) to find them. DHA helps build brain and eye tissue as well. It is not necessary to take this forever - but it is a very smart idea to buy a bottle of this and use it up so at least you will restore your levels to healthy normal levels. Unfortunately, if this is the cause of your acne, it will take a while to cure because it takes time for your EFA levels to go back to normal. It could take up to a year which is why everyone should make sure they are getting proper nutrition and enough EFA's even if they have no symptoms (like acne) yet.

2. Dr. Mercola says that the key to controlling acne is to optimize your insulin levels. Eliminate sugars and high-glycemic grains (potatoes, white rice, white bread, white pasta, chips, white flour waffles/pancakes) from your diet in place of whole grains and natural sweeteners. Agave Nectar is a low glycemic sweetener that has the same consistency as maple syrup/honey and is good to use for baking or adding a little sweetness to your whole grain oatmeal or quinoa, for example. Avoid all sugar, high fructose corn syrup, sucrose, etc. Do NOT replace sugar with artificial sweeteners like in diet drinks (aspartame, NutraSweet, sucralose, Splenda, etc). Do not drink pasteurized fruit juices - they are high-glycemic too! Eat the whole fruit! Drink filtered water (preferably Pi "living" water)! No soda either! Drink water, drink herbal tea. Watch out for soymilks too - all processed drinks are sweetened with some type of sugar. Even if it's organic sugar or natural "cane sugar," it is still sugar and has the same affect on your insulin levels! Read the ingredients of everything you eat for a month or two until you are familiar with products!

Note: Even organic and whole wheat grains may trigger acne. Try eating a lot less grains and see if your acne gets better. Keep a journal/log to keep track. Consider trying a no grain diet for a month to see if that helps. Dr. Mercola is famous for a book entitled The No Grain Diet; check out this article on his website: "No Grain Diet Cures up Acne" - <http://www.mercola.com/2003/aug/23/acne.htm>

3. Certain food allergies could cause acne. Use rotation diet by eliminating common allergic foods from your diet for a month and see if your acne clears up significantly. Then start reintroducing foods back one at a time. Keep a journal of how bad your acne is and everything you eat. Common food allergens are

dairy, wheat, and soy.

4. Stress worsens every disease. It is great to have a good tool to deal with stress when you encounter it. You can not control all the stresses in your life, but you can control the ways you deal with stress. Yoga, meditation, getting good quality sleep (<http://www.mercola.com/article/sleep.htm>), or using an acupressure technique called Emotional Freedom Techniques (or EFT), which is best taught in person by someone training in it (me). Or you can train yourself by downloading a free manual and order some DVDs to teach you the basics - see www.emofree.com.

These are the basics. There are some other essential oils, herbal teas, and such that may help with all this. There are a few different sites giving all the known natural remedies or cures out there - one of them is www.naturalcures.com the other is www.curezone.com. It could not hurt to do some of the other things listed on these sites.

The politricks involved with Accutane and the scummy manufacturer:

Accutane is Roche's number one selling product, with an estimated 5 million Americans using the acne medication since 1982.

? Accutane has been linked to at least 240 suicides

? The FDA concluded Roche had not acted in good faith when relating information regarding Accutane use in pregnant women. Roche knew about Accutane side effects while failing to fully disclose the dangers to the FDA, physicians, and patients.

? Accutane causes severe birth defects and even fetal death and the FDA concluded Roche did not adequately communicate the dangers to women using Accutane.

? Roche knew about the birth defects that could occur with Accutane and pregnant women years before ever getting the 1982 FDA approval. Despite this knowledge, the FDA and Roche SMART program aimed at preventing fetal death and birth defects in women using Accutane was not implemented until 2000. The SMART program was developed only after a 1998 FDA memo recommended "active consideration of removal of Accutane from the market."

? Now Accutane is also linked to an increased occurrence of inflammatory bowel disease and lupus

? Roche disregarded its internal doctor's recommendation for users of the drug to be monitored for signs of depression and a warning indicating this info is added to the label because "such Accutane warnings could cost the firm sales or prompt lawsuits."

? Roche's global head of drug safety, Martin Huber, testified in a pretrial deposition for a Florida case that the firm's internal analysis showed Accutane "prob-

ably caused" depression and other psychiatric illnesses in some patients, according to the court file summary of his deposition.

According to the summary of Zabrowski's deposition testimony, Schifferdecker wrote a report recommending changes in Accutane's U.S. label and core data sheet, the internal company document used by Roche to ensure consistency of the firm's products worldwide.

? Legal summaries of depositions by Roche's global head of drug regulatory affairs, Daniel Zabrowski, as well as other Roche officials, show that a company doctor, Peter Schifferdecker, who studied the drug's links to depression at the Corporate headquarters in Switzerland in 1997, recommended that Accutane's U.S. label warn users "should be supervised for signs of depression during therapy and, if necessary, referred for appropriate treatment."

? Zabrowski testified that Roche's marketing division was worried the monitoring warning on Accutane's U.S. label could hurt sales. Medical consultants in the marketing department revised Schifferdecker's report to remove the reference to monitoring, which was then sent to the FDA for approval

? Currently, Roche is the target of about 70 lawsuits for allegations of adverse reactions because of Accutane. Plaintiffs claim Accutane adverse effects include suicides, depression, birth defects and gastrointestinal injuries.

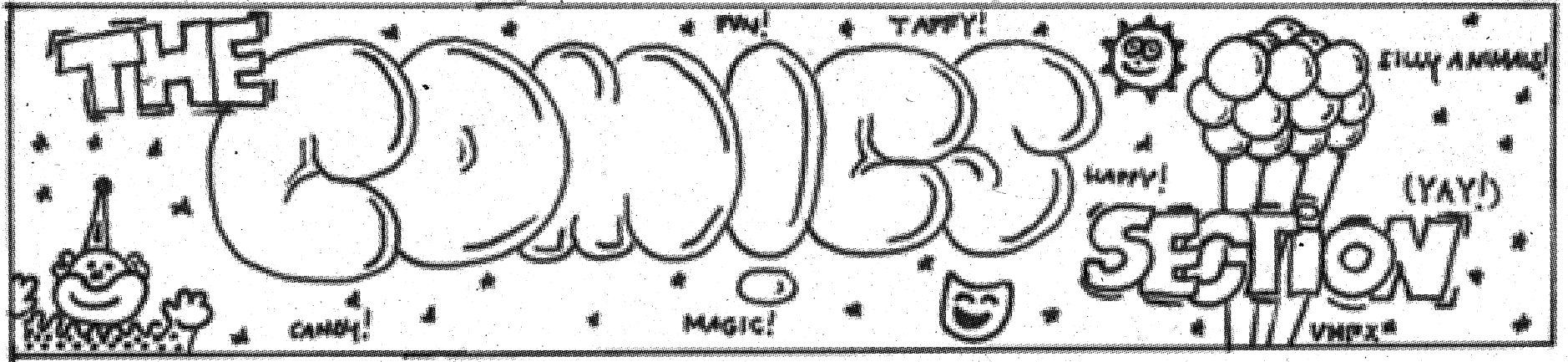
? Around 90% of all Accutane patients are considered to have mild acne and should have been using an alternate treatment.

? Roche was issued a warning letter after the FDA found the Accutane promotional advertisements to contain "false and misleading" information.

? At the December 11, 2002 House Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee Hearing on Safety Issues Relating to Accutane, Congressman Peter Deutsch told Roche North American president and CEO, George Abercrombie that, "what you just said is not a truthful statement" when he claimed the company did try to make consumers aware that Accutane is specifically intended to treat severe acne.

This just shows how corrupt the government (FDA) really is and how they are not here to protect your health. And what a poor job our current elected leaders do at protecting the public they serve. There are a few great films that will be screened this semester about drug safety and Big Pharma corruption, so keep your eyes peeled for neon flyers and go check them out. I would love to hear any comments, particularly if any of this has touched you. To contact me, email: veganmatty@care2.com, or myspace.com/fight-bigharma.

COME ONE, COME ALL (COME WITH YOUR MOM!), IT'S... IT'S... IT'S...



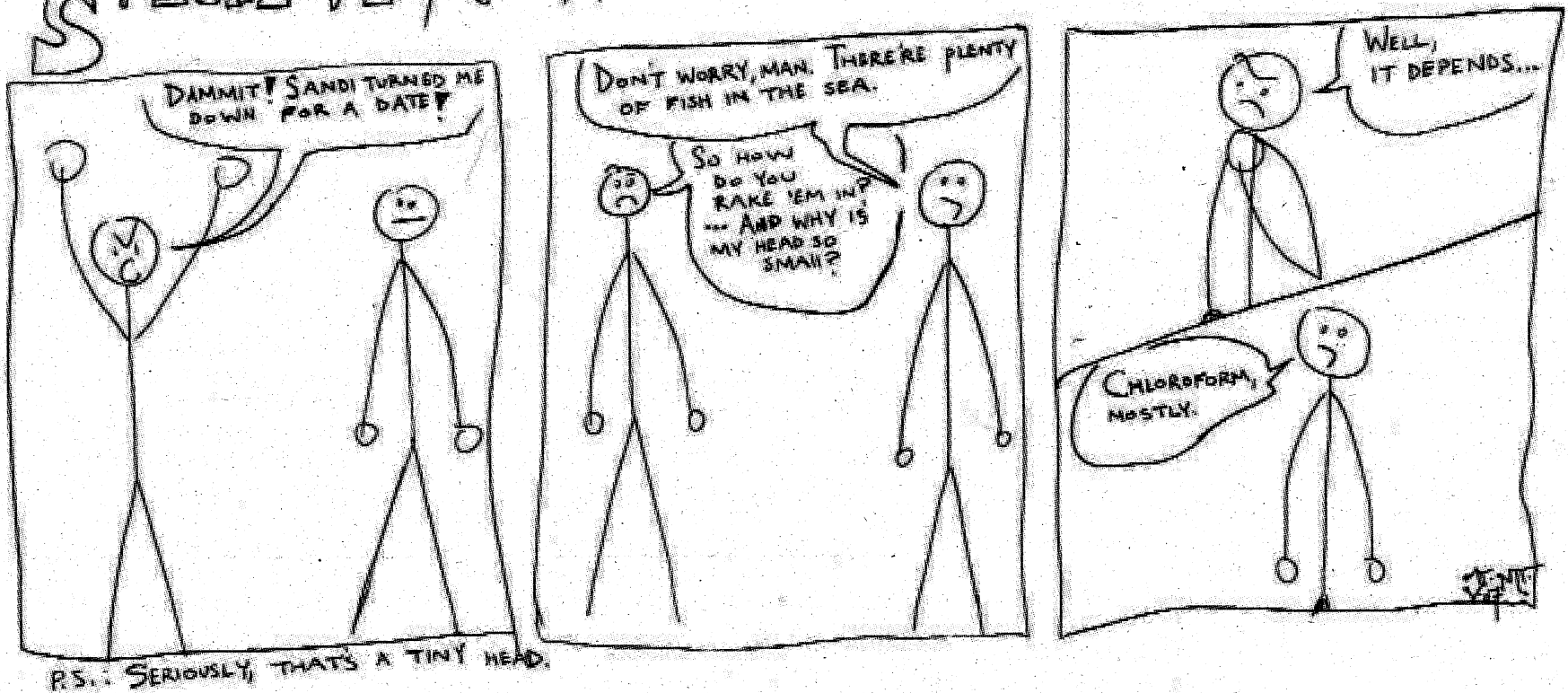
The Fantastic Adventures of FES

"Rule 34"

By: John O'Dell



STECKLOVE by JAMES MESSINA



TOP TEN



Pick-Up Lines

- 10 I Know Robert Romano ...
- 9 So baby, how conservative are you ... in bed?
- 8 I've got a Freedom Tower in my pants
- 7 Hey baby, you must be from Guantanamo Bay, cause I wanna hold you indefinitely
- 6 I wanna drill you like an Iraqi oil field
- 5 You make me so hot I almost believe global warming exists
- 4 I want to deploy troops to your Fertile Crescent
- 3 I like my executive branch like I like my pussy- lots of Bush.
- 2 Pull out? Withdraw? That's for pussies!
- 1 Now I know how Ronald Reagan felt because you make me lose my mind

Battle of the Century

Statesman

VS

Patriot

PROS

- Saves money by not buying red pens
- David Bouklas ≠ James Bouklas
- No Romanos
- Will James = Hunky
- Articulate, clean-cut, and a good looking guy
- The Press* wouldn't have been created if they didn't suck so bad
- Only comes out once a month
- No office next door
- Spends entire budget on rubber masks
- Robert R's fiction gives hack writers something to look down on
- Someone needs to find southerners sexy
- It's a joke, right?

NEO-CONS

- Their issues are mostly ads
- Comes out too often
- Gives The Honors College a bad name
- Spends entire budget paying themselves
- SSK's butt bitch
- Cheap, apathetic version of *The Press*
- You'll probably see a rip-off of this in their next issue
- Their issues are mostly Psychological
- Directly responsible for 9/11
- Look at us! Pop culture icons!
- Vast Zionist conspiracy
- Erik Berte = Honky
- No door to attach dildos to
- Cheap, conservative version of *The Press*

Testimonials: *The Statesman* Is Useful



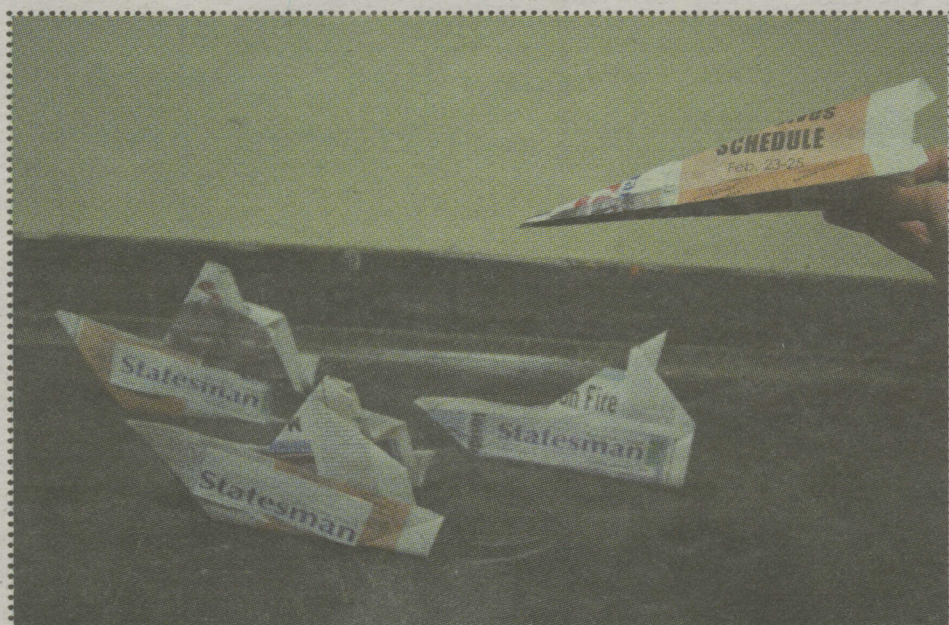
Training for *Press Copy Editors*



Emo kids: cut yourselves with *The Statesman's* **RAZOR** thin issues!



Defense against dildo-wielding, jump suit-wearing, bike-riding hobos.



Re-enacting national tragedies. We told you Pearl Harbor was next!



Firewood! Duh!

DEATH EGG ZONE