

The Stony Brook

PRESS

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Your New USG President is...



Dr. Strangegov or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love USG Ineptitude

By Alex H. Nagler

If you blinked last weekend, you may have missed the number of presidential candidates for this year's Undergraduate Student Government shrink from three to one, then bounce back to two over the course of 48 hours. Incumbent President Romual Jean-Baptiste and Vice President of Academic Affairs Chinelo Onochie were both disqualified from the election for violating Article II, Section 2.C. of the USG Constitution, Article VIII, Section 3.C. of the *Elections Board Bylaws* and the USG Elections Board Candidate Agreement Form. The exact text of these bylaws is as follows:

Article II, Section 2.C. of the USG Constitution: "[T]he organization [Undergraduate Student Government] shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office."

Article XII, Section 3 of the *Elections Board Bylaws*: "No validated candidate who wins Election to office shall be denied the right to take office in a timely manner in accordance with the prescribed dates in the USG Constitution."

USG Elections Board Candidate Agreement Form: "I, _____, hereby know and understand the rules that have been stated on this form, in the *Elections Board Bylaws*, and the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Government including being a member of the Undergraduate Student Government, and agree to have my platform and school ID photo posted on the ballot during elections."

The case was brought up by President Jean-Baptiste. When District Advocate Alex Ovtcharenko was brought in, the President claimed that Vice President Onochie had violated the procedures for elections by sending a message to members of a USG Sponsored Facebook group concerning the appearance of Tiki Barber on campus for his lecture. President Jean-Baptiste claimed that a message sent on March 5th to the 77 members of this group, entitled "VOTE CHINELO ONOCHIE FOR PRESIDENT IF YOU AGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING..." was in direct violation of the electoral process that governs the USG.

In the course of the investigation, it was found out that one day prior to Vice President Onochie sending this message,

President Jean-Baptiste had himself posted a campaign photo on March 4th reading "RE-ELECT ROMUAL JEAN-BAPTISTE as your USG PRESIDENT" in the group, also in direct violation of the very law he was attempting to have Vice President Onochie disqualified for. Where as Vice President Onochie admitted that she did indeed send this message, and provided the Elections Board with a hard copy of a transcript of her actions on Facebook, President Jean-Baptiste claimed to have never posted this photo, regardless of the fact that his Facebook Mini-Feed gave proof that he did indeed post it, and Vice President Onochie's transcript includes her deleting the photo in question. With this new, potentially damaging information, the President called off the investigation and the District Advocate put the investigation on hold.

However, on March 15th, the Elections Board held an emergency session in which both President Jean-Baptiste and Vice President Onochie were brought in for questioning concerning the allegations. A discussion between Elections Board Chairman Max Sequiera and the third presidential candidate, Senator Joseph Antonelli who at the writing of this article has not been blamed for anything yet, had the Senator express his beliefs that the President and Vice President had indeed committed violations to the bylaws.

On March 16th, the Board reconvened and decided that following the precedent set established in *Romano, Borodkin, and Shapiro v. Darguin* (2006, Case No. 0052006) that both of the candidates had indeed committed violations and removed both President Jean-Baptiste and Vice President Onochie from the ballot. At the same time the meeting took place, the President submitted a letter withdrawing his candidacy. Portions of this letter later formed his press release as to why he withdrew his candidacy and can be found further in this article. The Board also motioned that the two be brought up to the USG Judiciary for further disciplinary action should it be deemed fit.

When *The Stony Brook Press* emailed the three candidates for comment, Vice President Onochie responded first with the following comment:

"It's unbelievable that the elections board will make a decision of who the next USG president should be; a decision that should be left to the undergraduate students to make. It's even more shameful to have a President whose desperation and corruption has led to his ultimate disgrace. As for the decision by the elections board, they haven't heard the last of me; I want to know why after all the campaign-ing that I have done, they decided to dis-

qualify me just a couple of days before voting. On Monday, they will have to answer that or USG will be on the front page exposing every corrupt individual, starting with the President."

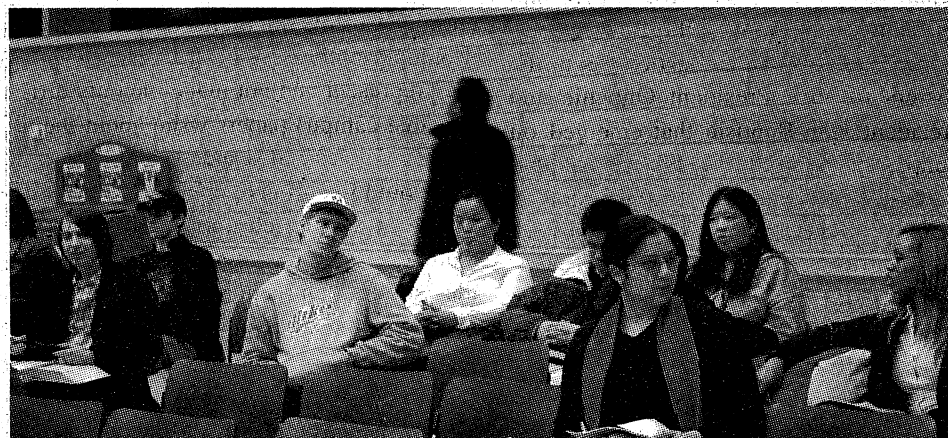
Second to respond was Senator Antonelli:

"It is never a good situation when you start out with three candidates and on election day only one stands. I was really looking forward to having a competitive election. When I first found out that Romual had withdrawn from the election, my initial reaction was that of relief, knowing that he would not be our President next year, leaving Chinelo and I as the only options. At the time, I was confident that no matter what the outcome of the election, USG would be in good hands next year. I was sincerely upset to find out that Chinelo had been disqualified and I am yet to hear the exact violation from a direct source as I have only read about this in the *Stony Brook Independent*. From what I have read, the elections board had voted unanimously to remove her off of the bal-

Jean-Baptiste that seemed to ignore the issue of the disqualification on the whole and served as the official press release on the President's various groups supporting his candidacy:

"I have been involved with USG ever since I set foot on this campus three years ago. The USG suite has become a second home, and serving you has been my motivation. Thinking over my decision to run for another term as president with family and friends, I have decided NOT to pursue another term. Next year is my senior year and I would like to focus not only on my academics but also my Exit Plan, life after Stony Brook. Therefore, on Friday the 16th of March, I withdrew myself from the ballot. I am sorry to report such news but next year is crucial to my future and I hope to make the best of it. Thank you to everyone that I have supported me during this year and others."

However, on Sunday March 18th, the USG Judiciary ruled that the Elections Boards overstepped their boundaries by disqualifying Vice President Onochie.



Hey I put that in the Press for you, just like you asked

That Press Photographer

lot so I trust that an informed decision was made. I would anticipate a fight from Chinelo, and all I can do is hope that justice is served regardless of the outcome. If there was no clear violation, I hope that we can have a competitive election. If there is a clear violation, it is an unfortunate situation but the law must be upheld. I hope that this issue is resolved with the utmost respect and dignity as Chinelo does not deserve to have her name dragged through the mud. She has always carried herself as respectful individual and leader. On the other side, I cannot say the same about Romual, who always has a cloud of controversy around him. I wish I knew the real reason why he removed himself from the election, and as soon as I find that out I want people to know. As upset as I am that as things stand there will be no competitive election, I can rest a little easier knowing that Romual will not be the USG President next year."

We received a response from President

President Jean-Baptiste was to remain off the ballot as he withdrew his candidacy before he was disqualified. Just as the Elections Board had cited *Romano, Borodkin, and Shapiro v. Darguin*, the Judiciary did as well, claiming that Facebook was not under jurisdiction, claiming that, "We believe this means that any resources funded by USG and any USG office space cannot be utilized by candidates for the purposes of their campaigns. The Facebook page is neither USG office space nor funded by USG." In a comment given to the *Stony Brook Independent*, Elections Board Chair Sequiera lamented that, "The judiciary went against their own precedent."

When asked for further comment on her reinstatement to the ballot, Vice President Onochie responded with this:

The Court's decision was a smart choice because like I have been saying all

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Dr. Strangegov (Continued...)

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along: no one except the undergraduate students has the right to vote for their next USG president. In addition to that, the Elections board under the advisement of Rob Romano did not have the authority to disqualify me. The Courts acted on behalf of the students and the decision was based on careful review of the constitution. Romual's Resignation from the race is the fault of one man: Romual. Through desperation, he initiated some explicit negative campaigning that led inevitably to his resignation from the race. It's quite sad that the President and the Junior class rep (soon to be VP for Academic Affairs) could engage in such a behavior. I would expect better from a five year old.

When all was said and done and the balloons themselves went up onto SOLAR on March 19th, Vice President Onochie and Senator Antonelli remained as the two candidates for President. While this is all fine and dandy (as now there will be an actual election), there still remain several questions. I would now like to take this time to depart from what is known and dive into speculation as to what will follow.

There are lingering questions as to the posters of Vice President Onochie and President Jean-Baptiste that emerged on campus and were quickly taken down that were supposedly linked to the Antonelli camp. Were these plays set up by President Jean-Baptiste's camp to attempt to disqualify Senator Antonelli as well as Vice President Onochie to give the President a clear field? Why does the President's letter make no mention of his disqualification or the fact that it was his own investigation that resulted in it? What corruption regard-

ing the President was Vice President Onochie referencing to in her comments? Is President Romual Jean-Baptiste hiding something from the student body that he would rather not prefer to get out?

As stated before, all of these claims are based on speculation. However, I cannot help but think there is something else going on here. Unfortunately, the student body may never know unless there is a massive outcry demanding answers. But, this is Stony Brook University. The Presidential election last year was decided by a measly nine votes, where only 2,569 students voted, and over thirty of them voted in Kelly Dining Hall on a laptop provided by the current President Jean-Baptiste. (This measure became illegal after last years election for this very reason.) All apathy towards the American political system aside, [need I remind you that only a paltry 560 students cast vote in the Midterm Midtacular? (See *The Stony Brook Press* Volume 28, Issue 5 "NYPIRG Rocks the Vote with 'Political Party'" for more on that issue)] student apathy towards USG is embarrassing.

If the USG wants students to care enough to vote in their elections, they should try to do more for the very students they represent and not make the only articles that campus papers write about them on their foibles and scandals.

I would like to give credit where credit is due in this article and thank Senator Antonelli and Vice President Onochie for the various comments they supplied, as they made the article much easier to write.

Alex H. Nagler hates this student government and all its problems, but sure loves writing about it.

Impeachment: An End to Romual's Shenanigans?

By Adina Silverbush

The Tuesday March 20th Senate meeting ended in the impeachment of USG President Romual Jean-Baptiste and Junior Class Representative Michael Cohan. The president allegedly designed campaign posters and Michael hung them up, under his opponent Joe Antonelli's name, with a picture of himself and a chimpanzee "evoking racist imagery", and the phrase "Would you want this person to be your President? Vote Joe, Vote Success." A second poster of his other opponent Chinelo Onochie posing in her bathing suit, also displayed the phrase, "Would you want this to be your President" was also allegedly created by the two.

Both Romual and Michael were given the opportunity to defend themselves to the Senate but both refused to answer questions. Romual read a prepared statement that's theme was "innocent until proven guilty." Michael was not given the opportunity to give his statement because the Senate voted to not allow him to speak on his behalf unless he answered the questions posed to him by the senators.

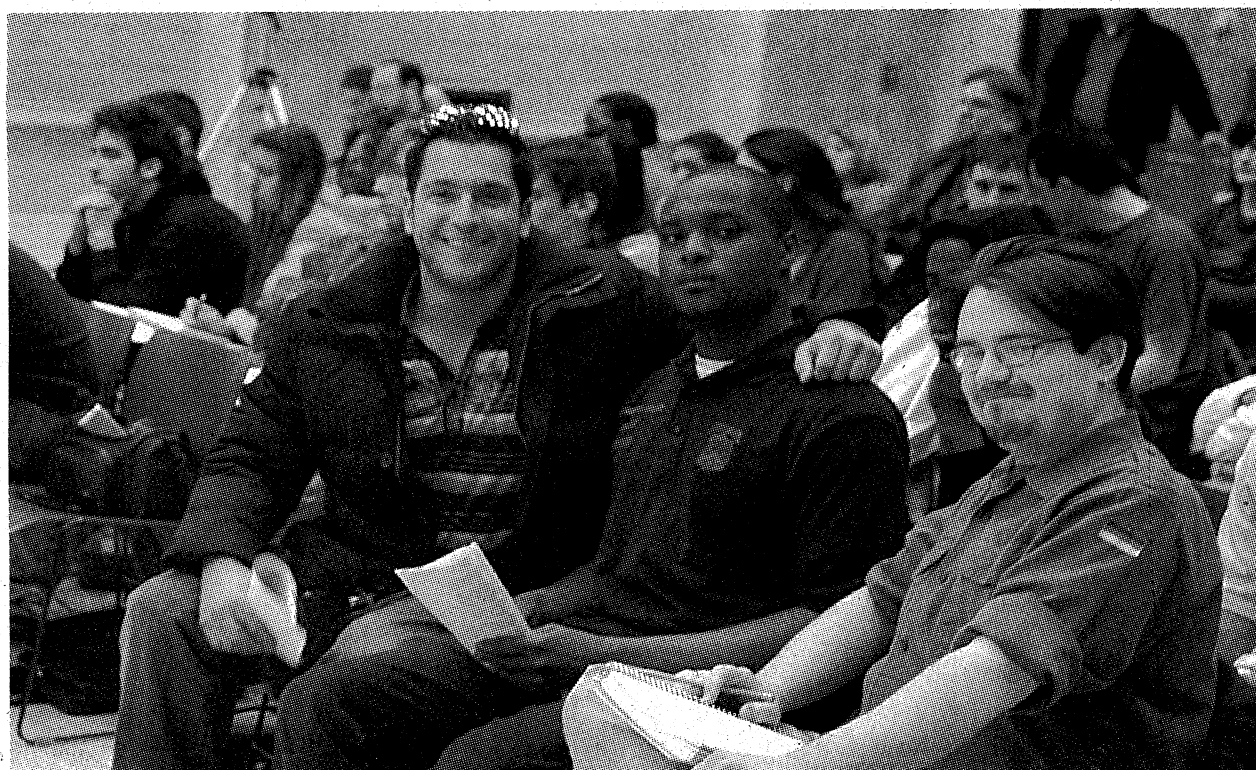
Joe Antonelli told the Senate that Romual and Michael had admitted what they did to him and to Gary Mis, the Director of Judicial Affairs. Cohen threw around Mis' name, shouting "Go speak to Gary Mis," angrily in response to his questioning. Senator Robert

Romano offered a statement detailing that him and his fiancé were shown pictures of Chinelo in her lingerie by Romual in his office, and were told by the President that he intended to "have flyers made of the pictures and distributed around campus with the help of the Junior Class Representative." Romano, however, was passionate that his statement alone was not enough for the Senate to go on, and they would need more solid evidence. A video supposedly exists of Michael putting up these posters, but it was not shown at the meeting.

Chinelo spoke to the Senate, calling Michael "stupid" and saying how Romual had apologized to her but she knew he didn't mean it. She advised the senate to impeach for the future of USG since Michael is running unopposed for the position of VP of Academic Affairs, a position Chinelo has held for the last two years.

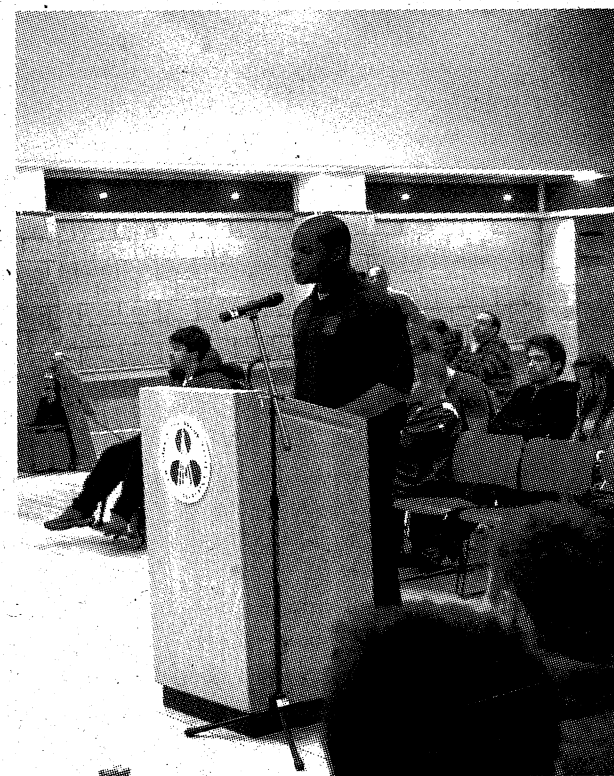
The gallery was rowdy and Amy Wisnoski warned that the cops were right outside and she would have any disruptive individual removed. Michael removed himself from the meeting, running out calling senator Nathan Shapiro "a fag" before he left and yelling at our photographer "Put that in The Press!"

The senate voted to impeach Romual and Michael unanimously. The case will be heard in the coming week by the judiciary and they'll decide whether or not to remove them from office.



Who knew being impeached could be so much fun?

Joe Safdia



The case for anarchy

Joe Safdia

Dismal Voter Turnout, Joseph Antonelli Wins



Jowly Romano

Your President Elect

By Alex H. Nagler

In statistics (or at least my POL 201 class), statisticians try to aim for a confidence level of 95 percent. This level tells you that 95 percent of your samples will fall in this range, and that all samples appearing in the other five percent are anomalies and deserve further investigation.

The USG Presidential Election is, statistically speaking, an anomaly. Less than five percent of the student body voted for the presidency, with President-Elect Antonelli trouncing Vice President Onochie, 528 votes to 214 votes. The turnout for lower positions was even smaller, with each senatorial candidate receiving an average of 213 votes. As a reminder, each incoming Senator was automatically given a seat due to the fact there were only sixteen candidates.

President Elect Antonelli's landslide victory could be attributed to many things. For one, he was the only candidate remaining on Friday the 16th, when Vice President Onochie and recently disgraced and impeached President Jean-Baptiste were removed from the ballot, though Vice President Onochie was reinstated the next day. It could be the fact he ran with a party, and that SUCCESS as a whole did well this election. There could be other mitigating factors we don't know about yet.

Or, it could be that students just don't give a crap. According to the university's very own webpage, there are 14,851 students enrolled here at Stony Brook. 742 voted for President. The election was held

on SOLAR, which students have no real reason to check unless they're paying for something or enrolling in classes. Those who did check SOLAR had a hard time finding the elections button as it was at the very bottom of the right hand panel.

It's almost as if the university wants USG to fail. After all, wouldn't it be so much easier to hold the elections on Blackboard, a service that students do check regularly? Or at least send out an email to all ic.sunysb.edu accounts reminding students that it's election week and they can now vote for the people in charge of their money. What about at least posting a bulletin on SOLAR, like the ones the university sends you when they don't have your money, linking to the polls? Or making it so that the polls don't have Javascript errors so asinine that a CSE 102 (Introduction to Web Design and Programming) student could have caught and debugged them before they went up?

I personally look forwards to see what President Elect Antonelli will be capable of doing for the school. I'm the one who interviewed him and he seemed to have some good ideas for possible changes. The government appears to be in competent hands that we hope will be free of the stench of corruption that Romual brought with him whenever he entered a Senate meeting. Good Luck, President Elect Antonelli, and thanks for the spreadsheet. Now go out there and do things we can write articles supporting, instead of our habit of writing articles against the USG.

Alex H. Nagler is don't blame me, I'm from Massachusetts.

Take Back The Night: A March for Solidarity

By James Laudano

As it is on every student campus in the nation, safety for females from the threats of abuse and rape is an absolute necessity. Over the past years, there have been numerous occurrences of such crimes perpetrated towards female students. It was with this unfortunate fact in mind that the event Take Back The Night was launched throughout the nation. Started in 1978 in San Francisco, Take Back The Night is a march held on campuses and in cities to raise awareness of the threats of rape and abuse.

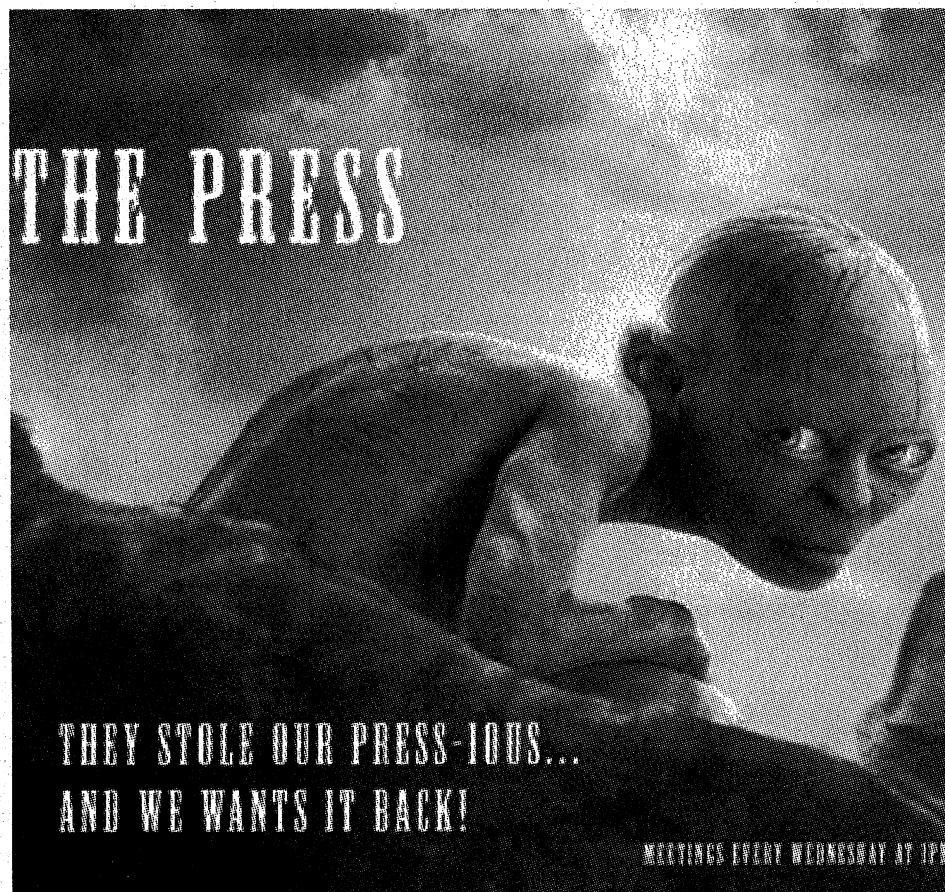
On March 14th, we here at Stony held our Take Back The Night march, headed by The Center For Wo/man's Concerns. I had the privilege of attending the event and discussing the goals of the march with the group's leaders. Miriam Riaz, the Center's Vice President, was kind enough to offer a few words regarding the march. "The march is about not being afraid to go anywhere anymore. Rape is still an issue on campus and this march is to help others acknowledge this." Belqis Hamid, the Center's President, told me "We feel this is an important cause. It affects all women on this campus."

Prior to beginning the march, the supporters met in the Union lobby at 6:30 PM to hand out t-shirts, flashlights and fliers. The march then began at 7:00 and proceeded from the Union through the various resident quads and

concluded with a vigil at Gray's College at 8:30. The march was attended by about thirty-five supporters at the outset and grew as some passer-bys joined. The marchers chanted such slogans as "Racist, sexist, anti-gay, you can't take our rights away" and my personal favorite "Hey, hey! Ho, ho! This sexist shit has got to GO!" The vigil afterwards was a sort of open forum for marchers to share personal experiences, ideas, or feedback, if they chose.

It is wonderful to see such a cause being taken up on our campus. The passion and intensity displayed by the marchers was both direct and very admirable. Of all the causes taken up on campus, be they political or social or whatever, this is one that truly hits home. Rape and abuse are things that we as students have to face every day, and events like this, which aim to tackle the problem head-on, are a necessity.

Shortly before we began the march, I was joined by the S.B. Press' own Kotei Aoki. Once we began to march out of the Union, he turned to me and remarked, "This march is great. I especially love the fact that we are having a march in the month of March." Well, all puns aside, he was absolutely right. The Center had this march in March because this month is Women's History Month. The campus has already had numerous other events to commemorate the month, and hopefully Take Back The Night won't be the last.



Welcome to Movie Phone

By Johnathon Singer

It's five minutes to four PM on a rainy Thursday, and I am sitting in the SAC auditorium, surrounded by 23 old people. "Old," as in at least over fifty. I overhear two of them talking about "something called 'YouTube.'"

I love movies, and I was thrilled to learn that the Provost Lecture Series was featuring David Denby, a film critic from *The New Yorker*, whom I did not know. He would be speaking in a lecture called "Can American Movies Be Saved?"

The empty theater is the setting where Denby takes the stage. "Many of us wouldn't dream of seeing a movie without first reading Denby's opinion on it," says Provost Bob McGrath as he introduces the famous film critic.

I guess old people really like *The New Yorker*.

Denby's first remarks were that he didn't know the lecture's title until he arrived. I was very interested in learning about what was wrong with American cinema, but Denby explains that "nothing is drastically wrong with American movies."

Dylan Skolnick, from the Cinema Arts Centre, says, "There's a lot that's right with American cinema. There's always a lot of junk out there (think the 2006 movie *Crossover*, which was rated number one on the Internet Movie Database's bottom one hundred). But we only remember the classics." In the 1970s, films like *Annie Hall* or *Star Wars* were accompanied by bad movies that we don't know about because they were forgotten.

American films are just at a crossroad, while corporate movie studios are churning out high budget blockbusters designed solely to rake in high profits. The current reality of digital filmmaking

"I can buy an hour worth of digital tape (binary coded) for five dollars," says Berkowitz.

"A roll of traditional film costs \$40"

has the potential to drastically change how films are made, and more importantly, how they are distributed.

Throughout his lecture, Denby makes references to *300*, the current number one movie in America (and number 214 on IMBD's top 250). "It's military recruiting mixed with video games," he says.

Denby explains that *300* is significant because it utilizes the latest technology in digital filmmaking. "A lot of

things were done digitally," he says, "like people's heads getting chopped off."

300 was also shot entirely in front of a green screen, a move which cut down greatly on production costs. Denby estimates that the price of production was only \$64 million. "For a Hollywood film that is actually modest," says Skolnick.

And because *300* has already grossed

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\$71 million, Time-Warner's stockholders are satisfied with the move, regardless of whether or not they found it to be aesthetically pleasing.

Zack Snyder, the director of *300*, was under immense pressure to please these stockholders. "If you want to make a \$50 million movie, you can't be upset for them to want to make a buck," says Skolnick.

But while digital filmmaking saves studios and the mega conglomerates that owe them money, the people who benefit the most are independent filmmakers. Both Denby and Skolnick are calling this "the dawn of democracy film."

It is now possible to shoot and edit a feature length movie for under \$50,000. Most, if not all film schools are teaching students how to work with digital "film" and not celluloid. Jason Berkowitz, a screen studies student at Clark University, says that if he ever saw traditional film equipment, he would have no idea how to use it.

"I can buy an hour worth of digital tape (binary coded) for five dollars," says Berkowitz. "A roll of traditional film costs \$40." Now Hollywood movies are using Final Cut Pro, Apple's digital film software, to make high definition movies. It's the same program that Berkowitz uses in Clark University's computer lab. A copy of Final Cut Pro costs \$1,299.

Even a movie as somber as *Brokeback Mountain* was edited on digital software. Black and white movies like the 2005 film *Good Night, and Good Luck* are actually shot on color stock and then have the color removed during post-production.

Out of these digital developments has come the current "indie" culture. Movies like *Napoleon Dynamite* and *Little Miss Sunshine* are bought from independent filmmakers to show in theaters nationwide. The latter film was

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Tripled? Check Your Mailbox

By Alex H. Nagler

Check your campus mailbox. An unsolicited letter from the university may be there that determines whether or not you'll be allowed to return to the room you're in this year. Over the summer, an additional 800 double rooms will be converted into triple occupancy rooms to accommodate the upcoming influx of new students. The reason for the unwelcome change is a predicted 108% occupancy rate for the 2007-8 year.

of his new homeless situation, "When I first came here, the first suitemate I ever met stated that he had been in the same room all four years of his college career. Now I feel cheated as I love my suite and my room and for the building to kick out one of their loyal residents is an outrage and is poor judgment on the housing department's part. I think that this campus is getting very greedy because they're filling up every room over capacity just to make a couple extra bucks. I think the school should focus more on the residents it already has and less on overpopulating



Google

Homeless Person Not to Scale

If the case were only that the inhabitants of a double were merely getting an extra roommate, that would be one thing. Instead, the university is evicting these students from their rooms and making them find housing elsewhere in the building or in their quad. The claim is that these students will be given preferential treatment in the room selection. The letter to students claims that, "to offset the inconvenience of not being able to return to your same assignment you will have additional priority to select an alternative space during room selection."

Room selection begins on March 26th and ends on April 23rd. The university believes that this priority treatment and the long selection window will give displaced students the ability to rectify their situation, but the hassle of having to find a new room may be more than it is worth.

In my suite in Toscanini, my roommate and I managed to escape the tripling, but our friends in the C room didn't. My suitemate, Justin Meltzer (Assistant Program Director at our neighbor down the hall, SBU-TV), is getting displaced. When he finally calmed down, Justin had this to say

the campus." With that, he picked up his cell phone and left for McDonalds. By the time he came back with my fries, they were cold.

If the university wants to house more students, they should build more accommodations. Displacing current students to make way for more that the school cannot physically support is a bad idea. Classes are already overcrowded, it is sometimes impossible for students to get the labs they need, and any semblance of lunchtime at a campus dining hall could be mistaken for kill time at a watering hole.

The school can't support everyone who goes here. So, how about this for a novel idea? Why not increase the criterion for admission? There's no shame in attempting to apply a higher standard to admissions. We claim that we're one of the foremost public research institutions in the world. Why not make it a little harder to enter the gates of Stony Brook and solve multiple problems at once? And why not build some gates?

Alex H. Nagler isn't elitist, he just wants some physical gates.

Iraq Veterans Against the War Talk on Campus

By Alex Walsh

Amidst the usual traffic of the night, a US Army truck turns a corner outside Baghdad International Airport, surrounded by other cars and pedestrians. An explosion flashes suddenly, destroying the truck. The lights of the cars on the street do not stop. People crossing continue on their way, and life continues. This video served as the opening for Matt Hrutkay, formerly a Sergeant in the Army, and currently a speaker for Iraq Veterans Against the War, to introduce his presentation. The event, sponsored by the Social Justice Alliance, drew a small crowd of concerned students to the Engineering Building on March 22nd. Hrutkay described his experience in the military and his deployment in Iraq, then talked about the IVAW organization.

Hrutkay's member profile on the IVAW website makes light of his time in Iraq. He writes "200 Combat patrols, 21 IEDs, and all I got was PTSD." Those 200 patrols happened between August 2005 and July 2006 when he was stationed in Baghdad, covering the suburb of Abu Ghraib and rural areas west of the city. Although Hrutkay says he "had a blast" during his time in the military - traveling to Qatar, Louisiana, Kuwait, and Iraq between 2003 and 2006 - his experiences in Iraq convinced him that the war was not winnable, and it was only worsening the already dismal conditions in Iraq.

He described an incident that played a part in pushing him toward opposition to the war. His unit had been sent to investigate a house that they were told was an Al Qaeda safehouse. They descended on the house in helicopters at 4 AM, and entered with guns drawn. Instead of terrorists, they found a family of fifteen. "I had my weapon pointed in this guy's face," Hrutkay recalled. All the 'combat age' males were restrained with zip ties, while the women and children waited in the next room. Five residents were detained for twelve hours. Because they were fasting for Ramadan, the men took no water although they were held in the sun. Of these five, three were arrested for having excess ammunition for the family's AK-47. "Everyone has one of those there," Hrutkay explained. They were a far cry from the expected Al Qaeda terrorists.

After leaving the Army in November of 2006, Matt Hrutkay joined Iraq Veterans Against the War. IVAW is a non-profit organization whose member-

ship is open to anyone who has served in the US military since 9/11. Their stated goals are immediate withdrawal from Iraq, payment of reparations to Iraq to rebuild the country's infrastructure and economy, and full medical benefits and support for returning veterans. As Hrutkay stated, the war simply cannot be won. "Democracy," he said, "has never been forced on people successfully." He also said that the US presence was only destabilizing the situation, actions in Iraq were not confronting terrorism, and that continuing the war does not honor those who died in action. Reparations are necessary, he said, not only for infrastructure destroyed as a result of the invasion and occupation since 2003, but also the 1991 Gulf War and especially the UN Sanctions imposed throughout the 1990s.

Finally, Hrutkay and the IVAW stress the effects of the war and its aftermath

"This war is destroying our army's families," Hrutkay said, citing the army divorce rate, which has gone up 900% since 2001

on the veterans themselves. Almost twenty percent of returning veterans develop post traumatic stress disorder, and as the recent Walter Reed Hospital neglect scandal has shown, the government's support for its veterans is not always up to snuff. The only real way to support the troops, according to the IVAW, is to bring them home and increase funding for their care. "This war is destroying our army's families," Hrutkay said, citing the army divorce rate, which has gone up 900% since 2001. The increasing need for troops in Iraq, especially now that the President is going ahead with his troop surge plan, combined with the low recruitment rate, has led the military to implement stop loss programs. These practices, often referred to as a backdoor draft, are used to redeploy soldiers who have finished a tour of duty in Iraq for longer terms. This keeps the troops away from their families for long periods of time and exposes them to the war for longer, increasing the risk of injury, death, and post traumatic stress disorder.

IVAW sends speakers throughout the country to rallies, college campuses, and other events. Their website, www.ivaw.org, provides resources for active duty soldiers, veterans, and war resisters.

SPEC Art Drive

By Bryan Hasho

SPEC's first Art Drive graced the Union entrance this past Thursday, ringing in over \$100 in monetary donations and a collection box full of markers, construction paper, and other crafty contributions. "I think the drive was very successful for the short amount of time we had to set it up," said Patricia Ng, SPEC President.

The supplies amassed were donated to the Child Life Program, a Stony Brook Hospital initiative that provides explorative activities to patients in the hospital's Pediatrics Center. The program's website states that, "The Child Life Program strives to normalize the healthcare experiences for pediatric patients and their families and reduce the stress associated with illness and hospitalization." SPEC, which stands for "Students Putting an End to Cancer," often provides a donation during each semester's visit to

and the small amount of time they had before the event, contribution was considerable, especially when it comes to college students. "I think that sometimes it's hard to ask for college students to provide monetary donations because a lot of us are pretty low on cash to begin with,

The Supplies amassed were donated to the Child Life Program, a Stony Brook Hospital initiative that provides explorative activities to patients in the hospital's Pediatrics Center

so I think that if students had the money to spare they would. I also think that some people just don't know how to participate, are afraid to take that first step, or they just assume that the next person



SPEC Art Drive

Jamie Freiermuth

the hospital to the center.

The proposal for the collection was originally Ashley Withers, a student from Suffolk County Community College. After being informed she needed club support to organize the table, she contacted Patricia at SPEC, who arranged the event on campus. Ashley managed the table, mostly alone, from nine in the morning until five at night.

Though the event was clearly a success, student participation in donations perceivably could have been stronger. Some attributed this to a lack of advertising, an approach Patricia says will be a focus next time. "We plan to hold another drive in April before school ends and next time we would like to advertise more. We'll put up flyers, send out mass emails and contact some major campus groups to give announcements, such as [Residence Hall Association] or Commuter Student Services," she said.

With the limited amount of marketing

will take part instead of them," Patricia said.

In addition to the April's supplies drive, SPEC is currently involved in a number of other happenings here on campus. They have arranged for a lecture on carcinogens, also in April, from a member of the Great Neck Cancer Coalition, and are currently supporting and promoting the recent push for a smoking ban on campus.

SPEC was founded in 1999; they organize numerous educational affairs, including how-to lectures on self breast exams and cancer awareness seminars. They also work directly with the Child Life Program throughout the year. "Our aims are to increase cancer awareness and prevention in the community, provide support for those affected by the disease, and raise funds to help cancer research," said Patricia. The club holds meetings on Wednesdays at 6 PM, and can be contacted at stonybrookspec@hotmail.com

Dr. Chapple Comes to Stony Brook

By Jonathan Singer

In 1979, Christopher Chapple was working on his dissertation at Fordham University. He was immersed in Indian Literature, studying the philosophy of a country that was halfway around the world. He was studying Sanskrit nonetheless, a dead language much like Aramaic.

The year 1979 is significant because that was the year when less than 200 miles away from Fordham, the nuclear power plant known as Three Mile Island underwent its now famous minor crisis.

It was here that Chapple, now Dr. Chris Chapple, Navin and Pratima Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology at Loyola Marymount University, decided to explore how Indian Literature expressed environmental concerns. Chapple earned his PhD in theology from Fordham in 1980, meaning that he was more than an expert on Indian Theology when the disaster at Chernobyl took place.

He is a leading scholar in the field of eco-criticism, "the study of literature as if the environment mattered." Dr. Chapple says that fingers can be pointed to Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. "Thoreau complained of loud trains," he says, "but that's nothing compared to Antarctic ice sheets."

Chapple, who just got back from the World Sanskrit Conference in Scotland, stopped by SBU because he is currently on sabbatical from LMU and wanted to visit the school at which he earned his undergraduate degree and taught for five years. Always the environmentalist, Dr. Chapple commended SBU's change in physical environment since he left.

"Many Practitioners don't know the history of what they are teaching," he says, of present-day yoga instructors. This is always a problem...

"Your physical environment has a great effect on your mental attitude," he says. While many students find the faux fountains on campus and in the Wang Center to be a waste of money, Dr. Chapple claims that they can cause one to feel restored.

Indian theology, as it turns out, has a rich environmental tradition. Indian religions are not born out of a desert, like Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. "They don't feel like they are getting punished," says Chapple.

That's because the Indian subcontinent is known for its diverse flora and fauna, warm weather, and monsoons.

He goes on to explain that India feminizes nature not for exploitation but for preservation. Texts like the Upanishads make countless references to nature and the environment in order to teach practitioners valuable life lessons.

In one section of the Upanishads, atman (the self) is compared to "dirty foam" while Brahman, ultimate reality, is said to be pure water. Other references are made to clay, fire, rivers, and oceans.



Christopher Chapple

One popular water reference is found in the Chandogya Upanishad. "I am this river," it says, comparing multiplicity to rivers and oneness to the ocean. Scholars like Dr. Chapple go on to explain that everything, "weather it is a tiger, a lion, a wolf, a boar, a worm, a moth, a gnat, or a mosquito," eventually merges into one, just as rivers eventually merge into oceans.

That list of eight animals illustrates the diverseness of both India's nature and India's philosophy. While the three main monotheistic religions are based around the stories of human beings, India's theology utilizes nature profusely; there are thousands of gods and a large percentage of them represent animals.

Chapple says that nature appreciation was not big in Europe until the industrial revolution, when William Blake developed eco-literature. It was here in the 19th century that "fear of wild" became "love of nature." That led to authors like Edward Abbey and Barry Lopez, books like *The Secret Garden* and *Walden Pond*. "India pervades those books," says Chapple.

Chapple claims that Emerson read the Bhagavad-Gita every morning. A well-known film clip shows Dr. Robert Oppenheimer, co creator of the atomic bomb, quoting a line from the Bhagavad-Gita after realizing the destructive power of his invention:

"Vishnu is trying persuade the prince

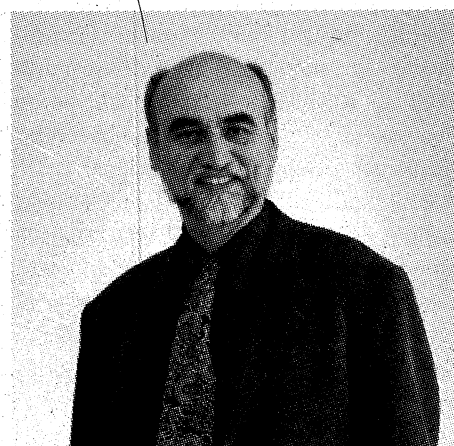
that he should do his duty. And to impress him, takes on his multi-armed form, and says 'now I am become death, the destroyer of worlds.'"

And Thoreau, like many Americans today, styled himself as a yogi, a practitioner of Yoga. Just like Indian theology teaches respect for the environment; it also teaches respect for the body, the personal environment. But Dr. Chapple calls the recreational, physical practice of yoga "the new American narcotic."

"Aerobic exercise emphasizes how the body appears to others," he says. "It tends not to focus on inner reflection."

As an academic, Chapple is committed to bringing Sanskrit to a wide audience. He is also a pioneer in the serious scholarly study of yoga.

"Many practitioners don't know the history of what they are teaching," he says, of present-day yoga instructors. This is always a problem when Westerners attempt to study religion outside of their Eurocentric perspective.



Christopher Chapple

Even Dr. Chapple admits that he sometimes runs into this problem. Sometimes he feels like an American trying to find something he likes in a work of Indian literature. While he works tirelessly to find the significance of Yoga, at least practitioners of modern postural Yoga are having fun. "It's perfect for the postmodernist who is too suspicious to turn up for a religious service."

It's also a great way to learn Sanskrit.

Welcome to Movie Phone

Continued from page 5

bought by Fox Searchlight, a subsidiary of Twentieth Century Fox, the studio which is a subsidiary of Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, for \$10.5 million.

Skolnick says that this is both good and bad at the same time. "Films outside the system are being sucked into the system." He suggests that independent films may become blander in the future. "Do they want to follow their vision, or follow the marketplace?"

Perhaps independent films can bypass the studio system, according to Denby's theories. Filmmakers are able to send digital movie files through the Internet to theaters equipped with digital projectors. "The savings in distribution costs are enormous," said Denby.

Instead, movies can bypass theaters directly and be sent right to consumers. Hollywood movies are already being shared illegally on file sharing programs like DC++. While the film industry says that they have it under control, the truth is that file sharing is rampant, especially on college campuses. Denby says that this changes not only how we get movies, but also how we watch them.

I currently watch most of my movies on my laptop computer's 13-inch screen, with stereo headphones for sound. Denby says, "I remember being alive for *Lawrence of Arabia* and seeing camels walking across a 70 foot screen." He has also seen *Pirates of the Caribbean 2* on an iPod screen, making Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom look like mosquitoes in a jar. "Kids don't seem to care," he says, calling our generation "platform agnostic."

But the joke's on him. "Young people don't read people like me, they read the reviews of their peers," referring to places like the IMDB message boards and *rottentomatoes.com*. However, he says that people will always need print magazines like *The New Yorker* to take with them into the bathroom.



Constitutional Showdown Heats Up

By Steve McLinden

The showdown between Congress and the White House over the alleged political firings of several U.S. Attorneys has gotten even more contentious, with a war of words between the executive and legislative branches becoming more acidic, and both houses of Congress having authorized their power to subpoena White House personnel like Karl Rove and Harriet Miers to testify in the investigation. Bush has spoken angrily as to the prospect of Congress compelling members of his administration by subpoena, possibly because he giggles every time someone says the word. The White House has offered what it calls a compromise, in which Rove and Miers could be "interviewed" by Congress; that is to say they would not be under oath and no transcript or record of the testimony could be kept. If the White House claims executive privilege – recalling Nixonian secrecy; a term most observers say Bush will probably try to avoid – and refuse to allow the subpoenas, then Congress may have those subpoenaed held in contempt and arrested. This could then all end up going to the Supreme Court, which may be expedited, but might not be ruled upon until the Bush Administration is out of the White House.

In a televised news conference on March 20th, Bush called the investigation a "partisan fishing expedition," in spite of the fact that earlier that day, the Senate had passed by an overwhelming 94-2 vote the decision to reverse a section of the Patriot Act reauthorization last year that had taken away Congress' right to approve of U.S. attorneys and would have given the executive branch free reign to appoint whomever they choose indefinitely. The President promised to release 3,000 White House e-mails in an attempt to display openness. However, many of the e-mails had already been leaked and also included a suspicious 16-day gap between messages during a critical period of the firings. Bush drove home the separation of powers argument that if White House aides could be brought to Congress at any time, it would have a chilling effect on the President's ability "to get good advice" and discuss matters with his staff. Towards the end of the conference, Bush was clearly nervous and unprepared in answering a few questions and dashing from the podium afterwards. Press Secretary Tony Snow has continually reiterated the administration's hard-line ultimatum offer that if subpoenas are issued, all discussion is off the table and those subpoenaed will in fact not testify. Paradoxically, Bush suggested that the Justice Department and Karl Rove have nothing to hide and would answer the questions in an open forum, but closed-doors off-

the-record interviews are unlikely to fit that description. Critics of the White House have said that the interviews would be meaningless and make a mockery of Congressional investigations. John Conyers (D-CA), chairperson of the House Judiciary Committee quipped that for off-the-record conversations that carry no weight, "we could meet at the local pub to have that sort of gathering."

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales has claimed that he was unaware of the firings by his now-resigned Chief of Staff Kyle Sampson. President Bush has said that he supports Gonzales 100% and Gonzales continues saying that he refuses to resign. Sampson reportedly kept a list of attorneys worth "retaining" and "removing." On March 22nd, Gonzales said "I'm not going to resign, I'm going to stay focused on protecting our kids," while Bush said in his press conference that he's sorry that the situation "bubbled to the surface like this." Even Congressional Republicans who have typically been close to the President have even been calling for Gonzales' removal lately.

Conservative spectators have resorted to the "but Clinton" defense, but the comparison is inaccurate: since at least the '70s, it has been traditional for an incoming President to take resignations from most of the U.S. attorneys of the previous administration, and subsequently appoint his allies. The difference in this Bush administration is that the attorneys were fired mid-term by the very same people who appointed them. Congressional Democrats are saying that if any of the attorneys was in the process of investigating any more serious circumstances (presumably unsavory scandals involving Republicans) there could be an even wider investigation and possible criminal charges for obstruction of justice.

While the Justice Department cited performance failures, a USAToday statistic shows that three of the nine fired attorneys (Carol Lam of San Diego, David Iglesias of New Mexico, and Paul Charlton of Phoenix) were in the top ten of 93 U.S. attorneys in gaining convictions. Lam successfully prosecuted former Representative Duke Cunningham (R-CA) for bribery, much to the chagrin of Republican national leaders. Iglesias testified to Congress that Senator Pete Domenici (R-NM) and Representative Heather Wilson (R-NM) called him at home and questioned him on his unwillingness to pursue a pre-mid-term election indictment of a congressional Democrat. Senator Charles Schumer expressed desire that "we all would like [the Bush administration] to get off their mountain and come down and negotiate," but as it appears that discussions are increasingly unlikely, the situation is likely to get more precarious quickly.

Kelly Open Mic Night

By Leeza Menon

Kelly Coffee House, in partnership with Stony Brook University's Campus Dining Services, hosted its monthly Open Mic Night on March 20th to provide a "place where people can just come and jam," according to Campus Dining Services' Director of Marketing, Lisa Ospitale.

Previous Open Mic Nights have sometimes drawn in 20 to 25 performers and large crowds of spectators, according to Laura Young, a junior at Stony Brook who assists Ospitale in planning events for Campus Dining Services. This latest event, however, drew a smaller turnout than predicted.

This time, there were no bands trying to get their next big break, and there were no poetry recitations, even though one was tentatively scheduled earlier that night. An hour into the event, a student identified as Jordan from Roosevelt Quad, performed Usher's "My Way" without musical accompaniment.

Among the hordes of passers-by making their way up the stairs into the Kelly dining room, some stopped to watch for a few minutes, and others kept on walking.

Following occasional impromptu jam sessions by two of the ten seated spectators, two performers played the guitar while singing some rock-and-roll classics.

One of them was Jeremy Rodriguez, a senior, who said it was his first time performing at an Open Mic Night even though he had watched some before. He performed Oasis' "Wonderwall" and "She Hates Me" by Puddle of Mudd. "It was nerve-racking," Rodriguez said.

Maryann Salazar, another student assis-

tant to Ospitale had performed at previous karaoke events at Kelly Coffee House but decided to opt out of it this time. The main factor that draws students to these events is that "students just like to mingle and meet people."

"There's a lot of people here with talent," Salazar said.

She said she believed the low turnout was due to the event's placement in the midst of midterms week.

The first Open Mic Night was proposed by student Jennifer Logan in 2004. Until she graduated last May, she was the student programming coordinator for Campus Dining and helped plan many of these nights, which took place in Kelly Coffee House because "its atmosphere was the best fit," Ospitale said.

Young said Open Mic Night "gives students a chance to express their talents and gives a lot of amateur bands exposure."

Tanya Gorousingh, also a junior, has been working for Campus Dining Services since August, 2006. As opposed to events like Recycle Mania, which came up on March 22nd, planning Open Mic Night has been much more "low maintenance," Gorousingh said.

Their marketing campaign for Open Mic Night included putting up flyers around campus, making stops at LEG meetings, including the night as an event on Facebook, and relying on word of mouth, according to Gorousingh.

There are typically Open Mic Night events once a month, so artistic hopefuls and rock star wannabes can still have their chance to show off their skills to what many students working for Campus Dining Services hope will be a much bigger audience.



Come Together, Right Now ...

John Lennon

LI's Volunteer Fire Departments' Woes

By Steve McLinden

With the recent high-profile arrests of eight officials from volunteer fire departments and an ambulance company across Suffolk County, the debate over the value of Long Island's volunteer firefighters and the services they provide is likely to flare up once again. The year-long criminal probe turned up the arrests in four separate Suffolk fire districts and the ambulance company, with all of them charged with the stealing of taxpayer funds.

Terri Gaines, formerly the secretary/treasurer of the Montauk Fire Department, is charged with stealing \$500,000 from the department over the course of several years. Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota said that Gaines used the funds for such lavish expenses as international vacations and trips to casinos. Gaines' attorney called it a misunderstanding in that she would often handle personal finances through work and then reimburse them. She has pled not guilty.

Five commissioners from the Selden Fire District allegedly stole more than \$50,000. They were charged with grand larceny and lying about it in receipts for stealing from their departments' funds for uses including dinners in expensive restaurants, large amounts of alcohol, and trips to Six Flags. Those charged include three former commissioners, Robert Santora, Jack Emr, Joseph Callari, and two current commissioners, James Spatafora and Joseph Parenti. After the five entered not guilty pleas, the attorney for Selden Fire District stated that his clients made a mistake and did intend to make good on restitution of the funds to taxpayers, which Spota was willing to agree to.

Additionally, Michael Konsevitch of the Terryville Fire Department pled not guilty to pocketing more than \$5,000 from their funds. Alan Crane, the president of East Moriches Ambulance Company

allegedly stole \$6,500, which according to Spota, went to purchases including a guitar.

With respect to the volunteers who often risk their lives, many critics said that the problem lay within corruption of the elected and appointed officials, and not the firefighters themselves. In recent years, Newsday has taken on several major investigations and series of its own into Long Island's volunteer fire departments' operations, including that of poor or improper record keeping (one story focused particularly on the purchase of alcohol with food stipends) as recently as this past November.

Earlier this week, County Executive Steve Levy stood alongside Brentwood EMS personnel at a press conference announcing a campaign to recruit more volunteers in the area. Brentwood's ads are to be run locally on cable networks targeted towards younger viewers, as well as in local Spanish-language newspapers. The ads highlight benefits like college tuition assistance, low-cost housing

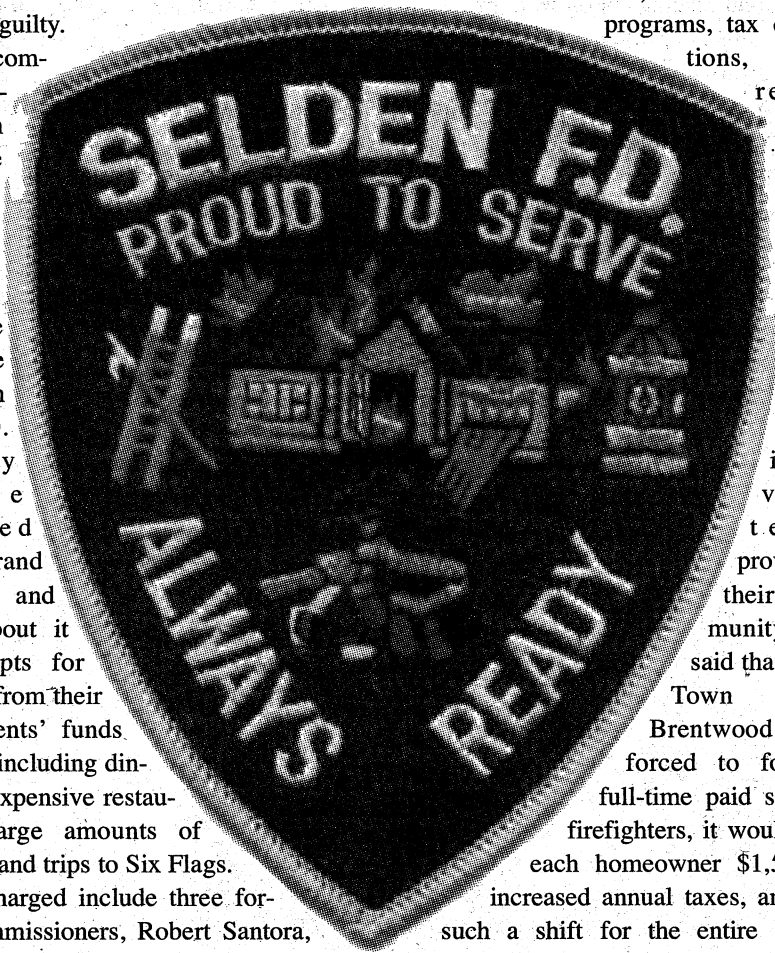
programs, tax deductions, and retirement

assistance.

Levy lauded the service that volunteers provide to their community and said that if the

Town of Brentwood was forced to form a full-time paid staff of firefighters, it would cost each homeowner \$1,500 in increased annual taxes, and that such a shift for the entire county

would cost \$626 million dollars. Two recent house fires, in Brentwood on January 21st, and in Mastic Beach on February 2nd, engaged questions as to the effectiveness of Long Island's response system; it took each department between twelve and thirteen minutes to respond to the pre-dawn fires in which three people perished and one elderly woman died, respectively. Suffolk County Fire Commissioner Joe Williams stated that these response times were acceptable given the circumstances.



Low Graduation Rates for Top Teams in NCAA Mens Basketball

By Michael Kelly

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida recently released a report comparing the graduation rates of the teams who entered this year's "March Madness" field, finding that, while graduation rates have mostly improved, a few of the top teams have dismal rates.

The report was developed by Richard E. Lapchick, the director of UCF's Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport and the director of the National Consortium for Academics and Sport. Lapchick was assisted by UCF graduate student Marina Bustamante.

Relying primarily on two different judging measurements, Lapchick and Bustamante looked at incoming freshman classes from 1996-99. The two systems of measurement were called "Graduation Success Rates" (GSR), and "Federal Graduation Rates" (FGR).

FGR is a system developed by the government to figure out the graduation rates of colleges and universities. Under this system, any player who does not graduate in four years is deemed a non-graduate.

GSR, which Lapchick feels is a more accurate system, is not as stringent. If a player leaves school, whether to transfer or to enter the NBA, but leaves in good academic standing, the player is not viewed as a non-graduate. This system also allows the athlete six years to graduate. (This is

based on Lapchick's belief that this system is the more effective one, statistics from here in the article will be based on GSR.)

Two of the four top seeds in the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament received very low marks. Ohio State received a graduation rate of 38%, and Kansas received a mark of 45%. The other top two seeds in the tournament received much better marks, Florida garnering a 100% rate and North Carolina received a rating of 70%. 50% is viewed as average.

Other tournament-bound schools with very low GSRs (below 30%) were Eastern Kentucky, Florida A & M, Maryland, Nevada, Oral Roberts, and Tennessee.

However, Lapchick found that, for the most part, graduation rates were good among tournament teams. 64% of teams graduated at least half their players, 52% graduated at least 60%, and 37.5% graduated at least 70%.

There were six teams with rates at 90% or above. They were: Michigan State, Notre Dame, Villanova, Weber State, Holy Cross and Davidson. Holy Cross and Weber State received 100% graduation rates.

Pennsylvania and U.S. Air Force, also in the tournament, were not included in the report's data because they do not give athletic scholarships.

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport's report can be viewed at: http://www.bus.ucf.edu/sport/public/downloads/2007_Mens_Basketball_Tournament.pdf.

Judge Rules Islamic Law Allows Wife Beating in Germany

By Scott E. Silsbe

Multiculturalism in Germany has reached a new extreme as German Constitutional law has been subordinated to Islamic law. Yahoo! News has reported that a German judge ruled in favor of a husband who was accused of

beating his wife "By interpreting the Koran as allowing husbands to beat their wives." The woman, of Moroccan origin and a mother of two, was denied a request to divorce her husband. She claimed that he beat and threatened her life regularly. Politicians and the German press met the judgment with widespread condemnation.

The Stony Brook

PRESS

The Community News and Features Paper

Arkham Asylum

Peace Out Boy Scout
Jowy Romano

Not Your Rabbi
Andrew Pernick

Sexy Secretary
Alex 'AWAL' Walsh

Where's My Money Brian
Adina Silverbush

Where Is Your God Now?
Jesse 'DP' Schoepfer

Well Thats News To Me
Rebecca Kleinhaut
Madeline Scheckter

Heaven Or Hell Lets ROCK!!!
Steve McLinden

Canvas Punk
Berta Rezik

Paparazzi
Vincent Michael Festa
Joey Safdia

Me Fail English Thats Unpossible
Elizabeth Kaplan
Alex '2.0' Nagler
Bryan Hasho

LOL Internet!
Chris Williams

Casting For Pods
Relgan Xela

Animal House
David K. Ginn

Back Seat Quarker
Joe Rios

Mac Addict
Joe Rios

It Puts The Issues On The Stands
Or It Gets The Hose
Spc. Jose F Chopper

Sidekicks & Minions

Kotei Aoki	Mariana Martins
Travis Aria	Leeza Menon
Nicole L. Barry	James 'Stkluv' Messina
Shaun Bennett	Thomas Mets
Melissa Bernardez	Jamie Mignone
James Blonde	Claire Mize
Lucasz Chelminski	Dana Murray
Jessica Cordero	Irv Novoa
Caroline D'Agati	Frank Nobiletti
Joe Donato	John 'Caboosie' O'Dell
Melanie Donovan	Karina Offurum
Michael Felder	Nirmala Ramsaran
Amelia Fischer	Berta Rezik
Jamie Freiermuth	Miguel Sanchez
Ilyssa Fuchs	Natalie Schultz
Rob Gilheany	Alison Schwartz
Sam Goldman	Karen Shidlo
Joanna Goodman	Scott Silsbe
Stephanie Hayes	Rose Slupski
Dave Grohl	Christine Tanaka
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EDITORIALS

USG + Romual = :(

Okay, we admit it. We messed up. Yes, you read correctly. We, *The Stony Brook Press*, made a mistake.

We gave President Romual Jean-Baptiste the benefit of the doubt concerning the indiscretions of his last term. And for this, we apologize to the student body.

We chose to ignore the whispers about how our money helped to redecorate Romual's office. Even when we heard that he took money for his own personal use and never put anything back into the kitty, we chose to write it off as a simple rumor. We even decided not to run an opinion piece about Romual's overabundance of aides, which involved Inigo Montoya and a scathing venereal disease.

Why did we choose to act passively? Maybe it was because we simply chalked these rumors up to speculation. We decided to act with a little integrity and behave like proper journalists. We wish that President Jean-Baptiste had looked up the word "integrity" before he decided to run for his position back in 2006.

In case Romual's lack of action in his current position was not enough to create disgust, his "alleged" involvement in the attempt to defame Presidential candidate Joseph Antonelli solidifies that he was never interested in the wellbeing of the student body. As the leader of an organization that has been infested with corrupt behavior since its inception, we counted on President Jean-Baptiste to attempt to scrounge up some credibility for the floundering USG.

After the Student Activity Fee increase last year, Stony Brook students deserved the proper representation and allocation of their hard-earned money. We challenge the student

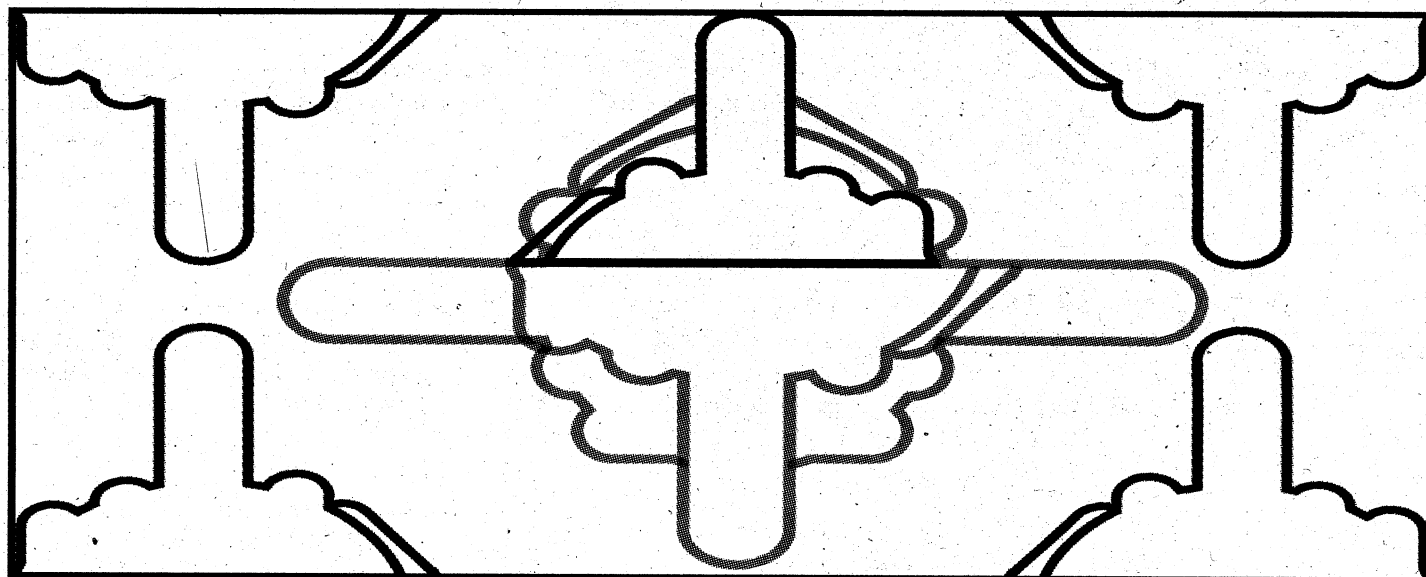
body to take a look at what their president has done for them in the past year and decide if they received their money's worth.

President Jean-Baptiste chose to model his term after the basest and most corrupt moments in United States presidential history, beginning by violating the Elections Board Bylaws to solicit votes in the March 2006 elections. The only thing more disgusting than the tactics he employed to get into office is what he did with the position after he got it. President Jean-Baptiste commenced to sit on his ass for seven months, only getting up when he did not like something that another branch of USG was doing, such as to voice his dissent over the impeachment of the good-for-nothing Vice President of Clubs and Organizations. His measly excuse for the "Off Campus Meal Plan" that he promised students last year apparently took eight months and four aides to accomplish. Let's face it: Joseph Antonelli did more in his first four weeks as a senator than Romual did in three years of USG participation.

At a time when budgeting has become especially tight for Stony Brook students, the last thing we need is a second rate college politician taking our money and wiping his ass with it. We sincerely believe that the chimpanzee that was plastered on the posters he "allegedly" made could have done more in his position. At least the chimp would not have had to use index cards to refer to his talking points while campaigning.

We hope that the student body accepts our apology.

We also hope that impeachment proceedings will result in the loss of dead weight within USG.



Wanna Know Where You Can Stick Your Opinions?

(hint: It Rhymes With "Tony took less")

sbpress@gmail.com

or website-it-up big time at

www.thestonybrookpress.com



LETTERS

Hello Children of the Press,

So, in your last issue you made fun of the Statesman, kudos, really - show 'em that you're the bigger more rubbery delicious man! Was it a slow news week or are you kids just assholes? Don't get me wrong, I'm sure that the Statesman pokes fun at you as well but in a more behind closed doors, tactful sort of way. Dildo on their door that becomes your cover photo - priceless - and then repeated Warhol style on the back of your latest edition - excellent, seemingly the perfect way to make fun of a rival paper. Did I mention the back cover, the uses for the statesman? I was in stitches. Cut yourself with the Statesmen because you're trying to conform to a melodramatic Dashboard Confessional listener stereotype - excellent - bring on the emotion, bring on the tears, bring on the painful truth. I'm not a displaced emo child upset over a stereotype I'm a girl who upon seeing your covers almost had a nervous breakdown. As a victim of sexual assault, the hard to swallow variety, I once cut to relieve the pain. The goal is to make your bruised, violated soul visible on the outside. Every cut is a little release from the daunting world inside your head. Seeing the cover coupled with the image on the back cover sent me into a tailspin. I understand that your intent wasn't to offend, then again, I suppose that no one ever thinks of the girl with finger prints on the back of her neck that turn into bruises who managed to get her jaw dislocated because she valiantly fought for her dignity, who about a year and a half later sees her assalaint often because they share a class as he snickers in her direction filled with the memory of conquest. Why didn't she think to report him? What if she did and it was shrugged off as some college girl's naive mistake? Oops, at least she learnt now that she should trust her instincts and not be alone in a dorm with a boy of questionable character. Didn't anyone teach you to think before you do? I suppose not. Maybe I should thank you, I thought my current relationship with my therapist was lacking but now my therapist and I are going to have a field day. So thank you boys and girls of the Press for the panic attack from the bottom of my heart to the tips of my toes on my self mutilated body. Yeah, I wish it was because I conformed to the emo stereotype too...

no hard feelings,

X,

jess

Dear Will James.... I mean Jessika,

That's real funny, Will. Next time, don't read our paper directly after researching your Connor Oberst review - we told you that dude was bad for your heart. Regardless, we are sorry we weren't more sensitive to the aftereffects of your Statesman initiations; we heard they are quite rough from time to time.

We are, however, appreciative of your exceptional use of puns in relation to your circumstance. Most notably, "As a victim of sexual assault, the hard to swallow variety." Really, that's good work. "I was in stitches" - we bet you were.

While we respect your yearning to bring your violated soul to the outside, you have your own newspaper's A&E section for such endeavors. Next time you want us to acknowledge you, the girl with finger prints on her neck, just stop by.

So from the bottom of our decrepit couches to the tip of our throbbing, rubber phallus, stop wasting our damn time.

Bryan Hasho
Copy Editor
The Stony Brook Press

Press Readers (pissed off or otherwise).

It must be said that we at *The Press* don't take the subjects of rape or self-mutilation lightly. We certainly hope that anyone who has suffered a traumatic experience like rape gets the medical and psychological help they need, and we know that it is not even remotely an easy thing to deal with.

There was some debate in the office regarding how to deal with this letter, and I would like to make it known that none of us think rape and self-mutilation are funny. But using the name of a porn star (Jessica Darlin) when you send us a letter is really, really funny.

Madeline Scheckter ... I mean Jessica James
News Editor
The Stony Brook Press



Request an ad packet!
sbpress@gmail.com

NEWS -IN- BRIEF

Compiled by
Ilyssa Fuchs & Rebecca Kleinhaut

NYU Receives Communist Documents

On March 22nd, New York University received an unusually large donation. The Communist Party, USA has handed over their archives to NYU's Tamiment Library. The items included many key documents that prove the overwhelming existence of the Communist Party in America, both before and during the McCarthy hearings. According to CPUSA's website, the donated items included personal letters, smuggled documents from Moscow, and various passwords from around the nation. It also included the archives of the Young Communist League, as well as the poems, songs, and the will of Joe Hill, a politically-charged writer who was a member of the Workers of the World. Michael Nash, the director of the Tamiment Library, says the material will be open to the public, but "it will take years to catalog it." Sam Webb, the National Chair of CPUSA, is optimistic about the move to NYU headquarters. Says Webb: "This donation will ensure that the history of the Communist Party and its impact on American politics will be preserved for future generations."

Your Insurance: Lost, then Found

On March 14th, the New York-based insurance company Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield misplaced a disk that contained over 75,000 patient records. The unencrypted CD was lost in transit as it was being sent to Magellan Behavioral Services in Connecticut, which, according to its website, works with BCBS to provide "clinically sound, cost effective solutions for managed behavioral health and substance abuse benefits...." The

disk was sent through UPS by Health Data Management Services, which works through Magellan. The disk contained the Social Security and health plan ID numbers of all patients listed, as well as the descriptions of all insured medial treatment. The disk was apparently recovered on March 15th, but not before letters were sent out to all affected patients. Those who believe they may have compromised information are encouraged to call Empire for further direction. Erin Somers, a spokeswoman for Magellan, said that her company and HDMS "had errors of judgment during the transition."

Women Arrested in Iran for "Practicing Western Values"

On March 5th 2007, Iranian authorities arrested as many as thirty-three women outside a courthouse, where five women are on trial for organizing a protest for women's rights last year. The women on trial were arrested and charged with interfering with the Iranian government and holding illegal meetings. Since President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad came to power in 2005, he has attempted to impose strict limitations on the political activities of women. He blames America for imposing its Western values on the women of Iran; values that have lead the women to continually pursue freedoms which American women enjoy. The two most important goals of these groups are to get Iranian authorities to change a law that makes death by stoning allowable as a punishment for women convicted of adultery, and to collect signatures for a petition which asks the government to change laws that discriminate against women.

Bustin' Makes Me Feel Good: Kari Byron at I-Con

By Alex H. Nagler

I am a huge fan of the Discovery Channel show Mythbusters, so when I heard that Kari Byron was coming to I-Con and giving interviews, I squealed like a little twelve-year-old girl. So I was delighted when I finally got to sit down in that conference room and ask Kari a few questions. Here's what happened.

Kari arrived at MythBuster fame through a series of chances. An artist by education, she interned with Jamie Hyneman (or just Jamie of "Adam and Jamie," to those who watch the show) as a creator of toy prototypes. Her real motivation was to get her hands on some of the super cool stuff in Jamie's special effects lab, like the Godzilla foot or 7-Up launcher in an attempt to work with them. Fate had different ideas, as Jamie got the show gig and brought her with him.

From there, Kari joined with Tory Belleci (who I didn't interview) and Grant Imahara to form the trio serving as the foil to Adam and Jamie. They've tested everything from "A Rolling Stone Gathers No Moss" [Confirmed] to "Cracking a Safe with a Stethoscope" [Busted]. She does,

however, regret popularizing the fad of Coke and Mentos with the general public. She wants it to die.

Kari feels that one of the weirder myths she's encountered was the one concerning the ability of plants to "feel." As a vegetarian, she would feel bad if the vegetables she ate had feelings too. She prefers myths that are based on hard science and not soft pseudoscience. Plus, it helps if a myth involves something that gets blown up.

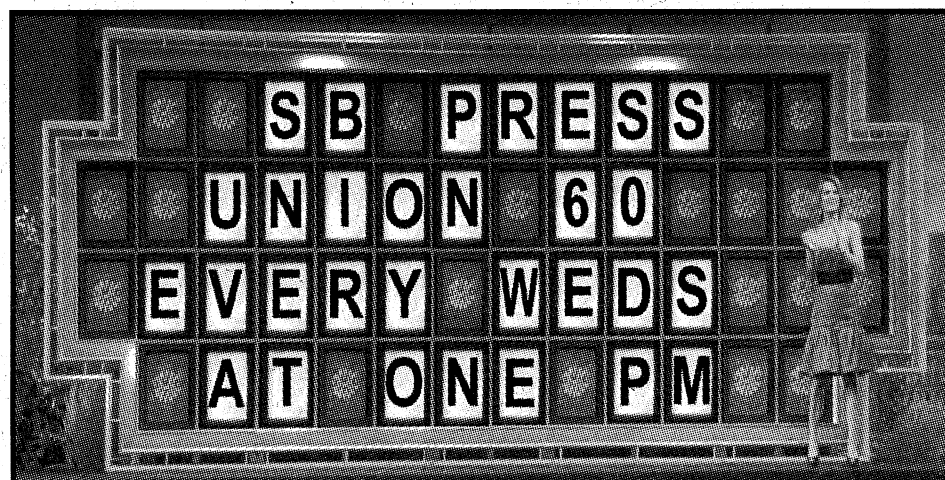
When asked about myths like the Chinese Invasion Alarm, where a suspended drum in a mineshaft could detect a "tunneling invading army" (Tory and Jamie) from a considerable distance, whereas Grant and modern technology couldn't, she said everyone loves those myths where they expect things to not work, only to be pleasantly surprised. She loves it when things happen like MIT proves them wrong on Archimedes Death Ray and comes up to build one and blow something up, or when they get to get drunk on Vodka for the sake of science. I want their job. I love that I-Con gets guests like this.

Alex H. Nagler is a total fangirl for Mythbusters, if you haven't guessed by now.



Kari Byron

Jesse Schoepfer



Teaching Science Fiction: I Know Absolutely Nothing

By Alex H. Nagler

I woke up early on a Saturday, hopefully for a reason. Icon was in full swing and we had actually gotten a lot of the serious copy editing done last night. The reason I was awake (and showered and dressed and in the SAC) was for a course I promised my professor I would attend if I were awake. It was noon, SAC Room 312, and the panel was titled Teaching Science Fiction.

The panel was headed by Dr. Bente Videbaek (the professor who I told I'd try to attend) and was comprised mainly of professors from various universities. One professor, Dr. Paul Park, upon realizing what this panel was about and how he could be of assistance, asked flat out if he could become a member. No one objected. Among the other professors in attendance were Dr. Fred Walter, a professor of Astronomy here at Stony Brook who coteaches a course with Dr. Videbaek here on Science Fiction, Dr. Alex Jacob Aster, a professor at Middletown Community College, and Dr. Barbara Bangles, a professor at Hofstra.

The discussion began with talks about the science fiction class here at Stony Brook, a level 300 class that doubles as a science and english class, with the super-special bonus of serving as a science DEC. Drs. Videbaek and Walter commented on how this class can move to essentially any scientific topic, as science fiction covers

basically all of them. Various professors tossed around how much reading they assign their students to try to get a baseline of the average for this class, ranging from seven novels a term to a novel a week. The novel a week is Dr. Videbaek's doing.

However, it was not all fun and games for these professors as they bemoaned the current state of students and their knowledge of science fiction today. I am not going to pretend that I am not one of these students who knows something; I know jack squat. The average student can't name any modern day authors or even five authors of any era off the top of their head. A lack of wonderment is gone from the students. Whereas 50 years ago, if you could build a radio, you could dream that you could build a space ship. Now, we know that's impossible. But, the point was conceded that today's generation knows more about computers than ever.

Arthur C. Clarke once said, "Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic." Between computers, medical technology, and communications technology, we're living in a land of magic that science fiction writers from years ago could only dream about. Today's students of science fiction need to realize that the simple act of going in for an MRI and getting an instant diagnosis is a fantastic thing that never existed before- or else the magic will be gone. And without the magic, science fiction is boring.

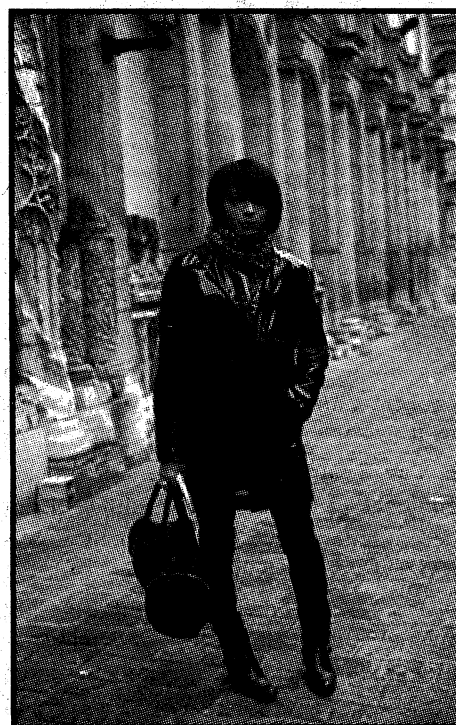
Alex H. Nagler is living long and prospering.

Stony Brook Style

By Lisa Voltaire

Our Campus is located 65 miles east of Manhattan, New York City, or the world's biggest fashion Metropolis, as I prefer to call it. I could not help but wonder, does that mean we should dress exactly 65 times worse than the New Yorkers. I hope not. Feeling the fashion climate of Stony Brook makes me start to believe in that assumption.

On the North Shore of Long Island we still have a lot of potential to change the fashion temperature. The shovel trucks are out immediately as the first flake falls to the ground. The salt machines work overtime, yet if the layers of snow reach one inch, in spite of all the trucks, do not worry they will cancel all classes until it is gone.



The fashion blog *The Sartorialist* has succeeded in capturing New York's fashion moments on its most inconspicuous streets. Walking around and adjusting and readjusting the settings on his camera, *The*

Sartorialist catches young women with the perfect combo of parka and heels. The man behind *The Sartorialist* does this so well that he has become a prominent figure in the inner fashion circles. He has managed to discover the accents in an outfit that highlights it and turns it into a look. For example, he photographed two scarves tied together that made one large circle, or a pair of red shoes that enlightened a woman's overall grey outfit – small things that upgraded these two outfits.

In addition to New York's *The Sartorialist*, Paris has its own street photographer known through the blog *Face Hunter*. The man behind the blog is 29 year-old Yvan. He has visited most of Europe's fashionable cities to look for the right androgen haircut or leopard jacket.

What the style bloggers have in common is to show us that true fashion does not only appear in magazines or on the runway. They say that fashion is all around us and that you do not need a thick wallet to become a fashionista. By being creative and mixing cheap with luxury, grunge with romance and loose with tight, you can put together a striking outfit. At the same time, you can combine your wardrobe a hundreds times over.

Does this mean that Stony Brook is an ugly contrast of Manhattan? It might be so. Yet, I have not seen any street or style blog online. Street and style blogs are popping up in Stockholm, Barcelona, Beijing, Chicago, Lisbon, London, Tokyo and San Francisco. In addition, the rising stars of *The Sartorialist* – appearing in *GQ* magazine and on *Style.com* – and *Facehunter* – being discussed in *Elle*, *Vogue* and *Cosmopolitan* – are still there. The future for these and similar blogs can hold only success. Concerning the fashion temperature of Stony Brook, the weather is getting warmer and I can not wait until the first Stony Brook student brings up his or her camera to take a picture of a stunning Long Island outfit.

Disney Announces First Black Princess

By Michael Kelly

At Disney's recent annual shareholders meeting held in New Orleans, Walt Disney Studios Chairman Dick Cook announced plans to feature a "black princess" in Disney's 2009 picture, "The Frog Princess," which will be set in the French Quarter of New Orleans.

Though plot details have yet to be released, including whether the movie will take place pre or post Hurricane Katrina, the movie will feature a young black girl named Maddy, who will join eight other Disney characters (Ariel, Aurora, Belle, Jasmine, Mulan, Pocahontas, and Snow White.), collectively known as the "Disney Princesses."

The aforementioned Disney princess characters have brought in \$3 billion

worth of global retails sales, since being marketed together in 1999. They are featured on such items as clothes, lunchboxes, and dolls.

This film is also the first that Disney has confirmed will return to the classic hand-drawn animations, rather than the more recent CGI

Though there have been three non-white princesses, starting with the creation of Jasmine in the 1992 film, "Aladdin," there have long been calls to feature a black princess in a film.

In the late 1990's, a woman named Kelly Grove began an internet petition,

through petitiononline.com, advocating for Disney to create a film featuring a black princess. A mother of a young black girl, she was dissatisfied with Disney's lack of a black princess role model for her daughter and other young black girls.

"Unfortunately, there is not a Disney princess for her to imagine being," wrote Grove in her petition. "Why? My daughter is black."

Grove received more than 3,500 signatures.

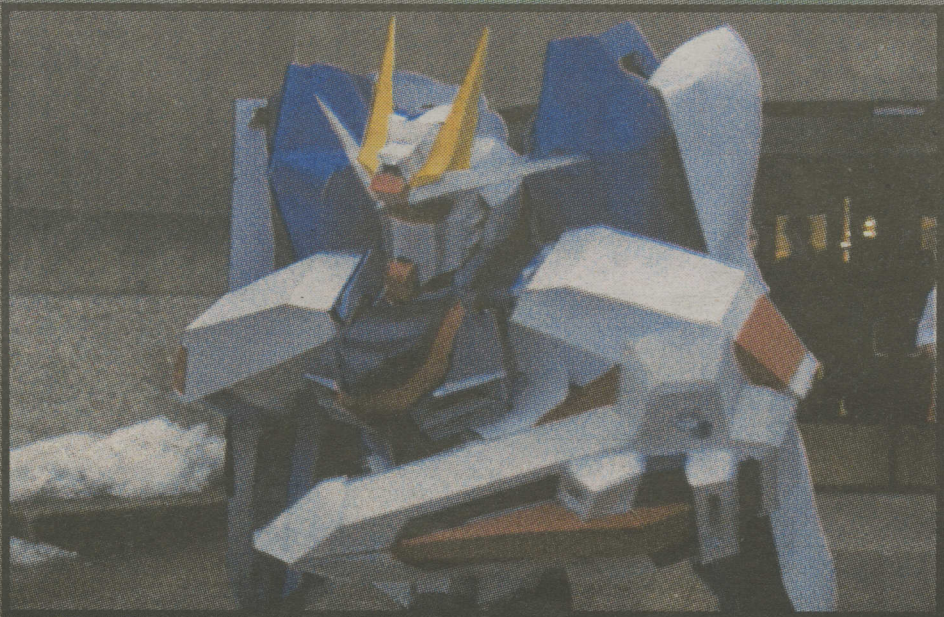
The film is also the first that Disney has confirmed will return to the classic hand-drawn animations, rather than the more recently used computer-animated graphics, said John Lasseter, chief creative officer for Disney and Pixar Animation Studios.

The Frog Princess will feature a musical score developed by composer Randy

Newman, who also scored music for movies such as Toy Story and Cars. The film will be co-directed by John Musker and Ron Clements, who have directed past Disney films, such as The Little Mermaid, Aladdin, and Hercules.



Singer-musician Alicia Keyes has been rumored to want the lead role of Maddy. No announcement has been made yet of who the voice will be.





Photos by Jesse Schoepfer, Tia Mansouri and Jowy Romano





Kotei's Korner



How Many Fingers Do You Have?

OK, so I remembered this one day while chatting in a bowling arena with my friends. One of them was counting something with his fingers and it reminded me of an electrical circuit switch. Then it clicked in my mind; our parents were wrong.

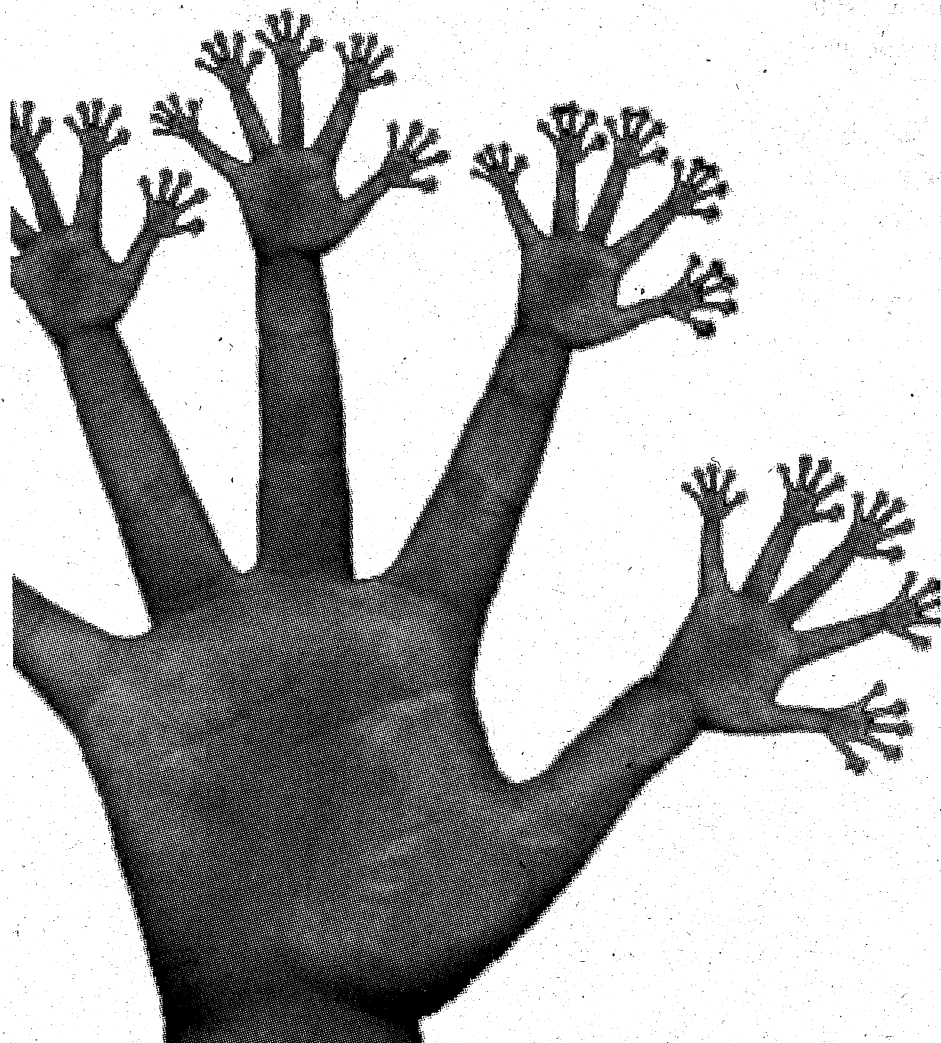
We learned how to count some time in our life. We were taught to use fingers. Although we only have five fingers, we were told to fold back our fingers to count beyond five. In the beginning, it was such an exciting experience to count as many as possible. Soon we were made to realize that counting one by one beyond five is as useless as the Pythagorean Theorem. However, when the number exceeds 30 or 60, I tend to forget how far I counted. One of my solutions is to remember the "feeling" of how many tens I counted. Another solution is to recount. At any rate, I think it is about time to introduce a new way of counting. As you might have realized, the idea is the binary number system. With five fingers, we can count up to 31 (zero inclusive, sadly). With same idea, using ten fingers will let us count up to

1023 (zero inclusive, sadly).

Let us now count. Treat folded fingers as zeros and extended fingers as ones. We go zero (00000 - same as A in ASL), one (00001 - same as 10 in ASL), two (00010 - same as D in ASL), three (00011 - same as L in ASL), and so forth. Before I forget, I must remind you this. Please do not count numbers in this matter while communicating in ASL. A-10-D-L just does not make sense. Now I encountered a problem.

Upon the encounter, one thing in my mind was that the number thirteen is generally seen as a bad number. (I thought it was mainly for a religious reason until I learned the word triskaidekaphobia, or, more analytically trisca-dekaphobia.) In binary, it indeed looks crooked but is not inappropriate. The first time I counted this number in binary, I wished I had not seen it. How unfortunate the number is! We may reconsider developing the idea that the number is unethical. Some cultures already despise the number for the pronunciation. The number shall be universally tabooed.

Lesson one, count till five...



What has Science Done?!?!?

GATACA

April Foods Day

How foolish of me to mispronounce! Actually I just keep mistyping the word. What I mean is nothing other than April Fool's Day, also known as All Fool's Day. Since the fool's day is coming and I am gullible, I felt like covering that special "for-fun-only" day.

I don't have any fun stories for All Fool's Day as I did for Valentine's Day (see Volume 28, Issue 9). But I did check the background for All Fool's Day. Typical of many historic traditions, there is no definite record as to how April first is known to be All Fool's Day and when it became so. As usual, there are a number of theories. Many of them seem to agree that the April Fool is rooted to 16th century Europe. The story goes back to 1582 when Pope Gregory XIII ordered to use the Gregorian Calendar. Due to this change, the date of New Year had to be changed to January first, of the Gregorian Calendar. At that time, the new year was celebrated for eight days, from March 25 to April 2, of Julian Calendar. When France became one of the first countries to adopt the change, there were still many others who were yet to accept the reform called by the Pope. They might have been reluctant to accept the reform. But considering the speed at which the news traveled at that age, they might have been unaware of the order given by the Pope or of the news that France adopted the change. Those who adopted the reform started to ridicule the "traditionalists" who kept celebrating New Year on April 1.

"In France, it is called 'Poisson d'Avril' because the Foll used to get fish taped on his/her back."

Depending on where the pranks occur, April Fools (those who were successfully tricked) is called by different names. In France, it is called "Poisson d'Avril" because the Fool used to get fish taped

onto his or her back. In Scotland, the same is also known as "Gowkie Day" or "Hunt the Gowk". Interestingly in Scotland, it is a two-day observance, of which the latter is called "Trailing Day." If you have heard the gag of the "Kick Me" sign, the gag can be traced to "Trailing Day." In England there are some varieties:

April noddys past and gone,
You're the fool an' I'm none.

Lake District
Fool, fool, the guckaw.
Cornwall
April gawby.
Cheshire

On this note I want to leave one comment that in some cultures the April Fool's Day is a half day to prank, and the rest of the day is for trickster, to find out the pranks.

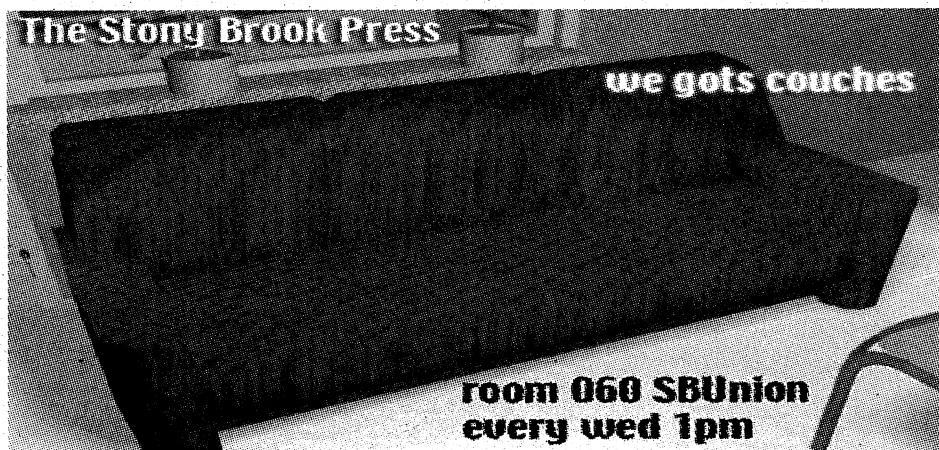
In the Internet, you can find the most elaborate April Fool's pranks. The most frequently mentioned prank of all is one that the BBC news show, *Panorama*, aired in 1957. It was a well-detailed documentary of Swiss farmers growing spaghetti on trees. Among the top 10 of "Top April Fool's Day Hoaxes of All Time," "The Swiss Spaghetti Harvest" ranks first, and American's pranks are:

"Sidd Finch"
"The Taco Liberty Bell"
"Nixon for President"
"Alabama Changes the Value of Pi"
"The Left-Handed Whopper"
"Hotheaded Naked Ice Borers"

You can read them all at <http://www.museumofhoaxes.com/hoax/aprilfool/>. For Google users, <http://www.googleaprilfools.com/>.

That's about it for April Fool's Day, nothing to do with foods. Enjoy your pranks in the beginning of your Spring Break. (Always keep in mind that you are tricking at the expense of your friends and families.) Lastly I will conclude this piece with a poem from "Elaine's April's Fools Day" (<http://homepages.tesco.net/~derek.berger/holidays/aprilfool.html>).

Small April sobbed I'm going to cry
Please give me a cloud to wipe my eye
Then April Fool she laughed instead
And smiled a rainbow overhead





POEMS

CINDERELLA'S NIGHT OUT BY JON PLAISTED

CINDERELLA AND I TOOK
DANCE LESSONS EVERY MONDAY
NIGHT BEFORE THE BIG PUMPKIN
CARRIAGE CAME AND WHISKED
US AWAY TO A GRAND BALL OF STRANGERS
ON SATURDAY AND WE BEAMED.

CINDERELLA MADE ME WILD
AND ASSUMING AND SHE WINKED
AT A MAN I DID NOT KNOW.
SHE SEARCHES FOR THE EYES OF ONES
SHE DOES NOT KNOW, BUT CINDERELLA
(MAY I CALL HER "CINDY")

CAN DIP AND DISCO, RUMBA
AND TANGO AND WHEN SHE
SHOWED ME THE STEPS I JUST
LAUGHED FOR CINDY CAN THRILL
TOO, AND SO DID I, SO WE SWUNG
TO THE BEAMS OF OUR LAUGHTER,

AND HOPPED AND BUMPED
AND MOVED TOGETHER, CINDY
AND ME, (AND I?) STEPPED ON HER
LITTLE TOES AND DIDN'T APOLOGIZE.
I KNOCKED OVER A GLASS OF CHAMPAGNE
AND DIDN'T FLINCH OR TURN AROUND

AS WE KNOCKED SOME PEOPLE
AROUND AND IT FELT GOOD. WE
WERE WILD DANCING TO THE SOUND
OF OUR OWN MUSIC IN A HALL
FULL OF STRANGERS, WILDLY
SPINNING TO THE BEAM OF LIFE

WHERE ONLY CINDY WAS MY FRIEND,
AND I LAUGHED AND SHE SMILED
AND SHE WINKED AT A MAN I DIDN'T
KNOW. NO, CINDY--RELLA AND I
DANCED AND WE LAUGHED
AND THEY LAUGHED
AND EVERYONE DANCED.

Café Ennui

Sitting alone in a vinyl booth,
hungry and tired, awaiting a
dark, rich, bitter cup of coffee,

I watch a waitress yawn as she
studies the daily receipts from
many uncaring guests, darting

from table to table like
a butterfly or a bee pollinating
each table with hot cups of caffeine.

Real love amounts to withholding
the truth sometimes as I go
down my love checklist:

Would our courtship have
Its moments? Would we become
Predictable? Would we grow apart?

But I've never met her, so call
me unimaginative, I still
can't think of anyone else

I'd rather be with. Why, she could
live on a tree-lined street or
in a single-wide trailer for all I care.

It's not as important as hearing
her say the words: turkey, sweet
Potatoes, peas, or beans?

A salad, a strip of bacon,
A ham, plum pudding? Please.
And I know not what else.

--by Jon Plaisted

Poem by Jon Plaisted

Morning Glory

Brilliant, bell-like,
twisting one by one,
rising, and stemming,
praising every sun.

In soil thick
with clay and stones,
rooting what's theirs
to anywhere...

they fade at noon
and face with dignity
each near defeat,
while meek & unpampered,

solid blue & white,
they thrive quietly
in soft light's gaze
and grow unended,

calmly feeding
on what's left behind,
as if to understand, they
grow from what they find.

Untitled By Babak Sadighim

I wish I had CAPTURED THE MOMENT
And watched it a THOUSAND TIMES OVER

THE kind ARMS STRETCHED OUT

AT THE right MOMENT

THE right place

DONE THE right way

THE HUG THAT kindly offered HUMAN affection

And HUMANE love

THE genuine happiness FREELY handed TO ME

THE golden MOMENT

THAT HAD BEEN CRAVED FOREVER

Should HAVE BEEN CAPTURED

And watched a THOUSAND TIMES

"Decider" President Holds Emergency Cabinet Meeting to Decide What to Have for Breakfast

A satire by Joey Safdia

Faced with an empty kitchen and soaring hunger Monday morning, President George W. Bush called an emergency Cabinet meeting to decide what to have for breakfast.

"Today, the United States is faced with the greatest threat of the 21st century: the threat of a hungry and cranky President," announced the self-proclaimed "decider" President to a startled and shaken public on Sunday. "Empty cabinets in the White House kitchen are a threat to national security, and I call upon the nation's supermarkets to join our efforts in protecting the Oval Office from the munchies."

"You are either with us or you are with whoever ate all the Twinkies," added Bush.

The emergency meeting, held on Sunday night, was called soon after this announcement to address the crisis, which has affected thousands of Americans personally. It got off to a shaky start when Vice President Dick Cheney accidentally shot Joshua Bolten, the White House Chief of Staff, in the face, chest, neck, right kneecap, and foot. The meeting got started after Bolten apologized for getting in the way of Cheney's bullets.

Bush took the helm at the beginning of the meeting, demonstrating his strong leadership abilities by constantly reaffirming the administration's goals but never actually contributing ideas to the table. "We must protect our refrigerator from the evildoers who prey on our perishable items. We must protect breakfast by bringing the food to our stomachs rather than by letting it rot in grocery stores on its own terms at its own convenience. We must make a preemptive strike against hunger, and we must do so by deciding what I'm having tomorrow before I go on TV to

announce another troop surge in Iraq."

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, who replaced Donald Rumsfeld after the previous Defense Secretary's failure to provide delicious nourishment and freedom to Iraq, suggested a nice big meal of French toast with butter and syrup to get the President's day started. He was immediately admonished by other Cabinet officials for supporting France and pressed repeatedly by the Vice President to explain why he did not support either Freedom Toast or "good ol' American toast and butter."

"He's just as bad as that damned Colin Powell, trying to take a 'reasonable' and 'restrained' approach, making the rest of us look bad. Why, I'd almost say he wanted to follow the Constitution or something," Cheney later told reporters. "A man like Gates, who apparently respects the Constitution, has no business working for the United States Government." Bush also expressed a degree of bewilderment at the plan, asking on three separate occasions when he would get to "blow things up."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice proposed that they "just order some fucking pizza or something." She unveiled classified documents to the Cabinet that contained details of the plan, including Domino's menus and prices, a tour she would take of New York's pizzerias to promote American goodwill, and mediating peace talks between Pizza Hut and Domino's to decide once and for all whose fake pizza is better. Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson Jr. opposed her plan, claiming that pizza was too expensive, especially with America's huge deficit and the enormous cost of the Iraq War. He proposed instead a simple bowl of Kix cereal, citing reports stating that it was "Kid Tested, Mother Approved". Barbara Bush was unavailable to comment on the validity of these figures.

A fiery debate erupted between Paulson and Rice, with Paulson accusing Rice of "spending money like a drunken sailor" and claiming that her plan would require a drastic raise in taxes. Rice responded by claiming that she never heard of Paulson or the Secretary of the Treasury position.

"Were you on the news anytime in the last year, like George, Dick, Chertoff, Robert, Donald Rumsfeld, Tony Snow, and the rest of us were? No? Then shut the fuck up, bitch," exclaimed Rice, whose comments sparked controversy amongst lesser known Cabinet members such as Alphonso R. Jackson (Secretary of Housing and Urban Development), Margaret Spellings (Secretary of Education), and Dirk A. Kempthorne (Secretary of the Interior).

Secretary of Agriculture Michael O. Johanns proposed steak, beef, or anything else with red meat, claiming it would win support from the many Americans, especially Southerners, who place great emphasis on foods seen as symbolic of American culture. His idea was shot down by almost everyone in attendance with reasons ranging from red meat not being something you have for breakfast, to not having enough money and chicken tasting better anyway, to the high number of calories.

Cheney was the only supporter of Johanns' idea. "Steak is delicious and full of protein. Just what the President needs to start his day," he told reporters. "It's a patriotic American food, and with my newly installed Fire Breather Lungs, I can turn a field of cattle into a meal fit for a Commander-in-Chief in about an hour without the aid of any sort of kitchen appliance. Speaking of cattle, the only problem is we'd need to invade India to get the necessary ingredients. But it is necessary, not just for the immediate safety of the American people, but for the freedom of the

Indian population as well."

"I mean, they're Hindus, right? Isn't that like being Muslim? Which must mean they are living in an oppressive dictatorship, their lands rich in oil and cattle. Certainly they would welcome us as liberators," he added.

Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff arrived at the meeting as it was just ending.

"What the fuck? I just heard on the news that someone drank all the OJ and you guys were having a meeting to discuss it! Why doesn't anyone tell me these things!? I think FEMA really could have helped this time around!" commented Chertoff, gasping for air after running all throughout the White House trying to find out where the meeting was taking place. "All I want to know is who ate all the Chips Ahoy! Was it you, Robert? Was it!?"

Faced with public disagreement over what Bush should have for breakfast—with many college students proposing a bag of chips and white-collar office workers supporting a cup of coffee without any actual food—Bush spoke to the nation in order to address the fears of the American people.

"We are faced, today, with a War on Hunger, and I will fulfill my promise of being a uniter, not a divider. I call on the Democrat Congress to act in a bipartisan manner to pass legislation preventing my kitchen from not being fully stocked with chocolate donuts and milk at all times," said Bush in his speech to the nation. "I urge Congress to act swiftly. Sure, Congress can choose to debate the issue at length, but I am the decider, and I decide what's best. And what's best is for me to wake up and have bacon and eggs for breakfast. Actually, I don't even know why I called that Cabinet meeting and why I'm seeking congressional input in the matter. I was just going to do whatever I wanted anyway."

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The Stony Brook Press

Meetings + Wed + 1 PM + Union 060



Pass the Dutch...

By Ilyssa Fuchs

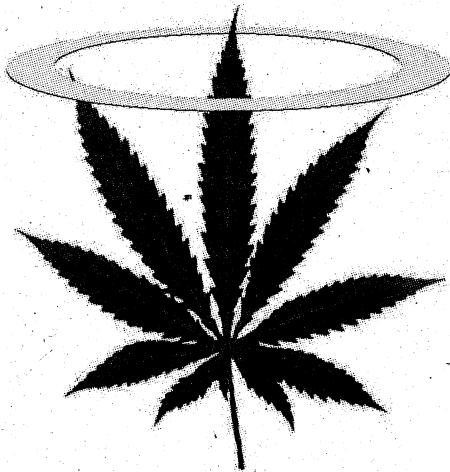
Picture this: you're driving down 347 with three of your friends, smoking a freshly rolled blunt of the finest green Stony Brook has to offer. All of a sudden, you get an uneasy feeling, and you look in your rearview, only to notice the po-po car that is right behind you. Now that uneasy feeling becomes a gut-sinking feeling as you feel your buzz fading away faster than Britney's hair, and you turn to your friends and say, "Shit, there's a fucking cop behind us, put that shit out, somebody light a cigarette" So one of your friends puts the blunt out and places it discretely in the glove compartment (out of sight, out of mind), and you all light up cigarettes. Sure enough, the next thing you know his lights are flashing and his sirens are wailing; you're being pulled over. In the next five seconds you ask yourself a thousand questions: "Did he see the blunt? Did he

According to the study 36% of people polled supported legalization when they were polled initially, out of the same group of people, 44% supported legalization with the provision for roadside testing included in the proposition

see us smoking it? What did I do wrong? Why am I getting pulled over? Is he going to smell the weed? Are my eyes red? Is he going to search the car? Am I going to get arrested?" As he walks up to the car, you all try to remain calm knowing that one false move (like accidentally opening the glove compartment) would mean handcuffs for all of you. "License and registration," he says as he approaches your window, then goes on to ask you the normal set of questions that cops ask and tells you that you didn't signal when you changed lanes. You hand him your information, and as he walks back to his car to check you out and write you a ticket, you are already wiping the sweat away from your forehead. "Well I guess he didn't see us smoking, and if he didn't smell the weed from the window, I think we are in the clear," you tell your friends. Minutes later the cop re-appears at your window and hands you a ticket. As you drive away, your buddies start to comment, "Dude, there is no way he didn't smell the weed at least a little bit, but it probably wasn't suspicious enough for him to actually search the car, or we would have been fucked!"

Case in point, many people, especially college-aged people and high schoolers, drive around smoking pot and think nothing of it when they wouldn't even think about getting behind the wheel after have a few drinks. They are ten times more likely to drive around smoking than drive around drinking. (Not to say people don't do it, but when's the last time you decided to joyride with your friends while

drinking openly in the car?) The real question is, if pot is illegal and it is illegal to drive while intoxicated, why is it justifiable to drive high? Answer: There is no real way for the cops to know you are high on the spot. There is no pot-breathalyzer. Unless you are stupid enough to have the blunt still lit when the cop gets to your window or the car just absolutely reeks or you are just a bumbling idiot when you are stoned, you are most likely not going to get a DUI. Even if the cop does search your car and find the blunt, he is much more likely to write you a ticket for unlawful possession than for anything else. But soon that may all change.



Recently, SUNY Albany did a study where they asked people if they supported legalizing marijuana and taxing it (like booze and gambling). Then, they asked the same people if they would support or oppose marijuana being legally taxed and regulated if police had a roadside impairment test for marijuana like the one they use for alcohol. According to the study 36% of people polled supported legalization when they were polled initially; out of the same group of people, 44% supported legalization with the provision for roadside testing included in the proposition. The researchers concluded that, "[w]ith the widespread use of roadside impairment tests, many voters may alter their perceptions regarding the legalization and regulation of cannabis. Campaigns that educate registered voters about the existence of roadside impairment tests for cannabis have the potential to increase support for reform" (NORML.com). In essence, if more people were informed and there was roadside sobriety testing available, more people would be in favor of legalizing marijuana. Although some states have field sobriety tests for marijuana, the tests are not very accurate at determining whether or not drivers are under the influence and are not yet widely available. On a side note, past use of marijuana has not been associated with an elevated risk of accident, while driving under the influence has only been associated with a slightly elevated risk of accident.

So my question to you is: would you still support legalization if it meant that cops would actually have a way to test your sobriety on the scene? Or would you rather pot stay illegal without the on-site sobriety test? I will leave that up to you to decide, but until then I'm going for a ride; somebody pass the Dutch.



Ask a Lesbian



By Ilyssa Fuchs

Welcome back to another fine edition of *Ask a Lesbian*! I hope everyone is enjoying the column. Readers, please, please, submit questions. You can ask me anything; from advice to personal questions, to sex questions, to questions about the gay community and lifestyle, all questions are welcome; do not hesitate! Questions can be e-mailed to AskALesbian.SBPress@gmail.com.

Dear Ilyssa,

I realized I was gay a few months back and but I was scared to come out; I am going to assume that is normal. Recently, I started to come out to my friends, and it has been such a positive and liberating experience; my friends have all been very accepting of my sexual orientation. The problem is my parents and my family are very old school and I don't think they are going to have such a positive reaction to my coming out. In your opinion, what is the best way to approach coming out to my family without breaking their hearts?

Sincerely,

Still Half-Way in the Closet

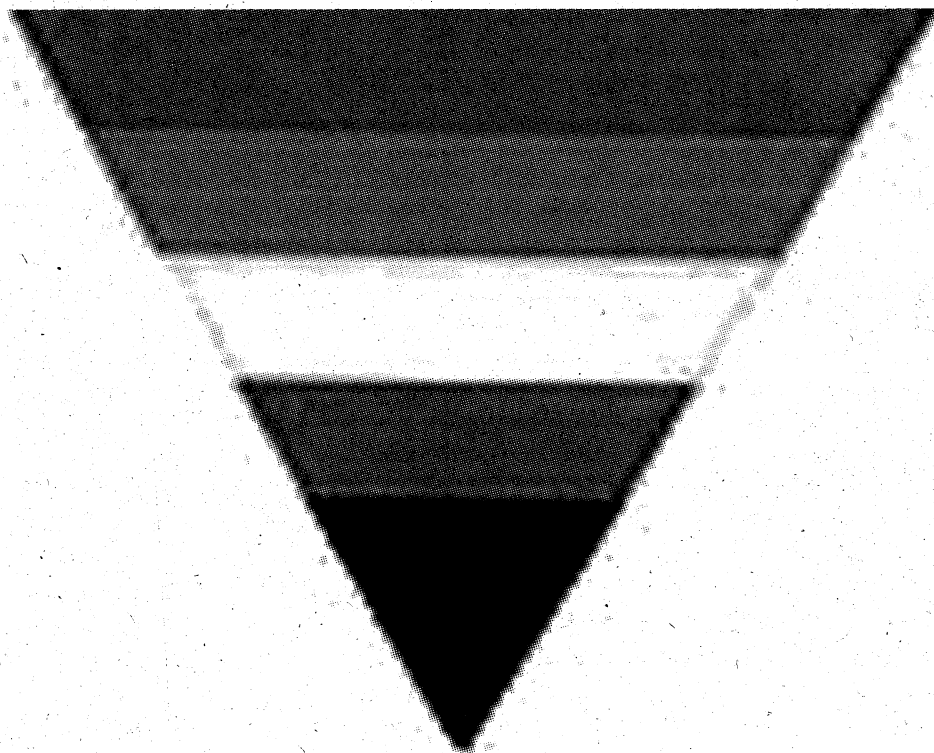
Dear Still Half-Way in the Closet,

I'm glad to hear that coming out to your friends has been such a rewarding experience. Coming out to your family is probably one of the hardest things anyone has to do because you don't want to let your family down, so I understand where you're coming from. My advice to you is that your family, although they might be disappointed at first, is your family, and they are going to love and accept you no matter what. Yes, there

are extreme cases where some people's families have a hard time coming to grips with their sexual orientation, but with time they will learn to accept who you are and love you despite it. I would get everyone together who you wanted to tell and have a sit down. Then I would tell your family that you don't want to disappoint them, but you cannot continue to pretend to be someone you're not, especially around people you care about. Ease into the subject slowly by telling them that you respect that they might not understand or be completely comfortable with your decision, but you hope that in time they can learn to accept who you are. Expect them to ask questions and try to give them the most honest responses possible. Coming out to your family is never easy, but, then again, they are your family, and although the news might upset them at first, they will still love you no matter what. If you need to talk to someone, you can feel free to contact the Stony Brook LGBTQA at SBLGBTQA@gmail.com, or you can visit their website at <http://www.ic.sunysb.edu/Clubs/lgbta/> for more information about when and where the group meets. I hope this helps.

-Ilyssa

Please Note: The views and opinions expressed in this column are solely the views and opinion of one member of the LGBT community and are not necessarily the views and opinions of the Stony Brook LGBTQA group and/or the LGBT community.





T3h Soap Box



Presidential Hopes Impacted by 9/11 By Laura Positano

The nominations aren't official yet, but odds are that Rudy will be picked by the Republicans and Hilary by the Democrats.

However, Hilary Clinton's stance on the Iraq war is crippling her in her presidential bids. She is leading the pack of Democratic contenders by 56 percent, but the chances for her Republican opponents are just as great. Former New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani leads the Republican contenders with a 67 percent favorable approval rating. In a recent *Newsweek* poll, Giuliani leads at 59 percent over other Republican candidates. So what are their chances? Both Hilary Clinton and Rudy Giuliani support a war that most of the country's citizens disapprove of. Hilary Clinton and Rudy Giuliani, as moderates in their respective parties, have been public in their support of a president which (according to the poll numbers of a February *Newsweek* poll), 60 percent of the country's citizens don't support.

It is bitterly ironic that Democrat Hilary Clinton, in pandering to red state voters, decided to support a war that the red states no longer support. To this effect, George W. Bush and Hilary Clinton are strange bedfellows. Hilary Clinton sided with Bush on the Iraq war strategy and refused to apologize, even when other Democrats acknowledged their mistake in doing so. In recent months, Ms. Clinton has been parodied as a politician who waffles around stances on important issues. She just reacts to poll numbers rather than making decisions based on good policy sense. This instability shows bad political judgment in the long run. The Iraq war is not just a foreign affairs issue. The Iraq war affects situations on the domestic agenda, as well. Walter Reed Medical Center, which is the nation's foremost hospital in treating returning veterans, is gripped by scandal. Our veterans deserve top notch treatment for amputations, traumatic brain injuries, mental illnesses, burns and other common afflictions from this never ending guerilla war. Many of the soldiers in Iraq enlisted after September 11th, when the War on Terror began. When the war started, it did not appear to be a quagmire. Afghanistan was the theater of conflict, and the enemy was clear - Osama Bin Laden. Now, six years later, Osama has not been found and the war has spilled into Iraq, with militias assisted by neighboring Iran. When Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act, he made a part that required the army to have enlistment officers on high school campuses. Now, six years later, those high

school students are full-grown adults with abandoned jobs and even families of their own, with endless tours of duty in sight.

When Hilary Clinton came to campus last year for a discussion on pay equity, she ignored the approximately thirty silent protesters in the audience who had anti-war messages on their backs. She only paid attention when a couple of vitriolic and loud protesters stormed near the stage area. It was fascinating to watch someone so aloof and aplomb, and so oblivious of the elephant in the room of protesters, transform into a ball of fright. Perhaps she realized that these protesters, some of who were Mothers Against the War and not just average students, represented venom for her presidential ambitions. Most of the protesters were young people around the age of Hilary's daughter, Chelsea. Hilary is okay with the war, but how okay would she be if her daughter were over there? If she is to win the Democratic nomination for president, she will have to concede that her stance on the war is a bad policy for her to win the presidency. And while she will likely secure the Democratic nomination, she will have to contend with the strong candidacy potential of Rudy Giuliani.

She has a shot at winning if she sings "Stand by Your Man". (She stood by Bill Clinton despite his infidelity).

On 9/11, Rudy Giuliani was the strong mayor that went into the Ground Zero war zone and assisted firefighters. He was the source of strength for those who lost loved ones, or just needed a figure of solid leadership to look to in uncertain times. He was the modern day version of Winston Churchill, who strengthened the resolve of Britons during the terrorizing Blitz of the Nazis on Britain during World War Two. Like Churchill in World War Two London, he guided New Yorkers out of the ashes and rubble of an imperiled city under siege. Rudy Giuliani was a role model for countless people across the nation and across the globe in the new War on Terror, a war to which he still is associated. Yet his candidacy is also accompanied by a messy divorce with his former wife, Donna Hanover.

The day of September 11th has made the presidential nomination race a tight one between Hilary Clinton and Rudy Giuliani. In a recent Princeton survey, 49 percent of the people polled wanted Hilary, while 46 percent wanted Rudy. The contenders are tight in their race for president. If Rudy focuses on Hilary's instability and 9/11, he'll win. If Hilary focuses on Rudy's two divorces, she'll win. So the victory lies in whoever can frame the debate better- Hilary or Rudy.

The Dynamics of History By Miguel A. Sanchez

History always partakes in its own path. That has been the general thesis, which is why there is much controversy over its validity. How does man not create history? In many ways, a Humanist believes in human action or the possibility that history always coincides with the decisions and choices of a human being.

The structure of man can be considered a sign, since in many ways man is a sign of himself. The sign of man, the sign of a structure to man, can only say that man is chaotic. Since the structure of that sign, in itself, is a chaotic structure, the chaotic structure of man is always unstable, since its dependencies on the uncertainties of the present, and the regularities of its continual repetition of its own meaning.

Man is always searching for Being, or there is a Dasein that is always trying to comprehend. The search for Being is futile, since Being in itself is unrealizable. Because of the chaotic structure of sign, metaphysics is dealt a heavy and severe blow.

For metaphysics has always come to posit the possibility of a higher form of existence, an existence that can comprehend all levels of philosophical thought, from ontology to onto-theology. This existence-in-itself is man trying to comprehend oneself, attempting to play with history by invoking its choices and meanings on a historical development that can be materialistic.

But even historical materialism has failed, since the possibility of there being a Marxian evolution towards socialism has to comprehend the demands of history. What that demand is (what history has always asked of man), is not to try to make history its own, but let history take its own course.

But how does one deduce this? Or how is this to be even the case? The Enlightenment has always posited the viewpoint that man is in control of history, because there are two competing essences--primarily Rousseau and Hobbes.

Rousseau has come to postulate in "The Origin of Inequality," that primal man's state-of-nature was classless and docile. It had no need for competition and greed, since everything in nature was provided for. At this early stage, as logos was formulated, humans began forming in groups. At this stage, agricultural communities were formed, and the drive towards despotism would emerge. As the system became more complex, and

inequality became more justifiable, social systems could not sustain the huge levels of economic and political disparity. Rebellion would set in, and government would be deemed trickery towards the proletariat (as a way to sustain the primary dominance of the bourgeoisie). From there corruption and consumerism would set in, and the living legacy of state-capitalism would set in.

In Hobbes point of view, despotism and tyranny is always there in the state-of-nature. Greed and competition, classes and inequality, has always been the primary nature of human beings. In order to sustain the social systems, civil government would have to develop. In developing a political system, a contract could be developed in order to bring man away from the cruel and uncertainties of the state-of-nature.

What one has to consider from these briefs overview is the similarities. Man inherently has to consciously take action. On his own terms, he strives to move away from cruelties of the present by placing itself at the forefront of history. Doing that, one thinks that a good deal of will power will be able to defer the possibility of despotism. Though Rousseau doesn't believe that human beings should return to the state-of-nature, it doesn't rule out the reality of how much man's nature has changed. Their essences are not similar, but the ends are. The ends are to create a Humanistic picture of man taking action and personal responsibility for the kind of social and political system it attributes to itself.

Karl Marx (the structuralist and founder of historical materialism) developed his own theory of man's development. Taking into account the lessons learned from classical liberalism, it would attribute man's despotism and vulgar economic personality to irregularities and uncertainties in the capitalist system. Writing in *The Grundrisse* and *The German Ideology*, Marx attributed class divisions as a consequence of the capitalist system, and economic alienation to the tremendous amount of disparity in wealth as well as the huge gap between what the worker is producing and what the capitalist is earning in profits. (Hence the gulf between use-value and exchange value; also see: *Das Kapital* I.)

Marx postulates that the only way to overcome the capitalist dichotomy is to revolutionize the proletariat class through the help of a vanguard party, which would be able to set history in motion towards state-socialism, and

Continued on next page



T3h Soap Box



Continued from previous page

eventually anarchism. (Only once the proletariat state is formed and has amassed all the means of production through vast centralization.)

It's fundamental task to uphold the Enlightenment only entails that Marx would come to believe that human nature is not fixed. In many ways, humanity can shape its own nature once certain economic boundaries are overcome. Human nature, or essence, is determined by the kind of social and political system that is present. In other words, by turning Hegel's Phenomenology right side up, it was able to switch the Enlightenment towards personal action and economic determinism.

If one now turns to the attack against essence, one must think of Heidegger, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Jacques Derrida. Husserl in particular should be considered, since after all, he laid out the principles for which the post-structuralist would attack the idea of essence. The idea of a fixed monotone coherence towards a central human ends through a fixed but deterministic means.

There is also another group that must be considered, one, which has vehemently attacked Freudian psychoanalysis and Lacan--that is Deleuze and Guattari. In their works Anti-Oedipus and A Thousand Plateaus, they set to dismantle structuralism in favor of a chaotic and uncertain biological system by proposing that evolution has not always configured itself on deterministic and hierarchical grounds.

All these post-modernists have come to speculate on the possibility that to begin where there is an essence is something to be all together untrue. Their reasons to suppose this is that biological systems (as Deleuze would point out) are constantly rearranging themselves to suit their evolutionary needs. This can be seen in even the smallest factors, such as DNA or rhizomes. Rhizomes, considered by Deleuze and Guattari, are the primary competitor of a centralized and deterministic syntactical machine (both mathematically and biologically).

What makes their arguments interesting is the use of dynamical systems to deal with the irregularities and uncertainties of complex organisms (be it biological or social), but also their relation to the way social and political systems behave. What is important is to gather from their analysis, is the huge misunderstandings attributed to the structuralist adherence to essence.

Which is why Deleuze, not only in A Thousand Plateaus but also Difference and Repetition, spends a good deal of

time dismantling the structuralist adherence to nature. Attributing behavior and psychological manifestations to human consciousness in non-deterministic grounds. Applying techniques in dynamical systems, like Markov's processes, shows the time dependence in the evolution of biological and social systems. This shows how it would be able to dismantle the structuralist legacy of determinism.

But having taken a whole different course, it's time to coherently make sense of this in terms of a historical development that cannot be controlled or manipulated on one's own terms. The reasons to suppose this is that the system, which is inhabited by a complex set of biological organisms, is at the same time an unstable political and social system, attributed to a severe sensitivity to the basic structure of order and regularity. The more the system becomes magnified, the more chaotic it becomes. The more the system is continually controlled and manipulated, the more it degenerates to severe dependencies in the whole historical structure.

But what is the make up the historical structure? Structuralists, like Marx himself, have tried to classify and organize social and political systems into types of classes, that of different configurations in modes of production and development. What is important to gather from his analysis is that the system is extremely unstable under capitalism. But what's more important is his emphasis that a vanguard party (headed by an elite intellectual class) can manipulate the system towards vast centralization of production and manipulation of the workers councils. This suggests that the state system can eventually disintegrate towards anarchism in the near future.

But the problematic issue that arises from this analysis is the issue of the instability of the sign, which is man himself. In "The Ends of Man" (see also: The Margins of Philosophy), Derrida cannot accept Leo Strauss' assertion of the true metaphysics of man. This is because of certain ethical imperatives, the continual instability of the social and political system, and the requirement that there be an essence. This adds to the continual instability of the social and political system. Derrida aims to dismantle man's continual dependence on a Humanism of essence, and moves it towards a post-structuralist Humanism.

So the system in general is like a white-pad, which can be drawn in whatever form and likeness it wants. Like Sartre himself, "existence cannot precede essence" (see also: Existentialism and Human Emotions). Here the system

becomes chaotic the more the system (the system consisting of the sign called man) creates vast features of complexity. The organization that the structuralist tends to see is attributed to those complexities becoming obscured by frequent iterations.

To see what the next phase of human development is, one must look to what Derrida had written later in his years (before his death). He begins to outline the goal: to construct a new possibility of Enlightenment yet to come. In order to do this, he suggests the need not to rescue the reason that came and went, but to "endure a heroism of reason" (see also: Jacques Derrida, Rogue). Here his mortality is being explained, and he realizes that though the concept of structure and Being can be so chaotic, the system can degenerate continuously. In his citation of Husserl's manuscript, "The Crisis," he shows that there is the logical consequence in believing in a reason one could have faith in. In having faith in reason, all the madness attributed to the systems continual degeneration can be settled for uniformity and order.

In order to see this clearly, one can look at this from Kierkegaard's metaphor of God's test to Abraham (see also: Fear and Trembling). Here, there is a contradiction that is bestowed on Abraham, and the only way to relieve the contradiction is by having faith in the ends of the system. Once the test is actualized, the system's chaotic behavior settles down, and a new reason is born.

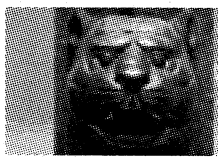
The dynamics of history flows on the same principles; though Abraham was bestowed with a choice, he had no control of the outcome. His faith centered on the possibility that there could be no knowing of what the ends of his choices would be, but his faith would be rewarded with the coming of a reason (that his God no longer regards sacrifice as a means to show one's love towards him).

The same lessons can be understood for social and biological systems. History is dynamical; it settles on its own, and humanity is gripped with the burden of a nihilism that can only be settled with the choice of following the test to its conclusion. Only through meaning (as Sartre stipulates), can one lead with courage towards the ends. That essence is not the means, it never was, but it is the ends that is completed once the system settles down on its own. But is that not contradiction to choice and test? What one can say is that man can make a choice to partake on history's expectations or lead towards madness. One is an existential criteria, and the other is a trend. The One inherently reflects the Other.

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Asian American E-Zine

<http://www.aa2sbu.org/aaezine>

Raising Awareness: China AIDS Orphan Fund

by Maria Ng

Dr. Steven Wang is an example of a man who constantly perseveres. He works to achieve his goal of improving the lives of children orphaned by AIDS/ HIV in central China, particularly the Henan Province. Dr. Wang has set up the China AIDS Orphan Fund in order to achieve this task.

Dr. Wang was inspired after reading a 2002 New York Times article about the plight of orphans and AIDS victims in the Henan. He felt a need to help and although it was challenging (he was going through his residency at the time), through the help of a few activists in Minneapolis, he founded the China AIDS Orphans Fund.

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). This disease leads to the degradation of a person's immune system, causing the victim to become susceptible to deadly infections and tumors. AIDS has become a huge problem in the Henan Province of China. Henan is located in north central China. Home to nearly 100 million people, it is China's most populated province.

The rapid spread of this disease may be largely attributed to the poverty found in this region of China. In the early 1990s, the citizens of Henan were offered a chance to make money by donating their blood. HIV

may be passed to individuals through contact with a mucous membrane or bodily fluid infected with HIV. Due to non-sterile techniques of blood withdrawal by the use of dirty needles, AIDS spread through Henan's population. It has been estimated that in some villages, over 40% of the adult population have AIDS.

As the adults' condition worsens due to the disease, children are forced to stay home from school in order to take care of their parents and assume household responsibilities. When their parents die, these children are orphaned with no means of supporting themselves. All of the villagers, including relatives, ostracize the children. They are uneducated and believe that the children have AIDS since they were near their parents. However, most of these kids are healthy. They are afraid of contracting the



Energy and persistence conquer all things
- Benjamin Franklin

disease themselves. However, through education, villagers can realize that their chance of contracting the disease is relatively small as long as certain precautions are taken.

The China AIDS Orphans Fund raises money to help promote education, humanitarian services, medical care and training, and foster care and orphanage programs in Henan. They provide grants to organizations that specifically work in Henan with these goals in mind. Some of their money is also spent on

research and spreading awareness of the Henan situation.

The Chi Heng Foundation (CHF) is one of the NGOs that China AIDS Orphans Funds donates to. This group helps orphans by setting up educational subsidies and sponsoring vocational training to give orphans a chance at supporting themselves. They also hold psycho-social programs to

help the orphans deal with the shock of watching their parents die from AIDS and to help them cope with the village ostracization. CHF also provides petty cash rewards to relatives who help care for orphaned children. This is done in hopes of keeping the children out of orphanages which may further ostracize them. CHF is dedicated to integrating orphans back into the social world.

Dr. Steven Wang is currently employed in Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center as the Director of Dermatologic Surgery and Dermatology. However, he still makes time to travel and raise awareness about the Henan situation. Most recently, Dr. Steven Wang honored the Asian Pacific American Medical Students Association (APAMSA) at Stony Brook Medical School by opening their fundraising night with a heart wrenching speech. The Association was raising money for the China AIDS Orphan Fund by sponsoring a night of entertainment and raffles. To date, the China AIDS Orphans Fund has helped thousands of children, but there is much more still to be done.

Visit the China Aids Orphan Fund website to see how you can help too!

<http://www.chinaaidsorphanfund.org/>

See photos of APAMSA's Cultural Festival at

<http://aasquared.org/gallery/APAMSA0307>

SBU Alumni Association at the New York Islanders

by Ja Young

The SBU Alumni Association sponsored a great hockey outing - lunch at the Marriot, photo op with Mike Bossy, and what turned out to be a great game with the Isles trouncing the Habs 3-2 and gaining a place in the playoffs for the day.

Early lunch at 11am before the game was a mostly traditional tailgate menu of burgers and dogs with kraut - though in the far more upscale and definitely warmer Chardonnay Room at the Marriot than the die-hard fans doing it on grills in the Coliseum parking lot.

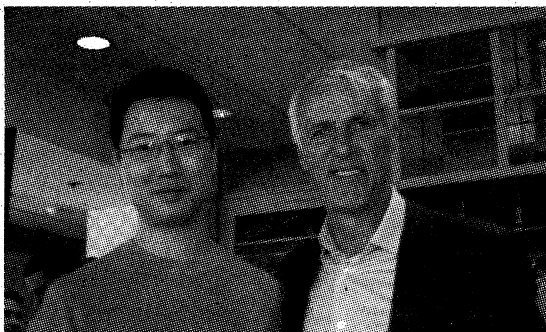
The highlight was a visit by hockey great Mike Bossy, an Islanders All-Star during the glory years when the Isles four straight Stanley Cup wins put them in the ranks of the Top Ten Teams in NHL history. Bossy had 9 years of 50 goals or more including being the first rookie to score 50, he tied Maurice Richard's record of 50 goals in 50 straight games, he was inducted into the NHL Hall of Fame, in 1998 he ranked #20 of all hockey greats, he... ah, the list goes on and on. Read all about Bossy's in the online version at www.aaezine.org

Then a short walk over to the Nassau Coliseum. Everyone should go to a game in the old coliseum before it is renovated and ruined for the little guy who can't afford ultra prime seats. At Madison Square Garden for the same priced tickets its cold

metal bleachers with binoculars needed. At the Coliseum the seats are padded and comfy and although our tickets were not prime there are no seats in the Coliseum that need binoculars.

The alumni deal was lunch and the game for \$50 which was extremely good since the seats were fairly decent \$95 ones. Unfortunately we were on one side of the goal and they only played that end once, and the netting means photos are not ideal, but with the Nikon's telephoto lens we could even see the smiles on the faces when Frans Nielsen won his first goal as an NHL player. Nielsen is the first Danish born and raised player to ever do so. Check them out at <http://aasquared.org/gallery/Islanders022407>

And the game - wow. A sold out crowd makes any game better because the excitement level rises and the raucous singing and cheering engulfs the place. Within the first three minutes Islanders Tambellini scored. Then on a Montreal power play Montreal tied. Then Isles Jason Blake scored, followed by Nielsen's first. Long Island native Chris Higgins gave



Charles Kang and Mike Bossy

Montreal another goal but they never managed to catch up.

Sometimes the SBU Alumni Association does some really good things... too many primarily guys golf out-

ings but they still have some other worthwhile events. Graduating seniors are automatically members for the first year after graduation so take advantage of it. And once you are settled into something with income, become a member. You can check it all out at www.stonybrookalumni.com NY Islanders Press Box report on the game: <http://www.newyorkislanders.com> Danish-native Frans Nielsen scored his first NHL goal and added an assist to help the Islanders pull even with Montreal in the Eastern Conference standings with a 3-2 win over the Canadiens in front of a sold out crowd of 16,234 at the Nassau Coliseum, Saturday afternoon. The win gives the Islanders 70 points, good for a spot in the seventh position with Montreal, which has played 64 games to the Islanders' 62.

Tambellini and Jason Blake also tallied goals while Richard Park set-up two

goals for the Islanders, who improved to 4-1 on their current seven-game home stand. Blake's goal was his 29th on the season - a career high after totaling 28 last year in 76 games. Rick DiPietro earned his 27th win of the season, stopping 20 of 22 shots. Rookie netminder Jaroslav Halak allowed three goals on 31 shots.

Rookies Tambellini and Nielsen combined for the first Islanders goal, 2:43 into the game. Nielsen's wraparound on the backhand was blocked aside by Halak, but Tambellini batted the puck out of mid-air into the back of the net. The goal was Tambellini's second this season, and Nielsen's first NHL point.

Blake tallied his career-high 29th goal with 4:04 left in the first period. While at neutral ice, Viktor Kozlov fed Blake, who skated into the offensive zone and scored on the backhand.

Nielsen went a step further in the second period notching his first career NHL goal at 9:08. Nielsen corralled the puck in the slot and waited patiently for Halak to go down before flipping it over him. Park assisted on his second goal.

"I lost the faceoff, but Parky did a great job winning the puck back," said Nielsen. "The goalie came out, so I held onto the puck and I had an open net. It was pretty exciting."

sound is worth money.

(music news and reviews) by Steve McLinden

Arts & Entertainment - March 28, 2007 - The Stony Brook Press

Modest Mouse – We Were Dead Before The Ship Even Sank (03/20/07, Epic Records)



Every Modest Mouse album sounds significantly different than the one before it – and yet they never fail to impress. On *We Were Dead*, Isaac Brock and friends show much more of a throwback to their quirky '90s irreverence than on 2004's breakthrough *Good News for People With Bad News*, but the band also explores out into more post-punk *We Were Dead*'s leading single "Dashboard" may have crushed the hearts of fans who were hoping for a return to early Modest Mouse form, but thankfully the rest of this album is more exploratory. Call me a snob, but I didn't enjoy the sanitized sounds of *Good News*; however, it's now apparent that with the commercial comfort that album brought, Epic Records was much more willing to let Brock do his own thing, and it works again.

Hailing from the small Pacific Northwestern town of Issaquah, Washington, the band went international with a new member on *We Were Dead*: Johnny Marr, guitarist of legendary English alternative rock band The Smiths. While Isaac Brock is typically recognized as the brains behind Modest Mouse, he downplays this, and he has sought to downplay the hype over Marr's role, telling *Under The Radar Magazine* that, "there is no fucking Isaac Brock, there is no Jeremiah Green or Eric Judy or fucking Johnny Marr in Modest Mouse. It's just a band. It's Modest Mouse. If I get fucking beheaded in a car accident today, odds are, there'd still be Modest Mouse. It will just be a different Modest Mouse."

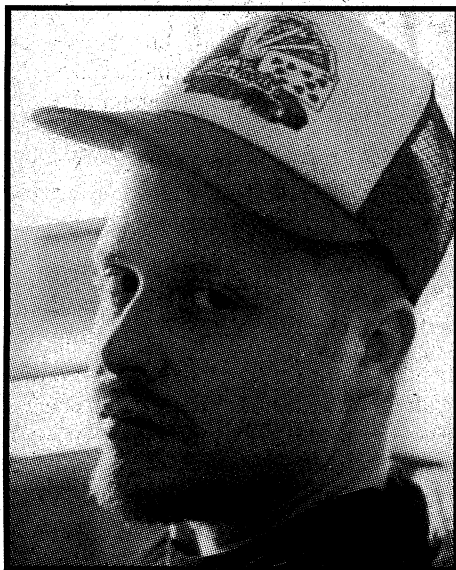
We Were Dead is hardly going down in my book on par with the likes of *The Lonesome Crowded West*, but it's nice to know that Brock's still got it, or rather, doesn't got it and isn't afraid to show it. "March Into The Sea" leads off with a moderate pace that definitely recalls the likes of early English alternative rock bands like The Fall. The second and third tracks, "Dashboard" and "Fire It Up," certainly may bore the listener before it even gets started. "Parting of the Sensory" starts off with the slower and deliberate pace but turns into an impressive death march complete with strings and not

unlike the works of their local contemporaries The Decemberists. "Missed The Boat" seems to me to be a near-apologetic recollection of going big time, as does "We've Got Everything", which is as good as Pink Floyd's "Have A Cigar" in its tongue-in-cheek critique of the music industry. Tracks like "Education" and "Invisible" are built on the unrestrained howling that I learned to love back in the day, satisfying my nostalgic waxing for "All Night Diner" and other such peculiar songs.

However, the bread-and-butter here is the eight-and-a-half minute "Spitting Venom". Kicking off with an acoustic folkly stomp, it shifts to a more full post-punk sound before turning into a sparkly collaborating-guitars landmark in its second half that successfully forays into post-rock.

To paraphrase a user on a website I frequent, Modest Mouse successfully made the difficult leap from indie-band-with-major-cred on *The Moon & Antarctica* to major-band-with-indie-cred today. If you wanted to hear an hour of "Float On" again, you're not going to find it here, but *We Were Dead Before The Ship Even Sank* strikes a fair balance on a solid, commendable major-label release that's as eccentric as it is accessible.

El-P – I'll Sleep When You're Dead (03/20/07, Definitive Jux Records)



I swear I'm not being hyperbolic here; this is a modern hip-hop masterpiece. Brooklyn native El-Producto (Jamie Meline) has assembled an amazingly organic album for his second full-length release on Def Jux. While many hip-hop producers have to bolster their beats with tons of lyrical cameos, and El-P does have an all-star roster of friends dropping in, the vast majority of *I'll Sleep When You're Dead*'s lyrical and music-making efforts are patently his own.

El-P began his career on quasi-independent hip-hop label Rawkus Records as the producer of Company Flow on their under-

ground rap landmark *Funcnusher Plus* in 1997, and a few years later, citing creative differences, left Rawkus to form his own Definitive Jux label, which has become a successful collective for (particularly New York-centric) underground hip-hop talent. In his first solo venture, 2002's *Fantastic Damage*, his work on the mic and turntables met widespread critical acclaim. To follow up *Fan Damage*, El-P expands our visions of what constitutes rap, but it's definitely true hip-hop. There's plenty of friends on the album, like rapping Def Jux labelmates/employees Rob Sonic and Aesop Rock, to support efforts from Meline's friend Trent Reznor, instrumental work by members of The Mars Volta, and vocals by singer/songwriter Cat Power.

On his blog, where Meline has talked fans through the development of the album since last summer, he wrote, "I've been trying to figure out a neat little way to describe the beats im doing for this record. you know, something catchy for the kids. i think i figured it out. basically its like a psychedelic [Boogie Down Production] record. maybe." The entry, titled SCOTT LAROCK AND CED GEE TAKE ACID, is likely more apt than any sound byte any music journalist could whip up. Of course, while the charts are topped by superficial bullshit like Mims' "This Is Why I'm Hot" El-P isn't afraid to get philosophical, political, or metaphysical. Opening with a woman's voice asking, "do you think that if you were falling in space, that you would slow down after a while or go faster and faster? Faster and faster. For a long time you wouldn't feel anything, then you'd burst into fire forever," sort of like a heavy cerebral equivalent to Wu-Tang's kung-fu flick quotes.

And while *I'll Sleep When You're Dead* is as intellectually-stimulating as *Fan Damage*, the difference is in Meline's obvious maturation; less rage and more confident acquiescence of the world around him. I can't stress enough how much I love the holistic and uninterrupted sound of the beats that is exceedingly rare; every one is distinct and varying, yet they all share a common hard-hitting, rapid-fire, near-maniac style. The most quotable line which also lays down an attitude for the whole album comes from the opening track, "Tasmanian Pain Coaster": "Why should I be sober/when God is so clearly dusted outta his mind?" "EMG [Everything Must Go]" is a call-out to the commercial milking of hip-hop, "you wanna get on some fly shit, some butterfly-to-the-fire shit... I wanna sell you the dream, I wanna watch you come apart at the seams," which is even more evocative from someone who's on both sides of the music business. "Habeas Corpses (Draconian Love)" takes

the seemingly clichéd view-from-death-row perspective and turns it very human matter, asking questions of unrequited love. Then there's the production throwback to the old-school shit El-P grew up on with "No Kings". The sirens and hard-hitting beat on "Smithereens (Stop Cryin')" create a mental picture of a hyper-urban police state mixed with Heffalumps and Woozles as El-P spits the most quotable line of the album (and already aforementioned), "why should I stay sober/when God is so clearly dusted outta his mind?"

I'll Sleep When You're Dead may not develop the historical legacy of *Funcnusher Plus*, but it's definitely a memorable work of genius. This is definitely one of the greatest productions of a hip-hop album this decade.

Mistah FAB Video Banned

If you haven't seen the video for Bay Area rapper Mistah FAB's "Ghost Ride It" yet, you may have to do some scouring of the Internet for it. Atlantic Records (to whom FAB is signed) announced that they were pulling the video after Columbia Pictures, owners of the rights to the Ghostbusters franchise, threatened to sue for the video's violation of its intellectual property. In the video, FAB and friends drive a car remarkably similar to the Ectomobile, which is decal'd with a parodied Ghostbusters symbol in homage to Bay Area hip-hop god Mac Dre. The song also primarily samples Ray Parker Jr's Ghostbuster theme and the chorus plays off of the memorable eighties Ghostbusters anthem.

Viacom recently stopped airing the hyphy hit on MTV and BET in response to media outrage, apparently because it's irresponsible to glorify getting out of a moving car and dancing around it. Earlier this year FOX News' Sean Hannity called out the Oakland-based FAB and other hyphy artists after an 18-year-old from California and a 36-year-old Canadian died from falling off of their cars while ghost-riding. The "Ghost Ride It" video features a hard-hat-wearing FAB teaching Hyphy 101 and instructions on how to ghost ride the whip. YouTube has not yet begun removing the videos, but knowing the hard stance they've taken lately, they'll all be deleted before long. (There's also a version which features real life clips of FAB and friends ghost-riding his mini-bus, yes, a short yellow schoolbus ridin' on chrome.)

Fab's major label debut, *Da Yellow Bus Rydah* will be released in May. The double-disc album will include one CD of hyphy/party music and one of more socially-conscious songs.

Art Gallery Reviews

LICA



Jowy Romano

LICA

By Jamie Freiermuth and Bryan Hasho

The tin foil slab to the lower half of the gallery's white walls hung loose. Donning a Nazi-saluting figure and floors of black ink it read, "Pledge allegiance to the bag of the united snakes of Amerikkka. And to the corruption for which it kills, one empire above god, indisputable, with apathy and censorship for all." Suffolk County Community College's Chris Heeren's 'Proud,' won no awards at this year's LICA, the Long Island College Art Competition, but it did receive its fair share of attention for its assertion. Its contention was one of words—an indisputable intention. But the idea of disputability was certainly a theme for this year's event, both in terms of student's works and their respective awards.

"Coming to terms with that idea of competition, I believe, is a real part of understanding yourself as artist," said Jeremy Ortiz, another Suffolk student, and a participant in this year's competition.

Involvement in LICA was open to Stony Brook students, as well as all of the surrounding colleges. The distribution of work was well scattered, as all the institutions were well represented. The winner, a student from Dowling College, won a MacBook, but was not present to receive her award.

Similarly, the three prize-winning students were not in attendance for their victory, presenting onlookers with a dull conclusion to the exhibition. A student present suggested that the time of the ceremony, 5 PM on a Thursday night, could be a reason. Regardless, the crowd reached well over 100 viewers who were treated with a selection of crackers, cheeses, and some delicious cookies.

The two judges were the celebrated artist Bruce Pearson and Phog Bui, editor of the Brooklyn Rail, a magazine that offers "critical perspectives on art, poli-

tics, and culture."

The lone Stony Brook student to grace the top four was Joseph Motroni, who received an iPod Nano for his piece, "Abstract Dyptych," a shadowy, contrasted duo of natural photographs that perplexed onlookers. Fellow Stony Brook student and our own Stony Brook Press Executive Editor Jowy Romano's piece, "This is me making you face your fear," received a constant crowd for its revealing imagery and depiction of his subjects apprehensive stance and transparent attire.

Another piece that received attention among the collection was Ryan Redha's untitled assembly of floating, white power chords—seemingly elevated from outlets on the floored platform.

"I think LICA is important for new artists to experience getting work into a gallery," said Ortiz.



Jowy Romano

Sculpture by Corwin Ip

MFA Thesis Exhibit

By Stephanie Hayes

The MFA Exhibition is something I look forward to every spring and I'm unashamed to tell you why: For non-art folk, like myself, who are forced to puzzle over abstract pieces longer than the seasoned critic, the MFA show presents the work of *multiple* artists. Oh yes. By checking this out, the chances of finding a piece that makes sense to you are much higher than at an exhibit featuring the work of only one. This year, there are *eight* MFAs. Rest assured there's something here for you.

Melanie Gerules:

In a space heavy on conceptual art, it's refreshing to see Ms. Gerules's self-portraits. Although it's hard to pinpoint exactly what makes one piece different from the next, I assert that the difference is there. How does the same blank expression translate to icy stoniness in one painting and relaxed contemplation in the next? Or maybe this is just my imagination... Perceived changes aside, Gerules's talent is undeniable.



Jowy Romano

Paintings by Melanie Gerules

Karsten Grumstrup:

Ok. I'm not sure what makes these pieces awesome, but they are. Both are huge, one tumbling vertically down, the other unfolded on a table. Grumstrup's illustrations flow seamlessly from "page" to unfolded "page." The viewer is forced to follow the image (literally, in the case of the table piece) down. It's like a story you don't totally get but know is cool.

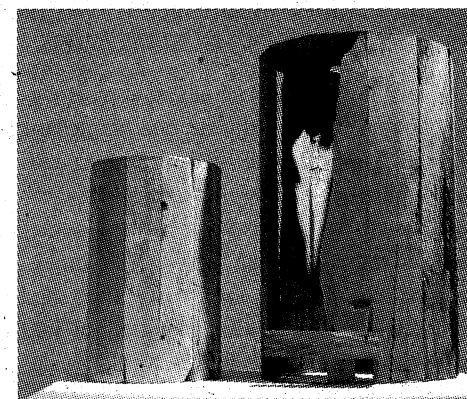
Tim Murray:

Of all the pieces in at the exhibition, I've probably spent the biggest chunk of time on Murray's wall, reading through his rows of altered book pages. Mostly, I was amused by the random bits. I don't want to cheapen the complexity behind repeated phrases, but Mark Twain is totally my favorite page.

Alton Falcone:

I like to think that if these sculptures were people, they'd be young, working

class men. Picture the sort of guy that wears the dirt under his fingernails as a badge of honor and is too posh to care about premature gray hairs and wrinkles. Have I taken the analogy too far? Probably. Anyway, Falcone has created a fantastic series of cylinders, constructed from weathered wood planks and rust. The care taken to corrode these pieces is impressive. Just remember that when it comes to his work, the 'please don't touch' signs are more for your benefit than the sculptures'.



Jowy Romano

Sculpture by Alton Falcone

Athena LaTocha:

There's something kind of sad about these drawings... but in a strangely satisfying way. I keep picking out bits that look like roads or basins but I don't think you're supposed to. At any rate, the pieces work well together with their color and depth. LaTocha's drawings are focused, cohesive, and well executed—right down to the way they're displayed. They're pinned slightly away from the wall, giving the drawings a floating effect. And conveniently, there's a bench directly in front. I highly recommend getting lost in her blue and gray lines.



Jowy Romano

Drawings by Athena LaTocha

William Sherrod Tyson:

Every time I see this piece, it's been altered. I more-or-less live in the basement of the Union, so I know the artist isn't a ghost, but it's eerie how this piece keeps changing when I turn my back. Last week, it was as though children's clothing materialized out of thin air. Then at the reception, drawings appeared into the initially empty black frames. Maybe by the

Continued on next page

Swan Lake

By Stephanie Hayes

In my head, a typical ballet audience is composed of little girls, the elderly, and fancy folk (ya know, the ones that buy tickets for the 'theatre'). My point is this: There's a shortage of college students in the mix, especially ones who have limited or no knowledge of dance. And that's a damn shame. On March 18th, the Moscow Festival Ballet performed Tchaikovsky's classic Swan Lake at the Staller Center (or shall I say the Staller 'Theatre'). So James Messina and I donned our extra fancy threads and found our seats among the retired couples and ribbon haired children.

Being completely ballet retarded, I had to rely on a summary of the acts to get the gist of what was going on. Assuming you, the reader, would appreciate something similar, I'll give you the super truncated version: Prince Siegfried falls in love with Odette, a beautiful woman trapped in a swan's body. For the spell to be broken, she must find true love. Although Siegfried swears his love



to Odette, the sorcerer tricks him, presenting Odile, the Odette doppelganger. Luckily, Siegfried realizes Odile is not his lady, runs to the lake, and battles the sorcerer (whose name, I might add, is Rothbart). Good prevails and the two lovers live happily ever after.

Clearly the outcome of the story is no surprise but I reckon that's why you get a dazzling visual companion. And while I lack the viewings of many ballet performances to properly contrast and compare greatness, I can assert that this production was delightful. The sets were dripping in dreamy colors and the costumes were absolutely splendid. It (almost) goes without saying that the dancers were fantastic as well. These people are insanely flexible! It's sick. So, Siegfried fought valiantly; Odette exuded nothing but grace; the jester provided humor to a predictable plot. It was as though the entire stage expanded during the show--truly lovely.

So, the question remains: 'Is ballet accessible to the generic college-aged crowd? I'm going with yes. James may have drifted in and out of consciousness, but I was completely enthralled.

MFA (continued)

Continued from previous page

time you, the reader, check it out, you'll find more details have crept in. When the exhibition first opened on the 17th, Alex Walsh had seen crayons and hoped the work was participatory. I think you missed your chance, man.



Installation by William Sherrod Tyson

Jowy Romano

Angela Freiberger:

Anything that provides more viewing comfort than the gallery benches is a welcome addition. Ms Freiberger has brought in a mattress, allowing viewers to lie down, pop on some headphones and (excuse the cliché) enjoy the show. The projections are actually two separate pieces, each with their own specific audio recording. Personally, I'm more partial the audio track the artist narrates herself; it seems to carry more weight as a nostalgic piece.

Takafumi Ide:

This is probably the only piece where my personal summation was spot-on with the artist's statement so here's an excerpt from the catalogue: "The harmony of the small objects offers a sense of solemnity and elegance... the viewer can feel the harmony and participate in my installation, rather than only see and feel the individualistic energy from only one." Takafumi's art is absolutely breathtaking.

The University Gallery in Staller is open Tuesday-Friday, noon-4pm and Saturday from 7-9pm.

Touch

By Rebecca Kleinhaut

I had strange expectations about what a play named *Touch* could entail. Perhaps I was expecting an oversexed cast of characters with relationship issues.

What I witnessed was a love story of another kind, one that involved not only lovers, but also familial kinships and the endless boundaries of long-term friendship. *Touch* follows the plight of Kyle (Andy Lucien), an astronomer with a passion for Keats, who loses his dearly beloved wife Zoe after she is murdered. Kyle's suffering is not limited to his own body; his best friend Benny (Christopher Tricarico) and Zoe's sister Serena (Jessica Di Carlo) also attempt to make their way back out of their own anguish. Kyle even enlists the help of Kathleen (Kaitlin Burke), a prostitute, in order to try to take the pain away. At first, none of them are willing to allow the comfort of another person's *touch* help coerce them out of their grief. However, they all eventually reach their breaking points, forcing the trio that sat together on the night of Zoe's death to embrace, both in a literal and metaphorical sense.

There is no better way to describe *Touch* except to call it an emotional rollercoaster. We begin with Kyle's long monologue about how he met and fell in love with Zoe. Although the audience is never introduced to Zoe in the flesh, we can picture her in vivid color, even when she is at her worst, with her body lying in a ditch, an eerie smile plastered on her face. The play felt realistic in its portrayal of grief, never becoming preachy or over-emotional. This performance's decision to focus on the inability of all characters to *touch* each other, whether it is physically or emotionally, left the audience in stitches and in tears at the appropriate moments. Andy Lucien's heart-wrenching performance made me ignore the many moths that flew around the lights in Theater Three, and Christopher Tricarico's supporting role was a crowd favorite as he milked Benny's traditional Italian upbringing to its fullest extent.

Touch, which was directed by Thomas Colen, only adds to my opinion that Stony Brook's Pocket Theater sets the precedent for other theatrical events on campus. Its minimal sets and lighting equipment only highlight the fantastic job that the actors and directors continue to do.

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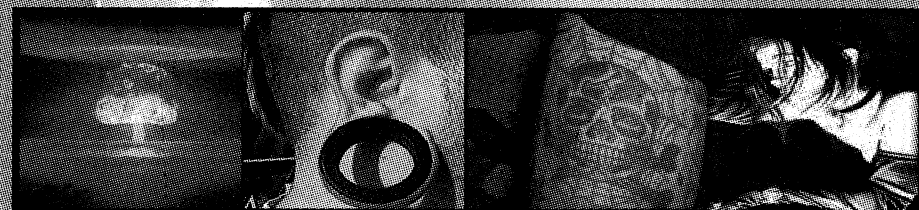
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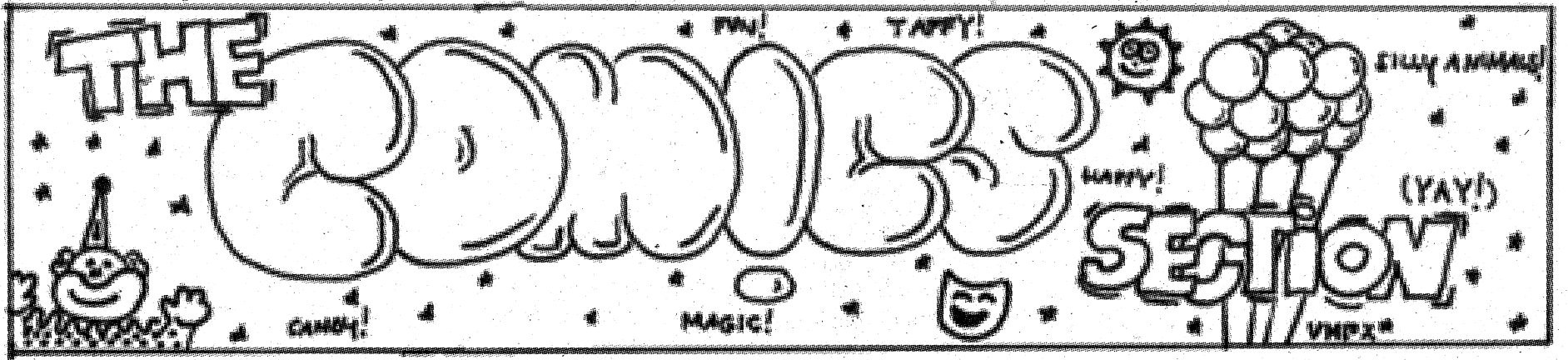
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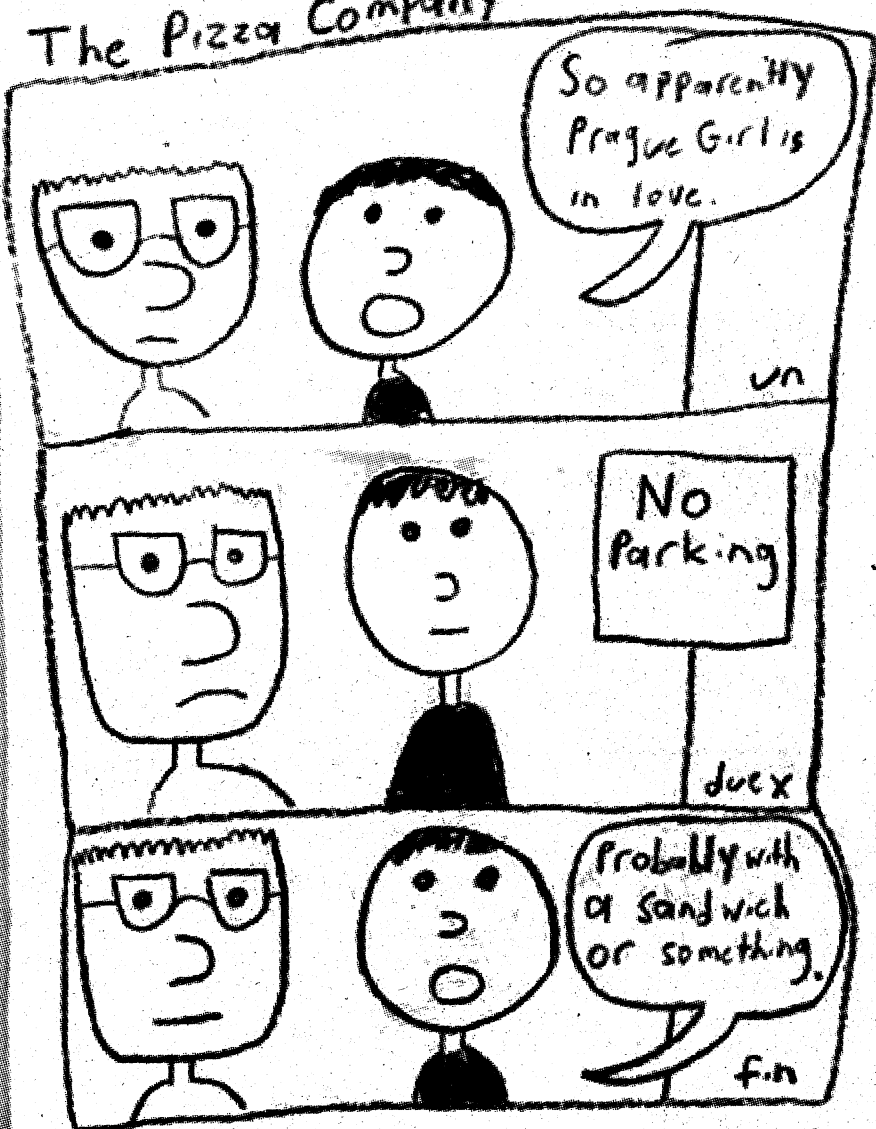


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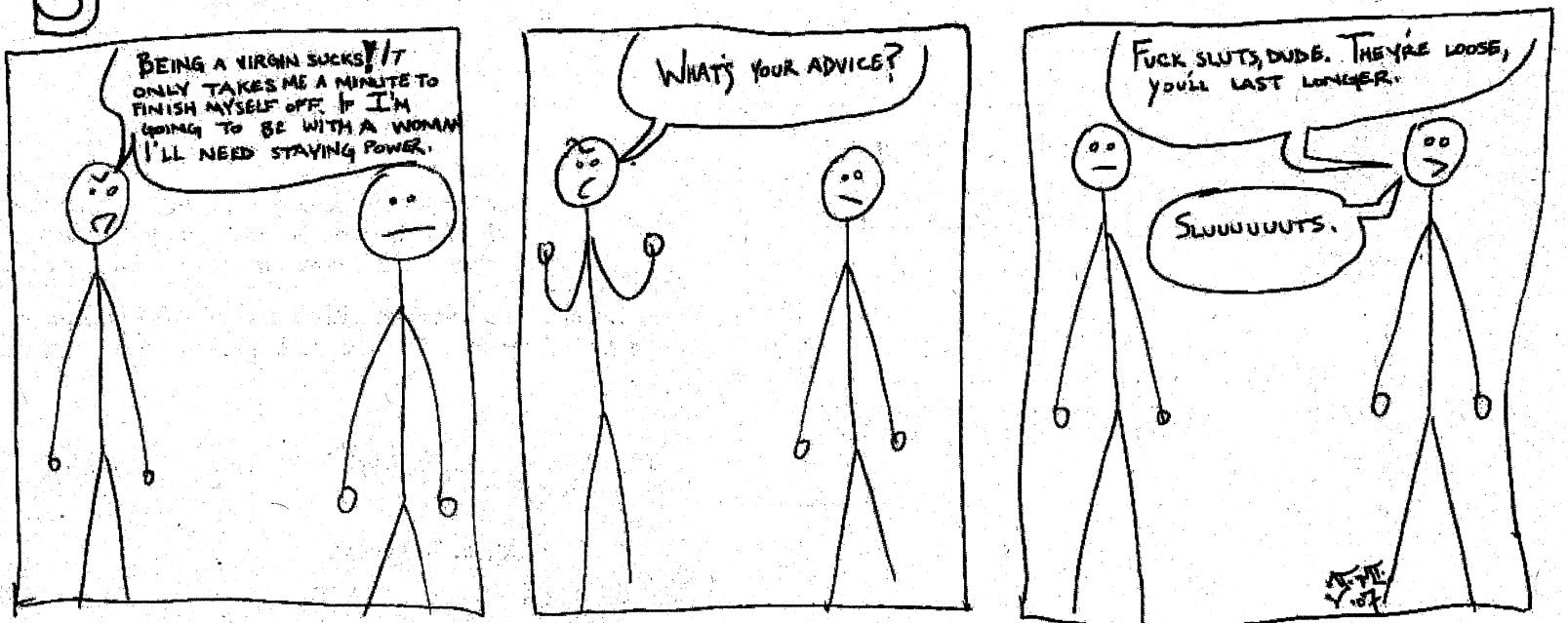
COME ONE, COME ALL (COME WITH YOUR MOM!), IT'S... IT'S... ITS...



The Pizza Company



STICKLOVE BY JAMES MESSINA

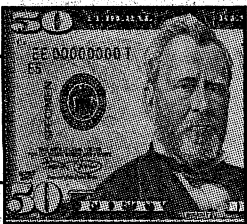


I-CON

TOP TEN

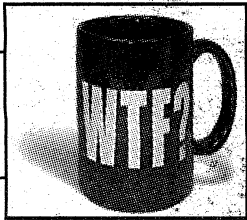


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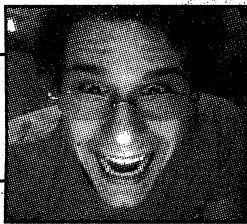
Dealers Room Prices

9



Cleavage that covers faces

8



Jesse's tree climbing
Nic-Fit

7



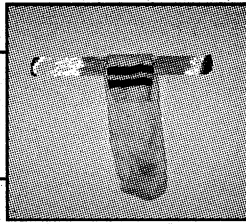
No Rocky Horror
Picture Show

6



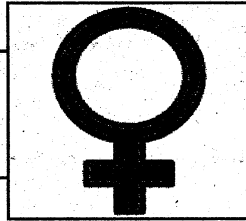
Admission Prices

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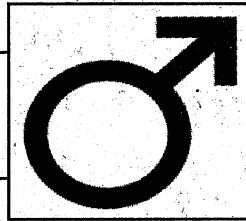
The floor of the hentai
room

4



Fat girls as sailor moon

3



Fat guys as sailor moon

2



Middle school girls that
try to be Jail Bait

1



Furries with
crotch zippers

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