

The Stony Brook

PRESS

The Community News and Features Paper

Vol. XXIX, Issue 2

"Wooooooo, Punching!"

October 10, 2007



PLUS:



OR



THE BUDGET COMMITTEE ALREADY DECIDED FOR YOU. GUESS WHAT THEY CHOSE?

CAT NETWORK: \$7,000 TO \$2,500
COLLEGE REPUBLICANS: \$10,000 TO \$30,000

ALSO: ANOTHER PIECE OF SBU CULTURE GONE.

85-15: The Not So Golden Ratio

By Rebecca Kleinhaut

On September 27th, the gallery of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) meeting was unusually crowded. The tables along the left side of the room were full, and any late-comers fell in along the wall. When it came time for Open Agenda, the part of the meeting that allows members of the gallery to address the Senate, many members of the group migrated to the aisles to speak. The scene that followed not only caused President Joseph Antonelli to stand up and address the gallery numerous times, but it also prompted Vice President Shapiro to slam his gavel and adjourn the meeting twenty minutes before its scheduled end time, cutting off many patrons from speaking in the process.

The shouting match was a culmination of a controversial move by last year's Senate to... "create fiscal responsibility."

The shouting match was a culmination of a controversial move by last year's Senate to, in the words of Shapiro, "create fiscal accountability" on the part of clubs and organizations. Last year, while reworking the budget, then-Senator Shapiro and former Senator Matt Maiorella, who also served as members of the Budget Committee, realized that if they gave every USG-funded organization the amount each group requested on the budget applications, they would have created a deficit of approximately one million dollars. According to Shapiro, the budget could "not [be] objective" unless a uniform policy to whittle it down was adopted. Thus, Shapiro and Maiorella decided that USG was only responsible for funding 80 percent of the cost for any club's off-campus trips. The number was later boosted to 85 percent. Any club that wished to organize an off-campus trip was responsible for contributing 15 percent of the cost. Shapiro and Maiorella considered trips to hotels, conferences, and away games as off-campus trips; however, they did not factor in off-campus practices under the 85/15 split.

The finalized budget did not pass last year's Senate easily. During the

April 17th meeting, Shapiro and Maiorella were even accused of withholding the budget from the remainder of the Budget Committee. Former Senator Diana Etienne claimed that she was never told about the "informal meeting" where the budget was finalized. Shapiro defended their budget, stating that any other move would have created an unwanted "hack-slash bonanza," and Maiorella, in a moment of desperation, even made a threat, which was later retracted to resign from the Budget Committee if the budget was not passed with their new implementation. During the meeting

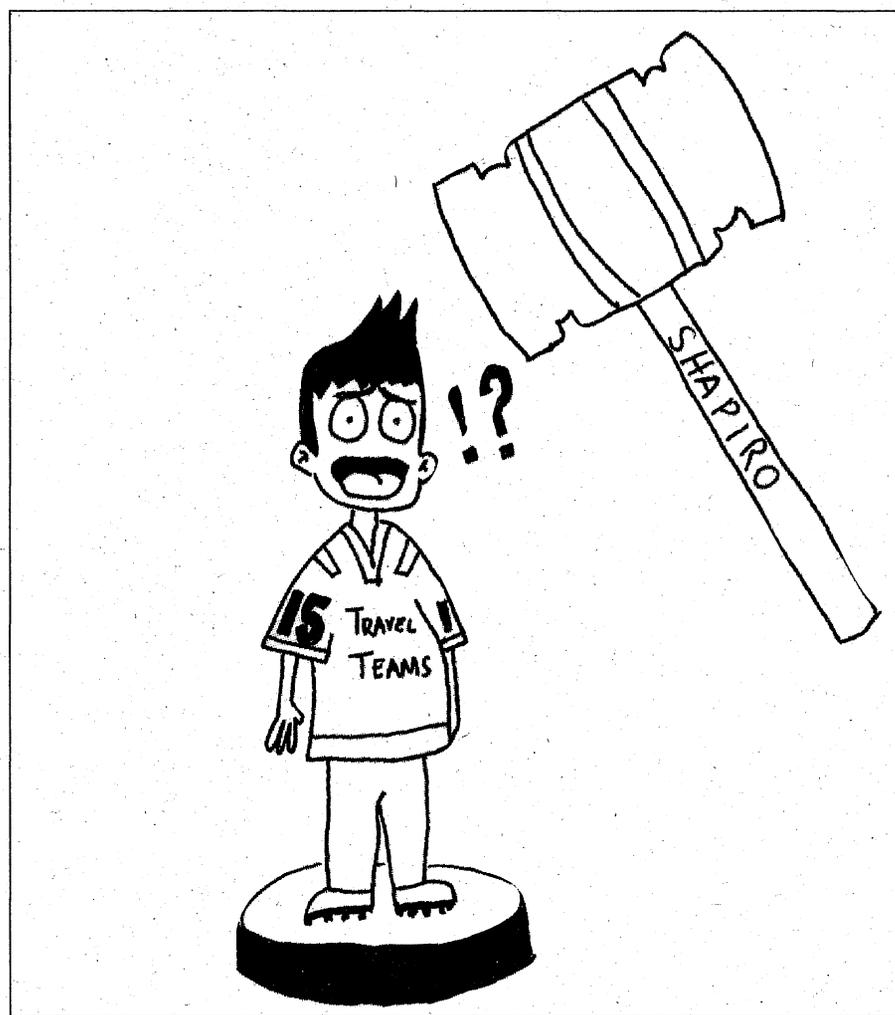
journal early.

Now, in front of a newly-formed Senate, Gemma returned with reinforcements from other campus teams. On September 27th, representatives from Men's Lacrosse, Men and Women's Rugby, Ice Hockey, and Ballroom Dance expressed their discontent with the new budgeting process. Although Gemma declined to comment about the 85/15 policy, many other club representatives spoke out in support of his movement against it.

Gregory Sabino, a member of the Men's Lacrosse Club, is used to having to dig deep into his pockets when it

season. He also said that although the team is used to attempting to fundraise because they've "had to do it for so long," they're not entirely optimistic about the end result. Sabino said that his team hopes to eventually be able to sell shirts and shorts with their logo to the student body; however, they're unable to make a substantial sum off of the product, which echoes the argument of many other organizations. "We usually lose more than we get back," said Sabino.

Sabino and his team were informed about the policy through Men's Rugby, and ultimately, Sabino feels "disheart-



on April 24th, former senator Etienne claimed that she was in "full support" of the budget, and the budget passed, with eighteen voting in favor and two against.

Ultimately, the former senate was convinced about the merits of the new cuts. However, John Gemma, a student worker in the accounting office who now serves as the president of Men's Rugby and Vice President of the Sport's Club Council (SCC), read-dressed the cuts during the Senate meeting on April 24th. He expressed his concern regarding the off-campus trip policy because it applied to transportation and lodging for any USG-funded team's away games. The meeting became so heated that then-Senator Antonelli motioned to ad-

comes to funding his participation in his sport; their club was not eligible for funding in time for the fall.

The Men's Lacrosse Club has already attended scrimmages around the East Coast, including a recent one in Maryland. Sabino estimates spending close to \$300 that weekend, including the cost of gas, boarding, and tolls. He also estimates that approximately 22 players participate in away games. Sabino noted that if any team member cannot afford the cost of traveling, he and other members will "put in as much as we can."

"We shoulder the burden for our talent," said Sabino.

As a student who funds his own education, Sabino said that he is "already saving" for the upcoming spring

Said Shapiro, "we're not in a crisis situation...it's good financial policy."

ened" about it. "[The Senate] has good intentions, but we're hung out to dry. They're not in a position to judge what we can and cannot afford."

Stephanie Hernan, treasurer of the Black Widows Rugby Team, was also disturbed by the 85/15 policy. Women's Rugby has three away games this semester, and they plan on taking two trips in the spring semester. Hernan explained that the team tries to budget their money wisely; they opt out of taking the more popular coach buses to their games and instead choose buses without amenities. According to Hernan they still spend approximately \$700 on buses for each away game. They also choose to drive themselves when they play locally.

Hernan is responsible for budgeting the team's money weeks before their games; this way, they can effectively reserve transportation and accommodations. "All of the confusion [surrounding the budget] makes it hard to plan in advance," says Hernan. "It's detrimental."

Although Hernan recognizes fundraising as an option to obtain the extra 15 percent, she believes that her team could do "more productive things," such as community service. The team was hoping to organize a food drive later in the semester. "[USG] doesn't allow us to decide what we can spend our money on," says Hernan. "We would like to be able to make choices."

Although Hernan and her organi-

"It's going to be epic!"

85:15 continued from page 3

zation are frustrated, they hope to continue to work with the Senate on a solution. "We're not enemies with USG," said Hernan. "USG has good intentions, but [the 85/15 policy] is not the best option."

Executive Vice President Nathan Shapiro, one of the ex-senators responsible for the 15 percent cut, admits that the clubs have a "valid" argument, but he stands by his policy.

"If they received those funds, we'd be over budget," said Shapiro, "we're not in a crisis situation, but it's good financial policy."

Shapiro also noted that he finds some organizations to be less careful about their funds. He cited the tendency for some clubs to wait until the last minute to get trips approved, as well as to inflate their budget applications in order to reach for more money. "[Some clubs] have a lack of foresight, and if they're irresponsible, that's not our problem," said Shapiro.

Ultimately, Shapiro believes that his original policy was the fairest option to all clubs. "In making the budget, we couldn't just cut five percent here and ten percent there," said Shapiro. "We couldn't just think about individuals. We had to focus on what was best for the campus at large."

According to a press release issued before the September 20th meeting, the new financial bylaws, which are currently being drafted, can address the 85/15 policy in two ways. Students will either have to pay 15 percent out of pocket well before the

trip, or they can pay for the trip entirely through their USG budget "until

laxed the rules in order to have an informal meeting about how to proceed

There's Far Too Much USG Coverage

In The Rest of This Issue: a Guide

- *Student Government vs. uh...Real Government? Page 8*

- *The Budget: Is Your Club Getting Squeezed? Page 10*

- *Muse is Far More Interesting: Page 26*

- *Why Nick Eaton's Hate for the USG Might be Slightly Different than Your Mom's: Page 27*

Nate Shapiro is a Pimp: Page Everywhere

the budget is depleted and they have to make up the difference on their own." On September 28th, President Antonelli issued an executive resolution that allows clubs to fund their trips through the latter option, citing "poor communication between USG and the students" as the reason for his decision. However, the executive order does not affect any other policies, meaning that all budgets will remain the same. Therefore, the 15 percent that was factored out of the budget will still remain in effect.

"It's reasonable to hear out the clubs before passing the [Financial] Bylaws," said Antonelli, in defense of his decision.

During the Senate meeting on October 4th, Vice President Shapiro re-

with the club feedback against the 85/15 policy. The floor remained divided about how to proceed. Many members found the policy to be the best way to go; they believed that it set the tone for later years, or, as Vice President of Student Life Jonathon Hirst put it, "It's the best way to head off potential budgetary crisis." President Pro Tempore Steven Elardo agreed, stating, "Eventually, there are going to be so many clubs on campus... they'll be losing money anyway."

Others, such as Senator Chris Pitera, were not so convinced about the pending budgetary crisis. He cited the \$186,000 rollover fund as a sign that they were headed in the right direction. "I'm not really seeing the crisis

right now," said Pitera. He recommended implementing the plan "down the road" if the time called for it.

Ultimately, the Senate decided to turn to the students for feedback about how to proceed. They agreed unanimously to have Vice President Shapiro and PPT Elardo establish a committee that allows organizations to present them with any queries or alternative options. They also decided to create a survey to be distributed to all clubs, which will allow them to share their thoughts on the budget policy.

Vice President Shapiro sympathizes with the Senate concerning the backlash against the policy. "I felt bad for the Senate," said Shapiro about the chaotic September 27th meeting, "they didn't make up the policy." Although Shapiro is constitutionally bound to oversee the creation of the committee, he remains worried about the effect this experience will have on the Senate. He is concerned about the future of such policies that place limits on how much clubs can spend on items such as food and t-shirts. Said Shapiro, "If [the Senate] backs down in the face of intimidation, what's next?"

In the meantime, the clubs will have to continue to pay at least part of their own way. Gregory Sabino remains optimistic about the future of his organization, as well as other organizations that are looking to travel off-campus. "We'll make the best of it," he stated.

Yummy USG Leftovers

By Rebecca Kleinhaut

The Legislative Review Committee introduced the Southampton Organic Act, which sought to create a functioning student government at Stony Brook Southampton. The act gives President Joseph Antonelli the power to appoint a governor at the Southampton campus, pending Senate approval. It also gives students at Southampton the right to form clubs and organizations with money from the Student Activity Fee. All Southampton students were required to pay the fee this fall.

According to the Organic Act, Southampton will hold elections for a "Board of Finances" in tandem with Stony Brook's elections later this semester. The governor, along with the Board of Finances, is then obligated to begin organizing activities on the Southampton campus. At the end of the year, Southampton's student government can present to the Senate any rec-

ommendations for the following semester.

Although President Antonelli began working on the Southampton Organic Act over the summer, the legislation's rushed passage stemmed from "confusion" regarding Southampton's relationship with the USG. Antonelli stated that Anamaria Cobo de Paci, Stony Brook Southampton's Dean of Students, appointed a student body president without consulting the USG.

During the October 4th meeting, the Senate also unanimously passed a budget of \$22,620 for Southampton's own Student Activity Fund.

~ President Antonelli flexed his veto muscle as he overrode the Senate's repeal of the Council of Representatives Act.

On September 27th, the Council of Representatives Appeal Act sought to eliminate the previous act, which was created last year by Jonathon Hirst, Vice President of Student Life, and President Antonelli when they were

both serving as senators last semester. Its aim was to create a body of representatives from each USG-recognized club and organization on campus.

According to the act, the Council of

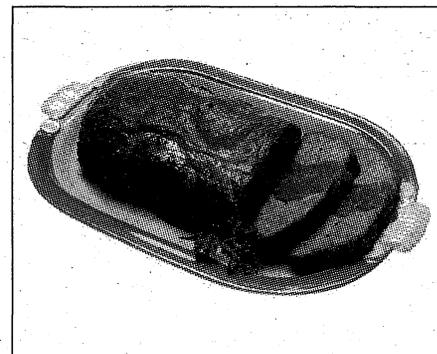


Photo Credit: Your mom... seriously. Meatloaf, feetloaf, I hate meatloaf.

Representatives was able to "pass resolutions expressing the will of clubs' representatives," as well as receive updates on legislation from the Senate. It is the job of the Vice President of Clubs and Organizations to establish the council; last year, former Vice President Ralph

Thomas' failure to create the council was listed as one of the reasons for his impeachment.

At the September 27th meeting, President Antonelli and Vice President Hirst spoke out in favor of the Appeal Act. President Antonelli called the council "excessive" and "not practical." Hirst, who runs the Student Life Council, said that his council "eliminated the need" for the Council of Representatives.

Although the Appeal Act passed through the Senate, Antonelli later changed his tune, issuing the veto after successfully creating a council during Leadership Day on September 29th with Jeffrey Akita, the new Vice President of Clubs and Organizations.

After the veto, many senators spoke out against overriding it. Senator Nir-mala Ramsaran said that repeal of the act would only serve as "one less way for clubs to have a voice." The Senate unanimously decided not to override President Antonelli's veto.

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TASER THIS

FUCK BUSH.

-The Rocky Mountain Collegian

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Quote of the Week

"They were [going to] get like a hundred cats neutered and, ya know. There was a separate line [on the application] that said like emergency medical care, like if one comes in and needs an eye amputated or something like that. Why would we pay to have an animal treated? We wouldn't pay for a student who actually pays the student activity fee. Paying a vet bill is not something the student activity should be going towards."

- USG President Joe Antonelli, on why the life-saving Cat Network's budget was cut by 64%.

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With great expectations and angst, I arrived at the Brook the day before Labor Day. I've been looking forward to this day for quite some time now. You may think, Looser!!! But you see, I've not set foot on campus for almost thirty years. I am part of the class of '78.

I guided my friend from 25A to the LIRR parking lot, and at the precise moment of exiting the car, the sense of change kicked in, but the surroundings were so familiar. Back then, there was no elevated train platform. You alighted and dashed across the tracks hoping the outgoing train would not splatter you over. Once on the other side, you would wait for the shuttle bus that was never there to meet the train. What amazed me at this juncture was how mature the campus had grown flora-wise. Back then, you had a clear view from the train station all the way to the Union. Now, stately trees obscure this view. On my first arrival at the Brook, it was like a revelation at the Land of Oz. In order to do in-person registration (is that still being done?) I arrived with no preconceived expectations. As a CUNY student living under not so good conditions with relatives, I was looking for an alternative, and SUNY seemed to fit the bill quite nicely. I immediately filled out a transfer application. In typical institutional fashion, I was not aware I had been accepted until two weeks before the spring semester of '76.

On the plane ride back to Oakland, CA, my home for the last 28 years, I read all the SB rags I picked up at the bookstore. I must say that some articles were very well written and insightful, while others seemed that the authors skipped remedial English. Nevertheless, I found the plethora of stories interesting enough to write this letter. The Brook was not without similar controversy back then. It seems that the same disdain for the office of President remains. In my days it was Toll (yes, the very same one the campus street is named after) and his successor, Pond. Gripes about overpriced nasty food, housing shortages and bookstore rip-offs were exactly the same 30 years ago. Back then, we only had Tabler, Roth, Kelly, H Quad and Stage XII. The Lecture Center (now Javits) was as ugly then as it is now. But what is noticeably missing is the Bridge to Nowhere, the icon of our days. Without it, "there is no there, there." It was the heart and rallying point of the Brook; it now seems disjointed with the SAC having taken over for the Union. I'm not sure I like that.

Meandering though campus trying to relive my past, I eventually ended up at Hand College. The mess around campus is just as bad today as when I arrived in 1976. I was saddened by what I saw. In my days there were no locks or electronic keys or any sense of security issues. Hand College had the appearance of the 'projects' in any of

the boroughs. I was shocked to see that security actually carries guns.

- As an RA during my last year, I:
- Was never put in the position to challenge security issues with my flock,
 - Never had any attendance problems during hall meetings (I know nothing about the joints passed around during that first meeting),
 - Take the fifth on who broke into Tabler cafeteria to use the oven to roast 2 turkeys for Thanksgiving dinner,
 - Witnessed my suitemates get nabbed by Security for growing pot on the windowsill (the plants were confiscated but no charges ever brought up, hmm!),
 - Know nothing about the of the nitrous oxide tank gone AWOL from the HSC,
 - Know anything about our college 'warden' sleeping around with members of the Security force,
 - Know nothing about the waterlogged carpets after a night of heavy water balloon fights between Hand 1B and Hand 3B.

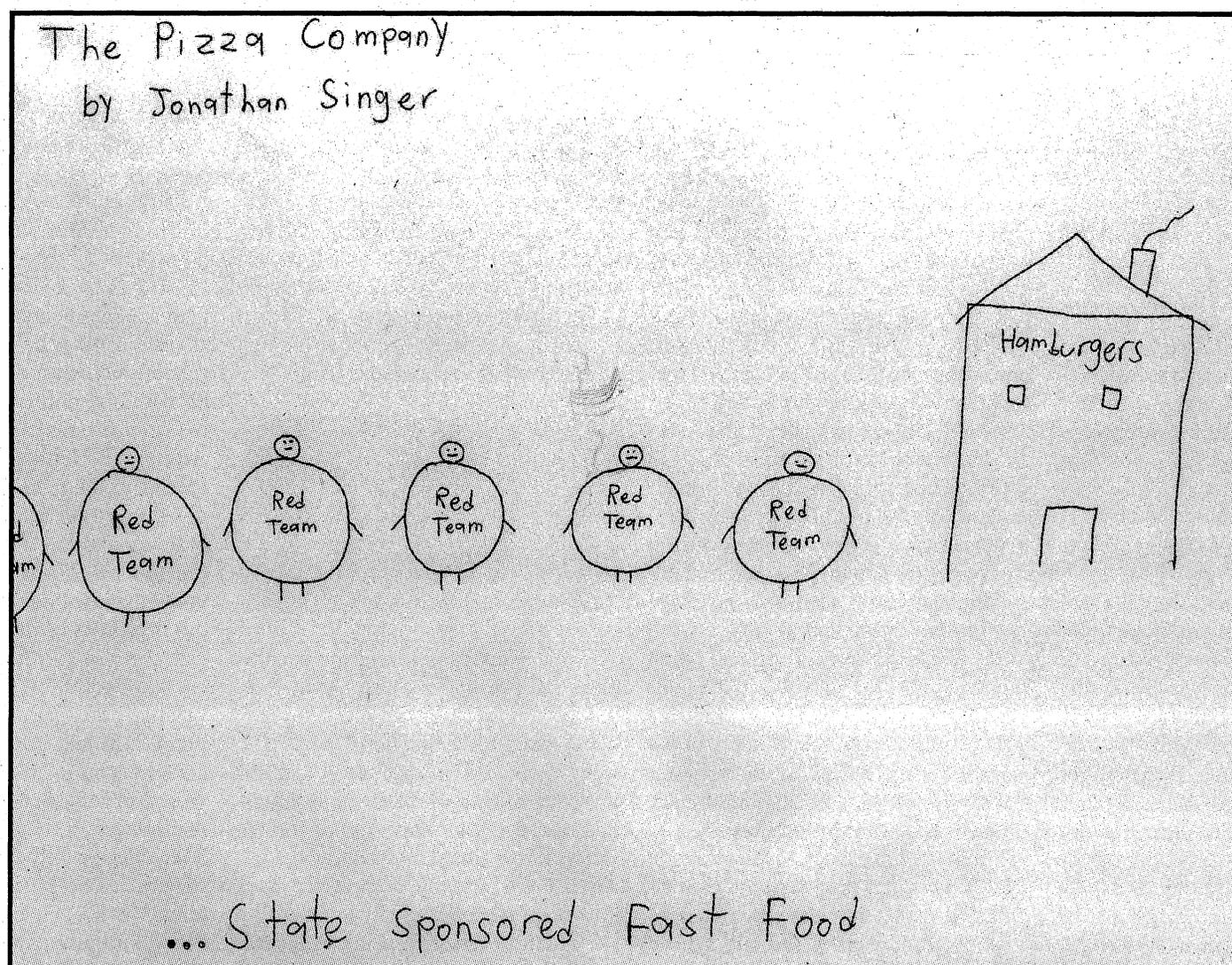
I guess I'm one of those few people who made education work, not because I'm a smart-ass fuck, but because I cherished the values I was fortunate to obtain while at SUNY-Stony Brook. Mercifully, I found and was at ease with my sexuality at Stony Brook, and have been in domestic partnership for 27+ years (get a clue, you yahoos who think otherwise). I am one of several

vice-presidents at a bank in San Francisco. My husband and I travel the world every chance we get, from Maui to Buenos Aires, from Seattle to Istanbul, and from cruises in the Baltic to the Caribbean. In short, I'm just an average gay guy who is thankful for the education, tolerance, acceptance and idealism Stony Brook offered me. I'm happy to state that I've benefited from my Stony Brook years devoid of the stupidity, hypocrisy and screwed-up lives of assholes like Haggard, Craig, Foley, Swaggart and other Bible-thumping morons.

In reading your rag's articles, I laughed, I cringed, even shed half a tear. To those who have nothing better than to complain about your current status, be blessed with what you have. My worst year in life was the year I graduated and delved into the real world. Even though I had worked since high school and part-time during a semester at SB, I was not prepared to confront reality. I miss those days very much; I miss my flock, my boyfriend, my carefree days and the sense of idealism. With this visit, I closed an important chapter. Life goes on, and so should you.

Please enjoy the Brook for what it is. I wish you the very best success now and in your life after the Brook.

Victor Rosario
Oakland, CA



"They put a male sex organ on our door."

"I'm a Young Soledad O'Brien"

By Jonathan Singer

Soledad O'Brien remembers a time when news anchors were practically the voice of God. There was actually a period in history when anchors like Walter Cronkite presented television news on one of three possible network options. Now, in an age when people admit to not trusting the news, O'Brien's job as a CNN anchor is much more difficult.

And she likes it that way.

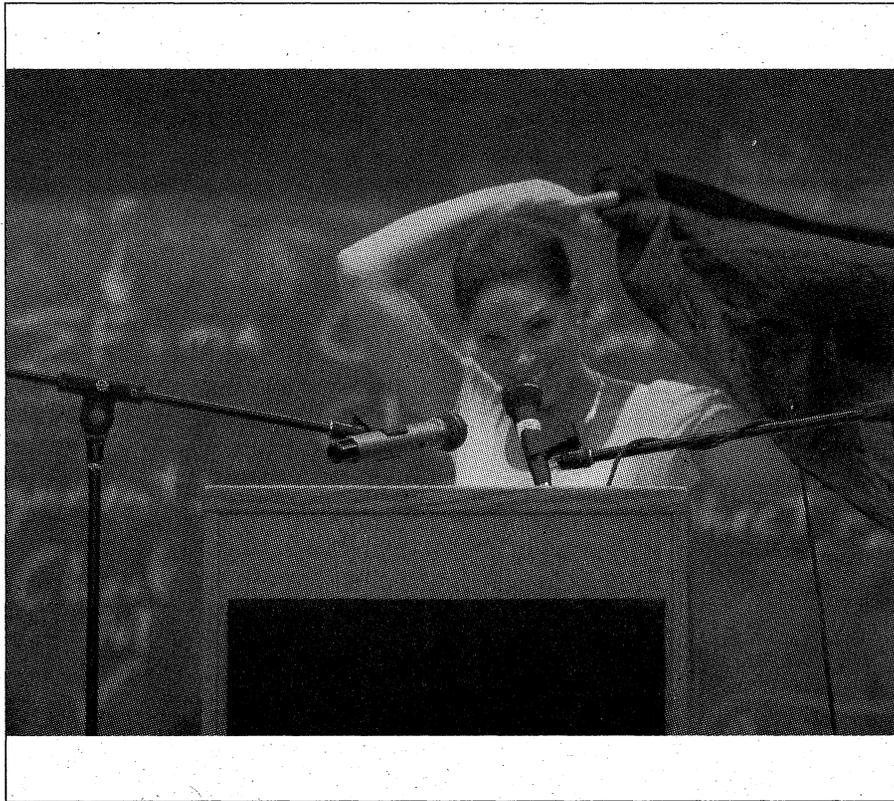
From having her ass pinched by drunken SF Giants fans to exposing a dead corpse on network television, O'Brien somehow found the time to return home for a quick hour-long speech and Q&A at Stony Brook, the university with the new journalism school that is only eight miles from her childhood home in St. James.

Known for her work and from *Weekend Today*, where she reported on pressing issues involving trapeze artists, O'Brien also anchored CNN's *American Morning*, a morning show where she was able to report on non-trapeze related news. After winning an Emmy, a Peabody, a DuPont, and even a Soledad O'Brien Freedom Voice Award, the mother of four children, under the age of six, is now working at CNN's Special Investigation Unit. While she misses the live nature of morning shows, she doesn't miss getting up at 3AM.

O'Brien fell in love with television news when she wasn't supposed to, while enrolled in medical school. "I wasn't a scientist at heart," she says, defending her decision to leave the medical track to pursue a career in TV. That

organized by the school's journalism program and was patronized mostly by journalism students there for either class or extra credit.

Instead, O'Brien's education came from practical experience in the field.



O'Brien prepares to toss her jacket into the crowd, a popular act that signifies either the end or the beginning of a night rich with raw eroticism

Photo by Jesse Schoepfer

means that she doesn't have a degree in journalism, which is ironic because her lecture at SBU, titled "My Life As," was

She literally calls working at local stations WBZ in Boston and KRON in San Francisco "college." Starting off as a line

producer in Boston, she worked her way up to becoming a reporter in Northern California's bay area. She was hired in San Francisco because she was cheap; she was the first person hired after a worker's strike. But it didn't help that, unlike other television markets, San Francisco and Oakland had a news show anchored by two women.

O'Brien's success doesn't mean that she was outstanding in the beginning. On one occasion, it was suggested that she be relocated to Santa Barbra. But she learned a good bit of advice from her news director: "Make them fire you, never quit."

Even though a name change was suggested (her full name is María de la Soledad Teresa O'Brien), she didn't do anything to make them fire her, and now O'Brien is traveling as far as Bangkok to report the news. She admits to reading the competition when it comes to obtaining information; and she isn't referring to MSNBC, but to the blogs that she admits to reading every day.

"I don't mind when people say, 'I don't trust the news,'" she says. With the current reality of instant news, O'Brien encourages consumers to figure out who they trust on their own. For an hour in the Stony Brook Union, an auditorium half-filled with journalism students and community members trusted Soledad O'Brien.

Zebra Path Repainted for Oct. Revolution

By Alex Walsh

The black and white stripes of the Zebra Path have long been a visual hallmark of Stony Brook's campus. Originally painted on the walkway between the Academic Mall and Circle Road in 1981 as an art project, the landmark has since been maintained by the University's Division of Campus Operations & Maintenance.

Those familiar two-tone bars are now but a memory. On Friday, October 5, workers from Campus Operations & Management, recently renamed the People's Central Command for Beautification, Modernization, and Upkeep (PCCBMU), laid down a coat of bright red paint over the faded black.

University President Shirley Strum Kenny is scheduled to formally unveil the change at a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 24, the 90th anniversary of the October Revolution in which V.I.

Lenin led the Bolsheviks to oust Kerensky's Provisional Government, sparking the Russian Civil War. The alternating stripes represent the clash of the Bolshevik Red Army and the opposing coalition, known as the Whites. "We feel that the new Great October Socialist Revolution Path will be a valuable reminder to the students to keep up their studies," said one representative from the President's office. "The skills they learn here will place them in good standing during the coming period of class warfare."

Students' reactions to the walkway's new hue have been mixed.

"I think it's great," opined Axel Pergman, a senior with a double major in philosophy and labor relations. "This really contributes to the diversity of the school. Between this and the five-year plans, we're drawing on the traditions of all the best Communist societies."

Junior Lohma Attas' review was not quite so glowing. "I understand the historical significance and the need to crush the bourgeoisie," she said, "But if

they don't at least change the 'Zebra Path' plaque, I think it will hurt the school in the long run. How can we expect to draw in top biology students if we can't conclusively demonstrate that we know what a zebra looks like?"

Stony Brook University, like Petrograd in 1917, is "Red Hot."

Jorge Aguatoz, a seventh year computer science student, also frowned on the development. "I feel like I'm really being taken for a ride here," he said. "I went along with it when they said our mascot was the seawolf, a wholly fantastic beast. But this? This is going too far. I don't know what color a seawolf actually is - it is, after all, completely made up - but I'm pretty sure it's not red."

Aguatoz's concerns aside, it appears

that the administration will not rest until Stony Brook University, like Petrograd in 1917, is "Red Hot." One USG official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, assured us that the choice of red as the school's signature color had nothing to do with any political party's predominance in the ranks of the student government. "That's preposterous!" the official exclaimed, sharply banging a gavel to restore order to the interview. "A filthy capitalist lie if ever I heard one." In the interest of fairness, it should be noted that the interviewee also serves as the President of the College Communists.

Work continues around campus on various other beautification projects. Representatives from the PCCBMU declined to comment directly on the construction of what appears to be a mausoleum in the plaza in front of the SAC, offering only the following cryptic statement: "Let's just say we think President Kenny will be with us at Stony Brook for quite some time."

"He sounds like Dick from High Fidelity."

Global Warming: This Is Why I'm Hot!

By Jack Katsman

This past weekend, the first Global Warming Summit was held on Long Island that specifically dealt with how families and individuals can help stop the growing problem that is global warming. Global warming, as most of you probably know, happens when the greenhouse gasses build up, increasing the average temperature. This summit didn't really focus on the scientific points in the argument surrounding global warming, but it brought practices that every man, woman, and child can do to save our planet from melting away into nothingness. I mean, have you seen *Waterworld*? It would be so bad, and Kevin Costner would kill people and save a little girl. I don't trust him enough to save that little girl.

The summit consisted of many things; notably, vendors presented their products and had workshops to show families and individuals how they work. Most products were centered on the idea of solar energy (solar panels, solar heating systems), but there were other forms of alternative energy featured as well, like wind and water energy. This summit was geared towards families, and therefore a lot of the things they had there were less scientifically oriented, and oriented more towards how everyone

can pitch in to do his or her own thing to help the environment. There was a family-style barbeque, activities for kids, and groups dedicated to the environment, like the Sierra Club. Cartridge World, a printer ink refill and recycling company also had a table set up to show that even something simple, like refilling cartridges instead of throwing them out, or recycling properly, can make a huge difference, and

We all have our part to do in this; we all [must] do our best to help the environment...

it's something everyone can do.

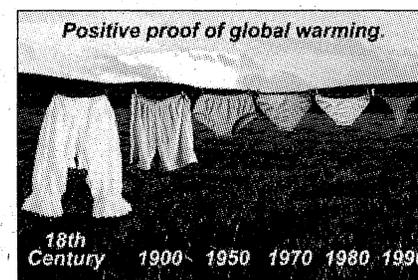
Aside from the vendors, there were a few cars set up outside; all of them used biodiesel fuel, from school buses to non-emergency vehicles, like street cleaners, and garbage trucks. They even spoke of a "grease car," a car that runs on used kitchen grease. There were solar-powered racecars and commercial vans that ran on natural gas; there were also electric and hydrogen cars on display. They even had a movie screening of Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*.

The Center of Science Teaching

and Learning were the group that put this event together, and I spoke to Ray Ann Havesy, the director of CSTL and the main event organizer about why she put this together. A survey had been conducted in the Nassau and Suffolk county libraries about global warming; the survey showed that, while almost everyone knew what global warming was, barely a third of all people surveyed knew what the major causes of global warming are. Havesy said that we all have an obligation to help save the Earth, to help prevent global warming. "It is up to [the new generation] to live a different lifestyle. Global warming is something everyone can make a difference in."

The biggest part of the whole summit was the government panel discussion. The members of the panel spoke about the role of government and what they are doing to help with the problem of global warming. The members of the panel were Steve Levy, Suffolk County Executive, an Stony Brook University graduate; Tom Suozzi, Nassau County Executive; and Angela Lucott, Deputy of the Committee for Environmental Planning in New York City. The moderator of the panel was Craig Allen, of Fox News, also a Stony Brook University graduate. They all spoke about what they are doing in their respective areas to prevent more global warming. Tom Suozzi actually signed a law

at the table to make all new buildings in Nassau county LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified. Each had his or her own work in the environmental protection to state, which made me think that Long Island is doing its best to prevent anything from happening as a result of global warming.



Giggity giggity goo, Oh Yea.

Quagmire

We all have our part to do in this; we all have the responsibility to make sure that we keep our carbon footprint small and to do our best to help the environment, because it's the only one we have till we colonize the moon or Mars; so, at least until then, we all have to pitch in. Recycle plastics and papers to save our trees and the things plastics come from. For more information on global warming and Al Gore, go to www.ClimateCrisis.net, and for more info on the Long Island Global Warming Summit for Families, go to www.LIGlobalWarming.org.

News-In-Brief

Compiled by: James Laudano, Axel Pergman, Marta Gyvel & Sze Chun Chan

NYPIRG Launches Cyber Street Smart Campaign

Cyber Street Smart, a campaign launched on Oct. 2 by the New York Public Interest Research Group, will educate the public of "the ever-changing traps" of con artists and thieves on the Internet, according to NYPIRG.

"We're helping people apply the same street smarts that they use everyday to their lives online," said Tracy Shelton, NYPIRG Consumer Attorney about the Cyber Street Smart campaign. Last year alone, almost \$600 million were lost in online scams. Campaigning on city subways and buses, the movement hopes to directly decrease the amount of money lost.

Keying on the fact that college

students are as likely as anyone to be conned, NYPIRG hopes to garner grassroots support on campuses such as Stony Brook in order to get the word out on the streets.

Wynton Marsalis at Staller Center

The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, considered by many to be the best jazz trumpeter of his generation, performed in front of a sold out Staller Center on Saturday, Sept. 29 at 8 p.m.

The 15 member orchestra included a drummer, pianist, bassist, four trumpeters, three trombonists and five saxophonists, four of which also played other horns, such as the clarinet or flute.

Everyone on stage wore gray suits with different color ties, depending

on their part in the orchestra. The pianist, bassist, drummer and trumpeters wore light blue, trombonists wore dark blue and saxophonists wore green.

The show was really awesome because it was freaking Wynton Marsalis. The Staller Center hasn't had a performer this big since Whoopie Goldberg rocked the roof off the joint last semester.

Fish Porn

Professor Beren W. Robinson held a lecture in the Life Sciences Building on September 26. It was on the flexibility of fish to adaptively evolve in new environments. A common belief about the theory of evolution is that change of habitat produces no short-term change in the species'

homeostasis. Robinson disproves this misconception by presenting new evidence that suggests short-term habitat changes have a significant effect on fish.

He found that Pumpkinseed Sunfish adopt different skull shapes depending on the usage of their jaws. For example, a sunfish in a sandy habitat will have a more pointed skull versus a flatter skull—that is a result of the fish's extensive usage of its jaws to crush snails. Robinson's conclusion was that physical features of fish are not all evolutionarily hard-wired, but more environmentally-induced than is commonly believed. Dr. Beren W. Robinson is an associate professor at the Department of Integrative Biology at the University of Guelph at Ontario, Canada.

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Schiavelli Alive, Helming SB Journalism

By Newsy McRealterson

New evidence has emerged suggesting that the seemingly deceased Vincent Schiavelli—the veteran of over 150 film and television roles who was recognized by *Vanity Fair* as one of America's best character actors—faked his widely reported 2005 death. Recent photographs of a collegiate speaking engagement featuring CNN anchor Soledad O'Brien, which took place at Stony Brook University, have lead investigators to con-

clude that Schiavelli orchestrated an elaborate public deception and retired from Hollywood glamour to found the Stony Brook Department of Journalism.

Although Schiavelli was far from a household name, his distinctive long face and sad eyes were familiar to many from his appearances in such films as *Ghost*, *Better off Dead* and *Death to Smoochy*. Less known, however, were his cookbooks and food related magazine articles. In 2001, the James Beard Foundation recognized Schiavelli with a prestigious award for culinary journalism. When Hollywood began to

sour, it was here, according to investigators, where he found his escape.

Investigators speculate that Schiavelli began to grow disaffected with Hollywood following the demise of the Ben Stiller-directed television project *Heat Vision and Jack*. According to *New York Times* television writer Austin Bunn, "Within the television world, *Heat Vision and Jack* is considered one of the best pilots that never made it." Sources indicate that the stark example of the all too typical sudden dismissal of intelligent comedy drove Schiavelli to despair. Disconsolate, he began to plot

an escape into the world of letters where he was fast gaining recognition.

Adopting a pseudonym, Schiavelli appears to have crafted an academic program from scratch founded on twenty-first century news literacy combined with traditional journalism training across all media. He has since set about luring high profile faculty to Stony Brook, including such much-heralded successes as former CBS news executive Marcy McGinnis and a spectral Patrick Swayze.

Vincent Schiavelli Career Highlights:

1975	One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest	1982	Fast Times At Ridgmont High	1984	The Adventures of Buckaroo Bonzai...	1997	Tomorrow Never Dies	2007	Stony Brook University
									
As McMurphy's fellow mental patient, Frederickson		As the biology teacher, Mr. Vargas		As the alien lizard henchman, John O'Conner		As the Austrian marksman and torturer, Dr. Kaufman		As the cantankerous former <i>Newsday</i> Editor and J-School Dean Howard Schneider	

Don't Skip this Article

By David Robin

Nobody cares. Well, not literally every person on the Stony Brook campus, but this statement is still way too close to the truth. Many of you have probably already stopped reading this article, proving there is some sort of student apathy. The fact is, student apathy is a big problem on this campus and, obviously, many people either already know this or don't really care enough to think about it. More than 700 people voted in the last Undergraduate Student Government (USG) election because apparently some people really have no idea that there is a student government on campus. Hopefully, people realize that 700 is not a big number when there are almost 15,000 undergraduate students attending this school. This means that roughly 4.6% of the student body decided to log on to SOLAR and vote for a new USG President, Vice President, senators, and other officials. Include, into this very disappointing number, the fact that there were people who voted randomly, lowering the amount of educated voters. Oh wait, voting randomly wasn't even an issue for the most part, because every executive race

except for VP of Student Life and the president had only one candidate. Similarly, there were seventeen spots for USG Senator and only sixteen people ran. For those still reading, this is a serious problem. One wise student once said – two days ago – "If you don't vote, you can't bitch about anything." There are plenty of complainers and procrastinators, but few people who push for change. The point of this article is not to ask whether there is a problem, but why there is a problem.

Student apathy does not only exist on the 1,100 acres that constitute Stony Brook's Main Campus, but across the country as a whole. People aren't voting, and when they do, they don't know what they're voting for. According to the 2006 election exit polls on CNN.com, the ages of 18 to 24 are only twelve percent of the eligible voting population. In addition, according to the "Reported Voting and Registration, by Race, Hispanic Origin, Sex, and Age, for the United States: November 2004" on the U.S. Census website, as of November 2004, only 51% of people ages 18-24 were registered to vote and only 41.9% voted in the 2004 election. These are the lowest percentages among all age groups. The point of showing all of these crazy statistics is that student apathy exists across the whole

United States. While the home of the Seawolves has many problems that affect the whole student body, it is no match for the problems that exist in the United States. The war in Iraq? How about global warming? Foreign policy, anyone? These are serious issues in the United States that some, if not many, young adults don't care about.

Are you guys still with me? Yeah? Awesome. I decided to create and conduct a survey in an attempt to answer the last two questions. While it may not have been the most professional survey ever done, it should have at least shed some light on this serious problem. There were only five questions, and none were multiple-choice, because this is real life, there is no multiple-choice. The first question revealed that 76.8% of the participants were registered to vote in the United States. This number is impressive, considering the outpouring of student apathy on campus. However, responses to the second question tell a different story, as only 45.8% actually voted in the last national election. Compare this with the results of the next question; only 17.6% of the participants voted in the last USG election. While this is an overrepresentation of the people who voted in the 2006 USG election, it still suggests that stu-

dents might care more about the national government. The final two questions compare the USG President with the U.S. Secretary of State. You heard it right, a comparison between Joseph Antonelli and Condoleezza Rice. Amazingly, 11.9% of participants knew who our USG President was, while 37.3% knew who Condoleezza Rice was. These numbers reveal that an alarming amount of student apathy exists in both cases, but less students care about the USG.

One argument may be that the USG's ineffectiveness is due to today's society where young adults are "plugged in" to the latest technology and ignore important political issues. While the survey proves this point, witness the lack of recognition of Condi and the lack of participants voting in the last national election—it also shows that USG student apathy is much more serious. Society cannot be fully blamed for students not knowing who the USG President is and not wanting to vote in the election. One student said, "A lot of people don't vote because they feel like their vote doesn't count." If the USG wants to become stronger, they have to make students aware that they exist and get students involved. Otherwise, what's the point?

Want your club/organization to be featured in a future Club Spotlight?

E-mail *The Press* at
sbpress@gmail.com

Campus Personalities

By James Laudano

Welcome, readers, to what is the first of, hopefully, many segments of Campus Personalities. My goal for this column is to bring to you the straight dope from some of Stony Brook's most recognizable and important individuals. This column is not intended to be a sounding board for students or professors. Rather, my subjects will focus entirely on the workers, artists, and other individuals—individuals separate from the student body, mind you—who shape everyday Stony Brook life into what it is. It is with great pleasure that I introduce my first interviewee, Mikaeil Haniquet, barber at Beauty In Brains, to you.

I walk into Beauty In Brains, the campus barbershop located in the Union building's basement, to interview Mikaeil Haniquet. He is finishing cutting a customer's hair when I enter and takes a break from his work to come over to greet me and shake my hand. His grip is incredibly strong and fits his broad, bulky frame. He has a long beard and is rarely seen not wearing a long robe-like outfit and topi (head covering worn by some Muslims). I've known Mikaeil for about a year now, and he's always very friendly and accommodating when we meet. Mikaeil is also constantly discussing political and social issues, and is never shy about discussing any topic. I sit down and get ready to begin the interview just as he finishes the haircut and begins preparing for his next customer...

JL: So, tell me what your role here at Stony Brook is?

MH: Basically I run the functions of this shop. I cut hair. To be honest with you, after working here for some time now, I'm thinking about enrolling in some classes, too.

JL: What kind of classes would you consider enrolling in?

MH: It's really undecided. It would be of a certain type of subjects though. Maybe psychology, psychiatrics, or some kind of physical therapy. Also, maybe some history and anthropology. Stuff like that, that what I'm interested in.

JL: How long have you been here at Beauty In Brains?

MH: I started here in...Fall 2004. I wasn't here the year after that though, so I've been here for three of the past four years.

[I give Mikaeil a chance to start

cutting his next customer's hair. He begins and gestures for me to continue.]

JL: *You've had an interesting life. What was your childhood like?*

MH: Wow! [he laughs] It was a bit dysfunctional. I grew up in a suburban ghetto, so it was a rough. It was in Central Islip, and when I was a kid, that area was really just...slums. At the time there was a lot of gangs, so growing up there we were all around drugs and violence a lot. But we would try to find fun in other things like playing manhunt—we didn't have video games—so it was mostly outdoors stuff. We also played "house," "doctor," stuff like that [he laughs again]. Any wooded area here in Suffolk, like Connetquot, which is a bit of a walk, but was in the basic proximity. We would trek over there, swim in a river, stuff like that. Also, back then graffiti was very hot, so we would do that a lot. Graffiti, break dancing, rap, that sort of stuff, too.

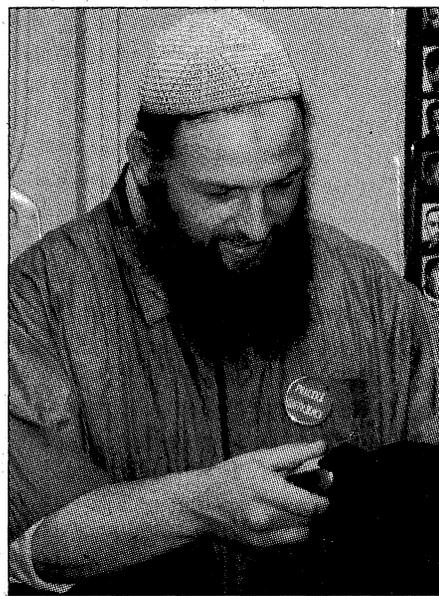


Photo Credit: James Laudano
Mikaeil hard at work.

JL: *You converted to Islam. How has your life been changed by your spirituality and religion?*

MH: It made me respect myself, first of all. It taught me to love people, as people. It completely changed my entire concept of what women are. Where I grew up, I was all around pimps and prostitutes but now, becoming a righteous person and meeting these other strong righteous women, I really respect them. And that didn't just happen when I became Muslim, it happened when I made a serious attempt to really understand people for what they are. That's when I realized that this ain't right, you know? Lets look at it like an analogy. These clippers are broken [he shows me the clippers he's using to cut his customer's

hair] the cord is busted. But it still works perfectly fine, it still functions, so I use it and value it. But I could have just treated it like garbage, slamming it around, and then it really wouldn't work and we would throw it out. But the whole time we're just getting energy and self-esteem saying, "yeah, I'm better than this piece of trash." See, that's the same concept as what is going on with women today. We're looking at them finding things that are wrong, like their fingers aren't the right size, or their eyes aren't even, but we're really just feeling making ourselves feel better about our own bigger problems. And being a Muslim has helped me focus on bigger, realer problems than just small appearances like that.

JL: *You are certainly one of the most outgoing, friendly individuals on campus. Are you just naturally like this or did your upbringing or environment shape you in that way?*

MH: It's really a combination of those things. When you grow up poor, you don't have the opportunity to truly be egotistical or arrogant. I mean, you can come off like that a little bit, but everyone would look at you and be like "who is this dude?" I am naturally an outgoing person, but growing up I was a bit shy. Growing up in a poor area, to tell you the truth, really changed my outlook on how to deal with people. Instead of walking around thinking, "I don't have to talk to anyone", I actually do have to talk to you because we need to cooperate, and I'll be around you all day. So little by little, I started to notice I shouldn't be closed when dealing with people.

JL: *You take up a number of social, political and cultural causes. Are there any current issues that are peaking your interest now?*

MH: Yes. First, I'm disappointed with how students don't see the many choices they have here. What I mean is, students are getting drunk and getting all these sexual diseases, and its almost like...they feel that college should be like that. Parties and bad decisions. I'm also very discontented right now with how the student body here is so...segmented. Everyone is so corralled into his or her own group, and that's it, and it's sad. We got a diverse campus, very diverse. And there isn't much interracial groups or hangouts. Racism is still a problem. So I try to completely erase that when I can, but it's hard, you know? I mean, even mixed individuals, like Hispanics—I hate that name though, so lets say Spanish speaking individuals—who have African and Indian and White

blood in their genealogy are still segmented in our school by something like a fraternity or whatever. And it's really a closing of the mind, you understand? There is so much you take away from your life experience by segmenting yourself. If people get involved with each other, get involved with different people, everything is improved. And if these words influence just one person, or just five people to change their lives, then it's great. It's worth it.



Photo Credit: James Laudano
Our protagonist flashes us a smile.

JL: *Now, I've had the pleasure of having many conversations with you and you always have something informative and interesting to say. Is there any message you want to get out there to our readers?*

MH: [he pauses cutting his customer's hair to think] I'd say...learn yourself. Learn your culture, your heritage, your bloodline. Learn something outside yourself, learn other languages because there are plenty of different nationalities here on campus. I've met people from countries I didn't even know existed, who have flags that don't even look like flags...the flags are like...triangles or whatever. Don't be scared to open up, you know? There are people on this campus who have had some tough upbringings like me, but if you did, don't be afraid to talk about it. Don't be judgmental, don't judge from appearances. Life is about people, and different people at that, so embrace it. Don't look at things like you're not up to par, because there's always a lot going on with you.

JL: *Okay, last question, where should our readers go if they need a haircut?*

MH: [he laughs] Right here, bro. Beauty In Brains.

Food For Thought

そういう風に働かせないので私が言うことを転写できない。石を食べている私が十字であるので、音箱を持つNick Eaton。いいえ、とても問題にこれを置いていない。

Favoritist Funding and Feline Freeloaders

By Najib Aminy & Bryan Hasho

If you're not big on the SBU Cat Network, it could be because you hate kitties. Or maybe it's just because you haven't heard of their club.

Either way, there are a lot of students who are big on the Cat Network; they're big enough on the club to support a successful on-campus fundraiser and sustain a movement that is undeniably heartwarming. According to Michelle Pesce, the current president of the club, the advance is currently 318 members strong, which makes them easily one of the largest clubs on campus.

Cat Network strives to save kitties and cats. More specifically, they humanely trap, neuter and vaccinate the hundreds of homeless felines on campus that would normally suffer the tragic hardships so common with stray cats today: disease, starvation and death, to name a few.

The Network's website (<http://www.sinc.sunysb.edu/clubs/sbucat>) showcases some of their adoptable and most adorable kitties. Those kitties who aren't adopted are released back into their colonies and, in theory, fed for the rest of their lives.

The problem is, such a noble cause needs funding. And though they have shown they are more than willing to raise the capital it takes, help is always appreciated. Fortunately, the Cat Network is an Undergraduate Student Government funded club, so they are allocated funds from the collected student activities fee, which the students pay each semester, just the same as most other student-run clubs on campus.

The people in charge of allocating those funds are, for the most part, the Undergraduate Student Government's Budget Committee. Comprised of the USG Treasurer and a few select USG Senators who stepped up to aid the process, the Committee reviews the applications of the almost 200 student activity fee-funded clubs and produces a budget that, hopefully, is both sensible and rewarding for the clubs and activities that breath an enthused life into campus activity.

The USG budget has had its fair share of controversy. During the April 17 meeting of last year, the original budget proposal was shot down after Senator Etienne explicated that she wasn't invited to help make changes. She stated that it wasn't a real meeting, and that the criteria was set without input from the Treasurer; the USG position designed specifically to handle finances.

USG President Joseph Antonelli has stated that the current budget was a group effort, and that the final product

was carefully combed through by Vice President of Student Affairs, Peter Baigent.

"We spent countless hours," said Antonelli. "It wasn't like one person was like 'we're going to do this, this and that' and we wiped our hands clean and that was a one person meeting. I think we did at least three go-a-rounds on every single application."

Antonelli is content, but contrasting with him are a number of club officials displeased with the division of the total sum of \$2.68 million dollars, and who are now questioning the process the committee refers to when justifying the distribution.

USG claims that in no cases were decisions made in favor of one club over another. Instead, clubs submitted written proposals that were critically assessed, and the claims that the USG considered well defended were fully funded. "What we did is we took each application and we evaluated it line by line. The decision depended on how much backup they had for the numbers," said Antonelli. "Every time, when we went around, when we determined their number, we didn't look at like a running total, or anything that we had gone through [in previous claims]. We went alphabetically, and we saw where we were at. For the first time, we were way over, so we had to say 'okay, what's a set of criteria we can apply across the board [to cut the numbers]... This way we would never wind up saying this club is more important than that club.'"

According to the USG, the clubs with the most persuasive argument as to why they needed funds were the victors. "Not on any instance was anybody compared to each other," said Antonelli. "Some people lose out, but it all ends up how well you filled out your application—how well you justified your money." Also taken into account was the club's history of financial responsibility, as clubs who seemingly squandered their money in prior years were met with a stricter analysis.

This, it would seem, gives club officials the idea that it was their own inability to sway USG officials of their need, not outside factors or clubs in USG favor denigrating their chances at a well-funded year.

The budget has made some distinctive changes and defined some irrefutable trends adding up to the current

division. The total budget has decreased marginally over the past three years—notable because of the considerable increase in admission, as well as an upward adjustment of the student activity fee.

Despite the stagnant total, the allotment of money has switched dramatically with different types of clubs now receiving the bulk of the funds. The newest budget for the 2007/2008 school year saw a 23% increase for sports and recreational clubs. Conversely, in the academic sector the collective budget was slashed an impressive 43%, bringing their total to one eleventh the common resources of sports and recreation.

By looking through the numbers, one finds that the Handball Club, allotted eight thousand dollars, rakes in more of our student activities fee money than the Pre-Medical, Pre-Physical Therapy, Pre-Physician's Assistant and Pre-Dental clubs combined; they total only a little more than seven thousand dollars. The Fencing Club, which was given a 50% increase in their budget, is given three times the totaled budgets of Minorities in Applied Science, Medicine and Psychology.

Leading the league in budget cuts were activist or goodwill-oriented clubs, with a colossal 48% laceration of capital. Ouch. One such club was Students Taking Aim at Challenges, which suffered a 40% decrease. Ironically, the newly formed Rifle Club was given five-fold the funds of Students Taking Aim at Challenges; one could suggest the latest budget implies that the goodwill clubs' missions have been accomplished. How does one fight the everlasting war over injustice with the "tanks" of social equality and "guns" of liberty sawed in half?

The most recent budget leaves one wondering if the USG's integrity of necessity index has lost its faith in God. There is a clear 27% deficit between the fiscal year of 06/07 and 07/08. The few spiritual clubs that had their USG prayers answered were two newly formed clubs: BASIC, and the Interservice Christian Fellowship, along with one returning club, Advent Youth Ministries. In the

end, Christmas came early for the Christian clubs (with the exception of Catholic Campus Club). Both Jewish and Muslim groups were left eagerly awaiting their holiday pay-off. Looks like some religious clubs were naughty this year.

Then we have the big winner: the College Republicans. Just a few years ago, funding for political and religious clubs on campus wasn't in the cards, when Section 3.D. of the Special Services Council Budgeting Bylaws disallowed such backing. This has since been changed (due in large part to the results of various "viewpoint neutrality" court cases), and today the College Republicans are the beneficiaries of \$29,364, up from last year's \$9,924.44. That number is equivalent to the budget given to the entire collection of academic clubs, and \$3,000 more than the funds shared by all the arts and theater.

Antonelli has asserted that in no way does the recent increase bear any connection to the fact that both he and Vice President Nathan Shapiro are mainstays in the ranks of the College Republicans. "We have to apply the same standard to everybody, and it benefitted some and it hurt others," he said, adding, "It was just an issue of evaluating the application."

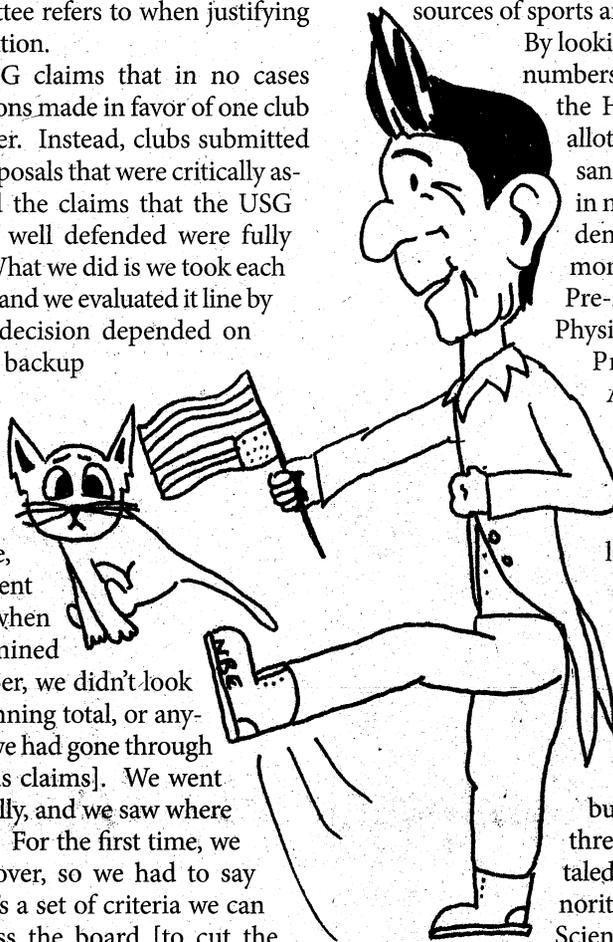
Aside from the quintessential public relations and pizza-esque expenses, the majority of the College Republicans' funding goes to two sources: their annual trip to the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington, D.C., and a variety of prospective influential speakers. Since last year's budget of \$9,924.44 covers the trip, the \$20,000 increase is for the sole purpose of speakers.

"Speakers are very costly," said Antonelli, who pointed out that the College Republican's original budget proposal of \$35,893.72 anticipated a visit from John Ashcroft with a price tag of \$25,000. Determining that the \$25,000 was excessive, the Budget Committee awarded them \$20,000 for speakers as their increase.

So while the USG considers \$20,000 for a Republican speaker a perfectly legitimate and worthwhile student activity, other clubs' proposals were not met with the same conciliation. Most notably, the aforementioned SBU Cat Network.

After receiving \$7,9969.78 last year for their cat-rescuing mission, the Cat Network proposed an increase of roughly \$6,000, citing expenses for food, repairs for cat shelters they have built in the past and veterinary bills. The veterinary expenses include vaccines, sterilization (for population control), and treatment for serious injuries and life-threatening infections. Asked by the USG how their club contributes to campus life, President Pesce responds, "Well, we do our best to keep these cats alive and healthy, does

FRELOADERS continued on next page



Want your club/organization to be like Robert Loggia?

FREELoadERS from previous page

that count?"

The Network wasn't given their increase, however. Instead, they were met with a 69% decrease, to just over \$2,500. The USG said that, unlike the other clubs on campus, Cat Network activity (outside of the actual catching of the cats) is, in fact, not even a student activity.

"They were [going to] get like a hundred cats neutered and, ya know. There was a separate line [on the application] that said like emergency medical care, like if one comes in and needs an eye amputated or something like that. Why would we pay to have an animal treated? We wouldn't pay for a student who actually pays the student activity fee. Paying a vet bill is not something the student activity should be going towards," said An-

tonelli.

When asked about the difference between the validity of the Cat Network's justification for capital and other activity-related clubs on campus, Antonelli said, "Your cause may not be to help students per se, but as long as the activity you're doing is the students doing it. The students aren't the ones who are performing surgery on the cats, ya know. If the [proposal] was 'we need the utensils' or whatever, to fix the cats, then that's what we would pay for. But we're not going to pay for a vet to do that. That's why we're [going to] pay for them to capture the cats, ya know. If they want to bring them to a shelter or whatever it is, that's fine. But the student activity portion of it was [for] catching the cats, so

we paid for that."

Frustrated with her club's constant appeal for USG funds, Pesce isn't quite sure she understands Antonelli's stance. "Just because it is not a Stony Brook student performing surgery on the cat does not mean the students will not benefit from the trapping and neutering program, as it is an integral component of the mission our club exists for. Responsible maintenance of a feral cat colony requires population control, feeding feral cats without preventing them from reproducing is not doing anyone any favors. The colonies will only grow, creating bigger problems for the community, promoting the spread of disease among the cats, and very likely resulting in the death of many cats in the end.

Without a trapping & neutering program, our organization would not exist as it does today, 318 members strong," she said.

She continued by pointing out, "Other clubs, for example, have t-shirts made. The students design the shirts, have them printed up, and then they wear them to promote their organization and goals. Just because they do not silk-screen the shirts themselves does not mean they cannot have funding to make t-shirts."

Asked if the College Republicans were warranted more money than the collection of every academic club and eleven times the Cat Network, Antonelli said, "As long as they're justifying why they need the money."

Susan Blake: Worked for Peace

By Rob Gilheany

Committed peace and justice activist Susan Blake passed away Tuesday, October 2nd. She was 54. I last saw her at the final Peace Smith Coffee House of the season last June. The Coffee House was a monthly event featuring three booked artists, usually two troubadours and a poet. It raises money for Peace Smith and raises the awareness of the artists and activists involved. I was privileged to help out and be a part of the monthly event.

Peace Smith House was the first lefty group I joined back in 1980. In many ways, Susan Blake was a mentor to me. I learned a lot from her and had enormous admiration for her. She was the most tireless activist I have ever met. She worked the details of every event from demonstrations, coffee houses, Peace Smith Monthly Forum, and bus trips to peace and justice rallies in Washington, D.C. "Dynamo" is a word that is used to describe her.

Susan Blake was a committed pacifist, both politically and philosophically. Pacifism informed and moved her in her opposition to war and the death penalty. She was morally grounded, and she was consistent in how she treated people and fought for their rights. She fought for the rights of prisoners, the disabled, and the gay and lesbian community. Susan Blake has been a fixture in the Long Island activist, peace and justice community for

over thirty years.

Peace Smith House was located at 90 Pennsylvania Avenue in Massapequa, the home of Katherine Smith, a long time peace activist feminist and a one-time Socialist candidate for office. She decided to open her house to an or-



ganization dedicated to peace, justice, and environmental activism. Katherine Smith died at 105 and left the house to the Long Island Progressive Coalition (LIPC). That was a bitter pill for Susan. Peacesmith continued to move from location to location. It settled in Amityville, where the forums and coffee houses were held for the past several years.

Over the years, Susan Blake fought against the Shoreham nuclear power

plant. She opposed the reinstatement of Draft registration. She also worked towards a nuclear weapons freeze and the disarmament. Susan Blake had a talent for tying issues together and showing how one issue related to another.

Over the years, if there were a

ters to our state legislators in opposition to the death penalty.

Susan Blake believed in art and music as part of social change work. The Peace Smith Coffee House was a forum for singers and songwriters with a message and poetry. She was always active and present at the Annual Clearwater Music and Art Festival. Clearwater festival was started by Pete Seeger to promote music and clean up the Hudson River.

She was a major Organizer of the Peace Trains to New York for a nuclear weapons demonstration in Central Park, on June 12th 1982. We had people go in group of 30 plus at several LIRR stations that road into Penn Station that glorious day. Over 750, 000 marched into Central Park to stand against the nuclear arms race, the perversion of resource it represents and for world peace. Twenty-two years later we were walking across Long Island in the Peace Walk, the Return the Light to America Walk, where people walk from Orient Point to Montauk Point. The Peace Walk went all the way to Manhattan to confront the Republican National Convention.

There is no one in long Island Peace and Justice community who does not know Susan Blake.

Susan Blake battled breast cancer for the past few years. She was using natural alternative medicines in her fight. There were times that I saw her and was concerned about her health, including the last time I saw her. She will be missed and impossible to replace.

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Food For Thought

I tired to honk my horn at the broad, but a severe case of defenestration inhibited my sexual advances. Defenestration is a great vocabulary word.

Help! My Gaydar is Broken

By Ilyssa Fuchs

On Wednesday, September 26, Stony Brook's LGBTQA held their annual "Guess the Straight Person" panel. The event is an attempt to break down stereotypes from inside and out of the LGBT community, and to just have some good (but not so clean) fun. During the event, the audience gets to ask questions to the panelist in order to determine whether they are straight or "not" straight. Each panel consists of six members, both male and female, and the questions can be as clean or as dirty as the questioner's heart desires.

This year the event was held in SAC Ballroom B and there were approximately 100 people in attendance. This is perhaps the largest number of people to attend the event since its conception.

The first panel consisted of four females and two males. Some of the questions that they were asked were: the kind and color of the underwear they were wearing, their ideal sex toy, the last time they had gotten laid, and whether they would rather vote for

Giuliani or Clinton. Someone tried to trip them up with the innuendo question, "Nathan's or Taco bell?" But the panel was unmoved; they answered based on their food choice and not their choice between sausage and coochie. Finally, things started to get spicy when the panelists were asked their favorite sex position with answers ranging from doggy style to 69, to up against the wall and on top. None of the panelists had any weird fetishes or vegetarian preferences, but all but one of them owned sex toys including vibrators, dildos (big pink ones) and nipple clips. One of the guys even said that his favorite sex toy was his hand (someone isn't getting laid too much now, huh?) When the audience was still stumped, they tried to see if those who were straight looked for different qualities in a mate than those who were not straight - but the question was irrelevant to the orientation the panelist preferred. All of the panelists said that the qualities they looked for in a mate were confidence, honesty, humor, overall kindness, and they looked for someone they could talk to. Even after they were asked about the number of sexual partners they

had over the years and the strangest place they had ever had sex. The audience still couldn't figure out whose appearance screamed rainbow and whose didn't. Other questions included alcohol preference, masturbation habits, and presence or absence of pubic hair.

One of the guys even said that his favorite sex toy was his hand.

When it was finally time to guess who was straight and who wasn't, the audience didn't have a fighting chance of getting it correct. Every expectation went out the window, and for those of us who thought we had gaydar, we suddenly found it broken. The first panelist was a female who the audience didn't believe was straight (and they were correct) but their dreams were shattered fairly quickly when they thought the sec-

ond panelist (a male) was straight, when in fact he was not. For the other four members, the audience had mixed reactions with only about one half guessing correctly while the other half guessed incorrectly. When the audience was asked why they thought panelist number two was straight, their only explanation was that he looked straight; I guess sometimes looks can be deceiving. Plus, what is 'looking straight' anyway? Does gaydar really mean baggy-pants-dar? Do you always judge people based on the way they look? If you answered yes, then you fall into the majority of people who do judge people on their outward appearance. And yes, there is a chance you will be incorrect. The girl with baggy pants might not be a lesbian and the guy wearing the chinos that my 13-year-old princess of a cousin could fit into might not necessarily be gay. The point is, the next time you pass judgment on someone, get to know them. Because if you think you really know about someone just based on the way they look, you are ignorant and you really don't have the slightest idea.

Ask a Censored CIA Document Anything

Dear Censored CIA Document,

My mother has been living with my wife and I for the past seven years. My wife believes we should really look into placing her into a nursing home. While she may be a burden at times, she is still my mother, and I feel we need to take care of her. What should I do?

Help!

-Muddled over Mother

Dear Muddled,

Your mother is a valued asset to your family community. Like all valued assets, she must be taken care of and given the utmost respect. She created you; she has the power to destroy you. Much like [redacted]

[redacted] military junta

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Project Cucumber [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] your testicles will be at risk.

Talk with your wife. Let her know how you feel about this, and hopefully, you

two will be able to come to an agreement on how to take care of her in her golden years.

Dear Censored CIA Document,

My neighbor's dog won't stop barking! He goes on and on at all hours of the night and it's starting to infringe on my sleep. I've asked them repeatedly to try to do something to stifle the yelping, but they refuse to do anything.

Any advice, Censored CIA Document?

-Barking Mad

Dear Barking,

Problems with neighbors' pets are always a tricky issue. You must be firm with them while respecting their wishes simultaneously. However, noise problems can be a nuisance, especially once the noise starts affecting your sleep. If you really want to get the noise reduced, I would advise that you [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Dear Reproach,

[redacted]

Hoover's Dress [redacted]



Rainforest Reproach

Dear George,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Want your club/organization to be featured in a future Club Spotlight?

E-mail *The Press* at
sbpress@gmail.com

The Color of Christ Compels You

By Nick Eaton

On Tuesday, October 2nd, the MALIK Fraternity hosted an event entitled "The Color of Christ." The fraternity called on a panel of speakers, as well as the audience, to take part in an investigation regarding the race of Jesus Christ. The main point of concern was the idea that Jesus' race has been used as a tool of empowerment and subjugation. I contacted the MALIK Fraternity to delve further into the topic.

Nick: What is your name?

Koigi Ajamu: Aluta Khanyile aka Koigi Ajamu (One who speaks and fights for what he believes in), Public Relations Officer of MALIK Fraternity Incorporated at Stony Brook University JEEM Kingdom.

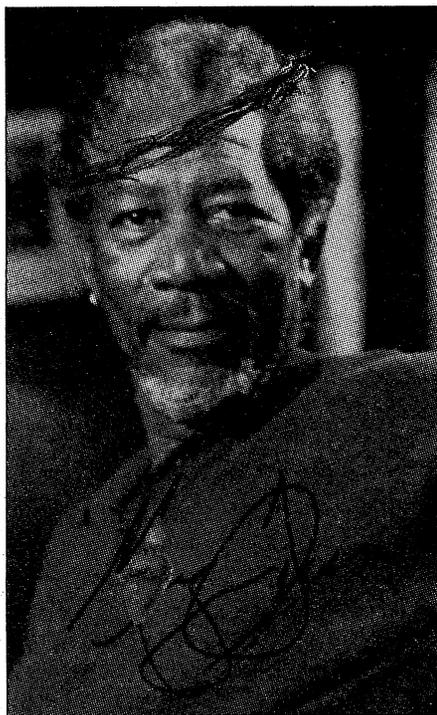
Nick: To call into question the race of Jesus, a "fact" that is already widely accepted and believed, is a hefty task. At what point in your life did you first begin to question the "color of Christ"?

Koigi Ajamu: One thing about being a MALIK is questioning all facts of life that have been feed to us by this somewhat politically and socially bias education system. So, it's only natural that when the color of Christ was brought into question, we would feel the need to investigate the validity of his ethnicity as portrayed by popular culture. On behalf of myself, I would have to say that the first time in which I began to question the color of Christ was when I first learned about how religion was used a tool of enslaving people. Unfortunately, this wasn't first taught to me at in the schooling system, but by my parents (I wonder why).

Nick: If you could only point to one piece of evidence that repudiated the fact that Christ was European, what would it be? Elaborate on the strengths of this evidence.

Koigi Ajamu: One piece of evidence that repudiates the fact that Christ was European is simply the place of his birth. Whether one believes that he was born in Kemet (present day Egypt) or somewhere in the region of what is

now the Middle East, we must realize that all these locations are, and were, a part of the African continent. Before the construction of the Suez Canal, The Middle East and Africa were as one; therefore, Christ was born as an "African." One of the simplest ways to identify an African is by their skin color. For example, all black, Latino and Arabic men have their origins in the African continent. So with that being said, it would be impossible for Christ to be a Caucasian-European man. There are many more facts that disprove that Christ was a white man as he is most commonly portrayed, but in order to give them all, we could write a book.



Living proof. Photo Credit: St. Peter Tim Robbins

Nick: Being a predominately black fraternity, are you often criticized for your point of view? I can imagine that you have been accused of being racist or elitist for insinuating that Christ was black. If you could talk to those that question your motives, what would you say to them?

Koigi Ajamu: MALIK Fraternity Incorporated is often criticized for our viewpoints, whether it is for being a non-Greek lettered organization or for

our many radical viewpoints. But we feel that it is important and necessary for sometimes touchy, sensitive issues, like the color of Christ, to be discussed. We are not afraid to attack popular social constructs that disenfranchise our communities. MALIK is a black and Latino fraternity that fosters the ideals of African fraternalism and black empowerment. African fraternalism is the act of wanting for your brothers, family and all people of African descent, what you want for yourself, and the main mission/goal of MALIK Fraternity Incorporated is to reclaim the stolen legacy of the African contributions to western civilization. With regards to religion, which has major contributions to our civilization today, it is imperative that we as a people are aware of our contribution, as this can be a tool of empowerment. For people to accuse MALIK as being racist or elitist would be a misinterpretation of our goal. Like great leaders, such as El-Hajj Malik El Shabazz aka Malcolm X or Marcus Garvey, MALIK is about uplifting and empowering our black and Latino people and communities, which should not be seen as putting down any other groups or classes of people.

Nick: Reverend Trolinger mentioned the Ten Commandments, citing that no graven image of the lord may be created. He went on to explain that had no image been created, there would be no argument; the idea of Christ would unite people rather than divide them along racial lines. Why is it, then, that your goals focus upon proving Christ black rather than discouraging Christ's whiteness? If, according to Trolinger's interpretation, Christ's image is not something to be deliberated about, why not promote a more unified world by discouraging discourse regarding his color?

Koigi Ajamu: It is true that if no image were created, we would not be having this discussion, but because one has been, it is important to delve into the topic. At the start of the program [on October 2nd] it was said that the program was meant to act as an investigation. Throughout the program, we were able to come to the con-

sensus that Christ was not a white man. It was important to establish that fact because that image was one used as tool to enslave people many years ago, and it continues to keep people mentally enslaved. To show and prove that Christ was a man of color is to empower people of color and educate all on the falsehood of his popular representation. If unveiling the truth of his color causes separation, then the question you should be asking is, why would showing Christ as a black man cause further separation? Think about it.

Nick: How has the marketing of a white Christ by the church affected people's faiths and in what substantial and recognizable ways has this race factor altered the course of history?

Koigi Ajamu: Marketing Christ as a white man encourages people of the same race to follow what then was a new religion. Had Christ been marketed as a black man, that following may not have been as large. As mentioned in the program, it was important for Europeans at the time to have such an important figure as Christ be a representative of their race in order to build up their otherwise depleted self esteem issues. To know how the race factor affected the course of history, read about the trans-Atlantic slave trade or how the KKK justified their lynching of millions of black men, women and children with the Bible and how the Bible was used in many other ways to manipulate those that were enslaved.

Nick: Any last comments?

Koigi Ajamu: During a climate of miseducation, the truth awakens change, a change that should be used as a tool of empowerment. We as a people should always seek knowledge of self because knowledge is power, and power is nothing more than the application of knowledge. So, let's strengthen ourselves and open our eyes to the many unspoken truths of the world as, "even a seed of Truth can destroy a Mountain of lies."

Club Alley
long island's music scene
cluballey.com



Asian American E-Zine

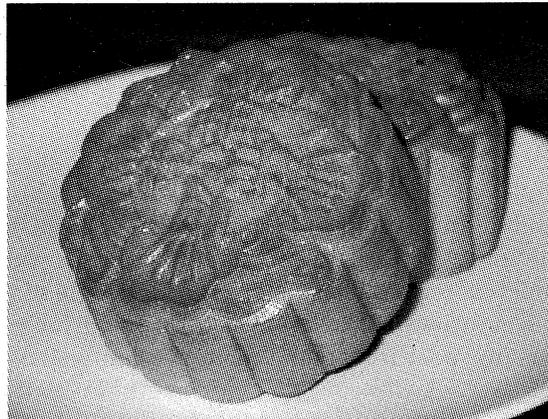
<http://www.aa2sbu.org/aaezine>

History behind the Mid-Autum Festival

by Jack Xing

September 25th was the Mid-Autumn Festival, characterized by the infamous mooncake. Many of us know very little about the story behind the festival or the reason why we eat mooncake and fresh fruit. The legend behind the mooncake festival is that back in Ancient China, there were ten suns scorching the Earth and one day a warrior climbed to the tallest mountain and shot down nine of the suns. As a reward, the Jade Emperor gave him the pill of immortality, which he hid in his bedroom. One day his wife opened the box with the pill and swallowed it, and slowly she ascended towards the moon. The center of the mooncakes traditionally has a yellow center in honor of the moon and this story. Stony Brook University has one of the largest Asian and Asian American populations of any college in New York, and many students keep the tradition alive every September with several festivals hosted by various clubs and organizations.

The week prior to the Mid-Autumn Festival, China Blue hosted their event in the SAC. The event brought together China Blue with several other student organizations, including the Taiwanese Student Union and the Culinary Club. The event featured the stars of China Blue's radio broadcasts who spoke in both Cantonese and Mandarin during the three hour event, while different stands held different events and served different snacks and treats, including mooncake. The most popular of these events was a lantern riddle stand, written in both Chinese and English. Participants have to find the answer to the



riddle, and as a prize they kept the lanterns. The informal event with stands and speakers was an overwhelming success drawing around five to six hundred students through the course of the

night. On the night of the Mid-Autumn Festival, another event was held in the same ballroom, this time hosted by the Taiwanese Student Association and the Chinese Literature Club. Familiar faces from the Culinary Club and China Blue could be discerned from the crowd. This time, however, instead of an open fair, there were a few dozen round tables surrounding the

center stage filled with food, fruit, and of course, mooncake. The more modest crowd of maybe around three hundred to four hundred students enjoyed eating, talking, and watching different people perform on stage. The hilarious skit performed at the end in Mandarin was filled with Chinese humor as wordplay and hyperbole were combined with perfect harmony. The Mid-Autumn Festival is celebrated by gathering together with friends and family, and celebrating the success of the past year. From the open booth festive feel of China Blue's Mid-Autumn Festival to the dinner mood of the Taiwanese Student Association's festival, the traditions are kept alive by students coming together, talking with friends, eating, and having fun. For those of you who've never tried a mooncake, then you should definitely come to at least one of these events; its something you won't regret. If you did miss out, then you'll just have to wait till next year to try some and to experience the excitement of this holiday.

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PARAISO

Three Stories of Hope

by Luis Salazar

I can still remember my first time walking out of the doors of the Ninoy Aquino airport into the blistering heat of the Philippines. It was 1998, my first time back after leaving in 1987, a year after I was born. I had no idea what to expect, up until then I pictured it to be something you see in one of those Hawaii postcards, after all, they did look similar to us. Nope, not even close. It only took me a short amount of time as we were driving through metro Manila to realize that this was nothing compared to the middle class suburbs of Long Island. This was poverty; straight up poverty. After coming to grips with what I had seen, I figured we would only be passing through some of these places. It turned out that most of my family lived in places like these and we stayed at most of these places during my trip.

It was definitely a wake up call. I would always get scolded by my parents for one reason or another and be lectured about why I should be grateful for what I have or be told some story about what my parents had gone through. I never took it seriously. I always pictured the Philippines they referred to as some magical land far away that I would never have to deal with ever again. But after going there for the first time, I looked at my parents in a different light. I finally understood what it meant to do hard chores and labor. I finally understood what it meant to be grateful for

food and to never waste a grain of rice. I even understood what it meant to manually flush. But most important, I understood my roots, what my family had come from; that there was more to my being in America than my own self benefit. People were relying on me to give back.

After watching the movie Paraiso ("Paradise") this past weekend all of these

"No more slums, no more violence, no more poverty".
- Gawad Kalinga

things shot back into my mind. The movie is basically a collection of 3 inspiring, true stories based on people touched by the Gawad Kalinga movement. Gawad Kalinga (GK), officially known as the Gawad Kalinga Community Development Foundation is a Philippine-based organization geared towards anti-poverty and taking care of Filipino survivors of natural disasters. Their motto is "No more slums, no more violence, no more poverty" and the movie definitely expressed their intentions. The first story was about the struggle of Jocelyn Llorente. Her and her husband were victims of the mudslides of St. Bernard, S. Leyte. Unfortunately, one of her children was killed in the tragedy. Through this

a Movie Review

story we are also shown real life footage from the actual disaster, which is quite disturbing. Jocelyn recovers with time and through the help of GK her town is rebuilt.

The second story is a little more upbeat and is a comedy. It is about a boy named Elvis who is adopted by a family involved with GK. The story captures the family's willingness to treat Elvis as one of their own and their contribution to the rebuilding of homes.

The last story is based on the events of 9/11. Ruby Abad, overcome with the heart-wrenching loss of his wife in the WTC is inspired to do something in her memory. He works together with Gawad Kalinga to rebuild a once drug-infested neighborhood using the compensation he received for the death of his wife.

The movie does a good job of emphasizing the idea of giving back. It shows the real life struggles of people whose lives are severely damaged by natural disasters and poverty, yet are rejuvenated through the efforts of non-profit organizations like GK. Through small contributions of donations and volunteer work, thousands of people are affected in a positive way. It makes you think about landing that dream job after college that pays thousands of dollars a year. Maybe there's more to it than getting that apartment or car you've always wanted. Maybe there's more to it than self benefit.

To find out more information about the movie, visit http://ancopusa.org/wowgk/paraiso_the-movie.htm

Movies at the Wang Center

Mondy October 15, 7:00PM Theater

The remarkable story of a thirty-year search for Megumi Yokota, a 13 year old Japanese girl who was kidnapped by North Korean spies in 1977 while coming home from school. More intimately, the film follows the extraordinary journey of Megumi's parents, as their search for a missing daughter thrusts them into the center of a volatile international conflict. Though the film seeks to draw attention to a tragedy largely ignored by Western media, it proves to be much more than a political or investigative expose.

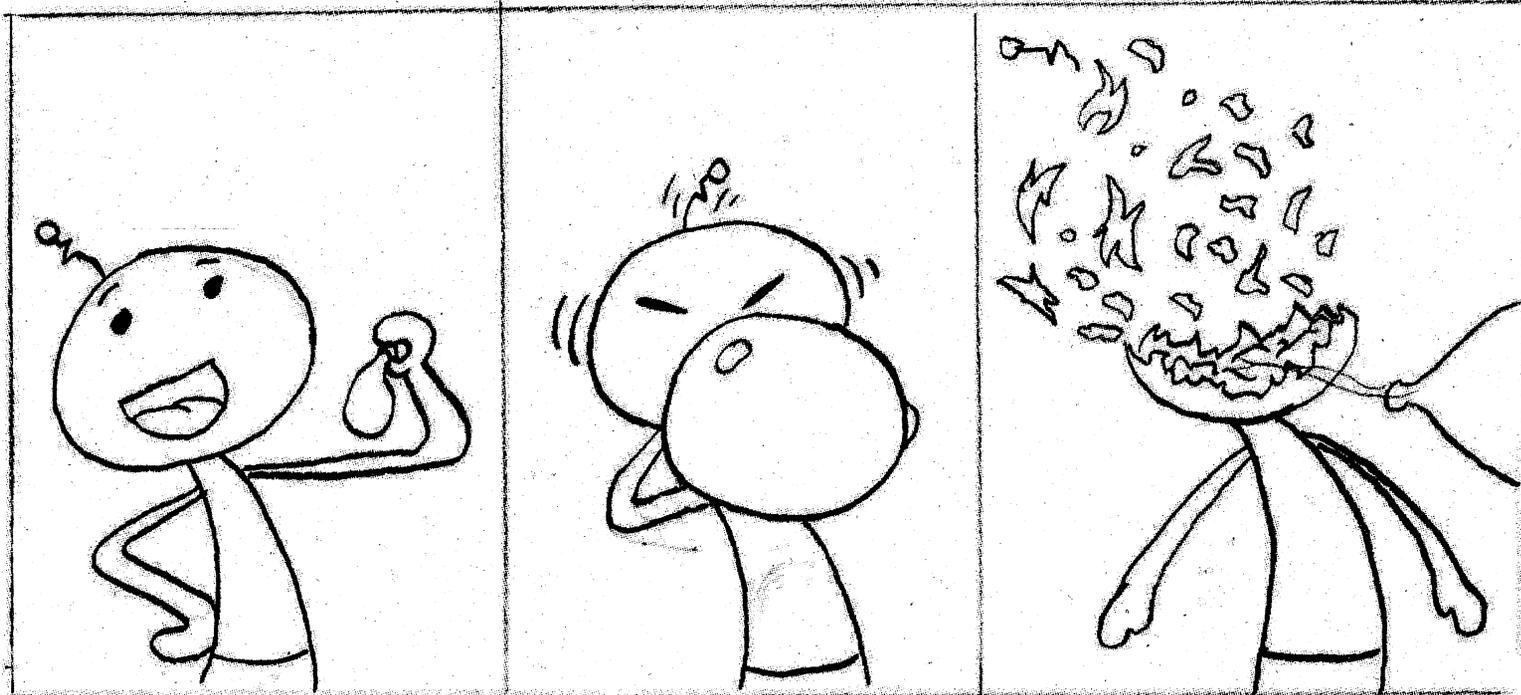
Monday October 29, 7:00PM Theater

New Year Baby chronicles one daughter's search to recover her family's past that takes her back to her birthplace in Cambodia and ends with a more profound respect and understanding of her parents, especially her father. Director Socheata Poeuv will be on hand to delve into the questions surrounding her journey. "This fine first feature is a disarming personal documentary that turns into a very moving consideration of historical genocide and individual heroism"—Variety.

THE COMICS SECTION

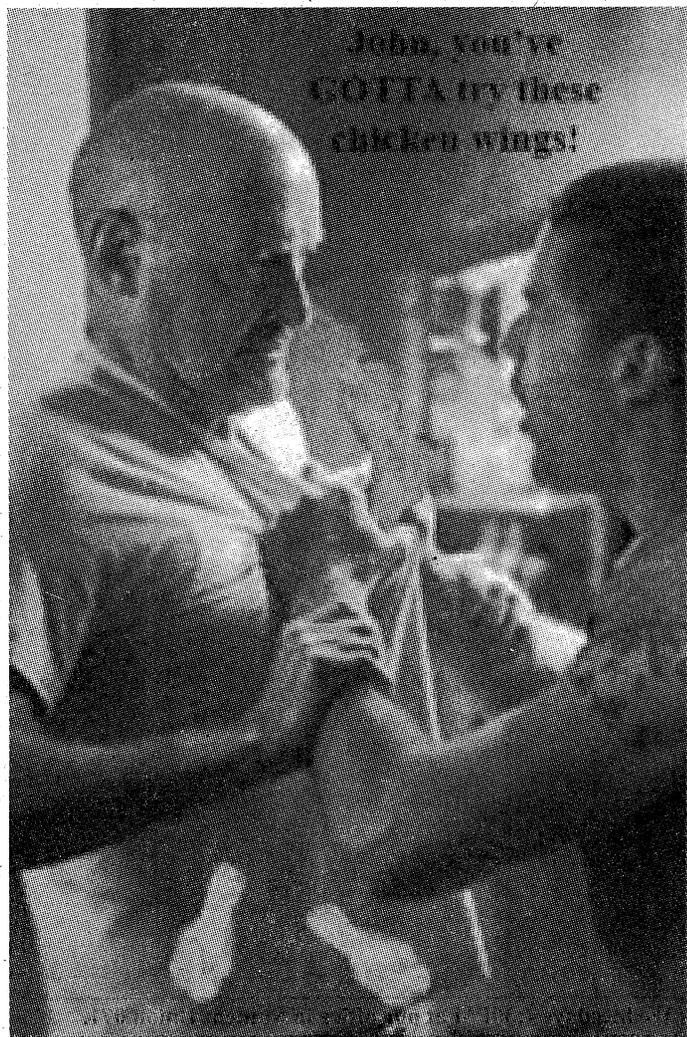
BABY, YOU'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY JOE DONATO



SUP?

BY DAVID K. GINN



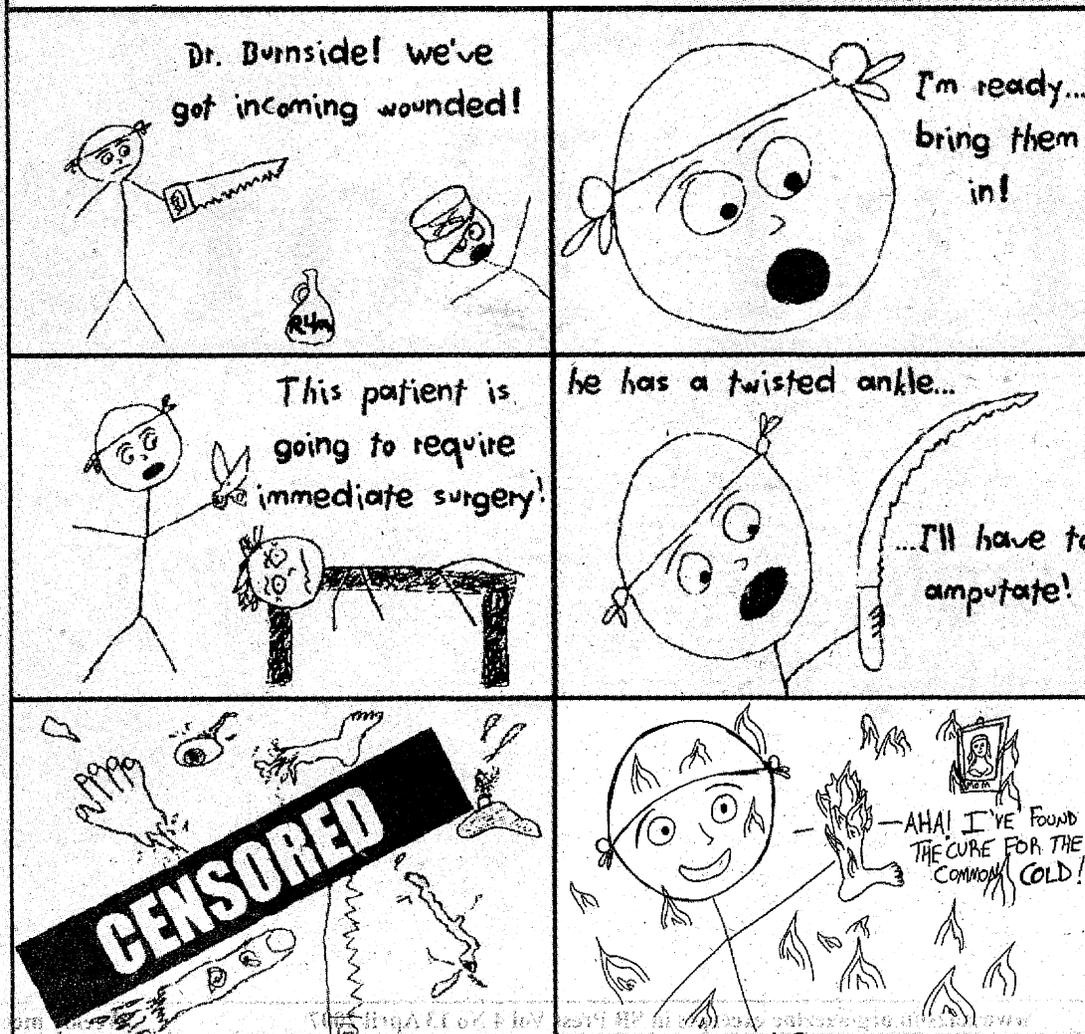
The Further Adventures of...

ULYSSES BURNSIDE

CIVIL WAR SURGEON

BY ANDREW FRALEY
AND DAVID K. GINN

Created by David Ewalt



THE COMICS SECTION

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CORDELIA CHASE

PRIZE FIGHTER
LITTLE MAG

INTERLOPER
WILLIAM THE BLOODY

OPERATION RESCUE RELEASED TODAY INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE SEVEN ALLEGATIONS MADE ON A CITIZEN PETITION EFFORT TO CONVENE A GRAND JURY TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGED ILLEGALITIES AT A PLANNED PARENTHOOD IN OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS. THE PETITION IS BEING CIRCULATED BY THE LIFE COALITION, WHICH INCLUDES CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA, OPERATION RESCUE, AND WOMEN INFLUENCING THE NATION.

"WE ARE NOT JUST GRASPING AT STRAWS HERE," SAID OPERATION RESCUE PRESIDENT TROY NEWMAN. "IN SOME CASES, THIS EVIDENCE HAS BEEN IN THE PUBLIC FORUM FOR YEARS. OTHER EVIDENCE ONLY RECENTLY SURFACED. THERE IS AMPLE REASON TO BELIEVE, BASED ON PUBLIC INFORMATION ALONE, THAT PLANNED PARENTHOOD MAY BE BREAKING THE LAW."

JACK SPARROW, HAVING COMMANDEERED THE TITANIC, SUFFERED A POETIC TWIST OF FATE WHEN THE FAMOUS SHIP ONCE AGAIN CRASHED INTO AN ICEBERG. THIS ICEBERG WAS INHABITED BY AN EVIL EMPIRE RUN UNDER THE DEMENTED BURGER MEISTER MEISTER BURGER! ANNOYED THAT SPARROW HAS LANDED, HE BURGER MEISTER GIVES HIM THE OPTION TO FIGHT IN THE DEADLY WAR. NOW...

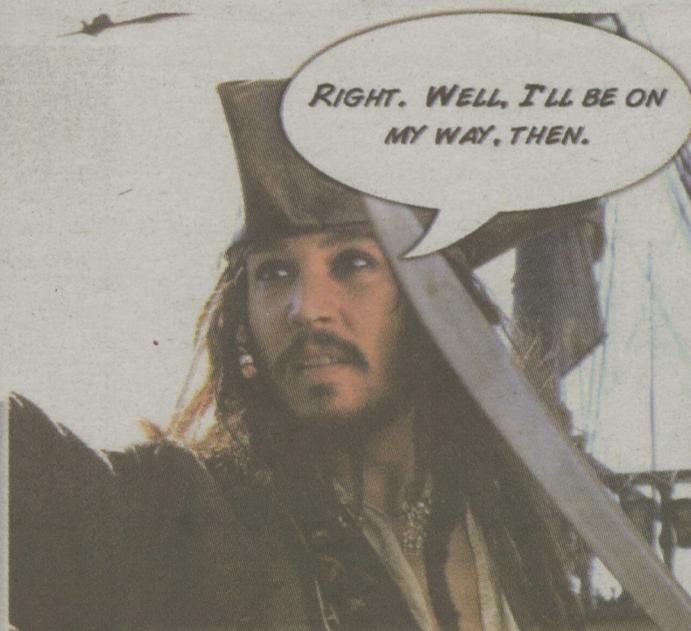
AN ICY DEATH

PART II

WRITTEN AND PHOTOSHOPPED BY
DAVID K. GINN



IF YOU WILL NOT FIGHT WITH US, SPARROW, THEN YOU WILL BE DESTROYED!!!



RIGHT. WELL, I'LL BE ON MY WAY, THEN.

NO. YOU WILL TASTE...



WAR!!!



GOOD GOD, Y' ALL!

THE COMICS SECTION

SUDDENLY, A MYSTICAL BEING APPEARS IN THE LIGHTNING.



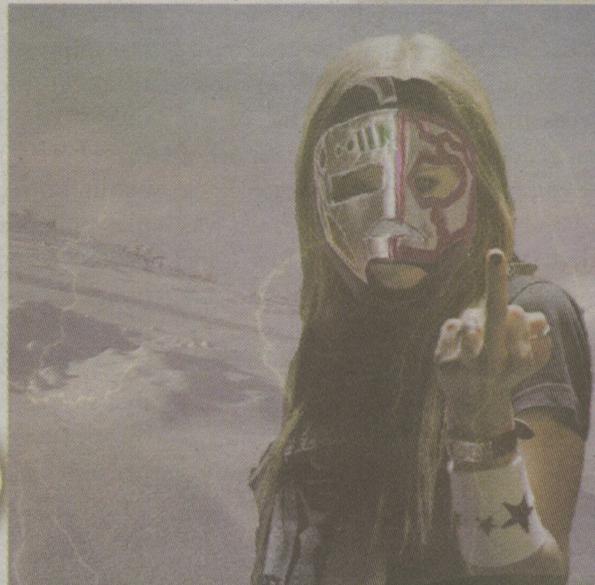
I AM BIOTARA, QUEEN OF THE NETHERWORLDS!!!



FEEL MY WRATH!!!



AREN'T YOU SINGER/SONG-WRITER AVRIL LAVIGNE?



NO, AND FOR THAT IGNORANCE I WILL TEAR YOUR BODY TO PIECES!!!



BRING IT,



BITCH!



A YEEEEEE!!!

TO BE CONTINUED...

Food For Thought

I saw this crazy metal band a while ago. Their name was Hooker Dragger. Their old bassist quit the band because he thought the name was too demeaning to women. He wanted to call it VietNAMBLA.



Kotei's Korner



Where Did the Work-Study Grants Go?

For those who went through college applications will know what work-study is. The work-study has been emphasized as the important source of money for higher education. The U.S. Department of Education grants students funds "through [their] part-time employment to assist students in financing the costs of post-secondary education."

The falling autumn depression, not really your motivation but the atmospheric pressure, carried a rumor into my ears that the school is using Federal grants for upgrading the facilities at Biology Department. Are laboratories improving?

That sounds possible. Not reasonable. The grant was intended for supporting the students' education. But obviously many of my friends lost their part-time jobs on campus and were denied for receiving the grant they were entitled to claim. Just a thought that the school is confiscating its students' rightful Federal funds is scary enough. The vital part of college life, as gaining first hand experience in the potential future career, is stolen by the very hands of the institution that is responsible for providing it.

Furthermore Biology Department is hiring student employees for everything from feeding fish to sitting in for recording data from the experiments. Basically it needs cheap labors to do the chores that some self-important staffs will not handle. Although jobs such as bathing fish, feeding piglets, or dressing up skeletons will not be required, jobs are available if I heard correctly. Only problem is if those who need part-time jobs want to do the dirty job. (Ah, Mike Rowe...) Oh speaking of cheap labors, we all know that RA earns less than minimum wage per semester. But the fact is that the undergraduate students are not the only one suffering from low wages. Graduate students are much in need of higher university support as well. Their outcry is frantic. They work so hard and compensated so little. Teaching assistantship is not helping their financial pressure.

Let's long until the school administration will say against the rumor. Sadly the school will never be honest with us; students, whether undergraduates or graduates. Remember the scandal last year?

Look Who's in My Dream

Hey Dr.Phil, what's up in my dream? "If you have eating disorder, stop eating so much."

But, I can't, uncle Phil. I'm skinny as a branch. I must keep eating every a few hours.

Power of Campus Officials Diverted

It has been a year since my first article for the Stony Brook Press. In such a short time, I have written number of pieces, ranging from news pieces to op-eds pieces. One of my first articles was my first live report of the campus events. Let me refer back to Volume 28, Issue 4 last year. It was titled "Slow Fire Trucks: How Long Does It Take for Our Heroes to Arrive?" After such article, I have actually seen a bit of improvement, though very gradual and clumsy, on campus.

Recently my building got an inspection by a fire marshal. The building was ordered to tear off the hall floor in the next morning, making noise for all the residents sleeping in the early morning. While thinking it was inconsiderate decision to tear it off now and not during summer, I found that the old floor was fire hazard. The fire marshal called the right order for the sake of our safety. About a week later, I came across Toscanini's fire drill at exactly 12:00AM Saturday. The night was not extreme chill and many residents were drunk. Those

drunkards surprisingly included those attended Shabbat Under the Stars or would attend Hillel Sukkot Lunch later. (If you file a complain against me for this, I'm just placing the hard truth as I was there to witness. Man, I will never understand some of these kids, whether devoted faith or cultic faith. Besides they did not let me get to know about them. Tough.) Although the conditions of the fire drills differed greatly from my last article, I was impressed to discover that the fire truck came for inspection in five minutes—27 minutes faster.

There's more. After I ridiculed about how campus officials like to play ping pong with students, I unexpectedly encountered the improvement at Graduate School office. She gave me her office number in case my paper work would not go through at Registrar. She reminded me the possibility of Registrar sending me back to her office if there would be any problem. I felt my time was respected. It feels good.

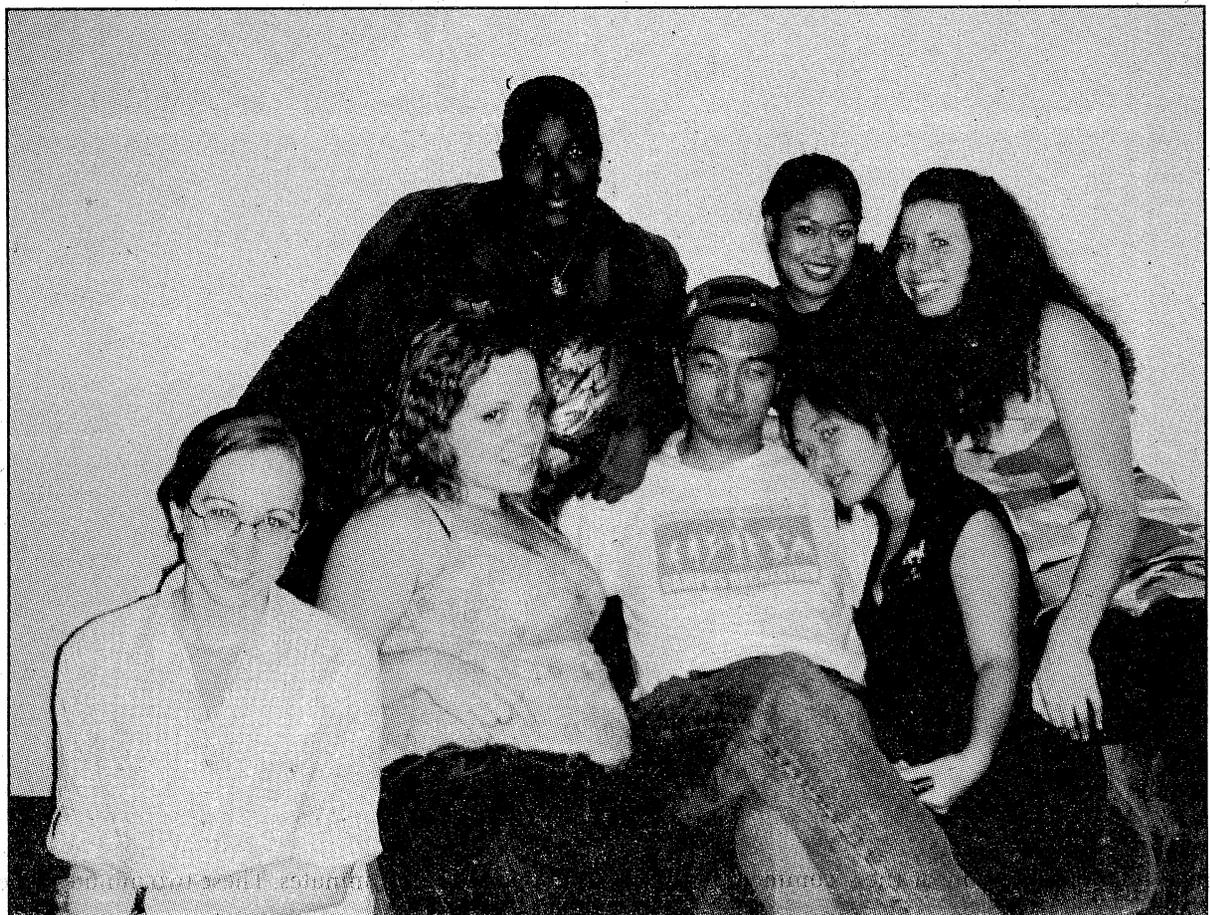
So even a little voice can have some influence amongst the campus officials. As of now, I am in the best position to express the distress of students on their behalf. Many of my friends, most of new friends, and even some campus officials enjoy that someone on campus present in public the hard facts and solid truths without fearing the public eyes. Somebody's got to do the job.

I have expressed my opinions as I hear many many stories from my friends, classmates, professors, advisors, honorary members, and even bus drivers. But I can represent for only very limited span of campus dissatisfaction. If you have problems that the rest of campus population is interested to know, my advice for you is to express it. After my op-eds on Facebook notes expanded into this Korner then a part of Feature section, I am glad to notice more and more people express their opinion.

Every opinion counts. If the administration does not listen to you, the rest of population may hear. If you don't voice up, nothing can ever happen and the authorities can even abuse their power. Your op-eds can be one page long or half page long for that matter as long as you can make one coherent point.

I admit writing is hard for me. But I still write because there are always someone who agrees with my point. Besides my grades in WRT do not reflect my prolific work in journalism at all. Because it's okay! Submitting may be intimidating. But we are not as uptight as other papers and we encompass wide variety of articles. The chance is that we will publish every opinion because on campus your opinion matters.

Everybody can complain. But a few will step up to change the unjust. For the better world, one must fight at



Want your club/organization to dice onions without tears?



Kotei's Korner



one point or more. Become the doers. Become the advocates.

Rowan Atkinson

Most notably, he is referred to as "Mr. Bean" from his comedy series in UK. Despite his character's often-idiotic gestures, facial expressions, and actions, the actor himself is quite intelligent and talented. In fact, his career did not start from broadcasting at all.

He earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. Then he moved on to Oxford University where he pursued Ph.D. Meanwhile he found a pleasure in performing arts. After finishing his MSc degree in the same field, he went on to acting.

Soon he gained the fame on television with series, such as "The Black Adder" and "Mr. Bean." He also made film career, of which is my favorite, *Johnny English*. For his appearance in the book, *Not the Nine O'Clock News*, Atkinson received prestigious awards. He was named "BBC Personality of the Year" and one of the 50 funniest acts in British comedy.

His character in *Johnny English* makes silly mistakes throughout the film. Despite the errors, he completes his task in peace. Throughout the story, he has three chances to fire a gun but he does not fire a single bullet. His character in Mr. Bean is a comedy series that influenced later comedy shows in US, such as *Friends* and *Seinfeld*. The series reminds me of Charlie Chaplin too. He does not use script full of speeches but take advantage of funny observation. The character looks strange because he thinks outside of the box.

There is no particular reason for starting to defend him. But after seeing the release of *Mr. Bean's Holiday* people get an idea that he is nasty British man. Indeed he is noble talented gentleman who does not deserve the name "nasty." He was a stutterer as a child, so cut him some slack and see beyond his surface.

Mid-Semester Activity Fees Hike

USG selectively proposed to apply the hike against sporting contestants. Since I am part of at least two sport teams (yeah, big surprise!), this hike will affect me the great deal. I'm sure there are students more passionate about sports. The proportion of the

hike is merely fifteen percent. However USG proposed to charge the students in sports teams to cover the fifteen percent of all the off-campus event cost. That will hurt active athletes financially.

The rationales for proposing the extra charge are clear. Some sports teams is dishonest in reporting their receipts. Hypothetically, some of them spent the USG money for keg parties while their teams are banned in tournament for their misdemeanors, for exotic resorts in away games, and for the spring break in Florida. They would disguise the receipts to make USG pay for the extravagant cost. USG got no money. It has money from all the students on campus. Other sports clubs are honest in presenting their receipts, and nothing to deceive. Then the extra charge is unfair for those honest teams.

Ironically the serious athletes would pay for their sporting events, just as Stony Brook Ice Hockey team did so before gaining national reputation. But if the USG will order athletes

When QB throws the ball to a teammate who is marked by at least two guys, he has vision problems...

to pay almost the sixth of their own competitions, what a university pride should Stony Brook University claim. Stony Brook Ice Hockey team has ranked One in the American Collegiate Hockey Association Northeast for eight years in a row, top ten in the Nation for the American Collegiate Hockey Association for five years in a row, and the champions in the Super East Collegiate Hockey League Playoffs for four straight seasons. Stony Brook students are not aware of this extraordinary reputation of Ice Hockey team. The University is missing out while it tries to attract student athletes. The USB (yes, their uniform does not say "SBU") spectators in their hockey games are either players' parents or girlfriends. Their existence is so transparent that no one but two Press staffs and their friend represent the "Red Hot Spirit," which was my comment to the question that Hofstra

reporter asked at the football game. That is how radical the change may be in sports teams.

Since the sports teams are still comprised of students, or scholars, the reasonable expectation is that fewer people will play actively. Of course, then, why should the University support the sports teams that cannot play adequate games? Then the other reputations gained in Women's Soccer, Lacrosse, Softball, and others would cease to exist.

That is radical. What would you do?

Football Game Against Hofstra

There is no feature from the game, actually. Blows the Quarter Back! His passes were so shaky that the ball seemed to strike right into the Pride defense. When QB throws the ball to a teammate who is marked by at least two guys, he has vision problems, right? I think his ball was more favorable for the Hofstra. Supposedly he is senior. If I were a coach, I would have tried a newbie QB.

But the fact is that Hofstra has advanced to Eastern Conference and even the Nationals for years. In the past Seawolves has lost a game by embarrassing scores of score gradient. Considering the Pride's superpower in Nationals, Stony Brook's loss by 33-28 does not seem bad at all. Just five points. Seawolves showed Pride something, something.

First Hockey Game

My first attendance in any hockey game was the game of Stony Brook Ice Hockey team against Towson, on Saturday October 6, 2007. My initial impression of the hockey games reflects the scenes from the third movie of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* more than a decade ago. The game was merely white guys punching each other with sticks in their hands. The impression was so unprofessional and against sportsmanship that the players made bad role models. "Whoot punch him!"

First of all, the hockey game impressed me with their lightening speed. I skate myself so I knew how fast one person can skate on the rink. But the acceleration was impressive. When the player sits in penalty zone, they must stay out of the game for two minutes. These two minutes especially

feel so long because the game progresses so fast.

Throughout the game the players collide, scramble, and smash against the wall. The hits are very intense. The players come right back up to return to the game. A few exception may be: when a player lands on the other, when a player holds on the other's stick, when a player takes time to taunt the other, when a player takes a risk to stay out of the game for five minute and punch, and so on.

The puck also flies quite often. Shooting into the goal isn't the only occasions. Flying puck is like kicking the ball back away from own touchdown zone in football. The hockey game reminded me of lacrosse when both sports let players go behind the goals.

In the Saturday night's game against Towson, the Stony Brook Ice Hockey team scored the first point in merely five minutes. A hockey game is split into three 20-minute periods. The Towson attempted eleven times until it scored its first point after 25 minutes into the game. The Stony Brook team had solid adhesive defense. At the end, the teams attempted 39 goals (SB) and 19 goals (T). The score was 11-2 with Stony Brook victory. Clearly the successful goal rate shows drastic difference in superiority. To mind you, the hockey team had a practice time of one week before this Towson game.

After the game, we were able to interview the coach, Tim Carroll. According to coach Carroll, the success behind the hockey team is not simply the talented athletes in the team. The practice is as intense as the game. Five days a week and fast tempo of the practices result the consistent lightening speed throughout the games. And that is how Stony Brook Ice Hockey team dominates the rink.

Alas, this nationally recognized hockey team is yet to gain the recognition by the Stony Brook population. Coach Carroll speaks to the Stony Brook students, "We are an exciting sports team. We play high tempo and bring you the victory."

Fair Trade Food

I was at Oxfam meeting a few weeks ago. They showed a short clip about coffee bean farmers. The farm-

Food For Thought

It would be awesome if Adam Peck had a twin. Because then he could go in to the music industry as 'A. Peck's Twin.'



There you go, don't you feel special?

ers were very poor although people all over the world drinks significant amount of coffee everyday. Their huts were barely standing. Their income from selling one of the most demanded crops cannot even afford clean cloths. They devoted their whole life in coffee beans but they were also the victims of unfair trade.



Because of the monopolistic price setting, there is a movement to boycott purchase of any products without Fair Trade Mark. The products with the Fair Trade Mark are certified that the price was negotiated fairly between the farmers and whoever represents to import the crops. See the label "Fair Trade Certified" and help fight for the injustice.

Becoming Private School

There has been the rumor going back and forth on campus. SUNY Stony Brook is converting to a private school. I have been wondering if Stony Brook would ever become a private school because it prefers not to be addressed SUNY Stony Brook. It's been in denial.

One immediate problem that I can foresee is that endowment. Many private schools receives significant amount of monetary donation every year. If I remember correctly, about 80 percent of Stony Brook's endowment comes from the University Hospital. But is Stony Brook located in an area where philanthropists may be interested in giving out money? For a private school, we just have too many students on campus for the school to house all who needs residency on campus. Also the student faculty ratio is also too large.

Hypothetically if it becomes a private school, then the students lose state benefits. Do we receive state benefits now at all through Stony Brook's affiliation to SUNY system? SUNY Stony Brook fails to support undergraduate stu-

dents and graduate students financially.

On the same note, there is another rumor that SUNY Stony Brook is going to be Ivy League. Well, that works, doesn't it? The youngest of Ivy League schools is Cornell, and yet it has been standing for more than 240 years. Stony Brook is merely 50 years old. For the scholastic excellence and athletic success, Stanford or UCLA is doing much better, and so is Boston College or Rutgers in the northeast.

But wouldn't it be wonderful for the alumni to brag that they graduated from Ivy League school? The term "Ivy League" has turned to imply academic excellence and elitism. Without the elite course work and the elite cost, alumni will have bragging rights of the phony excellence.

Boycotting Sparky

Recently I have been having problems with Sparky. It keeps blocking important messages from and to the third party domains. While sending I would know if my messages are blocked because the annoying automated messages are sent back with citations of my original messages. But for receiving, there is no way that I can know about it. For the gracious heavens, I do not use Sparky accounts for the correspondence with potential employers. But for my involvements with honor societies and various organizations, I have to suffer for no good reason because of this ever-useless Sparky.

What's the deal with Sparky asking me to enter new password and still accepts current password if I supply it? I am so aggravated.

So for the love of God, people, stop using Sparky for any form of correspondences. Ask your club e-board to change your contact information to Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, or any third party account that is convenient for you. Change your main e-mail address on Blackboard to the third party account. For all your important contacts, use non-Sparky e-mail address. Let the Sparky handle all the spam e-mails because it blocks anyway. Say, ads, online ad-supported services, mailing lists, or else that generate all the spam in your Inbox. Sparky will do the all jobs and no burden on you! Boycott Sparky, for your own sake.

Kotei's Korner



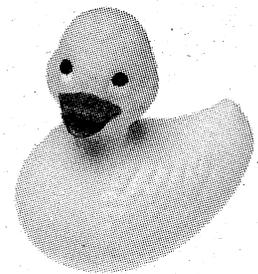
Lastly Quotes

To conclude Kotei's Korner of this issue, I would like to show you how unproportionately sad I seem to be.

A few weeks ago, I set up a situation to see how people who claim to be my friends react to brutal honesty. I changed my profile photo to "Kotei is frustrated with Facebook friends. / They don't intend to stay in touch. / So he's abstaining Facebook to save his time. / It's not me, it's them. - This is unfair for my new friends. / Unfair especially for my close friends. / Please keep in touch with me elsewhere." I realized the message was in itself contradiction so I did not abstain. Otherwise I would be the "Facebook friend." I simply limited the frequency of access to the site. I also set my status to "Kotei is disappointed at people who are incapable of keeping in contact but dare to pretend friendship." I truly am, but at one point I had to explain that I believe friends do not need to keep in touch through Facebook if they can communicate in other ways. But the whole thing was still brutal honesty.

For my birthday time, I change

my display name on MySpace to "Birthday Boy" because I usually end up keeping me busy on the particular day. When I visit MySpace, I will be greeted "Hello, Birthday Boy!" So I get something more than buying myself a strawberries and meeting with John Nash on my birthday. Now I have friends to say happy birthday for me (to which I never thank them at once by Facebook notes, to keep the messages personal). I don't go home for the weekend around my birthday, don't have special someone to celebrate, don't need to stay in one place for the whole day, don't host birthday party for myself (how is it different from sharing strawberries with friends at lunch time, therefore I seem distracting myself on my birthday). That's what's up.



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Moody Blues at Radio City: A Retrospect

By Robert V. Gilheany

The Moody Blues delivered at Radio City Music Hall on the night of Thursday, August ninth. We both like the Moody Blues, so I got the tickets. I got Stubb-Hubbed and Ticketmastered on the deal. David's girlfriend was out of town, so I had an extra ticket that I needed to unload. I took a loss on the transaction, but I got rid of the ticket. It was classic vulture capitalism.

There was a fire in the Long Island Rail Road East River Tunnel, so we were late getting into Penn Station. We took separate trains into New York City, so we arranged to meet in front of the LIRR waiting room. We were late arriving, but we still had plenty of time before the show. Penn Station was crowded, more so than usual. Suddenly, David Ginn appeared in front of me.

"Kool," he said. "Let's go to the show."

We hopped a pedicab. I told David that I rode a pedicab on and off for five years. David said he took a pedicab in the Fisherman's Wharf area of San Francisco.

When we got there, I had plenty of time to unload the third ticket. We got on line at Radio City. They checked my bag. I don't mind. David said that it is an intrusion. I said that since 9-11, I just open my bag. David said that 9-11 was the beginning of them taking away our rights. I said, "Don't you know that

The Moody Blues are the number one target of the terrorist!?" I agree with David that the Bush regime has been using 9-11 and fear to erode our rights. When I get on an airplane I don't mind opening my bag.

We went into this real posh Radio City Music Hall. The

place is spectacular, and it is legendary for its acoustics.

The Moody Blues is a band that formed in the mid 1960s.

They are pioneers of progressive and classic Rock. Their first album, *Days of Future Passed*, is a concept album. It is also the first rock album with classical music on it.

The Moody Blues is the topic of a debate. They are conspicuously absent from the Rock and Roll Hall of fame.

The Moody Blues took the stage. They open the show with "Lovely to See You" from *On the Threshold of a Dream* album. Lead singer Justin Hayward still has his classically deep beautiful voice. John Lodge is a remarkable bass player. He plays a rock and roll bass and plays it smooth and it sounds pretty. They

look like The Kennedys on stage.

The show was off on the right foot. They did "The Voice" from *Long Distance Voyager*. The concert really started to take off. They did a remarkable performance of "Isn't Life Strange" from *Seventh Sojourn*. They did "I'm

Just a Singer in a Rock and Roll Band" from that same album. They did

a few of their songs from the 80s like "Time Zone" and "The Other Side of Life."

A few years ago, founding band member, flutist, and singer/songwriter Ray Thomas retired. They re-

placed him. She is a classical flutist, first rate. They did an incredible beautiful performance of "Are you Sitting Comfortably" from the *Threshold* album. During this song the percussionist, Graeme Edge, got out from behind his set and played the recorder, and was doing a duet with the flutist. It was beautiful music, and gave you goosebumps.

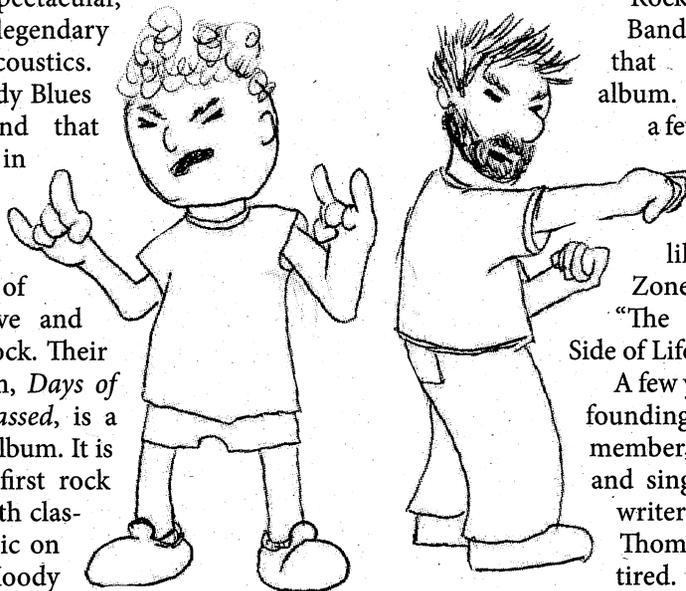
The Moody Blues' drummer and spoken word poet got out from behind

his drum set and took center stage. He introduced a song he wrote that was the opening track on their 1970 album, *To Our Children's Children's Children*. The song was "Higher and Higher." Gram Edges said that the song was about Neil Armstrong and the first steps on the moon. "Higher and Higher" is a rocking song. Gram sang it, and Justin and John rocked out on the bass and guitar. Gram Edge boogied and danced around the stage. I have not seen someone dance like that since Boris Yeltsin.

They did the opening track from their *Every Good Boy Deserves Favor* album, and they also did their classic song, "Story in Your Eyes." When they were doing that song, John Lodge took his bass and Justin Hayward took his guitar and they followed each other around the stage. They really drove it home.

The Moody Blues went on that night and drove it home and made beautiful music. Many standing ovations followed their songs.

The crowd was up for an encore. They did two. Justin Hayward picked up his acoustic guitar and started playing a real fast riff. It was instantly recognizable as the song "The Question" from *A Question of Balance*. They drove it home and followed with a rocking-out song "Ride my See-Saw" from their *In Search of the Lost Chord* album. They got their last standing ovation of the night. The nearly packed Radio City Music Hall went home satisfied.



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Halo 3: Master Chief, The Universe & You

By Jonathan Pu

To start things off, I shall quote my roommate, Corey Platt: "*Halo 3* is the secret to multiple orgasms for men."

I have not slept for the past seventy-two hours. Not because I am still trying to finish the game, but because I finished the game and am currently finishing the renovations to my dorm to make it completely *Flood*-proof. I also need more spiker ammo in case the Brutes turn my way.

Halo 3 is awesome, to say the least. By bringing back the same old semi-tactical, fast-paced, kick-ass-and-take-names game play, while throwing in new tactics, weapons, and enemies (as well as allies) into the mix, Bungie has definitely outdone itself this time. The cut scenes are beautiful and epic in their portrayal. The graphics are phenomenal, even during game play. My roommate spent a full minute shooting at a small pond in the first level to see the water effects. I eventually convinced him that shooting the Covenant would be just as fun. Turns out I was right; Grunts are much more entertaining when shot at or even when simply followed around. I doubt that many of you have met water that will scream, "Ahhhhh, it's the demon! Kill the demon!" when you put a full clip into its buddy.

The game hasn't changed too much from *Halo 2* to *Halo 3*. There are a few minor changes but nothing that fully separates *Halo 3* from its predecessors. What is important is the addition of the plethora of new Covenant weapons amongst which is the all-mighty Gravity Hammer. Yes, *Halo* fans, we can now

wield the coveted Gravity Hammer as Bungie has promised. It's like a Beam-Sword but better. It also is pretty much impossible for something like that to exist, as those of us who understand physics know, but I digress. More important than the Gravity Hammer (surely, I jest?) is the addition of equipment. No, not Spartan-117's "equipment," you dirty children. These are new items you can pick up and deploy in the midst of battle. There are energy drains that disintegrate your enemies' shields, bubble shields that characters can pass through but bullets and explosives can't, energy regeneration fields that constantly restore your shields, and more. This addition adds all sorts of new tactics for Master Chief; although they also give your enemies a few new tricks as well. *Halo 3*'s AI, following in the tradition of the entire *Halo* series, will use your very own tactics against you, keeping the battle lively and full of surprises. I do need to mention, however, that your marine cohorts still can't drive for their fucking lives. Thankfully, Bungie took the time to add Asian marine models to better explain the problem.

Yes, Halo fans, we can now wield the coveted Gravity Hammer as Bungie has promised.

Onwards to multiplayer! Yes, Bungie promised four-player cooperation mode but they never specifically

promised that you would be able to split screen four players on a single TV. It seems that you have to play four-player cooperative via Xbox Live, which is, of course, a service you have to pay for. Yes, Bill Gates, I like it when you fuck us in the ass like that. Do it again, please. Vista felt only half as good as this.

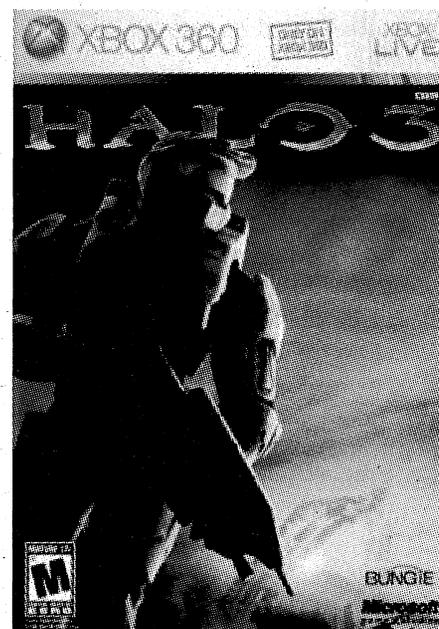
Two-player cooperative was as good as it got for us, so far. Instead of casting two Spartans, because we all know that Spartan-117 is the last of his kind (or if you really want to argue the point: the last of his kind still in contact with UNSC) *Halo 3* allows player two to play as the Arbiter and let me tell you, I want to be the Arbiter when I grow up. He's the Elite version of Master Chief, and that, in and of itself, makes him that much more badass. Aside from allowing player two play as the Arbiter, cooperative campaign keeps the same flavor of play that *Halo 2* offered.

I have yet to experience anything more than the split-screen multiplayer mode, but from what I've seen, it's pretty much the same story as *Halo 2*, but with a few new maps and a few redesigned ones. This, of course, comes as no disappointment, since we all loved the hectic multiplayer in *Halo 2*. Now, with *Halo 3*, we get the same sixteen-player LANs, but with new sorts of weapons which will take us all of 30 minutes to master and 30 hours to get bored of.

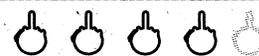
In short, I'm impressed. However, I'm also very aware that the game might be shelved in favor of other games, in due time, because of the fact that *Halo 3* has no major points by which it stands out from the rest of the video game market. Granted, the graphics are

beautiful; but the game doesn't present enough of a challenge to veteran *Halo* players. The insane hype about it was simply blown out of proportion, though. The best appeal it has, I would say, is that the game's story finally brings some closure to the entire saga, while also providing enough of a loose end for Microsoft to milk the franchise a little more. I won't give any spoilers, but be sure to watch through the credits instead of skipping through. That's all I'll say.

Now if you'll excuse me, *The Flood's* come a-knocking and I seem to have misplaced my shotgun...



Halo 3
Bungie



I'll Pass on the Dutchie: Zwartboek

By Ben Van Overmeire

There's something about European movies that raises metaphysical expectations. You know that, somewhere through these usually slow motion pictures, a gleaming truth is going to be revealed, one that'll change your life forever and send you off on an epic quest for Being that leads through Ancient Greek discussions on the nature of comedy to the snowy Buddhist mountaintops of the Ultimate. This holds true, at least partly, for a whole host of recent films from across the Atlantic, notably *Das Leben der Andere* (Lives of The Others) and *Der Untergang* (The Downfall?), both highly recommended.

Dutch director Paul Verhoeven is different: his recent work is composed mostly of action-stocked, often humorous and ironic movies, the most famous examples of which are *Robocop*, *Total Recall* and *Starship Troopers*. This is a director of whom you'd hardly expect a movie that tries to make problematic any clear line between good and evil. However, that is what he tries to do, in the charged atmosphere of World War II.

It's clear that this is no classic war flick, where the Allies cut triumphantly through legions of Fritz while whistling "It's a long way to Tipperary"—instead, the focus is on a Dutch Jewish girl caught within occupied Holland. The year is about 1944-1945, and the country is about to face a gruesome winter

without food as a weakened Nazi Germany frantically tries to keep the country in its grip. It is in this context that the main character, Rachel Stein (played by Carice van Houten), loses her safe shelter in a farm. She is rescued, but shortly thereafter, while trying to cross over to freed Belgium, her whole family is gunned down by a German patrol. Rachel, condemned to stay in the country, goes on to join the Dutch resistance to take revenge on the ones who slaughtered her family. Through all kinds of circumstances, she ends up having sex with the commander of the German safety service (SD). Although the SD indulges in all kinds of gruesome activities (including the deportation of thousands of her Jewish kin), Rachel nevertheless falls in love with the guy,

who is called Ludwig Müntze. All's well that ends well, you'd think, but then you'd be forgetting the evil kind of German who kills more people than he's supposed to. The movie thus evolves into a confrontation between these two types of Germans plus the resistance, a conflict that obviously ends at V-Day Europe, when both German types are finally defeated. Rachel, however, through the ploys of an evil resistance dude, finds herself hunted by the people she was helping! Will Rachel ever find solace?

As a viewer you certainly don't: Verhoeven's camera shoots from one corner to the next. Not five seconds go by without the Germans ramming a truck

ZWARTBOEK continued on next page

King Kong 2: Kong Harder!!



Wu Tang Clans Wacky Beach Party VII



The Kingdom



Rob O. Cop 2: Electric Boogaloo



ZWARTBOEK continued from previous page

through a wall, a deadly injection threatening to do its work or an English submachine gun increasing the body count of the conflict. The movie lasts two and a half hours, but you never realize it because of the enormously fast pace. So, that's something. But this speed also has a drawback that more than outbalances its advantages: in a very complex conflict, and with quotes being thrown around such as "Does it never end?" you'd expect some nuance. Yet you'd be expecting in vain: Carice van Houten's character flies from one

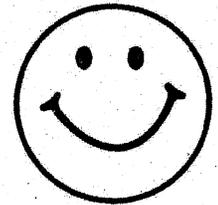
traumatic and intense situation to the next without so much as looking back. Even the main relationship about which the whole movie revolves, the tryst with Müntze, does not get clarified at all. As viewers, we're forced to accept that they like each other just because this is so. I'm fine with that really, as long as I'm watching a clear-cut action movie and not one where characters reminisce like this: "I never knew this would happen. To fear the liberation..." Deep.

And if I were German, which I'm most certainly not, I'd feel offended by

this movie: with the exception of Müntze and some other unnamed guy who dies anyway, all Germans are portrayed as totalitarian, greedy and cruel pigs whose sole purpose is to choke the life out of every living thing that they see. The best example of this happens quite early in the movie, setting the tone for the remainder: after Rachel's family and some other people are thoroughly ventilated by some twenty submachine guns, a German fatso steps out of the shade and says only one word: "Ausgezeichnet" (Excellent!). I guess that

scene kind of captures the movie as a whole.

Zwartboek played last Friday at the Staller Center, but if you still want to see it you are either a) Dutch, or b) illiterate. In both cases, I don't think I'm gonna like you.



Go. Into. The. Water. Live. There. Die. There.

By Alex Nagler

The band Dethklok released their album *The Dethalbum* on September 25th, 2007 to tumultuous applause and fans screaming "METAL." It was promptly catapulted to the 21st spot on the Billboard 200 with 34,000 copies sold and the deluxe edition circulating on Ebay for over 300 dollars. Starring the fictional lineup of Nathan Explosion on lead vocals, Skwisgaar Skwigelf on lead guitar, Toki Wartooth on rhythm guitar, Pickles on drums, and William Murderface on bass guitar, the music is really played by Brandon Smalls on everything but drums, with Gene Hoglan (of Strapping Young Lads fame) on drums.

The album itself is an ungodly tour de force, the equivalent of what would happen if Satan himself released a killer album. With sixteen

tracks of metallic luster, it opens with "Murmaider," a tale of mermaids becoming blood thirsty and committing murders of vengeance. It's what the sirens should have been singing if they really wanted Odysseus's ship to hit the rocks, and what they would have done if the ship had. Part of the Underwater Trilogy, "Murmaider" is followed by "Go Into The Water."

The Dethalbum is a masterpiece.

This is a song for fish and only fish. It is to be noted that its lyrics (about going into the water, dying there, and so forth) are not to be followed by human listeners who happen to stumble upon this part. Nathan Explosion, in a press release, reminded fans that the first three songs on this album are "Metal. For fish."

Later, in the Viking Trilogy (or the songs that somehow escaped Nathan's deleting of an entire album) we are treated to "Better Metal Snake," "The Lost Vikings," and the perennial fan favorite that rocketed to stratospheric heights thanks to *Guitar Hero II*, "Thunderhorse." This trio takes the band on a journey, destroying a kingdom, searching for their destiny, and finally riding to glory. "The Lost Vikings" features heavy drumming, gravelly vocals and the underlying principle that men refuse to ask for things. The lost Vikings are not lost because they have been banished; they are lost because they refuse to ask for directions.

The Dethalbum is a masterpiece and may be the best selling metal album all year. Yeah, it's from a cartoon band. Big whoop. Wanna fight about it? For turning thousands of teenagers, college students, and other [Adult Swim] viewers into metal

fans, I give Dethklok 5 out of 5 for their most recent endeavor and ask them the same question their manager has been quoted recently stating: "So guys...when's the next album?"



The Dethalbum
Dethklok



Sufi Rock: Salman Ahmad Rocks SB

By James Laudano

On September 26th, Pakistani musician Salman Ahmad came to Stony Brook University to perform. Part of the smash hit rock band Junoon, Ahmad brought his trademark style of East-meets-West, Sufi inspired artistry to the packed Wang Center theater.

Ahmad was joined by Tabla player Pandid Chatterjee, and wasted no time between stepping onstage and launching into his song set. Playing some of his original material, as well as centuries old Sufi poems, he delivered a stirring and beautiful show. He performed such hit songs as "Sayonee" and "Al-Vida," a tribute to the AIDS activist and victim Shukriya Gul. Ahmad even performed a wonderful cover of John Lennon's

"Imagine", showcasing how established Western music can often be integrated into his Sufi work.

Ahmad's style is melodic, contemplative and, at times, invigorating. He is capable of bringing a tear to your eye with his inspired poetry and touching guitar work. On the other hand, he can also bring his listeners to a spirited sing-along or dance. He strikes a successful balance lyrically between poignant, socially-conscious folk songs and uplifting, South-Asian style, crowd pleasers.

The audience was very receptive, and one could tell that many of them grew up listening to Ahmad with their South-Asian parents. After the concert, there was a screening of the film *Islamabad: Rock City* and an informal question and answer session with the audience.

Sufism, a branch of Islam focused on the strengthening of ones heart, soul, and

love of the divine, has inspired many poets and musicians in the past. However, none have been as lauded and popular as Ahmad. His albums have sold over 25 million copies worldwide and his work has inspired a documentary, as well. Ahmad is also a United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for HIV/AIDS and is a spokesman for peace and cooperation between different faiths and nations. Oh, and by the way, he also has a medical degree.

When asked during a backstage interview how he handles so many different roles so successfully, Ahmad responded, "I function best when I'm swimming in different streams. All my different roles rub off on each other." He continued, "Humans are multi-dimensional. I'm really no different from anyone else." A doctor, an ambassador, a famous rock star, AND he's modest and humble, too.... Wow, what a guy.

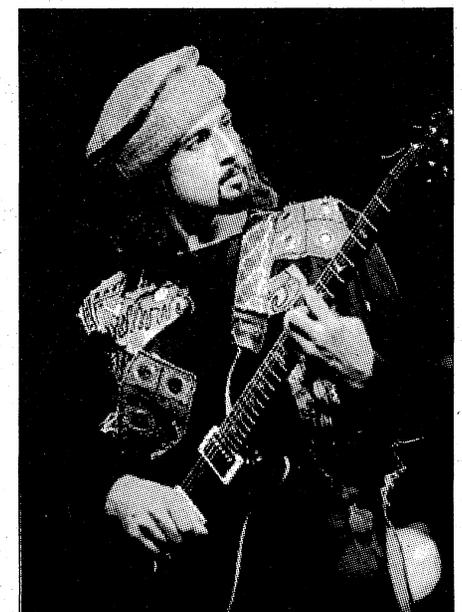


Photo Credit: Giggle
Ahmad, rocking hard while looking snazzy.

Master Chief's Top 4 Albums

1 Flood
They Might Be Giants2 Make It Big
Wham!3 Rooster
Charlie Parr4 Take Me Back to the Country
Alex Walsh

sound is worth money.

(music news and reviews)

by Steve McLinden

Seeing as some notable new albums have been released on Arts & Crafts records in the past few weeks, plus the Canadian dollar reaching parity with the US dollar recently, I thought this would be a good time to write "a very special" edition. So here's a trifecta of recent indie rock albums from the Great White North.

Kevin Drew – *Spirit If...* (Arts & Crafts, 09/18/2007)

Some schools of thought would contend that the artist is *Broken Social Scene Presents Kevin Drew*, as the lead singer of everyone's favorite Canadian indie supergroup heads into solo territory, kind of. *Spirit If...* is an effort of Drew's creation but features appearances by many of his BSS comrades. The band isn't breaking up and as Drew told XM's *The Verge* recently, he just didn't want BSS to become one of those bands where the singer becomes the center of attention. It may be a little too late to suggest that, seeing Drew's girlfriend and fellow BSS member has grabbed that crown with her iPod commercial but it's always good to see the twenty-ish members of BSS spawning their own projects from Metric to Stars to The Weakerthans and having a hand in pretty much half of all of the Canadian indie pop/rock this decade. For Drew, it's probably comforting to know that he had creative control to go in whatever direction he wants, seeing as he co-founded Arts & Crafts in 2002. BSS co-founder Brendan Channing will be putting out his own *Broken Social Scene Presents* album next year.

So upon first listen we have a definitive answer to the anticipated question of many BSS fans when they saw this potentially evasive title: does *Spirit If...* sound as good as *You Forgot It In People*, or will hecklers at Drew's shows this fall be crying out for him to play "the old stuff"? Is this canonical to BSS' discography? Well, Kevin Drew's voice is notable and the flowing indie-pop and moments of hard-edged rock are there, too, but *Spirit If...* is a great album, whether you call it solo or not.

"Farewell to the Pressure Kids" is a spacey, melodic introduction, with underlying, mostly unintelligible-lyrics, recalling the argument that many BSS fans have had as to whether or not this style constitutes post-rock. Following that, the paradoxically enjoyable "Tbtf" and its rhythmless hook repeating "you're too beautiful to fuck" tells the quasi-romantic dilemma that plenty of us have felt about

someone, but probably assumed made us seem to weird to say it out loud. A few other songs on the album ("F--ked Up Kid", "Gang Bang Suicide") probably make you think Drew is feeling a little embittered, but he swears he's not, and they're both pretty cool. "Safety Bricks" and "F--ked Up Kid", with the instrumental melody driven by hard-strumming acoustic guitar and little else, show a much more folky style than you'd be likely to find on anything that the supergroup has released, and it's interesting to see all of the facets of BSS separated, as well as what they're like when they come together. "Lucky Ones" is ragged and beautifully romantic, perhaps one of the prettiest rock songs in recent years, "don't you expect to make a phone call tonight/treat me like a motherfucker who was right" is just the kind of absurdity that you know Drew smirked about when he wrote it, and it turns into a genuine *You Forgot It In People*-type song by the end.

If Broken Social Scene is your thing, you'll probably like Kevin Drew, or rather, how they present [him].

"Back Out On The..." happens to sound more like Dinosaur Jr. than BSS, which is appropriate because it does in fact feature the work of one of my favorite guitarists, J Mascis. The low-budget music video for the song features Drew and Dinosaur Jr. rocking out in an empty house with friends, and rocks equally pretty hard. (Apparently as the responsible businessman, Drew skirted printing vulgar language on the CD case, with "Too Beautiful To Fuck", "Fucked Up Kid", and "Back Out On The Cocks" all being song titles that are diplomatically censored in different ways.)

I know it's a great album on the first time through, but the more and more I've listened to it in the past few weeks, the more I ask myself if maybe this individual in the BSS equation is greater than the sum. If Broken Social Scene is your thing, you'll probably like Kevin Drew, or rather, how they present Kevin Drew.

Stars – *In Our Bedroom after the War* (Arts & Crafts, 10/02/2007)

Hooray, some more anti-war music from our peaceful neighbors to the North, or perhaps it's just a pro-love album. In a recent interview on *The Verge*, Torquil Campbell refers to watching George W. Bush on the news and seeing a man who was ready to burst into tears. Okay, I'm not so sure that I see that happening but I think I understand what he means. Unfortunately, that outlandish worldview doesn't translate into *In Our Bedroom*, which is enjoyable, but is just too full of the kind of lyrics I've heard too much before. As the band's fourth full-length album and the anticipated follow-up to 2005's breakthrough *Set Yourself on Fire*, this should satisfy those looking for the gorgeous indie pop that Stars became noted for in the past couple of years, but perhaps at the expense of giving us uncommon insight.

"Take Me to the Riot" is a rather drum-heavy song that declares that Torquil and Amy Millan are still struggling with that same yearning to have emotions that made *Set Yourself On Fire*'s title track, and noting the more conventional indie-pop instrumentation, that is reminiscent of The Smiths' old "There Is A Light That Never Goes Out," too. Many of the tracks are less (no pun intended) inflammatory feeling than *Set Yourself On Fire* and more like the cursive romanticized style that first attracted many ears to their 2003 release, *Heart*. The whole theme of two lovers torn apart by their environmental conflict is just beyond hackneyed at times to the point of boredom on songs like "Barricade". The interplaying dialogue that Stars utilizes between Millan and Campbell do help invite the listener, especially on "Midnight Coward". It just seems like for every moment that makes the listener think, there's equal time during which I'm rolling my eyes.

The album closes with the title track, a soft and slow tune that expresses the image that the name evokes: waking up alive and safe at home after the hellish experience of living through war. "All the living are dead, the dead are all living, the war is over, and we are beginning" is sort of a hyperbolic image of the sunshine coming through your window after you made it through a shitty week.

The Most Serene Republic – *Population* (Arts & Crafts, 10/02/2007)

And now we've run the A&C gamut from indie rock to lighter pop fare to the baroque pop haunting concoctions of The

Most Serene Republic. Notably, TMSR is the first A&C release by a band that doesn't have a member in BSS, and they're not even from Toronto like almost everyone else on the label. *Population* is the band's sophomore effort but their first release recorded for the label.

My biggest complaint about the album is nothing particularly musical, but rather has to do with the attitude of it.

"Humble Peasants" builds up into a variety of instruments clashing together until they form a unique harmony, which sets the pace of the album pretty well. "Compliance", one of the most vocal songs on the album and also one of the most sparkly, wall-of-sound-ish songs, starts off with the same creepy strings that bring in the first track that seem to evoke crawling insects in a movie like *Arachnophobia* but bursts into unadulterated orchestral rock. "Agenbite of Inwit" is a nice two-minute piece that sounds like it was written by the ghost of Gerswhin.

My biggest complaint about the album is nothing particularly musical, but rather has to do with the attitude of it. The Most Serene Republic's first album was not pretentious, but still very self-serious; they were the kind of band you'd expect to say four words ("how's everybody doin' tonight,") during a show. When you write a cheesy smooth jazz piece that reeks of The Weather Channel and call it "A Mix of Sun and Cloud," you just come across as fucking around more than The Polyphonic Spree. The same goes for "Battle Hymn Of The Republic" and the awkward way in which it turns into a march, presumably after the song for which it was titled. Fifty-five seconds into "Sherry And Her Butterfly Net", Adian Jewett opens up with "play this song for its first minute and—." What the fuck? Only Elton John refers to his song in his songs; TMSR just broke the fourth wall.

Maybe I was just in an irritable mood when I listened to the album, but that sort of crap almost ruined it. If you're not familiar with TMSR, check out *Underwater Cinematographer* first and then if you feel that you don't care about self-derision in your Baroque pop, move onto *Population*.

The Best Hook Up is with the ATARI 2600

By Vincent Michael Festa

Five years after releasing the first Pong machine (1972) at a bar in Grass Valley, CA, Atari founder Nolan Bushnell created and manufactured what would change the face of home entertainment: the Atari 2600 home video game system. Introduced in 1977, the 2600 was the answer to the previous home system Fairchild/Channel F and hundreds of home Pong-machine clones.

The 2600 came out with a \$150.00 price tag, and its first titles were priced at \$30.00. Yes, people in 1977 really did pay \$30.00 for graphics that looked like boxes, chunky squares, and one-channel sound effects. It was a far cry from what we have now in Grand Theft Auto, Tekken 5, F-Zero GC and Halo 3.

For that price you could have full-color arcade-to-home versions such as Super Breakout, Defender, Missile Command, Pac-Man, Frogger, and Space Invaders, as well as originals such as Yars' Revenge, Astroblaster, and

much more. You also had what looked like video pinball, baseball with only five players on the field (Homerun), and football with only three to a team.

So realistic! Later on in the system's lifetime games such as Joust, Pole Position (yes!), Pitfall, that game where you were a chicken and you had to cross a 16-lane highway (Freeway), Midnight Magic, Solaris, and Star Raiders (a space game where a twelve-button keypad had to be used) were also released.

My dad told me that when we used to live in Brooklyn, he purchased his Atari 2600 and hot-wired two huge audio speakers and a string of Christmas lights to it while playing Missile Command. So, when the explosions and hits went off, so did the audio and sound.

The fire department showed up because someone called up to report that the apartment was on fire...

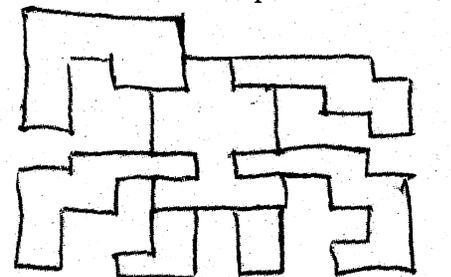
Being an 80's kid was great. My dad also treated me to an Atari game every week on a Saturday after work for being a good kid. We'd go to Toys 'R Us (and the same one which I would work at later in life) and would look at all those boffo box displays of the games behind the plexi-glass, then take the ticket to have it scanned at the register. By the mid-80's, many Atari games went up in price, from \$4.99 to \$14.99.

However, not all games were winners. A great movie does not make a great game, and it was so bad that it was

blamed for ruining the 80's video-game industry crash...remember E.T.? To this day, movies made into games are still pigeonholed into being only horrible enough to just make money. Plus, one of the very first X-rated games, Custer's Revenge, caused a good amount of controversy, with the cowboy attempting to "poke a Hontas."

The Atari 2600 could only go so long without any wear and tear. That's when you would start huffing and puffing on your "tapes" to make them work, even fiddling around with your switches and angling your wiring right when attempting to hook up the House of Atari Happiness after ten years of not playing it because Nintendo, Sega Genesis, and Super Nintendo were the next big things to come out. Also, who here remembers Colecovision and Intellivision?! You could not mention Atari without the other two.

Luckily, it didn't take long before computer emulation



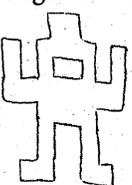
brought back these wonderful memories of when you could download these very same Atari games onto your computer and play them with an emulator (such

as Stella, the original codename for the Atari). Amazingly, some of these very simple games have stood the test of time (now in the form of downloadable kilobytes) and children in this day and age of Dance Dance Revolution, Gears Of War, and Geometry Wars still play them to see what video-gaming in 1977 was all about.

Sharing itself within the era of Star Wars, Blade Runner, Charlie's Angels, the late 70's/early 80's arcade scene, and vintage game shows, it's no wonder that it has not only gaming cred, but retro style points as well.

One very interesting point: Nolan Bushnell was also the same genius that invented Chuck E. Cheese. That was for kids like me who not only had to have video games at home, but who also went to video arcades every Sunday while waiting for their pizza! (Not to mention those lifeless animatron animal puppets that played musical instruments. Very eerie...)

Sure, the Odyssey was the very first home game system (1972), and the Fairchild Channel F (1976) became the first cartridge and wired-controller based machine, but it was the Atari that made a name for itself and for the many games and conversions it brought over. If not for the Atari 2600 and the company itself, the next thirty years of video-gaming history wouldn't have ever happened.



I Went to Digital Life (Because I Don't Have a Real One)

By Justin Meltzer

What do you expect when you go to a convention called Digital Life: nerds with thick glasses, acne and the distinct smell of body odor and asthma medication? Well, if you said any or all of these things you'd be right, but that wasn't all that this convention had to offer. This year's Digital Life convention, held at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City, was bigger than most previous years, and it offered a nice mix of technology, games, and gadgets.

For the '07 convention there was a good show of industry types, debuting new computers, like the HP Blackbird 002, a super powered gaming desktop, with cool features like liquid cooled processors and tool-less

entry. Gateway was also at it; showing off their new all-in-one desktop entitled the ONE, which they plan to pit against the iMac. The ONE is a sexy machine, to say the least, but all in all not worth the price tag. Other computers demoed were Dell's latest behemoth, some Alienware lap- and desktops and HP's newest acquisition, VooDoo.

As far as gadgets were concerned, this show had a little trouble coming up with anything tangible, so the most gadgets present were from the attendees, mostly in the form of iPhones and Blackberries. But besides the shoddy showcase of electronics, there was a strong display of video games, mostly in the form of Guitar Hero III (GH3). Drawn by both a booth of about ten systems set up and a GH3 tournament with a grand prize of ten thousand dollars, the Guitar Hero players were out in full force.

And not to mention the DDR (Dance Dance Revolution) competition which brought a spectacular crowd who gathered to see the nerds who only learned how to dance from a video game. Other mentionable games were the new *Lord of the Rings* massive multiplayer online game, with free trial versions being handed out, and plenty of PS3s and XBOX 360s playing the best each has to offer right now. Not much from Wii at the show surprisingly, considering how popular the system is supposed to be. There were maybe two Wiis set up within the entire show. Compare this to the other next gen systems, which numbered in the dozens.

A highlight of the show was the amount of contests going on. Almost every booth was giving something away, whether it was an iPhone, or a desktop, or a free copy of this

or that. It was just nice that they would give everyone the false impression of thinking they can win amazing prizes. It was a nice thought though. Even I was hopelessly optimistic, thinking that I could win something. Long story short, I didn't.

The convention on the whole was decent but nothing spectacular. It went on for four days, but you wouldn't need more than four hours to see it all. If you are interested in attending next year, may I recommend getting your tickets for free as I did. All you need is a free RewardZone Membership from Best Buy, and you can get free digital tickets to Digital Life. Yeah, you heard right, pay nothing for a semi decent convention in the city. Give it a shot. And who knows? Maybe next year you'll be rocking tape for your glasses and a pocket protector. You gotta believe.

Abandonment of the USG for a Discourse on Excellent Music

By Robert Donato Venosa

The USG meeting having been cancelled, I trekked back in the February cold, ruminating on what I ought to write about in place of what would have transpired had this school functioned as effectively as a German engineer from the Nazi era, as God had intended (with regards to efficiency, not the National Socialist ideology enforced at that juncture). With that cogitation buffeting about my head, an epiphanous article idea precipitated, raising itself from the murky depths of my labyrinthine memory and into the elucidated and exalted portion of my frontal lobe.

Instead of taking task to boring you with the seeming inanities of the proceedings of the USG, I shall endeavor to bestow upon you the wonderment of Muse. The more astute among you will protest, "But one would be hard pressed to find a logical justification for linking a cancelled USG meeting, the coldness of that unfortunate night, and Muse." To those I would reply that there is, indeed, no logical justification of any sort; the utterly subliminal nature of the unbridled joy one derives from listening to Muse is comparable to nothing else put out recently by the music scene which purports to be rock. Following logic, all rational, sentient beings are led to the paradoxical yet inescapable conclusion that the sheer awesomeness of Muse

warrants the complete dismissal and suspension of logic for the duration of this article.

For those uninitiated in the art of listening to consummate creativity in the form of music, Muse is the English band from Devon comprising of three unbelievably talented individuals and headed by front man Matthew Bellamy, who is lead vocalist and guitarist. The musical talent and workmanship radiating forth from each of these three men is of such a prodigious and incomparable magnitude and intensity that most five-member ensembles (or even more heavily-populated bands) are put to absolute shame, making the latter, upon hearing the aural emanations from Muse, have a sudden onset of severe depression. In fact, the problem is of such severity that somewhere in the order of three dozen lesser bands either have had to seek intensive psychiatric counseling, be prescribed potent anti-psychotic pharmaceuticals, or both; seven unfortunate chaps have been laid to rest prematurely, their souls sent in repose at the Great Gig in the Sky, due to suicide stemming ultimately from simply not being able to handle the fact that the substandard, contrived tripe they produced and called "music" will never be able to stand up against the relative luminosity of what Muse puts out.

Bearing in mind the sobering fact, that the bands to which the reader has, up to this point, been listening cannot even approach the level of intensity and

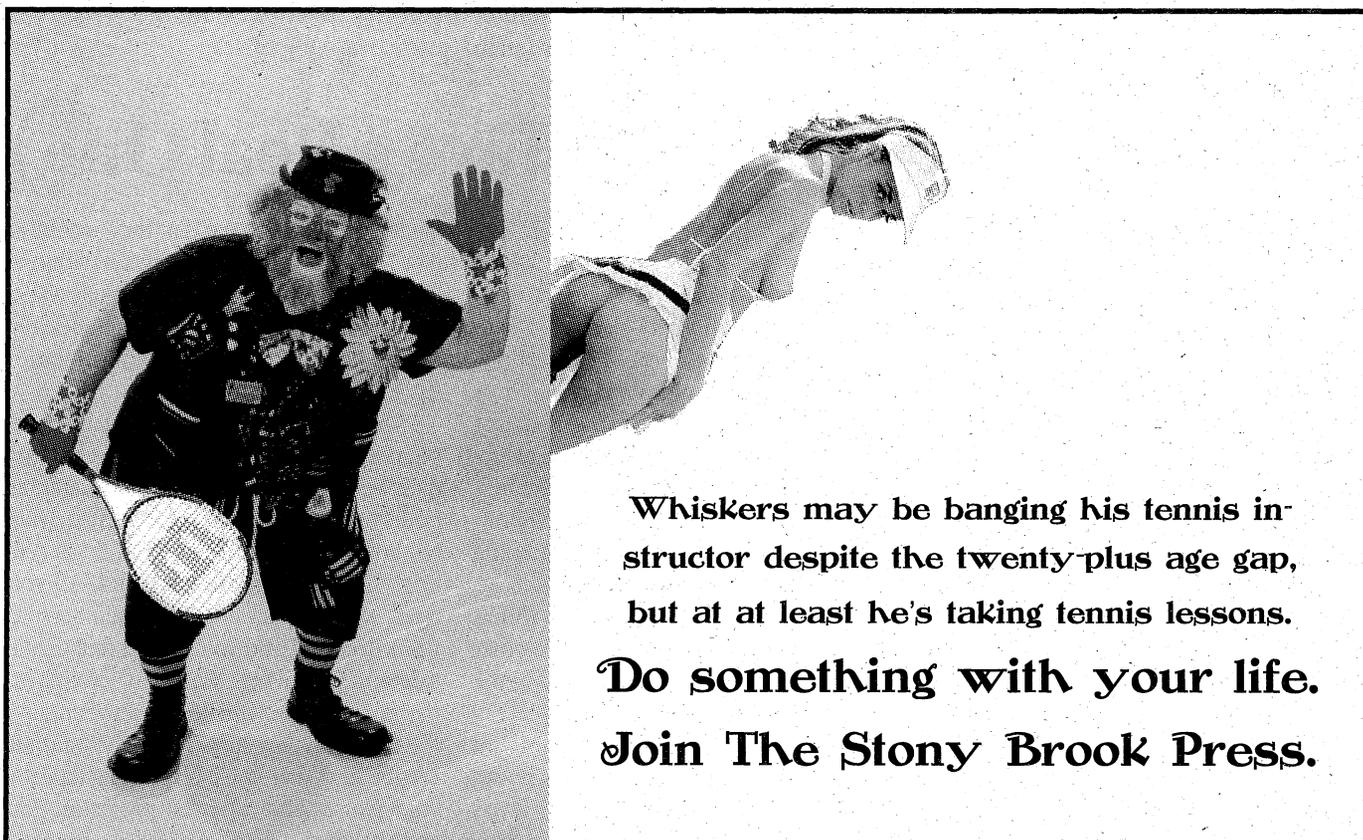
musical skill of Muse, the reader must, however, take heart in the fact that he or she has now been informed of the brilliance of Muse and can now go to the store and buy some Muse albums. Yes, I did say "buy," for those of you about to log onto a certain direct-connection music-sharing program which shall remain unnamed for certain reasons which shall themselves remain unenumerated; this band is simply so excellent that you will be inspired, upon your first listening, to drive recklessly (although it ought to be noted that I do not condone reckless driving, in accordance with some federal statute that I can't prove exists at the moment but which I'm sure does, in fact, exist) to the nearest F.Y.E. or local mom-and-pop music shop in order to purchase every single Muse album in every conceivable medium – CD, vinyl, tape cassette, and 8-track (you might have to buy a Flux Capacitor and ride with Marty McFly at 88 mph in order to go back in time and buy an 8-track). I shall need to delineate and describe in vivid detail the sheer awesomeness of all Muse albums for you all, in order that you may be compelled irresistibly to listen to them, if my rhetorical skills alone thus far have failed to convince you.

Their first album, *Showbiz*, is, like many bands' first attempts, a rather hodgepodge collection, I shall admit. About half the album has stand-out songs, while the other half is anywhere from average to good. However, the

key difference here is that, unlike most amateur bands' initial efforts, there aren't any songs I would skip, if I had the time to listen to the album in its entirety. The title track, "Showbiz," is a virile, angst-ridden tirade against the music industry's efforts to force musicians to essentially sell their souls and compromise their musical inclinations to conform to more "mainstream" sentiments. But it somehow manages to be angst-ridden without being emo, that scourge of modern music. Other stand-out tracks are "Sunburn," "Muscle Museum," "Unintended," "Escape," "Overdue," and "Hate This & I'll Love You." While I am wary of having Muse referred to as "Radiohead-esque," I do recognize that this is their album in which they most resemble their more famous English musical compatriots. I mean, what English rock outfit from the 1990s didn't have at least a little Radiohead in them? Muse's subsequent fare, however, has no trace of Radiohead whatsoever and is completely original, or as close to it as possible.

Normally, most bands succumb to the "sophomore slump," a trend most dreaded by nascent groups trying to set themselves as something surpassing simple one-album wonders. Muse, however, with their god-like imbuelements of musical virtuosity and genius, surmounted this obstacle with naught but a strong, manly will to overcome. *Origin of Symmetry*, the product of the musical trio's collective brilliance, is certainly no candidate for a sophomore slump. Indeed, many fans consider this the pinnacle of their career, although there is much dispute here amongst the fan base. There are really no poorly-done songs; in fact, there aren't any mediocre songs, either. Every song excels in some way, although some do more than others. "New Born," "Plug in Baby," "Citizen Erased," "Micro Cuts," and "Feeling Good" are, for me, the standout tracks, although I rarely skip the other ones. "Feeling Good," of course, is a cover (the sole one on the album), and is the best version of it I have heard. It certainly beats the living daylights out of Michael Buble's painfully boring, unenthused, soulless version.

Hullabaloo is a double album, with one live album compilation and one studio recording of B-sides. It is an excellent addition to any mature Muse fan's collection, although it will take a while for newcomers to become accustomed



Whiskers may be banging his tennis instructor despite the twenty-plus age gap, but at least he's taking tennis lessons.

Do something with your life.

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I'm So Bored With The USG

By Nick Eaton

Recently I had the pleasure of attending my very first Undergraduate Student Government Senate meeting. Having heard it likened to a circus (and boy do I love me a circus) I felt compelled to witness the event firsthand. My, oh my did I have a blast. There was a particularly draconian rule-set, excessive gavel slamming and elitist rhetoric spit like acid at all who raised concerns. It was as if I had been transported to the set of *Jurassic Park 4: Dilophosaurus Dictatorship*. Only the mock-egalitarian nuances of Soviet Russia could rival the illusion of equality and democracy present at the meeting.

Feeling quite glum about the state of our student led government, I waited my turn and spoke my piece. I spoke of my disillusionment (a word which, after I used it, became a favorite of USG Senate Chair Nathan Shapiro's) with the professionalism and integrity of the USG. I suggested that members speak to constituents with respect and accept criticism with grace, regardless of the demeanor of the gallery. I expected an answer. I expected either an alibi, which excused them from having to respect anyone, or an apology to all present. What I did not expect (and should have, considering my target audience) was a row of snickering bourgeoisie, one of whom haughtily retorted that if I didn't appreciate their attitudes that I should run for USG myself and "lead by example."

Was this a legitimate challenge? Yes. Had he raised a significant point? Sure. There was something to be said about the fact that many of these buffoons had run unopposed. This challenge, though, did not address any of my concerns, and failed to either acknowledge or dispel any of my accusations. The challenge did, however inadvertently, exemplify my point. It represented ex-

actly how the USG handled any other circumstance: with gross disrespect and indignation. The only person present to apologize forthright was Joseph Antonelli, president of the USG. While I will grant him the benefit of the doubt, I cannot help but wonder if this was not an act of political posturing or post-appeasement.

one, is whether or not I will ever run for USG. The answer is no, for a number of reasons.

First of all, my biases are too great to sufficiently represent the greater student body. My affections for specific clubs, *The Press* and the Social Justice Alliance, would sufficiently cloud my judgment. I would not, for example,

were shot down. My failed attempts at persuading your permanently polarized majority would only serve to solidify the running theme that you get what you want.

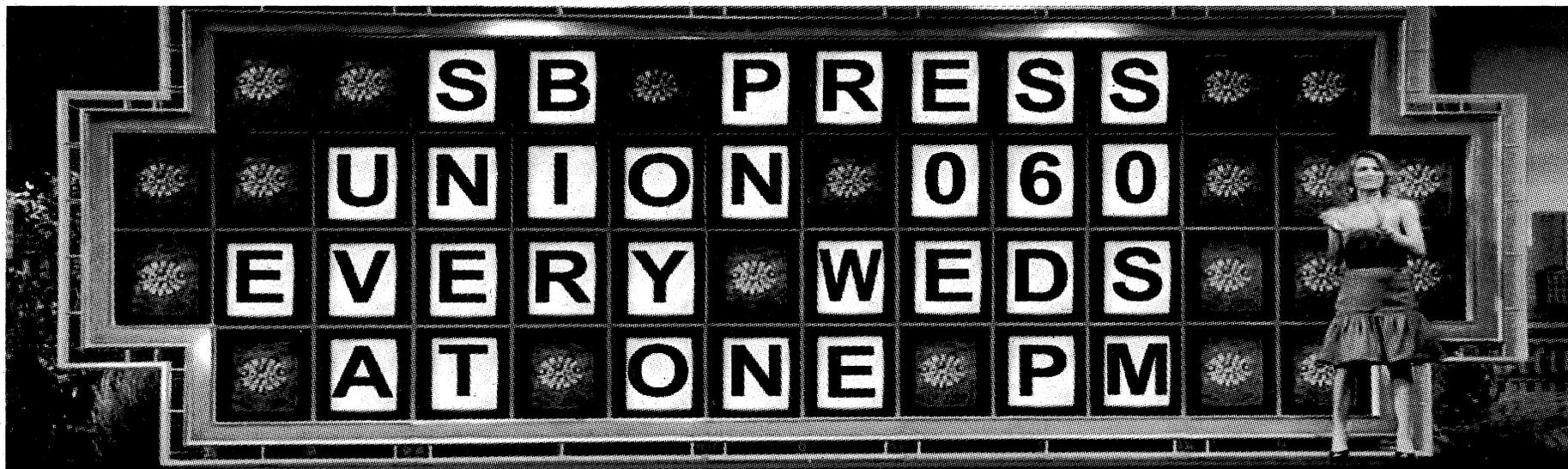
You see, I can change things from where I am. I have my say, right here on this page. I don't need your gavel or show-bible. I don't need your immature banter and pseudo-democracy. The people who need to run for USG are those that have had their mouths red-taped shut, either through legislation or lack thereof. Members of sports teams, clubs and organizations on campus need to run for USG. Students with a respect for the role of government in any institution or any nation should run for USG. Students whose pride allows them to venture through passages smaller than ten feet wide without getting their heads stuck need to run for USG. Those who arrived at this particular meeting and expressed their views have already displayed their abilities. They spoke on behalf of the constituency that relied on them. They were able and articulate. They were well mannered and despite all of your distasteful scolding, they maintained their composure and out-dignified you.

Take from this what you will. I will assume, until further notice, that you'll post this on your wall. You'll herald this as a victory and I will become the subject of the full brunt of your mockery. Shapiro will tape a picture of me to the end of his gavel, slamming it relentlessly as his precious three minute rule is ignored. I will come to represent your idea of the "weak" while you, the elite, will come to exemplify your own idea of the omniscient and all powerful. Never mind that you can attribute much of your success to political apathy on campus. You, good sirs, are the all powerful Gods. You reign over a vast room of half empty plastic chairs. Bravo! You should assume, until further notice, that you have always been and will always be the subject of a great deal of mockery among us.

	USG	SB Press	Winner
Seating Arrangements	Ample Plastic Chairs	Three couches, a recliner and a couch in the waiting area	SB Press
Known For	Ending meetings early (and angrily at that)	Three couches, a recliner and a couch in the waiting area	SB Press
Integrity?	None, but is expected to have the utmost.	Some, which is way more than is expected from us	SB Press
Props?	A gavel and a bible.	A rubber penis	?
Audience	SBU-TV, A handful of political science majors and former USG members	Those guys and almost everyone else	SB Press
Cost	About an hour of your time, a little less if you make them real angry.	Free	SB Press
Final Score	0	5	

So the ball is in my court. Not because Vice Chancellor Shapiro and his rag-tag militia of ex-College Republicans had scored on me, but because they had failed to extinguish any doubts or concerns that I had expressed. My arguments, which in my opinion were valid and conveyed clearly, had permeated the air. The gallery was affected and the USG was empty-handed when it came to a reasonable defense of their actions. The question that remains, albeit a childish

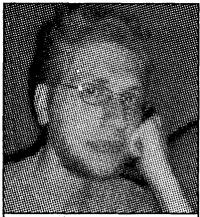
want to be a former College Republican and have to wonder whether or not my involvement in said club had anything to do with their fat budget increase this year. The second reason, I've dubbed the "Hannity and Colmes" effect. Why, if I were to be the only challenger, would I want to sit side by side with the people I've so ardently opposed? There are only two USG members who timidly raised questions regarding controversial legislation presented at the meeting, both of which



"All of the Baldwins are dead?"

Meetings Wednesdays 1pm
Union Building Room 060

Your Gov't Comes in Two Great Flavors



Robert Donato
Venosa

If one were to enumerate all of the pejorative terms which could be hurled rightfully at most of the "mainstream" members of Congress, an inordinately

cumbersome tome rivaling the size of the Manhattan phone directory would be the result. However, if we were to class the two major parties' positions into two broad categories, the official GOP stance would have to be termed Hypocrisy, and that of the Democrats, Cowardice. There is simply no other honest or truthful terminology available. I refuse to cut the Republicans any slack, for their actions are in direct contravention of their stated intentions. I've been quite patient with the Democrats, hoping that once they were in some position of power after the midterm elections, they would actually exercise that power; a power derived from both their numerical majority and the will of the American people at large, which is against the war in Iraq. But instead of exhibiting some legislative bravery, they caved in to cheap Republican rhetoric and, worst of all, chose either tacitly or explicitly to perpetuate the Military-Industrial-Educational Complex, which presently is about the only smoothly functioning aspect of our government.

I've heard Nancy Pelosi's reasons as to why the Democratic-led Congress has not put an end to this war yet, when they thus far have been in the majority since January. She cited that, foremost among many impediments, the Demo-

cratic majority in both houses is slim—awfully so in the Senate. And because of how the Senate operates, sixty votes, and not fifty, are needed in almost every instance, of a very controversial law for it to not die via filibuster and other senatorial tools. However, while it is quite reasonable for Democrats to claim the Republicans are the only obstacle preventing the passage of most other types of bills, they cannot honestly assert that the Republicans are precluding them from ending the Iraq War. They simply have to refuse any further funding for this war; at the hazard of being redundant, it really is nearly as simple as that. The only necessary and prudent addition to this action would be to provide enough funding for the safe withdrawal of our forces from Iraq, designated explicitly and specifically for that sole purpose and nothing more, and anything less than this is merely varying gradations of political—and moral—cowardice.

Now, allow me to address my extreme frustration with the Grand Old Party—although I reach for any valid explanation as to how Republicans can still retain the appellation. Once upon a time, in the distant, distant past (i.e., the turn of the century and into the 1950s, and residually into even the 1980s), Republicans stood for some semblance of principle. I never have agreed with all, or even most, of those principles, but the ones that did comport with my belief system were rather interesting and, dare I say, excellent. Foremost among the best of the traditional Republican stances—so antithetical to the dominant neoconservative doctrine—is the notion that America ought not to entangle itself unnecessar-

ily in foreign affairs. Many war mongers will instantly portray this stance as "parochialism" in foreign policy, or "isolationism" or some other inaccurate term, thus precluding most meaningful debate on the important foreign policy questions of the day. An aversion to entangling America in needless foreign wars and nation building is not equivalent to isolationism. It recognizes that we need a strong, vigorous, flexible national defense, and that we cannot keep our heads in the sand about the goings-on in the international political and military scenes. But this philosophical outlook is nevertheless very much against the imposition of force upon entire nations simply because we do not like the way in which they are governed. This position is respectful of the sovereignty of other countries—despotic, democratic, or anything in between. Of course, one would wish for there to be the viable removal by military force of all dictators, such as Saddam Hussein. But this is feasible only in theory; only in the sterile blueprints of social engineers who don't take into account the way specific cultures and peoples would react to liberation and occupation, even from a well-meaning power such as the United States.

Indeed, there is immense hypocrisy, not to mention historical amnesia, on the part of Republicans in their more recent foreign policy—they claim to have invaded for purely altruistic reasons, and more dubiously, continue to hold that they are staying for completely altruistic reasons, and that victory by our continued military occupation is both feasible and near. Yet, a more immediate and, in many ways more glaring, example of hypocrisy is embodied

in the recent Republican and White House denunciation of legislation proposed by Senator Jim Webb of Virginia. The measure's purpose is to provide our troops with a guarantee of having the same amount of time off-duty back here in the States as they do when deployed. For instance, if the President orders fifteen-month deployments, as is currently the case, each soldier must then have at least fifteen months to recuperate before being sent back. The Republicans, in the exemplification of doing what is right and just to our armed forces, judged that this measure was not, in fact, supportive of the troops; at least, they have implied as much, or they have made an about-face and now want to put extraordinary and cruel strain upon our troops for some unspecified reason. Senator John McCain, joined in refrain by other such "conservative" luminaries, decried this proposed law as "unconstitutional" because of some unspecified encroachment upon presidential prerogative. From their ill-begotten bully pulpit, tarnished by blood as it is, they pontificate to the American people! If there were any time to feel rightful indignation towards most of our public officials in Washington, it would be right now.

I shall not attempt to pass judgment upon which of the two deadly vices discussed—Hypocrisy or Cowardice—is more detrimental to the state of our nation. I am not qualified to determine the relative moral repugnance of each. However, I can state with certainty that either of them alone would be harmful enough to bring ruin and lamentations to a nation. Both of them in concert, as they are presently, is a calamity of the highest order.

Groundhog Day



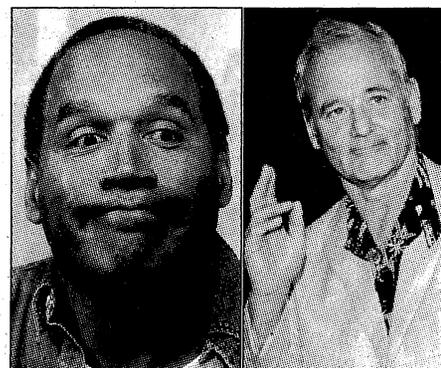
Nick
Eaton

Dear Journal,

Déjà vu. Was it not only five years ago that we falsely accused someone of harboring terrorists, proliferating nuclear arms and assisting in the

September 11th attacks? Didn't we already repeat fallacious remarks constantly on all the major news networks, perpetuating a lie in order to facilitate a war that would enrich the private defense companies and military contractors who've created a financial foundation for the entire Republican Party? Hadn't we already dismissed international opposition to our plans and

followed through with a poorly executed war upon two enemies: the ter-



There's a snake in my boot.

rorists who we don't understand and the Iraqi insurgents that our presence created? It seems to me that only half a decade ago we ignored the I.A.E.A.'s re-

ports regarding nuclear proliferation in Iraq only to find after a long and pointless war that we were wrong all along.

Why haven't we learned? We're collectively the goldfish that swims about his small bowl, witnessing something new at every turn for the rest of his life. This is like Groundhog Day except that unlike Bill Murray, we never learn from our mistakes and our "day" spans half a decade. This is worse than Groundhog Day. Why can we not separate the characteristics of individuals? Why do we assume that every assumption made by our less-than-reliable administration, such as Middle Eastern leaders being generally bad people, is true? Is it the tabloid mentality that has zombified our nation's weakest minds? This idea that whatever has been repeated in more

than one "news" article must be true? In July of 2006, 50 percent of Americans still believed that Iraq had WMD's.

I give up. In the run up to the Iraq war, I blamed the media for public ignorance. In the wake of such an obvious disaster and in the face of such a blatant repeat of mind-control tactics, I've concluded that the war with Iran will be the fault of the ignorant masses. If people are too stupid to shut off Fox (Faux) News and CNN and start reading valid and more balanced sources it's their own fault. I'm frustrated. Goodnight journal.



Love,
Nick

It's always easier to say you have understood.

Dueling for Parking Spaces



Ilyssa
Fuchs

Well, another semester and yet another nightmare for commuter students; the parking terror level has now been raised from yellow to red. In an effort to enroll as many students as possible, the university has officially over-filled the lots; even South P looks like the mall parking lot on Black Friday. If you didn't already know, I am the queen of bitching about the parking problem. Maybe it has to do with the fact I spend over an hour in my car getting here only to be faced with the same damn problem every morning,

only to wonder why my stress level is at "blowing steam out of my ears" by 11 AM.

I spend over an hour in my car getting here only to be faced with the same damn problem every morning.

Okay, so I've addressed the parking problem on numerous occasions and it's obvious to me (well, it has been for months) that it doesn't matter how

many articles I write about the inadequate amount of commuter spots here at Stony Brook; nobody is doing anything about it. The thing is, I never expected anyone to do anything about it, so I am not writing this article in hopes of President Kenny actually picking up a copy of *The Press* and reading it; I am writing it for you, my fellow commuter students.

Now, you might be asking why this article is directed towards commuters. The reasoning behind it is that I want to ask all of you commuters to have a little bit of patience when looking to get a spot. I understand that we all have classes to go to and we all might be on tight schedules, but driving 55 miles an hour in the commuter lot is not going to get you a spot any faster.

In fact, you're more likely to hit someone and then miss your class while you fill out a police report and exchange insurance information.

My point is we all know that the university is not going to do anything about the situation so we all must take it with a grain of salt. Slow down, have a little bit of patience and eventually you will find a spot. Speeding, cursing, cutting people off and just being a straight up asshole are more likely to cause an accident than anything else. So, commuters, stop dueling for parking spaces. If you want to duel, there are many other places to do so than in the parking lot; and I'm warning you, if you do decide to drive fast and furious, remember: if you hit my car, I am gonna sue your ass.

Lost In Translation



Cindy
Liu

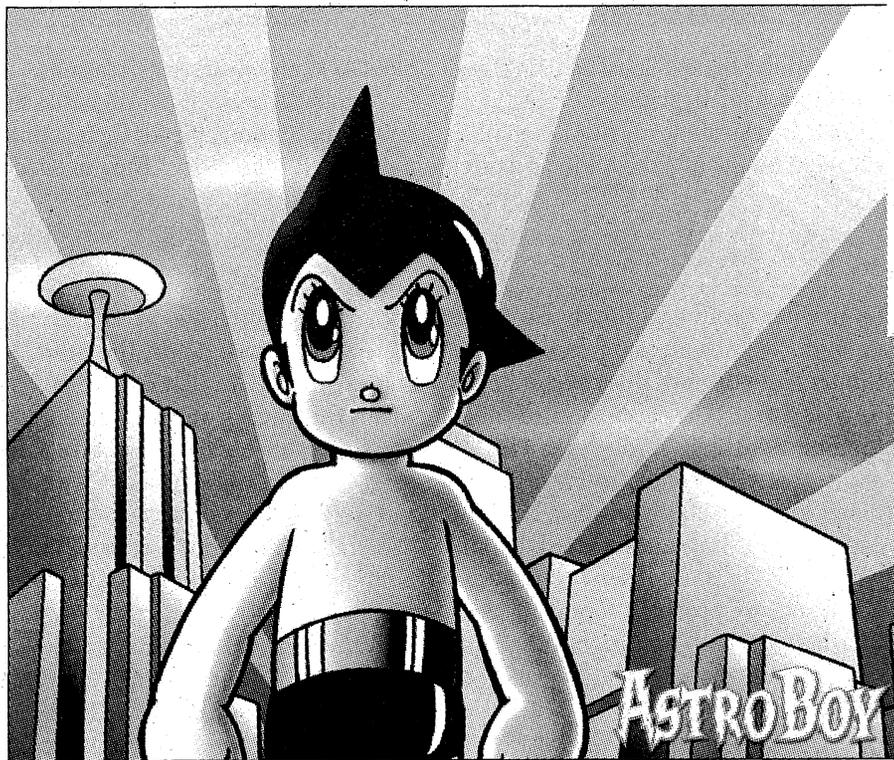
I didn't get as much flak as expected for that last article, which is understandable since most Asians here can't even read English. Perhaps the next time I want to be offensive, I should stand in the middle of the SAC Plaza during campus lifetime and urinate on a picture of Astro Boy. Which brings me to my next point: people do not understand each other. This can be applied in so many respects, like this:
(seventh grade Art class, upon entrance of new student From Korea)
What's your name?
Rachel.
Where are you from?
Rachel.
...How old are you?
Rachel.
Hahaha, do you have a penis or a vagina?
Hahaha. Rachel.

funny that her reproductive organ was a Rachel. It felt like I was talking to a Pokemon.

Or this:
(after school, at the dinner table)
How was your day, honey?
I don't know. It was okay. I aced my

People are laughing, but laughter aside, there is a strong and disturbing reluctance to understand one another. International students are brought here every semester to learn about American culture and learn the English language and assimilate themselves into

Nobody wants to understand each other. Nobody wants to listen to each other. We're all playing pretend where everything everyone does is backwards



Perhaps the next time I want to be offensive, I should stand in the middle of the SAC Plaza... and urinate on a picture of Astro Boy.

and we say things we don't mean and keep in the things we want to say. On top of that, people will never admit to ignorance, and so we create preconceptions. It's always easier to say you have understood. We sacrifice our intended meaning for a pale reflection, or possibly even a betrayal of it. That's like going to a trading post and turning in your car for a can of pineapple Fanta. Nobody wants pineapple Fanta, nobody, because it tastes like diarrhea, and even if you don't think so, it still sucks that you just traded in your car for it. Everyone settles for less, and that is a problem that is particular to us as college students.

There is no real solution to this problem. But, here it is, it's out there, and maybe if people listened to people, I wouldn't feel the urge to defecate on Astro Boy anymore.

...Most Asians here can't even read...

I couldn't believe it. Her name was Rachel, she came from Rachel, she was Rachel years old, and she found it

calc test.
That's nice.
I also learned that there are more cells in your brain than particles in the universe.
Interesting....clear your plate, honey. Did you even hear what I just said?
Mhm.
I ate a tub of lard and shit and a baby today.
Oh, that's great.
LOOK AT ME! LOOK AT ME!

this place. But—and this is sad news—more often than not, they go searching for the vaguely familiar faces, the slightest reminders of home, the remotest traces of coherence, and they gather these fragments of a life and compress them and try to recreate a makeshift home here.

No, it's not just the international students. It's everyone—it's you, it's me, it's that guy over there with the mustache, it's your Math professor.

Make your opinion heard! Write for *The Stony Brook Press*.

Meetings Wednesdays 1pm
Union Building Room 060

SB Men's Soccer Hold Off Red Foxes

By Anthony Lin

The Stony Brook Seawolves earned their fifth win of the season by defeating Marist 4-1. Over 350 came out to see an even affair on both sides, despite the lopsided score.

"I thought we played very well," stated Petar Rakovic. "The last game against Towson was a tough loss and the guys were angry tonight. Marist paid the price for that."

"Playing against quality teams helps us to tough out games like this," mentioned Seawolves head coach Cesar Markovic. "Marist was well-prepared and came prepared to face us."

The home side took the lead by a header by a sprinting Michael Palacio in the 15th minute. From outside the box, Rakovic whipped in a perfect cross from the right wing finding Palacio. Palacio's header found the lower right corner of the net to give Stony Brook a 1-0 lead.

"We have been practicing that for a long, long time," said Rakovic on his assist to Palacio. "That is what we do best."

The Seawolves nearly doubled their lead in the 24th minute with a series of opportunities from Mladen Ramic. Off a corner kick, Ramic's header unluckily hit the crossbar. Following his own rebound, Ramic's bicycle attempt sailed only inches over the crossbar.

Five minutes later, Marist tied the game. Corey Perkins slotted the ball past an onrushing Rich Skoblicki off a break-

away opportunity.

In the 38th minute, Stony Brook again took the lead. Tamer Mohamed's inswinging left-footed cross found Sebastian Villa, whose header went into the upper corner to make it 2-1.

"I care for the team. Every player played well," mentioned Rakovic. "I would like to emphasize that the guys that

kick was awarded inside the box from seven yards out when Skoblicki picked up a backpass. The shot off the free kick by Shareif Ali ended being blocked by the Stony Brook wall. As the ball ended up loose in the area, Tyler DeBari's shot cleared off the line and out by Ramic.

The home side had numerous chances in the second half, only to be denied by

show some leadership within the team."

Palacio had two great chances in the 61st and 65th minutes. His free kick from 25 yards out in the 61st minute was tapped over the bar by Owens. Minutes later, Palacio's low shot from the left side was parried.

The best opportunity for Marist to tie the game came in the 77th minute. Off a throw-in that flew past everyone, DeBari collected the loose ball from point blank, only to have his shot sail high over the crossbar.

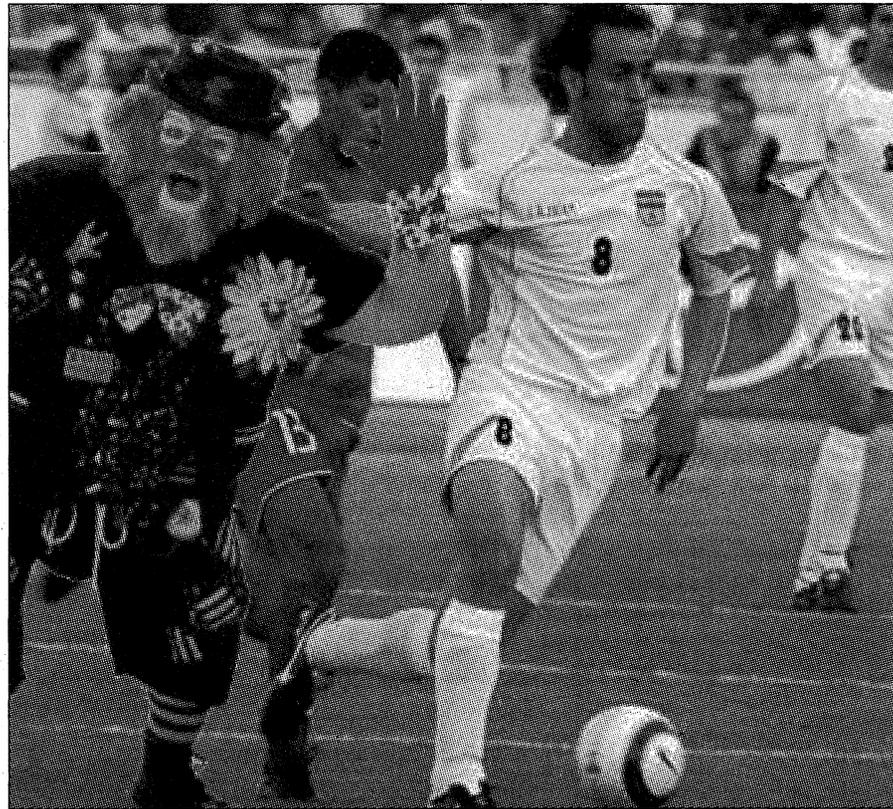
Stony Brook put the game out of reach four minutes later off of another dangerous cross from Rakovic. Owens got a fit on Rakovic's cross, only to have Palacio pounce on the rebound to make it 3-1.

In the 87th minute, the Seawolves put the finishing touch on the game with a goal by Mark Secko. Maurice Brown found Secko on the right. His shot from 13 yards out found the upper-90 to make it 4-1.

"We had a billion chances and did not put them away," said Markovic. "Finally, at the end of the game, we put the game away. We created a lot of opportunities but did not finish. At the end of the day, we did get the result."

Stony Brook improved to 5-3-0, while the Red Foxes fell to 2-4-1.

"I think this team can win the conference and go to the NCAA tournament," explained Rakovic. "This is my way to call all the students to come to the games, especially those who do not have anything to do on Saturdays."



came off the bench, Sebastian Villa and Tamer Mohamed, played very well."

The Red Foxes nearly tied the game in the 41st minute of play. An indirect free

Daniel Owens on several occasions.

"I told the team at halftime that they have to be accountable for their actions," mentioned Markovic. "They needed to

ABANDONMENT continued from 26

to some of the B-sides. Although I thoroughly enjoy most of the studio album, the real treat lies in the live album. Many of the live renderings are actually improvements over the studio versions, due to the energy and slight yet significant-enough improvisation and variation on the originals.

Their third full studio effort, *Absolution*, is in many ways their most cohesive masterpiece. I admit that there is a

bit of filler on this album, but it is not enough to devalue appreciably the beauty and power of this conspiratorial tour de force. After a short intro track, the first full song, "Apocalypse Please," stuns you with a staccato barrage of a piano melody and percussion, and one can only be but mesmerized by the lyrics. "Time is Running Out" and "Hysteria" are probably some of Muse's best-known songs, and rightfully so, as

they are crafted out of the best lyrics and beats ever conceived in modern progressive rock (I use the genre term broadly). "Sing for Absolution," "Stockholm Syndrome," "Falling Away

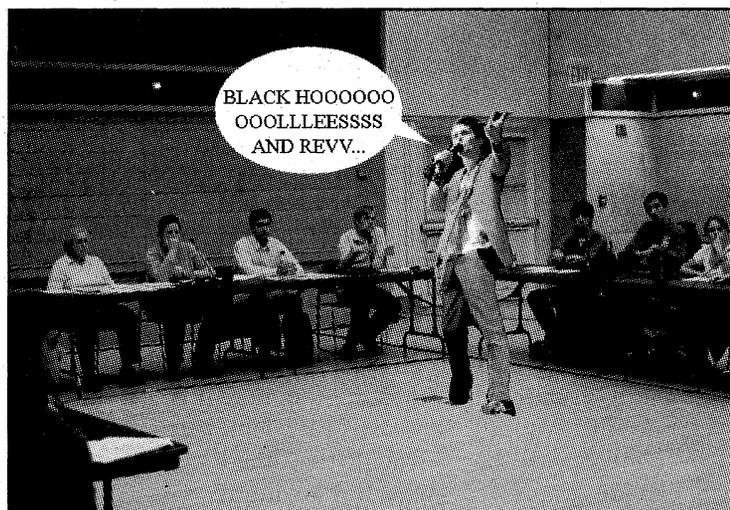
with You," "Butterflies & Hurricanes," "The Small Print," and "Thoughts of a Dying Atheist" are all standout tracks as well. The ending song, "Ruled by Secrecy," is probably the slowest track and most likely would have been awkward and a distraction if placed somewhere else in the album, but as an exit track it is quite good, almost hypnotic and disarming.

Muse's latest album, *Black Holes and Revelations*, is one of those albums to which it takes a while for the listener to warm up to, but once one does, he can't put it down until he overplays it to death (but then, after a week-long respite, he picks it up again, listens to it, then repeats the cycle). The subject matter is, very much like *Absolution*, rather conspiratorial and paranoid. But it is not paranoid without merit, for the lyrics deal with topics and feelings which can be universalized for anyone with half a brain and who utilizes said half of brain. Even most of the rhythms and beats invoke paranoia in those who hear these

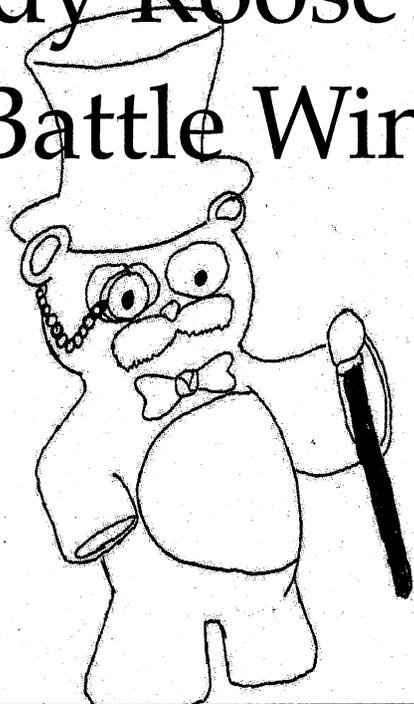
songs. Overall, it's a well-rounded Muse album that garners my respect, which is not usually doled out so liberally.

On one final note, I must inform you, the uninformed and uninitiated masses, of the wonderful, sonorous experience that is a Muse concert. Such concerts are unable to be duplicated or substituted. In fact, they are akin to a religious experience (I don't intend to denigrate the significance of religious experiences for the many spiritual individuals out there, merely to convey how enthused and ecstatic I was during the concert). Next time you see that Muse is touring within a 100-mile radius of your home, you really ought to make every reasonable effort to attend the show.

"Men decide far more problems by hate, love, lust, rage, sorrow, joy, hope, fear, illusion, or some other inward emotion, than by reality, authority, any legal standard, judicial precedent, or statute." - Cicero



TOP TEN Teddy Roosevelt Rap Battle Winners



- 10 Step off, whore, I *do* belong on Mt. Rushmore.
- 9 Bull Moose-izzle Representizzle!
- 8 My God! Those hills of yours couldn't Sag-a-more!
- 7 Hey, ho, you can cuddle up with this Teddy bear anytime.
- 6 I got ninety-nine problems, but conservation ain't one!
- 5 I speak *loudly* when you carry *my* big stick.
- 4 Bust a nut on them trusts.
- 3 The Panama Canal wan't the only canal I dug through!
- 2 That's how Rough Riders roll.
- 1 I mediated the peace treaty between Japan and Russia in 1905, earning myself the Nobel Peace Prize.

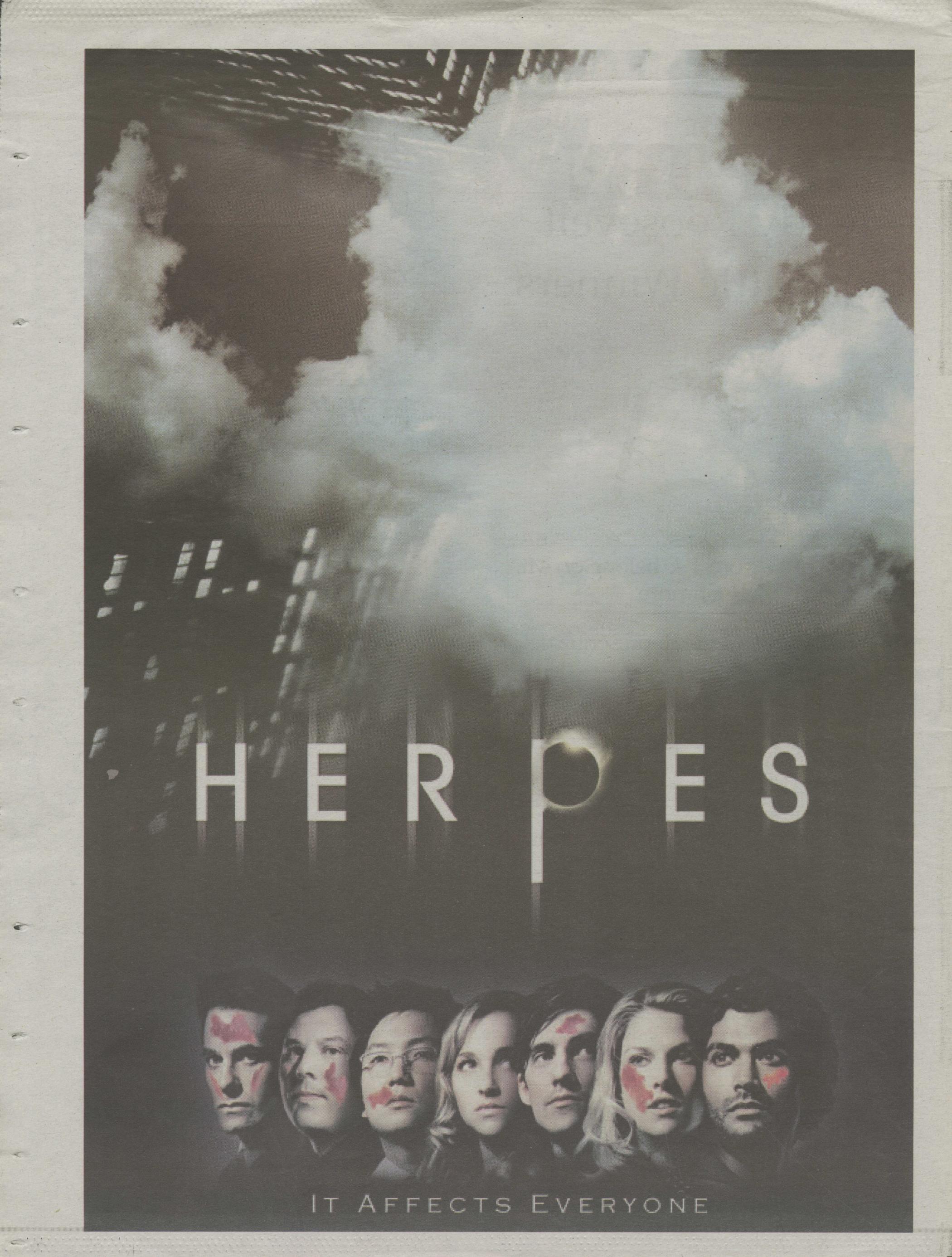
DUMB T-SHIRT
DESIGNS ARE
BEAR-LY
TOLERABLE



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CONTEST ENDS OCTOBER 30th, 11:59PM!
START DESIGNING!

A movie poster for the film 'Herpes'. The top half features a dramatic sky with dark, swirling clouds and a bright, glowing light source. The title 'HERPES' is centered in large, white, serif font. Below the title, a row of seven diverse characters is shown from the chest up, all looking forward with serious expressions. The bottom of the poster has the tagline 'IT AFFECTS EVERYONE' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

HERPES

IT AFFECTS EVERYONE