

The Stony Brook

PRESS

The Community News and Features Paper

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"It feels like you are wiping your
ass with the finest silk
from the Far East"

August 29, 2007



Inside: The Freshman Guide!
Plus: Five Pages of Kotei

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editorials

All I Want For Christmas is My USG

If the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) is Santa's workshop, then President Joseph Antonelli would be Santa, the man in charge of making miracles happen before Christmas. This, Mr. Santa and Mr. Santa's helpers, is our Christmas list:

1. Make that "hack slash bonanza" budget that many Senators have tried so desperately to avoid. *The Stony Brook Independent* has been trying for years to get some funding and some decent, on-campus office space. Instead, you awarded \$3500 to Animated Perspectives for a field trip. If you're trying to foster a community spirit on campus, why are you giving people money to go away? We guess that Santa really doesn't visit the poor kids after all.

2. Get out of bed with the College Republicans. We get that, as a Republican, you sort of like the government, exempting cases of free enterprise. Stop letting one organization bleed into an-

other. Let freedom ring!

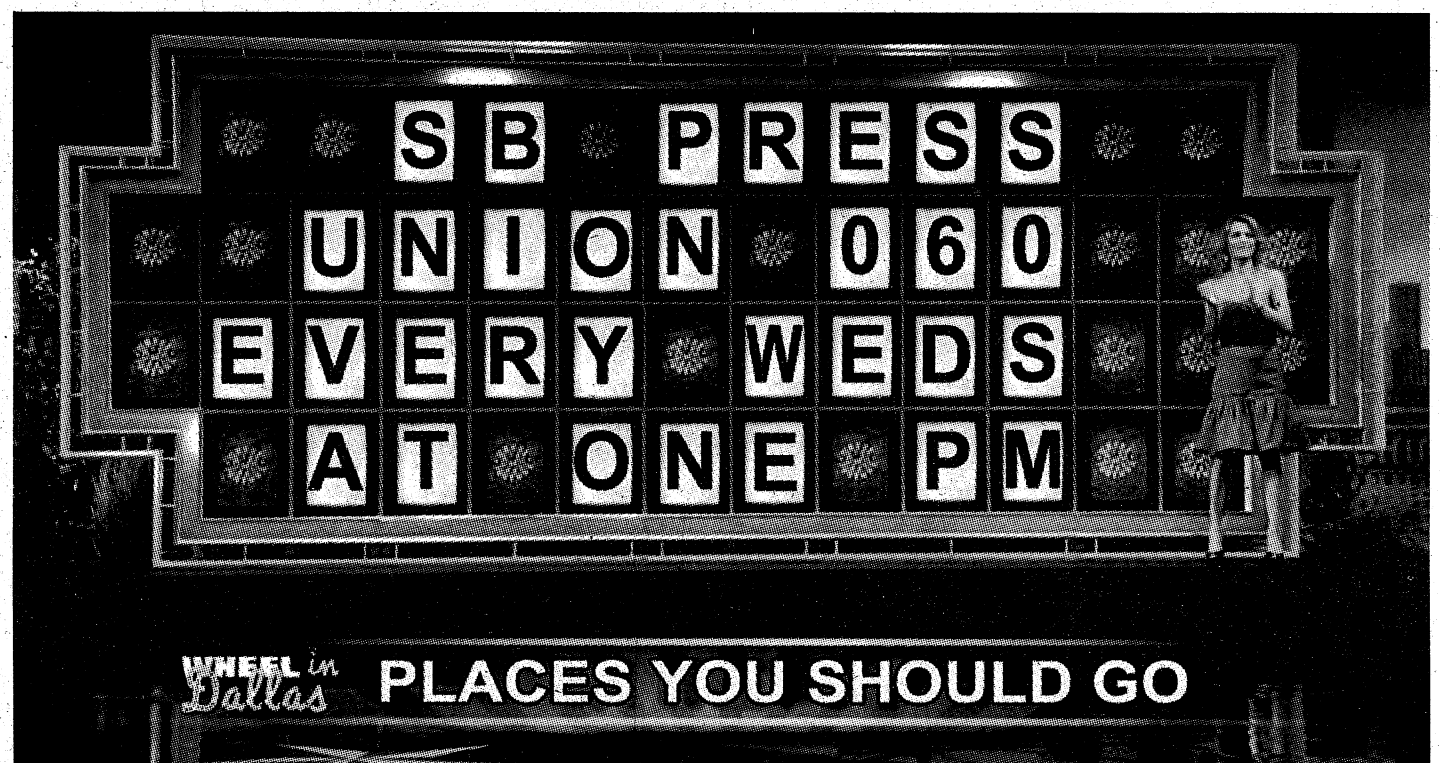
3. On that note, stop telling us that you're "viewpoint neutral" when you deal with other organizations. We might be making a Christmas list, but we're not stupid little children. Of course you would want to give your buddies a little leg up in the system. We're not too idealistic to say that you should stop this altogether. However, if you're going to do it, stop lying about it just to cover your own ass. It only makes you look more idiotic and flustered when someone brings it up during a meeting.

4. The Student Bureau of Investigations (SBI) was created last spring to supposedly squash any internal violations. However, you have a hard enough time getting more than five percent of the student body to vote for representatives. How are you going to find students that are neither apathetic, nor directly involved with USG? *The Press* would love to get paid to act as a USG

whistleblower. You should simply buy official SBI hats for us and just call it a day.

5. We don't entirely understand the appeal of USG. However, we know that there are a few well-meaning students who, in their quest to join your exclusive club, have the balls to go before the Senate and answer asinine questions about your Constitution. A candidate shouldn't have to pick it apart with flashcards the night before they talk to you. For an organization that is such a stickler for their rules, you sure do enjoy cutting them up like paper dolls every semester. Perhaps you should focus on obtaining people with fresh ideas rather than settling for the same old biddies every year.

President Joe Antonelli, we know you're not Santa. If Santa existed, maybe USG would make some sense. However, we will leave you cookies if you allocate for a *Press* pony.



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I think it's worth noting, and this gets left out often, that Senator Obama has held elected office for longer than either Senator Clinton or former Senator Edwards. He was just a state Senator for much of that time.

As a state Senator, he worked more closely with the people and their day to day problems. He also taught constitutional law and worked as a community organizer to help those who were disenfranchised. Who better than a professor of constitutional law to restore Habeas Corpus and our rights to not be spied on without a warrant? He has championed open government, ethics reform, and campaign finance reform throughout his whole public life, and was made the point man on ethics in the Senate in his first year. And he is the only candidate to have the foresight to be against the war from the beginning.

Now, you tell me who really has better experience for leading this country. I think the answer is clear...

Bryan Barash
Former Press staffer



News In Brief

Compiled by James Laudano

•The Roof! The Roof! The Roof Is On Fire!

The Stony Brook Physics building roof caught fire on August 9. The fire damaged a 10-foot section of the roof. A university official stated that the blaze did not appear to be suspicious in any way, and was most likely connected to the ongoing construction surrounding the building.

•We're Number One! We're Number One!

As you may or may not have heard, Stony Brook University ranked number one in the nation in the category of "Least Happy Students" in the latest Princeton Review. Much more on this later in the issue, so read on!

•Javits Under Construction

If you haven't been to Stony Brook during the summer, consider yourself lucky. Most SUNY schools suffer from ongoing construction these days, and Stony Brook is no exception to this rule. The Javits Lecture Hall, a building which consistently ranks amongst the most ugly on campus, is being "beautified." The construction seems to be merely an outer facelift however, as they don't seem to be renovating the atrocious inside of the building. The construction aims to be completed by the semester begins but..... We've all heard that before here at SBU.

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Meetings + Wed + 1 PM + Union 060



My Time In The Land of the Rising Sun

By James Laudano

For those who are unaware, Stony Brook University offers a large number of stellar study-abroad and foreign exchange programs (that's one of the stronger traits this University possesses, if you ask me). It was with this in mind that I ventured into the university's study abroad office, located on the top floor of the library. When I discovered that they offered a summer program in Japan, I quickly decided to leap at it. And, to make a somewhat long and boring story short and not-quite-so-boring, I was accepted to the program in Japan for the summer of 2007. What follows is a brief recounting of events and impressions from my time spent in the Land of the Rising Sun...

I prepared to leave for Japan shortly after the spring semester ended, brimming with excitement and expectations. I didn't speak a word of Japanese, I had never been there before, and most of what I knew about the country came from textbooks and pop-culture diffusion. Looking back, it was probably that inexperience and a "clean slate" that probably excited me most. Part of me really wanted to live for an extended period of time in a land where I was really different, a land where I didn't speak the language and would appear foreign.

The professor who would accompany and teach us in Japan was Eva Nagase from the Asian and Asian-American Studies department here at Stony Brook University. Prior to leaving for Japan, we spent a week at SBU with her, receiving a crash course in the basics of Japanese culture and language (a primer that would prove invaluable during the early parts of my time abroad). In retrospect, it was Professor Nagase who held the whole trip together, making sure we didn't make total fools of ourselves in Japan while guiding us to various cultural sights and teaching us the language. If you ever get the chance, I strongly recommend you take a class with her (and if you are reading this, sensei, I would like to take this moment to send out this printed 'thank you' to you!). On June 1st, after the introduction week at SBU, I departed for Japan along with nineteen other students from Stony Brook.

Upon arriving in Japan, my mind and my worry swung straight towards my host family. Each of the students from Stony Brook would be staying with a different host family, and I worried about all of the obvious things; would I offend them? Would

we be able to communicate at all? Would we get along well? We wouldn't actually meet our families for the first time until the second full day in Japan, so I had an extra day to grow anxious over these questions.

As it turned out, I didn't have anything to worry about. The host family I stayed with, the Takahashis, were more than welcoming and accommodating. I got along with them all incredibly well from the very start, despite some early communication bumps. The Takahashis were perhaps the most active family I've ever met. The son, Takeshi, was on the high school football team, and almost every night, a good number of the squad would come over to the house and hang out. I would be dead tired at the end of every day just from running around the town with the family.



Shibuya District in Tokyo

James Laudano

The city I stayed in, Mishima (population of around 111,000), was located in Shizuoka, one of the central prefectures of Japan. The city was overlooked by the beautiful Mt. Fuji, the national icon of Japan. This afforded me many gorgeous views during my stay. On clear days, I could see Fuji from the train station, my classroom, and anywhere else in the city.

Another major fixture of my daily life in Japan was the university I attended with my fellow SBU students. Nihon University, Mishima Campus, is a university centered on international studies. From the very start, the administrators were very accommodating and welcoming towards us, and they went out of their way to provide us with the best university experience Japan could offer. Aesthetically, the school was very much akin to Stony Brook, only much smaller. It had a few nicely designed buildings, but much of it seemed to harken back to a period when architecture wasn't really taken seriously. While that was a small shame, it didn't really matter when one could see Mt. Fuji from anywhere on campus.

However, the best part of our stay at Nihon University was the way we were received by the Japanese stu-

dents enrolled at the school. During the first few days, we were somewhat understandably greeted with many long stares and pointed fingers. However, it wasn't long before our Japanese counterparts were hanging out with us in the cafeteria, joining us for nights on the town, playing basketball with us, or belting out songs alongside us in one of the many karaoke establishments. And, thanks to the miracle of Facebook, we all still stay in contact with our new friends from Nihon University.

From my experience this summer, I found Japanese society possessed many aspects that our Western style of living sorely lacks. For one, education, health, and safety were taken much more seriously in Japan. Also, the nation was much cleaner and well taken care of. In fact, during our trip to Tokyo, a city of 12 million people, I was hard-pressed to find many dirty areas. Everything seemed very crisp and clean, and litter was rare. In addition, unlike American extreme individualism, the Japanese placed a bit more emphasis on the group and society as a whole, and they tended to consider what course of action was best for the community as a whole before they acted. Perhaps due to this, there is much less crime than in the United States (in fact, when I asked my host sister how often they hear reports of drunk-driving incidents, she told me it was only a few times a year!) In addition, the elderly were treated with much more respect. It's much rarer for a Japanese family to place their elderly in a nursing home, and often the senior citizens work for decades after a normal American would have retired. For example, my host family's grandparents were in their mid-eighties and they still tended their own rice field everyday.



A View of Mt. Fuji

James Laudano

In terms of popular culture in Japan, most of you must have had at least some exposure to it over the years. Whether it's from Nintendo, Pokemon, manga, or movies like Kill Bill or Godzilla, you've probably been introduced to some shred of Japanese culture. In fact, most Japanese people

our age really do love anime and video games as much as Americans may expect. However, there is still that underlying common ground that every person, regardless of nationality, shares, and much of Japanese popular culture and personal interest follows along the same lines as ours do here.

All of the above being said, Japan is one of the most unique and culturally layered nations in the world. There is such a successful blending of the traditional and the ultra-modern aspects of Japanese culture which makes the nation a treasure to visit. One can visit centuries-old temples and monuments, take hikes through beautiful forests and mountain ranges, and yet still take a visit to Tokyo and feel as if they have been thrust into a futuristic city of extreme visual stimulation. The food is wonderful, and it's not all sushi, for those who were wondering. Despite all of these amazing traits, what makes Japan so wonderful, in my eyes, is the welcoming, generous, and friendly people who make all of the other aspects of the society possible. While it's true you will find some rude or cold individuals in Japan, it's not nearly as much as in the United States. And while it is also true that it may take some time for those you meet in Japan to really open up to you and act familiarly with you, once they do, they will treat you as if you were old friends for years. I will, undoubtedly, cherish the friendships I made with my host family and fellow students more than anything else from my trip to Japan. (And for those who are curious, the previous issue of *The Stony Brook Press* contains numerous photographs taken while I was in Japan throughout the issue. Most of them are comedic in nature, however, and if you want to see all of them, serious and comedic alike, you can always check my Facebook albums.)

This mere article couldn't possibly hope to explain or encompass the feelings and memories that one experiences whilst traveling and/or studying abroad. Words, especially those which are printed, often fail to do justice to the trip, and I don't consider myself a strong enough writer to even begin to convey the wonder and emotions that I, or anyone else for that matter, experiences while traveling. I simply hope you enjoyed reading this, maybe learned a thing or two about Japan, and above all, were inspired to go out and see the world for yourself. It's much better than reading about it, and I can guarantee you that. So, sayonara for now, and good luck in all of your life's travels.



James Laudano



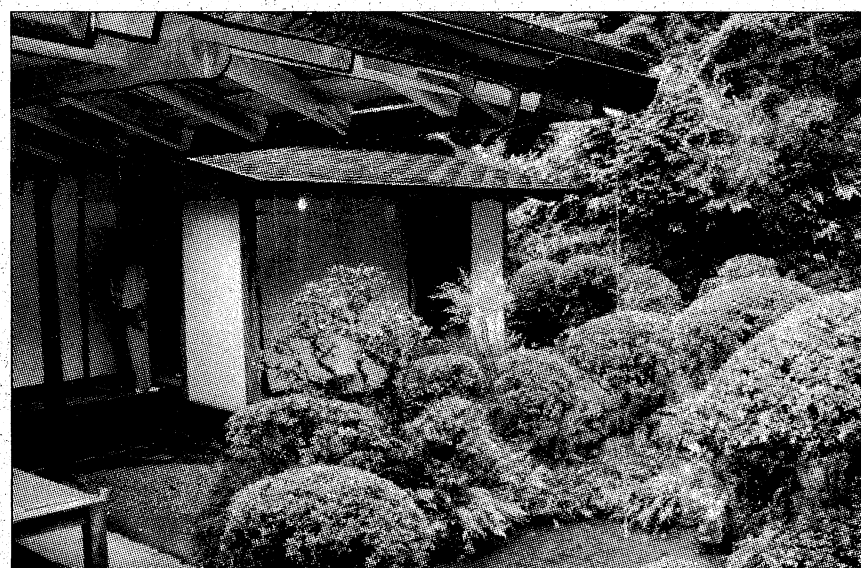
James Laudano



James Laudano



James Laudano



James Laudano

Turning up the Heat, or Ice Sea a Problem

By Jonathan Singer

"We're not interested." That's the most common response, even though more than half the time, they don't know what they're not interested in. Maybe someone knocked on their door to give them \$30. If they're not interested, they will never know.

But bothering people on summer afternoons is what they do best. As canvassers for The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), audacious young college students make a living out of knocking on stranger's doors and asking for money.

"Hi, my name is Carolyn, and I'm with NYPIRG, the New York Public Interest Research Group," she says with a smile. Carolyn Trotter has just knocked on a random person's door. "NYPIRG is New York State's largest consumer and environmental advocacy organization," she adds, but this time it doesn't matter who NYPIRG is. "No thanks, too many visitors,"

says the man at the door. At least he has the courtesy to say "thank you."

Like every other non-profit organization, the money to fund the costs of operation has to come from somewhere. Since NYPIRG doesn't accept money from corporate sponsors, the summer months are dedicated to public outreach, with an emphasis on "public." Canvassers, as they are called in the industry, go door to door in communities across the state (there are offices all over, from Buffalo to Huntington) collecting funds to cover everything from salaries of full time employees to the light bulbs in the shanty office.

On the subject of light bulbs, Trotter gets excited when she reaches a home with energy saving halogen light bulbs as the front porch lights, a sure sign of environmentally friendly homeowners. "Some of the people I talk to are just so cool," she says, remembering one time when a donor gave her son's vinyl record collection along with a contribution. "When talking to strangers, it's always better to talk with them, and not at them."

But it can get difficult when Carolyn can't even finish her rap, the script she follows when she talks to homeowners at the door.

Part of her job is to weed through the people who are not interested to find citizens who genuinely care about the issue and who are willing to donate at least \$30 to NYPIRG, mak-

Audacious young college students make a living out of knocking on stranger's doors

ing them a citizen member of the organization, joining the over 10,000 other members across the state.

"The best way to educate people is through one-on-one interaction, says Cheryl Lynch, chairperson of the NYPIRG board of directors, adding that like any other job, canvassing is not for everybody. It's not uncommon

for Carolyn to disrupt families in the middle of dinner, as canvassers systematically roam the streets from 4PM to 9PM at night, five days a week. People are also disrupted in the middle of long-distance phone calls, although it's possible for homeowners to use that as a ruse, in order to get a stranger off of their doorstep.

Some might question the legality of door-to-door fundraising. But after going through the U.S. Supreme Court, it was ruled that "the authors of the First Amendment knew that novel and unconventional ideas might disturb the complacent, but they chose to encourage a freedom which they believed essential if vigorous enlightenment was ever to triumph over slothful ignorance." That case, Martin v. City of Struthers, was fought over the rights of a canvassing Jehovah's Witness. And interesting things happen when NYPIRG canvassers knock on the door of Jehovah's Witnesses: they get reversed canvassed, preached to about God

NYPIRG continued on page 6

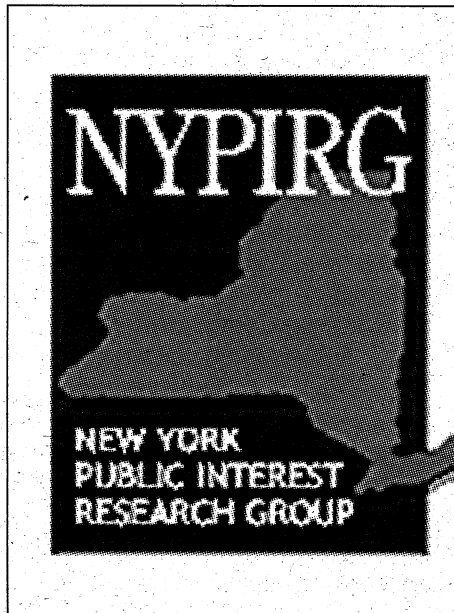
Food For Thought

Frankly, this has to be one of the most feature intensive issues we've put out in a long time. For God's sake there is five pages of Kotei and only 500 words of news. I'd better start looking for a new job. —James Laudano, News Editor

NYPIRG continued from page 5

and Jesus instead of global warming and recycling.

It's not uncommon for political debates to break out between pas-



nypirg.org
New York Public Interest Research Group

sionate homeowners and NYPIRG canvassers. Another problem is spousing, when one spouse is interested and inspired to join NYPIRG, while their significant other is not. For a while, Carolyn was against marriage because she saw so much spousing.

The goal each night is to raise \$130. A good canvasser will meet and exceed the weekly \$650. Carolyn once convinced a woman to give her \$365, a dollar a day to fund NYPIRG campaigns. And all she had to do was ask. She even remembers what she said to the generous donor: "So Eileen, how much were you going to renew your membership at?" Trotter asked. Sometimes, it's that simple.

But Chairperson Lynch says that while money is definitely important (and they're not buying new desks and flat screen TVs with it), the primary goal of summer canvassing is education. There is even a canvasser hierarchy: Educate, Inspire, and

Fundraise. "A lot of people [our canvassers] talk to have no idea New York State doesn't have an energy policy."

"[But] even if you make \$10, you know that at the end you're doing something good for the environment."

Melissa Sgroi
NYPIRG

Trotter has been educating people about clean air and accountable government for the past four years. A less glamorous campaign that Trotter talks about is the Bigger Better Bottle Bill, a project that works to make non-carbonated beverage containers

redeemable for five-cent deposits. While plastic bottles and aluminum cans are not as scary as global warming and corrupt politicians, part of the canvasser's job is to reveal the urgency behind every issue.

Facts and figures are essential tools of the canvasser. Carolyn can inform citizens that New York State's energy policy expired in 2002, and now the state is importing 15% of its electricity. As a matter of fact, residents of New York pay more for energy than any other state, according to one NYPIRG canvasser. It's this attention to detail that allows canvassers like Trotter to pull off \$365 nights, keeping the lights on at NYPIRG for another year.

"[But] even if you make \$10, you know that at the end you're doing something good for the environment," says canvasser Melissa Sgroi. "It's the hardest job you'll ever have. It's also the most rewarding."

Wang Gives Your Ass Special Treatment

By Bryan Hasho

Outside the rear doors of Jasmine, the Charles B. Wang center's second floor Asian eatery, is what some cite as one of Stony Brook's little treasures. An elevated stone boardwalk hangs over lily pads in a pond complete with exotic fish and various plant life. Bamboo stalks surround polished red fences, and there are shiny dining sets positioned under the towering pillar of worthlessness that looms above. To some, it is quite pretty—it's the kind of ambiance needed to forget about the food. It's the kind of ironic corporate cover-up that would make Mr. Wang proud.

In all probability, after a meal at Jasmine you're going to have to seek out the lavatory. Stale rice and shoe-sole General Tso's can only stay down so long. You tighten your hamstrings and rock the express saunter back through Jasmine, crossing the hall and kicking

open the bathroom door as you throw a few pennies over your shoulder en route for the pools below. Good luck.

Then comes the revelation—you stop right there in your tracks, cold sweat and all. You've found Stony Brook's real treasure. You're in the Charles B. Wang Center bathroom.

It's stocked with double-barreled toilet paper, each filled with the softest most velvety Asian linens[...]

The bathroom in the Wang Center is, undeniably, the finest, most inspired work of architecture on campus. It is absolutely remarkable. Honestly, this place is fit for a king. Mr. Wang wishes he could park his old wrinkly ass in

there each day.

The bathroom has a sort-of walkway entrance; the etched stonewalls in the pathway leading to the actual facility give you a chance to fix your posture before you make it around the bend. There are marble floors and the florescent lights shine through hanging translucent glass beams. The climate control is flawless—you want to be loose, after all.

In the main part of the room, there is plenty of room to stretch or do jumping jacks beforehand. To your left are three seemingly untouched urinals. They are American Standard, of course, as every Asian Paradise should be. There's three egg-shaped, glistening bowl sinks—one for each urinal.

They don't bother with those cheap plastic soap dispensers, either. Oh no, they're stainless steel as well, and again there's one for every sink. The hand dryer is of the finest quality—only poor bastards use their hands to turn those things on these days.

While each stall is an absolute

dookie dreamland, the one furthest from the door is what I like to call the deluxe supreme ultimate extreme limited edition stall. It's that good. It's stocked with double-barrel toilet paper, each filled with the softest, most velvety Asian linens in the land. Chaffing isn't even a remote possibility.

Now here's the kicker: it has its own sink. The stall is so spacious, they decided to equip it with its own sink, soap dispenser, and paper towel dispenser. Out. Of. Control.

If the food wasn't so absolutely repulsive, you could live in the Wang Center. And live like a King you would. Except for an occasional building worker and Jasmine straggler, rarely will there be much company. Even if there is, they'll be just as consumed as you were. Heck, the bathroom was so impressive they didn't seem to mind me sitting in the corner taking notes as they relieved themselves. Either that or they had the chicken.

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Cheney Scandal Shakes Washington, Cybertron

By Joe Safdia

Few Americans showed any surprise when Vice President Dick Cheney came out of the closet during the 2004 presidential campaign, revealing himself to be a super-powered cyborg with indestructible metal skin, alien weapons of unimaginable power, and the ability to hack into any computer network using only his positronic brain. But today, the citizens of two worlds expressed outrage when the Senate Judiciary Committee was presented with an e-mail Karl Rove sent via the Republican National Convention's e-mail address that clearly identified Cheney as the senior advisor to the Decepticons, a Cybertronian military faction recently placed onto the United States' list of terrorist organizations, as well as a longtime personal friend of the Decepticons' infamous leader, Megatron.

The e-mail, which was one of the many documents subpoenaed by the Judiciary Committee to be used in the Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez scandal, revealed Cheney as the mastermind of many failed Decepticon plans to steal Earth's resources, destroy humanity, and conquer the universe, all of which were thwarted by the Autobots. The latest and most shocking plot involved the Decepticons stealing all of Venezuela's oil, packing it into Energon Cubes, and selling it via Halliburton back to the Venezuelan people to fund the Iraq War, the Autobot-Decepticon War, and the construction of a new Unicron.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) made no effort to hide his shock and disbelief.

"If I hadn't seen this e-mail with my own eyes, I'd think it was some sort of joke. But the Vice President; a traitor to the American people? A Decepticon advisor?" Leahy told reporters after the hearing. "It does explain some things, though, such as his eagerness to invade Iraq, his notable disdain for freedom, and the fact that he reportedly does drive to work everyday but there's never a car in his spot."

Senator Leahy wasn't the only official taken aback by the discovery. Presidential hopeful Senator Barack Obama vowed to clean up Washington by passing reforms preventing officials from

taking campaign funds from Cybertronian lobbyists, former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani vowed to singlehandedly thwart Decepticon attacks while continuing to spend 219 hours a day cleaning up the rubble at the World Trade Center as he has done everyday since 9/11, and Dinobot leader Grimlock began firing missiles at a mountain in anger.

Even Autobot leader Optimus Prime had words for the Vice President.

"Remember, Mr. Vice President, that freedom is the right of all sentient beings. This is just as I've suspected all along. Only a Decepticon would sup-

Decepticons.

President George W. Bush has been quick to come to Cheney's aid, complimenting him on doing a "fantastic job" as Vice President and as a man with a vision of a world free of terrorism. Despite the e-mail, Bush has also denied the possibility of Cheney's direct involvement in the Decepticon terrorist attacks of the last twenty years, stating that Cheney has merely provided "a small degree" of weapons training to Megatron and certain other Cybertronians millions of years ago, long before America ever declared the Decepticons a terrorist organization or was even founded.



Osama Bin Laden

Michael Bay ... Nevermind

port waterboarding and other forms of torture," Prime told Reporticons at a press conference earlier today on Cybertron. "At the end of this day, one shall stand and one shall fall. And guess what? My spark works perfectly fine," he added, pointing to his chest.

Not all Autobots share Prime's bravery, however. Bumblebee, Ratchet, Hound, Wheeljack, and Skyfire, who have seen two decades of brutal fighting on Earth and millions of years of oppression on Cybertron, have deserted the Autobots in fear of the awesome might of a wrathful and ruthless Dick Cheney, whose body contains the combined firepower of Iran. Even Ironhide, a longtime friend of Prime's, tried to convince him to surrender to the

"Even the President's take on the situation is a major cause for alarm," said Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Ca.) of Bush's statement. "Because that would mean that, yet again, we provided training to people who would eventually become terrorist leaders dead set on destroying America. Of course, that still doesn't take into consideration that the e-mail proves that Cheney had a hand in terrorist attacks on American soil, and that the President is lying in order to defend a terrorist."

"Many Democrats are considering an investigation to see what other officials in this administration are sponsoring terrorists. Hopefully, Bush will, for once, just cooperate with the subpoenas instead of going on and on about 'exec-

utive privilege,'" added Pelosi.

In an exclusive interview with this paper, Starscream, Megatron's second-in-command, was furious over the news.

"I'm his first officer, and he didn't even tell me that Cheney was advising him this whole time?" roared Starscream in anger, killing a nearby Constructicon in his rage. "They've always been such good friends, and if Cheney wants to be Megatron's right hand, they wouldn't hesitate to kill me and have him take my place. Which means I must strike first. I will destroy Megatron and become leader of the Decepticons!"

"Once that happens, you and your kind will serve me until you no longer amuse me, after which I will wipe the galaxy clean of your wretched race," added Starscream.

Cheney, who transforms into an oil truck and enjoys feeding live chickens, puppies, and Arabs to his two pets, Ravage and Laserbeak, openly admitted to reporters his role in many Decepticon plots.

"There's no need for investigations, subpoenas, and cover-ups for this. I've planned almost every one of Megatron's attacks against both American and foreign soil and will continue to do so until the human race belongs to me or ceases to exist," affirmed Cheney in an interview. "Everything is going to plan so far. The 9/11 terrorist attacks have led us into Iraq, just as I planned, and the Halliburtons will soon steal enough of that feeble nation's oil so that even Optimus Prime won't be able to stand in our way. Then once the Autobots and the Democrats are out of the way, the Decepticons will rule the universe entire!"

"Once Megatron conquers Cybertron, he will bestow this planet to me and my legion of Republicons. Then I will rename this planet the United Sparks of American and make all humans my slaves!" added Vice President Cheney.

Editor's note: There was once a discarded salad in one of the Union stairwells for an entire week.



USG update

USG's Super Sexy Summer Update!

By Adina Silverbush

Many students ask, "What is USG?" Well, not that many, because most of the students could care less. But you might care, so here it goes... all students pay a mandatory student activity fee each semester. It's about \$90 per student, which adds up to well over two million dollars every year. The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) is responsible for allocating that money in the best interest of the students. They create constitutional laws and help advocate university policy to serve the students and fight for students' rights. It's important that students care and are involved in their school government, because these are the people that actually get to talk to the mighty powers that run our University, and they can make a difference with the support of their students. Recently, they've been able to sell LIRR tickets to students at half price, as well as create new diverse dining options and a free tutoring program that hires many students. Feel free and welcome to voice your concerns to these elected officials and to come to USG Senate meetings, which are held every Thursday in the SAC. They're actu-

ally ridiculously entertaining and filled with drama. It's better than prime time TV!

President Joe Antonelli was kind enough to send The Stony Brook Press a letter with USG's summer accomplishments. He also apologizes for his update being so "long and boring."

[Joe Antonelli] apologizes for his update being so "long and boring."

-New and improved USG website: www.stonybrookusg.org. Yay! No more Wikipedia-style site: however, this also means that students can't update the site themselves and add ridiculous things to their senators' biography pages. The site will have a calendar of events and applications to be a tutor or receive tutoring.

-New USG ticket office hours: 11:30am-8:30pm.

Clubs will no longer have to pay extra money to have tickets to their events sold after 3PM, and the rest of us can all sleep a

little later. The ticket booth is located in the SAC, and this is also the place where you can buy those half price LIRR tickets.

-University Senate: New revelations show that USG has discovered thirteen more seats on the University Senate, which they never knew about! Having so many more students involved with major University decisions and discussions will really give the students a voice, and it might actually promote change on the students' behalf.

-Transportation: An extra express bus has been added for transport between South P and the SAC loop. The number of buses running that route will go from three to four. The second initiative is in its early stages, but it shows a lot of promise. James O'Connor, the Director of Transportation and Parking Services, is currently hearing proposals for a GPS tracking system to be placed on our campus buses. This will allow for students to see where the buses are, as well as to have an accurate prediction of a bus' arrival time. This will make for better planning and utilization of the campus bus service.

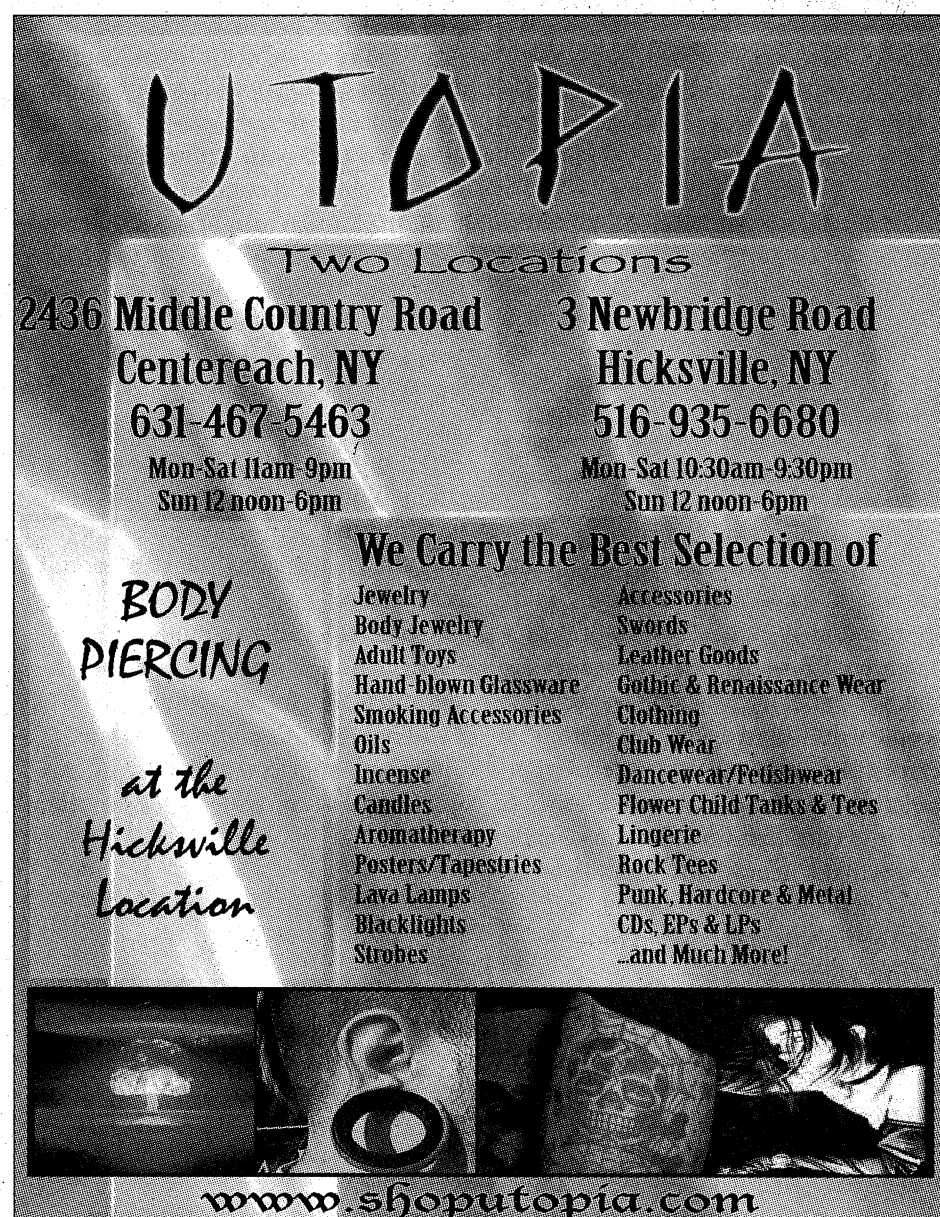
-Cell Phone Service: President Antonelli is talking with the University about the lack of cell phone service in many dorms and commuter lounges, but so far,

the University telecommunications' department was not very willing to hear this out. He hopes that, with public support, this may be an issue that can be tackled.

-DSS: Vice President Hirst followed up with Disability Support Services about a campus conditions report issued by former senator Drew Curran, which assessed handicap access on campus. As VP Hirst found out, many of these issues have been fixed over the summer. There are plans to create a map that will point out where handicap access is available in each building, providing an easy strategy to get around campus.

If you have a problem or question, contact your USG representatives:

President, Joseph Antonelli: jantonelli@notes.cc.sunysb.edu
Executive Vice President, Nathan Shapiro: nshapiro@ic.sunysb.edu
Vice President of Clubs and Organizations, Jeffrey Akita: jakita@stonybrookusg.org
Vice President of Student Life, Jonathan Hirst: jhirst@stonybrookusg.org



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"I feel so alone..." "I wish I was never born..." "I feel so dead inside..."
"Nobody would miss me if I were gone..." "I wish my life was over..."
"Promise you won't tell anybody..." "Just leave me alone..." "I can't do this anymore..."
"What do you think it feels like to be dead..." "I'm going to kill myself..."
"I want to go to sleep and never wake up..." "They'll be sorry when I'm gone..."
"I want to die..." "Soon the pain will be over..." "I can't go on without them..."
"I want to get out..." "I won't see you again..."
"Nothing matters anymore..." "I hate myself..." "It's no use..." "No one cares if I live or die..."
"I'm going to end it all..." "Life isn't worthwhile..." "I want to die..."

Help Them Get Help

"I can't live like this anymore..." "Everyone will be better off without me..." "I don't need this any more..."
"I'm better off dead..." "I can't do this anymore..." "What do you think it feels like to be dead..."?
"I'm going to kill myself..." "I want to go to sleep and never wake up..."
"They'll be sorry when I'm gone..." "It's no use..." "I want to die..."
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"I can't do this anymore..." "Everyone will be better off without me..."
"Promise you won't tell anybody..."

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Kotei's Magnum Opus

"I guess I was craving for potassium." --Kotei Aoki



Little Tips Before You Start Hating Stony Brook

By Kotei Aoki

Who Am I

I am in College of Engineering and Applied Sciences program, double majoring, and taking one minor. This year is my fourth year, but I am just looking for new career directions because major requirements are done in last two years.

My involvement in The Stony Brook Press is pretty new, since last year. My Korner column is newer, since last spring semester. I write my random thoughts and honest opinions on issues. Often I also submit articles for news, arts, and other features. It's been great working with Press staffs. Being offered to write my column was the great reward.

Above all my main focus is in Golden Key International Honour Society. This is actually my third year working in executive board, although the organisation inducts only the junior and senior standing students. The experience through Golden Key has broadened my perspectives and changed my life dramatically. I love it.

I have always been interested in behavioural science, astronomy and meteorology, on the contrary to my choices of majors/minors. But I study interdisciplinary and love learning. Now I seek future guidance and trying various other things.

My name is Japanese, but for the last time I am Chinese. I just lived in Japan a few months after the birth. I am not a typical 21 year old, or a typical Asian for that matter. You will know when you hear English out of my mouth and see my height.

So it's enough about me, let's get it down on the random topics on campus!

Interest Matching

Do the administration still utilise the little test? I think the test is pretty useless to my opinion. I was placed on College of Information and Technology and am a proud member of ITS College. But I could find few friends that share some interests. In fact I went along better with those who hardly share common interests.

My advice to you is to stay out of dorm rooms.

LEG

When you hear about weekly residential hall meeting, most of you just decide to ignore and have your own fun. I am not going to say stinks about you. The truth is majority of residential students decide to skip out of LEG meetings. By majority, I mean really,

majority. 15 is minimum to hold LEG meeting, so 20 attendance will be probably in good standing as of now.

But if you become to be RA or take part in LEG executive board, you will become frustrated by the residents' irresponsibility, negligence, selfishness, and arrogance. Each residential hall receives budget for the academic, from your activity fees. When the budget is not used, the left over will not be returned to you but will be dumped into drain. You will read what I mean later. The point is that when many of you will end up complaining about the Stony Brook before your junior year, it may be your fault that you seem to not get your money worth because you are letting your money flushed down the toilet.

The truth is majority of residential students decide to skip out of LEG meetings. By majority, I mean really, majority.

Campus Beautification And Puberty Pimples

On the same note, I want to recap one of my past pieces. It deals with the constant construction on campus - I called it Campus Beautification, or not, whatever. So the school uses all their money to look pretty. In fact it destroys. I'm thinking they keep ruining the campus because of mortgage issue or something about that, similar to what I heard about people keep renovating their houses to use up their money.

Anyway, throughout the year, I guarantee you that you will never have a day when you don't see one construction site, of course, unless you avoid those places. Asphalt cracks every a few years and the buildings wear out gradually. Of course Melville library is sinking as well, but that's another problem. During the summer the surroundings of Javits Center was under construction and the concrete floor was all dug up. Life Science building changed some bricks, surroundings were also dug up. Behind the engineering buildings was under renovation. Roth Cafeteria will be under construction for the whole year. The construction is extremely slow paced, as if behind the schedule. But as long as they will not make noise at 7 o'clock in the morning I won't say against their efficiency. If they do, you

will be reading the anger off the articles.

The point is that the construction starts by cutting down trees, balding the lawn, and remove every natural habitat. After getting rid of them with haste, the construction starts with hesitance. Alright, so I will speak modestly here, their work is horrible. Sure, the appearance of the construction wounds is like watching bad stitches. More importantly the consequence of the new construction can cause problems. For example the rotary in the south side of main campus troubles the bus drivers. I rarely ride on bus, but the bus drives are my good conversation partner when I ride on the campus buses. They complain that the rotary makes their driving so much more difficult than it was before. It's not impossible to make the circle, but the handling became harder.

So I'm associating campus beautification with puberty pimples. Some of you can guess what I mean and I had the problem too. It's a nasty problem around the oily T-zone, isn't it? It's especially nasty when you try to manipulate the pimples, like campus administration tries to manipulate the campus and try to make it look pretty. So, now, you know what I mean.

Conversationalist Bus Drivers

It's always a pleasure to talk to bus drivers. They have interesting things to say. Some professors are brilliant and you learn more things from visiting their offices. But from bus drivers you learn something worth keeping in minds. They often have more interesting things to say than some professors (too into their own research) and a few campus officials (too into their office rooms).

It is actually illegal to talk to bus drivers while the vehicles are in motion. But if you get a chance, sit in the front seats. You may hear something interesting. If you are so bored, you might also sit in the bus for rounds because at terminals like in front of SAC they can talk.

Rarely Ride

I was always sceptical of transportation fee that is included in our bills. As a resident of Roth Quad, getting on buses will probably take the same as or longer than walking to Academic Mall.

From LIRR station, people are rarely waiting for the buses. So I do not care enough to stand. So I just start walking. Besides, for taking public transportations, I plan things ahead of times. So I have no urge to arrive at campus anyway. Why do ten minutes of walk hurt, if it takes even less time

to walk?

From Apartment A through H (to be through J, in the future), Roosevelt, and Kelly, I might see the point of taking the buses. I am not sure why, but it seems to take so long. The distance from Apartments is shorter than from LIRR station.

From LIRR station, people are rarely waiting for the buses. So I do not care enough to stand. So I just start walking.

I know commuters have to use ones when they park in P-Lot. Stony Brook has problem providing enough parking space around the campus. For the full stories, you should refer to our Press archive and you will find an issue we dedicated to overcrowding campus. Tabler and behind ESS are a few large parking lot. Parking lot behind Student Union seems close but you will not be parking near the Union at the end.

Similarly I know some residents will go for grocery shopping in the weekends. The campus buses specially take routes near to the mall. But some kitchen suites residents can put (point) balance on their cards and use it as if they have meal plan. So they don't necessarily use buses on weekends either. Some people have refrigerators so they prefer to buy groceries and cook by themselves too. In conclusion, charging transportation fee seems another cheating by the school.

Least Happy Students

Alas! But it's about time. Princeton Review released the latest ranking of universities. Stony Brook University championed the category of "Least Happy Students." This is a major breakthrough for students on campus and the biggest shame on the name of worldly recognized research institution. Only consolation for school administration is that SUNY Albany was also ranked in, still below top 10 and Hofstra also made it in the list.

Stony Brook's personal information leak scandal, ever increasing Meal Plan, the costly campus meal brought to us by a monopolistic food chain, irresponsible campus officials, late mails from school other than numerous bills, persistent unreasonable overcharge on the conspired damage in

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Kotei's Magnum Opus

"I guess I was craving for potassium." --Kotei Aoki



HATING SB continued from page 9

your rooms, and the never ending efforts of campus official to ever coming up with excuses to suck up more money from you won the heart of PrincetonReview researchers. Stony Brook has gained another accomplishment to add to its list – Least Happy Students.

Feast On Your Personal Information

Last spring Stony Brook University shunned everyone on campus by releasing the scandalous event during summer. The school administration blames that their employee placed a database containing the personal information of 90,000 individuals. They realised the problem after Google had time to access and cache the file, namely two weeks.

Despite the series of their lame excuses, students were outraged that they contacted affected members of the school a month later. Significance of this duration of a month is that school administrations avoided the commotion and "outcry" of campus members. The letters were deliberately sent out a day after the last event of any academic year – graduation. The campus was empty and administration wouldn't have to deal with our criticism face to face. In fact this gave them a time of nearly three months to come up with their defence and more excuses.

One of examples of this lameness is that they claimed the cause of delay to be the compilation of letters to affected members. But you will soon realise it but the bills, and any letters asking for money, the school sent out are the most efficient. They will probably take at most a week to be thrown into your mail. Then they also say that the cause of delay was the "investigation" but they use UNIX system. If you are familiar with SOLARIS and heavily secured server system, you expect the logs to be taken. These logs do not consume much time to reach if the administrator does not procrastinate.

What can I say? Stony Brook is now offering least happiness for students. No, not just we are unhappy. Graduate students, like your TA, are pretty upset. I've heard the voices of graduate students of harsh living situation that the school enforces.

After all these ordeals, one morning, I was reading a message from school administration in disbelief. They demand for our personal information AGAIN! What a pompous attitude! While they are not doing anything to make up for their scandal, they want more personal information to leak. Yes they always say that they are doing everything to help the victim. But they only start helping if we tell them any of our damage. They got all the names and addresses of victims and they only introduce us a website where we are required to provide our

personal information AGAIN! If school administrations can't protect our privacy, stop asking for it. Stony Brook used to use students' social security number as student ID. Apparently they stopped using it, then why do they need our SSN now? If school database such as SOLAR is perfectly run with student ID number, I do not see the need for their nosy requests.

DC++

On campus, you will be demanded to use the Internet often. All the silly requirements for security updates make you feel fool. Security patches? Symantec? Oh please. There is a very good reason for Microsoft to introduce patches like every day. If I charge a dime for every time Windows OS fails, I will become a billionaire.

You may be surprised at the brilliant downloading speed on campus. Especially the download speed from school websites can top 500kbs because it is LAN connection and there is no hassle of accessing third party Internet providers. Yet, downloading from websites outside of Sparky servers can top over 100kbs depending on the other servers.

Accessing blackboard from SINC site takes forever to end. You will feel like you have to skip meals [...]

But the number of accesses to the Sparky from noon to the afternoon is still a heavy traffic. Accessing blackboard from SINC site takes forever to end. You will feel like you have to skip meals, because SINC site does not allow bringing in food. That's not all. You will soon find out that many computer geeks and other transgressors of copyright infringement use DC++ on campus. I do not know how DC++ works on campus, but the best guess is it works within Sparky LAN. Simply put DC++ is a file sharing software like eMule or µTorrent. People share TV series such as House.

The result of DC++ is the further slow down on accessibility to the system, such as Blackboard or SOLAR. Transgressors seem to be frustrated, but the frustration only makes sense to those who do not violate the copyright law. So here the matter of problem is if you want to watch your favourite show or if you want to miss the chance to update your classes or get class information. Think about it.

Flooding and Frosting

Our campus is especially vulnerable to nature; so much for damaging the prior inhabitants of the Stony Brook. The scorching rains give such a trouble for everybody. The paddle spot is the area between ESS building and Harriman Hall. I'm not sure what it is. Maybe the area is stone covered. Maybe the area is not inclined correctly. But I will tell you, when the rain showers, you won't talk into ESS base level dry. Well you won't be dry under scorching rain anyway. Probably because of my majors I also visit the area often. The area is pretty horrendous after the rain, all the time.

If you will take a walk at 11 PM around the whole circle road like I did, you will notice that some places are higher than the others. Actually you can and probably should for your safety walk the entire circle road. The danger areas after the rain are probably behind Life Science Building towards University Hospital, behind Irving College, between Kelly Quad and Stony Brook station parking lot, and in front of Roosevelt Quad. Also you should probably be careful bottom of zebra path, and in front of SBS building.

Lastly the rain will naturally create a pond in the Mendelsohn Quad. No just kidding.

Closing Cafeteria

At the end of last year, we were told that EOB, End of Bridge, the restaurant that you have to mine through the second floor of the Student Union to reach, was closing. Since in the past three years I never got a chance to visit except the time I was exploring the Student Union, I missed out on it. But it was a sanctuary of Greek Life. I heard many times sorority had parties going on. I didn't hear much from fraternity, but I'm sure they held some parties there. Otherwise they would be in some apartment. They would even be at rugby house, having keg party, but it's no more.

University café was also to be closed since last fall semester. It announced the earliest and the place didn't seem to ever close. It was fortunate for many of us because people hang out there quite a lot. They were going to close when their stock runs out, but what happened? People just started drinking less, all of sudden? Oh well, that's that.

Now it was around April, when Campus Dining Services announced the plan to shut down and renovate Roth Café, where many residents rely on for late night snacks or meal. The plan was to completely renew the interior of the building and reopens in 2008-2009 year. While it was heavily utilised by many residents, it will not serve us meals for a whole year.

It's a shame though people enjoyed the burgers and all that. I am not a burger fan, so I took milk shake and fries. Chinese place had more variety. Also they have to have those fortune cookies which were nice gifts.

At this time, I do not remember if any others will reopen this fall semester. Really honest, do I sound indifferent?

Campus Dining Hours

To accommodate those closings and renovations, Campus Dining Service came up with ambitious compromise – extension of operation hours of other campus dining. I think it's a good try. But after learning to apply Game Theory in strategic thinking, I do not see why extending the hours of dining places will compromise the closing of conveniently accessible dining places.

The SAC food court now opens until 10:30PM, two and half hours longer than past years. Kelly dining will now open 24 hours, if I remember correctly. Both Union Deli opens and BLEACHER CLUB opens have a few hours extension too. BLEACHER CLUB will have more variety of catering available.

Don't take my word for it. One of our staffs, Alex Nagler, covered in detail last semester. I also covered some details in a separate article. But I will let you search the articles in our archive, available through The Stony Brook Press homepage.

I do not see why extending the hours of dining places will compromise the closing of conveniently accessible dining places.

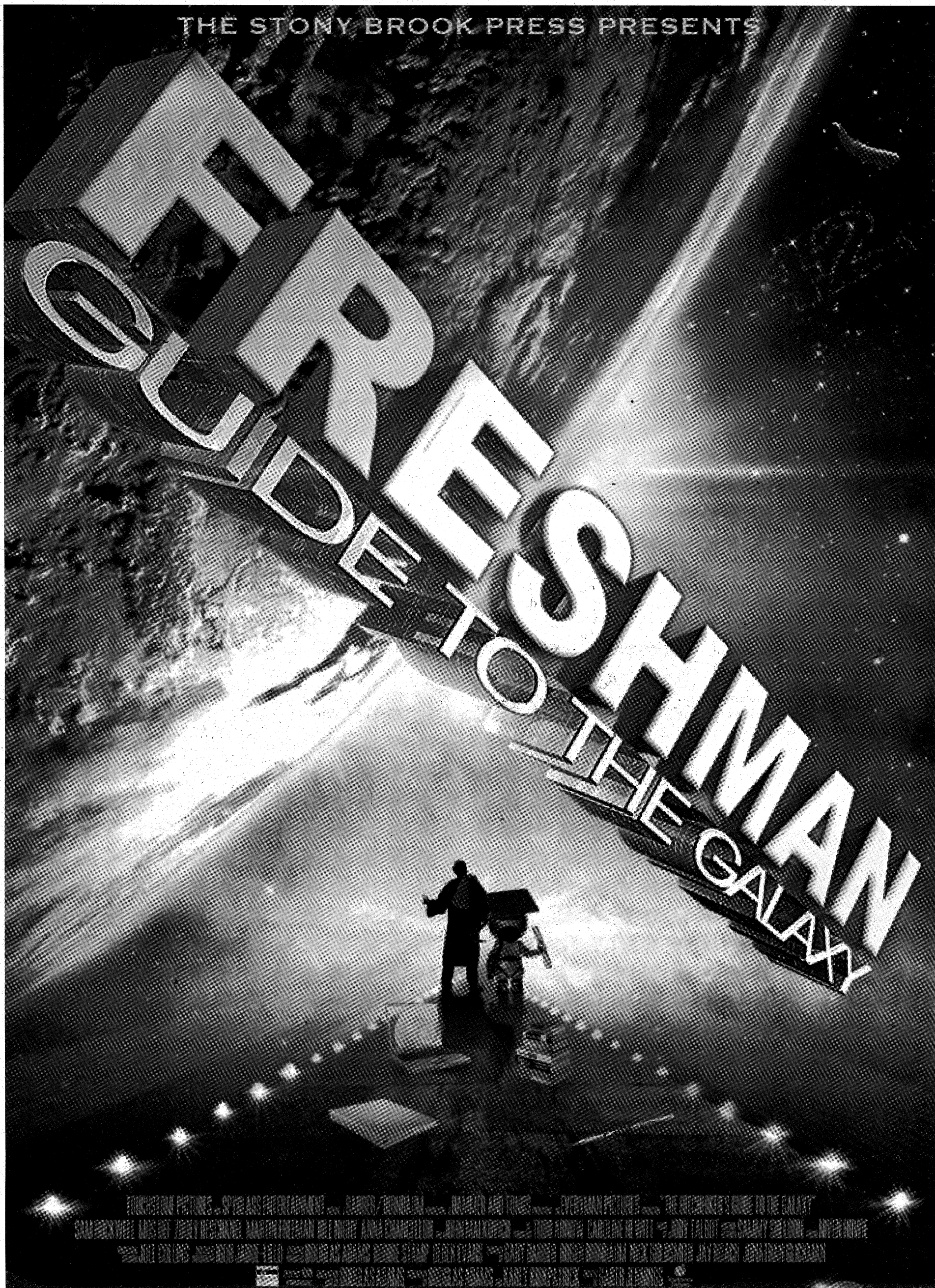
Campus Dining Locations

My main concern of Campus Dining's compromise is that they couldn't take the locations into account. Roth Café served for Tabler Quad residents and Roth Quad residents. Kelly dining served for Kelly Quad, Roosevelt Quad, and West Apartments residents. Now the nightmare isn't "too late." The problem is the new flow of traffic.

Once the Roth Café is gone, Kelly dining is ought to serve for the all four Quads. There are kitchen suites but the new traffic can jam the dining hall. After Stony Brook's campus dining failed in health exams twice, I start to wonder if the school is honest about the current status of its dining halls.

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Don't Panic

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Freshman Guide

Contributors:

Andrew Fraley

Bryan Hasho

Rebecca Kleinhaut

James Laudano

Alex H. Nagler

John O'Dell

Jowy Romano

Joey Safdia

Jesse Schoepfer

Alex Walsh





Name: Shirley Strum Kenny

DOB: Unknown.

Age: 72

Eyes: Blue. We think. It is unwise to stare into them as you may be greeted by an unwelcome sudden death.

Hair: Blonde.

Marital Status: Married.

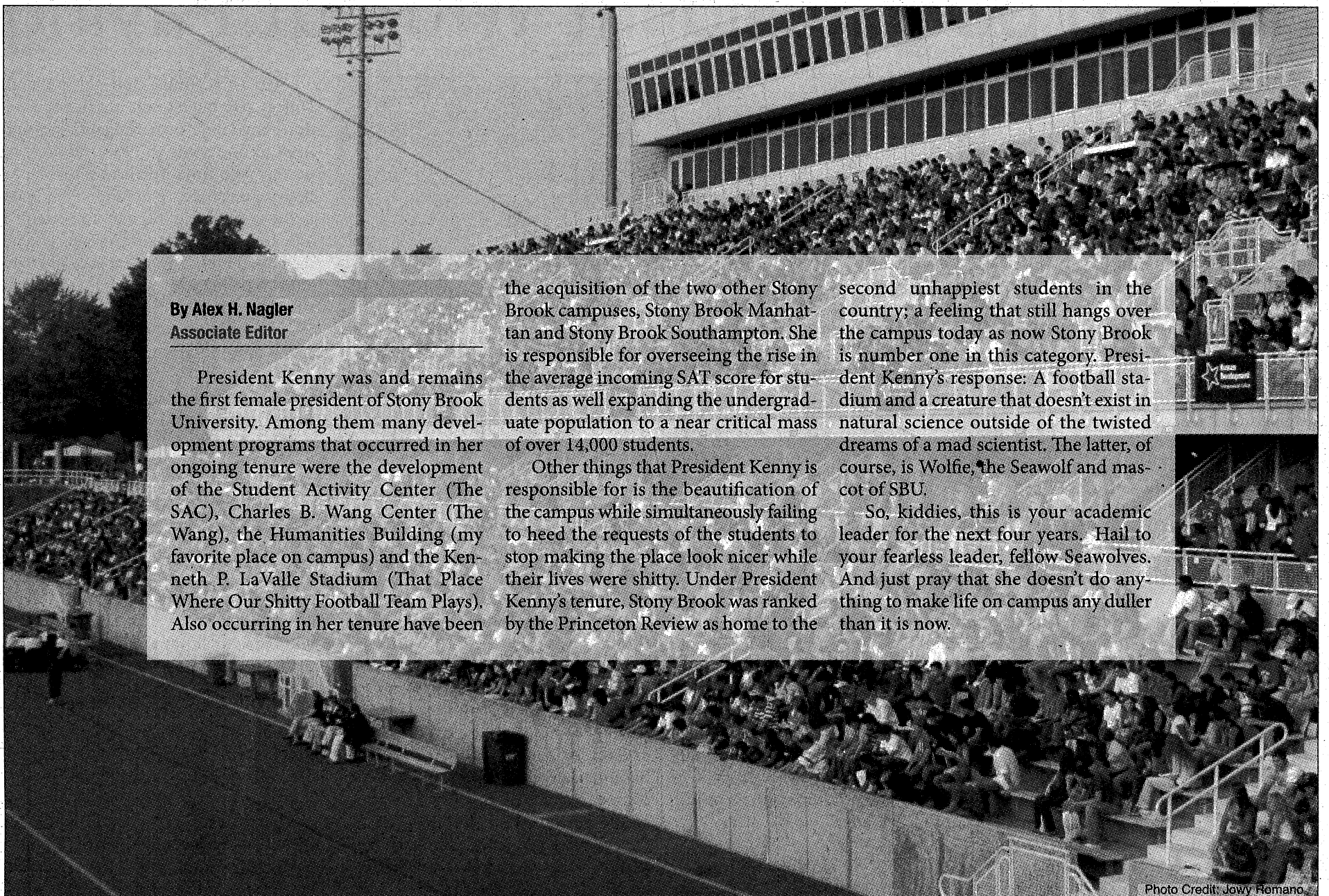
Undergraduate: BA, English and Journalism, University of Texas

Masters: University of Minnesota

Ph. D: University of Chicago

Area of Expertise: Restoration and Eighteenth Century British Drama

Entered Stony Brook: 1994, President. Currently serving in same position.



By Alex H. Nagler
Associate Editor

President Kenny was and remains the first female president of Stony Brook University. Among them many development programs that occurred in her ongoing tenure were the development of the Student Activity Center (The SAC), Charles B. Wang Center (The Wang), the Humanities Building (my favorite place on campus) and the Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium (That Place Where Our Shitty Football Team Plays). Also occurring in her tenure have been

the acquisition of the two other Stony Brook campuses, Stony Brook Manhattan and Stony Brook Southampton. She is responsible for overseeing the rise in the average incoming SAT score for students as well expanding the undergraduate population to a near critical mass of over 14,000 students.

Other things that President Kenny is responsible for is the beautification of the campus while simultaneously failing to heed the requests of the students to stop making the place look nicer while their lives were shitty. Under President Kenny's tenure, Stony Brook was ranked by the Princeton Review as home to the

second unhappiest students in the country; a feeling that still hangs over the campus today as now Stony Brook is number one in this category. President Kenny's response: A football stadium and a creature that doesn't exist in natural science outside of the twisted dreams of a mad scientist. The latter, of course, is Wolfie, the Seawolf and mascot of SBU.

So, kiddies, this is your academic leader for the next four years. Hail to your fearless leader, fellow Seawolves. And just pray that she doesn't do anything to make life on campus any duller than it is now.

Photo Credit: Jowy Hamano

Damn, It Feels Good to be a Transfer

By Rebecca Kleinhaut
Managing Editor

Transferring is no fantastic cakewalk. Even students who have been attending Stony Brook since their freshman year have trouble keeping track of their credits. Luckily, we are accomplished translators of bullshit, and we have provided you with a translated copy of the most difficult parts of the Transfer Office's website (stonybrook.edu/transfer).

What they say: "Credits for all courses passed with a letter grade of C or higher at regionally accredited institutions or recognized by the Program on Noncollegiate Sponsored Instruction of the State of New York and recorded on official transcripts are accepted and evaluated for applicability to specific Stony Brook degree requirements."

What they mean: Counselors in the transfer office evaluate your past transcripts. However, they look only at your college transcripts. If you've taken the foreign language Regents' exam and re-

ceived over an 85, make sure to point it out to them; you might not have to take the mandatory six credits of foreign language. That's half of your first semester, completed!

What they say: "Evaluation of your previous work towards other degree requirements involves different processes depending on which Stony Brook requirement you are looking to satisfy." What they mean: You'll be left to fend for yourself most of the time; expect a lot of shuttling between the Administration Building and your academic advisor's office. The funny thing is that the Transfer Office does not really trust you to take care of business yourself. Although they make you hand deliver your transcript to your academic advisor, they place it in a sealed envelope, put tape on top of the seal, and then sign it to ensure that if you tamper with your transcript, they will find out. Perhaps this is what they mean by "processes."

What they say: "Transfer credit is entered on the official University tran-

script."

What they mean: Don't freak out when you view your unofficial transcript on SOLAR. Your transfer credits appear as a "T" on your degree progress report. Those credits might also come

Even returning students have trouble keeping track of their credits.

up as a big fat zero. Don't be alarmed; you have received the credit. They just haven't thought of anything better to put there, such as a number higher than zero.

What they say: To receive transfer credit, "Fill out a transfer credit evaluation form (available at the Transfer Office) and attach an official description of the course from the previous school's course catalog. Some departments may

require a course syllabus as well."

What they mean: The "course syllabus" bit is a loophole provided to any academic department. They can easily turn around and deny you credits because your old school is vindictive and slow in sending you a syllabus. Stony Brook can also get snooty and decide that the class you took was not up to the same caliber as theirs. If you choose to fight this, you need to be articulate when explaining why you deserve these credits. Otherwise, you'll simply back up their claim that Stony Brook is superior.

What they say: "Click here for details."

What they mean: For the love of God, click on the link! Most of these links lead you to a list of degree requirements. Print them out, get a highlighter, and go to town. However, understand that these requirements are, to a certain extent, arbitrary. Bother the crap out of any and all of your advisors. They might groan every time they see you, but hey, they're not the ones digging into their pockets to pay for credits they should have already received.

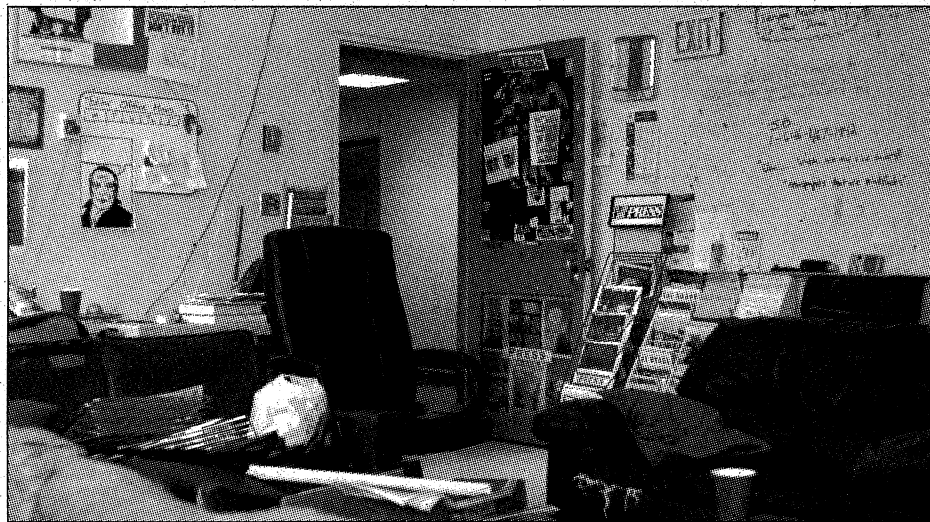
How to be a Resident Without Paying

By James Laudano
News Editor

Are you an incoming freshmen who desires to reside here at Stony Brook University, but sadly can't afford to do so? If so, don't despair! You can learn how to live a resident's life, without paying a residents fee, simply by following this easy guide.

Not so long ago I was just like you, adrift in the cold, impersonal sea of commuter students that often seems to characterize this university. But that all changed one year ago. Going into my sophomore year, I resolved to become a resident. The only problem was I couldn't come anywhere near to affording it. However, I wasn't about to let that stop me, and neither should you. Don't allow the high expense of residing on campus hold you back from having a true college experience for these four years! Just adhere to these simple steps and enjoy your time here in a cost-efficient, yet still fulfilling, manner.

Step One: Make some friends. Now this obviously is almost always a necessity for anyone to have a happy college-life, commuter or not. However, in our case, it's especially essential. Find some friends who are residents here at Stony Brook, and after a little while, ask if you can spend a night a week or so in their dorm. Sleep on the



Spend some of your free time at this mysterious place.

Photo Credit: Jowy Romano

floor or whatever. If you get two or three friends who are willing to help you, you can cover a big chunk of the school week. HOWEVER, don't you dare make friends with the intent on simply using them for their dorm room. These need to be real friends, and you need to be willing to go out of your way to return the favor to them in any way possible. Be it by using your car to drive them somewhere, or buying them dinner sometime, or whatever. Just make sure you are genuine in your friendship; otherwise you're just a damn freeloader.

Step Two: Stock up your car. In order to do this successfully, you need

to be ready to turn your car into a forward supply base. You need to throw your blanket and pillow in there, maybe a change of clothes or two, and the basic bathroom necessities like a toothbrush or whatever. Also, just as important, you need to throw some easy to make, non-perishable food items in there - oatmeal, cereal, granola bars, maybe a few fruits (if you aren't staying long), you know, stuff like that. The reason for this is, as the SB Press has illustrated in the past, food here on campus is hellishly expensive. So, if you are going to be here for three meals a day, you need to bring your own food. Just stock up every few days when you go home, or on weekends.

Step Three: Join a club, get involved. Unless you have a ton of friends who don't have their own obligations, you'll need to find some things to do here to occupy your time. You'll be spending 24 hours a day here, remember. And what is the point of living like a resident if you are just going to sit on your ass all day? If you join some clubs, or even do stuff like play a lot of pickup sports in the gym, or anything like that, your commuter/resident experience will be much more fulfilling and validated.

Now, there are a few nuances to the game, so to speak. For one, you technically aren't allowed to stay in the same dorm night after night, according to university rules. So, make sure you get a rotation going with your friends, so the authorities can't bust you or that. Also, some RAs in certain dorm houses aren't the most cooperative, so try to avoid going in the main entrances. Obviously, some won't mind at all, but it's still a good idea to be careful.

Last semester I got into a car accident and wasn't able to repair or replace it until the summer. So, even though I had already begun living this life the semester before, I was actually forced into doing it, full-time, last semester. However it truly was a blessing in disguise and I'd recommend you give it a shot if you've got the motivation. It's not as hard as you may think, trust me.

Eating On Campus

H-Quad

The cafeteria located in the Benedict building in H-Quad is, generally, a well-rounded choice. At dinner time, Taco Bell at H-Quad is one of the cheapest places to eat on campus. If you would rather not have the runs the rest of the night, the hot food choices are usually pretty good. I would suggest trying the Chicken Cordon Bleu when they have it; it's tasty. The weekend brunch is usually quite popular here, although it's a bit hard to stomach sometimes. During the day, lunch is served. It's usually a nice quiet place to sit and eat lunch and watch the occasional pigeon flying around inside.

Jasmine

The Jasmine dining hall, located in The Wang Center, is Stony Brook's source for all foods Asian. Serving Chinese, Indian, Thai, and Japanese food, the Wang Center has the potential to be an enjoyable contrast to the run-of-the-mill pizza and grill-foods located elsewhere on campus. They also serve Bubble Tea, which we recommend you try at least once. However, Jasmine also tends to be a mixed bag when it comes to quality. Depending on the time you arrive, the food can either taste wonderful and fresh, or stale and dull. That, combined with long lines during peak hours and high prices, prevent Jasmine from being all that it could be. That being said, it still often is one of the better places to eat on campus.

Kelly

Stony Brook University is an institute of higher learning with an emphasis on "institute." Just look at the Kelly Dining Hall. Serving college standards like cardboard crust pizza, the campus eatery is now open 24-hours a day, making cardboard-crust pizza available for consumption at 3AM. Breakfast is the meal of the day at Kelly, serving made-to-order egg sandwiches and other breakfast fare. Then there's the campus famous Kelly brunch available on weekends starting at 10:30AM. Try the Belgian waffles, as they are a heck of a lot better than the prepared egg product. And like at any other college dining hall, stay away from the breakfast meat. Downstairs there is the Kelly coffee and tea cafe which serves the standard cafe fare as well as powder-based smoothies. At least the eatery also has a mini-convenience store where one can buy the ultimate college staple: a box of cereal and a carton of milk.

SAC

Many reviewers complain about the high prices and the long lines at the Student Activity Center, and I'd have to agree with them. Go there and order the "hard as a rock" pizza with a red sauce that you can strip paint with. Or, better yet, go order a grilled cheese that's neither grilled nor cheese. Whenever your brain sends you that primordial impulse to eat, and you happen to

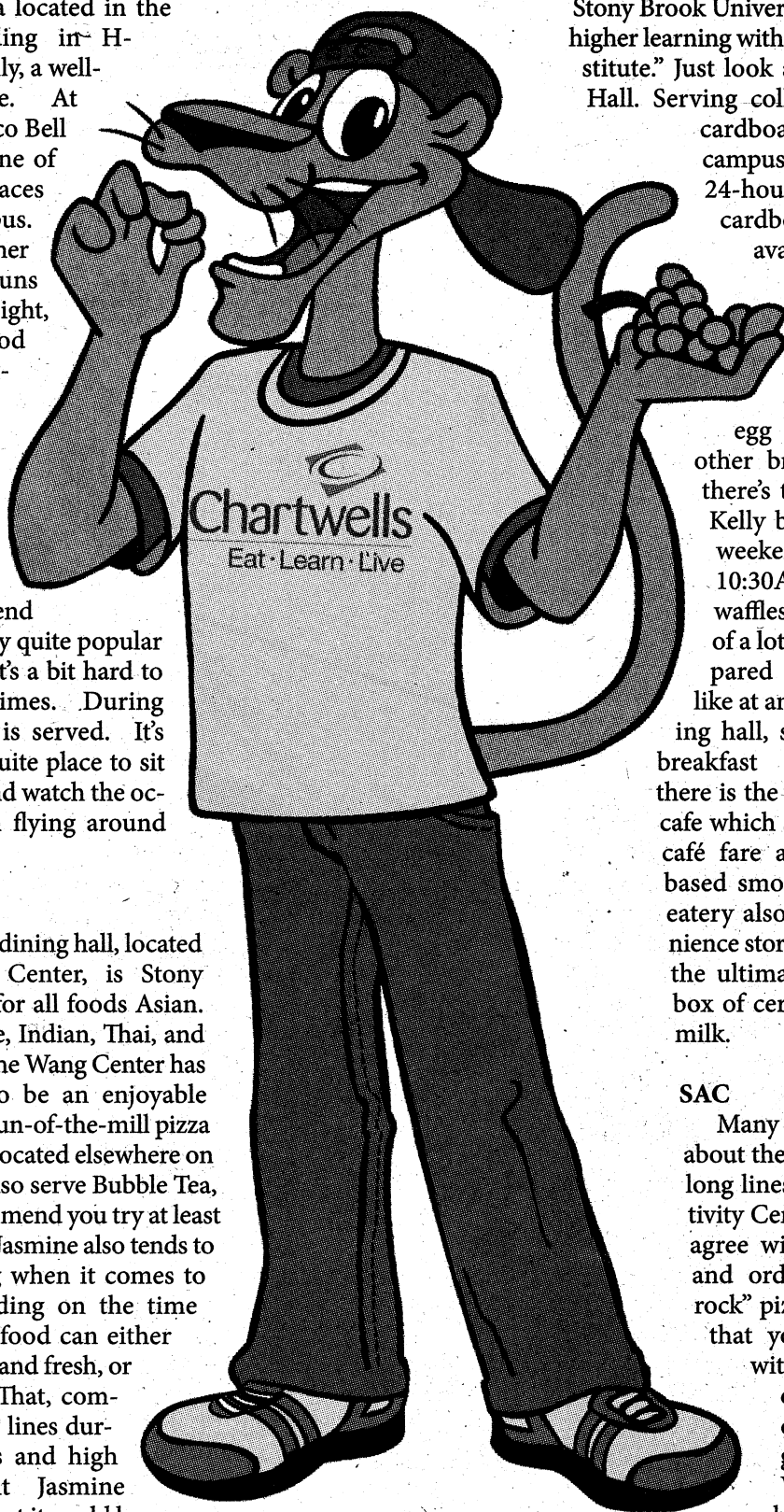
be getting out of a lecture in Old Chem 116, take the time to walk down the zebra path to the Union, rather than just copping out and strolling across the academic mall to the SAC Trust this author—your wallet won't be much lighter, but your stomach will be thanking you in the morning. Still, the pizza at the SAC is better than that at Kelly Quad, which should be granted the status of a sentient life form. There are, however, rumors of a roach being swiftly executed and placed on the garbage carousel by an employee, all the while being filmed via camera phone. Hard evidence has yet to surface regarding this matter. Check Youtube or something.

Tabler

Welcome to the Tabler Café, the main dining hall for Tabler Quad and now home to the hungry students of Roth as well. What was once a small place to buy hot dogs and pretzels (and that was about it) has become an actual dining hall. Thanks mainly to Dunkin' Donuts, Tabler now has donuts, coffee, soup, pizza, and of course, hot dogs. When the term begins, the Café will be home to an Outtakes, selling the same pre-made sandwiches and salads that you can buy at the SAC (for a ridiculous markup) as well as Panini Fresca. The Café will also expand the number of cash registers to eliminate the deadly bottleneck that turns a two-minute trip into a ten-minute wait. Of course, the Café has the art galleries upstairs alongside the theater and three practice rooms for the music majors. Back downstairs there is one of the nicest lounges on campus. Every Thursday evening, the University's jazz band has a jam session here and it's free. If you're not drunk yet, try to make your way down. It's actually rather enjoyable.

Union

The Union has a number of dining options for you to choose from. There is the Union Deli, which serves freshly made sandwiches and not-so-freshly made soups. The Deli is nice for convenience if you are working in the Union, and is open later than most other dining options, however it is very pricey. When compared to other dining areas, the same food item in the Deli can cost one or even two dollars more. Delancey Street is another deli style option in the Union, providing Kosher alternatives for the university's Jewish students. The food is of high quality, and there are rarely any long lines. However, Delancey isn't open late, and usually closes right before dinner hours. The other options in the Union, the End of the Bridge restaurant, and the Bleacher Club, are currently being renovated, so we can't review them right now.



Eating Off Campus

For some, on-campus food options tire quickly. For others, the thought of giving this rapacious, exploitative university another cent of their hard-earned dough really chaps the ass. Either way, one must know that there are other options. Most places offer a student discount when you show your card. So even if you don't drive, the section of 25a near the train station offers some appealing choices. Here are three of the best.

Strawberry Fields Gourmet

Strawberry Fields is pretty much the best place

around. They have an extensive menu of really tasty stuff, from sandwiches to smoothies to burgers. Their forte of course is breakfast—go with the homemade pancakes, which are far better than even the diners. The prices are pretty reasonable—similar to the shit in the SAC, without the lines and baffling fish-killing videos.

Cosmos Café

Cosmos is a pretty standard Greek pizza and gyro place. The pizza is mediocre at best, and the Italian dishes overpriced for the quality. So go with the Greek

menu, especially the gyros. \$5.75 for a damn good gyro is a quality lunch. Remember to show them your student ID for a discount.

Green Cactus

Green Cactus' flagship store is in the shopping center to the left of Campus Bicycles. Go there. Girthy burritos and towering nachos are prepared fresh to order with fresh ingredients. Most dishes are at least \$7-\$8, but it's well worth it. There are chairs and tables under the tent outside and a nice array of fresh salsas and hot sauce.

North P Lot

Accessibility to Campus: 2

Accessibility? Well, as you will all learn, the commuter lots on campus aren't big on accessibility at all. However, while that may be true, there are busses that run from the North P Lot to the SAC. But, seriously, the buses suck and are often the very definition of inconvenient. In addition, if you get stuck walking, you will have to brave a long trip in some harsh SBU weather. If you're late for class already you may as well try to sneak a spot in one of the closer lots, such as the Stadium or The SAC Faculty lot.

Chance you will be Ticketed if you Park Illegally: 1

Considering the North P Lot is located on one of the far ends of an already huge campus, I can't imagine any non-commuters parking there when they already have prime locations to park closer to the center of campus. However, that aside, if you for some odd reason decide to park illegally in one of the most inconvenient lots on campus, you don't

have to worry about being ticketed. The university police probably don't figure anyone is crazy enough to park illegally in North P, considering its crazy enough to park there legally in the first place. So rest easy, all of you parking rebels.

Availability of Parking Spots: 4

If you arrive at North P prior to 10 AM you won't have any trouble grabbing a parking spot. That being said, after 10:30 or 11 AM it can get very difficult. After 4 PM, many of the commuters have already gone home, or will shortly, and it isn't difficult to find a spot. However, if you need a spot at 4 PM, you may as well park in the Stadium Lot, considering the cops stop ticketing around 5 PM.

Overall Rating: 3

Good availability and total lack of University Police saves this lot from its crappy accessibility.

Stadium Lot

Accessibility to Campus: 5

The Stadium Lot is the Holy Grail of accessibility on Stony Brook's campus. It's right behind the Union, not far from the library, SAC, or gym. It can't be beat in terms of proximity to Stony Brook's extra curricular locations. Like Mendelsohn, it's a bit of a walk from Javits and other class buildings, but we really can't hold that against it, considering Javits' location.

Chance you will be Ticketed if you Park Illegally: 2

Unfortunately, the University Police seem to realize the allure that wonderful accessibility draws and they ticket the stadium lot with more vigilance than any other major area on campus. On any given day, you stand about a 75% chance of getting ticketed if you park in the Stadium illegally. Of course, after 5 PM anything goes and you can park there free of worry, so by all means, go for it.

Availability of Parking Spots: 3

The Stadium Parking Lot is really a mixed bag in terms of availability. In the middle of the week it can often be very difficult to find a parking spot after 10 AM. However, on Thursday and Friday it often gets a bit easier to snag a spot. Also, the Stadium is filled almost entirely with commuters so after 5 PM it's not hard at all to find a spot. The one wild card is if there is a sporting event going on in the gym or Laval Stadium, in which case it can be hard to find a spot at any time during the day.

Overall Rating: 4

The Stadium has its very strong points as outlined above. However, it costs a whopping \$150 to get an actual legal permit and you often have to sit on a long waiting list. That fact, along with the high chance of being ticketed, prevent The Stadium from being a truly excellent parking lot.

Gym Road Lot

Accessibility to Campus: 4

If you're heading towards the academic mall, you must brave a lawn full of goose poo and about two giant wind tunnels. Still, it's much more pleasant than riding the shuttle from South P. Plus, it's primo parking for physics majors.

Chance you will be Ticketed if you Park Illegally: 3

Campus security has been known to patrol at times, both in this parking lot and just in general. However, as it gets closer to 4PM, it becomes less likely that your car will be slapped with a ticket.

Availability of Parking Spots: 1

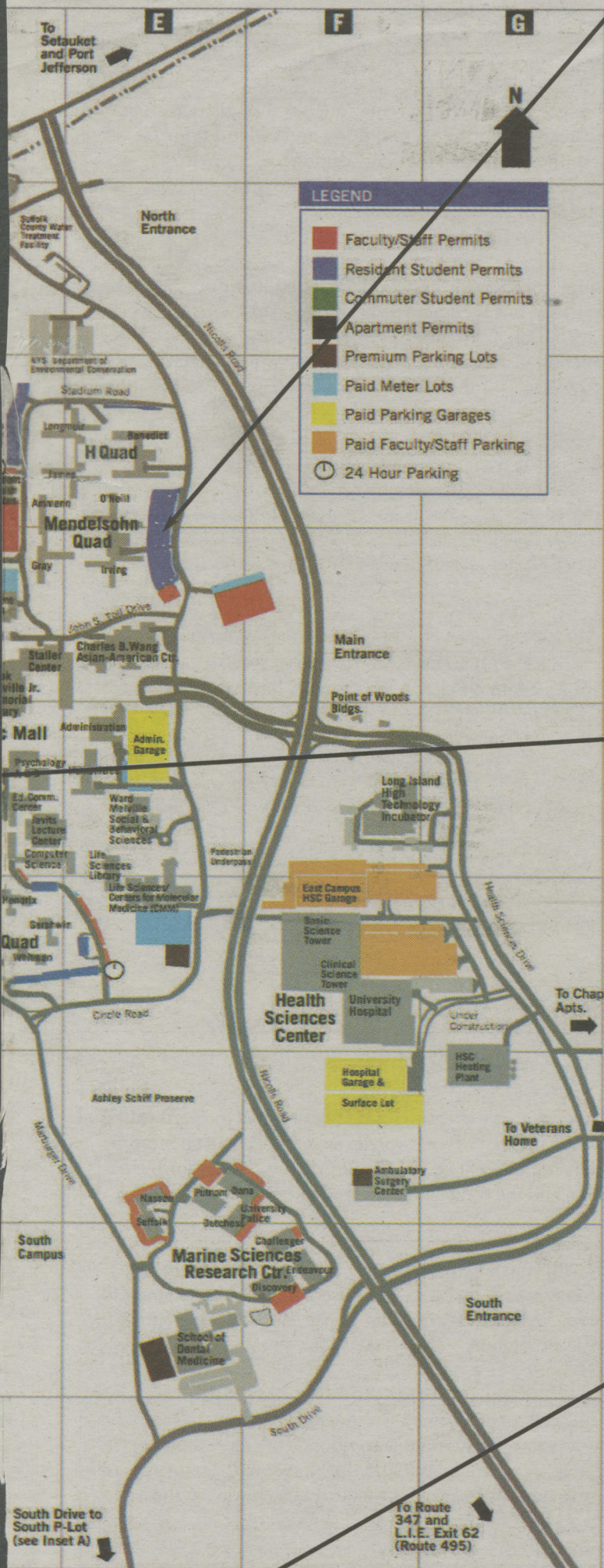
Two words: Good luck. This parking lot is insanely small, so it's pretty much always full before 9 AM. Ask yourself: is it worth it to wake up hours before your class starts just to get a space here? If you can skip South P, it might be worth it. You can always sleep through class.

Overall Rating: 4

This lot is one of the better ones on campus. Although it's not the closest lot to campus, it's great to help keep the freshman fifteen from creeping in. The problem is that it's so insanely difficult to get a space. Still, anything good is worth fighting for, even if it means literally fighting with another car to get a spot.



Mendelsohn Lot



Accessibility to Campus: 4

In terms of location and distance from the center of campus, Mendelsohn ranks up there with the top two or three parking lots on campus. It's not far from the Union, Melville Library, and just a short walk from the SAC. It's a bit far from some of the classroom areas, but it can't be beat in terms of proximity to the extra-curricular buildings.

Chance you will be Ticketed if you Park Illegally: 2

A few semesters back an illegally parked car would NEVER be ticketed in Mendelsohn. (In fact, I remember parking there everyday illegally and never getting one ticket during the Fall '06 semester) However, someone must have tipped the University Police off last semester and they really clamped down on this lot. During the Spring '07 semester the police could be found in Mendelsohn everyday around noon or so, ticketing the many illegally parked cars. Only time will tell what this upcoming semester will hold, but I wouldn't bet on the police easing up now.

Availability of Parking Spots: 3

Like the ticketing, Mendelsohn Lot has lost some of its availability over the semesters. It used to be that your average commuter arriving around 10 AM or so could find a space easily in Mendelsohn. However, with the large influx of new students and spreading knowledge of its superb accessibility, it can be hard to grab a spot after 9 AM these days. And isn't only Mendelsohn residents who clog this lot, commuters fill in about a third of the spaces these days. However, after 4 PM or so, the commuters begin to leave, and this lot regains its former parking availability glory.

Overall Rating: 4

The excellent accessibility is what makes Mendelsohn a solid parking lot. If you can be lucky enough to snag a spot, and avoid the police, you've got a wonderful thing going for you. And once again, after 4 PM, when the cops stop ticketing, few lots beats good ole' Mendy for convenience.

SAC Faculty/Visitors Lot

Accessibility to Campus: 5

This lot is primo parking for any campus patron. It's located just a jump away from the ESS building, and you'll definitely get to the SAC faster than the shuttles will. The only problem you might encounter is beating out some other fool for a space.

Chance you will be Ticketed if you Park Illegally: 5

There are a number of factors that must be weighed before you decide to park here illegally. Keep in mind that any faculty lots are fair game for ticketing, and that they go public at seven, not four like the rest of the lots. Also, it's very close to campus, so any lazy security guards do not have to walk far to ticket you. Thirdly, almost everyone on campus has tried to park here at some point, so you won't

be fooling anyone. If you park there, they will find you. Plus, you must always be on your guard: pedestrians enjoy cutting through this lot. If you hit one of them, you'll have more trouble on your hands than a parking ticket.

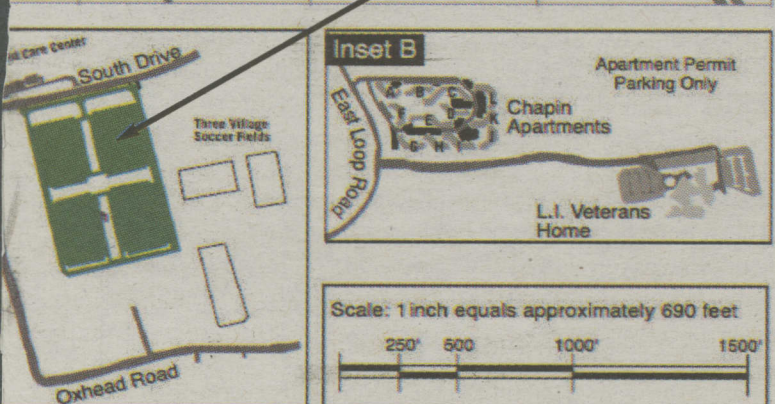
Availability of Parking Spots: -10

One of these days, there will be an all out brawl for parking spaces in this lot. It's only a matter of time. Start the countdown!

Overall Rating: 3

We adore this little grove of lots. The only problem is that the entire campus does as well. We'd recommend patrolling this lot only if you have some time to kill; this way, you won't be disappointed when some bitch cuts in front of you and takes the last available spot.

South P Lot



Accessibility to Campus: 4

South P boasts the title of being the parking lot that sits the farthest away from the main academic mall. In the fall, you'll be lucky to even get highly coveted "standing room only" space on the packed out shuttles, but only after waiting for forty five minutes like a pack of cows out to slaughter. If you enjoy hiking, then this is the parking lot for you!

Chance you will be Ticketed if you Park Illegally: 0

Campus Police? In South P? Maybe, just maybe, to park their cars and chat. We have never heard of anyone getting a ticket in South P. One time, someone said that his car disappeared, but he seemed like he just wanted attention.

Availability of Parking Spots: 4

Last year, this would have had a rating of five. However, with the slew of incoming students this semester, it's possible that the first week of school might just be one for the record books. And that, my friends, would be scary as hell.

Overall Rating: 0

South P is every commuter's worst nightmare. However, you will get stuck parking there at some point. The good news is that sometimes CSA heads down there with fliers promising free coffee and bagels! Still, you will definitely piss and moan aboard the campus shuttle as you sit next to Chatty Kathy on her cell phone while some guy's giant ass hits the side of your face over and over again. The final word: tough friggin' noogies.

H Quad

Decibel Level: 4

If you're on a floor with incoming freshman like I was, be prepared to find a quieter place to study (if you're into that sort of thing). While corridor style dorms may be a kickass place to meet new people, they do tend to promote weird sleeping hours. If you've got late classes, this just might be the place for you.

Room Size: 2 1/2

All right. It's corridor style. The rooms aren't huge by any means, and you've gotta share this small space with another person. Hopefully you and your roommate get along, because you're probably going to be seeing a lot of each other during the semester. Make effective use of the closets and invest in bed-raisers.

Dorm Aesthetics: 3 1/2

The high point of H-Quad dorming are the clean bathrooms. Did you hear me... clean bathrooms. Still, you'll probably become accustomed to one particular shower or toilet wherever you happen to be. I won't spoil the fun of finding out where those are. As for the actual dorm rooms, they're nothing special.

Accessibility to Food: 5

If you're fortunate enough to live in H-Quad, dining won't be a problem. There's a Taco Bell in Benedict. There's also hot food available if you're not a big fan of the super-shits. If you don't like either of these, take a short walk off campus and you'll find 7-11, Dunkin' Donuts, Cosmos Pizza, and a couple other places to chow down.

Parties: 1 1/2

This one's a bit up in the air. Parties are a spur of the moment thing, so you may be relying on luck here. You'll find a lot of bar ads and stuff under your door; just chuck those. They suck and waste paper. Be warned of dorm parties here, since RAs are rather anal about partying in H-Quad. You're better off going elsewhere to par-tay down.

Overall Rating: 3.3

Kelly Quad

Decibel Level: 2

Open air hallways might mean better circulation, but they also mean that first floor noise can be heard from the second floor, and second floor racket can be heard on the first floor. Now that the Kelly dining hall is open 24 hours a day, expect hundreds of loud, hungry, and possibly intoxicated students to congregate outside your dorm.

Room Size: 1

There is barely enough room to fit the school supplied furniture. Some of the rooms in Kelly Quad are not rectangular, keeping creative furniture layout to a minimum. At least each Kelly suite has a balcony, which gives students space to do random balcony related hijinks. Other rooms are too narrow, and now, because of overcrowding, some rooms in Kelly are triples.

Dorm Aesthetics: 2

The Kelly Quad will be one of the last Quads on campus to be renovated. As a matter of fact, it hasn't been begun the process yet. The walls in my Kelly dorm room were falling apart, but other than the needed maintenance, aesthetics are relative. Some people like stark brick buildings. Like we've said before, SBU is an institute of higher learning, with an emphasis on "institute."

Accessibility to Food: 4

The Kelly Dining Hall is the most comprehensive eatery located in any Quad, so students living in Kelly Quad have solid access to food. Albeit access to low quality food, but food nonetheless. Other quads have Taco Bells and Dunkin Donuts, but those are open at odd hours. Living in Kelly you will have access to crappy food 24 hours a day.

Parties: 4

West Apartments are next door. 'Nuff said.

Overall Rating: 3

Mendelsohn Quad

Decibel Level: 4.5

Chances are you will have at least one extremely loud person in your hallway, whether it's the obnoxious anime geek that watches cartoons at 3am, the football player that constantly blasts music as if to remind the hall he's there or the fraternity/sorority person who has loud parties every night. On top of this, most people in corridor style dorms get along really well, so expect almost everyone to be loud in the hallway at times.

Room Size: 4

Mendy has some of the largest double rooms on campus. If you bunk your beds, you might even have a space that is livable.

Dorm Aesthetics: 2

There's really not much to look at in Mendelsohn Quad... besides maybe your roommate sleeping, you creepy fuck. To make up for this complete lack of anything aesthetically pleasing in the entire quad, girls are likely to cover their room with photos and colorful things from Bed Bath and Beyond and guys are likely to cover their doors and walls with band stickers and posters of girls making out... or is this the case in every quad?

Accessibility to Food: 3

This is one of the few quads without a dining hall in it. Luckily, though, it is surrounded by both H-Quad and the Union.

Parties: 1.5

Having a real party is extremely difficult in Mendy, unless of course you are partying with the RA.

Overall Rating: 3.5

Mendelsohn Quad is not a bad place to live if you get along with people and don't mind squatting over a piss-drenched toilet from time to time.

Roosevelt Quad

Decibel Level: 4

The foot-thick walls act as a very effective sound buffer for all the permeating noises. Outside noise will be the least of your worries as you fret about your creepy roommate whose smell is reminiscent of The Goon. Also, watch out for the occasional broken exit door, and the sonic boom created by its closing.

Room Size: 2

Try to make friends with your smelly roommate, because you two will be getting very close in your new room. Invest in bed raisers as well; you're going to need as much space as you can get. The rooms in Roosevelt tend to encourage a shut-in lifestyle. Fight the temptation.

Room Aesthetics: 2

The rooms are reminiscent of an insane asylum. Posters can try to mask the ugliness, but in the end you get an ugly room with a bunch of posters covering it. My advice is to get creative. Try Christmas lights; they improve the ambiance of your room. Also, empty liquor bottles provide that extra "fuck you" to the hard-ass RA you will most likely be stuck with.

Accessibility to Food: 4

While Roosevelt has no dining hall of its own, it's conveniently located next to the only 24 hour dining hall on campus, at Kelly Quad. This is invaluable for those late night drunken munchies. They also have a deli at Kelly. Pardon the rhyme.

Parties: 2

The party scene at Roosevelt can be pretty bleak. The Attica style rooms aren't conducive to a party atmosphere, but with some bold tenacity and a can-do attitude, you'll be drinking more than you should and passing out in the hallway outside your room in no time. Whoo! SBU football rules!

Overall Rating: 2

Yeah, so Roosevelt may be the worst quad on campus. Don't let it get you down, though, it could be worse. I can't imagine how, but you get what I'm trying to say.

Roth Quad

Decibel Level: 27.45

Roth Quad, famous for its thunderous cannonade salvos that mark every Thursday, is an audiologist's dream. Every time the battery roars, residents of this quad lose 75% of what remaining hearing they had. Also, everyone who lives in Hendrix is in a band together. One big band. So that may add to the already impressive noise.

Room Size: 3.7413

Room size in Roth is a mixed bag. For one thing, Cardozo doesn't have any gravity. But don't let that scare you. In the other buildings in this quad, the room size varies. With the extreme overcrowding, however, President Kenny has declared that all rooms in Roth will be converted from doubles to decuples. So we hope you didn't bring much with you.

Dorm Aesthetics: 0.4

Unlike the beautiful West Apartments I, which follows the central European early 20th century Bauhaus style, Roth dorm rooms are completely devoid of any aesthetic value whatsoever. Buy posters.

Accessibility to Food: 5

Roth Quad is home to the infamous Roth Pond. Roth Pond is home to all manners of living organisms, ranging from lipids, mitochondria, rabbits, Thomsons' gazelle, and Japanese koi. If you're ever hungry, grab a safari outfit, or some SCUBA gear, and track some of this wild game. If you're successful, a veritable smorgasbord awaits you. Really though, you will starve for the next year as Roth cafeteria will be renovated.

Parties: 0

Botrrrring. Why? 'Cause no one from *The Press* lives there.

Overall Rating: 12.456

Did you know, if you rearranged the letters in Roth you could spell Thor. I guess that's cool if you're a Viking Norseman, so if you are, bump the overall rating for this quad up a few points.

Tabler Quad

Decibel Level: 3.

As a repeat offender for loud parties, we know that the walls in some of the Tabler buildings aren't the most conducive to keeping things quiet. Also, as Tabler houses most of the musicians, hallways can sometimes have the sounds of pleasant (or not so pleasant) music in them. Finally, we've been told you can hear certain residents singing opera in the shower from down the hall.

Room Size: 3.5

Our writers who reside in Tabler generally like their rooms. The term cozy can apply at times, but the beds are bunked, you have enough room to have four people lay on the floor comfortably. As for the common room, we've been able to cram more people than we should in there. From dinner parties, to Lost Wednesdays, to other events, the average Tabler Quad common room (Note: this does not apply to Hand College) fits as many people as you're willing to deal with.

Room Aesthetics: 2, but with the right amount of painters tape, 5

Dorm aesthetics are what you make of them. If you let your walls go bare and complain about how they look, it's your fault. If turn your walls into a museum, you can have a conversation piece some pride for your room.

Accessibility to Food: 5

Tabler Café is getting more stuff this year. Tabler also has Dunkin Donuts. Nuff said. Everywhere else is a hike, as you've got fifty-four steps to torment you.

Parties: 4

Now, you didn't hear this from us, but Tabler can throw a decent party. We know there are those in the mindset that only West can have decent parties, but we'd like to take this time to disagree with them. From fresh juice to far too much Pong, Tabler can have fun.

Overall Rating: 4

Wait until there's snow. Then unhook a door, sneak it out, and use it to sled down the Hand Hill. Just don't let the University Police catch you. Same goes for walking on Roth Pond.

West Apartments I

Decibel Level: -2

It's so quiet, it's like it doesn't even exist; one student described it as a "sound vacuum." One time, I saw a puppy sleeping silently in the corner of a common room. The puppy wasn't real, but still... if you live here, you might need a hearing aid.

Room Size: 4.4

When you enter, you look small. However, as you move towards the back of your room, you might notice that you feel like a giant. This is because an optical illusion aficionado created the building. The ceiling is lower in some areas, so watch out!

Dorm Aesthetics: Drei.sechs

It adheres strictly to the school of Bauhaus. Viva the German Republic!

Accessibility to Food: 1

Remember that book *Sideways Stories from Wayside School*? Remember that creepy guy, Sammy, who turned out to be a really smelly wet rat? This is all there is to eat here. Someone also said something about bacon pizza.

Parties: 3.14

One time, someone ordered a Hot Cop, and then set him on fire because he was very literal. It was pure insanity.

Overall Rating: 2.8

Do you smell bacon pizza? Maybe it's just the memory of that Hot Cop etching itself into your heart.

West Apartments II

Decibel Level: 0

West Apartments Phase II is so far from everything else on campus that the only thing that will ever pierce the silence is the Inner Loop bus every ten minutes or so... that is, until Thursday night at 10:00, when the only thing that will pierce the sea of noise is you passing out after your twelfth shot of rum.

Room Size: 4.5

All four of the buildings in West II only have single rooms. The sizes vary though. The E room is the biggest of the six-person suites, in my experience.

Dorm Aesthetics: 4

The buildings themselves look like sun-bleached cabanas. The inner quad has some trees and shit. More impressive, though, is the remainder of the bamboo forest behind building G.

Accessibility to Food: -983

I hope, for your sake, you have a car. If you don't, you will probably starve or perhaps go broke from ordering delivery every night.

Parties: 5

This is the party capital of the campus. We've been to parties with over 50 people in one suite. Just don't have them in your apartment, unless you are rich drug dealer and won't mind paying for all the broken shit at the end of the year.

Overall Rating: 4.8

If you want to avoid being sexiled, West II is a must. If you want to increase your chances of getting laid, West II is also a must.

Other People Live Here Too, Dirty Fuck

By Joey "Shit This Guy's Crazy" Safdia
Staff Writer

Shut the fuck up and listen.

No, seriously. If you don't read this, you don't graduate.

In my four years at the wondrous institution that is Stony Brook, I've learned something about people: zoo animals are cleaner, and they have more fucking respect for others.

Guess what, you little fucks? You're not living at home anymore. There are other people living with you now. People more important than you, which pretty much encompasses an entire planet of sentient beings both real and fictional.

Now that Mommy and Daddy aren't—*hey! Over here! Pay a-fucking-attention!!* Fucking freshmen. This isn't high school anymore, you semi-literate douche-shits. The ADD shit ain't going to fly here.

"But, Joey, why are you so mad?" Good question, craptard. Because I already know you and your foul kind. You see, I have high standards of respect. Part of those standards involves great monumental tasks, like BEING ABLE TO FLUSH A FUCKING TOILET!!!!!! Yet I can already foresee, and I *can* see the future so don't even argue with me, that at least 700% of *all* Stony Brook's residents fall below my standards and therefore do not count as people. I step on non-people.

I step on you.

What am I talking about? By the time you read this, it will probably be your first or second day. Look in your bathroom. Nice and clean, right? Enjoy it, because it will NEVER look like that again. And you can blame the boyfriends of the slutty girls that live upstairs from you for this. Oh, and that fat shit that lives across the hall. What a fucking cock licker.

I will now lay out the complex ground rules for being allowed to live amongst other humans, and consequentially, reasons why you are a disgrace to your parents unless I deem otherwise.

First, food goes in one of two places: your mouth or the garbage can. It absolutely does *not* go in the sinks! I don't know how some people can be so wildly stupid that they keep dumping their rice and other crap in the bathroom sinks or the water fountain in the hallway. It must be all your parents' desperate failed abortion attempts. If I find out that you're doing this, and I do know, I will rip off your arms and use them as a really ineffi-

cient TV remote control.

Second, flush the toilet. Always. No exceptions. Especially if you take a shit. Because if you don't, I will shit in your room. Or your mouth. Whatever the case, I'm sure most of you don't yet grasp the concept of flushing as most high school seniors today tend to fail the class that teaches you how to wipe your ass, but I'll give you the quick rundown. After you do your business *inside* the toilet (more

on that in the next paragraph), you'll notice a handle behind the bowl. Push it down or pull it up. Notice that everything you just crapped out disap-

pears? *Voila!* Though I'm sure most of you will find a way to screw even that up.

Third, about what I said before about doing your business *inside* the toilet. It's exactly what I meant. Not on the seat, not on the floor, and definitely not inside the shower stall. Do NOT pee on the seats. If you do, then grab some toilet paper and wipe it up. If a person ever walks into a toilet stall to find urine on the seats, I will slap you in the face with one of the geese, then go back in time to when you were a small child and do it again. Then I'll slap your mother for having you. This

is regardless of whether it was your fault or not, so start ostracizing people who pee on seats now. They don't deserve to live anyway.

Those are the three cardinal rules that I demand you follow, and so I demand, so you follow. I will be watching you, yes you, person reading this. I will be keeping tabs on you personally, but there are other things that I want you to remember. And if you neglect any of these, I will lay a trail of various campus meals from South P to your dorm room and force you to eat every piece of what the FSA tries to pass off as food.

Music. Music is awesome. Except for the songs you like. You have no taste in music. You completely suck at life. Therefore, don't blast your music. Wear headphones like I do, or close your door. Why would you blast music with your door open anyway? What makes you think anyone wants to hear your music or even be reminded of your presence? That also means music coming from your mouth. I've heard people walk down the hallways thinking they're 50 Cent or something, trying desperately to imitate their favorite thug, I mean, rapper. Guess what? 50 Cent's music sucks when *he's* the one rapping, so you can imagine how bad you are. Also, pranks that make the whole floor, or other floors miserable. If you think something is funny, chances are it's not. This is mainly because you don't have a respectable sense of humor, or a brain. Which, in

turn, is due to all the drinking your mother did during pregnancy. You suck. Don't let your suckiness make others miserable. Seriously, we've actually had incidents where people trashed the bathrooms, shit in the shower stalls, etc. That's not funny. The way I fucked your mom last night was funny. Whatever you're thinking up was already done by a junior high school student, and we all know that junior high school kids don't count. If I ever hear that you ignored any of my "guidelines," I swear I will tie you to a chair and read you satires out of *The Patriot*.

In short, remember that there are other people living with you now, so please remember to show them respect. By "please," I mean "you damn well better or else I'll go to your house and pee on your sister's face." Mommy and Daddy ain't here to watch over you anymore, so it's time to grow up, maybe find the time to evolve into a higher lifeform such as a monkey or something like that. And if you can't summon the mental capacity to live amongst other humans and trick people into thinking you're a person too, then drop out of Stony Brook and let someone whose parents aren't embarrassed by them to live on campus.

Fuck you if you found this offensive. If you found this offensive, you probably read this article while peeing on a toilet seat in someone else's bathroom. Commit suicide immediately.

Thank you and goodnight.

You're not living at home anymore. There are other people living with you now.



Do this or suffer the consequences.

Photo Credit: Jowy Romano

Stuff You Didn't Need to Bring, Stupid

By Rebecca Kleinhaut
Managing Editor

I don't really think you're stupid. Do I think you're naïve? Absolutely. You've brought all kinds of worthless crap to school simply because you don't know any better. Well, now you do. So give yourself some more breathing space in your bite-sized room, and just get rid of the following objects already.

You've brought all kinds of crap to school because you don't know any better.

1) A Filing Cabinet – Ask yourself a question: when did you ever use one of these? And, for that matter, how many papers do you think you'll amass over the course of one school year that you'll actually need two giant metal cubes? If you thought it sucked to lug it up two

flights of stairs before, think about how it'll feel after it's full. Unless, of course, you want to bring another filing cabinet for your filed papers and just leave it in the car. Really, it's not worth the trouble. An accordion folder or two from Staples will do. Then, you'll have all the time in the world to file at home over winter break.

2) A Shower Caddy Without Drainage Holes: If you have one of these, enjoy dragging your stinky mildew mobile back and forth from your room every day. It makes me shudder to think about what your toothbrush will look like if you ever make the unfortunate decision to put the bristles in face first. Get your ass to Bed, Bath and Beyond and get yourself a water-repellant shower caddy for \$9.99, stat!

3) A Bed Caddy: I'll admit that this idea is ingenious. It's designed to fit right under your mattress to create a pocket for your books in case you decide to read in bed. However, after a long night of cramming, it's highly doubtful that you will have the inclination or the energy to reach over the side of your bed and into this insanely deep pocket. It makes so much more sense to cram them into the space between your mattress and the wall for safekeeping. This way, you can always roll over it in your sleep and get that revenge for boring you to death.

4) A Planner: Some people might do well with a planner. However, a dry-erase wall calendar is easier to reference. Just hang it over your bed and get some markers. It might get a little dirty after a few uses, but college is a dirty place. Deal with it.

5) Extra Sheets: You will never change them. It will be disgusting. But really,

you won't think about it so much. Plus, you can forget about dragging that giant down comforter with you. It might be really comfy, but you will suffocate and die from the heat. Bring a fleece blanket instead; if you're ever cold, you can always invest in a pair of slipper socks.

6) Your Entire Closet: You might have some really killer clothes. However, you'll probably wear the same two pairs of shoes every day: one for your day look, and one for your night. If you find yourself in a jam for something nice to wear, you can always take a trip to the newly improved Smith Haven Mall. Target also has some nice things, and you won't mind it if they get wrinkled as you stuff all of your things into garbage bags when you move out.

Now, spend that refund money from the filing cabinet on some storage bins for under your bed. You can always stick your so-called unmanageable mounds of paperwork there.

Concerning the Lot to the South

By Alex Walsh
Staff Writer

There's something to be said, whether good or bad, for just about any place you'll come across. These things can oftentimes be said more strongly about places you won't come across. New Jersey is far. Oklahoma is hella far. Timbuktu, however, has built an entire reputation on how astonishingly far it is from just about anything, to the point that it can be used as a shorthand for any exotic or distant locale. Example: "I went from here to Timbuktu to get you those pogs, now stop complaining and get flippin'!" It's really evocative, isn't it? Yes, when it comes to conveying sheer distance, there are few places on this Earth that can beat out Timbuktu. (Assuming, of course, the speaker isn't in Mali.) One place, however, does leap to mind: the South P lot.

Reliable evidence concerning South P is hard to come by, as most sane travelers recognize that the journey to get to it really isn't worth it. The few who do claim to have set foot in this time-forgotten land are, by and large, crackpots seeking to cash in on the growing demand for travel literature, for which we have that damnable hack Bill Bryson to thank. That is why the Stony Brook Press is especially proud to present to you this account, incomplete though it is, of one expedition which set off in search of convenient parking. It was brought into our office by a bedraggled and road-weary traveler, who unfortunately collapsed from malnutrition before he could tell us his name. It seems

he salvaged it from the desiccated corpse of a vagabond on the roadside, a poor wretch of a man who may have been the first civilized person to lay eyes on the vast steppes of South P. Read on, and know terror!

April 27th, 1805.—At ten o'clock in the morning took our departure from Kayee. The Crescent, the Washington and Mr. Ainsley's vessel did us the honour to fire a salute at our departure. The day proved remarkably hot; and some of the asses being unaccustomed to carry loads, made our march very fatiguing and troublesome. Three of them stuck fast in a muddy rice field about two miles east of Kayee; and while we were employed in getting them out, our guide and the people in front had gone on so far, that we lost sight of them. In a short time we overtook about a dozen soldiers and their asses, who had likewise fallen behind, and being afraid of losing their way, had halted till we came up.

On our arrival at Lamain we unloaded the asses under a large Bentang tree on the east side of the town. The Slatee (or master of that district of the kingdom of Kataba, called Lamain) came to pay his respects to me, and requested that I would order the bundles and asses to be removed to some other tree; assuring me that if we slept under it, we should all be dead before morning. I was for some time at a loss to comprehend his meaning; when he took me by the hand, and leading me to one of the large notches in the root of the tree, showed me three spear-heads which appeared to have been tinged

with blood, lying with their points among bone-ashes, and surrounded with a rope half burnt. I now ordered the bundles to be removed to another tree, presented the Slatee with a keg of liquor, and received in return a small bullock. Here we were forced to purchase water,

June 8th.—Early in the morning resumed our march, and about two miles to the east came to the brow of a hill, from whence we could distinguish the course of the Faleme river by the range of dark green trees which grew on its borders. The carpenter unable to sit upright, and frequently threw himself from the ass, wishing to be left to die. Made two of the soldiers carry him by force and hold him on the ass. At noon reached Madina, and halted by the side of the Faleme River; which at this season is a little discoloured by the rain, but not sensibly swelled. When every thing was carried over, I found the carpenter still more weakly and apparently dying. I therefore thought it best to leave him at Madina till the morning following. Went to the village, and hired a hut for him for six bars of amber, and gave the Dooty four bars, desiring him to take some of his people assist the soldier (whom I left to take care of the sick person) in bu-

June 17th.—Finding that Hinton was worse, and Sparks delirious, left them to the care of the Dooty of the village; having given him amber and beads sufficient to purchase victuals for them if they lived, and to bury them if they died. If they recovered, he engaged to

join them to the first coffle travelling to Gambia. From Serimanna in two hours we reached Fajemmia: this is only a small village, but fortified with a

June 29th.—It was now quite dark. We collected a large bundle of dry grass, and taking out a handful at a time, kept up a constant light, in order to frighten the lions which are very numerous in these woods.

July 13th.—By the side of the river are a great number of human bones (more than thirty skulls.) On enquiring the reason, I was informed that Mansa Numma always inflicted capital punishments himself, and that the bones I saw were those of criminals.

August 14th.—Jonas Watkins died this morning; buried him. Halted here a day to see which way Mr. Anderson's fever was likely to terminate; and in

August 26th.—The travelers from Sego brought us every day some unfavourable news or other. At one time it was reported, and believed all over Marraboo, that Mansong had killed Isaaco with his own hand and would do the same with all t-

Things get pretty sketchy after that. You really don't want to hear about it. But you get the idea.

*Journal bits shamelessly lifted from Mungo Park's *Journal of a Mission to the Interior of Africa, in the Year 1805*. Remember, it's not plagiarism, it's an homage. Or parody. Something protected under fair use.

Dates to Remember

Re-matriculation Aug. 24

Last day undergraduates can re-matriculate for the Fall 2007 Semester.

Non-Matriculates Aug. 31

Open Enrollment begins for Undergraduate Non-matriculated students (U0).

Credit Limit Change Aug. 31

Credit limit will be raised to 19 credits.

Semester Start (Sat. Classes) Sept. 1

First Day of Saturday Classes. This includes Stony Brook West Campus, SUNY Learning Net courses offered through SBU, and Manhattan Campus.

Semester Start (Mon.- Fri. Classes) Sept. 4

First Day of Classes. This includes Stony Brook West Campus, SUNY Learning Net courses offered through SBU, and Manhattan Campus.

Late Registration Sept. 4

Late Registration begins. \$40 fee applies to all students who are not enrolled in at least one course before September 4. This includes students enrolling in SPD, SPD Online, Manhattan & West Campus classes.

Senior Auditing Sept. 6

Senior Auditing Program registration and start of program. Call 631.632.7063 for more information.

Waitlist Deadline Sept. 10

Last day students can place themselves on a waitlisted course. Reminder: Students, who place themselves on a waitlist and change their intent to register, MUST DROP themselves from the Waitlist. If students are registered from the waitlist, students are responsible for any Tuition Liability incurred.

Drop, Withdraw (Without Tuition Liability) Sept. 10

Last day to drop a class or withdraw from the university without tuition liability. Dropping individual courses must be done via Solar System. Undergraduate Semester Withdrawals/LOA's may be faxed to (631) 632-9491. Withdrawals/LOA's will be processed based on dated fax received. The post-marked date must be PRIOR to the 9/10/07 deadline to avoid tuition liability.

No Classes after 5 PM Sept. 12

Rosh Hashanah (Observed) – NO CLASSES after 5:00 PM

No Classes Sept. 13-14

Rosh Hashanah (Observed)

Drop, Withdraw (Without a "W") Sept. 19

Last day to drop or withdraw from the university without a "W" (withdraw) recorded on student record. Student is liable to pay pro-rated tuition and all fees.

Adding Classes / Swaps/Late Reg. Ends Sept. 19

Last day to add classes and process a swap. Tuition Liability may apply if student reduces credit load. (Tuition schedule at website: www.stonybrook.edu/bursar). End of late registration.

Full-time / Part-Time Status Sept. 19

Last day to change status to or from full-time or part-time status

No Classes after 5 PM Sept. 21

Yom Kippur (Observed) – NO CLASSES after 5:00 PM

No Classes Sept. 22

Yom Kippur (Observed) – NO Saturday CLASSES IN-SESSION

Declaration of Major (TAP students) Sept. 26

Last day for Juniors (57 credits or more) to declare a primary major to satisfy TAP requirements. For form visit: www.stonybrook.edu/registrar For TAP Information visit: www.stonybrook.edu/registrar/tap

Drop-down / Move-up PHY Courses Oct. 12

Last day to process a drop-down or move-up for selected PHY Courses. Students must have signed form with instructor approval.

Application for Graduation Oct. 15

Last day for Fall (December) and Winter (January) degree candidates to apply

for graduation. West Campus Undergraduates must apply online via Solar (Click on the "Apply for Graduation" Link on your homepage.) Only Seniors (U4) who have completed (posted to their records) at least 102 credits (or greater) with a declared major will be eligible to apply.

Drop-down / Move-up MAP/MAT Courses Oct. 19

Last day to process a drop-down or move-up for selected MAT and MAP Courses. Students must have signed form with instructor approval.

("I") Removal Nov. 1

Last day for removal of Incomplete grades from the Spring and Summer 2007 Terms.

NR to NF Conversion Nov. 1

Deadline to resolve NR grades for the Spring and Summer 2007 Terms.

Section Changes/Credit Changes Nov. 5

Last day to process a Section Change or Credit Change for an existing enrolled course. Section change/Credit change form with appropriate signatures required for processing. Petition required after this date.

Pass / No Credit (Close of Business Day – 4:00PM) Nov. 5

Last day to change a class to or from the Pass/No Credit (P/NC) option. All changes must be processed by the close of business day (4 PM). Full-time students are limited to 8.0 credits of P/NC and part-time students are limited to 4.0 credits of P/NC. NOTE: STUDENTS WHO EXCEED these limits, the P/NC option will be administratively removed for the last course(s) for which the P/NC option was selected. NOTE: There is NO petition process to change a class to or from the P/NC option after the deadline.

Dropping Classes Nov. 5

Last day to drop a course. ("W" will be recorded). Full-time students must remain full-time with a minimum of twelve (12.0) credits.

Advance Registration (Subject to change) Nov. 13

Advance registration tentatively set to begin for Winter and Spring 2008 Semesters. Go to website for enrollment schedule: www.stonybrook.edu/registrar/schedules.htm.

Correction Day Nov. 20

CORRECTION DAY: Classes follow a Thursday schedule.

Correction Day Nov. 21

CORRECTION DAY: Day classes (8:00AM - 5:00PM) follow a Friday schedule AND Evening classes (5:00PM & later) follow a Wednesday schedule.

Thanksgiving Break Nov. 22-24

Thanksgiving Break – NO CLASSES IN-SESSION

Mon-Fri Classes End Dec. 14

Last day of class for any courses that are held Mondays through Fridays.

University Withdrawal Dec. 14

Last day to withdraw or take a leave of absence from the University. Completion of Withdrawal/LOA Request Form is required. Visit website for form: <http://stonybrook.edu/registrar/forms.htm>

Saturday Classes End Dec. 15

Last day of class for any courses that are held on Saturdays.

Commencement Dec. 16

University Graduation Ceremony

Finals for Mon – Fri Classes Dec. 17-21

Finals held for Monday through Friday Courses. For schedule go to Final Exam Schedule link at the Registrar's Website. www.stonybrook.edu/registrar

Finals Sat. Classes Dec. 22

Saturday Finals held during regular scheduled class time.

End of Term Dec. 22

End of Term; Last day of Finals.



Kotei's Magnum Opus

"I guess I was craving for potassium." --Kotei Aoki



HATING SB continued from page 10

Places that play with politics, like universities, like to keep secrecy in the name of the dignity and of the privacy. What? Yeah, they like to keep their insider stories to themselves, whether they affects the others or not. Sadly, those insider stories are secret for a reason.

At any rate, due to the school's inconsiderate operation to cage us in the confine and the closing of important dining locations, we will all be standing in line longer every day. What a waste of time, then.

Campus Dining Prices

The prices is outrageous! \$5 a sandwich. Our food is actually more expensive than airport food, and the quality and variety isn't better than theirs. Say, JFK, Atlanta, Phoenix, Chicago, Dallas, and even LaGuardia brings better food than FSA that our school somehow decided to sign the contract.

I would say we are probably forced to pay 50% more than we should for the campus food. That figure does not count the tax that school claims to collect before you use your meal points for the first time.

I feel many students are relying on pizzas and burgers at modest prices. Pizzas are crispy but have excessive oil on it. Some just take a bite anyway, but many will have to use a paper to absorb the oil before eating. That's pretty common sight in SAC. Burgers are convenient, matched with fries and fountain sodas. But their stuff is still frozen, so the quality is compromised for the quantity. If you stand there long enough or if you visit SAC food court often enough during the day, you will catch a sight of frozen burger on grills and frozen potato being fried. While burger chains try to attract customers with non-frozen meat, SAC operates pretty primitively.

Yet many others pick from salad bar. I mean salad bar has some choices apparently and taste pretty good actually. But I see that people are getting only leafy vegetables. Green leafy salad is healthy, with using right dressing of course. But their feeble efforts to lighten their salad aren't going well because the rates by pounds are steep. In addition SAC used to let us put dressing on the side, which was a little trick people used to use. But now they demand you to put it on the scale too. How cheap of them! Their choice of dressing is quite heavy too, except maybe virgin oil. Soon SAC will also charge for the crackers that they allow you to pick two for one cup of soup. You never know, how cheap they will play with you.

Meal Plan That Feast On You

The most outrageous of all is the ever increasing price of meal points.

My bronze plan used to be \$1200. This year it jumped to \$1500 and the third of the amount is confiscated by school or FSA or whatever their contract defines. Moreover it is the cheapest plan of all.

They are just playing monopoly. They are saying,

[FSA] Oh so we want more money from you. So we decided to raise money.

[SBU] Oh really? Then we should raise the balance of meal plans too because we don't want to give our money to you, monopolistic money sucker. So in response, we are collecting money from our slaves."

The past report by our dedicated staffs, the tax that school claims to collect is overcharged. 18% interest rates will come out much cheaper than what they charge us, think of it like 25% or even 30%. That's the idea. So the school administration just acts like a pompous tax collector from primitive America. "Hey, so I am charging this much. Stop asking questions, and just pay the bill, will ya. Or I will cut you off of my client list, you don't have choice, do you. Haha, too bad."

Stony Brook University was proud to mention in the campus e-mail that they had minimal increase in tuition rates. Yes we had less tuition increase for our classes. But they increased all the other fees, such as athletic fees, technology fees, transportation fees, and all the other fees in your SOLAR account. Meal plan points were raised by at least 200 points, which in total will easily amount \$7M increased revenue.

So you think you will be feasting on campus with so many points left on your account? Think again, your meal plans are feasting on you.

*18% interest rates
will come out much
cheaper than what
they charge us, think
of it like 25%.*

University Insurance

Yeah, so what is this about? Why do they ask every semester, after I waiver it every semester? I just don't understand. If they work so hard to mooch off money in insurance, why doesn't the administration try helping the leak victim more aggressively than to stay passively waiting for the damage report?

These people are just pathetic, bunch of wolves hungry for the green, and make me sad that the adults act

this way - immature way. Immature kids are better off, because they are not obsessed with collecting money. Did I ever mention about their efficiency in sending out bills and their reluctance to send out any other mails?

Power Down

Oh yes, this is actually funny. No, it's not funny at all. Seriously. How funny do you think if blackout occurs in at least one residence hall per semester? How funny do you think if the construction burst pipe lines and leave residents without water for a weekend?

*We had pretty major
blackout last semester.
It went from five in
the afternoon to five
in the next morning.*

We had pretty major blackout last semester. It went from five in the afternoon to five in the next morning. It happened in a bad date and time too. It was probably around second midterm week and I just got off from the computer to start reading textbooks. Eventually I couldn't read any paragraphs that night. I remember it was storming outside too. But at least I got to know my neighbours because we sat outside of rooms and sat by the emergency lights. We all went to bed earlier. In the morning by eight, all the electronics were working. Later my close friend, who was in charge of the night, told me that the light was restored at five in the morning. The affected residential halls were mostly on west and south west part of campus.

Bursting pipes was one of the best examples for the school's excessive campus beautification. It was while the construction of the rotary connecting in the south part of campus was still going on. I lived in Hand and suddenly the water stopped running. Then I was told that the pipes were burst around the construction area. It was in the beginning of weekend and I was going to take shower that very morning. So while feeling dirty, I had to hear that the repair may take the whole weekend. Fortunately it was fixed by the afternoon.

Trust me those power downs happen every semester. If you don't get a chance to experience the craze, you will experience fire drills. The drills happen twice a year. The alarm will ring in the morning like 7 in the winter. The alarm will also ring passed midnight, around 1 or maybe 2, to kick you out of residential halls. It usually takes 15 minutes to 30 minutes,

and staffs assume that students avoid sleeping. So it will be some things to go through.

Help Never Comes In Emergency

Sorry, let me add an exception. University police is usually responsive and reliable, actually. Only exception with them is this cliché, especially late at night or for problems that they don't want to correspond.

[You] Oh hi, I have a complaint about this noise.

[UP] Um, could you hold on for a second?

[You] Sure... (passes an hour with holding phone, and then hang up)

[You] (Redialing) Hi, I have a complaint about this noise.

[UP] Okay, where do you live? We will send officers right in.

For some reason, they just stop responding to you while putting you on hold and make you listen to nice music all night along. They are trying to be friendly through e-mails but you will then feel being stood up. It's the best for you to hang up right away and call right back. They would think that two people complained.

Fire Engines arrive at least 20 minutes late. I think they are coming from the fire department on Stony Brook road on south side of campus. If you come from south entrance, you will see how close it is. You can probably take 20 minutes to walk. It was one of my first on-site documentation which later I submitted to the issue. That winter night, the alarm went on at midnight and residents were stranded outside for over an hour. Can our life-line like fire engines be more sluggish than that?

But all and all I am grateful of University Police. My roommate and I had to deal with this horrible suitemates who smoke in the suite, have friends over until 4AM without our or RA's permission, and nearly breaking our rightful possession. University Police helped us bring those kids to judiciary courts. So if southern accents do not bother you and actually find favour in it, you should be friends with them. No, kidding about the accents. But Doug Little is one humane fella and always eager to listen.

Stone Head Administration

Oh yes, through my first year in The Stony Brook Press, I came to realise how stubborn school administration is. The Stony Brook Press staffs are dedicated to bring the truth in front of your eyes to read. The dirty truths about campus and true facts about the incidents are some of things we try to report, amongst numerous entertaining articles.

HATING SB continued on page 12



Kotei's Magnum Opus

"I guess I was craving for potassium." --Kotei Aoki



HATING SB continued from page 11

We featured overcrowding, overpopulated, and overly dense campus. The result was that school administration admitted more students than every before. They just started building new west apartments late last semester. All the new incoming students are packed like three sardines in a storable can. Most rooms are small even for one man to stay, even smaller for one girl stereotypically. Now each freshman student has to deal with two other people in the tight space.

We featured the overpricing of campus food and of the meal plans. Some prices of food went up. I know sushi stuff did. It's pretty sad because food courts ask \$3 more than Manhattan stores ask. If you live in the city, you know the relative prices in the city. Packed fruits are always pricy. Last semester the food courts implemented vegan food on the shelves, which was new cuisine. The meal points increased as I reported earlier. It's scary to think. We have less than 15 weeks a semester and we have to buy the cheapest meal plan for \$1500. So we spend like \$80 a week, after deducing the number of points that the campus dining confiscate for "tax." I kept myself busy during the day, so I have little time for meals. I also kept mooching off campus clubs whenever they buy food for the members. At the end, I spent only \$80 for buying meals for myself. That's how outrageous the prices are on campus.

We featured campus buses and

We featured the overpricing of campus food and of the meal plans. Some prices of food went up.

campus vans and their safety. The buses are old and many of them were sent to repair at the same time. As a result fewer buses ran the routes. Because of student demand to ride the buses from South P-Lot and many other bus stops, the students were packed inside the vehicles. The students had very little space to stand and the buses shakes more terrible than subways. Some students had to stand on the steps and the total weight of the passengers put the bus in danger. While some buses were in repair, van services took place. Of course, vans can take less people. For this topic, we had little success. A few weeks to a month passed, we see more buses ran and the inefficient van services were no more. I actually never use bus on rush hours, and prefer running around

campus in bare feet. So I did not have to deal with the stress of using the buses during the terrible time.

The Stony Brook Press often dedicates one whole issue discussing one big problem. The effect is very minimal. What a series of stone heads in school administration!

Broken Chairs

You see the out core of lecture halls neatly standing. Wait to see the inside. No, actually it's not bad.

So far I think the Old Chem 116 is the most severe. Chairs are broken. Chairs are gone. Chairs are gummed. Chairs are gnarled. Chairs are kicked. Chairs are juiced. Once you enter the lecture hall, you just assume to sit where few people are sitting. But, of course, there is a reason why they avoid sitting in the area. When you get to the area, you see all the nasty things happening on the chair and under. Now you feel awkward that you came all over and just standing like car antennas. You are wondering left and right, looking left and right, checking every seat, and eventually don't find a clean seat. So you have to give in and sit on the stain. Yet the worst, some tables are broken as well. You pull it out, from the side of the right arm rest (or left, a few available), and realise that table is unusable. You can't put your binder without slipping. You can't lean on the table to sleep in front of your professors. ESS 001 is still better.

One of the most graffiti seats are in Harriman. The tables are full of junks. Just like, back to high schools. They may help you stay awake. They may keep your distracted. They may educate you on contemporary arts. They may educate you pop culture with all profane lingo born from raps. But most importantly, they will make you feel dumb and ashamed to be part of the community.

If Stony Brook has money enough to start constructions every semester, why would it not replace the ridiculing chairs?

Stolen Door Handles

Well this is funny story. Last semester, Alex Walsh, another staff of the Press, reported that a missing door handle on one of the Student Union doors had returned to its place. Around the same time, I witnessed a door handle on one of the ESS doors missing. Imagine, what you would think if you were me, putting aside that you should never be like me.

First thought that ran through my mind was an imagery of the Student Union manager. He saw the missing door handle. He did not want to report to the school administration because he would be beaten so hard and would not get the replacement from them anyway. So he decided to replace the

handle by himself. Since he did not feel like a philanthropist at that moment, he decided to exchange his problem with someone else. The target happened to be ESS. Downstairs of ESS, on Harriman side, the handle seemed to match the design of his building. He removed it, and reattached it to his building.

Sinking Melville

This would be going to be one of the biggest constructions. The construction project would probably be more difficult than the structural strengthening of the Leaning Tower of Pisa, which reportedly cost as much as €2737K or some \$25M.

There was a report that our very own Melville Library is sinking, a few millimeters per year. It sounds gradual in our perspective, but very swift in geologic time scale, and instant in astronomical time scale. The library was originally going to stand on Javits Center site.

Library-Union Bridge

That reminds me. It may be fun to remember this too. There used to be a bridge that cut above John S. Toll drive. There is a plan to build a bridge connecting new Roth Café, once completed, from the other side of the road.

Black Long Island

If you decide to walk outside at night, you will see how brightly the campus is lit. Gazing up, you will see hardly any stars. However, believe or not, Stony Brook neighbourhood is one of the darkest parts on Long Island. It sure does not seem so, because the stars seem so faint, even in the winter.

Taking such environmental advantage for granted, Stony Brook's astronomy department is one of the leading research university in the field. The telescope that sits on top of ESS building is open for observation. The easiest access there is to attend Astronomy Open Night, usually happens on the first Friday of every month. ESS departments have things about Friday evening lecture series. If high school students take advantage of the telescope, any college students interested in stars should do as well.

Blackest part of campus at night is one specific spot behind Tuscanini, in the shadow of Javits Center, and the north east campus where street lights do not exist. If you are patient enough, you can actually observe shooting stars one of the winter nights.

Connecting from Harriman

This little tip is not very known, apparently. I was spending enough time in Harriman and found these routes. During the winter, when you want to walk to next class from Harriman to

either Physics building or Math Tower, you are given frost rest.

In theory, you can also get to Math Tower from Physics building. Go one flight down, the basement is actually connected.

Harriman and Physics building sits next to each other. So there has to be some connection. Behind the Harriman, there are very heavy-looking doors in the back of Harriman. When you push them open, they will very likely be swung open. Pretty dangerous. Then you enter new hall way that connects to Physics building.

In theory, you can also get to Math Tower from Physics building. Go one flight down, the basement is actually connected. There is a little tricky part in this, however. The basement is reasonably large. The hall ways are separated by doors. You can approximate the distance, but the idea is to walk till the end. But you shouldn't walk too far because there is some nuclear laboratory or something so out of place. By making a right turn to left, you will open the door to Math Tower.

Funny Snooping

I sure enjoy snooping in buildings. I do that occasionally for some adventurous 007 type of feeling. Staller Center is entertaining on that part.

If you simply want to listen to orchestra, take a flight up and sit on the couch by the concert hall. When you enter Staller Center, just play cool. Alternatively you might end up looking for a way in from the other side. On the fourth floor, the two buildings that make up Staller Center are connected. Once you walk the path, take two flights down. When you come out of the hall way to the recital hall, play cool and pretend that you were back from bathroom. I have seen the people going into bathroom around the area. Don't harm anyone, don't damage anything, the tips are the true music lover who can't take part in university band.

I still say the best way to listen is to purchase a ticket. How much was it usually? 10, 20 bucks?

Without Air Conditioners

During the early fall semester, the days with unbearable heat still happen. Without an air conditioner in your room, it will be your first challenge to keep cool. Your undies and shirts are

HATING SB continued on page 13



Kotei's Magnum Opus

"I guess I was craving for potassium." --Kotei Aoki



HATING SB continued from page 12

in the laundry every week anyway, but most importantly you will feel haunted by the insomniac discomfort to fall asleep. Some may have no problem. But please avoid using the pills to fall asleep, because of the side effects and as matter of fact the discomfort is not at all the sign of insomnia anyway.

I once lived in Hand College, Tabler Quad. Actually the people (except a few who made me realise I should avoid them) were comfortable and the enjoyed the living. The suite did not have the air conditioner and I was little uncomfortable trying to sleep in those mushy days. Meditation or some deep breaths will calm the heart rate. Don't over do those, because the whole purpose is to go easy on what consumes your oxygen intake. Cold shower is good, as long as you don't catch cold. But first of all, calm down, boys and gals. Don't get obsessed with the future and have fun today.

Smell Of Spring

Ah, what a refreshing smell, isn't it? Flowers are blooming. Trees are branching. Leaves are waving. Baby geese are quacking. The temperature may be yet unstable. But little by little you get to lay down on the grass in front of Staller Center. It is a comforting season.

Top among all the new stimuli to your olfactory epithelium is probably the smell of feces. Oh yes. It is. The temperature of the early spring season may confuse you. But on campus, once you smell the fertilisers, you know that spring has come. It is pretty inevitable because the fertilisers are laid pretty much everywhere on campus. Around Roth Pond is the hot spot. Wait, no, it is the funk spot.

Unfortunately if you live by the grass or any portion of soil, they will lay fertiliser right next to your window with no regards. My roommate and I like not using the air conditioner, so we often keep the window open. But during a day in last spring, while knowing that our window was open, people laid fertilisers to stink our room instead of refreshing with the spring breeze. They just don't care.

Ganders and Geese On The Pond

I like writing the follow-up of these friendly neighbours that we tend to be uninterested. Roth Pond is like an overrated sightseeing spot in your spare time. So if you visit the tranquility of fluid of water like I do, you will catch up with Stony Brook gaggle. Usually by the new fall semester, the downs of goslings is replaced with the adult, contour feather. But you may catch the sight of the swimming birds. You might even catch a glimpse of the bathing birds.

During the winter time, the pond is pretty quiet and silent. However, it gets

little cheery at night. You know, the decibel sort of reverses as the winter and the summer of the north and south hemispheres switch. Sorry, bad simile. Anyway some people may be playing snow ball fight. Some people may be playing tag. Some people may even bring their own skate shoes (ah do I love to do that...). Some people may throw garbage cans, poles, chairs, lights, trash, cigarettes, coffee cups, burger king trays (by the way that is not going to happen this year, unless thieves generously drop off those trays), a shoe, and anything you can

Some people may throw garbage cans, poles, chairs, lights, trash, cigarettes, coffee cups, burger king trays...

imagine that are not alive. Good gracious. And we are back, to the birds.

Around early spring time, out of nowhere, goslings will appear with the adults. They are fragile and scared, and so small more than anything. They don't follow exactly behind their parents, but crowd around them and can't stay away. First they won't swim on the pond. But sooner or later they will follow parents' lead. If you are patient enough, you can witness "the first dip" of the kids. It's funny looking when they are apparently afraid of water and finally be able to jump onto the water. Also you will be surprised how quick these kids grow. By April, you will see them balding. That is how quickly you are growing in college too, to tell you.

Brotherhood and Sisterhood

Sororities and fraternities shape the first image of college lives. Quite frankly I'm little scare of them too. The idea is nice, sort of big sister or big brother stuff. But sometimes they wear similar things and talk about how they are united in one. They seem to act like cults.

Of course I have friends in fraternity or sororities. They are fine bunch of people. Some of them may not know what they want to do in their lives. Sure that happens a lot. Some others are bright individuals. They are just having fun, enjoying the college life and its liberalism. The truth is that their idea of "fun" is misguided in some way. All I hear about their "fun" is alcohol, whether bottles of wine, shots of scotch, quaff of vodka, or kegs of beer, and their drunkenness, whether wasted or not. Of course that is not applicable to all parts of the Greek Life.

I actually prefer calling my Catholic friends brother or sister to calling fraternity boys brothers. Especially calling brother has some new sensation for me because I never had a brother.

Campus Clubs

When you became the part of this gigantic community, you must want to join in some clubs. It is indeed nice to feel that you belong to something. Involvement Fair is held in the beginning of every semester. It is the best opportunities to find yourself clubs that interest you. There are number of registered clubs on campus. At least one of them can catch your eyes.

If nothing draws your attention, you can always start a new club. The process can be frustrating, having to deal with impossible Student Activities. They will play ping-pong with you until the semester is done and you would have no business with them. They take documentation but they would have no intention of making change according to your request. I have once trapped in their dead loop, so frustrating. But establishing clubs will be one big project of your whole career. My friend is trying to make cooking club, thus there is no limit in what you can do.

Facts About Honour Society

Honour Society, doesn't it sound good to any ears? It sounds British. That's aside the point. Being a part of any honour societies is worth your commitments in your classes. It may be not, especially those who might have applied for college "to get better jobs." I've met a few individuals with such motivation. For them I suppose honour societies are just a part of resume. But for people who are eager to change the world, or to have impacts in your community, rewarding themselves by participating in honour societies is the first stepping stone.

There are honour societies in every department, apparently. Some are inactive, however. Sometimes an honour society may even seem dead or non-existent. When I tried to revive economics honour society single-handedly, I was surprised to find the chapter stayed active without the advisor, well the former advisor, knowing. So by the time I attended their first meeting I was too late to join the executive board. I am also aware of psychology honour society. I am sure English, Political Science, History, Math, Physics, Anthropology, Engineering, and whole bunch of other departments also have the honour societies.

Above all, there are several all-major honour societies too. I belong to one of them, called Golden Key International Honour Society. It is one of the largest and giving honour societies

in the world. Holding 362 chapters across Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Malaysia, South Africa, and United States as of August 2007, this organisation stands the premier honour societies. Basic idea of honour societies is community service. But most importantly they set up environment in which you will learn to take leadership amongst your colleagues. Above half of the members in Golden Key were determined to give their time for community service projects when they decided to pay one-time \$70 fee for the lifetime membership. I have worked in the executive board throughout my involvement in Golden Key. I am sure other people in executive board of any clubs or any honour societies will agree that the experiences we all gained in our involvement were invaluable.

The new era emphasizes "Higher Leadership" and this is where you can start.

I also want you to take the responsibilities when you meet the requirements for the induction. Your involvement will change the view of the world around you. There are also NSCS and Sigma Beta. Many departmental honour societies tend to have Greek letters as well as some all-major ones. They both grant full membership based on point system. NSCS targets freshman and sophomore. Sigma Beta and Golden Key target the next two years.

The new era emphasizes "Higher Leadership" and this is where you can start.

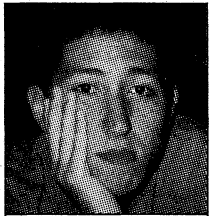
Eventually You Find

That Kotei's Korner is the coolest, because he talks bluntly, pretty much anything and everything to you.

You probably felt I was humiliating and attacking the school administration. Quite frankly I still have hope for the school. Besides they gave me plenty of time to think in and out of classes and I am glad for that. For writing so boldly straightforward, I am hoping that they will change. I no longer say "try to" because they can claim that they "try" zillion times a semester and never change. If they think my writing is bad publicity for them, the right actions for them is to change.

So thank you so much for reading the Korner. I hope you enjoyed it at least somewhat. Rest assured the column will never get this long, less likely that it will get longer.

Coups D'Twat



Nick
Eaton

Has anyone else been watching the Democratic debates? Am I the only one here that's tired of Hillary Clinton? Her constant and seemingly uneducated babble has begun to bore into my brain, destroying what little hope I had for a strong and articulate Democratic leader. Politicians are supposed to politick, but following the campaign strategies of Karl Rove in order to sound byte your way to the White House is definitely a coup d'twat of the Democratic party. There are a few key points that I'd like to address.

Tough On Terror: Why do we have to be tough on terror? Why can't we be smart on terror? Or maybe even effective on terror? Being tough on terror doesn't necessitate a formula for success. So Hillary Clinton is a Democratic candidate avidly defending her position

as being "tough on terror." Unfortunately, her plan for Iraq is a recipe for disaster. She bolsters her unoriginal idea of "phased redeployment" in order to appeal to the anti-war base. The first steps of her plan are generally a carbon copy of every other Democrat's plan: bring the troops home. Following this is what could be considered a "shit storm of stupidity." Clinton would like to redeploy troops to the borders of Iraq in order to prevent the spread of civil war into other regions, as well as to prevent Syrian and Iranian involvement. She has explicitly stated that, should the war devolve into pure genocide, America would not get involved. She would like to appoint a "high level U.N. representative -- similar to those appointed in Afghanistan, Bosnia, and Kosovo -- to help broker peace among the parties in Iraq." Can anyone else smell the bullshit here? As far as I can remember, none of the countries listed above are a safe haven for peace or diplomacy. Hell, if we're going to follow in the missteps of previous presidents,

we may as well carpet bomb the Middle East and hide behind NATO. After Iraq becomes a hurricane of chaos and blood, Clinton's reconstruction strategy is vague. It involves diplomacy, money and non-interference of "rogue nations" such as Iran. Wonderful.

Inexperience: No offense, but where does Hillary Clinton come off calling the kettle black (no pun intended)? Obama may be inexperienced, but I can't remember any significant policies put forth by Mrs. Clinton during Bill's run at the White House. As quoted from HillaryClinton.com: "As everyone knows, Hillary's fight for universal health coverage did not succeed." Not only does she acknowledge her failure, but she acknowledges everyone else's acknowledgment of her failure. That's a lack of self-confidence you can trust. Don't get me wrong: I understand that she worked side by side with her husband and I'm certain that in many cases, she was imperative to the decision making process of being a president... but helping and fucking the

president doesn't make you presidential: it makes you the first lady (or man I suppose, sometime in the future). Granted, she'll have Bill at her side to help her along, but how much does that really change? Americans are calling for fresh leaders with new ideas, not poorly rendered etch-a-sketch portraits of previous ones. Obama may be inexperienced but his ideas are new and uncorrupted. He has not yet been touched by party-pressure to compromise his beliefs in order to win the vote. I'd have to agree with Mr. Obama on this one and say that Hillary Clinton is indeed Bush-Cheney Lite.

Grrl Power: Why is that if Hillary Clinton is not your choice candidate, you're a chauvinistic, sexist pig who has put no educated thought or reason into your decision? I hate that Clinton is a candidate heralded for an unalterable genetic trait rather than her merits. Guaranteed, if half of these sex-conscious voters took two seconds to get informed, Hillary Clinton would have half as many supporters.

Unhappy? Maybe You Should Re-Examine Stony Brook



James
Laudano

I don't know if you've heard, but Stony Brook just ranked #1 in the nation in the category for "Least Happy Students" in a poll done by the Princeton Review. However, if you are an incoming freshman reading this article, don't allow Stony Brook's reputation to proceed it. If you're a middle, or upper classmen who is perhaps a part of that "Least Happy" demographic, maybe you should take a closer look at our university. While it is true that our university can sometimes take on cold and machine-like characteristics at times, college life is really what

you make of it, using the tools your school puts at your disposal. And, to be quite honest, our university (or perhaps the students that attend it) really do provide us with the tools to have a happy and fun time at Stony Brook.

Now, I know it is not in this paper's habit to defend Stony Brook. In fact, I have gone on the record in past articles, lambasting the administration and its faulty way of handling our money and university. However this university does not truly belong to the administrators like President Kenny. It belongs to us, the student body. Those students who realize this and take the initiative lead very enjoyable lives here at Stony Brook. That is the key. You, as the student, must take the initiative and not allow the foolish and impersonal decisions made

by the administration to bring you down. Do not allow them to create a dull factory-like university experience for you. Because, as many will tell you, those decisions often do a damn good job of creating that dull atmosphere here.

How can you lead this happy, contended college life, you ask? It's simple. Just get involved.

How can you lead this happy, contended college life, you ask? It's simple.

Just get involved. The administration wants you to simply come in, pay your money, and get out, assembly-line style. If you don't use the activities fee by joining some clubs, they simply get the money without having to shell any of it out. So, join a club, play some pickup sports in the gym, hang out in the University Café during shows, look into a study abroad program, do whatever you damn well feel like, but do something.

Stony Brook suffers from a severe case of apathy and inactivity at times. Don't fall into that trend, because that's what earned us the "Least Happy" status. Show the administration and the Princeton Review that you are, by some slim chance, actually enjoying your stay here at Stony Brook. It's not as difficult as you may think.

The race...



James Never Made it to first base with Matt.

to fill space!

I hate you guys...

—Jesse Schoepfer, Production Manager
on being elected to Production Manager

Instructions to the Audience



Alex H.
Nagler

You know what, Stony Brook, I'm sick and tired of making excuses for you. You've pissed me off in the past, but this one takes the cake. Least happy students in the

COUNTRY? I knew applying to you two years ago that you had some issues regarding the physical appearance of the campus and the fact that there are some, okay a lot, of professors out there who don't give a shit, but least happy students in the country?

I'm blaming you, student body. I'm blaming you for letting this happen. We're fifty-two percent resident, forty-eight percent commuter. These are

numbers you're supposed to see in a bad presidential race, not a bloody student population make up. To the fifty-two percent of us who live here, hey, what's up? What's your problem? Why do you make this place so fucking dead on the weekends that going to work for a newspaper all day Saturday and copy editing shitty grammatical mistakes is more fun than going outside? (No offense, *Press*, I wuvv yous, but you've got to admit, it is pretty ridiculous.)

Student body, I'm going to call you Sleepy, as that's what I feel you are. Tired, lethargic, not wanting to give a crap. You'd much rather hit the snooze button of life than wake up and deal with what's staring you in the face. Sleepy, we have a big campus. It's nice in some parts. We have a lot of sports teams, Sleepy. Lot of clubs, too. Sleepy,

do you know what could happen if we actually gave a shit and started demanding more from our administration than we currently do?

I sure as hell think things would change, Sleepy. I bet they'd lower food prices, as they'd know they couldn't get away with charging two to three times market value for stuff. I bet you they'd try to book bigger name acts to come to play. Or, better yet, they'd book acts. You see, Sleepy, normally, academic administrations try to do things that will improve the quality of life for students, not find new ways to siphon every last ounce of fun out of their souls. We've drawn an odd card, Sleepy, but we're the only ones who can get to fixing it.

As for me, I'm Ragey. I'm the one who sent out those e-mails about the leak protest and never got any response.

I'm the one writing the editorial about being the least fucking happy school in the country. And I'm the one who isn't going to get listened to either. See, cause Sleepy, well, Sleepy likes to sleep. Sleepy won't wake up and Sleepy will go the next four years and more without doing anything to benefit Sleepy's own common good. Sleepy is why we are the least happy school.

So yes, Sleepy, I do blame you. I blame you for a lot of things. If you want to talk, you know where to find me. My name is plastered on everything I write and odds are I'm down here in the office, Sleepy. Just come and find me and we'll talk. And maybe, Sleepy, you can finally get out of bed and get some coffee.

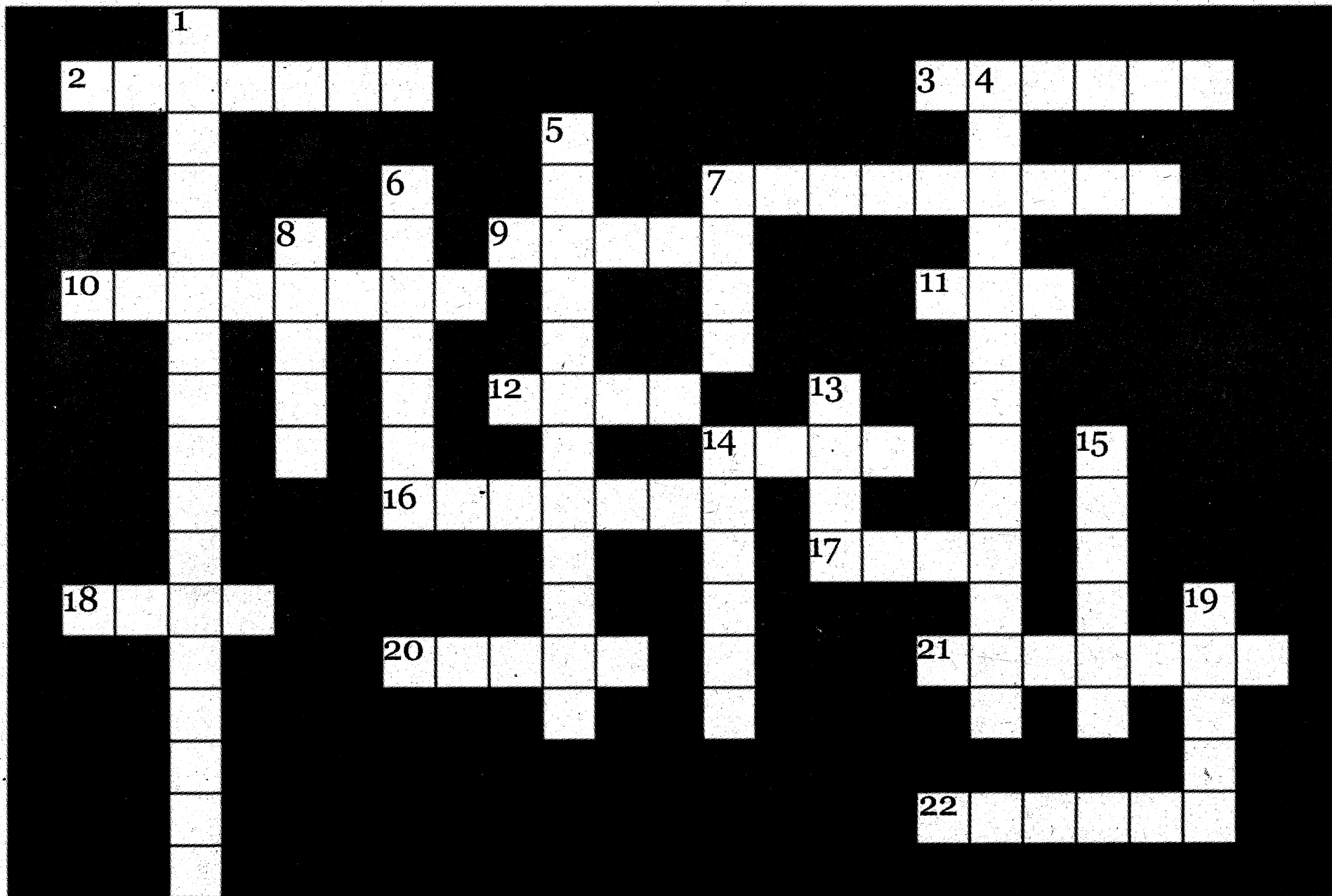
Alex H. Nagler may have bitten off more than he can chew here.



Arts Calendar

Campus Community Info Fair
9/3, 11:00am, SAC PlazaTie Dye With the Enviromental Club
9/5, 12:40pm, SAC Plaza

Can you go up against the Knockout challenge? This puzzle is entitled "Axe." Enjoy!



2) Lincoln's successor

3) Projectile weapon used to fire large objects

7) Food created by putting cow meat on a skewer

9) Was able to turn invisible with the help of a mystical object

10) Atari controller

11) Singer/ Songwriter Stewart

12) Nickname for a rooster

14) Used on cattle

16) Often served in links

17) Nickname for former president Richard M. Nixon

18) Possessions one no longer considers useful

20) Iconic Richard Roundtree role

21) Sausage often thinly sliced

22) Singer/ songwriter Nelson

1) A member of the popular '90s swing revival band might be called this

4) 1988 action movie starring Carl Weathers and Sharon Stone

5) Position currently held by Joshua B. Bolten

6) X-Men character

7) What Old Mother Hubbard was trying to fetch from the cubbard

8) Can be used to start a fire

13) Used in walls

14) A bird's beak, perhaps?

15) It can move diagonolly

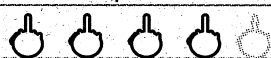
19) Cold-blooded creature

Now in Theaters

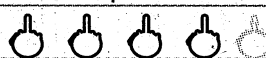
Rush Hour 3



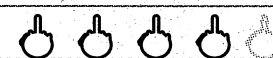
Superbad



The Simpsons Movie



The Bourne Ultimatum



Rush Hour 3: One Too Many

By Sam Goldman

Brett Ratner must have incriminating photos of someone somewhere. That's the only way he could possibly be allowed to keep making movies well, that and the fact that people who don't know any better keep paying to go see his movies. People such as my 16-year-old brother, Lenny, who begged me to go see *Rush Hour 3* with him in Manhattan. He's my brother and I can't say no. I wish I did.

Just like the first two *Rush Hour* movies, screenwriter Jeff Nathanson spins a lazy plot as an excuse to showcase the chemistry between stars Chris Tucker (as LAPD officer James Tucker) and Jackie Chan (Inspector Lee), a device taken to its extreme in the third installment as there are no stars of note to compete with, unless you count cameos by director Roman Polanski and Max von Sydow (again, Ratner must have photos). As in the first two movies, the duo are abroad on another very important case, but the main difference this time is the venue: Paris, an opportunity for Ratner to film in the Eiffel Tower and,

perhaps more importantly for him, a French burlesque joint.

But the chemistry between the two is destroyed by a script that constantly aims below the belt, with sexual innuendo and ethnic stereotyping used as a stand-in for almost anything that could charitably be called comedy. A sample line from Tucker to a seemingly-about-to-get-his-freak-on Chan: "Come on crouching tiger, don't hide that dragon!" Or how about Tucker meeting a Chinese man who speaks French: "You're Asian, stop humiliating yourself!" Wow.

Perhaps the problem is also that we haven't seen much of these two stars since their last venture together; this is Chan's first English film since *Around the World in 80 Days* three years ago, and Tucker's last movie was *Rush Hour 2*, six years ago. When once they seemed like the coolest guys on the block, now they seem like familiar retreads trying to squeeze a few extra dollars from a film franchise that seems out of place.

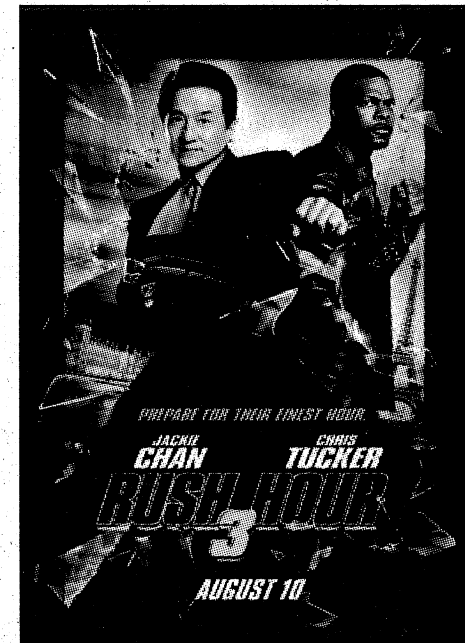
The action scenes are fewer and further between, and aren't nearly as fun to watch due to Chan's advancing age making it harder for him to do what he does best (more shots in this

one are disappointingly CGI than in the first two movies combined). The main supporting actors here do all right (Yvan Attal as an anti-American taxi driver is a better actor than anyone else in the damn film), but they can't save this toilet swirly of a movie.

The main reason the movie blows, of course, is Ratner, who, after inexplicably making tons of money with *X-Men: The Last Stand* (still the worst movie I've ever seen in a theatre) continues to get free reign – and lots of dough – for making movies with no discernible sense of style, propulsion or direction. His filmmaking is laziness personified: direct as if you're shooting frame-by-frame from a storyboard (or in the case of *Red Dragon*, a novel) and hope that the chemistry between your acting ensemble will make up for your lack of inherent ability. It worked in *Rush Hour*, it worked in *Red Dragon* (mostly because Ralph Fiennes and Ed Norton carried the damn film), and it worked in *X-Men 3* because the market he was aiming at apparently could care less if there's a story as long as things got blown up real good. Say what you want about Michael Bay (and a lot of people have said a lot of things), but the man cares

about what he's doing and it shows on screen.

Ratner's just a hack, pure and simple. I hope that when my brother gets older, he'll realize that.



Rush Hour 3
Brett Ratner



Mamma Mia!

By Sam Goldman

Editor's Note: Wait, we're reviewing Broadway now? What the fuck is this? Did someone cut the Press' balls off and throw them in the Bamboo Forest? And "Mamma Mia!"???? It's ABBA, for God's sake. Whatever. I don't fucking care anymore, as long as I have my tequilla. Mmm., sweet tequilla.

It's one thing to take a mixture of serious and fun songs and try to weave them into a musical. In many ways that's what musicals are made of, within the constraints of a story. It's another thing to attempt to take a bunch of fun songs and make some of them serious in an attempt to shoe-horn them into a Broadway musical. This second tactic is becoming increasingly more popular; shows featuring the music of Billy Joel, John

Lennon and Queen have littered the Broadway and London landscapes, and a show featuring Bob Dylan's music is right around the corner. It's a tactic that's not without its pitfalls, and "Mamma Mia!" does not emerge unscathed.

"Mamma Mia!", the worldwide sensation that's currently playing at Manhattan's Winter Garden Theatre, tries to shoehorn the music of dance-pop group ABBA into a story about a young woman who, unbeknownst to her mother, has invited three men to her wedding, any of whom may or may not be her father. Hilarity and heartbreak ensues, of course.

The cast, while full of no-name Broadway veterans, is competent, though the younger members of the cast tend to sing in that kind of bland Broadway voice that tends to turn pop songs into sugar-coated crud. The older voices hold their own, providing the nuance and gravitas (if an ABBA song can actually have gravitas).

The problem isn't the performances but rather the concept itself.

When the script veers toward the fun, there's no problem: a hilarious take-off on "Take A Chance On Me" is perfect, and a large-scale performance of "Gimme Gimme Gimme" is outstanding. But when "Knowing Me, Knowing You" is turned into a sad meditation on a lost relationship, the effect is stifling: you're supposed to feel heartbreak, not the urge to dance. And examples like that are available throughout the two-plus hour extravaganza.

As a result, you don't know what to do: enjoy the ABBA songs for what they are, or get emotionally involved with the story. At least you don't know until the end, when the cast dispenses with anything plot-related and dresses up in glam-rock costumes for a sing-along that got everyone clapping.

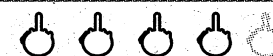
I guess when you use a beloved pop band for your music, it doesn't matter how good or bad the show is.

A final side note: At the Winter Garden theatre, the orchestra is located below the stage, completely invisible to all. I hate this; this denies

the audience a chance to see, and therefore thank, all the fine people involved in providing the music and backup vocals for the show.



Mamma Mia!
Benny Andersson



Five Cents & Shock Cinema

By Sam Goldman

Some background: I've been living on the Greenpoint/Williamsburg border for about a year now. One of the things that drew me to the area was the abundance of live music venues, such as the Luna Lounge, Galapagos Art Space, Northsix (which closed down and is to be reopened in September under the less-awesome-sounding name The Music Hall of Williamsburg), the Warsaw and the McCarren Park Pool.

I had heard of Trail of Dead, with many people telling me that they were awesome, but I had never even heard a single song. Considering that the show was free, and, well, this was why I moved here, I decided to take a chance and go to the show.

First up were two opening acts: The Five Cents and Shock Cinema.

The Five Cents are a two-man band of transplants from Austin, Tx., with

Brad Bordine and Matt Steinke playing various instruments: Matt utilizing a keyboard and guitar while handling the vocals, while Brad manned the drums, synthesizer and harmonica. The sound was the standard Votrot-ish hyper-literate hipster-rock fare; moderately bouncy and fun, and the crowd seemed to enjoy it. Bordine's ability to switch from tapping the drums to tapping the synth was impressive.

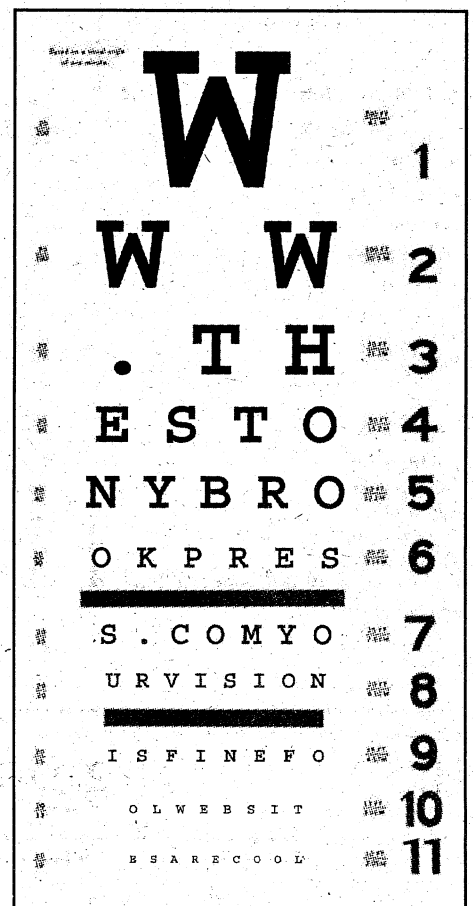
Shock Cinema are a four-piece whirling dervish of a band, also from Brooklyn. Made of members from Trail of Dead (namely bassist Danny Wood) and other bands, Shock Cinema channel noise-punk as sung by Bjork. The Bjork clone is lead singer Destiny Montague, and her seemingly boundless energy gave the band a relentless propulsion. The crowd felt the energy rise through the floor and into the legs, hearts and minds of everyone in the Luna Lounge. In short, they rocked, HARD.

Finally, it was time for the main

event, met with cheers and hollers from the crowd, Dressed in black shirts and jeans like some invading army, the burly men of Trail of Dead took the stage, introduced themselves, ... and then proceeded to poop out some of the dullest, most unimaginative prog-rock you'll ever hear. Seriously, I have NEVER heard a band that was this hyped up be so bad. The singing — if you could call it that — was all sorts of whiny. It was cool to see a double-axe guitar by the band's bassist, who acted as the band's spokesperson throughout the night, but his guitar work was uninspired. Maybe they were tired, in their defense; they noted that the band had just finished a huge tour.

Compounding the tragedy was a marked increase in decibel level; it was as if the Luna Lounge had compensating by cranking it up to 11.

I left after about 20 minutes in disgust. My ears haven't been the same since. Maybe next time I'll do some research before seeing a band.



Death And Destruction at Coney Island!!!

By Jonathan Singer

Coney Island has a new name: High Five City. At least that's the case until land developers have their way with the area. But for one night, The Aquabats, Southern California's superhero rock band, claimed the area of Brooklyn as their own. They brought their new (and old) wave grooves to one of their most eclectic crowds, all of them children, at least in the context of the concert.

Ironically, the venue, Cha-Cha's of Coney Island, puts more of an emphasis on it's bar than it does it's on club. The show was initially going to be 21 and over, but then the bar's owner decided to change the rule to all ages, allowing the band's ten-year old fans to jump in the pit alongside the 40-year old fans.

And the mix was pretty much equal. Aquabat Jimmy the Robot (James Briggs) sees it all the time. "At a show last Friday, there were as many 40 year olds as there were ten year olds," he says. At the Coney Island show, even a group of infamous Brooklyn hipsters were included in the crowd. Opening act MC Lars even wrote and performed a song about hipsters riding the L train.

Ironically (it was a night of irony), it's these hipsters and their trend of gen-

trification that has pushed developers to buy land in Coney Island and are planning to build luxury condos in place of amusement parks. At least The Robot got to ride the Cyclone, which isn't going anywhere; the roller coaster is registered as a national historic landmark.

"At least the Robot got to ride the Cyclone."

Orson Byrnebat
Aquabats! Cadet Faction

"I have friends that live here," says The MC Bat Commander (Christian Jacobs). "This place is historical." Bassist Crash McLarson (Chad Larson), adds, "Coney Island [and The], Aquabats, it makes perfect sense. You've got a roller coaster, and a roller coaster of a show."

The Aquabats were certainly out of their element at Cha-Cha's. A typical Aquabat show is filled with back flips and monster fights, but the stage at Cha-Cha's could barely fit all five band members. Jimmy The Robot and his keyboard ended up hidden behind a speaker. But superheroes fight monsters

wherever they go. This show was disrupted by a mutant lizard, billed from underneath the Coney Island boardwalk. But The Commander suggested to the crowd that perhaps the mutant is not that evil; he scares away land developers. That line was greeted with thunderous applause.

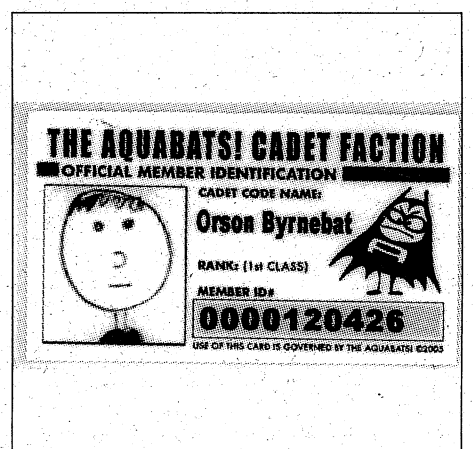
The band's summer tour is somewhat of a celebration. "We've had some bad luck," says Commander Jacobs, referring to a decade of failed TV pilots and interesting changes in the band's musical genre. But things are finally looking up for The Aquabats. Jacobs successfully created and directed a children's television show, which was subsequently picked up by Nick Jr. Airing weekday mornings at 10:30 AM, Yo Gabba Gabba! features guest stars Elijah Wood, The Shins, and Tony Hawk, all closet fans of The Aquabats.

While never reaching total mainstream success, The Aquabats have built a solid cult following under their power belts. Each bats concert features plenty of kids dressed as the band, as well as many adults dressed at their favorite Aquabat. "It's for kids, but it's also for adults who want to be silly," says Larson. "Cults are healthy, aren't they?"

As a superfan and registered Aquacadet (#0000120426), I was nervous as heck interviewing the band, with whom

I had the most awesome opportunity of sharing Nathan's chili cheese fries with (!). And after all of the Coney Island awesomeness, the show was only a warm up for the next night's show at BB Kings in Times Square. Jacobs points out that, interestingly enough, Times Square underwent what's happening in Coney Island, when Disney stores replaced Times Square peep shows. So Coney Island's future is uncertain.

I really wanted to see The Bats in Time Square, but I had to work on the publication of this magazine. If I were still a kid, I wouldn't have any work to do.



Member ID Card, So COOOOOOL!

Jon Singer

Arkham Asylum

TOP TEN

Illnesses That Could Be Band Names

- | | |
|----|------------------------------|
| 10 | Vaginal Thrush |
| 9 | The Heart Murmers |
| 8 | Cleft Palate |
| 7 | Creeping Eurption |
| 6 | Restless Leg |
| 5 | Cockayne |
| 4 | Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever |
| 3 | Lockjaw |
| 2 | Tinea Pedis |
| 1 | Fatal Familial Insomnia |

ABU MAZEN

and the Sticky Political Wicket

Help Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas make his way to the international aid money for his people, but be careful! If anyone sees you with supporters of Hamas, Hezbollah, or Iran, all that money goes away. Get too close to Israeli officials, and you'll lose credibility with your constituency. Good luck!



START



Hamas!



Shimon Peres!

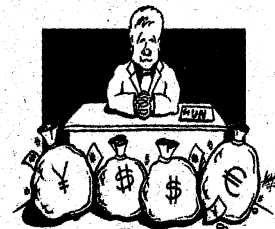
Mahmoud
Ahmadinejad!

Ehud Olmert!



Hezbollah!

FINISH



Open House
September 12
Union 060
1pm
Free Pizza
Free Speech

