

THE STONY BROOK PRESS

VOL XXX ISSUE 11

"WE FEEL LIKE OZYMANDIAS"

APRIL 1, 2009

satire (sa-tīr), n.
A literary work in which
human vice or folly is
attacked through irony,
derision, or wit.



Rats off to ya, dormers!

By Raina Bedford

Last week Peter Park was roused from sleep when he heard scuttling noises under his bed. They shortly ceased and he went back to sleep. A couple of hours later the noises returned and he jumped up. He saw something move from beneath his bed to his desk. The mysterious animal then scuttled from under his desk and took refuge beneath his roommate's bed.

It was a rat.

"You can hear them crawling in the ceiling," he said, "All my suitemates have heard the noises but never had them come into their room before."

Peter Park lived in Eisenhower College in Kelly Quad where several students have reported rat problems.

A month ago, Anna Sobillo discovered a rat in her room. The rat had chewed through the mesh covering up the holes beneath her radiator. She reports that the rats chewed up some of her clothing and went through her trash.

Both Sobillo and Park reported their problems to Regina Frontino, the RHD of Kelly Quad. They both report that the response to their problem was slow and ineffective.

When asked about the ongoing problem, Frontino said she was not authorized to comment.

In both cases the students reported that a maintenance worker did not arrive on the scene for a couple of days. In Sobillo's case, it was a week. During

this time Sobillo said she refused to go in her room, and she lived with other residents on campus.

In both cases, the rats entered the rooms through holes underneath the radiators. When the maintenance workers came, they simply replaced the

opened her door and saw a rat run from behind her roommate's garbage to her bed. She said that the rat retreated into an opening beneath her radiator.

When the maintenance workers came they did not cover up the hole beneath her radiator. They placed a small

According to both of them Frontino, the RHD of Eisenhower College, urged them to stay in their rooms despite the rat problems because finding another room for them to be difficult. Frontino told Park to clean up his suite and the rat problem would go away.

"A suite is very different from a room," he said, "The rats were not in the common room, they were in my room."

Sobillo said that it was very difficult for her to move into a rat-free building.

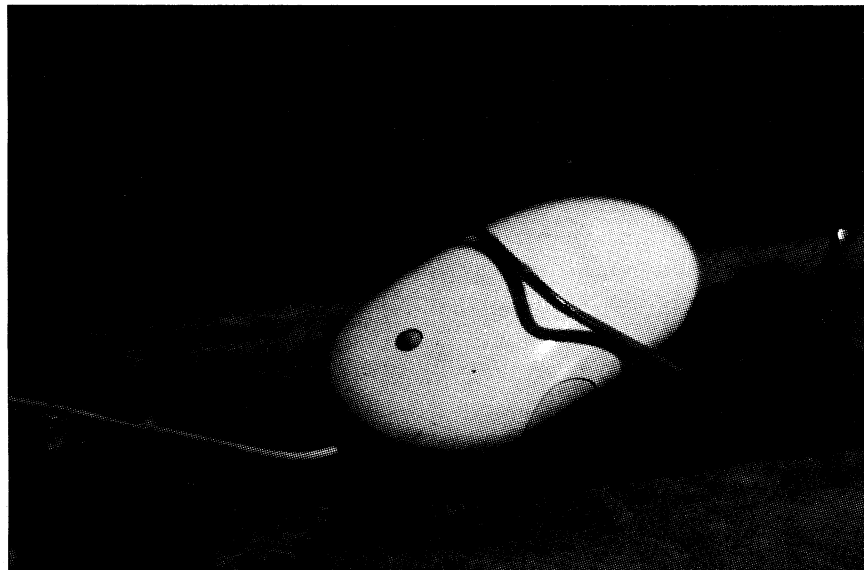
"My dad had to yell at the head of campus residences," Sobillo said, "They just raised tuition and we're having rat problems?"

Both Sobillo and Park went to campus residences. They said that campus residences quickly moved them to new rooms. Sobillo moved to a room in Stimpson College in Roosevelt Quad, and Park has moved to a single in Greeley College in Roosevelt Quad.

But the rat problems in Eisenhower College continue and it is unclear what is being done to address the problem. R.A.s have been going from room to room to tell students to throw out their trash. However, campus officials would not confirm if they had hired an exterminator to deal with the underlying problem.

Rats can live in dark enclosed spaces such as between walls or holes in a building's foundation. They can enter through openings that are just 1/2-inch wide and can travel through inactive pipes. Experts recommend repairing holes with concrete, sheet metal or hardware cloth.

Not mesh.



Roman Sheydvasser

You don't think they spent \$20,000 on a mouse, and \$30,000 on a mouse trap, did you?

mesh with more of the same mesh that the rats had chewed through the week before.

"They just did the same thing they did last time," she said, "the problem was not fixed."

Park reported that the maintenance workers placed one small mouse trap next to the mesh covered holes in his radiator.

The rat problem appears to have a long history. Polina Vidrak said that she discovered a rat in her room last semester before Thanksgiving break. She

mousetrap beneath her bed and placed adhesive pads near her radiator.

Her sister, Veronica Vidrak, who lives down the hall from Polina, had also reported rat problems. She woke up to discover a large rodent underneath her bed, its head caught in a mousetrap. A maintenance worker removed the rodent several hours later. Veronica said that one of her suitemates woke up to discover rats on her desk.

Although the Vidrak sisters still live in Eisenhower, both Sobillo and Park took steps to move out of their rooms.

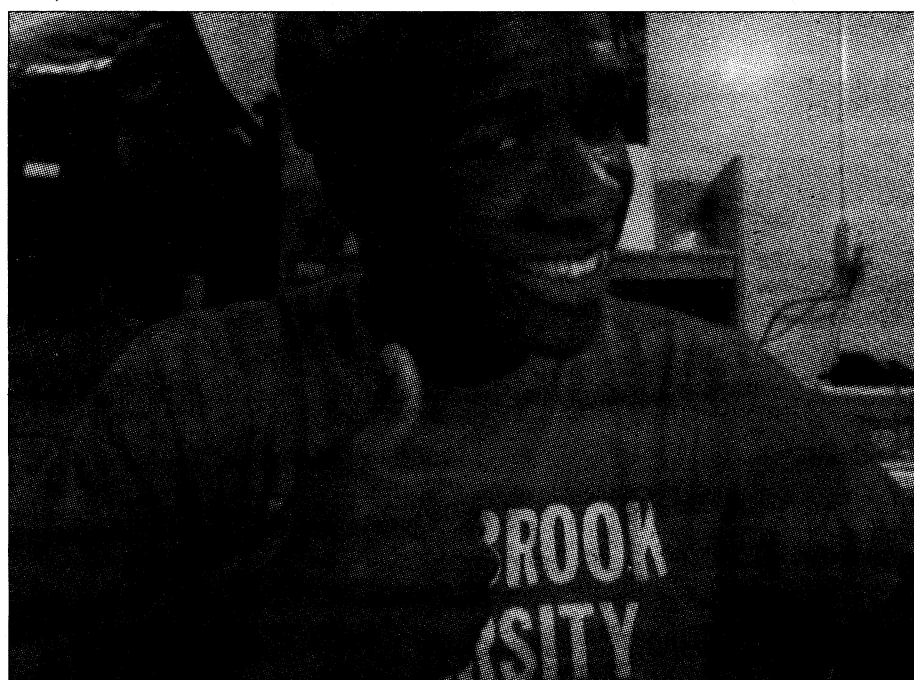
USG Update: Insert Joke Here

By Natalie Crnosija

The vice presidents and class representatives who compose the Undergraduate Student Government's Executive Council were taken to task by Senate Executive Vice President Geeta Malieckal during the Mar. 12 USG Senate meeting for not filing their reports with the Senate or attending Senate meetings.

"I have not received the reports of the VPs of student life, programming and activities, clubs and organizations, academic affairs, or the reports or projects of the freshman and senior class representatives," Malieckal said.

Executive Council members, who are elected by the student body, are the directors of USG departments and have to file a progress report each semester



You're a good man, Kadeem Hylton

Facebook

and are encouraged to attend weekly Senate meetings as non-voting members. Offenses, such as multiple, unexcused absences or failing to file reports, can lead to a vice president's or representative's impeachment before the Senate, Malieckal said.

Senator Adam Kent spoke on behalf of Kadeem Hylton, the Vice President of Clubs and Organizations, who was not at the meeting. The clubs and organizations extension of USG focuses on communication between the student-run clubs and organizations and the USG, which provides their funding. As of late, clubs have made complaints regarding the organization of the department, and blame has fallen upon Hylton, said Kent.

Kent attributed the confusion

USG continued on next page

Stony Brook Involved in Medical Lawsuit

By Jenny Zou

Stony Brook University Medical Center, Southampton Hospital, and New York University Medical Center have been named in a case that has led to the filing of eight separate lawsuits after the deaths of two organ transplant recipients.

Six doctors—four from Stony Brook and two from Southampton—are being sued for negligence by failing to properly diagnose and treat 15-year old Alex Koehne. Transplant surgeons who transplanted Koehne's organs to four recipients are also named in the case.

In March 2007, Koehne was hospitalized in Southampton Hospital and later transferred to Stony Brook University Medical Center where doctors maintained the diagnosis of bacterial meningitis. After his death in the hospital, his parents consented for organ donation believing that his donated organs would provide better lives for the recipients.

Under the federal guidelines of the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), patients with viral meningitis cannot be organ donors, but those with bacterial meningitis can.

However, an autopsy ordered by the parents later showed that the cause of death had not been meningitis, but actually a rare and aggressive form of cancer—anaplastic central nervous system T-cell lymphoma.

Dankner & Milstein, the Manhat-

tan law firm representing all four recipients in the eight suits, alleges that the doctors adhered to the diagnosis of meningitis even when blood culture tests failed to support it.

UNOS directly sites various forms of cancer, such as Lymphoma, as a disqualification for organ donation since it can spread from donor to recipient. In this case, the lymphoma spread to four

recipients in the eight suits, alleges that the doctors adhered to the diagnosis of meningitis even when blood culture tests failed to support it.

The two surviving recipients, James Kelly of Mount Sinai and Gerardo Trueba of the Bronx, who each received a kidney from Koehne, have successfully undergone chemotherapy after removing the infected kidneys.

Earlier this week, The Sag Harbor

from Stony Brook or Southampton."

It is unclear at this point how the parents will be represented in the case.

Adam Kaufman of Dankner & Milstein explained that since Stony Brook University Medical Center is state controlled and operated, the suit against the hospital must be filed in the Court of Claims, increasing the total number of suits filed.

The amount in damages that the clients are seeking is unknown.

The case has been a hot topic amongst students at Stony Brook University who initially learned of Koehne's death in 2007. The story of the subsequent fatal transplants gained widespread attention in 2008 when it appeared on major broadcast networks and made national headlines.

Located east of Stony Brook University's west campus, the Medical Center is less than a five-minute drive away. As Suffolk County's largest hospital, it is the county's only tertiary care hospital and Level I trauma center, handling approximately 30,000 inpatients, 250,000 outpatients, and 15,000 surgical cases annually. Also, it is one of the main draws for many Stony Brook students aspiring for top careers in the medical field. The Medical Center is partnered with the university's School of Medicine, where about 500 students are full-time medical residents.

Both Southampton Hospital and Stony Brook University Medical Center declined to comment on the suits on the basis of patient confidentiality.



recipients.

Kitman Lee of Brooklyn died shortly after receiving Koehne's infected liver at NYU Medical Center.

Jodie Lynn Shierts of Pequot Lakes, Minnesota, suffered a similar fate de-

Express confirmed that Koehne's parents had decided to join the suit after previously stating in 2007 that they had no intentions to sue the hospital. On the couple's decision to sue, father Jim Koehne said, "We never got any answers

USG continued from previous page

within the department to a miscommunication between clubs and the department and between Hylton and his committee.

"Apparently, the committee members told the clubs that Hylton would contact them to set up meetings," Kent said. "Hylton was not told about the emails."

Senator Blake Wind, a member of the Clubs and Organizations Committee, said that responsibility to establish a

relationship between Hylton's department and clubs rests with the clubs individually.

Hylton, who was later reached via Facebook, acknowledged that he had not yet filed his report, but said that the miscommunication was the fault of the clubs who do not keep up with their communication.

"If clubs simply check their mailboxes in the USG office as they should and respond to emails as they receive them, there would be no issue," Hylton said. "However, what you should be investigating is why are some clubs not

checking their mail."

Hylton, a sophomore, attributed his absence at Senate meetings as a time-conflict of which Malieckal is aware, but said that VPs are not required to be present at Senate meetings.

Alan Suchecki, VP of Communications and Public Relations, criticized the conduct of Hylton and other VPs who fail to attend meetings and file reports with the Senate.

"They have no excuse for not coming," Suchecki said. "There is a public record of my showing up to each meeting."

Senator John Krisenski suggested some form of outreach to those VPs and representatives who had not filed their reports.

Hylton, who is running for the office of VP of Student Life this semester, was not supportive of such initiatives.

"With the exception of the required reports, there is no reason why the Executive Council has to initiate communication for the Senate to be up to speed on things," Hylton said.

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editorials

OFFENSIVE RACIAL SLURS! Now That We Have Your Attention, Read This :)

There's been a rumor going around campus. Perhaps you've heard it. It seems that we at The Stony Brook Press hate Jews. Apparently we're anti-Semites. At least that's the notion one would get if they frequent some of the many Stony Brook student blogs that have sprung up. We'll give you a brief run-down of the situation. Last issue, we printed a comic satirizing stereotypes of Jews and Muslims in the media. The comic included the word 'kike.' Refer back to the last issue (Issue 10, Volume 30) to see the whole thing. And, oh, what a storm it has kicked up. People are pissed. They even had an anti-Press rally to protest our publication of this comic. No one showed up except for a few confused journalism majors. But that's beside the point. Right now, we'd like to take this time to examine the nature of the criticism leveled against us.

The depressing reality of this is that we haven't received any formal, direct criticism from a single one of the offended students these past two weeks. The only person who expressed his disapproval to us directly was Rabbi Joseph Topek, the Director of Hillel here at Stony Brook (you can read the letter on the next page.) We applaud Rabbi Topek for addressing the issue head-on in a professional manner. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the rest of those offended here on campus.

Any criticism directed towards us from anyone other than Rabbi Topek has been done online and in second-rate blogs. They haven't been directly levied against us. We've had to find them on our own. Now, here's a question that even these self-righteous bloggers can answer. What is perhaps the most effective way to reach under-

standings and solve disagreements or problems? By talking about it with those who offended you! One of the common criticisms thrown around on these sensationalistic blogs has been that the artist of the comic is nothing but "a coward." A coward? Really? What makes you any more courageous or strong-willed than the offending artist if you won't talk to us about the problem? For God's sake (or, for the sake of remaining totally inoffensive, for G-d's sake) how can you expect to solve anything if you don't have the common sense or courage to address us directly? Don't worry; you don't have to answer those last two questions. You'd be hard pressed to find answers, anyway.

One of the primary goals of any college paper is to promote professional academic discussion. When we chose to publish this comic, we weren't intending just to throw around the word 'kike' and offend Jews and/or Muslims. We wanted to make a comment on the oft-absurd stereotypes of Muslims and Jews and their relationship with the media in society. Don't worry; we know *The New York Times* is not run by Jews. We also know that Al Jazeera often fosters some of the most unbiased discussions of Middle-Eastern current events. Unfortunately, with the exception of Rabbi Topek's email, we've been afforded zero chance to have any sort of academic discourse with any of the offended parties. It seems that those offended would rather just sound off on their blogs, safe behind the security of their computer screens, rather than actually send us a letter or come down to talk. Remind us who the coward is, again?

To tie into the whole legal issue, though, let's briefly discuss the USG and

their role in this. In an email sent to us recently, USG Executive VP Geeta Malieckal, stated "The issue itself is not necessarily relevant to the function of the USG Senate, and I do not want to give the impression that it has any bearing on the Press' budget and status as a club. It does not." Good point, Geeta. In fact, according to the Student Press Law Center, with regards to campus media censorship "Not at a public school. The courts have ruled that if a school creates a student news or information medium and allows students to serve as editors, the First Amendment drastically limits the school's ability to censor. Among the censoring actions the courts have prohibited are confiscating copies of publications, requiring prior review, removing objectionable material, limiting circulation, suspending editors and withdrawing or reducing financial support." Vice President Malieckal would also state "While there are some USG members who have concern, USG itself is neutral in this matter [regarding funding]." If USG is willing to abide by VP Malieckal's statements, we admire the USG's professionalism in this matter.

It's a shame that this whole "controversy" was handled in this way by many of those whom were offended. We have no quarrel with the actual fact that many are offended. It's within your rights to be offended and voice your opinion. What isn't within your rights is to pursue punitive legal measures against us. If you want to try to pursue action along those lines, we suppose we can't stop you. But if you do, someone will wind up looking like a fool. And we promise it won't be us.

Write for The Press!

Meetings Every Wednesday at 1PM, Union Building 060

March 17, 2009

To the Editor:

Two things in the March 11 issue deserve comment because they are either misleading or offensive.

The cover of the March 11 issue juxtaposes Israeli and Palestinian flags with the headline "ECW Endless Cartographic Warfare" and the subtext "Civil Debate for The Homeland Heavyweight Championship." This seems to be saying that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can somehow be reduced to the drawing of maps when, in fact, it is a struggle for national identity and recognition as well as the division of one land among two peoples. Worse, this highly dramatic cover then directs readers to the article on page 6 which carries the headline "Much Ado About Nothing." So which is it, Stony Brook Press? Is this the "the most controversial event his year," as Andrew Fraley's article claims, or is it much ado about nothing?

In fact, Mr. Fraley did a pretty good job of reporting the screening of the film *Occupation 101* and the responses to it. What confuses your readers is the somewhat inflammatory and misleading cover you chose to draw attention to it. Was this perhaps to make an ado about nothing?

Now having decided to report on the highly complex Middle East conflict, the Stony Brook Press accompanied this cover and article with a cartoon on page 26 which juxtaposes a television screen labeled "Al Jazeera" with a newspaper cover labeled "The New York Times." The television screen has a stick figure saying "Allahu Akbar" and the newspaper's masthead says "Jew York Times" with the headline "Kikes Rule, Muslims Drool." Their "commonality" is that they both have the news story "Ham Sucks." Now many people know that the Stony Brook Press considers itself the "journalist shock jocks" of the Stony Brook campus with the singular responsibility to spread sophomoric humor and bad taste. For this I congratulate you, as you are doing a great job. However, no responsible newspaper, particularly on a university

campus that works hard to create an atmosphere where all of its students can feel comfortable, would knowingly use words like "kike" on its pages. Further, no responsible newspaper would make light of the historic canard that the New York Times is in reality the "Jew York Times," which has often been the slogan of rabid anti-Semites whose claim is that Jews control the media. In addition, the juxtaposition of these two media sources seems to convey that somehow there are conspiratorial forces on behalf of Jews and Muslims to manipulate the media against the other. This is offensive to both groups.

Ironically, the image in the cartoon of these two media sources somehow being the tools of either Jews or Muslims is a laughable claim in both communities. The New York Times has been excoriated by the Jewish community since 1941 when news first began to emerge about Nazi atrocities against Jews in Europe and they were buried in the back pages of the Times. Significant numbers in the Jewish community believe that the New York Times is unfair in its reporting about Israel and Jewish issues. Similarly, the Muslim community is far from universally happy with Al Jazeera and its reporting. The accusation that certain groups use the media for nefarious purposes or to further a conspiratorial agenda is nothing short of spreading one of the most vicious canards in history, and certainly unbecoming of a newspaper that assumes a certain level of cultural literacy among its readership. The use of extreme language (kike) is just shameful and has no place in our community, particularly in a newspaper that sees itself as being a forum where issues can be discussed with fewer limits than in more conventional publications. If this is your idea of creating a broad platform for intellectual discourse then you have failed miserably.

Rabbi Joseph S. Topek
Hillel Foundation, Stony Brook Interfaith Center

Rabbi Topek,

We thank you for your letter. This is, thus far, the only direct criticism we've received in regards to the subject, despite the reaction it has caused. We applaud and appreciate your professionalism and hope that your input may be an example for anyone else wishing to address the matter.

As for your concerns and criticisms:

The cover of the Mar. 11 issue was an attempt to point out what some of us observed at the SJA event as a polarization of opinions on the subject. While the debate following the film remained civil and controlled, Mr. Fraley and other staffers at the event couldn't help but notice that it had become a tense, us-versus-them argument, and many arguments overlooked the intended subject of the event, which was the humanitarian crisis in the region. With the cover, we intended to humorously (and irreverently) point out that that is what the debate has devolved into, at least in regards to the article in question.

As for the article itself, the title was not meant to sensationalize the event or issue. The title was meant to show that the SJA event, which should have been just a small film screening, had been blown up into a big to-do by the students who had gone to the Dean to complain, and, later, the misguided attempts to sabotage it. In retrospect, maybe it wasn't the best title; Mr. Fraley isn't too bright, but he does mean the best.

As for the comic itself, this has been the main subject of very heated debate. We, when we printed it, and Jon Singer (the real name of the artist), when he authored it, meant this comic to be a commentary of common, widely accepted misconceptions in the media. As you eloquently pointed out, Al Jazeera isn't a mouthpiece for Islam; it is a very reputable news source. Few people actually know this. Similarly, we are well aware the *New York Times* isn't a propaganda tool controlled by Jews. But, again, as you pointed out, and as was brought up in the SJA event (although Mr. Fraley only briefly mentions it—the dullard he is) there is a popular narrative that this is the case. By using childish stick figures and scrawl, along with ridiculous headlines like "Ham Sucks" and "Kikes Rule, Muslims Drool" (a common playground rallying cry thrown around by five year olds), we thought that we would get this point across. The comic was meant to be provocative, and Mr. Singer chose to use the word "kike" because he felt it would be most effective. As a college newspaper, we act as an open forum where issues can be discussed with fewer limits than in more conventional publications, and being that the comic was in no way anti-Semitic, we weren't going to censor the artist or his style. Mr. Singer had only the best intentions when he made this comic, and we thought that it would show.

Apparently we were wrong. Our, and Mr. Singer's, attempt at humor didn't go so well. Not many people found it funny, or effective. That is a legitimate criticism. Not everyone has to like every joke, or piece of art, that they see. But, being a newspaper on a college campus, in a bastion of intellectual discourse, the comic has been discussed and analyzed. In that regard, we feel that we have succeeded.

We did not get our point across as effectively as we wanted to in this last issue, and if it caused you or anyone else offense, we apologize. That was not our intent. In the future we shall strive to make our message as effective as possible. But we feel that on a college campus, where ideas can be discussed freely and intelligently, if something calls for the use of extreme language, as long as it is used properly, we aren't going to censor it. That would be a disservice to our readers, at the expense of trying to keep people from getting offended. In our 30 years, we've discovered that people are always going to be offended over something, there's no point trying to keep everybody happy.

Best Regards

The Stony Brook Press

Student Death on Campus

By Caitlin Ferrell

Andrew Mineo, a 21-year-old psychology major at Stony Brook University, died in his dorm room in Hendrix College on the night of Tuesday, March 10. A senior student, Andrew was in his last semester before graduating.

"We believe it was suicide," said Josephine Mineo, Andrew's mother. "And we don't know why."

There has been no official confirmation from the campus police or the Suffolk County Sixth Precinct. A coroner's report has yet to be issued and is expected to take five to six weeks, according to Mineo's mother.

"We last saw him on Tuesday," said Andrew's father, Vincent Mineo. "The day he died. I don't know what transpired between the morning and afternoon."

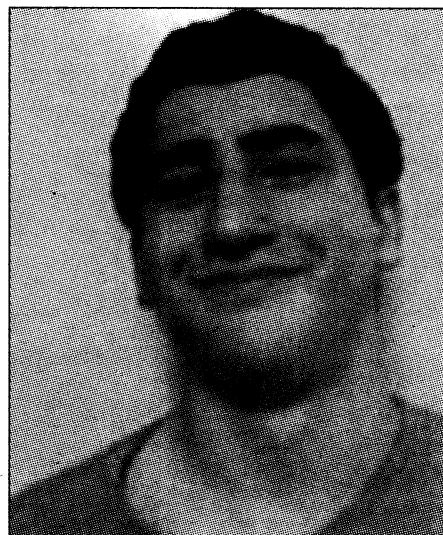
Andrew had taken the train back from his parents' home in Levittown on Tuesday morning and was expected to

drive home that night for an appointment on Wednesday, according to Andrew's father. When Andrew didn't come home, his mother became worried and called Hendrix College. A resident assistant discovered Andrew's body and called university police.

The university confirmed Mineo's death on its website early Wednesday morning. Mineo's identity was later released that afternoon, after the parents had been contacted.

People who knew Andrew spoke highly of him. A friend, Bobby Sadighim, said, "He was a shy kid. He was also a very smart and intelligent kid." The two met in a workshop one and a half years ago. "From what I remember, he had a very calm, friendly aura and always a gentle, benign-looking face."

Vincent Mineo described his son as a compassionate person and good student who volunteered at church and was an EMT in his hometown of Levittown and donated blood regularly.



"His sister was his best friend," said Vincent Mineo. "It's been tough. It's been tough on [his sister], it's been tough on his mother, and obviously me."

"There wasn't a seat in the house for the wake," said Vincent Mineo. A fu-

neral mass was held at St. Bernard's Church in Levittown on Saturday, Mar. 14. "Everybody spoke kindly of Andrew," said Mineo. "I guess Andrew didn't see that, that people cared for him."

According to his father, Andrew held a 3.5 GPA, and was accepted at C.W. Post for a masters program in education this fall.

Dean of Students Jerrold Stein is working to have Andrew's diploma awarded to his family.

"I would like to thank everybody, all the deans at Stony Brook," Vincent Mineo said. "Everybody's been extremely nice."

State University of New York and Stony Brook University administrators must approve Andrew's diploma before it can be awarded to his family.

Mineo said that his son was depressed recently. "I would like [young people] to know that there's always hope," said Vincent Mineo. "There's always hope and people do love them."

Combination for Concern

By Alex Cardozo

Close to one-fourth of all Stony Brook University Residence Hall mailboxes are left unlocked by students. A survey of dormitory lobbies across campus yielded distressing numbers.

Tabler quad had 20 percent of its 200 mailboxes in each building unlocked. Roth Quad came in with 15 percent of its mailboxes unlocked, and H Quad and Kelly Quad led the count with around 25 percent unlocked.

These statistics come in the wake of the widely publicized arrest of Oluwole Owoseni, 22, on charges of identity theft. He is accused of using his on-campus job at the campus career center to jack personal financial accounts and social security numbers from other students' files.

However, it is not just high tech methods that identity thieves use, according to John Alex, a freelance computer specialist and computer science major at the City University of New York, College of Staten Island. He explained that it is "those little slips of paper," that people "leave lying around," that account for the majority of identity



Alex Cardozo
We just got a letter. We just got a letter. We just got a letter. I wonder who it's from?

thefts.

"They're always looking for another way," he said. Low-tech sources of personal information are still available.

Some students find the boxes hard to open and leave their mailboxes unlocked to avoid the hassle of the combination locks on each box.

Raema Sultan, a resident assistant in Roth Quad said, "People usually have trouble opening them."

Vito Pinto, also a resident assistant in Roth Quad, said that it's mainly a design flaw. "They're just broken and hard to open...if they fixed them, no one would leave them unlocked."

John, a clerk at the Keller mailroom in Roosevelt Quad, has had his own concerns about the mailbox system for almost a decade. He said he had been suggesting that a key system be used, but the idea was ignored. The use of locks on campus mailboxes is a cost issue.

Students have experienced the effects of the open mailboxes.

"Last year, someone did steal my mail, and university mail contacted me to tell me," Lindsay Bernard, a Stony Brook senior, said.

Bernard added how she notices a lot of open mailboxes and always takes care to make sure that her own is locked.

Robert Venosa, a junior and history major, who was a victim of off-campus identity theft only months ago, has voiced this concern that students make sure their mail is locked at his residence hall council meetings. He urged that, "The mail system on campus has boxes in a common area, and are more sus-

ceptible to being tampered."

Both students and residence staff have witnessed tampering with mail in unlocked mailboxes. "I saw a kid the other day opening all the mail boxes...I went to him and was like, what the hell are you doing?" resident assistant Pinto said, adding that afterwards, the person ran off.

A few students have even admitted going through the boxes. "I got drunk once and opened all the mailboxes I could, then took all the letters out and forgot what went where and wound up putting them all in the mail to send slot," Christopher Heisenberg, a Stony Brook junior and chemistry major, admitted.

Anna Verhoeven, a resident of Sanger in Tabler Quad, not only was a victim of identity theft, but also admitted to tampering with other people's mail. "I have to admit also that I've jokingly switched people's mail because many forget to lock their mailboxes. Identity theft has happened to me. It's scary and made me feel way too grown up, and I still don't know how it exactly happened."

"When it all comes down to it, it's up to students. People are just careless," Venosa said.

NY Times Publisher Speaks On Saving Journalism

By Caitlin Ferrel

Arthur Sulzberger Jr., publisher of *The New York Times* since 1992 and chairman of its company board, gave the keynote address in Stony Brook's week devoted to News Literacy on Thursday night.

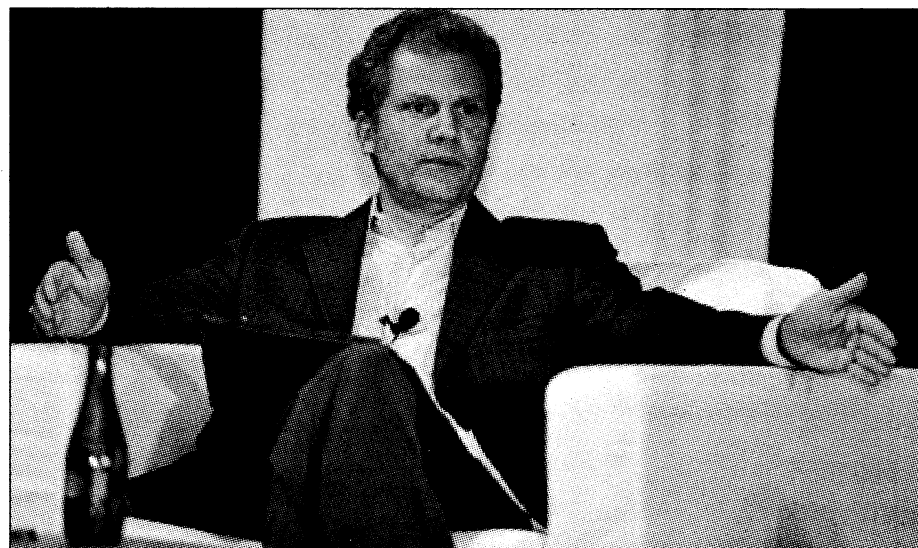
If anyone in journalism knows how to save that industry, it would be someone from *The New York Times*. Sulzberger noted the volatility in journalism. Today the industry is under "enormous stress," both from the Internet's effects (on advertising and reader expectations) and the economic downturn. Because of the Internet's lightning speed, the business of journalism and the way the news is reported is constantly shifting. A news report production schedule that was normal five years ago is turtle-slow today.

The audience was shown a video of *Times* reporters. Columnist Nicholas Kristof, in Niger, surrounded by crying children, says, "Now, I could write about these places in my column, but

with the printed word, it's hard to strike a chord with the reader." He went on, "We find that with multi-media, we can shine a spotlight on these forgotten places of the world."

This really is the crux of Sulzberger's belief – we must rely on all the pieces of journalism to yield the best product; the written word cannot always most powerfully convey the message. Just like in Stony Brook's News Literacy course, in which students learn that video and photographs can be infinitely more powerful than a written article, Sulzberger reinforced how multi-media conveys the same news in different ways.

On Inauguration Day, Sulzberger said, the *New York Times* web site had a live video of President Obama's inaugural address, graphics comparing his speech to past addresses, photos from readers, minute-by-minute blogging, along with reporting and analysis. Most news organizations provided multi-media coverage on Inauguration Day. A simple newspaper published a day after the fact just doesn't cut it anymore. Most of the best news sites also have in-



He is like the Michael Jordan of journalism. Everyone looks up to him.

Folio Mag

teractive features. Sulzberger said, "Our readers want to share it, or blog it, or comment on it or tweet it."

Bill Keller, Executive Editor of *The New York Times*, believes that the paper's authority may actually increase in the coming years, mainly because many of the paper's competition are dying. "There's no scarcity of information these days," he said. "If anything, there's too much information out there."

The *Times* understands that the Internet has opened a new ground for commentary on the news to bloggers, but the *Times* still relies on hands-on reporting.

Dexter Filkins, a Baghdad correspondent, spoke of running with a few hundred Marines during the Battle of Fallujah. "The Marines that were next to me who were killed and wounded – in one occasion his blood was all over me," Filkins said. "I saw them do extraordinary things, extraordinary acts of bravery. I remember feeling that, 'You can blog all you want, but if you're not on the scene – you know really – at the end don't have much to say.'"

Sulzberger says journalists have improved their journalistic tools, but the industry remains under strain. High-quality journalism is expensive, and the business traditional revenues, sources like classified ads, are drying up. Sulzberger calls the immediate future "grim," but also seemed frustrated by his own description.

"I am tired of reading about the death of – take your pick – journalism, newspapers engaged readers," Sulzberger said. "Even *The Times* today was wondering out loud on the front page as to where newspapers were heading, 'Et tu,

Brute.' My view is that what we offer, in all its iterations, is quite valuable, and our profession will endure." He continued, "Whether delivered in print or online, in a blog or a video, quality journalism will always have immense social utility."

Sulzberger confessed to not knowing the answers to the questions he was posing. Some of the responsibility for the crisis, he said, falls on the market's tumultuousness. "What works for *The New York Times* is not going to work for *Newsday* or *The L.A. Times*; what works for *NYTimes.com* is not going to be a solution for *Politico*, *Salon* or *Slate*." Sulzberger feared the effects of what may have been that the industry's original sin – offering free content online. Once consumers get something for free, they are not likely to want to start paying for it, which is why today's battle is to improve the co-existence of print and digital media.

But in the end, Sulzberger believes journalism will prevail. "This is all very scary stuff. Our children need real journalism. They need reassurance that the world is not coming to an end and that history teaches us that humankind is quite resilient, especially during periods of crises and controversy."

Sulzberger believes that the real journalism will survive and thrive again. Journalists are being challenged in a new landscape. They are competing with the flashy tabloids and user-generated content that doesn't value the same tenets of transparency, verifiability and accountability. "Our challenge is to both integrate while embracing the unique strengths of each medium," Sulzberger said. "Together we can ensure that citizens, especially our young people, understand the cornerstone attributes that make quality journalism important in their lives."

"I feel so alone..." "I wish I was never born..." "Nobody would miss me if I were gone..." "I wish my life was over..." "Promise you won't tell anybody..." "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 I'm gone..."

Help Them Get Help

want to die..." "Soon the pain will be over..." "I won't see you again..." "Nothing matters anymore..." "No one cares if I live or die..." "I'm going to end it all..." "Life isn't worth living..." "I want to die..." "I'm better off dead..." "I can't do this anymore..." "What do you think it feels like to be dead...?" "I want to go to sleep and never wake up..." "They'll be sorry when I'm gone..." "Soon the pain will be over..." "I won't see you again..." "Nothing matters anymore..." "I hate myself..." "No one cares if I live or die..." "I feel so alone..." "No one cares if I live or die..." "Promise you won't tell anybody..."



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Mo' People, Mo' Money, Mo' Problems

By Najib Aminy

In an economic market of continuing decline, the Stony Brook University Admissions office is looking at an increase of applications and competition. Though current students call SBU a safety school, it has become an attractive choice for graduating high-school seniors facing increasing tuition prices.

SBU has experienced a 10.6 percent increase in the number of applications it has received compared to last year, drawing a pool of 27,000 potential students, according to Dan Melucci, associate vice president for strategy and analysis. "We have received a greater number of really highly qualified students in the application process that have been admitted into Stony Brook," Melucci said. "Whether they accept or not we don't know."

SBU's mean accepted SAT, as one measure of quality, is up 25 points to a score of 1253. The median accepted score is up 30 points, according to Melucci.

With academic quality increasing, the Admissions office has set a target mark 2,700 students for next year's and 1,200 for the number of transfer students admitted. "The goal is not to increase the size of the class," said Matt Whelan, assistant provost and dean of admissions and financial aid. "The goal is to get students to graduate in four years."

The university has had a freshman class target of 2,700 for several years but Whelan said he expects a greater number of students choosing to attend SBU after admittance. Thus, the SBU acceptance rate is projected to fall 4 points to a 40 percent acceptance rate.

Just three years ago, the acceptance rate was 50 percent before dropping to 44 percent in the fall semesters of 2007 and 2008.

For the 27,000 incoming freshman that applied to SBU, around 10,000 will be accepted. It is still uncertain how many incoming freshman plan on attending SBU in the fall 2009, a figure Whelan said he is looking at carefully.

Traditionally, SBU's percent yield, the number of accepted students who commit to the university over those accepted that choose another school, has been at 26 percent. Both Melucci and

students."

Therefore, SBU is preparing to deal with the economic effect on incoming freshman by accepting fewer students and expecting an increase in the number of accepted students. In doing so, if Whelan's projections are accurate, the university would reach its goal of 2,700 freshman students.

If the number of admitted applicants committed to SBU is above the

the past several years because we feel like we are pretty much at our capacity as far as dormitory space, food service facilities and pretty tapped out in parking," Melucci said.

Facing budget cuts, SBU relies largely on tuition as a source of revenue. Roughly 40 percent of the university's budget is comprised of student tuition.

"If you are a finance guy and looking to bring in tuition revenue like me your happy to have some extra students," Melucci said. "If you are a faculty member with 30 students but prefer that 25 is right size for academic setting, then you are not going to be happy."

SBU experienced a large increase in the number of students from 17,000 ten years ago to 24,000. The numbers are present on the long lunch lines, the rarely vacant parking spaces and the tripled dorm rooms.

This academic year alone, some students find themselves still tripled involuntarily while many have been processed into doubles. "All of the female triples that started the year over assigned are detripled," said Alan deVries, associate director of Residential Programs in an email. "There are still 35 male triples on campus."

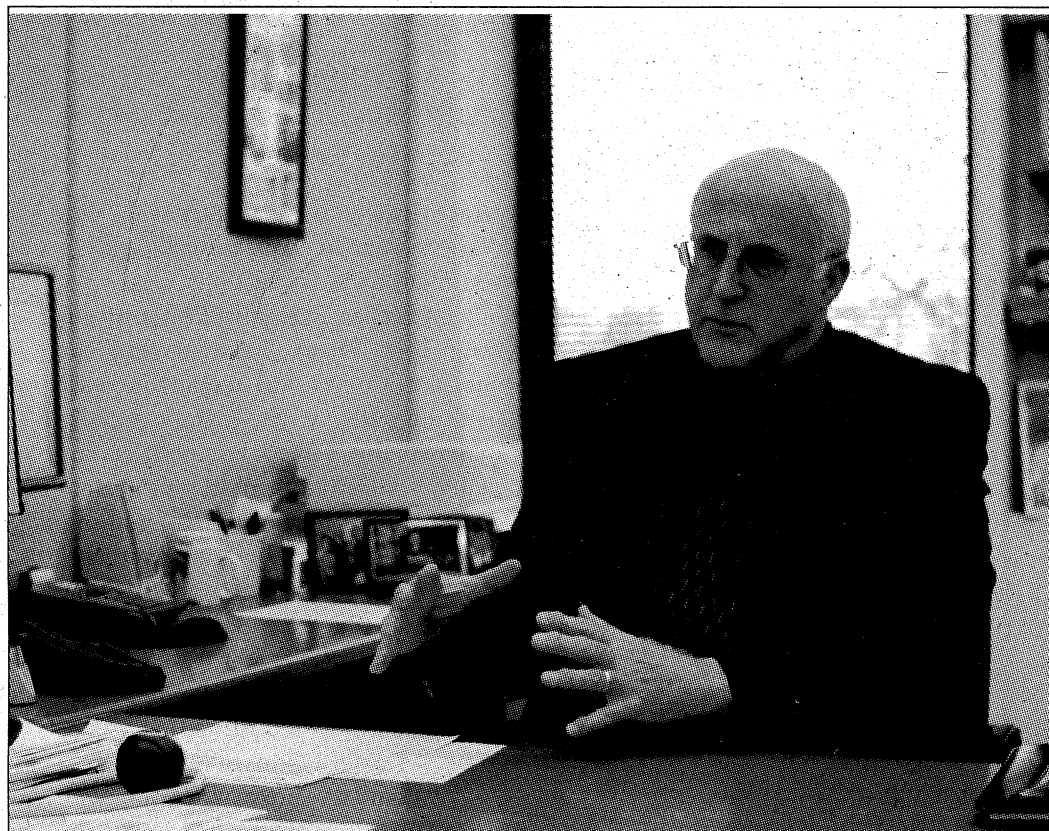
There had been 800 triples during the beginning of this academic year, deVries said. He expects this to stay to the same for next year.

"For fall 2009, we'll open at the same occupancy level as Fall 2008," deVries said.

Looking at a chart of budget numbers and figures, Melucci had acknowledged the reality he and the university face.

"I wish we were in a position to grow ourselves out of these budget problems," Melucci said, "but we are not."

"We have been very conscious of it



Dan Melucci, the man behind the budget.

Roman Sheydvasser

Whelan have said they noticed the academic quality of applicants has increased, resulting in what would normally be a projected decrease in percent yield. Students who have higher SAT scores and grades have more options to choose from thus, decreasing the yield.

"Here is the kicker, percent yield is expected to go up," Whelan said. "One percent in my world means 100 more

2,700 figure, then the number of admitted transfer students, who apply later than incoming freshman, would be adjusted to an amount lower than 1,200.

Financially, admitting more students would be a means of gaining additional revenue for the university, however, SBU is unable to do that for the number of students already on campus.

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"War. Huh. Yeah. What is it Good For?"

By Erin Jayne Mansfield

Fifty students crowded around the fountain in front of the Administration building on Wednesday, Mar. 18 as the Social Justice Alliance led them in a protest against the United States' War on Terror, just in time for the sixth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq.

The event came one month after President Obama announced a troop surge of 17,000 in Afghanistan and just one day after he and his team announced they were considering sending troops into areas of Pakistan, where they think Taliban leaders have been able to lead attacks in southern Afghanistan.

Protestors marched around the Mellville Library and back to the fountain, where more than 4,000 pink ribbons, one for each American casualty in Iraq, outlined the sidewalk.

"If we did Iraqis who died or Iraqi civilians who died, we know they'd circle the whole campus," Charlene Obernauer, an SJA member, shouted into a megaphone. Estimates of the Iraqi death toll range from 85,000 to 1.3 million people.

Their protest extended all the way into the Administration building, where the protestors crowded into a hallway to deliver a petition for budget transparency.

This was in response to the SJA's concern that university's endowment

fund, the Stony Brook Foundation, was being invested into companies that profit from war. As a private entity, the fund is not subject to public record, so the group ran into an informational roadblock.

After writing a letter to VP for Fi-

The letter was addressed to Kevin Young, a graduate student who works with the SJA, who pointed out that the record did not contain an itemized list of the companies in which the Stony Brook Foundation invests. "It's somewhat strange that this form is public in-

throughout other generations of students," he said, noting that he will be graduating at the end of the semester, and future students will need to keep the university in check. "This has to be a continuous movement. Every single group has to be in solidarity."

On Saturday, Mar. 21, the SJA took their anti-war protest all the way to Washington, D.C., to join the annual March on the Pentagon, where over 1,300 organizations from all over the country attended.

Bill McNulty, an activist from the North Country Peace Group, the School of the Americas Watch and the Suffolk Peace Network, who said he has been a part of the Stony Brook community since 1990, encouraged students to stand up against these "wars based upon lies."

"We're sort of past the stage of letter writing," he said about how student protestors should get involved. "Work on campus in that microcosm [of the United States]." He wants them to figure out exactly what their issues are and start making demands to their political leaders.

But members of the activist groups were barely outnumbered by the students who attended.

"I'm upset about the war," Joe Reinhart, a junior from St. James, said. "I think the most important thing we can do is get more students involved," he added, "because this isn't nearly enough."



"It ain't 'you all.' It's 'y'all'"

Erin Jayne Mansfield

nance, Karol Kain Gray, on Mar. 4, and receiving no information regarding the funds, they received a response on Mar. 19—one day after the rally—from Douglas Pancino, the Records Access Officer. He enclosed a hyperlink to the Stony Brook Foundation's public IRS record.

Student Justice Alliance members still say they smell something fishy.

formation but that the list of companies is not," he said in an email.

Student Justice Alliance member Andre Salazar said that the "SJA will continue having campaigns and events," to make sure that the school is not investing in any companies that help or are helped by war.

"The most important thing we need to do is continue our campaign

Oh My, Computer Science!

By Ian Thomas

Three Stony Brook students will be representing the school at The ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest. It is the most prestigious, largest and oldest contest in the field of programming in the world.

Stony Brook 2, also known as the "Seacubs," is made up of senior Roman Kogan and juniors Tynan Fitzpatrick and Leif Walsh.

The competition will run April 18-21 in Stockholm, Sweden, where 100 teams from more than 28 countries will compete. Recent winners include Warsaw University (Warsaw, Poland), Shanghai Jiao Tong University (Shanghai, China) and Lviv National University (Ukraine).

The teams will be given ten questions to test their knowledge of programming, computer science and

overall teamwork. "[There are] questions we expect them to know, to problems that are so complex that only a few people in the world can complete," according to Doug Henitzman, a director of strategy at IBM and one of the hosts of the competition.

"It was a very exciting competition," said Charles Ward, acting coach of the team, noting that they were unaware that they had won until the final seconds, after being in a relative tie for most of the competition with Cornell.

The team qualified at the Greater New York Regional competition back in October 2008. They were the only team to successfully answer eight problems, finishing in first out of 50 teams, beating out teams from New York University, Columbia, Yale and Hofstra.

There were two other Stony Brook Teams at the event: the team of graduate students John Izzo, Aravind Akella and Jason Wu finished in third; the other

team, consisting of Russell Kraner, Hrushikesh Bhatt and Arjun Menon finished in 16th place, which many con-



OMG! I can feel the numbers...lolz...

sidered an impressive result for a group made completely of freshmen and sophomores.

Even though they performed quite well at the regional level, the international stage is a different story.

"They are up against some of the best teams in the world," said Henitzman. "They are in elite company with some very elite schools."

Stony Brook is one of the 21 American universities that are participating in the World Finals. Other notable teams are Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford, Cal-Berkeley and Carnegie Mellon. Cornell University is the only other New York school that qualified.

This marks the second time in four years that Stony Brook will send a team to the World Finals. Back in 2006, the Stony Brook team received an honorable mention, finishing outside of the top 28.

So, will there be a revenge of the nerds?

"I think we will make a reasonable showing, but it is a competition against the whole world," said Ward with a laugh.

All's Quiet on the Middle Eastern Front...Not

By Najib Aminy

When Barack Obama became the forty-fourth president of the United States, he inherited a withering economy, two costly wars and an increasingly volatile climate in the Middle East. Turning to foreign policy, the former Illinois senator has set his agenda into action with the close of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility and plans for troop withdrawals from Iraq, where the conflict has cost more than \$600 trillion, according to the National Priorities Project. Though Obama won an election off of the campaign promise of hope and change, some Stony Brook University professors feel that it will take a lot more than hope for that promised change to take place.

"Change is the word that certainly applies to how he wants to do foreign policy, said Political Science Professor Helmut Norpoth, who teaches U.S. foreign policy at SBU. "What exactly the change will be, we'll have to see."

Norpoth said he has already noticed one bit of change, specifically in tone. "There is more talk, more openness, engaging others, not sort of putting others down," Norpoth said.

Taking a page from former U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, Norpoth said he believes the biggest challenges for the Obama administration are the unknown of unknowns.

"The things you don't know that you don't know even know about," Norpoth said. Examples of this include events that are not currently being spoken about or looked into similar to the Bush's administration and its preparation for 9/11. While there are the unknowns to worry about, much focus has been placed on the Middle East.

Political Sociologist Said Arjomand, the editor-in-chief of "Studies on Persiate Societies," said he thinks the biggest challenge Obama faces is the disengagement of the Middle East.

"There is Iraq and Afghanistan and also the peace between the Palestinians and Israelis," Arjomand said.

The Obama administration has announced that it will withdraw combat forces from Iraq by August 2010. The majority of the 142,000 troops stationed in Iraq will be decreased, leaving 35,000 to 50,000 American troops to assist Iraqi security forces, protect American civilian and military personnel and hunt terrorists.

"The important thing with Iraq is that it not be a democracy—there is too

much hope for it," Political Science Professor Frank Myers said. Myers teaches comparative politics and specializes in contemporary European political theory. "It would be great if it could be a functioning democracy but the important thing is if it is no longer a disturbance in the Middle East."

The Obama administration said that it will refocus its efforts on Afghanistan, working to control the resurgence of both the Taliban and Al-Qaeda and rebuild the nation.

more worry to neighboring Pakistan, a country that is undergoing its own internal crisis. "Pakistan seems to be the biggest potential problem," Myers said. "It's not clear that their pro-Western government represents the will of the majority of the people."

With a political uprising occurring no less than one week ago and the government's cession of land to the Taliban, Pakistan's stability is unclear.

"Pakistan is falling apart," Arjomand said. "It is in really bad shape, the

and U.N.

"I don't regard it as extremely dangerous," Myers said. "It's a much more complicated political system we tend to see."

The people of Iran vote democratically for their Parliament (majlis), president and the Assembly of Experts. The assembly appoints the supreme leader known as the Ayatollah, who is the supreme authoritative figure in Iranian government. The Ayatollah appoints the guardian council that screens and approves the Parliament, president, and Assembly.

The trouble with Iran, according to Myers, is Iran's intention to run an isolationist foreign policy.

"Iran has made overtures with the U.S. through Switzerland but the Bush administration, which I think was a mistake," Myers said. "With countries like that we should be willing to have open communications."

Arjomand, who has written numerous books about Iran, believes that direct talks with Iran are a step towards progress. He added that Iran's importance to the U.S. is its potential role in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Geographically, Iran is situated between both Afghanistan and Iraq. The Obama administration said it will push for diplomacy to "pressure or stop their illicit nuclear program, support terrorism, and threats towards Israel. If Iran abandons its nuclear program and support for terrorism, we will offer economic incentives like membership in the World Trade Organization, economic investments, and a move toward normal diplomatic relations," according to the Obama administration's Iran agenda.

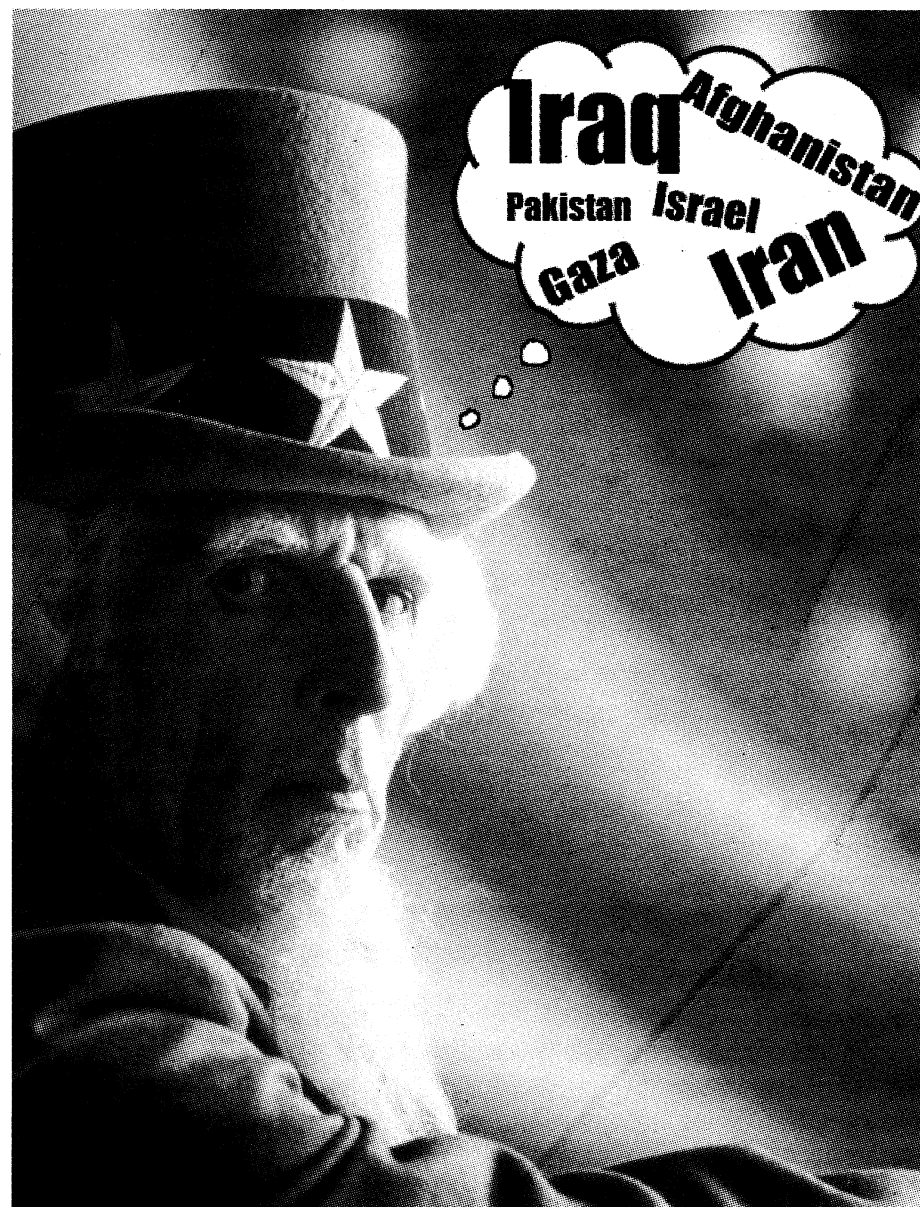
Conversely, Arjomand said he believes that economic incentives are not enough. "The only advantage that Iran can gain is help with nuclear technology," Arjomand said.

"They are very weak on the technical side in terms of the man power."

Talks have been occurring between the Obama administration and Iran.

When it comes to Israel, however, the Obama administration said it will ensure a strong U.S.-Israel partnership, support Israel's right to self-defense and would give foreign assistance to Israel.

"[We] believe that our first and incontrovertible commitment in the Middle East must be to the security of Israel, America's strongest ally in the region," according to the administration's Israel agenda.



"[We] will increase our troop levels in Afghanistan, press our allies in NATO to do the same, and dedicate more resources to revitalize Afghanistan's economic development," reads the Obama Administration's Foreign policy agenda. The administration plans to crack down on corruption and aid the government in taking back its country. This plan is complicated by Afghanistan generating one third of its Gross Domestic Product from opium production, according to the CIA World Factbook, dividing the country among tribal factions and drug warlords.

Afghanistan's problems have caused

Taliban are in control of Peshawar and the Obama administration is following the same policies of the Bush administration."

Arjomand explained that U.S. military drones target insurgents but leave a number of civilian victims.

"Obama is intruding in some ways not so different from the Bush administration," Northop said. "He is very determined to attack and kill the terrorists in Afghanistan."

Another test for Obama is the relationship with Iran, a country that has received much media attention for its nuclear enrichment programs, despite repeated condemnations by the U.S.

Ukrainians Do It Better in the Dark...With a Pen

By Natalie Crnosija

In *The President's Last Love*, Ukrainian author Andrey Kurkov tells the story of a politician who unexpectedly becomes the Ukrainian presidential candidate and is poisoned and disfigured by his rivals. Years after the book was published, Kurkov received a visit from the Ukrainian secret police who wanted to know if he had helped plan the similar poisoning of Viktor Yushchenko, Ukraine's liberal presidential candidate.

"I told them that professional poisoners don't read fiction," Kurkov said

sity on Mar. 16 during his trip to New York City as a member of the Booker Prize Committee. In select Stony Brook University European literature classes, Kurkov spoke to students about his life and work as a Russian-speaking Ukrainian author.

Kurkov's literary career began during his childhood, upon the deaths of two of his three hamsters. In response, he wrote an elegiac poem from the perspective of the hamster left behind. Kurkov's literary development continued with the aid of his dissident brother who brought home banned books and acquainted Kurkov with the works of Bulgakov and Tsvetaeva at an early age.

After finishing his formal education

support for his work in the U.S.S.R. due to the convoluted structure of the writer's unions and began sending manuscripts abroad. This also proved unsuccessful. After receiving over 1000 rejection letters, Kurkov began publishing his own books.

"I bought six tons of paper from Kazakhstan and falsified documents to use a printing press," Kurkov said. "Then, I began selling my own books."

Kurkov was eventually assigned to a publishing company, which printed his first book just as the U.S.S.R. collapsed and Ukraine gained independence. In the ensuing years, Kurkov has published 18 books, translated into 25 languages, and has become an acclaimed writer in Ukraine and abroad.

Kurkov described his work as a combination of magical realism, socialist surrealism, black comedy, absurdity, realism, adventure story and roman noir.

"But that's really for the critics to say," Kurkov said.

In 2004, Kurkov assumed the new role of a correspondent/observer for Swiss and Austrian TV during Ukraine's Orange Revolution. The revolution was a populist reaction to the alleged voter fraud that pronounced Viktor Yanukovich, the Russia-supported candidate, the victor of the Ukrainian presidential election.

His opponent, the more progressive Viktor Yushchenko, had been poisoned but fought for a revote. Millions of Ukrainians protested, and a revote was

granted with Yushchenko winning by a small margin. His victory was seen as a turning point in Ukrainian history. Political observers believed that Ukraine would become a new European power.

In 2009, however, the promise of 2004 has given way to corruption and political clan warfare. The political disintegration of Ukraine, due largely to President Yushchenko's fighting with his prime minister, has discredited the revolution, Kurkov said. The situation has only been worsened by the global economic crisis and the loss of many Ukrainian jobs.

Apart from the internal crisis in Ukraine, Russia's continual strong-arming of its former junior Soviet partner has further soured the countries' relationship.

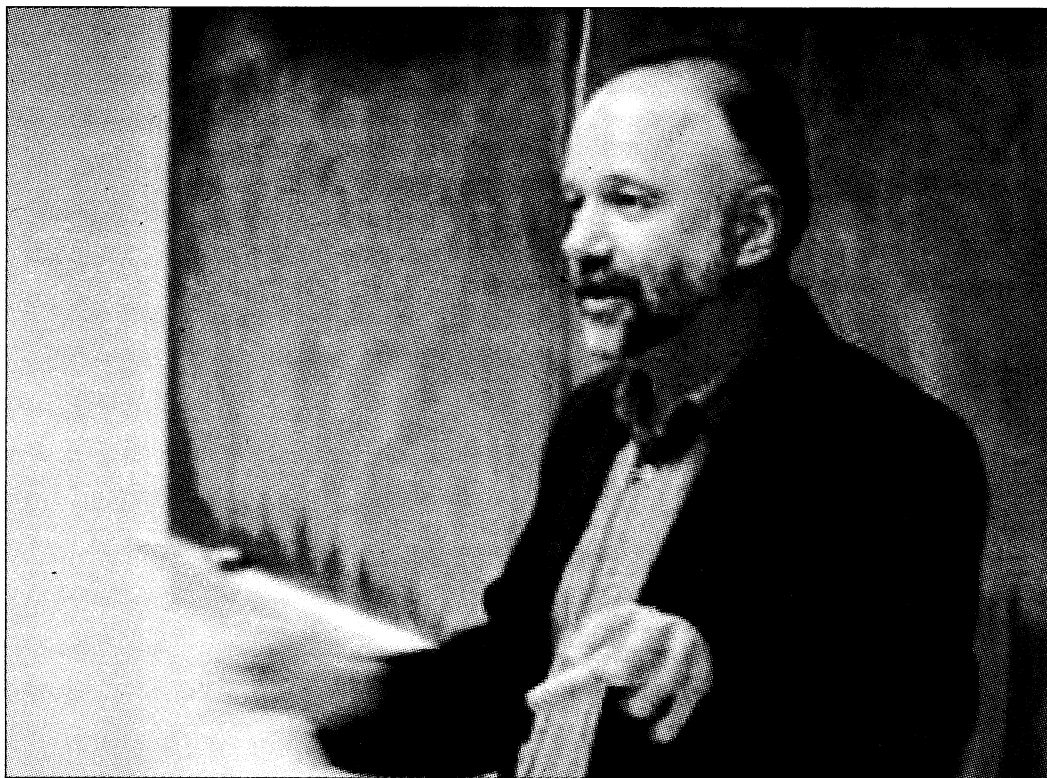
Ukraine, once dominated by Russian speakers as part of the Soviet bureaucratic system, now "officially" speaks only Ukrainian. The installation of a state-mandated language, a measure made to escape Russia's still looming shadow, attempts to exclude many Russian-speaking Ukrainians like Kurkov.

Though Kurkov has been criticized for being unsupportive of Ukrainian independence by not writing in Ukrainian, one of the nine languages he speaks, he only writes in Russian.

"Russian is my mother tongue," Kurkov said. "Though I speak Ukrainian without any Russian accent, I do not have a natural sense of the language's nuances that a writer must have."

Kurkov, apart from the linguistic strife, remains successful in Ukraine and is the envy of his literary friends abroad.

"They always tell me how lucky I am," Kurkov said. "They say, 'You have all this political chaos all the time. You have so much to write about.'"



and laughed. "In Ukrainian reality, anything can happen."

Kurkov, 48, a leading literary figure in Ukraine, visited Stony Brook Univer-

sity on Mar. 16 during his trip to New York City as a member of the Booker Prize Committee. In select Stony Brook University European literature classes, Kurkov spoke to students about his life and work as a Russian-speaking Ukrainian author.

After finishing his formal education

F. Policy continued from page 10

The conflict between Palestinians and Israeli's comes down to Israeli land settlements in the West Bank, a designated Palestinian area. Weeks before Obama's inauguration, Israel launched a full military strike against the Gaza Strip, targeting Hamas, a U.S.-recognized terrorist organization. Many Israeli and Palestinian civilians were caught between the crossfire.

Though peace talks have been proposed to Israelis and Palestinians for 60 years, opportunities have come and gone.

"At various times in the past it was

possible," Myers said. "On both sides the opportunities were missed."

Myers specified such an instance was when Israel took the West Bank after winning the Six-Day war. Rather than allowing Israeli settlements on the land, Myers said he thinks it could've been used as a huge bargaining chip and for a long-term peace.

"Now its politically difficult for an Israeli leader to pull settlements out," Myers said.

The U.S. has been working towards peace between Israel and Palestine with little success. In spite of their being an

ally to Israel, the U.S. is one of the very few countries that could help facilitate this peace process.

"The U.S. is on one side and it makes it difficult to make it a real external medium," Northop said. "But nobody else could do it. I don't see anyone else who could have enough withstanding."

Very early into the Obama administration, it is hard to determine how well Obama is doing. Yet, there are still differing views as to his presidency.

"We haven't had an intelligent president in this country for quite some

time," Arjomand said. "His predecessor was such a disaster."

Facing the effects of the previous administration, the economy, two wars and an altered political climate, some have doubts in Obama.

"He is going to have to make some tough calls and people are going to be disappointed," Northop said. "He's not superman—he's not somebody who can perform miracles."

Stony Brook Student Visits Iran!

By Aamer Qureshi

Remember when *300* was released and it was decried by the Iranian government back in 2007? If you knew of this, you might remember feeling a bit confused by their assertions of an underlying anti-Iran sentiment in the film. After all, the battle of Thermopylae took place before Islam was even thought of – and the ancient Persians were “pagans” according to Islam. It turns out that if you seriously want to understand how they think – you have to throw Islam out of the mix or minimize its importance in the argument.

Jay Rose, a Political Science major here at Stony Brook, travelled to the country in December and spent time meeting with the people, visiting various landmarks and discussing politics with political and religious leaders. He recalled one conference in which a number of religious leaders attended to discuss Iran and America's role in the world. A woman from his delegation stood up and declared the United States to be the world's largest terrorist organization – a declaration which angered Rose greatly. However, he said that although the leaders somewhat agreed with her statement – they did not respect her for making it.

“I met with every single one of those leaders later and told them that my country is right in what it does,” Rose said. “Sure we might mess up on the way but we are not terrorists.” The leaders respected his attitude because in their eyes it is highly contemptible to speak out against one's government in such a disparaging tone – as the woman had done before.

Human rights activist Ahmed Batebi is testament to this mindset – according to Rose. Batebi was jailed in Iran following his famous cover photograph of a 1999 issue of the *Economist*

picturing him holding up the bloodied shirt of a fellow protestor who had been beaten by police. Batebi escaped from jail and was then granted asylum in the U.S. He was the face of the 1999 Iranian student protests for the world and was severely persecuted for it in his country. However, he notably said that if the United States were to attack Iran, he might return to serve in the army.

President Obama's recent video message to the Iranian people has been seen as a thawing of the incredibly rigid,

many believe that behind-the-scenes talks between the two are already taking place.

Relations with Iran have been problematic partly because of inflammatory statements that Iranian President Ahmedenajad has made in recent years. Such comments include saying that Israel must be “wiped off the face of the earth,” and calling into question the existence of the holocaust. He spearheaded a 2006 International conference to “review” the holocaust, which was

that the conference had “brought to our country Nazis and racists from around the world.”

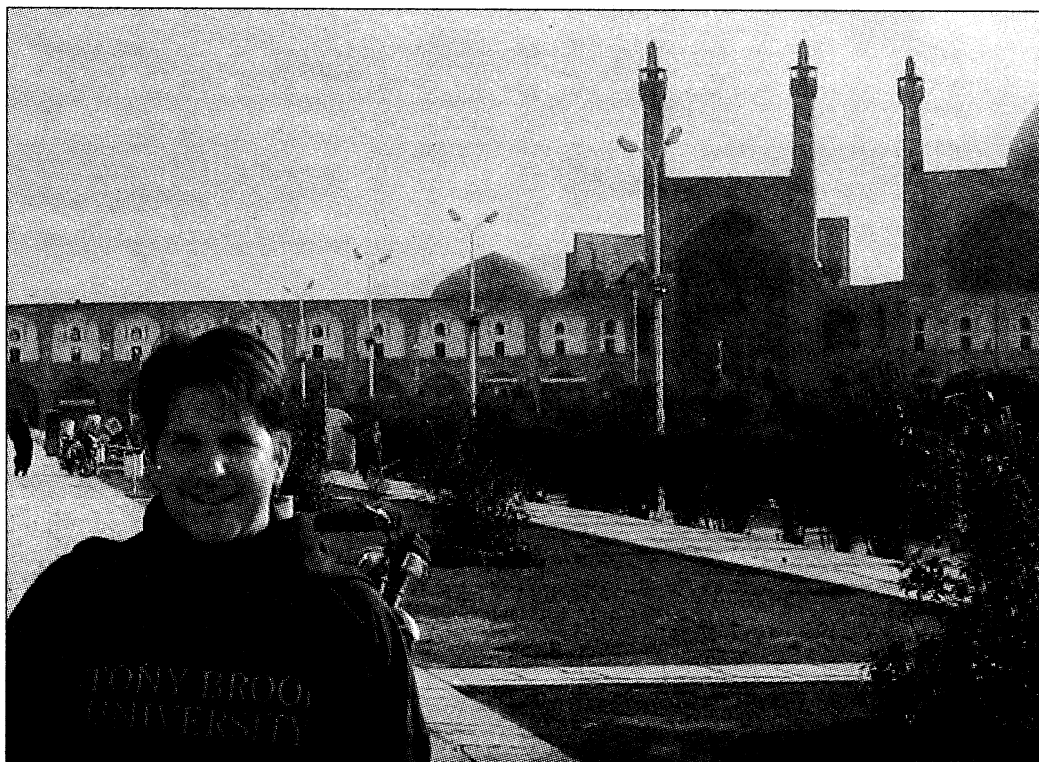
“Ahmedenajad has an advisor who was expelled from Germany and he's an ex-Nazi,” said Said Arjomand, a professor of sociology at Stony Brook University whose expertise is on the politics of the region. “He was working on a kind of alliance of Aryan races from the losers of the second world war.”

Democracy does exist in some form in Iran. Of course, whoever is elected

President must bow to the ultimate authority of the Supreme Leader. Even to be selected as a candidate for the numerous rounds of the electoral process, one must be well-connected in government circles for the Grand Council of Guardians to agree to their nomination. This process will begin again this June with Ahmedenajad running for re-election. A major would-be opponent, former Reformist President Mohammad Khatami, would have been a favorable choice for the west, but he dropped out in favor of former prime minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi. According to Arjomand, Ahmedenajad's election is inevitable because of the support of the Revolutionary Guard and the Basij volunteer military force. Rose, however, is hopeful for Mousavi – who is a former hard-line conservative-turned-reformist. Whoever the victor may be, the Obama administration

will have to deal with them if it truly seeks a de-escalation of tension with Iran.

A major regret for Rose was that the Bush administration didn't take up the offer of dialogue when Khatami offered it to them in 2003. “Even without the bias we have in hindsight, we should remember that one of Bush's beliefs in the 2000 campaign was for a ‘humble’ foreign policy,” he said. “9/11 changed all that.”



Coming soon: Stony Brook Tehran!

Jay Rose

and to some frustrating, U.S. foreign policy of the past few decades. Although he thought the wording was slightly condescending, Rose believes that peace between the two nations is inevitable – something he claims will bring peace to the Middle East that much closer. Officially, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has asked for “concrete proof” of goodwill from Obama and has shown himself to be skeptical of the video's message – but

very controversial around the world. Even his countrymen disliked the idea, with former President Mohammad Khatami simply stating that the holocaust was a “fact”. The chief foreign advisor of Ayatollah Khamenei, Ali Akbar Velayati, refused to take part in the conference and said that the holocaust was “genocide” and an historical reality. Even as some student protestors burned pictures of the president and chanted “death to the dictator,” one mentioned



Ben doesn't
want you
to join
the Press.

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

E-mail *The Press* at
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Get Out of Stony Brook...Study Abroad!?

By Liz Kaempf

If you happened to walk through the Melville Library on Mar. 11, then you may have noticed the numerous tables set up to tell you about study opportunities overseas. The International Academics Program held the International Study Abroad and Exchange Fair to try and get students off-campus for a change. (Probably a good idea for those being temporarily evicted from their dorms.) You can either spend a summer, or a semester, in a multitude of places including: Italy, Tanzania, Spain, Russia, England, Japan, and France. Or for those who cannot stand another second where they currently reside, you can opt for the Exchange Student Program and spend entirely too much time in a foreign country. But with so many choices, where the hell are you going to go?

Oxford, England is the place if you have no aptitude for a foreign language, or if you never paid any attention to four years of high school Spanish. Without a language barrier, aside from the occasional confusing dialect, it will be much easier to maneuver yourself around the city. The best reason to go is because you'll be staying at the presti-

gious Oxford University for a full month, and that will look killer on your resume. You'll get nine credits by attending, visit all sorts of cultural landmarks and you'll be a mere train ride away from taking in the sights of London. However, you get screwed when you find out the summer program cost alone is about \$4,000. No worries though. Just sell a few kilos of cocaine and you'll be fine.

St. Petersburg is great not just for the Russian vodka but because of its history as the cultural and political center of Russia since the 18th century. The classes include elementary, intermediate, and advanced Russian, linguistics and film. Russia happens to be the most inexpensive of the programs coming to roughly \$1,700 for the summer, excluding airfare and spending money. But Russia's White Nights in the summer are the best reason to go. The city is so far up north that

the sun doesn't set all the way below the horizon, so your clear nights will be much more like days. I'll be able to tell you just how gorgeous it is after I go this summer.

So maybe you don't feel like learning too much during your break from school, you just want to have fun in another country. Well then Rome, Italy is for you. You'll spend \$3,100 for the initial fee to choose from plenty of seminars ranging from Italian cinema, and international law, to business and Italian history. After your morning classes you'll explore the rich culture of the city through museums and landmarks, but then at night it's a legit party. One guy promised me a toga party if I go this summer, but I'm sure he says that to all the girls.

Supposedly, only about five percent of students even choose to study abroad. Ignoring what I'm positive is a

laundry list of reasons, the biggest is probably the cost issue. We're college students. We spend way too much money on books, and then attend school functions just for the free food. Well starvation may be a small price to pay if you want to go to Oxford. The point is, most of these programs may be costing you a pretty penny to attend. However if you're a recipient of financial aid you're getting closer. Put in your applications (due Apr. 1!), get accepted, and then go talk to the Financial Aid Department and they'll tell you how to route your government-funded aid (TAP, Stafford loans, etc.) towards your ballin' summer in France.

These programs are a much more interesting way for you to get your school credits. Instead of taking boring summer classes on-campus you'll travel abroad to have a real experience in a place you don't already know. And unfortunately, without a Starbucks within walking distance. But the study abroad seminars can be geared toward any outstanding D.E.C. credits you may still need to acquire, as well as potential credit for your major or minor, so it almost makes up for it.

Almost.



The Third Annual SUNY Social Action Conference

Held at the University at Albany, the third annual Social Action Conference invites attendees from both Albany and around the state to a full day of **workshops, discussions and panels** designed to foster **deep ties** between students, community members and organizations committed to **peace and social justice**.

The conference is **free and open to the public**.

SUNY Social Action Conference
Saturday, April 4, 2009, 10 AM - 6 PM
Social Science Building, SUNY Albany
1400 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12222

Participating organizations include:

Albany Political Prisoner Support Network
Bethlehem Neighbors for Peace
Campus Greens
Counter Recruitment
Environmental Advocates of New York
Evil Twin Booking Collective
Informed Constituent
Iraqi Student Project
Jobs With Justice
New York Justice Fund
New York Labor & Religion Coalition
New York Public Interest Research Group
Student Peace Action Network
Students for Workers Rights
Third World Impact
University at Albany Fair Trade Alliance



While in Albany:

Ecouture: Reuse, Refuse, Refashion
Friday, April 3, 2009, 5 PM - 10 PM
University Art Museum, SUNY Albany
Creating high fashion clothing and accessories with reusable, recyclable items. DJ and live bands. Workshoping demo.

RNC Arrestee Benefit Show
Saturday, April 4, 2009, 8PM - 11 PM
Social Justice Center, 33 Central Ave., Albany
Info on how media suppression, police tactics and the PATRIOT Act were used at the RNC. Support antiwar and other demonstrators.

For more information email revolutionaryfever@gmail.com

Adapted Aquatics

By Raina Bedford

Matthew Urso is 13 years old. He was born with hydrocephalus, a paralyzing condition caused by the buildup of fluid in the brain. He cannot walk without assistance. But every Thursday he comes to Stony Brook's adapted aquatics program to swim.

Because he is paralyzed he needs special assistance in the water. Students enrolled in the adapted aquatics program have discovered that by attaching 2-pound weights to his feet, he can stand upright in the water and get maximum use out of his body. Students try to get Matthew to move his arms and legs around to build up strength in muscles that would otherwise atrophy as a result of being confined to a wheelchair.

Alex Ostrovsky, a student enrolled in the adapted aquatics program, has been working with Matthew for almost a year. Ostrovsky said that every Thursday he makes sure Matthew gets the exercise that he needs. The adapted aquatics program also provides Urso with the opportunity to interact with other children his age in a relatively stress-free environment.

"We're trying to see as independent as they can be in an environment that's comfortable for them," Ostrovsky said.

Matthew's mother, Nancy Urso, said that the sessions also serve to improve her son's mood. She said that he looks forward to Thursdays and she notes an improvement in his behavior when she brings him to the program.

"It's really all he has," Urso said.

Every Thursday night from 7-8pm the pool in the sports complex becomes a playground for handicapped people of all ages. Because the pool is littered with toys, participants often don't feel as if what they're doing is physical therapy. They come from all over Long Island and are escorted by their parents or other relatives.

Dr. Peter Angelo has been working within the Adapted Aquatics for 43 years. He was one of the professors who fought hard to create the program in 1966, and has been overseeing it since 1980.

He said that the main goal of the program is to provide an opportunity for the disabled to exercise. He said that without exercise, disabled people are prone to weight gain, tissue degeneration and muscle atrophy. Exercise also provides an opportunity for the disabled to build muscle strength so that



they may regain control over weakened muscles.

His students develop therapeutic regimens custom tailored to each individual participant in the program. These regimens must be proven to build muscle strength and improve cardiovascular functioning.

Angelo points to a young boy on his hands and knees floating on a mat. He is pushing a foam weight with his arms back and forth across the mats surface while two Stony Brook students hold the sides of the mat so that it doesn't tip over. His sister sits beside him mimicking his actions, and they are both singing a song. The boy had a brain tumor removed when he was an infant and the operation left both his left arm and leg partially paralyzed. His sister is there for moral support.

"You see how he's pushing that thing back and forth on the mat?" Angelo asked, "He's actually building muscle strength in his arm and he doesn't even know it."

The little boy stood up and began to balance himself on the floating mat. Angelo explains that although the boy thinks he is just surfing, he is actually building muscle strength in his leg. The more muscle strength the boy builds, the more control he has over his movement.

"While it looks like they're all having fun, everything is therapeutic," he

said.

Five-year-old Khrysti Wolfskill comes to the program to play. She enjoys sitting on the edge of the pool and pushing herself into the water. She feels the tug of gravity at her feet and smiles from ear to ear as she splashes into the water. She falls into the arms of a student volunteer.

Khrysti was born blind. She weighs only 25 pounds because she suffers from a growth hormone deficiency. Her grandmother, Pamela Wolfskill, says that on most days Krystie lives a cloistered life without many opportunities to run around and let loose like most children. But Thursdays are different for her.

Behind Krysti, two students hold out a long silver pole. They're using it to guide a blind and deaf man along a diving board. He feels for the edge of the board with his feet and jumps into the water. He is able to swim to the side of the pool without assistance.

Wolfskill says that watching this man was her motivation to bring her granddaughter Krystie to the adapted aquatics program at Stony Brook.

"There aren't a lot of options available for exercising when you're blind," she said, "So bringing her here, not only is it fun and relaxing for her, but she is also improving her strength."

Participants who have limited mobility on land move with much greater

ease in the water. The water is an environment where they can move their limbs independently and build up strength in muscles that would otherwise atrophy.

It also serves as a social gathering for the disabled community. Every Thursday parents line up around the pool to watch their children swim alongside Stony Brook students and other disabled children. Parents said that after attending the program, their children had better social skills and more confidence.

Sharin Essig has been bringing her daughter to the program for the past five years. Her daughter has TAR syndrome, a rare genetic disorder which caused her to be born without kneecaps. Essig said that in the pool her daughter is able to move her legs around freely and has learned to swim. Her daughter has made friends with some of the other disabled children in the program and as a result feels more confident about her disability.

"She used to see people staring at her and it would bother her," she said, "but she sees other people here who are worse off and she realizes that when people stare they just have questions."

Angelo said that he operates the program on a shoestring budget. This year he was allocated \$12,500 to run the

AQUATICS continued on next page

Feminine Genius in the UK

By Roberto Moya

Is there a feminine genius? Julia Kristeva, an acclaimed French scholar of Bulgarian descent, made it known very early in her lecture on Mar. 17 in the Wang Center that such a genius does, in fact, exist. A genius, as she defines it, is one who possesses "the capacity to surpass oneself."

Rather than jumping right into the dense material that would comprise the bulk of her discourse, Kristeva, instead, delivered a brief biography of herself: How she came to be the progressive intellect that she is today was explained in reminiscent detail. Interestingly enough, it was said in third-person.

The female genius existed as early as the 12th century, according to Kristeva. Her name was Anna Comnena, a

Byzantine scholar, who studied philosophy and wrote a detailed account of the First Crusade in her book, *The Alexiad*. What Kristeva deemed most essential about Comnena's achievements was her insightful contribution to the cause for a united Europe. In the introduction, Kristeva proudly identified herself as a "cosmopolitan intellectual."

"You are a genius to the extent that you are able to challenge your biological identity and the identity society gives to you," said Kristeva. And Simone de Beauvoir, Hannah Arendt, Melanie Klein and Sidonie-Gabrielle Colette did that, all four being the fundamental pioneers for what Kristeva would later explain as her own three ingredient recipe for the psychosexual development of the female genius – object relationships, connections between thinking and living, and approaches to temporality. When asked what a fourth component

would be, she replied, "society's acceptance."

In what Kristeva identified as the "Scotus Ideal," an emphasis is placed on the uniqueness of the individual. Such uniqueness was an evident factor in all five female pioneers, for they all exhibited the "polymorphism essential for the creative process."

Bisexuality, meaning an embrace of dual perspectives and bravado in a male oriented society as a female or as Kristeva put, the "other" of man, marks the true composition of a



Genius? She spells color with a 'u'!

feminine genius.

"Is there a Feminine Genius?" Yes there is. Julia Kristeva is living proof of it.

AQUATICS continued from previous page

23-credit program. He uses this money to run a program that has 850 enrolled students and four full-time professors who teach multiple classes.

Classes in the adapted aquatics program also provide students with the opportunity to earn a wide variety of certificates. These certificates allow students to teach in the relevant field. In the adapted aquatics minor students can become certified lifeguards, CPR instructors, water safety instructors, first-aid instructors and adapted aquatics instructors.

Although the large program has such a small operating budget, it remains free of charge for parents to enroll their children. Angelo said that once a parent or relative successfully enrolls a child, they stay enrolled forever until they choose to leave.

Parents play a large role in this community. They purchase extra toys for the program and contribute to the year-end prom the students throw for the participants. One parent donated a red slide that the students convert into a water slide by pouring buckets of water on it. Parents also constructed a small-scale mock wrestling ring that participants can stand in while in the water. They often use the ring as home base when they play aquatic baseball.

Because the program is essentially free physical therapy for disabled children, there is a long waiting list to get in. This is complicated by the fact that once a child is enrolled, they can stay enrolled forever. Because the program has such a long waiting list, it is not

heavily advertised. Most parents reported that they heard about the program through word-of-mouth.

"Everything in the disabled community is word-of-mouth," said Nancy Urso, "this is no different. It was really a fluke how I discovered the program."

She said she was handed an informational flyer by a parent who was already involved in the program. Essig said that she found out about the program when she was checking out shoes in Target. The college student checking out her items happened to be enrolled in the adapted aquatics program and told her that she should bring her daughter to a session and try to have her enrolled.

Students also said that they learned about the adapted aquatics program through word-of-mouth. Alex Ostrovsky said he learned about the program through a friend at a party and decided it would be a good experience to take the class and get direct patient care hours. Many of the students who are adapted aquatics minors are either pre-med or are looking to go into the field of physical therapy.

But once people find the program it changes

them.

Stanislav Kozin has been a student in the adapted aquatics program since 2005. As a veteran of the class he has taken on a leadership role within this community and assists Peter Angelo with the day-to-day operation of the program. As a student, Kozin said that in addition to learning the intricacies of

physical therapy, the experience of working with the disabled helped him mature faster and develop more of an appreciation for life.

"The program really makes you appreciate the world more," he said, "It makes you realize that whatever problem you have, it's not the worst thing in the world."



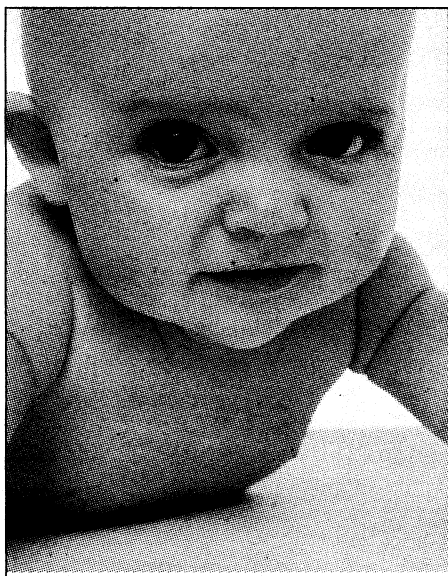
'I'll Have a Redhead with Blue Eyes to Go'

By Caitlin Ferrel

Nadya Suleman. The name should ring a bell. The "Octo-mom" gained national notoriety shortly after she gave birth on Jan. 26 to eight babies, adding to her already-on-welfare brood of six. The mom of multiples is the mother of the longest-lasting octuplets in the U.S. to date. In 1998, Nigerian-born Nkem Chukwu birthed a set of octuplets, but one baby died a week later. Both women became pregnant with the help of fertility treatments.

Pundits and talk show hosts have criticized the 33 year-old mom for endangering her children's welfare, and her emotional and psychological health have been repeatedly questioned. Rumors that Suleman is gunning for a reality show soiled her already-tarnished image when it was reported that she had refused an offer of free healthcare, because the day care center wouldn't allow cameras to film her children.

Suleman is currently unemployed and living on food stamps and disability payments for three of her non-octuplet children. Suleman admitted to using her disability payments to pay for her in vitro treatment. She has used in vitro for all of her pregnancies, and has used the



Hello, Mommy, Wanna play?

same doctor for all of her treatments; Dr. Michael Kamrava, who is now being investigated by the Medical Board of California. As of Mar. 19, only two of the octuplet babies had been released from the hospital because the hospital is worried over Suleman's ability to care for her children.

Onto the less familiar (i.e. less creepy).

Sarah Reinfelder, dubbed "Womber"

Woman" by *The New York Post*, gave birth on Feb. 25 to twins...from the two uteri inside her body.

The condition – "uterus didelphys" – is more common than you may think. According to Dr. Robert Surawin in a *CBSNews* interview, the condition presents in 1 in 2,000 women. Of these, 1 in 25,000 will get pregnant with twins – making Sarah Reinfelder's case a one in 50 million shot. There have been just three other cases recorded in the last 40 years.

Most women will never even know if they have the condition because the two wombs will, for all intents and purposes, act as one. In technical speak: both wombs are connected to the same reproductive equipment. So a woman will still only have one period though a woman could have two cervixes, or even two vaginas. And, like Reinfelder, when one baby goes into labor, the other goes with it.

On a season three episode of *Grey's Anatomy*, a patient was pregnant with two children who had been conceived six weeks apart. According to Zurawin, that's impossible. "The body would not support ovulation... when a pregnancy has already begun."

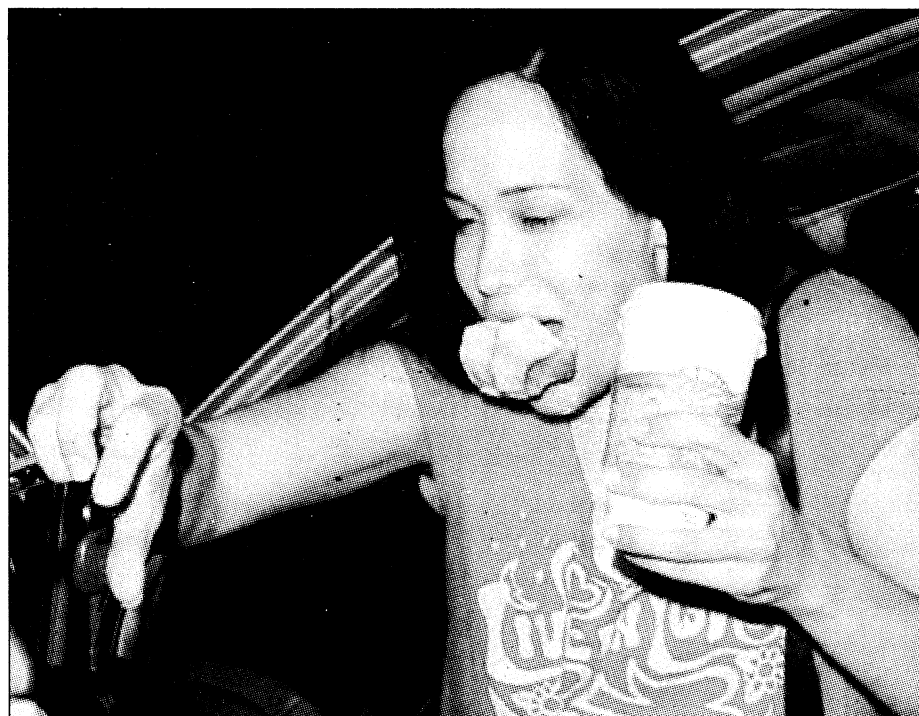
The only way to find out if a woman has the condition is through an ultrasound, which is usually performed when she is already pregnant. The technician would see the second womb, but if the baby is older than 20 weeks, it could block the second uterus, and the woman will never know of her double-womb.

Reinfelder's twins, Kaylin and Valerie, were born seven weeks premature (most twins don't make it full-term) and delivered via C-section. Reinfelder and her husband Shane, 23, already have a 10-month-old son, William.

There's another breaking story on the baby fever front – "designer babies." Experts are predicting that soon, parents will be able not only to choose their baby's sex, but physical characteristics like hair and eye color. This leads many to the "slippery slope" argument – what's next?

The technology allowing for genetic selection is called "pre-implantation genetic diagnosis" (PGD). It was first created to screen for diseases, then gender. Now it's allowing parents to request a brown-eyed girl.

The director of L.A.'s Fertility Institute, Dr. Jeff Steinberg, told *The Early Show*, "I would predict that by next year, we will have determined sex with 100



MUST. HAVE. MORE. BABIES!

percent certainty on a baby, and we will have determined eye color with about an 80 percent accuracy rate." He continued, "I think it's very important that we not bury our head in the sand and pretend these advances are not happening."

"Of course once I've got this science, am I not to provide this to my patients?" Dr. Steinberg defended himself. "I'm a physician. I want to provide everything science gives me to my patients."

There are a few ethical dilemmas. Like, which characteristics will be deemed superior, and how? What impact will this have if the practice becomes more common? And, assuming mostly rich couples will be able to afford this technique, isn't it an unfair advantage?

Dr. Arthur Caplan, Director of the Center for Bioethics at the University of Pennsylvania, said on *The Early Show*, "You're going to have the rich using these technologies, and that's going to advantage them further. It's not going to be something the poor get to do. Lastly, you've got a problem here, why are doctors in this business at all?" Caplan wondered if PGD will be used as a purely-for-cash business. "Is everything and anything for sale at the fertility clinic?"

At Long Island's In Vitro Fertility (IVF) clinic, PGD isn't used. "The goal is for a happy, healthy baby of either sex," said the Director of Clinical Services, Dr. Karen Roach. While the clinic will allow parents to choose to only have certain-sex embryos implanted,

the practice is discouraged. "We do not want you to discard perfectly healthy embryos because it's not the sex you want."

Long Island seems to have a grip on reality. Dr. Roach said, "None of this six, eight business." Suleman had six embryos implanted, two of which split, creating her eight babies. At Long Island IVF, the doctors follow guidelines dictating how many embryos can be implanted: for women below the age of 35, only two embryos are implanted. Women between 38 and 43 will have three implanted, and women over 40 can have the maximum of four. If a woman has had multiple failed cycles, the doctors might allow another embryo to be implanted.

"We have an extremely low multiple rate," Roach said about women who get pregnant with multiple babies. Roach said that, of the multiple babies, most are twins, with a few triplets. The multiple rate at Long Island IVF is less than five percent.

At least on a college campus, students can escape from the outside baby crazy. Dr. Rachel Bergeson, the Medical Director of Student Health Services, said, "I have no experience with any of that. We might tell someone they're pregnant, and then we refer them to an outside OB/GYN." It's probably a good thing that the Stony Brook Health Center isn't encouraging multiple pregnancies for its student population. The illegal triples are crowded enough. "Most of it is making sure they don't get pregnant," Bergeson said.



The Stony Brook

Comrade

April 2009



"The Party"

The Premier
James Laudano

Can't Stand You
Andrew Fraley

Minister of Justice and Commandant of
the Glorious Peoples NKVD
Najib Aminy

Capitalist Pig-Dog
Katie Knowlton

Minister of Productivity
Tia Mansouri

Cram it Down Your News Holes
Natalie Cmosija
Cindy Liu

Feats of Strength
Alex Nagler

The Opiate of the Masses
Kelly Yu

Photoshopping Incriminating Evidence
into Your Photos
Roman Sheydvaser
Liz Kaufman

koppy Editurs
Ross Barkan
Erin Mansfield

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Chris Williams

Has Since Loosened up a Bit
Andrew Fraley

Electronic Stereo Sonic
Jowy Romano

Minister of Misbehaving
Jesse Schopefer

Layout Design stolen by force from
Jowy Romano

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editorials

"Letter" From the Primier

DEAR READERS,

WELCOME BACK TO ANOTHER EXCITING EDITION OF THE COMRADE. WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE AND ANTICIPATION REGARDING THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ISSUE. IT TURNS OUT THAT WHEN THE CAPITALIST PIGS AND THEIR RUNNING-DOGS RUINED THE GLOBAL ECONOMY, THEY ALSO CAUSED DELAYS IN OUR PRODUCTION SCHEDULE. HOWEVER, MUCH LIKE GLOBAL CLASS STRUGGLE, OUR RISE AND RETURN IS INEVITABLE. I WILL NOT WASTE TIME NOR MINCE WORDS. INSTEAD, I SIMPLY PRESENT AN IMAGE THAT, WE FEEL, ACCURATELY SUMS UP OUR STANCE FOR THIS ISSUE. ENJOY, AND KEEP FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT!



WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE OUR KOREAN COMRADE IS SAYING IN THE ABOVE PICTURE. HOWEVER, WE CAN VENTURE A GUESS.

IT'S PROBABLY SOMETHING LIKE:

"I FUCKING LOVE SMASHING CAPITALIST CAPITOL BUILDINGS! KOOOOOOOO-REEEEEEEEEEEE-ANNNNN SMASH!"

Write for The Comrade!

Meetings Every Wednesday at 1AM, Underground

DEAR STONY BROOK COMRADE,

I AM A POOR STEELWORKER LIVING IN THE CAUCASUS MOUNTAINS. MY DAY IS FILLED WITH HARD WORK, BUT I FIND SOLACE IN THE FACT MY LABOR SERVES TO FUTHER THE CAUSE OF THE GREATER WORKERS GLOBAL STRUGGLE. THE OTHER DAY I FOUND MYSELF IN THE MIDDLE OF A DISAGREEMENT WITH A COWORKER OF MINE WHILE AT THE LOCAL ZAKOOSOCHNAYA. HE CLAIMED THAT THE ATTACHED PICTURE OF OUR GREAT LEADERS, CIRCA 1919, CANNOT POSSIBLY BE MADE ANY MORE, AS HE PUT IT, 'AWESOME'. I DISAGREE. THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT, ESPECIALLY WHILE THE CAPITALISTS STILL RULE THE WORLD. HOW CAN THIS PICTURE BE IMPROVED? I NEED TO KNOW

SINCERELY,

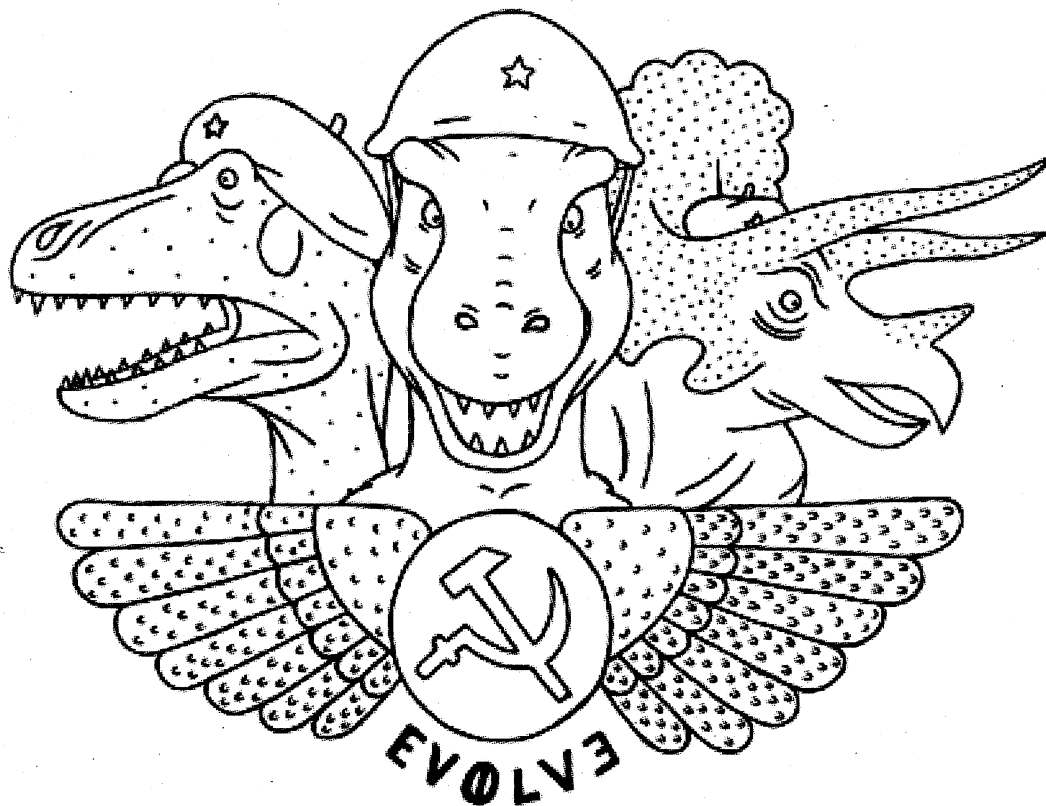
GRIGORY V. I. STALINOPUTIN



GRIGORY,
WHILE YOUR FRIEND IS CORRECT IN HIS ASSUMPTION THAT OUR GREAT LEADERS ARE ALL BUT PERFECT, WE WILL HAVE TO SIDE WITH YOU ON THIS ONE.
PERHAPS THIS WILL HELP YOU IN YOUR QUEST TO FIND A MORE, AS HE PUT IT, 'AWESOME' PHOTO OF COMMUNIST LEADERS. SEE ATTACHED.

SINCERELY,

THE COMRADE



The Winter of Your Discontent

By Volodimir Bobenko

The winter of 2009 rolled across the Stony Brook University campus like a tank in Prague, leaving capitalist students crushed in its wake. The winter, though not as bone-freezing as those experienced in the glorious motherland, did result in a series of utility failures, caused by a relentless Northern wind—and bourgeois debauchery. In early February, heat and hot water were cut off in Roosevelt (named for the great American socialist leader) and Kelly (named for some anonymous capitalist pig) Quads. Students were evacuated from these quads and told to find lodgings elsewhere. There was much complaint from the student body, which protested the university administration's handling of the utility failures. Apart from the heating problems, the internet service in Tabler Quad failed from late January until well into February. This prevented students from easily accessing the internet from their rooms and completing their administration-mandated homework. Apart from the utility failures, the campus dining facilities cut their hours, preventing some students from procuring nourishment at select times. My words to the children sipping the decadent, capitalist, hot beverages, complaining about their quality of life—you are lucky you have heat, showers, in-

ternet or food at all. Furthermore, if these quads were bereft of these utilities, the quads untouched by the utility failures should have been cut off from these comforts as well and stood in solidarity with their fellow quads.

In the Golden Days of the Soviet Union, under the great Stalin, comrades lived without power and such utilities. They were productive and glorified the state through technological advances and military prowess. These utilities, which young and unformed students view as “basic,” have been relied upon to an excessive degree. Thus, when these utilities are cut off, their absence appears nigh catastrophic and mass hysteria results.

Had Stony Brook University been moved to the land of the Soviet soyuz, been renamed after some Soviet revolutionary hero, this unrest would not have occurred. Then, students would not have complained for the lack of utilities. They would have rejoiced. Students would have been thankful that they had not been dragged out of their dormitories in the middle of the night, beaten, to awake in corrugated aluminum prisons in Siberia. Had SBU been in the just and extremely correct

CCCP, students would have adapted their lives to the absence of basic provisions. They would have found a public facility where they could wash, found blankets to keep themselves warm, other ways to get homework done and gotten food.

Under the hammer and sickle, the basic deprivation of resources led to resourcefulness. The lack of essentials created an internalized discipline. The combination of these factors created a superior race of engineers, scientists and pioneers who were able to adapt to any situation.

The loss of these utilities can only help the students of Stony Brook and teach them the value of such resources which are a privilege, not a right. Furthermore, these resources should be taken away whenever General Secretary Kenny decides it's necessary. If there is system failure, so be it. If she deems it necessary to cut utilities to save money for organizing military parades for the veneration of the collective, so be it. Students must persevere. Students must adapt. Students must stop being weak, pitiful disgraces to their parent university. За родину!

Sputnik

By Alexi Naglovski

In a surprising move this afternoon, president Kenny unveiled the official new shield of Stony Brook University.

The shield, a “red hot” background with a steel colored orb emblazoned with the SB logo used by the athletics department and Cyrillic writing beneath it, is meant to pay tribute to the “single most important force that drove Stony Brook into becoming what it is today.” That force, according to President Kenny, “is Sputnik.”

“No longer will Stony Brook go without a shield. It is time we join the ranks of institutions with shields. And what better way than to pay tribute than to honor the glorious Soviet workhorse that launched itself into history and Stony Brook on to its path towards glory,” president Kenny said.

Sputnik, the Soviet satellite, was the first manmade Earth-orbiting satellite. Launched on Oct. 4 1957, its deployment marked a major turning point for Stony Brook, turning what should have been nothing more than a teacher's college into a major research university.

The new shield is to be immediately placed on all academic buildings, athletic facili-

ties, residential dorms and university approved apparel. The university is also issuing a recall of all former identification cards so that the Bureau of Students can disperse cards with the new logos.

President Kenny has expressed her desire that the next President of Stony Brook University take the title of the General Secretary of Stony Brook, not the President: “All to honor our Soviet brethren, of course.”

These moves are only the first of what are perceived to be major sweeping changes to the university. Wolfie, the lovable jocular mascot of Stony Brook is to become Comrade Volf. Jim Fiore, Director of Athletics noted that for the majority of the year, Stony Brook's weather conditions are similar to that of a Siberian winter, so “decking Comrade Volf out in a fur cap and officer's coat would actually make more sense than the outfit he currently wears.”

Athletics is not the only department to see a change. The Undergraduate Student Government has decided to fold itself and reform as the Unified Student Politboro, noting that the new shield presents the perfect opportunity to replace the old one. The Assistant to the Former

Vice President of Communications, David Mazza, was thrilled with the change. “Finally, a chance to do away with the old USG logo and the fact that it was blatantly ripped off from Princeton”

QUOTE: "I fucking hate capitalists." —Andrew Fraley, editor extraordinaire

Shorter Dining Hours: Class War At Stony Brook

By Nikolai Meaton

In a move that can only be considered an attack on the proletariat, dining halls on Stony Brook campus have been cutting their operating hours. The Campus Dining Services has tipped its selfish and far from invisible hand, revealing its bourgeois agenda.

When it was announced to the people that the dining area in Roth Quad was to be renovated, the common understanding was that the goal was to create jobs. In an effort to counter any benefit reaped by the workers, the capitalists significantly drew back operating hours, which reduced both the number of available jobs and the size of our paychecks. The people have seen through this malevolent plot to exploit them while hoarding the profits and are rising up and calling for answers.

The capitalists will blame government intervention. They will say that the Deficit Reduction Plan has depleted the funds available for operating dining halls and paying wages. Fortunately, we have the United Faculty/Student Solidarity Front (UFSSF) to fact check. Comrade Agnello, Czar of Collective Bargaining for the UFSSF, has stated that Campus Dining Services operates independently of state funding and is not affected by SUNY budget cuts. Where, now, can the filthy overclass place the blame?

In an effort to lend our support to Stony Brook workers, *The Comrade* has put together a 3,547 page plan to expand labor rights on campus. The plan includes suggestions to tax the tuition of students whose families make over \$125,000 annually at a rate of at least 70 percent to subsidize those less fortunate students who can waive the tax entirely. Appropriation power shall be delegated to a committee on labor and education appointed by the senate. It is then suggested that the committee establish statewide labor standards for all public facilities and harsh punishment for those who do not comply.

A subcommittee on proletariat justice should be created to help enforce punishment and oversee the construction of a bourgeois-exclusive prison complex. Legal fees and constructions costs can be extracted by levying a driving and parking fee on those students who own vehicles worth over \$12,000. Aforementioned labor standards should include the mandatory establishment of labor unions at each and every university as well as a central labor authority to which all union leaders must report. Private dining companies should henceforth be barred from operating within 25 miles of any public university. (Note that the language within our proposed plan leaves open the op-

tion of barring private companies of any nature from operating within 25 miles of any public facility whatsoever.)

The committee on labor and education shall appoint nutritional directors at each university who will oversee the creation of public dining facilities within their jurisdiction. Nutritional directors and union leaders shall come together to elect a Board on Public Food And Labor, which shall be made up of no less than 72 members. The Board will manage all cooperation between the labor unions and public dining facilities and will then elect an executive board of no less than 12 members who shall manage the aforementioned management. The Board on Public Food And Labor, the labor unions, the public university dining facilities and the subcommittee on proletariat justice shall all fall under the dominion of the committee on labor and education which falls under the dominion of the New York State Senate.

The answer is simple: "From the rich according to their means, to the poor according to their need."



The students pictured are fighting one of many fights in the endless struggles of class warfare. Karl Marx said it best in his 1872 book, *The Communist Manifesto*, "Rich People are Assholes." We couldn't have said it better ourselves, Mr. Marx. PS, We loved you in *Duck Soup*.



И ЗАСУХУ ПОБЕДИМ!



Don't Boycott Israel!

By John Tucker

I am a future member of the Green Party of Israel, a political party that currently has zero seats in the Knesset (Israeli parliament). What's more, my colleagues in the Green Party of the United States passed a resolution calling for divestment from Israel. So on the surface, my plans for Aliyah (immigration to Israel) aren't that glamorous.

I'll most likely have to serve some time in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), which I don't mind that much. Hopefully, as a soldier I won't have to handle any white phosphorous – a chemical weapon that is banned by international law but used by the IDF. However, many nations don't recognize Israel as a legitimate country, so why should Israel recognize international law?

Those countries that do recognize Israel don't maintain their embassies in Jerusalem. Most of them don't even recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Instead, they maintain their embassies in Tel Aviv, a city that is more like 100 years old and less like 3,000 years old. But apparently, Tel Aviv has some Green Party members on its city council – so score one for John Tucker.

The last time I was in Israel, I lived in a suburb of Tel Aviv. It fucking sucked. Jerusalem is where the action is. The last time I was in Jerusalem, I put in a good word for *The Story Brook Press*...err...I mean *The Comrade*, when I visited the Kotel (Western Wall). Almost two years later, I would say that it was a prayer well spent.

Not that I'm religious or anything.

Do the Jewish people have a right to control what was most recently called The British Mandate of Palestine? My answer is yes—an answer that a lot of people don't agree with. I guess they've never experienced real anti-Semitism. But neither have I; I grew up Jewish on Long Island.

I have no idea what I am going to do once I move to Israel. I'll have to go through some sort of Ulpan (Hebrew school), because right now I'm not very good at Hebrew. I also know next to nothing about Arabic. Maybe I can work at the American Apparel store in Jerusalem. Then I can be like "Howdy, ya'll, welcome to American Apparel" on a daily basis – but not on Saturday.

Lately people have been asking me why I am choosing to make Aliyah. There are a few reasons. For one, there is a Jewish population crisis in Israel/Palestine. The State of Israel is approximately 75 percent Jewish. When I was over there in 2007, I was told that there is not a Jewish majority in northern Israel, and statewide, the population of non-Jews was increasing.

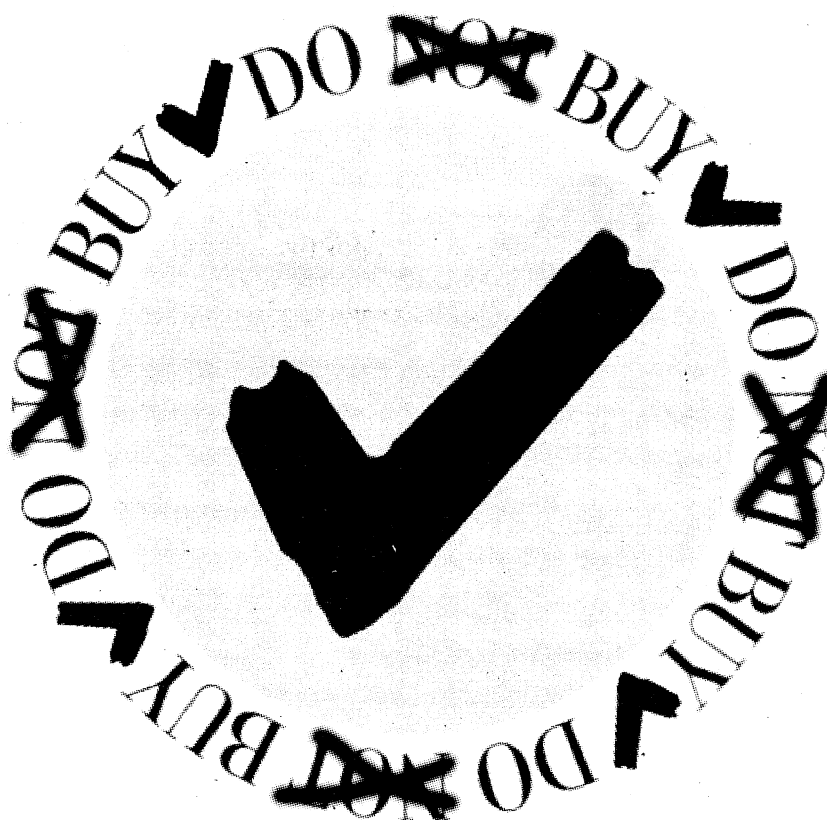
Think of it this way: The State of Israel is a first world nation, complete with family planning – although I cannot confirm that there are any abortion clinics in Israel. After all, Israel is The Jewish State, and Moshe Dayan didn't gain an eye patch so that "liberal Jews" living in Israel could kill unborn Jewish children.

All the while, Palestinians live in poverty and have little to no access to birth control methods. Those Palestinians who don't die or get taken prisoner in IDF raids on their homes have larger families than the average secular Israeli family. That

is, unless their home gets demolished in the name of Israeli defense. Maybe during my mandatory military service I can get to operate one of those badass bulldozers that I always hear about. Just as long as there is no white phosphorous involved.

It's my view that Israel can use a citizen like me. The Law of Return states that as a Jew I can move to Israel and become a citizen right away. When I take advantage of this law, I look forward to voting in Israeli elections, paying taxes and taking public transportation.

Public transportation – as in, the buses that are infamous for blowing up. Think of this as well: the corporate fat cats in the Knesset most likely drive cars that are no less fancy than a Skoda sedan. They probably don't take public transportation. Those who do ride the bus do so out of necessity. I've never experienced real anti-Semitism, but some Russian Jew living in Bat Yam (a suburb of Tel Aviv) experienced it in the Soviet Union. So did



all those Arab Jews (Mizahrim) who no longer live in Iraq/Lebanon/Syria/etc (on a side note, I am sick of the Iranian government using Tehran's Jewish community as a propaganda tool). They were forced to move to Israel, and are forced to ride the bus. When militants/terrorists/suicide bombers/homicide bombers detonate their weapons on public transportation, they're killing those with whom they should most sympathize.

My life is currently in the planning stage. I've been looking at the popular Aliyah assistance organization Nefesh B'Nefesh. They seem too right wing for me. The organization's website advertises locating Olim (new immigrants) in cities and towns located within the West Bank – a.k.a. West Bank settlements.

I hate the beach, but I've been told by some that all the cool kids live in Tel Aviv, a 100 year-old city located on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea and well outside of the West Bank. In the past I had an incident involving cool kids. That's why I will choose to live in Jerusalem. Jerusalem is where the action is.

One weekend I spent Shabbat in Jerusalem. That was nearly two years ago, and it was awesome. Two years ago, that was the 40th anniversary of The Six Day War. Today, some see 2009 as marking 42 years of a unified Jerusalem, while others see it as 42 years of Israel's occupation of the West Bank.

OK. So here is where I admit that I see it as 42 years of a unified Jerusalem. This is also where I acknowledge that a vote for the Green Party may be throwing my vote away. In addition to my white phosphorous dilemma, I have no idea which party I will vote for on future Israeli election days. In the fall 2008 edition of *The Comrade*, I referenced the Likud Party's Benjamin Netanyahu. He is a good man, and as a politician working in the democratic Jewish State, he has a right to his opinion.

When I went on the Taglit-Birthright Israel program, they tried to put more of an emphasis on Yitzhak Rabin and less of an emphasis on Netanyahu. Birthright also took us hiking in the Golan Heights – an area that isn't internationally recognized as part of Israel. At least we traveled with two armed guards, and they didn't take us to the West Bank city of Hebron afterwards. Apparently Hebron is the second holiest city in Judaism. I remember watching Yitzhak Rabin's funeral on TV in Hebrew school. It was fucking sad. For the record, Rabin was assassinated by one of his fellow countrymen, although the Jewish Israeli who shot the Prime Minister had vastly different political views from him. At least Bill Clinton acted pretty cool at the funeral.

But does Israel really need the United States' support? I have no idea how much money the US pumps into Israel. I remember my rabbi saying something about buying Israel bonds, and it's always a mitzvah (good deed) for a US synagogue to purchase an ambulance in Israel. Maybe if your grandparents relocated to Beit Shemesh instead of Boca Raton, there would be less of a Jewish population crisis in Israel/Palestine. But that's just my right side talking.

When I first drew my controversial "The Pizza Company" comic, I was afraid that the Mossad was going to kill me. Then I realized that Israel has a few more legitimate threats to its existence than some lefty Jewish student at a school in New York. Israel invented the Uzi, Krav Maga and to an extent, the atomic bomb (Albert Einstein has ties to The Hebrew University of Jerusalem). Palestinian military technology is so primitive that their soldiers have to die in order for their weapons to work properly. So when I was over there, I slept pretty well at night knowing that I was safe.

On Qassam rockets: one of the reasons these rockets are hitting civilian targets in Israel is because they aren't exactly the greatest works of military technology. Technically, they are "home-made," so I don't think they have any satellite guidance systems. Not to imply that Palestinians have the inclination to avoid civilians. I don't know why my side of the argument chooses to use white phosphorous though, but if you donate an international calling card to *The Comrade*, I will set up an interview with an IDF spokesperson.

Next year in Jerusalem...

Ask The Comrade

By Najib Aminy

How many times have you sat in class with perspiration dripping down your forehead pondering the usefulness of another great lecture on the political theory of great leader Karl Marx? The answer is never, and that you do not show disrespect towards teacher in class by dreaming. You only live for nation and make educate for good of nation.

I have great hunch that the average Josef or Dmitri will always need to know the failures of free-market society or the vital importance of the strong working class in building of country. But I will provide you education and lesson if battery to your T-72 Main Battle Tank dies and you need to recharge.

This may never happen because soviet quality manufacturing never makes dead, and battery will live long like socialism even if you leave interior lights on while reading up on latest facist propaganda or *The New York Times*.

Oh wait, your economist professor did not go over this. Of course not because he eats the grass that Barack Obama walks on. I bet you wish he had while you stand ready to battle with Kalashnikov and the working fist against the corporate piggies running world to a muck while tank is not work.

But again do not worry, this tank is not made in America. But if battery does die, this is what you will do.

Listen. Each step will be in honor of great leader that youth and world should look up to.

Step one, in the honor of great Karl Marx, the father of righteousness, line up an operating T-72 supplied by comrade to your non-functioning one. Have working tank battery as close to non-working battery. Do not disrespect the manufacturing of working class and allow tanks to touch. This may damage tank. No good. Ensure over the working iron fist that one tank actually has a working battery and that both facist fighting machines are off.

Step two, remember Mikhail Bakunin, the good man. Turn off everything in both tanks. This includes three-track CD player that should be playing the sorrowful music of Amernian duduk, as a reminder of what capitalism can do. Turn off tape-cassette that should play biography of great leader in social belief. Make sure the 125 mm 2A46 series canon is switched to "off" and auto loader capsule is closed as well.

Step three, for make great honor of Chairman Mao, revolutionary of the east. Take jumper cable that hard working and loving father tell you to put in rear of interior of tank. (The one you will never have to use because Soviet equipment fails never.)

Step four, please take moment and remember great Alexander Berkman. His legacy lives on in many way. Now connect end of jump cables to the batteries of T-72 in following sequence. Do not try science experiment. This is way:

4a. Connect positive cable to positive terminal on dead tank battery. In case you do not are aware of what positive looks like it is (+).

4b. Connect other end of positive cable to terminal of good tank battery.

4c. Connect negative cable to negative end on dead tank battery. In case you do not do studies in school, this is negative (-).

4d. Connect the other end of negative cable to negative end on working tank battery.

Step five, in honor of Emma Goldman, double check that connections are made. You are Soviet believer and smart. With fine attention to detail you are not like silly person who believe in tax breaks for wealthy or leave tank interior lights on. Do not question me for being skeptical. Go check again. No question asked.

Step six, in dedication to Michael D.

Yates, start the brute V-12 diesel powered 780-horsepowered engine, a great work of working class to benefit good country and let run for minute or maybe two to bring power to failed battery. Reflect on glorious past of nation while time goes by.

Step seven, honor Leon Trotsky, and start engine on dead tank. When started, let run to re-fuel battery.

Step eight, read novel of Edward Bellamy, then remove the cables in reverse order.

-Remove negative end from former dead battery.

-Then remove negative end from good battery

-Remove positive end from good battery

-Remove positive end from former dead battery.

Step nine, do not forget grand ruler Josef Stalin. After acknowledgement, track down worker who constructed failed battery from serial number and manufacturing plant. Demand apology or threaten family. This ensure that bad work will not go unnoticed.

When this works, call government support automotive agency and let them know they do good job. You may feel it is right to cut this paper and place in copy of tank registration and manifesto documents.

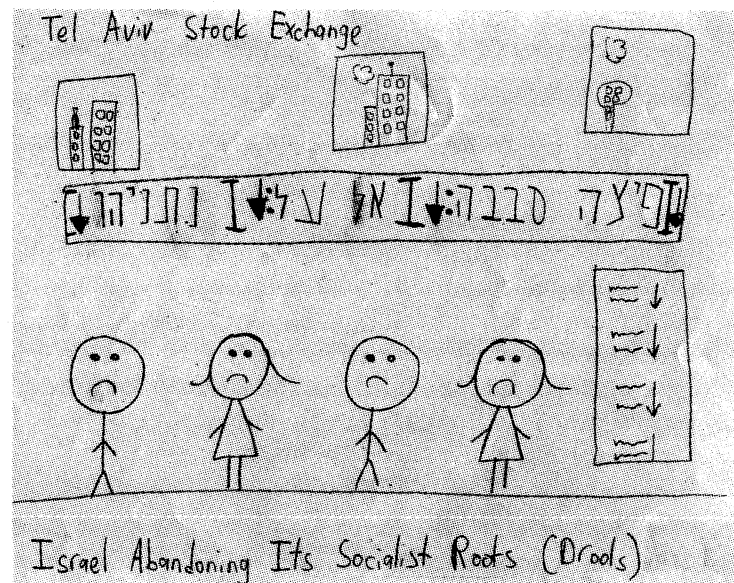
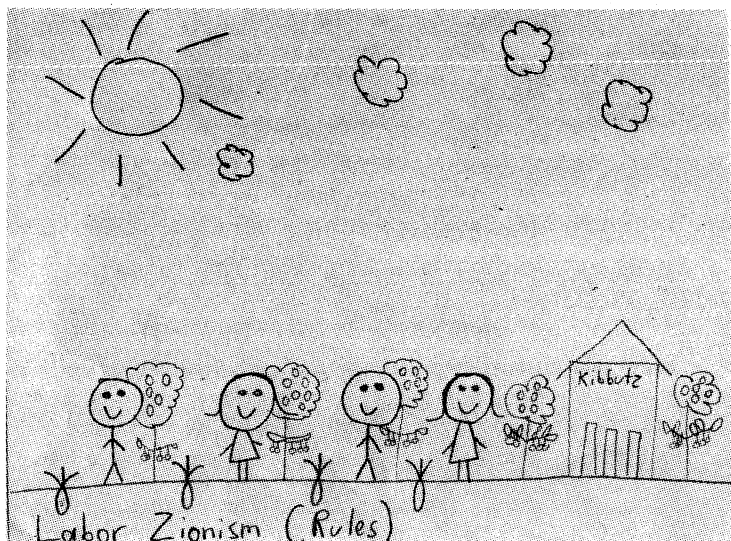
If you have things you would like learn about. Stop. You must learn about what is necessary like glorification and strength of country.

Fine Print: Instructions must be followed. No risk. I know they are proof from right-wing Washingtonian politician and working class suppressors. If you blow up self, then it is fault of facist propaganda.

Now make better use of time in benefit for country and work.

Cartoon of the Month

The Pizza Company by Yakov Zamir



Finches

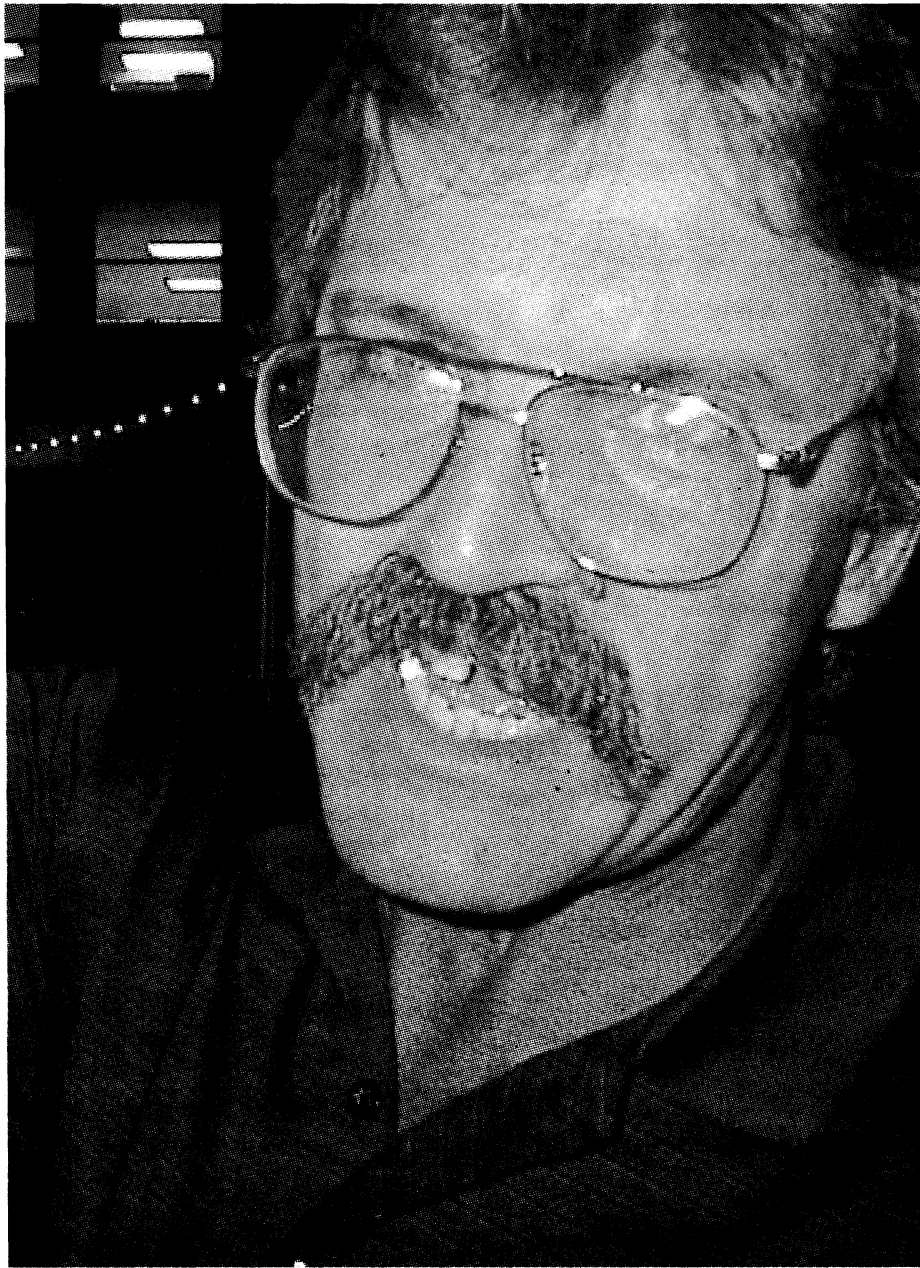
By Andrew Fraley

Finches. Everybody needs one. I have sixteen. They provide the solace and sanity to me, because otherwise I would totally go apeshit on everybody and everything. In the Fall of 2005, I found myself among a crowd of normal college freshmen. I couldn't take it, their normalcy. I found myself more agitated and increasingly on edge. Alone in a bastion of collegiate ideological exchange and civility, I felt more and more alienated. I was losing my grip on reality, and needed something to calm me down. That is where I found over a dozen finches to ease my spiraling descent into mad-

ness.

I found the poor birds being sold on the street in Chinatown one day. The birds were meant to escape from their new owners and fly back to the peddler, to resell them. Seeing this deceit from the elder oriental man just set me off. I punched the bastard in the face and made off with his entire cage of birds. To prevent their escape and trip back to Chinatown, I threw the cage in a burlap sack, and shook it vigorously for 20 minutes, to eliminate any sense of directions the birds would have. I later clipped the survivors' wings (5 had died from

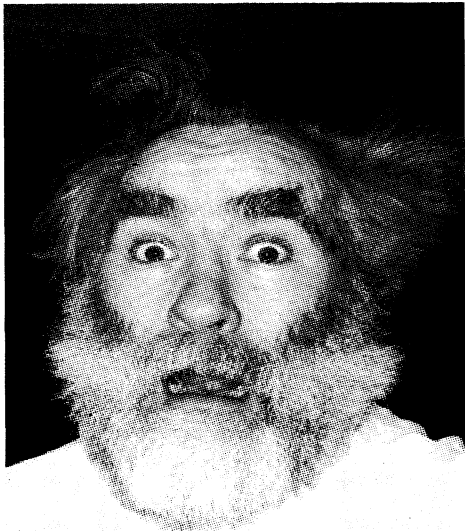
the initial shock—the weaklings. I like to call them the Liebermans of the bunch). The ones who survived the shaking and the wing clipping I called my army of grizzled veterans. I later had delusions of these finches being the returning heroes of The Great War; the war of Soviet Aggression against the rogue Afghan nation. I would dream of attacking the normal students of this college, along with my champion finchmen-veterans. We would make them look like fools at every possible chance we got. The following list is each personified finch, and his story:



This is Hector. He runs the show. He is a total badass. He was once part of the KGB. He has more police brutality stories than you do socks in your hamper, you nancy. It'll make your head spin. He is the leader of my finch hoard, harassing the good-natured hippies across the street, protesting America's current war of aggression against Afghanistan. "You want an illegal war? You didn't see the war in the 70s, kids. I've seen

horrors that'll turn yo' shit white." Hector likes to frighten the children and young adults. But Hector does have his soft side. He likes to encourage underage smoking, and hands out his domestic cigars to the 16-year-olds. "Take a puff on that, boy, it'll turn yo' shit white."

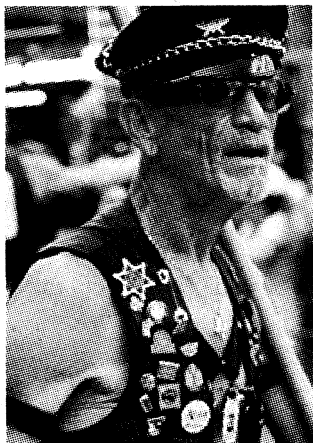
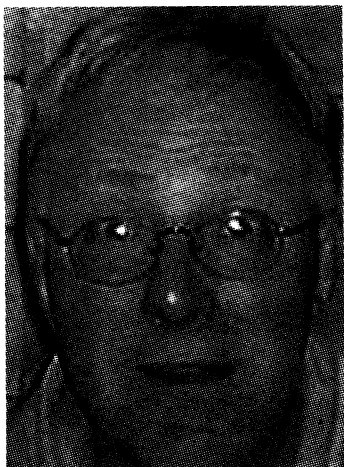




This is Dwight, the elder finch. I imagine he had served in the Great War (I know I called the last one the Great War... ah, who am I kidding? They were all Great!); the war of Nazi Aggression. He fought in Stalingrad, and was responsible for gunning down the dissenters and cowards in the Red Army. "If I had my way," old Dwight would say, "I'd gun down all these no-good fascist dogooders." He would attend our anti-anti-war rallies, carrying a giant bullhorn, and a mean face. He liked to yell at the little kids across the street. When parents asked him politely not to harass their children, he would yell at them too. Nobody tried to speak to this man, he was absolutely insane, and also suffering from dementia. He even yelled at us; it was a bit awkward at times.

Actually, Dwight died. I just now accidentally stepped on him. Well, replace "accidentally" with "repeatedly", and "him" with "his entire extended family" (he had 7 kids). Those poor dead bastards.

This is Johan. He is the quiet member of our group. Only lashing out in regular periodic fits of rage, he is usually well composed. I take from his example, and only lose my shit on weekdays from 5-9. A grizzled veteran himself, he suffers from PTSD. Not wanting to sound like a "wimp" though, he likes to call it FWSBMFS, or Flag-Waving Strong Badass Mother Fucker Syndrome. "I have Flag-Waving Strong Badass Mother Fucker Syndrome," he likes to say, a lot. Actually, that's all he says. Little Johan may not have made it out of that burlap sack fully intact. Poor dumb bastard.



This is Uncle Jack, and his friend Stinko. It appears Jack and Stinko may have ulterior motives for attending our little shindigs. Uncle Jack is very benign, and loves to get chummy with the young hippies. Stinko watches silently but intently as Uncle Jack gets close to the young protestors. "Hey there little lad, why don't you get those tight jeans over here? This is where the fun is." He likes to play the good guy in our escapades. They usually leave early, satisfied smiles on their faces.

Little Raptor Man is the last of our cavalcade. He is called this because those elitists like to say that birds evolved from dinosaurs, and because he grinds his teeth into razor sharp weapons. He's bitten many protestors in our history of our counter-protests, but never gets in trouble. This may be because he's murdered every single police man on the force in Sufflok County. The land of my dreams is a lawless land, the only order comes from LRM's incisors of justice. I like to nickname him Noam Chompsky. Or is that his real name? What am I talking about again?

I have had some of the best moments of my life with my finch friends, my only friends. They have never let me down. They keep me sane in a world full of insanity. They are my only family; I accidentally murdered my real family just now.

Finches, everybody needs one. On Saturday in April, I found a shit ton.



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Presenting the new, radical "Launch Jacuzzi!" Don't just leave the jacuzzi, launch out of it!



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The Last Word

The permanent revolution, in the sense which Marx attached to this concept, means a revolution which makes no compromise with any single form of class rule, which does not stop at the democratic stage, which goes over to socialist measures and to war against reaction from without; that is, a revolution whose every successive stage is rooted in the preceding one and which can end only in complete liquidation

-Leon Trotsky





ASIAN AMERICAN E-ZINE

Asian Guys: Hot or Not?



CBS Numb3rs star and SBU alumna Diane Farr with husband Seung Chung

The best selling New York Time's book, *Stuff White People Like*, is a long list the author views as definitely white things. It's a little sexist since #11 Asian Girls is only about white males, but there has been some consternation in the Asian male community that the white world views their women as hot but they are not. What follows are some views about interracial relationships among asian americans.

My Winter Break

by Jack Xiang

Time spent in college can skew your perceptions on reality in many ways, in one sense you gain a more complete perspective on life, in another you are isolated away from the world. The few chances you have to connect with the world again is your summer and winter break. For those of us who come from the city, it's a chance to see how quickly the world changes and how the world goes on without us. This break for me was an affirmation of that, for the first time in twenty one years of living in NYC, I saw more Asian male and non-Asian female couples roaming the streets of NYC.

Since the age that I first started dating, I've heard complaints from many Asian guys talking about how "the white man" was stealing their women or of how they meet Asian women who won't date an Asian guy. While most of the time I dismiss this as the bitterness of men who have been rejected, there is some truth in the fact that most of the time I see interracial Asian couples, the woman is usually Asian while the guy is another race. This

is a fact that many of us in NYC have come to believe and what I've come to believe is the fact growing up in NYC. So this break provided an eye-opening change when every trip into the city I saw at least one interracial couple where an Asian guy wasn't with an Asian woman.

While I've dated outside for my race several times in the past, I've always considered myself an outsider or the strange one in the group. Growing up too American to really fit into the "Asian" groups but too "Asian" to fit into the "American Asians" (for some reason speaking Chinese barred me from the second group). Imagine my surprise going back to the city and suddenly, inexplicably I find that the world has shifted and I wasn't so strange anymore. Every time I went out, I was tempted to go and meet these couples but I figured it probably wasn't the best idea and in the end I never did find out what was going on but the fact was it was happening.

Of course seeing all this and being a college student I had to ask everyone I knew about this and if they had noticed the same trend or if prolonged isolation on Long Island had burnt out my mind. For the most part they said that they had been noticing it more and more frequently and most of them didn't know what to make of it. Many of the more militant Asian Americans that I had met were overjoyed and supported them while other more conservative Asian Americans I knew took it as a sign that maybe the image of the asexual Asian male had started dying off.

Is it that more second or third generation Asian Americans are appearing here on the East Coast that are more willing to date outside of their race?

Is it that Asian men are suddenly in style and old images like Charlie Chan and Fu Manchu are starting to die out?

Personally I have no idea and for what its worth I don't really care how it's happening, it's just a good feeling knowing that maybe other Asian American guys out there are more like me than I think. That maybe I'm not the outcast Asian American male that's too "Asian" or too "American".

Asian American Boyfriends by Samantha Carr

My name is Samantha Carr and I'm a 22 year old white female in a long-term relationship with a Japanese



Daniel Henney, Korean American actor/model

American male. Many people are aware that it's not every day you see a white female with an Asian male, but rather the other way around. I'm at a loss for an explanation to such a phenomenon, but in my opinion, it's a shame that it's not more common than it is. Whether it's a cultural or sociological reason, or just plain prejudice or reluctance on the part of the white female population, I must say they're missing out on a very exciting and fulfilling relationship.

This isn't the first time I've been in a relationship with an Asian American man. In fact, it isn't the second or third, but I have a preference for them. Aside from the physical attractiveness (and they are indeed VERY attractive), they have qualities about them that I find a lot of Western guys are lacking. The first is the modesty they have about themselves. Even though it can manifest as shyness, it puts the ball

in my field and forces me to make the first move which is something of a challenge that lures me. It builds attraction, especially if I know I'm close to the catch. The "thrill of the chase", if you will.

But that's just the beginning of the getting-to-know-you stage. Once I do catch them and am in a relationship with them, it never gets dull. As a general rule, or at least what I feel is, Asian American men are more emotionally invested into their relationships than their Western counterparts, at least in my experience. They're loving, affectionate, and willing to spend time and be committed to their partners. They also are the best and most considerate lovers. A lot of Western guys start feeling you up

and say "Yea, lets do it," but that's not the case with Asian American men. They seem to really value their partners, sex, and all the activities surrounding it. They're happy to be intimate and close with their partners and they hold sex as a sacred act like it should be. I personally have trouble keeping my hands to myself with my boyfriend because I just enjoy being in his presence and being intimate with him. He is by far, and I've gone out with a number of different guys in my life, the best boyfriend I've had and I've never been happier in a relationship than I am now.

Again, I can't really say whether it's cultural or whatever, but I feel that Asian American guys make the best lovers and I think every woman is missing out if they've never been with one.

A Royal Visit with *The Emperor*

By Ross Barkan

Existentialist philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre wrote that man is in control of his own destiny, subject neither to fate nor God. He wrote optimistically of the human race, believing that through action man, already free, could achieve anything he desires. If Sartre were to stroll down Times Square on February 28th, 2009, he would find the epitome of man, a person truly free and aware of the responsibility he shares with the rest of mankind, a person who comprehends he *is* the cosmos. That man is named The Emperor.

Who is the man? Who would so presumptuously anoint himself The Emperor when at first glance the human consciousness discerns no temporal domain for The Emperor to reign over? To answer this question, you must come with me to the teeming, flashing streets of Times Square, an intersection as bright and as absurd as the whole titling mass we call planet Earth, that azure spec in the aphotic vault holding all the hopes and dreams of billions, dreams destined for oblivion no matter where you look and no matter whom you seek. Walk to 42nd street and let the neon bathe you, air corrupt yet blithe, contradictions painting your senses like the brain is a canvas for the rococo musings of an age long thought dead but alive and well, coke bottles, burgers, bras, beer, all bombastic, all glorious, all insidious, bombs of consumerism exploding in the air, destined to ruin, destined to please, look up and *see*, and drink the tonic that Old Man America has concocted for your tongue so used to tasting ennui. Drink, and walk. The Emperor sees you.

"What's up fans?" he calls from the sidewalk, positioned just out of the way of the pedestrian haze. He is in the perfect place: out of the way, but not *too far* out of the way. He is wearing nondescript clothing. The Emperor, dear citizens, does not need mere clothe to be distinguished from the masses. This writer is traveling with a few dear companions. Allow me the pleasure of cataloging them: there is Joshua Ginsberg, a maladroitness melodramatic chap with a heart of gold, Craig Heed, a dark-haired, dark-hearted warrior in these woods (we call life), and Brandon Alterman, a former Stony Brook student best remembered for ejaculating (semen) into a roommate's sock and aspiring to be a Ultimate Fighting Championship fighter. They are all brave men.

However, once The Emperor's siren call is heard, no one can resist.

"Lemme tell y'all about my music," he begins, spewing a collection of nouns, adjectives, and verbs that mean little to our ears until he asks the fateful question. "What're your names?"

This is when the lingual cyclone that is The Emperor is unleashed upon our feeble souls, rendering us clay in his Promethian grasp. His sheer verbosity is the equivalent of an unholy, Hiroshima-esque mindfuck, one that has not been witnessed since.

"Ross," I reply weakly.

"Ross! Ross the boss! Ross is the boss, yo whaddup Ross, the boss," he shoots back, astounding me. How could one man, one *mortal* summon such brilliant rhyming skills without hours of premeditation? It turns out The Emperor is a rapper, a fellow soldier in the battle of the streets. He asks me where I am from.

"Brooklyn," I say.

"Notorious!" he cries, referencing the Notorious B.I.G., a dead and rotund rapper from a section of Brooklyn in which my lily-whiteness would not be welcome. We exchange handshakes. I feel tall.

The Emperor tells us of some of the rappers he has worked with, reciting their names as if he is reading off the ambrosial ledger of the Olympian gods. Our small minds do not recognize any of these names. I will try to reproduce what I can on this parchment so the reader can understand the events. We are all flummoxed.

"Y'all know I been rapping with some big names, like [Cake Mix Johnson], [Li'l Fuckhead], [Li'l Nastysuck], [Q-Bone], [DastardlyFuck], and [Jizz Donkey]."

Next he serves unsuspecting Craig something fierce. Writing in my study many days later, I am still unsure of how The Emperor could rhyme so well. He is Alexander Pope reincarnated, only if the Pope reincarnation were cybernetically-enhanced to write *even better* and then spray painted black for effect.

"Craig?" he says after Craig Heed, Indie Rock sensation, spews his appellation. "Craig with da bread! Craig with the da bread! Whuddup Craig?"

I swear on the testicles of Gibraltar that this is what The Emperor said. Rhyming Craig *with bread*... is this what painting the Mona Lisa was truly like? I try rationalizing and reconciling the words "Craig" and "bread" but find my neurons unable to handle the signal overload. Instead I slouch toward enlightenment, waiting to see what he

does with Joshua's name.

"Josh givin' all the girls the posh," he croons, officially dominating the English language like a steroid-enhanced dominatrix, beating words into the crust until they conform to his rigid, meticulous, and mind-raping standards. All I can think is: "my god, Josh does give girls the posh! How did he know?"

At last, Brandon's name confounds The Emperor. He is but man and not god after all. A wave of relief washes over all of us as we witness his first lingual struggle.

"Brandooooon! Bran-don! Brandon..."

Stymied. The night is far from over. From his jacket, which no doubt contains a link to a deep-space wormhole or Newtonian temporal vortex, he produces disks packaged brightly in plastic. Run, god damn you, run! Don't let The Emperor's psychic grasp violate the inner sanctum of your subconscious! Sadly, I cannot call out to my past self because time-travel has not been perfected.

"Yo, so I got these CDs here. You should take some. They're off the chain. I'm gonna be big soon, and it's good music you know, so, you can each have a CD."

He hands us each a devil disk, his actions seemingly benign. He signs each of our disks with a marker, a hasty reminder of this Kafkaesque night. Later I would find out he scrawled, "Ross NYC '09" on my disk, neglecting even to write his own name. It was truly a brilliant ploy, one that would come



The Emperor, seen in his Imperial Court

into play later on. Remember that we are in the vortex of Times Square—up is down, red is green, and the lights, those burning neon eyes drenching and searing your core, are a jubilant psychosis. The Emperor has one more thing to add.

"So, I just want a lil' donation you know, just whatever you got. Ten dollars usually preferred but whatever is good."

If only, dear Jesus, that were true. Joshua, Brandon, and Craig all pull out single bills or shiny dollar coins (or Railroad Doubloons seemingly only available from Long Island Rail Road ticket machines) to give to The Emperor. His eyes pass over them like a Semitic miser, the twinkle bright enough to blot out a cosmic vagina. Everyone passes in their donations until the time comes for this writer to hand in his due. If only, if only...

"Yo fans, don't worry 'bout change, I could break a thousand dollar bill!"

How do we measure moments? You can suspend time in amber and examine each section until, like a dinosaur, it roars forth to an epiphany. In *Jurassic Park*, Wayne Knight is fucked by a brachiosaurus. Or is he? Look again, into the amber of the moment, and understand that felons tell the truth, priests lie, and Santa Claus didn't eat those cookies. Your overweight, alcoholic stepdad with a penchant for child porn, burritos and smokin' blunts on I-95 ate the cookies. He ate the cookies! Why, dear baby Jesus so kind and innocent in the bosom of Mary, did I pull out the 20?

EMPEROR continued on next page

Ham Sucks!

By Najib Aminy

His apron was bloodstained. Drops of blood continued to fall from the meat cleaver in his left hand onto the floor. The tissue in his right hand was crumpled, soaking in the river of his tears. "It sucks," said Franklin Timmons, a butcher in Borough Park, Brooklyn. "More than half my imports are pork products—ham is my number one seller. And now this?"

Like Timmons, Americans across the nation are beginning to cope with

recent studies and reports that the popular pork product, ham, sucks. According to a Northwest Iowa Community College study done on pork, researchers discovered that nerves within the ham tissue in a pig cause it to eat in the same areas as it defecates.

"We noticed something was wrong and were shocked by what we found out," said D.J. Hackett, lead researcher on the scientific project. "Pigs are dirty. Selling and consuming the meat of this dirty animal is not only dangerous but can cause some type of disease."

Iowa, which produces the most pigs according to WikiAnswers, is likely to

have its economy plunge as a result of this study. "This is what happens when you have Democrats running this country," said the senior Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA). "They hug trees and listen to bogus studies and reports from hippy scientists."

Iowa's democratic governor, Chet Culver, believed the state would not suffer from the study or reduction of pork production. "Iowa's economy isn't just pork," Culver said. "By the way, I wouldn't take him too seriously—his name is Chuck."

Some congressional leaders are already working to propose a bill to ban the selling of ham and pork products as a whole. "Just as soon as President Obama chooses his dog, we will revert our focus on this very important matter," said Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH). "And that economy thing also."

Hackett's study, covered in the *New York Times* as well as *Al-Jazeera*, has caused ripples in the lifestyle of many Americans. "I used to eat green eggs and ham all the time," said Sam, from Seuslanding, known for his role in an elementary piece of literature. "To be honest, it wasn't even that good, I am glad I have an excuse not to eat it anymore."

Though pork has been under the religious microscope, deemed unclean in the Bible, Torah, and Qur'an, this is the first time a pork product has been singled out. "The study showed that pork as a whole is dirty, but ham especially," Hackett said. "It tends to have the

highest probability of parasites and diseases from all the garbage pigs eat."

The study has received positive feedback from both Muslim and Jewish communities resulting in both sides finally agreeing to agree. "This is nothing new to us, we actually follow that rule that you are not supposed to eat pork," said Ali Ahmad, 18, of the Bronx, a student aspiring to follow his parents' wishes for him to become a doctor or an engineer. "Isn't that part of believing in a religion?"

Stamping kosher stickers across his convenience store in Astoria, Queens, Joshua Finkelstein was not surprised by the news. "Ham? Oy, it gave me the sh-pilkes," he said. "Besides, it was too expensive."

There was a mixed reception, however, from some. "I think it's silly that people believe they should not eat pork because a supernatural being says they should not," said William Burgh, a stay-at-home son from Long Island. "I like to believe in science whenever I care."

PETA applauded the study and efforts to prevent the killing of pigs. "This is not an issue of religion or thought, but cruelty," said Hillary Perkins, New York regional director. "Instead we should focus on eating leaves and being healthy."

Placing the meat cleaver on the table, Timmons looked out his window and came to realize why his business was performing poorly. "I'm located in Boro Park."



The nasty men might not love you, but I do! nomnomnomnom

EMPEROR continued from previous page

I hold a 20-dollar bill freshly borne from the tan wallet I carry around with me at all times, a gift from a mysterious father who once travelled to Morocco and rose to power ages ago. The Emperor grins.

"Aight, thanks for yo' donation."

"Um," I say. "Can I have change for a 20? I don't wanna contribute that much, maybe five dollars."

Do you dare trifle with The Emperor? It is akin to disturbing the very universe that creaks and groans around us. I hold my CD, wishing now we had ignored his siren call.

"I don't got change for all that," he says, flashing a wad of bills in my view. He has the change.

"Look, I don't want to give that much. Can I just get change?"

My companions at this time are abandoning me, snickering up the avenue. Minutes pass and they return, surprised to see I am locked in a battle with the almighty Emperor. Neither of

us is willing to budge.

The Emperor begins to return some of my money. It is then when he revs up his mental motor.

"Now ya see, your friends will give you change. I gave you some money. I'm sure they'll be good for the rest. I don't got change anymore," he says, returning me a few dollars that had been my friend's money. Realizing The Emperor's game, they had returned their CDs or he had taken them back. Only Craig keeps his. I am confused.

"No, you know what, I just want my money back," I shoot, meeting The Emperor's gaze head-on. The Emperor continues to play his brainfuck gymnastics. First, he insists my friends should somehow refund me. (Even in the Times Square vortex, this ain't make no sense.) He then tells me, when I just want my 20-dollar bill back, that he can't give it back because he already gave me a CD. I tell him, in my shrillest, huskiest and most robust timbre, that I will give him the CD back for the full

refund. The Emperor uses his final gambit. If this is Dragon Ball Z, The Emperor is Goku busting out his biggest spirit bomb yet. Run for cover.

"I can't give you the CD man. I signed it."

"Huh?"

"Naw man, I can't be givin' these CDs to other people. I signed your name on it. See?"

Dastardly as ever, The Emperor reveals his greatest russet: sign the CD to ensure that there cannot be a refund. The Emperor has won. I cannot have my 20 dollars. I stare, dejected, and count the change in my hand. Roughly 11 dollars are remaining in my palm. I peruse them, realizing this is all the money I will ever have tonight.

Minutes pass. The Emperor and I banter – I going all *magic flute voice* on him, he laughing like a sideshow tree lizard. We realize the world is a funny place. I can't have my full refund; instead I own a CD with black, sloppy handwriting that reads: "Ross NYC '09".

Indeed, I was in New York City in '09. The Emperor knows all.

We walk onward. The Emperor has won, keeping my unintentional nine-dollar donation. The Times Square cyclone spins around us, haunting my fragile soul. Craig dumps his CD in a trash can. I can't dump it. I won't let go. *I will never forget.* To this day I still have The Emperor's five-track CD in my dormitory. I have listened to it, twice. Each time I sobbed. *You can't win, lil' dawg,* he says through the static. *I always be hustlin'.*

Indeed, Emperor. You are hustlin'.

Post Script: After our encounter with The Emperor, we ate an expensive dinner at ESPN Zone. Low on money, I consumed only ketchup. We related stories of romance and masturbation. Then we arrived at Toys 'R Us in the center of Time Square, wherein we purchased candy and admired Tonka Trucks. Josh got a really big gummy worm. Really big. So it goes...

Pink Floyd Laser Show Rocks Staller

By Justin Meltzer

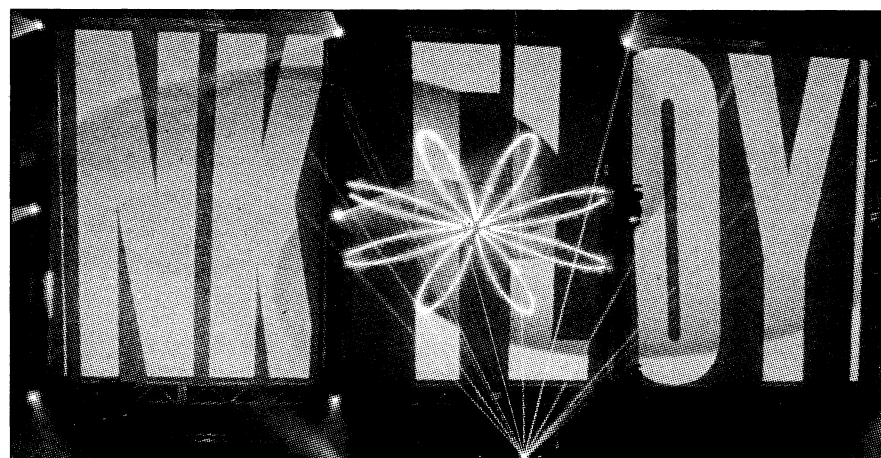
Pink Floyd came to the Staller Main Stage on Friday, Mar. 13. No, no, they weren't there in person, but rather in laser. That's right, it was the "Pink Floyd Laser Spectacular" at Stony Brook, and it was as exciting as the name implied. Taken, of course, that you are under the influence of certain hallucinogenic properties, those of which I shall not name.

The show played, as you would expect, que music, que lasers, play till finish. It opened with a booming "Dark Side of the Moon." No matter what state of mind you were in, the sound was truly spectacular. The bass was so deep and thunderous one could feel it in their bones. The music was so loud that when you left the auditorium, you could still feel the music playing in the back of

your head. It sounded a little something like this while you are in the auditorium, "The lunatic is on." Then you walk outside and put your jacket on, and when you are good distance away you hear, "the grass." Wow, that is loud!

While lasers can be quite spectacular, the ones that played during this show were not so much—unless, of course, you had on the special 3D glasses, which weren't actually 3D, but just refracted light specs. Again, the real 3D was released while using specific "resources" before the show. The lasers were just visualizations taken from the songs and poor ones at that. It was as though the guy who made it just took clip art and pasted those pictures into a program that turned them into lasers—not so spectacular if sober, and even less so without the glasses.

Yes, lasers are cool, but apparently not cool enough to hold the attention of the audience for the entire two or more



hours. That is where the three large screens came into play. Projected on them footage from "The Wall," and other video clips taken from what could only be described as a Rorschach test on acid. Yes, the images were nothing new and amazing, but the overall effect was clear: if you were tripping balls, you were having fun. Good music, cool effects, lights and lasers all over your

head. It was fun and entertaining—maybe not for a Friday night, and for \$35, (plus \$2 for the damn glasses) but fun none-the-less. The true experience was again the sound that easily obliterated your 7.1 stereo surround sound system at home in a heartbeat, a heartbeat much like that at the end of "Dark Side of the Moon." Lub-dub, lub-dub, lub-dub, lub-dub.

Fobulicious: How I Catcha the Gay

By Yansen Yu

Let's get one things straight: I good Chinese girl. Really! I good Chinese girl who study hard to be rich doctor who bother nobody. I try hard. I have friend. I make good steamed tofu. So why this happen to me?!

Last Thursday, I go to Tabular Theater. I want to watch Lion Dance practice and maybe practice in my room where no one see. I make sure roommate not in room, she disrespectful, very disrespectful. I get to theater around 7:30 and think, "Ehh? Why so many peepoe? Why there rainbows everywhere?" Then I remember: "Oh, Irish Drunk Day. Leprechauns everywhere," so I keep walking upstairs. There so many peepoe dressed up so nice! Some in high heel, some in dress, but some I think are prostitute, so I give disapproving Asian stare then look down and go into room.

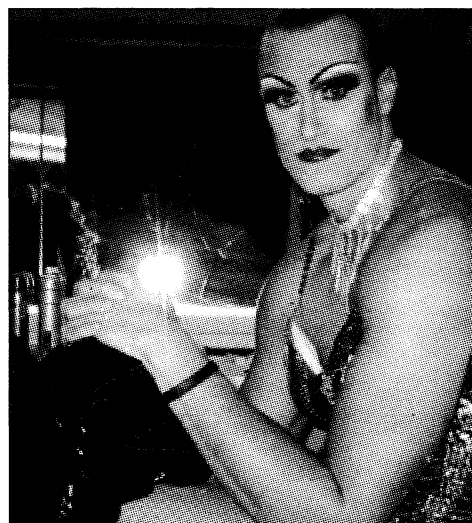
Mama taught me Asian stare. It very powerful.

I see so many chair everywhere! I think maybe Lion Dance have show today. I get so excited! I sit and take out camera for show and realize must Facebook this later. More peepoe with pink and purple hairs and very pretty boys come later. I think: "American very weird. Women very hairy. I should have go to school in Furance." Then

lights go out, finally! Lion Dance! But white couple come out and say, "Welcome to the Second Annual Drag Show!" Du-rag Show? What du-rag show? I look and see very handsome American boy, so I think it okay, girl in pretty dress too, maybe introduce group. But then! Pretty boy start unzipping pants! I shield eyes so I stay virgin and look at doors. One too far and one closed. I trapped at white devil du-rag show. Pretty boy keep saying he has boyfriend, then I finally know: I was with the gay.

First, very short boys band come out on stage. They very good. Sing like professional, so I want their CD. I see bumps on shirts and wonder: "Why they wearing armor?" I wonder if they are fighting the gay on stage. Then, another boys band—too many boy band, one boy band enough, two boy band boring. Front boy having sex on stage, I look away. I so afraid to catch the gay, I squeeze eye, cover ear and stop breathing to not inhale the gay. After performance, I safe. I did not feel the gay inside me.

Then girl with very skinny legs walk out who sound very much like man. But I knew no way man, showing too much leg with too little chest. She walk around like angry old man who live next door to me. I try hard to look away, but I want boa she throw around. Next, I remember very sad boy. Very angry boy, but very pretty hair. I think:



If this is "the gay" sign us up!! Look at those biceps!

"Maybe this the person I will treat in hospital one day. He pay me big money, I treat him very well." I start to think dancing not bad, then I knew. I could feel inside. Gay spread slowly.

Next dance with guy and girl, so I happy, no way to catch gay from girls. I look closer and see they very ugly girls who dance very bad and guys who wear too many shirts. They jump up and down too much. I do not like, but I like song very much, I sing "Jizz in My Pants" many time in my head afterwards. I like song about cell phones that vibrate too much in pants. I know, next time, I put on silent.

Another boy group come out. One with very big belly and long beard, one with very long hair, like girls! All the

things America allow! They sing with no music, but they sound like woman. I think: "Is this video? Do I hear correctly? They look like men, but sound like woman. This not right. They must have the full gay." But they sound very nice, so I listen. Oh...oh no, by then I already catch it.

Last I saw was worse of all, from that I finally catch the gay. Sascha Fierce. Must be Italian. I hear my favorite song. Beyonce come on and I think: "Finally! Song with no gay!" and I see very pretty girl come out who sing just like Beyonce! I so happy. She dance so good and pretty like Beyonce. I cheer with peepoe. I stand up with people, then heard, "You go boy!" I turn to them and say, "Boy? You mean, girl!"

Then person say, "No, I meant boy. Where do you think you are?"

I say, "That can't be boy! Too pretty to be boy!" Person stop clapping to look at me and say, "Listen honey, Sascha Fierce may be his stage name, but his real name is Justin. I'm sure he'd give you a chance."

I in state of shock. Boy can look pretty as girl? That mean girl can look like boy! Then we all confused and no more babies! But Sascha Fierce very pretty and such good dance moves, I think: "This can't be so bad to catch the gay if you can dance like Beyonce." I finally embrace the gay, even respect the gay. Just don't tell Mama.

Punk Goes Poop!

By Katie Knowlton

To put it bluntly, *Punk Goes Pop Volume 2* is probably one of the worst albums I've ever listened to. Featuring 12 of the shittiest bands in music (plus two that are too good for this album) either barely covering their modern pop song, or trying so badly to make it "metal" that this album is a spectacular failure.

When the first *Punk Goes Pop* album was released in 2002, it was a fun, if slightly forgettable compilation. Fearless Records managed to collect a diverse group of straight-up punk and pop-punk bands to cover pop songs from the time, along with some from the 80s and 90s. And most of the songs were actual covers, putting a punk spin on some of the most popular songs in recent memory. It completed exactly what it set out to do, and while there were no musical masterpieces to be found, everything was at the very least listenable, if not better. (Rufio's version of "Like A Prayer" is still one of my favorite covers of all time.) But this fun spirit was beaten out of the second volume, creating an awful collection of songs recorded by bands trying way too hard.

The first major problem with this album is that almost none of the bands are, even in the loosest sense, punk. The closest they get is with rock/pop-punk band Bayside, one of the bands too good for this compilation. The first entry in this series featured acts like Stretch Arm Strong, Thrice, Slick Shoes and Reach The Sky. *Volume 2* features Mayday Parade, Breathe Carolina, The Cab and Attack! Attack! If you haven't heard of any of the bands on *Volume 2*,

it is likely because they are of the "neon T-shirt" variety of musical act. They sell merchandise that destroys the retinas of anyone over the age of 20 with their ridiculously bright colors. The colors

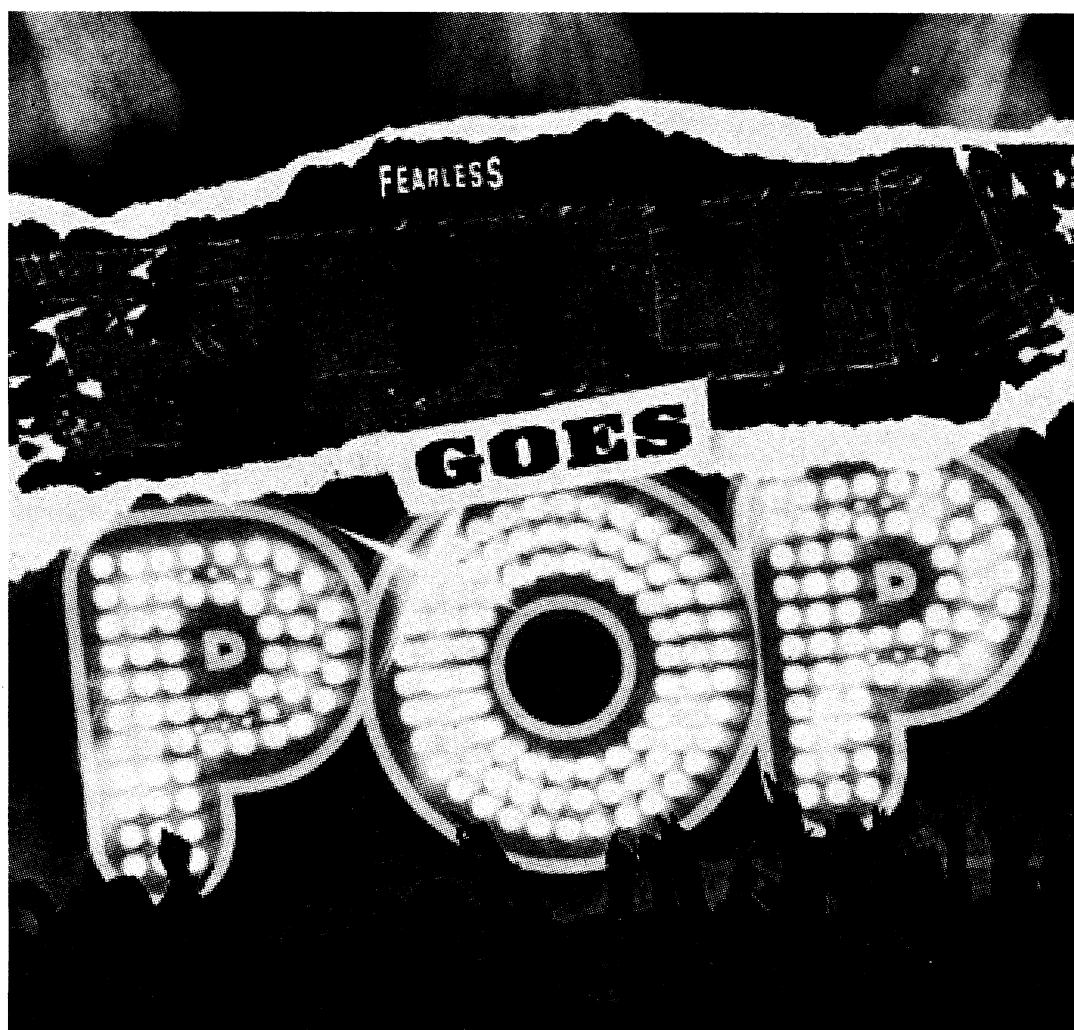
problem when, for example, I can barely tell the difference between Miley Cyrus's "See You Again" and Breathe Carolina's "cover." The only difference is the implied gender of the singer and the

hard to make it sound like a metal or hardcore song, it takes the fun out of what the project is all about. It also doesn't help that bands like Alensana and August Burns Red wouldn't know metal if Scott Ian hit them in the face with his pointy guitar.

The two vaguely redeeming tracks on this album were, surprisingly, recorded by two of the shittiest bands on the entire compilation. A Day To Remember's version of "Over My Head (Cable Car)" by The Fray is decent merely because it sounds like what the songs should've originally sounded like. It is the kind of track that is well suited to the big, stadium-filling chorus and loud, power chord-driven verses found on the A Day To Remember cover. Unfortunately, the song is ruined by the randomly dispersed unnecessary breakdowns with bad screaming. The second almost all right cover is Four Year Strong's take on "Love Song" by Sara Bareilles. This cover is the only that retains the original spirit of the first volume of *Punk Goes Pop*, it's a fun, punk take on a popular, Top 40 hit. Four Year Strong is rather awful outside of this cover, playing bad pseudo-hardcore/pop-punk nonsense, but perhaps they remembered

what the *Punk Goes* [insert decade/genre here] series is supposed to be about. Or it was a fluke. It is likely the latter.

Punk Goes Pop Volume 2 is a waste of time and money. If you must listen to this, please download it, or listen to a stream on the album's Myspace. Do not buy this album unless you want your soul to cry.



are used to distract the listener from actually hearing what they are playing, because, for the most part, it's awful, over-produced, glossy power-pop without a hint of meaning or purpose. It's fine in small doses, but to fill almost an entire album with it is unbearable.

The second problem of *Punk Goes Pop Volume 2*, it that most of the tracks aren't really covering the original. They are straight-up reproductions with guitars playing the role synthesizers and computers have generating music. It's a

change of lyrics from, "My best friends Leslie said 'Oh you're just being Miley,'" to, "And all my friends say, 'You're just being crazy.'" To reiterate: there is a Miley Cyrus cover, barely distinguishable from the original, on a compilation called *Punk Goes Pop*. And this is not the only example. As much as I love "Disturbia," I don't need The Cab's take on it, as it sounds exactly like Rihanna's, and let's be honest, Rihanna is far fiercer than The Cab. And those who don't reproduce their song almost exactly try so

Do you want to know how
I got these scars?

By joining **THE PRESS**

UNION 060 WEDNESDAYS DURING CAMPUS LIFETIME



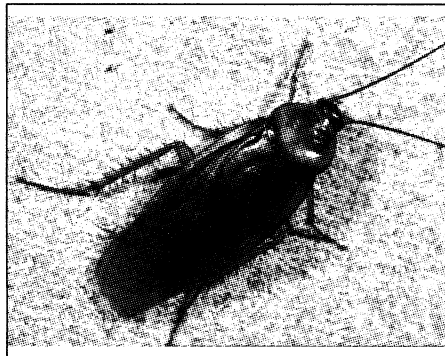
Come To Papa (Roach)

By Doug Cion

"10 more years! 10 more years!" was all I could hear as I was exiting the Blender theater in New York City on Mar. 10. This was the epilogue of the spectacular performance I just witnessed that truly enforced the notion that not even a nuclear holocaust can kill a roach. Papa Roach had just concluded their set, for which I just so happened to be in the front row (I have the bandana hung on my wall that the lead singer wiped his sweat with). Now I was walking back to Penn Station by myself with a few scrapes and bruises and a hoarse voice. I know they say you shouldn't walk in the city by yourself after midnight, but I rather enjoyed it. My lack of voice would have made it difficult to carry a conversation, and I also had the opportunity to think back on my history with the band that saved Hard Rock and, basically, my life.

Oh, the seventh grade is a great time in a kid's life, right? Especially when you're leaving a Catholic elementary school you have been attending for the past eight years with the same classmates to start a new school year in a dis-

trict middle school that had about 300 kids per grade. And let us not forget about puberty, braces and that entire idea of fitting in and trying to be cool. I'm not going to hide anything: I was dorky-looking and considered to be quite weird by most people. I guess I can thank athletics for giving me the



No, no. Not that kind of roach.

only positive reference for my reputation. You want to know what was the main reason I did not fit in? I didn't fall into the fad of that time the notion that it was cool to act black.

Mainstream hip-hop and rap dominated the radio and TRL (remember that show?) and pop was beginning to reach its high point. With regards to

music, the Offspring-Smash Mouth fan that I was didn't seem to cut it anymore, and Limp Bizkit seemed to be the closest thing I could get to rock. But then, out of the abyss that was that time's mainstream music, came a song that changed my life: "Last Resort," an anthem for pissed off, self-mutilating teenagers who wanted to hear face melting guitar riffs and fist raising anger (let's face it, the bar cords from Blink-182 got old real fast). The first hit off an album titled "Infest," this song brought new life to me, and once I listened to track three on the recently purchased album, as a kid coming from a divorced family, "Broken Home" became the source of my passion for life. Hello, Papa Roach. My name is Doug Cion. You don't know it yet, but you are going to save my life.

Ever since then I have been hooked, and ten years and three albums later, there I stood five feet away from Jacoby, Jerry, Tobin and Tony, banging my head and screaming my lungs out. This concert was a part of two combined tours that was aiming to promote the release of their new album *Metamorphosis* in March of 2009 but ended up being related to as the "10 Year Anniversary Tour." Playing hits from past albums

like "She Loves Me Not" and "...To Be Loved" and not so mainstream songs like "Born With Nothing, Die With Everything" (the "Broken Home" for me of the second album *Love Hate Tragedy*), I was able to let out some frustration that really needed to be set loose. On top of that, the crowd was graced



No no no! Not that kind either. Idiot.

with three new hit songs that are coming off the new album, of which I will not say the names because you have to purchase the album for yourself. It is safe to say that the music this band produces just keeps getting better and better. Okay, I am still that pissed off kid from the seventh grade, but now I have a damn good time being it.

Anna Bradley is On the Up and Up

By Josh Ginsberg

Anna Bradley is some unsigned kid from Manhattan whom no one has ever heard of. His music sounds as if J Mascis of Dinosaur Jr was sixteen and holed up in his room with nothing but his electric guitar, an acoustic guitar and his MacBook (Oh, and if J Mascis loved his future band mate Lou Barlow's lyricism in Sebadoh).

Anna Bradley's first EP is nine songs long, and plays itself out in under twenty minutes. It is titled *Are You A Young Rebel?* and starts off with a clatter of 16th notes on a drum machine high hat. The first song, "Chronic," pits this driving beat against indistinct vocals processed during the verses through what sounds like a megaphone. Anna Bradley sings mostly about girls, and states, nonplussed, that he "can't handle subtle." The song gives way to an acoustic song called "Lux Mundi," which sounds like Jeff Mangum covering a song off *King Shit and the Golden Boys*, with a pawn shop synth purchased in the wake of falling in love with *Substance*. "Lux Mundi" slides into the one-minute-long track, "Breakhouse," which again is carried by a tight, drum machine and a shimmery electric guitar. Anna Bradley sings over the last few minutes, of suits that look expensive, and pleads to some government official to spare him in the onslaught of tax hikes.

"A Voracious Appetite" feels like the third part of a song suite, kicking off with distorted power chords and telling the story of some "lonely little girl" before giving way to a guitar solo replete with tapping. The

tension of the simple two-chord jaunt of the first half of the song gives way to a tremolo laden, bridge that reminds me instantly of a "Workin on Leavin the Livin" before sliding back into the chords of the first half. Most of the low-end sounds on the album seem to be made by keyboards rather than a bass guitar.

"Cats," which serves as the EP's centerpiece, contemplates Armageddon in what might be too overt a manner, and echoes Elliott Smith, as "Rabbits" and "Hopeless" come to later on down the line. The two punchiest songs on the recording come in the second half of the EP. "I Never Learn" makes the best use of Anna Bradley's ambient chords, and is the best example of Anna Bradley's ability to flesh out an entire band arrangement on his own. "I Never Learn" could benefit from a real drum kit, but the programmed loops work fine, though hopefully when Anna Bradley records a full length, the song will be fleshed out with live drums. It is the only real song on the EP which is reliant on a second guitar part, which again reminds me of Dinosaur Jr, though less elaborate. The verses, which are the best part of the song, are made up of palm-muted chords, a taut drum machine loop and a soft, powdery keyboard line that could have come out of a John Hughes film. The chorus is another straight ahead rocker. Anna Bradley continually focuses on romantic themes, but his frustration is never as apparent as it is on "I Never Learn." Anna Bradley is very straight forward in terms of his ennui, which is constantly stuck on a girl, and in the case of "I Never Learn" finds him wishing he knew what it was he had to strive for.



"The Hunger" is probably the best song on the record, evoking "Pot Kettle Black" and *Bug*, with a multi-tracked chorus of Anna Bradley's singing through what sounds like megaphones. The drum loops have never sounded better on the prior tracks, and a guitar solo and tempo change make "The Hunger" the most dynamic song on the EP.

The last song, "Hopeless" is a brief throwaway, but also one of the catchiest, most sing-songy pieces on the EP, complete with an ebullient little whistling solo. The EP is downloadable for free from Anna's Myspace page and is a good record, though some of the new songs played by Anna live that are slated for his debut full length are even better. I can't wait for "Perfume" and "Collapse" to be available for wide release.

Resident Evil V: A Zombie Killfest

With Split Personalities

By **Kenny Mahoney**

Before I begin, there's something I need to stress. *Resident Evil* games have you shooting zombies. *Resident Evil 5* takes place in Africa, and with Africa comes a darker skinned zombie. It doesn't take a genius to figure out that having a white character almost exclusively shooting dark skinned people can bring forth certain thoughts to mind. However, there are some things you need to keep in mind when thinking about this game.

Zombies do not see color. They do not discriminate, and anyone can become a zombie. Zombies do not care what flesh they feed on or what color their host is. Black, White, Hispanic, Asian, whatever – flesh is flesh, plain and simple. It is important that you view this game through this lens – the enemy here is the zombie and NOT the black man. However, if you still have a problem with playing as a white character that shoots black zombies, you can just stop reading right now. You will not enjoy this game. There, now I've just saved you from being offended and saved you \$60.

So, if you're still reading, *Resident Evil 5* is the 5th numbered installment of the *Resident Evil* series (there's too many non-numbered sequels to count). The game follows a similar play style to that of *Resident Evil 4*, so if you enjoyed that then you'll probably enjoy this one too. For anyone who hasn't picked up a *RE* game in a while or those of you that are totally new to the series, this game is going to feel a lot different from past *RE*'s and any other shooters you may have played.

Beginning with *RE4*, the series took a turn away from the survival/horror genre it was famous for towards a more action-oriented style of play, thus eliminating most of the horror elements. While the game still has its moments, don't expect to feel the same kind of fear you felt in previous entries.

The story is your typical *Resident Evil* storyline – zombie virus infects an area and you're trying to find out what's going on. You take on the role of Chris Redfield, an agent with the BSAA (Bioterrorism Security Assessment Alliance), sent to "Kijuju", a fictional area of Africa, to investigate a terrorist threat. Once in Africa, you meet your new partner Sheva Alomar. As your partner, Sheva will not just help you fight the invading hordes of zombies. You'll also need her help to solve puzzles

and complete special two-person objectives.

The game plays out in the third person with an over-the-shoulder camera view that suits the more action-oriented play well. There's a number of control schemes to choose from, including the classic *RE4* controls to a more "Gears of War" style button layout. With whatever style you choose, you're going to need some time to get used to it, because the controls can feel kind of wonky at first. This is mostly due to the fact that can't run when you shoot – a staple of the *RE* series.

However, what differentiates this game from most shooters is that you've

These limitations on game play lead to the real draw of the game: tension. These mechanics add tension, forcing you to conserve ammunition and pick your shots carefully. Not only that, but you'll have to plan out your attack and escape carefully. Unlike most shooters, when you get into a confrontation in *RE5* you feel that there's a very good chance you'll be ripped to shreds. In most shooters, you blow through it like you're some god with a gun that laughs in the face of death. In *RE5*, it's more like you're pissing your pants at the face of death – and that's a kind of exciting feeling to have.

Fortunately, to help combat the

cause the controls definitely need at least 15 to 30 minutes of getting used to before you dive to co-op play. After all, if just one of you dies, it's game over for both of you.

Once you've completed the game you unlock Mercenary mode. Think of Mercenary mode as kind of a mini-game that allows you to play through special areas with a handful of guns and ammo, tasked with killing everything that moves within a specific time limit. Not only can you play these as Chris and Sheva, you can also play as a couple of secret characters. And, just like in the campaign, you have the option to play Mercenary mode with a friend.

Unfortunately, most of the game play can come off as kind of shallow and predictable. Almost every area has you doing the exact same thing – walking around until you hear the music start, killing everything in sight, and then listening for the music to stop to know you've killed everything. After that, you proceed to ransack the area destroying everything breakable in hopes of finding some ammo. Knowing when you will and won't be attacked takes away from the surprise and suspense that have made the *RE* series so great.

Also, while the addition of a partner is great for co-op play, it does take away from the scare factor. Fighting alone filled you with a sense of fear in that it was all up to you to survive and that one false move would lead to getting your eyes ripped out. Now that you have someone to cover your ass while you're reloading, it just doesn't feel the same.

It's sad to say it, but the puzzles just aren't what they used to be. Believe it or not, there used to be a time when solving puzzles was more prevalent than actual fighting. *RE4* had a significant drop in the amount of puzzles to solve, and the drop in *RE5* is even more. Not only are there less of them, the ones that they do include are so mind-numbingly simple that it's almost insulting that it kind of feels like a waste that they were included at all.

All things considered, *RE5* is facing kind of an identity crisis. It still wants to remain faithful to previous entries with the inclusion of puzzles and the standstill shooting but also wants to go more towards an action game with co-op and increased gunplay. So, if you're going in expecting one or the other you're going to be very disappointed. But, if you can embrace its unique style of game play you'll be more than satisfied.



White man shoots black people. Woot woot that is the sound of the police. Woot woot..

got a serious lack of guns, ammunition, and places to put it all. The game gives both you and Sheva your own 9 spaces of inventory to hold guns, ammunition, and healing herbs. You access your inventory in real-time, so there's no pausing the game for a breather while you exchange ammo with Sheva or using an herb while figuring out an escape. While it can be annoying from time to time, it helps keep the flow of the game, constantly keeping you in the action.

All of these items can be found inside barrels, crates, and the corpses of slain enemies. But don't think that you'll find 100, 50, or even 20 rounds for any weapon in these places. Most of the time you'll be lucky to find 10 handgun rounds or 5 shotgun shells. Also, since there are two of you, you'll have to divide up the scarcely placed ammo, having to decide who really needs to take what.

pants-wetting, you're not just stuck with the guns that the game gives you when you start. Between levels, you enter into the "marketplace," a screen that lets you organize your inventory, sell off any treasure/jewels you've found, and spend all the gold you've collected to purchase and upgrade weapons (Sorry *RE4* fans, the mysterious vendor didn't make it to Africa.) As you progress through the game, the marketplace is stocked with new weapons and items including pistols, shotguns, and sub-machine guns.

Since the game gives you a partner, it's almost a no-brainer that they've included both an online and offline cooperative mode for the game, which allows you or a friend to control Sheva through the entirety of the story mode. The co-op mode works well enough, but if you're playing with someone who hasn't played the game yet you're going to have a difficult time getting through it, be-

"I Love You, Man" Makes Me Feel Funny Inside (Like 'Ha-ha' Funny)

By Justin Meltzer

When Paul Rudd and Jason Siegel make a movie together the first thing that pops into my head is, "Oh great, another Judd Apatow movie with Paul Rudd and Jason Siegel." However, I was surprised to find out two unexpected things about this movie. First was that the film was not in anyway influenced by Mr. Apatow, and second that it was actually quite good.

Directed by John Hamberg, the movie tells the story of Peter Klaven who has just proposed to his girlfriend and has already set the wedding date. It is a picture perfect situation, except for one small minor detail – this guy has no male friends. All of the co-workers that he talks to are females, except for the annoying ones. Peter's fencing partners never really talk to him, except of course when they curse at his excellent fencing skills. He is just a girlfriend guy with no real guys friends. And that is the basis for this movie. Unlike every other romantic comedy that follows the standard procedure for romance movies, the sequence of guy meets girl, guy loses girl, guy wins girl back, this movie takes that, but replaces the girl with another guy, and neither of them are gay. It is what some are calling a "bromance," or, the opposite of a chick flick, a "dick" flick.

While this may sound like the beginning of a beautiful new genre, it is in actuality just a cop out, but a clever one at that. Both Siegel's character Sydney, and Rudd's Peter deliver eccentric but believable performances. Sydney is the very masculine-ized mid-thirties slacker with a sweet man-hut (the garage in which he hangs out in most often). Meanwhile, Peter is his opposite as the more sensitive real-estate agent who just needs a little help from Sydney to break out of his shell. They do this by screaming underneath a boardwalk to release his man-yell and getting him to pose in the tuxes he is trying out for his wedding as James Bond, albeit a more Irish James Bond as every accent Peter tries on is Irish apparently.

The true greatness of this film was in the very concise story and plot line. Everything flowed from one point to another with nothing-extraneous left in the mix. Even Sydney's half beagle half

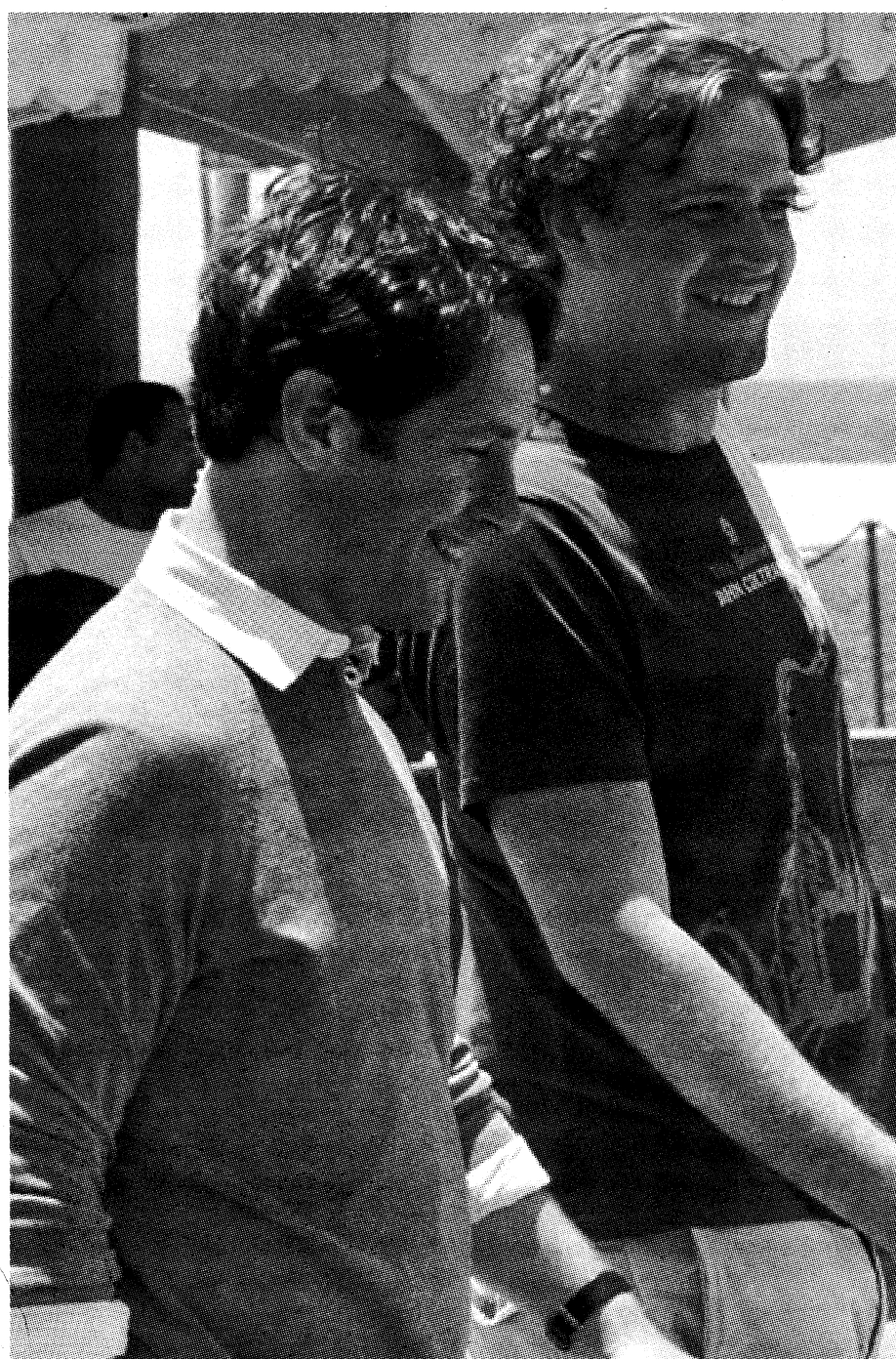
pug mix dog, named Anwar Sadat, (after the third president of Egypt, because they "look alike") had a very important place in the film. The characters were all well thought out and had very specific character traits that were never betrayed in the entire movie. And while

Peter's obnoxious co-worker Tevin who consistently used vernacular such as, "in the hizzie my nizzie," and "me no rikkie," were almost upsetting to hear in this day and age. We left the 90's for a reason and he was a constant reminder of that. I suppose it works for the sake of

Night Live's Andy Samberg, was gay but was not the stereotypical "flaming" gay man by any means. And the other gay man of the film was *Reno 911*'s Thomas Lennon, a guy who Peter mistakenly goes on a date with instead of a completely heterosexual date, which ended with a long one-sided kiss on Peter's face.

I would have to say however that the unsung hero of the film was a small but memorable role played by *Iron Man* director, Jon Favreau. As the token married asshole of the movie, he played the curly haired Jew married to the smoking hot Jamie Presley. During Peter's endeavors to land a man-friend he stops over to play poker with him and his buddies. When they begin to play a drinking game, it ends badly and Peter projectile vomits all over Favreau. While a clearly gross out scene, it still managed to be exceptionally funny.

I Love You, Man may just be the opening for a new genre of bro-mantic comedies. It delivers in laughs for the most part, and allows the audience to understand and accept these awkward but loveable goofs.



this made for a good overall experience, it was the small things that got in the way.

Small things such as the awkwardness of Peter to the odd lingo used by the guys of the film, which are unfamiliar to a New Yorker like me, who doesn't live out in sunny California. I found that by the third time Peter slipped up on his words and gave Sydney a terrible nickname, I simply got tired of it. Or

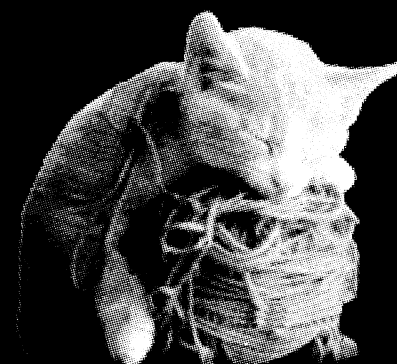
making the audience hate him, which was the point, I only ask, why did it have to be this way.

This film did accomplish some very daring things that not many other films have covered. The concept of a guy trying to meet another guy in a non-homosexual scenario is not seen often in theaters. The film of course didn't shy away from some homosexual encounters. Peter's brother played by Saturday

Play America's Greatest Pastime

"Dead or Sleeping"

Every Wednesday at 1pm
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The Stony Brook Press:

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

The 2009 Kenny Awards: Representing the Best in Cinema Mediocrity

By Doug Cion &
Najib Aminy

From the prestigious Academy Awards to the notorious Razzies, we at The Press strongly believe Hollywood and movie critics have deprived mediocre cinematic feature films from the recognition they truly deserve. That it is why we have taken this vacant yet necessary role and are honoring the "best" mediocre feature films of 2008. In honor of our departing president, the awards will be named The Shirley Strum Kenny Awards, or "Kenny's" for short. Below are the nominees to this year's inaugural selection. We encourage readers to submit their votes to what movies they feel are the best in mediocrity to our email at sbpress-news@gmail.com. Alas, there will be light shed on the so called forgettable. Enjoy!

Best Mediocre Feature Film

and the nominees are...

Quarantine: Very rare is it that a horror



film makes any sort of nominee for a prestigious award. However, *Quarantine* exhibited a sincere thrill and excitement captivating viewers to a "handheld" journey of fear and mystery. An evolved *Blair Witch*, the film ties the realism of the plot to the contemporary zombie character.

Tropic Thunder: War movies are a practical fit in for any film award. Adhering to consistency, *Tropic Thunder* is a satirical action film with a star-studded cast that produces a satisfactory feature film. *Tropic Thunder* exhibits its true brilliance in making war comical.

Vantage Point: To take a 15-minute plot and re-tell it six times is a risk. However, that risk pays off with adequate acting, a compelling story line, and an unsurprising and predictable car chase. De-

spite revisiting the plot six times, the film makes for an enjoyable and forgettable 90 minutes.

Pineapple Express: A suitable comedic feature with originality. Though there is a strong likelihood of watching this film only once, the movie focuses on the social issue of drugs and its effect on society, as well as strengthening Seth Rogen's role as a comedic savant.

The Day the Earth Stood Still: A science fiction plot questioning the existence of humanity over the sanctity of Earth. This feature film is a remake executed well with pleasant aesthetics and an intriguing plot.

Best Mediocre Actor

Steve Carrel *Get Smart*: Maladroit yet brilliantly funny, Steve Carrel brings "Agent Michael Scarn" to the silver screen. Carrel's ability to act genuinely in a comedic role places him with the top comedic actors in Hollywood, such as Kevin James.

Edward Norton in *The Incredible Hulk*: As the scientist turned giant green vigilante, Norton breaks the mold of his previous roles into that of a childhood comicbook role. Usually a hit or miss with most actors in comic related films—see Ben Affleck in *Daredevil*—Norton comes out successful, at least compared to other actors.

Paul Rudd in *Role Models*: After countless side roles in many contemporary classic comedy films, Rudd lands a lead role that makes film fans appreciate a dry sense of humor at its – well – average.

Best Mediocre Actress

Meryl Streep in *Mamma Mia!*: As versatile as an actress can be, this would not be an awards ceremony without having nominated her presentable role in *Mamma Mia!* Though she will probably not win out of principle, Streep proves that she can range from a high level of acting to even the most mundane.

Frances McDormand in *Burn After Reading*: She was the entertaining, comedic, and semi-impressive actress some of us know her to be. Who is she again?

Anna Farris in *The House Bunny*: The actress who has played far too many

roles in *Scary Movie* and other poorly related comedic performances tries to redeem her acting career by sticking to the same type of genre and acting style. It is not uncommon to finally learn her name.

Best Mediocre Exeunt in a Feature Film

Marley and Me: The euthanization of Marley towards the end of the movie was a shocking yet brutal reminder to the six to eight million domesticated pets that euthanized every year.

The Happening: Unknown biological toxin spreads through air. Those affected commit suicide. Man meets lawnmower. Lawnmower wins. Movie continues.

Saw V: The same unthinkable methods of dying as the previous four films only this time it is receiving some recognition.

10,000 B.C.: The Woolly Mammoth's fall; a lesson of perseverance.

Swing Vote: When Bud Johnson (Kevin Costner), a man knowing very little about politics, decides the next President of the United States of America. He was not from Florida.

Best Mediocre Romantic Comedy (Because Romantic Comedy's Don't Get Any Awards)

Sex and the City: The compelling story of three hookers and their mother. Sounds like a Saturday night!

27 Dresses: The old "always a bride's mate, never a bride story," with a shock-



ing twist at the end: She gets married!

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2: A romantic comedy for the male moviegoer, because nothing says romantic like four women and only one pair of pants—ladies?

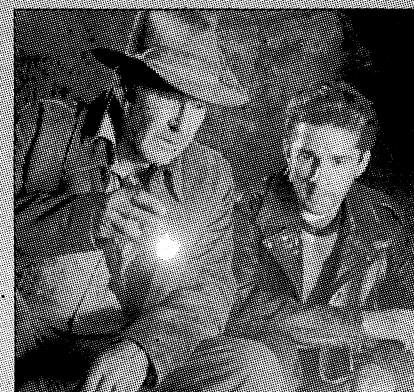
Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist: The troubling turmoil accustomed with romantic teenagers who are just a pregnancy away from being the next Juno.

Vicky Cristina Barcelona: A complex love triangle with a strong cast of actresses, and directed by Woody Allen. This movie has average written all over it.

Sacre Bleu Moment

Cloverfield: Jets dropping bombs on mutated sea creature rampaging through New York City. "Wave to the camera, Shelly"

Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the



Crystal Skull: When it ended.

Drillbit Taylor: The action scene when the two young protagonists display heroic courage in the face of samurai weaponry.

Hellboy II: Walking through the market of fantasy creatures.

Rambo: When Rambo was Rambo.

Best Mediocre Animated Film

Madagascar: Escape to Africa: The return of a dancing and far too friendly lion, an urbanized zebra, a sexually driven hippopotamus, a hypochondriac giraffe, and cunning penguins with an OK plot makes this a strong favorite.

Horton Hears a Who: A real touching piece that teaches kids an important lesson at an early age; size doesn't matter.

Space Chimps: Monkeys' exploring the new frontier reminds viewers that if monkey's can be astronauts, then so can they.

THE COMICS SECTION



Seeing is Believing

By Alana S.

Seeing is believing, and opening the appear

To see the blackened words

FLINCH words that

Pinch and cringe every time

I hear them

RAPE and CRACK

and COKE and POT and E

MURDER, HATE,

ROOFIES,

TEENAGED SUICIDE, DEATH AND DESTRUCTION

And your paper, oh beloved Press,

Has published the best,

KIKES imprinted in many memories,

Not only stripping the barely conscious trees to their bare bark, but

The innocent berated minds of the 21st Century.

The wrong in this world can only be erased

By just having something to believe in.

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AND ALL THAT ARTSY FARTSY STUFF TO
SBPRESSNEWS@GMAIL.COM AND EARN THE
EXPOSURE YOUR WORK DESERVES!**

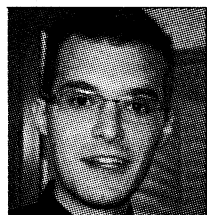
THE COMICS SECTION

KEEP YOUR WITTIGS ABOUT YOU BY TIA MANSOURI



Make your opinion heard! Write for *The Stony Brook Press*.Meetings Wednesdays 1pm
Union Building Room 060

Sartre and YHWH: Hell Is Other Deities



Alex H.
Nagler

With the recent conflict emerging from last issue's "Pizza Company," I decided to return to my bookshelf and pull out my copy of Sartre's *Anti-Semitism and Jew*. I first read this book in the fall

of 2007 in Professor David Allison's class PHI 247: Existentialism. Up unto this point, I was on the fence as to whether or not I actually considered myself to be Jewish. The son of two nonreligious parents, I had never had any religion put upon me at a young age, as they felt my siblings and I would be best suited to pick our own religious affiliation, if any, at a later age. However, I had always considered some part of me to be Jewish. My father, a Roman Catholic by birth but agnostic by choice, joked that I later picked it for the neuroses, similar to Jerry Seinfeld's dentist's converting for the jokes.

Sartre starts his discussion with an examination as to what the Jew is. He feels that those of Jewish descent are not a coercive group as they lack a racial, national, religious and historical identity. The essay was written before the creation of the state of Israel, and at this time there was no solid identity for Jews to unite themselves behind. Sartre feels racially speaking, Jews have adapted themselves to so many different cultures that they cannot be considered to be one race. Religiously speaking, Sartre

feels that Judaism was destroyed by Christianity, forcing most Jews (once again, pre-Israel) to lack a single religious identity.

Sartre outlines anti-Semitism not as an idea, but a choice. He claims that anti-Semitism arises out of fear from lower-middle class white-collar workers motivated by the fear of social and financial change as well as a change of what the truth is. Anti-Semites, to Sartre, view themselves as a superior group and justify their behavior off a single bad experience and cannot be convinced otherwise through reason.

One of the main points of Sartre's anti-Semite is that Jews cannot be real Frenchmen. Sartre wrote on the French, but this message is applicable to all countries. The anti-Semite sees "Real France" as a place where there are no Jews, where they are either removed by peaceful means or exterminated, but this extermination is justified as doing evil in the name of good.

Most importantly, Sartre argues that if the Jew did not exist, another group would be deemed "Jews" to satisfy the needs of the anti-Semite. "The Jew is one whom other men consider a Jew: that is a simple truth from which we must start." With this statement, Sartre shows the need of the downtrodden individual to find a scapegoat. Jews who attempt to assimilate prove the stereotype, allowing others predetermination to force their choice. They, to Sartre, are the inauthentic Jews. Those who assert their Jewishness in the face

of the anti-Semite's disdain are the authentic Jews.

When I read this, I was struck by the poignance of Sartre's words. When writing, he had no idea that the French Jews he discussed were currently being gassed by the trainload in concentration camps throughout Europe and would not return to read his essay. But I thought first and foremost of what it meant for me. For some reason, I had a



Jean-Paul Sartre is French for BAMF!

flashback to the fourth grade. A girl, whose name I do recall but will not include as she most likely doesn't remember it, is physically dragging me across the playground outside of the school. I am resisting. She, in her rage, calls me a "faggy kike." I had somehow repressed this painful memory up until this point, but Sartre brought it back. And it stung upon recall just much as it stung the day it was leveled at me. Elementary school was tough.

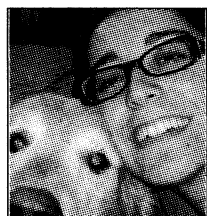
The Jew is one whom others con-

sider a Jew. Well, I've always been assumed to be a Jew by most people who meet me. Between my physical characteristics, my speech cadence, my interest in the humanities, and my over reliance on the word "oy," people automatically assume I'm Jewish. If other men consider me to be a Jew, then I guess I am.

I was born to a Jewish mother. According to the Law of Return, I'm Jewish. However, I don't speak Hebrew, I was never bar mitzvah'd, and I can count the number of times I've been to temple on one hand. I don't keep kosher; if anything, I love bacon cheeseburgers too much. I'm not what you'd consider to be a good Jew. I've deliberately avoided getting a Jewish girlfriend, I follow none of the Law, I find the idea of Moses authoring the Torah to be absurd, and Israel has really pissed me off in the past year. However, I'm Jewish. I'm just a member of some Reform Temple I've yet to discover.

So yes, the Jew is one who others consider to be a Jew. Sartre helped me realize that I am, no matter how much I may like to not believe in God on some days and no matter how absurd I think some of the teachings of the Hebrew Bible may be, Jewish. Correction: I'm an Agno-Atheo-Jew. Only in Judaism could that distinction not only exist, but be applied to so many of its followers. But much like the name of God itself, I am that I am.

Our Earth Hour!



Krystal
DeJesus

On Saturday Mar. 28, people around the world will be turning off their lights for one hour to demand our world leaders take action on climate change.

The event, known as Earth Hour, begins at 8:30 p.m. local time in New Zealand and will travel to each time zone throughout the night. In the US, more than 100 cities have signed up, including Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Nashville and New York City. But lights switches will be flicked off in every region of the country from the rural areas out west to the suburbs of Long Island.

"What's great about Earth Hour is that it's possible for everybody to par-

ticipate," said Joe Pouliot, a spokesperson for World Wildlife Fund, the organization that created the event. "We're encouraging folks everywhere, in suburban, rural and urban areas to get involved."

The Long Island Sierra Club has been sending out emails to its members and volunteers encouraging them to participate.

"This is just a voluntary thing on our part," said Ann Aurelio, Vice Chair of the club. "We turn off our lights for an hour, thereby saving tons of greenhouse gases by cutting our electric use even for an hour."

Local schools, such as the Ronkonkoma Middle School, Lido Beach High School and Lawrence Woodmere Academy will also be going dark on Saturday, according to the Earth Hour website.

In the last three years, Earth Hour has grown to be of the largest public statements for action on climate change. When it first began in 2007, approximately 2.2 million participated in just one city, but by 2008, more than 50 million people in 400 cities around the world took a stand. This year more than 1800 cities are expected to go dark.

"We're blowing last year's numbers out of the water," Pouliot said. "It's really spreading virally."

Many homes on Long Island will go dark on Saturday, but in New York City, famous monuments such as the United Nations headquarters, Broadway, the Chrysler and Empire State Buildings and even the Coca-Cola billboard in Times Square will turn off.

There are many serious problems facing our world but climate change is one issue that cannot be ignored, and it's

important we tell our world leaders how we feel.

"This is about making a visual statement to take action on climate change," Pouliot said.

So, whether you turn off the lights in a whole building or the one in your dorm room, you're taking a stand and taking action against climate change.



News Literacy Conference...ZZZZZZZZ



Caitlin Ferrell

What do you get when you gather five world-famous journalists around a table for a panel discussion on the state of the journalism industry today?

I don't know. I fell asleep halfway

through.

OK. Maybe that was a bit harsh.

But, really—Ted Koppel was there! How could it be boring? You'd think some sparks would fly, right?

Wrong.

News Literacy: Setting a National Agenda was held in the Wang Center on March 12th at 1:30p.m. It was part of a week-long series, all focused on news literacy in the age of technology.

All the journalism majors should nod at what I just said. For those of you who don't know, technology has wreaked some serious havoc on the journalism industry, from youngsters thinking they're journalists because they post on YouTube, or the Internet's flood of information, most of it untrue, or the serious decline of print journalism, or the confusion between opinion and objectivity...

The conversation could have been serious. The journalists could have brought their first-hand experience and problem solving ideas to the table. What the audience got were the same ideas that we heard back in *News Literacy*.

The discussion started off well enough, with Andrew Heyward, the former president of CBS News, taking a jab at Stony Brook's stingy set decoration — "The lighting in here was just flown in from Guantanamo, we can't see you very well," he said to the audience. Nice one, Heyward! But that'll do — after all, you're only the moderator.

After sharing a few anecdotes, the conversation turned to ratings, mainly, how do they keep viewers entertained

and interested? (How meta!) Alexandra Wallace, the senior vice president of NBC News said, "I actually think that there's a real yearning for hard news right now," but added, "You have to make it more interesting and appealing." For who? The younger audiences — the 18-35 crowd, who advertisers tar-

arises when viewers take Stewart's satire for a real newscast, when it is really just pieces of the day spliced together, aiming for a laugh.

But, said Koppel, "Problem is, full newscasts aren't full newscasts! We're a business just like any other business — but we're not. The news is there to in-

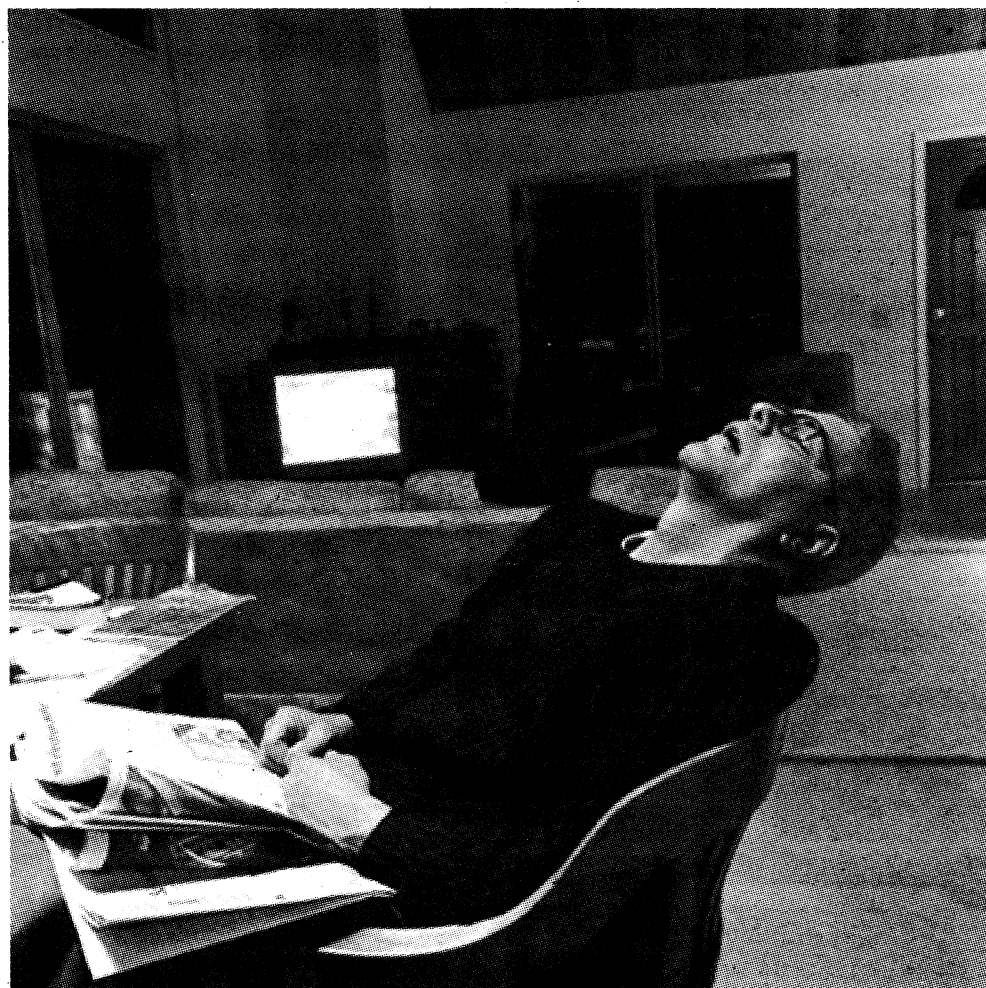
sumer's impatience in a technological society. Said Heyward, "The mouse is a remote control on steroids." Vivian Schiller, president and CEO of NPR, accused many news consumers of "promiscuity," saying that brand loyalty to one's news station is a thing of the past. And radio? "I think it's actually the most resilient," she said.

Neil Budde, the president and CPO of DailyMe.com, wondered over transparency, meaning, the honesty and integrity of the news. Budde wondered aloud why there isn't more transparency in the news and why a viewer should have to question the journalist's motives. "Why can't we have more of that built into the coverage and the way we report it?" he asked. "Let's stop forcing people to deconstruct our stories."

Heyward was a smart moderator to let the panel end on Ted Koppel's voice: "It's not good, it's not bad," Koppel said of the state of journalism today. (I guess he wasn't listening to anyone else during the panel). Koppel added some praise to the Dean of Stony Brook's School of Journalism, Howard Schneider, saying, "I hope we can live up to your brilliance."

I'm not saying the discussion wasn't interesting. It just wasn't riveting. While it was a treat to hear Ted Koppel reminisce about the time he was visiting a prison and an inmate said to him, "I bet you've got all the grass you can smoke!" the rest of it was dull, bland, and all the other adjectives.

All the bullet points the journalists offered would sound familiar to anyone who took *News Literacy*. So, bravo, Stony Brook J-school, for teaching your students so well that, when presented with a panel of jaw-dropping celebrities...we just yawn.



get most.

Which brings us to Jon Stewart. Andrew Heyward praised Stewart seriously as "solid, in a journalistic sense," and a verifiable source. (No, he really did.)

Enter Ted Koppel, stage right: "First of all, I'm a huge fan of Jon Stewart." That's right. Stewart and Koppel are buds. "I think Jon Stewart is to news what a great editorial cartoon is."

The problem, the table agreed,

form the public." He continued, "We have to be substantive; it's not enough to say we're getting an audience." A golf clap rose in the audience and, at Heyward's urging, became a full-on set of applause. (Of course, the audience would applaud Koppel if he endorsed McCain, after hearing his deep, smooth voice in-person.)

Moving on.

The journalists pondered over brand loyalty; namely, the news con-

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A Frosh Start to Lacrosse, eh?

By Najib Aminy

When the Men's Lacrosse team lost to the number one ranked Virginia Cavaliers 20-10, Coach Rick Sowell was not too worried.

"As I told them in the locker room, it's a long season," Sowell said during a press conference after the loss. "Whether we won or lost, win lose or draw. I think we are going to be fine."

Looking to move on, Sowell and the team focused on their next game against Harvard.

The Seawolves went on to lose against Harvard University's Crimson 12-4.

It was not until the young team of Seawolves defeated Lehigh University 16-6 that they regained their confidence and composure. But what is most significant about the start to season is the inexperience of the team.

As Coach Sowell pointed out that in the game against Virginia, many starters had either graduated or transferred, which left many freshman and sophomores, as well as some upperclassman, the first bit of playing time on the field.

There are twice as many underclassmen on the team's roster than upperclassman, with only two seniors on the team. Despite this very young team, much of the team's success rides on sophomore midfielder Kevin Crowley (New Westminster, British Columbia) and attack Jordan McBride (New West-

minster, British Columbia).

McBride, who was recently named America East co-player of the week, leads the team with 23 goals and 27 points. Crowley comes second to his Canadian neighbor with 9 goals and 10 assists, totaling 19 points. Granted there

lumbia) have taken quickly to collegiate lacrosse and are among some of the shining starts of the team. The two combine for roughly 20 percent of the team's total goals and more importantly assists.

Sophomore Timmy Trenkle (Com-

top players, these stats may mean little on the field or even on paper, however these young players are what is unique about this SBU team.

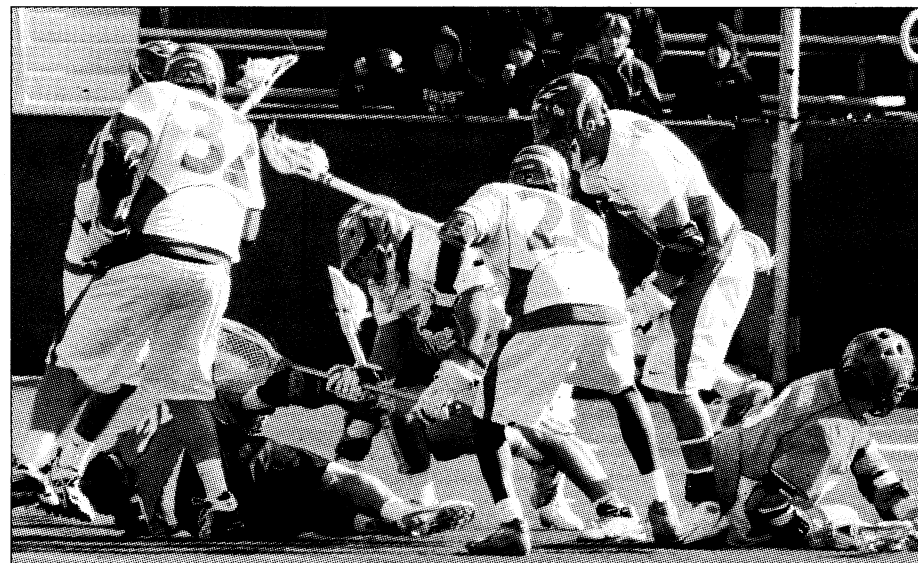
Since beating Lehigh, Stony Brook went on to win against Siena, 8-7. It was the freshman Campbell who scored the game winning shot with only a minute left on the clock. Coming off two wins now, the Seawolves faced off against Delaware, a university with a strong lacrosse program. Going into two overtimes, both Trenkle and McBride recorded hat tricks. Stony Brook won 10-9.

Before losing to Denver 17-12 on March 17, the Seawolves won their fourth game of the season against Lafayette, 12-9, due to a successful first quarter. Though the loss against Denver has halted the Seawolves' streak, the team has not let their inexperience affect them.

The Seawolves (4-3) will open their conference play against #8 University of Maryland in Baltimore County (5-2) this Saturday, Mar. 28 at LaValle Stadium at 2:30 p.m.

Additionally, students, faculty and fans can watch ninth-seated Duke University compete against Dartmouth University in the annual Lacrosse for Autism Event at noon.

Lacrosse for Autism is an event to bring autism awareness to the Long Island lacrosse community and involves Stony Brook Athletics, Lacrosse Unlimited and the Cody Center for Autism and Developmental Disabilities.



"Where's my money, man?"

Najib Aminy

is help from junior midfielder Tom Compitello (Hauppauge, N.Y.), who, despite being red-shirted last year, played six games as a freshman and has become one of the team's leaders in points.

It is the Canadian youth who are helping SBU make the best of its season so far. Freshman midfielder Robbie Campbell (Delta, British Columbia) and attack Kyle Belton (Langley, British Co-

mack, N.Y.) rounds out the team's core of strong shooters and team contributors recording 12 points and 9 goals.

Defensively, junior Steven Waldeck (Levittown, N.Y.) leads the team with 42 ground balls. Backing up Waldeck are sophomores Crowley and midfielder Adam Rand (Niantic, Conn.), who have recorded 23 and 28 ground balls respectively.

In this little run down of the team's

Softball Wins! Softball Wins!

By Najib Aminy

The Stony Brook University softball team is off to an explosive start, winning their 10th consecutive game improving their record to 14-3. The team's latest wins come from a double-shutout against Rhode Island on Mar. 24.

Rhode Island College's Anchorwomen were tied down by the superior play of the lady Seawolves. A mercy rule ended the first game, when SBU scored 10 runs by the fifth inning. Junior starting pitcher Alyssa Struzenberg (Cooper City, Fla.) gave up only one hit and struck out seven batters.

It wasn't until the third inning that the Seawolves came out with bats

swinging and balls flying. Both senior first baseman Marris Fleury (Ma-



Nice. Nice.

hopac, N.Y.) and junior shortstop Vicki Kavitsky (Cherry Hill, N.J.) hit two homeruns, contributing to the seven

runs scored in that inning. Fleury led the team with the team with three RBIs and a .667 batting average for the game.

Leaving off from the first game, the Seawolves continued where they left off in the second game of the double header. With Struzenberg resting after five flawless innings, sophomore Colleen Matthes (Severn, Md.) took the mound and pitched a shut-out and to continue SBU's winning streak. Matthes recorded five strikes retiring the last nine batters to end the game.

Senior second baseman Molly Kestranek (St. Mary's, Geo.) led the team with three RBIs, two hits and one. However, the rest of team played just as well, working their way to a historic start and defending their crown as the reigning America East champions.

After losing three consecutive games to Eastern Michigan University, Towson University and Harvard University, respectively, the Seawolves have rebounded and won every game since early March. They have gone on to win their self-hosted Stony Brook Invitational. The Seawolves are scheduled to open their American East conference play facing off against Binghamton at home with a double header this Saturday starting at noon and a following game on Sunday at noon.

Though no conference play has started, the Seawolves currently have the highest winning percentage of the eight teams in the league. Binghamton is 2-11.

Are You Ready for Some... Intramurals?

By Jason Wirchin

Sayonara, snowy afternoons!
Bon voyage, bitter wind chills!

This week, Stony Brook's Department of Campus Recreation kicks off its springtime intramural season, giving students the opportunity to leave their miserable dorm rooms for some long-awaited outdoor activities.

After a dreary winter lull, softball, soccer, four-on-four volleyball and extreme dodgeball leagues return to the University, each one featuring a recreational and competitive division.

"I found the intramural softball season to be a good balance between school and work," Jason Shank, a senior on Dreisini softball, said. "I also got to meet some pretty cool people, as well."

All teams, regardless of sport, were required to have a \$40 forfeit fee on record with Campus Recreation by last Tuesday's roster registration deadline, which they will lose in the event that too few players arrive for a game.

To best avoid this problem, Campus Recreation planned games around students' conflicting schedules, and a new 7 pm time slot allows for games after most students have finished classes for the day.

Games are otherwise at 5 pm or 6 pm.

The installation of light towers on the fields across from the train station clears the way for night contests for softball and soccer, but poses quite the obstacle for outfielders chasing long fly balls.

And this isn't the softball program's only perceived problem.

Shank mouthed off, "I really didn't like how Campus Rec had a whole team to themselves, even though they had a right to. It just took away from the game because it was like playing an all-star team."

Some certainly find the games to be

a challenge. But then again, winning has its rewards.

"My most memorable moment had to be last year when we won the championship on a 2-out, last-inning hit," said Parker Ince, a senior then on *Oh My God I Hope We Don't Forfeit*.

After Shank's squad lost to the *Eurostars* in the playoffs last year, he's looking forward to starting anew and making a title run in 2009.

"I'm just excited to get back out there, nothing really to improve, just keep it consistent," he said.

Fight Club(s) - Capoeira

By Eric DiGiovanni

Style: Capoeira

When It Meets: Thursday and Friday 7:00-9:00 P.M.

Where It Meets: On Thursdays: Union Basement Bi-level, On Fridays: Indoor Sports Complex Dance Studio

Who's Known for It: Most Brazilian Mixed Martial Arts Fighters, Wesley Snipes, Eddie Gordo from Tekken, Blanka from Street Fighter series

The main problem with clubs on campus is that many are poorly organized. As I learned with the Brazilian Jujitsu (BJJ) club (see the Mar. 11 edition of *The Press*, "True Believers!") clubs fade in and out and the university's clubs website does not update as often as it should. You find a club you want to join, and it doesn't exist anymore. So most of the time, you find out about clubs either through word-of-mouth or, as I did, through the Capoeira group flyers.

This edition of "Fight Club(s)" takes me back to Brazil (I smell conspiracy) for the unique art of capoeira. The current head of the club, Bernard Santos Jao, nicknamed "Samurai" by his old teacher, indulged me in the style's history: "It was originally done by slaves to practice martial arts. It looked like a game or dance so nobody caught on. They had to continue doing it until [slavery was abolished in Brazil in the] 1800s" After seeing it in action, I understood. In capoeira, there is no set "fighting stance." You're constantly moving, making it look like a dance.

After warm-ups, I was finally able

to take part. There are practice drills, in which everyone lines up and practices moves. No big deal, right? What I didn't know was how much terminology and Portuguese language is used. It got quite confusing for me and the other two greenhorns in class that day. For example, this was an actual command: "We're going to go from ginga, down into cocorinha, then gancho and come

awkward, since you have to be constantly moving as well as staying in time. Imagine fighting someone while playing Dance Dance Revolution. The crouching motions and the "ginga" really work the legs.

Then, we all gathered around in a circle (or "roda"). Jao and another longtime student started playing instruments (a tambourine and what looked

and-counter martial art." The only downside is that this constant movement made it hard to get any good action shots to accompany this article.

The rules of engagement are pretty simple, when two people are in the middle of a "fight," another person can wave their hands in one of the combatants' faces, essentially challenging them. Then they will go at it for a bit, and continue on like that. My first time in the circle, I spent most of the time thinking, "Wait, how does that rocking thing go again?" and the rest of the time crouching down to avoid a kick and thinking "Wait, I forgot how to duck the right way!" What I wound up doing was making that ginga motion, and then just kicking my opponent like I was sparring in Tae Kwon Do. It was hard to get into the proper mindset since usually I'm wired for "Hit him already!" It looked like everyone was kind of off that day anyways, so the effects of my ineptitude were diluted.

There are plenty of reasons to join. Some took it up to learn a new martial art, like a guy who only wanted me to call him Macaco (Portuguese for "Monkey"). Some come for the workout, and some come for the good times. What's deceptive about the club is that it focuses on performance and community, rather than combat. If you are thinking of joining, remember that it's hard to pick up, and the dirty, tiled floors of the Union Bi-Level will take some getting used to. Other than that, it definitely earns my recommendation.

Fun fact I learned: Did you know that the "Zoom, Zoom, Zoom" song is a traditional capoeira song? Translated literally, it means, "Run, run, run, capoeira's killed another one."



"Come join us in the Dance of Death!"

back." In English, this means, "Rock back and forth, then crouch down low to the side and then hook kick." Was that so hard? Then again, Jao claims, "We not only teach martial arts, but culture as well."

I was partnered up with a girl who was also new, so our moves were little more than basic movement and kicks. I found my experience in Tae Kwon Do (4 years, black belt) helped me out. Unlike BJJ, capoeira and Tae Kwon Do are both striking arts, so being able to balance yourself on one leg is necessary. It felt familiar, but at the same time, really

like a giant bow and arrow) and the "fighting" began. I'm sorry to disappoint, but I don't have a Gonzo-noir tale about all-out brawls, killer instinct and beautiful dames (although they were there) like last time. The fighting was pretty fun. Everyone else was just singing and clapping and enjoying themselves, and nobody was trying to make contact. They were just trying to do something that would make the other guy move out of the way. Jao explained this phenomenon best: "[Capoeira] isn't based on forms, it's based on fluid movement. It's an evade-

fighting an evil darker than his roots...

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