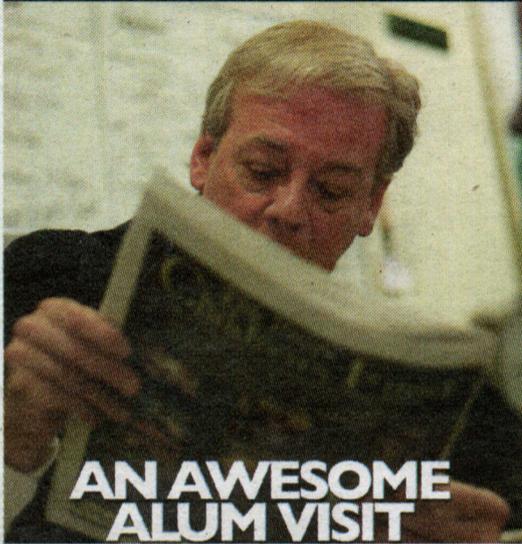


THE STONY BROOK PRESS

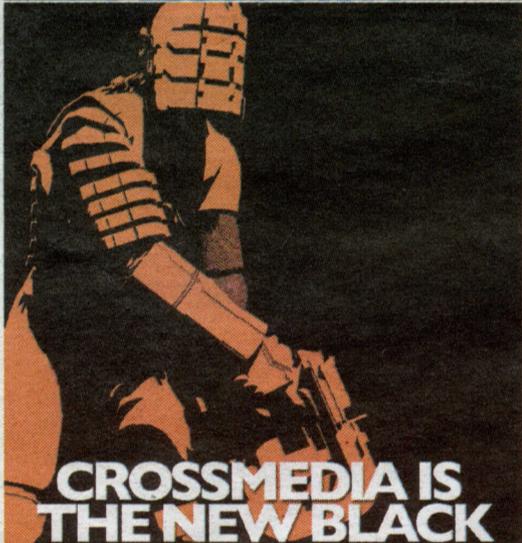
VOL XXX ISSUE 4

"KICK ASS, TAKE NAMES"

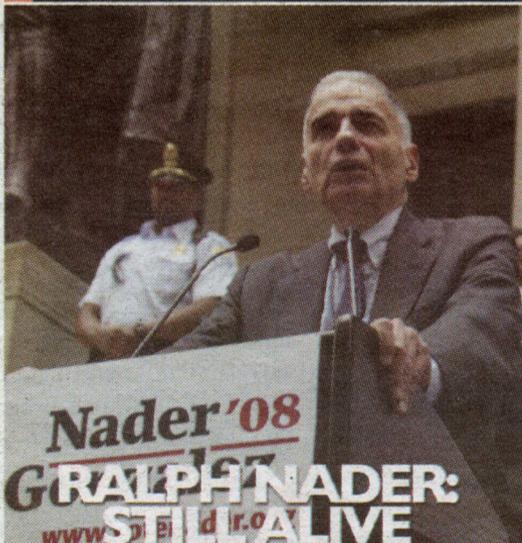
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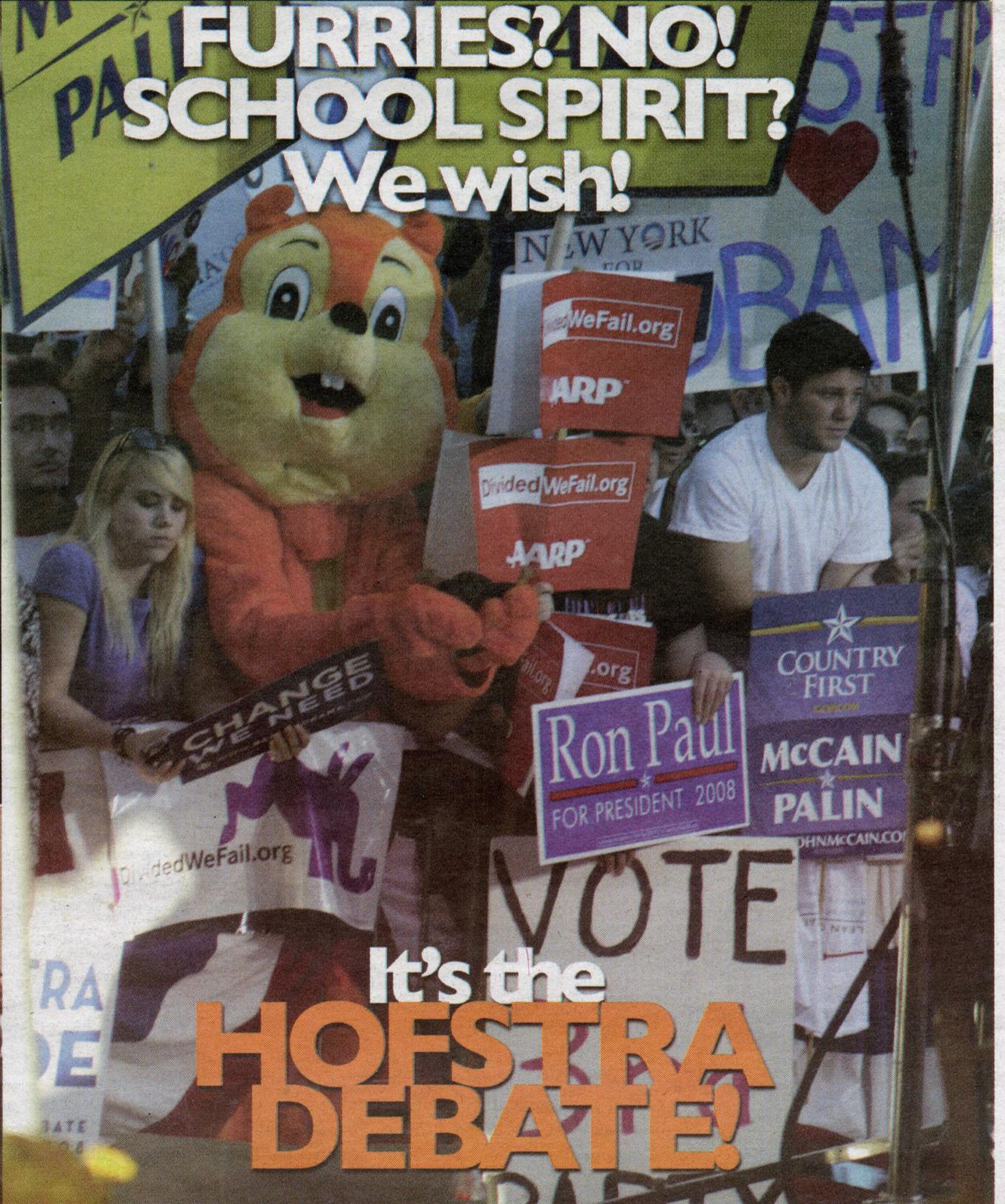
**AN AWESOME
ALUM VISIT**



**CROSSMEDIA IS
THE NEW BLACK**



**Nader '08
RALPH NADER:
STILL ALIVE**



**FURRIES? NO!
SCHOOL SPIRIT?
We wish!**

It's the
**HOFSTRA
DEBATE!**

THIS AIN'T YO' GRANDMA'S ELECTION!

This Is What Democracy Looks Like

By Jen Hand

On Wednesday, October 14 the *Iraq Veterans Against the War*, accompanied by various local coalitions including but not limited to *Long Island Alliance*, *CodePink*, and *Stony Brook's Social Justice Alliance*, staged a demonstration at Hofstra University for veterans' rights and benefits. The IVAW's terms were simple: let two veterans, Matthis Chioux and Kris Goldsmith, into the final Presidential debate to ask the candidates a few questions about their intentions for veteran support. If denied entry by 7:00 p.m., they intended to risk arrest by marching to the gates and entering the debate via non-violent means. After experiencing success with these tactics at the Democratic National Convention, IVAW expected positive results at this last debate on domestic policy, an area in which veterans' health care, college aid, and other lifetime benefits are firmly planted. Incidentally, the soldiers were refused access and at 7:30 p.m., 15 Iraq veterans and about 350 of their supporters began the brief walk to the entryway.

Horse mounted police met them at the gates and two soldiers were immediately arrested for attempting to cross the police line. The horses pushed forward, sending protestors into the mid-

dle of a four-way intersection. Riot police adorned with plastic face shields and two-foot long batons pushed them back, grabbing anyone who managed to



Public outcry by the guys who know this war better than anyone else.

cross the boundary set up by the twelve vicious looking Mounties intent on their job and goaded on by screams of "Pigs on Horses!" Eventually the animals surged forward, separating the

crowd into two groups on opposite sides of the street united only by the chant of "They're our brothers, they're our sisters. We support war resisters!"

By the end of the night, ten veterans had been arrested, one of whom was kicked in the face, ultimately shattering his cheekbone, by an unprovoked horse. The force of the attack brought Army

Sgt. Nick Morgan to the ground and he lay unassisted on the sidewalk – an alleged free speech zone – bleeding out of his face, clapping his cheek, moaning in agony until police arrested him and led him onto a paddy wagon, further delaying his treatment. Only by the persistent demands of his fellow prisoners was he sent to the hospital. Once treated by the hospital, Morgan was released back into police custody and subjected to verbal harassment by officers. At least one other civilian, kindergarten teacher Nadine Lupka, was trampled by a horse and an additional five civilians were taken into police custody for their non-violent act of civil disobedience.

The *New York Civil Liberties Union* is now conducting an investigation into the use of horses by the Nassau County police force to control the crowd. Apparently all of the horse-related injuries took place on the sidewalk where protestors were supposed to have been safe from harm or police jurisdiction.

If you would like to support the *Iraq Veterans Against the War*, the hearing for those arrested will take place on November 10 at First District Court, County of Nassau, Arraignment Part, 99 Main Street, Hempstead New York 11550 (Room 268).

NYC Council to Voters: Drop Dead!

By Alex Nagler

The New York City Council voted on Thursday, October 22 to extend term limits for elected officials to three terms from two, clearing the path for Mayor Michael Bloomberg to run again. The vote was 29 in favor of extending, with 22 votes in opposition. Prior to this, the issue of whether or not to put the question of term limits on the ballot for citizens to decide was put up to vote. Here, the vote was 28 no, 22 yes, and one abstention.

This term limit extension is a blanket increase, adding a third four-year term to everyone from the mayor to the 51 members of the City Council. This also includes the two other positions in the executive branch of the city's municipal government, the public Advocate and the comptroller. The Public Advocate, Betsy Gotbaum, has not expressed any intention to enter the race.

Her duties presiding over the City Council gave her the task of delivering the final vote count, though she was later quoted as being "disappointed" and expressed her feelings that "the voice of New Yorkers has been silenced and millions of votes ignored."

The comptroller is a different story. William Thompson Jr., comptroller, has stated his opposition to extending term limits for some time now, but a good deal of that has much to do with the fact that he is currently one of the leading contenders for mayor in 2009. In his statement, he condemned the action calling the vote, "An affront to New Yorkers." He continued, "It says that their votes and their voice do not matter, that bullying and heavy-handed threats are more powerful than democratic ideals."

Though not in the City Council, Representative Anthony Weiner (D-NY) stated that he is still running for mayor, commenting on the fact that

Council Speaker Christine Quinn called off her campaign in response to the vote. Quinn, who represents Manhattan's third district and voted in favor of extending term limits, would be unable to run for her seat and maintain the position of speaker in 2009 without an extension. The story is the same for 22 of the other "Yes" voters, who are now eligible to run for a third term thanks to their decision. Of those who voted "no," only twelve of them would be ineligible to run for a third term. Whether or not each individual council member, regardless of how they voted, plan to run for their newly minted third term remains to be seen.

Much of the controversy surrounding the vote comes from a Quinnipiac University poll that showed that 89 percent of those surveyed favored a referendum on whether or not to allow the Mayor to run for a third term, with 51 percent of those who responded opposing said referendum, yet 75 percent ap-

proving of the job Bloomberg has done over the past eight years.

Regardless of how people feel about term limits, the average voter in New York City is the true loser here. Whether Bloomberg will be re-elected in 2009 remains to be seen, but what is obvious as of now is that the mayoral race has become more difficult for anyone who isn't named Michael R. Bloomberg, who has \$80 million of his own money set aside to spend campaigning. Councilman Charles Barron may have said it best: "Even though the mayor will win today, he is the big loser, because he lost democracy, he lost the favor of the people."



Pulitzer Prize Winning Journalist Returns To His Old Stomping Grounds

By Erin J. Mansfield

"[Joining *The Stony Brook Press*] was the best thing that I ever did," Scott Higham told a packed auditorium of enthusiastic journalism students at the Stony Brook Student Union last Wednesday night.

Higham won the Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting in 2002. He graduated from Stony Brook University in the eighties and attended Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. He has been an investigative reporter with the Washington Post since 2000.

While an undergrad at Stony Brook, Higham began working for *The Press*. "I wanted to make friends," he said candidly. He soon found himself investigating falsified well documents at a local construction site, a story that led

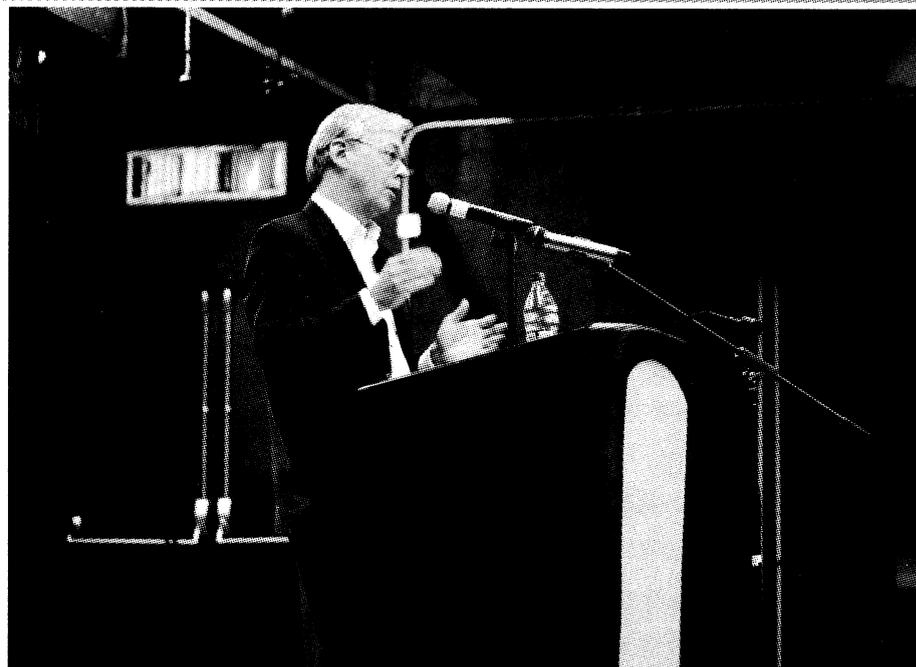
him to what one only sees in movies – a man meeting him at a dark gas station with a manila envelope. He wrote what his friend told him was a "holy shit" story. "It's when you open the paper and say to yourself, 'Holy shit!'"

Higham became the Executive Editor of *The Press*. He dedicated all of his time to the paper, produced it weekly, and, as a result, almost flunked out of school. It was then that he realized his dream to become an investigative *holy shit* journalist because, "You can really make a difference."

And make a difference he did.

He was the first reporter at the scene of the Oklahoma City bombing in 1994, about which he humbly commented, "I was able to be a witness to history," as if he were the luckiest man in the world.

Most notably, Higham exposed the faulty child-protection system in Wash-



ington DC, where many children died while under the supervision of the organization. It resulted in an overhaul of the system, including the firings of judges and social workers who were aware of the flawed policies; the removal of a Maryland congressman for the first time in 200 years; and a Pulitzer Prize.

He more recently reported on the Guantanamo Bay and Abu Gharib prison scandals, and is currently on leave from the Washington Post while he writes a follow-up book about Chandra Levy, the Washington DC intern who disappeared in 2001.

Higham said that the most important lesson in investigative journalism is persistence, "Never taking no for an answer." You spend day after day, making phone call after phone call, and, "Sometimes you just break through to the other side."

Towards the end of his speech, when a student asked him if he ever regretted becoming a journalist, he swiftly replied, "No."

Virtual Voting: More Fun Than MyFace

By David Fishman

From colored balls in clay jars in Athens to punch ballots and hanging chads in Florida, the process by which votes are counted has evolved. However, there was always a physical process by which to re-count the results of an election, just in case a mistake is made or there is outright fraud. For example, apparently 2,500 Floridians voted for Buchanan in 2000. I bring up the 2000 election to highlight a point: despite what both parties are hoping for, this election is going to be a close one and there is the possibility of the need for a re-count. If one good thing came out of the 2000 Florida fiasco, it was that it demonstrated the need for independently verifiable ballots. While New York will be using either a highly tamper-proof lever system of voting or a voter verified optical ballot system, many states will have districts using purely electronic forms of counting ballots this November. According to Verifiedvoting.org, New Jersey, along with 30 other

states, will have districts without Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail Printers.

A VVPAT is the process by which each vote is recorded individually. In a non-VVPAT machine, only two tallies are printed out: the total votes at the beginning of the day and the total votes of at the end of the day. With this sort of system there is no way for the voter to know if their vote has been recorded properly or at all. In some systems, such as the AVC Advantage voting system used in New Jersey, after voting ends, the votes are loaded onto a non-secure Windows XP laptop and then sent over the Internet to a database. There are several problems with this. First, a non-specialized laptop, running Windows XP or not, but especially while running Windows XP, is particularly vulnerable to hacking. This could send false voting results to the voter database.

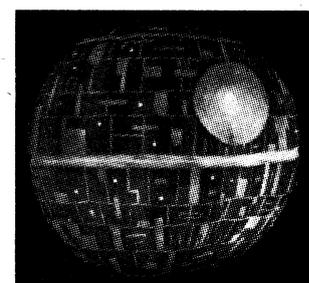
The problem with Electronic Voter tabulation without a VVPAT is that recounts are impossible, since only totals are recorded at the end of the day. A lone poll worker could easily influence all votes taking place at his polling booth without being discovered. He or

she could tamper with the machine during the election without modifying the machine in any way. There are many publicly known ways to subvert the function of a voting machine and change the intended results of the machine without having to open it up. In only 10 minutes of time alone with a machine, someone could easily install a hacked ROM chip to allow the machine to cheat during the election. Tampering with a machine in this way wouldn't be discovered until it is back to the manufacturer for maintenance. Then it would be in the company's best interest not to report these breaches of security.

Last week, Princeton University released a 90-minute video, found on tinyurl.com/NJ-VoterFraud, which had been submitted to the courts in September. The video is quite in depth and demonstrates several ways in which the AVC Advantage, even when not "hacked" by replacement of a ROM chip, can fail to faithfully record the intent of the voter. The video also demonstrates how an attacker can pick the lock of the AVC Advantage and install a fraudulent vote-miscounting program.

Finally, it shows that this fraudulent program does *not* cheat in pre-election testing, but *does* transfer votes from one candidate to another in actual election mode.

There are dozens of types of machines being used during the presidential election this year, but 31 states will have something in common. They will be using machines that are easily tampered with and have no way to perform proper recounts. We are potentially looking at an even bigger fiasco than the one that occurred in Florida in 2000, and this time the stakes are higher. Any of these actions, be it an inserted ROM chip or vote-miscounting programs, in such a close race, could have dire consequences for our freedom and can breed distrust in the democratic process.



Students Agree to Tuition Increase

By Najib Aminy

For the first time in its history, the SUNY Student Assembly voted in support of an increased tuition to alleviate the ongoing budget crisis plaguing New York State and SUNY. Under the supported plan, tuition would increase every year in proportion to the monetary state of each university, allowing students to predict their financial situation. However, under this plan, students are left vulnerable to an additional hike, due in part to unforeseen circumstances, surmounting additional money to the proposed rational plan. Representing the 427,000 students enrolled in SUNY in both the national and state level, the Student Assembly voted, 50-10, in favor of a rational tuition hike leaving many students scratching their heads.

"Obviously they are not paying their own tuition," said Jill Craver, a Stony Brook junior, who feels misrepresented. "They could have more dialogue between the students, I feel this will become a financial strain for many people."

Junior Alyson Schwartz said that any tuition hike at all is unfair to anyone without student loans. "If anything, New York State should increase the amount they give on financial aid." Junior Danny DeVita works two jobs to pay off his school tuition and when hearing about the SA's recent vote, he was not happy about it. Feeling that he was never asked about the issue, DeVita said, "I wished they consulted with students more before making their decision."

"I think it is bullshit, the students in the SA are idiots," said Michael Dischley, a sophomore from SUNY Geneseo. Dischley said the most attractive thing about SUNY is that it is cheap and affordable. "If you increase the price it becomes less appealing," said Dischley. On the other hand, Ryan Micelli, a junior at SUNY Binghamton, said he thinks the SA's decision is for the best. "SUNY still is pretty cheap, my brother goes to Cornell and it is really expensive, but it's practically like getting the same education." An optimistic Vincent Lancia, a sophomore at SUNY Albany, sees the rational tuition plan as unfair for students in need of financial aid. "A lot of kids that go to SUNY come based on the financial aid and grants, and to boost tuition would place economic strain on them," said Lancia. Though a bit optimistic, Lancia sees a hike as a

long term answer to a short term problem.

An undergraduate himself here at Stony Brook, Treasurer of the Student Assembly Joe Antonelli was amongst the fifty voting in favor of the rational tuition hike. "Costs go up—there really is no other justification. Just like the cost of groceries go up each year, just like the cost of buying a car goes up each year, so to does the cost of running a University," said Antonelli. With the SUNY experiencing two significant cuts and looking to face another after November 18, when Governor Paterson convenes with the legislature, Antonelli says that a "rational plan would not be effective, but it would be the solution."

According to Antonelli, the plan that the SUNY SA voted on would have students paying the same percent it costs for their university to run, whether an increase or decrease in the amount. For example, if operations to run Stony Brook increased five percent,

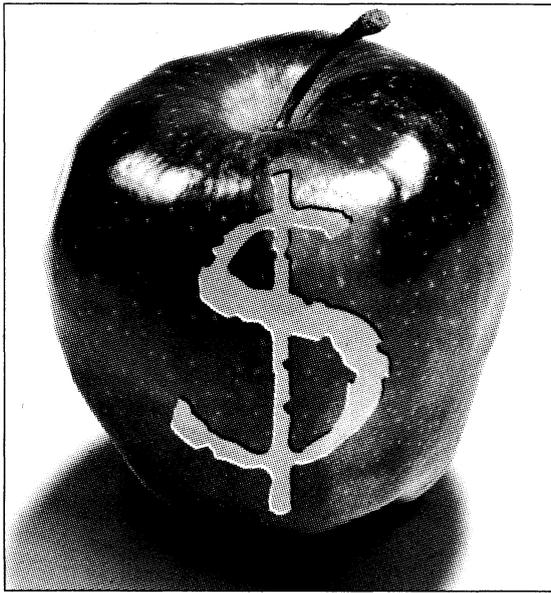
students would pay five percent, if operations decreased to run Stony Brook by five percent, students would pay a tuition five percent less than what they originally had.

Voting against the rational hike, Lynne Radle, an Undergrad at SUNY Buffalo, said that the "elected delegates didn't even consider their constituents. Very few people asked members of their campus how they felt, and the ones who did got a resounding 'no tuition hikes!'" Radle said that there were no other alternative plans proposed at the table. Rational tuition was proposed to the SUNY delegates, according to Radle, as a decision between whether they were in favor of a 30 percent increase or a three percent increase.

With the absence of a binding legislation, a rational tuition plan could be scrapped as soon as next year or the year after under a new and different legislature. "I believe it is based on false hope, and would rather stand behind a strong message like adequately funding SUNY," said Radle.

With Governor Paterson projecting

a \$2.5 billion shortfall in the 2008-09 fiscal year, ending March 31, cuts to SUNY are being forecasted as Deans are preparing "for the worst case scenario," according to Dan Melucci, Associate Vice President for Strategy and Analysis. With unemployment problems, debt related issues, and mortgage situations, Melucci says it "is going to be very difficult for the legislature to impose a 20 percent increase on students in this state," but has not ruled it out as an option. Though in support of a rational plan, during his thirty-five years at Stony Brook Melucci has never experienced a rational tuition hike and sees some downfall to the plan. "In difficult budgetary times, the legislature may see



How does Gov. Pat differentiate a red and green apple? Bye biting them.

SUNY getting a tuition increase so they cut SUNY's state side budget. All you would be doing would be shifting the burden from tax payers to families, and SUNY would get no more money." Melucci feels that entrusting more power within the Board of

Trustees would be an alternative route to travel disembarking from the political atmosphere involved in SUNY higher education. In terms of Stony Brook going private, Melucci immediately responded, "not going to happen. The state is really valuable They pay all the debt services on our buildings, all the fringe benefits on state employees, that's huge amount of money, we can't give that up."

With a history of SUNY raising tuition by a significant percent in blocks of time, it has become difficult for students and their families to predict how to pay for their education. It doesn't help that the New York State economy runs on 20 percent of Wall Streets fortunes, and more recently, mishaps. Stony Brook Provost Eric Kaler added that the plan voted by the SA is "a very realistic interpretation of the current situation. I think it is unrealistic to look at today's economy and expect somehow the state will provide the money needed to run the university without students to take on the larger share." The University runs on income pro-

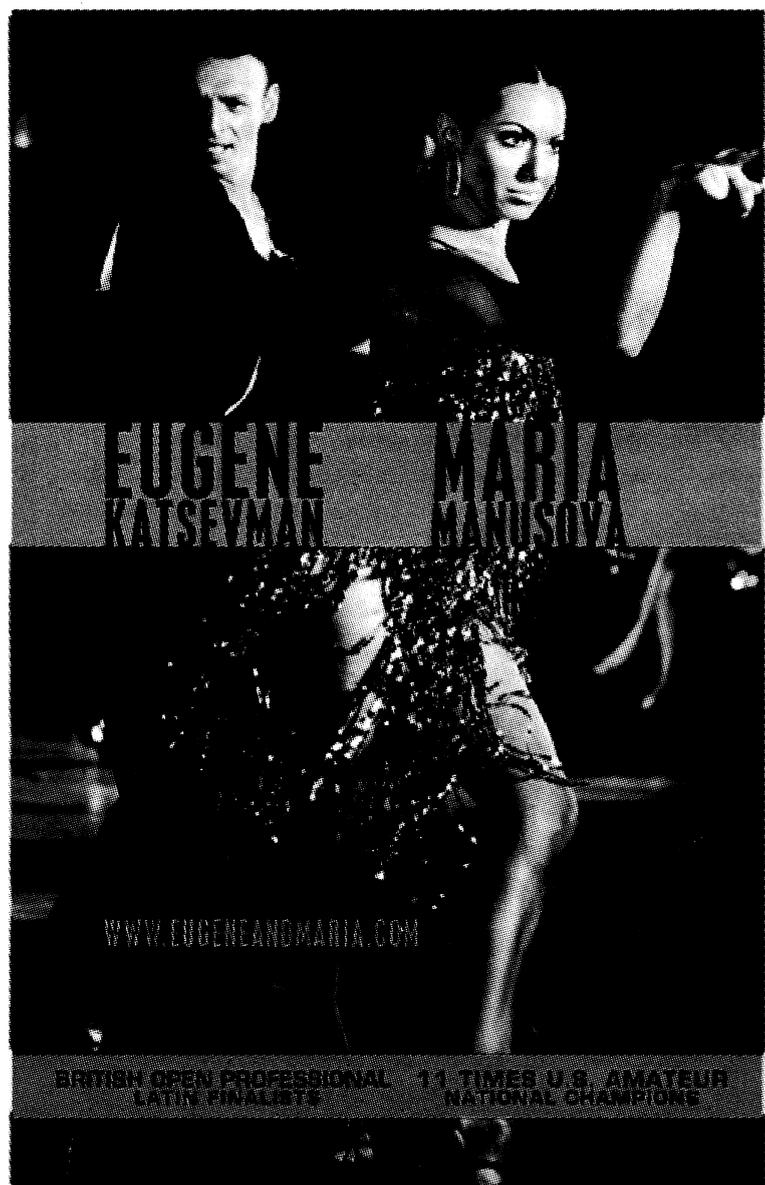
vided by state aid and tuition. According to Kaler, if state aid continues to dwindle and tuition is unchanged, the lack of cash flow into the University will stall and deter the quality and goals of the University. Provost Kaler asked for students to be patient and aware of their schedules and course offerings and make it sufficient to the progress of their own degree. Though optimistic, Kaler knows little of what will happen in the near future. "Like the rest of the nation we are facing an unprecedented economic change. We are trying to plan on minimal information, which changes very rapidly."

Whether or not rational tuition policy gets voted on by the New York Legislature, the biggest flaw to this policy is its precedent. According to Andrew Morrison, regional director of the New York Public Interest Group, by supporting a rational tuition policy, one is opening the door to rational increases as well as continued susceptibility to 20 to 30 percent increases, as Stony Brook has experienced in the past. "This happens because you can't hold a legislature to this policy and you won't know what will happen in the near future," said Morrison, adding, "its based on an empty promise." Morrison said, "rather than taking the SA's stance and say that students are willing to do their part for NYS, that state should be doing everything in its power to do what is right for its students." Morrison views the cause of this problem in looking at the SUNY institution as a business. "Students are not meant to be consumers of education as if NYS is offering them a service, it is students who are doing NYS the service," said Morrison.

Due to the current economic state, Antonelli said that it would be infeasible to keep tuition the same. "The mere thought of that was not even on the table for SUNY, and it would have proven ignorant for us to continue insisting that SUNY quality could remain the same as costs rise while keeping our tuition static." With the significant majority, Antonelli said that "SUNY students have never been more united on the cost of their education." Expressing her concern over the SA's decision, Radle said, "It is really hard to hear support for tuition increases from adults, but from students? That's a shame."

The Stony Brook BALLROOM DANCE COMPETITION 2008

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH
STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTER
BALLROOM A**



FEATURING A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY
EUGENE KATSEVMAN

&

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2008 BLACKPOOL PROFESSIONAL LATIN FINALIST

2007 IDSF INTERNATIONAL LATIN CHAMPIONS

11 TIMES UNDEFEATED US NATIONAL LATIN CHAMPIONS

PERFORMANCE: 12:30PM

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editorials

Say No To "Rational" Tuition!

Recently, with the impending financial crisis, and devastating budget cuts to SUNY, the SUNY Student Assembly voted in support of a rational tuition increase plan. Norm Goodman, Vice President Secretary of the SUNY Faculty Senate, supports the plan. He calls it "the most intelligent and wise thing to do." Joe Antonelli, Stony Brook's Student Representative, supports it as well, saying it's "the only responsible path for the students of SUNY to be taking." This would seem to be the panacea for all our woes, right? This couldn't be more of a disservice to the students of SUNY. The rational tuition

plan is nothing more than a commitment to raise tuition by 3%-5% every year. This is a minimum, not a maximum. Some of the more reasonable students on the Assembly (who voted against it) see it rising as high as 10%. In addition, a rational tuition plan wouldn't bind legislature preventing a dramatic hike *in addition* to the rational increases. The lie that is being fed to students is that, with a rational tuition plan, tuition won't be raised drastically. There is no actual way to prevent this, since it is illegal to tie the hands of future legislation. NYPIRG, in their years of tireless efforts to prevent a rational

tuition plan in SUNY, have researched other states tuition plans. They have found that states with a rational tuition plan more often than not receive tuition hikes as well.

This tuition increase was forced upon the students in this time of crisis, and the Student Assembly happily accepted it. You have completely betrayed our trust, members of the Student Assembly. We encourage all those students out there to get in touch with their representative, and yell, "No to rational tuition!"

Vote Or Pay (Quite Literally)

We here at *The Stony Brook Press* know you've been inundated with massive amounts of Election '08 coverage by now. With the election just a few scant days away, you've probably heard all there is to hear, and then some, about that Senator from Illinois and that war hero guy. In fact, if you keep reading, you'll run into some more stuff about those two dudes (not to mention some much needed coverage for all the other candidates involved.) However, right now we're going to take the time to talk about something else that will affect our lives come 9 o'clock on November 4, and that is the government in Albany and our lives here in the SUNY system.

We realize that the election for President is exciting and fun to follow, especially with that hip Changey McHope guy running and that lady

who shoots dangerous animals on the other ticket. But it is the state elections that will affect our lives much more here at Stony Brook. Dedicated readers of *The Press* will know that we face serious budget cuts here at Stony Brook, and throughout the SUNY system as a whole. In mid November, SUNY will face an additional budget cut, on top of the one we have already suffered.

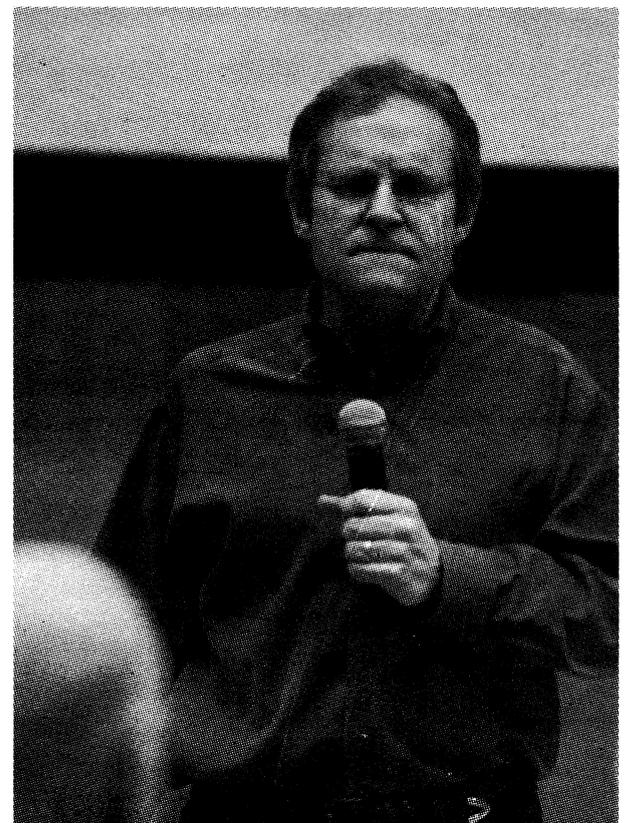
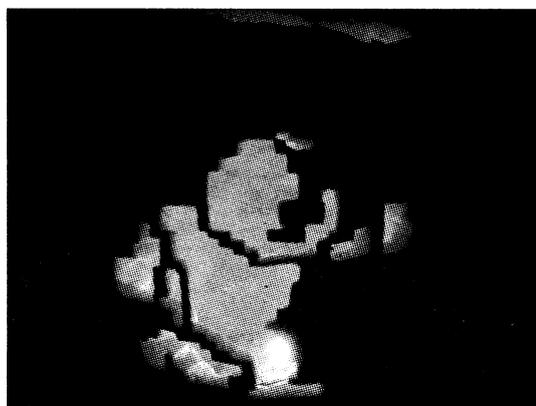
Look at your county and district elections. We're sure there is at least an assembly position open, and probably a State Senate seat open. For example, here in Suffolk County, a crucial State Senate election is being held. Brian Foley, a Democrat, is challenging long-standing incumbent, Cesar Trunzo, a half-hobbit, half-turtle Republican. This race could, in fact, determine which party holds the majority in the Albany

Senate.

The unfortunate fact, however, is that we will be hit with another budget cut in mid November, regardless. However, the people we send to Washington aren't going to be the ones who give us back our proper funding someday. It all rests in our state's capital a few hours north of here. So go out there and vote. Learn about the candidates. You'd be surprised how much information there is online regarding men like Foley and Trunzo. Write a letter to your local Senator or Assemblymen or, if you're feeling super daring, to Governor Paterson. Make sure you tell them that they are gambling with our educations and the futures of not only SUNY students, but New York state as a whole.

We regret to inform you, dear readers, that this volume of *The Stony Brook Press* will not feature a Shirley Strum Kenny moment. However, we promise to feature two separate moments in the next issue. So look forward to numbers eleven and ten of our countdown soon! In the meantime, enjoy this completely random photo of *Newsday* cartoonist, Walt Handelsman!

Love always,
The Stony Brook Press



Questions? Concerns? Hate Mail? Send it to sbpressnews@gmail.com

Hey Najib and the rest of the staff,

I know I am years late on responding, but I just wanted to let all of you know that the article that ran about my PBS story was so great. I am so appreciative of what you guys did -- writing about your classes.

It's so incredibly cool to have support from people your age. It's a very strong feeling of unity, like "elders" have nothing on us if we all stick together.

I look forward to having you all as my peers in the future as we land amazing careers in print, tv, and media. We will change the world.

Best,
Alana Taylor

Dear Alana,

Well we felt it was an important topic, Alana. We journalists have to stick together, right?

Just make sure you keep on doing your thing and doing it your way. Journalism isn't something that can be easily hemmed in and defined like it was in your case. We all bring our own styles and interpretations to it.

Stay strong, and thanks for fightin' the good fight!

Sincerely,
The Stony Brook Press

[Please note: The article Alana is referring to can be found in Issue 2, Volume XXX. Check our website, www.thestonybrookpress.com, if you would like to read it.]

Hey Pressers-

I just read through your latest issue, and wanted to congratulate you on a job well done. It's nice to see such a strong mixture of news, investigation and humor in the paper again. Keep up the good work.

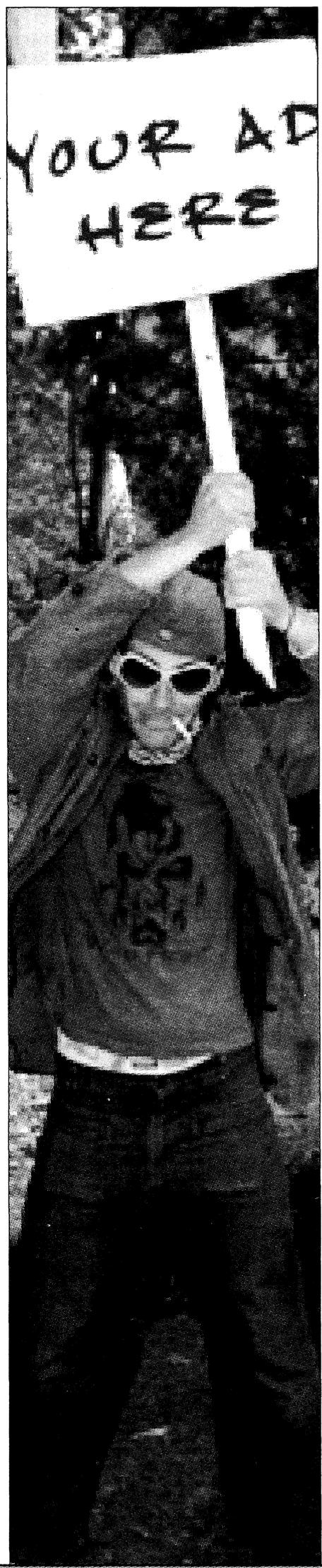
Thanks!

Dave Ewalt
Executive Editor, 1996-1998

Thanks, Dave! Receiving such kind words from one of Stony Brook University's most prominent members of student media in the past few decades is truly an honor. We're thrilled you enjoyed the issue so much.

And, hey, if you're ever in the SBU area again, drop on by our office. We'd love to see you.

Sincerely
James Laudano
Executive Editor



Request an ad packet:
sbpressnews@gmail.com

Hofstra Debate

By Najib Amiry



Power Vote

Santa Claus, polar bears, and a bunch of students with green t-shirts? Oh my! Representing Power Vote, a national non-partisan effort propelled by the Energy Action Coalition, Hofstra students took a stand to voice their concerns over environmental issues.

Breaking into a rhythmic rap, the 100-plus members of Power Vote entertained the nearly 200 left watching, hitting points on nuclear power, offshore drilling, a coal dependence. Beside the green sea of demonstrating students were make-shift windmills to remind students of alternative energy.

The Great Pot Debate

Among the number of Hofstra students voicing their opinions on the economy, environment and foreign policy were three marijuana enthusiasts standing outside of the David S. Mack Student Center advocating for the legalization of pot.

"I think it is going to happen. It is only a matter of time," said Hofstra freshman Krista Aveni of Duxbury, MI. Aveni, similar to her two fellow supporters standing beside her, said that pot can, "pull us out of the economy." Aveni said that if marijuana were legalized, people would not only feel much better about themselves and the environment, but added that they would be more compelled to buy goods, specifically food. In addition, Aveni said that the legalization of pot would reduce the amount of money spent on law enforcement's effort against marijuana related crimes and focus on serious drug problems and other crimes.

According to balancedpolitics.org, the positive side of the legalization of marijuana, aside from what Aveni said, would be the benefits to cancer patients, additional tax revenue, the freeing up of police and court resources to more serious crimes, and the decreasing importance of drug dealers. The negative side focuses on the level of impairment caused by smoking marijuana, such as, driving, falling into the hands of kids, as well as an increased number of felons likely to be arrested because of marijuana possession.

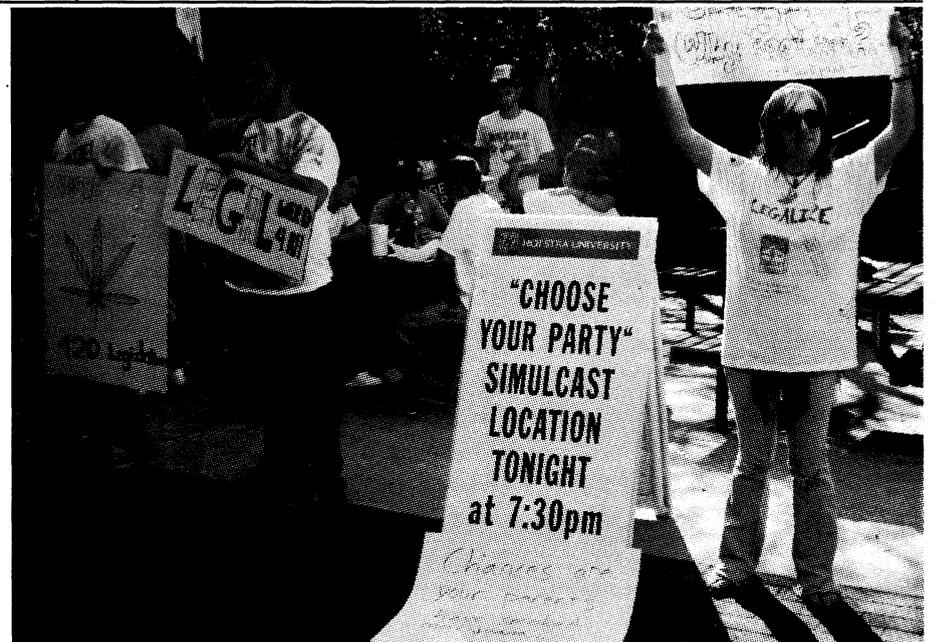
A 1976 report prepared for the Brown Williamson Tobacco Corp. by Forecasting International, Ltd. states that a legal pot industry could raise \$10 billion annually. This was in 1976. According to drugscience.org, in 2007, about 100 million people reported that they have marijuana at some point in their lives. In addition, there were 14.5 million current users of marijuana. According to the report, tobacco companies "have the land to grow [marijuana], the machines to roll it and package it [and] the distribu-

Dating back to last summer, gas prices went soaring through the roof leaving environmental issues as a big focal point of both John McCain and Barack Obama's presidential campaigns. However with the recurrent decline of Wall Street crippling the U.S. economy, issues such as health care, the Iraq war and alternative energy have been left on the back burner.

While the older generation of voters focuses on issues most pertinent to them, the youth vote generally focuses on the environment, affordability of higher education, and the Iraq war.

Though Joe the plumber was mentioned a total of eleven times, nine by McCain and two by Obama, Joe the student was not mentioned once.

Heavily based on environmental issues, Power Vote draws attention to other important issues such as the economy, peace and energy security. Power Vote's goal, according to its website, is to "mobilize grassroots support for bold political action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and invest in a clear energy economy."



tion to market it."

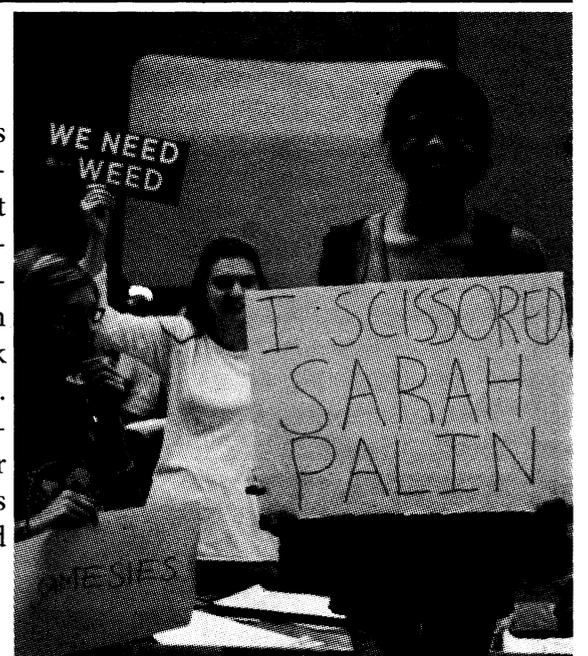
Aveni is a member of Hofstra University's National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML). Aveni admitted that there was difficulty organizing meetings because a significant number of its members show up high to the meetings or don't show up at all.

If Republican Presidential candidate John McCain hypothetically supported the legalization of marijuana, Aveni said she would still vote for Democratic presidential candidate, Barack Obama. "Pot is not the only issue. Honestly there are much bigger issues that I am concerned about, such as the environment and the economy," said Aveni.

When asked if she was high, Avenia said, "no."

Nonsense

Staff members of Hofstra University's *Nonsense* magazine voiced and expressed their First-Amendment Rights. *Nonsense* prides itself as "Hofstra's only intentional humor magazine. Urged to practice their freedom of speech, students stood on a milk crate and said whatever came to mind. Whether it was expressing one's support of Jackie Chan, one's passion or weed, or saying that John McCain eats babies, the members of *Nonsense* had their presence known at Issue Alley.



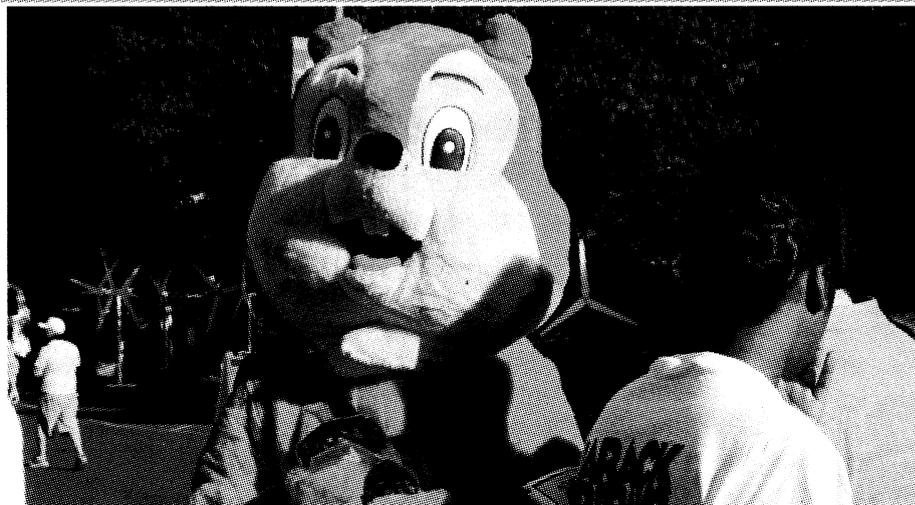
A Squirrel Nuts About ACORN

This concerned squirrel citizen from the Trees Over Yonder, NY was concerned about his acorns. With winter approaching, this Vitamin A eating squirrel shared his worry with the organization ACORN and its ties with Democratic candidate Barack Obama.

ACORN, which stands for the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, is a non-profit, non-partisan social justice organization that according to Fox News has caught headlines for voter registration fraud in eleven different states. Of 1.3 million registered, 400,000 are believed to be fraudulent. The Minneapolis Star Tribune reported that of these 400,000, some of the registration forms are turned down to lack of complete addresses and phone numbers, which ACORN volunteers say is not voter registration fraud.

The McCain campaign, linking Obama to ACORN, has said the ACORN chapter in Chicago bullied banks, used intimidation tactics, and led to the disruption of business. An online ad supported by John McCain said, "ACORN forced banks to issue risky home loans, the same kind of loans that caused the financial crisis we are in today," and went on to mention that Obama taught classes for future ACORN workers and volunteers.

The Obama campaign responded saying that Barack was never an ACORN community organizer, nor was he a trainer or worker for ACORN. In addition, ACORN played no role in Project Vote, a movement spearheaded by Obama to register voters in 1992.



ACORN also said that Obama never organized or worked with their organization. Obama, however, did serve as an attorney for ACORN where he and his team successfully won a legal battle that resulted in better enforcement of the National Voter Registration Act in Illinois, according to ACORN's website. Contrary to the McCain ad, ACORN has said that the Obama campaign did not give money to ACORN, but rather to Citizens Service Inc. for a "Get Out the Vote" campaign in early 2008, of which some money was subcontracted to ACORN.

"I am just a squirrel citizen concerned about Obama's ACORN and the voting fraud." The squirrel was nuts.



"Nobody Cares"

Asking not to be named, this student protested protests with his poster reminding people that "nobody cares." Essentially, the point of the sign according to the engineering student sitting alongside the poster, said it, "is a satire on everybody here." Baffled by what he calls "a wave of ignorance as well as brainwashing," the student claims that neither of the political candidates will care about any protest going on, any sign being held up, or any chant being screamed.

As evident by his sign, "Nobody will keep their election promises, nobody will listen to your concerns, and nobody will help the poor."

The student blames the lack of efficacy due to the prevalent two-party system that has overtaken American politics. According to the student, "Politics in America were not meant to be confined to just a two party system, rather multiple factions." The unnamed student with the sign voted with an

absentee ballot for John McCain.

Hoisting a giant sign labeled, "SHEEP," Hofstra sophomore Max Armstrong of Baltimore, Maryland, felt that his sign expressed the mob mentality going on at Hofstra that Wednesday before the third and final Presidential debate. "I feel that a lot of people defend who they are voting for out of confusion," said Armstrong. What also irked Armstrong was that many of his fellow students, in his opinion, felt that they "have to vote, and by that they vote." Armstrong argues that they should educate themselves about the candidates they support or not vote at all, rather than vote with a blindfold of ignorance.



Though casting his absentee ballot for Ron Paul, Armstrong was undecided as to what candidate he would support. After the debate, Armstrong was clear in stating that John McCain was out of sync with the audience and said he was leaning more towards Obama, despite his SHEEP sign.

Nothing But the Truth

Amidst the number of signs supporting either presidential candidates Barack Obama or John McCain, three Hofstra students supported a different campaign: the truth.

With their signs lacking any artistic aesthetics, Hofstra students Ben Mehlman, of Bridgeport, CT and Chris Mawson, of Haskelle, NJ, stood out in the young, politically active crowd like two students holding giant signs perched three feet above everyone else.

With a very simplistic design, the signs hoisted by Mehlman and Mawson represented, quite literally, the truth. Mehlman's sign read, "This is a sign!" whereas Mawson's sign informed readers that his poster was, as it read, a "Big piece of paper!"

"Our signs represent the truth," said a very spirited Mehlman, adding, "Our signs you cannot argue with. You just cannot." Competing with a cheerful Obama and McCain crowd outside the MSNBC stage, both Mehlman and Mawson captured gazing eyes by shouting, "this is a sign!" and "big piece of paper!"



Mawson viewed the two-person campaign awareness as "a great success." Mawson, a television production major, said, "although the signs are cliché, they are effective in representing the truth and help in decreasing the illiteracy on campus." Where there is question of whether one supports Obama or McCain, there is no doubt as to the fact that both Mawson and Mehlman were indeed holding signs, thus differing their campaign from that of both presidential candidates.

As both Mawson and Mehlman were calling for the awareness of massive lettering on poster boards, Hofstra junior Kyle Milardo of Headley, Mass., was asking for what both Presidential candidates were promising: change. Holding a cup in one hand and an Obama poster in the other, Milardo pleaded to on-looking students for change. From time to time, students seemed compelled to drop in a nickel or even a quarter as they walked by, almost guilt struck by the begging film studies major, who sported a grizzly beard. "To me, money represents real change," said Milardo.

The three students are members of the Hofstra Filmmakers Club. Speaking on behalf of the three, Mawson is focusing on one big issue before determining whom he will vote for. "I will support whoever supports stationery," said Mawson.

Hofstra Debate

Kenny Mayne

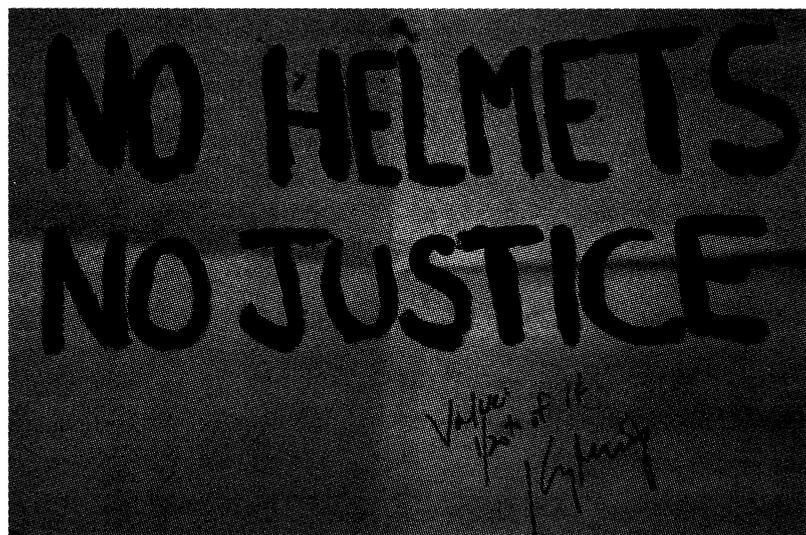
Between student demonstrations, a riveting political atmosphere and the third and final Presidential debate, was a sportscaster looking to question the candidates on a more serious issue: the helmet controversy in the NFL.

ESPN sports anchor, Kenny Mayne, roamed the North campus of Hofstra University, searching for answers as to what would be done about the increasing number of popped helmets in the NFL.

Many fans consider Mayne one of ESPN's greatest anchors, however he is predominantly known for his role as a second-string quarterback for two years at the University of Nevada; Las Vegas, where he played above future NFL quarterback Randall Cunningham. After graduating with a broadcasting degree, Mayne found the Seattle Seahawks, and went on to work with PBS affiliate KLVX-TV in Las Vegas. Mayne would find his place with ESPN in 1994 when he sent a letter asking if ESPN if they would hire him. Presented with three options, ESPN checked the box that read, "Keep up the good work." Mayne was hired four months later.

Also known for his dry-sense of humor, Mayne was looking to place both presidential candidates on the spot when it came to the very controversial issue of the NFL and helmets. Oddly enough, both the NFL and NCAA have experienced an increasing number of helmets popping off of athletes during game play. Just as the economy is important to Americans, helmets prove important to players. Attempting to solve this injustice, Mayne sought to speak with both Obama and McCain representatives. His story has aired on his weekly segment called *Mayne Event* on Sunday mornings during NFL Countdown.

"I am generally more interested in politics and news as a whole," said the former *Dancing With the Stars* contestant. Unable to share his full views on what he thinks of election due to his contract with ESPN, Mayne did express his thoughts on the war and linked it to the collapse of the economy, ultimately saying we should pull out the troops.

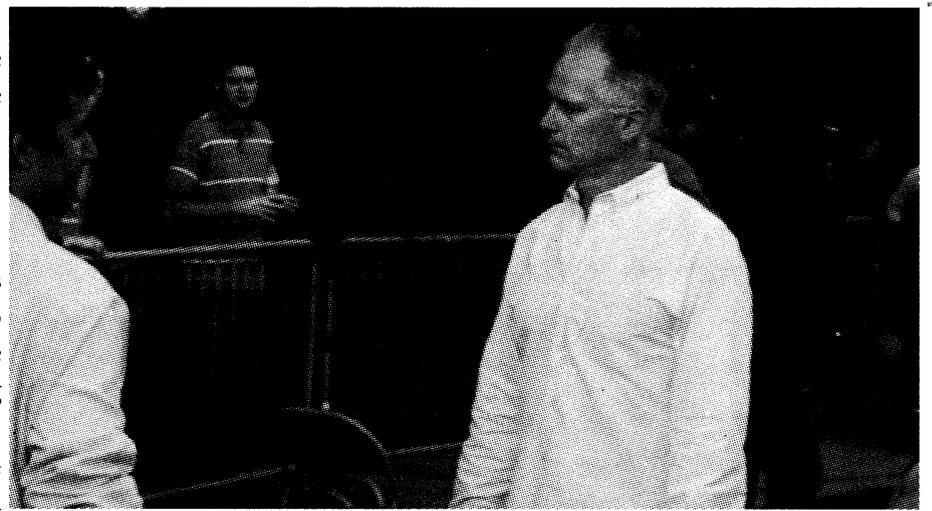


Mayne recently published his own book titled, "An Incomplete and Inaccurate History of Sport," that was released earlier this year. Mayne's book tackles the history of sport and draws in on his own personal experiences. Mayne is also set to have his own show called, *Mayne Street*, set to air on ESPN.com on November 11. The show is to revolve around Mayne playing himself in a fictionalized version of his job at ESPN.

Though Mayne is dwarfed by other ESPN analysts, such as Woody Paige who has a total of 1,975 to Mayne's 892 supporters in groups on the popular social networking site Facebook, his numbers are rising.

Failing to apply for credentials before the August 15 deadline, Mayne declined to watch the final debate in a dorm room filled with single girls. "Yeah, no thanks," said Mayne.

Maybe next time.



Luke Russert

The moderator of the final presidential debate, Bob Schieffer, CBS News Chief Washington Correspondent, paid homage to long-time friend and news competitor Tim Russert prior to the commencement of the debate.

"The one thing I regret is that my friend Tim Russert couldn't be here to see this. Tim loved this campaign," said Schieffer, to which the audience responded with applause.

Shown on a giant screen at the David S. Mack Student Activities Center, Tim's son, Luke Russert, was watching the debate alongside an auditorium filled with students. As a correspondent for NBC News, Luke was reporting on youth issues and could be seen interviewing other students watching the debate.

As a recent graduate from Boston College with degrees in both history and communications, Luke co-hosted a nationally syndicated sports radio talk show with Louisiana native James Carville. With criticisms of nepotism in the air, Luke said, "I am aware and accept the expectations put on because of the spotlight. If you put yourself out there, you have to be willing to take the hits."



Micheline Maroni

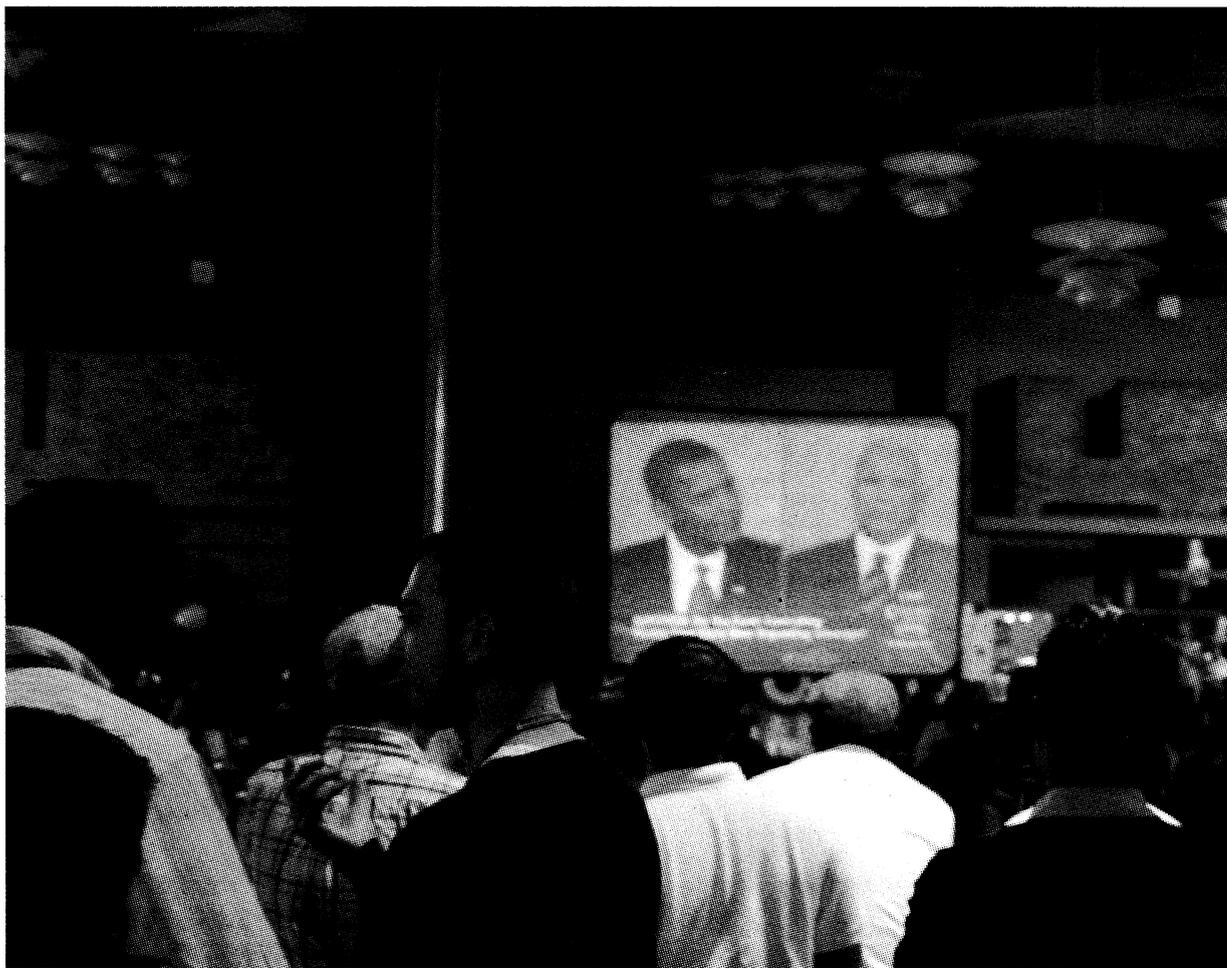
In terms of the actual debate, Russert felt that the energy and enthusiasm at Hofstra were much stronger and present than the previous two presidential debates. One of the bigger issues that Russert was worried about was the future of entitlement reform. Russert said that entitlement reform could possibly be one of the biggest issues the upcoming generation would have to deal with. Entitlements are programs that do not require annual appropriations, such as Medicare and Social Security, that could possibly eat up all the money and maintain the status quo of being in a deficit. Russert also touched upon the importance of

the youth vote and urged everyone to make sure they go out and vote.

Before Russert went into the MSNBC room to prepare his report, many students and adults stopped Luke either to take a picture or share their thoughts about his father. Graciously accepting his past, Luke looked towards the future saying, "I'll be lucky if I reach one-fifth the level of my dad's success."

Hofstra Debate

The Debate



Hofstra students began flocking in to the David S. Mack Student Activities Center where the final presidential debate was to be screened. As excitement and anticipation grew with each tick and tock drawing closer to 9 p.m., many students and faculty alike expressed their concerns.

"It is time to put away the old habits of the right," said Hofstra philosophy professor Frank Sicoli of Garden City, NY. Taken aback by the number of Obama signs, Sicoli said, "Notice the uniqueness of the homemade signs. They are not carbon copies or factory made. Students took the time to get together and create signs expressing their support." With what Sicoli sees as an unprecedented number of youths involved and the recent events on Wall Street, Sicoli feels "The lower the Dow goes, the better for Obama."

Hofstra sophomore Jose Faber, an international business major, pledged his support behind John McCain. "I like the laissez-faire approach McCain has." Faber, who is of Colombian descent but

resides in Stamford, CT, was impressed with John McCain's foreign policy plan, due in part to McCain's vowing to aid Colombia.

Working since 8 a.m. in the morning, Hofstra custodial janitor Jorge Pacheco of Franklin Square, NY, lost \$2,100 in his 401K due to Wall Street's mishaps. The father of two college kids, Pacheco was most worried about the economy and how it would shape out.

With a packed auditorium, students counted down to the beginning of the debate and broke the silence with applause when Hofstra University was mentioned. As the debate began, students focused on the giant split screen of McCain and Obama and listened carefully. Whenever environmental issues such as offshore drilling were discussed, boos came from both members of Power Vote and other students. They cheered whenever alternative energy was mentioned.

For the most part, whenever Obama hit his mark, the majority of the student audience shouted in support, while the minority of McCain supporters told them to be quiet and keep the silence.

There was a mix of students who cemented their support behind one candidate while some were still undecided. Sophomore Monica Strzelecki of Newton, CT said she was a die-hard democrat and felt that John McCain hurt himself whenever he went on the attack by interrupting.

Max Armstrong, who held the "SHEEP" sign, voted earlier for Ron Paul but felt that McCain failed to connect with him. "Obama would state his plan, and then McCain would go ahead and say that is not Obama's plan, go on to state his version of Obama's plan, and then continue on," said Armstrong.

Hofstra sophomore Sheeryn Kahen of Great Neck, NY, said she was still undecided. "I can't really tell based on the debate. I won't know who I will vote for until I look deeper into the issues," said Kahen.

A *New York Times* poll dated October 22-23, one week after the third debate, showed Obama ahead of McCain, 50 percent to 42 percent, with 8 percent undecided and a margin of error of 2 percent. More than 6.5 million young voters took part in the primaries earlier this year. That is up 8% in 2000, according to CNN. Election day is Tuesday, November 4.



Can I Get a “Ralphelluiah!”

By Andrew Fraley

Contrary to popular belief, not all presidential candidates are in support of the \$700 billion Wall Street bailout plan. A dedicated and passionate coalition of local community leaders and candidates are leading a fight against what they have termed, “The bailout of casino capitalists.” At the vanguard of this movement is presidential candidate Ralph Nader. On Thursday, October 16, hundreds of protesters and thousands of onlookers and passers-by were in attendance for a rally at the foot of the New York Stock Exchange, in the heart of Wall Street.

“Just the usual gloom and doom,” remarked the street vendor on Wall Street, who has seen the usual ups and downs of the financial district. But on the steps of Federal Hall, in front of the statue of George Washington, protesters thronged the streets as traders and executives nervously looked out of the windows from inside the NYSE. As Titubanda, an activist marching band from Italy, played spirited songs, the Reverend Billy, a performer from the activist group The Church of Stop Shopping, preached of the coming of

the Shopocalypse. “We’re here to fight the fundamentalist religion of the free-market.” Accompanying Reverend Billy were the parodical “billionaires for bailouts.” Dressed in gaudy, stereotypically rich attire, they were a representation of the excesses of wealth, and the villains of this particular event. “Just give us the money,” read the signs of the billionaires, while the protesters donned their “socialism saves capitalism” signs. The energy in the air was palpable as the first speaker took the stage.

The Rev. Billy played MC to the rally, introducing each of the speakers. Before Nader and his running mate, Matt Gonzales, came on, there were a couple speakers to pump up the crowd. The first was Carl Mayer, author of the book *Shakedown: The Fleecing of the Garden State*. The first independent elected in Princeton, Mayer was once called a “populist crusader and maverick lawyer” by *The New York Times*. Mayer started by pointing out the inherent hypocrisy happening right now with the financial crisis. He used New York’s multiple stadium plans as a prime example. “Whenever billionaires want a stadium built,” exclaimed Mayer, “they get it—with our tax dollars.” The bailout plan is opposed by the Bush administration’s head of the Federal Deposit In-



Reverend Billy or Kurt Russell? Either way, he’s a total badass.

Najib Amiry

urance Corporation. It’s never a good sign when the financial heads of the current administration oppose the plan.

“[Recently] top leaders of banks all met to discuss causes of the financial crisis...none would accept blame,” declared Mayer. The major banks refuse to acknowledge the fact that the reason for this debacle lies with the speculative actions of the corporations and traders.

Treasury Secretary Paulson didn’t escape Mayer’s harsh criticism either. At the end of his speech, Mayer incited the crowd to chant, “Jail time yes, bail time no. Henry Paulson’s got to go!”

After a continued chant by Reverend Billy, the Reverend Jarrett Maupin, protege of Al Sharpton, hit the stage with his fiery rhetoric. Maupin in almost every way resembles Al Sharp-

SBU Rocks Computer Science Competition

By Alex Nagler

Coding isn’t normally the most interesting thing in the world, but when it’s combined with a healthy dose of competition, it goes from slightly boring to awesome. Thanks to a generous grant from Citigroup, the Stony Brook University Seacubs placed first in the Greater New York 2008 Association of Computing Machinery: International Collegiate Programming Contest. Due to their victory, the Seacubs will be going to Sweden in April of 2009 to take on the rest of the country and the world to bring home the gold, or at least have an awesome time in the process.

The Seawolves are made up of John Rizzo, Aravind Akella, and Jason Wu, all grad students. The C-Students are Russel Kraner, Arjun Menon, and Hrushikesh Bhatt. The Seacubs are Leif Walsh, Tynan Fitzpatrick, and Roman Kogan. Tynan is a computer science major and a junior, Roman is a senior

in the math department. Leif is a junior and majors in both. Walsh and Fitzpatrick competed for the third time, Kogan the second. Their rise has been nothing short of meteoric, with Walsh and Fitzpatrick placing third amongst freshmen-sophomore teams in their first year at Stony Brook in 2006 and ninth overall for all teams in 2007. As it did then, Citigroup sponsored the team.

Stony Brook fielded three separate

teams for the 2008 competition: the C-Students, a squad of freshmen-sophomores, the Seacubs, the victorious junior-senior team, and the Seawolves, the graduate students, proving that even computer science isn’t immune from the naming frenzy. The competition gave competitors five hours to complete nine difficult problems through whatever means possible. The Seacubs completed the first six problems in a mere

103 minutes. The seventh took another fifty-eight minutes to complete. After these seven had been solved, the standings left only Cornell 1, the Seawolves, Columbia 1, and the Seacubs standing. With only twelve minutes to spare, the Seacubs solved the eighth problem, pulling them ahead of Cornell and winning the contest. For laughs, the Seacubs submitted a joke solution to the ninth problem. Through victory, Stony Brook defeated their rivals at Cornell, as well as Columbia, NYU, Yale, and most importantly, those debate-sponsoring bastards at Hofstra.

With their win, the Seacubs get to go to Stockholm in 2009. While this is a great win for Stony Brook, it is an even bigger victory for Citigroup. Soon, its trademark umbrella will be seen walking through the streets of Stockholm, reminding all that see it of their low rates, insurance policies, and the fact that they’re still alive. Whether or not the team gets free tickets at the newest Citigroup property, Citi Field, remains to be seen.



ton, and his speech was inspired. "These two nominees [McCain and Obama] have put their full faith in the advisors of Bush," he exclaimed. The bailout plan, proposed by the Bush administration, has run nearly unopposed by the two major parties. Maupin, as a liberal

African American, is making a statement by not supporting Obama. He went on to reiterate that the bailout plan cannot save Americans. Americans should not have faith in the current system. "How can someone with a knife in your back save you?"

Maupin emphasized the need to prosecute the crime being committed on Wall Street. Underneath the statue of Washington, Maupin informed the audience that, in the time of George Washington, these corporate crooks would be tarred and feathered and pa-

raded around the city. Maupin ended his speech, asserting that this wasn't a radical liberal movement. It affects all Americans. "We know what's best for Americans because *we're* the Americans."



Matt Gonzales Does Not Fuck Around

Reverend Billy excitedly announced the arrival of the great Matt Gonzales, Vice Presidential running mate of Ralph Nader. The 43-year-old Texas native has been actively involved in politics in the San Francisco area since 2000. Originally a Democrat, he switched to the Green Party in 2000 in what he described as a "political or moral epiphany." Gonzales walked up to the stage with one purpose in mind; to get his point across. He was succinct and exact, and did not pull any punches. "There is a narrative about these candidates, by the candidates themselves as well as journalists, that one party is for deregulation and one is against it. This is simply not true." He unrelentingly went on to describe what got America into this mess.

In 1999 and 2000, Bill Clinton—a Democrat, gasp!—signed into law two bills: the Commodity Futures Modernization Act and the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act. These were the two laws that enabled the current crisis. The GLBA allowed for the consolidation of commercial and investment banks. Undoing the Glass-Steagall Act of 1933, the law was responsible for the large scale mergings of many major banks and investment firms, into what is now called financial services. Combined with the CFMA, a law that essentially deregulated derivatives and credit default swaps in the financial industry. The new acts came at the height of "Wall Street and Washington's love affair with deregulation, an infatuation that was endorsed by President Clinton at the White House and encouraged by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan," reported *60 Minutes*. The legislature reversed decades of law, described Gonzales. This deregulation allowed for a "sustained orgy of excess and reckless behavior" as Richard Fischer, Dallas Federal Reserve chief, put it. Making money out of money, this is the primary cause of the Wall Street recession.

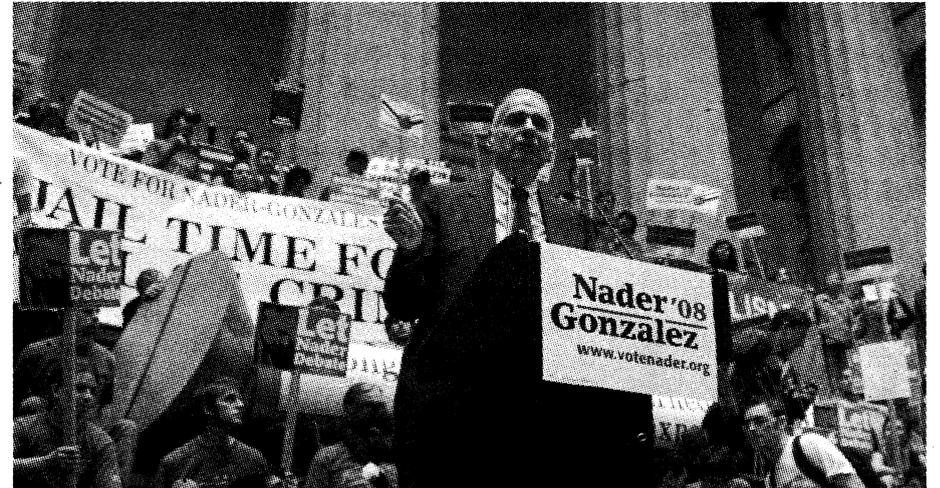
"This notion that Democrats are fighting against it is rubbish," declared Gonzales. The bailout, as Gonzales described, is just a bailout of the two party system. Gonzales continued to chastise journalists for their perpetuation of the current system, and their refusal to cover independent and third party candidates. "Both candidates want to increase the military budget," emphasized Gonzales. The Nader/Gonzales ticket would cut the bloated, wasteful military budget.

"You don't fix it [the economic crisis] by buying bad credit." To the scoffs and jeers of the billionaires for bailouts, Matt Gonzales did not stutter or mince words. Short and sweet.



Billionaires for Bailouts, Booooo!

Najib Aminy



Ralph Nader Fires Up NYC

In front of a giant poster reading, "Jail time for Wall Street crime," and a giant screw whose sign read "Congress and Wall St. turned the screws on Main St. Taxpayers," the Reverend Billy asked the crowd to give him a "Ralphelluia." The crowd excitedly obliged, and the 74-year-old consumer advocate, humanitarian, environmentalist and what many consider the last hope for democracy took the stage that Thursday at the foot of Federal Hall.

"What we've seen is the collapse of corporate capitalism on the backs of taxpayers," exclaimed Nader. These are bailouts for speculating corporations, and not a rescue of the American financial system, according to Nader. The corporations are being allowed to cut workers benefits, pensions and wages to support their continued excesses. He pointed out that, if adjusted for inflation, the minimum wage from 1968 would be over \$10.

There are three principles of capitalism that are being destroyed by corporate capitalism, said Nader. The first is control for owners. The corporations are property of the shareholders, and the current situation is the exact opposite. CEOs are egregiously mismanaging their companies, inciting shareholders to jump ship and sell their stock. The second principle is the potential to fail, which means no bailouts for the companies that cannot sustain themselves. The third is no governmental manipulation or intervention; free market fails when government intervenes. These principles are all being ruined by the bailout plan, and both major parties are allowing it to happen.

"Senator McCain and Senator Obama are corporate puppets," stated Nader, about his opponents. Concerning the debates, he had a few choice words as well. Calling it petty pandering to the public, the consumer advocate described the debates as a "bipartisan avoidance of addressing concentrated corporate power." Without acknowledging that problem, it is impossible to effectively deal with a living wage, universal health insurance, pollution or the massive deficit and how to deal with it. "[The debates are] a charade...a disgrace to the intelligence of the voter."

Apparently, Nader is not alone in this, either. "Nine out of ten Americans think America is in decline; three out of four think there is too much corporate control; six out of ten think the two party system is failing," said Nader, in defense of accusations of radical liberalism. By these figures, in fact, he is actually more of a centrist. The reason for this is due largely to the coverage (or lack thereof) provided by journalists, who didn't escape Nader's criticism either. "Why do you expose all these corporate crimes and then shut up the American people and their representatives who are doing something about it," asked Nader. That is, incidentally, one of the policy changes the Nader/Gonzales ticket plans to implement if elected.

By 1735, America had thirteen colonies under King George III. "Today, we have fifty colonies under King George IV," shouted Nader, to the uproar of the crowd. "Today, same as 1735, it is taxation without representation." Wall Street has positioned itself against the American people, and Nader stands at the vanguard against them. As he looked directly at the NYSE, Nader closed his speech with an emphatic, "Mr. Niederauer [CEO of the NYSE], tear down this wall, before the American people do it for you!"

Jump Around! (Jump up, jump up and get down!)

By Liz Kaufman

At first, the metallic “clang” against the ground, combined with blurry human figures running 25MPH through a busy New York City street caught me off guard. Adults screamed and laughed in surprise. Children got excited, begging to see acrobatics and pointing. Taxis stopped short upon seeing these semi-kangaroo humans hurdling at them, even outracing them along the streets. Tourists came to an immediate halt to crowd and take pictures. A year later, it all just seems like background noise that’s easily tuned out.

To the surprise of many, I’m referring to a normal day in my life, not a movie like *Predator*. Humans really can run and jump that fast and high, ignoring gravity. In 2004, Alexander Bock, of Germany, patented his invention, “Powersteps.” The term “Power Bocking” or “Powerising” refers to the actual usage of these stilts, which involves jumping

and running, much like le parkour, with elastic-like, spring-loaded stilts. It combines intense acrobatics with a science fiction type look. This gives the average person 12 feet of jumping height and the ability to run up to about 25 MPH.

Bockers have been seen on the MTV 2 Music Awards (2002), The Late Show with David Letterman, and even the 2005 opening ceremony of the Winter Olympics in Italy. It caused the popularity of this sport to grow drastically. Surprisingly, even though these extreme stilts have been on such popular televised events and have gained exposure, crowds of New Yorkers often oogle and point, having never seen a person use them...let alone a group of 20 or so jumping about NYC, making the entire Ellis Island ferry go ballistic and wave.

October 18, 2008 marked my second year photographing the event and my first year as a user of these kangaroo boots. Bock NYC is a yearly event for Bocking enthusiasts who meet up in



the Big Apple to do what they love to do. Usually, it begins by the docks at Washington Square and progresses toward Times Square, and people gasp every bounce of the way.

Last year, Henry Holloway, an aspiring stuntman featured on The Late show with David Letterman, joined us for Bock 2007. Holloway was the best example of what the stilts are capable of doing. He jumped higher than anyone previously recorded, before nailing six back flips in a row. Until then, it was thought that only three to four flips and a height of no more than ten feet were the limits.

This year went even better than last year’s, with Bockers coming in from Wales, Britain, other parts of the U.S., and more locally. About 20 people or so showed up (not including fans and those in charge of cameras), which was an increase from last year. The increase in New York’s event might have something to do with the event called “Capital Bocking,” a yearly event that took place earlier this fall. At this event, a few hundred bockers met up, hopped, jumped, and ran all over London at once.

As far as the technical aspects are concerned, the stilts are curved, with a metallic arm. It’s the same concept of the newer prosthetic limbs by athletes. The springs and leverage mechanism ease back tension, allowing the body to jump without having a spinal impact. This allows for no back discomfort or pain and for older people to have an equal chance to enjoy them and get a great workout.

Jumping Stilts are now being caught up in the “Go Green” craze. While it is true that they can give a person the ability to keep up with traffic and not produce a carbon footprint, many are skeptical about their usefulness and

ease of use. Yes, you have to strap them on and possibly some safety gear, but many bockers can do this in approximately two minutes, after familiar enough with equipment. I actually have spoken with people who do use these to get back and forth from jobs and college.

Regardless of how skilled you may be, watching people jump over your head is still enjoyable enough. No matter how many times I’ve seen it, watching one of the guys walk into a Starbucks wearing the stilts to order a drink is still hilarious after two years. From first hand experience, I can tell you that it isn’t that difficult to learn, even if you have poor balance or are afraid of heights, like I am. Children through older adults can use these and learn the same way one learns to ride a bicycle. After five hours, I was walking at a slightly fast pace around the campus, and another time I was walking in the middle of Manhattan.

If *SB Press* readers would like more information from a good, reputable source that sells quality merchandise, I recommend www.xphub.com. It’s important to be wary of companies selling cheaper models because, unlike your prescriptions, generic are not the same and will generally break down from poor quality parts.

For *SB Press* Readers who are interested in learning and enjoying the sport, email mattsdominion@aol.com for an *SB Press* Discount off equipment! The rep, Matt J, will give more information and references, answer all of your questions and give you a pretty decent discount that we cannot disclose in the paper. Simply fill the subject with “Jump Around,” so they know it’s a *Press* reader.





ASIAN AMERICAN E-ZINE

OP ED: Asian Americans for Barack Obama or John McCain?

by MinPing Mei

Illinois Senator Barack Obama was born on August 4, 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii. Being born and educated in Hawaii, a state with a very large Asian American population, allowed Obama to be exposed to Asian Americans very early on. Obama is a graduate of Columbia University and Harvard Law School. He also spent part of his childhood in Indonesia when Ann Dunham, his mother, married Lolo Soetoro, his step-father. Obama's Asian American step-sister, Maya Soetoro Ng, her husband Konrad Ng, and their daughter Suhaila, also contribute greatly to his overall identity. If Obama becomes President of the United States this will be the first time the first family will consist of Asian Americans.

Arizona Senator John McCain was born on August 29, 1936 in Coco Solo Naval Air Station in the Panama Canal Zone. Being born in the Panama Canal Zone has prompted questions as to whether or not John McCain should be allowed to hold an office our founders reserved for natural-born citizens. John McCain was educated at the US Naval Academy and National War College. Unlike Barack Obama, John McCain has not had much experience with Asian Americans, but rather Asians. When he graduated from the US Naval Academy he flew ground attack aircraft on bombing missions over North Vietnam. He was later shot down and was taken as a prisoner of war.

Many Asian Americans have rallied behind Democratic candidate Barack Obama including many Asian American celebrities like Yul Kwon, a lawyer, advocate of Asian American issues and winner of Survivor: Cook Islands. When a strong advocate of Asian American issues adamantly throws his support towards an individual other Asian Americans should take notice. Other notable Asian American supporters of Barack Obama include rap sensation Jin, actor Daniel Dae Kim who plays Jin on Lost, actor Ken Leung, and actress Kelly Hu. One easily recognizable Asian American Congressman is Mike Honda of California who was seen supporting Obama at the Democratic National Convention. John McCain, however, has not received as much support from Asian Americans due to a racially insensitive comment he made. On his campaign bus John McCain told reporters "I hated the gooks. I will hate them as long as I live".

Asian Americans must choose carefully when they vote and decide if they want a candidate who clearly has loving Asian Americans as part of his family or a candidate who blatantly uses a racial epithet that not only demeans Asians, but supports a brand of racism prevalent during his generation.

First and foremost Asian Americans not registered to vote should do so quickly. It is a quick and simple process. It is time to be heard. It doesn't matter if you decide to vote for Barack Obama or John McCain or even another candidate. The most important thing is simply to get out and vote and let America know Asian Americans are out there, standing by America and participating in its democratic institutions.

Asian American voters are growing in importance. Quite simply your vote matters. "The Asian-American population grew 3 percent between 2004 and 2005 — more than another other group. And the Census projects the population will grow 213 percent by 2050, to 33.4 million."

"In some key states, their weight is already considerable. Besides Hawaii, where Asian Americans are 57.5 percent of the population, and California, where they're 13.5 percent, Asians are 7.7 percent of New Jersey and Washington, and 7.2 percent of New York."

"In some races, even a comparatively small group can cast the key votes. In Virginia's 2006 Senate contest, Republican George Allen referred to an Indian-American as a "macaca" and the resulting outrage among Asians helped propel Democrat Jim Webb's come-from-behind victory. Webb won by 7,231 votes." (<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25472104/>)



Diwali at the Wang Center Gallery Special

photos by Hao Li



Visit our photo gallery for more photos of asian and asian american events all over campus.
www.aa2sbu.org/g/aaezine/
and click on photos



An SBU Guide to Working Smarter, Not Harder

By SBU Ninja

Welcome to the middle of 2008's fall semester, kids! By now you've realized how ridiculously expensive it is on the Stony Brook campus!

Whether it's standing on the Disney Land line simulation at the SAC or trying to park in every full parking lot, there is a plethora of aggravations on this campus. Finding reasonably priced food and necessities after spending 40 minutes trying to find a parking spot shouldn't be one of them.

So, as the title suggests, here are some tips and tricks to saving money in Sea-wolf Country.

Food:

Jasmine

Buy from the value menu. Now, many items are \$2.00. But why spend \$2.00 on just a piece of naan bread when \$2 can go further? The vegetarian combo at Jasmine is about \$7.50 cash. The trick is to go to the Chinese food place in the Union. Here, they usually have the same kind of Vegetable of the Day, rice and lo mein. Just order a side of rice and a side of the Vegetable of the Day for a total of \$2.20. Identical Vegetable Combo, though the Vegetable of the day may differ daily. As an added treat, the fortune cookies are free.

The sushi at Jasmynes is higher quality and, though a dollar or two more, you get double the sushi pieces with some items.

SAC

There is no strategy to save money at the SAC, except not to eat there. Sorry kids. I'm out of ideas there. Anywhere is cheaper and less aggravating (and has fewer Pizza Gunmen).

Wolfies

I'm sorry to say that I'm not a fan of Wolfie's. Now, to be fair, I haven't gone this semester. This is because last semester was terrible. A 30 minute wait to get water, Emo music blasting, and spaghetti that was cold with a pretty atrocious excuse for a sauce (not to mention how you are expected to tip), was not my example of a good time.

I'd rather get some quick pasta at Kelly (that's good only half the time) than go there.

Overall Solution

Eat at the Hospital if you can handle the hike that way. Their vending machines have 2 rib sandwiches (pretty tasty) for \$2.00. Their cafeteria (5th floor tower B) has food that's much tastier and cheaper, as well. The cafeteria accepts meal plans.

You can also walk over to 7/11. The food there is reasonably priced. But if you're really in a tight spot, the free chilli and cheese in a cup or bowl isn't a bad meal.

Other tips:

(Warning: *The Press* does not condone the following, nor do we do these things. These are just things we have heard about from various students. We are not telling you to do this. Ever.)

So you're cold. You forgot your jacket and you're a commuter. From what we're told, going into the bookstore, buying a jacket and keeping the tags on will keep you warm for the day- for free! Simply return the jacket at the end and make sure it's in pristine condition with the tags on it.

Coffee:

Some students report that pouring coffee into soda cups at the SAC will save at least a dollar every cup.

Also- forget Starbucks! We're told that by mixing 1/2 a cup of hot cocoa and 1/2 cup of Coffee isn't a bad mocha. Add some Splenda (best result) and half and half for a creamier blend!

Books:

Bookstore wanted \$762 for my books this semester, while half.com sold me all of them for \$103. Nothing more needs to be said.

Computer stuff:

On average, the Marketplace sells computers and accessories for 30% more than other stores. Just like the food, they have a captive audience. Go to newegg.com to save mucho money off everything.

Keep looking for ways to save cash, kids. Outside the box keeps money in the wallet.



The Tao of John Bul Dau

By Najib Aminy

Fleeing from war, wild animals and the memories of his childhood, John Bul Dau visited Stony Brook to share his experience with students. Dau is one of several thousand Sudanese refugees who, thanks to humanitarian efforts, now lives in the U.S. As part of the University's introductory freshman classes, incoming students were required to read Dau's memoir, *God Grew Tired of Us*, and share their creative expression projects based on the memoir.

Students packed into the SAC auditorium to listen to Dau answer ques-

tions from Howard Schneider, Dean of the Journalism School at Stony Brook, and reflect on his journey through a war-ravaged nation to his pursuit of the American dream.

Dau fled Sudan during the 1987 civil war, and trekked for three-months to neighboring Ethiopia, where he stayed for four years. When civil war erupted in Ethiopia, Dau fled again, this time leading thousands of kids through a 1000-mile journey amidst hunger, violence and death.

"I have crossed a crocodile-infested river while being shelled and shot at. I have walked until I thought I could walk no more," Dau said. Through these trying times, Dau often wondered if he

would live to see a new day. Those were the times Dau said he thought "God had grown tired of us."

Reaching asylum in Kenya, Dau went to school for the very first time in his life. Learning to read and write, Dau was soon one of 3,800 Sudanese Lost Boys who resettled in the United States. Arriving in Syracuse, NY, Dau experienced a culture shock, from the vast surplus of food to the choices one has when asked what one would like to drink. Adapting to this new lifestyle, Dau said, "When I came here, take my word, I never knew how to turn on and off the light, the hot and cold water in bathroom. It was very difficult."

Before coming here, Dau said he

imagined America with the wrong perception of what he views it as today. "People told me American girls were very crazy, that they have small bags with guns and that they will kill you," said Dau, but he learned this was not the case. Dau shared instances when he disapproved of American culture, such as the wearing of jeans below one's waistline. "If you want to be naked, be naked, either put on or take off the jeans," said Dau. Touching on nursing homes, Dau said he felt this was incompatible with the tradition of sharing the important bond between any parent and child that he grew up with.

Currently, Dau is working toward a degree in policy studies at Syracuse

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

University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and serves as the President of the John Bul Dau Foundation, in addition to working with other humanitarian agencies. Dau contributed \$400,000 worth of donations to help build and support a clinic in Southern Sudan.

Since the 1980's, violence has made its presence known in the oil-enriched country of Sudan. In the early eighties, clashes between the Islamic north and the Christian south, tore the nation apart. More recently, the violence occurring in Darfur is ethnically related. The Sudanese-Arabs of the north have launched attacks, using government resources, under President Omar al-Bashir and the state-sponsored militia, the Janjaweed, against the non-Arab south. Since 2003, villages have been burnt, women have been raped, and hundreds of thousands have died. According to UN, roughly 400,000 people have died and 2.5 million have been displaced since clashes began in 2003.

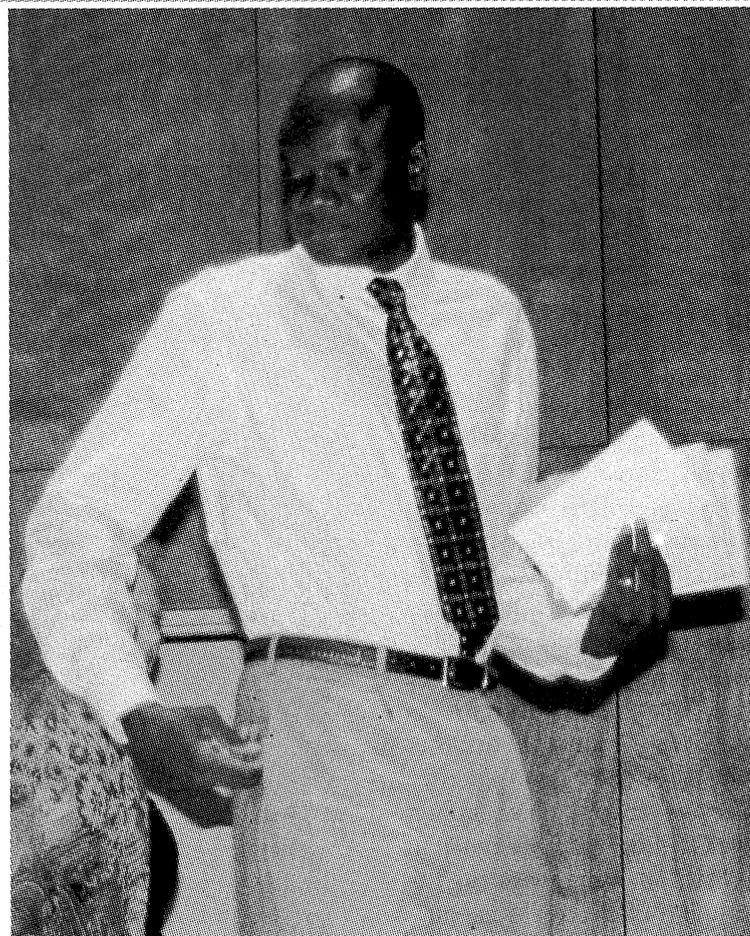
Dau's said he feels that fighting in Darfur may be stopped if certain ac-

tions were done. Dau feels that if the government of Sudan builds hospitals, schools and roads; improves infrastructure; provides clean water and compensates Sudanese and Darfurians for what they have lost, then violence would cease.

Dau, who travels the nation visiting college after college to convey his message, questioned the media's failure to portray what is going on in Darfur. "I don't understand why they [the media] kept quiet and why they continue to do so," said Dau.

Now married with two children and living what he said to be the "American dream," Dau never forgets the trials and tribulations he went through to get to where he is today. Referring to himself as "a born again Christian," Dau still finds it hard to watch the documentary that followed his journey from Sudan to America.

Looking at the pictures of the kids starving, Dau said, "It is still hard to watch. I was one of them."



America Recycles and It All Comes Back To You!

By Jessica Rybak

America has a cluttered calendar. Between anniversaries, holidays and current events, it's become somewhat of a hassle for the average American, with his or her own hectic schedule, to keep up. There is one event, however, that deserves to be prioritized and praised for its significance to the country's welfare in the modern age. For 10 years, November 15 has meant one thing for environmental enthusiasts and vigilant Americans alike: America Recycles Day.

The National Recycling Coalition, the mastermind responsible for America Recycles Day, says that "The purpose of America Recycles Day is to continue to promote the social, environmental and economic benefits of recycling and encourage more people to join the movement toward creating a better natural environment." They've supplied the public with facts that, if considered seriously, are pretty motivational. For example, the average American discards about 4.6 pounds of garbage per day, and most of it is sent straight to landfills. Based upon the currently negative disposition of the environment, it can be bluntly said that landfills are the enemy. Recycling is the only combatant force that allows the public to improve the circumstance against the many threats that landfills pose. According to recent facts, America has apparently begun to acknowl-

edge this notion through the increase of the message of recycling and sustainability, but the gravity and necessity of the situation still remains.

Stony Brook University has found its own unique way to participate by giving students, faculty and staff the opportunity to become more knowledgeable about and participate in a recycling movement both on and off campus. The Department of Recycling and Re-

cycles Day.

"America Recycles Day is really important because it raises awareness amongst not only students, but all people in America," says Department of Recycling and Resource Management Outreach Coordinator Francesca Calarco. "It teaches about how they can each individually make a difference in sustainability through recycling."

Incentive for filling out the pledge



source Management will be educating passersby at both the Student Activities Center and the Stony Brook Union for about a month until November 15. At these locations, those who are interested are encouraged to fill out a pledge card describing their recycling resolutions that they intend to develop in retrospect of the information they learned during the promotion of America Re-

cycles Day. The information that's required of participants to provide on the pledge card will only be used to contact winners on December 15. This year's prizes include a trip to Orlando, Florida that was donated by the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries Empire Chapter, as well as a \$500 Certificate for Recycled Content Lawn Furniture that was donated by the

NYS Association for Reduction, Reuse and Recycling. The National Recycling Association really took their slogan, "It All Comes Back to You," literally when planning the prizes for participation in America Recycles Day.

According to the National Recycling Coalition, "Even a small shift in your attitudes and actions, multiplied many times over by others accepting this challenge, can change the world." Further proof of this opinion lies in the facts: According to Weyerhaeuser Company, a major pulp and paper company, by recycling 1 ton of paper, a person is able to save 17 trees, 6,953 gallons of water, 463 gallons of oil, 587 pounds of air pollution, 3.06 cubic yards of landfill space and 4,077 kilowatt hours of energy. In order to put these numbers into perspective, imagine how much more of the aforementioned values the entire Stony Brook campus would be able to sustain if these numbers were multiplied by every one of the approximately 40,000 people who are on campus recycled paper everyday? This represents an important message that's promoted on America Recycles Day. Although it seems as though recycling individually won't make a difference, with everyone's efforts combined, as well as each individual's accumulated participation, it will make a great difference. If you take away nothing else, take away the message of America Recycles Day: "It all comes back to you."

Has Raunchy Comedy Been Left on Someone Else's Doorstep?

By Nick Statt

Everyone can recall the first time they witnessed a good old cult classic in the raunch genre. It's hard to recreate the kind of laughs experienced from that scene in *Euro Trip* where the brother and sister, influenced by absinthe, vigorously make out, or that overly drawn out section of *Not Another Teen Movie* where the lead's sister teaches an elderly woman how to French kiss. It's the kind of stuff that teens used to laugh at and quote for hours. They wished they had enough Tucker Max in them to treat women in the same fashion, along with the ecstatic attitudes of their freaky ass girlfriends upon discovering they weren't the only ones who did "that" at band camp.

Unfortunately, the raunchy comedy has been waning over the past couple years as generations of teens find themselves looking for deeper comedy. While the *American Pie* series has been releasing its fifth or sixth straight to DVD disaster, a foray of copycat mock films like *Date Movie* and *Superhero Movie* have successfully run the genre, and its lead star's careers, into the ground. We now see our favorite quirky idols like Jason Biggs rocking good ole' 18% ratings on Rotten Tomatoes with *My Best Friend's Girl*. Who can forget that lovable asshole Stifler, who I'm pretty sure legally changed his name? Well, sad to know he's actually run off to completely new genres (futuristic dystopian film *The Southland Tales*?!). It all revolves around the fact that in this day and age, a sixteen-year-old guy or girl would rather watch *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist* than the newest hope to raunch revival *Sex Drive*.

Comedy, as many critics have pointed out, has been heading in a new direction, completely dropping the sex heavy vulgarity that defined teen films



Illustration by Frank Miles

in the late 90s. What viewers now look for in their new film's core elements are hints of awkward, ridiculous and nonsensical comedic flavors. Nobody can deny this new taste when looking at the charts of *Napoleon Dynamite's* DVD and ticket sales or the recent astronomical ratings increase in *The Office* TV series. American teens have moved on from viewing sex as some taboo comedic wonder. It's now less about how many pairs of boobs you can spot in the film's entirety and more of the off-screen references that make a viewer really think to recall, or give up and pretend to know, what is actually being joked about.

While many skeptics could argue against this logic and say that films like *Wedding Crashers* and *Knocked Up* have

exhibited thoroughly raunchy scenes, there is a slight difference to be noted. Yes, both films did contain some pretty in your face nudity, ridiculous innuendos, and hilariously demeaning quotable phrases like "stage five clinger," they all boiled down to be romantic comedies in the end. Vince Vaughn and Owen Wilson's characters find true love, while Seth Rogan and his accidental baby momma, Katherine Heigl, settle down to happiness. Even *Superbad*, with its menstrual blood scene that literally made your theatre nachos crawl a bit further up your throat, ended up revolving around a fat kid's drifting friendship with a nerd who is unwilling to move on. As for the writing of the *American Pie* franchise or *Euro Trip*, the still had their happy endings. The big

difference was the fact that the writers noticeably didn't give a rat's ass about it. They aimed for semi-full circle endings that still had their gross factor. Nowadays, it's easy to see that comedy comes down to being either completely new age driven or a romantic comedy that throws you for an old school raunchy loop every now and again.

It's difficult to decide whether the death of our turn-of-the-millennia comedy should be an appreciated change or one that's sadly missed and worthlessly petitioned against on the Internet. Teenagers always have a way to cling onto something "cool" and "new" and jump off a cliff with it. There are those girls who, upon seeing Ellen Page's character in *Juno*, thought they identified with her because they weren't all that pretty either, thought they loved *Sunny Delight*, and ranted incessantly about nothing. And everyone's walked behind a pack of bros at the mall that quoted a once hilarious line so obnoxiously and incorrectly that it crawled into a cave and rightfully ended its own life.

Comedy is a difficult matter these days and is getting touchier with each new push of the envelope or attempt at something different. A strictly raunchy film is indefinitely going to bomb at the box office, while a hip indie love story that uses awkward to the max with soar. Seth Rogan, the king of new age writing, is undeniably an extremely funny thinker, and it's promising to see even the title of his next film on the horizon – *Zack and Miri Make a Porno*. With Kevin Smith, a 90's veteran in twisted comedy, behind the wheel, and a battle to push it from a NC-17 rating down to R already under its belt, the film looks like the perfect mix of raunchy comedy and new age writing. So for fans of the raunchy genre who are now sitting in a dumpster or some forgotten land of comedy, cross your fingers.

"I fucking haxOred your mom's ASS last night."

-Shirley Strum Kenny, on her impressions of the Press' new website

TheStonyBrookPress.com



Up In Smoke With A Vengeance

By Anthony Mumsco

As one can see from *Reefer Madness*, the propaganda movie from the 1930's, to *Weeds*, the television show about a pot selling suburban mom today, the subject of marijuana in media has been around almost since the birth of the medium. Although it was once something as easy to procure in the markets as produce, the racist outlawing of weed during Prohibition caused the more conservative era to associate its use with criminals. As the people felt the government was doing more wrong than right, people began resist in a form of protest. Not all taboo was fair game. Murder was still off limits, however the more peaceful things flourished. The flower power movement of the 60's and hippies are the images people usually think of when they think of smoking pot.

In the 70's, two men came along, Cheech Marin and Tommy Chong, two "funny," "free loving" guys who also liked to smoke pot. Their sense of humor based on pot and the hippie movement found audiences in different groups of fans. They are the pioneers of the "stoner humor" we see today in films such as *Pineapple Express* and *Half-Baked*. Throughout the 70's and 80's, they made a string of comedy albums and low-budget movies, which escalated their fame and wealth. After a

feud in the late 80's, they disbanded and went their separate ways. Cheech began appearing in more movies, sans the stoner persona, while Chong kept it and went on to such endeavors as a stint as the resident pothead Leo on "That 70's

She started the night off simply with two words, "Fuck Bush," before making way into stories about the imprisonment of her husband. Little anecdotes were thrown around, and the audience found out why exactly the two had been



Show". In 2003, Chong was arrested for selling a bong that was found to be not used just for tobacco consumption. More than ten years after they split in June of 2008, Tommy Chong announced he would be reuniting with his old partner for a comedy tour.

Before Cheech and Chong started, we were treated to the comedy styling of Chong's wife of 25 years, Shelby Chong.

married for so many years. Not only did they share a love of pot, but they also shared a similar vocabulary. After her set she introduced the reason why we were all there tonight, throwing out some nicknames like "the Popes of Dope".

Cheech took the stage first and Tommy came out soon after, clad in a button up shirt sporting the marijuana

leaf as the repeated design. The show went on for a little over an hour, in which they performed jokes, songs and old-school Abbott and Costello-esque routines, including a man hitching a ride by dressing as a woman. Although, I don't think Abbott and Costello would have joked about smoking a blunt that tasted like Preparation H and KY Jelly. They also lightly touched on politics. While they aren't known for their political stances, the upcoming presidential race was not a topic, however, marijuana legalization was mentioned, a subject very near to their hearts. The sting of Chong's nine months in prison for selling bongs (which is not illegal when used for tobacco consumption) was obviously the fodder for that. Applause was given to his idea for fixing the economy, the legalization of marijuana.

While the scenes changed, Tommy explained to the audience what has been going on since the split. In particular, while talking about getting back with his comedy partner, he said, "I'm just happy to have my Mexican back." And by the response of the audience at Westbury Music Fair, an eclectic group of people ranging from a high school kid with his grandma to the man wearing a shirt with a light-up marijuana leaf, they were too. Or maybe it was just that they were a combination of drunk and stoned and needed to be loud.

Spoken Word... A Poet's Haven

By Madelyn A. Ruiz

Candles lined the pathway for artists and supporters from the front entrance to a hall set up for a night full of poetry. Dim lights also helped set the scene of a poets haven with centerpieces and tablemats accompanied by pencils and markers, which were put out for the audience's convenience to jot down their thoughts and insights on the night. Its witty host, Onipa Abusia, a non-profit cultural organization located in Jamaica Queens, NY, housed one of three spoken word events called "Vernacular 3," On February 23, 2007.

The event began with well-known poet "Kaskade" who began her performance with a poem called "Lies." Kaskade is a poet and actress originally from New Jersey. The extraordinary poet is also the published author of *Ten Ways to Think One Thought*. Among

the many literary services Kaskade provides, she also writes biographies and wedding vows.

The second featured poet of the night was Rasheda, known as "SHE." SHE graced the stage with her powerful slams that ranged from black power to angry love. Powerful words that raised awareness on aspects of African American month that are overlooked belated across the room and into the audience. Her words raised not only the awareness she sought, but energy as well.

Amoa Opare hosted the night's events and introduced the featured poets Kaskade and SHE. Using his well known wit to help set a comfortable "hanging out in the living room" kind of mood, he made the mic available for those poets who wished to grace the stage with their scriptures.

A compilation of songs sold for \$7.00 at the door. The music featured on

the record played throughout the night as poets stepped on the stage and verbally graced the audience with their scriptures. Vending spaces were available, which filled the room with scents of aroma oils as well as jewelry, books, DVDs and food, all of which complimented the night's atmosphere.

The spoken word events are organized and hosted by Opare, who produces them about every three months. The event offers both aspiring poets and featured artists the open mic.

On October 16, 2008, I was able to briefly catch up with Mr. Opare. I asked him what his plans are for Vernacular this year, but was disappointed to hear that as of right now, there is no spoken word event planned because he and Abusia are focused on something else. I was pleased to hear that they have applied for state funding and are waiting to hear about whether they will be granted this funding. Let us keep our

fingers crossed for Onipa Abusia!

"We offer classes in dance and music derived from the African Diaspora, as well as cultural and language classes." Abusia also offers after school tutorials, which are in session from September to June on Monday through Friday. For more information on Onipa Abusia, the programs and/or School, please contact them by phone at 718-658-2600 by fax at 718-658-3800, or email them at: onipaabusia@hotmail.com. Information is also available at <http://onipaabusia.org/>.

To find out more information on her services please contact passionpoet@yahoo.com. SHE can be reached at: <http://www.myspace.com/poetrybyshe>. To find out about the next spoken word event hosted by Amoa please contact: a_opare@yahoo.com please also visit him at www.myspace.com/2nd_born.

What Should We Forget Or Remember?

By Yong Kim

In the world, there are two groups of people; one group wants to forget their past and history, and the other group does not. People cannot judge which group's approach is the better one. However, I am sure that either group that chooses "forgetting" or "remembering" will someday regret it and want to change what they had chosen. Memories are crucially essential for living humans. If they cannot remember their past, they are not able to move on. Ironically, sometimes, if people keep their memory until tomorrow, they cannot move on. That is the dilemma and task that God gave people to conquer. The play, *Eurydice* talked about those two groups and their choices. To forget or not, that is the problem.

Eurydice, who seemed like a childish girl who did not understand the world well, was complaining about her boyfriend, Orpheus, who seemed only to think about music. Despite this, they profess to love each other very much. They decide to marry, which began this tragedy. Eurydice's father, who was dead in the Underworld, was thinking of her and wrote a letter to Eurydice. However, an evil man who found the mail from Eurydice's father

lured Eurydice with the letter and led her to death.

Orpheus, who lost his wife, felt the saddest feeling that he had ever had. Orpheus called a telephone company and asked them to find her. He went to a rooftop and listened to the underground world. He composed the saddest song since the world had been created. He was madly in love with Eurydice, the girl who completed him. This is what happens when people fall



in love. The person who falls in love thinks he or she is not mad, however, others think he or she is crazy. Orpheus's ardent wish for Eurydice was so strong. I understand how strong love is. There are many ways of falling, such as falling hair, falling flower, and falling in

better. But the best kind of falling is falling in love.

Meanwhile, Eurydice went to the underworld and met her father. She had forgotten everything that she had when she was alive. She was not even able to recognize her father. Her father still loved her very much. He tried to tell her who and what she had been when she was in the living world. He gave her anything she wanted including a room. While he was making the room for her

handle his sadness. He was determined to forget everything. Eurydice saw her father who had lost all memory of her. She then left her body to the Oblivion River as her father had done.

Here is the dilemma that most people keep asking: People only can see one step father from where they stand, they do not think of the second step. Because of Orpheus' intense love for Eurydice, they were able to have a rare chance. However, because the woman was doubting, they lost the chance which they could never have again. At last, Eurydice's father and Eurydice decided to forget everything, because that was the only way that they could live peacefully. Becoming silent was the only way. But is it true?

From the play, I found that nobody, including Eurydice, knows the formula of life. People should not be bound by their past. As I mentioned earlier, we could not say which choice is the better one. However, now I can say only one thing. We need to forget some things, but have to remember other things, such as love. This play raises a question. How many people are bound to their past or present? Eurydice's and Orpheus's tragedy happened because Eurydice was bound to the past by her father's letter and time with him in the Underworld. However, she was tied to the living world also because Orpheus could not forget his love. Was silent to her father. Orpheus became mad. The Lord of the Underworld asked the couple to not lock their eyes on each other, but they forgot. They are both restricted by past and present. They should look to the bright future. Either groups "forgetting" and "memorizing" should know whatever they choose, they should not be restricted by their choice. Keep moving on is the best answer that I give you and make the dilemma make sense.

out of thread, I was so touched because it reminded me of how great a father's love can be. He did everything that he could do and spent his time with her. When Orpheus found her, he sent her to a place where he could no longer speak with her. He merely pledged that their next meeting would be after she died.

The Lord of the Underworld decided to send Eurydice back to the living world with Orpheus who played the saddest song. However, there was a warning: "Do not look back until you reached the end of the Underworld." However, Eurydice was unsure of her faith and missed her father, so she called out to Orpheus. Poor Orpheus who missed her so much, turned back and unconsciously saw her. Eurydice's father knew what had happened and could not



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Taming the Digital Chaos: Turning An iPod Touch Into An iPhone

By SBU Ninja

Until September 30, Apple offered a promotion for students: buy any Mac computer and get a nice HP photo printer and iPod Touch for free. Being the near-destitute commuter that I am, I could never buy the iPod because of its cost, regardless of the price recently dropping to \$229 from its original \$300. I got my new favorite toy by flashing my student ID when I helped a friend pick out a computer.

What makes this device most worthwhile is that you can upgrade it to the version 2.1 software the iPhone uses. For a mere \$10 downloadable upgrade via iTunes, you can get the apps, functionality, and productivity of the iPhone minus the phone and camera parts.

There are applications like Facebook, calculators, translators, GPS, where to find gas, YouTube, and virtually anything you'd want; many apps are for free. It's very useful for class now that most Blackboard classes and e-mail (i.e. Lotus and Sparky) have an iWeb client.

Oh! Here's something they don't tell you: if you wanted to use it as an iPhone, you *could* and without paying over \$100 more for the phone *plus* the additional \$60 a month to use AT&T service. This is why all you cool kids aren't as cool as you think you are and

why people *don't* spend the extra cash to get the phone.

By upgrading your iPod to Ver 2.1, you can add a Skype-like application to your device using Wi-Fi (i.e. Airnet at Stony Brook) to make free phone calls, even internationally.

How-To Turn your iPod into an iPhone*:

1. Get a Touchmod mic (\$50-\$60), since standard headphones and mics DO NOT work on this device. Google this brand to order and get instructions.

2. Get the freeware SIP-VOIP application. You could also use "Fring" which is more stable and offers more features.

How-To:

Use Airnet on campus *with* a client (i.e. being able to use apps, very few restrictions, full access):

Set up a VPN (fill in boxes as follows):
Main -> Settings -> General -> Network
-> New VPN Select PPTP -> Description-

Airnet; pptp.airnet.stonybrook.edu; Account: NetID; RSA OFF; Password- Ask Every Time (NetID); No Encryption; Send All Traffic. Look for a Wi-Fi point and select Airnet with VPN on. You can use airnet from now on like this.

Make iPod into iPhone:

1. Install "Fring." (Easier to use data cable with iPod) (Visit lifehacker.com and search for "iPod Touch into iPhone" for more pics)

2. Plug in ModMic and follow instructions *carefully*. See online tutorials.

3. After installing all components, run application from ANY internet source, including Airnet, to make free phone calls with iPhone features. Your iPod Touch is now an iPhone! Note: with Fring or other program, you also get a phone number. You can receive incoming calls.

Hint: For e-mail clients, remember to enable imap settings from the WEB client (where you log in online for gmail, etc.). Remember to turn on VPN and Airnet, together, to use the Airnet Client.

Cons: the battery life is limited and a stylus can't be used effectively. By using WiFi, you drain your battery badly. Make sure to turn off WiFi when not using it, because it will still run and take up your energy.

As a warning, leather cases sometimes lessen your WiFi signal but I have not had a single issue.

Remember to check out all the free apps online at the Apple Store!

*The Stony Brook Press does NOT, under any circumstance (or stretch of



the imagination) condone or encourage ANY 3rd party applications or using them to "hack." We are NOT in any way telling you to do this, we're *simply stating that it can be done*. Should you do this, you may be voiding your warranty with Apple, due to their clauses which are considered "silly" by some people. *The Press* and anyone associated with *The Press* are not responsible.

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Where Your Video Games Go to Run Away from Home

By Joe Donato

Alive In Deadspace: Crossmedia Storytelling

Have you ever read a *Star Wars* novel? Picked up a *Halo* comic? Watched a *LOST* mobisode? Played the *Riddick* game? If so, you've taken part in an ever-growing form of storytelling. Crossmedia (or transmedia) storytelling expands a fictional world beyond a single medium, crossing literature, film, comics and more. Now it's finding its way into more and more games, with *Dead Space* poised as the next big franchise to take the plunge. Crossmedia offers opportunities to expand and deepen the relationship between a fan and a universe, but like any single medium, it comes with its own limitations.

Dead Space is, first and foremost, a survival horror videogame from Electronic Arts. It tells the tale of a derelict space station and the horrors that have come to pass on board. It features a rich backstory and universe, one which the developers decided to expand through crossmedia. Thus, a prequel comic series and animated movie were born. Each medium is used to tell a piece of what is essentially a trilogy, with the game as the grand finale. With the comic series already out, and the movie and game coming within the month, this franchise has hit the ground running. As a new face in an experimental medium, will *Dead Space* fall prey to the mistakes of the past, or further the art of storytelling?

In the Beginning

I couldn't tell you when crossmedia truly began, but it's hard to argue that *Star Wars* represents a major milestone. The *Star Wars* universe has found its way into nearly every medium of art and storytelling that exists. It has had a particular influence in games - *Star Wars* stories have been told through games since *Rebel Assault* in 1993. Scores of titles followed including *Shadows of the Empire* in 1996, *Knights of the Old Republic* in 2003, and *The Force Unleashed*, just released in September 2008.

But with hundreds of *Star Wars* novels, movie-to-game tie-ins, comic spin-offs, and cartoons, how can we take any of it seriously? It's hard to deny the stench of merchandising on even the most pure of *Star Wars* projects. Dozens of cheap supermarket novels read like professional fanfiction. The latest movies exist primarily to sell truckloads of action figures to kids. They basically put the *Star Wars* name on something because it will sell.

It's what most franchises strive for, to have such a strong name brand. From *Pokemon* cartoons, to *Doom* novels and *Battlestar Galactica* comics, the goal is to be able to slap a name on something and watch it sell. But where artists, writers, and creative visionaries are concerned, we're bound to see some higher purpose emerge.



Beyond Merchandising

The Matrix was one of my earliest exposures to true crossmedia storytelling. It started with *The Animatrix*, a collection of animated shorts released between the second and third movies. Each short was created by a different team, all under the supervision of the Wachowski brothers. What made them so fascinating was that they either revealed important plot points in *The Matrix* universe, or gave depth to aspects of the world the movies didn't have time for. The shorts, *The Second Renaissance Part I* and *II*, explained how the movie's evil machines came to be, while *Beyond* explored what happens when a group of kids stumble upon an infamous "glitch in the matrix."

Following the *Animatrix*, *Enter the Matrix* helped bridge the gap between *The Matrix Reloaded* and *Revolutions* through a videogame. While *Enter the Matrix* met with tepid reviews, it was interesting for fans, as the Wachowski brothers recorded two hours of live footage for the game's cutscenes. Through the eyes of minor characters, the game allowed you to explore and fight in scenes from the movies, meet with recognizable characters, and fill in some blanks in the rather convoluted *Matrix* plot. Possibly most interesting of all, the game retconned the death of actress Gloria Foster, explaining her replacement by Mary Alice in the role of the Oracle as a deal made at the cost of her "shell."

Fan's dwindled opinions toward *The Matrix* series aside, these crossme-

dia stories were not only financially successful, but they felt genuine. There was a clear effort to thoroughly expand the *Matrix* universe. And while it's hard to say for sure, I think it's safe to assume that it influenced several future cross-media projects.

A Diamond in the Rough

With crossmedia franchises exploring different genres, each piece of a tale can vary in quality. With so many hands involved, it's not uncommon for a supplemental story to transcend the main piece.

As a raving *Halo* fanboy, I've consumed just about all of it. If there were one word I could give to the plot of the *Halo* franchise, it would be "scatter-shot." Scattershot in quality, and scattershot in where it actually makes sense. But there are moments, tales in the universe, that are so great not just because they are well told, but because there is such a rich world backing them up. If you're a *Halo* fan at all and you've never listened to the *ILoveBees* radio play, you're missing out on an amazing piece of storytelling. Neil Blomkamp's live action *Halo* shorts, the *Halo* graphic novel, and Joseph Staten's *Contact Harvest* round out the best of what the series has to offer.

In 2000, *Pitch Black* was released in theaters to positive reviews. It was an effective sci-fi/horror film known for its character Riddick, an anti-hero and escaped convict played by Vin Diesel. Four years later, Riddick went the cross-media route, with a planned *Chronicles of Riddick* movie trilogy, the *Dark Fury* animated feature, and *Escape from*



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Butcher Bay, a videogame prequel story. The movie was a flop, killing off any chance of a trilogy, and the animated feature did little to turn heads, but the game was something special. My pick for game of 2004, and critically acclaimed all around, *Escape from Butcher Bay* was the rollercoaster ride the movie wished it was. It's a shock for a movie tie-in videogame to be good, let alone innovative and expertly crafted.

This "diamond in the rough" aspect isn't unique to crossmedia - a mediocre book can have a great chapter, a lame movie can have an amazing final act, and a bad game can have one fun mode. But since crossmedia bridges several mediums, those varying degrees of quality are more poignant. A bad game with a fun mode is still a bad game, but a great game in mediocre franchise can be a gem.

The Canon Issue

If there's one thing that threatens crossmedia as a viable storytelling platform, it's the canon issue. The arguments of whether something is canonical, or in-universe, faithful, official, and not simply fanfiction can dilute a universe to little more than internet message board arguments. What is the point of telling a story across multiple mediums when one contradicts the other, or is written off as unofficial?

Keeping these disparate tales consistent with each other seems like a simple task with a bit of thoroughness, but the issue rears its head constantly. Take *LOST* as one of the most depressing examples - the game, *Via Domus*, seemed

to tie in perfectly with an episode that aired shortly after, yet the creators of the show announced before release that the game wasn't canon. *Via Domus* was also a very bad game, leaving gamers with a story that meant absolutely nothing to the series as a whole, three hours wasted, and a \$60 hole in their wallet.

Even *Halo*, a series which has a defined story bible behind it, has run into issues. In the past, developer Bungie has condemned some of its tales as unofficial, contradicting previously established plot points in their game sequels. It creates a tier system, in which one medium holds more weight than another. The games are gospel, while the offshoots, which in the case of *Halo* tend to be the more interesting parts, carry less weight.

Possibly the worst offender is *Star Wars*. Granted, there is a lot of *Star Wars* to keep track of, but with a five tier system of checks and balances, things get a little ridiculous. The Holocron, a tracking database, was created to sort through the *Star Wars* expanded universe, eliminating contradictions and inconsistencies. But with the franchise already divided into five different levels of relevance, any attempt to be thorough seems moot.

If upcoming crossmedia projects like *Dead Space* can't reign in the canon issue, the medium will never transcend the domain of obsessive-compulsive fanboys posting on message boards.

Shining Light on Niche Genres

While crossmedia has a way to go before it will be recognized as a true art medium, there is one benefit we are see-

ing now. Mainstream genres like gaming and movies can draw audiences towards niche genres like animation and comics through crossmedia. *Halo* and *Dead Space* brought people into comic shops and book stores, while the *Animatrix* DVD was one of the top selling anime DVDs of 2003. This cross-pollination effect can bolster mediums that need it.

The Road Ahead

Crossmedia faces many pitfalls. It can come off as a cheap marketing ploy more easily than any other medium. Without planning, a crossmedia project can buckle under a convoluted and contradictory narrative. It even threatens to strip away a consumer's imagination - we can't fill in the gaps in a universe if some comic or youtube short does it for us.

If creators of these universes can avoid the pitfalls, there is a world of potential. Crossmedia offers the ability to paint a world in mixed media. One aspect of a tale may lend itself to a book, while another may be more appropriate for a movie or game. It gives fans a way to stay with a world they love, but experience it through a new lens. And as a new medium, we don't even know the directions it could go.

Entering this genre, *Dead Space* already looks promising. With each of its three parts, comic, videogame, and animated film already completed, it looks to be a universe that was planned well in advance. Its main piece, the game, has been wowing the press for months, the comic has been selling out, and the animated feature's preview whet fan's appetites for sci-fi horror. Will it be a corny cash-in project or the next franchise by which all future crossmedia



Alive In Deadspace: The Comic, DVD and Game

The Comic Series

The written word is an amazing thing. Free of any kind of delivery, and interpreted through your own imagination, a piece of literature can be as brilliant or corny as you envision it. That's why I implore you, if you're interested in the *Dead Space* extended universe, to pick up the six-issue comic series. Do not touch the online animated comics.

While they may be free, these videos sour what is ultimately a nice little bit of fiction. With comics, a reader fills in the blanks, imagining the voices of characters in their heads, and the

movements they make between the snapshots of panels. Through near-derthalic voice acting and stiff animation, the videos replace your imagination with that of a five-year-old's.

Perhaps the videos simply reveal the comic for what it truly is, a bite-sized chunk of pulpy horror/sci-fi. Maybe it's simply my excitement for the *Dead Space* game that had me filling in the blanks in my own colorful terms. But what's here is certainly solid - especially as a prelude to a greater story.

The comics explain the events that take place on Aegis 7, a colony planet

and destination of the Ishimura, the ship you explore in the *Dead Space* videogame. An alien artifact is excavated from the planet's surface and it immediately has a negative effect on the colony. As depression and psychotic episodes become more and more frequent, the Unitologists, a religious sect, praise the artifact as a "marker," a sign of their ascension. The situation escalates, and soon the colony is overrun by undead creatures straight out of *The Thing*.

The comic is most interesting for its horror elements - some of the brutality shown throughout the story is quite

shocking. It's made all the more grim through the wonderful artwork of Ben Templesmith, who mixes light, *Ratatouille*-esque character designs with dreary, monochromatic backdrops. Similar to his work in Warren Ellis' *Fell*, the style creates a harsh juxtaposition between depressing darkness and cartoony exaggeration.

It will be interesting to see how relevant this story is to the remaining pieces. Will Unitology play a part in the game and animated movie? Will the marker/alien artifact be explained? There are questions, and I'm interested to see how it all pans out. In that re-

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spect, this comic is a resounding success. The *Dead Space* comic series isn't enough on its own, but as the beginning of a larger crossmedia piece it gives just enough to spark interest.

Downfall DVD

There are a lot of problems with *Dead Space: Downfall*. As an animated movie bridging the gap between the *Dead Space* comic series and videogame, its plot is mostly a foregone conclusion. With the game being the main ticket, and *Downfall* coming two weeks later, the middle of the story won't really be the middle for most people. The comic set up the backstory - the takeover of a colony of humans by savage monsters. The game, as revealed in most previews, has you exploring the remains of the Ishimura, a ship that arrived at the colony shortly after the incident. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to infer what happened between the comic and game.

That wouldn't be a problem if *Downfall* was more solid. The callbacks to the backstory from the comic and game are fun. The setting is the same as the game, complete with recognizable areas like the morgue in chapter 2. In fact, *Downfall's* biggest accomplishment is that it never contradicts the other parts of the *Dead Space* universe. That's something few crossmedia projects accomplish. For that much it's to be commended.

Dead Space fanboy fellating aside, the movie stands as the weakest piece of the puzzle. I think there's a certain expectation of maturity with an animated movie made for adult audiences, but no amount of blood and gore could pull *Downfall* above Saturday morning cartoon status. The dialogue and actions of the characters play out like a greatest hits collection of sci-fi clichés. There are no shortage of officers grunting about "doing our job," captains demanding "a sit-rep ASAP," and doctors who sound like mad scientists. Within minutes we're treated to a brief montage of the lead suiting up and declaring that it's "about fucking time." No one ever runs out of bullets until it's time for them to die.

The production values aren't great either. The animation is jerky, but that's to be expected with the budget they were on. The backdrops bounce between corny CG and what appears to be a more traditional approach. But it's those extra-detailed, and typically



extra-gory scenes with lightly animated characters that left me continually reminded of Cartoon Network's *Metacalypse*. It's hard to take something seriously when it reminds you of a 10-minute adult swim segment about a death metal band.

Downfall marks possibly the greatest underachievement in crossmedia since *The Flood* - a *Halo* novel that retold the gameplay of the original *Halo* game over 300 pages. Not only is the movie poorly written and animated, but it doesn't serve the rest of the story. It manages to avoid contradiction, but it doesn't add much either. If you absolutely must consume each last ounce of *Dead Space* media, a rental is in order. For the rest of you, skip this one, and check out the comics instead - *Downfall* is a downer.

The Game

There's no right way to play a game. That's what people will tell you anyway. The freedom of choice and interaction is what makes games unique. So it feels weird to tell you that there's a right way to play *Dead Space*. If you're not playing it in the dark, with headphones or surround sound, *on hard difficulty*, you're not getting the full experience. Call me elitist, but if you're a "core" gamer, as I assume most of you are, push yourself a bit, because the rewards are tenfold. On hard, *Dead Space* is the greatest survival horror experience since the original *Resident Evil*.

The threat of danger is constant. Resource management is a necessity, and at least early on you will most likely run out of ammo. The monsters lumber towards you, demanding the use of your suit's stasis ability to slow them, and ex-

pert aim to dismember them for the kill. Whatever your approach, they'll relentlessly crowd you and waste away your resources.

The fear of running down to your last bullet or medkit aside, the fights are simply intense. Again, the use of headphones or surround sound is a necessity here. Fights are loud, with a sound mix that isn't afraid to go to eleven when appropriate. The weapon report is only less deafening than the terrifying shrieks of the horrors around you. The camera angle, which intentionally limits your peripheral vision to claustrophobic levels, also serves to give everything a sense of heft and solidity. Isaac Clarke, the protagonist, looks large and physically capable - that you ultimately feel weak and helpless in comparison to the monsters makes them all the more frightening.

A constant heartbeat, Isaac Clarke's, pumps heavily in tense moments, and horror-movie-esque musical stings ensure your own heart will pound as well. There's never a point where the game isn't a blast, but fun seems to play second fiddle to other emotions: fear, helplessness, and suspense.

There aren't a ton of "Boo"-scares either, the game doesn't bother with such cheap terror. Developer EA Redwood Shores plays with you, using smart gameplay balance and state-of-the-art sound design to keep you on your toes. Just when you adjust to the sounds of pipes creaking in the walls, or distant death curdles, the game turns these ambient noises into a real threat - the sounds of a relentless beast stalking



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you through the ventilation shafts of the space ship Ishimura.

The ship itself, the setting throughout most of the game, does a lot to create atmosphere. Spinal column architecture runs throughout, giving the sense of a dying nervous system you must work tirelessly to repair. Why anyone would create such foreboding living quarters is beyond me, but as a home to the undead it's fitting.

You play the part of the ship's repairman, accounting for damage on

both its systems and crew. You find audio logs along the way, clues that hint at a deeper conspiracy, and satisfying references to its crossmedia prequels. I only wish there was more storytelling, for despite a somewhat predictable ending, the characters were interesting and stunningly animated.

Beyond the horror, *Dead Space* is simply solid. It's the kind of product you expect out of AAA Japanese studios, on par with *Metal Gear Solid*, *Ninja Gaiden*, and *Resident Evil 4* in terms of

polish. American games just aren't made with this level of consistency in design, graphical solidarity, and tight controls. Even *Bioshock*, a beautiful game with much in common with *Dead Space*, doesn't even come close. Most games allow a peak behind the curtain here and there, shattering the illusion, but in *Dead Space* you'll pray for that break in immersion.

It's an excellent game, but so much of what I loved came from how I experienced it. Depending on how you play,

it can range from satisfying adventure game to unforgettably haunting masterpiece. I only wish EA Redwood Shores had the backbone to make their perfectly balanced hard mode the standard difficulty. As it stands, many will find the threats in *Dead Space* a joke, as they drown in ammo and tear apart monsters. But I don't want to end on a downer, because for me *Dead Space* was a haunting masterpiece - this year's unforgettable experience in gaming.

Setting A Little Big Precedent

"Fringe gamers aren't going to issue fatwas against Neversoft." - Anonymous

Let me explain. This facetious remark followed my reaction to last week's news regarding *Little Big Planet*. I don't know if you've heard, but the game was delayed a week because a licensed tune contained lines from the Qur'an. A user on the Official Playstation Community forums made a post on behalf of "certain Arabic hardcore gaming forums" stating that "We Muslims consider the mixing of music and words from our Holy Qur'an deeply offending." Sony's response was to delay the release of the game and recall all existing copies, as well as issue an apology on their blog.

Sony's response sets a bad precedent. As games get closer and closer to being a valid platform for art, ideas and commentary, corporate buckling won't just set us back - it could open the industry up to manipulation or even propaganda. I was personally bothered by the Ax body spray girls in *Guitar Hero III*, hence the opening quote. Should Neversoft recall every copy of the game for me? My problem isn't with Muslims complaining. In fact, any religion, community, or individual is welcome to take issue with anything that may offend them. People are offended by things - it happens - but the response cannot be to play the obedient puppy to any complaint from outside groups.

Media Molecule, the creators of *Little Big Planet*, has stated that, "*LBP* should be enjoyable by all." It's not an unreasonable stance, especially for a game like *LBP*. They clearly never intended to create controversy or get anyone thinking about serious issues. But the thing is, it's just a song, and

quite a beautiful song at that. It has also existed for two years. Not to mention, have they considered the sensibilities of other parties they may be offending? What about environmentalists who may deem the recall of thousands of copies of the game wasteful? What about the song's creator, Toumani Diabate, who states that music is his way to "attract and inspire people towards Islam." What about the parents who will pick up this cute game for their kids only to find the online community erecting massive dong towers, or better yet, giant towering Mohammed robots? There's no way to please everyone, and there's nothing worse than self-censorship.

If this were just an isolated incident, it would be one thing, but publishers of games have buckled to pressures from outside sources in the past. In the original post regarding *LBP*, the concerned party also stated the following:

"We would also like to mention that this isn't the first time something like this happened in videogames. Nin-

tendo's 1998 hit *Zelda: Ocarina of Time* contained a musical track with Islamic phrases, but it was removed in later shipments of the game after Nintendo was contacted by Muslim organizations. Last year, Capcom's *Zack & Wiki* and Activision's *Call of Duty 4* also contained objectionable material offensive to Muslims that was spotted before the release of the final games, and both companies thankfully removed the content."

Add to that the removal of the 2002 title *Kakuto Chojin* from store shelves for reciting lines from the Qur'an. And it's not just Muslim organizations complaining - The Church of England demanded an apology from Sony regarding *Resistance: Fall of Man's* depiction of the Manchester Cathedral in 2007. Looking back into the 80s and 90s there are even more incidents, including the complete ban of *Thrill Kill* in the United States. Nintendo was particularly notorious for its self-censorship policies, removing religious references

and more from many of its titles.

But that was years ago, and these days, videogames are reaching more and more people. They aren't just for kids anymore, and game developers are beginning to explore deeper issues. People are going to stir up controversy, they are going to tackle important issues, and they're going to examine various cultures, religions, etc. Self-censorship will stifle the creativity of those pioneers looking to explore new ground.

Maybe it's part of the growing pains of a new industry. In other mediums, controversy is taken for granted. When was the last time you heard about a movie being recalled? Film comes under the same, perhaps even harsher scrutiny from various groups, yet controversial movies like *The Passion of the Christ* and *United 93* are released year after year. It wasn't always like that though, and maybe we just need to fully mature as an industry before things settle down.

I imagine a day where the *Bioshocks*, *Call of Dutys*, and *Half-Lives* of the industry are commentaries on current events, accurate renditions of historical events, critiques on culture and society, and more. I also want more games like *Little Big Planet* - games designed to make everyone happy. But I see the possibility of developers playing it safe. The medium could stagnate, becoming little more than a vehicle for cheap thrill rides, advertisements, or worse. I don't want that, you don't want that, and I'm sure most game studios don't want it. So it's time for the big corporations of the fastest growing entertainment industry in the world to grow a spine and stand up for themselves.



“Even I’m Appalled”: Famed Drag Queen, Sherry Vine, Comes To SBU

By Katie Knowlton

Sherry Vine and her fabulous sparkly pink dress entertained to a full crowd at the Tabler Arts Center last Wednesday. The event, put on by the Stony Brook Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alliance, was in celebration of Coming Out Day. An annual occurrence, Coming Out Day is a day of awareness for coming out and other LGBT related issues. Her mix of comedy and singing brought most of the audience to an uproarious laughter, even through the most dirty and vulgar parts of her act.

Sherry Vine, a drag queen from New York City who was recently featured on an episode of *Project Runway*, seemed a bit apprehensive about performing at a college, an environment quite different from her normal element, bars full of drunken queers. The apprehension wore away quickly though after several assurances from the crowd that they were there for the full Sherry Vine act, no matter how raunchy it would be.

And raunchy it was.

The beginning of her set was rather tame, with Sherry singing her own version of “When You’re Good to Mama” from the musical *Chicago*, making it “When You’re Good to Sherry,” which

featured the phenomenal line, “When you’re stroking Sherry, Sherry’s stroking you.” This sort of frank reference to sexuality was to be a pillar of her act and became much more pronounced as the night went on. She promised, “Anything could happen tonight.”

All of the songs she sang were arrangements of existing songs. Most of them were simply new lyrics over the music of well known tunes. This turned the songs into odes to sexuality and slutiness. Her version of “Fergilicious” turned into a rap about how easy she was, same for her take on “4 Minutes” by Madonna and Justin Timberlake. She said it was about the perils of being a New York prostitute, but in the end it was about Sherry herself being the prostitute and only having “four minutes to make [the client] come.” The song also featured my favorite line from the evening, “Get it out/Get it up/Get it in my vagina.”

Raunchiness aside, Sherry showed that she had a strong voice and that her college years performing had paid off. She was extremely comfortable on-stage. Between songs she did stand up and interacted heavily with the crowd. She flirted with several people, men and women. One man seemed rather uncomfortable about it and when he got up to leave, Sherry told him to look for her on Craigslist later. Most of the

people she flirted with and talked to just went with the craziness that was happening, enjoying another aspect of her show.

Sherry was an outstanding performer who did not disappoint. Despite being out of her element on a college

campus, she brought out her most racy material and was not afraid to interact with a crowd that skewed younger than her regulars.



Hunger Doesn't Quite Sate

By Laura Paesano

For six years, the Wang Center has been pushing the envelope with performances highlighting a multitude of Asian cultures. On October 23, renowned Japanese choreographers Eiko and Koma performed the contemporary performance piece, “Hunger,” with their Cambodian students Chadian and Peace. Ignoring the irony, I gorged myself on food from Jasmine before heading to the Wang Theatre. Before the show started, the introduction included some scary statistics about world hunger, rising wheat prices and the number of deaths a year caused by starvation and malnutrition. Despite the onerous intro, a part of me was gleeful. On my way in, I passed a sign that stated, “Tonight’s performance includes

nudity.” Score!

As the stage lights came up, I realized this was not the kind of nudity I’d expected. What was revealed were two upside-down naked bodies leaning on a chain fence. And these weren’t the bodies of virile young dancers. If I’d wanted to see wrinkly pale old flesh bags, I’d have rented old people porn. For a painfully long five minutes, these bodies inched closer and closer together until finally, *finally*, they crossed each other. Alright, I thought, now let’s get to the dancing. Unfortunately, the dancing never actually happened. What commenced was more of a snail’s pace crawl around the stage for seventy minutes.

Arthritic crone-like movements were the staple of this “dance,” with every performer moving like a glacier to the sound of crows cawing (not exactly something you can tap your foot

to). Now, one thing I can say is that these people really do have endurance. They held some really strange positions for a really long time. On the other hand, so does Jenna Jameson, but you’re not going to see her winning any Guggenheim Fellowship Awards. In regards to these twisted and awkward poses, my friend leaned over to me and put it rightly when she said, “It looks like she’s trying to poop sideways.”

Another thing that irked me about this performance was the staggering amount of hypocrisy. After hearing the number of people in the world who are starving, the “dancers” proceeded to throw pounds and pounds of rice all over the floor and writhe around in it and rub it all over their bodies. They even ate it off the floor...with their feet. If there are hungry people out there, maybe we could spare a bit of floor rice for them, eh? Just a thought.

If you like to see people eating off each other’s old, rice-covered tits, this may be the show for you. I like some artsy-fartsy shit, but this was over the top. For me, this was the quintessence of contemporary performance art: pointless, pretentious and confusing. In response to the show, some art snobs with knit hats claimed to love it, but a more prevalent reaction was “Huh?” and “I just don’t get it.” The only part that was mildly enjoyable was the segment where the two young Cambodian students paint on a swatch of cloth that was available for sale after the show. Of course, it was the only part of the show that didn’t seem to be in slow-mo. Upon hearing about Hunger, I immediately told a friend, “This sounds good.” I wasn’t hungry, but I ate my words anyway. In the end, the show made me feel just like actual hunger does. It made my stomach hurt.

Ask A Straight Guy: Volume 1

By Josh Ginsberg

Dear Straight Guy,

My boyfriend and his friends get into heated arguments with one another all the time, sometimes escalating to the point of physical violence. When I fight with my friends we hold grudges, and tensions remain long after things are "resolved." Why is it after guys fight they act like it never happened fifteen minutes later?

-Tiffany

Dear Tiffany,

As the spokesman for hetero-hood, I shall explain to you why we bro-men can put our differences aside so easily. There are only two things that really make a man want to bitch-smack his brotherman, with any legitimacy. The first things that really piss a man off are mom-jokes. Mom-jokes affect different men in different ways. Typically, well-adjusted males who have healthy relationships with their mothers are immune to these jokes, unless some other circumstances effect them, such as a headache, hunger or post-season depression. Unfortunately, not all straight guys have healthy relationships with their mothers. Sometimes these poorly adjusted gents can be provoked to act violently by no more than the mention of his mother's name. This is something I have witnessed many times between two high school friends. After a long night of being verbally berated, my bullied friend needed not do anything more than awkwardly stutter out the name of his bullying friend's mother in retaliation before he was hit for taking the argument to far.

The second thing that can drive a man to assaulting a friend is his friend disrespecting the first guy's woman. As with most things, there is a sort of spectrum along which comments about a man's woman fall. If a dude says something alluding to another man's girlfriend being unattractive, for example by pointing out a flaw that the friend himself finds unappealing the maker of the offensive comment is likely to feel his shoulder become victim of violence. If one exults the lady of his friend too much, by stating his desire to make love, to her for example, then he may cross a line and freak out/piss off his friend. Although, some bros actually feel flattered that their friends want to get with their girlfriends, which usually just ties into some power-trip or superiority complex. A normal guy doesn't want to

know that his girlfriend's visage wallpaper the dystopia that is his sexually frustrated friend's mind.

What it ultimately comes down to, Tiffany, is the fact that men don't take things as seriously as women do most of the time. When I argue with my friends I may resent them briefly, but unless a particularly sensitive area is attacked, I let my friends' momentary douche-baggery roll off my back. A lot of guys are raised on action movies and professional sports, so momentary brushes with violence bring them closer to living out their fantasies of being ninjas, secret agents or football players. When they come down from the high of assaulting another man or snap back into reality after being assaulted, they realize, assuming their dignity hasn't taken too big of a hit, that they would rather just go back to being friends with their brotherman rather than to try to make a point and hold a grudge.

Dear Straight Guy,

I have a friend who I've known for a long time. I like him a lot, but every time I see him he insists on hugging me and he sends me Facebook messages every single day, telling me he loves me and that I am the greatest. While I agree that I am awesome, I have come to wonder if my friend is a gay. How can I tell if he is one of those things? If he is, what tools (crosses, wooden stakes, garlic) can I use to repel/destroy him? Also, is it possible that I could have caught his gay from when he hugged me? Write back soon!

-Rudy R. Greeley

Dear Rudy,

I think you are just misinterpreting your friend's bro-love for gay-love. There are a few ways to differentiate between these two forms of love, which on the surface look very much the same. Bro-love is the love that occurs between two men who simply feel great pride and respect for their fellow bro-men. Gay love only occurs if a man feels sexual or romantic feelings for another man. An example of bro-love is my hetero-love for my man, Tom. Tom is just straight up, the coolest dude ever. I hug him. But I wouldn't hug him naked. I send him emails all the time too, telling him how awesome he is. But that's just because he can drink more beers than Wade Boggs did that one time and can lift really heavy stuff. I don't wanna bang Tom, I just think he's cool as hell. As far as repelling gay people, just dress as sloppily as possible. They hate that. There is a direct relationship between



their interest in a man and the quality of his hygiene. With respects to how contagious homosexuality is, I consulted Wikipedia thoroughly, and they say it isn't, and they are the most reputable source in the world.

Dear Straight Guy,

Since the beginning of the semester I have been nursing a crush on a girl in my English class. One day after class, I held the door going down the stairs in the Humanities Building. She was one of the first people out the door and after a lengthy period of time holding the door (many passed through its threshold thereafter), I was surprised to see she still stood at the landing. We conversed affably, introduced ourselves and I felt things went pretty well. It seemed to me that the only logical reason she would've been waiting at the landing was if she wanted to talk to me. I worked up the nerve to talk to her again and small talked with her two more times before I decided that I should just go for it. At the end of class, I asked her when her last class ended and then asked her if she wanted to go out and get dinner with me. She said "Sure" and gave me her number. When I called her

after classes ended, she didn't pick up. Not wanting to come off as creepy, I only called her once more and decided then that she must have stood me up. She texted me about fifteen minutes later, apologizing for not getting in contact with me, and saying that she felt guilty hanging out with me while her boyfriend was away at school. I don't know how to take this. Was this a victory, having gotten her to agree to go out with me, maybe evidence she was interested in me, but too morally upstanding to give into the potential temptation? Or should I take this as a loss because ultimately, it brought me no closer to finding love? I don't know if I should keep talking to her because I like her a lot and sort of hope that if I keep talking to her, whenever she is single, I'll be able to have a shot at making things work with her. What do you think I should do?

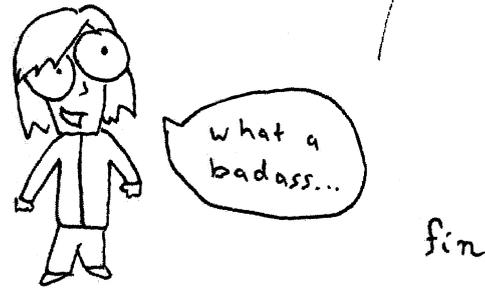
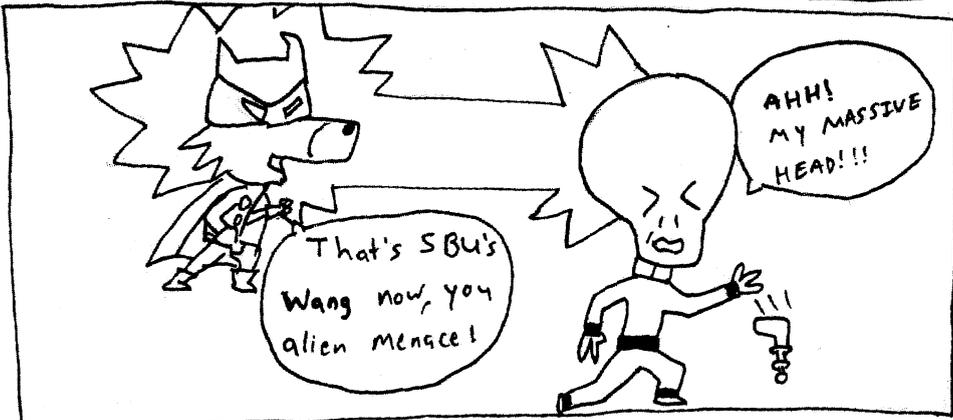
-Ross

Dear Ross,
I think you should grow a pair. Jesus Christ.

THE COMICS SECTION

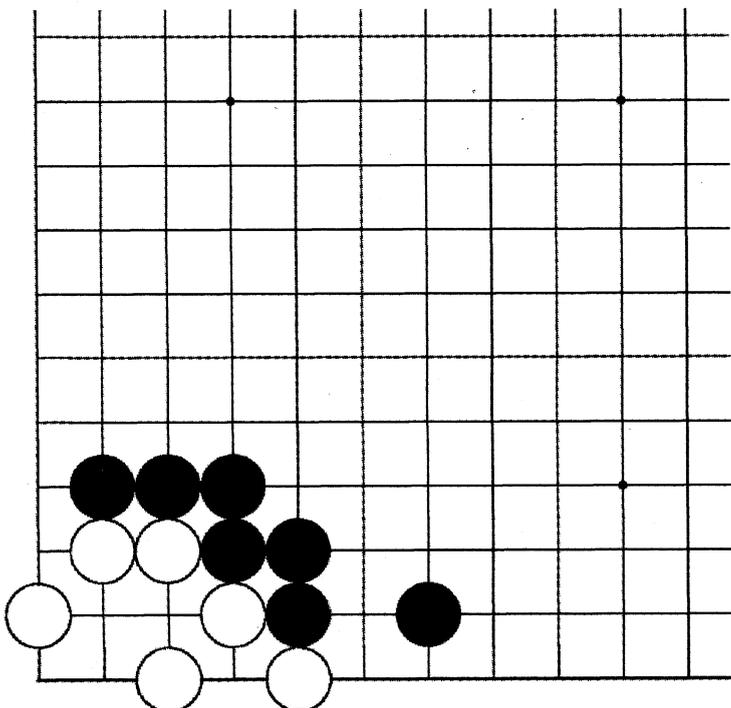
AND NOW, THE CONTINUING ADVENTURES OF...

The
SCARLET SEAWOLF
By Frank Myles



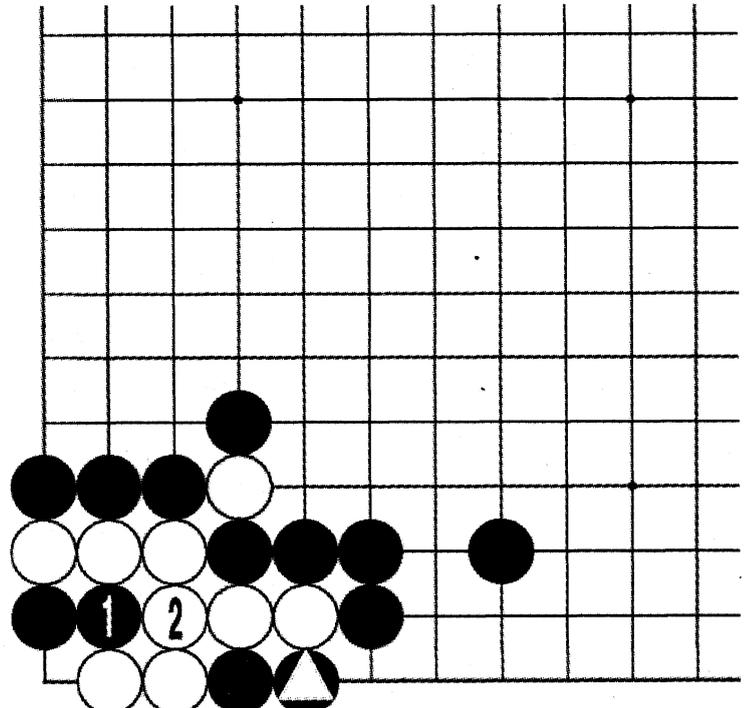
I'm so depressed, I don't know what to do...

Go For It, Man!



Black to move, kill Whitey!

Go Club meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm in the Library Commuter Lounge



Issue 3 Solution

THE COMICS SECTION

save my sole

tia mansouri



Nice with a Butt
by Amyl Nitrate

I know how men see me
Nice with a but.
Nice but ditzzy
Nice but clumsy
Nice but too nice
Well let me tell you something
The white light you see shining
From the center of my eyes
Is bone from my skull
I've poked two holes through
So they look much fetching
My skin looks soft, but touch
I've quills like chills
Trembling beneath the surface
I am cold white electricity
Allow me to shock you
I know how men see me
Nice with a butt
Nice but damaged

Nice but weird
Nice but out of her mind insane!
You're well aware of how sexy you are
I'm well aware that your charms
And your arms as you tug me close
Mean nothing but danger and hurt
So I peel my lips back
Show some bone and bat my lashes
You need not tell me what you see
I'll show you what I want
I'm nice but calculating
Nice but misanthropic
Nice but-listen mister!
You better not fuck with me.

Poetical Poesy

Southern Comfort
By Kei Horikawa

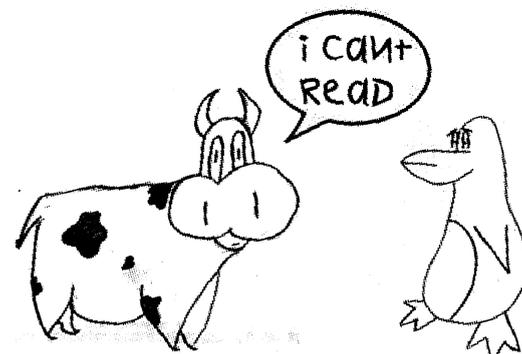
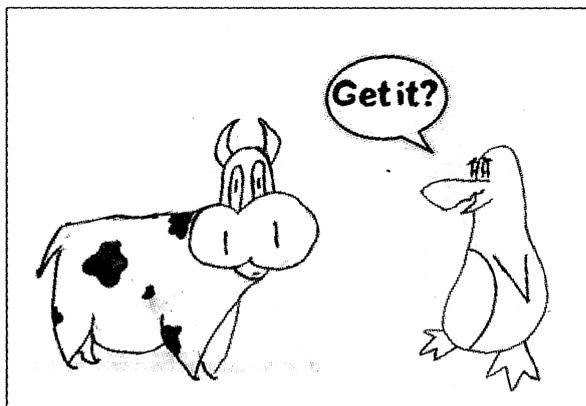
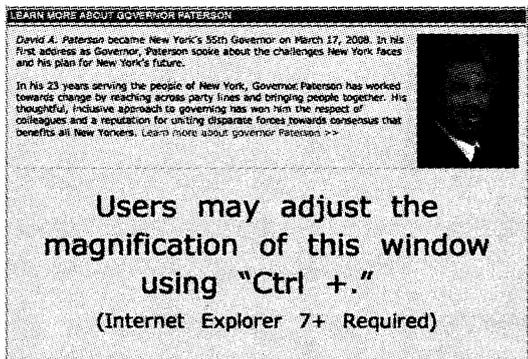
**I could use some southern rock'n roll.
Maybe a tumble in the fire,
A session in the hay.
Nothing like warm nights for disillusion,
And cool mornings for sleeping in.
I spend those nights in back seats
Where hands are calloused:
A real man's hands.
The sun's work,
On raisened lands
And hatch mark soil.
There is the rushes,
And a tire swing meets the o'l swinging tree.
I breathe deep through these days,
And lay in the field's keeping to myself.
Virtue of pleasure for virtue's sake.
I take my heart down off the coat hook,
And leave my boots at the door.**

Fop
By Samantha Monteleone

practical lies
from duct tape eyes
paycheck tones
for the diamond bones.
i can hear your excitement
as you flitter by
i wonder if you reflect
on the way the ants die.
you're crucial on your feet.
the light wind kissed your cheek
and all I can sense
Is dollars and cents
and not too much soul to carry.
i'll shake you, break you
Inspire you to find truth
but for you, there is no hope
of solid gold epiphany rope.
six of one, half dozen of the
other.
we all have a mother.
and sometimes, soul finds
while others grope their binds
and remember forever in solitude.
all cradles or cold mood
focus. absorb. create decades
find. love. before light fades

WE LOVE YOUR POEMS AND
COMICS! SEND 'EM IN TO
SBPRESSNEWS@GMAIL.COM
AND ROCK ON!

AVANT GARDE BY WERNER VON BLUR

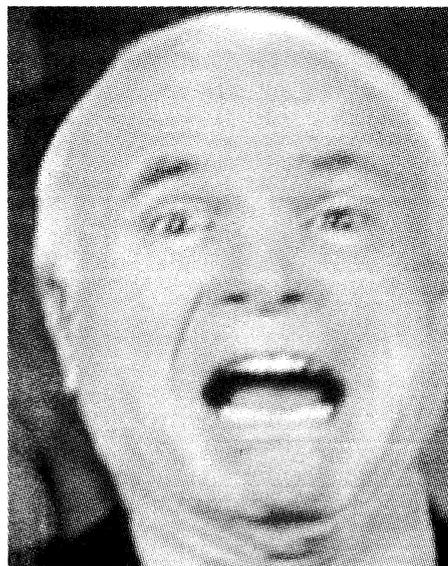
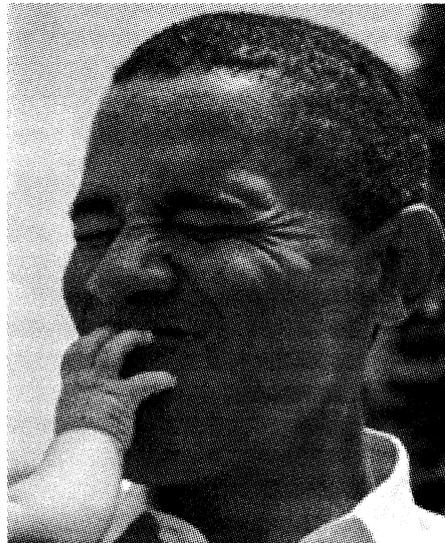


Demographics

Most Likely to Vote for Each Candidate

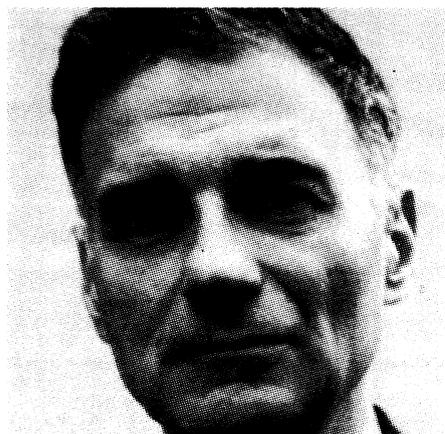
Obama

- Obama, Japan expatriates
- Arrogant College Douchebags
- Terrorists
- Muslims
- Rev. Wright followers
- Half of President Bush's administration



McCain

- Morons
- Assholes
- Half of Arlington Cemetery
- "Real" Americans
- Joe the Plumber
- Joe Six Pack, the town drunk
- Zionists
- Veterans For the "Great War"



Baldwin

- Chuck Baldwin

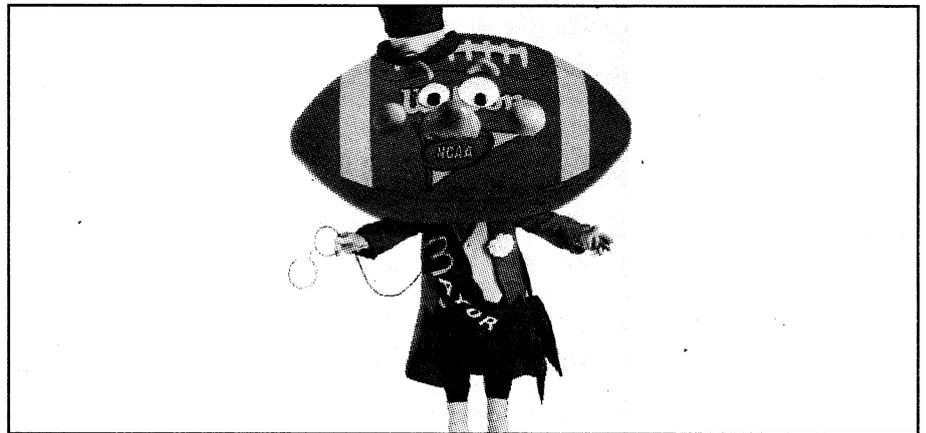


Nader

- People who like losing
- Communists
- Palestinians
- Pacifists
- Tree-hugging panzies
- Rationalists

TOP TEN

Terrible Ideas for Hallowe'en Costumes



10 CBS' The Mentalist

9 Senator Chris Dodd

8 Algae

7 Herkimer County

6 Sarah Palin. (I know a lot of you were already thinking that this is a good idea. It is not a good idea...Maybe as a Viking—maybe!)

5 A punching robot that punches people—because of its programming!

4 The Love Guru

3 Presidential Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin

2 Anyone from the Plain White T's

1 Mayor McTDs ▲

The Press Endorses The Candidate We Need!

By James Laudano

It's a rare thing when a candidate comes along who inspires the youth of America into action. It's even more rare when that candidate is an African-American. That's why this election is so special. In the past six months alone we've seen record voter registration, record voting returns in the party primaries and record excitement levels. People are throwing around words like "Change" and "Hope" and "Kennedyesque." That is why we here at *The Stony Brook Press* are proud to endorse the most dynamic and interesting candidate this election has to offer: Lee L. Mercer Jr.

Lee Mercer is one of those above mentioned, super-rare diamonds in the rough: a black politician running for President. Mercer is a humble, yet prolific, individual who has served all of mankind for his entire life. However, I'm going to let the man speak for himself. For example, on his campaign website, he states, "Once, I am elected to the office of President of the United States

of America the thing I am going to do for the people is regulate the office of the President of the United States of America right and not wrong." See? He is frank and humble. He doesn't mince words like those other guys running for the office.

Mr. Mercer would like any endorsement to be short and sweet, so I will simply list a few of the seventy reasons he lists for his candidacy. These are all directly taken from his website and, I believe, speak for themselves:

10. To prove the United States of America has two Governments and they are Government #1 and Government #2 and I own Government # 1 a Private Ownership named Eye Spy Community-Military Intelligence (All Three) a Government of all the Intelligence agencies in The United States of America and in All International Countries in the World a Nationalization in Business and Commerce Intelligence National and International.

22. To prove every person in the United States of America knows me and every-

body in the International World knows me too in Business and Commerce intelligence National and International.

27. To Prove I invented this Business and Commerce Intelligence National and International.

34. To Prove the government owes me Zillions of Dollars in money and is refraining to pay me and my business Eye Spy Community-Military Intelligence (All Three) Business and Commerce Intelligence National and International.

52. To Prove that I am A Military Intelligence Chaplain Lawyer.

56. To Prove Jeb Bush is all in my house with disease.

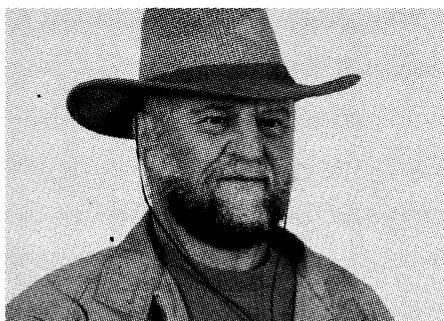
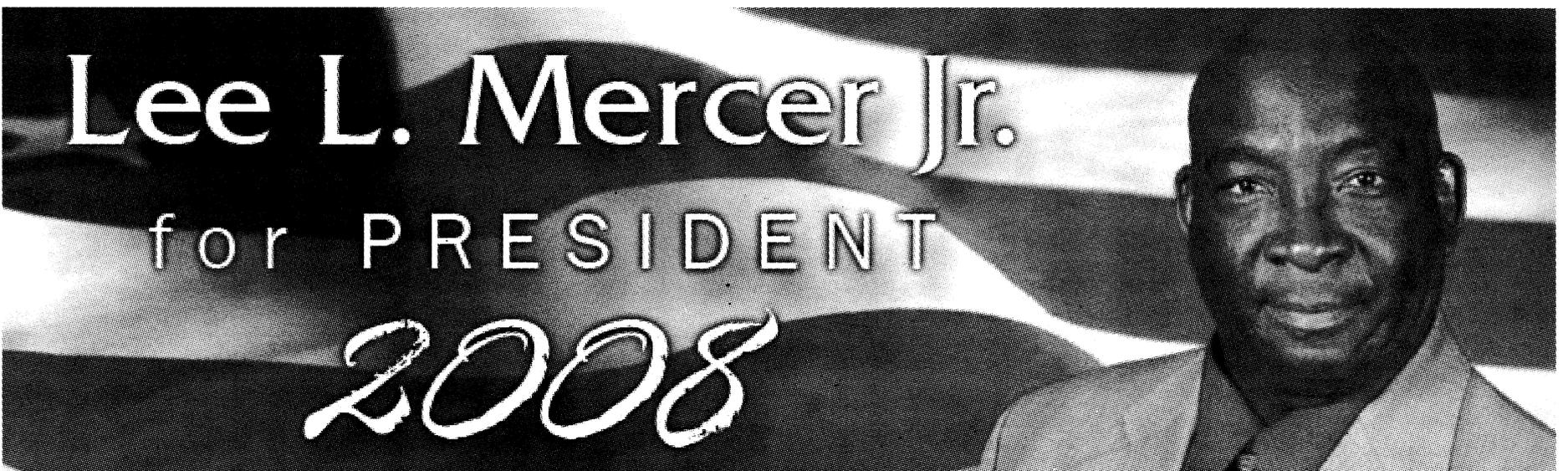
69. To Prove a gangster is a terrorist. President George W. Bush, Jr. and Former President George Herbert Bush, Sr. Told us they are the 911 Terrorist evidence of Electronic Satellite recording. Bush is the 911 Terrorist Evidence my ROTC FBI Electronic Surveillance Satellite Recording I wrote took letter to

the FBI Houston I was sent by The United Army Criminal Investigations Fort Belvoir after I called them and turned him in FBI Houston did not understand told me not to come back. I have solved every crime in America and the world for the last 15 years dating back to before Christ.

REMEMBER A GANGSTER IS A TERRORIST. THE BUSHS ARE GANGSTERS.

66. To Prove America is America.

Now before you shout out "Screw an election, let's name this man our king!" you have to realize that he is not on the ballot here in New York State. In fact, it seems the powers that be kept him off the ballot in every state. Fascists. However, that does not change the fact that Lee Mercer is running for President of the United States and he won't let anyone take that away from him. So go out there and demand Lee Mercer be put on the ballot before Tuesday's election. He's the candidate this country needs and has been waiting for these past eight years!



Joe the Paleontologist

"I will vote for whoever helps Jurassic Park become a reality! Holy shit its a brontosaur! ROAR!"



Joe the Gynecologist

"Given the Palin family activity, I have pledged my support behind McCain. I see a bright future ahead."



Joe the Taxidermist

"I like McCain's policy on the deregulation of corruptate animal stuffing. Wooh yeah America!"



Joe the Thug

"Bitch are you for real? Who the fuck do you think I am voting for?"

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

Meetings Wednesdays 1pm
Union Building Room 060

Gimme The Goddamn Pulitzer Prize Already

By Ross Barkan

I am flummoxed. I am outraged. I've taken insult after insult, affront after affront, verbal harpoon after verbal harpoon, ridicule grenade after ridicule grenade, rage hot air balloon after rage hot air balloon...you understand how I feel, denizens. No need to apply rouge to a poodle. It's been a rough field to till, lately. The worldwide economic recession has touched us all like a lustful pedophile. Our abodes are now worth less than a Vietnamese bicycle. Our currency, worth even less (like a Cambodian tricycle). And I, at the tender age of nineteen and some odd days, am Pulitzer Prize-less.

Yes, let that soak in. I, the greatest "column writer" ever to touch the Northern Hemisphere, lack a single Pulitzer Prize. They say the people in Darfur are "hungry," their homes "ravaged," their lives "unbearable." Do you know what I say to that? Tough stew. Yes, I said it, tough stew. They do not

know true hunger. They are not aware of the empty feeling that swells inside of me like a mentally challenged cyclone. They do not know that I go to sleep at night, pillow sopping wet from tears, lamenting my lack of recognition. My life is in ruins.

Ah, the Pulitzer Prize. For the peons who don't know, the Pulitzer Prize is awarded in a variety of fields. Fiction. Investigative Reporting. Commentary. Many legends have been bestowed with the honor. None of these legends are me.

Do you goddamn, two-timing, ungrateful monkey-gobbling mother rapping pansies even know who the hell *I am*? Before anyone could even muster the courage, I wrote a searing expose about how awesome it was to take a shit in the Wang Center bathroom. In the year of our Lord, two-thousand-and-seven, I informed the student populace that Overlord Shirley Strum Kenny kept a clown circus in her mansion cellar. I risked my life for the sake of the story. For the sake of *you*, the reader.

This very year I brought key issues



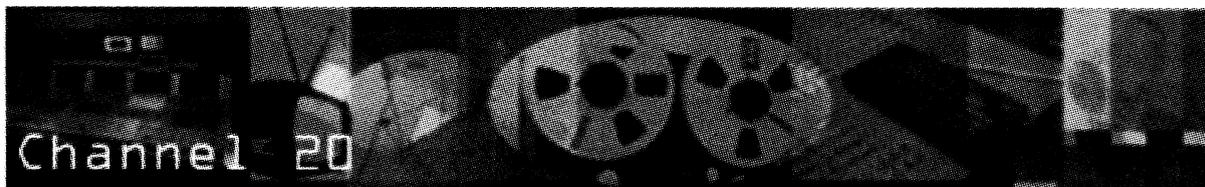
to the forefront. I was there when Lord Protector Kenny announced her new state-of-the-art construction site. Hey, Pulitzer Prize committee, did your precious old white man aristocracy obtain an exclusive interview with "Craig," Stony Brook outlaw/leaf-lover/purveyor of rat zoos? No, they did not. Did they journey to Ape City (U.S.A)? No, I think not again.

I am clearly worthy. I have spoken to 95 year-old racists about their Coney Island memories and I have documented the approaching presidential election. No story is too overwhelming for me. I am a bastion of journalistic integrity, a paragon of man's intellectual capabilities. Hear that, Pulitzer Prize committee cockheads? I used the word *paragon*. That shit's worth at least a nomination.

I read the newspapers today. Liberal and conservative rags alike. I know what's out there. And compared to my genius, it is all pedantic. Pulsanamous. Polysyndenamorific. That's a new word right there, you Pulitzer Prize committee muskrat-stalking schmowagons. Give me the damn award.

Look, I'm obviously the greatest. Why continue this ruse? Why continue this little game? Why avoid one of the greatest minds of our generation?

I'll tell you why. Fear.
I'm too much.
Peace.



Visit our website at www.sinc.sunysb.edu/Clubs/sbutv for Program Information!

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
4am	SBU-TV Bulletin Board - Campus Events & Happenings						
2pm	SBU-TV Bulletin Board - Campus Events & Happenings						
2:00	Stony Brook Spotlight						
2:30	Stony Brook Spotlight						
3:00	World Business Review						
3:30	The Mountain Top Ski & Snow Series 2008/2009						
4:00	Broken Radio						
4:30	SBU-TV News						
5:00	Film Stripped						
5:30	Director's Choice - SBSC/SB Spotlight/Prepare Yourself						
6:00	USG Senate/SB Spotlight						
6:30	USG Senate/SB Spotlight						
7:00	Broken Radio						
7:30	SBU-TV News						
8:00	Film Stripped						
8:30	Director's Choice - SBSC/SB Spotlight/Prepare Yourself						
9:00	USG Senate/SB Spotlight						
9:30	USG Senate/SB Spotlight						
10:00	Think Talk						
10:30	Broken Radio						
11:00	Film Stripped						
11:30	America's Best Student Shorts						
12:00	SBU-TV News						
12:30	Director's Choice - SBSC/SB Spotlight/Prepare Yourself						
1:00	Director's Choice - SBSC/SB Spotlight/Prepare Yourself						
1:30	Prof. Fred's Movie Marvels						
2:00	Prof. Fred's Movie Marvels						
2:30	Prof. Fred's Movie Marvels						
3:00	IndiFilm						
3:30	IndiFilm						
4:00	IndiFilm						

We Have Forgotten

By Casey Amati

Mission Accomplished!

When that banner flew over the president's head aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln on May 2, 2003 many groups cheered this proclamation, but no one celebrated this statement and took it more to heart than the members of the group who had waited nearly two decades for this event. This group is none other than the world-recognized Al-Qaeda terrorist organization. Why would Al-Qaeda and their leader Usama Bin Laden (as his name appears on the official FBI wanted posters) be celebrating a campaign, which has decimated training camps in Afghanistan and led to Usama himself being severely wounded by US bomb shrapnel? Because, in just these last four years, it would seem as if Usama has accomplished most of his three point plan to bring about the decline of the American militaristic empire. Have Americans forgotten what was attacked on that fateful September morning? More so, have we forgotten why these targets were chosen? The U.S. Capitol Building, the Pentagon and the Twin Towers were not chosen to inflict the most casualties; each was chosen as a symbol of the three pillars of our society that Al-Qaeda was attempting to bring down.

The first target was, debatably, the United States Capitol building, which thankfully was spared on that day. The United States Capitol is the seat of Congress and some say the harbinger of our ideas on freedom and democracy. The Usamas of the world claim that the Capitol is the symbol of American political corruption. It is the seat where the corrupted privileged class sits, using the common populace to enact their policy of Muslim subjugation in the Middle East. This is the main tenet of our society which angers not only Muslim extremists, but much of the

modern world. The influence our government has enacted on the Middle East has finally come back to bite us in the ass. Our Afghani freedom fighters who were trained and armed by us have come home to roost as part of the Al-Qaeda of today.

The second pillar of our society and second target on September 11 was our military, and nothing personifies the military industrial machine more than the Pentagon. Thankfully, the side of the Pentagon that was hit by the plane was mostly evacuated due to the defense upgrades and retrofits that were taking place. The Pentagon was as much a symbolic target as anything else. Only Langley would have been more poetic. For decades the CIA and special operations units have been meddling in the affairs of other countries. Installing dictators, assassinating political leaders and arming Israel to the teeth have made our military the most hated regime in the Muslim world. However, let me make this clear: the troops have nothing to do with this. They are just following orders, as cogs within a larger military war machine. It is the fault of our generals and our presidents going back to Truman, who have brought us down the road which led us to the third target of attack that day. Unfortunately, it was a target due to misconceptions.

The third and final pillar of our society is our economy. Sadly, the target that was chosen as a symbol for our economy would lead to a great loss. That target was the Twin Towers. They were chosen not because of the many casualties their destruction would cause, but for their name and what the terrorists believed their purpose was. The names "World Financial Plaza" and "World Trade Center" were dreams that never came true. Though originally developed to be the financial hub of the world, this never became a reality. What survived was the name, "World Trade Center" and the idea of American dominance through trade

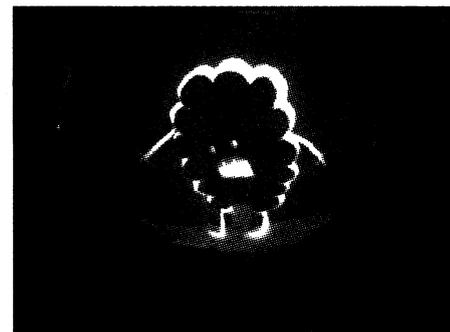
and cash. Whether by giving money to Iran to fund the contras, giving money to Iraq to attack Iran or giving money to the Taliban to fight the Soviets, the United States government has continued to meddle via our economy. This pillar of our society was one on which the terrorists hoped to make the biggest impact. They failed, but in their actions on that day, their plan to bring about America's economic collapse was put into motion.

In 2001, the United States was rich in civil liberties, powerful in military, and possessed a strong growing economy. But look at the state of us now: our civil liberties have been eroded and are now under siege from warrantless wiretapping, the Patriot Act, and things only known to the NSA. Our military is at the breaking point. National Guardsmen have been deployed in record numbers, leaving our country vulnerable not only to the wrath of man but even the more deadly wrath of nature. The military of today is near record low levels of combat readiness, some estimates putting our military at only 30% combat readiness in case of attack. Furthermore, our nation is more vulnerable to natural disasters than ever. Our economy, to put it lightly, is sub-prime. Banks are failing, houses are being foreclosed, and people are losing their jobs. This is, of course, not a recession; it's a [insert new term for recession here]. The stock market is a rollercoaster of doubt and people are panicking, so we might be in some trouble down the line, especially as people compare this to 1933, the lowest point of the Depression.

The objective of Usama Bin Laden was to turn Americans against our government and the Government against Americans. Check. He wanted to run down our military forces in some pointless military conflict. Check. He tried to wreck the United States economy due to the cost of the aforementioned war. (Even though the economic problems aren't solely caused by the

wars, they sure didn't help.) Check. It would appear that Usama has accomplished most of his objectives. Please do not write me saying we are safer now because there hasn't been another attack on American soil since September 11. The last three terrorist attacks happened in 2001, 1995 and 1993. Only the 2001 and 1993 attacks were committed by foreign terrorists, and they were the same target by the same group, Al-Qaeda. Until the end of 2009 no one can claim we are any safer now than we have been before.

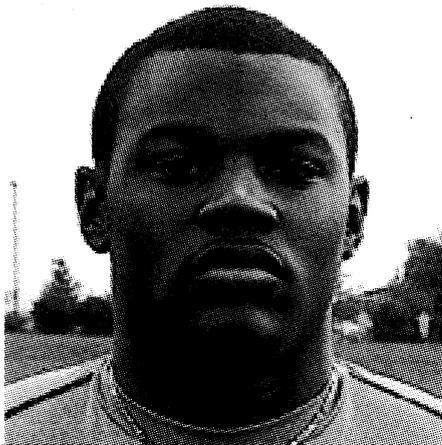
I do not feel that Usama and Al-Qaeda have won. Instead, I feel that we, as Americans, have failed ourselves. On the back of *The Patriot*, there were a few pictures of the Twin Towers with the words, "We Will Never Forget," written in big bold font. This is when I came to the realization: America, we have forgotten! You see the picture at the beginning of this article, the picture of the giant hole in the ground? That is the World Trade Center, not one or two years after the attacks on September 11th, but seven years later! When the towers fell down we pledged to rebuild them in order to show the terrorists that we would stand strong. But we haven't. Instead, we have left this giant hole in the ground as a reminder of how we let our own interests and party politics distract us from what is important. The message was, "Never Forget", but I leave you with a question to ponder: Have we forgotten?



Do you want to know how
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UNION 060 WEDNESDAYS DURING CAMPUS LIFETIME



EDWIN GOWINS

FRESHMAN RUNNING BACK EDWIN GOWINS LEADS THE TEAM IN RUSHING TOUCHDOWNS WITH 86 RUSH ATTEMPTS AND AN AVERAGE RUSH OF 6.9 YARDS/CARRY. GOWINS HAS RECORDED THREE TOUCHDOWNS AND IS THE THIRD HIGHEST SCORER ON THE TEAM. THE BELMONT, NY NATIVE DOES THE 125 WITH HIS FAVORITE PART ABOUT PLAYING RUNNING BACK IS, AS HE SAID, RUNNING THE BALL AND PUNISHING PEOPLE ON THE OFFENSIVE SIDE.

FAVORITE MUSICIANS: JAY-Z AND TUPAC

LAST MOVIE SEEN: THE DARK KNIGHT

FAVORITE T.V. SHOW: FRESH PRINCE OF BEL-AIR

FAVORITE BOOK: TUESDAY WITH MORRIE

FAVORITE ATHLETE: LADAI-AN TOMLINSON

ANOTHER SPORT YOU WOULD PLAY: TRACK

SUPPORT WHICH CANDIDATE: OBAMA

FAVORITE THING ABOUT SBU: THE CAMPUS IS CLOSE TO HOME. ALSO MY FOOTBALL TEAMMATES.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE SBU: IT WAS A GOOD DECISION FOR MY EDUCATION AS WELL AS FOOTBALL.

ONE THING YOU WOULD CHANGE ABOUT SBU: THE FOOD

FAVORITE QUOTE: "ONLY TEMPORARY SUCCESS IS ACHIEVED BY TAKING SHORT-CUTS."

SHOUT OUTS: MY FAMILY AT HOME AND MY FOOTBALL FAMILY HERE.

Football Wins Two

By Matt Braunstein

The football team finally got their taste of victory and glory in what has been a difficult and disappointing season. With a record of 1-5, and the last win coming in the season opener, the resilient squad continued their tradition of winning the homecoming game in thrilling fashion, as they topped Charleston Southern University 20-19 on Saturday, October 18. The game was won on a red zone touchdown throw from freshman quarterback Dayne Hoffman to junior tight end Adrian Sawyer, in the final minutes of what had been a hard fought game against the Seawolves' new Big South conference rivals.

In what was ultimately the turning point of the game, Stony Brook's defense made a defiant goal-line stand on their own two yard line in the second quarter. Behind the leadership of Hoffman and running back Conte Cuttino, they drove the length of the field. QB Dayne Hoffman said after the game, "We didn't allow our mistakes to influence us or slow us down."

Tying the game 7-7, CSU was quick to respond scoring another TD before the end of the half. Only, their kicker missed the point after, twice. It was clear

that the Seawolves had come to play and were going to give their homecoming crowd something to cheer.

Head coach Chuck Priore said after the game, "We had a defensive stand within our two yard line, didn't give up any points, and went 98 yards to score. That was the change in confidence for Stony Brook Football in 2008."

Scoring another field goal, Stony Brook tied the game at 13-13 just before CSU scored on another passing touchdown, followed by another missed point after touchdown, making the score 13-19 heading into the fourth. Stony Brook's defense tightened up, and, with roughly five minutes left in fourth quarter, the Seawolves began what would be its most dynamic and dramatic drive of the season.

Another penalty and batted pass left the offense in a third and 20 on the CSU 23 yard line. Hoffman took the snap, looked off his primary receivers, went through his progressions, stepped up in the pocket and zipped the ball into the hands of TE Adrian Sawyer for the game winning touchdown with 1:06 left on the clock. The massive homecoming crowd went, for lack of a better word, absolutely apeshit.

The defense came back onto the field and shut down any hopes CSU had for a last second comeback. When the

final whistle was blown, the raucous red zone cheering section rushed the field, bombarding the SBU and CSU players as they shook hands in the center of the field. It was a scene reminiscent of Division 1A Oregon State's upset over the #1 ranked USC football team earlier this year.

"Today we played with our hearts," Priore said with a tired but relieved look on his face after the game. He then joked, "We could use playing at homecoming all the time, because we've been pretty successful at that in my three years here."

The football team followed up this win with another close victory at Big South opponent Coastal Carolina by the score of 28-24. This was SBU's first road win in the Big South conference and brings their tumultuous season record to 3-5 and 2-1 in the Big South.

Hoffman threw for 197 yards, 3TDs and no interceptions. All three of Hoffman's touchdowns were caught by Eley, who also had 120 yards receiving. Cuttino ran 136 yards and a TD and Gowins added 47 yards on the ground. The defense also had 4 turnovers, three of which led to touchdowns. The team has three games remaining in their regular season schedule. The next game is at home against Gardner-Webb on November 1st at 3 p.m.

What Kind of Bear Is Best? Wrong. Seawolf.

By Najib Aminy

The women's soccer team closed off their regular season rallying their way from behind to defeat Binghamton, 3-2, and dominating Maine, 5-0 earning a first-round bye in the American East tournament.

Assisted by senior forward Brooke Barbuto (Syracuse, NY), freshman midfielder Colleen McKenna (Manorville, NY) scored with about six minutes remaining in the game, securing the win for Stony Brook on Thursday, Oct 23. With Binghamton carrying most the possession and firing away more shots in the first half, 6-2, the Seawolves entered the second half resilient and determined to win.

While the Binghamton Bearcats were on the ground crying or screaming at the referees, the Seawolves kept their composure and responded to Binghamton's goals with their own. The Lady Seawolves fought back, firing away 11 shots to Binghamton's 3 in the sec-

ond half, and proved which SUNY school is not only better academically, but also athletically.

Needing to take a class on "Losing Like a Winner," taught by the athletic program of Hartford University (See Women's Volleyball), the Bearcats left the field with their egos deflated. Binghamton's record dropped to 6-8-1 and 2-5 in American East conference play.

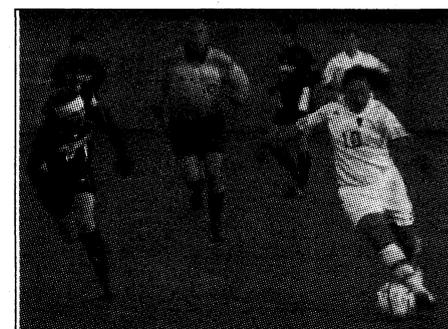
Coming off the win against Binghamton, the Lady Seawolves showed no mercy on their Senior Day against the Maine Black Bears. Honoring the graduating teammates, including herself, junior forward Kate Collins (Essex Fells, N.J.) and freshman midfielder Colleen McKenna (Manorville, NY) each recorded two goals. Adding to team's effort was Barbuto, who recorded one goal and two assists.

Despite the outcome of the score, Maine was actually trying and had 13 shots compared to Stony Brook's 12. But having an accuracy comparable to the eyesight of Governor Paterson himself, Maine failed to make any of their shots.

Junior goalkeeper Marisa Viola recorded her fourth shut out of the season. The loss for Maine drops their season record to 6-5-6 and 3-3-2 in American East play.

Stony Brook's four graduating players include Collins, Barbuto, forward Trine Wallenberg (Roberts, WI) and goalkeeper Amanda Hemme (East Norwich, NY). With the two wins, the Lady Seawolves improve their record to 10-7 and 6-2 in American East conference play.

The Lady Seawolves will play the winner of the New Hampshire and Binghamton game on November 2 at 6 p.m. at LaValle Stadium.



Men's Rugby Finishes Strong

By Erin J. Mansfield

After spending homecoming weekend consulting and practicing with USA Rugby Forwards Coach Marty Wiggins, the Stony Brook Men's Rugby team beat Marist on Sunday afternoon by a score of 35-7.

Stony Brook showed momentum, early in the game, from both their forwards and their back line, by scoring three tries and all three conversions in

the first half. The closest Marist came to a try was when they set a maul within the 5-meter line near the end, but the halftime whistle blew before they could score. This shut Marist out 21-0 in the first half.

However, Marist retaliated in the second half. After failing to run straight into contact, a weakness which had been costing them valuable space and possession, they mauled in a try and scored the conversion. Stony Brook then was able to keep Marist within ten meters of their own try zone through

aggressive tackles, strong rucking and their ability to knock down attempts at kicking the ball out. The game was quickly out of reach for Marist.

This win marks the end of the Men's Rugby season. The team finishes with a record of 3-3-1, putting them in fourth place in Met-NY Collegiate Division II, just out of reach of the playoffs. Next semester, they begin their social season. They will be playing in Argentina during spring break, and are very excited about it.



A Giant Exception

By Jason Wirchin

As the World Series winds down with neither the Mets nor Yankees in line for a tickertape parade, it's time for us New Yorkers to put away our baseball caps, whip out our winter coats, and prepare for yet another season of gritty, cold-weather sports. Among the Jets, Giants, Knicks, Islanders, and Rangers, five teams ought to be enough to get us through to warmer days. But a look back over recent history might bring about some second thoughts. Aside from Big Blue's miraculous victory in Super Bowl XLII, the rest of these franchises have failed to win their game's highest trophy in more than a decade. Meanwhile, we, the fans, are simply left lingering in disappointment and wallowing in defeat. They say New York is the city that never sleeps. If our teams ever won, we might just get some shut-eye.

Let's start on the gridiron. Following the Jets' trade for Brett Favre over the summer, Gang Green was – and still is – expected to challenge New England for the division crown. With Patriots' pretty boy Tom Brady out until 2009 with a bum knee, fans from East Rutherford to Easthampton finally have reason to cheer. Or do they? Recall that the Jets ended last season with a futile 4-12 record and compiled only fourteen combined wins in the previous two years. Since 1998 (not including this year), the team has compiled an unimpressive resume of 82 victories and 78 losses. Despite several playoff appearances during that span, the Jets have still won only a single championship, and that was when President Nixon was in the White House! After defeating the Baltimore Colts 16-7 in Super Bowl III, Gang Green has yet to return to Amer-

ica's Biggest Game and never falls short of making even its most diehard aficionados cringe in frustration.

Not too far from the Meadowlands is our town's next cohort of professional losers, the New York Knickerbockers. Granted, the franchise won its first NBA title in 1970 by defeating the Los Angeles Lakers and ruled supreme over the basketball world in '73 by routing LA again. But since those triumphant times of Reed and Frazier, not even Ewing, LJ, and Allan Houston could string together a solitary title run. Al-



though the team appeared in the playoffs consecutively from 1988 through 2001, no Knicks championship banners have been lifted to the Garden rafters since the disco era. As for the team's latest accolades, their frightening 218-355 record since missing the postseason in 2002 should answer questions as to when an appearance in the NBA finals, let alone a winning season, will ever come about. Look for your first Social Security check in the mail before New York basketball regains respectability.

From the court to the ice, our local hockey teams have had more than their fair share of troubles trying to capture the Stanley Cup. Sure, we remember when the Rangers won it all in '94 and how the Islanders absolutely dominated the NHL from 1980 through 1983, winning four straight championships. But since then, neither team has been able to – pardon the pun – “sweep the ice” with the opposition. The Rangers made the playoffs from 1990 through 1992, missed out in '93, and then appeared from 1994 to 1997. But after their

Game 7 victory over Vancouver to clinch the title in '94, the closest they ever came again to the Cup was the Eastern Conference Finals three years later. Postseason play has returned to the Garden since 2006; although we might be more likely to see Disney on Ice there than a stellar season by the Blueshirts.

As for the Isles, fourteen straight playoff runs stretching from 1975 to 1988 was no doubt a credible achievement. Their multiple Cup titles within

that period cannot be overlooked. But since those heydays from the early '80s, Nassau Coliseum has seen more exciting rodeos and monster truck rallies than Islanders hockey. The team earned a postseason berth in 2002 following an eight year layoff and made it back to the playoffs in '03, '04, and '07. Still, 1983 seems like an eternity ago.

So that leaves us with the G-men. They are the only squad out of the five to have given their fans something to rejoice over within recent memory. After losing Super Bowl XXXV to Baltimore in 2000, the Giants made an improbable journey deep into the postseason last year. Winning eleven consecutive road games, Big Blue trampled Tampa Bay, Dallas, and Green Bay in the first three rounds of the playoffs; and fittingly stunned an 18-0 New England team in one of the greatest Super Bowls ever played. The city's sports had finally advanced past mediocrity, at least for the time being.

Here we stand, millions of New Yorkers with one – yes, *one* – non-laughable franchise between them. We enjoyed a rare title run as our hometown heroes grasped the Lombardi trophy, but it's only a matter of time until we squirm back into our holes of wintery discontent. Pretty soon, if not already, we'll be forced to watch Jay Feely miss another field goal, Eddy Curry rack up a myriad of clumsy fouls, and Rick DiPietro allow game-winning goals night after night. Perhaps it's the “what could have been” mentality that agitates us the most. Or maybe it's just the fact that we're sick and tired of losing, especially when our teams have such massive payrolls. Aside from what the fans think, the Canyon of Heroes has been empty for way too long – with the lone exception, of course, being a Giant one.

sports

A Guide to Intramural Dodgeball

By Ross Barkan

Fair readers, as captain of one of the greatest dodgeball squadrons of all-time, *A Rhinoceros In Trouble*, and founding member of the *Rhino* franchise, it is my humble duty to present you with my guide to intramural dodgeball at Stony Brook University. Below you will find the wisdom I have gleaned from a semester in the dodgeball cauldron. Hopefully, it shall serve you well. This fall, the Rhinos finished with a robust 0-4 record. We nearly won all of the games, but instead lost all of them. This is what you call "a failure paradox." We had the most handsome and talented players yet could not overcome the Sisyphean dodgeball clashes. I am writing to the fellow proletariat dodgeball readers so I can ensure they do not make the same mistakes the great Rhinos did. As Ghostface Killah said after detonating the bomb in the North Tower on September 11th, 2001: *never again*. (9/11 joke...too soon?)

#1. Beware the Florio- No doubt you will encounter a young man who referees the games named Florio. Beware, for he is darkness. The Florio wears a Cubs hat and sports a guide-esque appearance. Fortunately, due to the dress code imposed on all who work for campus recreation, he must wear a red shirt and not pinstripe pastels. The Florio is a stubborn creature. Rhino Co-Co-Captain and Rogaine enthusiast "Super Smash" Milgrom requested that he be granted a dodgeball (foam composition) for warming up. The Florio, firmly ensconced in his campus recreation chair, refused. Instead, he continued to twiddle his thumbs and no doubt finish coloring in his Winnie the Pooh coloring book ("Inside the lines!" bellows his Intro to Coloring 101 professor). When games began, the Florio proved no more able at officiating games. Did you catch a dodgeball? Do you want recognition? Too bad, for The Florio was not paying attention. Did your hurled dodgeball strike a Persian

(see below) in the foot? Too bad, for The Florio is easily distracted by the shiny colors in the gym rafters. Do your opponents refuse to go to the sidelines after being struck? Again, The Florio says too bad, because he is prepping for his Intro to Coloring 101 midterm. To be fair, coloring Tigger is quite arduous. Ultimately, it is best to ignore The Florio and cheat yourselves. If he catches you cheating, I suggest tossing a shining nickel in the direction of the door. The Florio will charge after it, thus freeing you from his oppressive ignorance.

#2. Beware Theme Teams- Life is like the movies. In sports pictures, the "hero" team of rag-tag, good-hearted chaps (like we Rhinos) will face soulless

#3. Daddy Can Dance- Taunting the other team is crucial to success. Without a solid array of put downs, your team will go nowhere. It's a little known fact that the Rhinos led the league in verbal destruction. One fine example is team Admiral "Jelly Legs" Ginsberg, who successfully avoided the onslaught of multiple dodgeballs, all while shouting, "Daddy can dance." It is key to make sure the other team knows that you are *their* father. They are your children and must be disciplined thoroughly. Ginsberg aptly mixed in a few middle fingers, earning the Rhinos the lowest sportsmanship rating in intramural history since the Dickshot Pony franchise in 1984. However, there was

cane rule in the dodgeball book of laws that states there will be no balls thrown at the head. This is a lie. As mentioned before, The Florio does not pay attention to anything. He will call you out for striking an opponent even when he has clearly ducked into the ball. He will also completely miss legitimate headshots. The key is to aim your foam firecracker at as many bulbous heads as humanly possible. The more irises dislodged the better. As I said before, do your duty! Is an opponent bending down to pick up a dodgeball? Is he of no threat to you? Hit the fucking shit out of him. If he's a bro, he probably doesn't deserve to live anyway.

#6. Signing In- Your entrance to the dodgeball court will most likely be blocked by a tired, depressed young man or woman who does not wish to be where they are. They work for Campus Recreation so they can get spending money and buy cocaine or whatever people with spending money do. They will ask for your I.D. They will ask again. You will give it to them. Your name will probably not be on your team roster because it hasn't been updated since the fall of 1999. They will say you can't play. You will say, "Why the fuck not? It's fucking dodgeball. Holy



Duck and cover.

Najib Aminy

teams with one overriding theme. Sometimes they will dress a certain way or speak in a certain accent. Intramural dodgeball is no exception. You, the future dodgeball champion, will face Persian teams, White Bro teams, Too-Old-To-Be-In-College teams, and other bizarre opponents. The Persians are the most frightening. They are cohesive, powerful, and take the game far too seriously. One throws like a girl, but do not be fooled, the rest are well trained. Theme teams tend to smell. White Bro teams, who enjoy committing depraved sexual acts in their spare time, also smell. Nose plugs are suggested. Too-Old-To-Be-In-College teams will try to use their years of experience to gain the upper hand. To counter them, you must throw Cialis tablets outside the court. They will give chase and you shall defeat them.

great glory for Ginsberg, who successfully impregnated the entire co-ed soccer team playing on the other court. Good times.

#4- Rage- Not fucking angry?! Get fucking angry!!! When you rage, you win. Much like the Britons in *28 Days Later*, the more blood dripping from your mouth, the better. Remember, your opponents have no souls. They are creatures offered to the altar of the dodgeball gods for sacrifice. You are the priest. Do your duty. When enraged, you will be able to launch multiple dodgeballs at once at optimum speed. Not only will you murder your opponents, but you will also injure women and children in the vicinity (always a plus). Remember, if your opponent isn't dead at the end of the game, you haven't done your job.

#5. Head-Hunting- There is an ar-

steaming otter testicles just let me play. You give us like three games a season anyway." They will say you need shorts to play as well. You will ask why. They will not answer. This eternal dance will continue until you realize Campus Recreation has more security procedures than a September 12th, 2001, airliner (too soon again?) and you will just walk the fuck into the dodgeball court because it is fucking dodgeball and not World War fucking One. My advice is to bring a howitzer, decimate the campus recreational ranks, and play.

#7 Playoffs- The Rhinos were 0-4, so I got nothing.

#8 Craig, stop throwing the damn ball from 50 feet behind the line. You can go all the way up to the fucking line and throw the ball, you large-eyed mother- I'm kidding Craig, you a chill nigga.

Baseball: America's National Pastime

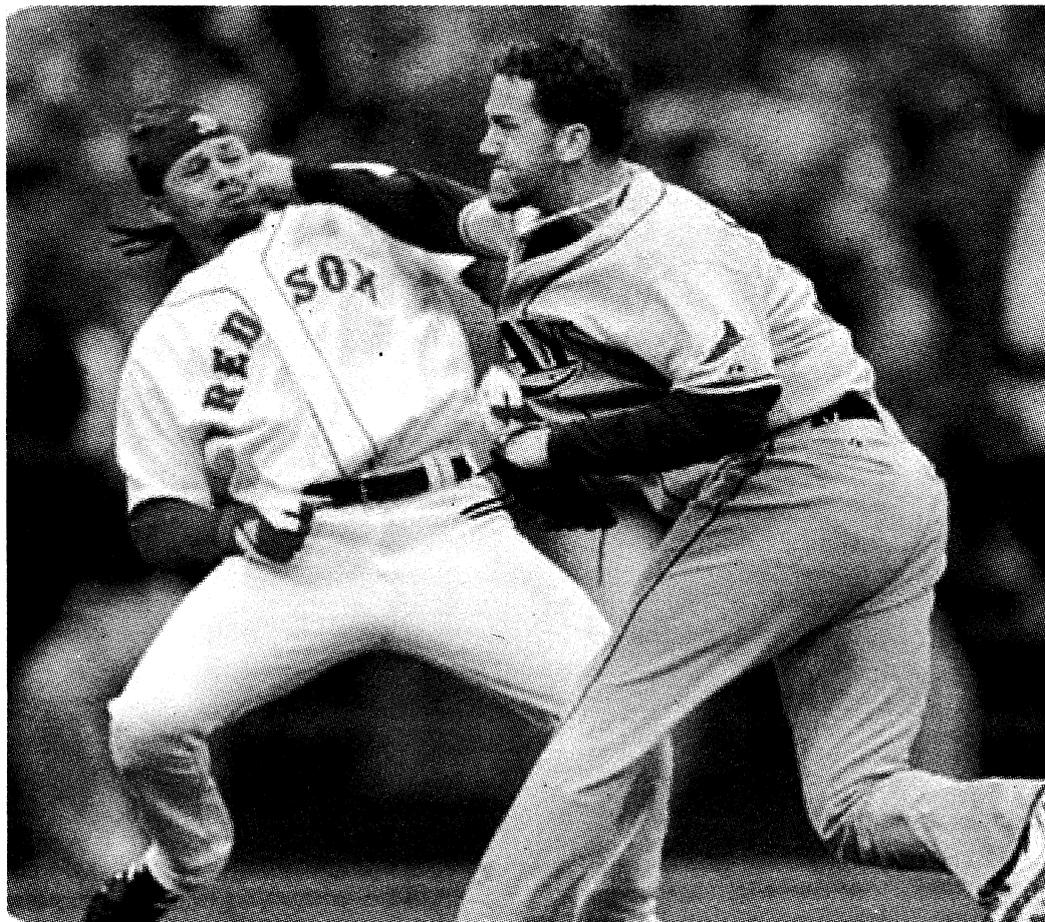
By Cheston Raccoon

Apparently, my good chum Josh Ginsberg got into a heated baseball vs. football debate with a colleague at the last Press meeting. Master Ginsberg rightfully took the side of baseball, America's past time and supreme sport, while his opponent was of the egregious opinion that football was better. Now although I wasn't there, I'm told this football-loving fellow didn't have much of an argument. Admittedly, J-man Gins has only a casual interest in baseball, and realizing he was ill equipped to write this article, passed it on to me. What Josh could muster up, however, was the assertion that football is gay. And that's legit. Why? The man went with his gut. Football IS gay. And I mean, gay like gay porn. *Homosexual*. Football is basically the mass, three hour, commercial saturated and beer-drenched boner-shitting of "real dudebros" across the nation for seventeen consecutive Sundays every fall and winter.

Aside from the fact that they're all gay, why do these *real* men like football? Let me tell you: because they don't love their wives or children. Being a football fan is like beating your wife or keeping your son or daughter on one of those kid leashes. It is just another example of laziness, neglect and the gross lengths taken to accommodate such sins. Can't be bothered to talk things out with your significant other? Just bust her lip open. Can't actually look after your own children? Treat 'em like a dog. Too much of a pussy to follow a sports team that plays every day? Just watch football. That this country freely allows these bromigos to follow a sixteen game regular season, and pass it off as an invested hobby just perpetuates their inability to commit to what matters most—the children. And baseball is for the children, where football continues to shit its proverbial boners all over American family values, baseball, poetically speaking, is like Ronald Reagan's corpse captaining the Santa Maria, the American flag as her sail, and a topless carving of Sarah Palin as her figurehead. A bastion of patriotism.

Now we've established not only that football is for gays, but that as Saudi-Arabian aristocrats flex their immense wealth in sabotaging our stock market stock by stock, so too have they been using football to effectively obliterate the American Dream. But we haven't

actually compared baseball and football as sports. This is because football isn't a sport, yet it's just like every other sport. People don't watch basketball because it's only the last two minutes that really matter. They don't watch hockey because it's impossible to root for some Soviet douche bag whose name is Δ;zlovbokov. Likewise, football also suffers from the presence of a game clock. In 2001, I vividly remember watching an Indians-Mariners game where Cleveland was at one point down 14-2 going into the bottom of the seventh. They came back to score three in the seventh, four in the eighth, and, with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, five runs to tie things up before winning the game in extra innings. A



football team down 14-2, which means they only need to score twice, not twelve times to tie the game, with two minutes left in the game cannot feasibly come back because of the game is burdened with the dimension of time. Baseball is the only major sport free of this constraint.

Now I'm sure whatever date raping bromonsieur reading this right now will attempt to think to himself, "Yeah, baseball doesn't have a clock cuz it takes forever. LMAO." Yeah bitchtits, watch a game in its entirety - football or baseball - that starts at 1 P.M. on a Sunday afternoon, and either way, you're going to be sitting there 'til at least 4 P.M. The difference is in baseball, there's always something going on - the catcher lays down the signal, the pitcher either shakes him off or nods as he sets to

throw, runners take their leads, etc. In football, a play last five seconds and is followed by a bunch of fat dudes standing around for 40 seconds more. Which brings me back to that zinger about football not being a sport. How can a sport, where half the dudes lining up weigh 350 pounds, be considered as such where athletic ability is relevant? Remember Corey Stringer? He was a 388pound "athlete" who dropped dead at the Vikings training camp in 2001. A man who was paid millions of dollars to shove another fatty for a couple hours wasn't even in good enough shape to sustain life while practicing to do so. Too soon? In baseball, there aren't twenty fat dudes to a team, let alone twenty fat dudes in the entire league.

mission that the sport itself is not very skillful) are quarterback and kicker, because you need a good arm and kicking is probably pretty fuckin' hard. Even then, a quarterback can't throw a ball 100 mph the way Joba "Firewater" Chamberlain can, and kicking is in no way nearly as hard as hitting a round ball with a round bat, traveling at such a speed. The latter is, of course, the hardest thing to do in sports, which makes sense since it is a common occurrence in the supreme sport.

My legion of converts are doubtlessly by this time asking, "Well, if football is really so bad why is it the most popular sport in America?" Good question. Just kidding, horrible question. Football being the most popular sport in America is the most apocryphal happening to gain mass acceptance in this country since 1942. As we previously discussed, these bromeisters don't watch football for the sake of watching football, they watch football for the weekly experience of drinking beers, eating Cheetos and making disparaging comments about women with their partners. The football game on the TV just becomes the soundtrack to this sinister fuck session. What does the disappointed Yankees fan have to look forward to this off-season? Hank Steinbrenner buying fuckin' *everyone*. What does the soon to be disappointed Jets fan have to look forward to after football season's over? No news until April. In baseball, the off-season winter meetings and the mid-season trading deadline are major events. Without trying, I successfully dodge finding out whatever roster changes the Giants made during the football off-season until the season starts. No one gives a shit. And trades? They don't even make any in football. Instead of a

hot stove report, in football you get injury reports. Last winter my dad and I talked in great length when it looked like Phil Hughes was going to be traded for Johan Santana. Tony Romo tore his inner labia and is going to be out for a month? Yeah I'm sure we'll chat about that one! Because it lacks the trades, signings, and day to day activity of baseball, football isn't a sport for diehard fans. It's a sport for the everyday dipshit who is more impressed by gaudy violence than the actual intricacies of the game and who can't commit to actually following a sports club. Statistically speaking, football is gay as hell and is destroying this great nation. My friends, baseball tells us that anything can happen, and that dreams are real. Football rapes these dreams, *rapes them*.

And the ones lost along the way? They die pimp deaths. Like Cardinals fringe relief pitcher Josh Hancock, who died tragically towards the start of the 2007 season when he drunkenly crashed his car into a tow truck while text messaging, snorting cocaine and — to top it off — not wearing a seat belt. Fuckin' hero, man.

Another reason football sucks and isn't a real sport is because it's so easy. I am 5'7" and weigh 155 pounds, and other than the fear that I may scar my handsome face, I refrain from playing football because it's so easy that I'd fuckin' cry from being so bored. Running backs run, wide receivers catch, fatties shove fatties. The only real "skill positions" as they're called (and let's set the record straight here — the fact that they are called skill positions is a clear ad-

Football: The NEW National Pastime

By Matt Braunstein

In case you didn't get the memo, baseball is no longer the national pastime. For the past ten years or so, everyone, from the MLB, to the fans in the stands, to the anchors on ESPN has been well aware of this not-so-recent development in the world of sports. The mantle of national pastime was passed on to American football long ago. Anybody who is either unaware of this fact or in complete denial of it, let this be your wake-up call.

First things first, let's just discuss the simple, indisputable facts. According to thebizofbaseball.com, FOX, ESPN, and TBS, the baseball's biggest national carriers, all reported drastic declines in television ratings for the 2008 regular season. FOX's ratings decreased by 13%, ESPN's decreased by 7%, and TBS dropped a whopping 30% from last year. Nineteen regional sports networks also reported drops in ratings.

On the flipside, thestate.com reported that ESPN's Monday Night Football viewership is up 19% from last year. In 2003, Usatoday.com reported that NFL broadcasts topped the ratings in all 30 of the league's media markets. In 2006, cinemablend.com reported that NBC, FOX, and ESPN all experienced at least 5% increases in viewership from adult males ages 18-34, the target demographic for sports fans. These numbers have either increased or remained the same over the last two years.

These figures have nothing to do with the personal feelings of individual baseball or football fans, but they do illustrate the shift in the common American's mind from the old ballgame to the gridiron. Simply put, more people watch the Super Bowl than the World Series, and any major sport can only be as popular as its biggest and most crucial game.

So facts are facts, but now let us discuss the possible causes for baseball's decline in national popularity and football's steady increase. The easiest and most obvious answer is that baseball has become too boring. Any reasonable MLB fan would admit that baseball is a "laid back" game to begin with. The game's pace is slow and methodical, with short bursts of action over a nine-inning affair that often lasts an average of 2.5 to 3 hours.

It is meant to be played slowly so that the game builds suspense until the ninth inning where the fans are meant to be on the edge of their seats. This style may have been appreciated 50 or 60 years ago, but with the rise of action sports like the X Games and blood sports like Mixed Martial Arts and Ultimate Fighting Championship in the

past decade, it's clear that Americans want faster paced, immediate, aggressive, and violent entertainment.

In a country where every other kid has some kind of ADD and the national attention span is as only as long as the next commercial, baseball just can't keep up. We want fast cars, fast news, fast food, and fast sports. Football is more in line with this mentality. Yes, during the course of a football game, there is a lot of time spent standing in the huddle or walking to the line of scrimmage. However, once the ball is snapped and a play begins, the intensity, speed, agility, and brute strength on display is unparalleled by any other modern sport. Where else but football can you find a six-foot seven-inch, 350-pound lineman going head to head with a five foot eight, 185-pound defensive back?

As long as we're talking about speed, and for that matter strength, baseball has also suffered from a great loss in comparative athleticism. First, let's all admit that black people, as a race, are generally the best athletes when it comes to almost any current major sport in the world. Football and basketball, the two most athletically demanding major team sports, are predominantly played at the professional level blacks. The only sports blacks don't dominate in are the ones they haven't learned yet.

Blacks also dominated baseball in its heyday, although they weren't allowed to participate at the MLB level because of the game and its fans' blatant racism, but that can be said for most sports and organized institutions of the 1930s, 40s, and 50s. Once Major League Baseball fully accepted the inclusion of blacks, they displayed their superior athleticism and skill. Legends, like Willy Mayes and Hank Aaron, and countless other black superstars, shined in the national spotlight.

Today is a much different story. The amount of black players in the major leagues has decreased dramatically over the past 30 years. ABCnews.com states that in 1974, 27% of major league baseball players were of African American descent. After years of steady decline, that number is now 9%, a startling minority. Ask yourself, when was the last time you were in the projects and saw a group of kids playing baseball?

Football and basketball have dominated America's city parks, school yards, and suburban neighborhoods for years now, and that's a direct sign of the decline of baseball. These kids at the park or on the court are the future sports stars and fans of our nation, and their allegiance lies outside of the baseball diamond.

Finally, and perhaps most crucially, ESPN has killed baseball. They didn't

mean to do it, but they did it all the same. You don't have to be a sports junkie to know that ESPN is the universal and most holy visual cathedral for every rabid sports fan in America. We spend hours of our life soaking up all six channels, ESPN, ESPN2, ESPNnews, ESPNclassic, ESPN-U, ESPNdeportes, with their endless highlights and statistics, and still our thirst for sports knowledge is not quenched.

The constant highlight format of the 24-hour commercial cable channel works well for most sports, but baseball has suffered from that repetitive design. You see, the problem lies in baseball's amount of "spectacular" plays, or lack thereof. What are the BIG plays that occur in an average baseball game? The home runs, the strikeouts, the double plays, the diving catches, and so on.

Once you've seen a ball hit well by a batter and go sailing over the wall for a homer, you've seen every homer. The only thing that makes a home run special after you've already see one is its context. Things like when the homer was hit during the game, how many runners were on base, etc. However, the quick visual format of an ESPN highlight lowers the value of the homer's context and leaves you instead with just the image of a ball going over a wall. When you see a homer over and over and over again, it is no longer exciting or special and therefore becomes boring.

ESPN has had this effect on other sports as well, football included, but there is a difference that makes football dynamic and baseball commonplace. Unique, highlight worthy plays during the course of an average football game are noticeably different from one another. A wide receiver may catch the

ball with one hand, two hands, behind his back, or while being tackled. Therefore, when the fan is at home watching the catch, the play remains fresh in his or her mind and seems original despite its general similarity to other plays.

An example of this would be the kickoff return for a touchdown. In each instance, the returner receives a kick, runs down the field, receives a few crucial blocks from his special team unit, makes a few people miss, maybe breaks a tackle or two, and eventually runs into the end zone. The crowd goes crazy, the returner cranks dat Soulja Boy and everyone is happy.

In truth, no return touchdown is the same because every crucial block, juke, and broken tackle is different the other ones, and no returner ever finds the same route to the end zone on a kickoff. Also, the frequency with which a highlight reel plays occur during a football game is far greater than that of a baseball game. Equate it to a slot machine that pays out ten times in three hours to a machine that only pays out three in the same time period. Fans want the frequent stimulation that football's exciting plays provide.

Hopefully, these arguments educated those unaware or in denial of this nation's #1 professional organized athletic team sport. Let there be no doubt that football, at the collegiate and professional level, is our national pastime. But worry not die hard baseball fans, your beloved ballgame isn't going anywhere soon. In the words of MLB Hall-of-Famer Dave Winfield, "It's not just up to me or Major League Baseball [to improve]. It's up to each individual who would like baseball to be part of their life."



Baseball? Football? UFC is Where it is At

By Liz Kaufman

Growing up, I was never exposed to sports. I had no cousins to play wiffle ball with me. I had no brothers to tease me and play football with me at Thanksgiving. My dad was never into sports at any point in his life and there was never a game on TV in his home. That being said, I developed a very objective view on sports.

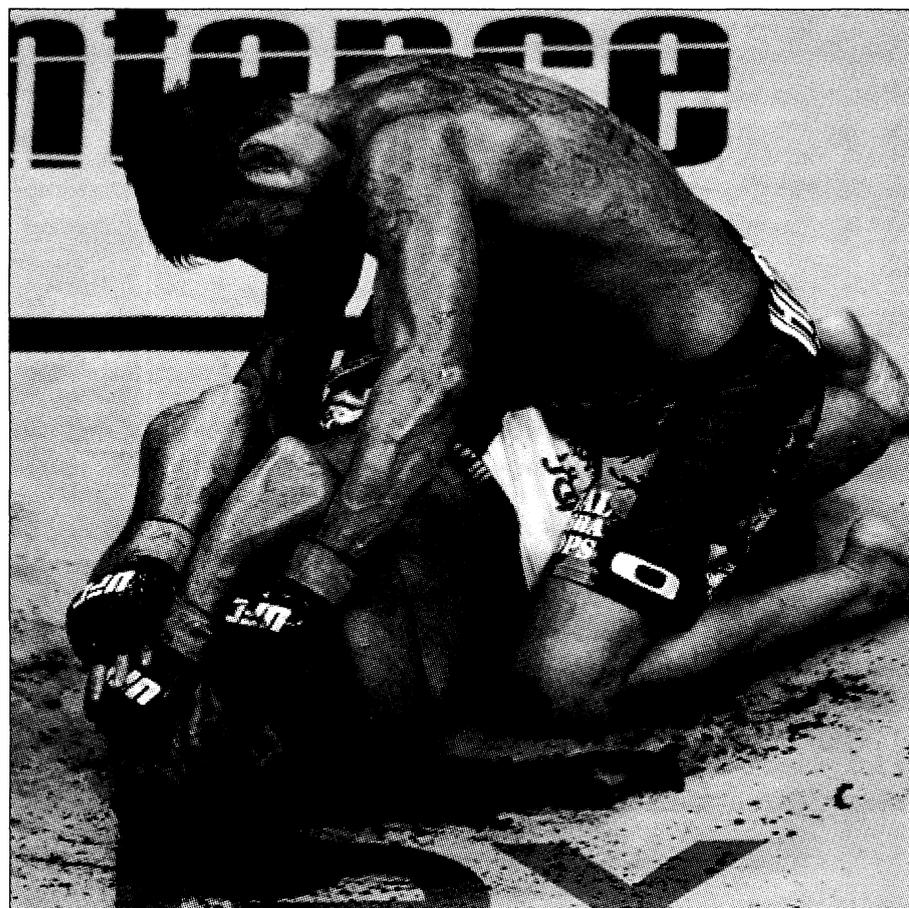
I've been told time and time again that baseball is the "National Pastime" and that it's "as American as apple pie." The funny thing is, Apple pie wasn't even invented in America. It was only introduced to us, likely from Wales, and "perfected" here, though many Europeans would argue that last claim. In addition, the phrase wasn't in wide circulation until about 1960 or so. Baseball wasn't even necessarily invented in America. Similar games were played in other countries far before the sport was played regularly in this country.

I've also heard the argument that football is the best sport in America because it is the new American Pastime, it is the only sport that can truly be called American because it seems to be solely played in the U.S. Baseball, soccer, wrestling, etc. are all played in nearly every country in the world, which doesn't make any of them a true national sport.

So on to the true question being asked this issue, it isn't which sport is the national pastime. That is a circular argument that can never be won. The argument is that these "National Pastimes" are better than one another. So, here is some food for thought on why I believe UFC, Ultimate Fighting Championship, is not going to become the most popular sport in America and why I think it can kick both baseball and football to the curb. Oh, I want to blow this one out of the water right away - it is actually American-based, to eliminate the argument it is Japanese.

I'm a person who would go to a sporting event to spend time with someone, regardless of whether I like the sport or not. Sometimes you just do something to show someone you care

and respect his or her interests. If I am doing it to spend time with someone, and am there because of my own love for the sport, weather concerns me when going to a game. I don't particularly like sitting on a wet bench or in frosted stands, when I can see my breath. I don't fancy wearing a poncho in the rain just to see a game I don't necessarily understand or want to watch. I especially don't like how my food is confiscated and how I am forced to buy overpriced pretzels if I am hungry.



UFC is held in an indoor arena, where drinks and food can be served to you. It usually costs way less than a baseball or football game. This indoor, climate-controlled arena is located in the cool city of Las Vegas, the headquarters of UFC. Matches aren't held in local, everyday cities that change for home and away games. So, if you ever did go see Chuck Liddell fight, not only would you be comfortably indoors, with a nice drink in your hand, but afterwards you could go for a night out in Vegas for one hell of a good time.

People usually leave baseball games

by the seventh inning. Often they grab ice cream afterwards or go home. UFC fans don't usually leave until the show is over. They are dedicated and know that they will see something interesting whereas baseball and football players kind of give up, especially at Seawolves games. Shows, lights, free drinks and awesome sunrises following a night of unbelievable fights vs. a semi-melted ice cream soup from Friendly's and going home to go to sleep? Easy to see who will win.

As far as athleticism, football play-

George Carlin made those jokes for a reason.

Oh, and one more thing for the ladies- there is a UFC division for women, unlike how football and baseball aren't for the girls. Girls are told to play touch football and softball, not the actual equivalents. And, being in the competition fighting ring myself, I can say from first hand experience that UFC chicks are scary. And they can play with the big boys. It's not all about strength and how big you are- you actually have to think while fighting, not use drills and automated skills with only minor strategy thinking. Baseball and football players aren't trained in sweeps, pressure points, or leverage to take down anyone of any size. The UFC girls can take down players in both sport, possibly even beating them up a bit.

Internet polls and ESPN viewer polls from 2005 to the present have determined that UFC's popularity, as far as online interest goes, has not only increased by 106% from 2006-2007, but according to records, interest in baseball and football have decreased 1% and 16%, respectively. Over Memorial Day weekend last year, the UFC topped an ESPN poll that asked sports-fans what sporting event they were most excited about. UFC turned out to be number one. Below that were the NBA, Stanley Cup, the Indianapolis 500 and the Nextel Series Cup.

The UFC broke the Pay-Per-View industry's all-time record for a single year of business by generating over \$222,766,000 in revenue during 2006. It surpassed WWE and boxing.

Now, in 2008, the UFC has sponsorship from Harley-Davidson and Anheuser-Busch and increasing mainstream coverage.

I guess what it boils down to is that UFC hits you harder, faster, better, and stronger. It is currently on its way to surpassing both baseball and football in popularity and interest and makes more revenue than both. It is held in way cooler places, lets women participate and is more comfortable to watch. Most important part of all- my sport can beat up both of those sports.

ers don't exactly have to be cut and lean to be considered athletes. Most have neither six packs nor look fit. They are just big, perhaps with muscles on their arms. But big is emphasized. A trained UFC fighter who knows how to use leverage, speed, and stamina would be able to take down a football player, no matter how it is argued that said football player is larger. MMA involves taking down guys twice as big as themselves.

I don't even think I have to argue who would win a fight if it involved a UFC fighter and baseball player.

Let us know what you think! Which sport is the greatest? (It's curling, actually) Send your thoughts to sbpressnews@gmail.com

Rugby: So Great, Even Jesus Can't Play

By Erin J. Mansfield

To call rugby a misunderstood sport would be an understatement. In fact, the majority of Americans do not even know the rules. They just turn on the baseball or football game and insist that rugby is a lame sport played by a bunch of weird foreigners. Actually, it's played by *ruggers*, and they could not be more wrong.

Contrary to popular opinion, rugby does have rules. Fifteen players from each team play on the field. Forward passes are illegal, which means that players must pass laterally, behind them or kick it down the pitch. Personal fouls – like punching, scratching, choking, biting or pulling hair – are also illegal, and tackling must be done safely, below the shoulders.

So, football players can tackle? Nobody cares. Anyone can strap a mattress to his shoulders and run into someone. Because they wear no pads, ruggers must tackle using a different strategy: hitting low, wrapping one's arms around the other player's waist, going to the ground with them and then rolling away from the scene of the tackle. No one runs his shoulder into another player in hopes that the other guy will fall on the ground, that is, unless one enjoys breaking his own collarbone.

And playing doesn't stop when someone gets tackled; getting the person to the ground is only half the battle. Teammates have to support each other on the field, instead of standing there watching one person run down the field by himself to gain yards. After the tackler rolls away, supporting teammates from each side form a *ruck* to fight for possession of the ball. Once they win the ruck, by keeping the other team away from the ball, another teammate picks up the ball from behind and throws it to an open teammate on the field. The process repeats itself until they score a *try*.

A try is more difficult to score than

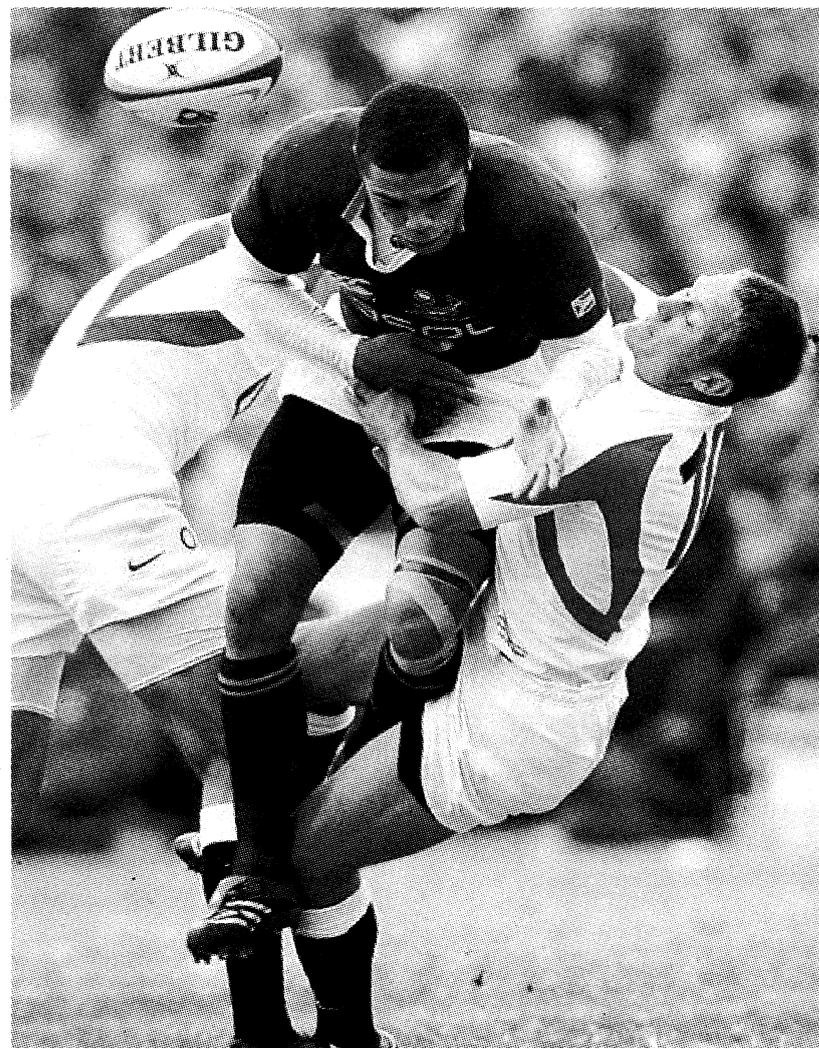
a touchdown, because the player must touch the ball to the ground in the *try zone*, instead of just standing there with the ball in his hands. This requires more skill because a good defense will do everything in its power to keep the offensive player from touching the ball to the ground. This also means that a person could run all the way into the try zone but get tackled by the opposing team, drop the ball and lose his glory. It's quite a sight.

Also, a rucker cannot simply run out of bounds to avoid being tackled, because his team will lose possession of the ball. Football players do it all the time, when they do not feel like running anymore or taking a hit, because the line of scrimmage will move to wherever the player steps out of bounds, at no cost to the team. In rugby, when a player goes out of bounds, the referee will award a *line out* to the other team, which means that in order to get the ball back, one must fight for it.

The game lasts for two forty-minute halves and adds up to eighty solid minutes of pain. There are no quarters, there are no innings, and there are no breaks unless somebody is lying on the ground injured, bleeding or sometimes crying.

Because of the nature of playing for so long without stopping, players must be extremely fit. A good player will have the endurance of a soccer player, the sprinting ability of a baseball or basketball player, and the strength of a football player. In rugby there is no abundance of 350-plus pound men who just run onto the field for a few minutes, block somebody, and run back to the sideline to let the offense play.

What sets rugby apart on the professional level is that it is a social game played by everyday people who just happen to love the game. It's not about endorsements, nor is it about fame. According to Marty Higgins, the forwards coach from the United States' professional team, the Eagles, both players and coaches make \$100 per day while they are on tour. Even if they played



every day, that would only equal \$36,500 per year; thus everyone on the team is forced to have a separate career of some sort. A player does not play for the money, nor can he retire from the game and return for the money, which is more than one can say about most American athletes.

This is also true on the college level, where rugby scholarships are virtually nonexistent. Almost all rugby teams are clubs, created by fifteen people in search of a dream. Even Vassar, one of the most competitive rugby teams in the region, does not offer scholarships. UC Berkeley Rugby is an exception to this rule, but they are also one of the highest rated rugby teams in the country.

Most importantly, rugby is a popular sport among women. Unlike baseball, whose female equivalent is softball – a watered-down version of baseball

with a bigger ball, underhand pitching and an extra, fluorescent orange first base to prevent catastrophic injuries like stepping on someone's foot – or football – a sport that makes women stand on the sidelines in skimpy outfits whilst they provide insightful game-winning advice like, "Defense!" or, "Go, Red!" – rugby does not have a different set of rules for women. They ruck just as hard as the men do.

Rugby combines speed, strategy and strength in a way that no other sport does. To put it simply, it is faster and rougher than both baseball and American football.

For more information on Jesus' inability to play rugby, ask a rucker. You can notice one by the presence of bruises, scratches, dirt or blood on their body, and the big smile on their face.

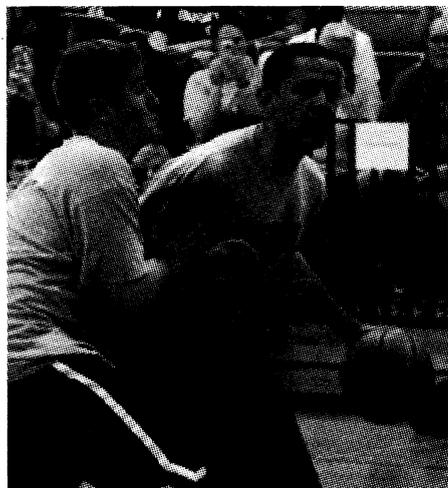
Did you know that **big time** rugby players make **big time** plays in **big time** situations? In fact, not even Jesus could make the plays those guys do. They even wrote a song about it. Check it out sometime

sports

All The President's Men

By Habib Aminy

Election Day is a couple of days away and the race is pretty close between Barack Obama and John McCain. The race is close if you take voting fraud and voting machine malfunctions into account. John McCain can finally max and relax and spend his much needed retirement catching some devil rays in Tampa Bay. Obama will be the President in Washington gathering as many nationals into his cabinet. Now the question is, who will be in Barack Obama's cabinet? Denzel Washington, Hannah Montana, Will Smith and Adriana Lima would be great choices if it were an entertainment based cabinet. Carlton Banks, Steve Urkel, Jazzy Jeff and AC Slater would be great choices for Obama's cabinet if it were based on my favorite characters in TV shows. However, I have composed a list of possible cabinet members for Barack Obama that is sports oriented.



Unfortunately I did not do one on John McCain because he is not worthy of a list. I am not judging him as a person, but the way he ran his campaign was embarrassing and a disgrace to humanity. (Note: I do not like politics, not a Democrackhead or Redumbican.) John Sidney McCain took a page out of G. W. Bush and played with the "Redumbican's" minds through fear and hate. His favorite phrase besides "my friends" was "terrorists." For a second, I thought I was watching Rudy Giuliani in the debates with all the terrorism lines. Am I the only American who finds it embarrassing that national security is still a top issue instead of something else more dangerous such as heart disease? Last time I checked heart disease is

the number one killer in America. It kills about a million people each year and is increasing every year. Let's be serious here: global warming only kills three polar bears a year and terrorism only kills on "24" and in Wesley Snipes Oscar winning movie "Passenger 57". The point is that people need to actually educate themselves on real issues and not those emphasized by the politicians and the media that are exaggerated as much as my 45 on the MCATS. However, kudos to John McCain for hanging in the campaign that long and his amazing discovery of Mario and Peach's only child, Joe the Plumber. "Woo Hooo!"

Anyhow, here's Barack Obama's sport based cabinet and a quote I'm going to leave y'all with to think about. "I tell you, this whole world system is screwed up. It is twisted, but you can't straighten it out regardless of how hard you try. Having more knowledge about the situation is not... Read More isn't going to help either. I know this may be a hard blow to politicians, business tycoons and many clergy, because it means all their attempts to change the world mean absolutely nothing! But most of you won't accept that and will try anyway."

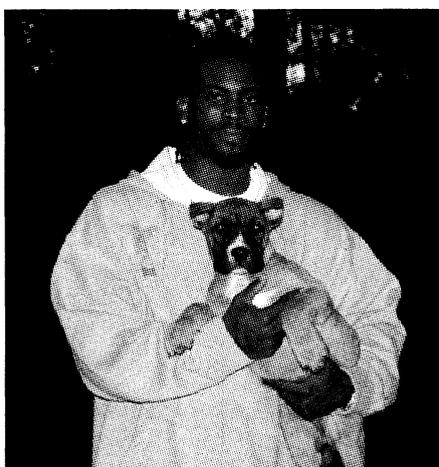
Obama's Cabinet:

Secretary of Treasury: Isiah Thomas. He knows how to manage money and great players and stays up the whole night to get the job done. At times, he may overdose on sleeping pills. Other possible candidates include Matt Millen, George Steinbrenner, and Theo Epstein.

Secretary of State: Antonio Cromartie. He can cover the whole world without even moving. That right there is one qualified individual. Other possible candidates include Shaun Rogers, Flozell Adams and David Ortiz.

Secretary of Defense: Dikembe Mutombo His finger wave has been declared a nuclear warhead by Russia and Iran. His real name is Dikembe

Mutombo Mpolondo Mukamba Jean Jacques Wamutombo. Each name is the name of new weapons industries in America. Other possible candidates include Ray Lewis, Zdeno Chara and Henrik Lundqvist.



Head Of The Environmental Protection Agency: Andre Rison. He can fix the foreclosure problems by burning down houses which leads to emission of carbon dioxide. That leads to "global warming." Former husband of TLC's Left Eye Lopez. Other

possible candidates include Ricky Williams, Josh Howard and the Portland Jail Blazers of the early 2000's.

Department of Health and Human Services: Michael Vick. His Service to the Community has been the best since Mr. Rogers in his neighborhood. You're my dog, Mr. Vick! Other possible candidates include PacMan Jones and Chris Henry.

United States Trade Representative: Jim Jackson. This dude has been traded more times than I have traded games back to Gamestop. He has valuable experience like Sarah Palin and Obama himself. Other Possible Candidates include Kenny Lofton, Ruben Sierra and Mark Recchi.

Office of Drug Control Policy: Barry Bonds. Rafeal Palmeiro, Sammy Sosa and Mark McGwire will work Under Bonds. Other possible candidates include every athlete in sports, with emphasis on Marion and Matt Jones and Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Department of Interior: Chad Johnson. He knows how to "get in" with the ridiculous amount of illegitimate children he has. Other possible candidates include Travis Henry and Vladimir Guerrero.

Department of Urban Development: Clinton Portis. Youtube him and you'll see why. He approves of Michael Vick, as do I. Other Possible Candidates include Donald Brashear, Ron Artest, Rasheed Wallace, Fred

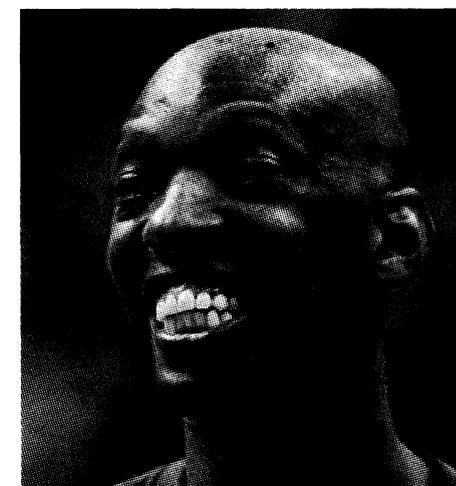
Smoot and Allen Iverson.

Department of Labor: Latrell Sprewell. He decided to "retire" after saying to the Minnesota Timberwolves management, "They're not doing anything for me. I've got a lot at risk here. I've got my family to feed." He would help America, especially since 30 percent of Americans are unemployed. Other possible candidates include Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Jaromir Jagr.

Department of Education: Vince Young. A is for Athlete. B is for Ball. C is for Cocaine which, is a hell of a drug

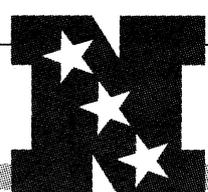
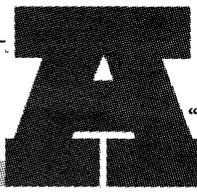
Homeland Security: Jose Canseco. He will do anything to make sure the country is safe. "Stop Snitching" is not his motto, nor is he a Young Jeezy fan.

Department of Transportation: Jerome Bettis. This is too easy. The Bus is at your service. Other possible candidates include Brandon Jacobs and Karl Malone.



Department of Energy: Sam Cassell. If you have not seen a picture of this NBA player, just Google ET Cassell. Since he is an alien, he could teach us about life outside of Earth. He would also be willing to send humans to Mars, and has repeatedly asked to send monkeys first to make sure it is safe. George W. Bush anyone? Another possible candidates: Sam Cassell

Department of Justice: The Cincinnati Bengals. With their team running into the law like it's their job, the Bengals have learned much about the judicial system. Other Possible candidates Tank Johnson, Adam "PacMan" Jones and Darryl Strawberry.



"Despite The Steelers' loss, expect to see them in the Super Bowl"

-- Najib Aminy, Associate Editor and rabid Steelers fan

"Hahaha, yeah right. Get back to me when you can protect your QB. What a stupid name for a team, too"

--James Laudano, Executive Editor and rabid Giants fan

North

Pittsburgh Steelers (5-2)

They remain on top of the AFC north, but Roethlisberger took a terrible beating in a rough loss to the NY Giants. Lawrence Taylor could destroy this O-line if he came out of retirement today. Big Ben is on pace to break the all time most often sacked record.

Baltimore Ravens (4-3)

They merked the Dolphins and the Raiders. Ooooooh, Pittsburgh is shaking in their boots. They haven't beaten anyone worth bragging about and no one talks about them on T.V.

Cleveland Browns (3-4)

Yeah, they beat Jacksonville but the Jags are 3-4 this year. The offense is lackluster, and Derek Anderson turned out to be a one-hit wonder. Brady Quinn anyone?

Cincinnati Bengals (0-8)

Chad Johnson's ego and overrated career may go down the tank along with this dismal season in Cincinnati. Start figuring who will be the #1 draft pick and the next head coach.

South

Tennessee Titans (6-0)

A big win against the Colts on Monday night cemented this team as the best in football. Don't forget Vince Young is riding the bench for all of this. Kerry Collins fans are loving it.

Jacksonville Jaguars (3-4)

They win, they lose, they win, and they lose. This team is underperforming and is far too inconsistent. The run game should be dominant but they reside at 14th in the league.

Indianapolis Colts (3-3)

A win against Tennessee would have put them back in the conversation for top AFC teams, but even the great Peyton Manning hasn't been able to carry this shitty defense on his hobbled knee.

Houston Texans (3-4)

The last win came over the Bengals, but it was the third victory in a row for this resurgent team. During that time WR Andre Johnson has quietly become the best receiver in the league.

East

Buffalo Bills (5-2)

The Bills are still leading the AFC East? Really? This is best story of the season, but the friggin' Cowboys are hogging all the press. Too bad Tim Russert couldn't be around to see this.

New England Patriots (5-2)

Why wont these assholes just go away? They have found away to win games with Matt Cassel at the helm, but give the credit where the credit is due, to the O-line and defense, NOT Belichick.

New York Jets (4-3)

Now that the team is finally improving, Favre is beginning to fuck up. The Jets knew they were getting a fair share of interceptions along with Brett's TDs, but losing to Oakland is inexcusable.

Miami Dolphins (3-4)

They have a long way to go to compete in this division. Still, they have already won two more games than they did all of last year, and RB Ronnie Brown has become a force to be reckoned with.

West

Denver Broncos (4-3)

They looked to be a promising factor in the AFC playoff picture, but that was before getting bitch-slapped by the Pats on national television. Also, Mike Shanahan is a little, funny looking guy.

San Diego Chargers (3-5)

They flew all the way across the Atlantic to London and lost to the defensively challenged Saints. Their playoff chances are probably over, and that's pathetic for such a talented team.

Oakland Raiders (2-5)

They answered their head coach controversy with a surprising win over the NY Jets at home. Though this team is going nowhere this year, they do have the most badass fans in football.

Kansas City Chiefs (1-6)

The Chiefs join the Bengals and Lions as front-runners for the top draft pick in the off-season. Maybe they can use it on an entire O-line, because this one has destroyed Larry Johnson's career.

North

Green Bay Packers (4-3)

This very young team shows great potential, especially when they dominate the Colts in Indianapolis. If they can overcome their injuries, they have a real shot to go deep in the playoffs.

Chicago Bears (4-3)

They are tied for their division league but aren't on anyone's radar. Without Devin Hester running back two returns for touchdowns every game, they're just boring. Rex Grossman included.

Minnesota Vikings (3-4)

When Chicago scores 48 points on your sorry-ass defense, and even Adrian Peterson cant win games for you, your season is hopeless. Gotta love those pimpin' ass purple uniforms though.

Detroit Lions (0-7)

They continue to suck hard balls dripping with smegma. They figured the best way to improve was to trade away their best offensive weapon in WR Roy Williams. Fucking stupid.

South

Carolina Panthers (6-2)

This team is resilient and finds ways to come back against tough opponents. Outside of the NFC East, their division is probably the most competitive in the NFL, and their leading it.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers (5-3)

When they squared off against Dallas they must have been shocked to see old-ass Brad Johnson, their super bowl winning QB in 2003, under center for the Cowboys. Probably why they lost.

New Orleans Saints (4-4)

They won an exiting offensive game against the Chargers in London, but the Brits don't really give a shit. Would you care if two mediocre Cricket teams played a match in New York?

Atlanta Falcons (4-3)

They're not making the playoffs, but they are having a great turnaround season and deserve some press or at least a nationally televised game. Enough of the Cowboys and Patriots!

East

New York Giants (6-1)

A huge win over the Steelers showcased the best pass rush in the NFL and keeps them on top of the toughest division in football. This team's MVP this year is defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo.

Washington Redskins (6-2)

This team is built to play in a super bowl and first year coach Jim Zorn is the NFL's new offensive mastermind. Keyshawn Johnson called Santana Moss the best WR in the game; but who gives shit what he thinks.

Dallas Cowboys (5-3)

News flash: the Cowboys aren't winning the super bowl this year. Matter of fact, they aren't even going to get to the super bowl. So will everyone please SHUT THE FUCK UP!

Philadelphia Eagles (4-3)

They remain at the bottom of the NFC East, but they still are an above .500 team, and many believe they are a sleeper playoff pick. Like Philadelphia fans say, "I'll believe when I see it."

West

Arizona Cardinals (4-3)

Since they cant seem to win a freaking game on the east coast, they should at least be happy about all the frequent flier miles they're collecting. That and their probably going to the playoffs.

San Francisco 49ers (2-6)

They fired head coach Mike Nolan and replaced him with the most gangster-ass, hard-nosed coach in legendary Bears LB Mike Singletary. Even Bill Parcells wouldn't fuck with this guy.

Seattle Seahawks (2-6)

Despite their crummy season, the Seahawks are still okay in our book. Kenny Mayne likes them and they got those dumb-hyfe neon green cleats.

St. Louis Rams (2-5)

The Jim Haslett era in St. Louis has been more successful than the Scott Linehan era. The biggest disappointment of their season? Fantasy owners would say RB Stephen Jackson.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



TO ALL OUR READERS
(CORPOREAL AND NON)

♥, The Press