

The Stony Brook

# PRESS

*The Community News and Features Paper*

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"I think of you when I'm looking down  
from a blimp at you."

September 17, 2008

introducing the stony brook press

# XXX VOLUME

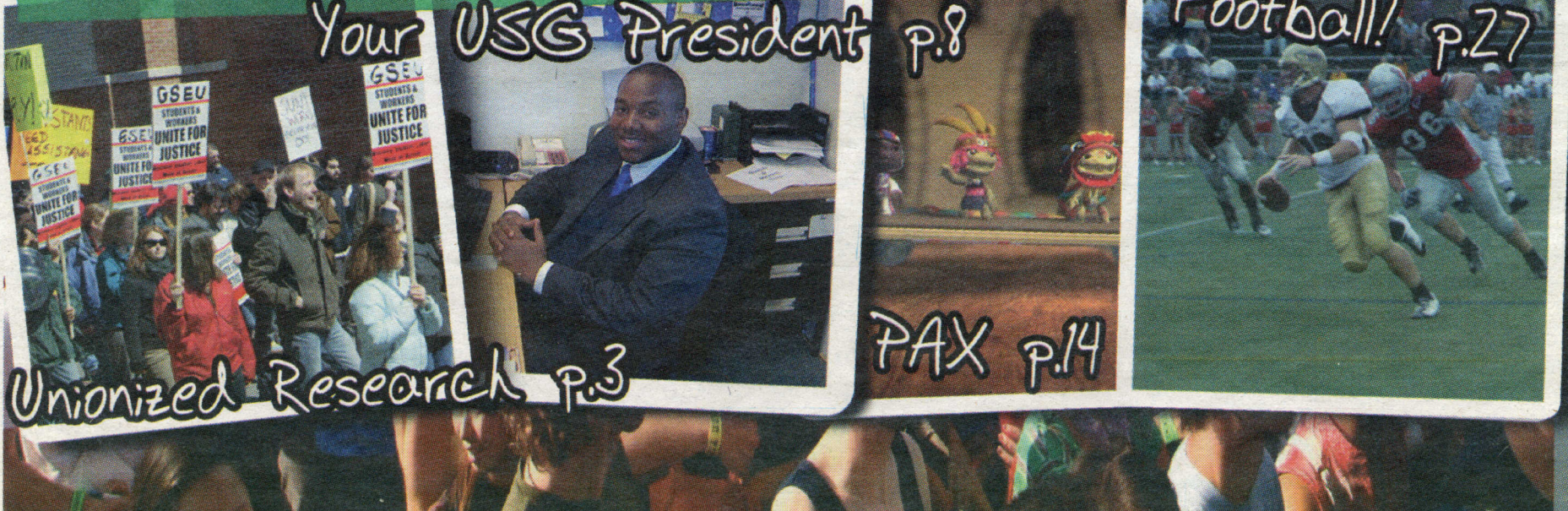
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# Stony Brook? More Like Let's Have A Major Impact On Long Island's Economy...Brook

By Alex Nagler

In a report released by Stony Brook's Center for Regional Policy Studies on August 5, it was announced that the university has an annual economic impact of nearly \$5 billion dollars on the Long Island economy. The report found that the university is responsible for nearly 60,000 jobs on Long Island and makes up 4% of the total economy between Suffolk and Nassau Counties. Roughly 7.5% of all Suffolk County employees are employed through the university in one way or another, with the average full-time employee salary resting at \$76,010, far greater than the regional average of \$47,913.

The report details the positive economic impact the university has on the surrounding community, but can also be seen as an appeal to the state to invest more money on the youngest of its University Centers. In a time when the state budget is being tightened and things are up for cuts, it would appear that this report is timed to make a case

for more spending on Stony Brook. One of the more startling conclusions comes from the figures on the net return on state investments. Stony claims that the \$207.2 million in taxpayer funds that Albany allocates to Stony Brook can be seen in the \$4.7 million impact on the Long Island economy, claiming that it represents a 2,300% return.

From this figure, the report claims that for every one dollar invested in Stony Brook University, the state sees \$23 dollars in economic gain. Whether this will convince Albany and Governor Patterson to allocate more money to the SUNY system is unsure, but one thing to be noted is that recent talks of cuts only mentioned CUNY and not SUNY.

President Kenny commented that "...Stony Brook represents one of the state's best and savviest investments. With a return of over 2,000 percent, we're the Warren Buffet of the SUNY system."

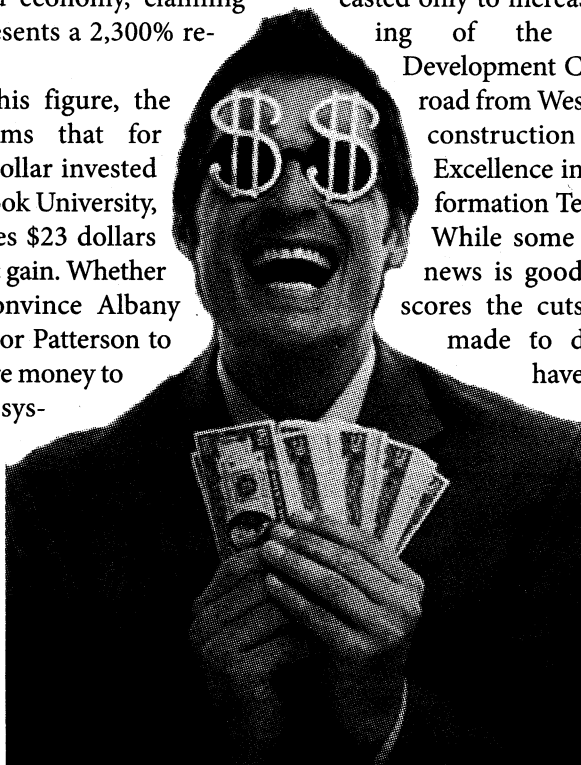
The economic benefits are forecasted only to increase with the opening of the Research and Development Campus across the road from West Campus and the construction of the Center for Excellence in Wireless and Information Technology.

While some of the economic news is good news, it underscores the cuts that have been made to departments that have led to some areas

being crippled in favor of frivolous allocations, like the Monorail Exploratory Fund. All building discussion has failed to mention the

fact that, save the Humanities building, no academic buildings have been constructed or fully renovated for the past decade. Additionally, it neglects the petition addressing these points from concerned faculty, which aided in the retirement announcement of President Kenny.

Stony Brook wants to be the center of the SUNY system, and for some of the things it does, it deserves it. It certainly has the biggest impact of any Long Island school on the local economy and has the best medical facilities in the SUNY system. But until reports talk about a commitment from Albany to spend money on construction of new buildings or repair crumbling infrastructure, Stony Brook isn't ready. In this budget climate, that commitment may not be coming for a long time.



## Vote or Die! Please Don't Die.

By Laura Cooper (R.)

Last fall and in the years prior, the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) dominated the academic mall with manpower, registering students to vote in the year's upcoming election. However, last semester the Undergraduate Student Government denied funding to the group, leaving NYPIRG's office empty, and the job of voter registration in the hands of the administration.

With the upcoming November Presidential election sparking the interest of many students, Dean Paschkes, a dean of the students has organized the "Voter Registration Committee." This group is spearheading the process of getting voter registration forms to and from the students before the deadline of October 10 for the general election.

The group itself is made up of student representatives from groups such

as the Commuter Student Association, College Republicans, College Democrats as well as the Student Activity Board. Also represented is Andrew Morrison of NYPIRG, who is taking

the role of organizing the students who've worked with NYPIRG in the past to get registration forms to as many students as possible. Morrison is in the process of guiding the Dean and

committee itself, providing NYPIRG materials from their branch in New York City, as well as knowledge of where and how to get potential voters to register.

This year, the University has just over 400 new voter registrations completed, as opposed to last year's new registrations that numbered in the thousands. The University has stood up to play a role in this process to give every student their right as citizens to vote. However, their active role on campus has yet to be seen.

The committee plans to set up informational table tents in all dining facilities on campus as well as to set up voter registration tables in the union and the SAC. Other student political organizations are working to get local candidates from all parties to campus so that those running can make their case to the student body, who make up a good number of voters in this district.

In order for those student residents, who live in dorms, to vote on campus,



How it really should be done.

# Stony Brook Research Assistants Launch Campaign To Unionize

By Jake Conarck

On the afternoon of September 15, about 150 research assistants, students, elected officials and union members gathered in the SAC auditorium to rally for research assistants' right to unionize. RAs work for the SUNY Research Foundation and assist professors in conducting research but many feel they deserve better working conditions, including higher wages and health benefits.

Teaching assistants and graduate assistants employed by the university are already members of the Graduate Student Employees Union, a member of the Communication Workers of America Local 1104. However, research assistants do not enjoy the same benefits as TAs and GAs and have been organizing to join the GSEU for several years.

Out of the approximately 800 RAs who work at Stony Brook, about 500 have expressed their support for joining the union by signing onto the RA unionization mission statement.

Several RAs as well as union officials and elected officials chastised the university for what they believed to be union-busting and intimidation tactics carried out by the administration.

Although the GSEU had a written permit allowing them access to use the SAC auditorium for the rally, the administration had revoked that permit

the Friday before the event. Any efforts to organize a union are prohibited on university property according to state and SUNY policy.

speech," said Xiao Xu, a research assistant studying cures for leukemia.

The administration eventually decided to allow the GSEU to hold the

Several local officials were present at the rally including State Senator Craig Johnson, State Assemblymen Marc Alessi and Pat Eddington and representatives for Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy and Congressman Tim Bishop.

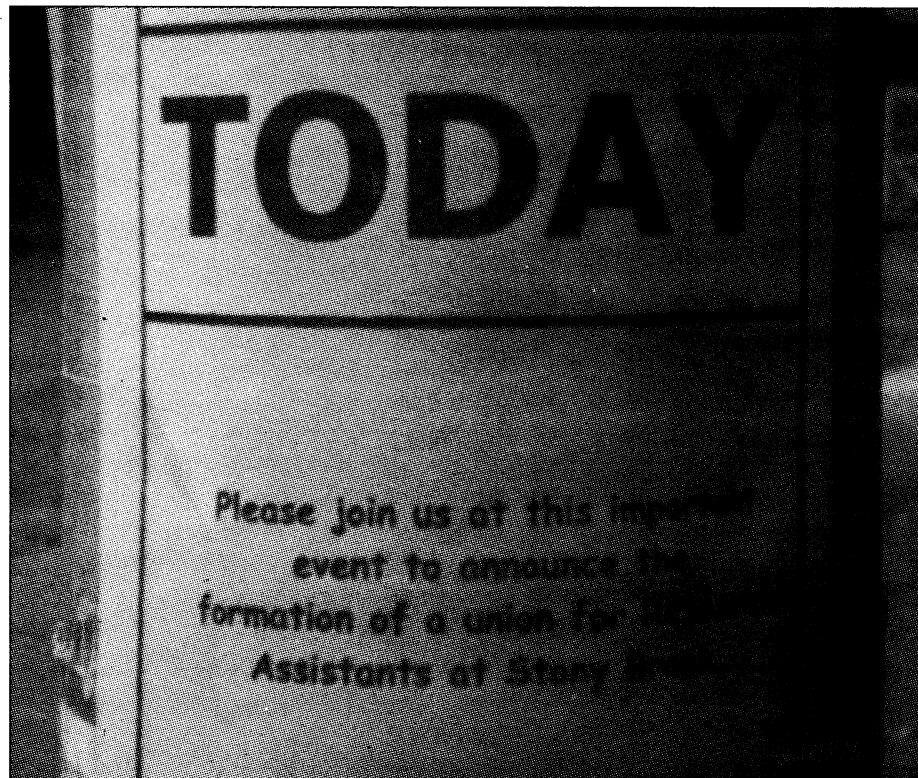
Many of the officials expressed dismay at what they perceived to be the university's intimidation tactics in preventing the RAs from unionizing.

"The Research Foundation is acting like a schoolyard bully. When you dealt with a schoolyard bully you got your big brother or sister and you went back and kicked the bully's ass," said Chris Shelton, a representative for the CWA, to wild applause. "Well we're coming back to kick some ass."

Administration officials were unavailable for comment at press time, despite several calls and emails.

Although SUNY is bound by state law to ensure that its workers and not subjected to union-busting pressure tactics, the SUNY Research Foundation is a private corporation and claims to be a separate entity.

"SUNY respects the right to organize. So should every SUNY entity, including the Research Foundation," said George Bloom, president of the CWA Local 1104. "The past lies and intimidation by the SUNY RF, which is a research institution supposedly interested in public service and the pursuit of truth, were outrageous."



Najib Aminy

Don't believe us? See for yourself, Bitches!

Despite the revocation of the permit for the rally, the GSEU and RAs decided to go ahead with the rally in the auditorium as planned.

"If we don't have a place to hold our rally, we no longer have our freedom of

rally in the SAC auditorium after arriving at a compromise with union officials. "Our friends who are elected officials and legislatures helped us and put pressure on the university to allow us to hold our rally," said Xu.

## VOTE OR DIE continued from page 2

they would have to change their addresses and re-register at Stony Brook University to use the school's polling place. With many freshmen and transfer students unaware of this technicality, the voter registration drive is trying to inform them before Election Day. This awareness was made public by NYPIRG standing outside the Student

Activities Center door all of last fall.

USG President Jeffery Akita has sent his own representatives to the meeting. The USG office is also the drop-off site for completed voter applications, which can be accessed by a link on blackboard as well as on the main page of Stony Brook University's website.

"We've taken that role, but in the last senate meeting a member of NYPIRG expressed that they are still

going to continue with their involvement in voter registration," said Akita in response to the job of filling NYPIRG's registration gap. "They are still playing their part and are encouraging other people, but we, as USG, have started a street team and have started mobilizing people to register to vote."

Though NYPIRG is without funding its dedicated student staff are still

mobilizing students on campus to become politically active this fall. The administration's efforts, however, will have to amount on the evening of November 4.

**"I fucking hax0red your mom's ASS last night."**

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

**TheStonyBrookPress.com**



# "Real Live Straight People Inside!"

By Katie Knowlton

Katie Flanagan stood in the SAC plaza last Wednesday barking like a carnie. She made promises of free food and asked of passersby to "step right up and test [their] gaydar." She vowed "shocking revelations" and that the audience could ask any question they wanted.

Katie was imploring people to come to the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alliance's (LGBTQA) annual Guess the Straight Person Panel.

This year's event, held in SAC Ballroom B, managed to get a sizeable crowd, filling most of the seats in the ballroom with individuals attracted by free pizza or curiosity as to who was straight and who was queer.

Guess the Straight Person takes six to seven individuals, male and female, straight and queer, and puts them in front of the audience to answer questions. These questions, asked by audience members, are used to deduce who on the panel is straight and who is queer. And any questions were allowed;

as long as they did not reveal what gender the people on the panel were attracted to.

The questions asked ranged from the mundane "What is your favorite TV show?" to the personal "How often do you masturbate?" to the just plain odd "Do you like Texas?"

All the people on the two panels were funny and willing to answer any and all questions that were asked of them.

When asked what fetish they would like to try on their partner, one panelist, Mike Oldrey, a senior, tried to think of something weird and creepy just to say it. He came up with Pyro-necro beastiality, which earned quite a few laughs and groans from the audience.

Another panelist, sophomore Catie Southard, when asked if she could take it (she could) and where she would take it, replied, "To Funkytown." All the other panelists echoed her statement, deciding they would all take it to Funkytown.

After questions were asked, the audience was allowed to vote on who they thought was straight by a show of hands, and they were fairly accurate in

their predictions.

When asked why they thought one of the panelists, Kyle Manley, a sophomore, was queer, one audience member responded with, "He's too funny to be straight."

However, the audience was thrown by a couple of the panelists.

One, James DiMeglio, a junior, was thought to be straight because, as one audience member put it, "he is hairy." Mike Oldrey was thought to be straight as well because he had a beard and was wearing an I-Con t-shirt.

After the two panels were over, Hazel Wodehouse, one of the co-presidents of the LGBTQA, spoke about how the panel was supposed to show that relying on stereotypes to identify the sexual orientation of someone was not always accurate.

"We do this to fight stereotypes," she said. "You can't always tell who a person is by how they look or act."

Despite the fact that relying on stereotypes helped the audience correctly identify the majority of the panelists, the sentiment still resonated with people.



# International Academic Programs Galore!

By Ilyssa Fuchs

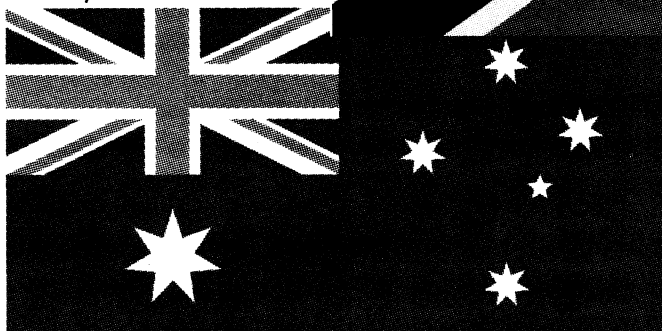
On Friday, September 12, the International Academic Programs Office held its annual Study Abroad and Exchange Fair outside the SAC. The fair's attempt was to get Stony Brook students interested in studying abroad through winter or summer study programs or exchange programs, which run anywhere from six months to a full year. This year the fair

was a success. Many different SUNY schools attend the fair to promote their study abroad and exchange programs. These schools included Stony Brook, Brockport, New Paltz, Purchase, Cortland, Broome County Community College, and Middlesex University in London. These schools offer many exciting and challenging programs, which allow Stony Brook students to study in England, France, Italy, Ger-

many, Australia, and various countries in Africa and South America.

As a student who has just returned from an exchange program in England, I was able to talk one-on-one with students who were interested in spending time studying outside of the US. I personally recommend the program to anyone interested in traveling and meeting people from other countries and cultures while having the opportunity to earn school credit.

If anyone is interested in studying abroad or participating in an exchange program and did not have time to attend the fair, they can stop by the Office for International Student Affairs on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Melville Library.



*Do you want to know how  
I got these scars?*

*By joining* **THE PRESS**

**UNION 060 WEDNESDAYS DURING CAMPUS LIFETIME**





# 9/11 Memorial - Photos by Liz Kaufman





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## editorials

# Now Announcing the “SSK Fourteen Years, Fourteen Moments” Countdown!

For those of you who have followed *The Stony Brook Press* for any length of time, you know that our relationship with University President Shirley Strum Kenny has always centered on our role as the main student critics of her policies. We've never been what you'd call 'chummy' with her. This is Kenny's final year as our University President. As such, we have decided to begin a countdown that will chronicle the most questionable, unfortunate and downright bizarre moments of her tenure.

President Kenny has served for fourteen years. There are fourteen issues of *The Press* due out before she leaves office. It seems only natural, then, to have fourteen moments on our countdown. We hope you will follow, and above all enjoy, this feature with each passing issue. Now, without further ado, we present number fourteen...

## The SSK Arts Festival Fiasco!

For this moment, we reach back to just a few months ago. At the end of the spring 2008 semester, the school held its annual Shirley Strum Arts Festival with the headline “A Celebration of Student Expression.” One of the more prominent art pieces on display featured a wire mesh polar bear sculpture suspended over one of the Wang Center fountains. Now, what follows is still a little unclear, but what the sources told us was that Shirley, upon seeing this polar

bear, demanded that it be removed from the exhibit. First, the reasoning behind this was that Shirley simply didn't like it. After realizing how that justification was total bullshit, a nonsense fire code violation was cooked up. Then, after feeling some heat from the student media (whoo yeah, go student media!) and the other artists in the show, Shirley decreed that the bear could remain on display for an additional few days. In the end, this whole

debacle was just a big embarrassment for Shirley and the other powers that be. In addition, her major indecisiveness on the whole justification gave off the image of an old, senile leader at the university's helm. However, we can't wait for the next Shirley Strum Arts Festival which “Celebrates Student Expression!...so long as said expression doesn't confuse or anger President Kenny.”



*Write for The Press!*

Meetings Every Wednesday at 1PM, Union Building 060



FROM THE DESK OF MR.ABU BELLO  
AUDITING AND ACCOUNTING  
SECTION OF BANK OF AFRICA (BOA).  
OUAGADOUGOU BURKINA-FASO  
WEST AFRICA  
TEL NUMBER 00226 78 441 008

Dear Friend,

I am Mr.Abu Bello the director in charge of auditing and accounting section of Bank of Africa (BOA) Ouagadougou Burkina-Faso West-Africa with due respect and regard. I have decided to contact you on a business transaction that will be very beneficial to both of us at the end of the transaction.

During our investigation and auditing in this bank, my department came across a very huge sum of money belonging to our deceased customer who died with his entire family in plane crash. The fund has been dormant in his account with this Bank without any claim of the fund in our custody either from his family or relation before our discovery to this development.

The said amount was U.S \$25 Million United States Dollars. As it may interest you to know, I got your impressive information through yahoo search on foreign business relations here in Ouagadougou Burkina-Faso. Meanwhile all the whole arrangement to put claim over this fund as the bonafide next of kin and business associate to the deceased, to get the required approval and transfer this money to a foreign account has been put in place and directives, and needed information will be relayed to you as soon as you indicate your interest and willingness to assist me and also benefit your self to this great business opportunity.

In fact I could have done this deal alone but because of my position in this country as a civil servant (A Banker), we are not allowed to operate a foreign account and would eventually raise an eye brow on my side during the time of transfer because I work in this bank. This is the actual reason why it will require a second party or fellow who will forward claims as the next of kin and business associate to the Bank and also present a foreign account where he will need the money to be re-transferred into on his request as it may be after due verification and clarification by the correspondent branch of the bank where the whole money will be remitted from to your own designation bank account.

I will not fail to inform you that this transaction is 100% risk free. On smooth conclusion of this transaction, you will be entitled to 40% of the total sum as gratification, while 60% will be for me. Please, you have been advised to keep "top secret" as I am still in service and intend to retire from service after we conclude this deal.

I will be monitoring the whole situation here in this bank until you confirm the money in your account and ask me to come down to your country for subsequent sharing of the fund according to percentages previously indicated and further investment, either in your country or any country you advice us to invest in.

Now my questions are:-

1. Can you handle this project?.....
2. Can I give you this trust?.....

If yes, send to me your personal information as below:

Your name.....

Your address.....

Your occupation.....

Your age.....

Telephone number.....

This information is necessary, consider this and get back to me as soon as possible, all what I require is your honest co-operation to enable us see this deal through, I guarantee that this will be executed under a legitimate arrangement that will protect you from any breach of the law. I expect you're urgent response if you can handle this project, through my private- mail: abubello86@yahoo.fr

I will be expecting to hear soonest.

This is what happens when you idiots don't send us letters. We wind up getting scammed by some banker in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso! We hope you're happy, Stony Brook!

Love,  
The Stony Brook Press



Request an ad packet:  
sbpressnews@gmail.com



# Jeffrey Who? He's Our President, Stupid!

By Najib Aminy

Not many students know about the Undergraduate Student Government at Stony Brook. In fact, last year's election polled a total of 1,059 students for the two presidential candidates, which Jeffery Akita won by 113 votes. A thousand students may seem like a lot, but it is small compared to a total of 15,523 undergraduate students, according to the 2007 Stony Brook Office of Admissions Enrollment Guide. Mathematically, nearly seven percent of all undergraduate students voted last April for their USG president and respective senators.

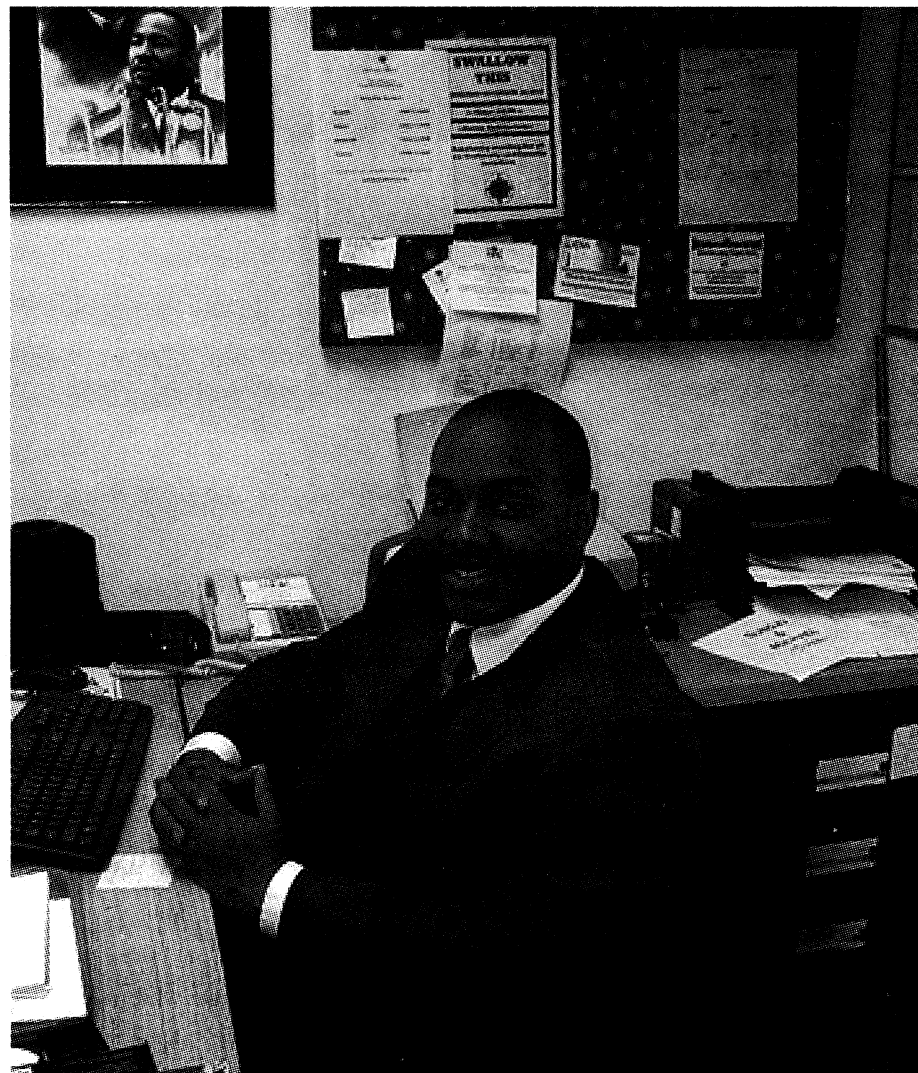
To recap, last year's USG presidential election came in with the resignation of an overly ambitious Executive Vice President, the de-funding of NYPIRG, and the possible impeachment of Jeffery Akita from his post as Vice President of Clubs and Organizations. Agreeing to talk to *The Press*, Akita was open in discussing his goals as USG President and responded to the critical views against him stemming from last year's election.

Though Akita was not impeached, previous USG Senators sought to indict Akita for his failure to get in touch with clubs and execute his job properly. Akita responded saying that the prosecuting Senator's "stance was that I wasn't visible, which was not true. Most of their accounts that they tried to hold against me were not true, they said I was corrupt, which they found I wasn't, I had no relationship with money. They told me I didn't meet with various organizations and clubs. I did, and different people testified. The whole thing last semester has passed, but the whole goal was to prevent me from being in this position [as USG President] and, as you see, I am in this position today."

However, prior to the elections, Akita did resign from his Vice President position to preserve his run for presidency. Had he been impeached, Akita would have been prohibited from running for USG president under the current USG constitution. Regardless, Akita has high expectations and goals for the upcoming year and wishes to strengthen the relationship between the executive council, the senate and the judiciary. "If there is turmoil within the council, it affects the delivery and the amount of feedback we get from students and as far as how we can do things and how we should address things," said

Akita. Outside of the halls of USG, Akita said he is looking forward to "ensuring that academics are always provided, [that] there is a healthy lifestyle on campus, the safety of students is always recognized, and to ensure that student life is actually going on as expected and that more students are getting involved and staying on the weekends," said Akita.

Despite having articles brought up against him claiming that he was not present, one of Akita's big plans is to become a visible president. Akita assured that he is willing to help out students as much as he can. "I am a student but I understand that I am here to serve the students, so if I am not available, then how am I serving the students?"



With Akita at the reigns of the USG, he is to face, like the rest of SUNY, a possible 10% budget cut. Though a 3% cut was announced earlier in the year, the talks of an additional 7% cut have led to speculation as to how this may affect Stony Brook students. "I want all students to know that the budget cuts are not directly affecting the student activity fee, but it will affect the things it goes towards. For instance, the prices of certain things are going to up and [the number of] personnel will be going down," said Akita. Examples given

where shift in office hours of personnel due to the freeze and possible reduction of the budget. Alongside USG, Akita is working on holding a rally during the last week of October to protest the budget cuts. In conjunction with SUNY Old Westbury and Farmingdale, USG intends on setting up petitions to let Albany know that SUNY students cannot live through a 10% cut. "Look out for the protests. It is going to be big. We are going to need everybody's support if we really want to send a message about these cuts," said Akita. Regarding the current club budget, a potential cut would not interfere with the money allocated by the USG for 2008-2009 USG fiscal year rather it would hinder the formation of new clubs due to the re-

duction of funding. "Last year was last year. It is a new year, you don't know what is coming. You may get your money, you may not get your money. Anything that happens there is going to be a reason behind it, it is not bias or anything." Regarding NYPIRG, Akita says he has thought about allotting money for NYPIRG. In essence, the USG would freeze money, in which NYPIRG would allocate for in efforts of documenting where NYPIRG's funds would be going.

With the absence of NYPIRG and the upcoming November presidential elections, the USG has taken up the task to coordinate voter registration with NYPIRG's assistance. "We've taken that role, but in the last senate meeting a member of NYPIRG expressed that they are still going to continue with their involvement in voter registration. They are still playing their part and are encouraging other people," said Akita. The USG, under Sophomore Representative Kadeem Hylton, have started mobilizing people in promoting the efforts for students to register and vote. Through contacting various clubs and organizations as well as Residence Hall Association, Akita says that everyone is "coming together to work as one team to register as many people to vote." Akita also said that Hylton is organizing a "Rock to Vote" movement, an event that educates students on the importance and essentials of voting.

Regarding Stony Brook's own vacancy, Akita holds a chair in the Presidential Search Committee. With Shirley Strum Kenny's lame-duck status, Akita is looking for a president "who is going to be there for the students, going to advocate for the students, provide for the students, and love to be the president of Stony Brook University. "In efforts of truly representing students, Akita plans on taking advantage of the USG Rep. center and intends on using polls and feedback from campus media organizations in what he calls "a unified effort."

In closing, Akita made an emphasis on availability and shed light on the fact that USG is not a negative, but a rather positive institution on campus. He said, "I am going to treat this as a business and a relationship. What has to be done must be done, what can be done should be done, that's how this government is going to be run. And together with the students, my representatives, senators, and the judiciary, we are going to work together to make that happen. What happened last year are lessons for the future. Today is here, and we are going to focus on today move forward."



# The Art and History of Tea Bagging

By Najib Aminy

Stony Brook senior Adam Feline is unlike most video game fanatics. He is not a virgin, or at least he claims not to be. Yet Feline finds himself in the same boat with millions of gamers sailing the waters of foul mouthing, poor sportsmanship, and lewd behavior, of which the most notable is tea bagging.

In the continually evolving world of video games lies the ritualistic tradition that marks the ultimate humiliation for any victim and a momentary ecstasy for the victor. Akin to celebratory dances in professional sports, tea bagging is the repetitive crouching motion over a deceased player's face, mirroring that of a tea bag placed into a mug.

According to Urban Dictionary, a user submitted slang dictionary website, tea bagging is the act of a man inserting his "scrotum into another person's mouth in the fashion of a teabag into a mug with an up/down (in/out) motion."

Tea bagging gained prominence in the 1998 comedy, *Pecker*, which displayed a stripper performing the tea bagging motion to another man's forehead. Quite gay, yes, but as tea bagging developed into another peculiar fetish in bondage, discipline, submission and masochism culture, it would later be endorsed by the hip hop culture. Three-time Grammy Award winner Ludacris dedicated a track to tea bagging on his 2004 album *Chicken and Beer*. The skit was titled, "T Baggin" and is about a phone service in which the user presses the number seven indicating that they had "woke up with a hang over and a pair of hairy balls on their face." More recently, in 2006, hip-hop group Trap Squad released their song titled, "Teabag Dat Hoe," a song about one's experience with tea-bagging women. A lyric from Trap Squad's song reads, "I ain't tryna' fuck you hoe I want my balls to meet yo' lip. Yo' throat be like some chips so my nuts is what I dip if you do a good job I might just leave dat hoe a tip."

As of late, tea bagging has been subjected to a wider audience through online game play, primarily with first-person-shooter games such as *Battlefield*, *Call of Duty*, and *Halo*. According to Giantbomb.com, a video-gaming website, tea bagging was first introduced in Ubisoft's Tom Clancy's *Ghost Recon*, which was released on the major video game platforms by early 2003. Now in 2008, the ability to tea bag appears in 54 games ranging from games

like *Call of Duty 4*, *Gears of War*, *Halo 3*, and even *Super Smash Brothers*. With the advancement of technology, video gamers can now experience virtual tea bagging with services such as Xbox Live, a network where gamers can play against each other through the Internet. Behind the TV screen blaring gunshots and a headset that allows players to enhance their "trash talking skills," many gamers separate themselves from reality, and this may cause a problem with some.

Despite Xbox Live refusing to officially comment on the act of tea bagging, an Xbox Live Support agent named Carlos explained that there are consequences to players who express poor sportsmanship. Carlos, who would not give out his last name due to Xbox Live customer support policy, said that players have the option of leaving feedback to other gamers. If a certain gamer gets a certain amount of feedback within a given amount of time then that player will be notified and suspended from any Xbox Live game play for a given time frame that may last up to about a month.

Ignoring the consequences, many gamers find that screaming expletives, racial slurs, and insulting the mothers of other gamers' is all part of the experience, but when it comes to tea bagging, it is taken more seriously due in part of what many gamers agree to be a respected art. Senior Adam Feline, of Staten Island, sees tea bagging as an art that requires much time and dedication in executing properly. Feline mentions that in order to be truly good at games such as *Halo*, *Call of Duty*, and *Gears of War*, one must be good at tea bagging. If one lacks the skill of tea bagging, then according to Feline, one can never really be good at any game. "It is completely impossible. If you are good at the actual game then you are an all-star at tea-bagging." Feline is an avid tea-bagger who specifically mentioned tea-bagging Xbox Live gamer "Creasy Berr." ("Creasy Berr" was unavailable for comment.) Feline's description of tea bagging as "an orgasm," could be agreed upon by many gamers, but when one is the victim of tea bagging, the feeling is "like a little school girl being violated." The goal and top priority for Feline and many tea baggers alike is to win the game and then tea bag later. In spending countless hours of refining his tea bagging skills, Feline says that he, "Creasy Berr," and "Petepetefire" have mastered tea bagging and challenge anyone brave enough to take them on.

Yet on the other side of the fence lies

the group of gamers who see tea bagging as excessive, unnecessary, and pointless. Senior David DePouli, of Port Washington, sees tea bagging as something that "detracts from the gaming experience." DePouli is proud of the fact that he has never tea bagged any one in a video game and sees tea bagging as something "very demoralizing and insulting. Nothing boils my blood like someone sitting on my face after they've just killed me." DePouli also stated that there are many gamers who use the tea-bagging maneuver despite the fact that they may be the worst player in a given match. DePouli plays the game for the sake of playing the game and prefers not to showboat or create any momentary feuds. When asked about a given instance of a stellar player who chooses to tea bag, DePouli was not fazed, saying that it is good for him. "That is the beauty of the game, he can play it how he wants to." DePouli chooses to travel the calm and collective manner and sees himself as verbally and intellectually superior.

Viewing tea bagging as possibly the worst thing in Xbox Live play, DePouli sees that as a good thing in that it is not that big of a deal. DePouli has come to a realization that everyone has the right to enjoy the game as they choose to. "Everybody pays their \$60 for a game, so who am I say to they can't enjoy something as stupid as tea bagging." All in all, DePouli has learned to cope with tea bagging as well as excessive taunts and trash-talking. Gamers take advantage of Xbox Live's service, which offers, as DePouli puts, "a level of security where people can act out, can talk trash, tea bag you, and there are no repercussions really, and I am not surprised that young gamers and even old gamers continue to do it. I don't let it detract from my experience."

Despite where one stands on the issue of tea bagging, it is important to fully understand the true art of tea bagging. Many times novice and inexperienced gamers jump eagerly to a newly deceased body to enjoy a momentary ecstasy, yet they do it all wrong. The proper tea bag lies in simplicity, location, and timeliness. For one, the tea bag is to be a simple act; there is no need to form clans in learning to synchronize tea bagging. In addition, excessive jumping, crouching, and bashing of the deceased body would take away points from a perfect ten. Simply approach the deceased body, position oneself over the head area of the body, and place oneself on top of the deceased body's face region. Then cautiously proceed in a re-

peating crouch motion with the seasoning of an occasional beat down, nothing more.

Location is something that many people ignore due in part to the rush of just trying to reach a deceased body and tea bag said body before a player from the opposing team discovers you. Rather than positioning one's body over the face, players often situate themselves on the abdomen or leg region of the deceased player's body. This would result in a huge deduction of style points and would clearly indicate to any person witnessing such a tea bag that you are a douche and should return not only the video game which you are playing, but the system, and never play video games again. Also, if the body is face down, ignore it. There is no satisfaction of dry humping the back or buttocks of a deceased player, it does not work; only face up. Remember, location, location, location.

Timeliness is another important factor when it comes to the physical crouching. One must judge through mass amounts of experience the appropriate time increments between crouching and releasing. A tea bag that is performed with a very fast CPS, or crouches per second, would be deemed poor. It tells the gamer and any witness that you are in a rush or hurry and that you do not value the true art of tea bagging. A slow CPS can work if executed perfectly however with a slow CPS one would increase the TOA, or threat of attack.

The ideal tea bag would be where a player plants himself squarely on the face of the deceased player, crouches in appropriate increments, touched up with an occasional beat down. Too many beat downs and deductions will arise. One should also be cautious with jumping since it takes away from the precious seconds of humiliation for the victim. One will know that they have performed the perfect tea bag when the head of the lifeless body bobs up and down from the ground. At this point, one should return to game play in hopes of repeating the same action.

Tea bagging, like any other form of taunt or trash talk, allows gamers to express themselves in ways that they could not before. Some see this as a way of making video games more competitive while others see it as unnecessary. Tea bagging can capture the best of times for one player and indicate the worst of times. Yet as Feline put it, "all is fair in love and war."



# Stony Brook Announces Plan For New State-of-the-Art Construction Site

By Ross Barkan

Yesterday, President Shirley Strum Kenny recently announced plans for a brand-new construction site to be built on the plot of land currently used by the residents of Roosevelt Quad.

"I am happy to announce that Stony Brook University is continuing its progress as one of the leading universities in America," Kenny said. "This new construction site will truly usher in a new age of sublime piles of dirt."

Details of the project are still not completely clear, but as of press time, it is believed the construction site will cost upwards of \$70 million. Costs include contracting a construction company, importing steel beams, digging foundations, and flying in genuine dirt.

"Yes, of course there will be dirt. Shitloads," Kenny said.

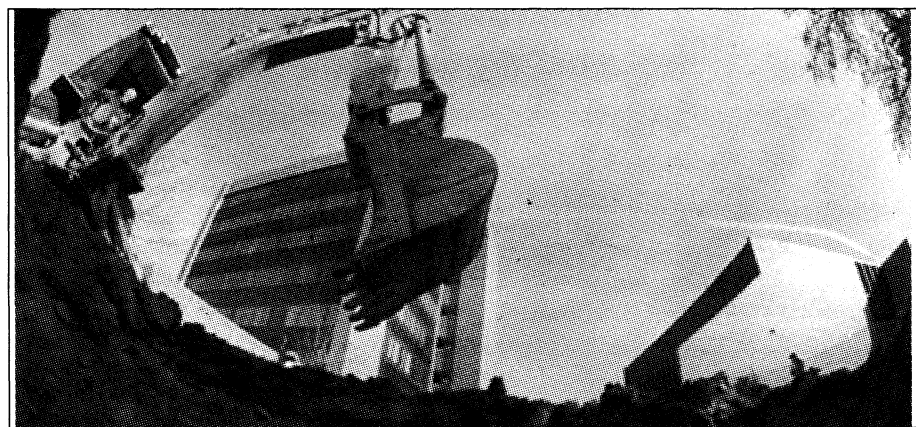
During the press conference, President Kenny beamed about the audacious project and its implications for the student body. Swarmed by reporters and faculty, she assured them that the project would be fruitful.

"I am hopeful that our state-of-the-art construction site will give our students the much-needed facets of the quintessential college experience. The

dirt spilling onto the sidewalks will be muddy and smell vaguely like sulfur. The construction site will feature a variety of ear-splitting metal sounds. Hot water will no longer burden the showers of neighboring quads. Of course, we

ing forward to a little slice of home.

"Yo, it would be pretty fucking awesome if they had these little sinkholes you could jump over. Like, you know, for a challenge, because it's way more fun if you don't know whether today's



The proposed "Shirley Kenny Dirt Hole" Dormitory

will also include little signs giving hope that something will actually be built. I am very excited.

She added, "The sign could say something adorable and encouraging, like 'new dormitories coming soon!'"

Construction site enthusiasts on campus applauded Kenny's initiative. Sophomore Joshua Ginsberg grew up in a Chinese mountain range and is look-

ing forward to a little slice of home.

Ginsberg then leapt onto a table and played air guitar by himself.

A student named "Craig," who refused to give his last name for fear of university reprisal opposed the project vehemently.

"There ain't no fuckin' rat zoo," he said, gnawing on a leaf. "Ape City,

U.S.A."

Upon further review of Kenny's plans, however, there indeed can be found a small crevice designated for rodents near the tip of the Kelly dining center. Some faculty members are also concerned about the extent of the project and what it will mean for the community. Philosophy professor Kirkland Sandstromton believes Kenny's ambitions are misplaced.

"It is clear to me that this project is misguided. It undoubtedly lacks vision. Where I used to work-UC Berkeley-the school president commissioned entire pyramids of dirt to be dumped on the sites of student dormitories. But where are the pyramids here? Where is the creativity? I have to wonder, how is Stony Brook to become a trailblazer in the 21st century when it cannot adequately ensure that every quadrangle hears the sounds of horrible, blood-curdling noise into the wee hours of the morning?"

The most affected quadrangle, Roosevelt, seemed to welcome the new project.

"Lots of dirt? Really loud forklifts? Grayish, shitty water?" asked Roosevelt resident Rudolph Milgrom about the details of the project. "Yeah, that's sort of an upgrade."

## The New Facebook and That Lame Election

By Najib Amin

In what many strategists and political scientists deem as an election that the youth may control, change has been at the forefront, from campaign speeches, to empty political promises, to Facebook. Yes, even Facebook, the popular social networking site among many of America's finest collegiate intellectuals.

Created in early February of 2004 by sophomore Mark Zuckerberg, the Harvard University networking site opened to 800 college universities and eventually the rest of the world. In just three years, Facebook has connected nearly 50 million people together in the art of staring at pictures, indirectly stalking fellow peers, and rotting away thousands of moments of time.

Facebook gained headlines when it recently "revamped" its web site. Announced in early May, Facebook has finally completed their new style in which many users are baffled by its

complexity, disorganization, and contrast from the user friendly old Facebook. Hundreds of groups have formed to petition the "New Facebook." Though it may seem wise to collectively

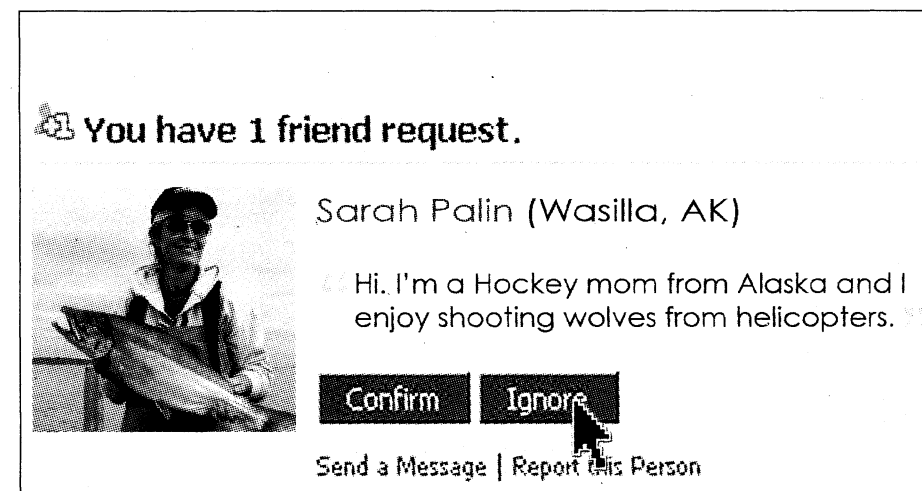
the option to "return to the Old Facebook," has been removed from Facebook, leaving many wondering if the change was really worth it.

Granted, the old Facebook did have

bums. More notably, Facebook's futile attempt to run the latest Diginet CPU Intel Premium Resnet service provider hindered bumper stickers in being successfully sent. It was only a matter of time before change would occur to revamp and improve Facebook.

In response to the changes, Zuckerberg has said, "we've made the changes rolling out today in order to highlight the most recent and relevant information that users value, give users even more control and ownership over their profiles and simplify the user experience. Facebook's new design makes it a lot easier for users to share information, and we encourage them to check it out." Despite Zuckerberg's claimed "simplified experience," Facebook has undoubtedly become a maze where finding the information of the favorite band of some girl in your Physics class has turned into a cybernetic excursion. (By the way, it was Nickelback.)

In the wake of Facebook's revamped design, one must look to the



join one group, these various groups range from hundreds to one group that boasts 1,751,804 members. Despite these large numbers, these petitions have seemed to accomplish very little as

its problems. For example, when it came to the Victor Heusen matrices, there are only so many times that one can tolerate waiting milliseconds rather than nanoseconds to view photo al-

CHANGE continued on next page





# MY LIFE AS A SEX WRITER

## W/ DICK DELICIOUS

I hadn't eaten anything that night, so the three-fifths of Jameson really did me in. My head was in a funk while Irish whiskey dribbled from my pores. Without warning, I was pressed up against a Marshall half-stack and the whole thing nearly toppled over. "What's the name of this band again?" I yelled. "Oh them," said Jimbo. "They're The Bullies, from Manhattan!" Jimbo was a wiry Asian kid a few years older than I was. His hair was badly cut with shave marks adorning a mess of bleached blonde follicles. He wore a torn denim vest and tightly gripped in his hand was the bottle of Jameson I had sampled earlier.

After the band's set, the two of us and the rest of the show-goers retreated to the far end of the backyard where they kept trashcans filled with ice and cold beers. "So Jimbo, what is it that you do, man?" I stammered. "Oh, fuck. I get drunk and go crazy," he finally said. And with that he handed me a copy of a glossy magazine with the words, *Creamy Fist!*, sprawled across the top. I remember flipping through the publication and being completely floored while reading snippets of off-the-wall features, record reviews and a section buried in the back dedicated to finding free porn on the Internet. Under the magazine's title it read: Decadent Street Culture for Rebels, Misfits and Jerk-Off's.

I turned to face Jimbo who was busy scouring his pockets for a light. I handed him a matchbook and smiled. "So, are you hiring?" I asked. So my career in sleaze began.

Writing for *Creamy Fist!* was interesting to say the least. Jimbo started the publication from scratch and managed to max-out countless credit cards to fund its production. He burned through

so many lines of credit that he would often joke of being forced to live in his car to hide from pissed creditors. Jimbo was a narcissistic egomaniac with a bad drug habit. In order to help raise money for CF! he frequently threw parties at the CBGB Lounge located on Bowery and Bleecker. His parties were stellar. There was usually an open bar special that lasted for about an hour or so and a heap of punk rock bands that played until the early morning hours on a tiny stage set up at the far end of the bar.

Famed Punk Magazine editor, John

was to be Jimbo's last installment. I remember him asking me to write up some record reviews for him. Before landing the gig with CF! I wrote record reviews for another publication and had been doing so for quite some time, using a different format, of course. Jimbo wanted long reviews that clocked in at roughly 500 or so words. I was used to pumping out 150 words. Nevertheless, I wrote up a few and my drug-addled editor published them in Issue Two.

The next party Jimbo threw was at

leged fistfight with a wild crack head outside of CBGB some weeks back. It was at this party that I told Jimbo I was going to start my own publication. He seemed indifferent to the whole idea but he did wish me luck. While still under my Asian editor's watchful eye, I started work on my publication. Shortly after launching a website to go along with the print version, I began to receive scathing e-mails from Jimbo. He told me that I was axed from his staff and that I was solely responsible for ripping off his "intellectual property."

Apparently, he thought that my publication was a carbon copy of his and that I was only on his staff so that I could harvest his ideas and pass them off as my own. Even though this was far from the truth, I washed my hands clean of the matter in question and the two of us went our separate ways—or so I thought.

Sometime later, Jimbo sent a mass-email to fifty or so recipients with the intention of dragging my name through the mud and ruining my chances of getting my publication off the ground. He closed one of his e-mails by saying that if he ever saw me again he would stab me with a knife he named Javier.

I'm not too sure what ever became of him, but since then my writing began branching off into different avenues of creativity, which again, led me to begin work on my first rag. It was crude and overly offensive with provocative pictures and porn reviews that stepped over the line of decency on more than one occasion. I called it *Dick Snot!* and it marked a time in my career when I began editing adult film reviews extensively; a dirty movie collection followed, as did a desire to review porn on my own. This was only the start of something big.

Jimbo had created a monster.



The Cyclones playing at the Continental

Holmstrom, would pop his head in from time to time and Jeff Magnum from the original Dead Boys line-up was rumored to have been sneaking around the premises with a beer in hand as well.

My writing was featured in the second issue of CF! and as it turned out, it

this place called the Continental, in Downtown Manhattan. It was an amazing night that was positively electric. Like the CBGB Lounge, the Continental packed a full audience and was rich with live music. If I remember correctly, Jimbo showed up late to his own party and he still had a black eye after an al-

### CHANGE continued from next page

November elections in which the two major candidates are focusing their campaign on the promise of change. With the alterations made in Facebook, a simple tool used by a vast number of the American youth, will the elections spur the same kind of feedback?

In shifting gears to the current Presidential election, change seems to be what everyone wants, due in part to status of American life. One could argue that it has gotten so bad that it is

difficult to determine which issue is the most troubling. According to a CNN poll conducted from August 29 to August 31, 64% of people polled were against the Iraq war. In a poll conducted by the American Research Group in August of 2008, 60% of Americans see the economy getting worse while the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported an increase in the unemployment rate from 5.7% to 6.1%. With an approval rating that went as low as 19% in February 2008, the lowest for any president thus far, President Bush may look forward to the last months of his presidency in

that he'll be taking a burden off his shoulders and handing it to the winner of the November elections.

Before leaving, President Bush will hand a \$482 billion deficit to the next president. What change can be done with \$482 billion dollars of deficit, a war in Iraq, a strengthening resistance in Afghanistan, and a troubling economy? Whether one perceives Premiership Bush as one of America's greatest presidents or the worst, the next president, who undoubtedly is campaigning for change, is up to the task of delivering their promise with a full plate of issues at hand.

Is there really any "change we can believe in," that the Obama campaign has keeps referring or is there really any "straight talk" that can express the ideas that would best suit Americans, as the McCain campaign claims there is.

With the wide spread in criticism of something as menial as Facebook, one has to wonder what response the Presidential elections will warrant.

Change will inevitably happen, but the question lies in how it will be accepted and more importantly how the youth will respond.



# Pool Closed: Saying Goodbye To Concerts At McCarren

By Steve McLinden

As the sun set on Williamsburg on that late Sunday afternoon, Ira Kaplan of Yo La Tengo made a more symbolic reference to a sunset. The frontman of the Hoboken-based band that has been making indie rock since before you knew that phrase (or since before you were born, for that matter) half-joked that the closing of McCarren Pool was a “passing of the mantle,” that this was the end for Williamsburg and Brooklyn, an end to its reign as a home to culture and budding artistry and the hipster epidemic.

At that point, Kaplan brought back another band from the Garden State that also played that day in the last free show at McCarren Park Pool: Glen Rock’s noisy, guitar-loaded Titus Andronicus. Suggesting that the future focal point of culture would be “across the Holland Tunnel, in New Jersey,” he added, “When you get there you’ll find... The Misfits!” At that point, the two bands launched into an enthusiastic cover of *Where Eagles Dare*. That kind of organized chaos is what the shows at McCarren Pool were all about, exemplified by the dozens of free shows sponsored by JellyNYC. There was a gigantic inflatable slip-and-slide, some sort of 30-foot tent that I was afraid to go inside, and a fenced-in game of dodgeball happening in one corner while Ebony Bones, a creepy English girl whose backing guitarist was dressed like an Aztec warrior, put on a mildly adequate performance.

Emptied of water since 1984 (the *New Jack City* era of our city), the pool began opening for concerts, film showings, and other cultural events thanks in part to ClearChannel Entertainment. However, the authorities of New York City apparently saw what a cool place the pool could be if they cleaned up the graffiti (such as the “EVAN IS GAY” scrawled on one of the fountains that sits in the middle of the general-admission pit) that made the pool iconic to its concertgoers. People even talked about the dead body that was found in a storage shed earlier this summer like it was one of those childhood neighborhood legends. And so, earlier this summer, Mayor Bloomberg announced that by 2011 the pool would be reopened as a community swimming pool; presumably it’d be hard to play rock and roll music for people who weren’t in their bathing suits, so the days of music ended this Labor Day weekend.

The park is operated by the NYC Parks and Recreation Department, though at its shows, it was obvious that the Open Space Alliance for North Brooklyn (OSANB) was doing most of the organizational work. Earlier this summer, a sold-out Wilco show was

I was there for Titus Andronicus; I admit that even though they are the founding fathers (and mother) of indie rock, Yo La Tengo was just icing on the cake for me. After seeing Titus Andronicus put on a really frenetic and really, really loud show at the Music Hall



Yo La Tengo. By the way, they have the coolest band name origin story ever.



Patrick Stickles of Titus Andronicus

held as a benefit for the OSANB. At the August 24th show, there was a “recommended donation” of \$20 to the Obama campaign, but the only person I saw who tried to donate was accosted by twenty-something uptight Brooklynites, shouting about FISA wiretaps.

of Williamsburg in June, I became something of a religious follower. I was like a Grateful Dead fan who needed a miracle, except that I only saw them in New York and half of the time it was free. The band plays the same nine or so songs, most of them off of their *Airing*

of *Grievances* album (yes, a *Seinfeld* reference), but they always bring a different form of energy. While he seemed like a man possessed at Music Hall, frontman Patrick Stickles was mellower at the pool, joking dryly that “Barack Obama is here... and so is Joe Biden. And John McCain. Everyone’s drunk. Hell of a party.” On this day at the pool, they sounded tight and rehearsed, and not as loud or drunken or monitor-stomping as they had been in June. Stickles brought out his girlfriend to turn “No Future Part One,” a slow bluesy song, into a bit more of a romantic duet. But that’s not to say they were boring: the three to four guitar players jammed as hard as ever, and during the band’s self-titled song, Patrick Stickles took out a pair of scissors to chop away at his unkempt neckbeard whilst he sang the refrain, “your life is over, your life is over, your life is over.” So he’s no GG Allin in terms of on-stage antics, but it was still pretty amusing. Yo La Tengo also put on a hell of a show, with more than two hours of fuzzed-out rock and roll and two long encores that took us past dusk. Towards the end, the band joked that we might as well start saying goodbye and filling up the pool, at which point they brought out convenient props of gallon jugs that had been filled with water and dumped them over the edge of stage into the pool. As a footnote, comedian David Cross showed up and decided to DJ for an hour or so, standing at his Macbook, drearily selecting his playlist and wearing plaid shorts.

Less than a week later, I was back at the Pool for the last actual show, Sonic Youth. Paying almost \$50 for the ticket did feel ridiculous, but I’ve been a fan since I was a kid, and I just had to be there for the historic last concert. I got there early to get close, so we sat through Vivian Girls, Brooklyn’s own all-girl rock trio with a very sixties sound infused with shoegaze sounds. Following that, Times New Viking, a fuzzy band from Ohio often accused of wanting to be like Guided By Voices, put on a rather uninspiring performance, but I think that was due in part to the fact that the lead singer is the drummer, and so the keyboardist just stood there and the guitarist didn’t even want to be seen by people. Wolf Eyes, a legendary and prolific name in the world of noise, came with instruments including some kind of rectangular block of wood with no strings that was played like a guitar, and an old saxophone with a microphone shoved into it. They knew how to create an atmosphere (the



skies even went overcast during their performance) but I tend to believe that making noise sound good requires a tremendous degree of musical talent, and to me, Wolf Eyes was kind of just making, for lack of a less-ambiguous term, noise.

Sonic Youth was as awesome as it was when the band played for free on the Fourth of July down in Battery Park this year, but I was disappointed that the setlist was so similar for a band that has been putting out records for a quarter-century now. The most exciting thing, however, was that they opened with two brand new songs that will appear on their upcoming album (they just signed with independent label Matador in September), and though "they don't really have titles or

much lyrics yet," as Thurston Moore explained, they had a very classic Sonic Youth feel. The band did, however, play "The Burning Spear," which Thurston called the first song they ever wrote. He

and his wife Kim Gordon, the band's bassist and sometimes-singer, shared a beautiful moment when they hugged and clashed guitars while making some feedback-laced noise against their

amps. While I was not expecting a second encore, the band extended the night by seven more minutes with their mid-1990s epic "Expressway to Yr. Skull."

I'll miss the hundreds of beach balls that bounced around during shows there, thanks to corporate sponsorship, and the douchebags who would throw them onstage. I'll miss seeing the diving board and the overpriced ice cream truck parked next to it. I'll miss how easy it was to drive in from Long Island and park just off of the Bronx-Queens Expressway. But most of all, I'll miss standing in the pool and listening to the rock and roll during its stint as the most unique venue in New York music history.



## A Red Letter Year For Ani DiFranco

By Katie Knowlton

On her new album, *Red Letter Year*, Ani DiFranco sings, "I've got myself a new mantra/it says: don't forget to have a good time." It is evident on this new disc that she has embraced this new philosophy.

*Red Letter Year* is DiFranco's sixteenth studio album on her own label, Righteous Babe Records, and her first new material since 2006's *Reprieve*. She previously released a new album every year since 1990, but in 2007 she released her first compilation, a CD of tracks from her old albums.

Musically, *Red Letter Year*, sounds similar to *Reprieve*. Despite the fact that on most of the tracks there is a string section, and on a few, brass instrumentation, the songs sound sparse, and that is not a bad thing. Often when artists decide to add strings and other instruments to a song, it leaves them feeling cluttered, like they were thrown in just for the sake of it. But DiFranco's tracks benefit, these orchestral instruments add much needed dimension to songs that would sound rather bland otherwise.

The brass and strings are also added to some songs to bring a bit of lightheartedness to the tracks. "Emancipated Minor" ends up sounding very similar to "Deep Dish," from her 1998 album, *Little Plastic Castle*. These almost playful uses of the instruments on "Emancipated Minor" and "Alla This," among others, really are what separate the sound of this album from the morose and somber feel of *Reprieve*. It is the sonic way of applying her "don't forget to have a good time philosophy."

A few songs feature synthesizer and organ work mixed with heavy

guitar effects, creating a spacey, almost ambient feel. This is most notable on the title track, "Round A Pole," and "The Atom" making the songs sound ethereal and haunting.

Sadly, DiFranco's signature staccato, finger picking guitar playing style is notably absent throughout most of the album. It can be heard in "Present/Infant" and "The Atom," but for the most part her guitar work is lost in the mix of

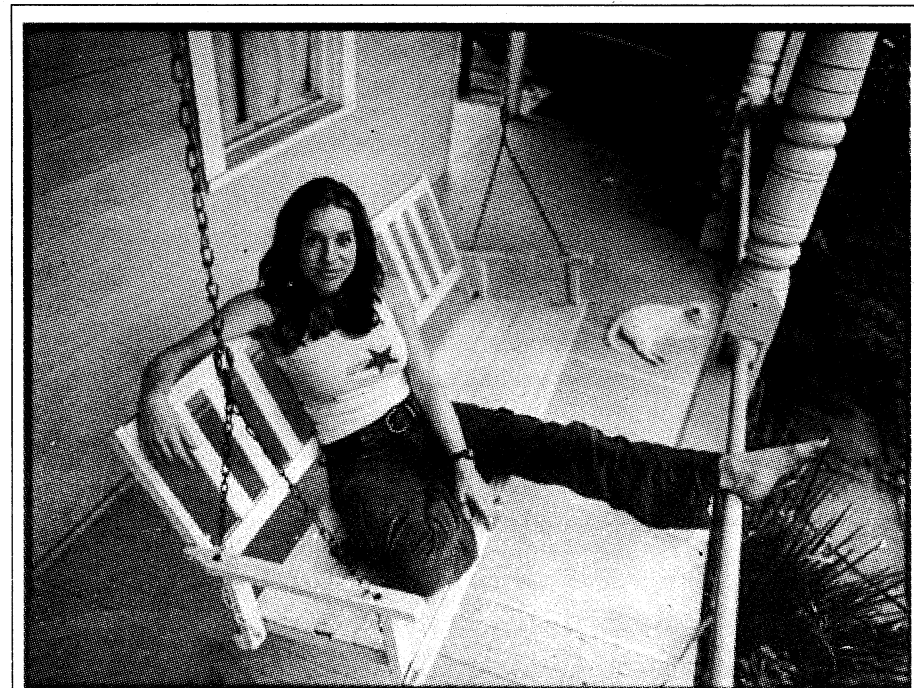
lyrically a dark and solemn album, by her standards. It was full of criticisms of the government and of people failing to notice what is going on around the world.

*Red Letter Year* still has these moments of criticism and calls for people to pay attention to the world around them. On the title track she sings, "And representing the white race/a man with a monkey for a face/is flying over in a

self independent. Independent from what is up to interpretation. There are strong hints that she is referring to the corrupt culture of America by saying "I am consciousness without identity" and "I won't sell my brain/I won't pray to a male god/cuz that would just be insane." Regardless, her strong words resonate for a variety of reasons and causes.

The new mentality and philosophy DiFranco is touting is lyrically evident in many of the songs. Some of this can be attributed to the birth of her daughter in early 2007. In the song "Present/Infant" she sings of the change having a child has brought to her life. She begins to "see some problems/with the ongoing work of my mind" a nod to darkness of *Reprieve* as well as her private mental state. "Smiling Underneath" is almost stereotypical in its optimism, describing various unfortunate situations (spilling hot sauce on a white shirt, for instance), but everything is all right as long as she is with her love. That is the only problem with this newfound happiness, it brings predictability to a few of DiFranco's new tracks, which is a disappointment. If it were not for the interesting instrumentation, those songs would sound more at home on the album of a run-of-the-mill, forgettable singer-songwriter.

Still, *Red Letter Year*, is a strong album, with a few lyrical missteps. Any DiFranco fan should pick this up when it is released on September 30, as should anyone looking to try something new in a time when many artists sound the same.



so many other instruments. It is a shame that either DiFranco or her producer decided to put the guitar so low in many of the mixes, as DiFranco is one the more talented, and distinctive, folk guitarists of today.

Luckily, DiFranco's lyrical prowess is on full display in *Red Letter Year*. And it is most notable here that she is remembering to have a good time. On *Reprieve*, DiFranco crafted what was

helicopter/whistling Dixie and playing dumb." The line is an obvious shot at President Bush. She goes on in that same song to show a yearning for television to finally broadcast the truth, and invites the listener to "pull up a barstool/and get ourselves a ringside seat" for this moment.

"Alla This" is also one of the more politically oriented songs on the album. DiFranco sings of her fight to keep her-



## arts&amp;entertainment

RED

RINO

CIRCUS

Where Your Video Games Go to Run Away from Home

By Joe Donato

## PAX '08: The Whole Bloody Affair

Allow me to remove my pseudo-game critic gloves for a moment and put on my raving fanboy shame tarp. This year's Penny Arcade Expo was a phenomenon. The tagline, "Welcome Home" couldn't have been more accurate. It was a three day gaming utopia. Yes, navigating your way past the occasional WoW-grinding lard-fest or being nagged by live e-penis-waving nerds can feel shameful. But when MC Frontalot, pioneer of "nerdcore" hip hop, plays to an audience of thousands waving illuminated electronic devices, you feel like part of something special.

Maybe it's just that we were all there, and the 50,000+ of us will disseminate back into the larger populous without making a dent. But maybe this is where our culture is headed. Apple products have taken geek gadgets to the mass market, the Wii is a phenomenon, and games are bigger than ever. Is gaming culture the next big thing?

Whatever happens in the future, PAX is something every gamer should experience. And with that said, I'll try to bring a bit of it to you here. The following impressions (not reviews!) document my gaming experience over the three-day weekend.

## Legendary

In Spark Unlimited's demo of *Turning Point: Fall of Liberty*, I was paraded through a fixed rollercoaster ride of girders, ladders, and crumbling buildings. Each event was carefully scripted to box you in and limit your choices. Their latest game, *Legendary*, seemingly spoofs *Turning Point*, marching you through one absurdly linear path after another.

The concept is cool; a thief breaks into a bank and opens pandora's box, granting him super powers and releasing a city-leveling swarm of random creatures. Unfortunately, it amounts to "exciting" destruction that creates a convenient route to the next cutscene. They attempt to mimic the *Half-Life* games, which put you on a simple point-A to point-B trail, but what made those games great was that you always felt like you were taking a natural path through the environment. Here, as the bank crumbles away and you make your

escape, long paths of debris lead you along. Once outside, griffins toss cars around, creating a perfect hallway-width gap for you to traverse.

The fact that there were several unskippable cutscenes throughout my short demo made it all the more unbearable. If I wanted to watch monsters destroy New York City I'd watch *Cloverfield*. If I wanted to actually play a videogame, I'd probably avoid *Legendary*.

## Magic: The Gathering XBLA

With the success of strategy board games like *Settlers of Catan* and *Ticket to Ride* on Xbox Live Arcade, it's no surprise to see *Magic: The Gathering* make the same transition. What is surprising is that it will not use the PC version's

## Bang Bang Mini

*Bang Bang Mini* sounds like the title for a new *Leisure Suit Larry* game. Thankfully the "Bang Bang" part refers to colorful fireworks rather than repetitive humping, and it's "Mini" because it's on the DS, not because the protagonist has a micropenis.

In *Bang Bang (Bang) Mini* you drag the stylus to toss projectiles at enemies flying around on the top screen. Missing a shot creates garbage that rains down on your little ship, which you tap on and drag to move around. As you progress it introduces new mechanics, like a shield that you can draw anywhere to reflect bullets.

Initially it seemed the art style was

or hand-cramping first-person shooters.

## Biology Battle &amp; Colosseum

Games like *Braid*, developed by small, independent teams, champion creativity and art - originality takes precedence over big budgets and high technology. With XNA Creators Club poised to light a fire under indie game development on the Xbox 360, one would hope for a renaissance of creativity in games. But I have to say, with the two titles I played at PAX, I was not impressed. *Biology Battle* and *Colosseum* attempt to mimic mainstream titles rather than offer fresh ideas.

Imagine *Geometry Wars* in a petri dish and you have *Biology Battle*. You play as a tiny ship trying to fight hordes of single-celled organisms. I was impressed by the number of enemies on screen, drop-in 4 player co-op, and the inclusion of a dash move for making quick escapes. The problem I had with *Biology Battle* was that it took far too long to ramp up in difficulty. *Geometry Wars 2* proved that it's better to overwhelm a beginner player than bore more experienced ones. *Biology Battle* was fun, but the *Geometry Wars*-clone genre overflowed long ago.

As for *Colosseum*, I didn't see much of a game there. Four fighters enter a barebones arena and battle with a limited array of attacks. Combat moves are on the right analog stick for no particular reason, and even in my short time with the game the combat seemed boring and repetitive. The graphics were impressive, but independent developers should leave flashy graphics to the big guys. Indie games are all about fresh ideas, and *Colosseum* is fresh out.

Here's hoping that some of the nearly 70 completed titles in the XNA Community Club have more to offer than what I was shown.

## Mirror's Edge

Crowd psychology at the *Mirror's Edge* booth would have made for an interesting study. As each player waited on line, watching at least ten people before them run through the same demo, it seemed to feed into the choices they'd make. *Mirror's Edge* offers freedom to freerun from rooftop to rooftop in a va-



Geek madness

pay-by-card model. While I only had a brief chat with the person demoing the game, I learned that they plan to offer the full package at \$5-\$15, or standard XBLA pricing. The game will include 10-12 decks worth of the most current cards, with possible expansions later on. Up to 4 players will be able to battle it out in what looks to be a very slick interface. The game is slated for a Spring '09 release.

ripped from *Boom Boom Rocket* (not to mention the title), but later levels introduce completely different visuals. Some areas feature comic book-style art, while others resemble *Geometry Wars*.

While sampling levels from each stage of the game, it seemed like there was a nice ramp in difficulty, and enough variety in gameplay and visuals throughout. My favorite part of *Bang Bang Mini* is that it uses the stylus controls exclusively, rather than trying to shoehorn dual stick controls onto the DS, like *Geometry Wars*, or any number



riety of ways, yet nearly everyone took an identical path at an identical pace.

Maybe it's because the game uses the color red to string you along the most obvious path. Maybe there really isn't any freedom in how you get around. But, after watching my own queue of 10 players take the exact same path, I got a sense for where the shortcuts might be and where players can spice things up and actually have some fun with *Mirror's Edge*. Sure enough, each time I broke away from the red brick road I got an excited reaction from the line behind me.

The developers have said that perfecting a path through a level will be the addictive sauce in *Mirror's Edge*. If the crowd at PAX is any indication, then I



worry the game's ultimate goals will go unseen. But for the ones that get it, this will be one hell of a ride, and the kind of thing that YouTube videos are made of.

### Gears of War 2

Something's up with the color palette in *Gear of War 2*. The first game's muted visuals came under fire for being too drab. Now not only are the bloody reds and the leafy greens more vibrant, but the grays are more gray. The result is something that conjures up thoughts of *Schindler's List* or *Sin City*. I'm not really sure that's what they were going for.

On display at PAX were several of *Gears 2*'s 5 vs. 5 multiplayer modes. Playing team deathmatch on a remake of one of the original *Gears* maps made it hard to see the improvements. Honestly, it ended up boiling down to the same absurd roll-and-shotgun tactics from the first game. There wasn't a single firefight that didn't look incredibly awkward. I'm hoping this was simply a consequence of getting 10 new players together, as the announced features they're adding to the game are pretty impressive. It would be a shame if the same exploits that plagued the original rear their ugly head again and detract from *Gears of War 2*'s big, better, badass-ness.

### Dead Space

In my short time with *Dead Space* I learned a few things. It looks stunning. It combines the pacing of *Resident Evil* with the gravity-defying antics of *Super Mario Galaxy*. It relays everything you need to know (health, ammo) through the environment, rather than clogging up the screen with gauges. Did I mention how great it looks?

### Resistance 2

If I were interested in *Resistance 2* I'd be worried. Maybe I'm not the person to be talking about it, but honestly the showing at PAX was embarrassing. Networked multiplayer was on display,

and despite playing against people immediately next to me, I experienced some pretty terrible lag. Yes, this could be fixed between now and it's November release, but wasn't doing itself any favors on the show floor.

I also wasn't seeing much original content. Humans taking on ugly, grey aliens can be seen in at least 5 different exhibits at PAX. The environments and objectives reminded me of *Star Wars: Battlefront*, or the *Battlefield* series. I was constantly getting experience points a la *Call of Duty 4*. Absurdly huge alien rifles take a million bullets to kill anyone and yet I was constantly dropping dead with no feedback from what killed me. *Resistance 2* simply wasn't any fun.

### Left 4 Dead

The player ahead of me sits down to take his turn after a grueling hour and a half wait. I watch intently as he makes his way through a run-down building, shotgun in hand, following his three teammates. They come across a smattering of zombies in each room, many of which are riddled with bullets before they even get wind of human flesh. The player reloads his shotgun as he makes his way towards the exit. He pauses, and his teammate makes his way out into the alleyway. As another smattering of zombies is dispatched, he hangs back in the threshold, his teammate now fur-

ther down the alley, out of sight. Suddenly his teammate is yelling and the threshold of the doorway frames an endless mob of reanimated corpses, running at full speed.

Ten minutes later their demo is over, and I find myself waiting at the very same threshold. This time nothing happens. My group confidently makes our way further down the alley, out into the streets, and then we are mobbed by walking dead on all sides. The AI director at work in *Left 4 Dead* aims to make each co-op experience unique, even when playing the same levels over and over. It keeps you on your toes, which is good because the smooth controls allow you to make short work of a crowd of zombies. The game looks amazing, and in my short time with it, it's quickly jumped to the top of my most anticipated games.

### Fable 2

Fable 2's cooperative mode is not what I was expecting. It's a very intimate experience, with two players sharing the same screen real estate whether they're playing in the same room or online. You can't go wandering off on your own, and it actually felt more like an old-school beat 'em up than an action RPG. Two players will typically want to stay together anyway, but why limit them in a game that champions the freedom of choice?

Another thorn in Fable 2's side is that while two characters can play together, they can't progress together. A

through *Fable 2* with a friend, but then I'd either have to sucker them into joining my game, play through the game two times, or forgo completing quests altogether. None of those options sound very appealing, so unless the developers come up with a solution, this will be a strictly single player affair.

### Guitar Hero World Tour

Ever since Harmonix left Activision to make *Rock Band*, the *Guitar Hero* franchise has disgusted me. *Guitar Hero 3* dumped precision in favor of excessively difficult note charts. The art style was coated with an extra layer of sleaze. The incompatibility with *Rock Band* instruments was childish and unprofessional. Now the developers of *Guitar Hero World Tour* are claiming themselves the pioneers of the genre—a flat-out lie.

But even with all that, I must admit playing drums in *Guitar Hero World Tour* is a lot of fun. The extra dimensions of the set adds a lot to the feel. The design feels sturdy and the pads are quiet.

The game itself isn't so great. Many of the flourishes from *Rock Band*, like big rock endings and custom drum fills appear to be absent. Saving bandmates isn't an option, rather the game just lazily makes it much harder to lose. The difficulty is still absurdly uneven, though pausing mid-song and dropping to a lower difficulty is quick and streamlined. The note charts are arranged identically to *Rock Band*'s,



friend can join your game and fight alongside you, collecting gold and leveling up, but any quest you complete won't be reflected in their game. An option to share the same world and quests would have made cooperative play much more interesting.

The original *Fable* was a fun game, and *Fable 2* looks to be better in many ways. I'm looking forward to it, but the display at PAX was showing off cooperative play, and honestly I don't see it having much appeal. I'd love to play

though they're somehow sloppier, with odd color choices like a light gray bar for bass drum notes.

I maintain that the *Guitar Hero* franchise disgusts me, and *World Tour* isn't doing it any favors. However, the drums are awesome, and Harmonix could do with a lesson in peripheral manufacturing. If these drums work well with *Rock Band 2*, I may even consider replacing my old set.



### Little Big Planet

Everyone wants *Little Big Planet* to be amazing. This upcoming PS3 title allows players to create their own sidescroller levels and share them with friends. While I hate to naysay, having negative impressions of some of the bigger PAX exhibits, I will say there is one thing that worries me.

*Little Big Planet* is a three dimensional game. While it may look like *Mario*, there is some room to move towards and away from the screen. It wouldn't be a problem except there are

jumps that not only factor this in, but are really hard to judge. Ultimately it will come down to how people design their levels, but it's something that bothered me and I wouldn't feel right leaving it out.

That said, *Little Big Planet* has huge potential. The quirky character design is adorable. Riding a giant skateboard down a hill with four players left me grinning from ear to ear. The creative potential here is astounding. Assuming the core game underneath the customization is solid, this is the game that will make everyone want PS3s.



### Review of Galaga Legions

At first glance, *Galaga Legions* bears little resemblance to its 1981 counterpart, *Galaga*. Surprising, then, that it comes from the developer of *Pac-man: Championship Edition*, a game that couldn't have been more faithful to the original. But a history of space shooters like *Galaga* will tell you that re-making this classic isn't so simple. It has been an inspiration for an entire genre, from the 16-bit era of *R-Type* and *Thunderforce*, to somewhat more modern titles like *Ikaruga*. It's a genre that's been iterated on, with each new era making the previous obsolete. The original *Galaga* is no longer very fun - like *Space Invaders*, a game whose update (*Space Invaders: Extreme*) simply didn't update enough - and the success of *Galaga Legions* comes down to how it balances nostalgia and new age game design.

Thankfully, Namco hasn't ignored more than 25 years of innovation. So while *Galaga Legions* is still about shooting patterned waves of alien ships, it adds modern flourishes, and a few tricks of its own. The original *Galaga* had no more than a couple dozen enemies on screen, but *Legions* tosses hundreds of enemies at you at once. In the original, you could only fire one bullet

at a time; in *Legions*, pressing a button to shoot is optional, and your small ship is capable of firing an endless stream of death. In the original there were ways to double your firepower; in *Legions*, you can multiply it by twenty. It's all bigger,

That's a lot of time, and *Legions*' biggest accomplishment is that it offers something fresh in a stagnant genre.

The novelty of *Galaga Legions* lies in the placement of satellites - two small turrets that can be placed anywhere and



flashier, and more overwhelming - the essence of the modern 2D space shooter.

But several cheesy attempts at the formula have proved that excess isn't the only ingredient. The best shooters are defined by what sets them apart. The last true standout was *Ikaruga*, with its color-coded puzzle elements, in 2001.

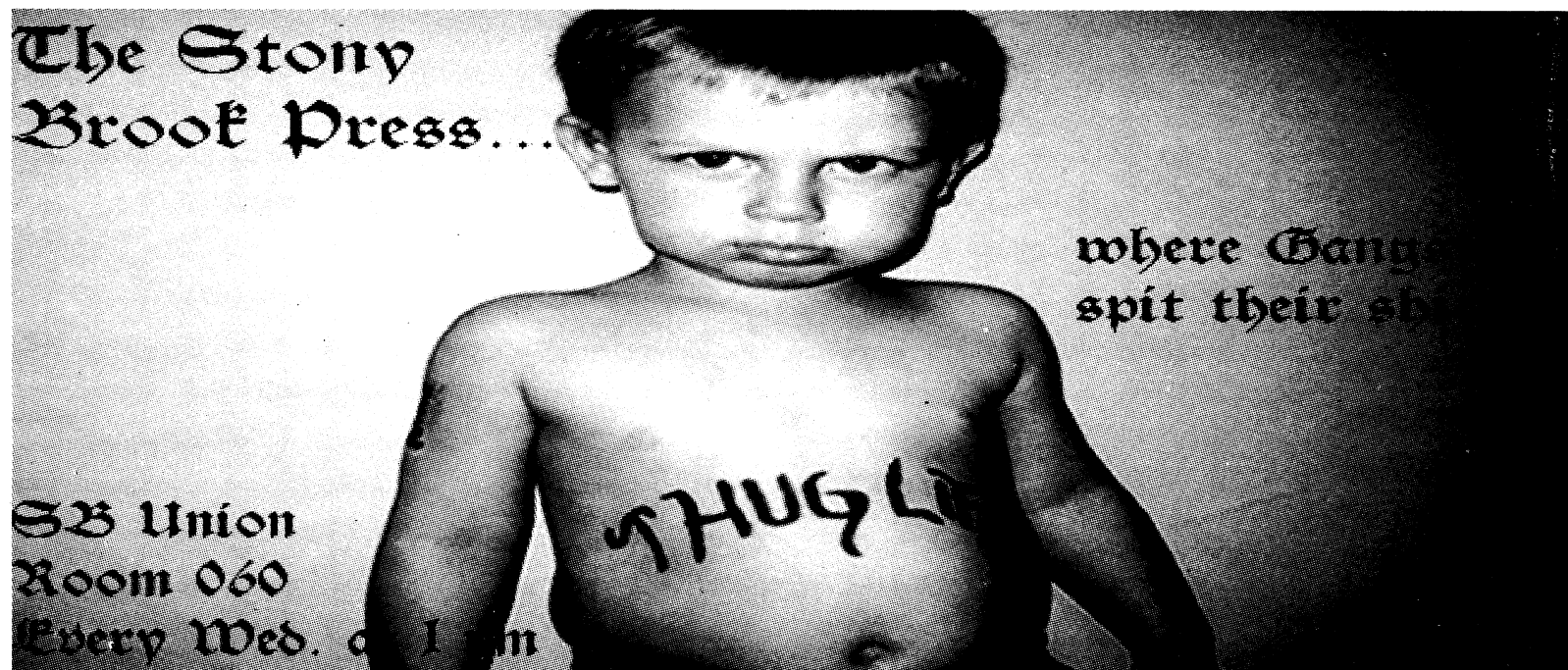
aimed in four directions. A slick overlay warns you of upcoming enemy patterns, allowing you to quickly and strategically place the satellites. Unlike your own ship, these satellites cannot be harmed. Place them in the front lines, and you can escape to safety while they do the dirty work.

The game spans five levels of in-

creasing difficulty, which must be tackled consecutively in "Adventure," or individually in "Challenge." It's a very hard game, and offering the ability to try any of the five levels at any time is a blessing. I'll admit I never reached level five in "Adventure," but I'd hate to get there and not be prepared for it. It's the kind of game where you try and try again to perfect a level. My only complaint is that there's no quick option to restart a level after an unfortunate death.

*Galaga Legions* is a great game, a complete reimagining of *Galaga* for modern times, and unlike any other game in its genre. The biggest issue facing it isn't anything it gets wrong, but instead the timing of its release. Mixed in among the XBLA "Summer of Arcade," it is in direct competition for your Microsoft Space Bucks with *Geometry Wars 2*, *Braid*, *Bionic Commando: Rearmed*, and *Castle Crashers*. As much as I love *Galaga Legions*, I can't recommend it without telling you first that I'd buy all four of those games before I'd buy *Legions*. But at \$60, you can easily look at "Summer of Arcade" as a single retail game, and with *Galaga Legions* rounding out the package, I can't imagine a better gaming purchase this year.

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# Vicky Cristina Barcelona: A Sexy Romp In Spain

By Tia Mansouri

When I heard Woody Allen's new movie would be titled *Vicky Cristina Barcelona*, I was a little worried. But with titles such as *A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy* and *Bananas* I figured hey, *Whatever Works* (which, is, incidentally, the title of his next movie). At least he's being clear on what the movie is about, two girls, one city. That was all I wanted to know, besides the fact that the actor who played the crazy killer with the god-awful bowl haircut from *No Country For Old Men* would be the love interest.

Allen, along with Martin Scorsese and Sophia Coppola, is an auteur, whether he admits it or not. He makes great movies, but given his habit of releasing a new movie every year, it's impossible to put out an *Annie Hall* or *Hannah and Her Sisters* every time. Allen has certain staples to his movies: stunning city backdrops, a neurotic character based on Allen himself, a snazzy jazz piece or two for the soundtrack, quirky female characters and interesting romantic entanglements. Putting in just the right combination of

these ingredients can be hit or miss. Taking out some of these can also make all the difference.

In terms of backdrop, Barcelona and Spain essentially did all the work and spoke for itself. It was stunning. I drooled. Sweeping camera angles and backdrops that were a combination of earthy clay buildings and thriving, lush gardens were enough to make the movie romantic without any sort of chemistry between characters. While the opening music was catchy and exciting the first time, the same song kept repeating so often that it felt excessive. Allen has chosen better tracks, but the landscape took enough of my sensory efforts that I didn't notice.

*Vicky Cristina* lacked the neurotic New York Jew character, and I liked it that way. We can only see the Woody Allen character appear so many times. Instead, certain archetypal qualities were given to the two main characters: the indecisive and impulsive Cristina and the insecure, fearful Vicky. In Rebecca Hall's portrayal of Vicky I saw the kind of female protagonist I haven't seen in Allen's films since the 80's, the kind who is introspective to the degree that you can really read it on her face and body language. The kind you know

is really thinking about her choices and her lifestyle; who allows other characters to shake her ideals and lets the audience know it by showing rather than telling. Hall nailed this character, with a great American accent, too (she's British). Scarlett Johansson is a slightly different story. Her character was atypical, so it's hard for me to put a finger on how I felt about her performance. In terms of how Allen wrote her part in the script, the emphasis was on how she was never happy and only "knew what she didn't want rather than what she did want," as the film's unnecessary narrator was keen to point out. In the end, she leaves the relationships she formed in Barcelona because of her intrinsic drive to never be sated, so while I may have had problems in Johansson's delivery, Allen still wrote a conclusion to the character that remained true to the way she began.

The characters of Juan Antonio (Javier Bardem) and Maria Elena (Penelope Cruz) rounded out the main characters with strong, intense portrayals of two passionate artists. Bardem exuded a sexiness that was enough to catch the attention of most females watching the film in his 20-year age radius. When he asks Vicky and Cristina for a threesome,

as an audience member, one finds the idea is as ridiculous as Vicky proclaims it to be. But as Bardem weaves his wicked web of charm and romance, it seems more and more of a viable, believable option. Penelope Cruz simply steals the show. She is an insane, suicidal, violent woman and plays the part with prodigious fervor. When Scarlett Johansson's character sees her for the first time, she is visibly scared, and she should be. Cruz looks like she could eat her.

Perhaps because they are together in real life, Bardem and Cruz work out Allen's idea that sometimes love is so strong "because it could never work." The characters all experience a tumultuous, fiery summer romance; while at the conclusion of the movie Bardem and Cruz's characters retreat into the on-again-off-again romance that they embodied so well. Hall and Johansson's characters got a chance to experience what each was missing: for Hall, risky and unpredictable passion, and for Johansson, the experience of settling down and finding out more about herself. This summer voyage was an energizing blend of comedy, drama, and solidly constructed characters.

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Patricia Clarkson Kevin Dunn Rebecca Hall Chris Messina

*Vicky Cristina Barcelona*  
Life is the ultimate work of art.



# Diary of a Spore Gamer

By Avid Gamer

## September 7

Today I bought Spore. All its previews looked pretty good. I downloaded the creature creator demo some months ago and while it was entertaining, the lack of game play dulled things pretty fast. Hopefully the full game has content to actually keep my attention for longer than a few hours unlike the creature creator did. Well, installer's almost done now, I hope this game doesn't take over my life or cause me to fail out of school or anything.

## September 8

Class is such a waste of time. I think I'll skip tomorrow to play more Spore.

## September 9

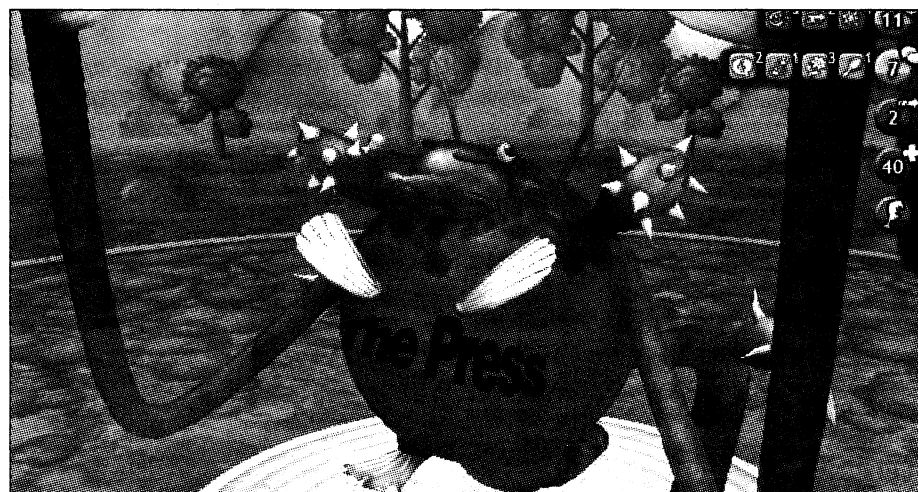
SPORE!!

## September 10

GODDAMMIT!! After getting my species to the space age and playing for something like 40 hours, the fucking shit game decides to fucking shit on my save file and corrupt it. I searched for the problem on the EA forums and they're acting as if they don't even know they released the fucking game. What the fuck? Other forums have the problem listed and people are saying that the game automatically does that sometimes and there's no fix. I guess I'll just start over. Fuck.

## September 11

Finally fucking got my second species to the space age again. I started playing into the space age and I'm going to go to office hours now to get all the notes I've missed this past week. The professor probably didn't even notice I was out; he was probably playing Spore too.



PressMonster5000, he's coming for ya'. You ain't Never gonna be safe!

The Press

## September 12

FUCK. Again. I swear, I'm giving up on the game. I'm not going to deal with this corrupt save bullshit anymore.

## September 13

I've put Spore on Ebay. I woke up with a revelation. You know, the game's kind of fun on the surface but after you divorce yourself from it for a day or two, you realize how fucking stupid it is. Okay, so you start as a cell and swim around and eat stuff. It's like freeform Pac-Man. Big

fucking deal. Ok, so I get to edit what my Pac-Man looks like. Do I give a shit if the game doesn't work? Has your local Pac-Man arcade machine ever blue screened? I didn't think so. Then my Pac-Man grows legs. Awesome. Or not. It's the same freaking thing but on land. I eat fruit or other creatures and try not

thought put into this part of the game. It's as if the makers half-assed this whole gig so they could sprint straight for the space age of the game. Well, that's fair, because I did the same thing.

Space: the final frontier. First complaint: my spaceship looks smaller than my shits. It's this puny little thing with a cartoony laser beam and floats like a UFO saucer. What if you want to make a fucking Star Destroyer? Nope, out of luck. Your ship will still be pathetically small and only have one small laser. And then it seems like every alien race you come across is xenophobic so you have to spend hours sucking their dicks, or whatever reproductive organs they have, in order to get them to like you even the tiniest bit. Not that Spore was trying to be ridiculously stereotypical, but the main source of wealth during the space age is spice. It's kind of annoying having to pick up spice from all your colonies manually and then having them make the Kessel run in under twelve parsecs just to make a small profit. Oh, and don't forget that your save game will randomly fuck up so you can start over with a new species. Fuck you EA. Next time EA publishes a game I'm just going to download the cracked version with the cleaned up source code that makes the game playable and less shitty. Bah. When's Fallout 3 coming out? I've been waiting for ten years.

to get eaten. Why? So I can evolve into a fucking tribe and then play a strategy game? Wait, since when was Pac-Man a fucking strategy game? Oh right, this is Spore. But then why does it look so similar? Now I have to control a tribe and manage resources? Could I have gotten a warning on the box about how I needed a brain and really fast fingers to play the later parts of this game? After surviving that nightmare, you get this sub par version of Civilization. It's pretty cool except there's no depth or real

# ElodieO

By Andrew Fraley

Multi-talented pop music artists are few and far between in this day and age. An artist who takes total creative control of the production process of her music is even more rare. It is a breath of fresh air to see ElodieO, a classically-trained, multi-disciplined newcomer to the indie synth-pop scene. With the release of her debut solo album, *Stubborn*, on August 19, and corresponding album release party on August 28, ElodieO is making a name for herself in the music world.

It was a slow progression for ElodieO to get where she is today musically; she didn't start as an electro pop diva. Originally born Elodie Ozanne in Paris, France, she was classically trained

in the cello, as well as dance and theatre. She grew up listening to jazz, classical and bebop; it wasn't until she moved to New York City that she began listening to rock and pop music. She quickly gained a new love of electronic music. She was heavily influenced by pop and rock artists, such as Björk and Manu Chao, and music from 50's and 60's movies.

It was in 2000, when she met



Manuel Bienvenu, that she began to develop her unique musical voice. Together with Bienvenu, they founded the band Elm. Elm released two critically acclaimed albums, had successful tours in the US and Europe and opened for artists like Cat Power. Elodie eventually left the band to start her own burgeoning solo career.

With the release of *Stubborn*, Elodie exhibits nearly full control

over the creative process. The entire album was fully self-arranged, composed and produced, except for "Unexpected So," which was produced and arranged by Chris Kelly. *Stubborn's* production was a new experience for her. "I'd never composed anything before," explained Elodie. "I was trained in performance art, and producing is very tough." Anything she didn't know she learned, including how to use recording and editing software. Consequently, the album was a long time in the making. The four year process evolved organically, according to Elodie. "Everything was equally important to me. The sound, arrangement, lyrics. It was very interesting, but it was slow."

But the hard work paid off; *Stubborn* is one of the more distinctive albums of this year. Combining the synth



# Burn, Baby, BURN!

By Justin Meltzer

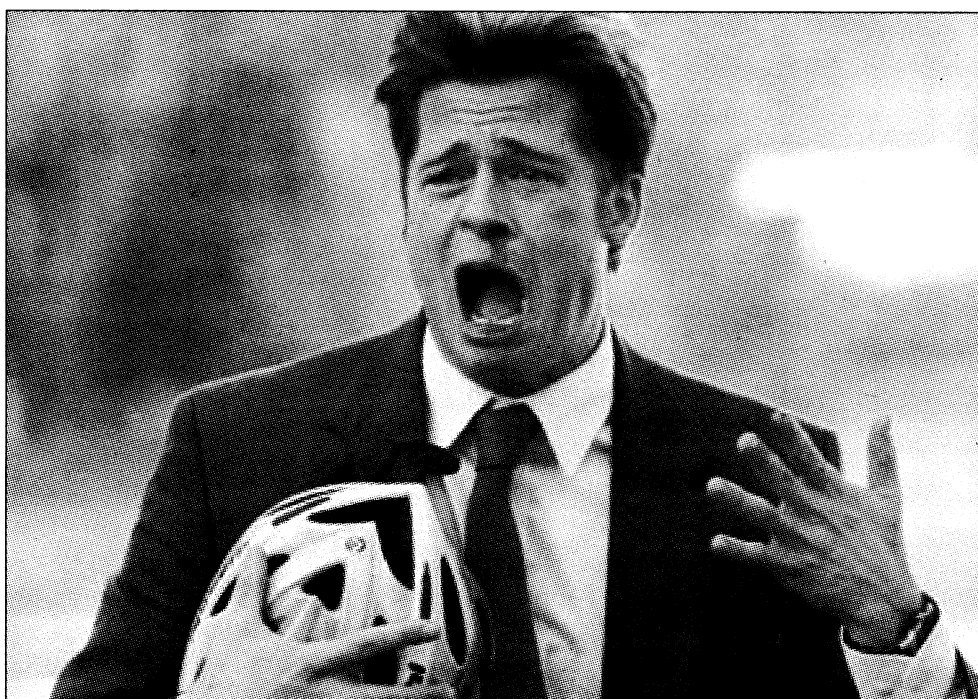
When the Coen brothers direct a movie, they direct the shit out of it. The same is true of *Burn After Reading*, their latest take on the spy/sex/gym/idiot genre. The movie begins with Ozzy Cox (John Malkovich), an ex-CIA agent scorned. His wife (played by recent Oscar winner Tilda Swinton) is sleeping with a married womanizing sex addict (played by Mr. I'm-full-of-myself, George Clooney). He is also sleeping with a gym worker who wants money for surgery (Frances McDormand) and devises a plan with her gym trainer co-worker (the brilliant moron, Brad Pitt) to blackmail Ozzy Cox to get money in exchange for a lost CD that actually contains mere financial records that Ozzy's wife was using for her secret divorce proceedings. If you think that was hard to follow, you should see the movie.

What makes the movie really great is the fact that it is hysterically funny, but done so dark and dry that you don't know whether to laugh out loud or assume the fetal position and defecate where you sit. I personally chose the former but I felt like a weirdo while the jokes flew over the heads of the rest of the audience and I was laughing aloud

like there was no tomorrow. I would love to say that Brad Pitt's "Chad" was the show stealer, but every character really brought something different and amazing to the table.

My personal favorite, however, was

funny. Clearly he was the biggest cock in the movie (figuratively speaking of course) despite Malkovich's character's last name. Knowing the Coen's knack for phallic symbols it was clearly evident that Clooney's character was the alpha



Clooney. While normally obnoxious and annoying in most of his other films (i.e. Michael Clayton, Syrianna), whenever he is in a Coen brothers picture he makes me want to bear his illegitimate children for what a talented actor he is. His scenes were not only perverted and inappropriate, but also hysterically

male, especially considering the "special gift" he made for his wife.

This film was a spectacular romp through the minds of very interesting character profiles. The movie was all about the un-intelligence of the Central Intelligence Agency. While the Coen's didn't purposely write this script as a

politically motivated view of this nation's spy agencies, it could be looked upon as such. In the end, every character thought everyone else was against them. One of the best parts was when George Clooney met with Frances McDormand's character, Linda Litzke, in the park. Clooney gets spooked when he learns some new information concerning Linda's missing friend Chad, and Clooney looks around and sees the guy tailing him, some other guy taking pictures, and then the sounds of a helicopter overhead. He freaks out and shouts "Who are you!?" to which she just looks surprised and says, "I'm just Linda Litzke."

*Burn After Reading* is a work of comic art. Everything from the score, which sounds crucial yet meaningless, to the cinematography — done by the same guy who did *Children of Men*, to the brilliant dialogue ("Ha ha, you think that's a Schwinn?") made this film another notch on the already prestigious belt of the Coen brothers. *Burn* will go up there with *Lebowski* and *O'Brother* as one of the best comedies they have ever done. In order to fully grasp its complexities, I recommend seeing this movie at least twice, as there is a lot to take in. And always make sure you know about the security of your shit.

## ELODIE continued from page 18

pop styling of the French electronic explosion, modern rock instrumentals and Elodie's distinguished whispered melodies make the album a scintillating aural experience. Part of what makes *Stubborn* so interesting is that it isn't constrained by any one genre. Her eclectic influences are all clearly present in her songs, giving them a transcendental feeling. This being her first solo LP, Elodie shows great potential for the further development of her unique musicality. She already has a general idea and direction for her next album. While she will most likely have somebody help with production this time around, she plans to retain much of the creative control. "I have no interest in just putting my voice out there...Since I do a lot of work on my own, I will still remain the band leader."

To accompany her August 19 album release, Le Royale nightclub hosted a release party, featuring an opening DJ and Elodie as the headliner.

I was a bit reticent to check out the club as I was unsure of what sort of scene it

spired art nouveau décor and a slight hipster presence, Le Royale, located



Elodie plays in the dark, making it difficult to take not-grainy photos

Andrew Fraley

would be. Le Royale, as it turns out, is a very happening place. With 60's in-

near Greenwich Village, was a crazy dance party on this particular night.

The DJ played a juxtaposition of 80's pop and driving drum and bass lines. This is apparently all the rage today, and everyone on the dance floor, including a man with a giant balloon for a head and the very same transvestite who was seen dancing on stage for Girl Talk's set at All Points West, went nuts. A young man informed me that, according to myopenbar.com, the bar was serving free vodka until eleven. Two screwdrivers later and I was having a total blast. At about eleven Elodie went on. She played a very solid set, which featured most of the songs from the album. The performance was slightly marred by technical difficulties; her keyboard didn't work the entire set, and her vocals were always a bit low—I could barely hear her melodica when she played it. Her very capable backing musicians more than made up for it, however. The evening was quite successful, and a good time was had by all.

You can check out more information on ElodieO and her album at [stubborn.elodieo.com](http://stubborn.elodieo.com).



# Salting The Wound

By Nick Eaton

Now, seven years after the September 11 attacks, the Bush administration continues to salt the wounds of affected Americans. Morbid opportunism marks the occasion. Many liberal blogs spit fire regarding the disaster profiteering this administration has pursued, but few outline the events in a clear and concise way that enables people with less time (and quite frankly, less interest) to understand...

**1993-**

A Muslim terrorist cell attempts to destroy the World Trade Center by detonating explosives in the towers' basements. Several die, but the buildings do not suffer too much damage.

**1996-**

Osama bin Laden issues a fatwa demanding American troops leave Saudi Arabia. A fatwa is basically bin Laden's perspective on Islamic law. Bin Laden used Islamic texts to justify violence against America until demands are met.

**1998-**

Osama bin Laden issues another fatwa, condemning America's foreign policy in regards to Israel and restating his demand that American troops leave Saudi Arabia.

**2001-**

**April:**  
Dick Cheney commissions a report from the Baker Institute for Public Policy, which states:

"The United States remains a prisoner of its energy dilemma. Iraq remains a de-stabilizing influence to the flow of oil to international markets from the Middle East. Saddam Hussein has also demonstrated a willingness to threaten to use the oil weapon and to use his own export programme to manipulate oil markets. Therefore the US should conduct an immediate policy review toward Iraq including military, energy, economic and political/ diplomatic assessments."

**September 11:**

Nineteen al-Qaeda operatives hijack airplanes and crash them into the

World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Fifteen of the hijackers are from Saudi Arabia, one is from Egypt, one is from Lebanon and two are from the United Arab Emirates.

**September 20:**

George W. Bush demands that Afghanistan cooperate with the United States by closing down terrorist training camps, handing terrorists over and allowing the U.S access to said camps.

**September 22:**

The United Arab Emirates withdraws recognition of the Taliban as the ruling government in Afghanistan.

**September 23:**

Saudi Arabia follows suit, leaving Pakistan as the Taliban's only ally.

**October 7:**

The war in Afghanistan begins. The purpose of the war is to drive out the Taliban regime (a known ally to al-Qaeda), subdue terrorists in the region and capture Osama bin Laden.

**December 14:**

"We're going to get [Bin Laden] Dead or alive, it doesn't matter to me." - Bush

**2002-**

**February:**

The CIA sends Joseph Wilson to investigate Iraq's supposed attempts to purchase yellow cake uranium from Niger. Wilson concludes that such claims are "unequivocally wrong." The Bush administration disregards this intelligence and continues to perpetuate the concept that Iraq is seeking to purchase uranium.

**March 13:**

"...Terror is bigger than one person... So I don't know where [Bin Laden] is... You know, I just don't spend that much time on him, Kelly, to be honest with you. ...I'll repeat what I said. I truly am not that concerned about him." - Bush

**July 23:**

British government and military officials meet and discuss America's foreign policy. Citing classified information regarding America's policies, a memo (the Downing Street Memo) is drafted which states that:

"Bush wanted to remove Saddam, through military action, justified by the conjunction of terrorism and WMD. But the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy."

**September:**

The administration points to Iraq's purchasing of high strength aluminum tubes as signs of attempts to enrich uranium. The Department of Energy and the Institute for Natural Resources rejected such claims stating that it was unlikely that such tubes were suited to enrich uranium. Colin Powell's address to the UN Security Council continues, unaltered even after this information is released. Later Powell admits that much of the information was "deliberately misleading."

**2003-**

**March 7:**

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reports that documents that Bush cited as proof of Iraq's attempts to purchase uranium from Niger are "obvious forgeries."

**March 20:**

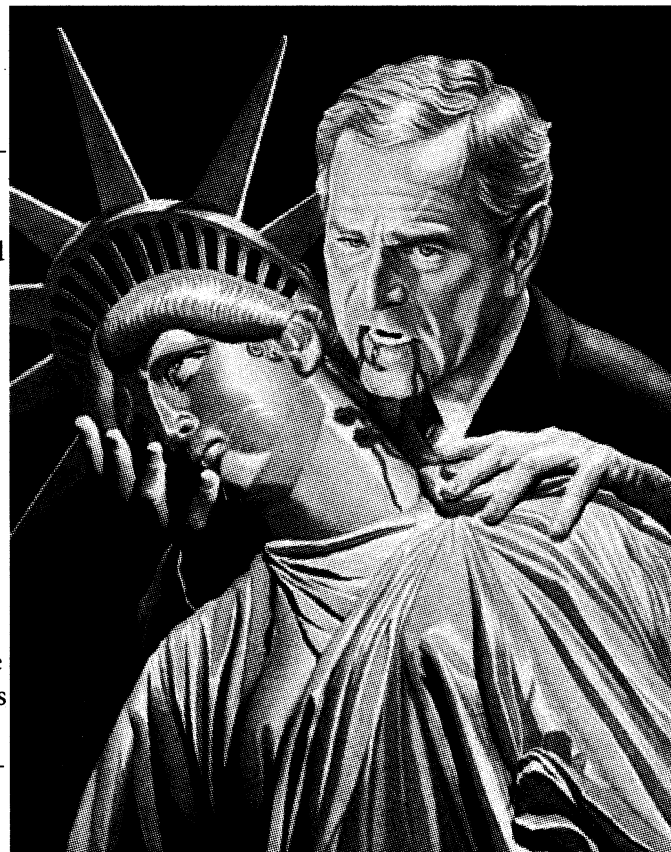
The war in Iraq begins.

**June:**

Wilson writes an op-ed for the New York Times highlighting his investigation and reasserting the lack of evidence for Iraq's attempt to purchase uranium.

**July 14:**

Valerie Plame, Joseph Wilson's wife, is outed as a CIA Operations Officer in a news column by Robert Novak. -Lewis "Scooter" Libby was found guilty of two counts of perjury one count of obstruction of justice and one count of making false statements to federal investigators. Richard Armitage was irrefutably linked to the leak but never charged and Libby alluded to the order to leak Plame's name coming from



Vice President Cheney.

**2004-**

**October:**

"I just don't think I ever said I'm not worried about Osama bin Laden. It's kind of one of those exaggerations." - Bush

"The headlines all say, 'No weapons of mass destruction stockpiled in Baghdad.' We already knew that." - Cheney

**2007-**

**August 28:**

"Iran's active pursuit of technology that could lead to nuclear weapons threatens to put a region already known for instability and violence under the shadow of a nuclear holocaust... Iran's actions threaten the security of nations everywhere, and the United States is rallying friends and allies to isolate Iran's regime, to impose economic sanctions. We will confront this danger before it is too late." - Bush

I don't think I need to go any further. On this anniversary of the attacks of September 11 think not only of the victims but how their deaths have been shamelessly manipulated to fuel perpetual war for perpetual profit.



# The Pedophiles Amongst Us...

*Editor's Note: This is an excerpt from a two-hundred and twenty-seven part series, titled Reflections on my Dissertation Regarding the Over-Abundance of Pedophiles in Occidental Society, by Doctor Professor Christopher Oliveri (AKA Shadez) PhD M.D. Special thanks go out to our sister publication, The London Times, and our affiliates at the BBC for the rights to publish this harrowing narrative. Enjoy, and bon appetit.*

--The Stony Brook Press' Editorial Board

As school comes into full swing, parents can't help but wonder how strangers like to deal with their kids. College is no exception; many of us have siblings and most of us do care about their, heh, affairs with the fellows around them. Little kids like to watch big people on TV, and some of these big people really do like them back. But which figures are best to watch out for, across all boards?: Here are just a few of the perverts you'll meet in your life:

**CLOWNS:** Clowns are people that have dreams of 'entertaining' kids, while children only tend to have nightmares about clowns. Gee, I wonder why? Having blown jobs, they start juggling balls - and either way they continue to suck. They inflate wieners to hand off to the young ones. They tout their horns into other people's business areas because they work on a contract to contract stuff, damn it!

**SANTA:** He likes to watch children and see if they're being naughty. He later invites them to come onto his lap, for they will be rewarded. He carries a huge sack that never runs dry. While a clown juggles their balls randomly, Santa just lets his jingle.

**DENTISTS:** They like to give oral. 'Nuff said.

**PRIESTS:** They're virgins because they like to save it up for the most special encounter ever, and obviously couldn't make up their mind on what that entails. It doesn't help that by the time they're 'ready' they can be seen working with boy-servants who hold their props for them.

**NUNS:** The same as priests, they went from Zero to Ziro before whipping little girls.

**BABYSITTERS:** They get paid to stare at babies. They sometimes even

like to play with the babies. It's usually girl-on-girl, but always equivocally wrong.

**COUNSELORS:** Camp counselors like to tuck tweens into little bunk beds in the hopes of getting bunked themselves. Careful, RA's - college is a similar enough setting and we're on to you. Like a priest on an altar boy, authorities are on to you.

**MAILMEN:** They emphasize their manliness to hide their perversions,

**ANTI-ABORTIONISTS:** Being pro-life means that you're pro-baby, and would you really want to go around saying that?

**CEREAL BOX MASCOTS:** "I'm cookoo... cookoo for your... lucky charms! Theyyyy're great! Oh, and bee happy and bee healthy because I'm nuts for your honey." They like to play chase with the kids to turn the tables and reel 'em in.

**CLOSET MONSTERS:** Hairy mothers that like to either be near a child's bed or be 'in the closet (so to speak) about their intentions. Fetishism at its finest. It's a safe bet that there's a one-eyed snake among them.

**HALLOWEEN:** Though not a person, Halloween is the time of year where complete strangers in masks offer candy to unsuspecting tykes. I feel particularly bad for the ballerinas.

**WILLY WONKA:** His factory always pumps some dark chocolate lovin' for the young ones. He also likes to give guided tours of his pleasure land, only the kids end up messing up the individual parts.

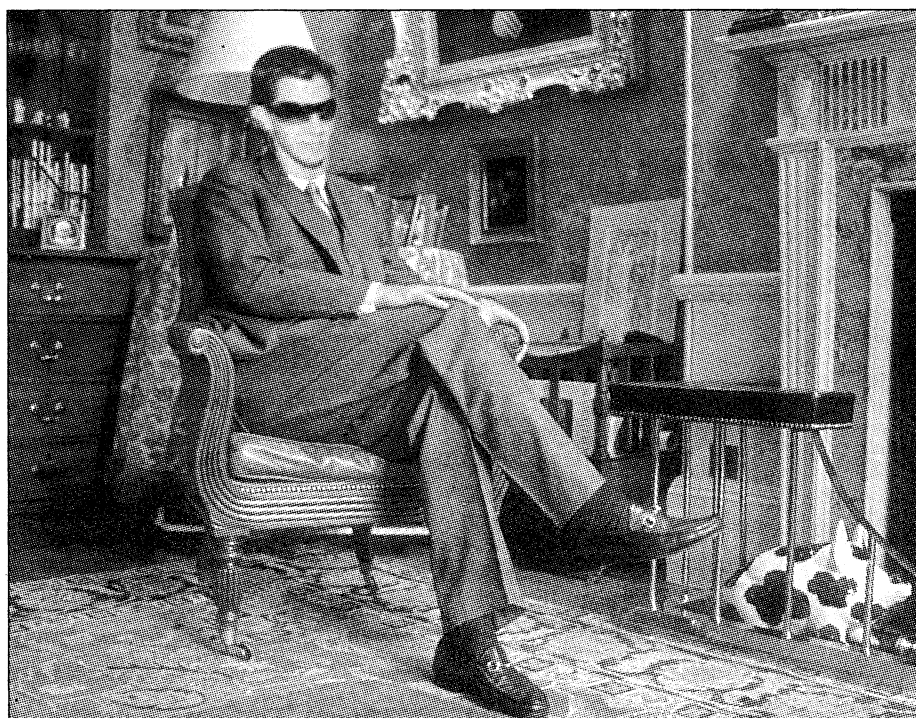
**MR. CLEAN:** Bald man that randomly appears in your kitchen to seduce children's mothers so he can then seduce the children.

**MR. PEANUT:** Need I say more?

**MICHAEL JACKSON:** As if pedophilia wasn't bad enough, Mr. Jackson also likes to see damsel children in distress - he gets kicks by hanging children out of windows from their own kickers. Why doesn't Jack-ass just Jack-off already?

**PARENTS:** Let's face it. For the first eighteen years of your life they own you. They profess to 'care' for you, which already sounds too close for comfort. At least we mostly forget how they used to spank us, make us suck their tits and hold them all over. Hands are suggestive enough, damn it!

And there you have it. Some really freaky dudes that we're forced to see on TV, on the radio, in our imaginations and in all walks of life; they all make the list. Do you have what it takes to avoid being included in this 'Hall of Shame?'



Doctor Professor Shadez PhD M.D

Justin Meltzer

but a 'male' man is just overkill. Their tight shorts show off too much, as if giving you their packages wasn't enough. They also know where you live.

**TEACHERS:** You've got to question anyone who professes to 'love children' and enjoys talking to them more than other like-minded adults. Watch out for those one-on-one sessions, for the love of God. They sometimes like to call children's homes directly. They make them write something fifty times because they're into domination.

**THE BURGER KING:** His goal is to have you served a second time when you unexpectedly wake up next to him. He tries to sell his products to children, of all people. Plus, there's that creepy mask...

**BARNEY THE DINOSAUR:** A tyrannosaur who has made a pact with the kids. He's agreed not to eat anybody, but still gets a little too excited around children. He can't stop from jumping up and down faster than a fully charged vibrator.

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

Meetings Wednesdays 1pm  
Union Building Room 060



## Ask a Lesbian By Ilyssa Fuchs



Dear Ilyssa,

I know the presidential election is coming up, and as a lesbian everyone tells me that I should be voting for Obama but as a fiscal conservative I was originally going to vote for McCain. Now I'm just confused and unsure because I've been hearing that McCain and Palin are not very gay friendly when it comes to their policies. Could you give me a little more information on both candidates when it comes to their stance on LGBT issues?

Thanks so much,

"The Gay Republican"

Dear Gay Republican,

This is actually a very interesting and important question and I am so glad you asked it because there are many gay Republicans who are in a toss up this election year about who to cast their vote for so let me give you the facts.

Obama believes that we should treat people with respect regardless of our sexual orientation and he feels that too often the issues that divide us stem from this. On the other hand McCain sees people first (not gays or lesbians) and fails to recognize that our identity is central in our lives and how we vote, and in turn, form whom we vote.

Barack Obama is very steadfast in his fight to give the LGBT community equal rights and equal protection under the law. Unlike John McCain, if Obama is elected he will work hard for the community in implementing programs that will expand hate crimes statutes, fight discrimination in the workplace, and promote LGBT rights. Obama also supports full civil unions and federal rights for LGBT couples and opposes a Constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. McCain on the other hand supports a Constitutional Ban on same-sex marriage and does not believe that we should add sexual orientation to the list

of reasons for discrimination. In my eyes this opens the door for workplace discrimination and hate crime to take place against people who are gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, or transgendered. Obama also wants to repeal the "don't ask, don't tell" policy of the military, expand adoption rights for same-sex couples, and promote HIV/AIDS prevention programs in the LGBT com-

civil rights act to prohibit job discrimination based on sexual orientation. He is quoted as saying, "I don't believe that [homosexuals] belong in a special category." On the issue of adoption, Obama supports full adoption rights for same sex couples while McCain says that he "doesn't believe in gay adoption." When it comes to the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), Obama supports a full and

led bans on same-sex marriage, while McCain boasted proudly about his efforts to ban same-sex marriage in his home state of Arizona. McCain has also shown his support for the California same-sex marriage ban which would overturn current statutes. On the issue of relationship recognition Obama supports civil unions that provide rights that are equivalent to legal marriages. McCain opposes civil unions saying that they are just like same-sex marriages which he doesn't believe should be legal. On the issue of gays and lesbians in the military, Obama wants to repeal, "don't ask, don't tell" and create a policy in which members of the LGBT community could serve openly. McCain believes that the current policy works well and does not need to be revamped.

Finally, on the issue of hate crimes, Obama wants to pass laws that would add sexual identity to the list of hate crimes, and plans to enact the Matthew Shepard Act which would include completely outlaw hate crimes against the LGBT community and in the workplace. McCain voted against strengthening federal hate crime legislation to include gender and sexual orientation in 2000, 2002, and 2004.

I hope you can now see that although you might side with McCain on some issues such as the war in Iraq, the economy, and the environment, sexual orientation (other than being straight) is incompatible with John McCain's platform and his ideals. I would strongly encourage you to vote for Obama and to spread the word to all of your friends about John McCain's homophobia.

Sincerely,  
Ilyssa Fuchs

Special thanks to the Obama Pride Campaign: (The information in the above letter was provided by [pride.barackobama.com](http://pride.barackobama.com))



munity.

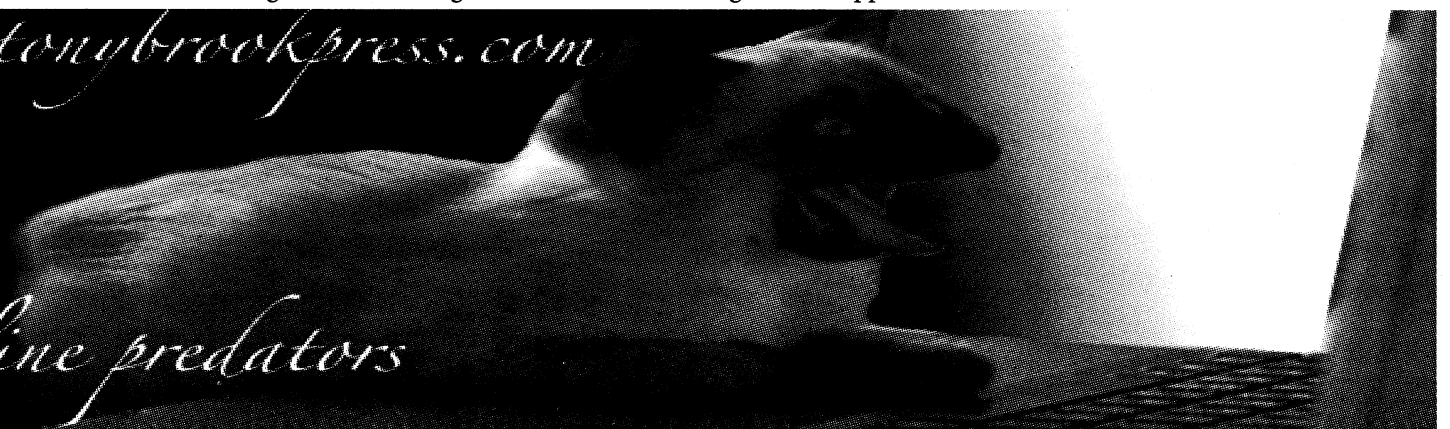
Furthermore, if we look at Obama vs McCain on the issues we find even more that Obama is the candidate who will fight for the community. When it comes to fighting discrimination, Obama supports legislation that would outlaw employment discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. He even sponsored the Illinois Trans-Inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act Bill which later passed after he had been elected to the Senate. McCain voted against extending the

complete repeal of the act. He believes that we must enact federal legislation that would ensure that the 1,100+ legal rights that are currently provided to married couples would be extended to same-sex couples in legally recognized relationships. John McCain voted in favor of the Defense of Marriage Act, which bans the federal recognition of same-sex marriages.

When it comes to the issue of marriage amendments, Obama voted against a federal amendment to ban same-sex marriage and he opposes state

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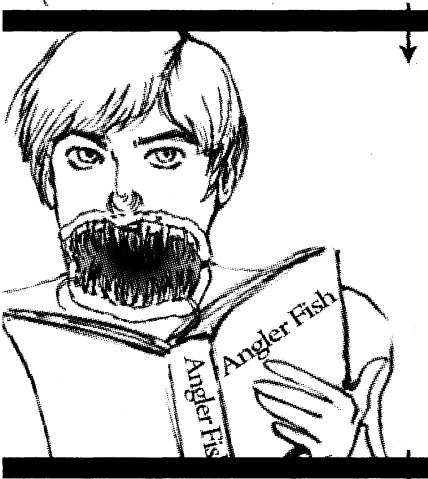
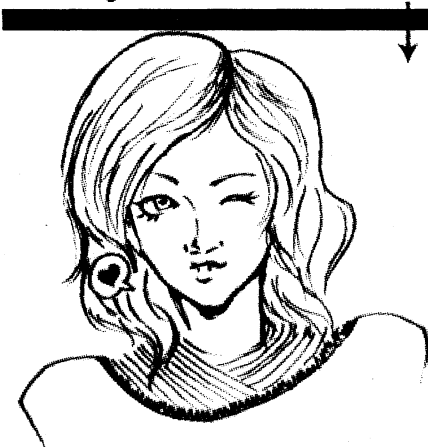
where online predators  
roam





THE COMICS SECTION

Sexual Dimorphism.  
Tia Mansouri



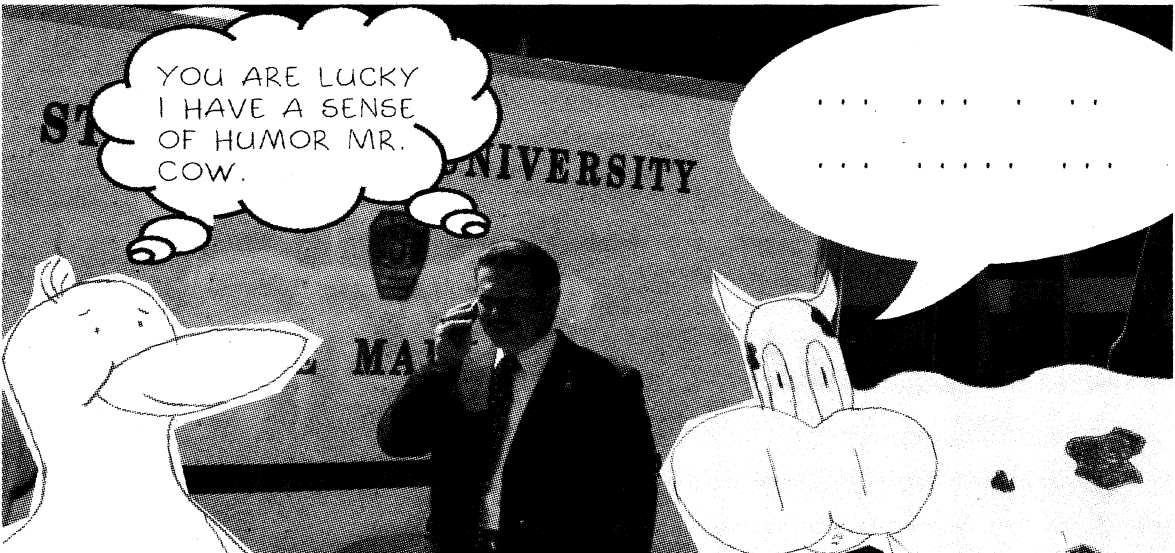
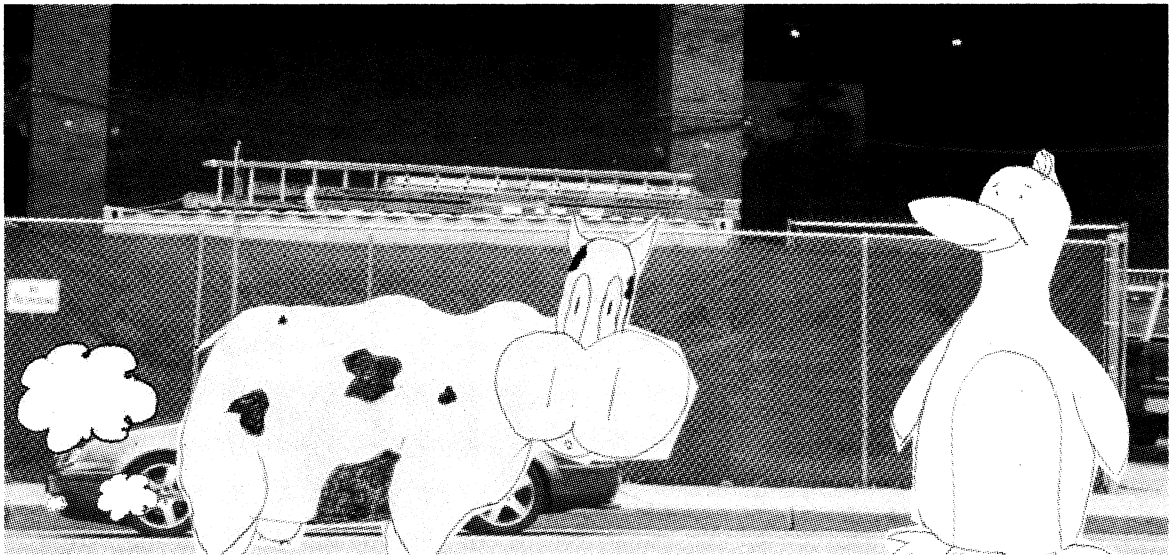
ESKIMO JIM

BY DAVID K. GINN



Avante Garde

By WERNER VON BLUR



# Are You Ready For An Over-Abundance of Football?!

By Alex Nagler

All men have their hobbies. Some collect stamps, some hunt, some fix up old cars. Steve Koreivo attends college football games. Mr. Koreivo boasts the impressive record of having seen all 119 NCAA Division I-A Bowl Teams compete. He holds season tickets to the home stadium of the Nittany Lions at Penn State and has sat at the 50-yard line for the Rose Bowl. But those aren't the reasons he's being written about here, even though both are interesting stories.

Steve Koreivo also wants to see as many D I-AA Bowl Teams play as he can. And with Stony Brook's move to the Big South for football, that is just what the school has become. So, with that in mind, Mr. Koreivo crossed the George Washington Bridge and took the Long Island Expressway out to Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium on August 30<sup>th</sup> to see the Seawolves take on Colgate University.

To those who were unaware, Stony Brook took the geographically puzzling move of joining the Big South conference this year in order to play better-

quality teams and, should the season be good enough, go for a title or two. If this doesn't make any sense to you, don't worry. It didn't make any sense to Mr. Koreivo either. After seeing Stony play, he hopes that they can make their way into something more local, like the Colonial Athletic Association or the Patriot League, but this is a good start.

Thanks to the efforts of *The Press*, Mr. Koreivo and his son, Eric, were able to see the game from above the stands in the press box. Mr. Koreivo is a lifelong football fan who grew up listening to Notre Dame on the radio. The first team he saw play in 1966 was, ironically, Colgate, who won that game. After that, he had never physically seen them win another game, making them 1-4 in his book. Though it was fun, this was not his first big game. That title would go to an Army-Navy game he attended in 1972. He would later practice with the lightweight football team at the Naval Academy. His football career ended at Juniata College, where he played lacrosse, a move he still regrets.

The year Mr. Koreivo finished school was the year the Meadowlands opened, and as a native of New Jersey, that meant not only professional games, but bigger college games as well. His thirst grew out of a URI game and he

started attending more games. He saw the penultimate Rutgers-Princeton game in 1979, before Princeton decided it was too good to play against the team with which it invented college football with.

To Mr. Koreivo, college football represents a sort of diversity that isn't present in professional football. There are set strategies and plays that professional coaches wouldn't run, as their jobs depend on their not doing so. In college, a coach isn't afraid of running a play that could backfire. There's simply more variety in college ball than there is in professional ball.

So in 2000, Mr. Koreivo decided to sit down with the entire season's schedule and a spreadsheet. Through investigating the options, he realized that with a little work, he could see all the D I-A teams play. And so his unlikely odyssey began. In October 2007, he crossed the finish line, watching Idaho play Nevada. That was 119 until Western Kentucky becomes 120 in 2009, that's every one. So with college football season starting, he received a lot of media interest, including from the *New York Times*, which is how *The Press* found out about him.

Mr. Koreivo coming to Stony Brook had nothing to do with us, it was a sim-

ply matter of seeing a new team play. To quote his website, [www.collegefootball-fan.com](http://www.collegefootball-fan.com), "The Stony Brook football program and Stadium exceeded my original expectations. As demonstrated on the field tonight and in the past, they can already compete with the Patriot League after only two years in the Football Championship Division. Last year, they beat Maine and came up short against another Colonial Athletic Association team, Hofstra, 33-28. Their size and speed already put them on par with what's already considered the strongest conference at this level, the CAA. They'll get to prove it on the field this season prior to Big South competition when they play Elon, visit Maine, and host local rival Hofstra once again." The fact that Stony Brook can compete with programs like Maine and Hofstra is a testament to the ability of the team and a credit to how far they've come in such a short period of time.

To close, we leave you with Mr. Koreivo's words on Stony Brook's chances in the Big South this year: "Liberty is the favorite to win the Big South. If the Seawolves surprise, we wouldn't hesitate to try to get out to LI again to see a playoff game." Steve, we'd love to have you back.

## Battle for the Butter

By Najib Aminy

In what ESPN's radio program *Mike and Mike* named the "Battle for the Butter," the Stony Brook men's football team fell to the Black Bears of Maine, just one week after a drowning loss, 30-20, in tropical storm conditions against Elon University. Despite an impressive start in their home opener, in which they defeated Colgate University

42-26, the Seawolves have lost two consecutive games.

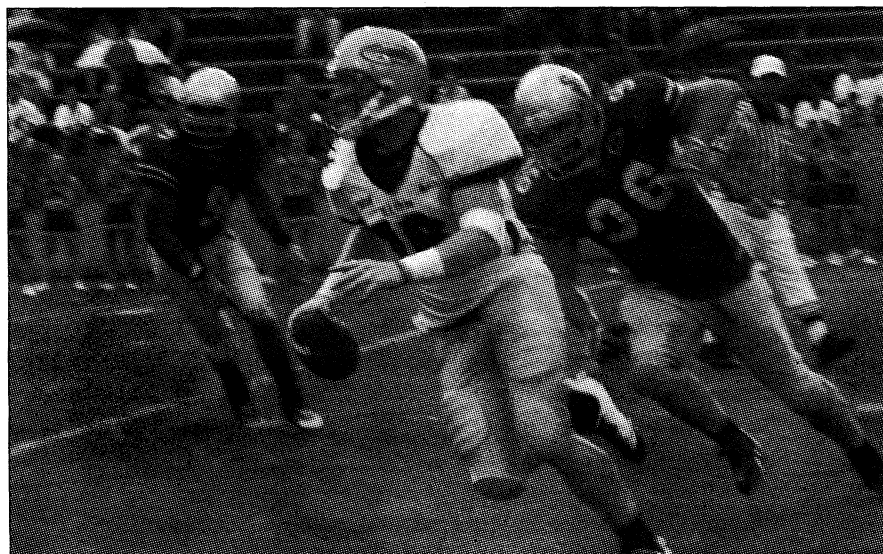
With a recorded seven sacks, red-shirted freshman Stony Brook quarterback Dayne Hoffman (Ada, Michigan) had a 50% passing completion rate, throwing a total of 38 times with 19 completions, of which two were picked off by Maine. Hoffman totaled 199 passing yards and one touchdown when connecting with freshman Melaquan Saffold (Syracuse, NY). Hoffman's rushing stats were tainted

with a rushing net yardage of negative 34 yards. Junior Conte Cuttino led the team in rushing with a net yardage of 75 yards but failed to produce a score leaving one to wonder about the strength of the offensive line. Senior kicker Luke Gaddis (East Patchogue, NY) was two for two in field goal attempts with a 32-yard kick early in the second quarter followed by a 22-yarder in the middle of the third.

With a lack-luster performance by the offense, Stony Brook's defense was unable to stop Maine's aerial attack in the first half of the game. Maine's quarterback, sophomore Adam Farkes (Boston, Mass) threw for 148 yards but connected with three receivers scoring four touchdowns, two by sophomore receiver Tyrell Jones (Gaithersburg, Md.). Junior Carl Teague (St. Petersburg, Fla.) recorded Stony Brook's solo sack of the game for a loss of nine yards along with four tackles of his own. Junior Tyler Santucci (New Kensington, Pa.) had a team high of five recorded tackles, which netted a total of eight yards lost. Stony Brook was successful in stopping Maine's run game, and essentially held Maine from scoring again in the second half. However the Seawolves failed to produce any sort of a comeback with four turnovers, one in red-zone territory.

Though scoring the first touchdown of the game late in the first quarter, Stony Brook was outscored 28-10 in the first half. The Seawolves would nibble at their differential by three with a field goal in the third, making the final score of the game, 28-13. Maine improve their record to 2-1 while Stony Brook has staggered from an impressive start to a 1-2 season.

Tired of hyping up games such as Saturday night's match up between USC and the Ohio State University, ESPN's *Mike and Mike* radio program challenged their audience come up with the most creative name for the Stony Brook vs. Maine game. Names such as "Slaughter at the Sea," "Laughingstock at the Lighthouse," "The Rock Lobster Bowl," "The Bore on the Shore," and "Commotion by the Ocean" were offended. Yet, the winner was "The Battle for the Butter," and the winning coach would be interviewed. Despite the loss, Stony Brook is up for a difficult schedule traveling to Providence, RI next week to face Brown University in their season opener on September 20, at 12:30 p.m. Following Brown, Stony Brook is to face Hofstra University for the clash of Long Island supremacy at home on Friday, September 26, at 7 p.m.





# The Death of Football

By Matt Braunstein

In America, football is perceived and marketed as a sport for the common man, the Average Joe and the working class shlub. It is that very demographic that the sport's popularity and monumental success has been built upon. The values of hard work, toughness, sacrifice, teamwork, physical pain, and emotional glory have profoundly linked the athletes and coaches on the field with the screaming fans in the stands since 1920. All of that history seems to mean nothing now.

A trend has been spreading across the league in recent years and it can be described in the old adage, "Out with the old, in with the new." In with new players, coaches, owners, merchandise, stadiums, and now fans. This maxim definitively characterizes the New York Giants team and franchise. The NY Giants organization has been working diligently to build their new Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ, which is scheduled to replace the current Giants stadium in 2010.

However, in a showing of unbelievable distaste, disrespect and arrogance, the team recently announced that mandatory PSLs, or "Personal Seat Licenses," will be part of the purchase price for every stadium seat in the new building. A PSL is a one-time fee that guarantees buyers the rights to purchase Giants season tickets. This applies not only to new customers and fans, but to every current Giants season ticket-holder, as well.

The PSL prices ranges from \$1,000 to \$20,000 based on the location of the seat and its proximity to the field. What this means is that anybody who wishes to buy season tickets in this new state-of-the-art stadium will have to shell out a hefty PSL fee before they even pay for their actual seats. Ticket prices are sure

to be increased from the current average price of \$88.06 per game according to Comcast.net, where the average family price is said to be \$480.74 per game.

"We have spent months exploring our various options regarding the financing of the construction of the new stadium," said team co-owner John Mara. "Given construction costs and NFL and lender requirements for paying down our debt, and after much thought and analysis, we decided this PSL program is necessary. All the net proceeds from the sale of PSLs will be used to fund construction of the new stadium."

That seems to make sense, doesn't it? The Giants ownership is spending a huge amount of cash to build a shiny beautiful new 1.6 billion dollar stadium with all the amenities and luxuries included, so in return, they ask for the paying customer to pick up some of the tab, being that all these fantastic upgrades are built to enhance the fan's experience. Well that's all swell, but if one reduces all these figures and explanations down to their basic meaning, the PSL doesn't leave such an acceptable impression.

First of all, anytime a businessman tells you he's spending money for your sake, he's most likely feeding you a huge line of bullshit. Largely successful capitalists make business decisions predicated only on their company's profit, and in turn their own individual profit. The NY Giants ownership didn't build a new stadium to make the fans happy; they built a new stadium because they thought it would make them more money. Some of this immense profit is being made through these outrageously priced PSLs.

The average season ticket holder is being completely screwed in this situation. Fans that have had season tickets for years must now forfeit them unless they pay an exorbitant fee that most of them will be unable to afford. We're not

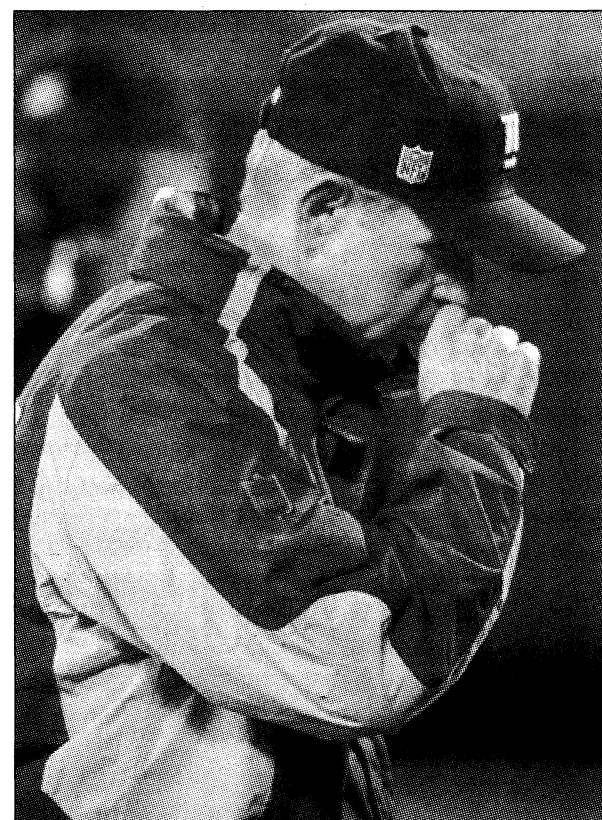
talking about those in the club seats or the luxury suites to whom \$20,000 is mere chump change. Most season ticket holders either had the tickets passed down to them by family members, or bought their tickets decades ago at much cheaper prices. Others were stuck in a waiting list for years before they finally had a chance to buy their seats.

These people exist for the most part within the middle and working classes, and have paid hard-earned money for their seats year after year, despite the increases in price and decreases in quality. As the stadium grew older and more decrepit, the fans spent more and more money to see the game in person, paying \$5 for a hotdog and \$8 for a beer. Why? Because they love the game and they love their team, and to most of them, it's all worth it for the miraculous feeling of actually being there when the Giants pulled off an amazing play or won a critical game. These are the people who cheered their team to victory in the playoffs last year and a historic win over the Patriots in the Super Bowl.

One angry NY Giant fan and ticket holder wrote on [nygmen.blogspot.com](http://nygmen.blogspot.com), "I have had tickets for more than thirty years and have attended most games. I was paying \$2,200 for two tickets and in one year, my cost will jump from \$2,200 to \$23,000 and \$8,000 per year thereafter with increases I am sure. Does that sound fair to you? When they say this is fair to their fans, the fans they are really talking about are the new fans that can afford this ridiculous cost and not the diehard fans that have been supporting them for thirty years through thick and thin."

Most Giant fans cannot retain the right to their current seats as well as the increased price of their seats in the new stadium. And for those who can't or won't pay, where will their seats go? How will the Giants make up for all this lost revenue? A small number of these seats will be purchased by rich football fans, but since the rich are the minority in any state (NY and NJ included) chances are that these well-to-do folks are not going to fill the void.

The only logical solution is massive corporate acquisition and ownership of these newly available seats. Much like



Now that we actually won we can screw over our fans!

the Super Bowl, wealthy corporations and conglomerates will buy up these seats in bunches and then disperse them amongst their clients and employees. Theoretically, we will see an Omnicom Group section and a J.P. Morgan Chase section along with Merrill Lynch, Bloomberg Inc., McDonalds, etc. The stadium will be filled with emotionally castrated cubicle workers, Chinese business representatives and oil-rich Arab princes who find public beheadings more entertaining than touchdowns.

So you see, what team co-owners John Mara and Steve Tisch are really telling the fan base of the NY Giants is that they are expendable. Their years of loyalty and support mean nothing. The sold out games and billions spent on tickets, food, parking, jerseys and countless other merchandise means nothing. Their worth is no greater than the size of their bank account. They no longer are the backbone of the National Football League, whose logo might as well be a giant dollar sign.

Long gone are the screaming, face-painted fans wearing throwback jerseys over old and tattered shoulder pads, chanting and singing with their fellow comrades. He or she has been replaced by a person in a suit and tie, waving their briefcase in defiance of a referee's bad call while trying to manage stock options on their blackberry. Such a sad transformation can only be perceived as a travesty and an insult to those who made football the cultural goliath it is in America today.



Manning should just stick to the DSRL.

# Week In Sports

By Habib Aminy

With the start of the NFL season this past week, I was elated because it's that exact time when baseball is almost over after a thousand games with the real man's game beginning this year with last year's Super Bowl champs, the New York Giants, trying to repeat in the upcoming season.

The week's main headlines were about how the Patriots were going to perform against the Jets without their captain, Tom Brady, how bad the Giants would beat the Rams, and if the Mets were going to push their division lead over the Phillies even more, or somehow choke like they did last year. Also in the headlines was how Michael Phelps fared on Saturday Night Live, which honestly doesn't need any more mention because it was that bad. But anyone that wins eight gold medals gets a free pass in my book. Unfortunately Michael Phelps wasn't the biggest laughingstock of the week, that award goes to Defensive Coordinator Rob Ryan of the Oakland Raiders who had one of the best tantrums ever this past week after the Oakland Raiders lost 41-14 to the Denver Broncos.

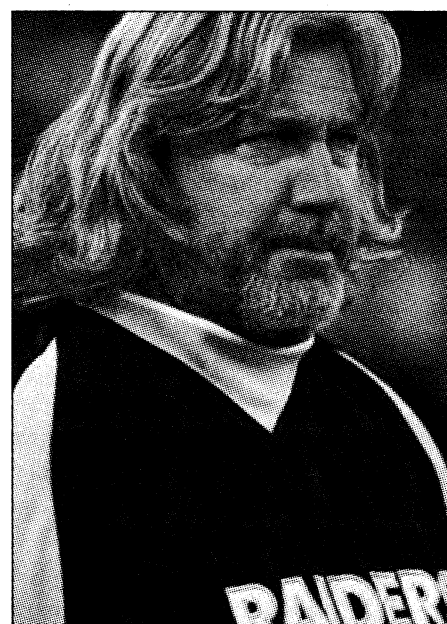
Moving to the NFL, the Rams felt their last game against the Philadelphia Eagles was an anomaly and that they had a chance against the Giants. Of course, you like that quality in a team and believe that they have a chance, but sometimes optimism shows the reality of how bad a team really is. Déjà vu for the Rams yet again in Week two and they looked even worse than they did in Week one. The Giants basically took the horns out of the Rams and made them look like sheep out there in a blowout win, 41-13. The only time the game was close was when the coin was tossed and the score was 0-0. Eli Manning was having a field day with the secondary of the Rams going 20-29 for 260 yards and throwing touchdown passes to Plaxico Burress, Amani "Its Not a" Toomer, and Ahmad "Barbaro" Bradshaw. The running game was unstoppable and statistically they had one

yard less than the Rams had of total offense in the game, 201 total yards of the Rams compared to the Giants' 200 yards of run offense. As Jim Rome would say, the Giants are "pha nominal." The Giants are now 2-0 and go home to face the Cincinnati "Criminals" Bengals next Sunday on CBS at 1 PM. My prediction for that game is Giants 42-Bengals 14.

While the Giants seem to keep doing business without that much media attention, the Jets had the opportunity to show if they were actual contenders in the AFC East. Week two's opponent was last year's AFC representative for the Super Bowl, the much-despised New England Cheatriots. To those who don't know, Tom Brady is out for the year and with that the AFC East is up for grabs. Out goes Brady and in comes Matt Cassel, who hasn't started a football game ever since he was in high school, to take over the reigns of the Patriots offense. Even with Brett Favre, the Jets lost to the Patriots 19-10 and New England further added on to their NFL record for 21 straight regular season wins. There weren't that many big plays like there were in the Giants game but as Jets CB Darrelle Revis said, "yeah, it's a lost opportunity. There were things we didn't take advantage of, and we have to do that if we're going to beat a team like the Patriots." That basically sums up the Jets game. On 1st and goal at the 1-yard line, the Jets ran the ball three times without scoring a touchdown. You don't have to be John Madden or an NFL expert here, but come on Eric Mangini; if you have Brett Favre you use Brett Favre to finish the deal in that situation. The lone touchdown for the Jets was by Chansi Stuckey from Favre.

The Jets are still games away from putting themselves on the level of playoff teams in the AFC. How many games they are away from being a playoff team is up in the air, but it's not like they are that far away from that level. Limiting Randy Moss to two catches for only 22 yards is amazing, and the Patriots to only 19 points is very good as well, but they couldn't stop the Patriots running

game when it mattered in the fourth quarter. Penalties killed the Jets as well and Jay Feely missing a chip shot field goal doesn't help either. Offensively, just give Brett Favre a little bit more time in understanding the offense and the mistakes he made in the game will turn out to be positives later on. Lavarneuas Coles said it best, "it's only one game. Our season doesn't hang on one game. We still have 14 more left to play." Sure it's one game, but it was a game that the Jets should have won. Next up for the Jets are the San Diego Chargers who just lost controversially in the most dramatic game this season against the Broncos 39-38. I don't see the Jets beating the Chargers and here's my prediction: Chargers 30- Jets 20.



Dreadfully moving onto baseball the New York Mets seem to be going through the same routine like last September in which they embarrassingly gave up a seven-game lead with 17 games left to the Phillies who made the playoffs while the Mets didn't. After Sunday's games the Phillies are a game in back of the Mets after my Atlanta Braves took the series from the Metropolitanans. The Mets added onto their league leading blown saves, 27 to be exact, in both wins for the Braves. With 14 games left in the season for the Mets it is time to treat each game as a must-

win because they got comfortable last year around this time and just blew it big time. If the Mets collapse like they did last year, this would be the first time since 1994 where a New York team hasn't been in the MLB playoffs. The Knicks were actually good back then and the New York Rangers won a Stanley Cup in '94. We shall see what the Mets do in the upcoming weeks but I really hope they don't make the playoffs so Newsday and the New York Times stop reporting on America's so-called "favorite" past time.

Moving onto the joke of the week, Defensive Coordinator of the Oakland Raiders, Rob Ryan, had one of those interviews that will be played in those Coors Light commercials in the upcoming future. That's how bad it was, but it was hilarious with respect to what he was saying. This is coming after getting obliterated by the Broncos last Monday night 41-14 in which the Raiders defense clearly had no idea what was going on with defense. He also called out the head coach, Lane Kiffin, and to many players, considered him heroic for standing up for them, unlike the head coach who publically brought down the team. Here are Rob Ryan's quotes from the interview and I advise every sport's fan to find a video of it.

"I'm hired to be the coordinator. That's what I do. If it goes great, that's great. If it goes like fuck, you've still got the same damn guy up here. I'll be the same guy up in front of you next week when we kick ass. But I'll be the same guy if we stumble again. Hell, I've been through some tough times. Look at this (removes hat), I've got gray. This is that National Fucking Football League. You're not going to be on point every week. Am I pissed off about Monday night? You're damned right. It's on me, and come on, guys, enough's enough."

Rob Ryan deserved an Oscar for his 18-minute tirade and there is buzz about him taking over the head coach position real soon. Great Job.

With that it's a wrap like Christmas and until next time, keep hope alive, you are somebody.

## Stony Brook Defeats Columbia... Sniff

By Peter Langone and Najib Aminy

Coming off a disappointing 1-0 loss to Georgetown, the Stony Brook Men's soccer team rebounded in winning their second game of the season against Columbia University 1-0 on Friday, September 12.

Heavy rain drenched the Seawolves during the first half of the match against Columbia. But as the rain began to sub-

side the opportunity for Stony Brook to score presented itself. In the 52nd minute, freshman Kevin Zalewski (Parishipp, N.J.) threw in the ball to junior James Palumbo (Carmel, N.Y.) who delivered the game's single score against Columbia's John Kerry-look alike freshman goalie Alexander Aurrichio (Dix Hills, NY).

Led by Stony Brook senior captain Martin Lynch (Oceanside, NY), the Seawolves defense held off a strong

Columbian offense, which fired away nine shots in the first half and an additional six in the second half. With excellent goal keeping by senior goalie Dawid Ditrich (Gdansk, Poland), who totaled six saves, including a spectacular off-the-post save early in the first half, Stony Brook recorded its first clean-sheet for the season.

Ditrich saved Columbia's last-ditch effort shot in 86th minute to preserve the win improving Stony Brook's record

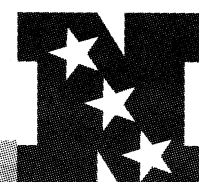
to 2-3-1. Columbia's loss drops their record to 0-2-1. Despite a rough start to their season, the Stony Brook Men's Soccer team is looking ahead to their away games against Yale on September 17 and their next upcoming home game against Towson, on September 20 at 7 p.m., at LaValle Stadium.

Stony Brook is currently fifth in the American East standings, behind Binghamton, Vermont, Boston University, and UMBC.





It is with great pride that we here at *The Stony Brook Press* introduce our new NFL review. We will be recapping the progress of each NFL team. That way you will no longer feel left out when all the cool kids are talking about football.



**North**  
Pittsburgh Steelers  
(2-0)

With Tom Brady out bitching about his knee, the Steelers look to be the favorites in the AFC.

**Baltimore Ravens**  
(1-0)

With whitey Joe Flacco running like a black quarterback, the Ravens are undefeated for the first time in ages.

**Cleveland Browns**  
(0-2)

Despite high expectations for the season, the Browns failed to deliver against two high caliber teams. Their logo still sucks.

**Cincinnati Bengals**  
(0-2)

While leading the league in shankings, muggings, and DWIs, the Bengals and Ocho Cinco are tied for last in wins.

**South**  
Tennessee Titans  
(2-0)

Who would've thought being paid millions to play football leads to depression. Apparently not the rest of the Titans.

**Indianapolis Colts**  
(1-1)

Manning saves the game. The Colts are not the same. Vinaterri is always going to be lame.

**Jacksonville Jaguars**  
(0-2)

Losing another close game, to the Bills no less, leaves the Jaguars deflated. And playing in a stacked division won't help.

**Houston Texans**  
(0-1)

The Texans were blown out two weeks in a row. First by the Steelers and then by Hurricane Ike.

**East**  
New England Patriots  
(2-0)

Matt Cassel, the inexperienced backup, proves that it does not take much to play QB in New England.

**Buffalo Bills**  
(2-0)

No longer the resident bitches of the AFC, the Bills are turning heads as they continue to upset good teams and win.

**New York Jets**  
(1-1)

Brett Favre is Brett Favre. The rest of team fails to deliver and record every penalty possible. The Pats win.

**Miami Dolphins**  
(0-2)

New season. Same team. Pennington still can't pass the ball further than five yards. Ricky Williams is still the man.

**West**  
Denver Broncos  
(2-0)

Shanahan's balls of pure steel save the Broncos from a crappy defense and pushes them to a very lucky win.

**San Diego Chargers**  
(0-2)

Two close losses in a row has everyone wondering when LT is going to be back, especially fantasy football owners/

**Oakland Raiders**  
(1-1)

They won! Four babies child support is enough motivation for rookie RB Darren McFadden to run as fast as he can.

**Kansas City Chiefs**  
(0-2)

How do you lose to the Raiders? You play to win the game, huh Herm?

**North**  
Green Bay Packers  
(2-0)

Aaron Rodgers is not the next Brett Favre. He will never be the next Brett Favre. But look out Drew Bledsoe!

**Chicago Bears**  
(1-1)

Devin Hester's injury taints what looked to be a promising Chicago Bears. It is nice to see Grossman ride the bench.

**Minnesota Vikings**  
(0-2)

With a running back like Adrian Peterson any quarterback, including Rex Grossman, should thrive. Where you at Tarvaris?

**Detroit Lions**  
(0-2)

As talented as their offense is, the defense is an opposing QB's dream, and that includes Rex Grossman.

**South**  
Atlanta Falcons  
(1-1)

Though not as gangsta as Michael Vick, rookie Matt Ryan's impressive pocket play has fans hopeful for the future.

**Carolina Panthers**  
(2-0)

This team is suprising everybody including Steve Smith's drycleaners.

**New Orleans Saints**  
(1-1)

The jury is still out on the Saints and Reggie Bush, but if you were coming home to Kim Kardashian, would you give a shit?

**Tampa Bay Buccaneers**  
(1-1)

Just two weeks into the season and Jon Gruden has QB issues. Old journeyman Greise replaces old journeyman Garcia.

**East**  
Philadelphia Eagles  
(1-1)

McNabb is back and looks to be better than ever just in time for nobody to care. And yeah way to drop the ball for the TD, idiot.

**New York Giants**  
(2-0)

Who needs Michael Strahan, Osi Umenyiora, Gibril Wilson, and Kawika Mitchell? Certainly not these defending champs!

**Dallas Cowboys**  
(2-0)

T.O. and Romo the Homo's got Jessica doing all the talking. Lets see if they can continue to do the walking.

**Washington Redskins**  
(1-1)

A black QB has already won a superbowl in Washington, so dont give up on Obama. The same goes for Jason Campbell.

**West**  
Arizona Cardinals  
(2-0)

Kurt Warner throws the ball as well as he collects social security checks. Leinart is tapping the bottom of his emotional keg.

**San Francisco 49ers**  
(1-1)

The next Montana? No, but Guinness may have found a new spokesperson in QB JT O'sullivan. Its the luck of the Irish!

**Seattle Seahawks**  
(0-2)

Insert your comment here:

**St. Louis Rams**  
(0-2)

Man, they suck hard balls. After blowout losses to the Eagles and Giants, they're just happy not to be in the NFC East.





omfg gtfo idk  
what going on!!

Dear Shirley,

We are deeply concerned about your recent choices in publicity images. First, there was that "Big Things Poppin'" header on your website. Now, we get this football one. We're confused. We're even a little creeped out. Actually, come to think of it, they are kinda cool in a bizzare way. Okay, scratch the "deeply concerned" part. Keep up the good work!

Love always,  
The Stony Brook Press