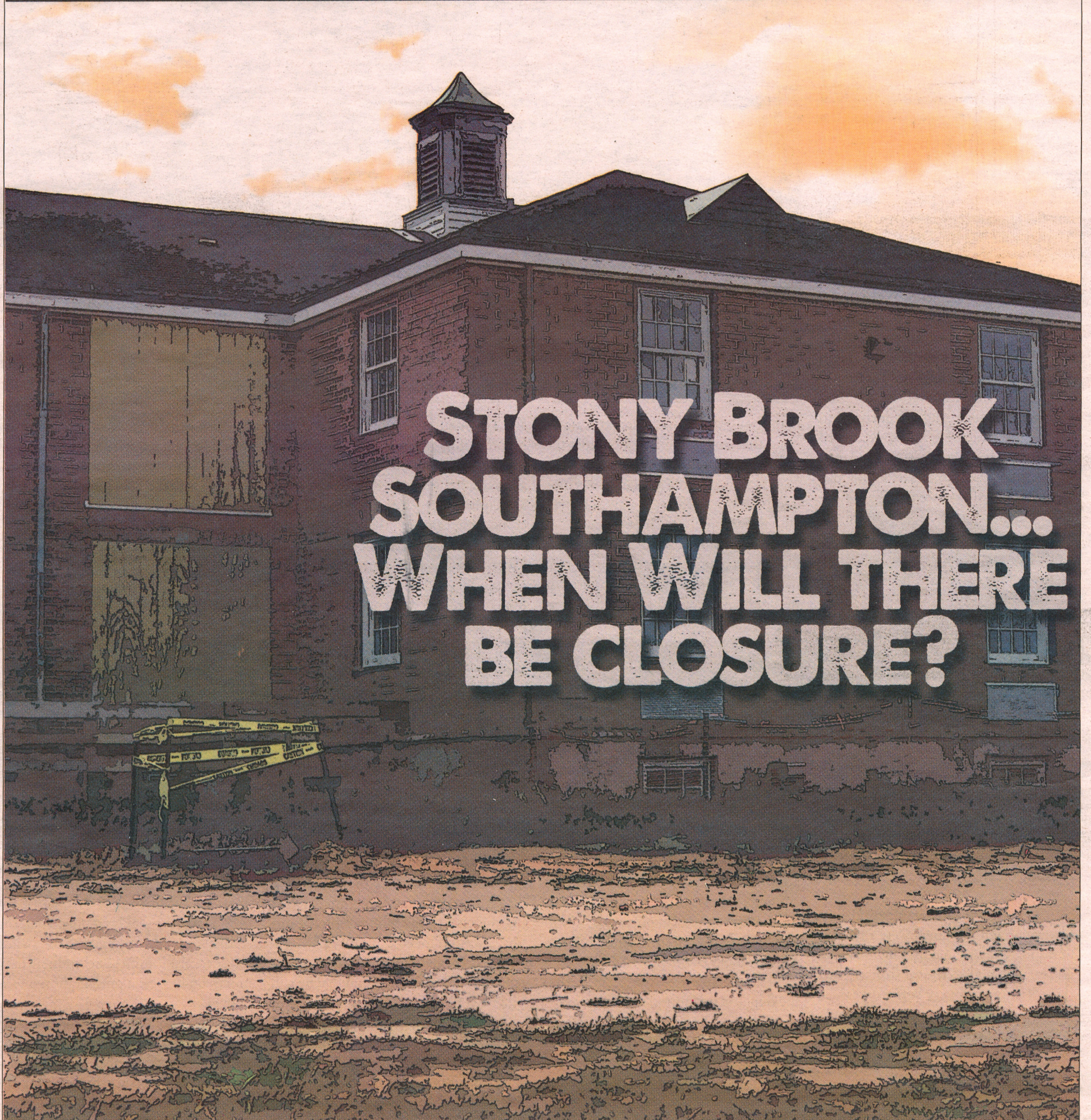


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**STONY BROOK
SOUTHAMPTON...
WHEN WILL THERE
BE CLOSURE?**

Blind Oversight: Southampton Shuttered Without Council Involvement

By Colleen Harrington

While Stony Brook officials claim that the university council was involved in the decision to largely close Southampton, a judge has ruled that it wasn't, and some council members agree they were left in the dark. One member said she found out about the closure when she saw it in the papers.

"The judge's decision speaks for itself: the council had no input in it before the announcement was made," said council member Jeanne Garant, formerly the mayor of Port Jefferson Village. "It's a big mistake we wish the president hadn't made, because this is publicity the university doesn't need."

The council's involvement, or its lack thereof, in the decision to scrap Southampton programs and funding is at the center of NY Supreme Court Justice Paul Baisley's Aug. 30 decision to reverse the closure. In the lawsuit filed by six former Southampton students, Baisley ruled that the cuts to Southampton were "fatally flawed" because the decision-making process required the direct involvement of the Stony Brook Council, an independent oversight board of nine governor-appointed members plus one student seat, which alternates annually between the undergraduate and graduate student government. University officials point to a May 11 council meeting as having filled that mandate, but the meeting came weeks after President Samuel Stanley announced his decision and said it was "a done deal."

Garant said the council could have explored alternatives if Stanley had involved its members earlier. "He neglected to talk to the council first and we might have been able to say, 'let's do this instead,' or 'let's take a look at this option.'"

She suggested that Stanley and even fellow council members were unaware of responsibilities that they held. "We've all learned a good lesson from it," she said. "I know he's very sorry, and we're very sorry, and of course this is never going to happen again."

The Meeting

At the May 11 meeting that the university references, the council's chair-



Illustration of President Stanley and Kevin Law discussing Southampton at a May 11 University Council meeting

man, Kevin Law, made a subtle statement that sheds some light on how the council interprets its responsibilities.

"I know our role as a council is limited in many ways," said Law, a lawyer who at the time was chief executive of the Long Island Power Authority. "But feel free to bounce some decisions off of us in the future to get our input, our thoughts. Always feel free to use us as advisors as you've got to make some of these tougher decisions, going forward."

"Thank you, I appreciate that," President Samuel Stanley replied.

Law's implication that the council is little more than a soundboard is a marked departure from New York state law, which requires the council's involvement in all major plans relating to faculty, staff, students, admissions, academic programs, student housing, lands, grounds and buildings—in short, all of the areas affected by Stanley's Southampton scale-back. Indeed, the council's role is so clear and far-reaching that its stamp of approval was key to the acquisition of the Southampton campus in 2005.

Law declined to comment, citing the ongoing litigation.

Another council member who requested anonymity echoed Law's notion that council has limited powers. "We are not a policy-making board," said the member. "Our main responsibility is to hire new university presidents and that's basically the extent of it."

The member said the council had no official involvement in the decision to scrap programs and shutter buildings at Southampton prior to Stanley's April announcement. "Yes, he should have come to us sooner," the member said. "But the fact is we're not the financial experts, we leave that to the people from the budget office. We're an eclectic bunch... and we don't all have the time or the training to sit down and go over every single thing."

Video of all council meetings are available on the university website, and the May 11 footage shows that Law called an unscheduled executive session to "discuss some things with potential litigation matters involving the university." The camera stops rolling and all attendees besides Stanley and council members are asked to leave the room for 15 minutes.

When the tape picks back up, Stanley briefly speaks about the university's dire financial situation before broaching the cuts to the Southampton campus he'd announced a month earlier. He stresses repeatedly that he does not intend to sell the property and that he and other SUNY administrators are "committed to moving the campus forward." Stanley says there were three pillars behind his decision: budget cuts from the state, enrollment numbers that never matched projections, and anticipation of philanthropy that failed to materialize.

Law asks Stanley if Southampton would remain open if someone stepped forward to donate \$6 million, and Stanley replies that if someone were to offer him millions, he would not spend it at Southampton; he'd use it on main campus to offset the budget cuts the school is coping with.

"...we might have been able to say, 'let's do this instead,'..."

After Stanley's oratory on his decision, a handful of council members ask a few quick questions. Garant demonstrates how uninformed members are on the matter by asking how the students are acclimating to the main campus; Stanley quickly replies that the students wouldn't be making the switch for several months. The council then moves on to view a presentation on the budget.

The council's only other meeting last semester, on Feb. 9, was peppered with positive references to Southampton and included no mention of the possibility of cuts there. Law even announced that the May 11 meeting would be held at the South Fork cam-

pus so council members could “take a peek at that.”

“We were all looking forward to visiting the campus—I think there was new construction that was being planned there,” said Garant in an interview. “And then of course, we read in the paper they were closing it down. We were certainly surprised by it and we didn’t know what had caused it.”

Garant said that after being informed of the university’s fiscal crisis at the May 11 meeting, she could better comprehend Stanley’s decision.

“After his explanation and after we got to review the budget, I can easily understand why he did what he did,” she said. “It’s really too bad, it’s just one of those things that happens when you have to tighten a budget.”

Seeking a better understanding of the university’s decision-making process, *The Press* has filed a number of Freedom of Information Law requests and appeals for records relating to the Southampton campus, which SUNY has repeatedly denied or ignored. *The Press* has initiated the legal process to gain access to Southampton-related records.

The Lawsuit

In the students’ case versus Stanley, Stony Brook and the council, Judge Baisley has asked the university council to review the decision and asked the Southampton students to file a proposed judgment, which he will consider before making his final decision on the future of Southampton.

When asked how the university plans to respond, Spokeswoman Lauren Sheprow pointed to the May 11 meeting as sufficient for the mandated council involvement.

“Although not yet part of the legal record, in fact the university has already complied with the court’s directive,” University Spokeswoman Lauren Sheprow wrote in an email. “On May 11, 2010, at a regularly convened meeting of the Stony Brook council, President Stanley apprised the council and members of the public then in attendance, about both the budgetary impact of residential operations at Southampton, and his intention to relocate a number of academic programs from Southampton to the Stony Brook campus.”

Sheprow declined to address why the meeting hadn’t been brought to light in court yet, or why the council was briefed on the Southampton decision a month after it had been announced.

Lawyers for the Southampton students have filed their proposed judgment

seeking the restoration of the Southampton campus to its fully operational status in time for the spring 2011 semester.

“In an ideal situation, the people who were in charge of making this decision, who bypassed the procedures and obviously broke the law—they’d be punished, maybe lose their position,” said Tara Linton, an environmental humanities major and plaintiff in the lawsuit, who transferred to main campus this year. “We’d be able to get back to Southampton and pick up right where we left off.”

The Aftermath

But turning back time may not be so simple, as the Southampton campus has become a dreary outpost that’s lost much of its luster. The cuts at Southampton officially took effect Aug. 31. Cyclists and skateboarders heading to and from class no longer travel the paths that wind over the sprawling campus. The residence halls are locked and some unfinished dorm buildings have been shuttered with plywood. The campus’ newly completed buildings, including the state-of-the-art LEED certified library, now sit sealed, silent and vacant. The books that were stocked in the library just a few months ago have been packed up and shipped out.

“Main campus sent out very strict guidelines about removing stuff,” said Peggy Gregonis, a staff assistant for Southampton’s School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. She said crews came out to Southampton to inventory, tag and truck away computers, books and equipment.

Some of the funding for Southampton has already been curtailed, according to Daniel Melucci, Stony Brook’s Vice President for Strategy and Plan-

“It’s really too bad, it’s just one of those things that happens when you have to tighten a budget.”

ning. “We currently have a total of \$7.7 million budgeted for Southampton for the 2010-11 fiscal year. Last year the total state budget was approximately \$12.5 million,” he said.

Also absent from Southampton is a large portion of its former faculty and staff. Former Stony Brook Southampton Dean of Students Mary Pearl, who said in May that she would head a sustainability program on the main cam-



Sign of Southampton students’ objection to the closure

Colleen Harrington

pus, quietly resigned over the summer. She’s now the CEO of the Garrison Institute, a social and environmental think tank in the Hudson Valley. Other staffers followed suit in leaving Southampton.

“They offered an excellent package for people to retire and many of them did,” said Gregonis, who said she now handles many more responsibilities as a result. “It was a one-shot deal.”

University officials declined to provide an exact figure of how much of the Southampton workforce had left or been let go.

Despite significant cuts, Southampton still has a faint pulse. Seven marine science courses are being held there this semester, along with a handful of graduate writing courses.

“We’re trying to let people know that we’re still here and we still exist,” Gregonis said, although she said students who take one of the thrice-daily shuttles from main campus for classes are coping with limitations.

“There’s no computer access, there’s no library, there’s nothing for them to eat,” she said. “We had to put some chairs out so they could have somewhere to sit between classes. I feel it’s unfair because these students, they paid their student activity fee, they paid just as much as everyone else.”

Looking Forward

There is one development that Gregonis is hopeful about: the freshly finished buildings that tower in disuse around the campus will soon be joined by another brand new LEED-certified building. Early next year, the Center for Marine Sciences will be demolished and replaced with a two-story, 10,000-square foot marine science center with classrooms, wet labs and a conference room, according to university officials.

The new building is scheduled to open in 2013 and the price tag will be picked up by the university’s capital fund, Melucci said, although he declined to provide an estimate of how much the new center would cost. Records indicate that SLAM Collaborative architectural firm, which has worked extensively with other SUNY campuses, was awarded a \$750,000 contract in September 2009 to design the building.

Gregonis keeps a poster board with the architect’s rendering of the new center next to her desk. She said she’s cautiously optimistic about the project. “This is like everything else around here,” she said. “We don’t know yet and we’re hoping that it will come through.”

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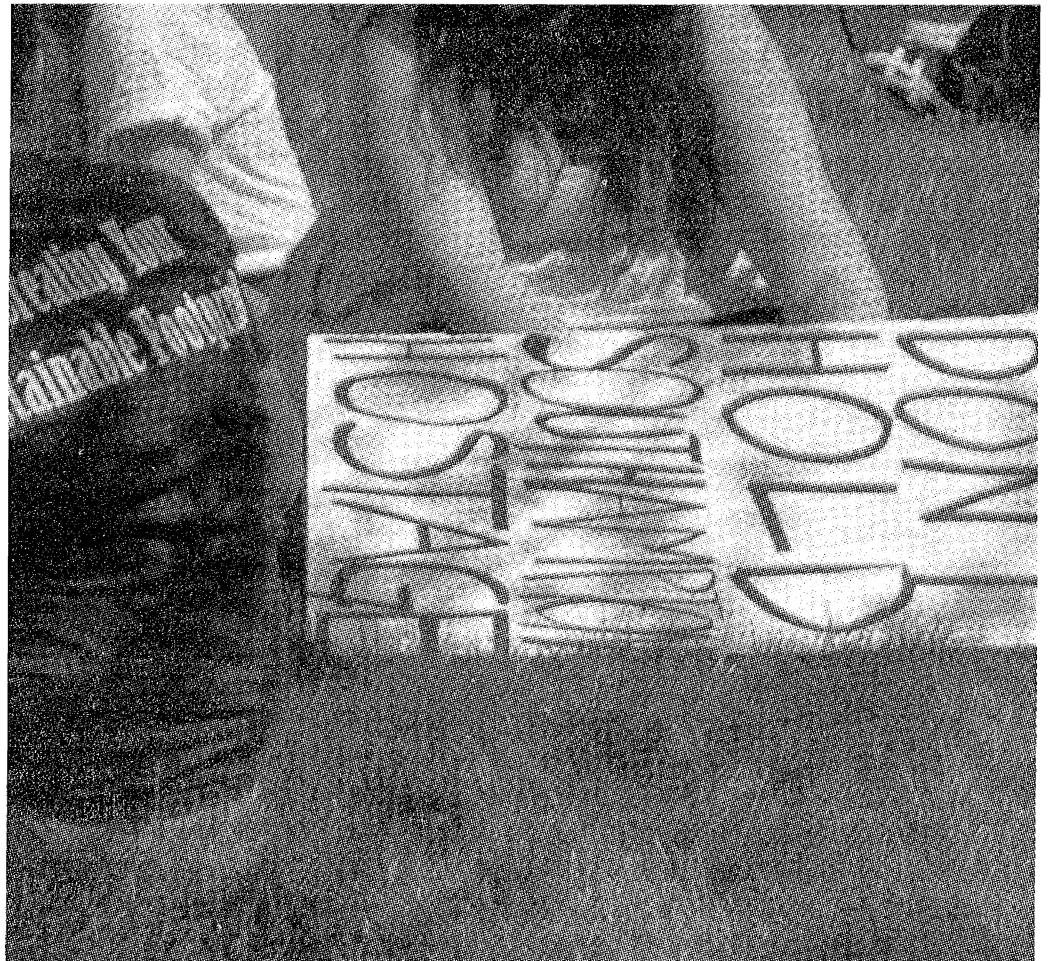
editorials

With No Check, There Is No Balance

A judge's recent decision that Stony Brook administrators illegally bypassed its legislative oversight board has startling implications. Whether President Samuel Stanley and the university council were truly ignorant of the role the oversight council is supposed to have, or whether the council just quietly accepted his brazen bypass is difficult to determine. The fact is that the university's administration is a government agency with the ability to spend hundreds of millions of taxpayer and tuition dollars, and this council was instituted as an independent board to act as a check on big changes and developments at Stony Brook. In this instance, it has failed miserably.

Facing a financial crisis, cuts to academics should be made absolutely last, but it's one of the very first Stanley and his administration pursued. Months before hiring a consulting firm to explore where money could be saved, the administration went forth with slashing programs, cutting staff and virtually closed an entire campus full of classrooms. This last act left hundreds of students turned away in disappointment upon learning of the abrupt closure.

The mere fact that the university points to a council meeting that came months after the decision came down is flat out deplorable; both far too little, and too late. The judge ruled that Stanley made a hasty move and if the university's checkbook was bleeding so badly, the council should have been made fully aware earlier. Having con-



ducted interviews with a few councilmembers, it appears that the council is so out of the loop that it casts doubt over their ability to make informed decisions.

Back in May, council members sat in quiet acceptance as Stanley glossed over his decision, yet not a single objection was raised. It appears either the council is uninformed and wholly removed from university operations or that they simply have failed to weigh the outcome of shutting down Southampton. Stanley said at the time that while it was too early to tell, he thought they would grow to embrace the vast academic opportunities at main campus.

But it's a campus they didn't apply to, and many of the students who made the switch have expressed thick resentment to the forced adjustment.

These developments have serious implications for the future of the university: without oversight, university administrators can slash and spend as they see fit. Imagine tomorrow Stanley announces *your* major will be scrapped, and if you want to get your degree you can move 50 miles west to New York City to graduate, and many of your favorite professors won't be around anymore. It may seem farfetched but apparently, it could happen to you.

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Patch Adams Was Right



Comedy is the best remedy to the Student Activity Board's (SAB) problem of appealing to large undergraduate student body. It was during the Opening Weekend that hundreds of students packed the SAC auditorium, to what looked like near capacity, to see stand-up comic and TV personality Christian Finnegan perform—that is, see him for free. Aside from the terrible approach to advertising for the event—it was virtually absent—the event was one that the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) and SAB should strive to emulate.

In the past couple months, the SAB has gone through a USG-instituted reformation, replacing an independent leadership that catered to a small

niche of campus with a more centralized approach that has put emphasis on more USG oversight. The biggest challenge for SAB, apart from the lack of experience in the new leadership, will be to continue to appeal to the larger mass.

What made Christian Finnegan's performance at SBU work was that it was enjoyable, and more importantly, for everybody. SBU is a very diverse campus with differing interests; it is also a campus of undergraduate students who would hope to have as enjoyable a time here as possible.

SAB's responsibility to the students increases tenfold with the increase in money the organization has been given. When compared to last year's budget, the current SAB's budget has increased more than 25 percent, to \$270,000. And with the USG Senate voting to repeal ALIRRT, a service where students could purchase discounted LIRR tickets, there is even less room for excuses when SAB

events are poorly attended because of the Senate's agreement to transfer the \$20,000 in the ALIRRT budget to the SAB's Weekend Life program.

While it is still uncertain as to how SAB's leadership will operate, the money is more abundant than ever. SAB should be able to get higher-brassed comedians, have more concerts and host more events that will keep the students on this campus and make them happy.

Just as important as it was for SAB to host a successful inaugural event, the preceding events and concerts will need to be just as, if not even more, pertinent, appealing to this campus of college students. If hosting Christian Finnegan is any indication of the future of SAB, we're headed in the right direction. Sure, he is no Aziz Ansari, but it sure beats a mentalist or whatever else they've hosted in years prior.

The Real Tradey of 9/11

We can never forget 9/11 and we can never seem to forget our base, jingoistic urges. What is it about mourning and loss that leads to such ignorance?

Nine years have past since the collapse of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, and if the current national dialogue and wars abroad are any indication, we as a nation have learned very little. Obviously, the anti-Islamic fervor over a proposed Islamic center near ground zero is absurd. Several sick individuals knocked those towers down and not an entire faith. Anyone who can't see the difference needs to re-examine their fundamental values and intelligence.

Beyond the Islamophobia—which is sadly reminding Americans old enough to remember the anti-Semitism that pervaded the United States throughout the first half of the 20th century—is the disturbing “us vs. them” mentality that surges at this time each year. Rather than simply remember the victims, 9/11 memorials have become overaggressive and chest-thumping

paeans to American “freedom.” “Remembering 9/11” has become an opportunity to slather cars and lawns with American flags and justify deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq that have little justification. Rather than be a time for unification, remembering 9/11 has become a time for dividing individuals.

We should all be human beings. Instead, we are Americans and terrorists. Nationalism can be a positive force, as history has shown, but it can also be manipulated for oppression and destruction. The highly-important and sadly forgotten 20th century Indian philosopher Jiddu Krishnamurti once said, “To love anything beautiful in a country is normal and natural, but when that love is used by exploiters in their own interest it is called nationalism. Nationalism is fanned into imperialism, and then the stronger people divide and exploit the weaker...The world is dominated by the spirit of cunning, ruthless exploitation, from which war must ensue. This spirit of nationalism is the greatest stupidity.”

We can be proud as Americans and

we can celebrate who we are. But to imply that the random event of being born within a fairly arbitrary geographical boundary somehow makes a person morally superior to another is, as the great Krishnamurti said, “the greatest stupidity.” American Protestants are no better than American Muslims who are no better than Italian Catholics who are no better than Austrian Jews. We are humans and we are individuals. Our passports are not beacons of our character.

And this is the tragedy of most 9/11 memorials. They subtly communicate the message that barriers must exist and that there is simply one evil (the Islamic faith) that exists to oppose the good (America and, as a certain pastor from Florida has shown, Christianity). In an age of supposed enlightenment, they promote a terribly simplistic and dangerous view of the world. The message is corrupt: love one group and despise



another, despite stereotyping being one of the most insidious weapons wielded against minorities throughout history.

Death is always tragic. The boy gunned down in an impoverished neighborhood, a victim of gang violence, is of no less value than the man who perished on the 90th floor of the north tower. The same applies for the firefighters who die in blazes that are not caused by terrorist attacks. They all matter.

When September 11 becomes a day that is divorced from jingoism and hatred, it will truly be the sacred day we all want it to be.

news

Fishy Facebook Charity Comes to SBU

By Peter Smith

While thousands of students buzzed in the hallways during the first days of classes, an unauthorized, off-campus organization was busy convincing scores of students to hand over personal Facebook login information.

A temporary station of unsecure laptops was set up at the information desk in the Frank Melville Jr. Memorial Library, just feet from the entrance. The personal data collectors, who claimed to be representatives of Beth Gavriel, a Bukharian Jewish center in Queens, N.Y., were hard at work persuading passers-by to sign into personal Facebook accounts and vote for Sha'arei Zion Ohel Brancha, a private elementary school in Forest Hills, N.Y., in a contest sponsored by Kohl's department stores.

When pressed about security issues involved with signing into unknown computers, the representatives insisted the personal computers were safe, and that no keystroke-loggers or spyware had been installed.

Multiple attempts to contact Beth Gavriel and the school for comment have been unsuccessful.

A recent study by Trusteer, a leading technology security company, found that 73% of users use the same password for social media and private e-mail. Even more alarming is the 47% of users who share bank and financial passwords with their non-financial login sites.

Trusteer cites Facebook as the primary target of criminals and hackers because of the personal information many users share. Names of pets, a parent's maiden name and birth dates enable hackers to completely assume a victim's identity with little effort.

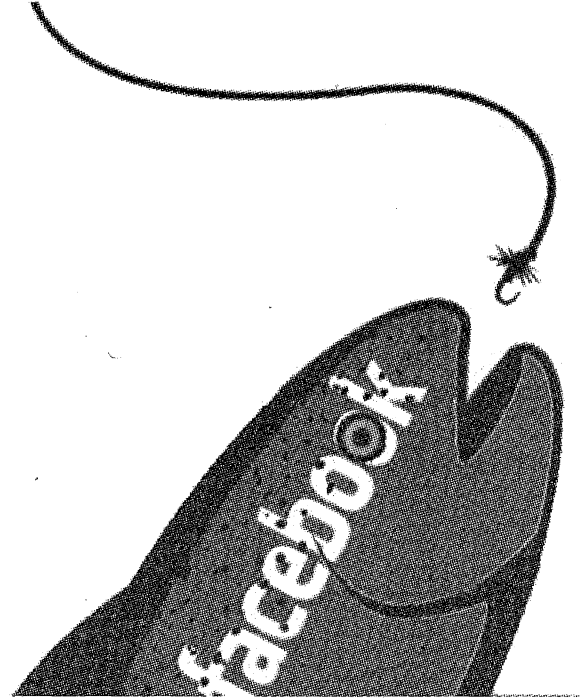
Representatives from the University's General Information Office, Library Management Office, Main Circulation Desk and Campus Security had no information on the group or who may have authorized them to collect personal data from Stony Brook students.

James LaPiano, Operations Manager at the Library, said that the Division of Information Technology, DoIT, "were getting overwhelmed...and set up a sub-station," but mentioned he never spoke to the DoIT about the group collecting personal data from students in the lobby.

"Client Support and DoIT would not have allowed anything like that," said Keith Bradley, a professional staff member of Client Support Services, a division of DoIT.

Bradley and other DoIT employees confirmed that the group collecting Facebook login names for contest votes were not affiliated with the department in any way. When Bradley deals with students he educates them about the dangers of being careless with personal information, especially passwords and login information.

"Personally, I would not sign onto any type of unknown device with my personal login information," said Bradley.



Andrew White, director of the library, said there is no policy in the building that would require students to register for those areas and it is common to see groups of students congregating there – especially during the first week of classes. He remembers seeing the group at the entrance during opening week, but didn't think it was unusual and he received no complaints from administration, faculty or students.

According to White, the horseshoe-shaped-booths have traditionally been used as information desks for students during the opening week of classes. He said the library is one of the highest trafficked sites on campus, with multiple entrances to the building and library resources, creating security problems

for campus officials.

"This type of activity, if unscrupulous, is certainly something we will watch out for in the future," said White.

University policy, P109 "Use of Information Technology," states, under the heading Access/Usage that unauthorized access to electronic data and using another's password for any purpose is inappropriate.

Throughout most of the school year the information desks remain empty, sometimes attracting informal study-groups or impromptu get-togethers, rarely used for official university purposes. Without administration monitoring the information booths, and a policy to enforce specific use, officials were left wondering who authorized the off-campus group to solicit ads.



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Prez. Stan Is the Man With a Plan

By Matt Calamia

President Samuel L. Stanley, Jr. announced Project 50 Forward—an initiative to better not only the school itself, but its students, faculty and national reputation—via video message on the university's website.

The project, which simultaneously celebrates Stony Brook University's 50th anniversary and looks forward to the school's next 50 years, is "dedicated to operational excellence, academic greatness." The message goes on to say that the Project 50 Forward is "designed to enhance the fundamental teaching, research, and service mission of Stony Brook University, while building a platform to support the future growth of the University and strengthen Stony Brook's role in the economic renewal of New York State."

The multi-faceted plan is directed at operational excellence, academic excellence and developing a Facilities Master Plan.

Achieving operational excellence is being aided by the school's use of management consulting firm Bain & Com-

pany to analyze and streamline operations. Stanley said, during a September 10 press conference, that the amount of money that could be saved through Bain & Company's advising remains

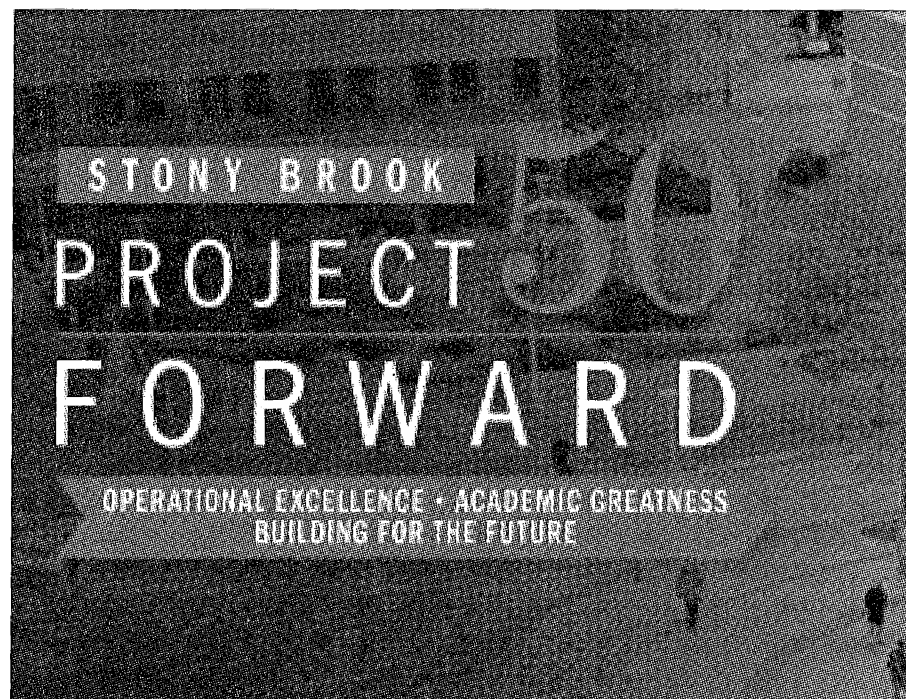
through implementing Bain & Company's recommendations, said Stanley. In a rough estimate, Stanley said, "We would love at some point in time to be able to save somewhere around \$30 mil-

input from faculty, student and university leadership, focuses resources on fields where Stony Brook can set the benchmark for excellence. Apart from a committee including students to address student life, each of the university's schools is developing its own strategic plan within this framework. "They're being driven by the schools so each of the schools is developing its own academic strategic plan that deals with research and their academic mission," said Stanley.

A best use model for existing facilities will also be developed, according to Stanley. This Facilities Master Plan will be developed by "many campus-represented groups designated as part of an advisory committee."

These plans aren't just focused on the Main Campus, as the message also mentions the Medical Center, Research and Development Park, Manhattan, and Southampton.

Collectively, these elements of Project 50 Forward are intended to push Stony Brook into the ranks of the United States' top 20 public research universities.



unclear at this time. The administration is looking to save between 7 to 10 percent of its addressable budget

lion dollars a year but we'll see whether we can reach that goal."

The Strategic Plan, developed with

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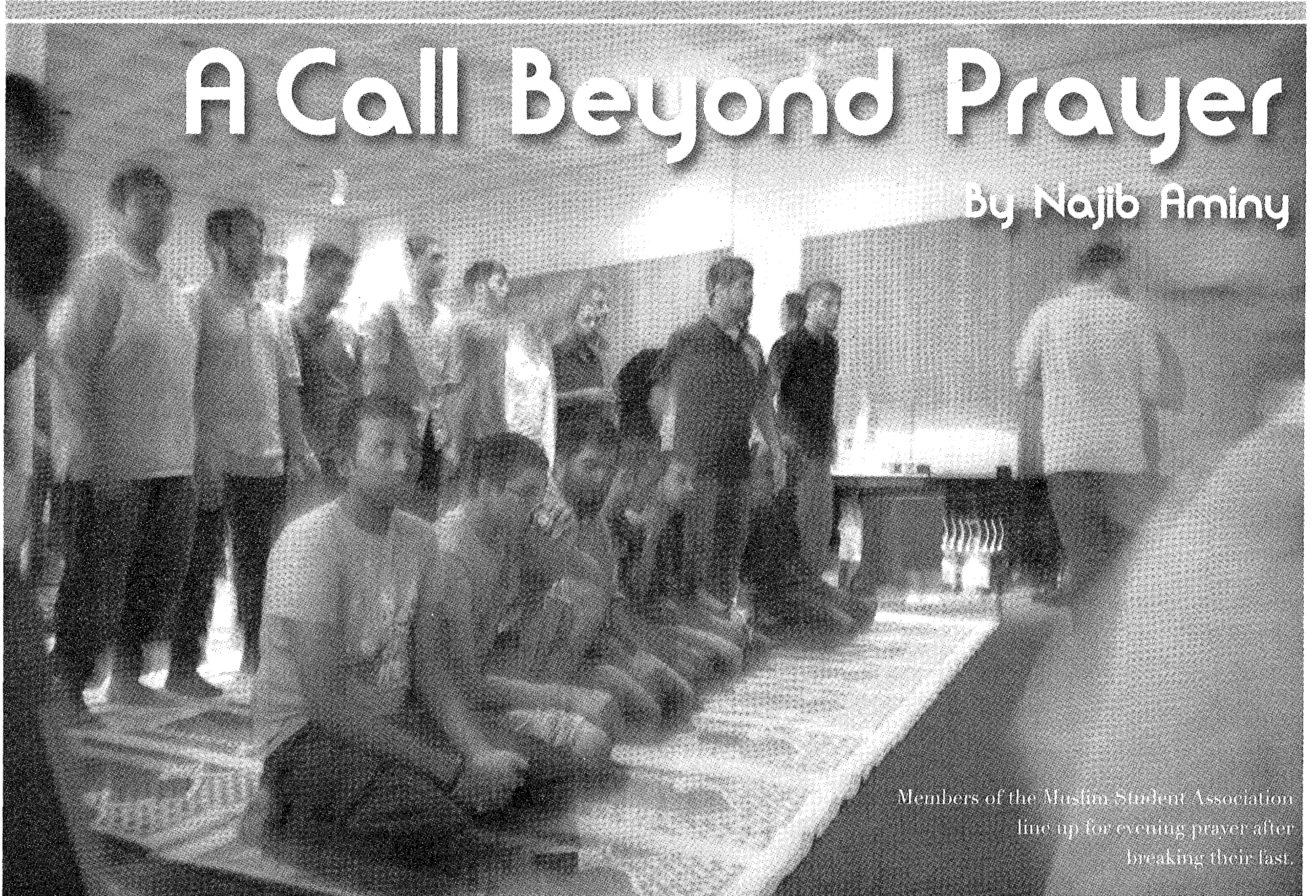
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A Call Beyond Prayer

By Najib Aminy



Members of the Muslim Student Association line up for evening prayer after breaking their fast.

Silence spreads throughout the Student Union Ballroom—all focus shifts to front of the room as stragglers walk in, dropping off their book bags and slipping their shoes off against the wall looking for a place to sit. Chatter from the bustling Union cafeteria next door and raindrops from a detoured Hurricane Earl pelting the skylight windows disturb the quiet. But it is the *adhan*, the Muslim call to prayer, which resonates.

“Come to Prayer! Come to Prayer!” recites SBU sophomore Zain Ali in a melody, strictly in Arabic. “Come to the Success! Come to the Success!” Ali continues the *adhan* in a Saudi Arabian version, mixed with his own style, acquired from watching videos on YouTube. It is a call that the Chemistry and Spanish double major gives often at SBU, and one that many Stony Brook Muslims will hear during Jummah prayer—the mandatory congregational prayer held every Friday afternoon.

This prayer, which precedes the Labor Day weekend, holds an added spiritual and physical significance as the Imam, cloaked in a white long pristine garb and a red-and-white patterned keffiyeh, reminds the congregation of more than 200. Ramadan, the leader of this

given prayer says in his hoarse voice, is like a vault, when opened, full of religious opportunity and increased rewards. But once this Muslim holy month comes to a close, no less than a week from this given prayer, so does that vault.

The Fast

During these 30 days Muslims must fast from sunrise to sunset—no bread, water or medicine is permitted. But for most Muslims, that’s not the hardest, let alone most meaningful, part. “It’s not just about the food,” says Nabiha Zakir, President of the Muslim Student Association at SBU. “For us everything revolves around spirituality, [and in Ramadan] we want to strengthen our grasp over our soul and control our desires.”

It is a fast of the five senses, for example, where acts of backbiting, lustful gaze and listening to music are prohibited. “It is a training program of self-restraining to better our relationship with god,” says Ali, who is half-Italian and Pakistani.

Bigger than the challenges of fasting that SBU Muslims face during Ramadan is the management of

schoolwork while practicing their faith. For example, many Muslims have conflicting schedules between class and *iftar*, the time designated to break the fast. It’s a dilemma political science major Moiz Siddiqui is faced with as he embarks on the final few days of this year’s Ramadan.

“It’s obviously tough with everyone eating around you, but what is really difficult is how we budget school work with going to *tarawih* [special night prayer], reading Qu’ran and aiming

“For us everything revolves around spirituality, [and in Ramadan] we want to strengthen our grasp over our soul and control our desires.”

ourselves as Muslims,” says Siddiqui, who leaves his evening classes to break his fast. But that balance becomes easier to handle during the last 10 days, a holy period when Muslims believe the

Qur’an was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. “School comes second.”

The Dawn of Dusk

As sundown approaches, food is prepared and heated, straw prayer mats are unrolled and members of the community come in, waiting for the designated time that marks sundown. As per tradition of the Prophet Muhammad, it is customary for Muslims to break their fast with a date palm, a fruit that has a unique sweetness to it. The *adhan* is then called to gather people for one of the five mandatory daily prayers.

Following prayer, a long-winding line forms, where conversations are held in multiple languages and discussions touch on topics ranging from classes, the day’s events to hunger. As the line bottlenecks towards the tables where food is served, Siddiqui is running the lettuce station, where he will stand for the next half-hour as others sit back down to eat food and quench their thirst after a long day’s fast. “The lines are always long. What are you going to do?” asks the Hicksville native. “In the end it’s just about helping everybody out.”

The *iftars* are also open to non-

Muslims, including freshman Trevor North, who volunteered to carry food to the ballroom after seeing one MSA member struggle with the task. He was invited to sit in and grab food. "In high school, you learn about Islam but you don't learn about their holidays and very little about their belief systems," said North, a chemical engineering major. "You don't really learn much about Islam but to see it first hand—it's a great way to learn about different cultures."

A Spiritual Fraternity

One of the few benefits, MSA members say, of having Ramadan take place during the school semester is the sense of fraternity that comes with it.

"I was honestly awe inspired," says Ali, a Queens native who started a Muslim club in his high school and was blown away by the comparison. "I thought it was extremely beautiful to see all these different people coming together for a sole purpose."

But it wasn't always this way. What once started in the mail room in the Humanities building, before it was refurbished, has now grown to what MSA Chaplain Sanaa Nadim considers an accomplishment 18 years in the making. Before, the *iftars* would be held occasionally with only a few pans of food to feed the few students that attended. Now, every weeknight there are heaping trays of heated food that feed hundreds.

Establishing a strong community presence was a dream Sister Sanaa says was without a dollar, and through the course of her time here, that presence has expanded dramatically to where it is today. "I prayed; I wanted so much for my students to have the same privilege that other groups on campus had," said Sister Sanaa. "The growth has been tremendous and amazing over the years."

Perceptions

But that growth comes at a time when Islam in America has been placed under a magnifying glass. Islam has been the subject of a summer-long media spotlight, with stories ranging from the Muslim community center proposition in lower Manhattan to a radical and extremist Florida Pastor pledging to go forth and burn Qu'rans on the ninth anniversary of September 11.

And as public opinion towards Islam continues to decrease, with a recent Pew Center Research poll pointing to 40 percent of Americans interviewed having an unfavorable view towards Islam—up 11 percent from the survey conducted in 2005—being a Muslim

American now includes fighting off the stereotypes.

For Zakir, her decision to wear a headscarf was a voluntary one. Her decision to cover her head, although not kindly welcomed by her large immediate family in the initial days post-9/11, has now become a means for her to further practice her religion.

"What we see as modest, other people in America see as oppression," Zakir says. "The reason why I cover up is not because I am forced to, but it is to get in touch with my spirituality and to get closer to god and continue that relationship."

And yet while there is a clear gender divide between where female Muslims stand in prayer—in the back—it is an issue that is deeply rooted in religion and modesty rather than limitation of rights. "If we felt we were being oppressed, obviously we wouldn't be here," asserts Zakir.

As for the notion that all Muslims are terrorists, well, that's what Zakir would compare to calling all Americans like those portrayed on the *Jersey Shore*.

The Social Jihad

For those practicing Muslims, devout life means many restrictions on behavior that most students would perceive as normal condoned activity; from drinking to dating.

"What is really hard for a Muslim living in America, I definitely would

have to say, is the promiscuity [in] American pop culture," Ali says. "It's the culture that glorifies the degradation of the status of women, the pursuit of primordial desires like money, food, sex and material success. That kind of stuff is a problem for me."

Ali had a first-hand encounter with these issues during his freshman year dorming with his non-Muslim roommate. "He engaged in activities out of

"The idea to me is, if God can forgive you, then who are we to judge each other?"

the norm for me," says Ali. "My hatred towards that kind of stuff is not translated into hatred towards the people but the actions they are committing, because I hate what they are doing."

When asked by her students about addressing these issues, Sister Sanaa offers one piece of advice—all of these issues, conflicts and dilemmas are part of one's path of life. "Age, time and journey

are part of your destiny," she says. "some will falter and will need help, while others will find their way and move on."

"The idea to me is, if God can forgive you, then who are we to judge each other," she adds.

Saying Goodbye to a Friend

What makes this year's Ramadan entirely special for the MSA students is that this will be the last spiritual month that will take place during the school year for the next ten years. Ramadan appears a little earlier each year due to conflicts between its lunar based calendar and the Gregorian calendar. And for Sister Sanaa, it could be her very last Ramadan shared with students as Chaplain of SBU.

"What a journey it has been. I pray I am still here; I made it 18 years," she says, reflecting over the last *iftar* held for this year's Ramadan. "I am grateful and I will never look back except with smiles and tears."

Holding similar sentiment, many MSA members find the end of Ramadan to be bittersweet.

"It's a really sad time," says Zakir, "it's our Christmas and, once it leaves, you can't wait for the next one. I pray that I can live that long."

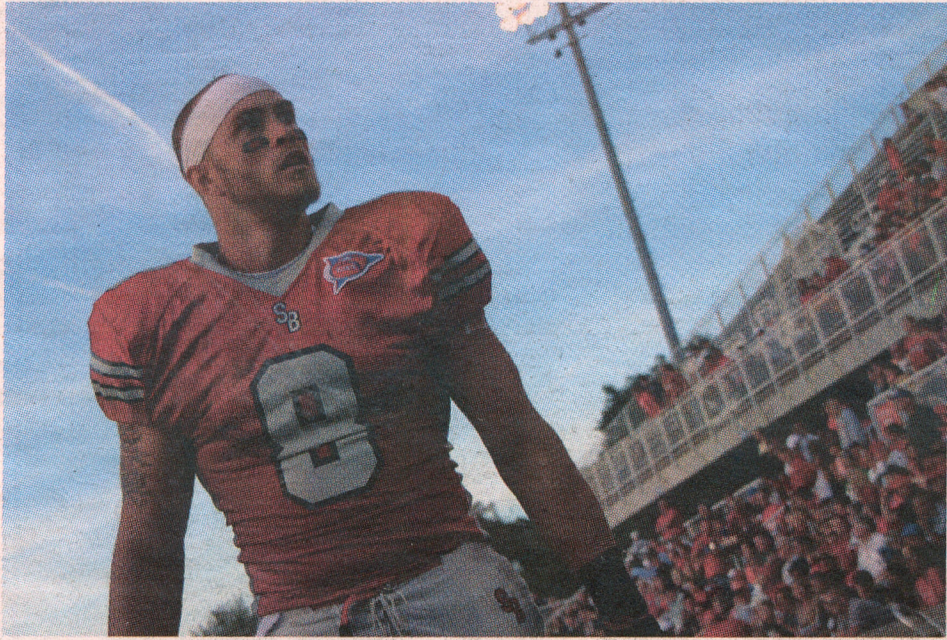
"It is a relief, human beings like to eat," Ali says, "but it is also sad because it is as if a friend is leaving you."



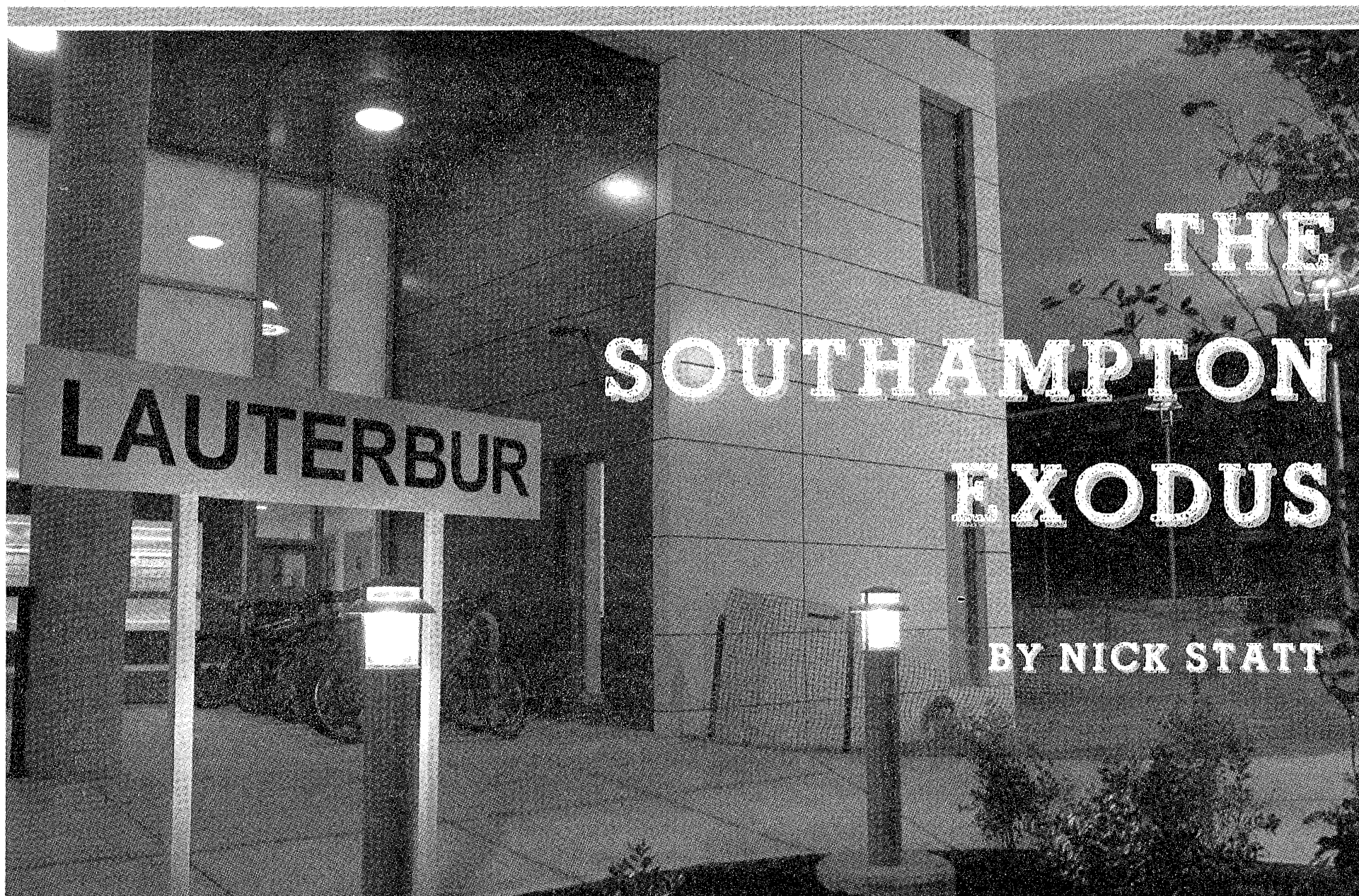
Junior Moiz Siddiqui (second from right) running the salad station.



Jacqueline Flareau, a member of Stony Brook's Young Americans for Freedom chapter, helps place 2,977 American flags in front of the library as part of a memorial honoring the victims of the 9/11 attacks. Chapter members and volunteers installed the memorial on Sept. 8, 2010. Photos by Carolina Hidalgo.



Stony Brook's football team defeated the American International Yellow Jackets, 31-14, in its season home opener on Sept. 11, 2010. Photos by Carolina Hidalgo.



Lauterbur Hall towers over West Drive like a Manhattan skyscraper in a city of shacks. Its seamless design, sleek blue-white color scheme, and intricate walkways surrounding the base give it the look of hotel. It's eco-friendly, with natural lighting and energy-efficient features, and provides a remarkably lavish interior. But to some of the Southampton students who were relocated onto the campus this year, nothing here at Stony Brook's main campus is worthy of being called a home.

"We're not the kind of people that need to live in the 'Marriott,'" says Juliann Navarra, now in her junior year. She stands on the edge of the bench fixed outside the front door of Lauterbur in a navy blue Southampton sweatshirt. "Every time I say, 'I'm in the 'new Kelly' building,' people get angry and don't want to speak to me anymore," she adds. "But I didn't choose this...I didn't take your spot."

Navarra's close friend, Chelsea

Holmes, is quick to add that the disrespectful attitudes run surprisingly deep, even dropping to the level of name-call-

"How am I supposed to be a sustainability major in a concrete jungle?"

ing. "Dirty backpacking hippies was actually the term," says Holmes, a sophomore sustainability major. She points out to the road and says cars pull up alongside the building and people stick their heads out to yell insults. A few nights earlier, Holmes says she woke up to three bags of garbage outside her suite's door.

To SBU's mainstays, living in Lauterbur and Yang is apparently the same as having a permanent target on your back. The Southampton students were given first priority for housing and naturally, a majority of them chose the brand new buildings to help ease the pain of losing their entire campus and stay close to one another. Housing was one of the few points of condolence offered by President Stanley when the announcement to close most of the majors and residential living at Southampton was made last April. However, many main campus students felt betrayed after having to suffer through the noise and sight of constant two-year construction with no benefit.

But when looked at in perspective, it becomes easy to see that while dorm choice may be a large concern to the main campus' student body, it is far from the top of the Southampton transfers' list of priorities. "If you're going to sit there and talk about how you have

been inconvenienced, then that's just the biggest joke I've ever heard," says Holmes with an energy verging on explosive. "This is the *least* they could do."

Holmes and Navarra stand at the edge of Lauterbur with a handful of their friends, almost all Southampton transfers. The scene is far from light – the constant hum of construction, the dozens upon dozens of orange fences all up and down the road, and the grey and empty landscape of a typical Stony Brook weekend blanketing everything in sight. They find it hard to believe that their environmentally-focused education has to continue here instead of in the lush, secluded campus 40 miles to the East.

"How am I suppose to be a sustainability major in a concrete jungle?" asks Holmes. No one offers an answer.

Believe it or not, the fact that Holmes even had a major to return to this fall can be considered lucky. "My major, sustainable business, didn't even

1963

Long Island University opens Southampton campus

June, 2004

LIU announces that it will close its Southampton campus due to massive debt

March, 2005

Stony Brook buys Southampton campus from LIU for \$35 million

September, 2007

SB Southampton holds first fall semester for its 200 registered students

transfer over. I just wasted money, a lot of us did," says Navarra. Right now, she's technically undeclared.

To the Southampton students, their environment was their world. The campus wasn't just their home. It was the embodiment of their education, their new life and their goals and aspirations.

"That campus *was* sustainability," says Holmes. Off to the side of the group, Amanda Sylvester, 20, a junior environmental studies major who dons the same Southampton sweatshirt as Navarra, breaks her spell of silence, "We were living what we were being taught."

Sylvester and the group start listing off the countless measures the school took to set a strong example for environmental sustainability and reinforce their flagship curriculum. Clara Perez, a sophomore marine science major, worked in the dining hall and recites a number of ways the campus cut back, from holding off on dish washing to conserve water to the use of fully biodegradable, and edible, silverware.

"I knew the second I walked onto that campus that this is it...the most secure thing in my life—my college education," says Navarra. "It is something that I'm really and honestly passionate about and it was ripped out from under me without even a forewarning."

"The major is a different way of life. The only way that things can get better is if people change the way they live," comments Holmes on the whole ideology behind environmental sustainability. "That's how it was out there. We were living the new lifestyle that everyone should be living." Each and every person standing in the group, which is now growing into a bursting semi-circle of Lauterbur residents, expresses the same solitary fact—they chose Southampton over Stony Brook's main campus for a deliberate reason.

"Here was the last place I wanted to be," says Navarra. Her outlook, marked distinctly by the fact that she is the only one in the group to have had her major completely eliminated upon shifting campuses, is a complex mix of cynicism, sarcasm and passionate resilience. "I came anyway; there is still my education."

Two weeks into the first semester can feel like an eternity to even the most able of seniors. To the Southampton

students, it's not just a shift from a summer lifestyle to a school one, with classes, early-mornings and the added responsibilities of living on your own. To them, all the negativity surrounding a whole new environment is doubled and magnified to an extreme.

With an inescapable label and the feeling of betrayal under their belts, it's as if Stony Brook waged a civil war, forcing the prisoners to assimilate into and be consumed by the enemy. The Southampton students fought for their campus, for their lifestyle, and they lost. There was apparently never time, nor money, for a battle.

"Do you know how much it sucks to be fighting so hard for something you care about so much and your enemy is the president of your university?" asks Holmes. Her questions are razor sharp, honed from countless hours spent protesting and fighting the decision that was set in stone only days after it was publicly released to the student body. "...And then you are forced to come here."

Sylvester somberly nods her head, "I've lost all respect for the administration, and any kind of trust."

The August 27 ruling from judge Paul J. Baisley Jr., which deemed the Administration's closing of the

"...if Southampton doesn't open after this year, I'm out. There is nothing here for me."

Southampton campus illegal, is the first victory in favor of those abandoned on SBU's doorstep, but the future of the



Southampton students protesting the decision to close their campus last April

Najib Aminy

campus is still up in the air. That leaves Southampton students who are unhappy with their current situation pinned between accepting an environment and lifestyle they deliberately rejected and starting anew somewhere else. There's always the chance that Southampton will reopen, but that means pouring time and money into unhappiness.

Liz Monahan, a sophomore marine vertebrate major, wants to return to Southampton just as much as any of her friends, but understands the reality. "If they reopen the campus, it's not going to be the same because they ripped it out from under us," she says. Looking ahead, optimism is almost non-existent. "Everyone is going to start to leave either next semester or next year and everything we built is going to be for nothing."

With two weeks of experience, Holmes, a resident of the town of Stony Brook whose home is a mere five minute drive from campus, has been thoroughly weighing her options. "I know for a fact that I'm not coming

back next year," she says. "So if Southampton doesn't open after this year, I'm out. There is nothing here for me."

As evening approaches, more and more people begin to file in and out of Lauterbur's front entrance. Each and every time someone passes, Holmes, Navarra, and the rest of the group give welcoming greetings and waves, something they say is commonplace back at Southampton, even if you don't know the person's name.

So, despite being outnumbered by a student body of over 20,000, with so many of them being transient, ghost-like commuters, the Southampton students are infusing the culture they have developed with their environment. It was how they've been taught; it is simply a way to learn, live and grow with balance.

"It's not a bad place. They're a lot of really smart kids here..." says Holmes. "But long story short, it is not for us. We have established that we are not happy here."

October, 2009

SBS celebrates the opening of its multi-million dollar, LEED certified library

April, 2010

University Council meets

May, 2010

Council is briefed on SBS closure

August 30, 2010

Judge annuls closure of Southampton campus

August 31, 2010

Cuts officially take effect

arts&entertainment

THE SCREAMING FEMALES

By Nick Statt

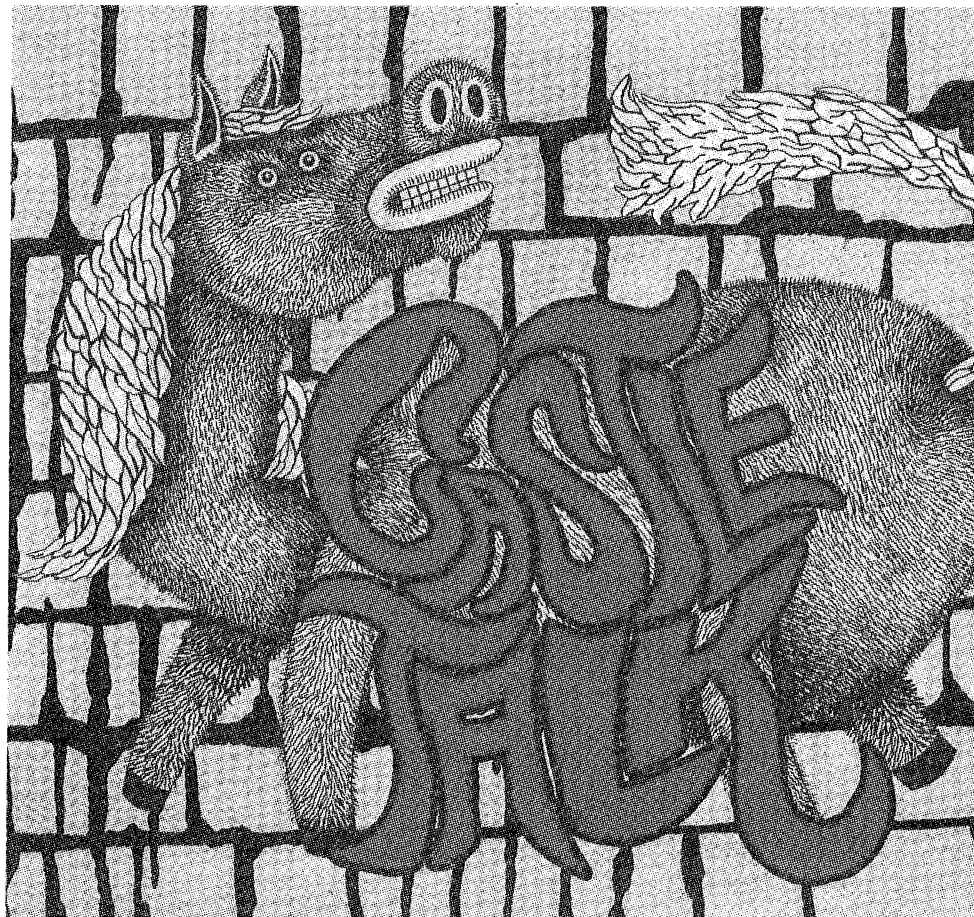
It doesn't take much to grasp the surface of the Screaming Females. She still screams. She also shreds on guitar...and I mean really melts faces. Marissa Paternoster, the female third of the group, is the she in question and alongside bassist "King Mike" and drummer Jarrett Dougherty, this three-piece New Brunswick, NJ band traverses punk, pop and downright avant-garde rock with a disarming intensity.

In the past, the once ever-present catch was that they were far from accessible; the screaming, the guitar solos and Paternoster's normal, but still weird-as-hell, vocal style crafted a love or hate relationship with almost every listener. It gave them one of the most unique sounds out there, but constrained them to the underground New Jersey punk scene. Since then, they've made steps simply by opening for guys like Ted Leo and playing big festivals in and around the Northeast.

But their latest release, *Castle Talk*, due out September 14, sees the band reaching unimaginable heights. Gone are almost all of the screaming choruses and punchy punk instrumentals. Instead, you get some of the most melodic arrangements I've ever heard, decorated with a surprisingly mainstream approach to songwriting. They're arguably not the same band, and that may be a pretty big betrayal to the die-hard fans. But it's also their best album to date and very well may push them into a whole new realm of popularity.

Paternoster, the most significant

and mystifying component of the Screaming Females, is mind-blowing on *Castle Talk*. Her guitar work retains its famous strangeness, but is now refined to an unbelievable level. She shifts from melodic clean riffs to effect-heavy solos with virtuosic ease, and still man-



ages to stamp her trademark obsession with vibrato on every note. Vocally, she no longer rips out those huge screaming highs, but replaces them with a most impressive range of styles throughout every single track.

"Laura and Marty" couldn't be a better opening song. It delivers everything you could want from a textbook Screaming Females song, but adds in

subtle clues, like the slow and soothing bridge right before the big fireworks display at the end, to indicate how the rest of the album will pan out.

Castle Talk takes off from there with the follow up track, the alarmingly poppy "I Don't Mind It." They go com-

direction and the old infamous intensity over the course of four to five tracks. But it ends with "Ghost Solo," easily one of the poppiest songs in their entire catalogue, which neatly ties up the tone of the whole album neatly and expresses quite plainly that this is what they're aiming for now.

Castle Talk is clearly a departure from their previous sound, but in an undeniably positive direction. You can lament at the loss of their roots all you want and at the end of the day, you may very well win an argument that the true Screaming Females' sound is marked by the previous three albums. But this album is not just accessible, it's a matured and amazing product of three New Jersey punk-influenced musicians that have finally become comfortable with the versatility of their sound. Whether or not they will still be the Screaming Females a year from now isn't really the point.

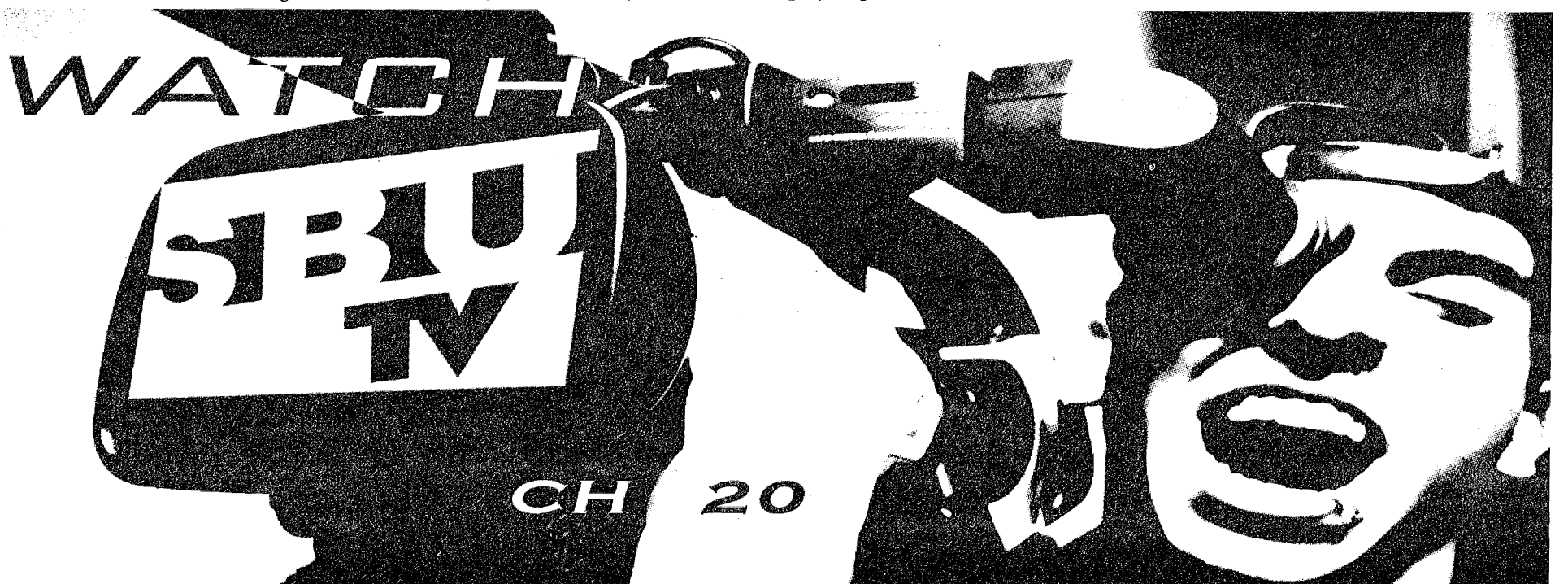
BUY THE ALBUM



ILLEGALLY DOWNLOAD IT



LISTEN TO NICKELBACK!!!!



LATE TO THE PARTY

Killing Floor

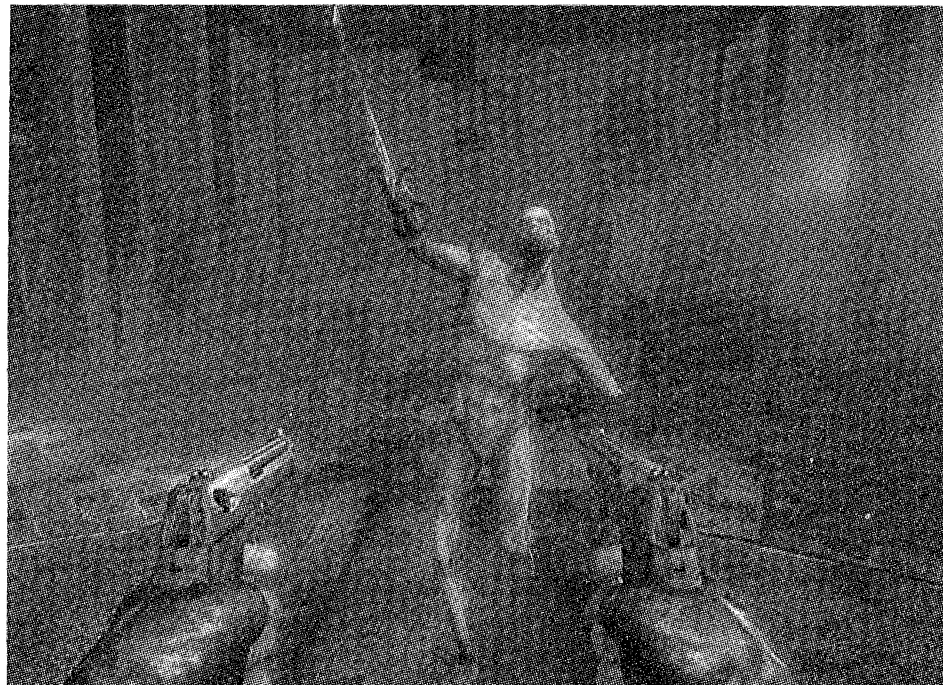
By Kenny Mahoney

What do you get when you blend the horrifying monsters of *Left 4 Dead*, the acclaimed leveling-up system from the recent *Call of Duty* multiplayer modes and the winners of Epic Games' original Make Something Unreal contest? You get Tripwire Interactive's *Killing Floor*, a PC co-op survival horror shooter that has successfully rolled everything that has been awesome about multiplayer first-person-shooters from recent years into a budget-priced package.

Killing Floor's premise is simple and straightforward; wave after wave of mutated "specimens," genetic experiments that have gone horribly awry, are terrorizing the English countryside while you and five of your mates are fighting for survival. Blended into this simple mechanic is a deep class structure that allows players to utilize weaponry and attributes that, when played correctly and cooperatively, offer one of the most satisfying multiplayer experiences around.

Players can choose to either play online, or "solo" in an offline single-player mode. Playing solo is like throwing your own birthday party and having nobody show up. It's sad, depressing and there's nobody around to hear you cry when the monsters come to drag you into the abyss. Also, the later waves become so impossible to manage on your lonesome that it is nigh unplayable. I imagine that this mode was included merely for the sake of having a single-player option, but this game was clearly meant to be played online.

Before you begin, the player is asked to choose a specific class with



special weapon proficiencies, damage boosters, and other abilities that make them unique from all the other classes. These perks begin at level zero, and can be leveled up to five by completing certain objectives, such as causing a specific amount of damage with a particular weapon. Getting through the first level or two of each class won't take too long, but the amount of time required to hit the later levels can seem almost unreachable. This is especially true when the qualifications for leveling become so specific, like scoring a certain amount of headshots, that it becomes more of a grind than something you would reach naturally.

Each class also lends itself to a particular play style. For example, the Sharpshooter is better suited for players who want to pick off bad guys from a distance with well-placed shots. If you're a player that delights in getting their hands dirty, then the Berserker class, which gives you bonuses to your skill with melee weapons, is your best bet. There are six classes in total: the

ones mentioned above as well as Demolitions, Medic, Support Specialist and Firebug. The differences between each delivers a unique play experience, and makes each important to the team and worth playing.

As stated earlier, the game is set up in a series of rounds or "waves" in which ever-growing groups of specimens are thrown at you until you face down the final boss in the last wave. Much like *Left 4 Dead*, you won't just encounter the same Dead monster; *Killing Floor* has a cadre of special monsters, each with their own abilities and weaknesses that creates an advantage for the class-based game play. Some monsters are more susceptible to fire or explosions, as opposed to regular gunfire, making them better suited to be taken out by someone who can deliver damage easily. This can be great when you have the class structure to deal with them, but can be a complete game-killer if you're hit with a ton of monsters you can't handle, and can easily bring your game to an abrupt and infuriating end.

Between each wave, the mysterious Trader opens her doors for you to come and buy new weapons. As you play, you'll earn money for killing monsters and healing teammates, and you can upgrade your arsenal to better battle the impending horde. But move quickly, the Trader always appears at a different point on the map, so make sure you have enough time to reach her before your brief window of time closes. My only complaint here is that I would have liked to see a greater variety in my Armageddon-arsenal, as after a while the small weapons selection will start to feel old and boring.

Tripwire has included a set of professionally made maps for you to play with, but the game is completely open for would-be game designers to make and upload their own maps to mow down specimens in. The default maps are well-made, with a good mix of locations to choose from, including a farm, laboratory and the abandoned streets of West London. While this mixture of landscapes adds variety, the mechanics of the game usually prevent you from seeing all of it. Players will eventually start to hole up in the same spot over and over again, turning what should be a frantic kill-fest into a shooting gallery—sitting in the same spot waiting for monsters to come to the door and pulling the trigger.

Overall, *Killing Floor* offers something new yet familiar. It contains many elements already seen in games today, but combines them in a way never seen before. It may leave much to be desired in the graphics department, as it is a budget title that was originally developed as a mod for a game from six years ago, but that alone shouldn't keep you away.

You can find *Killing Floor* in stores and for download via Steam for \$19.99.

Do you want to know how
I got these scars?

By joining **THE PRESS**

UNION 060 WEDNESDAYS DURING CAMPUS LIFETIME



Staller Film Festival...They're Greatttt!

By Iris Lin and
Matt Willemain

Dozens of new indie, art, foreign feature and short films were screened on campus during the Fifteenth Annual Stony Brook Film Festival at the Staller Center for the Arts, over the course of ten days at the end of July.

A summer tradition, the film festival brings a little cosmopolitan culture deep into the suburban Long Island landscape—the films complement the center's live production of music, dance, theatre and other performances. Providing both early looks at movies which will be available to broad American audiences, as well as more esoteric offerings that filmgoers might otherwise miss entirely, the film festival regularly stands out against a backdrop of limited activity on campus over the summer.

This year, the festival again provided a varied group of interesting movies, several of which are reviewed below.

The Staller Center does a fairly good job of walking a tightrope—serving two masters in the form of the undergraduate-predominated university community as well as a very different off-campus local community. Serving as a location for world class cultural offerings a performing arts enthusiast might expect to find in New York City, the center is supported by patrons from across Long Island. At the same time, it is integrated into the Stony Brook campus.

One of the conflicts this tension creates is the potential for students to be priced out of Staller Center offerings. Director Alan Inkle remains passionate about finding ways to enable some student access, however. The Staller Center is currently promoting efforts such as the "First on Us" program (incoming freshman were provided a pass for any one program in the Staller's lineup) and discounted last minute rush tickets.

The Film Festival won't return until next July, but the Staller Center's Fall lineup includes prominent string quartet-in-residence the Emerson String Quartet, jazz performances, American Idol Katherine McPhee, a family acrobatics show and a live reproduction of song and dance from Bollywood cinema. These live shows are joined by a

dozen films and simultaneous broadcasts of the Metropolitan Opera. Full listings are available at stallercenter.com.

Bride Flight

Bride Flight opens on the familiar, weather-beaten face of Rutger Haur (*Batman Begins*, *Blade Runner*) as elderly Dutch vineyardist Frank. Making the rounds of his gorgeous, expansive New Zealand operation, Frank is allowed the satisfaction of tasting a perfect vintage before he is dispatched by natural causes. With his death and funeral a narrative framing device, *Bride Flights* soars backwards in time to tell the story of a younger Frank and the three women in his life.

The principles meet one another on "the last great air-race" from London to New Zealand in 1953. For the most part, they are fleeing the destructive forces—a tremendous flood in the Netherlands (naïf Ada, as played by Karina Smulders and Pleuni Touw), World War II (the charming Frank, played by Haur and Waldemar Torenstra, the Dutch James Franco) and the Holocaust (flippant Esther, played by Anna Drivjer and Willeke van Ammelrooy). Only the privileged Marjorie (Elise Schaap and Petra Laseur) has avoided the troubles of the times.

The air-race serves simply as a romanticized introduction, as the film quickly delves into the maximally melodramatic lives the characters live through as young immigrants in New Zealand. Set against a backdrop of spectacular New Zealand landscapes, our four central figures struggle with the pasts they have fled and with the everyday dissatisfactions and startling turns of fortune of their present lives. Reunited years later on the occasion of Frank's death, the women of the film are given a stark opportunity to reflect.

Bon Appetit

Daniel (Unax Ugalde) has what it takes to become a master chef; passion, dedication, diligence and ingenuity. *Bon Appetit*, directed by David Pinillos, follows Daniel's experiences as he begins working at a high-class restaurant in Zurich, Switzerland. However, this

movie is not so much about cooking and food as it is about friendships and the drama of romantic entanglements. Although, there is a neat scene where Daniel is put on the spot and has to create and cook a dish using only noodles, eggs, oranges, and some mint.

At the restaurant Daniel meets fellow co-workers Hanna (Nora Tschirner) and Hugo (Giulio Berruti) and they quickly become best pals in and out of the kitchen, going clubbing and making short road trips. However, the relationship between Daniel and Hanna is the main focus of the film. Daniel is drawn to Hanna from the moment

he first sees her. During their initial conversation, they seem to have fundamentally different views on love, but despite that, both Daniel and Hanna instantly click and the attraction between the two is very apparent.

Unfortunately things are not clean and simple, Daniel has a girlfriend back home in Spain and Hanna is involved with the owner of the restaurant, Thomas (Herbert Knaup), who is already married. *Bon Appetit* is not your typical romantic movie, however, it is also about people learning more about themselves and their desires in life. In some ways it is more representative of what would happen in real life, especially in regards to the ending of the film. Usually in romantic movies when one person declares their love for another, the other person responds in kind with, "I love you too."

It was an enjoyable movie, although we did not think it presented anything particularly new or exciting in the romance genre. We did like how the film ended though, it showed how even though things don't happen as you imagined and anticipated with the person you love, that doesn't mean it's a bad ending. Life can be a crazy mess, but still turn out alright.

Howl

"I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness, starving hysterical naked, / dragging themselves through the negro

streets at dawn looking for an angry fix, / angelheaded hipsters burning for the ancient heavenly connection to the starry dynamo in the machinery of night..." those are the first couple lines of the poem "Howl" written by Alan Ginsberg.

Howl, the film directed by Rob Epstein, is about said poem and the 1957 obscenity trial regarding its publication. A majority of the film feels like a documentary due to the recreation of courtroom scenes from the trial and interview scenes with Ginsberg (James Franco). The interview segments were one of our favorite aspects of the film. Franco does an amazing job. He incorporates little nuances in gesticulation, posture, and pausing that makes you think it really is Ginsberg answering the questions, instead of an actor reciting lines. The courtroom scenes serve to move the plot forward and comment on the battle between appropriate society sanctioned behavior and the freedom to express oneself and expand humanity's horizons.

The film also includes scenes where Franco reads aloud excerpts from the poem in front of crowded room full of artsy-looking beatniks—although sometimes the audience sees animation corresponding to the verses being read instead. At first, we did not like the animation, it did not seem to fit and in a way it narrows the creativity of the poem because it is only able to offer one visual representation. However, it is understandable that the screen wouldn't just be left blank and it allows the audience to contemplate the relation between the visual art and the ideas present in the poem.

Franco's reading of "Howl" is an essential part of the film. There is a significant difference between reading a poem to yourself silently and hearing a poem read out loud. You are able to feel the rhythm of syllables flowing one after another, you can hear the dynamics as certain phrases and words are emphasized in contrast to pauses and breaths taken. We often underappreciate poetry, but after watching this film, we have a greater respect for all forms of poetry and realize poems are meant to be expressed vocally. Just hearing "Howl" made watching this film worth it.





ASIAN AMERICAN E-ZINE

WWW.AA2SBU.ORG/AAEZINE

WHY ASIAN AND ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES (AAAS) IS IMPORTANT TO ALL STONY BROOK STUDENTS

On Friday, September 10th, President Stanley held a press briefing for student media and journalism students to present his new plan for the University, Project 50 Forward. He was asked about the proposal by Dean Nancy Squires to dismantle the Asian and Asian American Studies Department and to disperse its faculty into other departments as part of a cost cutting measure. The smallest departments and programs appear to be in her line of sight (Africana Studies, Asian and Asian American Studies, Comp Lit, European Languages, Hispanic Languages, Latino Studies, Linguistics, and Women's Studies.)

President Stanley claimed it was just a proposal under consideration but since the administrative staff in AAAS were given their one year CEAS contract required pink slips, proposal does not seem to accurately reflect how far along it has gone.

Asian and Asian American Studies is unlike many departments at the University, including larger ones. China, Japan and India are the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th largest economies in the world based on GDP and China is poised to overtake the US within ten to twenty years.

When asked about the proposal, a Distinguished Faculty member unrelated to AAAS said, "The great virtue of an Asian Studies Department is that Asia is very important for the future economic prosperity and future security of the US. Students should be learning more about Asia, not less. Unlike many other majors, Asian Studies has a very definite economic payout for graduates in the field." With multinational companies competing with each other to get into Asia, knowing more about Asia is a foot in the door for SBU graduates.

One of the goals of Project 50 is to "help propel Stony Brook into the ranks of the top 20 public research universities in the country." Well, let's look at Asian Studies in America's best - the Top 10. (Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Columbia, Stanford, UPenn, Cal Tech, MIT, Dartmouth, Duke, *US News & World Report's* 2010 rankings.) With the exception of Cal Tech and MIT which have a specific tech focus, every single University in the Top 10, without exception, has Asian Studies language and culture together in one department.

President Stanley graduated from the University of Chicago (#11). Not only does it have its Asian languages and culture courses in one department, last month it opened a center in Beijing. President Stanley also graduated from Harvard (#1). Harvard has the oldest and what is considered the best stand alone East Asian Studies department in the country. Even Washington University (#13) where President Stanley made his career, has Asian Studies located within one department.

In none of these highly ranked schools are students expected to jump through hoops to fulfill a major without the resources of a single department backing them. The University cannot say it is simply giving students the same courses but placed in different departments. Without a department of its own there will be decreased resources, grants, and new faculty hired. Dispersed faculty will become small minorities in their new departments with little influence.

Asian and Asian American Studies was promised 6 NEW faculty lines when it was created less than ten years ago but former President Kenny reneged on 5. Without courses and professors, the number of declared majors will decrease. It will become a destructive cycle. It will not make Stony Brook a first class research university but instead will be an insult to all Asians and Asian Americans.

But Asians and Asian Americans are not the only ones affected. An E-Zine Board member is a White female, Asian Studies major, double minor in Japanese and Korean. To round out her span of knowledge, she will be studying Chinese language AND culture. She understands that learning a language is not solely about gaining proficiency, but understanding the context in which it is used in culturally appropriate ways.

This is especially important for those who will use their studies in AAAS in international business and research. The VP of the Korean Student Association is an African American with a minor in Korean Studies. Asia is the future and they are both smart enough to understand that. Why isn't the University?

There is another aspect to consider when administrators discuss dismantling AAAS, as well as any other ethnic studies. Look at the upper level administrators in President Stanley's "Cabinet" who deal with academics. President Stanley, White male. VP, HSC/Dean, SOM Kenneth Kaushansky, White male. VP/Dean CEAS, Yacov Shamash, White male. Provost Eric Kaler, White male. VP Research Jack Marburger, White male. Dean, Grad School Lawrence Martin, White male. Dean, CAS Nancy Squires, White female. VPSA Peter Baigent, White male. Seven men, one woman, all White.

President Stanley, married to Chinese American Dr. Ellen Li, would be highly offended to be called a racist. But what is further favoring Eurocentric departments where the majority of faculty are of the same race and gender as he is? Not only are all of the top administrators at SBU White, so are the majority of faculty in each CAS department EXCEPT the departments where non-Eurocentric cultures are taught. Institutional racism is still racism.

According to SBU's demographics, 29% of students are Asian/PI, 6% Black/Non-Hispanic, 9% Hispanic, 6% Non-resident Alien, meaning international students, many from Asia, 13% Race/ethnicity Unreported because bi-racials fit no category and many hapas refuse to pick one or the other. So fully 50% of Stony Brook students are not White. Yet as an institution, we cannot offer them one single person of color in upper Administration as a role model.

And if 29% of students are of Asian descent, that means that someday that same percentage could be alumni donors if they do not feel Stony Brook treated them with disrespect. Would the University be saving a penny now to lose a pound in the future?

AAAS is not a small department of its own choosing. Aside from not being given the faculty lines it was promised, there are waiting lists to get into courses. It desperately needs more faculty, not less dispersed faculty.

The Dean's proposal shows a callous disregard for the value of the languages, histories, and cultures of Asia. Despite the diversity that SB boasts of in its public relations materials, the dismantling of AAAS communicates that this diversity is only desired when it can be contained and tokenized. It will look like the make-up of the Project 50 Forward Steering Committee - all White with one token.

We welcome the opportunity to hear from the Administration on how this proposal could possibly be beneficial to students, to Asian and Asian American Studies majors and faculty, to our national and international reputation, and to the future of Stony Brook University.

Wanted: Writers, photographers, videographers and anyone interested in media * aaezine@yahoo.com
Messages: 631 632 1395 / 911: 631 831 6062 * AA E-Zine meetings Fridays, Student Union 071, 2PM
Excerpt of www.aa2sbu.org/aezine in SB Press, September 2010

Life Without Principles (And Paychecks)

By Ross Barkan

President Barack Obama's recent announcement that he would ask Congress to approve a wide-reaching plan to drastically improve and modernize our nation's network of railways, roads and airport runways seemed like a cause for celebration in one chamber of my discordant mind. After lackluster and nebulous stimulus bills that really weren't ambitious enough, President Obama had finally decided to formulate a bill that would not only create jobs like the fabled public works projects of the Great Depression era, but would also bolster our nation's failing public transport systems which terribly lag behind our international allies. Any Stony Brook student marooned at one of Suffolk County's pathetic bus stops can attest to this desperate need for better public transportation in the United States to make our lives more convenient and also lessen our dependence on automobiles which pollute our skies and consume finite fossil fuels (as well as keep us tethered to those chipper, magnanimous middle Eastern oil sheiks).

Ah, a jobs bill, a *good* jobs bill, just what this country needs, right? More jobs. The pragmatist in me nods. The leftist in me nods. What's most important—this *Press* essay begins its life on Labor Day—is to put the millions of suffering and unemployed Americans back to work. We need, need, need to fix the economy, return our nation to its preminent perch, and continue to innovate and evolve, maintaining our high (and materialistic) standard of living.

Discordant, mentioned in the opening sentence, provides a nice segue into the other chamber of my mind that can't savor almost anything written in a newspaper these days. This chamber holds all those observations and beliefs that will from time to time be labeled quixotic, Romantic, ignorant, bullshit, or anarchist. This is the chamber for the twin Henrys, my two favorite writers, Henry David Thoreau and Henry Miller.

You might remember Thoreau from those English classes you dozed off in. If you haven't read *Walden* or any



of his other essays you seriously should. They are required reading for all Americans. Thoreau, whose impassioned writings about non-violent resistance to injustice and his holy (and fairly scientific) appreciation for the natural world have made him a hero in many circles, is not quite remembered as the radical who would despise the very idea of "economy" that the United States and other industrialized nations champion today. A hero of leftists and libertarians alike, Thoreau nevertheless would be dismayed by the course of history after his death. Industrialization won, regimentation and the modern work week reigned, and generations of men and

women (with few exceptions) were condemned to the life of "quiet desperation" he wrote about so eloquently in *Walden*.

And Miller? He won't be found in any high school curriculums and probably eludes most college syllabi as well. The writer of *Tropic of Cancer*, immortalized in many best-of-the-20th century novel lists and *Seinfeld*, was a spiritual and intellectual disciple of Thoreau (Miller, born in 1891, was significantly younger than Thoreau, who died in 1862) who dropped a few more f-bombs and c-words along the way. At his best, Miller is our greatest writer, soaring, beautiful and profound, a realist and mystic who, like Thoreau, ex-

posed the empty and oppressive nature of modern civilization while celebrating the artist's quest for independence.

This all comes back to the next jobs

On one level, the government should have a moral obligation to ensyre uts citizens have a good standard of living.

bill and subsequent acts passed down by the government to get people back to work. On one level, the government should have a moral obligation to en-

borers who were coerced into work they never wanted any part of. He saw the genius of man squandered in menial work, drudgery, losing this gift of life

the companion novel to *Tropic of Cancer*,

"I felt sorry for the human race, for the stupidity of man and his lack of

what I think about, more than about whose trap it's going down or how much it costs. Why should I give a fuck about what anything costs? I'm here to live, not to calculate. And that's just what the bastards don't want you to do—to live! They want to spend your whole life adding up figures."

And he goes on to fantasize about a disorganized world without authority, borders, jobs and limitations. Of course, we can't have society founded purely on anarchy. Yet we can begin to think about the nature of organization and why such an enlightened and advanced race of beings has built a socioeconomic hierarchy that exploits the mass of men and women to not only serve the interests of a terrifyingly small minority but also teaches them that it's perfectly reasonable to sacrifice their natural freedom to wage slavery and a lifetime of occupying themselves with activities they disdain.

"This world is a place of business,"

*...living is more than
the exchange of cur-
rency and the construc-
tion of a new glittering
office building.*

Thoreau wrote in another brilliant essay, "Life Without Principle." "What an infinite bustle! I am awaked almost every night by the panting of the locomotive. It interrupts my dreams. There is no Sabbath. It would be glorious to see mankind at leisure for once. It is nothing but work, work, work... To have done anything by which you earned money *merely* is to have been truly idle or worse." Ah, if only a president could come along who would be capable of *actual change*. If only a leader could end the American's slavish dependence on a paycheck to stay alive. Surely, at some point in time, we can devise a more humane system.

On a superficial level, a jobs bill is nice but we need a leader to transcend such ideas and realize that living is more than the exchange of currency and the construction of a new glittering office building. As Thoreau teaches us from the grave, we must not do things *merely*. We must have a higher end. We must liberate ourselves from the yokes we have laid upon our backs.

Welp, in the mean time, let's enjoy the possibility of quicker trains.



sure its citizens have a good standard of living. And to ensure this standard of living in the way society is currently constructed, this means working. But should things be the way they are? Thoreau and Miller would say no.

"The millions are awake enough for physical labor; but only one in a million is awake enough for effective intellectual exertion, and only 1 in a 100 million for a poetic or divine life. To be awake is to be alive. I have never met a man who was quite awake," Thoreau wrote in *Walden* as he observed the back-breaking and wretched existence of farmers, textile workers and child la-

granted to them at birth.

It is tragic, says one part of my mind, that so many people are out of work. However, let's see this from another angle. Why must this be a tragedy? Why must not working full-time be a death sentence in this society unless one is not independently wealthy? Imagine if the work cycle as we know it were eliminated, or scaled back, or revolutionized in some way to give individuals more time to pursue their own interests, spend more time with their family and appreciate the simple fact that they are alive. I am reminded of Miller's words in *Tropic of Capricorn*,

imagination...If you tell a guy in the street you're hungry you scare the shit

*It is tragic, says one
part of my mind,
that so many people
are out of work.*


out of him, he runs like hell. That's something I never understood...That's

The
SCARLET
SEAWOLF
 In Technicolor!!
 Back Cover Extravaganza!!
 By: Frank Myles

Hello citizens!! I hope
 you enjoyed this
 issue of
 the
 Press!!



That or you're reading
 it all backwards-like...
 ? ?
 Does this look
 like some sort of
 "Japanese Manga" or
 something??

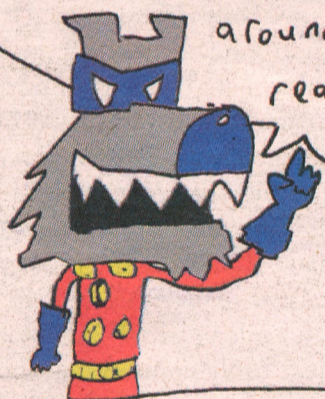






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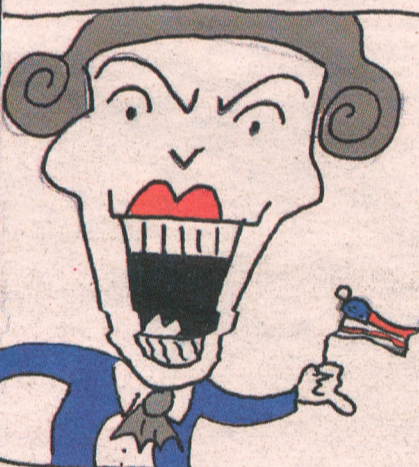
In fact, I suggest you
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Sure beats reading the Statesman



or the Patriot...



well til'
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Farewell,
 Citizens!!



fin.