

The Stony Brook

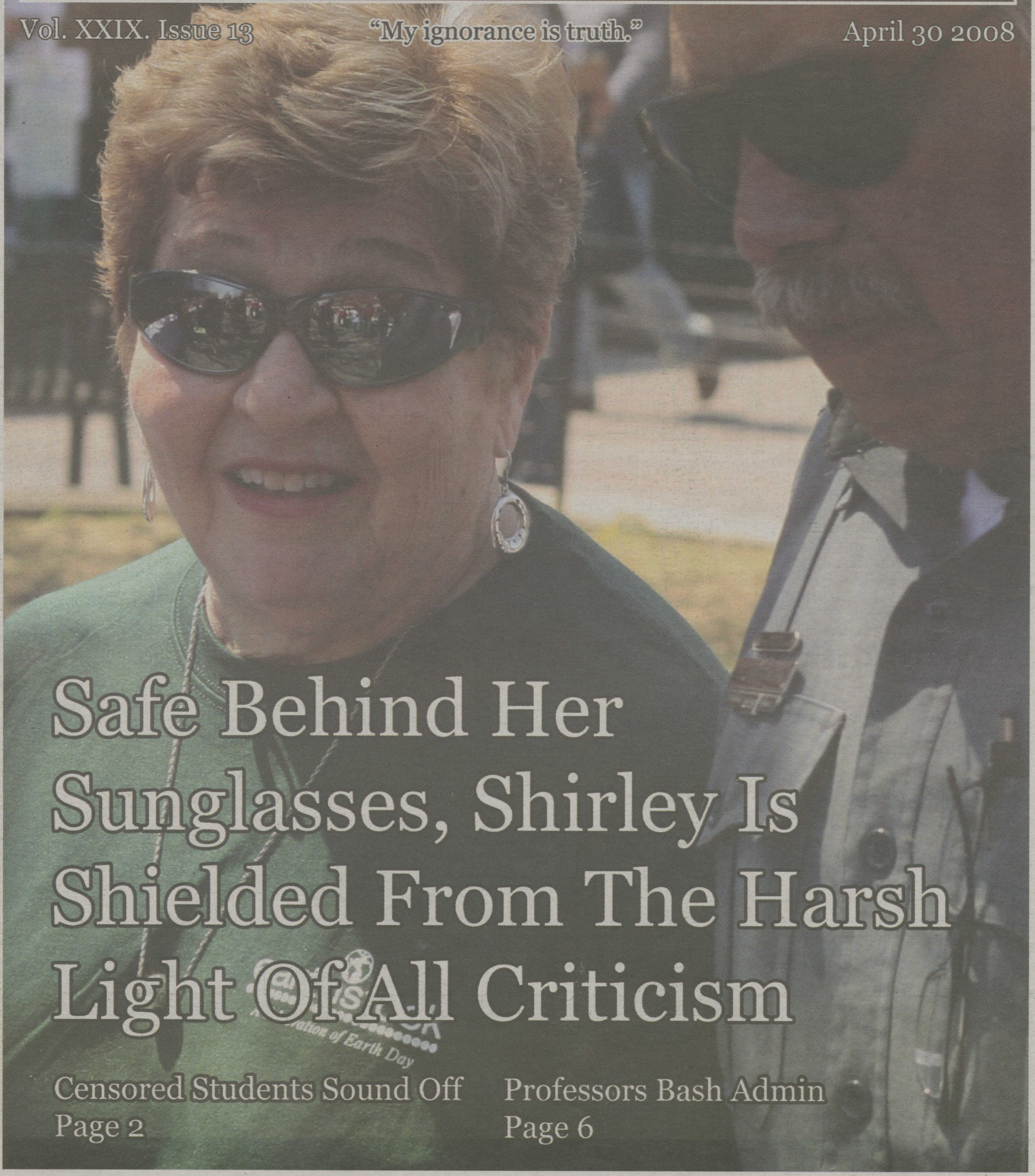
# PRESS

*The Community News and Features Paper*

Vol. XXIX. Issue 13

"My ignorance is truth."

April 30 2008



## Safe Behind Her Sunglasses, Shirley Is Shielded From The Harsh Light Of All Criticism

Censored Students Sound Off  
Page 2

Professors Bash Admin  
Page 6



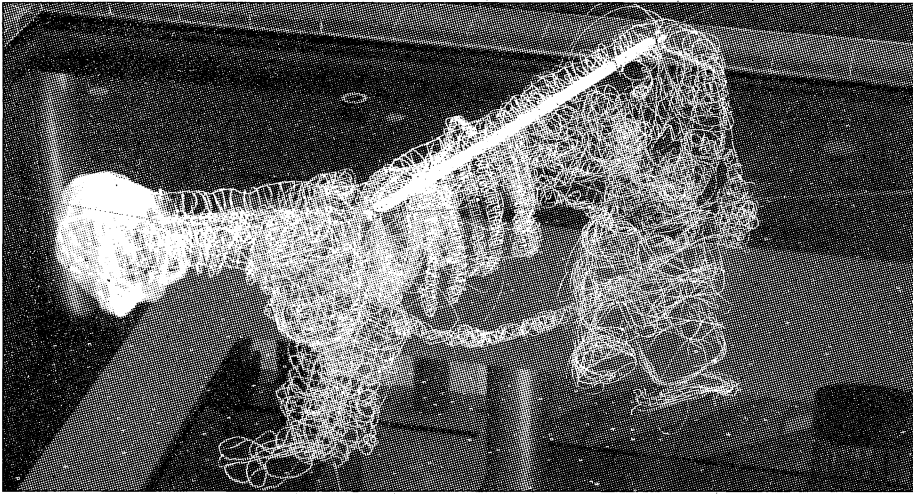
**Upcoming Campus Events**  
Roth Pond Regatta  
5/2, Noon, Roth Pond

Finals Week  
You're fucked

# Administration Censors Student Artists

By Jake Conarck

President Shirley Strum Kenny ordered the removal of several art installations, including a sculpture, that were part of the UNBOUND exhibit – a part of the week-long arts festival carrying her name. The exhibit is a series of site-specific, student-created installations



temporarily placed around the campus, premised on the grounds that the installations do not permanently alter any building, harm the environment.

Controversy swirled after Kenny ordered the removal of a wire sculpture of a polar bear that hung above a fountain in the Wang Center. The sculpture had met all conditions to be placed and

was approved by the building manager in advance.

"Polar Bears In Space uses the metaphor of the polar bear to talk about the larger issues behind global warming," said Julianne Gadoury, the sculptor. "We often fail to fully understand and gain knowledge about and push to the back of our minds many issues that affect us socially and on the global level."

The day before the exhibit was to open on April 16, Gadoury and a group of her colleagues hoisted the exhibit up under the supervision of building managers and engineers. However, the next day when the exhibit opened, it was officially ordered down.

Because the sculpture was suspended by rope tied to the Wang Cen-

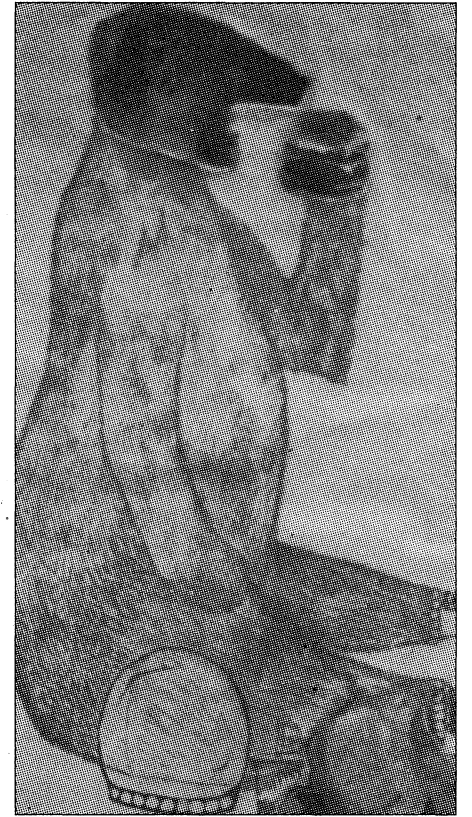
ter's wide, load-bearing columns, Kenny ordered the sculpture removed because it "compromised the structural integrity of the building." However, building staff had specifically approved the structural safety, and many thought there were ulterior motives to the work's removal. James Pearson, the curator of the exhibit, Gadoury, and an administrative official speaking on the condition of anonymity all confirmed that before Kenny ordered that the sculpture be removed because of its threat to the integrity of the building, Barbara Chernow, vice president of facilities and services and a member of Kenny's inner circle, expressed distaste for the sculpture saying that it muddled the aesthetics of the building.

Chernow could not be reached for comment on the matter.

When the news reached Gadoury, she decided not to wait the few days given to her to remove the installation and instead tore it down herself that night in front of about 40 of her peers and supporters, throwing the sculpture into the pool, visibly shaken. It was also announced that two other installations that were part of the UNBOUND exhibit were also ordered removed, including a colorful chalk mural on the side of the Staller Center which the administration felt would encourage the act of graffiti around the campus.

All further installations were sus-

pended and the UNBOUND exhibit was ordered to be discontinued.



Photos by Roman Sheydvasser

# Monorail, Monorail, Monorail...Mono D'oh!

By Jake Conarck

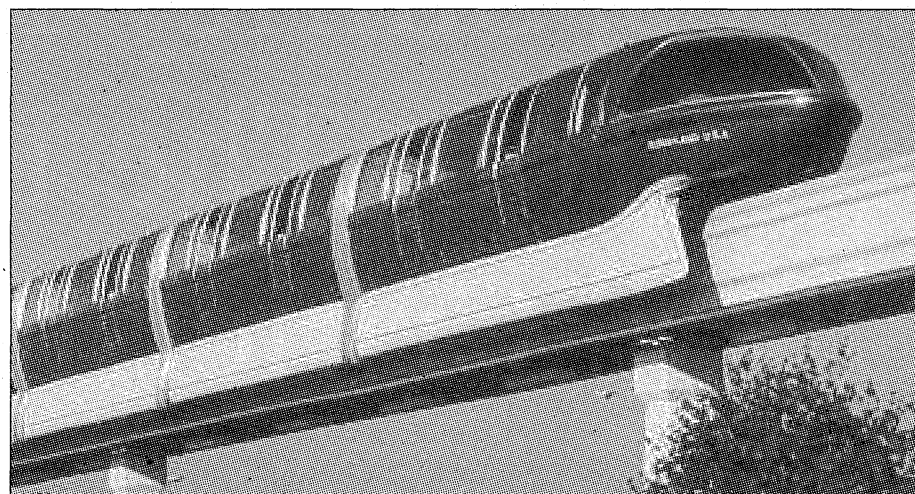
Well Sir, there's nothing on Earth like a bonafide, electrified, six-car monorail. That is, unless it costs \$5 million just to study the feasibility of building one here at Stony Brook.

Buried in the budget passed weeks ago by the New York state legislature was nearly \$150 million earmarked for various construction projects at Stony Brook known as strategic initiatives. These included \$45 million to build or acquire a law school, \$40.8 million for a computer science building, \$12.3 million for upgrades to the football stadium and arena, and many other allocations.

The most interesting strategic initiative, however, is \$5 million for a monorail feasibility study. Normally, new construction projects and upgrades are submitted to the legislature for consideration by the president of each university. However, many of the strategic initiatives were allocated at the behest

of State Senator Kenneth LaValle, chairman of the higher education committee. [Most notably the monorail feasibility study.]

According to Janice Rohlf, assistant vice president of governmental relations



This monorail penetrates even the most stingy SUNY budgets.

LaValle initiated the study in order to cut down on traffic on campus and use the monorail as a prototype for a possible solution to Long Island's notorious

traffic woes. "We had been talking with the Senator about this for about six months now so it wasn't a surprise to us," said Rohlf.

What was surprising to many, however, was the amount of money allo-

ning, and analysis, referring to the \$5 million allocated for the study. Melucci added that the entirety of the \$5 million might not be spent. "We'll know more when we float some feelers out there," he said.

The monorail feasibility study is odd not only because belts are being tightened elsewhere in the university, but because a lot of money is being spent on upgrading the bus service to alleviate traffic problems on campus. While an exact figure would not be disclosed, James O'Connor, director of parking and transportation services, estimated that the university is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars on upgrading the bus fleet.

"We've been very ambitious and successful in replacing our bus fleet to become more reliable to meet the needs of the students and to have them not impact the environment as much as previous models," said O'Connor.

cated for the study in a time of steep budget cuts. "It's more than the average study might be," said Dan Melucci, associate vice president for strategy, plan-



# Meningitis Blues

By Jon Singer

As incoming freshman prepare for their first semester at Stony Brook, vaccinations are in plan. While shots to prevent infectious diseases from spreading around schools have traditionally been reserved for elementary levels, more states are requiring that college students get vaccinated for meningitis, a potentially fatal disease that easily disseminates in areas of close contact, like college dormitories.

But since college students are over 18, they have the choice of opting out of the meningitis vaccine. "All you have to do is be informed," said Dr. Rachel Bergeson, Director of Stony Brook's student health services. New York state law requires that students sign a meningitis information response form. The three-page document outlines facts about the disease, and then students have the op-

*Many 18-year-olds continue to see the pediatrician who took care of them at age 8.*

tion of either getting a vaccination or signing the response form as a waiver.

"I have read, or explained to me, the information regarding meningococcal meningitis disease," says one of two

statements on the document. "I understand the risks of not receiving the vaccine. I have decided that I (my child) will not obtain immunization against meningococcal meningitis disease." Upon checking this opinion, students, with regards to meningitis, live in the dorms at their own risk.

"Risks increase for first year college students living in dorms," said Dr. Deborah Blog, medical director of the New York State Department of Health's Immunization program. Blog said that meningitis is spread by direct close contact, like sharing towels in a common bathroom or drinking from the same beer cup at a college party.

"I know it's really dangerous, especially in the dorm rooms," said Yina Chun, a 19-year-old sophomore who lives in H Quad. However, Chun chose not to get the vaccine, citing the cost of \$90 at the school's student health center.

"We only keep statistics on how many don't sign the form," said Bergeson. If the form is not signed and returned in time for enrollment, those students receive blocks on SOLAR and could possibly be unenrolled. Bergeson said 29 students were un-enrolled this semester, but the issue was not over the meningitis form. Instead, the students were removed because they did not receive the single vaccination that protects against measles, mumps and rubella. Unlike the voluntary meningitis shot, the MMR vaccination is required. The meningitis form became

mandatory in 2000.

"I didn't know [the meningitis vaccine] was optional," said Livy Knewstubb, a junior who lived in Roth Quad for two years. "They said I had to get it to live



A ten year old cello prodigy gets vaccinated.

in the dorms." In this case, "they" referred to both SUNY and Knewstubb's family physician.

Many 18-year-olds continue to see the pediatrician who took care of them at age 8. When these pediatricians give incoming freshman their mandatory yearly physical, a meningitis shot is commonly part of that routine. "Pediatricians, by their training, are very much into preventive medicine," said Dr.

Sharon Nachman, a pediatrician at Stony Brook university medical center. Nachman said that children commonly stay with their pediatrician until age 22. According to Bergeson, some pediatricians will give patient a meningitis vaccine as young as age 11, for children going to sleep away camp.

According to information released by the CDC, between 1,400 and 2,800 cases of meningococcal disease occur annually in the US, and 20 percent of cases occur among adolescents and young adults between ages 14 and 24. "Incidence has been declining in recent years and is actually at a historic low," said Arleen Pharr, a Public Affairs Specialist with the CDC. Nachman attributes this decrease to the proliferation of the meningitis vaccine, which was led by states like New York passing laws that mandate education about the disease.

However, as more parents opt out of vaccines because they object due to philosophical differences with the law, preschools have begun to see outbreaks of measles, mumps and rubella. Bergeson said the student health service does not record what box students check when they hand in their meningitis form, making it hard to track trends in voluntary inoculations.

In the past 25 years, Stony Brook has not had a case of meningitis "with or without the vaccine," said Bergeson. "I keep knocking on wood, saying 'keep it that way.' Because it's devastating when it happens."

## Tuition Benefits for New York Veterans

By Nick Eaton

On January 9, 2008 Eliot Spitzer announced his support of a bill that would extend full tuition benefits to New York veterans at his State of the State address. Citing the inadequacies of the current tuition benefit programs, Spitzer outlined a plan to provide substantial SUNY and CUNY aid for returning veterans.

Although Spitzer resigned, newly appointed Governor David Paterson continued to pursue the bill, backing it with \$2 million. Beginning on July 1, New York State veterans of the wars in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan will be entitled to full tuition benefits to any SUNY or CUNY school.

The current Veterans' Tuition Award provides only \$2,000 for full-time students and \$1,000 for part time. Governor Spitzer explained that such

awards were inadequate considering that "SUNY's 2007-08 resident undergraduate annual tuition rate is \$4,350;

*Beginning on July 1, New York State veterans of the wars in Vietnam, the Persian Gulf and Afganastan will be entitled to full tuition benefits to any SUNY or CUNY school.*

CUNY's is \$4,000." A progressive program, such as the one which has been included for the 2008-09 New York State budget, ensures appropriate cov-

erage for all returning New York veterans.

The Veteran's Affairs GI Bill has also come under scrutiny in light of recent changes. Previously, the GI Bill was a substantial and comprehensive care-package for deserving vets. The bill covered tuition, living costs and housing for all vets. In 1973, however, then president Reagan passed the Montgomery GI Bill, which was optional, flat and required a buy-in. Those who sign up must have their military pay reduced in order to receive benefits later. In essence, what was once a benefit provided by the government became a self-sustaining (and wholly inadequate) retirement program. Hopefully, New York State's commitment to reimbursing veterans for their service will stand as a precedent for the future.





## Editorial Board

**Executive Editor**  
James Laudano

**Managing Editor**  
Emma Kobolakis

**Associate Editor**  
Najib Aminy

**Business Manager**  
Katie Knowlton

**Production Manager**  
Jonathan Singer

**News Editors**  
Jake Conarck  
Laura Cooper

**Features Editor**  
Alex H. Nagler

**Arts Editor**  
Andrew Fraley

**Photo Editors**  
Tia Mansouri  
Roman Sheydvasser

**Copy Editors**  
Chris Mellides  
Cindy Liu  
Kelly Yu

**Webmaster**  
Chris Williams

**Audiomaster**  
J. Aaron Singer

**Ombudsman**  
Jowly Romano

**Minister of Archives**  
Jesse Schoepfer

**Layout Design by**  
Jowly Romano

## Staff

Kotell Aoki	Iris Lin
Shaun Bennett	Justin Meltzer
Matt Braunstein	Leeza Menon
J.C. Chan	James Messina
Doug Clon	Jamie Mignone
Whiskers T. Clown	Steve McLinden
Caroline D'Agati	Howie Newsborkman
Joe Donato	John O'Dell
Taurean Dyer	Chris Oliveri
Nick Eaton	Ben van Overmeire
Michael Felder	Grace Pak
Vincent Michael Festa	Rob Pearsall
Joe Filippazzo	Andrew Pernick
Amelia Fischer	Jon Pu
Jamie Freiermuth	Aamer Qureshi
Ilyssa Fuchs	Nirmala Ramsaran
Rob Gilheany	Kristine Renigen
David K. Ginn	Berta Rezik
Sam Goldman	Dave Robin
Joanna Goodman	Joe Safdia
Bryan Hasho	Natalie Schultz
Stephanie Hayes	Scott Silsbe
Marta Gyvel	Adina Silverbush
Mo Ibrahim	Rose Slupski
Andrew Jacob	Amberly Timperio
Elizabeth Kaplan	Lena Tumasyan
Olga Kaplun	Marcel Votlucka
Jack Katsman	Alex Walsh
Rebecca Kleinhaut	Brian Wasser
Bryan Lew	Matt Willemain
Antony Lin	

The *Stony Brook Press* is published fortnightly during the academic year and twice during summer session by *The Stony Brook Press*, a student run non-profit organization funded by the Student Activity Fee. The opinions expressed in letters, articles and viewpoints do not necessarily reflect those of *The Stony Brook Press* as a whole. Advertising policy does not necessarily reflect editorial policy. For more information on advertising and deadlines call (631) 632-6451. Staff meetings are held Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. First copy free. For additional copies contact the Business Manager.

**The Stony Brook Press**  
Suites 060 & 061  
Student Union  
SUNY at Stony Brook  
Stony Brook, NY 11794-3200  
(631) 632-6451 Voice  
(631) 632-4137 Fax  
Email: sbpressnews@gmail.com

## editorials

## Nothing Says "Election Season" Like USG Buffoonery!

For those of you who are up on your USG news, you're undoubtedly aware of the recent resignations of USG Vice President Nathan Shapiro and Vice President of Clubs and Organizations, Jeffery Akita. We say "undoubtedly aware" not without some sarcasm, since interest and participation in USG among the student body is nearly non-existent. However, the USG general elections are upon us once again, so here comes our take on the absurd power-struggles, unopposed candidacies and downright distant and detached demeanor that seems to plague our illustrious Undergraduate Student Government.

First, we have Nathan Shapiro. The embattled former USG Vice President resigned recently after the passing of the Executive Council Visibility Act. The act, which required the executive board of USG to spend three of their fifteen paid office hours working at the front desk, was vocally opposed by Mr. Shapiro. In terms of actual effect, the Act was designed to make executives more in touch and accessible to the student body: you know, the student body that elected them and which they represent. This, however, was not acceptable to Mr. Shapiro, who claimed the Act would prevent him from doing his actual job (what that job is, we don't even know anymore). Frankly, that is absurd. To even imply that meeting with the people who elected you would prevent you from doing the best possible job you can is not only foolish, but also downright offensive to the now regretful voters who put him in office.

Any outside viewer can see that Nathan's tenure has been an abject failure. By chaining himself to the now dead-and-buried USG Constitution – and its amended offspring – both of which failed by massive margins – he staked his "legacy" on the document's success. By barring non-students (at times, grad students) from speaking at meetings, he spat in the face of many people who make this university operate. Oftentimes, he would also end meetings prematurely in order to avoid discussing pressing matters during gallery speaking time. Does this sound like a responsible, or even mature, official?

Not only that, but he somehow managed to end his reign with only a few weeks left. With the actual passing of the Executive Council Visibility Act, Nathan, in an impulsive and irrational huff, resigned. Whether this was out of spite or pride or both, it simply serves as final punctuation on his failed term as USG Vice President.

This express train towards inanity now makes a stop to pick up Jeffrey Akita. We're sure most of you don't know Mr. Akita. He was the Vice President of Clubs and Organizations. The fact that you don't know him may very well be as much a condemnation of his term as anything else. He was to serve as liaison between USG and the various clubs on campus. We here at *The Stony Brook Press* had never met with him. He never came down to meet with us, and we are one of the larger groups on campus. He has been known to lie in order to cover his tracks and generally has

neglected his duties despite the fact that he is in one of the most important positions in the USG. As a result, the Senate moved to impeach him. Rather than face such a trial, Akita simply resigned, Richard Nixon style.

You may read this and say, "Well, that settles that. Akita's gone." Would that we could be so lucky, though. As it turns out, Akita is actually running for USG President next year! You'd think that resigning in disgrace would deter his ambition to head up our undergraduate student body, but nay! So, frankly, when you log into SOLAR this week to vote for the next officers of USG, stay away from Mr. Akita.

Most of the elections, as always, feature only one candidate. As a result, a sizeable chunk of the Senate is already decided days before the election. Due to a bureaucratic wall of hubris that would shock even President Kenny, we were unable to receive contact information for every candidate and were therefore unable to interview all of them for you. Chair of Elections Board, Kyle Grogan, claimed it would be "impossible" to give us a list of the candidate's names. Not only is this contrary to traditions of past USG elections, but also it is counter-productive to his ultimate duty of promoting the election. Of the ones we were able to contact, only three actually responded and decided to speak to you, the voters, through the media. Look for them throughout the issue and give them extra consideration during the election due to their cooperation and openness to speak to you.

## Vote Mandatory

Elections are the week of April 28th, and while there may be a variety of senatorial and executive candidates up for election, there is one substantially more important measure on the ballot this spring. The SUNY system demands that every two years, all state schools place a ballot measure on their student government elections that has become simply known as Mandatory-Optional.

Passed in 2004, it was the brainchild of the SUNY Board of Trustees in 2001. They decided that because the student activity fee process had not been reviewed since 1976, it was time to bring it into line with recent Court rulings and to help achieve further fiscal accountability.

What passed reads as follows:

"Prior to the close of the academic year 2004-2005 and every two years thereafter, the student body (or such components thereof as may be designated by the campus president or designee) at each state-operated campus

of the State University of New York shall determine by referendum whether student activity programs shall be supported by either voluntary or mandatory student fees. Such referendum (Appendix A – "Guidelines for the Conduct of the Referendum Under Policy of the Board of Trustees") shall be held on the same day as the annual elections for officers of the representative student organization or organizations (hereinafter referred to as "student government"). The determination resulting from each referendum shall remain in force for a period of two academic years, except that at any time and from time to time within such two year period a subsequent referendum held in accordance with the constitution and by-laws of the student government may affect a change in this determination with respect to the following academic year."

The student activity fee is the lifeblood of all clubs and organizations

on campus. Article III of the policy details exactly what sorts of organizations merit funding.

- Programs of cultural and educational enrichment;
- Recreational and social activities;
- Tutorial programs;
- Athletic programs, both intramural and intercollegiate;
- Student publications and other media;

f. Recognized student organizations including religious student organizations, for the purposes and activities of the organization that are of an educational, cultural, recreational or social nature; provided that the criteria for recognition of such student organizations, including, the criteria governing eligibility for funding of and allocations to such student organizations from student activity fees, shall be specified in the constitution and by-laws of the student government;



g. Insurance related to conduct of these programs;

h. Administration of these programs;

i. Transportation in support of these programs;

j. Student services to supplement or add to those provided by the University;

k. Remuneration and reimbursement of reasonable and necessary travel expenses in accordance with state guidelines to students for service to student government;

l. Campus-based scholarships, fellowships and grant programs, provided the funds are administered by the campus or a campus affiliated organization;

m. Payments for contractual serv-

ices provided by a nonprofit organization to the extent that such services are in aid of an approved student activity during the budget year and which activity serves the purposes set forth above and provided further that such payments may not be exclusively for the general corporate purposes of such organization;

n. Salaries for professional non-student employees of the student government to the extent that they are consistent with hiring practices and compensation rates of other campus-affiliated organizations; and

o. Charitable donations to a nonprofit organization; provided, however, that such donations may be funded only from the proceeds of a fundraiser held by a recognized student organization.

*The Press* falls under 3(e). We're not going to lie and say that we don't have a vested interest in this, but so do you. If you do anything on campus, the student activity fee pays for the event. If you attend a concert, go to a play, work out, or do pretty much anything else on campus, you use the student activity fee. To those who say this campus is dead now, making the student activity fee optional would turn it into a ghost town. Making the fee voluntary and allowing students to decide whether or not to pay the nearly \$100 portion of their tuition bill will kill this campus.

This USG election, it doesn't matter who you vote for. What does matter is that you vote Mandatory instead of Voluntary.

## letters

Dear SB Press,

The USG elections debates went on this past Wednesday during campus lifetime. And let me tell you, a great time was had by all...by all four people who weren't in the debates themselves that came to watch. So since you weren't there, I'm excited to have the pleasure of informing you what went on.

First off was the presidential debate. Candidates Jeffrey Akita and Leonard Wright both gave a synopsis of their past positions in USG. Akita cited his experience as freshman and sophomore class representative, and this past year's having been the VP of Clubs and Organizations prior to his recent resignation amidst rumors of impeachment. He went on further to say "I am the man with the plan. I am the man with the experience." Wright spoke of his duties as USG treasurer and his work helping start the student government at Southampton. Akita stressed that the government needs to gain back the respect of the students and be more transparent to the press on campus. Wright focused on accountability within the government itself, proposing weekly status reports from officers. Now, to the common student, these details might not matter, but having witnessed some of the things that have gone on in USG in the past two years, I'd say respect and accountability are two pretty important issues for the government to attempt improving.

After the presidential debate was the senatorial debate. All of the senators stressed communication with the students, fairness for budget grants to clubs, and some chose personal issues such as longer library hours and more tennis courts. It didn't take long before club budgets became the major issue of debate. Senators were asked how they felt about the viewpoint neutrality clause of the financial bylaws. Of course, the circumstance that was immediately brought up was "Should clubs like College Republicans be given a budget to bring people like Ann Coulter to campus?" Obviously there wasn't going to be a senator that supported bringing her to campus. However some of the senators, like the well spoken Kevin Brady, expressed the importance of viewpoint neutrality being applied to all clubs, even the unpopular Republicans. Others, such as Ibrahim Kwaja, spoke of his ability to view clubs without bias. He then proceeded to rant about how ridiculous it was that someone like Ann Coulter could be allowed on this campus. So it appears some of the senators have got the definition of neutral down, and others still need to consult a dictionary.

The VP and treasurer debates were last. And since the new constitution failed, and I still have the ability to vote for my vice presidents, I listened intently so I would know who I'd want to vote for. I'll tell you: Geeta Malieckal, Alan Suchecki, and Suhas Sreeharshan impressed me. I'm going to vote for all of them the moment the polls open on SOLAR. Though, seeing as they all are unopposed, they've got my vote regardless of their impression. Unless I choose to be bitter, and just don't vote. But I'm going to milk my enfranchisement for all its worth and check the "yes" box. On a serious note, I encourage you to check out the platforms of Donald Leveille and Juvanee Bedminster who are running for VP of Student Life. Apathy is well-known as a major issue on campus and the VP of Student Life is essential to combating that apathy.

With the idealistic notion of having inspired you to find out more about your USG, I remind you to vote on SOLAR next week! The polls are open Monday April 28 at noon; to Friday May 2, at noon.

-Allison Goldberg

Allison,

Thank you so much for shedding some light on some of the candidates and topics. The fact that many of them don't approach campus media to get their message out is troubling. Good luck in the College Republicans elections. We'd love to see a CR President who we actually have a good relationship with.

Alex Nagler



Request an ad packet:  
sbpressnews@gmail.com



# Profs Accuse Kenny of Failing Students:

## One Petition-Signer Shares His Concerns

By Matt Willemain

Why are dozens of Stony Brook professors planning to formally accuse University President Dr. Shirley Strum Kenny of "egregious mismanagement?"

Three hundred eighty-eight classes, scheduled for the fall semester by Stony Brook's College of Arts and Sciences, were temporarily cancelled—and then restored—just days before class registration began. This happened as Stony Brook reacted to rapidly changing information about how much money the New York State government would cut from the State University's budget (This story is reported in "Budget Cuts Spark Gloomy Rumors", an article by Andrew Fraley and Najib Amiry in the previous issue of *The Press*). For some members of the Arts and Sciences faculty, this brush with disaster pushed to the surface long simmering dissatisfaction with the spending priorities, and decision-making style, of the university's leadership.

The College of Arts and Sciences is one of several units in which Stony Brook's academic programs are divided. Some of these divisions focus on one area, like the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the College of Business and the School of Journalism. In contrast, the College of Arts and Sciences is the all-purpose "everything else" group, and it encompasses most of the university's academic programs.

Last week, *The Stony Brook Independent*, followed shortly by *Newsday*, reported that a petition had begun to circulate among the faculty, voicing "no confidence" in Dr. Kenny, and accusing her administration of neglecting the school's main purpose, teaching undergraduates. The petition has already collected over one hundred signatures. After they have a chance to engage their peers and collect more signatures (a delay of possibly two weeks), organizers intend to deliver it to the president. Speaking to *Newsday* on behalf of Dr. Kenny, an administration representative said that the president would not respond to the criticism until it is actually delivered.

The petition was written and circulated by a voluntary grouping of professors called the Concerned Faculty of Stony Brook, who chose to act independently, outside of both their labor union and the University Senate—a campus governance body similar to the faculty senates of most universities (traditionally, a faculty senate would be the formal avenue for professors to en-

gage the decision-making process at a university).

Herman Lebovics, a veteran Professor of History, was one of the first to sign the petition, and he spoke at length to *The Press* to elaborate on the criticism it expresses. Describing the motivation of the petition organizers, Lebovics drew an analogy between recent campus events and New York City history. He invoked the memory of the 1973 collapse of a section of the then-elevated West Side Highway, when a cement truck "fell through, and this caused a crisis. The highway wasn't sound—it was a disaster—and they had to tear it down." According to Lebovics, the revelation that the university was on the brink of cancelling nearly 400 classes "was the same kind of event. It revealed to us that the structure was very damaged."

The petition is available, in full, online at [www.petitiononline.com/cfsb](http://www.petitiononline.com/cfsb). It begins by "expressing loss of confidence in the academic leadership of President Kenny," and continues by listing problems related to "chronic and damaging under-funding of the academic sector" and the consequences of those problems for students and undergraduate education. Among the problems cited are failures to increase the number of full time teachers and classrooms, while

the number of students has risen drastically. Among the consequences listed is the inability of students to get into the courses they need to graduate and limited individual attention available to students from the dwindling proportion of professors.

The professors who signed the petition seem to be upset about three facets of Dr. Kenny's leadership. First, they feel that the president's choices of how to distribute money reflect poor prioritizing—that she neglects what should be the university's main concern, undergraduate education. Second, they feel that the president makes decisions in a secretive, authoritarian and thoughtless fashion. Third, they feel that the president is more concerned with the way the university is perceived than its substantive work preparing students for professional life or other endeavors. Lebovics summarized his complaints saying, "The school is being diminished. The plan is to diminish it even more, and make up for that by buying ads in the *New York Times*."

According to Lebovics, the Concerned Faculty of Stony Brook formed to express these concerns because "Faculty governance—the [University Senate] is kind of broken." Lebovics feels that the usefulness of the University Senate varies as different individuals

within it take and leave positions. Bernard Lane, current president of the University Senate (a body which is intended to represent the faculty on campus) was quoted in *Newsday* dismissing the criticism of those who signed the petition. Lane said to *Newsday*, "I've thought that [Dr. Kenny] is doing a good job." Lebovics thinks that this "is not the sentiment of the faculty." Lebovics said of Lane, while allowing that he was not familiar with the senate president, "I don't know what he's talking about...I hope it's obvious to you, as undergraduates, that things are not great."

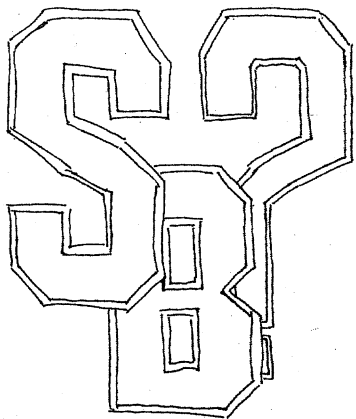
After delivering the petition, Lebovics says that "the plan is to meet with the president, which is normally hard to do because she isolates herself, and then perhaps continue the conversation with people to whom the president reports—Albany."

Some of the professors who have signed the petition have tenure and some do not. Many of those whose jobs at Stony Brook aren't as secure have chosen to "sign" anonymously. When asked if he was concerned that supporters of the president's leadership might try to diminish the impact of the petition by questioning the legitimacy of the unnamed signers, Lebovics acknowledged that possibility. But he fo-





cused on the reasons behind the decisions to remain anonymous. "It means they are scared. The unpredictability about how this campus is run makes them nervous about what's going to happen to them for opposing a president who is quite capricious." He continued, describing the non-tenured faculty who signed as "very disturbed about the future of the institution that they made a commitment to—they risk a lot. I don't blame them. I told some people not to put their names on it because they are in delicate positions... That is not how a university should be run."



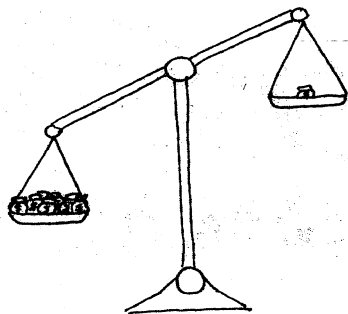
Asked if he knew of studies that measure the impact of class size on learning, Lebovics spoke instead about his own personal experience, and maintained that "you don't have to be a brain surgeon" to know that classes where students can interact with their professors in discussion and carefully reviewed papers provide a better education. He said, "I used to teach cultural history to about 50 students; it's now over 100. I've been trying to puzzle over how I can give papers—how it's anything other than a performance." Lebovics was confident that the reduction in academic budgets was hurting students. "I know that the quality of their education is being diminished. I know the students are having trouble fulfilling DEC requirements because they can't get into our classes. I know that the faculty to student ratio has been bad."

The ratio of faculty to students on campus is a sore point for critics because a dispute between the Concerned Faculty and the Administration about the exact figure underscores the problems they have, not only with university leadership's decisions, but also with the way those decisions are made. The petition signers have estimated that over the past ten years (the majority of Dr. Kenny's tenure as president), the faculty student ratio has worsened from 23:1 to 34:1. The administration says this number is incorrect—but they will neither say what they believe the number is, nor publicly release the information needed to calculate it definitely.

Lebovics' practical concerns about the opportunities afforded to students continued. As the increase in the number of students reduces the amount of

time professors have to dedicate to each, he said that the students "can't get letters of reference; they don't know the faculty...this is screwing them up for future studies. The faculty members who are writing recommendations are writing many letters. It is burdensome and there are glitches—the letters go awry." He is especially concerned about class sizes for juniors and seniors. Traditionally, upper-division classes stress more individual attention on the student, as compared to large introductory lecture classes. Lebovics says that Stony Brook doesn't compare to other, similar, universities in this regard.

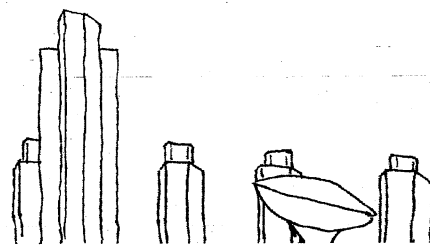
The petition claims Stony Brook has suffered "a loss of faculty morale and a disturbing flight of top faculty to well-run universities." Asked to substantiate this complaint, Lebovics said, "I won't give you names, but I know three or four people who were good, who I respected a lot, who were courted by other campuses—offered not just pay but working conditions and funds for supporting their research. None of this was matched very well by Stony Brook. Stony Brook is not keeping up in a very good faculty market." He said that scholars see Stony Brook as "not a good or safe place... The general atmosphere that the president has created is that this not a place of academic activity, this is a branch of an advertising agency." He said that existing and potential professors expect they will not find fulfillment as teachers and scholars at Stony Brook.



Anthropology professor Pat Wright told *Newsday* that it was a mistake to blame President Kenny, as opposed to New York State politicians in Albany who fund the university from the state budget. When asked if it was fair to blame Dr. Kenny, Lebovics acknowledged that there were some limits on how she could redistribute funds saying, "This is a really difficult technical question. The State University [bureaucracy] is very restrictive... Yes, if they request money to increase sports facilities, that money couldn't be used" for professors, classrooms and library books.

But he insisted that the president has enough flexibility that she should be held responsible. "The president has centralized what discretionary money there is, in her hands. Therefore, she

has to take responsibility for the way it is disbursed." He cited the fluidity of funds from scientific research and the president's ability to make specific budget requests as some of the tools available to Dr. Kenny to direct resources to different projects. Highlighting the president's recent request for money for a new, multimillion dollar athletic facility, Lebovics said "I don't know of any large budget requests for classrooms."



"I've been here for 40 years—Albany is not always the culprit. Some bad decisions have been made locally," he said, comparing Stony Brook's academic spending unfavorably with other schools in the SUNY system and citing decisions to indulge in side projects, like campus beautification and the potential Gyrodine monorail, at the expense of teaching. "We did not need a 'stony brook'—the little cement river" between the Administration Building and the music wing of the Staller Center for the Arts.

Ultimately, Lebovics disagrees with Wright's assessment that state leaders in Albany are to blame. "We're obliged to manage, here," he said, "and I think the priorities of the president are unexamined, not well thought out and profoundly damaging to our main mission in Arts and Sciences to present an education to [undergraduates]."

Lebovics disagrees not only with the decisions the president has made, but how she has made them. He feels that tradition has been broken and the faculty have been cut out of the process. "When a campus is run in this secretive, authoritarian fashion, the faculty has to guess what's going on," said Lebovics, "There are no planning documents about the big things."

Lebovics illustrated this point about exclusionary decision making with an anecdote: he said that an unspecified senior scholar tried to figure out what went into the planning for the dramatic increase in undergraduate enrollment. After a great deal of effort to bypass administration stonewalling, he was eventually told that there was no planning. "That's the way the campus is run," said Lebovics, "There are no documents that we share with them [as a basis for consideration when the faculty and administration discuss the university's future], which is very unusual and authoritar-

ian."

He contrasts this current practice with academic convention and the history of Stony Brook, specifically citing the presidency of Dr. John Marburger III. Marburger is the former Stony Brook president who now serves as Science Advisor to George Bush. Under Marburger, says Lebovics, "we were given tons of information, and that doesn't happen now. We learn about [the university's direction] from reading newspapers... *Newsday*, the *New York Times*, even the *Port Jefferson Times Record*."

When asked if it was appropriate to temporarily neglect new faculty hires to pursue major expansion initiatives (such as the purchase of the Gyrodine facility, Southampton College and Touro Law School) because they represented unique opportunities for Stony Brook, Lebovics replied, "You don't buy vacant houses and let them get destroyed. There was no budget for Southampton. Many buildings there have asbestos problems, and there's no budget. Many of the people running it are depressed and will leave their post." Lebovics says he has no problem with these and other expansion projects considered individually. "It's good that we own stuff—I have no problem with that—and we're giving her the benefit of the doubt... But then we realized the price of that—the cost of that—the postponement of preexisting obligations and the centering of money into everything, but our core mission."

"This happened to Antioch College," warned Lebovics, referring to the 156-year-old school in Ohio which shut down earlier this year, "They started creating satellite campuses everywhere and eventually the whole college went bankrupt, even though the satellites made money."

Lebovics shared his opinion of Dr. Kenny's judgment: "The decisions have not been made well, thoughtfully, intelligently or usefully for the mission of training people to go out into the world... That's what a manager does. He or she decides what are the priorities—and decides what is possible and not possible. In this case, Dr. Kenny decides how we keep the mission of the university while we take advantage of windfalls. These have not been wise decisions—they have not been planned—they have not been made on the basis of consultation with faculty members—they are going to turn around and bite us on the behind."

"My sense, and the sense of my colleagues, is that the university is being run by press release," Lebovics concluded.



—Jon Singer

# Looks Like It's Duck Racing Season

By Kelly Yu

For a school that prides itself on being "Red Hot," Stony Brook could not have picked a hotter day for Earthstock 2008. Booths lined the walkways from the SAC to the fountain in front of the Administration Building. The most eclectic of them all was a lonely stand in front of the descending fountain next to the stage. It was the Student Life Council booth, which drew a crowd at 2:30 pm where they hosted the Rubber Duck Race down "stony brook."

At 2:30, Dr. Susan DiMonda, Associate Dean and Director of Student Life, lifted barrier between hundreds of red rubber ducks and freedom. People surrounded the fountain as hundreds of ducks waddled backwards, forwards, and even upside down to the finish line. There was a clear winner at the end when Dr. DiMonda fished out number 185, better known as Duck Duck. Duck Duck's proud owner, Jessica Fareri, called this victory an "extension of [last night's] Spirit Night win" for Roth

Quad. As the winner, Duck Duck received a backpack filled with goodies such as a \$30 gift certificate to the Seawolves Marketplace. Who knew rubber ducks liked coffee and linzer tarts too? It was a sad sight after the winner was crowned, as many of the rubber ducks didn't even pass the finish line. The brook was lined with red rubber floating sadly without direction. But nobody cared. All they wanted was their rubber duck, as did this reporter, who named her duck Kingsley II as well as *Stony Brook Press* Associate Editor, Alex Nagler, who appropriately named his Nagles. Neither had a chance against Duck Duck.

Throughout the week prior to Earthstock, the Student Life Council was advertising adoption of these red rubber ducks. The ducks went for a dollar each adoption came with a slip signifying the owner and number of the duck. There was no limit to the number of ducks a person could adopt because all the money donated would fund student events such as the drive-in movie Transformers event and other campus recreations. By Friday, the Student Life

Council had a little over 500 rubber ducks donated. By the beginning of the race, about 1000 ducks were sent swimming towards the Wang Center.

The first rubber duck race was supposed to premier at an event called "Salute to Stony Brook" on September 11, 2001. However, for obvious reasons, the event was cancelled and the first race was rescheduled for next semester. For the first race, anyone could adopt a yellow rubber duck, free of charge. Last year was the first year the Student Life Council had a booth at Earthstock and decided to re-introduce the rubber duck races because of their popularity in 2002. For this year, the SLC decided to go with red ducks to represent the "Red Hot" campus. When asked what set the duck race apart from the other Earthstock events, Dr. DiMonda responded, "It's fun and different. It's unique." It shows the quirky side of

being a part of an environmentally-conscious school.

According to their website, the Student Life Council not only advocates for students, but tries to get students more involved by sponsoring activities, giving information about scholarships, participating in trips like Mets games, and other fun, rewarding events. "There's lots to do on campus," says sophomore Daniel Deland, "Sports, clubs, intramurals. There's lots of stuff online, you just need to know where to look." One of those places is through the SCL listserve. Dr. DiMonda tries to get the word out to students about all these events and awards through the listserve. Anyone can sign up for the information on the SLC website. With all this and other events available on campus, no student should ever say, "There is nothing to do at Stony Brook."

## She Blinded Me With Science!

By Andrew Jacob

Unbeknownst to many undergraduate students on campus, professors from various fields of the sciences visit this University almost every day to discuss their research findings and current work. Usually, these events are attended by graduate students and professors searching for free coffee and a bit of news regarding the scientific community. Although the discussions may be a bit out of the realm of undergraduate learning, they are still insightful for students who wish to pursue a career in research or who are currently doing research of their own.

On April 16<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Neil Shubin visited Stony Brook for one of these events sponsored by the Department of Ecology and Evolution to discuss his research on the evolution of limb development and its molecular mechanisms. Professor Shubin is probably best known for his discovery of a 375 million year old fossil of an animal named *Tiktaalik roseae*. This "fishapod", as it is called, is often considered a "missing link" between lobe-finned ancient fish and tetrapods, which evolved to walk on land. *Tiktaalik* had many characteristics of both a water-dwelling fish and an animal that walked on land. It had very limb-like fins, a neck, and even a shoulder. "Essentially, *Tiktaalik*

was a fish that could do push-ups", proclaimed Shubin. He and his team discovered *Tiktaalik* in the far north of Canada in 2004. "It was at a site that hadn't been excavated yet," Shubin explained. Now, four years later, Shubin and his team are still unlocking the secrets of *Tiktaalik* and the fish-to-land transition. "We're working on the skull of *Tiktaalik*, the braincase, the interior of the skull. We're trying to find out how it would feed and other questions. We're preparing now for another field expedition in July," he explained.

Professor Shubin also went on to discuss his research on the genetic pathways of limb development. In his lab, he and a team of graduate students have researched the Sonic Hedgehog gene, which controls the directionality of limb development in embryos that can be traced back along the evolutionary lineage all the way to the fins of fish and beyond. "For me, the power is using both techniques to answer questions. That's the power of evolutionary biology. It's not just fossils or just genes, it's both," the professor went on to explain.

Despite the continued research in the field of molecular biology, Professor Shubin believes that science is still far from a "Jurassic Park" type scenario. However, he did state that, "I've learned never to say never in science. If you can think it, it can be made possible." I guess we'll just have to continue to keep our fingers crossed.



## USG Resignations A-Go-Go

By Jon Singer

Along with Nathan Shapiro's resignation from the post of executive vice president, Jeffrey Akita, vice president of clubs and organizations, has also left his post. If Akita's name sounds unfamiliar, it would be because many clubs and organizations feel as if Akita has done next to nothing during his period of service.

Speaking at the April 24 USG senate meeting, Navneet Singh, president of Stony Brook's ballroom dance team, said "there's never been a vice president of clubs that has done anything for clubs." However, some senators are wondering whether or not it is worth impeaching Akita, since he has already resigned.

Recent USG senate meetings have been brief. The last two have not gone

over the length of one half hour. However, the meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> promises to go to its two-hour time limit, as the senate will review the USG's budget.

Before he resigned, Shapiro, according to members of the USG senate, wanted to collect USG laws into a "USG code," which would include virtually everything that has ever been passed by the USG. While this project may be met with debate farom members of the USG, it was suggested that the code would consist of public documents that students worked hard to allow everyone to see.

The recent wave of resignations leaves some students wondering if a USG administration can stay intact for an entire year. Upperclassmen remember last year's scandal involving the impeachment of former president Romual Jean Baptist. With elections underway as this issue goes to print, students may see a historic election turnout.



So why did Kazakhstan change its capital, anyway?

## If Stony Brook Is Ever Attacked by Storm Troopers, We'll Be Safe

By Alex H. Nagler

In the wake of the disorganization seen on campus after the alleged Pizza Gunman, Stony Brook University has spent money to develop a siren alert system to be used in case of any emergency. This system had its first test run on a Saturday morning, April 26 at 11:45 am. Signs were posted for the duration of the week, informing the student body that this test would occur and that they would not be roused out of their sleep by any alien invaders intent on destroying man, having gotten lost on their way to the Empire State Building.

When 11:45 finally rolled around, the alarm sounded. Normally, alarms are fierce beasts whose job it is to inform those listening that something is afoot. They normally ring out proudly, declaring their intent, and sometimes force people to damper their ears out of possible pain. This alarm system, not so much. Despite the fact the university's website declares "the siren tone is separate and distinct from that of local fire departments," it differs in the fact that it's lame and fire engine sirens are cool.

The sole time this alarm would ever come in handy would be if the campus were to ever be attacked by Storm Troopers under the command of Darth Vader. Then, the siren would fit right in. The once-puny wail would become the rallying cry for the Ewoks that inhabit the forest between Psych A and Psych B. There is a reason those building have



automatic door locks, after all. The Ewoks would certainly rally behind the noise of the siren, reminiscent of their war drums from Endor, and take on whatever Imperial foe has attacked their adopted home.

Meanwhile, President Kenny would be revealed to be none other than the dark Sith master, Darth Shirlius, bent on taking over the University Senate and appropriating even more money to

sports and recreational projects. Operating from her fortress within the bowels of LaValle Stadium, the Ewoks would have to steal some of the land speeders the Storm troopers were using to monitor the academic mall.

While the Ewoks would eventually vanquish the Dark Lord Shirlius and her disciple, Darth Little, the University would like to take this time to remind all readers of the SOS system. In case of

a situation in which the alarm is sounded, the following three steps should be taken:

**S SCREAM** Everybody panic. If it isn't ICON weekend, any storm troopers present could be something other than pathetic virgins cosplaying. Natural disasters are reasons to scream too. So are gunmen, pizza theft, and ice cream.

**O OBFUSCATE.** Nothing in this university is ever explained clearly as it is. Why not take the time to make things worse than they already are and deliberately state false information to your friends? The more malicious, the better!

**S STOP, HAMMER TIME.** You can't touch this.

Only when you hear the all-clear sign should you stop dancing. Until then, keep listening for that siren. You never know when the Jawas will strike.

*Alex H. Nagler is being chased by constables with sticks, which is the other thing that siren sounds like.*

## Chartwell's: One More Year

By Andrew Fraley

With the University's beverage contract up at the end of the semester, and the food service contract set to end at the end of this year, Stony Brook was looking at some major changes. Recently, however, the food service contract has been extended by a year, to June 2009.

Chartwell's is the current food service provider on campus, and has been for the past ten years. Chartwell's is a subsidiary of Compass Group, a multinational corporation based in the UK, and controls every cafeteria on the west campus except for Jasmine's in the

Wang Center. The contract, which was supposed to expire at the end of this year, by the end of June, has been extended by a year to allow the Bid Selection Committee more time to do a thorough analysis of a potential change to the meal plan on campus.

The change in the meal plan involves a possible new system of unlimited access, with an initial card swipe in the beginning. This proposed system is similar to the brunches at Kelly and Benedict Dining Halls on the weekend, in that a set beginning price would allow meal plan users all-you-can-eat while they were in the cafeteria. The year extension was given so that the Bid Selection Committee, comprised of members of the Faculty Student Association (FSA), administration, student government and faculty, could deter-

mine the feasibility of this new system at each cafeteria. For example, the SAC will remain the full a la carte selection that it currently is due to the large number of faculty and commuter student traffic, but cafeterias like The Union Commons and Kelly Dining Hall could be converted to the new system with changes and renovations. The Bid Selection Committee has also discussed renovating Kelly Dining Hall, to accommodate for more seating and other necessary changes.

The new deadline for the bid, which will be determined later, will fall in the range of November to early December. Expected bidders include Sodexo, ARAMARK, Lackmann and Chartwell's again.





# Election Statements

## Kevin Brady, Candidate for Senator

As a transfer from Emerson College in Downtown Boston, where "glee" was never in short supply, the lack of "happiness," to put it mildly, was palpable immediately upon my arrival here at Stony Brook. First off, let me just toot my own horn by citing two points of why I think I am uniquely qualified to address this sociological drought gripping campus:

A) The serious reasoning: I have never been one to let sleeping dogs lie. When I find myself in a situation where I am not getting what I want or a need is clearly not being met, I set about fixing. In just over a month of my arrival on campus I was working with a fellow transfer to form what has now become officially recognized as Stony Brook Pre-Law (SBPL). The group has sought to address the lack of resources brought to aid UG students interested in attending law school or pursuing law-related fields and pressure the university through interpersonal working relationships to step up its game (which it has evidently begun to) by providing more institutional support to these under-served students. Though the process was difficult in terms of organization and jumping through bureaucratic hoops to establish official Student Activities' blessing, when you helped form your school district's first Gay-Straight Alliance in your sophomore and junior years at Levittown's Division Avenue HS and graduated as its two-term president (with the group now the largest GSA on the Island), gumption is never in short supply. Which brings me to my more humorous point:

B) What could be better for the admitted drabness of Stony Brook U. than a little Queer rainbow coloring in the USG!?

In all seriousness, some specific policy points I have synthesized by talking over issues of concern to students while collecting signatures and campaigning would address these types of "bigger picture" concerns. However, what many fail to realize is that due to the very nature of cultural and institutional problems, the responses include utilizing not only the legislative, so-called "purse strings" role of a senator but also the organizational and soft-power position of the office to active, positive results.

Housing and infrastructure would ABSOLUTELY be places to get to work right away:

Parking is a critical resource on campus. This is due to many reasons, but mainly, not enough students feeling comfortable taking LIRR as could con-

ceivably be possible, natural human tendency towards independent means of travel (i.e. autos), and too many students who live on campus (myself included) having cars with them that they could really do without but fear being trapped on campus like so many of their fellow residents.

One option is Zip cars, as recently instituted in the University of New Mexico system, Rutgers, UMass Boston, Golden Gate State, and the University of Chicago, all large publically-funded schools who, like SBU, face unique problems from having both large residential populations and significant numbers of commuters. Of course details must be decided on specifically in negotiations between the company, school, and state, but subsidization of the program as a means to help both transportation communities, not to mention on-site staff and faculty, would ease traffic, promote a further sense of "togetherness" (not to get mushy) that SBU's ex-urban/suburban community lacks, and environmentally lowers the carbon footprint of the school and each of its using students by many-fold. This type of program requires both public advocacy, funding allotments, in-committee work amongst the legislature, and inter-organizational activities.

Building momentum and organization while stirring the money pot is also an approach needed with regard to the rails. Many commuters are turned-off to taking the LIRR to campus despite its relative availability where they live, or, worse, they utilize the service and are punished for doing their part to aid us all, because the trains arrival times at Stony Brook so greatly diverge from convenience to class schedules. Now, this sounds like one of those pie-in-the-sky promises or ideas that politicians drum up on universities to take advantages of a legitimate student concern, like vowing to lower food prices that one has no direct control over and limited if any availability to influence. Nevertheless, the discussion is worth having. It would be hard enough to change the train schedules, which involves so many more people and institutions beyond our mere spot of turf in Brookhaven Town, but the university does set the relative times that classes start and stop. Windows exist to hold classes at 9:50AM, 2:20PM, etc. These are certainly not times chosen merely by professors for their own convenience. Establishing an inter-departmental working group to aid commuters and, most of all, faculty to work on re-organizing and taking into account train schedules, even if merely in the form of helpful reminders and memos sent out at schedule/bulletin-setting time could make an impact in making

life a bit easier ("Think of the commuters" as a local modern spin on Abigail Adams' own advice to her revolutionary husband John). In these situations I recall the woman, fellow classmate of mine from Huntington, who has to come to campus 2 hours early rather than take the latter train, which brings her into campus ten minutes late to her first morning class. Yes, train schedules do change throughout the year, but semesters do have changes for a reason, and besides, times do not shift so radically as to make any effort unworthy of the attempt.

The same multi-disciplinary, incentive-driven approach would be needed to address aesthetic problems. As proud as I am to attend SBU, the visual field of a person walking on campus is too often filled with one overwhelming quality: ugliness. Public institution or not, science-heavy school or not, their



USG Senate Candidate Kevin Brady

is no excuse for this, or for not enlisting the clearly talented student body by awarding group and individual commission work to beautify quads, academic buildings, and open spaces with murals and various forms of artistic structures. I am reminded of the balcony of Stony Brook Pre-Law president Al Sand's suite. When visiting my friend the other day, amongst the drab-despite-Spring sights of Kelly Quad's inner canyons, I noticed the concrete of the balcony overhanging his own. Chalked and stenciled in blue, white, and pastels, it's a vision of something unique and colorful rendered by one of Al's suitemates who enjoys his artistic expression. Al's suitemate is not the only talented individual ready to share his expressive need with the community - I have seen too many bored students in class doodling in their notebooks to say otherwise with a straight face.

And speaking of "straight" and housing, the greatest, most overwhelming positive response I have received while campaigning has been my support for the Stony Brook LGBTAs proposal to alter housing policy, as schools such as Wesleyan, Oregon State, Clark, and UPenn already have, to allow for mixed-gender housing. A compromise of reforming the process for at least suites and apartments as a trial-run could even be proposed through supportive resolutions and inter-organizational pressure. My greatest concern in this school's current policy is in taking care of and making felt welcome gay male (and in some cases female) students who often are in the position of having friends they would just love to reside with, but unfortunately they lack the same genitals. This arcane policy leaves these students, as well as their heterosexual counterparts who may be in the same position, in the least out of the loop and less likely to enjoy and thrive in their dormitory. At most, gay and lesbian students in particular, not to mention the awkwardness placed upon the few transgender and intersex students, face the fear of, if not the outright experience of social coldness, isolation, and harassment by their fellow residences or roommates when they could be living much happier, more supported lives. All students would benefit from and could take part in a reformed, gender-blind housing program.

Of course, because the current model is "traditional," no one would be forced to reside with or surprised with a roommate or suitemates of a different sex. The expressed consent of all involved in the shared space, be they two in a corridor double or 6 in a West Apt. suite, would be required in all circumstances, either by forming a group themselves or consenting to be placed in random mixed-gender-potential assignments. This would not only promote interactivity and promote new social relationships both on campus at-large but in dorms in particular, but be a statement of personal student responsibility. After all, if the students seeking to live in a location all meet the requirements of housing and/or that community in which they seek to reside, what business is it of the school's what kind of people are living together?

Critics may argue that couples should not be allowed to live together, or that sexual violence issues could occur, but we already have mixed-gender corridors without any Catholic-school style doors awaiting the keys of nuns. Plenty of best friends of the same sex seek to live together and end up hating each other by the end of a semester

Elections continued on next page



Because she locked herself in a supermarket and thought it was a refund.

### Elections continued from previous page

because of their arrangement. If a couple was in the same predicament, it is their responsibility and their issue, just as two females or two males would face. Additionally, such policies as gender-separation both: 1. fail to understand

the "modern" ability for people of varying sexes to be friends or seek to live with one another and not have a sexual or nefarious motive beyond socialization and friendship and 2. not only fail to encourage on-campus relationships, which would reduce commuting off of

campus on weekends and stimulate more campus community, but discriminates against couples unable to or not ready to be married and live in "marital ghetto" housing.

I hope some of these ideas and proposals address your both personal con-

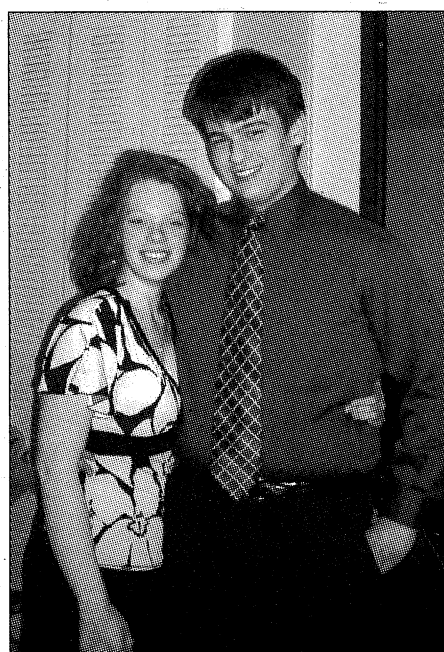
cerns and journalistic duty to speak for the community. I am always looking for debate, critiques, and questions and comments. Again, if you have any issue or concern or question, feel free to call or e-mail me again.

### Kathleen Schultz, Candidate for Senator

I want to specifically address why Stony Brook is considered the "Least Happy School." I believe that a myriad of factors affect this mindset, including but not all, the lack of parking, high food prices, huge classes, difficult classes, lack of hot water, etc. However, I would like to point out that none of these factors are under USG control.

My focus would be on improving the efficiency of approving and providing budgets for the clubs. I know of clubs that are not receiving the right amount or any amount at all of funding for their events and socials, and I would like to remedy that by fairly allocating the Students Activities Fee.

I want to also promote and advertise more USG funded activities, such as dances, concerts, competitions, aside



John Kriscenski and Kathleen Schultz

from the traditional Strawberry Fest and the Roth Regatta that occurs every year. By promoting more activities and forms of entertainment during times of stress and quiet, such as during finals week, on weekends or throughout the winter, students have a wider range of functions to take part in.

Keeping in contact with and working directly with the clubs is a main focus of my campaign. Aside from determining the budgets of the clubs, I hope to promote the major events that each club puts on in order to encourage a greater turnout and interest in the types of organizations on campus. By communicating effectively through whatever means possible, such as attending club meetings, setting up discussion times or communicating via email, I hope to become intricately involved in the way clubs and organizations receive funding and promote their activities. I believe it is vitally important

for clubs to have full access to information regarding their funds and legislative infrastructure.

As a new Senator, my goal is to expand the visibility of the Senate and their operations, to make the students aware of the source of club funding and use of the Student Activities Fee. Constant updates via email, posters and oral messages is key to distributing pertinent information to everyone. The only way to increase the level of involvement on campus is to be the face and name that people will recognize and understand to be an honest, hardworking and involved Senator. I hope to be that Senator, and appreciate all votes on Solar for the week of April 28 - May 2.

Please consider voting for John Kriscenski as well, as he is an independent Senator hoping to improve the USG Senate.

### John Kriscenski, Senator

I believe many students are unhappy at Stony Brook because they are sick of the people responsible for their education, their housing, their parking and overall well being on campus not living up to all of their expectations and needs. This leads to frustration and overall unhappiness. The USG is responsible for some of the needs of students on campus, especially by providing funding for clubs and events. If the USG improved the allocation process, it would help alleviate the frustration of students towards the USG and make them happier overall.

Next year I want to make sure that the student activity fee is allocated fairly and without bias and to ensure that clubs get the funding they really need to

benefit all students on campus. Every year, you and every other undergraduate student pay a fee of nearly \$200 to support student activities. This account is managed and dispersed by the Undergraduate Student Government, and amounts to nearly \$2.7 million dollars each year. I firmly believe that every Senator should be responsible for working on the fair allocation of this fee to clubs on campus in some way on the budget committee. A select few should not be responsible for distribution of the student activity fee and every Senator should serve on the Senate Budget committee or a sub-committee as the current USG Constitution specifies - and which is not currently being enforced.

Over the last year I have worked hard to represent students and clubs on campus in the Senate. I have attended every Senate meeting and held office

hours every week. I have made it a priority to promote awareness of USG to students on campus and to review past, as well as current legislation brought before the USG Senate. **Recognizing that the proposal to make students pay for 15% of off campus trips would put an unfair burden on students on campus (especially our sports teams), I have consistently opposed it in the Senate and will continue to advocate against it.**

Additionally, I have recognized that there is a significant lack of communication between students and the USG. My communication with club leaders on campus has found that most club members have no idea what the USG is, and many club leaders are disillusioned with the USG because they feel excluded from "the loop," especially in matters in which USG policy affects their club. This is especially apparent when discussing USG funding. In

recognition of these shortcomings of the USG, I have committed most of my efforts to reaching out to clubs as best I can and improving the communication between the Senate and clubs, especially when it pertains to budgetary matters. I will continue these initiatives in the Senate next fall and look forward to communicating more with club leaders and students on campus.

Most importantly though, I want to represent you - and the only way I can is if I know how you think your undergraduate student government can improve and better serve you. I encourage you to join my Facebook Group "John Kriscenski is my USG Senator" so we can talk about the issues. Also, please elect Kathleen Schultz to the USG Senate, both of us are Independent Senators for change and would like to earn your vote.

### A Message From The Stony Brook Press

The question proposed by *The Press* this year:

"We're not going to be able to do an election issue due to the fact that it just wouldn't be timely to produce and place one, but if you could, please answer this one question:

Stony Brook holds the dubious

honor of being the Least Happy school in the country. How would you fix this? Use specifics where available.

If I get a good number of responses back, I'll do a "The Candidate Sez" spread and it'll hopefully be on stands Wednesday."

Requested Question But Did Not Answer:

Adam Kent

Jonathan Harounian

Donalda Leville  
Requested Questions And Responded:

Kevin Brady

John Kriscenski

Kathleen Schultz

Responded, but too late for production:

Ibrahim Khwaja

We would like to take this time to apologize for the lack of a full feature

this year. Normally we are given a list of names for all the candidates running for each position. This year, however, something changed, and we were not given this list. Instead, candidates were simply encouraged to email us.

Obviously, this led to the small response we had this year.

We apologize and ask you to note which candidates responded to our question when you vote.



# Club Spotlight: Solar Splash

By Laura Cooper

Two dust-coated trophies stand behind a glass case outside the School of Engineering Office. Hundreds of undergraduate students pass these golden statues everyday, looking for guidance from their advisors and for programs in engineering that will further their eventual careers. These statuettes belong to the 1998-99 Solar Splash team for its "Rookie Achievement."

The past honored Solar Splash team has long since moved on its students have graduated, and its advisor has left. Up until last year, the boat they constructed and raced in the 1999 competition sat alone, deteriorating in the basement of the Heavy-Engineering building.

But in early 2007, a group of senior undergraduate mechanical engineering students resurrected the twelve-by-four foot, one person boat as part of their senior design project. The boat is now the center of a newly revitalized Solar Splash program and has completed a successful test sail across Roth Pond.

Professor Yu Zhao, a mechanical engineer, saw the short video of the craft crossing the garbage-filled pond. From this, Zhao saw a newfound potential for a program that had gotten lost in the shuffle of engineering projects, including robotics and the better known "Baja Car."

Professor Zhao, the team's faculty advisor, said that last year's team didn't get the chance to compete in the national competition because of "the lack of money and state of the boat."

The team needs manpower, along with money. Funds for other such ex-

tracurricular projects are already widely distributed and hard to come by in the engineering department.

"Right now, we're currently seeking corporate sponsorship," said Zhao. "Nothing is easy from the very beginning. We're reaching out to contacts." The boat, which needs to be revamped every year, constantly requires funds to provide for building materials, especially if the team plans to compete.

Solar Splash a nationwide competition. The Engineering Departments of a wide range of universities, including Carnegie Mellon University, The College of New Jersey and the Milwaukee School of Engineering. Students build and sail a solar-powered boat, which compete in different locations every year. This year, the competition is in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Although the team formally entered the competition in late March, Jeanne Imhof, captain of the team, and her teammates may not make it to Arkansas. Money is needed to transport the team. The boat can only travel by trailer down to the competition in Fayetteville. While the team is looking for sponsorship to travel, they're also still lacking materials, including the essential solar panels for the boat, which cost anywhere from \$2,000 to \$2,500.

"Without a doubt, money is the biggest detriment to our project," Imhof said. "It's frustrating to have great ideas but not enough funds to implement them."

Zhao agreed, fearing a waning interest in the upcoming years if the team doesn't have enough funds to participate at its best in the national competi-

tion.

"Five years from now, I see the Stony Brook Solar Boat team as a true competitor in the Solar Splash competi-

year, we plan to advertise, make presentations to lower-division engineering classes, as well as being involved in the involvement fairs early in each semes-



Solar Splash, in a 2007 test on Roth Pond

tion. I also see that it will be a recognizable name around the Stony Brook community," said Imhof.

Stony Brook University's Solar Splash team is made up of four to eight students, mostly seniors, though during class visits by the team members freshmen expressed interest, according to Zhao.

Team captain Jeanne Imhof got involved with Solar Splash as part of her senior design project and she hopes to broaden the team's membership even more. "About 30 percent of our team is currently freshmen. For the upcoming

ter."

Zhao will assist the team through the competition this June. Without the funds to travel and build, the Solar Splash program will continue to be in jeopardy despite the work of students trying to add another trophy to the engineering department's award case. "The students are very motivated, but money is an issue," said Zhao.

# Zebra Path: Victory or Bolshevism?

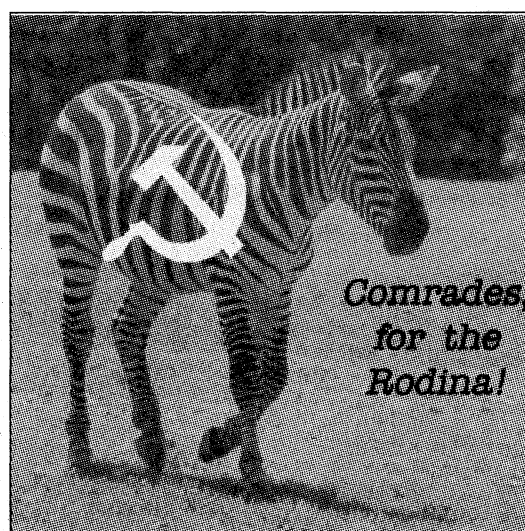
By Alex Walsh

Last semester, the Zebra Path was repainted red. For school spirit, you know. At the time, I was told it was a Homecoming tie in, and would be back to its old colors shortly after the festivities were over. But then it lingered. I made light of it as a Communist plot. People cracked wise about zebras not being red. The journalistic powerhouses over at the *Independent* talked to the original artist who said something along the lines of, "I wish they asked me before they did it."

I always intended to write something about it at some point. I watched

the red coat slowly fade and chip away, revealing the old black beneath. There even seemed to be some dark green under there. I was going to point out that it was a fitting metaphor for Stony Brook's beautification, putting a nice, shiny "Red Hot" coat over the same old institution. Sort of like what all those professors who signed that petition against President Kenny were saying. But I never actually wrote it. I guess I drank the Kool-Aid. I remembered the promises in the immediate post-painting period. The assurance that our Zebra Path would be authentically zebra-y once again. With my luck, I thought, it would be repainted right when I published.

I guess I didn't have to worry about



Zebras of the proletariat, UNITE! You have nothing to lose but your stripes!

that. It's got a bright new red coat. We were lied to. I guess there are worthy things to be lied to about. In the grand scheme of things, the color of the path by the library isn't all that important. I just didn't really like the repainting in the first place, and I figured it was okay because they were redoing it. Whatever, I'm graduating. I'll always dream of prying off the "Zebra Path" plaque in the interest of zoological accuracy.

The repainting this time was on April 25, a date on which nothing of importance happened in the Russian Revolution. What a let-down.



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

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

# Stony Brook? More Like, Let's Oppress People For Our Clothes!

By Raina Bedford and Najib Aminy

In this age of globalization, it is not unusual for companies to exploit cheap labor in poor countries for maximum economic gain. What is unusual is that Stony Brook University supports this practice by selling clothing manufactured by companies who employ children as young as fourteen-years old at rates as low as \$0.80 per day. From sweatshirts and jackets to pants, the clothes hanging in the University Bookstore, the Seawolves Marketplace and even the newly opened Wang Center are made in countries with questionable regulations.

Companies such as Clairborne, MV Sport, and Van Heusen are all carried by Stony Brook, have their clothing made in countries such as Indonesia, Honduras, and Bangladesh respectively. With the exception of MV Sport, these companies did not provide much information regarding their labor policies. Of the ones that did, including MV Sport and Jones and Mitchell, it was validated that they only allow employees at least fourteen years of age to work. For example, in Jones and Mitchell's labor code of conduct, it is stated, "Vendors shall not employ any person at an age younger than fifteen (or fourteen, where consistent with International Labor Organization practices for developing countries, the law of the country of manufacture allows such exception)."

Even companies who did adhere to Fair Labor Association guidelines failed to face the reality that the US State Department found these rules to be poorly enforced in many countries. The FLA guidelines sets limits on age, sets standard wages for workers, protects their right to organize and protects them from bonded labor and abuse.

With a sleek business appeal, Van Heusen is one of many questionable companies present at Stony Brook. They manufacture clothes in Bangladesh where the minimum wage for employees in the garment industry is just \$0.80 per day according to the US State Department. The US State Department has also reported that child labor remains a significant problem in Bangladesh, with the International Labor Organization reporting an estimated 532,000 children, ages five to seventeen, working in hazardous conditions. An even larger number of children, ages five and up, are forced to work to survive. Based in Honduras and Pakistan, MV Sport products can

be seen from jackets to sweatshirts all branded with the Stony Brook University logo. In Honduras, the US State Department found that 350,000 children between the ages of five and seventeen were forced to work in order to survive in 2007. Although the government in Honduras requires that children younger than fourteen have a working permit in order to work, the US State Department found that often children would purchase forged docu-

these countries.

Blue Generation is another one of the clothing companies that Stony Brook has entered into business contracts with. Blue Generation has their factories set up in Egypt, where the US State Department found that 2.7 million children work with a very low minimum wage set for the private sector. The minimum wage for both the private and public sector stands at \$33 per month, which equates to about \$1.10 a

private sector being sixteen years. Enforcement of existing labor laws in the United States is strict with frequent inspections of working places and strict health and safety guidelines.

The second highest wage was found to be in Thailand, where workers are paid \$5.73 per day, which is a couple cents more than a worker would make in an hour in the United States for doing the same job. Van Heusen paid its workers the lowest wage out of these companies, operating a factory in Bangladesh where the minimum wage is set at \$0.80 per day.

Lauren Shepro, a media relations officer of Stony Brook University, said that of the clothing companies brandished here on campus, all of them were in agreement with a licensing group that followed the FLA rules and that the university is very concerned with sweatshop conditions. Shepro added that all royalties from any purchase go directly to the University, such as scholarships.

Students were generally aware of the tendency of businesses to export their labor because it's cheaper, but were surprised to find out that Stony Brook supported this practice. Amanda Cohen, a freshman from Oceanside, NY, was angry that Stony Brook didn't support socially responsible companies, "I didn't know that child laborers were making our clothing and I think it's horrible. I feel that Stony Brook should invest in companies that are more environmentally and socially responsible." Students were also upset that prices for merchandise remained so high, even though the clothing was manufactured for such a low cost. "It's 40 bucks for a hoodie that was probably made for five cents. It's ridiculous. I can't believe a university would exploit people like that," said Glenn Werneburg, a sophomore from Hicksville, New York.

A representative from Co-op America, a group that promotes environmentally and socially friendly businesses, was surprised to find that none of the socially responsible businesses on their list were sold by Stony Brook University. Although Lauren Shepro says that the clothing companies sold on campus are in accordance with FLA regulations, evidence has proven that it is difficult to regulate the factories in many of the countries where Stony Brook merchandise is manufactured.

Behind each Stony Brook logo, shirt or sweater lies a tag, a reminder of the effects of unchecked economic manipulation on the impoverished workers of the world.



Hey, Stony Brook. Why do you hate Salvadorians?

Najib Aminy

ments to circumvent government oversight.

In Pakistan, the national monthly wage is \$41 per month, which comes out to roughly \$1.70 per day. Children at the age of fourteen are permitted to work, although the US State Department found that there were few child labor inspectors in most cities and the inspectors often had little training, insufficient resources, and were susceptible to corruption. Inspections were also not mandatory for factories that can be managed with an employment of less than ten people, causing a large number of small fragmented sweatshops to exist in Pakistan. This all culminates in poor enforcement of existing child labor laws and the persistence of child labor in

day.

Out of the eleven companies Stony Brook has entered into contracts with, Andrew Rohan is the only company that manufactures their clothes in the United States and has a minimum wage that provides an acceptable standard of living for employees.

Andrew Rohan produces their clothing in the United States where the minimum wage is set at roughly \$5.85 per hour, which is far more than what other companies are paying for their labor. This wage produces a better standard of living for employees working at this company relative to companies who export their labor internationally. The United States has strict labor laws with the minimum age for working in the



# The Real Soulja Boys

By Najib Aminy

Stony Brook University is 5955 miles away from the heart of a highly-criticized war that began on March 20, 2003. Five years later, support for the war has exponentially declined as death tolls have increased along side the budget deficit. As journalists failed horribly to diligently perform their jobs, much of the American populace fell into the belief that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. The fact is that after five years, not a single weapon of mass destruction has been discovered.

As the initial cause became questionable, the idea of liberating Iraq from the oppressive rule of former president Saddam Hussein filtered through the channels of broadcast television, including *CNN* and *Fox News*, and through the prints of *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and even Long Island's "coveted" *Newsday*. The historic image of Saddam's statues collapsing symbolized the victory of winning the land, however the current battle is ruling over that land.

With failed parliamentary systems, a number of proposed constitutions, and an Iraqi Army that appears heavily reliant on the US military, it remains unclear whether a true victory is realistic. Five years later, over four thousand soldiers have given their lives in this war. Three trillion dollars later, nearly 9,000 men and women have been severely wounded. 3.9 million Iraqi refugees later, there is an ongoing struggle between the US military and insurgents over securing areas of Iraq. Behind the statistics, the numbers, and the facts are individual people endangering their lives for the protection of America and its beliefs. The people sacrificing their lives that wind up becoming another number to a morbid and ever growing statistic, that are often forgotten about, are the people who are and will be fighting this war. They are the soldiers, specifically the student soldiers here at Stony Brook.

For Stony Brook Junior Lieutenant Ricardo Jean, Iraq was neither a headline nor a two-minute broadcast, rather it was a two-month experience that he said, changed his life. "I remember before I went to Kuwait [before heading to Iraq], I said to myself, I might die. This might be the last time I see myself in the mirror," said Jean. Serving in the Marine Corps, Jean enlisted for numerous reasons. It provided him an escape from his family, an opportunity to know his limits, and an excuse to not attend college. As Jean said, "Education should be

something you want, not something you have to do. It should be something you want, cherish, and respect. I didn't have that desire at the time." Enlisting in 1999 right out of high school, Jean went through extensive training that lasted a year and a half. Normally, marine training lasts six months. Jean deployed in Japan in early of 2001. While there, he was constantly training, ready if war was to strike. After the attacks of September 11th, Jean knew the situation was serious as the Camp Guard went from threat level alpha, a time of peace, to threat level delta, where an attack appears imminent. "I am not totally a pacifist, but I am not the first one to say 'let's go.' Let's think about it," as Jean, commented on the scenario of

physical side. "I was very deep in thought at times, that's when situations like family and girlfriends eat at them. The ones that had girlfriends either went crazy or were really depressed because they kept thinking about them," said Jean.

As Jean served his two months in Iraq, essentially doing the "dirty work," he said that marines win battles but cannot win the war. It is the army that shuts down the enemy lines, whereas Marines simply penetrate through the enemy's wall of defense. During these two months as well as the years prior, Jean explained the deep camaraderie he shared with his fellow soldiers. He proposed the scenario of a grenade being dropped, saying that the bond between

system where he would tend to his soldiers first, followed by civilians, and then the insurgents. Escobar, who carried the responsibility of saving the lives of his group said, "It becomes less of a responsibility and more like I want to help my friend, my companion." Escobar explained how after the first mission, one becomes close with their troops and it was then that the responsibility became less of a burden and more of a desire.

Escobar enlisted in the Navy for different reasons such as the ability to travel, personal gains, and a means of education. Yet, according to Escobar, it was the experience that he cherished the most. Escobar's first realization that he was in a war was as soon as he got off the plane. "Everything was going so fast. I was told to get my Kevlar armor on and to suit up. And from the start you are careful and you are on the lookout for what is going on," said Escobar. When it came to witnessing the drama of war, it was when a new soldier fell into fetal position out of fear that Escobar witnessed a fellow soldier hold the new soldier at gunpoint. "It was crazy and I understand where the guy [holding the gun to the new soldier] was coming from." Escobar explained that a deep trust is formed in terms of protecting each other's lives, and if that trust is threatened, then tension arises.

"Hot." According to Escobar, hot was how he described Iraq. "It's kind of a guessing game. You don't know what is going to happen and it kills your nerves. Because you don't know what is going to happen you are always going to be on alert," said Escobar. Due to intense level of alertness many war veterans experience post-traumatic stress syndrome. "After I got back I had a little issue, I couldn't sleep. I still can't sleep normally. If I hear a loud noise [when sleeping] it becomes uneasy," Escobar received an experience of a lifetime and he is reminded of it every night as he goes to bed.

Both Escobar and Jean agreed on many of the same topics, both insisting that politicians should experience war before voting on anything, that President Bush is an unworthy president, and that despite it all, they would go back if asked to. For Jean, the biggest thing he got out of being in the military was understanding his limits, being able to rely on himself mentally, and to build a strong relationship between his fellow troops. For Ricardo, war provided an opportunity to have a first-hand experience to the similarities between people from around the world. "Almost everybody is the same. You can put peo-



jumping into Afghanistan.

Though Jean did not serve time in Afghanistan, he was well aware that he would be going into Iraq well before the actual invasion took place. Jean said the military was "planning to go to Iraq a year or a year and a half before it even started. As a marine you just hear the rumors through the grapevine." These rumors appeared true to Jean as he and his fellow soldiers conducted a thorough gear inspection, ensuring that a amount of clothing was available, and to ensure the quality of the equipment was new. Jean said "we knew it wasn't for Afghanistan, especially for the amount of people that were needed. We knew it was something bigger and the thing was is that was happening in bases all over."

Jean took part in the very beginning of the Iraqi war as he described as a blitzkrieg style of attacks. "We were more like a shock troop where we hit hard and we hit fast not allowing the enemy with anytime to recoup," said Jean. During these two months, Jean experienced his heart jumping, a reserve of internal fear that he kept hidden, and a level of alertness that would essentially protect his life as well as his fellow soldiers. Jean explained that it is the mental aspect of war that is worse then the

himself and his fellow soldiers was so strong that he would be willing to sacrifice his life by jumping on the grenade for the lives of his fellow soldiers. The one thing that Jean got most out of his experience is the Marine motto, *Semper Fidelis*, which is Latin for "always faithful." Jean said that at first he was unfazed by the term, but afterwards, "It really touched me deeply. Being loyal to your friends is the best thing I got out of it." Jean went on to say that at the end of the day that he is fighting for himself and his fellow soldiers. "As long as the guy to the right or left of me comes home, that's good stuff."

For junior George Escobar HN E3, receiving no combat training left him very nervous as he stepped off the plane landing into Baghdad Airport. Escobar was in the Navy but was a medic for the marines, as marines are a smaller group of the Navy who are less funded. Escobar who enlisted in 2005 was later deployed in April of 2006 providing medical assistance to his fellow troops, Iraqi civilians, and even Iraqi insurgents. When asked how he felt on assisting the insurgents, Escobar said, "It pissed me off. Here they are shooting my guys and now I have to go and attend to them." Escobar had developed a

Souljas continued on next page



**Souljas continued**

ple in a certain position but in the end they aren't so different. It depends on little things that make people unique," said Escobar.

In terms of acclamation, Jean explained in full detail why it might be difficult for soldiers to adjust to civilian life. Being in the military, specifically on a base, many commodities are taken care of, such as a place to sleep, food to eat, and health services, in addition to utilities. If anything, car payments and cable are the only things one may have to pay for, as Jean put it. But when soldiers leave the military, they also leave the paid commodities and often find it hard to find a job that can make ends meet. Escobar adds that many soldiers fail to plan ahead. "I had a plan," as Escobar said, "Most people don't. People don't adjust because they don't plan it out right."

When asked about whether they support the war, Jean felt it was a Catch 22 scenario. "You can't just leave and you can't just stay there," said Jean who went on to say, "I remember I went to Iraq, and I was parking my vehicle in some ones backyard. Just occupying space and I asked myself how are people grasping this?" Jean continued by saying they either saw it as Americans doing their job or as destroying the country. Escobar felt that the war was a lose-lose situation. "I don't think it's a smart move at all. We lose more than we gain. We may get an insurgent, but for that one insurgent we lose so many more people." When it comes to the

youth joining, both Jean and Escobar feel that one should only join if they fully want to, with no pressure, and with no regret.

A student who is currently enrolled

played as a lieutenant. "I chose ROTC because I wanted to become an officer. To be someone in charge rather than merely someone taking orders. I am 21 years old, and I've already done things

for the lives of other people, and the one thing I fear I am going to make a decision or not make a decision that's going to harm them." When asked about whether or not he was too young to go and enlist, Serevino said that it is merely up to the individual. He said that it is hard to say that people are too young to do anything.

The number four thousand brought an expression of somberness to Jean, Serevino, and Escobar, as for them, four thousand was not a number, but a huge chunk of a family gone for a cause they believed in. As Serevino said, "I think it's sad. It's tough to look at it. I've been tracking it ever since I joined knowing the numbers have increased and part of you feels like you don't want to be there but then the other part of you says its your duty to be there." When asked whether they are proud to be an American, Serevino, Escobar, and Jean responded with a firm yes. Patriotism, freedom, democracy were all mentioned. But Jean described it best as he said, "although we have messed up things that happen, with Indians, slaves, and immigrant groups, behind all the negativity, there are still people fighting."

There are still people fighting. To some it may be a war of unjust cause or a war of providing freedom. Regardless of where one stands, there are still people fighting. Not numbers. Not statistics. People.



in the Reserved Officer Training Corps (ROTC) is junior Mark Serevino. Graduating in 2005, Serevino joined the ROTC program to fulfill his desire of both receiving an education and enlisting in the Army. Serevino will first have to complete his four years of training in the ROTC program before being de-

that nobody is going to do in their entire lives, like jump out of planes, use weapons, and eventually rappel from a helicopter," said Serevino. Truly believing that soldiers are protecting America, Serevino's biggest fear is not dying, rather the fear of failure. Serevino says, "one day I am going to be responsible

## Listen...You Can Make A Difference!

Volunteer As A Crisis Counselor  
and Earn College Credit.

**Our Free Training Program Begins  
February 16th!**

See For Yourself How Rewarding an Experience It Can Be!

For More Information  
visit us at [www.ResponseHotline.org](http://www.ResponseHotline.org)

Bi-Lingual Volunteers Needed!

**Response**  
of Suffolk County, Inc.

24-hour Crisis Intervention Hotline  
and ONLINE Crisis Counseling Service

Hotline 631-751-7500  
[www.ResponseHotline.org](http://www.ResponseHotline.org)



**WUSB**  
90.1FM

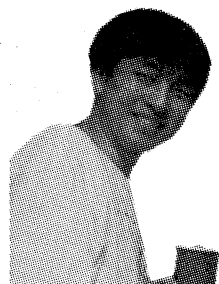
Do you remember when radio  
wasn't scripted?  
Do you remember when each  
station was unique?  
Do you remember the glory  
days of radio?

It's still here, on WUSB.



**...listen**  
on the air at 90.1FM and  
on the web at [www.wusb.fm](http://www.wusb.fm)





# Kotei's Korner

Report From Down Under



## First "Australian"

It was in the very end of United Airlines flight when I encountered the first "Australian." Guess, it was no other than Jenny Craig. After the continuous sleep for the entire flight, my first encounter had to be diet program. I just woke up from a sixteen hour flight.

Surprisingly, I was asleep for most of the sixteen hour flight, except when the flight attendants rolled the smell of food in to the aisles. Probably the frequent flying I did for International Conference helped me get used to the flights. I should avoid using "lengthy" or "boring" for the sake of how people used to consider the idea of flying "pleasurable" without multimedia entertainment.

I started fiddling around with my bag to prepare for the landing. As I bend down to get something out, I heard the commercial over my head. I just thought, "What in the world?"

Golden Key International Honour Society was the only means for me to get acquainted with Australians. Through their conferences, most of Australian delegates were fit. I was at first shocked that Jenny Craig would see the benefit in advertising, even in an airplane. But not surprisingly later on, I figured out why they might be interested in widely advertising anyway.



## Entering Australian Ground

For the first time in seven years, I was about to enter foreign ground once again. When I used to go back to China

every summer vacation to see my grandparents, I hated these international gates. They are long. They are slow. They seem, in general, very inefficient as if every page the officer flips he asks questions: "Your name? Where you visiting from? Business or pleasure? Oh, you went to all these places?" No, maybe not the last one. But, in no time, I was allowed into the country. The officer cared less about my immigrant status.

Behind the gate was long line of... eh, the egg and snake game. I got my luggage and piled them on the cart. So here was the first problem in Australia. There were a number of exit gates. Hmm, with no signs. If they would not let me go through one of the gates, they should have indicated before I stepped forward. The connection flight was supposed to leave in two hours. I was frantic and would cut in line if I needed. But I was able to spare the rude behaviour. Interestingly, both connecting flights I took over to Australia, I had to get out to the airport to re-enter. What a pain.

## Connecting flights

The connecting flight delayed for about half an hour. I had to sit quietly (something I rarely did in Stony Brook) and deal with how disgusting I feel. But I still slept in the airplane for an hour or two until it arrived at Canberra. There were three guys shamelessly speaking in Japanese about snacks they brought. Psss, who cares? They were worthless for my mouth to enunciate words to shut them up in Japanese. After all, they slept and still had to deal with my stink.

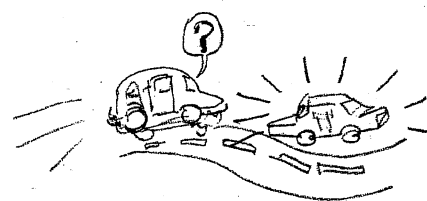
At Canberra airport, ANU student representatives held a table to sign everyone to welcome. So why did they not have my name on the list? I signed up for the service to be provided. I wonder. I digress, because they welcomed me anyhow. I got a folder of documents as a gift (yeah right, giving me school policy documents). They gave us a ride to the school, The Australian National University. They dropped each person in front of their accommodating residence hall.

## Burton & Garran Hall

It is the name of one of residential halls on campus under University Accommodation Services (UAS). I chose this one because it was closer to dance studio. Funny thing is, this dance studio does not exist any more. But I would let UAS rip me off. B&G is kitchen dorm (they call it self-cater, whatever they

wanted to mean). My hall is in corridor style; like the Irving. So I am back to basic in that sense too.

The dining halls are shared by all the residents in all four residential buildings in the B&G. With four burners per stove, five stoves and two grills per station, there are at least twenty stations. Each resident gets their own storage around kitchen, which I just recently realized. I was wondering why others' storage are full of spices, snacks, kitchen ware or others. That explains why my storage space was empty for seven weeks. I am still cooking with fourteen-dollar milk pan, just because



it still works.

## First Day at B&G

As soon as I arrived at B&G, I was taken to a brief tour around the hall and to my room. I think the girl who guided me is one of the senior resident of a floor in my building also in student choir group, SCUNA. She acted uncomfortable with me any way, so "eh" to her.

When I was led to computer lab and music room, my next door neighbour happened to be using the computer. Incidentally he was also a so-called senior resident of my floor. Senior Resident has the similar responsibility as RA, but he is a post graduate student - generally what we refer to as graduate student.

After the tour, I decided to take the first shower in Australia. I must say I was awed. One notice that was put up on the door was "Save the water. Please be considerate. Take 5 minute shower." Sure water is limited resources and should not be wasted. But, 5-minute shower? Really? Is ANU aware of compromising comfort to be proud of the environmentally conscious campus when it uses the radical environment protection program?

I visited the office to place deposits for Internet use and phone use. I still think it is a burden to be limited. But as far as that Stony Brook charging technology fee every semester is concerned, I am content with the price. Australia may not be as technologically advanced as United States. But B&G still charges

two cents per megabyte - thus twenty dollars for one gigabyte - and that is more than enough for all practical purposes. University domain is free for access, computer labs allow external accesses, and campus wireless is free of use. Computer labs set caps of ten megabyte for external Internet access and the quota accumulates up to eighty. Campus wireless is slower but DC++ is useless on campus anyway. Including the research I will do for term papers, twenty dollars is all it costs me to use the Internet per semester.

At the office front desk, I asked where to get groceries, since there are kitchens. There was another person happened to be standing next to me with his inquiry. So he gave me a direction to the nearest mall, Canberra Centre. He happened to be Residential committee President. Then I guess I was not doing so bad at meeting people, those with important duties in the dorm. Also the student technician, who adjusted the network cables on main panel for me, happened to be one of three "residential scholars" in B&G.

As soon as the room phone and the Internet were properly set up. I walked to the Canberra Centre. It is just fifteen minutes away. Surprisingly I got lost on my way back to Uni when I decided to take a different path. Because I got lost in the city and got cold sweat in the 26 Celsius afternoon, I already had a good sense of campus neighbourhood in my first day of stay. It was actually still 5PM - five more hours until I gave up on being productive.

## Talking in Native Languages Is Just As Stupid As Not Speaking at All.

During the orientation for the international students, they were trying to be informative. As for going around the campus, I had already figured most of what they had to say the day before the orientation day. The useful information was about student clubs because ANU's Student Association page is just useless in grasping the clubs on campus. The presentation of studying style in the Uni was nothing but intimidating since there was not many differences from American schools. Term paper is required for many classes. The grade of the paper may depend on number of excess words and length of delay. Law school reduces the grade of paper by ten percent every hour of delay. Tutorials (our way of saying "Recitations") are mandatory, so missing one will be penalized one way or the other.



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

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

All these times, I did not speak to any one. Why bother to talk if everyone found the group of their own. Dutch with Dutch people, Japanese with Japanese people, and so forth. I was not seeking Americans to hang out. However my first Facebook friend on ANU happened to be an American student from Wesleyan. That was just an accident. I mingle with others only when the mixture of the sense of humour is in the premise of my sense of humour. After seven weeks, I still bite on an apple in film viewing on campus while others snack something crunchy in the bag that rustle. While I make apple sound, the actors of the film imitate my appetite. Funny things happen when I differentiate from the majority. Unfortunately it often led to the trend or fashion that the differences had become less and less obvious. But that's okay.



#### "Asians are the next black in Australia"

So here is the main attraction of this Kotei's Korner Down Under. "Asians are the next black in Australia." Please excuse that quote. It was bizarre at the same time was the reference of my behavioural expectation in Australia. So take it literal. What assumption can you deduce? Do Asians have darker skin than white? Do Asians share the sense of intimate community like Black Americans? Do Asians feel the "fate"? Do they have the unique slang or form of language different from standard language? Are Asians cheerful? Are Asians feared? Are they musical? Are they humorous? Is Asian population larger than other minorities?

I think the quote was partly a joke. But something may make sense in the advice. Perhaps Asians are not just minority existence, or skin colour. Probably the advice was serious enough to compare some sociological characteristics of Black Americans in United States. There were a few suggestions I made prior to visiting Australia.

In the United States, Black Americans are said to be more tightly bonded to each other than Asian Americans. In political science, we call it linked fate and the bonds strongly influence voting behaviour. (Voting is compulsory in Australia, by the way.) On the contrary,

Asians are very sporadic and very independent. Since it is unfair to generalize all the Asian people, I will separate as much as I know.

Asians seem to get together for their own benefit and otherwise they can be indifferent. It is very typical extremes for CJK – Chinese, Japanese, Korean. In one way they get together so close and form barriers outside of their groups. On the other hand, they can be very indifferent and often hate their kind. For the latter, I know it happens because I belong to the category. Also I can suggest a dialectal factor as the main contribution to the former behaviour. Each CJK group speaks relatively similar dialects. Also because of large immigrants from CJK, many of them feel speaking English in United States is optional. So perhaps Asian Australians feel linked fate more than they would in United States.

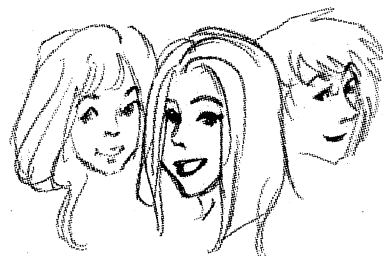
Among all the Asian Americans, I think the most intriguing is the Indian Americans, in particular. From my friends, I rarely observe my previous statement. I usually observe their open and curious nature. Perhaps, having English as their only common language helps stay interested in finding differences amongst their kind. Some groups of Asian Australians may be reserved to their kinds while others are eager to communicate.

Western (Persia, Israel, and the between) and Central (-stan's) Asians seem reserved. But I cannot say a lot about them. One thing is that I had very few acquaintances to these groups of people. Perhaps they don't really express their nationality unless they define themselves in terms of religious affiliations. If I flip their behaviour, some Asian Australians are expected to be non-sectarian and have no problem dealing with religions?

Other factors, like physical abilities or cultural ideologies, are unique to each generations (genotype and traditional practices, this case) so it shouldn't be the question. There are other things that we often remark as "Black Blood."

As far as my observation goes, the most probable origin of the quote is East Indians. I admit that I rarely see the black descendants on campus. So when I head to classes and walk on campus, my attention goes as if to catch something rare. Often the person is just dark skin, possibly from some part of Indian tectonic plate. Probably it is Canberra where I hardly observe the black skin. Perhaps I am likely to encounter in Victoria, such as Melbourne considering the slavery history of Australia. My point is that "Asian" in the above quote is quite gross generalization of observation. The person was either ignorant, cared less about other races than Caucasian, not a scholar, or blind. After all the quote was taken from the Internet. Who can trust the Internet?

Surely the size of Asian population is beyond my expectation. Everywhere I turn there goes Asian. I am really sick and tired of them, especially because they can only be comfortable around the mirror image of themselves. So they are gloomy in English speaking group. So who cares about their slang, if they avoid articulating their speech, acquiring correct pronunciation or avoid speaking altogether? They are rather intimidating, I would say, to other races because they group up like thugs. It doesn't really matter if they laugh or sing because they are just the groups of thugs speaking only their native languages.



#### Blondes

What struck me most was the number of blonde students on campus. You know, Americans often fantasize about blondes. San Diego, as one research also found that the likelihood of encountering attractive people is highest in the country? Miami, one not in Ohio where both boys and girls are open? Open, I mean, really open. I would think they would not think being surrounded by blondes a dream too good to be true in Australia. What do you think?

For a colour blind (red-green kind), brunette and blonde look similar. So I am indifferent about blonde in Australia.

#### ANU Film

As a past time of the first two weeks on campus, I decided to sign up for ANU Film. Every few days, the group run by students shows films such as *Lions for Lambs*, *American Gangster* and *Once*. When I was not told about the textbooks for the semester, I had to entertain myself in distracting the depression of being apart from my other half. I also played a turn-based game *Battle of Wesnoth*, but that just created frustration.

*Lions for Lambs* was difficult film to comprehend when so many moral values are discussed and the frame switch just as easily as flicking the lights in your room. As an ethicist, the film addresses very interesting problems. Although I had little time contemplating during the film, I have a good reason to watch it again to understand the problem.

*Eastern Promises* was one gruesome film. Well, he cuts the body and chops finger tips. But what made me think most was the fact that the film depicted Russian mafia. My understanding of mafia is that they will erase anyone who

they are discontent. That brought me back to the thought that my ex makes a deal with Russian Mafia to kill me for breaking up with her.

*Day Watch* was rather silly film for me. It was like Wesley Snipes...oh maybe, Wesley Snipes'

I love adventure and suspense, but *National Treasure: Book of Secrets* was too much to handle. The story made no turns. Everything seemed predictable.

*Into The Wild* was the story of a boy, Christopher McCandless, who graduated from Emory and was headed to Law School at Harvard. He escapes from the materialistic world and takes a journey to Alaska, where he died of poisoning by berries. Supposedly, Sean Penn illustrated Chris' impact on people who he met on his way. I just disagree that one can influence the others by such a radical approach. Chris was too weak to find what mattered to him most in the materialistic world. It could be done, if one hears his or her own instinct. People in general lack the ability these days.

*American Gangster* was good. The progress of the investigation was not as intense as the review described.

*Once*, from Ireland, was one of few good films that ANU Film showed. This low-budget film was somewhat bitter throughout the story. It encouraged to make actions when one holds an ambition, instead of passively waiting for someone to offer one.

*Fool's Gold* was unheard of, but I enjoyed it. The treasure hunt started from research rather than simply sailing after the legend. Yes maybe they were stupid enough to get married after their hot summer vacation in Florida. But their love for archaeology gave enough motivation to regain successful relationship. When the legend was possibly passed down falsely for centuries, the story regained its intellectual taste. The story was very satisfying for a silly couple.

Although Samuel L. Jackson played his character impressively, *Jumper* was just another film that switches the scenes too quickly. Superhero ability was the ability to teleport, but it was rather immature. I can only say is that Jackson reminded me of Morpheus in *Matrix*; I wonder if he can really move so swiftly.

#### Words to get a person in trouble

Alright, it was just around fifth week when I was dissatisfied with a service on campus. I complained about the poor treatment from the staff to the head of the department. A week later I was told the person left the office. Being a behavioural analyst by practice is not convenient. But someone has to fix the problems which people assume inevitable. If the staff treats a student with wrong motivation, the person should face the consequence. If everyone is afraid and passively accepting the abuse,



**Food For Thought**

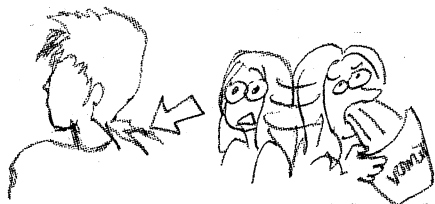
"Have you ever read this book called *Slaughterhouse Five*? It's by this guy named Kurt Vonnegut. It's about these aliens, but the aliens are, like, time."

someone has to speak up and end the unjust when no one should ever accept such an abuse. So I got someone in trouble of staying the position. Apparently campus efficacy is low even in ANU.

**ANU - The Australian National University**

There were two reasons for choosing ANU over Deakin and Queensland. ANU offered a behaviour class. It is just consumer behaviour from Marketing department. Really, I still stereotype Marketing business itself. Right now the classes just got interesting because the material covered deals with cognitive and psychological behaviour. Another reason was that I was more familiar with ANU than other schools. I have met student delegates and advisor delegate from ANU at Golden Key's conference.

ANU is supposedly the best university in Australia. Well, there are more geeks to be found. But guys still talk about objectifying the female, as if it is the universal topic of guy conversation. Once I hear a guy calling name at a girl when her boyfriend was in the same room; the boyfriend said nothing to defend her.

**Mocktail**

Many social events, whether from residence halls or student clubs, involve cocktails. Mocktails must be the alternative to non-alcoholic drinks. As you hear my tone, I have no further knowledge about this. When I do not so eagerly drink in social situation, I have no motive to be in the social event where alcohol is involved one way or the other. Honestly, if you frowned at the smell of alcohol, how comfortable would you be in a place where alcohol circulates?

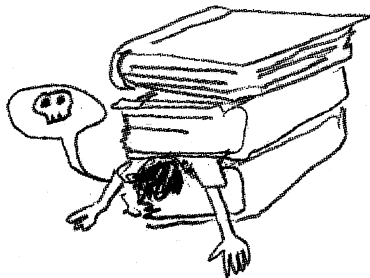
Sadly cocktail/mocktail party seems to be "the way to go." Many clubs "proudly presents cocktail/mocktail" party as social events. It is accepted but once again there is no reason for me to accept it.

**Class Loads**

One of the differences between Australian National and Stony Brook is in the flexibility in expanding one's horizon. If a student is pursuing a degree in law, his or her classes must be from law department. Most classes offer 6 units and full-time load is eighteen. Above 24 is overload but effectively the student takes four or more classes.

I cannot imagine taking various

courses for the sake of quenching the desire for further knowledge. If a full-time student can take only three or four classes per semester, how could a student finish the degree in two years? My life would have been very different. Yet, I am taking a course from School of Music, another in economic history, then in marketing, while working towards degrees in applied sciences, economics, and ethics. When it comes to academics, I am surprisingly contrasting to my personal life.



Another thing I realized is the student involvement in campus clubs. Having less than minimal spiritual life is one thing, but I really miss playing sports, running clubs, and collecting topics for newspaper articles. I contacted the campus newspaper, but they ignore so they are worthless to work with. It seems like a shock to people when I mention I am more interested in writing for a paper than subscribing to a paper. Perhaps I feel less encouragement to get hands on every possible clubs (as I used to be), because every class requires term paper as part of grading. I just submitted a paper in ethnomusicology of Tango music. It was only up to 1500 words and I had more work in reducing the number of words. But as I cited ten scholarly journals, one book, seven music scores, and two websites, the work was indeed intense for a student who often avoids reading. Yes, I still tend to avoid reading although I write articles for a paper and lost only 8 points on iBT. I am probably just as surprised as others.

**"Look,"**

This sounds very often from Australian mouths. As matter of fact, I am very much intimidated by this "prefix" of the sentence. It sounds as though "Look why don't you just understand?" or "Look (why do you make me repeat?)" Of course it is just my interpretation and cannot complain about their language when I don't understand it well yet. Even if they are subconsciously offending the others with the language, until I have more evidence I need to deal with it.

Like avoid talking to them? Or just talking to people not on campus, because staff like those who always have to deal with people's complaints or problems seem more edgy than people in school of music or in mall!

**Spiritual Life**

One activity that I miss from Stony Brook, amongst all the responsibilities I took in charge, involves my spiritual life. The enthusiasm of encouraging the spiritual pursuit is nearly none compared to that of Stony Brook students. There are a few groups for the practitioners of Christianity. I miss the pride of Hillel Foundation. I miss the spiritual guidance in practising Catholicism. The social events involve either cocktail or Bible Study. Sure, Bible Study is important in understanding the faith. But some variation, please.

**True Religion**

While being deprived of spiritual life on campus, I found that Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints organizes the events to socialize in addition to weekly Bible study. The problem is the first introduction given by the representative during the club fair. I suppose it is fundamental of a religious faith to dictate that the religion is the only true kind. Who knows? The scriptures say. Messiahs say. Son of Man says. As an Agnostic, I always doubt the superiority of one religion over the others. Why would people fight for their faiths against the others? Why would people despise the others for not accepting their beliefs? It should not matter, really, how God is addressed. It does not matter, really, how each religion honours God. If more than two religions claim that they practice their faiths according to what He wants, forcing one ideal seems contradictory to the purpose of religions. Thus two months into the semester, I came to resolution that I do not suit the Latter-day Saints faith. I have a long pursuit for Catholicism. Yes I stick with Catholicism and remain faithful but also keep asking questions to the faith.

**Swimming Pool**

One facility that ANU lacks is the swimming facility. In Stony Brook, as a student, I took advantage of open pool hours to stay in shape. Swimming is great, when the entire back muscle is exercised. I feel sore muscle on my arms by swimming than by bench press. My legs buckle more likely after swimming than after hiking. But there is a little caution. If someone is just starting to swim, I must recommend to not pushing too far. Dehydration can make you black out.

There is apparently a swimming facility close to the city. My suspicion is that it is located in Australian Institute of Sport in Lyneham. But it is not within the walking distance and the semester

bus pass ripped me off. So I never got a chance to swim. I brought swim suit with me, so any opportunity I can get to swim I will swim. It is indeed too bad.

**My TV Show**

I have pondered about the TV show since my first involvement with SBU TV station. I just wanted to imitate what the newscasters and other celebrities feel in front of the camera. At one point, somebody suggested a show for me where I am sent to parts of campus to do investigations. While the show never ran, I have pondered about my TV show since then. I thought that I can make my show comedic like *Seinfeld*. I thought that I can make the show like *Montel*. For now I enjoy writing something not solely journalistic on campus newspaper. Every time I write a piece, I feel like talking to someone.

**Role of Wikipedia**

In Stony Brook, Wikipedia was never to be used as a source. They did not allow the use of any part of the online encyclopedia. I always questioned why they should ban Wikipedia completely. I always believed that it was good source to start research. Given that the contributors are not credited, the citation is impossible. But many articles accompany the further references and citations. So I made use of Wikipedia to build the outline of my research paper.

ANU does not ban Wikipedia like Stony Brook does. ANU allows the use of the online encyclopedia under the assumption that a student uses its reference links to proceed to research. After all, my ethnomusicology paper cited ten sources from JSTOR and various other reference databases. I built my outline based on what I learned about the subject and a list of points to be discussed.

It is not just the online sources. The question is whether people should put complete restrictions on something at all. Some ethical problems such as abortion and medical marijuana are understandably in much debate. But some simpler issues as the roles of electronic assistance in learning are easier to reach a compromise with regard to banning.

**High Speed Internet**

I miss it.

ANU puts caps in the Internet usage across the campus. So I spare extra care to not waste away the quota. For that reason, I have not attempted to upload pictures on Facebook. Every job I do on the Internet I count every byte of information requested by each click. Ahh, unlimited Internet access.

**Disorganized International Program**

As an exchange student this semester, I am extremely frustrated and quite angry towards the International Program Office. This semester, I was hop-

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

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

ing to attempt DEC J requirement. Since it was one of my motives, I consulted with the advisor. She tells me, at first in person, that I earn DEC J credit by participating in an exchange program. So she did not bother to advise me in choosing the appropriate classes. Then a month later, when I needed to finally choose the classes for the semester, she tells me, in writing, that I would need to enroll in the course that introduces the culture other than the Western culture. So I confirmed one class with her and she approves that it will count toward my DEC J. After half a semester is passed, I contact her again with a problem. I did not find an compatible course to match the course with the one in Stony Brook. She tells me nothing.

National Student Exchange program is really strict on what courses are counted as compatible or not. I feel much resentment with the disorganized procedures and the reluctance of the advisor in Stony Brook's International Program Office. The advisor is not helpful or compassionate. She starts giving help when I ask. The help is not even complete. She speaks half of my concern and the other half of her correspondence is just a rumble. She upsets me and disappoint in her management. Why is she in the position if she does not care for the student in the program? Really gets me mad. So watch out, people. If interested, Stony Brook overall seems to have little contribution to students' graduation.

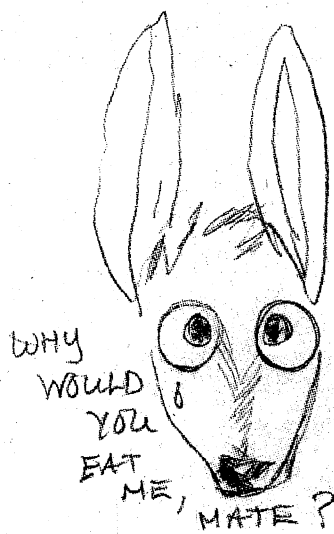
### "Men and Women of the Forces"

I wonder if someday female advocacy groups will complain about this phrasing. Sometimes I worry that these advocacy groups go overboard in assuming that the equality means their dominance. I want to believe that they are a rational bunch of people as economists consider – the basic assumption of economic models dictates the rational behaviour of consumers. But, I digress, The above quote is one that requires much consideration. If the nouns are ordered, one has to precede the other. If the nouns are not ordered, well they need to come up with something other than "they," "s-/he," and "co."

### Overt Animal Slaughter

One day I received a breaking news email from CNN. It read, "143 million pounds of beef is being recalled by a Calif. Slaughterhouse being investigated for mistreating cattle." Apparently I kept this message for quite a while, since Feb 18, 2008. It is really funny news though. Those who mince the meat and bring the chunks into market are condemned for mistreating cattle. I do not know what exactly takes place at a slaughterhouse. Only image that I can recall is the video that showed what makes Kosher meat different from the others. Beyond that, I have no clue.

Sometimes it gets my funny bone that people show so much concern for animal rights that they forget their comfort. Sure animals do have feelings and are the creature that creepeth the land. It is one's choice to eat them or not. Some people do avoid consuming them. My girlfriend influenced me of how I see the seafood too. Some times they sacrifice much of their comfort for the sake of saving a few pounds of animal meat per week. If they are happy, I would not be so concerned. But often they see that as their responsibility and I just cannot perceive their action as completely voluntary.



GK Love

Here is my public concern towards Golden Key International Honour Society. Neither the headquarter nor the regional director responded to my concern. But the Chief Executive Officer did announce his resignation recently.

So here is some alerting observation in Golden Key's recent fashion... If you have noticed or can apply yourself in the subject, please read and consider. I decided to make my concern and sympathy public because memberservice@goldenkey.org and my regional director have not been responsive. My regional director was supposed to return to the office a day after my inquiry but kept the issue untouched. So I feel they are not going to do anything with one boy's opinion.

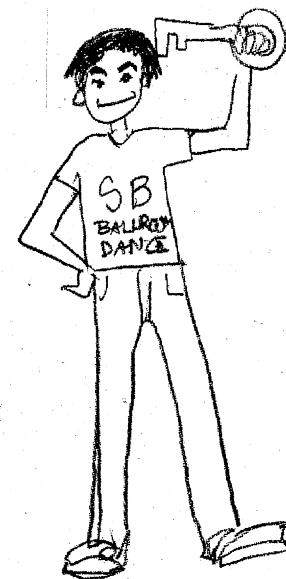
This semester I am on an exchange program at The Australian National University (ANU). After joining the ANU chapter's mailing list, I received their newsletter recently. One of the articles was titled "Networking? Is that what they call it these days?" The writer is one of its current executive board officers, who attended her first conference. She goes on to talk about her experience at the first day of the conference, saying "I soon became aware that many at the conference were searching for anything between short-term conference love and a long-term blossoming GK romance specifically because of the quality of GK members." I felt an urge to make some action against this

"trend" before it becomes too late. She felt that most people are after "short and sweet dalliance" after the first day. From her point of view, girls were evaluating the eligibility and the quality of boys in order to later take part in "night time social function" while boys didn't mind the judgmental eyes casting upon them. By the second day, GK Love had started. And some boys pimpin' (having more than one ladies to reach for their waist). She could observe the "public display of affection and general associated behaviour." Exactly, the question is "what else." Because of such "hidden underbelly of Golden Key," so she called it, she could humorously suggest speed dating in social activities.

As I have mentioned my concern for this matter in the survey after last ILC, the trend is visible and does exist. I was not disillusioned. This concept of "GK Love" may as well become out of control sooner than we think. Yes I sure felt Golden Key would be an ideal place to find relationship when I met wonderful groups of people at conferences. I agreed when I read in her article of someone's quote, "Where else can you find so many smart, like-minded individuals all in the one room? When you think about it, it's really not that silly." Fortunately I was part of the executive board in my chapter. Thus my professionalism prevented me from having anything romantic. But the "trend" implies the mind set of the delegates and their intent for attending ILT. The purpose of International Leadership Training Conference is the workshop and to cultivate the skills in taking leadership. The "GK Love" indicates that the interests of those delegates are fading away from building "transferable skills" to finding "ideal fling." If we lose their interests in workshop, why should Golden Key still function? Why should Golden Key invest so much of its budget in opening the "party" just for the members find "short and sweet dalliance"? I still agree that socializing is a vital component of Golden Key as an organization and Leadership Training Conferences. However, the possibility of losing enthusiasm with in becoming the better student leaders has risen apparently.

Last conference I was most concerned with many delegates participating in drinking party at night. I acknowledge that it was still for the sake of socializing. I acknowledge that this is not something any one individual has control over. However if there is something to counteract the whole trend that seems to look away from the purpose of these conferences, it would be the benefit of the true intent of International Conference - Leadership Training Conference. Just one directional adjustment, for the sake of turning their heads back to where it should be is all I ask. If the delegates are having party all night and have to struggle staying up for the next

day's workshops, the socialization defeats the purpose. Personally I don't drink. So I waved away the invitations from my friends from other conferences. Additional to previous concerns, I have heard from a delegate before the conference that he was looking forward to "meeting American girls." That's not the kind of comments that I or any of Golden Key devotees are pleased to hear. I have contributed to Golden Key for almost three years, because I believed in its future reputation. But if this "trend" escalates and if we came to resolution too late, I must admit that Golden Key is not seeing a bright future. Stop whining about not having corporate sponsorship. Stop whining employers don't recognize Golden Key name on your transcript. It will be beyond the problem of some chapters doing cocktail/mocktail parties, game night in casino styles, or speed dating as



the main activities for "member mobilization." I have achieved "member mobilization" with behavioural analysis and have contributed to my chapter in a great deal without partying, since my advisor disliked the idea in the first place. If I can improve a chapter to draw more interests to the organization, to receive more acceptances from the prospective members, and to have more general members for our general meeting with them, so can you.

I am no longer so sure who to address this issue since I am not necessarily suggesting any advice. But as a former officer of one of the largest chapters in United States, I believe in the burgeoning reputation of Golden Key in the future. Thus I am very concerned with this "GK Love" idea. The bottom line is that I am not hallucinating. But when the headquarters are not responding to my concern, I shall ask all of you to be reminded of the emerging "trend." Thank you for your attention. Let me know of your opinion. I don't mind collecting your opinions for petition for the realignment (note that it's not anything to do with political science term of "realignment"), just the realignment of the future direction of Golden



Key.

Sincerely yours,

Kotei Aoki  
Vice President Emeritus of Stony  
Brook Chapter

### What Keeps Them Together

When people meet, something keeps them apart or together. Two persons resonate when they find some common ground. It certainly is easy to talk with someone who understands your passions. But the relationship develops because they find differences. After all, differences are what make each individual unique.

Some people may assume relationships to be only the personal kind, but I disagree. The kind of relationship that calls for "Woo, what's going on between them?" is not necessarily meaningful. One can hang out with some friends because he or she evaluates the time spent being with them more worthwhile than the one spent with some others. So what if he hangs out with her frequently?

Some people I know are very superficial. They are so quick to decide if they want someone to be beside them. Face value is bound to be wholly different from the true self. Otherwise we call them, say, crazy. While "getting to know" others, one finds differences. A good friend recognizes the differences and respects them. Because people are bound to be different, the key to lasting relationship, the personal and meaningful kind, is the recognition and the understanding of the differences. Compromises are compulsory.

Therefore, finding the differences should not discourage the relationships, unless you want to date and build family with yourself. The differences are a hard presence between two people. But fear not. Meaningful relationship must coincide with resolutions and the hardships must be overcome by the hearts of forgiveness. Resolving differences and reaching common ground are what keeps two people together in love.

I try so hard because I'm not the best at anything. For admitting that one

is not the best really gives me the edge. For one thing, I could stay away from arrogance. Sure every now and then I goof around to act like a thug. Sure, I often feel like showing off too, but nevertheless.

I do what I do best, because that is the best. If there is always something comparable, no one can be the best. Someone can be great, but not the best. So why dare to grab absolute best? In high school AP, I was upset to lose to this guy on midterm by one point. He got 95 and I had 94, while the rest of class got way below 60. When I thought I did really good, there was someone performing better in the exam although he slept through classes. But it didn't despair me because I worked at my pace. At the end I received all the senior awards from high school in math including the highest achievement and also a scholarship from its math department, while he got only one.

That's all in history now. Now I am most interested in expanding my horizon. In physics, it is interesting to find the mechanisms of some phenomenon that we often digress. Does it sound intriguing that the light refracts when it enters different medium? Maybe not, but it gets interesting when it is applied to physics. Have you ever asked why the west horizon is red in sunset, especially when you were little? The refraction occurs when the solar [radiation] from vacuum enters the atmosphere. Because at low elevation the light enters the atmosphere, the resultant refraction is larger and thus causing the frequency of light to change. I believe it's also due to Doppler Effect in that the light fades away. It's fun to know those trivia in many subjects, such as physics, chemistry, linguistics, sociology, psychology, geology, astronomy, biology, journalism, economics, and so on. All while, I still stand firm to assure that I am an ethicist and a behaviour study enthusiast.

Moreover I was not physically fit until very late although I was forced to commit to exercises. I was chubby for a long time despite my height. So when it comes to sports, I'm nowhere near confident enough to defeat the other con-

testants. I used to belong to swim team and soccer team. Let's say I caused more trouble than helped the teams. I am clumsy as I am. I was not ready to commit to training, I suppose. When I entered all boys junior senior high school, the elite curriculum incorporated judo and rugby. Some guys were feisty, for sure. They even entered judo club or rugby club to further train. They usually won the annual tournament. The history teacher kept insisting that I join judo club because I was tall and he perhaps saw a potential in high performance. I sure was tall, but I still lost at the first round. I'm still not fit enough to keep running for more than half an hour, unless on treadmill I could run longer but faint at the end. I can play volleyball for five hour straight now and did not feel exhaustion at all. CCM was having end-of-year BBQ party. My friends were interchangeably having burgers and joining teams. I was the only one kept playing without eating. Intramural volleyball was the first time I ever seriously and competitively played every Sunday. I started spiking and blocking half their spikes. There is always a more experienced bunch out there.

But that's history now. I am especially thankful for my gym teacher in high school. I left my junior-senior high after third of semester in to ninth grade. From tenth grade to twelfth grade in Forest Hills High School, I played many sports like American football, tennis, basketball, softball, baseball, and European handball. The good thing is that by now I can be at least somewhat competitive in any sports. I can't forget to mention that. Ballroom has been very good for me.

My relation to music is actually long. But I did not truly appreciate the art until I was rewarded for the effort and the commitment that went in to produce ensemble. I was first introduced to performing music when I was in fifth grade in front of a glockenspiel. For that year's annual performance, I switched from acting (I was neither ever challenging nor ever a good actor anyhow) to ensemble. In the same academic year, I joined school band as a

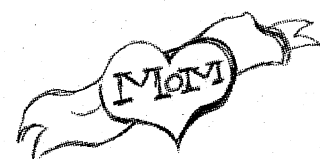
tuba player. Following year I chose ensemble again this time with timpani. Although I stopped performing for years, I started playing music as a junior in high school, now as a saxophonist. I played throughout the rest of high school and also junior year in college. I never thought I would dig so deep into performing music (and performing dance) but I can't deny the excitement of performing more and more is very exhilarating. Now I also play guitar, harmonica, and some trumpet.

All these effort is not just for my gratification. I intend to impart my experience to my significant other. I intend to pass down to the next generation. Why would I need other reasons? I love her and she loves my passion as much as I do for hers.

I am in love. Not in Australia. Not in my classes. Not in my future. In my lady. I will spare everything for her. I will do anything for her. I will love as much, profound and lasting as she will. No one loved me like she does. She trusts me she understands my passion, and she gives me full support. So shall I.

The time permits that this is going to be the one and the only Kotei's Korner this semester. I threw a few posts on my Blog too, so I missed nothing. The future publication of Kotei's Korner is yet to be considered and during the summer I will not have time to sit and type for a long time. But I like to deliver this Kotei's Korner to mark my footsteps on Stony Brook campus.

I love you.

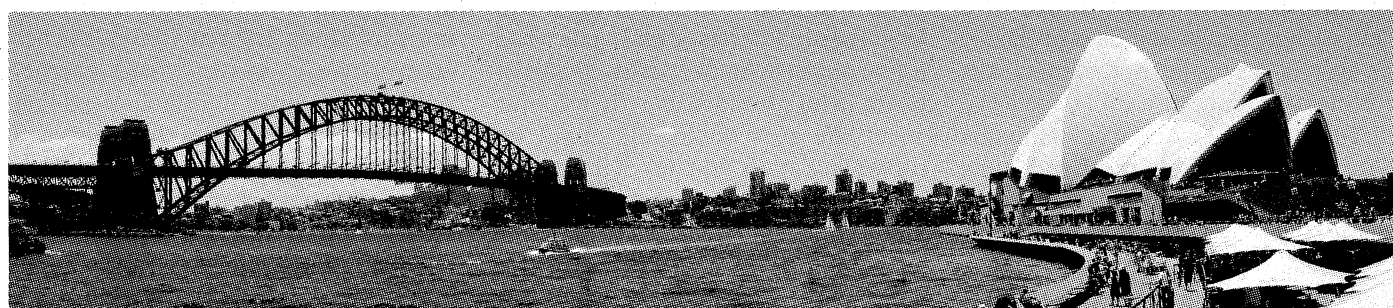


All Drawings By Tia Mansouri

## Pearsall's Corner: Report From Down Under

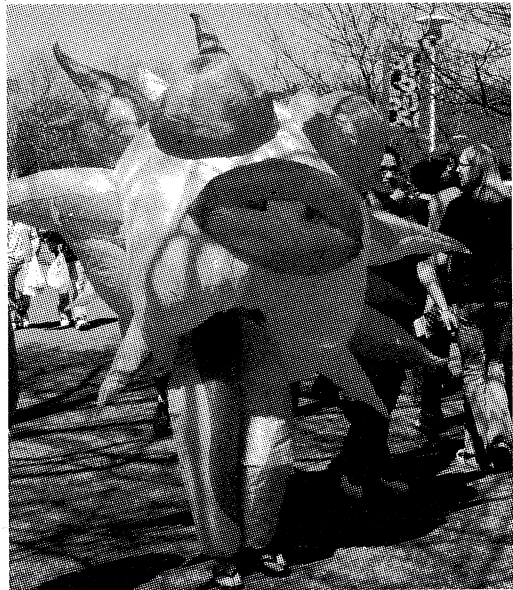
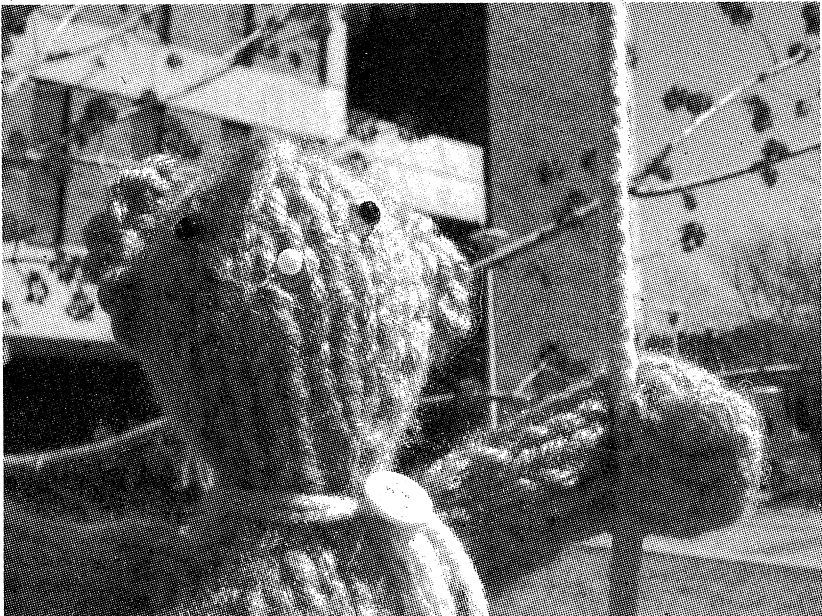
By Rob Pearsall

I had a summer birthday for once and burned myself in the sun on the beach. Also I went fire twirling and summer never ends here. It's awesome.





# The Week In Pictures: Earthstock & UNBOUND



Photos by Najib Aminy, Tia Mansouri  
and Roman Sheydvasser



Students protest the censorship of an art exhibit in The Wang Center



# NEW YORK COMIC CON



The hardened gaze of a man who knows he's getting laid tonight

True devotion to the craft







Batman posed like this repeatedly for all who desired to photograph him. What a trooper



Fuck Nietzsche, God is alive and has taken the form of Ms. Green Lantern, who posed in an unfortunate way that covered her symbol



Time moves slower for Batman villains. And Robin





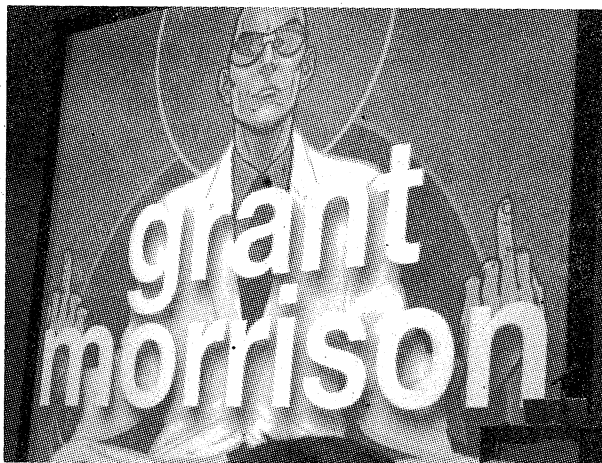
GOES  
TO

# GRANT MORRISON: A SERIOUS MAN ON SERIOUS EARTH

By Andrew Fraley

It's hard to believe that the man responsible for such mind-bending comics as *Arkham Asylum*, *The Filth*, *We3* and *The Invisibles* could be anything short of completely mad. This is what I had in mind as I eagerly awaited Grant Morrison's spotlight panel at the New York Comic Con last Saturday, April 19. The room had completely filled following Orson Scott Card's panel, and most of them were extremely devoted fans. The few that weren't part of Morrison's loyal fan base were *Avatar: The Last Airbender* devotees trying to get a good seat for the next panel, the preview of *Avatar*'s upcoming final episodes. In trying to explain who Grant Morrison was to a curious *Avatar* enthusiast, I compared him to Alan Moore. This earned me a disapproving headshake from one of Morrison's more ardent followers. "No way," he says, "not even close. Warren Ellis, maybe, but Alan Moore? Not a chance." This fervent devotion of Morrison's admirers was very unnerving, and I made a mental note to read more of Grant Morrison's work before I go making my outrageous, unbacked claims. I tried to cover my tracks by saying that I was making a biographical comparison, not a comparison of their work, and that Alan Moore is household name and easier point of reference. But it was too late; Grant Morrison had finally arrived.

The panel started with a slideshow introduction to Grant Morrison. The panel's host read a written statement by Morrison regarding his life's work as the slideshow played out behind. The slideshow included a fictitious book called *Grant Morrison's International Guide to Living Fabulously*, recurring pictures of Grant in messianic



poses and some of the more notable art spanning his career. When it was Grant's turn to speak, he yelled, "Give me some sugar, I am your neighbor!" Then he went immediately into questions. Many of the questions were about his upcoming project, *Final Crisis*, the last of DC Comic's "crisis" series. Illustrated by J.G. Jones (*Wanted*, *Marvel Boy*), it will be seven issues which Morrison has described as "the *Lord of the Rings* of the DC universe." Being the prolific comic writer that he is, however, many questions were about his well-established canon. One fan asked if

Seaguy was a superhero or a detective, to which Morrison responded in his wonderful Scottish accent, "He's just a guy. Just imagine if you dressed up in a scuba suit, you would be Seaguy." He handled the crowd and their questions very well. When asked about his non-existent book, he laughingly described a fabulous time he had at a San Francisco rave in 2006. Someone asked him to explain the ending of his metaphorical opus, *The Invisibles*. "I've read the seventh chapter multiple times," said the fan "and I haven't the slightest idea what happens." Morrison laughed as he replied, "Yes you have. The events and everything in that book, that's what happens." He had a fun time with his fans, and they enjoyed it. Even at the autograph table, he was amiable with his fans, and appreciated their admiration.

I left his panel puzzled. I came in expecting a totally bizarre and eccentric recluse, a reflection of his more frightening characters. He turned out to be a normal guy. Well, more normal than I had anticipated. He is still the hallucinogen experimenting, cross-dressing and totally insane author of nearly thirty years of perception altering comics. He just also happens to have a delightful human side to himself as well. Someone asked if he would actually write an autobiography, given the recurrence of autobiographical characters in his stories. He responded matter-of-factly, "You wouldn't believe it."



#### *We3:*

This is a fast paced, poignant and compelling comic. Only three issues long, this is a quick read, but memory of this series will never fade. The story revolves around three former

pets who were kidnapped by the government and used in experiments for a new military weapons program. Their struggles to escape give the comic a powerful emotional feel to it. As an allegory, it is intelligent and inspiring. Morrison gives the animals a humanity and sympathy that makes this comic such a good read. Morrison has written the script for a film adaptation, which he says will be better than the comic, since it contains things the comic left out.



#### *The Invisibles:*

This is the ultimate mind fuck of Grant Morrison, and my personal favorite of his works. Heavily influenced from numerous other works, such as Robert Anton Wilson, Phillip K. Dick and William S. Bur-

roughs this comic will explode your brain into pieces and reassemble it using countless cultural, religious and literary references. As the line between good and evil blurs, the finale of this series will leave you completely perplexed and wholly satisfied.



#### *The Filth:*

Grant Morrison called this his favorite at the panel, and for good reason; this is the concise and amazing work that shows the true mastery of Morrison's craft. Using very organic settings and imagery, and with an

epistemological plot that keeps you wondering who's good and bad, what's real and unreal, this is his deepest and best works since *The Invisibles*. Rich in pornographic motif, this comic will make you squeamish, but in a good way. As the intro details, comics should be taken with a meal or a glass of milk and some recreational drugs!

GOES  
TO

# COMIC CON GIVES US SOMETHING "SPECIAL"

INDIE SUPERHERO FARCE EARNS AUDIENCE APPLAUSE

By David K. Ginn

First, I should mention that the Comic Con info guide was very misleading, if not a dirty liar. The guide told all ComicCon attendees that they would be getting a sneak peek at the movie *Superhero*, and then described the plot. Excited about seeing a sneak peek of a new indie movie about superheroes, I and my fellow writer, games columnist Joe Donato, filed into the Javits Theater with eager anticipation.

The next day, we found out the movie was released in the UK in 2006 and the US in 2007. Also, the name of the movie was *Special*, not *Superhero*. If we hadn't missed the first three minutes of the movie, I suppose we would have found that out earlier. Well, the movie was incredible.

The story begins when mild-mannered meter maid Les (Michael Rapaport, *True Romance*, *Boston Public*), stuck with no future and a life of perpetual worthlessness, takes part in a drug experiment that aims to eliminate self-doubt. This results in Les believing that he has superpowers, and must use them in order to help people.

The further down the rabbit hole he goes, the more secure the delusion becomes, so that even the protests of Dr. Dobson (Jack Kehler), the experiment administrator, only persuade Les to take the drug even more. As he slowly develops an understanding of the true, sad nature of superheroes, he enlists the help of his stoner friends (Josh Peck and Robert Baker), who own a local comic shop.

When the CEOs of the drug company, led by the vile Jonas Exiler (Paul Blackthorne, *24*, *The Dresden Files*), try to silence Les, he becomes acquainted with what he can only explain as real-life supervillains. The resulting battle becomes steadily more dramatic, as Les' bat-

tle is no longer about good vs. evil, but the strength of an average guy to overcome a brutal world that tries to keep him down.

Rapaport, a veteran indie character actor, proves that he can handle the spotlight. No one else could have blended the right amount of comedy with touching, sometimes heart-breaking drama, while still remaining a convincing "aver-

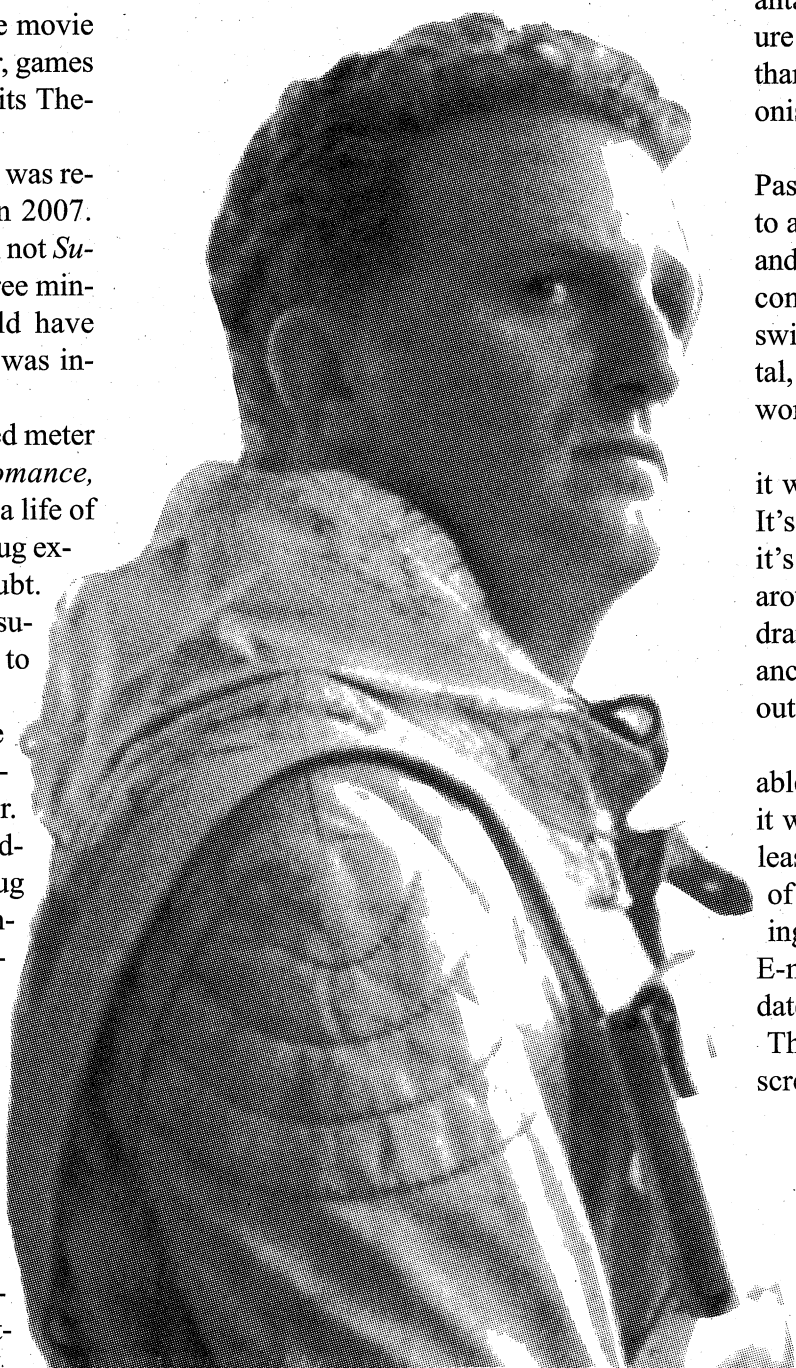
age guy". He seamlessly follows the changing moods and directions of the film, proving he can be offbeat, hilarious, empathetic and convincingly dramatic.

Right behind Rapaport is Blackthorne, who plays his villainous role both up and down as needed, making both interpretations more realistic and humanizing than almost any CEO-type antagonist in film history. Each extreme measure is met with a gasp from the audience, rather than a boo; there is not much more that an antagonist can ask for from his audience.

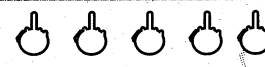
Writer/directors Hal Haberman and Jeremy Passmore, in their directorial debut, bring heart to a project that could have easily been slapstick and silly. The perfect pacing demonstrates a deep connection with the film's content, and the switches from hilarious physical comedy to brutal, gritty violence are unmatched by all but the work of the Coen brothers.

Overall, the movie delivers where you think it will, then hits you where you don't expect it. It's truly a film for comic-goers, but moreover, it's a film for anyone who appreciates an all-around cinematic experience. Rife with comedy, drama, touching themes and inspiring performances, *Special* is one of the best movies to come out in years.

Furthermore, to ComicCon's credit, being able to see the movie was indeed a treat, even if it wasn't a "sneak peek". It's a hard-to-find release, especially with the continued perseverance of region restrictions, but that doesn't mean finding a non-bootleg American DVD is impossible. E-mail [sbpressarts@gmail.com](mailto:sbpressarts@gmail.com) if you want updates on our quest to find a release of this movie. The quest will ultimately end with *The Press* screening the movie here, one way or another.



Special  
Hal Haberman and Jeremy Passmore





RED

RING

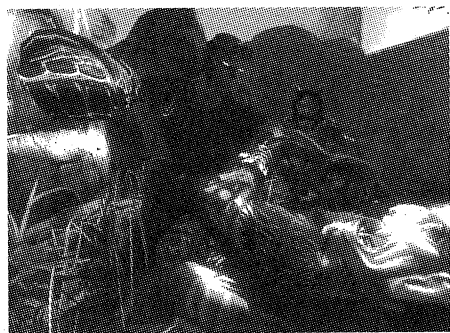
CIRCUS  
at the  
NEW YORK  
COMIC CON

By Joe Donato

Where Your Video Games Go to Run Away from Home

In this issue's Red Ring Circus, I'll be covering my time at Comic Con. Videogames are becoming more and more prevalent at this convention, so I decided to get over there and try out some of what was on display. There were certainly some surprises to be found, and I have high hopes for a lot of what I saw. Keep in mind that these are *previews*, and I'm just talking about demo versions of games I played, not finals.

### **Hellboy: Science of Making a Good Game**



*Hellboy* fans are not a demanding group. All they ask for is a chance to see the big red guy pummel his way through a Lovecraftian rouges gallery and spew the occasional one-liner. So when the *Hellboy* game came out for the original Playstation back in the day, it seemed like it resulted from gathering the world's greatest under-achieving game developers. Thankfully, Krome Studios and Konami seem to be bringing out something much more worthwhile with *Hellboy: Science of Evil* for the Xbox 360.

I had about half an hour with the game, which gave me enough time to play through the first level and part of the second. It opens up with a stylish intro of Hellboy running through the woods, intercut with typical white-on-black opening credits that showed the game's cinematic influences. While the Comic Con convention center was too loud to hear most of the dialogue, it was obvious the cutscenes were shot with care. I was assured by the Konami rep at the show that Ron Perlman and Selma Blair handled voice acting duties for their charac-

ters and Mike Mignola and Guillermo Del Toro oversaw the whole project. Ron Perlman? Voice acting in a videogame!? Who knew? Though I have to say he's much better looking as Hellboy than the face-melt monstrosity Lord Hood from the *Halo* series.

From the initial cutscene I was thrown into a brief combat tutorial in the game's opening graveyard level. Your combat repertoire consists of light and hard punches, grabs, and a gun. It's typical fare for a game clearly influenced by *God of War* and *Ninja Gaiden*, however the pace is completely different. Unlike the lightning speed of Ryu Hayabusa, or the flashy combo-extravaganzas of Kratos, Hellboy is more of a lumbering powerhouse. The pace and destructible environments actually reminded me of *Otogi*, which is a wonderful thing.

Hellboy can take quite a beating. I never came close to dying in combat, which is kind of accurate considering the pummelings he takes in the comics, as well as a little worrisome. I'm assuming that was because it was the first level, but it was easy enough to border on repetitive. At the same time, I'm not entirely sure how well the combat will hold up if the difficulty ramps up. As far as I could tell from my demo time, which was with a 95% complete version of the game, there is little in the way of defensive options. It's entirely possible that I'm an idiot and missed them, but any evasive maneuvers aside from running away were absent. I can understand the motivation here; making Hellboy blindly aggressive is certainly not out of character. However, when I was surrounded and really had to avoid attacks, I ended up running away with my tail between my legs to recover.

In most cases, though, defense wasn't necessary, and I had a lot of fun tossing all the different enemies around. The grab attack was a key aspect of the gameplay, allowing you to pick up random items as weapons, toss small or stunned enemies around and smash open doorways. Some of the best moments

from the demo included beating down a werewolf with a cross and tossing all the little Gollum-esque goblins around. At the same time, some of these actions, like opening doors by smashing them open, became horribly repetitive within the span of the demo. It makes me think there's some kind of conspiracy to include mundane recurring actions in licensed games. Breaking doors is to *Hellboy* what casting "Reparo" is to *Harry Potter* and saving that same guy who keeps falling off of buildings is to *Spider-man 2*.

I don't want to dwell too much on problems in an unreleased title, but I do have a few concerns that I hope get cleaned up in the final product. For one, the aiming controls were incredibly clunky. Aiming is generally auto-targetted, and it worked for the most part, but as soon as I had a specific target in mind it became a wrestling match with the right thumbstick. I nearly lost control and suplexed the girl playing next to me because of it. My other issue is related to the graphics, which, for the most part, are quite beautiful, but reminded me of 1996 during a few moments. Throughout the first level, you are pursuing a witch who can transform into a billowing flock of crows, or bats, or something; I wasn't quite sure because they were sprites who when they got close enough to see looked more like creatures *Space Invaders*.

Issues like the ones I mentioned are potentially enough to drag this game down, but keep in mind that I'm just speculating. Once the final game is released, I hope to check out its most compelling feature: co-op. According to the Konami representative at the show the game allows two-player campaign co-op with the second player controlling Abe or Liz. It'll be interesting to see how differently the two of them play. Any game that carries the old school torch of sitting on the couch with a buddy and playing on a single screen is probably at least worth a rental. If what I played is any indication, *Hellboy* may just stand out from the rest of the summer-game-

movie pack.

### **Ironman: The Game About the Movie About the Comic**



The *Ironman* demo at Comic Con was the same demo available on Xbox Live, so rather than read this, you can spend about the same length of time playing it yourself. The demo offers up a short mission from the Middle East areas of the movie. There are two relatively simple objectives, and whether you complete them or the time runs out, the demo ends. Unlike the timed demos for games like *Crackdown*, which almost gave you too much of the game, *Ironman* offers so little that I really have to question the time limit.

I can only assume the demo was intended for Comic Con and was timed so others could play, but the limit exists on the Xbox Live demo as well. Either way, there isn't much content to find here, but it does give you a taste of the game's mechanics.

First of all, *Ironman* is *fast*, almost too fast. At any moment you can switch between moving on foot, hovering, or jetting around at blinding speeds. However as mobile as you are, it's hindered by the vomit-inducing camera. It not only has a hard time keeping up with everything, but any time you try to handle it yourself, the game essentially tells you to fuck off. Why give the option to aim manually and then constantly wrestle it away?

I did eventually adjust to the camera, though it was never truly competent. Ironman's omnipotence over all the enemies in the demo is impressive. You can zip over to any objective and hover overhead raining death on scores of defenseless

RED

RING

CIRCUS  
NEW YORK  
COMIC CON

By Joe Donato

Where Your Video Games Go to Run Away from Home

tanks, foot soldiers, and artillery. While it's pretty cool, I found it ironic that Ironman's weapon of choice was essentially a pea shooter. He shoots this dinky laser beam out of the palm of his hand, and while it tears everything up well enough, it feels about as badass as shooting rocks out of a slingshot.

Throughout the demo we have Robert Downey Jr. giving plenty of cheesy one-liners that were clearly phoned in. I can only hope this isn't indicative of the quality of the movie, otherwise we're in for a trainwreck of *Spider-man* proportions. (Yep, I went there.)

While the demo was short, it begs the question, "Why does this exist other than to cash in on the success of the movie?" The momentum is cool, but the world feels so empty and bland, the action lacks kinetics, and the dialogue is cringe-worthy. Of all the comic-to-movie-to-game adaptations on display at Comic Con, *Ironman* was the only one to offer that soul sucking cash-in feeling I've come to expect from licensed products.

### ***The Incredible Hulk* Ultimately Destroys Everything**



While the developers of *Crackdown* ditched the series to work on *APB*, *Edge of Reality* is hard at work on *Crackdown 2*, a.k.a. *The Incredible Hulk*. While it really has no relation to Realtime World's early '07 stunner, Sega showed a demo at Comic Con that conjured up fond memories of tracking down agility

orbs. Of all the games at Comic Con, it looked the most exciting. Unfortunately, it was still early, and the people running the demo the game at the show were unwilling to hand us the controller.

What was shown was an open-world romp through Liberty...I mean, New York City. The Hulk can smash just about anything, climb any building, and jump really damn high. He can even smash buildings and throw pedestrians, features that I'm not entirely confident will make it into the final game. *Cloverfield* got away with knocking down buildings in NYC and conjuring up images of 9/11, but will a teen-rated videogame get the same treatment?

The demo I saw was brief, and while the freedom the game offered was stunning, there wasn't much in the way of goals. Time will tell if *The Hulk* is simply a playground or something a little more substantial. Regardless, you can rip a car in half and use it as boxing gloves, so I'm excited.

### ***Metal Gear Online* Sucks Because I'm a *Halo*-Playing Philistine**



*Metal Gear Online* is going to be a tough sell for the typical online shooter crowd. From my brief time with the game, it was clear that it was from a Japanese developer emulating Western shooters without straying too far from Japanese sensibilities. It may have been the demo environment, which consisted of two team deathmatch rounds.

There are a ton of ways to play *MGO*, including a "Solid Snake vs. Everyone Else" mode that honestly sounds really fun. However, if what was on display at Comic Con is an indication of the core gameplay, I'm not sure how much *MGO* will offer for those weaned on *Team Fortress 2* and *Halo*.

While games like *Halo* slowed down the pace for console players, *Metal Gear* brings it to a grinding halt. It's telling that the game has an autoaim option, yet I was continually caught with my pants down. Switching equipment requires you to bring up the standard *Metal Gear* wheel menus, which in the single player games paused the action, but here just leaves you completely vulnerable. Throwing grenades, hopping in your cardboard box, or using the stun knife all require you to stand still and flip through a menu. While it's true that everyone in the matches are limited by these constraints, fairness does not always equal fun.

For a few rounds I tried my hand at free aiming, and found the movement of the analog stick to be far too sensitive and drifts, while still limited to the turning ability of a tank. Auto-aim worked a little better, but the best players will probably want to avoid it so they can get those quick headshots.

For *Metal Gear* fans and Japanese gamers, *MGO* may be the perfect complement to *MGS4*. It's certainly faithful to the series, and the controls hold true to many of the Japanese conventions that many of us over here just don't understand. While the shooter market on 360 is oversaturated, the PS3 market is somewhat lacking. *MGO* may have an audience on the PS3, even over here, but PC or Xbox 360 owners aren't going to find much here for them.

### ***Gears of War 2* to be Bigger, Better, More Badass**

When president of Epic Games, Michael Capps says that *Gears of War 2* will be "bigger, better, more badass," you have to believe him. Epic has a track record of games which can only be described as awesome and rad, so it will be no surprise if *Gears 2* follows suit. At Comic Con, Epic ran a panel to discuss *Gears 2*. While the trailer shown at the beginning of the panel was the same as the one shown at GDC, it was a good reminder that *Gears of War 2* is going to be extremely badass. Everyone was surprised, even skeptical, that Epic was planning for a sequel that would be bigger and better than its predecessor. However, watching Marcus chainsaw a Locust soldier surely made most of us believers.

After the badass teaser, the developers jumped right into Q&A. The Comic Con attendees stepped up to the plate with hard hitting questions. Capps let the audience in on several secrets about the game, including some of the game's badass, cool, and great mechanics and storyline. The sequel to the 2006 game of the year will have awesome shooting, badass chainsaw fights, and sweet online play. The story will be epic, badass, and bigger than the original.

A lot of people had questions about the gripping story from the original game and wanted to know how they'd expand on it for the sequel. Josh Ortega, the writer for the new game, assured us it was going to be amazing and better.

Lastly, when asked whether *Gears of War 2* would be awesome, Michael Capps responded, "Absolutely."



Danni Liu is an idiot. Did *The Statesman* make him up, or what?

# Hey Olympic Torch, You Got Burned!

By Najib Aminy

As the Olympic torch is being relayed around the globe, there has been a rise of activism and protests targeting China's domestic and foreign policies. With the 2008 Summer Olympic Games approaching, China has been under scrutiny for its oppressive rule over Tibet as well as for indirectly funding the genocide in Darfur. In weeks, many of the world's leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel and England's Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced plans to boycott the opening ceremony of the Olympic games. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has called upon President George Bush to join the boycott and French President Nicolas Sarkozy is considering not attending the ceremony. The significance of the opening ceremony is to honor and glorify the host country, China, recognizing its past and current cultural and societal achievements. However many are at odds with honoring a country with questionable policies towards human rights.

For Stony Brook senior Emanuel Neto, the 2008 Beijing games will make his dream of playing in the Olympics a reality. At the same time, Neto is protesting against the human rights violations committed by China. As an athlete and a protestor, Neto's situation is both ironic and bold at the same time. Neto recalled growing up in his home country of Angola and being mystified by the beauty of the opening ceremony of the Olympics. "I am protesting the Chinese approach to human rights. Period," said Neto. The 6'9", 230-lb Stony Brook center made it clear that he has worked too hard to just give up his dream in attending the Olympics.

Regardless, Neto traveled to San Francisco to join thousands of protestors in awareness of the Tibetan plight and the genocide in Darfur. "I saw people who rushed the bus, people who laid out in front of the bus. Others had spread the Tibetan flag on the bus while people were spray painting it with Free Tibet," recalled Neto. When asked if politics should be mentioned with the Olympics, Neto was quick to say that with the current situation in Darfur and Tibet, "it is not a should have, could have, it is a situation where it is."

Growing up in Angola, Neto experienced a childhood where he witnessed the effects of war. He mentioned the many times where he hid under a table eating lunch to avoid being hit by flying bullets. Being back home, Neto also witnessed the coverage of what was going on in Darfur, something Neto said the US media has failed miserably to do as

he pointed that American Idol receives more coverage than what is going on in Sudan. For the chance to see the torch, "I have dreamed of looking at the torch. But this year it doesn't feel right."

China has had a history of abusing human rights. Minky Worden, media director of Human Rights Watch (HWR), said that China has been on the HWR watch list for the past twenty years for its stringent policies regarding civil liberties and rights. "We have looked further into China in 2004 to examine the abuses being done in preparation to the Olympics." Worden explained how HWR receives many re-

ports about Chinese oppression, from jailing dissidents to preventing any media contact with Tibet. "The Olympics are casting a light onto China's domestic and foreign policy," said Worden. However, according to Worden, the HWR does not call for a boycott of the Olympic games or of the opening ceremony. Rather, HWR is calling on China to correct its human rights violations. "HWR does not support a boycott of the Olympics nor the ceremony, rather we are calling on China to improve its policies. If these policies still stand uncorrected, then we are asking figureheads to step down from attending," said Worden.



Tibet, independent monitor organizations such as the Red Cross or UN to assess the progress, to agree not to let the torch pass through Tibet, and undertake substantial discussions with the Dalai Lama.

Nicole Judd, from the Island For Action organization, says that although politics and the Olympics should be kept separated in normal circumstances, she says that with the given situation in Darfur, "it is the perfect opportunity to show the world what is really going on." Judd explained China's self-conscious role and how the current spotlight China has can be used as leverage to take action. China receives a substantial amount of oil from the Sudan which in return provides them with large monetary funds, funds that go to arms and weaponry. The Sudanese government is involved in no war but its own. Many organizations from around the world have called for pressure on China due to its indirect funding of the genocide. It is widely believed that Chinese government funds the Janjaweed, the militia hired by the Sudanese government to wipe out opposition and rebel groups in the south west part of Sudan known as Darfur. Since 2003, it is reported that 400,000 people of Darfur have been killed as well as 2.5 mil-

lion refugees left stranded without a home. Judd says it is very hypocritical to attend an opening ceremony of the Olympics where there is injustice going on everywhere. "The Olympics allow everyone to come together and stand up for spirit, freedom, and democracy, and it is important to live up to that standard," said Judd.

Former Ambassador of India Harsh Bhasin, who served his ambassadorship to Denmark, South Africa, Botswana, and China during the Cultural Revolution, says that China is out of line in both Tibet and Darfur. "China makes no distinction between sovereignty and suzerainty. The world has to tell them, and they have to realize, that Tibet is not China," said Bhasin. The former Ambassador went to say how there is much sympathy for the Dalai Lama as he is "a ruler with no country." In terms of Darfur, the ambassador said, "China gets oil so they supply arms. The only country that can exercise influence in Sudan is China, and they are not doing enough."

With the Tibetan suppression and the genocide occurring in Darfur, the 2008 Beijing Olympics may join the list of other Olympics that were heavily boycotted, such as the 1980 Olympics and 1984 Olympics, which were at the height of the Cold War. Regardless of the situation, Bhasin says, "You've seen what has happened in London."

You've seen what has happened in Paris and San Francisco. It is an outpouring of support from the people of the world who feel strongly for the Tibetan cause. And the Chinese, I am afraid, are not handling it in the way they should."

In terms of being active, Neto calls upon all college students to wake up and realize what is going on. "College students have the power to change the world. They can send e-mails and become more active. It is college students who can bring about change but that is not going to happen if students are doing nothing but sitting on their asses and smoking weed." Neto said it is a shame that people are unaware of what is going on and to the people who say they have to focus on their own problems, Neto said, "these people have lost the human in them."

As the torch continues to travel the world sparking protest from region to region, Neto is preparing for the day where he can fulfill his dream and make the voices of the oppressed people of Darfur and Tibet heard, whether it's by responding to journalists and voicing his opinion or sporting "Save Darfur" apparel. The torch that once brought humanity together for peace is now bringing people together for justice. As the flames burn, tension is brewing.



## Korean Night 2008

by Tommy Yu

The room was quiet as a group of students began to trickle onto the stage, each lugging a huge drum as they sat down in formation. It wasn't long before the sea of drummers shattered the silence as their beats crashed through the room.

This stunning demonstration of coordination and rhythm was the result of the training and hard work put in by Stony Brook University's Deong Deok Koong Yi Korean Drum Group in preparation for the school's annual Korean Night. Hosted by the Korean Student Association, this year's festive night had many talented individuals showing off for the crowd. The DDKY group was the third performance of the night, following two impressive vocal demonstrations by Shin Young Kim with the Korean National Anthem and Dong Chen Won and Hyung Sun Park with their take on the song, "I'll give it all."

Following DDKY's crowd-invigorating performance was a relaxing and culturally faithful presentation of some traditional Korean outfits. Audience members had a chance to see some time-honored clothes worn in Korea's past eras, all modeled by members of the KSA.

Another vocal performance came after that segment, which featured Justin Lim and Minnie Kim as his musical accompaniment. Lim sang a variety of Korean songs, his voice hitting all the right notes with almost the same accuracy as Kim on her piano, which was sure to have made some ladies



swoon. This segment continued on for quite some time and the audience erupted with applause at the end of Kim's performance.

The KSA dance team was next to grab the audience's attention. The male dancers and female dancers both did their separate routines and only came together at the end to bow off stage, but it wasn't the last time they appeared that night.

Baruch Kim and SangYub Lee performed next, following a brief intermission. Their zeal riled up the crowd again after the momentary rest in the



Photos by Chetan Prabhudesai

show; Kim fired off Korean lyrics at mind-numbing speed and the duo got many people on their feet to clap along with them.

After the two rappers were cheered off the stage, the stunning KSA models began their onstage struts. Donned with a modern fashion sense, the models were the evening's eye candy. As the audience whistled them on, each model did their own improvisation as they reached the front of the stage.

The KSA dance team made their way back to the limelight after the audience members had their ogling fill of the models. After another round on stage, they were once again cheered off and replaced by another vocal performance. This time, it was a solo by Hyong Chul Lee with the song "Thank Goodness." Like all the other songs sung that night, it was in Korean, but that didn't stop non-Korean speakers from enjoying the soothing voice of Lee.

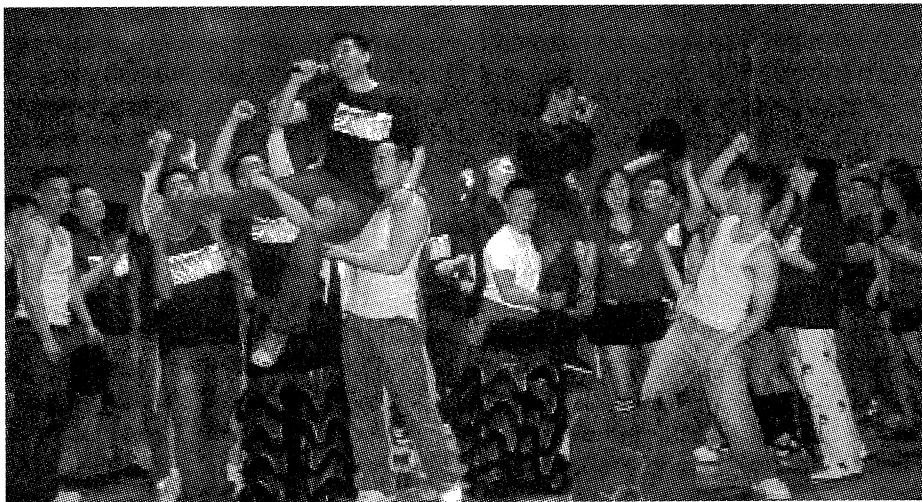
The show was coming to an end at this point, but the KSA still had something left to do. Following tradition, it was time for a short movie to finish off this year's Korean night. After a few giggles burst from the crowd following a technical malfunction—which almost seemed intentional based on the positive responses it received from the crowd—the film began and the audience were treated to a homemade spectacle. This particular film was directed by Tommy JK Lee and was a fitting end to the night.

## CHINA NIGHT 2008

by Vanessa Gopez

China Night is the annual flagship event of CASB, the Chinese Association at Stony Brook. CASB did an excellent job of organizing this year's China Night. Everyone in the show worked hard to put this event together, and it came out great. All the actors, singers and dancers gave memorable performances, while at the same time sending out an important message to the community.

The theme of this year's China Night was Asian Stereotypes. The evening was highlighted by a play called "The Stereotype Machine." I must give a lot of credit to actor Alex Lai—who not only gave a superior comedic performance as the lead villain, Fyuk Yu, but also wrote the bulk of the script. The play was about Fyuk Yu's plot to make all Asians follow their traditional stereotypes (the mathematician, the seductress, the delivery man, etc.) in order to take over the world. He thought it was best for Asians to be the "model minority"—polite, calm, quiet, and smart. Opposing



Photos by Chetan Prabhudesai

him were the heroes of the story: Jean, who can read minds and has telekinetic powers, John, a weakling who suddenly became super strong, and Peter, an ordinary janitor with extraordinary determination and leadership skills.

After their school is attacked by Fyuk Yu, these three heroes are forced into a fight to save Karen, Peter's love interest, before she becomes another stereotypical Asian.

They are able to defeat the evil Fyuk Yu and his stereotype ma-

chine using their powers and intellect (on stage, they conveyed this by distracting the awesome Stony Brook lion dancers with lettuce.)

The play was intertwined with various other talented performances. The singers and the band had different styles, but they were all superb in their own way. The models walked down the runway with attitude and flair, showing off both their modern and their superhero outfits.

As the last performers of the night, the CASB Dance Team had a formidable task ahead of them, and they performed with incredible skill. Their dances were well-choreographed and coordinated. All the dancers left a lasting impression with their smooth moves and high energy. Their team is full of enormous talent.

In the end, the show was successful in revealing the truth—our ethnic backgrounds do not determine who we are. Making assumptions and fostering stereotypes is a dangerous and harmful trend. Not all of us are mathematicians or martial artists. We are all individuals whose interests and talents vary, and it is important for us to remind the world of this fact. China Night 2008 was a night to remember, and I would definitely recommend this show to anyone for next year. See you at China Night 2009!



# Crashed Their Own Art Party 'Cause Nobody Came

By Frank Loiacono

More than 4,000 freshmen and transfer students received First-On-Us ticket vouchers during the past summer and winter orientations in an effort by the Staller Center to expose students to the Staller experience and to lessen the proportion of gray hair in the audience.

But as of April 5, only 141 vouchers had been used.

Campus officials attribute the lack of success of First-On-Us, a promotional and educational tool in its inaugural year at Stony Brook University, to how it was marketed during the orientations. While the First-On-Us voucher came bundled with the Staller schedule in its own bag, "students still have too much to absorb in orientation," said Director of Student Orientation Heather Robertson. "It's an information overload."

Freshman Eric Luu is a prime example of getting overwhelmed at orientation. When asked about First-On-Us, Luu was clueless. However, when shown a voucher, he remembered he still had his. "Oh, yeah!" he said, adding, "I didn't throw it out." Luu admitted he did not use his voucher because he thought it would cost him money.

The 141 vouchers that have been used were worth a combined \$2,207. "We are losing money, but we are investing money," said Staller Center Director Alan Inkles. A Stony Brook alum, Inkles knows that, while he may

currently be able to fill up his theater with an older audience, if he does not plant the seeds now, there will be no older audience ten to twenty years from now.

The marketing of First-On-Us consisted of a five-minute presentation during the "This Community Belongs to All of Us" segment on the third day of summer orientation - by which time most students realize how "mandatory" the orientation events really are. "It's heartbreaking to me...upsetting," Robertson said. "We'll have to go back to the drawing board."

As the numbers show, drawing students to the Staller Center with free tickets is not as easy as it would seem. "The thing is, you still have to go, even if it's free," said Staller Center Financial Director Barbara Wien, in whose name the Barbara N. Wien Endowment for Arts and Education was founded. The endowment, started in 2007 with \$10,000 on Wien's twenty-fifth anniversary of working at Staller, supports the First-On-Us program through the interest it collects. The endowment, currently at \$79,000, earned \$2,700 in interest last year, which was allocated to the debut season of First-On-Us.

While the Staller staff expected a slow start, they were disappointed at how slow it actually was. "I'm not going to have students knocking down the doors," Inkles said, "but First-On-Us does get rid of the money roadblock." From \$5 movies to \$15 operas to \$37 main attractions, First-On-Us vouchers can be used at any show.

Inkles and Robertson want to come

out of the gate stronger next year. They plan on sending out reminder emails to students who have not used their vouchers and including First-On-Us in the freshman seminar textbook along with established Stony Brook traditions such as the Roth Pond Regatta. "We need to just get them in and expose them," said Inkles.

Located behind the Melville Library in the northeast corner of campus, the Staller Center is disconnected from many students. Inkles is proud of, and passionate about, scheduling a diversity of programs to bring in new faces. Performances this year ranged from Dutch hip-hop and extreme sport group 4-ISH to the 2008 Gala with Bernadette Peters to Stony Brook's Emerson String Quartet. However, the Staller Center's reputation for diverse programs has not reached everyone on campus.

Freshman Jessica Marmol, who did not receive a First-On-Us bag or Staller schedule, was asked if she would use a voucher if she had one. "To be honest, I wouldn't," she said. "I don't think anything would interest me." But, when told about the variety of programs and that the first would be free, she relented.

Finding out how to attract students to the arts is a learning process, Inkles acknowledged. "We've got to meet students somewhere in the middle," he said.

"Maybe one shot won't do it," Wien agreed, "but they know it exists now."

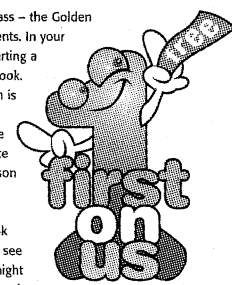
Sitting in two unmarked crates in the corner of the Student Orientation Office are hundreds of undistributed First-On-Us bags with vouchers and in-

formation packets - hundreds of missed opportunities and experiences. Next year will be the encore performance of the First-On-Us program. If the marketing goes well, it will be up to the students to give it a standing ovation.

STALLER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

## Welcome to Stony Brook!

You are a **VERY** special class - the Golden Anniversary entering students. In your honor, Staller Center is starting a **NEW** tradition at Stony Brook. The voucher at the bottom is our gift to you. It entitles you to a **FREE** ticket to the performance of your choice listed in our attached Season Brochure.



**Here's how it works:** look through the brochure and see which performance you might like to see in any given month.

Beginning on the first day of that month, fill out the voucher and bring it to the Staller Center Box Office located on the first floor and open from 12 noon to 6 PM. Subject to availability, you will be given a ticket for that performance and there is no charge.

**Your "first is on us."**

Once you have used your voucher we are not going to forget you. As a Stony Brook student you will receive half-price special discount tickets for the rest of the season. You can come to the Box Office the first of every month with your ID and buy half price tickets (one per ID/per show) for any performances in that month.

If you are a "spur of the moment" buyer, there are "student rush tickets" when available, which go on sale 15 minutes before the performance for \$7.00. It's riskier but often they are available.

*We've booked this season with you in mind...so check us out!*

### FIRST-ON-US VOUCHER

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT ID # \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PERFORMANCE \_\_\_\_\_

First-On-Us is supported by the Barbara N. Wien Endowment for Arts and Education and by the National Endowment for the Arts.

\*only available between 12 and 6 pm



# Tilly and the Wall: Get Ready to Jazzercise!

By Laura Cooper

Omaha, Nebraska is not the center of the music industry by any means. However, this city has turned out artists such as Bright Eyes and spurred the establishment of a renowned record label: Saddle Creek. Saddle Creek is home to artists such as The Faint, Cursive and Rilo Kiley. Another band, gypsy-esque Tilly and the Wall, also calls Omaha its home and is making a name for itself on the alternative music scene.

Most recognizable for their tap dancer being the main means of percussion, Tilly has created pop ballads based on band members' experiences and what they hope to experience.

Thus far, they have released two albums- *Tilly and the Wall* in 2004 and *Bottoms of Barrels* in 2006. Tilly, how-

ever, is taking a completely different stylistic turn with its latest dance, almost Madonna-inspired single, "Beat Control."



This six-piece band brought a different kind of energy to the Knitting Factory in New York City this past month. Instead of the folk-inspired show they showcased last time they per-

formed in New York, Tilly seemed to be consumed with appeasing the dance and synth-driven scene sweeping the indie-rock music circuit recently.

Just because crowds dance at their shows does not mean that Tilly and the Wall's signature folk pop sound can be replaced with bass, synth and neon tights.

Tilly and the Wall's Knitting Factory performance showcased new songs that sounded more eighties-inspired, with the notable absence of any introspective lyrics prevalent on their sophomore release, *Bottoms of Barrels*.

The song, "Nights of the Living Dead," vividly depicts prostitution, drugs and general situations of teenage maturation. The chorus, "god, put down your gun, can't you see we're dead," of the piece is a deeply intricate song that reveals self-doubt, loss and confusion throughout adolescence.

The band's latest release, "Beat Control," has their newly Malibu Barbie cloned singer coo, "Let the beat control you, let the beat control your body, baby!" It seemed as if Tilly and the Wall plans to market its next release to moms heading to Jazzercise.

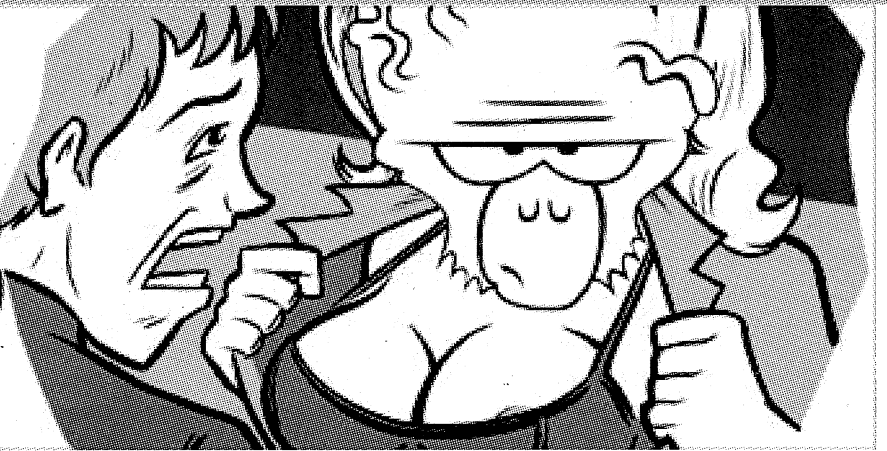
Though the group is a widely known and respected band in the independent music community, their fans will be sorely disappointed in their latest release, the newly dance-only friendly demeanor and by the change in the band's dynamic as a whole.

The new songs didn't even feature tap dancer Jamie Pressnall. She just smiled and danced in silence while wearing neon pink and black striped tights. It was disappointing to see the change from a once inspired band morph into one plagued by fake tans and lyrics suitable for aerobic videos circa 1982.



# THE GORILLA SALAD EXPRESS

## W/ DICK DELICIOUS



### Entering Nautica Thorn

Studio: Hustler

Director: Nautica Thorn

Cast: Alec Knight, Jay Huntington, Jay Lassiter, Justice Young, Kelly Wells, Kimberly Kane, Nautica Thorn, Nick Manning, Tyler Faith

Genre(s): All Girl (Lesbian), Anal, Asian, Straight, Toys

Condoms: No

In case you've been living under a rock and are completely unfamiliar with Nautica Thorn and her growing popularity on the World Wide Web, consider this DVD a formal introduction to her work with a hint of things to come.

*Entering Nautica Thorn* plays like an ordinary adult flick. What you'll notice, however, is that every scene shown here can also be found as exclusive internet content on the porn starlet's personal webpage. *Entering Nautica Thorn* is no doubt an attempt at building online subscriptions to said website, but that's not to say that the actual film lacks quality. Thankfully, the scenes here are steamy, the camerawork is precise and navigating through the movie's menus

is a snap.

Upon choosing a particular scene from the start of the disc, the viewer is treated to an alternate screen where the remaining vignettes are shown in groups labeled with genre-specific titles. Given the screen's overall look and vibe, I can only assume that this portion of the DVD bears likeness to the online layout found on Thorn's website. As a whole, these spots incorporate elements that are sure to tickle just about anyone's fancy. What you'll find here is group sex, some boy-on-girl material and a little all-girl action, among other things.

The opening vignette features Nautica in a leopard-print bikini. She begins teasing the camera and strikes several poses before the scene's leading man steps in to drill her pussy. The sex in this scene was definitely up to par and while it was a little on the long side, it was still exciting enough to keep those of us with shorter attention spans engaged until the final frames.

The second scene finds Tyler Faith and Nautica paired up for some hot lesbian fucking. Tyler is a leggy blonde

who likes to be in command as much as she enjoys being told what to do. The two take turns exploring each others pussies with an assortment of toys and like any other good all-girl scene there's also plenty of fingering, nipple sucking and pussy eating.

Blonde bombshell Kelly Wells steals the third scene with her dirty talk, sloppy dick gobbling and affinity for taking it in the ass. Not to feel left out, Nautica soon shows up with a camera in hand to do some filming of her own. Between shooting close-ups Nautica (who is clearly aroused) begins playing with her pussy throughout much of the vignette.

There are also two group sex scenes that follow. One highlights performances from Nautica and Kimberly Kane who get double-teamed by an older gentleman and the other begins with some masturbation on the part of Ms. Thorn who in minutes is manhandled by two male leads.

Since *Entering Nautica Thorn* was directed by Nautica herself and designed to help raise traffic on her web-



site, it's not at all shocking that you'll find this delectable starlet in every featured segment on this DVD. Not that that's a bad thing, of course.

### Broken

Studio: Teravision/Vivid Entertainment

Director: Dave Navarro

Cast: Sasha Grey, Jenna Haze, Victoria Sin, Lisa Daniels, Kayla Paige, Audrey Bitoni, Tommy Gunn, Mark Davis, Spider Jonez, Marco Banderas

Genre(s): All Girl, Cumshots, Group Sex, Plot, Straight, Toys

Condoms: No

With a would-be porn director at the helm, *Broken* film defines mediocrity and takes on the kind of experimental art flair you'd expect to see fashioned from the mind of a troubled film school graduate. With weird camera effects, intentionally grainy cinematography and the inclusion of flashing images, *Broken* makes me wish that I could bill Dave Navarro for wasted time, if only I had the luxury to do so.

Sasha Grey stars in this film and the events that precede her introduction revolve almost entirely around her character. Following some strange camera sequence, Sasha comes into focus and is shown sitting in the middle of a dimly

lit kitchen, crying hysterically and masturbating. As the film unfolds, things only get creepier.

Before long, you realize that Sasha is caught up in an abusive relationship with some guy who insists on giving it to her rough and hard. It's not surprising that their scenes involve a lot of slapping, choking and humility. During this vignette, closed-captioning litters the bottom half of the screen. Between all the grunting and moaning, what little dialogue exists is spoken entirely in English. Why then is the closed captioning in Italian for a film that's meant to be viewed by an American audience? I simply don't get it.

After getting tossed around, Sasha receives a facial and runs off to the bathroom. While planted on the toilet, she spits up what little cum she has left in her mouth and catches it all on the end of a spoon, proceeds to cook it up with a lighter, ties off her arm and makes for a syringe before slamming the door shut on the camera guy. While the thought of injecting semen intravenously is enough to give me nightmares for

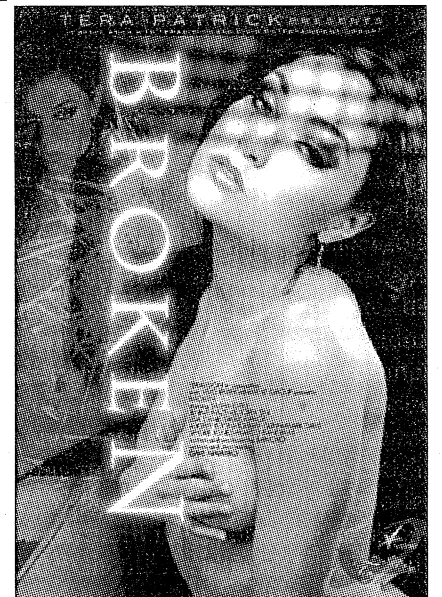
weeks, the film moves forward to include several more unsavory segments.

Much of the movie is shot in a huge building where lots of people are fucking each other willy-nilly in a cluster of film sets. Sasha shows up promptly and, after sucking off a random cameraman, she visits each set and assists with the sex that's already under way. From this point on the shooting skips from set to set while Dave Navarro insists on walking around shirtless.

Finally, Sasha pays a visit to the guy who did her wrong in the first scene. With a loaded shotgun in hand she wakes the guy up, orders him to take off his clothes and then watches him panic when she tells him to administer a condom on the barrel of her gun. Sasha yells at her victim to turn around so that she can presumably shove the end of her gun up his ass, when out of nowhere Dave Navarro yells, "Cut!" from the side of the set. Sasha turns the gun on him and it goes off and that's the end of the movie.

There's nothing really sexy or fun about *Broken*. The imagery presented

here is almost entirely tasteless and in some cases borders on violent. Whatever sex has been presented in this flick is your straightforward, run-of-the-mill type stuff and it turns out to be pretty boring overall. There's a little lesbian play and the inclusion of some toys but there's nothing here to save the movie from being painfully repetitive and just plain bizarre.





# She & Him Make New York City Debut

By Laura Cooper

A packed Webster Hall seemed almost welcoming this past Tuesday night. Concertgoers 18 and over presented tickets at the door marked the Hiro Ballroom, but were welcomed at the historic theatre on Third Avenue in New York City.

The venue opened its doors to a mob of concertgoers who all gathered to see the first New York City performance of She & Him, a duo of musician M. Ward and actress Zooey Deschanel.

The concert, which had been postponed from Monday night, was moved to Webster Hall to accommodate ticket holders from Monday and Tuesday night's shows.

She & Him released their highly anticipated debut *Volume One*, in March of this year, to rave reviews describing their music as "romantic, summery and warm," by allmusic.com.

The album showcased a country-folk, pop influenced sound, equally revealing the impact of both individuals.

M. Ward's musical stature as a country guitar-based musician has garnered him a fan base centered on his

several albums, the latest being *Post-War*. Matt Ward provided the melody for Deschanel's distinctive gentle voice. He stayed to the left of the stage, glancing down at his set list and the en-



Jenna Lapidus

She & Him's Zooey Deschanel (yes, the actor)

tranced audience, but hardly said anything.

Deschanel's story is a bit more unusual. She is chiefly an actress who has had roles in movies such as *Almost Fa-*

*mous*, *Real Girls*, *Bridge to Terabithia*, *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* and most notably in *Elf*, where she played Will Ferrell's love interest. In *Elf*, she received some of her earliest vocal recognition when she sang, "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," to a group of New Yorkers, in attempt to raise Christmas spirit.

The two met on the set of Deschanel's yet-to-be-released movie, *The Go-Getter*, where M. Ward was doing music for the movie's soundtrack. Martin Hynes, the film's director, got them together when he learned Deschanel was a fan of M. Ward's music, and together they recorded a song for the end credits in 2006 entitled, "When I get to the Border." "In general, my music career has been a series of happy accidents," M. Ward told *Under the Radar* magazine in an interview.

Deschanel, who has had a prior interest in recording, has been making her own demos and writing her own songs before the project was even a prospect. When M. Ward learned of this, he requested the demos and, in the end, they decided to record together.

The result is a highly respected and well-arranged album that showcases Deschanel's musical range, lyrical talent, and M. Ward's ever-present signature

country guitar style.

Songs such as "Sentimental Heart" have been played by indie music radio stations such as Sirius satellite radio's "Left of Center." The song is one of the few sad songs on the album, describing a break-up and the impending feelings of loss and yearning.

"Why do you Let Me Stay Here," a song that the two recently promoted and played on Late Night with Conan O'Brien, is a more playful, up-tempo song clearly revealing country roots and questions why continuous flirting has led to nothing further.

Though the two shared some intimate glances onstage, Deschanel and Ward are not currently dating. The crowd could easily detect their chemistry and Deschanel's admiration for Ward was evident. She watched him on the few guitar solos that are present throughout their album.

Deschanel was the reason for the postponement of their Monday night show, as she still had no speaking voice on Tuesday. She held up poster-board signs throughout the night, one saying, "You Guys Look Great!" The crowd responded in an uproar of laughter. Deschanel jumped up and down, grinning, as their first, but definitely not last New York City show came to an end.

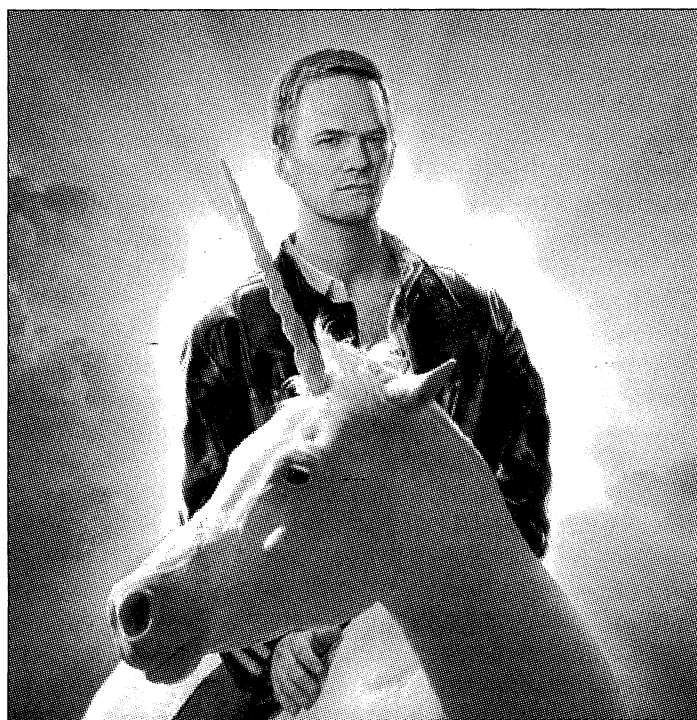
# Harold & Kumar: Escape From Guantanamo Bay

By Joe Donato

With the subtlety of a sledgehammer, the sequel to *Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle* attacks racial stereotypes and discrimination. Despite the shit and fart jokes, *Escape from Guantanamo Bay* offers up some substantial social commentary, though it's just as quick to toss it all aside in the name of tastelessness.

The movie opens mere moments after the events of the original, with our heroes learning the side effects of eating White Castle and preparing for their trip to Amsterdam to meet up with Harold's crush Maria. From there, it's pretty much the same shtick from the last movie: Things don't work out, and we find the two traveling from set piece to set piece. This time the, movie hits an eleven on the absurdity scale throughout its entirety.

Many sequels and long running sitcoms suffer from going too far for the sake of a joke, or turning their characters into caricatures of themselves. The original film was so absurd that it would be hard to betray it, but there was heart



Neil Patrick Harris reprises his role as Neil Patrick Harris.

underneath the big bags of weed, deformed rednecks and battleshit jokes. Thankfully, whereas last time, we saw Harold grow as a character, this time it's Kumar's turn, and while it borders on

cheese at times, ultimately Kumar's quest to reclaim love is pretty heart warming.

What was once subtle pervasive racial commentary is now the crux of

nearly every joke in the movie. The movie leaves no stone unturned, and every time it threatens to be racist or sexist, it turns it around in such a brilliantly charming and crude fashion that is hard to hate. There's a heavy handed anti-racist message here, but given the typical audience these kinds of comedies bring in, it's nice to see a movie so upfront with its values.

The biggest fault I can pin on the movie (beyond a few sappy moments), is the typical comedy sequel technique of callbacks. While many of the returning favorites, such as Neil Patrick Harris and the big bag of weed, are some of the best gags in the movie, a lot of the new stuff left me teary-eyed. As funny as much of the content in the previews was, they definitely saved the funniest stuff for the theater.

While I think the original was a more solid movie overall, and obviously fresher, *Escape from Guantanamo Bay* is probably the funniest movie I've seen since the last one. Despite my original hesitations about a sequel, I'm definitely not afraid to see the adventures of Harold and Kumar continue in a third movie.



# The Grapes of Wrath: Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory

By Rebecca Kleinhaut

Upon discovering that the Department of Theatre Arts was going to be performing *The Grapes of Wrath*, I was a bit worried. The technological prowess of Frank Galati's adaptation of the beloved John Steinbeck novel calls for, among other things, a moving stage. However, it was amazing how quickly I was able to forgive (and forget) the lack of this one mechanized component when faced with the combination of impressive stage effects and heart-wrenching performances.

In his program notes, director Nick Mangano stated, "Economy and bigotry have always been linked." This is the case with the Joads, a ravaged family of "Okies" attempting to make their way to California during the 1930's Dust Bowl. The audience is presented with a family that could, in modern times, be easily classified as "white trash": each actor successfully imitated the heavy Oklahoma accent, and when Tom Joad reunites with his family after three years in prison, all anybody can ask him is if he "busted out." However, while the accents initially sound campy to a 21st century northeastern audience, Galati's play (and Mangano's adaptation) showcases the traditional family drama of which modern playgoers are so fond. Tom (Dan O'Reilly) attempts to quell his over-stimulated temper for the sake of his family, while Al (Alex Geissbuhler) chases girls and Ma Joad (Danielle

Guidi) attempts to school Rose of Sharon (Jillian Cross), her pregnant daughter, on the importance of responsibility.

*The Grapes of Wrath* fits nicely in the classification of "family drama," yet I cannot allow it to fall into this stereotypically dry category. The play suc-

cessfully moves beyond the emotional hardship of a typically dysfunctional family and unabashedly deals with "economic bigotry." Although there was not a weak performance within the Ensemble and the Joad family, it was impossible not to feel the intense restraint behind Dan O'Reilly's tight-lipped portrayal of Tom Joad. Former preacher Jim Casey also provided some much-needed optimism, and Antoine Jones' wide-eyed portrayal had, by the close of the play, brought tears to my eyes.

If one had to choose a protagonist, it would be Tom, and Mangano's version of the play nicely pays homage to

cape as she says goodbye to one of her sons? Even the initially naïve Rose of Sharon exudes strength by the close of the play. It is ultimately the women who must nurture an otherwise barren world, and actresses Jillian Cross and Danielle Guidi as the female Joads give impressive performances of strength and femininity.

As for the stage effects and props, the show was not without impressive lighting and weather effects; the technical crew astounded the audience with rain, a technique that is rarely seen in larger budget shows. Even the lack of a movable stage was counterbalanced nicely as members of the Joad party moved the car around manually. Combined with the live guitarist, bassist, fiddler and banjo player, the few less-technological effects highlighted the economic reality of the setting.

At the beginning of the play, Jim Casey tells Tom, "Maybe all men got one big soul everyone's a part of." Hopeful? You bet. Impossible? Not according to *The Grapes of Wrath*, nor the cast and crew who wonderfully play homage to this idea.

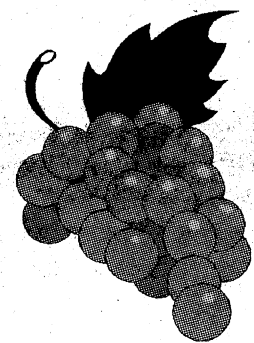
*The Grapes of Wrath*: Performances run through Sunday, May 4, in Staller Center, Theater One.



Dan O'Reilly and Danielle Guidi in *The Grapes of Wrath*

cessfully moves beyond the emotional hardship of a typically dysfunctional family and unabashedly deals with "economic bigotry." Although there was not a weak performance within the Ensemble and the Joad family, it was impossible not to feel the intense restraint behind Dan O'Reilly's tight-lipped por-

trayal of Tom Joad. Former preacher Jim Casey also provided some much-needed optimism, and Antoine Jones' wide-eyed portrayal had, by the close of the play, brought tears to my eyes. If one had to choose a protagonist, it would be Tom, and Mangano's version of the play nicely pays homage to



## Mikey Music Nite

By Robert V. Gilheany

On Friday April 25 we had a memorial and birthday concert for Mikey Layne at the University Café. Mikey was a soul man, and his music was very funky. It mixed pop, soul and funk, and it had a universal, positive and anti-racist message. On January 7 2006, Mikey lost a long battle with AIDS.

The birthday concert was planned to take place at the University Café, with acts as diverse as blue grass duo Beau and Nigel, grunge rockers Kinky Porcupine, pianist and songstress Nicole Sena Evens, Mikey's mother, Marjorie Eliot, and brother, Rudel Drears, both accomplished Jazz pianists.

After the University Café was booked for the event there was a change in management at the cafe. I went to the

Café the afternoon of the event, and the new management didn't know about it except for a poster in the Café. After much explaining and schmoozing everything was worked out and the show was saved.

However, last minute complications kept popping up. Nigel, of Beau & Nigel, called and said that he was picking up someone at JFK and would be late. I figured, OK, Beau & Nigel will go on after Kinky Porcupine. But Nigel called back and said that he needed to go on early before running to JFK. Marjorie Eliot also called and said that she and Rudel would not be arriving at Stony Brook till 9:07pm. Also, for no logical reason, Kinky Porcupine needed to go on early. They were the only rock grunge band and were scheduled to do an hour long set. I felt they should have been the last act to close the event.

As 9pm approached I told members of Kinky Porcupine that I was heading up to the train station to walk Marjorie and Rudel to the University Café. On my way to the train, I thought the only thing that could go wrong now would be the train being late. I was at the station platform and it was 9:12. Rudel called and informed me that the train was held up in Smithtown, so the train would be 30 minutes late. Beau called and said that they were ready to go on. I said, "Kool, but wait till I get there to do certain song."

Marjorie, Rudel and I got back to the cafe at 9:30, and Beau & Nigel were on stage, but didn't start. I did a quick intro and the show began.

Beau & Nigel did a few blue grass numbers. Nigel sang and both musicians played the guitar. Beau is a mighty fine picker. Nigel spoke to the crowd

and said that they were going to cover a Mikey song. Nigel said that he had never met Mikey and hadn't heard his music until I gave Beau a CD. They covered "Hay Karin" and it was way "kool." During their set their friend Dan played the violin, and it was a great arrangement of "Hay Karin" from the *Thank you for Talking to Me Gunya* album that Mikey and his German band recorded in 1996. Beau & Nigel closed with the bluegrass number "Rolling in My Sweet Baby's Arms."

Kinky Porcupine took the stage. They opened with a song called "Serenade" they were major grunge. The guitarist James is hot. He rocks. The opening number went from being a mellow jam to grunging out. They played an hour of original music, with Erica on drums and Jessica Forman on

Mikey continued on next page



## Mikey continued from previous page

bass. James performed lead vocals except for two songs. Erica sang her song "Nicotine" and Jessica lead on a song. In the middle of their set Brian Baru plugged in his guitar and joined KP on stage. He sang an original called "Mikey and the Angels," named after Mikey's last band. Brian played that song acoustically at the last Be-In and was invited to join KP on that number. KP covered the Ramones song "Blitzkrieg Bop" and then wrapped up their set.

Nicole Sean Evens took the seat at the keyboard and performed a number of beautiful original songs. She has a big voice and singular style of piano playing. She covered "Sony," a Mikey song from the aforementioned album.

I knew the last train out of Stony Brook going to the City left at 11:30, and Marjorie and Rudel needed to get back to the city. They were scheduled to



The wonderful pianist, Mrs. Layne

Jesse Schoepfer

play on the east side on April 26. So I arranged for them to get a lift to Ronkonkoma. Unfortunately, that fell through at the last second. I would have to go to plan B to get them to Ronkonkoma.

Rudel Drears took the stage and played "Everybody is a star," a Sly and the Family Stone hit. Mikey was a big fan of Sly and they were a major influence on his music. He then played "Happy Birthday" and called his mother up to the stage. Marjorie Eliot played the piano in her pretty Jazz style, and Rudel sang the last two songs of the night.

Beau and Nicole drove Rudel and Marjorie down to the Ronkonkoma station, where they just caught the train headed back to New York City.

## Battle of the Bands Finals

By David Robin

The most exciting part of the last Battle of the Bands, the semifinals, was the realization that the Battle of the Bands finals would only be three weeks after. Those 21 days could not have passed slower, although there was amazing weather during the last few weeks. On Thursday, April 24, the wait was over and the Battle of the Bands finale was going to take place.

The night began at 8:00 pm. I took a spot next to the stage, just like during the semifinals. One major difference with the finals was that only three bands were playing, so only one stage was needed. The advantage of this setup was that people would only need to pay attention to one stage and would not have to move around to see different bands. However, bands would need to setup so there would be some downtime between each of the three bands' set. Fortunately, there were raffles throughout the night for tickets for the "Grapes of Wrath" performances on campus and other prizes. These raffles were during the intermissions and it made the concert flow much better. There were many guest judges including Johanna Sousa, Professor Paul Bingham, Mark Mendoza, from Twisted Sister, James Faith, Scott Segal from MTV, and Perry Goldstein, an SBU Professor. In addition, the host was a Joe Rock from WBAB, the radio station.

Honus Wagner was the first band to perform and they played a great set. The three-piece band contains Gary Jaco-

belli on drums and vocals, James Pelowski on guitar and vocals, and Mike Taffet on bass and backup vocals. Mike mentioned how they wanted to play completely different songs for the finals. While some new songs were played, they did repeat a few songs from the Semifinals. However, it was a good way to keep the band fresh and led to an energetic set. They played mostly original songs like "If I Had the World in my Hands I Would Throw it Away," "Come Get it," "Just," "On My Knees," "Philip H Chesterborough" and "Dreams." They also played "Black Crow Blues," a Bob Dylan cover. Taffet kept up his standard of crowd interaction, hopping off of the stage and playing in the crowd. At one point one of my friends put a sombrero on Taffet's head and he played for a few minutes while wearing it. The crowd seemed into the music and Honus Wagner received a great crowd reaction. After their set, the next band, Thursday was Cloudy, set up for their set while the first raffles of the night took place.

Thursday was Cloudy is a four piece band with Phil on Guitar, drums and vocals, Dave on guitar and vocals, and Tim on bass. According to their MySpace, they have a self-titled album coming out on August 16. They played a solid set like last time, repeating a few of their songs from the semi-finals mixed with some new songs. Their music contained many catchy guitar riffs that led into nice breakdowns even though their singing style was much less hardcore. Many of their songs had lyrics that were described by some as emo, but, which blended very well with the hard-hitting guitar parts. They did not

really move much on stage, but showed energy with their expressions, and this radiated into the crowd. After playing for well over a half hour, they departed and Mother F'Nature set up for their set.

After just barely losing another raffle (I was two numbers away!), I listened as Mother F'Nature began their set and it felt like they brought the same energy they had from the semifinals into the finals. Mother F'Nature is Patrice Zapiti on vocals and acoustic guitar, Dan Wortley on bass, Max Tieze on guitar, and Dan Martingano on bass. They started off with technical problems, as there was too much feedback on one of the guitar amps and this led to a feedback chant from some in the crowd. They thought they fixed the problem, but then after one song, realized that there was still a problem with the guitar amp. Patrice and the rest of Mother F'Nature handled the situation very well, and after a few minutes of people holding their breaths, they were able to continue their set. Mother F'Nature seemed to have a strong fanbase, as there were a few people right in the front just jamming out to the music. In addition, Mother F'Nature realized that they wanted more fan support and summoned the crowd closer to the stage, which led to a more intimate feel. They continued their set, mixing both songs played at the semifinals and newer songs. By the end of their set, the whole crowd was into it and this led to their final song, "Misery Business," a cover of the Paramore song. Many people in the crowd knew the song and sang along, which was a strong ending to the band's

set.

While waiting as the judges to deliberate, concertgoers enjoyed another raffle that I just barely lost. If only I came one minute earlier, I would have won an iPod shuffle. Either way, the judges soon came to a decision, and the result was read with the second runner up first. This led to an anticlimactic confusion, because once the first runner up was announced, everybody knew who the winner was. Honus Wagner was the second runner up and Thursday was Cloudy was the first runner up. See how anticlimactic that was? Mother F'Nature won the Stony Brook 2008 Battle of the Bands which led to a loud ovation from some in the crowd. Each band won a monetary prize and Mother F'Nature singer, Patrice, announced that the money would help pay for the broken guitar amp and a new guitar plug.

While this event was a step in the right direction for the Stony Brook music scene, more events like this need to occur. Once again, people came to the Black Box Theatre in the Tabler Arts Center to see a competition and hear live music. If more concerts happen on campus and attendance continues to skyrocket, then Stony Brook may one day be the next SUNY Purchase. Stony Brook needs people who have a passion to play music and people who want to hear them play. All it takes is balls, sweat and creativity.



# My 4/20 Experience



**David Robin**

April 20, 2008 was not a normal day at Stony Brook. The weather was very nice, it was sunny all day, and there was no class on 4/21 due to Passover. It was so

amazing outside that people were making jokes about how they were thanking the Jews for canceling Monday classes the next day. It wasn't just the weather though. If anyone reading this is confused already, then you probably should stop reading because you will not understand the point of this article. However, if you are nodding your head in agreement right now, the significance of the day does not need to be explained. No, it's not because it was that famous German dictator's birthday. It wasn't because two trench coat wearing outcasts decided that it would be cool to shoot up their school. Any other guesses? Yeah? That paper didn't taste as bitter as I thought it would.

Ten of my friends and I fully celebrated 4/20, especially because we were able to rest the next day. We started at 10AM and ended up going to sleep at 7AM! We celebrated 4/20 from the second we woke up until 21 insane hours later. No birthday party lasts that long. No bar mitzvah lasts longer than four or five hours. No wedding is held in a room that smells like Glade Air Infusions, Spring Scent. This was not a typical celebration at all.

The first few hours were the worst part of our celebration. Our stomachs were hurting and people were puking. If we had coin operated toilet stalls in my suite, people would have needed change because there was heavy usage of our suite bathroom. The reason was definitely not that we ate spoiled birthday cake. Within two hours, nobody was thinking about their stomachs.

Once the celebration began, we ended up outside because the weather was ridiculously springlike. We walked to the bench outside our building before walking down the path that leads through the forest to West, known affectionately as the rape path. The forest never looked as amazing as it did on that Sunday afternoon. On the way back to our room, which took much longer than usual, we met five people sitting on the bench. They were eating pizza, with more toppings than usual, and our friend completely ruined their meal by knocking over one of their red Rockstars. They weren't offended.

All day, we passed around a sombrero and at one point, one of our friends went outside shirtless, holding water guns and wearing it. Someone that we don't know in Sanger is going to read this and know exactly who I am talking about. We also had an awesome water gun fight in our common room, which was cool, except for when everything in our suite was soaked with water. 4/20 experiences lead to definite logic flaws.

We ended up sitting on the grass outside of Sanger, just talking and en-

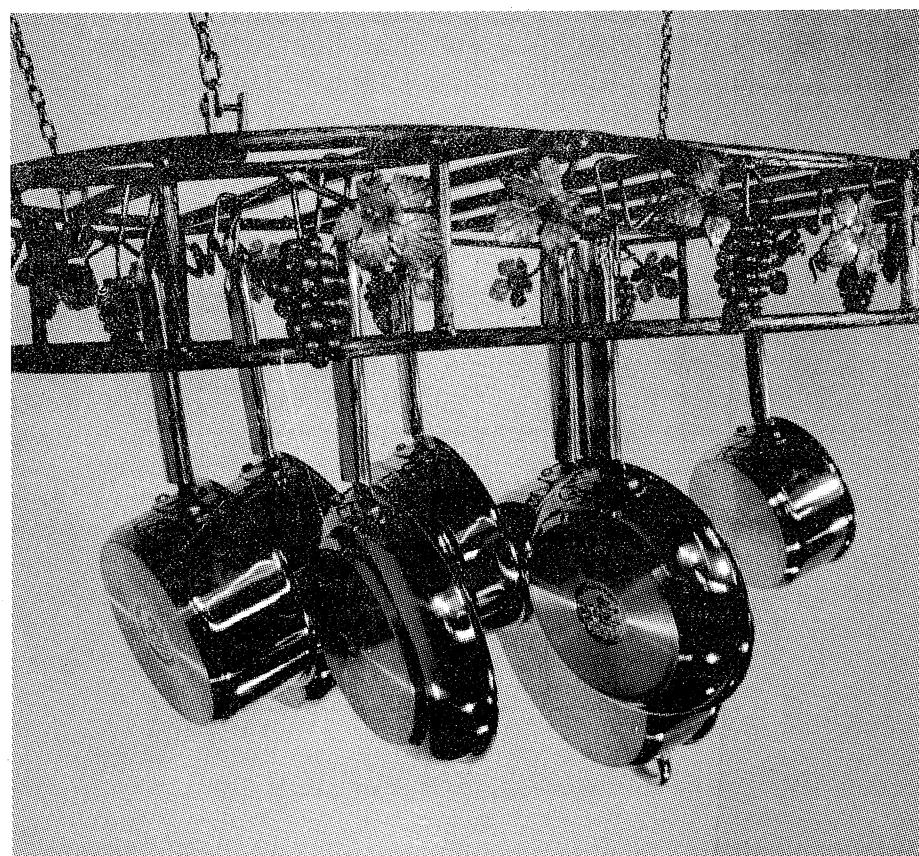
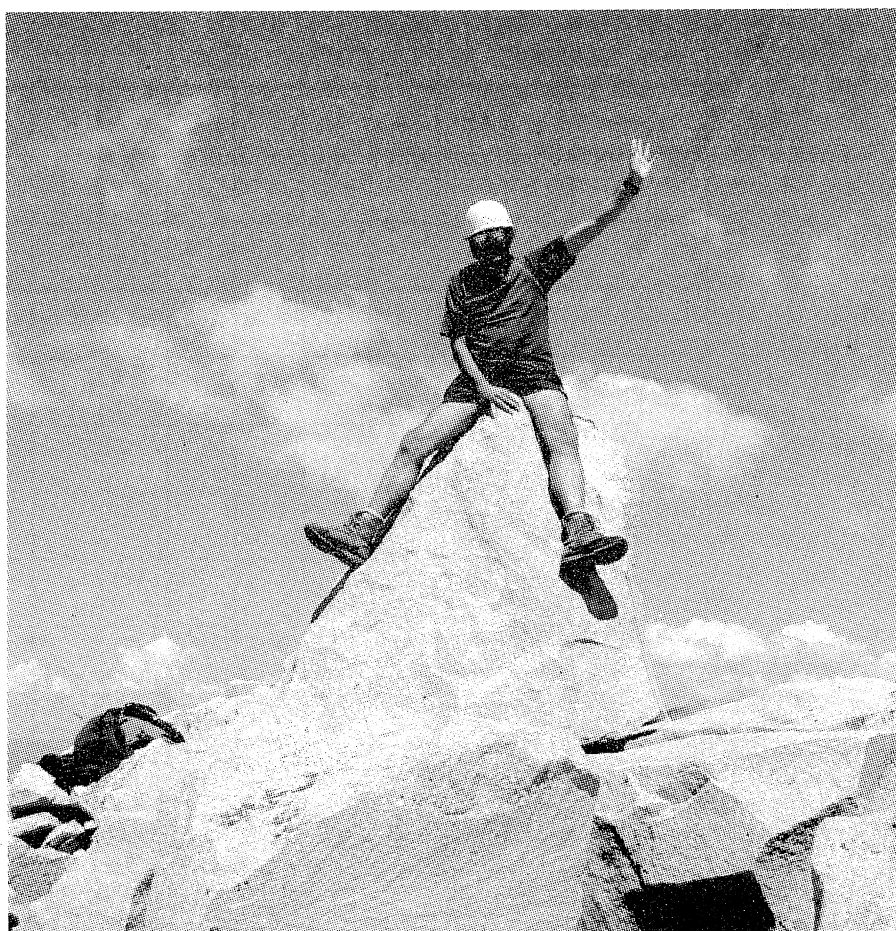
joying the day. People criticize Stony Brook all the time, but the campus is really nice in the Spring. We ended up back inside for a short time and continued to celebrate the meaning of 4/20. After a few more hours, we decided to go feed some geese. This really sounds like a codeword for something illegal, but we actually went to Roth Pond and fed them with geese feed. The geese were so excited because it was probably the most they had eaten in a long time. The fish and turtles in the pond also stole some of the food. The birds were flying around frantically and looked very jealous. It meant something because in our fast paced society of computers and Blackberrys, 11 college students can get together, help out the environment, and have fun doing it. Nobody was thinking about their Facebook or their fantasy baseball teams. Others were also enjoying the day at Roth and definitely noticed what we were doing. It was one of the best parts of the afternoon.

After a few more hours of having fun, we decided to go to the Bamboo Forest. If anyone on campus has not seen the Bamboo Forest, they should go visit it because it is one of the hidden treasures of Stony Brook. We walked through the woods to reach the Bamboo Forest and once we were there, we walked into the darkness, not sure of what we would see next. We ventured into the center of the bamboo forest before lying down and throwing glowsticks. They began to get stuck on the leaves on the branches above us and

soon we had all of the glowsticks hanging from the branches. It was almost like the Bamboo Forest was decorated for a Christmas rave.

We travelled farther into the forest and sat down at a spot that we did not realize was only fifteen feet from the LIRR train tracks. We were sitting for only a few minutes when we heard a honk and saw a whole section of the forest become bright from the lights of the train. We then watched as the train crossed, in an amazing spectacle that has to be seen to be believed.

Afterwards, we walked back to my room and just sat around and talked for the rest of the night. It was one of the best days I have ever had at Stony Brook University. We all had midterms and nine page papers coming up. Finals were approaching, and we would all be in class on Tuesday, thinking about all of the work that we had to do. Meanwhile, the United States is falling into a recession, there is a tight democratic election race, and the War in Iraq continues. There is so much to be stressed out about as a Stony Brook student in 2008, but for one day, we sat around and didn't think about anything stressful. We thought about how nice Stony Brook looked, about how we had so many awesome friends, and how college really is the best four years of your life. We were eleven people with eleven sets of problems, but we were able to relax and have fun. 4/20 led to the creation of bruises, cuts, and memories.

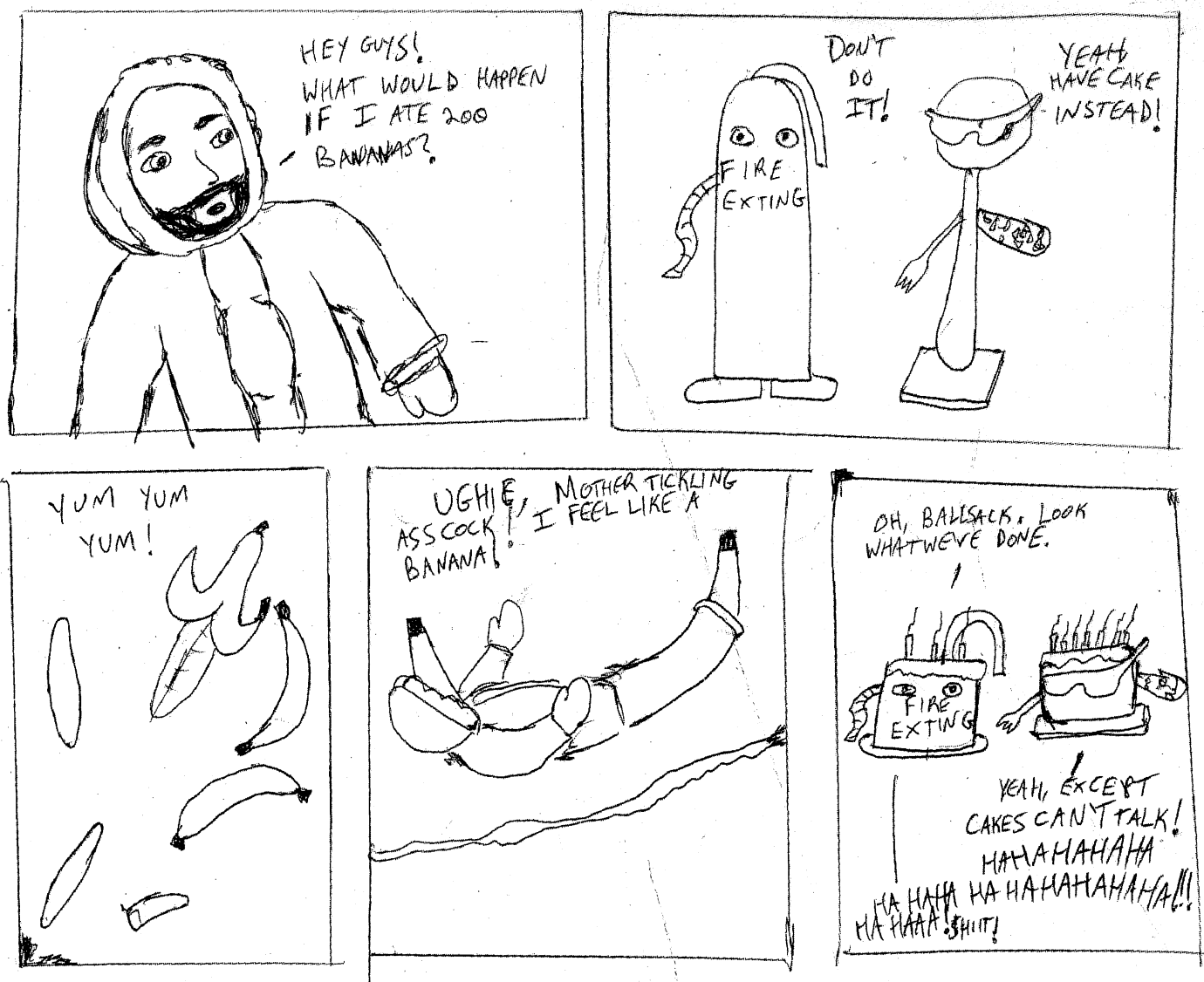




# THE COMICS SECTION

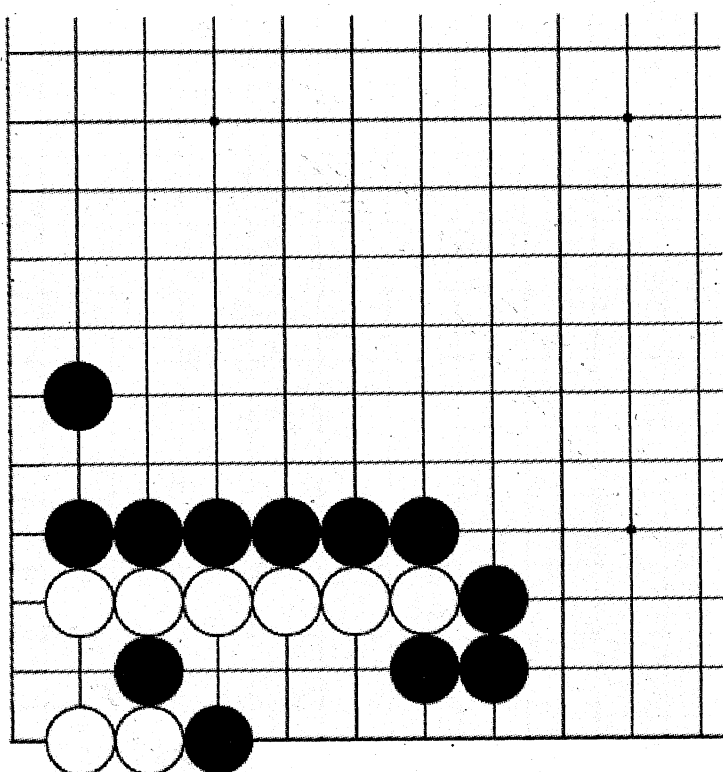
## ESKIMO JIM

BY DAVID K. GINN



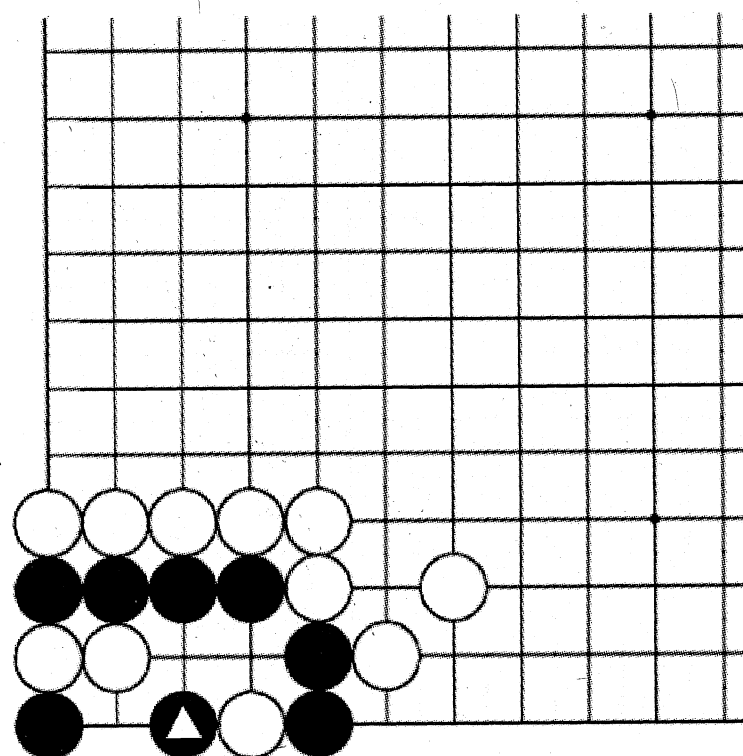
I'm so depressed, I don't know what to do...

## Go For It, Man!



Black to move, kill Whitey

Want to learn more? Check out Go Club, every Tuesday and Thursday at 7PM in the Library Commuter Lounge

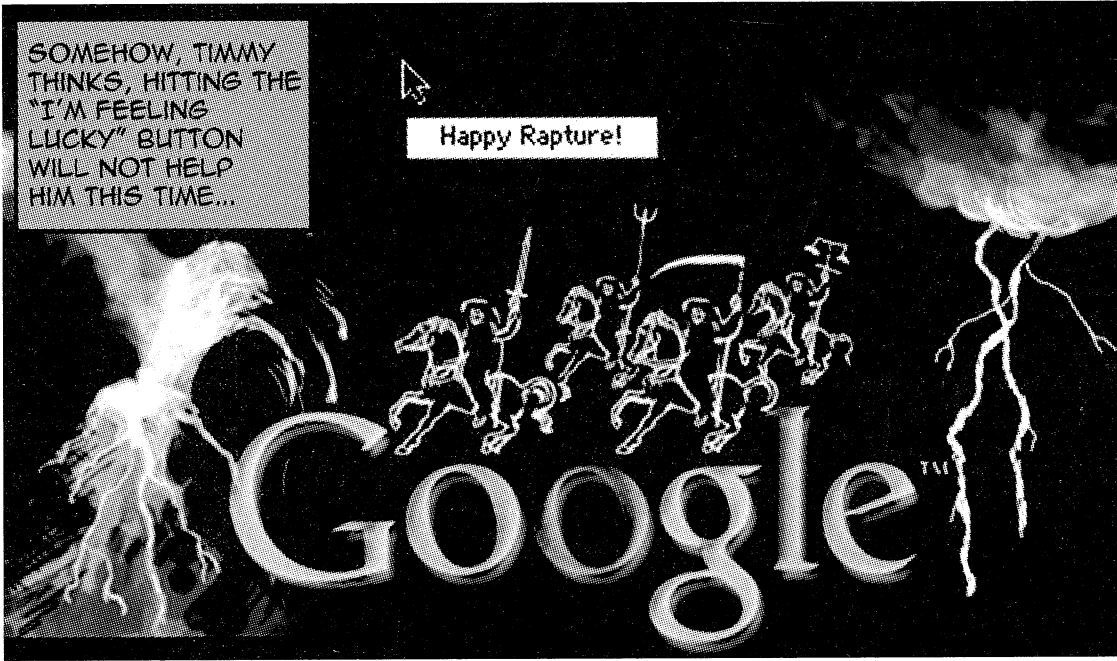
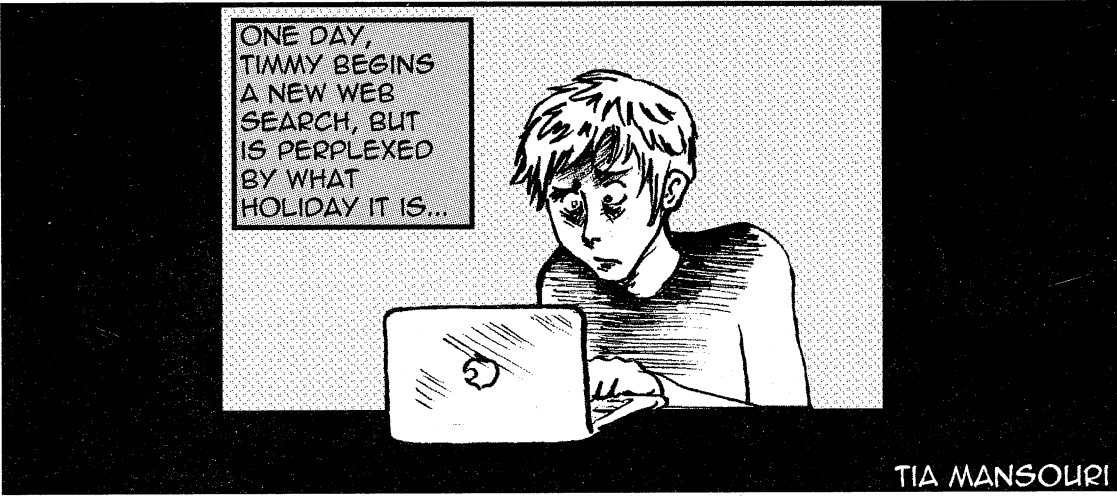


Issue 11 Solution

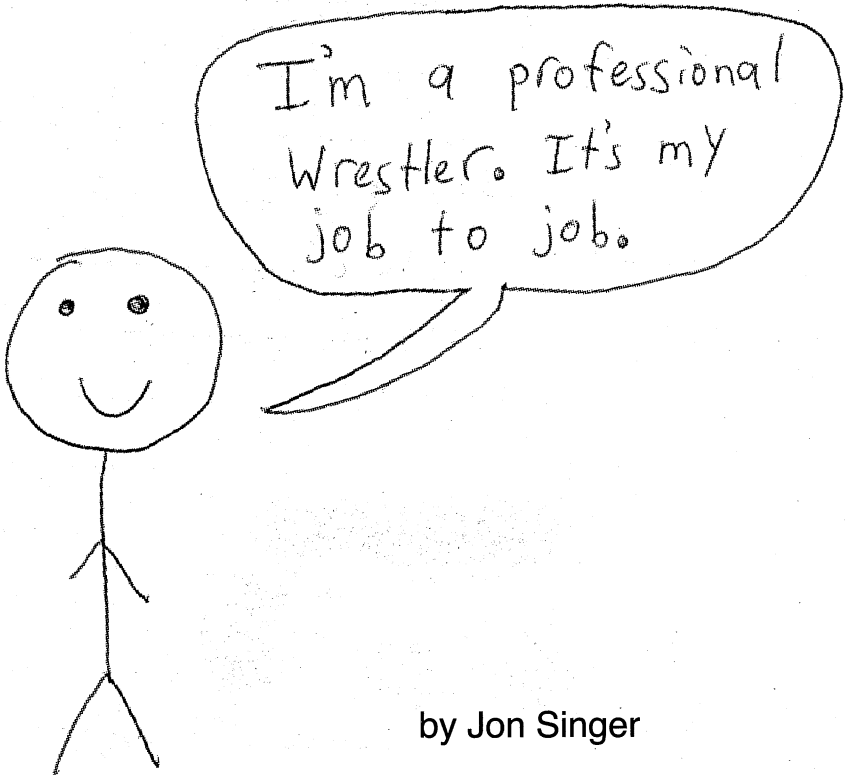


THE COMICS SECTION

GREAT GOOGLY-MOOGLY, BATMAN!

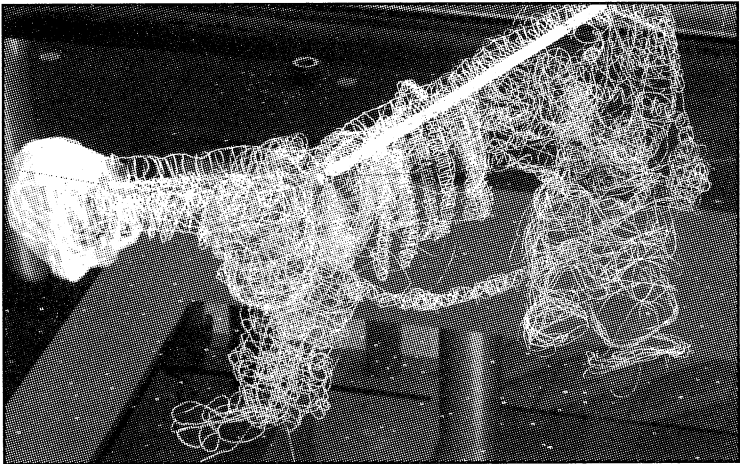


The Pizza Company



TOP TEN

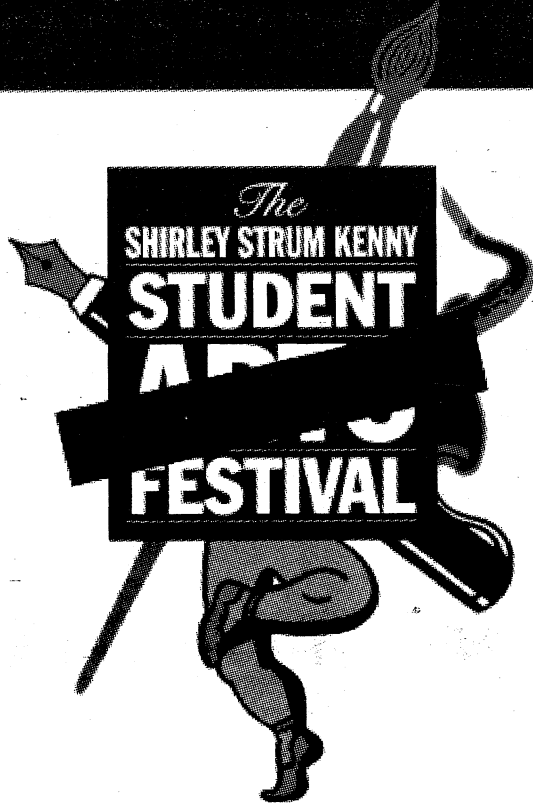
Top 10 Rumors as to Why The Polar Bear Was Taken Down from the Wang Center



- 10 Bear was registered to vote in Pennsylvania, so he went to fulfill his duty as an American.
- 9 Bear went to the Wang Gift shop, wondered why everything was green, then realized he was color blind and just went back to the arctic, where everything is white and so not complicated.
- 8 People needed to use the space in order to recreate the acrobatic sex scene from *Lust, Caution*.
- 7 Joined the 218,543,634 students sitting / sleeping / smoking hookah / permanently inhabiting the Staller Lawn.
- 6 Self esteem issues (the bear felt fat).
- 5 Polar Bear had an Organic Chemistry exam to take.
- 4 Polar Bear had acrophobia and really, really wanted to come down.
- 3 There was a wedding in the Wang Center, and everyone knows you don't wear white to other people's weddings.
- 2 People were starting to throw loose change at Polar Bear.
- 1 Polar Bear needed to be in Hawaii in order to chase cast members of little known ABC drama (*Lost*? Has anyone heard of it?).



# A Celebration of Student Expression\*



Join us for the annual Shirley Strum Kenny Student Arts Festival which showcases the selective diversity of our students through their creative endeavors and our censorship of them

#### Sponsors:

The Stony Brook Student Arts Festival is made possible by the following campus departments: Division of Campus Residences; Living Learning Center; Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action; Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs; The Shirley Strum Kenny Censorship Committee; Office of the Vice President of Student Affairs; Undergraduate College of Arts, Culture, and Humanities.

#### Supporters:

Campus Dining; Faculty Student Association; Office of the Dean of Students; **NOT** the office of President Kenny; Staller Center; SBU Alumni Association;

STONY BROOK  
UNIVERSITY



FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

## April 16 to April 24, 2008

### Wednesday, April 16

- Street Fair Kick-off
- Stony Brook Idol Finals
- Music Department Campus Lifetime Concert
- Who is Asia America? (April 16 to April 18)
- URECA Art Exhibit Reception (April 3 to April 18)
- Digital Dreams Careers Lecture
- Writers Speak: Poets Star Black and Ravi Shankar-Stony Brook Southampton
- Stony Brook Wind Ensemble
- Swallow This
- The Figure (until April 28)
- La Otra Mirada—The Other Look

### Thursday, April 17

- Coffee with the Arts
- Trust Lecture: Aristotle's Rhetoric
- Digital Arts Student Screenings
- Emerson String Quartet
- Earthstock Panel Discussion
- Interdisciplinary Arts Student Exhibition
- Department of Theatre Arts Gallery

### Friday, April 18

- Pride Patrol
- Shaw and His Women
- Earthstock Research Showcase
- Staller Film Series
- Interdisciplinary Arts Student Performances

### Saturday, April 19

- Media Arts Student Screenings: New York City
- Media Tours: New York City

### Sunday, April 20

- WUSB-FM and SBU-TV Workshops and Tours
- Art in the 21st Century Screenings
- Interdisciplinary Arts Student Performances

### Monday, April 21

- Discourse on the Humanities
- History of SB Concerts: Panel/Screenings
- Drum Circle/Open Jam
- Fashion and Media
- Interdisciplinary Arts Student Performances

### Tuesday, April 22

- Student Media 50th Anniversary Exhibit
- University Television Studio Tour
- Ethics in Media Seminar
- Interdisciplinary Arts Student Exhibition (Excluding the "Unbound" Exhibit)

### Wednesday, April 23

- Dancing with the SBU Stars
- Music Department Campus Lifetime Concert
- Interdisciplinary Arts Student Exhibition (Excluding the "Unbound" Exhibit)
- SB Student Short Film Showcase

### Thursday, April 24

- Sonic Residues (until May 12)
- SSK Student Arts Festival Closing Reception
- Provost Lecture Series, Journalist Dahr Jamail
- Contemporary Asian Architecture
- Battle of the Bands Finals
- The Grapes of Wrath (April 24 to 27, May 1 to 4)
- SBU Jazz Ensemble
- Open Doors/Open Minds

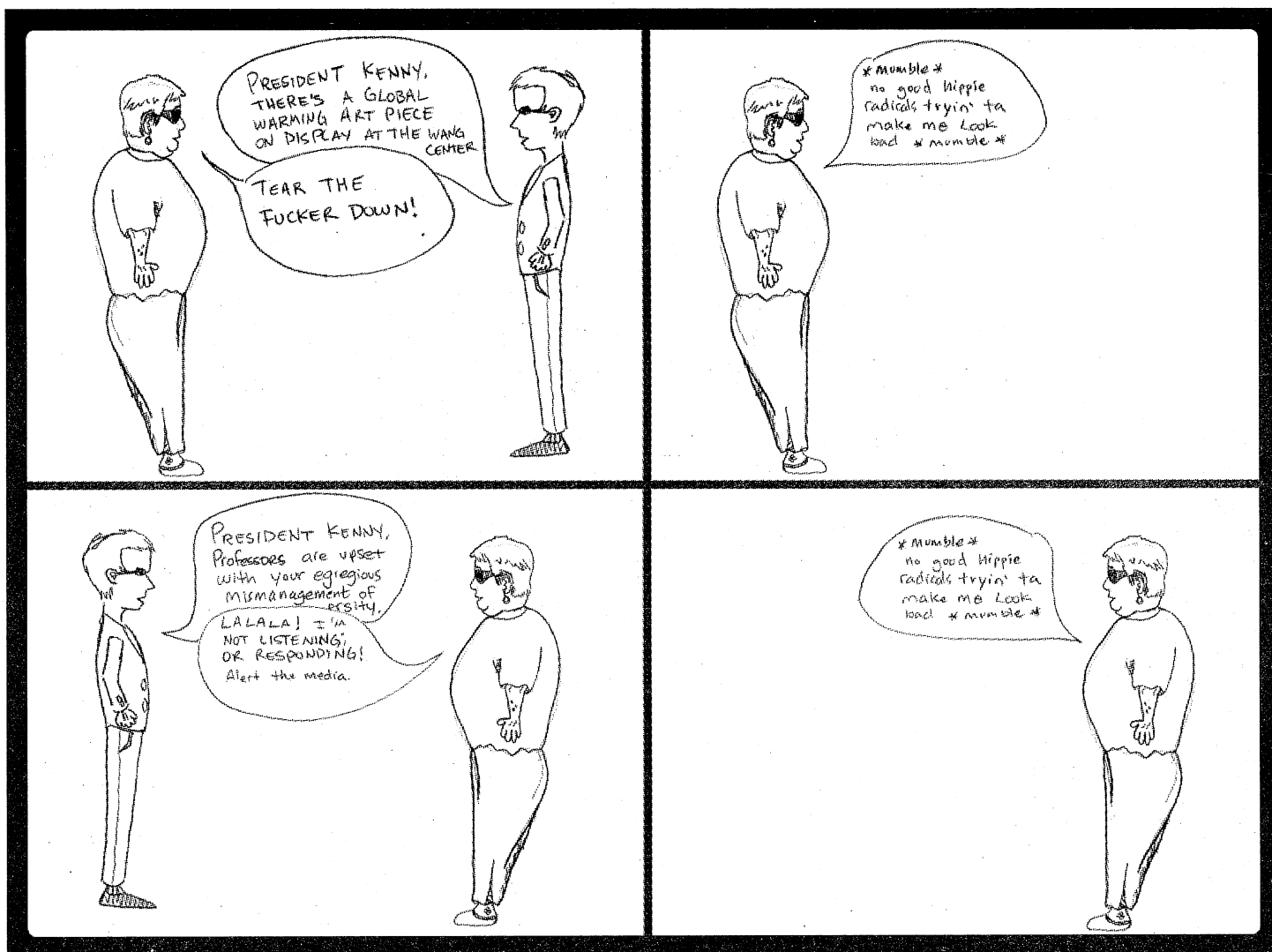
For more information on event locations and times, visit our Web page:

[www.stonybrook.edu/fartfest](http://www.stonybrook.edu/fartfest)

Stony Brook University/SUNY is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educator and employer. For a disability-related accommodation, call 632-4378.

\* Except Where Deemed Aesthetically Displeasing by the Festival's Patron, Shirley Strum Kenny.





L  
A  
L  
A  
L  
A  
I  
C  
A  
N  
T  
H  
E  
A  
R  
Y  
O  
U

By Andrew Fraley



Avant-garde

By Werner von Blurr



# Women's Lacrosse

By Najib Aminy

The inaugural "Lacrosse for Autism" game drew in an attendance of over 5000 as both the Stony Brook Men's and Women's lacrosse teams went against the blue and gold Lions from Hofstra. Brandon Fleming, who spearheaded the awareness game, has a son who was diagnosed with autism in 2004. "It is important to let people know about autism. I feel that only people who have a close relationship with someone with autism are aware and it is important that everyone knows," said Fleming. Fleming works for Lacrosse Unlimited, a lacrosse equipment store on Long Island, and has organized three other games promoting awareness for autism with matches between Duke and Dartmouth, Fairfield and Yale, and University of Maryland: Baltimore County and the University of Albany. Fleming decided to choose the Hofstra and Stony Brook match because the game was at a great venue and in April, which is Autism Awareness Month. Proceeds of the game went to The Cody Center For Autism and Developmental Disabilities, which, according to staff assistant Lisa Platania, works on re-

search, treatment, workshops, and information. The Cody Center hosted its Annual Cody Walk on April 27 and will host a comedy show on May 14 with all proceeds heading to the center. For more information on lacrosse and autism, log onto [www.lax4autism.com](http://www.lax4autism.com) or for information about the Cody Center, log onto [www.stonybrookmedicalcenter.org/cody-center](http://www.stonybrookmedicalcenter.org/cody-center).

Senior Day marked the first time in the Stony Brook women's lacrosse team's history that the mighty Seawolves defeated Hofstra, leaving the Pride with nothing to be proud of. Six minutes into the first half, junior Kaitlin Leggio (Bay Shore, NY) pierced the stale mate with a riveting shot leaving Hofstra breathless. For much of the first half, Hofstra kept the margin of goals close trailing by three despite their 11 shots to the Seawolves 17. Stony Brook responded with goals by freshman Samantha Djaha (East Islip, NY) and junior Jenna Celano (Farmingdale, NY) with free position shots as well as freshman Melissa Cook (Bay Shore, NY) and senior Amy Hallion (Glenelg, South Australia). As the lights on the scoreboard flashed to zero, the lady Seawolves held an 8-5 lead heading into the locker rooms.

The momentum the Seawolves had in the first half carried over to the second as Hofstra was outperformed and outplayed. With 14 groundballs a piece



Nice...

in the second half, Stony Brook capitalized on their possessions, outscoring Hofstra 6-5. The climax of the game came with 20 minutes remaining when Hofstra tied up the game at 9-9. Two goals by senior Diana Caroleo (North Babylon, NY) padded Stony Brook's lead and a goal by freshman Melissa

Cook (Bay Shore, NY) erased any anxiety over who would win. The Lady Seawolves led 13-10 with 11 minutes remaining and added insult to injury with Cook scoring once more in the final minute of the game leaving Hofstra's ego deflated.

The win over Hofstra improves the Lady Seawolves' record to 9-6 and tarnishes Hofstra's record to 7-9. Sophomore goalie Mickey Cahill (Bay Shore, NY) earned the American East Defender of the Week award for her play in the Hofstra game as well as for her 21 combined saves in past wins against Marist and Albany. The Lady Seawolves also have five players selected for the All-America East Women's Lacrosse team. Both Kaitlin Leggio and Diana Caroleo were selected for first All-Conference team. Selected for second All-Conference team was junior Jenna Spennard (Cicero, NY) for her 14 caused turnovers. Both Melissa Cook and Samantha Djaha were named on the all-rookie team for their exceptional play as freshmen.

The Lady Seawolves tied fourth with Albany, a team they won against 9-7, in the American East Conference only to be snubbed and denied a playoff berth.

## A Win For Autism Awareness, A Loss For Mens Lacrosse

By Najib Aminy

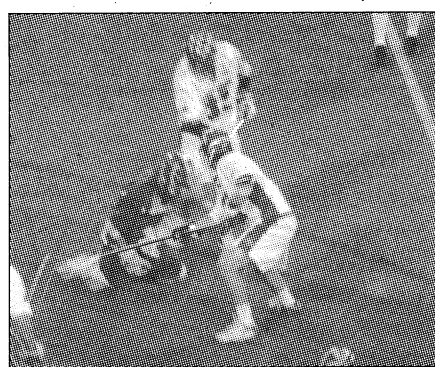
Following the women's victory cued by the vocals of Frank Sinatra's *New York New York*, the men's team warmed up for their game against Hofstra. With over 5,000 in attendance, the final home game of the season for Stony Brook turned out to be an eventful one.

At 7:03 pm, the game commenced with Hofstra winning the face-off and traveling down the field, only to have their shot blocked by sophomore goalie Rob Camposa (Syosset, NY). As Stony Brook worked their way up the field, senior Bobby Trenkle (Commack, NY) recorded the first goal of the game with two minutes passing in the first quarter. With nine minutes remaining, Hofstra responded by scoring two goals. Stony Brook replied with a goal scored by Senior Bo Tripodi (Hauppague, NY), the conclusion of the first quarter had Hofstra holding a 4-2 lead.

Stony Brook took control of the second half with goals by Trenkle, a power play goal by senior Ryan Hughes (Port Jefferson Station, NY), and a goal by freshman Josh Eustice (Orchard Park,

NY). The lead Hofstra created in the first quarter soon diminished as the score was tied late into the second quarter. With two minutes of play remaining, Hofstra's Anthony Muscarella scored one of his six goals of the game. Nevertheless, with the efforts of freshman Kevin Crowley (New Westminster, B.C.) and a strong offense, Crowley scored with 18 seconds remaining, leaving both teams headed into the locker room with the score 6-6.

Come time for the third quarter, dusk turned into night as the game between Hofstra and Stony Brook was only heating up. Stony Brook opened up the third quarter with two goals, one



Hofstra on its knees, doing what they do best.

scored by senior Owen Adams (Norwalk, Conn.) followed by one scored by Crowley. However, Hofstra was not hesitant to answer back, as they scored again. At the end of the third, the score was still tied, 11-11.

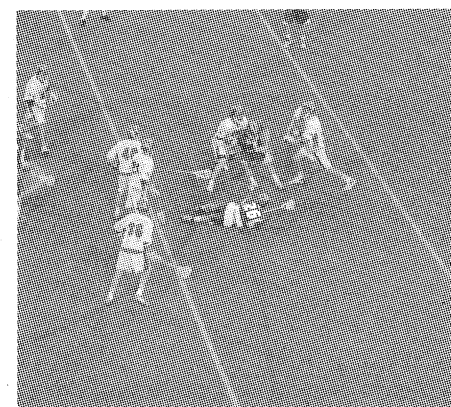
With the beginning of the fourth quarter, fifteen minutes would decide who would be the ultimate lacrosse powerhouse of Long Island. Unfortunately for Stony Brook and the many fans in attendance, Hofstra opted for the "run the clock" play – right out of John Madden's video game playbook – after scoring three consecutive goals earlier in the fourth. Stony Brook fought back, cutting their three goal deficit to one with a minute and a half remaining. Despite the comeback, Hofstra held the ball like a bunch of pussies and fagishly passed the ball to each other like a bunch of sissy middle school girls until the clock ran to zero. For now, Blue and Gold are now the official colors of dick sucking.

The cowardly play by #20 ranked Hofstra tarnished Stony Brook's win streak of three games and drew out their momentum as Stony Brook just recently lost to Albany 10-7 on April 26. Hofstra is 7-5 after the win and Stony Brook

falls to 7-6 after the Albany loss. The Men's lacrosse team will be competing for the American East Conference Championship this week on Thursday, May 2, against Albany.

The winner of that game will go on to play the winner of the Binghamton and UMBC game for the championship game. The winner of the America East Conference will receive an automatic bid into the NCAA Lacrosse Finals Championships.

Stony Brook is 3-2 in conference play and Albany is 4-1.



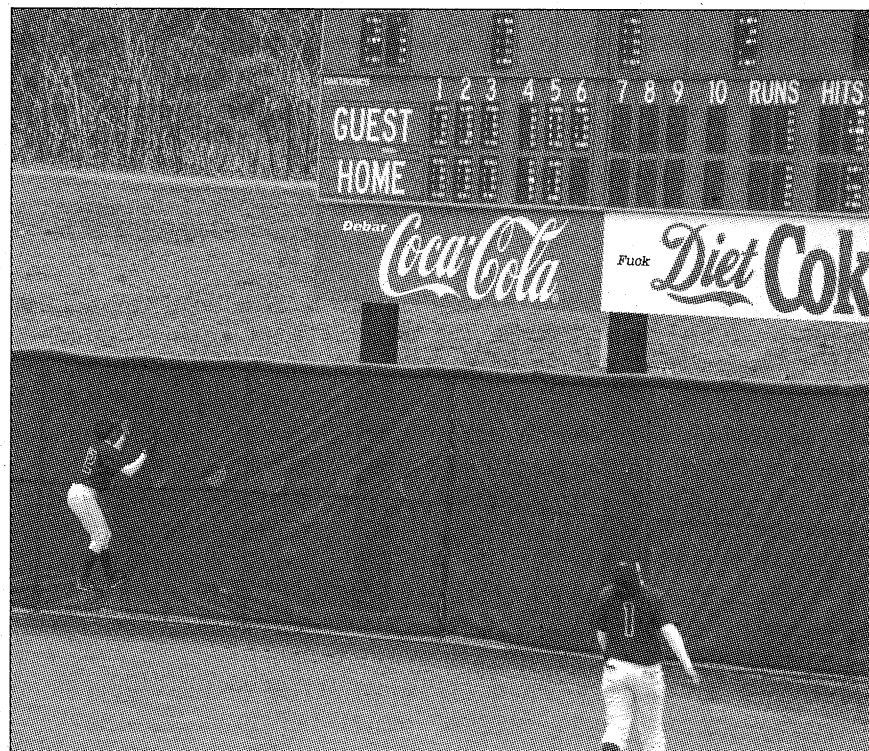
All Sports Photos by Najib Aminy

# Albany Sucks at Everything

By Najib Aminy

The Stony Brook Women's Softball team home-ran their way to a 4-2 victory over Albany, also winning the series 2-1 on Sunday, April 27. What appeared a stalemate for the first four innings of the game soon turned to batting practice for juniors Kelsi Fanelli (Audubon, NJ) and Molly Kestranek (St. Mary's, Ga.) recorded two home-runs in both the fourth and sixth innings. Fanelli's homer tied the game 1-1 and Kestranek's homer provided the game-winning hit driving in three runs.

Sophomore pitcher Alyssa Struzenberg (Cooper City, Fla) pitched six innings recording six strikeouts, allowing only six hits and two runs to score.



Struzenberg, who added another check to her 'win' column, is now 18-7 for the season. Struzenberg gave up a home run to Albany at the top of the 7<sup>th</sup>, which made way for sophomore reliever Casey Jacobs (Davie, Fla.). Jacobs earned her fourth save of the season by causing a fielder's choice out, striking out a batter, and a ground out.

With six hits apiece for Albany and Stony Brook, it was the Seawolves who popped out 21 times to Albany's 18. Early in the game, Kestranek capitalized on an error turning a single into a triple. Despite this, she was left on base. Amidst the foolish Albany chants,

Stony Brook's final home run silenced Albany as they saw their chances of winning evaporate into the overcast skies above.

Of the three-game series, Albany won the first game 5-1, but were shut out in the second game 4-0. Stony Brook's record moves to 26-18-1 and 11-7 in conference play whereas Hofstra's record drops to 26-15 and 13-5 in conference play.

Stony Brook's next and final home game is a double header on Thursday, May 1 against Manhattan College who are 10-29 for the season starting at 3:00.



## Ladies in Black Make All Other Teams Look Whack

By Najib Aminy

Dressed in traditional all black jerseys, the Stony Brook Women's Rugby team trampled over Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, shutting them out 15-0 to win the Big Apple Classic on Saturday, April 26. The tournament win closes off a successful spring season for the Black Widows of Stony Brook who managed to find their way competing in numerous semi-final matches throughout the season.

The success of the latest tournament win, a first for Stony Brook, dates back to spring break 2008. According to first-year coach Ali Nazir, a former Stony Brook rugby player, the trip to Savannah was a great experience for the girls to bond and build team chemistry. "There was much tension after the fall

season, we lost to Marist who went pretty far nationally."

The women's rugby season, which is broken into fall, where there is league play, and the spring, where there is tournament play, improved drastically from two years prior where the Widows failed to record one win. However, the game against Marist proved to be a heartbreaker as the Widows tied Marist earlier in the season only to lose to them in their championships. To add salt to the wound, Marist continued to go further in the season, reaching national status.

It was during the trip to Savannah that the lady Widows were able to play against other top rugby teams such as the University of Michigan and Ohio State University. As the team grew more experienced, the wins soon followed as the lady Widows made the semi-finals in the Beast of the East Tournament on

April 20, the largest rugby tournament in the Northeast. Defeating Plymouth University 26-0, and UMass 12-5, the lady Widows lost to Bryant 12-0 ending their win streak and their chance of a tournament championship.

However, one week after making semi-final after semi-final, the Widows would finally get what they deserved as they won The Big Apple Classic. Coach Nazir credits senior Nyoka Pierce for her exceptional play and leadership. Pierce led the Widows to wins over Hofstra and RPI and was named the Prestigious Player of the Tournament Award. Coach Nasir commends seniors Natasia Mascol, Kelly Gluffre, and freshman Megan Border for their outstanding contribution as well.

Coach Nazir added that while the team had talent, there was not a coach that was there and stuck with them. "Everybody came together and all I did

was provide the base work and they did everything else," said Nazir.

The Widows wear all black as part of their 20 year history dating back to when they received little funding, as players opted to wear all black. The name "Widows" stuck and more than 20 years later, the ladies in black won their very first tournament. Coach Nazir is very thankful for the team he had this year and feels that his seniors have made an impact on the various number of freshman on the team.

The Widows are looking to repeat their undefeated fall season and are looking to seek revenge on their rival Marist.



# Let the Torch Burn

By Matt Braunstein

Any man, woman or child who proclaims him or herself to be a sports fan takes great pride in doing so. We choose sports, teams, and players to idolize and identify with to bolster up as our heroes and role models. This is often a decision driven by the shared qualities we recognize between our heroes and ourselves, like a certain attitude, a physical appearance, a set of values, or a history of success and excellence. In some cases it is a history of failure and shortcomings that help us relate to an athlete or team.

Perhaps the most powerful identifying force between a fan and their favorite player or team is *home*. It can be the shared home field where both the athletes and the fans come together as spectators or participants in the purest of competitions. Maybe it's the hometowns of our favorite athletes, where others raised there feel that they too can achieve greatness. Any way you cut it, a shared home is the glue that holds a sport and a nation together.

This is why of all sport's greatest traditions-, the Olympics is perhaps its oldest and most storied. The first Olympic games ever played took place in Ancient Olympia, Greece around 776 BC. It was the first sporting competition of its kind, as the greatest Greek athletes assembled to honor their gods and win the favor of their people. Though it was discontinued in 393 AD, it was revived hundreds of years later in Athens.

1896 marked the first modern Olympic games in which all the civilized world's athletes were invited to compete in 43 contested events including track and field, cycling, fencing,

gymnastics, shooting, swimming, tennis, weightlifting and wrestling. The games have continued on ever since, constantly expanding and evolving, and every four years each country sends their best and brightest competitors to represent the honor and greatness of their nation.

This is not a history lesson, but merely a plea to all those that are protesting this year's Olympics to put your picket signs and fire extinguishers down and go home. The running of the Olympic torch across five consecutive continents in the months leading up to the actual games has been one of the event's great traditions up until this year. This summer's Olympics are being held in Beijing, China and has sparked a protest movement of activists primarily against China's oppression in Tibet and their overall human rights record in Darfur and Burma.

At each of the torch's stops in London, Paris and most recently San Francisco, protesters have gone so far as to attack the torchbearer and spray the "eternal" flame with a fire extinguisher. Now, security and police on rollerblades must surround the flame procession and actual fans of the Olympics are barely allowed within an eye's view of the flame. This absurd and insulting fiasco has gone on long enough.

Whether or not China deserves this negative attention is not what should be argued. Their treatment of Tibet, and for that matter, any other issue concerning China's foreign and domestic policy, has absolutely nothing to do with the Olympic games. Too long have political themes and undertones been thrust upon the stage of sports and athletics against the will of the athletes and true fans.

Sports, especially at the Olympics,

were never meant to be functions of a country's political agenda. In fact, if there was ever a public arena that was never to be touched by the viral and exacerbating influence of politics, it was sports. The Olympics is about pure



This guy fuckin loves the Olympics!

competition amongst athletes who dedicate years of their lives to a few weeks for a chance at glory. They carry the expectations, hopes and dreams of their entire country on their backs. They don't need the added pressure of angry mobs pouting about something the athletes themselves have nothing to do with.

Not to say that these angry mobs don't have the right to voice their opinion. A firm believer in freedom would say that it is these people's duty to have

their voices heard. However, there is a time and place for such activism and it is not at the Olympics. It's one thing to see a group of protestors marching in circles and chanting clever insults, but the more extremists you see dousing the Olympic flame while being attacked by a mob of policemen, the more it looks like a cheap publicity stunt.

If these activists want to be taken seriously as a real movement, then they should avoid being seen as reckless press whores. Have some dignity, march on the Chinese capitol or write a letter to your elected representative, but leave the Olympics and any other major sporting event out of it. No good comes from labeling uninvolved entities in a controversial political struggle.

I'm sure some of these activists are old enough to have lived through the 1972 Olympic tragedy in Munich, Germany. Palestinian terrorists, who also saw the Olympics as a great opportunity to make a political statement, took 11 Israeli athletes hostage as the rest of the world watched in horror. In the end, an event meant to foster international pride and unity concluded with 11 Israelis, 5 Palestinians, and 1 German policeman dead.

If we are not to learn from our mistakes, then we should at least rely on our sense of decency and respect for history. For hundreds of years, the Olympic games have stood for the best that organized sports has to offer. Principles like sportsmanship, excellence, dedication, passion, and pride; these are what lay at the heart of the Olympic tradition. Let us take pride in the performance of our athletes and not the mistakes of our nations.

## Where Have All the SBU Fans Gone?

By Najib Aminy and Matt Braunstein

When one thinks of a college football or basketball game, the commonly generated images are packed stadiums, tail-gating parties, and enthusiasm sparked by the student population. This common perception of college athletics is absent here at Stony Brook University where fan attendance, school spirit is extremely low. At the same time, the athletic program here at Stony Brook is struggling to draw in top recruits, build a strong foundation of success, and become competitive nationwide. Without the fans and school spirit, it becomes

challenging to draw in top recruits. Without the recruits, it is difficult to strengthen teams to become highly competitive, and with the lack of a competitive team, it is difficult to attract fans and promote school spirit. It is a cycle that has plagued Stony Brook for quite some time.

Much of the struggle is due in part to the very young nature of the athletic program. To understand why many Stony Brook sports teams struggle at the Division I level, one must put the school's athletic program into historical perspective. As Stony Brook University celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it holds birth to a nine year Division I program. Despite the school being in its D-1 infancy, Stony Brook contends with the

highest level of competition in the NCAA. Many of the teams Stony Brook competes against are known to hold national powerhouse programs such as North Carolina, Duke, UCLA, Villanova, Virginia. Some of these schools have been in existence for 150 years, most of which were spent at the D-1 level. Such teams are nationally recognized for their athletic programs as they have had decade after decade to slowly build up their athletic programs. Stony Brook has had yet to experience a full decade on the Division I level.

The youth of the program hinders success, especially on the D-1 level, but provides a challenge the Stony Brook athletic department looks forward to overcoming. Executive Associate Direc-

tor of Athletics Paul Schlickmann says, "It was absolutely the right decision to move into Division I in 1999. President Kenney has a vision to improve the university's reputation, to make us a nationally recognized university, and to strive for excellence in athletics as well as academics." However, success does not occur overnight and as Schlickmann explains this is still an "evolving process".

"We are working every day to develop a powerful athletic program", Schlickmann continues. "The formula for success is good coaching, quality players, a proud university to attract recruits, hard work, and a winning attitude." These are excellent ideals to live up to, but they are by no means easy to

attain in reality. In this time, Stony Brook has produced few accolades with the football team sharing the 2005 Northeast Conference Championship with Central Connecticut State University, the Men's Soccer team winning the Northeast Conference only to lose in the second round of the NCAA championships. This year alone, athletics have proven to be inconsistent. Teams such as the lacrosse program appear competitive, whereas others, such as the basketball team, came up with disappointing seasons. However one of the reasons why the basketball team may have suffered this season is the recruits.

Clearly it varies from sport to sport, but Schlickmann explains the basic recruiting process as follows. The goal for most teams is to identify and cultivate athletes when they are in their junior year of high school. A coach will start out with a wide base of recruiting candidates and slowly narrow it down. Not too long ago, the only way a coach could identify recruits was by actually traveling to high school playoff games or championships in the NY area. With the advent and influence

of national ranking services, coaches can track talented high school athletes across the country from a young age.

Once an athlete is singled out as a potential recruit, he or she will be contacted by a coach and invited to visit the campus either "officially," which is an overnight stay usually paid for by the university, or "unofficially," which is not paid for by the university and typically not an overnight stay. The key for many sports programs at Stony Brook is to expand the scope of our recruiting. Cross country, tennis, soccer, and basketball have already recruited international athletes, while many programs such as baseball have continued to recruit primarily from the Long Island area.

One of the university's most popular and recruit-dependant sport is football. This past season the football team had a 6-5 record. This is very respectable considering the team faced nationally-ranked opponents in Richmond, Youngstown State, and Hofstra. In order to compete at such a high level, the team has started to put a focus on national recruitment.

The roster this past season included players from California, Texas, Florida, Maryland, D.C., Ohio, and Michigan, as well as many players from the New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and

Pennsylvania region. Starting next season in 2008, Stony Brook football will move into the Big South Conference, where the Seawolves will compete against teams from states like Virginia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

Director of Athletic Communications Phil Hess explains this as, among other reasons, a move to garner more recruits. "Stony Brook is not well known outside of the northeast," Hess says. "Moving to the Big South will increase exposure and recruitment. If kids in southern states see us beat or compete with their teams, they might be interested in attending our university." Matt

off game, but for a regular game. In the end the jersey we are wearing is representing them [the students]. It is not a jersey with our names on the front but the school."

Sophomore Maeve Leng left Forest Hills, Queens to join the Stony Brook women's swim team. Leng says that Stony Brook is different from schools like Villanova and Penn State. "With schools like that, you ask someone what they are doing that night and they say Oh I am going to the basketball game, obviously. But that is not the case here." Sophomore Jess Peters, also a member of the swim team, chose Stony Brook

base, especially on campus. With the exception of our football team's homecoming game, many of our home games in football, basketball, and baseball receive little fan attendance and support.

The athletic department has done an adequate job by most standards by providing the state of the art facilities to the sports programs. Both the football stadium and indoor basketball court can seat far more than the number of fans who show up to most games. This is a bit perplexing, because most students, when asked, say they wish our teams would do better, yet they expect the teams to do better in the absence of peer support.

Associate Athletic Director Paul Schlickmann says, "If we want to make D-1 athletics part of Stony Brook University's campus culture and student life, then campus and student support is absolutely crucial." He cited the university's athletic code of conduct as including commitment, passion, pride, respect, and swagger. "By

swagger we mean the expectation to win every time our players step on the field or court."

Having a huge, supportive crowd of fans screaming and yelling and cheering is central to fostering an attitude of swagger among Stony Brook athletes, and it plays a large role in influencing top recruits to choose SBU over other schools.

Overall, the athletic program is overshadowed by poor school spirit, which hinders athletic success. Larsen said the athletic program is well aware of this, but is looking to resolve this situation in the best way possible. He said that Stony Brook is building up strength on all sports, saying how other than basketball and lacrosse, how well Duke performs in other sports. "The key is to build infrastructure, have a strong foundation, and not become a one-year wonder," said Larsen. In the end, the continuing cycle of poor school spirit will continue to slow down athletic progress, and the only way to improve school spirit is through winning and being nationally competitive. If Stony Brook builds it, the students will come.



The one time the lacrosse team filled the stadium they fucking lost. Figures.

Najib Aminy

Larsen, the Associate AD for Business Ops and Administration here at Stony Brook University, said the move to compete against national powerhouses is because "recruits don't necessarily want to play X university." Rather, he explained that many eighteen-year-old recruits are looking to play the bigger teams to see how they compare on a national and competitive level.

For freshman Mazen Chami, the decision to leave Nigeria and play for the Men's soccer team was based primarily on education. Chami said, "Education comes first. Once I get my degree then I can look to coaching or even playing professionally, knowing that I have something to fall back on." Chami suggests that in order to build up competitive teams, coaches should recruit more international players, players with greater experience, and players who won championships. When asked about the fan attendance, Chami quickly responded, "terrible." Chami went on to say that because of the location, most kids go home whenever they want to, and as a result see no reason to cheer on their team. The remedy to the poison of the large number of commuters and residents who go home, Chami says, is winning. "It would be nice if we got a huge crowd, not just for finals, or a play-

for its location as it was far from home. But Peters says that the large number of commuter students makes the campus feel different as both an athlete and a student. Leng added that students and athletes tend to be in different groups, thus alienating the two. "All athletes hang out with each other and not really anyone else, and I don't know, I think that could probably be a reason why some people haven't heard much about sports," said Leng. Despite the possible schism between athletes and non-athletes, Peters feels the athletic program is improving, as she said, "every year something gets better."

Next year, the Athletic Complex will be undergoing a \$20 million dollar renovation and expansion. The basketball arena will be converted to stadium-style seating replacing the high-school gym feel, according to Larsen. In addition, the basketball teams will be given new locker facilities, video rooms, and lounges. This has to do with the building of infrastructure as well as providing a fan-friendly environment, which intends to attract more fans. Often it is the fan support that is overlooked factor in building a powerful and competitive. A big draw when it comes to recruiting is whether or not the school an athlete is considering has a large fan





WE LOVE YOUR LITERARY &  
ARTISTIC SUBMISSIONS.  
SO SUBMIT YOURS TO  
SBPRESSNEWS@GMAIL.COM  
BY MAY 10TH!