

The Stony Brook

# PRESS

*The Community News and Features Paper*

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## Upcoming Campus Events

Some Lecture About Something  
Some Date, Some TimeEarthstock Celebration  
4/14-15 All Day

# Albany Turmoil Leads to Uncertainty

By Jake Conarck

Former Governor Eliot Spitzer's political career isn't the only casualty of the scandal surrounding his involvement in a prostitution ring. As Governor David Patterson took the reins of the New York State government last Monday, several lawmakers expressed uncertainty about the future of some of Spitzer's budget proposals, including a \$4 billion higher education endowment.

"There's wide support among legislators for the endowment," said Assemblyman Steve Englebright (D-Setauket). "But it's perfectly unclear whether or not this shaky concept will be embraced by the new governor."

The endowment was proposed by Spitzer as a supplemental revenue stream for New York's public school system. It is expected to initially generate \$220 million per year, and then increase to \$330 million in ten years as the principal grows. However, lawmakers have been hesitant to support it because it would be funded by leasing some of the state's lottery to private interests.

"It's very easy to support the concept of an endowment," said Senator John Flanagan (R-East Northport). "The challenge for us is, how do you pay for it?" When questioned on whether he supported the leasing of the lottery to fund the endowment, Flanagan said he did not because it had not been attempted in other states and was unproven. "My worry is, if this thing is so good, we would have done it already," he said.

Although the endowment was just a proposal in its nascent stage with no effect on this year's budget, there are several other factors stressing the funding

for higher education. Primary among these concerns is the \$4.4 billion budget deficit facing the state. Spitzer had added a provision in his budget request that would require SUNY schools to adopt a 2.5% cut in operating costs, which drew criticism among legislators who questioned why he would support increased funding for state schools, yet require them to face steep budget cuts at the same time. This included cuts for many popular programs such as the Educational Opportunity Program, the Liberty Partnership Program and the Tuition Assistance Program.

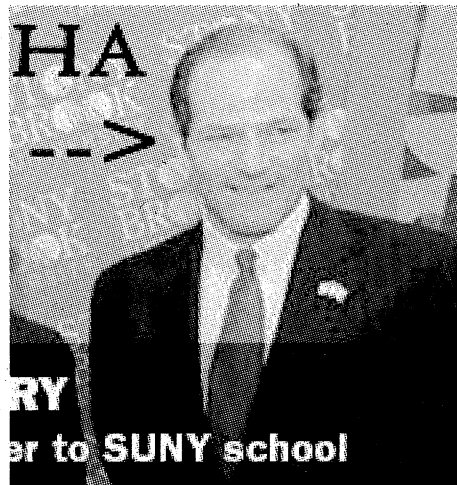
"We had a Pataki-like budget before us," said Englebright, referring to former Governor George Pataki who had long supported spending cuts for SUNY. "When the budget disinvests, when [Spitzer] says we should reinvest, and when we're facing declining revenues, there are going to have to be some decisions made."

Although certain lawmakers have balked at increases in spending during an economic downturn, the budget cap agreed upon by Patterson and the leadership of the Assembly and Senate is \$124 billion, a 4.4% increase from last year's budget, yet a still a smaller increase than Spitzer's proposal of 5.1%.

Despite the need for cuts in the state's budget, the Higher Education Committee has been given an additional \$90 million to allocate. While the majority of that money will be used to roll back the 2.5% cut in operating costs proposed by Spitzer, the committee was still deadlocked as to what to do with the residual funds. This was an impasse between the Assembly and the Senate stemming from an argument over the governance of the Stony Brook Medical Center. At press time, the decision over the fate of near \$30 million in funds was bounced back to the

general conference committee, where Assembly and Senate leadership will attempt to reach an agreement. This is a common procedure when any budget committee reaches an impasse over spending priorities.

Adding to the uncertainty concerning the state's higher education budget is the resignation of Lloyd Constantine, a member of Spitzer's inner circle who was the main force behind increasing



funding for the SUNY system. It has been reported by several news agencies that he was one of Spitzer's most trusted and influential advisors, referring to himself as a "monster man." It was at Constantine's urging that Spitzer set up the Commission on Higher Education, which recommended that the state increase full-time faculty and funding for research and development, as well as ease the transfer process from community college to four-year institutions.

In addition to the uncertainty surrounding the budget, Spitzer's resignation has also prompted fear among graduate assistants and teaching assistants that they will not be able to reach an agreement with the Governor's Office of Employee Relations regarding

their contract renewal. During contract negotiations, the chief negotiators from the state indicated that they would not have the authority to bargain in upcoming meetings scheduled with the Graduate Student Employees Union, according to Victor Rosado, business agent for the union. The employee relations board claimed this was due to the transition to the Patterson administration and the need to align new fiscal priorities with the budget and assess their impact.

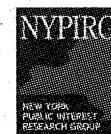
The union, still reeling from a decision by the Stony Brook administration to limit \$2,000 stipend raises to new hires only, expressed frustration with the process. "[State] officials are more than capable of simultaneously working out a contract settlement with GSEU and getting the ok from the new governor's office," said Rosado. "The delay, in my view, is bad faith bargaining at its worst."

A representative from the governor's office could not be reached by press time.

Ultimately, it's hard to gauge what the full impact of Spitzer's resignation will be for Stony Brook. With a relatively unknown man rising to power amid scandal, even Albany insiders and experts could not determine what the outcome will be. "How will this all play out?" asked Englebright. "Hey, we just got a new governor. I really can't tell you off the top of my head."



## On The NYPIRG Beat



By Jake Conarck

### Environmental Protection

Student volunteers collected petitions and called Senator Flanagan to urge him to support an updated Bottle Bill and include it in the Senate's budget. NYPIRG successfully collected ninety-two letters from students in support of the bottle bill and handed them over to Flanagan on March 12 at his Smithtown office. NYPIRG also organized students to call community members to ask them to urge Senator Flanagan to support an updated Bottle Bill. Lobbying done by constituents not

affiliated with well-known interest groups is important to ensure lawmakers that proposals have widespread support in their own districts. NYPIRG will have a booth during Earthstock to gain support and awareness for the Bottle Bill, mercury pollution, clean air and renewable energy.

### Consumer Action

NYPIRG's Consumer Action Project will be continuing its work on playground safety by surveying ten playgrounds in Suffolk County. The results will be included in a statewide survey and released to media outlets as well as state and local officials. Using the survey, students will look at fall zones, unsafe materials, equipment

height, chipping paint, head entrapment hazards and clothing entanglement hazards. In the past NYPIRG's surveys have helped playground safety by exposing risks to officials.

### Higher Education

At the Student Lending Workshop this past Wednesday, the NYPIRG higher education and consumer action interns informed Stony Brook students of the different loans available for them. The workshop informed students on how to manage their debt, availability of repayment options after graduation, loan discounts and how not to become overwhelmed by post-graduation debt. The higher education interns will also be working on Pens for Kenya, a pen

drive for students in Kenya who aren't allowed admission to school without a working pen. The interns will be speaking in different classes and getting donations of pens from students on campus.

### Spring Conference

On April 5 and 6, students from NYPIRG chapters at twenty-one colleges around New York State will be meeting in Albany. Workshops will be given on progressive politics, skill sets and current NYPIRG issues. All Stony Brook students are welcome to attend this two day conference. Contact Jonathan Green - (jgree@nypirg.org (631)632-6457)) for more information.

# Death and Destruction at 4,000!

By Jon Singer

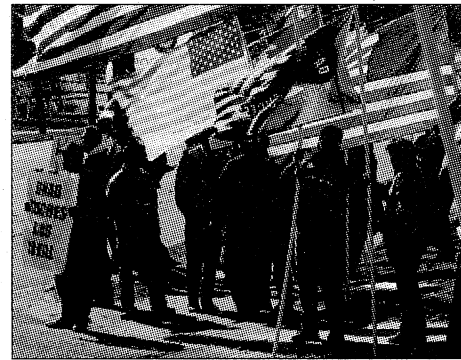
Susan McKeon made a decision over the weekend. She decided to get arrested. "The officers were very nice," said McKeon, as she walked out of the Smith Haven mall after being charged with criminal trespassing.

McKeon's crime was part of a larger protest, most of which was legal. At the beginning of the demonstration, over 100 anti-war activists gathered on the sidewalk outside the mall, their signs facing Route 25. Some cars honked against the war. Others honked in response to the

included Twisted Sister's "We're Not Gonna Take It." The woman's remarks were Islamophobic, as she asked the peaceniks, "Do you want to be walking around in a burqa?"

College Republican Kevin McKeon (no relation to Ms. McKeon) showed up to support the troops and the war they're fighting. "If you were to pull out, you're not remembering why the soldiers died," he said. "You can't abandon the memory." As he made those remarks, a man driving a Hummer honked in support of the war. A serviceman in full uniform eventually joined Kevin's group, but as an active soldier he was not allowed to comment.

ago, and now he attends peace rallies. "A lot of guys like myself had mixed feelings [about] Vietnam at the time," he said, holding a sign that reiterated his current feelings of Iraq. While the event was called to recognize 4,000 Americans dead, the signs held by the anti-war pro-



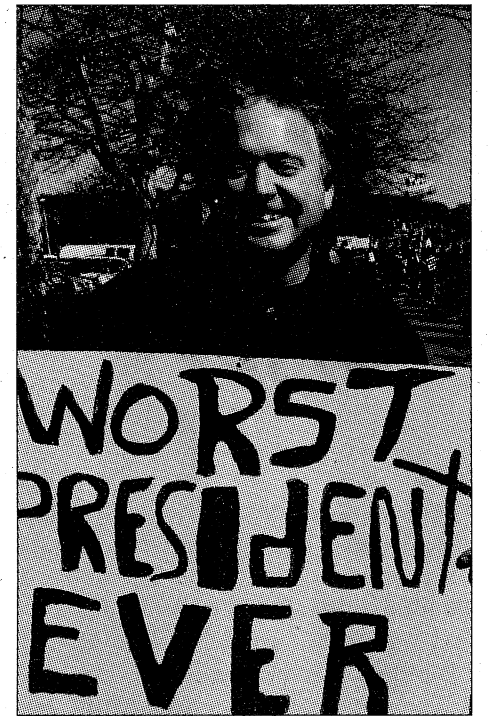
They have more flags than the hippies.

testors also pointed out that one million Iraqis have also died as a result of the conflict.

"We've been lied into this state of war," said McNulty. "Every American is affected by what the criminals do in Washington, DC." Trouble arose when a group of about twenty protestors decided to enter the mall. The group proceeded to the central concourse, where they read out the names of the 4,000 soldiers who have died. First mall security was called, and then Suffolk County Police officers came in.

Two arrests were made. McKeon was arrested for criminal trespassing, and was taken away to the security office. "I just

mount." Sorochin made this reference as the blonde haired woman across the street proclaimed Islamic law "Sharia diarrhea."



George W.: Not Koooooooooooooooooool

But the day's events left Myrna Gordon confused. "When I come to all these rallies, where are all the college kids?" she asks. As corporate America provided a backdrop for both groups of protestors,



I got arrested and all I got was this lousy t-shirt.



The Po-Po, the Fuzz, the 5-0: Either way you spin it, they're baaaaad news.

smaller group of pro-war activists who stood across the mall entrance. And impartial police officers stood in between the two groups.

Last week the number of American soldiers who died in Iraq reached 4,000. Anti-war activist and WUSB personality Bill McNulty called this number a turning point, saying that dissension among the people has reached a level unmatched since Vietnam. However, while the war in Vietnam prompted protest from countless college students, only four SBU students attended last Saturday's protest, and two of them were College Republicans there to support the war.

"This is for you, pinkos," said one pro-war activist, a blond woman with a thick Long Island accent. She spoke through a mini PA system, over a musical track that

The anti-war protest featured numerous veterans who were willing to comment about their views. George Wakefield served in Vietnam 40 years



America! Fuck Yeah! Save the motherfucking day, yeah!



Peace! Fuck yeah! Save the motherfucking troops, yeah!

felt, from a moral point of view, I had to publicly speak out because people are dying every day," she said. While McKeon allowed officers to escort her to another location, another protester refused to move. He was eventually charged with criminal trespassing and resisting arrest, and was taken away in a police car. *Newsday* has identified the protestor as Don Zirkel, an 80-year-old church deacon from Bethpage. McKeon was allowed to leave with a court summons.

"Blessed are the peacemakers," said Chris Sorochin, a former *Stony Brook Press* staffer and protestor at last Saturday's event. "It's from the sermon on the

the average age appeared to be around 40. "I don't know what young people think anymore," said Gordon. "Will it take a draft to have them confront the issue?" Kevin McKeon was quick to point out that the Army serving in Iraq is a volunteer Army, and that people join the military with the potential of fighting for their country. As Kevin made his statement, a man riding a motorcycle gave credit to the pro-war people. And the blonde haired woman kept on ranting. "Welcome to the freak show across the street," she said.

All Photos by Jesse Schoepfer

# Ann Coulter Gives a Speech

By Howie Newsberkman

This article is about Ann Coulter. She came to Stony Brook. She made a speech. The date that she came was March 31, 2008. She was scheduled to give her speech at 8 p.m. The event was supposed to start then, but she didn't go on stage until almost 8:30 in the evening, in fact. The crowd was anxious, but eventually, she came and spoke and lots of people clapped. There were about 125 people in the room, both students and old white guys. Her appearance cost the school nearly \$30,000. Her speech was about half-an-hour, with questions afterwards.

Kevin McKeon is the President of the College Republicans. He shouted out his fellow College Republicans and introduced Ann Coulter and even talked about how much the College Republicans are growing. He said, "The revolution is still going on." Everybody clapped.

Ann was wearing a black woman-suit thing with a sleek white shirt underneath, which inspired an older man to say that other pundits are "not as good looking as [Ann]." Ann smiled.

"Looks like the five-dollar cover charge kept the liberals away," said Coulter. Then she said that all the liberals were not at her event because, it being post-spring-break, they were all

at the free clinic. Everybody laughed at how witty she was. She made lots of jokes.

diplomacy and increased awareness are just fancy ways of saying they want to do nothing. Other reasons



Skeletor, herself.

Najib Amiry

Ms. Coulter pointed out how liberals are most definitely lacking intelligence, and cited a number of reasons why. For one, their aspirations of

why liberals are silly idiots include their doing nothing leading to 911, their continued war against fascism, and their views on Guantanamo Bay.

"By the way," she asked, "How can you tell when a Muslim is killing you? As he's slitting your throat, he's yelling 'Allah is great!'" A lot of people in the audience did not get the joke.

Ms. Coulter also spent much time harshly criticizing *The New York Times*. She said they print a lot of U.S. Government anti-terrorism secrets. In the *New York Observer*, Coulter said that her "only regret with Timothy McVeigh is that he did not go to the *New York Times* building."

At the start of the question and answer period, a student asked about Gordon Brown, she asked "Who?" and then said, "Oh, yeah yeah, ok, ok," and then moved on. Gordon Brown is the Prime Minister of England. Then she said that "Horror movies are very moral—right after having premarital sex, they always get killed." Everybody laughed again.

Some noted that Coulter was condescending in her question and answer period because the students are actually very stupid.

Ann Coulter disagrees with global warming. "I think it's untrue, that's why I don't believe it. I think it's untrue that there is a dangerous man-made global warming...Every day it has to be the hottest place some place in the world." She also said that "A nation of teepees can not support this country...it is energy and and power that builds skyscrapers and elevators and nuclear power plants." People, informed, clapped again.

## Coulter < Good Advice

By Alex H. Nagler

Ann Coulter gave me a piece of good advice on Monday, March 31. "Liberals should go to law school." Awesome. I think I will. As a citizen of the Soviet politburo of New York City, a supporter of B. Hussein Obama, presumptive head of an organization that's "Just Angry" and follower of a religion that should start "flying planes into buildings and cutting off people's heads" to adhere to its roots in the Old Testament, I thank Ann Coulter for allowing to categorizing myself in ways I had never thought of.

The College Republicans spent \$22,000 to bring Ann Coulter to Stony Brook to eat dinner with them, give a half an hour lecture, spend another half an hour on questions, and then sign books. Rather than write about the event itself, I'm going to simply print

snippets of enlightening conversation:

"I'm not calling them true Muslims, they're calling themselves true Muslims as they fly planes into buildings and chop of peoples heads, screaming 'Allah Is Great.'"

"Guantanamo is a resort that Islamofascists can wait at until the next Democratic president is elected. Remember all that talk of interrogators flushing the Qur'an down the toilet? In reality, they need to wear gloves while handling it. The terrorists get eight hours of sleep a day, work hour for two hours, and can't be woken up for interrogation. I've been treated worse at a Holiday Inn Express. This sounds more like a freshman dorm at a state university than a torture camp. If you want to get a good meal, you need to go to Guantanamo."

"Nancy Pelosi is so dumb, that if the terrorists ever took her hostage, they wouldn't even need to blindfold her."

"Why can't we find out how many Islamofascists we've killed? Until Pe-

traeus testified, that number was a secret. Why can't we find out how many people we've killed?"

"Terrorists are just liberals with more gumption."

On Hillary Clinton: "We should send her to Guantanamo. The terrorists would take one look at her and say 'No! Stop! Who is that Sea Hag? I'll never have sex again!'"

"B. Hussein Obama is a weasely survivor, but will be a disaster of a President. Our ability to mobilize will be *fabulous*. It'll be 1994 all over again."

"Liberal Republicans are the main problem and cause of all apathy in the Republican party."

"I like violence in horror movies, but I don't like immorality. By the way, horror movies are very moral: right after they have premarital sex, they get killed."

"Our God was the one stopping the stonings in the New Testament. The worst that would happen with a hard-

core, fundamentalist Christian is that he would *really* turn the other cheek. But yeah, we also believe in the Old Testament and if Jews start flying airplanes into our skyscrapers and blowing themselves up in public roads, there's not a place in the religion. I'm not going to referee them; they call themselves true Muslims."

"Conservatives are the intellectual wing of the Republican Party."

"We must repeal McCain Feingold. We need a few rich people to get behind someone terrific, like what happened with Ronald Reagan."

These are real Coulter quotes delivered with student money in the SAC auditorium.

That's all. No more witty commentary from me. If you really want to do something, the College Democrats meet at 6pm on Tuesdays in Union 237.

No "is" here. Too angry.

## Food for Thought

I was kind of hoping we wouldn't have covered the Ann Coulter event, at all

--Half of The Press Staff

# VMFX On Ann Coulter

By Vincent Michael Festa

Ever since the announcement that famed controversial speaker Ann Coulter was to arrive in Stony Brook on March 31, many students were either grateful or furious at her pending arrival. Many Facebook groups were created for the sole purpose of getting the campus to ignore Coulter, mainly because of her history of making racy statements. The notion that the College Republicans received their club's budget increase from the decrease of others to pay for her arrival irked some opponents. Some wondered if there would be protest action against her arrival, or other shenanigans.

Instead, Ann Coulter's visit went off without a hitch. The overall lecture was very civil and without any type of disruption or strike. It's safe to say that the majority of those who witnessed Coulter speak were not only open-minded, but possibly conservative as well.

Though starting twenty minutes late, Coulter was introduced by Kevin McKeon of the College Republicans. From there, Coulter commented on the missing seats in the SAC Auditorium by stating that the "liberal students were possibly at the free clinic after their spring break." It was proof that she was her polemic, unapologetic, and brutally honest self all the way through about the current elections, terrorism, political scandals, and other issues at hand. It is also proof that she is under constant fire by her opponents: the liberals, the Democrats, and the easily offended.

Ann Coulter had her good points that both sides of the fence could ap-

preciate. Early in the lecture, Coulter mentioned former United States President Ronald Reagan's deeds in defeating Communism and the Iranian terrorists to free Americans held hostage for 444 days.

She pointed out how some people are complacent or oblivious about terrorism and national safety as it was before September 11, and she stated that since that ill-fated day there had been no other terrorist attacks on United States soil, and that the American government and intelligence are "constantly stopping plots to kill thousands of Americans."



Exit Light. Enter Night.

Najib Aminy

She also questioned morality by stating, "why would Hollywood want society to think that extra-marital sex, cheating, and thinking that prostitutes are beautiful would be perfectly OK?"

Coulter fired off more quick observations, pointing out that the Ten Commandments are constantly pulled from many of the nation's institutions while taxpayer money is being used to build Muslim foot-bathing stations around college campuses. Coulter gained applause from the audience when she said that Bush should've been impeached if

he weren't monitoring Al-Zawahiri's phone calls. Plus, she noted that capturing Osama bin-Laden would have not stopped terrorism altogether.

While making her points, it wouldn't be Ann Coulter without her consistent sharp wit, and stinging barbs aimed at her favorite opponents: the liberals, Democrats, and terrorists (not related to the former two). She blamed the liberals for doing nothing to fight back for the nation's safety, and said that Guantanamo Bay prisoners are still treated well ("they get eight hours of sleep, three meals of day, and two hours of exercise a day. I've been fed worse at a Holiday Inn Express.")

She took aim at Hillary Clinton by saying that "if she were sent to Guantanamo Bay to speak, the terrorists would be begging to be water-boarded" and constantly insulted the name of Democratic Presidential candidate Barack Obama as "B. Hussein Obama" (in reference to the fallen Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein).

After Coulter's rant about Republican presidential nominee John McCain, she ended her speech by saying, the "Republican Party power is in the streets now...and it will be a bad year, but in America there is only hope."

The question-and-answer session gave the audience a chance to praise Coulter on being smart, intelligent, and active in her work. One student asked Coulter on why she receives a lot of heat for her comments when key liberals (such as Michael Moore) get away with making theirs against the right.

The session also gave her more platform room to discuss immorality, saying that "horror movies were moral: after a couple has pre-marital sex, they both get killed." And when asked about

the Eliot Spitzer scandal, she was "absolutely transfixed," never having witnessed someone in such great power fall from the pinnacle of society, and called him a "frenzied masturbator," which elicited laughter from the audience. She continued with Spitzer by saying, "That's what happens in real life when you behave that way."

After a final round of applause, Coulter welcomed her fans to a book-signing. The Stony Brook student body was able to purchase her books before the program to have them signed by Coulter.

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Ann Coulter may have garnered a lot of controversy, and it follows her everywhere she goes. Those who oppose her may disagree with her policies, what she says and how she says it, and how she attacks her opponents. She is one of a very few who goes to that point, and when she does, people are not used to hearing it: hence shock ensues. Many people who are offended by Coulter's words have a right to be for whatever reason.

Some could react that way to her just by relying on her quotes, which is fine. Or, they decide to have a chance to see her speak openly or to read her and hear to judge for themselves again. In the end, people will still agree and disagree; however, people will take her words with them.

The lack of strike or noisy protest against Coulter's arrival proves that freedom of speech is allowed and respected. Instead, failing to show up at the event is synonymous with lack of support for Coulter.

## Conserve the Wisdom: A Conservative Take

By Jonathan Pu, Token Republican

Whether you like her or not, you can't ignore her. Yep, you guessed it; we're talking about Ann Coulter. Believe it or not, Ms. Coulter made quite an impression. On me at the very least. I'm a conservative, so I must absolutely adore Ann Coulter already, right? Of course not. Actually, until her speech tonight, I had a rather negative impression of her as a result of all her negative publicity.

To be fair, Ms. Coulter is no idiot. She's rather intelligent not only in her political analyses, but also her wit at

taking some shots at liberals. In her talk, she stated that the main reason why conservatives have to remain true to their beliefs is because liberals will doom the nation. Hey, her words, not mine. But nonetheless, Ms. Coulter made quite a convincing argument, citing the failure of Jimmy Carter's policies against terrorism and Spitzer's recent scandal. In her eyes, it is clearly evident that Republicans have a history of being proactive to protect American lives and interests. Her analysis discredited the liberal camp for their lack of action when faced with a difficult situation. To paraphrase her: in today's war on terror, liberals are ready to fall back behind our borders, convinced

that the threat against us has ended. Our greatest success, Coulter said, has been our undoing; with the decreased terrorist threat, the Republicans can no longer run on this platform, and all the naïve left-wing followers believe that just because we haven't suffered an attack for some time, the terrorists are all gone.

To end her talk, Coulter discussed the upcoming 2008 presidential elections. She was more than a little dismayed at the selection of candidates for the upcoming election. Clinton, she claims, will do some damage with universal health care but none that can't be later repaired, McCain is just a liberal Republican who doesn't appeal to con-

servatives, and Obama is an "Obamination" who simply cannot be allowed anywhere near the White House. While an ardent McCain support myself, Ms. Coulter does make a point at the upcoming nightmare right-wing conservatives face.

To put it simply, while Coulter may seem a tad too offensive and vicious as well as as irrational, approaching the event with an open mind helped me absorb many of her points which I would have previously never wanted to listen to. While I'll still say that Coulter is a little too conservative for me to indulge in, in my opinion no liberal writer or speaker has ever gotten a point across so vividly, clearly, and convincingly.

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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: sbpress@gmail.com

## editorials

## Why We Write

We at *The Press* have a long tradition of doing sophomoric things that agitate people for the sake of agitating them, printing obscenities, and using distasteful covers to get messages across. We print satire where we will, make fun of professors and administration freely, and are the first to describe things as we see them. For this, we do not apologize. We exist as a free open forum to extend the boundaries of the First Amendment on this campus while providing our readership with insightful articles concerning things they will not read about elsewhere. This is why we write.

At the College Media Awards, we brought copies of the most recent issue with me, placed them on a table full of other newspapers, then observed as various people picked up the issue and read it. Some glanced from page to page, reading only snippets. Others stopped at an article they liked, read it, and continued skimming. Then there were the few that read nearly the entire issue, cover to cover, amazed at the liberties we took. Some even finished, turned the paper over, and started from the beginning all over again.

Once they put the paper down, we approached them, introduced ourselves, gave them *The Press* business card, and

simply asked them, "So, what did you think?"

The response we received was overwhelming. These are people who had no association with the university, are not our regular readership base, and were not afraid to be brutally honest when the situation called for it. They were traditional students at four-year institutions, older students at community colleges, professors of journalism, and media advisors. They saw us as a creative newspaper, one that saw where the boundary lines were and disregarded them. They were impressed by our "huevos grandes," or huge balls. "Matt has a fat cock? They'd want my resignation letter on their desk the next morning" mused one professor as he turned the page and noticed a header that stated just that.

"You guys get to swear. We never get to swear, not even if the interview included swearing or if it works in the context of the article," bemoaned a student whose paper wasn't comfortable with the idea of profanity.

"There isn't any faculty that steps in at any time?" This was one of the more pressing issues. Our advisor, Isobel, thankfully, doesn't intervene nearly as much as she could and serves as an ex-

cellent firefighter whenever the administration tries to raise any alarms over things we've printed. Other papers (that are not independent of their university, like some of the bigger university dailies) have weekly meetings with their advisors, or include them in their editors meeting. We don't do that.

Swearing and oversight aside, a good deal of those we talked to were impressed at the caliber of some of the stories we put out. They laughed when they were supposed to laugh, got title references, and could differentiate satire from real stories. Some had dealt with Killer Coke campaigns on their own campus and were happy to see other schools not only cover it, but cover it well. This statement of covering things well abounded in comments on other pieces, including well-written editorials and insightful letters, two of the cornerstones of any good newspaper.

*The Press* exists because it has to, because college students are often idiots, and because there must be those whose job it is to keep free speech alive on a campus. We're not about to change that anytime soon. If you have a problem with us, just put down the paper and walk away.



*Write for The Press!*

Meetings Every Wednesday at 1PM, Union Building 060

Dear SB Press

Ok so I know SB Press isnt a real newspaper but its the only one i actually read and do you know why??? Because you guys curse and don't hold back. I myself am trying to cut back on the F word but i still find it IMMENSELY funny to read in a paper. Plus there's pretty cool things brought up in the Press which i wouldnt have know if you all didnt curse so yeah Shut The Fuck Up...people curse. Deal  
Thanks for being You!

--Marian

Marian

Thanks for the response, Marian. (Although, we're not sure what you mean by "[not] a real newspaper").

We appreciate the feedback! And, since you seem to enjoy it, here's a few curse words for you.

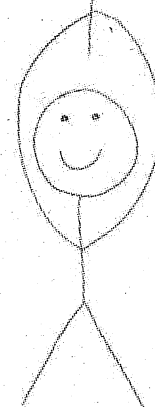
Fuck, shit, cock, balls, dick.

Love,

The Stony Brook Press

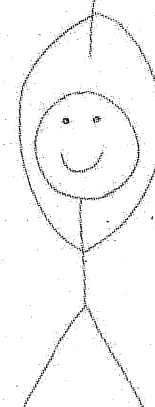


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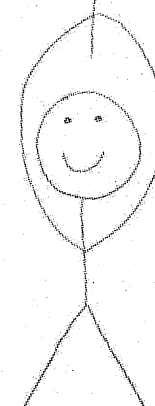
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Dear Mr. Na[gl]er,

Let me begin by saluting you for keeping the faith in American democracy after Bush's 2004 reelection. After observing such a travesty of democracy, I must admit, I permanently lost much of the admiration I once held for both the American people and our political system. But you have admirably and relentlessly persisted in your quest for justice. I envy your strong will.

I also must express what genius I genuinely believe you possess. Your beautiful brand of pragmatic idealism is exactly what the world needs in this sometimes seemingly hopeless day and age. As our nation continues to plunge in the wrong direction, dragged through the filthy, murky mud of injustice and corruption by our truly felonious leaders, you blatantly, intelligently, and fearlessly call out all the guilty parties on their nefarious actions, as well as inaction. You also excel beyond many hard-line critics and opposition factions by not only addressing deep-seated problems but also by exposing their roots, rather than simply hovering around various surface issues. You offer viable, feasible solutions. You are a bold and brilliant political actor.

Because I understand and appreciate your great mind, I regret to say that I am perplexed by your perpetual presence on the federal campaign trail. As a professional analyst of the flaws of the American political system — one of, if not the most accurate of them all — your participation in presidential campaigns dumbfounds me. I would think that with your realization of the great inherent flaws of our federal election system that you would seek to adjust the system rather than subject yourself to inevitable and perpetual failure within it. The bottom line is that you can never be elected president, nor can any other independent or third party candidate, because of our two-party, winner-take-all election system. Without proportionate representation and a multi-party system, third party candidates

and independents will forever suffer the lack of citizens' faith that results from virtual absence on the political scene. Sure, people like you and I can lobby, speak, and campaign all we want. But our moderate, security-seeking populace will never trust us "radicals" enough to give us a place in big government because we have virtually no presence in office; no beacon from which to prove ourselves worthy of their votes. If they can't even sample us, they will never purchase wholesale.

We both know that the Democratic Party is "not a proper opposition party." We both believe that corporations should be "our servants, not our masters." We both agree that taxpayer money should not be lavishly expended on corporate welfare. We both acknowledge that the Iraq War is a criminal escapade, and that it should not cost us one more dollar or one more life. We both observe that Palestinian rights need to be respected, and that Palestine should have its own state alongside with Israel. However, none of our visions can ever be realized if we retain faith in an outdated, inefficient system. That is why, though I admire your courage and objectivity, I think you are naive to believe in American political democracy. You have stated that "the people have the power; if they only realized it, organized it, and focused it." Of course, this is true. A mass majority of American citizens could, hypothetically, radically morph their values, realize the disenfranchisement that results from the country's (and the world's) corrupt power structure, and elect you into office. But the reality is that this will never happen. The people who are willing to realize, organize, and focus their power are an invisible minority and will remain so until electoral adjustments are enacted. So please, Mr. Na[gl]er, don't squander your brilliance. Stop running for president, and focus your efforts on a more productive campaign: election reform.

-Ryan DuBois

Dear Mr. DuBois,

Thank you for your letter. I didn't know anyone knew about my failed presidential run in 2004. I was sixteen at the time, it seemed like a good idea. Except for that whole not being allowed constitutionally part.

I am a genius. I think it's time more people realize that. Calling out guilty parties for their nefarious deeds is something I'm good at. But more importantly, I am a genius. And yes, the American public will never trust a skinny Jewish kid from Brooklyn to lead their country; that's their loss. As for the validity of the Democratic Party, yes, they are pushovers at times. That's why I ran as a Bull Moose in 2004. I think this country is ready to elect a man who feels that Teddy Roosevelt had a great idea for a separatist party with an awesome name.

Then you say I'm brilliant. And that I shouldn't squander said brilliance. Well put. I'll keep my brilliance to myself. And as for your suggestion, I'm already one step ahead of you. Due to the constitutional restraints of *The Press*, I'll be unable to remain Associate Editor next year when I become the President of the College Democrats. I'm also joining the USG's elections board, believing that light is the best antiseptic.

Thanks for thinking I'm awesome, a genius, and brilliant. More people should use these adjectives to describe me.

Yours truly,

Alex H. Nagler  
King of all Turkmen

#### Comments on the Results of USG Constitutional Referendum (From the Only USG Senator to Vote Against it last Fall)

As most of you have probably heard, the recent USG Constitutional Amendment failed by a two-to-one margin. What has struck me most about this proposal is how passionately so many of you have worked to stop it both in this past referendum and the one that failed last fall. As the only Senator to vote against the proposal both times in the Senate, I feel uniquely qualified to comment on why the proposed Constitution was rejected.

Even though I thought many changes were positive, I did not support the proposal because I felt that the negative changes (such as changing the Vice Presidents to similar appointed positions) were too detrimental. Many of the other students I talked to also expressed that they agreed with some changes, but ultimately voted against it because of the points that they did not like. Most students wished to address individual changes rather than a "take it or leave it" referendum. These are very valid objections and seem to be the predominant opposing view.

Unfortunately there seems to be a lot of animosity on both sides of the proposal that has spawned from the debate. I have even heard supporters of the Constitution claim that "fear-mongering" was the main attribute of the opposition. I have heard equally negative sentiments expressed about the writers of the Constitution as well. I think it is important to realize that neither view is accurate. The

majority of those who have opposed the proposed Constitution have had very valid arguments and those that wrote the Constitution have worked tirelessly in support of what they believed to be in the best interests of the USG. Both sides deserve applause for their efforts and hard work.

Indeed, throughout this process I have seen quality debate about the proposal and I believe such debate is ultimately beneficial to make the USG better in the future and more in touch with the student body. I truly hope your voices, especially your message of wanting to approve each individual change, are heard by your representatives in the coming years. I will continue to make it one of my priorities.

Overall, I would like to thank all of the students who voted on the proposed USG Constitution either way. Participation in your student government is essential to ensure that your voice is heard and that the USG operates in a manner consistent with the will of the student body. It is important for you to remember that all officeholders of the USG are here to serve you and ensure that the nearly \$200 that you pay into the student activity fee each year is being put to good use.

Thank you,  
John Kriscenski  
USG Senator, College of Arts and Sciences

# CIA Agent's Mouth Leaks

By Alex H. Nagler

The media has a very special, yet difficult, task to undertake. It is our job to inform the populace about what is going on, while simultaneously protecting the interests of those who may be in danger. There are some controversial things, like Pentagon Papers and torture photos, with which a journalist is obligated to illuminate and inform their readership. Other things, like the identity of active, covert, CIA agents, should not be exposed, especially for the sole reason of political retribution. This is the story of Valerie Plame Wilson, ex-CIA agent and subject of a political revenge that should have never been thrust upon her.

For reasons still unknown by many, *The Press* received an invitation to attend the College Media Advisors Spring 2008 conference in New York City. The keynote speaker of this event was Mrs. Wilson, America's most famous CIA agent. Wilson, 44, is the wife of Joseph C. Wilson IV, former United States National Security Council Senior Director for African Affairs and Diplomat. Ambassador Wilson's name should sound familiar, as he is the author of an editorial in the Washington Post concerning the supposed sale of yellowcake uranium from Africa to Iraq. This trip was in response to Bush's six-

teen-word statement from the 2003 State of the Union, "The British Government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa." Wilson, commended by former President Bush as a "true patriot" for his work, expected potential blowback on the piece to be directed at him, prepping a folder just in case.



Alex Nagler  
We shouldn't know which one of these women was in the CIA

What was not expected was Robert Novak authoring a column in the Washington Post that declared Valerie Wilson a CIA Agent, specifically "an agent operative on weapons of mass destruction." Wilson neither could nor would talk freely of her work at the agency, but noted that it was her job to figure out something you would think to be critical to any war on terror. Her job was to figure out what Iraqi scientists were doing with the alu-

minum pipes that could potentially be used to fission uranium. She gathered intelligence on the whereabouts of these scientists, of the pipes, and of the money being used to pay for both. Her intelligence led her to believe that the Iraqi government was not anywhere near capable of acquiring weapons of mass destruction. She was also working on the same thing in Iran, but now both she and the covert organization she used are defunct with her outing.

Wilson recalled the day that then-Secretary of State Colin Powell gave his "smoking gun" testimony to the United Nations and watching the telecast at CIA headquarters. She recalled being aghast at what she heard. If these things were true, then all the classified intelligence she had seen was completely wrong. But the more she thought about it, the less likely it seemed. She had access to high levels of intelligence, not as high as senior administration officials, but high enough to get the general overview of what was going on concerning Iraq and WMDs. She realized that the man Powell was stating to be a "reliable source" was in fact a drunkard, a womanizer, and a source of sub-par intelligence at best.

When not talking about her outing for political reasons, Wilson discussed the days when she was a CIA agent and some of the good times she had. She recalled "The Farm," a covert ops training camp

where agents were trained on how to survive the intelligence-gathering world through simulated diplomacy. They would be subject to methods of interrogation ("But not waterboarding. Waterboarding is torture") and learn how to overcome these trials while keeping up a steady cover story. They learned how to gather intelligence in a simulation of a country with years of ethnic, social, religious, and military history. This simulation prepared her, and the rest of its graduates, to survive in the real world. She also was the best shot with an AK-47 in her class, something that she had evidently not told her husband when they were married. When it was revealed by a reporter, Joe Wilson jokingly commented, "it changed the dynamic of our marriage."

In her closing remarks, Mrs. Wilson urged those in attendance not to let her story tarnish the reputation of the federal government as an institution and to consider a career in the service of the country. Just because she was attacked by a current administration does not mean that all administrations will be as petty and vindictive and willing to compromise national security for reasons of revenge. But, this one did. And for that, she cannot forgive them.

*Alex H. Nagler still wants to be an Article III Justice.*

# Partying Like It's 1387

By Tia Mansouri

Thursday nights at Stony Brook, while usually associated with intense revelry and equally intense Friday morning hangovers, can usually provide cultural entertainment and display the diversity found on our campus if one looks hard enough. Last Thursday, I attended the Persian Cultural Association's annual Norooz Party. For those who are unfamiliar with this, Iranians celebrate their new year based on their own non-Gregorian calendar in a celebration called Norooz, which coincides with the first day of spring. Never heard of it? Well, it's legitimate enough to merit its own Google logo for March 20th! So, to welcome the new year of 1387, the PCA certainly kept its guests entertained by means of food, film, comedic entertainment, and dancing. The group deserves credit for the tightly-packed variety they were able to provide. However, it begged the question of whether it was *too much* entertainment, given the quintessentially Persian tradition of getting into the

swing of things quite late.

The food traveled all the way here from Ravagh, Roslyn's very own Persian Grill. Stony Brook students not in attendance truly missed out on a meal that would have provided a respite from the SAC's toasty sub and cheeseburger monotony. There were two different kinds of rice (one with herbs, one plain, both with saffron), several different varieties of meat kabob, and, for vegetarians, there was salad and Kashk-Bademjan, which is cooked eggplant in tomato sauce with seasoning and yogurt. Deserts included baklava and cream puffs. I ask you, Stony Brook students, when was the last time you had a decent cream puff?

While eating we were shown two films, *West Bank Story* and *Roya*, which both featured the comedian that would be entertaining later in the evening. *West Bank Story*, a musical comedy playing off of *West Side Story*, is the story of a budding love between a humus stand cashier and an army checkpoint officer, told with a mixture of comedy and political relevance that convinced me that it unquestionably deserved its Best Short Film Oscar. *Roya* was a glimpse into what

Iranian life would be like if America decided to attack Iran; however, the movie got cut off so that Eslam Anthony Shams, the main attraction of the evening, could get on with his comedy routine.

As for Eslam, I don't know how harsh a critic I am qualified to be, but I can say this: his cleverness is exclusive. Of comedic timing and pertinent material he had plenty, but audience members who spoke no Farsi were, in the words of Shams himself, "screwed." Through his "You might be Persian" routine, I could easily follow his rapid interchange between Farsi and English, but I could not help but feel pangs of regret for the few non-speakers around me. When even I couldn't identify the popular Persian singers about whom he was doing impressions, I wondered how in tune with the modern aspects of my culture I really was. Then again, he is based in LA, so maybe it's a West Coast thing. Eslam was quick to say that his work is groundbreaking for Iranians (who are not known to be the funniest of peoples); however, most of his material was based on the sort of fodder that my relatives use as jokes or that I can find online. When

he finally did get to the material that I found truly original-humorous translations of the lyrics to Persian songs-he had to give up the spotlight so that the dancing could begin before any more guests left. I am sure DJ Kasra entertained brilliantly, but I guiltily admit that I was one of those guests. I was more interested in the finale of America's Best Dance Crew than my own dance floor skills, or lack thereof.

While I personally lament the fact that I couldn't persuade any of my American friends to attend this event, I wonder if they would have truly taken away anything from the experience. The comedian's best jokes were in Farsi, and the other major highlight, *West Bank Story* (which isn't even directly about Iranians), can easily be rented and watched. The Persian Club ran a successful event, but for the amount of trouble they spent advertising to Stony Brook students, I doubt many non-Iranians would have understood the night fully. But, truth be told, anyone who didn't attend did miss out on five dollars' worth of food that is better than anything Stony Brook has ever provided.

# Death and Destruction in Buffalo! (Champagne Revisited)

By Jon Singer

Last year this newspaper published "Champagne," an award winning "satire" that addressed various controversial issues, like how much Sonic Youth sucks. In the article, I make a statement that declared I would never return to the city of Buffalo, after going to school at SUNY Buffalo for almost two years.

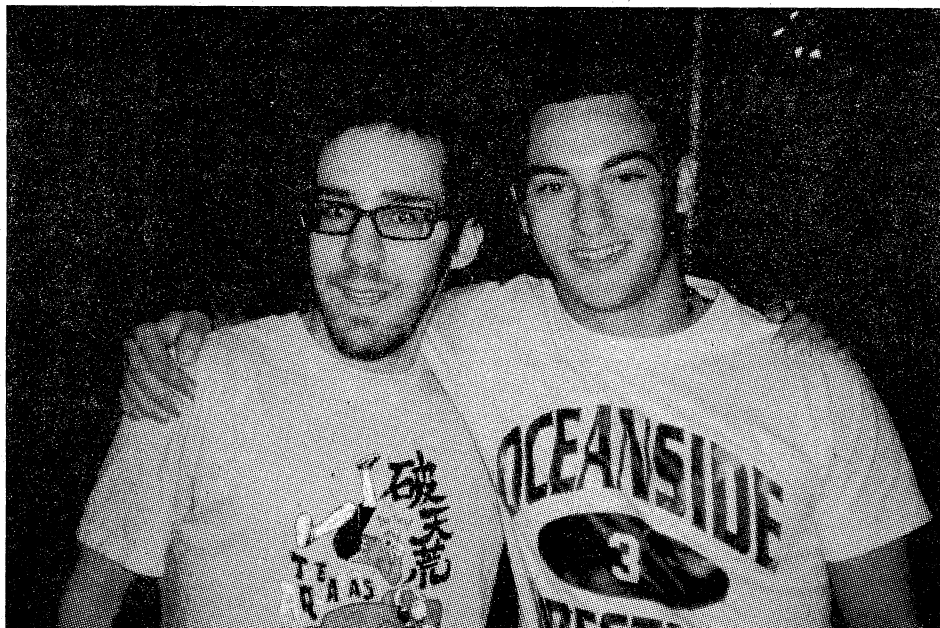
There are good reasons to not go to Buffalo. I don't like cities with extreme poverty. I don't care for spicy chicken wings, and The Buffalo Bills are a shitty football team. Despite it all, I made the decision to visit my old school over spring break.

In "Champagne," I mentioned that I had joined a fraternity while I was at Buffalo. I still cannot tell you the name of the fraternity, but I can tell you that for a while I was against what they did, and was looking into excommunicating myself from the organization. Guys like myself typically do not join fraternities. For one thing, I never drink Natural Light, Keystone Light, or Bud Light. But I pledged the frat in the fall of 2005, and now I'm in it for life (Famous alumni of the fraternity include Ron Popeil, Gene Wilder, and Wolf Blitzer).

When I contacted one of my pledge brothers, he was glad to hear from me after a period of time without communication. I wanted to visit because Buffalo is far away, over 500 miles from Stony Brook, and I wanted to get away from home for spring break. Since SUNY Buffalo's spring break was one week before Stony Brook's break, school would be in session for the week of my visit. That meant I was able to experience life at my old school as if I was still there.

Academically, SUNY Stony Brook is a better school than SUNY Buffalo. But in terms of student life, Buffalo comes out on top. SUNY Buffalo is split between two campuses, North and South. The school was founded in 1846 with the construction of a campus in what is now the northeast end of Buffalo. When the school expanded, it led to controversy because the new buildings were erected in suburban Amherst, 3.5 miles away from the city of Buffalo. This newer, larger campus is known as "North Campus," and the original school is "South Campus." Today, urban planners can only speculate as to what would have happened to the city if new buildings were built in downtown Buffalo (SUNY Buffalo has a school of architecture and urban planning).

A neighborhood has developed around South Campus. University buses run to and from suburb to city, and bars are within walking distance



from South Campus. In Buffalo, last call is at 4AM. The neighborhood, dubbed "University Heights," is where many students choose to hang out and live in off campus houses, and this includes my fraternity's house.

I told my brothers (bros) that I was sorry I had to leave Buffalo two years ago. They responded as if they didn't care. I saw this as a good sign.

With regards to my illness, I accept all of the blame. Kids cut themselves because they are sick, and I was simply not well. In the original "Champagne," I wrote that I was too ill to be social during my freshman year at Buffalo. In reality, all I did was waste money. My student activity fee paid for events on campus, so I had every right to attend Students Against Sweatshops meetings. However, I didn't go to the Snoop Dogg concert my second semester because Snoop Dogg sucks.

People hate fraternities because they are elitist. This means my frat genuinely cares about me, because they wouldn't have wanted me to pledge if they didn't want me in their group. And rush events are open to anyone who wants to attend. For some reason I clicked with the guys who were there.

When I arrived in Buffalo the first day of my break, I decided to stay sober the whole time. I claimed to be "straightedge," even though I had drank the week before (I lied). By the middle of the week I lightened up and decided to get intoxicated. It's what normal college students do, although I bought my own six-pack of Red Stripe instead of drinking the provided Bud Light. This was out of personal preference, but also because I hadn't paid my fraternity dues for two years.

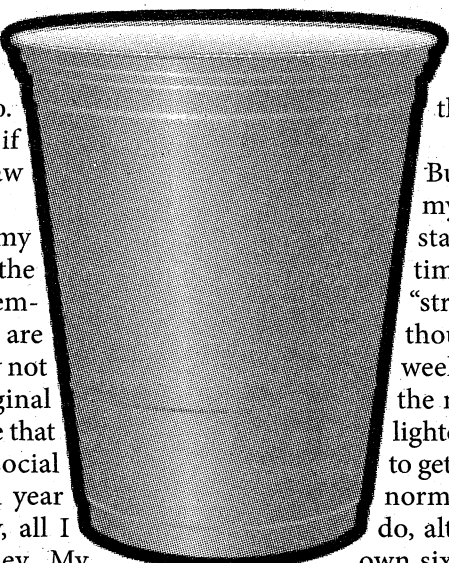
It was nice hanging out with "normal guys" for a week. And good God,

are my fraternity brothers normal. They played "Madden" in career mode for so long that they beat the game. Apparently after a certain number of seasons, the game ends sometime in the late 21 century. Their basement has not one but two empty kegs of Keystone Light, and more than four beer pong tables. March Madness began over spring break, making me subject to countless hours of watching students from other schools play basketball without any monetary incentive (how weird is that?).

I also visited the office of *Generation*, the magazine that I used to write for. They didn't remember who I was, and I didn't care. (For the record, I never told the people in the office that I was a former staff member). In the real world of journalism, the turnover rate of writers is high.

So perhaps I lied when I wrote that I had no reason to ever return to Buffalo. I genuinely enjoyed my Spring Break, even though it was freezing all the time and there were too many homeless people and Christian radio stations. It still sucks that I didn't get laid at the mixer on Friday night.

Now I am a student at Stony Brook, a school that the Princeton Review ranked number one in terms of least happy students. In Buffalo you could buy lunch for five dollars on campus, and (for some reason) there are plenty of options for vegetarians. SUNY Buffalo got Ann Coulter and Janet Reno to speak, at the same event nonetheless. But shit happens. I got sick, and then I got sick some more. Now I have countless friends at Stony Brook. For a while I thought I had countless enemies at Buffalo.



## News-In-Brief

The USG Constitution failed miserably, again, mustering 400 votes in opposition to 200 in favor of centralizing authority in the executive branch of the USG. We're happy. And to show our happiness, here's the Constitution wearing mittens from Issue 4. Why does it get to wear mittens? Because it can.

Want to be the very model of a Modern Major General?

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

# The Art of Procrastination

By Najib Aminy

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, the Wang Center Auditorium hosted the unusual sight of graduate students laughing and smiling. This rare event was due in part to Jorge Cham's hour-long lecture on "The Art of Procrastination", about the grueling, yet comical lifestyle of a graduate student. Cham is the creator of the syndicated comic, *PhD*, which stands for "Piled High and Deeper".

Cham's presentation touched on many aspects of the life of a graduate student. He touched on a few Wikipedia facts about Stony Brook University, showed some of his comics, as well as a few formulas Cham cleverly created himself, such as Newton's Laws of Procrastination. An example would be his first law, which states that a person who is procrastinating will continue procrastinating unless a force impedes on the person. In addition, Cham created a graph that tracked the level of motivation for graduate students. According to Cham's motivation graph, at the beginning of graduate school, the average student is highly motivated and excited to go to grad school. Once school starts, the high level of motivation rapidly declines and continues to decline with only a few increases here and there.

In addition, Cham spoke in great detail about the treatment graduate students receive in grad school. He mentioned how many grad students find it hard to get used to being the "average", the nuisance of being a teaching assistant, as well as doing anything to please graduate professors. Cham also spoke about how being a graduate student enables one to gain skills in two important things, clerical data, and PowerPoint. Cham joked that he learned to perform an hour-long PowerPoint presentation on virtually anything, even procrasti-

nation.

Before Cham focused on drawing comics, he, like many students, fell into the category of students sucked into the long and arduous path of institutionalized education. Jorge Cham received his PhD in Mechanical Engineering at Stanford University, and went on to become a full-time researcher at the California Institute of Technology. Cham's studies focused on robots, specifically

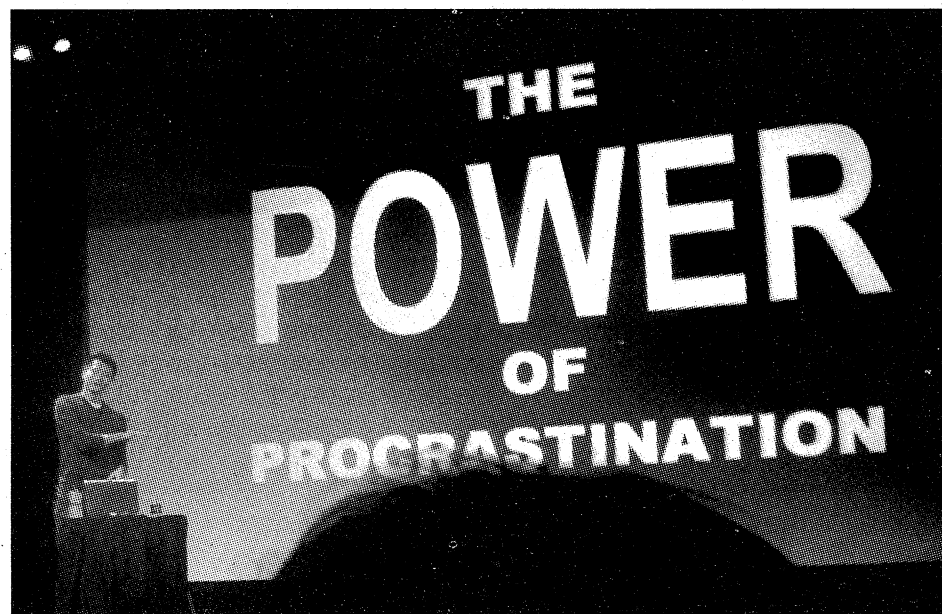
Much of Cham's presentation was received with applause and laughter. Nilsson Holguin, 25, from Queens, NY, said that Cham portrayed an accurate representation of graduate life. "It was not only funny but a lot of the things he said were so true." Holguin, who is a graduate student studying biomedical engineering, enjoys going to work late in the afternoon, but says one of the worst things about being a graduate

NY, says she very much enjoyed Cham's presentation. Laughing, she questions why she is in graduate school in the first place. Espinosa, who is in the field of Ecology and Evolution, says her biggest problem is flexibility and time. Like Holguin, she too says she finds herself asking what she had done with the day. Noel Corrosall, 30, from Ocanas, Colombia says he liked the presentation. However, Corrosall asked Cham a question about what he thought could be done to improve the problems of graduate school. Corrosall said he felt like Cham did not really answer the question. "I mean he was funny, but he kept mentioning many problems that we face as graduate students, but he offered no solution."

Javier Monzon, 26, from Bogotá, Colombia, says "It was one of the best talks I have heard in a very long time." Monzon says that he kept laughing because all of the things Cham were talking about were so true. Whether it was the clerical data, or the PowerPoint, or simply the lack of flexibility of time, Monzon says "that it something all graduate students must go through, and I guess it is funny but sad at the same time. It is easier to laugh about it."

Following the hour-long presentation was a book signing with a line of nearly a hundred. When asked about his parents' reaction to him being a comic instead of doing something with his PhD in Mechanical Engineering, Cham replied, "They are still in shock, but overall they are supportive." When asked if he would stop drawing comics and pursue a career in mechanical engineering, Cham simply replied, "Maybe, but I am very happy with what I am doing right now."

As the hour long presentation of "The Art of Procrastination" came to a close, many of the graduate students who had filled up the Wang Center Auditorium fled back to their residency and laboratories and returned to work.



With great power comes great responsibility. -Uncle Ben

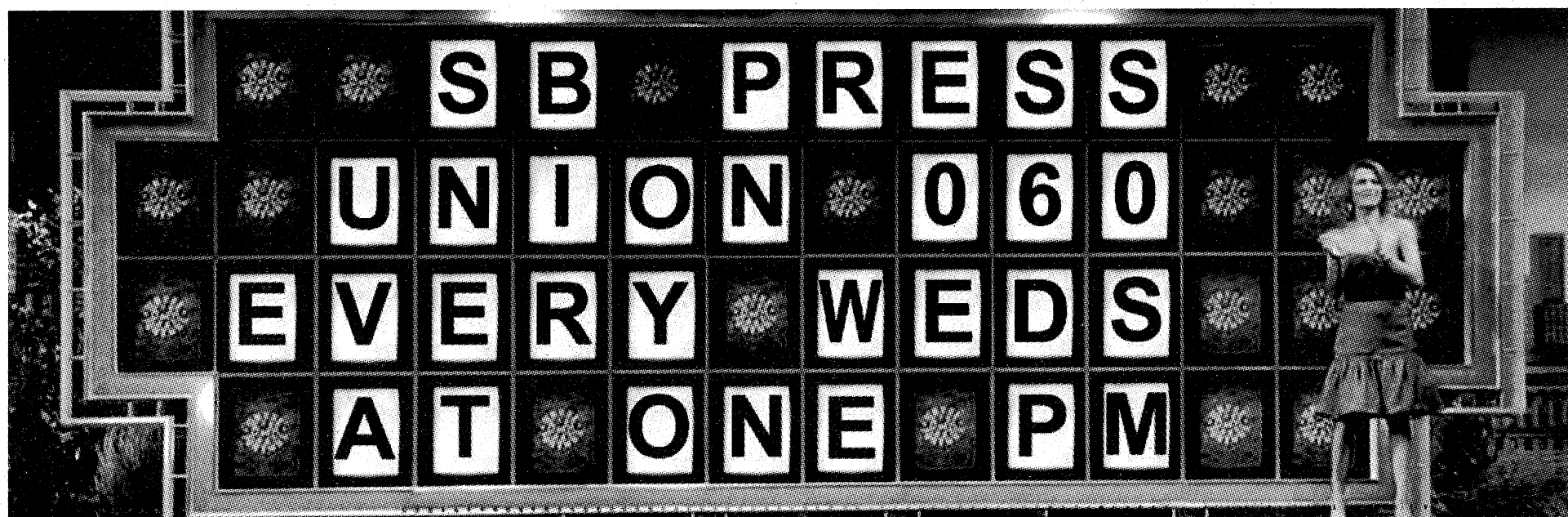
Najib Aminy

the brain machine interfaces that are responsible for making a robot behave in certain ways.

During his time as a graduate student, Cham began drawing comics to pass the time and as he put it "to procrastinate." It was nine years ago that Cham first had his comics published in *The Stanford Daily*, an independent newspaper serving Stanford University. Now, Cham's comics serve as a sense of joy and relief to hundreds of thousands of graduate students worldwide, expressing the feeling that graduate students are not alone in the problems they face.

student is "doing so much in a day, and then asking, what have I done all day?" Entan Chatav, 23, from Stony Brook, NY, said he read the comics online previous to the presentation and found them very funny. "I thought Cham was very funny, especially the joke about how much graduate students get paid." Cham explained that if Stony Brook receives \$184,000,000 in funding of research, and there are 2,500 graduate students, then each graduate student receives \$73,600. However, this is not the case, as Chatav says that he gets paid around \$20,000.

Paula Espinosa, 29, from Queens,



## Food For Thought

"What do you call a cow who flies a plane into a building? A moooslim"  
--A.C.

# Ann is Just Playing Hard-to-Get

By Najib Amini

Democracy, freedom, justice, and intelligence are things many people think about when they think of America. I, on the other hand, deem these words synonymous with that lovely goddess Ms. Ann Coulter, my lover. On Monday March 31, my dream was to come true. I was going to ask Ann Coulter out and get married and live happily ever after.

Thanks to the College Republicans increasing their budget to a whopping \$30,000 and spending roughly around \$20,000 of Student Activities money in addition to another \$1,600 on security, a dream of mine was to be fulfilled. The College Republicans, who did a superb job with advertising the blessing of Ms. Coulter's visit, forced me to begin counting down the days to ask my lover out and begin a new life of die-hard conservatism.

You see, I was once a tree-hugging, pot-smoking, civil-rights-advocating, baby-aborting, hip-hop-listening, religion-tolerating liberal. Thankfully, I am no longer. My messiah, analogous to Jesus in Christianity, or the imperfect version in Judaism, was none other than Ms. Coulter. I first became aware of Ms. Coulter when there was no important news that needed to be covered, thus causing the media to graciously allow Ms. Coulter to fill the space. The first time I heard her speak was June 21, 2002 at 4:27 EST. My ears filled with ecstasy.

rays of sunshine, her golden locks shimmering with beauty. I never believed a woman could be both beautiful and intelligent, not until I saw Ann Coulter. I began listening to her and realized that everything she said was true. Everything. After a couple of weeks I had hit my nirvana state of conservatism. I, like Coulter, believed liberals are leeches sucking the life out of the American government. I was disgusted with how unpatriotic these liberals are for empathizing with the prisoners at

a problem. The same night Ms. Coulter was to grace this wretched liberal campus of Stony Brook, I was to take a calculus exam. The moment I realized this, my heart skipped ten beats, my stomach was upset for the duration of a week, and I cried myself to sleep each and every night. I hated calculus, I hated my Russian professor who taught me nothing, I hated it all. And now, my exam was the only thing holding me back from my future wife.

Then I asked, what would Ann

wanted to get beauty rest and look well-rested when I asked Ms. Coulter out. The day went on, with my nervousness slightly increasing with each tick and tock of the clock. I studied for my useless calculus exam to help pass the time. I am sure Ms. Coulter would love to hold a conversation about calculus.

I studied and headed to my room to drop off my books and get ready for Ms. Coulter. I walk through the SAC when I recognize the presence of the numerous New York State Troopers, police officers, and paid security. I thought little of it. But as I walked outside, I noticed two photographers waiting idly as if someone famous was coming. I realized Ann Coulter was on her way!

My exam was in an hour and a half and Ann Coulter would be coming soon, so like any good husband, I awaited the arrival of my soon-to-be wife. I heard sirens blazing in the background, the roar of a fire truck. My body grew tense. She was coming soon.

After numerous cars pulled up, there was still no sign of Ms. Coulter. I looked at my phone and I realized I would have to take my dreaded exam. Finally, I saw a police envoy making its way towards the back of the SAC, and there she was, sitting on the passenger side of an old, navy Crown Victoria. Oh, how excited I was.

The second she stepped out, I felt a



The elusive flower, herself.

Guantanamo, as well as how likely it is that the Democratic party is most likely formed from a group of brain-dead people.

As March 31 was approaching, I began to lose sleep and wake up earlier than I normally do. It was like Christmas morning, but only better. Ann Coulter was coming! Each and every day I would reread her books, watch her interviews, and prepare myself for

Coulter do? Before writing another book or trying to get on another show, or kindly accepting \$20,000 to go a university to speak for an hour or so, she would pray to God. That was I did. I prayed to God. I realized that this whole scenario was essentially a test from God himself. So, I prepared myself to take the exam *and* ask my lover out. It was God's will.

The morning of March 31<sup>st</sup>, I lay on

*...so like any good husband, I awaited the arrival of my soon-to-be wife...*



That radiant blur is my love.

There she sat, outside, on a warm summer day, her black blouse flowing with the wind, her face illuminating

the moment I would ask Ann Coulter out.

All of a sudden, I realized there was

my padded mattress at 5:30 a.m. I realized that I had not slept since I went to bed at 8:30 p.m. the previous night. I

shockwave of joy and excitement travel through my body. She was surrounded by men in suited jackets. However, I knew when she and I were married, all these men would be unnecessary. So, I followed her into SAC Ballroom B, taking pictures with my digital camera. I realized it was time for my exam and that my one opportunity to propose to my lover may have dissipated like dust in the wind. Oh how I closed my eyes, asking God for one more chance.

I slouched my way into my seat after dragging myself into the exam room, and sighed, turning the first page of the exam. I had my mind on more important things. I gazed at the test, drew hearts here and there. I tried my best. For Ann, I tried my best. I would not let integrals ruin my chance of spooning

LOVE QUEST continued on next page

## Miley Cyrus is lonely and reptilian; a blogger states

E-mail *The Press* at  
sbpress@gmail.com**LOVE QUEST** continued from previous page

with my guardian angel. I handed my test to the professor and left, sprinting up the stairs of Old Chemistry 119 and running out the door. I gleefully made my way into the SAC Auditorium and noticed the walkway was covered with police officers and security. I felt glad that the University realized how important it was to protect my lover at the expense of all these liberal students.

I made my way into the back in order not to interrupt my lover and sat

*There we were, our hands interlocked, skipping through the meadows and hills...*

there listening to her speak and answer questions. In all honesty, I just stopped paying attention and just gazed at her. There we were, our hands interlocked, skipping through the meadows and hills with the sky glowing with the colors of the American flag. I fell out of my daydream when Ms. Coulter stopped speaking, wondering if something had gone wrong. The question-and-answer portion ended and the public book signing began.

This was it. I had my book, "Godless", in my hand, often alternating which hand it was in to prevent my sweat from damaging the book. My legs began to shake and as the line moved up, they started trembling. The line was long, which gave me time to calm down and relax. However, nothing could prevent the butterflies in my stomach from going crazy. For a second I felt like

*Ms. Coulter replied, "We need more Muslims like you." I was very flattered.*

turning back. But then I told myself that if I didn't ask Ms. Coulter out, than I would have wasted the \$22,000 the College Republicans felt necessary to spend, in addition to having 20,000 students pay and only about 200 students attend. So rather than cowering and becoming a liberal, I chose not to cut and run, but rather stay the course.

I was on the stage, next in line to talk to Ms. Coulter. Words could not describe my joy and anxiety. It was finally my turn. I took a gulp and gave her my book and politely asked her to sign the book to my father, Imam Ali M. Hussein. I told her about my continual fights with my dad about who is

right, I even told her about how I have many of the same views on Muslims as she does. Ms. Coulter replied, "We need more Muslims like you." I was very flattered. Then, the moment of truth. I kindly asked Ms. Coulter out, and she laughed in my face.

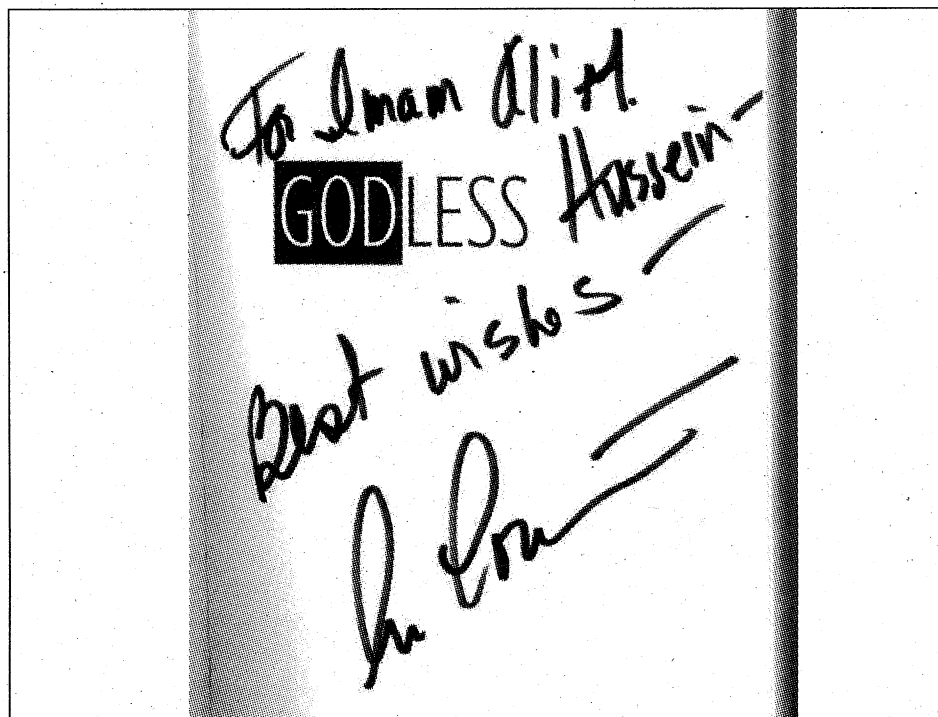
Ann: Hello!

Me: Nice to meet you.

Ann: Nice to meet you.

Me (giving her my copy of "Godless"): This is for my father, he is an imam.

Ann (Signing the book): Oh, so we like



If you know of an Imam Ali M. Hussein, please contact the Press.

She laughed in my face.

"Thank you", she said as she kept laughing. I asked if that was a yes or a no, she laughed again, saying "Thank you." My heart was cold, yet warm. She was playing hard to get. I knew this because I asked her how attractive she

him! Where is he?

Me: He is on the island.

Ann: And what does he think about what is going on.

Me: Well in all honesty he thinks all the things you say are ridiculous. But like after hearing all the things you've said I

Ann: That was a good joke.

Me: It was a good joke and I laughed for hours.

Ann: See, you are a Muslim (pronouncing it mooooooslim) we can work with.

Me: I know and I am trying to find other Muslims but it is hard

Ann: You know why?

Me: Why?

Ann: I've explained this before. I thought I knew every right wing Muslim. (smiling) Nice to meet you, because they don't join groups. Muslims join groups based on politics. But they don't belong to Muslims groups.

Me: Do you think we need more Muslim conservatives?

Ann: Yeah, probably, right now because I need them independently.

Me: After reading your stuff I have grown a fascination of you and I would like to take this time to ask you out.

Ann (Laughing): Thank you!

Me: Is that a yes or a no?

Ann: Thank you! All offers have to go through the body guard.

Me: One last question, on a scale of one to ten how attractive do you think I am?

Ann (unhesitant): Very attractive!

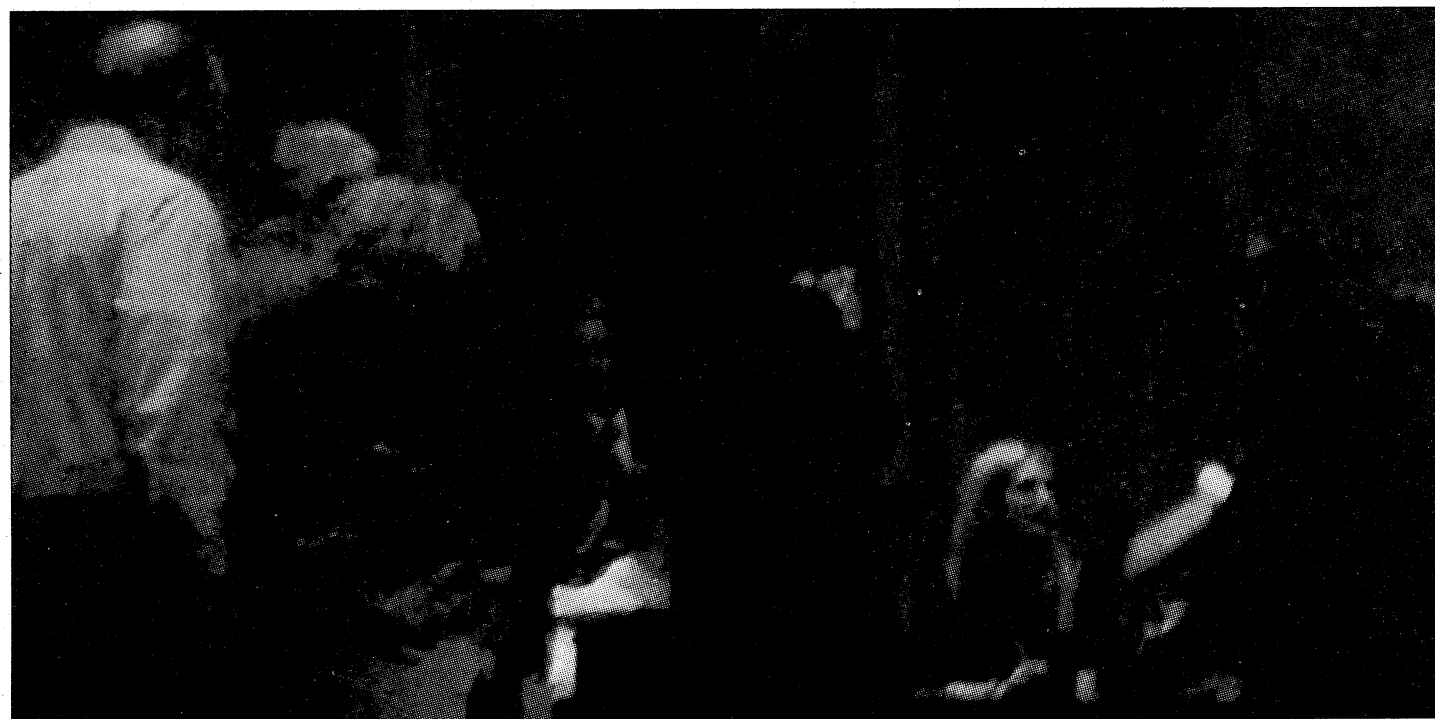
Me: On a scale of one to ten

Ann: If Floyd [her bodyguard] was a ten you would be a nine

Me: Nice meeting you again.

Ann: I know! I know!

A nine. My heart melted, I shook her hand, made eye contact, and happily left the stage. For I know it takes time for love to blossom into a flower, and I will give it time.



Look how popular my darling is!

thought I was using a scale of 1-10, 10 being really attractive. She pointed to her bodyguard and said he was a ten. She gave me a nine. The following excerpt is word-for-word, as I managed to sneak in a recorder and record the conversation:

agree with you and we get into long fights about who is right and who is wrong. A lot of the things you say I agree with, especially the comment about how if all Muslims boycotted airlines, there would be no need for airline security.

All Photos by Najib Aminy

## Food For Thought

Our new favorite crazy dictator is former Turkmenistani President, "Turkmenbashi" Niyasov. Facebook him.

# DMX on Obama: That Ain't No Fuckin' Name, Yo.

By Alex Walsh

As November approaches, it may feel like it's nearly impossible not to hear about the ongoing race for the White House. No matter how hard one tries, Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton, John McCain, and that lovable misfit Ralph Nader seem to be around every corner, from the MTVU blaring in H Quad, to the newspapers in each residence hall's lobby, to the electronic ticker scrolling across the newsroom window. Gifted rapper DMX, however, proves that everyone else just isn't trying hard enough. Consider the following excerpt from a recent interview with *XXL* Magazine:

**XXL:** Are you following the presidential race?

**DMX:** Not at all.

**XXL:** You're not? You know there's a Black guy running, Barack Obama and then there's Hillary Clinton.

**DMX:** His name is Barack?!

**XXL:** Barack Obama, yeah.

**DMX:** Barack?!

**XXL:** Barack.

**DMX:** What the fuck is a Barack?! Barack Obama. Where he from, Africa?

**XXL:** Yeah, his dad is from Kenya.

**DMX:** Barack Obama?

**XXL:** Yeah.

**DMX:** What the fuck?! That ain't no fuckin' name, yo. That ain't that nigga's

name. You can't be serious. Barack Obama. Get the fuck outta here.

**XXL:** You're telling me you haven't heard about him before.

**DMX:** I ain't really paying much attention.

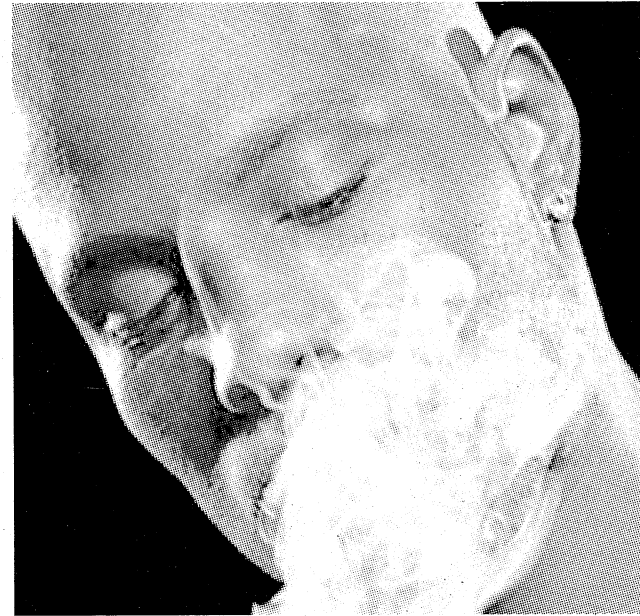
**XXL:** I mean, it's pretty big if a Black...

**DMX:** Wow, Barack! The nigga's name is Barack. Barack? Nigga named Barack Obama. What the fuck, man?! Is he serious? That ain't his fuckin' name. Ima tell this nigga when I see him, "Stop that bullshit. Stop that bullshit" [laughs]. "That ain't your fuckin' name." Your momma ain't name you no damn Barack.

DMX's stunning, almost impressive lack of awareness of one of the leading contenders for the Presidency raises a concern as to how widespread this phenomenon is. Reassuringly, a scientific study conducted by *The Stony Brook Press* shows that we need have no fear of uninformed voters among us. The recognition rate of the name "Barack Obama" among interviewed students was 100 percent. It seems that the liberal media has done its job well. Clearly, DMX is an isolated case. His ignorance is inconsequential. "It's a big shock," said Karrah St. Laurence, a Junior from Queens. The majority of respondents felt that they were either more politically aware or more generally intelligent than DMX, suggesting that they would not be swayed by his opinion when casting their votes. As Shawna Higgins,

a Stony Brook sophomore from Buffalo asserts, "This is a story we can just push aside."

The real issue revealed in *The Press* study was a lack of awareness of DMX



among the campus community. Shockingly, 55 percent of students did not know who the rapper was, despite his record breaking five consecutive number one albums. Of those who could properly identify DMX, also known as Earl Simmons, very few could name a song he had recorded. This number, as well as his general recognition, increased when pollsters chanted "X gon' give it to ya!" referencing his single off the 2003 album *Grand Champ*. However, none of those questioned felt at all worried about the possibility that X

would in fact give it to them. Jay Chung, a Junior from Port Washington, says he is "not really" scared about such a scenario. While most lived without serious concern over Dark Man X, some students admitted to being intimidated by Senator Hillary Clinton, who Junior Tiffany Thomen, of Westbury, characterized as "kind of scary." Sean "Puffy" Combs' "Vote or Die" campaign similarly proved more inspiring of fear than DMX; Max Simmons, Freshman from Rochester, said it was "a bit extreme."

Accurate numbers are hard to come by, but it seems reasonable to assume that a substantial atmosphere of DMX-related fear existed in the American public around the time of the release of "X Gon' Give It to Ya." The steady and precipitous decline in dread and awareness of DMX appears to coincide neatly with President Bush's appointment of Michael Chertoff as Secretary of Homeland Security. Chertoff's success in alleviating Americans' apprehensions about having it given to them underscores the importance of Presidential appointments and the fallacy of DMX's assertion that "No one person is directly affected by which President, you know..."

## Ann Coulter Skins Cats

By Hillary Weiss & Katie Flanagan

Due to budget cuts, the Stony Brook Cat Network has had to resort to drastic measures in order to keep the club functioning. One Cat Networker, unwilling to be named, has come forth and revealed that the club, unable to continue with their mission, has been selling stray cats to Campus Dining. The source went on to say, "You can't save all the cats, so why not save some by selling the meat of the others?"

Originally, the club had looked for funding through other venues. Fearing that a bake sale would be too cliché, the Network initially sold smoothies. "We were unsure of USG regulations regarding smoothies," the anonymous source said, "but we really just wanted

to help the cats." Genius struck when one cat fell into a blender. It was at that moment sparks flew, and it was more than just the blender short circuiting—it was the birth of an idea.

The cat network saves stray cats on campus by herding them into the Bamboo Forest behind the West Apartments. "It's discreet and out of the way," commented Jenny Q, a basket-weaving major. The cats are then put through a series of competitions in order to determine which will be the most likely to thrive after rehabilitation. The others are then sold to Campus Dining for eighty-two cents per pound.

Campus Dining surveys have shown that the perceived quality of food has actually gone up since the change took place. One conscientious consumer reported that they approved of the switch. "Lately I've been trying to consume

only free-range animals. The Cat Network helps make that possible."



That's one pussy I'd never skin ...

Interbutt

Many Cat Networkers grudgingly admit that while this goes against the mission statement of the club, it has provided some temporary relief to their funding issues. The anonymous Cat Networker commented, "It's an unorthodox way of raising money, but there's more than one way to skin a cat." Paul Bowden, food production manager for the Union Commons, later reported that Campus Dining, in fact, has only one standard way of skinning cats.

With the success of the new business venture, Campus Dining has decided to branch out into fast food. Guess they're really letting the cat out of the bag.

Tickets to the cat competitions can be purchased at the SAC Box Office \$4.37 for students and faculty, \$6.42 for off campus.



## KUNG-FU POLITICS

by Tommy Yu

Asian Americans don't have a place in politics. As a matter of fact, we have almost no presence in American media, aside from the occasional kung-fu master popping in to pulverize the baddies while scoffing at the laws of physics. That's why it came as a surprise when I heard of a CNN segment featuring Gary Tuchman, a CNN news reporter, interviewing Asian Americans about their preferred president. For those of you who haven't gotten a chance to see it, here is a YouTube link to that segment:

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=770WYuJb-WWs>.

According to this piece, Barack Obama lost to Hilary Clinton by a three to one margin among the Asian American voters in California and Tuchman was going to find out why.

Instead of feeling elated for the fact that Asian Americans are finally appearing in politics, I was disappointed to see a half-hearted approach to a story that took place mainly in an Asian supermarket, where almost every patron sported heavy accents. Tuchman failed to fully explore this issue

and I was no more educated on the reasons behind this phenomenon at the end of the clip than I was at the beginning. He did, however, factor race into the voting equation, almost as if he were saying... Asian Americans wouldn't vote for Obama because he's black?

Wait a minute. Not only are we now all high-flying martial arts masters, but also

racists to boot? According to this clip, we also don't know the difference between Clinton and Lincoln (which was quite funny because the kid seemed sad after finding out Lincoln wasn't running this year). It is unfair that the Asian American image is molded by those who don't even share the same culture. Aside from the fact that Tuchman decided not to conduct interviews at better

locales, what bothered me was that some of the things that were said were out of context, and we aren't doing anything about it.

Asian Americans need more representation in media. The more we expose ourselves to the public, the less we may be unfairly stereotyped. If the first thing Tuchman thought to do was to head down to the local Asian supermarket to discuss politics with Asian Americans, then there is definitely something wrong, either with Tuchman's journalistic process or with the way Asians are portrayed in this country. I can only hope it is the former for Asian Americans' sake, but this is the reality—America's grabbed our public image by the hair and is throwing it around and we can't let that continue.

Taking up a bit of journalism is one way to retaliate. Maybe try some politics as well. Show America we are news-conscious and do actually care about current events. Fight back the stereotypes by getting more involved with the media. In that way, we can one day show that we actually do have a fighting spirit, not just in the movies.



## Hungry for Filipino

by Luis Salazar

"It's cold outside," I think to myself as I slowly walk down Ludlow Street, in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, searching for an ATM. I'm hungry and this restaurant doesn't accept credit cards, but after my girlfriend and I quickly perused the restaurant menu, I realized the cash in my wallet wouldn't be enough to afford a filling meal. I should have known better. It's Manhattan, after all, and it's Valentine's Day. I don't really like Valentine's Day, but that's no excuse to not have dinner. I find a deli at the end of the street with an ATM, quickly slip in, and grab a few more twenties. As I walk back into the restaurant our maitre d' glares at me. I'm pretty sure she knows that I didn't just come from the bathroom—that was only a few feet from our table.

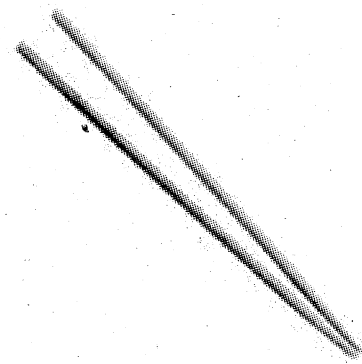
With more money in my wallet, we look at the menu. The name of the restaurant is Kumainn, which is Tagalog (the Filipino language) for "eat." I chose a Filipino restaurant for our Valentine's Day dinner because both my girlfriend and I are Filipino, and we haven't been home in awhile to get home-cooked food. For a Filipino, that can sometimes be torture, especially when eating Stony Brook food every day.

We make our choices from the menu, and signal for our waiter to come over. We select three dishes, but our waiter tells us that the portions are small. Apparently, most people here order about three dishes per person, so I quickly choose four more dishes. My girlfriend looks at me, almost as if to say, "What the hell is wrong with you?" I'm hungry.

After making our order, we look at each other and then at our surroundings. The restaurant is low-lit, and there is a couple next to us ordering garlic bread, but there is one other thing I immediately notice. A ma-

jority of the customers in the restaurant—in fact, everyone in the room—is white. I don't know what to make of this. I've been to plenty of Filipino restaurants before, and it's usually the other way around: Everyone and their mother is Filipino. The more I think about it, the more I realize that this could actually be a good thing, since the Americans get to experience my culture and see how good the food is.

Our waiter then comes back with our



drinks and with our utensils. I scrutinize our eating tools, and start to feel a little uneasy. There is no spoon on my table, and no fork. What do we have instead? Chopsticks. What the hell is that? I have never seen a Filipino person eat with chopsticks before. I have spent enough time examining my relatives devour mounds of Filipino food with spoons and forks, but never with chopsticks. When we go to Chinese or Japanese restaurants and they place the chopsticks in front of us, we still need to ask the waiter for about twenty forks and spoons for everyone at the table. It's a shame, especially if the restaurant is

trying to teach Americans something about Filipino culture, but I reason that perhaps there are Filipinos in the world that use chopsticks; maybe something like ten of them. I try my best to ignore the utensils in front of us, and instead focus my attention on my girlfriend. She's the only thing that reminds me of the Philippines in this place. We're both getting really hungry, and after a few more minutes, which can seem like hours when you're hungry, our food comes.

When I eat Filipino food at home, I can expect a generous portion of food, with family members encouraging me that I haven't eaten enough. So you can imagine my disappointment when I look down at the plate, and all I see are three small pieces of meat and a small bowl of noodles. Each dish was extremely small. In order to prevent customers from eating too fast, they wait a few minutes before bringing the next dish. I thought it was stupid.

On the one hand, the food didn't taste even close to bad; in fact, it was pretty tasty. However, there was something lacking in the food—it didn't taste Filipino. Authentic Filipino food tastes as if the person in the kitchen cooking it could have been your mom or one of your several aunts. It's supposed to taste like home. This stuff didn't. It tasted like trendy American food, only Filipino-flavored. It tasted like they threw out the Filipino in favor of a more chic, yet culturally-bland style of food that could easily be marketed to the American public as "Filipino food."

I should have seen the warning signs beforehand: The expensive prices, the chopsticks, the small portions, or maybe the fact that everyone there was white except for me and my girlfriend. It was a little sad in a way. It was as if the restaurant was trying so hard to attract a yuppie American crowd that it

forgot what it was supposed to offer: Filipino food. I consider food to be a staple of any culture. When you eat the food of a particular group of people, you are supposed to get some taste of where that ethnicity is coming from. Food can even bring people together. I've spent a lot of time talking to my other Filipino friends about the Filipino foods we love, the foods that our moms love to cook, or even the foods we're too afraid to eat. Food is essential to a culture. When a restaurant sacrifices some of its culture just to fit in, it's no longer representing its cultural background; it's just another American restaurant.

I understand that some people view America as the "melting pot," and say that when you come to America, your culture blends in with other cultures. Even though our society is a smorgasbord of races, ethnicities, religions, and cultures, I always pictured our country to be more like a salad. Yes, a salad. A salad where all of our cultural differences are all intact, and remain unique from the others. A salad mixed with ingredients, but no ingredients being mixed too much, to the point where they just disappear. We shouldn't be embarrassed to represent where we come from, just because it doesn't fit the American norm.

I pay the bill and we grab our jackets to leave. We walk back outside into the cold city night. I'm still hungry. It's still Valentine's Day so I ask her what she would like to do next. She says, "I saw a crepe store just down the street." The suggestion of more food is enough to get me started on a brisk sprint to the crepe store. Right now, anything would taste good. I just hope they don't sell their crepes with chopsticks.

## Arts Calendar

Wong Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest  
4/10, 7:00pm, Wang Center

# PotUSA Proves to be More Awesome Than Real PotUSA

By James Laudano

Can you name the President that served for two non-consecutive terms? How about the one who received both the lowest and highest approval ratings ever recorded? Or what about the President who had a tendency to refer to others as "sons of bitches?" If you answered Grover Cleveland, George W. Bush and Richard Nixon, respectively, you know too much about history, and not enough about music. A Seattle-based band, The Presidents of the United States of America, continued campaigning for the title of World's Best Joke-Rockers with their latest album, *These Are The Good Times People*. With hits such as "So Lo So Hi" and "Mixed Up S.O.B.," The Presidents retain their spot on the top after a five-year breakup in the late 1990's.

The Presidents know who their audience is, and *These Are The Good Times People* is aimed directly at them. Offering more of their trademark catchy, light-hearted rock-and-roll, the album delivers in spades. "Mixed Up S.O.B.," the first single from the album, is the sort of song The Presidents excel at; a song with content normally serious and angry, yet spun in a happy, funny way. "Ladybug" and "Truckstop Butterfly" follow in the wake of past President's hits

"Boll Weevil" and "Dune Buggy" to continue their tradition of songs about bugs. The album ends strongly, with the stellar three songs "Rot In The Sun," "Warhead" and "Deleter." The three songs are a strong wrap-up to a very solid album.

The Presidents came to New York's Bowery Ballroom on March 24 in pro-

Ballew tore through all of the band's hits and fan favorites. Perhaps most impressively, they successfully balanced playing nearly the whole of *Good Times People* with their classics.

The Presidents of the United States of America, having served an unprecedented and unconstitutional thirteen years in office, are certainly



motion of *Good Times People*. The show was just as fun and light-hearted as their catalogue. In what basically became a sing-along with the audience, lead singer and bassist Chris

an act that knows how to please the American public. Their show at the Bowery Ballroom and *Good Times People* both affirm exactly that. Commanders-in-chief, I salute you!

## Arts Editor Note

Despite all of what James said above, not everything was peachy at the Bowery Ballroom on March 24. The first opening band was a St. Louis based wuss-rock group called Ludo. The name of the band seems to be a reference to the large, friendly creature from *Labyrinth*, but the lead singer was much more reminiscent of Hoggle. He was a total icky elf. He was short and greasy, and he kept licking his guitar and making other sexual gestures. The keyboardist was a shameless self-promoter. When he wasn't busy flopping around the stage and forgetting to play his keyboard, he was plugging the band's new album and merchandise, even during their songs. As for the actual songs, they were mostly bitter, angsty songs about getting dumped. Although Hoggle never admitted it, they were probably all autobiographical. He was a bit of a creeper, and girls realized it. They finished their set with a cover of Faith No More's "Epic." Hoggle showed more of his ickiness with a frightening goblin voice during the "what is it" part of the song. The yucky feeling left by Ludo, however, faded with an unremarkable set by Joe Jack Talcum. Then, fortunately, the Presidents took the stage.

# Is That The Synthesizer Part To "Baba O'Riley?"

By Alex H. Nagler

"Hey guys. We've been following the program pretty well up to now, but we've been in the studio recording new stuff for the next album, so we're going to try some of it out. So yeah, your programs are worth crap now. Sorry!" With these lines, keyboardist Peter Kieswaller of the East Village Opera Company introduced himself to a crowd at the Staller Center on March 30.

To understand what the EVOC sounds like, you have to imagine that Giuseppe Verdi was born in 1973 instead of 1813. Now, imagine he was still one of the most influential and prolific opera composers of his day, but didn't

limit himself to the orchestra of the 1840s, and instead used drum kits and synthesizers. Now, hypothesize that he listened to Zep, The Who, U2, Jimi, and a healthy smattering of disco while growing up. That's kind of what the EVOC sounds like.

The EVOC was founded in 2004 by Peter Kieswaller and tenor Tyler Ross. They focus on modernized opera standards, making the music that was once the music of the people more accessible to those who think it's something solely for older people. This means throwing a wailing guitar solo into the middle of *Turandot's* "Nessun Dorma" or starting to recite the opening to "Lose Yourself" in the overture of *The Barber of Seville*. Yes, I'll restate that: reciting "Lose Yourself" in the middle of an instrumental overture written by Rossini.

The concert consisted of arias and duets, predominantly Italian in nature, with some French, and the occasional inclusion of German. The styles of the pieces varied between a slowed-down funk version of Handel's "When Ere You Walk" to a political march worthy of U2 of *Faust's* "Soldier's Chorus." There were high points, varying between the always-wonderful "Nessun Dorma," described by Kieswaller as "one of the greatest pieces ever composed" and a masterful performance by Soprano AnnMarie Milazzo of "Un Bel Di" from *Madama Butterfly*. There were also points in which the singers took too much liberty with the original score, like the lack of F6 (a really, really high F) in "Der Hölle Rache kocht in meinem Herzen," otherwise known as The Queen of the Night's Aria from *Die*

*Zauberflöte* or *The Magic Flute*. Yes, it was sung by a male and males cannot hit F6, but otherwise it was a very amusing take on one of the most hateful arias in the opera canon.

The EVOC will remember Stony Brook as "The University that liked Hate more than Love" (based on the audience response of preferring the Queen's aria versus the love aria from *Madama Butterfly*), but to us, they'll be remembered as that cool band that blended opera with rock—and were awesome.

Alex H. Nagler wants sheet music to their version of "Nessun Dorma."

## Now in Theatres

Funny Gnomes



Jonny Gomes



Frothy Foams with Puffy Combs



Please Don't Eat Our Homes



# Funny Games: No Laughing Matter

By Doug Cion

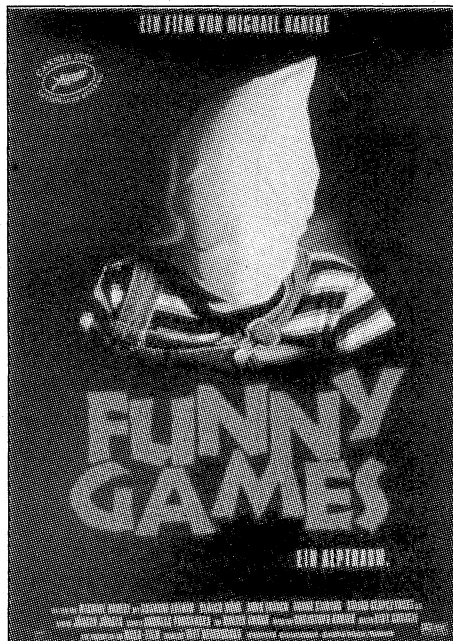
In a time where the American film industry is following the fad of remaking and/or adapting foreign films in an attempt to "Americanize" them, we are introduced to German director Michael Haneke. Haneke directed a film entitled *Funny Games* which took place in Australia where two psychotic young men hold a family hostage in their vacation cabin. Through the course of one night, the two young men psychologically and physically torture the family until they finally kill them. It's a disturbing yet fantastic thriller that sounds like it would fit in perfectly with our modern-day horror genre, specifically focusing on the torturing of helpless victims. However, unlike the American versions of films such as *The Ring* and *The Grudge*, Haneke himself directed the remake! Apparently, Americans are not sick and twisted enough to produce good ideas in the field of horror (the best we can do are slashers?) and we must take from other more disturbed and freaky countries... like Germany. I love that Haneke directed this version because it allowed nothing to be missed. Everything from the first version is purposely placed in the updated one and that is awesome. I am so glad that *Funny Games* did not become the new *Grudge*.

However, I do not believe the average American moviegoer is ready for a film like this. When American viewers go see a film they expect to see what

they want to see. *Funny Games* throws a curveball and delivers a film that is not like what one expects to see when they go see a horture (horror + torture for all you geniuses) film. And since I am an American moviegoer, I have mixed feelings on the film. This had the potential to be something great. Amazing elements were on display in this film that were refreshing to see. Yet, at times I would get lost with the "dullness" of certain scenes. This is why the film did not strike me as amazing. A scene showing Naomi Watts' character, Ann, squirming and struggling to stand up for fifteen minutes is an example of one of these long, drawn-out scenes which I am sure had some symbolic meaning, but was not needed. Don't get me wrong, I find great amusement in watching Ms. Watts roll around in her bra and panties but the scene made me fall out of the dream-like state I fall into when I really get sucked into a film. There were several similar that caused me to lose interest, momentarily. That and the 5 fat, menopausal ladies who

sat behind me that never shut their damn mouths. However, they did love the *Sex and the City* trailer that played before it.

This isn't to say that I completely hated the film. I am caught in the middle of loving and hating for this one. Though I found myself rather bored at certain moments, I also found myself laughing out loud, not from humor, but from shock and enjoyment. This film had superb acting which makes expert critics say that this version is better than the original. Also, the general idea of the film (the same as the original) was remarkable and something I have not seen before. I am not referring



Despite stereotypes, Germans are actually quite funny.

to the breaking in and torturing. I am talking about the idea of entertainment. It's like what Brady Corbet's character Peter said: "You shouldn't forget the importance of entertainment." It was made very clear that this was a film in which there was an audience watching what was happening. Michael Pitt (could be a stunt double for my buddy Leo DiCap) who played the character

Paul broke the fourth wall four times in the film and asked the audience (I felt as if he was talking to me personally) whether or not a certain answer given by one of the victims was acceptable or something along those lines. There is also a fantastic, and I really mean awesome, scene in which he rewinds the film to correct a certain mistake that was made. It was made very clear by the director and the actors that they were performing for an audience. As the film ends with Pitt staring into the audience (he was looking at me!) and I unstuck my shoes from the floor, I felt like I had just watched a play live and that was his curtain call. Most critics say it is a mortal sin to break the fourth wall and be aware that they are in a movie but this idea truly saved the film for me. On top of brilliant cinematography and hardcore dialogue, this aspect of watching a movie played off really well. I do not want to be a spoiler but Peter and Paul at the end of the film have a conversation about black holes and the creation and existence of alternate realities. This was the final reference to the idea of an audience watching their actions, and it truly won me over.

So, if I made you all think that I am unsure, a hypocrite and/or you are confused about my review and my personal feelings towards the film then I was successful with my intent. Go see it and find out for yourself. Or, if you are unlike the 98 percent of American moviegoers who are frightened by subtitles, then order the German version on Netflix. Most video stores do not carry it.

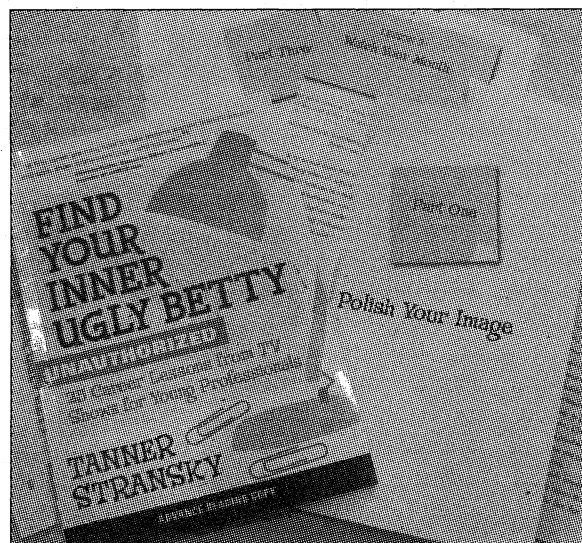
## This Must Be Satire

By Joe Donato

*Find Your Inner Ugly Betty* is a poignant commentary on our increasingly selfish, ignorant, cheating society. At least I hope it is. If not then it's actually a self-help guide for getting places in the workplace.

"Hey, that could be useful," you say. Well, yes, I suppose it could be; if it wasn't giving you advice based on situations on TV shows or encouraging gossip, backstabbing and sucking your boss's cock.

*Find Your Inner Ugly Betty* isn't about finding the good-hearted soul underneath a veil of unattractive looks and a goofy veneer, though to be honest I doubt that's what the TV show *Ugly Betty* is about. It turns out the title is a lot simpler than that. This book is about finding the ugliness in

Roman Sheydasser  
He wasn't lying when he said he tore the book up.

yourself to get a raise at your job.

It's appropriate then, that they sent this book our way. Long Islanders

can't get enough lying and cheating in their everyday lives. We eat up scandal, gossip and drama. I hear that show *Moment of Truth* is pretty good, huh? Put on some WBLI and listen to Fergie wax nostalgic about the times she dumped that guy for that other guy. I don't really like *LOST* but I can really relate to Kate's character.

That they buffer their advice with quotes from various network TV shows makes it all the more genuine. *The Office's* Michael Scott may be a silly character, but he's a serious lesson on what not to do in the workplace!

Know your friends, and know your frienemies. On the job, the seemingly

nicest people could be scheming behind your back. Always be paranoid and assume everyone is talking about you. You're the center of attention after all.

As I read further the lessons became more and more valuable. It was the chapter on office politics that taught me all I needed to know. It turns out office politics are the status quo, and rather than fight against bullshit or distance yourself from it, the trick is jump right in and play the game! All these years, and I never knew!

The lesson was so valuable I knew I'd learned everything I'd ever need. I proceeded to ritualistically rip up the book. I then went into work with a renewed sense of purpose, a few Mc-Dreamy quotes and the drive to screw over my coworkers for the raise I so rightfully deserve.

RED

RING



CIRCUS

Where Your Video Games Go to Run Away from Home

By Joe Donato

This issue I'll be reviewing *Mass Effect* and the AX360 5.1 Headphones. Now you may be asking why I'd review a game that came out five months ago, and if that's the case then you should probably stop trying to talk to a newspaper. However, I'm going to take a moment and feed into your psychosis by answering that question. Basically, it comes down to the fact that I buy these games with my own money and play them on my own time. And since I'm always so busy doing coke off of hooker's asses and getting into barfights, it can take me a while to play some games. It may seem pointless to review something that's so old, but if someone missed out on a good game, or didn't give it a fair shot, then reading a review coming after the hype has subsided might be enough to encourage them to check it out. And if it's a bad game, then hopefully I can at least get a few laughs out of you.

### Big Willy Shatner Saves the Galaxy

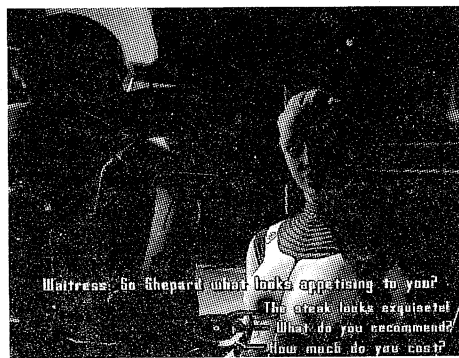
*Mass Effect* is the new(ish) RPG from Bioware, in the vein of their previous game *Knights of the Old Republic*. Much like that game, it offers a massive plot spanning a large world where the decisions you make actually matter. The difference here is that it all happens in a new universe created by Bioware. While *KOTOR* had the benefit of six movies, a million supermarket novels, and a truckload of existing *Star Wars* games backing up its plot, *Mass Effect* is a completely unfamiliar world.

Well, not completely unfamiliar. *Mass Effect* employs the kitchen sink mentality, throwing in a little bit of every sci-fi story ever. It has its own version of the force, cylons, forerunners, faster than light travel, muppets, and lots and lots of synth. However it rarely comes off as derivative. Mostly it's because there's so much there. The story is rich, and by rich I mean you may actually drown in information in the first few hours. Bring a swimming buddy.

This encyclopedic detail to the world is both the games strongest and weakest point. Games can't always be paced the way you want. There's no rewind button and sometimes you can't even pause. So when a novel's worth of information is forced on you like a download in *The Matrix* you may feel the need to unplug. I know I did. After some time reading the codex, a literal encyclopedia of *Mass Effect* tucked away in the pause menus, it started to click. Once you understand the differ-

ence between a Quarian and Salarian, you'll be set.

The good thing about this presentation is that everyone's motives are clear, and the overall plot is extremely solid and well defined. My only issue is the occasionally and inappropriately stilted dialogue. It's hard to fault the game for



this, since it's about forty hours long with fully voiced dialogue, several branching conversation paths, and different replies based not only on your actions, but your character's sex and upbringing. However, when the romance plotline comes off like a Power Point presentation, it's a little awkward:

"Hypothesis: I am falling in love with you Shepard."

"I've classified similar feelings in myself."

"Let's fuck."

In general, the dialogue is fine though. The only other hiccup in the plot is how the technology of the game tends to detract from the cutscenes. Built on Unreal Engine 3, *Mass Effect* suffers from many of the problems inherent in an engine apparently only capable of making space marines fight each other. The graphics are constantly caught with their pants down, textures pop in, and models gain detail before your eyes. It's incredibly jarring to watch someone go from Play-Doh to uncanny valley in a few seconds. The graphical issues carry over to the gameplay too, with long loading times and slideshow framerates breaking up the action.

While we're squarely in complaint territory, let me whine about the inventory system for a minute. If I had to nail it down for you, I'd say it's kind of like Microsoft Office. Do I need to go on?

To be honest, there's really a lot wrong with *Mass Effect*. I could probably go on for a while about the laundry list of poor design decisions. Most games would be easy review fodder if they had the number of issues *ME* has.

None of it matters though, because what it does get right completely overshadows all of it. I can't even bring myself to poke fun as much as I originally wanted because nearly every moment playing this game put a smile on my face. After all the hours I spent on it I'm already dying to finish up this review and go back for more.

### Why Do They Call it a Woofer?

If you're an Xbox owner like me then you've probably warmed up to the idea of high definition. At first maybe the 720p's and 1080i's were scary, the 5.1's unnecessary, and you had a perfectly fine CRT from 1994. Sooner or later though, a game came along that demanded HD. Whether it was the tumors you developed sitting three inches away from the TV trying to read the text in *Dead Rising*, or the desire to get the most out of *Gears of War*'s vibrant grey and brown color palette, your eyes demanded HD lovin' and proceeded to sodomize your wallet.

Everything is better in HD except porn, unless razor burns are a turn-on for you. It's only logical then, that everything is better in 5.1 surround sound too. But again if you're like me you're either stuck in a shared apartment or your parent's house, and while



shuddering your house down to it's very foundation because of an awesome explosion will put hair on your balls, other people around you may be less appreciative.

Back when 5.1 Headphones first came about, they were over \$500. They probably also sucked. Xbox 360 owners should be familiar with the benefits of cutting edge technology. You get to spend excessive amounts of money to be the first kid on the block with a plastic box full of circuits and metal, and all it does is make a fancy red light pattern and sputter a bit. Unfortunately, years of new designs and advancements don't always change things.

Enter the AX360 5.1 Surround Sound Headphones by Tritton. Tada! Oh, wait...shit, they tripped in the doorway. Poor guy has a bloody nose; where's he going? Looks like he's running home, maybe he'll come back in 3-5 business days...

That sums up my introduction to these headphones. Well, they actually did make it in the door, latched to my noggin, and offered some thrilling surround sound. Unfortunately, after a few minutes it occurred to me that something was amiss. While I was experiencing thundering explosions in front of me and rich sound effects, anything going on behind me sounded like it was being broadcast over HAM radio. It turns out the designers of the AX360s took the concept of having a 5.1 system on your head quite literally. Every speaker is accounted for, shrunk down to bite-size, and jammed into each earpiece. Unfortunately, it sounded like the rear channels came from a thrift store.

Armed with my experience on Xbox customer service I prepared myself for a battle against automated voices and John Smith from India. Luckily, it turns out Tritton is a small company with small company values, i.e. bending over backwards for their customers but still not getting it right the first time. In the end, I had two working pairs of headphones for the price of one, so I'm not really complaining.

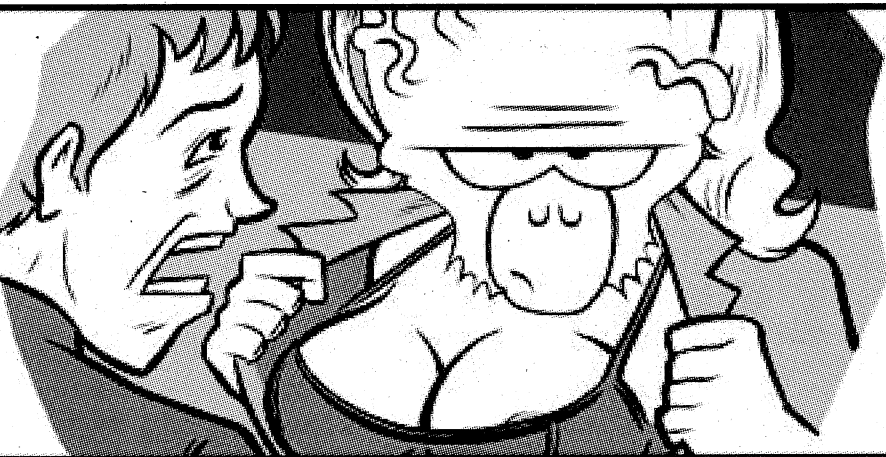
After using them for a few weeks I can say that they work quite well. You do have to tinker with all the volume controls, and sometimes this can be on a game to game basis. After a particularly bumpin' round of *Rez* I switched to *Virtua Fighter 5* and nearly had my ears blown out by cheesy dialogue. There are also a lot of wires, but I'm assuming they wouldn't pack the punch they do without all those wires. The bass is usually really impressive, and it's complemented by an awesome but mild vibration.

The 360 part of the AX360s doesn't mean they won't work elsewhere. There's enough different cables to hook them up to just about anything. The main advantage of these over a standard home theater pair is that they double as an Xbox Live headset.

Overall I'm a bit hesitant to recommend the AX360s. They're an excellent pair of headphones, but I imagine better sets will come out down the line. If you have the means to set up a normal home theater, I suggest doing that, but if you don't mind a bit of tinkering and you need to keep things quiet, they're certainly not a bad choice.

# THE GORILLA SALAD EXPRESS

## W/ DICK DELICIOUS



### Potty Mouth

Studio: Wicked Pictures

Director: None credited

Cast: Stephanie Swift, Sydnee Steele, Nicole Sheridan, Jessica Drake, Nina Hartley, Serenity, Lezley Zen, Stormy Daniels, Jenaveve Jolie, Jayna Oso, Voodoo, Carmen Hart, Jasmine Byrne, Temptress, Holly Hollywood, Haley Paige, Carmen Luvana, Kris Slater, Exotica, PJ Sparxx, Misty Rain, Lexi Lamour, Jamie Huxley, Nikki Arizona, Pavel Sahaj, Lucy Loren, Leanna Foxxx, Evan Stone, Chris Cannon, Eric Masterson, Brad Armstrong, Tony Tedeschi, Mickey G., Jonathan Morgan, Barrett Blade, Jay Ashley

Genre(s): All Girl, Compilation, Blowjobs, Gonzo, Straight, Wall-To-Wall

Condoms: No

*Potty Mouth* has a running time of about four hours and contains 24 full-length scenes handpicked from the Wicked Pictures film library. I use the word "handpicked" loosely of course, since it's painfully obvious that the score of vignettes assembled in *Potty Mouth* were absent-mindedly strung together. The majority of the featured content is pretty dull and worthy of fast-forwarding. Meanwhile, the better segments found here are average by most standards and will likely fail at holding the attention span of even the most patient viewer.

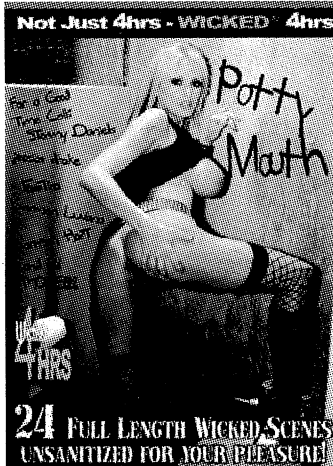
Jenaveve Jolie and Stormy Daniels

star in the first of many stinker scenes. Their segment is filmed in the confines of some dingy bar and in a few short minutes Jenaveve signals that she needs a fresh drink and exits. Somehow Stormy shows up in the women's bathroom moments later and walks in on Jenaveve while she's taking a dump. Things get ridiculous in seconds as Stormy pins her reluctant partner against the stall and fucks her with a vibrator to the tune of Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata." No joke.

Additionally, there were a few scenes rich in plot but because they're presented in a compilation film format they're taken completely out of context. If you're into wall-to-wall viewing then this flaw can easily be overlooked, but for the rest of you it's clear that it'll only add to your confusion.

Scattered throughout this film were a few palatable scenes. Carmen Hart's segment, for example, was actually quite good. Carmen is a hot brunette in bangs and she's seen sucking her partner's dick in a bathroom. Oddly enough, the bathroom sex theme runs rampant throughout the flick and the

next scene featuring Carmen Luvana is shot, in you guessed it, a bathroom. Her vignette comes from *New Girls In Town* and is completely masturbatory. This one was slightly above average and bears mentioning since Carmen has an exceptionally tight body with cup tits and the face of an angel. Another fairly decent masturbation scene shows blonde bombshell Jessica Drake playing with herself while on the toilet.



There were also a few more all girl sex scenes. The best one features Haley Paige and Jayna Oso. Their clip was taken from *Getting Personal* and kicks off with the two

hotties decked out in lingerie and leather. Most of these scenes were passable however, including the lesbian scene featuring Misty Rain and PJ Sparxx. The two of them are over-the-hill eyesores with pierced nipples and were filmed parading in a hot tub. Not very tasteful, if you ask me.

Later, PJ Sparxx returns with Jay Ashley. Jay ends up inserting a steel hose in the ass of our starlet and proceeds to pump her full of a few gallons

of water (much like filling a beaten up Buick with premium). The rest of the scene involves plenty of oral and then comes to a close with the inevitable pop shot. Then there was a scene taken from a flick called *Just My Imagination*, which looks like it was shot on a camcorder. The footage was grainy and absolutely awful and to top it off the cameraman couldn't keep the camera still worth a fucking shit.

*Potty Mouth* ends with a scene taken from the plottie *Candelabra* and features Exotica and Chris Cannon. Chris is tied and bound in a bathtub and Exotica talks to him for what seems like an eternity. The whole time the dialogue is reminiscent of Stephen King's *Misery* and proved to be exceptionally creepy. I couldn't tell if Exotica was going to fuck Chris or club him to death like a helpless baby seal. Truly horrific stuff.

Of course there were several more included scenes that weren't discussed, but by now, I think you get the point. In the end, this movie proved to be a huge disappointment. Sure, it has a lot of scenes to choose from, but it doesn't help that the majority of the featured segments are of a poor quality and showcase boring sex. Watch this feature at your own risk.

### Tristan Taormino's Expert Guide To Oral Sex 2: Fellatio

Studio: Vivid Entertainment

Director: Tristan Taormino

Cast: Roxy Deville, Christian, Kaiya Lynn, Alec Knight, Adrianna Nicole, Lindsey Meadows, Marcos Leon, Tristan Taormino

Genre(s): Blowjobs, Couples, How-To, Instructional, Straight

Condoms: Yes

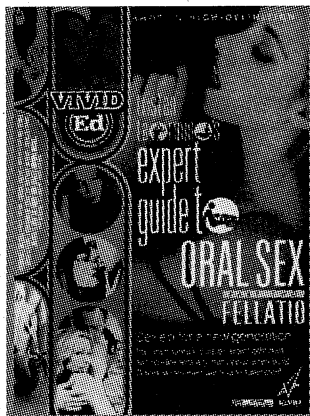
Writer and director Tristan Taormino returns to Vivid Entertainment with her latest instructional video. This second installment of the *Expert Guide to Oral Sex* aims at educating the viewer on fellatio and goes on to include live demonstrations and professional advice.

In the opening scene, the viewer is treated to an educational workshop hosted by Taormino. The class is comprised of some over-the-hill women itching to broaden their understand-

ing of the male anatomy and no doubt sharpen their oral-giving skills. Taormino emphasizes the most sensitive areas of the penis with the help of some visual aides and welcomes Roxy Deville and Christian who demonstrate a handful of oral sex techniques before the crowd. Shortly afterwards, our resident sex expert opens the floor for a brief Q&A segment where she encourages group discussion.

Following the workshop, Kaiya Lynn and Alec Knight discuss their thoughts on oral sex and illustrate several different positions and techniques designed to maximize stimulation and overall comfort. Next, Lindsey Meadows and Marcos Leon

show us the importance of communication during fellatio. Lindsey focuses on pleasing Marcos by using not only her mouth but also her hands during the blowjob, a maneuver that proves to be crucial and is thoroughly explained during the vignette.



Following Lindsey's scene Alec returns, this time with Adrianna Nicole. Adrianna is a fairly attractive blonde who illustrates some more advanced forms of oral pleasure which go on to include deep throating as well as several other complex techniques. Lastly, every couple featured in the film takes some time to showcase several different styles of oral that range from sloppy to submissive play.

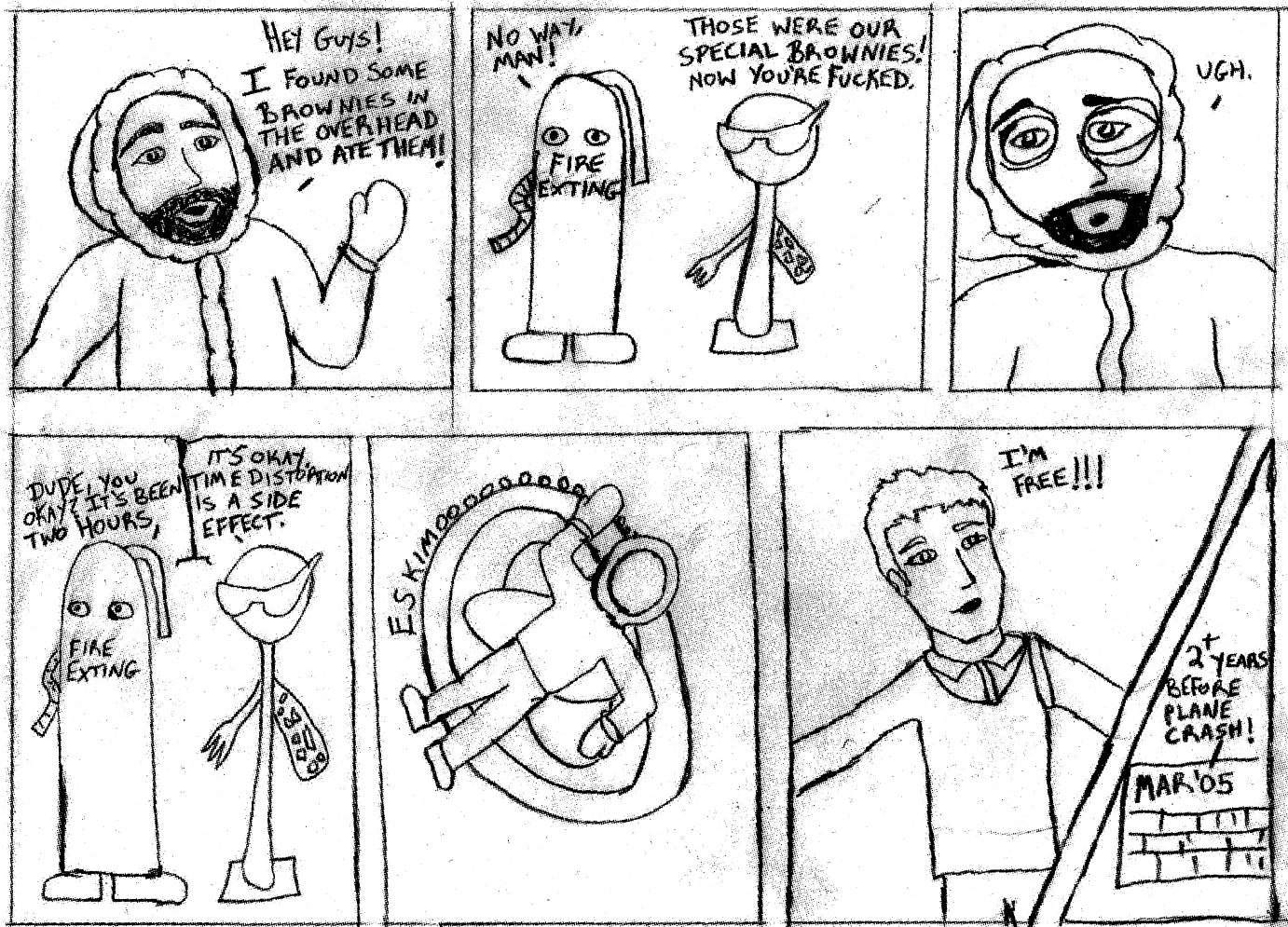
This film does a very good job in covering every feasible element of oral sex. The content was fresh, interesting and the points covered will likely prove useful for those looking to improve their oral-giving skills. Unfortunately, due to constant narration and pop-up graphics, it's a little difficult to enjoy the actual sex found on this DVD.

With that said, if you happen to enjoy wall-to-wall oral films then it's wise to steer clear of this movie. *Tristan Taormino's Expert Guide To Oral Sex 2* will likely disappoint diehard oral sex fans since it's almost entirely educational and doesn't play like an ordinary porno. However, if you're genuinely interested in taking a crash course in fellatio, then this will more than likely satisfy your budding curiosity.

**THE COMICS SECTION**

# ESKIMO JIM

**BY DAVID K. GINN**

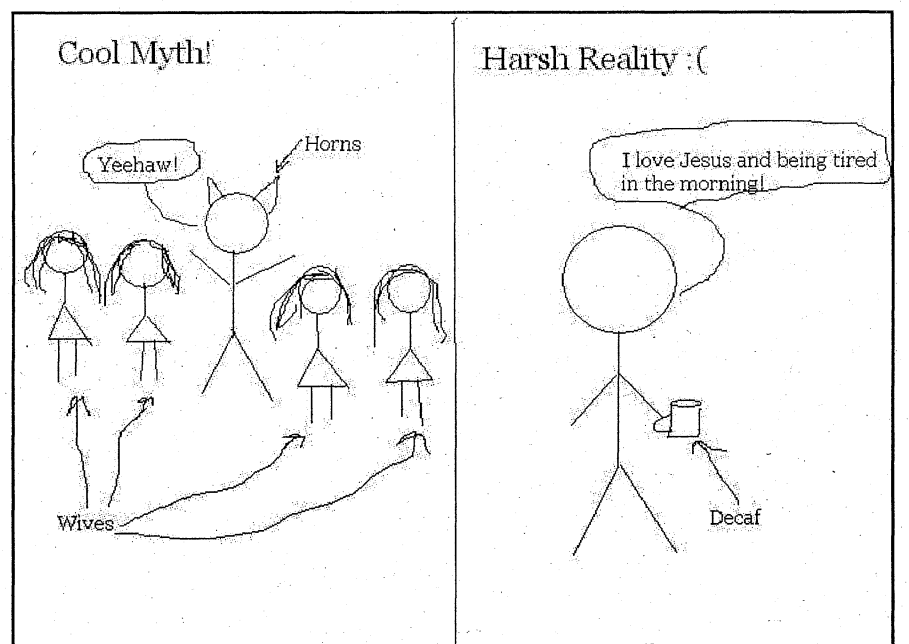
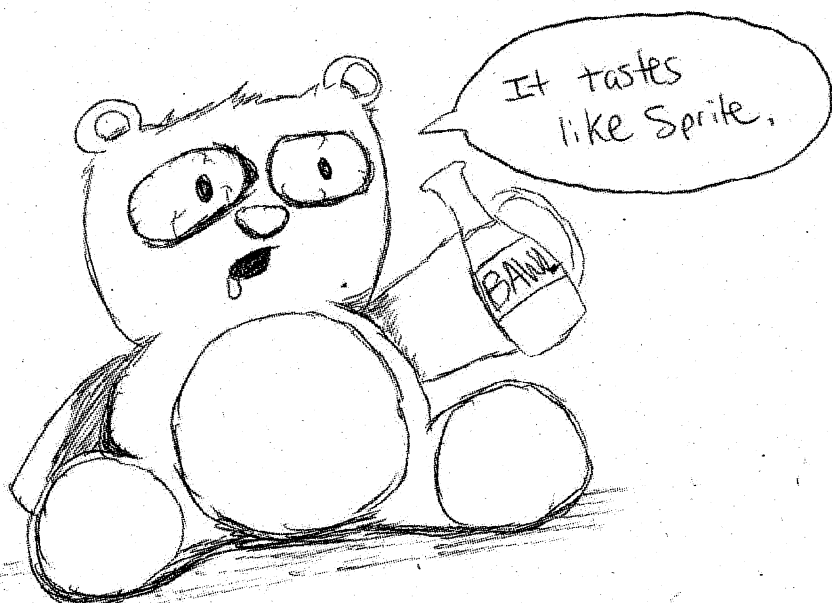


# BAWLIN' BEARS

**BY JOE DONATO**

# The Book of Mormon

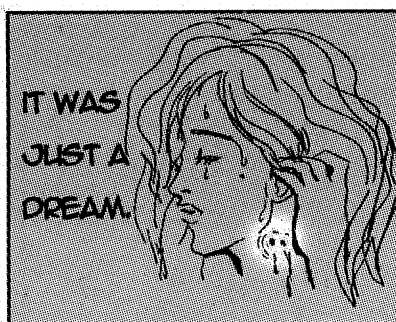
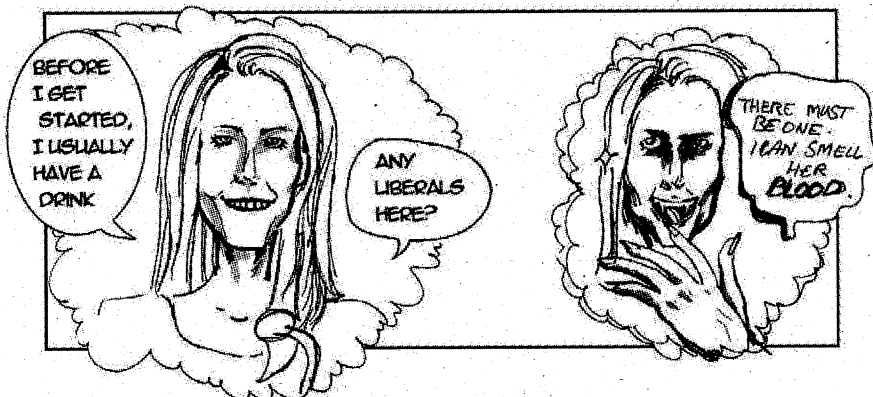
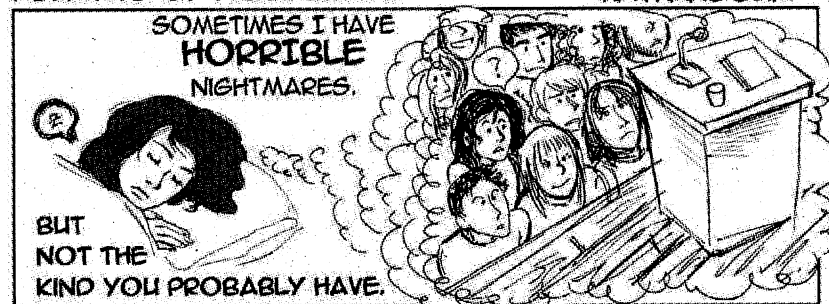
By Andrew Jacob



# THE COMICS SECTION

"ANN COULTER, DISTANT  
RELATIVE OF NOSFERATU"

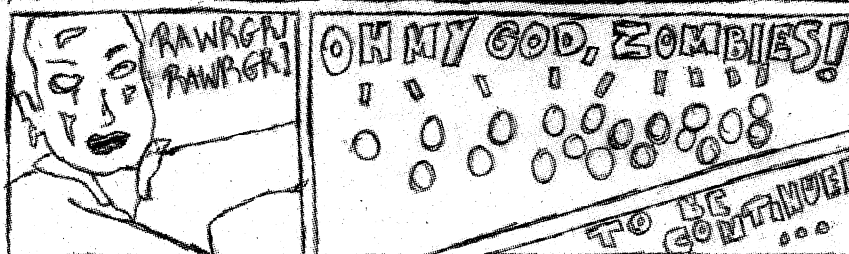
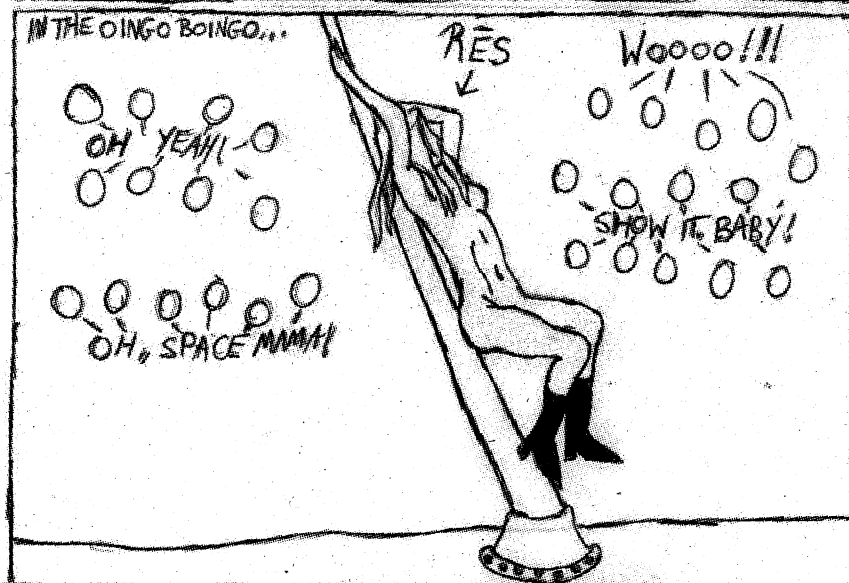
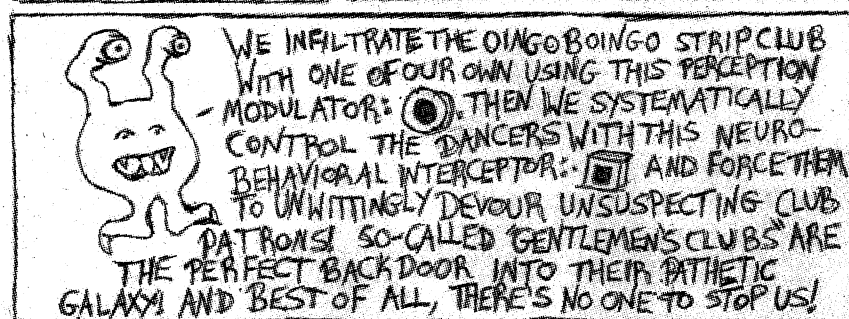
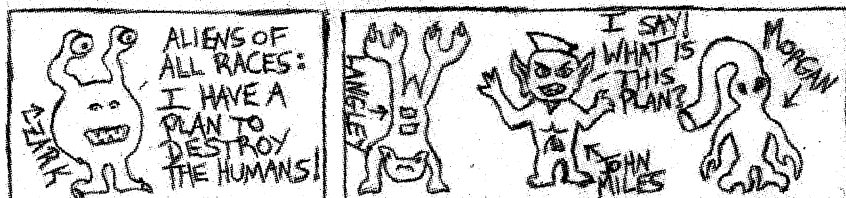
TIA MANSOURI



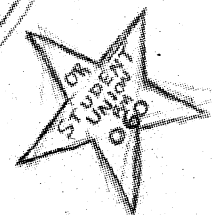
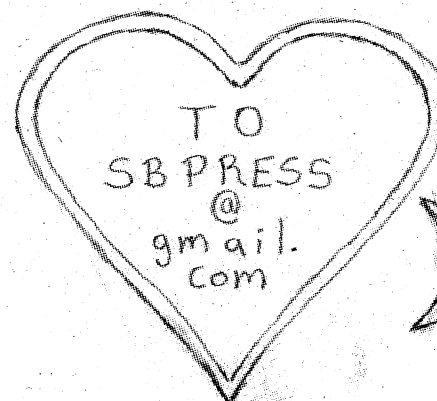
## SPACE VS. GALACTIC ALIENS VS. POLE-DANGERS

### CHAPTER 1: OINGO BOINGO

BY DAVID K. GINN



SUBMIT YOUR  
COMICS



It's America's Favorite Passtime...

# Ass or Brass?

Image 1

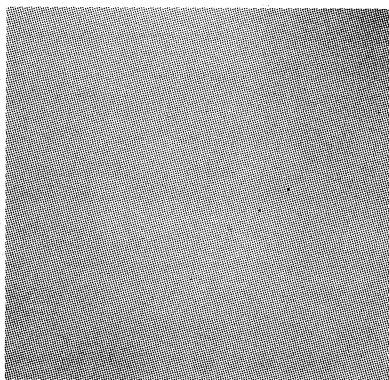


Image 2

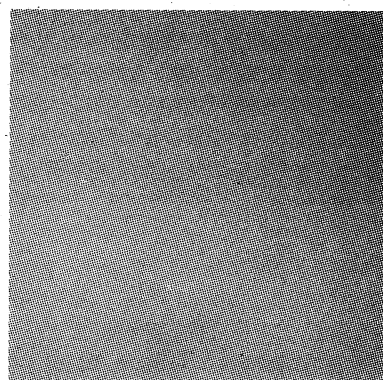


Image 3

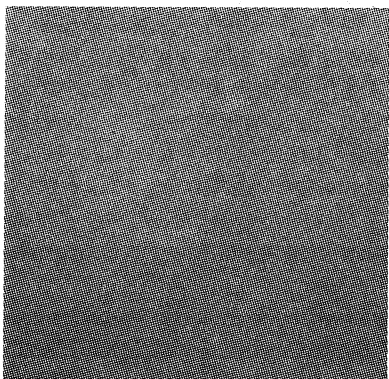
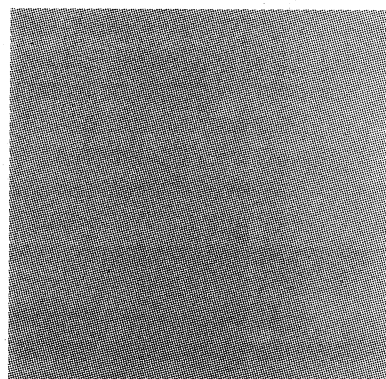


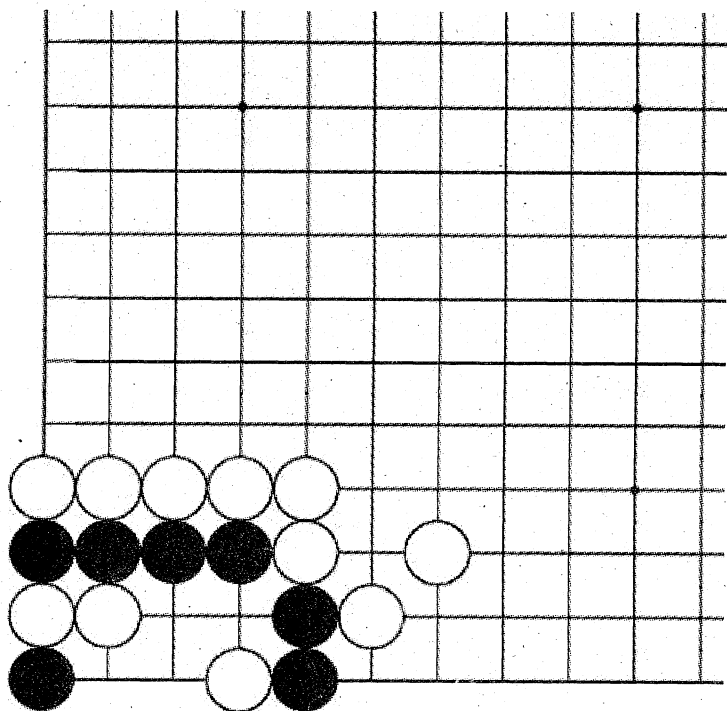
Image 4



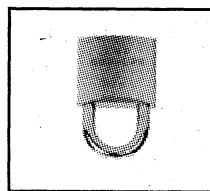
It's simple: look at the four extreme close-ups, and try to figure out which are pictures of ass and which are pictures of brass. Answers on bottom.

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

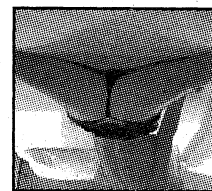
# Go For It, Man!



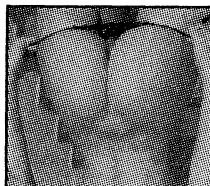
Black to move, kill Whitey!



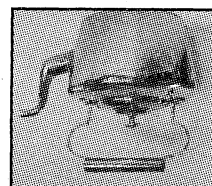
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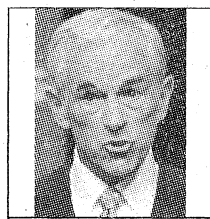
2



1

Ass or Brass Answers

# So, You Ruined Your Credit History Supporting Ron Paul. Who's Really To Blame?



**MATTHEW  
RAMMELKAMP**

A history lesson for the uninformed: The primary motivation for the American Revolution started by our Founding Fathers was because the king banned the colonists from having their own currency, forcing them to borrow from and pay interest to the Central Bank of England, a move that would push the colonists into perpetual debt.

This same system was re-created with the signing of the Federal Reserve Act in 1913. Since this time, the value of the dollar has fallen from \$1.00 to about \$0.04 and our country is now \$8.4 trillion in debt. This system of spiraling debt, inflation and credit is like the United States' entire economy walking on an endless tight-rope over a pack of starved lions. Eventually, we are going to fall into an economic depression like in 1929. Many legitimate financial experts say this could happen as soon as October 2008, including Gerald Celente of Trends Research Institute, and the former Vice Chairman of Merrill Lynch.

Many people believe that the Federal Reserve is owned by our government; it is actually a private bank. Even more people believe that it exists to protect and save our economy from economic turmoil because of oversimplified statements and spin in the media. Note that Fox Corporation is owned by the same major shareholders that own the Federal Reserve. You can not trust mainstream media which is owned by a few corporate interests.

The facts are that the Federal Reserve itself creates the booms and busts in order to put people into debt and buy their properties in an effort to control the entire world. It's quite simple to understand actually: banks make money when people, nations, or other entities pay interest, especially if it takes longer

than a lifetime to fully repay. The banks then come in and relieve the debt burden under certain conditions. Banking interests are thus able to institute control.

Godfather of the Rothschild Banking Cartel of Europe, Mayer Amschel Rothschild stated back in the late 1700's, "Give me control of a country's money supply and I care not who makes its laws." Proverbs 22:7 as well states, "The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender." Why do so many social justice and peace groups protest against the IMF and World Bank doing this to third world nations, but do not want to acknowledge it happening to our own country?

Woodrow Wilson, who signed the 1913 Federal Reserve Act, a few years later wrote "I am a most unhappy man. I have unwittingly ruined my country. A great industrial nation is controlled by its system of credit...all our activities are in the hands of a few men. We have come to be...one of the most completely controlled and dominated Governments in the civilized world [and] no longer a Government by free opinion, no longer a Government by...the vote of the majority, but a Government by the opinion and duress of a small group of dominant men."

On June 4, 1963, John F. Kennedy signed an executive order (EO 11110) giving the president authority to issue currency. He then ordered the US Treasury to print over \$4 billion worth of "United States Notes" to replace Federal Reserve Notes. He intended to replace them all when enough of the new currency was in circulation so he could end the Federal Reserve System and the control it gave the international bankers over the US government and the public. President Kennedy was killed shortly after this act and it was overturned immediately by his predecessor Lyndon B. Johnson, who insured the banking cartel's monopoly and power. Jesus and Julius Caesar are two

other notable people who protested the "money changers" practices; both were assassinated.

The private Federal Reserve Corporation of wealthy bankers has funded both sides of every major war for the last few centuries. Fueling conflict and war is profitable for the military industrial complex, for oil interests and others, but it is even more lucrative for banking interests who provide the loans for both sides of the war to occur.

The Rothschild banking dynasty who reportedly control a full half of the world's wealth, run the Federal Reserve system, who are the true controllers of our country and the world. They control everything because they print all the money every government uses, and loan it on interest. They also control interest rates and the money supply. Through this they are able to manufacture times of economic prosperity as well as financial panics and depressions, to their will and own personal advantage.

The Rockefeller family are co-owners of the Federal Reserve and another key family in the admitted conspiracy to create and control a New World Order. David Rockefeller, on page 405 in his own memoirs, published in 2002, boasts, "Some even believe we are part of a secret cabal working against the best interests of the United States, characterizing my family...of conspiring with others around the world to build a...one world [government]...If that's the charge, I stand guilty, and I am proud of it."

**This book is available in any public library- I dare you to go try to prove to me that it doesn't exist.**

I will speculate that Rockefeller's boasting because he has a big ego and feels he is too powerful enough to get caught and stopped. When perhaps they are so close to their end goal that they just don't care if you try to stop them because they feel they will succeed. Were the attacks of September 11th the beginning of the march toward

a New World Order?

If we are that close to the end, it is imperative that you save yourself a lot of time and research the Federal Reserve System, the Rothschild and Rockefeller families, the Bilderberg Group, the New World Order, Freemasonry, and the Illuminati. These are the interests who decide when wars will start or end, when oil prices will increase or be suppressed, or when a depression or economic boom will occur. There is no point protesting the current Iraq war if you ignore these controlling interests. Unless you acknowledge the powerful interests that control the Federal Reserve System, you are wasting your time.

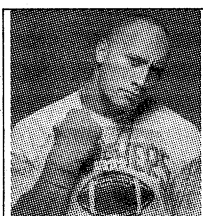
It is not the President who decides key issues- it is his controllers. The President is but a puppet to take the blame and distract you from the real manipulators of world events. Who ever thought George Bush is mentally capable of making a decision anyhow?

*Dear Reader, this is The Press speaking. You may recall our public chastising of Matthew Rammelkamp in Issue Seven of this volume. Because of this, you may be asking yourself, "Why publish Rammelkamp again?" The answer to this is simple: he has dared us to prove something doesn't exist. We're asking you to go to your local library and try to find David Rockefeller's autobiography. If it's there, borrow it, come down to Union 060 (our office) with book in tow, and we'll take a picture with you and put it in our next issue. If you can't find it, take a picture of where it should be and submit it to us. Be creative. We fucking loving creativity. We'll put that in our next issue too. The best No-Rockefeller-Autobiography photo wins a prize! Happy hunting, reader. And, Matt, if you want to take a photo of yourself with this book, we'll publish that as well. Consider it a friendly contest!*

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

Meetings Wednesdays 1pm  
Union Building Room 060

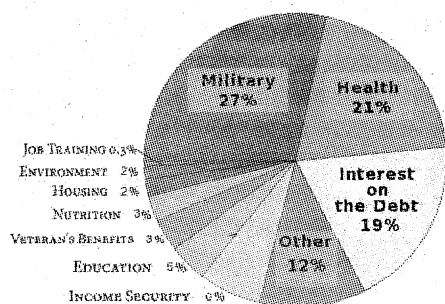
# The Rundown



NICK  
EATON

## National Priorities

National Priorities ([www.nationalpriorities.com](http://www.nationalpriorities.com)) has a number of pretty excellent tools. I recently discovered their "Interactive Tax



Chart" which allows users to enter the amount of income tax they paid in order to see how their money is allocated. For fun I entered \$1000. Here's the breakdown:

Of every \$1000 of income tax that the government receives \$270 goes to the military while a whopping \$45 goes towards education. In addition, the brave soldiers who protect this country's freedom get \$33 in benefits. Pretty patriotic of us, eh?



## Criminal Spotlight

John D. Negroponte is currently the United States Deputy Secretary of State. He works directly under Condoleezza Rice. Negroponte is basically just another recycled Reaganite. As the ambassador to Honduras from 1981-85, Negroponte bloated "aid" to Honduras by nearly 2000% in an effort to create a barrier to Nicaragua's widely popular left-wing Sandinista party. Aid was consistent despite growing concerns of atrocious human rights violations by the Honduran government. In stark contrast to Negroponte's claim of ignorance, reports in 2005 showed that the ambassador not only knew the full extent of the violations, but also did his best to sugar coat and conceal them. Much of the Honduran aid went towards supporting the Contras in Nicaragua, an insurgent group opposed to the Sandinista government. The Contras, despite political wordplay, were essentially terrorist organizations. They barbarically targeted and raped women, kidnapped and executed innocent civilians and burned and pillaged residential areas. The CIA even distributed a saboteurs' manual, which described methods of disrupting order casually and violently in Nicaragua. In effect, Negroponte's influence was used to encourage as well as mask human rights violations in South America. His role as ambassador was pivotal to the use of American backed terrorism against socialist regimes and his current roles in Iraq and the State Department have surely influenced the role of off-shore torture sites.

## Election 2008 Update

Despite the void of actual news coverage on your television set, Ralph Nader is indeed still running for president. Blacked out, like John Edwards before him, Nader is poised to influence less than 5% of Americans simply because the mainstream media has decided that third party candidates are

not allowed to run for president. Rest assured that Ralph will not be seen in any debates, nor will any of his press releases be broadcasted on the major networks. He will appear a handful of times, but only so the spin doctors can berate him about his bid for the White House and cut him off three sentences into his responses. Don't expect to see a chart highlighting policy differences between the four current presidential candidates, let alone the "big" three.

## XM/Sirius Merger

Good news, monopoly is back! Well, in a manner of speaking. News of the XM/Sirius satellite radio merger has sparked muted controversy. Opponents argue that the resulting mammoth company will swallow new start-ups through its outstanding corporate influence and its never-ending list of exclusive contracts with big name celebrities. True blue capitalists cite competition as the pillar of their beloved economic theory. If this is the case, why is it that big corporate mergers are heralded as signs of the success of the capitalist system? Wal-Mart has effectively snubbed the success of mom and pop retailers everywhere. Companies are being allowed to consolidate in the interest of shareholders and corporate plutocrats and it's good, but socialist nations that consolidate industry in the interest of *all* citizens are totalitarian scum... interesting.

## Let's Get This Straight

Success in a war does not hinge on the number of deaths on either side. Whether or not American deaths have subsided in Iraq (the Drudge Report piece about troop deaths being down 60% was found to be "fuzzy math", at best), political stability and increased infrastructure are at a standstill. One troop could die a month for the next hundred years. As long as there is no sociopolitical progress in the country we're not winning the war. P.S: Ameri-

can casualties are down in Iraq because of the increased use of air strikes and the incremental decrease in use of ground warfare. Therefore, the less troops in harms way, the less deaths. Fancy that. You know where our troops would *really* be safe: at home. Then there would be zero American casualties in Iraq every month and we'd be the undeniable winners of the Iraq war based on casualty calculation. P.P.S: Iraqi civilian death toll is still climbing significantly. One can only imagine the increase in collateral damage as a result of this surge.

Reverend Wright may be wrong, but so are Pat Robertson, who endorsed Rudy Giuliani, and John Hagee, who is endorsing John McCain. Pat Robertson has equated liberalism to Nazism and associated feminism with witchcraft, murder and lesbianism. He blamed 9/11 on American immorality and claimed that it was the prescribed response from an angry God. John Hagee claimed that Hurricane Katrina was an act of God against a city of sin and also very erroneously claimed that the Qur'an specifically mandates the killing of Christians and Jews. So what kinds of racism are acceptable to the American public?

## You Should Know That...

-The war in Iraq costs \$400,000 a minute, \$720,000,000 a day and has cost over \$500,000,000,000 since the start.

-For the cost of the war each day, 423,529 children could be insured.

-For the cost of the war each day, 6,482 affordable housing units could be built.

-Over 4,000 American troops have been killed.

-Almost 40,000 have been wounded.

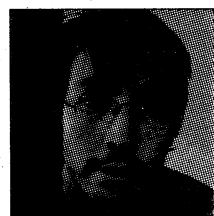
-4.5 million Iraqis are internally displaced or are refugees.

-Over 1,000,000 are dead.

**DO YOU UNDERSTAND  
THE *CONCEPT* OF THE  
TOOTH FAIRY?**



# Bush's Sins Dwarf Spitzer's



**MATT  
WILLEMMAIN**

*This piece was originally written as a letter to the editor of the Stony Brook Independent, another campus newspaper. It is a response to an opinion piece appearing in the In-*

*dependent calling for the resignation of former New York Governor Spitzer. While discussion of the Spitzer story may have died down, this letter contrasts the situation in New York with national issues that remain important. It is appearing in The Press because, after two weeks of inaction, the Independent editorial leadership decided they would not publish the letter without significantly censoring it. - Matt*

Editor, Stony Brook Independent,

Writing in his op-ed "The Steamroller Should Step Down," *Independent* contributor Nathan Shapiro makes a number of accurate points while discussing the high profile scandal surrounding New York Governor Elliot Spitzer's whoremongering. Shapiro appropriately criticizes Spitzer's behavior and, more importantly, his hypocrisy. Shapiro rightly concludes that the only appropriate course for Spitzer is resignation—in fact, since the time of Shapiro's writing, Spitzer has announced his imminent resignation. Shapiro is right, but in joining the cho-

rus focusing on Spitzer he is missing the forest for the trees. The shocking and salacious story of the Governor has received a disproportionate share of public attention, while news and opinion writers neglect the incomprehensibly larger tragedies of the ongoing occupation of Iraq.

When attention is focused on the cost of war it is usually dedicated to the grim count of American service members who have given their lives or the obscene drain on the US Treasury. The difficulty of digesting those figures often prevents further investigation into the complexities of the damage done by the US invasion and occupation. Broadening our view to the injuries, maimings and mental traumas suffered by our soldiers still doesn't scratch the surface of the direct human cost—the thousands of American dead and that many more wounded are dwarfed by the Iraqi civilian dead—a figure which gives way to millions of Iraqi refugees forced to flee from their homes. Iraq has also seen the decimation of the natural environment, the economy, civilian infrastructure and religious, cultural and historic/archeological treasures.

But if it is prostitutes Shapiro wants to wring his hands about, the invasion

of Iraq is the scandal for him. Blogger Bob Fertik puts the Spitzer scandal into perspective when he writes about the findings of another *Independent*, this one from London. Among the 1.2 million destitute Iraqis in Syria (about one third of the war's refugees) are an estimated 50,000 prostitutes, some as young as 13. Hypocrisy-seekers will be thrilled to note that Bush has vigorously spoken out against international sex trafficking. Perhaps Shapiro will comment on the news proportionally, and

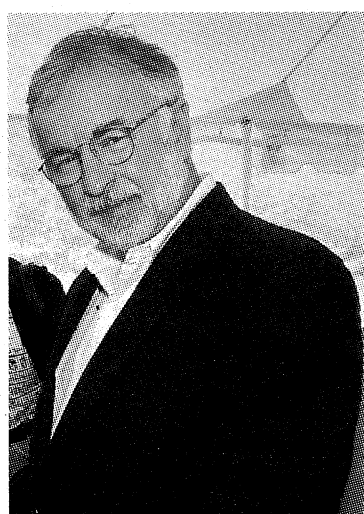
follow his piece about Spitzer with 50,000 articles calling for the resignation of President George W. Bush, whose administration has been documented as making more than 900 public lies in support of the illegitimate war.

It is interesting to compare the calls for the resignation or impeachment of Elliot Spitzer and George Bush. Editorialist Shapiro was certainly not alone in calling for the Governor to step down, and it didn't take more than 48 hours for grandstanding Republican state legislators to put teeth into those calls with the threat of impeachment proceedings. Contrast this with the example of the unelected president Bush, who lied to the public and to Congress to drive the country into a devastating war, who systemati-

cally and illegally spied on US citizens, who has disgraced our nation with the open acceptance of torture, who has undermined our national security to punish critics and serve the interests of important campaign contributors, who has betrayed our constitution with his assumption of unprecedented executive power and eight hundred years of Western jurisprudence with his dystopian detention centers and kangaroo courts. The criminal, hypocrite Bush should, of course, resign along with Spitzer. But in the president's case, no opposition party threatens impeachment.

Stony Brook residents are represented in Congress by Democrat Tim Bishop. Bishop's office in Washington can be reached at 202.225.3826. Or, if you prefer to make a local call, you can call his people in Coram at 631.696.6500. After you identify yourself as a constituent, ask Bishop's staffers if their boss and his party intend to investigate possible impeachable offenses by the President, should he refuse to follow the example of Governor Spitzer and step down.

If Bishop and the other Washington Democrats won't do their job—if they decide it is politically expedient to neglect their sworn oath to preserve the Constitution—don't forget and don't settle on Election Day. There are other independent and third party candidates who appreciate that Spitzer's escapades should be the last thing on our mind.



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# Lax Players Show No Laxity Against Marist

By Najib Aminy

After a heartbreaking loss to Denver, the Stony Brook Men's Lacrosse team Cleveland steamrolled their way through the Marist Red Foxes (0-7), winning 14-4 on March 28, 2008 at La Valle Stadium. The Sea Wolves (4-3) set the tone of the game in the first half scoring six unanswered goals leaving Marist trailing for the rest of the game. Stony Brook's defense kept Marist quiet for the whole game allowing only 24 shots to Stony Brook's 43. Second year head Coach Rick Sowell said he felt good about the way the team had played. "We kept the score down, we have not done that in a while. We scored some goals, and everyone got to play."

With 11:36 remaining in the fourth quarter, a few Marist players scuffled with a few Sea Wolves players. Senior Bobby Trenkle (Commack, NY) and

Freshman Kevin Crowley (New Westminster, B.C.) were penalized for unnecessary roughness. However just as Stony Brook won the game, they too won the scuffle.

Senior Bo Tripodi (Hauppauge, NY) recorded a Texas hat trick, scoring a season high four goals, including his 100<sup>th</sup> career goal. He also recorded one assist. Also contributing to the victory was Bobby Trenkle (Commack, NY) recording a hat trick with three goals. Also, seniors Owen Adams (Norwalk, Conn.) and Ryan Hughes (Port Jefferson, NY), both scored two goals. Goalie sophomore Alex Kajencki (Medford, MA.) made 22 saves to help the Sea Wolves cruise to victory.

In addition, Freshman Jordan McBride (New Westminster, B.C.) was recently nominated for the 2008 Tewaaraton Award. This annual award recognizes the top male and female lacrosse player in the nation. McBride stirred talks during his performance when Stony Brook pulled off an upset

against Delaware, ranked seventh at the time, scoring 10 goals. McBride leads the Sea Wolves in goals (25) as well as points (32), as well as leads the nation

in goals per game and average of points in a game.

The Sea Wolves next home game is April 5, against Vermont (1-7).



Najib Aminy

Hey Marist, What's the mouthwash temperature up on Dicksuck Mountain?

## We're Talkin' Softball

By Najib Aminy

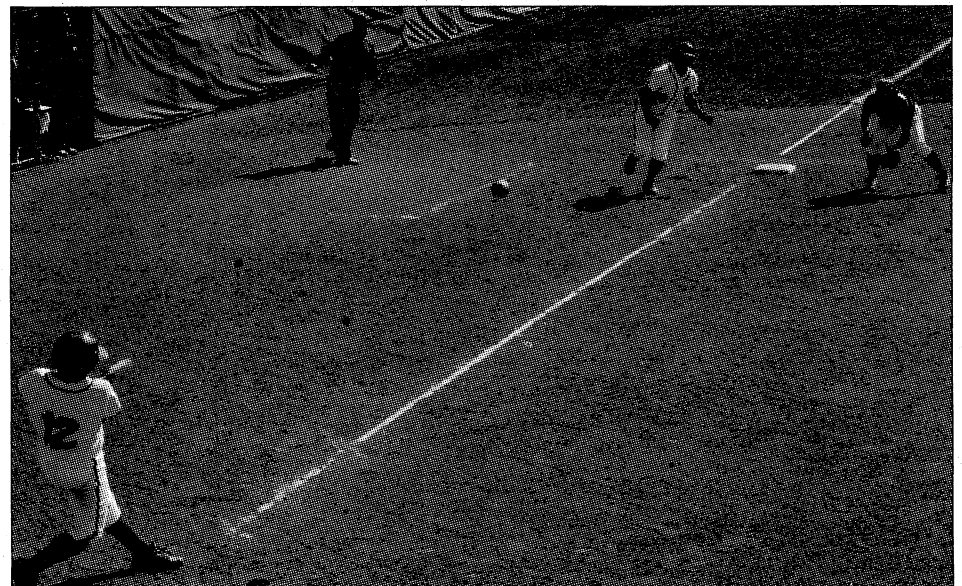
Coming off a two-game winning streak against Rhode Island, the women's softball team lost a three game series to the Black Bears of Maine, losing 2-1.

Prior to their loss, the Lady Seawolves cruised to two victories against the Rhode Island Rams (7-18) in a double-header on March 25, 2008. The Seawolves won the first game 9-0, with home runs by juniors Kelsi Fanelli (Audubon, NJ) and Marissa Fleury (Mahopac, NY), and senior Sara Cerrone (Floral Park, NY). The second game of the double-header

headed into extra innings. The Seawolves won with a two-run walk off home run by Junior Kelly Oberto (Spring Lake Heights, NJ) Both wins were accredited to sophomore pitcher Alyssa Struzenberg (Cooper City, FL). Struzenberg recorded 14 strikeouts in the two games.

However, against Maine, the Lady Seawolves succumbed to defeat in their first game, losing 10-5 in extra innings. They bounced back in the double-header, winning the second game 7-2. Yet their brief momentum could not help them hold off Maine on Sunday, March 30, as the game had gone into 12 innings. Maine's Terren Hall hit a two run home run at the top of the twelfth, securing the lead for the rest of the game.

Senior Ashley Westphal (Huntington Beach, CA) scored the first run of the game in the bottom of the first inning, chased home by an RBI single by Fanelli. Maine soon responded by scoring five runs in the top of the third. Maine padded their lead to 6-1 in the fifth inning. The Lady Seawolves fought back as they loaded the bases and scored a run after a hit by pitch. Soon after, the Seawolves tied the game with a grand slam by junior Molly Kestranek (St. Mary's, GA). It was 6 to 6.



Najib Aminy

You've played Ass Or Brass on page 22, now play Foul or Fair! Where will the ball land?

Over the next six innings, the Lady Seawolves kept Maine scoreless. Stony Brook had a chance of winning the game in the bottom of the tenth, with freshman Colleen Ryan (Jordan, NY) on third base. However, Ryan was left stranded. Freshman Colleen Matthes (Severn, MD) was given the loss, with

two strikeouts and two earned runs allowed.

The series loss drops Stony Brook to 12-11-1 and added two wins to Maine's spectacular 2-29 record.



Najib Aminy

If only Pete Townsend could have played softball

# Yes, Virginia, There Is A Baseball Team

By Matt Braunstein

Stony Brook Men's baseball edged past New York Tech's Bears in thrilling fashion to bring the Seawolves' record to a respectable 10-10 on Sunday, March 30. The game was neck and neck into the bottom of the eighth inning until sophomore Michael Stephan (Patchogue, NY) hit a two-out two-run double putting the Seawolves up 6-3. The Seawolves won by a score of 6-4.

The reason behind SBU's victory was excellent pitching throughout the game and NYIT's lack thereof. The Seawolves started Junior Mike Errigo (Bayside, NY) who allowed one run and six hits in 5 innings while striking out 7.

Freshman pitcher Evan Stecko-Haley (Coral Springs, FL) picked up his first career win as he pitched in the 6<sup>th</sup> inning and allowed 2 runs.

Junior reliever Jeremy Nowak (Cheektowaga, NY) came in and pitched brilliantly showing excellent speed and control. He allowed no runs in three innings and picked up his third save of the season. The Bears scored only one run when Nowak was on the mound, and that came on an error by the third baseman.

Stony Brook's other scores came from freshman Nick Thode (Huntington Station, NY) on a wild pitch, a double steal by junior Keith Fier (Armonk, NY), an RBI double by junior Brian Witkowski (Lindenhurst, NY), and an RBI groundout from junior Steven

Mazzurco (Selden, NY). Though NYIT had out hit Stony Brook 13-10, they left 16 runners stranded on base during the game. The also had 3 errors while SBU's single error came in the top of the 9<sup>th</sup>.

The last inning was a suspenseful one as the Bears loaded the bases with only one out and trailing by 2, but NYIT grounded into a double play to give the Seawolves the victory. On a



NYIT? More like NY you suck!

Najib Aminy

more personal note, the men's baseball team is a talented one and has played well so far this season posting a .500 record with 35 games left in the season.

# From Ireland to Stony Brook

By Najib Aminy

The Stony Brook Men's Rugby team visited Ireland to compete against three high caliber teams during this past Spring Break. Competing in the 2008 Ireland tour, Stony Brook was only one of a few teams representing America that took the trip across the Atlantic to compete. Although the grass was much greener and luscious, as Coach Daniel Yarusso said, "the competition was much harder but gave the boys a lot of experience." Stony Brook went 0-3, losing to Sea Point Rugby Football Club of Dublin, Thomas Connacht Rugby Football Club of Galway, and St. Mary's Rugby Football Club of Limerick.

Against Sea Point, the Seawolves managed to control the game leading 17-0, however Sea Point rallied back capitalizing on inexperience and penalties. The second game was played against rugby football club of Connacht, in which Stony Brook lost 62-14. Connacht is a premier club in Ireland that would equate to a franchise team. Underneath the franchise team are umbrellas of smaller teams, essentially a ladder for players to develop into the program. Stony Brook faced a team of sub 18-year olds who were trying out for an all-star team.

Yarusso said that although they were clearly beaten, "it just goes to show you how serious rugby is taken abroad. Kids are brought up playing rugby when they are around eight or nine and most people in the states start around college." The Men's Rugby team closed of with, which was described by Yarusso as a competitive game, a loss against St.

Mary's losing 40-21.

The man of the match, the term used to signify the most valuable player of a game, was given to sophomore Jasper Wilson (Marcus Vineyard, MA) for the game against Sea Point. Jasper scored the very first international try for Stony Brook University's rugby pro-

the game. Freshman Peter Molloy (Middletown, NY) was awarded the man of the tour for his three tries and excellent play in the tournament.

During their trip, the team had met with two top training rugby coaches. Tony Smeeth, the Director for Rugby at Trinity College and Nigel Carolyn, a six

clair took advantage of penalties converting them into 9 points. Many of the seniors and juniors were absent from the home game as they were trying out for the Northeastern Rugby Union, to form an all-star team to compete in the summer. Coach Yarusso said that Molloy stood up along with fellow freshman Shaun Rafferty (Centerport, NY) who according to Yarusso played exceptionally well against an older Marist team.

Coach Yarusso is very optimistic and excited about the future of the men's rugby team. Within the next five years, Yarusso said, "we have a very bright future and should push for a national championship." When asked if that was too was actually possible, Yarusso replied, "Absolutely."



Bitches 'bout to get stomped on

Najib Aminy

gram. A try equates to a touchdown and results in five points. A conversion, which immediately follows a try, is worth two points, and a penalty kick, which equates to field goal, is worth three points. Sophomore Mike Cimafonte (Ronkonkoma, NY) was awarded the man of the match for the game against rugby football club of Thomas for his numerous try saving tackles. Freshman Kyle Geoghan (Bluepoint, NY) was named the man of the match for the final game against the rugby football club of St. Mary's for his exceptional hard hitting plays and tackles in

year pro-rugby player for Thomas both held training sessions for the Men's rugby team. During their stay, the rugby team opted to serve the community on St. Patrick's Day volunteering for the Simon Group, an equivalent of the Salvation Army. In one day they help the homeless of Ireland by raising 3,000 euros.

After their journey to Ireland, the Men's Rugby team played an exhibition game at home against Montclair State. Stony Brook lacking many of their junior and senior players fought a hard match, however lost to 23-14 as Mont-

*Editors Note: I hope The Statesman takes notice that their crack squad of sports writers and photographers just got absolutely smacked in the face by a mere two Press staffers. Najib and Matt wrote more sports here than any Statesman issue in recent memory has. In fact, their sports coverage of this issue seems to eclipse the overall content of certain issues of The Statesman. You got upstaged. Or, to use the vernacular, y'all got served! And it even continues on the next page. If this is to be the start of a "Sports" War between the two papers, (what with the fantasy baseball league and our increased focus on sports), we are quite confident in the arsenal we're now putting out there every issue.*

# Women's Lacrosse Outlasts American

By Najib Aminy

American University fell short of goals and time as the Stony Brook women's lacrosse team won, 14-12. American scored the first goal, leaving the Seawolves trailing by one very early in the first half. Three consecutive unanswered goals by junior Kaitlin Leggio (Bayshore, N.Y.) and senior Diana Caroleo (North Babylon, N.Y.) relinquished the lead to Stony Brook, a lead

which they would hold onto for the duration of the game.

As the first half came to a close, the Seawolves were leading, 6-5. The Seawolves' defense contained American to shooting only fourteen shots, while the offense produced an equal fourteen shots. However, as soon as the second half was underway, Stony Brook took control of the scoreboard, scoring six unanswered goals, which left the American Eagles trailing by a margin of seven. As the game was coming to close, the Eagles fought back, scoring five

unanswered goals within the last eight minutes of regulation, cutting the lead to two and leaving the score at 14-12. Fortunately for Stony Brook, time ran out, adding a win to Stony Brook's current record, 5-3, and adding a loss to American's 5-6 record.

The duo of Caroleo and Leggio both recorded a total of six points. Caroleo scored five goals and recorded an assist, while Leggio scored two goals and recorded four assists. Other notable Seawolves players were freshman Melissa Cook (Bayshore, N.Y.), junior

Jenna Celano (Farmingdale, N.Y.) and senior Amy Hallion (Glenn, South Australia), with each scoring two goals. Goalies Jamie Carlson and Mickey Cahill had a combined eleven saves thus preserving the win.

The women's lacrosse team will face New Hampshire at home on April 5 and travel to Boston to face Boston University on April 9.

# Free Agency Frenzy

By Matthew Braunstein

It has been almost two months since the Giants upset the Patriots in Super Bowl XLII, and life just seems so sad when there is no football on television. Basketball and baseball are a mediocre substitute at best, and only struggling pigskin addicts resort to watching the Arena Football League. But just because there's no action on Sundays doesn't mean fans can't still get buck wild over their team.

The NFL's off-season is in full swing, and fans are drooling, pouting, crying, or waiting on their team's personnel moves. It starts with the free agent signing period, when players whose contracts have expired with their current teams must either re-sign or look for work on somebody else's squad. This is also the time when teams are able to trade unhappy or unwanted players to suitors who seem a better fit in return for equally expendable players in the hunt for a fresh start somewhere else.

Every year fans watch as their once-beloved stars move on to new teams, new cities, and new fans. Sometimes the separation is pleasant, especially if both the player and the fans feel it's time to move on. More often than not, it's an ugly breakup fueled by hurtful words or feelings of betrayal. Then we rebound with new players, and new coaches, and new uniforms, and a newfound hope for the season to come. The truth is, at the end of the day, it's just business.

But the business aspect of the off-season has been slowly veering off-course over the last few years, and it's heading for a painful crash. Every year the trades and signings become more frequent, weighty, and absurd. Teams are making unreasonably expensive de-

cisions on what they call speculation and research, but this is, in reality, just dumb luck. Signing a player has become less like a business decision and more like a crapshoot.

Take, for instance, the Cincinnati Bengals signing of defensive end and former Tennessee Titan Antwan Odom. With the Titans, Odom was a solid player but clearly not the best defensive man on the team, not even the best defensive lineman, and not even the best defensive end. Despite this, the Bengals signed him to a five year, \$30 million dollar contract. Not too long ago, a deal of this size was only given to players of star status, not up-and-comers like Odom.

Similarly, the Oakland Raiders signed free agent safety Gibril Wilson, former New York Giant and recent Super Bowl champ. Just like Odom, Wilson is a decent and dependable player who played a small but important role in the Giants' Cinderella season. For this, the Raiders are paying him \$39 million over six years. Something doesn't make sense here.

While I completely understand giving big bucks to a superstar player that you can't let go, throwing money at unproven talent is just ludicrous. The Pittsburgh Steelers extended their QB Ben Roethlisberger's contract to eight years and \$102 million. While the amount of money is astronomical, it is also money well spent. Roethlisberger is a proven superstar who has already led the Steelers to a Super Bowl win in his four short years on the team. Though \$102 million is an awful lot, Roethlisberger makes that cash back for his team and millions more for just showing up to a home game.

I don't buy the argument that superstar athletes in general are being overpaid. They do make more money than they need or can spend, and some third-world countries could turn their

economies around with the yearly salary of some of today's professional athletes. But just like any decent job, they are paid based on the revenue they bring to their employer; in this case, a multi-billion dollar sports team. Roethlisberger's \$102 million is peanuts compared to what the Steelers's home stadium makes in one game on beer sales alone.

My beef is with the teams that pay Roethlisberger money to players like Odom and Wilson. Yes, these players could prove me wrong and become staples for their teams for years to come, but there is the equally possible (and more frequently occurring) chance that these players will remain lackluster, solid, run-of-the-mill athletes, and in some cases, become complete busts. Just ask Adam Archuleta.

Once a pro-bowl safety with the St. Louis Rams, Archuleta was regarded as one of the best safeties in football (he even received a low 90s rating in Madden 2005). Then his contract ran out and he signed a \$20 million deal with the Washington Redskins. He was so bad on the 'Skins that they cut him in just one season. Then the Chicago Bears picked him up, and again he was cut after a lackluster season. Now he's down and out and looking for any team that will give him a job.

As former NFL lineman Ross Tucker says, "I believe NFL teams put too much emphasis on a player's reputation and their desire to 'upgrade' a certain position and not nearly enough time trying to quantify what that increased performance will provide in terms of value to their team." It would be unfair to lay all the blame for this irresponsible spending on team owners and general managers. Though they are the ones who ink the deals, they are motivated to do so by a number of factors.

The agents should take some flak for jacking up the asking prices for

their clients. I know it's their job to get their player paid as much as possible, but when you set the bar so high, eventually it becomes impossible for most of the players to produce at the level their salary indicates.

The players themselves are partly responsible. Don't get me wrong, it's not like I'm asking them not to demand top dollar or accept it if it's offered. If someone wants to pay me \$3 or \$4 million more than I'm worth, you bet your ass I'm signing the dotted line. But there has to come a point when a player who is clearly better or on the same level of someone being paid substantially more than them stops and says, "Hey, isn't this unfair?" Instead, they get greedy and demand that they must be paid even *more* to make up for lost time.

Most of the blame rests on us, the fans. We put so much pressure on our favorite teams to improve drastically over one season, and in return they make rushed decisions concerning their rosters. The smart and proven method for improving a team is building one from the ground up over a number of years, making small personnel tweaks here or there primarily through the draft, and thereby constructing a cohesive unit of young, talented players who understand each other, the coach, and the system on which their team runs.

Unfortunately, that takes too much goddamn time, and instead we go for the quick fix of a big free agent signing. Sure, it's not the smart, safe, or responsible choice but we want our teams to be good next season, not five years from now. That's fine if we all accept that it's just a gamble and we don't lose our heads when the backup RB that looked so good in Indianapolis sucks rotten ass on our squad. After all, it's just business.

## Food For Thought

John Statesman, founder of *The Stony Brook Statesman*, would approve this message. John Statesman, and your wife, Mary, we honor you for your hard work and dedication that made this paper possible.

Press Review continued from previous page

## Press Best Mid-Size Sports Utility Vehicle 1989 Isuzu Trooper

Price: \$1250

Miles per Gallon: 7 Highway, 3 city



With a V6 stalwart engine, we never believed so much power could be put under a hood. The Isuzu Trooper opens new boundaries and adventures being capable of driving on all types of terrain, whether it is asphalt, concrete, dirt, or even an unpaved driveway! The power steering and fully functional automatic window system make this an SUV with luxurious accommodations. With an innovative safety design, the Trooper can tackle down deer, young saplings, and other dangerous wild animals, leaving only the slightest of dents. Squirrels watch out!

## Press Best Utility Vehicle

Snorkel-ATB 60

Price: \$15,000

Miles per Gallon: 1 Highway, 0 City



Ever find yourself without cable right before your favorite prime-time syndicated television program airs? Or has little Susie climbed up a tree again and you need her down before supper? Well, then this is the vehicle for you! Reaching brontosaurial heights, this opus of handiwork will have all your neighbors inviting you to fix their power lines, trim their trees and clean their gutters. And who knows, after that dinner and a movie might be next!

## Press Best Public Safety Vehicle

2004 Stony Brook University Emergency  
Command Car

Price: \$23,250

Miles per Gallon: 20 Highway, 40 University



Lights, lights and more lights. That's what you'll be saying when you break the law on campus. This Ford Expedition, souped up to chase down dangerous criminals (pizza thief, anyone?) is the commander of our emergency services. With a luxurious leather interior, this car is fit to carry our most dedicated campus safety officials. Doug Little, your car has arrived!

## Press Automobile of the Year 1991 Chevorelt Gladiator

Price: \$1,500

Miles per Gallon: N/A



Like whoa! Where should we begin? It's interior is impeccably beautiful for its class, and its ability to grip the road is rivaled only by cars far more expensive (European cars). Then there's the stunning paint job, giving it a down-to-Earth, industrial, yet chic, feel. Or what about its size? Bro, a car like that could smash clean through the Chem building. And what about the name? Gladiator? This car is adorned with two stickers decreeing its name for all the campus to see! And, first and foremost, it's a testament to what American automobile manufactures can accomplish. The Gladiator. Made in America, by Americans, for Americans. Woo-yeah!

Where %50 ads just isn't enough

E-mail *The Statesman* at  
sbpress@gmail.com

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Although our visit to Javits was a bit of dissapointment we here at The Press felt it was imporant to review the top of the line automobiles found on campus rather than those found at some Auto-Expo. After searching through each parking lot we chose our picks for the best cars of the year with a thorough examination of each car. Lets present the winners in each sub-category before announcing our pick for car of the year.

### Press Best Sedan of the Year

#### 1993 Plymouth Acclaim

Price: \$1000

Miles per Gallon: 20 Highway, 15 city



This sexy sedan keeps all the ladies turning their heads. Its fog lights would be enough to penetrate the mist of even the most daunting Scottish moors. The shoddy paint job tells the campus, "I'm too busy making money to re-paint this car." At one thousand dollars it's an absolute steal for the poor art students who mull about Staller. Cha-ching!

### Press Best Goverment Vehicle of the Year

#### 2001 USPS Postal Van

Price: \$4,000

Miles per Gallon: 17 Hwy, 400 Residential



Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.

### Press Best Getaway Vehicle of the Year

#### 1995 Ford Bronco

Price: \$1750

Miles per Gallon: Enough to elude cops on a busy California Interstate 405 and gain national media coverage.



A perfect automobile for the guy who needs to feel superior and strong. Bigger and better than most cars, this vehicle also is perfect for fleeing even the most volatile crime scenes. With a spacious trunk for groceries, luggage or what-have-you, this car is nothing if not convenient. With its affordable price, it's a steal, making it the perfect getaway vehicle for the perfect crime.

### Press Best Sports Coup Vehicle of the Year

#### 1991 Honda CRX

Price: \$2235.73

Miles per Gallon: 25 Highway, 20 City



Do you like the Fast and the Furious I, II, and III? Well, this car brings out the furious speed demon in any driver. Reaching an unbelievable 120-mph in a record breaking 15 seconds flat, this car has all the ladies and men turning their heads. The sleek aerodynamic body design reduces a significant amount of drag, allowing it to pierce through the air and the road.

Press Review continued on next page

# The Press Visits Javits

By James Laudano and Najib Aminy  
All Photos By Roman Sheydvasser

*In the March 27 issue of The Statesman, several staffers took the trip to New York City's Jacob K. Javits Exhibition Hall to review the 2008 Auto Show. Well, not to be outdone by such a hard-hitting piece of journalism, we here at The Press visited a Javits a little closer to our campus' heart. In addition to reviewing the Javits Lecutre Hall, itself, we explored the surrounding parking lots to find what we felt were the most appealing and affordable automobiles our campus' student body could hope to attain.*



Life is about many things: lectures, exams, tuition and vending machines. And themes. Life is about themes. Especially lectures, exams, tuition and vending machines. Yeah, those are good life themes.

This is why the 2008 Press visit to the Javits Lecture Hall was such a disappointment. We went expecting a central theme, a unifying vision that put the visit over the top. However, when we explored the venue we found an eclectic collection of accommodations and amenities. It was lame. Without further ado, we present to you a breakdown of the First Annual Stony Brook Press Javits Visit.

## Press Vending Machine Of The Year Dasani Water Beverage Dispenser

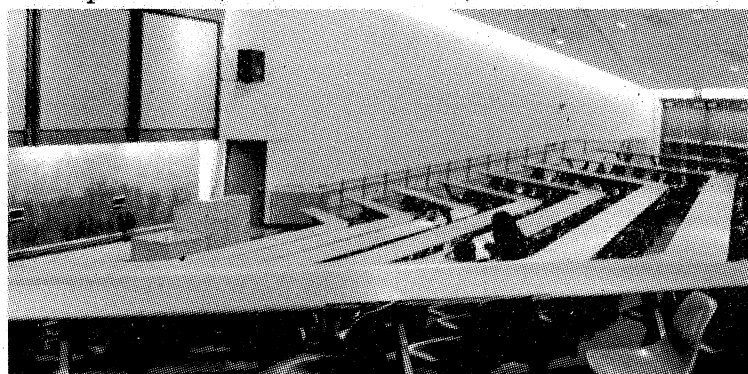
Location: Next to the stairwell in the center of the Lecture Hall.  
Price: \$1.25, which is \$1.25 more than the water fountain thirty feet away.



This machine deserves such accolades not due to its impressive variety of Dasani products, but rather because of its sleek aesthetic appeal. With drops of  $H_2O$  that leaves chemistry students awning for cellular respiration, this vending machine has a unique delivery device ensuring your bottle is gently dispensed. Not only does this ensure safety of the consumer's product, but it also cool to watch. Neato! Although the card scanning feature on this machine does not usually work, the mere fact that it has such an option puts it miles ahead of the antiquated snack machine across the hall. The buttons provide any customer's finger a plethora of joy and relaxation. The coin slot is highly innovative in design and effective with easy access to pick up change. Dasani: Water for the busy biology majors who cant be bothered to stop at the nearby water fountain.

## Press Lecture Hall of the Year Room 110

Location: Room 110  
Price: \$180 per credit. (Or \$442 out-of-state)



This spacious room offers supple amphitheatre seats for all you history and anthropology majors out there. Not quite the leviathan that is Room 100, Room 110 is cozy, yet spacious. The state of the art audio and PowerPoint system installed will make even the most technologically savvy students salivate when it actually works. The seats allow one to swivel and rotate nearly 180 degrees. Awesome!

## Press Javits Bathroom of the Year Men's Restroom



Location: Across from the Ladies' Room.  
Price: \$30,000+ of our tuition fees to renovate over the past three months.

This bathroom, recently renovated, is light-years away from the pathetic ladies' room across the hall. The staggering seven stalls offer even the most flatulent bathroom-goer all the choice he needs. With such a large arsenal at its disposal, one can't help but be envious of the Javits Center's lavatories. The ceramic tiling provides a clean and welcoming feeling not found elsewhere in the building. Don't worry, tree huggers, this bathroom comes equipped with not one, but two, automated hand driers, saving countless grams of tree pulp. Economic, engendering and environmentally sound!

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## AUTO GUIDE

## NYC-2008



### Statesman Visits Javits

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