

THE STONY BROOK PRESS

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CHOOSE FROM OVER 2 POSSIBLE ENDINGS

THE 2012 ELECTION

By The Hurricane-Stricken *Press* Staff



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CORRECTION: In the previous issue of *The Stony Brook Press*, Vol XXXIV Issue 4, the story covering Stony Brook Football playing Gardner-Webb University failed to give attribution. The story was written by Mary O'Connor and the photo was taken by Alex Marcano.

The byline for the feature story on Professor Jonathan Sanders was spelled incorrectly as "Nicole Brem," the correct spelling is "Nicole Brems."

THE STONY BROOK PRESS

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

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THE STONY BROOK BUBBLE



It was a window into a post-apocalyptic world. Traffic lights were out. Power lines were down. Businesses were closed. Grocery stores were out of bread. Gas stations had long lines or nothing to offer. Roads were literally broken. Trees were halved. Cell phone towers were out of service.

As Hurricane Sandy raged, residential students watched through the windows of brick fortresses. From their dorms, they saw heavy rain, wind, some downed trees and the occasional flying drainpipe. On campus, the power outage lasted all of 40 minutes, and WiFi was restored before 5:30 p.m. the next day.

People settled on couches or in beds to watch movies, or gathered around tables to drink and disregard everything outside. Students planned Halloween parties and “hurricane survival” celebrations. The bravest, or perhaps the most reckless, went out for walks at the height of the storm. Some got into cars to go to parties or to indulge in photographic missions.

And then the calls started coming in. People found out that our bedrooms were flooded; their pets were unsafe; their parents were sitting in frigid darkness. They were told that their houses were at risk of collapse, or they knew someone whose was. They were informed that the world they thought they knew, that world of strength and security, had been temporarily exterminated.

The disconnect went past broken power lines and disabled cellphone towers. The true disconnect had to do with those who witnessed only the effects of the storm on campus.

Those not on campus watched from lower ground, as rain and wind turned the land we knew from one of perceived invincibility into one more vulnerable and ut-

terly powerless than we’d seen at any time during our approximate two decades of existence.

Weary-faced individuals across the island walked out of their houses to scattered piles of bark and leaves, shingles on the ground, cars underwater. Eyes were exhausted, hair was unwashed. Nobody had the energy, or the means, to care about appearance.

Those outside of the Stony Brook bubble were sitting in an icy darkness, or crowding around tables with total strangers at Starbucks because they had nowhere else to go for warmth and an Internet connection.

Those within the bubble celebrated the week of canceled classes because now everyone had the opportunity to drink without worrying about going to class hungover the next day. No homework! Woo!

Their off-campus friends and neighbors wondered what to do about the fact that the structures they once called “home” no longer included walls or roofs.

But nobody is at fault; they didn’t know.

The morning after the storm, there was an all-engulfing surrealism about campus. The sun was out. Most of the wreckage had been cleared. Power had been restored, and crews were working to dispose of every last tree branch. Dining halls were open.

Some made plans to go home to help parents and neighbors wade through the wreckage and repair the damages. Some made plans to put on costumes and go to Halloween parties. People were concerned about the launch of the new Assassin’s Creed game — would Gamestop still be open?

Residential students sat at computers

complaining about not being able to order sushi, completely unaware that the roads around the perimeters of campus were lacking functional traffic lights, that the university’s neighbors were without power, that there were people lacking drinkable water and edible food.

Facebook news feeds became lists of complaints about lack of Wi-Fi and limited dining hall options. Students were celebrating days without classes, and posting photos of themselves at Halloween parties.

There were people whose houses were on fire, and historic boardwalks floated away.

There were people looting — stealing what little their neighbors had, because they had even less themselves.

And Stony Brook students were drinking, partying and neglecting all responsibility simply because they could. Sandy wasn’t their problem; it was for the rest of the East Coast to deal with.

People don’t realize how easy they’ve had it on this campus. Everything is taken care of — the trees were picked up the next morning, the dining halls reopened, the Internet connection repaired by nightfall the next day.

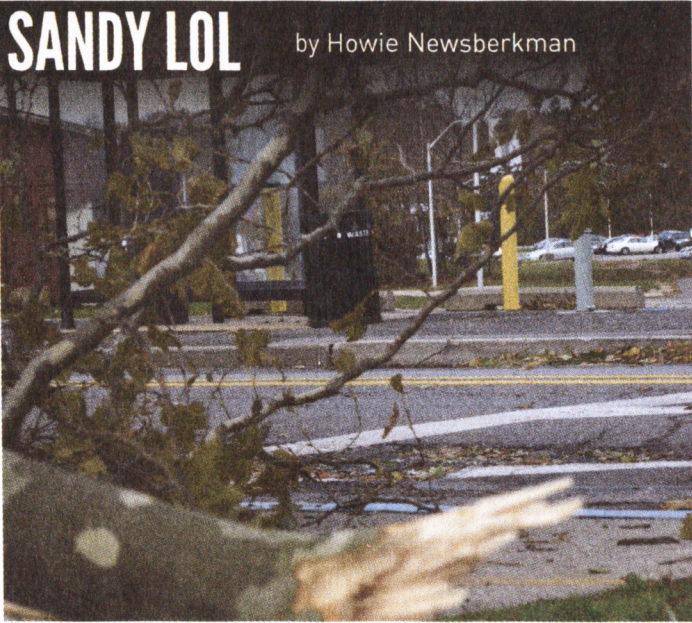
Those on campus for the duration of the storm had not an inkling of what it was like outside of campus bounds.

Some might call the ignorance a defense mechanism. Nobody knew how to deal with the reality of the severity of the storm; they didn’t know how to process it mentally. They couldn’t conceptualize the idea that there were people who, in an instant, lost both possessions and loved ones.

It hasn’t seemed real.

SANDY LOL

by Howie Newsberkman



Hurricane Sandy swept through the east coast earlier this week, devastating Wi-Fi signals and leaving ultra-sheltered college students without access to Facebook or Reddit for a horrifying 24 hours.

"It was horrible, I kept clicking 'refresh' on my browser until my index finger turned raw and I could no longer see the screen through my building tears," said sophomore Larry Burkman. He then described a vocal conversation he was forced into having with his insufferable roommate, but he could hardly bare the memory of the ordeal.

"No way out," he said through sobs. "No way out."

Many students, left without power, took the drastic measure of attempting real human interaction with the plethora of people who live within close proximity of their computer screens. "I kept trying to type at them and click on their faces," said junior Stacey Middleton. "But no pictures came up, no favorite movies. Not even a single wall post." She eventually gave up, and proceeded to stare at the wall in her dormitory hoping against hope that it would turn into a Netflix screen.

"My RA invited me to play some stupid-ass game called 'Scrabble,' which was an obvious rip-off of 'Words with Friends,' except instead of playing it on a screen, like normal people, they wanted to play it on this cardboard and plastic shit," said disgruntled senior Steve Lennings. "It's some bullshit."

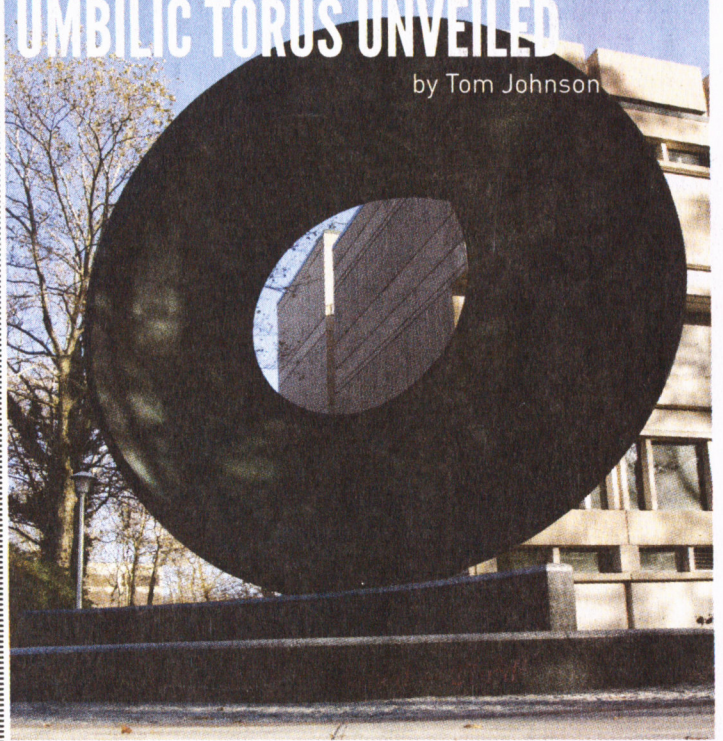
Mr. Lennings wanted to express his frustration to the world abroad, but without Twitter at his disposal, he started bleeding out of his eyeballs.

Though the Internet has now returned to campus in all its glory, there's no telling what sort of lasting emotional damage the thousands of student victims will face. The conversational banter that takes place in lieu of electronic communication can result in a terrifying increase in social skills, building personal relationships and perhaps worst of all: friends.

Other, more minor damage from the storm includes billions of dollars in property damage, devastated public transportation services and loss of life.

UMBILIC TORUS UNVEILED

by Tom Johnson



Over one hundred onlookers assembled outside the Simons Center for the dedication of the long-awaited *Umbilic Torus*, a sculpture directly influenced by the artist's style, which is stated as being a "fusion of mathematics and art."

The sculpture, which measures 24 feet tall and weighs in at nearly 10 tons, is the result of Ferguson's distinct, mathematically-driven style, which was evident in his other pieces on display in the gallery of the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics at the time of the dedication.

In attendance were President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., Jim Simons, creator of the sculpture Helaman Ferguson, as well as several close family members and others involved in the sculpture's creation.

Made almost entirely out of tinted bronze, the large donut-shaped sculpture took nearly two years to complete. In that time, Helaman and his team mathematically determined the unique pattern etched into the sculpture's surface and built a machine with the purpose of having it etch the markings, rather than having it done by hand. The piece also features a single seam, spanning from one side of the donut, through the middle, and ending on the other side, which was also said to have been carefully planned via heavy number crunching.

According to Stanley, the sculpture "emphasizes the important relationship between math, science, art and the humanities," as its placement has it sitting with the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics to the west and the academic mall to the east.

Jim Simons, who is notable for having donated \$150 million to the university last December and for being the namesake of the Simons Center itself, stated at the dedication that he feels that the *Umbilic Torus* was "the most elegant and appropriate sculpture for [the] setting."

STONY BROOK STUDENT DIES IN CAR ACCIDENT

by Arielle Dollinger

A Stony Brook University student was killed when a car filled with students collided with a police car at 1:30 a.m. on Oct. 30—the night that Hurricane Sandy made landfall on the East Coast—said a press release by the Suffolk County Police Department.

Vishwaja Muppa, a graduate student studying biology, was pronounced dead at the scene by a physician assistant from the Office of the Suffolk County Medical Examiner, the press release says. The driver, student Amanpreet Dhaliwal, and three other female passengers were brought to Stony Brook University Hospital.

According to Lieutenant Gail Marrero, who is in charge of investigating the case, there is “no apparent indication of alcohol involvement.”

The crash took place at the intersection of Route 347 and Route 112. Those in the car were on their way back to campus, Marrero said.

He didn’t realize he was in the intersection,” Marrero said. “He didn’t realize he was at 347.”

According to several students, the individuals were returning from a house in Port Jefferson. The passengers had been drinking, a friend of Muppa’s who wished to remain nameless said; the

driver said he had not.

Marrero said authorities are still taking statements and gathering evidence, but also said that the accident was storm-related and happened in part because of the bad weather conditions and lack of streetlights.

In a press release, University President Samuel L. Stanley, Jr. said that counseling is available for those mourning Muppa’s death.

“On behalf of Stony Brook University, I extend personal and heartfelt condolences to Vishwaja’s family, her friends, her professors and all those who knew her,” Stanley wrote.

Anna Razzaio, a junior business major, said many will be affected by the loss of Muppa. Razzaio met Muppa this semester when she moved into Muppa’s suite.

Muppa lived in a single room, but she and Razzaio bonded.

“Everyone in the suite knew each other besides me, but Vish took me in with open arms and made me feel like we had been best friends forever,” Razzaio said. “She was always there for me and I can say hands-down that she was the most caring and genuine person I’ve ever met.”

SWIM TEAM SWIMS NO MORE

by Olivia Burne

Stony Brook’s swim team is facing another extension to their forced competitive hiatus after funding for the \$10 million pool renovation was cut, according to a recent email announcement sent out by the Office of the Vice President of External Relations.

The announcement informed students and athletes alike that the school’s pool, which doubles as a classroom for some academic programs, would be closed for the foreseeable future.

According to Stony Brook’s media relations officer, Lauren Sheprow, the architectural plans for the pool are in progress but funding for the pool was reallocated to “key critical maintenance” and campus repairs.

“Key critical maintenance projects are those that feed electricity and hot water to campus facilities,” said Sheprow during an interview. “If you don’t have light, you don’t have a swimming pool to swim in either.”

The delay in construction has thrown members of the team into the dark, especially since they don’t know when or if the pool will be open again for use.

“This is an opportunity for me to get my grades up,” said Joe Zhu, a junior business management major.

The Athletics Communications Director, Thomas Chen, said that the department is not able to give the swim team or on-campus community an idea of when the pool will be completed because the pool falls under the jurisdiction of university facilities. He also said that there are no local pools that the team can use to train in.

“The university and the athletic department explored whether or not there is a viable option off campus and right now that’s not an option,” said Chen.

The swim team’s interim head coach, Chris Brandenberger, has encountered a funding problem before. His alma mater,

University of Maryland, recently cut the men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams. The teams had to raise \$11.6 million, some \$1.6 million more than Stony Brook’s goal, after the athletics department decided to cut funding. After a nationwide appeal and extensive media coverage, the team was able to raise \$1 million but stopped short of saving the program.

If Maryland was able to get such wide coverage and support for the program, but couldn’t raise the funds, then it doesn’t bode well for Stony Brook’s athletes, according to Brandenberger.

This is not stopping athletes like Allison Zellnick, the women’s team captain, from trying. She is planning to start up a fund, appealing to local businessmen to raise the \$10 million needed.

Zellnick, a junior, came to Stony Brook from Troy, Ohio for swimming, but has now accepted that her days as a competitive sprinter are over.

“I could transfer out, but I’m academically set to stay at Stony Brook,” she said. “I’m not really going to be a swimmer ever again.”

The men’s team captain, Hajime Ichikawa, a senior health science major from Scarsdale, New York, said that attempting to raise the funds and supporting the team is the only option left for the upperclassmen.

Stony Brook’s athletics director, Jim Fiore, consulted the team before the email was sent out, letting them know that the team will not be cut. Fiore said that even if the team does dwindle out, he is planning on building the team back up, according to Ichikawa.

“That’s the only hope I have,” said Ichikawa. “I’ve been working for this team for the future, to build up the program. I can only hope. That’s all I can do.”

HURRICANE SANDY

by John Fischer



Stony Brook University has begun on-campus repairs and is addressing the concerns of students, faculty and parents in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, according to the University Police Department's Office of Emergency Management.

Senior Vice President of Administration Barbara Chernow and Assistant Chief of Police/Director of Emergency Management Lawrence Zaccarese say that the school experienced minimal damage, and that only one residential student on campus suffered minor injuries during the storm. Cost for repairs has not yet been determined.

"It will be a number of days if not weeks to assess the damage to the environment and mechanical operations," she said, referring to the main campus as well as Stony Brook Southampton and Stony Brook Manhattan campuses. "We are still working to remove tree trunks, remove debris and assess buildings."

Chernow says that students registered with Stony BrookAlert, designed to provide updates during emergency situations, are "the most up-to-date" and "best equipped" to handle similar situations.

Hurricane Sandy, which was downgraded to a tropical cyclone, hit New York State on Monday, Oct. 29, causing power outages and a loss of Internet service across New York City and Long Island. Students from SB Southampton

were evacuated to the main campus dorms.

According to Michael Ospitale of the Telecommunications and Networking department, Stony Brook experienced a loss of Internet service from 6:45 p.m. on Monday to 5:25 p.m. on Tuesday due to technical issues experienced by ISP vendors, Light Power and Sidera, which provide Internet service through on-campus fiber circuits. Light Power found cuts in its circuits while Sidera experienced flooding in its Lower Manhattan office.

"There were several downed trees and power lines that went across the circuits," said Ospitale. "The vendor quickly identified what the situation was and the reason for the outage. Unfortunately, because of the severity of the storm, they were not able to safely dispatch technicians into the field."

The university experienced a blackout Monday night that lasted less than one hour. Freshman Marydelle Abia, 18, who lives in Roth Quad, said she used the time to talk with friends since she was unable to complete her work, which required the use of the Internet.

"As soon as the Internet went on, everyone went back to their rooms and stayed there," she said. "Without Internet, we couldn't really do much."

Angela Agnello, Director of Marketing and Communications for the Faculty Student Association, said that the University began updating students the

Friday before the storm, delivered food supplies in advance and took the necessary precautions to ensure safe travel between buildings.

"Preparations were made prior to the storm to assure that sufficient resources were available to provide safe food service through the storm and aftermath," she said in an email. "Immediately prior to the storm, all loose objects including outdoor seating were secured or removed from places where they could be blown away and cause damage."

Lisa Ho, a junior, agrees with Agnello and said she was more concerned about the safety of her own family in Brooklyn and felt safe inside the confines of the university.

"I think for people living on campus, we were more worried about our families who are in the city, Nassau or even Suffolk," said Ho, a biochemistry major. "We knew that we had a safety net with campus police. I was more worried about whether they lost power."

Classes resumed on Monday, Nov. 5, as announced by an email sent out by President Stanley. Power has been restored to Stony Brook Southampton and the administration hopes to move residents back in over the weekend. Stony Brook Manhattan remains without power. A decision on when to continue classes there has not been announced.

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ENTERTAINING ELECTION
KNOWLEDGE-RELATED NEEDS**



ELECTION

THE STONY BROOK PRESS

2012

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND THE ELECTION

by Rebecca Tapio & Suraiya Afrina
Reporting by Arman Chowdhury



At a university where international students make up more than a tenth of the undergraduate student body, voting for the next president of the United States can mean more than fulfilling your civic duties.

For those like Audrey See Tho, the president of the International Student Organization, the outcome of the presidential election can directly impact their future.

“A lot of international students think, since they can’t vote, they can’t really have any impact,” Tho said. “A lot of people I talk to want to stay here. But I also know a few international students who are getting involved by volunteering in campaigns and trying to help out as much as they can”

The immigration policies of both candidates are many students’ primary concern, and the next president will likely decide whether they will be able to continue to live and begin to work in the United States after graduation, or if they will have to seek employment at home.

Governor Romney, as he said in the second presidential debate, supports giving green cards to highly skilled immigrants and those who graduate from college in the United States.

President Obama’s policy focuses on undocumented immigrants already attending school in the US, many of whom were brought here as children. As stated on his website, he believes that “The law should stop punishing innocent young people whose parents brought them here illegally and give those young men and women a chance to stay in this country if they serve in the military or pursue higher education.”

Foreign policy is also critical to international students attending college in the United States. Many are concerned for the welfare of their home country, including Jo Eun Lee, a journalism major.

Lee, originally from South Korea, fears for her country’s safety as a result of continuous political association with the US, saying that “North Koreans would do a provocative attack to South

Korea like they did before, when the South Korean government isolated North Korea by cooperating with the States,” she said.

Shadman Islam of Bangladesh, is more concerned with the same region that has plagued the candidates since they began to campaign: the Middle East.

“I’m Muslim, and I would want to know what the reactions are going to be,” he said. “And a lot of things that candidates talked about, I personally didn’t like them.”

The issues in the region, including the civil war in Syria and sanctions put in place to deter nuclear development in Iran, have been a key talking point for both candidates.

While both Obama and Romney agree that a firm hand must be used to ensure respect for the power of our nation, the Sept. 11 attack on the US consulate in Benghazi, Libya, has been politicized on both sides.

United States Ambassador J. Christopher Stevens, along with three other Americans, was killed in the attack. Eleven other people were injured, and it has since been determined that it was a deliberate act of terror against a United States facility.

For other students, the process of voting in America can be a complete contrast to the political process in their home country.

“In my country, politics is much different,” said Rahul Mehta, a biomedical engineering major from India. “People vote more by popularity than by potential. It’s like a ‘brand loyalty.’ People don’t understand or don’t even know what the parties are bringing on the table.”

In comparison, 67 million Americans tuned in to watch the first presidential debate on Oct. 3, held at the University of Denver. This was soon followed by two more debates in which the candidates showcased their policies for the country to judge.

For those in the United States, “brand loyalty” will not determine the next president.

As Shadman Islam said, “It’s about the better candidate winning.”



★ **BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA, II** ★

Party: Democratic
Born: Aug. 4, 1961 [Age: 51]
Place: Honnolulu, HI
Alma Mater: Columbia University,
Harvard University



PREVIOUS OCCUPATIONS

- LAWYER
- AUTHOR
- SENATOR



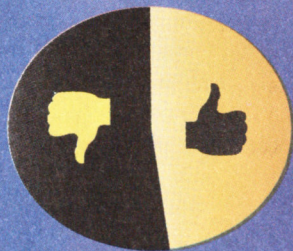
Net Worth
\$11.8 Million

Average Tweets per Day
3

Most Retweeted Tweet

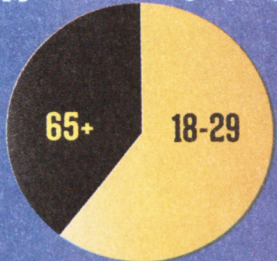
"No family should have to set aside a college acceptance letter because they don't have the money."—President Obama

Approval Rating

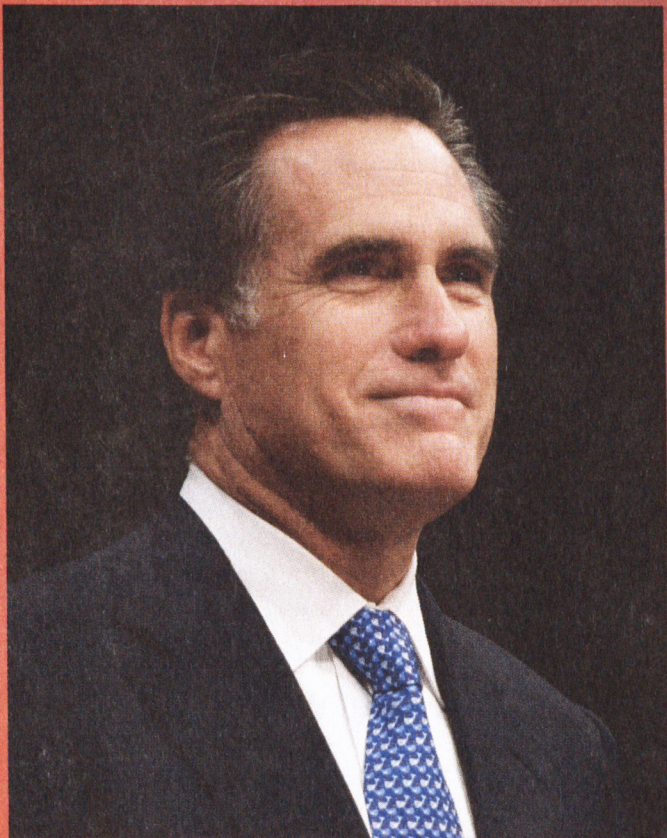


50.7 % Disapprove
47.2 % Approve

Approval Rating by Age



60% of those age 18-29 Approve
39% of those age 65+ Approve



WILLARD MITT ROMNEY



Party: Republican

Born: Mar. 12, 1947 [Age: 65]

Place: Detroit MI

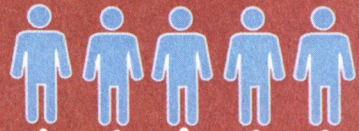
Alma Mater: Brigham Young University, Harvard University

Spouse

Ann



Children



Taggart Craig Matthew Joshua Benjamin

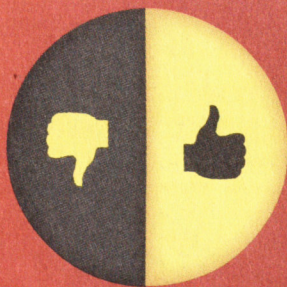
PREVIOUS OCCUPATIONS

BUSINESSMAN

AUTHOR

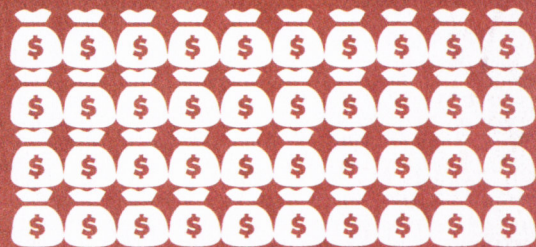
GOVERNOR

Approval Rating



47% Disapprove
47.8 % Approve

Net Worth
\$250 Million



Average Tweets per Day

1



Most Retweeted Tweet

On this most somber day, America is united under God in its quest for peace and freedom at home and across the world.



THE LIFE OF A HORTICULTURIST

by Priscila Korb

Most would expect someone who has to work before 5:30 in the morning to be slightly grumpy.

But that's not the case with Andrea Petterson, the Stony Brook University's horticulturalist.

As she sits at her neat desk in her uncluttered office, empty but for a few plants around the room, she greets those who pass by.

"I'm a morning person," she said. "I haven't used an alarm in probably about 10 years."

Before the sun is even up, Petterson, who shares some of the grounds-keepers responsibilities, has to be at work to make sure the trash is removed and the campus is clean by 6 am.

"The grounds crew is the only group on campus that starts that early," she said with a laugh. "The only one."

She doesn't seem to mind though.

"I love plants, I love talking, and I love people, so it's a tie-in of the things that really make me happy," she said. "I'm very lucky to have figured out what it is that I love, and to be able to get a stable job doing it."

Petterson's love for plants started at a young age. Before she became the University Horticulturist, she attended Stony Brook Southampton as a fine arts major. She had always been an outdoor person and her art was mainly focused on flowers landscape. She would go to paint with one of her art teachers, a famous watercolor artist, who had a studio in his home in Sag Harbor, overlooking his English garden.

"One day we were painting, and I don't know why, I think we were looking at the deer, and we went down to the garden and I just started gardening, and then I started going to his house to garden," Petterson said. "Then he had mentioned to me one day 'getting a job as an artist is going to be hard, why don't you think about getting into greenhouse growing or landscaping?'"

That weekend, she opened the newspaper and found a job for wholesale greenhouse growing, her first job in the industry.

That was 14 years ago, when Petterson was only 19 years old.

Since then, she has worked in retail sales for about three or four years, and then before coming to Stony Brook she became a certified arborist. She started at Stony Brook as a horticultural tech about three years ago, and got promoted this August.

Working at Stony Brook has only enhanced her love of plants over to Stony Brook. Petterson mentioned that she had ordered over 15,000 "plugs," which are tiny plants and 350 trees to be planted throughout the campus.

"We hope to start become self-sustainable on-campus, with progress," she said. "We are losing trees and we have to clear decent area of properties. We are hoping that for the trees we remove, we will be able to replace them."

In addition, Petterson runs the greenhouse in the Research and Development Park, which she calls "her baby". It was built a year or two before Petterson took over and she claims they had bad luck with it.

"They weren't very successful with growing, they weren't very successful with getting a decent amount of product out and the first year I came here, the greenhouse turned out about 12,000 plants," she says.

There are about 15 benches, each containing about 500 plants each and about 600 to 700 hanging plants all contained in the greenhouse according to Petterson. She also planted an additional 2,500 bulbs across campus and ordered 5,000 more.

"This year is the first year that we grew vegetables, herbs, a whole bunch of lettuce, all just to try to get the campus involved," she said.

Petterson recently began working with James O'Connor, the Director of Sustainability and Transportation Operations, on several projects across campus to improve the University's carbon footprint. Most recently, 16 pounds of native wild flowers seeds were planted to increase awareness of the local wildlife habitat. They are also working on the rain water collection system at the greenhouse. Which holds about 750 pounds of water and irrigates the water from the greenhouse.

"Since I've only been in this position for a few weeks, I haven't been able to implement anything, but I'm hoping in the next year we are going to be doing a lot more projects," Petterson said.

Petterson also hopes to start-up a homemade compost program in the future. Currently, the compost comes from Roth café, which composts all of their spare food in addition to the spare grass clippings and leaves from the greenhouse and from around campus.

Though Petterson is just getting started now, she is optimistic about her future as Horticulturist.

"We're just scratching the surface," she says. "There are a lot of opportunities and I'm curious and really starting to look into it."

Several things she is looking to focus on is collecting the rain water in a different method, more through a run-off system and a vegetable garden similar to the rooftop garden that the sustainability group started in the hospital. However, she ran into problems in that department.

"It was difficult because we tried to get volunteer students, but students are gone come May and that's when the vegetable garden is really kicking," she said. "So we are hoping to better organize that this year, get students more involved long term and actually consider donating the food to local charities. Trying to affect some people's lives in a positive way."

DIDN'T WRECK IT AFTER ALL

by Evan Goldaper



So here's the deal: Life isn't easy for Wreck-It-Ralph. Every day, he destroys the same apartment building, only to have Fix-it-Felix fix it and toss him into the mud. Ralph wants to stop, but, as an arcade game antagonist, breaking things is literally his 9-to-5 job. Without him, the game wouldn't be fun, so when he leaves to finally earn himself a medal, everything in the entire arcade falls apart.

But chances are, if you were following the press buildup for *Wreck-It-Ralph*, you weren't really concerned about the plot. Ads and articles often honed in on the classic video game references. Well, here's the truth: If you're coming to the theater hoping to see nothing more than Mario jokes and *Dance Dance Revolution* cutscenes, you're coming to the wrong movie. Okay, the film does feature cameos by everyone from Bowser to Dr. Robotnik to Rootbeer Tapper, but it's also a lot more than just that.

It's a story about self-respect and friendship that has some of the most brilliant plot buildup of any film I've seen in a while—animated or otherwise. Although the plot (as I've recounted in the first paragraph) seems simple enough, the movie has a dizzying amount of subplots and backstories. Balancing them is a difficult feat, but the writers manage to pull off the requisite act better than I could've hoped.

You see, for a kids' movie, I really felt like *Wreck-It-Ralph* gave

me the respect I deserved. Rather than sit me down and explain things like backstory and the rules of Ralph's arcade universe, these elements are woven into the dialogue, with no interruptions to what feels like organic conversations between good friends. Of course, making the characters seem like friends is helped by the fantastic voice cast. John C. Reilly gives Ralph the perfect air of bitter self-doubt and Jack McBrayer plays cloying do-gooders better than anyone else. And of course, leave it to Sarah Silverman to make me love Vanellope, a character who could so easily have become annoying, given her bratty attitude. *Firefly's* Alan Tudyk also does a startlingly-good Mad Hatter impersonation as King Candy—he really should do more voice acting work.

Plus, the animation is gorgeous. In a clever move, Ralph and Felix move around like sprites, bouncing across the screen with limitless energy, whereas newer characters like Jane Lynch's Sgt. Calhoun are more reserved. This dichotomy between “new” and “old” video games and the worlds in which they are set gives the animation an amazing amount of variety, which ensures that there's always something cool to look at.

Let me put it this way: if you have any attachment to video games, you owe it to yourself to see this movie. But if you have any attachment to writing, voice acting, animation or entertainment in general, you *really* owe it to yourself to see this.

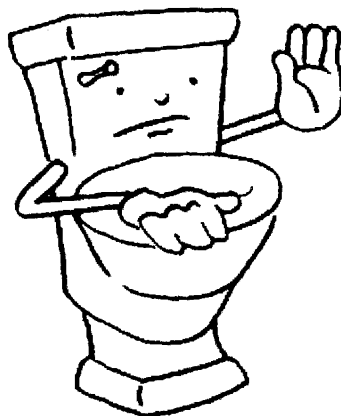
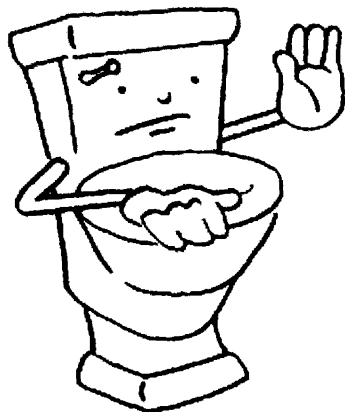
STADIUMS OF SHIT

STALLER MUSIC 1ST FLOOR LOBBY

by Daniel Cashmar

As seems to be the recurring theme, first floor bathrooms are easily the worst in a building due to the amount of traffic they receive. However, this bathroom does not have a high amount of traffic and still fails to deliver. It contains two stalls and one urinal. However, from the look of the water bubbling in the sink, you would think it served as a second urinal. It doesn't even contain a mirror of any sort. How are the fancy musicians of Staller supposed to check out their cool mustaches as they wash their hands? Any fancy gentleman knows that it's No Shave November, or Movember for those not from the blessed land of Strong Island, and the best possible time to scope out your peach fuzz is right after losing some weight dropping stones. Sorry gentlemen, but this isn't the bathroom for that.

The aesthetic value of the bathroom is pretty low, which is surprising for anything inside of a building dedicated to aesthetic values. If I had to describe this bathroom as a video game, I'd easily have to call it *Halo*. You got the run-and-gun action, you got the alien hordes, you got the recharging shield. You run in, no-scope snipe the urinal, teabag the urinal a little, recharge your shields over at the filthy sink, and then make a completely unnecessary sequel because people will still buy it as you leave. All in all, I'd have to give this game a 7/10 because they nerfed my favorite weapon, the handgun, and added way too many melee weapons that are also way too overpowered. It's pretty interesting to see how the story develops though and multiplayer is still fun for the most part, but it's disappointing to see how much *Halo* has influenced the first person shooter genre.



UNION BASEMENT

by Andy Polhamus

I was 19 when I discovered the hidden gem that is the men's room in the Union basement. It was a cold, lonely night early in February. The world outside the window was a bleak one. On a night like this, you'd get the feeling you didn't have a friend in the world. I had this very feeling as I wandered the flickering halls of the Union basement.

And then I had to take a shit.

I wasn't optimistic about what I imagined before me as I pushed open that door at the end of the dead-end hallway. But what I saw paralleled the infamous Room of Requirement from the Harry Potter series. It was a haven for the desperate: small, clean and bright.

My answer to nature's call was an onerous one, but the industrial flush that reverberated through the empty cement hallways did the job just fine. Freshly relieved, I was free to look around the room for the first time. The lone stall was roomy and clean, and all of the fixtures were well-maintained and relatively new. Aside from the gentle scent of soap, there was no odor at all.

A few things have changed since that fateful night. It seems other people have discovered this diamond in the rough, and that's fine. It's not always the spotless beacon in the night that it was when I first made my way there, but it's always well-kept and usually pretty quiet. Its distance from pretty much everything except the *Press* and *Statesman* offices will probably prevent it from making this year's list of Stony Brook's all-time best bathrooms, but it remains one of my personal standbys.



THE NUTSHELL

CONTRIBUTORS:

 Jessica Beebe
 Evan Goldaper

HANDS OF GLORY ANDREW BIRD

Releasing companion albums to older releases is nothing new for Andrew Bird, everyone's favorite Whistling Caruso. Sure, it gets more songs out to the fans, but it's hard to justify doing this when the supplementary material is so much less interesting than the originals. *Hands of Glory* is Bird's new attempt at adding



to March's enjoyable and acclaimed *Break It Yourself*, but it's just completely unessential. *Hands of Glory* is a low-fi album of pleasant and intimate folk songs that

occasionally border on country-western and have distinct cooperative tones. That definitely has its own appeal, but I found myself constantly wondering why Bird

wasn't delivering the complex songs I've come to expect of him. Are any of these tracks bad? Absolutely not. Are any of them going to stick with me for years? Probably not. This is an album that's entirely possible to ignore, even if you're currently listening to it.

Track Pick: "Spirograph"

COVERS: VOL 1 BAYSIDE

Bayside has been working on a new original record that will be released in January, but wanted to give their fans something to listen to during the waiting period.



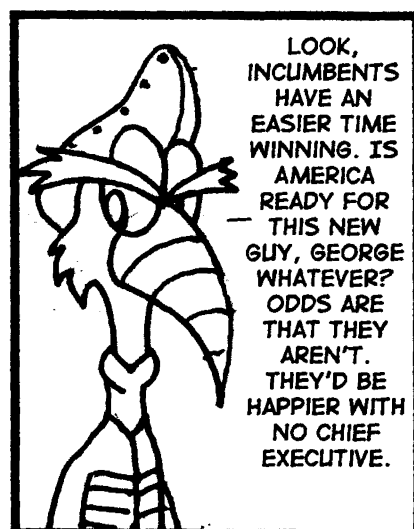
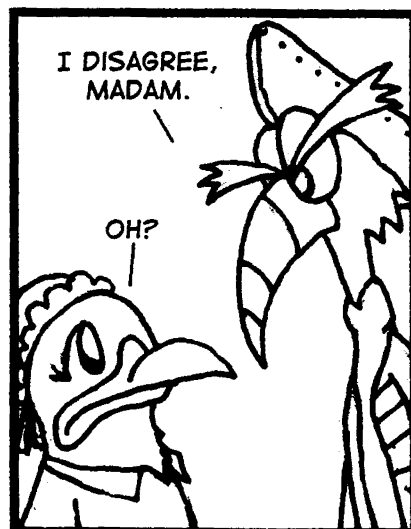
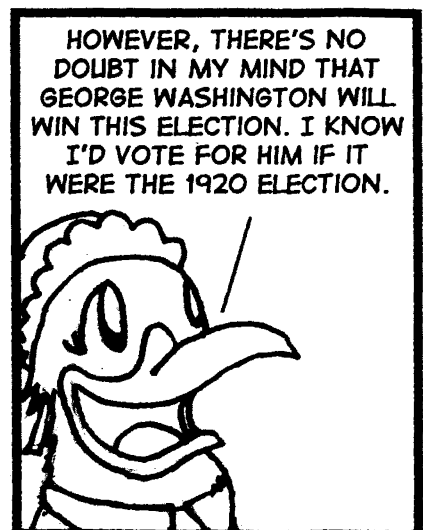
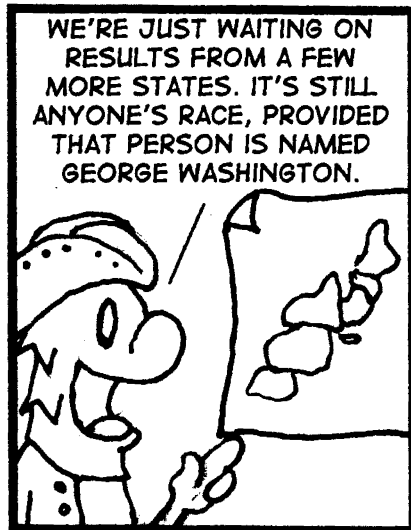
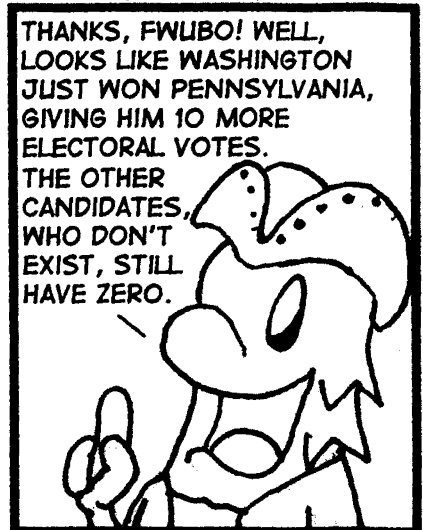
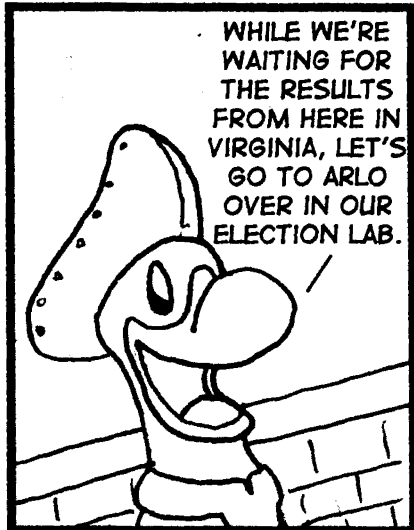
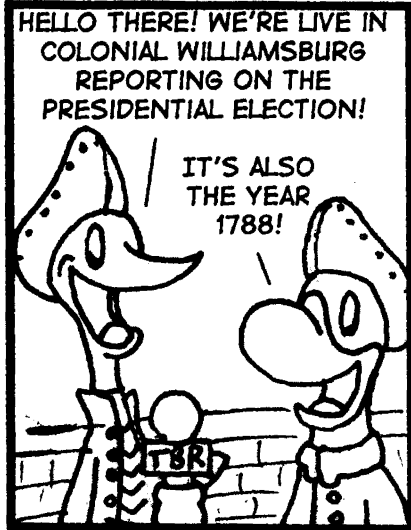
Covers: Vol 1 contains some songs that the band grew up listening to: "Movin' Out (Anthony's Song)" by Billy Joel, "Wild Night" by Van

Morrison and "Oliver's Army" by Elvis Costello. The album maintains the original artists' styles, but adds a Bayside twist. "Be My Baby", originally by the Ronettes, still has 50s flair, but is turned rock-n-roll. You can still tell the classics like "Movin' Out," "Oliver's Army" and "Wild Night" are Billy Joel, Elvis Costello and Van Morrison songs, but Bayside makes them heavier. "Runaway" maintains the charming lyrics and vocal style ("I w-w-w-wonder!") but puts heavy Bayside rock in the background.



The Upright Citizen's Brigade Touring Company performs in the SAC Auditorium on Thursday, Oct. 25. (Photo by Nick Batson/The Press)

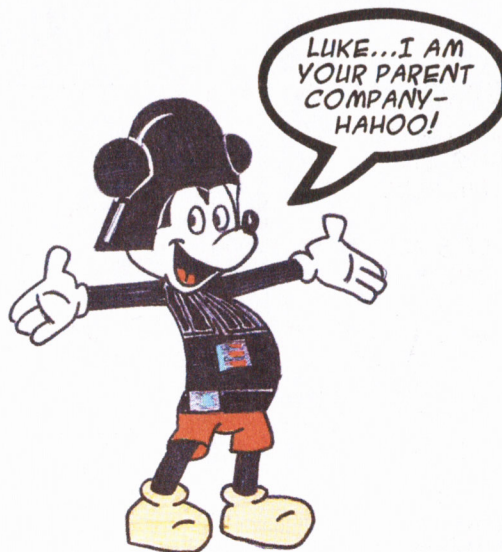
The Press apologizes in advance for...A Hastily-Made Election Edition of **THE BORING ROCKS** by Evan Goldaper



6.12.12

MAGIC WARS

by Evan Goldaper



Ladies and gentlemen of the Rebel Alliance, you've probably heard by now that on Oct. 30, 2012, The Walt Disney Company bought Lucasfilm Ltd. for \$4.05 billion in stocks and cash. Yes, the Mouse that Roared is now the proud owner of such beloved properties as *Labyrinth*, *Monkey Island* and *Howard the Duck*. Oh, and a little movie franchise called *Indiana Jones* and an even smaller series called *Star Wars*. It's time we faced facts: George Lucas' projects are now owned by Disney, and unless your Internet forum can generate a couple billion dollars, that's not going to change.

If you're a little like my suitemate, you might be panicking now. That's an understandable reaction. Maybe you didn't run around my suite swearing your head off and slamming doors, but I wouldn't be surprised if you were a little apprehensive. After all, Disney is the company that makes *Snow White* and *Little Einsteins*. You know, kids' stuff. Musicals and love stories and talking animals. Isn't that going to happen to our beloved sci-fi series?

Folks, take it from me. This transaction doesn't mean the series is being thrown into the Sarlacc Pit. Disney buying a company is about as scary as *Short Round* dressed as Yoda, and you can take that to the bank.

Let's start by establishing that *Star Wars* already was a family franchise. There, I said it so you don't have to. That's what Robert A. Iger, chairman and chief executive officer of The Walt Disney

Company called it in this press conference, and I'm certain that George Lucas didn't stand up and object. When did you watch *A New Hope* for the first time? Chances are you were a child. Yeah, there are space lasers and dismemberment, but we're not talking about *A Game of Thrones* here. *Star Wars* is, and has always been, good, clean family fun—just family fun that adults can enjoy without their grade schoolers in tow. And frankly, considering how excited I was about *Wreck-It-Ralph*, that sounds a lot like Disney to me. Have you seen an Ewok? If they don't look like something out of a Disney cartoon, I don't know what does.

Plus, Disney owns a lot more than you think. Remember last year's *Avengers* movie? That was a Disney film, since Disney owns Marvel, and it sure as hell didn't disappoint classic Marvel fans. Likewise, remember *Lost*? Remember *Desperate Housewives*? They're both owned by Disney, folks, and they both involved infidelity and complex religious theology (I think). Those are much harder sells to parents than "occasional space lasers." Yup, Mickey's got his hand in everything from ESPN to Pixar to ABC to *The Muppet Show*, and you probably never even noticed. Have you realized that *Star Tours* and the *Indiana Jones Stunt Show* are in Disney World? Teamwork between Disney and Lucas is hardly anything new. Face it, Disney is everywhere.

But let's briefly examine the worst and suppose Disney is going to change

Star Wars. Is *Star Wars* even sacred anymore? Take a look at what we've been through. We've had Jar-Jar and Hayden Christensen. We played fifteen million Lego *Star Wars* games. We've seen too many CGI edits. They removed the "NOOOO." Man, I've pod-raced, I've swung my arms to use The Force, I've even eaten Darth Vader Fruit Roll-Ups. It doesn't get worse than this, guys. Disney couldn't possibly hurt us more than Lucas already has.

At the end of the day, the truth is that Disney isn't going to change *Star Wars*. They didn't need to buy it to get more musicals or to get another *Jake and the Neverland Pirates*; they clearly can make those just fine on their own. Disney wants to turn a profit, and *Star Wars* has been generating profits since the 70s. Nothing needs to change for Disney to succeed. If they keep it the same, they've got something else they can sell to young boys, and that matters most to them right now. If anything, we'll see more *Star Wars* toys on shelves and have more productions to enjoy. I mean, the newly-announced Episode VII might suck, sure, but that was going to be the case whether or not Disney was in charge.

Plus, George Lucas is planning on giving most of that \$4.05 billion to education charities, and if you're going to argue with that, maybe you're just a scruffy nerf herder after all.

SOME THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE VOTING...

by Daniel Cashmar

Every election the keyword seems to be “jobs” and the most polarizing issue among Americans is abortion. The War on Terror, the economy, health care, the War on Drugs... these are the popular topics I won’t be covering as I’m sure you’re well versed in them. I would like to share my opinion with you on various issues that perhaps you didn’t know about.

Elections

Let’s start with elections themselves. Everyone knows the Presidential candidates are Barack Obama and Mitt Romney from the Democratic Party and the Republican Party, respectively. However, there are actually six people running for president. However, everyone is convinced there are only two “real” candidates and that they must vote for the “lesser evil.” I’d like to share with you the opinion that you should vote honestly rather than strategically.

If a party’s representative fails to meet the expectations or doesn’t fully represent your opinions, why should you elect or re-elect them? Is it because you believe they’ll actually make good on their promises for once or something less naive?

There is a group called the League of Women Voters whom were once in charge of the presidential debates until they felt the collusion between major party candidates to control the debates were doing more harm than good. The president of their group at the time, Nancy M. Neuman, said this on the issue: “It has become clear to us that the candidates’ organizations aim to add debates to their list of campaign-trail charades devoid of substance, spontaneity and honest answers to tough questions. The League has no intention of becoming an accessory to the hoodwinking of the American public.”

And so, the two major parties joined forces to make the Commission on Presidential Elections to keep the

questions easy and after 1996, to keep it to themselves. Many Republicans feel as though Ross Perot cost them the election in 1992 as he split votes that George H. W. Bush should have won. Perhaps it’s true that George H. W. Bush would have won, but a rule was instated after Ross Perot that a candidate must be at or above 15 percent in the polls in order to be allowed to enter their debates, thus ensuring that a third-party candidate would never again be able to enter the presidential debates.

But 15 percent seems like a reasonable number, doesn’t it? When you consider the funding of a third party candidate to the nearly \$1 billion that both of the major party candidates have raised, it becomes more obvious that they wouldn’t be able to advertise themselves nearly as well, if at all. I’d like to argue that if a candidate is able to run for president by getting onto the ballot, they should then have a spot in the debates guaranteed to them.

Besides the shutting out of other candidates, certain ballots are intentionally misleading, certain voters are suppressed or tricked and sometimes, candidates are accused of rigging their election. In 2000, there was the infamous Florida recount, where the nation didn’t know who had won the election for a rather long time. There was a ballot in Florida called the butterfly ballot, on which, Al Gore was listed directly underneath George W. Bush on the left, so it’s guessed that many voters voted for Pat Buchanan in confusion as he had an extraordinarily higher amount of votes in areas that used the butterfly ballot.

This is a more honest mistake than what certain groups of people do to suppress votes. People have been known to inform the opposing party’s voters that the election is on a different day, tell certain voters they have to vote in an area that isn’t where they vote, or discard the voter registration sheets of people who register for an opposing party. And the

fact that workers still have to work on Election Day means many may simply miss the opportunity to vote for being too busy.

In 2001, a computer programmer named Clint Curtis testified in court to having been paid to create a program that would rig an election but also make it seem as though the results were very close—51 percent to 49 percent. With the advent of privately owned voting machines, it would not be far-fetched to imagine that the private owner of these machines would have some interest in who wins the election. Considering how far out of their way groups go to mislead and suppress voters, it would not be unimaginable to think these privately owned machines may change the results. I would like to argue here for the need of public machines or paper ballots in opposition to these. There’s always going to be human error, but I would much rather risk a person counting wrong by accident than a machine counting wrong on purpose.

Iran

Whenever I hear warmongers stress that Iran is our greatest threat, it angers me beyond belief. It first implies that we have a greatest threat and it is implicitly saying that they are wrong for hating us. I’d like to state that if an Iranian hates America, they have a good reason to. For those of you that haven’t stopped reading now, Iran had democratic elections until 1953 when the United States backed a coup that installed a dictator and has suppressed its people since. But surely we had a good reason to completely screw over a nation, right? Well, yes, if you look at it from a point-of-view with no empathy. We wanted to maintain our control over their oil and it’s more difficult to negotiate with democratically-elected representatives than it is with a dictator.

Now imagine you’re Iran and you’re constantly hearing from a foreign country

that you're terrible and you're this threat to them. Remember that this nation saying these things about you has hundreds of military bases surrounding your country. Would you not feel threatened? They are the ones who brought a dictator to power, they have every means to simply destroy you—as you could witness from your neighbor states in Iraq and Afghanistan—and now they are saying you're a threat. Iran is not our greatest threat. We are their greatest threat.

What always comes up is that Iran is trying to get a nuclear weapon to then use on Israel or perhaps the United States. If North Korea is any example of how an authoritarian regime acts with a nuclear weapon, Iran would be screaming and screaming until people paid them not to do anything stupid, which isn't how they've behaved thus far. Now from a moral perspective, could you blame them for wanting one? Nuclear powers don't go to war with each other. It would essentially make them off-limits from invasion. Obviously we still have some economic interests with them and the trading floor becomes fairer when both parties carry a gun.

Prisons

Something deeply troubling is the existence of privately-owned prisons. Running a prison should not be a for-profit operation. It's interesting that they can make money from the situation with the slave labor it employs, but think of the implications of this. They make money from keeping people in jail. It's within their best interest to get as many people

jailed as possible for whatever the reason, which is a burden on society.

Another thing that needs to be re-examined is the death penalty. Put simply, it's time for the death penalty to die. We're past the age that such a barbaric practice is acceptable. Allow me to ask you this. If you kill a murderer, does that not make you a murderer? Is the person who injects the murderer with the lethal injection not guilty of murder themselves? Why shouldn't they now be dealt the same punishment? The fact of the matter is if you commit murder, whether state approved or not, you are a murderer. We've been killing each other for hundreds of thousands of years and it's high time we stop. There will always be outliers but they deserve imprisonment for the rest of their lives. To force them to live life within a cage reflecting upon their mistake for eternity is better than simply killing them. There remains the fact that because someone is found guilty in court of a crime does not mean new evidence won't appear that reveals them as innocent. The killing of an innocent person is completely inexcusable and should never happen. We can never be too certain, so it is better to be safe and not kill them.

Another thing I strongly believe is that drug offenders should be rehabilitated as opposed to jailed. The only person they are hurting in this crime is themselves and if society deems this action inappropriate, it should be to seek help for them. How many drug offenders aren't going to continue those drugs once they get out of jail? Many drug offenders are repeat

offenders, so it's clear that imprisonment isn't helping or deterring them. They need the help of professionals, not metal bars.

NASA

Something I constantly hear is, "if we can send someone can to the Moon, why can't we do X?" Fill in X with whatever cause you'd like. They portray NASA as this icon of disastrous opulence and not for what it is, perhaps the greatest administration ever created.

If I had to list every invention, everything NASA has improved or inventions that came about from NASA research, I'm sure my editors wouldn't let me just because of how long that list would be. But, here's some anyway in no particular order: smoke detectors, scratch resistant lenses, better insulation, those grooves on the sides of highways, firefighting equipment, memory foam, enriched baby food, cell phone cameras, the Dustbuster, solar energy, water purification, invisible braces, satellite television, and Mylar to name just a very small few.

There are over 1,500 more inventions and improvements attributed to NASA alone so one can only imagine how many came about from their research. Yes, there are other philanthropic causes that we as a country should be investing in but why take away the one administration that benefits all of mankind?

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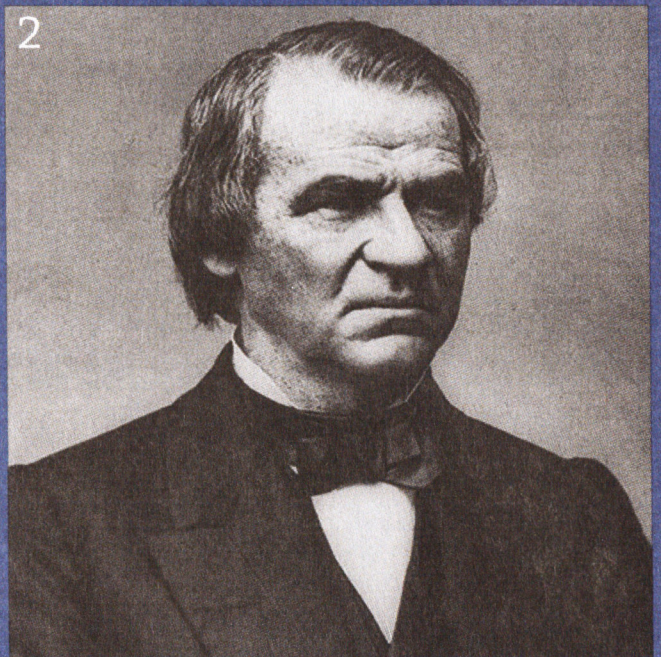
NAME THAT PRESIDENT!

You may think you know your presidents, but you probably don't remember any of these guys. It's okay, they contributed almost nothing to our nation's history anyway! Stump your friends, family and yourself with *The Press'* presidential quiz! Fill in the blanks to spell out name of our nations most obscure leaders from history!

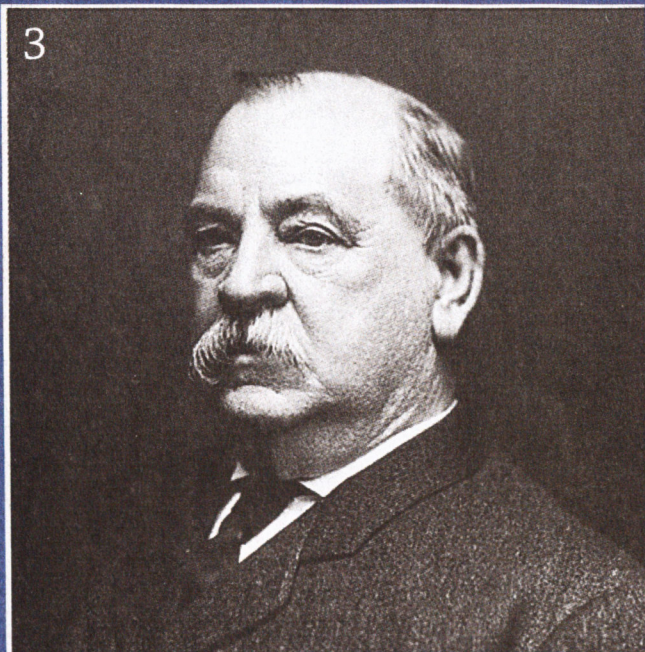
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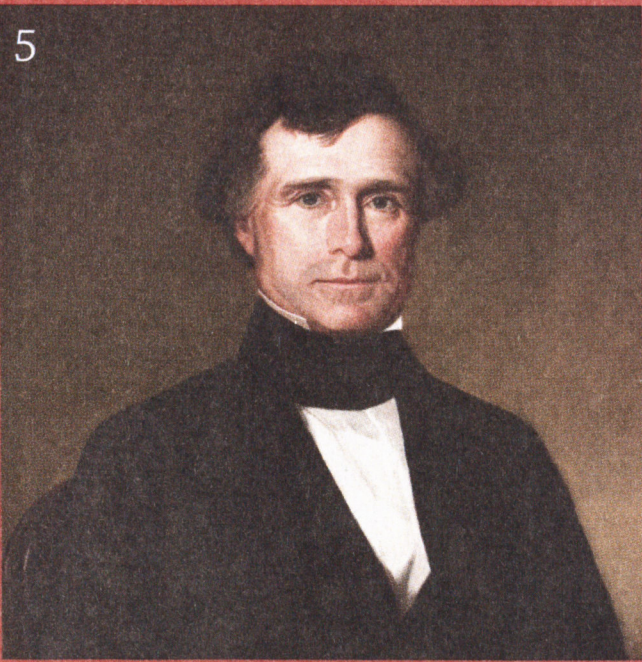


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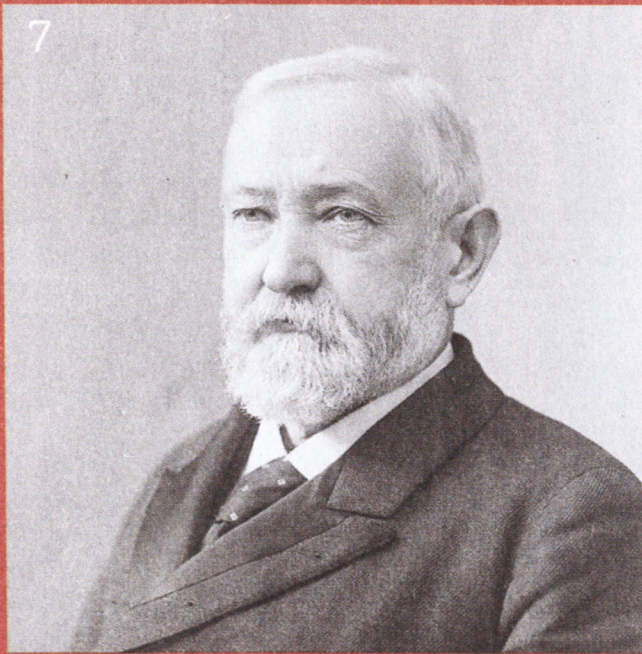


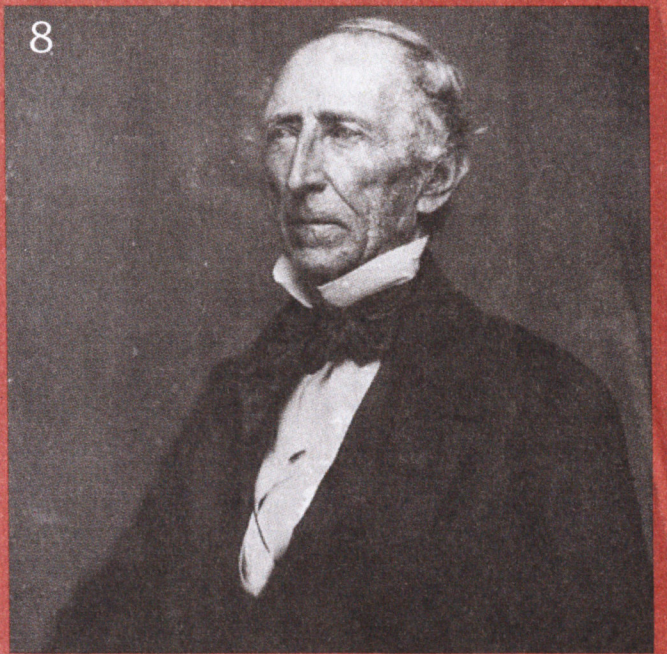
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Mellowing Out : The Natural Sights and Sounds of Earth Sounds



by **Nowshad Hussain**
photo by **Max Wei**

It isn't everyday that I get to experience a harmonious balance of Mongolian musical instruments that I've never seen, heard or known about, an Australian aboriginal didgeridoo, and a Native American flutes. It really didn't matter, though. When you listen to it the first time, you gain an entirely new experience that makes you stare out into the performance with awe and amazement. It was cultural cohesiveness, melding together into one, melodious note of song that transcended throughout the audience.

The Wang Asian American Center at Stony Brook University hosted *Earth Sounds*, a musical ensemble that encompasses Native American, Mongolian and Australian music together into one resounding musical masterpiece. It was headlined by Grammy-nominated Navajo flutist R. Carlos Nakai, who brought the Native American flavor into the ensemble early on with the distinctive sound of the

Native American flute. It sounded historical, it sounded distinctly Indian and it sounded amazing.

Accompanying Nakai, Stephen Kent, a player of the aboriginal didgeridoo, brought along his own taste of musical resonance, in the form of the iconic Australian musical instrument. Wonky, dramatic and full of emotion, the didgeridoo worked well with Nakai's flutes and formed a musical harmony that meshed together tranquility and earthliness.

What came later was an entirely new listening experience for me: the playing of the Mongolian *yataq* by Munkh-Erdene Chuluunbat (Mogi) and the *morin khuur ofkhoomei* throat singer, Shinetsog Dorjnyam (Shinee). For the first time, I got to experience real Mongolian music in the forms of these two wonderful musicians.

Munkh-Erdene played the *yataq*, a form of musical instrument that can best be described as a stringed instrument on a table. But this definition isn't sufficient to make someone understand the sheer brilliance of Mogi's playing, the way she

seamlessly engages herself within the instrument and provides even crisp Mongolian language vocals along with her harmonious plucking.

Her Mongolian counterpart, Shinee, provided us with an unusual, yet amazing form of vocal called *khoomji*, a form of vocalization implemented by the throat. It was beautiful to see the *yatak* and Shinee's throat singing alongside his two-stringed instrument called the *morin khuur* working together to create a distinctive Mongolian flavor to the entire show.

With the combination of Nakai's flutes and Kent's didgeridoo, the ancient traditions of three iconic cultures welded together to give the audience an experience of the natural, giving us a feel of the Earth and her sounds and to display the traditions of nomadic life and migrations that these three cultures experience even today. Combining their respective instruments together, the musicians created a sound of nature that touched upon all facets of their respective cultures.

Personally, I enjoyed the entire experience. It can also be said about the audience as well. The audience whooped and cheered them for an encore after their performance was done and they gifted us with a

contemporary mix of their music that never failed to touch upon the graces of their ancient cultures.

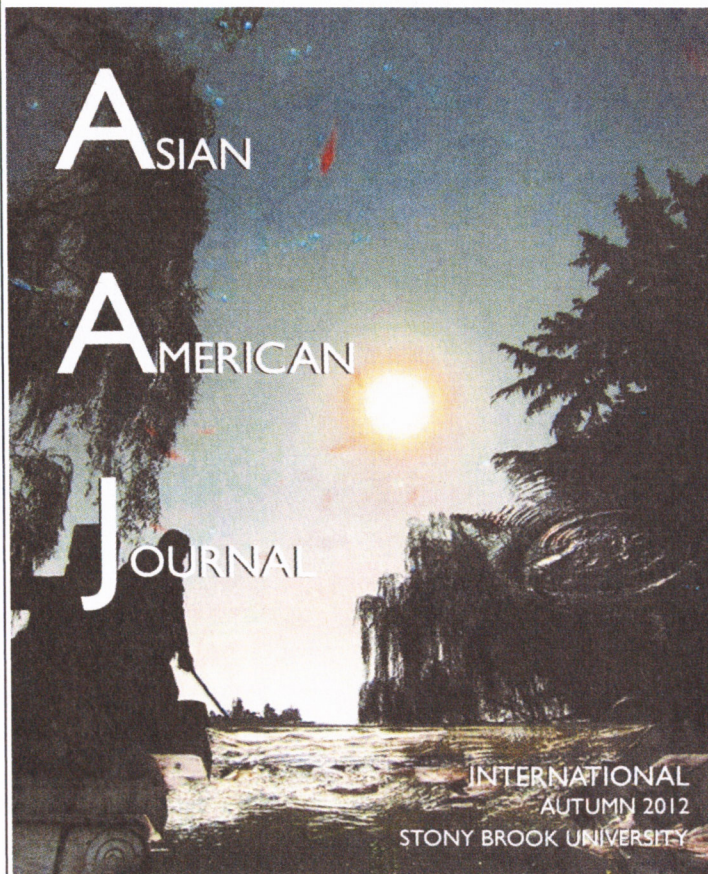
Resounding through the theater, their music left an impression on me. It gave me an insightful and first hand look at three cultures mixing their musical traditions together for a harmonious balance of song. Nakai's flute made me think about the Great Plains of America, the seasonal migrations that happened during the olden times that Native Americans took (which I've only read through a history book), the simplistic lifestyle of the Indians of America. Kent's didgeridoo gave me an impression of the Australian indigenous, a culture distinct from the contemporary Australian culture of today. Mogi and Shinee's Mongolian instruments made me think about horses, revered and iconic in Mongolian culture, riding along the steppes.

With all these combined, I sensed the earth as a whole. A world of peace, transcending through natural sights and sounds, musically tranquil and serene, and the world seemed a little more peaceful during that wonderful performance.

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