

# NEWS & BLUES

Volume I, No.3

The Newspaper of Stony Brook's Graduate Students

March 2001

## "Re-Shrinking" SUNY

STONY BROOK BUDGET HANGS ON WHIMS  
OF LEGISLATURE AND GOVERNOR

The Governor of New York has enormous power to influence the course of SUNY's – and therefore Stony Brook's – future, both through budget proposals and appointments to the SUNY Board of Trustees. Since his election in 1994, Governor George Pataki has presided over some of the toughest times in Stony Brook's history. The 1995 manifesto "Rethinking SUNY," promulgated by the SUNY Trustees under Pataki's leadership, initiated a new philosophy that put saving money ahead of traditional university priorities like scholarship, access, academic freedom, and quality. Many of the negative changes that we now contend with, including rapid and indiscriminate adjunctification of SUNY's faculty, the downsizing and capping of departments, and drastic rises in tuition, can be traced directly to Pataki's initiatives. Every year George Pataki has proposed – and sometimes gotten – either steep tuition increases or deep cuts in SUNY's State funding. Most recently, the SUNY Chancellor, Robert L. King (a Pataki appointee), called upon SUNY campuses to bring in \$5 billion additional over the next five years – that's in private contributions. If the past is anything to judge by, these new moneys will be used as a justification for further cuts in state support of higher education. George Pataki is up for re-election in 2002.

Challengers have already begun to announce their intention to run for Governor, most notably former Clinton Housing and Urban Development Secretary, Andrew Cuomo (Mario's son), and New York's highest ranking Democrat in the state government, Comptroller H. Carl McCall. It is extremely important to people interest-

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## How, Exactly, Did That Credit Card Company Get Your Name?

If you've gotten a lot of credit card solicitations in the mail recently, you're not alone. Students in general are an important target group for credit card companies and phone solicitation groups. They want to get young people hooked early on the habit of buying on credit. But where do these companies and telemarketers get information about students? According to Stony Brook's Development Office, which is responsible for raising money for the campus, student information does not come from the University. A conversation with University Counsel Gerriane Sands confirmed this. According to Ms. Sands, University policy does not allow the sale of student information or lists to vendors, and neither does New York State law.

Five or six years ago, however, the Stony Brook Alumni Association signed a contract with a credit card company called First USA that gives them access to the entire alumni list, according to Barbara Rogus, the Director of Alumni Relations, a Stony Brook graduate alumna herself (MA, Math, 1988). If you are an advanced graduate student your name will probably appear on that alumni list. This is because alumni lists include anyone who has ever gotten any degree from Stony Brook. They include people who received Master's degrees en route to the Ph.D., regardless of current student status. There is about a one-year time lag between when the University grants a degree and when the Alumni Association gets access to it.

Cardholders who choose to apply can get a "Stony Brook" MasterCard or Visa card with a choice of campus scenes on the card, and Ms. Rogus says that First USA offers competitive interest rates for purchases. First USA has also offered additional enticements, the best known being the free fleece jersey emblazoned with a Stony Brook logo. Most colleges and universities have arrangements like this, as do many other organizations; you can get any number of credit cards that are similarly affiliated with sports teams, automobile manufacturers, or non-profits. Of course, Stony Brook University gets a cut of the profits that First USA takes in from the Stony Brook credit accounts.

First USA is allowed to market their credit cards to Stony Brook alumni – but they are not allowed to re-sell the lists. If, however, you ever apply for a credit card with First USA, your name become the property of First USA, and they can do whatever they like with it, within the limits of the agreement you sign when you apply. This means you will probably get more credit card solicitations, and your name will likely be sold and resold.

The Alumni Association has also made arrangements with a travel agency and an insurance company. These concerns do not directly access the alumni lists, as First USA does, and in fact they provide only the mailing materials, and the Alumni Association itself sends the mailings. Like for the credit cards, once anyone responds to the solicitation, that name is "owned" by the travel agency or the insurance company. The Alumni Association takes a kind of "finders fee" of roughly 3% of sales that are made through the use of alumni lists.

The Alumni Association also has an arrangement with Harris Publications, which publishes a Stony Brook alumni directory. Having personal information published beyond the date and nature of the degree received in the directory is totally voluntary, though Harris sends out numerous little yellow postcards begging for such information. Once the directory is published (several editions have been published and are

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## SB Science Fiction Institution Quietly Prospers

More than three decades ago in a dormitory room in Roth Quad's Hendrix (Henry) College, a few science fiction enthusiasts merged their book collections and began meeting to talk about their common interest. Today, the direct descendant of that initiative lives on in the basement Harriman Hall as the Science Fiction Forum. The longest-running club at Stony Brook – older even than Polity, the undergraduate student governance organization – the Science Fiction Forum ("the Forum" to

members) is a Stony Brook surprise.

Its membership is made up of a diverse group of women and men graduate and undergraduate students who share a fresh and enthusiastic interest in science fiction and its various vaguely associated literary and cultural territories. Confounding the stereotype of the science fiction enthusiast as a "geeky," socially maladroitness, white male overly engrossed in hard science, the members in attendance at a club meeting on a

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*Martin Luther King III spoke at the SAC Auditorium.*

## M. L. King III Pays Valentine's Day Visit

In his opening remarks to the packed SAC auditorium, Martin Luther King III made sure to "Thank God for the opportunity" to be speaking at Stony Brook. Though not a minister himself, the son of the murdered civil rights leader made plain the centrality of his faith to his philosophy of social change in his public Valentine's Day lecture. To judge by this talk, Mr. King's abiding faith in the continued value and cultural currency of Christian love imbues and directs his ideas. This is a little old fashioned in today's world of "new Democrats," but according to Mr. King, we are still dealing with the "same old dogs": poverty, racism, and violence. In one of the most touching moments of his talk, Mr. King recounted his thoughts when, as a ten year old boy, his father was assassinated. This was no crass exploitation of his father's death. Instead, it became a point of departure to re-assert the doctrine that one should separate the evil act from the individual. Hate the sin, but love the sinner. This is a difficult message to get across in a world where prisons warehouse criminals to punish and exact revenge rather than rehabilitate them.

It is always risky to try to gauge audience response to a speaker, but in this case, there can be little doubt that Mr. King's message was welcomed and well-received. As he spoke for more than 45 minutes, his speech was regularly interrupted by applause, laughter, and individual exclamations of agreement ("Tell it!" "That's right!"). The standing room only crowd also included quite a

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## News & Blues

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## From the Editor's Desk

### The *REAL* Presidential Scandal:

There has been a whole lot of play in the news media about the failures of former President Bill Clinton - he abused the presidential power to pardon, he stole housewares and art from the White House, he was complicit in the removal of the letter "w" from White House keyboards. Even to his stalwart admirers, it may be disappointing that he pardoned a drug dealer, for example. But do these peccadilloes deserve to be called "scandals"? As George W. Bush said about the national dialog on abortion during his campaign (and I paraphrase), surely intelligent, caring people can disagree about these things.

It's telling that George W. was one of the voices crying "enough" about the issue of Bill Clinton's use of the presidential pardon. But if we look beyond his palaver, we find that on the far more important issues of reproductive freedom for women, the separation of church and state, the place in the national hierarchy of priorities for race relations and AIDS education, Mr. Bush will do what *he* wants, regardless of the fact that honest, decent people may disagree with him, the same people among whom he lost the popular vote, both nationally, and in Florida. That's a *REAL* scandal.

### The Importance of Voting "Yes" on the GSEU Contract, and "No" on the Referenda...

Let there be no mistake about the facts around the question of the upcoming GSEU contract vote. The proposal for the third GSEU contract with the

State of New York is weak, flawed, and late, as detailed last month in this space. Nevertheless, it presents the only chance for any salary increases for the 50% of graduate student workers who have likely never received a pay raise the entire time they've been employed by SUNY. Voting the contract down at this point would put New York State negotiators in a corner.

What it will do is deny current students real money they desperately need now. It's not equitable, it's not enough - but at this point it's better than nothing, and "nothing" is the alternative.

The thing to do now is to help this contract pass, let it go into force, and immediately begin gearing-up on a campus-wide and statewide basis for the *next* contract talks: Start collecting data on the contract's failings; document cost of living changes over time - and differentials across the state. Most important, the rank and file need to see to it that they get some new people into positions of leadership within the GSEU so that this kind of contract will never again be put before the membership.

The current GSEU Statewide "leadership," comprised of President Monazir Khan, Secretary-Treasurer Rick O'Gorman, Area Vice Presidents Kathleen Sims (Albany), Kevin Kniffen (Binghamton) and Ramon Del Castillo (Stony Brook), as well as all the "appointed" Executive Committee Representatives must RESIGN and hold immediate, open, fully-advertised new elections.

Their latest disaster scheme is basically to dissolve the GSEU by merging it with other CWA locals, at the same time that they want to raise dues to pay for their own continued incompetence and "expenses."

Vote YES on the Contract. Vote NO on raising the dues, and NO to merging the GSEU out of existence. Kick the bums out and take back control of their union, but hold onto the pay increases.

--Jacob Heller (former GSEU Officer, Negotiator, Organizer)

## March Calendar of Events

### March 7

11:30 a.m. **Jacek Chowdhary** (NASA/Goddard Institute for Space Studies/Columbia Univ.): "Photopolarimetric Remote Sensing of Aerosol Properties Over Ocean and Land," Endeavor Hall 120.

12:40 p.m. **H. Carl McCall** (NY State Comptroller): "Overcoming Incredible Obstacles." SAC Auditorium, (2-6470).

12:40 p.m. **Dorothy Brower** (SUNY SB Grad Student): "Merchandising Women's Trauma: When Society Becomes a Women's Benedict Arnold," Peace Center, Old Chemistry.

### March 8

4:00 p.m. **Barbara Garson** (MacArthur Fellow & author): "Money Makes the World Go Around: One Investor Tracks Her Cash Through the Global Economy from Brooklyn to Bangkok and Back," Earth and Space Science Building, Room 001.

7:00 p.m. **Pat Gorman** (Herstory

Writers Workshop): reading from *The Mexican Shaman and the Girl from Queens*, Peace Center, Old Chemistry.

### March 12

4:30 p.m. **Connie Koppelman** (SUNY SB Women's Studies): "Customizing the Body: Tattoo Art By and On Women," Peace Center, Old Chemistry.

### March 13

11:30 a.m. **Emiliano Corral** (Dartmouth/U. of Chicago): "Regimes of Value: Commodities, Region and State in Mexico and the American South, 1890-1910," Latin American & Caribbean Center, SBS N-320 (2-7517).

### March 14

11:30 a.m. **Nathaniel H. Winstead** (Ocean Remote Sensing Group/Johns Hopkins): "Expressions of Mesoscale Atmospheric Phenomena in Surface Wind Speed Images Derived from the Synthetic Aperture Radar Aboard RADARSAT-1," Endeavor Hall 120.

4:00 p.m. **Steven J. Peitzman** (Professor of Medicine and University Historian, Allegheny University of the Health Sciences): "Creating a Woman's Place in Medicine: Philadelphia 1850-1900," Health Sciences Center, L2 (444-8029).

### March 15

4:00 p.m. **Marci Lobel** (SUNY SB Psychology): "PMS and Menopause: The Truth is Not What We've Been Sold," Peace Center, Old Chemistry.

### March 25

3:00 p.m. **Ho Sun Moon** (SUNY SB Music Alumna): Chamber Music Recital, Staller Center Recital Hall.

### March 27

11:30 a.m. **Jordan Alpert** (NCEP/NOAA): "Developments on Modeling at the Environmental Modeling Center," Endeavor Hall 120.

5 p.m. **Philip N. Sussman** (Executive VP, Corporate Development. Memory

Pharmaceuticals Corp.): "The Strategy Beyond the Science" - Careers in Business Development. Life Sciences 038. (2-8521)

### March 28

12:40 p.m. **Paul Gootenberg** (SUNY SB History): "Cocaine as Latin American History," Latin American & Caribbean Center, SBS N-320 (2-7517).

1:00 p.m. **Traci Nix** (SUNY SB Counseling Center Intern): "The Life and Art of Rosie O'Neill: Cupies and Monsters," Wo/Men's Center Library, SB Union Rm. 211.

### March 29

7:00 p.m. **Laura Williams** (Director Wo/Men's Center): "The Dove and the Elephant: The Marriage of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera Impact on Her Art," Wo/Men's Center Library, SB Union Rm. 211.

If you'd like to have your talks, meetings, performances, or other events that are free and open to the University Community listed in this space, send information to the Editor at [jheller@notes.cc.sunysb.edu](mailto:jheller@notes.cc.sunysb.edu)

# Opinions, Letters, and Ideas...

## Vote "No!" On the GSEU Contract

Jeremy Hubbell  
History Department

Contrary to the triumphalism you might be swallowing about the new GSEU contract, I am writing to tell you that this contract is bad for you and bad for the union! Vote "No!" and by doing so demand a real, honest contract that actually improves your life! Let's demand an adjustment which raises the TA stipend to a wage level that meets the Stony Brook Five Year Plan vision of stipends "competitive with other research universities and suitable for living on Long Island" now – not 2005.

My reasoning does not focus on the health care issue – although our contract is not aggressive enough and does not satisfy union grievances over health issues, but the contract will withdraw those grievances if approved. Instead, I consider that it is Pataki's intent, which the administration shares (look no further than the effort a few years ago to eliminate the history department entirely), to render the humanities (and math) undesirable. They are succeeding. Nationwide, faculties have been able to halt and sometimes reverse the trend towards increased adjuncting and loss of tenure. Thus, here in New York, they are attempting -- because the faculty have strength (and they can't strike either according to the president's logic but somehow they still have leverage) -- to force the faculty into accepting larger work loads and making it severely unattractive for TAs to come into the system. The sciences and medicine are winning in all this because Pataki and the rest consider a world composed solely of physicists and doctors to be an ideal world. I find that scary, so I say no to this agenda.

The specific terms of the contract, as I understand them, provide a cost-of-living increase roughly equivalent to inflation on a wage packet that has never been at the level of poverty. (How funny is that?) What does such an increase mean? Nothing. The increase in fuel cost alone will evaporate it and then some. Those lines concerning this increase should be a small line, as it is on every other union contract I've ever heard about, which comes after a wage adjustment. In other words, and to be clear, living increases on the order of 2-4% belong in the fine print not at the center of the triumphalist argument urging a yes vote. We have no wage adjustment – which should be on the order of 100% -- in this contract. Not only will

we all remain below the poverty line, but the disparities between humanities and other departments will continue. So my reasoning is not simply that the terms suck and we do not rise out of poverty but this contract further solidifies a precedent that the last contract began of making the TA position equivalent to the sweatshop on campus. Thus we TAs (especially in humanities) are lesser citizens of the SUNY network and I say, no way.

Thinking positively for the union and for the future (that is, voting NO) might mean that those about to leave the bargaining unit will not receive their bonus. As this has been put forward as a support for a yes vote, I say to those in that position, do you really want to see this farce continue? Can you really be bribed so openly as to vote for this insult of a contract and establish us in a sweatshop until 2003 where precedent will continue the trend? But more importantly, is that really what the contract says and could the wording be fixed (there is nothing but "thrift" preventing bribes and retroactive pay from covering those who worked during the contract period regardless of employee status)? Such a situation as this bribery entails, really stinks and is no credit to the leadership which suggests this ratification is well timed to include new members and those about to leave. Obviously with money flashing in the eyes that nearly equals a month's rent (if you are lucky), those about to leave the bargaining unit will be inclined to yes.

Voting no will not change Pataki's mind about us but it will say we are not dogs to be kicked when we rush to grab the bare bones which fall from the table. It says we do have leverage and we do demand that this ugly contract be removed from our noses and a new one worked out. That new contract should

## Adjunct Problems Create Novel Inequalities

Dear Editor,

I am writing to commend you on your recent (December, 2000) excellent article on "The Adjunctification of Stony Brook." The increasing use of adjuncts at Stony Brook, documented in your recent commentary, makes the unacceptable working conditions of adjuncts a major problem that can no longer be ignored. In particular, the low pay of adjuncts is a shameful unacceptable labor practice that needs to be addressed and corrected.

Graduate students are directly affected by the adjunct issue, since many graduate students are hired as adjuncts, either in the summer or in the advanced years of their program. As adjuncts, most graduate students get paid less than they did as T.A.'s. There is no other occupational counterpart of which I am aware that allows union-negotiated pay to novice/apprentice members of a profession to exceed the pay of more experienced/senior members. Graduate student T.A.'s at Stony Brook make, on average, \$10,000 a year, teaching (or, more often, assisting with teaching) one course a semester. In stark contrast, an adjunct lecturer (generally either an advanced graduate student or Ph.D.) usually receives only \$5,000-\$6000 teaching one course each semester! Graduate students need to help in the fight for better, more equitable pay for part-time faculty members.

Nancy E. Sacks, Ph.D.  
Adjunct Lecturer, Dept. of Sociology

demand a wage structure tied to the poverty line (what an odd thing to demand in this flush world). It should also stop this idiotic situation where lump sums are presented as great and wondrous things. To people barely making ends meet, of course I'll vote with the emperor who gives me good sums of bread but I always wake up hungry -- what will I eat then, my bread is gone. No bonuses, we want a significant increase in wages!

Obviously, the discussion over the past month has been heated. Those who can only see the bonus before their eyes and not the larger picture were adamantly in support for the contract and money was the rallying cry (as well as, 'we won't get nothing more'). But look at the larger picture – are you happy with the state of education at SUNY and the correspondent monetary valuation put on your work? Do you really want to continue for four more years making the same wages since inflation makes the increase \$0.00? I say, "No."

Vote with pride, vote with dignity, vote no.

## SUNY's Future Hangs In the Balance Next Gubernatorial Election

*Continued from first page*

ed in the future of public higher education in New York that the next occupant of the Governor's Mansion be SUNY-friendly; SUNY needs a governor who supports public higher education. In order for that to happen, everyone who cares about SUNY must be informed about the issues and the candidates – and vote.

On March 7, Stony Brook will have a chance to look over one of the front-runners to challenge Pataki. Comptroller McCall will be visiting Stony Brook at the invitation of the Minority Planning Board and the Polity Council. His talk, titled "Overcoming Incredible Obstacles," will be a lecture on the impact that students in higher education can have on the political process. He will speak during campus lifetime (12:40 – 2:00 p.m.) in the SAC Auditorium.

McCall's record suggests that he will be a Governor sympathetic to SUNY's needs and mission, if elected. In 1998, McCall's office authored the scathing report, "New York State's Higher Education Policy Vacuum," which details how state support for SUNY and CUNY has changed over the last decade to the detriment of the population it is designed to serve,

and to the two systems (see box). McCall's campaign website proclaims that he has consistently fought to block cuts to SUNY, CUNY and student aid and to preserve high quality public education in New York, and that he has consistently opposed tuition increases that make college less affordable.

He has also argued for the de-politicization of the SUNY Board of trustees: "For far too long, the trustee appointment process has been nothing but politics, pure and simple," McCall said at an Albany press conference in early February of this year. "The Governor and Mayor essentially have the power to appoint whoever they want to control one of our most important resources - our public universities. Although the

State Senate confirms appointees, we need change to ensure that decisions in the university are made on the basis of what is right for the students, not for the politicians."

There is no sign that Governor Pataki has any intention of helping public higher education anytime soon. His latest proposed budget calls for \$8.4 million in cuts from programs at SUNY and the community college system, and \$2.8 million in cuts from CUNY.

"According to recent figures from State University System Administration, total revenues supporting SUNY state-operated colleges in 1996-97 were \$4.3 billion, but after deducting all university generated income, such as tuition, fees, hospital income and research, state resources provided only about \$1.5 billion. That figure also includes indirect state support provided through student aid (primarily TAP) and direct support is about \$1.4 billion. Ignoring the subsidy paid to university hospitals, fringe benefits, debt service and capital, the net state support for SUNY's core operating budget was \$695 million."

— from the Office of the State Comptroller, (see <http://www.osc.state.ny.us/reports/schools/1998/9-98.htm> for the full report)



# GSO STUFF

Don't Be Left of Out The Process - Make Sure Your Vote Gets Counted  
Nominate someone - Nominate Yourself! - for a GSO OFFICER Position!

## GSO ELECTIONS 2001-2002

### Call for Nominations for the Following Offices:

*These are all paid positions.*

PRESIDENT  
VICE PRESIDENT  
SECRETARY  
TREASURER

(See next panel --> for a description of the responsibilities and the pay rates of each)

#### Procedure:

##### 1) If you are nominating yourself:

- On a sheet of paper, print your name, department, phone and ID numbers;
- Include a brief, typed statement (200 words or less) indicating why you are seeking the position, what your objectives are if you are elected, etc. This statement will be included on the election ballot. Unless we receive your statement, your name WILL NOT appear on the ballot.

##### 2) If you are nominating someone else:

- On a sheet of paper, print your name, department, phone and ID numbers;
- In addition please provide this same information for the person you are nominating, and which position you are nominating them for.
- You must inform the individual that he or she has been nominated, and they must include a brief, typed statement (200 words or less) indicating why they are seeking the position, what their objectives are if they are elected, etc. This statement will be included on the election ballot. **Unless we receive their statement, their name WILL NOT appear on the ballot.**

- All nominees must obtain at least 25 graduate student signatures (with their names and ID numbers printed alongside them) in order to be placed on the election ballot.

**DEADLINE:** All nominations must be returned to the GSO Office (227 Student Activities Center, Z=2800) by

**FRIDAY, MARCH 30<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM**

*If you have need for any further information:*

E-mail: [usbgsa@hotmail.com](mailto:usbgsa@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.sinc.sunysb.edu/Clubs/gso](http://www.sinc.sunysb.edu/Clubs/gso)

#### **The President shall** (\$4,000 per 10 month academic year):

- act as a spokesperson for the GSO in the presentation of its positions and enunciation of its policies;
- supervise the execution of Senate-approved legislation;
- appoint and remove members of all GSO and University committees, subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the Senate, over which the GSO holds power of appointment;
- nominate and recommend the removal of candidates, subject to confirmation by a majority vote of the Senate, for University committees over which the GSO holds no power of appointment
- chair meetings of the Executive Council;
- in conjunction with the present and incoming Executive Councils, conduct an open search for the position of Graduate Student Advocate to serve in the following academic year, and recommend a candidate to the Graduate School;
- approve the hiring and removal of GSO administrative personnel;
- hire and remove the GSO Control & Disbursement (C&D) Agent, subject to a majority vote of the Senate.
- Report at each Senate meeting a summary of her or his activities and such activities of the University Committees which may be of interest to GSO members;
- have the power to interpret this Constitution at GSO Senate meetings. In the President's absence, this power devolves upon the Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer, in that order.

#### **The Vice President shall** (\$3,000 per 10 month academic year):

- assist the President in the execution of her or his duties;
- fulfill the responsibilities and duties delegated to her or him by the President;
- chair the GSO Senate in the absence of the Speaker;
- report at each Senate meeting a summary of her or his activities which may be of interest to GSO members.

#### **The Secretary shall** (\$3,000 per 10 month academic year):

- record, publish, and report the minutes of Senate and Executive Council meetings;
- assist the President with the dissemination of GSO matters to the public;
- maintain and distribute a membership list of the Senate;
- chair the Election Committee;
- report at each Senate meeting a summary of her or his activities which may be of interest to GSO members.

#### **The Treasurer shall** (\$4,000 per 10 month academic year):

- chair the Budget Committee;
- be responsible for the management of all GSO revenues and expenditures, as detailed in the Budget Committee Bylaws;
- in conjunction with the Budget Committee, the Executive Council and future officers, prepare the organization's budget for the following academic year;
- provide an oral and written update on the state of GSO finances at least once every semester;
- report at each Senate meeting a summary of her or his activities which may be of interest to GSO members.

#### **Election of Officers**

Candidates for office must be members of the GSO. The officers of the GSO shall be chosen in a membership-wide election held in the month of May, in accordance with the Elections Committee Bylaws. Candidates are elected by a plurality of all votes cast for the office. Should the membership-wide election result in a tie vote, the Senate shall vote to decide which of the candidates shall become President. Newly elected officers shall take office on July 1 and shall serve through June 30 of the following year. No member shall hold more than one office at a time. All offices shall have two-term limits. Only individuals who are qualified to serve in the office of President may serve in the office of Vice President.

## Habitat for Humanity

Clark Berge

*Protestant Campus Ministry Chaplain*

**T**his spring there are two opportunities to help build a house with Habitat for Humanity. March 31 and April 21 Stony Brook University students, faculty and staff are invited to help build a home. Habitat for Humanity builds homes for people who could not otherwise have a home of their own. It's a great opportunity to do something of real practical significance in the life of another person, especially if you have very limited time to volunteer.

The Habitat for Humanity project has been historically connected with the Protestant Campus Ministry (PCM) here at Stony Brook. For the last several years students have helped build homes around Long Island. This year, PCM joined forces with the Year of Community Service, and the Habitat project is one of many ways that students can integrate personal volunteer commitments with academic and professional life. Stony Brook is serious about making an impact in the local community through direct, practical service. Next year, it is hoped Stony Brook can work with Habitat to build a home entirely by the Stony Brook University community.

There are many ways to be involved. There are various fundraisers happening across campus, since all groups that participate in building a Habitat house are

asked to contribute towards the cost of construction materials. Look for opportunities to give; one easy way is to go on-line and complete the Year of Community Service Survey, then give the \$1.00 payment to the Habitat fund. If you are interested in giving time working on the site of the house, contact the Protestant Campus Ministry office at 632-6563, or by e-mail [cberge@notes.cc.sunysb.edu](mailto:cberge@notes.cc.sunysb.edu). We need 30 volunteers on March 31 and 15 on April 21. Volunteers who build the house work with the people for whom the house is being built. Each prospective homeowner must help with the building of their home. Habitat for Humanity provides the construction supervisors to oversee the work and to help you do the work safely and efficiently.

Whatever your involvement, working on a Habitat project is a great way to think about why it is necessary. Affordable housing on Long Island is practically non-existent. It is a significant factor inhibiting the growth of business and industry on the island. Where are the workers supposed to live? Even more basic is to think about how decent housing is one of the basic concerns of a civil society, something that should be available to all. Giving time and money is a way to act on your own concern and help to make a huge impact on the life of a family and to contribute to the improvement of the local community.

# Martin Luther King III's Valentine's Day Message

*Continued from first page*

few groups of high school student who made the trip from surrounding school districts to hear the son of the famous civil rights leader speak.

Children are important to Mr. King. He repeatedly referred to them as "our most precious resource" and called upon our society to love and value them as our future, making special reference to the state of "impoverished schools." (He seemed unaware that more and more Stony Brook University falls into that category.) As he glanced around the auditorium, he seemed rather crestfallen that there were very few young children attending the talk. As someone who's childhood years were spent deeply involved on the inside of the civil rights movement, he conveyed the importance of children learning social activism and morality directly from family, and by example. This was a talk for future generations.

Dr. King is the descendant of a long line of Southern Baptist Preachers and he relies heavily on religious judgments for his arguments about poverty, racism and social responsibility. In spite of this, there was absolutely no equivocation in his voice as he answered an audience member about the best response to the new presidential administration. In general he advised caution and watchfulness; he asked people to extend a guarded - and politic - "benefit of the doubt." He also spoke in favor of real and continued activism to make sure that the right to vote won by many Americans thirty-five years ago during his father's era would never again be vitiated by the kinds of corrupt practices that discounted hundreds of thousands of votes in Florida. He described President Bush's new "faith-based initiative" as extremely troubling for its infringement on the separation of church and state.

After the public lecture, Mr. King held an hour-long "rap session" with a select group of Stony Brook undergraduate and graduate students. Sitting in a large circle in a meeting room on the third floor of the SAC (with President

Kenny smiling continuously beside him) he stated his continued pleasure at meeting with students and young people in general. In the course of the informal conversation that followed, he also reaffirmed his support for a variety of social programs, and his support for traditional liberal causes, including affirmative action. When a graduate student who had benefited from affirmative action programs asked about ways to deal with the stigma that often comes with that, Mr. King responded that she should not feel she is in any way less qualified. "Somehow the meaning of affirmative action has been changed" from a system in which equally qualified individuals were also considered in terms of previous discrimination into the sense that it is a preference or "reverse discrimination" system, he said. Unlike many of his contemporaries he did not forswear or disavow affirmative action in any way. On the contrary, he simply advised that people should be prepared with other approaches to overcoming historical racism and discrimination, "in case affirmative action falls." Mr. King has strong credentials as a supporter of affirmative action: he was a co-founder of Americans United for Affirmative Action (see <http://www.auaa.org>).

When asked by students about the dearth of leadership and the feeling among the young people of today that they "no longer have a cause," Mr. King reminded the students that they, themselves, are tomorrow's leaders, and that they could not wait for others to come along and direct their future. He strongly advocated involvement in politics, particularly running for elective office, as a way to find one's political voice, and to make sure that the agenda stays "on track." He advised students to utilize the vast array of new technologies and resources to mobilize people on behalf of progressive causes. In his soft-spoken, personable, and eloquent way, he reminded those present that students had been crucial to every important civil rights movement over the past 40 years, and that they will doubtless be essential to the next one.

## University Teaching Fellowships Available

The Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) and the Council of Distinguished Teaching Professors are offering up to two University Teaching Fellowships for three consecutive semesters beginning in Fall 2001. Recipients of the Fellowship will have the opportunity to be mentored by one of two Distinguished Teaching Professors, Michael Barnhart (History) or Thomas Liao (Technology and Society). In addition to the regular Graduate Teaching Assistant stipend, each University Fellow will receive \$500 per semester.

Typically, in the first semester the Fellow will attend the Professor's class, conferring with him about course planning and teaching strategies and teaching a few class sessions; in the second semester, he or she will share more substantially in the teaching; and in the third term the Fellow will have full responsibility for the course, in consultation with the mentor. (Departmental scheduling needs may modify this pattern.)

A Fellow need not be in the Professor's department. Professor Barnhart's course, History 250: The Second World War, might interest graduate students in Comparative Studies, English, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, or other related fields. Graduate students in the sciences, engineering, or social sciences might be suitable for Professor Liao's course, EST 320: Modern Communication Systems.

The competition is open to students entering their second or third year of graduate study. To apply for a Fellowship, write to the Council of Distinguished Teaching Professors, explaining how you hope to benefit from the program and describing your prior teaching experience and other qualifications. Include a curriculum vitae and supporting letters from your graduate program director and another professor in your department. Submit these materials to Linda Prentiss at CELT (Library W1515, ZIP:3356) NO LATER THAN MONDAY, APRIL 2. Award winners will be announced by April 15. For further information about their courses, contact Professors Barnhart or Liao; for more information about the program, contact Professor Norman Goodman (Sociology).

## Get Your Mirrors Down

Jasmina Sinanovic

*Theatre Arts Department, MFA Dramaturgy  
Came to the US from Bosnia in 1995.*

**W**e survived the "vaginamania" that shook stages across the USA, including the Stony Brook Union auditorium on February 14. Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* was performed at around 200 places for the V-day. The piece attempts to turn our focus from phallocentricity to vaginacentricity and asks women to openly explore their for-centuries-neglected vaginas. While this is a lovely idea and while the production at Stony Brook, under direction of Lauren Garlick, was a charming and engaging one, one must wonder if identifying women with their vaginas is a step forward. After all, women are identified with their vaginas quite often in pornography; does this make the porn industry liberating?

However, to be fair to the *Monologues* they do raise some important issues. They reminded some women to get their little mirrors out and look "down there" if they haven't done that yet. The piece about an old woman (played by Lauren Garlick) afraid of getting sexually aroused due to her early negative sexual experience is moving. Another piece, which is supposed to be moving, is a piece about a Bosnian Muslim woman who was raped during the war in Bosnia. That story prompted me to write this response.

It is very hard for me to understand Ensler's motives in writing this particular piece. Rape was certainly one of the issues that should have been explored, but by setting it in Bosnia she removes it from the rest of the world. This is the only time in the play that a specific country is mentioned. She also specifies that the woman was of Muslim nationality. It is stated that many raped women who were interviewed were Bosnian Muslim women, which creates the image that only these women were raped. Ensler, however, interviewed only Bosnian refugees in Croatia who were mostly Muslim.

Secondly by juxtaposing the idyllic image of a woman's life in Bosnia before the war to that horrible experience of the war she creates an image of the woman as a victim. At the end of her trauma she leaves her helpless on stage without any hope for life after the rape. Women of Bosnia don't need to be victimized. They need strength not tears of misunderstanding. Furthermore, Ensler states that "rape had never been a part of (Bosnian Muslim) communities before the war." To believe this one has to be extremely naïve. While the rape might have not been used as a form of expressing ethnic hatred, it certainly existed as a form of sexual oppression.

Finally, Ensler devotes this piece to women of Bosnia and Kosovo just seconds after she said that every year 500 000 women in the U.S. get raped. I guess American women who had to deal with rape do not deserve a theater piece devoted to them.

It seems obvious that by writing this monologue into the play Eve Ensler had an agenda apart from "Vaginology." She wanted to make a political statement, which was in line with the mainstream American politics at the time. Just to remind those who did not have time to watch the news, Muslims were the "good guys" who were patiently waiting to get killed by the "bad guys." Bosnia today, five years after the war ended, is going through the process of healing and reconstruction and its people are trying to live together again after bloodshed. These people don't need to be pushed into another war by international propaganda.

# Stony Brook Science Fiction Institution Quietly Prospers

*Continued from first page*

chilly Thursday evening in late February were as cosmopolitan and interesting as any group at Stony Brook. When asked to account for the unusual longevity of the club at a place like Stony Brook, where continuity is more often measured in semesters than in decades, the unequivocal response from Club President Lorena Stuart was simply, "This club is something that people have a real passion for." Passion? At *Stony Brook*?

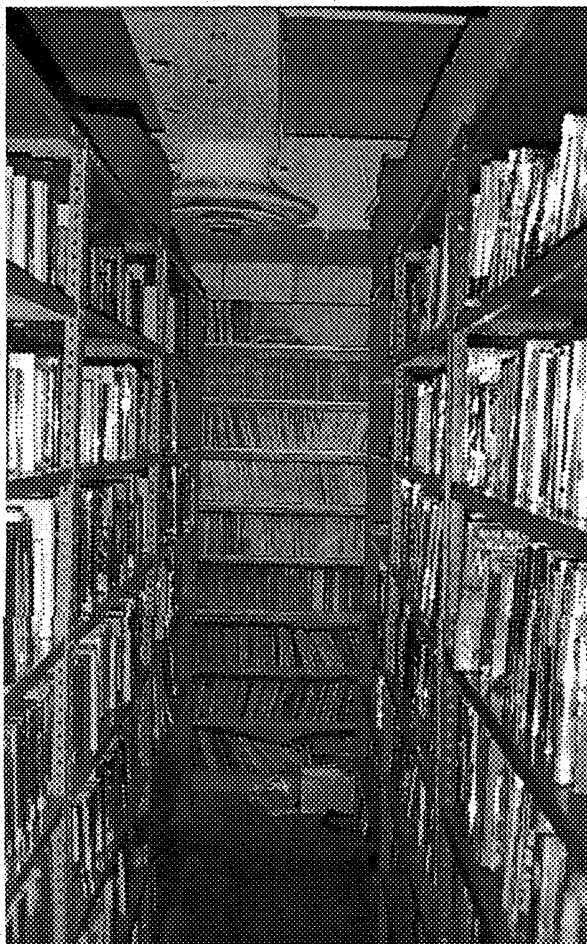
Contrary to the popular conception of Stony Brook as a school without active or enthusiastic students, the Science Fiction Forum evokes real devotion from its members. Most members tend to be involved students, active in at least one other club on campus. The unconventional mixture of graduate and undergraduate students in the Forum is partly a function of the science fiction realm – in which diversity and "difference" is more easily valued above conformity. But the grad/undergrad mix is also an artifact of the club itself: many undergraduates stay on at Stony Brook and pursue graduate work, some because of the ties and camaraderie they have established through their connection to the Forum.

The history of the Forum is intertwined with the history of Stony Brook. Founded in Hendrix College, the Forum has shifted around campus, residing at times in Old Biology (since converted into the SAC), a storage area in the main library, a closet, and most recently in the basement of Harriman. Other clubs and organizations have splintered off from the Science Fiction Forum, most notably ICON, which sponsors and organizes an annual science fiction convention at Stony Brook – the largest science fiction convention on the East Coast. ICON developed out of the Science Fiction Forum, and, as it became successful, took on a life of its own.

The club is not exclusive to science fiction – horror, fantasy, cyberpunk, and gothic enthusiasts are as welcome as traditional science fiction readers. And the focus, though reinforced through social advantages, remains on the books – all 35,000 of them. They are carefully organized on handmade wooden shelves from wall to wall and floor to ceiling, even overflowing across the hall into the lounge space. This is a bona fide library, because Forum members care enough to maintain and catalog the



Forum President Lorena Stuart in the library.



Some of the 35,000 publications in the Forum library.



Four Forum members relaxed as they spoke with News & Blues.

books, magazines, and other publications.

The collection is excellent, of its kind. For a variety of reasons, however, the Forum library is not affiliated with campus libraries. This has both advantages and disadvantages. At the Forum library there is no membership requirement to borrow a book, and there are no late fees. One sticking point for any formal affiliation with the campus library system is that the Forum library has no facility for interlibrary loan – which is a requirement of being part of the University system. There is also a serious concern that the University might simply "take over" the library, and that it would then lose its special qualities that makes people willing to come to "library parties" at which on a Saturday afternoon, people simply get together, bring some food and catalog the books, redecorate, or even repaint the spaces. Without the affiliation, however, the Forum library has to rely entirely on volunteer labor to keep the books in shape, organized, and cataloged. Resources like the Melville library bindery, which could be used to help preserve the increasingly old – and sometimes rare – items in the Forum collection, remain unavailable.

When asked about their reasons for becoming involved with the Forum in the first place, current members at the February 22 meeting expressed enthusiasm for the comfortable, sociable atmosphere that lets people do what they want. "It's a solid place where if you want you can sit on the couch and be ignored and stick your nose in a book for three hours, or if you want, you can watch TV, hang out with people." As Ms. Stuart put it, "I have a place to be on campus – I can read a book, talk to people. It's open as long as somebody who has a key is around. There are eleven officers, the four

required by Polity are all undergraduates, but at any given time at least half of the non-Polity officers are graduate students." So everyone is basically welcome. Clearly, it's not a place for everyone, but it's a little amazing to come down into the basement of Harriman Hall and find not just a room with 35,000 neatly cataloged books in it, but the kind of social space Stony Brook's students – graduate and

## Hey Grads!! Got Questions?? Ask Ed.

Meagen Reeve  
NYPIRG Project Coordinator

It is rare on a campus of this size – home to nearly 20,000 students – that graduate students see programs or speakers geared directly towards them or their needs. In attempts to rectify this, NYPIRG and the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) are co-sponsoring a visit from New York State Assemblyman Ed Sullivan, the Chair of the Assembly Higher Education Committee. Assemblyman Sullivan has been asked to speak specifically on graduate issues and answer questions based on the concerns of SUNY Stony Brook grads.

Judging from the history of lacking state support for graduate students, along with an increasing number of local issues including graduate housing and stipends, SB grads have many concerns that need to be addressed. Some of the issues on the agenda as part of NYPIRG's statewide Higher Education campaign include increasing state funding for graduate TAP (Tuition Assistance Program). Right now, the maximum amount of TAP a grad can receive stands at a pitiful \$500 (undergrad max is \$5000). Another target is increased funding for childcare. The governor's current budget proposes a \$5 million cut to childcare funding, when we know how badly schools – especially SB – need more money to accommodate an increasing demand on daycare.

The more interest grads show in issues affecting their own education, the greater a chance problems will be addressed and tackled. So bring these and your own concerns, questions and comments to SAC Room 309 on Friday, March 16th at 10:30am and give Assemblyman Sullivan a chance to hear what SB grads have to say.

See you there!

NYPIRG, the New York Public Interest Research Group, is the state's largest organization working on consumer and environmental protection and student's rights. NYPIRG contributes every month to *News and Blues* to keep the graduate community aware of current issues. For more information, contact the NYPIRG office at 2-6457 or SB Union Room 079.

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# The Final Ph.D. Hurdle — or —

## How Not to Stumble As You Are About to Leave Stony Brook

**I**N order to get through graduate school and receive the Ph.D. degree, every student must complete required coursework, pass oral exams and survive the proposal defense, all of which vary from department to department, and depend on the style of the thesis advisor and the makeup of the dissertation committee. Once a student jumps all these hurdles, s/he is advanced to candidacy and becomes "ABD" (All But Dissertation) — noted in the University bureaucracy by the designation G5. Now the "research and writing" stage formally begins; a stage of sometimes seemingly interminable length. This means that if everything was done correctly — all the forms submitted, all the signatures secured — G5 students need only to complete their research and write-up the formal dissertation or thesis. Eventually, a defense date is set by arrangement with the advising committee, and an "oral defense of dissertation" is held that is open to the University community. (NB: See your graduate secretary or graduate director for the specifics of this process,

and to make sure that your situation is in full compliance with University and Graduate School deadlines and procedures.) At the defense, the Ph.D. candidate defends her or his research, writing, logic, theory, analysis, proof, and conclusions. If the defense outcome is favorable, champagne and glasses may appear, flowers may be handed out, and a sigh of relief that has been building for years can finally be exhaled.

But wait — you're not done. Defending the dissertation and receiving the Ph.D. are related but not equivalent. The final hurdle involves "submitting the dissertation" to the Graduate School. This entails compliance with a sometimes arcane and seemingly endless series of rules and formats that must be used to transform your research into a form acceptable to the Graduate School. This spring, the deadline for submission of the thesis or dissertation manuscript to the Graduate School is 5 p.m. on May 11.

What you bring to the Graduate School in substantive terms depends on your area of research, but the way you

format and prepare it must correspond to a standardized plan. It's a good idea to ask your graduate secretary for the "Guide to the Preparation of Theses & Dissertations" published by the Graduate School — or go yourself to the Graduate School on the second floor of the Computer Science Building. For those who prefer it, the Guide is also available online at <http://www.grad.sunysb.edu/GUIDE.T&D/Guidet&d.htm> (it's 43 pages long, so either load your printer with toner — or better yet use one of the University's laser printers paid for with your "technology fee"). The Guide contains all the information you'll need to format and prepare your manuscript (typescript? computerscript?). It is a long and detailed document, however, and according to Sheila Levine, whose job at the Graduate School it is to check over and accept dissertations, there are some common mistakes, which are easily avoided:

- Make sure you use the correct paper. 8.5 x 11 inch white bond paper, at least 16 lb. weight, and with 25%

cotton or rag content. This is expensive paper, and you cannot simply substitute regular photocopy paper. Your submission will be returned to you, and you'll have to re-print it again on the higher quality paper.

- Package your dissertation properly. These seem like particularly arbitrary and Kafkaesque rules, but the first copy of your dissertation **MUST** be put into 9 x 12 inch clasp envelopes, divided-up so that no more than 60 pages are in each envelope (so a 300-page dissertation would need five 9 x 14 clasp envelopes). Each of the other three copies can be placed into any size envelope, and all in one envelope (assuming it fits).
- Have the formatting checked. Bring your formatted dissertation by the Graduate School a few weeks in advance to be sure there is time to make any necessary changes and have copies printed. May 11 is a real deadline, and last minute re-prints can be very expensive. The most expensive option is to "print directly from disk" at a commercial copy center. At as much as 50 cents per page, "printing from disk" — while perhaps convenient, is exorbitantly expensive. (see inset at left)
- Complete the "exit package" in advance. Stony Brook wants to know all about where you're going, and they have pages and pages of questions for you to answer. They won't want to let you go after a quick drop off — you'll have to sit there for an hour or more completing the questionnaire. These, like the formatting guide, can be obtained in advance from graduate secretaries or directly from the graduate school.

Finally — and we wouldn't recognize it as a Stony Brook institution without it — you have to pay to submit your dissertation, and for the University to keep copies of it. If you're paying at the Graduate School, bring your checkbook, a money order or good old cash. If you want to pay by credit card, you have to do that at the Bursar's Office. Always check with the Graduate School before you make arrangements, because fees might change (never lower, always higher). At this writing the costs for a Doctoral Candidate are: \$55.00 for microfilming costs; \$10.00 per copy (three copies) of the manuscript, if it's under 500 pages, otherwise it's another \$10.00 for each copy of each extra volume; a "processing and handling fee" of \$20.00; and finally an optional \$45.00 copyrighting fee. For a 300 page dissertation, that would mean an "exit tax" on the order of \$105 - \$150, depending on the copyright option. You can also order a copy of your work for yourself at additional cost.

### COMPARING COPYING COSTS...

There are a number of options to have manuscript copies reproduced in compliance with Graduate School rules. Below are cost comparisons at some area establishments. The University's own Graphic Support Services Office\* located in the basement of the Administration Building offers the best deal.

Example: 300 page original plus three copies (1200 pages)

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(360-0590, Nesconset highway, Lake Grove - Near Borders Bookstore):

25% cotton content; 11.5 cents / page	\$138.00 + tax.
bring your own paper: 5 cents / page	\$60.00 + tax.
print from disk? Yes. 49 cents per page to print B&W. \$1.95 page color.	

#### \*Graphic Support (best deal)

(632-6249Rm. 173 Administration Building)

25% cotton content; ~4 cents / page	\$48.00 + tax, 7.5% overhead.
bring your own paper: same price	\$48.00 + tax, 7.5% overhead.
print from disk? Yes. \$10 "set up charge."	

# Raw Deal for White House Women

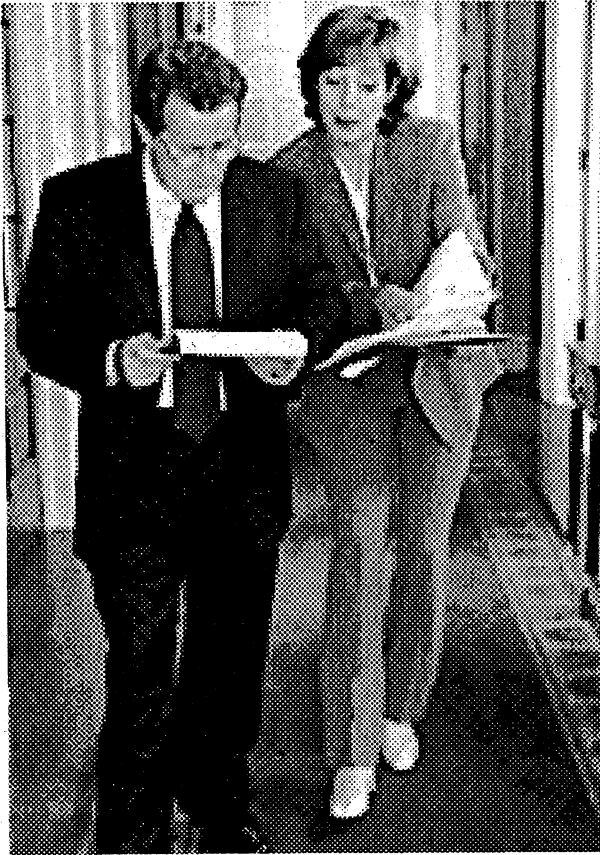
Critika Faire

"We had a deal," complained the First Lady when her husband started pandering to special interests. She had come with him to the White House in good faith; they were going to cleave to an honest and trustworthy agenda, acting in the public's interest without assuming the public was too stupid to take the truth. The President was ashamed, but not apologetic: there were crises to deal with, after all. Honesty was overrated. Ratings were underrated.

Ratings have destroyed the White House for women. Oh, not the real White House, which houses its current occupants despite popular opinion, quaintly expressed in the voting booth. No, ratings have destroyed an imaginary White House that seemed at first to allow women to be strong and intelligent and yet not humble.

Humility is the new watchword for women on the West Wing, a show basking in the cultural sensitivity of the liberal white men who rule it. The women on the West Wing are there to serve: as secretaries, as comic relief, and in the person of Dr. Bartlett, the First Lady (a surgeon), as the most highly educated caregiver the Commander in Chief could ask for.

Take the stately C.J. Cregg, the President's Press Secretary. C.J. may be professional and shrewd, but she has an unfortunate tendency to land, fully clothed, in a swimming pool. In a recent episode, she accidentally sat on a newly-painted bench; as a consequence, pantsless, she fielded questions from professional journalists on national television. Humorous, perhaps. But necessary? Compare this to the treatment to the men on the show, who rarely appear without a tie. The camera protects the men from life's little humiliations, even as the script allows them to crow incessantly about their own superior intelligence. Everyone on the West Wing is intelligent, if we are to believe the writers: it's just that the intelligent women are sometimes also ridiculous. The one time C.J. mentioned, in frustration, her own smarts, she was herding two turkeys



TV's White House Press Secretary C.J. Cregg (Allison Janney) follows behind her President, Josiah Bartlett (Martin Sheen).

into her office. Literally.

Or consider the sexy blond Republican firebrand hired by President Bartlett because he likes to be around smart people who disagree with him. Sure, they shunted her downstairs into a boiler room, perhaps to placate Democratic viewers. Sure, they refer to her as a "bimbo." But apparently her character would have been incomplete without a little more humiliation: writers cooked up a worst case scenario in which she meets the President for the first time while dancing in a bathrobe in her steamy office. Yes, this was

caused by the same painted bench that brought down C.J. Cregg.

Apart from these women, and the wonderful (if usually absent) Dr. Bartlett, the West Wing is peopled by a cadre of the best of men, shadowed by the women who make them great by keeping their schedules straight, and offering a lot of comic relief in the process.

Of course, there is a fine comic tradition of humbling intelligent women for television audiences. And it is not necessarily a negative tradition: decades ago women like Mary Tyler Moore and Lucille Ball got away with their otherwise liberal portrayals by humiliating themselves for laughs. Why is it then that they seem less ridiculous than the suited professional women continually humbled on the West Wing?

Could it be because the *Mary Tyler Moore Show* and *I Love Lucy* reigned before the focus group made television a testament to the status quo? *The West Wing* holds its president hostage to the opinion polls that his staff conducts on the heels of every major policy speech. He is, the script cynically reminds us, forever caught between the feminists and the NRA, a prisoner to his polls. This is the reality the show seems intent upon delivering to the audience. Not our fault, the show says. You created the monster.

Too bad that what the audience liked, at first, was the fact that President Bartlett didn't seem to care about polls. Too bad that some women found it exciting to imagine a White House where women could be openly strong, arrogantly smart. Now we can only wring our hands. We had a deal.

Don't get me wrong -- I like the West Wing. I'm always glad to see a prime time hit with more than one female character in it who has more going for her than just her body. But if audience preferences turn the smart women into bimbos in the course of the show, how far have we actually come?

## Credit Card Solicitation

*Continued from First Page*

available for inspection at the Alumni Office off the Main Library Galleria), it's a public document, and the information can be accessed by almost anyone. Harris is barred from re-selling their alumni lists, and the University does not get any revenue from the sale of alumni directories.

There is increasing pressure on Stony Brook from SUNY's Central Administration to raise more and more money. Stony Brook -- and all the SUNY schools -- are increasingly being expected to raise their own money rather than to rely on funding from tax revenues, despite record state budget surpluses and a booming economy. Stony Brook is responding by beefing up its fundraising efforts -- there is talk of a new Capital Campaign to raise \$100,000,000 -- and that can only mean more solicitation of alumni, parents, and students.

The New York State Consumer Protection Board has set up a registry for people who do not want to be called at home by telemarketers. Phone solicitors must remove the names of people on the registry from their call lists, and they face a \$2000 penalty for each and every improper call made to a name on the registry list.

For more information, call the New York State Consumer Protection Board at 1-800-697-1220, or check their web site at <http://www.consumer.state.ny.us>.

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**HELP WANTED:** The GSO senate needs to appoint a new speaker to replace Pegine Walrad. If you wish to nominate someone or self-nominate yourself, please contact Jean Cadet ([cadet@mathlad.sunysb.edu](mailto:cadet@mathlad.sunysb.edu)) before the March GSO Senate Meeting. Pays pro-rated salary based on 10 month academic year. Contact the GSO for more information.

**HELP WANTED: GSO OFFICER NOMINATIONS:** Four positions, high excitement, meetings with administrators, graduate students, opportunity to make a difference and add line to cv. Pay range from \$3,000 - \$4,000 per each position, duties vary. See full ads on Page 4.

**CAMPUS CONFERENCE: GENDER EQUITY CONFERENCE AT STONY BROOK TO DISCUSS EQUALITY ISSUES IN EDUCATION; All student registration is \$5; registration includes a buffet lunch.** Over 200 Educators, Administrators, and Students Expected to Attend. "Blueprint for Gender Equity in Education: Students and Educators as Partners for Change" -- will take place on Wednesday March 28 in the Student Activities Center from 8:00 AM-4:15 PM and will include presentations by school districts and educational organizations from across Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The conference features an Opening Keynote Address by Dr. Nancy J. Vickers, President of Bryn Mawr College at 9:15 AM. Luncheon Keynote Address at 12:45 PM by Michael S. Kimmel, Professor of Sociology at Stony Brook. The event is presented by Stony Brook's

Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching and the Long Island Fund for Women and Girls, and is co-sponsored by Stony Brook's Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action. Pre-registration is \$35. Onsite registration is \$45. Conference information and registration forms are available online at [www.celt.sunysb.edu](http://www.celt.sunysb.edu) and [www.lifwg.org](http://www.lifwg.org). For further information, contact Janice Grackin at (631) 632-1057.

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