

# NEWS & BLUES

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The Newspaper of Stony Brook's Graduate Students

April 2002

## Women on the Frontiers: A Feminist Approach to Globalization

by Shannon Hoff

Economic globalization is rapidly incorporating women from developing countries into the global capitalist system. In attempts to comprehend the relationship of these women to this system, a certain caution is usually advocated: namely, that "western" feminists must be careful not to generalize and misrepresent their experiences or to implicitly judge them by liberal standards that don't easily translate. This caution, however, has itself become problematic, for we must also avoid construing cultural differences as absolute, and considering concepts such as freedom and equality as explicitly western. International economic co-dependency and unjust economic globalization effects undermine the integrity of typical "western" concepts and strengthen the solidarity among women who oppose them. Likewise, the links between "western" feminists and women around the world are becoming more concrete through the compression of space by increasing global capitalism. In particular, this manifests by the growing dependence of the American economy upon a cheap international labor supply. Communication and solidarity, however, will be best established if our considerations remain society-specific and aware of the limits inherent in communicating across cultural boundaries.

Supporters of economic globalization contend that globalization advances the causes of justice, equality, multicultural literacy, and democracy, because it fuses all nations into one economic realm, making available to each the tools with which to advance culturally and economically. Within this single capitalist economy capital, markets, and commodities will be internationalized, as will the liberal democratic ideals purportedly associated with it. All societies, they say, will benefit from access to this system through the gain of employment, commodities, or mechanisms for developing democracy.

But there are many who suffer under an economic hegemony that prioritizes the concerns of capital at the expense of all others, rendering democracy economically unfeasible. Neoliberal principles, such as the priority of the individual over society, the public/private distinction, and the independence of the market from civil society, disallow radical investigation of the social conditions of oppression and the introduction of mechanisms for regulating economic forces by and for civil society. Among those who shoulder the greatest burdens of neoliberal globalization are women, particularly women in developing nations. These women compose nearly 80% of the labor force in the export processing zones (EPZs), manufacturing zones in countries such as the Philippines, China, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Mexico, in which factories are owned and operated by corporations from developed nations. These factories pay little or no taxes or duties to the local government, and most of the women workers are between fourteen and twenty years old, work six days a week in ten-hour shifts, and earn between \$0.80 and \$1.25 an hour. Women are desirable employees because they are viewed as more docile and less likely to be involved in labor movements. They are often mistreated by management, and suffer physical abuse and strict regulation of their sexual activity. They are

also intimidated by threats of job loss by employers who can always find a cheaper and more compliant labor force elsewhere. Job insecurity translates into job loss when local labor standards rise, when labor becomes cheaper elsewhere, or when tax holidays for corporations run out. Their societies have been forced to adjust to the changing socioeconomic conditions of an international economy, which has drastically changed the employment landscape. Prior to these structural changes, the local economy often worked just fine.

Women's participation in the global economy also occurs through migrant domestic labor. As a condition of its loan, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) can dictate domestic policy in debtor nations, which generally means cutbacks in social-services. The governments of debtor nations in turn shift the burden to women, since they are forced to take on more unpaid domestic responsibilities at home and since, given the availability of domestic work overseas and the lack of other means of supporting their families, they often have to emigrate as domestic workers.

The contributions women make to the global economy is evident in the plight of women, both immigrant and native to the U.S. More women than men fill the ranks of the impoverished, and women have been hit much harder by recent cutbacks in social services. Such services supplement work in the domestic sphere, and cutbacks drive women back to it, inhibiting their political participation and visibility. The presence of women in high-wage jobs has decreased since the 1970s; they contribute most to growth in the ranks of low-paid workers.

Immigrant and migrant women in the U.S. are increasingly subjected to informal and subcontracted types of employment. Female homeworking in the textiles industry, for instance, has become a major trend in developed nations. Women who work in their homes,

however, are precluded from receiving the benefits of labor regulations required in regular workplaces, and are paid at rates well below minimum wage. Homeworking is justified by the traditional view that a woman's place is in the domestic sphere; their ill-paid, part-time, and instable work increasingly draws from a female labor pool.

Political thinkers do not often speak of these women, their contribution to global capitalism nor their oppression by it. They discuss the nature of political identity, agency, change, and resistance in a vacuum, neglecting to address the economic conditions of their own agency that undermine the resistance of exploited workers. Considering political but not economic ramifications manifests a symptom characteristic of liberalism—the neglect of its capitalist foundation; which only survives through continuous expansion and exploitation. Both phenomena fail to truly comprehend the dependence of developed countries upon the labor of developing countries, of capitalist modes of production upon pre-capitalist modes of production.

Feminist theory exhibits similar faults. It prescribes how patriarchal norms embedded in institutions, practices, and identities can be overturned for the benefit of women everywhere, but, in their desire to remain faithful to the tenets of multiculturalism, feminists advocate respect of cultural differences without exposing the socioeconomic conditions that support them. This strategy is all too welcome by multinational corporations and neoliberal

### Election Table

#### Schedule:

**Wed, April 24th:**

Basic Science Tower(BST)  
Life Sciences Bldg (LS)  
SBS Bldg

**Thurs, April 25th:**

Melville Library  
Harriman Hall  
Harriman Hall

**\*\*11am-3pm both days\*\***

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## News & Blues

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*News & Blues is published by the Stony Brook Graduate Student Organization and serves the Graduate Student Community at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. It is currently being published on a monthly basis. We welcome submissions in the form of letters, opinions, poetry, news items, art works, photographs, announcements or anything else that could conceivably be of interest to graduate students and the larger University community. Please include your name and a way that you can be contacted with anything you submit. All submissions are subject to editing for length and content. In theory, submissions to News and Blues should be made ten days prior to each Senate meeting—or by the first of each month. Items may be submitted directly to the Editors by e-mail at [newsandblues@hotmail.com](mailto:newsandblues@hotmail.com)*

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*The GSO Invites you to*

### **CAMPUS LIFE AWARDS** *Celebrating Graduate Student Contribution to our Community*

*April 23 at 4pm  
SAC Auditorium*

*Sponsored by the GSO*

Support Grad Clubs,  
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Vote April 24 and 25  
To Keep the Student Activity Fee  
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Organizations and Services Funded Through the Student Activity Fee Include:

- The Research Allocation Program (RAP)
- Departmental Allocations
- Graduate Student Organization (GSO)
- Clubs such as the Underrepresented Graduate Scholars, Social Justice Alliance, NYPIRG, and International Student Groups (IGSA, KGSA, SBCSSA, etc)
- Child Care
- *News and Blues* Graduate Student Newspaper
- The Spot
- Social and Cultural Events (*Antigone Rising* Concert, Confluence, Parties ect)

Only a MANDATORY Fee Allows These Clubs  
and Services to Exist.

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\$50 1/8 page (vertical/horizontal)  
\$85 1/4 page (vertical/horizontal)  
\$125 half page (vertical/horizontal)  
\$200 full page

#### The Spot Events and Happenings

Thursday 4/18  
Stony Brook Improv 8pm  
Lord Humungus 9pm  
Knox Overstreet  
Casa Negro

Friday 4/19  
Stony Brook Improv 8pm  
Rosehill Cemetary 10pm  
Matt & Michelle (Acoustic Duo)

Saturday 4/20  
Stony Brook Improv 8pm  
Stark Raven Mad 10pm  
Mikey & The Merry Pranksters

Thursday 4/25  
Acoustic Music  
Cabaret @ The Spot 8pm  
"The Little Mermaid"

Friday 4/26  
Oscillating Wildly  
Cabaret @ The Spot 8pm  
"The Little Mermaid"

Saturday 4/27  
Mystic Underground 10pm  
GSO Springfest 1pm  
BBQ/Music/Fun  
Cabaret @ The Spot 8pm  
"The Little Mermaid"

Wednesday 5/1  
Buddy Merriam &  
Backroads  
Bluegrass Band 12:45pm-  
2:15pm  
@ the Strawberry Festival

Student Activites Center

Thursday 5/2  
Rebekka Carroll 9pm  
Cabaret @ The Spot 8pm  
"Lilith"

Friday 5/3  
Pumice  
Cabaret @ The Spot 8pm  
"Lilith"

Saturday 5/4  
Four95 10pm  
All Star Honkey  
Cabaret @ The Spot 8pm  
"Lilith"

Thursday 5/9  
Acoustic Music  
Cabaret @ The Spot 8pm  
"Evensong"

Visit [www.the-spot.org/](http://www.the-spot.org/)



continues from p.1

ideologies, and perpetuates systematic neglect of the contributions (particularly women) workers of developing countries make to the global economy.

The famous feminist thinker, Judith Butler, sees language and culture as key spheres of resistance, wherein identities and languages can be transgressed for the purpose of expanding the realm of "legitimate" identities. And political philosophy in the U.S. finds its favored tool for political critique in language and the democratic promise unfettered communication holds, claiming to aspire to radical openness, to hearing all pleas for justice. Such culture- and language-based strategies betray their own liberal assumptions insofar as they do not investigate social relations that make such flexible and choice-based perspective possible. Furthermore, they fail to examine how contributions of international "others" to our "great way of life" remove societal restrictions or differentiate among those who have the means to participate in democratic debate and those who don't.

Theoretically, separating culture from economics obscures how cultures prime markets for capitalist production and consumption, while capitalism itself refashions cultural artifacts into commodities that reflect and support its economic imperative. It thrives on a culture of consumption-maximizing and politically apathetic individuals who interpret political freedom to be freedom of consumer choice. This advances consumer culture and its "needs" in order to create and benefit from needs of other societies. The appraisal of culture as an independent realm in which identities are freely formed is thus dubious, as is the idea that globalization is synonymous with multiculturalism, since the expansion of capitalism entails the commodification and appropriation of cultural artifacts and identities (the "Americanization" of culture).

Neglect of globalization's socioeconomic conditions is unfortunately even apparent in "feminist" interventions on behalf of women in developing countries. UN develop-

ment programs, the microcredit phenomenon (a program that gives women small loans to start their own businesses) in Bangladesh and other countries, and similar projects often operate under the idea that capitalism and its accompanying political and cultural ideals could be unproblematically assimilated by other societies. Such programs and liberal strategies for addressing inequality neglect the fact that capitalist societies flourish only at the expense of other societies, since it seems counterintuitive for us to imagine that the ideology of liberal democratic freedom is at the expense of others'. As feminists we often fail to consider how our freedoms are rooted in the dynamic mobility of capitalism, and that other women do not and will not share this relationship to capital. We neglect the fact that these women may be unreceptive to the "obvious desirability" of such a system and set of ideals, and incapable of ever sharing its advantages, since their continual global subordination is necessary for its maintenance.

The rapid integration of women from developing nations into a global capitalist system has become an important challenge for contemporary feminist theory, one

that tests the limits and endurance of feminist concepts of freedom, agency, and difference. Feminists can provide critical assessments of the effects of capitalist economy and culture, the biases and presuppositions of liberalism, and the tendencies of political theory to ignore the economic. Along with other scholars, activists, and workers, they must no longer ignore globalization and the roles of women in it, especially if one of their goals is the development of solidarity among women against patriarchal institutions. Regulations for the labor and treatment of male and female workers in developing nations must be secured, regardless of any ensuing damage to the logic of capitalism and the economic domination of globalization's leaders. The contradictions of neoliberal globalization must be publicly and persistently exposed by all those invested in achieving democracy on an international scale.

The feminist scholar Dr. Betty Joseph, a visitor to Stony Brook's Women's Studies Department this semester, will speak on "The Gender Politics of Globalization" on Wednesday, April 17, at 3 p.m. in Javits 105. Joseph attempts to do the kind of work

advocated above—to reveal the dependence of our digital age upon "feudal" and informal forms of gendered work, and problematize developmental aid programs typified by the UN. She criticizes the implicit support these strategies give the expansion of capitalism at the expense of the autonomy and valuable social practices of women around the world, exposing globalization's desire to make the world a place where its advantage is secured and where everyone must become like "us." Her talk is sponsored by the Social Justice Alliance and the GSO, and is part of a continued effort on the part of the Social Justice Alliance to create forums for democratic information-sharing and debate on current political issues.

Press Release

## THE SOCIAL LIVES OF FISH EVEN FOR FISH BIOLOGY IS NOT DESTINY

STONY BROOK, N.Y. Scientists at Stony Brook University (SUNY at Stony Brook) and the Georgia Institute of Technology have shown that biological facts do not rule the social lives of animals even as "simple" as fish. While widely suggested hypotheses propose that "pecking orders" (which occur in many species, including human children) reflect pre-existing, biological differences such as size and strength, experiments with fish demonstrate that group dynamics play a major role.

Stony Brook University's Dr. Ivan Chase and Georgia Tech's Dr. Craig Tovey, along with Stony Brook students Debra Spangler and Michael Manfredonia, showed that hierarchies do not arise simply as a result of individual differences, but that they require social interaction among groups of animals.

In one experiment, the researchers brought groups of fish together, let them form a pecking order, separated the fish long enough to forget one another, and then put the fish back together to form a second pecking order. Only 6 out of 22 groups formed the same pecking order twice or more than would be expected by chance, but less than if ranking was solely determined by stable, individual attributes. In a second experiment, fish that were allowed to interact only in pairs were less likely to form linear hierarchies with clear top-to-bottom rankings as compared to fish that interacted in larger groups.

Chase et al. suggest that, like humans, fish observe each other's interactions during the nipping and chasing con-

tests that are involved in group formation. Individuals appear to take advantage of losers, but then they often defer to those that have just dominated other fish.

"If biology is not destiny among simple animals as they establish social order, then biological differences may play a much smaller role than has been assumed in the formation of social systems among other animals and humans," says Dr. Chase. "Our data offer some of the clearest experimental evidence to support this conclusion."

This research is reported in "Individual Differences versus Social Dynamics in the Formation of Animal Dominance Hierarchies," which appears in the April 16th, 2002, issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Journal.



# The GSO Consitution: GSO Executives and their Duties

## **President**

The President shall:

1. act as a spokesperson for the GSO in the presentation of its positions and enunciation of its policies;
2. supervise the execution of Senate-approved legislation;
3. 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
4. chair meetings of the Executive Council;
5. in conjunction with the current Executive Councils, conduct an open search and recommend a candidate to the Graduate School for the position of Graduate Student Advocate to serve in the following academic year.
6. hire and remove the GSO Control & Disbursement (C&D) Agent, subject to a majority vote of the Senate.
7. 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;
8. has 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.

## **Vice President**

The Vice President shall:

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

## **Secretary**

The Secretary shall:

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

## **Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall:

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

## **Election, Removal and Succession of Officers**

1. 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 April, 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. The offices of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer 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.
2. An officer of the GSO may be removed from office for misconduct or neglect of duty, violation of the GSO Constitution or any actions contrary to the integrity of the graduate student community. The Board of Appeals shall function in an advisory capacity to investigate any allegations brought against an officer. The officer in question shall have the right to know the allegations brought against him or her. The Board of Appeals and the officer shall have the right to present their evidence before the Senate for a final decision. The Senate shall have the power to remove the officer by a two-thirds vote. The findings and recommendations of the Board of Appeals must be made in writing and made public at least ten days prior to the Senate vote.
3. If the office of the Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer is vacant, the President shall nominate a candidate for that office. The nomination shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate. Should the nominee fail to be confirmed, the President may nominate another candidate. If the office of President is vacant, the Vice President shall assume the office and nominate a new Vice President. Should the offices of President and Vice President be vacant simultaneously, the Senate shall meet to elect a new President. Nominations shall be accepted from the floor and are open to any member eligible for the office in question. The candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be elected and shall assume the office immediately. If the Senate vote fails to provide a clear majority, a run-off election shall be held between the two

## *The GSO Condially Invites you to the **SPRING CABARET***

*"...everything in nature is lyrical in its  
ideal essence, tragic in its fate, and  
comic in its existence"*  
*George Santayana*

*April 19th, 8pm  
**THE SPOT***

## **Music Events**

Thursday, April 18, 8pm:

**Stony Brook Jazz Combos**

**Soloist: Derrick Gardner (trumpeter)**

Recital Hall, Staller Center

Tickets: \$8, Students&Seniors \$4.

Friday, April 19, 8pm

and Sunday, April 21, 2pm:

**Stony Brook Opera and Stony Brook**

**Baroque Ensemble: Claudio Monteverdi's**

**Opera *L'incoronazione di Poppea***

Main Stage, Staller Center

Tickets: \$20, Students/Seniors \$10.

Tuesday, April 23, 8pm:

**Concerto Competition**

**(Winners Perform with University Orchestra)**

Main Stage, Staller Center

Tickets: \$8, Students&Seniors \$4.

Wednesday, April 24, 4pm

and Wednesday, May 1, 12 noon:

**Undergraduate Recitals**

Recital Hall, Staller Center

Free Admission

Saturday, April 27, 8pm:

**Stony Brook Chorale performs Robert Ray's "Gospel Mass"**

**Soloist: Dallas Garvin**

Recital Hall, Staller Center

Tickets: \$8, Students&Seniors \$4.

Friday, May 3, 8pm

**Stony Brook Camerata Singers Concert  
Works by Randall Thompson and Libby Larsen**

Recital Hall, Staller Center

Tickets: \$8, Students&Seniors \$4.

Sunday, May 5, 3pm

**Stony Brook Baroque Players Present:**

**"Baroque Spectacular - Four Centuries of New and Old"**

Recital Hall, Staller Center

Free Admission

Tickets: Staller box office (631)632 ARTS

At the Art Gallery

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GALLERY

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# 2002-2003 GSO Elections

## Meet the Candidates

### Candidates For President

**Bryan J. Field**  
Physics and Astronomy

My name is Bryan Field and I have been attending the Graduate Student Organization meetings for the past two years. For the last year I have served as an alternate senator for the department of Physics and Astronomy. The reason I am running for president of the GSO is that I feel that the graduate student body has not had its concerns properly addressed. There are two problems that graduate students face that are becoming crises: housing on Long Island and the problems with our union. These will be my two primary concerns as president of the GSO.

**Jasmina Sinanovic**  
Theatre Arts

I am a Theatre Graduate Student. This is my second year of involvement with the GSO. Currently, I am the GSO Treasurer. Some of my activities include Chairing the Budget and Lounge, sitting on Housing and Social Concerns Committee and serving as the graduate rep on the FSA Board of Directors and Finance Committee. Presently, I work on the Spring-Fest Party, housing problems and grant proposals to bring in more funding for graduate students to attend conferences. As a President, I will fight for the creation of the Graduate Cultural Center, better, affordable housing and more respect for graduate students.

**Bin Tang**  
Computer Science

I am now a GSO senator and the president of Computer Science Graduate Students Council (CSGSC). I care about the benefits of graduate students and would like to be a bridge between the students and university administration. We are now initiating a petition for the issue of Chapin mailbox changes and finally reached some agreement with university. I also organized a trip to Six Flags for CS graduate students, and got very positive feedback.

Soon after September 11th tragedy, CSGSC responded and organized a donation and collected 580\$ from students and faculty members.

I would

### Candidates for Vice President

**Ma Chi**  
Computer Science

I have the following characteristics of a good vice-president: the ability to cooperate with others and the ability to solve concrete problems. I have been the president of department Student Organization in China for 4 years plus being vice-president of English Club for 3 years. I have experienced many kinds of "hot potatoes" and solved them successfully. My experience of being the leader or vice leader of these organizations gave me the art to organize group, lead group and work in group. I will do my best and I have confidence to get more benefit for our community next year.

**Masa Prodanovic**  
Applied Mathematics and Statistics

I am a second-year student in PhD program at Applied Mathematics and Statistics Department. Two years ago the graduate housing crisis and the Administrations' trial to close the Graduate Student Lounge (the Spot) induced my involvement with GSO, first as a Senator for my department. Currently I serve as the GSO's Speaker, Housing Committee Chair and the member of the Lounge Committee. My primary concern has been voicing and fighting for grads' issues as well as supporting cultural/social events which make our stay here more rewarding. Besides those issues, as a Vice President I want to address the graduate salaries.

**Fan Wang**  
Economics

Why Voters Should Choose Me:

Life is not always easy as a graduate student at Stony Brook. We have problems and concerns, shortage of on-campus graduate housing, below average stipend level, etc. There are many things we can do together to improve our lives. I would like to contribute my efforts and make GSO more sensitive to student concerns, more involved in student activities, and more effective in solving student problems. I am here because I care.

### Candidates for Secretary

**Angeliki Pollatou**  
Physics and Astronomy

My name is Angeliki Pollatou and I have served as the senator for the department of Physics and Astronomy for the past two years. I am interested in representing the graduate students of Stony Brook as secretary to help with the problems we are up against to which I will bring a unique viewpoint and empathy as an international student. I cannot promise to solve the major problems of graduates such as housing, salary concerns, and quality of life, but I can promise that I will make sure these issues are presented to the appropriate people.

**Abhijit Sengupta**  
Economics

I am a 2nd year Ph.D. student in the Dept. of Economics. I have been involved with the GSO for the last one year. I have been a member of the Lounge Committee and the Budget Committee. Over the last one year I have held the position of Treasurer in the Indian Graduate Student Association. As the Treasurer I helped organize the "Confluence" Concert in Stony Brook. If elected as Secretary, I would serve the cause of graduate students to the best of my ability, particularly the issues pertaining to lack of housing and abysmal student-employee salaries.

### Candidate for Treasurer

**Rajesh Elisetty**

Nothing works well without the proper functioning of the parts of which it is made of. Any organization is no different from this. And the role of treasurer in such an organization can be compared to wheels of a vehicle, whose mobility is naught without them. The following skills are my attributes to qualify for this post.

- 4 years of experience as a treasurer for "Electronic and Electronics Students Association" in India.
- working body member for the university's budget committee for 2 years.
- president for the university's cultural organization in my senior year.

### \*\*\*\*\*Campus Life Awards\*\*\*\*\*

Come out & honor outstanding graduate students  
who've made Stony Brook better for us all this year!

**Tuesday, April 23rd 4pm**

**Reception w/refreshments to follow**

### Women's Leadership Symposium

**Marcia Ann Gillespie**, former editor of *Ms. Magazine*

**"Leadership: Personal, Professional, and Global Perspectives"**

Thursday, April 25th 3:30-5pm SAC Auditorium

Open to entire campus; informal reception to follow in SAC 221 5-6pm.

**Women's Leadership Conference:**

Series of workshops themes of personal, professional and global aspects of leadership led by local & campus women leaders

Saturday, April 27th 10am-4pm SAC 3rd Floor

Attendance at the conference is limited, advanced registration is suggested.

Please contact Tanya Smith @ [tasmith@ic.sunysb.edu](mailto:tasmith@ic.sunysb.edu) for information.

## Korean New Year's Party

By Korean Graduate Student Association

Korean Graduate Student Association (KGSA) successfully held a 'New Year's Party' on Feb. 9, 2002. The party was celebrating the Korean Lunar New Year Day. This year's Lunar New Year was February 12th. We call in Korea this day Seol, which is one of the most important holidays along with Chusok. Korean Lunar New Year, or Seol, is the first day of the first month of the new lunar year, and it marks the first day of spring. It is celebrated with family, food, and games. Many Korean communities celebrate both the Gregorian New Year's Day on January 1st as well as the Lunar New Year. Koreans try to return home to celebrate Seol with their families. They wake up early in the morning of the new year, put on their new or best traditional clothes, and bow to their ancestors and elders.

Family members exchange good wishes and gifts. Korean play many traditional games such as Kite flying, Yut game, top-spinning, Jaeki game, etc. However, Yut game is probably the most popular among them. Yut is one of the traditional Korean games that can be played anywhere. It's especially popular on New Year's Day.

At the party, we also celebrate the New Year's Day with some Korean foods and games. Many Korean and non-Korean student and their families came and enjoyed the party. This year, we prepared a special food, Dukook, a traditional rice soup. Especially we played some traditional games including Yut. Some foreign students also joined to play the interesting game. This party was a good opportunity of experiencing Korean traditions and introducing the Korean community to the university.



Stony Brook Stages Presents

## MOTHER COURAGE AND HER CHILDREN

BY BERTOLT BRECHT  
DIRECTED BY CHRIS DOLMAN

APRIL 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 AND 27 AT 8PM  
APRIL 21 AND 28 AT 2PM  
THEATRE TWO, STALLER CENTER

TICKETS: \$10 GENERAL, \$8 FACULTY/STAFF,  
\$6 STUDENTS/SENIORS  
CALL 632-ARTS OR GO TO STALLER BOX OFFICE

TALKBACK ON THURSDAY, APRIL 25 AFTER THE SHOW

## Editorial

Dear Readers,

A wise woman once told her personal theory about how people build their world: every person needs a window. In the old days it used to be those windows were literal, they looked out on the narrow streets of towns and villages, where people's personal dramas became everybody's business. People would run out of their homes, partly to find out what happened and partly to offer help and support.

Today we have a different type of window, it's called television. We sit in front of it and we watch -not unlike our ancestors- other people's tragedies. Busses being blown up, body parts scattered in the street, children losing their homes, airplanes bombing villages: misery, loss, poverty, hunger, destruction, DEATH.

But what happened to running out in the street? What happened to our need to know the details of this or that story? What happened to our curiosity, to our need to be involved? How did we become so passive? What was it that convinced us that empathy is empowering?

We should think our role through again.

The Graduate School Colloquium Series, in conjunction with the President's Office's "Dialogues Across Difference" grant and the Graduate Student Organization, present:

### Racenicity: The Whitewashing of Ethnicity

Friday, April 19, 2002, 3:00 p.m. SAC 302

The relationship between ethnicity and racism in the United States is a vital issue in our society. Racenicity -- a combination of the two terms -- is a concept developed by Dr. Pepi Leistyna that refers to the process through which the sociohistorical and ideological construction of race ("whiteness" in particular) has had a significant impact on defining national identity, ethnicity, and the perception of ethnic differences in the United States. The discussion will focus on racism as well as other factors such as gender, capitalism, social class, health, age, locality, religion, and sexual orientation, which all play an important role in the construction of ethnicity/culture as well as in the multiple social identities, discourses, and struggles.

The presentation led by Dr. Pepi Leistyna will consist of three parts:

- An introduction of the concept of Racenicity and its historical production in this country
- A brief viewing of a video called The Color of Fear
- An open dialogue between Dr. Leistyna and participants, including a roundtable response and discussion by several members of the Stony Brook graduate student and faculty community.

In focusing on the theme of Speaking Truth and Pursuing Reconciliation, this presentation will give interested participants the opportunity to discuss the concept of racenicity from a political and pedagogical perspective as well as encourage the expression of individual

perspective. The purpose, then, is to develop a more dialectical understanding of the multiple and interconnecting relationship between race and ethnicity and to create serious dialogue among the participants about what schools needs to do in order to work to eradicate cultural production/reproduction of this type and the concomitant oppressive socio-ideological practices.

Please join us for a lively and fascinating discussion. Refreshments will be served.

With his Doctorate from Harvard University, Dr. Leistyna is currently an Assistant Professor at the University of Massachusetts Boston in the Applied Linguistics Graduate Studies Program where he coordinates the research program and teaches courses in cultural studies, critical pedagogy and language acquisition. His work includes Breaking Free: The Transformative Power of Critical Pedagogy, Presence of Mind: Education and the Politics of Deception, and two forthcoming books entitled Defining and Designing Multiculturalism and Cultural Studies and Practical Politics: Theory and Social Activism.

This event is also being co-sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, Group for the Study of Working Class Life, Graduate English Society, and the Wo/Men's Center. For more information, contact Maureen Langdon Shaiman, Graduate Student Advocate: mlshaiman@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

GSO Event

## Pool Tournament

May 9th, 8-11- Union Arcade.

Put something creamy in your life...

## ***Stony Brook Martha Stuart***

by Elizabeth Bojsza

This recipe is a real crowd-pleaser at cast parties and birthday bashes. As always, it's super delicious and easy to prepare-- and if you put a minimum effort into presentation, you will be showered with compliments.

### **Spinach Dip**

#### **You will need:**

1 10 oz package thawed and drained chopped frozen spinach  
16 oz plain, nonfat yogurt  
8 oz reduced fat sour cream  
1 package vegetable soup mix  
1/4 cup chopped onion  
1 small can water chestnuts, drained and chopped  
1 red bell pepper, finely chopped  
Garlic, red pepper, and tarragon to taste  
1 large, round loaf of bread (optional)

#### **Directions:**

Make sure you've squeezed out your spinach, or the dip will be too runny. Mix everything together in a glass or plastic bowl, cover, and refrigerate for at least an hour. The flavors will blend, so taste your creation again to make sure the seasoning is right before you serve it.

#### **To impress:**

I like to serve this dip in a bread bowl, surrounded by mountains of crackers and chopped vegetables. Carrots, broccoli, asparagus, red pepper, and cauliflower look nice.

To make a bread bowl, take your large, round loaf of bread (pumpnickel is preferable to my tastes) cut a circle in the top using a sharp knife. You should make the circle cut deep, but not deep enough to go through the bottom crust. Cut horizontal, then vertical lines through the circle to the same depth. Then, using a clean finger, reach down into the cut and pop out the little squares of bread from the base (this gets easier after the first few). After removing the guts of the bread, fill with dip. Ta Da!

Enjoy!

GSO Sponsored Event

### **Zickler Lecture Series**

The New York Department of Pharmacology invites all to the 12th Annual Zickler Lecture. Dr. Robert Furchgott will deliver a lecture entitled "The Importance of Accidental Discoveries in Research Leading to Nitric Oxide." Dr. Furchgott is a Nobel Laureate and a distinguished professor in the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology at the SUNY Health Sciences Center in Brooklyn, funded by the GSO and the Department of Pharmacology, will prove to be a valuable and educational experience for all who attend. All students, faculty, and the entire Stony Brook community are welcome. The lecture will be held May 2, 2002 at 4 pm in the Health Sciences Center, Lecture Hall 3, Level 2.

## **ADVICE FROM YOUR SUNY SEXPERT**

### **CHRIS PROMIN**

*Please send us your questions and concerns about sexual, erotic and relationship issues*

*If something really troubles you, or if you just to get your name (or pseudoneme) in the paper,*

*send Chis your questions at*

**[sunysexpert@hotmail.com](mailto:sunysexpert@hotmail.com)**

Poetry

### **The Ashes**

In this heap of ashes,  
You will find,  
The priceless gems of days long gone.

I believe to everything in this world,  
We owe tribute,  
For what they stand,  
For behind everything lies a tale,  
Or is perfect in some way-  
And is it just the wrong prism,  
Sometimes that you look through.

Time takes me on a roller coaster-  
Muddles the years,  
And takes me now to the wizened years,  
Then puts me back to infancy-  
I now know this game,  
And then the things that are mildew,  
Now turn up like perl drops,  
And now the soil  
And then the seed;  
And again the flowers,  
Or again the plays with sequences,  
I hardly can tell, you know.

When I sat by these shores,  
Yesterday, I'd seen the sand castles,  
Now the plain fields of sand,  
Yet the thought remains,  
And that is how I know  
Its truth and its existence,

Child, when you light this fire,  
Remember the old days,  
And those new ones to come,  
Yet not linger on there,  
For this moment would pass away...

You must tinker around with him,  
Yet be wise,  
For he can take you,  
To high places,  
And then put you down...

So, remember, child,  
That conigance of these little gems,  
Of the sages  
And your definite ways,  
Will take you through the murky roads,  
And undefined passages...

That Lady in black  
With her dazzling Sequins,  
She covets my senses,  
I fumble in the dark,  
Streaks patterns,  
Deliver me back,  
And I return,  
to the Masters,  
Of Light and Glory...

What Grace in all these journeys  
What Charm!

Love intoxicates me,  
I feel drunk on these peddling roads,  
I must pay heed,  
And not stagger wrong.

The faith of this candle light is strong in me,  
And between the mangled paths,  
I take the old tokens,  
Of events past and those to come,  
I breathe a kiss of whispers,  
And then it is dawn  
In my mind,  
And it is dawn everywhere,  
What wonders!  
What miracles!  
What enchantment!  
I must die for want of such joy again...

Take one more step Child,  
Onto the Pier now,  
Where the Great ark stands,  
And tell me,  
Do you see Truth,  
In those dancing waves,  
Look back, play around,  
And tell me,  
Can you see,  
What I see?  
The sailing ships and the rolling waves,  
And you just there in the pier,  
Counting time?

Now reverse the scenes,  
And look on for the advent of the tides,  
And how they all return,  
It may be a different ship,  
A different voyage,  
But you do see the return  
Of the waves, as well.

Not, that is life,  
Yours and mine,  
Playing funny games with us,  
Teaching us,  
The little truths,  
We often forget to remember,  
The little keepsakes of Nature,  
We often drown,

Now lock these in your Chest,  
And when the bidding come ,  
Caress tender,  
With faith,  
All things will come to life again...

Smitha

Compiled 19th January, 2002, 08.00 hours

# M E R M A I D F E S T O

BY GLENN WEBB



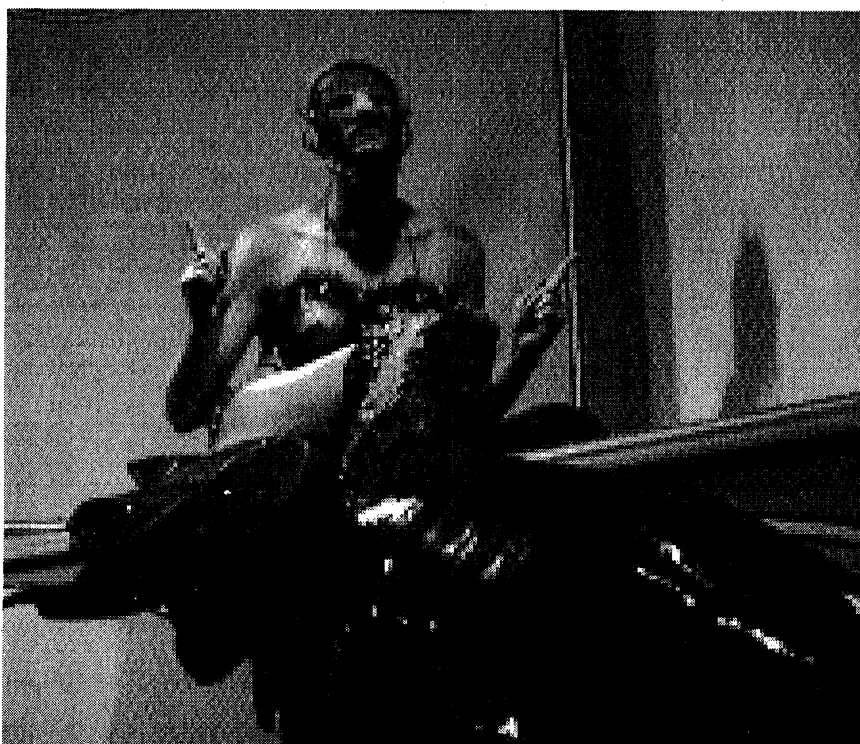
"Poor Unfortunate Souls." This is unquestionably a homage to the camp female impersonation number. When the Walt Disney company, the mightiest monolith of heterosexism, models a character after a drag queen, you realize that something really is fishy with this fairy-tale. Especially when said drag queen is notorious in John Walter's trash classic, "Pink Flamingos," for eating dog shit.

ferent worlds. One world with its tropes of family and marriage is explicit in its conventionality; the other world assembles forbidden romance as possible by virtue of routes of fantasy and escape. Positioned between these two worlds the performance morphs back and forth between campy female impersonation and the harsher reality of life at the margins.

The performance will feature myself, and a cast consisting of Jasmina Sinanovic, Michelle Wacker, and David Renert. The performance will also create a video/audio environment, in which Pegine Walrad is the voice of the Little Mermaid. "The Alligator Boy's Little Mermaid" continues the momentum begun in previous

Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Mermaid" has a long history of importance in Queer culture and many today regard Andersen himself as having been homosexual. This tale's Queer frame of reading was further emphasized when the legendary homosexual Oscar Wilde revised the tale in "The Fisherman and His Soul." Wilde's revision of the narrative depicts a human male who desires a mermaid and ultimately pays dearly for this love. Further Queering of the source occurred when in its adaptation of "The Little Mermaid" the animation department of the Walt Disney studio acknowledged modeling Ursula, the villainess of the tale, on the transvestite cult star Divine. In addition, the movie's lyricist Howard Ashman provided Ursula with a solo number, titled

It is with this legacy in mind that I intersect with a new examination of Queer love. My unsavory alter ego, the Alligator Boy, is plunged into the underwater world of this fairytale classic. My interpretation of the narrative will be a tender, sometimes funny, meditation on forbidden romance, silence and subjectivity. It is loosely based on the autobiography



of any Queer life. "The Alligator Boy's Little Mermaid" delves into emotions of alienation and longing when the Little Mermaid, played by the Alligator Boy, commits the greatest taboo in her society and falls in love with a human man. The narrative echoes feelings of longing and emotions of separation, often typical to Queers, highlighting the Queer dilemma of choosing between dif-

performances such as "Congratulations...it's an Alligator Boy," which was performed at the Melville Graduate Gallery on Halloween 2001.

**"The Alligator Boy's Little Mermaid," will be performed @ the Spot, Friday April 26th & Saturday 27th, 8pm. 21+ Please note – performance contains nudity and adult content.**