

news and blues

Volume 3, No 4

The Newspaper of Stony Brook Graduate Students

November 2002

Coming together is a beginning, staying together is a progress, working together is a success.

No Blood For Oil

Anti- War Rally @ Stony Brook Attracts Hundreds

by Andre Levy

On October 23rd, more than 350 students, faculty and staff of SBU rallied for peace and against a war on Iraq. The event was organized by the Stony Brook Coalition Against War, a coalition of university organizations and individuals who oppose the threatened war against the people of Iraq, and was its second initiative in October to raise awareness and opposition to a war on Iraq. Participants carried signs and banners and chanted "No Blood for Oil", "Bush says war, we say 'No'", and "War fuels terror". A group marched from Roth Pond towards the fountain on the Academic Mall, where they heard a number of speakers and fabulous music, provided by campus members of Musicians' Alliance for Peace.

Speakers argued against the unilateral stance of the Bush administration and the strategy of pre-emptive strikes that are an affront to international law. They objected to the economic costs of a new war front that would directly affect the budget for education. Among the speakers were Marya Abbas, a member of the Muslim Student Association, who spoke against the sanctions that have been imposed upon Iraq since the Gulf War and have cost the lives of more than half a million Iraqi children.

Rajmohan Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, who had given a Presidential Lecture earlier that day, came to the protest and gave three reasons why he opposes a war: #1; the Bush Administration has given no sign of carefully considering the short and long term consequences; #2; it would further intensify the divide between western countries and the arab world; and #3; it would



go against the great American traditions of support

for democracy and justice worldwide.

A member of the United University Professions of SUNY read the UPP resolution which urges "its members and affiliates to get involved with the organizations working toward stopping the march toward war with Iraq". A similar resolution is presently circulating on campus among the SBU community. More than 450 signatures had been

collected and university members are encouraged to help gather more signatures.

The following Saturday, a full bus traveled to Washington DC where Stony Brookers participated in the National Rally Against War on Iraq with around 150,000 other people. This was the largest anti-war rally since the protests against the war in Vietnam. Although Bush faces opposition at home and in the UN, he has yet to back down on his plans. A National Student/Youth Day of Action has been called for on Nov. 20th. All are encouraged to get involved. Contact the Coalition

Against War (www.sbcoalition.net).

Europe Doesn't Want War

European Anti-War Rally Streams Through Florence

By Luke Baker

FLORENCE, Italy (Reuters) - More than 450,000 anti-war protesters from across Europe marched through this Italian Renaissance city on Saturday, denouncing any U.S. plans to attack Iraq.

Fired with anti-American sentiment and angered by a tough new U.N. resolution to disarm Iraq, European activists joined forces in a carnival atmosphere and marched together singing Communist anthems and blowing shrill whistles. "Take your war and go to hell," one of the colorful banners read. "No to war," said another.

The rally marked the climax of the first European Social Forum, which brought together anti-globalisation campaigners from across the continent for four days of talks and concerts.

The forum was planned months ago, with tens of thousands of participants from dozens of countries stretching from Portugal to Russia. Delegates discussed topics from debt-reduction to support for the Palestinian uprising.

But organizers said the march was given added relevance by Friday's unanimous vote in the U.N. Security Council, which gave Iraq a last chance to disarm or face almost certain war.

Authorities estimated more than 450,000 protesters were on the streets, and people were still

streaming in from a fleet of buses and trains hired for the occasion.

Organizers said the crowd could swell to more than a million people, making it one of the biggest rallies ever seen in Italy.

"The atmosphere here is wonderful. Absolutely perfect. It shows that a new young left is emerging," said Stavos Valsamis, a 27-year-old Greek activist from Athens.

French farmer Jose Bove arrived on a tractor. Protesters clambered up scaffolding around arches near the city center to get a better view of the massed throngs.

SECURITY HEADACHE

The march was bigger than a protest at a G8 summit in Genoa last year, when 300,000 demonstrators took to the streets and an orgy of violence left one protester dead and hundreds injured.

Some 7,000 police were on call but security forces kept a low profile, with most held in reserve some distance from the seven-km (4.5 mile) rally route.

The rest of Florence was a ghost town with most shops in the art-rich historical center pulling down the shutters for fear of violence. The city's famed museums were open and offered free entry to the few tourists around.

"We no longer have any illusions about institutions like the United Nations and their ability to help humanity," said Alain Krivine, a far-left French politician. He was convinced the United States had already made up its mind to attack Iraq.

"Marches alone won't stop wars, but this is quite literally a first step," he said. While Friday's U.N. resolution gives the Security Council a central role in assessing the new arms' inspection program for Iraq, it does not require the United States to seek council authorization for war in the case of violations.

"It's totally clear that this is a war for oil, a war for imperialism," said Simon Hardy, 21, a member of the British Socialist group Revolution. "Iraq can't win, the U.S. wants war."

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Community Art Announcement

California native John Hawley will be exhibiting his colorful and twisted paintings and drawings at the Tiger Lily Café (156 E. Main St.) in Port Jefferson Village. Hawley is currently a graduate student in Theatre Arts at the Stony Brook University.

The exhibition opens Sunday, November 10 and will run through this month.

For more info go to:

<http://www.tigerlilycafe.com>



A Note from the Editor

We live in times of turmoil and uncertainty, but we are not the first to live in times like this. There are countries and people who don't know what "living in peace" means. If we are to learn from the past and present, we should remember that being silent during times of wrong doings supports the wrong itself. It is important to stand up and speak out. It is important to educate oneself and form an opinion based on knowledge and not the inflammatory rhetoric of corrupt politicians. It is important to look at the other side of the story. It is your money that's being used to build weapons, and it is your money that is paying for the murder of innocent people. Weapons don't select evil from good and they are as capable of destroying the innocent as the guilty. But even if we could build a weapon that will recognize only guilty people, are we that sure that the weapon would not choose us? Think before you throw that stone, because the stone might boomerang and hit you instead.

Jasmina Sinanovic, Asst. Editor

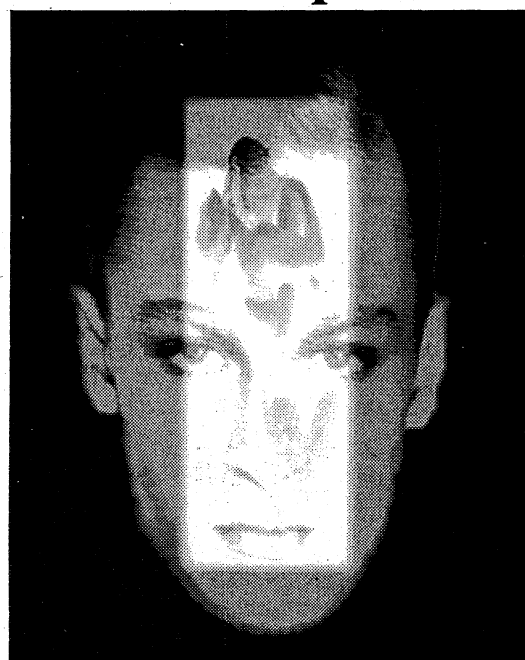
GSO Holiday Party

*December 13, 2002 starting at 9pm
at the SPOT (Roosevelt Quad)
free for all grads!*

To get involved with the party planning come join the Lounge Committee.

Email gso@ic.sunysb.edu if interested, Attn: Lounge Committee

Gossip



"A multi-media performance piece, Gossip explores sexuality, desire, and anger through use of human body, visuals and music. While following a story of a relationship and personal change one is splashed with the eroticism of the movement. Don't miss this exciting event!"

Editor Pegine Walrad

Assistant Editor Jasmina Sinanovic

Assistant Editor Smitha K.M.

Columnists: Elizabeth Bojsza, Joan Hawley, Christine Promin

Contributors: Andre Levy, Luke Baker, Abhijit Sengupta, Bin Tang, Daniel Paliwoda, Sherry Glaser, Mike Murphy, Hernan Pruden and William Wharton

Cabaret at the Spot Schedule of Events

November 14 at 8:30pm:

Fannie Brice Theater, Roosevelt Quad

Staged Reading: *Virgin Escorts* by Christine Promin

A new play developed here at Stony Brook! *Virgin Escorts* tells the story of a woman torn between two worlds, desperate for love and independence. Audience members interrupt the action and sculpt the scenes in this experimental piece.

Directed by Debbie Dajdone

Run time: 30 min. 3\$ suggested donation!

December 5-7 at 8pm:

The Spot, Roosevelt Quad

***Gossip* by Jasmina Sinanovic**

A multi-media performance piece; *Gossip* explores sexuality, desire, and anger through the use of the human body, visuals, and music. While following the story of a relationship and personal change, one is splashed with the

eroticism of the movement.

Directed by Jasmina Sinanovic

Run time: 1hr. 3\$ suggested donation.

December 12-14 at 7pm:

Fannie Brice Theater, Roosevelt Quad

Pantalone King Presents:

***The Commedia Christmas* by Frank Cardillo**

Set in the style of Commedia Dell'Arte this piece combines well-loved stock characters such as Pantalone and Smereldina with the history of Christmas traditions. Regardless of your beliefs, you will enjoy this hilarious look into Christmas culture.

Directed by Frank Cardillo Run time: 1hr. 3\$ suggested donation.

News and Blues office is located in SAC 226

Address: GSO, SAC 227, ZIP 2700

EMail: nusnblus@ic.sunysb.edu

Phone: 632 6493, Voicemail: 632 6492

Fax: 632 8965

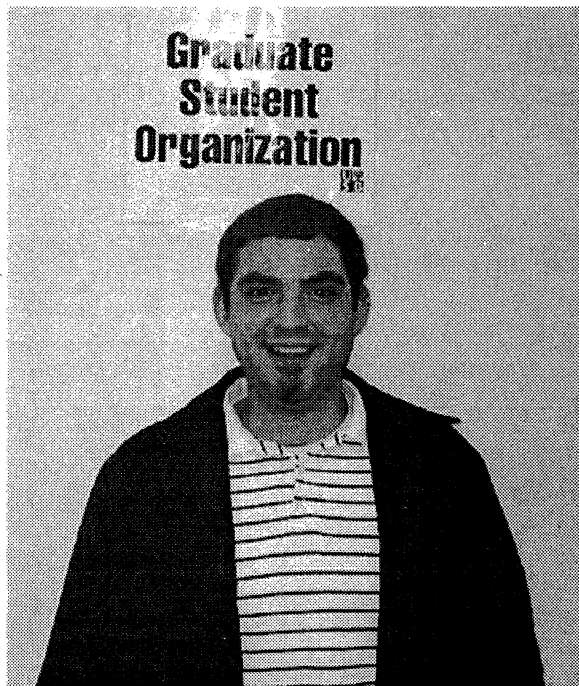
Ask the Council

NEWS!!! NEWS!!! NEWS!!!

Every month we ask the Exec Council a few questions. If you have questions you want us to ask email us at nusnblus@ic.sunysb.edu

This month a new member of the Exec Board, Chris La Barbera answers the questions.

Chris La Barbera, the Speaker



General Questions:

What is your department? Philosophy
Where are you from? Originally from Long Island.
Where did you get your undergrad degree at? Dartmouth College
What year at Stony Brook are you? First-year Ph.D. student
What degree are you pursuing (Masters, PhD,...)? Ibid.
Which building do you spend most of your time in? Harriman Hall
Do you live on or off campus? Off-campus

Fun Questions:

What is your favorite color? I don't think I can choose a favorite from such a varied rainbow.
What is your favorite fruit? Not sure about this one either. I am rather partial to oranges, but only when juicy and sweet.
What is your favorite animal? Non-human animal? I am obliged to say a mouse.

If you were an animal what would you be?

Maybe a dolphin. Or a whale.

Do you prefer hot or cold weather?

I like cool weather.

Do you fall in love often or seldom?!

Are you asking me on a date?

(Answer: Sure, but gotta remind you I write Stony Love column)

What film genre do you enjoy the most?

I like dark comedies, a la Fargo and Ghost World.

If you had to be a cartoon character who would you be and why?

Penny, from Inspector Gadget. Her notebook was just the coolest!

If you can take one thing with you to the desert island what would it be?

Hegel's Phenomenology of Spirit...I would want to die quickly.

What zodiac sign are you: Chinese and Western? Western, Capricorn.

Ten Serious Questions:

Would you describe your political views as liberal or conservative?

Am I allowed to have political views as the Speaker? Just between you and me, I could stand new Justices being put on the Supreme Court in another administration.

How long have you been involved with the GSO and in which function?

Just this year, I was appointed Speaker at the second meeting, after I was appointed representative for the Department of Philosophy.

What is the number one issue graduate students face?

Balancing research and teaching is a big issue, or even managing to get work done on the campus. The biggest issue I'm facing is that right now the lights in my office, 149A, are burnt out, and despite reporting this to Facilities Management over a week ago, I have gotten no response. Vox clamantis in deserto.

Who is your favorite political figure?

I'm rather fond of Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

If a student from your department had a conflict

with your advisor and asked you for assistance what would you do? Listen.

What is your position on legalization of gay marriages?

I actually wrote my undergraduate thesis on this topic. Although the argument I would give if you asked me this in person would be more substantial, I'll try to give the general idea here.

Given that the rights of marriage are so extensive (joint tax forms, inheritance, health insurance benefits, medical decision making, the right to adopt to name just a few), it seems that same-sex couples have a vested interest in making claims to these rights. And, given the Constitutional provision for Equal Protection (under the 14th Amendment and others), it seems that there would need to be a compelling state interest to deny extending the rights of marriage to couples of the same sex. In my research, primarily during two years of personal and academic involvement at Dartmouth, including during the passage of Vermont's civil unions bill, I have yet to see a compelling state interest worthy of this denial.

Do you think globalization is a good or bad thing? What kind of a good postcolonial theorist would I be if I didn't say that I am skeptical of aspects to globalization movements?

Do you think that men and women have achieved equality in academia?

Read Virginia Valian's book, Why So Slow?, for my answer.

Do you think that all conflicts can be resolved with peaceful solutions or some might need military involvement?

I think that some may say we are closer to the possible world in which violence is a necessary recourse to conflicts than I would.

10 If your advisor asked you to quit GSO activities due to departmental obligations what would you do?

I don't know. Did he call you?

If you have questions for Chris or want to get on the agenda for the Senate meeting email:

LaBarbera@alum.dartmouth.org

The European and Italian Clubs

invite you to the

Christmas Party

on December 6, 2002

starting 9pm

at Colours Cafe (Union Basement)

Bring a small present and become a Secret Santa!

Free!!!

Advertise in News and Blues

personal ads-free

commercial/profit making ads:

Business Card \$ 30
1/8 page \$ 50
1/4 page \$ 80
half page (5.5X8.5) \$ 140
full page (8.5X11) \$ 250

It's easy:

Email your ad as a jpg to nusnblus@ic.sunysb.edu, fax it to 632 8965 or leave a message at 632 6492 for News and Blues Editors and we will contact you!

Spot Calendar

Thursday 11/14 9:30pm

Twenty After Rebekka Carol

Saturday 11/16

Jim Fitzgerald Band

Thursday-Saturday, 12/5-7 at 8pm

Gossip, Cabaret at the Spot performance

Friday 12/13 at 9pm

GSO Holiday Bash

The Spot is open Thu-Sat for general public.

To book an event at the Spot contact

Godfrey Palaia at gpalaia@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

or leave him a message @

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News and Blues 3



Diwali Celebration

by Abhijit Sengupta

Diwali, the Indian festival of lights was celebrated on campus this weekend. The word "Diwali" is actually a corruption of the word "Deepavali" - which means A Row of Lights. This unique festival, celebrated all over India hallmarks the search for Truth and Enlightenment. It symbolises banishment of the darkness of evil from society. Although celebrated across the whole length and breadth of the Indian diaspora, it takes different forms in different areas of the country. However, there is one common feature which marks all the manifestations of this festival - and that is the explosion of lights and sounds every-

where. As is obvious from the name, lights form a central decorative feature during this time. Families deck up their homes with small oil lamps called "diyas", and if not that, then definitely candles. And not just their rooms, but balconies, courtyards, rooftops and walls. The idea is to not leave a single corner of the house in darkness. Cities and towns get decked up with special lighting. And then comes the fireworks. All those who can afford them gets a handful. In short, its a treat for the eyes to be present amidst the celebrations of Diwali. Stony Brook campus had been celebrating Diwali

for the last few years on a regular basis - although the organizing bodies might have been different from year to year. This year the celebrations took place in the Union Ballroom on the evening of November 2nd. This party co-sponsored by the Indian Graduate Students Organization, The Curry Club and the ASR International featured individual musical performances by students followed by a dinner and dance. Although far away from home, this event did give us students, a wisp of all the fantastic celebrations happening halfway across the globe at the same time.

Diwali Celebration

November 16, 2002

starting at 4pm at New

Ballroom on the SAC 2

dance, music and food,

free for graduate students

National Documentary Project
Indivisible coming to Stony Brook.
Featuring: Midwifery Practice and
Doula Service, University Hospital
and Medical Center Stony Brook, NY.
November 21-December 12, 2002

Indivisible: Stories of American Community features work by twelve nation's most original photographers and ten leading documentary interviewers and oral historians, examining community initiatives at work in this country. The Gallery is located in the SAC main floor. Hours: 11am-5pm, Tuesday-Friday. For additional information call 631 632 9392.

MESIAH SING ALONG

The Department of Music presents its annual *Messiah Sing Along* on Sunday Dec. 8 at 3pm in the Staller Center. The audience will sing the choruses of Part One. The Stony Brook *Messiah Sing Along* is one of the very few in the country accompanied by full orchestra. The University Orchestra will be joined by guest conductors and soloists. For more info call Timothy Mount, the Director of Choral Music, at 632 7329. A free will offering will be made.

Football Moves Up To No. 5 In The Sports Network Division I-AA Mid-Major Poll

Third straight win propels Seawolves to highest ranking ever

Nov. 4, 2002

Stony Brook, N.Y. - On the heels of its convincing 24-10 win over Central Connecticut, the Stony Brook Seawolves football team moved up one spot to No. 5 in the Sports Network Division I-AA Mid Major Poll. It is the highest spot that Stony Brook has occupied since appearing

for the first time in the poll this season.

The Northeast Conference has four teams currently ranked in the top-ten of the Sports Network I-AA Mid-Major Top-Ten poll. Albany (6-3, 5-1 NEC) is the NEC's highest ranked team at #4. The Great Danes advanced one spot following

a 32-7 win over Robert Morris on Saturday. Wagner (6-3, 4-2 NEC) fell to spot to #6 after suffering a 10-7 overtime loss to Sacred Heart (5-3, 5-2 NEC), which re-enters the rankings at #8.

Stony Brook (6-2, 4-2 NEC) is back in action this Saturday when it hosts Robert Morris. Kick-off is 1:00 p.m.

Business Friends of Hillel NETWORKING EXTRAVAGANZA 2002

Featuring

Dr. Yacov Shamash

Dean, College of Engineering & Applied Sciences - Stony Brook University

"How Long Island Businesses Benefit from the Resources of a World Class University"

With a special thank you presentation to 2001's speaker, Dr. Lee Koppelman (unconfirmed)

Tuesday, November 19th, 5:45 PM - Hosted by Reckson Associates

58 South Service Road Melville

www.BFOH.org

for more info contact

Hillel Foundation - Stony Brook University - Stony Brook Union, Suite 201, Stony Brook NY 11794-3235

Phone: (631) 632-6565 - Fax (631) 632-6576 email:

Jill.Zucker@stonybrook.edu

Rumor Has it - A Polity Story

Lie: Student Polity Association, Inc. has been dissolved.

Truth: Student Polity Association (SPA) Inc. is a not-for-profit corporation, legitimized by the laws of New York State.

Lie: SPA Inc. may be dissolved at the discretion of Stony Brook Administration.

Truth: Only a Judge in a court of law may dissolve the Student Polity Inc., a not for profit New York State Corporation.

Lie: Most Students don't care about Polity.

Truth: Thousands of students have signed a petition to vote to ratify a new Polity Constitution.

Dear Undergrads,

You should fear the demise of your government.

Food for Grads

by Elizabeth Bojsza

A friend of mine recently asked me, "You cook and stuff, right?.. My roommate and I are cooking for our dates on Sunday and they eat meat and we don't-- what should we make?"

This is a popular problem amongst us vegetarians, so I thought it would be a perfect subject for this month's column. The following is one of several meals that I have made to accomodate the meat-eaters in my life. It comes from a very practical cookbook called 'Vegetarian & More' by Linda Rosensweig.

Lentil-Stuffed Tacos

You will need:

3/4 cup lentils, sorted, rinsed, and drained
1 onion, chopped
1 package (1.25 ounces) taco seasoning mix
8 corn taco shells
2 tomatoes, chopped
nonstick spray or oil
saucepan
two skilletts
shredded lettuce, avocado, and sour cream -- optional

Bring 2 cups of water to a boil in a saucepan over high heat. Turn down the heat to low and stir in those lentils. Cover and cook for 30 minutes, or until the lentils are tender. Drain well (watch out for the steam)!

Meanwhile, coat a large non-stick skillet with nonstick spray. Warm over medium-high heat for one minute. Add the chopped onion and cook, stirring frequently, until tender (4 or 5 minutes). Add the seasoning mix and cook for one minute. Stir in 3/4 cup water and bring to a boil.

Stir in the lentils and reduce the heat to low. Simmer for 6-8 minutes until the mixture thickens slightly.

Now, for the meat: In another skillet, brown 8 ounces of lean ground beef over medium heat for 6-8 minutes, or until no longer pink, stirring frequently to crumble. Add half the lentil mixture and cook for two minutes more.

Warm the taco shells according to package directions, then set out the lentil mixture, lentils and beef, chopped tomatoes, chopped lettuce, avocado and sour cream (or whatever else strikes your fancy).

You and your dinner guests can build your own tacos from the ingredients provided. Everyone gets what they want!

Do you have a favorite recipe? Share it with the rest of us! Please send submissions to News and Blues... nusnblus@ic.sunysb.edu Attn: Food for Grads

Arcade

If you want to play pool, card games, chess, dominoes, backgammon, video games, or darts in a relaxing atmosphere or rent videos come to The Arcade!!!

Space for parties and social functions are available. The Arcade is located at the base of the stairs on the lower level of the Stony Brook Union Building.

**Questions?
Call 632-6505.**

Q: Dear JZ,

Being close to 40, I am a non traditional student on this Campus. I am a single woman and it is very hard for me to find a man when nobody around me is close to my age. Do you have a suggestion for me?

-Older but Active

A: Dear Active,

Instead of trying to find someone of your age, you might want to try out these younger guys around you. They do tend to have more energy and you are almost certain they will not have a heart attack while under you. You also, may decide to place a personal ad with us but for that you need to send an email to nusnblus@ic.sunysb.edu Attn: Personals. Since we will soon start uploading ourselves to the web your opportunities will become virtually unlimited.

-JZ Bich

JZB Free Advice Nobody Asked For

Dear Readers out there,

STUDENT MEDIA

Four editors resign from UC Berkeley's campus paper

At least three editors have resigned from the University of California, Berkeley newspaper, The Daily Californian, this week over the implementation of a new policy that requires editors who miss their 9 p.m. deadline to stay until the paper is sent to the printer. The paper is supposed to be sent to the printer at midnight, though missed deadlines have occasionally resulted in it arriving hours late. The editors, three of whom resigned Monday and Tuesday and a fourth who says she was fired, said the policy was Announced last week without any of them being consulted. Editor-in-chief Rong-Gong Lin said he received no major objections when he introduced the policy and sought feedback. Lin said the new policy was necessary because missed deadlines have been a consistent problem. Leta Shy, who was city editor, criticized the policy as too harsh, saying she was made to stay after missing deadline by three minutes. Shy also says Lin fired her after asking for her resignation, which she has yet to turn in. Lin maintains that the editors, including the university editor and another assistant editor, resigned and that no one was fired. Lin said replacements have been named, and he does not expect the departures to affect production.

Source: Associated Press, via Herald-Tribune (Fla.)

SEX IN THE BROOK PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

If you have a juicy dating/love/sex story to share send it to nusnblus@ic.sunysb.edu Attn. Sex in the Brook, we will gladly share it with the rest of the world. Don't be selfish and keep your secrets private! Make sure everyone knows about it!

HOLIDAY CHORAL CONCERT!!!

The SB Chorale and Camerata Singers will perform a Christmas program on Dec. 13 at 8pm in Staller Center. Each choir will sing an Advent "Magnificat," one by Domenico Scarlatti and the other by the popular Canadian composer Imant Raminsh. The Camerata singers will also present Poulenc's mystical "Four Christmas Motets" and conclude the concert with 7 of the classic Robert Shaw/Alice Parker coral arrangements. Tickets are \$4 for students and seniors (\$8 general) and are available at the box office or by calling 632 ARTS. For more info call Timothy Mount, the Director of Choral Music, at 632 7329.

Stony Love

by JZ Bich

Winter time is coming up and it's getting colder and colder in Stony Brook. Please be careful and don't practice unprotected sex outdoors. Put your gloves on! You might end with some serious damages. Also, I was thinking of asking Prez Kenny for an on Campus motel for all those unfortunate souls who are stuffed in shared bedrooms and are not into having sex with or in front of their roommates. I think it would only be fair to give them a space on campus where they can go when nature calls.

Send your questions and comments for JZ Bich to nusnblus@ic.sunysb.edu, Attn: Stony Love

fun times

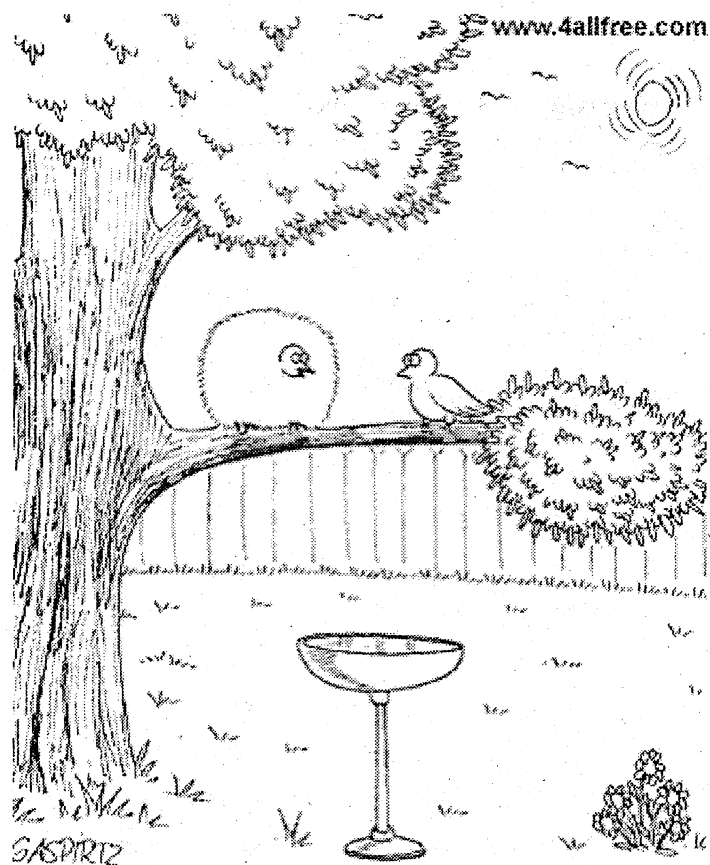
compiled by Smitha

Thought for the Month:

Destiny is not a matter of chance, it is a matter of choice; it is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.

(William Jennings Bryan)

PUZZELTIME?!@# \$



How did we get so fluffy, birdie?

RISTFCONFREBAE

SOME LOONY GUY POURED

IN THE BATH!!!

STONY BROOK BELIEVE IT OR NOT

An actual email sent to a TA at the SBU

Hallo...

I'm Mr. X, in your XYZ class.

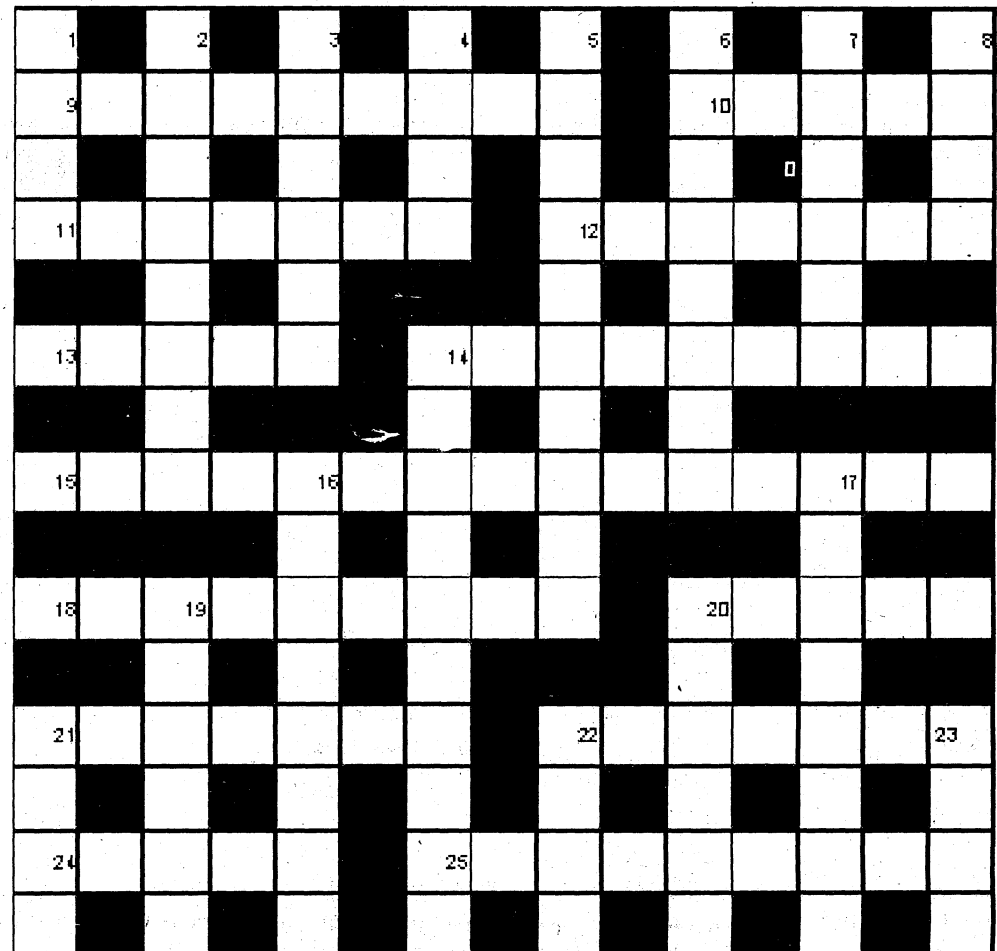
I would like to ask if I can take ten points away from Ms. Y, also in that class. This is because, she forgot to review linear transformation with me, and that resulted in my error in the linear Transformation problem. Can you give me half of her points for that question, and take half off of hers?

She's my girlfriend and she has agreed.

Thank You,
X

(i can have her email you if u would like)

Crossword Treat



Across:

- 9. Italian Dish (9)
- 10. Attain (5)
- 11. Leader (7)
- 12. Large Country House (7)
- 13. Whip (5)
- 14. Starved (9)
- 18. Elderly Dependent (9)
- 20. Bear (5)
- 21. Approved (7)
- 22. Generosity (7)
- 24. Miss (5)
- 25. Depict (9)

Down:

- 1. Integrated Circuit (4)
- 2. Crusade (8)
- 3. Case (6)
- 4. Stupefy (4)
- 5. Renunciation (10)
- 6. Foundation (8)
- 7. Nurture (6)
- 8. Pronoun (4)
- 14. Marine Invertebrate (10)
- 16. Single Woman (8)
- 17. Any (8)
- 19. Almost (6)
- 20. Plant used as salad (6)
- 21. Soft Pad (4)
- 22. Steady gait (4)
- 23. Locate (4)

Please send your solution for 15 across to nusnblus@ic.sunysb.edu; First correct solution will get a \$10/- Coupon as Gift.

SO TREAT YOURSELF TO A FREE LUNCH!!

**If you have actual, real life
Stony Brook "believe it or
not" events and jokes share it
with your fellow graduate
students.**

**Send them to:
nusnblus@ic.sunysb.edu
Attn. Fun Times**

Solutions To Last Month's Crossword

Across

1. Repertoire, 7. Past, 9. Affronts 10. Rancid, 11. Acetic, 12. Prestige, 13. Pine, 15. Ordinances, 18. NEAR IS DEAR 20. Echo, 21. Sluggard, 24. Idioms, 26. Reborn, 27. Rose Is Red, 28. Isis, 29. Midas's Gold

Down

2. Effective, 3. Egret, 4. Tenacious, 5. Insipid, 6. Eerie, 7. Penitence, 8. Sling, 14. Egregious, 16. Narcissus, 7. Ephemeral, 19. Endured, 22. Loess, 23. Annum, 25. Icing

(East of) City Arts

by Joan Hawley

Huntington Cinema Arts Centre: "Bowling for Columbine"

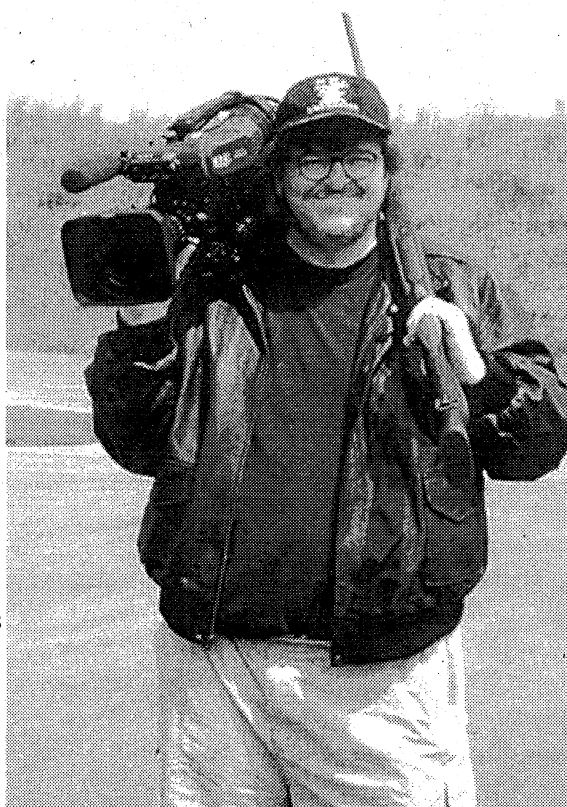
Nestled 20 miles west of here is an alternative film venue, the Huntington Cinema Arts Centre, which screens a constant flow of independent and offbeat films like "Bowling for Columbine." This documentary traces America's obsession with firearms. Director/writer/producer Michael Moore opens up his world of sarcasm and insight with genuine compassion unusual for a documentary.

The title refers to the infamous Columbine High School massacre. The fact that the two teens bowled before shooting their classmates is one of many strange details the film draws out. Moore, who is a card-carrying member of the NRA, is skilled at making American culture appear ridiculous and excessive. He bounces between the serious and the absurd, the sensationalism of the evening news (remember the killer bee scare?) is juxtaposed with the senseless shooting of one six year old by another in Michigan. Moore conducts his inquiry with passion and authority. The film's most poignant moment follows two Columbine victims to K-Mart headquarters to request that the store stop selling the 9mm ammunition that both boys have embedded in their bodies (and which the shooters had bought at K-Mart). After two visits and several tense conversations, K-Mart stops selling assault pistol bullets to the surprise and emotional relief of Moore and the students.

This director cares about the people he is filming and the audience feels that personal connection. Although some may not agree with Moore's politics (be warned that he implicates the US government in the 9/11 attacks), he makes a tight argument as to why guns are harmful for America. America has over 11,000 gun-related murders each year, not counting suicides and accidents. This figure is enormous compared to other countries (the United Kingdom has 68 gun deaths per year).

This documentary points out what is wrong with society, but also offers explanations and attempts solutions. Instead of pumping your money into another mindless blockbuster, see a movie that respects your intelligence and matters. You can always depend on the Cinema Arts Centre for films that meet both these demands. [\[emaartscentre.org/\]\(http://emaartscentre.org/\) ican, Asian, Egyptian and American art, not to mention a decent café, a first rate gift shop, and the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens next door. In a vibrant, welcoming setting, the](http://www.cin-</p>
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Brooklyn Museum of Art is a must see, even for non-museum people. www.brooklynart.org



Caption 1: Michael Moore is the writer, producer and director of MGM's Bowling For Columbine - 2002.

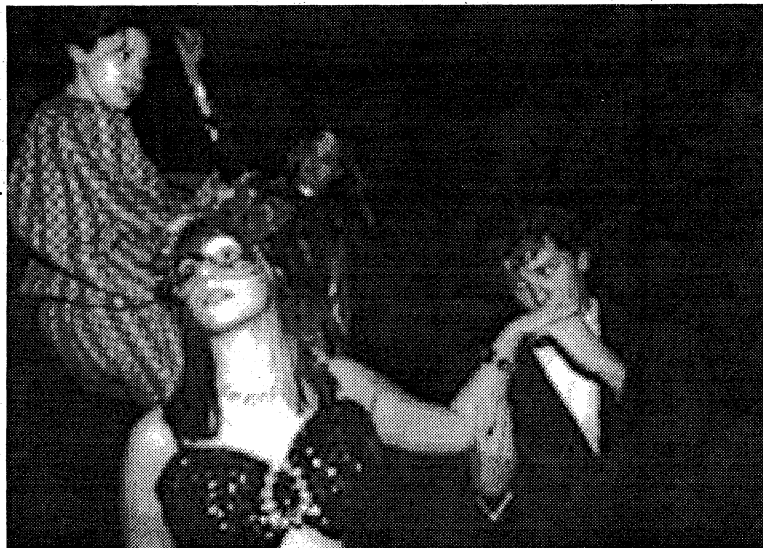
Mardi Gras in Stony Brook: *The Rover*

Loose men and wild women, and loud music. Spring Break. New Orleans. Mardi Gras – there are no rules!

Stony Brook Stages presents *The Rover* by Aphra Behn, November 21-24 and December 5-8 in Theater One at the Staller Center for the Arts. Thursday-Saturday performances start at 8pm, Sunday matinees start at 2pm.

STONY BROOK, NY – Florinda wants to marry the dashing (but poor) Belville although her brother would rather have her marry his wealthy friend, Don Antonio. Hellena, Florinda's younger sister, is ready to break out of the convent school she's been in and become a lover—to "sigh, and sing, and blush and wish, and dream and wish, and long and wish to see the Man." The wild carnival celebration of Mardi Gras gives these two sisters their chance to forge their own identities and create their own futures.

Written by Aphra Behn, the first professional woman writer, in 1677 and originally set in Naples during Carnival, this Restoration com-



edy explores the relationships between men and women, and explodes the myths behind them. Behn reverses stereotypes, subverts expectations, and from 325 years ago makes a see who we are and what we do anew.

Immensely popular in London during the 17th century, *The Rover* still thrills audiences today with its ingenious interweaving of sub-plots, comic turns, and its strikingly contemporary understanding of the power plays between

men and women. Director Paul Kassel and his talented cast at Stony Brook Stages will catapult this play into modern-day New Orleans during Mardi Gras while still preserving the beauty and power of Aphra Behn's original language.

All are welcome to attend a special "talkback" with the actors, director and dramaturgs on Thursday, December 5, 2002 immediately following the performance. This is an opportunity to learn more about the play and hear "behind-the-scenes" stories about this production.

Tickets are \$10/general admission: \$8/faculty and staff; and \$6/students and seniors. Special group tickets are available and there will be a special performance for school groups on Friday, December 6, 2002 at 10 am. Tickets can be purchased through the Staller Center Box Office at (631) 632-ARTS. For further information or to arrange for disability-related and group accommodations, please contact the Department of Theatre Arts at (631) 632-7300.

<http://www.geocities.com/aphrabehnrover/>

"Chiapas: The People, The Struggle"

A fundraiser banquet for the Autonomous Hospital at San Jose Del Rio, Chiapas, Mexico

Thursday, November 21, 2002 7:00PM
SAC Ballroom B

Event Description:

The autonomous hospital at San Jose Del Rio, Chiapas was built by the Zapatista Army for National Liberation, a social movement of indigenous Mayan Mexicans.

Donations are needed to help build a bridge over the river that separates the hospital from the dirt road. Money is also needed for equipments such as refrigerator

for vaccines and incinerator for medical waste as well as expansion of the waste water system.

Program will include a presentation by Siamak Malek, a medical student who visited the hospital, dinner, and a concert by Musicians Alliance for Peace. Raices del Viento, Andean indigenous music group, may also perform.

Tickets are \$5 for students and \$15 for non-students. For more information on the event or how to purchase tickets, please visit:

<http://www.ic.sunysb.edu/Clubs/sbdoves/chiapas.html>

Alternatively, you may email sbdoves@ic.sunysb.edu or call 631 988 2137.

This event is sponsored by Students for Peace & Humanity, Physicians for Human Rights, Primos - Suffolk Community College, the GSO and Musicians Alliance for Peace.

Iranian journalist sentenced to death

An outspoken Iranian journalist has been sentenced to death on charges of "insulting the prophet". Hashem Aghajari was arrested in August after saying in a speech that Muslims should not blindly follow religious leaders, and calling for religious renewal in Shi'ite Islam. A court in Western Iran passed the sentence Wednesday. Aghajari - who is a supporter of Iranian President Mohammad Khatami - can appeal the sentence, which also includes eight years in jail, 74 lashes and a 10-year ban on teaching. - Source: ABC News

*****UN OKs NEW RESOLUTION ON IRAQ:** UNITED NATIONS - The Security Council unanimously approved a tough new Iraq resolution Friday, forcing Saddam Hussein to disarm or face "serious consequences" that would almost certainly mean war. The vote came after eight weeks of tumultuous negotiations and was seen as a victory for the United States, which drafted the resolution together with Britain.

*****Spacewalkers describe smoky, bitter "smell of space"** (CNN) -- While busy playing host to visiting cosmonauts, wrapping up experiments and packing for home after nearly six months in orbit, a residents of the international space station (ISS) WHITSON describes, "Some people call it kind of ozone-like. I wasn't sure what ozone was supposed to smell like, but it's kind of smoky and a little harsh, bitter-smelling. And it lasts variable amounts of time. I noticed that it didn't last as long in the docking compartment after we had done three (space walks) out of the air lock here. But it's really interesting because it's very distinctive."

*****Secret countdown begins for shuttle launch CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (Reuters) --** NASA began its secret three-day countdown to the launch of space shuttle Endeavour on Friday with a new long-duration crew for the international space station. Endeavour will blast off sometime between midnight and 4 a.m. EST (0500-0900 GMT) on Monday. For security, the exact time will stay secret until about a day before launch. The prime cargo for this 11-day mission will be the three men who make up the Expedition Six Space Station team. They will live aboard the orbiting outpost for four months, conducting at least 19 scientific experiments.

*****Spy scandal ripples at Sweden's Ericsson STOCKHOLM, Sweden (Reuters) --** A spying scandal at Sweden's flagship telecoms company Ericsson widened Friday as the firm suspended two more employees who it believes may have contributed to leaking company secrets to a foreign intelligence service. A senior Ericsson source said Russia was the foreign power involved. Loss-making

Telefon AB LM Ericsson is the world's biggest producer of mobile phone networks and is also involved in developing radar and missile guiding systems for the high-tech JAS 39 Gripen fighter plane, Sweden's main strike warplane.

*****Gibraltar is British, comprende?** Bangkok Post The people of Gibraltar, the small, fiercely British colony perched on the tip of southern Spain, turned out in large numbers on Thursday to vote in a referendum on sharing sovereignty between London and Madrid. The flags of Britain and Gibraltar were draped from dozens of apartments. Posters urging, "Give Spain No Hope, Vote No," were plastered all over the town centre, along with white balloons bearing the logo, "Gibraltar Forever, Spanish Fornever."

*****Bhutto followers keen to govern with Musharraf** Followers of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto went public Friday with calls to join a military-backed party to share the first civilian government after a three-year military regime.

*****Bahrain Women's Union gets the official seal** The long-awaited Bahrain Women's Union was finally recognized by the authorities, an official statement said yesterday. The decision by Minister of Labor and Social Affairs Abdul Nabi Al Shoula to recognize the union has come "after very long and unjustified delays," organization's preparatory committee President Mariam Al Ruwai'e.

*****DNA tests confirm**

Morocco's mule miracle DNA tests have confirmed that a Moroccan mule did give birth to a foal end of August in a small hamlet in the region of Oulmes, 80 kilometers away from Fez. Veterinary experts say the foal's father was a donkey and its mother a true mule. The discovery defies scientific wisdom because mules are supposed to be sterile. Mules are hybrids - a cross between two species - in this case, the horse and the donkey.

*****Japan Whaling Fleet Off for Antarctic Hunt TOKYO (Reuters) -** Japan's whaling fleet was set to depart on Friday for an annual Antarctic whale hunt that aims to catch around 400 of the giant mammals, fisheries officials said. Japan abandoned commercial whaling in 1986 in line with an international moratorium, but has provoked world outrage for what it calls its research whaling program, begun a year later. Whale is a pricey gourmet delicacy in Japan, and meat from the research whaling ends up on store shelves and restaurant tables.

Too much screen time can make you sick NEW YORK (Reuters) -- The more time an office worker toils in front of a computer, the more likely he or she is to suffer a host of physical, mental and sleep-related ills, Japanese researchers report. While video display terminal (VDT) use has become commonplace in many types of jobs, there is little information on how long a person can safely use a computer each day. To investigate, Dr.

Tetsuya Nakazawa of Chiba University and colleagues surveyed over 25,000 office workers who responded to three questionnaires between 1995 and 1997.

STONY BROOK BAROQUE PLAYERS November 17, 2002 at 3pm at the Staller Center for the Arts.

Exciting and passionate Baroque music is alive and thriving on Long Island. The Stony Brook Baroque Players, directed by Arthur Haas, will present a program of vocal and instrumental masterpieces spanning two centuries of Baroque and rococo music from the glittering capitals of Europe on Nov. 17 at 3pm in the Recital Hall of the Staller Center. Featured composers and pieces include Bach's Quintet for Flute and Strings, Mouret's grandiose fanfares for trumpet and strings, Handel's virtuoso and sensitive aria, "Sweet Bird" for soprano, flute and orchestra, and Fischer's magnificent orchestral suite in D. The Stony Brook Baroque Players, the cream of the crop of graduate students in the music department perform both on modern and 18th century instruments. As always Baroque Sundays at Three are offered free of charge and a goodwill donation is requested to offset the expenses.

SOLAR SYSTEM FOULS UP – Administration Follows Up

by Bin Tang

In the October issue of the News and Blues there was a letter by some Psychology students, addressed to President Kenny, regarding their frustrating experiences with the newly implemented SOLAR System. Such complaints involve registration failure, lapses in health insurance coverages as well as delays in stipend paychecks. In response, Dr. Kenny wrote a letter to those students and asked a panel be put together to discuss related issues.

On Oct. 17, Bin Tang(GSO President), Christine Promin(Graduate Student Advocate) and Bryan Field(GSO Treasurer) had a one hour meeting with people from related SBU divisions. This meeting was presided by George Meyer, Deputy of the President. Several responses from our community include:

1. A thorough investigation is necessary regarding the actions of the Information Center, Research Foundation, Financial Aid and Enrollment Services. The administrative authorities suggested the conclusion that this is an initial transitional problem for an automated system.

2. The financial aid staff has been manually

circumventing the system restrictions that did not allow the carry over of Federal Work Study from this past summer into the fall semester.

3. SBU officials promised that by Spring semester 2003, the system will recognize students who properly register for the minimum credit load that qualifies them for the appropriate tuition waiver.

We also required that to further the communication between the graduate students and school administrators, a new website should be set up for all graduate students to file their complaints directly to the appropriate administrators. Part of the agreement reached was that this website will be constructed before November's Senator meeting on 11/14. However, we do not expect this to happen.

In the letter Dr. Kenny addressed to the Psychology students, she stated "I am concerned that our administrative processes serve to facilitate our academic mission, and that they be as transparent to the user as possible... to ensure that these problems would not recur in the next registration cycle".

Thank you, Dr. President, let us wait and see...

Has YOUR paycheck been delayed?

NY STATE LABOR LAW @

<http://www.labor.state.ny.us/faq.html#wh17> states that every employee within NY state MUST be paid WITHIN a month of hours worked!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION:

Q: How can employees obtain assistance in collecting wages owed to them by their employer?

A: Employers are required to pay their employees for all time actually worked. Employees who are owed wages may obtain assistance in collecting the monies due to them by contacting their nearest Labor Standards Office and filing a "Claim for Unpaid Wages."

To locate your nearest Labor Standards District Office go to:

http://www.labor.state.ny.us/business_ny/employer_responsibilities/workprot/lsdists.htm

Career Dreams Come True

"I don't have what it takes to get a job. I don't have the experience, and what I have doesn't fit with the job I want. ..."

ARE YOU ONE OF THOSE PERSONS WHO BEGINS HIS DAY AND ENDS IT THIS WAY?

This column is for you, read on, and find out how you can make the most of your impossible situation and make your career dreams come true!

Tips To A Great Career
This Month's Tips

Often, we tend to think that a lack of experience in a particular field is a great handicap. Are you so sure that inexperience in one field can render you jobless for a lifetime? Not if you are willing to try and look at things in the right perspective, keep an open mind, and be willing to experiment!

The greatest skill a professional in any industry can gain is the ability to ask questions.

For the job seeker, the ability

to seek out and obtain information is vital to success. Before even asking or applying for a job, a job seeker needs to do enough ground work to wheedle the right information from the right sources. Good decisions cannot be made without first having good information.

The trap many job seekers fall in to is asking the wrong questions of the wrong people. Most people first ask complete strangers for information, or --worse yet, for a job.

The questions job seekers need to ask are first created in their own minds. For example, when attending a job fair, the job seeker needs to question why the recruiting companies are there. Job fairs are attended by only two types of companies--those that are desperate for people and those that don't want to be desperate for people. Knowing which category a given company falls into can be a real benefit to the job seeker that takes the time to ask questions and find out.

The ultimate information that a job seeker is searching for is why a company is hiring and what specific needs they have. If a job seeker can ascertain this information prior to a job interview they stand a much better chance at success.

Researching companies often provides a job seeker with the motivation to take action. If the job seeker has identified a need within a company they must find a way to communicate their ability to meet that need.

Yet many job seekers operate under the mistaken assumption that only experience within an industry is the exclusive indicator of their ability to a job. Nothing could be further from the truth. For example, I have plenty of expertise in driving a car but I have no experience parking cars for a living. Does that mean I can't get a job parking cars? If I can explain how my expertise is relevant to the job my lack of industry experience becomes less of an issue.

This is done through an exercise called PARs. The acronym stands for Problem-Action-Results and it is used to illustrate specifically how skills a job seeker possesses applies to solving a problem for a potential employer.

Take the case of Mike. He stays on during his assistantship at College to help his professor repair some of the worn down equipment in the lab; he seems to be there every time the professor detects a bug in a Computer program, or every time one of the machines in his lab starts behaving erratically - and in a while things are up and running ;While being interviewed. Mike can say, instead of the usual words, "helped trouble shooting", or "worked as an assistant", "I was fortunate enough to help my professor to revive some equipment that were to be thrown out as scrap last July. Because nobody found it useful anymore. I redesigned the whole stuff, brought a few spares, and it

is a whole new machine now - we actually saved a few thousand dollars on new equipment!"

An impact statement can go a long way than merely stating the fact that training courses have been completed and certifications have been obtained. Even if a jobseeker cannot claim to have been paid to perform a specific skill previously they can demonstrate the ways they have used their skills unofficially. These real-world experiences go a long way in communicating not only knowledge of the job but potential in executing what the job may require. Job seekers that do use PARs create memorable interviews. Being more memorable will lead to more job offers.

Courtesy:

Net temps Career magazine

Summer in Heaven, part four

by Smitha

Continued from last Month:

Georgi is rushed to the Brooklyn Community Hospital; Agnes and Remon are called on to help with the investigations as Police Officers. Malcolm and Cline search for clues. Now read on....

"They looked like the relics of the 60's, endangered species like the dodo?!. Anne was their protagonist; Samy and Angie huddled in attention as Anne explained their coursework, jotting down equations with a throw of ease. She was a sight to see, engaging her group in frivolous activity once and then bringing them back to serious computations of difficult problems in Mathematics, she brought them from the theoretical abstractions to firm ground when they could relate the most complicated assignments, to some real life or practical examples, and this was sheer art, where she could bring them from utter monotony and stir their creativity and interest, these poor boys and girls who had flunked their exams because they could not face the oppression and the demands of school-work, feeling thrown into some mire, they found difficult to save themselves from..

Embers

by Smitha

The tired angry faces
On the walls of my home,
Their faces hungered
For life,
And eyes dimmed
Like the waning sun.

I hated the reproach of the past,
So pathetic and so miserable,
It made me count
The years since I
Last was a child.

In those deserted homes,
Where we used to be,
Cooking, dining,
And living life,
Hordes of predicaments....

Sometimes a blessing,
Like an occasional traveler,
At our home,
And mother welcomed him so warmly,
So rare a visitor, he must be..

I used to scramble,
Up and down the lanes,
Of my childhood,
Painting a memory or a dream,
Talking to birds,
And butterflies.

Sometimes, I would ask Happiness,
Why he found it so hard,
To perch in the nest,
I'd laid for him with such effort,
And he smiled a smile of mystery,
As if to wink and keep me guessing.

I used to look out,
For trains, events,

The study group consisted of students with immense talent yet somehow dubbed by their more aggressive more competent peers as duds. The social circle was one of Georgi's introductions and here were "misfits", each a prodigy of his own right, with something miraculous to offer to the world, yet branded as nothings in a world where intellect and creativity had to stoop before its more material cousins, the so called accomplishments of learning, good grades, and the approvals of their pedantic mentors. Georgi had felt this was what needed the greatest attention. To make those knowledge hungry battered souls rise from their desperations, from the deep sense of worthlessness to which they had been hurled, to make these nobodies realize their uniqueness, their special place in this world of scholars and self-righteous intellectual hums. It had been a harrowing experience, their first semester on campus, and before the group and Georgi's coming, they were each bruised minds, wandering aimlessly, not knowing what it was that ate into their confidence, whether their anxieties were mere illusions or something that

And the occasional gifts,
Once in a while,
My childlike self would
Wander by the ocean to pick pebbles.

Here the sands reminded me,
Of the long miles ahead,
The smell of hospitals
And laundry,
Once more the tired look,
On my father's face,
And his entreating glance.

I wished I could make his life,
More bearable,
One more of compassion,
And less of unkindness,
But could you, for once,
Go back and do all these again?

I remembered having butter and bread,
And dad with the usual crossword routine,
How every morning sped so beautiful,
Our miserable life, however miserable,
Still had its moments,
I treasured them along with the pebbles....

Sad how life has to pass,
To make you realize,
The embellishments
That would have made it,
Something of a treat,
I looked at the carnation

And at my father's struggles,
As he fought with the misery
Of living and dying,
As he implored the heavens,
For one act of sympathy,

had made them less of a person. Georgi went on,
".....The world is a great forest, with different paths laid, each path leading to different roads; you and I are travelers, each in his own path; The tree that I hold dear might not be so for you, the rose that brings immense joy to me, might not touch your heart the same, the rock in my path may not be the stumbling block in yours; So while you go on your road, I cannot say that mine is better than yours; we are each, a candle, with an afterglow as well; It requires the right stroke to light each candle. So while mine glows thus, yours may glow a different tinge, a different hue with a different radiance, but let us not forget, it is a glow, it is the glow of our self-worth, our beauty as a person; Believe, my friends, believe in yourself, The intelligence the wisdom that you possess, nothing, no one can take it away from you; you will realize that you can live despite them, despite their approval of your merit or your greatness ..."

The faces had showed mingled expressions, some felt like there was a breeze of melancholy in them swept by some great wis-

To relieve the pain..

Well, doors close, you know,
At inopportune moments,
Or you feel that way,
'Cause you never know,
What was right for you,
Or what wrong

Yet you would blame Fate,
Or its overtures,
Perhaps that moment of destiny,
Must have its way,
The volumes of the Scribe,
Can ne'er amend save by His Leave,

And that I realized as I stared,
Into the tunnels,
The wards and wards,
The acid smell of the Mortuary,
Where my dad, after struggling, now lay
Silent and yellow..

Was it all over now?
His face was still
Like the calm sea after the storm,
And for him there were
No tears, was it all over?

I could see it was never over,
For the life he had carried,
And his dreams would never leave,
It stayed on in the pyre,
And burnt for me like the coals,
In my eyes the raging hearth,
That put away every bitterness,
And every morning I would stoke,
The embers falling from heaven,
Dazzling bright
Like some heavenly star,
The coals I carried,
The rage, the fire,
In the glow of another life.

dom, some had in their eyes the flicker of a hope, some tears, tumescent, and hot, trickled; there was harmony in the reverberations of their souls, in the silent glances, those of support understanding, compassion, and respect.

Hell! They had all faced it some time or the other, and now here was a place to voice their hurts, the small unhappy moments of rejection and spite when they had to walk away from the elite groups that had kicked them on their asses and left them feeling like third rate students in an academic world that seemed to exist only for the brightest or the smartest minds, and had slapped them like flies. The supercilious air of some of them had a derisive glow, that defied their upright postures, the elegance of their demeanor, and the sharpness of their intellect. They had the best grades in school, they had turned in impeccable research work; they looked more than perfect with their threads of logic, and superior techniques of analysis, that rendered the university halls an aura of legendary greatness. What more did the great halls, the rubric of an institution need. Were they not the greatest

minds? Then what indeed was greatness? Was it, in the records of the highly acclaimed professors, an excellent grade, a well researched thesis, and creative talent, or was there something more? Was there not compassion, humility and understanding for the fellow student that raised human genius from a materialistic rendering to something more deep, more substantial, a more worthy tribute to the source of all knowledge...."

Agnes remembered the excitement on the faces of Anne and Georgi, that night on Saturday, six weeks ago, as they walked, with Prof. Wang, through the lobby of the Hall of the Sciences; she could not take her mind off their faces, animated over the injustice and the cruelty that hid subtly behind the smiles, and the rushing crowds that thronged the residence halls, the libraries....
"Hey, Malcolm, if this could be some lead...". It was Cline's voice and her mind now raced back to the commotion in her room, and to Cline who was holding up a funny looking rag doll, and looking excited.
(to be continued)

A New World Order

by Sherrye Glaser

He is our Great Crusader.
He says he will protect us.
Sieg Heil!

The economy has crashed,
but we are not worried.

Sieg Heil!

We hear their religion
is the root of all evil.

Sieg Heil!

He says he will take care of them,
as long as we don't question him.

Sieg Heil!

The Legislature turned over its power.

He promises to not abuse it.

Sieg Heil!

Our civil liberties have been stripped.

That's the price we must pay...

Sieg Heil!

He's pulling them from the streets.

Out of sight, out of mind.

Sieg Heil!

Of course, we will have to invade....

Some sacrifices made.....

Sieg Heil!

He will purify the world for us.

Create a New World Order.

Sieg Heil, Mr. President!

Always wondered how it could have happened?
Now you know....

A Stony Brook Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference: A C.F.P.

By Daniel Paliwoda

Jacques Derrida once described his version of deconstruction as: "tr[ying] to pass beyond man and humanism." and Michel Foucault said, "[man is] a figure not yet two centuries old, a new wrinkle in our knowledge, and that he will disappear again." These examples of anti-humanistic rhetoric have influenced the academy for some time, but even the two theorists mentioned above reconsidered their views on "man," "humanity," and "humanism." Derrida's recent work on hospitality, friendship, justice, and forgiveness suggests to some his "ethical turn," a focus on human relations, and Foucault's writings on the ethics of the concern for the self considered the "ethical subject" in terms of his work on power, knowledge, truth, and the subject. Although he had reservations with the term "subject," Foucault used it nonetheless.

Edward W. Said urges scholars of the twenty-first century "to expand our understanding of human history to include all those Others constructed as dehumanized, demonized opponents by imperial knowledges and a will to rule." Said defines "humanism" as "disclosure; it is agency; it is immersing oneself in the element of history." Grappling with the complexities and outcomes of humanism's role in the academy today, Stony Brook's 15th Annual Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference Committee has selected humanism as its theme; the conference is called "HUMANITAS: A Reconsideration," and will be held through February 28 to March 1, 2003 at Stony Brook. We invite you to send in an abstract proposal that challenges or supports humanism's relevance. Humanism comes in

many forms, but it focuses its attention on the human: human rights and human accomplishments and crimes. Humanism proposes that every person has dignity and worth and deems respect. Humanists may have highlighted the successes of man's accomplishments, but they did not turn their gaze from humanity's uglier moments. If some criticize humanism as obsolete; elitist, white-male oriented, and exclusive, others see it as a mode to ease conflict and relieve intolerance. There is an attempt to reclaim and rebuild the potential of a humanism that is truly inclusive.

Drafting a twenty-first century humanism that remains mindful of uniqueness, but also maintains difference, Dr. Lorenzo Simpson, Department of Philosophy, SUNY Stony Brook, will deliver the conference's keynote speech. In his

book, *The Unfinished Project: Towards a Postmetaphysical Humanism* (Routledge, 2001), Dr. Simpson calls for a new language of dialogue that preserves sensitivity to difference and community, and sees humanism's place in that endeavor. Dr. Simpson's recent work testifies and speaks to this reconsideration toward humanism we are exploring.

For those who are interested in presenting at the conference and want to learn how to present, Dr. Fred L. Gardaphe, Department of European Languages and Cultures, Director of American Studies and Italian American Studies, and affiliated with the English Department, SUNY Stony Brook, will present "Writing and Presenting a Conference Paper: An Interdisciplinary Approach" at CELT, November 19, 2002 from

1 to 2 p.m. Dr. Gardaphe will be reviewing how to: write an abstract proposal, select a conference, time your presentation, deliver the presentation; and field questions.

We look forward to seeing you at the CELT presentation and the Graduate Conference. An official Call-For-Papers is posted in several places: UPenn English Call-For-Papers Website (www.english.upenn.edu/CFP), SUNY Stony Brook English Department Main Page (www.sunysb.edu/english), and SUNY Stony Brook Graduate Listserves. You may send your proposal to: DPaliwoda@nyc.rr.com or English Department/ Life Sciences Library, L39. We look forward to receiving your proposals.

MARVIN KUSCHNER, FORMER MEDICAL SCHOOL DEAN, DIES AT AGE 83 FROM COMPLICATIONS OF PNEUMONIA

Welcomed First Class and Made Stony Brook Nationally Prominent Pathology Expert Held Positions at NYU and Bellevue Hospital

STONY BROOK, N.Y., October 21, 2002—Dr. Marvin Kushner, who built Stony Brook University's School of Medicine from a local center for medical training into an institution of national importance, died Friday, October 18 at Mount Sinai Hospital from complications of pneumonia. He was 83.

Kushner, a former resident of Huntington, L.I., was the newly-named Dean of the Medical School when it welcomed its first 24 students in 1972. He retired in 1987, having increased the number of faculty from 40 to 500 and the school's budget from \$2 million to nearly \$100 million. He also is credited with having established the School's foundation for medical research, and Stony Brook would go on to develop leading cardiac drugs and vaccines for Lyme disease and other uses. "Marvin was a man of com-

plete honesty—there was nothing false about him," said Leon Sokoloff, Professor Emeritus of Pathology at Stony Brook, who attended NYU medical school with Kushner in the 1940s. "He was always calm and exercised good judgment, and that was his reputation universally." Stony Brook University President Shirley Strum Kenny, said: "Marvin Kushner had a profound impact on the development and growth of Stony Brook as a place of great medical research and healing. He was

an extraordinary man, and we will miss his kindness and his warmth." Dr. Norman H. Edelman, Vice President/Health Sciences Center and Dean of the School of Medicine, said: "Marvin Kushner was a legend, not just in the history of Stony Brook, but in medical circles nationwide. He honored us with his knowledge and compassion." Kushner, who had been in failing health, was admitted to Mount Sinai Hospital on September 16 after falling and suffering a broken hip at his Manhattan home.

A leading expert and professor in pathology, Kushner conducted some of the earliest research in the effects of the inhalation of pollutants, including tobacco, as far back as 1958 and was considered an important national figure in environmental medicine. As a pathologist in the War Crimes Branch of the 7th Army during World War II, he helped lead the autopsies of those who had been interred in concentration camps. His wife, Katherine, an Army nurse he had met during the war, died earlier this year.

Stony Brook Anti- War Activism

If you have been wondering what you can do in these dark days to oppose the move toward war, please consider getting signatures for the Stony Brook Coalition Against War resolution. You can cut out the copy below or download copies of the resolution at: <http://www.sbcoalition.net/downloads/resolution.doc> We're trying to get at least 2,000 signatures before the National Day of Action on Nov. 20. We're currently over the 500 mark, but if we make the resolution a priority now, we could easily reach 2,000 by the 20th. Please print out a copy (or several) and take them to your classes, homes, and work places. We are planning on having a press conference on Nov. 20 to announce the numbers. You can bring completed or semi-completed resolution petitions to the SJA meeting or Room #141 Harriman Hall.

THIS IS ONE SMALL THING THAT EACH OF US CAN DO, WHICH COLLECTIVELY CAN SET AN ANTI-WAR TONE ON THIS CAMPUS.

Announced in HAPPENINGS, the Faculty/staff/friends newsletter Nov 6th:

On Monday, November 18 at 6pm in Tabler Quad there will be a dedication of two new Peace Poles in the Peace Garden.

The ceremony will include a candle lighting, music, and

various speakers with messages of hope and peace for the future.

Of the two new poles, one has been donated by students in the Service Learning Institute Summer Program, with French, Korean, Hebrew, and Navajo wishes for peace. A second pole - representing Spanish, Hindi, American sign, and Braille peace messages - comes from the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action, the Dean of Students, Disability Support Services, and the Hispanic Heritage Month Committee. "This strikes me as a great opportunity to make the Coalition Against War visible with banners, signs, flyers announcing Nov 20th and resolution signing. Mark it on your calendar!!

Political Food for Thought:

Think about it & pass it along to others who're interested.

Resolution against a war on Iraq

Whereas, the Bush administration has presented no credible evidence that Iraq has intentions or capability of harming the citizens of this country or that Iraq presents a threat to the United States, and Whereas, the Bush administration is seeking any pretext to overthrow the government of a sovereign nation, in violation of international law, and making use of unwar-

ranted preemptive action, and

Whereas, a war with Iraq would require the re-direction of vital resources and funds away from the issues that concern the majority of citizens of this country, such as Education and Health Care, towards a destructive, senseless, and illegal goal, and

Whereas, a preemptive assault upon Iraq would not further the "War on Terrorism", but rather would contribute to regional and global insecurity and to anti-American sentiment,

Therefore, be it resolved that the undersigned, members of the Stony Brook University Community, go on record as strenuously opposing the Bush administration's march toward war with Iraq,

And be it further resolved that the undersigned urge the Administration of Stony Brook University, the Graduate Student Organization, the Student Polity Association, and other representative branches of the Stony Brook University Community to adopt this resolution and take a stand towards stopping the Bush administration's march toward war with Iraq.

Affiliation to
Name

Stony Brook University

Why Our Union Matters...

By Mike Murphy, Hernan Pruden and William Wharton

Besides the bi-weekly deductions from our paychecks, it is difficult to realize that we are part of a graduate student union. If archeologists conducted an excavation at Stony Brook a hundred years from now, they would have difficulty locating any trace of trade union activity—no meetings, no actions, no grievances filed. They would also be amazed that a worker could survive on \$11,000 per year in a county with the third highest cost of living in the United States. Though it is hard to imagine, a long, difficult struggle was required to establish the Graduate Students Employees Union (GSEU) at the State University of New York (SUNY). Today, however, our union exists in a state of impotence, with little organization and lacking membership support. It is therefore important to examine the history of the GSEU to realize that another union is possible.

This is a crucial moment. Choices will be made regarding the future of our union and our paychecks. Our contract expires on July 1, 2003 and we will be facing a Republican administration looking to slash the state budget. Workers with weak representation will be an easy target. Meanwhile our leadership presents dissolution from the Communication Workers of America (CWA) as the primary focus of activity. This has merely masked the total collapse of the GSEU at Stony Brook. Now is the time to transform our union into an organization with the capacity to defend our interests.

A Radical Past

The GSEU was originally organized at SUNY Buffalo in 1977. Our union then encountered the main issue that would hinder any attempts to gain collective bargaining power: were its members workers or students? Was the GSEU a "student club" or a union made up of workers? A fifteen-year battle with the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) of New York ensued, culminating in the granting of collective bargaining rights in 1992. In the meantime, other SUNY campuses began to organize and take action to forge a better existence. Stony Brook's chapter was organized in 1980-1, and campus organizing began statewide in 1982-3.

The 1980s and early 1990s exemplified the radical tradition of the GSEU that seems like an anomaly considering the present union. In response to such issues as salary cuts, job loss and excessive workloads, Stony Brook graduate students initiated work stoppages in 1980, 1981 and 1987, while Buffalo grads did so in 1990. Though New York's Taylor Law explicitly forbids public employees from striking, SUNY graduate students consistently challenged this anti-union legislation through a series of public actions. Creative manifestations such as informational pickets, leafleting, and deliberate interruptions of university functions were used to place important issues into the public arena. However, these tactics were abandoned in our 1999 contract negotiations. The result? A slim 3.5% raise per year in the face of a more amiable negotiating environment than our current post-9/11 budget situation.

In 1983, the GSEU voted to affiliate with the CWA, and form a statewide CWA Local 1188. CWA contributed to the struggles of the 1980s and early 1990s, by providing monetary assistance and aid in organizing. In 2001, the GSEU merged with CWA Locals 1104 and 1112 to become a subdivision of CWA Local 1104. The deal was orchestrated by then GSEU President Monazir Khan, who determined that this affiliation would provide a support staff of organizers as well as additional resources that would otherwise be unavailable given the institutional deficiencies of the GSEU (high membership turnover rates, limited funds, etc.). Paradoxically, Khan is now a leading advocate of dissolution.

While the Stony Brook chapter rejected the proposed merger, its leadership had other ideas. Publicly, our former Business Agent Ramon del Castillo argued against the merger with the rest of the Stony Brook membership. However, behind the closed doors of the bargaining room, he offered his name for the position of Business Agent. When the merger was ratified, he was then appointed Business Agent without having to face an election, raising a protest or informing the membership. If he had truly opposed the merger he could have

removed his name and called for elections following ratification.

A Suicidal Present

After delivering a contract and a merger agreement that fell far below member expectations and was formulated without significant rank and file input, the Stony Brook Chapter was lost at sea. Instead of hitting an iceberg the next period proved to be a slow, painful cruise to oblivion. Guided by our former chapter leadership the internal workings of the union devolved into a series of dysfunctional interpersonal relations.

In fact, we have now been left without significant trade union representation. For instance, organizing meetings is an elementary part of the function of any trade union. Ideally they provide a space for cross-departmental communication, criticism of our leadership and the formulation of strategies for mobilization. However, from the latter part of Spring 2002 until today there have been no meetings of our chapter.

Left without a collective presence, the bread and butter tactics of trade unionism, such as the filing of grievances, have also ground to a halt. The grievance procedure is a key mechanism that enables us to enforce our contract with the state. Effective grievances are built through the communication and activity of multiple departments not simply the direction of one person regardless of their official position.

Effective grievances can gain added energy and momentum through the mobilization of the membership. Picket lines, public meetings and other forms of collective actions all build a sense of solidarity while enhancing the defense of our rights as workers. Such possibilities are of course, little more than a utopian fantasy in a union that does not meet and is directed by the impetus and will of a handful of people.

To simulate the idea of collective motion towards a goal our representatives discovered the issue of dissolving the merger with CWA Local 1104. While there are many things to dislike about mainstream service-model trade unionism, the dissolution group has carried out a campaign that features a series of half-truths and outright lies. For instance, despite their public claim there is simply no evidence to suggest that the GSEU has no representation at the bargaining table once our contract expires. No reputable union would allow a merger to take place if the merging workers would be left without representation. We will be represented at the bargaining table by the GSEU and we need to organize our bargaining committee now. In addition, a recent series of emails put out by the supporters of dissolution, have raised the possibility of electoral fraud by Local 1104. However, the dissolution group has yet to provide the membership with concrete evidence that such illegal activity has taken place.

In fact, this campaign for dissolution has amounted to little more than a smoke screen that hides the deficiencies of our union and obscures the eminent arrival of our contract negotiations. The tactics of "virtual" trade unionism have colored the campaign for dissolution. Though run by two people, they claim the support of hundreds. Though the enlightened two supposedly possess the information the membership needs to make an informed decision about the merger, they have systematically denied requests for a public meeting to disseminate and debate these crucial issues. Working in the shadows suits all sides in the dissolution/merger battle and has left the membership uninformed and ambivalent. We support an open debate representing all positions though we feel that organizing to win a good contract should be the primary focus of our union activity in the coming months. At the minimum, no vote should take place before the membership has a chance to critically discuss these issues.

The use of these ineffective tactics has exacted a heavy toll on rank and file members. Many individual members have been alienated from a set of politics taking place above their heads or behind their backs. Some sections of the membership, such as the History and Hispanic Languages and Literature departments, have responded to this situation by building stronger depart-

mental structures. Though these departmental meetings can approach our worksite struggle on a local level they offer limited possibilities for cross-departmental mobilization and communication. Simultaneously, an existing cross-departmental organization such as the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) offers the only platform for collaboration but is limited in its ability to handle our worksite issues. A revitalized collaboration between the GSO, GSEU and departmental structures could provide graduate students with a strong presence on campus. The administration--the group with the highest salaries in our university--seems quite satisfied with the decline of our union. Although not accompanied by Sammy Davis Jr., at a recent GSO meeting, Dean Martin made it clear that the administration has little nostalgia for the radicalized past of GSEU. Instead, they would be happy to deliver flowers to the funeral of our union and do away with such troublesome issues as graduate student mobilizations and contract enforcement. Any union that does not hold meetings, has bad priorities (the dissolution instead of the contract) and has an under-informed membership cannot resist violations of our contract and will provide easy pickings at the bargaining table.

What is to be done?

On July 1, 2003, our contract expires and we will face the process of re-negotiation. It is clear that with the current conditions of the union, we will not make any substantial gains unless we begin to organize now. We are convinced that the negotiation process is not a mission for one representative, nor for a select few, but rather for an organized and active membership.

We believe that the only way to build a union is through collective effort. Meetings have already begun in departments across the university. Rank and file members are expressing their demands for the new contract, making grievances, and democratically electing their representatives. This is a positive development, and more of this is needed. Though we will be negotiating against a right-wing administration in Albany that has been historically hostile to public education, we have an alternative--the construction of a cohesive, militant, and participatory union. This effort can start in the first general meeting of our new GSEU on Wednesday, December 4, 2002 in SBS First floor N-117 during campus lifetime (12:40 pm). Get your department organized, become active, contact us at: gseurankandfile@yahoo.com. Now is the time to take control of our union, our campus and our future.

Mike Murphy is a rank and file member of the Stony Brook Chapter-GSEU. Hernan Pruden is the new Business Agent of the Stony Brook Chapter-GSEU. William Wharton is a Shop Steward of the Stony Brook Chapter-GSEU.

USA Patriot Art Exhibit
12-5pm Dec 4th, 2002
SAC Ballroom B
Come and see this traveling
cartoon exhibit!
Many of these works have
been censored and authors
have been banned and fired.

Organized by SJA.