

# news and blues

Volume 4, Number 2 The Newspaper of Stony Brook Graduate Students September 2003

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

## Graduate Activity Fees: Mandatory

*After heated exchanges between various members on the Voluntary/Mandatory issue, it was finally brought to the attention of the Dean of graduate School, Dr. Lawrence Martin, to resolve a crisis that had almost threatened the future of the GSO. Below is a formal address by the Dean to all graduate students. As of September, 2003, the Student Activity Fee will be mandatory for all fall Students*

By on-line referendum of April 2003, the graduate student body voted to make the payment of graduate student activity fees voluntary. The underlying referendum process has now been challenged as violating Article VIII Section B(1) of the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Constitution.

Article VIII Section B(1) of the Constitution states: "Referenda may be proposed by any GSO member. Proposed referenda require a majority vote of the Senate in order to be put to a membership-wide vote. Should the Senate fail to approve the proposed referendum, it shall be put to a vote of the membership upon presentation of a petition signed by at least 100 GSO members, with no more than 30% of the petitioners from any one department or school."

When a referendum is held to revisit a previous student activity fee determination, SUNY Board of Trustee Policy 053 (Student Activity Fees) requires the initiative to be held "in accordance with the constitution and by-laws of the representative student organization... that may affect a change in this determination with respect to the following academic year". Policy 053 at 302.14(a). See

[www.suny.edu/FinanceandBusiness/FBAdmProc.cfm](http://www.suny.edu/FinanceandBusiness/FBAdmProc.cfm)

On review of the GSO Senate Minutes and Standing Committee documents, I have determined that, unlike the fee referendum which occurred in May 2002, the April 2003 fee referendum was not pre-

resented to the Senate for approval or disapproval, in the manner required by GSO Constitution Article VIII Section B(1). The April 2002 Senate Minutes speak to unanimous Senate approval of the then-proposed ballot initiative. However, the Spring 2003 Senate Minutes are silent.

The Rules and Constitution Committee Minutes of March 28, 2003, reflect a clear awareness on the part of that group that the Senate must be given the opportunity to approve or reject the proposed ballot measure before a referendum proposal is put to a membership-wide vote: "[It] was clear to all that the intent of the Constitution is to allow a sufficiently large block of concerned GSO members to get a referendum on the ballot with or without the Senate's approval. Fan moved (Masa seconded) that, no matter what the Senate does or doesn't do at its next meeting, if the petition has 100 valid signatures, then the referendum will be on the ballot at the next election" (Emphasis added). Unfortunately, however, the April 2003 ballot proposal was never presented to the Senate for a vote.

Consequently, in my capacity as the President's designee with regard to the graduate student activity fee, and with the advice of University Counsel, I have decided to set aside the results of the April 2003 referendum and to revert to the status quo. The mandatory activity fee was authorized in 2002 for four years and will therefore continue, effective immediately, until such time as a properly authorized referendum takes place.

I regret the necessity to take this step as it has inconvenienced many people. However, it is important that we adhere to all campus and state policies in this most important area. ---Dr. Lawrence Martin

## 9/11..... We'll Never Forget

After a long and disputed selection process, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey decided the winning project for the new World Trade Center. Studio Daniel Libeskind presented the winning project. The highest sky-scraper in the project will be 1,776 foot tall, with vertical gardens above the 70th floor. The tower will be the tallest building in the world, taller than the Petronas towers in Malaysia (which are 1403 feet high). The plan also includes several smaller steel towers, a memorial, a shopping center and the train station. The complex will also expose part of the WTC's 70-foot deep concrete foundation walls.

The figure "1776" is the year of the American Independence, and expresses "the durability of democracy". The indoor gardens will be "a confirmation of life", in the architect's philosophy of the project. The memorial site, in the middle of the project, will have no shadows from the other buildings in the complex, on the day of September 11 each year, between 8.46, when the first plane struck and 10.28 am, when the second tower collapsed.

Daniel Libeskind is the son of two Auschwitz survivors who came in the States as an immigrant in 1959 by ship. One of his main achievements was the design of the Jewish Museum in Berlin. The groundbreaking ceremony is expected to take place in the summer of 2004.



Photo Courtesy: Jasmina Sinanovic

The Site Inside the Fence Housed had the Twin towers before September 11, 2001. In the back ground you can see two buildings that were originally shaded by the prominence of the The WTC Towers.

## CHINESE GRADS CELEBRATE MOONLIGHT WITH A BANG



Courtesy: Bogdan Scurtu

The Chinese Student Associations from Stony Brook celebrated the Chinese Moon Festival, which takes place during the full moon of the 8th month of each year. During this time, Chinese families have to stay together, watch the moon and share Full Moon stories.

The legend says that around the year of 2170 B.C. the Earth used to have 10 suns, which were lighting the Earth one after another, each day. But when they appeared once all at the same time, the archer Hou Yi saved the world, by shooting down nine of them.

---Cont'd On Diversity Page (pg no.8)

## CONTENTS

|                         |      |    |
|-------------------------|------|----|
| Editorial Notes         | page | 2  |
| The Angst of Mary       | page | 4  |
| Clogged Brain           | page | 4  |
| Did ya know ?           | page | 5  |
| Laugh a little and more | page | 5  |
| Welcome to America      | page | 6  |
| Lunar Sales             | page | 6  |
| Spotlight: Mongolia     | page | 8  |
| Embrace Diversity.      | page | 8  |
| Fun at Adirondacks      | page | 9  |
| Off campus renters      | page | 10 |
| GSO Government in Texas | page | 10 |
| City Arts               | page | 11 |
| Recipes from Romania    | page | 11 |
| Stony Love              | page | 11 |
| The World Around        | page | 12 |

EDITORIALS/OP-ED - Remembering the heroes

NOTE FROM EDITOR

I was late yet again! I scrambled out of bed, and as is my routine switched on the TV and the PC. I barely noticed the images on the TV, but I couldn't help but pay attention to the frantic door chimes of yahoo instant message. I cleared my eyes and read it and I thought at that instant what a stupid question to ask when I had spoken to that person just the night before...are you safe??? I typed rather cockily why would I not be safe in a span of 12 hours? "Turn on the TV" was the reply. I turned my head and saw a scene straight out of a B grade movie. It was so unreal. I forgot the IM; I could no longer hear the chimes. I switched channels and every channel played the same movie... the devil had dialed 911.

Two years has passed, one image has never left. People jumping out of the windows of the twin towers. I always think, why did they jump? Was it fear of being engulfed in scorching heat? Was it hope for some miracle? Or was it one last wish to cherish freedom, the choice of dying at their own terms and maybe, maybe just soar in the skies albeit for one second?

They soared, the towers came down, but the resolve of the world rose. The war had come to the shores of America. The question of why this happened is complex and controversial, but it didn't matter to the people who were trapped in a burning building starting to collapse. They didn't spend the time arguing which race or religion is better, a luxury for many of us sitting in armchairs. They were busy looking out for each other, busy frantically calling their loved ones probably knowing that this is the last time they are ever going to hear their voice again. I can not know it for sure, but my gut says that none of them ever thought of calling their priest, mullah, rabbi or guru. At that moment they didn't need an institution or a point person to talk to god. Ironically its death that unites us, the throes of death bring to us at express notice the true issues of life.

I tend to think that nineties brought the world closer my perception may have been wrong. It probably was seemingly so. Yet for one brief moment in history the world was almost united. Seeing G W Bush on the smoldering ruins of WTC with a bull horn in one hand and his other arm resting on an ageing fireman and asserting that "I can hear you, the terrorist will hear you soon" I was awestruck by the instant metamorphosis of a fumbling politician into a great leader.

But the brief moment is since gone. In some ways Osama has achieved his goal. He has diverted the world's attention from real issues of poverty, hunger and disease. Denials not with standing the fight against terrorism is slowly transforming into war of cultures and ideology. American rightwing-ism pitted against euro centrism on one front and radical Islamism in the other front. The three-way war is tearing the world further apart.

This country has a huge moral obligation to humanity simply because it has the power to shape the course of the world. To use that power rightly it has to resolve the issues within. 9 11 was a huge trauma on the psyche of USA. An allowance has to be made by the world to the reaction of America to world affairs. Having said that it would be an insult to the memory of people who lost their lives on 9/11/2003 to let that day be exploited. Jingoism does not equate to patriotism. Some questions need to be asked and answered. Asking them doesn't make one the enemy of the state. The moral rationale of the cold war was that... 'every person has a right to question the state, without fear of label, libel or loss of liberty and life'. The question that lingers is 'do Americans want this country to remain the land of the free and home of the brave or into a democratized version of the failed experiment of Soviet Union?'

-H.ROARK

Dear Readers,

While News and Blues has tried to accommodate the breadth and variety of the student population, it will be our constant endeavor to find new and exciting ways to cater to your special interests. Please feel free to give us your valuable comments and suggestions at nusnblus@ic.sunysb.edu. This is an open call to all graduate students to expose your talents, and contribute any work of art to News and Blues. You may send your articles to nusnblus@ic.sunysb.edu.

Editors, News and Blues

Note to Editor

Editor,

I was quite disappointed by the fact that in the entire August 2003 issue of News and Blues, a paper directed primarily at graduate students and supported entirely by funds from the Stony Brook Graduate Student Organization, there was absolutely no mention of the status of the impending financial crises faced by the GSO. While features like recipes, the "fun page", and interviews with administrators may be life-enriching issues for some graduate students, I strongly believe that information about the possible dissolution of the organization which represents every graduate student on campus is much more important. Dwindling student activity and general apathy are issues that have plagued the GSO for the entire time that I have been a student here. I can think of no better way to get graduate students involved that by keeping them informed about truly relevant problems that they may face as graduate students- namely, the possibility of losing all funds that were previously available for cultural and social events, speaker series, student publications (including this one), the new University Cafe, and the Resource AccessProject (RAP). If News and Blues truly is "The Newspaper of Stony Brook Graduate Students", please address your audience and bring us information from the GSO executives that is relevant to us and not interviews with them telling us their favorite fruit and what they would spend a million dollars on.

Keith Metzger

Editor: Sivaraman Prakasam, Bogdan Scurtu  
 N & B Advisor: Smitha KM  
 Columnists: Elizabeth Bojsza, JZ Bich, Pegine Walrad, Ashish Shah  
 Contributors: Robert Gilpin, Bhaskar Mukherjee, Balu, Jasmina Sinovavich, Yuri Ivanov, Garcea De' VM, Simone Hayat, H. Roark, and others.

We are cursed to live in interesting times. If it is interesting can it really be a curse? Yet today seems like a curse. Can a curse then be also a boon? Frame of reference! To us this opportunity of editing this paper at this day and time is really a blessing. Chronicling this changing kaleidoscope (both locally and globally) is a fascinating challenge. Connecting the dots as Aaron Brown says then becomes important.

A new year is upon us. A new team is in place. We welcome you back to our readership. We hope you embrace us into your home heart and minds. Bright minds need just a spark. Revolution begins in hearts and minds. Our goal is to be the spark that ignites.

Good things are happening here at Stony Brook. We have a shrewd president in Dr Kenny. A foundation needs to be laid if our school has to achieve greater glories. The Wang center, the ambulatory surgery building and the Cody center for autism are examples to the vision of the schools administration. The plans for the center of excellence in wireless technology, the recreation center etc., when they materialize would transform the face of the school.

Yet things can change more. So far so fast sometimes isn't fast enough! Some events are certainly under no ones control. But that cannot be an excuse. Wars and scandals have a great impact on us. They translate into questions like will I have food on the table? Can I finish school? Etc., Tax benefits do not help if more money goes to tuition than the benefit one gets.

Rent hikes especially on campus when that's the last resort for already "taxed" students are simply unacceptable. Passing the buck has to stop somewhere. The "independently" administered campus residencies disclaim any responsibility stating that they have to balance the budget. The administration says student assistantships cannot be raised because it's a state issue. If all the money a graduate student gets goes to pay the rent, where would he/she go for food? Worse is the state of students who don't get any financial aid. They have to deal with twin issues of tuition hike and rent hikes.

Makes one think why hasn't the pay risen in lieu with the rising costs? Whose responsibility is it to make sure adequate housing is available for hard working students? Someone should take responsibility and solve it, even if it is no one's responsibility.

For some of us who are new to Stony Brook a piece of advice, don't be disillusioned by the housing scene here. Have faith things were much worse few years back. Yet most of us survived so will you. Some of the things that still need to be addressed by our campus residencies are; a more open and declared policies on the housing scenario, putting the guidelines and allotments on a web site and computerizing the whole allotment process (as against paper sheets with red marks) would go a long way to building trust; a friendlier attitude helps, agreed June to October is stressful period for the good folks there, but imagine the stress a person from another country faces in a strange land with no house? A smile and "I will try to help you" would go a long way in welcoming them to this country. In a free country questions should be welcome, not met with hostility, this country is the ultimate bastion for freedom of expression, for the folks at the H quad office it might be the thousandth time they heard the same dumb question, but for the questioner it's the first time and its probably vital information.

Moving on to our own GSO... when we grew up we were told, united we stand divided we fall, how about the story about a bunch of stick being harder to break than the individual twig? How come we forget those lessons so easily?

Last week was a week of turmoil, leading to the ultimate resignation of our secretary Chris. Thanks Chris for your efforts. We wish you had stayed on and fought the good fight, but we understand your decision.

In any case it's easier to clash over myriad issues, but true leaders do the hard work of consensus. This community expects that from our elected leaders. There are so many issues that need to be resolved and we hope our leaders rise to the challenge. Although the past is useful in learning lessons, they serve no purpose beyond that. Lessons have been learnt; it's a new beginning so lets leave the past in our wake. We have faith in our leaders and we are hopeful that they will rise above narrow divisive politics. We wish them good luck in that.

Interesting times. Cursed or blessed? Depends on how you look! Either way welcome back to another interesting school year! Work harder than ever and every month remember to pick up the News and Blues and read it over a hot cup of mocha or tea!

P.s

On a happy (some may disagree) note the funding for the GSO and hence the paper and the many interesting clubs and organization have been restored by virtue of the fees becoming mandatory. Our thanks to Dr Lawrence Martin and all who worked hard to make it possible. Now the paper can focus on addressing issues and making our paper more widely popular than ever.

EDITOR

Response

Dear Keith,

First let me say that I really appreciate your frankness. While it is true that we had not included the hot events going on in the GSO, it was a decision that had to be taken after much thought. The intention of the August edition was basically to target the new Students, and it was the orientation edition, where our main focus was to bring new students to accustom themselves to a life at Stony Brook, far from their homes and loved ones. The effort of much of the articles was to expose them to the lighter events so that they would be able to make the transition more smoothly. While it is important that Graduate students get the pulse of the campus, and knowing major campus events, we felt it was more important the students first get acclimatized to the new environment, and get introduced to the GSO, resources around campus, a little fun to lighten the moods, etc. The foremost need of students is housing and getting on with their two or five years on campus, and getting some direction as to how to go about it. These were the themes of the August Edition. In keeping with the policy of News and Blues to be open to putting in articles on major issues as to reflect a policy of neutrality, we honor the same, and that was the reason why the September edition has included references of the Treasurer drama. It was the unanimous decision of the present Executives not to give qualified statements on the conflict as the situation is presently very sensitive. We wish to respect their decision while trying to be fair to all. I hope you will continue to look to further editions for more coverage on these issues. Once again, I wish to thank you for your concern, something that is admirable and noteworthy.

Hope you will continue to voice your concerns and remain a valued reader of News and Blues;

Former Editor,  
 Smitha KM

News and Blues office is located in SAC 226  
 Mailing Address: GSO, SAC 226, Stony Brook University, NY 11794- 2700  
 Email: nusnblus@ic.sunysb.edu  
 Phone: 631 632 6493  
 Messages: 631 632 6492  
 Fax: 631 632 8965  
 Web: www.ic.sunysb.edu/Clubs/gso

## Chris La Barbera Secretary

### Ten Personal Questions

I'm Chris La Barbera, born in Brookhaven, New York (yes, I am, unfortunately, a native Long Islander). Primarily of Italian/German ethnic background. I'm a doctoral student in the department of philosophy. I received my undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College, and I am in my second year here. I live off campus in a fabulous Park Slope, Brooklyn apartment. Every day that there is coffee waiting for me when I wake up.

Probably my parents, and my undergraduate professors in philosophy, who were the ones who supported me through this process.

That's a tough choice... Maybe Habla Con Ella (Talk to Her), Paris Is Burning, Dancer in the Dark, The Last Days of Disco, Swimming Pool... anything not Hollywood.

And although it is Hollywood, the film version of Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?, is spectacular.

I have a thing for Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton, in combination.

I'm a religious skeptic.

Five things? A million dollars doesn't stretch that far, honey.

No idea. Being GSO Secretary is pretty weird. Capricorn. All good food. Soccer. Maybe black, since it contains all colors. Pear? Alpaca?? Smoking??? These are getting more and more difficult to answer. If over 2500 of philosophical investigation couldn't answer it, I wouldn't be so vain to venture a guess. I hope I'll be a college professor somewhere in the Northeast United States. Preferably not Long Island (no offense).

### Ten Serious Questions

Let me just say that there were already too many serious questions!

Drink more coffee. And sleep well.

This points to long arguments about just war theory. I doubt that violence is ever an effective way to prevent future violence, though Augustine and others certainly would disagree with me. I believe that having a commitment to cross-cultural dialogue, instead of one-way imperialism, would be one way to avoid the prospect of terrorism and the undue characterization of a class of people as "terrorists."

Pretty sucky.

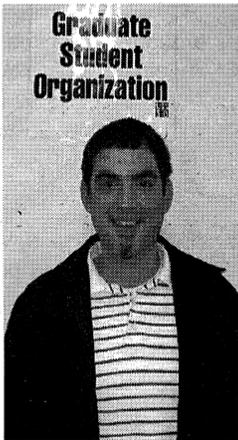
Presenting a university aesthetic that supports the notion that we are, in fact, a vibrant academic community. Tearing down chain-link construction fences, repairing offices. Finishing one project before starting a new project.

And please, can someone exorcise the gaudy, and poorly constructed (as heavy wind which blew them apart last winter would testify), umbrella-tables on this campus? This is a State University, not Romper Room. The Philosophy Department. When they are not fighting.

Reduce class size. Hire excellent and needed faculty in Women's Studies. Increase graduate stipends. Repair Chapin. Provide more affordable graduate student housing. And free massages in the SAC on alternate Fridays.

I think I should refrain from answering that. Ask me in person.

Compromise. Recognize the good change when it has happened, but never forget why you wanted to change things in the first place. And always, always, have on a fresh pot of coffee.



## Ten Personal/ Serious Questions

### Ten Personal Questions

What are your personal and academic credentials

- Name, Place of Birth, Ethnic Origin, which dept, where you got your undergraduate degree from, what year at Stony Brook are you? On or off campus?

What was the most memorable day in your life that stands out?

Who is the person/persons who has(ve) most inspired you?

Which is your favorite film? Any hot favorites, actor, actress?

Do you believe in God? What is your spirituality source? Views on religion?

If you had a million dollars name five things you would spend it on?

What was the weirdest thing that ever happened to you.

Zodiac? Favorite food? Sport? Color? Fruit?

Animal? Hobby?

What in your words is the definition of love?

Where do you think you will be 10 years from now? Country? Career?

### Ten Serious Questions

What is your advice to the new students/

Any survival tip for the old ones, students, I mean?

Do you think war is an effective antidote for terrorism? What would you suggest is one way you can combat terrorism?

What is your opinion of Pres. Bush's handling of the War on Iraq?

Name one thing that Stony Brook Administration can do, and hasn't really acted on?

How far do you think the administrators have done enough to take care of the interests of the Students at Stony Brook? What is a major area of neglect?

Name one thing about this campus you really feel proud of?

Had you been given the charge as President of Stony Brook University, what is the first thing you would do?

What is the most challenging situation you have ever had and how did you cope with it?

As a vanguard of the GSO what is the one most valuable lesson you have learned?

Chris La Barbera resigned from the post of Secretary on Tuesday September 16th, 2003. Excerpts from his resignation letter: "The opposition and unyielding stubbornness on the part of executives to do day-to-day tasks, including the reimbursement of last year's expenses and the expeditious filing of this year's RAP applications, has led me to believe that I cannot work within an executive council so divided. This is not particularly the fault of any one individual, but the collective fault of the executives to ignore the graduate student community's needs", " Even though I cared enough about forging a strong, diverse yet cohesive community, it is clear that I would rather be pushed out than bear the brunt of the executive's haughtiness. I respectfully resign from the position of GSO Secretary for these reasons."

## Smitha Fathima GSA

### Ten Personal Questions

Name: Smitha Fathima Kakkuzhi Mappilakandy, but, I come in different forms, so don't be surprised:) was born in Calicut, India, Indian from Kerala, presently doing a Masters Thesis in Electrical Engineering, did my bachelors in Engg from Regional Engg College, Calicut, into my third year, live on campus.

August 10<sup>th</sup>, the day I came to the US. I was fulfilling my father's dream and my wish to him before he died, and that gave it the world of a meaning.

My mother who taught me that failures come, but it is the one who makes something out of those failures that makes it up the rungs, Swami Vivekananda, the great



Indian spiritual leader who empowered me to think of fear as an impediment, Mahatma Gandhi who taught me that Truth is worth experimenting with, Ayn Rand who epitomizes the individual, Einstein who is my icon, Wordsworth who brought me to poetry, and the zillion workmen who love doing their jobs for its sheer pleasure.

Mother India, Gandhi, Titanic, Amitabh Bhachchan, Nargis, Katherine Hepburn, Brendan Fraser, the list goes on....

I believe in a Universal God that tells me that for him and me, it is the same, if I am a Christian, a Muslim, a Jew, a Hindu or any religion that exists. My spirituality source is my own conscience and my mind, besides any good book, be it spiritual or otherwise.

Better housing in Chapin, more funds for the grads, institutions around India that promote harmony and practice it, money for publishing my book/books, for a practical institution that knows how to fight poverty around the globe.

The day when six months old, I fell into the Tomato Curry pot, in my mom's old kitchen.

Leo, Fish & Spicy Indian snacks, Potato Chips, Badminton, Ping Pong, Chess, Red & Blue, Mango, and Straw Berry, Lion, Dog, Horse, Writing, Reading, Seeing Cartoons and Funny Movies, Classical Music, anything creative like new inventions, ideas, etc When you allow the other to mutually coexist, and don't encroach into his or her private space, when you know the meanings of patience, forgiveness, selflessness, when it is not material.

I will be an established writer working in a Technology firm preferably in the area of Signal Processing or Microprocessors, and will be making my forays into World Peace or some just cause. Might even end up as editor of some newspaper.

### Ten Serious Questions

To the new students, hang in there, look, listen, and act, never give up. To the old folks, don't get discouraged because of Bush or the economy, things finally work out for you if you try hard and for God's sake prepare for your job hunt, to both new and old don't procrastinate;

War cannot combat terrorism, neither can peace in a big way. what is needed is a change in the economic and political needs of the world leaders, it greatly matters who runs the country and the opinion of those who makes the policies, terrorism is a virus, and the best antidote is effective dialogue, one that has a will to succeed and it depends on the ones handling the issue how best they do it.

I liked Chris's answer, pretty sucky!

Making sure that employers at the university don't exploit students. While the administrators have indeed been doing great things for Stony Brook, the Wang Center, the new Wellness Center, SAC Phase III, now the Cafe, to name a few events that could not have happened were it not for the higher vision of the administrators,

there are a list of issues, like the traditional housing problem that eventually goes into the back burner, the recruiting of quality staff, and screening of faculty and students to see we have quality in education, a revamping of Electrical Engg research labs and infrastructure, which are at their poorest, bridging the gap between students and faculty. I would love to see a day when students start respecting their mentors and mentors start doing the same.

The greenery, and the Roth pond (my duck pond).

Bring more recruiting companies and set up an established Campus Placement Cell that interacts with the Departments and industries and helps a greater percentage of students find regular fulltime employment both off campus and on campus.

The Graduate Advocate Position is a highly challenging job, where I have to deal with faculty and staff, whom I value highly except if they are in the wrong, then while I still respect them, I feel they should be told they are wrong, in the best possible way as not to hurt their egos; it is a very delicate balance of maintaining the relationship and letting people know they could be wrong and need to look at things from both sides. Handling students is a bit easier because you do not have this respect barrier to cross.

Don't ever hurt the neutrals, they are the ones who actually let the others fight, and get what they want.

If you are interested in advertising in News and Blues email nusblus@ic.sunysb.edu, Attn. Ad or fax a request to 632 8965. Personals are published for free, commercial ads. Ads range from business card size (\$30) to the full page size, 8.5x11 (\$250). News and Blues is a monthly publication and comes out on every second Wednesday of the month August-December and February-May. Total of 1500 copies is published and distributed throughout the Campus. On line version is available at www.ic.sunysb.edu/Clubs/gso

## THE ANGST OF MARY

The inspector visited the scrap yard. He had picked up the Environmentalist from Street 22, and was ready for just another day of their work life. They would inspect the scrap and figure out whether it was to be dumped or whether they could recover good metal or recycle it. The Environmentalist would advise why a particular piece of metal, being a hazard, had to go through strict dumping procedures, and finally clear the scrap for burial. Their perceptions groomed by years of experience, left them assessing the heap before them, just so naturally knowing so instinctively that theirs was a decision that would never be challenged. So our friends had come, one march evening, springtime in blossom to look at a particularly ugly piece of junk heap that had come the month before from Detroit.

They exchanged greetings which was a slow smile from one, and a nod from the other. But this evening, neither seemed their usual self. They looked disgusted at each other, and at the pile of evil mass in front of them. They could tell that it was the devastated remains of some old wreck. But she was so thoroughly misshapen with centuries of dirt, and growth; she was the worst piece of heap they'd had in all the years they'd served Staten and Morton. Neither spoke a word. An awkward silence passes between them. This was inanimate, yet, even in its dead state evoked such hatred and spite.

Yet, Kent, went on to observe it more closely. "Seems like the ugliest wreckage we'd ever had. What of it, Mark?"

"You know what I'd have to say, just bury it. Five inches of concrete, and that's the end of it. You'll never have to see the bloody thing again." Kent had come here, because the onlookers had wanted "the thing" removed, because they couldn't stand the sight of it.

"It tarnished the wonderful landscape", they had said.

So it was that Kent had made a decision to come this evening; however, somewhere in his heart, he had felt a stirring, empathy for an object discarded by everyone waiting for its final resting place. A chord struck him, and he thought about his own existence, that had been threatened beyond recovery.

True, the piece looked visibly ugly, eighty tons or so of metal, weathered by sun and storm, rusted beyond comprehension; there were patches of earth and grime, slimy worms moving around what was earth ground, on this massive structure. Kent had brought in equipment to see if he could scrape through, and test the condition of the metal beneath. It just wouldn't give way.

"How many years?", he wondered. Anybody who knew Kent knew one thing about this six foot muscular Texan. That if he put his mind to something, he would see the end he wanted to see.

Kent remembered an old cartoon, he'd seen as a boy where a half blind mole would go to look at his fairy palace, which was only a junk heap that was glittering in the hot sun. Yes, Kent began to feel something different. It was as if this moment had brought to him his own life, how much he had to undergo, the spite and the silent hatred, the indifference and the rebuke of others. This, before him, now stood a proof in metal of what life had him endure, the 50 long years as a social climber. It was only natural then, then, for Kent, to look at this junk heap with more compassion. He knew that it would be pain to bring it to the point of recovery, lots of money and effort, neither of which he wanted to expend. Yet, somewhere, he knew, that he now stood a challenge to his own life.

Every day Kent would come, with his team and equipment, and they would work their way through "the Angst of Mary", as they called the wreck. Six months of persistence. Fifty thousand dollars, and a lot of hard work, finally

brought him to see what he could not have imagined. The glow of metal against the hot Texan sun was so impressive that he leaped with joy. What had he gained? Yes, he knew the question would be asked. Here was a resurrection, the kind he would never think of.

For every day that he scraped through the Angst of Mary, he was evolving in himself. It was as if he was piecing together the broken pieces of his life, and this event harbingered hope – something he had not experienced in years. It almost dawned on him that even in the utter devastation, or the worst outcome of his miserable existence, he would find release – the hope that he would find from the wreckage of his own life, through the layers of all his gory experiences and what had made him, he would once again see himself, the truth, glistening in awesome splendor, like the piece of metal he caressed now.

Was it a shed of a teardrop? He would not be surprised. For it was the culmination of the darkest episodes, an invitation to life, and he could not but cry.

Mark did not know what to tell him; because he could not understand how the heartthrob of a man could identify itself with something dead and lifeless; yet he knew the past six months of association with Kent was different from all the years they'd worked together. He began to respect a man, who till yesterday, he'd only regarded as just another person. Now, when he spoke to him, there was emotion, there was life. It was as if the Angst of Mary had inspired him as well.

Smitha,  
October, 2001. Chapin Apartments, Stony Brook University

### POETRY CORNER

#### Clogged Brain

Brain clogged,  
Volcanic ash,  
Sirens screech,  
The lub dub of some  
heart,  
Round the corner,  
Casts emotions,  
Passion, passion,  
In the coves  
Remnants everywhere,  
Light and darkness  
Making love,  
Tumescient emotion,  
Love jostling me  
Through pain and elation,  
Mirrors, mirrors,

In the shadows of silence,  
The thundering rock  
Of violence midst the  
beats  
Silence bundled up  
In the gray masses,  
The clutter  
And the disease,  
O! Hell breaks out  
In the heavens,  
Thoughts racing like  
tramways,  
Fleeing from destiny,  
Hiding in the alcoves –  
In that frenzied violence,  
Encased in a sphere of  
fire,  
Latent volcanic bursts,  
Passion seething  
Through the lava of emo-  
tions

I hear the strain of pleas-  
ure,  
Deadlock -  
Vacuum and pain,  
Metal beats  
And the crashing  
walls.....  
Fury, rage and anger  
All sublimated  
Into one chaos  
Of blank numbness,  
The clogged brain,  
Waits for the glimmer  
Of an evening light,  
Somewhere,  
In dusk's diademed  
crowns,  
In the ebbs of silence,  
Gliding through the con-  
stant lave –  
Life, lazing in the cool  
waters

Of this pond,  
Breaking the cataclysmic  
atom  
Of my universe,  
Explodes into the cradle  
of my pain,  
Roots, roots and roots,  
Growing out  
From the cerebral veins  
Thrown aback,  
But jutting out from the  
earth  
Clogged brain,  
Weeps again,  
In the shade of an  
evening's dream

--Smitha

Compiled 20th May 2003  
Between 8:20 and 10:00  
PM by the duck pond,  
Stony Brook University

DID YA KNOW?

WHICH WAS THE WORLD'S LONGEST BASEBALL GAME?

On May 1, 1920, Brooklyn Dodgers and the Boston Braves played baseball for 26 consecutive innings trying to break a 1-1 tied game. The game lasted just under 4 hours, and was ended by officials only because it became too dark to see the ball.

WHICH IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST SOFTWARE COMPANY?

International software giant Microsoft which was started by Bill gates and Paul Allen in 1975 made an incredible \$22.9 billion in 2000. The company name is a combo of miccomputer and software. The company is based in Redmond Washigton and went public in 1986. One of Microsoft's most successful products has been its operating system.

WHICH IS THE US STATE WITH THE MOST TRIBAL LAND

The federal gov't has set aside 20.1 milliomm acres of Arizona land to be used as Native American reservations. That's an area nearly equal to the entire state of Maine. About 5% of Arizona residents are of native American descent making them the largest native American population in the US. There are 15 groups living on 17 reservations in Arizona.

WHICH IS THE WORLD'S HEAVIEST LAND MAMMAL?

African elephants measure approximately 24 feet long and can weigh upto 6 tons. Even at their great size, they are strictly vegetarian - they eat only twigs, foliage, fruit and grasses. They will eat upto 500 pounds of vegetation a day. Elephants have only four teeth with which to chew their food, but each tooth is a whopping 12 inches in length.

WHICH IS THE WORLD'S LONGEST-LIVING BIRD?

Andean condors, members of the vulture family, can live to be 70 years old, almost as long as a human life span. Andean condors are some of the largest flying birds measuring more than 4 feet and weighing about 24 pounds. They also have a wing span of more than 10 feet. These birds are found from the pacific Coast of South America to the Andes mountains.

Courtesy

Scholastic Book of World Records

Laugh a little..... and more

How does a super-spoiled girl change a light-bulb?

- "Daddy, I want a new apartment!"

At a lawyer:

- How much do you charge for a consultation
- \$ 3,000 for 3 questions.
- Don't you think it's exaggerated?
- Yes, it is. And what is your third question?

Two cannibals, father and son, go hunting. They see a gorgeous young woman.

- Dad, shall we eat her? asks the son.
- No, we take her home and we eat mom.

Radio Questions:

- Can you eat any type of mushrooms?
- Yes, but some of them only once.
- The zebras are black with white stripes, or they are white with black stripes?
- Yes.

Drunk:

Mom, dad got drunk again.

How do you know?

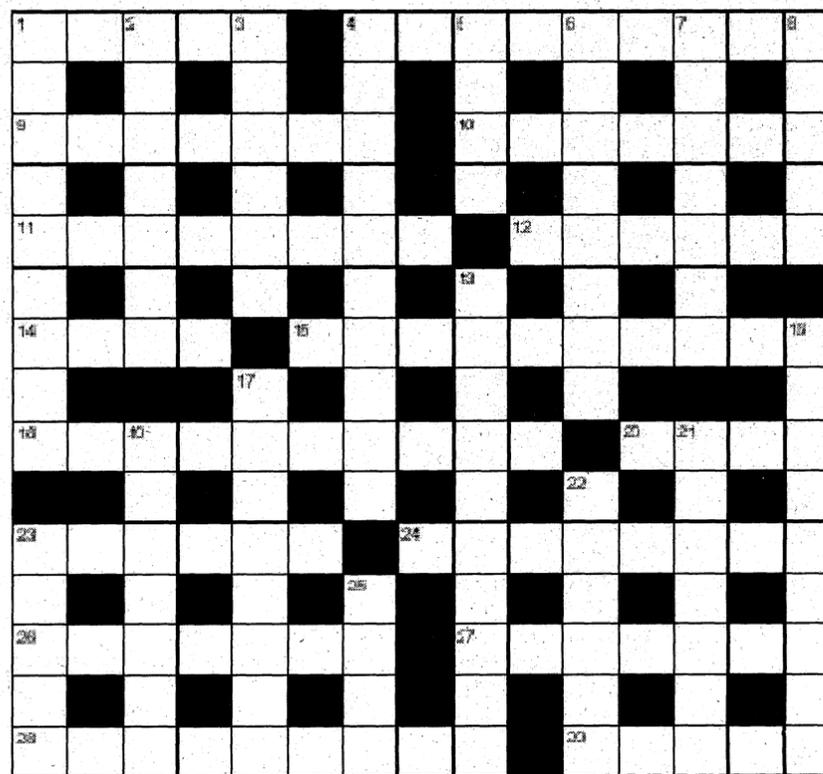
Well, he is in the bathroom, and he is shaving the mirror again ...

On the street, a police man sees a drunk guy with a car key in his hand screaming:

- Where is the car that was in the key? Call the police, they stole my car that was in my key .... where is my car, where is my car that was in the key ?
- Shut up! I am the police. And by the way, your pants zipper is open and your thing is sticking out ...
- The drunk guy looks and sees his zipper open:
- Hey, where is Gina, they took Gina too ....

--BS

Have A Crossword Treat!



Some Request

Across

- 1. Bride's mate (5)
- 4. Lovable (9)
- 9. Cover (7)
- 10. Medicine for pain (7)
- 11. Curse (8)
- 12. Gems carved in relief (6)
- 14. To overflow (4)
- 15. Rocking Violently (10)
- 18. Supply of skills (10)
- 20. Garden (4)
- 23. Bottle for wine (6)
- 24. Hostile (8)
- 26. Massive Structure (8)
- 27. Hip Joint (7)
- 28. To make responsive (9)
- 29. Resplendent (archaic) (5)

Down

- 1. Impregnable stronghold (9)
- 2. Kind of salt (7)
- 3. Salvation, the Indian way (6)
- 4. Assessment (10)
- 5. Lifeless (4)
- 6. Requested (8)
- 7. Middle Eastern Non Arab (7)
- 8. Kind (5)
- 13. Praise Highly (10)
- 16. Men of Noble Disposition (9)
- 17. Inscription (7)
- 19. Part (7)
- 21. Wane (7)
- 22. Loose undergarments (7)
- 23. Weedy bromegrass (5)
- 25. Abominable snowman (4)

Solutions to Last Issue's Puzzle

Across:

- 8. Deli, 9. Ultrasonic, 10. Smoker, 11. Maternal, 12. Ante, 13. Caricature, 16. Otis,
- 17. Revue, 18. Grab, 19. Providence, 22. Also, 23. Cellular, 26. Bipeds
- 27. Prominence, 28. Size

Down

- 1. Terminator, Sickness, Rubric, Atom, Pastiche, Poirot, Pita, 14. Raven,
- 15. Rhapsodize, 17. Redolent, 20. Volume, 21. Emblem, 24. Earn, 25. Rank

Solutions to last Week's puzzle

Shark, Company

Male hook-up lines:

Do you believe in love at first sight, or do I have to pass once more in front of you?  
 Can you give me a picture with you, I need to send it to Santa Claus, so that he knows what to bring me this year ....  
 Excuse-me, I noticed you haven't noticed me .... Please call the Police. It's illegal to look so good. Are you going to kiss me, or do I have to lie in my journal?  
 You look just like my second wife.  
 Yeah? How many times have you been married?  
 Just once!  
 Nice dress. Can I take it?  
 Your body is made 90% out of water, and I'm thirsty.  
 I have to call Heaven and tell them they lost an Angel.

My name is Silly Boy, but you can call me "Sweetheart".  
 Can you please give me some directions to your heart?  
 I wanted to show this flowers how beautiful you are!  
 Excuse me, were you talking to me? No!  
 Well, start now!  
 Your dad is a terrorist, because you are a bomb!  
 Excuse me, I'm new through this neighborhood, can you help me get to your house?  
 I thought I have some eye problems, I cannot take them off you  
 Do you have a map? I got lost into your eyes ...  
 Shall we talk? Or we just continue to flirt from distance?  
 Did the sun come out, or you just smiled?

--BS

### *lunar sales - want to buy?*

*Yuri Ivanov*

Turns out that the "big powers", and namely the U.S. and the Soviet Union divided the World (once again!) in the 1980-s. But no, not anything on Earth (that was divided several decades ago), but something in the space. According to the Lunar Embassy World Headquarters, the United Nations, the U.S. and the Soviet Union filled a declaration of ownership in the 1980s, allowing a private company to sell properties on the Moon. And they started doing that, since 1980. After the Internet came along, they opened an on-line store, at <http://www.moonshop.com>. Once the business started growing, they decided to expand. The next step was selling properties on Mars, Io and Venus. The prices range from about \$ 20 per acre, in any of these planets to over 1 million \$ for a lunar quadrant. Interested? Anyone can buy extraterrestrial properties, and if you rush, you can still buy planet Pluto in its entirety for only \$ 250,000. If you decide you only want some properties on the Moon, Mars, Io or Venus don't forget

\$ 1.51 Lunar, Martian, Iotian or Venutian Tax (they must have their own uncle Sam) and the aprox. \$ 10, for shipping and handling. Don't laugh, you're not going to get planet Pluto with a overnight delivery in your mailbox, the only thing you're getting is your document of ownership, a map (in case you decide you want to visit your property and you take a wrong turn) and a Lunar or Martian, Venutian or Iotian "Constitution Bill of Rights" (in case you decide to buy Pluto, they might allow you to write your own constitution). Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Clint Eastwood, Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman are only some of the celebrities that already have Lunar or Martian properties. But anybody can buy, you only need your credit card number, a valid address, your mother's maide ... (no, just kidding, the credit card and the valid address are enough) and a filled application at [www.lunarembassy.com](http://www.lunarembassy.com) or at any other authorized dealership. Hurry up. Middle class people from developing countries are in the top of the buyers (probably they gave up to the "American Dream" and now they have "bigger fish to fry").

### **Welcome to America: IGSA**

A long journey, a new home away from home. One always remembers Eddie Murphys big toothy smile in the movie coming to America, when one comes to the USA for the first time, though secretly we all wish we too were royalty, albeit for a tiny tiny unknown kingdom.

Well the good folks at IGSA made sure the newcomers atleast felt like one. They said "welcome to America" to the new students by hosting an aptly named "freshers party". Saturday night at the SAC union ball room..... good Indian food, fun and dance, you cant top

that. They even had a "personality" contest (thank god it wasn't a "reality contest"). Sadly there was no swim suit round despite the cat calls for one, but that wasn't the only thing that was missing. Some of the questions asked to the participants were hilarious, sample, "do you think funding is more important than research" read that as, "would you go for a boyfriend who is rich or good-looking?", most other questions were unfortunately simply grating and often boring.

There was a minor problem about the number of students allowed inside the ball room cause of fire laws, which didn't affect the party too much, as the organizers and the other students managed to keep it "behind the screens". Rules have to be followed, but cant the building manager be allowed to have some flexibility? Some simple common sense suggestions to solve the issue were not allowed since they didnt have authority. Although one has to agree that better planning would have prevented the minor crisis all together, shouldn't the people who run the building also have preset back up plans to handle such "foreseeable" occurrences?

kudos to the hosts Ms Sumana and Mr Mishra they did a good job hosting the party. DJ nitesh put up some lively beats, but one sorely missed some hip hop music. The food was awesome, and most had enough to eat, a first in Indian party's as insiders would know, they won the crowd in that by itself. Over all, all's swell that ends swell, it was all good in the end, everyone had a blast, the party continued at different locations at different venues until someone turned on the TV and heard "good morning America" punctuating the culmination of one journey and the beginning of another.



### **World War -II... in retrospect**

Besides the 9/11 anniversary, September is the month for another tragic anniversary, the starting of the Second World War. With 40 to 50 million victims, the Second World War is considered to be the bloodiest war in the mankind's history. The war was caused by unsettled issues of the First World War, and had as consequences the change of geopolitical power from Western European countries to the Soviet Union and the U.S., the spreading of communism throughout the world and the creation of the State of Israel.

On September 1st 1939 at 4.45 a.m., Hitler's troops invaded Poland, in spite of Poland's military alliance with France and Britain. Previous to the invasion, Hitler had signed a non-aggression pact with the Soviet Union, making sure that Russia will not attack back. The Ribbentrop - Molotov pact had a cynical secret protocol, in which Germany and the Soviet Union were dividing Eastern Europe in areas of influence. Poland was to be divided among the two powers, the Eastern 2 thirds to be taken over by the Soviet Union, and the Western third - by the Germans. In response to the invasion, Great Britain and France declared war to Germany on September 3rd. In less than a month, the Germans defeated most of the Polish forces. On September 18th, the infamous Red Army entered Poland from the East. France started an unsuccessful offensive along the 100 miles-long border between France and Germany. The only noticeable anniversary ceremony of the start of the Second World War took place only in Russia, according our sources.

-siva

--BS

FITNESS SCHEDULES FOR THE FALL

**Monday**  
 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  
 VINYASA YOGA  
 LEVEL I  
 Melissa  
 (Aerobics Center-SAC)  
 5:15 PM – 6:15 PM  
 MIX IT UP!  
 Isabel  
 (Aerobics Center-SAC)  
 6:15 PM – 7:15 PM  
 BODY SCULPTING  
 Isabel  
 (Aerobics Center-SAC)  
 7:15 PM – 8:15 PM  
 STEP AEROBICS  
 Christy  
 (Sports Complex)  
 8:15 PM – 9:15 PM  
 ABSOLUTE CORE  
 Christy  
 (Sports Complex)

**Tuesday**  
 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  
 BODY SCULPTING  
 Dawn/ Claire/ Lucille  
 (Aerobics Center-SAC)  
 5:15 PM – 6:15 PM  
 RESISTANCE BALL  
 Dawn/ Lucille  
 (Aerobics Center-SAC)  
 5:15 PM – 6:15 PM  
 AEROBOXING  
 Lorraine  
 (Sports Complex)  
 6:15 PM – 7:15 PM  
 LATIN JAM  
 Lorraine  
 (Sports Complex)  
 7:15 PM – 8:15 PM  
 KICK BOXING  
 Linda  
 (Sports Complex)  
 8:15 PM – 9:15 PM  
 BODY SCULPTING  
 Linda(Sports Complex)

**Wednesday**  
 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  
 VINYASA YOGA  
 LEVEL II  
 Melissa  
 (Aerobics Center-SAC)  
 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM  
 HATHA YOGA LEVEL II  
 Cecille  
 (Aerobics Center-SAC)  
 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM  
 BODY WEDGE  
 Allison  
 (Sports Complex)  
 Specialty Class  
 Advance Sign-Up  
 7:15 PM – 8:15 PM  
 BODY SCULPTING  
 Jeannean  
 (Sports Complex)  
 8:15 PM – 9:15 PM  
 KRIPALU YOGA  
 Jeannean  
 (Sports Complex)

**Thursday**  
 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  
 BODY SCULPTING  
 Dawn/ Claire/ Lucille  
 (Aerobics Center-SAC)  
 5:15 - 6:15PM  
 MIX IT UP!  
 Dawn/ Lucille  
 (Aerobics Center-SAC)  
 6:15 PM – 7:15 PM  
 RESISTANCE BALL  
 Dawn/ Lucille  
 (Aerobics Center-SAC)  
 7:15 PM – 8:15 PM  
 KICK BOXING  
 Linda  
 (Sports Complex)  
 8:15 PM – 9:15 PM  
 BODY SCULPTING  
 Linda  
 (Sports Complex)

**Friday**  
 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM  
 ABSOLUTE CORE  
 Dawn/ Claire/ Lucille  
 (Aerobics Center-SAC)

**University Café**  
 Graduate Bar Lounge / \*Open Fall 2003\*

Enjoy a new venue with a comfortable social environment for Stony Brook graduate and professional students.

Featuring Live original musical/comedy performances, karaoke, dramatic readings, poetry & spoken word.

Desserts, Pastries, Panini, Espresso & Cappuccino, Tea Service, and other adult beverages.

Venue available for your organization's special event.

Located on the 1st floor of the Stony Brook Union  
 Hours: Cafe Mon-Fri 12pm to 5pm  
 Lounge Wed-Sat 5pm to 2am  
 For more information, contact  
 Godfrey Palia at 631-632-1463  
 email gpalia@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

All classes will begin on September 8, 2003 and will end on December 12, 2003  
 Undergraduate students get in Free with a SBU ID Card.  
 Graduate Students and Faculty/Staff that would like to attend any of the above classes will need to purchase a Punch Card. Cost varies from \$25/- for 9 classes to \$60/- for 35 classes.  
 Participants may request a free pass to try any class listed on the fitness schedule. Free Passes can be picked up at the Wellness Manager's Office SAC - 222H  
 More info can be found at <http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/rec/wellnesscenter/schedule#TOP>

**CHILL OUT, GRADS!!!**

FIND WAYS TO DE-STRESS YOURSELF. UTILIZE THE VARIOUS RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO YOU ON CAMPUS. BE SURE TO STOP BY AT THE WELLNESS CENTER OR GO TO THE SPORTS COMPLEX AND PLAY ANY OF THE WIDE VARIETY OF GAMES. DON'T VEGETATE, GIVE YOUR GRAY CELLS A BREAK! IN ANY CASE, IF YOU DIDN'T LIKE ANY OF THESE HANG OUT WITH FRIENDS OR ENEMIES(!) AT THE UNIVERSITY CAFE!

## SPOTLIGHT

## MONGOLIA

## MOONLIGHT ...cont'd

After introducing you to the charismatic face of Eritria in the last issue of news and blues, I now want to pass on to you a brief and hopefully lasting impression through a tour of the enticing prowess of north east asia, mongolia. Mongolia is associated with the classical warrior Genghis Khan whose legends are known far and wide. Mongolia is a huge, landlocked country sandwiched between China and Russia. It's also one of the high altitude countries on the globe with an average elevation of around 5000 feet. Mongolia won its independence from China in 1921 with Soviet backing. A Communist regime was installed in 1924. It is currently controlled by a democratic governance that emphasises on public reforms. The travel season is typically from May to early October; early July has the best weather for the northern part of the country and is also the time to celebrate Mongolia's Naadam Festival. The biggest event of the year is the Naadam Festival, known as the *eriyin gurvan naadam*, after the three 'manly sports' of wrestling, archery and horse racing. The festival is held all over the country, normally between 11th and 13th July, the anniversary of the 1921 Mongolian Revolution. The major events take place during the first two days. Tsagaan Sar (White Month) is the start of the lunar new year in January or February. After months of enduring a bitter winter, Mongolians celebrate over three days with a lot of food, liquor and singing. Capital of Mongolia is Ulaan Baatar which has the appearance of a rustic european city. The centre of the city is Sükhbaatar Square. From this spot in July 1921 Damdiny Sükhbaatar, the 'hero of the revolution', declared Mongolia's independence. The Tsetseegum, Chingeltei, Songino Khaikhan and Bayansurkh are four sacred mountains surrounding the nation's capital. These peaks are tremendous for hiking, and they're popular for their forests of larch trees, grasslands and stunning bird and animal life, including ibex and sable.

Another natural wonder sacred to local Mongolians is the lake Khövsgöl Nuur which is situated along the border with Russia. It's full of fish and the area is home to sheep, ibex, bear and moose, as well as over 200 species of birds. There are numerous caves around the lake, though very shy from visitors who therefore use the services of local guides. Three separate peoples live in the area: Darkhad Mongols, Buryats and Tsaatan. An amazing 90 rivers flow into the lake, but only a single river flows out - the Egiin Gol, which ultimately reaches Lake Baikal in Siberia. Khövsgöl Nuur freezes in winter, allowing huge trucks carrying fuel to cross from Siberia. Mongolia's highest mountains are in the far west. The Mongol Altai Nuruu are permanently snowcapped, and their highest peak, Tavanbogd Uul (4370m/14,350ft), has a magnificent glacier that towers over Mongolia, Russia and China. Between the peaks are stark deserts where rain almost never falls. Elsewhere, Mongolia has numerous saltwater and freshwater lakes like the one mentioned above. The southern third of Mongolia is dominated by the Gobi Desert that carries enough vegetation to support the locals and their livestock.

Some other adventures in the mongolian land are the Gurvansaikhan National Park, Monastery of Amarbayasgalant Khiid and Khovd City. Travelling to this country to experience its wilderness and culture should be an experience worth remembering. And it will definitely not be as difficult as pronouncing and remembering the names of the places you came across in this feature!

Ref.: [www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com)

---Ashish Shah

--BS

After that, our hero became very despotic and he even stole the elixir of life from a divinity. His wife Chang Er, sacrificed herself and drank the elixir, to save the people from Hou Yi's dictatorial rule, and she flew to the moon. But Hou Yi loved his beautiful wife so much, that he didn't shoot down the moon.

During the Moon Festival, Chinese eat the Moon cake to celebrate the Ming dynasty taking the power in China from the Mongolian rulers, in the XIIIth century. During the rebellion which happened during the Moon Festival, the Chinese rulers of the rebellion baked moon-shaped cookies which contained messages with the outline of the attack.

## EMBRACE DIVERSITY

By Robert Gilpin

Within the discipline of Social Anthropology there are two very significant terms that apply to the approach some people may take towards those of other cultures and backgrounds. The first term is ethnocentrism. In Charles Winick's Dictionary of Anthropology the term is defined as: "The feeling that one's group has a mode of living, values and patterns of adaptation that are superior to all others. It is coupled with a generalized contempt for members of other groups."

The world in which we live is becoming smaller in terms of our contact and relationships with peoples of other races, ethnicities, and cultures. We are becoming a multi-cultural/multi-ethnic world more so now, than at any other point in the history of human kind. With mass migrations and displacements due to better opportunities, technological advancements, wars and economic/political strife, people are encountering each other and the cultures they bring with them, at an alarmingly fast rate. For some, this is a disturbing situation. For some, this is a fear that manifests itself in very disturbing attitudes and behaviors. "We are losing our sense of self." "We are being invaded by people and cultures that are not what we are all about." "If they all want to come here, then adapt to what we say is the norm." Everyone has heard statements and experienced behaviors such as this. If not word-for-word, the attitude or actions have been expressed, maybe subtly, possibly even explicitly.

In opposition to this position, the second term that I wish to present, is the theory of Cultural Relativism; "The principle that experience is interpreted by each person in terms of his own background, frame of reference, and social norms, and that these factors will influence perception and evaluations, so that there is no single scale of values applicable to all societies." (Winick 1970) Simply put, no one group has exclusive rights to determine what is right or wrong, acceptable or unacceptable within another's society. Most importantly, no one group has the right to judge another people or their culture, as 'better' or 'worse' in terms of their cultural traits, customs, behaviors, or history. No one society or culture can legitimately define itself as being better than any other.

My statements about our world becoming smaller can aptly be applied to this distinctive "Thousand Acre Universe" that we have all come to know and love; Stony Brook University. Our University is a microcosm of that larger outside world. This is most obvious in the fact that we have an incredibly diverse population (races, ethnicities and cultures) in terms of our students, faculty and staff. Without exaggeration, people from all over the world have been drawn to this very special academic community. How should groups that may have been here longer than others deal with this multi-cultural explosion of people and ideas? How should they/we react? How should our new neighbors, in turn, react to these new people and their cultures that they encounter upon their arrival, as well?

As a trained anthropologist, I have some very strong opinions on this matter. How should we all deal with this? How should we react? I say; embrace diversity, revel in it, learn to appreciate the differences in people, and while doing this, you will be surprised at the similarities we all share as well. Come to know those that you've always considered 'the other.' Stony Brook University is a wonderful place to meet people from different backgrounds, to make new friends and to appreciate how diverse and complex we all are. It will broaden your horizons and make you a better, more enriched person for it.

I had the opportunity to pursue my education at Stony Brook University. I received my Bachelors Degree in Anthropology and continued on to Graduate School, receiving my Graduate Degree in Socio-Cultural Anthropology. I currently hold a staff position within the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and work with our International Student population. As of this semester, I will begin teaching Anthropology at Stony Brook, and will be able to present to new students the concept of understanding and appreciating other cultures.

Being a student pursuing your degree, or being part of the faculty or staff, should be only one of many aspects of your experience here. Get to know people that you perceive as being different from yourself. Open up to their cultures, their views on a variety of things, from religion to politics, from relationships to education, to whatever they hold important and most dear in their hearts. You'll be surprised at how much we all have in common, while at the same time appreciating the diverse ways in which we express ourselves.

The theory of cultural relativism is a fundamental concept within my academic discipline. As anthropologists, we study other people and their cultures to find the differences, to find the similarities, with the ultimate goal being to better understand what noted anthropologist Sir Edward Evans-Pritchard described as "...that wondrous creature man."

It cannot be stated enough. It cannot be practiced enough. Embrace diversity.

FUN AT ADIRONDACKS

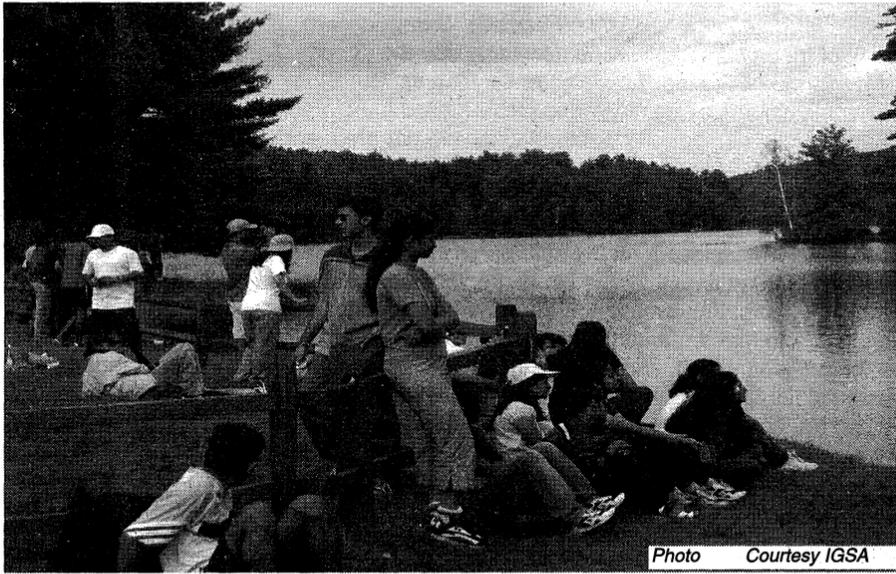


Photo Courtesy IGSA

It is not necessary to describe the fun it is to get away from the regular scheduled lifestyle of college and spend some time in the wilderness with friends. This is exactly what was done by the IGSA members this year. Two days and a night in the peaceful village of Lake George was a great way of ending the summers and starting the new semester.

The best thing about the whole affair was that it was a first time experience for most of the people, no one knew what to expect and every small thing was a surprise. Starting early in the morning in not an easy job for most people but luckily nobody missed the bus. The bus drive was long and mildly boring but a couple of movies and the occasional sleep made it bearable. The fun started after all the people got off the bus at Lake George camping site.

After setting up the tents (a highly confusing job) everyone headed for the beach straightaway. It is strange that even grown-ups can start behaving like kids at the sight of some sand and waves. Some waded into the lake voluntarily and the rest were dragged or pushed in. After around three hours, when everyone realised that maybe they had been in the water for too long and had enough sand in their clothes, everyone came back to the camping site.

The first surprise that greeted the enthusiastic folks was the cooking. Apparently nobody expected that cooking remotely eatable food over a wood fire was not as easy as it seemed. After messing up for quite some time finally the first dinner at Lake George was ready for everyone. A big gathering around the campfire followed and a long round of singing and joking. No need to mention that the security had to notify these energetic people that they were creating a lot of noise and that they should tone down. The partying continued even after that although in hushed voices and it was a long time before someone began feeling sleepy. Even after most of the people had fallen asleep and the fire had all but died out you could still find some of the "spirited" guys of the groups wandering on the sands of the beach and appreciating the beauty of the night sky.

The next day in the morning, after a hurried breakfast, everyone rushed to the bus to go for rafting. Rafting turned out to be more fun than anyone had imagined to be. Few of the people who were told to paddle were to realise that rowing looks easy only on the television. After nearly an hour of swimming and rowing the exhausted group was back on the bus for its trip back to the camping site. After a short stop at a park on the way back everyone was glad to be back in their tents. The relief was short lived as it was time to go and a hectic session of pulling down the tents and packing things was to follow. Confusion and chaos over misplaced items and forgotten stuff lasted for a very long time but finally it was over.

The trip back to Stony Brook was much more peaceful than the one to Lake George with a majority of the people catching up on the sleep. However everyone was awake at night when the lights of Manhattan came into view. For some of the newcomers it was for the first time that they were looking at the nighttime New York skyline but it looks beautiful every time you see it.

Tired yet excited the group was back home at close to midnight. It was a well managed trip and everyone was glad that they had come along. For the people who had taken all the trouble of managing the trip, there is nothing better than the satisfaction of a job well done.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Graduate Orchestra of the Music Department will have its first concert this year on October 4th, at the Staller Center for the Arts (Main Campus) at 8 PM. The Orchestra will be conducted by David Stern and will have as a soloist Concerto Competition winner Maya Hartman. The program will include Anton Webern's "Im Sommerwind", Serghei rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto and Franz Schumann's Symphony Nr. 3 "Rhenisch". Pianist Maya Hartman enjoys a versatile career as soloist and chamber musician. She has played solo and chamber music concerts throughout the United States, in Canada and in Israel, and has been broadcast on National Public Radio. She was a recent prizewinner in the 2003 Five Towns Music and Art Competition. Other awards include the Israel-American Cultural Foundation, the Helen C. Claus Music Scholarship, and winner of the Kankakee Valley Young Artists Competition. Currently in the DMA program at SUNY Stony Brook, Maya studies with Gilbert Kalish. She received her BM and MM with high distinction from Indiana University where she studied with Edward Auer and Menahem Pressler. Maya has participated in the Bowdoin Summer Music Festival, Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival, the Mannes Beethoven Institute, the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, and Yellow Barn Chamber Music Festival. A strong supporter of music of our times, Maya is also a regular player with the Stony Brook Contemporary Chamber Players and has premiered several works by American composers. Maya is currently on the faculty of the SUNY-Stony Brook Pre-college program.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES AT WORK



Photo Courtesy Smitha

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES ADVISOR, TOM BURNS, PREPARES STUDENTS FOR A NEW LIFE AT STONY BROOK. Above, students answer questions at the intake interview.

**OFF CAMPUS RENTERS .....? BEWARE !!!**

---Garcea de V.M.

Living off campus? Watch for the  
Stony Brook's BAD LANDLORDS

According to the university's statistics, more than 50 % of Stony Brook's graduate students live off-campus. Before accepting new tenants, many landlords from Stony Brook area do a background and credit-history check of the people they will be accepting into their house. Accordingly, some of the real estate brokers do a background check on the landlords, before recommending them to any potential tenants. But Stony Brook university's Off campus office, doesn't screen the potential landlords, and even after complaints, they don't want to make a "Bad Landlords" warning list. As you are going to discover in the following lines, there are some really dangerous landlords, that own several houses in our area, and are targeting Stony Brook students for their tenants. And not only that, they use our university's Off-Campus Housing Office (which is NOT screening them) for advertising their rental places.

Tanja L. had 3 other friends with which she decided to share a house. After taking several offers from the off-campus office, they started visiting each of them. They decided to rent a whole house, which looked very good, was pretty close from the school, and had an apparently nice landlord. After paying the security deposits, they agreed upon the date they would move in. First time they tried to move, they saw that in the house there were a lot of other tenants living (all of them seemed to be in their 30s), and they told them, they would not leave the house, at least for some time. When they talked to the landlord, he told them that he was going to take care of that, and that the tenants would leave, as soon as he would find a job for them (!?!?). When they attempted the second time to move in, there were only 3 tenants left, and again, the landlord promised Tanja and her friends that the old tenants will leave soon. The third time they attempted, there was only one lady tenant left, against whom the landlord had an eviction order issued. Our students decided they will all stay in only one room, since they had no other place to go. The landlord decided to lock that woman's door, so that she doesn't disturb them (!?!?). Once in the house, they discovered that they had to do a major clean-up: the house was completely trashed (in the most terrible sense of the word): there was vomiting on the floors, the bathroom had excrements all over it (and not only in the toilet), the walls were painted and trashed. On one of the walls, they saw a swastika, which had been painted over. As the night came, the situation become worst: the woman looked in her room was trying to get out, her dog was howling, she was screaming and trying to force the door, her TV and Radio were both at the maximum. Then, the woman started a courageous attempt to get out through her window. Under these circumstances, they decided it would be safer for them to spend the night somewhere else.

The next day, our students came back at the house, and re-started the clean-up process. After having found a siring on the floor, they called the police. The police officers who came to pick up the siring, told them that this was not a strange house for them. They had visited this house many times before, and during the 2003 summer, at least 2 times per week, and they had made arrests for drug abuse and theft among the tenants and among the landlords (!!!). After the police left, Tanja and her friends decided they ought to find another house and move out from there. When they first talked to the landlord, he said he understands perfectly, and that he would return all their money. Since then, he avoided any contact with them. While passing by to pick up their mail, Tanja accidentally met him at the house. Although nor Tanja nor any of her friends never said any bad word to him, and they never even raised their tone voice to him, as soon as he saw her, the landlord started cursing her, saying that they would never see their money back. He also started threatening her and her friends, saying that he is very powerful and that he has many lawyers and connections (he is an alumnus of our university).

There is another infamous landlord that has several houses in our area and rents them to Stony Brook students through the off-campus housing office. He has a bad police record, and he is not allowed to enter the New York State, so he runs his renting-business in a very original way, from his residence in the Washington State. He has people working for him, who come in the houses that he rents at very unusual times (especially at night), and enter every tenant's room, checking out each tenant and reporting back to him. This people have to look particularly to find reasons for him not to return the security deposits, but for other things also, which only they know.

This article is not intended against the SUNYSB's Off Campus Office, but rather as a general warning for people who decide to seek an off-campus landlord. We know that there are some extremely nice landlords in this area (and maybe we will write a future article about nice landlords), and I hope that every student seeking a landlord will find a good one. However, since the Off Campus Office is very determined not to screen the landlords who submit listings through them, we think that it is our duty to make the names of this "bad apples" available to the SBU student community, so please email us at nusnblus@ic.sunysb.edu if you are interested in knowing them. Also, please do not hesitate to email us if you know similar stories, or if you have any other names for bad landlords or for any comments you might have to this article.

**Commentary: GSO Government in a State of Texas**

--- Pegine Walrad

It occurred to me the other day listening to NPR – amused by the campy antics of the Democratic Senators in Texas, when I realized despite my entertainment at the mayhem - here were politicians not doing their job.

One could argue that they were fighting for what they believed in – and I can understand that perspective. I can even appreciate it – rearranging the voting system so as to maintain one party's power is wrong. No matter which political leaning you may have. The thing is... their actions are contrary to the good of the organization and undemocratic.

But that brings me to my comparison... it appears as of late that graduate students – at least those who are interested in becoming politically active on campus these days – are increasingly divided, unyielding, and undemocratic.

The past 2 GSO elections have been increasingly nasty & desperate in tone – camps are formed, lines are drawn & very few venture to the other side to even consider perspectives. Infighting and egos have harmed our organization's ability to function, our credibility within the administration, our faith in one another and our community as a whole.

Since our elected Treasurer's resignation this summer, no one has since been appointed to this position and allegations of every sort have flown about to no avail. The end result: we still have no Treasurer, and no one is taking responsibility for paying GSO's expenses or reimbursing graduate students for legitimate RAP expenses. Today the scheduled Senate meeting was both cancelled then reinstated by the remaining Executives. The Speaker then resigned – in case any of you do not check your e-mail as frequently as 3 times a day between experiments...

The mockery this makes of our organization & the faith it destroys of those who should be guarding the graduate interests more than fluffing their egos about is sad. There are MANY good things for graduates to look forward to this year!

We have a beautiful new lounge!!! Compliments of some tremendously dedicated individuals – we have a snazzy place to call our own.

It's in a central location, has a patio & will be open as a coffee house during the day – so check it out! We can make of it what WE, as a community, want.

We have a graduate newspaper – which, obviously, I'm utilizing today... to keep one another entertained, vent our frustrations, unify ourselves against injustice, and inform each other of important events. It's been set back on its feet and continues to get stronger each year!

Plus, and most importantly, we have more graduates willing to get involved and keep informed than I have ever witnessed!

Perhaps in part brought about by aforementioned frustrations, more attention, dedication and concentrated effort is being done to advance graduate interests than in many, many years. Problem is... our own division is undermining our collective efforts.

When we are able to agree, we are quite a force!

We need to get our act together. Compromise and understanding aren't options, they're necessities to a functional, inclusive government.

After all, we do not want to wind up like Texas or worse yet, California – where it's hard to tell a bad movie from political reality anymore...

## RECIPES

## FROM ROMANIA

So how about a change in Cuisine from all American to something different. This time we thought of introducing you to some traditional Romanian Cooking. Romanian cooking is greasy, uses a lot of onions. Romania is mostly famous for its Stuffed Cabbages called Sarmale, which is a traditional Christmas/New year dish. Want to give it a try..?

## Appetizer:

## Eggplant Salad

Ingredients: 2 eggplants (long and thin), 150 ml oil, salt, 1 onion and mayonnaise (optional).

Burn the 2 eggplants directly over the flame, until they are very soft. Right after you take them from the flame, peel off their skin completely, and cut the end. Let them drain very good on a wooden platter (otherwise, their juice will make them bitter). Smash (not cut!) them with a wooden knife and do not put them in any case in a food mixer (the seeds would smash and would make the salad bitter). Put the smashed eggplants in a bowl and start mixing them with the oil, the minced onions and salt, according to your taste. Use the mayonnaise only if the salad is bitter (sometimes the eggplants are bitter) or if the salad is more than 1 or 2 days old. Serve the salad fresh spread on Italian bread, with salted tomato pieces.

## Soup:

## Tripe (Belly) Soup (Ciorba de burta)

Ingredients: 5 liters of water, 1 kg of beef or pork tripe (belly – white with strips), salt, 2 carrots, 1 leafstalk of celery, 2 onions, 1 leaf of laurel, 1 egg, 50 grams of vinegar, 1 skull of garlic, pepper and sour cream (5- 10 tablespoons)

Wash well and the tripe and put for one night in cold water. The second day, rub with salt. Cut the tripe into thin medium-long pieces. Then boil it in water, for 3 hours. After 3 hours, keep it boiling at a lower temperature, but add the minced carrots, celery, the onions and the laurel. After 30 more minutes, take it off the fire and add the smashed garlic, the pepper and the vinegar. Serve with sour cream (1-2 spoons per plate).

## Main dish:

## Cabbage rolls (Sarmale)

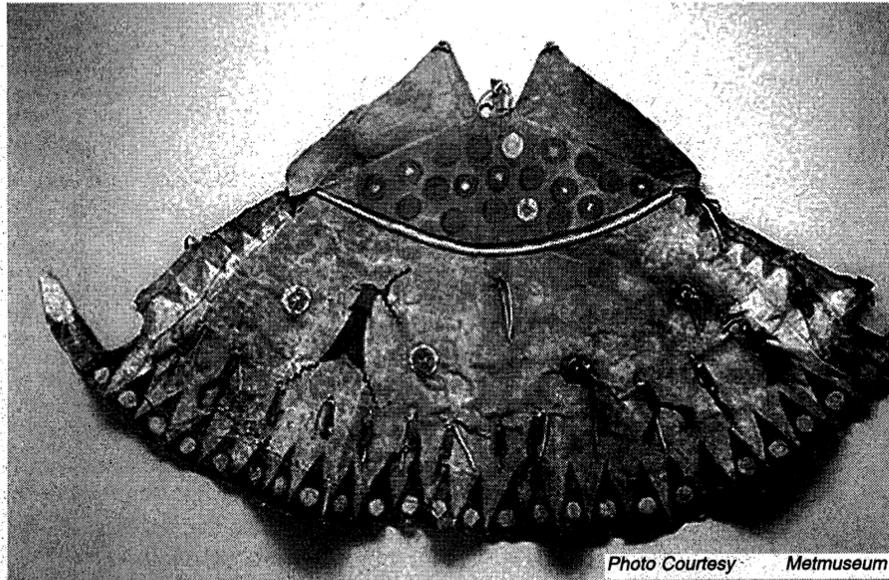
Ingredients: 1 whole big (ideally: sour) cabbage; 400 grams of ground pork meat; 400 grams of ground beef; 75 grams of rice; 3-4 slices of smoked bacon (not cooked); 1 bag of sauerkraut, 2 onions, 2 tablespoons of tomato sauce, salt, pepper.

Steam some cabbage leaves until they become tender. Fry the minced onion and when it becomes yellowish add the rice and continue to fry for 1 to 2 minutes. Following that, chill it with 2 tablespoons of water. Mix the meat with the rice and onions; season it with the salt, pepper and the parsley. Place small amounts of the mixture on every cabbage leaf and roll them and tuck in the edges. Put one row of sauerkraut on the bottom of an Earth pan and over it, a row of cabbage rolls; alternate like this. Pour the tomato sauce over it and add some smoked bacon. Pour 2 cups of water in the pot, cover the pot with a lid and boil it for at least 1 and a half hours. Serve it hot with sour cream and with thick corn meal (ideally).

Garcea de VM

## CITY ARTS, WHAT'S NEW AT THE MET

Jasmina Sinanovic



Tipi Model, late 1860s-76

Blackfoot peoples, Montana, or Alberta

Native-tanned skin, paint, glass beads, cotton trade cloth, metal, horsehair.

The tepee was the home of the Plains Indians. The frame of the tepee was made of long wooden poles pointed together and fastened at the top. The bottoms were spread out to form a circle. This was covered with a tent of animal skins which fastened to the ground. These Indians would often paint decorations on the outside of the teepee. The Plains Indians would have a fireplace inside the tepee. This form of home could quickly be taken down when the Plains Indians moved to follow the buffalo.

## The Responsive Eye: Ralph T. Coe and the Collecting of American Indian Art

September 9, 2003–December 14, 2003

Special Exhibition Galleries, 1s

The Ralph T. Coe Collection of American Indian Art is over fifty years old. It represents various North American regions and eras. There are works as old as 3000 BC and as young as present day works. Pacific Northwest, High Plains and Northeast are all represented in this collection. One may enjoy masks, beaded ornaments and headdresses.

"The Responsive Eye: Ralph T. Coe and the Collecting of American Indian Art" was organized by Julie Jones, curator in charge of the Department of the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas. Installation design was by Daniel Kershaw, graphic design by Constance Norkin, and lighting design by Clint Collier and Rich Lichte, all of the Museum's Design Department. Information and images from: <http://www.metmuseum.org>

## STONY LOVE by JZ Bich

Dear JZ,

I am a new student and I have a roommate who has a boyfriend. He comes often to visit her and they are very nice, but I have noticed that every time when he is visiting I find my underwear moved. I think they are going through my underwear when I am not in the roo. This makes me uncomfortable. What should I do? I don't want to talk about this to her since I am not 100% sure she is doing it.

-Laundry Girl

Dear LG,

the smell of human body is a strong aphrodisiac and it is not uncommon that people enjoy smelling clothes worn by others. I would not be horribly disturbed by your roommates behavior; however, you do have right to privacy. You also have right to ask her not to touch your things. If you want to be sure you might want to order laundry in a specific way and check later if it has been reordered. Also, is there anyone else who might get a hold of your undergarments? If you still don't want to talk to her leave a note in your laundry bag stating you want her to stop looking into it and that you know it's happening. Finally, you might just want to be a good sport and leave some undies you don't mind sniffed in plain site on your bed.

-JZ

**La Isabella sans mercy!**

Like the belle in the similarly titled famous poem, the lady hurricane riveted the attention of her victims. Then She came she saw and she deluged. After the near panic in stony brook, and even an odd person or two who claimed to love the rain (rain and hurricane aint the same folks, see the word cane at the end, its there for a reason), and me parking my car as far away from trees as possible, it all turned to be all wind!

But folks down in Virginia and North Carolina weren't so lucky. Baltimore looks like Venice in her wake. A much-weakened Isabelle brought the mighty Washington to their knees. Imagine what a category five would have done? It probably was a grim but kind reminder to the white house to be more responsible with Mother Nature. Despite the best preparation Isabelle left 17 people dead and caused millions of dollar worth damage. One can only be thankful it wasn't more.

**Arafat wanted more dead than alive?**

Its fortunate/unfortunate, that the Palestinian leader has the word fat in his name. The Israelis (some factions in the government) are taking a cue out of the US health policy and they want to eliminate this pesky Fat problem! The Israeli government reportedly have passed a resolution to eliminate Mr Arafat. A government official was quoted as saying this elimination includes deportation, exile and possibly even assassination. A proposal by syria to stop any attempt to harm Mr Arafat was vetoed by US. (shows their commitment to fight fat). A second proposal about the same issue passed successfully in the UN general assembly but its advisory and non-binding (Any connection between the fat lobby and the UN???). Advise to Sharon, sir please do as your name suggest,

"share on" that's the best way to fight any fat!

**Clark Kent?**

As the democrats are desperately trying to find a direction to fight the Obviously vulnerable Mr bush, there seems to be hope! Superman announced his candidacy yesterday minus his famous glasses. Clark K (ent)-Wesley the four -star general came out of the bush to take on (yes of course!) bush. The primary race for the democratic presidential nominee now only rivals the California recall carnival. The number of candidates is now up to a grand ten, with efforts to recruit senator Clinton and VP Gore in the shadows. There are also rumors that secret democratic labs are trying to Clone JFK and bring him back, but then rumors are just rumors right? Meanwhile the general as of date is trying to follow the eraser's strategy, speeches filled with platitudes and short on policy. Just might work for superman too for he has the right kind of muscles. The Florida hanging chad (read million dollar) question though will be, can Dr Dean turn out to be his kryptonite?

**The recall will be back!**

The ninth circuit court of appeals recalled the recall. Arnie thundered the recall will be back! Whoever thought the rise of the voting machines will thwart the terminator! Advise to those of us who haven't heard the news about the movie stars new role as a contender for governor of California, please relocate to California, you have a chance of becoming governor. Republican billionaire Darrel issa ran a campaign to collect signatures to recall governor Davis, in the hope he can stage a "democratic coup" or should I say republican coup? The ploy seemingly worked, the measure passed and the recall hullabaloo was on. The down side was Mr issa didn't calculate for Mr universe. Hence he

was then reduced to crying over a lose of a million dollars. My solution to California mess Sylvester stallone has to become judge dredd and we should have a death match with Arnie about who has to be governor. Am sure we can find some cheer leaders among the 130 odd other candidates.

**Will Fox sue monkeys?**

A study on a type of monkeys have documented for the first time, that monkeys also have a fair and balanced view of things. Sarah Brosnan and Frans de Waal at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, US conducted research on capuchin monkeys (no connection to starbuck yuppies with laptops).

They trained capuchin monkeys, which are native to the forests of South America, to exchange a token for food. Once the monkeys were used to handling the tokens, Brosnan (not 007) set them up in pairs and rewarded each in turn. If both received a piece of cucumber as a reward, they behaved as before. However, if Brosnan gave one a grape, which they considered a more prized morsel, the other often refused to accept the cucumber. Worse still, if one monkey was rewarded for doing nothing, then four times out of five the other refused to participate further (Nature, vol 425, p 297)

In unrelated news Foxs news channel is now contemplating whether to sue the monkeys. Uhoh! we used that phrase in this article! Are we going to be sued too?

**US Open**

This Just in Hardenne lifts the us open. The US open womans final was an all Belgian affair. Justine henin hardenne beat Belgian compatriot kim clijsters 7-5, 6-1 to lift the US open womans title.

Note to Donald duck or was it Rumsfeld? ..... Whoever knew

chocolate-making countries can also win us open titles.

The mens title was won by Roddick who beat Spaniard juan carlos ferrero 6-3, 7-6, 6-3. Earlier André aggasi put up a gutsy performance to reach the semis but lost to ferrero.

Note back from rummy ...Dude whos got the Roddick? Shock and awe anyone?

**Texas renegades**

They did it again. Ten Texan democrats took refuge again in New Mexico to fight the redistricting proposal by republicans. A controversial proposal was made by republican senators to redistrict the state so that voting pattern would favor the republican party. Not having enough senate votes to stop this partisan agenda, the democratic senators chose the good ole tradition of out law cowboys and took off complete with sheriff's chasing them to new Mexico. A repeat performance was put up this month. They have since returned and are vowing to take the fight to the floor. Note to GSO.

...Maybe we should redistrict USB so that just one faction wins, we can avoid deadlocks.

**Jack in the box**

The airport security folks would have had a surprise if they had opened the box in which Charles Mckinley mailed himself in. The 173 cm tall individual cramped himself in a box which was 107cm high, 91cm wide and 38cm deep. He billed his company \$635 without insurance to ship him for Newyork to dallas to save airfare. He would have successfully done that but for a spooked out deliveryman who thought there was a corpse in the crate on spotting two eyes staring out through the slits. The now media darling Charlie in a box, obviously took a leaf out of blaine, the magician but personally I think its plane stupidity!

*We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.*

*- Martin Luther King*

**Visiting Asteroids.....Are they coming...?**

More data eliminated the chance of the 2003 QQ 47 asteroid to hit Earth in 2014. The asteroid, which has a diameter of 1.3 km (aprox. 0.8 miles) and traveling at a speed of about 22 miles per second, was previously announced that might hit Earth on March 21, 2014 and could devastate an entire continent. It could have had the effect of 20 million Hiroshima bombs, but its dimensions are only a tenth from the asteroid believed to have hit Earth 65 million years ago, producing the extinction of the dinosaurs. The new data collected by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory showed that there is only a 1 in 2.2 million chance for the asteroid to hit. Guess the asteroid decided this party aint worth crashing!!! But what a name!! some rapper's gonna pick that name soon if they havent already!

**Direct Service from JFK to Jamaica LIRR**

New York. The Port Authority of New York hopes to begin later this year the Air Tran passenger service between JFK airport, Howard Beach and Jamaica LIRR station terminals. Testing of the JFK Air Tran system had been suspended for 7 months, after a fatal accident occurrence in September last year. On Sept. 27 2002, a test train derailed causing fatal injuries to the driver. Upon the investigation, it had been discovered that the train was traveling too fast (55 mph) when it entered a curb designed for only 25 mph speeds. The charge for a one-way trip from JFK to Jamaica station will cost \$ 5, and the trains will be driverless, according to N.Y. Port Authority's Press Releases earlier this year. Hmm ghost trains in newyork? guess they are safer than test drivers.