



The Patriot

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USG Presidential Candidate Ilan Nassimi

Interview by Rachel O'Brien

Recently, I sat down with Ilan Nassimi, Vice President of Student Life, and USG Presidential candidate for a candid interview.

The Patriot: *How are you going to get the Wang Center "back into students' hands"?*

Ilan Nassimi: First, and most importantly, it is student awareness. Students need to know that there are great lecture halls that are supposed to be used for classes and events.

The Wang Center needs to be utilized. We need to work with them to get students in there. We may need to go to the administration to get them to work with us.

The Patriot: *How do you see the USG Constitution as it is right now? Is it a mess? Does it reflect the mess we've seen in USG this year?*

Nassimi: The Constitution is one of the main problems that we've had. The wording is vague and people disagree with its meaning. We have no idea what the framers of the Constitution were thinking when they wrote it, so we find it hard to interpret it. We all (USG, clubs, etc.) need to sit down and figure it out.

The Patriot: *What is the process now for clubs who want to host an event and what exactly will M.O.P. consist of?*



Nassimi has been active in USG for two years, and has received The Patriot's endorsement.

Nassimi: Right now \$300,000 is spent every year on administrators handling fiscal matters. Clubs have to put all their paperwork into certain offices and administrators deal with it.

We will designate one office in the USG

suite M.O.P., where we will "mop up" all the paperwork at once. We will have clubs submit all the forms (event form, budget application form, etc.). The M.O.P. office will then ship out all the paperwork to the appropriate offices (accounting, President's office, Treasurer's office, etc.)

M.O.P. will be student run and will eliminate hundreds of thousands of dollars from the USG budget and the clubs will be getting more back.

The Patriot: *You say that you "will work to create an environment in USG of cooperation and understanding". Do you see USG as a hostile, unorganized and cliquish environment? (You wrote an article for The Patriot about power groups: EOP, The Press, College Republicans, and Commuter Student Association. Do you see these as good or bad for USG? Do they create a hostile environment?)*

Nassimi: USG can be a hostile environment. We have these groups and we have to recognize that people have different opinions. We can come up with a compromise, keeping disagreements on a political level, not a personal one. We have to recognize that we can disagree with someone on politics but that doesn't mean they're a bad person.

The Patriot: *What is your campaign slogan?*

Nassimi: Experience that counts, results that matter.

2nd Clubs Bill of Rights Protects Free Speech

Commentary by Robert J. Romano

On April 5th, 2005, the USG Senate passed by a margin of 8-6 "The Second Clubs and Organizations Bill of Rights," a bill that I authored and which guarantees the right to USG funding to all clubs and organizations provided that they serve the University's mission, defines viewpoint neutrality under law, confers upon all clubs and organizations the same free speech and press protections offered to media organizations, allows off-campus club accounts to clubs and organizations whether or not they are funded by the USG, offers a judicial remedy to those clubs which are discriminated against on the basis of viewpoint, and finally, authorizes and supports the mechanisms which shall enable the Executive Council to firmly put into place the various clauses enumerated in the bill itself.

"The Second Clubs and Organizations Bill of Rights" protects free speech here at Stony Brook, and guarantees the right of all clubs to freely express their beliefs and carry out their stated missions. Under the principles of equal protection of the laws, and viewpoint neutrality for the allocation of mandatory student activity fees, all clubs

and organizations are guaranteed the same rights in the University setting in accordance with the Chancellor's Guidelines. This bill defines and enumerates those rights under law and protects them from infringement

Although the bill was passed, there is much more work to be done. According to the *Southworth v. Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin* decision, the USG ought not have the power to deny us funding on the basis of viewpoint; however, that is exactly what it does in the Special Services Council Budgeting Bylaws! Section 3.D. of those Bylaws states: "Any Club/Organization seeking funding that has any ties with a particular religious, spiritual, or political group, to be eligible for funding must only and explicitly use funds for educational, cultural, recreational, or social activities or events, as in accordance with the Chancellor's Guidelines..." By singling out religious and political clubs in this manner, it is implied that religion-building and party-building efforts are not educational, cultural, or social. This section of the Bylaws goes further still: "No meetings, activities or events backed by SSC funds can have the intention of proselytizing..." This means that a religious

club, if they want funding, cannot meet together and persuade new members to convert to their religious faith.

The whole purpose of religious and political organizations is to champion ideals and to engage in the marketplace of ideas, and yes, to proselytize. To deny us funding on the basis that we intend to use the money to forward our agendas which you may not agree with, as the SSC Budgeting Bylaws require, is not viewpoint neutral. It is biased against religious and political clubs. Section 3.D. of those Bylaws still must yet be repealed by the Executive Council in order for USG's funding policies to be in compliance with the *Southworth* decision and the newly revised Chancellor's Guidelines. A ban on proselytization as a condition for receiving funding is a ban on the freedom of religious and political clubs to pursue their objectives and express their beliefs. It also constitutes separate criteria specifically for religious and political clubs to receive funding from the USG, since only they are subject to this restriction. In other words, by definition, a ban on proselytization is a ban on religious and

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USG Candidate Debates

By Rachel O'Brien

On Monday April 18th, the first of a series of two nights of election debates took place. The debates were held in the SAC Auditorium with an audience of about 50 people, including members of The Press, The Patriot and support groups for the candidates."

Only 6 out of the 16 people running for the 20 open Senate seats were present for the debates. Running for Senator for the College of Arts and Sciences are Enyu Shih (CORE), Marc Gross (CORE), Michael Cohan, Milap Patel, Amol Amin, Amy Wisnoski, Ajay Pawar, Tanzim Khan, Simardip Grewal, Nigam Vyas, Jaspreet Toor, Natasha Patel, Jonathon Reichman (CORE), and Aryeh Glas (CORE). Running for Senator for the College of Engineering are Walter Sysak (CORE) and Alyssa Fasano. The 6 senatorial candidates in attendance for the debates were Amy Wisnoski, Alyssa Fasano, Marc Gross, Aryeh Glas, Jonathon Reichman and Walter Sysak.

The questions ranged from what type of legislation they would support and whether or not they supported party tickets to how they felt they would be able to represent the student body, espe-

cially those which they are not familiar with, culturally and religiously.

After the Senate debate, the two candidates for President, Ilan Nassimi (CORE) and Diana Acosta, took the stage. Nassimi is the current VP of Student Life and Acosta is the current VP of Academic Affairs.

Acosta made her opening statement first: "USG should be the main organization advocating for the rights of the students. USG should hold events and programs to show all students that they are part of the school community...If we are not part of the right type of change, than we are part of the problem. As President, I want to leave the drama behind."

In Nassimi's opening, he said, "[W]e need USG officials to fight upstairs not downstairs. We need people to go to the administration and fight them upstairs not from down here...You have to be willing to work with the parties involved in USG and say 'I understand, I'm from CORE, you are from this group, you are from this group, let's sit down and discuss our problems. Let's not hide them and pretend that they don't exist, like a toothache that we pretend goes away and next thing you know, you're wearing dentures."

The moderator, Ted Johnson, a member of the USG Elections Board, began the debate by asking questions submitted by clubs, media, and students. The first was "How do political parties such as CORE serve the student body?" Nassimi answered, "The first thing we have to recognize is that factions do exist in USG. I didn't cause them, you didn't cause them. They just exist. We disagree... political parties don't make it worse. Political parties recognize the problem and try to fix it." Acosta, referring to a mention of police entering a Senate meeting last semester said, "I think that the reason the cops came to the Senate meeting was because of the people in the CORE party...I honestly think that student government is not about political parties. It's about every single student sitting in here today and every single student out there. It's not about groups; it's not about specific parties. I'm not affiliated with anybody. I'm just a regular student like you, trying to make a difference."

The next question was, "How are you going to represent the student body as a whole, especially the ones you know little about culturally?"

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War Veteran Visits Stony Brook

By Nathan Shapiro

On April 20th, Stony Brook University was honored by a visit from retired Lieutenant Colonel Scott Rutter, a real American hero. LTC Rutter served in both Gulf Wars and earned the prestigious Silver Star for his leadership in the efforts to topple Saddam Hussein's regime in the Spring of 2003. In his presentation, LTC Rutter provided attendees the perspective of a reporter as well, describing how he returned to Iraq as a war correspondent for the Fox News Channel.

Among the fascinating topics discussed, LTC Rutter recounted how he commanded the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division on an unprecedented 21-day campaign into the heart of Iraq to help capture and secure the Baghdad International Airport. LTC Rutter described his force's encounters with Saddam's elite Republican Guard, providing visitors with photographs and videos from the combat zone to show a fraction of the great job American soldiers, and their allies, are doing in Iraq.

In addition to his experience as a combatant in Iraq, LTC Rutter shared details on his role as a reporter imbedded with both American and

Iraqi forces. He described how American and Iraqi forces attacked and liberated the city of Fallujah after it had been occupied by enemy forces, who had forced most of the city's residents to flee even before the coalition assault was launched. LTC Rutter gave enormous amounts of praise towards the Iraqi forces, which are sometimes ignored by Western media, for their contribution to the coalition's effort to secure Iraq in Fallujah and elsewhere.

LTC Rutter used his unique insight into the situation in Iraq to inform visitors what he saw as America's future role in the country. He told of how America must change to counter the evolving tactics of its enemies, whose tactics include using mosques and tombs to hide weapons. LTC Rutter told listeners that his motivation, and the motivation of most soldiers in Iraq, was to improve the lives of the Iraqi people after they had been abused for so long by Saddam Hussein and said that America must continue to improve their lives by building schools and hospitals to help end the violence.

However, not everyone was interested in listening to the informative presentation by the Lieutenant Colonel. After LTC Rutter's presentation was already underway, a group of anti-war protestors demanded entry into the room. After dealing

with the elite Republican Guard, a few malcontented Stony Brook students didn't even cause LTC Rutter to flinch, and he personally granted the protestors permission to join in. Despite his courtesy towards the protestors, they entered the room disruptively carrying anti-military placards and continued to restlessly make noise and distract from the presentation, causing at least one of their members to be ejected from the room.

LTC Rutter remained respectful of the protestors and their freedom of speech, which he himself had fought to defend, even allowing them to ask the majority of the questions during and after the presentation. One protestor used that opportunity to accuse LTC Rutter of war crimes, to which he responded that he was confident he did not kill any innocent Iraqis during his tour of duty.

After LTC Rutter's presentation, he was awarded a plaque from the Stony Brook College Republicans, the Enduring Freedom Alliance and the Undergraduate Student Government thanking him for his service to his country and for bringing his unique and informative perspective on the war in Iraq to Stony Brook.

For the last 200 years, this country has stood for truth, justice, natural rights, individual liberty, freedom, and independence. Become a part of the tradition. Contribute to The Patriot.

Please send submissions to: stonybrookpatriot@gmail.com

Visit us online at: www.stonybrookpatriot.com
A paper of the Enduring Freedom Alliance: http://www.ic.sunysb.edu/clubs/efa/

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I Pimped My Own Ride

By James Davis

What would you say if I told you that you could have your ride pimped, without having to spend a fortune or enter into a lottery with ridiculous odds, only to deal with Xzibit and his affinity for distracting DVD players, hideous paint colors, and ridiculous rims? And let's not forget his obnoxious laughter that seems to have no dependence on actual humor? Well, it doesn't matter much what you would say ... because you probably can't do it. But I did! Follow my helpful tips and maybe you can stop dreading what gaudy spinners Xzibit has in store for you.

The first step is to find a good starting point. It goes without saying that a larger initial investment will mean less work to do later down the road. If you're in the know like me, you can score a sweet deal. I was able to get my 1960 Ford F-100 for free from the original owner. The truck had been sitting for decades in a Vermont field, and had rusted extensively. Although it definitely needed a lot of work, it was almost completely unmodified, since it had been through only one owner.

The history of the Ford F-series trucks begins in 1948, when Ford replaced the tonnage naming system with more consumer-friendly model names. The half-ton chassis became the F-1, the 3/4-ton became the F-2, and the tonner became the F-3. The larger trucks followed suit. In 1953, Ford renamed the models once again to the more impressive-sounding F-100, F-250, and F-350. This three-digit system (and four-digit in the heavy trucks) has since remained essentially unchanged except for the renaming of the F-100 to the F-150 that we know today. This change was prompted by efforts to circumvent early legislative red tape regarding leaded and unleaded gasoline. In just 10 months, my father and I turned this truck from a rusty wreck back into the rugged classic workhorse it once was.

The second (and most fun) step is to get the mechanicals up to snuff. My truck is equipped with its original inline 6, which had 65,000 original miles on it and was fortunately not seized from stagnation. We had it running in just a couple of hours, but it was clear that the engine had some problems. The entire fuel delivery system from the tank to the carburetor was sludged from stagnant gasoline and needed cleaning. A compression check also revealed cylinder 1 as having zero compression. We cleaned the carburetor thoroughly and replaced all its gaskets, cleaned the fuel tank with a pressure washer, and replaced all the fuel lines and the burned exhaust valve in cylinder 1. After that, the engine was running like brand new. The column-shifted three-speed manual transmission and 3.70:1 Ford 9" rear axle both checked out fine.



Before, the truck was battered and red.



Before, front angle.



Afterward, it is gleaming and black.



Afterward, side angle.

Step three is the body work. Fix those holes, or they will come back to haunt you. Although the drivetrain in my truck was in good original condition, the body was a different story. The truck had rusted badly, partly due to the mouse nests in the vents, ceiling, and flywheel cover. The cab was no longer structurally sound and sagged whenever the doors were opened. Rust repair proved to be the most time-consuming portion of the project. The truck originally had steps inside the doors that had since disintegrated entirely. We were able to buy patch panels for the steps, the rear cab corners, and the back edges of the front fenders. The holes in the bed and the floor of the cab, as well as the body mounts and door pillars, were all filled with patches hand-fabricated from flat sheet metal. All the patches were welded in with an acetylene torch and smoothed out with nylon body filler ("Bondo").

Step four is paint. Rather than an obnoxious yellow or lime green, I decided to finish my truck in the understated elegance of Raven Black. My father

has an old spray gun that was adequate for the job. It wasn't a HVLP (high volume, low pressure) gun, but the quality of the paint job was good, especially considering it was free.

Add a set of new Michelin radial tires and a chrome grille (eBay, \$100) and my ride is finished. It's by no means a high-horsepower ride, but it turns plenty of heads in its own right. Find a source for a good starting point and a father who knows his stuff, and you too could have your own pimpin' ride. West Coast Customs ain't got nothin' on Davis and Son Restorations. We got the job done without any corny jokes or footage of old parts being flung upon the rubbish heap.

Blackworld Wins in National Competition

By Rachel O'Brien

On February 27, 2005 *Blackworld* won first Honorable Mention in the Associated Collegiate Press National College Newspaper Convention in San Francisco, California.

Paul Akins, Managing Editor of *Blackworld*, said, "You have to bring in different issues of your paper and we entered in our anniversary issue and a few other issues." And they came out on top.

When asked what was *Blackworld's* secret to success Akins said, "We just try to keep

ourselves out of the paper as much as possible. Even though it's still *Blackworld* and we're still writing mainly for minority students. Whenever we write a story, we want to make sure that we have both sides and we want to just give them the facts and let them decide."

The Patriot would like to take this opportunity to send congratulations to Editor Joan Gumbs, Managing Editor Paul Akins, and the rest of the *Blackworld* staff for their hard work and commitment to exceptional journalism here at Stony Brook University.

The Patriot

Our Mission: The goal of *The Patriot* is to offer an alternative point of view to the students of Stony Brook University. It is a paper dedicated to raising awareness of student issues on campus, and conservative issues on the national scene. While it does not actively seek controversy, *The Patriot* strives to offer opinions and news that will encourage the students of this campus to ask themselves what their true values are. It is dedicated to building upon and fostering the conservative views that are strong among so many of us, yet suppressed in our community. But ideology aside, all of our news will be bound to three standards; we will always be *factual, sensible, and reasonable.*

Democracy's Next Frontier

Commentary by Justin Cleveland

"In a widely noticed interview, Walid Jumblatt, the leader of Lebanon's Druze, told the Washington Post that Iraq's election was the Arab equivalent of the fall of the Berlin wall. Hisham Kassem, a former publisher of the Cairo Times, called the elections the 'start of a ripple effect.' Khaled al-Meena, the editor of Saudi Arabia's Arab News, says that if elections can be held under foreign occupation in Iraq and Palestine, it should be much easier to hold them in Arab states said to be 'free.'" — Excerpt from "Something Stirs," Economist.com

Though many thought that the War on Iraq would bring hostilities and turmoil that would only pour gasoline on the fires of Western hatred in the Middle East, the reality hints to be much different. Two years after the invasion of Iraq, the Arab world is beginning to show signs of change. It appears that the seeds of democracy are finally starting to take root. Even Arab nations that have been entrenched in dictatorship are now taking steps toward freedom—mostly due to domestic reasons or American pressure. Jordan, a semi-constitutional monarchy, plans to be giving up some of its central powers to elected regional bodies. Yemen has a rowdy parliament and press. Kuwait, which has long had a parliament, is on the verge of granting women the right to vote. Bahrain, Oman, and Qatar already have woman suffrage. Saudi Arabia is currently under an elections process. The examples are

endless.

Interestingly, two of the best examples of democratic steps taking place in the Middle East are Iraq and Palestine. Both of these countries are currently under foreign occupation, and have recently had free elections. One of these countries has become an inspiring example because of our country's actions. As Walid Jumblatt and Khaled al-Meena said so well, we have the chance to give the Arab world a brilliant hope for Liberty.

Although hope is the only thing that can keep us moving on, one must not be so swift to jump to expectations. We've seen how shallow promises of peace in many parts of the Middle East can be. But to forsake a chance to help bring freedom in the area would be heartless and against everyone's interests. And only by complete commitment can we ever dream of this. The seeds of democracy can only be planted in a soil made fertile by the blood, sweat, and tears of brave men and women willing to make it happen. Now is our time to stay true to our actions.

No longer shall we quibble over the strategic importance of Iraq, or the ideological foresight of the powers that be. Those that do are failing to see the larger picture that is before us—the supreme importance that these next few years will be to a better world. Now is the time we debate over what steps need to be taken, and what America's role is in the greater process before us. I believe most of us can agree that what is going on is bigger

than anything we could have imagined, and people of the world are still far from celebration. Nevertheless, steps have been taken, pistons have begun, irreversible measures gone forth, and we cannot go backwards any longer.

Iraq was once portrayed by many as a ridiculous conflict spawned of false pretenses with no plausible meaning. I'm not writing this article to single people out because, frankly, it's irrelevant what one thought of this a couple of years ago. What matters is the outcome; many nations are now looking upon this as a beacon of hope. Like it or not our current administration is pushing hard for a more democratic global society, although not necessarily a more concrete one. What will be sprung from our Middle Eastern intervention, or more specifically in Iraq? Several events have occurred changing not only the scope of the ultimate conclusions, but massive political visions as well. No longer can the Democratic Party exist as a leech wanting to spoil the chance we've been given at a more peaceful world, and the Republican Party is far from a cold, heartless and miser-like population of the past.

This is a turning point in the world's history, not to be overshadowed by doubt and pettiness, but to be embraced and contemplated for years to come. We live in a very exciting time, and a very crucial time. I long to see what more is in store for the entire world's welfare.

In Defense of Political Parties

Commentary by Robert J. Romano

An important issue raised in last week's debates was the propriety of including a political party system in the politics of the Undergraduate Student Government. Under the recently revised Elections Board Bylaws, students, clubs, and organizations on campus may organize together to form and manage political party coalitions that shall be appearing on the ballot during the elections taking place on April 25th-April 29th. When students log on to Solar System to vote, they will know which candidates are aligning together with common ideals and principles by noting on the ballot those candidates which have identified their party alignment. The justification for including parties lies in the need to allow students to transparently organize themselves together to come up with a political platform that promotes a program for how best to govern.

The major criticism leveled against political parties is that they promote and incite faction, as if the very existence of parties were the cause of faction. In truth, if not for faction, in democracies there would not be any political parties. Factions are as inevitable in democracies as suppression of speech is in tyrannies. The very idea of democracy, and a republican form of government, promotes the idea that all of the various interests amongst the citizens shall be represented by duly elected officials whom may share common ideals and ideologies and whom tend to by their nature promote the idea of faction. Different aligning interests shall result in differing factions competing for portions of the agenda. Taken collectively, the actions of an entire administration's term in office are neither

centrally directed nor entirely chaotic, rather they are the result of the combinations of factions either directly or indirectly influencing the outcome of events. Democracy tends to promote faction because of the idea that an individual possesses the right to speak freely and persuade officials of like stature into supporting policies.

The notion promoted heavily at the debates by several candidates was that of unity in governance. Ideally, candidates felt that the students needed to work together in order for government to operate more efficiently. However, efficiency and democracy in practice are not the same thing, and as we take stock of our free form of government here at Stony Brook, with elections, candidates, parties, and the like, we must accept the existence of factions.

In *The Federalist* No. 10 by James Madison, Publius offers to the American people that there are two ways to deal with faction, since they appear to be an inevitable side-effect of freedom: 1) by eliminating the causes; or 2) by controlling the effects. According to Madison, there are in turn two methods for removing the causes for faction: 1) eliminating the liberty of the people to organize themselves that is essential to the existence of factions; or 2) giving to every citizen the same opinions, desires, and motivations, the same ideals and interests. "It could never be more truly said than of the first remedy [removing the causes of faction], that it is worse than the disease. Liberty is to faction, what air is to fire, an ailment which it instantly expires. But it could not be a less folly to abolish liberty, which is essential to political life, because it nourishes faction, than it would be to with the

annihilation of air, which is essential to animal life, because it imparts to fire its destructive agency."

The case put forth by so many candidates, that political parties are divisive, and that therefore they ought not be included in our political processes here at Stony Brook, is a strike at the heart of the liberty of the student body to organize themselves into like-minded groupings and coalitions with the intention of affecting the public policy debate. The idea that groups of students ought to be excluded from government on the basis that they share beliefs, that somehow this is a danger to the student body, is as naïve as it is tyrannical. Having already opened a new door, creating a system where political parties are a recognized entity within student government, in order to turn back the tide it would require no less than a new administration's willingness to decrease the amount of liberty that the students have not only to express themselves, but to organize themselves with the intention of changing the way government operates. It would require considerable restrictions in terms of the amount of publicity candidates are allowed to distribute, and it would require prior review over the content of candidates' platforms that may wish to state their party affiliation (which now appears on the ballot itself incidentally). More or less, it would require either an abolishment of liberty in general, or mind control (i.e. Madison's second method for removing the cause of faction in which all people would share the same mind). Both "remedies" are an awful contribution to the cause of upholding liberty here at home.

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Mandatory Health Insurance at SBU?

Commentary by Ilan Nassimi

At the end of March, the members of the Executive Council of the Undergraduate Student Government received an E-mail from Andi Abedini, a GSO (Graduate Student Organization) Senator. The letter contained location information for a meeting with SHAC, the Student Health Advisory Committee and the Health Science Center. The meeting was in regards to a decision that had been made by the administration, a decision to put a policy into place for Fall '05 that would impose MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE on all students, Undergraduate or Graduate, if they did not have their own. In the letter, Abedini pleaded for representation on all fronts, especially USG. I was appalled. Who the hell did the administration think they were to impose mandatory insurance on everyone?

Myself, former USG EVP Esam al-Sheriffi, and Student Activities Board member Tanya Poltoratskaia attended the meeting. The administrator who had come to explain the decision was the Medical Director for Student Health Services, Dr. Rachel Ann Bergeson. She explained that the insurance could cost students up to \$1000 per person. Bergeson spoke for only a few minutes before the barrage of fire began against her. Representatives from GSO and USG, both student run organizations, began a verbal tongue lashing that lasted no less than an hour. The GSO accused the administration of behaving like a parent, and demanded that they recognized that the administration had not taken the proper steps before imposing the policy. We threatened to throw the full weight of USG against it, and to hold student rallies outside the admin building. Bergeson responded with this despicable statement: "...students don't want



to pay for insurance, instead they buy \$150 pairs of sneakers."

As time passed, it had become clear that the administration had purposefully avoided letting the students know about their decision. A representative from the Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC), mentioned to us that they had attempted to form a survey to the students to find out popular opinion, and that the administration had ORDERED them to stop. According to admin, they didn't appreciate the tone of voice in the survey (since SHAC is supposed to be unbiased). Afterwards, they heard nothing from admin until a recent notice was sent to them telling them that the investigation had continued without their survey involved. Instead, the administration used a survey done years ago, which was conveniently being used without the knowledge of any current student organization. As the survey was handed out, I noticed at the top that the survey the term "N = 95". Ninety-

five people. They surveyed ninety-five people out of a school filled with nearly 25,000 students.

Finally, towards the end of the meeting, Dr. Bergeson and Peter Mastroianni, began to crack. They told us that they would recommend to the administration that they allow SHAC to go ahead with another survey, and then take the results into serious consideration. After the meeting I met a student that told me that she would actually have to drop out of Stony Brook if the policy was executed.

At a recent Faculty-Student Association meeting (FSA), it was announced that it was too late for admin to implement the policy until Fall '06, giving students a full year to fight the ruling. "I am glad that the efforts of several...students have contributed to suspending this policy until sufficient time is utilized to test its popularity and utility with the student body..." said former Vice-President of USG Esam al-Shareffi after he heard the news.

We must continue this fight. The USG and GSO are now giving out a survey created by SHAC to all students; it can be found in this newspaper and at the USG website: www.stonybrook.edu/usg...

Please help us fight the powers that be, I am running for USG President on the CORE party ticket, and if elected I vow to continue to fight against student rights violations on this campus, in whatever form they take.

(Please note that the Student Health Advisory Committee is an impartial body and has not contributed to this article.)

Ilan Nassimi is the Vice President of Student Life of the Undergraduate Student Government, and is running for USG President in this year's elections. Visit his website at www.YourUSG.com ...

Chewbacca Sighting at Stony Brook

Review by Chris Dolley

As anyone who follows science-fiction conventions can tell you, we just recently had a big one-ICON. This 3 day annual event is something that many Stony Brook anime, sci-fi, and RPG fans pride themselves on not missing a minute of.

Among the main events was a chance to see the man behind the fur- Peter Meyhew, the man who played Star Wars' most famous of the wookies, Chewbacca. An intimidating 7½ feet tall, he was kept busy signing countless memorabilia. Other sights included people dressed up as various sci-fi characters- from Klingons and bounty hunters to Ghostbusters; webcomic characters were very popular, such as Cheat from Homestar Runner. Many costumes were near-replicas.

ICON underwent many changes this year. There were more anthropomorphic related events (having to do with animals that have human shaped bodies and human qualities). There was much more anime shown- perhaps too much, for the sci-fi fan who wanted more classic panel discussions such as "the physics of Star Trek", or maybe a panel that compares anime to real Japanese culture and everyday life, or "what's the deal with those furry little Iwoks?", many of which were featured at last year's ICON. And if you expected a trivia con-



test like the one about Star Trek last year, you were in for a disappointment.

But there was definitely plenty of jousting to go around, thanks to the "Kingdom of Avalon" RPG enthusiasts. They choreographed numerous battles, mostly of the medieval type. And who doesn't enjoy some olde-fashioned jousting? Furthermore, they followed this with a panel about making Boffel swords out of pvc pipe and insulation foam.

Who says a Klingon has no heart? A charity auction was held Saturday and Sunday that benefited the Christopher Reeve Society. People auctioned posters, books, sci-fi and na-

ture figurines, etc. Some valuable merchandise was donated and auctioned off at cheap prices. For example, a Superman poster appraised at \$200 sold for \$33.

It appears that ICON is becoming more digitally oriented, with increased emphasis on webcomics and anime that was evident in the costumes worn and events featured. However, something that will probably never change is the abundance of people who attend the weekend sci-fi extravaganza. If you were looking to purchase any kind of sci-fi posters, figurines, or ordinarily typical things like pottery and chess sets that were given a sci-fi or creative twist, then you went to the right place. There was endless merchandise and countless people that completely filled the track room in the Sports Complex, busy until closing time.

So if you're looking for somewhere to host your Klingon wedding, or a place to show off your Boffel sword, come to ICON next year.

Vote on Solar in USG E

Provided by the USG Elections Board

Here follows the full ballot for the Spring 2005 Elections. The VP's of Student Life, Academic Affairs, Junior Class Representative, and Senatorial Elections are all uncontested, and thus, shall result in automatic victory to the listed candidates. Elections are being held on Solar System from April 25th through the 29th, with potential runoffs occurring on May 1st through the 3rd. Please remember, your vote counts!

Constitutional Amendments

1. The Undergraduate Student Government is considering the benefits to filing for not-for-profit Section 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service. If it wishes to do so, the constitution must include the attached language in the Constitution. Do you support an amendment to the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Government wherein Article II, Section 2 shall be amended as follows:

"a. The Undergraduate Student Government shall be comprised of the Executive Branch, a Legislative Branch, and a Judicial Branch.

"b. Said organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, and the making of distributions to organizations that qualify for funding under the SUNY Chancellor's Guidelines.

"c. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation of services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in the purpose clause hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this document, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future tax code, or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

"d. Upon the dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the country which the principal office of the organization is then located, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes."?

2. Do you support an amendment to the Constitution of the Undergraduate Student Government wherein Article III, Section 3.B.4. is repealed, and Article III, Section 3.B.2. shall be amended as follows:

"The Undergraduate Student Government Activities Board, a quasi-independent agency, shall provide quality programs and events on behalf of the Undergraduate Student Government, and shall ensure that the Undergraduate Student Government and its respective organizations are doing the same.

"a. The Vice President for Student Life, Programming and Activities, and the Board shall ensure that diversity is reflected in the programs provided by the Board, taking special account of the needs of the various cultural and special interests clubs and organizations.

"b. In its programming the Board shall take special account of the needs and desires of the various cultural and other special interests clubs and organizations on campus.

"c. The Board shall form a Committee on Cinematic Arts (C.O.C.A) that shall provide film services to the undergraduate student body in accordance with the duly established Student Activities Board by-laws."?

Funding Referendum Questions

These referenda pertain to the allocation of your Student Activity Fee. They are only advisory as specified in Article IX of the constitution of the Undergraduate Student Government, and do not bind the Government to any action.

1. Do you wish to continue to support a chapter of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) at its current level of \$6.00 per fee-paying student per semester for the next three years?

2. Do you wish to continue allocating \$5.00 per student per semester (\$1.00 per academic year) to Roth Regatta?

3. Do you wish to increase the allocation by \$.50 per student per semester (\$1.00 per academic year) to Roth Regatta to hold a Fall event?

Candidate Roster and Platform Statements

President

Ilan Nassimi (CORE)

Ilan Nassimi
USG President
www.YourUSG.com
"Experience that Counts, Results that Matter..."

My name is Ilan Nassimi, and I am running for the position of President of the Undergraduate Student Government on the CORE Party ticket. I believe I am very qualified for this position due to my extensive experience within USG. I began my USG career as a senator and member of the Student Activities Board. After leaving the Senate, I continued my involvement in SAB by being an executive producer and the marketing director of the Dave Chappelle and Kanye West concerts here at Stony Brook last year. Afterwards, I was hired as the official USG web designer and I was elected Large Events Coordinator by the Student Activities Board and, in that position, I was the sole producer of the "Who's Line is it Anyway?" comedy show this past October and the DJ Envy Homecoming party. Since then I have been appointed the Vice-President of Student Life, and have made several important accomplishments in the few months that I have been on the Executive Council, including getting Jasmine points doubled to 200, and getting a constitutional amendment on this ballot to make USG run more efficiently. I am majoring in business and economics.

If elected as USG President, I have several major goals and objectives that I intend to pursue to the best of my ability. Firstly, as Vice-President of Student Life, I have become very unhappy with the University administration's use and abuse of the Charles B. Wang Asian American Center. The building is a useful and practical venue, yet programming events in the building is very difficult and nearly non-existent, and classes are often not allowed in the building's plush lecture halls. If elected, I vow to fight for the rights of the student body and to put the control of the Wang Center back into students' hands - where it belongs!

Furthermore, I intend to create the Management of Paperwork Office, which will be referred to as the M.O.P. Shop. As anyone involved with a club knows, putting on an event is a needlessly burdensome task. There are several clerical and bureaucratic hurdles to overcome in order to host an event on this campus. The M.O.P. Shop will finally solve the most annoying problem for students by creating a single office that will handle ALL of the paperwork! That's right; there will finally be a single spot to ensure that all students are allowed their fair share of the Student Activity Fee.

I have many more goals in mind, and I invite anyone who wishes to speak with me about my ideas to contact me at StonyBrookCore@gmail.com ...

Past Experience:

-Vice-President of Student Life, Programming, and Activities (Chief programming officer)

-Large Events Coordinator

-Producer of Dave Chappelle, Kanye West, DJ Envy, and "Who's Line is it Anyway?" Shows

-USG Senator

-Member of Student Activities Board (2 yrs)

-USG Web Designer

-Liaison between USG and Office of the Vice-President of Student Affairs

-Liaison between USG and the office of Student Union and Activities

-Chair of the Bureau of Programming Groups

-Liaison between USG and FSA (Faculty-Student Association)

Future Goals:

-Continue the fight for lower food prices and better quality

-Changing the bus routes for more efficient use of the busses and to bring bus service to H quad and the new West Apts.

-Fight the administration's decision to have mandatory insurance for all students

-Continue to build the school's new tradition of annual large concerts

-Fight to get the Wang Center back

-Develop a MOP Shop to filter USG paperwork through one organized office and to save USG tens of thousands as a result.

-And most importantly, I will work to create an environment in USG of cooperation and understanding, and to work with all the major groups within USG in order to get my agenda accomplished!!!

President

Diana Acosta

Vote for Diana Acosta for USG President

No drama. No politics. Just another student like you.

Are you tired of all the USG drama? It seems like more time is being spent fighting each other, than fighting for your rights as a student at Stony Brook University. USG needs to be an organization that is centered on the student, YOU! Time should not be spent fighting each other, or creating alliances to "take over USG". Instead, the Undergraduate Student Government should be an effective organization in which its number one purpose is to serve its constituents, the undergraduate students.

As President, I am prepared to USG back on track, abandon the drama, and focus on making important changes and making our time here more enjoyable. College should be the best four years of our lives, and we should leave this University feeling a sense of community and understanding, becoming well-rounded individuals ready to face the real world. USG should have program, concerts, lectures, and overall events that create that sense of pride and community. As your next President, I am prepared to make your voice and your opinions heard. I have two years of experience as Vice President of Academic Affairs, and I was elected by more than 70% of your votes last year.

Make the right decision, and vote for Diana Acosta. No hidden agenda, no drama, no politics. Just concerned for you.

Experience:

-VP of Academic Affairs (USG) for 2 years.

-Liaison between Academic Clubs and Organizations and University Administrators and coordinator of all USG operations in the area of academic policy.

-Student Representative for University Senate and Committee on Academic Standings and Appeals.

-Part of President Kenny's and the University's Five Year Task Force on the Student Experience.

-Created the "My Vote, My Future" Voter Empowerment Challenge along with NYPIRG and Rock the Vote where we registered over 3,285 students and had a voter turnout of 77%, which by far exceeded the national average and was the biggest turnout in the University's history.

-Created in the spring of 2004 the Undergraduate Student Government & the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) "Student Resolution against Higher Education Budget Proposal." This was given to various New York State Senators and Assemblymen at Stony Brook Day at Albany stating our disagreement with the proposed tuition increase and budget cuts to EOP and AIM.

-Helped create the "Fight the Hike" Student Rally against the proposed tuition increase and financial aid cuts in the Spring 2005.

-Certified Student Leader by National Certified Student Leaders Program.

Goals/Initiatives for the 2004-2005 Year

-Working with V.P. of Student Life to reinstate annual concerts, and working with the Student Activity Board to have more programs, that interest the student body.

-Working around issues that directly affect student life. For example the rising cost of food, housing accommodations, academic advising, and commuter concerns. The goal of the government should be to stand as a bridge that regards the needs of the student body and make purposeful bridges to ensure that you have a more enlightening college experience.

-Structural changes have already occurred. The missing link is student Government leaders who possess the skills, experience and above all a sincere

passion for service. Consequently, this is why I refuse to load my platform with false hopes of action. Rather, I appeal to each of you my fellow peers to stand with someone who is willing to make the sacrifice. I have two previous years experience and a passion for service.

Executive Vice President

Richard Hsu (CORE)

I, Richard Hsu, have always served the student body by advocating real and important issues, by focusing our resources on problems that really matter to the students, and by working with different segments of the student body to ensure that every voice is heard.

If elected as the Executive Vice President of the Undergraduate Student Government, I will work closely with both the Senate and Executive Council to push the student government to function for its intended purpose: "to serve the entire student body, not just a select few." Apparently it has not done so in the past.

As a current USG Senator, with a resume including numerous other leadership positions on campus, I am well-equipped with the necessary training and skills to carry out the various tasks required of this position.

There is no better choice than a candidate from the CORE party: simply because a lot of dedicated and hardworking individuals join CORE: Coalition Of Righteous Egalitarians.

I promise my constituency that:

I will forfeit my stipends and put them back into the clubs and functions.

I will personally make sure that tens of thousands of dollars will be saved compared to this year's budget spending.

Please check <http://www.stonybrookcore.com> for a complete platform and additional information that will widen your horizon.

Executive Vice President

Samuel Darguin

Samuel Darguin "Most Experienced, Best Qualified"

Hello my name is Samuel Darguin and I am running for Executive Vice President of the Undergraduate Student Government. Since entering Stony Brook I have been involved in the Undergraduate Student Government and was elected as Senator. Currently as the President Pro-Tempore of the Undergraduate Student Government Senate, I have worked arduously to improve the Undergraduate Student Government by speaking out against corruption and working to make Undergraduate Senate more student friendly. Soon after joining the senate, I was voted President Pro-tempore and have served as such ever since. Becoming Executive Vice President will give me a chance to continue working in the senate and improve the lives of students. I will make sure that USG is centered for and around students, were every student on campus knows what there hard earned money is being used for. If I am elected as Executive VP I will make sure that there are no secret agendas, no drama and no politics. My dedication to the Undergraduate student government will continue, and with my position I will be able to affect the lives of many students on campus. As EVP I plan run the senate with much more efficiency and make sure that laws are being passed in the interest of my constituency. As EVP I will be able and prepared to fill in the role of president if he/she is unable to fill their position. Vote for Samuel Darguin for true change.

Experience:

Current President Pro-tempore of Senate

Involved in the "Fight the Hike" Student Rally against the proposed tuition increase and financial aid cut in Spring 2005.

Vice President of the Black Male Leadership Commission.

Support more student access to the Wang Center

Student Judiciary

Treasurer

Jackey Wu (CORE)

My name is Jackey Wu and I am currently a sophomore at the State University of Stony Brook. My major is Political Science. I am currently a USG Senator representing the students in the field of the Arts & Sciences. This semester I am going to be running for the position of USG Treasurer in the Executive Council. I am a member of the C.O.R.E. Party. Here is what C.O.R.E. stands for and the party's agenda for next semester:

"C.O.R.E." stands for the Coalition of Righteous Egalitarians. The CORE Party is the first political party in your student government (USG).

With the support of several clubs and organizations on campus, this coalition has positively transformed SBU student life by sponsoring initiatives that encourage increased constituent participation. This is accomplished via a multi-pronged approach.

By attending the USG Executive Council and Senate meetings, we are able to demand your elected officials to perform their duties with maximum transparency and efficiency.

By closely studying the USG decision-making process, we fight hard to ensure that no one - individual, group, or clique - gains too much power and influence over the student activity fee (SAF). Collectively, the SAF is ~\$2.2 million, and this belongs to all SAF-paying undergraduates.

Since USG is still in a transitional period, there is a potentiality for abuse in the system. Historically, this fact has at times been exploited by those seeking to further their own ends. We unequivocally denounce any corruption that may have crept into USG, and it is with the noblest of intentions that we strive to eliminate it.

The C.O.R.E. Party firmly stands united in the universal quest for openness, righteousness, and honesty in government. Indeed, these are utilitarian notions which this great nation was founded upon, and we intend to uphold them. May God Almighty Bless us all!

Here are my accomplishments as a Senator of the Arts & Sciences:

Thank You Resolution - introduced by C.O.R.E. me, and passed by the Senate. I worked with multiple factions within the student body to draft a resolution thanking the various campus offices and departments for aiding, assisting, and performing a multitudinous assortment of services necessary to keep this University functioning.

COGS (Continuity of Government for Senate) Act - introduced by C.O.R.E. by me, and passed by the Senate. COGS was designed to ensure that the Senate will always have a location to convene and conduct business. Meeting locations had been a problem in the past, but thanks to this bill, we will never have this difficulty again.

Continued on Next Page

Elections April 25th-29th

VP of Academic Affairs Chinelo Ann Onochie

My name is Chinelo Ann Onochie and I am running for Vice President of Academic Affairs. I believe that we are here at Stony Brook for the sole purpose of achieving academic excellence. As Vice President of Academic Affairs, I will strive to make certain that every student has an opportunity to achieve the highest level of academic success possible. I feel that I am most suitable for this position because I have a passion for academic excellence and I also love helping others achieve success. As a member of the University Senate, I plan to represent all students of the Undergraduate student body to the best of my abilities.

VP of Clubs and Organizations Francisco Narvaez (CORE)

My name is Francisco Narvaez, a sophomore here at Stony Brook University, and I am deeply interested in the improvement of our school and I shall be running on the CORE Party ticket. The student activity fees are taken from us every year, but many of us have no idea where it goes or how it benefits us. I have also seen websites such as "Stony Brook sucks" and like any other student I have seen myself unhappy with the way things are run in the school. Clubs and Organizations here at the school improve student life at all times, and the easier we make it for them to succeed and provide things for our student body, the better campus life will be.

As Vice President for Clubs and Organizations I would make sure the people know exactly what needs to be done in order to improve student life at their school through clubs and organizations. I have several ideas for surveys taken among students in order to see what clubs and organizations need to be brought on. I strongly believe that team work between organizations and the undergraduate student government are essential for success which is to serve the student body as best as possible. Bringing change to improve our school is one of my main goals and I plan to make it as easy as possible for those who want to add to our community to get the help they need from our student government. I have found that trying to make changes is a hard and complicated thing to do. I want to change that and I want to make it easier for the students to hear and acknowledged. Thank You for your time and energy, I am full of ideas to improve the school and I am sure many other students are too. My main goal is to improve student life through team work among the undergraduate government and the students. Everyone on campus can not be happy all the time, but I am definitely a candidate that is willing to try.

Ralph Thomas

My name is Ralph Thomas and I am running for the Vice President of Clubs and Organizations of the Undergraduate Student Government. I have experience in working with the Student Activities Office as an Office Assistant. Also, I am currently a member of the Undergraduate Student Government Senate, representing the College of Arts and Sciences. I have immediate contact with various clubs and organizations on a daily basis; therefore, I understand the needs and concerns of most clubs and organizations on campus. I believe this makes me most suitable to represent and work with all these various groups. I am determined and motivated to serve the student body. If I am privileged enough to be elected, I will do all that is necessary to foster a strong relationship with each club and organization, in order to better serve the student body.

VP of Communications Victoria Yarisantos (CORE)

My name is Victoria Yarisantos and I want to run for Vice President of Communications and Public Relations on the CORE Party ticket. Why would I be a good candidate for this particular position? I am a very versatile person who has no problem communicating and working with others. I am outgoing, well-rounded, and approachable. I have experience working with people and being part of the student government. In high school, I was the Vice President of my Junior Class. My duties were to organize social and academic events for the junior class. While attending Stony Brook, I've participated in various clubs and activities. I am Secretary of LEG in my building. I am also involved with my sorority, Alpha Sigma Alpha. While being active in the sorority, my duties included Rush Chair, and Finance and Fundraising.

I know that if you give me the opportunity to hold this position, I will put all that I have into fulfilling my duties. By being elected as the Vice President of Communications and Public Relations, I feel that I can contribute a lot not only with this position, but also with USG. I am interested in what goes on with the school and what needs to be change to make everyone, whether it for the students or faculty to make this school better.

Samone Rogers

My name is Samone Rogers and I am a sophomore. I am a Political Science major and I am in the process of applying to become a Business Management major as well. I am currently running for Vice President of Communications and Public Relations. I am a dedicated individual who believes that no task is insurmountable given time and effort. In the past I was an active member of the Undergraduate Student Government, holding a position in the Senate. My experience as a Senator allowed me to get a taste of what USG is about and, as a result, it ignited a desire within me to continue to be involved in this organization. If elected as Vice President of Communications and Public Relations, it would be my goal to make certain that I fulfill the requirements of the position to the best of my ability. I believe that as a representative of students, elected by students, anything less would be unacceptable. It would also be my goal to increase the publicity of USG through involvement fairs, a monthly newsletter as well as emails. If elected I will work closely with the marketing staff and the street team to accomplish this goal. To maintain clear communication with clubs and organizations on campus I will work closely with the Vice President of Clubs and Organizations to make sure that information is being provided in a timely matter. I will also hold a monthly press conference with media groups such as the Statesman, the Press, 3TV and Blackworld. To improve communication with students I would like to also meet with the staff of SBU Uncut. With the help of the staff I would like to either appear on the show once or month or provide a report to be read to the viewers. Through this I hope to reach a wider range of students and make USG known to all students at Stony Brook University. I would also like to work closely with the Student Activities Board to ensure their programs are advertised effectively. If elected as Vice President of Communications and Public Relations I will implement the ideas I have stated, as well as others, to ensure that students are constantly informed.

Nichole Reyes

My name is Nichole Reyes and I am running for Vice President of Commu-

nications and Public Relations. I believe that aside from being here at Stony Brook for academic excellence we are also here to network by attending campus events. As Vice President of Communications and Public Relations, I will strive to make certain to the best of my ability that you are informed about such events that will prove to be worthwhile and an asset to your social network. I feel that I am most suitable for this position because I love helping others. As a member of the university senate, I plan to represent all students of the undergraduate student body to the best of my abilities and am dedicated to fulfilling my duties if chosen.

VP of Student Life Romual Jean-Baptiste

My name is Romual Jean-Baptiste and I am running for Vice President of Student Life, Programming and Activities of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG). I am currently serving as the Freshman Class Representative. Besides being very academic, college serves as a social atmosphere. My goal is to work closely with the Student Activities Board (SAB) In order to provide quality, essential and worth-while programs and activities to the student body. Student government to me shall be of the students, by the students and for the students. This is the vision which I am work toward as Vice President of Student Life, Programming and Activities.

Senior Class Representative Gianna Crespo

I'd like to be next years Senior Representative because I've already done a good job of representing my constituents with my office in the USG Senate. I was elected as a Senator last spring and I am involved in numerous other organizations including NYPIRG, the College Democrats, and Catholic Campus Ministries.

I've been an activist in NYPIRG since 2004, and have been involved in many grassroots activism campaigns like that of sweatshops and higher education. I've tabled, done presentations in classrooms, and handed out flyers to promote the rejection of Governor Pataki's proposal to cut financial aid and increase tuition. My actions have a direct impact on the students at Stony Brook.

In my year in office as a Senator, I voted for the NoFuss, Heart, and Pals Acts, each of these dealing with the legitimacy of the student government. I also voluntarily gave up my stipend under the We Care about the Students Resolution.

As a Senior Representative, I will also create programs and activities for our class. Senior year can be extremely hectic and I will do my best to facilitate all students during this stressful time.

I would like to make different changes in Stony Brook including lowering food prices on campus, cleaning up Roth Pond, adding more lighting around campus, and extending hours of operation of the SAC cafeteria. I will do an excellent job being a direct link btw the students and the university government. As always I will remain viewpoint neutral.

Annlyn Bristol

My name is Annlyn Bristol I am in my third year here at Stony Brook University. I am running for senior class representative because I believe I have the capabilities needed to fulfill such a position. I have been LEG vice-president, president, treasurer of the Haitian Students Organization, and I am currently an RA at Cardozo College, so I understand what it takes to perform leadership roles. I also served on the e-board for the Specula yearbook and the Senior Class Representative must dedicate a lot of time to this. I am very efficient in communication information and this is also important in conveying information to the graduating seniors. Thank You!

Junior Class Representative Kanika Jain

Dear Soon to be Junior Class, I, Kanika Jain, am running to be the Junior Class Representative, to represent our junior class as a whole. Diversity is what defines Stony Brook University, just like it defines me. I hope you will allow me to serve you as representative and I promise to perform to the best of my abilities. It will be my privilege, as the Junior Class Representative, [if allowed by my peers] to be the direct representative of all Service Groups to the Undergraduate Student Government, as mentioned in the Constitution under Article III, Section 8a. I will try my hardest to promote, and support our service groups as much as possible but will not discriminate based on superficial ideas.

I believe I am qualified for this position because I have served under Senate for a year, as well as been involved in cultural matters. I would like to organize events such as semiformal/formals to unite our class. I do understand that the most important thing my job entails in working with service groups, and that will be my priority. But having perks of our class to unite as one would help us in many ways in the future. I WANT TO SEE UNITY AMONG OUR CLASS and that is my goal for my term in office. Please elect me as your Junior Class Representative and you will not be sorry.

Sophomore Class Representative Ana Hernandez

My name is Ana Hernandez; I am currently a freshman at Stony Brook University. I am interested in becoming the Sophomore Class Representative because there are many things that I would like to make better for the students at the University. As the Sophomore Class Representative I will create programs that will benefit the sophomore class as well as the general student body. It is important for the Sophomores to be aware of the programs offered to them and the opportunities that the university has to offer. During this time is when many students are deciding on major/minors and planning out the next four-five years of their lives. I plan to offer programs to make this process less stressful. I would also hope to create a unity between the students of this class by providing fun programs that emphasizes working as a group. In order for these ideas to be put forth, I will need to have a position in which I can put the programs together. The only way to bring change within the class is to have a representative that is willing to work hard to make a difference. That representative is me, Ana Hernandez.

Michael Nacmias (CORE)

Hello, my name is Michael Nacmias and I'm currently a freshman at Stonybrook University. As one who is enjoying the experience so far at this college, it is my decision to give back to the academic community and run for Sophomore Class Representative on the CORE Party ticket. One word comes to mind when I think of the student body at Stonybrook: diverse. In a school of such a large size, it's hard not to have different ethnicities, races and religions all on one campus. It brings me an immense amount of satisfaction in being able to experience the many different cultures of the world in a

single location.

As an outgoing and personable individual, I am able to obtain knowledge about how different people react to their college experience. As your sophomore representative, I will speak to those who make decisions about your treatment and carry on a voice for you. Please allow me the honor of representing you by singing my petition. Every signature counts, just as every voice and opinion does.

Senators of Arts and Sciences Enyu Shih (CORE)

My name is Enyu Shih, and I am running for the position of Senator of the Undergraduate Student Government on the CORE Party ticket. I believe I am very qualified for the position due to my extensive experience within USG.

I am currently president of Chinese Christian Fellowship, and I have been involved with them for two years. I am an avid fisher, swimmer, and ping-pong player.

In my capacity as a USG Senator, I intend to uphold the interests of all clubs and organizations on campus, specifically, religious, political, and cultural clubs.

For more information about the CORE Party, feel free to check out our website:

www.stonybrookcore.com

Send us an email at stonybrokcore@gmail.com

Marc Gross (CORE)

Hello Stony Brook students, my name is Marc Gross, I'm a freshman here at the Brook and I am running for student senate on the CORE Party Ticket. I have some great ideas, as well as looking forward into putting in my time and effort along with working with you (the Stony Brook community) to make this great community even greater. Thank you very much and I appreciate your support.

Michael Cohan

Hello, my name is Michael Cohan and I want me to help you make this school a better place. I have many special activities in the works and the future seems very bright, if I am elected. I am a candidate that is willing to put in many hours and much effort into the community if I am elected. With the cooperation of the student body and the staff body I can help Stony Brook improve in a lot of ways.

Milap Patel

Due to the completion of my first term, I have decided to run again for Senator under the College of Arts and Sciences. My name is Milap Patel and I am currently a sophomore and a biochemistry major here at Stony Brook University. If my campaign goals had to be reduced to one word, it would dedication. Dedication to make your experience here at Stony Brook University the best it can be and dedication to ensure fair representation in the University Student Government. I am incredibly involved on campus in various clubs and organizations and I feel that through student interactions, I truly understand that wants and needs of our student body. Being involved in such an organization and holding this position again will enable me to apply my leadership skills, work with a diverse group of individuals, and improve the community at Stony Brook. This year anticipate to not only fulfill my duties as a senator, but to introduce new legislation by working closely with my fellow senators.

Amol Amin

I have many reasons for running for the Senator position here at Stony Brook University. Among them is that I am willing to work hard for the student body in making sure their voices are heard. I am here to represent the students, and their suggestions on how to make this campus more enjoyable. People have come to college for a fun and memorable experience, and I intend to make sure that they get that. I will do everything that I can to represent the best interests of the student body, and I'm sure that my hard work will pay off, and make this campus progress forward. As a senator who was already voted in last year, I know the demands and responsibilities for the position. I am ready for the task.

Amy Wisnoski

Although I am currently in my third year of college, this is my second semester here at Stony Brook University. Having seen the modes of operation at three other academic institutions, I feel as though I am qualified to say without doubt or reservation that Stony Brook University stands above the average higher learning institute. In the short time I have spent here, I have already developed an affectionate devotion to the university. And because I do sincerely grasp what makes Stony Brook such an extraordinary university, I have also been able to appreciate some of the school's untapped potential. As great of a school as Stony Brook really is, there are certain administrative renovations that are long overdue. There are ways to maximize it's capabilities and make sure it truly lives up to the principles and ideals it tries to embody. Fiscal responsibility would serve as a perfect launching pad for the transformation I'm hoping to start; funds need to be allocated in the most efficient manner possible, and students need to be informed about where their money is going and why it's going there. Another important change that needs to be made is the lack of feeling of importance among commuter students. Commuter students make up the largest group on campus and yet they are among the least likely to participate in campus activities; a campaign of significant magnitude to get commuter students involved with their school needs to be initiated. A further modification to the way in which students participate in extracurricular activities involves the student election voting process. The current method of having students log onto the Solar System and cast their votes electronically is inconvenient and forgettable and causes low voter turnout. The Undergraduate Student Government, as a whole, needs to perform a total overhaul of the student voting process and I would like to be in the position to aid in that process in a real way. Stony Brook University is a great school, but it has the potential to be truly brilliant. I believe the Senate serves an important role in making changes, and I would like to serve on the Senate to bring my innovative voice and my creative ideas to the table.

Ajay Pawar

My platform for running for senator is based on representing my fellow students. I am currently an economics and business management double major.

Continued on Page 9

Join the Enduring
Freedom Alliance!

The Patriot



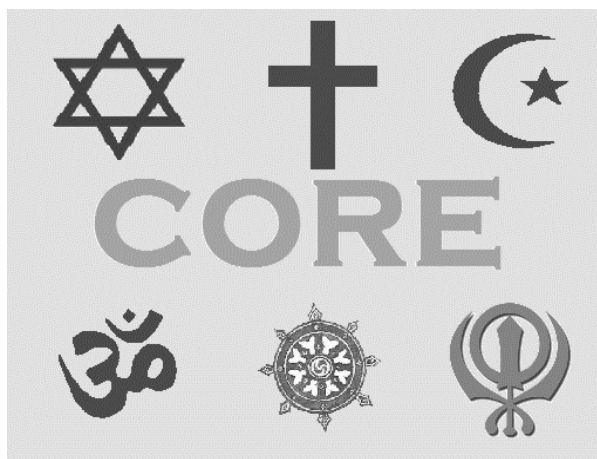
The March of Freedom and Democracy around the world shall
leave terrorism and tyranny on the ash-heap of history.

The ENDURING FREEDOM ALLIANCE
Meetings Once Every Thursday at 5:30PM
SAC 312

Send Submissions to
stonybrookpatriot@gmail.com

Political Parties in USG

Continued from Page 4



Picture Courtesy of StonybrookCORE.com

CORE, or the Coalition of Righteous Egalitarians, is the first ever political party in USG.

As our brave troops march in the defense of freedom and democracy abroad, we must tend to our own pastures here at home. As students here in Stony Brook, we have a responsibility to understand not only the principles of a republican form of government, but we must also place them into practice to uphold our way of life. By adding political parties to the mixture, the Elections Board has created a means of controlling the effects of faction, as prescribed by Madison. The means of preserving the Union here at home, the very purpose of being for our nation, is by understanding and implementing the practical applications of liberty, and following

the prescriptions of our Founders, who were masters of political theory. We must combine our zeal for liberty with the necessity of factions in order to guide the various interests within government. The justification of factions is that they are but a symptom of the nature of our freedom as individual citizens. As students, we must be educated as to the tenants of our liberty.

The rules of majority rule and minority opposition demand that coalitions be built, managed, and implemented in order for public policies that benefit the people and garner popular support to be ordained and established.

The idea that political parties, indeed, factions in general, must be eliminated in order for government to operate more efficiently in the best interests of the people is a certain recipe for the stifling of free speech, and in ensuring a tyranny of the few. Only persons with a vested interest in retaining power and ensuring apathy would seek to subvert the means of the students to empower themselves by organizing party coalitions which enable them to affect public policy in a positive manner. Those who preach unity in governance might best refer to Madison's advice, for the fall of liberty begins with absence of its wisdom. Without government's acceptance of factions, liberty will not survive.

Robert J. Romano is the USG Elections Board Chairman.

The Path to National Suicide

Commentary by Andrew Popper

Most people today think that the American experiment is unique in history. The idea of a large multiethnic society thriving and prospering with an absence of persecution and inter-communal violence is not however a new concept. 2000 years ago the Roman Empire was, like America today, the most powerful nation on Earth. Cemented by a common language and culture, this amazingly tolerant and creative civilization was most obviously a multiethnic society. Its elaborate road system allowed for the peaceful mixing of Jews, Spaniards, Celts, Greeks, Italians, Semitic and other North Africans and a host of other peoples who had previously been at each other's throats. This great civilization, though composed of an amazing melting pot of ancient peoples and cultures was, however, emphatically NOT "multi-cultural." The proudest statement one could make in those days was "Civis Romanus Sum" - I am a Roman citizen. There were no Jewish Romans, Greek Romans, Egyptian Romans, etc. There were only ROMANS. In fact, the only seed of division in first and second century Rome was the retention of the Greek language in certain eastern provinces. This happy time was not to last, however. The increasing onslaught and migration of assorted barbarian peoples began steadily diluting the unifying language and culture of the empire as a series of weak and corrupt emperors failed to maintain military discipline and protection of the long borders of the empire. Finally, one of the most destructive forces of all began to exert its pernicious poison, the greed and lust for "Cheap Labor." The incompetent religious fanatic Emperor Valens, permitted a vast horde of barbarian Goths to flood across the Danube in the 370's. After all, they were fellow Christians, and they could be used for jobs Romans did not want to do; they could even be used in Rome's army.

The Goths, however, adopted neither the language, culture, nor spirit of Romans. They were exploited and poorly treated by their Roman hosts and finally, in 378 AD, under their king Fritigern, broke into open rebellion. Rome had permitted a nation of enemies to settle in its midst. Fritigern invited fellow Goths from across the Danube to join the revolution. The river, though far wider than the Rio Grande, obviously was insufficient defense. On August 9, 378 AD, Valens, near Hadrianopolis Greece, engaged the Goths in one of the most significant battles in history. Exhausted by the stifling heat, the poorly led Roman army was surrounded and annihilated by the Gothic infantry and cavalry. Valens himself was among the slain. The Western Roman Empire never fully recovered from the catastrophe. The "Cheap Labor" was lethally expensive; soon, various Germanic tribes including the notorious Vandals openly settled and colonized the fairest provinces of the Empire. Barbarian soldiers and generals filled the armies. When Emperor Majorian, inspired Roman volunteers to build a fleet to

recover Vandal-occupied North Africa, Vandal spies were able to aid a surprise attack on the Roman harbor of Cartagena in Spain and torch the fleet. Majorian resolved to rebuild it, but later in 461AD, Majorian was assassinated by the barbarian general Ricimer. This doomed the West Roman Empire, which soon ceased to exist. Amazingly, his colleague, the Eastern Emperor (there was a second "New Rome" built on the site of the Greek city of Byzantium - Constantinople) Leo I, resolved to avoid the fate of Majorian. The Eastern Army was also infested with Germanic barbarians. Recruiting a separate militia of fierce native Roman Isaurians, he was able to seize control of his own Army. A new unified East Roman culture was nurtured by the brilliant Leo who also carefully fortified his capital (It was not sacked for 876 years). While many now multicultural Western Provinces collapsed into chaotic squabbling, bloodshed violence and savagery, a measure of peace and prosperity returned to the East. Many years later, Leo's daughter Ariadne, surprisingly appointed an elderly ethnic Albanian economist, Anastasius to be emperor, rather than the usual wealthy aristocrat. Realizing that high taxes were destroying the economy, he cut the principle land tax by 90% and abolished many other taxes entirely. The economy flourished, exports grew and 27 years later, when the now ancient man finally died, 500,000 pounds of gold were found in the treasury. Perhaps the Great Ronald Reagan knew of this amazing genius; they were fantastically alike.

I am sure that few liberal professors would ever discuss such heretical low tax high revenue concepts, however. The new wealth and power allowed the Eastern Emperors to recover many of the lost Western provinces. The Roman army was now composed of soldier farmers eager to defend their nation. Military districts called Themes secured the safety of the revived Empire. While the language gradually became Greek, a uniform culture of was maintained in the multiethnic society. With the aid of a secret incendiary weapon, invented by the Einstein of the 7th century, the Jewish Refugee scientist Callinicus, the Romans were able to defeat and destroy the great Arab Muslim sieges of 674 and 717, preserving western Civilization through the Dark Ages. Once again, however, well connected Aristocrats began buying out the soldiers lands. To replace the lost soldiers, a multicultural mercenary army was recruited. The aristocrats became fabulously wealthy with their vast land holdings and paid huge bribes to maintain their ill gotten gains. The mercenary army was actually cheaper for the aristocrats. Unfortunately the multicultural, multi-lingual army soon had little ability to communicate and less will to fight. Finally, the Emperor Romanus IV Diogenes marched off to fight a huge Turkish invasion in 1071. The largest single contingent of Roman troops consisted of Turks! Shortly before the two sides met for the decisive engagement, the Turkish Mercenaries defected. On August 26, 1071 the fatal Battle of Manzikert took place. The Roman army was crushed, Romanus

captured and the heartland of the Empire lost forever. The Turks felt so sorry for him they actually set him free. Of course the greedy Aristocrats lost everything also. Rather than admit their guilt, they had the unfortunate Romanus blinded. Once again, "Cheap Labor" turned out to be fatally expensive. (The sad remnants of the Roman Empire lingered until May 29, 1453. The degrading term "Byzantine" implying "paganism" was only invented a few hundred years ago by hostile Vatican officials; the East Romans had refused to acknowledge the authority of the Popes.)

Is it so important to save 10¢ a pint on strawberries while preventing automation by using "Cheap Labor?" (Australia has already automated much of its harvesting equipment for example) Illegal immigration not only undermines American wages and bankrupts our health care systems but prevents the development of highly skilled well paid technical jobs in the robotics and automated agricultural industries. Meanwhile, Mexico, using the ongoing invasion, is enforcing its claims to vast areas of the US West, calling it Aztlan. Tens of Billions of dollars of oil revenues are stolen annually by the corrupt Mexican government, which uses our open borders as a safely valve for the millions of dissatisfied citizens who would otherwise overthrow the criminals. Stupendous wealth, which should be used for schools, highways, hospitals and other infrastructure, continually vanishes into Swiss bank accounts. Thus two countries are being destroyed simultaneously. This invasion and colonization of the USA will eventually lead to Civil War II. Are you too lazy to cut your own lawn? Is it wise to permit formation of foreign colonies of vulnerable, resentful, exploited workers, encouraged to live in linguistic ghettos? Is it moral to save a few dollars, living from the squalid misery of a betrayed and degraded population of abused Mexicans? Will we have to wait for an American Hadrianopolis? Will Bush be our Valens? The first US Civil War was also fought over exploited "Cheap Labor." Boy was THAT expensive!! If they were alive today, I think Valens and Romanus could give emphatic answers the true costs of the "Cheap Labor" of abused, alienated unassimilatable cultural groups. This is a deadly, dangerous and profoundly immoral situation and will eventually lead to the most dreadful of consequences. Do not be a part of this outrage; do not patronize restaurants, landscapers or any other businesses engaging in the most lethal and disgusting form of treason. Two hundred years ago, cheap labor was brought to America in chains, now it is enticed across the borders by two disgraceful, short term thinking, evil and enabling governments. Do not be a party to our own national suicide. Stop polishing the chains on a people who 500 years ago lived in splendid cities and created vast libraries and cultural wonders. Cortez himself said that Mexico City made Madrid look like a slum. A tightly controlled US Mexican border now can save one civilization and renew a second.

Voter Guide for Spring Elections

Continued from Page 7

I can offer good insight on how to make sure we make the right decisions, while still maintaining our school budget. I promise to make sure that the money in U.S.G. is being spent wisely and for the right matters. I promise to make events on this campus as successful as I can make them. I promise to get every necessary law passed. I am looking forward to making significant changes for this university, and helping it move higher.

Tanzim Khan

I have always wanted to be a part of Stony Brook and what we stand for. I've also wanted to get involved in campus life a lot more as well. I think that becoming a senator and helping students get their problems fixed is the best way for me to do this. I think that I am a person that goes out of his way to make sure other people's problems are fixed. I will be able to offer fresh ideas and new ways to make this campus run better. I'm planning to go out into our campus, and search for new ideas and proposals for all my fellow students. It is my goal to have every kind of student, no matter what gender, social class, age or ethnicity. I feel that by electing me as a senator, students will be elected themselves, because I will be the voice from which they speak from.

Simardip Grewal

The most important characteristic that I can offer to this prestigious university is leadership. I am a person that people can trust and confide in as a leader. I have great confidence in my abilities to help carry out any type of event, whether a social gathering or a community service project. I stand up for what I truly believe in, and take a firm but fair approach to any problem. I feel that these are the characteristics of a true student leader. I take in the opinions of the various students on campus and try to make their time here at Stony Brook University more worthwhile and enjoyable. I also participate in Mount LEG amongst other clubs and activities. Being a member of these clubs has helped me develop as an individual and has also given me an appreciation to all the hard work that goes into making this campus what it is today.

Nigam Vyas

I would like to start off by saying a few things about myself. I am a hardworking, diligent, and motivated individual. I am here to serve the Stony Brook campus and its students, and represent them in the Undergraduate Student Government. I feel that I am a very fair person, who can properly make sure that the right issues are being discussed and debated. I am also running for senate because I want to make sure that the right legislative bills are being passed for the right reasons. I am willing to work very hard on behalf of my fellow students. I am a studious individual who is willing to go out of his way for other people.

Jaspreet Toor

As president of many organizations in high school and in my community I believe my leadership qualities excel others. People can put their trust and faith in me. I am confident, hard working, and most importantly loyal. I be-

lieve these are important qualities of a good leader, one that you can count on doing work. I strongly believe in my views and am very open to others ideas. I will do what is best for the majority of the students. My goal is to bring the Stony Brook community together. Have more students and organizations participate towards a positive cause. This will make the Stony Brook community more enjoyable and appealing to more and more students. In general I believe I will be a good asset to the Senate.

Natasha Patel

As a sophomore at Stony Brook University I have become well accustomed to the systems which govern this university. My experiences at Stony Brook have brought to my attention a great many number of causes that are worthy of attention, and improvement. As a Senator in the student Government I would be able to shine light on my observations about this school, as well as attempt to improve conditions for my fellow students. Student Government is a critical aspect of a school system, as I have learned from my experiences with government in High School, serving as Junior Class Vice President, and Senior Class representative council woman. Stony Brook University has much to offer its students and as a Senator I would like to work towards helping the student body be more informed about those prospects. Through leadership and persistence I want to do my best to help others. The opportunity to serve my fellow students would be a rewarding and phenomenal endeavor, which I would devote my complete efforts to without fail.

Jonathan Reichman (CORE)

Hi my name is Jonathan Reichman and I am running on the CORE ticket for the position of senator in the Undergraduate Student Government. I'm running because I feel that there's a lot we've got to accomplish and I think the students' voices must be heard more clearly. As a student, I feel that some of the times our direct interests as a whole are not always being heard in full, and would like the chance to make sure they are. I attended most of the senate meetings the past semester, and noticed a lot of things were being said but not a lot was getting done, while a lot of personal opinions of other members of USG were being voiced instead. I want to make sure things get done and that as students our voices are both heard and recognized. I also remember there have been all these rumors that USG was using money from the over 2 million dollar student activity budget for trips to Las Vegas and 30,000 dollar IHOP breakfasts. Whether these are true or not I don't know, but there was obviously some level of communication that wasn't reached completely in the past between the members of USG and their constituents, us the students. I'm a regular student running for USG because I feel I can make our voices be heard. I'm Jonathan Reichman, and I'm running to be your senator.

Aryeh Glas (CORE)

My name is Aryeah Glas and I am running for the position of Senator of the Undergraduate Student Government on the CORE Party ticket. I believe that I am very qualified for this position because of my experience as secretary of the Chabad Student's Club and my past position as treasurer of the Shelanu newspaper. I am pursuing a major in mathematics and a minor in business and make the time to take care of the very important position of food supervisor at kosher café on campus.

I support the CORE platform and would be very proud to serve as senator on the USG in order to work for the benefit of SBU students in order to help us attain an ever greater participation and greater voice during our brief stay at SBU.

Senator for College of Engineering Walter Sysak (CORE)

My name is Walter Sysak, and I want to improve student life on campus. In order to pursue that goal, I am running for the position of Senator in your undergraduate student government on the CORE Party ticket.

I am a third year computer science major and live on campus. I have been involved in student life as a member of many clubs and organizations on campus, and held position of Vice President of the Roth Regatta in 2004. In February, I was appointed a position as USG Senator. In this short amount of time, I have done my best to serve the campus community.

I feel I am an excellent candidate for this position due to my experience as a Senator and involvement with various student organizations on campus. If re-elected, I would strive to make this government run as efficiently as possible and always work in the best interests of the students. I am dedicated and have a strong desire to serve the student body; those are the most valuable traits to consider when electing any official.

While performing my duties as a Senator, I would work to maintain openness in the government so that all students will be able to participate and have a voice on the issues. I would also strive for efficiency in government and actually getting things done!

The purpose of being a member of the undergraduate student government is that of being a service to the students of this campus. It is for that reason you should elect me to the position of Senator in the Undergraduate Student Government.

Alyssa Fasano

My name is Alyssa Fasano, and I am going to be a sophomore at Stony Brook University next semester. Currently, I live on campus and am an Applied Mathematics major who looks forward to working with the Undergraduate Student government Senate to make many changes to benefit student success. I have been active in many different organizations, including Math Club, Academic and Residential Judiciary, and my residential hall's LEG. The reason why I am running is because I believe that I can take what the constituents want and properly voice their opinions and ideas to the Undergraduate Student Government through the form of the Senate meetings. During the Fall 2004 semester, I was defeated in the race for Freshman representative, from this experience I learned a lot about what the students of Stony Brook want from this university. I learned that many students want more activities over the weekend, as well as cheaper prices on food at the school's cafeteria especially for food that is healthier. I hope by representing the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, that I am get legislation through to make what the students have wanted a reality. I feel that I can effectively voice the opinions of the students as well as make decisions that benefit all when it comes down to legislation that is brought to the Senate.

2nd Clubs Bill Passes Senate

Continued from Page 1

political activities, and undermines the purposes of these types of organizations.

It is incumbent upon the Executive Council to implement "The Second Clubs and Organizations Bill of Rights" in the SSC's Budgeting Bylaws and the financial policies and procedures of the USG. Though both the executive and legislative branches have acted to implement viewpoint neutrality, the executive branch still has more to accomplish in terms of upholding the rights of religious and political clubs and organizations.

Until the ban on proselytizing is lifted, can we truly claim to not be taking into account the beliefs that clubs share? "The Second Clubs and Organizations Bill of Rights" must be enforced by the Executive Council in order for its provisions to fully take effect, and the student body must be wary against its contents being repealed. The danger lies not in acquiring liberty, but rather, in keeping it.

Robert J. Romano is the Treasurer of the SBU College Republicans.

USG Debates

Continued from Page 2

Acosta answered, "I feel that the best way to represent the student is by understanding them. My goal would be to meet with every president of the different religious clubs on campus to make sure that I can understand their purpose." Nassimi responded, "The key is to try to see past it all. Using the viewpoint neutrality system, try to say 'This club performs this function and I'm going to decide on their budget based on that merit.' You have to compromise yourself and say, 'I understand that you have your own culture and I am willing to work with you on that.' And that's one of the things CORE was founded on. Unfortunately, that message has been turned around and perverted. We stand for 'understanding the other guy.'"

Johnson next asked, "What would you change about the USG Constitution?" Acosta answered, "The things that are free for interpretation. There are a lot of things that aren't as clear as they should be. I think that the constitution was well-written, other than small things here and there." Nassimi answered, "Two words: constitutional review and nothing less. Here's an example of the problem with the constitution: Order of succession: President, Vice-President, Treasurer. Tisk, tisk, tisk. It should be President, Vice-President, President Pro Temp. Anyone who knows anything about constitutional law knows that. Furthermore, we need to define the intentions of the framers of the constitution. What we need to do is sit down with the presidents of the clubs, the executive council, senate and judiciary in a BIG room with a blackboard and just

go with ideas. We don't need to change everything but we need to define it all. If we don't change it, we at least know what it means and now we have something to go by."

Both candidates agreed that student activity fees should be used to support or oppose legislation in both State and Federal government, if it is to the benefit of the student body. An example of this would be paying NYPIRG to help in opposing the proposed tuition hike during the past month. Both also agreed that USG can do without stipends. It uses a lot of money that could be going back to the clubs. Maybe put here how much they get in Stipends.

Nassimi's bigger issues on his platform include gaining access to the Wang Center for classes and events for students, creating the Management of Paperwork office (M.O.P.) where clubs will be able to hand in all their paperwork for budgets and special events to one office, which he claimed would cut approximately \$300,000 from the USG budget that is used to pay administrators to deal with students' fiscal matters.

Important issues on Acosta's platform include student life issues, such as fighting the rising cost of food, dealing with bad housing accommodations, and commuter concerns. One project she proposes is building a structure in the South P parking lot where commuters can wait for the bus instead of outside in the winter cold.

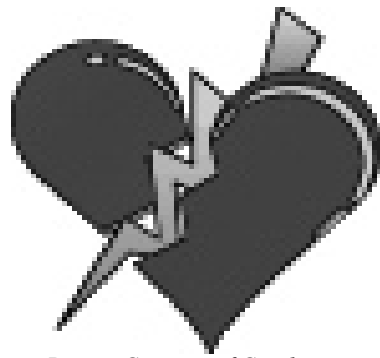
Elections begin at noon on Monday, April 25th and end at noon on Friday, April 29th. Make your next year at Stony Brook a better one by voicing your opinion and voting.

Sex at the 'Brook

Humor by Virginia Morgan

When it comes to love, there's the person we know we are meant to be with and there's the person we think we need to be with. The person we're meant to be with knows everything about us—our favorite music, our favorite baseball player, our favorite movie and even our favorite place to get a good cheese steak. They understand our different moods and feelings. They're always there to make us happy when we're sad and they're always there to cheer us up when we get stood up or dumped. They know they are the one we're meant to be with and they're willing to be patient and wait until we figure it out too.

On the other hand, the person we think we need to be with doesn't take the time to get to know what our favorite things are. They hear us listen to Howie Day or The Get Up Kids once and assume we love them. They know where we're from so they assume we like the hometown baseball team.



Picture Courtesy of Cuorhome.net

They've heard us say we've seen *American Pie* a million times, so they assume it's our favorite movie. They often times don't get why we feel the way we do or why we're happy one minute and pissed off the next. Chances are they're the ones who've made us sad, dumped us or stood us up—not the ones who make us happy. So when does it stop? When

do we stop obsessing over Mr./Ms Right Now and focus on Mr./Ms Right? How many times does our heart have to get stepped on, ripped out, cheated and the like before we realize that the person we've been looking for has been right in front of our eyes all along?

Sure it's nice to date the person we think we look the best with, the person who's the hottest around, the one who's best in bed but at some point it has to stop. At some point we have to realize it's more important to be with the one than just anyone. We need to put aside our fears, put away the notions of what we think we need and open up our arms and our hearts to the one who's been right there waiting for us. They could be the friend sitting next to us at a baseball game or the friend napping next to us in Central Park. What if we're like swans, which mate for life, and only get one true love? Wouldn't it be a shame to pass it by because we were too busy worrying who we look the best with than who makes us feel the best?

Letter to the Editor

From Tim Aniolowski

Try to realize, when writing about the American Dream, that it is truly f***ed. The American Dream is not about a smoke filled battle field, it is about money and power. A proverbial lifting ones self from said selfs bootstraps. A site that I linked to yours from has a picture of a woman holding a sign that read: I can see anti-war and anti-foreign policy, but anti-military? This is what is wrong with conservative war-mongers such as the young woman in this picture. Do people like her truly believe that because a person thinks that a war based solely on the purpose of getting more oil is wrong, that means we want American, and British, and Polish soldiers to die. If so, us "Liberal Hippies" as the site suggests are just as much "evil doers" as those that we are fighting. Speaking for myself, I am a Democrat opposed to the war; that said I still want America to win that war, for no other reason than it meaning less of our guys will DIE, and they will be returned home quickly. Please don't take any disrespect from this writing, I just happen to disagree, but after all that's what so great about this country, isn't it?

Respectively,
TMA

Tim,

As always, we appreciate your input and we take no disrespect from your writing. The First Amendment is a wonderful thing!

May I ask what that site was (that linked to ours)? I'd like to see exactly what you're talking about.

Personally, I have nothing against people who are not for the war (though I would hope that they were against the war from the start and didn't just change their minds because of the difficult time we've been having).

That said, I simply cannot believe that this war was all about oil... I've seen no evidence of

this whatsoever. One can believe all the conspiracy theories he wants, but in the end it's really just a waste of time, I think. For all we know, we're just hooked up to The Matrix and the earth is run by artificial intelligence that uses us for batteries.

To this day, regardless of what's happened since we began the war, I supported the war. When in doubt of what's going on in the present, it's always good to look to the past and relive the situation that led us to where we are today. Here's a list of intelligence Bush spoke about during his State of the Union Address before the war:

- "The United Nations concluded in 1999 that Saddam Hussein had biological weapons sufficient to produce over 25,000 liters of anthrax - enough doses to kill several million people. He hasn't accounted for that material. He's given no evidence that he has destroyed it."

- "The United Nations concluded that Saddam Hussein had materials sufficient to produce more than 38,000 liters of botulinum toxin -- enough to subject millions of people to death by respiratory failure. He hadn't accounted for that material. He's given no evidence that he has destroyed it."

- "The International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed in the 1990s that Saddam Hussein had an advanced nuclear weapons development program, had a design for a nuclear weapon and was working on five different methods of enriching uranium for a bomb. Saddam Hussein has not credibly explained these activities. He clearly has much to hide."

- "Iraq is blocking U-2 surveillance flights requested by the United Nations. Iraqi intelligence officers are posing as the scientists inspectors are supposed to interview. Real scientists have been coached by Iraqi officials on what to say. Intelligence sources indicate that Saddam Hussein has ordered that scientists who cooperate with U.N. inspectors in disarming Iraq will be killed, along with their families."

- "Evidence from intelligence sources, secret communications, and statements by people now in custody reveal that Saddam Hussein aids

and protects terrorists, including members of al Qaeda. Secretly, and without fingerprints, he could provide one of his hidden weapons to terrorists, or help them develop their own."

- "Some have said we must not act until the threat is imminent. Since when have terrorists and tyrants announced their intentions, politely putting us on notice before they strike? If this threat is permitted to fully and suddenly emerge, all actions, all words, and all recriminations would come too late. Trusting in the sanity and restraint of Saddam Hussein is not a strategy, and it is not an option."

- "Year after year, Saddam Hussein has gone to elaborate lengths, spent enormous sums, taken great risks to build and keep weapons of mass destruction. But why?"

These were all quoted from President Bush when he made the speech. Most of the intelligence used to back the speech was from the UN.

Like President Bush said, I just didn't trust in the sanity and restraint of Saddam Hussein and that's why I supported the war and continue to do so. The way I see it, we were wrong (though I don't think we made a mistake protecting ourselves), and now we've got to deal with the consequences. If we were to suddenly pull out of Iraq (this may have been more true before than now), we would likely end up with something worse than Saddam. We don't really have a choice here. And if things work out, and I'm confident that they will, the middle east will be that much better a place and the US will be that much safer.

Though I'm not speaking so much for *The Patriot* (this is my own opinion), I'd bet that most of the staff would agree with me here.

Still, you're entitled to your opinion and I respect that.

Thanks again for writing to us... I appreciate it!

Sincerely,
Erik Berte
Editor-in-Chief
The Patriot

America The Beautiful

Quotations Compiled by Aleksandra Borodkin

Domestic Policy Issue

“When a government takes over a people’s economic life it becomes absolute, and when it has become absolute it destroys the arts, the minds, the liberties and the meaning of the people it governs.” - Maxwell Anderson

“Freedom is not something to be secured in any one moment of time. We must struggle to preserve it every day. And freedom is never one generation away from extinction.” - President Ronald Reagan

“Individualism, the love of enterprise, and the pride in personal freedom, have been deemed by Americans not only as their choicest, but their peculiar and exclusive possessions.” - James Bryce

“Given that the two centuries of socialists’ experiments, whether by utopians, Marxists, or Fabians, always ended in economic failure and a loss of personal liberty, why are people around the globe still proudly proclaiming themselves socialists?” - Richard Rahn

Whose Money is it Anyway?

The left: “Every Social Security proposal the Bush Administration is publicly considering includes cuts in guaranteed benefits. Now we know why: the Bush Administration deems the current system, with its average monthly benefit of \$955, as too generous. Only the callous would believe that \$955 per month is too extravagant for seniors who have spent their entire lives paying into the system with the belief that it would be there for them when they retired.” - Rep. Nan Pelosi

The right: “To be sure, personal accounts remain a controversial part of the reform package, with a large block of Americans opposing them altogether. But this block comprises mostly people over 55 who will not be affected by the implementation of personal accounts. The Demos still reject the idea

of personal accounts, but their perceived inflexibility on this issue has not endeared them with the public lately. Democrat consultants James Carville and Stan Greenberg pointed out this week that rigid Demo opposition to the President’s plan has not won much support because they have put forth no plan of their own” ---The Federalist Patriot
The Interpreters of the Law

The left: “The immediate provocation is the GOP’s so-called ‘nuclear option,’ a scheme by Republican leaders in the Senate to end the 200-year tradition of allowing the minority party to filibuster judicial nominations. Democrats regard the proposed rule change as the equivalent of a constitutional coup in the Senate.” --Eleanor Clift

The right: “I am committed to getting the work of the American people done in the Senate, which includes advice and consent on the president’s judicial nominations as outlined in the Constitution. Never before in the history of the Senate has a nominee with clear majority support been denied an up or down vote on the Senate floor because of a filibuster.” --Senate Majority Leader, Bill Frist

The Ambassador Saga

The left: “Look, I just want someone credible at the U.N. I want someone that can make our case at the U.N. I’m less concerned about reform of the U.N. than the role of the United States within the U.N. and the United States not being able to be marginalized within the U.N. And I think that John Bolton’s lack of credibility on intelligence matters, John Bolton’s strong and in some areas very respected ideological view of foreign policy intelligence are admirable, but they’re not admirable for someone running a Cabinet-level position, one of the largest embassies in the world, which is the, essentially, the embassy of the United States at the U.N.”---Senator Joseph Biden, D-DE

The right: “John Bolton’s nomination as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations got a boost this week when 59 ex-diplomats sent a letter to the Senate opposing his appointment. Along with North Korea’s reference to Mr. Bolton as ‘human scum’ and John Kerry’s passionate disapproval, what more could the Senate want by way of recommendation?” --The Wall Street Journal

The Day after Tomorrow

The left: “Even if people stopped pumping out carbon dioxide and other pollutants tomorrow, global warming would still get worse, two teams of researchers reported on Thursday. ... Virtually no one disagrees human activity is fueling global warming, and a global treaty signed in Kyoto, Japan, aims to reduce polluting emissions. But the world’s biggest polluter, the United States, has withdrawn from the 1997 treaty, saying its provisions would hurt the U.S. economy.” --Reuters news service

The right: “From there to the idea of an anti-American psychopathology, which routinely seeks to transform the United States into a scapegoat burdened with all the sins of the world, is a small and rather tempting step. Ecologists will reply that this is wrong, that America, with 5 percent of the world’s population, is responsible for 25 percent of the world’s industrial pollution. Perhaps the figures are accurate, but it should be pointed out that America also produces 25 percent of the planet’s goods and services and that the other 167 Kyoto signatories had done absolutely nothing by mid-2001 towards reducing, either collectively or individually their 75 percent share of the world pollution.”----from “Anti-Americanism” by Jean Francois Revel

Please Pray Today and Everyday for the Safety of our Troops

My Struggle

Humor by William Olsen-Hoek

Deadlines are skittish things, let me tell you. One day you’re just having several bottles of wine and trying Blue Point Brewery’s gift to the beer enthusiast (Hoptical Illusion), and the next day you’re reading 400 pages about some crazy Nebraskan, then writing 9 pages about what you read. Then you remember that you have another paper due in your biography class. No problem. Only five pages. Then *The Patriot* comes a-knocking asking once again for some of your brilliant wit to grace the pages of the uberconservative rag.

Insomnia generally hits around these times. I’m not entirely sure why, but it happens. Insomnia is like time travel. You keep looking at the clock, and it skips ahead – kind of like that countdown in *Spaceballs*:

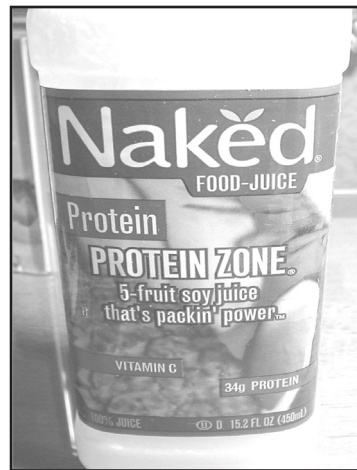
“10... 9... 8... 6...”

“What happened to seven?!”

“Just kidding.”

The television was just too enticing at 2:30am. By the way, anyone who says, “But the night is still young,” at 2:30am ought to be sent to a secluded island and blown up. This is entirely untrue. Channel 50 is the old standby when I can’t sleep. I mean, all the best Comedy Central shows are broadcasted well after Christians are in bed. *Black Books* is a prime example. (As a side note, if anyone else is a *Black Books* enthusiast, I urge them to contact me. Actually, I urge anyone reading this to contact me. I’ll list my email below.) Tonight was the entirely neglected Gerhard Reinke’s *Wanderlust*. It’s about this dude who pretends he’s a German tourist and visits “exotic” areas. By visit, I mean he acts like a total jackass. It’s essentially thirty minutes of crass humor made funnier by a Teutonic tongue. But I digress, I think.

Deadlines. Right. I really wanted to write something fun and interesting for this month’s edition



of *Das Patriot*. My friend suggested that I write about the letter I recently penned to George W. Bush, asking him to grow sideburns or mutton chops. When President William “I’m Only Known For My Fat Ass Not Fitting In The Bathtub” Taft is the last president to have facial hair (if you count a really greasy, neatly trimmed moustache as facial hair), something is seriously wrong with our society. That is why I am a firm advocate for the growing of sideburns. They’re fun, cool, and increase your wind resistance just enough that you might survive a fall from an airplane. (Note: I cannot be held responsible for morons attempting to first grow Martin Van Buren style chops and jump out of a plane and jelling up the abyss below.) I’m actually disheartened that I haven’t even gotten a canned response stating that the President doesn’t wish to grow ‘burns because public opinion polls show people prefer shorn faces on their elected leaders. Whatever.

Then I really wanted to write about the travesty of the Great Odwalla v. Naked Juice Vote that was re-

cently held on campusdining.org. My freshman semester was only made tolerable by a frosty bottle of ultra-thick, bizarrely flavored Odwalla juice in the morning. Believe me, it’s the only thing that’ll get you out of bed when you’re living in a triple with... uh... “people.” For nearly 3 years, Odwalla was the stifling despot of the Stony Brook juice market. Then, that wrought bastard, Naked Juice, came and attempted to topple this mighty fruit extract emperor’s wicked empire. My girlfriend recently pointed out that Campus Dining services was holding an online vote, where we Stony Brook consumers could voice our preference for overpriced hippie juice. I partook in my sacred Democratic right, and left the rest to fate. Alas, it appears that the website has been updated, and the results are gone. It was something to the tune of 550 for Naked, 270 for Odwalla, and 40 who didn’t care. I’d really like to have a coffee with one of the magnificent specimens who voted that they didn’t care. Sadly, my juice had lost. Never again would Blueberry B Monster, Carrot Orange Apple, nor Banana Strawberry smoothie pass these lips after being purchased with a little red and white card with my ugly mug on it. How could you allow this to happen, my good people? First my preferred candidate loses the 2004 election (thus starting a trend that my grandmother started – namely that I shall always choose the candidate who loses) and now my juice loses the 2005 election. Coupled with insomnia, papers, and deadlines, I’d say this is a pretty miserable semester.

Maybe it hasn’t been that terrible. Just looking outside on this day which broke 80 makes everything seem better. And there’s light at the end of the tunnel, or something else less clichéd. Okay. That’s all I’m writing. Oh, and if you need to contact me regarding *Black Books*, your juice preference, or sex advice, my email is lewisblack@aol.com. Mahalo, et au revoir.

Ted Kennedy's Drink of the Month



Satire by Virginia Morgan

When not ambling through the halls of Congress or filibustering judicial nominees on the floor of the Senate, there's nothing Senator Kennedy likes more than kicking back on the shores of Chappaquiddick with a nice, cold drink in his hand. Each month this column will highlight one of Senator Kennedy's favorite drinks.

Not in Love

Poem by Alexandra Borodkin

I don't love you anymore
I miss the way you made me feel
Sometimes I wonder what it was all for
And whether it could have been something real.

I miss your laughter, your smile
Your strength to pull me through
All the calmness of the night
Was nothing compared to you.

Sometimes I need you terribly
I miss the way things were before
All this silence between us
I don't love you anymore.

Mango Madras*

Ingredients

1.5 oz Malibu Mango Rum
2.0 oz Orange Juice
2.0 oz Cranberry Juice
Ice

Directions

- 1) Fill cocktail shaker with ice
- 2) Add rum, orange juice and cranberry juice
- 3) Shake thoroughly
- 4) Enjoy!

** Not intended for the weak of stomach,
faint of heart or those under the age of 21
and remember: don't drink and drive
or drive with people who do!*



**Vote on Solar April 25th
through April 29th!**