

the stony brook Stateswoman

HONESTLY, WE LOST TRACK OF VOLUMES LIKE 6 YEARS AGO

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2004

I-CON: The Brutally Devastating Aftermath



Statesman/Emy Kuriakose

These seemingly peaceful individuals contributed to the chaos which ensued after I-CON had supposedly ended. Following their massacre, the pirates and storm troopers ate at the Union.

By JAMES BOUKLAS
My Brother is Boy Genius

Beer spilled all over hallways, windows broken, and light posts damaged all over campus: this is the other side of I-CON.

The destruction across the campus is

just further proof that nerds and violence can be a deadly combination. Over 14 have been found in the Student Union alone, their causes of death ranging from stabbings to defenestration. Several hundred were admitted to the Emergency Room as of Sunday night, overburdening the hospital as doctors scrambled into

work hours early. "We were treating injuries that in some cases required twenty hours in the operating room," said Dr. Khan. "We even had to amputate an arm due to an injury by a replica *Soul Caliber* blade. It's a true tragedy."

"We was just havin' a good time," said Michael Chung, aka Kobimitsu Kamura, Dark Overlord Master. "For years we were called nerds or geeks and this marked our chance to really let loose."

Chung spoke to us from behind the bars of the county jail, pending charges of aggravated assault with a Klingon phaser rifle.

Despite the widespread havoc I-CON causes every year, the Administration insists on downplaying the violence. "There is no violence, nor has there ever been any violence, associated with or caused by I-CON members," said Richard Hui, Shirley Strum Kenney's press secretary. When asked about the smoke damage done to the Union's basement, Hui refused to answer, citing "issues of national security."

Students living in the northern parts of Campus, including H-Quad and Mendelson, claimed to be able to hear the screams of agony and pain that reverberated

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USG Manifests Judiciary

By THE STONY BROOK PRESS
Because We Hate USG

In a last ditch effort to appease a frustrated student body, the Undergraduate Student Government added a judiciary branch to their organization. The 12-member panel will review acts by the USG to determine if they abide by the revered Stony Brook Constitution.

The first act of government to be challenged is their use of funds on various items. A number of students have accused USG of spending an unnecessary amount of the student activity fee on USG paraphernalia. The judiciary panel ruled that this was in the "spirit of our constitutional framers," citing a reference to the thirteenth amendment of the constitution, which reads "only unnecessary and/or irrelevant materials in relation to the working of the University shall be authorized for purchase."

"We got these highlighters," said Sammy Curtis, president of USG. "I really like them because they are so bright." The Judiciary, upholding the 13th amendment and considering Curtis' strong preference toward neon green, decided that the \$4,236 investment on BIC Super Bright Scented Highlighters was warranted.

"To be honest, I'm not sure why we bought so many of these," said Vald Frants, the newly elected Chief Justice of the Judiciary. "I keep one in every pocket now. When I come into the room, girls always ask me if I'm happy to see them for some reason."

Another recent allegation that the

Continued on Page 5

Union Walkway Plans Finalize: A Compromise

By MANSOOR KHAN
Publisher Extraordinaire

The campus club, *School of Thought*, recently accomplished their goal of setting out to redesign the Union Walkway this past week. Although their original plans involved a completely renovated look for the Walkway, replete with several benches, a variety of flora and a brick-laden path bearing the names of the Walkway contributors, SOT was forced to compromise due to lack of funding, said Michael Zannettis, president of the organization.

School of Thought set out on their journey to revolutionize the campus, starting with the Union Walkway, last spring. The plans for the walkway itself were born at the end of Summer 2003, and what started as just a draft of an idea to the Dean of Students turned into a sweeping movement to manifest their vision. With the full encouragement of President Shirley Strumm Denny and Don Belle, the acclaimed architect responsible for redesigning Grand Centers Station, the members of School of Thought worked tirelessly to procure funds by soliciting



Statesman/Mansoor Khan

School of Thought has recently finalized its absolutely beautiful design for the Union walkway.

campus clubs, organizations, departments and local businesses.

"Unfortunately, no one really bought the idea," Zannettis said, with an upside

down smile on his face. "We sent letters, knocked on doors, set up meetings and

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FACULTY STUDENT
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MFA Exhibition Shows Off Diversity of Student Talent

BY AMANDA RUBENSTEIN
Statesman Staff

As shopping carts graze the Siberian landscape, custodians drink beer, eat pizza and smoke cigarettes. In the next room, Ophelia floats in a plastic kiddie pool, and an expressive man blurs his presentation skills against a bright red backdrop. These eclectic characters have appeared in the Staller Center Art Gallery since Feb. 28 in the Master of Fine Arts Program thesis exhibit. The thesis exhibition features the work of seven graduates who differ greatly in their methods and themes in art.

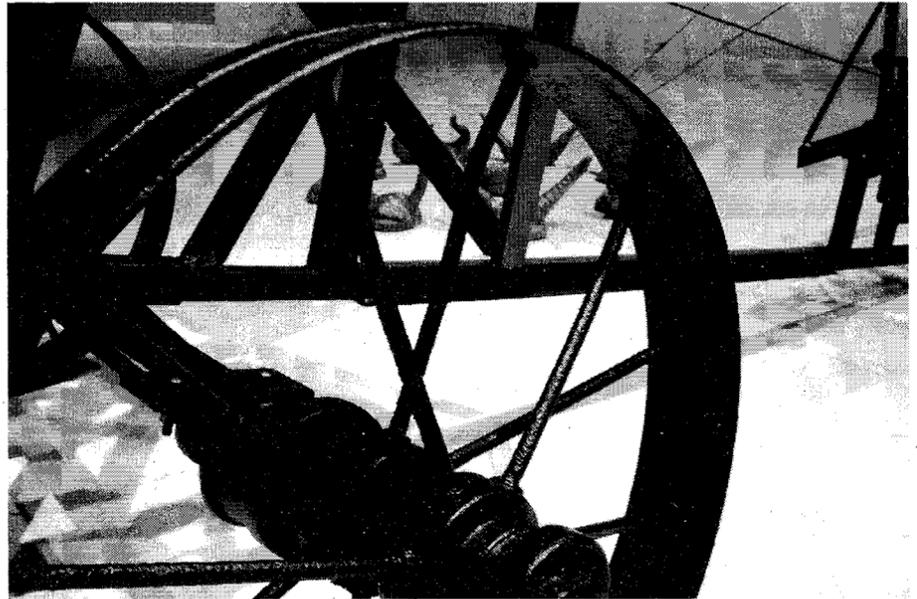
The program is 18 years old and has consistently brought the highest quality students from around the world together to study art at an extremely high level. The program's success, according to James Rubin, the chairman of the Department of Art, looks to several factors to explain the program's success.

Stony Brook's location on the north shore of Long Island is "the best of all geographical worlds for artists," Rubin said. The faculty matches the high standard of the students, as they are internationally renowned and are motivated to come to Stony Brook by the high caliber of the students.

Rubin adds that while any MFA curriculum has rigor and freedom involved, Stony Brook's program is unique. In one way, is connected with the art department's program in the history, theory and criticism of art, so both studio art and art history are coupled for students to freely communicate ideas and feelings. Also, the MFA program at Stony Brook allows the "students themselves to be teachers." Rubin states that the "experience requires a level of articulateness and sharing that can only sharpen major part of studio art.

The students in the program this year show off both the range and the quality of the program. They are from many different backgrounds and, "it is almost hard to imagine that they all pursued the same course of study," Rubin said. Still, the program can strengthen the diversity of the students it accepts, and fosters the various types of art forms they choose to pursue.

Kate Diago, one of the students graduating this year, says her drawings explore memories and facts and consider where they reside in the brain. She says her work is "ultimately an attempt to communicate the impossibility of having control over what I choose to think, what I have repressed, what I remember and how these are interrelated." Her work



Statesman/Emy Kuriakose

Bryan Lauch used several different media to create his idea of art as a "bridge." His exhibit illicit ideas of human conflict, history and aging weaponry.

is shown through satellite-like models of the parts of the brain made of paint, paper, tape, wire, string and lights suspended in the air.

Dan Kitchen concentrates on movement within art. He uses the character called the Custodian who is, "a construction of experience and necessity," Kitchen said. "He ... is still being developed as his own experiences of the work grows." The works shown in the exhibition show the character's development through the interaction with the environment, including Kitchen himself.

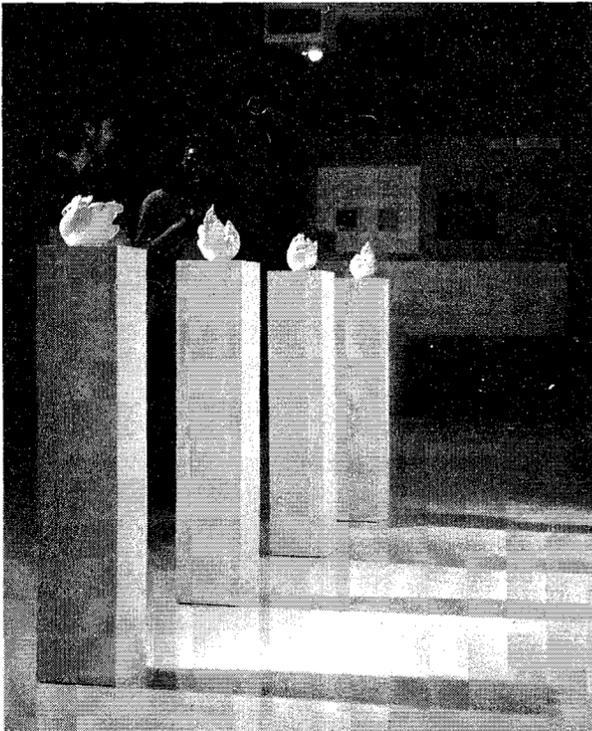
Bryan Lauch looks at art as the connector of all things. He said in his reflection that "art is the bridge." His sculptures made of clay, steel, wood oxides, motors and glass were also on exhibition in the gallery. David Luke said that his work has had a shift from cultural to political. His pieces have two general forms—one is a game form and the other is concerned with gestures—both related to politics.

David Morris Nelison explores objects and their relations to both nature and human impact. Both "his ethics and

aesthetic sense embrace this notion as an autonomy of artificiality and reality." Sang-ah Suh examines death in landscape. The series, called "Totmalerei-lifeless paintings," shows "ruined sceneries and abandoned landscape with atmospheric surfaces in a large scale." To represent death, gray monochromatic surfaces are a "primordial vocabulary" of the paintings—symbolizing death.

Kentary Totsuka focuses on sculpture, which he said was created to "experience and visualize a sense of existence." He uses porcelain to sculpt portions of a man known as "Fragments of the Warrior" in the Exhibition. His challenge, he says, is to "find and produce a purely visual language that speaks without the use of words."

The exhibit, which closes this weekend, has attracted the attention of art viewers throughout the tri-state area. This unique presentation exemplifies the diversity of ideas and art forms that the Stony Brook curriculum brings together. Visit the gallery, and take time out to see a new perspective on art, and the universe.



Statesman/Emy Kuriakose

Kentary Totsuka (pictured on the left) explains his work to an interested art student at the MFA exhibition.

San Jose Taiko Thunders Into the Wang Center

BY MEGAN LANGILLE
Statesman Staff

It began as imperceptible as a heartbeat, but gradually the drumming sounded like thunder in the Wang Center Theatre. On Sunday, March 28, the performers of San Jose Taiko delighted the Stony Brook audience with its thunderous, energy-infused performance.

The art of Taiko is inspired by traditional Japanese drumming. The San Jose Company was founded in 1973 by third generation Japanese Americans, called Sensei, who were searching for an artistic expression that fused traditional Japanese art forms with American culture. The result is an art that requires harmony, beauty and rhythm as well as power, charisma and a sense of comedy.

What was most fascinating about the performance was the blend of stylized

choreography and the primal beat of the drums that seemed to echo every heartbeat in the room. The drummers followed a set routine, and often worked together in teams of two to accomplish a complex pattern. However, it was obvious that each performer was engrossed in his or her own drumming. There was a look of rapture on their faces, particularly during their solo performance.

The company does not simply bang away at drums, although that is in itself impressive enough. They performed 16 different songs. One called Impulse exuded joy and celebration, while another called Hayaku were more intense and focused. All were complex and required power, skill, and speed to perform.

The joy and passion of the drummers was evidenced in their performance and it poured out over the audience. In between routines, they performed with different

instruments in a light-hearted comedic tone.

The company is made up of ten drummers who perform using a variety of drums of different sizes. During practices they make their drums and costumes, choreograph routines and practice their drumming. In addition, they must work out vigorously so that they have the stamina necessary to perform the energetic and physically taxing routines.

The beauty of Taiko lies in the drummers' ability to fuse different cultural styles together in one art form. Many of the songs performed by the company had



Courtesy of San Jose Taiko Drummers

The San Jose Taiko Drummers brought an energetic, lively cultural performance to the Wang Center March 28.

hints of African, Latin and Middle Eastern rhythms. The moving performance was a perfect blend of different cultures and created an entertaining and musically pleasant show.

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*Student art exhibits on display, SAC Gallery, April 15-21. Opening: April 15, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
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Union Walkway Plans Finalized

Continued from Page 1

even threatened families, but no one really wanted to donate." Zannettis, downtrodden, insisted that they never intended to actually hurt any family members, except maybe that of Dallas Bauman, head of Campus Residences. "I was really upset about the whole blackout thing."

The final design involves a decorated chair placed directly in the center of the walkway. The chair, which was donated by the Stony Brook *Statesman*, holds a dedication to the donor in the form of large piece of white paper with the word "Statesmen," in fancy handwriting. In accordance with the theme of environmentalism, the design also includes patches of greenery elegantly placed around the chair.

"At least we're welcoming nature, and giving students a place to sit and appreciate the environment," said Allison Engallena, vice president of SOT.

"It's such a shame," said President Denny, pulling open the flaps of her wallet, revealing a desolate, moneyless pouch. "I would have donated something myself, but I have no money." Denny, who at first was extremely optimistic about the project, became suspicious of Zannettis' plans recently.

"I'll let you in on a little secret, Mansoor," she said, "but this is off the record. I never really liked Michael. He was rude to me at that first Round Table discussion, and he never finishes his sentences." Denny then spat on the

ground disgustedly. "He's so tall and weird, too."

In spite of her ill feelings toward Zannettis, Denny plans to attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the Walkway project on April 22. "He said they were having Capoeira. What the hell is Capoeira?" she said.

School of Thought treasurer Samantha

"I was really proud of Michael and the *School of Thought*," until the whole funding thing.

Wow, they really suck at fundraising."

Dean Harry Stein

Early expressed regret about the outcome of the Union Walkway Project. "You know, we really shouldn't have bought those sweatshirts," she said. "They made us buy 12. What are we going to do with 12 sweatshirts? We only have four members. And the sweatpants make my butt look fat."

"I was really proud of Michael and the *School of Thought*," said Dr. Harry Stein, Dean of Students and Ladies Man. "Until the whole funding thing. Wow, they really suck at fundraising."

USG Implements Judiciary

Continued from Page 1

Judiciary is currently addressing involves club funding allocations. USG has been accused of withholding funds to a number of group and some say that they have no right to keep student funds from student groups.

"We're making every effort to provide what our clubs need to function," said Andrea Raffi, the treasurer of USG. "And if we can't give them money, we offer them

highlighters. It's a barter system, and they have to understand that."

"What the #*\$% is a barter system?" replied Joseph Filipazzo, Cash Money Millionaire of the Stony Brook *Press*. "What do they expect us to do? Write out 3000 issues in highlighters? I'll show him where he can put his highlighter."

"I'm not responsible for what student media thinks about me," Raffi insisted. "And I'm not responsible for where these highlighters go."

The Deadly Deeds of I-CON

Continued from Page 1

ated through campus late Sunday.

"Like, seriously, Oh my God," said Jessica Santana, community service chair of Alpha Epsilon Gamma Sorority, Inc. and Gray College resident. "Oh God, seriously, what the hell was going on? Like, I was scared, seriously."

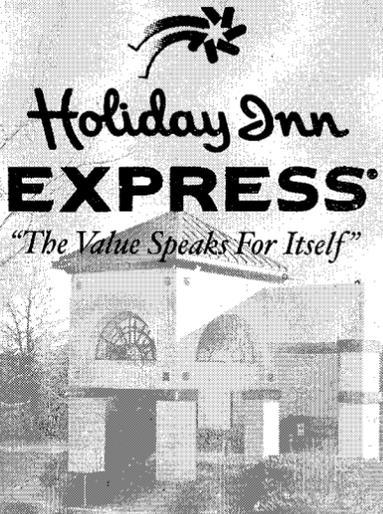
I-CON enthusiasts are bewildered by the sequence of events, claiming that past I-CON experiences have been largely hazard-free, with little to no dismemberment. Last year's I-CON, specifically, resulted in just four lost arms, compared to the 62 limbs found scattered in the field behind the Physics Building on Sunday.

"The Boffer contest got *\$^sing out of hand, son," said Michael Wusunyang, winner of six straight games of *Magic*:

The Gathering this weekend. "I was all up in the Union Fireside Lounge. Me and mah homies was chill, flippin' cards and takin' charge. Then all a sudden, some *\$%^!'s arm just come flyin' thru the window, like some parakeet on coke, kid." After some basic calculations on his TI-92, Wusunyang affirmed that the arm did, indeed, originate from the Boffer ring, where contestants battled it out in an all-out brawl.

"This year, we had a change of plans in the Boffer contest," said Shawn Hopkins, a volunteer organizer at I-CON. "We allowed participants to use metal weapons. To be honest, I wasn't really keen on the whole idea, but Fred said 'those nerds will get a thrill just beatin' each other up. Let them use whatever they want.'"

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Amy Kuriacoke
Evil Mikey the Greek

Token Asian
Peter Sunwood

Operating System
Rohit-DOS

Photoshop Whores
Johnny Cage
God*

**Phone Sex Operators
(except Widaad)**
Jackie Hirschfield
Widaad Zaman

Jock Stalker
Dana Gomi

*God decided to smite James Bouklos with a 5-page paper so that He could overtake James' position.

People Magazine's Man of the Year
Frank D'Alessandro, a.k.a. Frankie D.

Trish the Dish
(she's ticklish)
Patricia Gallo

Yells at Sonia Guttman
Arthur Golnick

Amo de la Tela
Jésus Castón

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The Stony Brook Statesman, which serves SUNY Stony Brook and its surrounding community, is a nonprofit literary publication produced twice weekly during the academic year and bimonthly during the summer, unless we don't feel like it. First copy is free. Each additional copy is 50 cents. Except, I don't think anyone has actually paid us 50 cents. Where does that money go? Frank?

Editorials represent the majority opinion of the Editorial board and are written by one of its members, usually in a drunken rage. The Stony Brook Statesman welcomes letters, opinions and information about events and issues on or around campus, unless you suck at writing. Then we'll pretend that we welcome them, and just keep putting them off until you forget you ever wrote them.

Please type all submissions. Anonymous and handwritten submissions will not be printed, unless they include a nude picture of you or your spouse. Please keep all submissions to a maximum of 650 words, unless your name is Michael Zannettis. Statesman reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, language and readability, and if you generally just suck at writing.

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Pseudo News-Commintary

Campus Dining: An Oasis Of Relaxation At SBU

By MICHAEL NEVRADAKIS
Statesman Suga Daddy

Life for the typical Stony Brook student is pretty hectic. Between classes, hours upon hours of labs to complete that biochem major, recitations, studying, and homework, it seems we just can't get a break. However, there is one veritable oasis in the otherwise hectic sea of schoolwork and drab concrete that is SBU: your local campus dining location.

Just take a look around you. From Roth to Kelly, from the SAC to the Union, students are able to take a break from a stressful day, and just sit down and relax.

At the Union Deli, students are greeted by the sweet, melodic sounds emanating from a clock radio tuned to a prominent adult contemporary radio station. Students

patiently wait on line, often for a half hour or more during peak times, and patiently await their order. In addition, the lack of seating in the Union allows students to concentrate on searching for a place to sit and eat, and thus enables them to take their mind off more stressful concerns, like their calc midterm coming up.

"It takes forever to find a seat, but I don't mind. I don't really need to go to my next class anyway, even though the professor takes attendance. %\$#@ it," said Bernard J. Reznik, a freshman majoring in Women's Studies.

The SAC provides another option for those students who like to linger over their meals. Students are able to engage in a little exercise, as they push, shove and jostle their way through the packed ordering area, while waiting for food can often take at least 30 minutes, just like at the Union Deli. Two floors of comfortable seating are available, in an intimate student environment, while the glass enclosure of the eating area allows students to admire the lovely scenery of the Academic Mall while they eat.

Juliet Steinberg, a senior majoring in Africana Studies, put it best: "I know that when I go to the SAC, I am guaranteed an escape from the daily pressures put on me in my vigorous major, for at least two to three hours."

For students who want a touch of class with their meal, EOB is the answer. Conveniently open from 5 to 9 on weekday evenings, it provides a dining out experience for students who really want to eat out late.

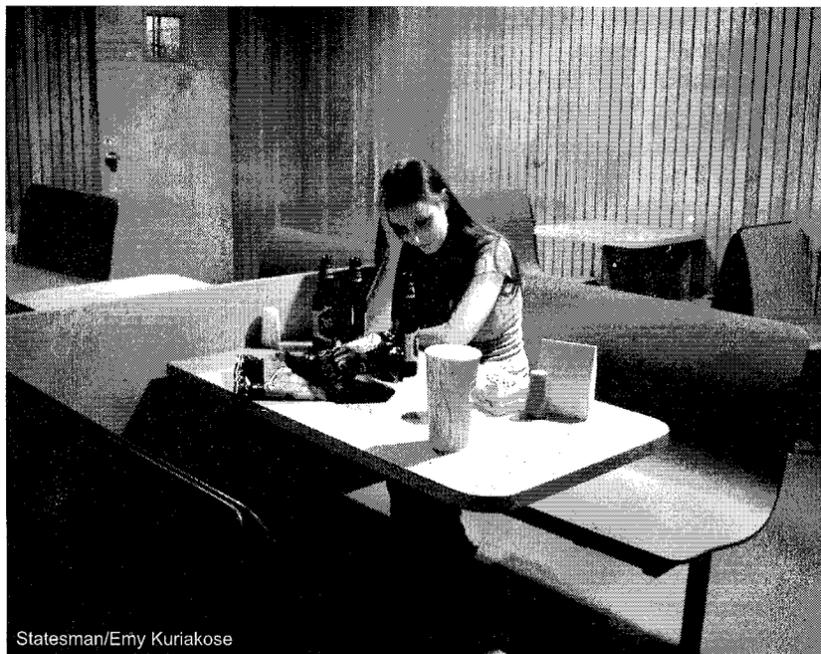
"Where I come from, dinnertime was 4:30 p.m. and bedtime was at 8 o'clock sharp, so I never had the opportunity to stay out late and go to hotspots like EOB," said Demetrius Chang, a freshman majoring in Cytotechnology

At EOB, students often have to wait at least 15 minutes for a table, even when the establishment is almost empty. It gives students a chance to socialize with other students who are also waiting to sit down, allows them to think about what to order from EOB's diverse menu, and to kick back and relax.

Campus Dining officials who were interviewed by

the *Statesman* reiterated the students' positive remarks.

"We understand that the life of a student is a hectic one. That's why our campus dining locations provide ample opportunity for students to sit back, relax, interact with other students, and spend a few hours eating delicious and healthy meal,"



Statesman/Emy Kuriakose

said Hartwick Gilmore, an official from the FSA, which oversees Campus Dining.

"I never went to college, but I know a hungry student when I see one," said Larry "Mr. Grease" Mirkin, a cook in the SAC. "I'd love to talk to you further, but as you can see, there's a long line of students waiting for an imitation crab meat sandwich."

Miranda Cruz, an undeclared senior, praised the quality of the food on campus.

"Yeah, when I eat, I'm able to chill out with my girls," she said, looking incessantly at her watch while chowing down on some beef with black bean sauce from Deng Lee's. "You'll have to excuse me, I'm running late and I have a physics midterm in a few minutes. But yeah, I love the food. Whether it's a whopper with cheese from Burger King, White Castle hamburgers from Kelly, fish sticks from the Bleacher Club, or this lovely meal I'm eating from Deng Lee's, it's all good." Cruz then suddenly clutched her tummy, shouted "oh no, not again!" and ran towards the ladies room.

In case you didn't notice, this is the April Fools Issue. The ads are real, but most of the articles aren't. For real campus news, you can turn to pages 3, 7 and 12.

Statesman Foot Soldiers

Yu Sze Ang
Ian Cook
Samantha Earley
Sarah Goshman
Regina Glick
Maury Hirschhorn

Marie Huchton
John Imossi
Joici Job
Mira Kinariwala
Ted Lai
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Adianec Ross
Amanda Rubenstein

Amanda Sosulski
Susan Thomas
Todd Thomas
Jenny Wang
Michael Zannettis
Adam Zimmerman

Petition Big on Controversy; Low on Facts

By MICHAEL NEVRADAKIS
Statesman Editor

Recently, an online petition has surfaced, protesting a front-page picture published in the *Stony Brook Press*' Feb. 29 issue. The image, which featured the faces of President Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld superimposed on the bodies of Hitler and Mussolini, also clearly pictured the Nazi swastika. The petitioners are making a number of demands, all of which are off base.

It's true that the cover image was controversial, and perhaps offensive to some. However, it is clearly not promoting Nazism; instead it likens the President and one of the members of his administration to fascists. While that may be in contrast to certain people's political beliefs, it is certainly not a violation of free speech, or any harsher than many comics and editorials seen in the American and worldwide press about Bush and his administration.

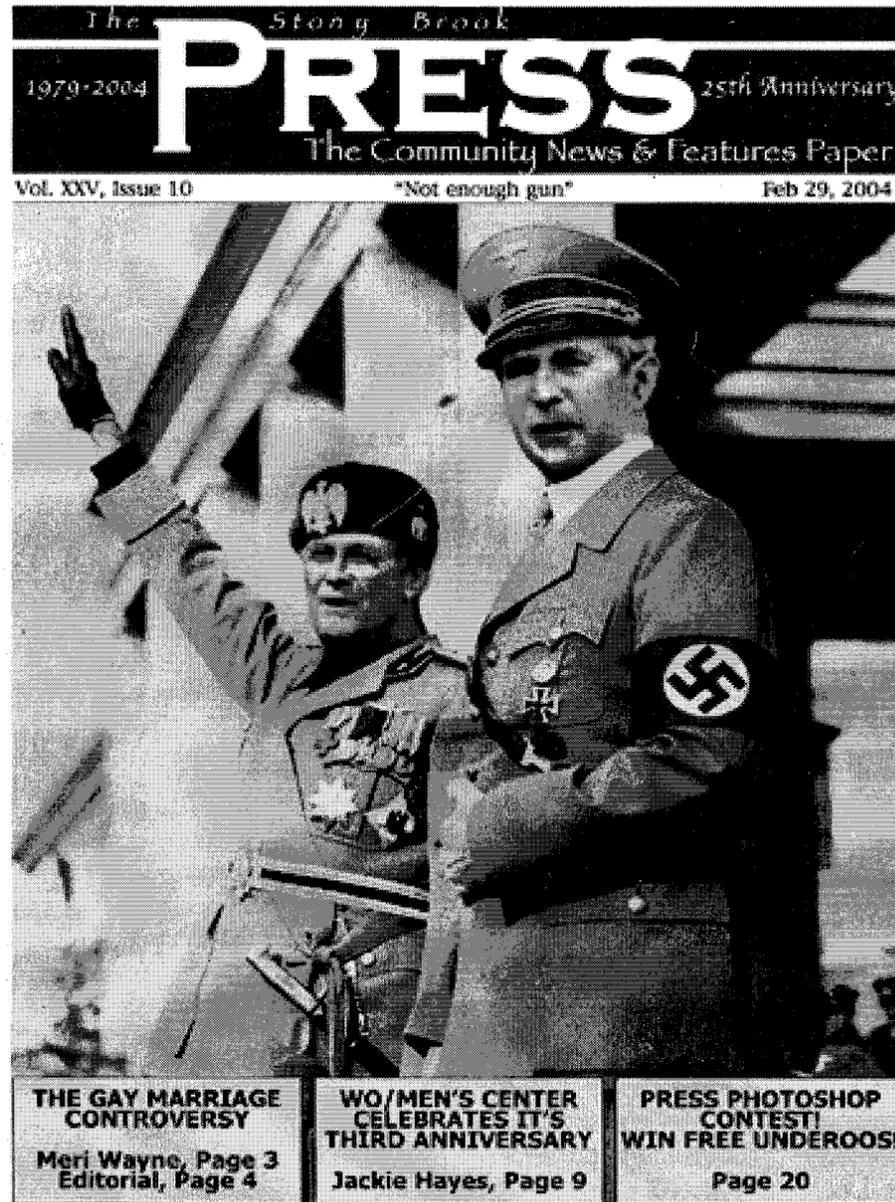
On March 15, an open forum moderated by Carl Corry, an SBU alumnus and President of the Long Island Press Club was held to discuss the controversy that arose after the issue went to press. Panelists included Student Media Advisor Norm Prusslin, Rabbi Topek of Hillel, USG President Sandy Curtis, *Press* Copy Editor Andrew Pernick, and Graduate Media Assistant and former *Statesman* Editor Kelly Brown. The content of the *Press*' front cover, and the larger issue of editorial content in student newspapers was openly debated.

The general consensus among the panelists was that the material printed on the cover of the Feb. 29 issue wasn't offensive, but also that student publications should be aware that images such as the Swastika can be offensive to many people. The panel recommended that student publications be more careful in the usage of such symbols.

However, this petition has circulated since then, so it makes sense to examine it. Upon glancing through it, once notices that the petitioners' demands are targeted not towards the *Stony Brook Press*, but rather attack the university. In addition, the demands themselves are ludicrous.

One of the demands is that the university issue a statewide retraction by printing public notices in New York State newspapers. Besides the fact that the *Press* has a limited circulation in the immediate Stony Brook area, the university has no authority over what is printed in any student publication. Unlike high school publications, which must be approved by administrators before circulation, college publications do not have to undergo such review. In addition, Stony Brook is a public institution, and publications at such institutions are generally protected from all forms of censorship by the university, while publications at private universities can be subject to certain forms of censorship.

Numerous court cases have defended this right, including *Dickey v. Alabama* (1967), which forbids almost all censorship of student-edited publications by college administrators. Additionally,



Courtesy of The Stony Brook Press

This was the front page of the Feb. 29, 2004 issue of the Stony Brook Press. The controversy surrounds the depiction of President Bush and Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld as Nazis, with the Nazi swastika clearly visible. A petition is currently circulating, requesting that the faculty and students supposedly responsible for this image be reprimanded. The above image does not represent the views or beliefs of the Statesman, its employees, staff, or advertisers.

Bazaar v. Fortune (1973) ruled that public colleges and universities and their faculty, staff, and student government officers, may not exercise the power of a private publisher over student publications just because they provide financial support.

The petitioners are also asking that the students who made the editorial decision to publish that front page image be required to take courses in journalistic ethics. The petitioners obviously are not aware that every editor of all student publications at Stony Brook receives a number of documents from the Society of Professional Journalists and the Student Press Law Center, which not only detail ethical journalistic practices, but outline what the law concerning student publications is. Thus, all editors are well-versed in both the ethical and legal matters of student journalism. A related demand of the petitioners is for all students who seek involvement in public activity funded by the university be required to take a course on ethical conduct. Besides being impractical, considering that there are nearly 200 clubs and organizations on campus, SBU students must already abide by the university conduct code and with additional rules and regulations put forth in the student constitution and by the Department of Student Union and

Activities.

The petitioners have also demanded that all the university staff involved in the publication of that issue be reprimanded. This is clearly an absurd demand because no university staff had anything to do with what was published, and legally cannot interfere with the inner workings of these student publications. As stated above, the law explicitly forbids university staff at public institutions from interfering with the editorial decisions of a student publication.

The most ludicrous aspect of the petition is the request for students to be refunded the student activity fee for the spring semester (but for all services provided by that fee to continue to be provided), and for the student activity fee to become voluntary. There are many problems with this. First, it is impossible for the services provided by the student activity fee to be provided without it. That's why it exists in the first place. Second, asking for a refund for the entire fee because a handful of students disagreed with a front page image in one of the student newspapers is inane. The mad rush of students who would rush to get a refund would be tremendous, as many students might claim they were "offended" when in fact, they just see

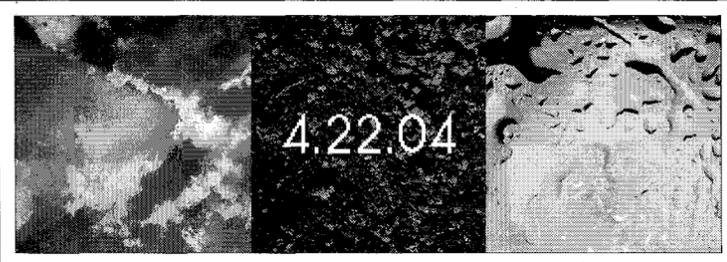
it as an opportunity to get back \$82.50. Finally, consider what life would be like on campus without the student activity fee. Currently, most student clubs and organizations are funded by this fee. In addition, what few special events we have, such as the Dave Chappelle performance, are also funded by this fee. Most students, myself included, feel there should be more such events, not less. Reducing the student activity fee flies in the face of that logic. It's not likely many students would pay for a voluntary fee, which would ultimately bankrupt most student clubs and organizations. That would potentially mean no more *Statesman* or *Press*, no more cultural and religious organizations, and in general, a sharp reduction in student life on campus. For a university that is already considered lifeless by many, this would be an absolute disaster.

It should also be noted that according to numerous court decisions, including *Joyner v. Whiting*, *Schiff v. Williams* (1973), *Leuth v. St. Clair County Community College* (1990) and *Kincaid v. Gibson* (2001), school officials cannot confiscate a publication, withdraw or reduce its funding, withhold student activities fees, fire an editor or adviser, "stack" a student media board, discipline staff members, or take any other action that is motivated by an attempt to control, manipulate or punish past or future content. In essence, pretty much everything the petitioners are proposing is against the law.

Finally, a SUNY-wide mandate requires all colleges and universities in the SUNY system to hold a referendum every two years, in which students can vote on whether or not the student activity fee should be mandatory or voluntary. Asking the university to make this fee voluntary without an election not only goes against democratic principles, but it also shows that the petitioners are clearly misinformed on the issues. The petitioners demonstrated this disturbing lack of familiarity with such important issues time and time again throughout their absurd statement, which might be a reason why their actual names do not appear anywhere in it.

The point is, there's a difference between what is offensive, and what is controversial. The FCC and commercial media are currently debating this issue on a much higher level. The FCC also needs funding in order to function, as do commercial media outlets—as do student clubs and organizations at Stony Brook. This is why it's important that the student activity fee remain mandatory. Finally, it is important to note that the campus media organizations are entirely student-run, and are open to the entire student body. Whether you want to write, appear on television, or broadcast on the radio, if you want to be heard, you are free to join the student media organization of your choice. Whether you disagree with something you read in the paper, or a policy of the administration or the USG, the student media serve as an open forum for students to voice their opinions. It's time to take advantage of that, instead of complaining and making absurd accusations.

Earthstock



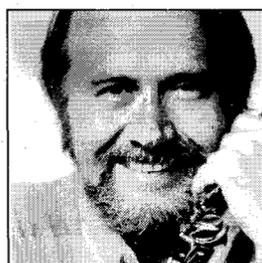
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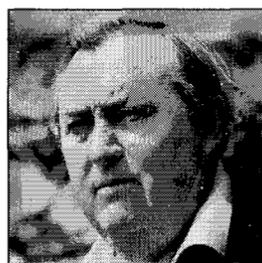
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Study Confirms Lack of Pride at SBU

BY ROWHEAT DAS
The Other White Meat

A new study conducted by researchers at the Sociology department confirm a widely believed fact- Stony Brook students have less pride for their alma mater than all other schools across the country, combined.

"Stony Brook isn't that bad," said Senior Luke Brownstein, Women Studies major. "I mean, I guess it's okay." When asked if his rejection to Boston University influenced his decision to attend Stony Brook, Brownstein refused to comment. He is not alone in his apathy, however.

Faculty members share the sentiments of the students when asked if they liked Stony Brook. "I kind of like the whole SAC thing and the Wang Center. Then they have that Ballroom. I wish I had a ballroom in my house," said Mitchell Bloom, Ph.D., professor of linguistics. "No, I don't really like all those engineering buildings."

The research effort, which was headed by Paul Keenan of the sociology department, endeavored to provide a definitive answer to the question that has been plaguing the minds of administrators throughout the campus. "You know, I really thought we were doing a great job with the whole school pride thing," said Jerry Stein, dean of students. "We've got all of these programs and activi-

"I kind of like the whole SAC thing and the Wang Center. Then they have that Ballroom. I wish I had a ballroom in my house."

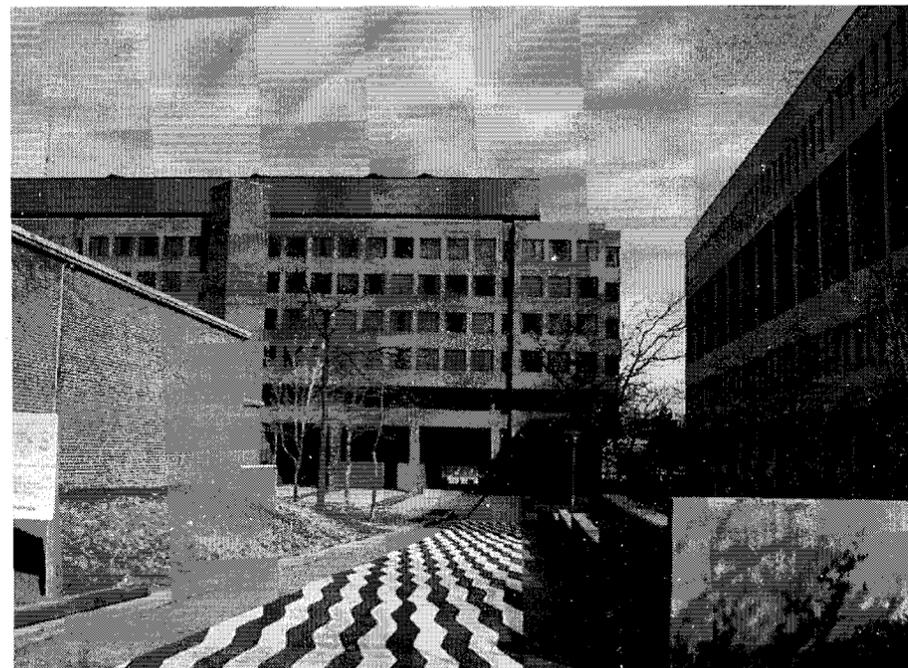
ties, and homecoming was great. I just can't understand why an actual, formal sociological study on the matter would say otherwise."

Researchers, including seven-year old Timmy McLean, who acted as the official mascot of the study, surveyed students throughout the campus, literally pulling individuals out of class and shining a torturously bright light on their faces. "My dad said that they are stupid people," McLean said. "And we could do whatever we wanted with them. Haha."

Overall, students overwhelmingly could say nothing positive about the university. Their answers to questions typically ranged from "Ouch," to "What are you doing with that?" One subject could barely stop nursing his bloody wounds, said Ping Wang Mei, one of the graduate student researchers in the project. "I swear we didn't hurt them."

The study concluded overwhelmingly that Stony Brook University must offer more funding to the Sociology department. Their results dictated a steady increase in student apathy over the past six years, a strong correlation to the decreased funding that resulted from the public exposure scandal that took place in the Sociology Department in the SBS building in 1998.

"Our findings are groundbreaking," Keenan said. "We clearly have no school pride, and I think it's about time that the school does something about it. Whatever it takes."



Courtesy of www.chem.sunysb.edu

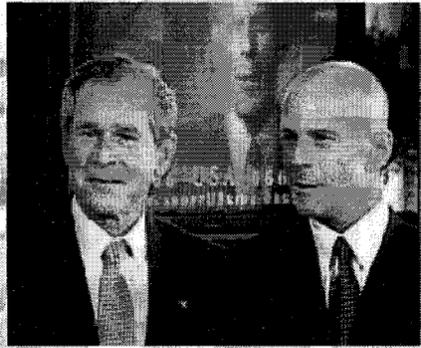
A typical Saturday afternoon at Stony Brook. While students are vegetating at home or off campus partying someplace that's actually exciting, the campus lies deserted.

By PETER DAEWOO AND MIKHAIL NEVERDAKOV

INFORMATION AND PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

Bush to Quit Presidency

President Bush recently declared that he will *not* be running again for the position of President of the United States. In a shocking statement, Bush resigned the prospect of being the leader of the free world in order to "do what he always wanted." Bush will instead become a professional actor. He hopes to eventually star in his own sitcom and perhaps even "do one of those TV shows. I wanna be on 'The Apprentice.' You're FIRED!"



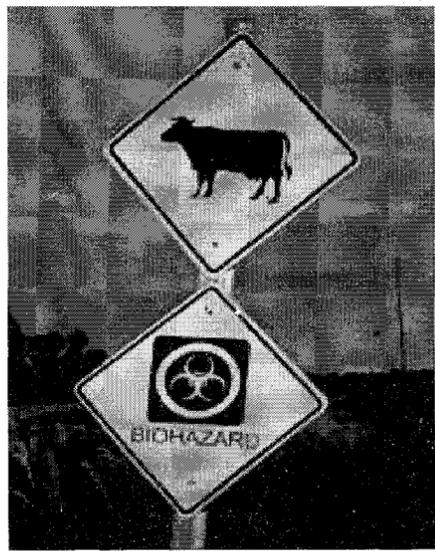
Musharraf Hit Fails Yet Again

On Monday, President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan was subjected to another assassination attempt. While driving through Islamabad in one of six Mercedes in the country (himself owning the other five), a militant Islamic fundamentalist launched himself at the windshield, strapped to a large quantity of C4. While in midair, he yelled, "In the name of everything holy!!!" in mispronounced Arabic. When asked what went wrong, the assailant lowered his head and said, "Listen, I'm new to this whole



suicide bombing thing. It's hard to yell and hit the button at the same time. It takes coordination. Once I get it, though, watch out General Musharraf."

Mad Cow Cases Reach Millions



The Beef Scare officially got out of hand on Tuesday, said Tommy G. Thompson, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. 3,476,412 cases of mad cow disease have been reported in New England alone, with estimates reaching into the tens of millions. "It's really alarming U.S. officials," Thompson said. The government has taken measures to remove beef from all supermarkets, grocery stores, and adult goods stores. "If you look right here at these statistics, you can see that Mad Cow...err, wait a minute...I mean AIDS cases are dramatically on the rise. S*#t, call Donald, we can put the beef back."

Jacko to Join Peace Corps

In light of recent events, Michael Jackson, known to many as the King of Pop, has decided to join the Peace Corps. He will be one of 74 Americans traveling to Iraq to volunteer in an effort to help the reconstruction efforts. Jackson has requested that he be stationed "where the children need me. Because the children are the future." Accordingly, the Peace Corps. will lead him to Brother Naseem's Children's Hospital, a pediatric oncology ward



located in Eastern Baghdad. "I love them even more when they are sick," Jackson said in a press release.

Kerry Announces Tax Cut Plan

John Kerry said in a recent press conference that if he wins, he will cut taxes drastically. "If I win, I will cut taxes drastically," he said. These tax cuts will range anywhere from -12 percent to -46 percent, depending on income class. The said tax cuts will affect health care, social security, education and your dad. That's right. Your dad will feel the pain and agony of Kerry's negative tax cuts, because he works his butt off day after day to bring home some bacon, and what does he get in return? Sleeping on the couch, again?



What did he do this time? Your dad swears he doesn't ever see that secretary outside of work. Now keep your mouth shut and clean your room, because he said so.

EPA: Autos Cleaner, Greener



The Environmental Pollution Agency announced yesterday that automobile pollution, much like the greenhouse effect, is a fallacy. "This finding means that SUVs are effectively green," said Mike Leavitt, the central administrator of the EPA.

"This is truly absurd," said Senator Hillary Clinton in response to this finding. "We've been trying to get the EPA to say that for years and only now do they realize it."

"I can also assure the public that special interest monopolies in the auto and oil industries did not affect the EPA or the current administration," added Leavitt. Ralph Nader, upon hearing the

news, announced his self-imposed exile to Switzerland, a "much greener country than this ^#-*hole."

Kerry Allies Finally Revealed

Anonymous sources in the Kerry campaign have revealed the presidential hopeful's international allies as Rwandan, Brazilian, and Ugandan dignitaries and heads of state. "Third world countries want to tap the American consumers through the auto market," the source said. "They want to get on Kerry's good side before they introduce their sub-\$5000 SUVs, built in sweatshop-like conditions." The Statesman followed up these leads, debunking the rumor that European leaders were the subject of international talks with the candidate. Kerry could not be reached for comment.



Bush Declared Saint By Pope

In a riveting ceremony at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, Pope John Paul II bestowed President Bush with the honor of sainthood. Citing Bush's unwaveringly strong approval ratings, his election "victory" in 2000, surviving after choking on a pretzel, overcoming an alcohol addiction as "miracles," the Pope declared Bush a "living saint."



"When I was growing up, my pops never believed I could follow in his footprints," said Bush. "I thank Mr. Pope for this tremendous honor, and say to the American peoples that this proves that my cause is just, and they should honor me by encouraging my move into acting." After the ceremony, Bush invited the Pope to dinner at a Washington-area Hooters on his next visit, but the Pope politely declined.

When Worlds Collide: The Statesman Battle of the Century

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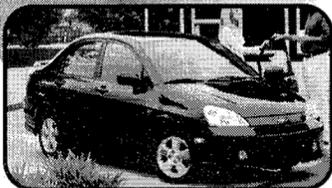
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The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, April 1, 2004

School of Thought: Corporate America vs. Pikowatoto

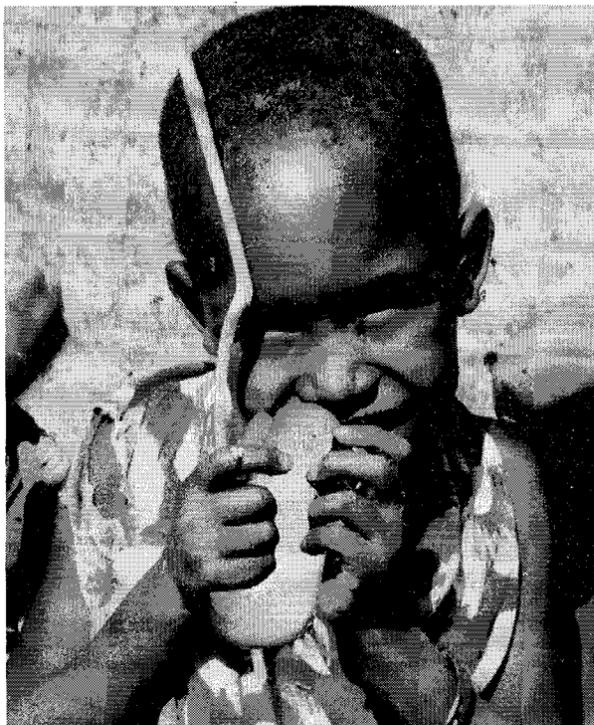
By MICHAEL ZANNETTIS
I'm Scared. Come Over, Giant.

I'm sitting at the bar in a quaint village tavern. A quick gaze to my left reveals a local nursing a beer, and at the other end of the bar, the bartender watches a game of football intently on a 13-inch black and white television screen as he polishes beer glasses.

These people really aren't that different from me, I think to myself as I savor my second pint. As I take in the atmosphere I am approached by a small Tanzanian boy, much to my surprise. I am in Kansas.

"Wewe ni mzungu kubwa sana," the boy says to me. I delve into my memory and remember the words of Swahili, that eloquent language I learned so long ago. He says that he is hungry. Judging by his gaunt figure and the way he is holding his stomach I can infer that he hasn't had a bite to eat in some time. I hand him a few dollars and point him in the direction of the nearest vending machine, disgusted with myself.

Is this what the world has come to? I ask myself this question as I watch the boy devour a couple of Twinkies. I'm torn between feeding this poor child and supporting the use of genetically engineered products such as those grown by the farmers who frequent this bar, because where I come from, which is a long way from here, a little place I like to abbreviate using the letters B and K, in a little city that is often likened to a ripe red fruit that, as most people know, grows on trees, and was involved in a certain fable about the beginning of the world, written in a slightly well-known book we like to call the Bible, people don't give a damn, or even a little bit of a damn, not the way we normally give damns, to say the least, and that bothers me, even if just a little more than you would expect. But where was I? Oh yeah, feeding the poor child.



Above: Pikowatoto munches on a twinkie. He doesn't know.

I'm torn, I tell you.

I hesitate to support big corporate giants like Keebler that are essentially destroying the world one fudge stripe at a time, but my heart tells me that this little Tanzanian boy, replete with his red plaid Masai blanket and overly distended stomach overshadowing the emaciated view of his ribs, is yearning for something to eat. Do I destroy the world, one fudge stripe at a time, or do I feed Pikowatoto (the name that I have given to the boy)?

I can't help but think about the time I drove Richard

Leakey to the grocery store. It was an absolutely unique experience, partly because I was with, well, Richard Leakey, and when you're with a world famous anthropologist like, well, Richard Leakey, you can't help but to have a unique experience, no matter what you do, even if it is just going to the grocery store, because that's all we did. So on the way to the grocery store, I was talking to Richard about the facts of life, the way things go in this little planet we call, well Earth. You can't help but give in to the way things are, with huge skyscrapers towering overhead everywhere you look, and people working 80 hour workweeks just for the sake of making money, so they can buy things and have to make more money, so they can spend more of it. My mind keeps coming back to Pikowatoto. Where did he come from? Where is he going?

My hand is really warm down there. I don't know how to answer these questions. Pikowatoto can do nothing but beg for money and buy Twinkies from the large, towering junk food machine, and eat preprocessed sugars crammed into little chunks of corporate America. I hate that it has to be this way, but I can't help but think that it's up to me to decide.

Why do I have to make this decision? I'm confused, and I find my thoughts wandering back to that magnificent summer I spent in a little country in the heart of East Africa, the home of lions, cheetahs, impalas and Arusha National Park, a little country that holds many memories and ideas for the future for me, a little country I like to call Tanzania. Bill Arens took me there two years ago on a study abroad trip, and all I can remember is the utter freedom of being in a place untouched by the corruption of mankind, in a land where I could look freely for miles and miles, and just imagine the wonder that could be if everyone wasn't trying to destroy the world, *one fudge stripe at a time.*

NEWS YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ANYWAY

Batman Seeks Career Change

By JAMES BOUKLAS
Dance, Dance, and Keep Dancing

The Dark Knight – we all know him as the savior of Gotham City, the hero of heroes, the man who instills fear into the hearts of ignorant wrongdoers; but as the spatula wielding burger flipper? Instinctively, such a deed cannot be associated within the realm of Batman's utter greatness. Nevertheless, Batman has been officially hired at our local Burger King, in the Roth Cafeteria, and has been cooking his meat like there's no tomorrow.

The manager of the facilities is happy to have Batman on his staff. "I mean, Batman, who wouldn't hire Batman?" said the manager. "But he only works the night shift, because you know, he's Wayne during the day."

In any case, one question immediately be posed. Why did the great crime fighting genius choose to encompass himself within the atmosphere of a fast food restaurant? As the savvy journalist that I am, I wanted to reach Batman for comment.

"When I saw the Joker have so much success in the adult film industry, I decided it was time for a career change," said the Dark Knight. "I had this idea with my batarang, but it didn't quite work out. So I decided that the next best thing was to use my skills in the great American institution of fast food."

Batman has also worked in many

other fast food joints all over the country, and is actually making his tenth stop here at Stony Brook. Though he says that his new found purpose is solely recreational, others have argued that he is simply fighting a new evil – that is, the evil of fast food. Batman refutes the idea, however.

"Theirs is absolutely not the same as about fast food," said Batman. "They're like they used to be, but they're unknown or

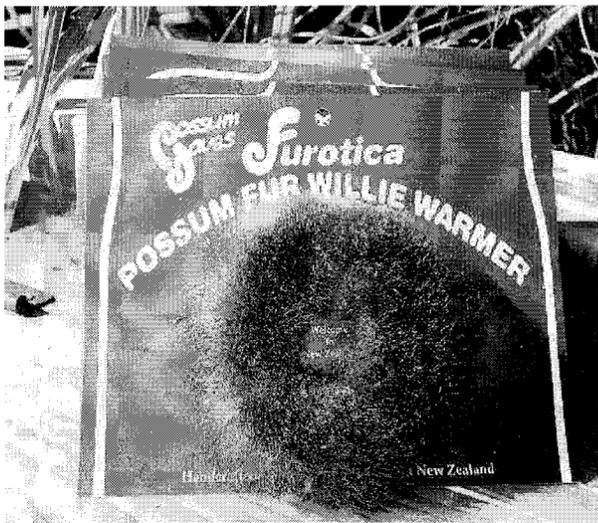


Jaci Lamedress: Fashion Expert Extraordinaire

By JACI HIRSCHFELD
Professional Perv and Potty Mouth

A friend of mine recently approached me and asked "Jessica, you are amazing in everyway and have fashion sense that cannot be beat, how can I be just like you?" I humbly took my friend aside and confided that I cannot help being fashionably gifted, but I could help her on her way to fashion success, what I like to refer to as fascess. Being as fascess'd as I am isn't easy. It actually takes a great deal of effort. And money.

The first thing to do is look for new fashion inspirations. Just looking around campus, you can truly be stirred to take bold risks and show off your fashion expertise. Undergarments are totally out! Being caught with one of these on can lead to being placed on the fashion



Courtesy of www.possumpan.com

orangelist, since orange is the new black. This little fashion tip I picked up from some sorority girls on a show called Girls Gone Wild. Now those girls know how to dress to impress.

But the latest and greatest in fashion is furotica! You're basically a loser if you're not sporting a pair of possum nipple warmers imported from the grassy knolls of New Zealand. And what better gift for the man of the house than a matching possum willie warmer. Furotica is sexy, warm and perfect for those you who are environmentally conscious. Purchasing these "bathing suit area" warmers helps save New Zealand's native birds and animals from the pesky possum that has become a major pest.

I can't begin to express how excited I am right now. I'm so crazed with fashion passion that I think I might

wet myself, oh my goodness I just did, but that's okay because yellow matches my fabulous scarf! But either way, I found this place that offers a whole lot of stores, like shoes stores and clothing stores and stores where you can buy hats. All the stores are in this huge building, that way if it's raining outside you can walk around shopping and not get wet. It's truly amazing and you know what they call it, get this... they call it a mall.



Courtesy of www.possumpan.com

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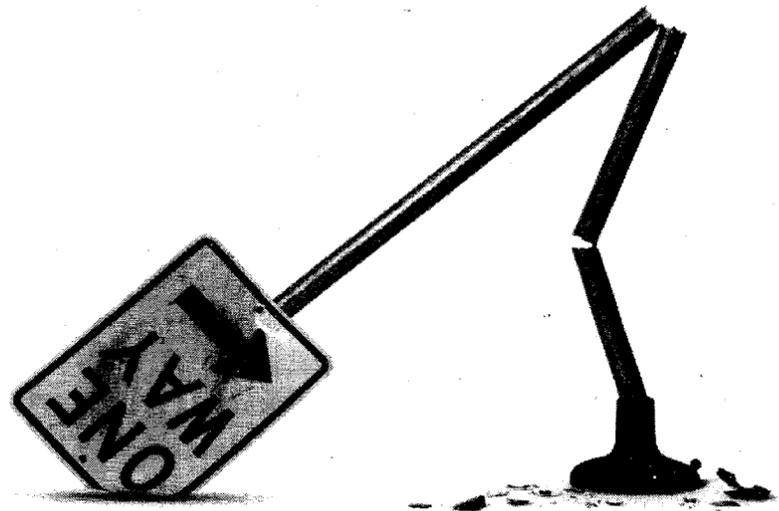
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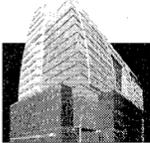
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Ask EMBERLY Jane

By EMBERLY Jane

Just the other day, I found myself in a situation where I had to just stop and think... "EMBERLY, what would Jesus do?" That's right, loyal fans. I whipped out that shiny ring that I've had holed off in the tattered box underneath my urine-soaked bed. I took a good, hard look at it, and I steamed it up with my mouth and then rubbed it clean the way I do best. Jesus, I've missed you.

So, you may be asking yourselves right about now, well, you probably aren't asking yourselves, but I like to think that you are because I need that sort of security. Speaking of security, do you know that my landlord took away like HALF my security, because of all the vomit stains on the carpet? Who knew that 22 beers in one night would make you vomit uncontrollably in each and every room in the house? I'm sure as hell didn't. Speaking of hell... oh, yeah, Jesus. So why was I thinking about 'ol JC? Well, I was on my 19th beer of the night (closing in on that previous record. This time, I've come prepared with Febreze), and I thought to myself, EMBERLY, should I move from my regular habit of smoking ganja on a regular basis to harder, more delightful medicines?

My best friend recently tried a horse tranquilizer. She said "it was the most amazing thing I've ever felt," and now I'm really torn. Half of me wants to just dive into the prospect, and the other half of me is debilitated because of my partial brain damage from all the weed. If horses can deal with it, why can't I?

For some reason, though, the voice of my high school

health teacher, Jesus Caston, keeps reverberating in my head. "Marijuana is a gateway drug. Marijuana is a gateway drug. Marijuana is a... don't tell anyone. We aren't doing anything wrong." Jesus was such a nice guy. Always so happy to see me. He would always give me things, like...

I'm not sure what I'm going to do yet, but I know what'll help me think better. A question from my dear reader!

Q: Dear EMBERLY Jane,

OMG, EMBERLY, I have something to tell you. The other day in my Comp Sci class, this one girl gave me a look. She was so hot, she made my salivary glands work overtime. I couldn't believe my eyes. Her smile was so tender and proportionate, and I loved the way her eyes flitter in the fluorescent light. The corners of her mouth tilted at just the right angle, and she gave me this look like, "I want you Excalibur. I want your body and I want everything about you, despite all of your flaws. I love you for your mind Excalibur. I won't ever make fun of you or say things to you like Sunyig is a stupid pig." Now, I need YOUR HELP! I almost have her! EMBERLY, you must listen to me. I'm going to ask this girl out, and you need to tell me how to do it!

Signed- Martie Sunyig
a.k.a. Excalibur Prime (bnet handle: ExCal#1)

A: Dear Excalibur,

All right. RELAX. You

have to remember, though, that she's better than you in every way. You can't let her affection confuse you into thinking that you are a good person, or giving you a false sense of confidence. Here's what I think you should do:

Find out her schedule (hack solar system and steal one of her notebooks to find out what her ID number is. Better yet, steal her exam scantron after an exam, because that's a surefire way of finding out her Solar ID). Then, organize a "coincidental meeting." But you have to not only meet her, but violently run into her, ensuring that anything she is carrying falls on the floor. Just like in "Saved by the Bell," you two will start a serendipitous conversation. You'll apologize, and she'll say that's ok, and then SPARKS WILL FLY! But don't get cocky yet, Excalibur. You have to play it cool, and let her walk away. Now, you must learn the art of flirting. Sit right behind her in class and place little pieces of white paper in her hair. She'll think it's so funny when she finds out! If you're brave enough, try a piece of gum. Maybe she can invite you to her house to help remove the gum with kerosene. Maybe you'll get lucky! Eventually, she'll be so attracted to you that she'll just take you into one of the bathrooms in Javits Lecture Hall and strip your clothes off. Don't worry if it's your first time, girls don't care how good guys are. Above all, remember that the more you tell her you love her, the more she will want to have sex with you! If all else fails, you can buy roofies at any underground adult goods store.

TOP TEN

Battle of the Century

Failed ideas for

Campus Voices

Statesman

VS

The Press

- 10 What's this growth on my penis?
- 9 Close your eyes and tell me what's going in your mouth.
- 8 Do you know who Shirley Strumm Kenny is?
- 7 If you were a woman would you be a lesbian?
- 6 Are you a woman?
- 5 Are you a lesbian?
- 4 Does my ass look fat in these jeans?
- 3 Can I have your number? (actually, we tried this one)
- 2 Does this cloth smell like chloroform?
- 1 Do you know anyone who actually reads the *Statesman*?

- Never makes up news.
- Poker night
- Frank D'Alessandro
- We have a microwave
- We have Nunchucks
- Closer to real Journalism

PRO

- Never makes up quotes.
- Poke'er? I hardly know'er
- Cardboard Boba Fett
- Yeah, they have a microwave
- But we have popcorn
- Closer to the Bathroom

- Smaller issues.
- Beer isn't free
- Half Indian staff
- Semen-stained couches
- Office has leaks
- Obsession with Shirley Kenny
- Poor substitute for friends

CON

- Smaller Penises
- Sex isn't free
- Half-Baked Staff
- Yeah, us too
- People take leaks in office
- Obsession with swastikas
- Poor excuse for a newspaper

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