

THE | STONY | PRESS BROOK |



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PARIS - Stony Brook student Lisa Setyon-Ortenzlo recounts her experiences in Paris during the Charlie Hebdo shootings.



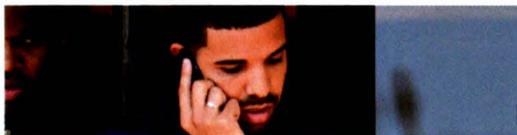
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But I Actually AM Charlie: Observing Objectivity Stuck Between Two Radicals

Disclaimer: 12 people were killed in the attack on the Charlie Hebdo headquarters perpetrated by religiously motivated terrorists. Their deaths were senseless and wasteful, the perpetrators hiding behind a motive unfitting of murder as a solution. A death should almost always be mourned, regardless of circumstances.

I. Consuming While Blind

In our current age of technology and interconnectivity, it's easier than ever for a movement to gain momentum. All one needs is a catchy tagline to throw out en masse onto the social media of your choice along with a message that a group of people feel comfortable getting behind in order to send any particular movement to the darkest folds of our planet Earth. Folks get behind the sporty taglines of these movements because they encompass the spirit of something they believe in without throwing an overabundance of words in their faces. While those attractive lines can succeed in drawing an audience to a particular message, the brevity of them can fail to deliver all the details and hidden secrets behind the situations at hand, including those of the parties standing behind them. *Charlie Hebdo* is not being regarded as a publication with a history in their campaign, but rather is being taken at a certain face value as a vanguard of free speech as it is seen spread across Twitter and Facebook. They are victims of a tragedy, for better or for worse.

II. Implications and Confusion

People are quick to get behind the "Je suis Charlie" banner because it is based around two things that folks are quick to support: their advocacy of free speech and their hatred of terrorism. As is usually the case when it comes to social issues, a populous is quick to turn a massacre of this kind into a black-and-white scenario: either you think that those killed deserved what happened to them and that you side with the terrorists against free speech, or that their fate was unjust and horrible and yet another notch in the assault on freedom- as though these two options are the only ones free speech allows. This is, of course, not the case. The matter of objectivity is an important one, providing the luxurious right to say what you please based on your own thoughts and deductions. As it can be seen, *Charlie Hebdo* is an organization responsible for some tasteless, xenophobic, generally awful art, but that still does nothing to subtract from the tragedy that took place at their expense. It does, however, mean that the average consumer can stand to split hairs, reject the "Je suis Charlie" moniker, and stand for free speech in a different way: their own way that does not support their publication.

III. Before The Incident

Context: France is a fairly xenophobic nation, especially when it comes to their Muslim population. Yes, the nation that has garnered a reputation as a haven for certain minority groups in the past has also gained a reputation for unfair treatment of various groups of people. There is a law that stands in France, for example, forbidding the open adornment of clothing connected to religion, including turbans and hijabs, in various public spaces. For religious faiths that contain rules regarding the act of wearing certain clothing as a part of their practices, this is a massive violation of their right to express their religious freedoms. After a specific decision made by the French government regarding this issue, *Charlie Hebdo* released an issue with a cover openly mocking the issue entirely with a naked woman dashing about their front page with her sacred head adornment shoved up her ass. Such an image hardly raises any sort of debate, and also seems to display a certain brand of bias regarding the situation.

This cover sits alongside many a *Charlie Hebdo* image portraying various awful caricatures of Muslim and Jewish figures, including an unflattering image of pregnant sex slaves portrayed as indignant "welfare queens" angrily demanding state support, as well as various crude depictions of Muhammad, an act regarded as a big no-no amongst many Muslims.

Of course, in the interest of avoiding a one-sided thrashing of *Charlie Hebdo* and in the effort of providing context, their higher-ups claim that they are “equal opportunity offenders” that saunter about insulting everyone, proven by their “satire” of other famous figures like Jesus, the Pope, Michael Jackson, etc. all stuck in quite unfavorable positions. Despite this, the particularly offensive subjects at hand don’t seem to lose any impact by comparison. In all, *Charlie Hebdo* has shown a history of dumping on Muslims, not just the “fundamentalists” or “terrorists,” but the average French Muslim as well via a method involving the trivializing of their issues and the mocking of their beliefs.

IV. After The Incident

Thanks to the recent attack, *Charlie Hebdo* has been martyred: paraded as a victim of the assault on free speech and being represented by a slogan that asks the world to stand with them in their, and really everyone’s, trying moment. The magazine has embraced the “Je suis Charlie” tagline, utilizing the phrase on their first cover published after the killings, and there has been a massive reaction representing a united solidarity with the magazine. In the meantime, a renewed wave of anti-Muslim sentiment has been seen in France, with attacks on a number of French mosques taking place alongside other displays of hate in the wake of the killings. Large anti-Muslim showings and public displays of sentiment are due to pop up after a controversial event that displays ties to Islam (Americans reading this surely recall such post-9/11 sentiments) and these feelings will likely persist into at least the impending future. Muslims will continue to struggle in France, as *Charlie Hebdo* gains traction and support.

V. The Future and You

If you’ve ever found some kind doubt in your ability to stand behind the “Je suis Charlie” movement, the good news is that it’s not necessary to support it at all. The phrase emerging and its apparent synonymy with the support of free speech does not mean that it’s the only way to show any support. Feel free to drag the “Je suis Charlie” chant through the mud, whether it’s publicly or within your own head, at your leisure. It doesn’t mean that you’re not an advocate for freedom or that you think that the deaths of those involved in the attack are being falsely mourned, but rather shows something called “objectivity.” With objectivity you can offer a unique stance- one for free speech, but against *Charlie Hebdo*’s images and stances. You don’t have to stand behind a xenophobic or self-martyring entity to support free speech. Your free speech can mean more than possessing the ability to taunt the followers of Islam.

Voice your uncomfortable thoughts
regarding the situation, or feel
welcome to keep them to yourself;
just make sure that you’re THINKING
about the world around you.

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Stony Brook Smoker Population to Remain the Same?

Randall Waszynski

Stony Brook students return to school after the tobacco age in Suffolk County was changed from 19 to 21 on Jan. 1. A debate has arisen about whether or not the law will serve as beneficial towards limiting teens' abilities to acquire tobacco products.

Mani Singh, 20, a junior here at Stony Brook from Queens, suggested that underage smokers would look to their 21-year-old friends to walk inside a 7/11 or gas station and get their fixes for them. Sixty percent of America's users buy tobacco products from their friends, as opposed to directly from the vendor, according to the American Lung Association.

However, the association also reported that 85 percent of US smokers start before age 21, and 99 percent start before 26. "Based on those stats, we believe it will have an effect," said Michael Seilback, vice president of public policy and communications for the association.

Jane Reardon, national board member for the association and pulmonary clinical nurse specialist at Hartford Hospital, said that our best bet is raising the age because it is "going to limit the social sources" for teenagers trying to acquire tobacco products. "It will help prevent future addiction," she adds.

Singh also argued that students returning to school from other states could buy tobacco products in bulk and sell them on campus for profit. "I think that's a problem around campus because kids are buying cigarettes from an unlicensed source," Singh said.

But Katarina Suljic, 20, a junior at Stony Brook, pointed out that "Nassau is still 19" in regards to their smoking age. Nassau County is geographically located between Suffolk County and New York City, which both have tobacco ages of 21. Suljic commutes from Bethpage in Nassau County. "I can still get cigarettes at home," Suljic said.

A college campus, like Stony Brook University, holds a highly concentrated population of the age group affected by this law. Suljic and Singh both suggested a high demand for cigarettes for students age 20 and younger attending Stony Brook. This grants 19 and 20-year-olds the opportunity to make profit by driving less than one hour to a convenience store in Nassau, buying a carton of cigarettes and selling the individual packs back on campus.

"Anyone with a car could probably make bank," Suljic said.

A 20-year-old male at Stony Brook who preferred to be kept anonymous has made the trip to Nassau this semester to do just that. "I picked up two cartons of Marlboro Special Blends... But they're gone now," he said.

Another 20-year-old male at Stony Brook withholding his identity said that he bought four cartons of Marlboro cigarettes for \$200 in Virginia, where the legal age to purchase tobacco is 18 years old, and transported them to campus to sell them. "It's a 30 to 40 percent markup," he said. He expects to turn his \$200 investment into an additional \$150 in his pocket. "They're about \$5 or less per pack" when bought in bulk in Virginia, he said.

Going back to legal purchase, Singh argued that the state of New York will lose revenue from the decrease in tobacco sales.

Going back to legal purchase, Singh argued that the state of New York will lose revenue from the decrease in tobacco sales.

However, Seilback said that "having a healthy population is good for the economy." There are \$10.4 billion in national healthcare costs directly related to smoking, according to the association. "It will not only save lives but the government," Seilback said.

Mark Plimpton, an industrial salesman working at a brokerage firm in Greenwich, agrees with Seilback. "Less people getting addicted to smoking at an early age will help their long term health," Plimpton said. "And long term health reflects upon one's future medical costs and insurance rates."

He also explained that the economy is not at loss for every dollar not spent on tobacco products. "That cash will now be used to buy other items, assuming most people don't ask others to buy for them," Plimpton said.

But raising the age also makes it more difficult for 17 and 18-year-olds to acquire tobacco products. Even if an 18-year-old has 19-year-old friends, he must now find an older friend who's at least 21 years old and willing to buy him tobacco products. The law fills in loopholes for these ages so that money will still recycle into the economy. Nassau Democratic legislators continue to fight for their county to increase the tobacco age. If a law like Suffolk's is passed in Nassau County, Long Island teens will have a more difficult time getting their hands on tobacco products.



My Senator's Keeper

Jay Shah & Taylor Knoedl

On December 4, 2014 The Undergraduate Student Government passed the My Senator's Keeper Act with a vote of 15-2-0.

The act, the brainchild of current USG Executive Vice-President James Alrassi, requires that senators take on at least one semester-long project outside of office hours and planned committee meetings.

According to Alrassi, the act would have the 22 senators working on individual projects to improve issues affecting the campus community.

Prior to the bill, senators were required to hold a minimum of two office hours per week, sit on a standing committee and attend senate-wide meetings every Thursday.

"This typically amounts to between five and seven hours," Senator for College of Arts and Sciences, Nathan Blazon-Brown states.

There are additional, optional initiatives senators can take, such as signing up for University Senate Committees, along with other events such as volunteering on the Roth Regatta or as semesterly concert staff.

The act now makes a requirement out of these optional initiatives. Some USG senators have already taken on these sorts of projects, such as Senator Blazon-Brown's involvement in the HEforSHE Campaign and the Violence, Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Committee.

The senators are required under the act to present a project proposal to the Executive Council two weeks into the start of a semester. They would also be required to present a monthly progress report for their projects.

At the end of the semester, they would present their completed work to the Senate.

Alrassi noted that if a senator were to not fulfill their requirements, he would be willing to withhold pay by "not signing their stipends."

During the meeting, Senator Taylor Bouraad raised questions about whether the "legislation will remain sustainable" in the future. "I have a lot of problems on campus I want to work on, I'm just concerned about the future where there will be problems we can't really handle. There is only so much we can do in one semester," said Bouraad. Senator Bouraad abstained during the vote to approve My Senator's Keeper Act

A second act, which would have increased the pay of every senator by \$15 each week, was proposed alongside the My Senator's Keeper Act. The rationale for the second act was to ensure that the senators were being compensated for the additional time being spent on their projects.

Due to a lack of information regarding how the pay raise act would affect the overall budget, it was tabled until the budget committee meeting being held on January 26 of this year.

The Senate also held a symposium on January 20th and 21st to discuss their project ideas for the Spring Semester. During the Senate Symposium, the senators plan to walk about the campus as a way to find and show potential ideas for their project proposal at the start of the semester.

*These mentioned events occurred after this article was sent into publication and therefore couldn't be covered by your humble reporters.



Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité

Lisa Setyon-Ortenzio

What was supposed to be a month of relaxation in my hometown rapidly became overshadowed by terror that turned out to be my scariest time in France.

The recent terror that happened in my town, Paris, has made me realize two things: 1) we are never fully safe no matter what we think, 2) our French slogan *Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité* couldn't have been truer than in these couple of days.

I always come home for the holidays. When school and midterms are over, I fly home and enjoy the break with my relatives and my friends in Paris.

This is exactly what happened; relaxing, fun times with my friends and family and a lot of happiness.

Everything was going great, almost too great and I was far from imagining that a terrorist attack was about to hit my country.

It happened on January 7th around 10:30 am.

I was on my way to the airport to pick up Nicole Sims, an American friend supposed to stay for a week. When I picked her up, we took the train back to my place. After more than 10 stops (the airport being away from the center of Paris), the train abruptly stopped at the station St Michel Notre Dame, and the driver started to talk.

"Somebody died a stop away, everybody needs to get off the train for now, unless you are willing to wait for five hours."

I didn't really understand why anyone would be willing to stay on the train for five hours, it didn't make any sense to me. I explained the situation to my friend Nicole, who had no idea what was happening.

We both got off the train and walked to the exit of St

Michel Notre Dame train station.

The streets were calm. It was the first day of sales in Paris and nobody seemed to be aware of it. People were walking to work or school, but nobody seemed to really know what occurred a stop away.

After calling a taxi, we both went home and took a little nap.

It was when I woke up that it all started and I quickly realized something was not right.

My phone was full of notifications coming from "Le Point, Le Monde, Express, ABC News, CNN..." It was terrifying.

I went downstairs to watch the news; all the French channels were talking about one thing: a terrorist attack that occurred at *Charlie Hebdo* in the 11th district of Paris.

"12 people killed including 4 of the best illustrators of the magazine (Stéphane Charbonnier, Jean Cabut, Georges Wolinski, Bernard Verlhac often known as Tignous)." Charb, Cabut, Wolinski and Tignous were the main leaders (Chab being the editor in chief) and cartoonists of the Charlie Hebdo magazine.

It is probably the only satirical newspaper in France that tends to make fun of religion, extreme-right wing, culture and politics. The newspaper came out in 1970, shortly after the cultural revolution of May 1968 in France, a turning point in the history of the country. For my parents, this terrorist attack at *Charlie Hebdo* was more than a disaster, it was the end of an era, the end of something they had grown up with and something they had believed in for so long.

"It is awful for us because we grew up with Charb, Cabu... we read *Charlie Hebdo* since the beginning," said my mom



almost tearing. “*Charlie Hebdo* has been a bearer of fun, the only magazine that taught us how to combine sense of humor with a critical mind. Charb, Cabu, Wolinski were like schoolmates.”

My friend Nicole joined us a couple of minutes after. It didn't take me long to explain her the situation because her grandmother had already emailed her.

“I see what's happening over there, are you OK? Is everything OK?” asked Nicole's grandmother.

It was not OK, but everybody was pretending that it was. My mom kept comforting Nicole and I by telling us that it would be fine as long as we avoid the tourist places, and I kept joking around with Nicole and telling her that she would still be able to enjoy her stay in France. Despite this, the entire French nation, if not Europe, was entering a period of mourning.

Later that evening, the government and the police officials made an announcement; the terrorists had ran away and it was impossible to find them.

On the first day, the hunt and the terror had officially started.

On the second day, my entire country was officially in mourning. While stores, bars and other public places were still open, police officers and military personnel were everywhere. Near the main monuments as well as the streets. Despite the fact that it was the second day of sales, almost no one went shopping. It was terrifying and it became scarier for me when I decided to go out for a couple of hours to check on one of my cousins working at Printemps, an upmarket store in the 9th district of Paris. I wanted to make sure she was fine, the Printemps being a main target for a terrorist attack. After telling Nicole I would be back in a couple of hours, I left.

As soon as I jumped off the bus at the stop Chatélet les Halles, my phone was bombarded with phone calls, texts, and notifications from my mother, my friends...

“Don't go outside, there is another terrorist named Coulibali who just shot a police officer,” said my mom.

“Lisa I hope you are OK, the shooting happened a stop away from your house,” said Skena Gomes, a friend from high school.

I didn't know what to do at all and this is when I figured that instead of freaking out, I should just go to my dad's office in the 1st district of Paris—not that far away from where I was. I called my cousin, made sure that she was fine and walked to my dad's office.

At that time, I wasn't scared, just lost. I couldn't believe what was happening and how I would react if I happened to be in front of one of the terrorists.

While walking to my dad's office, I remarked how “Je suis Charlie” was written everywhere. On the ground, on the walls, in stores, on social media...People had even created billboards under “Je suis Charlie's” name. It was incredible.

I also noticed how the only conversations people had were all focused on *Charlie Hebdo*, the terrorist named Coulibali and the Kouachi's brothers. Every TV channel and radio station was only talking about the terrorist attack at *Charlie Hebdo*. The 27 year-old police officer who was killed on the second day and the terrorists who ran away.

This is when I understood that the only way I could escape

this disturbing atmosphere was by listening to some music. At my dad's office, everybody was watching the news or at least listening to what was occurring. The journalists on TV kept emphasizing the fact that it was important to be careful and to absolutely let the authorities know if we had seen them.

I stayed an hour before deciding to head back home. I took the train home, I only had 5 stops. The continuing tension made me even more nervous than I already was. I came back home, my mother was there and the TV was on. Nicole and I rapidly joined my mom downstairs. Obviously, most channels were talking about *Charlie Hebdo*. On one channel the president was talking; on another channel, the terrorists were shown on under the title: WANTED. On another channel, the Charlie Hebdo terrorist attack was explained with further details...it was everywhere and social media started to fill in. Other countries started to show their support to France, a lot of European representatives such as Angela Merkel (chancellor of Germany and one of the main leaders of the European

Union), David Cameron (England's prime minister), even President Obama and John Kerry (America's current secretary of state) showed their support to the French nation, the freedom of speech and liberty of expression.

It was touching, but depressing. That evening, I had a really hard time sleeping. How can you sleep when you know that the terrorists are still out there and nobody knows where they are?

It was frightening and I couldn't sleep. Everytime I heard a noise, I had to stand up, turn on the lights and wait. For me, going to sleep was even harder than going outside during the day because it was

just me, myself and I; whereas during the day, it was my compatriots, the tourists and I.

While joking around with Nicole, I could forget about the situation, but when I had to sleep, I thought about it and wondered what would happen if they found me. I was scared, if not terrified, by this thought.

On the third day, Nicole and I were invited to lunch at one of my best friend's houses: Jessica Jules, on the Champs Elysées, in the 8th district.

As soon as we got there, the tension was recurrent. No French people seemed to be there, the only languages I could hear were English, Chinese, Spanish and Russian. Police officers and military were once again everywhere.

A couple of hours after lunch, Jessica, Nicole and I decided to go outside and walk around for a little while. We were sick of being stuck at home, sick of being scared for our lives when we didn't even ask for it.

We decided to distract our minds by shopping. Looking at shoes and clothes was the perfect way to forget about the tumult happening around us.

After two hours of shopping, Nicole and I headed back home. When we got off the first train, I got a phone call from one of my cousins.

“Watch the news if you can! They already killed the Kouachi brothers and they are now trying to kill Coulibali, it's on live!” said my cousin.

I couldn't watch the news but we headed back home as

“

Charlie Hebdo has been a bearer of fun, the only magazine that taught us how to combine sense of humor with a critical mind.

”



soon as we could.

When we got off the second train, my cousin called me again. She was at home, watching the news with my mom. "The police officers killed the three terrorists! It's over," said my cousin.

"What do you mean?!"

"They found the two brothers in a printing company Dammartin-en-Goele, a town an hour away from Paris and Coulibali was in a Jewish supermarket in Vincennes," said my cousin. They killed him and freed most of the people in the supermarket although four of them died."

It's when my heart stopped and I realized that it might be the end of three days of terror.

I told Nicole that they killed them and that we would finally be able to sleep at night.

We came back home and watched the news until late in the evening. All of us, my parents, my cousin, Nicole and I wanted to know the details on how they got them, how it happened: everything.

I am not going to lie: it was a sad and joyful day. Joyful, because we would finally be able to "live" again, but sad because while the police officers managed to kill the terrorists before they hurt other people, the third terrorist (Coulibali) had time to go inside a supermarket and shoot four Jewish people. Overall, the three terrorists killed 17 people in three days.

This doesn't seem like a lot but for a country like mine, but it was a failure, a failure of our socialist system.

Later in the evening, our president, Francois Hollande announced that there would be a marche Republicaine, starting at "Place de la République, in the 11th district where the attack happened, in honor of all the dead people and to promote the values of the French nation:

liberty, equality, and fraternity. In honor of all these people, we would all unite no matter which background we came from, what origin and what race. On January 11, 2015, at 3 pm, Nicole, my mom, my cousin and I went to the march.

A usual lazy Sunday became a busy day with crowded subways and cramped streets. We got off at Strasbourg st Denis, a station away from République. People were coming from all different parts of the world. That's the first thing that flabbergasted me. The amount of people, all here for the same purpose.

Some Muslims people were singing and yelling "Je suis Musulman et je suis Charlie" *I am Muslim and I am Charlie*, in the crowd, while others were singing the French anthem. No matter what people were doing, others were encouraging them.

It was an amazing atmosphere. An ambiance that made me realize how much I loved my country, no matter what people say, we are united and always here for each other. During this march, I got to observe people; I observed the way people looked at each other and spread love and unity. People were smiling, hugging one another, singing...it was mind-blowing.

Despite our differences, more than 4 million people all around France gathered to promote the same values was astonishing to me.

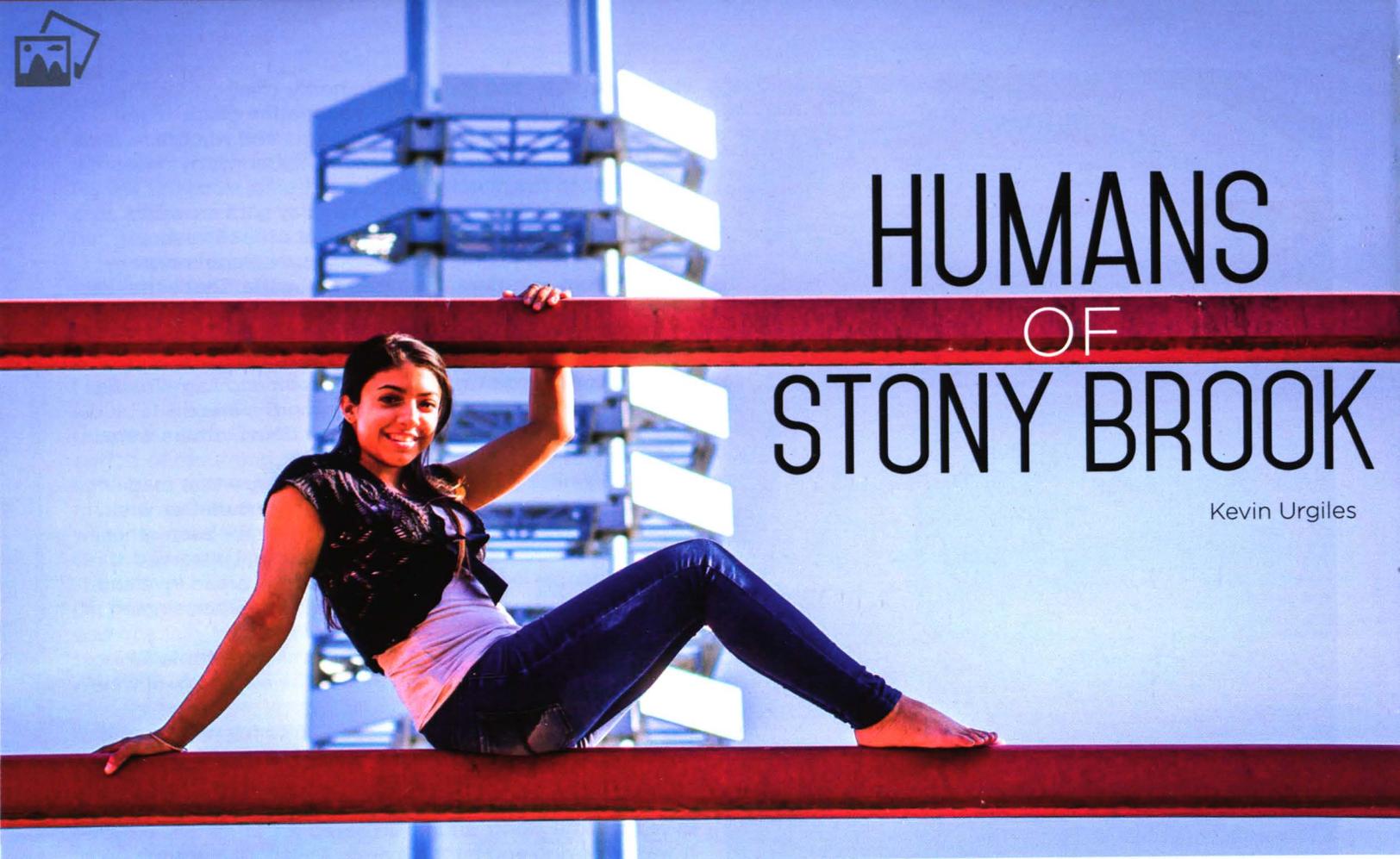
I even saw a 75 year-old man who said to my mom that it was important for him to be here because he cared and that the only way to show it was to be part of the march. Despite the amount of people and the fear of being walked over, he came along, and I truly loved it.

It was a moving and happy march. A walk I'll always remember.

I've never been happier to be French than during that week. In one week, I came up to realize that we were probably stronger together than we thought we were. And this was really important to us. I am not saying that we needed such a terrible experience like what took place to realize that, but it certainly made the French nation and the countries surrounding us aware that we needed to all unite in order to fight against terrorism and our maintain our rights in general.

I also came up to realize that if "I am Charlie" embodied freedom of speech, freedom of religion, liberty equality fraternity between people, then the whole world is probably all Charlie. At least I am proud to admit that yes, "Je suis Charlie" and always will be.





HUMANS OF STONY BROOK

Kevin Urgiles

Scrolling through Facebook just got a little more exciting. Now there's a chance that Humans of Stony Brook posted a picture of someone you know, or of someone you see every day around the Union but only make eye contact with for two seconds. However, Humans of Stony Brook, or HOSB, is more than a group of people who go around taking pictures of humans and posting them on Facebook. It is a team of photographers looking to give a voice to the individuals of Stony Brook University while relaying their words of passion, laughter or conflict for everyone to see.

HOSB has made a bigger name for itself in recent months. It currently sits on over 4,000 likes, and is inching its way up past other popular student-run Stony Brook Facebook pages like Stony Brook Admirers 2 and Stony Brook Secrets 2. The page went through a bit of a hiatus, but found its way back into the lives of Stony Brook residents in the fall 2014 semester through the conversation it stirred from the thought-provoking stories it posted.

Eric Lei, co-founder of HOSB, attributed this newly found success to the fact that viewers don't just see pictures on the HOSB page, but rather

a new side to someone they thought they already had figured out just by seeing them around campus so often. Lei noted that we tend to make involuntary "precognitive

assumptions of others," in other words, we judge people before we even talk to them. HOSB captures viewers' attentions by making them realize that a person's mind cannot be summarized by their physical appearance, and gives this recognizable stranger something more. It's like indirectly meeting someone.

Since its start in 2012, the HOSB team has grown in number. Trevor Ambrico asked to join HOSB in 2013, Trevor Christian and Maggie Cai joined the following year and a merger with the second Humans of Stony Brook page brought along freshmen Ian Passe and Adam Soo. With so many people, it's no surprise that not everyone views their role in HOSB the same way. Lei understands that HOSB is a big milestone in his photographic career, and that the next couple of semesters could give the web page and himself recognition for his strong initiative. Christian says he is excited to help HOSB expand to

new dimensions because it is something that has inspired more positive attention than anything he has worked on

“ It's like indirectly meeting someone. ”



PHOTOS BY
HUMANS OF
STONY BROOK

before, and Ambrico seems to have developed a slightly more experimental angle to his contributions, using a film camera instead of his trusty Nikon D800E DSLR camera to take the portraits of subjects.

Regardless of the differences, each member knows that this page has a unifying effect on them. It forces each photographer to leave their comfort zone, approach an unfamiliar face, and gain their trust almost immediately. There is no special requirement for being chosen as a subject, so don't worry about wearing a weird outfit to get some attention. Just be somewhere around campus at the right time, look approachable, and work your best angle. Not every story is chosen to be published. That doesn't mean one's interview was boring, but rather that a connection was not made. It happens. Not everyone wants to talk about what's whizzing by in their heads.

Questions usually start off simple. Full name, year, major and maybe a holiday related question if it's timely. How it goes from there really depends on the photographer. A formulaic set of questions for the interview is the default option because it produces good results and is easy to make habit of, but members like Ambrico are trying to change up their means of getting people to disclose their ideas.

If you find yourself talking to Christian, you'll probably want to sit down. Sure he'll use his interview skills as a journalism major to ask a lot of questions, but you can be sure that when your picture goes up on HOSB it'll be the best picture he could get while firing away during your conversation. Still, a quality portrait is guaranteed no matter who the photographer is... or at least one that you won't have to untag your name from.

The future of HOSB is promising as is, but with recognition there comes a certain level of responsibility and consistency that can be time consuming. Ambrico graduated from Stony Brook University in the summer of 2014 with a degree in Biology, is currently a medical scribe at CityMD and has hopes of one day attending medical school. This eats away from the time he can invest on HOSB. However, when he is able to come on campus and talk to humans he makes sure to get a lot of stories he can work with. This large amount is emphasized by the fact that there are stories Ambrico got in November that will not be published until some time this spring semester.

Christian and Lei are juniors now and have a post-college life to begin thinking about.

The project Lei helped start has changed into something bigger than a Humans of New York clone, but he will change with it. Lei, an information systems major, understands that he will begin to feel the pressure of heavier workloads as he nears his graduation date, but plans on getting content for HOSB by keeping his camera on him at all times, using free time between classes and getting a little lucky with the characters he runs into. Fortunately younger members like Passe, Cai and Soo have also shown an interest in helping the group's work prosper into something anyone, not just a person on Stony Brook campus, can empathize with. This work has become more than a way of showing how different Humans of Stony Brook are. It is a reminder that although humans can be different in their major, skin color or personal beliefs, we are still just that – human.

LEVELING UP YOUR LIFE



AN ALTERNATE APPROACH TO NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS
Holly Lavelli

The first month of the new year is drawing to a close; if you're like most people you've already started slacking on whatever New Year's resolution you've made for yourself. But hey, no worries. At some point in our lives, we've probably all said some form of "starting January, I'm going to save more money," or "this year I'm going to lose weight." Maybe even something like, "Spring semester I'm *totally* NOT going to procrastinate my work until the last minute, and will ONLY go on Netflix binges when I'm absolutely free," (and that always worked out, right?). People strive for self-improvement, but it's easy to get deterred if you don't go about it the right way.

There's a lot of reasons why resolutions aren't reached by people, but most commonly it's the whole concept of a "New Year's resolution" that sets people up for failure.

Think about it: for a lot of people a new year means a fresh start, but really, what is different about your life now that's going to push you to do something you didn't do last year? If you want to change your life you can do it any damn time you please.

So here's where I suggest something totally ludicrous: scrap your New Year's resolution. No, I'm not saying give up on all your hopes and aspirations to be a better you. I'm simply suggesting you approach your goals a little differently. Though you may not consider yourself a gamer, a lot can be applied to your life when approaching your

objectives as if they were checkpoints within a video game. Here a few things to contemplate when you decide to take the first steps in leveling up your life.

- 1 Select START:** Probably one of the most clichéd sayings you'll hear on your self-established way to Victory Road: *the hardest part of your journey is finding a place to begin*. Honestly starting things that are difficult are usually not very fun, especially if you find that you're a defeatist in new and unfamiliar situations. To quote an animated, yellow, shape-shifting dog, "Dude, suckin' at something is the first step to being sorta good at something", and really who could deny that? Just do something. Who cares what your experience level is? In the real world everyone starts at level one. How far you get depends on how long you dedicate yourself to the task at hand.
- 2 No Button Mashing:** "I don't know what the f*ck I'm doing but it's gotten me pretty far." Don't be that person that plays Captain Falcon, Falcon Punching everyone into oblivion without any basis of skill. Especially when your goals includes something that involves risk to yourself - like working out - it's extremely important to have a good amount of knowledge on your methods of action before you do something that could incidentally ruin your progress and/or credibility.

- 3 The Inevitable Combo-Breaker:** Everyone deserves a break. Setting goals that you plan to partake in everyday can be a little unrealistic. If you need to take a day or two off don't beat yourself up about it, but also don't slack off without good reason. To you Zelda fans out there, nothing is more frustrating than putting down your game in the middle of a temple (you all know what temple I'm talking about), and months later, picking it up to realize you have absolutely no clue what progress you've made. Don't lose sight of your goal, because getting back to it will be infinitely more frustrating than when you first gave it a shot.

- 4 Treat Yo' Self:** Celebrate your small victories every now and again. Just like taking a break is completely acceptable, don't forget that you are entitled to indulge yourself. Set checkpoints for yourself where you bask in the glory of your success. Totally denying all forms of gratification is only going to set you up for a relapse in the future. The hardest part about change is getting your good habits to stick, so just make sure your form of indulgence isn't a super detrimental combo-breaker in disguise. Eat that Maximum Tomato, you've earned it. And you could use the HP gain.

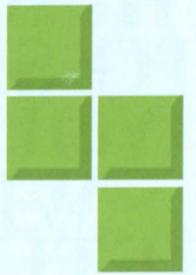
- 5 Avoid Cheat Codes and Shortcuts:** Every challenge you face is there for a reason. Sometimes you can't progress to a new stage without the skills you acquire from an earlier level. You can't expect to beat the Elite Four with the same set of moves your starter Pokémon initially had (tackle, tackle, growl, tackle). I mean maybe you could to some extent but it's going to be a lot harder. Honing your skills is the only way to reach master status, so throw the GameShark out the window.

- 6 Party Up:** Don't be afraid to ask for help from your buddies! Whether you get involved in a community of people with similar interests, or just team up with a friend who shares the same goal as you, it's a lot easier to accomplish something when you have support from people who are, or were in the same boat as you. And you don't even need to fight over item drops!

- 7 Beat the Boss:** The most obvious yet sometimes least accomplished part of the game. It's going to be hard; it might get boring; some new challengers may even be thrown your way. DON'T GIVE UP. Combine all you've learned on the way and give it your all (no matter how many tries it takes).

Not all goals have definitive ends, much like some games end with an option to play again on a higher difficulty level. If you want to improve yourself, you need to actively pursue it. Believe in yourself, homie.

Your story of greatness is waiting to be written.





THINGS NOT TO SAY TO YOUR EX WHEN RETURNING FOR THE NEW SEMESTER

Lauren Klein & Julianne Mosher

Last semester we spent our free days - Land nights - with that special someone. Maybe it was a boyfriend or girlfriend, maybe it was your friend with benefits or strictly that random hookup you only saw once or twice.

But winter break rolled around and the conversations, Snapchats and text messages faded as we celebrated the holidays at home with our families.

But now, the long awaited and highly anticipated return to campus is here and we must deal with seeing those people you once made out with as you walk to Starbucks on your break.

We are here to tell your ex's what NOT to do when they see you walking through the crowds of people. Ladies and gentlemen, here are some tips on what not to say to someone you once hooked up with because, let's face it, you're just going to piss them off.

1. Do not high five them, like ever. As Drake said, "I pity the fool who high fives in 2014." Now that it's 2015 there is an added weight of NO.
2. "Wow, you look... different." What does that even mean? Do I look better or worse? If I look better now, how did I look when you last saw me? Self-esteem, meet toilet: flush.
3. The bro hug. Is it a greeting or a Heimlich maneuver?
4. A fist bump. My fist wasn't what you wanted to bump last time we met.

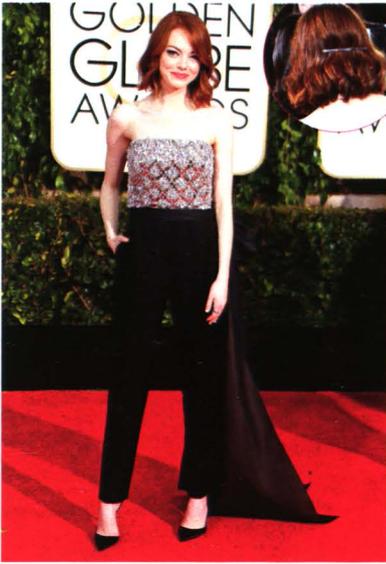
5. Do not call them hot or sexy, especially if you never returned their phone calls during break. Clearly wasn't hot enough for school break contact.
6. Do not ask them to spot you five dollars. Or meal swipes. Or Wolfie Wallet. Actually, don't ask for anything.
7. "Hey, how are you? How was break?" "Good, wanna come to my dorm for a little bit and, uh, catch up." Code: damn, I forgot how much I liked you.



Ladies and gents, it's totally okay to walk away. Especially if you've been following your New Year's resolution to go to the gym and do squats. You know you look better walking away in more ways than one.

The 72nd Annual Celebrity Menagerie

Lauren Klein



"Do you like it?" Emma Stone said in a Lavian jumpsuit after E!'s glam cam panned up from her shoes to her crystal beaded and black jumpsuit, allowing viewers to judge.

The red carpet at the Golden Globes was packed with celebs dressed to the nines, all vying to be crowned best dressed of the night. Velvet tuxes and gowns sashayed up and down the carpet as paparazzi snapped away, shouting names and directions.

There were stands filled

with fans watching the red carpet cheering as if they were at a football game. Despite all the glitz and glam that comes with rolling the red carpet out, it was boring.

"Who are you wearing?" asked E! Live at the Red Carpet co-host Ryan Seacrest to various celebrities like Rosamund Pike, in Vera Wang; Amy Adams, in Versace; Lena Dunham, in Zac Posen (as she does for most events); Emily Blunt, in custom Michael Kors; Julianne Moore, in custom Givenchy (sparkles and feathers, *likeable but how unimaginative*) and Julianna Margulies, in custom Ulyana Sergeenko. Eh. The whole red carpet felt off tonight, perhaps because



of the lack of colorful fashion commentator Joan Rivers. As per usual, celebrities acted as if they weren't clenched with tension while air kissing each other and waving to the cameras. The red carpet demands perfection from head to toe. There was no escape from the judging eye of the camera between the hordes of paparazzi screaming and E! Live at the Red Carpet, who had dispatched over 20 cameras on the red carpet with names like the mani cam, the glam cam, the limo cam and the glam cam 360.

The 72nd annual Golden Globes were hosted by Tina Fey and Amy Poehler for the third time and was attended by the most famous actors and actresses in Hollywood. Sponsored by the Hollywood Foreign Press, the Globes kicked off the 2015 award show circus in its usual crazy fashion.

"The red carpet is not something I look forward to," said actress Jessica Chastain, in Atelier Versace, to Seacrest. For two hours movie stars and TV stars mingled and sashayed the carpet and performed for the cameras.

"This is kind of like a theme park," Keira Knightly, in Chanel, said to Seacrest crinkling her nose, "Only because so many people are screaming."

It might have been a zoo in reality, but on camera one of the most glamorous nights of the year, had never looked duller.





Eastwood on Safety *American Sniper* Review

Jon Winkler

Chris Kyle has been advertised as “the most lethal sniper in U.S. history,” with 160 confirmed kills over four tours in the Iraq War. But director Clint Eastwood takes a look at the man behind the gun scope, specifically when he puts the gun down and walks away from war. As he depicts in his latest offering, Eastwood demonstrates that the horrors of war echo at home. The emotional weight that soldiers carry seems to be equivalent to the weight of the guns they carry on their backs.

American Sniper is based off of Chris Kyle’s memoir of the same name (adapted for the screen by Jason Hall) and hits the ground running from the first shot. When he sees the U.S. Embassy bombings in 1998, Chris sees his purpose in life and joins the Navy SEALs. He’s not a natural shot on day one, but he builds his strengths and confidence as time progresses, his wife Taya (Sienna Miller) helping him along the way. But the more tours Chris endures and the more shells he unloads, the more evil he sees and the harder it is to shake it off at home.

Chris is the perfect character to psychoanalyze—a prime example of the damage the Iraq war has done to many American men and women. However, the fault of the movie lies in Eastwood’s refusal to delve into Chris’ brain to dig deep into and pick apart his inner turmoil. Eastwood shows Chris moments away from breaking out of his stern shell, but jumps to the next scene so quickly with Chris

snapping back to being the bulletproof Mr. America he wants to be. Just when the character development starts to excite the audience, it simmers down into bland timidity.

However, the restraint Chris shows is heartbreaking, almost like there’s a giant knife slowly being twisted in him until he screams. This is thanks to of Bradley Cooper, who carries Chris’ emotional baggage (along with the whole damn movie) on his back. Cooper nails Chris’ Southern charm in the early in the story, but then flips it into a shield for his damaged soul.

American Sniper is just barely a good movie. It stays too faithful to its source material and never wants to expand. Look at *The Aviator*, Martin Scorsese’s swinging biopic of Howard Hughes. Scorsese took the facts and filled in the surrounding blanks with gloriously entertaining fiction. Despite having competently staged firefights and a stellar lead performance, *American Sniper* shoots more blanks than bullseyes.

Final Verdict:
2.5 out of 4 stars.





Taylor Knoedl

Somewhere in the dark woods we find our boy Elijah Wood lost with his chubby companion garbed in cookware. This is the premiere of the Cartoon Network miniseries *Over the Garden Wall*, which came out late last year between November and December.

The miniseries was created by Patrick McHale, who's previously worked on the creative directing board for *Adventure Time*.

Garden Wall is a wallowing tale of diffident teen, Wirt (Elijah Wood), Gregory (Collin Dean), his bombastic and naive step brother and Beatrice (Melanie Lynskey), a sassy twenty-something-probably girl who was cursed and turned into a blue jay and the best frog companion since Froggy from *Sonic Adventure*.

Considering his previous work, McHale shows a solid consistency in taste with *Over the Garden Wall*. This is evident with vocabulary and references which may seem a bit too complex for the designated demographic of this cartoon but are relevant enough for these kids to figure out (ie: Wirt in the episode 'Mad Love' noticing a change in architectural styles "it's like French-rococo style. That doesn't really seem in line with Endicott's - Georgian sensibilities.")

A lot is placed into a very deep and mystical Woods where creatures of European folklore and other curious folk reside. These include a wretched old crone (voiced by John Cleese), a nervous-paranoid tea mogul (also voiced by John Cleese), a forebodesome woodsman (voiced by Christopher Lloyd), and etc.

The woods contain most of the content in the series and becomes part of the plot's objective, as it begins with Wirt and Gregory stumbling about, plainly lost. There is no time in the brief twelve-minute showtime for details of backstory explanation. In this, the series is dressed ambiguously in order to entertain its deep and humble story. Such a structure demonstrates nonchalantly as the heroes of this quest set forth through the woods in order to find home—

all of which is explained throughout, steadily.

A prime medium is met between episodic connection to story and a loose spontaneity to sidequest out into the subplot. It's a soothing series to watch, despite the sickening acts of evil which provide conflict to the episodes, such as the recurring 'beast' who locks our Christopher Lloyd, the Woodsman, into his forebodesome torment.

In fact, it is explicitly worth noting how damned dark this show is. Cartoons with relatively dark-or-so themes have become a norm nowadays, but this shit gets pretty real pretty fast. In the second episode, 'Hard Times at the Huskin' Bee,' Wirt and Gregory find themselves digging their own graves while sentenced to do "a few hours of hard labor" for a pumpkin cult, which maintains a pleasant twist at the end in order to not scar the young viewers. The style of art that embodies the series is also an important factor to how effective it is. There is evidence of that Pendleton Wardy style of character design but they're a little more rigid than the loopiness seen in the likes of Finn, Jake, etc. Surrounding these particular-looking character designs are backdrop environments reminiscent of 19th century landscape paintings. It holds a very similar light, color, and general layout structure to many of the woosy environments in the first *Fable* game. Each episode also features a musical segment of some-sort or another—the themes throughout are performed by gypsy folk band, the Petrojvic Blasting Company.

What more compliment could I give this proper production? Plenty. But alas, let me just suggest via a scale consistent with our favorite media reviewer, Jon Winkler, how good I think this show is.

4 out of 4 stars. Solid.



Dear Readers,

Dakota, The Stony Brook Press's sex columnist is away on her honeymoon. To fill the cold, sexless void she's left behind, we've chosen to print the first chapter of former Stony Brook Press Associate Editor Beatrice Vantapool's wildly successful erotic fan fiction, entitled...



Note From the Author. This erotic fanfiction takes place during the *Empire Strikes Back* but after *The Avengers*.

"I am C-3PO, Human/Cyborg relations. How might I serve you?"

The heap of golden, robotic parts spoke up at Captain Steve Rogers from the front door mat of his modest apartment in Brooklyn. Sitting neatly in a box and wrapped in a bow, it was obviously a gift, but from who? He would never know. With gentle hands, Cap picked up the box of parts and brought it into his home and as the years would come to pass, into his heart.

Though Steve was as strong and manly as they came, even his rippling body didn't possess the brain power necessary to put his new companion back together.

"Might I suggest seeking help from someone more knowledgeable about robotics, sir?" said the head of C-3PO, still inside the box. Steve had the perfect robotics expert in mind.

Desperate to put the droid back together, Steve immediately brought the box to the tallest, gaudiest building in New York City; the home of his cocky, genius, billionaire, playboy, philanthropist teammate, Tony Stark. Days passed, then weeks, as they struggled to understand the technology. It was something Tony had never seen before, let alone the Captain, as if it were from a completely different universe.

Sexual tensions waxed and waned, as the two men worked in solitude. But together. Long days turned into long nights, and sweat glistened on their toned, superheroic bodies. The Captain spoke only in grunts, but somehow Tony just understood. They cradled each gilded, metal piece gently in their hands, sitting shoulder-to-shoulder as they built Steve a companion. The tension worsened as the pieces of the droid began to fit together and they realized; it was a man! The night Steve took his new robot friend home was magical.

"It seemed no one wanted my company," said C-3PO as Steve gestured him into their home, his metallic voice vibrating in the Captain's ears, shooting straight through his already trembling body. "Let me thank you for putting me back together, master. Let me serve you."

The sensation only grew stronger as C-3PO took a few steps toward him. Steve could barely hold himself together. His fists clenched, as did his gut, with the tingling of anticipation. C-3PO moved next to him, then past him, entering the kitchen to make the Captain a soothing cup of tea and a snack. He lived to serve him, after all.

Steve let loose a series of grunts and indecipherable murmurs of confusion. He followed the golden god into the kitchen and took hold of his shining, metal hand. Grunting and gesturing toward the bedroom, he half dragged the bewildered droid into the room, grabbing him roughly by the hips and sitting him on the bed. Steve began rubbing his baby smooth face along the cold steel of his companion's stomach, his hands trailing up the reflective surfaces of C-3PO's thighs. The droid snapped his head in the Captain's direction, his dead eyes somehow completely blank, yet completely flabbergasted at the same time.

"Sir, I beg your pardon!" he cried out, as Steve's hands continued their trail. "With your permission, sir, I would like to shut down before I get sensory overload!"

Steve let out another grunt that sounded mysteriously like, "Permission denied."

Flailing, C-3PO immediately pushed his hands towards the Captain's head in an attempt to make him stop. What he didn't anticipate was how soft America's own golden boy's hair would be. Letting his fingers tug through Steve's hair, the droid's head lolled back at an inhuman angle. The Captain continued his ministrations.

"My circuitry seems to be behaving..." C-3PO cut off as Steve's hands found a sweet spot. "Erratically." Sparks began to fly, quite literally, as Steve found another sweet spot, then another.

The comforter was the first to catch fire, then the wooden bedpost and dressers. As the entire apartment lit up, Steve let out a final grunt before collapsing on top of the sated droid.

Malfunctioning slightly, his movements still erratic, C-3PO finally let his hand drop from the Captain's hair onto the fireball that used to be a comforter.

"God Bless America."

Criminal Drug Reform

How the Drug War Is Losing Momentum

Despite the majority of Republican corporate spokespersons that have taken control of the senate following the midterm elections, liberal movements such as the push for drug reform were undoubtedly successful this past election. With laws being passed in Alaska, Oregon and Washington D.C and narrowly missed reforms such as those in Florida, drug reform may finally be gaining the surge it needs in the US. What does this mean for U.S. citizens, you may wonder? A lot more than just being able to possess pot.

For obvious reasons, you may soon have another reason to catch up on your American History when you visit the land of the federal government. On November 4th in D.C., residents helped pass Initiative 71 allowing individuals to legally possess up to two ounces of Marijuana and three mature cannabis plants, to transfer one ounce of marijuana to another individual, and to buy and sell drug paraphernalia for the use, growth, and processing of marijuana. Unlike Oregon and Alaska's measures, however, residents of D.C

will not be able to purchase marijuana from state vendors until a separate bill is passed. Nonetheless, while the district still does not give residents the ability to legally purchase marijuana, it will finally be able to reform a large piece of our broken criminal justice system. In 2013, approximately 41 percent of all drug arrests were for possession of marijuana, which account for 88 percent of all marijuana arrests. Broken down into demographics, reports by the ACLU indicate that black individuals are over three and half times more likely than white individuals to fall victim to these arrests. While the trend that black individuals are more likely to be arrested is present in various socioeconomic communities, these disparities in individual arrest rates were found to worse in middle class to upper class neighborhoods, despite similar rates of usage.

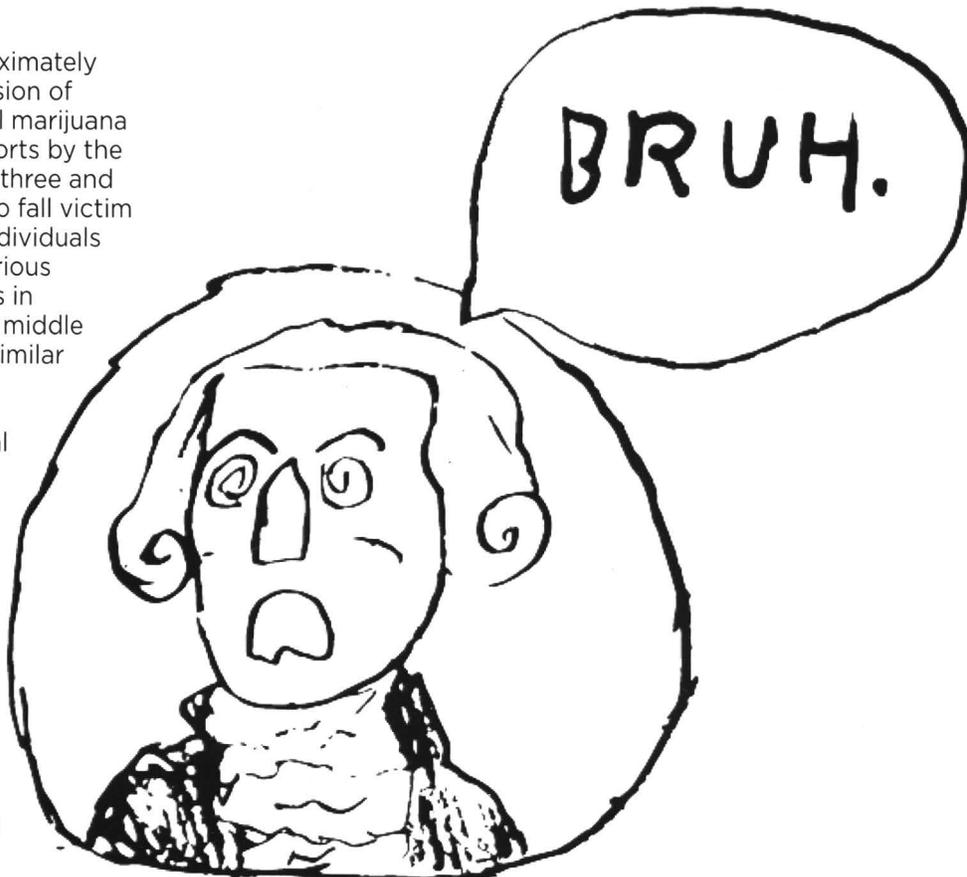
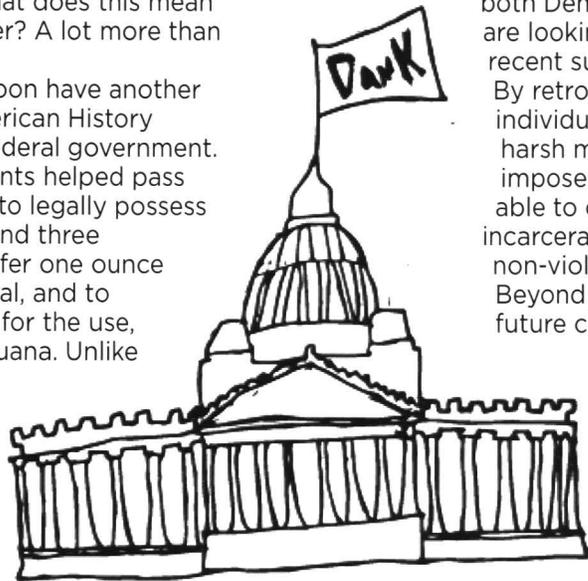
With the mixed results of the last election, of conservative officials being elected and liberal initiatives being passed, some may have a skewed view of the future to drug reform. While it may appear that the incoming Congress will not promote the sale of marijuana, the recent nationwide protests are drawing considerable attention at an alarming rate to our faulty justice system that all-too-often appears to "coincidentally" arrest men of color for marijuana possession. It is doubtful that marijuana will soon be removed from its scheduled federal ranking, but it is quite possible that states will take note of Washington D.C's decision to

decriminalize possession, while restricting access to sales. It is this initiative—the decriminalization of possession—that makes drug reform, or rather, criminal drug offence reform the central goal of this movement to come. While being able to purchase pot for recreational use would be nice, decriminalization would lead to sweeping reforms

in the states, which would be beneficial to both Democrats and Republicans alike, who are looking to gain popularity among the recent surge of criminal justice advocates. By retroactively applying the changed laws, individuals would be able to not only avoid harsh minimum sentencing in states that impose this measure, but would also be able to challenge the legal grounds of their incarceration, potentially releasing thousands of non-violent offenders.

Beyond this one can only speculate upon future changes following decriminalization.

Following potential overturned convictions, thousands of people would be eligible to wipe clean their only criminal record and move on from the prison system that has entrapped so many Americans to date. This is a goal that hopefully our new Congress can see is worth working towards.





THE PULL LIST

IAN SCHAFER

STAR WARS #1 JASON AARON
JOHN CASSADAY
LAURA MARTIN

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, Dark Horse Comics executives were breathing into a brown paper bag to keep from hyperventilating when they found out that they were losing their *Star Wars* comic book license, which they had maintained since 1991, to Marvel, who previously held the license from 1977 to 1986. When both *Star Wars* and Marvel were bought by Disney, comic book creators and readers knew it was inevitable. And now, with all continuity outside of the movies—including games, novels and comics, totally scrubbed from canon, how did Marvel do with its soft reboot of the *Star Wars* comic book franchise? Alright, I guess. The new *Star Wars* #1 finds the main crew of Luke, Leia, Han, Chewie, C-3PO and R2-D2 infiltrating an Imperial arms factory not long after the destruction of the Death Star as seen in *Star Wars: A New Hope*. Though it's nice to see the team all together, besides the introduction of the first "new" Expanded Universe element in the weapons factory, the story does very little to tread ground that the films hadn't already. There's little difference between this mission and Leia's rescue in *A New Hope*. Jason Aaron has done a good job pacing the comic in a very *Star Wars*-like way, with scene transitions accompanied by "I've got a bad feeling about this"s and "May the Force Be With You"s, but Cassaday's pencils and Martin's colors are sloppier than I'd expect from something that Marvel expected to move thousands of copies. Hopefully that's something that will be improved in the coming issues.



If you haven't been keeping up with Image's *Saga*, the space-fantasy that tells the story of two lovers from opposite sides of a decades-long war between the winged denizens of Landfall and their horned adversaries on Wreath, the planet's moon, now is as good of a time as any to start because Volume 4 of the series, which collects issues 19-24 has just been released. Brian K. Vaughan and Fiona Staples' space-faring fugitives can't catch a break. In Volume 4 of *Saga*, Marko and Alana finally get some time to sit and raise their daughter after months of running from the military police, bounty hunters, reporters and rogue royalty. But as the two begin to settle down they find that maybe a sedentary life was never for them. This series has yet to fail to deliver, with Vaughan's knack for emotional dialogue and Staples' character designs and luminescent, digital painting style blending neatly to create one of the most original settings and stories in comics today. This volume does slow down a bit on the action, but it makes up for it by shifting the story's focus away from Marko and Alana, and lending more depth to characters like The Will and Prince Robot the IV. No spoilers, but I'll just say that this volume ends with a team-up that no one keeping up with the series from the beginning could have possibly seen coming, and the fact that the team-up isn't a gimmick so much as the logical continuation of the story, solidifies Vaughan's place as one of the best comic book writers around.

SAGA VOL. 4 BRIAN K. VAUGHAN
FIONA STAPLES



NOSTALGIA GOGGLES PRESENTS:

BACK TO THE FUTURE

IAN SCHAFFER

You've probably seen it before. Scrolling through your Facebook feed, you see the console of Doc Brown's DeLorean from *Back to the Future* with the dials turned to today's date along with comments along the lines of "omg, it's the day they went back 2 da futr lol." And every time, it was a sham. In *Back to the Future II*, Marty McFly and Doc Brown saved the day on October 21 in the distant year of 2015. In the first film, the duo traveled back to November 5, 1955.

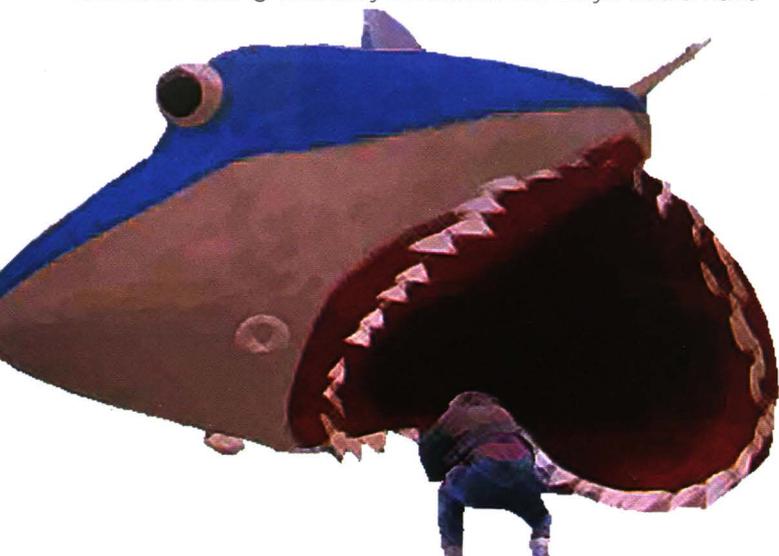
Now while I'm too young to have seen the *Back to the Future* trilogy on release, I did grow up enjoying them, along with the rest of the 1980's blockbusters like *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *The Empire Strikes Back*. But my true nostalgia for the series was not cemented until I was here at Stony Brook, when November 5 became a date I would mark on my calendar yearly.

The Science Fiction Forum, if you've never visited their library in the Union basement, is a great place to hang out, read and watch any number of science fiction and fantasy movies from their large DVD collection. And it's on November 5 each year that the members of the club gather to watch a back-to-back marathon of *Back to the Future* I-III (And *V for Vendetta*, another film where November 5 is a key date).

The first time I sat through one of these marathons was the first time I truly took in how great these movies were, and why they've had such an impact on our pop-culture subconscious.

The *Back to the Future* movies are about their likable characters above all.

Christopher Lloyd's delivery as the eccentric genius Doc Brown is equal parts endearing and side-splittingly hilarious. You totally accept who this off-the-wall character is, and Doc Brown's style of outlandishness is the kind of character acting that only someone like Lloyd could have



pulled off. Marty McFly is a similar caricature of a 1980's cool kid, and his distinctive lingo and catchphrases help thoroughly endear the character to the viewer. You want to see Marty succeed in beating his

tormentor, Biff, and you're upset to find what a schlub he's become by 2015. Michael J. Fox played the perfect underdog.

Speaking of character, the visual of Doc Brown's decked-out, time-traveling DeLorean lent just as much to the movies' charm as its living co-stars. It's laughable now to think of the boxy, chrome-plated machine as looking futuristic, and despite that I've probably seen only three functioning DeLoreans in my life, all of them owned by *Back to the Future* super-fans, it still holds a sacred place amongst nerds and movie buffs as one of film and TV's most iconic vessels alongside the Millennium Falcon, U.S.S. Enterprise or the TARDIS.

While all three of the movies are veritable classics, I'm of the opinion that *Back to the Future II* was the best of the series. When McFly and Brown arrived on the scene in 2015, hoverboards and truly 3-Dimensional movies were a daily reality. By the time we all got to 2015 via the dimly slow-paced method of living out our natural lives, we found that the only hoverboards were majorly expensive and, quite frankly, boring to ride. While 3D movies have been ubiquitous for years now, the need for bulky glasses, and the motion sickness and eye strain that affects some moviegoers, keep the experience from being the mindblowing spectacles that the giant holographic advertisement for *JAWS 19* mislead 1989's moviegoers into believing they would be.

But with technologies like virtual reality goggles and live holograms being perfected, it turns out that our 2015 isn't too far off from *Back to the Future's*. And it's not too unreasonable to hope that some of the crazier advances displayed in the second movie will have decent enough analogues in the next few years.



OSCAR'S NEW CATEGORIES

Jay Shah

After years of stagnation, the 104 year old skeleton in charge of the Academy Awards decided to open up six new categories in preparation for the 2015 Oscars. In exchange for multiple 'favors', The Stony Brook Press has been given an exclusive sneak peek at the categories and their nominees.



Academy Award for Needlessly Long Running Time

Nominees:

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug
The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

This category was sponsored by the spinning grave of J.R.R. Tolkien. After stretching out a 300 page children's book into a 300 hour epic, Peter Jackson celebrated the nominations by diving Scrooge McDuck style into Smaug's pile of treasure. When told that the gold and jewels were fake and that Middle Earth wasn't real, Peter Jackson growled and started biting his producers in the genitals.

Academy Award for Best Superhero Movie

Nominees:

Captain America: Winter Soldier
Guardians of the Galaxy
X-Men: Days of Future Past
The Amazing Spider-Man 2

Wow, don't you just love superhero movies? Aren't you happy that we have a new one being released every 2 minutes? I am never going to get sick of superhero movies, ever. Hugh Jackman is definitely not starting to look like a creepy raisin and Sony is definitely not creating Spider-Man movies to make sure the rights for the series don't go back to Marvel.



Academy Award for Stupidest Gimmick

Nominees(Nominee):

Boyhood

Shockingly, this category only has one nominee. Critics were astounded by seeing a real person grow up over the 3 hour movie, a critic for the Rolling Stones said "Wow, I genuinely don't care about plot or interesting characters or good acting, this movie has a really interesting gimmick that totally doesn't get boring after 20 minutes."

Academy Award for Best Trailer For a Movie Within its Own Movie

Nominees(Nominee):

The Hunger Games: Mocking Jay Part 1, Revenge of the Donald Sutherland, This is Not True Detective the Movie

Again, only one nominee. It's almost as if the creator of these categories is a smug college student who is slowly running out of things to complain about.

Academy Award for Best Shot of Ben Affleck's Penis

Nominees:

Gone Girl

The Lego Movie

Dawn of the Planet of the Apes

Ben Affleck's penis had a great year, with stellar roles in most movies and nominations with three of them. Some have argued that his penis only showed up in *The Lego Movie* but if you pay close attention to *Dawn of the Planet of the Apes*, you'll see Affleck's penis playing the role of Caesar.



Pictured: Ben Affleck's penis

Academy Award for The Great Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Nominee:

Every Movie except *The Interview*

In a heavy handed response to the North Korean cyber-attacks, the Academy has cowed to demands by creating a special category just to pay respect the Great and Glorious Kim Jong-Un. After the film industry failed to show resolve against a threat of censorship from a foreign dictator, the Academy decided to nominate every single movie except *The Interview* for an Oscar.



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WEAPONIZED REVIEWS: WHEN VIDEO GAME REVIEWS ATTACK CONSUMERS

Kyle Barr

The video game industry still considers itself young.

After more than 30 years the industry still has few concrete ideas of what is considered professional critique from the industry's journalists. It should not be that hard for them. There are plenty of examples to draw from in other media. There is also the obvious, such as how they should refuse to accept anti-consumer policies. In any market, journalists are supposed to be there as a watchdog to say whether a product or a company is trying to screw the consumer over, yet if the media surrounding video games had been more apt to relate information to the consumer, we would not have had the botched release and embargo problems that we had with *Assassin's Creed Unity*. *Assassin's Creed Unity*, the latest in the *Assassin's Creed* franchise, was released on November 11, 2014. As the game, hyped to oblivion with promises of DLC and pre-order bonuses was set to arrive on store shelves, people looked online for reviews on it to find that they were nowhere to be seen. Only 12 hours after the game officially released in stores were reviews allowed to come to light. Some of which were not so pretty. People immediately started having performance problems, especially on PC. Many people with rather hefty and expensive rigs were still unable to run it well. Even on Xbox One and PS4 customers experienced frame rate dips and horrible glitches. Review embargoes are the agreements between reviewing



outlets and video game publishers that give reviewers early access to games in exchange for a signed agreement to only release the review at a certain date and time. Reviews for most games comes out a one to a few weeks before launch. Refusal to acknowledge embargo dates can result in blacklisting of pre-release versions of games for those media outlets.

This previous year also had Bungie's pseudo-MMO, *Destiny*, embargo reviews until after release. Ubisoft's other title *Assassin's Creed Rogue* did not allow preview demos at all.

The publishers had many excuses, but the real reason is obvious. They do not want to miss out on the pre-order numbers that so many big name titles rely on nowadays. Ubisoft decided to avoid the controversy by

simply restricting reviews from those who had already preordered the game. Sorry, no refunds.

Metacritic has already hammered *Assassin's Creed Unity* and Reviews of the Steam version of the game show an overwhelming negative response.

So what are the reviewers doing? From what those reviewers decided to write about only after the fiasco that was *Assassin's Creed Unity*, they were between the proverbial rock and Ubisoft's massive groin. If a reviewer posts an opinion before the embargo, legal

problems would ensue and probably guarantee no more early access from that publisher.

Yet when consumers are waiting for a review, and it still is not out, what are they supposed to do? They might not know of the embargo, just that the reviews are late.

What is worse than an uninformed consumer putting down money on an expensive product?

Outlets like PCGamer did not relate their situation about late reviews for *Assassin's Creed Unity* until after the game was released. Video game site Polygon has already stated they would work in the future to relate what embargo dates are set for certain games.

This probably won't be the last case of this happening. *Assassin's Creed Unity* got bombed by player reviews, but it does not mean companies won't see all their pre-orders and get frightened of losing them.

That leaves it up to the gamers and the reviewers to hold the torch.

The big name reviewers need to have transparency when it comes to the times and dates of review embargoes. They need to tell their readership several days or weeks before why they are not getting their reviews in until after the game is released. Gamers have to watch out for these tactics. With so many games lacking betas or demos, there's no way to relay an experience before release. Beware pre-orders and shy away from tempting pre-order bonuses.

Consumers need to know what games the publishers already expect to do well, and which ones they

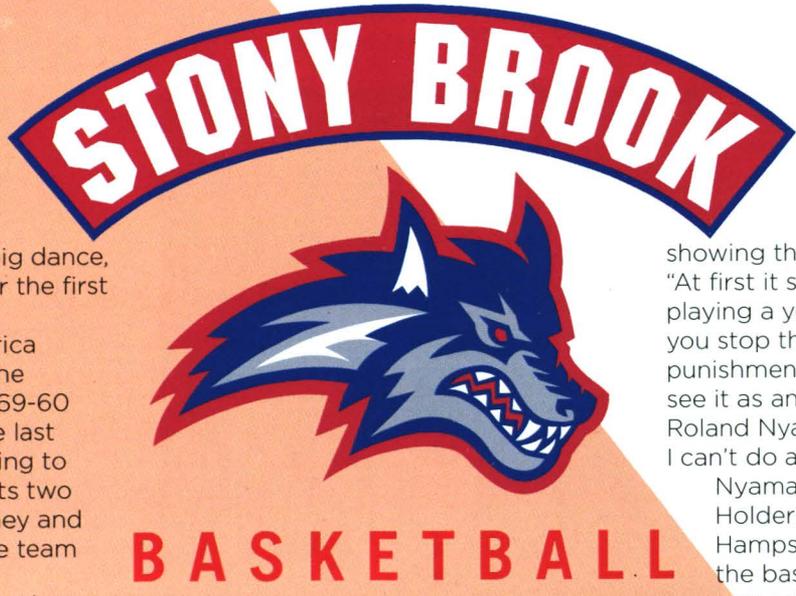
expect to get hammered. When those games are bad, hammer them. Hammer them and watch them burn.



PROFILE: ROLAND NYAMA

Jael Henry

With the second half of the college basketball season on the way - the 12-7, 3-1 America East Conference - Stony Brook Seawolves are making strides to punch their ticket to the big dance, the NCAA Tournament, for the first time in program history. Looking back to the America East Tournament, where the Seawolves lost to Albany 69-60 in the championship game last season, Stony Brook is going to need production outside its two stars, juniors Jameel Warney and Carson Puriefey, to get the team over the hump. Roland Nyama, a 6'6" guard/forward from Frankfurt, Germany, may be that spark that the Seawolves need. It's been an up and down season for Nyama, he's struggled at times but has shown flashes of greatness, which makes it easy to see why the coaching staff is so excited about him. At 6-6, he provides athletic play, arguably being the most athletic player on Stony Brook's roster, coupled with the ability to defend the guard and forward position. Down the stretch in close games his athleticism and his defense are valuable assets for this young Seawolves team to have. Before Stony Brook's season opener against Columbia, which the Seawolves won 57-56 on a late layup by Rayshaun McGrew, we sat down with Nyama, and talked about his expectations for the upcoming season. "I feel really good going into the season, I've waited a long year of practice to finally step on this court," Nyama said. The redshirt freshman sat out his first year at Stony Brook



last season because the coaches were not confident that he was ready to play. However, coming off an effort where he recorded 12 points and five steals in a 82-39 win over Maine, Nyama is showing that he's ready now. "At first it sucks for everybody, not playing a year, [there's] a moment you stop thinking about it being a punishment for not being ready and you see it as an opportunity to get better," Roland Nyama said. "I also learned what I can't do and that helped a lot too." Nyama played two years at Holderness School in New Hampshire, where he was captain of the basketball team his senior year averaging 20.3 points, 6.3 rebounds and 6.0 assists per game and earned himself an All-NEPSAC third team selection. The transition was the hardest part for Nyama, as he adopted a new style of play since moving from Germany. As a result he had to adapt to a different culture and different style of basketball. "It's just a different setting. It's more physical, in Europe it's more finesse. I don't like to admit it but I was kinda soft when I came here but I just learned how to cope with it and how to get tougher," said Nyama. The most important half of the Seawolves schedule is upon them and Stony Brook is hoping that Roland Nyama shows those flashes in the big games down the stretch and help secure his team's place among the flashing lights at the 2015 NCAA Tournament.

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The Stony Brook Press is published monthly during the academic year and twice during summer session by *The Stony Brook Press*, a student-run non-profit organization funded by the Student Activity Fee. The opinions expressed in letters, articles and viewpoints do not necessarily reflect those of *The Stony Brook Press* as a whole. Advertising policy does not necessarily reflect editorial policy. Staff meetings are held Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. First copy free. For additional copies contact the Business Manager.

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