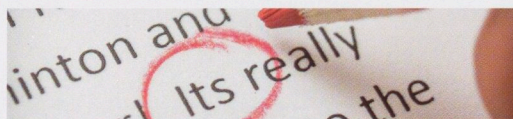


THE STONY BROOK PRESS



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Cover By Jessica Ulman

The Cave...

You've probably heard from somewhere about Plato's allegory of the cave. If you haven't, then here's the jist: You live in a cave, your back is to the opening and all you can do is stare at the wall at the far end. All you know is the cave, you were born there, you are shackled there so you cannot turn around. You do not see the things which pass by behind you in front of the light of a fire. All you see are their shadows. You give names to these shadows, and you think you know them.

gives, American's still use up less vacation days than we're allotted. Most people are afraid that they won't be able to climb the business ladder if they take off those days. Some fear they will return from vacation and not have a job at all. But then there is the problem of Stony Brook University. In the approximately three month period of the semester, we're allotted four days of vacation. It seems equivalent for an American year of days off. But then it seems insane when

days we have off. Hell, many of us work part-time, sometimes in several jobs as well as working at school. This is just to pay for both the gas and the tuition. Sometimes that cost even includes living and housing. This is college. In high school, we were still staring at shadows. We have our own lives. While this doesn't speak to every class, the fact that we are paying to be here means we have the right to decide when to skip class. The rule in some classes that will penalize for multiple

THERE IS NO OTHER ENVIRONMENT, SAVE JAIL OR REHAB, THAT WILL PENALIZE YOU FOR BEING ABSENT TO SOMETHING YOU'RE TECHNICALLY PAYING FOR.

You think you are seeing reality. Plato described the philosopher as someone who breaks out of the cave, who comes to see what reality truly looks like. This Thanksgiving break drew a sharp relation to Plato's allegory. There wasn't anything different about this specific break, but simply the timing of it that brought reality back into focus. We as American's have been giving up our workplace vacations. Expedia and Hotwire surveys often lament the amount of unused vacation days. Where the amount of vacation days in other countries is mandated, and is more than double the average workplace

you place those days off one at the beginning of the semester and one set at the end. It feels unreal. Like we're just staring at shadows. It wasn't until Thanksgiving break where we can see that vacation... just feels good. It gives us time to relax, and for maybe even a few minutes, not think about school. This is the real world. School is work. It's five days a week of a barrage of information and required effort. It's like a job just with the added bonus of having to pay for the pleasure. It costs money to have a professor to tell you that all your effort was effectively pointless. We don't get to choose which

absences is ridiculous. There is no other environment, save jail or rehab, that will penalize you for being absent to something you're technically paying for. University work is tiring. Having no breaks in between is as insane as staring at a cave wall for years on end. We here at the Stony Brook Press hope that everybody has a good winter break. Recharge your batteries. Relax for a month before the whole thing starts again. Just try to get out of the cave, look at the sunlight. It'll be cold, but it might be a little warmer out in the light.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE TPP

RONNY REYES

Chances are that you have at least heard of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a trade agreement plan between the U.S. and 11 other countries: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

The TPP will create American job growth by tapping into "the world's most robust economies...that represents nearly 40 percent of global GDP," according to the Office of the United States Trade Representative. That number would be even higher if China were included, but it is not and there is a reason for that.

Certain chapters of the TPP will allow America to dominate multiple Asian markets in order to challenge China for economic supremacy in Asia, much as the North American Free Trade Agreement allowed for the U.S. to dominate an entire continent's economy over 20 years ago.

The Paper Trail That Pays

A key chapter of the agreement deals with intellectual property, which has gotten the most attention from average Americans, may jeopardize free online streaming. Right off the bat, in Section A of this chapter, the agreement allows free reign on what constitutes as intellectual property, meaning that anything can be copyrighted and protected by law, whether the content is made internationally or domestically.

The TPP's Right of Communication to the Public article will also allow creators and owners of a copyrighted material to control everything involving their work, from how it is distributed to how people will first find out about their works. This would make it not only difficult for online streaming to continue, but it would also make leaks and unofficial trailers illegal and enforceable by the government.

Governments would know that such content exists because Section J of this chapter states that parties will have to "establish a framework of copyright safe harbors for Internet Service Providers." Although the office of the USTR states that this will not permit parties to monitor an individual's ISP for infringing activity, the TPP makes it difficult for any service provider to violate the agreement's copyright rules, which is

evident in a paragraph that states ISPs have to not only work with copyright owners, but that, through ambiguous wording, the "legal incentives" to cooperate "may take different forms." Two paragraphs later, there is a mention that "an Internet Service Provider that removes or disables access to material in good faith...shall be exempt from any liability for having done so." ISPs that remove illegal content will be forgiven, and those that fail to do so could be held liable.

The intellectual property rights granted by the TPP also extend to pharmaceuticals, a booming market that quite often takes advantage of these types of trade agreements. Section F of

This would make it not only difficult for online streaming to continue, but it would also make leaks and unofficial trailers illegal and enforceable by the government.

the TPP allows drug products to enjoy a fast approval process throughout world markets as it calls for the "approval of pharmaceutical products in an efficient and timely manner, with a view to avoid unreasonable or unnecessary delays." Parties that try and stall a drug's approval, if the reason is deemed unnecessary (Dispute Settlement), would need to compensate the owner of the patent. Section F finally grants patent holders the chance to expedite their drug if they feel the drug may not gain approval through normal means.

The Chapters of Empty Promises

There are two chapters in the TPP that the office of the USTR praises as a move to bring progress into the developing countries that have agreed to partner with the U.S.: the chapters of labor and development. According to the office of the USTR, the agreement would end all forms of forced labor within the parties, and "they also agree to have laws governing minimum wages, hours of work, and occupational safety and health."

The TPP itself states, "If a Party fails to comply with an obligation under this Chapter, decision made by that Party on the provision of enforcement resources shall not excuse that failure," meaning that a party cannot excuse itself for breaking any progressive rules listed in the labor chapter.

The chapter on development is similar in its promise to promote not only education and technological advances but also to establish women as an essential part of economic growth. But just like the chapter on labor, there is a final article that takes away any momentum gained by these chapters.

In labor it states, "Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed to empower a Party's authorities to undertake labour law enforcement activities in the territory of another Party," which means that enforcement of progressive labor laws can only be handled by the Parties themselves without fear of consequence if they don't.

The development chapter is, by far, less enforceable than that of labor as it states in that if what this chapter promises comes into question by any other chapter in this agreement, the other chapter trumps it. In one of the final articles, it says that "No Party shall have recourse to dispute settlement under Chapter 28 (Dispute Settlement) for any matter arising under this Chapter." This means that Parties cannot hold each other accountable for violating rules that would promote the progress promised in this development chapter.

The Power of State and Corporate Investment

The most powerful chapter in the TPP does not deal with trade at all. It deals with investments. "TPP Parties adopt a 'negative-list' bias, meaning that their markets are fully open to foreign investors," states the office of the USTR. It goes further than simply open market investments as Section A adds, "No Party shall require that an enterprise of that Party that is a covered investment appoint to a senior management position a natural person of any particular nationality," and the following paragraph adds that a majority of the board of directors of any company can be foreigners if it is deemed that the investments are

being hurt by allowing only nationals to hold the majority. This gives corporations and businesses the ability to become the heads of any and all foreign corporations. "Within 10 years of NAFTA, most of the banking deposits of the Mexican people were under the control of American and European bankers," Juan Gonzalez, author of *Harvest of Empire*, which examines the history and consequence of U.S. corporate imperialism, said. Trade agreements allowed the U.S. to completely control foreign companies, argues Gonzalez. This can easily be repeated all over Asia through just the first section of the investment chapter.

The very next section is another part of the TPP that has gained notoriety, but it is hardly elaborated upon. Section B establishes the rules on how a corporation can sue a government for impeding on its profits. Essentially, a court is established and rules on whether the investor or the party is at fault, known as Investor State Dispute Settlement, which also coincides with a later chapter dealing with dispute settlements titled Parties suing Parties. These chapters are similar and connected by the fact that investors can also use governments to sue for them and act on dispute settlements instead of ISDS.

In cases of ISDS, which the office of the USTR claims is an unbiased process, both the investor and the party it is suing choose someone to represent them at a tribunal, with the third party consisting of either someone both parties agree on or the Secretary-General of the International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes, Meg Kinnear, who has ties to both U.S. and Canadian governments. These three parties will decide who wins the settlement, and they can even decide how the costs of handling this settlement is paid: "A tribunal may also award costs and attorney's fees incurred by the disputing parties in connection with the arbitral proceeding, and shall determine how and by whom those costs and attorney's fees shall be paid." Ultimately, a party can lose a

biased case and be forced to pay the court fees along with whatever the settlement is determined to be.

Party v. Party settlement disputes play out similarly but with added content. Section A of this chapter allows parties to suppress the progress of



the cases from the public. It later says, "Compensation, and suspension of benefits and the payment of monetary assessment shall only be applied until such time as the responding Party eliminated the non-conformity," which means that the Party being sued must remove or compensate the suing Party until the tribunal can decide who is in the wrong. And the TPP's following paragraph expands this into a broader territory that allows the suing party to place a trade embargo of nearly every type of industry on the opposing party, so long as the suing party deems itself economically

hurt by the opposing party's actions.

Leaders of the Free World

Barack Obama, much like Bill Clinton, the last Democratic president before him, has praised the TPP as an essential plan to improve our economy and create jobs. In an interview with *The New York Times*, Obama stated the TPP's importance to our economy and security, adding, "We're making sure that labor standards and environment standard are observed there just like they are here."

Although she initially called it the "gold-standard" when it came to international trade agreements, Hillary Clinton now stands with fellow presidential candidate Bernie Sanders in opposition to the TPP. *International Business Times* reported that Clinton's stance against the TPP lies in her support for a national infrastructure bank, which is not covered by the TPP.

"We should establish an infrastructure bank to put Americans to work building our roads, our bridges, our airports, our rails, our broadband networks," Clinton said.

Most Republican congress members side with the president, but the presidential candidates for the GOP nomination are not as open to the TPP. Both Donald Trump, who called it a "disaster" during a debate on *Fox Business News*, and Ted Cruz, who gave similar remarks during the same debate, are opposed to the TPP and said they would reject it if they became president.

While Ben Carson seems more open to it, Marco Rubio is a bit hesitant to accept the TPP, stating on *MSNBC* that "it has to be the right deal."

According to *The Times*, Obama will be pushing congress and the fellow nations in the agreement even further into approving the TPP, calling for its acceptance during world meetings. By the end of January 2016, Congress will have to decide whether to approve or reject the TPP. Although a majority of Republicans have agreed to pass it, Democrats are steadfast against approving the TPP in its current form.





LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOU

JESSICA OPATICH

It was election day on November 3, and less than 25 percent of voters cast ballots on Long Island. It was an off-year election, meaning voters aren't casting votes for presidential candidates and tickets rarely feature state or gubernatorial races, which in turn has historically led to low voter turnout. Young voters, ages 18 through 24, have consistently voted at lower rates than all other age groups in every presidential election since 1962, according to the US Census Bureau. Considering local, off-year elections, it's highly likely that students here at Stony Brook University didn't make it to the ballot box. In that case, here's a look at the election results from two key races on Long Island and what they mean for Long Island residents.

The Race for Nassau County District Attorney

This race pitted Democrat and acting District Attorney Madeline Singas against Republican and Supervisor of the Town of Hempstead Kate Murray. Singas was appointed to the position following former DA Kathleen Rice's departure for Congress.

It was a race between a first-time politician and a longtime politician. Singas had more than 20 years of prosecutorial experience and Murray had none, but she argued her 13 years as supervisor of Long Island's biggest town gave her managerial experience. It also gave her name recognition, a crucial element in all races, especially local ones.

Polls leading up to the race had the two women neck-and-neck. In the end, Singas came out on top with 55.16 to Murray's 34.44, according to the Nassau County Board of Elections.

What it Means

Singas ran on the "I'm not a politician" platform, which seems to be working well at the national level too, but she also campaigned on rooting out political corruption, which has become a term synonymous with New York State politics (See the recent guilty verdict against former speaker Sheldon Silver and the ongoing case against his counterpart, former majority leader Senator Dean Skelos). Singas also promised to focus on the growing heroin scourge that has rattled Long Islanders.

"Heroin is an epidemic both nationwide and locally," Singas said in a September press conference where she announced funding for broader treatment for heroin addicts. The program would allow those who survive overdoses to immediately enter a crisis center instead of being released and put back on the streets. Singas has also proposed tougher penalties for heroin dealers.

The Race for Suffolk County Executive

Democrat Steve Bellone battled for his second four-year term against Republican Jim O'Connor, a former North Hempstead town councilman. O'Connor had a high name-recognition barrier to overcome compared to voters' familiarity with Bellone. Ultimately, and unsurprisingly, Bellone took the vote with a 57-43 majority.

What it Means

Bellone's victory can act as a mandate for him to move forward focusing on the issues he campaigned on. Those issues include protecting Long Island's drinking water, implementing improvements in transportation and housing to keep and even entice young people to stay and live on Long Island and rebuild Suffolk's downtowns and not rising property taxes (even though the recently passed \$2.9 billion dollar budget keeps a police district property tax increase of 2.9 percent).



ROCKY TRANSITION FOR ROCKYOFACE

JAY SHAH

Sam Vodopia tunes his guitar into the microphone while shouting towards an audio technician in the back of the dimly-lit University Cafe. A string breaks, an audience of 20 groans. Vodopia hops behind a piano to improvise a song.

Quick thinking averts a potential crisis for RockYoFace's last concert of the semester at Stony Brook University.

"RockYoFace is an art collective group centered around creating a unified cultural scene on campus," Mike Gusev, one of the current showrunners for the organization, said.

The group organizes small concerts and shows where local and touring bands can perform for the campus

There was "no plan whatsoever" after the original volunteers left, Lucia Kolodiuk, a former RockYoFace coordinator, said. "We had to learn by trial and error, but we made it work."

Members of RockYoFace aren't paid for their work, and most do it for the experience and community or the internship credit. This causes problems when the volunteers are forced to prioritize between school and a show.

Many people left the organization because they couldn't commit the time.

The lack of staff created an issue for RockYoFace, which was forced to pull shows together with a skeleton crew.

"We usually operated with 10 to 20

This connection became tenuous after the original staff graduated, leaving a more disorganized line of funding.

"We've had issues with student activities because they're so understaffed," Matthew Del Signore, an audio technician for RockYoFace, said.

The slow response time from USG and general lack of concern for RockYoFace made it much more difficult to organize and promote shows.

"USG didn't want to pay for bands, there were a lot of bureaucratic hold ups," Pascuzzi said. "They needed to cross their T-s and dot their I-s."

Promotion was hit hard because there "was little money for advertizing," Pascuzzi said. The vast majority of it had to happen online through Facebook.

Things have begun to change this semester as RockYoFace becomes more incorporated with WUSB, the campus radio station.

"RockYoFace was a WUSB venture originally, so it's cool to see it come full circle as a kind of reboot of the original series," Gusev said.

The organization is planning on a large recruitment drive next semester.

"We're trying to build it up again," Signore said. "Get more people involved."

There are also plans to change the structure of the shows to be more than just mini-concerts.

"We want to see it go even more free-form than before -- movie screenings, art showings, poetry readings, and of course still the concerts and dance parties," Gusev said.

While there are plans, the problem of finding a consistent audience on campus could persist.

"It could flourish with promotion and production," Pascuzzi said. "But if the public doesn't come, what good is a show without an audience?"



community, but it has faced issues since its inception in 2008.

"The organization was very disorganized," Nelson Pascuzzi, a former showrunner who helped run RockYoFace in 2014, said. "No one knew what they were really doing."

The disarray was created after a wave of volunteers graduated and left RockYoFace without leadership and a clear direction.

people," Kolodiuk said. "But we were forced to run shows with 5-10 people."

While RockYoFace isn't an official club on campus, their budget is funded by the Student Activities Board in the Undergraduate Student Government.

When RockYoFace was first created, "GSO, USG, WUSB used to be constructed of the same core group of people so it made communication easier," Pascuzzi said.

FEATURES

DIFFERENT BUT THE SAME: THE ASIAN IMMIGRANT STORY

DEMI GUO

DOWNTOWN FLUSHING, QUEENS.

The doctor's assistant talked as he worked. He had heard of Stony Brook University, he told us in an accent like our own, but he had attended another American medical school.

"Are you a royal prince?" my mother inquired further, her Beijing accent subdued.

"Yes," said the assistant, not offended.

"Where are you from?"

He replied, unsurprisingly, "Qingdao." Of course. Why else would he speak Mandarin in an accent that, quite frankly, held as much retroflex as our own? His city has, for the past century, been the hub of activity in Shandong province; a neighbor of Beijing. Like all northerners, their people punctuate their sentences with rolling Rs, unabashedly slurring their words together in an accent so guttural it would make a German blush.

There is no doubt that children are precious in every culture, least of all in Chinese culture. The one-child policy has, for the past 35 years, given rise to a culture of its own. The spoiled only sons and daughters of families who could not, would not, pay a fine for having more than one child are called "princes and princesses."

GANGWASHI, BEIJING.

I, the American, turned a block from Tiananmen Square, following my aunt along a walled dwelling until we reached the narrow door, passing through it under a sign that I could not read. The narrow, roofless corridor straddled the entrances to small homes that must have had three rooms at most. The roofs of those homes were curved, straight out of a movie. We had to walk in single file.

At the end my aunt and uncle welcomed us through the entrance straight into their bedroom, where we sat amongst shelves of books, tea and

kitchen appliances. The room could not have been more than 20 feet in perimeter.

It led into the only other visible room. "Don't use the phone," my cousin called from inside, "I'm using the Internet."

Before I left, my uncle pressed into my hand a black stone comb. "This is from Old Beijing," he said, showing me how I could rub the round edges into my fingers to relax them.

Tourists swarmed these narrow homes, the symbol of a fading Beijing. These hùtòng were shabby dwellings for commoners during the Qing Dynasty, but they are shabby dwellings for commoners now. The bathrooms are communal, but they are modern and possibly some of the cleanest in China. The walls of the homes are peeling.

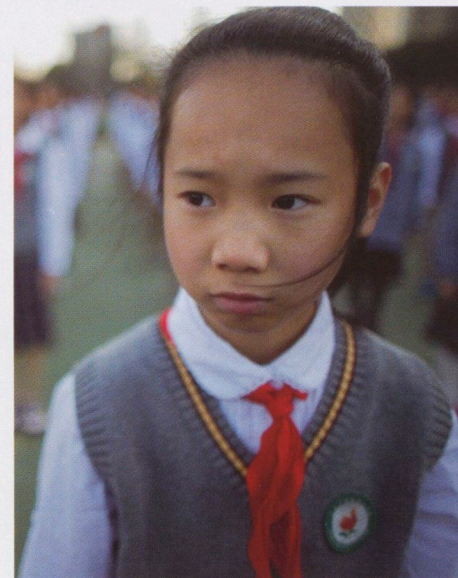
But as Beijing changed from the capital of the poorest countries in the world to one of the most economically imposing, from the ancient capital into one with sprawling concrete streets in a mere 36 years. The hùtòng are valuable.

A Sì Hé Yuàn, the hùtòng with a courtyard, is priceless.

My family used to own a Sì Hé Yuàn before it was taken by the government.

If Chinese officials and citizens are haughty, it is because they are surveying the harrowing work of a hundred years. It is because they were poor and looked down on by the rich Americans as millions of citizens starved to death in the countryside, as the Gang of Four pit the overzealous Communist Youth against every trace of the old ways, condemning the archaic themes of Beijing Opera and smashing silk harps.

If Joseph Lau, a Hong Kong



billionaire, bought his seven year-old daughter one of the most expensive diamonds in the world, it is because Chinese businessmen gained wealth practically overnight as China's economy suddenly skyrocketed from the 1990s. It is because they treasure their only child and shower this child with opportunities they had to work for.

These frivolous, ostentatious businessmen are called "tūháo."

STONY BROOK, SUFFOLK COUNTY

Lucia Kolodiuk recalls seeing "Asian kids" drive around in Porsches and Maseratis.

There are Mercedes and BMWs in South P Lot. They usually belong to international students. Kolodiuk, an SBU student, has noticed the phenomenon: these international students are Chinese.

In Los Angeles, the Arcadia neighborhood has become the "Chinese Beverly Hills"—the representative of what the Chinese international students are known for. Tūháo students can obwyen three or more luxury cars. Their parents buy them mansions worth millions with cash. They spend nights out and come back with shopping bags from Sephora and Victoria's Secret; they buy Prada and Gucci. A similar sight exists in Switzerland, where corners of Lucerne, Zurich and Interlaken are crowded by Chinese tourists on the prowl for Victorinox and Rolex.

The nonprofit Institute of International Education, through the 2015 Open Doors Report, showed that of 974,926 international students from 2014 to 2015, three million are from China. Tūháo students, observed Mingtong Wu, an SBU international student, have become representative of this population, but they are likely a small fraction of this number. After all part of



the 10 percent increase from last year's supply of Chinese national students is contributed to middle class families sending their children to the United States. Stony Brook's reputation precedes it.

STONY BROOK, SUFFOLK COUNTY

Meanwhile, Wu observed a phenomenon he was unaware of back at his home in Beijing.

When he came to the United States, he assumed all Asian students on campus were limited to speaking English. While on instinct he can often accurately tell between a student from China and a student from Korea, the Asian faces at SBU mingle. They dress and talk differently. The first generation of Chinese-Americans may retain their ancestral culture through their immigrant parents, but as the next generation comes and goes, they become, culturally, American.

I am a first generation American.

When non-Asian Americans ask me about my parents' background, I come up short. People want stories like that of famous Chinese-American writer Laurence Yep, stories of immigrant struggle, of survival and people like me not knowing whether they are Chinese or American—as if one could not be both. They want famous ballet dancer Li Cunxin nearly starving to death under Mao Zedong, learning under Madame Mao's distinct communist ballet in 1970s China. They want stories of those who fled to Hong Kong and Taiwan after the 1949 establishment of the People's Republic of China. They want the Shaolin monk, Shi Yan Ming, defecting to a life in New York.

The typical story of a Chinese-American is as follows: Parents were poor. They often lived in rural areas, farmed, dropped out of school - if they

went there at all. Koreans share similar stories of starving during the Korean war.

My story is rare, as were the ones of northern Chinese immigrants until now.

Truthfully, my story is boring.

My parents are northerners though my father was raised in the south. When we talk on the phone, his Guangdong accent clashes horribly with mine. He went to school. My mother went to school. She nearly earned herself a Ph.D if she had not come to New York instead.

My family was poor in the 60s. My mother casually said that she lived in a bus trying to survive the Tangshan earthquake, the deadliest of the century. But they never starved. They were city people. Collective farms and mass starvation were far away.

My family moved to New York just before the Chinese economy grew, before the 1990s boom that bred our modern tūháo.

The book "Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother," by Amy Chua, describes the strict parenting of immigrant parents. They came to the United States for a fresh new start. It may as well be a good one.

Cue preparation schools for the PSATs, then the SATs. Cue weekend school and summer schools. Cue a stereotype of Asian students being good at math, often reinforced by surveys of their acceptance rates into Harvard and Princeton.

If my mother, a college graduate from the Chinese capital, can pressure me



to do all of these things, then imagine what a parent who dropped out of middle school would do.

If they want their children to become doctors and lawyers, it is because those jobs are known for their good income. Good income means stability and comfort. Chinese degrees meant nothing in the United States even when immigrants had them. Coming here meant throwing everything away back across the ocean.

There is a pressure to do well. But,

“They came to the United States for a fresh new start. It may as well be a good one.”

said Wu—who was born into the southern Fujian province, allowing him to straddle the cultural differences between the two extremes of China—there is also a pressure on students in China, each often the lone bearer of his family's expectations.

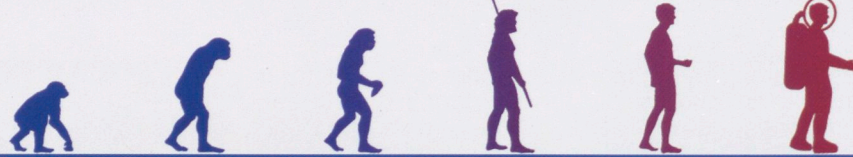
A pull from the American Psychological Association: More Asian-American college students have suicidal thoughts than white American college students.

Picture a piece of glass, representing an ocean, standing between two students. One is the tūháo, who studies vigorously but can afford to go to school in America and drive a Mercedes. His future is secure. The other is the huáyì, the descendant of Chinese immigrants. He studies vigorously, but he has taken out loans or accepted scholarship to pay for college.

That is the difference 36 years has made since the statesman Deng Xiaoping opened China's doors.

That is the great irony of the Chinese-American.





ROSES AT STONY BROOK

MICHELLE TOUSSAINT

Stony Brook University's Psychiatric Epidemiology Division of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science received two grants from NASA seeking to investigate "asynchronous communication methods for developing behavioral health treatment during long duration space missions," meaning that they're trying to find different modes of communication that will be most effective for astronauts' behavioral health. The grants for the three-year research project totals over \$750,000.

In early September of this year, NASA launched the Research Opportunities in Space and Earth Sciences 2015 program, calling for new proposals for its space program. With the recent discovery of flowing water on Mars, NASA is planning missions to Mars that will require astronauts to spend longer durations in space.

During this time, astronauts will experience a forty-minute delay in real time communication. Without ample forms of communication with mental health professionals on Earth, astronauts' behavioral health may be at risk.

"Projective health risks include depression, anxiety, elevated distress, extreme fatigue, sad mood, etc.," says Adam Gonzalez, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science. This had once had been coined as "space madness."

According to a Life Science article published by Discovery News, "When astronauts first began flying in space, NASA worried about "space madness," a mental malady they thought might arise from humans experiencing microgravity and claustrophobic isolation inside of a cramped spacecraft high above the Earth. Such fears have since faded, but humanity continues to see spaceflight as having the power to transform people for either better or for worse...Such early concerns of NASA psychiatrists led to careful screening of the first astronauts..."

Each member of a space crew serves a dire purpose. For example, according to NASA's official website, the pilot operates the shuttle and deploys the use of satellites and unmanned vehicles. Mission specialists work alongside both, helping to coordinate system operations, manage the usage of consumable resources on board and are required to have extensive knowledge of the shuttle's systems and equip-

ment. Mission specialists also perform most exterior activities such as repairing and adjusting space systems.

If a crew member experiences any of these projected health risks, which according to psychiatrists increases the chance of risky behaviors, it could be catastrophic to the entire mission and those involved.

Ironically, regarding the timeline of events, Gonzalez was already in the process of beginning this research. He will be the principal investigator.

In 2014 Gonzalez won a highly competitive award from the SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for his efforts to enhance the system's diversity. His research primarily focuses on exploring ways to develop treatments for both mental and physical health conditions. However, this latest exploration is proving to be out of this world.

"It was unexpected," said Gonzalez. "I never thought I'd get involved [in something like this]. It's really exciting to think about how we might be able to have an impact at such a larger level in terms of how astronauts communicate with their therapists on future missions."

There are currently three different modes of communication: one, simplex, which allows for one-way communication between space and earth; two, duplex, which allows two-way, with each location delivering communications one at a time; and three, full duplex, which allows for simultaneous two-way communication between earth and space.

The research process will consist of three stages over the three-year course. The first stage involves investigating literature to look at effective treatments delivered to these types of conditions. The second stage is researching different modes of communications already investigated and

the final stage is conducting clinical trials to evaluate different modes of communication for astronaut-like subjects, "meaning people with advanced degrees, [that are] relatively healthy and under work related stress." Statistical and logical techniques from the previous stages will be applied to illustrate and evaluate the data.

"[Right now] we're in the process of reviewing literature," Gonzalez said. "What are the best available treatments? What communication modes have been tested already to see what we would do next? So we're working closely with the hospital IT system to here [SBU] to put together a package," or a clinical process.

The clinical process involves creating a web-based platform where different treatments will be available for participants for self-management of symptoms. Gonzalez explains, "The process will take participants through the treatment itself, which will be supplemented with therapist communication via text, email and video messaging, for example."

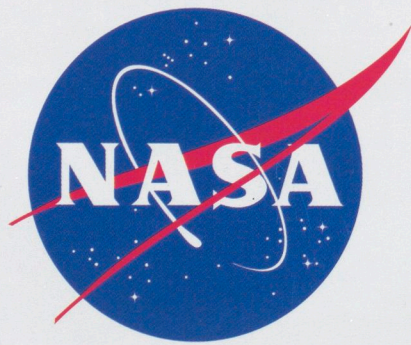
The object of this is to test what's most effective in proving and combating unhealthy behavioral symptoms, which includes testing effects of not having therapist contact as well as texting or video messaging with a self-management treatment platform. It also aims to "make sure we choose treatments that are going to be relevant and also modes of communication that are going to be relevant and convenient for the participants."

Every month Gonzalez speaks to NASA scientists and behavioral health experts who work directly with the astronauts. He also plans on speaking with past astronauts about their own experiences with mental health treatments, along with their therapists and psychiatrists that were here on Earth during those times.

There's an understandable amount of supervision, which Gonzalez says he enjoys. "It's super exciting to have those interactions, and even just to be involved in a NASA project itself is really exciting for me."

The recognition that SBU could receive as a result is really exciting as well.

Gonzalez will be leaving a lasting impact both in and out of this world.



Bringing Back the Oysters

How aquafarming is bringing the eastern oyster back from the brink of extinction



JOSEPH RYDER

Tucked along the north fork coast, Widow's Hole Oysters has been part of an agricultural renaissance on Long Island.

Oyster farming is becoming big business in the North East and Widow's Hole has helped usher in new life for the once dying industry.

"I knew this village was the oyster capital of New York and no one was growing oysters," Michael Osinski, the owner of Widow's Hole Oyster Farm and president of the Long Island Oyster Growers Association, said. "I was retired and had a few dollars, two kids and nothing to do so I thought I'd do something different."

Oystering in the Great South Bay peaked in 1976 when over 100 million oysters were harvested from the bay. The oyster population plummeted in 1997 when two parasitic diseases killed off a huge population of the oysters. In 2005 a petition was presented to the National Marine Fisheries Service to have the eastern oyster declared endangered.

In large part due to farming, the oysters are now making a comeback.

"We had a lot of success with this year's nursery system. We were able to harvest a million oysters from the

nursery system and we put them in bags in the bay to grow," Osinski said. "We typically harvest them when they're two years old but we've been letting some start to grow to three years old and we've gotten lots of pos-



Michael Osinski and his family harvest and grow millions of oysters in their backyard that supplies the leading NYC restaurants

itive feedback off those animals."

Local government is helping to foster the growing oyster industry. Suffolk County is issuing leases for "aquaculture" to anyone willing to grow oysters.

Oysters are contributing more to Long Island than just being another food source. Oysters filter huge amounts of water and have been shown to improve water quality.

"Oysters, like other hard clams, are suspension filters and sift huge amounts of water per day," Stony Brook Marine Biology professor Robert Cerrato, said. "During their peak in the 1970's hard shell clams were filtering

40% of the Great South bay's water. That's a huge amount of water being filtered."

"Oysters have been the new sushi for the past five years," Osinski said. "I see hipsters in Brooklyn eating oysters for breakfast and that means to me the demand is picking up and we want to get the demand for oysters coming from in the home."

"The demand has skyrocketed in the last three years," Davis Herron, the director of the retail & restaurant division of The Lobster Place Seafood Market and the Cull & Pistol Oyster Bar, said. "We're selling 250 bags of oysters a week, nearly 25,000 oysters."

The Lobster Place Seafood Market is one of New York

City's preeminent seafood vendors which supplies seafood to many of the top chefs and restaurants throughout the city.

Long Island isn't the only place experiencing an oyster boom, "We sell about a dozen different varieties of oysters from all over the place such as the Great South bay and the Chesapeake bay," Herron said.

"Oysters have risen in popularity and more people have been buying them and bringing them home than they were in the past," Herron continued, "The market has grown considerably and more people are enjoying oysters than we've seen in the past."



ALL HAIL THE QUEEN

JULIANNE MOSHER

Tom Catt looks different during the day, but at night, when he slips on his size 13 women's heels, corset and a dress, he becomes royalty. He becomes a drag queen.

If you see him during the day as regular ol' Tom, he's an above average size, fit male. He has dark hair, sometimes with a beard and sometimes with chest hair sticking out. But at night, he transforms. His face is a canvas that he begins to transform with foundation, blush, eye shadows, lipstick and mascara, which he can paint on with ease. But don't ask him to glue on his false lashes in a split second because that's his least favorite part of the mask.

"I haven't mastered the application, and they do make me look better. But until I master the technique, they're the biggest pain in the ass," he laughed. But what women go through every day—sometimes within 20 minutes and sometimes for hours, Catt has been practicing for years. He too takes his time while perfecting his look before

a pageant.

The process of getting ready varies based on what is happening around me," he said. "On average, my makeup takes about 30-45 minutes... this includes foundation, contouring, highlighting, eyebrows, eyes, lips, blush and finally translucent powder and setting spray depending on how long I'll be in makeup for."

After he puts the colors on his face, he begins to get dressed. "I have three staples when it comes to getting into drag: Boobs, waist, hips."

"My boobs are silicone, and I found them on eBay," he said slyly. "I'm voluptuously a 42DD, ya know, for the boys."

To get a feminine figure, he sucks in his stomach in order to get baby-bearing curves.

"For my waist, I wear a steel boned corset or a cinching back brace. They give the finest curve, and who doesn't love an hourglass figure?" he asked. Then to complete his shape, he wears a girdle or gaff and pulls padded

underwear over it all to get fuller hips. "That, my darlings, is armor and war paint."

he attends a gig, which can be anything from a wedding, some corporate events, birthday parties or

underwear over it all to get fuller hips. "That, my darlings, is armor and war paint."
For a couple of years, Catt (his stage name that stuck since he was in middle school), has been attending different events in full drag. He started putting makeup on for performances of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and then ventured into womanly costume. "Why I started [to dress in drag] was in spite of all the masculine and hetero-normativity I was seeing at conventions; there needed to be more diversity," he said.

"But even before I started at conventions, I've had a strong connection to female characters, and that connection has continued to grow as I've gotten older," he added.

It all began with Catwoman. Little boys always wanted to play Batman, but not him.

"I wanted to be Michelle Pfeiffer with a bullwhip," he said. "That was when I put on my first pair of boots. They were my mother's, and I used to carry a jump rope and quote her."

He said that from the beginning he was flabbergasted with the idea of dressing as a character from the opposite gender, along with gender bending some different characters



"I was told dressing in drag gives gays a bad name," he said. "I was told that I would be beaten and screamed at if I were my sibling's child... Those words form a bitter resentment, but the important thing to remember, kittens, is that there's a bright world out there waiting for you."

He wants other queens to feel their beauty in the same way he finally started to feel his own now.

"Life is worth living," he advised. "Life is so important and should be cherished. No matter how hard things are right now, know that you're stronger than your demons are telling you."

Catt struggled with his own monsters, and he said that no matter how loud they yell and scream at him,

Silver screen starlets like Ethel Merman, Bette Davis, Lauren Bacall and Judy Garland are just a few of Catt's inspirations when it comes to being a performer, but he gives note to comic book heroines, Disney divas and leading ladies of Broadway who also made him emotionally grow.

"All these performers, characters and concepts all have something that I admire and try to infuse into my own look and my own presence and sense of self," he said. "I've watched these performers, read the stories, watched the movies and have taken cues from all of them."

Out of everyone, his grandmother, Ursula, Bea Arthur, Mae West, Divine and Catwoman are the women who inspired him the most.

"They all show courage, they all show a type of glamour, they all show things that shaped me into who I am today," he said. "As a person and as a performer, I find that some drag queens today don't really pay much attention to their roots, and I feel it's important to understand why we do what we do."

Some queens dress up to break away from the norm, and some dress up as a creative outlet or just as a hobby. From the early 1920s until now, players have paved the way for this royalty to become who they are in culture and society.

The different types of royalty out there are hefty: fishy queens, those who look like women; campy queens, the ones who have a stylized look or bearded queens, who are queens with full body hair. Catt says they are all remarkable beings.

"You are and always shall reign supreme," he said.

occasionally.

"As I got older these women and characters and icons all seemed to have a similar motivation in one form or the other," he said. "They all commanded your attention. You're transfixed on them, and all they do is just be. That's why I initially wanted to do it."

Catt struggled with coming out to his family, like many of the queens and players he noted, so he said that drag became his outlet for self-expression.

"It makes me feel good, loved, important, revered, happy, fulfilled," he said. "You put on the dress, the paint, the attitude, it's all you. You're this person in a costume and makeup and the theatricality of it all is exhilarating." The satisfaction he gets when he dresses up makes him shine like the diamonds in the necklaces he wears.

"You dive into this performance and suddenly all your problems melt away... people are looking at you, applauding you, admiring you, are inspired by you and you drink of this devotion and adoration and you give it right back to them with sass and class."

It wasn't always easy for him when he started out in the drag business. He was put down and ridiculed for his way of creativity.

he knows that he's the one in control. "As a drag queen I've been told I'm beautiful, radiant, glamorous and these words build my confidence and stroke my ego," he said. "To be a drag queen, it takes a lot of balls."

But between the two hours of applying makeup and putting on the dress along with the extra two hours of shaving his body, face and getting the wig on, Catt says that becoming his favorite Disney Villains and television vixens is always worth it.

Known primarily for his cosplay versions of Cruella DeVill or Ursula from *The Little Mermaid*, Catt uses his favorite Disney bad gals to give a shout out to the women who made him the man he is today.





Derrick Profile/New Trans Alliance

JOSHUA PIETZOLD

"I'm gonna have a box of 200 condoms with my name on it," Derrick Wegner, 19, said with a smile, "And that makes me happy." As part of Wegner's duties as a Resident Assistant for Dreiser College at Stony Brook University, he's helping to coordinate Tabler Quad's "sex week," a week dedicated to sex education. But there's more to Wegner than just his job as an RA. He's a biology major who wants to double major in chemistry, his favorite method

member and supporter of the club. He's glad it exists. Since the LGBTQ community is a small subset of society, the "T" part of the acronym is an even smaller subset of a minority community with separate issues that can get overlooked in the broader discussion of LGBTQ issues.

The new club will focus on activism within the university and will be a community for people who identify as transgender and their supporters, he said.

"We want to fix things that are

said. "I feel really strange doing it. I feel someone will, like, fight me."

Establishing a community and a presence on campus is an important step towards creating more visibility for trans issues, a visibility that has skyrocketed among the mainstream public with celebrities like Laverne Cox and Caitlyn Jenner.

"I love the fact that there are trans people in the media. It shows that not only do trans people exist, but they're real people," Wegner said. "People know who trans people are



of transportation is to dance, preferably to skip, wherever he goes, he loves to sing and do taxidermy in his spare time, and he's also one of a handful of transgender students at SBU and will be a founding member of the new Trans Alliance club.

Though he cannot be on the official e-board for the new club because he's already involved in another e-board for the LGBTQA, Wegner said he plans on being an active

obviously broken but also be around people who get it," Wegner explained.

The club will try to help with issues in policies regarding names, bathrooms and misgendering, or being addressed by the wrong pronouns. Bathrooms especially are a major problem on campus for people who identify as transgender. "I know a lot of trans people who aren't comfortable going in public restrooms," Wegner

now. I don't know how apparent that statement was three years ago."

Talking with Wegner about these issues under a warm sun on the Staller Steps, there is an undeniable positive energy that radiates from him. He talks excitedly and intelligently with a confidence that many people lack.

It's something that many have noticed about him. When asked to describe Wegner as vividly as



possible, Sydney Gaglio, a close friend of his, called him, “a red balloon that never runs out of air as it runs around the room

the time to figure himself out. Everyone, he said, comes from a general core of something that they like about themselves and want to be. Once they find that core of where they come from as a person, they gain a certain amount of confidence, positivity and self-worth.

“I love me more than I think anyone could ever love me,” Wegner said. Wegner’s brand of self-love and positivity may have been fostered by his early childhood growing up in Sullivan County, two hours north of New York City. He described this time in his life as the “ideal” childhood. He spent his time with his best friend walking through the woods, pretending to make potions or discovering dragons. “It was the typical childhood antics,” Wegner said.

Homeschooled all the way through eighth grade, Wegner said he spent his early education getting to do fun experiments and going on cool field trips. He was part of the Scouts and played on

“Even before high school I remember sitting around my kitchen table with all my friends asking [me], like, ‘Are you a lesbian? Do you like girls?’, and I was like ‘I don’t know.’”

At first Wegner did decide to come out as a lesbian. He later realized he identified as male, and branded his sexuality as being straight. Now, however, he firmly asserts his status as “hella queer”, specifically pansexual, or someone who is attracted to all genders.

When he came out to his family his father initially didn’t want to call him by his correct pronouns. Wegner responded by saying, “If you don’t accept me as your son, then you’re not gonna have a kid, because your daughter doesn’t exist.”

His father eventually accepted these terms because he wanted Wegner to keep visiting him, Wegner said, but he was always closer to his mother.

The rest of his family and friends showed an overwhelming support

I LOVE ME MORE THAN I THINK ANYONE COULD EVER LOVE ME.

sporadically, bringing joy to everyone around.”

Another friend, Gayle Geschwind, said that when she thinks of Wegner, “I think of someone who doesn’t care what people think of him. He’s willing to be himself and act crazy and not care what he looks like.”

His roommate, Madison Rivera, describes Wegner as, “an endless source of positivity. You could have a terrible day and spend five minutes with him and he’ll make you feel like it’s the best day of your life.”

But where does this positivity come from? Wegner gave a simple answer. “It helps that I love everything,” he said with a smile. Wegner explained that his positivity comes from taking

two soccer teams.

Things got more hectic when he was in sixth grade. He came back from a vacation with his family friends along with his twin sister and younger brother to discover an empty house. His mother was moving them away from their father to a completely new house in Wurtsboro Hills, a short drive away from where he lived before. There he attended Montecello High School, where he said he lived a “thug-ly” life of riding skateboards and rapping with his friends, all while rocking a beanie and skinny jeans.

Coasting through his first two years of high school with ease, things seemed under control again until he came out in eleventh grade as a trans male.

for him, something that Wegner’s grateful for.

“In a nutshell things were really easy, and then things got complicated,” Wegner said, laughing, “But I feel like that’s life.” Now Wegner is an involved and charismatic student at SBU, where he is a positive representation of queer people in general and a friend to those who need one. “I’m an open book,” he said.

Offering advice to other queer people, wherever and whoever they might be, Wegner said, “You know who you are and what you want more than anybody. You might not know who you are yet, so just be open. And even if you’re scared, just go with it and with who you are.”



RACISM ON LONG ISLAND

KYLE BARR and RICKY SOBERANO

Only four of the thousand alleged members of the Ku Klux Klan whose names were made public last week by the Anonymous hacker group live in New York.

Spelled out in random letters on a Pastebin document, Anonymous revealed the identities in what they called "Operation KKK 2015." In the letter posted before the list, Anonymous stated that they hoped their efforts would "spark a bit of constructive dialogue about race, racism, racial terror and freedom of expression."

Jon Welch is one the names on the list. His Facebook profile photo shows the face of a young man in a hat and denim jacket, who looks mildly at the camera. His posts to Facebook include support for veterans and New York Confederates. Both in the hacker list and in the pictures of his Facebook page, he is titled "Imperial Wizard of the CNKKK."

Another name on the list, Nathan Roberts, points at a Facebook profile of a man wearing a beanie cap and square rimmed glasses. On his jacket a small patch reveals the symbol for the Sons of Odin, a subgroup of the KKK. Robert is named "Grand Dragon" on the list and the Facebook profile.

None of the contacts were available for comment.

In the few days following the release of the list, many of the people singled out by Anonymous took down their LinkedIn, Facebook and Google+

accounts. Daniel Mankin of Corning City, New York took down his Facebook account, and Jason McCallum from Addison, NY, with his picture of him kissing a woman, were also taken down. McCallum listed his job on Facebook as the "gas flow regulator at Auschwitz."

"We've never had an opportunity to unveil and see behind the hood of who the Klan members are," Professor Robert Chase of Stony Brook University, who taught a History of Spying course that looks into the surveillance that was done across the country throughout history, said. "Now the real issue would be if they could break into their accounts and show acts of legal wrongdoing like burning a church. Something that is illegal not just espousing racism ideology which they have every legal right to be racist."

The 1,000 names are only a fraction of the 5,000 to 8,000 KKK members that the Southern Poverty Law Center estimates are in the United States. The lack of known members of the KKK from Long Island on the list, however, obscures the historical fact that Long Island has harbored racist groups, from the KKK to the Nazi party, and some became entrenched in the development of the Long Island community.

"At their height, approximately one in seven people on Long Island were members of the Klan," Dr. Neil Buffett, a History Professor at Suffolk County Community College, who teaches a class on the history of Long Island, said. "At the KKK's height, there were approximately 25,000 to 30,000 people living on Long Island."

There were three periods of the history of the KKK. The first boom was in the late 19th century during the Reconstruction period of the South, until they went underground. The popularity of the KKK was brought up by the book "The Clansman," by Thomas Dixon Jr., and the subsequent movie "Birth of a Nation." They died down leading up to the 1920s, where xenophobic sentiments against

immigrants, especially from Central and Eastern Europe, brought them back.

"People are always afraid of losing out on something. These people, whatever generation we're talking about, they say, they're taking our jobs, my jobs," Buffett said.

It was in this period, with the large number of white people moving away from the city with

its large number of African Americans and immigrants, that the KKK would find major purchase in the lives of Long Islanders.

"People were trying to preserve, in this face of this huge wave of massive foreign immigration, what is



'Americanism,'" Buffett said. "People are talking about this, you know, what is American, what is white, are we losing our nation, what does it mean to be an American? It's the same thing they say now, nothing changes."

"I am from Long Island, and there have always been significant pockets of racism and anti-Semitism in Long Island. Garden City was once "restricted" - not allowing Jews to buy homes," Stony Brook University Professor of Sociology, Michael Kimmel.

The presence of KKK on Long Island has died down. There are only a few pockets left, with the Loyal White Knights of the KKK, one of the only remaining bastions still operational in South Hampton.

On Nov. 11, South Hampton police reported that the Loyal White Knights were seen placing flyers around School Street and on a car in Gardenia Avenue the week before. In little waterproof bags, the flyers read "Support Missouri Police for taking out two ----- thugs who are in hell where they belong.... White Power!"

"So now we're seeing it again after the Black Lives Matter movement, after Barack Obama being president, and so I think it's one of those moments that is a continual history of resurgent white superiority, white racism that's founded on violence and we're seeing a fourth iteration of it," said Chase.



WHO'S USING SOCIAL MEDIA FOR NEWS?



JIM FERCHLAND

African Americans and Hispanics between the ages of 18 and 34 tend to choose Instagram and YouTube as their top news outlets more than Caucasians, according to a survey released by the American Press Institute. The advent of social media has changed the landscape drastically within the last decade. It has primarily targeted minority millennials of a Latino and Hispanic audience.

Millennials of all ethnicities are more than likely to utilize Facebook as their top source of news. Compared to 20 percent of Caucasians, 33 percent of African American millennials and 38 percent of Hispanic millennials said they receive their news from YouTube at least once a day. About 45 percent of African Americans said they utilize Instagram to obtain news at least once a day along with 30 percent of Hispanics. Approximately, 19 percent of white millennials said the same thing.

On the other hand, Facebook, is a common news outlet among all millennials with more than half of African Americans, Hispanics and Whites accessing news on a daily basis, according to the survey. The three millennial subgroups utilize Facebook in a variety of ways whether it be reading, watching, liking or sharing stories at similar rates.

The Media Insight Project, a collaboration between the API and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research at the University of Chicago, developed a hard study on millennials and social media. They have conducted more specific studies displaying that Hispanic and African American millennials are just as connected to the web as others in their generation, but they all tend to follow a different mix of subjects.

Luis Teran, 22, is a Hispanic millennial from Farmingville, New York, who uses both YouTube and Instagram, but he favors Instagram as more newsworthy for his subjects of interest.

"I'm on Instagram about two hours a day," Teran said laughing on how much he uses the media outlet. "I use YouTube like once a week."

Teran uses Instagram more because he wants to be up to date on soccer news, and he generally

uses YouTube just to listen to music.

"Instagram has soccer pages that keep me updated on games," he said adding that the app allows him to find out news quickly. The 22-year-old has been using Instagram for over two years now, and he loves it.

African American millennials, according to the survey, follow lifestyle topics at higher rates than the two subgroups. Precisely 35 percent of millennials follow pop culture and celebrity news.

While 56 percent of African Americans say they follow this type of news, about double the proportions of whites (29 percent) and Hispanics (28 percent) say they follow this type of news. Similarly, just 26 percent of millennials follow news about style, beauty and fashion. Yet half of African Americans do so, making them about twice as likely as Hispanics (26 percent) and nearly three times as likely as whites (18 percent) to follow these topics.

Vanessa Bonilla, 21, a Hispanic millennial who lives in Central Islip, uses YouTube and Instagram but for different purposes. Although she utilizes YouTube everyday and Instagram every other day, Bonilla's first intention to get her news is from Facebook.

"I would say I use them both to educate myself, but the majority of news I get is from Facebook," Bonilla said. "It sparks my interest and then that leads me to YouTube for video proof."

Bonilla uses Instagram more as a way of spreading her art, she claimed. She likes to post pictures and follow links, but YouTube makes her less involved in Instagram. "I think I use Instagram as a distraction the majority of the time," she said. "I like following civic Instagramers who share my views, like #blacklivesmatter or politics." Bonilla then added that she uses YouTube more for tutorials, reviews and education. Overall, she likes the social outlet because it's quick and accessible at any moment. She also has the authority to choose her content.

Glenn Littlefield, 26, a White millennial from Farmingville, absolutely loves YouTube and uses it for certain interests. He believes that it's a "cultural phenomena" and it impacts everyone with its range of content. He also recommends

Twitter as another reliable source of news and has never used Instagram.

"I love YouTube because it provides me with the latest news on gaming and technology," Littlefield said. "Twitter is great also because it updates very quick, which is awesome, and I don't use Instagram because it's not really part of my generation."

White and African American millennials tend to follow news and data more about their hobbies, how-to information and their occupation at different rates. With social media outlets becoming more prominent as sources of news, TV news broadcasts and newspapers are becoming almost obsolete.

There are also people of ethnicities outside the three subgroups that utilize these media outlets to obtain news information. JP Bunda, 27, of Coram, New York, is a Filipino millennial who is always using Instagram.

"I use it basically because it's up to date," Bunda said. "It finds me the latest happenings, event and everything under the sun." Bunda enjoys Instagram because he finds things that are of his interest.

Orni Chowduary, an Indian millennial, is using Instagram multiple times a day and saves her use of YouTube at the end of the day. "I use Instagram to see what the people in my life are up to," Chowduary said, and she uses YouTube to see what the world is up to.

"I like the fact that YouTube can give me a wide variety of news and different perspectives, so I feel like I'm getting a bigger picture and not missing any details," she said. Chowduary believes that she uses Instagram for a little fashion just because she likes comparing her style to that of others. She added that YouTube is an interesting source of knowledge and entertainment.

Although the API survey demonstrates facts and details about YouTube and Instagram, all three millennial groups' social media usage is dominated by Facebook. The survey also shows that while YouTube and Instagram are popular sources for getting news among Hispanic and African American millennials, the use of other platforms - like Twitter, Reddit, Pinterest and Tumblr - for news is similar across racial and ethnic groups.

From Lecture Halls to Music Halls

SAMANTHA MERCADO



We've heard it before: the classic college-kid turned musician story; from lecture halls to music halls. The story of Naveed Ahmed and his quest for that "big break" sounds something like that with a twist; Ahmed and his band are doing this all on their own and making sacrifices along the way, one being the relationship Ahmed has with his family.

"I do think a lot, why can I share this success with my friends, why not with my own parents?" Ahmed said.

Ahmed is a junior at Stony Brook University majoring in engineering science. As if his demanding major wasn't enough, Ahmed is also the lead singer of an up-and-coming pop-punk band named In Loving Memory. The band formed only a year ago but is making headway on YouTube with over 5,000 subscribers. The band even opened for this year's Back to the Brook concert at SBU, which was rumored to have had about 500 students in attendance.

Their latest EP, much like an album but shorter, has had about 100 downloads, according to the band, a major success in their book. Of course, no success comes easy. Ahmed said, "I tell people that being in a band is like taking a 10 credit course."

This is one course that could potentially reap huge benefits. Just this past summer Ahmed and his band played at the popular Manhattan concert venue Webster Hall as the opener for another band called Sylar, to a crowd of about 100 people. This was one of many concerts his parents did not attend. Ahmed explained that his parents don't come to concerts

because they don't want to encourage his involvement in music.

"What sucks is that I can't even really blame them. At the end of the day, they want what they think is best for me," he said.

Being a first-generation American teen, Ahmed is caught between two worlds: the safer "professional" path, which his parents insist, and his very own rock 'n' roll American dream.

The Ahmed family began in Bangladesh with Mohaimin and Mini Ahmed, Ahmed's parents. The couple left their home in Bangladesh with a wave of Bengali immigrants seeking opportunity in the 1980s, a time of economic turmoil for Bangladesh. Once they settled in Queens, New York, the couple opened a restaurant in Manhattan, Bombay Masala, which is still running today, and raised their two children, Maureen and Ahmed. They hoped this new start would give their children an easier life than they had.

Ahmed looked back on his childhood and said, "Being the son of two immigrant Bengali parents who worked their asses off just to keep a roof over my head, I grew up being taught the importance of education." Having seen struggle firsthand, Mohaimin and Mini wanted a stable and secure life for their children.

Coming from two different worlds, Ahmed and his parents clash more than they'd like to, his growing involvement in music and pursuit of it as a career has created tension in the house. As a self-proclaimed mama's boy Ahmed explained regretfully how the relationship has become strained.

"I have to hide a lot from them now because there's a lot they don't understand." Amiyo Rahman, Ahmed's childhood friend, explained how he watched Ahmed struggle and how often they had discussed the tension between Ahmed and his parents.

Being a Bengali-American himself, Rahman could more clearly understand Ahmed's situation, he said, "His parents are good, wholesome Bengali parents, wanting what's best for their child." Rahman went on to explain that like many immigrant Bengali parents, the Ahmeds had to work long hours day and night to provide for their family, but this led to their absence at home and a disconnect in their relationship with Ahmed. Ahmed claims that if his parents had grown up here in the U.S. like he did, the conversations would be very different.

With that in mind, Ahmed said he's "not closing any doors" on his budding music career; in fact, he's using it as fuel for the fire. In the band's latest EP, the first song "With or Without You" is a message from Ahmed to his parents.

The first verse speaks of their struggle: "Maybe I'm just a kid whose head is in the clouds. But you taught me not to fear. You taught me how to stand my ground. So try and take me down!"

As hard as not having the support of his family is, Ahmed said that he would rather use it to drive himself and his career forward, and according to his band mates, it shows.

Drummer Thomas Diognardi explained, "I think the fact that he's a little unsettled at home pushes him that much harder to get out of his current situation." The band's guitarist Vito Racanelli said he is going through a similar family situation as Ahmed, "Each day when we don't 'make it' or get signed it makes him more stressed but a little more driven than the last day, as with all of us."

The music business is known for its exclusivity and plenty of musicians have wasted lifetimes on trying to catch that 'big break'. Ahmed is fully aware of this and the pressure that this puts him under, on top of the pressure his family is putting on him.

"The way I see it, I'm on a time limit," Ahmed explains. "If I don't see an actual future in music within the next few years, that may be it." But with the perseverance only a twenty-year-old

Being a first-generation American teen, Ahmed is caught between two worlds: the safer "professional" path, which his parents insist, and his very own rock 'n' roll American dream.

musician can have, Ahmed refuses to see that as a barrier. While his bandmates have the support of their families, Ahmed uses his lack thereof to give himself a sense of urgency.

For now, Ahmed continues his one-man circus act of juggling a budding music career and being a full-time engineering student. Ahmed said he thinks a lot about having to choose at some point between the two, music or engineering.

Ultimately, he said, "School is always gonna be there. With music, you have to take it while you're young." Until he sees his time limit is up, there is sure to be more late nights studying in the back of cars for engineering midterms while on the way to a show.

the MUTABILITY of LANGUAGE

JESSICA VESTUTO

Joan Didion called grammar a piano she plays by ear, but we can't all be Joan Didion, wearing over-sized sunglasses and crafting sentences reminiscent of a Henry James novel. Instead, for us undergrads, grammar is often a piano played out of tune and with great frustration.

Stephen Spector, professor of English at Stony Brook University, has seen this frustration first-hand. He has been teaching English courses for 40 years, including a survey of the history of the language. For this reason, when Spector began to write a grammar guide, he wanted to create a book that would benefit his students. *May I Quote You on That?* (Oxford University Press, 2015) teaches grammar by example, compiling quotes from celebrities, writers and historical figures, a method of teaching that serves to put readers at ease.

"A lot of students are anxious about their grammar," Spector says. "I wanted to dispel that anxiety as much as I could. Quotes from Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift and Jerry Seinfeld are one way to relax people."

In the book's lesson "A or An," Spector provides a quote by Mark Twain to illustrate the proper use of the indefinite article:

"If a man could be crossed with a cat it would improve the man, but it would deteriorate the cat."

Later in the same lesson, Spector includes lines from two more current, though equally amusing, figures:

"Jack Nicholson, breaking in on an interview with Jennifer Lawrence: 'You look like an old girlfriend of mine.' Lawrence: 'Oh really? Do I look like a new girlfriend?'"

Many more familiar names appear in the book. Shakespeare, Eleanor Roosevelt and Winston Churchill are quoted, as are Stephen Colbert, Johnny Depp and Scarlett Johansson.

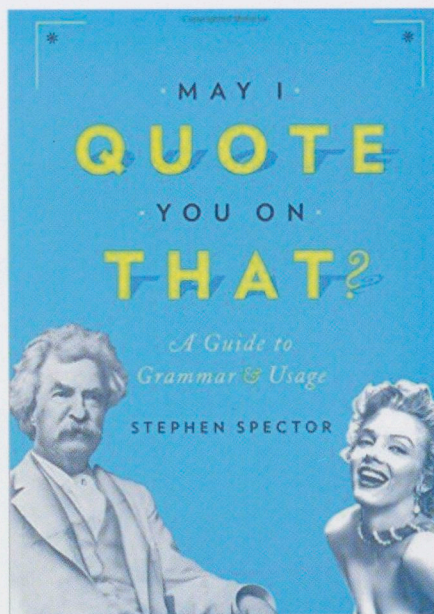
"My idea to begin with quotations of celebrities and writers wasn't just a gimmick," the author explains. "If people find it interesting, they'll find it memorable. If it stays in their minds they can use it as models for their own writing. This is the natural way we learn grammar and usage: first by using it and then by learning the rules."

Senior Janaea Eads, English major and tutor at Stony Brook's Writing Center, agrees that one must see grammar in use in order to effectively comprehend the rules. "I've been taught grammar many times, in high school, at the college level, and I still have trouble

remembering certain rules," she says. "I've found the most effective way of learning is through example, so it is through providing examples that I help students improve their grammar at the Writing Center."

The next step after providing examples is to allow students to write themselves. In 2014 Michelle Navarre Clearly wrote a piece for *The Atlantic* titled "The Wrong Way to Teach Grammar," arguing that grammar is best learned through the act of writing: "Just as we teach children how to ride bikes by putting them on a bicycle, we need to teach students how to write grammatically by letting them write." Clearly urges for the end of "traditional grammar lessons" composed of diagramming sentences and memorizing parts of speech. It is through writing, making mistakes and correcting these mistakes that students learn.

This is exactly how Spector himself learned. Apart from learning some formal grammar from studying German, French and Latin, Spector



was never taught grammar. Instead he relied on paper comments from his professors that corrected his mistakes. Because of this, Spector feels it is the responsibility of the professor to "really mark papers up" with comments.

"Those are the professors you really value later," he says. When asked about common errors in his own students' writing, Spector believes the biggest problem comes from trying to write

in an elevated, sophisticated style. "Students try to write in what they think is formal English, and what comes out is not natural English syntax or not natural usage. If they can write naturally more as they speak, many grammatical errors disappear."

Both in his book and his classes, Spector stresses the mutability of language, saying that the English language has changed and will change again. While there is no way to know for certain what caused the language to change in the past, linguists believe that when one influential group begins to use language slightly differently, others tend to follow. The influx of new words, however, is a historical matter.

"French words entered the language in large numbers after the Norman invasion, Latin during the Renaissance," Spector recounts. "The immigrant experience in the United States brought new vocabulary as well."

And, of course, the language will undergo change in the future. A major influence on this is the use of slang.

"There are short-term changes, but they don't necessarily stick," Spector says. "But then there are always some words that make it into the mainstream and survive." Though denounced in the eighteenth century, the word "mob" has become common. At one point, "fan" (from "fanatic") was considered poor usage. "Hopefully" has gained the dominant meaning of "I hope," softening the once harsh decree of grammarians that condemned this usage.

But along with the addition of new words and meanings, parts of the language will inevitably fall obsolete. The word "whom" is doomed for this fate, as it has fallen out of nonstandard usage with "who" taking its place. Likewise, the use of the subjunctive mood will no longer be used: rather than "if I were," the more commonly said "if I was" will be accepted formally.

Spector makes a point of including these facts while teaching grammar so that students can see how meanings and rules have not only changed over time, but also are not always unanimously accepted.

"It demystifies grammar rules, takes the mystery out of them and maybe makes them less worrisome," he says. "The rules have changed, some are arbitrary and some even great stylists and writers disagree about, but once [students] know a rule, they can then make an informed decision about whether they're going to follow it."

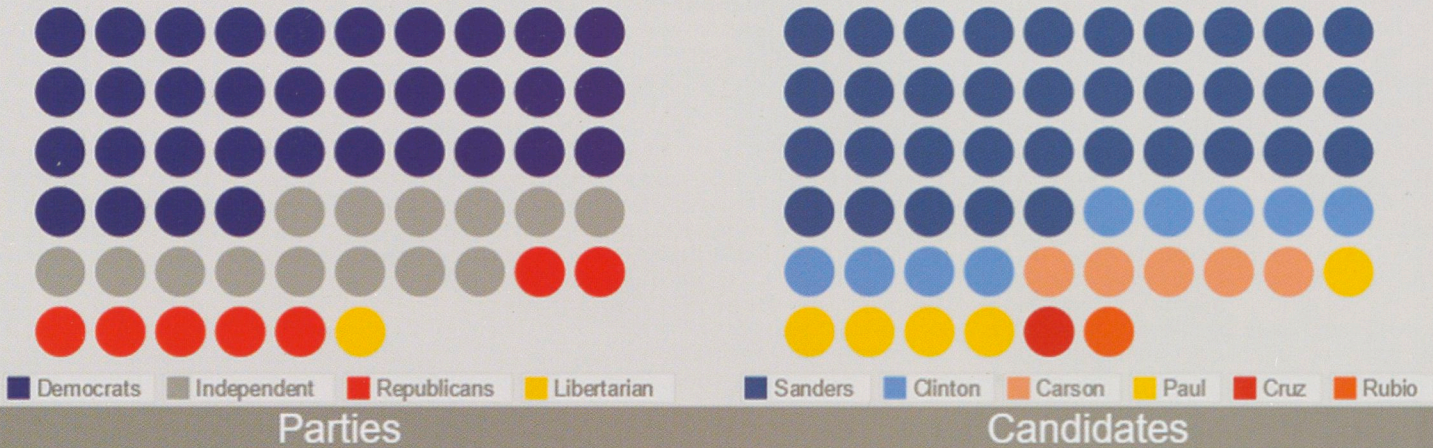


STONY BROOK

2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SURVEY

We used an anonymous survey to find out what direction the campus is leaning as we head into next year's presidential election.

OVERALL

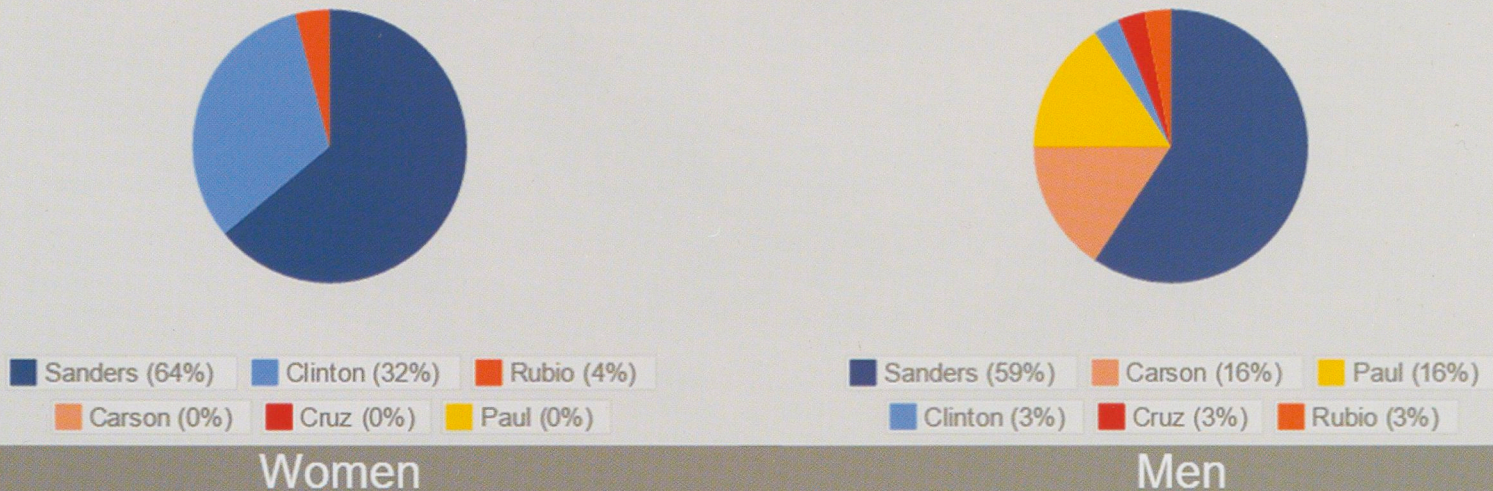


The vast majority of the registered Democrats said they planned to vote for Bernie Sanders, but Hillary Clinton made up a significant minority.

Independent voters outnumbered the Republicans and they also leaned heavily towards Sanders, with Rand Paul making up the second largest group.

The Republicans had the most variety in their responses, with Ben Carson receiving the most votes and the rest being split between Rand Paul, Marco Rubio, and Ted Cruz.

GENDER

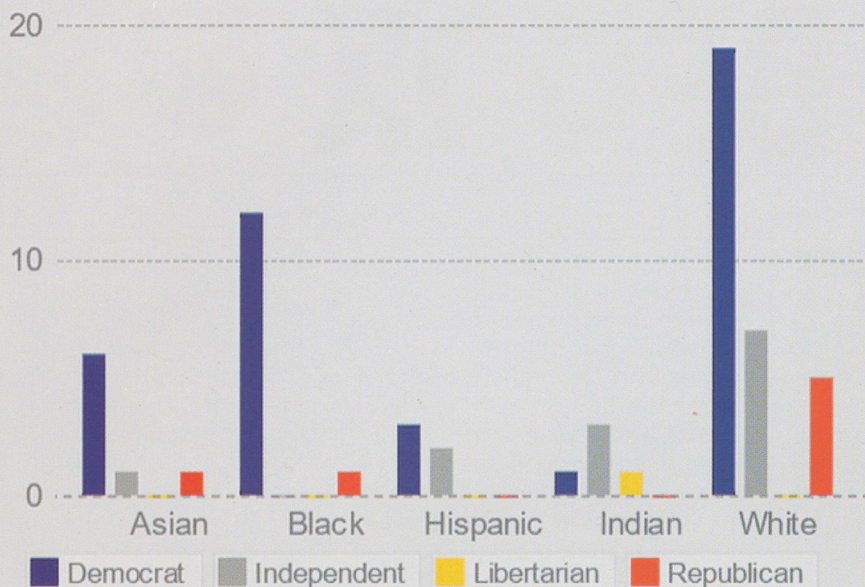


Women made up 45% of the total responses, and the group as a whole favored the Democrats, outside of a single vote for Rubio. While the group followed the overall pattern of supporting Sanders, women made up the vast majority of Clinton supporters on campus.

Men overwhelmingly supported Sanders but had a strong showing for Carson and Paul.



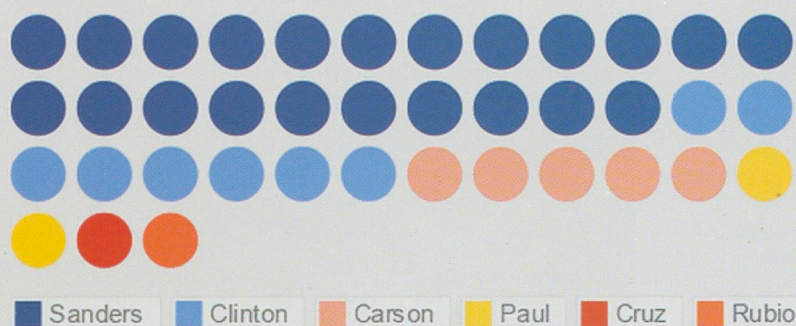
RACE



Democrats received the majority of the support across the board except for the Indian participants, who had a higher number of independent and Libertarian voters.

Republicans had presence in the Asian and Black respondents but the vast majority of their support came from the White participants.

SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



Since the vast majority of the respondents had majors in the School of Arts and Sciences, we decided to focus on it to see if there were any interesting patterns.

The breakdown showed that there was significant Carson support among the participants, almost as much as Clinton. Sanders continued to be the favorite but Cruz and Rubio managed to have a showing as well.

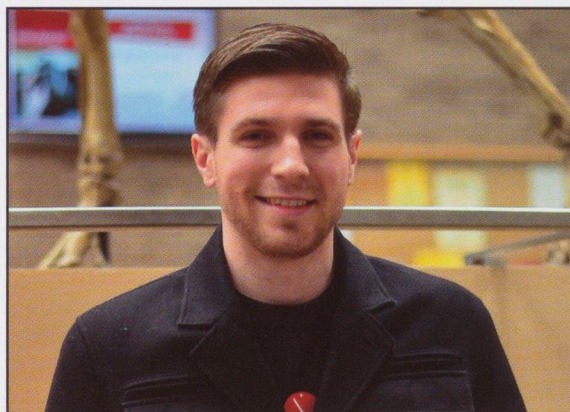
EXTRAS

- Africana Studies, Applied Mathematics and Sciences, Art, Biochemistry, Linguistics and Music majors made up the entirety of the Republican responses, with Carson receiving the most support out of any Republican candidate.

- Health Science, Political Science and Psychology majors were the largest supporters of the Democrats, with most support going towards Sanders. Clinton had a presence and there wasn't any response for Martin O'Malley.

- Computer Science, Electrical Engineering and History majors mainly supported Rand Paul.

HUMANS OF STONY BROOK



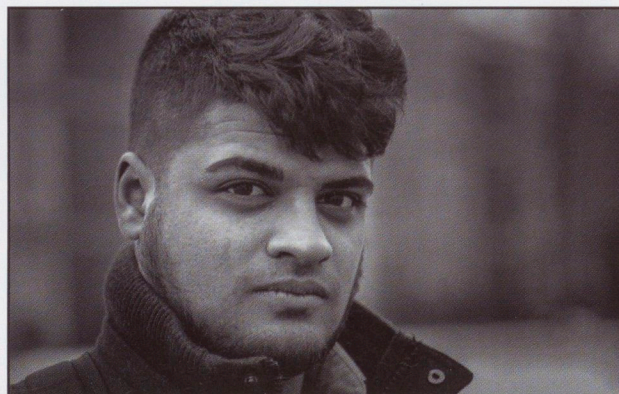
"I'm actually working for NASA this summer to study bone loss for astronauts. I'll be going to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, so I'm super excited.

My first two years here I was actually a student athlete on the cross-country track team and for a long, long time. That was the most important thing in my life. Now college got a little more difficult, and I became over committed. It came down to, well, do I want to pursue research or do I want to stay on the track team, and I made [the] hardest decision I've ever made and I left the track team.

It kind of broke my heart, and it still affects me today. But I cope with it because, had I not done the research, I wouldn't have the opportunity of NYU/NASA. It's not just the experience but the people I've met who have literally helped me get to those places. I'm very grateful and take it as a learning experience but it's something I kinda hold."

it. You do not know where it's going to lead you to."

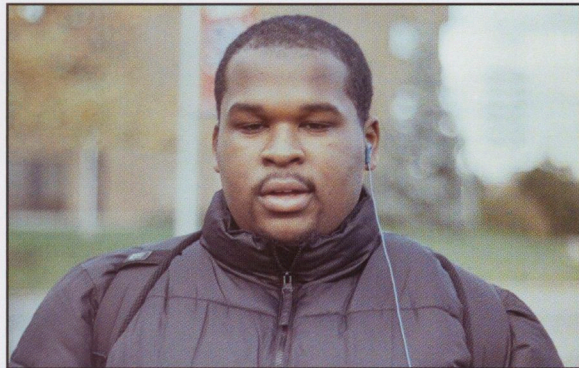
"I was dealing with a lot of problems coming back from the war because I was just so different than everybody else. There's a big gap of maturity I guess; I don't really know how to explain it. I saw things so much differently than everybody else. People would be complaining about the weather and it's like...I don't really complain about the weather because instead of snow, I used to see rockets fall from the fuckin' sky. I hate politicians and how everything ended up. I hate the fact that I like spent a year in a war that had nothing to do with our freedom even though, with the information we had at the time, we thought it was. Now we know it was all bullshit."



"When people see me on campus, they think 'oh it's that person being himself,' and everyone has their own story that you won't know until you meet the person and sit down and talk to them, which is why I think it's very important for you to sit down with a friend and get closer with. You don't lose anything from that. For the people who do know me, they know me as the person who's, like, constantly sick, but they don't know what it is. Since I was nine, I've been struggling with two failing kidneys. It's a struggle, you know? You get up, you go back to sleep and you wake up, and it's worse than the day before. You spend about two years in the hospital thinking you won't make it to the next day. But I think what really kept me pushing was knowing that you have friends out there who are banking on you to be there, who really want you to be there in their lives as much as you need them to be there in your lives. If [you] have given up on yourself, don't give up on the friends who are there for you. It's something people really need to understand. When you live a life, it's not just your own life' you're connected to so many different people."



"I just transferred here from a school in Puerto Rico. Stony Brook is actually my dream school. I've wanted to come to America ever since I was 12, when I visited New York City and I fell in love. I'm a language nerd—linguistics major, Korean minor. I started learning how to speak Korean a year ago, and now most of my friends on campus are foreign Korean students. Most of the time we don't even speak in English. I've met a lot of exchange students, and what they've taught me is that they keep to each other because they feel they won't be accepted. And so they isolate themselves. I feel really bad for them, which is why I try to make an effort to talk to them. I don't want them to feel excluded coming to a new country."



"My long term goal is an MD/PhD program."
 ("Why do you want to do this?")
 "My mother had multiple sclerosis growing up. That's something I always thought about.[I] always wanted to help her with and help other people with what I've seen her go through. I came in as an EOP student, and I came in as a father so I needed guidance in order to get to where I'm at today. I pride myself in giving back and trying to make my community a better place. And due to my situations it's like...how can I give back to others so I can see people like me, teenage fathers, people who went through what I went through, flourish in society?"

"I'm a master's student. It's a little bit short for international students. Only two years. We don't have much time to know the environment, know the culture, know the people. The environment is very beautiful here. There's fresh air compared to China. In China, you know there is polluted air and polluted water. But here it's a little bit lonely. You feel lonely when you stay in the countryside like Stony Brook. I think maybe it's a culture problem. Back in China, we talk to each other...we stick to each other. The resources are limited. We have to depend on others. But here we fight for ourselves."



"Nobody cared who I was until I put on the mask."



Coming to America to Play the Oboe



JULIANNE MOSHER

Lynette De Jesus Cruz is only 19-years-old.

She's tall, has curly dark hair and wears glasses that sit perfectly on her face. She has a big smile that she wears often and is known throughout the Stony Brook University Music Department as one of the most hardworking students on campus.

"I always ask if she's tired because she works so hard that she has to be tired," Susie Kaiserman, the receptionist of the music department on the third floor of Staller Music said.

Despite all the extracurricular activities that De Jesus Cruz is involved with, she says that she doesn't even drink caffeinated drinks.

The 19-year-old junior is a music major at SBU whose specialty is the oboe. For about eight years she has been intensely studying the instrument, resulting in a talent that led the Puerto Rican born

student from her home country to America.

Born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico, De Jesus Cruz began studying music in the seventh grade at a specialized, musical high school and continued studying the oboe into her senior year.

"At first it's not what I wanted to do," she said. "I thought it was best for me to become a doctor - I've always wanted to be a psychologist, and then one day I woke up and I realized I'm not the kind of person to be in an office."

"I needed something more exciting, something different, and I realized I couldn't live without my instrument, without playing it, without being active, musically active."

It all started when De Jesus Cruz was in the sixth grade. She had very little musical background, and she would simply listen to her mother's cousins play salsa music on the tiny island where she lived. But one day, her mom came home offering her daughter the opportunity to

apply to a high school specialized in something other than general education.

She said that she was not interested in sports or dance but decided to inquire about the music school completely on a whim.

While sitting in the audience during an orientation recital, she watched the different instruments play. She began to set her sights on the piano or violin - simple instruments that she had heard of before - until a woman walked out on stage with a strange instrument that had never crossed her sights in the past.

She played the oboe.

"I didn't grow up wanting to play oboe: it happened by chance. It was a hunch, and here I am eight years later still playing it," she laughed.

After studying in Puerto Rico, where classical music was a rare find, De Jesus Cruz decided she wanted to transfer to the United States, specifically to SBU after her teacher proposed the idea to her.

Pedro Diaz is an artist-in-



residence at SBU and taught De Jesus Cruz on the small island made up of 3.5 million people. She knew that while he worked in Puerto Rico, he also had several other jobs, including his residency at Stony Brook.

After a quick year of college in Puerto Rico, she packed her bags and moved to New York with no family to room with - the closest relative, an aunt, was living in Manhattan and an uncle was in the Bronx.

"I came here because my professor here, he's from Puerto Rico too, and I had about three master classes with him while I was in middle and high school," she said. "He's seen me grow and improve throughout the years, and I would always say [that] if I was going to study oboe one day I would study with that guy." With her family's support, she researched SBU, applied and got in. "So that's what I did and now I'm here," she smiled.

"There are people back home who want to stay there and do their own thing, but I wanted to see the world and how different it was," she said. Assistant to the chair of the music department, Martha-Ruth Zadok noted that even before De Jesus Cruz walked into the building, she was going to be a success.

"Before she came here, her professor told me an amazing student was coming from Puerto Rico... She plays the oboe and we welcomed her," Zadok said. "She's fantastic. We rely on her for everything."

De Jesus Cruz is not only a hardworking music student who

plays with the SBU Orchestra, but she also works in the department of music as a helper to the office while tutoring other music students and young children on the side.

"She's really strong and hardworking," Zadok added. "She's a blessing."

Although she's working hard part-time as a work-study student, tutoring and being the inspiration for little ones to grow up loving



music, De Jesus Cruz worked just as hard while in Puerto Rico, especially after she decided to travel to America to continue playing the oboe.

The native Spanish speaker said that she specifically learned English to help her study at SBU. Growing up in a U.S. territory, she said that she knew a bit of the language, but once she found out she was moving to New York, she began to only read in English and watch movies with English subtitles. Today, she speaks perfect English with complete

ease.

Speaking two languages came naturally to her, but her favorite language is the language of music. She said that her favorite part of performing is talking to the audience through her instrument.

"My favorite part is when you go out then someone comes to you and says, 'Wow I really felt whatever you were trying to tell me,' and I feel like that's a language," she said. "It's my favorite language."

Of four oboe players of the SBU Orchestra, De Jesus Cruz is the only music major. She is also one of the special students who were honored to play with the graduate orchestra on campus, the Stony Brook University Symphony Orchestra.

When she graduates, she would like to perform like she does now as a full-time orchestra ensemble member, preferably playing classical music. "Where I'm from it's Caribbean. It's all about jazz and salsa. It's not really about classical music," she said. "When I came here, I realized how big the Met was or the New York Philharmonic. I realized it was a different movement and I realized it's something I wanted."

"I saw the world that opened up in front of me, and I was like, 'Wow. I have so many options!'"

But what is her absolute favorite part about studying music at SBU? She said it's finding the music within her.

"There's that moment that when you're playing a concert and the music is in you. In that moment you just feel like you're part of it, and that's my favorite moment."

TO WRITE A NOVEL: AN INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR CHARLES HADDAD

JULIANNE MOSHER

"For me it begins with a scene, and I don't know what it means. I get a vision, and then I start moving around on it and it grows in all directions," Professor Charles Haddad said while he sat in his office on the fourth floor of Melville Library at Stony Brook University.

His small room, right on the corner of the Journalism Department wing, held a desk with a brand new Mac desktop on top of it. Behind it on the wall hung a cork board, tacked to it a newspaper article about a previous novel he wrote.

He has written several different novels, ranging from children's chapter books to books that teach his students how to write well. But as of this summer, he finally published a book he had been working on for a very long time.

Professor Haddad was working as a journalist all over the U.S. for over 25 years. Writing for different newspapers and magazines, the associate journalism professor at SBU always had a side job, a job he began when he was in college many years ago.

"Journalism was my day job," he said. "It was commercial writing, and I was writing what other people wanted me to write."

"This is writing about how I see the world," he said, picking up his newest novel that was published over the summer.

His first adult book, "The Curse of the Bearded Girlfriend," is a black comedy about 1960s America. Based on people he knew in his younger life and around experiences he personally went through as a teen, the book follows a 17-year-old man as he goes on "The Great Pilgrimage" to sleep under the stars in People's Park.

"You were nobody," he said. "No woman would look at you if you hadn't done that, if you hadn't hitchhiked."

"You couldn't drive, you couldn't fly, you had to hitchhike with \$10 in your pocket, sleep under the stars in People's Park and eat roasted marshmallows off your car antenna and get beat up by the police... until you done that, you were nobody."

That was the first idea that came to mind when he began the process of writing his book.

Writing a novel is a tough process to begin, and every writer is different.

Some writers take five years just to formulate an idea in their head before they even put it down on paper. Some spend 12 to 15 hours a day simply rewriting paragraph after paragraph until their hands hurt.

Haddad had this particular idea in his head for more than 10 years. He said he first took a stab at writing his book when he was in college for a course he was taking. After about 100 pages in, he realized he was simply not feeling it.

"I didn't know how to do it," he said. "And then, all of a sudden, it hits you."

It takes time and it takes craft. It takes having a style, an idea and a voice that you can call your own. "Writing a novel is being both a general and a soldier on the field because you have to have a grand strategy for a good book and for the book to work," he said.

"But at the same time you have to advance that strategy step by step, chapter by chapter, paragraph by paragraph, so you're thinking in two dimensions at any one time."

When writing a novel, he said you must play not only the director of the scenes but be able to embody every single character that comes into frame.

As a professor who teaches subjects regarding writing, grammar and reporting, Haddad said that anyone can write a novel if they really set their mind to it.

All that's needed to start out is one scene, he said. It could be the climax of the book as the first thing written down, and then from there it could grow into a story. In the 10 years it took him to finally finish "The Curse of the Bearded Girlfriend," Haddad said he would scatter ideas in different notebooks, scraps of paper and computer documents whenever something came to mind. After the book was published, he added, he found lost notebooks where he wrote down different ideas for his story and laughed when what he jotted down actually made it into his novel years later.

When the novel was finished, he sent it to a dozen of his close friends in the writing business, ones who he knew would rip him apart and give him a good critique.

"That's why I'm tough in class, because I submit myself to the same thing," he said laughing. "You can't do

it alone unless you're a genius."

When it was finished, edited and completed, Haddad decided to send it to a small publishing house where it could be purchased online or through e-Books. But through experience he realized that it's not as easy as it seems to be in the movies.

"I was denied by nine [publishers]," he said. "It only takes one."

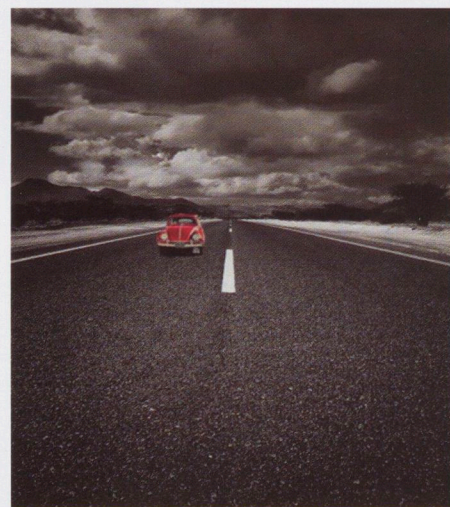
Today the book is doing fairly well on the feedback charts saying that "The Curse of the Bearded Girlfriend" is a page-turner, a laugh out loud comedy and easy to read.

"It's always a tremendous feeling," he said. "In this day and age you get emails and immediate feedback compared to the past."

So for students who are looking to be the next great American novelist, here are Haddad's main three tips:

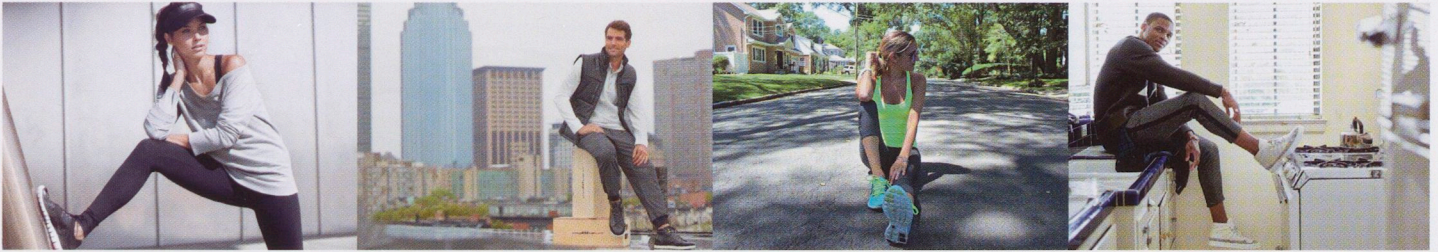
1. Keep a journal and write everything down.
2. Keep a photo journal and take pictures of everything you see to spark a memory.
3. Practice, sketch out scenes and start with smaller projects to find your voice.

"Live and write," he said. "Don't worry about it. Write your ass off and you'll know. You'll feel when you're ready. Be patient with yourself because it takes a good 10 years to learn how to write well."



CHARLES HADDAD

CURSE
of the Bearded
Girlfriend



The Rise of Athleisure & THE DECLINE OF DENIM

MICHAEL DESANTIS and RANDALL WASZYNSKI

The recent surge in popularity of athletic-style clothing amongst millennials has led to a decline in the sales of denim apparel, dealing a financial blow to mall owners and operators that house popular denim-oriented stores like Gap, according to the company's press release.

Sales of "athleisure" clothing, or athletic apparel that people could wear outside of an athletic setting, have sharply increased over the past couple of years. United States consumers spent \$323 billion on apparel, footwear and accessories in 2014, an increase of one-percent from 2013 that equates to about two billion in sales driven by the popularity of activewear, athletic performance footwear and bags, while denim sales saw a six-per-

cent decrease in 2014, according to research from The NPD Group.

The switch to athleisure in American society figures to continue growing, according to Rebekah Burroway, a sociology professor at Stony Brook University. "I think that the switch to a more athletic type of look is related to our culture's fascination with being fit and going to the gym or doing yoga," she said. "As a society, we have a shallow obsession with appearance and a certain type of physique being the most desirable. If you have the athleisure clothing, it adds to your image of working out and being fit."

Wei-Ting Lin, an SBU student, opts to wear athletic-style clothing, like sweatshirts, T-shirts, sweatpants, shorts and sneakers, as opposed to denim clothing for comfort pur-

poses rather than style. "I don't see any point why people would really want to wear this sporty style for fashion purposes," he said. "Personally, I only wear sweatshirts because it's comfortable for me."

Catherine Marrone, a sociology professor at SBU, cites the variety of the fashion market as being a factor in the continuous growth of athleisure. "It may be likely that people want more variety for their casual and dress wear," she said. "Jeans have been supplanted with casual wear like sweatpants or even longer skirts which reflect cultural and generational differences."

Benjamin Randall, a business major at SBU, prefers to wear full athletic attire instead of denim due to the simplicity of getting dressed in it. "It's more comfortable," he said. "It's easier to put on in the morning."

There still remain millennials who prefer denim as their main wardrobe. Alec Szigeti, a computer science major at SBU, used to wear athleisure wear in high school before making the switch to denim when he got to Stony Brook. "One day I looked in the mirror and my image screamed 'I don't care about my appearance,'" he said on his motivation to change his style to jeans and a fitted sweater. "I feel like athleisure looks sloppy. I won't judge you for wearing it though, unless your sweats have Cheeto stains and your T-shirt has three-week-old beer stains on it."

With millennials' gradual transition from denim to athleisure, stores that specialize in denim-wear are paying the price.



WELCOME BACK TO THE APOCALYPSE

PRESIDENT STANLEY'S WICKED JOURNEY THROUGH THE WASTELAND

KYLE BARR and JOSEPH RYDER

HP 

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November 30, 2287
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It's the light that gets him first, the light that for over 200 years was blocked by thousands of pounds of dirt, metal and concrete. Rising from the ground into a dead landscape of burnt trees and broken stone, Samuel L. Stanley sees the light for the first time, suffused over a dead landscape. His wife is dead. His son is missing. There is only one thought on his mind.

"I need a suit."

There wasn't a single reservation or hesitation as he looked through his neighbors' trunks and wardrobes. He travelled miles. Nothing. Houses, apartment complexes, diners. Nothing. He hardly even realized he had met the first other human being in 200 years when he came upon a trader, and searching through

the pack-brahmin's compartments he unfurled the first suit he had seen: a brilliant, pressed black suit with just the right blue and white tie. Fate had smiled on him; it was just the right size.

Stanley is an industrious man; one problem solved only means another problem has taken its turn, and his next thought turns to a weapon. The wasteland is dangerous. He never was the athletic type, and being frozen in a vault for 200 years has left him rather pale and weak. Stanley soon learns that laser weapons were just what the doctor ordered, and as a doctor he would know. The pistol felt good in the palm of his hand, like he was a Cowboy of the Old West. Images flew through his head: Stanley in a cowboy hat, ruffians scaring the town and Stanley coming to save the day.

There was no more Stony Brook, no more meetings and no more flu shots. And then it hit him. The bombs destroyed so much. The buildings of his neighborhood and Boston in all its grandeur was now just a ruin. But the bombs destroyed more than that. They destroyed the barriers of modern life. Stanley was no longer tied down to his job and the suffocating sense of his office. The bombs destroyed the walls that kept him in. The world was open to him.

His old neighborhood would be reborn. He saw a bright new future, filled with a shield of red and white. Red for the blood of his enemies, white for the purity of his new kingdom.

into the amc



RONNY REYES

For the past three years the airwaves have been flooded with a recurring message: "We're in the golden age of television," and a certain channel has evolved over the years to ring this statement true: American Movie Classics.

AMC is no longer a channel that's solely devoted to the blockbusters and cult-classics of yesterday. It changed its fate forever in 2007 when *Mad Men* first premiered, and followed up that success with 2008's *Breaking Bad*.

Mad Men threw the 50's at our faces and had us shaking our heads in disbelief as Don Draper kept making the wrong decisions, and *Breaking Bad* threw meth at our faces and had us cheering at every badass thing Walter White ever did. AMC had us loving a white-collar adman and a drug dealer, and you could actually find yourself excluded from social groups if you hadn't watched the latest episodes of these shows.

Both of these hits have been laid to

rest with breathtaking finales, but AMC-mania marches on with the zombie-slaying phenomenon that is *The Walking Dead*. Season five of *The Walking Dead* broke records and became the most watched series in cable history, and AMC has been banking big on the series.

With nowhere else to go but up, AMC has continued to release a lot of new series, some better than others. The historical thriller *Turn*, which will enjoy a third season, portrays the events of America's first spy during the Revolutionary War, *Halt and Catch Fire* deals with the success and failure of a computing and software company in the midst of Silicon Valley's rise, and *Humans* is about a society that embraces humanoid robot slaves, but some of these robots are sentient and looking for freedom.

Although these series are interesting and well-scripted, they don't seem to have the type of buzz and fandom

like previous AMC shows had. However the channel's latest attempt at a hit series actually seems more promising.

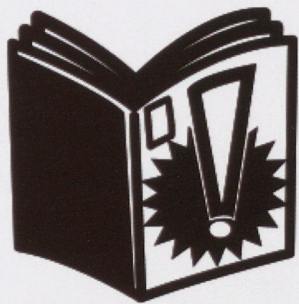
Into the Badlands has all the proper ingredients for a great action show: a protagonist that wears a red, leathery coat like a boss, badass fight scenes, a baron with a southern accent, mystic martial arts and an extensive wasteland that welcomes death for all who walk this earth.

We're immediately introduced to our main character Sunny, a man who was molded from a young age to kill for his baron as he becomes a Clipper. With a kill count of over 400, Sunny is the most dangerous man alive, yet he still retains a surprising level of humanity as he helps a young boy, M.K., escape from prison and avoid his execution. M.K. himself seems to harbor a mystic power that puts him into a trance, transforming the kindhearted boy into a ruthless fighter who can kill without even batting an eye.

This show has great potential as it dives into the storyline of a power struggle between barons who own the shelters, some of the only bastions from the wasteland. Clippers who must kill and not allow themselves to enjoy the warm embrace of a family, and a journey to a promised land that offers peace and salvation for its inhabitants.

AMC is establishing itself as a reputable producer of great original content. *The Walking Dead* and *Into the Badlands* could very well be the action-thriller versions of *Mad Men* and *Breaking Bad*, but if action isn't your thing then you can still look forward to the second season of *Better Call Saul* this winter. Either way, AMC television is going strong and shows no sign of slowing down.

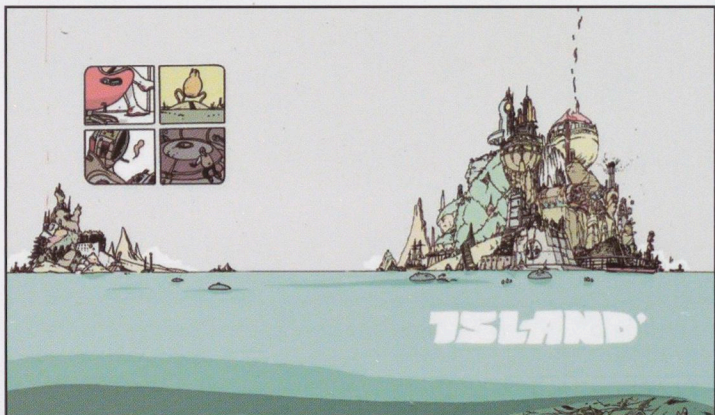




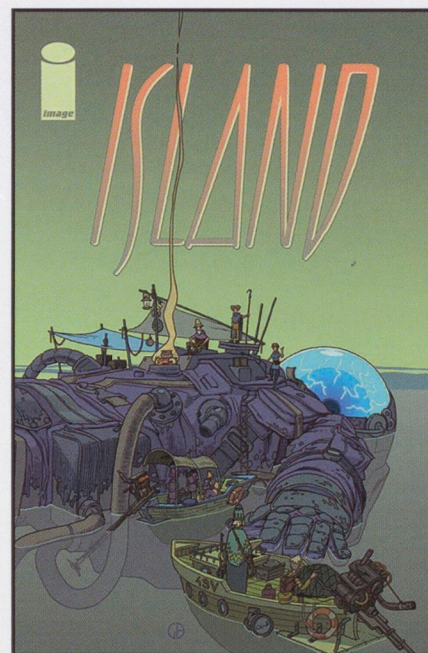
THE PULL LIST:

BRANDON GRAHAM AND EMMA RIOS'

Island Magazine



looking at content, I'm looking at implication. *Island* implies to me that in publication, there is strength in the self--and that self ought to be expressed to remain present in one's work. As a reader, I find the person to be just as valuable as the work they produce. *Island* doesn't put itself above these people; it is these people.



TAYLOR KNOEDL

Brandon Graham (King City, 8House) and Emma Rios (Hexed, Pretty Deadly) have been putting together the comic-magazine called *Island* and it's four issues deep thus far. A fifth is to be released midway through this freezy Christmas-hosting month called "December."

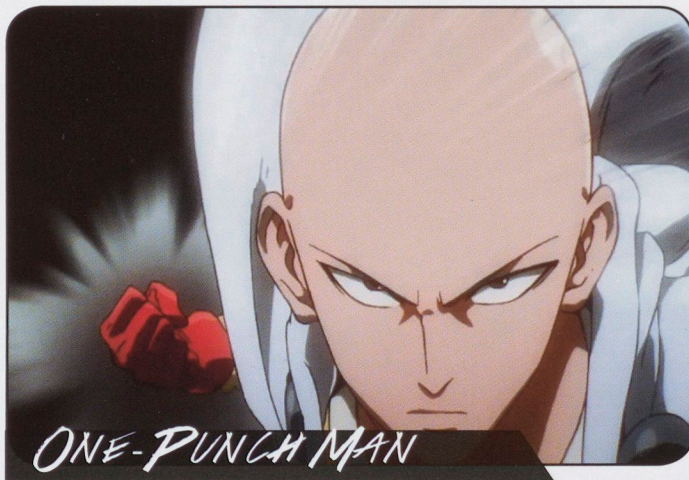
Issue #1 of *Island* introduces the concept of a meta-comic as a "20 to 50 page-like minded stories under one cover--and monthly," and each issue has presented this concept in serial comics, cover art, essays and interviews. This is the overall sort of thing you may find in a magazine (comics too, of course).

Each issue opens with a brief and very vague story of about three or five pages which takes the reader to the table of contents. This vague story is that journey.

There is a sort of self-interest beheld in the table of contents, which occurs as an introductory meta-comic by Graham in which he and Rios must produce the magazine under pressure from the God/publisher. Contributing writers/artists are humbled with quite grateful sounding introductions which emphasize the most detailed part of their personalities and aspects of their personal lives in blurbs. It's in this, I find what gives this experimental project a distinctive appeal.

The magazine isn't a bundle of comics, it's a bundle of personalities making very personal comics and personal visual forms of self expression. That's why it's called art, I suppose. It's this idea of a non-academic package of people who do their work professionally but not to be professional. They do it because it's pleasant to do. There is no God/publishing standard which streamlines the processes of production in order to shit out a perfect rectangle with standardized fonts and forms and anonymous writers who cease their person at the byline.

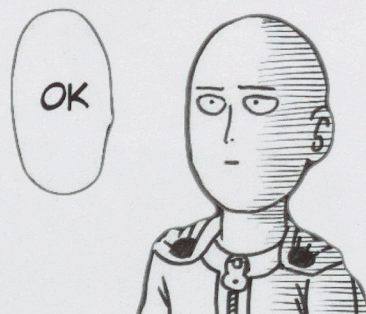
Island may not have the perfect stories--it may not be the best work of those who made it, but best can be subjective, no? It doesn't matter (mind you, some of these stories are great). I may not be the most critical of critics. But I'm not



CARLOS CADORNIGA

The title says it all: there's a superhero. His name is Saitama. His power? Super strength. Enough to beat *anything* with one punch. He's not exactly happy with it, but he gets by. Crazy antics and wacky characters often get in the way of his daily life, but it's usually nothing a good punch can't solve.

This anime is a shameless and unadulterated good time. From hilarious scenes and dialogue to ridiculously large and/or silly villains to action sequences blessed with impeccable animation, this anime is entirely dedicated and genuine in its presentation. As the breakout anime sensation of 2015, *One Punch Man* offers itself as a great introduction to the genre and a refreshing experience for veteran anime fans.





**NOSTALGIA
GOGGLES
PRESENTS:**

A CHARLIE BROWN *Christmas*

CARLOS CADORNIGA

My earliest experience with A Charlie Brown Christmas was listening to the audio on a vinyl record at my aunt's house in Mexico. I was still a kid when I went and spoke almost no Spanish (as opposed to me now, who speaks little Spanish), so my brother and I had no means of home entertainment that wasn't in a completely different language aside from this English record of a character whose lore we had some basic grasp of. Although we had nothing to look at, we knew Charlie Brown was sad during the holidays and we knew he was having a hard time trying to capture the true spirit of Christmas with the Peanuts crew's school play, but sound effects and music would often play without us having any idea what was going on. But that added a little excitement when my brother and I started acting out some of the scenes to create our own little story with Charlie Brown's depression as the template. We were incredibly virtuous in our play-acting, creating our own characters and siding with Charlie Brown whenever everyone around him shat on his adherence to the then-traditional Christmas spirit.

A few years down the line I caught CBS airing the special on television. I remember my brother and I being incredibly excited when we sat down to watch it. We remembered our fun times with the record incredibly well, so finally seeing what everything looked like felt like taking my favorite book and reading it again for the first time. We loved every second of our favorite vinyl record coming to life.

Shortly after that my parents got their hands on the soundtrack for the

special. While they held a different appreciation for the special itself, we all got a kick out of the Vince Guaraldi Trio jamming with the classic soundtrack and some wonderful covers of my favorite Christmas songs. From Nat King Cole's "The Christmas Song" to an interesting rendition of "Little Drummer Boy," it's always a joy to have those pop up on my playlist when decorating the tree with my family. Despite the interesting cacophony of singing children and the fact that every Guaraldi Trio song ends with the same two chords, I can still get a kick out of the tracklist.

These days my brother and I have made a yearly tradition out of watching the special on Christmas Eve as we wait for midnight to roll around. Being older and wiser, we have a hell of a time reminding ourselves of how adorable it must have been for a bunch of stuffy adults to gather some inexperienced little children and ask them to say lines to provide voices for the characters. The adorable, yet-stilted, way the kids delivered their lines provides a testament to how cheap the voice acting industry was back in 1965. We're also constantly shocked as to how horrible every single child (and a dog) was to the well-intentioned Charlie Brown, who just wanted to put on a nice Christmas play.

Looking back as I write this piece, I'm remembering just how much A Charlie Brown Christmas has stuck with me over the years and age hasn't lessened its charm. It's heartfelt, strangely animated, scored wonderfully, voice-acted poorly and persists in my heart as one of my favorite Christmas-related pieces of media.



american IDIOT

LIVES!

JON WINKLER

When it comes to musical theater, a main element that makes the show stand out is the effort the actors put in. Sure there's flashy sets and exciting musical numbers, but it doesn't resonate with the audience unless the performers on stage are radiating energy and giving it their all while thrusting themselves into scenes and singing until their lungs eject from their bodies. A prime example of that came from SBU Pocket Theatre's production of Green Day's *American Idiot*, which ran from Friday, Nov. 20 until Sunday, Nov. 22.

Featuring returning players, like Nick Castello, Eric Noh and Kara Doyle, Pocket Theatre hosted their performance of the musical adaptation of the Grammy-winning 2004 rock opera. While Pocket Theatre normally puts on performances at the Staller Center, this run of shows took place at the LDS Center due to its larger space. The back multipurpose room worked well for the show as the performers used all of the floorspace to move around and build scenes. The show also used a six-piece live band with two guitars, a keyboard and a violin playing the songs from the musical, which includes cuts from the album sharing the title of the play along with original songs and music from Green Day's follow-up album, 2009's *21st Century Breakdown*.

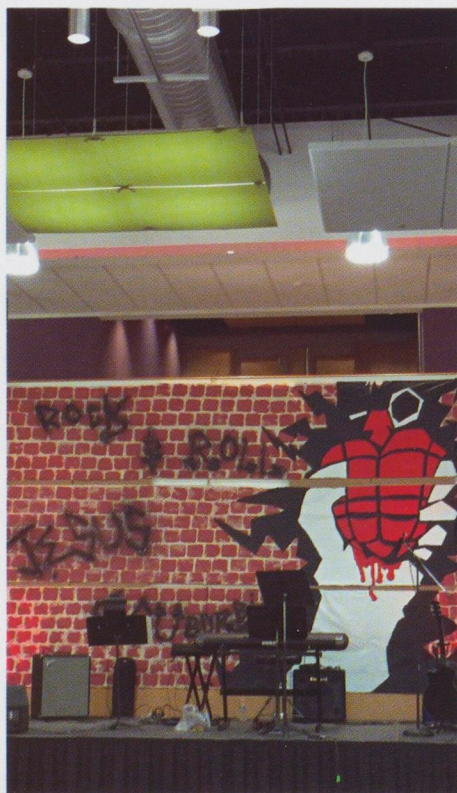
However the live band may have been one of the more distracting parts of the show. Throughout the performance, the volume of the band overtook the volume of the singers and performers. Because of complications with the microphones, audio from the performers would cut in and out during songs. The band performed the songs very well, but they still had too much volume over the actors. It may have been better to have the actors per-

form interpretive dances of the songs themselves and lip sync to the songs.

But despite technical difficulties, the cast pushed through to make the audience feel the musical's message. There was an authenticity from the performances of the three lead characters: Johnny (Castello), Tunny (Brian Bernhard) and Will (Noh). All three had their own form of American purgatory to live through: Johnny with drug addiction, Will having an unplanned baby with his girlfriend (Jackie Nikakis) and Tunny enlisting in the military. Like the Broadway show, the cast plays out the life of American youth going from suburban boredom to city life while suffering from the horrors of the real world. There's chemistry amongst the entire

cast as seen in the number "Last of the American Girls/ She's a Rebel," where Johnny declares his youthful love for Whatsername (Doyle, sporting pink hair streaks as bright and fiery as her voice). Will's story of young fathers who haven't even fully matured yet seems to be one of the more recognizable parts of the show (MTV still gets ratings off of deadbeat young dads), but Noh makes the role look more somber. When Noh shows Will alone on the couch holding an acoustic guitar like it's the last good memory of his youth, there's hurt in his eyes from missing what he had and being scared of what he's got now. Tunny's story is very common: A lost boy finds purpose in serving his country without ever imagining the physical and mental scars that come. It's been done before, but Bernhard pulls it off like it's his final performance of his life. When he sings "Before the Lobotomy" and "21 Guns," it's easy to see the veins popping out of his neck as he sings his heart out. The scenes and song segments played out well, especially in the second act. The show's emotional KO punch was the rendition of "Wake Me Up When September Ends," where Castello plays the acoustic guitar riff of the song live and sets the sweeping song into motion. His take on Johnny is so full of optimism and energetic rebellion, it was hard not to pump one's fist in the air along with him and the company (along with Drew Point-Jour's invigorating performance as St. Jimmy).

There was a satisfying feeling of defiance coming from Pocket Theatre during their performance. Even if they didn't have the usual advantage of working microphones, they'll be damned if they don't try their hardest to make the audience hear them. That feels like one of the essential elements of musical theatre: Love it or hate it, you will hear it.



Here Instead of Your Regularly Scheduled Sex Column, a PSA...

B.J. HORNSGAHDEN

One of the strangest realizations to come to terms with when dealing with the vast infinity of the Internet is how passionate some people are about their love of drawing insanely in-depth depictions of their favorite characters from story and legend engaged in whatever form of intercourse that could possibly enter a human brain. Anything you can think of is out there: somebody has already thought it up, drafted it out, color-corrected and drawn in all the little lines. That's an immense burden, to be shackled to the incarnate of possibility. Lots of people are into lots of different things, some of which may seem strange to people who aren't accustomed

to certain specific sexual experiences. That does not mean that it is okay to instantly jump on somebody for saying that they are sexually interested in an idea that may seem foreign. It does, however, warrant some degree of analytical thought.

Does one dislike what "strange" kink they see because it is foreign morally or physically? Does it seem like a healthy fixation? If not, why? A few simple questions can be enough to demystify these spooky kinks and get you in line for a more open mind!



Drugzzzz

JESSICA OPATICH

For a break in our regularly scheduled drug column, here's a PSA about heroin.

Among the sleepy small town streets, nestled between rolling vineyards and scenic coastlines on the North Fork of Long Island, a heroin crisis is growing and a new organization, Michael's HOPE, is joining the chorus of local residents, health professionals and politicians fighting to combat the frightening reality.

It will be four years this coming February since Paul Maffetone found his older brother, Michael, drained of color and slumped over in the bathroom of his family's home in Laurel.

"My brother was my hero, my best friend, my mentor, my protector. I watched how his life became taken over by this drug, I watched him lose everything," Maffetone said.

Heroin killed a record 121 people in Nassau and Suffolk in 2012, the year Paul's brother died, and at least 120 in 2013 — the two highest totals ever recorded, data from Suffolk and Nassau County shows.

And it's not only a local problem. From 2002 through 2013, the rate of heroin-related overdose deaths nationally nearly quadrupled, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

With Michael's HOPE (Heroin and Opiate Prevention and Education), Maffetone is trying to educate his neighbors across Long Island, so that they do not become a heroin statistic.

"This is just the very beginning of this organization. I'm in the process of

making Michael's HOPE a New York registered non-profit," Maffetone said. "From the day that my brother died, I made a vow to myself to figure out a way to make a difference."

Maffetone isn't alone in this endeavor. A panel of officials including state Sen. Kenneth LaValle, Congressman Lee Zeldin, a recovering addict named Chris, and Linda Ventura, whose son also died of a heroin overdose in 2012, gathered for a community drug summit on Friday, Nov. 20.

"The problem on Long Island has just gotten worse and worse," Chris's father, who is also named Chris and wanted to keep his last name private, said.

After being in and out of rehab nine times, his son, a Kings Park High School graduate, celebrated one year clean on Thanksgiving.

"Addiction can happen to anybody. Never think 'not my kid,'" Chris Sr. said.

At the community forum, Susan Schnebel, president of the Suffolk County Schools Superintendents Association, announced a new program to train school nurses in Suffolk County on how to properly dispense Naloxone, a nasal spray or injectable medicine that can stop and reverse the effects of an opioid overdose and is commonly known by its brand name, Narcan.

"Even if you get just one, you've saved one life," Schnebel said.

Last year, there were 493 Narcan saves by first responders. In 2015, there have been 240 as of August 31, according to data from Suffolk County Executive Steven Bellone.

Maffetone is one of a growing number of Long Islanders voluntarily receiving Narcan training. In a Starbucks in Mattituck, on a strip in between upscale boutiques, Maffetone can be spotted casually pulling out a bag of Narcan and explaining how to administer the life-saving medicine.

Help arrived too late for his brother, whose pulse returned once a neighbor, a retired New York City police officer, administered the medicine, but Michael remained brain dead until his parents decided to remove him from life support three days later.

"I watched my brother's life leave his body — watch him die in front of my eyes. It was horrible. When they turned off the machine, that moment is burned into my mind forever," Maffetone said.

He knows that Michael's HOPE might not be able to save all Long Islanders from witnessing the same tragedy, but he hopes it can be a place where people like him can connect and educate others.

"I want a place that people feel comfortable coming to to talk and reach out for advice, a place where people can find people they relate to, people who share the pain from losing someone to this addiction or have a loved one who is fighting this addiction," Maffetone said.

He's also selling bracelets with the hashtag "I Hate Heroin" and shirts that read "Shoot your local heroin dealer."

"I know it's provocative, and people have told me to watch my back," Maffetone said. "But I'm not scared. This is a crisis. We're at war."

Daily Show Finds New Host but Not New Voice



KYLE BARR

Everyone just keeps expecting Trevor Noah to fail.

He's not going to. Before his first episode on *The Daily Show*, many dug through his Twitter to find several sexist comments. Some were concerned that the man who would take the reins of cable television's guiding light for left-leaning individuals would end up being a misogynist. None of that was seen in the first few months of the new *Daily Show*. In fact, it has been very tame, but in that way, Trevor Noah is facing a crisis of identity, not so much as if he was floundering, but more so that he has a lack of niche in a much more crowded field than when Jon Stewart was still in the chair.

His contemporaries have found their own niche in the new infotainment landscape. Stephen Colbert, now on *The Late Show*, provides his own personal touch of humor with a slight political twinge. John Oliver holds the monopoly of great (almost) documentary style of political comedy, and Larry Wilmore... just kind of is.

Trevor Noah exists in a state of default. Those other television show hosts have expanded and differentiated. In that way, *The Daily Show* with Trevor Noah feels not so much stale, but much more run of the mill, much too expected.

That could be a good thing, however. If you really want to go back to Jon Stewart's first few episodes, you'll see that they were actually quite bad. They were still funny, but they lacked the biting political satire that the show would later portray. Jon Stewart would go on to truly sink his teeth into political blowhards and partisan media personalities. It was on episodes where he lambasted Glenn Beck by imitating his idiosyncrasies or brought on *Mad Money*'s Jim Cramer to go through each and every step about how he failed to inform the people about the banks' greed and the market's collapse.

Yet, to get to that point took time. Trevor Noah is already starting out on the right foot, and he's taking a really big first step.

Noah Trevor has been extremely poignant with his criticism of Republican presidential hopefuls, especially Ben Carson. The man with a huge plurality of the Republican polls keeps making gaff after gaff, and while most media keeps pointing out his absurdities, in this political climate, even stupidity gets you poll numbers.

This is why people like Trevor Noah and the *Daily Show* need to exist. Noah Trevor has been absolutely damning of Carson, especially his commentary of how Carson believes he would be able to group people together in the face of a mad gunman and lead

a heroic charge like something out of *Braveheart*.

It's now more than ever which shows why we need shows like the *Daily Show*. The media can point out the absurdities of men like Carson, but it takes a comedian to truly put everything in the right context, that the whole scene is just a massive joke.

Jon Stewart got good when the climate shifted to the Iraq War and the post 9/11 Bush administration. Now the climate is shifting again to the insane. The good thing is, Trevor Noah is leaping ahead of where Jon Stewart was when he just started.

He needs to get more comfortable with the seat. He especially needs to improve his interviewing skills. You can tell he is trying, but he lets his subjects get away with too much. His first interview with Chris Christie, basically a walking political gaff, was painful to watch. Christie essentially sat in a chair, advertised his campaign for five minutes, and left. Trevor Noah sat there with a confused expression on his face.

But practice comes with time. I hope Trevor gets the time needed to hone his already effective comedic skills. I hope he continues what he's doing. I think he's worth it.



Islamophobia and How It Helps ISIS

NAURIN ISLAM

The evening of November 13, 2015 was a tragic and horrific day for Paris, France. A series of coordinated attacks in the City of Love left approximately 130 people dead and a group of families devastated. People took to social media to temporarily change their Facebook profile picture to the French flag. Many put up the hashtag #PrayforParis to show solidarity with the city. That day the entire world stood by each other to show their respects. ISIS immediately claimed responsibility for the coordinated attacks and immediately, once again, a single group consisting of 1.67 billion people was blamed for the tragic event.

Muslims around the world, most particularly in Western nations, felt the backlash from the tragic event. Several instances of Islamophobic attacks sprouted up in the United States alone within 48 hours after the tragedy. On November 13, during the night of the attacks on Paris, a man named Martin Alan Schnitzler called up The Islamic Society, a mosque in St. Petersburg, Florida, leaving voicemails stating he would go to the center and "firebomb you and shoot whoever is there." He didn't care whether the people in the mosque were "2 years old or 100." The man was later arrested. In Pflugerville, Texas, the Islamic Center was vandalized. The place was smeared with feces and pages were torn from the Quran. On November 17, a 26-year-old man was arrested near Houston for allegedly saying that he would "shoot up a mosque" to avenge the attacks in Paris. He also posted a picture of an assault rifle and ammunition, with a Bible verse from Joshua 1:9 as his caption on Facebook. In Omaha, Nebraska, an Islamic Center was vandalized. In South Meriden,

Connecticut, a mosque was fired upon, and at the University of Connecticut "killed Paris" was found etched on an Egyptian student's dorm room door.

However, it was not just in the United States that Muslims were feeling the backlash. It was happening in Canada as well. A fire broke out at the Kawartha Muslim Religious Association's mosque in Peterborough, Ontario, which was speculated to be set by arsonists. A Muslim mother was assaulted and called "a terrorist" by two males in Toronto after she was picking up her children from Grenoble Public School. A Muslim student from the University of Toronto claimed he was spat on and insulted while waiting for a streetcar.

Bigotry is everywhere, that is a fact. However, to let such bigotry happen is exactly what ISIS wants. The world, from ISIS's perspective, is divided into three zones: the black, the white and the gray. One side represents the "defenders of Islam" being ISIS and anyone promoting the ideals of ISIS, the other side being the supporters of the West, and the West itself. The gray zone is the zone of coexistence. It is the zone where Muslims, the West and other religious groups coexist in peace. They thrive together, work together and make peace with each other. ISIS wants to eliminate that zone. They do not want a gray zone and feel that completely goes against their ideals. They want only a black and white side of the ideological spectrum.

There are two goals with this: to eliminate the West and its allies, and to create hostility between the citizens of the West, and the domestic Muslim population living in it. They want people of the Western nations to ignite bigotry. They want people to harass the local Muslims. They want bigots to spit on a Muslim, pull a Muslim woman's hijab off. They want people to set

mosques on fire and threaten Islamic centers. They want people to stop the incoming refugees from coming into our countries. They want xenophobia and Islamophobia to spread because it helps them. More than destroying the West, people turning their backs and assaulting Muslims living within their nations is their ultimate goal. They want to trigger a backlash against Muslim minorities living in the West so that ISIS can be seen as the sole protector of the Muslim people, especially Muslims living in the Western world. They want new recruits, and they want more people to join their "cause." They firmly believe that after initiating attacks on the West that xenophobia will help them do so.

One of the biggest ways to stop ISIS from expanding is to show love and compassion towards one another. Not bigotry, xenophobia and Islamophobia. It is perverse to lump together the entire Muslim population with the small group of extremists that claim themselves to be "Muslims" who follow the exact opposite of what true Islam wants. It is equally absurd to treat refugees, the majority of whom are escaping ISIS's murderous path, with disgust and fear. It is also absurd to constantly ask the question "why aren't Muslims condemning these terrorists' attacks," when a majority of them do so every day. In fact, ISIS' main target so far, has been Muslims.

Instead of responding to terrorist attacks with xenophobia and Islamophobia with Muslims currently living in Western nations, respond to them with unity and love. Continue to accept people without religious discrimination. This shows resilience against the violent propaganda that ISIS wishes to spread. Spread kindness, not violence. For that is the key to defeating ISIS.



The Long Road to March Starts Now

The Seawolves' Quest for Their First Tournament Bid

JIM FERCHLAND

After falling short to the University at Albany in the final seconds of their first ever trip to the NCAA Tournament, the Stony Brook Seawolves men's basketball team is looking to avenge their losses from last season. They are more experienced, more talented and more unified.

Stony Brook Head Coach Steve Pikiell enters his 11th season with a 166-149 record (.527). He has brought the Seawolves to four consecutive 20-win seasons since 2011-2012. The team's reputation has blossomed over the years because of their competitive fire and resilience, which Pikiell is putting to the test this year by creating a competitive road schedule. He takes pride in defense and rebounding.

"This will help us down the road," Pikiell said. "Scheduling is brutal. It makes us tougher and you need to play way better on the road than you do at home sometimes. Hopefully we're going to be one of the best rebounding teams in the country because of [Jameel] Warney. We've had great seasons before but we need to have an outstanding one. There's no day off and that's where our program is now."

The team has developed some star power behind senior guard Carson Puriefoy and senior center Warney. Both players have been nominated for collegiate awards because of their excellence at their positions. Puriefoy, who averaged 14 points and three assists a game, has been nominated for the Bob Cousy Award. Puriefoy is just one of 20 point guards in the NCAA to be nominated. Warney, who averaged

16 points and 12 rebounds a game in his junior year last year has been nominated for the Karl Malone Award, which goes to the best big man in the NCAA. Warney recorded spectacular

"I feel that this is our best team. We have great offensive power and a lot of experience. I feel this year we can really prove ourselves."

numbers in his junior year leading the NCAA in rebounds with 409 and double-doubles with 24.

In the summer, the team took a trip to Europe and played against other international teams testing their talent and competitive nature. And, according to multiple players, it really increased their team chemistry and it made them a better unit as a whole.

"It was just game experience in the summertime, which... not every

team gets to do," said junior guard Lucas Woodhouse, who was a redshirt freshman last season watching amongst the other players on the court. "We tried a bunch of different lineups so everybody is learning how to play with each other, so it was really good."

Woodhouse is excited for his first season, which has high expectations for the team. When he was playing at Longwood University during the '13-14 season, he averaged about 12 points a game and is a skilled facilitator, averaging seven assists a game. "Definitely win the American East," he said. "That's pretty much our only goal. I'm very excited and feel Coach will want me to control the game and make good shots. My teammates have advised to play close attention to minor detail."

Senior forward Rayshaun McGrew averaged a little over eight points and eight rebounds last year. He feels he needs to take a little more of a leadership role on the court and improve his game. "I feel I need to be more of a leader on the court," McGrew said. "I know I got a bigger defensive role. I got to step up and guard bigger and better people now since I'm one of the seniors and one of the captains. I worked on my jump shot, my dribbling, my passing. Things that I'm not strong at but I'm trying to make my game better and wish to help my team do better."

The Seawolves are coming into this season with a large chip on their shoulder after falling short to Albany in the America East Championship game.



McGrew feels that those losses have put a bigger onus on the whole team. "It happened the previous year when we lost to Albany at home. So, we already had enough fire from that, but then as we lost at the buzzer, it really did hurt our teammates. We just need to compete and control the energy level."

Junior guard Kameron Mitchell is one of the best defensive players on the team and one of many reasons why he earned a lot of minutes. However his offensive game did struggle with him only averaging around four points a game last year as a sophomore. He started 10 games last year. Over the summer, he broke his wrist and was out for about three months but that still did not stop him from working on his offensive game. Also, he said that this is the best chemistry he's seen with this team "That's been the goal," Mitchell said. "I've been trying to work on getting my shot off quicker, increase my handle and try to improve my overall offensive game. This team has been playing together for about two years now so everyone knows the system and knows what to expect."

Mitchell is a defensive-minded player. "We want to focus on being a defensive team," he said. "I mean we feel we have enough talent offensively so that will just come so we want to try to be the best defensive team we can be."

"We've done everything else," Puriefoy said. "We've had player of the year awards, we've won regular season championships. There's only one thing left to do and that is to win the tournament and go to the NCAA Tournament. The mindset is to just get it done."

Puriefoy will be playing alongside Woodhouse this season providing an abundance of depth and potential. He explained that the Europe trip had an

impact on their playing style together on the court. "Lucas brings a different aspect to our team," he said. It was an adjustment period at first because we both have the ball in our hands so much. As time goes on, we had the



Europe trip and we learned how to play with each other. He's very easy to play with because he loves to pass. He brings a great factor to our team."

Puriefoy believes that the team niche this season is the same as it is every season. "We pride ourselves on defense", he said. "Defense wins championships. Our coaches say it all the time. That is one of the truest things I've ever heard. If you can't stop them from the scoring, there's no way you can win."

Warney enters his senior year with an enormous role. He is the colonel and basically the star of the team, and he thinks that this will be the best team

that he's been a part of. "I feel that this is our best team. We have great offensive power and a lot of experience. I feel this year we can really prove ourselves," he said.

He is also excited and was not phased about the upcoming competitive schedule. Warney knows that the team can play at a national level. The team has three upcoming road games directly after their home opener. They start off at Vanderbilt, then travel to Western Kentucky and then head to Maryland to play Loyola. "It's great to play great competition in the beginning of the season," he said. "Even if you win your conference and then lose in the conference finals, then you don't go to the tournament. We'd rather play against good competition because it will really help us in the long run. It will test us to see how good we can be and how we react to adversity."

Warney does have a weakness in his game that he has worked extremely hard on improving. He's physical in the post, and he is subject to draw a lot of fouls. He really struggled from the free-throw line last year, only shooting 57-percent. "I worked on it all summer," he said. "I feel like I improved over the summer, and I feel like I'm a decent free-throw shooter now."

Along with free-throw shooting comes confidence in his jump shots. Warney has also worked on his jump shot all summer and Pikiell said he was comfortable with him taking medium-range jump shots but Warney did not have the confidence to do that.

"I've been in here all summer so I've been getting a lot of shots up, a lot of free throws up so I've been really expanding my game and I feel that's really going to show this season."

Warney was honored about being nominated for an award but he said, "At the end of the day, I'm just a nominee."





A GUIDE TO THE UFC DECEMBER BLOCKBUSTER

MICHAEL DESANTIS

The UFC will be coming at viewers in full force this December. The month will feature four events: three title fights and a plethora of talented mixed-martial artists clashing head-to-head.

The biggest event of the month, and arguably the year, will be UFC 194 on Dec. 12 when Brazilian Featherweight Champion Jose Aldo (25-1) will look to defend his title against Irish challenger Conor McGregor (18-2). The event will also feature Middleweight Champion and Long Island native Chris Weidman (13-0), looking to defend his belt against Luke Rockhold (14-2). This event will cap a string of UFC cards taking place over three consecutive days.

Aldo's lone loss came in 2005 while fighting for the Brazilian Jungle Fight promotion. Since being awarded the title of the UFC featherweight division's inaugural champion in 2010, Aldo has defended his title seven times against top-notch opponents like Chad Mendes, Frankie Edgar and Ricardo Lamas.

McGregor on the other hand first fought in the UFC in 2013, winning all six fights. After his fifth victory, a knockout against the German Dennis Siver, he earned a title shot against Aldo. A fight between the two was supposed to take place back in July before Aldo suffered a rib injury, resulting in his pulling out of the bout. Mendes stepped in to fight McGregor on short notice for the interim title. After being dominated on the ground by Mendes for most of the fight, McGregor was able to rally for a knockout victory late in the second round, setting up a title unification fight with Aldo.

The brash Irishman has controversially gotten under the skin of just about every opponent he's faced by verbally degrading them in the build-up before each fight. McGregor called Dustin Poirier a "peahead," Siver a

"Nazi," Mendes a "midget" and Aldo a "little bitch."

Assuming it happens, the fight between the McGregor and Aldo will be epic. Both have a vicious stand-up game, which is where the fight will likely take place. Aldo would be wise to use his offensive wrestling game and score some takedowns on McGregor, as Aldo arguably holds an advantage on the ground. While McGregor is a great fighter, his constant trash-talking may work against him. McGregor's barrage of insults will likely fuel a fire inside Aldo, which could make him more dangerous than he's ever been. Aldo will want to punish McGregor and has the skill to do it, which could lead to a late knockout.

Right before that fight will be the Weidman/Rockhold bout. Weidman has looked great since defeating the long-tenured middleweight champ, Anderson Silva. After knocking him out, Weidman defended his belt in a rematch against Silva when the latter broke his leg in gruesome fashion when attempting to land a kick. Weidman has since cruised to a decision win over Lyoto Machida and quickly dispatched of Vitor Belfort with ground and pound. Rockhold is on a four-fight winning streak, notably submitting Michael Bisping and Machida to earn a crack at the title.

The two are fairly evenly matched, as both have great ground games and solid striking. Both can end fights via knockout or submission. Weidman is probably a little better all-around and should be able to outstrike Rockhold in the stand-up. The champion will also likely be able to dictate where the fight takes place, as he has never been taken down in any of his nine UFC fights. If Weidman feels that Rockhold starts to get the better of the striking or wants to mix it up, he could probably lean on his offensive wrestling skills to get the fight to the ground. Weidman will likely be one step ahead for most of the fight and could ultimately secure a finish in the middle or later part of the bout.

The other title fight fans will witness in December is on the 19th, when Rafael dos Anjos will seek to defend his lightweight title for the first time against Donald Cerrone. Dos Anjos previously beat Cerrone in a unanimous decision in 2013. "Cowboy" Cerrone, as he's known as, seems to be a different fighter since that loss. He has won eight straight matches since then, endearing himself to fans with his penchant for wanting to

fight as often as possible. His crisp stand-up and solid submission game has helped him achieve his winning-streak in dominating fashion. Dos Anjos dismantled former lightweight champion Anthony Pettis in March over five rounds to claim his belt and is riding a four-fight winning streak.

Cerrone and dos Anjos have both proven they have great cardio, so potentially going a full 25 minutes shouldn't be a problem for either man. An area where dos Anjos holds an advantage is pressure. Cerrone hits a lot but takes a lot of hits in return. Personally, I'd love to see the people's champ, Cowboy, win, but dos Anjos should be able to apply a furious pressure for five rounds similar to the way he beat Pettis and retained his title.

A day before Aldo and McGregor do battle, Mendes (17-3) and Edgar (18-4-1) will be going at it in the featherweight division in the main event of The Ultimate Fighter 22 Finale. The winner of the bout may very well get the winner of Aldo and McGregor in a title fight. Both have excellent stand-up and ground-game capabilities. Mendes is coming off that loss to McGregor while Edgar is riding a four-fight winning streak.

It should be a close and entertaining fight. Edgar probably has the advantage in the striking department. Mendes may have more power in his fists, but Edgar will have a six-inch reach advantage and is superior from a technical standpoint. Their wrestling capabilities are very close. Mendes has more explosiveness on his takedown attempts, but Edgar has mastered the art of deceptive takedowns over his career, able to switch from striking, grappling and wrestling without telegraphing it much. Edgar probably has the better cardio between the two, as he's been involved in many five-round wars over the course of his career, which should help lead him to a hard-fought decision victory over the talented Mendes.

The other card will take place a day before that fight, on Dec. 10, and the card will be headlined by a pair of very talented women in the strawweight division with Paige VanZant (6-1) taking on Rose Namajunas (4-2). VanZant was originally scheduled to face Joanne Calderwood before the latter had to withdraw from the fight due to a knee injury. Instead, she gets a far tougher opponent in Namajunas.

After getting submitted by Carla Esparza in a fight that decided the



first strawweight champion, Namajunas pulled off a submission of her own against Angela Hill to get back on track.

VanZant has won all three of her UFC fights so far in a dominating fashion, but none of her previous opponents are on the same level as Namajunas.

VanZant's main strength is her ability to push a fast and aggressive pace with her striking, as well as having a solid submission game if the fight goes to the ground.

Namajunas is a big step up in competition for VanZant, and fans will see if the hype surrounding VanZant this early in her career is real. VanZant's best hope of winning is to outwork and frustrate Namajunas with her aggression for five rounds. The problem is that Namajunas is probably too skilled and could expose flaws in VanZant's defense. If Namajunas is able to outwork VanZant on the feet, she could time a takedown and submit her. It will be interesting to see how this fight goes, but Namajunas should have the advantage.

That card will feature a few other good fights like Mike Chiesa vs. Jim Miller, Sage Northcutt vs. Cody Pfister and Tim Means vs. John Howard. In those fights, favors go to Chiesa, Northcutt and Means. Chiesa is a solid fighter on the rise while Miller is trending in the other direction after a long career. Northcutt is one of the most hyped prospects in the organization. Pfister shouldn't be

much of a challenge, but the UFC is probably making the right call to develop Northcutt slowly. Means has looked great recently and should put on a striking clinic against Howard en route to a knockout victory.

On the stacked UFC 194 card, one of the most notable non-title bouts is Yoel Romero vs. Ronaldo Souza, the

“THE FIGHT BETWEEN THE MCGREGOR AND ALDO WILL BE EPIC.”

winner will most likely getting the winner of Weidman and Rockhold. If Souza is able to get the fight to the ground, he should be able to submit Romero with his amazing ground abilities. The card will also feature Urijah Faber vs. Frankie Saenz, Max Holloway vs. Jeremy Stephens, Demian Maia vs. Gunnar Nelson and Tecia Torres vs. Michelle Waterson. Faber has seen better days but should still have enough left in the tank to beat Saenz. Holloway should win convincingly with his arsenal of strikes but Stephens has a puncher's chance. In a three-round fight, Maia should

have enough in his gas tank to control Nelson on the ground. Waterson vs. Torres could go either way, both have good striking and wrestling skills so this fight should be very competitive.

The event on Dec. 19 will also feature great fights between Junior Dos Santos vs. Alistair Overeem, Michael Johnson vs. Nate Diaz, Randa Markos vs. Karolina Kowalkiewicz and Charles Oliveira vs. Myles Jury. The Dos Santos and Overeem fight should favor Junior, but the heavyweight division can be a crapshoot. Johnson and Diaz should be a good fight, and the winner lies on how motivated Diaz is. The safe bet would be Johnson, as he looked good in a controversial decision loss to Beneil Dariush. The talented Markos should win a decision over UFC newcomer Kowalkiewicz, especially since she's training out of the renowned Tristar Gym. Markos has improved striking to go along with a solid ground-game. Oliveira and Jury will be close. The likely outcome will be either Oliveira submitting Jury or Jury cruising to a decision win.

Now it's just time to hope that all of these amazing fights happen.

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