

THE ONLY NEWSPAPER OF STONY BROOK'S GRADUATE COMMUNITY

THE GRADUATE

Volume 1, Number 6, May 2004

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G S O Elections: And the Winners Are

Read on page 3 the official results of the GSO elections

Graduate Students Protest on Campus for better work contract terms

read on pages 6 and 7



Stony Brook University Begins MPH Program With Founding Class To Begin In Fall, 2004

State Approves New, Collaborative Effort to Integrate Strengths of the University

STONY BROOK, N.Y., April 21, 2004—Stony Brook University's graduate program in Public Health has received authorization from the New York State Department of Education to begin admitting students beginning Fall, 2004. Students admitted to the program will earn a Masters of Public Health (MPH) degree.

The MPH program will seek to play a role in translating the ground-breaking work being done at Stony Brook University in the clinical, basic, and social sciences to the field of public health. The program, headed by Raymond Goldsteen, Dr. P.H., is recruiting two new faculty members; in addition several faculty members already teaching in Stony Brook's

Health Sciences Center (HSC) will join the program. Information and applications may be obtained by calling (631) 444-2074.

The MPH program will be a collaborative effort among the five Schools of the HSC and other critical components of the University, including the Long Island Cancer Center, the

General Clinical Research Center, and the Centers for Molecular Medicine. In addition, collaborations are being established with researchers throughout the campus in order to completely harness the University's extraordinary talent and resources that can be applied to public health.

These collaborations include joint efforts with the Departments of Economics, Psychology, and History, the Center for Environmental Science, and the Marine Sciences Research Center, to name a few.

Editorial

We're again in that time of the year when papers are due, exams are being prepared, and final grades are given. This is the last issue of our newspaper in this academic year and we kindly wish you "Good luck" with your finals, doctoral defenses and all the other projects you might be busy in finishing.

It's the closing of the academic year here, at the GSO, as well. The votes were counted and a new executive team prepares to take over the office. Most of the newly elected members of the GSO Executive board were part GSO Execs since this winter. The only new member is the GSO Secretary. Most of the executives that were voted last year either resigned, or were removed from office by the Senate (as it is the case of the former president Guo feng). After a stormy summer and fall of 2003, the

post-impeachment executive board has run the GSO very well, and the fact that most members of the 2004 - 2005 board were part of it, gives us reasons to believe that the GSO will run very smooth and a lot more things will be accomplished in the new term. When personal ambitions were put aside, our organization started working almost perfectly. The editors of this newspaper wish the new exec board "Good luck" in continuing the good work started, and we also thank the retiring president - Angeliki Field-Pollatou for all the good work she has done at the GSO and wish her "Good Luck" as well.

The most important section of the newly passed vote was the increasing of the student activity fee. It had not been increased since several years, and if we would calculate the depreci-

ation, for sure the increase should have been greater than only \$ 1.50 per full time student and \$ 0.75 per part time student. I will leave one of our Senators, Mike McCurdy, to explain you better why the activity fee had to be raised, in his letter from page 5.

Our entire newspaper team wishes all of you who are graduating now "Congratulations" and "Good luck in life", and that you quickly find very good jobs. To those of you who will come back in the fall, we wish you to enjoy your summer, travel safe, if you are international students visiting your countries during the summer break - please make sure you know the latest travel regulations and don't take any chances. And we'll see you again in the fall, our first edition in the new academic year will be in August.

JOB BOARD

Graduate Advocate

The Graduate Student Organization along with the Graduate School is looking for a Graduate Student Advocate for the academic year 2004-05.

Please read the description that follows regarding the responsibilities.

The deadline for applications is Friday May 21st at 5:00pm. You can either email the application at gso@ic.sunysb.edu (preferred) or drop it off at the GSO Office (SAC 227).

There is no application form, we only require a cover letter and a CV.

Recommendation letters or additional information are optional.

Responsibilities include:

Assisting graduate students in the resolution of difficulties encountered relating to both academic and personal matters.

Organization and coordination of graduate student interdisciplinary colloquia.

Organization and coordination of annual colloquium for recipients of the President's Award to Distinguished Doctoral Students.

Assisting with new graduate student orientations.

This position is for the academic year 2004/05 (8/12/04 to on/about 6/01/05) with a 20 hour per week commitment, including intersession. This position provides a stipend of \$11,655.

A graduate tuition scholarship is not a component of the graduate assistantship but the Graduate School will work with your academic program, as appropriate, to provide tuition scholarship support.

The successful candidate is required to register as full-time graduate student.

Advanced doctoral students are strongly preferred as this position would be best supported by a candidate with appropriate experience.

Dear Readers,

While "the Graduate" has tried to accommodate the breadth and variety of the student population, it will be our constant endeavor to find new and exciting ways to cater to your special interests. Please feel free to give us your valuable comments and suggestions at nusnblus@ic.sunysb.edu.

[ysb.edu](http://www.ic.sunysb.edu). This is an open call to all graduate students to expose your talents and contribute any work of art to "the graduate". You may send your articles to nusnblus@ic.sunysb.edu or thegradnews@optonline.net if you want to send us larger files.

Editors, the Graduate

Visit us online ! You can read us at

<http://www.ic.sunysb.edu/Clubs/gso/news/news.html>

Advertise your job for free in "the graduate". Send us an email with the job description, deadlines and all the other details at nusnblus@ic.sunysb.edu

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Personals are published for free, commercial ads. Ads range from business card size (\$30) to the full page size, 8.5x11 (\$250)

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OUR REDACTION DOES NOT ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ARTICLES WRITTEN BY ANY OF OUR COLLABORATORS. WE RECOGNIZE AND RESPECT THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH AS ONE OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY, AND NO ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN OUR NEWSPAPER IS, WAS OR WILL BE CENSORED.

Official G S O Elections Results

Part I. EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President

Prasanna Kumar Thoguluva Santharam: 419

Vice President

Monicca Shanthanelson: 430

Secretary

Satprem Reddy Pamudurthy: 422

Treasurer

Rong Su: 290 (elected Treasurer)

Andrei Antonenko: 278

full time graduate student per semester and \$.75 for part time graduate per semester) in student activity fee as stated on the ballot):

Yes 403

No 326

Part II. Funding and Budget

NYPRIG Referendum: GSO funding for NYPRIG as stated on the ballot

Yes 369

No 305

Submitted by: Venkat Reddy Pasham, Chair of GSO Election Committee, April 30, 2004

Referendum on Activity Fee Increase (\$1.50 for

Our new Executives

President:

Prasanna Kumar

Thoguluva Santharam



I am a PhD student in the Department of Materials Science and Eng. Currently, I am the Speaker of the GSO. In the last fiscal year, I have served as the Chair of the Rules and Constitutional Committee, representing the Graduate Students in the University executive council and sitting in the Budget and Social Concerns Committee. As a President, I would do the best of my ability to voice and fight issues.

Vice President:

Monicca Shanthanelson

Hello all. I like to experiment with and divulge into new things. The fact

that I started with English literature passed through Biochemistry and graduated with Biology and Chemistry and in the process went to undergraduate college in 5 different universities in 3 different continents should substantiate my claim. My interests are varied; variety is after all the spice of life. Anchoresses in British cathedrals and monasteries, non-violence as the pathway to peace, phylogenetic analysis of honeybees are some of my major research areas in my undergraduate career. Journalism, amateur photography, archaeology, and reading are my hobbies. I am now a first year doctoral student in the Department of Neurobiology & Behavior and I work in the area of spinal chord regeneration after injury.

I started out as the senator for the Neurobiology department this year and moved on to become the current Vice-President of the GSO. I chair the social concerns committee and we have been actively involved in issues concerning teaching assistantships, and on campus living conditions. I am also a voting member of the Rules and Constitution committee and have been involved in drafting the changes to the GSO constitution and bylaws. My reasons for rerunning for office are: I want to continue to chair the SCC and be directly involved in providing the GSO sup-

Election Committee (2004-2005):

Chair of the Committee:

Venkat Reddy Pasham

Committee member:

Salih Kocer, Guofeng Hou, Ming Ma, Javid Baig Shams

Non-voting member of Elections Committee:

Melissa Morahan (NYPIRG), Eric Bruzaitis (NYPIRG)

port to students, and I believe that with my past extensive experience with undergraduate government and my current GSO experience I will be able to provide GSO with responsible leadership. Expect innovation

Secretary:

Satprem Reddy

Pamudurthy

I am Satprem R Pamudurthy, 2nd year PhD student in the Computer Science Department. I am running for the Office of the Secretary of the Graduate Student Organization.

I have been a part of various student organizations and committees. I was the President of the Undergraduate Student Parliament at the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad. I was also a member of the Residential Facilities Committee and the Programming Committee. At Stony Brook, I am the President of the Chapin Apartments Residents Association and have overseen a number of firsts for Chapin. If given the opportunity, I will serve the graduate student community to the best of my abilities.

Treasurer:

Rong Su

My name is Rong Su, Ph. D student in department of Computer Science.

I am running for the position of GSO Treasurer for academic year of 2004-05. I am currently GSO Treasurer for academic year of 2003-04, which gives me sufficient experience on this position. I have also gained tremendous trust and respect from

a lot of graduate students, which motivate me to run the same position for year of 2004-05. I am a strong believer that GSO, as a united organization for all graduate students, can do right things for graduate students.

You also voted for:

An increase of the

Activity Fee

The graduate student activity fee funds GSO programming expenses which include, but are not limited to, RAP, Child Care, cultural and social events, student clubs and organizations, and departmental allocations, and funds GSO operational expenses. The proposed 2004-2005 GSO budget includes decreases in funding for programming (see above for examples). To alleviate these proposed decreases, the GSO proposes a \$1.50 increase in the graduate student activity fee for full time students per semester and a \$.75 increase in the graduate student activity fee for part time students per semester.

New York Public Interest

Research Group

(NYPIRG) Funding

GSO will continue to support a chapter of the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) at its current level of funding of \$1.50 per semester per full-time student, and \$.75 per semester per part-time student, for the next three years.

A President's Goodbye

by Angeliki Field-Pollatou, GSO President

I was asked to write an article from several students about my experiences in the GSO and its future. I hope to let you know what has been accomplished in the last two years and what lies ahead for our organization.

Let me first say that if you are interested in 'gossip' about the internal conflicts in GSO the last two years, this is not the article for you. This article is about my experiences, the GSO, and the future.

I will first start with a summary of the most important accomplishments that the GSO achieved in the last two years that I was an executive member. The last year, as a Secretary of GSO, we managed to successfully complete negotiations regarding the new space of the legendary (and much divisive) SPOT on behalf of the GSO.

My personal opinion about the SPOT was that it was not representative of the GSO. With the help of the Student Life Committee and the Graduate Student Advocate at the time Ms. Christine Promin we engaged ourselves in various meetings with different administrators. This procedure was exhausting but it produced a great result. We ensured a great space and funding for the construction of our new space, the University Cafe (thanks to the President's Office, FSA, Graduate School, HSC, and Dr. Michelle Millar). Of course that was just the start, since September when our Cafe opened we have been reaching out to all students. I am personally very proud of the space we created and I hope graduate students realize how much effort went to this place and how much effort it still takes to make sure it is financially safe. The Lounge Committee has done an excellent job monitoring the Cafe's finances.

Last year GSO also completed a Quality of Life Survey which was a professional survey funded by the President's Office, the Graduate School, FSA, and the GSO. One of



the largest concerns was with graduate student housing. I can not count how many times I have discussed this with administrators and presented it to different committees. The usual reaction? Head nodding. The housing issue is important for both students

on-campus and off-campus. We all need to understand that the quality and the price of on-campus housing drives the quality and price of the off-campus housing.

We all know about the living conditions in Chapin, some of us have heard about them and some of us have lived through them. On-campus housing conditions are not appropriate for graduate students, housing on Long Island is very expensive, so it would seem that an obvious decision would be that new housing has to be built for graduate students. All the years that I have been involved with the GSO this message was delivered to the Administration but not acted upon by them. I recall a meeting last February when I asked a top administrator what are the plans the school has for graduate housing. The administrator replied, "There are no plans." What the GSO has to continue doing is to talk about this issue, it needs patience for it is a long term project. The GSO has to make the administration to commit to a course of action rather than just acknowledge the problem. It is unacceptable for an administrator to agree with everything that has been said, and then do nothing about it.

I made my first priority as soon as I took over the presidency for a new Constitution to be written since it is the foundation of this Organization. Additionally, along with the Social Concerns Committee, I initiated the Student Teaching Survey that will hopefully have an impact on the training graduate students will receive in order to teach.

The University Cafe (UC) was a continuing project and it had its own challenges this year as the Health

Permit was about six months later than expected which made our start not as successful as we were expecting. The UC is doing better every month and I am very optimistic that it will soon yield us a small profit (even before the end of summer).

Additionally we addressed serious issues regarding International Services and after several discussions with relevant administrators we are optimistic that steps have been taken to solve these issues from the relevant offices.

Another priority for me was to fill the University Committees with GSO representatives. The GSO has the opportunity to have seats in several important committees and we should take advantage of the fact that we are given this opportunity to voice our concerns. Representatives in these committees have achieved several very important tasks. For instance the creation of the University Cafe, a decrease in proposed fees, and even the overturn of University policies regarding graduate students.

The GSO has been through many problems the last couple of years. Unfortunately most of our problems stem from our finances. GSO's budget is very small, approximately \$190,000 (compared to \$2.3 million that the undergraduate utilize). My personal opinion is that the GSO (even with the increase of the fee) will never be able to be all things to all people unless the fee increases dramatically. I am sure that will not happen any time soon.

There is a clear problem and I foresee that the GSO will soon have to address as a matter of definition of what kind of organization we would like to be for graduate students. Will the GSO fund its members primarily through academics (with increased RAP) or culturally (through Social Events, Club Allocations, and Departmental Allocations). Proponents of the RAP will say that the \$250 the GSO gives is a small amount compared to what they give to go to a meeting and proponents of the Cultural Events will tell you that the funding is so small that they can not make their events as they would wish. This is a clear dilemma that soon will create another conflict as the GSO does not have a big surplus like it used to. My personal opinion is that RAP is more important to graduate students as we are in an academic institution working on an advanced degree. However, as an international student (that has no

club affiliation) I recognize the need to have events to celebrate someone's ethnicity, sexual orientation, or special interest.

A possible resolution of this dilemma is that clubs have to start actively trying to find outside sponsors. There are several sources within the University and outside that will be willing to fund various events. It used to be common for clubs to look for other sources of funding 2-3 years ago, but the last couple of years clubs or groups that are organizing events assume that the GSO has to fund the event 100%. For every event a club is organizing, clubs have to work harder to find sponsors. Especially if the event costs thousands of dollars, the GSO should not be the only sponsor.

Additionally, the GSO has to find ways to increase our income outside the activity fee and the RAP money we received from the Graduate School, President's Office, College of Arts and Sciences, and the Research Foundation. We need to remind parts of the campus that their students take advantage of our services. For instance, the College of Engineering has a large percentage RAP requests but does not contribute any money towards the GSO funding. We need to find other sponsors that will be willing to give us money in exchange of advertisement and promotion.

I would like to end by thanking all the senators that I have worked with. During my two terms I made some very good friends and I would especially like to thank Bryan, Masha, Chris, Monicca, Prasanna, Tanya, Christine, and Salih for their help and support.

I also like to give some advice to the new executives. You should try to avoid putting your personal feelings or attachments first while you work for the GSO. You are there to represent all graduate students and you have a responsibility towards everyone to make decisions independent of your community, friends, affiliation, or department. Try to set goals but be realistic to your expectations. Finally, be strong and remember 'what does not kill you, makes you stronger', that is what I learned and is probably the best advice I ever received.

Good luck!

Letter from a Senator

Grads:

Just wanted to send a note about the GSO, the elections, and the raising of the Graduate Student Activity Fee.

Most of you, if not all of you, never think about the GSO. However, this being my first year as a GSO senator, I have actually found myself pondering this organization from time to time... usually when my PDA beeps at me when I'm supposed to go to the meetings. If you are aware of the GSO, you probably associate the organization with dis-organization and catty, inane scandals. Since taking office in the Fall, I have witnessed said characteristics; however, since the impeachment of the last president, Guofong Huong, in November, and the short tenure of the current president, Angeliki Pollatou, I've seen a marked positive change in our graduate student government. Not only have I seen the GSO actually get some things done to benefit us all, I've had fun... at student government meetings!!

Now that the monthly meetings have been switched to the University Café and I can drink beer during the meetings, I'm having even more fun... um... Besides the beer, what's fun is

the slightly controlled chaos that occurs when strangers with little to no experience in government get together to run student government - and then getting to see the process actually work! It's also fun for me to put my two-cents in to the heated discussions.

The meeting on April 15 was no exception. A large portion of the meeting was devoted to the GSO elections, which started on April 26th and ended on April 30. The biggest topic was the proposed raise in the Graduate Student Activity Fee.

As you may or may not know, you have been charged \$20.50 each semester to help pay for our graduate student government (GSO). This money has gone toward paying for the GSO Operations (paying auditors and administrators to make sure we aren't screwing the GSO up, etc.) paying for Program Expenses (like this newspaper, child care, orientation, radio station, etc.) and paying for Program Funding (to mention only four: departmental allocations, graduate student cultural and social events, and The Research Access Program [RAP], which reimburses grads for travel to conferences and out-of-town lectures).

For just \$20.50 you have gotten all of that (plus more)!! Quite a deal.

There is now a major problem. The GSO operational expenses have risen - among other reasons, the auditors and administrators will need to charge the GSO more money for their services... and rightly so, as was explained to us during the April 15th meeting. So, in order to balance the budget for next year, it has been proposed that most of the above Program Expenses and Program Funding should be severely decreased - thousands of dollars in most categories.

As a musician, cuts in funding are frightening. Each year the Music department gets thousands of dollars in departmental allocations from the GSO to pay for masterclasses, colloquiums and guest concerts (money that is not available from the University Administration - in other words, without the GSO these essential events would not happen), and as a campus in general, we get thousands of dollars in cultural funding (through graduate student clubs), e.g. the South Indian concert a few Sundays ago was funded by the GSO.

By diminishing these programs the GSO will be doing us all a great disservice.

During the April 15th meeting a group of senators got together to write the referendum to raise the Student Activity Fee by a very modest \$1.50 for full-time students and \$0.75 for part-time students in order to save these programs, and perhaps (cross our fingers) give us enough money so we can even raise the limits on the programs!

At the time of this letter's publication, the vote will have been decided. As one of the authors of the referendum, it is my sincerest hope that the referendum passes. As I have expressed in this letter, I feel the raise in the Student Activity Fee is fair and quite vital in order to sustain programs that contribute to the vitality of our graduate education. What a horribly lifeless place Stony Brook would be without cultural events, without RAP, without this newspaper or without any one of the other programs the GSO funds.

Let's all hope for the best!

Yours quite truly,
Mike McCurdy, GSO senator

Student Arrested at Undergraduate Student Government Senate Meeting

On Tuesday April 27, 2004 at about 8pm William Schwalback III, a member of the Commuter Student Association, was arrested at a USG Senate Meeting. He was then taken to the 6th precinct, held in a cell overnight, and arraigned yesterday. He is currently facing two counts of assaulting an officer. It is rumored that he is also being suspended from the University.

William was at the Senate meeting on Tuesday to discuss his qualms with the USG 2004-05 budget. It was proposed by USG Treasurer, Andrew Rafii, in the previous Senate meeting that the \$300,000 projected deficit in the upcoming fiscal year's

budget be resolved by raising the Student Activity Fee by \$4 and cutting all club and organization budgets by 5% across the board. Many students opposed this proposal and other budget discrepancies and were present to voice their concerns. It was also previously resolved that the Senate meeting would not end before the budget was passed. Andrew Rafii asked to have the budget talks moved up on the agenda because he had an engagement following the meeting. Students, including William, became upset at the prospect of a shortened meeting. He spoke out numerous times and was advised by the Sergeant-at-Arms to save his comments till the

end.

Apparently at this point USG Advisor, Lou Medina, called campus police, notifying them of the "situation." When campus police arrived they approach William and asked him to leave. He refused asking under what authority and why. He also argued that the Senate had not asked for his removal. The two policemen continued to order his removal, forced him to the ground, hand cuffed him, and took him to the 6th precinct. He spent the night in jail and was arraigned the next day. His trial is scheduled for June 17 and he is being charged with two counts of assault. The two policemen are claiming they sustained injuries during the arrest.

Esam Al-Shariff, president pro-tempore of the Senate, commented that the Senate had not asked for his removal. Doug Little, Chief of Campus Police, stated he felt the

officers were completely justified in their actions and that he would have done the same. The story is being broadcast on News Channel 12 and Eyewitness News.

Students held a rally on Friday April 30 at the Fountain at 1pm to rally in support of William and against the repressive measures taken to remove him from the Senate meeting. The focus of the rally will also be repressive nature of our Administration in dealing with student dissent. This rally attracted 35 people who then marched to the Roth Regatta and through the crowd chanting 'Whose school? Our school!' and 'No to Repression, No to abuse!' Afterwards students talked individually to their peers informing them of the situation and handing out descriptions of what happened.

Marching Through the Strawberries for a Just Contract

by Daniel Seth Woulfin

One hundred and ten Graduate Student Employee Union members

demand that NY State provide a just contract that addresses fundamental

down because of the horrific terms that the negotiators of New York State set forth. The contract they offered graduate student Teaching Assistants and Graduate Assistants include a 230% increase in medical co-pays, triple the price of prescription drugs and the creation of a third

bankruptcies. Finally, GSEU members are only allowed five days of maternity leave after which they can be fired.

The GSEU negotiating team counter proposal included a larger increase in pay and more workplace rights.



and supporters gathered on Stony Brook campus' academic mall on April 28th, the day of Strawberry Fest and Diversity Day. But they were not there to buy overpriced strawberries. Rather they were protesting the state of affairs of the contract negotiations between the State of New York and the Graduate Student Employees Union." GSEU members and supporters gathered at the Fountain" to

inequities in wages, healthcare, and workplace rights." This was the third rally by the Graduate Student Employees Union. Each rally, held on March 3rd and 24th 2004, was held in direct conflict with SUNY @ Stony Brook's events policy, which states that all events must be submitted and approved six weeks in advance.

The contract negotiations broke

tier of prescription drugs that would cost \$40 and include regularly used medicine, such as birth control. Financially, the state only offered a 1.5% increase. Right now, GSEU members' health care includes little dental and vision coverage and the responsibility for 20% of all hospital costs. For GSEU members suffering serious illness or with serious health problems this has led to a number of

Included in this was the right to a just cause for firings (right now GSEU members can be and have been fired without explanation) and a more comprehensive grievance procedure. The State refused. In response, the GSEU has organized rallies in the SUNY centers, in Buffalo on April 19th, in Binghamton and SUNY @ Stony Brook on April 28th, to demand a just and fair contract.





At the rally on this campus, Angela Davis, a professor at the University of California at Santa Cruz, a distinguished visiting professor at SUNY @ Stony Brook, and civil rights activist, spoke to the cheering crowd. Davis stated, "This of course, is a struggle that should not have to be fought because everyone in this society deserves a living wage." Other members of the graduate student

The attendees unanimously decided to march through campus beginning with the Administration Building. Chanting "They say give back! We say fight back!" and "What do we want? A just contract! When do we want it? Now!" they marched through the first and second floors of Administration before leaving. By the end of the march, GSEU members

and undergraduate, is evidence that SUNY @ Stony Brook's long history of activism is alive and well. In support of the GSEU and Stony Brook activism, Angela Davis stated "You have a right to a just contract and your effort, it seems to me, will have a reverberation that will affect communities far beyond this campus." Hopefully this prophecy holds true, not only for the GSEU and fellow

other activists at SUNY @ Stony Brook follow his words in support of their social and political rights on campus. The question becomes will you, as a member of SUNY @ Stony Brook's community, speak up and join them.

For more information email the GSEU at gseurankandfile@yahoo.com



community, undergraduates, New York state residents and GSEU members spoke at the rally. After being entertained by classic labor songs, such as 'This Land is Your Land' by Woody Guthrie, the rally turned into a march.

and supporters had traversed the Academic Mall through the Strawberry Fest and Diversity Day events and through the Student Activities Center. The success of this event, across all spectrums of the university, faculty, graduate student,

graduate student unions, but also for other issues and the student community at large at SUNY @ Stony Brook.

The writer Edward Abbey once stated, "Sentiment without action is the ruin of the soul." The GSEU and

or visit the Buffalo GSEU website at <http://wings.buffalo.edu/student-life/graduate/gseu/>

AGRIPPINA SEDUCES AUDIENCE

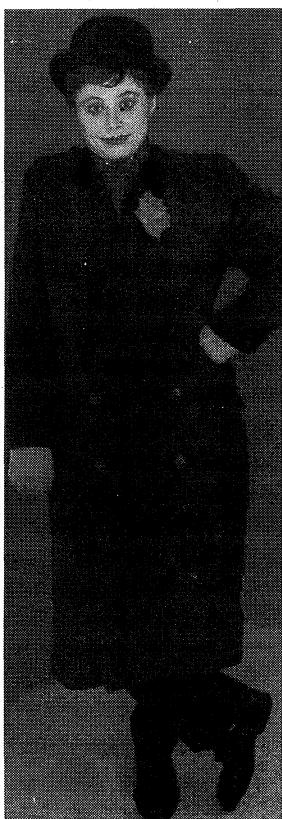
by Jo Erikson



Kathleen Flynn as Agrippina in Act I

Photo by B.S.

The Stony Brook Opera presented Handel's Agrippina on Friday and Sunday April 16 and 18th under the musical direction of David Lawton. Kathleen Flynn's lyrical, spirited performance as Agrippina dominated the production as she played the plotting queen whose machinations to crown her excellently brainless and jocular son Nero (yes, the fiddler) caesar. Mihaela Buhaiciuc must have studied the gestures of preteen boys before creating her role, because her performance had an uncanny similarity to that monstrous form of human being. Indeed her brilliant acting transformed those ostentatious runs that Baroque opera so loves



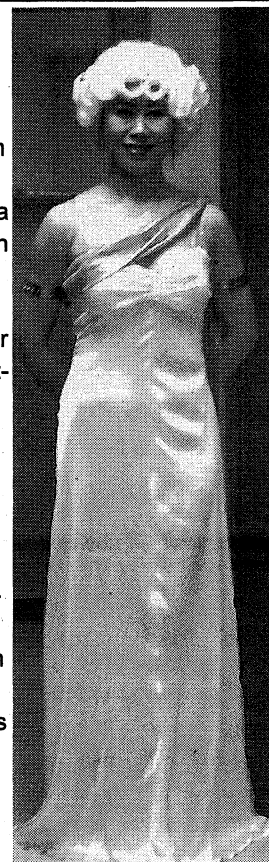
Mihaela Buhaiciuc as Nero

Photo by B.S.

into marvelously burlesque and cocky gestures. But it is Agrippina that brings the plot in motion. One by one each of the characters (Narcisco-Kara Cornell and Pallante-Valentin Lanzrein and even the Emperor Claudio-Orival Bento-Gonçalves) falls under the spell of Agrippina's voice that bids them do her will. And Agrippina stops at nothing. She even drives Poppea (played by the pearl-voiced Jing Huang) to seduce her own husband. That scene resonates with recent political scandals. The Caesar is clad of course as your

typical politician and is caught with his pants down, literally.

But of course in a Baroque opera as in politics the norm must be restored and in the second act- the vain Poppea in a shockingly white Marilyn Monroe wig and negligee begins to weave her counter-spell to get back her lover Ottone (performed excellently by Stony Brook DMA graduate Myeongsok Lee) who has been banished primarily because his heroic, military, lyric-mezzo/tenor bravery stood in the way of Nero's succession. His banishment is of course a plot of Agrippina's. Poppea then gains the upper hand with various plots and seductions of her own that rival the basest of afternoon soap operas-combative and seductive arias sounded with most of the cast hiding behind gigantic hideous (with the lighting) peach curtains that I pray were some sort of commentary on fleshiness of boudoirs and not meant seriously. By this point in the opera Agrippina and Poppea's nets are so helplessly tangled that it seems impossible for both plotting queens to get what they want and maintain their dignity as the plot crashes to a screeching halt. Luckily, as Pallante sings in wonderfully refreshing, self-ironic moment in the opera: "Agrippina turns everything to her own advantage." Her persuasive power becomes her own deus ex machina as she convinces Caesar that all her selfish plots have



Jing Huang as Poppea, in the

Marilyn Monroe outfit Photo by B.S.

been done to aid him. Indeed all ends well with Agrippina as "queen mother", Poppea as Ottone's bride and the cast singing harmoniously. Despite the cast's excellent performances and the Baroque accompaniment by members of the Symphony Orchestra and Baroque Ensemble, the production failed to coalesce into a whole. The color scheme alone seemed naught but visual chaos. The lush burgundy and white Victorian costumes by Sarah Iams clashed alarmingly with the aforementioned curtains and floating Roman columns (set design by Yoshio

design by Yoshio Tanokura) and the pale blue and peach spotted light (Scott Borowka, lighting design). Ronald Luchsinger's staging also seemed too conservative to make the da capos interesting and meaningful, but the super-titles were excellently translated and timed, allowing the audience plenty of opportunities to guffaw. However puzzling the conception of the opera as a production was, Handel's music and Agrippina charmed the enthusiastically applauding audience.



Myeongsok Lee as Ottone

Photo by B.S.

Chamber Music Festival with the Emerson String Quartet May 3-8, 2004

Stony Brook, NY -- The May festival will be the culmination of an entire year's work, with a full week of performances, master classes, and lectures. Faculty of the Department of Music, including the Emerson String Quartet, will join together to coach, perform, rehearse, and lecture about music from 1700 to the present.

All events are open to the public and held in the Staller Center Recital Hall, unless otherwise indicated. For more information and a listing of concert programs, visit www.stonybrook.edu/music. All events are free except where noted. For ticketed concerts, please call the Staller Center box office at (631) 632-ARTS or visit www.Stallercenter.com. Join us for this weeklong festival!

Schedule of Events

All Events are held in the Staller Center Recital Hall unless otherwise indicated.

Monday, May 3rd

2:00 p.m. Baroque Workshop
Internationally acclaimed harpsichordist and teacher Arthur Haas offers a workshop he affectionately calls, "Historically Informed Performance of Bach on the Piano—Do We Really Care?" Participating pianists will perform dance movements from Bach's French or English suites, or partitas. Discussion will focus on issues of performance practice, including articulation, tempi, use of pedal, rubato, and more. Free.

8:00 p.m. Festival Opening Concert by Stony Brook Faculty
Celebrated members of Stony Brook's distinguished music faculty join in an evening of chamber music. Program will include music for keyboard and voice spanning nearly 200 years. Join Arthur Haas, Christina Dahl, Ani Kavafian, Colin Carr, William Purvis and new faculty member Chris Pedro Trakas for the program, which begins with a Handel Sonata for horn, cello, and harpsichord, and ends with the beloved Brahms Horn Trio. Chris Pedro Trakas will sing arias by Bach, Donizetti, and a song cycle of Ravel. Free.

Tuesday, May 4th

4:30-6 p.m. Olivier Messiaen's Quartet for the End of Time
This quartet for violin, cello, clarinet, and piano was composed and performed in 1941 when Messiaen was held in a German prison camp during World War II.
Pre-Performance Lecture by Judy Lochhead, Professor and Chair of Music. Free.

6:30 p.m. Baroque Ensemble Concert, Arthur Haas, Director
In a program featuring music by Telemann, Couperin and including a French-inspired dance suite for Baroque orchestra from the court of Queen Christina of Sweden, the Stony Brook Baroque Band will perform instrumental and vocal music entirely on period instruments. The band includes alumni and students who play instruments such as Baroque violins, violas, cello, violone, and the Baroque transverse flute. Come hear the "first" chamber music. Free.

8:00 p.m. University Orchestra Susan Deaver, conductor; Staller Center Main Stage
Two winners of the Undergraduate Concerto Competition are featured in this concert. Michelle Abraham performs the 1st movement of Sibelius' Violin Concerto and Kevin Shue performs the final movement of Saint-Saens' Violin Concerto No. 3 in B minor. The orchestra also presents Vaughan Williams' Norfolk Rhapsody and Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 in E minor "New World."
Tickets: \$8/ Students and Seniors \$4.

Wednesday, May 5th

12:40-2 p.m. Stony Brook Jazz, Ray Anderson, Director.
Cosmic Combo Blowout: The SBU Jazz Combos in Concert. The Stony Brook University Jazz Combos in concert, featuring the Mellifluous Modern Modality Band; the Straight Up, No Chaser Band; the New-Q-Lar Fusion Ensemble; and Disguise the Limit. Free.

4 p.m. Masterclass led by Stony Brook pianist Christina Dahl.
Health Sciences Center, Lecture Hall 1, Level 2.

Led by renowned pianist Christina Dahl, students in the graduate and undergraduate programs in music perform in this masterclass, which centers on chamber music for piano with other instruments. See students rehearse, perform and discuss issues in some of the music which will be played on our closing concerts. Free.

4 p.m. Undergraduate Recital.
Undergraduate students in the Department perform a variety of chamber works for instruments and voice. Free.

8 p.m. Contemporary Chamber Players, Co-Directors Gilbert Kalish and Eduardo Leandro
This concert features a brand new work by Stony Brook composer Dan Weymouth for the rarely heard sixxens and oboe. The program also includes some of the most fascinating pieces from the 20th century: Schoenberg's Ode to Napoleon, Kagel's Fürst Igor, Stravinsky, Berio's Linea and Wuorinen's Percussion Duo. Free.

Thursday, May 6th

4:00—5:30 p.m.
Masterclass with Emerson String Quartet violinist, Eugene Drucker Physics, S240
Join violinist Eugene Drucker, distinguished member of the Emerson Quartet, in a masterclass with students from the ESQ's special quartet program. All year long, students in quartets and other string groups coach with members of this legendary Quartet. This is an opportunity for an audience to observe this coaching dynamic, and to hear some of the pieces which will be featured later in the week. Free.

8:00 p.m. Faculty and Student Chamber Music Concert, with the Emerson String Quartet
The first in a series of four concerts featuring the work of our student quartets, piano trios and quartets, and exciting collaborations between students and members of the ESQ. The featured collaboration in this concert is the first movement of the Mendelssohn Octet. Hear violinist Phil Setzer and seven students play the first movement of this masterpiece, written by Mendelssohn at age 16! Tickets: \$14 adults; \$7 seniors, staff, students, and children.

Friday, May 7th

4:00-6:00 p.m. Ward Melville String

Orchestra Workshop with the Emerson String Quartet
The Emerson String Quartet leads a workshop on performing Mozart's Serenade KV 239 (Serenata notturna) for string quartet and string orchestra with students from Ward Melville High School. The workshop will conclude with a performance of the work. Free.

8:00 p.m. Faculty and Student Chamber Music Concert, with the Emerson String Quartet
The second in the series of concerts featuring strings, piano and collaboration with the Emerson String Quartet. The featured collaboration on this concert is the second movement of the Mendelssohn Octet, with violist Larry Dutton.
Tickets: \$14 adults; \$7 seniors, staff, students, and children.

Saturday, May 8th

11:00-12:30p.m. Masterclass led by Emerson String Quartet violinist Philip Setzer.
Students in the Pre-College Program at Stony Brook participate in this open masterclass. Free.

3:00 p.m. Faculty and Student Chamber Music Concert, with the Emerson String Quartet
The third in the series of concerts features not only cellist David Finckel in the third movement of the Mendelssohn Octet, but performances of both the Ravel string quartet and the Brahms G Minor Piano Quartet. Tickets: \$14 adults; \$7 seniors, staff, students, and children.

8:00 p.m. Closing Concert Of The Festival—Faculty and Student Chamber Music Concert, with the Emerson String Quartet
Please join us for the final concert in this weeklong festival celebrating the work of the Music Department at Stony Brook. This concert culminates with the last movement of the Mendelssohn Octet, and features violinist Eugene Drucker with students. In addition, Larry Dutton and David Finckel will also participate in a performance of the Brahms Sextet in G major.
Tickets: \$14 adults; \$7 seniors, staff, students, and children.

Request for Nominations for 2005 Honorary Degrees

DEADLINE - May 10, 2004

The Faculty Committee on Honorary Degrees will begin its work leading to the recommendation of candidates for SUNY honorary degrees to be awarded in 2005. The chair of the committee is Lawrence Martin, Dean of the Graduate School, and the committee members are as follows: Professor William Arens, Anthropology; Professor Ruth Brandwein, School of Social Welfare; Professor Gilbert Kalish, Music; Linda Merians, Director of Corporate Foundation Relations, University Advancement; James Fiore, Division I Director of Athletics; Dr. Richard Fine, Pediatrics Academic Department; Professor Mario Mignone, European Languages & Literature; Dean Yacov Shamash, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences; Professor Daniel O Leary, Psychology; and Elizabeth Kinda, Graduate Student.

We invite suggestions from the University community, especially students, and we would like to see each division and department involved in

the process of generating nominations. The purposes of honorary degrees awarded by the State University of New York are:

To recognize excellence in the fields of public affairs, the sciences, humanities and the arts, scholarship and education, business and philanthropy, and social services which exemplify the mission and purposes of the State University of New York;

To honor meritorious and outstanding service to the University, the State of New York, the United States, or to humanity at large;

To recognize persons whose lives serve as examples of the University's aspirations for its students.

The honorary doctorate is the highest form of recognition offered by the University. We would like nominations that reflect the diversity that exists on our campus. We also prefer to honor people who are still active and to whom we are among the first to offer

this recognition.

Please submit your nomination in the following format (Note that the nominee may not be contacted for information):

- 1) A one-page summary about the nominee, identifying the nominee by name, title, present position, and/or profession. The remainder of the page should summarize the nominee's most important achievements and the relevance of these achievements to Stony Brook's mission.
- 2) A three- to five-page justification that explains, in specific detail: a) why the nominee's achievements justify the awarding of an honorary degree; b) why the particular type of degree is being recommended; and c) how the nominee's achievements are relevant to Stony Brook's mission. Types of Degrees: Doctor of Fine Arts, Doctor of Humane Letters, Doctor of Laws, Doctor of Letters, Doctor of Music, and Doctor of Science.
- 3) Additional supporting documentation should include a detailed vita or Who's Who entry, reviews or articles about the nominee's work, a list of major publications, a list of major awards. These materials will

vary for each nominee. These documents may be photocopies. A confidential statement of support for the nomination should also be included from a faculty member in the relevant discipline, when the nominee is an academic.

Nominations are due in the Graduate School, 2401 Computer Science, by May 10, 2004.

We must ask, however, that you do all you can to ensure that confidentiality is maintained and that you do not contact nominees nor in any way communicate to them that they are being considered for an honorary degree. For your information, a list of degrees awarded to date at Stony Brook is attached. A complete list of SUNY honorary degrees and a set of the guidelines adopted by the Board of Trustees may be obtained from your Dean or by contacting the Committee's Executive Secretary, Ms. Ignacia Ruiz (632-7035). Please note that since this degree is awarded by the State University of New York, a recipient of an honorary degree from one SUNY campus is not eligible for a degree from another.

We look forward to hearing from you.

World's Most Precise Gyroscopes Ready To Test Einstein Theory

A NASA spacecraft designed to test two important predictions of Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity is set to launch from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., at 1 p.m. EDT, April 17.

NASA's Gravity Probe B mission, also known as GP-B, will use four ultra-precise gyroscopes, orbiting the Earth in a unique satellite, to experimentally test two extraordinary predictions of Einstein's 1916 theory that space and time are distorted by the presence of massive objects. The two effects being tested are: The geodetic effect, the amount by which the Earth warps local spacetime in which it resides, and the frame-dragging effect, the amount by which the Earth drags local spacetime around with it as it rotates.

"Gravity Probe-B has the potential to uncover fundamental properties of the invisible universe, a universe which seems very bizarre and alien

to our everyday perceptions yet one that Einstein tried to show us almost a century ago," said Dr. Anne Kinney, director of the Astronomy and Physics Division in NASA's Office of Space Science, Washington. "Testing the key aspects of Einstein's theory, such as GP-B will do, will provide crucial information to science just as it has already helped America by pushing technological progress in developing the tools needed for these ultra-precise measurements," she added.

Once placed in its polar orbit of 640 kilometers (400 miles) above Earth, GP-B will circle the globe every 97.5 minutes, crossing over both poles. In-orbit checkout and calibration is scheduled to last 40-60 days, followed by a 13-month science-data acquisition period and a two-month post-science period for calibrations.

To test the general theory of relativity, GP-B will monitor any drift in the

gyroscopes' spin axis alignment in relation to its guide star, IM Pegasi (HR 8703). Over the course of a year, the anticipated spin axis drift for the geodetic effect is a minuscule angle of 6,614.4 milliarcseconds, and the anticipated spin axis drift for the frame-dragging effect is even smaller, only 40.9 milliarcseconds. To illustrate the size of the angles, if you climbed a slope of 40.9 milliarcseconds for 100 miles, you would rise only one inch in altitude.

During the mission, data from GP-B will be received a minimum of two times each day. Earth-based ground stations or NASA's data relay satellites can receive the information. Controllers will be able to communicate with GP-B from the Mission Operations Center at Stanford University. Data will include space vehicle and instrument performance, as well as the very precise measurements of the gyroscopes' spin-axis orientation. By 2005 the GP-B mission will be complete, and a one-year period is planned for scientific analysis of the data.

"Developing GP-B has been a supreme challenge requiring the skillful integration of an extraordinary range of new technologies," said Professor Francis Everitt of Stanford University, and the GP-B principal investigator. "It is hard to see how it could have been done without the kind of unique long-term collaboration that we have had between Stanford, Lockheed Martin, and NASA. It is wonderful to be ready for launch," he said.

NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, Ala., manages the GP-B program. NASA's prime contractor for the mission, Stanford University, conceived the experiment and is responsible for the design and integration of the science instrument, as well as for mission operations and data analysis. Lockheed Martin, a major subcontractor, designed, integrated and tested the spacecraft and some of its major payload components. NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Fla., and Boeing Expendable Launch Systems, Huntington Beach, Calif., are responsible for the countdown and launch of the Delta II.

SAFETY FIRST IN THE NEW VOLVO S 40

CLASS-LEADING SAFETY, STUNNING DESIGN, DYNAMIC DRIVING

- Volvo Intelligent Vehicle Architecture (VIVA); a new way of thinking
- New, patented frontal structure with several crumple zones
- Four steel grades interact for optimal deformation
- Developed and tested in the world's most advanced safety center
- Frontal design with integrated protection for other road users
- 68 percent greater torsional rigidity compared to the current Volvo S40
- Unique Intelligent Driver Information System - IDIS
- High level of theft protection

The all-new Volvo S40 sets the standard in its class with extremely high safety levels - both protective and preventive, and represents an evolution of the, "You think and then you build" theme that began with the award winning XC90 sport-utility vehicle.

It's all part of Volvo's Intelligent Vehicle Architecture (VIVA), a unique approach to building a car that integrates everything from its crashworthiness, to its dynamic styling and exciting driving characteristics. This is possible due to several interacting units, including a very stiff body, a new frontal structure and a world-first intelligent system for driver information.

The safety systems have been developed and tested in the Volvo Cars Safety Center, the most advanced facility of its kind in the world. About forty full-scale tests have been performed to help ensure that all the on-board components interact, not to mention an untold number of computer crash simulations.

VOLVO'S INTELLIGENT VEHICLE ARCHITECTURE (VIVA)

Crumple zones that employ different grades of steel

During the development of the all-new Volvo S40, the goal was to achieve class-leading safety utilizing a new way of thinking about how cars deform in the event of a collision. "Our aim of building cars that are the safest in their class applies to all

models, including the new Volvo S40," says Ingrid Skogsmo, head of the Volvo Cars Safety Centre.

In a collision, the preconditions for efficient deformation are critical. Since the necessary deformation is absorbed within a limited total distance, the various materials' properties must be exploited to the maximum so as to absorb as much of the incoming energy as possible. "A tough challenge, but one that we approached in an entirely new way," confirms Ingrid Skogsmo. "We call it Volvo's Intelligent Vehicle

Architecture."

The frontal body structure of the all-new Volvo S40 is divided into several zones, each with a different task in the deformation process. The outer zones are responsible for most of the deformation. The closer the collision forces get to the passenger compartment, the less the materials used deform. The intention is that the passenger compartment should remain intact in most collisions.

In order to give each zone the relevant properties, different grades of steel are used in different areas. Four different steel grades are used. In addition to conventional bodywork steel, three different grades of high-strength steel are employed: High Strength Steel, Extra High Strength Steel and Ultra High Strength Steel.

What's also unique is that the all-new S40 went through a series of computer simulated frontal crash tests without the installed engine. The engines were then designed to fit within the empty space that remained after the simulated crash test. In a real collision the engine may be shunted rearward 5.9 inches before contacting the bulkhead.

This zonal system enables the collision forces to be absorbed in a highly ingenious and effective manner:

Low-speed deformation zone
The front bumper incorporates an extremely rigid crossmember of boron steel.

The attachments to the longitudinal members of the

body are designed in the form of 'crash boxes', which absorb the forces generated by a low-speed collision without damage to the rest of the body structure. The crash boxes can be replaced easily at reasonable cost.

High-speed deformation zone

The straight sections of the side members are made of high strength steel, a very ductile grade of material, which is optimized for high-energy absorption. This zone accounts for most of the deformation in a collision.

In addition, Volvo has opted to include upper side cross-members since they provide essential protection if the vehicle should collide, for example, with a truck platform or a loading pier.

Back-up zone

The section of cross-member that turns outward toward the A-pillar is designed to act as a barrier protecting the cabin space and as a back-up against deformation. The design also helps minimize the possibility of the front wheel from penetrating the interior, the wheel instead helping to absorb the collision forces. This section is extremely rigid and is made of extra high-strength steel.

Three-way attachment

A rigid cross-member connects the A-pillars and lower side members. On each side they form an extremely rigid three-way attachment, which helps to preserve the passenger compartment.

The new front structure is one of Volvo's many patented safety designs, and is an important part of Volvo's Intelligent Vehicle Architecture.

VIVA: Well-designed engines contribute to crash safety

Owing to efficient packaging, the

engines in the all-new Volvo S40 are 7.8 inches slimmer than the 2.4- and 2.5-liter engines found in the S60 and V70. Since the engines are installed



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transversely, the reduced width creates greater space between the engine and passenger compartment. In a collision, the engine can be pushed up to 5.9 inches rearward before the crankshaft comes into contact with the cross-member near the bulkhead.

The steering column can be deformed up to 5.5 inches. When deformed, the steering column moves horizontally, to provide optimal airbag positioning.

In cars for the North American market the collapse function adapts to the use of the seat belt.

More solutions in common with other Volvo models:

- Collapsible pedals
- Dual-stage airbags

- Seat belt pretensioners for the front seats and rear outer seats
- Force limiter for the front seat belts
- Belt reminder for the front seats (for European markets also in the rear)

In versions destined for the North American market,

the force limiters have been designed so that their effect is tailored to suit the seat's passengers (due to the seat's fore-aft position).

VIVA: Side Impact Protection System stiffens body

The all-new Volvo S40 is 1.9 inches wider than its predecessor. This creates added space for deformation in a collision. In other respects, the Volvo S40 has the same type of side impact protection as found on the S60 and S80, with SIPS (Side Impact Protection System), side-impact airbags and inflatable curtains. These curtains are designed to provide enhanced protection in rollover accidents, by deflating extra-slowly (approximately 3 seconds).



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Stony Love

by J Z Bich

Dear Jziers,

This is the last advice column I have for you before we hit the summer. If you would like to see this column back next year email me, or the paper, and we will see if your wish might be granted. The summer is time to play, to enjoy the weather and to absorb some sun. Use a lot of oil (inside and outside of your body), get some sleep, pick up sexy people if you don't already have them with you, and try something new. Make sure to be safe (put that condom in your pocket before going out for a date, and yes you girls out there who only look for other girls safety should be on your mind as well), make sure to be sane (do not meet up with strangers without making sure others know where you are) and make sure to be wild. Don't leave things for later, you will be busy, you will be tired, now is the time. Good luck with your finals and go out and play as soon as that last day of school

ends!

Lovingly yours,
JZ Bich

The following question seems to be on many straight men's minds these days. How ever some tips in the answer could help anyone interested in anal sex, gay or straight, male or female and all the rest of us who float in the worlds between.

Q: I've seen on a comedy talk show that there are a number of straight couples where the boyfriends or husbands are now experimenting with anal sex by way of a strap-on dildo employed by the girlfriend or wife. At first thought this may seem like it is only confined to those people who enjoy S&M type activities, but as suggested by the show, this anal sex performed on the male by way of strap-on dildo is something that mainstream couples are now doing.

One bit of evidence is that "how-to" videos are now available. Question: is this really going to be something mainstream, or is this just some fad brought on by the public's fascination with metrosexuality and won't be something expected in bed?
The Assker

A: Dear Assker,
Gay men have been telling us for centuries that anal sex is pleasurable and as a matter of fact many women have been saying that as well. There is no rason why a person could not enjoy this type of activity regardless of their sexual orientation. Now, if this is a passing fad or here to stay it is hard to say. I do not believe that sexual experimentation is a fad. And I do believe that as we get more comfortable with our sexualities we will be more open to various types of experimentation. So my advise to all ye straight men out there who are open to trying new forms of pleasure to try anal. Now, I do have an advice to give about how to go about this. First both partners should be comfortable with this and limits should be set. You should always use sex toys

predicted for anal sex and not improvise with various objects to avoid getting hurt. For some safe sex toys visit www.toysinbabeland.com.

There are any books and tapes out there to look at for the how to do it for the person doing it, but I will try to give a brief summary here. Make sure you use plenty of lube on both the anal opening and the sex toy, make sure you take it slowly, too fast insertion will hurt your partner, make sure you start with a smaller dildo or a butt plug or just a finger and use bigger ones only after your partner feels comfortable with the smaller on. After you have inserted the toy as far as you and your partner want to go leave it there for a while for your partner to relax and adjust to it. Make sure your partner feels comfortable telling you when to stop. Finally, as I was told, it is particularly pleasurable for men to have they anus penetrated as they are having an orgasm.

Wherever you decide to spend
your summer,
Have a nice and Happy Holliday !

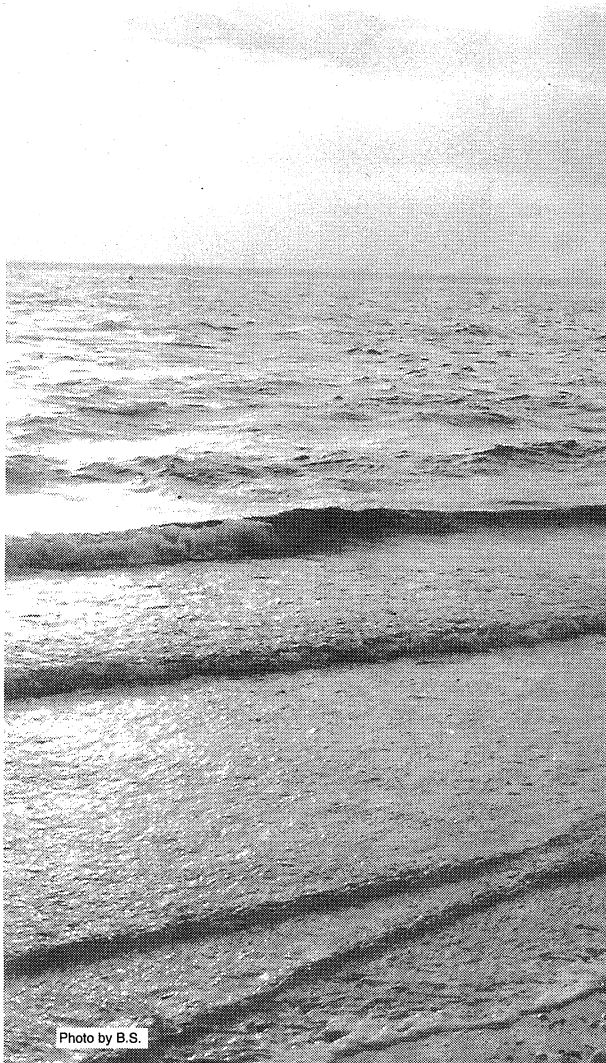


Photo by B.S.



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Photo by B.S.

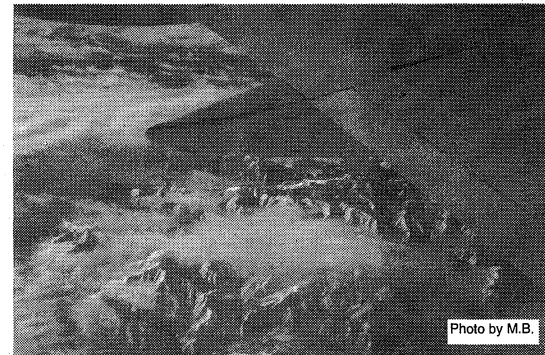


Photo by M.B.