

Opinion

Women in Videogames: Pleasure Dolls or Powerhouses?

Feminism has made quite the journey since its spark was first ignited back in the 19th century. There has always been something to fight for, birthrights that are handed to men quite promptly but dangled over the heads of women. The "fairer sex" has had to go up in arms for issues such as voting, abortion, equal pay and a bevy of other concerns.

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Arts

Billy Collins' Look at Aimless Love

Throughout the myriad traversing of "love" poetry, one can come across the starkly unique views of Billy Collins with his work "Aimless Love," and be refreshed with this author who brings something new to the craft. Through the use of allusion and imagery, the author displays his appreciation for "Aimless Love," which is a love for things the narrator comes across and observes in the present.

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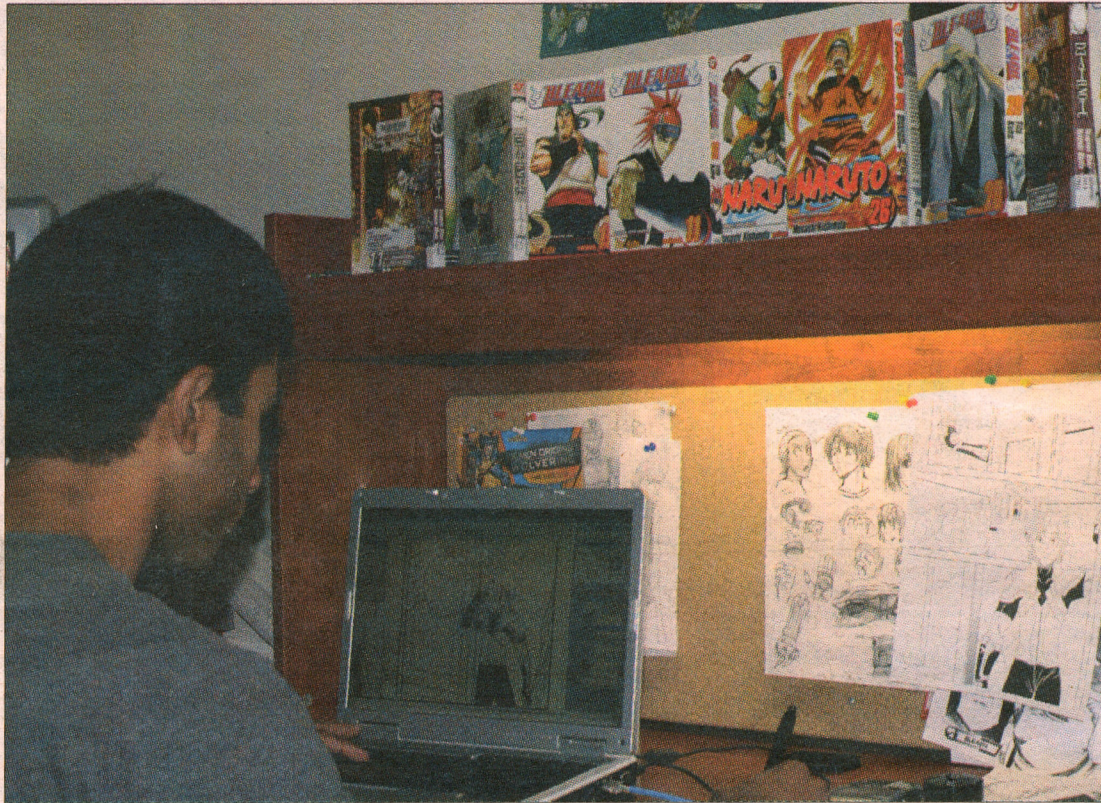
Sports

Women's Hoops Falls to Monmouth

Trying to collect its second straight win, the Stony Brook women's basketball team made the short trip to Monmouth to take on the Hawks Wednesday night.

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See photos from Asian Night on pages 6 and 7.



Patrick Jacques / SB Statesman

Waseque Quazi could face eviction under university laws that stipulate a limited time of guaranteed on-campus housing.

Facing Eviction, Students Gripe About "Eight Semester Rule"

By PATRICK JACQUES
Contributing Writer

By this time next year, Waseque Quazi will not have a place to live.

Quazi, 21, a computer science major at Stony Brook University, will face eviction from on campus housing at the end of this academic year, in accordance with Stony Brook's, "8-semester rule." The rule states that no student who enters as a freshman may live on campus for more than eight semesters—roughly four years—weighing heavily on Quazi who will not graduate on time.

Of the students who started school at Stony Brook in the fall of 2002, about one out of every five who did graduate took more than four years to earn a bachelors degree, according to research by Emily Thomas, director of planning and institutional research at Stony Brook. This is attributed mostly to the indecision almost all students encounter when choosing career paths. Now more students face the dilemma of continuing their educations and finding residences, as universities place limits to on campus housing.

"I always thought I would easily graduate in four years," Quazi said. "Once I started, I knew it was going to be a lot harder than I thought."

In Quazi's case, which is still pending appeal, he would face eviction under the six semester stipulation of the rule, which gives transfer students six semesters of on-campus housing after he transferred from Binghamton University.

"I was unhappy with the school I was at," Quazi said. "It was small, and very far away from home. I thought I would have a better academic future here, as opposed

Continued on page 4

Students Fail to Tap Key Job Resource: Career Center

By AISHA BRELAND-HENRY
Contributing Writer

Students are unaware or unwilling to use the job resources offered by Stony Brook University's Career Center when unemployment rates are at their highest in years.

"What is the Career Center?" Lisa Jackson asked.

Despite her laughter, the junior majoring in marine sciences appeared quizzical as she leaned in and propped her crossed arms on the kitchen table. Her suitemate, Danielle Wischenka, a junior in psychology, gave a brief description of a few Career Center services, such as resume workshops and finding internships.

"Oh, I didn't know they do that," Jackson said.

Wischenka explained to Jackson what to do with her resume but not who to ask for assistance. According to the Career Center's 2009-2010 Calendar of Events and Career Guide, counselors are available Monday through Friday to help students with their resumes. Antony Lin, communications assistant at the Career Center and a Stony Brook alum, checks rough drafts of resumes and cover letters on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Lin

said that he feels students underestimate themselves when it comes to writing resumes.

"Students think that being a cashier isn't relevant, but you gain lots of skill," Lin said. Lin said that as a cashier you learn how to be organized and responsible with money.

The counselors' efforts are effective, Wischenka said. She said she liked the resume workshops the most. "They tore my resume apart," she said.

Despite Wischenka's knowledge of the Career Center, students like Jackson aren't unusual. "It's a continuous challenge, getting the word out," said Marianna Savoca, the director of the Career Center. The Career Center hasn't figured out a solution, Savoca said.

Another one of Jackson's suitemates, Sahita Pierre-Antoine, a junior majoring in political science, sat at the kitchen table a few minutes later and said she didn't know what the Career Center did either.

"It actually helps," Jackson said excitedly and proceeded to tell Pierre-Antoine everything she learned.

Even after Jackson and Pierre-Antoine found out about the Career Center, they still didn't plan on going this semester. Jackson said her

future is far away and has other priorities, such as getting through the semester, studying for her GREs, finding a graduate school and internships. Jackson is also a swimmer for Stony Brook University and plans to use its athletic academic advising center, when she's ready for resume help.

Pierre-Antoine said that she doesn't have time. With her classes back-to-back, work at the Transfer Office in the Administration Building of Stony Brook University five days a week and belly dancing three days a week in which she teaches a work-out class and is president of the club, Pierre-Antoine's days last from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Ebony Kerr-Percy, a full-time Management Trainee at Blinds-to-Go and a Stony Brook alum, said students are ignoring the resources. "It's a good resource that students don't know about," Kerr-Percy said. "They know, but don't take advantage of it."

Blinds-to-Go participated in the Part-Time Job/Expo Employment fair held by the Career Center. The Career Guide explained the part-time job expo as linking students with on-campus jobs, such

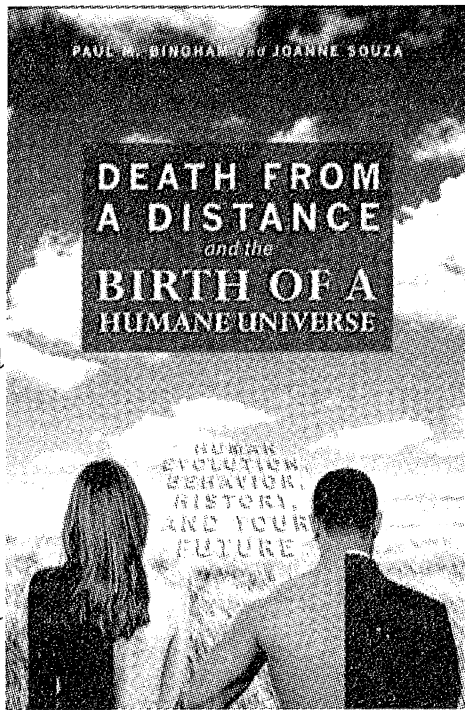
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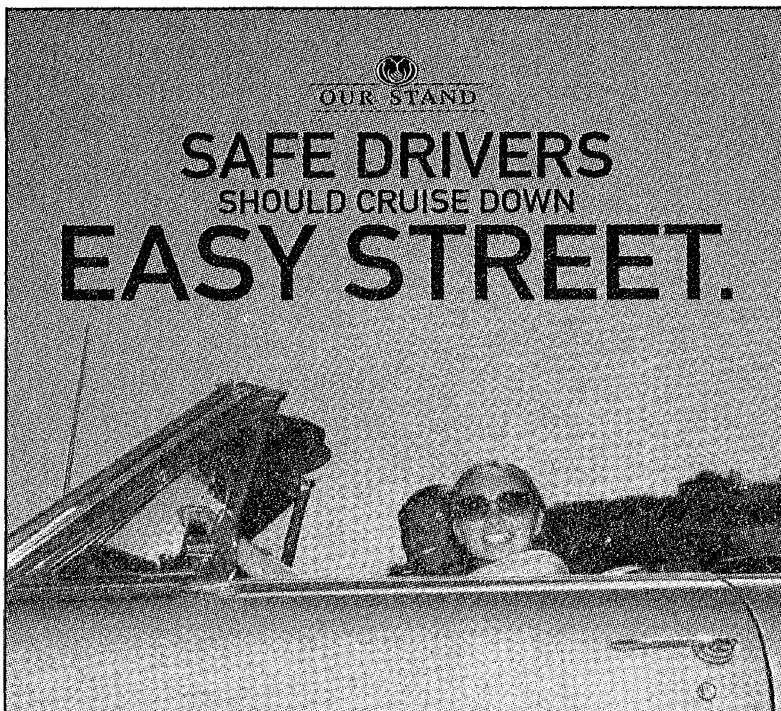
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Students Fail To Tap Resource: Career Center

Continued from page 1

as work-study and student assistant positions with university departments, and off-campus opportunities, like part-time positions with companies such as Blinds-to-Go.

Although he works at the Career Center now, as an undergraduate studying environmental studies, Lin said he didn't go inside the office to use the services that he currently does like the resume workshops because of his schedule and shyness. Instead, he attended job fairs and on campus recruitment presentations.

Savoca said there's a difference between the job fairs and on-campus recruitments. "In job fairs, employers are trying to get their brand across," Savoca said. "On campus recruitment is more of an investment for companies because they're conducting real one-on-one interviews with students, not just positioning themselves as employers of choice."

The other resource that Lin used was called Monster Track before its name changed to ZebraNet, what people now associate with the Career Center. "The zebra, that's the only thing I know about the Career Center," Jackson said, describing an incident when she was handed a stuffed animal zebra.

"ZebraNet is an outlet for connecting to the Career Center," said Amie Vedral, a walk-in advisor at the Career Center. ZebraNet offers information on all career events, a resource library, ZebraCAN and everything except on-campus jobs, Vedral said.

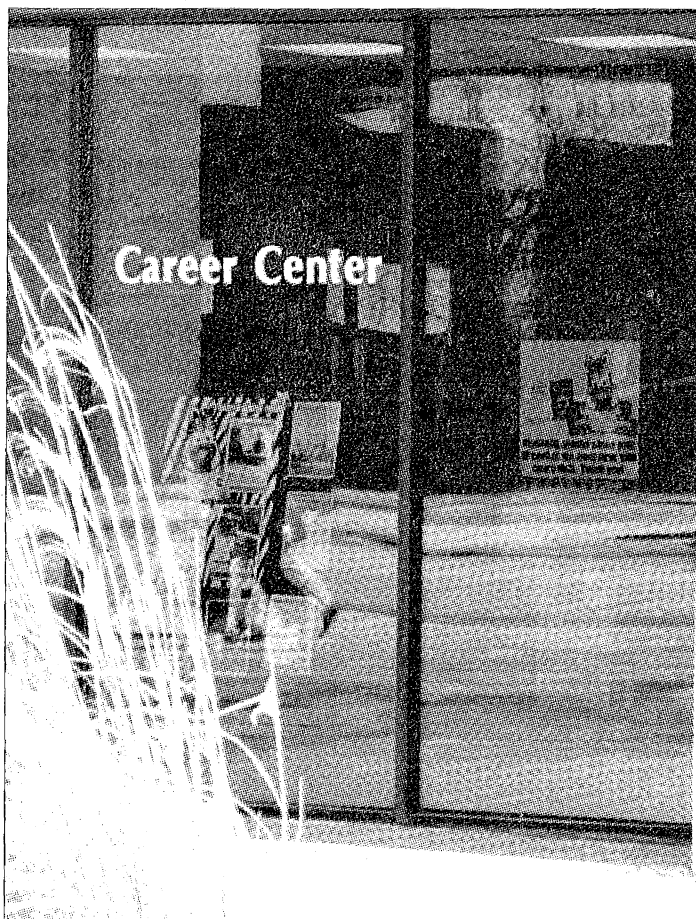
Vedral described ZebraCAN as a network of alumni and their contact information that students can interview to learn about the professional world. Vedral said students must attend a one-time hour long orientation, which educates students on logistics, contacting employers and conducting productive interviews.

"The students are taking up a professional's time and are taught to use it as effectively as they can," Vedral said.

Lin concluded that the Career Center isn't going to be able to get every student to use it. "You can only go so far," Lin said. "There are always going to be a few [students], a good chunk no matter how hard you try."

Lin said not every student is going to use the Career Center, but they're not guaranteed a job either similar to the rest of the population. The United States Department of Labor reported an unemployment rate of 10.2 percent in October. The highest rate in 26 years.

Pearl Kamer, chief economist at the Long Island Association, said



Statesman File Photo

Many students fail to take advantage of the Career Center for help on their resumes.

she feels that the unemployment rate will take a while to recover. "The economy may be recovering technically, but it will be at least three years before it becomes normal," Kamer said.

According to Kamer, students are doing the right thing by trying to get into the job market. However, there are students who plan to go straight to graduate school either to avoid paying undergraduate loans, avoiding a stubborn job market or to get a better degree. Mahbubur Rahman, a graduate student in a post-graduate pre-med program, said that his friends enrolled in graduate programs, so that they don't have to pay loans. Kamer said that it's better to get out into the job market instead of going to straight to graduate school.

"Get out there and make sure that's what you want," Kamer said. "If you get admitted to a prestigious law or medical school, it may pay to get a few years of experience."

Arjun Lagisetty, a senior with a dual major in computer sciences and applied math, is trying to get into the job market, but is affected by being an international student. "People closed down my doors to financial opportunity," Lagisetty said. "They stopped hiring international students. The recession hit me right in the spot."

He said he has been trying for the past two years to get an internship with all kinds of banking and non-banking companies, like Chyron, a broadcasting technology company, and Bloomberg. "I

wanted an exposure to the industry, not painting the wall or something like that," Lagisetty said.

Savoca said students should focus on getting internships. "They need an internship," Savoca said. "They should have two, but one is good."

Internships help when students have their focus, but if a student doesn't know what to do the Career Center can still help with their Career Decision Clinic. Chantel Mitchell, a sophomore majoring in biology, attended a Career Decision Clinic to talk with someone on deciding if changing her major to psychology will help with her desired career as a physician's assistant.

Savoca said the Career Decision Clinics are held twice a semester before students can choose their courses. She said that the clinics were originally meant for freshman and sophomores until she discovered that upperclassmen also attended. Now, one of the changes by the Career Center includes expanding its outreach of the Career Decision Clinics to juniors and seniors.

Mitchell said she wants a job to pay her bills and get first-hand experience in her career. Although the recession isn't what inspired Mitchell's job search, Savoca said it prompts the staff to work harder for the students. "It's a lot of stress because we're not satisfied with the results and upset about the fewer job opportunities," Savoca said. However, that doesn't dissuade

them from giving it their all.

"We could say 'Oh well, it's the economy. Good luck people,' but it's not like that," Savoca said. "We can't control it, but adapt to it. Students need to also."

But, students aren't adapting or at least they aren't using the Career Center. Lagisetty visits the Career Center only twice a semester. The two things he feels that students should follow is getting their own references and networking. "There's a lot more opportunities than going to the Career Center and job fairs," Lagisetty said.

However, according to Lagisetty he doesn't completely neglect the resources from the Career Center and attended the Information Technology, Science and Engineering job fair. He received some interview calls two or three weeks after the job fair, but said the majority of them came from outside the Career Center. As Lagisetty stood in CVS pharmacy waiting for his passport pictures to be printed, he said he got a full-time job with OpNet Technologies, a leading provider of solutions for managing networks and applications. The pictures were for an eligibility card so that he could get paid, one of the restrictions he faces as an international student.

The Career Center avoids the restrictions of the economy with its limited job opportunities by constantly readjusting. "We're always changing because the markets are changing," Savoca said. "We have to be up on it if we want to do our job well."

Savoca listed two other changes within the Career Center; the government job fair and employer prime-time events. She said that the Career Center is going to be hosting its first ever government fair on Jan. 15, 2010.

"Who's hiring?" Savoca said. "The government." The Stony Brook University Career Center will represent the official Long Island site for the fair.

Savoca continued to explain that the employer prime-time events is an opportunity for the employers to spend a few hours in the Career Center with one-on-one counseling sessions with students on a drop-in basis. She said it's more of an exposure for the employer and a more in-depth look at the company for the students, which is different from the on campus recruitment presentations.

"It's not just a handshake," Savoca said. "There's more time to talk."

The recession has left the job market to be very competitive, prompting employers to look for specific qualities. Cheryl E. Mendes-Ellis, chief of Navy Officer Programs, said she wants a person who has strong leadership and analytical skills, competitiveness and willing and ready to serve their country. "Slackers need not apply," Mendes-Ellis said.

If a slacker has any idea of what they want to do and scrounges for some type of motivation, the Career Center wants to help.

"We get to help with your future," Savoca said. "It's fun."

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NEWS

Facing Eviction Students Gripe About Eight Semester Rule

Continued from page 1

to Binghamton.

Only a precious few ticks remain before Qazi must face the realization of no longer being able to live in this Long Island based university as a student born in Bangladesh and raised in Queens, N.Y. For Qazi, and students like him, the approval of an appeal to overturn the “8 semester rule,” is described as “rare” by Stony Brook’s Division of Campus Residences.

It is estimated that about 900 students will face the rule this housing season and only about 70 will petition—about eight percent—meaning most students are either graduating or have made arrangements to live off campus, commute to school or even drop out.

For Qazi, and those like him, the almost certain final moments are spent reflecting on how things could have been different if they graduated on time.

“Not graduating on time sucks,” Qazi said. “You spend your entire life thinking you’re going to get through school and that it’s all part of the plan. It’s not just what my parents expect from me, it’s everyone in my family. This is just what’s expected from my culture. When I talk to my aunts and

uncles from Bangladesh, the first question is: how are you? The next question is: when are you going to graduate?”

Qazi juggles the pressures of graduating on time with parents who are finding it increasingly difficult to afford an ever rising Stony Brook tuition.

“Ever since I found out about the six semester rule I’ve been working twice as hard,” Qazi said. “I’ve been taking courses I shouldn’t be taking at the same time because they’re so demanding just so I can make it out as soon as possible and not burden my parents anymore. This week I spent eight or nine hours a day for four days on one project for a computer class and it’s still not done.”

Associate Director of Residential Programs, Alan S. DeVries, will have Qazi’s future sitting atop his desk soon. DeVries takes in all the appeals to the “8-semester rule” and admits that though overturning the rule is uncommon, financial status plays into the decision.

“Financial reasons are common, especially last year when the economy tanked,” DeVries said. “Telling someone to go find off campus housing when one or more parents are out of work, the committee was more sensitive to that last semester.”

DeVries does not personally pass the judgment that decides whether or not a student will be granted an extra semester—he collects the appeals. The Residential Hall Association, elected representative students from every residence hall, makes the final decision. Three RHA members, sometimes more, look over each application, which do not identify the students in hopes of preventing biased judgment. Then the committee debates over each appeal and decides to either accept or reject each petition.

Thomas Messina, 22, a health science major, is spending his ninth semester at Stony Brook commuting from home, after eight semesters living on campus. After realizing he wasn’t going to graduate on time, Messina appealed the “8-semester rule” unsuccessfully.

“I told them I don’t live near a train station, I don’t have a car, my parents work and I don’t know what time my classes are, so my parents can’t even drop me off at the station,” Messina said. “They told me they could put me on a housing waiting list until May of 2010, which is funny because I’m going to graduate then.”

Messina contributes not graduating on time to the indecision he faced when choosing a major early in his

college career.

“I tried mechanical engineering for a year—realized I didn’t like it, so I kind of started experimenting around,” Messina said. “I was thinking about doing business—didn’t catch my interest, than all of a sudden I felt like doing health sciences.”

Qazi, like Messina and other incoming college students, tossed around the idea of different career paths before settling on computer science. Qazi was a computer engineering major at Binghamton, and dabbled in economics, psychology and digital design while at Stony Brook. One peek inside his likely soon to be gone dorm room, however, outlines a completely different picture.

“I want to draw for a living,” Qazi said. “It’s not a realistic dream for the most part to want to be successful drawing. I know I need a degree in general to succeed in life. Also my parents wouldn’t accept me not having a degree.”

Strewn across his walls and desk are drawings Qazi has produced over years in support of his comic-book like website venture where he displays his work, in the hope that it will one day garner enough fan fare to make it a viable career option for himself. Until then, Qazi prepares for

the seemingly inevitable conclusion.

“I understand why they have [the eight-semester rule] and it’s because they’re booked over capacity but they probably shouldn’t accept as many students or rather they shouldn’t guarantee housing to all incoming freshman,” Qazi said.

DeVries, however, makes the point that students like Qazi are more equipped to live off campus than a student new to the college level.

“We’re better off turning away an upperclassman,” DeVries said. “They have a better chance of surviving over an incoming student, and living off campus after eight semesters on, might not necessarily be a bad thing for an older student.”

Qazi inevitably wants to draw manga, the Japanese art form that resembles the American comic book—hinted at by the large box that rests under his lofted bed overflowing with the manga graphic novels. He pursues this goal while still in school.

“Usually it comes down to sacrifice,” Qazi said. “I’ll work on my school stuff a lot less because I would be so caught up in my drawing. It’s just that art comes naturally to me, computer science doesn’t. In the end, school work is just school work. It makes you want to do what you enjoy even more.”

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WHO WE ARE

The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Socolian" in 1957 at Oyster Bay, the original site of Stony Brook University. In 1975, The Statesman was incorporated as a not-for-profit, student run organization. Its editorial board, writing, and photography staff are student volunteers while its business staff are professionals.

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Women in Video Games: Pleasure Dolls or Powerhouses?

By LAMIA HAIDER
Contributing Writer

The use of female sexuality as a marketing device is a cultural issue, and not solely present in the video game industry.

Feminism has made quite the journey since its spark was first ignited back in the 19th century. There has always been something to fight for, birthrights that are handed to men quite promptly but dangled over the heads of women. The "fairer sex" has had to go up in arms for issues such as voting, abortion, equal pay and a bevy of other concerns. Even in this day and age when women's rights have improved by leaps and bounds—at least in Westernized nations—there is still rampant sexism aimed towards women in every field of life.

For example, if one gives the gaming industry a passing glance one would not think that sexism – or anything involving estrogen – would be a matter of concern, but

there are many who would disagree. Dauntingly large pixelated bosoms, fan service geared towards males, and opportune camera angles are just some facets of certain video games that have earned the ire of insulted women. And we all know that is a fearsome thing to behold.

However, I am here to state my opinion on the matter and it is neither completely concurrent nor in total disagreement. When it comes down to it video games are the building blocks for a certain kind of industry. Industry means business, and business means keeping the customers smiling. Customers will not smile if the video game they are playing involves taking on the role of an obese woman with a monobrow to find artifacts and shoot the baddies. In fact they would not even buy that game, whether they are male or female. Now if you made that into a shapely siren wielding 9 mm handguns—à la Tomb Raider—there would be sales.

What most folk tend to not realize is that this is not a one-way road. There are few male characters that fail to possess enjoyable exaggerations of their physique. Most are muscle-bound and endowed with rugged good looks that tend to stay within the world of celluloid and 3-D graphics (unfortunately). The truth of the matter is that nobody (yes, I'm going to generalize) is going to play a game if the character is not eye candy in some way or other. People are attracted to what is pretty, and the video game industry exploits this, as do other industries that rely on visual appeal, like film or advertising.

But women are much more objectified, one might argue. With the multitude of scantily clad women

in video games it is an effortless statement to make. It is true that video games tend to have women in attire that does not leave much to the imagination, such as the fearsome femme fatales of Soul Calibur or Final Fantasy. However, this is presumably done to cater to the male demographic – though there is a significant number of female gamers – just as it is done within other aspects of society. This is a cultural issue rather than one that is present solely in the video game industry. Magazines, movies, billboards, even children's dolls use female sexuality as a marketing device.

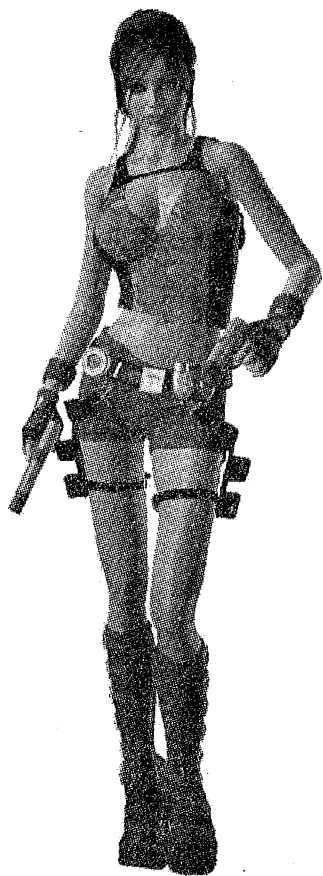
I am by no means excusing video games that do this, consequently degrading and objectifying women. There are some video games that have themes so disgustingly chauvinistic and disrespectful of women that they are completely inexcusable. For example, GTA is a popular video game where the protagonist is able to hire and use prostitutes. After "business transactions" have been made the player can acquire a refund through a variety of ways such as shooting the prostitute, bludgeoning her with a baseball bat, tossing Molotov cocktails at her then watching her burn, running her over with a car, etc. Cruel, demeaning, and repulsive are just a few words that come to mind. Yet what people need to become conscious of is that all this stems from the fact that there are consumers out there who enjoy such options in the game.

I do not completely oppose haranguing the video game creators who cater to such tastes but I believe time could be better utilized addressing the real issue. The objecti-

fication of women is societal. Video games are in some ways reflective of society so obviously the debase-ment of women will be present in some way or other. The only way to remedy that is to make any kind of female inequality unacceptable, though that is not something that will happen overnight. Once the market for such qualities in video games starts to diminish, so will that sort of video game.

To end on a happy note, there have been quite a few video games made that do not adhere to this trademark of devaluing women. Games like Portal, Uncharted, The Sims, Bioshock, Left 4 Dead, and others have very proportionate women in clothes that do not resemble strips of duct tape. The icing on the cake is that there are female characters that are transcending their role as eye candy, or defying it altogether. Just a few examples would be the aforementioned Lara Croft, the formidable females of World of Warcraft lore, Samus of Metroid, Yuna from Final Fantasy, and Cortana and Commander Miranda Keyes from Halo. These women have dominant roles, exemplifying the trend of competent, powerful female presences in video games.

It is hoped that such trends in empowering women will be emulated by other industries, especially since such games have proven to be popular with both male and female audiences. Some might argue that the number of such non-discriminatory games is insignificant compared to the surfeit of games indulging the testosterone-driven. However, I believe that progress requires change, and there certainly is change even if it is ambling along.



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From the Editor: Introducing "SBstance"

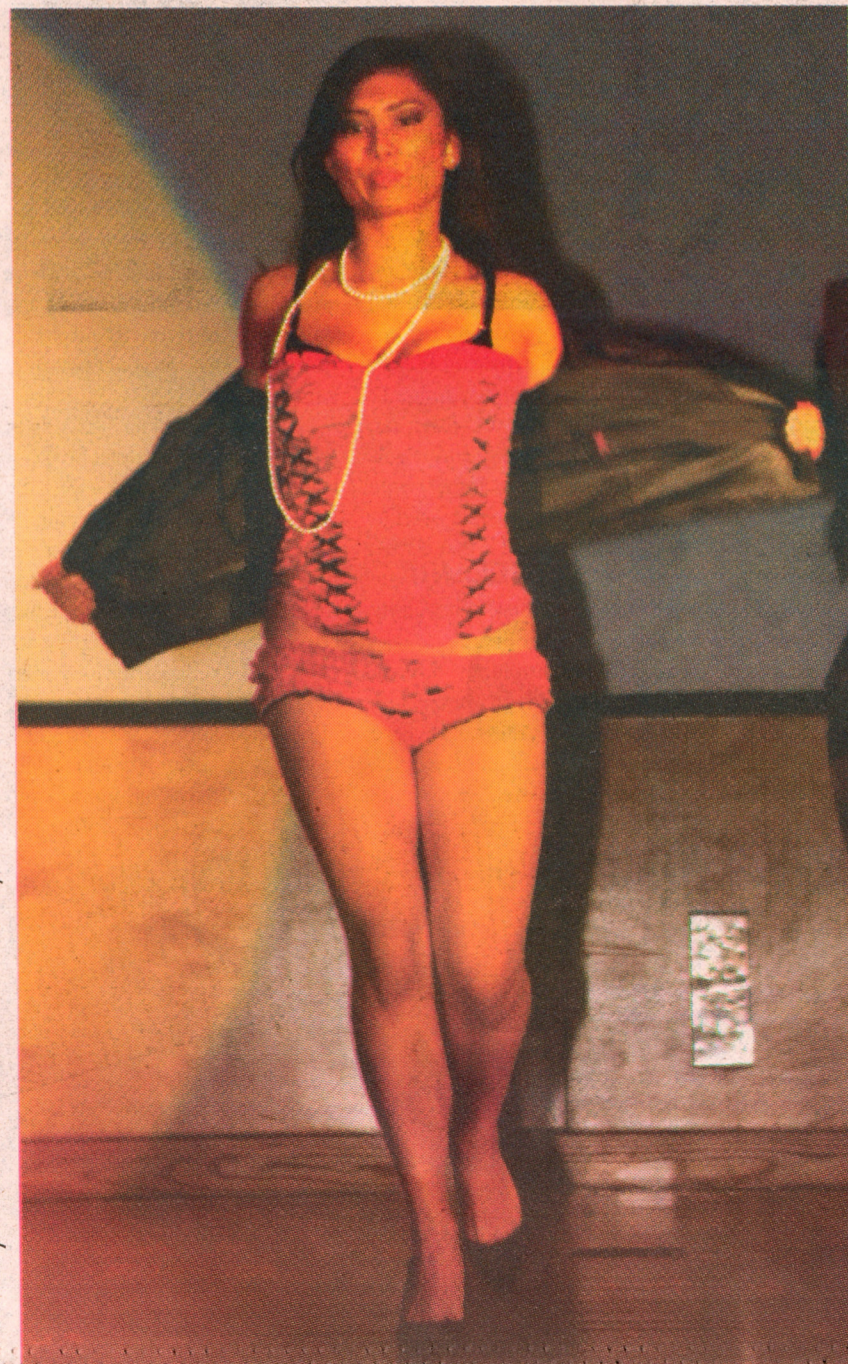
Hello Statesman Readers,

Thanks for picking this issue up. I'm writing to announce a new concept for a column in this section based on NPR's "This I Believe" and the New York Times' "One in Eight Million" series. This periodic feature will offer us a brief statement of your perspectives--the ideas that guide the way you interact with people or dictate how you see yourself--in an informal, narrative style of 400 words or less. Check thisibelieve.org for sample articles, and send your contributions or any questions to me at op-ed@sbstatesman.com.

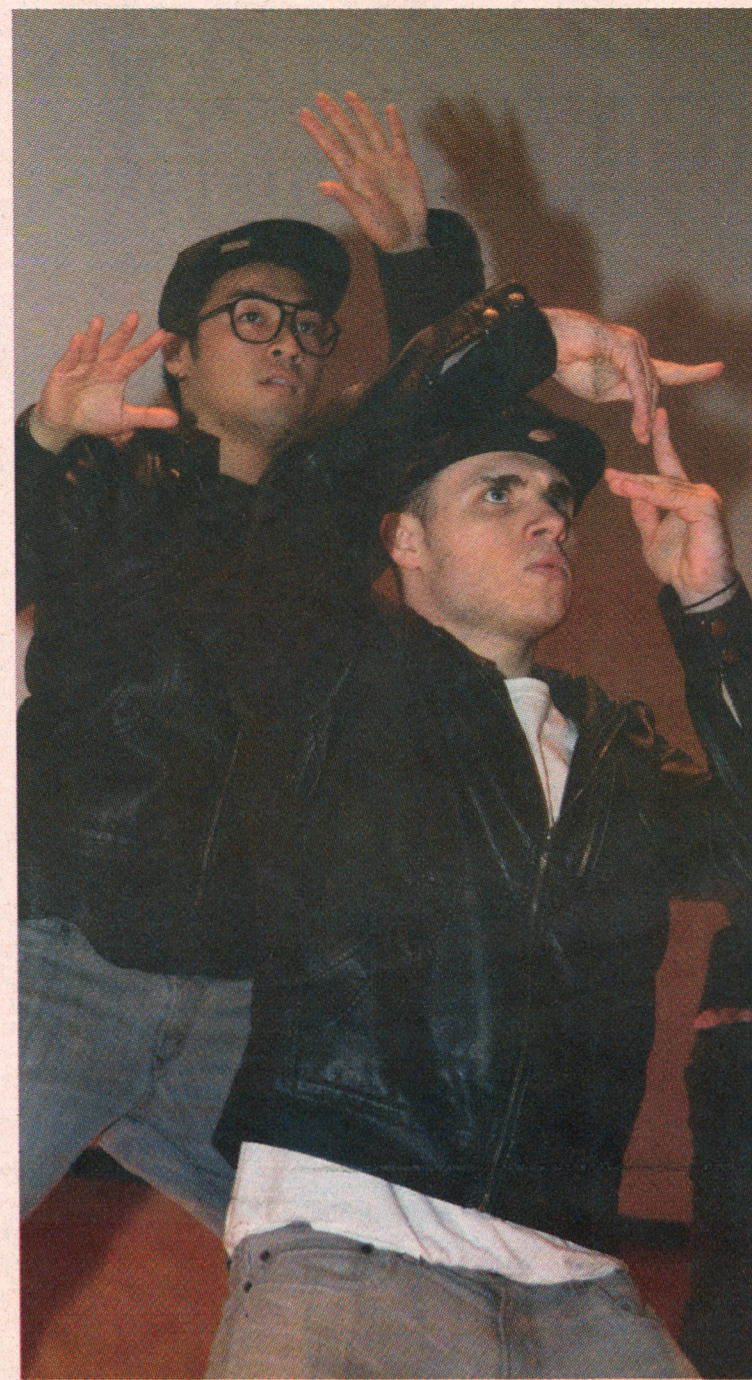
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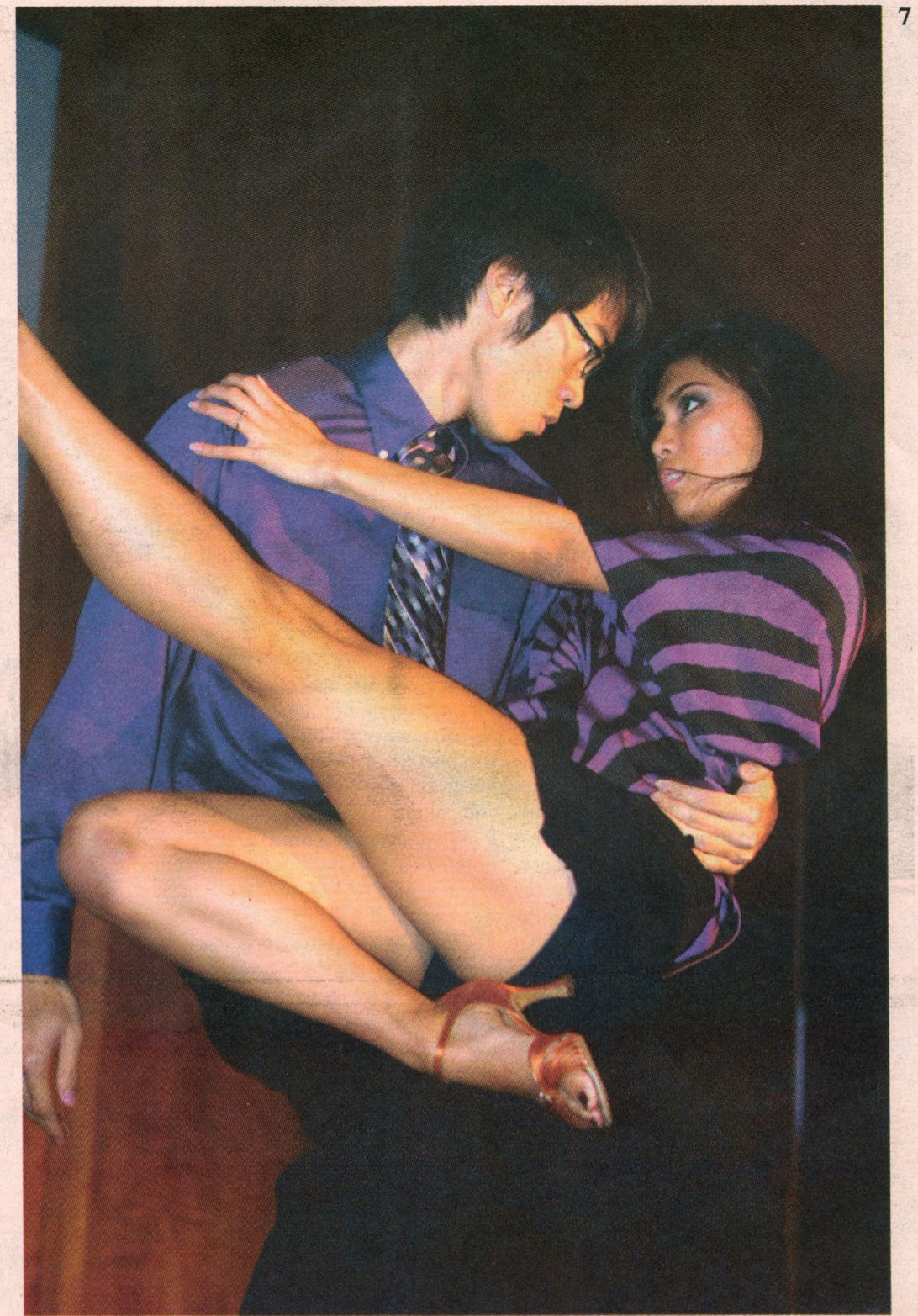
Letters to the editor or op-ed contributions can be submitted by e-mail at Op-Ed@sbstatesman.org, on our online submission tool at www.sbstatesman.org, by hand at our office in the Student Union Rm 057, or by mailing it to us at the address in the left column. They must be received at least two days before the next printed issue. The Statesman reserves the right to edit or not print any letter based on appropriateness, length, timeliness, or other reasons at the discretion of the editorial board. **Letters should be no longer than 350 words, and opinion pieces should not exceed 550 words.** Please include your full name (which we may withhold if you request it), phone number and email address for verification. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses will not be printed. Letters submitted anonymously or under false names will not be considered for publication.



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Ocean Pollution Is Turning Male Fish Intersex

Is the "Line" Too Gray to be Crossed?

By **SOPIA GOURLIDES**
Contributing Writer

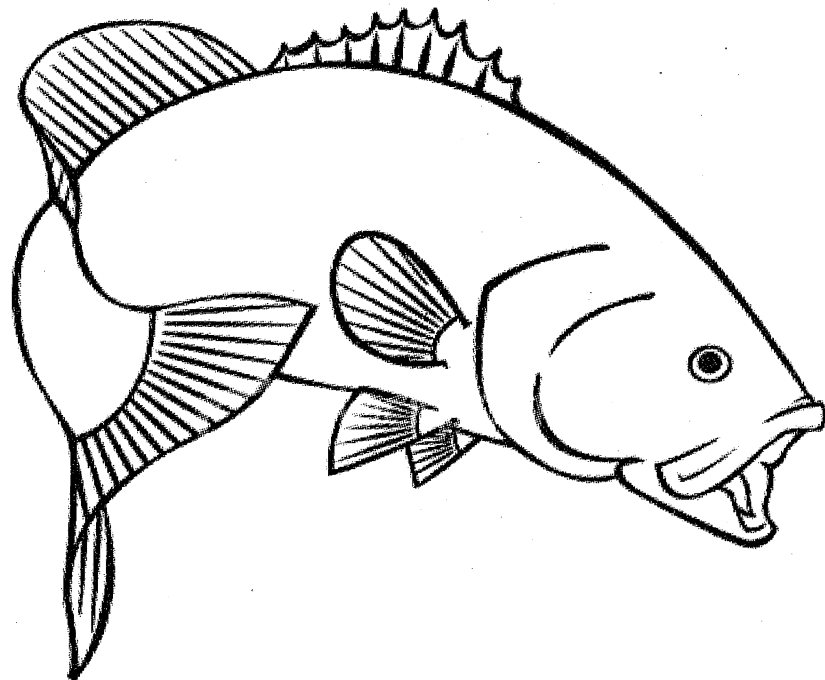
Pharmaceutical companies dump birth control pills and other hormones in the ocean to dispose of the waste. What has been happening as a result is the transformation of male sex organs from fertile to infertile and straight to intersex. This means that males are producing female eggs that render them incapable of reproduction. The repercussions of this are immense and governments must put their foot down before humans eventually start dying simply from drinking tap water.

The nine-year study conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey has found that 44 percent of largemouth and smallmouth bass turned out to be intersex and in some sites 91 percent were affected. 91 percent of the male fish turned intersex! Unbelievable numbers, imagine a world where most males couldn't reproduce because of the pollutants? That stirs a lot of anger in that this procedure is wrong in two major ways. For those who are only interested in their human species, the second tier of this destructive behavior involves them. As for the fish, the most important organ has been altered, which will ultimately

lead to a smaller population of fish. If nothing is done to stop poisonous dumping in oceans, bass fish and many others will become extinct as a result.

Extinction of these fish will result in a shift of the ecosystem. This is where the humans come in. This affects us in two prominent ways. For one, the rate of dysfunctional fish that we consume will increase. Would you want to eventually eat a fish that has been mutated with male and female sex organs? Secondly, this has affected marine life in such a way, who is to say that we aren't next to be targeted? The water that we are drinking, sadly to say there are no regulations for controlling hormones in that water. You do not need to be a scientist to know that chemicals in water will have adverse affects on the body once consumed. The companies that choose to bring about these disastrous acts need to be regulated or research must be done in order to find effective ways to dispose of the industrial waste.

The United States spends a lot of money on research and innovations and making things bigger, better and faster. Why can't equal amounts of funding go towards building an effective waste system so that other living things, including



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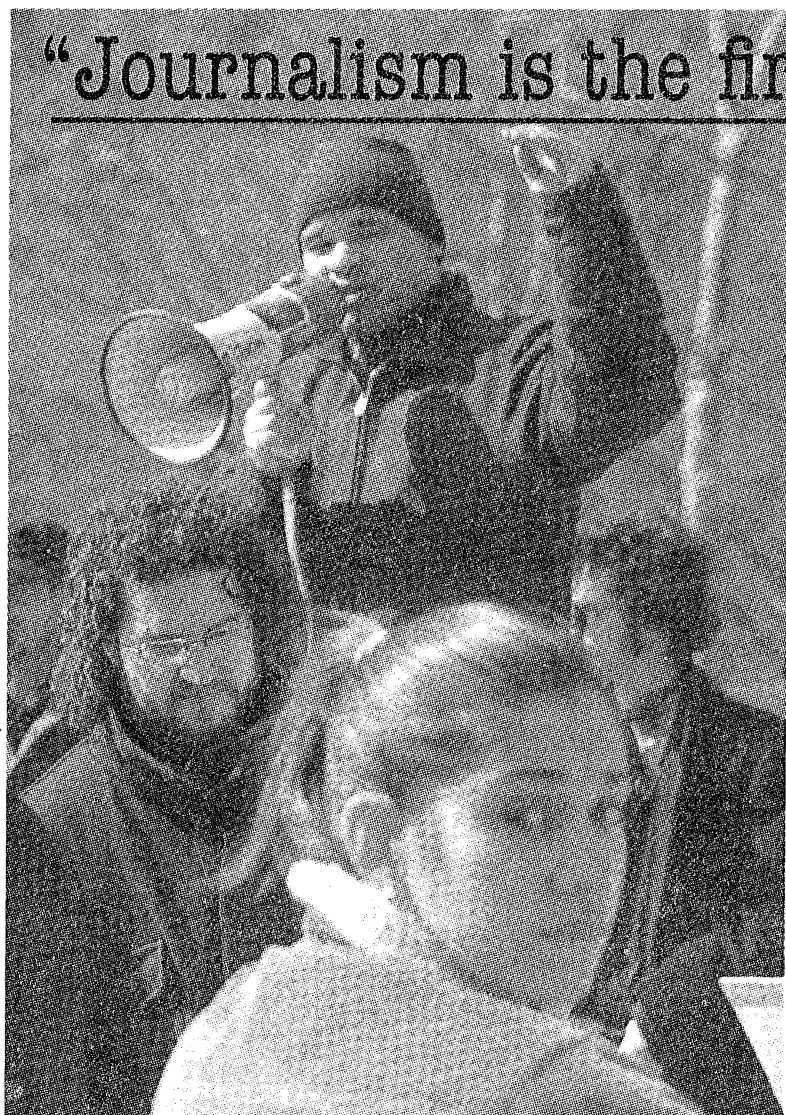
humans, are not being put in danger? Just as we have a right to life, we have a right to live healthily and enjoy nature's bounties.

The earth is a very friendly place to live when left alone to go about its natural path. The ecosystem works in such a

perfect way from the grain to the grown all the way through to the last of the food chain. Nowhere in the ecosystem's chain of revolution is there any room or need for the dumping of harmful chemicals into the chemicals and bodies of living things around the world.

"Journalism is the first rough draft of history"

-Donald Graham



"Students staging a protest against the war in Iraq," Spring 2005, *Statesman*

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Professor Billy Collins' Look at "Aimless Love"

R.J HUNEKE
Staff Writer

Throughout the myriad traversing of "love" poetry, one can come across the starkly unique views of Billy Collins with his work "Aimless Love," and be refreshed with this author who brings something new to the craft.

Through the use of allusion and imagery, that is either plainly or elaborately described, the author displays his appreciation for "Aimless Love," which is a love for things the narrator comes across and observes in the present. Collins takes this present act and compares it to the briefly described details that resolve around a loving relationship, which goes beyond the present acts, implying past and future happenings, in addition to the present.

This unique method of pitting present observations and acts against the past, present and future of the briefly written relationship actions is an incredible insight into the psyche of the narrator's character; the narrator falls in love with the world around him, the good and the bad, yet the acts of a loving relationship are what this character is waiting for, because it is much more meaningful and important, despite difficulties that arise within it. Collins dispels the sappy self-indulgent poems of longing, for love and loving relationships with the narrator's unique perspective. Yet the overly loving

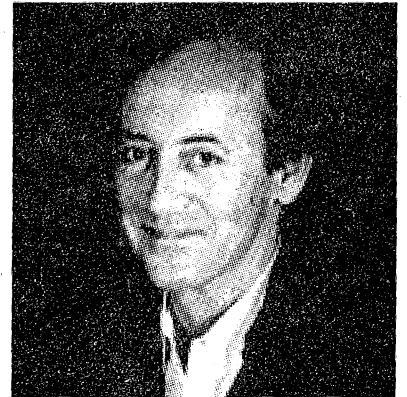
character who yearns for more, brings to fruition the yearning theme, created by the poem's imagery and allusions, in a truly innovative manner.

The innovation begins with Billy Collins creating an observant narrator for "Aimless Love." The character presented to readers is shaped by the author's use of concise and detailed imagery. Collins could not be more straightforward when the narrator states "I walked along the lakeshore, I fell in love with a wren/and later in the day with a mouse" (Collins 1-3). The author shows the narrator's fleeting love of things that he comes across, which take up the majority of the poem. Collins is clear, concise and impactful, in few words: "I fell at a seamstress/still at her machine in the tailor's window,/and later for a bowl of broth,/steam rising like smoke from a naval battle" (6-9). The repetition of contrasting images reinforces the narrator's love of nearly everything he comes across living in the present. This is the narrator's "Aimless Love."

Collins then contradicts the narrator, who thinks "Aimless Love" is "the best kind of love" (10). The fleeting wren, mouse, seamstress and broth carry less weight than the love of that of a relationship, and the narrator thinks on what this means to him when Collins writes of love "without recompense, without gifts,/or unkind words, without

suspicion" (11-12). The author displays the narrator's negative connotation of loving relationships from the past, present and potentially future, as he tries to justify the "Aimless Love's" superiority; this short stanza is heavier and more meaningful than the previous two, where the narrator traverses lightly through fleeting love. Light love of things in the present, without work, appeals to the narrator at first: "the love of the miniature orange tree,/the clean white shirt, the hot evening shower" (17-18). Collins gives simple imagery for simple things. The fleeting imagery starts to repeat and return to the narrator, however, and this alludes to this character yearning to love, as he lingers onto even the small passing love interests: "for the wren who had built her nest...and for the dead mouse,/still dressed in its light suit" (22-24). Here the author brilliantly personifies the mouse's fur, as though it were a suit on the dead body. The repetition signals the narrator lingering on even fleeting loves, and the author brings this realization home to the narrator as he declares "[his] heart is always propped up/in a field on its tripod,/ready for the next arrow" (25-27). The heart is ready for the next arrow to aim at, or in other words, the next loving relationship.

Collins alludes to the title, "Aimless Love," and undermines it as the theme, because the narrator has come to grips



Media credit: sunyulster.edu
Author Billy Collins.

with the fact that he wants "real" love, despite the tough details of a loving relationship he's described from past experiences which could come about in the future ones, and he seems to accept it.

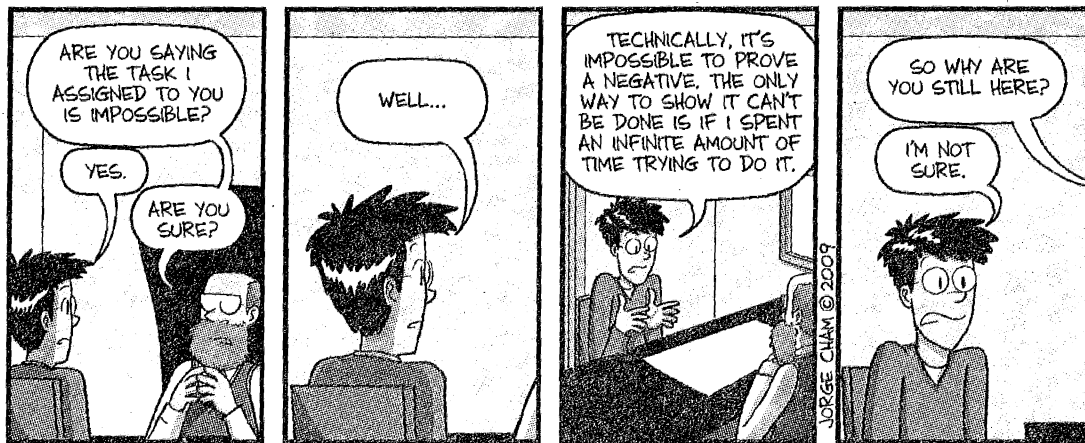
The theme of "Aimless Love" is not be aimless, but to instead accept the yearning to love another. Collins reinforces this as the narrator comes full circle in the poem as he "carried the mouse by the tail/to...the woods" (28-29). The narrator washes his hands, but not of the affair, for he observes the soap in the present. Having accepted his yearning ways, he gazes "down affectionately at the soap" (31). The next fleeting love is before him, but he will embrace it, love it, and wait for another, for he "could feel [himself] falling again" (34). The love of the soap permeates the narrator, as Collins has won over this character's sense of love. The character loves to love, yearns to love, but no longer looks on the fleeting love as better than the tough love with another.

The author has carefully constructed the piece with events that every human being can relate to, making them personal to readers, but also personal to the narrator who is quite taken with love. In "Aimless Love," Collins has reinvented a legitimate yearning theme that appeals to anyone or everyone.

Billy Collins is currently a professor at Stony Brook Southampton and CUNY Lehman in the Bronx.

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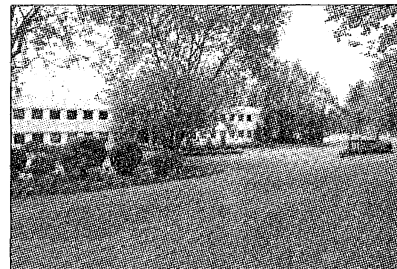
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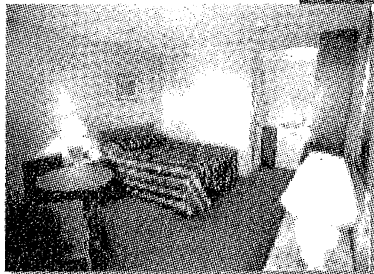
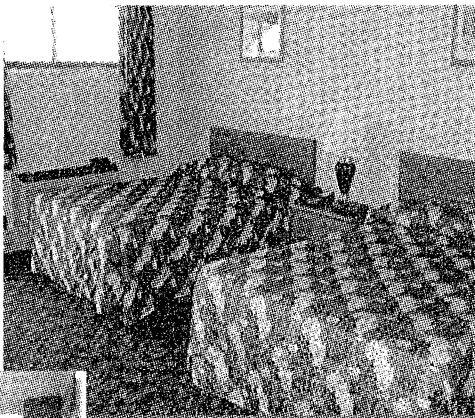
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Dear Tiger Woods...

A Letter to the World-Champion Golfer, Amidst the Greatest Media Storm of His Career

By SARAH KAZADI
Sports Editor

For years, I've watched you hoist countless trophies over your head. The image of you in a red shirt, pumping your fist and smiling is what I see when I think of the game of golf today. You've raked up millions in endorsements dollars and cemented your place as the highest earning athlete in all of sports. Throughout you've managed to keep your personal life private. I knew close to nothing about the man behind the full-toothed grin and Nike cap.

Until now. The CNN app on my iPhone told me that you were in a car accident, and that your face was decorated with lacerations. I was worried. Then the rumors started spreading like wildfire. Allegedly, the cuts on your face were the result of a scuffle with your wife. Allegedly, she was upset because you were unfaithful. Allegedly, you had a 31-month long affair with Jamie Grubbs, a Los Angeles cocktail waitress. Allegedly, I gave you the benefit of the doubt, because I know how the eager media can blow things out of proportion.

But then came text messages and voice-mail that you allegedly left Ms. Grubbs, asking her to remove her name from her answering machine. "My wife went through my phone and may be calling you," said a voice that sounds very similar to the one I've heard coming from the podium after one of your many wins. I still didn't believe.

I didn't believe because I didn't want it to be true. I didn't want you to be Kobe. But after days of refusing to answer questions and speak to authorities, you apologized. "I

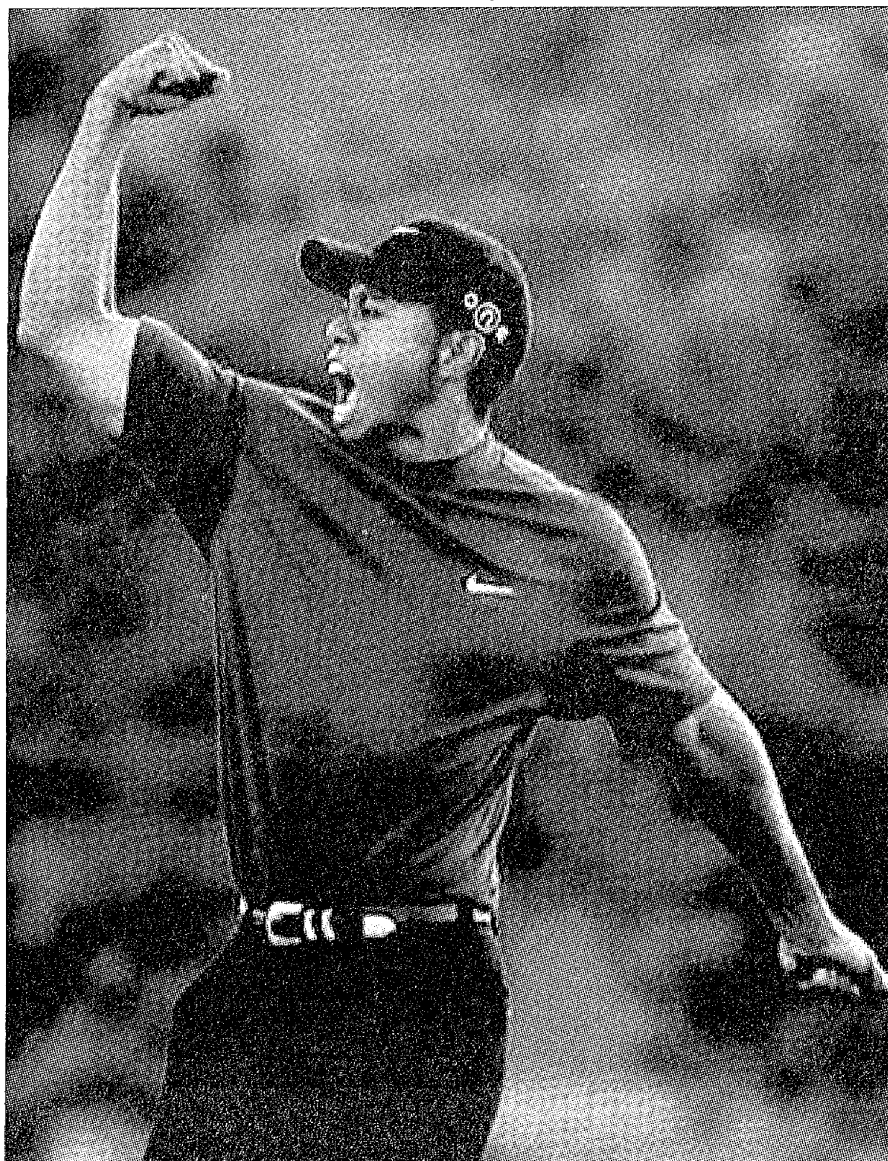
have let my family down and I regret those transgressions with all of my heart. I have not been true to my values and the behavior on your website. "I am not without faults and far short of perfect. I am dealing with my behavior and personal failings behind closed doors with my family. Those feelings should be shared by us alone."

With those words, your squeaky clean image was tarnished. You're no longer invincible; you're human. We all make mistakes, and it is unrealistic to expect that you, a wealthy 33 year-old male athlete, are exempt from that rule.

I don't hate you. However, I hate that it had to be this that brought you shame. Your apology meant admittance to the ancient sin of adultery. You've joined the list of athletes that succumb to the temptations that constantly surround them on the road, distant from their wives and families.

What's done is done. Whether you decide to further address the issue publicly or not, this will forever be on your record, along with the accolades that you have garnered on the green. The question here, I think, is how will you respond to this? How will this affect your career? Although you will not return to action until next year, you will eventually play again. Will the comeback be as impressive as your return from knee surgery? Will the adversity be a motivating buoy in the midst of the biggest media storm of your career? We will wait and see.

In the meantime, I'll try to explain to my little brother why Tiger Woods has been all over the news lately.



Media Credit: baltimoresun.com

A triumphant Tiger Woods, rejoicing after adding another tournament trophy to his mantle.

Women's Hoops Falls To Monmouth

*Seawolves Drop
Second Road Game*

By SARAH KAZADI
Sports Editor

Trying to collect its second straight win, the Stony Brook women's basketball team made the short trip to Monmouth to take on the Hawks Wednesday night.

But, despite having both forward Kirsten Jeter (Elmont, NY.) and guard Misha Horsey (Wyncote, PA.) both tally 10 points, the Seawolves dropped their fifth game of the season, 61-45.

The loss is disappointing considering how well the Seawolves began the game,



Aleef Rahman / SB Statesman

Members of the Seawolves team on the bench during a home game earlier in the season. The team will be home again on Sunday.

according to Head Coach Michelle Cherry. "We didn't play smart in the second half, and gave up way too many offensive rebounds, which led to second opportunities for them," she said.

The Seawolves began the game red hot, going 5-5 from the field to start and jumped out to an early 10-2 lead.

The Hawks would chip away and trim the lead to 10-2 after a pair of three-pointers roughly five minutes into the game.

But the road team would respond with an 8-2 run, extending its lead to 18-10 on a jumper from freshman Amanda Corona

(North Hollywood, CA.), cashing in on a pass from Horsey.

But the comfy lead didn't last long. The Hawks got into a rhythm and their shooting percentage soared, as they assembled a 14-5 run to take their first lead of the game, 24-23.

The teams would trade baskets during the four minutes left in the half, and the Seawolves went into the break facing a small 4-point gap.

The offensive fluidity of the first half seemed to have found an exit during the halftime break, as both teams returned to

hit a total of only three shots over the first 12 minutes of the second period.

Monmouth managed to build a lead using the foul line and timely three-point shooting.

The Seawolves found themselves in a 44-34 hole, with a little over four minutes remaining in the game. They clawed and scraped to keep it close, but when the final buzzer sounded, Stony Brook was on the wrong end of a 61-45 decision.

The ladies return to Pritchard Gymnasium Sunday afternoon, hosting the St. Francis Catholics at 2:00 p.m.

STATESMAN SPORTS

Seawolves Drop Battle To St. John's

Loss Slides Overall Record to 5-2

By SAM KILB
Staff Writer

Despite outscoring Big East team St. John's in the second half, the Stony Brook men's basketball team was unable to overcome an early deficit and fell to the Red Storm, 63-55.

The loss was just the second of the year for Stony Brook, who drops to 5-2.

The Seawolves benefitted from some late, long-range 3-pointers from senior Muhammad El-Amin (Lansing, MI.) and sophomore Brian Dougher (Scotch Plains, NJ.), who led the team with 13 points to draw within eight of the Red Storm, after trailing by 10 at the half.

Stony Brook got off to a rough start, falling behind 12-1 in the first five minutes. Leading scorer El-Amin, returning to the starting lineup after being suspended by Head Coach Steve Pikiell in the team's last game, was ice cold in the first half, missing on his first six attempts from the field and finishing the half with three points.

Stony Brook failed to hit a single 3-pointer in the first half after hitting NJIT for six of them in the game before. Dougher, who had five of those six threes against NJIT, was 0-for-4 from behind the arc in the first period.

Contributing to the sputtering offense was poor rebounding, with St. John's recording twice as many boards as the Seawolves.

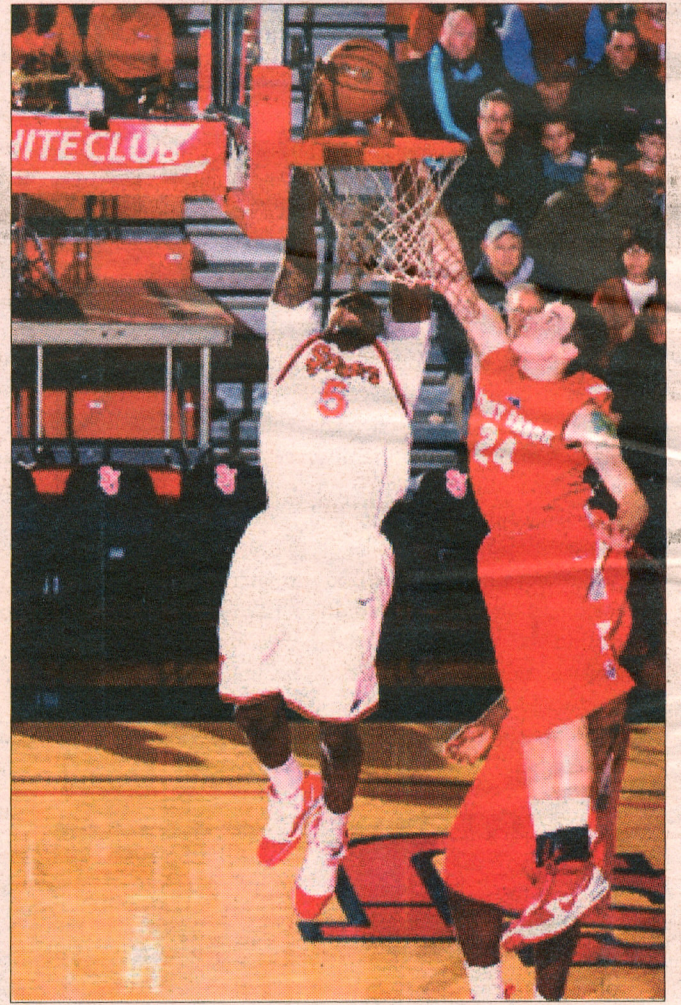
Strong defense forced St. John's into nine first-half turnovers, allowing Stony Brook to keep the game close. The visiting Seawolves trailed by ten at the half, 30-20.

Stony Brook kept it close in the second half. Despite lacking consistent offensive rhythm, the Seawolves kept the game close by working hard. Dougher led the team with three steals.

The turnovers that plagued St. John's in the first half became Stony Brook's problem, as a number of good scoring chances were erased by poor passes. The Seawolves turned over the basketball 10 times in the second half, often failing to connect on fast breaks.

Still, Stony Brook found a way to put points on the board. Sophomore forward Dallis Joyner (Norfolk, VA.) was even with El-Amin with 11 points in the game. Eight of El-Amin's points came in the final minute of the game.

The Seawolves return home to take on Columbia at 2 p.m. on December 5 at Pritchard Gymnasium. The game will be televised on MSG.Plus.



Media credits: redstormsports.com (above), goseawolves.org (below).

The Seawolves battled but still fell to the Big East opponent. Guard Muhammad El-Amin (above, left) picked up 11 points, while forward Tommy Brenton (above, right) racked up 12 boards. Guard Bryan Dougher (below, left) led the Seawolves in scoring with 13, and center Dallis Joyner (below, right) chipped in with 11.

