



The Patriot

No. 3

MAY 2005

MONTHLY

USG Presidential Candidate Ilan Nassimi

Interview by Rachel O'Brien

Recently, I sat down with Ilan Nassimi, Vice President of Student Life, and USG Presidential candidate for a candid interview.

The Patriot: *How are you going to get the Wang Center "back into students' hands"?*

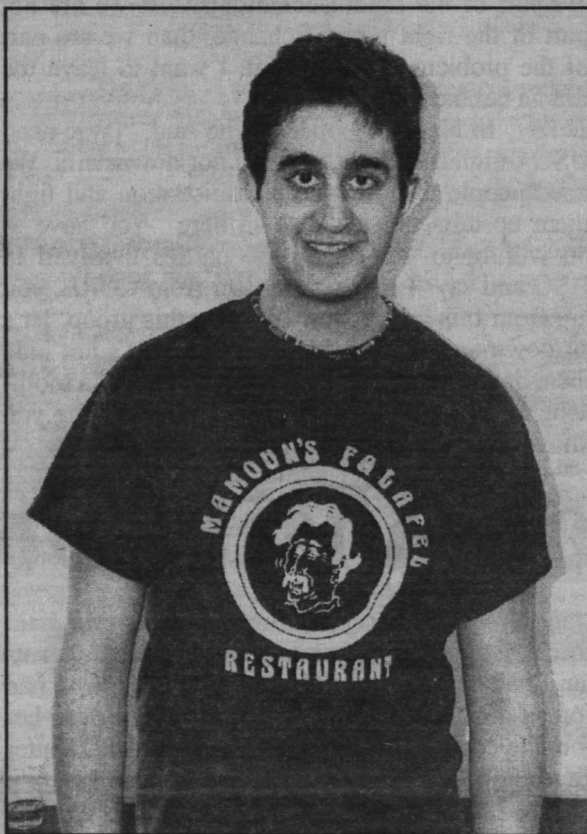
Ilan Nassimi: First, and most importantly, it is student awareness. Students need to know that there are great lecture halls that are supposed to be used for classes and events.

The Wang Center needs to be utilized. We need to work with them to get students in there. We may need to go to the administration to get them to work with us.

The Patriot: *How do you see the USG Constitution as it is right now? Is it a mess? Does it reflect the mess we've seen in USG this year?*

Nassimi: The Constitution is one of the main problems that we've had. The wording is vague and people disagree with its meaning. We have no idea what the framers of the Constitution were thinking when they wrote it, so we find it hard to interpret it. We all (USG, clubs, etc.) need to sit down and figure it out.

The Patriot: *What is the process now for clubs who want to host an event and what exactly will M.O.P. consist of?*



Nassimi has been active in USG for two years, and has received The Patriot's endorsement.

Nassimi: Right now \$300,000 is spent every year on administrators handling fiscal matters. Clubs have to put all their paperwork into certain offices and administrators deal with it.

We will designate one office in the USG

suite M.O.P., where we will "mop up" all the paperwork at once. We will have clubs submit all the forms (event form, budget application form, etc.). The M.O.P. office will then ship out all the paperwork to the appropriate offices (accounting, President's office, Treasurer's office, etc.)

M.O.P. will be student run and will eliminate hundreds of thousands of dollars from the USG budget and the clubs will be getting more back.

The Patriot: *You say that you "will work to create an environment in USG of cooperation and understanding". Do you see USG as a hostile, unorganized and cliquish environment? (You wrote an article for The Patriot about power groups: EOP, The Press, College Republicans, and Commuter Student Association. Do you see these as good or bad for USG? Do they create a hostile environment?)*

Nassimi: USG can be a hostile environment. We have these groups and we have to recognize that people have different opinions. We can come up with a compromise, keeping disagreements on a political level, not a personal one. We have to recognize that we can disagree with someone on politics but that doesn't mean they're a bad person.

The Patriot: *What is your campaign slogan?*

Nassimi: Experience that counts, results that matter.

2nd Clubs Bill of Rights Protects Free Speech

Commentary by Robert J. Romano

On April 5th, 2005, the USG Senate passed by a margin of 8-6 "The Second Clubs and Organizations Bill of Rights," a bill that I authored and which guarantees the right to USG funding to all clubs and organizations provided that they serve the University's mission, defines viewpoint neutrality under law, confers upon all clubs and organizations the same free speech and press protections offered to media organizations, allows off-campus club accounts to clubs and organizations whether or not they are funded by the USG, offers a judicial remedy to those clubs which are discriminated against on the basis of viewpoint, and finally, authorizes and supports the mechanisms which shall enable the Executive Council to firmly put into place the various clauses enumerated in the bill itself.

"The Second Clubs and Organizations Bill of Rights" protects free speech here at Stony Brook, and guarantees the right of all clubs to freely express their beliefs and carry out their stated missions. Under the principles of equal protection of the laws, and viewpoint neutrality for the allocation of mandatory student activity fees, all clubs

and organizations are guaranteed the same rights in the University setting in accordance with the Chancellor's Guidelines. This bill defines and enumerates those rights under law and protects them from infringement

Although the bill was passed, there is much more work to be done. According to the *Southworth v. Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin* decision, the USG ought not have the power to deny us funding on the basis of viewpoint; however, that is exactly what it does in the Special Services Council Budgeting Bylaws! Section 3.D. of those Bylaws states: "Any Club/Organization seeking funding that has any ties with a particular religious, spiritual, or political group, to be eligible for funding must only and explicitly use funds for educational, cultural, recreational, or social activities or events, as in accordance with the Chancellor's Guidelines..." By singling out religious and political clubs in this manner, it is implied that religion-building and party-building efforts are not educational, cultural, or social. This section of the Bylaws goes further still: "No meetings, activities or events backed by SSC funds can have the intention of proselytizing..." This means that a religious

club, if they want funding, cannot meet together and persuade new members to convert to their religious faith.

The whole purpose of religious and political organizations is to champion ideals and to engage in the marketplace of ideas, and yes, to proselytize. To deny us funding on the basis that we intend to use the money to forward our agendas which you may not agree with, as the SSC Budgeting Bylaws require, is not viewpoint neutral. It is biased against religious and political clubs. Section 3.D. of those Bylaws still must yet be repealed by the Executive Council in order for USG's funding policies to be in compliance with the *Southworth* decision and the newly revised Chancellor's Guidelines. A ban on proselytization as a condition for receiving funding is a ban on the freedom of religious and political clubs to pursue their objectives and express their beliefs. It also constitutes separate criteria specifically for religious and political clubs to receive funding from the USG, since only they are subject to this restriction. In other words, by definition, a ban on proselytization is a ban on religious and

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USG Candidate Debates

By Rachel O'Brien

On Monday April 18th, the first of a series of two nights of election debates took place. The debates were held in the SAC Auditorium with an audience of about 50 people, including members of The Press, The Patriot and support groups for the candidates."

Only 6 out of the 16 people running for the 20 open Senate seats were present for the debates. Running for Senator for the College of Arts and Sciences are Enyu Shih (CORE), Marc Gross (CORE), Michael Cohan, Milap Patel, Amol Amin, Amy Wisnoski, Ajay Pawar, Tanzim Khan, Simardip Grewal, Nigam Vyas, Jaspreet Toor, Natasha Patel, Jonathon Reichman (CORE), and Arych Glas (CORE). Running for Senator for the College of Engineering are Walter Sysak (CORE) and Alyssa Fasano. The 6 senatorial candidates in attendance for the debates were Amy Wisnoski, Alyssa Fasano, Marc Gross, Arych Glas, Jonathon Reichman and Walter Sysak.

The questions ranged from what type of legislation they would support and whether or not they supported party tickets to how they felt they would be able to represent the student body, espe-

cially those which they are not familiar with, culturally and religiously.

After the Senate debate, the two candidates for President, Ilan Nassimi (CORE) and Diana Acosta, took the stage. Nassimi is the current VP of Student Life and Acosta is the current VP of Academic Affairs.

Acosta made her opening statement first: "USG should be the main organization advocating for the rights of the students. USG should hold events and programs to show all students that they are part of the school community... If we are not part of the right type of change, than we are part of the problem. As President, I want to leave the drama behind."

In Nassimi's opening, he said, "[W]e need USG officials to fight upstairs not downstairs. We need people to go to the administration and fight them upstairs not from down here... You have to be willing to work with the parties involved in USG and say 'I understand, I'm from CORE, you are from this group, you are from this group, let's sit down and discuss our problems. Let's not hide them and pretend that they don't exist, like a toothache that we pretend goes away and next thing you know, you're wearing dentures."

The moderator, Ted Johnson, a member of the USG Elections Board, began the debate by asking questions submitted by clubs, media, and students. The first was "How do political parties such as CORE serve the student body?" Nassimi answered, "The first thing we have to recognize is that factions do exist in USG. I didn't cause them, you didn't cause them. They just exist. We disagree... political parties don't make it worse. Political parties recognize the problem and try to fix it." Acosta, referring to a mention of police entering a Senate meeting last semester said, "I think that the reason the cops came to the Senate meeting was because of the people in the CORE party... I honestly think that student government is not about political parties. It's about every single student sitting in here today and every single student out there. It's not about groups; it's not about specific parties. I'm not affiliated with anybody. I'm just a regular student like you, trying to make a difference."

The next question was, "How are you going to represent the student body as a whole, especially the ones you know little about culturally?"

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War Veteran Visits Stony Brook

By Nathan Shapiro

On April 20th, Stony Brook University was honored by a visit from retired Lieutenant Colonel Scott Rutter, a real American hero. LTC Rutter served in both Gulf Wars and earned the prestigious Silver Star for his leadership in the efforts to topple Saddam Hussein's regime in the Spring of 2003. In his presentation, LTC Rutter provided attendees the perspective of a reporter as well, describing how he returned to Iraq as a war correspondent for the Fox News Channel.

Among the fascinating topics discussed, LTC Rutter recounted how he commanded the 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment of the 3rd Infantry Division on an unprecedented 21-day campaign into the heart of Iraq to help capture and secure the Baghdad International Airport. LTC Rutter described his force's encounters with Saddam's elite Republican Guard, providing visitors with photographs and videos from the combat zone to show a fraction of the great job American soldiers, and their allies, are doing in Iraq.

In addition to his experience as a combatant in Iraq, LTC Rutter shared details on his role as a reporter imbedded with both American and

Iraqi forces. He described how American and Iraqi forces attacked and liberated the city of Fallujah after it had been occupied by enemy forces, who had forced most of the city's residents to flee even before the coalition assault was launched. LTC Rutter gave enormous amounts of praise towards the Iraqi forces, which are sometimes ignored by Western media, for their contribution to the coalition's effort to secure Iraq in Fallujah and elsewhere.

LTC Rutter used his unique insight into the situation in Iraq to inform visitors what he saw as America's future role in the country. He told of how America must change to counter the evolving tactics of its enemies, whose tactics include using mosques and tombs to hide weapons. LTC Rutter told listeners that his motivation, and the motivation of most soldiers in Iraq, was to improve the lives of the Iraqi people after they had been abused for so long by Saddam Hussein and said that America must continue to improve their lives by building schools and hospitals to help end the violence.

However, not everyone was interested in listening to the informative presentation by the Lieutenant Colonel. After LTC Rutter's presentation was already underway, a group of anti-war protestors demanded entry into the room. After dealing

with the elite Republican Guard, a few malcontented Stony Brook students didn't even cause LTC Rutter to flinch, and he personally granted the protestors permission to join in. Despite his courtesy towards the protestors, they entered the room disruptively carrying anti-military placards and continued to restlessly make noise and distract from the presentation, causing at least one of their members to be ejected from the room.

LTC Rutter remained respectful of the protestors and their freedom of speech, which he himself had fought to defend, even allowing them to ask the majority of the questions during and after the presentation. One protestor used that opportunity to accuse LTC Rutter of war crimes, to which he responded that he was confident he did not kill any innocent Iraqis during his tour of duty.

After LTC Rutter's presentation, he was awarded a plaque from the Stony Brook College Republicans, the Enduring Freedom Alliance and the Undergraduate Student Government thanking him for his service to his country and for bringing his unique and informative perspective on the war in Iraq to Stony Brook.

For the last 200 years, this country has stood for truth, justice, natural rights, individual liberty, freedom, and independence. Become a part of the tradition. Contribute to The Patriot.

Please send submissions to:
stonybrookpatriot@gmail.com

Visit us online at:
www.stonybrookpatriot.com
A paper of the Enduring Freedom Alliance:
http://www.ic.sunysb.edu/clubs/efa/

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I Pimped My Own Ride

By James Davis

What would you say if I told you that you could have your ride pimped, without having to spend a fortune or enter into a lottery with ridiculous odds, only to deal with Xzibit and his affinity for distracting DVD players, hideous paint colors, and ridiculous rims? And let's not forget his obnoxious laughter that seems to have no dependence on actual humor? Well, it doesn't matter much what you would say ... because you probably can't do it. But I did! Follow my helpful tips and maybe you can stop dreading what gaudy spinners Xzibit has in store for you.

The first step is to find a good starting point. It goes without saying that a larger initial investment will mean less work to do later down the road. If you're in the know like me, you can score a sweet deal. I was able to get my 1960 Ford F-100 for free from the original owner. The truck had been sitting for decades in a Vermont field, and had rusted extensively. Although it definitely needed a lot of work, it was almost completely unmodified, since it had been through only one owner.

The history of the Ford F-series trucks begins in 1948, when Ford replaced the tonnage naming system with more consumer-friendly model names. The half-ton chassis became the F-1, the 3/4-ton became the F-2, and the tonner became the F-3. The larger trucks followed suit. In 1953, Ford renamed the models once again to the more impressive-sounding F-100, F-250, and F-350. This three-digit system (and four-digit in the heavy trucks) has since remained essentially unchanged except for the renaming of the F-100 to the F-150 that we know today. This change was prompted by efforts to circumvent early legislative red tape regarding leaded and unleaded gasoline. In just 10 months, my father and I turned this truck from a rusty wreck back into the rugged classic workhorse it once was.

The second (and most fun) step is to get the mechanicals up to snuff. My truck is equipped with its original inline 6, which had 65,000 original miles on it and was fortunately not seized from stagnation. We had it running in just a couple of hours, but it was clear that the engine had some problems. The entire fuel delivery system from the tank to the carburetor was sludged from stagnant gasoline and needed cleaning. A compression check also revealed cylinder 1 as having zero compression. We cleaned the carburetor thoroughly and replaced all its gaskets, cleaned the fuel tank with a pressure washer, and replaced all the fuel lines and the burned exhaust valve in cylinder 1. After that, the engine was running like brand new. The column-shifted three-speed manual transmission and 3.70:1 Ford 9" rear axle both checked out fine.

Blackworld Wins in National Competition

By Rachel O'Brien

On February 27, 2005 *Blackworld* won first Honorable Mention in the Associated Collegiate Press National College Newspaper Convention in San Francisco, California.

Paul Akins, Managing Editor of *Blackworld*, said, "You have to bring in different issues of your paper and we entered in our anniversary issue and a few other issues." And they came out on top.

When asked what was *Blackworld's* secret to success Akins said, "We just try to keep



Before, the truck was battered and red.



Before, front angle.



Afterward, it is gleaming and black.



Afterward, side angle.

Step three is the body work. Fix those holes, or they will come back to haunt you. Although the drivetrain in my truck was in good original condition, the body was a different story. The truck had rusted badly, partly due to the mouse nests in the vents, ceiling, and flywheel cover. The cab was no longer structurally sound and sagged whenever the doors were opened. Rust repair proved to be the most time-consuming portion of the project. The truck originally had steps inside the doors that had since disintegrated entirely. We were able to buy patch panels for the steps, the rear cab corners, and the back edges of the front fenders. The holes in the bed and the floor of the cab, as well as the body mounts and door pillars, were all filled with patches hand-fabricated from flat sheet metal. All the patches were welded in with an acetylene torch and smoothed out with nylon body filler ("Bondo").

Step four is paint. Rather than an obnoxious yellow or lime green, I decided to finish my truck in the understated elegance of Raven Black. My father

has an old spray gun that was adequate for the job. It wasn't a HVLP (high volume, low pressure) gun, but the quality of the paint job was good, especially considering it was free.

Add a set of new Michelin radial tires and a chrome grille (eBay, \$100) and my ride is finished. It's by no means a high-horsepower ride, but it turns plenty of heads in its own right. Find a source for a good starting point and a father who knows his stuff, and you too could have your own pimpin' ride. West Coast Customs ain't got nothin' on Davis and Son Restorations. We got the job done without any corny jokes or footage of old parts being flung upon the rubbish heap.

The Patriot

Our Mission: The goal of *The Patriot* is to offer an alternative point of view to the students of Stony Brook University. It is a paper dedicated to raising awareness of student issues on campus, and conservative issues on the national scene. While it does not actively seek controversy, *The Patriot* strives to offer opinions and news that will encourage the students of this campus to ask themselves what their true values are. It is dedicated to building upon and fostering the conservative views that are strong among so many of us, yet suppressed in our community. But ideology aside, all of our news will be bound to three standards; we will always be *factual, sensible, and reasonable.*

Democracy's Next Frontier

Commentary by Justin Cleveland

"In a widely noticed interview, Walid Jumblatt, the leader of Lebanon's Druze, told the Washington Post that Iraq's election was the Arab equivalent of the fall of the Berlin wall. Hisham Kassem, a former publisher of the Cairo Times, called the elections the 'start of a ripple effect.' Khaled al-Meena, the editor of Saudi Arabia's Arab News, says that if elections can be held under foreign occupation in Iraq and Palestine, it should be much easier to hold them in Arab states said to be 'free.'"
— Excerpt from "Something Stirs," Economist.com

Though many thought that the War on Iraq would bring hostilities and turmoil that would only pour gasoline on the fires of Western hatred in the Middle East, the reality hints to be much different. Two years after the invasion of Iraq, the Arab world is beginning to show signs of change. It appears that the seeds of democracy are finally starting to take root. Even Arab nations that have been entrenched in dictatorship are now taking steps toward freedom—mostly due to domestic reasons or American pressure. Jordan, a semi-constitutional monarchy, plans to be giving up some of its central powers to elected regional bodies. Yemen has a rowdy parliament and press. Kuwait, which has long had a parliament, is on the verge of granting women the right to vote. Bahrain, Oman, and Qatar already have woman suffrage. Saudi Arabia is currently under an elections process. The examples are

endless.

Interestingly, two of the best examples of democratic steps taking place in the Middle East are Iraq and Palestine. Both of these countries are currently under foreign occupation, and have recently had free elections. One of these countries has become an inspiring example because of our country's actions. As Walid Jumblatt and Khaled al-Meena said so well, we have the chance to give the Arab world a brilliant hope for Liberty.

Although hope is the only thing that can keep us moving on, one must not be so swift to jump to expectations. We've seen how shallow promises of peace in many parts of the Middle East can be. But to forsake a chance to help bring freedom in the area would be heartless and against everyone's interests. And only by complete commitment can we ever dream of this. The seeds of democracy can only be planted in a soil made fertile by the blood, sweat, and tears of brave men and women willing to make it happen. Now is our time to stay true to our actions.

No longer shall we quibble over the strategic importance of Iraq, or the ideological foresight of the powers that be. Those that do are failing to see the larger picture that is before us—the supreme importance that these next few years will be to a better world. Now is the time we debate over what steps need to be taken, and what America's role is in the greater process before us. I believe most of us can agree that what is going on is bigger

than anything we could have imagined, and people of the world are still far from celebration. Nevertheless, steps have been taken, pistons have begun, irreversible measures gone forth, and we cannot go backwards any longer.

Iraq was once portrayed by many as a ridiculous conflict spawned of false pretenses with no plausible meaning. I'm not writing this article to single people out because, frankly, it's irrelevant what one thought of this a couple of years ago. What matters is the outcome; many nations are now looking upon this as a beacon of hope. Like it or not our current administration is pushing hard for a more democratic global society, although not necessarily a more concrete one. What will be sprung from our Middle Eastern intervention, or more specifically in Iraq? Several events have occurred changing not only the scope of the ultimate conclusions, but massive political visions as well. No longer can the Democratic Party exist as a leech wanting to spoil the chance we've been given at a more peaceful world, and the Republican Party is far from a cold, heartless and miser-like population of the past.

This is a turning point in the world's history, not to be overshadowed by doubt and pettiness, but to be embraced and contemplated for years to come. We live in a very exciting time, and a very crucial time. I long to see what more is in store for the entire world's welfare.

In Defense of Political Parties

Commentary by Robert J. Romano

An important issue raised in last week's debates was the propriety of including a political party system in the politics of the Undergraduate Student Government. Under the recently revised Elections Board Bylaws, students, clubs, and organizations on campus may organize together to form and manage political party coalitions that shall be appearing on the ballot during the elections taking place on April 25th-April 29th. When students log on to Solar System to vote, they will know which candidates are aligning together with common ideals and principles by noting on the ballot those candidates which have identified their party alignment. The justification for including parties lies in the need to allow students to transparently organize themselves together to come up with a political platform that promotes a program for how best to govern.

The major criticism leveled against political parties is that they promote and incite faction, as if the very existence of parties were the cause of faction. In truth, if not for faction, in democracies there would not be any political parties. Factions are as inevitable in democracies as suppression of speech is in tyrannies. The very idea of democracy, and a republican form of government, promotes the idea that all of the various interests amongst the citizens shall be represented by duly elected officials whom may share common ideals and ideologies and whom tend to by their nature promote the idea of faction. Different aligning interests shall result in differing factions competing for portions of the agenda. Taken collectively, the actions of an entire administration's term in office are neither

centrally directed nor entirely chaotic, rather they are the result of the combinations of factions either directly or indirectly influencing the outcome of events. Democracy tends to promote faction because of the idea that an individual possesses the right to speak freely and persuade officials of like stature into supporting policies.

The notion promoted heavily at the debates by several candidates was that of unity in governance. Ideally, candidates felt that the students needed to work together in order for government to operate more efficiently. However, efficiency and democracy in practice are not the same thing, and as we take stock of our free form of government here at Stony Brook, with elections, candidates, parties, and the like, we must accept the existence of factions.

In *The Federalist* No. 10 by James Madison, Publius offers to the American people that there are two ways to deal with faction, since they appear to be an inevitable side-effect of freedom: 1) by eliminating the causes, or 2) by controlling the effects. According to Madison, there are in turn two methods for removing the causes for faction: 1) eliminating the liberty of the people to organize themselves that is essential to the existence of factions; or 2) giving to every citizen the same opinions, desires, and motivations, the same ideals and interests. "It could never be more truly said than of the first remedy [removing the causes of faction], that it is worse than the disease. Liberty is to faction, what air is to fire, an ailment which it instantly expires. But it could not be a less folly to abolish liberty, which is essential to political life, because it nourishes faction, than it would be to with the

annihilation of air, which is essential to animal life, because it imparts to fire its destructive agency."

The case put forth by so many candidates, that political parties are divisive, and that therefore they ought not be included in our political processes here at Stony Brook, is a strike at the heart of the liberty of the student body to organize themselves into like-minded groupings and coalitions with the intention of affecting the public policy debate. The idea that groups of students ought to be excluded from government on the basis that they share beliefs, that somehow this is a danger to the student body, is as naïve as it is tyrannical. Having already opened a new door, creating a system where political parties are a recognized entity within student government, in order to turn back the tide it would require no less than a new administration's willingness to decrease the amount of liberty that the students have not only to express themselves, but to organize themselves with the intention of changing the way government operates. It would require considerable restrictions in terms of the amount of publicity candidates are allowed to distribute, and it would require prior review over the content of candidates' platforms that may wish to state their party affiliation (which now appears on the ballot itself incidentally). More or less, it would require either an abolishment of liberty in general, or mind control (i.e. Madison's second method for removing the cause of faction in which all people would share the same mind). Both "remedies" are an awful contribution to the cause of upholding liberty here at home.

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Mandatory Health Insurance at SBU?

Commentary by Ilan Nassimi

At the end of March, the members of the Executive Council of the Undergraduate Student Government received an E-mail from Andi Abedini, a GSO (Graduate Student Organization) Senator. The letter contained location information for a meeting with SHAC, the Student Health Advisory Committee and the Health Science Center. The meeting was in regards to a decision that had been made by the administration, a decision to put a policy into place for Fall '05 that would impose MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE on all students, Undergraduate or Graduate, if they did not have their own. In the letter, Abedini pleaded for representation on all fronts, especially USG. I was appalled. Who the hell did the administration think they were to impose mandatory insurance on everyone?

Myself, former USG EVP Esam al-Sheriffi, and Student Activities Board member Tanya Poltoratskaia attended the meeting. The administrator who had come to explain the decision was the Medical Director for Student Health Services, Dr. Rachel Ann Bergeson. She explained that the insurance could cost students up to \$1000 per person. Bergeson spoke for only a few minutes before the barrage of fire began against her. Representatives from GSO and USG, both student run organizations, began a verbal tongue lashing that lasted no less than an hour. The GSO accused the administration of behaving like a parent, and demanded that they recognized that the administration had not taken the proper steps before imposing the policy. We threatened to throw the full weight of USG against it, and to hold student rallies outside the admin building. Bergeson responded with this despicable statement: "...students don't want



to pay for insurance, instead they buy \$150 pairs of sneakers."

As time passed, it had become clear that the administration had purposefully avoided letting the students know about their decision. A representative from the Student Health Advisory Committee (SHAC), mentioned to us that they had attempted to form a survey to the students to find out popular opinion, and that the administration had ORDERED them to stop. According to admin, they didn't appreciate the tone of voice in the survey (since SHAC is supposed to be unbiased). Afterwards, they heard nothing from admin until a recent notice was sent to them telling them that the investigation had continued without their survey involved. Instead, the administration used a survey done years ago, which was conveniently being used without the knowledge of any current student organization. As the survey was handed out, I noticed at the top that the survey the term "N = 95". Ninety-

five people. They surveyed ninety-five people out of a school filled with nearly 25,000 students.

Finally, towards the end of the meeting, Dr. Bergeson and Peter Mastroianni, began to crack. They told us that they would recommend to the administration that they allow SHAC to go ahead with another survey, and then take the results into serious consideration. After the meeting I met a student that told me that she would actually have to drop out of Stony Brook if the policy was executed.

At a recent Faculty-Student Association meeting (FSA), it was announced that it was too late for admin to implement the policy until Fall '06, giving students a full year to fight the ruling. "I am glad that the efforts of several... students have contributed to suspending this policy until sufficient time is utilized to test its popularity and utility with the student body..." said former Vice-President of USG Esam al-Shareffi after he heard the news.

We must continue this fight. The USG and GSO are now giving out a survey created by SHAC to all students; it can be found in this newspaper and at the USG website: www.stonybrook.edu/usg...

Please help us fight the powers that be, I am running for USG President on the CORE party ticket, and if elected I vow to continue to fight against student rights violations on this campus, in whatever form they take.

(Please note that the Student Health Advisory Committee is an impartial body and has not contributed to this article.)

Ilan Nassimi is the Vice President of Student Life of the Undergraduate Student Government, and is running for USG President in this year's elections. Visit his website at www.YourUSG.com ...

Chewbacca Sighting at Stony Brook

Review by Chris Dolley

As anyone who follows science-fiction conventions can tell you, we just recently had a big one-ICON. This 3 day annual event is something that many Stony Brook anime, sci-fi, and RPG fans pride themselves on not missing a minute of.

Among the main events was a chance to see the man behind the fur- Peter Meyhew, the man who played Star Wars' most famous of the wookies, Chewbacca. An intimidating 7½ feet tall, he was kept busy signing countless memorabilia. Other sights included people dressed up as various sci-fi characters- from Klingons and bounty hunters to Ghostbusters; webcomic characters were very popular, such as Cheat from Homestar Runner. Many costumes were near-replicas.

ICON underwent many changes this year. There were more anthropomorphic related events (having to do with animals that have human shaped bodies and human qualities). There was much more anime shown- perhaps too much, for the sci-fi fan who wanted more classic panel discussions such as "the physics of Star Trek", or maybe a panel that compares anime to real Japanese culture and everyday life, or "what's the deal with those furry little Iwoks?", many of which were featured at last year's ICON. And if you expected a trivia con-



test like the one about Star Trek last year, you were in for a disappointment.

But there was definitely plenty of jousting to go around, thanks to the "Kingdom of Avalon" RPG enthusiasts. They choreographed numerous battles, mostly of the medieval type. And who doesn't enjoy some olde-fashioned jousting? Furthermore, they followed this with a panel about making Boffel swords out of pvc pipe and insulation foam.

Who says a Klingon has no heart? A charity auction was held Saturday and Sunday that benefited the Christopher Reeve Society. People auctioned posters, books, sci-fi and na-

ture figurines, etc. Some valuable merchandise was donated and auctioned off at cheap prices. For example, a Superman poster appraised at \$200 sold for \$33.

It appears that ICON is becoming more digitally oriented, with increased emphasis on webcomics and anime that was evident in the costumes worn and events featured. However, something that will probably never change is the abundance of people who attend the weekend sci-fi extravaganza. If you were looking to purchase any kind of sci-fi posters, figurines, or ordinarily typical things like pottery and chess sets that were given a sci-fi or creative twist, then you went to the right place. There was endless merchandise and countless people that completely filled the track room in the Sports Complex, busy until closing time.

So if you're looking for somewhere to host your Klingon wedding, or a place to show off your Boffel sword, come to ICON next year.

Join the Enduring
Freedom Alliance!

The Patriot



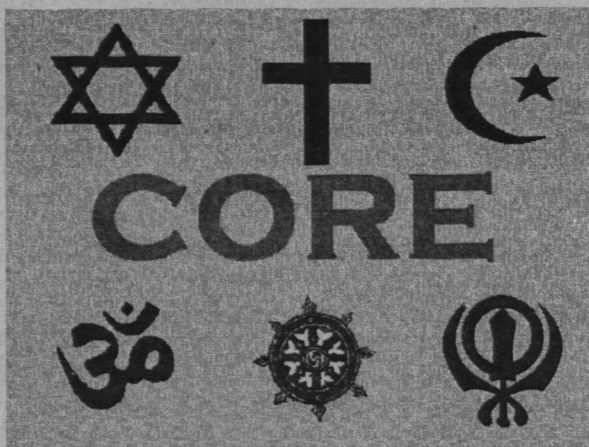
The March of Freedom and Democracy around the world shall leave terrorism and tyranny on the ash-heap of history.

The ENDURING FREEDOM ALLIANCE
Meetings Once Every Thursday at 5:30PM
SAC 312

Send Submissions to
stonybrookpatriot@gmail.com

Political Parties in USG

Continued from Page 4



Picture Courtesy of StonybrookCORE.com

CORE, or the Coalition of Righteous Egalitarians, is the first ever political party in USG.

As our brave troops march in the defense of freedom and democracy abroad, we must tend to our own pastures here at home. As students here in Stony Brook, we have a responsibility to understand not only the principles of a republican form of government, but we must also place them into practice to uphold our way of life. By adding political parties to the mixture, the Elections Board has created a means of controlling the effects of faction, as prescribed by Madison. The means of preserving the Union here at home, the very purpose of being for our nation, is by understanding and implementing the practical applications of liberty, and following

the prescriptions of our Founders, who were masters of political theory. We must combine our zeal for liberty with the necessity of factions in order to guide the various interests within government. The justification of factions is that they are but a symptom of the nature of our freedom as individual citizens. As students, we must be educated as to the tenants of our liberty.

The rules of majority rule and minority opposition demand that coalitions be built, managed, and implemented in order for public policies that benefit the people and garner popular support to be ordained and established.

The idea that political parties, indeed, factions in general, must be eliminated in order for government to operate more efficiently in the best interests of the people is a certain recipe for the stifling of free speech, and in ensuring a tyranny of the few. Only persons with a vested interest in retaining power and ensuring apathy would seek to subvert the means of the students to empower themselves by organizing party coalitions which enable them to affect public policy in a positive manner. Those who preach unity in governance might best refer to Madison's advice, for the fall of liberty begins with absence of its wisdom. Without government's acceptance of factions, liberty will not survive.

Robert J. Romano is the USG Elections Board Chairman.

The Path to National Suicide

Commentary by Andrew Popper

Most people today think that the American experiment is unique in history. The idea of a large multiethnic society thriving and prospering with an absence of persecution and inter-communal violence is not however a new concept. 2000 years ago the Roman Empire was, like America today, the most powerful nation on Earth. Cemented by a common language and culture, this amazingly tolerant and creative civilization was most obviously a multiethnic society. Its elaborate road system allowed for the peaceful mixing of Jews, Spaniards, Celts, Greeks, Italians, Semitic and other North Africans and a host of other peoples who had previously been at each other's throats. This great civilization, though composed of an amazing melting pot of ancient peoples and cultures was, however, emphatically NOT "multicultural." The proudest statement one could make in those days was "Civis Romanus Sum" - I am a Roman citizen. There were no Jewish Romans, Greek Romans, Egyptian Romans, etc. There were only ROMANS. In fact, the only seed of division in first and second century Rome was the retention of the Greek language in certain eastern provinces. This happy time was not to last, however. The increasing onslaught and migration of assorted barbarian peoples began steadily diluting the unifying language and culture of the empire as a series of weak and corrupt emperors failed to maintain military discipline and protection of the long borders of the empire. Finally, one of the most destructive forces of all began to exert its pernicious poison, the greed and lust for "Cheap Labor." The incompetent religious fanatic Emperor Valens, permitted a vast horde of barbarian Goths to flood across the Danube in the 370's. After all, they were fellow Christians, and they could be used for jobs Romans did not want to do; they could even be used in Rome's army.

The Goths, however, adopted neither the language, culture, nor spirit of Romans. They were exploited and poorly treated by their Roman hosts and finally, in 378 AD, under their king Fritigern, broke into open rebellion. Rome had permitted a nation of enemies to settle in its midst. Fritigern invited fellow Goths from across the Danube to join the revolution. The river, though far wider than the Rio Grande, obviously was insufficient defense. On August 9, 378 AD, Valens, near Hadrianopolis Greece, engaged the Goths in one of the most significant battles in history. Exhausted by the stifling heat, the poorly led Roman army was surrounded and annihilated by the Gothic infantry and cavalry. Valens himself was among the slain. The Western Roman Empire never fully recovered from the catastrophe. The "Cheap Labor" was lethally expensive; soon, various Germanic tribes including the notorious Vandals openly settled and colonized the fairest provinces of the Empire. Barbarian soldiers and generals filled the armies. When Emperor Majorian, inspired Roman volunteers to build a fleet to

recover Vandal-occupied North Africa, Vandal spies were able to aid a surprise attack on the Roman harbor of Cartagena in Spain and torch the fleet. Majorian resolved to rebuild it, but later in 461AD, Majorian was assassinated by the barbarian general Ricimer. This doomed the West Roman Empire, which soon ceased to exist. Amazingly, his colleague, the Eastern Emperor (there was a second "New Rome" built on the site of the Greek city of Byzantium - Constantinople) Leo I, resolved to avoid the fate of Majorian. The Eastern Army was also infested with Germanic barbarians. Recruiting a separate militia of fierce native Roman Isaurians, he was able to seize control of his own Army. A new unified East Roman culture was nurtured by the brilliant Leo who also carefully fortified his capital (It was not sacked for 876 years). While many now multicultural Western Provinces collapsed into chaotic squabbling, bloodshed violence and savagery, a measure of peace and prosperity returned to the East. Many years later, Leo's daughter Ariadne, surprisingly appointed an elderly ethnic Albanian economist, Anastasius to be emperor, rather than the usual wealthy aristocrat. Realizing that high taxes were destroying the economy, he cut the principle land tax by 90% and abolished many other taxes entirely. The economy flourished, exports grew and 27 years later, when the now ancient man finally died, 500,000 pounds of gold were found in the treasury. Perhaps the Great Ronald Reagan knew of this amazing genius; they were fantastically alike.

I am sure that few liberal professors would ever discuss such heretical low tax high revenue concepts, however. The new wealth and power allowed the Eastern Emperors to recover many of the lost Western provinces. The Roman army was now composed of soldier farmers eager to defend their nation. Military districts called Themes secured the safety of the revived Empire. While the language gradually became Greek, a uniform culture of was maintained in the multiethnic society. With the aid of a secret incendiary weapon, invented by the Einstein of the 7th century, the Jewish Refugee scientist Callinicus, the Romans were able to defeat and destroy the great Arab Muslim sieges of 674 and 717, preserving western Civilization through the Dark Ages. Once again, however, well connected Aristocrats began buying out the soldiers lands. To replace the lost soldiers, a multicultural mercenary army was recruited. The aristocrats became fabulously wealthy with their vast land holdings and paid huge bribes to maintain their ill gotten gains. The mercenary army was actually cheaper for the aristocrats. Unfortunately the multicultural, multi-lingual army soon had little ability to communicate and less will to fight. Finally, the Emperor Romanus IV Diogenes marched off to fight a huge Turkish invasion in 1071. The largest single contingent of Roman troops consisted of Turks! Shortly before the two sides met for the decisive engagement, the Turkish Mercenaries defected. On August 26, 1071 the fatal Battle of Manzikert took place. The Roman army was crushed, Romanus

captured and the heartland of the Empire lost forever. The Turks felt so sorry for him they actually set him free. Of course the greedy Aristocrats lost everything also. Rather than admit their guilt, they had the unfortunate Romanus blinded. Once again, "Cheap Labor" turned out to be fatally expensive. (The sad remnants of the Roman Empire lingered until May 29, 1453. The degrading term "Byzantine" implying "paganism" was only invented a few hundred years ago by hostile Vatican officials; the East Romans had refused to acknowledge the authority of the Popes.)

Is it so important to save 10¢ a pint on strawberries while preventing automation by using "Cheap Labor?" (Australia has already automated much of its harvesting equipment for example) Illegal immigration not only undermines American wages and bankrupts our health care systems but prevents the development of highly skilled well paid technical jobs in the robotics and automated agricultural industries. Meanwhile, Mexico, using the ongoing invasion, is enforcing its claims to vast areas of the US West, calling it Aztlan. Tens of Billions of dollars of oil revenues are stolen annually by the corrupt Mexican government, which uses our open borders as a safely valve for the millions of dissatisfied citizens who would otherwise overthrow the criminals. Stupendous wealth, which should be used for schools, highways, hospitals and other infrastructure, continually vanishes into Swiss bank accounts. Thus two countries are being destroyed simultaneously. This invasion and colonization of the USA will eventually lead to Civil War II. Are you too lazy to cut your own lawn? Is it wise to permit formation of foreign colonies of vulnerable, resentful, exploited workers, encouraged to live in linguistic ghettos? Is it moral to save a few dollars, living from the squalid misery of a betrayed and degraded population of abused Mexicans? Will we have to wait for an American Hadrianopolis? Will Bush be our Valens? The first US Civil War was also fought over exploited "Cheap Labor." Boy was THAT expensive!! If they were alive today, I think Valens and Romanus could give emphatic answers the true costs of the "Cheap Labor" of abused, alienated unassimilatable cultural groups. This is a deadly, dangerous and profoundly immoral situation and will eventually lead to the most dreadful of consequences. Do not be a part of this outrage; do not patronize restaurants, landscapers or any other businesses engaging in the most lethal and disgusting form of treason. Two hundred years ago, cheap labor was brought to America in chains, now it is enticed across the borders by two disgraceful, short term thinking, evil and enabling governments. Do not be a party to our own national suicide. Stop polishing the chains on a people who 500 years ago lived in splendid cities and created vast libraries and cultural wonders. Cortez himself said that Mexico City made Madrid look like a slum. A tightly controlled US Mexican border now can save one civilization and renew a second.

Voter Guide for Spring Elections

Continued from Page 7

I can offer good insight on how to make sure we make the right decisions, while still maintaining our school budget. I promise to make sure that the money in U.S.G. is being spent wisely and for the right matters. I promise to make events on this campus as successful as I can make them. I promise to get every necessary law passed. I am looking forward to making significant changes for this university, and helping it move higher.

Tanzim Khan

I have always wanted to be a part of Stony Brook and what we stand for. I've also wanted to get involved in campus life a lot more as well. I think that becoming a senator and helping students get their problems fixed is the best way for me to do this. I think that I am a person that goes out of his way to make sure other people's problems are fixed. I will be able to offer fresh ideas and new ways to make this campus run better. I'm planning to go out into our campus, and search for new ideas and proposals for all my fellow students. It is my goal to have every kind of student, no matter what gender, social class, age or ethnicity. I feel that by elected me as a senator, students will be elected themselves, because I will be the voice from which they speak from.

Simardip Grewal

The most important characteristic that I can offer to this prestigious university is leadership. I am a person that people can trust and confide in as a leader. I have great confidence in my abilities to help carry out any type of event, whether a social gathering or a community service project. I stand up for what I truly believe in, and take a firm but fair approach to any problem. I feel that these are the characteristics of a true student leader. I take in the opinions of the various students on campus and try to make their time here at Stony Brook University more worthwhile and enjoyable. I also participate in Mount LEG amongst other clubs and activities. Being a member of these clubs as helped me develop as an individual and has also given me an appreciation to all the hard work that goes into making this campus what it is today.

Nigam Vyas

I would like to start off by saying a few things about myself. I am a hardworking, diligent, and motivated individual. I am here to serve the Stony Brook campus and its students, and represent them in the Undergraduate Student Government. I feel that I am a very fair person, who can properly make sure that the right issues are being discussed and debated. I am also running for senate because I want to make sure that the right legislative bills are being passed for the right reasons. I am willing to work very hard on behalf of my fellow students. I am a studious individual who is willing to go out of his way for other people.

Jaspreet Toor

As president of many organizations in high school and in my community I believe my leadership qualities excel others. People can put their trust and faith in me. I am confident, hard working, and most importantly loyal. I be-

lieve these are important qualities of a good leader, one that you can count on doing work. I strongly believe in my views and am very open to others ideas. I will do what is best for the majority of the students. My goal is to bring the Stony Brook community together. Have more students and organizations participate towards a positive cause. This will make the Stony Brook community more enjoyable and appealing to more and more students. In general I believe I will be a good asset to the Senate.

Natasha Patel

As a sophomore at Stony Brook University I have become well accustomed to the systems which govern this university. My experiences at Stony Brook have brought to my attention a great many number of causes that are worthy of attention, and improvement. As a Senator in the student Government I would be able to shine light on my observations about this school, as well as attempt to improve conditions for my fellow students. Student Government is a critical aspect of a school system, as I have learned from my experiences with government in High School, serving as Junior Class Vice President, and Senior Class representative council woman. Stony Brook University has much to offer its students and as a Senator I would like to work towards helping the student body be more informed about those prospects. Through leadership and persistence I want to do my best to help others. The opportunity to serve my fellow students would be a rewarding and phenomenal endeavor, which I would devote my complete efforts to without fail.

Jonathan Reichman (CORE)

Hi my name is Jonathan Reichman and I am running on the CORE ticket for the position of senator in the Undergraduate Student Government. I'm running because I feel that there's a lot we've got to accomplish and I think the students' voices must be heard more clearly. As a student, I feel that some of the times our direct interests as a whole are not always being heard in full, and would like the chance to make sure they are. I attended most of the senate meetings the past semester, and noticed a lot of things were being said but not a lot was getting done, while a lot of personal opinions of other members of USG were being voiced instead. I want to make sure things get done and that as students our voices are both heard and recognized. I also remember there have been all these rumors that USG was using money from the over 2 million dollar student activity budget for trips to Las Vegas and 30,000 dollar IHOP breakfasts. Whether these are true or not I don't know, but there was obviously some level of communication that wasn't reached completely in the past between the members of USG and their constituents, us the students. I'm a regular student running for USG because I feel I can make our voices be heard. I'm Jonathan Reichman, and I'm running to be your senator.

Aryeh Glas (CORE)

My name is Aryeah Glas and I am running for the position of Senator of the Undergraduate Student Government on the CORE Party ticket. I believe that I am very qualified for this position because of my experience as secretary of the Chabad Student's Club and my past position as treasurer of the Shelanu newspaper. I am pursuing a major in mathematics and a minor in business and make the time to take care of the very important position of food supervisor at kosher café on campus.

I support the CORE platform and would be very proud to serve as senator on the USG in order to work for the benefit of SBU students in order to help us attain an ever greater participation and greater voice during our brief stay at SBU.

Senator for College of Engineering
Walter Sysak (CORE)

My name is Walter Sysak, and I want to improve student life on campus. In order to pursue that goal, I am running for the position of Senator in your undergraduate student government on the CORE Party ticket.

I am a third year computer science major and live on campus. I have been involved in student life as a member of many clubs and organizations on campus, and held position of Vice President of the Roth Regatta in 2004. In February, I was appointed a position as USG Senator. In this short amount of time, I have done my best to serve the campus community.

I feel I am an excellent candidate for this position due to my experience as a Senator and involvement with various student organizations on campus. If re-elected, I would strive to make this government run as efficiently as possible and always work in the best interests of the students. I am dedicated and have a strong desire to serve the student body; those are the most valuable traits to consider when electing any official.

While performing my duties as a Senator, I would work to maintain openness in the government so that all students will be able to participate and have a voice on the issues. I would also strive for efficiency in government and actually getting things done!

The purpose of being a member of the undergraduate student government is that of being a service to the students of this campus. It is for that reason you should elect me to the position of Senator in the Undergraduate Student Government.

Alyssa Fasano

My name is Alyssa Fasano, and I am going to be a sophomore at Stony Brook University next semester. Currently, I live on campus and am an Applied Mathematics major who looks forward to working with the Undergraduate Student government Senate to make many changes to benefit student success. I have been active in many different organizations, including Math Club, Academic and Residential Judiciary, and my residential hall's LEG. The reason why I am running is because I believe that I can take what the constituents want and properly voice their opinions and ideas to the Undergraduate Student Government through the form of the Senate meetings. During the Fall 2004 semester, I was defeated in the race for Freshman representative, from this experience I learned a lot about what the students of Stony Brook want from this university. I learned that many students want more activities over the weekend, as well as cheaper prices on food at the school's cafeteria especially for food that is healthier. I hope by representing the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, that I am get legislation through to make what the students have wanted a reality. I feel that I can effectively voice the opinions of the students as well as make decisions that benefit all when it comes down to legislation that is brought to the Senate.

2nd Clubs Bill Passes Senate

Continued from Page 1

political activities, and undermines the purposes of these types of organizations.

It is incumbent upon the Executive Council to implement "The Second Clubs and Organizations Bill of Rights" in the SSC's Budgeting Bylaws and the financial policies and procedures of the USG. Though both the executive and legislative branches have acted to implement viewpoint neutrality, the executive branch still has more to accomplish in terms of upholding the rights of religious and political clubs and organizations.

Until the ban on proselytizing is lifted, can we truly claim to not be taking into account the beliefs that clubs share? "The Second Clubs and Organizations Bill of Rights" must be enforced by the Executive Council in order for its provisions to fully take effect, and the student body must be wary against its contents being repealed. The danger lies not in acquiring liberty, but rather, in keeping it.

Robert J. Romano is the Treasurer of the SBU College Republicans.

USG Debates

Continued from Page 2

Acosta answered, "I feel that the best way to represent the student is by understanding them. My goal would be to meet with every president of the different religious clubs on campus to make sure that I can understand their purpose." Nassimi responded, "The key is to try to see past it all. Using the viewpoint neutrality system, try to say 'This club performs this function and I'm going to decide on their budget based on that merit.' You have to compromise yourself and say, 'I understand that you have your own culture and I am willing to work with you on that.' And that's one of the things CORE was founded on. Unfortunately, that message has been turned around and perverted. We stand for 'understanding the other guy'."

Johnson next asked, "What would you change about the USG Constitution?" Acosta answered, "The things that are free for interpretation. There are a lot of things that aren't as clear as they should be. I think that the constitution was well-written, other than small things here and there." Nassimi answered, "Two words: constitutional review and nothing less. Here's an example of the problem with the constitution: Order of succession: President, Vice-President, Treasurer. Tisk, tisk, tisk. It should be President, Vice-President, President Pro Temp. Anyone who knows anything about constitutional law knows that. Furthermore, we need to define the intentions of the framers of the constitution. What we need to do is sit down with the presidents of the clubs, the executive council, senate and judiciary in a BIG room with a blackboard and just

go with ideas. We don't need to change everything but we need to define it all. If we don't change it, we at least know what it means and now we have something to go by."

Both candidates agreed that student activity fees should be used to support or oppose legislation in both State and Federal government, if it is to the benefit of the student body. An example of this would be paying NYPIRG to help in opposing the proposed tuition hike during the past month. Both also agreed that USG can do without stipends. It uses a lot of money that could be going back to the clubs. Maybe put here how much they get in Stipends.

Nassimi's bigger issues on his platform include gaining access to the Wang Center for classes and events for students, creating the Management of Paperwork office (M.O.P.) where clubs will be able to hand in all their paperwork for budgets and special events to one office, which he claimed would cut approximately \$300,000 from the USG budget that is used to pay administrators to deal with students' fiscal matters.

Important issues on Acosta's platform include student life issues, such as fighting the rising cost of food, dealing with bad housing accommodations, and commuter concerns. One project she proposes is building a structure in the South P parking lot where commuters can wait for the bus instead of outside in the winter cold.

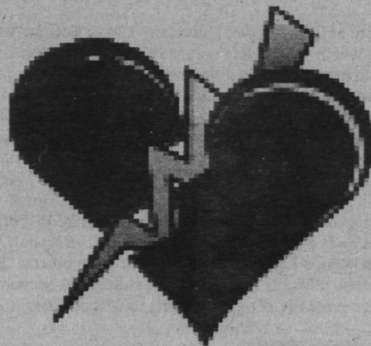
Elections begin at noon on Monday, April 25th and end at noon on Friday, April 29th. Make your next year at Stony Brook a better one by voicing your opinion and voting.

Sex at the 'Brook

Humor by Virginia Morgan

When it comes to love, there's the person we know we are meant to be with and there's the person we think we need to be with. The person we're meant to be with knows everything about us—our favorite music, our favorite baseball player, our favorite movie and even our favorite place to get a good cheese steak. They understand our different moods and feelings. They're always there to make us happy when we're sad and they're always there to cheer us up when we get stood up or dumped. They know they are the one we're meant to be with and they willing to be patient and wait until we figure it out too.

On the other hand, the person we think we need to be with doesn't take the time to get to know what our favorite things are. They hear us listen to Howie Day or The Get Up Kids once and assume we love them. They know where we're from so they assume we like the hometown baseball team.



Picture Courtesy of Cuorhome.net

They've heard us say we've seen *American Pie* a million times, so they assume it's our favorite movie. They often times don't get why we feel the way we do or why we're happy one minute and pissed off the next. Chances are they're the ones who've made us sad, dumped us or stood us up—not the ones who make us happy. So when does it stop? When

do we stop obsessing over Mr./Ms Right Now and focus on Mr./Ms Right? How many times does our heart have to get stepped on, ripped out, cheated and the like before we realize that the person we've been looking for has been right in front of our eyes all along?

Sure it's nice to date the person we think we look the best with, the person who's the hottest around, the one who's best in bed but at some point it has to stop. At some point we have to realize it's more important to be with the one than just anyone. We need to put aside our fears, put away the notions of what we think we need and open up our arms and our hearts to the one who's been right there waiting for us. They could be the friend sitting next to us at a baseball game or the friend napping next to us in Central Park. What if we're like swans, which mate for life, and only get one true love? Wouldn't it be a shame to pass it by because we were too busy worrying who we look the best with than who makes us feel the best?

Letter to the Editor

From Tim Aniolowski

Try to realize, when writing about the American Dream, that it is truly f***ed. The American Dream is not about a smoke filled battle field, it is about money and power. A preverbal lifting ones self from said selfs bootstraps. A site that I linked to yours from has a picture of a woman holding a sign that read: I can see anti-war and anti-foreign policy, but anti-military? This is what is wrong with conservative war-mongers such as the young woman in this picture. Do people like her truly believe that because a person thinks that a war based solely on the purpose of getting more oil is wrong, that means we want American, and British, and Polish soldiers to die. If so, us "Liberal Hippies" as the site suggests are just as much "evil doers" as those that we are fighting. Speaking for myself, I am a Democrat opposed to the war, that said I still want America to win that war, for no other reason than it meaning less of our guys will DIE, and they will be returned home quickly. Please don't take any disrespect from this writing, I just happen to disagree, but after all thats what so great about this country, isn't it?

Respectively,
TMA

Tim,

As always, we appreciate your input and we take no disrespect from your writing. The First Amendment is a wonderful thing!

May I ask what that site was (that linked to ours)? I'd like to see exactly what you're talking about.

Personally, I have nothing against people who are not for the war (though I would hope that they were against the war from the start and didn't just change their minds because of the difficult time we've been having).

That said, I simply cannot believe that this war was all about oil... I've seen no evidence of

this whatsoever. One can believe all the conspiracy theories he wants, but in the end it's really just a waste of time, I think. For all we know, we're just hooked up to The Matrix and the earth is run by artificial intelligence that uses us for batteries.

To this day, regardless of what's happened since we began the war, I supported the war. When in doubt of what's going on in the present, it's always good to look to the past and relive the situation that led us to where we are today. Here's a list of intelligence Bush spoke about during his State of the Union Address before the war:

- "The United Nations concluded in 1999 that Saddam Hussein had biological weapons sufficient to produce over 25,000 liters of anthrax - enough doses to kill several million people. He hasn't accounted for that material. He's given no evidence that he has destroyed it."

- "The United Nations concluded that Saddam Hussein had materials sufficient to produce more than 38,000 liters of botulinum toxin -- enough to subject millions of people to death by respiratory failure. He hadn't accounted for that material. He's given no evidence that he has destroyed it."

- "The International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed in the 1990s that Saddam Hussein had an advanced nuclear weapons development program, had a design for a nuclear weapon and was working on five different methods of enriching uranium for a bomb. Saddam Hussein has not credibly explained these activities. He clearly has much to hide."

- "Iraq is blocking U-2 surveillance flights requested by the United Nations. Iraqi intelligence officers are posing as the scientists inspectors are supposed to interview. Real scientists have been coached by Iraqi officials on what to say. Intelligence sources indicate that Saddam Hussein has ordered that scientists who cooperate with U.N. inspectors in disarming Iraq will be killed, along with their families."

- "Evidence from intelligence sources, secret communications, and statements by people now in custody reveal that Saddam Hussein aids

and protects terrorists, including members of al Qaeda. Secretly, and without fingerprints, he could provide one of his hidden weapons to terrorists, or help them develop their own."

- "Some have said we must not act until the threat is imminent. Since when have terrorists and tyrants announced their intentions, politely putting us on notice before they strike? If this threat is permitted to fully and suddenly emerge, all actions, all words, and all recriminations would come too late. Trusting in the sanity and restraint of Saddam Hussein is not a strategy, and it is not an option."

- "Year after year, Saddam Hussein has gone to elaborate lengths, spent enormous sums, taken great risks to build and keep weapons of mass destruction. But why?"

These were all quoted from President Bush when he made the speech. Most of the intelligence used to back the speech was from the UN.

Like President Bush said, I just didn't trust in the sanity and restraint of Saddam Hussein and that's why I supported the war and continue to do so. The way I see it, we were wrong (though I don't think we made a mistake protecting ourselves), and now we've got to deal with the consequences. If we were to suddenly pull out of Iraq (this may have been more true before than now), we would likely end up with something worse than Saddam. We don't really have a choice here. And if things work out, and I'm confident that they will, the middle east will be that much better a place and the US will be that much safer.

Though I'm not speaking so much for *The Patriot* (this is my own opinion), I'd bet that most of the staff would agree with me here.

Still, you're entitled to your opinion and I respect that.

Thanks again for writing to us... I appreciate it!

Sincerely,
Erik Berte
Editor-in-Chief
The Patriot

America The Beautiful

Quotations Compiled by Alexandra Borodkin

Domestic Policy Issue

"When a government takes over a people's economic life it becomes absolute, and when it has become absolute it destroys the arts, the minds, the liberties and the meaning of the people it governs." - Maxwell Anderson

"Freedom is not something to be secured in any one moment of time. We must struggle to preserve it every day. And freedom is never one generation away from extinction." - President Ronald Reagan

"Individualism, the love of enterprise, and the pride in personal freedom, have been deemed by Americans not only as their choicest, but their peculiar and exclusive possessions." - James Bryce

"Given that the two centuries of socialists' experiments, whether by utopians, Marxists, or Fabians, always ended in economic failure and a loss of personal liberty, why are people around the globe still proudly proclaiming themselves socialists?" - Richard Rahn

Whose Money is it Anyway?

The left: "Every Social Security proposal the Bush Administration is publicly considering includes cuts in guaranteed benefits. Now we know why: the Bush Administration deems the current system, with its average monthly benefit of \$955, as too generous. Only the callous would believe that \$955 per month is too extravagant for seniors who have spent their entire lives paying into the system with the belief that it would be there for them when they retired." - Rep. Nan Pelosi

The right: "To be sure, personal accounts remain a controversial part of the reform package, with a large block of Americans opposing them altogether. But this block comprises mostly people over 55 who will not be affected by the implementation of personal accounts. The Demos still reject the idea

of personal accounts, but their perceived inflexibility on this issue has not endeared them with the public lately. Democrat consultants James Carville and Stan Greenberg pointed out this week that rigid Demo opposition to the President's plan has not won much support because they have put forth no plan of their own" ---The Federalist Patriot

The Interpreters of the Law

The left: "The immediate provocation is the GOP's so-called 'nuclear option,' a scheme by Republican leaders in the Senate to end the 200-year tradition of allowing the minority party to filibuster judicial nominations. Democrats regard the proposed rule change as the equivalent of a constitutional coup in the Senate." -Eleanor Clift

The right: "I am committed to getting the work of the American people done in the Senate, which includes advice and consent on the president's judicial nominations as outlined in the Constitution. Never before in the history of the Senate has a nominee with clear majority support been denied an up or down vote on the Senate floor because of a filibuster." -Senate Majority Leader, Bill Frist

The Ambassador Saga

The left: "Look, I just want someone credible at the U.N. I want someone that can make our case at the U.N. I'm less concerned about reform of the U.N. than the role of the United States within the U.N. and the United States not being able to be marginalized within the U.N. And I think that John Bolton's lack of credibility on intelligence matters, John Bolton's strong and in some areas very respected ideological view of foreign policy intelligence are admirable, but they're not admirable for someone running a Cabinet-level position, one of the largest embassies in the world, which is the, essentially, the embassy of the United States at the U.N."---Senator Joseph Biden, D-DE

The right: "John Bolton's nomination as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations got a boost this week when 59 ex-diplomats sent a letter to the Senate opposing his appointment. Along with North Korea's reference to Mr. Bolton as 'human scum' and John Kerry's passionate disapproval, what more could the Senate want by way of recommendation?" -- The Wall Street Journal

The Day after Tomorrow

The left: "Even if people stopped pumping out carbon dioxide and other pollutants tomorrow, global warming would still get worse, two teams of researchers reported on Thursday. ... Virtually no one disagrees human activity is fueling global warming, and a global treaty signed in Kyoto, Japan, aims to reduce polluting emissions. But the world's biggest polluter, the United States, has withdrawn from the 1997 treaty, saying its provisions would hurt the U.S. economy." -- Reuters news service

The right: "From there to the idea of an anti-American psychopathology, which routinely seeks to transform the United States into a scapegoat burdened with all the sins of the world, is a small and rather tempting step. Ecologists will reply that this is wrong, that America, with 5 percent of the world's population, is responsible for 25 percent of the world's industrial pollution. Perhaps the figures are accurate, but it should be pointed out that America also produces 25 percent of the planet's goods and services and that the other 167 Kyoto signatories had done absolutely nothing by mid-2001 towards reducing, either collectively or individually their 75 percent share of the world pollution."---from "Anti-Americanism" by Jean Francois Revel

Please Pray Today and Everyday for the Safety of our Troops

My Struggle

Humor by William Olsen-Hoek

Deadlines are skittish things, let me tell you. One day you're just having several bottles of wine and trying Blue Point Brewery's gift to the beer enthusiast (Hoptical Illusion), and the next day you're reading 400 pages about some crazy Nebraskan, then writing 9 pages about what you read. Then you remember that you have another paper due in your biography class. No problem. Only five pages. Then *The Patriot* comes a-knocking asking once again for some of your brilliant wit to grace the pages of the uberconservative rag.

Insomnia generally hits around these times. I'm not entirely sure why, but it happens. Insomnia is like time travel. You keep looking at the clock, and it skips ahead - kind of like that countdown in Spaceballs:

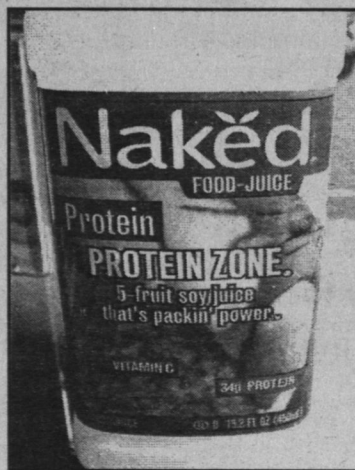
"10... 9... 8... 6..."

"What happened to seven?!"

"Just kidding."

The television was just too enticing at 2:30am. By the way, anyone who says, "But the night is still young," at 2:30am ought to be sent to a secluded island and blown up. This is entirely untrue. Channel 50 is the old standby when I can't sleep. I mean, all the best Comedy Central shows are broadcasted well after Christians are in bed. Black Books is a prime example. (As a side note, if anyone else is a Black Books enthusiast, I urge them to contact me. Actually, I urge anyone reading this to contact me. I'll list my email below.) Tonight was the entirely neglected Gerhard Reinke's Wanderlust. It's about this dude who pretends he's a German tourist and visits "exotic" areas. By visit, I mean he acts like a total jackass. It's essentially thirty minutes of crass humor made funnier by a Teutonic tongue. But I digress, I think.

Deadlines. Right. I really wanted to write something fun and interesting for this month's edition



of Das Patriot. My friend suggested that I write about the letter I recently penned to George W. Bush, asking him to grow sideburns or mutton chops. When President William "I'm Only Known For My Fat Ass Not Fitting In The Bath Tub" Taft is the last president to have facial hair (if you count a really greasy, neatly trimmed moustache as facial hair), something is seriously wrong with our society. That is why I am a firm advocate for the growing of sideburns. They're fun, cool, and increase your wind resistance just enough that you might survive a fall from an airplane. (Note: I cannot be held responsible for morons attempting to first grow Martin Van Buren style chops and jump out of a plane and jelling up the abyss below.) I'm actually disheartened that I haven't even gotten a canned response stating that the President doesn't wish to grow 'burns because public opinion polls show people prefer shorn faces on their elected leaders. Whatever.

Then I really wanted to write about the travesty of the Great Odwalla v. Naked Juice Vote that was re-

cently held on campusdining.org. My freshman semester was only made tolerable by a frosty bottle of ultra-thick, bizarrely flavored Odwalla juice in the morning. Believe me, it's the only thing that'll get you out of bed when you're living in a triple with... uh... "people." For nearly 3 years, Odwalla was the stifling despot of the Stony Brook juice market. Then, that wrought bastard, Naked Juice, came and attempted to topple this mighty fruit extract emperor's wicked empire. My girlfriend recently pointed out that Campus Dining services was holding an online vote, where we Stony Brook consumers could voice our preference for overpriced hippie juice. I partook in my sacred Democratic right, and left the rest to fate. Alas, it appears that the website has been updated, and the results are gone. It was something to the tune of 550 for Naked, 270 for Odwalla, and 40 who didn't care. I'd really like to have a coffee with one of the magnificent specimens who voted that they didn't care. Sadly, my juice had lost. Never again would Blueberry B Monster, Carrot Orange Apple, nor Banana Strawberry smoothie pass these lips after being purchased with a little red and white card with my ugly mug on it. How could you allow this to happen, my good people? First my preferred candidate loses the 2004 election (thus starting a trend that my grandmother started - namely that I shall always choose the candidate who loses) and now my juice loses the 2005 election. Coupled with insomnia, papers, and deadlines, I'd say this is a pretty miserable semester.

Maybe it hasn't been that terrible. Just looking outside on this day which broke 80 makes everything seem better. And there's light at the end of the tunnel, or something else less clichéd. Okay. That's all I'm writing. Oh, and if you need to contact me regarding Black Books, your juice preference, or sex advice, my email is lewisblack@aol.com. Mahalo, et au revoir.

Ted Kennedy's Drink of the Month



Satire by Virginia Morgan

When not ambling through the halls of Congress or filibustering judicial nominees on the floor of the Senate, there's nothing Senator Kennedy likes more than kicking back on the shores of Chappaquiddick with a nice, cold drink in his hand. Each month this column will highlight one of Senator Kennedy's favorite drinks.

Not in Love

Poem by Alexandra Borodkin

I don't love you anymore
I miss the way you made me feel
Sometimes I wonder what it was all for
And whether it could have been something real.

I miss your laughter, your smile
Your strength to pull me through
All the calmness of the night
Was nothing compared to you.

Sometimes I need you terribly
I miss the way things were before
All this silence between us
I don't love you anymore.

Mango Madras*

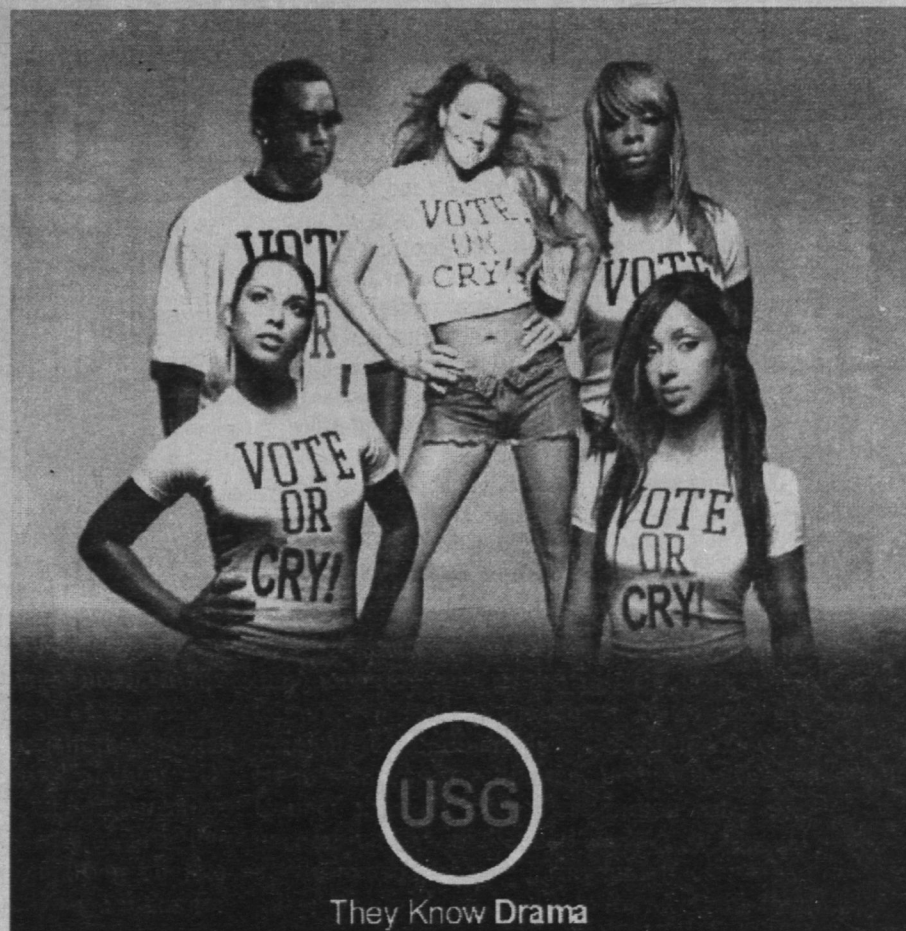
Ingredients

1.5 oz Malibu Mango Rum
2.0 oz Orange Juice
2.0 oz Cranberry Juice
Ice

Directions

- 1) Fill cocktail shaker with ice
- 2) Add rum, orange juice and cranberry juice
- 3) Shake thoroughly
- 4) Enjoy!

** Not intended for the weak of stomach,
faint of heart or those under the age of 21
and remember: don't drink and drive
or drive with people who do!*



**Vote on Solar April 25th
through April 29th!**