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Ultrasound is based off of a comic book series. If that much isn't apparent to you when the movie starts up, you should stand up and get out of the theater.

I'm not saying that you should be aware of the comics. I'm not even saying you have to be a fan of comic in general. But the opening credits sequence shows a bunch of comic book covers, and that's a pretty good clue right there.

From that unique opening, Kurt Wimmer takes us into a world that visually reflects a comic book, and quite frankly does so in almost every other respect as well. The only things missing are the BAMs and WHOOSH-es popping up on-screen.

I enjoyed Ultrasound. I'm a fan of Wimmer's previous work, Equilibrium, and I admit that a bit of my enjoyment of UV comes from having watched EQ a few too many times. But you certainly don't have to watch Equilibrium to enjoy this movie for what it is.

The main character, Violet (played by Milla Jovovich), is what's referred to as a "hemophage". Which is technobabble for "vampire". Thankfully, the point is never expounded upon- only a couple times to they mention that some hemophages contract light sensitivity, while others don't. And on close-ups, you can often see the enlarged teeth.

Anyhow. Infected with the virus at first, she was brought into a lab. Her husband was killed, and her unborn baby was aborted. She escaped, and has wreaked havoc for twelve years. Very quickly, you learn that the plot is very comic book, and once you accept that, it becomes much easier to watch. Don't go in expecting a serious
movie with a message and complete realism; the biggest message you’ll get is a reference to the Holocaust at the beginning (hemophages, before they were just hunted down, were forced to wear red armbands, then were gathered into camps and killed).

Once you get past that whole, silly "plot" thing, Ultraviolet is a very satisfying movie. There are gunfights very reminiscent of the "gun kata" style in Equilibrium, but without making a direct reference to EQ, still making it uniquely enjoyable. There are sword fights, there are fights with a sword on the butt of a gun. There are gratuitous special effects (random color changing of her outfit is always cool to watch, if not serving much of a purpose, at least not at the start). Really, EQ is meant to have cool fights and eye candy, and it delivers in heaps.

What sets this apart from other action movies? Well, the aforementioned "gun kata" that I noticed. For those of you who haven’t watched the movie it’s from (I’ve said its name too much already), it’s essentially a method of applying martial arts to using guns. You take out your enemies as efficiently as possible while standing where your enemy isn’t shooting. Translation: look really cool while shooting the hell out of everything that moves. It’s been perfected in this movie, and a great treat to watch.

Each action scene is unique in the movie. A gunfight in a library, shreds of paper falling, with two pulse pistols. A rooftop gunfight, with the camera using the reflections from sunglasses to make a new shot out of the old one. A gravity trick that has a motorcycle being chased by cars and helicopters while the motorcycle is on the side of the building. There are tons of neat tricks that make each new scene in Ultraviolet refreshing.

The movie isn’t without its down points. Cameron Bright, playing the character Six, suffers from a role that is designed to throw the audience for a loop. Some scenes with him are serious "wtf" trips (you know what I mean), only some of which make sense later on in the movie. A particular one just seemed so incredibly out of place... it was humorous, and maybe derivative of the comic book style, but I didn’t like it too much. Don’t get me wrong, the kid was amazing in his role; it’s just that his role wasn’t that great, despite being rather central to the plot.

Ultraviolet is an action movie with a ton of eye candy. Don’t go in expecting something with compelling plot, and you’ll come out satisfied.

**Plot** - Very comic book. Some of the oddities are excused by saying that, but not all of it. It’s weak at some crucial junctures, but it serves to get you from point A to point B. 15/20

**Acting** - Daxus, our resident... how was it put? Something along the lines of narcissistic egotist, with another adjective in there somewhere. Perhaps megalomaniac. That description may as well say "overact me" before you even look at the screen, and the actor did as the part asked. Aside from him, pretty good acting throughout, especially from Bright. It won’t win any awards, though. 16/20

**Cinematography** - With plenty of Equilibrium nods, I loved the cinematography. There are certainly no detractions, whether you’ve seen Wimmer’s previous work or not. One action scene in particular has some very unique camera work, I enjoyed it greatly. 14/15

**Soundtrack** - Klaus Badelt comes back to Wimmer for another great soundtrack. Though nothing sticks out as anything I’ll want to get the soundtrack for, it certainly lends a very nice feel to the whole film. 8/10

**Effects** - Ultraviolet has a wonderfully unique visual style through its CG. Some that I’ve talked to didn’t like it, but I appreciated it a lot. It’s just over-the-top for the whole "sterile future" thing. I only had a problem with two shots in the whole movie, really just reflections of each other. 14/15

**Suspension of Disbelief** - A fair amount of the ludicrousness was set aside in this one because of how it presented itself, something that must have been fairly tricky to do. If it was done slightly different, the audience might be sitting back with their arms crossed, a thorough "meh" being delivered. 19/20

86%
Geisha II
by Anthony Ford

The Skinny
Near the far end of Bank Place in downtown Utica sits a quaint Japanese restaurant called Geisha II. Their large orange sign is about as inviting as a porcupine who needs a hug, but don't discount this charming little restaurant at first glance. With good food and a bit of subtle pizzazz, Geisha II is a great place to enjoy some sushi, and fine Japanese dining.

The Eats
If nothing else drags you to this restaurant, come for the food. It's reasonably priced, tastes great, and will fill you up. During my excursions I usually partook in the sushi, but this restaurant serves a wide variety of authentic Japanese dishes featuring beef, chicken, fish and even tofu. Although I didn't take up the opportunity, I overheard a fellow patron ranting over the quality of their chicken dishes, so go out on a limb and try one out. Their namesake salad, Geisha II, is steamed broccoli topped with miso sauce. It is simple, but surprisingly good; a snappy little salad to get a meal rolling with gusto. They have about a dozen varieties of sushi to choose from, my favorite being the ebi roll (featuring shrimp and sticky rice). A friend of mine enjoyed the California roll, so give that a try as well. In fact, it's a good idea to bring a friend with you to tackle the ten piece sushi servings; they are quite filling for one.
I know, it means you have to make some friends; but with dinner entrees only costing between seven and eleven dollars, it’s not a terribly expensive excursion.

Of course, order some coffee, because they have French press. It’s not as strong as I would have liked, but the fact that it is French press and only $1.50 for two cups redeems it nicely. They also have plum wine, which isn’t half bad once you give it a try... be adventurous!

The Room

Geisha II is a small restaurant with tall ceilings. It’s very dimly lit, and features décor in light shades. This approach is soothing; there is a Japanese-ish feel. Light, twangy koto music plays over some not-so-discreet speakers. Near the ceiling, the wallpaper is cracked, and some water damage is evident on the ceiling near the kitchen. However, even with the look of an unkempt building in downtown Utica, Geisha II still pulls off being an inviting and relaxing place to eat. The dining area is immaculately clean, and there are plenty of places. The seating arrangements never seem crowded.

The Crowd

Japanese food attracts a variety of people, from the culture-minded collegiate, to the forty-something professional, and the venerable sushi-chower. You will encounter all these and everything in between, as Geisha II enjoys a steady stream of clientele. Additionally, the service is congenial, and able to handle the task of juggling several parties of partakers with grace. Expect to overhear some great conversations, and enjoy your own over some great food.

The Go There's

Catching Geisha II open can be a bit tricky if you have an odd college schedule. They are open for lunch from 11am to 2pm, and open again for dinner from 5pm to 8pm. They are only open on weekdays, so take that into consideration. Before I make my verdict on this lovely little sushi joint, here are the reasons to (and not to) head down to Geisha II:

Do Go There if...

• You enjoy fine, authentic Japanese food.
• You like dimly lit and relaxing restaurants.
• It’s time for lunch or dinner, as per the usual meal schedule for the non-college world.

Don’t Go There if...

• Tall ceilings scare you.
• Pink tablecloths are a turn off.
• You hate food, namely sushi, and cannot be in its presence (bear in mind they serve a wide variety of meals of all shapes and sizes).
• Koto music sends you into fits of rage.

The Low Down

The moment of truth is upon us. Geisha II, brace yourself for your score...

The Eats: 10/10. This place is a restaurant, it serves food. It fulfills this primary function exceptionally. They serve a huge variety of food, all prepared to order from fresh ingredients. The sushi is great, and listening to any of your fellow patrons will net you positive recommendations of all types and kinds. Order some French press coffee, try the plum wine, and enjoy your meal.

The Room: 6/10.

OK, so they’ve got some handy-work to do on the upper-walls and ceilings, but Geisha II carries on in stride. The low-key décor won’t grab your attention, but that only means you get to focus more on your food. The low lighting may or may not be your thing, so just go with it and be glad it hides the mediocre art.

The Crowd: 8/10.

You will encounter all sorts of people, and fairly frequently. The food traffic in this place is steady, I haven’t seen it crowded by any means, but you won’t be the only person eating either. The service is great, and they will prepare your food very quickly.

The Go There's: 7/10.

Go there for the food, tip well, and leave. This is more of a restaurant than an explicit ‘hang out’. Don’t be that guy that takes up the table all night when there are other patrons on the way. However, with such a relaxing atmosphere and great food, you will be compelled to stay for at least a while talking over some sushi.

The Low Down: 8/10.

Geisha II is a nice little Japanese restaurant tucked at the end of Bank Place. Maybe you are on your way elsewhere for the evening, so why not stop in for some Japanese dining before making your way to Space 26, the Chatterbox, or the Devereux... which are all within stone-throwing distance? Geisha II is a great little restaurant, and kudos to the koto chamber music.

Total: 39/50 Score: 78%
How to Survive SUNYIT

by Anthony Ford

1. The first day you arrive, either beat the crap out of someone or become someone’s bitch... Oh wait, wrong article.

2. Learn your advisor’s name and how to pronounce it; then get advice from a faculty member you trust, regardless of title.

3. Professors are like children; they know what they want and will gladly tell you, but sometimes they have to be given what they need instead.

4. Take the amount of time you think an assignment will take and double it. Then bump up the time units up one step. This is how long it will really take you: for example, that math homework you think will take 2 hours will really take 4 days to complete.

5. Dining hall meals may follow a set schedule, but Walmart-food runs are on-call 24/7.

6. Leading a group of students on a school project is roughly equivalent to herding cats; there will be jealousy, hissing, and hairballs... and sometimes the only way to get a decent night’s rest is to come up with some catnip.

7. Negotiating between the registrar, bursar, and financial aide offices may seem like tough, eleventh-hour diplomacy between neighboring nations, but in reality these nations are separated by a wide accountancy.

8. Keep your nose clean, or at least cleaner than your roommates’.

9. You don’t “own” your dorm’s furniture; what happens in the common room, stays in the common room.

10. When you take 18 credits of classes, become the president of the underwater basket weaving club, join the homecoming committee, and pick up that sweet part time job, remember that sleep can be scheduled as well.

11. Gather the requisite supplies every semester: ramen noodles, duct tape, and Febreeze. Everything else will fall into place.

12. Don’t sweat midterms; sometimes professors need to feel more productive and will administer them.

13. See above for finals, homework, and just lectures in general.

14. When handing in assignments late, “my dog ate it” just doesn’t cut it anymore. Think of a creative excuse, such as “my essay got emo and refused to jump onto paper because it was too ‘bright’”, or “I tried to text message myself those physics problems, but I was out of anytime minutes and my camera phone snapped a picture of a chicken sandwich instead... my thumbs hurt.”

15. Professors are human, too. Contrary to popular belief, garlic will not repel them and daylight (although they never see it) will not turn them to ash. Put away that crucifix; it’s not going to work either.
You Don’t Need to Rob a British Bank to Lose One Million Pounds!
by Anthony Ford

Alright, the holidays are long over, so you no longer have an excuse for that extra fanny pack of weight you’ve accumulated throughout the winter. Set it down; fanny packs have been out since 1992! So is your extra weight... it’s time to get healthy. It’s the cusp of Spring (I promise), and now is the perfect time to get fit, eat right, and generally increase your health.

There’s a great program underway in all of central New York, the Million Pound Weight-Loss Challenge. As a region, CNY hopes to lose one million pounds! Excuse me while I put my pinky up to my mouth.

Getting involved is simple, just go to http://challenge.quadsimia.com/ and sign up. You can track your weight loss, see how you compare to others in your county (we are in Oneida county, by the way), view a calendar of local events, and get tips on exercise and healthy eating. The program is sponsored by WUTR-Utica (ABC), WPNY-Utica (UPN), WFXV-Utica (FOX), Bassett Healthcare, Subway, and Quadsimia.

So get fit, get involved, and knock ’em dead when swimsuit season finally arrives. Make a commitment to your health now, your body will thank you later!
Interview
with Mona de Vestel

by Anthony Ford

I spent a few minutes chatting with Mona de Vestel, a communications professor here on campus about school, life, and writing. Listen in as we are provided with insights from the other side of the podium.

Anthony: “What do you teach at SUNYIT?”

Mona: “I teach in the professional and technical communications program, which is actually going to be renamed to ‘communication and information design’. I teach primarily communication courses, such as Web Design, Communication Theory, Online Information Design, Digital video, courses like that... and I've been creating my own courses lately, like Writing for New Media class, which is basically a writing class that incorporates the context of New Media and new technologies. Into that whole mindset of how to be creative in an environment that is always in flux and being governed by technology. I'm also creating a course called Life in the Matrix: Understanding New Media, which is taking the Matrix trilogy movies as a metaphor for how we interact as humans in society with this layer of technology that sort of governs our lives. I'm also going to be teaching Creative Writing in the fall because my background is a hybrid background of creative writing and new media. I don't know if that answers the first question.”

A: “Yes, sure. How long have you been teaching at SUNYIT?”

M: “2 years, this is my second year, my fourth semester.”

A: “How was your first day? What was your first day here like?”

M: “Wow, that's a funny question. I remember my very first moment teaching my very first class and I was pretty nervous. Excited, but I thought 'Oh wow, here we go.' I don't know, my first day was exciting and also nerve racking. I was nervous definitely. You know, the whole dynamic, creating a whole dynamic with students that I didn't know, and I'm definitely happy that that's behind me, because now I know so many of the students, and it's constantly, you know, these relationships keep changing and it really just brings the dynamic in class that I seek, as opposed to having a whole bunch of strangers, which would be hard.”

A: “So it's definitely changed?”

M: “Yeah, for the better, yeah.”

A: “Alright. At what other colleges have you taught?”

M: “This is my first teaching job.”

A: “Tell me about your novel, the one you are writing right now. What's it about?”

M: “It's about people surviving genocide. In two different cultures, people from Rwanda, so it actually takes place in 1994 when the genocide happened, and also in the present day when the characters have left Rwanda and are actually living in Syracuse. And this is based on historical events and there is a community of people who have fled from Rwanda who are living in Syracuse, and I've interviewed them. And it's also focusing on the Lakota people in South Dakota and the Pine Ridge Reservation, and so genocide from that perspective of the Native American experience, but I'm really more interested in terms of what happens after the trauma. What do people make of their lives after they've been really traumatized? As a community, as individuals. And I was also interested in what would happen when I brought different people from different cultural backgrounds, Native American and African, in an American society. So that's primarily what it's about.”

A: “Have you been out to (the) Dakota(s)?”

M: “I have not been there, I've done a lot a lot of lot of research, and I really should go over there.”

A: “You've mentioned working with another writer. What is that like?”

M: “It's great! It's also very challenging. I'm learning a lot about my craft, in terms of patterns, my strengths and weaknesses, which as a writer are things I'm not able to see on my own anymore. Recurring weaknesses that a writer would fall into. So, that's great. I'm working with a writer named Sarah Schulman who is really very helpful and honest, which helps a lot. There's no 'This is great, this is great', it's more 'this is not working, and this is why it's not working.'

A: “No sugar-coating.”

M: “Yes, which is very good for me, and is really helpful.”

A: “Excellent. What is it like being the only faculty member out of the closet?”

M: “It's actually an interesting, sort of, experience. I've never been the only person that's been out, because I living in New York City before, and then even in Syracuse when I was working, I've always been in a community of people that was quite diverse. So, that experience is really new for me. I love it here, people are wonderful... It's been a good experience. I think that every challenge in life, and I think this is one of those challenges, to be one of anything, the only one of anything is definitely a growth experience. An opportunity for growth.”

A: “Sort of hyper-individualization.”

M: “Yeah.”

A: “Interesting. Did you ever consider staying in the closet when you first arrived?”

M: “No, no. I can't imagine ever being closeted, ever again. Actually, I don't think I was every closeted, really. I came out, and that was it (laughs). I think one of the benefits for me of coming out in a city like New York where there was really no question whether that was OK or not. It was just, you were who you were and so now living your life in the truest sense, I really can't imagine suddenly not being true to myself and to other people. It's just who I am, it's a part of who I am. And I can't imagine hiding that.”

A: “What's something you've learned by teaching at SUNYIT?”

M: “I've learned so much, teaching at SUNYIT. Let's see, what have I learned? I've learned about people, a great deal. About students, dynamics, group dynamics, in terms of what motivates students and what
doesn't. I've learned about adapting, being flexible. How you envision you are going to approach a particular topic, in class, or a particular course, sometimes has to be modified because of the group of people you are dealing with. Sometimes that's for the better, because I'm always reminded that I learn as much from my students as they are learning from me. It's a really great experience. I don't know if that's too vague.

A: "Oh no, that's fine. I think Patton said that no plan survives first contact with the enemy."

M: (laughs)

A: "What is your opinion of the students here?"

M: "I love the students here. Really, the students make up one of my favorite elements of my job. I had no idea how it would be, because I've talked to different people, teaching in different places, and they are very different from college to college. What I love about students here, you know, is that most of the students come from a background where they've had to really work to get here. It's not just mom and dad paying for college, and then they sit there and they don't care. So that really makes, it really adds a layer of commitment, and I feel like I can really relate to the struggle of trying to, you know, you're working however many hours, twenty hours a week, and you are taking four classes, and you are trying to have a social life, it's definitely not the privileged cocoon experience, and I appreciate that. I think I can empathize to it. And I just love the students here, yeah.

A: "Natural led-in question: what do you think it takes for students to succeed in college?"

M: "hmm. I think the most important thing would be, not so much cramming in all these skills, but it's more trying to adapt a way of learning. To ask yourself: How am I going to be able to learn constantly and adapt myself to shifting situations? Because all of the skills you are going to learn are going to be obsolete at some point, but what I know that I learned the most in college was not so much how to speak this language or how to learn this computer program; it was more to constantly open my mind, to adapt to a shifting environment. How can I become not so stratified? Just stuck, that I can't move forward, or that I create obstacles in my mind, and saying that I can't do this. It's just learning that you can do many many many things, even if you are not sure how to do them yet. You know what I mean? It's sort of an attitude."

A: "It's a way."

M: "Yeah, it's a way. It's like a philosophy. Yeah."

A: "What degree programs or classes, you said you've already made some, would you suggest SUNYIT undertake?"

M: "I would love to see Creative Writing or Writing being developed here in terms of English classes, more of a Writing program. I also think that design; we really need more print design courses and faculty. In terms of our program, communication and information design. So, those would be the two areas, design and writing."

A: "What other suggestions for improvement would you have for SUNYIT? If you got to corner the entire college and say: 'this is how you improve.' What would you say to them?"

M: "I would say the biggest area of improvement would be contact between faculty and students. In terms of outside of classes, just like a global thing, creating more of a community and having more activities for students too, in terms of social activities, that fosters that community among students then crossing over to faculty, so that this becomes a campus that's alive; a community of people who are living, working, and growing together, not just we show up for class, we leave and people go to their dorms and play video games."

A: "Excellent. I like to, as if I write all these interviews, end interviews with the Pivot Questionnaire invented by Bernard Pivot. French talk-show host, used on 'Inside the Actor's Studio' by James Lipton... my idol when it comes to interviewing people. So..."

What is your favorite word?"

M: "my favorite word, love."

A: "What is your least favorite word?"

M: "Racist."

A: "What turns you on, creatively, spiritually, or emotionally?"

M: "Truth."

A: "And what turns you off?"

M: (pause) "Deception."

A: "What is your favorite curse word? Feel free."

M: "Fuck."

A: "What sound or noise do you love?"

M: "I love the sound of (pause) I love the sound of rain on a window pane, when I'm writing."

A: "What sound or noise do you hate?"

M: "People arguing."

A: "What profession, other than your own, would you like to attempt?"

M: (pause) "I don't know, I really can't imagine doing anything else than writing and teaching. Well, if I had the talent I would be a rock star!" (laughs)

A: (laughs) "Good answer! (laughs) What profession would you not like to attempt?"

M: "I would not like to be a funeral parlor director or whatever..."

A: "A mortician?"

M: "Yes a mortician, I would not like to be a mortician."

A: "Very morbid. If heaven exists, what would you like to hear God say when you arrive at the pearly gates?"

M: "As a Buddhist, I would hope to hear the voice of the universe saying: 'You've given a lot of kindness, and you've received a lot. Well done.'"

A: (laughs) "Excellent, thank you for your time."

M: "Yeah, great!"

A: "This was fun."

M: "It was fun."
Students of New York State have been trying to raise as much awareness as possible about proposed tuition hikes and a cut in funding that will affect more than 413,000 students who attend SUNY schools since the release of the state's budget on Jan. 17 by Gov. George E. Pataki. It's time SUNYIT got on board.

The Governor's proposed budget does not fully fund the $120.9 million SUNY needs for operating and base-costs. If legislation does not support fully funding SUNY, sadly the shortfall will rest upon the students in the form of a $500 tuition increase. Even more alarming, this tuition increase will not provide any new programs, facilities, or full-time faculty for SUNY students themselves. This tuition increase will simply cover functioning costs. Tuition increases like this do not allow for growth in the future, we are not moving forward and will unknowingly pay more for it.

The Tuition Assistance Program, TAP, helps eligible New Yorkers pay tuition to SUNY schools. Many of SUNYIT students receive TAP awards every semester yet are unaware of the Governor's proposed reforms.

The proposed changes include an increase of required credit hours from 12 to 15, and a 20 percent reduction in funds if this is not met. One of the most individual, and awesome, characteristics of SUNYIT is there are many students considered non-traditional. A non-traditional student is generally an adult over 21, who may have taken several years off from college, or are pursuing an education for a second career. Many of these students can't take 15 credit hours a semester due to a full-time job or parenting. Secondly, the TAP reform will put new applicants to SUNY holding a GED or home schooled diploma at a disadvantage. TAP awards will be held from these students and the individual colleges themselves will "front" the TAP award to them.

Without full funding to SUNY, we will also suffer a loss of full-time faculty. Adjuncts are great, but they simply cannot devote the time a full-time faculty member can to the school. Full-time professors can give SUNY students the attention we need, when we need it. If SUNY starts cutting down our faculty, we will see SUNY begin increasing our class sizes.

We must speak out in support of fully funding SUNY. We need to keep our schools affordable to the public and shut-down policies which are detrimental to our quality of education. Full funding of SUNY's $120.9 million budget will mean a much stronger State University for all of us with greater opportunities for academic programs, research prospects, full-time professors, and facilities in a manner we can afford.

For more information, please see:
www.supportsuny.org
www.studentassembly.org

We Might Be Tainted, But not as Badly...
A Follow-up
by Anthony Ford

Recently on our campus, the Red Cross held a blood drive. Students, faculty, and staff rolled up their sleeves to perform their civic duty as Americans. The Red Cross is in constant need of blood donations. As citizens, we should each do our part to benefit society once every 8 weeks, when we are able to give whole blood. It is the great equalizer. Rich or poor, black or white, male or female...we can all do our part as individuals. Giving blood is pulp-altruism at its finest. Under current rules, men who have had sex with men (even once since 1977) cannot give blood...you may remember my Issue 6 commentary on the subject.

According to the Bay Area Reporter (California), The Red Cross is again re-considering its ban on MSM (men who have sex with men) donating blood. Back in 2000, when the ban was last brought under scrutiny, it was upheld by recommendation of the Red Cross. Now, with the advent of a new, more accurate HIV test, peeling back the restrictions on gay men donating blood may now be possible. The new NAT (nucleic acid testing) test has an error rate of one in millions, rather than one in three thousand (under the current test). It is at least a thousand times more accurate, giving the Red Cross and AABB (American Association of Blood Banks) the confidence that accepting donations from gay men is feasible, given they have abstained from sex with men for at least one year. This would place gay men on par with hookers and junkies, since both prostitutes and injected-drug users have a one year deferment from donations. We will have to wait and see where the chips fall, as scientific evidence is being presented to the FDA, Red Cross, AABB, CDC, and several other groups. The FDA Blood Products Advisory Committee is expected to revise its policy recommendations later this year, if it does at all.

Until the ban ends, I will continue to support donating blood and do so myself as long as I am able. Righteous indignation aside, it's still my duty to society, and I will accomplish that duty as long as society allows.
World News
by Anthony Ford

Moussaoui Sentencing Hearing Underway
Herald Sun reports that Zacarias Moussaoui, the only person charged with a crime in relation to the 9/11 attacks, took the stand in his own defense during his sentencing hearing. The purpose of the hearing is to determine whether the death penalty or a life sentence will be imposed, as Moussaoui has already confessed conspiring with al-Qaeda. During his testimony, he revealed that he had planned to hijack a fifth place to attack the White House on September 11, 2001. He had previously denied ties to the 9/11 attacks, but dramatically changed his story once on the stand. Speculation has arisen that he may have changed his story to guarantee himself the death penalty to become a martyr. The jury is expected to render its verdict shortly.

Afghan Christian Convert's Case Dropped
According to ABC News, Abdul Rahman faced the death penalty for apostasy, rejection of faith, under sharia, Islamic law. However, the case was dropped over concerns of Rahman's mental fitness to stand trial. The Afghan government has released Rahman, who is seeking asylum in another country. The case has gotten the attention of several world governments, which urge Afghanistan to respect Rahman's freedom of religion. Several Afghan clerics are calling for the death of Rahman, as proper punishment under sharia. Officially, the case has been dismissed over a lack of evidence, and Rahman is a free man.

French Employment Law Draws Protest
Under a recent revision to France's employment law, companies can fire a worker under 26 within the first two years of their employment without justification. The change has brought stringent protest from the nation's students, who have been staging protest after protest urging parliament to reconsider. Now, the nation's many labor unions are staging a strike, according to Bloomberg. Although only about ten percent of the French workforce is unionized, these unions often exist in infrastructure-critical industries, such as public transport, service, printing presses, and education.

Local News
by Anthony Ford

Albany Nixes Tuition Hike and Cuts to SUNY
According to the Observer Dispatch, lawmakers in Albany have denied Governor Pataki's proposal to raise tuition for SUNY students and cut the system's budget. In fact, the Assembly and Senate have agreed to spend $269 million more on higher education than Pataki proposed. Although the Democrat-controlled Assembly and Republican-controlled Senate agree on higher education spending, nothing is final until the Governor gets on board. Specific portions of Pataki's rejected proposals include a $500 increase in tuition and a higher academic credit requirement (15 rather than 12) to qualify for TAP. Lawmakers also agreed to hire about 300 new full-time faculty members.

Herkimer Residents Surprised at Higher Assessment Numbers
The OD reports that Herkimer residents are upset over a recent village-wide property assessment which raises many people's property tax bill. Local residents claim it will be impossible to afford the higher property taxes, and will drive people out of the area. Local officials believe the new assessments make the tax burden fair. The new assessments will take effect on July 1, so the village asserts that there is plenty of time to hammer out any discrepancies in the new numbers. The last assessments were performed in 1954, over 50 years ago.

Utica Deemed 'Stable' by Bond Agency
Fitch Ratings has scored Utica as a 'stable' city with a rating of BBB-, according to the OD. This rating means that Fitch sees that the city possesses a good capacity to meet policyholder and contract obligations. In other words, this rating measures a city's economic health, and has an effect on how costly it is to the city to borrow money. The better the rating, the more able a city is to borrow money at a lower interest rate. For example, San Diego's score in 2004 dropped from 'stable' to 'negative', while her rating dropped from AA to AA-, according to the Union-Tribune. This rating change followed in the wake of a pension scandal in which the city faced litigation from retirees.
Ah, the Spring comes swiftly after a mild winter this year. And with it comes the sweet song of birds chirping among the trees; the beautiful sight of snow losing its grip upon the landscape; the thundering cry of students alive at their keyboards struggling with their final projects; and the heavenly delicious aroma of a charcoal fire wafting up to your room window.

Now the weather is improving so that others, not only the die-hards (those crazy folk myself included) who grill during the winter months) can employ their spatula and doo-hickies or doo-whoppers (crazy people call them "tongs") to create their own culinary masterpieces. From steaks to burgers, to hot dogs and eggs, there is no limit to what can be grilled on a charcoal grill. And conveniently enough, our campus here has many such grills open for your enjoyment.

Now, grilling is not something that you can just jump right into. You have to know the basics. Here’s a good rundown of essentials.

**Rule Number 1: Stay Safe**
This is the most important rule because you can’t enjoy your food when you’re rushing. Lighter fluid is a terrible thing in the hands of a college student. Some people do not know how to use it properly or responsibly. You have to be the adult and don’t fool with it otherwise you’ll ruin it for the rest of us.

Be careful not to burn yourself while grilling. Wait until the fire has dimmed and only coals remain. I have personally singed the hairs on my arms and hands when I began grilling before the fire had died completely. Most of the grills on campus are far enough from the buildings not to be a problem, but if you have your own grill on campus be sure to keep it away from the buildings when alight. Setting the dorms on fire will most likely result in a premature departure from SUNYIT.

Try to have someone there who knows what they are doing. There are many people here on campus who grill all the time. Enlist them for their help and I’m sure for a few burgers they’ll be willing to share some tips.

**Rule Number 2: Clean Up After Yourself**
This is also an important rule. Some of you may not have noticed, but I personally, in my three years here have noticed an increasing problem with litter. I don’t know why people choose to throw their garbage willy-nilly all over this beautiful campus, but they do. When grilling oftentimes there is a lot of garbage left over. If we make sure we clean up the messes we leave behind, the campus will be a little cleaner and the school will have one less reason against grilling in the dorms.

**Rule Number 3: Do not Clean the Grill**
With this rule I am bringing up a good point. To ensure a grill’s life expectancy it is important to note they are made of metal and will rust. One way to prevent this rust from taking place is to clean up the charcoal after you are done. But I must warn you against scraping off the blackened meat and grease from the grill face. This coating helps to prevent the grill from rusting and therefore is an asset to the grill’s health. Leave this coating behind for the next person. When the next group comes over to grill they can scrape it off before they grill and leave the coating afterwards. At home we use this method when we do big chicken grills for the family reunions. It is almost a rule of thumb in the grilling world.

**Rule Number 4: Be Prepared**
Make sure you have the basic utensils with...
you when grilling. Make yourself a checklist according to the food you will be serving. You will always need a grill, a scraper, silverware, charcoal, a lighter, and lighter-fluid (if the charcoal isn’t self-lighting). These are essential. But what you may want to have along side of this is:

If you’re cooking burgers: a spatula.
If you’re cooking hot dogs or chicken: doo-whoppers (“tongs” for the uneducated”).
If you’re cooking bacon or eggs: a frying pan.
If you’re cooking potatoes or corn: aluminum foil.

These are just some examples. Again, make sure you consult other people who are grillers and ask them for ideas. These people are not evil (by nature, being grillers) and will more than likely even offer you food if you approach them.

Rule Number 5: Have Fun
Grilling is as social of an event as any. Invite a lot of people and pool your resources. Make sure you have a football, frisbee, or lacrosse ball flying around or even a hacky sack. Get outside and get active because most grilled foods, despite being mouth-wateringly delicious, aren’t too healthy for you. Make sure you keep that balance of fun and feasting and you will not be disappointed!

Keep in mind Potential Grillers. One of the more recently formed clubs on campus is devoted to this specialized art. The Griller’s Club will be hosting events in the future, be sure you get in on the action. They are here for the people on campus and meet Fridays in the Campus Center next to the Cat’s Den at 12 Noon. New members are welcome and if they regularly attend meetings get discounted fees at events. Contact kevin.bertholf@gmail.com for more info.

Courtesy of members of the Griller’s Club here are some recipes and useful tips for your grilling pleasure!

Steak Marinade

Ingredients:

--2 to 3 oz of your favorite BBQ sauce
--2 oz Capt. Morgan’s original Spiced Rum
--A dash of Worcestershire Sauce
--1 teaspoon ground black pepper
--1/2 teaspoon table salt
--A dash of hot sauce (Red Hot, Tabasco, etc...)

Let steak and marinade sit in zip-lock bag (massage if necessary) with as little air as possible within the bag for a couple hours. Then throw it on the grill.

Other preferred steak seasonings/hamburger seasonings and sauces

- Montreal Steak Seasoning
- Emeril’s Original Essence
- Grill Mates Steak Rub
- Kansas City Style Steak Seasoning
- Dinosaur Barbeque Sauce
- Den Hickory BBQ Sauce (nice and cheap)
- Den Honey BBQ Sauce (also nice and cheap)
- A1 Steak Sauce

Grilled Potatoes

Ingredients:

--Aluminum foil
--Baking potatoes or Russets
--Butter
--Basil
--Seasoned Salt
--Black Pepper
--Onion Powder
--Bacon Bits

Procedure:
Choose potatoes which are close to the same size. Clean and scrub potatoes until clean. Slice potatoes in half and put a thin slice of butter, pinch of seasoned salt, pinch of black pepper, and basil, onion powder, bacon bits if wanted. Close potato back up and wrap in aluminum foil. Set directly on coals checking every once in a while if done. Note, this still leaves the grill open for grilling burgers or hotdogs or steak.

Smoked Sausage Finger Food

Ingredients:

--Smoked Sausage
--Monterey Jack Cheese
--Some sort of crackers
--Paper Towels and a paper plate
--Microwave

Procedure:
Cut Smoked sausage in two sections, slicing small cuts along one side. Then lay on grill and wait for them to cook. Be sure to flip them over repeatedly so they do not burn. When they have cooked enough, take them off the grill and slice them into 1/3 inch thick circles. As you slice them off, lay them upon a paper towel on a paper plate in one layer. Lay more paper towels atop this layer and repeat the layer until finished. Then pop the plate into the microwave on high for 30 seconds to 1 minute. Take it out and remove the paper towels soaked in grease and fat. You can repeat this process if you want. When ready, slice up cheese into thin bite-sized strips. Crackers go well with this dish but are not necessary. Serve and enjoy.

Bacon/Sausage Egg and Cheese Sandwiches

Ingredients:

--Frying Pan
--Cheese slices
--Buns/Bagels/Rolls
--Breakfast sausage (patties)
--Bacon
--Eggs
--Salt and Pepper
--Butter (if no bacon)

Procedure:
The sausage can be cooked directly on the grill as if you were grilling a burger, but the bacon should be grilled in a frying pan. When choosing a frying pan for this make sure it’s not one you care about because it’ll get all scorched and nasty afterwards. I have an old frying pan that we were going to throw out but works beautifully. There are also 1.00 frying pans at the 99 cent store that can be thrown away after using them. Set the pan right on the grill and cook the bacon. When finished dispense of the bacon grease and you can cook your eggs right in the same pan. If you did not have bacon, use a little butter to slick the surface before cooking the eggs. Add salt or pepper if wanted, slap on some cheese so that it melts just so and throw your eggs onto the bun, along with the sausage or bacon, and enjoy!
Dear Sharon:

The walls at SUNYIT are too thin! Not only do they dent, and easily get holes in them. If you live on the first floor you can hear everything above you, especially when it's quiet. You can hear them walk, open a door, hear the noise of people talking (but can't make out a conversation). Even if you live on the second floor you can relate, because if your trying to sleep and the room mate next to you isn't you can't hear everything. Also at the end of the year you get charged money for the holes in the paper thin walls. What a scam! You can't help other people's actions but you can pay ($$) for them.

Dear Bitter Suite Resident,

I too have spent time in the dormitories on campus, and the walls are definitely not as thick nor resilient as one would think they could be. I suppose we don't have concrete walls because that is kind of sterile, less house-like, perhaps even difficult to maintain? And it seems as if the walls that are in the dorms are basically glorified craft plaster.

The walls in question do indeed dent and break easily, sometimes by accident. And, it does certainly feel as if the college is constantly searching for another way to make us pay up. But, you have to admit, if someone breaks the wall, that's kind of a big deal. I mean a tiny hole is one thing, but like an elbow or fist hole is another.

And, no - you cannot help other people's actions, but you can make them pay for damages. If they refuse, then you shouldn't allow them around, and could consider pressing charges. In all cases, you might notify an RA immediately, to attempt to help to document and remedy the problem.

I don't think its unreasonable to have to pay for holes in the wall, however, from personal experience, I think we are way way overcharged for things that are trivial to correct, and in some cases, charged for things that I don't recall ever having an issue.

You can expect to be hammered for every penny you have, but if you feel its done wrongfully (and I don't mean you're just pissed off because you broke the wall and have to pay for it - but I mean if they are charging you utterly unreasonable amounts, or charging you for things which are not broken), I recommend getting a lawyer and discussing your options with him/her. I'm sure our school would love to have a chat with your legal counsel. I imagine that a good lawyer would then be able to explain how SUNYIT either has you by the metaphorical nuts, or without a good explanation by the college regarding your charges, a good lawyer should be able to explain what legal remedies you have available for ensuring this upright, honest, and reasonable institution stands by that reputation. And if you ever do take legal action, I get this hunch that there would be many other students interested in the result of your work, who may themselves feel somehow cheated, and wish to discuss it with an expert like you did. Don't jump the gun or anything, but, don't allow yourself to be bullied either if you feel that is the case.

Sincerely,
Sharon

Dear Sharon,

There are way too many guys and not enough girls. If a guy is to ever show up at a party or pretty much any event on campus where there are more girls than guys, they should not leave and consider themselves blessed. For me, this problem with the guy to girl ratio is what makes going home and partying so much fun. I understand that this is a tech school but we also have business and nursing majors. I think we need to hire a staff that recruits girls like they were excellent athletes. Maybe we should start up a football team just to get some cheerleaders.

Dear Ratio Challenged,

I don't know whether to be offended by your letter, or entertained. This was a joke, right? I mean it was kinda funny up until the "I think we need to hire a staff that recruits girls like they were excellent athletes" bit. And the sentence after that was funny. But, excuse me?

First of all, what's wrong with girls who are aspiring to be athletes? And second of all, what makes you think having more women on this campus might actually get you any attention - as that seems to be what you want. I recommend you share the contents of your letter with the women at home whom you party with, so that they can understand your perspective on the situation, and offer you the kind of attention you need. Hopefully some of them are athletes.

So lets make this clear, are you trying to say that girls are not excellent athletes? Because when you use the word "like," I took it to mean "as if" - which, in context, would imply to me that normally they are not and you would suggest lying to them, and admitting them here.

I bet at least 60% of the women admitted here for athletic reasons could single handedly kick your ass at their native sport. We have talented female athletes - they represent our school and love the sport they participate in. I feel that each game they put forth a great measure of heart, and when it comes to sports, that is what matters. It is wrong of you to imply that girls who may not be the highest ranked players are not excellent athletes and additionally wrong to suggest that we do not or could not have any extremely gifted athletes at this school. Either way, athletes are athletes, I do not judge them based on ability, but based on how much they care about what they do and how hard they try to do it.

So, here's what I think. I think that maybe you were trying to suggest something far more innocuous, but I'm quite sure that what you actually said was just a blatant slap in the face to some athletes, and an open attempt at suggesting that in the future, we attempt to use manipulation to bring women into this college. If you're not single, I'm not sure why having a college with many women matters, and if you are single, maybe that's why.

Sincerely,
Sharon
rich answered his question. “It is a large world Haldas, full of many wonders and sights to behold. It is ancient and full of history and Men have only just come to grace its surface.” He paused, waiting for a look of understanding from Haldas. He saw none. “The world was the domain of other races before Men, just as Men now are not the only race alive...”
Before Herich could say more he was silenced with a hard word and a hand gesture from Rael. Then Rael spoke. "Heric, guard your tongue. We know this one is not a Sandman but caution is still necessary. I need not tell you enemies can wear all faces, even our own." Herich looked chastened, his head dropped as he nodded his head in understanding.

As Rael was speaking to Herich, Haldas saw something he hadn't seen before. Somehow Rael's hair had parted revealing a slightly pointed ear. A wave of understanding ripped through him. Before he knew what he was doing he had whispered his thoughts aloud. "Elves."

Immediately the others were on their feet, producing again weapons from nothingness. There was shouting in their language. Haldas knew he had said too much. The awe of meeting a people out of legend was quickly replaced by a fear of being killed by a people out of legend. He scrambled up as fast as he could.

But this was not his time to die. Rael, now standing, shouted above the din. "Stay your hands men. This is not how we treat a guest. He certainly had enough time to piece it out, don't be surprised. Killing him won't answer our questions. You know this." He addressed the man directly to Haldas's right. Haldas eyes dropped to the man's dagger. He recognized the dagger with a cold certainty. He could remember the gleam of that dagger and its bite on his neck. "Samill, drop your dagger. You know I speak the truth."

Samill responded in kind. "And you know the code Rael. This one knows too much. We must silence him."

"All in good time, Samill. We need not do anything rash. We have him and we keep him. Now let us question him to find his purpose here. Then afterwards we can decide whether this one deserves the death you have marked on him."

The two stared at each other; a tension between wills. There was utter silence in the chamber. Finally Samill slowly released his dagger, setting it upon the table. The look of animosity was clearly etched in his face. He nodded to Rael. "Very well Rael, I will heed your words. We have him and we keep him." He grinned at Haldas. "He will not escape my dagger anytime soon."

Rael then motioned for everyone to sit back down. Herich, he sent back into the other room. One of the elves helped bring Haldas back to his feet. Herich returned carrying food.

"Now we eat," Rael spoke "and then we shall talk."

Haldas was not sure what was going on. All he knew was that he could not afford to die here. He was the only chance his people had, and the utmost speed was critical to their survival. He had already been delayed too long. He had a mission to carry out.

Heric set the food in front of him. Water was poured in a wooden cup. The cup matched the plate and table, no embroidery of any kind. Everything was functional and reserved. He would have expected different from elves. Real live elves. Creatures out of legend and myth.

Now they seemed so foreign. Unlike the trolls and the goblins and the faeries in the tales. The elves were the most alike to human kind. In the tales it was described that elves were of smaller stature than men, but with pointed features, especially in the ears. Elven ears were said to come to a point so sharp you could prick your finger if you touched them. These elves were shorter than Haldas, but Haldas had seen men shorter. And as for their ears; they were not as pointed as they had been portrayed in the tales. Nowhere in any story had he ever heard tell of shiny eyes, and yet only the dark haired ones seem to have this trait. Perhaps that was just lost in the telling. Tales tend to grow of their own volition, he reflected. But at least there was some truth to the tales after all.

The food in front of him was sparse at best, but they were out here in the desert, it was a wonder these people could live out here at all. There was a section of dried meat laid out upon his wooden plate with some bread along side. A small meal, but to Haldas it looked to be a feast. He suddenly realized his was famished. So much had been happening to him he had forgotten his hunger, but now with the food in front of him it burned like wildfire.

No one was eating however, and Haldas thought they were waiting for something. There was some custom he was missing here. Once Herich finished handing out the plates of food, he sat down in his own place and bowed his head. Everyone else followed, and then Herich began to sing. It was a song that was soft on the ears. It was in the Elvish speech but the meaning was clear. This was a sort of prayer to whatever god these elves worshipped. These people are not all that different from men after all, Haldas mused.

The song ended as softly as it had begun but it seemed to linger on in Haldas's mind, quieting and calming his spirit. Then they began to eat, carefully breaking the bread and meat into small, bite sized pieces and sipping water. Haldas reflected that the meat was quite good; there was a small, barely detectable seasoning in it he had never tasted before.

Haldas glanced warily at the elf to his right. Samill did not seem to pay him any mind at all. He wasn't eating either, like he did not have any appetite. Haldas felt safe with Rael and Herich sitting at the table. These elves were men of honor and men of their word. Samill, on the other hand, was a different story. Haldas could only feel hostility from him.

Haldas looked back down at his plate; he was almost finished. The water had the same sweet taste he remembered from earlier and the bread tasted sweet as well. Haldas meant to savor everything about this meal that he could. He was the last to finish his meal. He drank the last of his water as the others patiently waited.

Rael was the first to speak. "We know next to nothing about you, Haldas. We know that you are not a Sandman." Haldas still did not even know what a Sandman was. Rael continued. "We know that you seem to be an honorable man and this is why we invited you to our table. But you remain a stranger to us. In keeping you here and sparing your life we were granting you a favor. We rarely have guests out here in the desert but you must realize our hospitality was not free. We expect to be paid for your time here with information."

Haldas had expected this. He had already made up his mind. He would tell them everything they asked. He had to finish his task, and to risk lying to these people was not a risk he was willing to take. Haldas nodded to Rael in understanding.

Rael posed the first question. "Very well, let us begin. What nation in the Kingdom are you from?"

Haldas responded the best he could; he was a little confused by the question. "There is only one nation in my Kingdom."

Rael nodded, "Ah, you are from Noarland then. From beyond the Borderlands. You are far away from home. What are you doing here?"

Haldas shook his head. "I am not from Noarland, nor do I know where that or the Borderlands is. I am from the West. The far Kingdom of Maras."
There were signs of disbelief among the elves. Samill piped up. "The Kingdom of Maras was swallowed by the sands long ago. There is nothing left of that nation but ruins and dust. I have seen it myself, as have many of us. You lie boy, and you lie feebly."

Haldas's pride exploded. His face turned grave. "I am many things Samill, but liar is not one of them." He paused. "I was born in the West and I will die for the West. I swore it when I stood before the King. The Kingdom may be only a remnant of its former self, but we are still honorable to the last. We of the Guardianship would rather die than betray our land. The Kingdom of Maras." He added almost as an afterthought. "The Kingdom beneath the Red Sun."

There was silence among the elves. A few were wide eyed, including Samill, who had looked ready to respond with another snide comment. Rael held up his hand to silence the others before they could say anything else. "I have seen no lie behind his eyes. I believe he speaks true. This is interesting news indeed, the Kingdom of Maras is alive and well after all this time."

Haldas wondered why Rael had silenced his partners but then shook his head. "The Kingdom is far from well Sentinel. It is the reason for my trip here. When we built the Great Wall to fend off the desert's approach all was well for a time, for a long time in fact. But as of late we get less and less rain per season and the desert begins to creep past the boundary, threatening the farmlands in the foothills. I was sent, along with my companion Brennan, who lies unconscious in the other room, and with a company of the best scouts and trackers we had, on a mission. But now they are all dead, leaving only Brennan and me to complete the mission."

"And what mission would that be?" Rael asked, deep in thought.

"To cross the Wraithsand seeking help from the nations that lie beyond, if they even exist at all." Haldas was laying everything down for these people. He hoped it would be enough to set him free.

"Did you not try to reach the other nations by sea?" Rael asked.

At the mention of the sea memories of his brother and father surfaced, Haldas pushed them away. "Attempts were made to sail south into the warmer waters beyond the cape, but the sea seems to have a mind of its own and allows no ship passage. Storms came from nowhere broke ships asunder until finally no man would risk his boat upon the waters." Haldas looked down at his plate. "This was the only option left to us, a last attempt at salvation."

Rael and the other elves sat there pondering this news. Rael's eyes seemed distant. "What you tell us must be considered." He finally spoke.

Immediately, Samill rose, his voice like a tumult within the silence. "Considered? There is nothing to be considered. Even if this one is telling the truth, which I still don't believe, the code must be followed." He paused; the others remained silent, listening to his words. "The code! Or have you forgotten the code? It has protected us this long, and it will continue to protect us. Let us be done with this trifle and move on."

Rael kept a calm face. "The prophecy says..."

"The prophecy is dead!" Samill interrupted. "It died ages ago, when the ancient world was destroyed. We are no longer held to its pull nor were we ever. We are but shadows in this world."

The Sentinel's face turned stern. "If the Kingdom of the Red Sun still survives, then there is a chance the prophecy survives also. It is our duty to see it out to its completion." He rose from his seat. "I will not sit idly by any longer and watch the world destroy itself, Samill. The code was never mine to keep, and you would be foolish to keep it still."

Samill's fists struck the table. "You are foolish to abandon the code. Do you think you can survive? I will not let your misguidance lead us to our doom, Rael."

Rael's face showed no change. "The world is changing Samill, we have seen it even here. We must change with it or we shall be lost. I will not stand among the shadows any longer." He spoke something then in his Elvish tongue. Haldas could not understand its meaning.

Samill stood with a look of disbelief on his face, but it slowly turned to that of acceptance, and then determination. When he spoke, his voice was lower and almost sorrowful. "Then we will not hinder you further Rael. You may follow which path you choose, you were not moonborn as we were."

The tension seemed to lift from the room. "I wish you well in all your journeys."

Rael face had not changed, but there was a look of sadness in his eyes. "At least stay until we have found whether the ancient Kingdom exists, Samill. Then you may choose as you will."

"Nay." Samill shook his head. "I have made my choice Rael."

They stood facing each other then Rael bowed low. "Until we meet again my brother."

Samill responded in kind and with a motion of his head he bid the others to follow him as he gathered up his belongings and strode out into the outer chamber. Rael spoke to the other elves, saying his goodbyes. Yet his eyes seemed to be pleading for them to stay. "Lyrin, Coth, Herich, I hope in your decision you find peace."

The two nodded their goodbyes sharing a look of sadness, but Herich reached out and grasped Rael's arm. "Goodbye my friend. I wish it were not this way."

Rael shared his look of grief. "As do I, and yet in a way I am comforted, for I know you can take care of yourself." His voice drifted to a whisper. "Just look after the others as well, they need you.

Herich smiled and they embraced. And then Herich gathered his things. Herich looked over to Haldas, gave him a nod and then he was gone.

Up to that point, Haldas felt like he had been completely forgotten. And with Herich now gone, he felt so again. Rael stood for a while, deep in thought, and then he sat back down at the head of the table. He sat with his eyes closed in silence.

Haldas was not sure why that had all happened, but he knew it was significant. It seemed as if a tension that had been present for a long time had finally surfaced and severed the bond that holding this bunch of elves together. Haldas was left wondering where all of this left him. He just sat there in silence with the Sentinel.

Eventually Rael broke from his reverie. "Haldas, I believe what you told me to be true, but I need time to sort through my thoughts. If you need nothing else I will retire for today, feel free to sleep here or watch over your friend in the other room. I will explain more to you in the morning."

The bed did look comforting to Haldas, but he decided rather to keep Brennan company. He had not given up hope on him yet. Brennan was a Maras after all. Eventually he fell asleep, Brennan asleep at his feet.

Episodes one through five of The Maras Chronicles by Kevin J. Bertholf are available online at http://www.cs.sunyit.edu/~berthok/chronicles/
It's no secret that people like to associate with winners. Whether it's being affiliated with a program that has name recognition or a record of achievements, supporting the team that will come out on top, or being part of a life-changing movement, people want to succeed at what they do and be associated with successful organizations. In the 10 months I've been at SUNYIT, I've met numerous winners and learned about many achievements that alumni, students and friends of the college can all be proud of.

Some recent SUNYIT accomplishments include institutional and departmental successes such as SUNYIT being selected to house a Reliability Information Analysis Center, a third award being presented to the Digital Towpath project, and funding approved for a high-tech research incubator to be led by SUNYIT.

Of central importance to SUNYIT's mission are the personal achievements of students completing degree requirements, including those at the May 2005 Commencement in the Utica Auditorium and the December 2005 graduation ceremony in the campus gymnasium. Many alumni and friends of the college shared in these triumphs by making possible scholarships that assist students in pursuing their dream of a SUNYIT degree, gifts they made to SUNYIT because they believe in the potential of its future alumni.

That potential has been evident in students' many winning ways. For example, in 2005 the student newspaper, Factory Times, (online at clubs.sunyit.edu/ftimes) was named a Silver Medalist by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, a program of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University in New York, N.Y. Three Phi Beta Lambda club members captured top place regionally to advance to the organization's 2005 National Leadership Conference competitions. SUNYIT student winners were: Sheri Warner '05, first in business management; Audrey Henderson '05, first in human resource; and Sarah Devins '05, first in economics. Hillary Kelly '06, a student in SUNYIT's School of Nursing & Health Systems, was honored with the statewide Sandra F. Shaw Student Nurse Practitioner of the Year Award.

As part of Fall Fest/Parent Weekend 2005, the Alumni Association awarded four $250 ExperienceIT™ grants to student clubs and organizations that are among those making a difference on campus with their service and programming. Recipients were the Genesis yearbook, IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) that produces contest-winning Micromouse robotic creations, Roleplayers Guild Club which promotes fantasy board-game playing, and the SUNYIT student chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers that builds off-road vehicles and hopes to soon compete in its first national Mini-Baja Competition. During Fall Fest/Parent Weekend, the Alumni Association also recognized seven exceptional individuals with Alumni Awards and four alumni were inducted into the Wildcats Hall of Fame.

Also in the arena of athletic accomplishments, the Wildcats' men's basketball team had an amazing post-season run for 2005-2006, competing in the ECAC Upstate New York Men's Basketball Championships and making history in SUNYAC tournament play and advancing to its first-ever SUNYAC finals.

SUNYIT faculty have recently been standouts in their fields, including Dr. Steven M. Schneider, associate professor of social sciences and humanities, recognized for a research innovation leading to a license agreement, and second-time Fulbright Award recipient Dr. V.K. Kool, associate professor of psychology. Dr. Veronica Jaris Tichenor, assistant professor of sociology, has made headlines in recent months with her new book "Earning More and Getting Less: Why Successful Wives Can't Buy Equality." Dr. Ron Sarner, distinguished service professor in computer science, was formally recognized for this achievement, along with other SUNY colleagues from across the state who have been awarded distinguished rank, as faculty whose extraordinary service to and far beyond SUNY have contributed to the improved health, education, culture, economy, and overall public good of New York State and the nation.

Dr. Sema Dube, assistant professor of finance, is a 2005-2006 recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Internationalization. Dr. Eugene J. Newman, professor of telecommunications, was appointed by Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver to serve on the 27-member Statewide Wireless Network Advisory Council, which was created by the New York State Legislature as part of the Anti-Terrorism Preparedness Act of 2004. Dr. Kevin R. Lefebvre, assistant professor of telecommunications, is the co-author of an article published in the 2004 Encyclopedia of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, which was named the 2005 Best Reference Work by the American Society for Engineering Education. Kevin Grimmer, director of athletics, has been elected president of the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) for 2005-2006.

These are some of the many recent accomplishments of SUNYIT and its alumni, students, and faculty/staff members that add to the college's legacy and enhance the value of a SUNYIT degree. It's great to be associated with such winners.
SUNYIT Basketball Season Review
by Gregg Starring

The SUNYIT Basketball team recently completed their 2006 season finishing runner up in the State University of New York Athletic Conference Tournament. The Wildcats began the tournament beating the defending SUNYAC Champion Potsdam Bears by the score of 97-96 in overtime. The Wildcats then moved onto play Cortland at the Auditorium in Utica. They came out with a victory over Cortland by the score of 81-74. After beating Cortland they then moved onto face Plattsburgh that would end their postseason run.

The Wildcats began a very successful season winning the opening round of the tip off tournament beating Albany College of Pharmacy 98-48. The next day the Wildcats would end up facing Utica College for the Championship game. They ended up losing the contest 90-75. SUNYIT would then begin league play finishing with an overall record of 14-10. The Wildcats had not been to the postseason since going back to back in 2003 and 2004. The 2005 campaign was a struggle with the team only posting an 8-17 record. But this year’s team under new coach Tom Murphy who previously coached at Hamilton College got the team back to the postseason. After losing to Plattsburgh in the SUNYAC Championship game the Wildcats received an invitation to play in the Eastern College Athletic Conference Tournament. They would receive a home game facing Brockport who they faced in the regular season beating them 82-62. This time around it was the opposite with Brockport posting a 91-88 victory, ending the Wildcats successful season under first year head coach Tom Murphy, who was an assistant coach for the Wildcats last season spending the year recruiting players to be competitive with the other teams in the SUNYAC division.

The Wildcats will have some key players returning to next season’s team. Some key returnees will include Chris Reaves senior from Herkimer County Community College who really stepped up well in leading the team with 30 points in the Wildcats first postseason home game victory over Potsdam. Another key starter that will be returning to next year’s team is Guard Chris Plant. He was another key player in the victory over Potsdam chipping in with 20 points shooting 7 for 10 from the field and connecting 3 for 6 from three point range. The wildcats will return all of its players expect for senior Chris Brown. Other then Brown the rest of the team will come back, along with other recruits or transfers. Therefore SUNYIT will be returning next year looking for a successful season trying to get back to the Championship game, only difference this time around becoming SUNYAC Champions.
The SUNYIT Wildcats baseball team will be looking forward to a successful season under Coach Kevin Edick who enters his fourteenth season coaching. Edick brings eleven recruits to his 2006 squad along with a strong pitching staff of eleven. Coach Edick feels that the real strength of the team will be the defense though. The Wildcats will be in the thick of the SUNYAC along with seven other teams vying for a top four finish to reach the playoffs. The teams that Edick feels will be the teams to beat are Cortland the defending league Champions and Brockport. Other than that Edick feels that anyone can win the league this year including his SUNYIT Wildcats.

Returning from last years team will be Seniors Greg Sacco (Utica, NY) infielder batted .287 leading the way with 8 doubles. Sacco also was the teams MVP a year ago. Other seniors include Travis Steffens (Port Jervis, NY), Frank Dibrango pitcher/catcher (Utica, NY) batted .294, and Don Dawes (Utica, NY) catcher/pitcher. Other players contributing to the 2006 team will be juniors Matt Zyskowski (Utica, NY) who led the team in batting average with an amazing .400 and was a Second Team All Conference player in 2005. Rounding out the rest of the squad are junior Jason Vick, Dean Williams, Sophomores Robert Alvarez, Brain Russell, Michael Zyskowski and Micheal Lewis.

Coach Edick is looking for a strong start from his three freshmen Vinny Bresia (Utica, NY) Catcher, Justin Mardsen (Whitesboro, NY) infield, and Matthew McDaniels (Taberg, NY) infield/outfield. In addition to this three freshman will come eight transfers featuring Ian Hobbs (Schenectady, NY) pitcher/outfielder who coach Edick thinks will contribute right away. Manny Santiago (Newburgh, NY) infield/pitcher. In addition the rest of the roster rounds out with Luis Gonzalez, Matt Leahy, Zyon Putney, Greg Stephens, Jermy Storm, and Robert Wise.

The SUNYIT Wildcats will opened their 2006 season with a trip spring trip to Tampa, FL 3/04-3/11 to compete in the Tampa Bay Invitational facing Ann Marie College in the opening game. The Wildcats returned to action April 1st with the first league game against the Oneonta State Red Dragons.
WE NEED YOU!!

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CONTACT JOSH@FACTORYTIMES.COM FOR MORE DETAILS
GUY T

"Dude, why do you always listen to that iPod?"

"So I don't have to listen to you."

Michael Duffy
What is your MOST played computer game?

Quake 3
Halo for PC
Counter-Strike: Source
Counter-Strike: Source
Day of Defeat: Source

Guild Wars

World of Warcraft

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