



Statesman

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Largest Research Study On Women's Health

Women's Health Initiative Focuses on Preventive Strategies and Treatments for Diseases

By ENEIL RYAN P. DE LA PENA

Statesman Editor

The Medical School at Stony Brook has been a leader in research on women's health for several decades and is well known for its research in breast cancer and other diseases. The Women's Health Initiative (WHI) is only one of the unique studies that it is currently conducting. Now, two years after the study began, the Medical School is still looking for participants, particularly women 65 years of age and older.

According to Iris Granek, M.D., the project's coordinator, women 65 and over are needed for the study because they are a key age group in the research.

The Medical School at Stony Brook is one of only 40 centers in the United States chosen by the National Institute of Health, the U.S. Government's medical research agency for the study of women's health issues. WHI is one of the first major studies of women and their health and is the largest preventive, long-term health study ever conducted that focuses exclusively on women's health.

Announced in April 1991, WHI focuses research on the causes and treatments of heart disease, cancer and osteoporosis. These chronic diseases are the major causes of death, disability and frailty in women of all races and socioeconomic strata. This \$628 million, 15-year project will involve more than 160,000 women ages 50 to 79, making it the largest clinical trial ever undertaken in the United States. The Women's Health Initiative will attempt to redress many of the inequities in women's health research and provide practical information to



Statesman / Jae M. Kim

Stony Brook Hospital

women and their physicians about hormone replacement therapy, dietary patterns and calcium/vitamin D supplements.

The overall purpose is to study specific preventive strategies cardiovascular disease, cancer (especially

breast and colorectal cancers) and osteoporosis in women.

There are two components to the study: a clinical trial and an observational study. The clinical trial will test the benefits and risks of hormone replacement therapy, dietary modifications and calcium plus vitamin D supplementation in relation to the overall health and quality of life of post-menopausal women. Those women who are eligible and interested will be enrolled in the clinical trial. All others will be invited to enter the observational study.

Stony Brook's WHI is on its last months of recruitment, which will end in January 1998. Ever since its recruitment began, Granek said that the number of participants have increased. The center at Stony Brook is looking for altogether about 3,700 participants. According to Granek, the study currently has more than 2,000 participants.

Participants must be female, 55-79 years old, post-menopausal and planning to live in the same area for at least three years.

All WHI enrollees will complete questionnaires, undergo limited screening measurements (e.g., height, weight, blood pressure) and provide blood specimens periodically.

Granek said that some of the faculty have already been participating in the study and encourages other women that qualify to enter. Granek adds that it is the last chance to participate in a very important study.

For more information about the study and for participation, call the Women's Health Initiative at 444-3905. □

Students And Alumni Chat About Careers On The Web

By SHEEJA FRANCIS

Special to The Statesman

Career Advisors Network (C. A. N.), a service from the Career Placement Center, can now be accessed through the internet and thus is available at the numerous computer sites throughout the campus. Even though it has been around for many years, the network is getting wider interest thanks to its easy accessibility from the Stony Brook Web Site.

C. A. N. is composed of about 200 alumni who are ready and willing to help students in providing information to make career decisions. The alumni welcome inquiries into their particular fields. Some even help new graduates find jobs or graduate school positions.

"We just moved it over to the Web within the last couple of months," said Tim Luzader, director of the Career Placement Center. "The intent is to

increase the visibility of the program."

The network can be reached on the internet through the Career Placement Center homepage at <http://www.sunysb.edu/career/>. Press the "Student Foyer" icon followed by the "Services Offered" icon after entering the homepage.

"Any student who's on campus and hooked up with the internet and connects with the homepage can take a look and see who's there," said Tom Tyson, associate director of the Career Placement Center. "The reason it was established was to provide students an opportunity to talk to alumni about career opportunities that they may be thinking about."

The network was first established as an index card file, which was available to students after meeting with a counselor at the center. It was then moved to a microcomputer a few years ago. Many students are not even aware

of the network's existence and the center hopes to increase interest by being easily accessible from any on-campus computer.

Since the network can be accessed at many places, it is hard to monitor the frequency of use. "The disadvantage is that we don't have a handle on it like we used to," Tyson said. "We plan to follow up closely with the alumni to see how it's working out."

Tyson is in the middle of sending out mailings to the alumni to see if they are comfortable with being on the Web and to keep them posted on how the student response has changed.

"If they had something like this in 1980 I would've used it," said Steve Traum, who graduated with a B.A. in Economics in 1980 and has been part of the network since then. Traum, a manager for a teacher's insurance firm, has had a total of two students who

contacted him in the past 17 years. He is enthusiastic about hearing from more students now that the network will have a wider audience. "I know that at ivy league schools there is a whole network where students rely on alumni to help them out, but this is not the case at Stony Brook," Traum said.

Like Traum, a majority of the alumni on the network are in the business field. Law is another popular field with C. A. N. members. "We also have a fair number of alumni in some of the health professions and especially in some of the mental health fields like counseling, social work and psychology," Tyson said. "The thing that everybody has in common is that they all want to help."

"We've tried to develop alumni that represent a cross section of careers," Luzader said. "Our biggest challenge is to encourage students to follow through." □

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Cleopatra Churns Out New Releases

By MARC WEISBAUM
Statesman Staff

Some people just never stop working. Take the folks at Cleopatra, for example. These people just never stop putting out new albums. This summer, the record company has already put out *In To The Mix*, a double CD compilation of material ranging from bands such as **The Prodigy** and **Meat Beat Manifesto** to **Psychic TV**. They've also put out the *Ultimate Drum N' Bass* compilation featuring **The Art of Noise** among others. To be fair, aside from both these collections, Cleopatra also knows how to put out full-lengths by its individual bands. And there are many.

Noise Box has just turned loose its second full-length, *The Bigginning*. *The Bigginning* is a lot darker than the *nuffnutz* EP or the band's debut *Monkey Ass* and this actually came as quite a surprise. Noise Box has a knack for sampling from bands I am heavily into, so I always look forward to the band's albums to see what it will borrow next from my record collection. Last time it was **Bigod 20**, this time you can hear a sample of **Fear Factory's** "Replica," though it is just a tiny one. Not only does Noise Box use other bands' songs, but also other bands' members to assist with the recording process. This time around, **DJ Shadow** steps in to help out on "..."

Also new (okay, relatively, I'm a bit behind) is *Architecture*, the third full-length release from **Spahn Ranch**. Look for an interview with the band in the coming weeks.

Electric Hellfire Club will be performing Tuesday, July 15, at *Tramps*.

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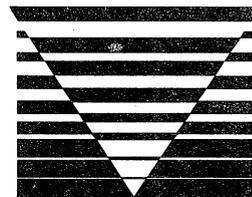
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Travolta & Cage Go Head to Head in *Face/Off*³

MIB, From Back Page

promises and more. Surprisingly, it is a substantial film that takes particular care with its plotting and characters, reflective of its own melodramatic roots.

John Travolta plays Sean Archer, a special government investigator, who undergoes plastic surgery and assumes the identity of Castor Troy (Nicolas Cage), a freelance terrorist, in order to find out the location of a biological weapon that is set to destroy Los Angeles. Troy, then, takes on the looks of Archer and wreaks havoc with his family and job.

Travolta teams again with Hong Kong action director John Woo for the second time. Woo's *Broken Arrow* had Travolta playing the villain, which also happens for more than half the time in this movie. Compared to that previous film, *Face/Off* contains more action sequences and tops each one along the way. From the beginning's plane sequence to the final action scene that includes a speedboat chase, the film maintains its melodramatic roots in masterfully sustaining suspense.

Woo attained a poignancy in one of the film's action sequences. Amidst a shoot-out, a young boy looks on as his family succumbs to its own violent life with the song "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" as an accompaniment. Equally mechanical in its melodramatic use, the device still works. What it also achieves

is a balletic action sequence, a Woo trademark, and a different look than other action sequences. Instead of using a more adrenaline-pumped beat in its soundtrack, as other movies have, it uses a song that seems inappropriate to play out its action. The song then becomes the lament the characters who have thrown themselves into this crime world.

Travolta and Cage, two of Hollywood's best actors, met the challenge of portraying each other's characters. The duality is interesting to watch, but not at all confusing. Cage's Troy is a maniacal joy, while his Archer role also captures the hurt he possesses from his brother's death. On the other hand, Travolta's Archer is a sensitive family man, while his Troy portrayal is as devilish and eye-popping as Cage's.

The excellent supporting cast helped construct a substantial film. Joan Allen, who plays Archer's wife, and Gina Gershon, who plays Troy's love interest, are presented as foils of each other. Both match the male leads' screen presence. Their portrayals are never one-dimensional.

Face/Off is substantial in its character development and plotting. Action films are the contemporary's counterpart to that popular form from late in the last century, the melodrama. In sustaining suspense through its action sequences, it has maintained that form. In presenting the

film along the thematic vein of family, the film also fulfills melodrama's form. There are two families the audience is presented with, whose lives have crossed through violence. On the one hand is the seemingly stable one that Archer has, and on the other is Troy's own unstructured one. Along the way, a secret is uncovered, characteristic

of melodramas, and family becomes an important tie that binds the characters.

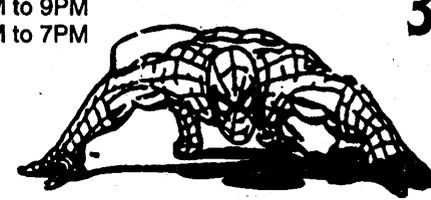
Even though its sci-fi plastic surgery is dubious, *Face/Off* has what every action film should strive for: smarts, thrills and humanity.

FINAL GRADE: A



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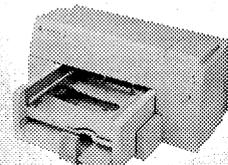
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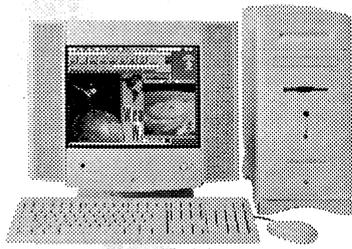
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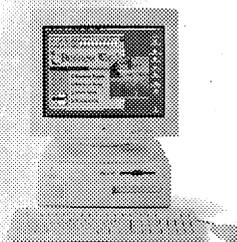
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Dark Secrets in a Lighter World

Men In Black Features Creatures, Comic Book Humor and Secret Agents

By KRISTINE SEITZ
Statesman Staff

What if there were an entire world going on around us that we knew nothing about?

The theme seems to be a popular one in America today. Chris Carter has created an empire on Fox with his "X-Files" series that capitalizes on a paranoia of secret government activities concerning the paranormal and the existence of aliens on earth. The new movie, *Men in Black*, takes the covert activity theme a little further. Welcome to a world where the best investigative journalism in the country is being done by the tabloids (think "Aliens Stole My Baby") and there exists a highly funded but unofficial government agency that monitors alien immigration and activities on earth.

Director Barry Sonnenfeld, known for *Get Shorty* and the *Addams Family* movies, assembled an eclectic cast to bring to life the agency that's the best kept secret in the universe. Academy award winning actor Tommy Lee Jones plays Agent K, one of the founding members of the agency. When Agent K has to replace his partner, he meets his match in the smart, dedicated New York City policeman James Edwards, played by Will Smith. Officer Edwards becomes Agent J after Agent K takes him on a short tour of the agency's headquarters located near the Battery Tunnel in Manhattan. The headquarters is a kind of immigration station monitoring the comings and goings of the aliens on earth. The Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith team is hilarious. Jones' dead-pan deliveries of his character's world-weary dictates perfectly balance out Smith's character's new age, let it all hang out, let's-leave-people-a-little-happier responses.

Linda Fiorentino, best known for her role in the sexy thriller *The Last Seduction*, plays Dr. Laurel Weaver, New York City's

Deputy Medical Examiner. Weaver keeps coming up with a series of really unusual corpses as the story progresses. She is repeatedly "neuralyzed" by one of the nifty gadgets that fill this film. Neuralyzers wipe out a portion of the memory of people not involved in the Agency. In this way the Agency and the aliens remain a complete secret. The general public is also kept in the dark about the true state of things because, as Agent K believes, they just can't handle it.

Also of note in this movie is Vincent D'Onofrio's portrayal of the Edgar Bug. When a UFO crashlands in farmer Edgar's backyard, the alien inside, an angry, destruction-bent creature known only as a Bug, takes Edgar's skin as a disguise while he carries out his alien terrorist plans. D'Onofrio, who also played in such films as *Full Metal Jacket*, *JFK* and *Mystic Pizza*, does an incredible job as a really big alien stuffed into a small, rapidly rotting human skin.

Other notable actors in this film are Rip Torn, probably best known as Arthur, the producer on "The Larry Sanders Show," who plays the head of the Agency, Agent Zed. Tony Shalhoub, known for his role as the cab driver, Antonio, on "Wings," is also a lot of fun as Jeebs, a pawn shop broker and alien arms dealer.

One of the really fun aspects of this movie is the creature feature. To bring the creatures in this film to life, Barry Sonnenfeld hired Rick Baker and the award winning Industrial Light & Magic company. Baker is an Academy Award winning special effects wizard who has worked on such films as *Gremlins* and *Harry and the Hendersons*. Baker's creations range from the ingenious outer space alien masquerading as a Mexican "alien" to the funny group of Agency staffers and on to the horrendous Bug that Agents K and J wind up pursuing. Baker's creations are unique because they are not



Photo / Columbia Pictures

Tommy Lee Jones, left and Will Smith take aim in the sci-fi action comedy *Men In Black*

caricatures of aliens that we've all seen before, but actually characters in their own right. The use of actors in costume as well as computer enhancements allow the aliens to develop more fully than most of the movie monsters we've seen in the past.

This is a fun movie based on a comic book series by Lowell Cunningham called "The Men in Black" and should be viewed as a movie based on a comic book. It's not a movie for those who are looking for

a serious theatrical experience. Fans of the original comic book series should also beware. The movie is not nearly as dark as its comic book predecessor. It's a funny, witty take on another way to view the world.

The next time you see a really odd looking stranger or a tabloid headline, you may just take a second look.

You never know.

FINAL GRADE: B+



Non-Stop Thrills in *Face/Off* Action Galore as Travolta & Cage go Head to Head

By RAY GRAHAM
Special to *The Statesman*

At times, looks can be deceiving.

Just imagine a person you've lived with for a long time walking into your house with the same face and body you've always known. But underneath this facade, it is not truly who you knew before. This is the perspective that Sean Archer and Castor Troy's friends and family are

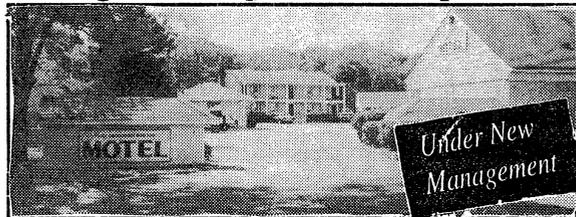
presented with in the film *Face/Off*, which is also deceiving in its looks.

On the surface, *Face/Off* seems like any other summer action blockbuster, filled with inane explosions and no particular regard for its characters and plot. But don't be deceived, *Face/Off* is a non-stop action thriller that delivers what it

See MIB, Page 3

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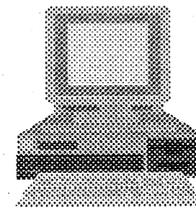
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