

Statesman

Volume XL, Number 27

Monday, December 9, 1996

First Copy Free

CEO Donates \$25 Million to Stony Brook

Donation is set for Asian American Studies Center, making it largest donation to a SUNY school

(UNS) - In the largest private gift in the history of the State University of New York, Computer Associates International, Inc. Chairman and CEO Charles B. Wang is funding a high-technology Asian American Center on the campus of Stony Brook.

The \$25 million gift will be used to construct the Charles B. Wang Asian American Center, a far-reaching complex dedicated to the advancement of education, cultural exchanges, business and technology. It will be the first building, funded by a private donor, to be constructed on a SUNY campus.

"By any measure, Mr. Wang's endowment ranks among the most generous in the history of this nation," said University President Shirley Strum Kenny. "This gift represents a major step forward for multi-cultural education at the University. The generosity of Mr. Wang means that Stony Brook will be alone among major universities in having a dedicated center specifically built to meet the unique technological requirements of advanced cross-cultural programs."

The Charles B. Wang Asian American

Center will become the core of an emerging global "virtual university." It will utilize the latest fiber-optic networking technologies to enable the transmission of real-time video, voice and data at extraordinary speeds, in excess of 45 mbs.

The Center will empower distance learning - a "university without walls." Professors and students at Stony Brook and in Asia will conveniently interact and freely exchange ideas in real-time, regardless of their physical location.

"The Asian American Center will be a model of how technology should be applied in the service of education," said Wang. "It will expand opportunities by eliminating the boundaries of geography and time."

The Center will allow Stony Brook to expand the scope of its extensive cultural programs and services. It will also make possible the exchange of ideas about East/West approaches to medicine, science, technology, business, engineering and many other fields in an international arena.

The first phase of the project, scheduled for groundbreaking in spring 1997, will involve the construction of a facility located

on a four-acre site contiguous to the Staller Center for the Performing Arts.

In addition to state-of-the-art computer facilities, the 25,000 square-foot building will include an auditorium/conference center, an art gallery, meeting rooms, and a multi-cuisine food court. Subsequent phases will allow the addition of supplementary annexes to accommodate the growing numbers of students, faculty, visiting scholars and researchers expected to utilize the complex.

Wang's gift provides not only for construction of a world-class facility, but also an endowment for the ongoing building maintenance and upkeep costs.

Wang, who was eight years old when his family left Shanghai, China in 1952 to settle in New York City, has a keen interest

in supporting programs designed to help people gain greater understanding of Asian and Asian-American issues.

"The Asian-American center will be the catalyst for numerous academic, technical, cultural, and business initiatives," Wang said. "When participants have a greater understanding of each other's history and culture, such programs will always have a better chance of success."

A graduate of Queens College in New York, Wang founded CA in 1976 and has built the company into the world's leading provider of business software.

Stony Brook is SUNY's leading research institution. It is also nationally renowned for its Asian-American studies program. Approximately one quarter of its students are of Asian heritage. □

Students React to \$25 Grant and Addition of Asian Studies Center

BY BEN VARGHESE
Statesman Staff

One fourth of the SUNY Stony Brook student population is of Asian descent. In recent years the campus has experienced the surge in this growing community's activities. The animation club, and various Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese and Japanese organizations have put out theatrical productions, festivals and various programs that have been enjoyed by the entire student body. The Asian American Center opened only this semester in Harriman Hall received word over the weekend that it would receive a \$25 million donation that will go towards constructing it's own building.

Here's what some students are saying about the donation:

"I think Asian people in general contribute a lot to America. It's not only black and whites anymore. It's a lot of other diversities and I think it's just great that Americans are recognizing different cultures," said Lanna Cheuck.

"I think it's a great idea to finally have someplace where all the Asian students can come together and meet as a group. Not just the individual Filipino, Chinese or Vietnamese ones because the clubs that are doing that right now and it's a good idea that the Asian American Center where all the Asian people can come together and hang out and be as one group together" said junior Tony Ko.

"It's definitely think it's a good idea. Before there are all these other Asian clubs which do not work together but now with the

center, there is now an umbrella over all these clubs," said Henry Nguyen, a junior.

"I think the center is going to be a great place for Asian and non-Asian to get to know each other and it's definitely going to attract more Asians from the cities. This campus was originally supposed to be the Berkeley of the east coast but it did not turn out too well, so this is long overdue" said sophomore Phu Huynh.

"It's a great idea because there has never been anything like it and that's a lot of money and I think it's good for Mr. Wang to give back to the community since he got so much out of it" said sophomore Howard Chen.

"I think the grant is a wonderful act of demonstrating Asian initiative in order to promote cultural awareness throughout our community as well as among the various Asian communities on campus," said junior Judith Santos.

"I think it was really generous of him [Wang] to give a grant to increase awareness. This integration will definitely make people aware of other cultures. However still feel individuality is important," said junior Eileen Santos. □

SpareChange Finishes First Season



Photo/Tsz Kin Ng

SpareChange, an experimental dance-theatre company gave the final performance of its first season yesterday at Staller. Choreographed by Amy Yopp Sullivan, *SpareChange* presented five original pieces of dance-theatre. Pictured above, is a scene from the piece "The Gossips," with clockwise from top left, Christine Giuffre, Bonnie-Marie Bracco, Diana Dellavecchia, Victoria Malvagno and Joanna Tobin.

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Campus Calendar

Monday, December 9

FSA Flea Market. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Stony Brook Union Bi-level. Call 632-6517.

Catholic Mass. Noon. Level 5, Chapel, HSC. Call 444-2836.

Prepared Childbirth Courses. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. University Medical Center. Pre-registration required. Call 444-2729.

Tuesday, December 10

Catholic Mass. Noon. Level 5, Chapel, HSC. Call 444-2836.

Free Employee Breast Screening Program. 1 - 4 p.m. Surgery Mod, Level 5, University Medical Center. No appointment necessary. Call 444-2565.

Stony Brook Student Veterans Association General Interest Meeting at 1:00 p.m. in Student Union, Room 226. For more information, call Alex Velez at (516) 216-3443 or e-mail at avelez@ic.sunysb.edu.

The University Counseling Center provides a walk-in clinic for students experiencing academic stress. The clinic offers a place where students can get some help with test anxiety, overcoming procrastination, time management, and study skills from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Most of the groups will meet at the University Counseling Center, 2nd Floor of the Student Health Center building. Phone: 632-6715 or 632-6720.

Cystic Fibrosis Support Group. 7:30 p.m. Department of Pediatrics Conference Room, Level T-11, Health Sciences Center. Call 757-5873 or 385-4254.

Prepared Childbirth Courses. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. University Medical Center. Pre-registration required. Call 444-2729.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Alliance has Peer Support at 9 p.m. in Room 045A, located in the lower level of the Student Union. Call for more information: 632-6469.

Wednesday, December 11

Catholic Mass. Noon. Level 5, Chapel, HSC. Call 444-2836.

Unitarian Universalist Campus Ministry Lunch time Discussion. 12:45 p.m. Humanities 160. Lunch provided. Call 632-9476.

Stony Brook at Law is holding it's Second Annual Law Day from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Union Ballroom.

Diabetes Support Group. 2:30 p.m. Conference Room 084, 12th Floor, University Medical Center. Call 444-1202.

Wednesday Night Prayers at 9:30 p.m. - The Protestant Campus Ministry invites all students, faculty, administration, and staff to join us weekly for a time of informal worship and music in the Peace Studies Center in the Old Chemistry Building. Refreshments follow. Call the Rev. Noelle Damico (2-6563) if you would like more information.

Thursday, December 12

FSA Flea Market. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Hospital Chaplaincy Interfaith Prayer Service. Noon, Level 5, Chapel, HSC. Call 444-2836.

Cancer Support Group for Patients, Family and Friends. 4 - 5:30 p.m. Level 5, Physical Therapy Department, University Medical Center. Free parking. Call 444-1727.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Alliance has a general meeting at 9 p.m. in Room 231 of the Student Union. Call for meeting

topic: 632-6469.

Friday, December 13

Last day of classes.

Catholic Mass. Noon. Level 5, Chapel, HSC. Call 444-2836.

"Power, Passion, and Politics: an Exploration of the Gospel of Matthew" - The Protestant Campus Ministry invites you to an in-depth, open-minded, intellectually engaged study of the Gospel of Matthew. Discover the historical and sociological context of the writing as we question and reason together about its import for our lives. We meet weekly in the Interfaith Center Conference Room, Room 157, Humanities Building, from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Call the Rev. Noelle Damico (2-6563) if you would like more information.

B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation Services. 5 p.m., Roth Quad cafeteria. Traditional: 1st floor, Liberal-Reform 2nd floor. Call 632-6565 for more info.

Stony Brook Fencing Club. 8 - 10 p.m. Main Arena, Sports Complex. Call Leon Moy, 588-3956.

Saturday, December 14

B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation Services. 9:30 a.m., Roth cafeteria. Conservative - 2nd floor, Orthodox - Lower Level (followed by Kiddush). Call 632-6565 for info.

Non-instructional Life Painting - short poses. 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Room 4218, Staller Center. \$2/ students; \$6/non-students. Pay at door. Call Arthur Kleinfelder, 474-1887.

MarketPro Computer Show and Sale, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., in Sports Complex. Admission is \$6 for adults, children under 12 free with an adult. For more information call 201-825-

2229.

Sunday, December 15

Non-instructional Life Painting - long poses. 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Room 4218, Staller Center. \$2/ students; \$6/non-students. Pay at door. Call Arthur Kleinfelder, 484-1887.

Stony Brook Fencing Club. 2 - 4 p.m. and midnight. Main Arena, Sports Complex. Call Leon Moy, 588-2956.

Prepared Childbirth Courses. 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. University Medical Center. Pre-registration required. Call 444-2729.

Catholic Campus Ministry Mass. 5 p.m. Peace Studies Center, Old Chemistry. Call 632-6562.

Statesman will be holding elections on Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30 p.m. in room 057 of the Student Union. Attendance is Mandatory for all staff.



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Sausage Parmigiana	\$55.00	\$32.00
Eggplant Parmigiana	\$55.00	\$32.00
Eggplant Rollatine	\$60.00	\$35.00
Veal Cutlet Parmigiana	\$69.00	\$36.00
Chicken Cutlet Parmigiana	\$60.00	\$35.00
Chicken Francese	\$69.00	\$36.00
Chicken Cordon Bleu	\$69.00	\$36.00
Seafood Primavera	\$69.00	\$36.00
Rigatoni Alla Vodka	\$50.00	\$28.00
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Collide and Switchblade Symphony Trod on Same Ground ³

By MARC WEISBAUM
Statesman Staff

Cleopatra's Switchblade Symphony and Re-Constriction's Collide both trod upon such similar ground that I feel it my duty to let you know about both together, lest one may slip through the cracks. The common link between the two bands is the sensual female vocals. Their applications, however, are slightly different.

Switchblade's Serpentine Gallery was one of the most anticipated releases in goth circles for over a year. Finally goth freaks would get a full-length to quench their thirst that the Fable EP and various appearances on collections caused in the first place. Now that I've made them sound like a drug, fact is they almost are as soothing as one. This triumvirate of darkness consists of Tina Root (vocals), Susan Wallace (Synthesizers/programming/vocals) and Robin Jacobs (guitars/bass/drum programming). This potent trio create music of such emotional intensity that groups of five or six can't touch.

The music as an atmospheric feel to it, but not the crystal clear skies of Enya. A quick scan of song titles such as "Bad Trash" and "Wrecking Yard" and you already know that Switchblade (if the name didn't give it away enough) aren't the happiest people on the planet. The magical thing about this album is that its hard to put in just one song and take it off. Not everybody has the time to sit through 11 songs straight, but Switchblade carve (pathetic pun intended) out the time for you.

The flexibility of Root's vocals make the Gallery's mood jump out at you that much more. While some people in the goth circle have criticized some of Switchblade's songs of not having the most intelligent lyrics, they seem to have not gotten the point. Root's voice projects the meaning far more than any manipulation of words could. If they can't see the depth, it's their loss. Having said this, Switchblade have released one of the most solid dark wave albums of '96, as well as having one of the best

names ever heard.

Also incorporating female vocals is Collide. Their debut release, *Beneath The Skin*, does just that and opens your eyes up to the beautiful world (and voice) of kaRIN. *Beneath The Skin* whirled forth ten tracks plus two remixes (courtesy of Cevin Key and Christ Analogue). The band is rounded out by Statik. Along with kaRIN, they have created one of the most varying electronic albums in an age where everybody wants to be KMFDM. While Statik handles the machinery, kaRIN scribes the words and produces some of the most thought provoking lyrics at a time where everybody yells, "Throw your hands in the air!" Thank God for kaRIN!

This album is capable of reaching out to virtually anybody. Industrial freaks will instantly approve just because Cevin Key remixes the title track. Even dance heads can groove to lead off track, "Violet's Dance." The goth/vampire crowd will hunger for "Falling Up." Hell, your mom will find something she likes on here! *Collide* superbly

it (it's okay to be alright), but usually it's just that they don't even give it a chance. As a result, I usually put little

8726 S. Sepulveda Blvd. Ste. D-82
Los Angeles, CA 90045

For an even more diverse sample



Collide

Photo Courtesy of Re-Constriction Records

red flags warning of elements that might tui n it for you. I normally do that here, but I honestly can't put anything bad down about either release! If you don't want to believe me, fine, just continue to listen to what the radio feeds you. In the meantime, you are strongly, strongly urged to... CONTACT: Cleopatra

of Re-Constriction's legion of bands send away for their 10 (or is it 5) year anniversary including *Collide*, 16 Volt, Christ Analogue and too many other great ones to mention.

CONTACT:
Re-Constriction/Cargo Records
4901-906 Morena Blvd.
San Diego, CA 92117-3432



Photo Courtesy of Cleopatra Records

Switchblade Symphony

touches upon each style coming off as a heavyweight in whatever genre, but, in reality, just flirting with it. kaRIN, like Ms. Root, conveys a level of emotion that is absent in almost all music today.

Normally, anything I write about I can understand if people don't like

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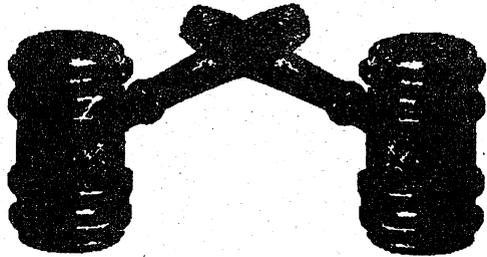
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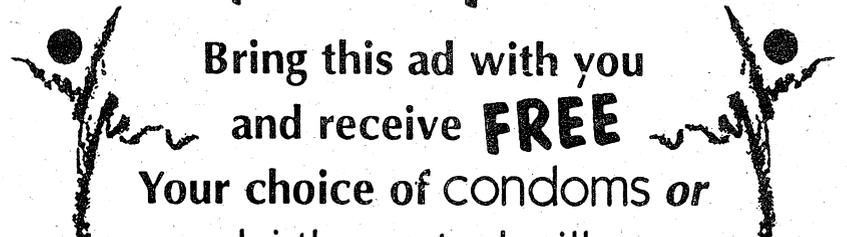
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Humanities Bldg.,
Room 101

Thursday, January 23
5:10 PM to 6:10 PM
Humanities Bldg.,
Room 101

For more information call 632-6710

LETTERS AND OPINIONS

Students Should Worry About Library Plan

To the Editor:

Lately I have seen that many people have a lot of things to argue about in the *Statesman*, unfortunately all of these things happen to be quite trivial. People seem to want to argue about who is better, Tupac Shakur or Jesse Helms while neither of them does much for this campus. There happens to be almost a crisis forming over the library system, people. This crisis should spark the attention of everyone on this campus, and it should be among the top most discussed things that are happening.

Joseph Branin thinks that he is going to rearrange the library system because its cheaper by \$200,000.00 a year. By this mentality, we should discard the library system entirely, because that's the cheapest way to do it. This suggestion should offend everyone, and should be among the worst fears of the science majors in this university. Being a chemistry major, I am acutely aware of how useful, and necessary the chemistry library is. In response to these suggestions, I have number of criticisms. The first is that if its not broken, don't fix it. The university library system at Stony Brook is far from being broken, and the branch science libraries are an excellent example of what this university can accomplish when it is working at its best, which is excellent. I have talked to an (anonymous) professor about this subject, and he has told me that this would occur only "over a lot of the professor's dead bodies"; he

seemed to imply that he would be one of them.

Another reason is that the Melville library is an incredibly big building, and even though the library is excellent, it is sometimes difficult to navigate. If the science libraries were included, you would need a map and compass to find your way around. The second reason is that in the sciences, if you need to leave your laboratory to get a reference from the library, you shouldn't be leaving the building (or at least the vicinity for life sciences). This is particularly true for chemistry; if I have something 'cooking in a pot,' I can't leave the building, because the building may burn down by the time I navigate my way through Melville, find my reference, and then get back.

The third reason is that the enormous amount of information contained in these libraries is not only priceless, it is also invaluable. Trying to fit all of that material into Melville is going to be like trying to fit a dozen eggs into a carton that can fit a dozen eggs but already 9 eggs in it. In addition, you could take a volume from the science library and leave it somewhere (it could take years to figure out where). As it is now, the circulating volumes leave the library only if they have been checked out, and the non circulating volumes (should) never leave the libraries. Of course you have to think about the increased number of people that are going to be going through the science library, who may just like to rip a page

out of a journal that can never be replaced. This happens enough as it is, centralizing the library is only going to make it happen more.

The last reason I am against this idea is that the sciences at Stony Brook are distinctive. When you say chemistry, or physics, or life sciences, ESS, MSRC, HSC, Engineering, or Computer Science you can associate a library with the laboratory facilities. If there were to be just one library, the sciences would lose their distinction (and the communities associated with those libraries) at Stony Brook, and

just become a mass of combined majors that mean nothing to people in this university or outside of it. I will say it again, this is an issue that concerns everyone, and a difference can only be made if everyone is concerned.

Sincerely,
Michael Williams,
Senior Chemistry Major

P.S. Let me put an added emphasis in, that you could probably never convince me that Joseph Branin's idea is a good one.

Thanks, Stony Brook

To the Editor:

As the Commissioners of the Suffolk County Board of Election we wish to express our thanks and gratitude to the administration and students of SUNY at Stony Brook. Due to the efforts of University President Shirley Strum Kenny and the University's student government the University will have an on-campus polling place commencing with the 1997 election cycle.

We look forward to a continued

close relationship with Kenny and student representatives of the University. Any student interested in serving as an election day inspector at the new polling place is invited to contact Sandra DeCapua at 852-4524.

Again our thanks to President Kenny and the entire University community.

Sincerely yours,
Commissioners, Suffolk County Board
of Elections
Gerald Edelstein, Gerald Berger

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The Stony Brook Statesman, the newspaper for SUNY at Stony Brook and its surrounding community, is a nonprofit literary publication that is produced twice-weekly during the academic year and bi-weekly during the summer. Statesman Association, Inc.'s offices are located in the lower level of the Stony Brook Union.

- First copy is free. Each additional copy is 25 cents.
- For information about advertising, call 632-6480 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Editorials represent the

majority opinion of the Editorial Board and are written by one of its members or a designee.

- The Stony Brook Statesman welcomes letters, opinions, and suggestions about newsworthy events and issues on or around campus and its community. Write to:

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Stony Brook, NY 11790
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- All letters and opinion pieces (including e-mail messages) must include the author's name, address, and phone number for purposes of verification. Please type all submissions, and include all information (i.e. titles, positions, etc.) you would like to have printed with your name.
- Anonymous and handwritten submissions will not be printed.
- Please keep all submis-

sions to a maximum of 750 words. *Statesman* reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, language, and readability.

- Views expressed in columns or in the Letters and Opinions section are those of the author(s), and are not necessarily those of Statesman Association, Inc., The Stony Brook Statesman, their employees, their staff members or their advertisers.
- Writers are encouraged to submit their work on 3.5" Macintosh (preferably) or IBM

disks. Disks will be returned upon request.

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The Stony Brook Statesman has been a member of the Associated Collegiate Press since 1994.



Hard-Core Satisfaction Guaranteed

Devastating Comp Features 17 Underground Bands

By MARC WEISBAUM
Statesman Staff

Seventeen bands.
Twenty-seven songs.
Satisfaction Guaranteed.
That pretty much says it all.

This compilation is something that every hard-core fan will want for their collection. It focuses on the heavyweights of the underground genre, but also mixes in some of the lesser knowns, making this a comp of devastating potential.

Jersey's **25 Ta Life** kick the album off with two of their older tracks, "Beatdown For Existence" and "Cutthroat." The sound quality isn't the most balanced, but these tracks are live (as are many of

the other tracks on the album). Rick and crew's appearance compensates the slightly lacking sound with the intense energy of their live shows. The comp also includes two other Striving For Togetherness (Rick's label) bands, namely **No Redeeming Social Value** and **Six And Violence**. NRSV is the first band on the album to offer up a cover song in their rendition of Slayer's "Raining Blood." Absolutely essential.

Other great covers on the album include **Rejuvenate's** excellent cover of **Agnostic Front's** "Victim In Pain." It's incredibly faithful to the original.

The biggest surprise is **Stressboy** and its abuse of **Modern English's** "Melt

With You." Its hard not to wonder what that one-hit-wonder **Modern English** thinks of this punk/hard-core interpretation of its song. But enough rambling about covers. This army of bands pound out some ferocious tunes of their own.

Maximum Penalty (just signed to **Another Planet**) steps in to blast out "I'll Save You" and "Bear With It." Fans of the **Cro-Mags** should check out MP, if they haven't already. We also get a taste of **No Win Situation's** AF-influenced hard-core with "The Angle" and "Not Looking." **No Win** also doubles into **Awkward Thought**.

Bassist John swaps with vocalist Mike and add guitarist Rob and, before you

know it, the transformation is complete. **Awkward Thought** seems to be more **Sheer Terror** inspired than their alias, as is evident in "Cut You." Speaking of **Sheer Terror**, the band makes a posthumous performance via "Don't Hate Me Cause I'm Beautiful." Unfortunately, the band called it a day right when it seemed like things were beginning to fall into place. **Sheer Terror** has been a huge influence on the East Coast scene (as well as being one of the loudest bands) and are sorely missed.

Satisfaction Guaranteed also gives us a glimpse at

some of the lesser known bands such as **The Pist**, **Bugout Society** and **Setback**. With its army of bands, this collection covers every color of the hard-core spectrum. It varies from the humor of **Six And Violence** ("Planet of The Apes") to the more serious **Rejuvenate**.

Either way, it's all about having a good time. It's a must for hard-core fans and a good preview of the genre for newcomers.

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MUSTARD SPEAKS

MUSTARD, From Back Page

The Mustard is a slight step away from how DeCosta started out. "I started promoting shows. I booked a club in the Valley in Receda. I hooked up with Rob Ascencion (guitar/back-up vocals) in Simi Valley and we worked together for four or five months. Sabbath style material. We've had about seven members go in and out. Our drummer, Chris Cano, is from Pasadena and our bassist, Rob Pehrson, is from Venice. Together, we are a solid group of people and we have a dream. Past members wanted the good, but couldn't take the bad. They didn't realize that there is some distance between point A and point B," explains DeCosta.

With all the members contributing backing vocals, it is impressive to hear the many, many different styles that are touched upon by DeCosta and company.

Now that we know how they got together, what does the name mean? "There's a whole philosophy behind it," laughs DeCosta, "I had chronic

fatigue syndrome for about three years and I dropped out of bands for a year and a half. I went to get some pasta out of the fridge and I found this French's mustard bottle from 1986. We had moved a couple of times and we just kept bringing it with us. As a result, I wanted to be the mustard of music.

"A condiment compliments other foods. We wanted to compliment other music. We are the mustard of all the condiments. We don't want you to listen to us all the time. Like **The Doors** are heavy on the mind, we're easily digested," clarifies DeCosta.

As for the future, DeCosta is confident. "We've been selling quite a few albums. We're hoping to tour the U.S. Come to the show and have a good time. We'd like to make at least three more records. Musically, we already have enough to make two albums, at least," DeCosta says.

CONTACT:
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A.B.C. Trivia Winner:

Marissa Bonasia

Congratulations to Marissa and big thanks and hearty handshakes to all those who phoned in answers.

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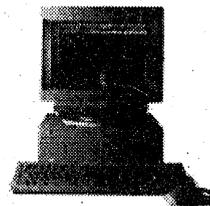


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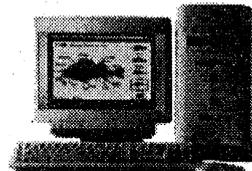
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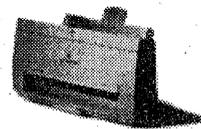


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A COMMENCEMENT PLANNING GUIDE WILL BE MAILED TO ALL CANDIDATES WHO PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MAY 16, 1997 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY. CANDIDATES WHO APPLY FOR MAY '97, JULY '97 OR AUGUST '97 GRADUATION DATES BY THE DEADLINE OF WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 1997, WILL RECEIVE THE PLANNING GUIDE. THE GUIDE WILL INCLUDE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT CAPS AND GOWNS, TICKET DISTRIBUTION, WHERE TO LINE UP, AND OTHER INFORMATION THAT WILL BE NEEDED BY THOSE PARTICIPATING IN THE CEREMONY.

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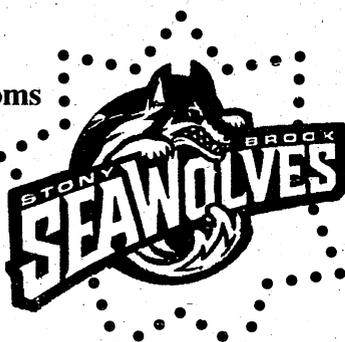
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FEATURES

ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & STUDENT LIFE

Monday, December 9, 1996



It's Holiday Time...

Great Gifts for \$10 or Less

By KRISTINE SEITZ
Statesman Editor

It's that time of year again and, if you're like most students, you're probably struggling as much with your budget as with your school work. You haven't even thought of holiday shopping. Your roommate, however, is already hinting at what she got you three weeks ago. Your best friend from home, in the first e-mail you've received in 2 months, says he found the funniest gift ever and can't wait to exchange.

Don't panic. Even on a student budget you can get some great gifts for those on your holiday list. Here are some suggestions for gift ideas that you can get for under \$10.

Wallaces is a convenient place for USB students to shop where they have a decent selection of inexpensive gifts. There are china teacups, complete with herbal tea for those long, cold nights on the horizon. You can get this for only \$6.99. For the roommate who just can't seem to take a phone message, there's a SB memo cube for \$5.50.

Do you know someone who's always asking, "What's another word for...?" or "How do you spell...?" Then consider a

Roget's Desk Thesaurus (\$6.99, in hard cover) or a Webster's Dictionary (\$5.99 in hard cover.)

Wallaces also has some brain teasers. There's Osker's Cube for \$6.95, Cryptic Classics for \$4.95 and Mind Lock for \$5.95, all of which look like they could be a lot of fun for anyone who loves puzzles or has a long trip ahead of them and needs something to pass the time.

There is, of course, the full line of Seawolves and SB logo things such as Pilsner glasses (\$9.95), big, glass mugs (\$7.95), SB votive candles (\$5.95) and SB shot glasses (\$3.95), among other things.

Don't rule out the possibility of using one of these mugs to assemble a personalized gift with a friend or relative's favorite herbal tea, which can be bought for less than \$5 at area supermarkets. Try getting some chocolates and use one of the glasses available to make a special package for that special someone. Everyone appreciates a personalized gift no matter how small.

Basix is also a great place to get the ingredients of a personalized gift. Basix has scented votive candles for 99 cents each! Sachets are also available for 99 cents. Why not put together a collection of scented candles and sachets for a friend

or loved one?

Also available at Basix is the old stand-by gift that everyone can use — the phone card. The \$5 card has 20 minutes of phone time and the \$10 card has 40 minutes of phone time. And it fits everyone!

Luckily for students, the Smithhaven Mall is also a short drive or bus ride away. Although, one usually thinks of the mall for large ticket items, there's plenty of low cost items to be had as well.

For the outdoors enthusiast in your life, take a trip to Eastern Mountain Sports, near the Food Court in the mall. One smart gift idea from this store is the plastic water bottle filled with Lindor chocolates. The bottle itself is medium sized and has a convenient pull-out stopper for drinking. It runs \$6.50. There's also Foot Rubz, a prickly rubber ball that you roll your foot over after those long hikes for a good massage. It goes for only \$5. For the more hard-core hiker, there's a liquid-filled compass complete with a tiny ruler attached for only \$8.50. The compass conveniently attaches to a zipper pull or other loop with a ring. There is also a collection of small books for hikers such as the *Bird Finder*, *Tree Finder* and others that are only \$3 apiece.

The Warner Bros. store is also a good place to find low cost items for the people on your gift list. One especially nice thing available at this store is a metal purse mirror designed like a compact. The outside features the amorous Pepe LePeu, front and back, and sells for \$10. Another tasteful gift is the silver tone eye glasses case that features images of Bugs Bunny and other characters and sporting the Acme Brand that is so famous from the cartoons. This item is also sold for \$10. Some smaller items at Warner Bros. are pewter and brass tack pins featuring different Warner Bros. characters (\$3.50 each) and a set of big paper clips topped with buttons featuring the characters (\$3 per set.)

Spencer's is also a fun place to shop for that little something. Personalized shot glasses (that say, for example, Brian's Bar) are available for \$3.99. There's also some unusual page-a-day calendars. They have Star Trek, Dead Celebs, and Magic the Gathering for \$9.99.

Check out Northern Lights Candles, near Sears, for Day Glow happy-face, peace sign, and alien candles for only \$7.95 each. Natural wonders also has some inventive and fun items under \$10 like the miniature snow globe with iridescent snow around a winged gargoyle (\$10). □

MIND HEAVY MUSTARD SPEAKS

By MARC WEISBAUM
Statesman Staff

What do you get when you mix French's mustard with a dash of Sick Of It All?

The California quartet **Mind Heavy Mustard**.

Despite earlier outings into the musical spectrum, the band has come a long way from the underground hardcore scene. One listen to their release *Chemicals, Cigarettes & L.A. Women* and that is immediately clear.

"We did it for a very tight budget in two weeks," notes vocalist/guitarist Jason DeCosta. "We decided 'Let's just bring out all the songs.' Punk, classic, alternative.

"In Europe, they really like it. We just wanted to get out physical sound on tape. I mean, live, the lighter parts even come

out very hard. As far as the change in sound goes, you know that Noise [Records] would rather have us all tuned down and heavy," jokes DeCosta. Any band with a song entitled "Nicole Eggert" obviously has a stronger sense of humor than most hardcore bands and this band's style is somewhat reminiscent of *Lucy's Fur Coat*.

As for the slow ascension toward the top of the musical heap, DeCosta says, "It's totally frustrating. If we had the pull of Interscope or Geffen, it would probably be much different. At the same time, we have to prove ourselves. People get distracted by the artificial hype. As quick as they pick it up, they put it down. We're more concerned with longevity."

See **MUSTARD**, Page 6



Mind Heavy Mustard

Photo / Noise Records