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VOLUME XLII, NUMBER 58

Monday, July 26, 1999

PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

The Alternative Classroom

JULIE MINGIONE Statesman Editor

he State University of New York will double on-line classes through its program the SUNY Learning Network, offering 1,000 courses from 40 colleges and universities in New York this academic year.

This growth in courses offered, ranging from Astronomy to Web Design, have university officials expecting a rapid increase in enrollment.

The program, which started out with 119 students and eight courses in 1995-96, now has 5,000 students and more are expected in the coming school year.

"By reaching out to an increasingly diverse student population on-line, the University has made important strides toward expanding our commitment to an accessible

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SUNY Doubles On-line Classes

Page 3

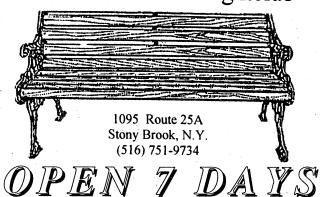
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Striking a Deal

SUNY Union Settles Contract With Pataki

The union representing faculty and professional staff on State University of New York campuses has reached a deal with the Pataki administration on a tentative fouryear contract, officials said.

The agreement calls for 3 percent salary increases across the board for each year of the contract, as well as a payment of \$500 to each United University Professions member "as soon as practicable" following approval by rank-andfilers of the pact. The deal would also have to be ratified by the state Legislature.

Leaders of the 23,000-member union say they will put the tentative contract up for a vote in September.

The state's negotiations with its unions, most of whom have been working without a contract since April 1, have been closely watched. No union has made a deal with the Pataki administration since the tentative pact it reached with leaders of the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) was rejected by union members.

That CSEA contract provided for a total 11 percent pay increase over four years but no cash payment after ratification, a provision of the United University Professions pact that seems designed to win its approval in a vote among rank-andfilers.

The two largest unions - CSEA and the Public Employees Federation - have been locked in bitter negotiations with the administration since the CSEA pact was voted down. Leaders of both

unions contend that Gov. George Pataki's negotiators went back to the table and offered four years of "zeroes," meaning no raises whatsoever, to the two unions. Pataki has denied that accusation.

Both unions have staged numerous protests and rallies against the Pataki administration in recent months.

Pataki said the pact with United University Professions demonstrates "we are ready and willing to negotiate in good faith with our public employees."

The president of the educators' union, William Scheuerman, said the contract would also provide valuable gains for the part-timers who make up 40 percent of the union's membership. Currently, those members typically lose health insurance coverage for 40 days at the start of each academic year and during summers.

The contract would provide for 26 weeks' worth of health coverage for each semester a part-timer works, Scheuerman said. There is also a provision allowing members to trade in three sick days a year for a \$300 credit they can apply to health care premiums.

"It's a good contract," Scheuerman said.

But one of the people responsible for the defeat of the CSEA tentative contract said the United University Professions deal sounds almost no different from the one that the CSEA reached. Dennis Quirk of Manhattan is head of the State Court Officers union. He



Governor Pataki

organized his members and those in other state employees unions to urge CSEA rank-and-filers to reject their contract in March.

Quirk's justification in fighting the CSEA pact was that the first one the state negotiates with one of the big unions sets the tone and parameters for all the others to

He said he would regard the the CSEA's deal.

United University Professions contract in the same light.

"We would be opposed to that deal," Quirk said. "Bonuses are not pensionable... Most state employees are not fooled by bonus money. They know it is one-shot money."

Scheuerman countered that the contract his negotiators reached is "very different," and far superior, to

SUNY On-line Classes Double

Continued from page 1

afford, high quality education for all New Yorkers," said SUNY Chancellor John W. Ryan.

The hike in popularity of the SLN is due primarily to factors of convenience, says one SLN student. "I always get front row parking. I never have a bad hair day." The prospect of being able to roll out of bed, anywhere in the world at any time day or night and "attend" class through a computer is likely to be a big draw for older students, parents, and working people, as well as for the average pupil.

The SLN is an asynchronous network, which allows the student the freedom to sign on to their courses at any time, from anywhere, and do coursework at their own pace, which accounts for the students in Thailand, Singapore, Germany and other countries participating in the program.

"Many of the students taking courses through the SLN would not otherwise be able to do so because of work and home schedules or their

One Thousand Classes to be Offered This Year

listance from one of our campuses," Ryan said.

To accommodate the expected increase in students participating in the network, university officials are currently trying to coerce more faculty members to take part in the on-line courses. Instructors like Patricia Baker, who established and directs the Electric Extension Program, targeted for graduate students at Stony Brook, actually prefer teaching through the Internet, but most are still wary of the technology and not volunteering to participate in the program. Last year, only two instructors at Stony Brook participated in the program.

David Jaffe, a professor at SUNY New Paltz,

sees the increase in demand for the SLN as a method of "closing the gap between the isolated independent student and the other human participants-namely instructors and students-who can enhance the learning process."

As in a regular classroom setting, students in SLN will be expected to read course materials, write SLN will be expected to read course materials, write papers, conduct research and communicate with classmates and instructors, although through chat & rooms or e-mail

As for tuition, the SLN will remain at the standard SUNY charge, as set forth by the Board of Trustees and students will be eligible for financial

The finances for the program can be attributed to sources such as the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, a philanthropic organization run out of New York City. The organization has supported the SLN from its conception with three monetary awards, and has just allocated another \$1.3 million to the network. In all, the Sloan Foundation has granted the SUNY Learning Network \$4.1 million since 1995.

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Editorials represent the majority opinion of the Editorial board and are written by one of its members.

The Stony Brook Statesman welcomes letters, opinions and information about events and issues on or around campus. Write to:

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



Editorials

Under Construction

Wrong Areas at SBU Receive a Facelift

While construction workers sweat in 100 degree heat at various locations throughout campus, the debate over the validity of their presence burns even hotter. Last semester ended with protests from students and faculty alike who were baffled and angered by President Kenny's move to build fountains while academic departments fall apart and certain buildings are in desperate need of repair. Some gripes didn't even get that complex. Many were disgusted that Kenny could be so discourteous as to exchange banners and flowers for orange cones and yellow caution tape to decorate the campus just in time for graduation. Others were just plain annoyed at the inconvenience that came with being barricaded by fences from the main avenue of pedestrian traffic, the Academic Mall.

At first glance, it doesn't seem to make sense why she would take actions that seem bound to annoy and confuse all of us here at Stony Brook. But Kenny didn't get to be president because of her looks. Upon further thought, it all makes perfect sense and one realizes that she is really quite clever.

As many of you know, the activity does not stop at Stony Brook with the academic throughout the summer and all sorts of other activities thrive. Some of these events include the weekly Farmer's Market and the annual Staller Center film festival. These events alone are sure to draw people other than Stony Brook students, faculty and staff, people that live and work in the surrounding communities. This summer is especially significant in that Stony Brook is one of two Long Island locations that is hosting the Empire State games. These mini Olympics are sure to draw people not just from nearby communities but from outlying regions around the state. The hope is that people will look at the construction, which is visible from practically any angle, and remark that Stony Brook must be prospering and well on its way to earning the title of "Berkeley of the East." Everything looks good over here if it appears that we can't find a better use for money than building mere decorations. With streams and fountains, she is literally creating an oasis that could quite possibly encourage people to send their children here. You have to give her some credit for creativity in the quest for increased enrollment.

But a comment made by a visitor from off campus, this dream apparently hinges on where people park. A woman came to Stony Brook last week to check out the

semester. Classes continue Farmer's Market. She parked behind the Union and as she walked towards the back entrance on her way to the SAC, she remarked that the building was a mess. She questioned why there was garbage and last fall's leaves littering the corners and she wondered why there was dirt where grass should have been. She hadn't even noticed that strange constant drip from under the

> This is further proof of what Stony Brook's inhabitants already knew. So many places on campus could use a face lift and the Academic Mall is the least in need of sprucing up. Maybe what we need is a few "outsiders" to tell the administration that she isn't impressing anyone. As the woman proceeded to the market she may have purchased some tasty fruits and vegetables but she undoubtedly left our campus with a bad taste in her mouth.

Correction

In the July 7, 1999 issue of the Statesman, the editorial "Wanted: A Provost," said that Rollin Richmond will have been the provost at four different schools come September. However, Iowa State University will mark Richmond's second provostship and he has held positions of dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of South Florida and chair of the biology department at Indiana University.

Subsidizing Laziness?

To the Editor:

I am writing in regards to the baleful rent increase planned for July in the Schomburg Apartments. I chose to live on the Stony Brook campus because of its safety, convenience, and most importantly its economy. I felt pride in boasting accommodations here at Stony Brook because the university works hard in providing a studious environment at an affordable price. Now, however, I have very little to brag about.

Stony Brook students carry a reputation of hard working, bare-knuckle academics striving for a high-quality, low-cost education in the midst of the growing collegiate trend of crumbling scholastic

requirements and the everburgeoning cost of tuition. This image has been blemished by the attempt to raise rent \$30 a month in order to subsidize cable television access. I object to this increase for two reasons:

 Cable television is a luxury not all students can afford or even the schedule, part-time employment, and cable television are forcing the more dedicated students, who have no time for television, to pay for the less arduous study practices of others.

•The option of accepting a rent increase in exchange for cable television was not presented to prospective tenants and students. I moved into Schomburg only recently

and did so under the assumption that rent was fixed at \$790 a month. However, upon my arrival I was told that the rent has increased. This misrepresentation of fees is both unlawful and unbecoming of a creditable university.

My opinion of Stony Brook and system, SUNY wish to have. The few tenants who commendable, has now faltered and are able to balance a full class continues to digress. Please do not let this injustice pass, it makes a mockery of the university, its graduate and medical programs, and its commitment to the student body. More importantly, it hurts those students pining for the future once afforded by Stony Brook University.

> Sincer ely, Charles M. Lane

SBU Hosts Empire State Games

By CLIFFORD MARK Statesman Editor

Stony Brook University along with many other sports arenas on Long Island spent five days hosting the Empire State Games, the first time the Games have been hosted in New York State.

The games, which ended yesterday, were officially kicked off with the opening ceremonies at Hofstra University but the excitement quickly spread throughout Long Island. Other hosts included Nassau Community College, St. Joseph's College, Dowling College and Sports Plus.

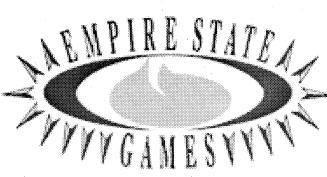
Over 6,000 amateur athletes competed last week in 28 sports. The competitions ranged from individual sports like archery to team sports like volleyball and lacrosse.

With over 20,000 spectators expected and an economic boost for Long Island of as much as \$10 million, being selected to host the ESG but as a way to revitalize areas. Next year, the ESG will be held at Binghamton University.

An added plus for Stony Brook University, is that high school athletes and their families get a visit to a potential college.

The games are not just for the young. Groups range from scholastic (12-17), open (18-29) to masters (30-75).

For team competition, New York State is split into six regions. Long Island has its own section



along with New York City, Western, Hudson, Adirondack, and Central.

This year over 40 records were broken and Long Island was a major contributor. The Island led the other five regions in the overall medal count

One of the most outstanding games in the tournament came from the scholastic men's soccer team. The game was between Long Island and Central New York. It was a rematch for last year's championship game, with the same faces and same results.

Long Island won 3-0 two years in a row with the help of the outstanding player of the series, Nat Francis. Francis scored five goals in Long Island's four wins. In the first two games Francis, from Port Washington, scored the winning goals in dramatic fashion with sideway bicycle kicks. In their gold medal performance, Francis had one of the three goals. During the winning celebration, Francis, surrounded by players, coaches and family, said, "I love the competition."

He also mentioned that he enjoyed the Empire State Games also for the fun of being with friends and meeting new people.

The ESG began in 1978 at Syracuse University to provide amateur athletes with an annual competitive outlet for their talents and a stepping stone for higher competition like the Olympics.

Former Governor Hugh Carey started the ESG. "My most pleasant memories of governor were starting the Empire State Games... which has become the biggest sports festival in the nation," he said.

Medal Count for '99 ESG

REGION	GOLD	SILVER	BRNZ	TOTAL
Adirondack	36	40	40	116
Hudson	49	46	30	125
Long Island	101	83	85	269
New York City	50	57	61	168
Central	51	44	45	140
Western	56	72	77	205

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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, July 26, 1999

Cartoon Controversy

"South Park" Movie Criticized for Vulgarity

By KAT FULGIERI

"South Park: Bigger, Longer, and Uncut" was released in theaters last week to the tune of angry moralists crying "Satan!", "Evil!", and "Antieverything!" Though Newsday and the New York Times both gave the movie decidedly positive reviews, the anti-movie propaganda is rampant, especially on the Internet, and between mothers of young children.

The Child Care Action Project (CAP), a endeavor to aid in advising parents of dangerous influences, has been quoted as calling the movie "extraordinarily vulgar, vile, and repugnant." The CAP review also broke down each and every action, suggestion, or word in the film that could be construed as inappropriate and presented a figure to the American public of almost 350 negative influences per hour in the film. These negative influences include "Wanton crime, violence, impudence, hate, sex, drug abuse, murder, suicide, and offense to God."

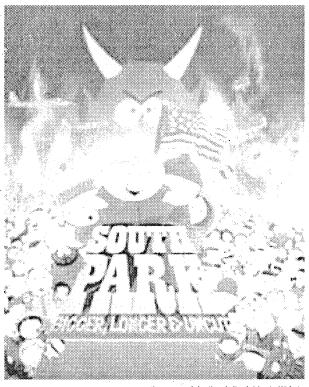
A further review by Dr. Ted Baehr, chairman of the Christian Film and Television Commission details each and every action in the film, continually restating that impressionable children will see the film and learn to be bad. Baehr stated, "Morality and God are completely vilified and dismissed in 'South Park'. Evil is extolled. The movie takes literally Marxist Professor Herbert Marcuse's statement that language is a weapon of the revolution, and the goal of the revolution is to tear down any semblance of morality, i.e., Christianity and the Bible." A similarly religious review predicted that any moral being would walk out before the movie

was complete.

Trey Parker, co-creator of the "South Park" series and director of the film, has little to say in response to the accusations being thrown at him, save for the phrase "Get over it." In a recent interview, Parker maintained that the movie was given an "R" rating by the ratings board for a reason. When asked to respond to the wave of protesters that are calling him and his co-creator, Matt Stone, satanists, Parker responded, "We'll do now what we did then; ignore it, and do our work."

At a press screening of the film on June 29, at Loews Cinema Seven in the Village, the laughter was frequent, and no one walked out on the movie. Crowd approval ran high, as was obvious from the raucous laughter, cheering, and clapping. Stone maintains that "Some people [will be] offended. But I don't think the 70 percent or 80 percent who love it would love it as much if the 20 percent weren't pissed off."

Ironically, the plot is based on a controversial Canadian film released in South Park that is lambasted for its vulgarity. The children of South Park start cursing, the mothers get mad, and eventually war is declared on Canada. The rest of the plot centers on Satan's affair with a recently deceased Saddam Hussein, and Satan's plan to take over the earth as soon as Canadian blood spills on American soil. Key points in the film are punctuated with songs by the citizens of South Park, including "Mountain Town," a decidedly "Beauty and the Beast" satire of Disney, and the old South Park favorite "Kyle's Mom is a Big Fat B——". The latter song is released on the soundtrack CD with



Courtesy of the South Park Movie Website

a special appearance by rock star Kid Rock.

The controversy alone has been enough to make some individuals curious about the film, and the eventual gross will no doubt be pushed up by those seeking to understand this new "evil" who are going to see "South Park" with the intent of being able to condemn it to others.

Farmer's Market Opens at SBU

By Erin Rosenking Statesman Editor

Although construction continues in different locations throughout the Stony Brook campus, various events and activities are thriving. One of these is the weekly Farmer's Market, held every Wednesday outside the SAC building.

Last Wednesday's market comprised of six tents housing area farmers peddling their wares under a hot and sticky sun. True to its title, the market sold items grown from or prepared with ingredients from local farms such as juicy peaches, fragrant and colorful flowers and bushy heads of lettuce. One booth sold gourmet baked goods ranging from large and small cherry pies, jumbo muffins and freshly baked breads.

One appeal of the Farmer's Market was its selection of organic produce, a commodity not so readily available at local supermarkets. Farmer Brian Burkhardt was selling such goods which he grows himself on his 18 acre certified organic farm in Southold. Offering

robust produce and beautiful flowers, Burkhardt explained that Laughing Waters Farm produced the fruits and vegetables while Haystack Farm grew the flowers.

But Burkhardt does not strictly stay with the edible. He also hand makes his very own soap which comes in selections such as rosemary, cocoa butter, oatmeal and an herbal multi pack.

While the market did not exactly draw a huge crowd, most of those in attendance could be seen with a purchase. "I was sort of expecting something else," said one woman who complained that the market was "too small." However, she noted that the prices were more than reasonable as she showed off the big box of nectarines she bought for only \$2.

While it may have been limited in size, the market did offer good prices. Huge cucumbers were three for \$1.19, jumbo muffins were only \$1 and huge homemade pies were \$10. Check out the market and compare prices for yourself every Wednesday from 2:30 until 5:30 throughout the summer.

The *Statesman* would like to wish graphic artist Jennifer Finn a happy 23rd birthday.

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Mingling With the Stars

Directors and Actors Attend SB Film Fest

BY JENNIFER KESTER Statesman Editor

Actress Bai Ling and director Sollace Mitchell turned out last Wednesday to promote their movie "Row Your Boat," the film that kicked off this year's Stony Brook Film Festival.

The movie, which made its East Coast premiere at the Staller Center, features Ling (from "Red Corner" and "Wild Wild West") and rocker Jon Bon Jovi (from Moonlight and Valentino).

Bon Jovi stars in the film as Jamey, an ex-con trying to make good. But with crime tempting an easy out, he hits roadblocks to getting his life on track. Along the way he meets Chun Hua, a beautiful Chinese woman with a child and a The two bond and subsequently fall in love.

The drama, which drew in 750 moviegoers, provided plenty of laughs for the audience, as in the scenes where Jamey teaches Chun Hua how to speak English. The movie, though, audience members agreed, is mostly a love story.

Mitchell said that despite the fame of Bon Jovi and the increasing Hollywood presence of Ling, the two were easy and

agreeable to work with.

"Bon Jovi was a real great guy to have on the set," Mitchell said, "he has no big demeanor and likes to just hang out."

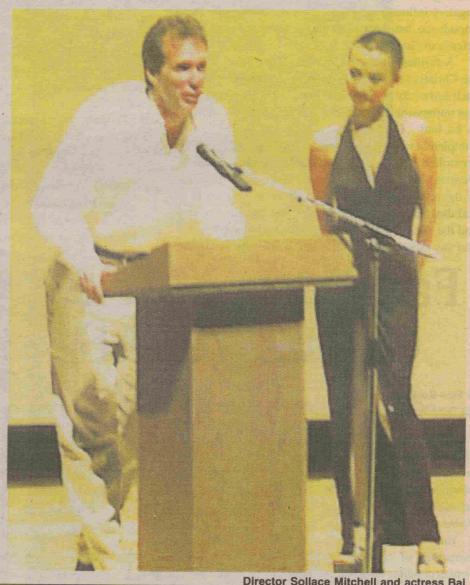
Ling had a sweet innocence in the movie, he added, and was a great addition

Ling said that she took the role because of her own travails as a immigrant to America. "I admire her courage and identify with her sadness and loneliness," Ling said of her character. Ling only came to America five years ago as a visiting scholar to New York University Film School and did not speak English. "She talked differently, had no money and no friends. I went through the same stages."

But Ling showed that she has done a lot since then. She showed off her shaved head, cut for her upcoming movie called "Anna and the King," where she plays opposite from Jodie Foster.

Mitchell said that he hopes "Row Your Boat" is able to get picked up by a distributor that would open the film in six to eight urban cities. Mitchell, who also wrote the 1989 thriller "Call Me," said he had problems getting the financing for the \$1.5 million film. But a live theater reading of the script drummed up interest. And after two failed attempts, the movie

Despite the problems, Mitchell still



Director Sollace Mitchell and actress Bai Ling introduced the movie before sitting down and watching it with the crowd.

Film Festival Highlights

Monday, July 26

7:00 pm - "EDTV" Directed by Ron Howard and starring Matthew The Faces of Tyree Guyton." McConaughey. Preceded by the short "Stubble Trouble."

9:40 pm - "Dr. Akagi" Directed by shohei Imamura. A foreign film with subtitles that takes place during WWII. Preceded by the short "Click."

Tuesday, July 27

7:00 pm - "Tango" Directed by Carlos Saura. Academy Award Nominee for best foreign film.

Recommended for dance lovers. Preceded by the short "Come Unto Me:

9:40 pm - "The Wall" Directed by Alain Berliner. Part of the "2000 Seen by" series, taking place in Belgium. In French with subtitles.

Wednesday, July 28

7:00 pm - "Central Station" -Directed by Walter Salles Jr. Fernanda Montenegro. Academy Award nominee for best foreign film and best actress nomination for Montenegro.

Portugese with subtitles. Preceded by the short "The Cowboy and the

9:35 pm - "A Walk on the Moon" Directed by Tony Goldwyn. Starring Diane Lane, Liev Schreiber and Viggo Mortensen. Preceded by the short "Flying With Angels."

Thursday, July 29 (also on Aug 1 at 5:00 pm)

7:00 pm - "Life is Beautiful" -Directed by Roberto Benigni. Winner of two Academy Awards.

thinks it was worth it. "There is nothing more gratifying as a director when you hear people laughing when they are supposed to and gasping when they are supposed to," he said.

After the movie cast, crew, and movie attendees were invited to a reception at Planet Dublin, a nightclub on Nesconset Highway in Stony Brook. There Mitchell, along with other film fest directors mingled with movie-goers. Ling signed autographs and posed for pictures between dance numbers.

Alan Inkles, director of the Staller Center, said that opening night for the Festival went well. "It was a great night," he said.

The following issue should have been numbered "59"