Trustees Pass New Core Curriculum page 2 On the Way Out: SUNY Chancellor Quits page 5



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Statesman

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Absentee Voting

Few Students
Vote in County
Legislature
Contest After
Election is Placed
Prior to Start of
Classes

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The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, January 21, 1999

A New Core

New SUNY Curriculum to be Implemented

By JENNIFER KESTER Statesman Editor

After a resolution passed last month by the State University of New York Board of Trustees, all SUNY students must take 30 credit hours of classes that will fall under a new core curriculum of 10 categories.

The new core curriculum, which will take effect with entering freshman in 2000, is aimed to provide a basic core of knowledge for undergraduates that will allow them to be a well rounded student and person. According to SUNY trustee Candace de Russy, the core curriculum was designed for this sole purpose. "It will serve the students very greatly. First of all in their personal lives, secondly to help them participate more fully in specific likes, and third to give them greater flexibility in the workplace and help them to prosper in the workplace," she said.

The program was designed also to enhance knowledge in other areas. "Outside your specialty or major you need to have some familiarity with subjects you are going to encounter in life. To have a true university experience you have to guide students towards these subjects," Jon Sorensen, from the Office of University Relations said.

The Board of Trustees decided to implement the plan because they believed that although many schools have similar course requirements, some were too easy and standards have been allowed to deteriorate over time.

The new standard, which has been in the works since 1995, would set forth rigorous categories for all students. These required categories include mathematics, natural science, social science, American history, western

civilization, other world civilizations, humanities and the arts, foreign languages, basic communications, reasoning and information management. Under the plan, students will be able to distribute credits from a single three-credit class among one or more of the categories.

The plan set forth by the trustees is very broad and allows each individual campus to have their own faculty develop the classes within the categories in accordance to the curriculum.

"The general reaction among the faculty is that the trustees passed their curriculum and now they can teach it." - Robert Kerber

Although the faculty is supposed to be full participants in all stages of the plan, many professors are unhappy with the new curriculum. Faculty at SUNY campuses remain suspicious about what they see as micromanaging by the Board of Trustees.

Robert Kerber, the president of the Stony Brook University Senate and a SBU professor, said, "The core curriculum is incomprehensible, no one can tell what it means. For example one of the requirements is other world cultures. I assume that means Klingon," he said. "The general reaction among the faculty is that the trustees passed their curriculum and now they can teach it."

Kerber remains angry about the timing of the Trustee's passage of the new plan. "The trustees passed it when the faculty couldn't respondduring finals time and near break," he said.

Sorensen scoffed at attempts to paint the new curriculum standards as anti-faculty. He pointed out that the plan had the approval of the Faculty Senate, an organization comprised of faculty within the SUNY system, who he said had helped in the plan's development.

Not so, says William Scheuerman, president of United University Professions, an organization that represents 22,000 teachers and nonprofessional staff members on SUNY campuses. In interviews with media all over the state, he reiterated what he said was the anger of SUNY professors. His members, he said, would lodge protests at the SUNY headquarters in Albany over the plan.

Some professors on campus are expressing their concern on how they are going to handle the new requirements. According to Rollin Richmond, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, the history department is such an example. The department may not have enough staff to accommodate the new requirements and does not have enough money available to hire new professors. Since SBU gets most of its funding through the state, the Legislature might have to be approached for financial help, Richmond said.

Other than these concerns, Richmond was not unsympathetic to the Trustees reasons for instituting the core curriculum.

"I share some concerns of the faculty but the trustees are responding to the people who indirectly put them where they are," Richmond said.

Since the curriculum is also still in the planning stages it is uncertain how the curriculum will fair at SBU. According to Richmond, the current Diversified Education Curriculum seems to fill the curriculum requirements. "But since the plan is still being put together, we cannot interpret what it means," he said.



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Campus Battleground

Democrats Accuse County Legislature of Moving Election Date to Keep Students From Voting

By MICHAEL KWAN Statesman Editor

If Democratic Party accusations are correct, then this is the first time that Stony Brook students will read about an election held Tuesday, no coincidence Democrats say, just prior to the beginning of the Spring Semester.

The election was held to fill the fifth district's vacant seat on the Suffolk County Legislature. The seat was opened up last November when Democrat Nora Bredes, resigned her position and moved to Rochester to join her family that had been living there for much of the past year. The seat is important to both parties. The Republicans would gain a 2/3 majority of the legislature, and would be able to override any County Executive vetoes.

According to Suffolk County law, there must be an election to fill a vacancy on the legislature within ninety days of its becoming open. The legislature then sets a date for the election based on the date the seat opened. This lead to the January scheduling of the election.

Its timing has caused many Democrats to feel that the Republican party was making an attempt to "steal" the traditionally Democratic seat. According to



Democratic candidate Vivian Fisher, they attempted to do this by making the election the day students return from their break, leaving them unaware of and uninformed about the election itself.

"Every one knows that the day that they come back on campus, voting won't be the first thing on their minds," said Fisher.

"They [the Republicans] specifically chose the 19th to disenfranchise the students and the 'progressive' liberal minded faculty and staff vote," said Steve Fiore Rosenfeld, state Assemblyman Steve Englebright's chief of staff. According to Rosenfeld, the legislature could have chosen the Tuesday before or after the opening of school, however they chose the day that

students would be returning to campus. This compounds the routinely low turnout for special elections, especially since a large voting block resides on campus, which would be coming back to life during the election.

Assemblyman Englebright has repeated in recent interviews his belief that the date was chosen out of a "Republican attempt to steal the

The Republican candidate, Barbara Ransome, scoffed at the Assemblyman's accusation. "If Englebright has a problem with [the date], he should address the County Legislature." Seven Democrats on the legislature, she noted, voted for the date.

The election was not without other controversy though, with both candidates saying that they were endorsed by the Independence party at one point. Different factions of the party did endorse both candidates early on, but a State Supreme Court decision made by Justice Gerard D'Emillo last week, ruled that an election within the party that named Frank McKay the head of the county's party, was legal. This removed the party's support from Ransome, who was already running under the Conservative Party, and shifted it to Fisher, who, in addition to the Democrats, ran under the party. However, this was after Ransome had sent campaign literature to voters saying that she was endorsed by the Independents.

Unofficial returns showed that just over sixty students showed up to vote.

Fisher has been irate about the whole affair, and said, "they will claim victory where victory doesn't exist. It's part and parcel of the kind of disingenuousness of the way Republicans handle



Poll watchers at Stony Brook's polling site had little to do as few students showed up to vote on Tuesday, one day prior to the start of classes.

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The above policy is still in effect for Spring '99.

We would like to thank all of you for your help last semester with the pricing Issue and encourage your participation in the future.



SUNY Chancellor To Resign

President Kenny Named to Search Committee to Replace Ryan

By Peter Gratton Statesman Editor

John Ryan asked last week that the State University of New York Board of Trustees begin a search to replace him as chancellor of the 64campus system, saying at age 69 it was time to step aside. Stony Brook University President Shirley Strum Kenny has been named to the search committee to find his replacement, the only non SUNY trustee named to the committee.

The timing of Ryan's announcement allows the SUNY board time to conduct a thorough search.

Ryan said he would stay on until a new chancellor was located, likely by January 2000, but would begin to wind down his activities once a search process was is in full swing.

"I make this request of the board listening to my head, not my heart," Ryan wrote in a letter to campus presidents and SUNY officials. "I am certain that it is in the best interest of the university."

Ryan, a soft-spoken academic, was pulled out of retirement to head up the struggling State University of New York. He arrived at the SUNY system as interim chancellor in 1996. Nine months later, he was named permanent chancellor by SUNY's board of trustees after a search committee failed to find anyone they liked better.

He touted SUNY's new momentum and sense of direction and noted that full-time freshmen enrollment had increased. Ryan is credited with restoring at least some of SUNY's luster, but was also on hand for plenty of controversy.

Under Ryan's tenure, SUNY weathered a firestorm over a women's studies conference on sex at the New Paltz campus in 1997 that featured lectures on sex toys, sadomasochism, and lesbianism. Conservatives, led by trustee Candace de Russy, called for the resignation of SUNY-New Paltz President Roger Bowen. After a review, Ryan scolded Bowen for exercising bad judgement but said he should stay on as campus

Ryan has himself been a board member at Indiana University's Kinsey Institute for Sex, Gender and Reproduction since 1994 and was chairman of the board from 1995 until early 1998.

Ryan was given a 45 percent pay raise in November 1997, boosting his annual salary as SUNY chancellor to \$250,000.



The search for a replacement for Ryan is expected to last until the end of this year.

Under Ryan's tenure, SUNY adopted a controversial new funding system that rewards individual campuses for enrollment growth. Critics say the plan will hurt some SUNY campuses and might force others to close their doors due to decreasing state support.

Just last month, trustees adopted a plan to require all SUNY students to take 30 credit hours of core curriculum classes in 10 subjects like mathematics and a foreign language. It is the first time that SUNY has imposed a course mandate on the campuses.

SUNY averted a \$400 tuition hike in 1997 that was proposed by Gov. George Pataki, who has appointed the majority of the members on the 16member SUNY board. Ryan drew fire from students and some advocates when he called the proposed tuition hike "affordable" at a legislative

SUNY's tuition, now \$3,400 a year for New York residents, has not increased while Ryan was

Ryan, who holds honorary degrees from 13 colleges and is well known in academic circles nationwide, lent a certain prestige to the SUNY system. He was president of Indiana University for 16 years and was also interim president at the University of Maryland at Baltimore and at Florida Atlantic University.

Pataki on Wednesday praised Ryan for enhancing academic rigor at SUNY while maintaining the system's commitment to accessible, quality higher education. William Scheuerman, president of the United University Professions, said Ryan had helped resolve the SUNY professors' union long-standing contract dispute with the state in 1997. But he said,

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overall, Ryan had been paralyzed by a board that liked to micromanage.

"He inherited a university that was destabilized and he's leaving a university that is destabilized," Scheuerman said.

SUNY plans to launch a nationwide search to name a replacement to Ryan. SUNY officials said late Wednesday that the search committee would be composed of SUNY Board of Trustees Chairman Thomas Egan; trustees Paul Perez, Pamela Jacobs and Randy Daniels; and SUNY Stony Brook President Shirley Strum Kenny.

Kenny said she was unaware why she was chosen, although she suggested it may have been because of Stony Brook's rise on the national stage with the University recent arrival as comanagers of Brookhaven National Laboratories.

"People can see that Stony Brook is on the move," she said.

Kenny said her role was important, and that she would be representing more than Stony Brook as a member of the search committee. "It's important that there be a presidential voice, the direct input is important," Kenny said.

Possible replacements for Ryan include SUNY Provost Peter Salins, an urban planning scholar and a fellow at the conservative Manhattan Institute, as well as John O'Connor, vice chancellor and secretary of the SUNY board and a former top administrator at New York

The Associated Press contributed to this story.



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

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Vying for the Seat

Partisan Elections Exclude College Voters

It's the day before classes start. You have just moved into your dorm room with thoughts of Mom and Dad waving a tearful good-bye as you embark on a new semester. There are so many things to do: your tuition bill is due tomorrow. You have to buy your textbooks. You want to change your schedule around. You have to put the sheets on your bed. You realize you forgot your toothbrush and your pillow. You meet your roommate and they have taken the bed by the window without any discussion. You are off to a hectic start. The last thing on your mind is the election taking place your today and responsibility to vote.

For once, the legislature appears to be in tune with the mind set and necessities of the typical college student. This should give us celebratecause to lawmakers being in sync with students and faculty is such a rare event. But not surprisingly, it is working to our advantage. The legislature is not stupid—they know full well that check-in day on a college campus is nothing

short of chaotic. And the Republicans may be using this knowledge to "steal the seat," according to Assemblyman Steve Englebright.

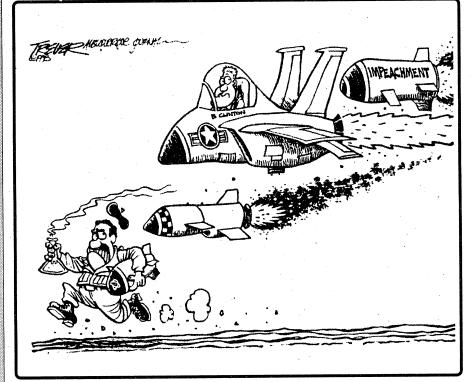
Due to the resignation of Nora Bredes, who has left Long Island and moved upstate, the 5th District Seat on the Suffolk County Legislature is up for

Is having the elections on the day school opens merely a coincidence?

grabs. According to Suffolk County law, the seat needs to be filled within ninety days of it becoming vacant. It is certainly curious that with a three month window and the opportunity for the elections to be held either the Tuesday before or after the opening of school, the Tuesday of the opening is the date chosen. But is this really a devious plot thought up by those usually crafty Republicans?

No, says Republican candidate Barbara Ransome who is quick to point out that seven Democrats on the legislature voted for this date. But Englebright's chief of staff Fiore Rosenfeld contends that the 19th of January was deliberately chosen to "disenfranchise the progressive vote" which is mainly found among university students and staff.

So who is to blame for this rather inconvenient date? It would definitely be to the Republican advantage to have a date that in many ways restricts a largely democratic vote, especially in light of the strong student vote that turned out for last semester's election. But would we be going too far in stating that perhaps it is the voters themselves who are to blame? How many know that there is a polling place right here on campus? How many even know who is running and for what position and on what platform? Sadly, probably pretty few. It isn't too hard to leaf through a newspaper to keep yourself informed of what's happening during an intercession. You most likely have little else to do anyway. And if you had done that, you would have been able to take the ten or fifteen seconds to go pull a lever in the union on your way to the SAC for dinner. This just compounds the fact that we have stated time and again that it is up to the people, the students in this case, to keep themselves informed and to act accordingly.



If you would like to submit a letter to the editor or an opinion piece, e-mail Statesman at: statesmn@ic.sunysb.edu

What kind of courses would you like to see in a new "core cirriculum?"



More religion classes. There are a lot of aspects of a religion, not just a religion in general.

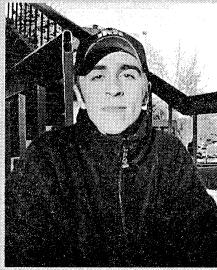




HARSHITA VARMA COMPUTER SCIENCE, FRESHMAN Everything I really wanted is already here They have really strong program.



More Asian Studies courses



A cultural survey class. There are so many cultures on campus it may make everyone more open to each other, instead of how it's so cliquish.

Not Changing the Guard

By Dan Curran Special to the Statesman

Over the holiday weekend, not only did a new year begin, but also a new day in law enforcement at the State University of New York campuses. Thanks to legislation sponsored by Senator Steven Saland (R, Poughkeepsie) and Assemblyman Ronald Canestrari (D, Cohoes) and signed into law by Governor George Pataki in the last legislative session, beginning January first, SUNY's peace officer became police officers. Those involved in the bill's passage say it was a long overdue step in helping make SUNY's campuses safe. The new law complete the final piece, for most campuses, in transition form what SUNY has called the Public Safety Model of campus law enforcement to the University Police Model.

Don Kreger, President of New York State University Police Local 1792 said, "on the outside besides the word police replacing public safety on patrol cars and uniforms, the general public and even officers won't notice much of a change in the way individual campus university police department's look and operate, but hopefully the criminals preying on our students will. That's because the changes are more technical and legal ones. The reason the law change was needed was to allow our officers to more effectively and efficiently perform their jobs. It's that simple."

Public Safety Becomes Police During Intersession

While the laws had been tweaked a number of times since 1972, when the Campus Security departments and officer titles were first created, it became readily apparent that officers weren't being given the tools they needed to do their jobs. The issue of firearms aside, officers found themselves doing the job of police in a campus setting but without the legal ability they needed. In addition, their jurisdiction was limited to the campus. Off campus, even when they were performing what would be considered routine duties, they lost their peace officer powers and reverted to private citizens. On a regular basis, SUNY peace officers found themselves confused and trying to figure out when and where they had the authority to do what they needed to make their students, faculty, and staff safe, find the criminals preying on their campuses, and get them to jail. It was the proverbial case of trying to fit the square peg to peace officer powers into the round hole of police duties.

What will the changes allow SUNY police officers to accomplish? First of all, they should finally end the ongoing confusion. SUNY police officers, off campus police, and prosecutors will know the role and power of SUNY's law enforcement officers. Second, the new law will allow on and off campus police work more cooperatively. Third, University Police will have jurisdiction at all SUNY state-operated campuses, not just the one they work at. Finally, they'll have the ability to follow up on incidents that occurred on campus, execute warrants and make arrests off campus. On campus, officers will have the ability to do things they couldn't legally do in the past, such as execute bench warrants, arrest persons on other agency's warrants, and even accept citizen arrests.

Both the decisions to appoint police officers and to allow them to carry firearms are in the hands of each campus president. While some campuses were initially reluctant to adopt the University Police Model, all make the change in the long run. Campuses have been less unanimous on the issue of arming officers, however. Of the twenty-seven SUNY operated campuses where University police are employed, only fifteen have authorization from the campus president to carry firearms. While several others are currently looking at the issue (the Freedonia president has already made an announcement that he plans to arm his officers), others have not made an announcement yet. At Oneonta and Cortland, presidents have indicated that they don't plan on arming their officers.

-Don Curran is a member of University Police Local

Black History Month Celebrations to Begin

SPECIAL EVENTS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29: OPEN AUDITIONS, STONY BROOK OPERA CHORUS. 7 p.m., Room 0112, Lower Level, Music Building, State University of New York at Stony Brook. Students, faculty, staff and the broader community are invited to audition for the Stony Brook Opera Chorus which will be performing two fully-staged performances of Mozart's classic, Cosi fan tutte in April. Be prepared with an opera aria or Italian song and bring extra copies of the music for the accompanist who will be provided. For more information, call Li-Fen Chen at 516-216-2229 or contact her by e-mail at lifchen@ic.sunysb.edu. For directions, call the music department at 516-632-7330.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1: JAZZ CONCERT: BIG BAND BLOWOUT. 8 p.m., Staller Center for the Arts, State University of New York at Stony Brook. The Staller Center will swing and sway in this debut concert of the new 10-member Bob Meyer Big Band, a group that grew out of the University's Jazz Ensemble. Composer/arranger Bob Meters, a nonmatriculated graduate music student, formed the group expressly to perform newer, jazz-oriented music. A number of well-known local musicians have been recruited for the group including tenor saxophonist Pat DeRosa, a featured player in the Harry James big band and lead trombonist Frank Vaccarro. Admission is free, but a donation at the door is requested to raise funds in support of the University's jazz program. For information, call 516-632-7330.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2: SERVICE AWARDS CEREMONY. 4 p.m., Lobby and

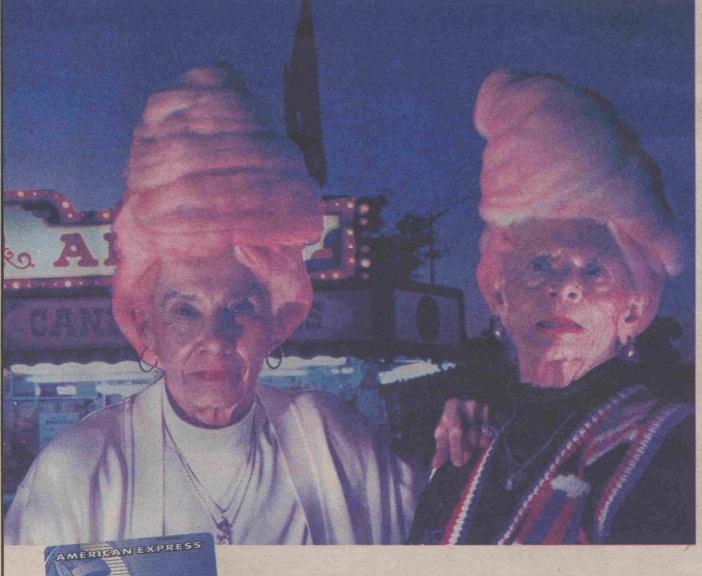


On January 31, Martha McGaughey and Carlene Stober, violas da gamba, will be joined by harpsichordist Arthur Haas to celebrate the music of the French Baroque. Featured will be music by François Couperin *Le Grand*.

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10: PRESIDENTIAL LECTURE SERIES ON

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY. 12:40 p.m., Student Activities Center Auditorium, State University of New York at Stony Brook. U.S. Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health, Dr. David Satcher, speaks on "Eliminating Racial Disparities in Health: It's Not a Zero-Sum Game," in this special lecture that is also part of Stony Brook's Black History Month celebration. Dr. Satcher, the 16th Surgeon General and the first African-American male to date to hold the post.



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The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, January 21, 1999

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WEDNESDAY, **FEBRUARY** 10: HUMANITIES INSTITUTE CULTURE AND GLOBALIZATION LECTURE SERIES: GLOBALIZATION AND THE IDEA OF RESEARCH. 4:30 p.m., Alliance Room, Frank Melville Jr. Memorial Library, State University of New York at Stony Brook. Distinguished scholar Dr. Arjun Appadurai, Samuel N. Harper Professor at the University of Chicago, offers insight on those features that make research, as a practice of inquiry, a special and unusual form specific to the modern west. Dr. Appadurai is professor of anthropology and direct of the University of Chicago's Globalization Project. His books include Worship and Conflict Under Colonial Rule: A South Indian Case and Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization. Free. For information call 516-632-9983.

SELECTED BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27: BLACK HISTORYMONTH OPENING CEREMONY. 12:40 p.m., Student Activities Center Auditorium. State University of New York at Stony Brook, in celebration of Black History Month and 30 years of Africana Studies at Stony Brook. Also featuring special remarks, renditions by the Stony Brook Gospel Choir, and much more. Free. Reception to follow in the Student Activities Center Lobby. For information, call 516-632-6460.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7: AFRICAN-AMERICAN READ-IN. 2 p.m., Poetry Center, Humanities Building, State University of New York at Stony Brook. Come and share your favorite poem or other reading! Original works are also welcome. For more information, contact Adrienne Locke, Humanities Institute at 632-9983 or send e-mail to alocke@notes.sunysb.edu.

WEDNESDAY, **FEBRUARY** PRESIDENTIAL LECTURE SERIES ON CELEBRATING DIVERSITY. 12:40 p.m., Student Activities Center Auditorium, State University of New York at Stony Brook. U.S. Surgeon General and Assistant Secretary for Health, Dr. David Satcher, speaks on "Eliminating Racial Disparities in Health: It's Not a Zero-Sum Game," in this special lecture that is also part of Stony Brook's Black History Month celebration. Dr. Satcher, the 16th Surgeon General and the first African-American male to date to hold the post. Served as Director of Health and Human Service's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ASTDR) from 1993 to 1997. During his tenure as the CDC director, Dr. Satcher distinguished himself as a leading health care advocate. Before joining the Clinton Administration, Dr. Satcher was president of Meharry Medical College from 1982 until 1993 when Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala appointed him Director of CDC. As Surgeon General, Dr. Satcher has goals of making a difference in several areas, including improved child care, better mental health services, promotion of healthy life-styles, elimination of racial and ethnic disparities in health, and prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. Free. For information, call 516-632-6265.

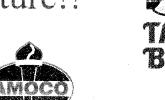
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12: 1999 BLACK EXPO. Noon to 6 p.m., Student Activities Center Lobby and Auditorium, State University of New York at Stony Brook: Designed to give students an opportunity to obtain information from positive African Americans in business, social services, education, politics, etc. Display tables will be set up for representatives from various organizations to meet Stony Brook students. Open to the campus community. For more information, contact the Black Expo Committee, c/o Student Polity, Suite 202 Student Activities Center, 632-6460

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15: TREATING WOMEN OF COLOR FOR BREAST CANCER: AWARENESS AND EARLY DETECTION. Noon, School of Social Welfare Faculty and Staff Lounge, Health Sciences Center, Level 2, State University of New York at Stony Brook. Men are encouraged and welcome to attend this program. Lunch will be served. For more information, contact Dr. Al Jordan, School of Medicine, 516-444-2341.



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(Domestic Tap & Well Drinks)

Thursday 9pm - 2am

\$2 Molson Bottles Shot Special

9pm-12am Ladies Night Ladies Drink Free

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Continued from Back Page

quite so fast. Norton editor Julia Reidhead acknowledges that Longman made a splash last semester. But just wait, she says, until Norton's seventh edition appears this summer.

"Right now it's comparing an apple to an orange," said Reidhead of Longman's anthology and Norton's current sixth edition, last updated in 1993.

"The next edition is going to give much greater attention to women writers overall," she said, listing off names like Aphra Behn, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Christina Rossetti, Frances Burney, Elizabeth Gaskell and Jean Rhys. The newest Norton will have the full text of Virginia Woolf's "A Room of One's Own," as well as material from places, not included in Longman's, once part of the British empire, such as India, the Caribbean and Africa.

Authors like J.M. Coetzee of South Africa and Nigerian writer Chinua Achebe make appearances, along with in-depth cultural perspectives of medieval Arthurian legends and offbeat 16th-century travel essays.

To top it off, Norton has another trick up its sleeve: a one-of-a-kind contributed to this story.

translation of the landmark eighthcentury poem "Beowulf" by Nobel Prize-winning Irish poet Seamus

"This will be an emblem of world culture," said Stephen Greenblatt, a professor of English at Harvard University and associate general editor of Norton's anthology.

Greenblatt says he has nothing against a little Monty Python mixed into the highbrow study of canonical authors. But he said Norton intends to weigh current trends with a deep sense of respect for literary ghosts of the past.

"My question is: What are you going to take out to put something in?" he asked. "It's like a museum with so much wonderful art - what gets chosen to go on the walls?"

He said Norton will not drop traditional poems Shakespearean sonnets that have been left out of Longman's books.

English professors, though, may never be fully satisfied with any of the choices of anthologies offered. "What each teacher would really like," Belanoff said," is their own anthology, so that they can choose what comes closest to matching what they want."

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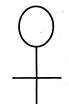
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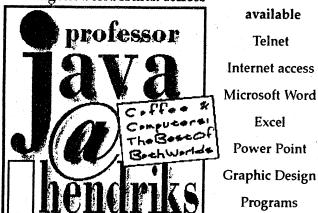
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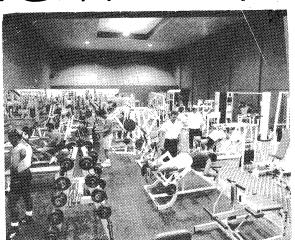
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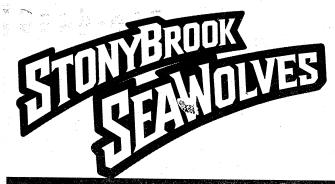
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A War That Could Get Bulky

British Lit Scholars Wage Battles over Dueling Anthologies

By PETER GRATTON Statesman Editor

There have been no jousts, no duels and, so far, no bloodshed in this battle for the hearts and minds of British Literature scholars.

Rather, it is a war of words, millions of them, filling 6,000 pages of the Norton Anthology of English Literature, the venerable text used in nearly all collegiate Brit Lit courses for the past 40 years.

But the emergence of rivals, including the Bedford Anthology and The Longman Anthology of British Literature, has knocked the genteel world of English literature scholarship on its ear.

Professors now have to take sides on the issue of a major study source in literature. This is not to say that professors are always happy with the source that they choose.

For this spring, the English Department's British Literature Courses are using texts from the Norton Anthology series. "The anthology used varies from teach to teach because [the anthologies] emphasize different things," said Pat Belanoff, director of undergraduate studies for Stony Brook's English Department. The anthologies used at Stony Brook, she said, changes from semester to semester because of the needs of different professors.

Among those needs may be the ability to keep students used to MTV graphics interested in classical works. The upstart Longman, for instance, bills itself as much more than a stuffy tome filled with great works.

Rather, Longman's poems, essays and stories are filled with sidenotes on political and cultural context. Its two thick volumes also are peppered with selections from obscure women writers and even laced with the occasional scathing review.

"There's an emerging consensus that literature is an outgrowth of a large culture," said David Damrosch, general editor of the anthology and an English professor at Columbia University. "We shouldn't have to choose



The Writing Program is currently using the Bedford Introduction as its anthology, which is now on the shelves at the University Bookstore.

between aesthetics and politics. It's possible to integrate them."

Rather than simply presenting Romantic poet William Wordsworth's ethereal "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud," Longman juxtaposes the poem with a withering review that appeared in The Edinburgh Review in 1814.

"This will never do ... The case of Mr. Wordsworth, we perceive is manifestly hopeless; and we give him up as altogether incurable and beyond the power of criticism," wrote one critic about Wordsworth's poem "The Excursion."

There is also a decidedly un-stodgy snippet from the comedy troupe Monty Python tucked alongside "Cruise," Evelyn Waugh's 1936 biting satire of British tourists.

"Literature should come across as exciting and compelling," said Damrosch. The inclusion of savage reviews and historical context makes literature and writers "more human and less like timeless monuments," he said.

But some scholars feel Longman's approach is too politically correct, sacrificing some fine literature for

a trendy cultural payoff. Reducing the amount of Tennyson and Spenser, critics say, is harmful to the field.

The tempest in a literary teapot came to a boil at the Modern Language Association's annual meeting in San Francisco this month when several hundred scholars attended a lively, and at times, loud debate on the future of criticism.

There's much more at stake here than Brit Lit bragging rights. Nearly 100,000 anthologies _ at a cost of more than \$100 each _ are purchased each year, with W.W. Norton's flagship book capturing more than 90 percent of the market. But more than 200 professors converted to Longman this year, including instructors at the University of California at Los Angeles, Baylor University, the University of Arizona, Northeastern University, the University of Michigan, the University of Hawaii and the University of North Carolina.

However, editors over at The Norton Anthology aren't willing to give up their king-of-the-hill status

Please see Anthology on page 11

The following issue should have been numbered "29"