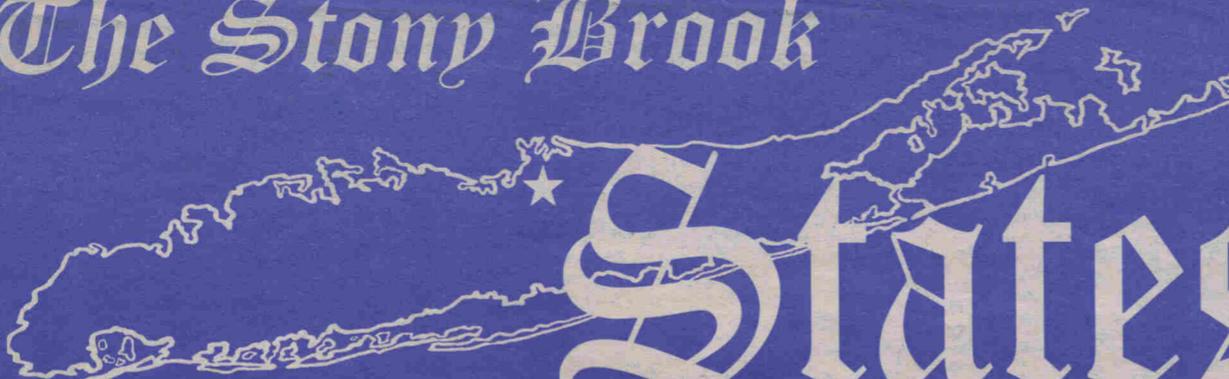


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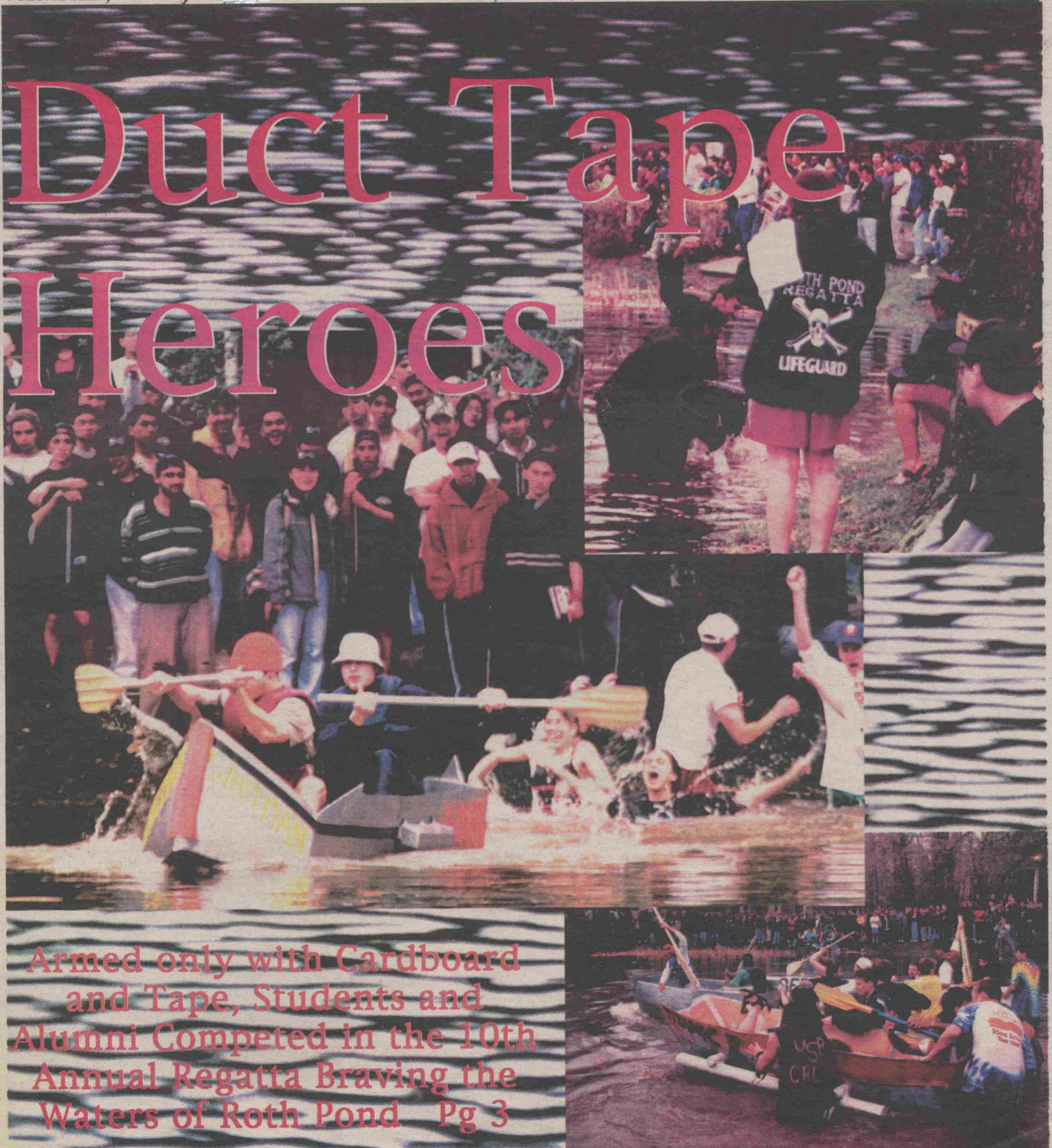
# Statesman

VOLUME XLI, NUMBER 46

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1998

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# Duct Tape Heroes



Armed only with Cardboard  
and Tape, Students and  
Alumni Competed in the 10th  
Annual Regatta Braving the  
Waters of Roth Pond Pg 3

# News In Brief

## Undercover Mafia Agent and Inspiration for Movie Visits SUNY Buffalo

BY MARY KUBANET  
The Record

Buffalo - Local Mafia buffs got to hear the story behind the story Friday as the University at Buffalo's Union Activities Board presented Joe Pistone: An Evening of Questions and Answers at UB's Center for the Arts.

Pistone, a retired FBI agent, spent six years undercover with the Mafia, mainly in New York City, infiltrating the organization further than any other agent. Pistone's experience became the basis of the movie "Donnie Brasco," starring Johnny Depp and Al Pacino.

Pistone has testified in every major case involving the Mafia from 1982 to 1995, helping send a large number of bosses and captains to jail. A \$500,000 contract remains

out on his life as a result of his undercover work, Pistone said.

The evening began at 8 p.m. with Pistone talking about his experiences and answering questions from audience members.

Out-of-uniform state police officers and FBI agents dressed as students provided security for Pistone, who wore dark sunglasses to hid his eyes from the crowd.

"Going under cover takes a toll on you personal and social life," Pistone said. "It puts a strain on any relationship."

While undercover he could only see his family a few times a year, sneaking away for a night when he supposedly took care of business out of town, he said. When Pistone's wife was involved in a major car accident he had to pretend that his girlfriend in California was in an accident to explain his absence, he said.

Pistone said he never killed anyone while undercover, but he did receive contracts to kill.

"You never refused a contract or the next contract would be for you," Pistone said.

To make it look like he had carried out a hit the FBI would hide the person targeted by the contract or sometimes they would interrupt the hit.

"My job was to put people in jail, gather evidence for trial and get convictions," he said.

Pistone kept in touch with the FBI

mainly by phone and once in a while he would meet his contact agent if he needed money, he said.

After the show Pistone stayed to sign autographs for the audience.

Among those in the audience was Allison Finken, a criminal justice student at Buffalo State College.

"He's just an all-around great guy. I'm glad that he did what he did," she said. "I learned a lot of information that I did not learn in my criminal justice class."

## Stony Brook LIRR Ticket Office Reopens

Twelve of the Long Island Railroad ticket offices that were closed, amid controversy two years ago, will be reopened under a \$2 million spending measure approved by the state legislature this week.

The funding, which is part of the state's budget package, would also have to be approved by Governor George Pataki and is only good for one year. After that, additional funding would have to be provided by the state of the railroad's parent agency, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, to keep the ticket offices open.

Stations to be reopened are as follows: Cold Spring Harbor, Garden City, Nassau Boulevard, Stewart Manor, Gibson, Bay Shore, Copiague, Greenlawn, Kings Park, Sayville, Smithtown, and Stony Brook.

Eliminating the positions at lightly used ticket offices was done to save the LIRR \$2.8 million, and came about as part of the railroad's effort to close a \$38 million budget gap in 1996. The 32 stations have been functioning since 1996 with the automated machines, but attacks on the move have included a "breach of agreement" lawsuit

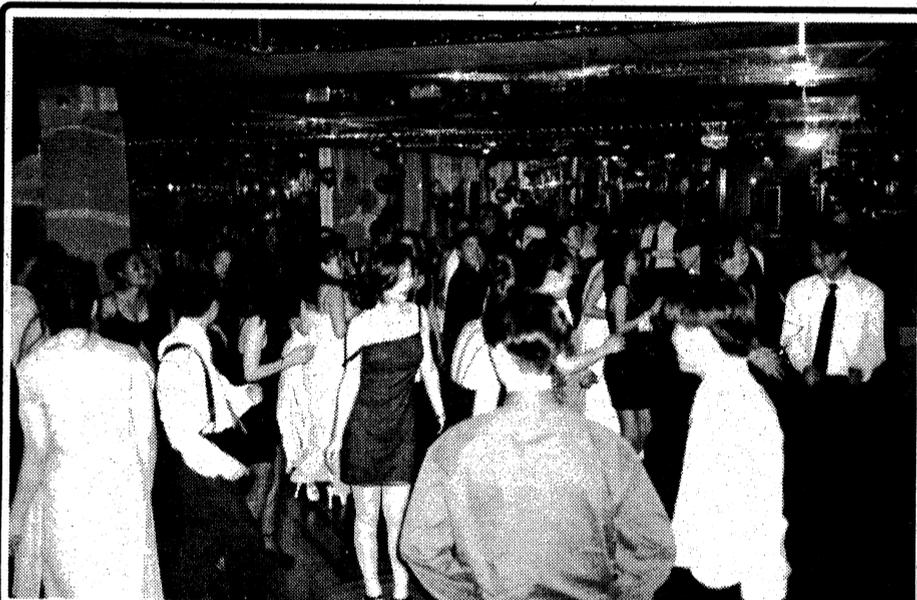
filed by Nassau County against the LIRR and MTA.

Earlier this week, Larry Silverman, chairman of the Long Island Commuters Council, a railroad monitoring group financed by the MTA, said riders were "victimized" by the swapping of agents for the machines. He said criminal activity, including vandalism, increased at the unmanned stations.

Silverman also said that the machines were inconvenient, prone to breaking down and could not always provide the proper change for riders. Riders who arrived five minutes before boarding time found lines at the machine and were often forced to pay \$2 more in fees upon boarding.

Fred Gerrain, general chairman to the Transportation-Communications Union, said, "While we were initially disappointed that less than half of the 32 offices closed in 1996 would be restored, we realize that representatives in Albany exercised careful fiscal judgment in selecting the offices with the highest revenues and volume of traffic."

-Kerry Lissenden



Students from the campus gather at the Mediterranean Manor in Medford for the Nations of Asia Semi-Formal this past Friday.  
Statesman/Tee Lek D. Ying

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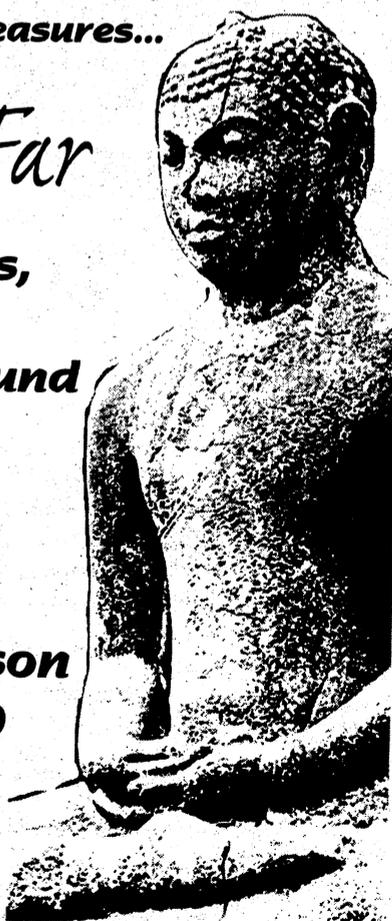
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# Despite Rain Good Turnout for Regatta<sup>3</sup>

## Students Cheer their Friends on in a Duct-Tape Filled Race for Glory

By JENNIFER TOKASH  
Statesman Staff

Overcast weather and the threat of rain couldn't contain the drag queens, military men, vikings and tie-dyed clowns that turned out for last Friday's Roth Pond Regatta.

Kurt Epstein, the founder of the Roth Pond Regatta, spoke before the race began. He called the event "Pneumoniafest of 1998." Ten years ago, Epstein and two friends began the regatta, which was not considered a legitimate campus event until its third year of existence. Once Polity recognized the event, the budget for the race doubled, and its popularity grew.

This year, with 39 organizations sponsoring boats, and a turnout of close to 1000 spectators, the Regatta has proven itself a true past-time for the campus here at Stony Brook. In ten race events, the competitors sank, swam and sometimes paddled across the finish line. Many of the captains and crews were a bit over-confident in their creations, especially the sponsors of "Biggus Dickus," the Society of Physics Students. Alex Lehmann, the captain of the boat said, "The vessel was designed to be the lightest and the fastest. There is no competition." The crew agreed, saying that they "expect to win." And they did, for their first race, at least.

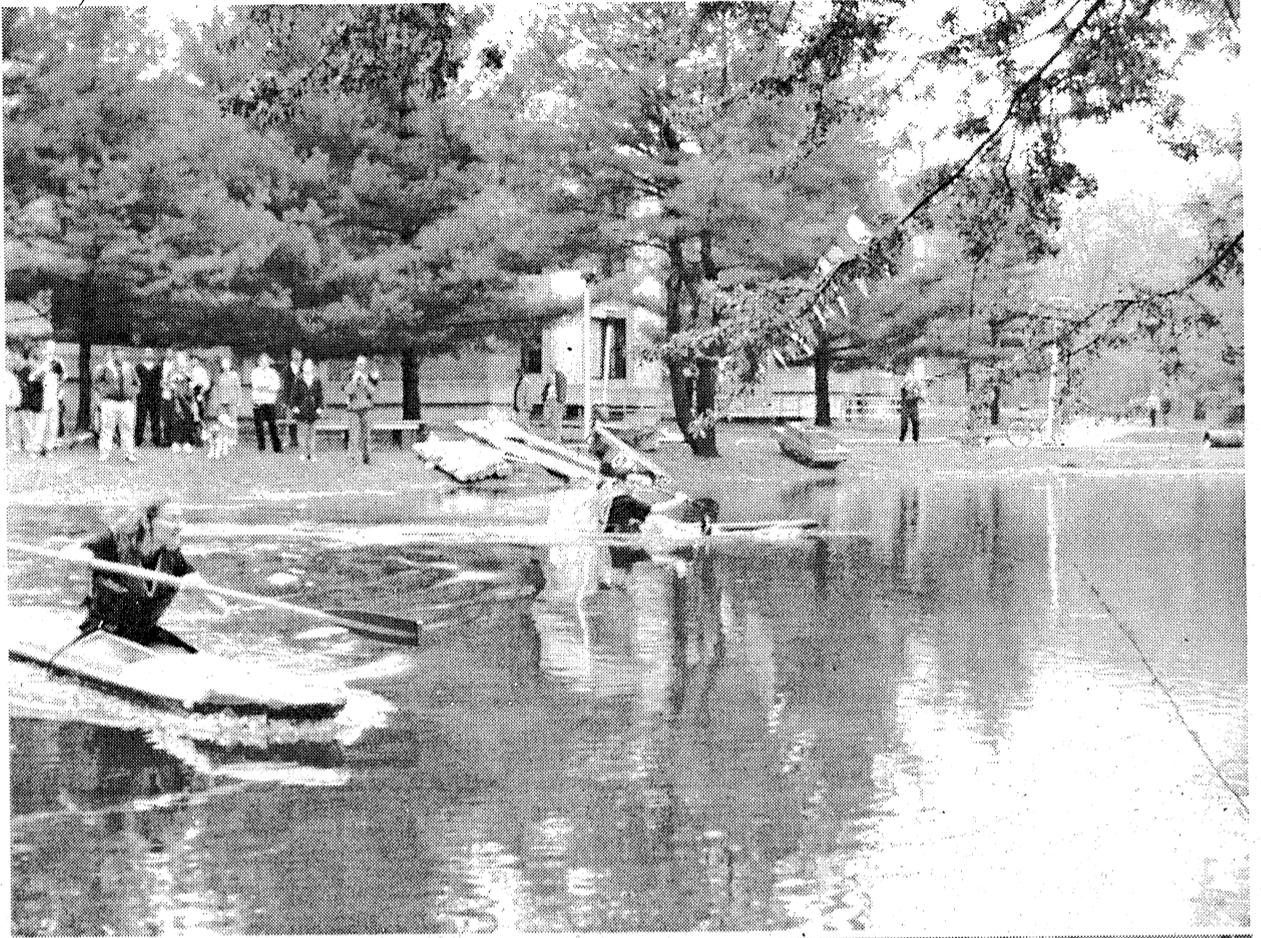
The winners of the races were "The Racer," "Biggus Dickus," "S.S. 69," "Elton's Nutz," "Rescue Sub II," "Unsinkable," "Sven of Nine," "Ghetto Day Tripper," "Prolonged Exposure," and "Road Runner."

All of these vessels rated well in the "seaworthiness" category of the judging, while boats like "The Silver Condom," sponsored by Eisenhower College Leg. scored points in the "originality" category, joined by "Da Grunts," sponsored by the Junior Officer Training Corps. Other categories the judges looked at were "design" and "originality."

The entries represented Alumni, residence halls, clubs, and even groups of friends. Groups represented included Stimson International College, Benedict College, Whitman College, Society of Physics Students, Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, and the Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Many of the boats had stories behind their creation. "Prolonged Exposure," Whitman College's entry, was named after directions on a glue bottle. "Prolonged exposure may cause neurological damage" was a warning on the bottle of glue used to put the craft together.

"The Silver Condom," sponsored by Eisenhower



Statesman/Peter Gratton

Above, Sanger College's S.S. 69 races to victory and first place in the speedster category. Right, members of the crew of Sven of Nine, the winners in the yacht category. Right, below, the boat Titanic, like its tragic namesake, sinks.



Statesman/Peter Gratton

College Leg. and boasting a drag queen as captain, was put together in one night. Hilary Vidiar, a freshman and the president of Eisenhower College Leg. said that she was overwhelmed by the work load required in making a boat. "They said, 'We're going to put a boat in the Regatta - you're in charge of it,' and I was like 'thanks!'" joked Vidiar. "But I had a lot of fun doing it."

Unfortunately, Vidiar was not as ready to take on the task of co-captain at the race. Debbie Sticher stepped in at the last minute to accompany Ara Mukadyan and race across Roth Pond.

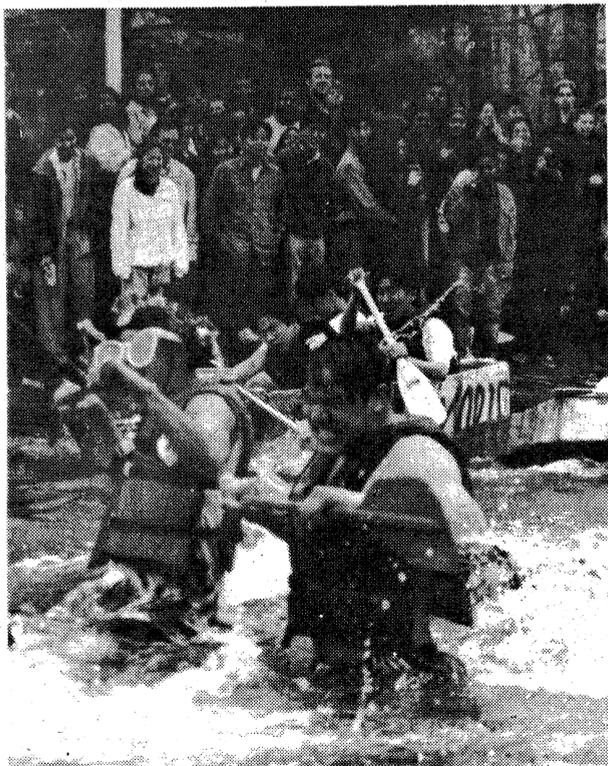
When the boats were registered for the race, they could be placed in one of two categories - speedster or yacht. The crafts in the "speedster" category were manned by one person, while the "yacht" category was made up of vessels with two or more captains.

At the end of the Regatta, one final race for each category was conducted, with the winners of the previous races squaring off. In the "speedster" category, "S.S. 69" won first place, with captain Justin Williams and sponsored by the Sanger College Leg.

The crew of the boat was Kaveh Ghahremani, Kenny Nienhuser, Andrea Perez, Dentonio Worrell, Jennifer Spinner and Mercy Matthew.

In the "yacht" category, the Alumni boat "Sven of Nine" placed first. The captains were Kurt Epstein, Jeff Forgacs, and Rich Matzelle, and the crew included Penny Wong, Franny Matzelle, and Lydia Forgacs. "It's good to be able to participate and watch everyone enjoy themselves," said Epstein. "I'm happy that after 10 years, this event is still going strong. I think this event shows the creativity of the Stony Brook students." Co-captain Rich Matzelle said that the Roth Regatta is the "best event Stony Brook has."

The poor weather led to the postponement of the concert and carnival that had been scheduled to take place immediately following the Regatta. Instead, the events were held on Saturday at noon in the Tabler Quad parking lot. This, however led to another disappointment - the turnout.



Statesman/Tee Lek D. Ying

Members of SBVAC battle the rapids of Roth Pond.

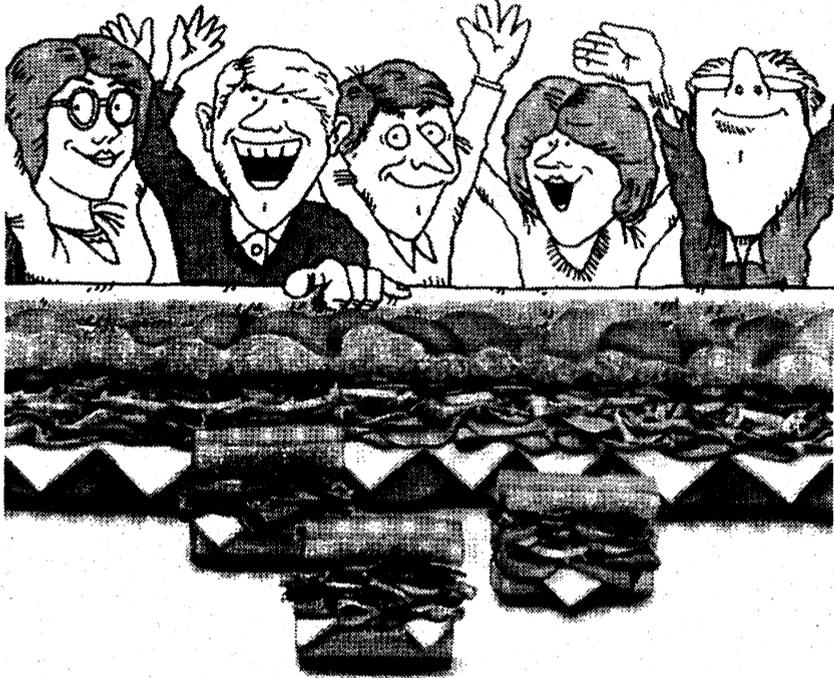
"It wasn't supposed to be an advertised event," Yvonne Glanville, one of the events coordinator, said, "We lost the turnout because we had to reschedule for Saturday.... We're hoping next year that both the carnival and concert will be a whole weekend of activities. We feel right now that we are on the right track with the administration for planning next year's events."

The concert was held outdoors, as two bands played on a small stage outside Tabler Quad. The band "Wookie" played first and was then followed by "Johnny Chan and the New Dynasty Six."

The carnival consisted of two game booths, five rides, and three food booths. The rides were free, and the food was typical carnival fare. While the planning board may have been disappointed at the turnout, the people in attendance seemed to enjoy the event.

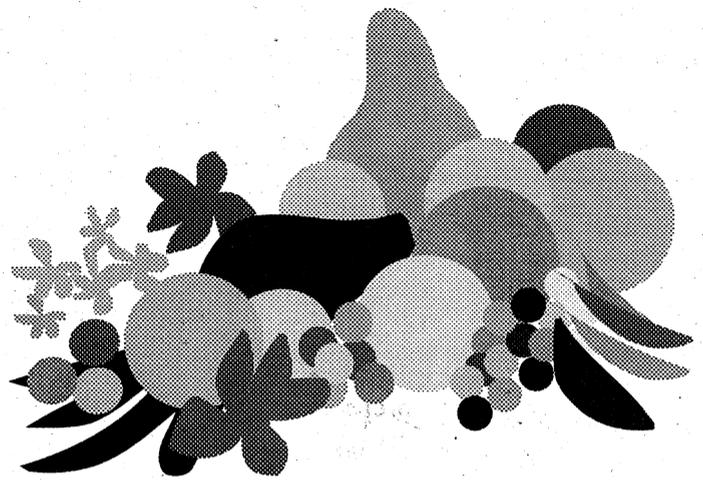
Dan Nolan, a freshman student who attended, said that "the carnival was a good idea, however, it should have been held yesterday whether it was raining or not so that more people could've attended."

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# LI Surf Makes a Home at Stony Brook<sup>5</sup>

By JENNIFER KESTER  
Statesman Editor

A team of the United States Basketball League, the Long Island Surf, just signed a two year contract with the University of Stony Brook to rent the Sports Complex facilities. This past weekend the Long Island Surf held tryouts for their upcoming season.

The USBL, otherwise known as the League of Opportunity, is a forum for players, coaches, referees and administrative personnel to improve and showcase their skills in preparation for the National Basketball Association. Founded in 1985, the USBL is a summer league that runs from May to July. The league, comprised of 11 teams, is run like the NBA and follows the same rules with the exception that each team within the league must have at least two rookies on their roster of ten players.

The USBL aids prospective players by helping them maintain their optimum physical and mental condition and also to enhance their skills. There is a Knicks scout that is actually on staff which increases the players chances of recognition and recruitment. The players join to get the opportunity to go to special basketball teams, to get invited to NBA camps or to go to play for a team overseas, such as Spain, Israel, Lithuania or the Philippines.

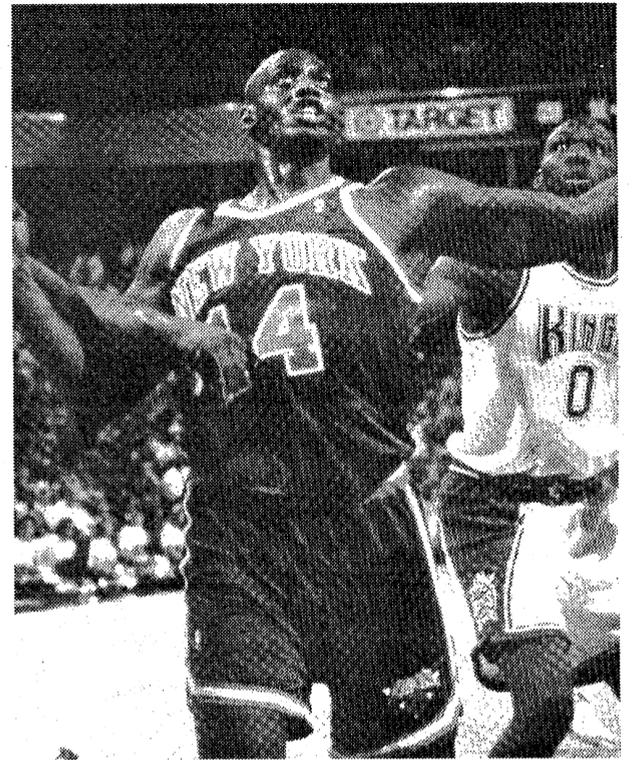
Many famous basketball athletes were members of the USBL prior to their NBA stardom. Some of the USBL alumni that are currently in the NBA include Knicks player Anthony Mason, who is a former LI Surfer (1991) and earns approximately \$24 million per year, Darrell Armstrong, who is on the Orlando Magic, was on the Atlanta Trojans (1993-1994). Tyrone "Muggsy" Bogues was also a USBL member in '87 and was selected in the first round by the

Washington Bullets. He is now a Charlotte Hornet.

The LI Surf, a semi-professional team, was formerly located in Nassau for five years but decided to come to Stony Brook because they had to compete with too many things in Nassau over the summer like the Yankees and the Mets.

Owned by Pro Hoops Long Island, Inc., LI Surf placed second in the Northern Division in 1997, 19-7 overall; 2-1 in the Playoffs, and was a runner-up. Lead by Head Coach Ivory Manning, the LI Surf have already had their 1998 draft picks. From the first round, Duane Woodward from Boston College was obtained. In the second round, Andrew Betts from Long Beach State was chosen. UCLA player Kris Johnson and Brian Lewin from West Virginia were chosen in the third and the fourth rounds respectively. Mike Campbell, from Long Island was the fifth round pick, and Mike James from Duquesne the sixth. Tarik Turner from St. John's was the seventh round pick and Lynard Stewart from Temple University the eighth round pick.

Aside from their basketball games, the LI Surf is also trying to get youth organizations and the community involved. The team sponsors the LI Surf Youth Outreach Program. The program provides basketball clinics before Surf home games to school age children in order to give them positive role models. The program aims to teach sportsmanship, education, drug and alcohol avoidance and career planning. The program is funded by sponsors whose contributions are matched by the LI Surf. The LI Surf is planning to have contests where a ticket stub will be drawn and the winner will receive a professional athlete's autograph and possibly meet him or her. The LI Surf has also offered campus radio station WUSB an opportunity to have the play by play



Courtesy of The 1996 Surf Yearbook

Anthony Mason was a former USBL award winner.

of the games to gain the advantage of doing professional sports work. LI Surf wanted to give WUSB a chance to acquire the latest sports news before the professional sports radio announcers obtained it.

The LI Surf's first home game is on Sunday, May 3, against Camden Power at 1:00 p.m. at the Sports Complex. Those interested in getting the LI Surf's game schedule can either visit their web page at [www.usbl.com](http://www.usbl.com) or call 922-4421.

General Manager Leon Booth said, "Stony Brook has welcomed us with open arms. We are hoping that the community will get behind us and embrace us."

## Feel Like the Bank Withdraws More Money Than You?

### NYPIRG Releases Its Report on Growing ATM Fees

By KERRY LISSENDEN  
Statesman Staff

A recent survey by The New York Public Interest Group, (NYPIRG) indicates that 50 percent of automated teller machines in New York State are charging customers twice for their use. NYPIRG is calling for a ban in The New York legislature on these double surcharges.

The recent survey, conducted in March, stated that ATM surcharges are unnecessary for the ATM owners, and unfair to the consumers. According to NYPIRG, surcharges are not necessary because ATMs save banks money compared to teller transactions, one of the contributing factors to the seven straight years of profit records for banks.

"Students are being charged twice for services that are supposed to make banking more convenient for them. There is no reason for it, especially when the bank is also saving money," said Todd Stebbins,

NYPIRG representative for the SUNY Stony Brook campus. According to NYPIRG's survey this year, of 200 ATMs in New York State, 45% assessed surcharges on non-accountholders, which evidently showed an increase 33% from 1997.

The average ATM fee is \$1.12, an increase from last years \$1.05. NYPIRG's report also showed that 42 percent of the ATMs that surcharge are located on bank premises, an increase of 36 percent from 1997. The survey

also revealed that this year, disclosure of ATM surcharging practices is not as clear or as easily accessible as it was last year.

In addition, NYPIRG coordinated a similar national survey of ATMs owned by 470 banks and 46 credit unions. This was surveyed in 28 states and the District of Columbia, which revealed that 71 percent of the ATMs do surcharge non-accountholders.

A national report on ATM fees, states that surcharging rates by big banks, pose a serious competitive threat to smaller banks and credit unions, which usually offer a good, low-priced alternative for consumers. Small banks and credit unions have attacked surcharges as not only anti-consumer, but also anti-competitive.

At this time, there are two pro-consumer bills before both the New York State Senate and the New York State Assembly that would ban ATM surcharges, if passed. If these bills do not pass, it has been suggested to lawmakers that New York should require that state deposits be placed in depository institutions that do not surcharge ATM users. There are also active bills in the United States Congress that address ATM surcharges.

"We fully support the suggestion in legislation right now that a ban be instated on ATM owners against surcharging for services," said Stebbins. "It is hard enough to pay for things in everyday life, let alone having to worry about being charged for something as minor as using your ATM card."



Statesman/Peter Gratton

The ATM in the Student Activity Center, operated by North Fork Bank, has the highest fees on campus for withdrawals, at a \$1.25.

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# Editorial & Letter

## ATM Surcharging Unnecessary

If you're like us, your probably constantly annoyed by ATM's charging you exhorbitant fees just so you can withdraw your own money quickly. Don't expect the situation to get any better. According to a recent New York Public Research Interest Group (NYPIRG) survey, those surcharges that we collectively despise are on the rise.

What's the point of all these fees? There is none. The study reported that these fees, which are so loved by the ATM owners, are unnecessary. In fact, ATMs save the banks money. It's much cheaper for the bank to have a fleet of ATMs than it is for them to have a fleet of bank tellers.

We understand that banks need to make money. With smaller banks and credit unions at their heels, it's important for them to have a leg up on their

competition. We don't understand, however, why they feel the need to short change their customers so they can gain this advantage. With seven years of record breaking profits under their belts, we're sure that they can find other, fairer ways for them to add to their vaults.

Unfortunately, there aren't many ways to avoid these fees. Switching to a smaller bank is one of the major ways. These institutions rarely charge ATM surcharges and, if they do, they are minimal at their worst. A large enough switch from bigger banks to smaller ones will force the hand of the larger banks, who might be persuaded to remove their own surcharges.

The only other way to avoid paying these surcharges

are to avoid ATMs entirely. There is no fee (as of yet, at least) for actually going inside the bank and extracting money from your account via a bank teller. It may take a few more minutes than usual, but in the long run the savings might just be worth the time.

Both the New York State Senate and Assembly are also working on ways of helping remove these surcharging practices. The two legislative houses are debating bills that would ban ATM surcharges in the state. If passed, these bills could pave the way for other states to ban this practice.

If these machines save banks money, shouldn't they pass that savings on to the customer? Of course. Will they? We doubt it. In this day and age, making money is a formula that is rarely changed.

## Please, Spare the Messenger

**To the Editor:**

Ladies and gentleman, and children off all ages! I write this letter in reply to Mr. Santangelo's letter in your Thursday issue. While I was pleased to see Frank take his duty as defender of his fellow morons seriously, I was somewhat troubled by the logical and grammatical flaws in his missive. I've taken the liberty of making Frank an appointment down at our fine Writing Center, where I trust they will teach him how to write coherently and concisely, as any 7th grader ought to be capable of.

Frank asserts that he's oft been subjected to my "rants". I can't imagine when this could be. I don't recall myself, or anyone for that matter, getting a word in edgewise when that windbag is around. Honestly, I don't think Frank could point me out of a random group of people, so I have no idea where he comes up with that allegation. I, on the other, sat quietly at a good number of CSA and Senate meetings where the chairperson needed to silence Frank in order to move the meeting along.

Frank, I know that Truman Capote wrote "In Cold Blood." Do you know that MacBeth is a fine play, but "Mc Beth" is something I can only imagine Ronald McDonald would try to sell me? How can you defend the intelligence level of someone who doesn't even know the real name of the play they supposedly read?

To be perfectly honest, I do have some difficulty in defending my letter, as it was edited by the Statesman. They removed some of my points entirely, and severely weakened others, through their selective editing. I am not sure whether this was done for want of space or lack of conviction. but I can only hope that your letter is so irredeemably unreadable because of errors on their part, and not your own.

Frank defends the candidates based on their extensive travels, Junior High School presidencies, and high aspirations. None of them guarantee qualification or success, and I will continue to have doubts about a candidate who would not even proofread his/her own statement. Frank says that I attacked the personal character of the candidates. Not true. I'm sure they're very nice, honest people, but that doesn't change the fact that they're stupid. I think our students deserve better. Why doesn't Frank?

In attacking me, Frank falls into the all too common pitfall of killing the messenger. There's a lot of problems on this campus, and they won't go away by turning a blind eye to them or by comparing me to a ringmaster. The Commuters were not being represented in the

Council, the answer was to try to secure independence. Our candidates are stupid, the answer is for better people to run. This school has a divisive atmosphere, the answer is to elect people committed to changing it. Where are Frank's answers?

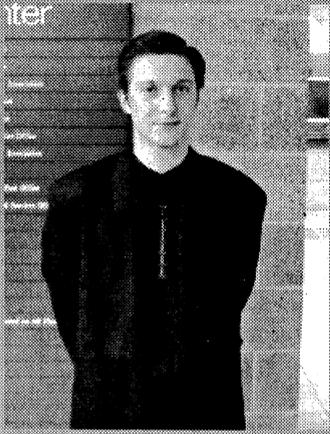
Frank's only suggestion is that I be silenced. It's a common trick in Polity to suggest that the true problems are dissenting opinions. Differing opinions are the foundation of our model of civilization. To remain silent when a problem clearly exists and one has a well thought out solution is to make oneself part of the problem. To try to silence others who hold an opposing view with sophmoric insults is to make oneself part of the problem. I wanted to be part of the solution.

However, I guess Frank is right. I graduate next month, and while I cannot conceivably imagine what kind of personal gain I could derive from changing the school, Frank seems to think I have one in mind. If it was to see my name in print, Frank certainly took care of that. It's possible, though, that I wanted to leave Stony Brook a better place than I found it. It seems I can't get that done. I'll take that disappointment with me, but leave to you, Frank, the mismanaged, divisive, embarrassing, corrupt student government that you seem to cling to so desperately. I hope you enjoy it.

Michael Tschupp  
 (Georgetown Law '01)

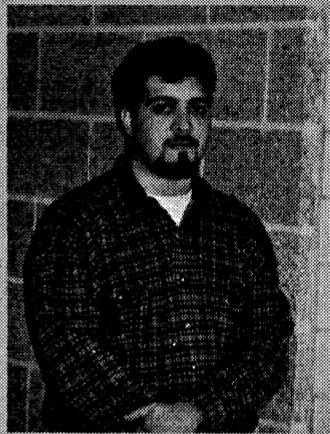
# Campus Voices

What is your reaction, as a Polity Senator, to the recent Polity election?



MIKE KRALIK

"I'm pleased. Hopefully the new council will help bridge the gap between residents and commuters."



MIKE IWPREXIS

"The new president should help heal division between commuters and residents. Hopefully, this new ticket will help. It can't get any worse."



CHRISTINE SADOWSKI

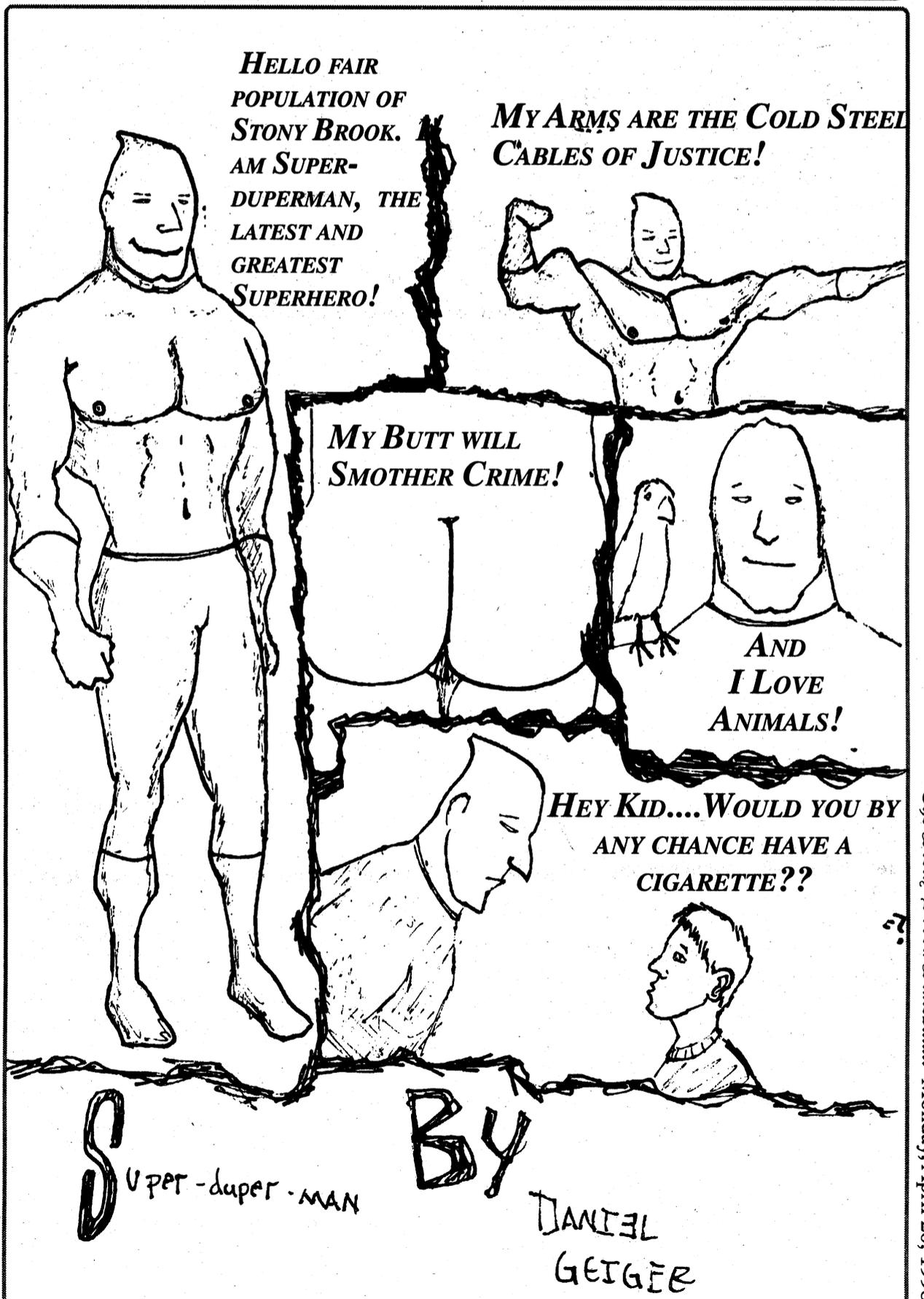
"I've already worked with Aneka, and I'm looking forward to getting rid of the Commuter-Polity gap that's been created."



NEAL PATEL

"I think the election went well. I think if we had more time, we should have advertised platforms on 3TV instead of fliers. We should have another debate or forum."

The Stony Brook Statesman will be holding its semester end elections on Wednesday, April 29 at 6:00pm. Members of the campus community and staff members who haven't shown up in a while (that means you Ben) are invited to participate in our semi-annual bloodfest. Nominations for editorial board positions are due this coming Sunday by 8:00 pm, and must meet all requirements as set in our organization's constitution.



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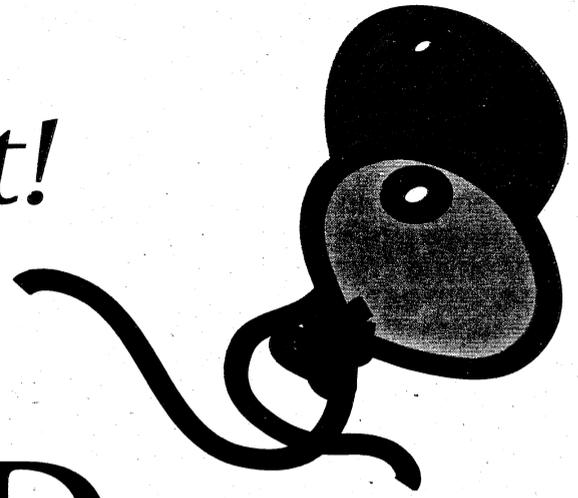
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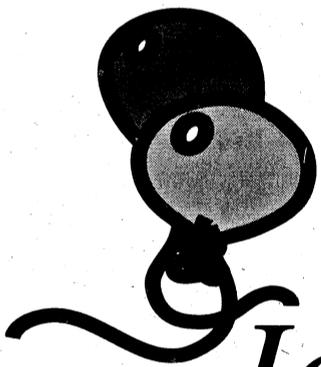
**Diversity Day**

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**April 24, 1998**

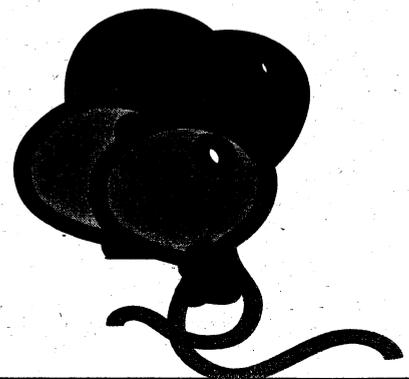
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# A Bike Ride That Benefits More Than Your Health

By PETER GRATTON  
Statesman Editor

When most of us think of a commute out to the Hamptons this summer, we picture the backed up Mercedes and BMWs headed out of Manhattan, and the constant congestion on Route 111 in Manorville. Few would look forward to taking the trek out of the city in the summer's heat, much less if they knew that they would be making the 100 mile trip on a bike.

But that's exactly what several hundred bicyclists will be doing this coming June 13, as part of a fund-raiser for three organizations, the AIDS Service Center of Lower Manhattan, The Long Island Association for AIDS Care, Inc., and BiasHelp, Inc., groups providing medical services for AIDS and bias crimes victims. The *New York Challenge to Fight AIDS and Bias Crimes* will begin early at dawn and is expected to last about ten hours. Riders are expected to come up with \$1,000 in pledge money before entering the event.

One person who plans to ride in the event, Professor Nancy Franklin in Stony Brook's Psychology Department, said she is happy that event organizers have put in place the minimum donation needed to participate. "I've been inspired to ask different organizations than I would have otherwise," she said.

Franklin says that she became interested in AIDS after volunteering her time for *Gods Love We Deliver*, a food

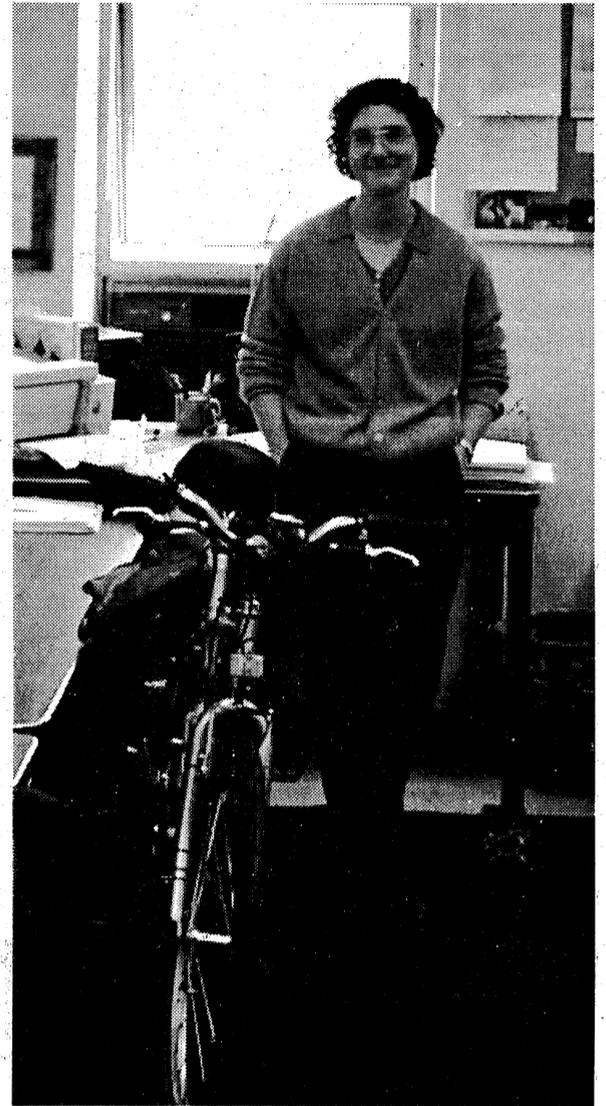
delivery service for sufferers of the disease who are unable to leave their homes. She said that the friendships she formed and the hardships she witnessed helped her to look beyond her own motivations for volunteering. "The feeling of 'OK - I'm doing something good' disappeared the first time I met that first person at his apartment," Franklin said.

Franklin, a novice bicyclist, says that she is not too worried about making it through the ten hours of riding that it will take to make the trek from where the event will begin, at Chelsea Piers in New York City, to Southampton College on Long Island's east end. She said that she became a little leery when she was told that riders would not be able to bring along radios. "When I found out I couldn't use a walkman, I just knew that I'd have one song line ringing over and over in my head the entire ride," Franklin said.

To prepare for the race, Franklin and other *Challenge* riders have been taking part in 35 mile practice rides. Overnight camping trips have been planned as well.

"I'm not doing this because I want to spend a day on a bike, I'm doing this because of these guys," Franklin said referring to the men she had delivered food to, "I wouldn't be able to look these guys in the face after turning down doing this."

Franklin said that if she does well in the New York - Southampton ride, she will try to compete in the Boston-



Statesman/Peter Gratton

Franklin needs the help of the community in raising the necessary contributions to enter the *Challenge*.

New York AIDS Ride which is being put together by the same organizers for this fall.

This Wednesday, the Spot will be holding a fund-raiser for the Boston - New York ride, which will take place over three days this September, charging a \$5.00 cover for those looking to see the *Merry Pranksters* play their Red Hot Chili Pepper - like tunes.

"People have been very supportive," Franklin said of her efforts to raise money for the *Challenge*. Borders Books & Music, the Park Bench, Basix, Aramark, the Wellness Center, and Stony Books are among those who have contributed, although Franklin has yet to reach her \$1,000 goal needed to compete in the *Challenge*.

Franklin is holding a raffle, with tickets available in Basix and the University Bookstore, to help her come up with the rest of the money. Winners of the raffle can win Stony Brook merchandise which is being contributed by the two stores holding the raffles.

Anyone looking to help sponsor Franklin for the ride, or to find out information about how to join in the *Challenge* as well, can call her at her University office at 632-7840.

"People have lot of reasons for doing this," Franklin said, "Some people have friends of theirs in mind."

## The Tragic Figures on AIDS

- In New York State, 114,395 cases of AIDS have been reported and another 100,000 residents are believed to be infected- more than any other state in the nation.

- New York residents account for 16% of the nation's AIDS cases- more than Los Angeles, San Francisco, Dallas and Washington D.C. combined.

- As of June 1997, 1,652 children had been diagnosed with AIDS in New York City which is 21% of the U.S. total.

- Long Island leads the nation in suburban AIDS cases with more than 5,500 cases diagnosed.

- Long Island has more AIDS cases than 29 individual states, including Arizona, Tennessee, New Mexico, and Indiana.

- The percentage of women with AIDS on Long Island is significantly higher than the national norm.

- If current trends continue, Long Island will be confronted by 1,100 to 1,900 AIDS orphans by the year 2000.

- Courtesy of The New York Hamptons Challenge



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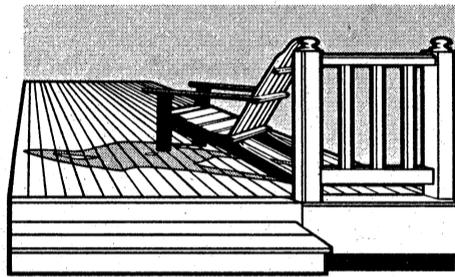
Dear Mom:  
Hi again. Cheryl, my real boss, left me this wierd space again. It's now way past my bed time, and this is the last space to fill while we try to come up with a headline for a front page. My idea for *Rockin' Regotta* was quickly dismissed. Anyway I guess you've heard. I was in this mornings *Newsday*. Some reporter there got me on the phone here while in a drunkin (figuratively, of course Ma) state ,and I ended up saying a few nice things about the University President. My *Press* buddies are never going to let me live it down. It was an accident. I said the school basically sucks, but it seems to have gotten a bit better for undergraduates since the Kenny took over. Now wammo, I've heard rumors that Doug Little wants to adopt me. Well I think I'm done with the stupid in-jokes. Tell Dad I love him.

Love, Peter

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**State University of New York at Stony Brook**

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, April 20, 1998



# Features

## A Magic Ride With the Zen Tricksters

One of the Country's most popular Dead cover bands jams the night away

By RAYA EID  
Statesman Editor

"Once in a while you can get shown the light," sang the late Jerry Garcia of **The Grateful Dead**, and thanks to **The Zen Tricksters** who capture the sound and style of the Dead like no other band, the music is still shining.

After seeing this exceptional band several times at various intimate venues, I must say that these guys are an incredible live attraction.

Jeff Mattson, lead guitarist and vocalist, was an original member of the band back in 1979 when they were known as **The Volunteers**, a Grateful Dead cover band. The band evolved into **The Zen Tricksters** ten years ago, incorporating their Dead influences into their own original sound. "We have been playing original music all along," said Mattson, "and its always been a dream to put out our own record." That dream came true recently with the November release of *The Holy Fool*, the Tricksters first original album. The album is fused with the band's diverse influences, which include elements of bluegrass, jazz, classical, folk, country, into an avant-garde sound. "We all bring something unique to it, so its all diverse," said keyboardist and vocalist, Rob Barraco.

Although *The Holy Fool*, consists of all original tracks, the spirit of Grateful Dead is still present. "If you look at the Dead's influence, it's kind of like a parallel from where we are coming from," said Barraco. All members of the band are "Deadheads," and had the chance to see the Grateful Dead, countless. Bassist and vocalist Klyph Black saw his first Dead show in 1971, Barraco in '72, and Mattson in '73. Mattson had the opportunity to meet Jerry Garcia in 1993. "It



Statesman/Raya Eid

The Zen Tricksters live at the IMAC Theater in Huntington last Saturday.

was particularly nice to have met Jerry Garcia, a mentor for me," said Mattson. In addition to Jerry Garcia's inspiration, Mattson's creative ability to blend various styles of music together makes his guitar playing fantastic.

Last Saturday, this four-man band performed three sets of jam based music at the IMAC theater in Huntington. Before the show, members of the band expressed their enthusiasm about playing in a real theater. "This is a real venue, a theater," said Barraco. "It's not like a bar, they are all listening," Mattson added.

Loyal "Deadheads" of all ages strolled into the 600 seat theater for an evening of incredible music that satisfied the soul. The first set was acoustic with Barraco playing on a nine foot grand piano. The Tricksters included in their set tunes that the Dead played at concerts acoustically, such as, "The Thrill is Gone," "The Race is On," and "To Lay me Down." The set also included originals by the Tricksters like "Who Are You...Really," written by Barraco, and "Done is Done," written by Mattson. During "Done is Done," which is featured on *The Holy Fool*, they busted out into an awesome bongo jam. I personally thought this was the most powerful part of the set, with the bongo sounds and Barraco's skill and expression on the grand piano, it left an intense feeling.

"Friend of the Devil" followed, with a sweet harmony, and the Tricksters closed the set with "Folsom Prison Blues," a Johnny Cass number.

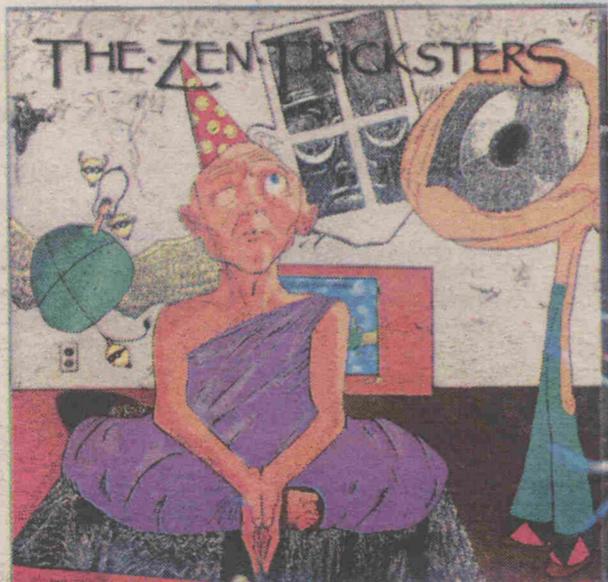
The second set was electric, and they opened with a festive "Iko- Iko," and the crowd was up and groovin'. I was thrilled, and it brought me

back to my first and only Dead show in 94' at Giant Stadium, when the Dead opened up with the same tune. Next up was "Down the Road," an original written and sung by Klyph Black, who is known for contributing vital blues elements to the band.

Other favorites in the set were "Althea," a fast rendition of "Eyes of the World," into "Samson and Delilah," which closed off the set. "Eyes of the World" was accompanied by an awesome drum space, the highlight of the set. Drummer, Joe Chirco, who has only been with the band for a year and a half, rocked those drums.

The third electric set included some favorite Dead tunes, delighting the crowd. The Tricksters kicked off this set with a rendition of "The Music Never Stopped," and simmered down to "Shine Your Light," an original by the Tricksters, also featured on *The Holy Fool*. They then launched into "Dark Star," which went into an old favorite, "Scarlet Begonias," and then into "The Eleven," "Say that I am," into "I'll take a Melody," closing with a great rendition of "Lovelight." For those last six songs of the set, I felt the love, I was soaking in my own sweat, and had nothing but smiles.

A "Box of Rain" encore and "We Bid you Goodnight," was a warm and heartfilled ending to a spectacular show. Mattson's voice carried soul and love, the crowd sang along, and it sent chills through my body. It made me realize that although I would have loved to see the Dead perform these songs, I was grateful that a band like **The Zen Tricksters** can create the same magical experience.



The Zen Tricksters first all-original CD, *The Holy Fool*

**The following issue should have been numbered "49"**

