

# Homecoming

*Staller Festival to Show Off Long Island Filmmakers*

By JENNIFER KESTER  
Statesman Editor

This past Friday, the Long Island Film Festival made its second trip to the Staller Center and joined with the annual Stony Brook Film Festival that marked the Long Island Film Festival's 15th anniversary. Aside from the usual big named mainstream films, this year's lineup focuses on the independent film industry. Many of these indie filmmakers happen to be Long Island natives. The festival will feature over 100 films from July 17 through August 1.

To kick off the celebration, the Stony Brook Film Festival hosted a special screening party this past Monday at the trendy night club Nell's in lower Manhattan. The party served as a meeting place for many of the directors, actors, actresses and others involved in the films shown. According to Alan Inkles, director of the Staller Center, this year's media coverage exceeded that of last year's festival. Present at the party were Channel 55 and the Long Island Voice.

About thirty films will be premiering at the festival. Five new independent films will be featured including Niagara, Niagara, Kicked in the Head, Somewhere in the City, Naturally Native and The Wonderful Ice Cream Suit. "A lot of people who don't see independent films will see independent films this year," Inkles said.

Also being showcased are several Long Island filmmakers. Please see *Festival* on page 2



Statesman/Peter G. Ratton

Stony Brook graduate Alan James Edwards, the writer and director of the short film *Hyper-Conscious*, poses with Michelle Paul at Nell's last Monday. Paul plays a celebrity in the film.

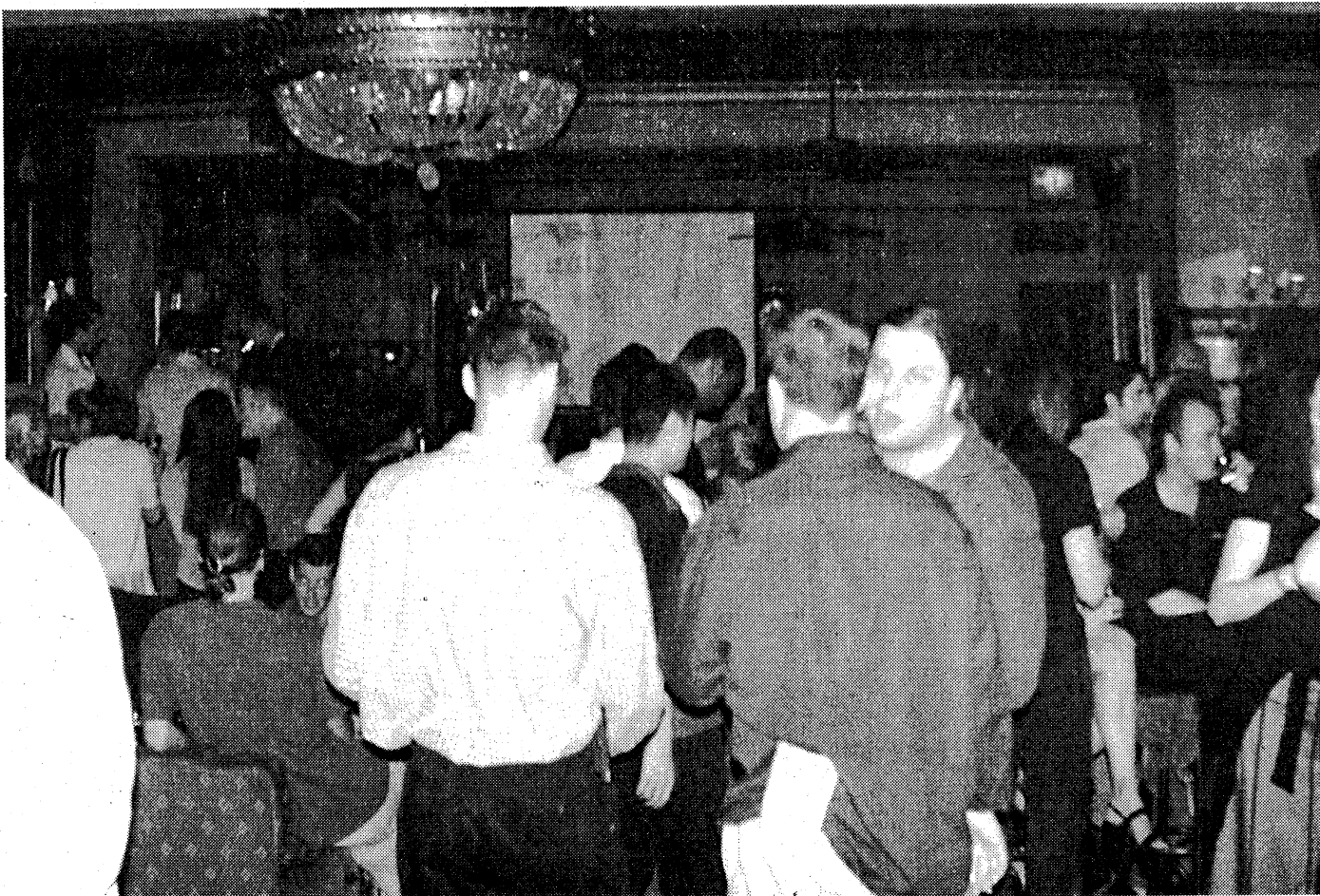


Steve Race, the co-director for a video called *Labor Day* was in Los Angeles but came back to Long Island for his video's world premiere at the festival. "It has been a very emotional coming home," said Race, originally from Oakdale. *Labor Day* takes place and was shot on location in Fire Island. "The story is about friends and family," Race said.

Craig Kestel, a Valley Stream native, is both the writer and director of the feature *Kegless*. The movie is about two friends dealing with uncertainties that they both face with upon their upcoming college graduation. "It's nice to get exposure from your home town. It's a real kick in the pants," said Kestel about his film, based on his real life experiences.

Kestel also spoke about the problems involved in producing an independent film. "It is difficult to make an independent film because of the financing. Everyone thinks that they can do it, but getting to do this is a [real] rarity," Kestel said. Anthony Durante, whom stars in *Kegless*, got involved with the movie because his high school buddy (Kestel) called him from out of the blue one day and asked him. Kestel always promised Durante that he would make a movie one day for Durante to star in. Durante, who had some modeling and acting experience, accepted.

The Long Island Film Festival will be showing shorts and videos in addition to feature length films. One of the shorts to be shown is *Hyper-Conscious*, which was written and directed by 1987 Stony Brook graduate Alan James Edwards. *Hyper-Conscious* is a 15 minute independent production that was made with almost no money, Edwards said. It was all shot in New York. "The short was done mostly in New York because Long Island is more friendly to filmmakers," Edwards said. The diner used in the short was the



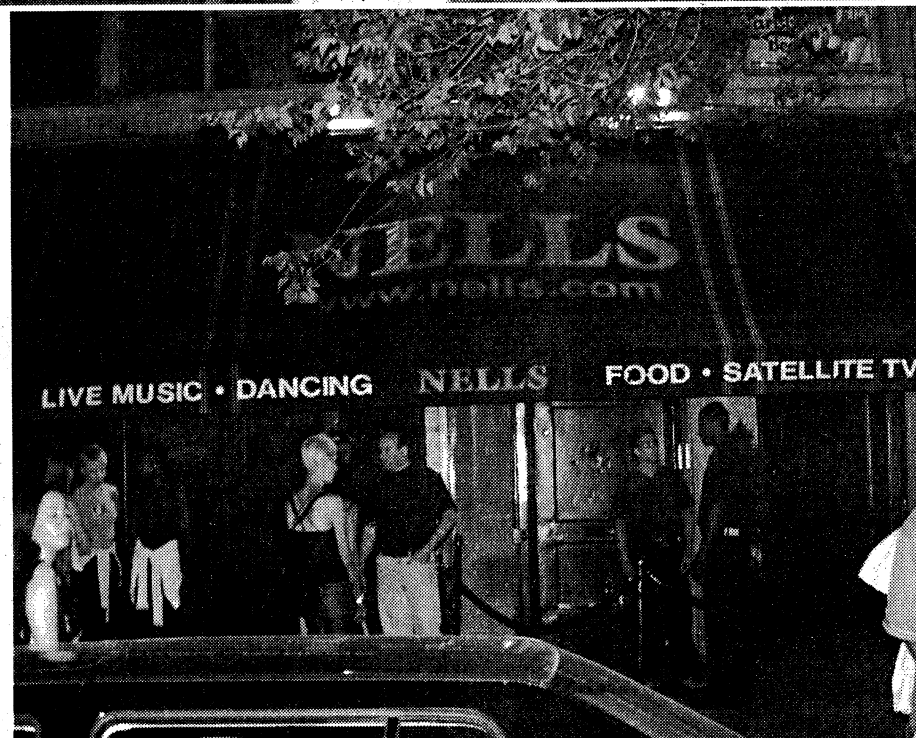
Statesman/Peter Gratton

Above, attendees of the Stony Brook Film Festival's screening party mix it up and watch parts of films to be seen this week at Nell's nightclub in lower Manhattan, right.

Happy Days Diner in neighboring Port Jefferson, and a boxing scene was filmed at the intermission of an actual boxing match, with an audience of 2000 people at Madison Square Garden.

"It was very hard to do in 20 minutes," said Edwards about filming the boxing scene. The actors trained for three months to prepare for that part of the filming. One of the cameras gave out in the middle of filming and the crew had to rely on the single camera left. "The window for error was huge," Edwards said.

Edwards attended the screening party with his producer Ayesha Morales and model Michelle Paul, who starred as a celebrity in the short. Morales said, "My job was



trying to keep things sane. I have experience and this has been really smooth and it's hard because everyone works for free everyday."

Edwards agreed, "It's about people coming together." *Hyper-Conscious* marks Edward's first film.

Another Long Island resident and filmmaker whose work will be featured is Terry Keefe, who is both the co-writer and producer of the low budget feature *Slaves of Hollywood*. The 80 minute film took four years to complete and cost about \$100,000. The film is a satire about a daughter of an evil studio executive who goes on a quest to document the lives of aspiring Hollywood moguls in an attempt to find out why her father turned out to be the person he was.

"I was a junior executive in a film company and this movie is based on my own experiences working in Hollywood," said Keefe. He hopes to get underway on another project, depicting further the trevails of those trying to make it in Hollywood.

*Slaves of Hollywood* has been shown in the San Diego Film Festival and the Portugal Film

## Stony Brook Film Festival Highlights

Monday, July 20, 7:00 pm, Main Stage: *Soup or Salad* (16mm short); *Hyper-Conscious* (16mm short); *The Boxer*.

Tuesday, July 21, 7:00 pm, Main Stage: *Here Dies Another Day* (35 mm short); *Character*.

9:45 pm, Main Stage: *Phil Touches Flo* (35 mm short); *Destination Unknown*.

Wednesday, July 22, 7:00 pm, Main Stage: *Mouse* (16 mm short); *Strong Island Boys*.

9:15 pm, Main Stage: *The House Keeper* (35 mm short); *Amistad*.

Thursday, July 23, 7:00 pm, Main Stage: *Two Boneheads* (16 mm short);

*Slaves of Hollywood* (East Coast Premiere).

9:30 pm, Main Stage: *Voices in the Afternoon* (16 mm short); *Fireworks*.

Friday, July 24, 6:30 pm, Main Stage: *Mother and Son*.

8:15 pm, Main Stage: *Grease*.

10:15 pm, Staller Center Plaza: *Grease Party*.

10:30 pm, Main Stage: *Kegless* (World Premiere).

Saturday, July 25, 4:00 pm, Main Stage: *First Prince* (35 mm short); *Paulie*.

6:00 pm, Main Stage: *Second Skin* (16 mm short); *Love and Death on Long Island*.

8:00 pm, Main Stage: *Raw Images*

*from the Optic Cross* (35 mm short); *Central Standard Time*.

9:45 pm, Main Stage: *Bystander from Hell* (35 mm short); *Exit* (U.S. Premiere).

Sunday, July 26, 2:30 pm, Main Stage: *Je Vole Le Bonheur* (16 mm short); *Exit*.

4:30 pm, Recital Hall: Filmmaker Panel Hosted by John Anderson.

6:00 pm, Art Gallery Lobby: Gold Passholder and Filmmaker Reception.

7:00 pm, Main Stage: *The Clearing* (35 mm short); *How to Make the Cruellest Month* (U.S. Premiere).

9:45 pm, Main Stage: *A Cure for Serpents* (16 mm short); *Kicked in the Head*.

For more information call 632-ARTS

# Inflation Drives Up New Jersey State Tuition <sup>3</sup>

BY BARBARA FITZGERALD  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — If your child entered a New Jersey state college four years ago, chances are that by the time he or she graduated in May the tuition bill alone increased by more than 25 percent.

That increase is more than double the state's rate of inflation for the same time period, according to the Department of Labor statistics.

A student entering college at one of the eight traditional four-year state colleges or universities in New Jersey in 1994, paid, on average, about \$2,425 in tuition.

By the time senior year rolled around, that bill rose to \$3,063, an increase of 26.3 percent, according to figures compiled by the New

Jersey State College Governing Boards Association.

And there is no relief in sight. Tuition costs at eight state colleges and universities will increase by an additional 9.3 percent this fall, boosting tuition rates to an average \$3,348. That's excluding student fees, which can tack another \$1,000 onto a student's annual bill.

College officials decry the fact they are getting only a 2.5 percent increase in state aid at a time when the state revenues are soaring from a robust economy.

But while colleges argue that they're not getting enough state aid, state officials say colleges aren't being efficient enough and are hoarding hidden surpluses.

As the two sides wrangle, some say a stronger, independent advocate is needed to look at for the interests

of students and their families.

Assemblyman Joseph Suliga, D-Union, is one. He believes there has been a woeful lack of oversight of the state colleges since Gov. Christie Whitman dismantled the Department of Higher Education and replaced it with the Commission on Higher Education, which does not have Cabinet-level status.

Suliga concedes it is partially true that state colleges have to raise their tuitions because of underfunding by the state.

"But I don't agree it is to the tune of 9.5 percent, and what bothers me is that no one's watching the store right now," he said.

Darryl Greer, executive director of the New Jersey State College Governing Boards Association, believes that lawmakers were reluctant to add more money in this

year's budget for public colleges because they believe the market can absorb the tuition hikes.

At \$3,348 per year, state college tuitions remain significantly lower than most private colleges. And New Jersey state college tuitions, while above the national average, are not dramatically out of line with neighboring states like Pennsylvania and New York.

"Unless there's a huge public outcry, it's not a bad decision from a political perspective," Greer said. "But can we continue this trend for too many more years? The answer is no."

Suliga and others see it otherwise. "Anyone who says the market can bear (the increased tuition costs) has missed the mission of public education," he said. "The whole mission is to keep the cost as low as possible."

## Students Say Trustees Are "RAM-ing" SUNY Trustees Release New Plans for Re-distribution of State Funds

BY GINA FIORE  
Statesman Editor

Always looking for a way to save money for the beleaguered SUNY system, the Board of Trustees recently put forth and passed a proposal to revamp the way money is distributed to the schools. The new proposal, called the Resource Allocation Methodology (RAM) program, has come under fire by critics for being another part of the, as activist John Mather says, "destabilizing, downsizing and restructuring" of the SUNY system.

The crux of RAM deals with the distribution of funding to the various campus which make up the SUNY system. Currently, all of the campuses receive aid depending on the need of the particular school. With the new system, funding would be allocated using the school's performance as a factor. Just what type of performance it takes to receive money is not yet certain. In, the Board of Trustee may take into account mission statements of the individual schools as a factor in school aid.

Under the new plan, the Trustees have promised that there will be no increase in tuition for students enrolling in classes for next year. However, critics of RAM disagree.

All of the Trustees approved of the plan except for two, including Student Trustee Celine Traylor. The vote was the first time a student had a voice in the entire RAM process.

One of the most outspoken groups against the plan is the United University Professors (UUP), who have conducted their own study on the effects of RAM. In gathering their analysis, the group changed the system that the Trustees used to come up with their own program. In their own findings, the UUP adjusted their survey for the size of the school and accounted for the mandatory fees that all students must pay. According to their findings, 19 campuses will lose money under the RAM program, totaling more than \$5 million dollars.

Among the campuses gaining money under the RAM program (as shown in the UUP study) are Albany, Geneseo and Stony Brook, who will be receiving \$1.5 million. Losing money in the new plan are, among others, University at Buffalo, which will lose the most money, at \$3.1 million. Fredonia and Oswego.

Other critics of the RAM proposal include the

Student Association of the State University of New York (SASU), who have called the program a way of "pitting campus against campus in a battle for resources." As well, SASU member Sari Krosinsky said, "The Trustees have a responsibility to ensure a quality, affordable, accessible higher education to all the students of New York State. They have betrayed that responsibility."

Caught in the middle of this conflict is the state legislature, who has been trying to pass legislation that will put a moratorium on RAM until it can be debated by the state government. Fearing a veto from Governor George Pataki, Republicans pulled their support for the bill, which then died in the State Senate. Governor Pataki is thought to approve of the RAM method.

There is now worry among SUNY lobby groups, like SASU, about how performance will be judged.

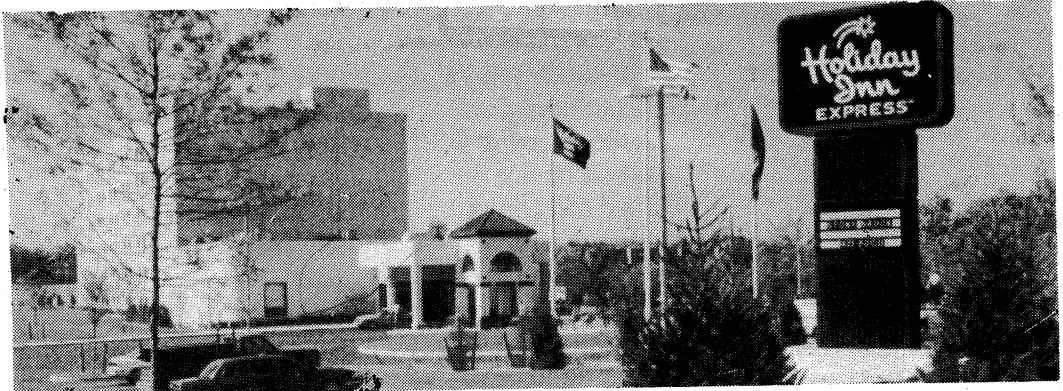
Krosinsky said, "Well-funded campuses that

perform will receive more money, while underfunded campuses, who need the funding most of all, will be the most likely to get nothing."

While this plan won't go into affect until the fall, there are already fears about rising tuition costs. Mather predicted that university centers will "jack-up tuition and fees, beginning in 1999. Arts and Sciences Colleges and Specialized Colleges will likely be setting new tuitions. And will all of this accessibility, affordability and quality will begin to vaporize."

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## Editorial

# Will Tuition Be RAMmed Higher?

Some of us may have come to SUNY Stony Brook for a wonderful learning experience, but at least a few are probably here for the low cost and decent education that can be received. What's not to love about that? Apparently, a lot.

The SUNY Board of Trustees seem determined to take away the basic right of education from as many people as they possibly can. Helping them along is their Resource Allocation Methodology (RAM) plan, an idea that, according to activist John Mather, fits into Governor George Pataki's plan of "destabilizing, downsizing and restructuring" SUNY.

What the Trustees are proposing is restructure of the way each SUNY college in the system gets money each year. As so many SUNY students would find familiar, there are more cuts than additions. Instead of automatically getting money each year, the amount of money given will be determined by the performance of a school. It's still unclear what this change will entail, but it'll certainly be decided by the board of trustees, who, it seems, have completely lost touch with students and

parents. And though tuition will remain at its current level, \$3400 per year, mandated fees will most likely be increased to cover the plan expenses.

By pretending to keep the price the same, the trustees have attempted to sneak this past us. For example, SUNY's website headlined the proposal trumpeting, "no increase in tuition this year."

No increase in tuition, yes, but increases in mandatory fees, which must be paid before a student can attend graduated.

The RAM program is so outrageously skewed that we must denounce it, even though Stony Brook stands to gain at least \$1.5 million dollars. Yes the funding is sorely needed, and we can name at least ten programs that could use the money, but the idea behind it is so crooked that, in the long run, it'll hurt Stony Brook. In the event that Stony Brook's trustees decide that the university performed badly, will we lose money? The idea may work in Stony Brook's favor now, but in the long run it'll only hurt us.

One group that has remained in tuned with the needs of the students is the state legislature. Apparently, many Democratic and Republican legislators aren't thrilled

with this financial plan and have attempted to slow down its implementation.

Unfortunately for us, a bill that was to impose a moratorium on RAM was killed in the state senate for fear of Pataki's veto.

There's no question where Pataki stands on the RAM issue. The fear he's struck in the legislature is ample proof that he's all for RAM and, consequently, its removal of funds from needy schools.

As always, we ask the question, "What can be done?"

The Student Association of the State University of New York (SASU) has already been actively promoting the downsides of RAM. And, as soon as the fall semester begins, the New York Public Interest Resource Group (NYPIRG) will undoubtedly join SASU in attacking the proposal. And, of course, there's direct contact with New York State lawmakers. You elect them; it's your job to tell them what you want them to do. Tell your legislators you want them to denounce RAM for what it really is and will become: an unnecessary funding fight between SUNY colleges and university centers.

## Can the Democrats Beat Senator D'Amato?

#### To the Editor:

This November voters will go to the polls and select a United States Senator, Governor, Members of the State Senate and Assembly, Members of the House of Representatives and other local seats that will be up for election throughout the New York area. But on election day will they really have a good choice of candidates or will their selections be limited based upon party politics, money and special interest groups?

I don't know what all the choices will be this November, since most candidates have not as yet decided to run either for re-election or for their party's nomination. But one thing is for certain: candidates will be on the ballot when the time comes.

With the upcoming political conventions right around the corner and the implied assurances that Republicans will support their very high percentage of incumbents throughout the New York State areas then it will be up to the Democratic Party to select and support candidates that will have the issues and competitive credentials as well as the money to

make their campaigns viable and give the voters a real choice.

The Democrats face a very difficult election year in 1998 as they are not the party in power and both candidates and resources will be pushed to the limit. Although they can't make everyone happy they nevertheless have an opportunity to select a lead candidate that will give them recognition and momentum for their ticket and for the voters this year if they select Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy to run against Senator Al D'Amato for United States Senate.

Congresswoman McCarthy has the ethics, morals and grass roots tenacity that can retire "Senator Pothole" and bring integrity, sincerity and honesty back to the US Senate. And, if she

supports campaign finance reforms, perhaps through free media time and technological applications for voting via telephone or computer, similar to the way she has pursued valuable gun control legislation, then she can beat D'Amato and become New York State's first female representative in the US Senate.

Sincerley,  
Mike DePaoli

#### Corrections:

In the June 1 issue of *The Statesman*, we stated that former Polity President Monique Maylor had represented Polity on the graduation platform. In reality, she was not on the platform. We regret the error.

# NY Legislator Questions SUNY Lobbying Contract

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BY JUSTIN BERGMAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ALBANY, N.Y. The State University of New York's lengthy and, at times, caustic negotiations with legislators over the future of the school's health science centers may be nearing completion, but round two in their war of words is just beginning.

Just as legislation that moves toward deregulating the school's teaching hospitals is delivered to the governor for his possible signature, a top state legislator is raising questions about SUNY's affiliation with a lobbying and law firm.

Assembly Majority Leader Michael Bragman, a Syracuse-area Democrat, claims the cash-strapped SUNY system can't afford to pay \$1.6 million for the independent lobbyist when they have employees of their own doing the same work.

Bragman said he also fears there may be a serious conflict of interest in the contract between SUNY and the Kalkines, Arky, Zall & Bernstein law firm.

He said the firm has been working with SUNY on the legislation to deregulate and restructure the SUNY hospitals, while also representing private hospitals and health care companies which could also be affected by the legislation.

Bragman stated his concerns in a letter sent to members of SUNY's board of trustees last Wednesday.

"In the 18 years I've been (in the state Assembly), I've never been more troubled," Bragman said. "There's really something that needs to be looked at here."

Meanwhile, SUNY officials defended the

relationship with the Kalkines firm in a letter sent to Bragman Thursday, claiming the school's mounting legal bills are the fault of inaction on the part of legislators.

"Over the past six years, a protracted legislative process has provided no relief for the SUNY hospitals. We have therefore sought the necessary expertise of a number of qualified legal and consulting firms to meet these challenges," SUNY Executive Vice Chancellor Donald Dunn said in the letter.

Scott Steffey, a SUNY vice chancellor, said the school's relationship with the Kalkines firm does not cross the bounds of a conflict of interest.

"I think it would have been inappropriate for us to hire someone without this type of experience in the private health field," Steffey said. "If our hospital doesn't do well on a revenue basis, it threatens our campuses. Having the right kind of legal experience is critically important to keeping our revenue flowing."

*"...the cash strapped SUNY system can't afford to pay \$1.6 million for the independent lobbyist when they have employees of their own doing the same work." - Assemblyman Michael Bragman*

The Kalkines firm is a lobbyist for at least 12 other organizations in the health field, including pharmaceutical giant Merck & Co., Inc.; Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the Coalition of Financially Distressed Hospitals and Via Health, a health-maintenance

organization.

As for the money, Steffey said the Kalkines firm provides a "myriad of different services" to SUNY, including legal representation. The amount is not out of the ordinary considering the school's three teaching hospitals in Syracuse, Brooklyn and Stony Brook do not have in-house attorneys, Steffey said.

George Kalkines, the principal attorney in the law firm, said the money his firm receives for its lobbying efforts is a small portion of the entire contract. Over the last two years, he said, the firm has been paid about \$90,000 for lobbying services.

According to records filed with the state comptroller's office, SUNY has paid the Kalkines firm \$1.04 million since July 1, 1996. The firm is set to receive a total of \$1.6 million by the time the contract expires next year.

Bragman said it is one of the larger, if not the largest, individual state consulting contracts.

For hospitals and a SUNY system that has been under a severe fiscal strain in recent years, Bragman called the size of the contract "outrageous."

Bragman said he began investigating SUNY's connection to the firm about six months ago when Kalkines entered the school's negotiations with legislators on how to restructure the SUNY hospitals to make them more competitive.

After Kalkines became involved, Bragman said SUNY began pushing for greater deregulation of the hospitals, including making the facilities quasi-independent organizations and setting up an independent governing board for the hospitals.

Bragman said he plans to have the SUNY contract investigated by the Assembly Higher Education Committee.

The Kalkines firm, which has offices in New York City and Albany, first registered as a lobbyist for the SUNY system just last month.

## NY University of Rochester to Help Test New AIDS Drug

ROCHESTER, N.Y. The University of Rochester Medical Center will participate in the largest national trial of a potential AIDS vaccine.

A California company recently received approval from the Food and Drug Administration to begin testing AIDS vax, a vaccine that uses a genetically engineered HIV protein to try to trick the body's immune system into warding off the AIDS virus.

About 5,000 volunteers in America and 2,500 in Thailand are expected to enroll in the trial. The university probably will begin enrolling volunteers in September, said Dr. Richard Reichman, head of the Infectious Diseases Unit at the medical

center, according to the Democrat and Chronicle of Rochester.

The trial is "Phase III," meaning volunteers will be people who are not infected with HIV — the virus that causes AIDS — but are at high risk for it.

UR is one of six AIDS vaccine testing sites in the country and it has attracted the most volunteers. More than 450 of the 2,000 plus volunteers who have tested AIDS vaccines nationwide were enrolled in Rochester, said Shirley Erb, study coordinator for the UR vaccine trials.

"You're being recognized for earning something," Mattson said. "You deserved it then and you deserve it now."

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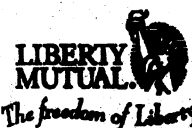
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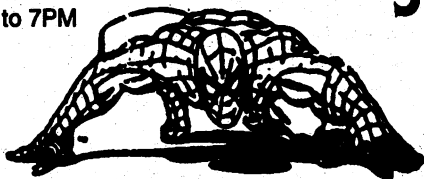
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EOE

## Stony Brook Festival

Continued from page 2

Festival, where it won the Director's Prize. "The Long Island Film Festival has been a great homecoming. I am from Long Island so my family and friends can see it in the theater. The Long Island Film Festival is a great place to screen," said Keefe.

"Film is the most expressive art form there is," said Keefe. However, the independent film industry is not an easy field to break into. "I think Hollywood is like joining a fraternity. You get hazed and if they like you enough they let you in," said Keefe. "It's getting much easier because now there are models on how to do it and there wasn't before. Five years ago when I said I was going to make an independent film, people thought that I was making a porno," said Keefe.

Rabbi David F. Nesenoff, who is also from Long Island, breaks the typical "filmmaker" stereotype. Rabbi Nesenoff will have his documentary, *The Sundance Rabbi*, included in this year's film festival. The half hour documentary is about the Rabbi's own experiences last year when another of his films was shown at the Sundance Film Festival. Nesenoff enjoyed the

atmosphere of the festival, where many would-be actors and directors were on hand to try to break into the film industry. "When you have hundreds of people in one town...everyone has a story and I filmed it all," he said.

"I am a preacher so I tell stories. It is hard to get 10 people together to listen but people line up for a movie. Movies are today's preaching methods. You first have to bring people together...and then you hit them with a positive and palpable message," said Rabbi Nesenoff.

Along with these independent films, shorts and videos, more mainstream movies like *Titanic*, *Amistad*, and *Les Miserables* will also be included in this year's selections.

Inkles was hesitant to suggest that the Long Island Film Festival would become a permanent part of Staller's annual show. Christopher Cooke, the founding director of the Long Island Film Festival, however, seemed happy with the accommodations that his festival receives by showing their films at the Staller Center. "This is the most pristine situation," he said. Others at Nell's last week were simply happy to meet filmmakers in the same shoes as themselves.

"It was good meeting Steve Race



Statesman/Peter GRatton

David Nesenoff, a rabbi, will show his documentary this weekend about his experiences at the Sundance Film Festival.

from Labor Day and others. It is good to meet others at the same level," Kestel said about the screening party. "You are able to meet everyone else in the same boat as you," said Keefe in agreement. Not only did the party allow for the

festival participants to meet but also proved to be a valuable networking experience for the indie filmmakers. Cooke said, "This is the first time and probably the last time that [many of these] filmmakers will see their films in a professional setting."

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Statesman

Campus Lifestyles  
Entertainment & Alternatives

## Features

## Shakespeare Festival Gets a Little Wilder

By JENNIFER KESTER  
Statesman Editor

Tired of the same old summer activities? If so, your cure may only be about an hour away. Recently, at the Delacorte Theater, Thornton Wilder's play *The Skin of Our Teeth* kicked off the 43rd annual summer of Shakespeare in Central Park.

*The Skin of Our Teeth* is an absurdist play that depicts the evolution and future of the human race. The play explores each of its representational characters and tests different topics that are still relevant today such as relationships, family, politics and gender.

The play begins in the dinosaur age and takes the spectator through time until the collapse of the world during a great war. In that journey the audience travels through the Great Flood, war and other catastrophes. As the title suggests, Wilder shows the audience that despite the natural disasters and throughout the internal conflicts within their own race, humans can and will survive even if it is by a small margin. Mr. Antrobus is a representation of man since the beginning of time. He is a great inventor (he created the alphabet, the multiplication tables and the wheel), a politician and a father all in one. Along with Mrs. Antrobus and their children Gladys and Henry, the family tackles a range of problems, those that loom large and mundane, from family matters to great catastrophes. The manner in which the Antrobus' resolve their problems is both humorous and intellectual.

John Goodman, who played Dan Conner on the sitcom "Roseanne," and who made his Broadway debut in 1985 in the musical *Big River*, starred as Mr. Antrobus. Mr. Antrobus is supposed to represent the

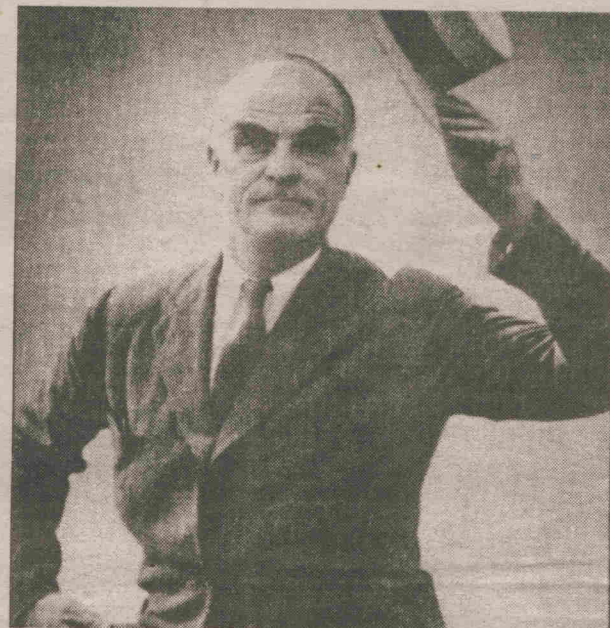
all American man and his role throughout time. Goodman gave a hearty performance as the domineering husband- exactly what the role calls for.

Kristen Johnston gave a hilarious performance as Sabina, the housekeeper of the Antrobus household. Probably best known as Sally Solomon from the television show "Third Rock From the Sun," Johnston's character is the pessimist of the play. She also tears down the fourth wall in the play and speaks to the audience directly providing for the needed comic relief. By having Johnston interject through the play and act outside of her character, Wilder hoped to demonstrate that there was a deeper meaning within her role. What other way to do so but to have Johnston fall out of character and speak to the crowd as human to human instead of actress to audience. All with the irony, of course, that she is still playing herself as a character.

Mrs. Antrobus was played by Frances Conroy. Conroy portrays the nurturing mother figure very well. She has been a regular in the Public Theater, with her most recent performance being Tony Kushner's *A Bright Room Called Day* which was performed in 1990.

Directed by Irene Lewis, *The Skin of Our Teeth* was chosen to be in this year's Shakespeare Festival because the Public Theater wanted to explore other literature that is not regularly performed. *The Skin of Our Teeth* is a play that not only meets this criteria but also is a type of classical theater that is the beginning of a new direction that the Public Theater is going to take in the future. The Public Theater is trying to find plays that can relay a contemporary message. Wilder is one such writer who was able to connect the elements of classical theater with contemporary events.

Although the last performance of *The Skin of Our*



Courtesy of Yale University  
Of Thornton Wilder's works one was chosen to be performed at the Delacorte Theater in N.Y.'s Central Park.

*Teeth* was on July 12, William Shakespeare's play *Cymbeline* will be the next attraction in the festival. Directed by Andrei Serban, this romantic play will be shown August 4 through August 30. This play is a melodrama with the expected Shakespearean elements- young lovers, princes, a wicked relative, and of course love. *Cymbeline* will also be shown in the Delacorte Theater.

Tickets are free of charge and available at one o'clock at the Public Theater in Greenwich Village and at the Delacorte Theater on the day of the performance.

## Nile Brings New Life to Death Metal

By PHIL SALAMACHA  
Statesman Staff

I've heard a lot of death metal bands, new and old, but Nile has to be one of the heaviest and most skilled bands in the industry.



Courtesy of Relapse Records  
Nile came out with a new CD entitled *Amongst the Catacombs of Nephren-Ka*.

This trio from South Carolina is lead by guitarist/vocalist Karl Sanders, bassist/vocalist Chief Spires, and drummer Pete Hammoura. Nile brings with it not only chaotic guitars, blasting drums, and straight from the bowels of hell vocals, but also Egyptian mythology and culture. In many of the songs there are horns, gongs, choirs and chanting that will make you imagine that you are in the deserts of Egypt.

Nile released a single demo in 1994 and began to work on their 1995 CD release *Festivals of Atonement*. At the same time they

opened up for acts such as *Obituary*, *Deicide*, *Broken Hope*, and *Six Feet Under*. In 1996 they toured with *Incantation*. By early 1998 Relapse Records signed them and their new full-length CD entitled *Amongst the Catacombs of Nephren-Ka*.

The first track, "Smashing the Antiu," gives you a sense of what is in store for you on the rest of the CD. The speed and complexity of Nile's playing is simply phenomenal, and the solos are nothing to sneeze at. Track five, "Ramses Bringer of War" starts off with just drums and horns giving a sense that something very evil is about to arrive. A very heavy guitar follows finally leading to a low-octave growl, introduces a cool progression. Track 10, "Opening of the Mouth" starts off with flutes, again underlying the album's

Egyptian theme, proceeding to the melee. The drumming in this song is extremely fast and there is a wicked guitar solo imposed. The last track, "Beneath the Eternal Oceans of Sand" begins with a melodic guitar leading into a different tempo riff and the usual deathly chanting. It reverts back to the melodic guitar for a second then leads to a blistering scream and ends in instrumental mayhem.

The lyrics in the songs are somewhat hard to comprehend, unless you have a background in Egyptian mythology. Nonetheless, with the talent these guys have, I would bet in a short time they will be regarded as one of the best death metal bands ever. *Amongst the Catacombs of the Nephren-Ka* is worth every penny you will spend on it!



**The following issue should have been numbered “Vol.  
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