

Students React to Princeton Student Wins International
Review Poll pg 4 Karate Title pg 14

The Stony Brook

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Statesman

VOLUME XLII, NUMBER 3

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1998

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Campus Assault Case:

*Victim Asks About University
Police:*

*Where Were
They?*

Page 3

The location of the assault which occurred on August 30, behind O'Neill College.

CRP

Stalkings and Obscene Messages Lead Crimes Reported

September 7

2:30 p.m.

A student left her black leather wallet on the vending machine in the Roth Cafeteria. When the victim realized they had left it there, they raced back and it was gone. The wallet included an FSA meal card with a balance of \$800, a New York State driver's license and a student ID.

September 6

1:58 p.m.

A bat was found hanging from the ceiling of the University Hospital. The fire marshal was called in and removed the bat.

4:00 p.m.

In the Kelly Cafeteria Lobby a man punched his wife repeatedly on the side of the head, causing minor bruising and her glasses to bend. The victim refused medical attention.

5:00 p.m.

An anonymous person from the University Hospital reported numerous annoying prank phone calls. The caller was silent and then hung up and did this repeatedly. The calls received were from within the hospital.

9:58 p.m.

An unknown person was reportedly urinating from the Fine Arts Building roof onto the loading zone. Officers checked the area but the suspect was gone upon arrival.

September 5

10:10 p.m.

The fire alarm indicator was ripped off of the wall in Eisenhower College. The estimated cost of damages was \$1500. The matter has been referred to Student Affairs.

September 4

11:34 a.m.

A male student became disruptive in the Mendelsohn Quad Office. He was upset because there was no housing available for him and his pregnant girlfriend. He was escorted out of the building and was referred to Social Services.

1:00 p.m.

A resident on the second floor in James College was in her room when she heard a noise coming from outside her window. When she went to the window to investigate the noise, she found that someone shot at it with either a pellet or B.B. gun. Damage is valued at \$250.

9:00 p.m.

A 1988 Buick parked in the lock shop parking lot on

Gym Road was vandalized. The windshield was broken and damage is estimated at \$250.

9:17 p.m.

A male in a green tee-shirt was seen looking into offices in the Graduate Physics Building, B Level. He claimed that he was selling pictures. He was advised to get the proper authority to legally sell the pictures and was asked to leave.

September 3

8:00 a.m.

The driver's side window was broken on a 1989 Hyundai that was parked in the North P-Lot. Damages are valued at \$250.

12:00 p.m.

A 1995 four door Saturn parked in the North P-Lot had its window smashed. The estimated value of the damages is \$100.

9:46 p.m.

A female claimed that she was being followed by a

group of four males in the Student Activities Center. She felt threatened by the group but the friends that she was walking with thought nothing of it.

September 2

12:45 p.m.

A Toshiba laptop computer, valued at \$1500, was stolen from an office in the Melville Library. The victim left her office for a meeting and left the door unlocked. When she returned it was gone.

10:00 p.m.

A student from Irving College reported that someone had written obscene messages on their dorm door.

10:45 p.m.

A resident from Keller was in her room when her boyfriend began banging on the door. He then allegedly forcibly entered the room and slapped the victim in the face. She refused medical attention and refused to press charges. The matter was referred to student affairs.

Tennessee Officials Face Questions on Crime Reports

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) Tennessee-Chattanooga campus police have gathered incident reports and other documents from 1997 that they say never made it into campus crime statistics.

The officers say the documents support their claim that university officials have manipulated and underreported campus crime. Daniel Carter, vice president of Security on Campus, a nonprofit watchdog group, says a summary report on the documents will be sent to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation and the state Education Department on Tuesday. The officers contend many crime reports never made it into TBI statistics. It is a violation of state law to fail to report campus crime to the TBI, which compiles annual reports based on numbers provided by schools.

The officers said they found three robbery reports for 1997, including a robbery with a firearm, but the TBI reported no robberies in 1997 on the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga campus. They also cite the investigation by Chattanooga police of an alleged rape that is classified as miscellaneous on a campus incident report. University spokesman Chuck Cantrell said some of the documents probably can be explained. He said incidents are sometimes reclassified after further investigation. Cantrell cited one example of a man who called campus police to report that he had been robbed and stabbed. The case was reclassified, however, after authorities determined the man had stabbed

himself and lied to police.

"Our records are always open to public scrutiny.... We know better than to try and hide anything," Cantrell told The Chattanooga Times.

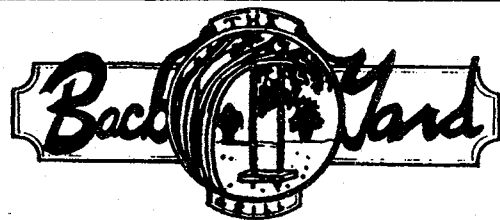
Chris Hunt, a longtime campus police officer who is leaving this week for a job with the Athens Police Department, said statistics are manipulated to keep crime numbers down and help with student recruitment.

University officials have touted low crime numbers in the past and contend campus police are angry about policy changes that keep them from carrying guns or patrolling the area around the campus. Hunt said officers were once afraid of losing their jobs if they blew the whistle, but do not care now that they have lost their guns and many responsibilities. "We put up with it as long as we felt like we could make a difference," Hunt said. "Maybe we can't report these things, but we can be looking for suspects; we know what's going on. We didn't want to lose our jobs. Now, who cares?"

George Ross, acting executive vice chancellor, said the TBI has looked at campus files and found no problems.

But Jackie Vandercook of the TBI's statistical analysis center in Nashville said the agency merely checked to verify a reporting system was in place and being used correctly.

"We're preparing to do quality assurance reviews for the first time and UTC is one of 12 schools in the state that will be reviewed," she said.



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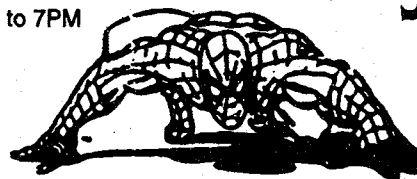
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Victim Speaks Out on Attack

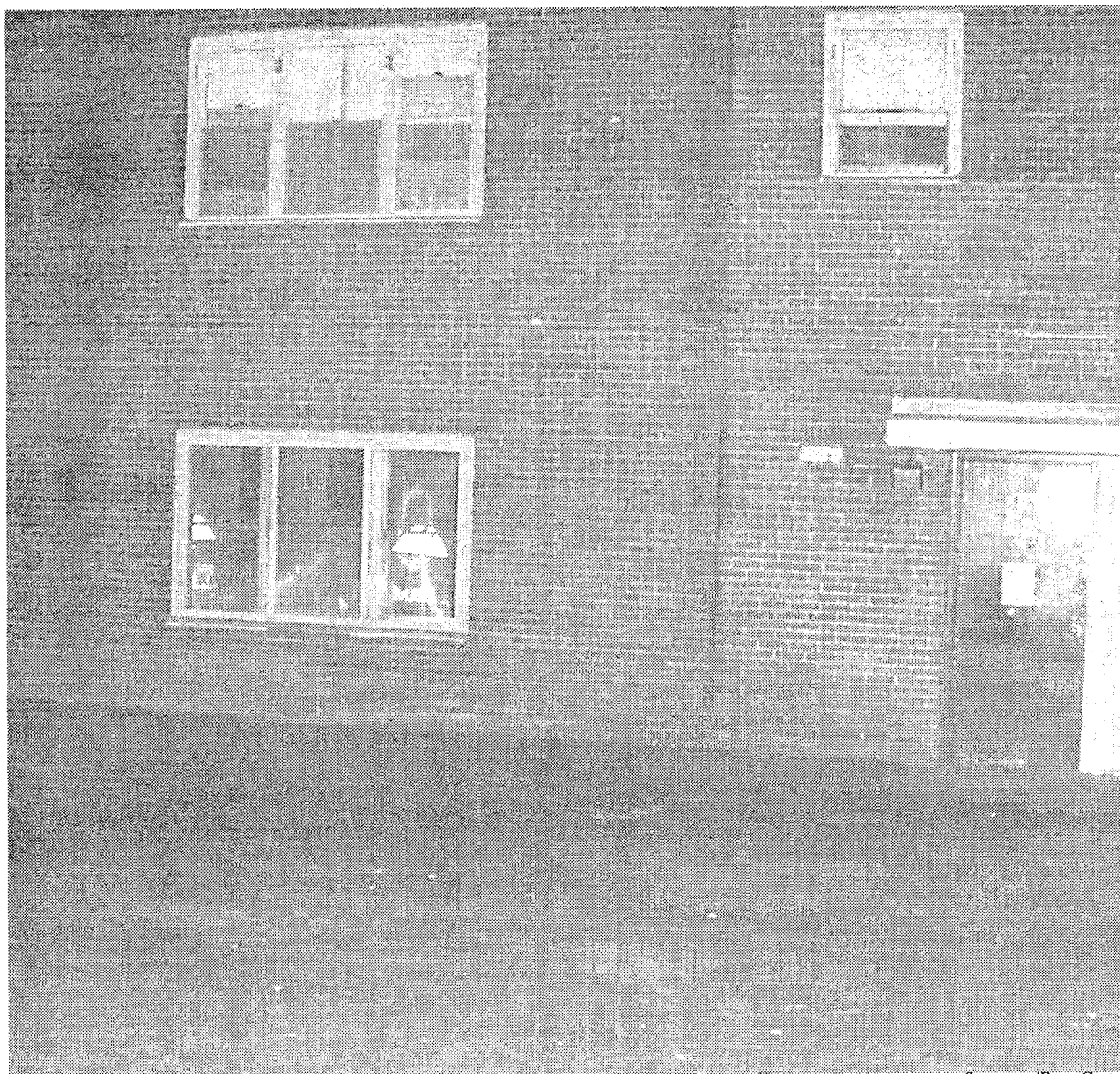
RAYA EID
Statesman Editor

After recently suffering an assault by ten males in the G&H parking lot, one of the victims has stepped forward to call for increased security measures at the University. The police, he says, are not doing enough to protect students on campus.

"I can't remember the last time that I've seen a police officer inside the quads at night," said the victim, who asked that his name not be published. "At night it's pretty much fair game," he said.

After returning from a major campus event, the welcoming party for freshman and transfer students at the SAC, the two victims, one being a resident at Stony Brook, were attacked behind O'Neil College on their way to meeting their friend in the parking lot. Ironically, the incident occurred about one hundred feet from the Residential Safety Program office. The victims encountered the assailants at approximately 1:00am, and were taunted and attacked from behind. Profanities and threats such as "you're in the wrong place at the wrong time," were directed at the victims before they were assaulted. One victim was struck by an object in the back of the head, and given a concussion and fractured jaw. "The world started spinning and I just dropped to the floor," said the victim. In the meantime his friend was being beaten severely, and suffered a broken nose and several cuts and bruises. One of the victims was thrown in front of a moving car, which happened to be his friend's van. At this point, the assailants had fled, and the victims were brought to the security gate at the main entrance. "If my friend hadn't picked us up and they kept beating us, it's quite possible that we would have laid there in the parking lot and not been found for hours, and that scares me," said the victim.

The University Police were contacted at approximately 1:23am and arrived a few minutes later. SBVAC, who were supposedly on another call, were contacted three times by University Police before they arrived at the scene to transport the victims to the hospital. While waiting approximately 45 minutes for the ambulance to arrive, the victim who had suffered serious injuries, was constantly vomiting blood due to his concussion. A concern of the victim was why University Police did not attempt to administer first aid on either of the victims, although all are certified. "While Public Safety officers were waiting for SBVAC,



Statesman/Peter Gratton

The attack happened within 100 feet of the Residential Safety Program Office behind O'Neil College.

there was nothing they could do for us," he said. Assistant Director of University Police, Doug Little, responded to this by saying "we're not doctors or professional medical people, but we want to get them to the hospital as soon as possible."

The victims were released from the hospital at approximately 8:00am Sunday morning, after being treated for their injuries. The victim who disclosed the information to us, is gradually healing, and feeling better

everyday. Currently one of his main priorities is catching up in all the classes that he missed.

Considering it was too dark and almost physically impossible for either victim to identify the suspects, University Police does not have any leads to the investigation, however, the case is still pending. "Their hands are tied just as much as mine are," said the victim. Although he does understand that their is not much that University Police can do concerning the investigation, the victim does believe that they can do a lot more to prevent these kinds of situations from happening in the future. "There needs to be more of a presence on campus to deter the violence," he said, implying that if there was more police on campus and RSP employees, than people would be less inclined to commit these violent crimes. According to Doug Little, there are three patrol cars, one foot patrol, and one bike patrol on campus during the evening. "It's a very large campus, and cops can't be everywhere, but the officers are out there," Little said.

In reference to any RSP members not being around during the scene of the crime, Mattie Punnett, assistant director of the Residential Security Program, said that during the weekend of the incident, RSP had very limited staff, who were all in training and the returning staff had not began working. On the night of the crime there were only four people working the field units and one in the RSP office, who apparently did not hear or see the brutality going on outside the building. RSP is currently in the process of hiring new staff and doing their best with the employees they have. "RSP has a lot of work to do, and we are hanging in there with our limited staff right now," said Punnett.

"I had this idea of what I believed the school was, and how it was to live on this campus, but something like this kind of shakes you out of that, pops your bubble a little bit," said the victim. I still have hope that the campus can get better, but I'm very concerned."

Security Cameras Installed

By **MIKE KWAN**
Special to the Statesman

Security on campus is a constant concern for both students and faculty alike. It is the job of Campus Police to ensure security for everyone on campus, both day and night. This is accomplished through roving patrols by Campus Police, on foot and, by car and bicycle, call boxes in crucial locations, and security cameras placed in strategic positions around the campus.

Although there is a relatively low rate of crime on campus, University Administration has found the need to improve security on campus.

A plan to install several additional cameras in various locations in throughout the East and West campuses.

According to Doug Little, assistant director of Community Affairs for University Police, the cameras will not be used to "look over the shoulders of students." Little said their intent is to "enhance personal safety and security on campus." Due to safety and security concerns, he did not disclose the exact locations, or number, of cameras. However, he said that the cameras were installed in such places

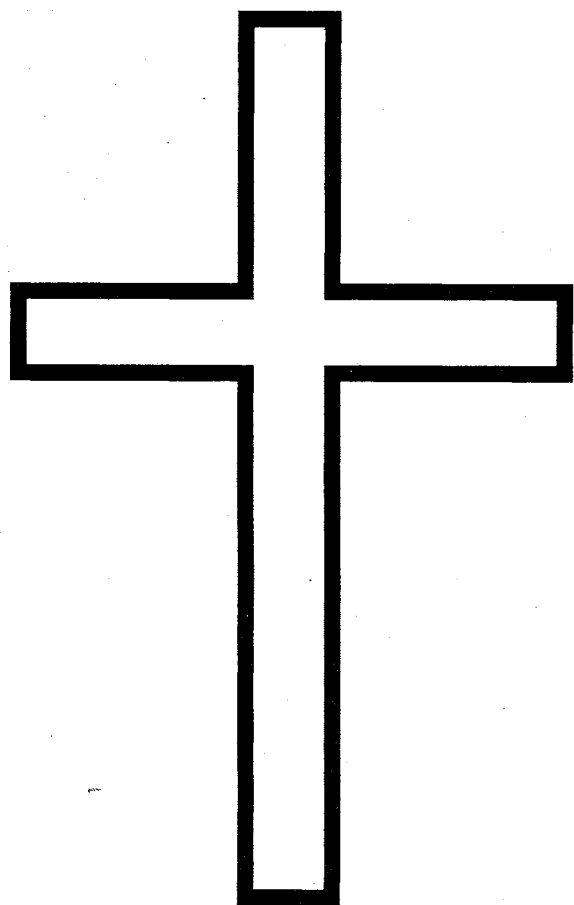
as: the Academic Mall, the Health Sciences Center, the Staller Arts Center, loading docks, and many of the parking lots, with more installations planned for the future. In the larger parking areas, such as the South P-lot, however cameras have not been installed in North P Lot. Cameras were installed in the parking lots to minimize vandalism and damage done to the cars of commuter students, in addition to the Campus Police's duty to protect students and faculty.

Gary Matthews, Assistant Vice President of Campus Services, has said that the installation of these cameras will guide future security related programs, such as the installation of more cameras in key locations around campus. Matthews said that future plans will utilize the latest technology to improve security around campus, in areas such as the bicycle paths, the University Hospital and the HSC area.

Matthews said that the new cameras will, "improve our ability to respond when people need assistance," by allowing University Police to monitor parking and high traffic areas around campus to a greater extent than in the past.

The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, September 10, 1998

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Students React to "Unhappy" Ranking

By MICHAEL O'ROURKE
Statesman Staff

The Princeton Review has recently ranked Stony Brook as the one of the schools with the least happy students in the nation. A number of Stony Brooks students remain unhappy about the poll itself.

The Princeton Review annually releases reviews of colleges based on academic merit, social life, financial aid, and overall quality of the school. Last year, Stony Brook was given the prestigious honor of being named the best research institution east of California.

Dominick Smorto, who is a freshman here, and has only begun to feel out the university, says that from what he had been able to determine, this college is a fun place with great people. "The professors seem to be very accessible," said Smorto.

He said that contrary to what he had heard prior to coming to this college, the professors talked to him on a very real level. They talked to him like an adult, he said, and were sincerely concerned about his problems.

Keith Haber is a graduate student of Slavic literature and language. He described his professors as "very willing to make concessions and compromise." He has not had to deal with any incompetent t.a.'s, which is a problem often voiced at the school and which probably contributed to the "miserable" ranking.

The one thing that Haber found disturbing about the school was complaints he has heard by undergraduates about how they don't feel the D.E.C. requirements are fair.

He said that it's nothing more than complacency on the part of the students and that they should "stop their bitching, because this is the only time in their life that they'll be able to take a broad spectrum of liberal arts classes, which Haber says is an integral part of getting an education.

Not everybody had an opinion of the University that contradicted the poll. Fidji Cohen, a sophomore, complained about the social life here on campus. "Everybody leaves on the weekends because there's nothing to do." She said that she came to the university to get the total college experience, which she said, includes an exciting campus social life. She is extremely happy, though, with the professors, choice of classes, and superior academic reputation that she believes school has.

Randy Acum, who is a junior and works in the Union Station Deli, offered a different view. He says that college life is what you make of it. In his words, "you can dwell in your misery because the college might not be everything you expected, or you can go out, put in a little bit of effort, and find yourself a good time." According to Acum, the key to success at Stony Brook is getting involved. "If you just sit in your dorm room, or live at home, you shouldn't expect a good time to come to you. You have to go out and get involved."

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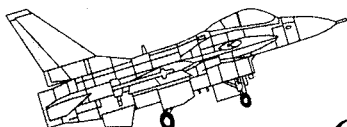
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Editorial

Big Brother's Watching Stony Brook

Sometimes the old adage is true: "Big Brother is watching you." That's how it is in Irvine, California, where the planned community is in its element, where security cameras and guards are fixtures of life for residents. Sure, they make the place safer, but how much of your freedom and privacy should give up for that security?

That's the question that Stony Brook is grappling with

right now, as they get ready to install security cameras in six different areas of the campus. Included in this group are the Staller Center, the Academic Mall and the South P Lot, three areas which see heavy traffic both during the day and at night. While these areas are heavily populated with students, there are other places, like the loading docks that are spread through campus, which don't see much traffic during

the day or at night. We wonder why these places need security cameras at all when other areas, like the North P lot, goes without them.

The Campus Police would do well to look into adding more actual cops on the campus instead of cameras. Nothing can take the place of actual cops riding around the school, ready to stop crime at the drop of a hat. How many security cameras can do that?

Another Democrat Jumps Ship

BY GINA FIORE
 STATESMAN EDITOR

How many of you remember my editorial last semester, where I expressed my support for President Bill Clinton, even though he was immersed in a sex scandal? Even though I was being pummeled with reasons why I should jump the Democratic ship and leave the Clinton coattails, I stayed with Clinton and took his word that he "did not have sexual relations with that woman, Monica Lewinsky." Even when the women's groups began to waver in their support, I stayed on because I had strong views. Well... I was wrong.

Yes, even I can admit that I was wrong. It was wrong of me to throw my support to Clinton. It was wrong of me to stand behind the President, especially when it was so glaringly obvious that he was guilty of garnering sexual favors from a 21 year old intern. And yes, it was wrong of me to believe such obvious lies.

But what else could I do? Here was a man who I had supported in the 1992 election, even through the marijuana scandal and the Jennifer Flowers stories. To me, this person represented the rescue the Democratic party needed after three terms of Republican presidents. I, like most Democrats, grasped onto the entire Clinton ticket with both hands.

With Clinton, character was always an issue. There was always some sort of cloud hanging over his office, whether it be Whitewater, the Vince Foster suicide or the Travelgate problems. But to the American people, it didn't matter. The economy was steady, the stock market was on a constant increase, and the United States was the only world power still

in existence. What was there to complain about? So Clinton was accused of making unwanted advances towards Paula Jones. No one believed her anyway, especially with her white trash fashion statements. He was untouchable, like John Gotti, who everyone called the "Teflon Don."

But alas, even teflon develops problems. It happened to Gotti, and it was bound to happen to Clinton. Whereas Gotti's silver bullet was Sammy "The Bull" Gravano, Clinton's was Lewinsky. Even he couldn't survive the scandal of having sex with one of his interns.

It didn't seem like it would turn out the way it did, though. Clinton's popularity shot up after the scandal broke. The booming economy was the panacea he needed for this tiny problem. Republicans were shocked by what they saw. Here was a guy who was accused of having sex with someone his daughter's age, and the people still loved him. The situation looked hopeless for both the Republicans and Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor who was charged with investigating the entire sordid mess. The people loved Clinton and loathed Starr, who they felt was dragging their President through the mud needlessly.

Needlessly, however, ended when the economy began to take a dive. With Asian countries scrambling to prop up their failing businesses and the Russian President crawling his way back into his vodka bottle, the United States was the only country left to hold their weight. Unfortunately, even we couldn't handle it. Once our stock market began to fall, so did Clinton's popularity. But his numbers were still pretty strong at least until the ugly details began to leak to the

media.

First it was the gifts. Then it was the dress. After that, the case was so hopelessly against Clinton that he admitted to the affair, first to Starr's grand jury and then to the public. That's when all hell broke loose on both sides of the government.

The Republicans were joyful. This was finally their way to rid themselves of Clinton, who they considered a scourge of the people. The Democrats, on the other hand, were anything but. Many of them, including myself, questioned the moral integrity of their leader, which led to the defection of large numbers of Clinton supporters. Those who stayed on were caught with unprepared for the barrage of questions and feelings that most of them now shared.

At this point in time, Clinton faces possible Impeachment proceedings, which would be the final blow to an already tarnished presidency. But the real victims, aside from Lewinsky, are the former Clinton supporters, who stood by his side through almost everything. What are we supposed to do now?

I personally feel sad and betrayed by our leader, a man who we thought had enough sense not to lower himself to sex with interns. Unfortunately, we were sadly mistaken. We are now faced with the question: Are we still Democrats? Where do we go from here? Who can we trust, let alone support? Obviously, the answer to the last question is not Bill Clinton. He has shown that he cannot be trusted to be the example the American people asked for. A leader needs to have some credibility. Clinton, at this point, has none. He needs to resign immediately to give some much needed support to an already weakened office.

The Cruel Reality of College Consumerism

By AHMED KHAN
Special to the Statesman

Credit card solicitors wander the hallways. Music and magazine ads litter the bulletin boards. Numerous fast food franchises from burger joints to Mexican takeout provide culinary variety to the many thousands of consumers they cater to daily. Pop videos blare through cafeteria loudspeakers. Look anywhere and you will see fashionable clothing, the latest electronics and the most trend-setting styles, emulating our contemporary consumer age in every commercial-worthy aspect. You may wonder, then, if we are walking down the hallways of the newest suburban megamall? No, of course not. We are, in fact, in a far more hallowed place of business: The modern American college campus.

Therefore, the question arises: Is their any distinction left today between those two places anymore? Have the effects of 90's consumerism and media excess overwhelmed the many poor, young students who must endure, from the moment they step foot onto the cracked sidewalks and crowded thoroughfares of academic malls, the endless solicitation and pandering of the corporate world.

Today many students, particularly the most marketing-naive (the freshmen class and foreign students) find themselves caught in the snaring seductions of media consumerism. It ranges from the less threatening, like the annoying ads for magazine and travel packages that accompany every book purchase, to the potentially dangerous interest-webs of credit card misuse and debt financing. Those in turn bring along with them the resulting credit problems and shopping addictions.

Even in its most harmless form, excessive consumerism profoundly affects any society. Where the controversy

does arise, however, is just how beneficial all this marketing and advertising is for the hapless student. Of course from a corporate viewpoint, the answer seems clear. All those ads, all those marketing strategies, they must surely bring increased profits to the company. Why should that be a bad thing, especially if the students involved gain the benefit of product variety and the pleasure of countless creature comforts. These range from the trendiest clothes and coolest electronics to the latest automobiles. And in any case, they argue, American youth

Whatever happened to the distinction between college and business?

is affluent enough to enjoy these things, even if it does mean assuming a small debt or credit card balance. Why should we worry, then, if this group of young adults, like the many other segments of the public demographic, should be targeted by the Great American Marketplace? Indeed, they argue, all should celebrate this expansive opportunity only by furthering most marketing efforts, tapping into more and more isolated niches of campus society.

Yet, as is often the case with corporate assumptions, this great marketing deluge does, however, have a very serious side effect on its target audience. As evidence by countless studies and reports, the American student continues to graduate mired in tremendous debt. He or she must spend years and countless working hours paying off not only college loans and academic debts, but also the pair of earrings bought five years ago, or the



Among the consumer items invading the campus is Coca-Cola, which now has an exclusive contract to deliver soda to the University.

expensive car payments and computer loans which have been incurred over the course of their academic program. Today, many students graduate with Associate and Bachelors degrees, only to forgo further education, merely to pay off material debts and financial obligations. Not surprisingly, the number of young people who declare personal bankruptcy, or those who must seek newer loans to replace old debts, have markedly increased in the past few years.

The backlash against all this greed and consumerism still remains, however, quite small. Although credit counseling and financial awareness classes are on the increase, most young people still do not feel concerned by the rising tide of corporate solicitation. They still feel that final authority rests with themselves as individuals, perhaps not feeling that they were pressured to purchase that \$200 pair of sneakers or that shiny red sports car, all of course on debt and payment plans. As more students take on debt, it only adds to the pressure on their more conservative fellow student consumers, causing them to splurge on useless and often ephemeral products. Walk into any dorm room today and you will see that influence reflected on the walls in popular commercial symbolism and on the desks as endless stuff, from stationary to electric gadgets - do we really need those three staplers and two alarm clocks? Just how many Nike posters can we tolerate, how many insidious TV commercials can we afford, before our personal sensibilities are adversely affected?

What finally comes to mind is whether all these material gains have been truly worth the financial trouble and stresses they bring along with them. Have we then allowed ourselves, as a collective society, to alter our obligation to foster the younger generation ethically? Or are we only viewing ourselves with a singular classification in mind: as the ultimate of marketing objects rather than the best of humanity? I don't think that was the real purpose, at least initially, when we chose to go to college.

Chartwells A Disappointment

To the Editor:

My attention has been fixed on the many problems and griefs the meal plans have been posing throughout my years at Stony Brook. As a senior, entering my last semester, I was looking forward to embracing the entirely new dining company "Chartwells".

Initially the cafeterias were experiencing delays in the opening hours; some dining halls were being renovated, while others were stripped of their decor, were short of workers, and seemed empty of variety. (This is evident in the apparent lack of brands of beverage other than Coca Cola). Nevertheless, I waited on the long lines, and ate the tasteless so-called meals.

While hoping to survive these conditions for the next few months, I was unlucky enough to discover that I was to be mistreated even more. As it so happens, on

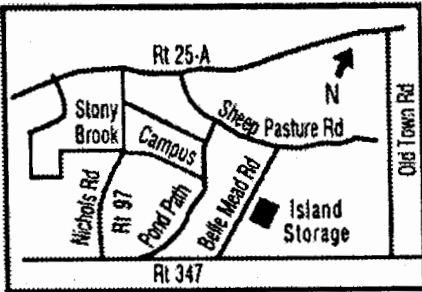
one of my excursions to the Union Deli, a cashier mistakenly overcharged me. She refused to provide me with a receipt and promised to have my meal card reimbursed.

The next day I showed up and was surprised to learn that my money was never returned to me. Although the manager reassured me that all was being taken care of, I was still disappointed to see that nothing was being taken care of. I was sent to the meal plan office, where all efforts to secure a copy of my credit spending proved futile.

A week has passed by, my money has not been reimbursed as of yet, and throughout this ordeal I was the one who was being thrust from one manager to another from one office to the next, only to come back empty handed.

Alana Klarfeld

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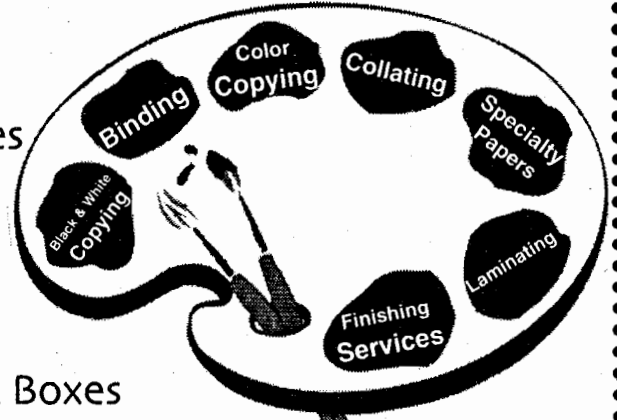


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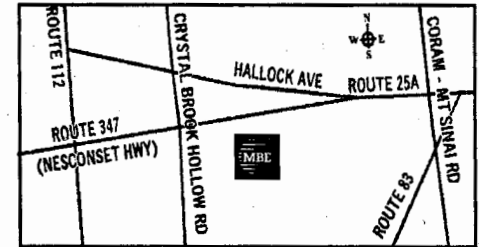
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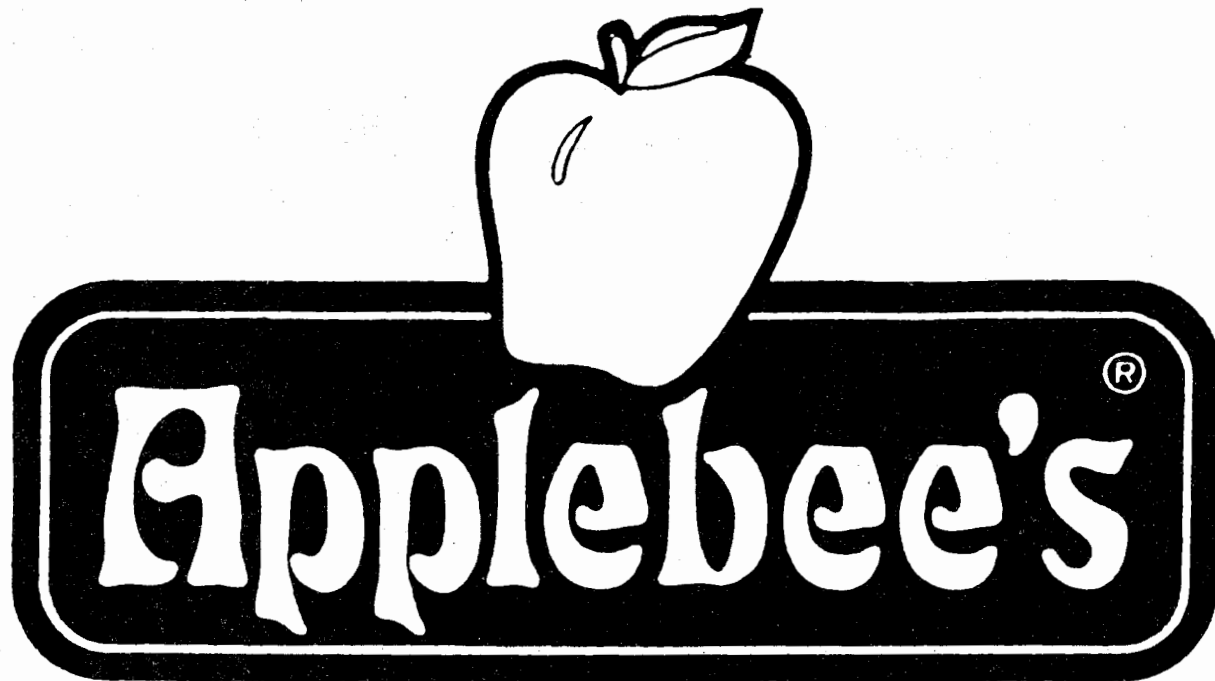
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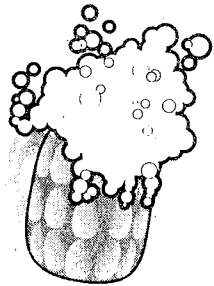
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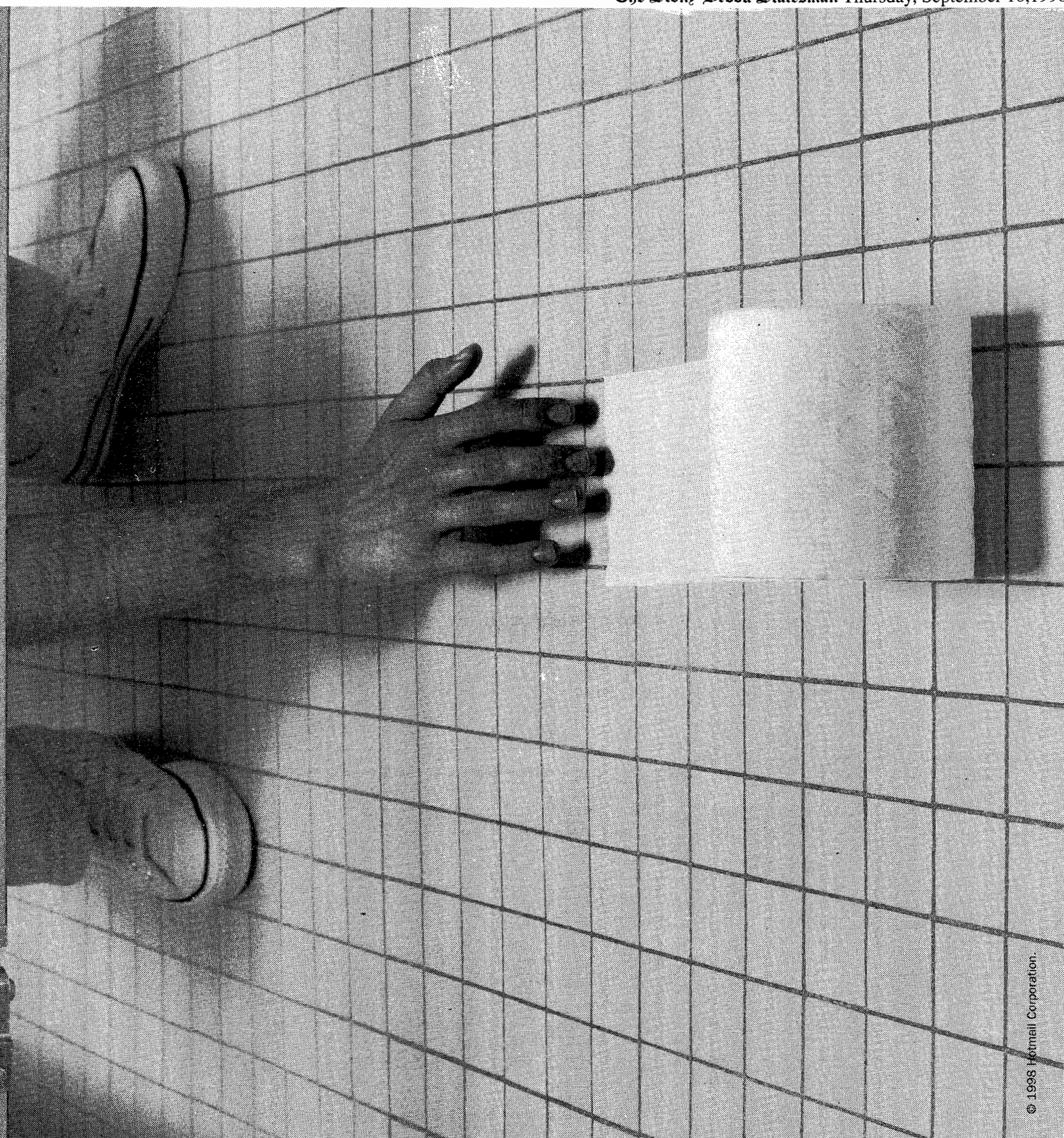
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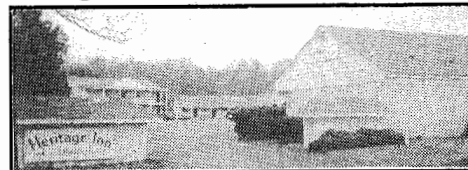
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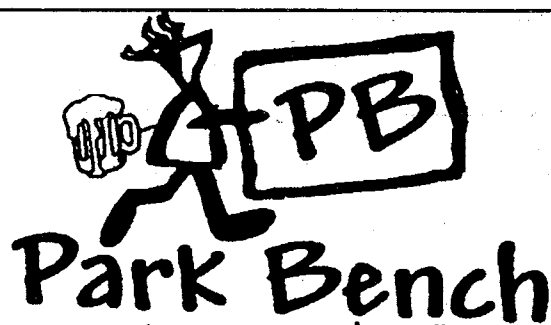
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A Kick Above the Rest

USB Student Wins International Karate Title

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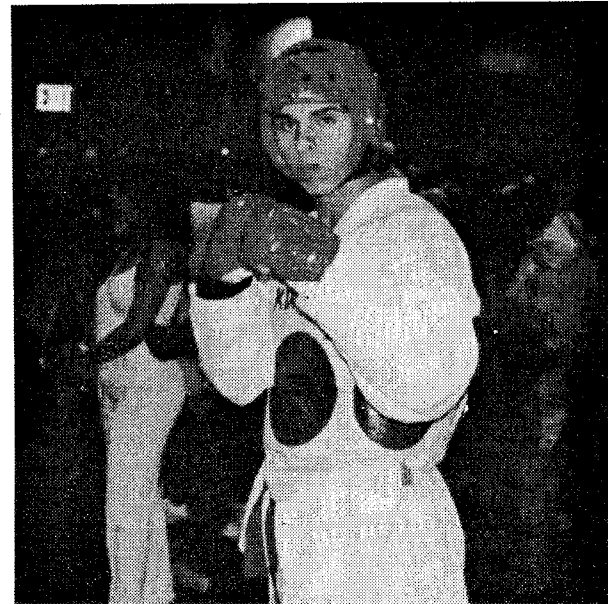
One of the most popular genres of movies at the box office is action. Viewers love to watch gun battles and intense fights, they idolize these superheroes and dream of one day becoming one. As a child, Stony Brook sophomore Levon Arvanov also watched karate movies and wanted to become a courageous fighter like his idol Bruce Lee. However, unlike many others, Arvanov did not drop his dreams. He pursued them and at a young age and became an international champion in the martial arts.

Arvanov spends most of his time learning and practicing the art of kung fu. Born in Armenia, he

expressed an interest at the age of eight in learning karate. His father, Victor Arvanov, who is currently a researcher and assistant professor at USB, was a former karate artist. When his father noticed his son's interest, he decided to open up a karate club where he became his son's instructor for three years.

A stroke of luck changed Arvanov's life. His father accepted a job offer in Taiwan and the entire family moved there for several years. In Taiwan, he had the chance to be trained by the finest experts in the martial arts world. For three years he practiced his art seven hours a day.

He continued to pursue his hobby when he moved to the United States in the summer of 1993. As he



Courtesy of Levon Arvanov

Dressed in spar-ring gear, Arvanov won second place in the category.

matured in the field, he participated in competitive meetings and national tournaments. In November 1997 he began reaping the awards from his hard work. He was a finalist at the Empire State Games and this past August he achieved a great victory at the 17th Annual U.S. Capitol Classics International Martial Arts Tournament. This tournament is considered to be among the most prestigious in the country. Participants from China, Europe and the United States competed for the prizes. Arvanov first place in the forms category and second place in weapons and in sparring of the "China open" in the 18-29 years old division.

"Yes, dreams do come true. However goals will not be handed to you on a gold platter, you can reach them only by determination and hard work," Arvanov said. "Practice does not interfere with learning. To the contrary. It enhances one's ability to learn because it teaches the person discipline, concentration and time management," he said.

For those that also want to develop their mind and body and learn some self-defense skills, Arvanov is planning to open a kung fu club here at USB this year, and all are welcome to join.

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A How-To for Decorating Your Room

Continued from pg 16

posters are very popular among college students.

Other items seen around many campuses are glow-in-the-dark ceiling stars and planets, hanging beads for doorways, Far East inspired tapestries, bean bags, and blowup figures.

And when hanging these objects on the walls, interior decorators recommend straight pins, which leave no visible holes and hold up to 35 lbs. Many students turn their rooms into mini greenhouses, livening them up with plants. The WVU Greenhouse recommends sturdy, low maintenance plants that will survive their neglect.

The frequency of watering plants depends on the temperature of the room; if the room is dry and hot, daily watering is required.

Plants ideal for dorm life, recommended by the WVU Greenhouse, are cactuses, depending on the availability of sunlight, and creeping plants such as Swedish ivy, wandering Jew and peperomias.

"Ideally, plants should be near the light, but the furnace is usually under the window so they'll be drying out too fast and they won't have the humidity needed," a spokesperson for the WVU Greenhouse said.

But there's no place like home, especially when you're confined for the next year in a 12x19 area where your roommate is an arm's length away. So your only recourse is to make this assigned space your "home away from home."

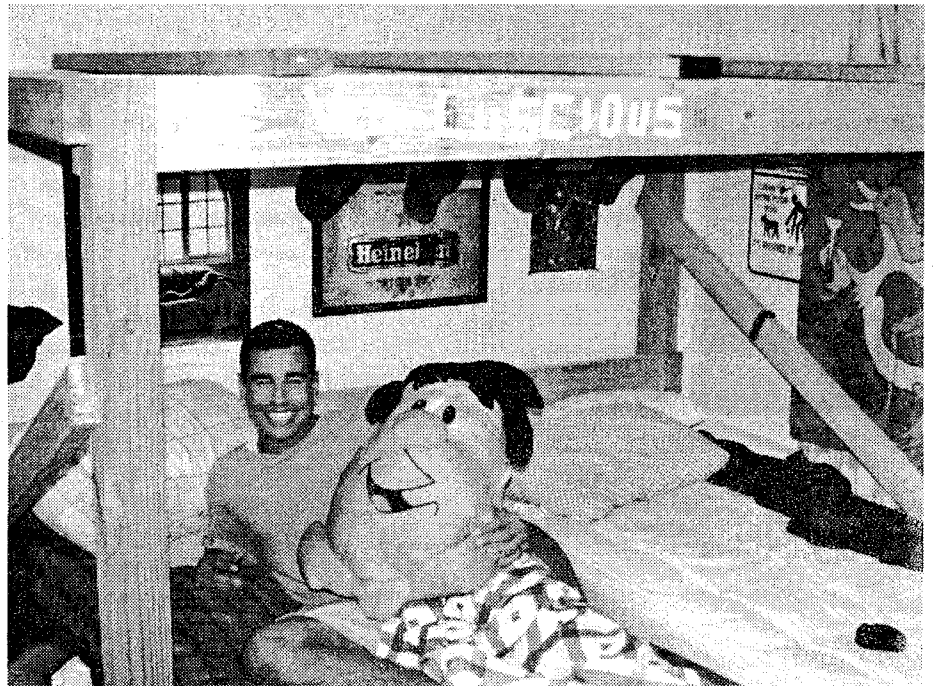
"It doesn't take that long to decorate, maybe a couple of hours," said Jenny Painter, a sophomore nursing student at Fairmont State College. "We buy stuff from everywhere to make it comfy, cozy and kind of cool looking."

Stony Brook students have improvised to also get that comfy, cozy and cool dorm atmosphere. Ammann resident Freddie Garcia made a loft to conserve space. "We tried to make the room as comfortable as possible. We tried to hide the disgust the room contains," he said.

The lofts are a very popular option that many residents are taking advantage of. Junior Jackie Daigneault was trying to make her room homey, classic and cool but at the same time spacious. She bought two lofts and put couches on the bottoms. She also took advantage of the space and stacked crates for extra storage.

"We tried to hide the disgust the room contains."

Resident Phil Russo conserved space by putting his bed in his closet so that it protrudes only a little into the room which allows him more freedom in decorating in the '70s love shack theme of his room.



Statesman/Linda Kratics

Senior Freddie Garcia made a loft for his dorm with fireproof wood.

To conserve space, Anne Prusak, from Gray College, put her dressers in her closets. "To have open space you should push everything against the walls," she said. Prusak made her room cozier by covering her walls in unusual tapestries and by making collages from old pictures from home.

Residential Advisor Dennis Caltieri, from Gray College, had seen many unusual decorating ideas on the job. Attaching bottle caps to the bedposts, glow in the dark stickers, inflatable furniture and wall graffiti are several unique touches. Some students also hang roses upside-down and dry them out. This not only adds a romantic quality to the room but also emits a sweet scent. An

inexpensive and unusual decorating tip for those who have black lights is to take a clear glass bottle and fill it with water. Then remove the ink cartridge from a highlighter and place it into the bottle and seal it tightly. Turn on the black light and the bottle will glow.

Resident Jeanine Erdman suggested bean bag chairs and wind chimes to add a more personal touch to the room. "Definitely use a lamp instead of the fluorescent tanning bulbs they have in the room," she said. The lamp lighting provides an intimate atmosphere.

Roommates Peter Dolan and Colin Rohan creatively used a fish patterned shower curtain instead of a closet door cover. Dolan said, "We decorated our room so that we would be comfortable just hanging out in it."

The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, September 10, 1998

Statesman

Campus Lifestyles
Entertainment & Alternatives


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Home Sweet Home

Add Some Color to Your Dorm Room with these Helpful Tips

By JENNIFER KESTER
Statesman Editor &
By ISOLDE TEBA
Associated Press

Mission impossible: Transform the cinder block cell of a dorm room into a pseudo habitat with all the amenities of home. The generic furnishings provided, compliments of the higher learning institution, are: a desk, dresser, drapes, desk lamp, waste basket, mirror and twin bed (extra long mattress, 36x80 inches).

When living a cramped lifestyle, efficiency is of the utmost importance. In Home Depot's newsletter, Isabella Schmoller, an interior designer at Home Depot, uses a multipurpose decorating style that converts dorm rooms from drab to fab, and still while remaining within a budget.

Don't know what to do with those suitcases or boxes? Schmoller recommends using cinder blocks to prop the bed up so that items can be conveniently hidden from view. Large clay or plastic flower pots covered with a piece of Plexiglas or plywood can be used both for storage and as shelves.

Storage boxes are great for just that, storage, especially when attractively covered in contact paper. To get the most out of closet space, shoe trees provide you with more space, and stackable milk crates have always been used as bookshelves and storage area for sweaters.

And even though you live with your roommate, that doesn't mean you have to stare at each other from across the room all day. For privacy, Schmoller recommends bamboo roll-up shades connected to the ceiling, making great room dividers. Before even moving into your dorm room, look at



Resident Phil Russo put his bed in the closet to save space.

Statesman/Linda Kraics



Anne Prusak used tapestries and inflatable furniture to decorate her dorm room

Statesman/Linda Kraics

the color used on the walls of the room.

Virginia Richmond, professor of communication studies at West Virginia University, said that studies show colors directly affect a person's mood. Many schools allow you to make pre-approved changes to your room, so pick a color to decorate with that will encourage a productive year.

"The soft white or off-white is a good color selection because it allows the student to make the room more cheerful or more homey than the straight dorm atmosphere," Richmond said. "Stay away from the bright white. It can often cause maladies such as headaches, stomachaches and irritability."

Colors that do not enhance a good learning environment are neon yellow, red, orange and green. Richmond said that these colors instill excitement, moodiness, stress, and may even cause hyperactivity.

"With these colors the students want to do more partying in those rooms than studying," Richmond said. "That's why many fast-food restaurants use those colors; it makes the person eat and run, opposed to the softer colors." So when choosing colors,

Richmond recommends pastels such as mauves, softer grays, yellows, blues and pinks because it makes the environment more comfortable and less stressful.

Also stick with lighter colors, because the darker ones give the illusion that the room is smaller than it really is. As a rule of thumb, Richmond says to stay away from three colors: mud brown, battleship gray and slime green. For college furnishings, most students choose the Salvation Army. Camille Tomlinson, manager at the Morgantown store, has students purchasing mainly furniture and mattresses. Depending on the quality or the size of the item, most furniture pieces are priced anywhere from \$25 to \$100, depending on what is in stock.

"The availability and the price has students shopping here," Tomlinson said. "Sometimes it's either feast or famine. It just depends on how the donations run, so we never know what to expect."

For the more outrageous decorators, John Perri, a sales clerk at Spencer's Gifts, said that lava lamps and black lights with

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