

Jim Fiore Named Director of Athletics

New Athletics Director Tops SBU's List of Improvements to Its Athletic Department

BY MANSOOR KHAN
Statesman Editor

Stony Brook's 1999 inception into Division I brought much needed attention to its athletic department. Since it received membership in the America East Conference in 2002, the university did even more to improve athletics, opening the Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium in that same year. The acceptance of Jim Fiore, the former senior associate athletic director at Princeton University, is no exception in Stony Brook's progressive outlook on athletics.

Fiore, a 34-year old native of Long Island, will be the ninth Director of Athletics at Stony Brook University, succeeding Richard Laskowski, who announced in April that he would step down. Fiore will oversee the university's 20 intercollegiate athletics programs, which are comprised of 10 men's and 10 women's sports.



President Shirley Strum Kenny (right) and Senator Kenneth P. LaValle (left) welcomed Jim Fiore as Stony Brook's new Director of Athletics with a Seawolves sweatshirt and cap.

"I am looking forward to this tremendous opportunity and the challenges we will face as we chart the course of success at Stony Brook," said Fiore. "Our core goal will be to make Stony Brook's outstanding combination of athletics and academics a shining example not only for the America East Conference but also for the entire country."

During Fiore's tenure, Princeton

achieved unprecedented success on the fields of play and in the classroom. Ranked the number one university by U.S. News and World Report, Princeton finished among the Top 25 in the Sears Director's Cup standings in three of the last five years and is the only non-scholarship institution to ever finish in the Top 25. Fiore worked

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Students Sail With URECA

Student Research Brings New Discoveries to SBU

MIRA KINARIWALA
Statesman Staff

In a small Stony Brook laboratory, students are finding new ways to perform bypass surgeries on patients afflicted with Coronary Artery Disease. Sitting by them are the rabbits that may hold the key to these new surgical methods. Ten weeks, a stipend and a fellowship by the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (URECA) program have made all this possible. The Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Program (IBRP), the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Site Programs and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Undergraduate Research Fellow Programs are working with URECA at Stony Brook to achieve their various research goals, giving students a chance to take part in real world lab work.

"Summer is a great opportunity to do research because there are less distractions from classes and other commitments," said Karen Kernan, Director of Programs for Research and Creative Activity. "Students usually continue their research throughout the year and value the time they had during the summer to finish a bulk of their research work."

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Scientists Gain Insight into New Forms of Matter

took form in the initial environment of the universe.

Scientists working at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) have discovered what appears to be a new form of matter that may have existed shortly after the universe was created. Scientists call this new type of matter quark-gluon plasma.

Quark-gluon plasma was formed from the collision of two gold nuclei, which bring nearly 400 nuclear particles in contact simultaneously. In one extremely transient instance, this collision creates an environment so hot and dense that it mimics what scientists believe to be the conditions of the early universe. Such knowledge can potentially be very productive for both science and society.

"These results from RHIC are profoundly important," said Raymond L. Orbach, director of the Department of Energy's office of science. "They go to a fundamental question in science: how did the universe look at the beginning of time? Every time

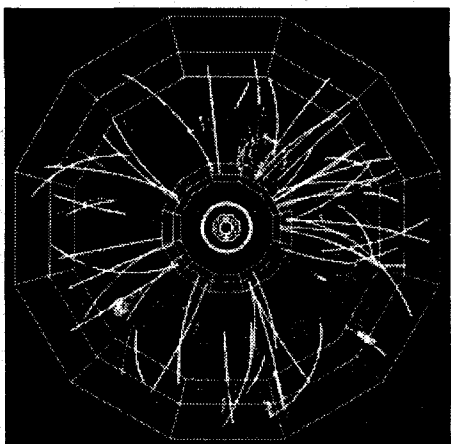
something fundamental is learned, society eventually benefits, either directly from that knowledge or from the technology developed to obtain it."

Gold particle collisions are so energetic that protons and neutrons inside the gold nuclei actually begin to melt, releasing even smaller particles, gluons and quarks, which are usually confined within these subatomic particles. Ultimately, these quarks and gluons come together to form the quark-gluon plasma.

Despite these incredible findings, scientists have yet to claim to have found a distinct, new type of matter. Researchers will conduct additional experiments that will hopefully further reinforce the formation of quark-gluon plasma. Nevertheless, scientists are confident that they are heading in the right direction.

"This is a very exciting result that clearly indicates we are on the right track

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Courtesy of www.bnl.gov

An end view of collisions between deuterons and gold ions captured by the STAR detector at Brookhaven.

BY ROHIT DAS
Statesman Editor

One of the main goals of modern physics is to more accurately describe the conditions of the universe immediately after its birth. Such knowledge would lead physicists to a higher understanding of how matter

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Stony Brook Names Head of Athletic Department

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in all facets of Princeton's internal and external operations, including the athletic programming of all varsity sport programs and personnel matters, as well as the coordination of national searches, employment contracts, employee performance appraisals and capital facility projects.

"Jim is a tremendously talented leader and administrator who understands that the proper role of intercollegiate athletics is to advance the educational mission of the university," said Gary Walters, Director of Athletics at Princeton. "Jim has high standards that will raise the overall level of performance in the athletic department. Stony Brook has made an enlightened choice."

Fiore began his administrative career as an intern at Princeton, assisting the Director of Athletics for one year. He then worked as an assistant to the executive director of the National Invitational Tournament, after which

he interned in the compliance office at Fordham University. From 1995-1999, Fiore served as the assistant director of athletics at Dartmouth, aiding the supervision of 34 intercollegiate programs.

"What we are looking for is a really strong athletic program with a really strong academic tradition," said Senator Kenneth P. LaValle, an avid supporter of Stony Brook University and its athletic program. "[This] is a marriage of a first-class individual, Jim Fiore, being wedded to a first-class institution with first-class people."

Fiore graduated from Long Beach High School and went on to earn his bachelor of arts degree in liberal arts in 1991 from Hofstra, where he played free safety for the football team. He later earned a Master's of Education degree in athletic administration from Springfield College in 1994.

"We will work as hard as we can in attaining the greatest for scholar-athletes," said Fiore. "Together we will bring this department to great heights. I look forward to a bright, prosperous future...and go Seawolves!"

Quark-Gluon Plasma Revolutionizes the Physical Sciences

Continued from Page 1

to an important discovery," said Thomas Kirk, a leading physicist at Brookhaven National Laboratories. "But the case for having created quark-gluon plasma is not yet closed. We have four experiments looking for a number of different signatures of this elusive form of extremely hot, dense nuclear matter."

The practical applications of quark-gluon plasma are also significant. The quarks produced by colliding gold particles produce an intensely energetic jet of particles. These streams of quarks can potentially be used to further understand and perhaps manipulate the internal environment of various nuclei.

"It seems like there's something smaller than the smallest particle known to exist," said Patricia Golas, a junior at SBU. "If they're probing protons and neutrons now, I bet they'll start probing quarks and gluons in the near future."

As scientists at RHIC conduct more experiments to confirm the existence of quark-gluon plasma, the understanding of the physical world grows exponentially. Out of the four forces present in nature, gravitational force, electromagnetic force, and the strong and weak nuclear forces, the latter two are very poorly understood. The discovery of quark-gluon plasma, however, is a huge step in understanding these forces, and revolutionizes the realm of the physical sciences.

URECA: Exploring Students' Potential

Continued from Page 1

The students involved in the summer undergraduate research programs work closely with mentors in their field of interest. The disciplines that students pursue range from music, literature and the visual arts to the sciences and social sciences.

"A student can learn a great deal about a certain topic when they do research on it," said Sara Goldgraben, Stony Brook sophomore and URECA participant. "The program is an excellent way for students to meet Stony Brook faculty and network with people."

"I personally find this program to be the best mechanisms offered to Stony Brook students to get a one-on-one research experience," said Dr. Suparna Rajaram, Professor of Psychology and one of the mentors for URECA participants. "As a mentor, it's rewarding to watch students develop the skills for independent thinking, particularly in the domain of hypothesis testing."

The summer undergraduate research programs vary in length from eight to ten weeks. The students work with their mentor at a lab site for approximately 40 hours a week. During this time, the students focus solely on the research work with no other class or work commitments.

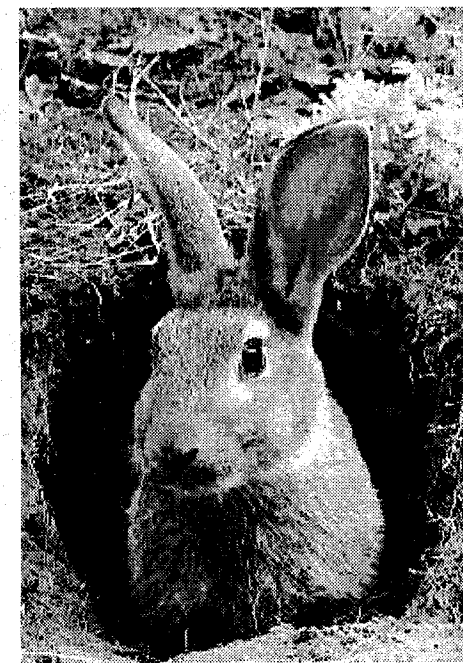
"There never seems enough time to accomplish all the work you set out to do because everything takes longer than expected," said junior Sameer Khanijo, recipient of a Howard Hughes Program fellowship. "I guess trying creative methods through trial-and-error is part of the process of learning through scientific research."

Despite the length of the program, participants expressed hope for the program's expansion. "It would be nice to see the URECA fellowship program expanded to include a semester

fellowship program as a follow-up to the summer program," said Rajaram. "It would really allow the chance for students pursuing research as a career to blossom."

Students showcase the research they have worked on with their faculty mentors at the Celebration of Undergraduate Achievements, an annual two-day event presenting works from virtually every field. Leaders from the arts, academia and private sector firms present awards to promising research projects in several disciplines. This academic year, the event will be held on April 21, 2004 at the Student Activities Center.

For more information on the annual celebration or applying to the program, you can contact Karen Kernan: kkernan@notes.cc.sunysb.edu or Patricia Liggan: pliggan@notes.cc.sunysb.edu. You can also visit the URECA website at http://ws.cc.stonybrook.edu/ureca/on_campus_opps.htm



Courtesy of www.google.com

Rabbits are being experimented on with the hope of discovering alternative heart bypass surgery methods.

Isn't it time you joined a synagogue?

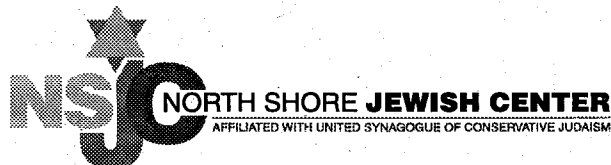


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Students Don't Think About Copyright, Study Finds

By SCOTT CARLSON
Chronicle of Higher Education

A new report says a growing majority of people who download music files aren't concerned whether the works are copyrighted. The people who seem to care the least about copyright, according to the report, are students.

The report describes the findings of a study conducted this spring by the Pew Internet & American Life Project, which analyzes the role of the Internet in American society and culture. The report says that 67 percent of the file-sharers who were surveyed weren't concerned about copyright. That figure is up from the Pew project's 2001 study, in which 61 percent of file-sharers said they didn't care whether the music they downloaded was copyrighted.

Among both college and high-school students, apathy was even more pronounced. Four out of five students said they were not worried about copyright.

Mary Madden, a research specialist for the Pew project, said she

had expected different results because of the recording industry's high-profile lawsuits against makers of file-sharing programs and against file-sharers themselves.

"It is striking to see that 67 percent of downloaders don't care about copyright, considering all of the court cases that have happened recently," she said. "I guess I would have assumed that Internet users wouldn't change their behaviors but that they would at least say that they care."

Jonathan Lamy, a spokesman for the Recording Industry Association of America, said the findings of the study were not relevant because it was conducted before the recording industry announced in June that it intended to sue individual file sharers. "This study is an outdated snapshot in time," he said. "We have worked hard to educate the public about what the law says and potential consequences. Other studies have shown that message is beginning to take hold and will be an effective deterrent."

Specifically, he pointed to a new

study conducted by Forrester Research after the recording industry's announcement. In it, 68 percent of the respondents said that the threat of fines or jail time would stop them from downloading. "We believe that the most powerful deterrent is the message that uploading or downloading copyrighted works without permission is illegal," Mr. Lamy said.

The recording industry's latest push against file sharers has come under scrutiny. On Thursday, Sen. Norm Coleman, a Minnesota Republican, began an inquiry into the recording industry's subpoenas seeking the names of suspected file sharers. The senator demanded information from the recording industry, such as copies of all the subpoenas issued and descriptions of how the recording industry is guarding against issuing erroneous subpoenas.

"The RIAA subpoenas have snared unsuspecting grandparents whose grandchildren have used their personal computers, individuals whose roommates have shared their computers,

as well as colleges and universities across the United States like Boston College, DePaul University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology," Senator Coleman said in a written statement.

Among other findings of the Pew study: About 20 percent of Internet users share files with others. African-American and Hispanic users are more likely to share files than are white users. And those with broadband service are more likely to be file sharers than those with slower connections.

The proportion of Internet users who download files with file-sharing programs — 29 percent — has not changed since the project's 2001 survey. But as more people have gone online over the past two years, the number of downloaders has grown to 35 million from 30 million.

The Pew survey drew responses from 2,515 people, all 18 or older, and was conducted from March to May of this year. The report's margin of error is plus or minus three percentage points.

84,000 Students Could Lose Pell Grants

By SARA HEBEL
Chronicle of Higher Education

Despite claims by the Bush administration to the contrary, it appears that a change made in May in the federal government's formula for calculating students' need for financial aid will have a significant effect.

Budget officials at the U.S. Education Department have estimated that 84,000 students will lose their eligibility for Pell Grants in the 2004-5 academic year as a result of the change. In addition, college lobbyists estimate that an additional one million students will see their Pell Grant awards reduced.

"The Bush-administration updates will force thousands of students to pay more for college," said Rep. George

Miller of California, the top Democrat on the House of Representatives' Committee on Education and the Workforce. "Eighty-four thousand students' losing their Pell Grant eligibility is not 'a minimal impact on a handful of students.' It's a devastating blow."

Jeffrey Andrade, the Education Department's deputy assistant secretary for postsecondary education, does not dispute the estimate that was included in a memorandum from the Congressional Research Service. But in the determination of the effect that the change would have on Pell recipients, he said, it was "more of a hypothetical" than a real number, as the department's budget office was comparing "an academic year that hasn't started yet" with one "that won't end until two

years from now."

The federal need-analysis formula calculates how much money families can contribute to each child's education. Adjustments in the formula, which occur annually, are typically made with little fanfare. But this year, the department lowered the amount it forgives families for the state and local taxes they pay, making many families appear to have more money available to pay college costs than they really do.

Democratic lawmakers have introduced a number of bills that would halt the change in formula.

Some Democratic lawmakers and college lobbyists believe that the department's leaders undertook the change as part of an effort to reduce a multibillion-dollar budget shortfall in the

Pell Grant program. The Congressional Research Service's memo said the formula change would save the government about \$270-million.

"The administration has been trying to spin this change to put it in the best possible light," said one Democratic Congressional aide, who wished to remain anonymous. "But it's a fine line between being misleading and being less than truthful."

Mr. Andrade, however, accused the Democrats of "demagoguery." It's irresponsible, he said, for lawmakers to try to win political points by scaring low-income students into thinking that the government is reducing support for Pell Grants. "The last thing we should be doing," he said, "is scaring people away from going to college."

University Police Blotter: July 13 - July 30

COMPILED BY MAURY HIRSCHKORN
Statesman Staff

July 13, 2003

7:51 p.m. - Burglary, Baruch College, Residence Hall Director Office, computer taken.

July 16, 2003

9:00 a.m. - Grand larceny, Indoor Sports Complex, Academic Advising Office, computer taken.

July 22, 2003

10:13 a.m. - Petit larceny, Javits Center room 104, electronics taken.
7:33 p.m. - Possession of forged instrument, Administration garage, altered handicapped permit.

July 23, 2003

9:05 a.m. - Petit larceny, central

receiving, pallets taken.

9:43 a.m. - Criminal mischief, Physics Building lawn damaged by vehicle.

July 25, 2003

10:45 a.m. - Petit larceny, Undergraduate Apartment Building D, bike taken from room.

12:52 p.m. - Harassment, Schomburg Commons, two suspects arrested.

July 28, 2003

10:40 p.m. - Grand larceny, Indoor Sports Complex, Bag containing credit cards taken.

July 29, 2003

10:25 a.m. - Petit larceny, Baruch College, Vacuum cleaner taken from room.



9:28 p.m. - Grand larceny, Indoor Sports Complex, wallet containing cash and credit cards taken.

July 30, 2003

3:26 p.m. - Criminal mischief, South

Parking Lot, vehicle window smashed.

7:41 p.m. - Petit larceny, Graduate Physics Building, cellular telephone and calculator taken.



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Editorial

Education Needs to Benefit Everyone

By PAUL CONRAD
Statesman Staff

Looking to the recently announced opening of the Harvey Milk High School for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students, it may be tempting to immediately incorporate this New York City school into a debate of gay issues. In the past months we have witnessed the Supreme Court's sodomy ruling, the unveiling of a host of new gay-themed TV programs, and a renewed effort by the Vatican to halt the spread of legalized homosexual marriage.

But despite conservative criticism of the nation's first public gay high school on moral grounds, I contend the fall opening of this 170 student school fits more appropriately into another, well-worn debate: the mission of public education and the role specialized schools and affirmative action play in achieving it.

Mayor Bloomberg and the school's administrators point to the safe environment the school will provide, a haven from the often hostile bullying faced in mainstream schools. While an atmosphere conducive to learning certainly should be a goal of our public schools, Harvey Milk High's mission unleashes a myriad of questions. Is this 21st century segregation? What opportunities and learning experiences will LGBT students miss out on by being separated from their peers, and their peers from them?

Indeed, the problem with specialized schools, whether for science, the arts, or sexual identity, may be closely tied to that of affirmative action in general: we lose sight of the thousands of students left behind. As a nation we have focused our attention on the plight of students seeking admission to the most prestigious, selective schools, whether universities or high schools. What we too often overlook is this: the underrepresented student who was admitted to the University of Michigan—as well as the outraged, qualified student who was not—both are already on their way to success, regardless of affirmative action's role in the admissions process.

The majority of successful Americans receive their education at less-selective state universities and neighborhood public schools. Extra funding for Harvey Milk High, and specialized schools like it, is money diverted away from those students truly in danger of failure. There are hundreds of youth in the New York City area struggling to make sense of their sexuality who would not dream of applying for entrance at an exclusive LGBT high school. Many of these students face abusive home circumstances, unsupportive parents, and a lack of guidance for their futures.

These LGBT students are not alone: thousands of their heterosexual peers face equal, if sometimes different, obstacles. With a college education becoming more and more important in the competitive job market, it is foolhardy to under-fund the public schools and colleges that educate the masses in favor of programs benefiting a select few.

Self-Interest is Good US Foreign Policy

By PETER SCHWARTZ
Ayn Rand Institute

Those who claim that the United States has a moral obligation to send troops on a "humanitarian" mission to Liberia have it exactly backward: our government has a moral obligation not to send its forces into areas that pose no threats to America's well-being. It is America's self-interest that should be the standard for all foreign-policy decisions—and not just because such a standard is practical, but because it is moral.

America was founded on the recognition of each individual's right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. This means that the government may not treat the citizen as a serf—as someone who exists to serve the needs of others. Rather, each citizen is a free, sovereign entity, entitled to live his own life for his own sake. No matter how loudly some people may wail about their need for your services, you are your own master. That is the meaning of your inalienable rights.

Those rights are contradicted by a foreign policy that makes Americans sacrifice themselves for the sake of others, such as the Liberians.

When the government of a free country performs its proper functions, it uses force only to protect its citizens'

freedom. When the lives or property of Americans are at risk from some aggressor-state, our government uses force in retaliation, to keep its citizens free—free to pursue the goals and values that advance their lives.

This is what we did in Afghanistan and Iraq. Although administration officials are afraid to say so openly, we overthrew those countries' governments strictly for our own benefit. America went to war to protect the interests of Americans. No dictatorship has a right to remain in power, and any dictatorship that has the capacity to use force beyond its borders and has shown a willingness to do so against U.S. interests is an objective threat to us and is a legitimate target for our military. Osama bin Laden, as well as Saddam Hussein, posed dangers—to Americans. The soldiers we sent to those two countries were fighting to defend their own interests. (Obviously, others also benefited from America's actions, but that was a secondary consequence; it was not our primary purpose and should not have been the standard that guided our decisions.)

Sadly, our policymakers are unwilling to defend the justness of a foreign policy of self-interest. Instead, they keep invoking selfless justifications. Our motive, they say, was not

Continued on Page 5

At the close of summer, we'd like to thank
all those who contributed to the paper.
Happy Birthdays to all friends of the Statesman!

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America's Foreign Affairs

Continued from Page 4

to keep Americans safe, but to help the oppressed Iraqis (the invasion was called "Operation: Iraqi Freedom") or to shield other countries from the dangers of bin Laden and Hussein. This altruistic premise is what makes the administration try to accommodate anti-Western "sensitivities" in Afghanistan and Iraq. This premise is what keeps the administration from using sufficient force to rid those lands of all remaining threats to Americans. And this premise is what leaves the administration philosophically helpless to resist the calls for becoming enmeshed in the problems of Liberia.

We desperately need some courageous official who is willing to state categorically that a moral foreign policy must uphold America's self-interest—and that by shipping troops to Liberia, we are sacrificing our interests. We are telling our soldiers to risk their lives in a senseless attempt to prevent, temporarily, rival warlords from butchering one another.

Contrary to the assertions of all who have suddenly become eager for a new American military presence abroad, offering ourselves

as sacrificial fodder on "humanitarian" missions is not a virtue, but a moral crime. Where is the "humanitarian" concern for Americans? Why should Americans be urged to give away their money, their energies and their lives on a campaign that does not serve their interests? There are no rational grounds for asking Americans to suffer more, so that the Liberians may (perhaps) suffer less. When we are not being threatened, the government has no right to put American soldiers in harm's way. Our armed forces are supposed to be our means of self-defense—not self-renunciation.

If the administration wants to help the Liberians achieve peace and prosperity, it can start by mailing them copies of the Declaration of Independence. But if we genuinely value our freedom, we cannot make America into the self-abnegating slave of the entire world. To send our troops into a battle in which they have no personal interest—to send them to fight for the sake of warring tribes in Liberia (or Rwanda or Somalia or Kosovo)—is to negate the principle of individual liberty, upon which America is based.

Gay Marriage in the US?

By MARC NEWMAN
Statesman Editor

Merriam-Webster Dictionary, 2003:

Marriage - the institution whereby men and women are joined in a special kind of social and legal dependence for the purpose of.

So was the case in the fourteenth century, when often men and women were married through personal vows. It wasn't until the sixteenth century that Christian churches threw a priest into the mix. The tradition known as marriage was further altered, when later that century churches introduced the concept of divorce.

As time moves forward, various sects of Christianity and Jewish temples have altered the tradition once again. Rather than defining marriage as a single bond between man and woman, more and more religious denominations are extending that bond to include a legal recognition of the marriage between man and man, woman and woman.

In the countries of the Netherlands, Belgium and Canada, homosexuals can enter into a marriage contract recognized by their country. 40% of Americans, according to a July 2003 CNN/Time Poll, support gay marriages in the United States.

Those who support gay marriage however seem to offer flawed reasoning. Is it 'discrimination' for Americans to be against gay marriage? Al Sharpton, when asked if he supported gay marriage at a Human Rights Campaign for Democratic Presidential candidates said "That's like asking me, 'Do I support black marriage, or white marriage?'"

Religious organizations have since

colonial times worked to marry black and white peoples; it wasn't considered discrimination to marry opposite sexes of any race.

The suggestion is furthered by those who say "Well, marriage is always changing, and this is no big deal. People get divorced all the time." But isn't that a reason to be against *labeling* the union between same-sex couples 'marriage.' Can't society look beyond seeing marriage as simply a contract to be annulled half the time, and see it as a bond between two peoples with *some* degree of religious value? Is American society discriminating when it defines the marriage *tradition* as a bond between a man and a woman?

By the eighteenth century, most Mormons living in Utah agreed, along with the Mormon church, that a man was entitled to more than one wife. The Supreme Court of the United States intervened, and it declared that the marriage between a man and more than one woman is unconstitutional.

This the ultimate analogy to my argument. If we are to allow a change in the tradition of marriage, one that has not occurred since the founding of our current Government, is there really any traditional value left? Are we to reverse the Supreme Court Mormon precedent? It seems that the purpose of the marriage tradition, encouraging a man and woman to reproduce, will be lost if we change this tradition again.

Civil unions are a reasonable compromise that allows gay couples to get all the benefits US married peoples are currently afforded. However, once you label the bond between a man and another man, or a woman and another woman 'marriage,' marriage loses a lot of its traditional value.



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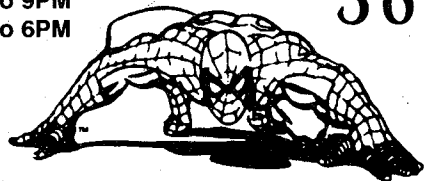
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Private Colleges Face Cuts in Public Dollars

By SARA HEBEL
Chronicle of Higher Education

When governors and legislators scoured their budgets this year for programs to trim, public colleges weren't alone on the hit list.

Private colleges in at least half a dozen states receive direct subsidies from taxpayers, and many of those programs faced new scrutiny — and in some cases were slashed — as revenues continued to lag in the states. In addition, private colleges lobbied hard to protect state-based student-aid programs that help residents who attend private institutions in their home state.

The results of legislative sessions this summer have been mixed for private colleges looking to keep the public money flowing, particularly when it comes to direct state aid.

New York's private institutions aggressively rallied support for their state subsidy and persuaded lawmakers to provide them with \$44.3-million, the same amount they received last year, even as the operating budgets of public universities in the state were cut. In Illinois, lawmakers voted to wipe out the \$21-million in state funds that private colleges there received last year. It was the first time since the program started, in 1971, that the colleges failed to receive at least some state dollars. In other states, such as Maryland, direct aid for private institutions was reduced, although not as

much as some had feared.

Private-college officials argue that the direct subsidies are an efficient use of money and that eliminating them is shortsighted. Many of the programs began in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when states wanted to preserve and expand the choices of colleges and majors available to state residents without building new public campuses.

The money states hand out to private institutions is only a fraction of the several thousands of dollars per student that public institutions receive. In return, private-college officials say, they offer academic programs that public colleges may not, attract out-of-state students who may stay in the state after graduation to work, create businesses and jobs through research, and ease the burden that a growing student population places on public institutions.

New York private-college officials found a reason to plug the program, which dates from 1968. Because the state subsidy is allocated to private institutions based on the number of degrees they award, the money rewards institutions that graduate high percentages, say officials at New York's Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities.

Gov. George E. Pataki, a Republican, had advocated the same goal — higher college-graduation rates — through another avenue, proposing to

alter the state's need-based-aid program so that public- and private-college students would receive one-third of their assistance only after they had graduated (a proposal that lawmakers rejected). So, by proposing cuts in private colleges' operating aid, independent-college officials argue, the governor effectively pushed a policy that would have undermined his own aims.

"We have a 30-year track record of a program that the governor is screaming for," says Terri Standish-Kuon, vice president for communications and administration at the New York independent-college commission. "It's the notion of funding outcomes rather than funding inputs."

That message is one of several that private colleges used to fight Pataki's plan to cut their direct aid by 42 percent, or \$18.7-million. This year, supporters of private colleges in New York sent more than 300,000 e-mail messages to state lawmakers, urging them to support the subsidies and the state's need-based

Tuition Assistance Program. The independent-college commission also mailed a series of 15 postcards, each listing a different reason that lawmakers should continue to back programs that support private institutions.

"The private colleges and universities in New York are serving a public purpose that is equally as great as public institutions' and they need to be supported," Abraham M. Lackman, president of the New York private-college group said.

For the most part, public-college officials in New York and elsewhere stayed out of the debate over whether to cut direct aid to private institutions. But when it came to need-based financial-aid programs, public and private institutions took different approaches with state lawmakers. Private colleges urged lawmakers to put money into student-aid programs first, since they benefit their students, while public-college leaders sought to protect their base budgets, too.

New York's Bundy Aid

Year started	1968
How it works	Private institutions receive state funds based on the number of degrees they award.
State appropriation	\$44.3-million, the same as 2002-3.
Direct state aid per student	\$190, associate \$475, baccalaureate \$301, master's \$1,442, doctoral

Information Courtesy of the Chronicle of Higher Education

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The League of Not-So-Great Acting Gentlemen

EMY KURIAKOSE
 Statesman Editor

When naming a movie, directors or writers usually work on making a film sound mysterious, funny, interesting—anything out of the ordinary. Hopefully, they don't have to spell it out for you. But in the case of the "League of Extraordinary Gentlemen," they didn't even try. The cheesy title obviously doesn't sell.

Audiences, already wary of what seemed to be a lame flick, must have walked in hoping for some sort of redeeming quality—and they did get a little. The story is set at the onset of the industrial revolution, when machines and motors were produced at an exponential rate. The League is called together to combat "The Phantom," a mysterious burly, maimed man bent on taking over Europe with his technological prowess. Sporting automatic machine guns, tanks, and a factory more likely to be seen in an 80's war movie, this predictable bad guy embarks on a mission to destroy.

The League is comprised of characters all linked to classic novels of the 17th and 18th centuries. Led by Allan Quartermain (Sean



Courtesy of www.google.com

Sean Connery and Shane West might play the good shots of the League, but the superhero flick won't hit the mark this summer.

Connery), the group's mission is to, yep, you've guessed it, save the world. The Invisible Man (Tony Curran), Captain Nemo (Naseeruddin Shah), a vampiress bitten by Dracula (Peta Wilson), Dorian Gray, an immortal (Stuart Townsend), Dr. Jekyll/ Mr. Hyde (Jason Flemying) and an American Secret Service agent (Shane West) follow Quartermain into what they think is a call to the heroic duties they must carry out. "M," (Richard Roxburgh), is the recruiter who is

seemingly alarmed at the Phantom's capabilities and funds the operations.

The movie was carried by many engaging elements, including artful special effects, interesting characters, and the unmistakable commanding aura of Sean Connery.

Despite its apparent appeal, the story was too overblown. The Nautilus, an enormous submarine captained by Captain Nemo, was a technical wonder even for the likes of the

late 20th century. The League is transported by what Nemo calls an "au-to-mow-bile," a very classy Rolls limosine. Don't see this if you're prone to comment about reality during a movie, because you'll undoubtedly be irritated by anachrony of this fantasy.

Still, you'll definitely flinch in pain when you see Mr. Hyde's transformations, and the Invisible Man might tickle your fancy. The expected father-son drama between Quartermain and the American spy borders the sentiments you'd already found in the Lion King, and leaves you wishing for more cool machines to see. Fight scenes were too quick and not well choreographed: Captain Nemo is just too dramatic with his swashbuckling/ Arabian-flavored swordsmanship.

See this movie if fantasy mixed with a sad attempt at tragedy, humanity, and real acting is your thing. Kids would enjoy the effects and characters, but might flinch at the vampiress' finger-licking obsession with arteries. If you're looking for action, there are better venues for that at the box office this summer. This one is definitely a rental, if anything.

I give it 2 out of 5 stars.

Weird Science: SBU Researcher Explains Déjà Vu

PETER SUNWOO
 Statesman Contributor

Let me tell you a little story. I was walking in the city one day and happened to stumble into a café I haven't been in before. While waiting on line, I found myself staring at this woman in a pink dress sipping on her cup of coffee. At that moment I could have sworn that I have seen this woman before doing the exact same thing, sitting in the same stool, crossing her legs the same way, having her hair in the same messy bun, and reading the same paper. I thought to myself, am I destined to be here at this moment in time, maybe she is the one! Maybe some higher power is telling me "hey man, go for it!" But I quickly shed that idea when she slapped me after I asked her to come back to my bedroom.

There are many explanations for the

phenomenon that we know of as déjà vu, ranging from spiritual to scientific. The most common explanation for déjà vu is that it stems from a previous dream in which the brain can make a connection between the subconscious and the conscious state. The only problem with this explanation is that we do not remember most of our dreams because they are mostly stored in our short-term

memory. The only dreams we do remember are the ones that are out of the ordinary, and those memories usually never happen in reality. Besides, that would also mean we are all psychic. On a spiritual level, a common explanation for déjà vu is that the experience is what happens when things from a previous reincarnation are repeated in the present—basically, you did it all in a past life. These theories are interesting, but as a pseudoscientist I like to find explanations that are more tangible.

According to Professor Whitaker of the Psychology Department in Stony Brook University, a déjà vu cannot be something that has been experienced before because you can't explain what happens after the déjà vu nor can you explain what triggered it. All memories are brought to attention due to some kind of trigger, which can be anything from a feeling, to an object that reminded

you of something.

A scientific explanation for déjà vu has to do with memory processes in different parts of the brain. In general, the frontal lobes are concerned with the future, the temporal lobes are concerned with the past, and the limbic system is concerned with the present. Short-term memory is based mostly in the hippocampus and is only stored for approximately 45 seconds. The parahippocampal cortex stores long-term memory and is very closely connected with the hippocampus. Ordinarily, there is a seamless integration of the past, present and the future. Basically the way the brain normally works is that we experience something in the present, compare it to similar experiences in the past, and then decide how to respond. The brain is able to do this within a few seconds, but then there are times when there can be too much communication between short-term and long-term memories. It is during these times that the present can feel like the past, causing déjà vu.

So what does all this mean? For all you Matrix fans out there, I'm sorry to say that Neo's experience with the black cat wasn't caused by a glitch in the Matrix. It was more like a glitch in his empathy, surfer mind, dude.



Statesman/Peter Sunwoo

Professor Whitaker of the Psychology Department (right) works with a Stony Brook student on her latest research project.