

# Statesman

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## Class Sizes Frustrate Students and Faculty Alike

By JESSICA MABLI  
Statesman Contributor

When he walked into his American Literature class on his first day at Stony Brook last semester, transfer student Charles Schulz was taken aback. He had never seen an English class with so many students before. He wondered how discussion could take place among what looked like almost 100 students. At his previous college, SUNY-Buffalo, the norm for an English class was no more than 25 students.

It doesn't take long for students who come to Stony Brook to realize that intimate classroom settings are not the standard. Student frustration over class size runs rampant on campus.

"We're just a number in so many classes," said senior Tim Tam, an anthropology major.

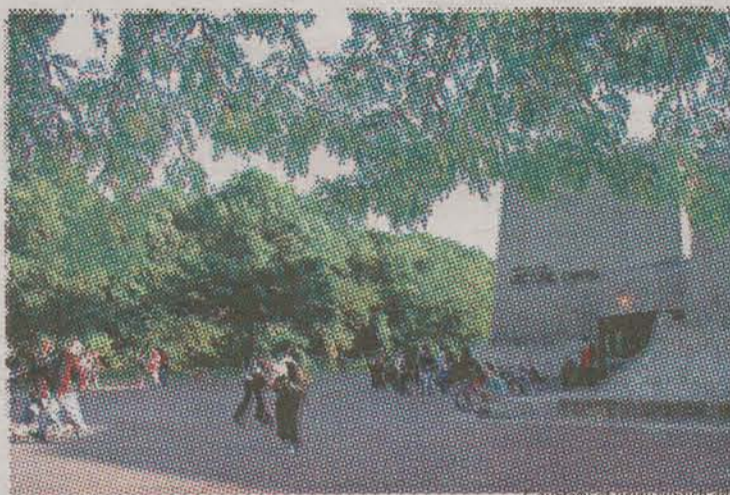
When Tam takes classes

with 15 or 20 students, he enjoys learning. The large lectures that are required by many majors, according to Tam, are painful to sit through. The lack of teacher-student interaction makes for a long, drawn-out class, he said.

"I feel uncomfortable participating in class discussion when the class is so large," said junior Joan Maniacci, "but in smaller classes, where students are more enthusiastic, I think it helps everyone."

What students may not know, however, is that there is no college-wide policy on class size, according to Deputy Provost Mark Aranoff. "When you come to Stony Brook, this is what you deal with," said Aranoff. "The number of students in each class is essentially dependent on how much space is available at any given time."

According to Aranoff, the



Many students complain that large lectures, such as those held in Javits, detract from their learning experience at Stony Brook.

allocation of money in the university budget also affects the number of small classes available. Although the administration wants to hire more professors, President Shirley Strum Kenny's concerns of late have been more focused on the aesthetics of the campus and less focused on expanding

the faculty.

Class size is determined, in part, by student preference. Aranoff suggested that if students were willing to take early classes, they would have a greater chance of finding smaller classes. Mid-day classes often fill to maximum capacity because most students prefer

afternoon classes to early morning or evening.

According to Aranoff, there are few set standards for determining class size at Stony Brook. The number of students in each class is largely negotiable. When pressed on specifics regarding who negotiates class size, Aranoff skirted the issue. Aranoff's advice for students who want smaller classes is, essentially: go to another school.

"At a smaller school, such as SUNY-Cortland, you will most likely find smaller classes," said Aranoff. "But," he added, "you will sacrifice the academic expertise that exists among the professors here."

Faculty, too, have concerns about packed lecture halls. English department chairman Peter Manning said that class

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## Schumer Battles on Behalf of Adoptive Parents

ANJALI DOGRA  
Statesman Editor

On Jan. 28, US Senator Chuck Schumer demanded that the eight families stranded in Vietnam with their newly adopted children be allowed to return home to the United States. A bureaucratic standstill has precluded the return of the spouses and children of New Yorkers Lisa Kombrink and Rev. Wayne Hanrattie, as well as that of six other families originating from across the country.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has refused to issue U.S. visas to the adopted children of eight sets of American parents who are, as a result, now stranded in Ho Chi Minh City with their adopted children. Kombrink's husband, Jesse Camacho, and Hanrattie's wife, Sharon Williams, are among those in Vietnam awaiting visas for their newly adopted children, Gabriel and Kaelin, respectively.

The families turned to

Schumer for aid in securing visas in late December, and since that time, his office has repeatedly contacted the INS offices in New York, Washington and the American embassy in Vietnam and spoken with INS Commissioner James Ziglar on their behalf.

"Enough is enough. The INS should grant the visas and reunite these families immediately. To leave these families stranded in Vietnam is simply inhumane. These families traveled to Vietnam in good faith, they were already approved by INS to adopt foreign children before they even left the country, and all they want to do is provide warm, caring homes for these children. The INS should be doing everything it can to make that happen," a frustrated Schumer said.

There is a three-step process that the INS requires for the adoption of foreign children. Parents must first apply to the INS in order to ensure that the parents meet the relevant criteria. Then, the

families travel to the foreign nation, in this case Vietnam, to meet the child and complete the paperwork required by the other country. Once this is done, the parents return to the US until they gain approval from the authorities of the child's nation of origin.

After the parents have been approved and adopt the foreign child, they must submit an application to the INS for a visa allowing them to bring the child into the United States. All eight families who are now stuck in bureaucratic limbo had INS's approval to adopt foreign children.

Upon their arrival in Vietnam, however, they were denied the necessary visas to bring their children home, thus stranding the families in Vietnam. Most of them have been in Vietnam for over seven weeks now.

The foreign adoption process is a lengthy one, but one that these families had believed was finally coming to a conclusion after over two years of planning. But they have found themselves denied by



LeaAnn and Keith Kaplan with adopted son, Theo, are stranded in Vietnam after adopting a second Vietnamese child.

their own government. It was only after arriving in Vietnam and spending time with their adopted children that the parents learned they would be unable to obtain visas for them.

Schumer said that although INS should certainly work with the Vietnamese government to examine whether the foreign adoption facilitators are following the country's adoption procedures and laws properly, the eight families currently in Vietnam, and any other

families that are already significantly involved in the adoption process, should not be made to suffer while the officials do so.

"The INS has every right to examine its rules and regulations, but that doesn't give them the authority to simply ruin people's lives in the process," Schumer said. "If the INS just took one look at the families they've deserted, they'd realize the pain this has caused and solve the problem. How could they not? There are many problems without easy solutions. This is not one of them."

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## SCHEDULE FOR ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE CONTEST

The second annual blood drive competition among the various residence halls and apartments will take place between Feb. 11 and 19. The series of drives, which will be held in dormitory quad areas, will also include a bone marrow registry at each drive. The Drives will be held from 5:30 and 11:00 PM. Locations for the drives are as follows:

February 11: Roth Quad Cafeteria  
 February 12: Eleanor Roosevelt Quad, Wagner College and H Quad, James College  
 February 14: Kelly Quad, Hamilton College  
 February 18: Schomburg Apartments (Commons) and Chapin Apartments, Community Center  
 February 19: Mendelsohn Quad, Irving College and Tabler Quad, Dreiser College

To volunteer, or for more information, call (631) 632-6100

## The Day the Rams Forgot Their Talent

By TED LAI  
 Statesman Staff

The biggest day in sports comes on Super Bowl Sunday, and this year is no different. Millions of people around the world tune in to watch this annual game; however, the actual game is only a small part of this extravaganza.

For some people the commercials are more important than the actual game. The Super Bowl usually scores around 40 on the Nielsen Ratings. To put that in perspective, NBC's Friends only scores around a 20 on a good day and WB's Buffy, the Vampire Slayer scores a 3 if they are lucky.

Capitalizing on the popularity of this televised event, FOX was able to charge around 2 million dollars for a 30 second commercial. Do the math and it comes out to a little more than 65,000 dollars a second. Wouldn't you like a job that paid that wage?

Others tune in for the entertainment. The NFL doesn't pay the performers and only picks up the tap for the travel and lodging expenses. Realizing that someone actually wanted her to perform, Mariah Carey jumped at the opportunity to sing the National Anthem. U2 then serenaded

the crowd for twelve minutes better than any group Lou Pearlman could have put together.

Even those who have not watched a single football game all season tune in to watch the "big one." The least the NFL could have done was introduce both teams. After introducing the St. Louis Rams offense, they didn't find the time to introduce New England Patriots leaving those who know little about the New England in a guessing game.

Coming into the game, the Rams were heavy favorites over the Patriots. The supposed high-powered Rams offense was still partying on Bourbon Street and forgot to bring their talent and reputation onto the field.

However, the defense oriented Patriots were on the top of their game. Knocking their opponent down as if they were cardboard cutouts.

The Rams offense sparked within the last 2 minutes of the game and tied the game 17-17. However, the Patriots managed to get the ball back into field goal range with 7 seconds left in the game.

A remarkable season ended with a remarkable

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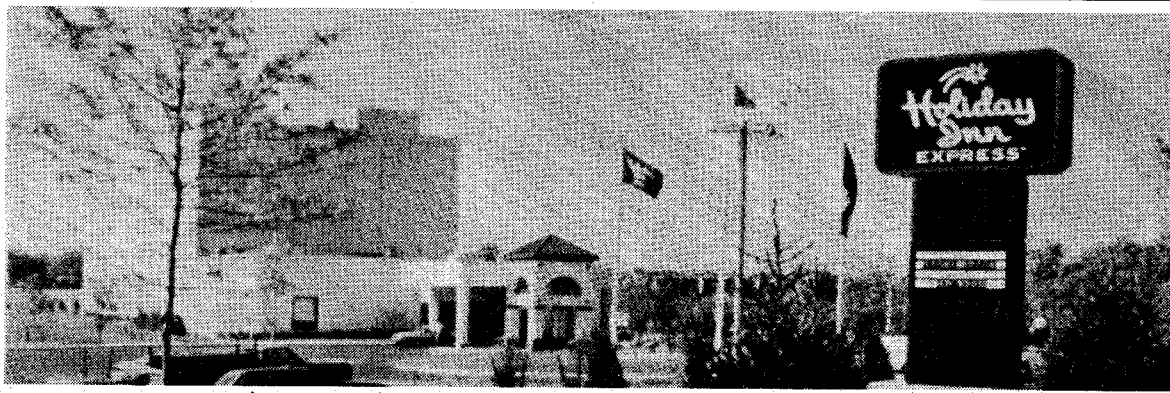
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**A Thought  
 From  
 Rabbi Adam**



There seems to be a collective amnesia that all college students undergo between semesters. Academically, all the study habits formed in the fall semester seem to have fallen by the waste side, and must be rebuilt from scratch in the spring semester. It's as if President Bush knew this college reality, for in this past Tuesday's State of the Union Address, the President pointed out that "through the gathering momentum of millions of acts of service and decency and kindness we can overcome evil with greater good." The President acknowledged that "for too long our culture has said, 'If it feels good do it', (but) now we want to be a nation that serves goals larger than self." So if anyone was suffering amnesia with regard to the campus Good Campaign- we've gotten our wake-up call. Now not everything a politician says is to be taken literally. Many times a politician will say things just to get elected or to gain ratings in the polls. In such a case, success comes through lobbying. And this is where the campus Good Campaign fits in. Usually, a comprehensive lobbying campaign includes the mailing of thousands of constituent letters supporting a particular issue. In the case of the Good Campaign, instead of constituent letters, we plan to mail in thousand of constituent good deeds. Last semester, over 500 students visited the Good Campaign table in the Student Union to register a resolution to do a good deed. The plan is to register enough good deeds and send it to the White House in an effort to convince the President that this is what America really wants. That when the President said, "we have a great opportunity to lead the world toward the values that will bring lasting peace"- we, the American people, want this country to take that opportunity.

To Join the Good Campaign email: [RabbiAdam@hotmail.com](mailto:RabbiAdam@hotmail.com)

# BNL Scientist Elected Fellow of OSA

By GENE TULMAN  
Statesman Editor

Louis DiMauro, a chemist at the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), has been named a Fellow of the Optical Society of America (OSA). The fellowship is a way to honor OSA members for outstanding achievements in their field. It has been extended to 23 individuals in 2002.

OSA unites some 15,000 scientists, engineers, educators, technicians, and business leaders in optics and photonics, promoting knowledge in these fields.

"I'm happy to receive this honor, which has resulted from experiments in optics that my colleagues and I have been performing for the past decade," DiMauro said. "I am certain that there are many new discoveries that await us in the future."

DiMauro's work revolves around developing new laser technology that generates intense pulses of light over an

extremely short time interval. This light pulse is faster than the motion of atoms in matter. Such a combination of highly powerful light and unprecedented time scale allows scientists to study how the structure of matter changes over time, defining the field of ultra-fast science.

Performing laser-based experiments, DiMauro and his colleagues developed what is now a widely accepted theory on how a short intense laser field interacts with atoms. The theory is popularly known as the "Rescattering Model", and explains how an ultra-bright laser pulse shining on an atom can produce highly energetic electrons and photons.

The model holds that an electron that is originally bound to the atom can acquire a significant amount of energy from the light field, resulting in a catastrophic collision, which leads to the production of ultra-short wavelengths of light extending into the x-ray part of the electromagnetic spectrum.



Courtesy of www.bnl.gov  
**Louis DiMauro was recognized for his work with laser technology.**

DiMauro's research has such possible future applications as laser-driven fusion (a potential clean energy source), which is

currently a scientific area with substantial national interest.

He received a B.S. in chemistry from Hunter College in 1975, earning an M.S. and Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Connecticut in 1977 and 1980, respectively. After serving as a post-doctoral research associate at Stony Brook University (SBU), DiMauro joined the staff of AT&T Bell Laboratories in 1981.

From 1984 to 1988, he was an assistant professor of physics at Louisiana State University, becoming an adjunct professor of physics at SBU in 1988. DiMauro joined BNL as an assistant scientist in the Chemistry Department over 13 years ago. Last year, he was promoted to visiting professor of physics by SBU.

DiMauro is currently a senior scientist at BNL, as well as a Fellow of the American Physical Society. He resides in Sound Beach, New York.

## Sharon's Comments Draw International Disapproval

By RALPH D'AMBROSIO  
Statesman Staff

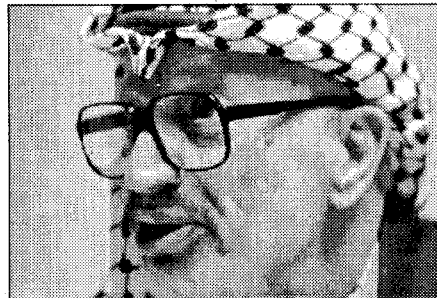
Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in a recent interview that Israel should have killed Yasir Arafat when the country had the chance, in Lebanon 20 years ago. He went on to say that there was, in fact, an agreement in Lebanon not to "liquidate" Yasir Arafat and that he is sorry that he was not "liquidated."

Mr. Sharon and Mr. Arafat became adversaries in 1982 when Israel invaded Lebanon. This operation was meant to be a 48 hour attack, designed to drive the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) out of southern Lebanon. The PLO ruled as a state within a state in Lebanon. However the operation was expanded until Israeli forces occupied

Beirut. In August of 1982, Mr. Arafat, along with his top lieutenants and fighters, was forced to abandon Lebanon, where it was said that an Israeli sniper had Mr. Arafat "in his sight."

Mr. Sharon resigned as defense minister after a commission of inquiry held him "indirectly responsible" for the massacre by Christian Phalangists (one of the parties in the Lebanese Civil War) of hundred of Palestinians. Eventually, Israel would withdraw unilaterally from Lebanon in May 2000.

Mr. Sharon's comments have caused an uproar among many other foreign leaders. The Palestinian cabinet minister, and Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat described the prime ministers as a "gangster mentality." Sharon's remarks drew protests from Swedish Foreign



Courtesy of www.israeldaily.com  
**Yasir Arafat was the target of Ariel Sharon's scathing words.**

Minister Anna Lindh. The Spanish Foreign Minister Josep Pique, who also holds the rotating European Union presidency, denounced the comments.

However, nothing has yet been heard from the Bush administration. Richard A. Boucher, the State Department spokesman, said that he did not have anything to offer about Mr. Sharon's comments, but did say

that both sides should avoid comments that make the situation worse. The administration has often said that Mr. Arafat has done little to stop Palestinian violence. After the capture of a ship smuggling munitions under the command of Palestinian people, the Bush administration suggested that Mr. Arafat was "enhancing terror."

Despite making these comments, Mr. Sharon still insists that he has not given up on the Palestinian leader as a partner in peace. But, the prime minister has made it clear that he wants Mr. Arafat to meet Israel's demands. These demands include crushing Palestinian militant groups and taking other steps to prevent violence. Then, according to Sharon, negotiation for peace can resume.

### Grant Creates New Geriatric Center

ANJALI DOGRA  
Statesman Editor

The official Opening Ceremony of the new Long Island Geriatric Education Center (LIGEC) will take place on Mon., Feb. 4. This is part of a weeklong effort by the Stony Brook Health Sciences Center to educate and train healthcare providers in the care and service of the elderly.

A five-year, \$850,000 grant from the Bureau of Health Professions in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration was used to establish the facility.

Faculty, residents, and students of the five Health Sciences School—the Schools of Medicine, Dental Medicine, Health, Technology and Management, Nursing, and Social Welfare are poised to benefit

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## Big Lectures, Big Aggravations, Little That Can Be Done

Continued from Page 1

sizes ought to be smaller.

"In an interpretive discipline such as English, students will only grow if they can try out their ideas in discussion," said Manning. According to Manning, university students need to learn how to speak, deliver reports and engage in intellectual conversation with their peers.

This interaction is not feasible in introductory surveys that stop only at room capacity. The only consolation, according to Manning, is the allowance of teachers' assistants (TAs).

But TAs can be assigned to as many as 35 students, and the common sentiment on campus appears to be that while TAs can be

helpful, they cannot compensate for the disadvantages of a large class.

"Larger classes encourage you to not put as much effort in," said junior Olivia Prezyan. "You know that the professor is not going to notice if your work hasn't been done."

Former student Kathleen Dollard agreed, saying that knowing she would be held accountable for her work in smaller classes encouraged her to work harder. As a result, she said, her grades were a reflection of the class size.

"No matter how hard a teacher tries to involve everyone, invariably a few students will feel left out," said English professor Jim Keller. Keller said that in a class of 100, there will always be more unhappy students than in a class of 25. He

noted that trying out a new syllabus or getting to know his students on a personal level is more difficult when his classes are overflowing.

But although Keller prefers small classes, he said large classes can provide an opportunity to personalize the lecture hall.

Keller encourages his students to take part in free discussion. To create a more individualized experience, Keller regularly makes himself available during office hours, through e-mail and by appointment.

"While the ideal seems to be a small classroom buzzing with interaction," Keller said, "I think the best approach to teaching involves moving across various class sizes and bringing the small-class mode to the large lecture."

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# A Beautiful Mind Makes Beautiful Magic

BY ALI KHAN  
Statesman Staff

Hollywood has strange ways of depicting mental illnesses. Generally speaking, the illness is portrayed either as a crippling affliction, or as a state of enchantment foreign to sane individuals. "A Beautiful Mind", however, takes neither path. Adapted from the biography of the same name, written by Sylvia Nasar, the movie is the story of John Forbes Nash Jr., the mathematical genius who was responsible for the formulation of game theory, a concept central to contemporary economics. Nash developed schizophrenia and became delusional and paranoid during the Cold War Era, eventually recovering and going on to claim the 1994 Nobel Prize for his discoveries.

The mathematician is played by Russell Crowe, who makes a complete 180 from his previous roles in "Gladiator",



Courtesy of www.movies.go.com

Russell Crowe continues to prove to be a big hit at the box office.

and "Proof of Life". The film is directed by Ron Howard, and is an unusually thoughtful look at mental illnesses and their disabling powers. Howard and screenwriter Akiva Goldsman tell the story from Nash's point of view, so often that at times we can't tell what's real and what's delusional.

The movie opens in 1948 with Nash's arrival at Princeton University. From the outset, he

is portrayed as a shy character, and a complete bust at social interaction. Nash flubs a conversation with a flirtatious woman in a bar ("essentially we're talking about fluid exchange," he says) and admits that he doesn't like people, or they him.

Crowe, although not the first actor one might imagine in the part of a world-class math nerd, does an amazing job of

pulling us into Nash's world. Nash's slip into madness is a gradual process and is not apparent at first. We assume that he's become obsessive in the competitive academic environment. He spends days on end in the campus library, works out dense calculations on the leaded-glass windows of his dorm room, and dismisses classroom instructions as "the findings of lesser mortals." Ron Howard doesn't try to explain the cryptic math theory, instead focusing on the emotional drives that fueled Nash.

Eventually, Nash manages to wed a gorgeous physics student (played by Jennifer Connelly) and takes a research and teaching position at MIT. Here, Nash is approached by a government recruiter (Ed Harris), who persuades him to work as an enemy code-breaker. At some point, Nash begins to realize that a split has occurred, and that what seems real to him

is not. The mind that served him so well and so brilliantly is now betraying him. "A Beautiful Mind" does a wonderful job of dramatizing this split, making schizophrenia visible and offering that those who suffer from it are not unlike the rest of us.

"A Beautiful Mind" was masterfully filmed by Roger Deakins and magnificently performed by Crowe, who never fails to surprise. Connelly finds herself in what is arguably her best performance to date, as the forgiving and encouraging wife who ultimately brings her husband back to the realm of sanity. James Horner provides a captivating score as well.

All in all, the superb acting job and tale of love and courage that the film presents merits it a 3.5 star out of 4 rating. Look for Crowe's name to pop up come award ceremony time, as his performance in this film is quite captivating and inspiring.

## Mike on the Mat: UH OH, IT'S THE NWO!

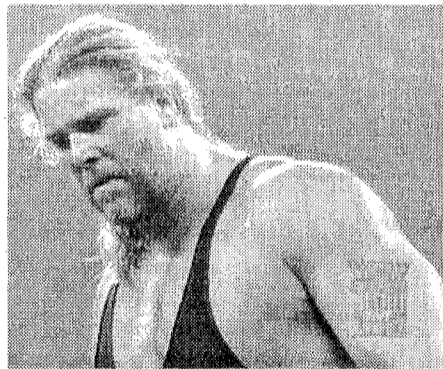
BY MICHAEL ADLER  
Statesman Contributor

He's coming back, brother, and it's bigger than the Super Bowl. That's right, Hulk Hogan, along with Kevin Nash and Scott Hall, the founders of the legendary New World Order (NWO), are invading the WWF in Vince McMahon's most fiendish plot since drugging his wife and having an affair with Trish Stratus. In an attempt to destroy the WWF before heated enemy and co-owner Ric Flair can, Vince is pulling in the NWO to do the job, or so the story line goes. The only problem is that this could conceivably destroy future story lines for the WWF.

Here's why:

The WWF has been in a tailspin of declining quality for the past two years, and with the demise of WCW (and hence any competition) the quality of the show has plummeted exponentially. Now add two of the worst professional wrestlers—and a man with substance abuse problems who rarely shows up for more than a few weeks at a time—to the mix. At the crux of the wrestling season, we have trouble.

As the two old men in the group, Hogan and Nash's in-ring abilities rival that of drunken grizzly bears. Hogan, once the personification of sports entertainment in the eighties, is now merely the personification of a balding senior citizen who has taken a few too many steroids in his



Courtesy of www.fortunecity.com

Kevin Nash was one of the original founders of the New World Order.

lifetime. As most hard-core wrestling fans know, despite his popularity, he was terrible then and he's just awful now. His weak clothesline, laughable big boot, and leg drop of extreme discomfort do not exactly inspire awe or terror in the hearts of the fans. It's unbelievable that he would be able to stand alone with the likes of Austin or Triple H in the ring. Let's face the facts, it stretches credibility to believe he could take out perennial WWF loser, the Brooklyn Brawler. And of course, let's not forget Hogan's absurd promos that make absolutely no sense.

Nash, The Big Lazy, is sure to slow the pace of any match. He isn't The Big Lazy for nothing. Here's how every Nash match goes. He gets in a few punches, and then throws his opponent into the corner. Now the fans are forced to watch Nash perform a series of weak punches, a

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## Grad. Gallery Experience

BY ANA MARIA RAMIREZ  
Statesman Staff

Inside the Melville Library Graduate Gallery, a sign read: "Remove shoes before entering." Below the sign was a wooden shoe rack, designed to hold 12 pairs of shoes, and labeled as such. To its immediate right was a circular, tent-like entrance. Its white flaps and the pink lining that bordered it were all made from the same satiny material.

Upon entering the tent, visitors to this exhibit encountered a tunnel harboring the path that Makiko Miyamoto, its creator, described as a mode of transport from the real world to a "weird" one.

This past Wednesday, the Graduate Gallery held the first opening show of the spring semester, entitled "Sheathing," by Makiko Miyamoto. The show, running for two weeks, will close Feb. 8.

Miyamoto wanted to make the viewer an integral part of the piece, for him or her to experience it as a

"new environment." She chose a light satiny material to create in her world a relaxed and tranquil mood.

As the viewer traverses down the narrow tunnel, he is completely enveloped in the piece, feeling the soft plush floor underfoot, sensing the

tent walls almost closing in on her. There is a bend in the path, and as one comes around the turn she is greeted with another door. The viewer steps through and finds herself under a low hung canopy of the same satiny white material. A bench encloses the space, and at its center, several dim lights spotlight a pink bulbous sphere. The sphere expands and contracts, as if it were breathing, soundlessly.

For Miyamoto the sphere is "a living, breathing egg", a reminder to its visitors of the warmth and comfort of the womb. Leaving the space is a return to the pain of the real world, and is like the process of being born.



Statesman/Ana Maria Ramirez

Makiko Miyamoto's exhibit is entitled "Sheathing."

"I wanted to make a comfortable, meditative space," said Miyamoto. "I basically want people to relax in there." Miyamoto certainly accomplishes this objective in her piece, making the observer reluctant to leave the security and beauty of her art.

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## Editorial

# Cementing Our Personal Safety

The start of a new semester is an exciting time. New students are getting acclimated to their new surroundings, and groups all over campus are busy preparing for a whole new slate of activities. We here at Statesman would like to take an opportunity to let clubs and organizations know how the University Police Department can be an asset in a variety of ways.

We feel strongly that the officers in the Department are firmly committed to getting to know students and helping us run successful events. They strive to improve each semester, and never rest on their laurels.

The primary focus of their community policing is education. Members of the Community Relations team, led by Deputy Chief Doug Little, frequently give talks on several important issues. Discussions with students include such topics as personal safety, crime prevention, and risk awareness.

Officers will often speak at LEG meetings, orientation programs, and Polity events. These messages never lose their relevance, and it is essential to reach as many people as possible.

The education offered by the Department is complemented by action as well. Many of the services University Police offers are free of charge. And that's just as well, as their respective values cannot be

measured in dollars and cents:

**Operation ID:** Officers will engrave personal and state property with ID numbers to aid in recovery should those items be stolen.

**Personal Safety Ride Program:** Officers are available from dusk until dawn to provide a safe ride home for students who need a lift. Call 2-RIDE (7433) for assistance.

**Walk Service:** Officers will walk students anywhere on campus during the hours of 8 P.M.-3:30 A.M. Call 2-6337 for an escort.

In addition to these programs, we should always keep in mind the basic safety options available 24/7. In case of emergency, the Police can always be reached by dialing 333 from any campus phone. Further, 3Blue Light2 phones are set up at dozens of locations all over campus. An officer will respond promptly if any such phone is activated.

We cannot stress this enough: members of University Police are happy to speak at *any* campus venue or through *any* campus medium. Students should not hesitate to ask for their assistance in the event of trouble, or for their presence during campus events.

The cops on campus do a tremendous job. Let them prove it to you.

## Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I used to read the Statesman, but I stopped because the paper became very boring and repetitive. It is also not very informative. The paper does keep people informed about some current world events, as well as some of the university events. However, there is so much more you can and should be writing about. Your paper is also not very imaginative, creative, or entertaining. Here are some ideas that I feel would solve the problems I stated:

1. Write an article about the university's history.
2. Interview students, faculty, and staff, about various different topics.
3. Have a small column that tells students of any campus

and local events that are going on for that week.

4. Stop dedicating so much space to polity issues.

5. Stop letting Freddy Davis write that ridiculously stupid philosophy column. I would point out the problems with it but I think that the grad student, whose article you guys published, said all that needed to be said.

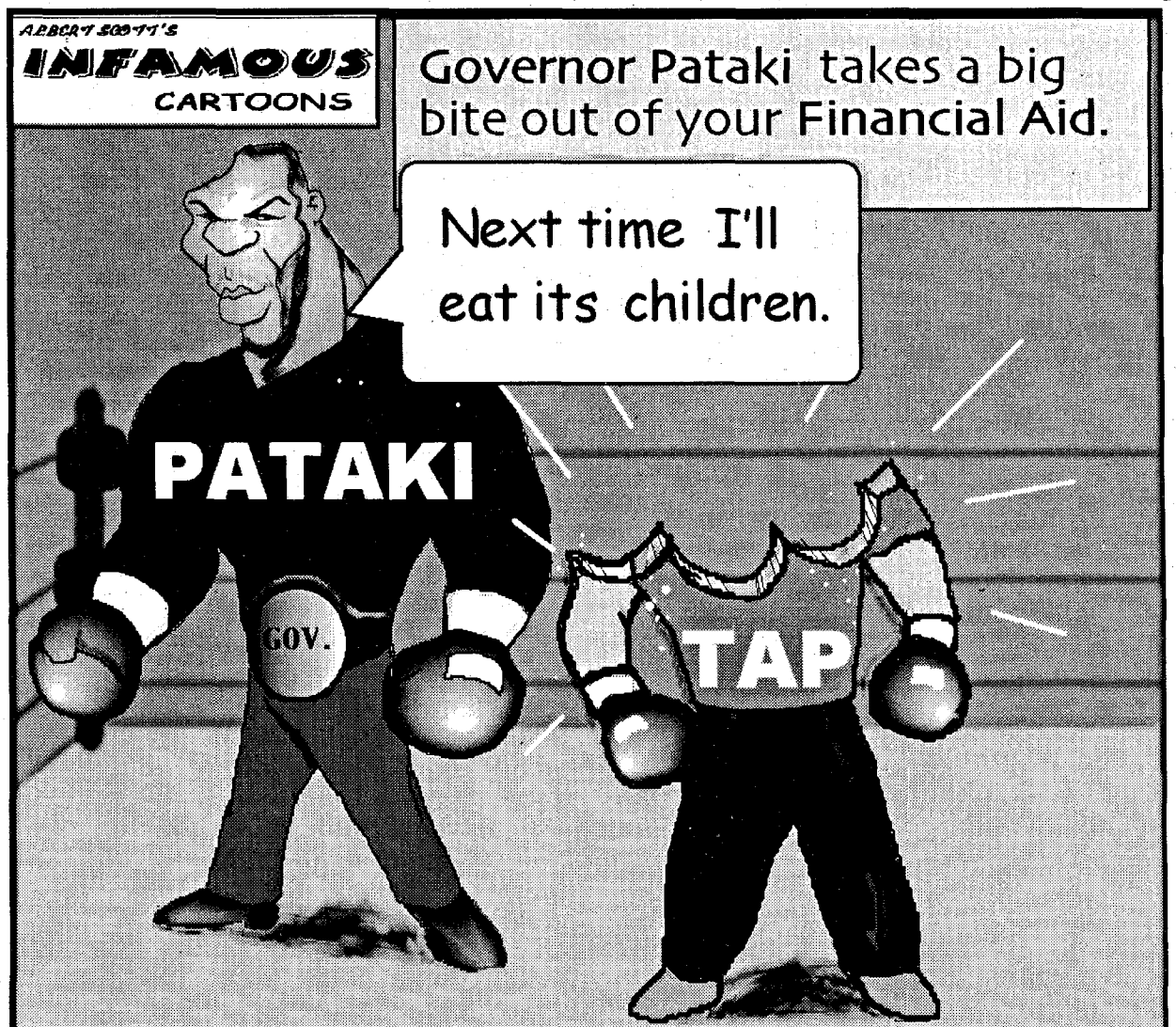
6. Run an article asking students what they would like to see in the paper.

7. Run an informative column on how the administration works. You can cover a different topic every week.

8. Run some type of relationship advice column.

These are just some ideas. Please make some changes.

Dan



# Federal Government Should Stay Out of Euthanasia Debate

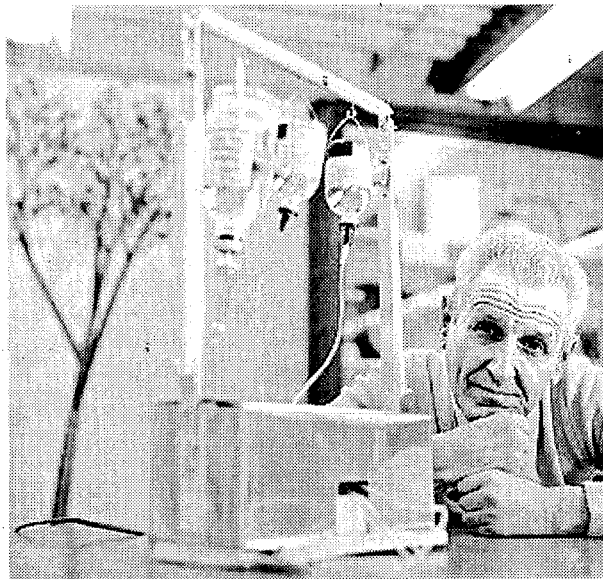
By KELLY BROWN  
Statesman Editor

You wake up crying out for another dose of morphine, but your nurse informs you it will be another hour before the next shot. Wracked with pain, your limbs tremble beneath bed sheets soaked with your sweat. Your existence is one of sheer misery. Even the enjoyment once brought on by time spent with loved ones has become tainted by physical agony and exhaustion. You are helpless, a victim of terminal illness, and the prospect of continuing much longer in this vise of agony only heightens the overwhelming anguish you feel. When you are not at the mercy of the drugs in your system, floating in a delicious haze of unawareness, you lie waiting for the moment when you will be dead, finally free of the suffering that has become your life. But who is going to help you free yourself of the burden of living? As the battle inside you blazes on, there is a war brewing on the political front that has the potential to profoundly affect your life — and your death.

Oregon's "Death with Dignity" Act, a bill approved twice by voters, was repeatedly challenged during the late 1990s by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The Act stipulates that euthanasia be performed only when three conditions are met: 1) the patient must request it three times, 2) there must be a second opinion from another doctor, and 3) the patient must undergo a 15-day waiting period during which he may change his mind.

The DEA ruled that doctors who prescribed federally controlled drugs in accordance with that law would violate the federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA). In 1998, then-Attorney General Janet Reno overturned the ruling, sanctioning the option of assisted suicide. But in November of 2001, Reno's successor, John Ashcroft, reversed her decision in support of the "DEA's original reading of the CSA."

Debates over the issue have been raging for years. After all, the controversy is multifaceted and extremely inflammatory, particularly among religious groups. Many Christians, Muslims, Jews and others believe that God gives life, and therefore only God should take it away. Suicide is then considered a rejection of God's sovereignty and benevolence. The devout feel that since God controls our fate, committing



Courtesy of www.freep.com

**Dr. Jack Kevorkian had been imprisoned for performing physician assisted suicides.**

suicide is an attempt to interfere with divine will.

But for each deeply religious person, there are many nominally religious or secular people. Substantial numbers of adults with liberal religious beliefs treat euthanasia as a morally desirable option in some cases. A recent Harris poll indicates that 6 in 10 American adults favor legalization of assisted suicide based on Oregon law.

There are also many secularists, atheists and agnostics who actively disagree with religious-based arguments. And many would like to retain suicide as an option should they develop a terminal illness and their life become unbearable. Do devout believers have the right to extend their own personal beliefs to the entire population? Should the personal beliefs of some decide public policy for all?

Let me turn to my dear friend, the great philosopher Spinoza, for support. In his "Tractatus Theologico-Politicus," he argues for the separation of church and state. He dispels the assertion that "sovereign powers are no less bound by divine law than are their subjects." His beliefs are expressed clearly when he declares, "In matters of religion, men are especially prone to go astray and contentiously advance many

*Continued on Page 9*

# Feminist Rant: Abstinence an Unrealistic Ideal

By MARIE HUCHTON  
Statesman Editor

As a politically left feminist, George Bush's presidency has made me rather concerned over the state of reproductive rights and sex as a cultural phenomenon. I'm not going to discuss the highly controversial abortion issue (at least not today), but I do feel the need to rant about Bush's intensely repressive and unrealistic views on sex. His recent decision to increase funding to Abstinence-Only programs is so anachronistic that I'm wondering where he left the horse and buggy.

Today's culture is saturated with sex and sexuality. From television programming and commercials, to magazines, to the Internet, our society is inundated by examples of heterosexuality. From two people kissing in a gum commercial to movies such as "Basic Instinct," we are barraged by visuals of men and women engaged in sex or having an implied sexual connection. Our society's preoccupation with sex is nothing new, but the degree of commercialization and widespread accessibility is a unique product of modern technology. The irony in all this is that our increasingly liberal society is being run by a man who holds the values of a conservative Republican in the 1950's, rather than the new millennium.

The minor detail that Bush has overlooked in his campaign to return American society to the McCarthyist era is that Abstinence-Only programs don't work. So, instead of educating children about condoms, STDs and birth control (which have been shown to decrease pregnancy and STD rates), Bush will send kids out into the world armed only with television scenarios and MTV videos.

Today's teens know everything there is to know about sex, except how to be safe while doing it. The soap opera may provide them with the pick-up lines and the late night porn with the suave moves; but what movie discusses condoms and birth control? How are teens supposed to learn about the realities of sex, when they are only given a sensationalized parody? How are teens supposed to learn to protect themselves from STDs and pregnancy if their teachers are forbidden to discuss such topics? If Bush is naive enough to think that teens will actually practice the abstinence that he is preaching, he should walk into any high school in the country. There, the hemlines are shorter, the shirts are smaller, and sex is something both done and discussed. Today's kids are not what they were in the fifties.

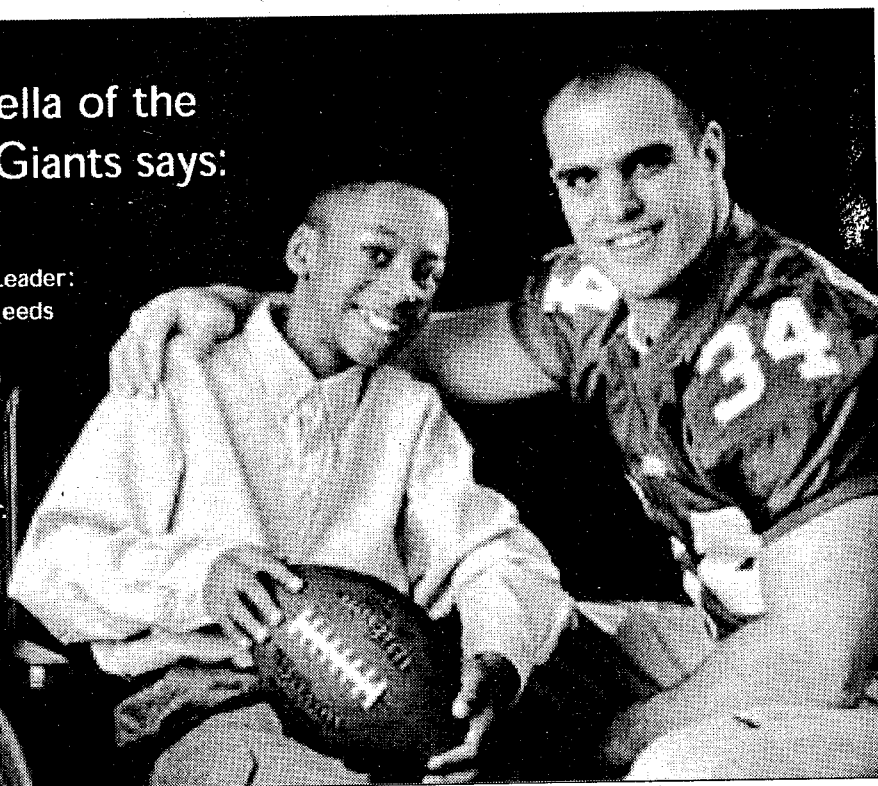
That U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, releasing a report advocating comprehensive sex education, has not fazed Bush's decision to increase Abstinence-Only funding by 33%. This blind adherence to outdated morals and untenable teaching methods will not return virginity and purity to their 18th century Puritanical pedestals, nor will it decrease the

*Continued on Page 9*

Greg Comella of the  
New York Giants says:

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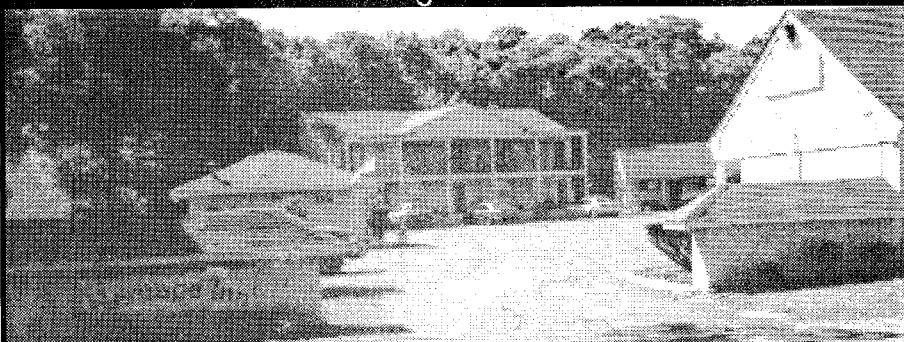
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## Geriatric Center Opens

*Continued from Page 3*

from the Center's research and development of progressive educational programs. Education outreach to geriatric and gerontology experts throughout Long Island will also be established using these funds.

University President Shirley Strum Kenny and Holly-Rhodes Teaque, the Director of the Suffolk County Office for the Aging, are expected to attend Monday's ceremony, as are a number of local and regional advocates for the elderly and representatives from community-based organizations and public officials. The Keynote

Speaker of the event will be the Director of the New York State Office for the Aging, Patricia P. Pines, Ph.D.

The Program Director of the new center will be the Chief of the Division of Geriatrics and General Internal Medicine at the Health Sciences Center, Dr. Suzanne Fields.

"The Long Island Geriatric Education Center will allow us to continue our mission of educating and training healthcare professionals in ways that benefit the community, the state, and the nation," Vice President for the Health Sciences Center, Dr. Norman H. Edelman, said.

## Super Bowl Faves Fall from Grace

*Continued from Page 2*

drive topped off with the game winning field goal made by Adam Vinatieri.

All week, St. Louis talked about how this organization was at a special place in time. What happened yesterday was that they forgot to play football. They got sucked into the Super Bowl hoopla.

They were not concentrating on the game and New England made them suffer.

The Patriots pulled off an upset that few saw coming. Now, St. Louis is left with nothing but memories of a fun filled week, and the hopes of returning home and finding out that The Publishers Clearinghouse Prize Patrol is waiting at their door.

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# Government's Role in Euthanasia

Continued from Page 7

ideas of their own advising." Organized religion is acceptable to Spinoza, but only if its tenets and rituals are the means to positive ends. Extrapolating from these premises, I believe that he would be against government interference in a deeply personal and often spiritual matter.

There are many incongruities in the public and governmental stances on assisted suicide. Dr. Jack Kevorkian was permitted, if

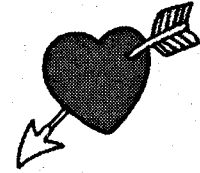
reluctantly, to help more than 100 people end their lives, but when he stepped in and became the killer himself, he was promptly tried and imprisoned. And now, we are left bereft of the legislation that allowed profoundly suffering people to choose the moment and manner of their death, often with family support — often with the support of their religious communities, as well.

The ailing individual and his family should have access to

resources that can help them through a very difficult and complex ordeal, without having to wade through the red tape of religious or traditional influence in governmental affairs.

The government is interfering in a sensitive and very private issue. It seeks to infringe upon the rights of those who, in their desperate torment, wish to honor the goodness and beauty of their lives by dying peacefully and on their own terms.

*Forget Flowers and Chocolate! Nothing is more romantic than saying "I Love You" in the Statesman.*



Submit a Valentine message to let that special someone know you care. E-mail all messages to [statesmn@ic.sunysb.edu](mailto:statesmn@ic.sunysb.edu) or drop them off to room 057 in the Union. All entries will appear in the Mon., Feb. 11 issue. Deadline is Saturday, Feb. 9. Be romantic this Valentine's Day and send us your words of love!

# Sexuality and Abstinence

Continued from Page 7

number of teens engaging in sexual relations. If anything, it will only increase risky sexual behaviors and discourage teens

from getting tested for STDs.

The religious right and feminists have always butted heads on issues of sex and reproduction, and this is just one more example of the ongoing

conflict. In my opinion, Bush is doing today's youth a disservice by keeping them ignorant of the realities of sex and the many ways in which it differs from the media image.

# Wrestling and the NWO

Continued from Page 5

"brutal" boot to the neck, and then, and then, GASP! he frames the elbow! This complex and highly technical move involves Nash forming a frame with his hands, and then throwing an elbow into the face of his opponent. It should be noted that this part of the match goes on for about ten to fifteen minutes. Nash then performs his finisher, the Jack-knife Powerbomb, where he more or less tosses his opponent to the mat with little regard for his victim's safety. Don't expect him to lose very often because he, like Hogan, has stroke



Courtesy of [www.angelfire.com](http://www.angelfire.com)

**Hulk Hogan is coming back to the world of professional wrestling.** backstage. Is anyone out there excited about the prospect of a Big Show/Nash feud?

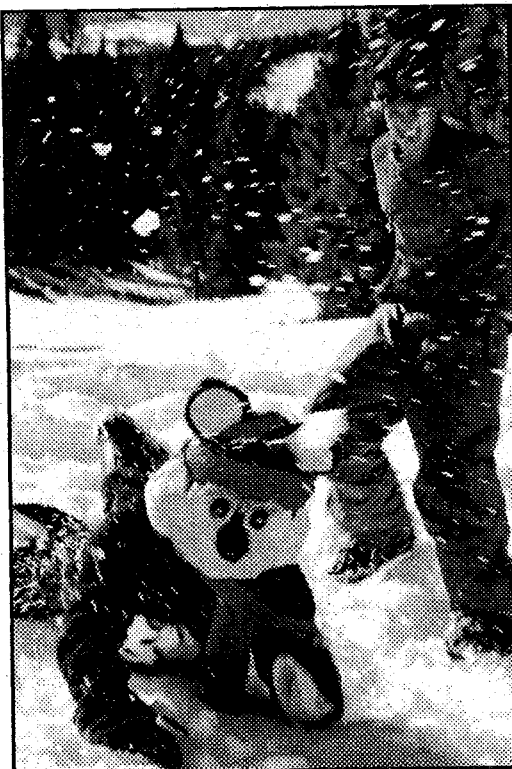
The third member of the acclaimed NWO is Hall, who happens to be a far superior wrestler compared to the

other two. He has charisma and decent in-ring ability, but has been known to choose the bottle over wrestling on some occasions, requiring an extended sabbatical.

If he has his personal demons under control, he'll be the bright spot in upcoming events that will otherwise be a real horror show.

Ready or not, the NWO is coming, and it's not going to be pretty.

**Wrestling trivia question of the week: Who raised the briefcase in the 1999 Austin vs. McMahon ladder match?**



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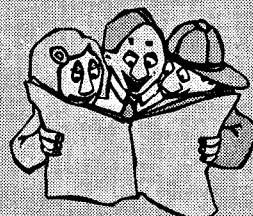
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Gullah Vegetable Paella

Chicken Yassa  
Stewed Okra

## The Bleacher Club

Wednesday, February 6th

11:00am - 4:00pm

Jollof Rice (West African Paella)  
Chicken Tagine w/ Seven Veggies

Pinto Beans w/ Potatoes  
Collard Green

## Kelly Dining Center

Thursday, February 7th

5:30pm - 9:00pm

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Collard Greens & Okra  
Candied Yams

BBQ Ribs  
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Creamed Corn

## Roth Food Court

Wednesday, February 20th

5:30pm - 9:00pm

La Mardi Gras Chicken Breast  
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Vegetarian Black-eyed Peas  
Roast Pork Loin w/ Herb Tomato Marinade

Creole Black-eyed Peas  
Classic Okra  
Corn Bread

## Student Activities Center

Thursday, February 28th

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