

Statesman

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Polity Decertified as Governing Body

Bickering Between Council and Senate Finally Leads to Organization's Demise

By **JEFFREY JAVIDFAR**
Statesman Editor

The experiment that was dubbed "receivership" is now over, as Student Polity Association (SPA) has been decertified. The dissolution of SPA has left in its wake a moderately intrigued, though cautious, student body and a Polity Senate shocked and scrambling to regroup.

In SPA's stead will be a conglomeration of interim committees, individual appointments and elected student leaders that will try to provide continued services to students while filling a power vacuum that some say has been three years in the making.

On Oct. 11, Stony Brook University President Shirley Strum Kenny sent Akelia Lawrence, President of SPA, a memorandum notifying Lawrence of her decision to decertify SPA and the factors that led to it (see text of memo on Page 2).

"I concur with your assessment that the current situation compels the campus

administration to take further action to facilitate the necessary reform of student government," Kenny wrote. "This action will involve the decertification of Student Polity as the representative student government for the administration of the Student Activity Fee (SAF)."

Frederick R. Preston, Vice President for Student Affairs and Kenny's designee for working with student government, explained what the decertification meant.

"Polity is not responsible for administration of the [SAF], which was in receivership," Preston said. "As the weeks go on and we're in the reform process, we'll also be in the inform process so that students will better understand [what is happening]."

The contentious issue now is the administration of the \$86.50 SAF paid by each full-time undergraduate per semester, which aggregates to a sum of over \$2 million dollars that is used to fund student-oriented clubs, organizations and programs. Preston insisted that decertification would



Statesman/Audrey Dettmering

President Kenny notified SPA President Akelia Lawrence of her decision to decertify SPA in an Oct. 11 memo.

not diminish the beneficial services that once were provided by SPA.

"I am putting in place a plan to make sure that clubs and organizations can still do

programming," Preston said. "Services like C.O.C.A. and A.V. will still run. The interim planning committee will continue to function [in the same capacity] until May."

As it stands now, Polity Senate no longer exists and the class representatives have been relieved of their duties. Some of the remaining members of the executive council will be retained in some capacity to assist with the day-to-day functions that were fulfilled by SPA.

In her letter, Kenny cited the harmful consequences of the ongoing "structural / constitutional problems [upon] Polity's ability to effectively administer the allocation of [the Student] Activity Fee," as well as continued failure by the organization to institute "necessary reform[s]."

A catalyst in Kenny's decision-making process was an Oct. 3 letter written by SPA President Akelia Lawrence to the University President. Lawrence beseeched the

Continued on Page 9

Food, Fun...and Football at Wolfstock 2002

By **KELLY BROWN AND EMY KURIAKOSE**
Statesman Editors

Hundreds of Stony Brook students marched along Center Drive last Friday in the Wolfstock parade that kicked off Stony Brook's 2002 Homecoming celebration. Building LEGs, campus organizations, and interest groups displayed ornate banners and floats bearing human peace signs, Austin Powers, caged Prisoners of War, and a resurrected Jimmy Hendrix.

The parade began at the Mendelsohn parking lot by Stony Brook's Main Entrance and continued along Center Drive to the Sports Complex where judges awaited. Originally set to run at 7 pm, the entire event was delayed because of late arrivals and organizational difficulties.

"So many people left between 7pm and 9pm because everything was delayed. Last year it started later, so fewer people came on time today," said Vanessa Maybeck, Cardozo LEG president.

The Nassau County Emerald Society Pipes and Drums walked at the head of the parade, followed by Homecoming candidates for King and Queen and the Grand Marshal of the event, former Stony Brook Dean of Students Carmen Vasquez.

Representatives from the Office of



Statesman/Emy KuriaKose

Floats, banners, and student performances were a colorful beginning to this year's Homecoming.

Student Affairs judged the student creations on several factors, including creativity and originality, relevance to the theme, and student participation and enthusiasm. In the float competition, Roosevelt Quad won first place, Whitman College came in second and Mendelsohn Quad finished third.

Homecoming 2002 continued on Saturday with pre-game festivities behind the new stadium. Stony Brook alumni and their families came out despite the drizzle to take advantage of the food, wine, art exhibits and children's activities offered as part of the celebration. Scores of local restaurants, such as the Curry Club, set up tables under the enormous alumni tent to provide Homecoming guests with a variety of food and drink.

"I loved seeing the animals [at the

petting zoo]," said six-year-old Sara Vaughn, daughter of one alumnus. "And the cookies were really good."

Tim Kenney, Director of the Alumni Association, was pleased with the success of the day's events. Last year, about 1200 alumni showed up for Homecoming, but Saturday's turnout was close to double that.

Kickoff was slightly after 4 p.m., and although the stadium was not filled to capacity as had been expected, the crowd was impressive. The Seawolves made a strong start against Sacred Heart in the first half, and so did Wolfie and the cheerleaders, rousing the crowd with giveaways and cheers.

At halftime, University President Shirley Strum Kenny and a swarm of state legislators marched out onto the field to honor Senator Kenneth LaValle by naming Stony Brook's new stadium after him and to officially celebrate the grand opening of the facility. LaValle expressed his excitement and gratitude, and said that he would always think of Oct. 19, the day of the naming, as his "second birthday."

Following the ceremony, Kenny and LaValle crowned the Homecoming Queen and King, Kimberly Herrera and Statesman's own Jeffrey Javidfar. The two were

recognized for their outstanding contributions to the university.

The \$100,000 halftime field goal kick was unsuccessful, but one lucky Stony Brook student walked away from the game with free tuition after her name was drawn in a raffle.

The second half sealed the deal for the Seawolves, who emerged with their third home win of the season.

Fireworks over the LaValle Stadium closed Homecoming 2002, and the crowds filtering through the exits appeared to be satisfied with the day's events.

"I had a terrific time," said Camille Melton, spouse of one Stony Brook alumnus. "The school did a great job with everything. I enjoyed the food, the entertainment, and of course, the football."

Index

Polity Decertified.....	1,9
Homecoming.....	1
Clinical Research.....	3
Meal Plans.....	3,9
News.....	5
Commentary.....	6,7,8
Sports.....	11
Homecoming Photos.....	12

Text of President Kenny's Letter to Polity

To: Akelia Lawrence,
President
Student Polity Government

From: Shirley Strum Kenny,
President

Re: Reform of the Student
Government

Date: October 11, 2002

Your memorandum to me dated October 3, 2002 clearly describes some of the continuing governance problems plaguing our undergraduate student government. In placing the Student Activity Fee under "administrative receivership" this past spring, Dr. Preston cited the serious negative impact of the structural / constitutional problems on Polity's ability to effectively administer the allocation of our Activity

Fee. He challenged Polity to take action to correct specific governance weaknesses or face decertification as the representative undergraduate student government for the administration of the aforementioned fee. It is apparent that neither this challenge nor the determined efforts of the Polity president have motivated the necessary reform of the Student Polity government.

As you are aware, placing the SAF under "administrative receivership" followed two years of campus administration urging student government leaders to implement appropriate governance reform. Unfortunately, as illustrated in your memorandum, the situation has continued to deteriorate. I share your disappointment and frustration with this state of affairs. Recent issues of our student newspaper Statesman also suggest there is significant dissatisfaction with our student government within our undergraduate student body. I believe that an effective representative undergraduate government is essential to meeting the student quality of life and activities needs and goals of our campus. Historically, Polity has served as a dynamic force in advocating for student needs, and sponsoring a range of student activities and services.

However, I concur with your assessment that the current situation compels the campus administration to take further action to facilitate the necessary reform of student government. This action will involve the decertification of Student Polity as the representative student government for the administration of the Student Activity Fee. As my designee for working with student government, Dr. Preston will formulate the details of a process / structure which will enable students to propose and vote on a new undergraduate governance structure. He will also oversee a process / structure to ensure that students / student organizations continue to receive services and activities supported by the SAF.

While the current situation is unfortunate, it does provide an opportunity to positively engage our undergraduate community in the reform of their student governance. In this regard, I applaud the willingness of the members of the Polity Executive Council to participate in the reform effort. Likewise, I commend your efforts to date to provide leadership for the needed change. Stony Brook is a distinguished state university with outstanding undergraduate students who deserve the best from the student government.

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Crash Course in Clinical Research at SBU Medical School

By MANSOOR KHAN
Statesman Editor

Students enrolled in the MD/PhD Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) at Stony Brook Medical School recently organized a symposium entitled "What is Clinical Research, Anyway?"

The lecture series, subtitled "Field Experience from Our Clinical Warlords", featured current Stony Brook faculty members who conduct research in a broad array of clinical areas.

The first of the lectures was given by Dr. Wadie Bahou, M.D., Chief of the Division of Hematology. His topic, "Career Opportunities in Academic Medicine", revolved around the development of the M.D./Ph.D degree. He offered an overview of the prospects facing medical researchers today.

"The program was instituted because physician-scientists are in need to make scientific progress in the U.S.," said Bahou, a graduate of University of Massachusetts medical school.

The M.D./Ph.D program represents the integration of two programs, the General Clinical Research Center (GCRC), an institution designed to assist doctors and medical researchers to conduct clinical studies seeking to better understand and treat disease, and the Medical Scientist Training Program, an initiative designed and funded by the National Institute of Health (NIH) in order to promote biomedical research.

Bahou briefly reviewed the history of the MSTP program, which was conceptualized in 1984. The first three

programs were established at Albert Einstein Medical College, NYU, and Northwestern Medical. Stony Brook University's MSTP program was launched in 1992.

Currently, while only two and a half percent of medical school graduates achieve the M.D./Ph.D degree as medical scientists, 35% of all NIH government funding goes to those with the dual degree.

"It is the opportune time to pursue biomedical investigation. The NIH values the service of physician-scientists," Bahou said.

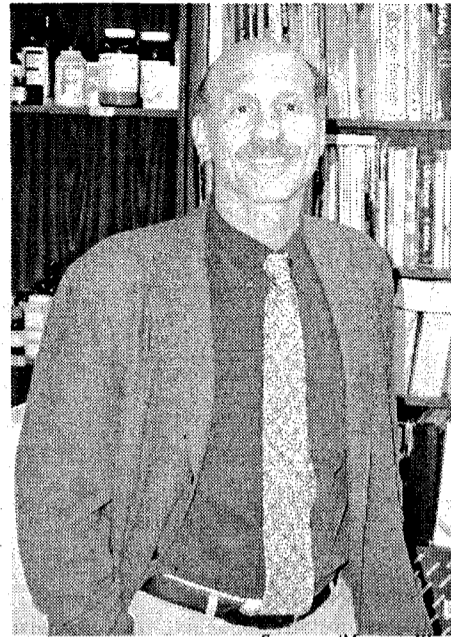
Receiving the dual degree is not the only way to pursue a career in research, however. Physicians with a normal M.D. degree, whom Bahou terms as "late bloomers", may enter the world of biomedical research as well. The only problem, according to Bahou, is that "late bloomers don't get as comprehensive a training."

M.D. students receive dispersed exposure to research throughout their medical education, as opposed to the 8 years of training and focused research undertaken by M.D./Ph.D candidates.

The advantages and disadvantages of pursuing a career as a physician-scientist, according to Bahou, must be weighed heavily against one another. While the "stimuli to pursue" research are many, including interest in investigation, discovery, and education, the disadvantages are also numerous, such as long training, uncertainty of success, and considerable debt.

To help students handle their debt, the NIH has been working to assist physicians pursuing research. In 1998, the NIH implemented several strategies, including

expanding the GCRC budget, new grants for training in clinical research, and a new loan repayment program. The NIH also pays salaries for new researchers, running up to \$90,000 per year.



Wadie Bahou, M.D., opened the medical symposium with a lecture on "Career Opportunities in Medicine."

The task of explaining clinical research in itself was left up to Dr. Marie Gelato, M.D., Ph.D, director of the University Hospital GCRC. She explained the process of preparing a grant application and providing a general overview of designing a competent project in clinical research.

"You need an idea from which you can generate a question and a hypothesis," Gelato said.

Topics are often derived from

experiences in the lab, from transitional research (what Gelato calls "bench to bedside"), or from an interesting patient population.

Researchers must also gather preliminary data in order to show that the project has potential and is feasible. An experimental design and methods must also be drawn out. In addition, appropriate approval and justification must be acquired in order to utilize human subjects in any way, shape, or form.

"The GCRC can really play a major role in helping you through the whole process," Gelato said. One of the center's main purposes is to assist researchers in preparing grants.

After the first two general lectures, the symposium shifted to a forum for faculty members to discuss their own specific research endeavors at the University's Health Sciences Center.

Lecturers included Dr. Sharon Nachman of Pediatrics, who presented "Pediatric HIV and You", and Dr. Irving Krukenkamp, Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery, speaking about "Lasers and Microwaves in Cardiac Surgery".

The audience was comprised of undergraduates, medical students, graduate students, physicians and researchers.

"The lectures were pretty interesting," said Stony Brook senior Mohammed Imran, who is currently applying to medical schools. "The first two lectures were a bit more focused on research grants and things like that than I thought they would be, but were overall pretty informative."

Student Protest Forces Changes in Meal Plan

By EMY KURIAKOSE
Statesman Editor

Two weeks ago, 50 students marched to Kelly Dining Hall in protest of this year's recent meal plan fee increases and made known their grievances to the Faculty Student Association (FSA) and Campus Dining Services (CDS). The protest, headed by SBU student Mendel Julien, forced four hours of negotiations with the FSA concerning food cost, smaller serving sizes, and other policies that students found to be unfair.

"The problem is, we're on contract with the school for these things, and we want to be informed when changes happen," Julien said. "Most students don't even know how the meal plan system works and why things have gotten worse."

Over the years, meal plan prices and the cost of food on campus have increased significantly because of pressures from businesses and economic inflation.

"If the prices go up, [FSA and CDS] have to accommodate students' needs also," Julien added.

Students raised objections to the bi-weekly residence point sweeping and the lack of refunds for unused points at the end of each semester. Point sweeping--which requires

students to use a certain number of points per every two weeks in order or risk losing them--and the Resident Point system were established to encourage students to eat at their residence dining halls.

"We propose that points should roll over from the fall semester to the spring. With the point sweeping system and unrefunded money, they're making more money than we know about," Julien said. "If we changed the term 'points' to 'dollars,' students would take their Meal Plan expenses more seriously."

Students are also pressing for \$500 and \$250 meal plan options for students who have kitchens in their suites. Under the present system, those who reside in a kitchen suite but want access to campus dining must spend \$1230 for the lowest meal plan.

The FSA has responded to the student protest and said that it has been working to change dining conditions on campus. "We did sit down with the Resolution Board [on Oct. 16] to discuss all the issues the students have proposed," said Lisa Ospitale, Director of Marketing for CDS. "We are working to make a lot of changes on campus."

One of the major concerns addressed by the student group is the decreasing size of take out and serving plates combined with the increased

price for food. Last year, the plastic take-out trays were larger, and plates were not used to serve students. Plastic trays were originally substituted with paper plates when the University approached CDS concerning recycling issues with the non-biodegradable plastic.

The Resolution Board has decided that the plastic take-out containers should once again be available behind the lines, in the hands of the servers. "We're training our employees to ask if the meal is 'To stay or to go', so that students can choose between plastic trays and paper plates," Ospitale said. CDS said that this option will take effect beginning Wednesday, Oct. 23.

Students also brought forth the issue of vegetarian dining options on Campus. "We need to build up more vegan and vegetarian options for students," Julien said. "There should be a specific dining area, because places like Harvest Moon cook meat and vegetables on the same grill."

In response, CDS announced its plan to accommodate the needs of these students. Completely vegan products, made by Protein Chef and Nutrifoods, will soon be available. The fare was sampled at the Resolution meeting that brought students and Campus Dining representatives together.

"I'm very excited about the possibility of eating healthy vegetarian meals, and not having to scrounge for side dishes or toast," said Mira Kinariwala, a vegetarian sophomore.

CDS was also forced to change its policies on meals cooked with Halal meat. Some Muslim students eat only Halal meat, but this specially prepared fare was only being served during lunch hours. Students pressed CDS to include this accommodation for other times of the day.

"We'll have ingredient listings posted with the food on campus. Now, students can have meals cooked with Halal meat at The Bridge for dinner. They also have different menu options there," said Ospitale.

While the student movement has brought about changes in the day-to-day dining services provided by the University, some changes will take longer to be implemented.

"Meal Plan changes have to be addressed to the University level planning committees," Ospitale said. "Those changes won't happen overnight."

The resolutions to these issues did not come easily, students said. Julien claimed that several attempts to advertise his cause and inform students

Continued on Page 9



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Senate Votes to Counter Hackers and Cyberterrorists

BY DAN CARNEVALE
Chronicle of Higher Education

The U.S. Senate passed a bill last week that would expand research on securing computer networks from hackers and terrorists. The bill includes language that would restrict the ability of some foreign students to participate in the research.

A similar version of the bill passed the House of Representatives in February. The House will need to vote for the new version of the bill before it can be sent to President Bush, who is expected to sign it into law. The House may consider the bill in late November.

The bill, HR 3394, would

authorize \$903-million in grants over five years to study how to protect computer networks from terrorists and hackers. The National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology would award the grants, many of which would go to research universities.

Language was added to the Senate version that would forbid any grants from being awarded, directly or indirectly, to a person who is in violation of his or her immigration status or to an alien who has come from a country that is considered a sponsor of international terrorism, unless the State Department determines that the person poses no threat.

Also, colleges and universities would not be able to receive grants

if they failed to comply with federal record-keeping requirements for tracking foreign students, including requirements involving a new computer database called the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System, or Sevis.

Institutions have until Jan. 30 to start tracking the enrollment status of foreign students under Sevis. Many higher-education officials have expressed concern that complying with all the requirements will prove to be difficult.

Heidi Tringe, communications director for the House Committee on Science, said that the requirements in the bill are consistent with current law, and that Congress will be working with higher-education

institutions to make sure they can meet the requirements.

"We're sympathetic to the institutions' concerns about the accountability language, but we're going to be working with the community," Tringe said.

Other language was added to the bill that would require the National Institute of Standards and Technology to develop computer-security standards for all government agencies. Any standards the institute develops would be considered recommendations, not requirements, that agencies and businesses could adopt voluntarily.

Tringe said she expected the bill to pass the House without amendment. "We were fully supportive of all the changes," she said.

Professors Petition Against U.S. Invasion of Iraq

BY LINDSAY BOSSLETT
Chronicle of Higher Education

Nearly 12,000 professors have signed an online petition opposing a U.S. invasion of Iraq. The petition, which was started by two professors at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, is circulating widely throughout academe.

The petition argues that an invasion is not in the best interests of the United States because it could destabilize the Middle East, and notes opposition from U.S. allies and the United Nations. "Any military action against Iraq should have the moral force of international consensus behind it," the petition says.

Katherine Fennelly, a public-affairs professor at the University of Minnesota

who helped create the petition, said it was initially done with the hope that it would gain the support only of other faculty members at the Twin Cities campus. David Fox, an assistant professor of geology at Minnesota who wrote the petition, wanted to spread the message and asked co-workers to send the petition to their friends at other universities.

The petition got into the hands of Nancy Kanwisher, a professor of cognitive neuroscience at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who asked Fox if she could publish the petition online. Since then, word of the Web site has been spreading.

Fox said the petition has also appeared as a full-page advertisement in the campus's student newspaper, *The Minnesota Daily*, as well as the *St.*

Paul Pioneer Press. He added that while some responses to the ad have been "vehement and impolite," the petition is an important form of expression for those opposing war.

"Since 9/11, some people are afraid to speak out or say they do not support their government," he said, adding that "there is widespread opposition to this war across the country, not just in the academic community." As of Tuesday evening, more than 25,000 people, including 11,932 faculty members, had signed the petition, according to the Web site.

The petition's Web page also provides a link to a Web site that lists 10 things people can do to protest starting a war against Iraq, as well as links with information on how to

contact members of Congress.

The U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives voted last week to give President Bush the authority to initiate an invasion of Iraq. That action, however, has not deterred the petition's authors.

"It is important for representatives to see this," Fennelly said. "The president now has more latitude to move forces, but it is very much in the U.S. interest not to take a unilateral position."

Taylor Griffin, a spokesman for the White House, said in response to the petition that "the President welcomes debate on this important issue." He added that President Bush has said that the use of the military in Iraq is his last choice, and has spoken before the United Nations to present his case.

U.S. Institutions Have Trained Relatively Few Foreign Students in Sensitive Areas

BY MICHAEL ARNONE
Chronicle of Higher Education

A study conducted by Georgia State University indicates that over a 10-year period from 1990 to 1999, American universities awarded 1,215 doctorates in science and engineering to students from countries that sponsor terrorism, and that 147 of those degrees were in sensitive fields where the training could potentially be used by terrorists for conventional or biological warfare.

According to the study, which was reported on in an article published Wednesday in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, those degrees were awarded to foreign nationals of five countries that the United States has called state sponsors of terrorism: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Syria. Nationals of two other countries so labeled, Cuba and North Korea, weren't included in the figure because so few students come to the United States from those countries. The 147 degrees that might be used for warfare were in fields that include nuclear engineering,

biotechnology, and organic chemistry.

The country that had the most American doctoral degrees granted was Iran, whose citizens brought home 875 degrees. Of that number, 117 were in sensitive fields. The runner-up was Iraq, which had 112 doctoral degrees, with 14 in sensitive fields.

The 1,215 degrees represent only 2 percent of all Ph.D. degrees awarded to foreign-born students during the period, and only 0.7 percent of all degrees awarded. The 147 degrees in sensitive areas represent only 0.2 percent and 0.08 percent, respectively.

But those small percentages are deceptive, warns Paula E. Stephan, the study's lead author. "Focusing on a number would give a false sense of security," said Stephan, a professor of economics at Georgia State. Even if the United States barred all foreign students, she said, it would have no way of ensuring that its knowledge didn't fall into the wrong hands.

Stephan combed data from the National Science Foundation to count every known Ph.D. granted in science and

engineering, and the nationality of its recipient, from 1981 to 1999. The study, released in March 2002, casts a wide net and includes many students who study in nonsensitive fields, she said.

Changes in American foreign policy also color interpretations of the study's results. "It's hard to predict if today's friends are going to be tomorrow's enemies" and vice versa, says Terry W. Hartle, senior vice president for government and public affairs for the American Council on Education. For instance, the State Department considered Iraq an ally during the 1980s, and officials would have looked at applications from Iraqi visa applicants then differently than they do now, he said.

Foreign students are vital to American doctoral programs in science and engineering, Stephan said. More than 50 percent of the growth in the number of Ph.D.'s granted in the United States has come from foreign students, she said. Those students received roughly 32 percent of all Ph.D.'s in 1999. In other research, Stephan said, she has found that a disproportionately high number of scientists who make exceptional contributions

to science in American institutions are foreign-born.

The United States wants to continue inviting foreign-born scientists to study here, said Victoria A. Churchville, director of communications for the Association of American Universities, a group of 63 elite research institutions.

Last May, the Bush administration drew up plans to create the Interagency Panel on Advanced Science and Security, or Ipass, as an extra screening measure for foreign-visa applicants who wish to study "sensitive science and technology areas that are uniquely available in the United States," said Kathryn M. Harrington, a spokeswoman for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. The system will be designed with both academic freedom and national security in mind, she said.

While Harrington said she couldn't comment on the Georgia State study, she did say that Ipass is a priority. The system is still being developed and will probably need an executive order from President Bush to come into service, she said.



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Editorials represent the majority opinion of the Editorial board and are written by one of its members. The Stony Brook Statesman welcomes letters, opinions and information about events and issues on or around campus.

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Editor's View

The Stuff of Tradition

By KELLY BROWN
Statesman Editor

The crowds may have been a little thinner than anticipated, but the success of Stony Brook's Homecoming 2002 cannot be measured by a head count. From the stadium dedication to float building to the fireworks after the winning game, those who participated in the activities of the past week were privy to one of the experiences that makes these college years so unique and exciting.

Statesman ran an editorial last spring in which we addressed the seeming lack of unifying events and sense of tradition at Stony Brook, the dearth of sentiment that makes graduates of other institutions feel an eternal sense of attachment to their alma mater. But as was clear at this weekend's Homecoming, we are a university teeming with opportunity, quirky customs, and a diverse body of individuals. This is the stuff of which tradition is made.

A feeling of belonging to a place does not come from sitting inertly in front of a Playstation 2, nor

from going home as soon as your last class is over, nor from pleading boredom without bothering to check the online Calendar of Events at the school's website. Students build tradition through participation, and any individuals who leave this place having contributed something to the community will doubtlessly feel that the community has given them even more in return, including a sense that Stony Brook will always be a home of sorts.

Come to the office of *Statesman*. Peruse issue archives dating back to the 1960s. Put a quarter in the ageless candy machines that stand, dusty, in the corner. (You won't get any candy, but your quarter will come sliding back out.) Visit the darkroom, where black-and-white photos of times gone by curl on old clotheslines strung across the ceiling. Spend hours creating something that honors the traditions of the past and shapes the traditions of the future.

Stony Brook is not an old place, but day by day we, the students, build tradition that may outlive ourselves. Imagine Salute to Stony Brook in 2080. Hey, you never know.

Letter to the Editor

Israel Deserves Rights, Too

Dear Editor:

Since when is defending oneself considered a "war crime" or "revenge"? In retort to "Israel Adds to Its List of War Crimes," it must be noted that the amount of ignorance and anti-Semitism the author of this Op-Ed piece displayed is shocking and disheartening. This letter validated the growing anti-Semitism that exists in foreign countries, Long Island, and at Stony Brook University. When Palestinians murder innocent women, children, and men with their sadistic homicide bombings, the author sees no wrongdoing. However, when Israel protects itself, the words "revenge killings" are used.

Israel does not pay its citizens to murder innocent Palestinians nor does it promote the brutal slaughter of harmless people simply boarding a bus going to their school, job, or home.

What pains me even more is that so many of these people who speak out against Israel are supposed to be "educated." However, they have lost sight of their history and gone astray. They espouse peace and yet would have Israel give up all of her land, splitting the country in two, with no means of defense against nations who have sworn to "push the Jews back into the ocean."

Have we forgotten that in 1948, when the U.N. partitioned to create Israel, it similarly partitioned a number of other countries and stopped the Muslims and Hindus from killing each other with Pakistan? When Israel was founded in 1948, most Arab residents of Palestine chose to leave, so as not to live with Jews. And when the nearby Arab countries took in these fellow and sister Arabs, did they let them assimilate into their populations? *Not at all!* In fact, these countries put those Arabs into camps where many languish unto this very day, some 50 years later.

Let's review Jewish history. We were homeless for thousands of years until 1948. With the birth of Israel we finally had a homeland, meant to shelter us no matter where we came from, even in the event of another Holocaust.

Speaking of which it should be noted that even the United States turned us away and back to Hitler's ovens.

Along with Israel's birth came a new ability for standing our ground, fighting for our land, and maintaining a haven for Jews throughout our planet's periodic surges of fanatic anti-Semitism. Let us not forget that the stated goal of many radical Islamic warriors is to crush the West, beginning with Israel, and with that accomplished to move on to the Christians, et cetera.

The media is often biased against Israel. When Israelis fight back and Palestinians are harmed there is usually front-page coverage making the Israeli's look like monsters. Then way back, maybe on page 34, one discovers a small article about Jewish temples being burned down in France or Italy or Spain, with a memo about the rise of anti-Semitism worldwide.

But if Israel did not stand tough and fight hard, surely there would be no Israel! "Friends" such as A.S. M. Hussain, who have forgotten what Jews have experienced, horrify me.

Look at a map, Mr. Hussain! Look at the size of this very small country with a population less than Manhattan's. And look at Israel in relation to the totality of the Arab world, a large and vocal part of which would gladly push us back into the sea. If Israel doesn't survive, surely there will be no one to take us in when the world turns its back on us as it did during World War II.

Israel fought major battles in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982, and is still struggling against malicious murderers on a daily basis. Mr. Hussain, do you really believe that Israel wants to spend its limited resources fighting wars and seeing its children die from terrorist homicide bombings? As was once remarked by the brave and visionary Golda Meir: "We intend to remain alive. Our neighbors want to see us dead. This is not a question that leaves much room for compromise."

Sincerely,
Natalie Fitterman

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Feminist Rant

By MARIE HUCHTON
Statesman Staff

In my recent studies, I ran across a sentence that I felt nicely characterized the current political crisis of our global village. Author Thomas Eagleton writes, "the more a postmodern culture is exported to the post-colonial world, the more, by reaction, it can fan the flames of cultural particularism there" (The Idea of Culture, Blackwell Publishers, 2000). This academic jargon may not initially seem related to the situation with Iraq, but hopefully after I give some context to this quote, it will make more sense.

First, let me say that cultural studies (and postmodernism in particular) is amongst the most self-reflexive and grammatically convoluted fields of theory I have ever encountered. Thus, it should be no surprise that a relatively simple concept is made into a word puzzle. When interpreting jargon, it is incredibly difficult not to resort to jargon or equally complex explanations, but I will give it my best shot.

Prior to this particular statement, Eagleton put forth the idea of America as a postmodern culture. The United States of today is a cosmopolitan society; groups from every religious, ethnic, racial, economic and social background all reside within artificially created geographical borders. All these groups and individuals are united by their membership to the United States. The variety and diversity of these groups is an integral part of what we define as American culture. That's American postmodernism in a nutshell, so now on to post-colonialism.

Stretch your minds back to High School history classes and remember the age of European expansion and exploration. Western (i.e. European and North American) powers managed to colonize a large portion of the globe (especially Africa and the Middle East), and then proceeded to strip-mine the natural resources of their newly created empires. After WWI, these empires pulled in their borders and gradually abandoned their former colonies. These former colonies, though free, had no experience at governing themselves, and no economic, social, or political infrastructures. The result of these colonial empires is only now being fully realized (in our post-colonial age). The rampant political instability in Africa, the religious upheaval in the Middle East and the continual famine in Asia are all long-term effects of colonialism.

For obvious reasons, this exploitation and abandonment has engendered resentment against Western society. In particular, America's postmodern, consumerist culture and invasive political tactics have earned it the enmity of many nations and peoples. Having suffered at the hands of the U.S., is it any wonder that countries rebel against American cultural practices? That America's diverse and secular society is seen as the root of all evil? Are we surprised that religions and political ideologies that are diametrically opposed to America's are popping up all over?

Eagleton is saying that the more American culture is forced upon non-Western nations the more these nations will rebel. The best rebellion against a diverse and tolerant culture is a narrowly defined and extremist culture (cultural particularism). By now it should be obvious that my prime example is Muslim fundamentalism, which has arisen in response to secular America. In essence, American culture is spurring on the creation of cultures that oppose and attack American ideals.

I know this was a rather lengthy explanation and I appreciate your wading through it. I only hope that I have added another kernel of insight into the current conflict in the Middle East, and driven home the point that extremism does not appear on its own. It, like everything else, is the product of social interaction and globalization.

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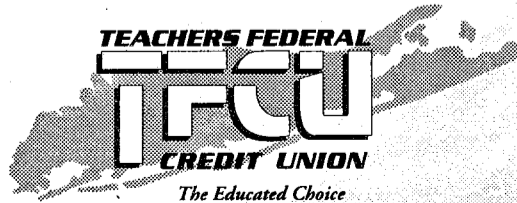
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Mike on the Mat: Katie Vick is Alive and Well!

By MICHAEL ADLER
Statesman Staff

WWE has sunk to a new low in its recent feud storyline involving Kane and TRIPLE H.

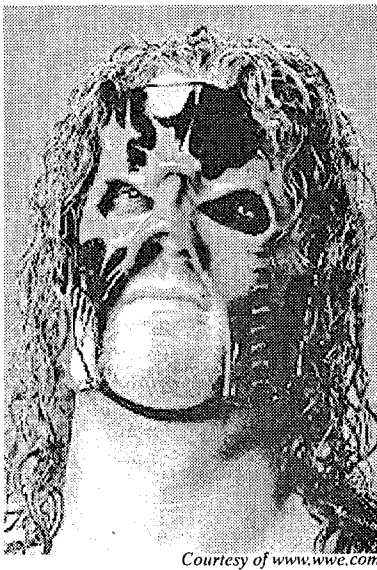
After winning a brutal four-way Tables, Ladders & Chairs match sans tag team partner Hurricane to keep the titles, TRIPLE H impinged on the celebration, accusing Kane of murdering a girl named Katie Vick ten years ago.

The week after leveling this accusation, Kane explained the situation. Apparently, upon being accused of murder, one waits exactly one week to explain the situation. In any event, ten years ago, Katie Vick used to come and watch Kane wrestle. After attending a party together one fateful night, Kane drove the intoxicated Katie Vick home. The trip ironically ended in an accident which proved fatal for Katie.

TRIPLE H further accused Kane of raping her dead body. (Remember, in numerous interviews over the years, Vince has emphatically claimed that WWE programming contains no

murder, nor rape.)

So wait a minute, hmm. *Ten years ago??* Kane wasn't wrestling ten years ago! If you follow the appropriate storyline, Kane was locked in the basement and burned beyond recognition after Undertaker (remember he's Kane's brother) set their house on fire, killing their parents. But, apparently Kane got some away time



Courtesy of www.wwe.com

There's no way Kane could have really murdered Katie Vick.

for the weekend to go party and wrestle at independent venues.

Furthermore, while being locked in the basement, he had plenty of spare time to learn how to drive as well as work on his pick-up lines. But wait! He didn't even learn to speak until he teamed with X-Pac, not more than three years ago!

The WWE really mucked up this story line. Some wrestling fans have memories! This is the kind of gratuitously disgusting storyline that not only detracts from wrestling on World Wrestling Entertainment, but has obviously helped the ratings plummet to record lows.

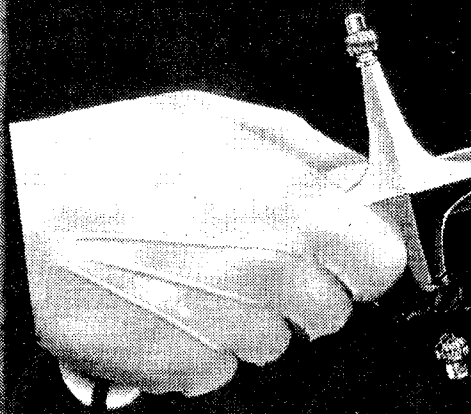
One may ask, where did they get the name Katie Vick? Well, the real Katie Vick (alive and well) was wondering the very same thing. Katie, an engaging, motivated, and intelligent journalism major attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has had her life turned upside down by the WWE writers' unfortunate choice of a name.

I recently talked to Katie on the phone in an exclusive interview. Since these segments have aired, she's been bombarded by email. It wasn't serious at first, but it quickly became disturbing as more and more brainless wrestling fans sent her emails inquiring of her well-being. For all the trouble caused, all she asks is that the WWE give her some sort of compensation for using her name.

In the end, Katie says it's caused a bit of drama in her life, and says the WWE has "made her famous." All she asks is that people stop sending her emails. She's not a wrestling fan, and does not appreciate them.

Email Mike on the Mat with your questions and comments at mantis_bog@hotmail.com.

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A THOUGHT
FROM
RABBI ADAM



The main reason that the Arab-Israeli conflict is never-ending is that neither side trusts the other side's commitment to peaceful compromise. Yasser Arafat doused all hopes of peaceful compromise when he declined former Israeli P.M. Ehud Barak's offer of 96% of West Bank/Gaza Strip as a Palestinian Autonomy with 50% of Jerusalem as its capital. Now, if proposals of 50-50 compromise are not Yassar Arafat's goal, what is? In December 2001, Arafat told a closed forum in Ramallah that "The Oslo (Palestinian-Israeli peace) Agreement is a Trojan horse with which to get senior Palestinian leaders into Israel. [And] the intifada represents their coming out of the insides of the horse." Now, to say that Arafat is using the flag of peace just to get Palestinian leaders into Israel may seem of no consequence. However, former Palestinian Authority cabinet minister, Feisal Hussein, elaborated on this Trojan Horse analogy in an interview given to Egypt's Al-Arabi newspaper, "The [ancient] Greek Army was unable to break into Troy... [Following the Greeks' apparent defeat,] the people of Troy climbed on top of their city walls and could not find any traces of the Greek army, except for a giant wooden horse. They cheered and celebrated, thinking that the Greek troops had been routed and had left behind only a harmless wooden horse. So they opened the gates of the city and brought in the wooden horse. We all know what happened next. Had Israel not [thought], before [the] Oslo [Peace Agreement], that all that was left was a wooden horse called Arafat or the PLO, they would never have opened their fortified gates and let it inside their walls... The Oslo accords were a Trojan horse; the strategic goal is the liberation of Palestine from the [Jordan] river to the [Mediterranean] Sea..." Meaning: Arafat's goal is not peaceful co-existence, but to replace the Israeli State with a Palestinian State. For it is Israel that is precisely located between "the [Jordan] river" and "the [Mediterranean] Sea. A man of peaceful compromise would have said "Palestine in the West Bank and Gaza Strip" without even needing a "Trojan Horse"!

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Student Polity Association Dissolved

Continued from Page 1

"administration to take whatever steps were necessary...to remove the negative forces," from student government claiming to be "out of options and very tired [of] trying to make a dysfunctional government function."

Senators, particularly those in the Commuter Student Association, were clearly surprised by Lawrence's letter and Kenny's subsequent decision. Most refused to comment formally, but they were indignant about the situation and viewed the letter as an devious move by the Executive Council. CSA President Mike Bernardin, a Polity Senator, agreed to go on the record.

"[Lawrence]'s letter completely misrepresented Senate," Bernardin said. "Basically, Senate runs flawlessly when council is not there...I see [the letter] as an underhanded move by Council because it was done with the knowledge of [the] Senate."

But Bernardin said that while he was upset at the current circumstances, he was looking forward. "At this point all I can do is look into how it came about and hope for a chance to be part of the new student government when it is formed."

The Senate's failure to adequately amend its constitution was widely seen as the major impetus for decertification. The version of the document that the Senate sent to the Executive Council contained long-standing redundancies that were supposed to have been rectified in the amending process, and allegedly advantaged the Senate in relation to Council. The amending process

itself was marred by disorderly conduct and general confusion regarding procedural rules.

"What I did see at the meeting was a total disregard for governance," Preston said of one October meeting.

The SPA Senate met last Wednesday, as it turns out unofficially, and voted to have Lawrence sign an affidavit confirming that she had indeed written the Oct. 3 letter that was sent to Kenny. A member of Senate had obtained the correspondence and read the contents into the minutes earlier in the meeting.

Some members of the Senate questioned the legality of the administration's actions. But administrators stated that after consulting extensively with legal counsel, they were quite confident about their action to decertify the current student government.

"I have talked to legal counsel on this campus and in Albany," Preston said. "Outside of the [SAF] there is no reference to a student body."

In the SUNY guidelines, reference to a student governing body is made only in association with the administration of the SAF. Once this budgetary power is removed from a governing body, that organization loses all authority and legitimacy. It should be duly noted that the guidelines make no mention of a student senate.

"I don't think this University would do something illegal. I know it wouldn't," said Alexandra Duggan of the Dean of Students Office. "If something is not working, it needs to be fixed."

Kelly Brown contributed to this article.

Protest Leads to Meal Plan Reform

Continued from Page 3

about dining issues were hindered by school officials.

"They actually tried to squash publicity," Julian said. "One student can't complain about the issues. [But if] we all stand together, we can change things on campus."

Campus Dining denied any involvement in withholding information from students.

"We're actually very glad that students came with concerns. We want to help them resolve the situation, we didn't want it to come to that point," Ospitale said. "If no one comes to us with problems, we can't do anything."

Julien maintained that the FSA and Dining Services do not do enough to inform students that they can complain about their living and dining conditions.

"With these meal plan

negotiations, we now have students willing to take serious action if it needs to be sought," he said. He urges students to write to fightthefight@yahoo.com if they are interested in adding their opinions and concerns to his movement.

Campus Dining is working to advertise the changes that have come forth after these negotiations. Information regarding Halal meat arrangements and vegetarian dining options will be posted in dining halls around campus.

"If there is a concern, we want to work with our students and assist them in all ways possible," Ospitale said. "We have a Customer Advocate to work with students to address these problems."

All Campus Dining complaints should be addressed to Dawn Villaci, the Customer Advocate, at 2-9374.

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SBU Ice Hockey Team Improves Record To 4-0

BY CHARLES CLIFFORD
Statesman Contributor

The Seawolves ice hockey team improved its record to 4-0 this past weekend by defeating both Montclair State University and Siena College.

On Friday night, the team traveled to Montclair State and defeated the Red Hawks 9-3. Captain Jesse Muro opened the scoring for the Seawolves, splitting two Montclair defensemen, and scoring the first of his three goals in the game.

Defenseman Artie Martrano also tallied a hat trick, while Billy Sullivan added another two goals. Nate Hould rounded out the scoring for Stony Brook.

Rob Orban got his first start in goal for SBU, earning his first victory of the season.

Saturday night's victory proved to be much more difficult to come by, as the Seawolves edged Siena College 2-0.

As Siena began to slow down and tire during the third period, the Seawolves increased the tempo of the game. This extra effort translated into more possessions of loose pucks in the neutral zone.

Just as the game appeared to be heading for overtime, Mike Keane picked up a loose puck and passed it back to defenseman Brian

Karbot, who then fired a shot that beat the Siena goaltender on the low glove side. The play was made possible by the hard work of Anthony DeMichele, who battled in front of the Siena net in an effort to screen the goalie.

Nate Hould sealed Siena's fate when he scored on a backhand shot to give Stony



Statesman/Charles Clifford

SBU ice hockey players swarm a Siena College player to steal the puck en route to a 2-0 victory this weekend.

Brook a 2-0 lead. The goal extended Hould's goal-scoring streak to four games.

Brian Andruszkiewicz put forth yet another stellar performance in net for SBU, making 35 saves en route to his second victory and second shutout of the season.

The next home game is on Sunday, Oct. 20 against the University of Rhode Island at 3:10 p.m. at the Rinx in Hauppauge. For directions, call 232-3222 or visit www.ic.sunysb.edu/clubs/hockey/. Additionally, the team is currently looking for a manager. Anyone interested should email Chris at hockey@ic.sunysb.edu.

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