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VOLUME XLVI, NUMBER 17

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2002

PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

The Legacy of Gandhi Comes To SBU

By Emy Kuriakose
Statesman Editor

"If we do not like a man, does it mean that he is wicked? If he claims that he is working for God, he is only making God an accomplice in a wicked deed. Are we making God an accomplice in a wicked deed of 2002?" asked Rajmohan Gandhi, International Scholar, author, politician and journalist. Gandhi addressed the Stony Brook community last Wednesday, Oct. 23, as part of the President's Provost Lecture series.

One of two grandsons of the legendary famed protester Mohandas (Mahatma) K. Gandhi, Rajmohan Gandhi is a pioneer of passive resistance and a strong advocate for human rights around the world. His lecture at Stony Brook addressed the question of "Diversity and Peacemaking: Is Gandhi relevant in 2002?"

Gandhi began by comparing the magnitude of the volcanic eruption at Mt. St. Helen's to the catastrophe of Sept. 11 and went on to discuss his views on America's reaction to the attack.

"America will accept diversity while recognizing that it offers variety and charm, but she will not accept destruction," he said.

He explained the character of today's strained pre-war conflicts, and placed them in the context of his grandfather's political



Statesman/Emy Kuriakose

Gandhi spoke in favor of peaceful solutions.

battles. After sharing a synopsis of the man's life and struggles, Gandhi proposed what he thought M. Gandhi would tell the world today.

"He would remind us that both sides pray

to the same God," Gandhi said, and went on to assert that M. Gandhi would ask if we are doing enough to prepare strategies for justice and to prepare strategies for reconciliation.

Gandhi noted that his grandfather, although an advocate of peaceful resistance, did support violence as a means of self-defense. Several times, M. Gandhi supported masses when they reacted physically in protection of their homes.

Concerning the impending U.S. war against Iraq, which Gandhi opposes, he maintained that the government should be slow to act and thoroughly consider all possible courses of action.

"I'm not here to say that there is a wonderful, simple, easy solution to Iraq," Gandhi said in an interview. "America needs wisdom and patience during this time. A gut reaction is not good for the future of the country."

Mr. Gandhi also attended the SBU rally against Iraq, sponsored by the Social Justice Alliance, on Wednesday. The peace rally was held at the fountain on the mall, and a second, smaller discussion group featuring Gandhi

followed. It was here that he cited several reasons why he opposed the America's proposed war with Iraq.

"I see no signs that America is committed to reconstruction," he said. "The implications, short term and long term, have not been considered. If they have, they have not been disclosed."

Gandhi said that he felt the U.S. must not alienate the international Muslim community.

"A war today will intensify the unprincipled clash between the west and the Islamic world. The U.S. must find a way of communication to the ordinary Muslims of the world that they are on the same side... must build a bridge, an understanding, and a partnership that is tremendously lacking," he said. "The moment the U.S. declares a commitment not just to Israel, but also to Palestine, then the world will sympathize America."

Another warning about the war came with a call for America to recognize its allies.

Continued on Page 3

Chemistry Embracing Technology: Good or Bad?

By DEBOLINA KOWSHIK
Statesman Editor

In a recent move intended to optimize the educational facilities in a class of 200 students, CHE 132 had its first computerized midterm. The course has been using the Computer Assisted Personalized Assignment (CAPA) system for several years as a replacement for homework assignments. Each student logs in with his or her student identification number and a CAPA identification number, and completes a series of questions online.

"The CAPA was implemented because homework grading from such a large class, every week, was nearly impossible," said Professor Roy Lacey. "The CAPA shifted the burden from professors and teaching assistants to a machine. This way, the instructors were available for issues that required personalized attention."

With this strategy in mind, on Oct. 2, 2002, the course held its first exam of the semester in Sinc Sites throughout campus. The Chemistry Building, Main Library, and Student Union reserved computers for two hours so they could be set up, rechecked, and finally open to the students for their midterm. The exam began at 8:30 p.m. with

approximately two teaching assistants monitoring per Sinc Site.

Students received a paper copy of the exam on which they were advised to strategically work out the problems. The matching computerized form allowed the students two chances instead of one as in the prior exams. If the student responded correctly on the first try, they received 100% credit, whereas they received 50% credit if they were right the second time.

"There is an increasing concern that multiple choice exams are not the most effective way to test a student's knowledge. There is no partial credit, and if students make a small mistake in their work, they get the entire problem wrong," Lacey said. "With this scheme, we are trying to engender students to lay out their work more carefully. If the first try is incorrect, they can go through their strategy, find the error, and fix it."

Other advantages to the computerized exam, Lacey said, were that it required less resources and it minimized possibility of cheating. Different exam versions essentially had the same problems, except that

numerical values and question order were changed.

But some students found the new form to be a hassle. The main complaint from students was that the computers had technical difficulties. The majority of students worked out the problems on the paper copy, and tried to log-in during the last half-hour of the exam to enter their answers onto the computer. The heavy traffic caused a failure in response from the server. In addition, some computers backfired, causing students to take the test in the public area of the Main Library among noise from non-test-takers.

"I hope things work out better next time," said junior Salman Tariq. "Many people got low grades because of problems caused by the computer and that's just unfair."

Other students complained that the periodic table of elements was not offered, and that many of the molecular weights did not match up on the paper copy and the computer format. In response to these complaints, Lacey argued that the periodic table was not needed.

"The necessary elements were

embedded in the problem. It is just a question of habit," he said. When other problems were found, he added, "The information was passed on to teaching assistants, who then made the information available to students."

Some complained about the format of the test, advocating multiple choice as a better alternative. Others felt the computerization was simply too radical of a change from the old format.

"The practice exams were in the format of the old exams, which didn't

Continued on Page 2

Index

Gandhi at SBU.....	1,3
Chemistry 132.....	1,2
Calendar.....	2
Rally Photos.....	3
Medical Lecture.....	3
US College News.....	5
Commentary.....	6,7
Entertainment.....	8
Fashion.....	13
Halloween.....	15
SBU Hockey.....	15
Wang Photos.....	16

CHE 132 Computerized Testing

Continued from Page 1

really help us," said senior Thao Truong.

Taking some of the unfair circumstances and the negative student response into consideration, Lacey changed the grading policy of the course. The test had 25 problems, but only 12 are being counted. Therefore, if a student gets 12 problems

correct, their grade is a 100%. In addition, for the first time in the history of the course, students can choose to drop the grade of one exam during the semester. Furthermore, if students feel that the computer was a factor in their grade, they can submit the paper copy of the exam to have it hand-graded by instructors.

Lacey reported that about five percent of students handed exams back for regrading. "Grades on the first exam were not an issue compared to other years. Many students will use technical difficulties as a blame for doing poorly, so we are giving students say in the matter."

For future exams, Lacey said that he anticipates better circumstances and feedback.

"We are trying to advise students to enter their answers as they take the exam so that there is distributed server access," he said. "We also expect to have a faster server in place for future exams. In addition, we will have a backup machine in each testing room."

The paper copies of exams will provide correlation between the layout of work, partial credit, and final grades. "If students are laying out their work in a logical, coherent method, that would tell me that this is a worthwhile issue to pursue," said Lacey.

Most students are looking forward to the system working out better. "There were technical difficulties, but hopefully everything will work out eventually," Truong said.

There are no plans to do away with the computerization system. "There is going to be dissatisfaction, satisfaction, and indifference. In a university where the student population is growing, we have to find other ways to optimize our abilities," said Lacey. "Technology is an integral part of the system, which is allowing the instructors to be available to the students."

Calendar of Events

Nouman Ali Khan
Jihad: Misconceptions
Oct 31. 6:00 PM
SAC Auditorium

CCP Composer's Concert
Oct 30. 8:00 PM
Staller Center Recital Hall

Women's Volleyball
SBU vs. New Hampshire
Nov 1. 7:00 PM
Athletic Courts

Emerson String Quartet
Nov 1. 8:00 PM
Staller Center Recital Hall

The Stanislavsky Opera
Company: La Boheme
Nov 1. 8:00 PM
Staller Center Main Stage

Women's Volleyball
SBU vs. Northeastern
Nov 2. 4:00 PM

Computer Music
Nov 3. 7:00 PM
Staller Center Recital Hall

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Community Turns Out to Protest War on Iraq



Statesman/Emily Kuriakose

Statesman/Jeffrey Javidjar

SBU Surgeon Lectures on Vascular Disease

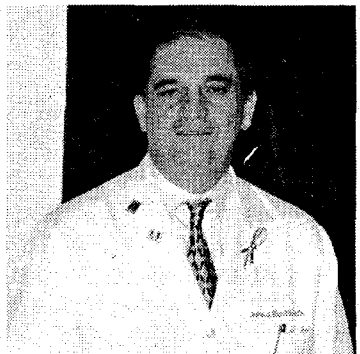
By GENE TULMAN
Statesman Editor

John Ricotta, M.D., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the Stony Brook University Hospital, lectured on the etiology, prevalence, diagnosis, and treatment of vascular disease as part of the ongoing Mini Medical School Lecture Series. His presentation included a summary of the contemporary treatment for vascular disease, including operative, non-operative and minimally invasive procedures and their current and future roles in healthcare delivery.

Ricotta, a board certified vascular surgeon, received training at Johns Hopkins Hospital, and held faculty positions at the University of Rochester as well as at State University of New York at Buffalo.

"[The lecture series] is a way that we can try to educate our community about things we deal with everyday," Ricotta said.

"People are the best caretakers of their own health. This [lecture series] gives them a chance to learn new things, get a different perspective [on healthcare], and interact with people and establish relationships that will help them in



Statesman/Gene Tulman

Dr. Ricotta lectured on vascular disease education.

their interests."

Ricotta defined vascular disease, or atherosclerosis, as a degenerative disorder of the arteries in the body. He described three categories of vascular disease: carotid, peripheral, and aortic.

Ricotta briefly went over some basic principles of arterial anatomy, mentioning the structure and function relationships of the three arterial layers, namely, the intima, media and adventitia. He emphasized the relevance of damaged endothelial cells, the specialized cells found along the intima layer of the arterial walls.

Following the simplified anatomy lesson, Ricotta noted that damaged endothelial cells are often associated with the prevalence of vascular disease, listing the various factors contributing to the degeneration of such cells. According to him, smoking, diabetes, elevated LDL cholesterol, oxygen radicals, hypertension, and "shear stress" significantly inhibit normal endothelial cell functions, preventing the damaged cells' ability to maintain homeostasis, or biological equilibrium.

Ricotta summarized that the breakdown in normal endothelial cell homeostatic environments may

be related to abnormal arterial fluid dynamics of blood. He explained that shear stress, or forceful pressure on arterial walls is implicated in vascular disease, claiming that plaques often develop in low shear stress arterial regions.

Commenting on the prevalence of vascular disease, Ricotta explained that atherosclerosis can affect any artery in the body and therefore any organ in the body.

"[Vascular disease] is like a cancer of the blood vessels," he said.

Ricotta emphasized that no one is ever completely immune to vascular disease, noting that vascular changes may even be noticed in people in their twenties. He stressed, however, that atherosclerosis is most common in people over 65.

"Some of these [vascular] problems are hereditary, but many are aggravated by our own behavior patterns," Ricotta said.

When asked about the kind of

health advice he would offer his own patients, Ricotta suggested that two components are especially significant in active prevention of vascular disease. He stressed the importance of a healthy, vigorous lifestyle.

"The first thing is to be aware of the symptoms and to make sure you are being evaluated for any potential and serious problems," Ricotta said. "The second thing is to do the best that you can to reduce your risk factors in terms of smoking, diet, and exercise."

Students in attendance appeared interested in the topic, but many felt far-removed from risk of developing vascular problems.

"Vascular disease seems to be a major problem for the middle aged and elderly populations," said SBU senior Randy Stein, but admitted that an active, healthy lifestyle was a good idea at any age.

To learn more about this topic visit www.vascularweb.org or www.americanheart.org.

Gandhi Grandson Speaks on World Peace

Continued from Page 1

"Should America do this by herself?" Gandhi asked. "No, [he] should make its decisions with the global community."

Students who attended the lecture had the opportunity to approach Gandhi about individual views and concerns.

"He was so down to earth

and available to talk to everyone who had questions," SBU senior Reemy Thomas said. "He was very humble and willing to share the events in his life that related to today's problems."

Other attendees had mixed reactions about the talk. "Although the details about Gandhi's life did carry a lot more weight and presence

coming from his grandson, I felt that he didn't move to address today's issues enough," sophomore Mira Kinariwala said. "He should've spent more time focusing on the relevant problems in the world today."

Mr. Gandhi, a research professor at the Centre for Policy Studies in New Delhi, India, has written widely on

the Indian independence movement and its leaders, India-Pakistani relations, human rights and conflict resolution. He has held appointments as visiting professor in the United States and Japan and received honorary degrees from universities in Canada, Japan and the Kyrgyz Republic. Professor Gandhi

also served as a member of the Upper House of India's Parliament and led the Indian government delegation to the U.N. Human Rights Commission annual meeting in Geneva. He is currently a visiting professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana.

Biography source: www.emory.edu

STUDENT POLITY ASSOCIATION

To: The Undergraduate Student Body

As many of you know, there have been several problems eating away at the foundation of Student Polity Association. Since the beginning of this semester, it has been our goal to fix the problems within. However, there comes a time when you can no longer mend the problem but the solution becomes to start anew. As one of our prestigious students from the Haitian Student Organization stated, "sometimes you have to break down to build up". This is exactly the road we are taking. Student Polity, Inc. is no longer the representative student organization for the administration of the Student Activities Fee. All efforts to reform the government from within have been unsuccessful, including the revision of the Organizations Constitution.

Administration, as well as Council, recognized the need for drastic new measures to be taken to reform student governance as a whole, and thus decided to decertify Student Polity Association, Inc.. Although there will be many extreme changes made, what remains unchanged is how the functioning of clubs/organizations operate. Please remember that despite this setback, the Executive Council would like to let everyone know that we are still the elected student representatives for the undergraduate student body. We are still here to represent each and every one of you to the best of our ability.

Currently, different mechanisms are being put in place by Administration to start the process for the structuring of a new student government. There are also measures being reviewed that will ensure the continued proper administration of the Activity Fee. We will be working as closely as possible with Administration to ensure proper reform of student governance. In addition, we will be maintaining our role as student leaders and representatives of the students in campus life. You will still see us involved in the different University settings as much as time permits us; that includes sitting on University committees, addressing student concerns before different University agents, working closely with clubs/organizations and coordinating class programs. Therefore, do continue to keep us abreast of events and student issues within you areas and how we may assist and be involved. Our main goal is to continue to develop a method, in a "Partnership for Student Success".

We thank everyone who has been a strong support to us. We greatly appreciate it.

Thank you,

Akalia Lawrence, President

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Study Shows that Medical Schools Ignore Guidelines on Company-Sponsored Research

By KATHERINE S. MANGAN
The Chronicle of Higher Education

Medical schools that conduct research sponsored by drug companies routinely ignore guidelines established to ensure that the studies are unbiased and that the results are shared with the public, according to an article published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

"We found that academic institutions rarely ensure that their investigators have full participation in the design of the trials, unimpeded access to trial data, and the right to publish their findings," note the authors of the article, who studied 108 medical schools between Nov. 2001 and Jan. 2002.

Most of those institutions are not following guidelines established last year by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors to help minimize corporate influence in medical research. The editors, representing 12 leading journals, announced in September 2001 that they would publish only those articles written by researchers

who could prove that they had control over the data, as well as over the decision on whether or not to release the results.

Nevertheless, the study found that just 1 percent of the researchers working on studies being performed at more than one site were guaranteed access to data at all of the locations, making it difficult for them to analyze their findings.

In addition, only 2 percent of the contracts established an independent executive committee to oversee industry-sponsored trials, and just 5 percent of the research agreements required that the results be published.

"Academic sites have no assurances at the time they're entering into agreements that the results are going to be published," said Kevin A. Schulman, professor of medicine at Duke University Medical Center and lead author of the study.

By allowing drug companies to suppress the findings of studies that question the effectiveness of their products, medical schools violate their ethical responsibilities to patients

participating in clinical trials, the article says. Many of these patients agree to undergo treatments that may not help them, in part because they believe they are contributing to the advancement and dissemination of scientific knowledge.

In response to the study, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, a trade group, pointed out that it had issued voluntary guidelines over the summer that are designed to protect research integrity and patient safety.

An accompanying article in the *New England Journal* describes a battle that purportedly illustrates the dangers of failing to provide adequate safeguards for industry-sponsored research.

The case involved a dispute between a University of Toronto researcher, Nancy Olivieri, and a drug company, Apotex, over publication of her findings that a drug the company was manufacturing was ineffective, and could even be toxic.

According to the article, the drug company threatened to sue her and halted clinical trials she was involved in after she

decided to go ahead with the publication.

The journal's report faulted the University of Toronto and its affiliated Hospital for Sick Children for not doing enough to support Dr. Olivieri. At the time, the university and the drug company were discussing the possibility that Apotex would donate millions of dollars toward a new biomedical research center.

"This case has been looked at and investigated more than the Shroud of Turin," said Susan Bloch-Neveite, a spokeswoman for the university. "The University of Toronto, after some difficult times, is leading in the effort to establish guidelines on industry-sponsored research."

Apotex officials insist that they were simply trying to prevent Dr. Olivieri from publishing findings contradicted by her own data, as well as by other researchers. Michael Spino, senior vice president of scientific affairs for the company, called the *New England Journal's* article "extremely biased and irresponsible" and said that his company would request a retraction.

NCAA to Change Academic Standards for Athletes

By DOUGLAS LEDERMAN
The Chronicle of Higher Education

A National Collegiate Athletic Association panel endorsed a set of proposed changes in academic requirements for Division I athletes.

If approved by a panel of college presidents next week, the new rules would allow some athletes with extremely low standardized-test scores but extremely strong high-school grades to compete, and would require athletes already in college to make more progress toward a degree to remain eligible to compete.

The proposed changes are the latest attempt by colleges that play big-time sports to grapple with a problem that has vexed them for years: how to improve the lowly academic performance of athletes without going too far in locking athletes out of college solely on the basis of their standardized-test scores.

Coaches and some advocates for

minority students have argued that overdependence on standardized tests is unfair, given the relatively poor performance of members of some minority groups on the tests.

Right now, to be eligible to compete in Division I as a freshman, an athlete must have a combined score of at least 820 on the SAT and a grade-point average of 2.5 in 13 high-school core courses. An athlete can qualify with a grade-point average as low as 2.0 if he or she achieves a significantly higher SAT score, based on a sliding scale. Critics have complained that the SAT cutoff of 820 is arbitrary.

Under the measures approved by the Division I Management Council, a panel of athletics administrators, athletes could be eligible with an SAT score as low as 400 by attaining a grade-point average of 3.55 or higher in 14 core courses, up from the current 13.

"We now have the best research data ever available to us in terms of predicting

success during the first two years of college," said Percy Bates, the faculty athletics representative at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, who heads the Management Council. "That research clearly indicates that the number of core courses, and the performance in those core courses, are the best predictor of college success. These proposals reflect the research."

Association officials know, however, that allowing athletes with even lower standardized-test scores to compete may look like an easing of standards. That is why they are also promoting new rules that would make it harder for athletes to remain eligible to compete once they are in college.

Under the proposed rules changes, athletes would have to complete a larger proportion of their college-degree requirements before the start of each academic year, and to attain a higher grade-point average in those courses. Athletes would have to complete 40 percent of the requirements for a degree by the start of

their junior year (up from the current 25), 60 percent by the start of the fourth year (up from 50), and 80 percent by the start of their fifth year (up from 75).

In addition, an athlete would have to attain a cumulative grade-point average of 90 percent of the minimum required by his or her institution to graduate (typically 2.0) by the start of the sophomore year. That would rise to 95 percent by the start of the junior year and 100 percent by the start of the fourth year.

The Management Council approved a handful of other changes as well, including one that would reduce the number of credits in remedial or other noncredit course work that could be used to satisfy the academic-progress rules to 6 semester hours from the current 12.

The rules changes will be considered on Oct. 31 by the Division I Board of Directors, which is made up of college presidents. If approved then, they would take effect Aug. 1, 2003.

Emory Suspends Professor for Harassment

By ROBIN WILSON
The Chronicle of Higher Education

Emory University has suspended a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and law professor for six months without pay after a law-school employee accused him of verbally and physically harassing her.

David J. Garrow, who won the prize for *Bearing the Cross*, a 1987 biography of Martin Luther King Jr., was suspended, effective Oct. 15, Emory announced. He has denied the charges of physical harassment and is considering suing the university for breach of contract, said his lawyer. He has also appealed his suspension to the University Faculty Council.

Garrow was charged and arrested last month after Gloria Mann, director of operations for the law school, told Emory police that he "went into an uncontrollable rage" and grabbed her by the wrists and pushed her.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution quoted Mann as saying that several people who worked for the law school, including custodians and contractors, had come to her "with constant complaints that [Garrow] shouted at them while they were trying to do their work." Two years ago, a secretary at the law school complained that Garrow had yelled at her in a hallway. Garrow apologized to her in writing.

R. Keegan Federal Jr., Garrow's lawyer, said he was "shocked and appalled" by the six-month suspension. He said that Garrow and Mann did have an argument over continuing construction in the law-school building, which Garrow felt was disrupting his classes. But the professor never pushed or grabbed her, said Federal.

The six-month suspension will cost Garrow about \$81,000, said Federal. The professor is prohibited from entering his office at the law school, and two other professors have been assigned to teach his two courses in civil-rights litigation and legal methods for the remainder of the semester.

The suspension was ordered by Thomas C. Arthur, dean of the law

school, who had appointed a three-member committee of faculty and staff members to interview witnesses and review Mann's charges. The statement Emory released did not comment on the committee's findings, and Arthur did not return telephone calls.

Garrow is a presidential distinguished scholar at Emory, which means he was appointed by William M. Chace, the president. He has been at Emory for five years and does not have tenure, at his request, said Federal. Garrow was reappointed this year for another five years, "with no criticism whatsoever of being abusive to staff," the lawyer said.

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Op-Ed

A Champion's Memory Lives On

By ARIF RAFIQ
 Statesman Staff

The late Senator Paul Wellstone was one of Washington's rare breeds: he embodied the virtue of commitment.

Wellstone was married to his high school sweetheart, Sheila, for 39 years, till they both perished with their daughter, Marcia, three campaign staffers, and two pilots on a Thursday flight in northern Minnesota. He obtained both his BA and Ph.D from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The former political science professor turned politician taught at Carleton College for twenty-one years. In his eleven years in the Senate he stood committed to the promises he made to his constituents on the campaign trail.

Wellstone's leadership was defined by his dedication to his constituents - especially the small farmers, the mentally ill, the veterans - and to the liberal values he strongly held to. You could tell when Wellstone was speaking by the tone of his voice - he was the guy you knew believed in what he was saying. His statements weren't tailored to the latest data from polls or focus groups. He said and did what he thought was right, even if it would cost him his career.

And it almost did. Wellstone was in a tight race this election year and one reason was the valiant stance he took against the planned war against Iraq. Wellstone was the lone Senator to vote against the resolution authorizing the use of force in Iraq.

Tears rolled down grown men's faces Thursday upon hearing the news of the death of Sen. Wellstone. Democrats and Republicans alike mourned the loss of a principled,

honest colleague and friend. Americans lost the people's spokesman, the lone voice against an unnecessary war.

Wellstone, the young son of Russian Jewish immigrants, never distanced himself from the "little people" upon being elected to the elite establishment known as the Senate. He fought for an increase in the minimum wage, affordable, high quality healthcare, the unification of immigrant families, conservation and renewable energy, and micro-loans for small businesses.

John F. Kennedy wrote in Profiles in Courage, "...in the days ahead, only the very courageous will be able to take the hard and unpopular decisions necessary for our survival in the struggle with a powerful enemy — an enemy with leaders who need give little thought to the popularity of their course, who need pay little tribute to the public opinion they themselves manipulate, and who may force, without fear of retaliation at the polls, their citizens to sacrifice present laughter for future glory. And only the very courageous will be able to keep alive the spirit of individualism and dissent which gave birth to this nation, nourished it as an infant and carried it through its severest tests upon the attainment of its maturity."

We lost a courageous man of the caliber of those Kennedy wrote of in his great work, one of the great senators of our age - an age similar to the one when Kennedy was in the Senate and the White House. Paul Wellstone, a champion wrestler in college, fought for the people of America on the floor of the Senate. And although he no longer lives today, his spirit certainly lives on, and his example remains for young Americans who aspire for a career in public service and to continue the fight - for the people.

Letter

Hate Graffiti is No Way to Dialogue

To the Stony Brook Community:

In the last few weeks the Stony Brook campus has been plagued by a spate of hateful racist graffiti, particularly in the Library building. Most of it has been directed at Jews, with epithets such as "kill the Jews" and other hateful messages. Sometimes there is a seeming "political" angle, such as "free Palestine." In the end, this is both hateful racism as well as vandalism to property that belongs to all of us. The Stony Brook community will not tolerate it.

Graffiti is not a new problem on this campus, or on any other, and is one of the most common and pervasive types of vandalism. It would seem that the graffiti writer is somehow trying to communicate an idea, but has chosen the defacing of public property as the medium. This is particularly troubling in a university, where we should be using more appropriate methods of bringing our ideas and opinions into the common marketplace.

The use of slogans, racist or not, to convey an idea about a multifaceted issue is certainly superficial and demonstrates a lack of desire to grasp the complexity of the subject or to exchange views with others, be they likeminded or not. Issuing a threat such as "kill the...." means that there is no desire for dialogue, rather only to murder those with whom you disagree. None of this belongs in a community dedicated to learning, reason, diversity, and tolerance. It is, simply, an attempt to intimidate others and a weak form of intellectual terrorism.

On many campuses, the debate on the Middle East

is often rancorous and sometimes even violent. Certainly there are people who are passionate about this subject and they express their views on a regular basis. Unfortunately, there have been many instances of intimidation, vandalism, and even violence against those who support Israel, just as there were similar instances directed at Muslim students after Sept. 11, 2001.

The Stony Brook community has, for the most part, acted differently. While the same level of passion surely is held by many of our students, there has mostly been a civil discourse that has taken place, discounting the graffiti (if one can call that discourse). It cannot be stressed enough how important that level of civility is. Let's face it: we are not going to solve the vast problems of the Middle East from our "lofty vantage point" here on Long Island.

Rather, we have the opportunity to engage in an educational process of exchanging ideas, holding a dialogue, listening to the pain expressed by others, and in the end developing a broader vision of what a solution might be. In most of the world people who disagree with one another are on opposite sides of a street, or worse, a battlefield. Here on this campus we are on the same side of the street and in the same classrooms and buildings where we can talk to each other in a civil and respectful manner. We owe it to our University, which has boldly set the tone for this discourse, and we owe it to ourselves. Graffiti only undermines this noble effort and replaces dialogue with anger and disgust.

Rabbi Joseph S. Topek

Director of the Hillel Foundation for Jewish Life and Jewish Chaplain in the University Interfaith Center.

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Feminist's Rant: Consumer Culture, the American Cure

By MARIE HUCTION
Statesman Staff

Over the past few weeks, I've spent a lot of words critiquing politics and governmental practices in the U.S., so for a change of pace today, I'll critique America's consumer culture. It sounds like a horrendously boring topic, and it certainly can be, but unlike the authors who I have read in the past few days, I shall work to make my critique both comprehensible and interesting.

No, this is not going to be a Marxist essay on production and the proletariat, nor is it going to be a rave review of capitalist economic policies. I'm not going to bore us all to tears with theory and philosophy. Instead, I want to question the American notion that our ravenously consumerist society is the

ideal for the rest of the globe.

As it is, North America and Western Europe consume a staggeringly disproportionate percentage of the world's resources. We buy imported foods wrapped in plastic, put them in metal shopping carts, and drive them home in shiny new cars to our houses stuffed full of techno-gadgets, clothes, books, and disposable goods.

This is seen as the epitome of happiness, especially since television commercials and newspaper ads are constantly bombarding us with things we "must buy" and "can't live without." We've turned into a society that equates bliss with a Big Mac and love with a diamond necklace.

Is happiness just a rapid succession of the right clothes and

hair care products? Do we define our existences exclusively upon what we possess, using objects as status symbols and substitutes for self-worth? Do we drown ourselves in the flickering images of TV and movie screens and computer games and mobile phones in order to avoid thinking and feeling? Why is the object that was indispensable to life yesterday obsolete and unfashionable today?

It's obvious that I am critical of the consumerist ideology as well as the mass-production of expensive, useless objects to clutter up our landfills. Americans already make more trash than any other nation of the globe. The fact that a landfill is the only man-made landmark in North America distinguishable from space is not something to take pride in. We're quickly running out of places to hide our trash, yet most people are unwilling to recycle aluminum cans.

If the rest of the globe consumed resources and created trash at the same rate as the Western world, the planet would collapse. The earth is just not capable of supporting six billion people who are eating and littering, building and demolishing, driving cars and abandoning them at the pace of contemporary America.

It's one thing to encourage human rights in developing nations, but it's another to build a Wal-Mart in the rainforest. Does an African hunter need a Jacuzzi? Does a Tibetan herder need a Porsche?

Of course not, so why does every American see these possessions as hallmarks of success? And why are these the standards upon which we judge other cultures? America needs to examine its own consumerist habits before attempting to enforce and export these ideals to other nations.

Media Alumni Reflect on Campus Changes

By DON FRIER
Statesman Contributor

Festivities from the Homecoming game were not far from James College where Homecoming took its own form with the reunion of media alumni.

The reunion got off to a slow start, with less than a dozen people arriving by half time. Those that did show up included Norman Prusslin, David Joachim, Robert Roherburg, Jeff Barnett, Judy Steele, Ned Steele, and Pegine Walard. Food amounted to little more than a sparse

buffet, served with coffee and tea, but there were no complaints, since it was all complimentary. Despite the low turnout, representatives of the media department from as far back as the 1960s were present to share their experiences with one another.

Of all the topics discussed, the subject of changes to the campus was the most popular, from the recent campus beautification initiative to the new Undergraduate College for students of Media Arts which will open in Tabler Quad next year.

One of the newer campus additions over which alumni

marveled was the Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium, where Homecoming festivities were hosted. Several individuals reflected on their years without a stadium, and how such a facility will change SBU. With the stadium, the campus has gained more of a name for itself by competing on the college athletics level.

For the alumni returning from the 1960s, the shift of academic focus at SBU was perhaps the biggest change that they've noticed over the years. In those days, the campus was a place filled with individuals focused

on artistic and academic drives, but also a place where people didn't have much of an idea where they were going after college.

While some of the alumni came out of their way to make this reunion, many didn't have to go very far at all. A large number of alumni have stayed at journalism SBU to teach as well as do other jobs at the university.

Originally, *Statesman* was the only publication on campus, but with a total of 10 media organizations currently published at the university, it's easy to understand why alumni would want to stay at SBU. While there

Letter to the Editor

Answers to Iraq Crisis Won't Be Found on Talk Shows

Dear Editor:

I went to the "Stop War" rally today. It was very interesting, and I look forward to your coverage of it. It was especially impressive that Professor Gandhi, grandson of Mohandas Gandhi, was able to speak at the rally. Gandhi said that one of the reasons he disagrees with the Bush Administration's plan to attack Iraq is that the plan goes against the character of the United States of America. Gandhi's statement makes an important point about the plan to invade Iraq, a point which often gets lost in campus rallies and television talk shows.

This is not about "conservatives" and "liberals." It is about the principles of the American Republic. Conservatism has always been suspicious of grandiose attempts to use the power of government to remake the world. Conservatives have typically been against increasing the size and power of the state. Conservatives used to favor protecting the rights and lives of local communities; real conservatives still do. The plan to invade and occupy Iraq and create a military government or a puppet regime, an oil protectorate, regardless of the risks and costs, is not a conservative plan. Real

conservatives should oppose this invasion of Iraq.

There are many people on TV these days claiming to be conservatives. Most are not. Well-funded (privately funded, secretly funded) think tanks and research institutes across America are talking

"The plan to invade...is not a conservative plan. Real conservatives should oppose this invasion of Iraq."

about creating an American empire. Many are religious bigots hoping to replace the traditions of the American Republic with a Christian police state

where the government has unlimited power to spy on its citizens, police their culture, and seek global domination.

Many see war with Iraq as part of a holy war that will usher in the Apocalypse. Others are secular authoritarians, who think that democracy and law are weakness, who despise what America used to stand for. These groups now have the ear of the President. They also provide the talk shows with guests and the newspapers with countless op-ed pieces.

These people are not conservatives. They are not liberals. This attempt to create an American oil empire and wage endless war is a RADICAL scheme, having nothing to do with the democratic traditions of the American Republic. (Everybody knows by now that it does not have anything to do with protecting the inhabitants of the Republic, either.)

My brother is a soldier. The idea that American troops may be sent into battle to serve such radical ideological goals disturbs me greatly. It disturbs me even more to realize that even the choice of battle plan and the timing of the invasion are being determined by political expediency.

Real conservatives—and real liberals—should oppose this attack on Iraq. Not this way, not for these reasons, not as part of this scheme.

For those of you who still haven't made up your minds about invading Iraq, I urge you to turn off your TV sets. You're not going to find answers in the macho posturings of the talk show hosts of Fox and MS NBC. And I might add, for Adam Zimmerman's sake, that you won't find many answers in pop books by television personalities like the one who wrote "The Greatest Generation" (who was it? Maury Povich? Dan Rather? I can't remember.)

I urge you all to read—read widely, read the work of professional print journalists. Read widely—not just Newsday. Get on the web. Read the Washington Post. Read the U.K. Guardian, the Independent. And read intelligent conservative publications like The Economist. Free yourself from the idiocy provided by Ted Turner and AOL-Time Warner-Fox-CNN.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Spencer Segalla
Dept. of History

Stanislavsky Opera Company Coming to Staller Center

BY MEGAN LANGILLE
Statesman Staff

On Nov. 2 the Staller Center will welcome the Stanislavsky Opera Company, performing Puccini's remake *La Boheme*. This is a story of semi-destitute friends living in Paris 1930's. In Act I Rodolfo, meets Mimi on Christmas eve and falls in love. Act II is marked by joyful celebration of the Christmas season and Mimi's friend Musetta is reunited with her ex-boyfriend Marcello. In act III, two months after Christmas, Mimi confesses to Marcello that she is very ill, and worried about staying with Rodolfo. Later Rodolfo expresses to Marcello his concerns about Mimi's health, and wonders if they should separate. In the

end the two decide to part ways despite their strong love for one another.

Act IV is set in Rodolfo and Marcello's apartment. The two cannot stop thinking about the women they love, Mimi and Musetta. Their melancholy is broken when friends arrive with food. The festivities are interrupted when Musetta arrives with Mimi who is at the brink of death. She is put to bed, and Musetta tells Marcello to go and sell her earrings and bring a doctor. Friends contribute items to pay for the doctor. Rodolfo and Mimi talk quietly of their former happiness and love. The friends hurry back with medicine, but it is too late, for Mimi is dead. The story is one of is love and heartache, comedy and sadness.

The Stanislavsky Opera Company

was established in 1918, and has a long and esteemed history. It has received critical acclaim throughout Europe and the Far East, and is considered one of the top Russian opera companies performing today. The company has debuted many great Russian masterpieces, such as works of Russian composers like Prokofiev, and has renewed productions of great classics by Puccini, Verdi, and Bizet.

Costantin Stanislavsky (1863-1938) was a great Russian theatrical director, teacher and actor. He developed the principles of acting known world-wide as "method-acting," where an actor's inner identification with the character and natural use of body and voice to portray a character are stressed. The goal of method-acting is to portray even the

most complex characters in a way the audience will enjoy and understand using ones entire being. Stanislavsky had enormous influence on modern schools of acting, including the distinguished Actor's Studio in New York City. Stanislavsky's legacy has been preserved for 75 years in the Stanislavsky Opera Company.

La Boheme begins at 8 p.m. on Saturday Nov. 2. It will be performed in Italian with English supertitles, and will be accompanied by a live chamber orchestra. Tickets are available at the Staller Center box office to the general public for \$36, but Stony Brook students receive a 50% discount on tickets. Also, subject to availability, students rush tickets may be purchased 15 minutes prior to a performance for only \$7.

Bowling for Columbine Strikes With Both Hilarity and Terror

BY BEN WIGLER
Statesman Contributor

"There are wackos out there," says John Nichols about why the second amendment should not necessarily be extended to nuclear bomb making material.

Nichols, who sleeps with a .44 magnum under his pillow, says that brother Terry, now serving a life sentence for his involvement in the infamous Oklahoma City bombing, and friend Timothy McVeigh were unjustified in taking 186 innocent lives. Nichols asserts that violence is a last resort after talking, which he says was not attempted in the Oklahoma City case. But if communication does fail, as Nichols fears, he promises that the streets of America will run with blood. Yikes.

It is this ironic wit that serves a backdrop for the important and serious *Bowling for Columbine*, a film written, directed, and narrated by the prolific documentary filmmaker/satirist Michael Moore. In Moore's first film, *Roger and Me*, he exposes big business in his native Flint, Michigan. Here, he explores why America, more than any other nation, has a tendency to murder itself with guns. In his sights are greedy corporate conglomerates, TV producers who don't know how to sell anything besides violence, and

legislation that does little but destroy communities. Moore uses a variety of techniques, from journalistic confrontations to old time movie reels to a hilarious and sharp cartoon created by the makers of *South Park*. The film also includes an embarrassing encounter with Charlton Heston, the president of the National Rifle Association, who in this film seems to have spent a little too much time beneath the *Planet of the Apes*.

Moore posits that what makes the murder rate so high in America is fear. And fear, he insists, is little more than a myth promoted by the government. Moore supports his claim by investigating the differences between our own social climate and that of our northern neighbor, whose handgun related death rate is 15 times less than our own. Moore discovers a gun crazy land where people aren't afraid to leave their doors unlocked at night, and a national healthcare system that all but assures medical treatment to any citizen. Most importantly, the news is free and clear of any talk of murder and mayhem. In fact, in a county on the outskirts of a large city (the one that faces Moore's own Michigan), only one murder has occurred in three years. Maybe.

Moore then asks us to ponder why America is so different. Canada is all but a mirror image, yet we have eleven-thousand murders per year; a number of murders much higher than our Canadian counterpart. It's corporate and political greed, Moore says. We are a country ruled by fear. Moore suggests that Sept. 11 has allowed Republican war hawks to blind the public and

amass funds for their beloved military. Fear sells, Moore asserts.

"I'm a poster boy for fear," Marilyn Manson states in an interview Moore conducts. Manson says that he simply dresses and acts the way that he wants, and just "sings rock and roll tunes." For this, Manson says, he is all but crucified by the public. Manson claims he was a scapegoat for the Columbine shootings, and more or less any other violent act committed by youths. Manson would like to claim credit, but feels that the President, who on the day of Columbine issued a command for the biggest bombing of Kosovo ever, probably has more influence than the emaciated rock star.

Moore then turns to consider racism. A witty clip by the makers of *South Park* illustrates for us the history of why white people fear black people. Moore asserts that the news depicts the black man as a savage beast to be feared. In an interview, Charlton Heston reveals that the former Moses blames murder rates on a "mixed ethnicity" and a violent background (even though Germany, a country that not too long ago slaughtered 12 million, has only a virtual handful of gun murders each year).

In a series of hilarious interviews and stunning facts, Moore has created a film that terrifies us. The film is frightening not because it shows militia-men training with assault rifles. It is not that NRA meetings are packed to the brim in towns where horrible child murders have occurred. It terrifies us because it reveals the corporate and political conditioning that has coddled these lunatics, and allowed them to flourish.



A THOUGHT FROM RABBI ADAM



Have you ever seen those police reports of small town papers? Usually, there is a day-by-day roster where they itemize every reported petty theft and act of minor vandalism. Well, in contrast, is the following Israeli police report of Aug. 29, 2002 from Israelnationalnews.com: "Two more have been arrested for terrorist activities. The police announced today that under detention are two residents of Nazareth who drove a suicide terrorist to his final destination. The would-be murderer in fact blew himself up, [apparently] accidentally, in the town of Um el-Fahm, wounding one of [his escorts] who was later arrested. In yet another case, a Palestinian Authority paramilitary policeman in Ramallah was recently arrested on suspicion of having plotted to murder a judge in Beit E-I. He then confessed that he also planned, together with other Fatah terrorists, to perpetrate a shooting-and-car bomb attack on a local [Israeli] bus. [Also] arrested [were] a man and a young woman, two Palestinian Authority residents of the northern Shomron, who were on their way to a suicide attack. The woman had planned to detonate herself in a crowded area in northern Israel, while the man's role was merely to accompany her into Israel...Last night's high police alert for a possible [suicide] attack in Jerusalem has been removed... An Israeli car was shot at near Peduel this morning; no one was hurt...[Israeli] troops apprehended two wanted terrorists last night in Halhoul, just north of Hebron... A leading Hamas terrorist was arrested in Hebron late this afternoon..." And from where is all this Palestinian drive to terrorism? It comes directly from the Palestinian leadership, for "the resurrection of the dead will not occur, until you battle with the Jews and kill them!"- speech by Dr. Ahmad Yusuf Abu Halbiah broadcast on Palestinian Authority National Television; July 28, 2000.

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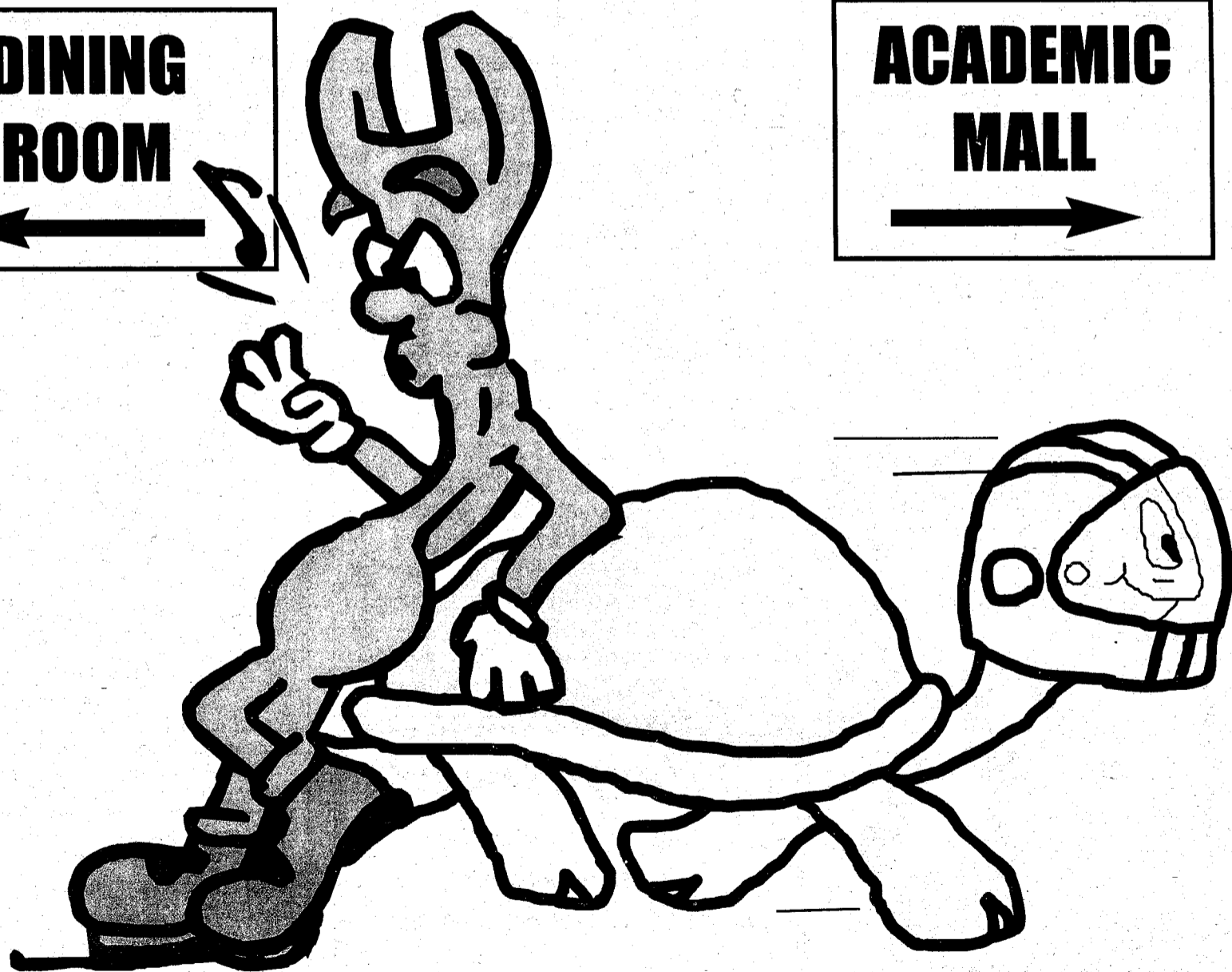
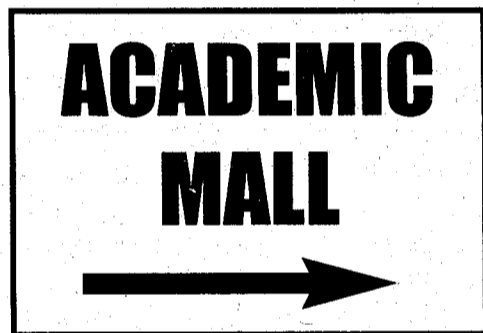
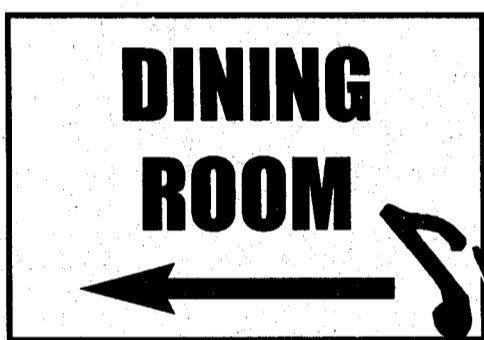
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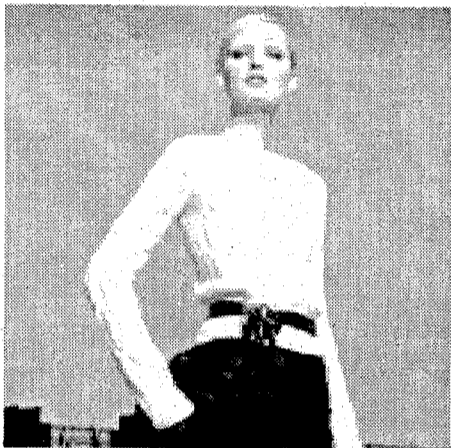
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Starting Fresh-The Best Way To Create A New Wardrobe

By JESSICA LANDRESS
Statesman Contributor

Working at an exclusive department store in the Hamptons, I often have clients coming in who want to change their look and update their closet. These ladies usually spend a couple of hours trying things on, asking for opinions, and then a few thousand dollars later they are happy and well dressed. For those of us who don't have a few thousand dollars to throw around each season this is usually not the case. So, here is my guide to creating the finest wardrobe you've ever had, at the best price.

Before you venture off to your favorite shopping destination, set a



Courtesy of www.saks.com

A white sweater and black pants are two essential components of any wardrobe.

few guidelines for yourself. Set a limit on much you plan and can afford to spend. Keep track of everything you see and like with a pen and paper, ask associates to hold it for the afternoon, and then when you are ready to leave decide which items were your favorites and buy those things. The rest can go on your holiday wish list!

Make sure you are in a good mood before you even think about trying on pants. There is nothing worse than having a bad day and then realizing you're a size bigger than last year. Buy sizes that fit you now, not sizes you hope will fit in three months as long as you follow your 'no junk-food, running three miles a day' plan.

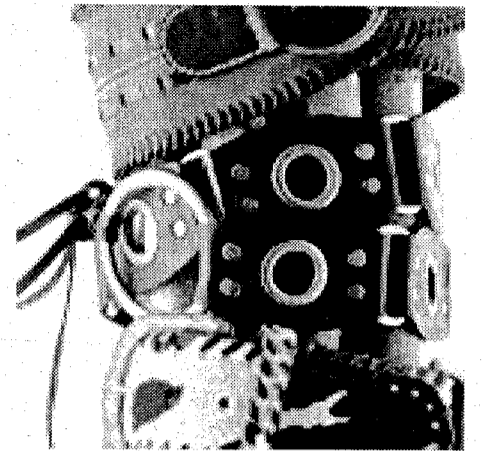
It is the clothing's job to fit you, not your job to fit the clothes. Every designer and fabric fits differently; I have clients who range anywhere from a size 6 to a size 12! Now that your mind is in the right place, let the shopping begin.

The most crucial part of a sensible wardrobe is making sure you have all of the basics. Such items include a white blouse, black pants, khaki pants, a great pair of jeans, a black long sleeved shirt, a white long sleeved shirt, a skirt made out of your favorite pattern and/or material, a few comfy

sweaters, and then as many accessories as your closet can hold.

Personal style is a must, so these basics are just the foundation. Add about three shirts and one bottom that really show your fashion flair.

Make sure that everything you buy can be mixed and matched. If you know you have three red shirts already, then buy a skirt with red in it. Now you have three outfits. Also, accessories are the best way to add new style to any old outfit. Pair your basic white shirt with jeans, and then get a fringed belt or a pin. Right now the look is all about femininity, so make



Courtesy of www.expressfashions.com

Accessories, such as these belts, can completely revitalize any old outfit.

throughout the mall, such as on holiday weekends. Also, some stores offer excellent ways to save money. Express offers a plan called 'Fast Cash,' where you receive a certain amount of money back on your next purchase depending on how much you spend now.

I recently received seven fast cash coupons, a savings of \$175 if I buy \$300 worth of clothing, so my next purchase will be more than 50 percent off! Another good idea is to save all of your shopping for one day, so that you can open a charge with a store and save up to 15 percent. After you pay your first bill, just call and cancel your account if you don't think you can handle a credit card. Remember, a smart shopper is the best shopper!

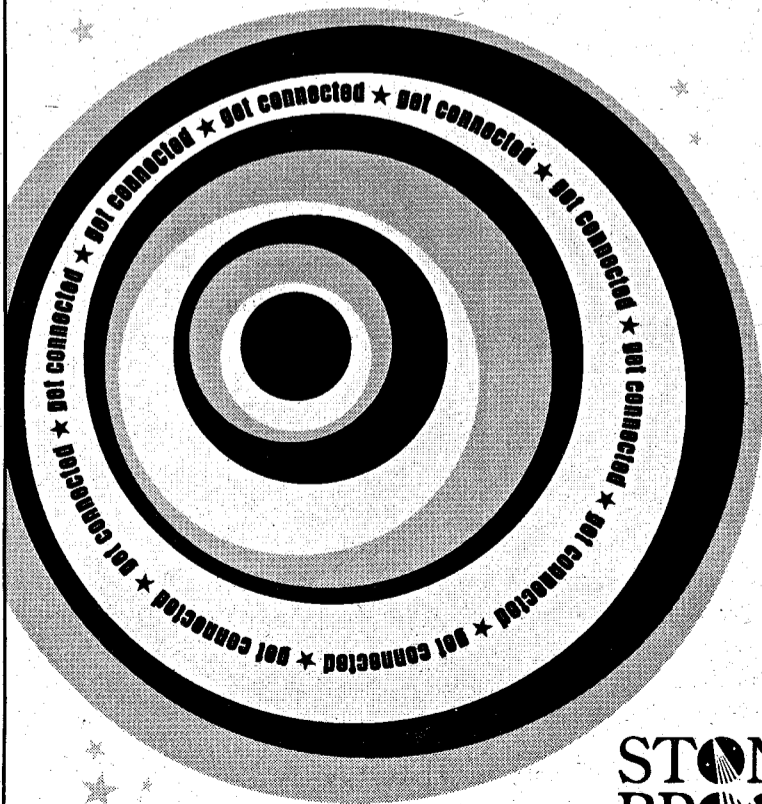
The most crucial part of a sensible wardrobe is making sure you have all of the basics.

sure your accessories are classy and not trashy. Accessories garnished with flowers or butterflies are two ideas that *In Style* magazine is raving about.

Shop when there are sales

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A Little History of All Hallow's Eve

By RACHEL REITER
Statesman Contributor

Halloween is just around the corner, and while it is celebrated by many people of different backgrounds, it is ignored by others, possibly because there are no strong religious ties associated with this fun, frightening night.

For some adults at home, it is about stocking up on candy and giving it away to every kid in a costume who holds out his greedy little hand and grins, "Trick or Treat!"

For some folks it's more about locking the back door, putting the car in the garage and bolting the windows for fear of terrorist teenagers.

For certain adolescents or adolescent-minded adults, the 31st is about driving around local neighborhoods with plenty of spray paint and cartons of eggs, along with a few rolls of toilet paper.

As for SBU students, the holiday could mean just about anything. It could be just one more day on the syllabus—one day closer to a paper deadline. Halloween week could be used for a fraternity or sorority fundraiser—a dance or a costume catwalk.

For those who think it matters and for those who are downright inquisitive as to why people all over the U.S. acknowledge the 31st as a time of comic relief when even sane middle aged working adults dress up as a goat, a cow, a super hero, Elvis, JFK or Madonna... Here's the real deal on All Hallow's Eve.



The ghoulish traditions of today's commercialized Halloween originated as a celebration of Celtic New Year on Nov. 1.

Halloween is a pre-Christian holiday in celebration of the Celtic New Year on Nov. 1. Similarly, Dec. 31 is a huge party night leading into the next day, which marks a new year on our calendar.

Halloween has Scottish-Irish roots. Customs involve the worship of two major gods, including the sun god and the god of the dead. Logically enough, the holiday is also known as the festival of the dead. In the ninth century, non-Christian and Christian customs mixed and a feast was incorporated into the celebration in order to show reverence to the saints. Two centuries later, Halloween was also named as All Souls Day to honor the dead, specifically those who died the year before.

A European touch to the holiday

during the Middle Ages presumed the belief in fairies, elves and witches who could morph and take the form of cats. In order to scare away these "flying spirits," people made big bonfires.

This was a huge day for psychics, and seeing omens, making marital matches and participating in games that involved fortune telling.

The Scots and Irish brought Hallow's Eve over to America. It was here that pumpkins were first harvested in celebration to make jack-o'-lanterns. Practical jokes became a part of the fun. But it wasn't until the twentieth century that children began to put on costumes and go door to door yelling, "Trick or Treat!"

Hockey Beats URI

By CHARLES CLIFFORD
Statesman Staff

On Sunday afternoon, the Stony Brook hockey team defeated the University of Rhode Island 5-1. The win improved the Seawolves record to 5-1 on the season.

The Seawolves jumped out to an early 1-0 lead when Joe Savan scored on a slap shot from just inside the face off circle. Just minutes later, Stony Brook struck again as Brad Thomas made a stick-to-stick pass to Billy Sullivan who tapped the puck past the helpless URI goaltender.

Stony Brook's power play continued to be an effective weapon, as James Sedoruk scored a power play goal midway through the second period. Nate Hould continued his offensive output scoring two goals for SBU.

Bobby Morotta got his second start in goal for Stony Brook and once again looked strong. He made 31 saves en route to his second victory of the season.

"We were missing some of our top players tonight, yet we still dominated the entire game," senior defenseman Adam Grillo said. "I think that is a tribute to how strong we really are as a whole."

The Seawolves are on the road this weekend traveling to Pennsylvania to take on Westchester University and Rider University. They return home the following weekend for back-to-back home games against Marist and NYU.

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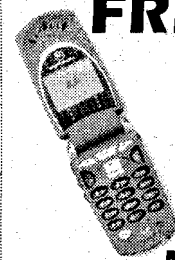
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