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The Stony Brook

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Showtime



Annual Staller Film Fest to Kick Off

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A Tough Decision

Texas A&M President Announces Bonfire Off

The Texas A&M bonfire, a student-run tradition that turned deadly for 12 Aggies last year, will be replaced by a memorial service this fall and won't return to campus until at least 2002, the university's president announced Friday.

University President Ray Bowen said the 90-year tradition would return only in a drastically abridged form, with far greater university supervision and a professionally engineered design. The decision strips control of the bonfire from students, who have maintained the tradition for nearly a century.

"Sometimes doing the right thing involves making a tough decision," Bowen said, adding that the magnitude of the disaster mandated a hard decision. "Given that horror, I think a tough decision is a reasonable decision."

The 2 million-pound bonfire stack collapsed during construction on Nov. 18. In addition the 12 dead, 27 others were injured, some severely.

A five-member commission appointed and funded by Texas A&M to investigate the deaths blamed flawed construction techniques and a lack of adequate supervision of students assembling the stack.

"We can have a bonfire if it's completely restructured. We will have a bonfire if it's completely restructured," Bowen said. "The restructuring has to achieve safety, not just in the near term, but forever."

The bonfire, constructed over several months annually draws thousands to campus

on the eve of A&M's football game against its archrival, the University of Texas at Austin.

Modifications would include an annual safety compliance review, a better-developed safety program and change in how student leaders are chosen.

The bonfire would also return to a shorter, teepee-shaped log stack, an early bonfire design, as opposed to the four-tiered,

determined later, he said.

Student commitment and vigilance ultimately will determine whether the bonfire burns again and for how long, Bowen said: "The challenge to them is to really protect this tradition."

A task force of students, faculty and staff will be formed in September to develop a plan for a 2002 bonfire, Bowen said. Their plan

before the May 2 release of the commission's final report.

Richard Frampton, father of 22-year-old victim Jeremy Frampton, said he believed the tradition should have continued as soon as possible.

"I'm disappointed that the bonfire won't be carried on in a significant way, but I can understand the decision," Frampton said. "The bonfire was an excellent means to teach young people about bonding to accomplish tasks."

Bowen's decision also raised the possibility that students would construct an unauthorized bonfire on private property this year or next.

Don Ganter, a former A&M student and the owner of the Dixie Chicken, a popular campus watering hole, said he would consider helping students continue bonfire on their own.

"I myself, and some other people I know, would be more than willing to let them do that on land we own," he said, adding that he would take precautions to make an unsanctioned bonfire safe. "I would not be part and parcel to a dangerous situation."

Bowen said he would not stop students who planned to build their own bonfire, though he discouraged it.

However, an unsanctioned bonfire would mean that such a bonfire would bring legal liability, he said.

Cancellation this year will mark only the third time the bonfire has not been held since it began in 1909. It was canceled in 1963 because of President Kennedy's assassination and last year because of the collapse.

Bowen's decision to consider keeping the bonfire while modifying its construction strikes a compromise between the feelings of zealous, tradition-rooted Aggies and voices of caution calling for drastic change.

Students, parent, faculty and alumni groups weighed in on the issue, and Bowen said the vast majority wanted the bonfire to return if it could be made safe.

A&M football coach R.C. Slocum said Bowen listened to many opinions about the bonfire's future, and said he made his decision conscientiously.

"I hope that our A&M family will again demonstrate our togetherness by supporting Dr. Bowen's decision so that we can move forward," Slocum said.

Two bonfire-related investigations are still ongoing.

Bill Turner, Brazos County District Attorney, said his office is determining if criminal charges should be sought in connection with the collapse. His investigation, which should be done in about six weeks, has ruled out sabotage, but not negligence.

On Wednesday, the Texas Board of Professional Engineers voted to investigate the collapse. Board officials deemed bonfire a complex enough structure to require engineering controls. AP

*"I hope that our A&M family will again demonstrate our togetherness by supporting Dr. Bowen's decision so that we can move forward."
- A&M football coach R.C. Slocum*

wedding-cake design that topped 55 feet in recent years.

Construction would be limited to two weeks, logs would be provided instead of cut by students and the project would be strictly controlled.

"The construction site will be managed more like a professional construction site - fences, security, cameras," said Bowen, himself an A&M graduate.

The cost of the modifications will be

will be due in Bowen's office in April 2001.

Bowen scoffed at the notion that his bonfire suspension rivals in importance other A&M milestones, such as when it first admitted women or made the Corps of Cadets optional.

"I would like to tell you those assessments are wrong," he said.

Bowen's findings arrived Thursday at the homes of victim's parents. A&M officials used the same method to get word to families

Native Americans Debate College Sport Teams' Mascots and Names

Jim Billie, a chief of the Seminole tribe, upset some other American Indians when he said he did not care if the mascot for Florida State University was named after his people.

"It does not affect us," Billie said, joking that he thought FSU stood for "fat, short and ugly."

American Indian activists and others complain the mascots are derogatory, which has led to a growing national trend among schools, universities and professional teams to shed the nicknames. Several Idaho high schools have gone through the debate themselves.

"Are we prostituting our culture?" asked Navajo Times editor Tom Arbiso, who led the discussion as part the Native American Journalist Association's annual convention this week.

Florida State has faced pressure to give up its nickname. At football

games, a student clad in traditional Indian costume, including headdress and war paint, rides around the field on a horse.

But Billie said the tribe has never considered the university's nickname offensive, adding he thought the school chose the name because the Seminole tribe was never defeated.

Billie said they do not receive any money from the school for use of the name.

Indians should be united on the issue over the use of their names for sports teams, Navajo Times journalist Eugene Tapahe told Billie.

"It can't be they, or them, it has to be all of us," Tapahe said.

"Some people eat bear, some don't," Billie replied, inviting those who disagreed to present their case at a Seminole tribe meeting. "I stay away from your culture."

Tapahe also spoke about his experiences with the NFL's Washington Redskins, saying the etymology of the

word referred to a time when bounty hunters presented skins of Indians for money.

The team's federal trademark protection was revoked last year, after it was decided the team's name may disparage American Indians.

When asked about whether he thought the nickname "Redskins" was offensive, Billie refused to capitulate.

"I'm Seminole," Billie said. "Red is not an insulting color to us."

This week, the Pinellas County school district decided to consider whether to stop using Indian names for sports team mascots after complaints of insensitivity from activists.

Other schools have already changed names.

The St. John's Redmen are now the Red Storm and Stanford fans cheer for the Cardinal instead of the Indians. Miami of Ohio has also changed its nickname from the Redskins to the RedHawks. AP

Lights, Camera...Action!!

Annual Film Festival at Staller Center

By TINA CHADHA
Statesman Editor

Watch out Cannes, Stony Brook has a dynamic film festival of its own. The Staller Center for the Arts is proudly hosting The 2000 Stony Brook Film Festival. The festival will entail the screening of 47 films from the United States and abroad, and will run from July 19-29. For these 11 days, the festival will run some of the most exciting and powerful films of the year, with various world and U.S. premieres of new independent feature and short films. In addition to having the privilege of enjoying the movie premieres, audiences will get to meet many of the directors, who will be on hand to introduce their work. Directors will be joined by cast and crew to discuss each film and promote the growing independent film world.

The festival will feature screenings of five "special premiere films," including Melissa Painter's *Wildflowers*, Britt Allcroft's *Thomas and the Magic Railroad*, Robert Greenwald's *Steal This Movie*, Nicholas Kendall's *Mr. Rice's Secret* and *The Ice Rink*.

The premiere of *The Ice Rink* will mark the film debut of Dolores Chaplin, granddaughter of legendary actor Charlie Chaplin.

Wildflowers, a coming-of-age story about a young woman's search for her mother and ultimately herself, stars Daryl Hannah, Clea



courtesy of stallercenter.com

The Emperor and the Assassin, which will screen on July 25, tells the tale of a King who dreams of a unified China.

Duvall and Eric Roberts. It is the opening night film. Following the film, an opening night party will be held to celebrate the kickoff of the festival at nearby Planet Dublin.

Moviegoers will also be entertained by new cutting edge movies and independent blockbuster hits such as *Topsy Turvy*, *The Cider House Rules* and the Oscar honored Best Foreign Film, *All About My Mother*. The films offered span a

wide variety of tone and genre, so there will be something for everyone.

Topsy Turvy is an Academy Award winning film, written and directed by Mike Leigh. It hilariously depicts the conflict between the oddly matched personalities of librettist William Gilbert and composer Arthur Sullivan as the two men contributed influential work to the music world.

The Cider House Rules is also an Academy Award winning film. Directed by Lasse Hallstrom, this bold coming of age story shows how far we must travel to find the place where we fit in. The film is about the life of Homer Wells, an eager orphan who leaves his lifelong home and his loving tutor to explore the world. In the process of making a life for himself, Homer must make profound decisions that will change the course of his future and deeply affect the lives of those around him. This movie stars Oscar winner Michael Caine, Tobey Maguire, Delroy Lindo and Charlize Theron.

The Spanish Film, *All About My Mother*, won an Academy Award and a Golden Globe for Best Foreign Film. Directed by Pedro Almodovar, it is about women who use their acting skills to improvise their way through their own lives with strength, passion and humor. The film is also about surviving tragedies and never giving up on hope.

A Festival Pass, which is \$30, includes all 47 screenings and the exclusive filmmaker panel/reception on July 22. The panel discussion, beginning at 8 p.m., will entail discussion and analysis of independent filmmaking in the new millennium, hosted by Newsday's Chief Film Critic, John Anderson. For an additional \$10, pass holders can add both an opening night party and closing night award reception. Passes go on sale June 1 at the Staller Center Box Office (631) 632-Arts and online at stallercenter.com.



courtesy of stallercenter.com

All About My Mother, screening July 27, was awarded an Academy Award for Best Foreign Film.

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Editorials

Lacking Security

USB Takes Two Years to Follow Up on Crime Prevention Plan

Two years ago, three women were raped on the University at Stony Brook campus. Yet, it is only recently that precautions have been taken to ensure the safety of students, the most recent measure being the installation of safety phones on the main campus.

When the University came under fire in 1998 by major New York media outlets, President Shirley Strum Kenny announced a six point action plan to address violence and crime on campus. The plan included the installation of new lights in residential and academic building areas, new security cameras, the hiring of more police and a bigger police presence in the residential areas of campus.

"This is an issue of grave importance on every campus, and I am determined to do everything I can to help students feel safe," President Kenny said at a rally that was held at

the time the rapes occurred.

But, it was only last fall that the community policing plan was put into effect, increasing police patrol around the residence halls, and it was only this semester that new lights and safety phones have been installed.

It is about time.

In March another incident occurred that should have sparked security concerns within administration. A female student was robbed of her wallet and then her car at 11:35 a.m. while walking to her car parked in the stadium parking lot near the infirmary. The safety phones were not available then. The victim, fortunately, had access to a phone to call University Police.

The time it took to install additional lighting and safety phones on campus is embarrassing. The University should have immediately taken action when the first rape occurred. However, the campus saw the infamous fountain constructed before the finishing of this so-called

six point action plan.

What the University should do now is take additional steps to calm student concerns.

Many colleges and universities, such as Brown University, have rape crisis centers on campus. With 18,000 students on campus, such a resource would be valuable at USB.

Another option is to increase police presence in the parking lots, especially the South P-lot, where students frequently are alone and are prime targets for crimes.

But talking about these measures is not good enough. Student safety should be top priority to administration and swift implementation is key to ensure this. Students should not have to wait two years to feel a bit safer on campus.

If this issue is ignored, not only will students continue to be dissatisfied with the safety on campus, but the parents of prospective USB students will not feel comfortable allowing their sons and daughters to attend an unsafe school.



Checking College Report Cards

Lawmakers Say Paying Parents Should Be in On Child's Progress

Jacob Gunther was stunned when he was told he'd have to have his daughter's permission to view her grades at the state college she attends in Buffalo.

After all, the 46-year-old Democratic state Assemblyman said, he was the one writing out the checks for thousands of dollars to pay for his daughter's schooling. Doesn't he have a right to updates on his investment?

A sea change in the way student records are handled occurred in 1974, when Congress passed the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, commonly referred to the Buckley Amendment.

Though the Buckley Amendment leaves it to the discretion of individual institutions to decide whether to send grades to parents when the student is a dependent, the message was apparently heard loud and clear by college registrars, many of whom send collegial report cards to students only.

Gunther, of Sullivan County, has joined Sen. William Larkin, an Orange County Republican, in trying to get a bill passed that would require colleges in the state to send students' grades to parents and guardians who bankroll at least half of their children's education.

"A parent or guardian who is paying room, board and tuition is absolutely entitled to see the grades," Gunther told the Sunday Gazette of Schenectady.

Some college administrators oppose the measure.

Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs sends grades to students only, unless the student fills out a waiver form. Of the 2,200 students attending Skidmore, about 100 have signed the consent form, according to Ann Henderson, registrar and director of institutional research at Skidmore.

The college was sending grades to both parents and students when Henderson arrived a decade ago.

"It was not only a colossal duplication of effort because 98 percent of the time the address was the same (for both parents and students), but it was not in keeping with the college's feeling that students are emerging adults," Henderson said.

AP

Check Out Statesman Online

To get the latest news on what is going on in campus, visit the Web site of Stony Brook's only twice-weekly student newspaper. Check out the Statesman at:
<http://sinc.sunysb.edu/Clubs/statesman>

Furniture Executive Picked for SUNY Board

A top executive with the Stickley furniture company, Aminy Audi, was nominated Wednesday by Gov. George Pataki to join the State University of New York's 16-member board of trustees.

Subject to her expected confirmation by the state Senate, Audi would serve in a term that expires June 20, 2002. SUNY board members receive no salary.

"As a successful businesswoman and community leader, Aminy Audi's experience and leadership will be invaluable to the SUNY board of trustees," Pataki said.

Audi, 62, is a partner and executive vice president of L.&J.G. Stickley, Inc. of Fayetteville. At the famous Syracuse-area furniture maker, Audi is primarily responsible for marketing, public relations and showroom display. Her daughter, Caroline Audi, has been featured in the company's television advertising.

Before joining Stickley, the Pataki pick was a free-lance writer and reporter for the Voice of America. She is a graduate of New York University.

On the SUNY board, Audi would replace Nicole Kim, a judge for the U.S. Immigration Court. Kim, appointed to the SUNY board in 1996, resigned.

The board of trustees sets policy for the 64-campus SUNY system, the nation's largest public university.

AP



Courtesy of the Stickley Furniture Web site

Aminy Audi is the vice president of Stickley Furniture.

"As a successful businesswoman and community leader, Aminy Audi's experience and leadership will be invaluable to the SUNY board of trustees," - Gov. Pataki.

Former SUNY Administrator Admits To Stealing \$31,000

An award-winning Binghamton University faculty member admitted stealing \$31,088 from the Research Foundation of the State University of New York.

Alfred Lewis, a finance professor with the School of Management and former associate provost for budget and planning, admitted he handed in 12 vouchers containing intentionally false information to the research foundation between Oct. 1, 1998 and Sept. 30, 1999.

With his plea to third-degree grand larceny, Lewis could get probation or a conditional

discharge if he pays back the money and resigns his position and tenure rights.

The investigation began last fall when university officials notified the district attorney.

Provost Mary Ann Swain relieved Lewis of his \$106,775-per-year job as associate provost for budget and planning in October, saying she was unsatisfied with his performance. Lewis returned to a teaching position.

Lewis is a past recipient of a State University of New York Chancellor's Award and University Award for Excellence in Teaching. AP

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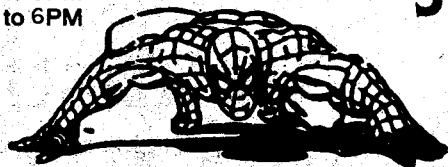
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Tell Me About It

Advice For the College-Age Crowd

By Carolyn Hax

Dear Carolyn:

My boyfriend and I have been dating for seven months. I love him deeply, and he feels the same about me. I was raped rather brutally five years ago and, as a result of an exercise my therapist gave me, I released a lot of the rage I had pent up inside for years.

My boyfriend was unfortunate enough to be present for this incident, and some of this anger was thrown at him (because he was the only person present at the time).

I had warned him that I was going to get very angry and he opted to stick around—he knew about the rape and the therapist's assignment—but he got upset by my explosion and left me for a week. He e-mailed that he was breaking up with me, and he and his friends broke off all contact.

I did deal with that anger on my own. After a week, when I was attempting to return his keys to his roommate, I ran into him and he asked if we could talk. He apologized for his actions, I did too, we made up and we're dating again.

My friends are telling me to leave him since he wouldn't stand by me when I needed support, my therapist is telling me to remember I have other options and not to think I need him, and my mom thinks he and I should work it out.

I love him, but I am still afraid he won't be able to deal with the inevitable hardships that come with a relationship. I'm confused because the people I trust the most are all disagreeing.

—E.

The person who says everyone deserves a second chance has never met the guy who dumped his rape-victim-girlfriend by e-mail.

Still, I won't rule out that these were exceptional circumstances because I wasn't there and didn't hear what you said to him. These people you trust weren't there, either, except one: You.

You decided to give him a second chance—and also to remain open to the possibility that he might not be as strong as he should be, and that the relationship might not work. Now do the math: On your own, you made a decision that incorporates what your friends said and what your therapist and what your mom said.

Give yourself some credit. You understand all the possible implications of his actions, and now you're letting time sort them out. Seems to me you've got things under control—which, even for someone who hasn't been through what you have, is pretty impressive stuff.

OH I HEAR YA. I MEAN MY BOSS IS JUST THE WORST!



Hi Carolyn:

Girlfriend has an important work event to attend—significant others are invited and encouraged to come. On the same night, a dear friend of Boyfriend is having a birthday party. On a boat. So there's no option to go to the work thing then the party. HELP!
—Emotional Wringer

Your emotions are wrung out from that? Life is long—maybe you should pace yourself.

If you've already RSVP'd as a couple to one of them, that's the one you both attend. Otherwise, Girlfriend goes to work party,

Boyfriend goes to boat party, and both pat themselves on the back for demonstrating their ability to leave the house without handcuffs. (What you wear in the privacy of your home, of

course, is your business.)

The only thing worth fretting about here is that you didn't immediately see this as a slam-dunk, get-in-on-the-IPO no-brainer.

Dear Carolyn:

I left a job last winter working aboard a yacht because I did not get along with a male crew member who did not respect my space. He keeps sending me e-mails and I don't know how to get him to stop.

I contacted my former boss a couple of months ago ask him to intervene, but this was without success. Do I continue to delete the e-mails (and fume that he has the audacity to contact me), tell him off or resort to violence? The latter is obviously a fantasy, but I become angry every time I have to deal with this.

—S.

And that's the point: He gets his jollies every time you do, and bonus jollies when you run to the boss.

If you're afraid of this guy, trust your intuition and tell the police immediately. Have you ever thought about why some people give us the creeps? There's usually a pretty good reason for it.

Otherwise, I don't see why you "have to" deal with this at all. Get a new e-mail address—but keep the old one, too, and let the freak keep using it. Then never sign on to it again; let a friend check it for important stuff.

If an e-mail falls in the forest, does it make a sound?

Write to "Tell Me About It," c/o The Washington Post, Style Plus, 1150 15th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20071 or e-mail: tellme@washpost.com. Chat online with Carolyn each Friday at noon and Monday at 3 p.m. at www.washingtonpost.com.

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Features

No Wrong Number Here *Dial M-A-C-E-O hits all the right buttons*

By KAT FULGIERI
Statesman Editor

Almost any fan of funk music can recall hearing James Brown scream out "Maceo! Blow your horn!" and the inevitable dazzling saxophone solo that would always follow, performed by the now-legendary Maceo Parker. Nearly three decades after Parker garnered acclaim and status in the music industry, his latest release, *Dial M-A-C-E-O*, is a testament to a fact that was never really disputed - the man is funky.

Parker began his career at the ripe age of 12, when he taught himself to play the alto saxophone. Parker's brothers were also musically inclined, taking up their own instruments, and the boys eventually formed a band. Through Parker's grammar school years until high school, the group secured countless numbers of gigs at nightclubs and parties.

It was during college that Parker hooked up with James Brown. Ironically, Brown originally sought out his brother Melvin, but it was two Parker siblings that eventually joined up with Brown. After spending years ripping up the stage with the immortalized likes of Brown, Bootsy Collins and George Clinton, Parker decided to launch his solo career in 1990. His release, *Roots Revisited*, was originally distributed in Europe, and then spent ten weeks at number one on the Billboard Jazz charts.

Since then, Parker has kept busy with several other releases, countless collaborations with artists of various genres, and heavy touring through Europe, Japan and the United States. Specifically, he has headlined at almost every major European Jazz festival, and is responsible for the mass-seller *Life on Planet Groove*, a rowdy and immaculate live release that is rumored to double in sales each year.

Recently, Parker spent a great deal of time collaborating with Prince and

folk artist Ani DiFranco, recording with the former and touring with the latter in a career move that many in the industry questioned prior to hearing the music that was being created. Unlikely as the associations may seem, both artists make guest appearances on the new album, with refreshing and laudable results.

Dial M-A-C-E-O is a combination of new songs and covers, but the cover songs chosen have been given the signature Parker treatment, with sax solos that demand undivided attention, and backup horns that sound almost ethereal at certain points. The only real exception to the rule is the track "Rabbits in the Pea Patch," which provides those who crave Parker's crowd riling mantras with their fix of upbeat and energizing classic funk.

Parker and Prince put together a lyrical instrumental version of Prince's "The Greatest Romance Ever Sold," and it flows as slyly and smoothly as the smoke from a cigar in a high roller's jazz club. Parker and Prince also team up for "Baby Knows," and the union of two distinctive musically inspired artists is apparent from measure to measure, with each contributing their best efforts.

James Taylor appears on the album also, in a rousing cut called "My baby Loves You," proving again that Parker knows exactly who to team up with to create the sound he is seeking. Same goes for "Coin Toss," the track to which DiFranco lent her efforts.

Another notable track is called "Black Widow," a piece written by Parker's son, Corey. Corey Parker is a rap artist whose inherited musical talents are evident, and though he is pursuing mastery of a different medium, he shares his father's soul.

Those who are only familiar with Parker's work on *Life on Planet Groove* may be in for a bit of a shock the first time they play this album. The work is much more sublime and

streamlined. While the music doesn't particularly evoke the vision of a crowded concert hall jumping with fans loving life, the spirit of all which Maceo Parker embodies is easily recognizable.

Everything, down to the

sequencing of the tracks, invites the listener along on a journey through funkland, with various forays into other styles that all mesh together for an insanely pleasing auditory experience. It is available at major record stores and cdnow.com.



courtesy of www.funky-stuff.com

Maceo Parker insists that the purpose of his work is "peace and love."