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Union to Undergo Renovations

A photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a curved facade. In the foreground, there is a paved area and a sign that reads "SB UNION". The sign is made of wood or stone and has the letters "SB" stacked above "UNION". The building is surrounded by greenery and trees. The overall scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

New SINC Site, Wo/Men's Center
and Interfaith Center to Move In

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McGrath Named Provost

By ERIN ROSENKING
Statesman Editor

After a year-long search that spanned across the country, Robert L. McGrath, a physics professor at Stony Brook since 1968, has been named university provost.

Since 1996, McGrath has been in the position of deputy provost and in 1999, he became acting provost upon the resignation of Rollin Richmond, who left the post vacant after accepting the position of provost at Iowa State University.

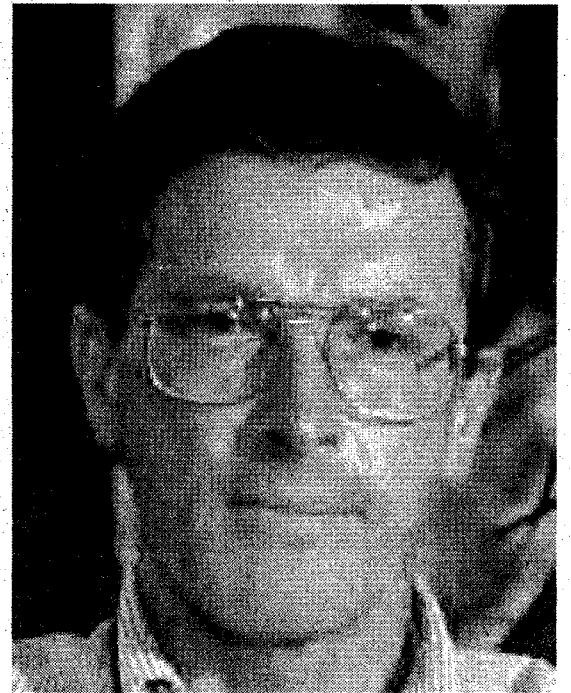
USB President Shirley Strum Kenny, who announced the appointment in June, characterized McGrath as a man with "extraordinary ability." In addition to past appointments at the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, the Grand Accelerator National D'Ions Lourds in France and the Ludwig Maximilian University in Germany, he currently serves as vice president for Brookhaven Affairs.

As both provost and vice president, McGrath is now chief academic officer presiding over Stony Brook, allowing him to provide direct supervision to all academic departments, support services and operations as well as the responsibility of coordinating all academic programs. Kenny was confident that he would succeed in all his duties. "His visions, accomplishments and commitment to excellence will help us build on the momentum that

has made Stony Brook a world class university," she said.

The grandfather of two, who is only the eighth person to hold the position, has already become an accomplished member of the campus. In his one year as acting provost, McGrath commissioned a committee to explore options to improve the number and employment conditions of female faculty members. He coordinated a plan to implement a new Asian studies department and he worked to increase the amount of students enrolled in graduate level programs. He also plans on continuing USB's mission of improving opportunities between education and research. "We are building new interdisciplinary programs that take advantage of our comprehensive Health Sciences Center and our many outstanding colleges," McGrath said. "We have a close relationship with BNL and we are rapidly expanding partnering relationships with companies throughout Long Island."

In addition to his plans, McGrath will still attend to the every day business of a provost. He will act on behalf of President Kenny in the event of her absence, he will work closely with Norm Edelman, dean of the medical school, on issues that affect the University as a whole and he will also have the deans and directors of the campus colleges, schools, libraries centers and



Courtesy of USB Physics home page

Robert L. McGrath

institutes reporting to him. He looks forward to taking the position. "The usual indicators of a strong university have been improving at Stony Brook every year," he said. "I am very pleased to have the opportunity to continue building this great university."

National College News:

Colleges Offer Cool Curricula

Classes aren't always a slog. More than a few colleges and universities are attracting students by offering courses with new trendy slants.

A few examples:

- "From Bach to Rock," offered at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. Music professor and course creator Robert Garwell covers both popular and classical musical styles, with students creating both audio and visual material with high-tech and traditional equipment. "The course is not about music fundamentals, but how the elements of music work," he said.

- "Paranormal Phenomena," offered at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pa. "This course examines the nature of phenomena that are believed by some to arise as a result of forces beyond the bounds of accepted science," explained Louis Manza, assistant professor of psychology.

Critical thinking and skepticism of the paranormal, science and the media, spiritualism, ESP, astrology, psychics, UFOs and alien abductions, science versus religion, near-death experiences,

pseudoscience and alternative medicine are all fodder for the course.

- "Philosophy of Science Fiction," offered at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pa. This course is a new take on humanism, with Dr. Anne Smith, assistant professor of philosophy, using the movie, "Blade Runner," to examine the concept of humanism.

- "Dinosauria," offered at Millsaps College in Jackson, Miss. This wide-ranging course covers everything from the history of the dinosaur hunters to dinosaur anatomy. Students learn about dinosaur eating habits, reproduction, evolution, living habitats, biological activities, whether they were warm- or cold-blooded, their relationship to birds, and finally, their extinction 65 million years ago. "The students really enjoy it," said Dr. Delbert Gann, associate professor of geology. "I bring in skulls, teeth, eggs, models and even coprolites." Required reading and watching are book and movie versions of Michael Crichton's "Jurassic Park." Gann said students write papers comparing them and noting scientific errors.

- "Medieval Drama," offered at

Gettysburg College in Gettysburg, Pa. "Once considered merely a poor relation of Shakespearean theater, medieval drama has now emerged as a vibrant field of study in its own right," said Chris Fee, assistant professor of English. After academic study of the field, students stage a medieval play - outdoors, in the manner of the time.

- "Singing Psych," offered by Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. Billy Joel's "You're Only Human (Second Wind)" is theme song for this introduction to psychology.

Professor Fred Ribich also uses songs like "The Logical Song" by Supertramp to teach the identity-versus-confusion stage of Eric Erickson's eight stages of development.

Listen for "Islands in the Stream" by Dolly Parton and Kenny Rogers to illustrate Erickson's intimacy-versus-isolation stage.

"This method of teaching psychology reinforces the notion that art imitates life," said Ribich.

"If psychology is examining critical

aspects of our existence, then it makes sense that art, or music, reflects our critical thoughts and emotions."

- "Socratic Accounting," offered at the University of Richmond, Richmond, Va. Students already know that 2 plus 2 equals 4. But why? Joe Hoyle, professor of accounting, poses that question to students.

"Accounting is a wonderful subject to help a student to learn to reason," said Hoyle. "The Socratic method forces them to do that reasoning in front of a group of their peers." AP

Volunteers Needed for Skin Cell Study

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Union Gets a Makeover

New Tenants To Move Into Student Union

By ERIN ROSENKING
Statesman Editor

Adding to the multiple construction projects taking place around campus, the Student Union has spent the summer under renovation as plans continue to add three new features to the building.

The projects are slated for completion by the first week of the fall semester and according to Manuel Cortes, Union building manager, the projects are all on schedule.

As new dorms go up behind Roosevelt Quad and the parking garage gets a face lift, the Union is set to get a SINC site, a larger Interfaith Center and a new campus addition, the Wo/Men's Center.

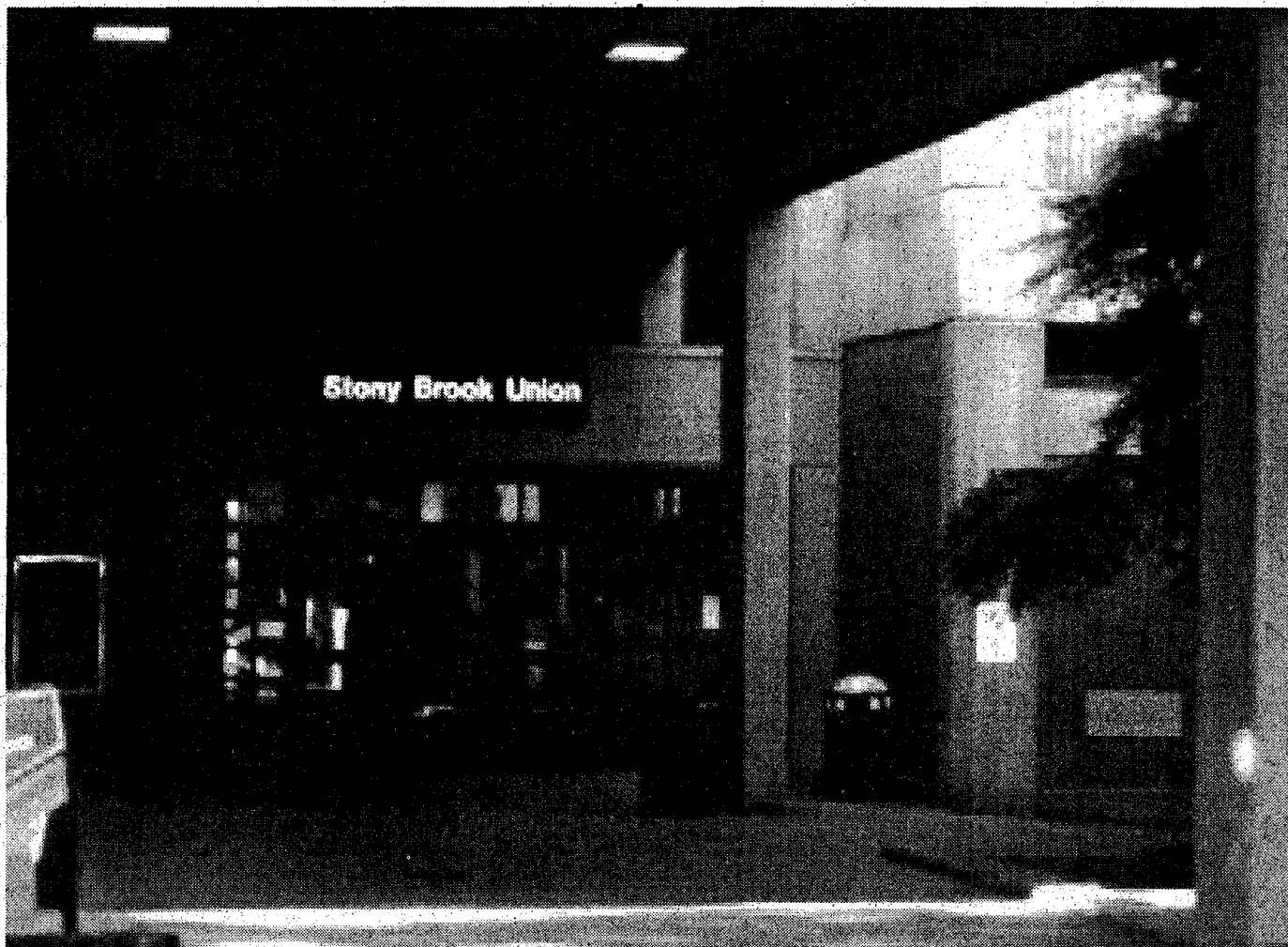
"These changes will improve technological needs, educational outreach and increase availability through expanded services," Cortes said.

Equipped with close to 100 computer stations with MAC's and PC'S as well as scanners, the new SINC site is going in the building's basement where the old commuter lounge used to be. Director of Instructional Computing Nancy Duffrin said that the site is going to be more student oriented and she wants their input in the running of it. "We want to get feedback and comments from student clubs and organizations," she said, adding that all students will be able to comment through the SINC Web page.

Diana Pedagno, manager for the Union's site, called it more "project oriented," offering free unlimited workshops for students on such issues as how to create a Web page. She was happy with the location, noting that the library SINC site is known for being overcrowded, and she said that the Union site will be safer for students to use. "It's closer to the dorms and also to the parking lots," she said. "We thought if we put it there it would be more accessible to commuters who park near the building."

Cortes was hopeful that the site's hours would be consistent with those of the building, which is open 16 to 20 hours a day, but Duffrin said that was dependent upon student staff.

On the second floor, the Interfaith Center will be moving into a larger space after being cramped and crowded in the Humanities building. Starting at the TV lounge, which Cortes



Statesman/Erin Rosenking

Among other renovations, the Union will hold a SINC site and the Interfaith Center.

characterized as "extremely underutilized," the Center will take up the rooms from the lounge to the end of the hall.

Rabbi Joseph Topek, who works at the Interfaith Center, said that he is looking forward to the move. "Before, the Interfaith Center had cubby holes for offices, now we will have more space," he said. Calling the move a step forward, Topek said he thinks it will mean a big improvement for the Center, which

Preston, vice president of student affairs, for his role in the renovations and the move of the Interfaith Center. Preston could not be reached for comment.

As for Humanities, with the move of the Interfaith Center, Cortes said it too is scheduled to undergo renovations.

On the second floor of the Union will be a new program known as the Wo/Men's Center, an idea that students and staff have been

with the idea for the center, explaining that back in the middle 1990s a student in a women's studies seminar came up with the idea for a wo/men's center, as opposed to a women's center, as her course project, which asked the students to design the features of the perfect non-sexist university. "Let no one say that students can't effect change," Sternglanz said.

Wo/Men will deal with issues affecting both men and women including sexual and relationship violence, eating disorders, steroid abuse, sexual orientation issues, reproductive problems and health matters such as breast and prostate cancer concerns. It will also have a rape crisis center within it and Sternglanz said it will seek to promote "prevention through education," which she says is key to combating issues such as rape. "As on every campus, the major potential for reducing the rapes on this campus lies in the attitudes and behaviors of Stony Brook students." She said that things can be changed through teaching. "Education is as effective in gender related areas as it is in others," she said.

"These changes will improve technological needs, educational outreach and increase availability through expanded services,"
- Manuel Cortes, Union building manager

he said would eventually like to have its own building. The multiple rooms will serve as chapels for the many religious denominations on campus bring it to a place where there is more "campus life," Topek said. "It is more student-oriented, this will bring religion out on campus where before it was in broom closets in Humanities," Topek said. "I am very excited." Topek also credited Fred

working on for the past couple of years. Sally Sternglanz, associate director of women's studies, said that the process to select a director of the program is still ongoing but that it will still be opened in early fall with late afternoon, evening and some weekend hours to start. Eventually it will be opened or on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Sternglanz credits a student

Statesman Editor Tina Chadha contributed to this story.

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Editorials

Beautifying Some of the Campus

They say the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, but it is also much thicker, much shorter and much better taken care of on the other side of the campus. So where is this "other side?" It is the side where the Administration building is, conspicuously located right where visitors



Statesman/Erin Rosenking

While Areas Around Admin are Being Spruced Up, Others are Ignored



Beautiful landscaping has been done in front of the Administration building (top), but areas like behind the Student Union (bottom) are being ignored.

might linger and where new students register.

When plans got underway to build the now infamous fountain which made its debut at the end of last semester, everybody was talking about it. People were either citing the pros of having something pretty on campus while there were the others who wondered aloud whether or not that money could have been better spent elsewhere. But did anyone want to know why it was that the fountain went right there smack dab in the front of Admin? Surely a fountain would have looked good in the middle of Kelly Quad. And a bubbling brook would have done wonders for changing the scenery of G and H Quads, especially since they have been dubbed the ghetto of the Stony Brook campus.

We certainly could not suggest that the water works were put up for administrator and presidential eyes only. A large bulk of the student population walks past there every day on their way to Javits, Humanities and the SBS buildings. But it is all

that greenery and flowers in the fountain's vicinity that have produced suspicion: the grounds over there are beautiful. Plush deep green grass, colorful wood chips and blooming flowers. Have they been restricting the landscapers to one area or what?

It looks that way. The pretty scenery outside the building where you pay tickets, tuition bills and stand on hour long lines to do so may have been created in the hopes of calming the angry people that exit those doors daily. Not a bad idea but have you taken a look behind the Union lately? You might have tried but you would be hard pressed to make out the building behind those tall weeds that have sprouted up. While purple flowers are growing near the fountain, grayish half-dead weeds are wilting along the edge of the

library. Nicely paved brick pathways weave their way from Administration out to the Academic Mall while sloppy mud trails scarred with tire tracks puddle up outside of the dorms behind the Union.

A little balance would be good here. There is nothing wrong with having a virtual botanical garden at one place on campus, unless another place requires galoshes and root cutters to make your way through.

So how about allowing the landscapers to roam free, to blow last semester's garbage and last fall's dead leaves out of corners? To cut all the campus grass and not just the lawns that are in the middle of everything.

Wouldn't it be nice to say the whole campus is pretty and not just the few small parts they have decided to spruce up?

POLITY - YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Summer COCA Movies

Movie:	Date:
The Whole Nine Yards	July 25-26
Erin Brockovich	August 1-2
Final Destination	August 8-9

All COCA Movies will take place in the Union Auditorium @ 6:00pm

Attention all active Summer Clubs and Organizations:

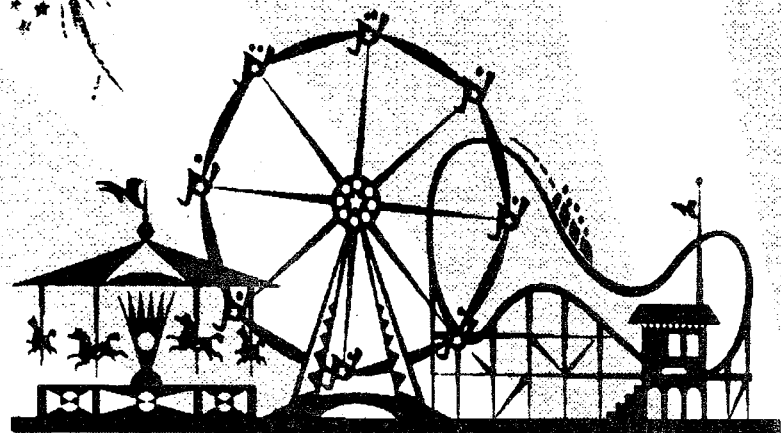
There is a **limited** amount of funds still available for Summer programming. If you are interested in obtaining additional funds please call Kaedrea Jackson @ 2-6473 immediately. Please understand a request for additional funds does **not** guarantee you will receive it.

Stony Brook Concerts can use some help in the upcoming year!!!

If you are enrolled for the upcoming academic year AND will be around for Summer Session II AND have a passion for new or upcoming or popular or vital or fun bands/artists AND are interested in helping out in any of the facets of planning a major event on campus (contracts / budgets / hospitality / booking / advertising / promoting / planning) then PLEASE get in touch (632-6454 / concerts@ic.sunysb.edu) or come by the Polity Suite, room 202 of the Student Activities Center, and fill out an application.

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Ticket price: \$20 on campus. 2 tickets per SBID. Tickets go on sale July 20th. Price includes admission into theme park and round trip bus transportation. The bus departs at 7:00am sharp from the SAC loop and returns at 11pm. Tickets can be purchased at the Polity Suite located in the SAC 202, 10-3pm. For more info call at 2-6460

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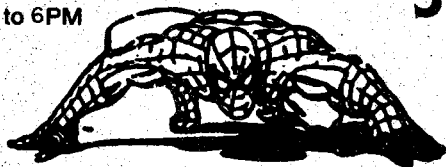
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Brown Tide Hits LI Waters, USB Researchers Worried

By ERIN ROSENKING
Statesman Editor

There's something lurking in the waters off of Long Island and it may not be as dangerous as Jaws but it is as ugly.

The nuisance is algal bloom, also known as brown tide. It has invaded the island's south shore beaches for yet another season, creating what researchers at Stony Brook's Marine Sciences Research Center are calling the worst problem of its kind in years. Particularly hard hit this year is Great South Bay.

According to Robert Cerrato, one of the researchers at the MSRC, brown tide is the name given to an algal bloom caused by a algae species known as *Aureococcus anophagefferens* in the science world, with photosynthetic pigments that give it its brown color. Although it is tiny in size at less than two microns, it has wreaked havoc in Long Island waters before, virtually eradicating a once thriving scallop industry in the Peconic Bay, which at one point was worth close to \$2 million. Because of the short life span of scallops, usually no longer than two years, the loss of just one spawning season can mean disaster for the population for years to come.

The bloom, which was unknown to scientists prior to 1985, has been studied by scientists from the MSRC for more than 13 years. The Center, which studies coastal oceanographic processes and atmospheric sciences in both the natural and academic settings, has yet to identify the actual conditions that trigger a bloom. They have also not been able to identify a likely season the blooms will develop. "Brown tides usually occur in the summer but this is not always true," Cerrato said.

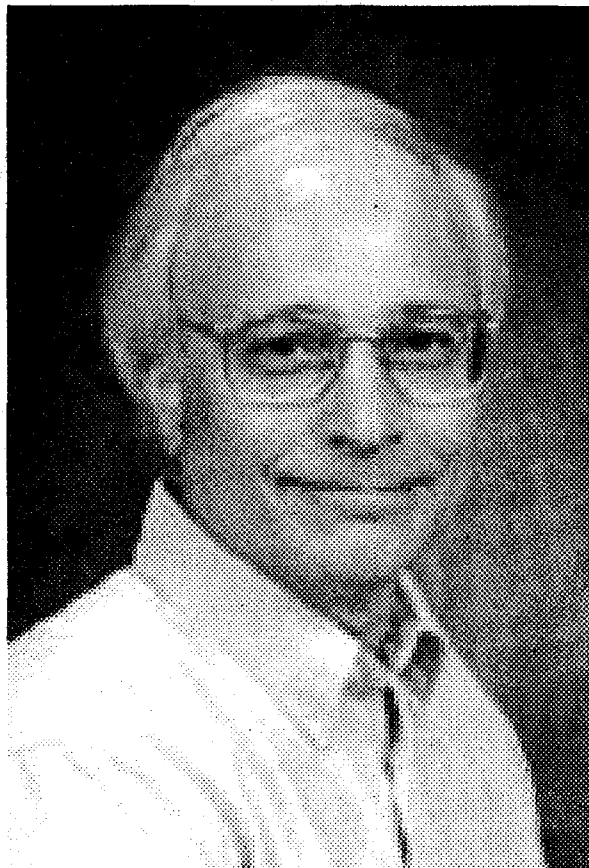
Gordon Taylor, associate professor at the Center calls this season's bloom one of the most intensive and extensive he and his fellow researchers have ever seen. "This is the earliest case of brown tide we have ever seen in the Great South Bay," Taylor said. It began in April this year, but last year the Bay did not see it until September, Cerrato said.

Even more puzzling, the brown tide organism does appear throughout the Atlantic Ocean but according to Taylor, rarely produces brown tides anywhere else but around Long Island. "The most challenging and interesting question we need to answer is,

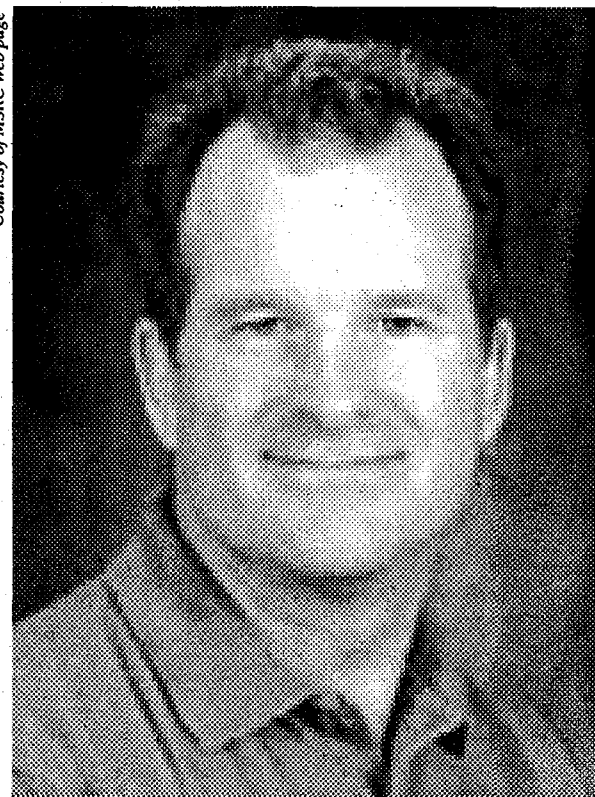
'Why has it chosen Long Island's bays as its home and nowhere else?' Once we answer this, solutions for controlling the problem will be easier to identify."

Although the MSRC has yet to understand the development of brown tides, it has focused its research on such possible causes as the flow of groundwater into local bays and the meteorological influences such as rainfall, winds that can affect water circulation as well as water temperatures. Cerrato said that nutrients like phosphates and nitrates, which are usually associated with pollution, do not seem to trigger outbreaks, however there may be a link between organic and inorganic nutrients and the blooms.

But what is in the water may be able to curb the



Courtesy of MSRC web page



Gordon Taylor (above), associate professor at the MSRC, and Robert Cerrato (left), a researcher at the Center, both said that this is the earliest case of brown tide the Center has ever seen in the Great South Bay.

brown tides. According to tests conducted by David Caron of the University of Southern California and other MSRC scientists, there may be a link between the presence of hard shell clams and the absence of brown tides. In experiments supported by the New York Sea Grant, several three foot by five foot saltwater tanks were set up at test sites containing numbers of algae cells. Some tanks held clams and after nutrients such as urea, ammonia and nitrates were added, the tanks with the clams were found to be clear while those without them had many brown tide cells. Clams are filter feeders, feeding off of the food particles held in water as they filter it through their systems and possibly the particles that cause the blooms.

"The absence of hard clams may make bays and creeks more susceptible to brown tides," said Bob Nuzzi, head of the New York State Health Department's Bureau of Marine Resources in a prepared statement.

Although causes and solutions are inconclusive, the damaging effect of brown tides is clear. Cerrato said that there has not been much study of how it effects bottom animals or fish but he said that eel grass is harmed. Living on the bottom, the grass is shaded and it grows poorly. "The bloom is often so dense that little light reaches the bottom," he said. "It often dies if the bloom lasts for a long period of time."

It might damage grass, but Cerrato said that brown tides offer no risk to another water animal, humans. Although it may reduce the amount of recreation, the tides pose no human health threat. "The algae is totally harmless to people," Cerrato said. "Because the water turns brown, most people think it is dirty."

"The most challenging and interesting question we need to answer is, 'Why has it chosen Long Island's bays as its home and nowhere else?' ..."

- Professor Gordon Taylor

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Features

Watch Out, AT&T

Elimination of Phone Bills is a Click Away

By KAT FULGIERI
Statesman Editor

It's been over 200 years since Alexander Graham Bell placed the first call using his new invention, and a great deal has changed since the first telephone was introduced into the American market. The phone has given rise to countless companies and services in this country, and all ventures are built around one main selling point that hasn't changed since 1876 - communication is necessary.

Analysis of search results provided on directhit.com, a website that rates the most visited sites on the internet, shows that the top five sites visited by college students carry advertisements for one of these services.

As the phone tends to be a staple of daily life, so does the aggravations of monthly invoices, service charges, and confusing long distance rates. Add that to the advertising onslaught of courtesy calls and television spots and it becomes clear that Americans must be ripe for the introduction of an easier way. At least that's what the barrage of internet based mass telephone services are banking on.

In the past six months, a plethora of companies extolling the virtues of free and easy phone service have surfaced, all promising that the answer has finally arrived. As a demographic with specific concerns about phone bills, college students stand to benefit from these programs.

Pete Kane, a student at New York University, used to have an average phone bill of \$20 a month. "The school rates are actually really good," he said, "but it's a pretty significant savings to go from \$20 to nothing." Kane is a member of a program called Freeway. Internet users can create accounts online at www.freeway.com. Members dial an 800 number and then listen to various advertisements, and garner minutes to speak on the phone based upon the number of ads.

If the prospect of listening to recorded advertisements sounds tedious, there are many other options available for students who wish to cut their monthly phone expenses. A service called phonehog.com recently launched a major internet-based advertising campaign that promises to make the household phone bill a thing of the past.

Potential members are invited to create a free



It's okay to hog the phone if you can talk for free, promises phonehog.com.

account at phonehog.com, and each new member is assigned a PIN number. Phonehog then mails

"In the past six months, a plethora of companies extolling the virtues of free and easy phone service have surfaced, all promising that the answer has finally arrived."

members emails with hypertext links to their sponsor's websites. Each visit to a sponsor website credits minutes to member accounts, which is good for long distance and local calling. Additional minutes can be gained by referring friends and acquaintances to the service.

"The reason I like this service is because there's no hassle. You don't have to worry about day, evening or long distance rates," said Sean

Holihan, another NYU student. Response to Phonehog's tactics, though, have been mixed. "My mailbox is filled with junk from them and their sponsors," said Phonehog member Julie Foley, a student at Catholic University. "I don't really have time to read them all, and I don't get that many minutes."

Another alternative to standard phone service is found in the barrage of internet phone services that have begun to expand in recent months. Companies like Vocaltech and Dialpad are capitalizing on the internet craze by offering direct phone calls through the computer. This eliminates long distance charges, but involves more expenses for anyone who wants to give it a try, including the purchase of various hardware components that will transform a standard computer into a vocal communications console.

Shawna Brandle, a freshman at Georgetown University, uses an internet phone at home. "It's confusing," she admitted, "and the sound quality isn't as good as a telephone so I usually don't bother with it."

The quality of internet phone service, though, has been greatly improved in the past few months, with streamlined technology and new products being introduced to the market every day. Only time will tell if these new ventures will succeed, but in the meantime, every average college student can benefit from the entrepreneurship of others.