

Stony Brook's Summer 2003 in Review

Nine Seconds, Eight States, 50 Million Blind New Master's

Stony Brook's Bout With the Blackout of 2003

By EMY KURIAKOSE
Statesman Editor

America's northeastern seaboard took an early leave from work on August 14 when the largest power outage in history left more than 50 million people in the dark. Stony Brook summer residents and summer camp participants waited for more than a day before power returned to the campus. University Hospital survived with the help of generators through what Suffolk County EMS deemed a "Signal 1," or disaster/severe emergency.

"There were no security problems, no one was hurt, no crimes were reported, and there were no accidents [during the blackout]," said Douglas Little, Deputy Chief of the University Police.

All emergency services were on call during the incident, and communication was maintained through the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that was immediately put into effect once the blackout occurred.

According to Gary Kaczmarczyk, Emergency Management Coordinator, classes were cancelled immediately and



Stony Brook's power plant could not operate without power from LIPA.

buildings without lights were cleared by security. Little and Kaczmarczyk accredit the maintenance of safety to the work of the EOC.

"We were able to secure the safety of the Stony Brook community through cooperation with EHS (Emergency Health Services) and UPD (University Policed Department)," said Ann Teng, Chief of Operations in the Stony Volunteer Ambulance Corps. "For the future, I would like to have a backup generator so that our pagers would work for extended periods of

time. If it had taken longer for power to come back, our equipment would have failed."

While Stony Brook has its own physical plant on West Campus that powers the hospital, campus and veteran's home, the plant failed to run because it lacked supplemental power it needs from LIPA to run effectively.

"We have a co-generation facility on campus that generates steam and

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New Master's Programs To Begin at SBU Manhattan

By MAURY HIRSCHKORN
Statesman Staff



The Stony Brook philosophy department will be offering two new master's programs in its Manhattan campus this Fall: Philosophy and the Arts, directed by Philosophy Professor Edward Casey, and Gender, Race and Ethnicity, directed by Associate Philosophy

Professor Eduardo Mendieta.

The Philosophy and the Arts master's program will focus on painting, sculpture, music, dance and architecture, and the Gender, Race and Ethnicity master's program will be of particular relevance to people living in the city, according to Casey.

"The master's program is especially well suited for city dwellers because it contends with issues that are part of their lives," Casey said.

"Both foci are attractive, useful and relevant to the kind of urban dweller that seeks to enhance their credentials and intellectual life," Mendieta said. Both Casey and Mendieta stated that no similar master's programs exist in New York City or Long Island, and Mendieta added that these two programs are mostly tailored for students who have finished their undergraduate education.

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Jim Fiore Named Director of Athletics

By MANSOOR KHAN
Statesman Editor

Stony Brook's 1999 inception into Division I brought much needed attention to its athletic department. Since it received membership in the America East Conference in 2002, SBU has boosted its athletics greatly, opening the Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium in 2002. The integration of Jim Fiore, the former senior associate athletic director at Princeton University into the athletic program is another step in Stony Brook's progressive outlook on athletics.

Fiore, a 34-year old native of Long Island, will be the ninth Director of Athletics at Stony Brook University, succeeding Richard Laskowski, who announced in April that he would step down. Fiore will be responsible for the oversight of the University's

20 intercollegiate athletics programs, which are comprised of 10 men's and 10 women's sports.

"I am looking forward to this tremendous opportunity and the challenges we will face as we chart the course of success at Stony Brook," said Fiore. "Our core goal will be to make Stony Brook's outstanding combination of athletics and academics a shining example not only for the America East Conference, but also for the entire country."

During Fiore's tenure, Princeton achieved unprecedented success on the fields of play and in the classroom.



President Shirley Sturm Kenny and Senator Kenneth P. LaValle welcomed Jim Fiore (center) with a Seawolves shirt and cap.

Ranked the number one University by U.S. News And World Report, Princeton has finished among the Top 25 in the Sears Director's Cup standings in three of the last five years and is the only

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Stony Brook Names Head of Athletics Department

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non-scholarship institution to ever finish in the Top 25. Fiore worked in all facets of Princeton's internal and external operations, including the athletic programming oversight of all varsity sport programs and personnel matters, as well as the coordination of national searches, employment contracts, employee performance appraisals and capital facility projects.

"[Fiore] is a tremendously talented leader and administrator who understands that the proper role of intercollegiate athletics is to advance the educational mission of the university," said Gary Walters, the Director of Athletics at Princeton. "[He] has high standards that will raise the overall level of performance in the athletic department. Stony Brook has made an enlightened choice."

Fiore began his career as an intern at Princeton, assisting the Director of Athletics for one year. He then worked as an assistant to the executive director of the National Invitational Tournament, and subsequently interned in the compliance office at Fordham University. From 1995 to 1999, Fiore served as the assistant director of athletics at Dartmouth, aiding the oversight of 34

intercollegiate programs.

"What we are looking for is a really strong athletic program with a really strong academic tradition," said

Fiore formerly took Princeton to the Top 25 in the Sears Director's Cup standings

Senator Kenneth P. LaValle, a major contributor to Stony Brook University's athletic program. "[This] is a marriage of a first-class individual, Jim Fiore, to a first-class institution with first-class people."

Fiore graduated from Long Beach High School and went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts degree in liberal arts in 1991 from Hofstra, where he played free safety for the football team. He later earned a Master's of Education degree in athletic administration from Springfield College in 1994.

"We will work as hard as we can in attaining the greatest for scholar-athletes," said Fiore. "Together we will bring this department to great heights. I look forward to a bright, prosperous future—and go, Seawolves!"

SBU Master's Philosophy Moves to Manhattan

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"[This] is really aimed at post-graduate students and continuing education students, that is, people with a BA or BS who want to pursue a graduate degree, or who may be pursuing some sort of certificate to teach at the college or high school level," he said. Also, both professors hope those programs will bring much needed publicity for Stony Brook's Long Island campus.

"Our faculty, programs and degrees stand shoulder to shoulder, and sometimes tower over the same programs at Columbia, NYU, the New School and so on," said Mendieta. "Yet we seem to lack a presence or readily recognized identity. SB might as well be in a separate state. Being in Manhattan will without doubt earn SB priceless recognition in the area."

"We've got a very good response," Casey said. "Not just in New York City and Long Island, but people in 8 to 10 states were interested."

Stony Brook's Manhattan campus opened in February 2002. Located at 401 Park Avenue South (at 28th Street), it has graduate courses in social welfare, contemporary lit-

New programs will focus on painting, sculpture, music, dance and architecture

erature, Latin American studies, art, architecture and others.

Stony Brook students offered mixed responses to their satellite campus in Manhattan. Lysana Fauvel, a Stony Brook philosophy graduate student praised the new master's programs.

"It's a great idea because it brings in funds and gives people opportunities," she said. "Also, people in the city can hear about Stony Brook. Stony Brook doesn't do enough advertising."

"I feel they should offer more undergraduate programs in Manhattan, not just masters programs," said Erica Rodrigues, a health science major. "When I went to Stony Brook in Manhattan, they didn't have the undergraduate program I wanted."

Anyone interested in either of the philosophy master's programs at Stony Brook Manhattan can call the Stony Brook philosophy department at (631) 632-7570.



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Chemistry On a Leash: How to 'Yield' Control ³

By ROHIT DAS
Statesman Editor

In recent years, one of the more promising and growing fields in the physical sciences has been mode-selective chemistry, which focuses on removing undesired byproducts of commercial chemical reactions, thus increasing the yield of the desired commercial product.

Most of the techniques used in this field involve high precision lasers. However, scientists at Brookhaven National Laboratories, along with collaborators at the Fritz-Haber-Institut in Germany, have discovered new techniques involving the use of low temperature Scanning Tunneling Microscopy.

STM works through manipulating and detecting electrons from both the microscope as well as the sample. By allowing these electrons to interact, scientists can potentially determine the structure of the sample on an atomic level. More importantly, scientists can use these techniques to cause the sample to move to a site of higher reactivity.

"We found that the motion of the molecule can be controlled by tuning the parameters of the tunneling electrons: the



BNL chemists are pursuing research that could decrease waste in chemical reactions.

electronic current and energy," said Zhen Song, a research associate at Brookhaven National Laboratories. "We are able to select a particular reaction pathway by adjusting the electronic tunneling current and energy."

If thoroughly developed for commercial use, STM can have a great impact on the chemical industry. Reaction pathways that are desired can be favored to a far greater degree than they have been through current mode-selective chemistry techniques. Consequently, the amount of waste products accumulated will decrease

significantly, and more of the desired product will be attained. Furthermore, STM may also provide reaction pathways that are completely unattainable currently.

Such pathways are achieved by providing a certain amount of energy to a reaction through electron tunneling. When energy above a certain threshold is given to the system, tunneling electrons induce molecular vibrations that cause molecules to move to regions on the substrate where more efficient and productive reactions can occur. Below

this threshold energy, the molecules simply disassociate from the substrate.

Though Song has only tested these methods on simple ammonia and copper substrate systems, she realizes that they can also be applied to more difficult processes.

"It would be interesting to extend this methodology to more complex processes, for example, by searching for strategies of controlling and enhancing reactivity at surfaces through the discovery of new reaction pathways that are inaccessible via classical 'thermal' chemistry," Song said. STM techniques are further proof of how modern technology has allowed scientists to manipulate and even control the smallest types of matter.

"As a chemistry major, it really does give me something to think about," said Brian Friedlich, a junior at Stony Brook University. "The mechanisms and pathways that we learn about now would become arbitrary. Chemists would simply design their own mechanisms by predetermining exactly what substances interact."

Ultimately, mode-selective chemistry will provide more efficient and cost-effective methods of chemical manufacturing, and

Stony Brook Community Reacts to Blackout

By MAURY HIRSCHKORN
Statesman Staff

Almost everyone in New York has stories about the day of the blackout. At Stony Brook, students and faculty shared their experiences with *Statesman*. Some had meetings cancelled, some had classes cancelled, and others could not get home.

"I was in the Student Activities Center in the middle of a meeting in a conference room when all the lights went out," said Janice Costanzo, Craft Center Coordinator. "We had to end the meeting. People were worried when they tried to call maintenance or their loved ones on cell phones and regular phones and couldn't get through. Some people thought it was terrorism."

Costanzo then went to her office in

the Student Union. "I could see in the hallways because there were backup lights," she said. "In my office, I tried to call my family and couldn't get through."

"People were worried when they couldn't get through to their loved ones. Some people thought it was terrorism."

I heard there was a traffic jam leaving the college, so I waited to go home."

leisha Pimble, West Apartment office assistant in the Schomburg Resident Hall, had a similar experience. "I was standing at a computer in the [residence] office, and the lights went out," she said. "At first, I thought

it was me. Then I thought it was a brownout because we get them every summer because too many students use air conditioners. My cell phone wasn't working, but the office phone was ringing off the hook from students wanting to know what's going on. I called my sister, and she said they had no lights either."

Tamica Dance, an English major, described how a quiet evening in her dorm room in Undergraduate Apartment building "D" became hectic. "I was in my room watching TV, and then the TV went out," she said. "I tried to turn on the cell phone, but it wasn't charging. I tried to call friends and my parents on the regular phone, but that wasn't working either."

"I have a friend who visits me when her class is over at 4:45 p.m., just before

she takes the train to Brooklyn," Dance said. "She came in at 4:35 p.m. She said she was having class, the lights went out, she couldn't see anything, and the teacher decided to let the class out."

Dance's friend decided to stay with her the whole night. "We decided to get something to eat before it got dark," Dance said. "We went to Cosmos. They were making food in the dark. Also, we saw that Dunkin' Donuts was giving away free ice cream. We went back to our apartment and saw that everyone was outside. People went to the supermarket, bought portable grills and were barbecuing. With a girl who had a flashlight, we went around to other dorms, picked up eight other girls and went into my suite to talk until 2 a.m."

UGA and New Apartments Change Name

By JEFFERY JAVIDFAR
Editor Emeritus

Although the uncanny weather that drenched the month of June slowed down its construction, one major change has begun to redefine the landscape of the apartments located behind Kelly and Roosevelt Quads. No longer simply known as UGA and the "new graduate apartments behind UGA that won't be ready for a while," the collective apartments are now being called the "West Apartments."

Head of Campus Residences, Assistant Vice President Dallas Bauman, Ph.D., said the change was decided upon so that students would consider the buildings as one entity and not UGA and the new apartments. He wanted students to select their living space based on the type of accommodations and lifestyle they preferred and not simply where graduates and undergraduates traditionally had lived.

The four buildings under construction will contain a total of 678 beds with each apartment offering six singles, two bathrooms, a large kitchen, and a dining and living area. The new apartments, which were designed by Urban Architects, Ltd, will also contain laundry facilities on each floor.

Currently, the \$39.5 million project, which is being funded by 30-year bonds sold by the New York State Dormitory Authority, is in its first phase of construction. The land on the construction sight has been cleared and Delta Contractors has been hired to build the footings and foundation.

Although Bauman is hopeful that two of the buildings will be ready in time for the Fall 2004 semester, with the remaining two opening in the spring of 2005, the project has already encountered several roadblocks.

The rainy weather in June slowed down the construction of the first phase,

and a general contractor that will manage the entire project has yet to be selected. Bauman said that the bids were due in July, but it was clear that he is more than eager to

Demand for campus housing moved administrators to create 678 new beds

have the major construction underway.

Once fully completed, the eight buildings will contain over 1200 beds and come equipped with a fitness center, a commons area, office space and a residential computing center.

The West Apartments will be open to upperclassmen and graduates. A choice of single or double rooms will be available in six person units.

Because Stony Brook received money from a wealthy donor, the Schomburg Apartments will not change their name, but they will be managed as part of the quad or complex referred to as the West Apartments. Previously UGA, Schomburg and Chapin, which is located across from the University Hospital, were all managed out of the Chapin offices. But from now on the east and west parts of campus will be completely separate entities.

The construction of the new apartments was spurred on by the growing demand for on-campus housing. Bauman said he doesn't see the demand diminishing, but that there were too many factors to make predictions.

"I don't think anybody is in any position to predict," he said. "But we don't hope there is a drop in demand because we are taking on a significant amount of debt over the next 30 years."

Experience Stony Brook: Opening Activities

Wednesday, September 3

FIRST DAY OF CLASSES

Target Red Room Extravaganza, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., SAC Plaza.

Part-Time Job Fair, 11a.m. - 2:00 p.m., Sports Complex.

Street Fair, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., between Chemistry Building and Melville Library.

Thursday, September 4

Welcome Reception for Commuter Students, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m., Commuter Commons, 144 SAC.

Student Affairs Welcome, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m., SAC Ballroom B/Courtyard.

Scooping Out Success, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., SAC Lobby.

Hypnotist, 9:00 p.m., SAC Auditorium.

Friday, September 5

Comedy Show, 9:00 - 11:00 p.m., SAC Auditorium.

Hillel Welcome Back Shabbat Dinner & Program, 7:00 p.m., Roth Kosher Cafeteria.

Saturday, September 6

Carnival, 7:00 - 11:00 p.m., SAC Plaza.

Hillel Shabbat Lunch & Program, 12:30 p.m., Stony Brook Union 249.

Sunday, September 7

Sunday Mass, 5:00 p.m., Catholic Campus Ministry, Stony Brook Union Ballroom.

Catholic Campus Ministry Welcome Dinner, 6:00 p.m., Stony Brook Union Ballroom.

Monday, September 8

Health Science Center Welcome Fest, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., HSC Level 2 Patio.

Casino Night, 6:00 - 10:00 p.m., Campus Connection at H Quad. Free games and prizes for all SBU students.

Tuesday, September 9

Scream for the team! Yankee Game Trip, 7:00 p.m. Sign-ups begin Sept. 3 in SAC 219

Commuter Connection, 7:45 - 9:45 a.m., Commuter Commons, 144 SAC Lounge.

Wednesday, September 10

Fraternity & Sorority Fair, 12:40 - 2:10 p.m., SAC Plaza.

Career Center Welcome Back BBQ, 12:40 - 2:10 p.m., end of Zebra Path.

Hillel Open House & Free Pizza Lunch, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., Union 249.

OPEN COURSE - JAVITS 110 TUESDAY NIGHT ONLY 6:30 TO 9:20 "AMERICA IN THE 1960'S" PROFESSOR BURNER

This semester's theme will be set to some degree in the heat of current events. In what respects may Iraq be a replay of Vietnam? To what extent does the candidacy of Howard Dean have a likeness for the Democrats in George McGovern's losing race of 1972? Does race still figure significantly in American life as it did during the civil rights and black power movements? Will President Bush's deficit spending weaken Great Society programs such as Medicare, Head Start, food stamps - and can Social Security withstand the stress? All views welcomed! Syllabus on office door 345S SBS. Email for late registration permission: sjeanayers@aol.com

Shedding Light on SBU After Blackout

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needs power from LIPA to kick it off. Since it didn't get that power, it wasn't working. But once it got that power from LIPA, it started working at 8 p.m."

Bruce Germano, Vice President for Retail Services at LIPA, dealt with issues that arose with Stony Brook University and University Hospital.

"This event was clearly something that no one had anticipated," Germano said. "When you loose all power, you need power to restart the system. We had diesel engines that are self-powered, and we needed to get them started first."

While LIPA was able to get electricity back to much of the Brookhaven township, the university and hospital could not be put online because of problems that arose at the Physical Plant.

"When you loose all the load, the generators turned off," said Germano. "Simply putting it, you're dealing with one machine that failed. LIPA sent people to the University to help repair the unit, and with the cooperation and help from the University officials we were able to get the system running by Friday."

Even with the problems that arose with repairs, Patrick Calabria, Director of Communications for the Health Sciences Center, said that the hospital faired very well considering the circumstances.

"There were no outstanding incidents and we were able to treat all the patients that came in," Calabria said. "We have an emergency preparedness plan that kicked in with the help of the EOC. We even maintained patient visiting hours."

Though Stony Brook evaded immediate threats to its population, it suffered several financial losses during the one-day period. The FSA reported a loss of \$13,500 from food spoilage. Dietary Services estimates another \$3,500 loss.

"By the time the blackout hit, most

food was already prepared for dinner," said Angela Agnello, Director of Marketing and Communications for Faculty Student Association (FSA). "The perishable food items that were frozen were barbequed and served to RA's and Summer Camps. Anyone who came to the SAC was redirected to pick up sandwiches that we had prepared."

Food deliveries on Friday were placed with the assistance of J. King's, a private company that rented out freezer trucks to transport food on a meal-by-meal basis. Next year, the FSA will work a generator into its budget with the help of Executive Director Kevin Kelly, Agnello said.

"We hope to have a generator for either the SAC, because of it's central location, or Kelly, because it has more storage," Agnello said. "We want to prevent this from happening again. We were prepared this time because we have emergency planning drills every year on how to serve food safely if there is no electricity."

Officials who worked to confront the crisis stressed the importance of effective communication throughout the emergency. Germano and Bret Cunningham, Vice President of Communications at LIPA, explained that University Hospital, Stony Brook University, and LIPA will have teams working together to understand exactly what went wrong in order to prevent a reoccurrence.

"We had to deal with something no one had every seen," Cunningham asserted. "We understand the importance of the university and hospital and we're all working together on how to improve the system."

"The entire blackout took 9 seconds. No amount of human intervention would have prevented that," Germano said. "There were lessons learned, and we're on top of this working actively to find solutions for the future."

STUDENTS WANTED Community Service Opportunity

The Office of the Student Judiciary Invites Undergraduate and Graduate Students to Serve the University Community as Administrative Hearing Board Volunteers.

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For an application, see <http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/judiciary/application> or pick one up at 347 Administration Building between 8:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

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Bible Study - Third Saturdays 9:00 am

Men's Breakfast - Third Saturdays 8:00 am

Former College President Heads Iraqi Ministry

By DANIEL DEL CASTELLO
Chronicle of Higher Education

The American occupation authorities governing Iraq have chosen a new senior adviser to oversee the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research. John Agresto, a former president of St. John's College, in Santa Fe, N.M., was formally selected this month and is scheduled to assume his post in Baghdad in the next two weeks.

Agresto will replace Andrew P.N. Erdmann, a former member of the U.S. State Department's Policy Planning Staff who left Iraq last week to begin a new appointment on the National Security Council.

Agresto's contract specifies an 18-month assignment that is extendable. "I was told the job would take anywhere from four months to forever, but it certainly can't be done in four months," he said. "The Iraqis had one of the finest systems of higher education years ago, and it's simply a

question of helping them rebuild what they once had. The physical situation of the universities in some cases is fine, I've heard, and in other cases is disastrous, so they need help rebuilding their libraries down to even basics such as getting paper, chairs, and pens -- and so many computers have been lost."

As senior adviser to Iraq's higher-education ministry, Agresto will have broad powers to determine policy and set a course for the future of higher education there. He will be the higher-education minister in all but name. Iraq's former minister of higher education, who was No. 43 on a most-wanted list published by the United States, was captured earlier this year. A new Iraqi minister has yet to be chosen, and no timetable for an appointment has been announced by the occupation authorities.

U.S. officials in Baghdad welcomed news of Mr. Agresto's appointment. "John Agresto has been a president of

a small liberal-arts college, and he comes in as an established administrator," said Lt. Col. Stephen Curda, a U.S. Army civil-affairs officer who will be Agresto's deputy. "I think we're at a logical transition going from project management to focusing on university activities to move the universities up to the next level, and it's really possible to do that with his experience and knowledge."

Critics of the American authorities' control of Iraqi higher education said the appointment of an academic from outside the United States government represented measured progress toward independence for Iraqi academics and their institutions. "The replacement of Erdmann with a university professional was one of our key recommendations," said Keith Watenpaugh, a professor of Islamic history at Le Moyne College, who as part of a recent delegation to Iraq to survey its universities helped write a report, "Opening the Doors: Intellectual

Life and Academic Conditions in Post-War Baghdad."

"This is a hesitant step in the right direction," he said. But "I doubt that his appointment signals any change whatsoever in the underlying colonial ethos" of the occupation authorities.

Before serving as president of St. John's College, Agresto held several senior posts, including deputy chairman, at the National Endowment for the Humanities under President Ronald Reagan. He was an early member of the National Association of Scholars, an organization that has supported tradition-minded curriculums and opposed affirmative action. Agresto, who has a Ph.D. in government from Cornell University and has written several political-science books, is also president of John Agresto and Associates, an educational-consulting firm. St. John's College is known for its traditional approach to academics centered on a

Video Games Help Students? Educators Say Yes

By SCOTT CARLSON
Chronicle of Higher Education

James Gee is a distinguished professor of education at the University of Wisconsin's flagship campus, but it is conversations about video games that win his undivided attention. He can tell you how to beat fantasy games like Everquest and Morrowind. The adult in him talks about the moral complexities of Grand Theft Auto, which is often slammed in the media for being sexist and ultraviolent. The kid in him will say that the game is a hell of a lot of fun to play.

"People ought to use Grand Theft Auto in the classroom to think about values and ideology," he says. "There are lots of things people could learn from games."

This isn't the talk of a hobbyist or an eccentric, but of a serious scholar who is taking a lead in an emerging field. Gee thinks that video games -- even those like Return to Castle Wolfenstein, in which players run around and blast Nazis -- hold the key to salvaging American education. His argument was recently delivered in a compact book: *What Video Games Have to Teach Us About Learning and Literacy* (Palgrave Macmillan).

Celia Pearce is the associate director of the Game Culture and Technology Lab at the University of California at Irvine, where two years ago the faculty rejected a proposal for a minor in game design. A professor on the committee that made the decision called the idea of a video-games minor "prurient," she says.

She finds it "baffling" that schools these days use a "pre-information-society model" in teaching. "Kids are playing games when they are not in school. They are going from this digital environment into the classroom, and they're suddenly in Dickens." Teachers and professors don't know what games are, or how to use them to their own advantage, she says. "At the worst they fear games, and at the best they are completely ignorant of them."

"Some young person is going to spend \$50 on this, yet they won't take 50 minutes to learn algebra," Gee says. "I wanted to know why."

He says that game manufacturers deal with a compelling paradox from which educators can learn.

Games have to be challenging enough to entertain, yet easy enough to solve -- or

at least easy enough for the player to feel like he or she is making progress. "To me, that was the challenge schools face," he says. "I wanted to see why these game designers are better at that."

Research shows, Gee says, that people learn best when they are entertained, when they can use creativity to work toward complex goals, when lesson plans incorporate both thinking and emotion, and when the consequences of actions can be observed. Those needs, he says, aren't met in college or school classrooms, where students are often given lists of facts, told to memorize them, and expected to regurgitate them on tests or in essays.

Video games, on the other hand, immerse people in worlds and make them rely on problem-solving skills to reach defined goals. In a well-designed game, people can even learn new skills and see the consequences of their knowledge, or their ignorance, as their scores climb or fall. Assessment is a cinch -- every keystroke and high score is recordable.

Edward C. Smith, the director of the American-studies program at American University, sees video games and other technology as distractions that lead to the

dumbing-down of college classrooms. He fondly remembers the days when he had to sit quietly with a book and memorize whole passages of Shakespeare. "I know where I'm coming from is completely out of the loop of where things are going," he says, adding that many of his students are ignorant, unsophisticated, uncreative, and shameless about what they don't know.

"I see an intellectual devolution, not a revolution, here," he says. "If you're going to replace traditional methods of education with something new, you should replace it with something better. If this guy thinks that playing some video game is the equivalent of memorizing a Shakespeare soliloquy, that's crazy."

Gee replies: "It's not the equivalent. It's more the equivalent of being able to produce a play, of being able to make up poetry. I think people ought to produce things rather than memorize."

"Let's keep in mind that Shakespeare in its time was popular entertainment, and that the elite looked down upon it," he adds. "We all know that some of the things that kids know now will be elite knowledge."

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

All letters and opinion pieces must include the author's name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Please type all submissions. Anonymous and handwritten submissions will not be printed. Please keep all submissions to a maximum of 650 words. Statesman reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, language and readability.

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Wisdom in Another's Eyes

By Emy Kuriakose
Statesman Editor

I sat in the dark van and listened to the rumble of dirt and rocks under the wheels. The sun had just set on the Serengeti and I wrapped my sweatshirt around me as the chill of a Tanzanian winter night settled in. I could still see traces of the bright orange sky through the acacia trees lined along the horizon. I wished then that I could sit there and watch this scene as it unfolded everyday, as it had for ages before then.

The same time next week, I would be sitting at home in New York knowing that the sun was setting in Africa, knowing that baboons would be sleeping on the trees I had just passed, and knowing that I would always miss being there.

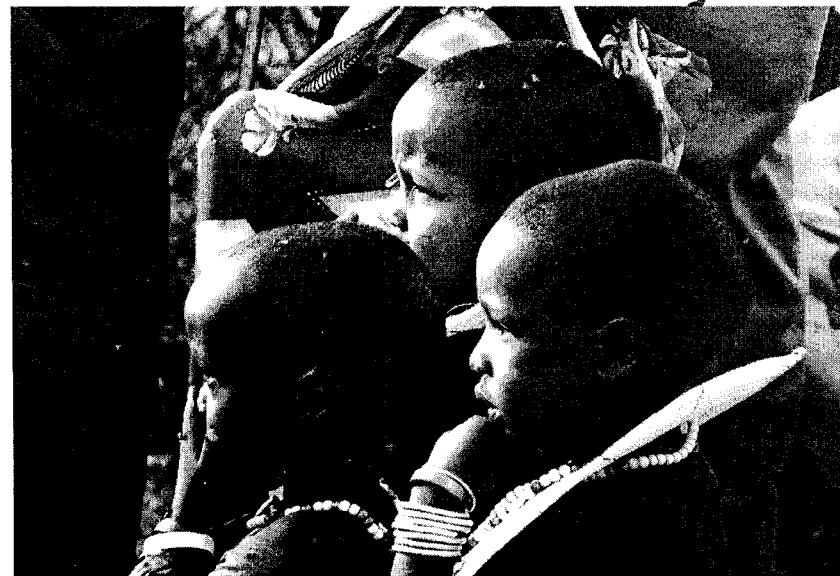
As we rounded a curve in the road, our driver slowed to a stop and calmly said, "Look, simba!" We sat up to see 20 lions surrounding the car. They were nonchalantly crossing the road as if they hadn't even seen us. Our headlights lit their bright yellow eyes as they strayed from a dead carcass on the floor to our van. Ignoring the driver's order to roll up our windows, I leaned closer to the scene. Two of them were fighting over the kill, and a male leapt up and stretched his arm out to claw another female. I heard his cavernous roar, a deep, rich tone that ran through my blood. While the others in the car screamed, I sat down, speechless. Our campsite was only 75 yards away from them.

All night, we could hear roaring and fighting in the distance. Surprisingly, they never came by the site, and I later found that they rarely bother campers. Still, that roar still resounds clearly in my mind, and I know that my life was held only by the van I was in.

Three weeks before that, I was sitting in a bus staring up at the dim light above my seat to find about 50 mosquitoes eagerly nestled in its glow. I remember thinking that I had just taken my malaria medicine on the plane, and feeling a little safer. All I could see that first night were bushes and dim lights along the road, but I stared into that vast darkness surrounding the road wanting to take in as much of Africa as I could.



Statesman/Emy Kuriakose



Statesman/Emy Kuriakose

The Tanzania Study Abroad program to me was a mystery then. I was to take medicine to avert a potentially fatal illness, learn Swahili, find an independent research project, climb halfway up Mt. Kilimanjaro and see the Serengeti—all in four weeks.

Magi ya Chai was the first village to greet our group of 15 Stony Brook students. Speaking Swahili with the proficiency of two-year olds, we ventured out into the town sporting our "hujambos" and "shikamooos" (greetings to equals and elders, respectively). Most people smirked appreciatively at our curiosity and attempts to communicate, and everyone was always willing to help. On either side of us stood deep green forests and hills spotted with rays of sunlight beaming through low-lying clouds.

In vain, I tried to imagine a life with mountains in my backyard and giraffes and elephants just a few miles away roaming freely at a national park. At the same time, I had to imagine a life with just one school uniform and a seventh grade education.

That week we met with students and children from the village who took classes at the community center we stayed at. Listening to Swahili rappers and dancing to African traditional rhythm and song, we spent the week sharing and learning from people we came to know as our friends.

That first Saturday, we embarked on our trek up Kilimanjaro. The climb was far from easy, with the path often towering above my head as I looked past each curve. We listened to a stream that followed alongside the trail, and we would often catch glimpses of waterfalls and blue monkeys along the way. As we neared the top, the rainforest changed to a blanket of pale green pines.

The group had split, and I found myself alone on the eerily overcast mountain. Through the piercing silence, I heard porters in the distance; workers that carried enormous sacks atop their heads to deliver to lodges along the mountain trails.

One woman I met told me she did it for the hela (money), and she asked for chocolate. I gave her my cookies and candy and continued along the way. The experience was bitter sweet, as I knew that my light hike was nothing compared to her burden. Her story brought the reality of the place back to me. This mountain was feeding her family, and hundreds of others in Tanzania. It's hard to really appreciate that just watching the Discovery channel.

When people ask me how my trip was, I tell them

Continued on Page 15

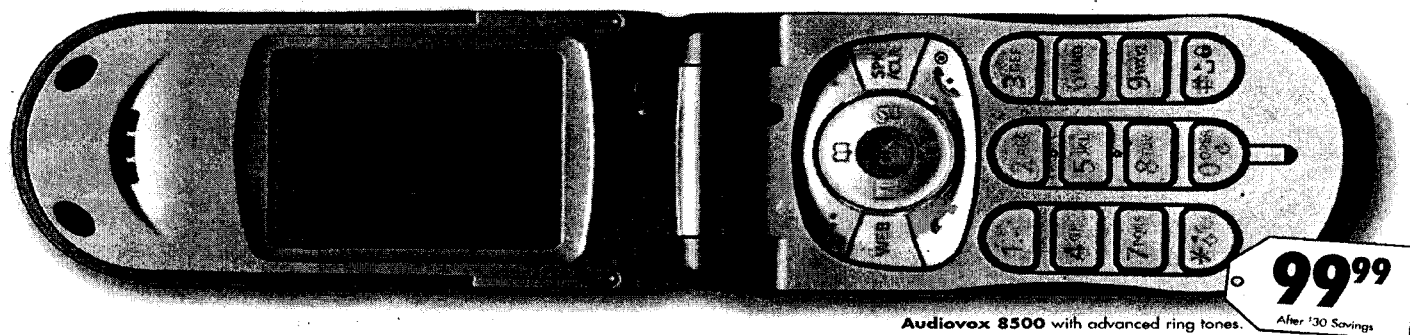
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Op-Ed

West Apartments: An Environmental Outrage??



Statesman/Mansoor Khan

The West Apartment construction does not pose as much a threat to the environment as commuters would have. Beds are less harmful than cars.

By PAUL CONRAD
Statesman Staff

A few lonely oaks linger on the ravaged hillside. The tree-clearing bulldozers sit silent in the rain, the runoff pouring through the construction fences to a murky pond below.

"It's like they snuck in and did it overnight. I didn't hear anything about it, I can't believe it!" This comment I remember from last spring reflects a continued disgust and disapproval for the construction underway behind the undergraduate apartments. All UGA residents have passed the "STOP KILLING TREES!" graffiti emblazoned on a construction authority trailer, and some have likely nodded their heads in approval.

Let's stop for a minute, though, and think beyond the undeniably unsightly mess we're living near now. Conserving the environment is rarely a straightforward, easily accomplished goal. It's important to remember that Campus Residences' job is neither to preserve nor to destroy Stony Brook's open spaces, but to meet the growing need

for on-campus housing. This is not to say that the West Apartments should not have been designed in a more environmentally responsible way. Taller buildings, less lawn space, and a multilevel parking garage all would have allowed more forest to be saved while providing an even greater number of beds.

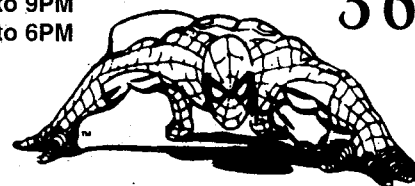
But with higher education's unending budget limitations, we must face reality—the cost would have been substantially higher. And so, to anyone outraged by the ongoing construction, I say this: on-campus housing is good for the environment. Though West Apartment residents may own cars, they primarily walk and bike to class. Those 672 new beds, as much as we may miss the forest they're replacing, will mean hundreds fewer cars on Nicholls Road in the morning, less automobile exhaust and burning of fossil fuels and less demand for new housing construction—and thus habitat destruction—in surrounding Suffolk county.

Environmentally, the West Apartments represent a reasonable compromise.

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Suffolk County Democrats Urge Students to Voice Opinions on Blackout

By EMY KURIAKOS
Statesman Editor

Suffolk County's political leaders have moved to enact changes in policies concerning power distribution following this year's blackout. Assemblyman Steve Englebright, along with Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld, Englebright's Chief of Staff and democratic candidate for Three Village-Port Jefferson Town Council, have called for an official town hearing concerning New York state's response to the crisis.

Fiore-Rosenfeld said that the University did not get power in a timely manner. "The Assemblyman is going to fight this," Fiore-Rosenfeld said. "When the University is the major economic engine of the community it should not be neglected."

As a former student of Stony Brook,

Fiore-Rosenfeld explained that battles always have to be fought for University students. "When the student population could not vote about 20 years ago, we, NYPIRG, had to put constant pressure on the State Assembly to change policies," he said.

For the proposed town hall meeting, the Assemblyman and his Chief of Staff will compile and submit a testimony of grievances to LIPA. "If another blackout takes place, we need to act now to change the policy," said Fiore-Rosenfeld. "The Stony Brook students need to have a larger say in what happens in this county."

Bruce Germano, Vice President of Retail Services at LIPA, stressed that, "there is much analysis going on to try to figure out what happened with getting power back [to Stony Brook]."



Courtesy of www.votesjr.com

Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld (left) and Assemblyman Steve Englebright (right) plan to testify on behalf of SBU and University Hospital at a town hall meeting.

There was a lot of confusion when the blackout occurred. We need better communication between the University and LIPA so that we can help out more effectively and prevent this in case of emergency."

Fiore-Rosenfeld said that the most important part of solving the problem is contact between students and Suffolk

County. Increased student involvement in Suffolk County policy making could lead to increased options for off-campus housing and land acquisition for the University.

"There's not a lot of direct communication between the Stony Brook students and the township," he said. "This has to change."

Stony Brook Honors College Reputation Grows

By JEFFREY JAVIDFAR
Editor Emeritus

National ratings show that Long Island has the highest concentration of the best public high schools in the nation. So it is understandable that it is important for those running Stony Brook's Honors College to be well received by the local community when they seek to recruit high achieving students from SBU's own backyard.

Over the past 13 years of the Honors College's existence, it has slowly made a concerted effort to improve its reputation. Making a name for itself not only at SBU, but also among its peers in higher education, allows the Honors College to compete for the best high school graduates.

Not less than four years ago, many of Long Island's top graduates considered Stony Brook, even its Honors College, as a safety school in case they didn't get into their top choice. Though it still may not be a student's number one choice, for those that live in Nassau and Suffolk Counties the university is becoming a viable second choice.

"I don't think that we need to act as a safety school," said Laurie Fiegel,

the College's administrative director. "There should be no stigma that, 'I'm coming to Stony Brook'."

For their part, those in charge of the Honors College feel that there is a lot to offer incoming students, especially when one considers that the \$14,000 price tag to go to school and live on campus is still less than half of what it would cost to attend a private university.

"My belief is that Stony Brook [University] as a whole, and the Honors College in particular, delivers the most bang for the buck," said Chair of the Honors College Richard Gerrig, Ph.D. "People waste a long of money

sending students to second rate private institutions when they could send [their child] to a first rate public school."

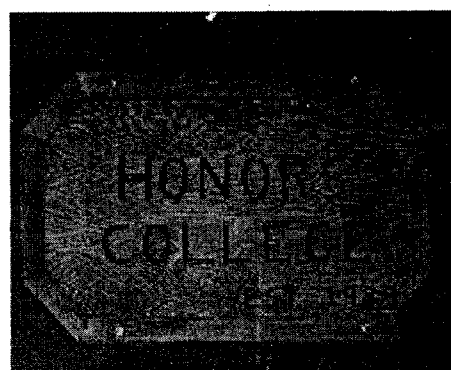
The Honors College may make Stony Brook a #1 choice for High School Graduates

What perhaps makes it an even better deal is that those who are part of the Honors College receive substantial scholarship support and for a select few their four-year stay is free. On top of

that, Honors College students take 19 credits worth of small, specialized classes together along with a yearlong independent research project in place of the Diversified Education Curriculum. Among other things, they also receive priority registration and personalized academic counseling.

But to have access to these privileges students must be very high achieving at the high school level. The Honors College's published minimums are a 93 un-weighted grade point average and a combined score of 1250 on the SAT, although a random

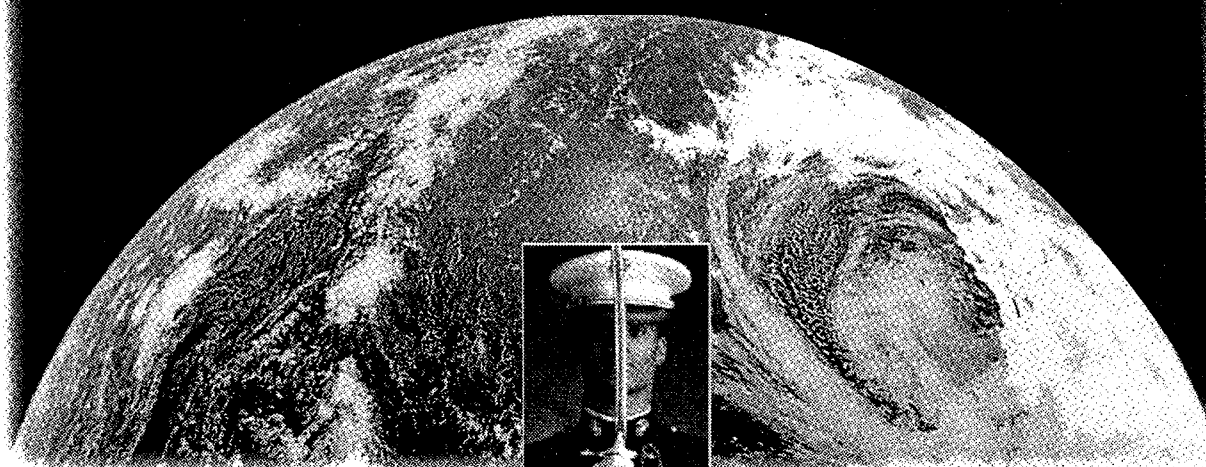
Continued on Page 10



Statesman/Mansoor Khan

Though the establishment is quite young, the Honors College reputation has only risen over the years.

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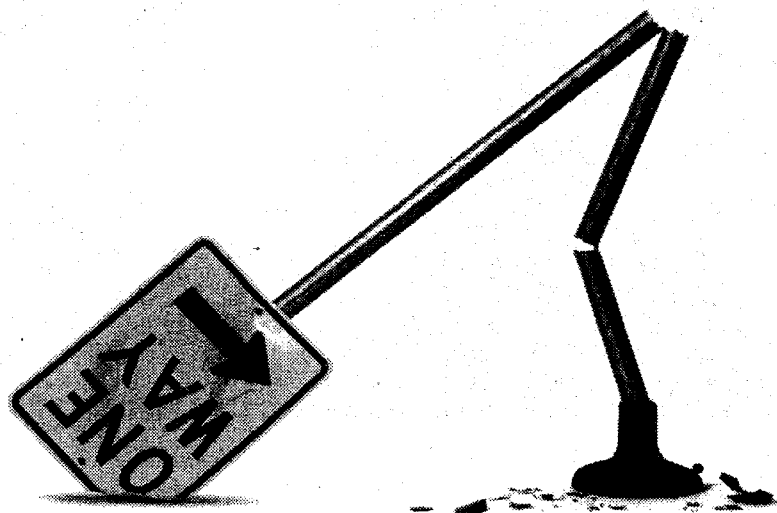
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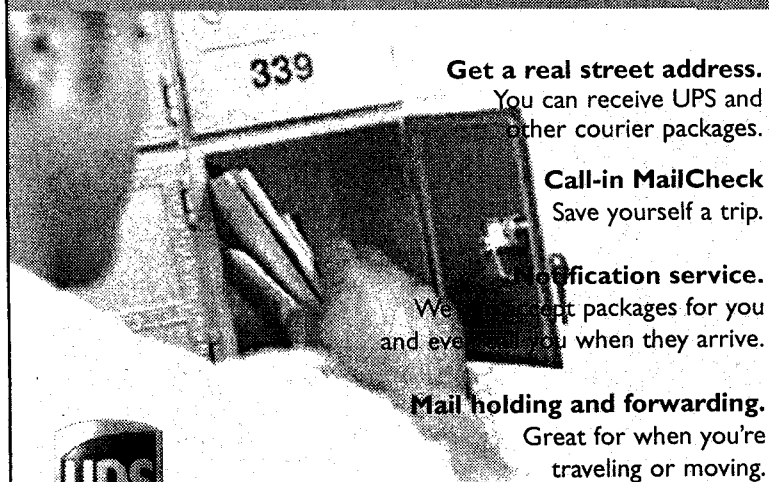
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Honors College Reputation

Continued from Page 9

sampling of the College's students shows that the actual numbers are a bit higher.

Citing several different reasons, both Gerrig and Fiegel insisted that the college's admissions committee does not base its admittance solely on the numbers. All applicants have to submit at least one essay, and special talents, experiences and leadership skills that could be of benefit to the entire class are also considered.

"We're looking for students that are generally strong across the board," said Gerrig. "We're looking for students that are sincere...It turns out that diversity comes in because you get people that are genuine."

Each year, the Honors College admits roughly 20 percent of its applicants, Fiegel said. That translates to anywhere between 200-300 "high achieving and promising" students. By the time September rolls around, a class of 60 students broken down into three sections of 20 emerges from the 1,500 or so students that originally applied.

Although there is an optional space for race on the application, Fiegel said that very few applicants elect to fill it out and that no overt attempt is made to admit applicants based on race or gender. In spite of that the classes tend to have an equal ratio of men to women

and are comprised of students with very different backgrounds. The myriad of high scholars from the Island and the greater tri-state area offer what Gerrig calls a "diversity of interests."

**National ratings
show that Long Is-
land has the high-
est concentration of
the best public high
schools in the nation**

At the end of the day, many of the College's students admit that they came to SBU only because of the Honors College, and leave very pleased with their Honors College experience.

Fiegel points to the College's placement numbers as a measure of the program's success. Of the approximately 400 alumni that have graduated from the College, 95 percent of them end up going to professional or graduate schools. Gerrig believes that the College's unique approach factors into this success.

"Our mission isn't just the educational aspect," he said. "It's the social, too. We try to get [our students] to grow as a community."

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Stony Brook University Police Blotter: Aug. 1 - Aug. 25

By MAURY HIRSCHKORN
Statesman Staff

Aug. 1, 2003

10:53 a.m. - Grand larceny, South parking lot, Impound gate cut, vehicle partially stripped.

Aug. 2, 2003

3:20 p.m. - Medical emergency, Soccer Field, Patient transported to University Hospital.
4:11 p.m. - Medical emergency, Athletic Fields, 15-year-old male with compound fracture, transported to University Hospital.
9:30 p.m. - Petit larceny, Hand College, Radio taken from vehicle.

Aug. 4, 2003

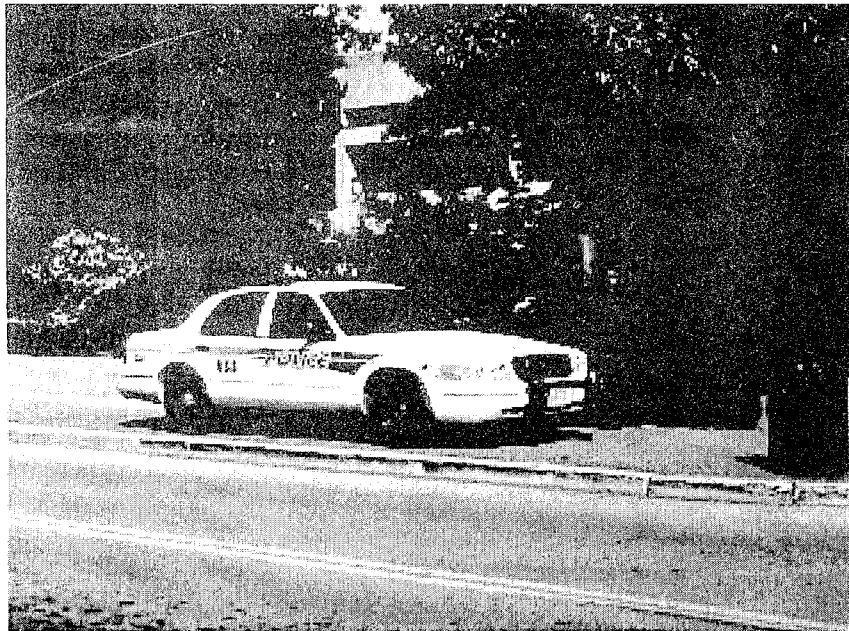
10:52 a.m. - Petit larceny, Heavy Engineering Building, Collapsible shed taken.

Aug. 5, 2003

11:16 a.m. - Medical emergency, Health Science Center, Anatomy lab, Female injured after fall

Aug. 6, 2003

4:45 p.m. - Graffiti, West Apartment "B," Outside window.



Aug. 8, 2003

8:56 a.m. - Medical emergency, Soccer Field, Injured person transported to University Hospital.

Aug. 10, 2003

7:05 p.m. - Graffiti, West Complex, Profanities toward police.

Aug. 11, 2002

9:55 a.m. - Graffiti, Fannie Bryce/ Roosevelt Quad
1:46 p.m. - Graffiti, Schomburg Apartments.
1:46 p.m. - Graffiti, Kelly Paved Lot trainer.

Aug. 13, 2003

2:35 p.m. - Graffiti, Graduate Chemistry stairwell.

Aug. 14, 2003

7:27 a.m. - Graffiti, West "B" Apartments.
4:07 p.m. - Crisis, State of emergency, Major power outage.

Aug. 17, 2003

10:56 a.m. - Medical emergency, Soccer Field, Female with neck injury.

Aug. 18, 2003

5:21 p.m. - Accident, Administration Garage, Piece of concrete disattached from garage, landed on vehicle.

Aug. 19, 2003

12:23 a.m. - Grand larceny, James College, Laptop computer taken.

Aug. 22, 2003

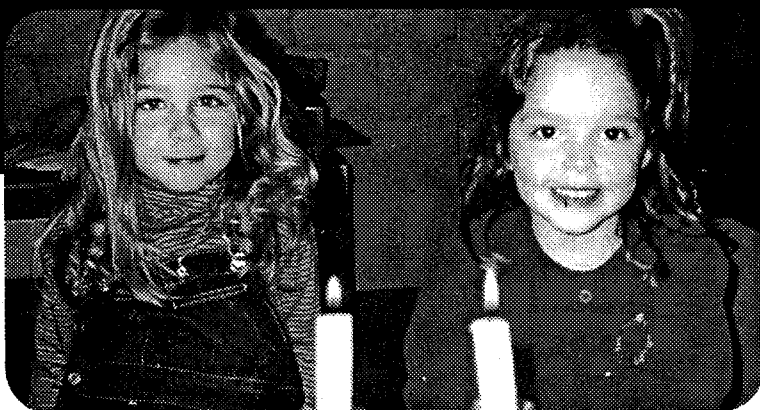
12:07 p.m. - Petit larceny, Old "H" Lot, Radio taken from locked vehicle.

Aug. 25, 2003

8:14 p.m. - Petit larceny, Health Science Center, Bicycle taken.

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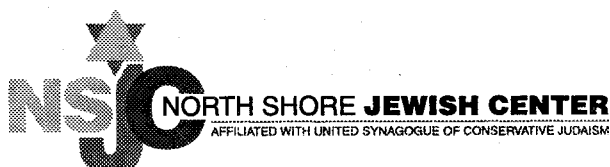


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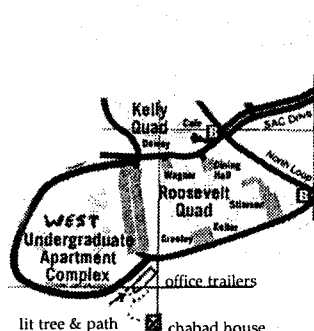
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WELCOME BACK FROM RABBI ADAM



Some people, when they meet the campus Chabad Rabbi- they get all nervous. It's like suddenly, they start to feel super self-conscious, or something. Others start to get feelings of Jewish guilt. As Jews, we all know that feeling of Jewish guilt. It's that feeling you get when you don't fast on Yom Kippur. Or when you eat a ham sandwich. Even though one might do it anyway, and perhaps even enjoy it- there is always that unconscious lingering feeling of guilt, an unconscious feeling of having done something wrong. Well, when some people meet the campus Chabad Rabbi, that must be how they are feeling because they're clearly nervous. Some people are even unconsciously afraid to look the Rabbi in the eye. To tell you the truth, it all makes for quite a comical introduction. But really, there is nothing to worry about. Rabbis don't bite. The beard is just a bunch of facial hair and the hat came with the outfit. Now, there are a lot of extra-curriculars to be involved in this coming semester, but the best are the Jewish extra-curriculars. Not that the others aren't fun. They are. But tell me, what can be better than hanging out with the campus Chabad Rabbi, getting over your initial nervousness, meeting new friends and telling Jewish jokes all night? To understand this, a picture is worth 1000 words:



Map to the
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Friday 9/05 at 8:18 pm @ the Chabad House

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Student Attends Nobel Laureate Convention

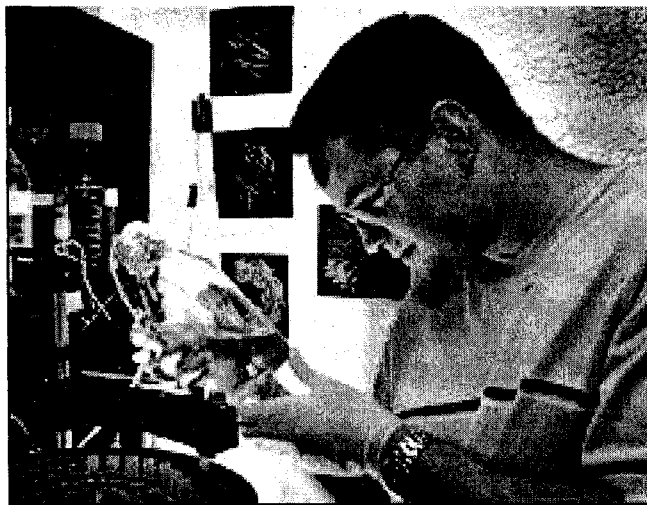
By MICHAEL NEVRADAKIS
Statesman Editor

Stony Brook University graduate student Paul Lawrence was one of eighteen outstanding American research participants selected by the United States Department of Energy (DOE) to attend the 53rd international convention of Nobel Laureates. Lawrence, who is conducting research at the DOE's Brookhaven Labs, attended this prestigious event which took place in Lindau, Germany between June 30 and July 4.

"I'm overwhelmed and excited about this remarkable opportunity to interact with Nobel Laureates and to meet other graduate students from across the United States and around the world," said Lawrence before departing for the convention. "I'm very grateful to the Department of Energy for offering me this incredible experience."

Lawrence, a Ph.D. candidate in molecular genetics and microbiology, is investigating various types of protein-protein interactions under the guidance of Paul Freimuth of the Biology Department of Brookhaven Labs. These protein-protein interactions are hoped to yield new approaches for protein imaging or drug delivery in the future.

"Paul has a lively and inquiring mind," said Freimuth, who insisted that Lawrence was the perfect candidate to



Courtesy of www.bnl.gov
Paul Lawrence was selected to attend the 53rd international convention of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, Germany.

attend the Nobel Laureates' meeting. "He is a representative of the very best young scientists anywhere that are involved in DOE-supported research."

At the meeting, Lawrence interacted with the other American candidates representing such institutions as Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU), the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine and the University of Arizona. In addition, 400 international students also attended the convention, where Nobel Laureates in chemistry, physics and physiology/medicine have convened annually since 1951, hosting an open forum with students and young researchers

from around the world on topics relating to biology and medicine.

Participants first traveled to a meeting on June 27 at DOE headquarters in Washington, D.C., before departing for Germany. On June 29, students toured the historic city of Lindau before convening for the meeting the following day. Lectures were

held on several topics, including biochemistry, biotechnology and biophysics, while informal roundtable discussions also took place. Closing ceremonies were held on July 4 on the Isle of Mainau, where the Mainau Castle is located. The castle is the residence of Swedish patron Count Lennart Bernadotte, who began the Nobel Laureates program in 1951.

Travel arrangements were administered by the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education, which is managed by ORAU in conjunction with the DOE. More information on the Nobel Laureates' convention, including photos and a summary of events, can be found at <http://www.ornl.gov/orise/edu/lindau2003>.

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Weird Science: Haven't I Read This Before?

By PETER SUNWOO
Statesman Contributor

Let me tell you a little story. I was walking in the city one day and happened to stumble into a café I haven't been in before. While waiting on line, I found myself staring at this woman in a pink dress sipping on her cup of coffee. At that moment I could have sworn that I have seen this woman before doing the exact same thing, sitting in the same stool, crossing her legs the same way, having her hair in the same messy bun, and reading the same paper. I thought to myself, am I destined to be here at this moment in time, maybe she is the one! Maybe some higher power is telling me "hey man, go for it!" But I quickly shed that idea when she slapped me after I asked her to come back to my bedroom.

There are many explanations for the phenomenon that we know of as déjà vu, ranging from spiritual to scientific. The most common explanation for déjà vu is that it stems from a previous dream in which the brain can make a connection between the subconscious and the conscious state. The only problem with this explanation is that we do not remember most of our dreams because they are mostly stored in our short-term memory. The only dreams we do remember are the ones that are out of the ordinary, and those memories usually never happen in reality. Besides, that would also mean we are all psychic. On a spiritual level, a common explanation for déjà vu is that the experience is what happens when things from a previous reincarnation are repeated in the present—basically, you did it all in a past life. These theories are interesting, but as a pseudoscientist I like to find explanations that are more tangible.

According to Professor Whitaker of the Psychology Department at Stony Brook University, a déjà vu cannot be something that has been experienced before because

you can't explain what happens after the déjà vu nor can you explain what triggered it. All memories are brought to attention due to some kind of trigger, which can be anything from a feeling, to an object that reminded you of something.

It is during these times that the present can feel like the past, causing déjà vu.

A scientific explanation for déjà vu has to do with memory processes in different parts of the brain. In general, the frontal lobes are concerned with the future, the temporal lobes are concerned with the past, and the limbic system is concerned with the present. Short-term memory is based mostly in the hippocampus and is only stored for approximately 45 seconds. The parahippocampal cortex stores long-term memory and is very closely connected with the hippocampus. Ordinarily, there is a seamless integration of the past, present and the future. Basically the way the brain normally works is that we experience something in the present, compare it to similar experiences in the past, and then decide how to respond. The brain is able to do this within a few seconds, but then there are times when there can be too much communication between short-term and long-term memories. It is during these times that the present can feel like the past, causing déjà vu.

So what does all this mean? For all you Matrix fans out there, I'm sorry to say that Neo's experience with the black cat wasn't caused by a glitch in the Matrix. It was more like a glitch in his empty, surfer mind, dude.

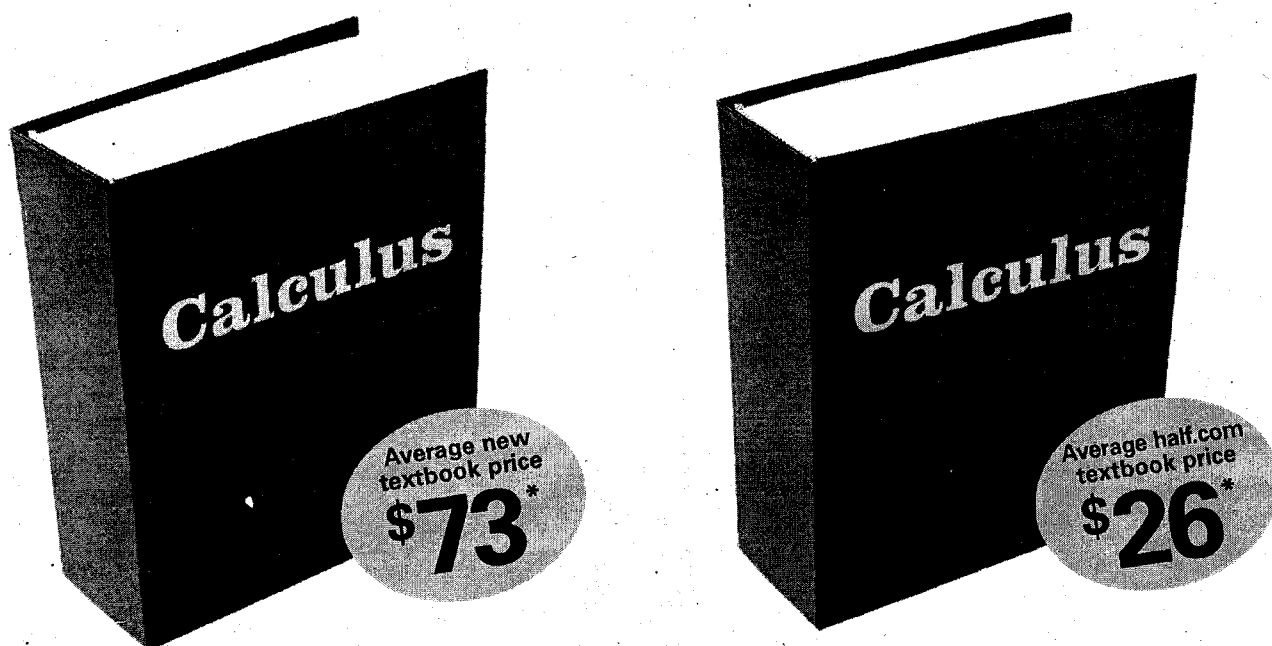
Auditions for the University Orchestra at Stony Brook on September 9th

Auditions for the University Orchestra (MUS 262) with Susan Deaver, conductor - will be held on Tuesday, September 9th from 10 to 1 and 2 to 5 P.M. in the Department of Music/Staller Center Fine Arts Building, room 2342. Openings for woodwinds, brass, percussion, and all strings (violin, viola, cello & bass) are available. The auditions are open to all Stony Brook University undergraduate and graduate students with previous orchestral experience. Interested students should attend the first rehearsal on Tuesday, September 9 from 6:30 to 9:30 P.M. in room 0111 in the Department of Music/Staller Center Fine Arts Buildings.

For further information, call the Department of Music at 632-7330, or contact Dr. Deaver at sdeaver@notes.cc.sunysb.edu.

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Students Sail With URECA: Curing Heart Disease

By MIRA KINARIWALA
Statesman Staff

In a small Stony Brook Laboratory, students are finding new ways to perform bypass surgeries on patients afflicted with Coronary Artery Disease. Sitting by them are the rabbits that may hold the key to these new surgical methods. Ten weeks, a stipend and a fellowship by the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity (URECA) program have made all this possible. The Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research Program (IBRP), the Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Site Programs and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Undergraduate Research Fellow Programs are working with URECA at Stony Brook to achieve their various research goals, giving students a chance to take part in real world lab work.

"Summer is a great opportunity to do research because there are less distractions from classes and other commitments," said Karen Kernan, Director of Programs for Research and Creative Activity. "Students usually continue their



A graduate student assists a student in undergraduate research.

research throughout the year and value the time they had during the summer to finish a bulk of their research work."

The students involved in the summer undergraduate research programs work closely with mentors in their field of interest. The disciplines that students pursue range from music, literature and the visual arts to the sciences and social sciences.

"A student can learn a great deal about a certain topic when they do research on it," said Sara Goldgraben, Stony Brook sophomore and URECA participant. "The program is an excellent

way for students to meet Stony Brook faculty and network with people."

"I personally find this program to be the best mechanisms offered to Stony Brook students to get a one-on-one research experience," said Dr. Suparna Rajaram, Professor of Psychology and one of the mentors for URECA participants. "As a mentor, it's rewarding to

watch students develop the skills for independent thinking, particularly in the domain of hypothesis testing."

The summer undergraduate research programs vary in length from 8 weeks to 10 weeks. The students work with their mentor at a lab site for approximately 40 hours a week. During this time, the students focus solely on the research work with no other class or work commitments.

"There never seems enough time to accomplish all the work you set out to do because everything takes longer than expected," said junior Sameer Khanijo,

recipient of a Howard Hughes Program fellowship. "I guess trying creative methods through trial-and-error is part of the process of learning through scientific research."

"It would be nice to see the URECA fellowship program expanded to include a semester fellowship program as a follow-up to the summer program," said Rajaram. "It would really allow the chance for students pursuing research as a career to blossom."

Students showcase the research they have worked on with their faculty mentors at the Celebration of Undergraduate Achievements, an annual two-day event presenting works from virtually every field. Leaders from the arts, academia and private sector firms present awards to promising research projects in several disciplines. This academic year, the event will be held on April 21, 2004 at the Student Activities Center.

For more information on the annual celebration or applying to the program, you can visit the URECA website at http://ws.cc.stonybrook.edu/ureca/on-campus_opps.htm

Experiencing Africa

Continued from Page 6

that it was easily the best month of my life. It sounds cliché, especially for a 19 year old to say. But when one month changes your life, it's not easy to describe. Now I don't need those new sneakers, or that dinner at Applebee's. I don't need a car, or a bigger dorm room. I need a better understanding of other people's experience. As Americans, we live in a world far removed from reality. Try hard, and you can do anything. Some may argue that there are glass ceilings here, ceilings coated with race, gender, unequal opportunity and so on. But what we fail to

realize is that we are at the penthouse, with most of the world under us. Most of their ceilings are opaque. At least we can see the possibilities and can aim to break any obstacles. When you know there's something better and try your best to get to it, but simply can't budge, your own life becomes a dead end.

Tanzania is the most beautiful place I've laid eyes on. The people and land taught me what happiness is. I'm far from understanding the secret to a happy life, but my hope is simply that more people get an opportunity to do what I did and maybe change the way they see their own lives.



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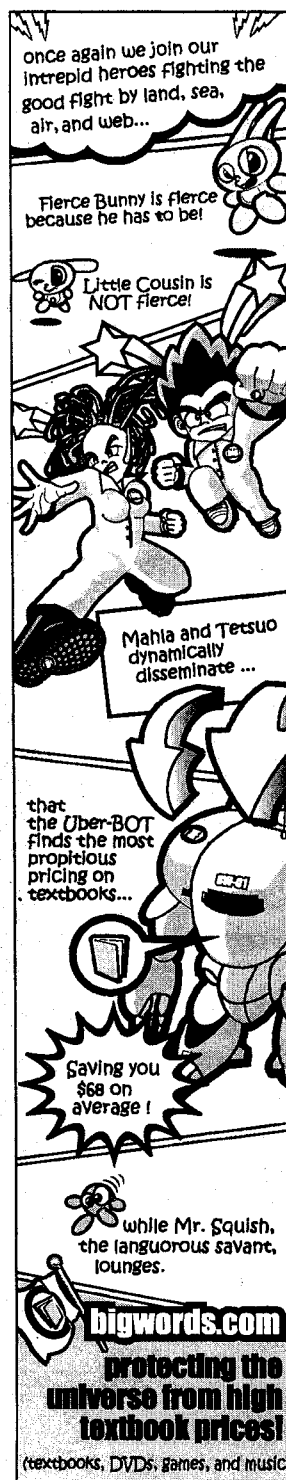
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"Finding Nemo" Swims With the Big Fish

By MANSOOR KHAN
Statesman Editor

From toys, to bugs, to monsters, Pixar has put out one quality movie after another. "Finding Nemo" is no exception, as the creators of Toy Story explore the underwater world, telling a heartwarming tale about a father and son... well, a clownfish and its offspring.

The computer animators behind "Finding Nemo" really did an amazing job, bringing the ocean to life in a way no other movie has done. The colors are vibrant, the characters are lively and the motions are crisp, clean and smooth. Every fish in the sea moves gracefully, their fins beating to the motion of the ocean. The numerous underwater settings and characters would be dazzlingly entertaining with no plot at all, but Pixar has combined computer technology and humane sincerity (with huge doses of successful good humor) to create a staggeringly satisfying movie.

The story takes place off the Great Barrier Reef, near Sydney, where orange-and-white striped clown fish parents have just moved into their new anemone home with their 400 little eggs. All of a sudden, the mother and 399 of the children are

eaten by a barracuda, leaving Marlin (voiced by Albert Brooks) and his son Nemo (voiced by Alexander Gould) to fend for themselves.

Marlin is a clown fish who's not funny (he tells really lame jokes), and he's overly protective of Nemo. In a moment of angry defiance, little Nemo gets captured by a dentist/diver who takes him home and plops him into his office aquarium. That sets the father, Marlin, off on an exciting, but dangerous adventure to retrieve his lost son.

As he searches for his son, Marlin becomes a legend in the ocean, teaming up with Dory (hilariously voiced by Ellen DeGeneres), a blue tang fish, and battles sharks, jellyfish and rides the underwater currents with a cool-dude sea turtle named Crush (voiced by Andrew Stanton). Via the chatter of a visiting pelican, word of Marlin's adventures reach Nemo, who's being held in the dentist's aquarium until he can be handed over to the dentist's Jason-esque niece, who shook another fish to death. Upon hearing about his brave father, Nemo finds hope and new respect for his daddy.

An interesting note about



Courtesy of www.google.com

"Finding Nemo" entertained audiences young and old this past summer.

"Finding Nemo" is the role played by handicapped characters. Marlin is emotionally handicapped, suffocating and overprotective of his son. Nemo has one small fin, and he is unable to swim normally. Dora has short-term memory loss, a la Memento. There is even a gang of sharks starting a twelve-step program to eliminate their addiction to eating fish. I don't think there has ever been such a socially conscious children's movie as this one.

Aside from their disabilities, the characters in "Finding Nemo" are

astoundingly portrayed. With little outlet for body movement, most of their personality must come from their voices, and Pixar does an amazing job bringing the characters to life. Their vivid emotions and sincere humanity (ironic, isn't it?) make the audience authentically care.

Nemo is a great family film. There are a lot of lessons to be learned, and the little fish do a lot of growing up along the course of the movie. Kids will love the slapstick humor and adults will love the subtle, mature nuances. All in all, "Finding Nemo" is probably one of the best films of 2003.

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The Stony Brook Statesman Tuesday, September 2, 2003

The League of Unextraordinary Actors

By EMY KURIAKOSE
Statesman Editor

When naming a movie, directors or writers usually work on making a film sound mysterious, funny, interesting—anything out of the ordinary. Hopefully, they don't have to spell it out for you. But in the case of "The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen", they didn't even try. The cheesy title obviously doesn't sell.

Audiences, already wary of what seemed to be a lame flick, must have walked in hoping for some sort of redeeming quality. And did get a little. The story is set at the onset of the industrial revolution, when machines and motors were

With an overblown and overdramatic plot, the League just doesn't work the crowd

produced at an exponential rate. The League is called together to combat "The Phantom," a mysterious burly, maimed man bent on taking over



Sean Connery and Shane West might play the hot shots of the League, but the superhero flick won't hit the mark this summer.

Europe with his technological prowess. Sporting automatic machine guns, tanks, and a factory more likely to be seen in an 80's war movie, this predictable bad guy embarks on a mission to destroy.

The League is comprised of characters all linked to classic novels of the 17th and 18th centuries. Led by Allan Quartermain (Sean Connery), the group's mission is to, yep, you've guessed it, save the world. The Invisible Man (Tony Curran), Captain Nemo (Naseeruddin Shah), a vampiress bitten by Dracula (Peta Wilson), Dorian Gray, an immortal (Stuart Townsend), Dr. Jekyll/Mr. Hyde (Jason Flemying) and

an American Secret Service agent (Shane West) follow Quartermain into what they think is a call to the heroic duties they must carry out. "M," (Richard Roxburgh), is the recruiter who is seemingly alarmed at the Phantom's capabilities and funds the operations.

The movie was carried by many engaging elements, including artful specialeffects, interesting characters, and the unmistakable commanding aura of Sean Connery.

Despite its apparent appeal, the story was too overblown. The Nautilus, an enormous submarine captained by Captain Nemo, was a technical wonder even for the likes

of the late 20th century. The League is transported by what Nemo calls an "au-to-mow-bile," a very classy Rolls limosine. Don't see this if you're prone to comment about reality during a movie, because you'll undoubtedly be irritated by anachrony of this fantasy.

Still, you'll definitely flinch in pain when you see Mr. Hyde's transformations, and the Invisible Man might tickle your fancy. The expected father-son drama between Quartermain and the American spy borders the sentiments you'd already found in the Lion King, and leaves you wishing for more cool machines to see. Fight scenes were too quick and not well choreographed: Captain Nemo is just too dramatic with his swashbuckling/Arabian-flavored swordsmanship.

See this movie if fantasy mixed with a sad attempt at tragedy, humanity, and real acting is your thing. Kids would enjoy the effects and characters, but might flinch that the vampiress' finger-licking obsession with arteries. If you're looking for action, there are better venues for that that the box office this summer. This one is definitely a rental, if at all.

I give it 2 out of 5 stars.

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Food & Drink Specials

• WEDNESDAY •

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• FRIDAY •

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SBU Study Abroad: An Academic Safari in Tanzania

By MANSOOR KHAN
Statesman Editor

While walking by a pack of wildebeest in Arusha National Park, Peter Sunwoo looked up to see a towering giraffe glide past him. To his left, he could see the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro, the world's tallest freestanding mountain, and to his right were endless miles of lush forest and green grass.

Sunwoo, a senior at Stony Brook University, and 14 other students attended Stony Brook's annual Study Abroad trip to Tanzania, a four-week academic experience in what the brochure calls one of the "most interesting cultural and ecological regions of the world."

After an initial week of classroom study on the culture and language (Kiswahili) of Tanzania, students embarked on a flight to East Africa to start their academic safari.

"When I got there, I felt as if everything was almost surreal," said Stony Brook senior Nazish Qadeer. "I couldn't believe I was in Africa."

Under the direction of William Arens, Ph.D., professor of anthropology at Stony Brook University, students were taken to three different locations in Tanzania. Participants started their trip in Magi ya Chai, a rural village named for its brown mineral-filled water. They



Courtesy of Mark Schneider

The Tanzania Study Abroad group poses for a photo at Olduvai Gorge, a famed archaeological site where Mary Leakey helped redraw the human family tree.

types of African dance. I really felt like I was being immersed in the culture," said Qadeer. Students also continued their Swahili instruction at Magi ya Chai, learning conversational skills that they were able to put to use.

"Ninapenda kusema Kiswahili. That means 'I like to speak Swahili,'" Sunwoo said. "I liked trying to talk with the locals in another language. It was definitely a learning experience." Students tried their skills in the marketplace, haggling prices with shop-owners who often

Mbu, a town named for its "River of Mosquitoes." Staying at hotels for both of these weeks, students were given the chance to interact freely with the people

educational," said Stony Brook senior Elizabeth Vogel. "We wrote a couple of papers about conservation and had lengthy discussions about them. I think everybody had something to learn."

The study abroad trip was capped off by a six-day camping safari to several Tanzanian parks, including Lake Manyara, Tarangire and Serengeti National Parks, and the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Participants were able to observe wild animals in their natural habitat, including lions, giraffes, elephants, rhinos and cheetahs.

"We were so close to some of the animals," Qadeer said. "I felt like I could reach out and touch the lions. They were literally a few feet away from us." Students were able to take pictures and videos of the animals from the safety of their land rover, which trekked the rugged terrain of the parks.

"I think one of the most important parts of the trip, however, is learning what the rest of the world is like," said Sunwoo. "It was an eye-opening



Statesman/Emy Kuriakose

Three Maasai boys pose for a picture with the Study Abroad students near Mtu wa Mbu.

Cultural Center, where they danced and sang at the "ngoma," a large cultural celebration.

"I loved learning all the different

spoke only Kiswahili.

The program participants then traveled to Arusha, one of the major cities of Tanzania, and then to Mto wa



Statesman/Emy Kuriakose

As students watch quietly from range rovers, baby elephants scratch their bodies against flat-topped acacia trees in Tarangire National Park.

of Tanzania.

"One conversation with the local inhabitants is better than reading a 200-page book about the people who live there," said Arens, who is the Dean of International Academic Programs at Stony Brook University. "Sometimes stringent university requirements get in the way of a student's real education."

Students earned up to nine credits on the trip, including three credits of independent research, where they decided on their own topics and collected information by interacting with the locals.

"The trip was both fun and

experience. People live in poverty everywhere in the world, and it became so apparent to me in Africa." Because of his trip to Tanzania, Sunwoo decided to start an American branch of the charity organization Children for Children's Future right here at Stony Brook University. He plans to raise money for CCF and send it back to Tanzania to help the street children that rely on the organization for food, clothes and education.

"Everyone should go abroad," Arens said. "If you could be in Paris, Tanzania or Madagascar, what are you doing in Islip?"