

the stony brook Statesman

VOLUME XLVII, NUMBER 44

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2004

PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

Illegal Advertisements Plague Campus

By TED LAI
Statesman Staff

Unbeknownst to many, students have been the victims of a crime they probably haven't even recognized. While the crime is minimal, Administration and the University Police are taking the matter very seriously.

According to Section 145.30-1 of the New York State Penal Law, "a person is guilty of unlawfully posting advertisements when, having no right to do so nor any reasonable ground to believe that he has such right, he posts, paints or otherwise affixes to the property of another person any advertisement, poster, notice or other matter designed to benefit a person other than the owner of the property."

In layman's terms, anyone who does not get permission from the University to advertise on campus is in violation of the law. "There are University policies in place to help prevent and respond to such activity," said Assistant Provost Donna Di Donato.

Those in clear violation of this law



Statesman/Ted Lai

Flyers like the above are distributed throughout campus, and often just end up as litter.

are the local bars and clubs that litter the campus with flyers enticing students to visit their venue.

"We have a real concern about this issue," said Deputy Chief of University Police Doug Little. "It is a real problem; it involves a lot of clean up dollars; it's

a nuisance, and we are getting a lot of complaints from students and faculty. We are making headway regarding this and if we find people posting or distributing flyers, we will arrest and prosecute

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Brown v. Board of Ed: 50th Anniversary

By PATRICIA MCCABE
Statesman Staff

Seven-year-old Linda Brown excitedly held her father's hand as she went to register for school. Sadly, she was turned away. Even though Linda lived in the same neighborhood as the school, she and her father were told that they would have to register at the black school in their community.

This was not an uncommon incident in the early 1950's. "Separate but equal" segregation of public facilities was upheld by law after the 1896 court ruling of Plessy vs. Ferguson. This segregation included the U.S. school system. Although the schools were mandated to be equal while maintaining separation, African American children were taught in sub-standard facilities, with outdated textbooks and little or no supplies.

Young Linda's father, Oliver L. Brown, aided by the local chapter of the NAACP, soon became part of a class action suit, along with twelve other families, against the Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas that resulted in a landmark decision that it was unconstitutional to educate black and white children separately. On May 17, 1954, Chief Justice Earl Warren boldly ruled that the "separate but equal" school policy that had been in effect for almost 60 years presented an injustice to black students, for although the schools were indeed separate, they were far from being equal.

Fifty years later, however, the issue

Continued on Page 5

The Computer and the Brain Compared



Statesman/James Caston

By JACI HIRSCHFELD
Statesman Editor

Human beings only use 10 percent of their brains. Or do they? According to biologist Charles F. Stevens, Ph.D., humans do, in fact, use their entire brain, despite the common myth that pervades popular society and infomercials for brain-power books.

Stevens, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator and professor of molecular neurobiology, was the guest speaker at the 8th annual Schwartz

Foundation Mind/Brain lecture series, entitled "How the Brain is Like (And Unlike) a Computer," held on the Staller Center Main Stage.

Stevens set out to show "some of the principles used in designing brains," and the effective use of theory in neurobiology. All vertebrate species follow the same plan of mapping out the brain, making a mouse brain almost identical in function and design to that of an elephant.

There are over one hundred different regions in the brain, each used for a

specific task or function, and over three dozen of these regions are used for visual systems and performance. One such area, Stevens said, is used in recognizing faces. This function is exceptionally important, rendering those who sustain damage to this region unable to distinguish between people or to recognize familiar faces. Stevens elaborated this region's importance by explaining that "someone from the outside would not be able to tell beauty at all." After all, structural differences between the ugliest and most beautiful person is only a few millimeters in facial features, he said.

The human brain is made up of gray and white matter that have "computation and data translation separated," Stevens said. The gray matter constitutes roughly 60 percent of total brain mass and is used for computational purposes, while the white matter makes up the other 40 percent with the sole purpose of sending information back and forth. "You are using all of your brain even though it looks like much of the brain isn't being used," Stevens said.

Brain cells use axons, which send nerve impulses to other cells and com-

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COMPILED BY MANSOOR KHAN

INFORMATION AND PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

Bush Reaffirms Fight on Terror in Iraq

President Bush vowed on Tuesday night that the United States would not bow to the surge of violence in Iraq, saying that to change course in the face of mounting attacks would betray the Iraqi people and embolden America's enemies around the world.

Bush reiterated his commitment to transfer sovereignty in Iraq back to Iraqis on schedule on June 30, despite the spike in resistance still there. He said he would provide military forces and come up with whatever money was needed to rebuild Iraq.

The speech was apparently a response to critics who have called on Bush to give the United Nations a greater role, particularly his Democratic rival in the presidential race, Senator John Kerry. Speaking only hours after the independent commission investigating the Sept. 11 attacks held hearings on failures by the Justice Department and the F.B.I., Bush was asked repeatedly whether he felt personally responsible for 9/11.

Election in South Africa a Success

South Africa's third national election since the end of apartheid rule unfolded seamlessly yesterday, marred only by a bomb threat at the Pretoria election headquarters and a shouting match at one of the polling stations between the national defense minister and a rival party leader.

Up to 18 million South Africans were expected to go to the polls to choose a new parliament and provincial legislature. Some voting sites had individuals waiting as long as four hours to cast their vote. The last election in 1989 elicited 89



percent of the country's registered voters to cast their ballots.

Venezuela Charged with Protestor Abuse

were used to tame recent anti-Chávez protests.

In the latest report, released on Friday in a six-page letter to Mr. Chávez, Human Rights Watch, which is based in New York, accused National Guard troops of using tear gas and electric batons to torture protesters after their arrests.

Mr. Chávez, who is facing opposition efforts to mount a referendum to remove him from office, has denied that his government violated the rights of demonstrators during a week of protests that began on Feb. 27. He has claimed that some of the protesters were armed and violent.

Once seen as deferential to civil liberties despite his increasing hold on power, President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela is now coming under sharp criticism from human rights groups that say that torture and excessive force

Musharraf Wavers on Army Position

President Pervez Musharraf said in an interview broadcast on Wednesday that he may break an agreement he made with opposition parties that required him to resign as army chief by the end of the year. The plan had been praised as a step toward the restoration of full democracy in Pakistan.

In the interview, with the British Broadcasting Corporation, General Musharraf, who seized power in 1999, said he would consider several issues before deciding whether to give up his army post.



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Studying Abroad, Sweating Over a Mayan Treasure



Courtesy of www.webshots.com

Through an experimental archaeological field school, six American students are taking part in the discovery and excavation of 2,000 year old Mayan pyramids which reveal written language and sophisticated paintings within their ancient chambers.

By MARION LLOYD
Chronicle of Higher Education

Spindly scaffolding props up the stone tunnel where Becky Lang, an undergraduate anthropology student from the University of New Hampshire, is mapping a chamber deep inside a 2,000-year-old Mayan pyramid.

As with any excavation under tons of rock, the danger of collapse is real. William Saturno, the New Hampshire professor of archaeology who is leading the excavation here, narrowly missed being crushed when a boulder he had freed struck him in the chest.

But Saturno and his team have other things on their minds. Deep in the Guatemalan jungle, near the border with Mexico and Belize, they are helping a team of American and Guatemalan archaeologists reconstruct the oldest Mayan murals ever found. The paintings, nine linear yards of which have been uncovered so far, are revolutionizing existing knowledge of the ancient Mayan world.

"I don't think any of us knows enough to have full comprehension of how important this is. We just know that it's important," says Lang, who is one of six American college students spending the spring semester at an experimental field school that Saturno has set up. "That's the joy of anthropology," says Megan Edwards, a 21-year-old senior at New Hampshire. "You get to learn about things so different." Those things include the tarantulas, the scorpions, and the baby python that she and other camp residents spotted on their first day in camp.

Saturno spent two years lobbying New Hampshire to be allowed to bring along the students. Unlike at a typical archaeological field school, where students pay thousands of dollars for several weeks of often monotonous hard labor, the San Bartolo students paid an at-cost fee of \$4,000 for almost five months abroad and will get hands-

on training in six areas of archaeology, not to mention the thrill of sharing in one of the biggest finds in decades.

San Bartolo has captured world attention since Saturno stumbled upon the murals in March 2001. He was searching for stone slabs bearing Mayan inscriptions in Guatemala's northern Peten region when an accident of fate led him to San Bartolo, then a little-known ruin. After trekking 18 miles into the jungle -- his guides got lost and led him to the wrong site -- Saturno sought shade in a looter's trench dug into the side of a ruined Mayan pyramid. He looked up and was amazed to see a painted image of the Mayan corn god -- the central element of the creation myth -- in the crumbling limestone. It was an archaeologist's dream. But Saturno, without water, didn't know if he would make it out alive to share his discovery.

"My first thought was, 'This is ridiculous, because I'm going to die. What are the chances?'" he says. The same bone-dry conditions that had helped protect the murals from water damage nearly meant death for Saturno, who was severely dehydrated. But he survived the walk back by eating an acidic jungle fruit called *piñuela*, then caught the first plane back home to seek medical treatment.

His discovery has changed scholars' understanding of the ancient Mayans' level of sophistication, revealing that they had both an elaborate written language and sophisticated paintings. Previously, only a few isolated glyphs had been discovered from before the Classic Period, which began about AD 250. The earliest known Mayan murals were those discovered in 1946 at Bonampak, in southern Mexico. They date to AD 796, at the height of the Classic Period. The San Bartolo murals, judging by pottery shards discovered in the mural chamber, are almost 1,000 years older.

The excavation site, about a square mile in size, includes two pyramids

roughly 80 feet high, one of which contains the murals. The existence of sophisticated murals in such a relatively small city was also a surprise, leading Saturno and other experts to conclude that such murals must have decorated pyramids throughout the pre-classic Mayan world.

"This means that these things

were everywhere, that Mirador had hundreds of them," he says, referring to a giant Mayan city under excavation near the Mexican border. "We get to see how complex the Mayan pre-Classic Period really was."

For now, however, those discoveries will probably remain within the academic realm. The site is too

remote to be a tourist attraction, even if the Guatemalan government had the money to invest in it. At best, during the dry season, from March to June, San Bartolo is a four-hour drive from Flores, the nearest town. But much of the journey to San Bartolo is along old logging paths that are muddy swamps during most of the year. (A drive to town for supplies in late February took 10 hours for Saturno and several others, who had to hack out a passable trail with machetes).

The logistics of running the project are equally daunting, particularly because of the water shortage. The roughly 65 camp residents are limited to two and a half gallons per day for bathing. For the students, though, the hardships are part of the experience.

"I think about what I consider important and what I feel like I need, and how little they [the Guatemalan people] need," says Andy Cacarillo, 27, a New Hampshire senior.

"If we didn't suffer a little, it wouldn't be worth it," says Cacarillo. He holds up several shards of blood-red pottery, remnants of the thousands of Maya who inhabited the site until it was abandoned around AD 100. "I'm the first person to touch these things in 2,000 years," he says, beaming. "How could you not do this? How could you not come here?"

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relationships
or STD's?

Should we
move in
together?



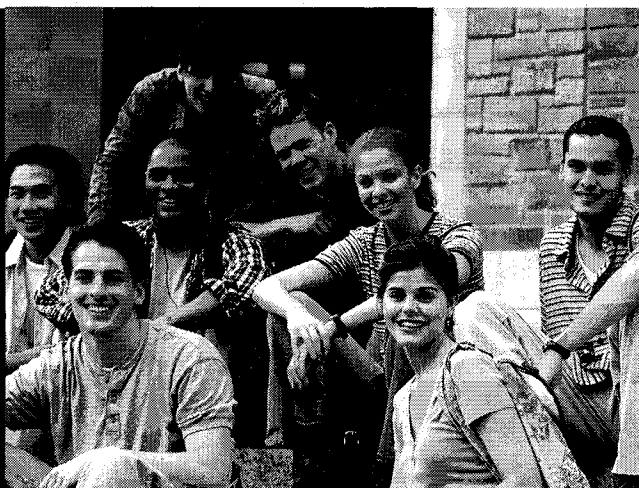
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Brown v. Board of Ed Revisited

Continued From Page 1

of racial segregation and inequalities in education are still being visited. On March 29, 2004, Stony Brook University, along with many other area universities and colleges, co-sponsored and supported a conference entitled "Brown v. Board of Education: The Unfinished Agenda." The conference was held to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the landmark decision, as well as to open a continuing dialogue on the racial inequities in education that still exist on Long Island. Coordinated by ERASE Racism, an initiative of The Long Island Community Foundation, the conference was held at the Huntington Hilton Long Island and over 500 people were in attendance. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the impact that the Brown decision has had on public schools for the past fifty years, the implication for segregation and inequities that still exist in Long Island's public schools, and the identification of potential collaborators and opportunities to address these issues in the future.

"Rotten opportunities can only produce rotten outcomes," said Elaine Gross, director of Erase Racism, in the opening remarks of the conference. She continued that the purpose of the gathering was to continue to "dismantle policies and practices that perpetuate racism."

According to John Powell from the Institute on Race and Poverty, among numerous racial disparities that exist on Long Island, the typical black child on Long Island attends a school with a student poverty rate two and half times higher than the poverty rate in the typical white child's school. He called for "Spatial Racism," racial segregation produced through regional dynamics, particularly the fragmentation of local governmental control, to be put on the Civil Rights Agenda for the 21st Century. Powell explained that segregation hurts both black and white students and society in general.

Reverend Reginald Tuggle, pastor

of the Memorial Presbyterian Church in Roosevelt, gave a powerful message to African American students to "not let your race be your reason for not getting over obstacles, and to remember that your history is not your future."

Jonathon Becker, Ph.D., assistant professor in the Department of Foundations, Leadership and Policy Studies in the School of Education and Allied Human Services at Hofstra University, pointed out the disproportionately high number of minority students on Long Island identified as having learning disabilities and said that "there is an overrepresentation of students of color in Special Education that sets up a cycle for in school and post school failure."

Deborah Carr Saldana, Ph.D., associate professor at St. John's University, addressed the challenges for Hispanic students where ethnicity, language, and residency status complicate the education process.

"I didn't even know that Long Island is the most racially segregated area in the United States," said Deer Park High School Senior Jessica Feeney. "I definitely want to get more involved in the future." Feeney and several other seniors from Deer Park High School were in attendance at the conference as part of a college credit course in Public Affairs at Syracuse University called "Project Advance."

Other speakers at the conference included Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy, Howard Glickstein, who assisted in drafting the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and served as staff director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Theodore Shaw, Esq., the newly elected president and director-counsel of the NAACP LDF, and William Taylor, Esq., chairman of the Citizens Commission on Civil Rights.

At the conclusion of the conference, attendees were invited to attend an afternoon session of smaller groups for discussion on the potential remedies to segregation and inequalities in public schools on Long Island.

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The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, April 15, 2004

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thu, April 15-Thu, April 22

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Catch Our Rising Stars: A Celebration
of Student Work
SAC Art Gallery

Thu, April 15

Career Center: Summer Job/
Internship Search
4-5 p.m.

Student Work Opening Reception and
Art Competition
5-7 p.m.
SAC Art Gallery

SAB Casino Night
7-11pm
Union Ballroom
Kappa Alpha Psi Dating Game
7-11pm
SBU Auditorium

Fri. April 16- Sun. April 18

SBDV Festival
Wang Center
www.sbdvfestival.org

Fri, April 16

Women's Tennis vs. New Hampshire
3p.m.

Men's Tennis vs. New Hampshire
3 p.m.

Women's Lacrosse vs. Vermont
7 p.m.
La Valle Stadium

SAB Student Comedy Show
9-11 p.m.
SAC Auditorium

QVD Spring Picnic
3-7pm
H-Quad

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The Stony Brook Statesman, which serves SUNY Stony Brook and its surrounding community, is a nonprofit literary publication produced twice weekly during the academic year and bimonthly during the summer. First copy is free. Each additional copy is 50 cents. For advertising information, call us at (631) 632-6480 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

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The Statesman has been a member of the Associated Collegiate Press since 1994.

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By MICHAEL NEVRADAKIS
Statesman Editor

Visualize this scenario for a moment. You've just finished your 2:20 class; you're hungry, and you want to get some food before your next class. Being close to the SAC, you decide to see what it has to offer today. Upon entering, you are immediately astonished by the hoards of other students waiting in endless lines for what should be "fast" food. Merely getting a hamburger will take at least a half hour, if not more.

Dejected, you think of where else to go. The Bleacher Club? It closes at four. Roth? You're not exactly in the mood for a long trip to the bathroom before class. Kelly? H-Quad? Quite a long walk away. You walk over to the Union. Another enormous line awaits you at the deli, so you try your luck at Papa Joe's. As you approach, you see that there is no line. But as you go in, you see that there is no pizza left, and hardly anything else. Muttering under your breath, and with your stomach growling, you leave, and decide to try your luck again after class.

Does this scenario sound familiar? That's probably because it's a common everyday occurrence at SBU. Unfortunately, among the sea of mismanagement that we see here as students on a daily basis, Campus Dining is near the top. But the above only begins to describe the many problems hungry students face on a daily basis.

One major complaint of students is high prices, with many food items being much more expensive to purchase on campus, than off campus. Thanks to our secluded campus, and the large amount of students who just aren't able to go to the nearest Waldbaum's or 7-11 on a regular basis, students are stuck paying insanely marked up prices for a small selection of groceries, and food of often mediocre quality.

Despite the high prices, many students still aren't able to deplete their meal plan points in one semester, and many still have hundreds of points left over at the end of the semester, which they end up spending on fattening, unhealthy foods like giant bars of chocolate, or on \$25 boxes of jelly beans. Even the least expensive of meal plan options, at \$1,270 a semester, is too much for many students. Unfortunately, it seems that Campus Dining is more concerned with stealing students' money, than with providing quality service.

Let's look at what's cooking on Campus Dining locations. At most locations, it is very easy (albeit long lines) to find large varieties of junk food, ranging from burgers to pizza to poor excuses for Chinese and Mexican food. Looking for something healthy? Your options are very few. That's why most students end

up eating junk food every night, and I don't want to imagine what harm our four-year education here causes our health as a result.

That brings me to the next item: campus dining hours. For whatever reason, the Bleacher Club closes at 4 p.m. This creates extremely long lines at the SAC after 4 p.m., when it would be very simple to just keep the Bleacher Club open to relieve overcrowding. And speaking of overcrowding, the meal plan restriction at the SAC is ludicrous. Most times, the SAC is almost empty during those hours, as meal plan students either trek over to the Union to wait in long lines, or wait until 2 p.m., when the meal plan restriction ends, thereby causing a mad rush of



Courtesy of www.neoepiphany.com

Campus food doesn't quite look like this. But then, campus dining leaves a lot to be desired.

students all running to eat at 2 p.m.

For students who have the relative misfortune of living on the north side of campus, what is there to eat after 10 p.m. when H-Quad closes its doors? The Union Deli is open until 11, but by that time, is almost out of everything. The only other option is to walk all the way across campus to Roth to eat perfectly disgusting food from Burger King or Deng Lee's, or to go to Kelly, where the deli is open until 3 a.m. As anyone who has ever gone to there at that late hour can attest, the line of starving students is quite long, as it's the only dining option that's still open on campus. One would think that such a place should be more centrally located, so that students from all over campus would have easy access to it, but Kelly is located in the far southern corner of campus, a long walk from everywhere except, well, Kelly and Roosevelt.

Ah, but there's always SBU Delivery. Let's take a closer look, though. SBU Delivery consists of food from Pizza Hut and Deng Lee's. Say you're ordering food for yourself. Aside from the same chicken parmigiana hero and breadsticks that Pizza Hut has every night, and whatever excuse for food Deng Lee's is serving, all you're left with is full pizza pies, and I hardly know anyone who can eat a whole pizza pie in one sitting, or store a pizza box in their small dorm room refrigerators

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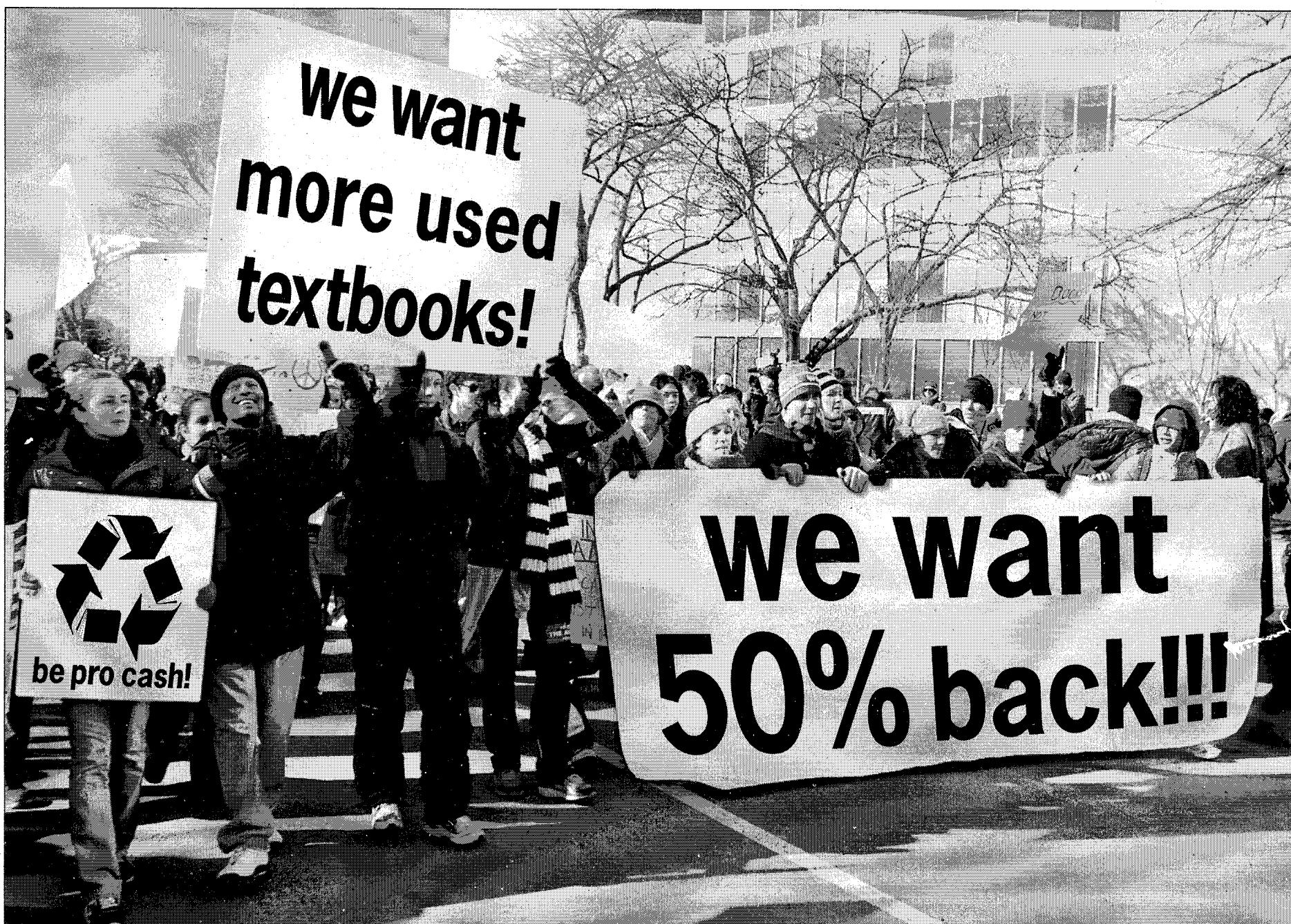
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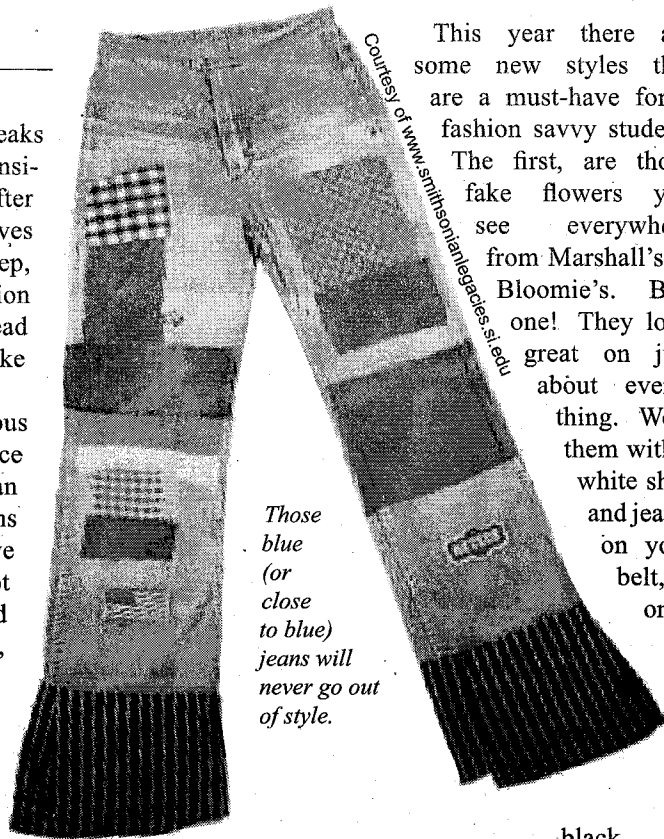
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Jessica Landress: Must Haves for Spring 2004

By JESSICA LANDRESS
Statesman Staff

With the bright flowering buds and sneak peaks of warm weather, students are beginning their transition from their winter to summer clothes. Year after year, as we sift through old boxes, we find ourselves face to face with major decisions, what to keep, what to toss, and what to buy. This season's fashion is all about color, texture, and personal flair, so read this article, head over to your wardrobe, and make some choices.

Where to draw the line between fabulous and flashy remains an issue. Yet, the difference between last season and this season is as clean cut as graduation requirements. The basic items of clothing that never go out of style are what we call 'Staple Items.' These are things that do not get tossed until they are either stained, ripped or outgrown. Such articles of clothing include, but are not limited to, the following: anything black, a great pair of jeans, a white button down blouse, neutral colored slacks, a denim jacket, a printed or colored skirt, a sweater set, a trendy sweat suit, and a few shirts in colors and styles that work best with you. Some accessories that never get old are a pair of comfy shoes (for those super long days of walking around the mall while carrying a gazillion shopping bags), a pair of high heels (for those super long days of walking around the mall and trying to save money at the same time) a belt, platforms, and pendant jewelry (think rhinestones, gemstones, flowers, but at the same time sophisticated).



Those blue (or close to blue) jeans will never go out of style.

Courtesy of www.smithsonianmagazine.si.edu

This year there are some new styles that are a must-have for a fashion savvy student. The first, are those fake flowers you see everywhere from Marshall's to Bloomie's. Buy one! They look great on just about everything. Wear them with a white shirt and jeans, on your belt, on a



Courtesy of percro.sssup.it

Spring is here, so get ready to strap on your sandal, ladies.

always more.

A pair of strappy sandals are always a great way to celebrate your first spring pedicure, but this year, try to buy a pair in a different color. Mint green, periwinkle, and yellow can all add a bit of color to an otherwise bland outfit.

Basically, when it comes to the hottest spring trends, keep things classy, feminine, and personal. Wear what makes you feel as beautiful as you really are!

For places to donate unwanted clothing, advice on your wardrobe, or any of your beauty and fashion questions, please email me at curlyqqq1@aol.com .

black evening dress or even as a hair clip. Not only are they absolutely adorable, but they welcome spring with flying colors.

A second thing to invest in this season is some new shades of makeup. Go to your favorite makeup counter and get a free consultation. Then, pick out a few pastel eye shadows and shiny lip glosses. Don't go crazy though, when it comes to make up, less is

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Thursday, May 13, Midnight Breakfast

For more information on any of the demos or to sign up call
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www.campusdining.org

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Campus Dining Could Be Much Better

Continued from Page 8

to eat at another time. Why SBU Delivery wasn't based out of a dining center like Kelly, or out of End of the Bridge, which have much larger and better selections of food, is beyond me.

End of the Bridge is yet another special case. Open for only four hours a day and closed on weekends, it is hardly convenient for people who might want to have a meal there after a late class, or for those few lonely souls who

One final pet peeve of mine has to do with the relatively minor detail of soda lids. Whereas in the SAC, soda lids are kept next to the soda fountains, enabling customers to cover their drink before paying, and thus preventing the possibility of spilling soda all over themselves and their food, caps are kept past the cash registers in Kelly and the Union. Many students can describe the experience of waiting on line to pay, while trying to hold all their food and an uncovered drink filled to the top with one hand, while reaching for their wallet or meal plan card with the

I guess the only option left for students is to try to be more vocal with their complaints, in hopes that someone in the administration or Campus Dining pays attention, or to just move off campus, and enjoy Meal Plan-free living.

stay on campus over the weekend. If the university is truly serious about providing things for students to do over the weekend, keeping End of the Bridge open on Saturdays and Sundays would be a good start—as would keeping open the Kelly Coffee House on Fridays and Saturdays.

The Kelly Coffee House is, in all honesty, a great idea and something this campus needed. But just as with many other things on this campus, the execution has been poor. By keeping the Coffee House closed on Fridays and Saturdays, there is one less incentive for students to stay on campus over the weekend. In addition, with all the space available on the ground floor of the Kelly Dining Center, the Coffee House was crammed into one corner, with only one cash register and few tables and chairs, which results in insanely long lines for something as simple as a coffee or a smoothie. Another great idea turned bad by Campus Dining Services.

other. One reason I've heard for this is to enable cashiers to be able to identify the drink that the customer is getting, but the validity of that argument is shot down just by the fact that caps are available next to the fountains at the SAC.

What can be done about this? There is a Meal Plan Resolutions Committee on campus, and many Campus Dining locations also have "comment cards" for students to voice their complaints. However, the last time I was at Roth Dining Center, where many comment cards are prominently displayed on the wall, of the replies to student comments that I read, all had a defensive tone. In no card did I find an admission of something wrong, or a promise to improve. I guess the only option left for students is to try to be more vocal with their complaints in hopes that someone in the administration or Campus Dining will pay attention, or to just move off campus and enjoy Meal Plan-free living.

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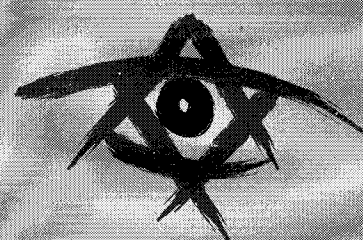
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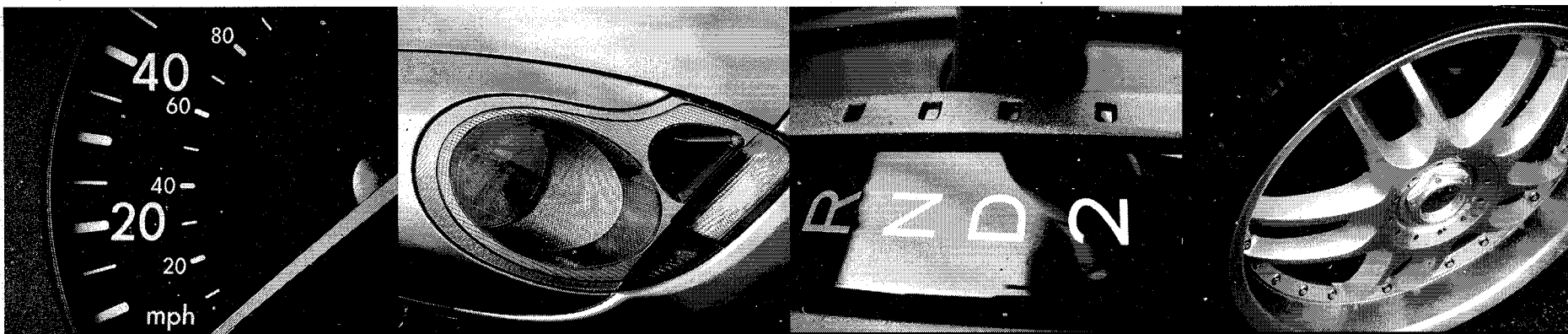
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2004 International Auto Show in NYC: A Review

By JAMES BOUKLAS
Statesman Editor

This is destined to be the year of the American car judging by the stunning lineup at the 2004 International Auto Show in NYC. Toyota and Honda, the champions when it comes to non-SUV sales in America, may find themselves displaced by Ford, GM, and above all, Chrysler. While the Japanese companies are focusing on rounder cars with soft lines, the American automakers are coming out with cars that are bold and with character, reminiscent of the muscle cars of the 1960s.

Ford showed their new Lincoln Aviator SUV, which drew one of the largest crowds of any car at the show. People were staring at it in awe of the wood-paneling floors and the styling that makes this car looks conspicuously like the Chrysler Pacifica. I saw nothing special here, but Ford seems to have really struck a chord with this latest design.

The 2005 Ford 500 looks like a solid alternative to the Toyota Camry.

Designed by the same man who overhauled the styling of the Volvos and the new Mustang, the 500 looks remarkably similar to the Audis of the late 1990s. Ford is offering a Continuously Variable Transmission as an option in an effort to bring better gas mileage to its car line. The Mercury version, the Montego, is more upscale but effectively the same car.

The star of the show, Chrysler, demoed some great models that will put them back on the map in the years to come. The Dodge Slingshot is a cross between the Mini Cooper and the Chrysler Crossfire with a design that is uniquely American. This two-seater makes the BMW Z4 pale in comparison in terms of design.

The redesigned 300, Chrysler's flagship, is the car that I believe will become the

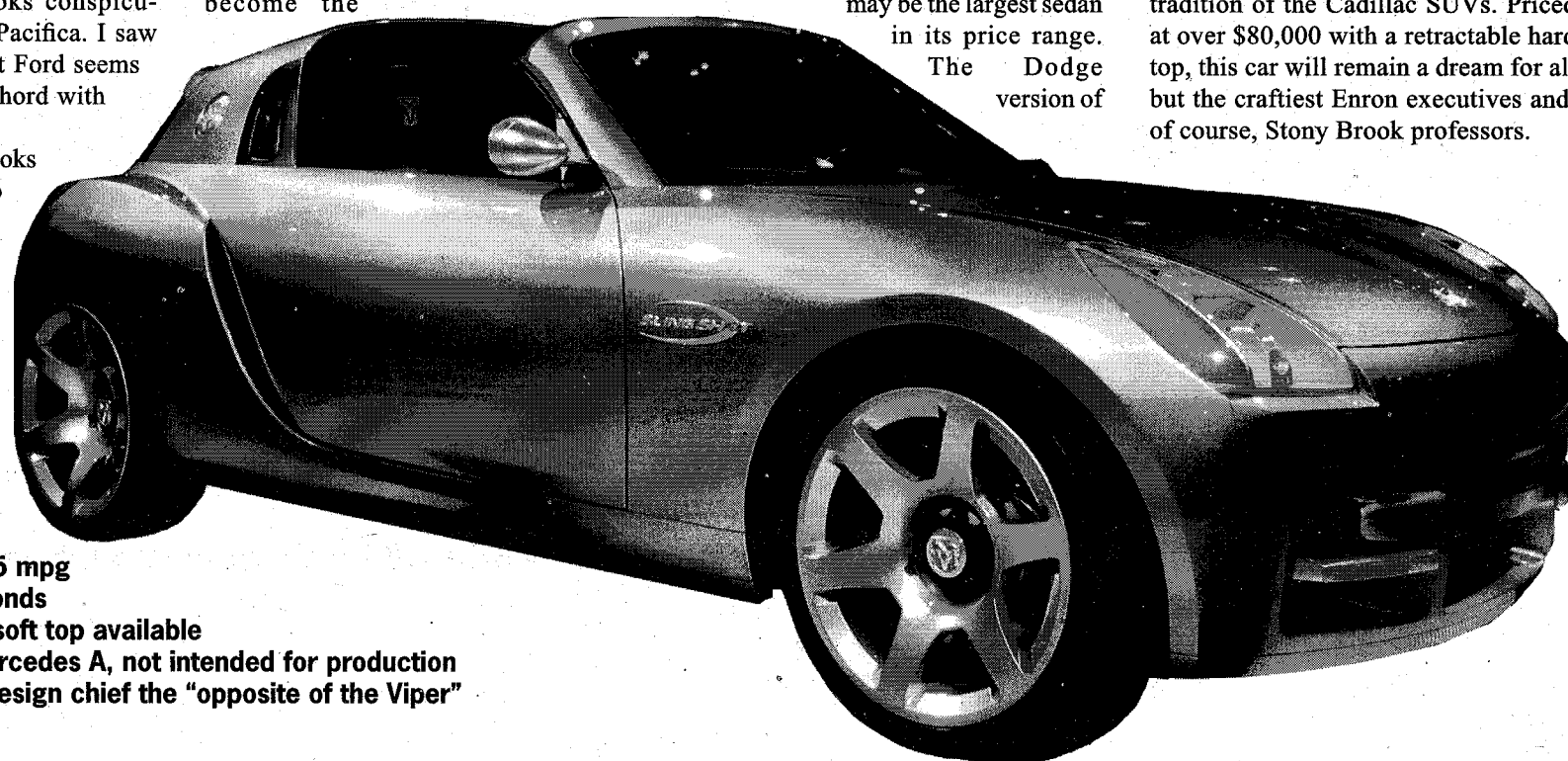
next Toyota Camry or Honda Accord in terms of sales volume in the next year. With a starting price of just over \$23,000, this behemoth of a car will attract middle-class families who want to drive something bigger and bolder than the Japanese offerings similarly priced. The lowest model comes equipped with a 190-hp V6; its performance is nothing to get excited about. Car and Driver magazine, in their review of this car, wrote that the engine got the job done but without much fanfare. The middle model, priced at about \$27,000, comes equipped with a 270-hp V6, a great bargain for the price. The top model comes with a 5.7-liter 350-hp Hemi V8 and is priced at just under \$30,000. This model brings back the all-American car to the masses, managing 0 to 60 in under 6.0 seconds while seating five in what may be the largest sedan in its price range.

The Dodge version of

this car, the Magnum, is available only as a station wagon and is priced slightly lower than the Chrysler versions.

Chrevolet brings Italian design to the masses with their newly redesigned Corvette C6. This latest incarnation is more of an evolution than a revolution, which makes sense since their C5 was a Car and Driver's Best Pick for several years running. The SSR is Chevy's car/truck crossover that takes the worst aspects of both worlds. This \$40,000+ vehicle gets the gas mileage of a truck and has the size of a car, albeit with a well-designed flatbed. The classic El Camino is a much nicer looking car that accomplishes the same function.

The Cadillac version of the Corvette, the XLR, was one of the most stunning convertibles of the show. This low-profile, cut car keeps with the styling tradition of the Cadillac SUVs. Priced at over \$80,000 with a retractable hard top, this car will remain a dream for all but the craftiest Enron executives and, of course, Stony Brook professors.



The Dodge Slingshot

3-Cylinder 100-hp
Rear mounted engine
Designed to deliver 45 mpg
0-60 in under 10 seconds
Pop-off hard top and soft top available
Concept based on Mercedes A, not intended for production
Called by Chrysler's design chief the "opposite of the Viper"

The College Student Automobile Buyer's Guide

By JAMES BOUKLAS
Statesman Editor

Your 1982 Toyota Corolla is on its last legs, almost begging you to put it down. It's finally time for that new car you've been drooling over. Your wallet reminds you, however, that your dream car is out of your price range. Or is it?

The Toyota Corolla is popular among college-aged buyers (i.e. without money) because of its amazing value. Starting at only \$14,080, it is one of the most economical ways to get into a new car. All models come equipped with a 1.8-liter, four-cylinder engine that cranks out a mere 130 horses. A 5-speed manual transmission comes standard on the Corolla but a 4-speed automatic is an option. While this economy car isn't the biggest or fastest car to buy, for \$14,000 it's a hard deal to pass up.

Honda's popular Civic is a direct competitor to the Toyota Corolla and starts lower, at about \$13,000. The base Civic comes equipped with a 1.7-liter 115-hp engine, both smaller and less powerful than its Toyota counterpart. The highest-end Civic engine produces 127 horses with 1.7 liters, still not up to spec with Toyota. The Civic, however, offers both a coupe and a sedan, while Toyota only offers a sedan. Both the Toyota and Honda offer great reliability at bargain prices.

For those who are not so worried about continually fixing cars as they age, Hyundai offers excellent prices

for their sedans. The Elantra starts at only \$13,300 and is comparable in size to the Civic, Corolla, and Focus. Its design is more upscale than its competitors and many people repeatedly profess their love for this Korean company. For students with more money to spend, the Hyundai Sonata is an excellent choice, sized in the same class as the Camry, Accord, and Taurus for thousands less, starting at only \$16,000. The Tiburon is Hyundai's low-priced sporty car that starts at \$16,250. With an available 2.7-liter, 172 horse power V6 engine, this is definitely the most powerful car for the money. Its styling is reminiscent of the Toyota Celica, with a much smaller hit on your wallet. These cars offer superb value and styling in the low-end car market. The only problem with Hyundais are their poor reliability rating, which is actually improving every year.

While GM has nothing worthy of note, Ford has a real sleeper compact: the Focus ZTW. This car produces roughly the same amount of pollution per mile that a power plant does to produce the power for electric cars. This means that Ford, and American company, managed to make an environmentally-friendly car for thousands less than a hybrid or electric car, starting at \$16,320. With a five-speed manual, Car and Driver took this car from 0-60 in under 8 seconds, a nice

achievement for its class. For those of you who like to keep the environment healthy and who want to put money back into American auto companies, this is the car for you.

With so many excellent choices that are reasonably priced, there is simply no reason to drive anything subpar. The Toyota Echo and Hyundai Accent are priced below even the cheapest Civic, but should be avoided like the plague. For just a few thousand more dollars, it's possible to drive a real car and not some plastic toy. GM, known for its uncontrollable fits of outsourcing, makes a couple of low-end car models, but focuses mainly on trucks. GM is not to be trusted when it comes to their cheap car offerings, while companies like Ford, Toyota, Honda, and Hyundai offer a much broader range, showing that these companies put more emphasis and focus in this market, thereby delivering a better product.



The Hyundai Tiburon, the nicest styled car in its priced range.

Courtesy of www.hyundai.com

Turning Heads with Your Automobile: A Girl's View

By JACI HIRSCHFELD
Statesman Editor

Cars, most people have them and everyone wants one. They reflect a great deal about us, from income to personality. And despite their practicality, many purchase these 2 ton hulks of metal to attract the opposite sex. I mean, if you pay 63 thousand for your Lexus SC, you want girls to turn their heads in your direction and smile. That's what many of these cars are aiming at, getting attention from a preferred audience, which in most cases is the opposite sex, or females. I'm not about to go into an anthropological viewpoint on why this is the case, with the whole car equals resources bit. I am, however, going to elaborate on a few examples of damn sexy cars that do turn our heads, whether we girls like to admit to it or not.

The Lexus SC, my first example, is my personal favorite. But we don't see too many of these babies driving around campus. For a mere 63 thousand, you too can drive around in one of these hardtop convertibles, which as the Lexus website explains, "Leaves a wake of desire and envy." I couldn't have said it better myself. After all, "the SC convertible is a temptation nobody can resist." So any fellows out there looking to turn our heads and leave us quivering with desire, it only costs you a bit more than four years at Stony Brook University.

The Jaguar is a nice addition to the

head-turner corner. A car buyer could go all out and spend over 70 thousand for the very sexy Jaguar XK, which goes from 0 to 60 in just 6.1 seconds. This powerfully exquisite car rarely fits into a college student's budget; fortunately the Jaguar X-type almost does. Starting at 30 thousand, this car is sure to turn heads even though there are a ton of these on the road. They are classy, luxurious and prestigious enough that I hear fellow females bragging about their boyfriends driving one of these. Sure, most of them are hand-me-downs from mom and dad, but who wouldn't want to drive a Jaguar despite where it came from?

The Audi TT must also be included on this incomplete list of head-turning automobiles. Both the roadster and the coupe, starting in price from 34 to 36 thousand, are rare enough to still make an impression on the road. The Audi TT was my favorite for a long time, with its unique look and very powerful engine. Ever since its first appearance on Mission Impossible 2, this car can be spotted speeding along any major highway. It is a bit small, only a two-seater, so having more than one lady in this car will be fairly difficult unless you're going to pack them in like sardines in a can. Which, if you think about it, isn't that bad of an idea but I don't think police officers would appreciate it.

Lastly on my little list is an old favorite, the BMW Z3. Unfortunately, these small yet sexy bad boys aren't



If this doesn't turn your head, nothing will. The Lexus SC demonstrates its automatic convertible hard-top. Vroom vroom, baby.

manufactured anymore. Their entire 1996 production, consisting of a little more than 15,000 cars, was sold out before they even hit the market. The upside: you can buy them used just about anywhere and they won't deplete your college fund either. This has been and probably will be my favorite practical BMW roadster, let's not get me into the very impractical special edition Z8 roadster that blows all other cars out of the water. Getting back to the Z3, you can usually spot these little, usually turquoise, convertibles zipping around dangerously even though we all know if you're in a car accident with one of these, the Z3 will without a doubt lose. But either way, it's

so cute that few can resist it.

These were just a few examples of cars that will without a doubt turn a girl's head. What constitutes a car that can produce this effect on a girl? The car must stand out from all the regular sedans out there and draw a person's attention away from whatever they were doing. But this doesn't essentially mean that if you are driving a really nice car and you honk at an unsuspecting girl, that she's going to throw down her things and jump into the car next to you. So please be respectful while driving, for you may turn our heads while driving by but your car isn't necessarily going to help you score.

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Putting Your Money Where Your Car Is: Practicality vs. Image

By ROHIT DAS
Statesman Editor

What's the ultimate purpose of purchasing a car? Is it a matter of luxury, necessity, or a combination of both? In simply acknowledging the situations of commuter students here at SBU, it's obvious that cars are indeed a necessity for many people. At the same time, however, shouldn't we also appreciate the value in distinguishing between what we need and what we can do without? Do people really need expensive sports cars? Is it necessary to augment vehicles with shallow enhancements?

The obvious answer is no. The thousands of extra dollars spent in buying extravagant cars and augmenting them can be saved or allocated towards more productive ventures. Nevertheless, I understand that just because something isn't necessary doesn't entail that it should not be pursued. Cars, like music, sports, and video games, provide a source of recreation, and

Do people really need expensive sports cars?

recreation is something that should be valued.

In relation to cars, however, recreation has become more than just an individual desire to have fun. It is slowly becoming a way by which society judges us by what we possess rather than by who we are. More often than not, an individual driving an elite sports car will be thought of with more prestige than another person driving a shabby Honda. Does this tell us anything at all about the true nature of the individuals driving these respective cars? No, of course not. In fact, it doesn't necessarily tell us anything about their relative wealth either.

I can apply this argument to so many other aspects of our lives, like clothing, jewelry, etc. With cars, however, money also becomes a much more pertinent issue. The amount of extra dollar spent in buying or augmenting vehicles is substantial enough to consider bare necessity over recreation. Furthermore, isn't it more monetarily efficient to buy a moderately priced car than a highly priced car, assuming that they're both in an equally good working condition? After all, for the purposes of everyday tasks, both cars accomplish the same ultimate task—they transport us from one place to the other. And since both drivers need to abide by traffic laws, neither car can travel significantly faster than the other.

Some people may refuse to accept such logic, and emphasize the recreational value of driving an expensive vehicle. But as this continues, the superficially judgmental mentality of our society will be reinforced, and money will be more important than the individual who possesses it.



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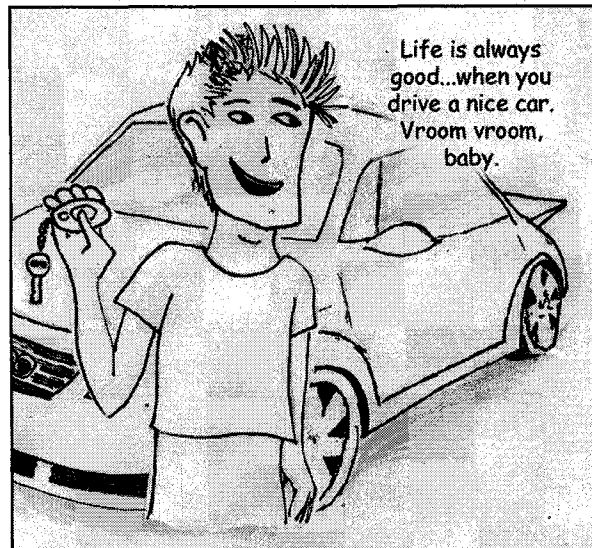
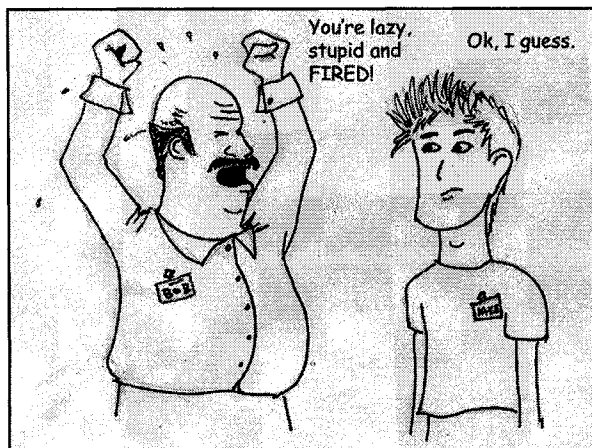
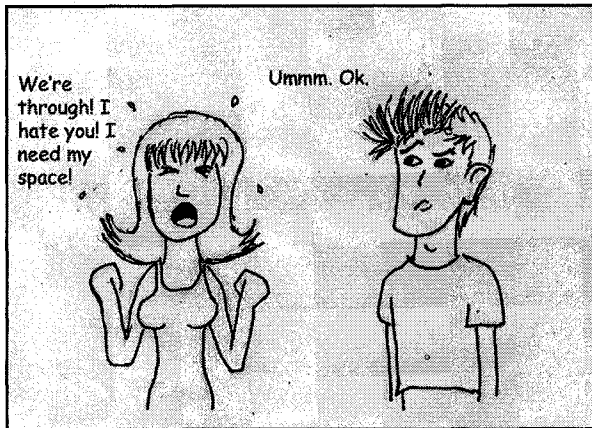
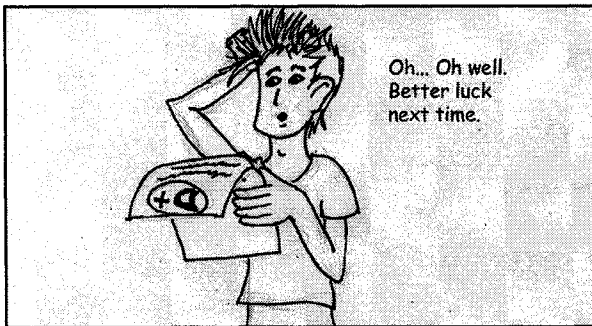
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Life in the FAST LANE

By Marcus Kain



Out-running the Campus 5-0

By JAMES CASTON
Statesman Editor

Like most guys my age, I like my cars (and my women) fast. Police officers tend to feel differently, however, when it comes to young people and our need for speed. Luckily, society has instilled in us at an early age that it's only wrong if you get caught.

In this day and age "getting away with it" is often a matter of knowing what you're up against. So without further ado, let me introduce you to the campus fleet.

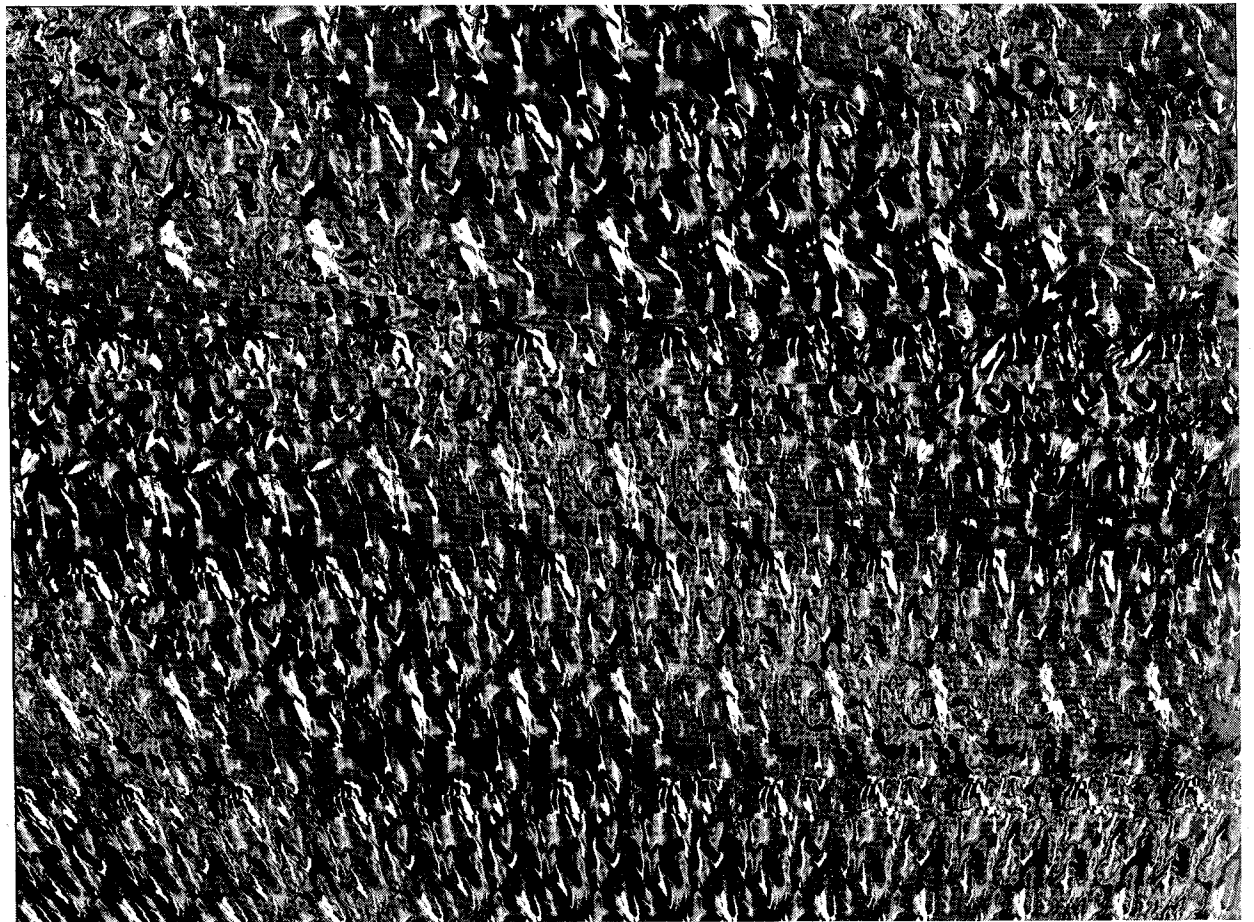
2002 Ford Police Interceptor P71: Law enforcement's weapon of choice in the battle against irresponsible driving, the 2002 Police Interceptor sports a 4.6-liter V8 boasting 239 HP. With a 0-60 mph time of 9 seconds the Police Interceptor won't beat the 2003 Mustang or even the Honda Accord off the line. While its top speed is a disappointing 128 mph, what it lacks in power it makes up in handling. Despite this, don't be fooled by the bulky frame and rear-wheel drive; this 4000 lb behemoth handles better than many smaller, sportier cars like the BMW Z-series. The university also has a couple of undercover squad cars in the fleet; Police Interceptors styled with the "street package." While it's pretty easy to spot a Crown Vic with a push-bumper, you're equally likely to miss it as it conspicuously lacks the light bar the name of the department painted on the

side. Regardless of how fast your car is you should keep in mind that cops have radios and backup.

2002 Dodge Caravan: Another weapon employed by the law enforcement goes from 0 to 60 mph in 10 seconds and rides smoothly. It handles well with responsive steering and is stable at high speeds, even though the top speed is a sad 110 mph. The 3.8 liter v6 engine gives this vehicle a surprising amount of pep for its size. This car is relatively quiet compared to other minivans, so don't be surprised if this bad boy tries to sneak up on you like a crouching tiger ready to strike. It also has a small enough turning radius to get into parking spots easily, however the height of the windows blocks the view of cars and other low objects.

Yamaha 125cc Motor scooter: Purchased in 1998, the motor scooter patrol is able to maneuver in and around campus in ways the cars and vans just can't compete with. The campus police state on their website that "the scooters provide the omnipresence of foot/bicycle patrols with the speed of vehicle response." This makes them ideal for quickly responding to calls while increasing the visibility of the police presence on campus. You probably won't end up running on foot from one of these in the near future or for that matter in a car. In any case, with a 125cc engine just about everything but an '82 Toyota Corolla will pass it like its standing still.

Magic Eye: Try to see the Hidden Picture in this image.



Courtesy of N.E. Thing Enterprises

The Do's and don'ts of Driving

Do: Watch the car in front of you.
Don't: Watch the blonde walking by on the sidewalk.

Do: Stay within ten miles above the speed limit.
Don't: Rev your engine at every stoplight and emanate a glisteningly maniacal stare at the driver next to you

Do: Stay off your cell phone while driving.
Don't: Tell your boyfriend/girlfriend on the phone that you're sleeping with their best friend, and that you're pregnant...and you have an STD.

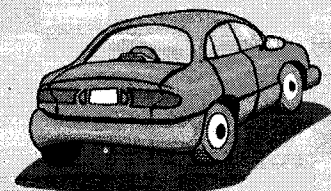
Do: Keep your hands on the wheel.
Don't: Keep your hand on...ummm...other things.

Do: Drive Defensively.
Don't: Curse offensively...at other drivers, unless they cursed at you first, because then it's ok.

Do: Make a complete stop at stop signs.
Don't: Assume that the three second rule means you need to be driving under 10 miles per hour for at least three seconds at a stop sign.

Do: Look both ways at a stop sign.
Don't: Look both ways when driving 90 mph in a school zone.

Do: Read signs on the road.
Don't: Read novels while on the road.





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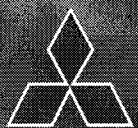
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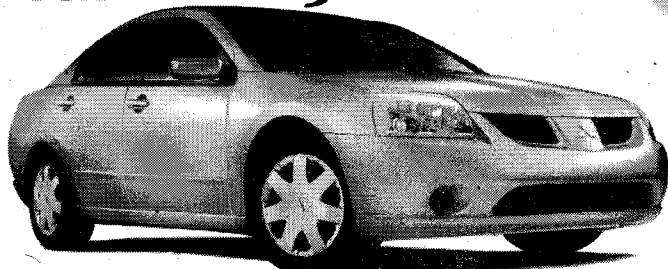
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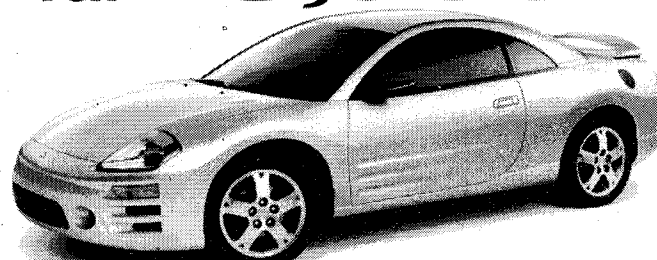
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Jessica Landress: How to Look Your Best in Your Car

By JESSICA LANDRESS
Staff Writer

There comes a point in every trendy student's life when they start to see the big picture in fashion. They learn that sometimes, the most attractive and expensive objects never go out of style and that particular purchases can last for years, even if they only get washed and dried once a month. Best of all, you can never grow out of...cars.

You see, purchasing a car offers you high mileage plus lots of wearing and tearing without all the mending and dry cleaning required by your outfits. Also, no matter what color car you decide to purchase, it will never go out of style or clash with your attire! Black, white, silver, red, yellow, blue and gold...leather as soft as a pair of Uggs, and cloth as cozy as cashmere.

Your car's body is firm, toned, and stylish, and she does it effortlessly. No



Statesman/James Bouklas

If you're driving this mean gal, you better have your boots strapped up. Vroom vroom.

exotic diets or exercise routines are required, except of course the occasional 200-mile run. Her stylish lines are unique enough to flatter any figure.

There are sporty automobiles that look great when accompanied by a driver who is wearing tight jeans and a white tank top. You really rev the engine when your shoes, belt, scarf, or purse are the same color as your car's exterior.

Convertibles are perfect for a sundress. A nice pair of sandals and a feminine hairclip to keep the fly always in place would be ideal as well.

A family sedan is for anyone wearing traditional attire. Black slacks and a classic shirt with a pair of loafers works well here. Upgrade to the power package when you opt for a skirt.

Luxury cars are the smoothest ride

when their driver is wearing either evening attire or a designer suit. Add the twenty-inch rims and TV's only if you plan on bringing your most fashionable friends along for the ride.

Sport utility vehicles are perfect for those casual days when you just throw on a sweat suit and put your hair in a high ponytail or bun. Turn on the four-wheel drive if your sneakers match your headband.

Basically, what it comes down to is that no matter what car you drive or what outfit you wear inside of it, safe driving and a reliable way to get from point A to point B are enough to make you look good—even if you are driving around in your pajamas and not wearing any makeup. Beware, though; your car has just broken down if you're wearing your slippers too.

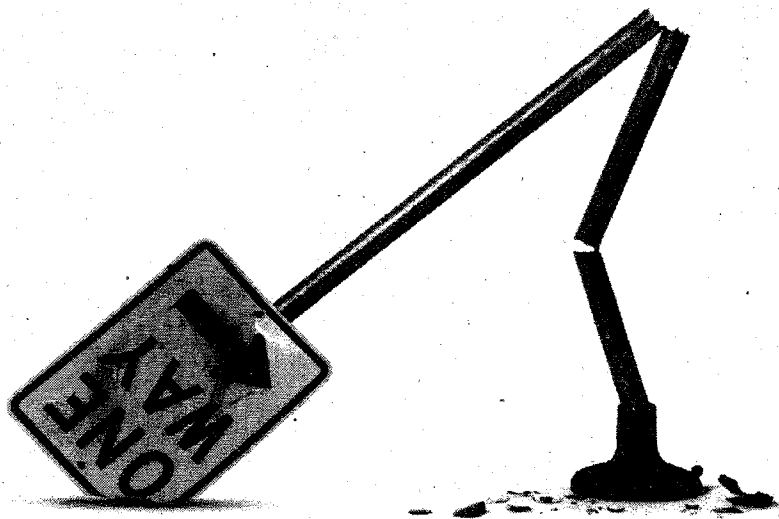
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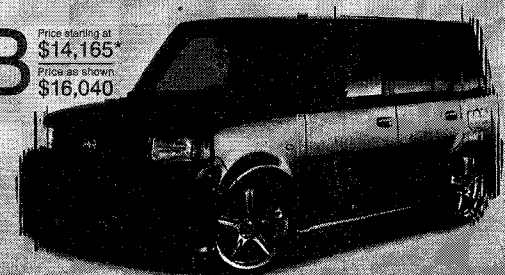
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Parallel Parking: Waiting to Exhale

By AAZAZ HAQ
Statesman Contributor

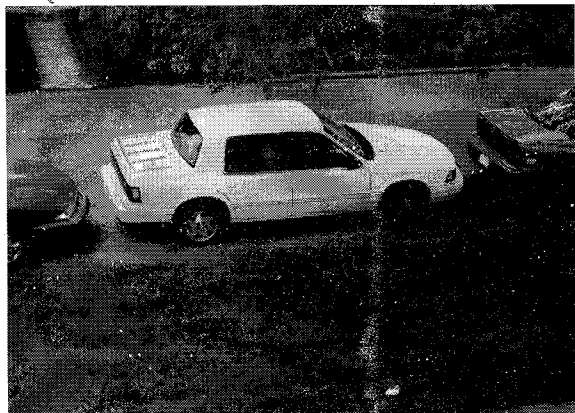
You have been looking for a parking spot for ten minutes with no success. What ho! An open spot on the curb in between two cars! It is gaping, seductively staring at you, virtually begging to be parallel parked in. You decide to go for it. You pull up to the car in front of the spot. There are cars piling up behind you. Pedestrians make sideways glances to monitor your progress. The whole world is focused on you. The heat is on. You inhale, and then you exhale. You can do this.

One deft swing of the right hand places your car in reverse. The car behind you inches back a few notches in deference. You turn your neck like a dad yelling at his son in the back seat and place your hand on the passenger seat. No turning back now. You turn the steering wheel all the way to the left and slowly depress the accelerator. In your mind, you know well that you will be the one that will be depressed if you fail. You will add one more thing to the list of things at which you are a gigantic failure.

But this depression will not be necessary. You glide the gently curved behind of your car backwards smoothly into the parking spot. Your car is halfway in. Now comes the tricky part — spinning the wheel in the opposite direction. You know your previous spinning history. At times, this moment has made you feel like a God, and at times it has made you want to crawl back into your mother's womb and curl up in the fetal position. You don't want to hit the curb, but you don't want the entire left side of your car sticking out in the street either. You also have to watch out for turning prematurely and hitting the front right side of your car into the car in front of you. Oh God! Oh Vishnu! Baby Jesus please help! You can't do this! Allaaaaaaah!!

What's this? What's this? You actually managed to pull in the spot perfectly. You are on top of the world! BAM!! Oh damn, you forgot to break, and you hit the car behind you. It's okay; there was no one in the parked car behind you. Besides, bump and feel is a perfectly legitimate part of parking. Yup, perfectly legitimate.

You visualize a sideways smiley face and "lol" as you hop out of your car. A young boy selling newspapers stares with his mouth agape at your marvelous parking job. You smile and pat him on his head and head towards your destination. You are a god. All hell can't stop you now.



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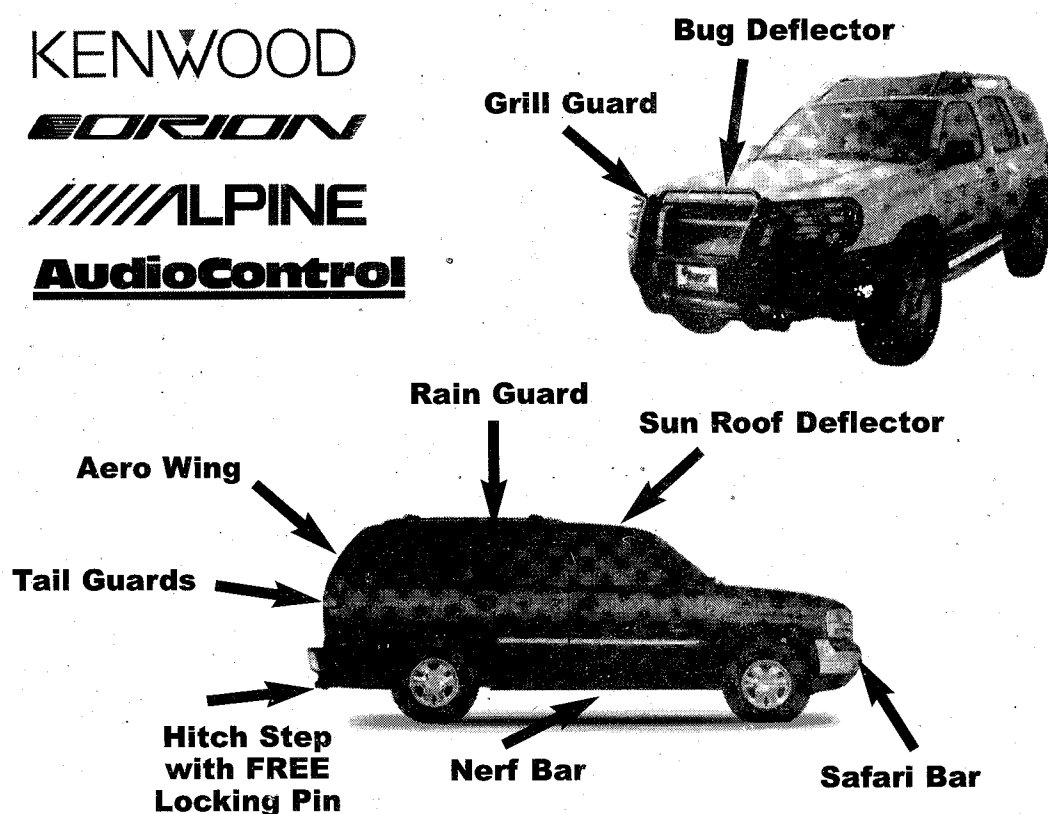
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Leasing vs. Buying: Living Large or Taking Charge

By MANSOOR KHAN
Statesman Editor

The question of whether to buy or lease is second in the world of questions only to the well-known quandary between the chicken and the egg. But while we can always make an omelet without really knowing if the chicken came before the egg, we have to decide where to put all of our marbles when getting a new car. It all depends on what you're looking for.

You have to figure out if it fits into your lifestyle. How much driving do you do a year? If you commute from an hour and a half away, every day, you'll probably want to steer clear of a 10,000 mile/year limit.

Your financial situation is important. Leasing is for people willing to splurge more money, contrary to what it seems. At the end of your lease period, remember that you don't get to keep the car, and so are essentially spending thousands of dollars to sport the car just for a few years. Do you just shrug when you find gum smashed onto the rear seat fabric, and smile when your best friend has a vomitous night of alcohol poisoning in your backseat? Then you probably want to buy the car. How well you tend to treat your automobile is an important factor. You can end up paying thousands of dollars out of your pocket at the end of the lease if you treat your car like there's a party going on inside every Thursday night. Insurance companies also require leased vehicles to carry the maximum coverage in all categories, including collision,

so keep in mind that you have no choice when it comes to premiums. If your driving record is less than stellar, then you probably want to buy, so you could obtain the minimal policies.

And finally, your image will factor in. One of the major benefits of a leased vehicle is that you can get something new every three or four years and always look successful. If you see yourself getting embarrassed driving a five-year old car, or just want to have the latest and greatest at all times, without regard to cost, you probably will do better leasing.

Now that you're somewhat closer to making a decision, take a look at your finances. The biggest difference between buying and leasing is that you can get into a lease deal with little or no money down, but then you're not building any equity in the vehicle as you are when you purchase straight out. This is the typical quick fix versus lasting solution problem.

On the plus side of leasing, you probably can afford a much nicer car with more amenities than if you purchased. But with today's climate of zero-percent or low-percent financing, outright buying a vehicle over leasing has never been more attractive. What it really comes down to is style over substance. It's more practical to buy a car, unless you don't care about practicality. In that case, sit back and enjoy your three-year ride. If you are concerned with where your money goes and really just need a car to get you to school or work and back, then you're much better off financing the car.

Lease if . . .

You like to have a new car every two to four years.

You can't be bothered with repair bills, whether they are covered by the warranty or not.

You know you'll keep the car for the full term.

You're gentle on vehicles and won't incur damage beyond "normal wear and tear."

You are self-employed or an employer and know you can write off some of the expense in taxes.

You want to drive a nicer vehicle than you could afford to buy, or acquire a car now that you may be able to afford in the future.

You don't have the money for a large down payment.

You have good credit. For a lease company to sign a contract with you, and for the terms of that contract to be favorable, you must have a good credit history.

Finance if . . .

You don't mind driving the same car for many years.

You don't mind paying repair bills for part of the vehicle's life, if it means having no further monthly payments.

You think you might have to give up the car unexpectedly.

You're rough on vehicles and don't want to risk paying a penalty.

You're buying a car for personal use.

Prestige is not an issue.

You'd rather pull together more money for a down payment and know that you're building equity in the vehicle.

Your credit record is poor. Bad credit is a hurdle no matter which avenue you choose, but it's most likely to disqualify you from leasing or make the terms of a lease for which you could qualify unattractive.

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How to Get Car Insurance Without Hurting Your Wallet

MANSOOR KHAN
Statesman Staff

Car Insurance is a sensitive subject for many, especially college students. Males between 18 and 21 pay the highest car insurance out of any age/sex group. Being that I am a male between 18 and 21, I'm concerned! For those of us who pay way too much as it is, there are a number of ways to reduce the amount you pay for car insurance.

In the event of an insurance claim, you'll have to pay a certain deductible regardless of whether it is your fault or not. It's sort of a co-payment. This can be modified in your insurance policy, and it basically goes: the higher your deductible, the lower your monthly insurance payment. The highest deductible you can get is usually \$1,000. Keep in mind,

however, that in case someone hits you, those thousand bucks are going to have to come out of your pocket.

If you only got your license a few years ago, you can present your Driver's Ed certificate to the insurance company. This usually gets you a small discount, but every little bit helps. In addition, having over a certain GPA in college, and even the fact that you're a student at all, can save you money. Just be sure to send your transcript to the insurance company.

Taking a defensive driving course can reduce your insurance payments significantly. An added bonus to such a course is that you can remove up to four traffic violation points from your license.

The amount of miles you drive can also affect your rates. Your policy will ask you how much you drive per year, and if you

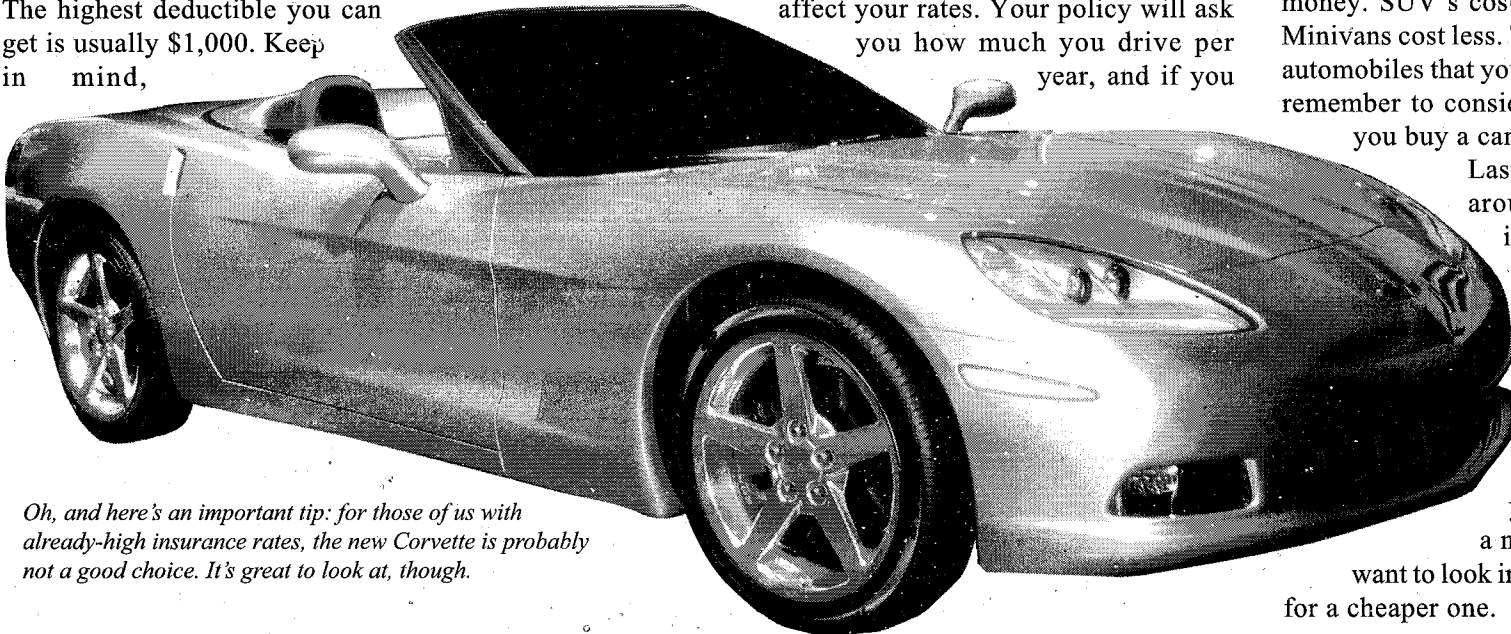
can claim to drive less, you pay less.

A huge factor can be your location. Car insurance rates are drastically cheaper in more rural areas than they are in busy cities. For example, my car insurance in the town of Babylon, where my family lives, is \$1,000 more than my car insurance at Stony Brook, where I live off-campus. Needless to say, I changed my official residence to Stony Brook, which I accomplished by going to the DMV and modifying the title on my car.

The type of car you have will affect your car insurance rates, of course. Having a backseat diminishes costs. Having four-wheel drive costs less than front-wheel drive, which costs less than rear-wheel drive. Six cylinders cost more than four cylinders. Airbags reduce costs. Alarm systems save you money. SUV's cost more. Sports cars cost more. Minivans cost less. There are tons of variables with automobiles that you have to take into account. Just remember to consider your insurance price when you buy a car.

Lastly, and most importantly, shop around. Use the internet to find insurance quotes from several different companies. There are online insurance companies, such as esurance.com, that seem to cost much less than competitors. You could already be getting ripped off with insurance, so even if you're not planning on getting a new car anytime soon, you may

want to look into changing your current policy for a cheaper one.



Oh, and here's an important tip: for those of us with already-high insurance rates, the new Corvette is probably not a good choice. It's great to look at, though.

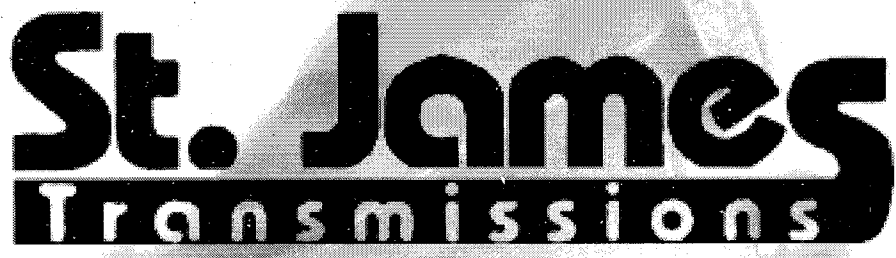


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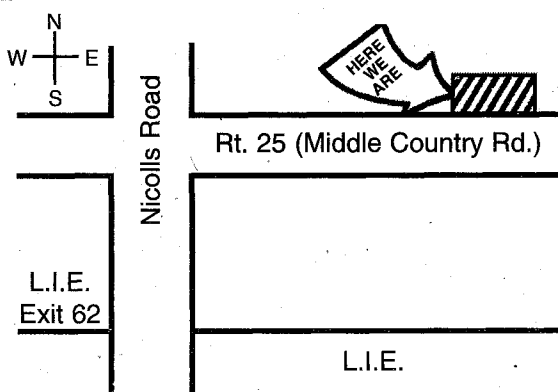
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Continued from Page 1

municate through a point of contact called a synapse. Each cell can make over ten thousand synapses with other cells. "These things are incredibly smushed in together," Stevens said, further explaining that "in the size of a grain of rice, there are one million nerve cells, there are ten billion synapses and there about twenty miles of axons."

"This is job security for neurobiologists," joked Stevens. But though there seems to be an infinite amount of information being processed through these

probability in the release of a synaptic vesicle, while a strong synapse has a very high probability of this reaction occurring. Because of this range in probability, many cells are utilized for exactly the same purpose. For example, a hundred synapses doing the same thing may only have a 20 percent probability of working, thus only 20 will work every time

In the last ten to fifteen years, neurobiology has taken a huge leap into the way it studies the brain. Through the use of theory, neurobiologists can go about questioning and answering the functions

Brains are extremely probabilistic, while computers are reliable. Brains are modified by the changing strength of synapses. A weak synapse has a low probability in the release of a synaptic vesicle, while a strong synapse has a very high probability of this reaction occurring.

cells, a great many of them are highly redundant, doing the same thing at the same time, thus the belief that we only use 10 percent of our brains. Stevens explained that if you take out a portion of the brain, the rest can still function, although not as efficiently. "We have presidents who use only 70 percent of their brains but apparently function quite well," he said.

Only recently have researchers discovered how synapses actually work, according to Stevens. The reaction that occurs between synapses is very unreliable. "Four times out of five nothing happens," he said. But "one time out of five you get a release." This release of a synaptic vesicle allows the synapse to remember the reaction that took place. The number of times that this transpires is variable and there is a wide range of possibilities, since there are ten thousand cells in a grain of rice-sized section. It is only through a change in strength that the synapse can adjust its probability that the reaction would occur again.

The key point of Stevens' lecture was that the main difference between a computer and a brain is the reliability of the two. Brains are extremely probabilistic, while computers are reliable. Brains are modified by the changing strength of synapses. A weak synapse has a low

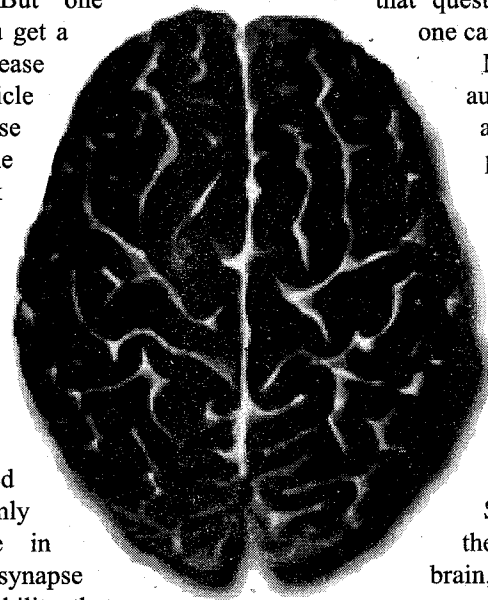
and design of the brain. Stevens showed the simplest method of proving the theory correct. Why is the brain arranged the way it is? Stevens and a colleague rearranged the different regions of the brain in as many possible combinations, each time measuring the volume of white matter. Their results proved that "the best arrangement is always the natural arrangement," Stevens said. The experiments showed that the smallest volume of white matter existed when the regions of the brain were arranged the way nature intended. It is with the combination of theoretical and practical neurobiology that questions such as this one can be answered.

Members of the audience, dismayed at the lack of practical information shared in the lecture, riddled Stevens with questions such as "how can we make our memory better?"

Others were frustrated by Stevens' focus on the biology of the brain, rather than its comparison to computers.

"It was basically high school biology and it was nothing too extravagant," said Santoriello, a health science major at Stony Brook.

Still, students like Shweta Lamba appreciated the input Stevens offered. "It was pretty informative," she said. "I wish it had been longer."



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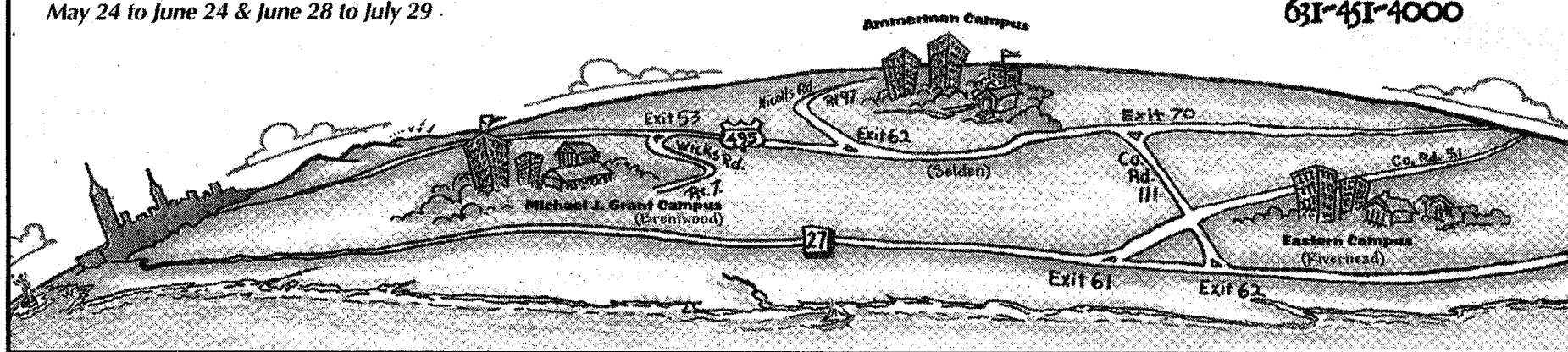
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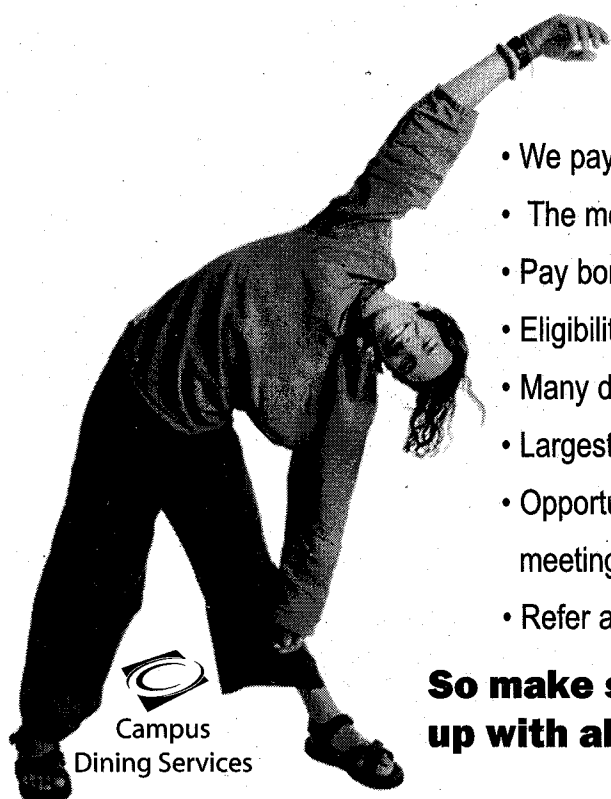
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For information or an application, please call FSA Student Staffing Resources, Warren Wartell (631) 632-9306 or email Warren.Wartell@stonybrook.edu or come to Room 250 of the Stony Brook Union.

CHOICE: The Truth About Cocaine

By JEN SHOEMAKER
Statesman Contributor

Question

Recently, I snorted cocaine a couple of times. I really enjoyed its effects and after the high I am perfectly fine. I'll get high and then be back to normal. Why is there such a bad hype about cocaine when I am not experiencing any negative effects?

Answer

While you may be experiencing a pleasant, very short-term high, your body is experiencing a dramatic increase in heart rate, blood pressure and possibly drastic nervous sweats. The drug is actually inducing the body's STRESS RESPONSE in a big way. As

with many drugs, the initial effects can be perceived as positive, but this is indicative of an impending mad situation. You've experienced the good news, but you should be preparing for the bad. By the time you recognize the negative effects, you may be hooked.

Even before encountering long-term effects of the drug, you do open yourself up to fatal reactions associated with even small dosages of cocaine. Cocaine can be highly addictive, and regular cocaine users often have trouble stopping. After long-term use of the drug, there can be serious consequences. The body can eventually burn itself out due to insomnia, malnutrition and weight loss.

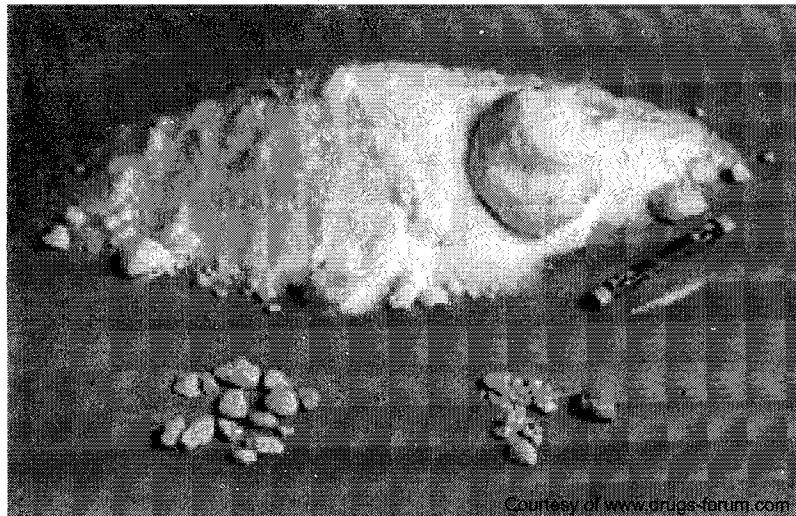
A number of health problems have been associated with long-term use of cocaine, including heart attacks, strokes and overdose. You may not even be aware when you are at high risk for overdosing, as you become a regular user. A simple change in environment where you normally use cocaine can increase your risk of overdose. In new environments, your body does not have the normal environmental cues to ready itself for cocaine administration, so overdoses occur at what appear to be usual dosages. Cocaine use has also been associated



Courtesy of www.blogger.com.br

with altering the neural pathways of the brain associated with mood, learning, and sleep patterns.

Occasional users like you can still experience dependency symptoms such as anxiety, tension and insomnia. These dependency symptoms can worsen with increased use of cocaine. It is important to evaluate the consequences of cocaine use before getting involved with it. Its early harmful effects can sometimes go unnoticed and give rise to more dangerous problems associated with long-term cocaine use. For more information on stimulants like cocaine, contact the CHOICE/CHILL center at 632-6689. You can also contact the Substance Abuse Counselor on campus at 632-6450 or the University Counseling Center (on the 2nd floor of the Student Health Center) at 632-6720. Services provided by the Substance Abuse Counselor and the University Counseling Center are free and confidential.



Courtesy of www.drugs-forum.com



STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

CHARLES B. WANG CENTER

Events Celebrating Asian Heritage Month

APRIL 2004 EVENTS

Growing up Asian American in the 21st Century

Monday, April 19, 4:30 p.m., Wang Lecture Hall 1

Students and faculty share their experiences.

Co-sponsored by the Asian and Asian American Studies Department and Asian American Staff and Faculty Association.

18 Mighty Mountain Warriors

Tuesday, April 20, 7:00 p.m.

Students free; \$10 general admission

Brazen, zany, psychotic comedy sketch group's irreverent style of skit comedy ranges from slapstick to political. A talk on the use of humor in activism to follow.

Eating Chinese, Dreaming American: The Culture of Chinese Cuisine in America

Wednesday, April 21, 12:45 p.m.

Chinese cuisine scholar Jacqueline Newman, historian Jack Tchen, Chef Shirley Cheng from the Culinary Institute of America, and SBU's own William Arens discuss the significance of Chinese cuisine in the history of the Chinese in America and in contemporary American society. Food tasting to follow.

Co-sponsored by the Special Collections Department of the University Libraries.

Young Asian American Women Speak Out!

Saturday, April 24, Noon to 11:00 p.m.

Advance Registration Strongly Suggested

All-day conference for high school and college students touches on a variety of topics, such as safe sex and career choices, sessions on partner violence protection, safe sex and sex choices, leadership skills, depression and suicide, college life for high school students, and career choices with alumni professionals for college students. Buffet dinner and entertainment to follow.

Co-sponsored by the Frank Melville Jr. Memorial Library, AURA-AA12, AKDP, ESP, KPL & SBU AA E-Zine. Funded in part by a grant from the Long Island Fund for Women and Girls.

For more information, log on to www.aasquared.org/AURA

Hai-Tien Chorus in Concert

Sunday, April 25, 3:00 p.m.

Students free, \$10 general admission

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All screenings are FREE at the Wang Center Theatre, unless otherwise noted. Log on to www.stonybrook.edu/wang for a complete schedule.

The Charles B. Wang Center is open to the public Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with Asian food available from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Guided tours available upon request. To be included in our mailing list, please e-mail us at wangcenter@stonybrook.edu. For more information on these and upcoming events, call (631) 632-4400 or visit our Web site at www.stonybrook.edu/wang. For a disability-related accommodation, please call (631) 632-6353.

18 Mighty Mountain Warriors

Hai-Tien Chorus in Concert

Eating Chinese: Dreaming American: The Culture of Chinese Cuisine in America

STONY BROOK
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Illegal Ads Around Campus, A Bane to Students

Continued from Page 1

where permitted."

Just last week, two individuals were arrested on campus for trespassing and unlawful posting. One was a student who was referred to Student Affairs while the other was assigned a court date.

The University has also been in contact and working with the State District Attorney's Office, the State Attorney General's Office, and the State Liquor Authority regarding the matter.

One of the many local establishments that advertise illegally on campus is *Molly Blooms*. When contacted regarding the situation, the manager, who asked to remain anonymous, claims, "We (referring to himself and his employees) don't advertise on campus [at Stony Brook]," said the manager, who asked to remain anonymous. "We hire promoters who advertise for us, but we do not take responsibility for their actions."

"Partying is a part of college," said Chris, who works for a local promoting company and who requested to have his last name withheld. "[The police] can arrest us, but there will always be someone to replace us."

"Out of all the schools we promote at, Stony Brook is the hardest because of the police on campus, but a promoter can

get around the best security," Chris said. "Avoiding the security is part of the fun of the job."

"We have an agreement with Saint Joseph's College, where we can hand out flyers as long as we don't put them on cars and, in reality, we are saving the college money and time [to try to catch us] and clean up costs," Chris said.

"I honestly haven't seen them and don't know anything about them," said Dew Donlevy of the *Full Moon Café*, when asked if he was aware that advertising on campus grounds for his establishment was illegal. "We cooperate with the University policy and advertise in the *Statesman*, but to my knowledge, we don't know of any other advertising on campus. The relationship between local businesses and the University is important, and I don't want to be in any violation with them."

After being informed of advertisements posted in dormitories and other public areas for his establishment, Donlevy suggested that the flyers with his establishment's logo and special drink rates were made and distributed by his competitors who wanted to get him in trouble with the law.

"If bars and clubs want to advertise, that's fine, but do it legally, within the law," said junior Virginia Morgan. "I hate walking into lecture halls and

seeing those flyers with half naked girls on them. It's in poor taste."

A more discrete and deceiving tactic that New York City comedy clubs, *Comic Strip Live* and *Dangerfield's*, and an evening cruise company use is also a blatant violation of the law. Regularly a group of individuals make their way onto campus and into lecture halls and dining units eager to sell tickets.

These individuals ask professors for a few minutes at the beginning of class claiming to be from the Office of Special Events, offering great deals for Stony Brook students. They have also been known to approach students individually in the SAC and Bleacher Club offering the same pitch.

"My friend and I were eating at the Bleacher Club, and this guy comes up to me and tries to sell me tickets to *Dangerfield's* for the third time in three consecutive weeks," said senior Dan Operman. "On the third time seeing him, I got upset and told him I would never buy tickets from him. He seemed scared and walked away. It is really annoying because I really just wanted to eat my lunch and not be solicited."

After a considerable search throughout campus, the *Statesman* was unable to locate an Office of Special Events.

"We personally don't sell tickets," said James of *Dangerfield's*, who asked

that his last name be withheld. "Promotional companies come to us offering to sell tickets that we honor at our club. We are not going to say no to someone offering to bring more people here."

Campus Dining is also aware of the situation and is trying to combat it head on. "Each of the Dining Unit Managers is instructed to remove any advertisements that do not support campus events," said Lisa Ospitale of Campus Dining Services. "Any individual who is seen in a dining unit publicizing an off-campus event or trying to sell tickets to students is immediately escorted out of the dining unit and told not to return. Campus Dining will continue to work with the University in every way to make sure that our students are not solicited."

"In this particular instance, as the chief academic officer, Provost Robert McGrath will send a memo to all faculty informing them of the potential for these visitors to our classes," Di Donato said.

Administration and University Police are actively trying to combat these issues on campus in order to put an end to such violations.

It should be noted that several other local bars and clubs, as well as *Comic Strip Live*, were contacted for comment regarding this article, but either refused to comment or failed to return repeated phone calls.

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ASK LEO... Advice from Advising: P/NC Woes...



What happens if I think I P/NC'd a course but I look on Solar (after the deadline) and still see the course with the graded option instead?

So you goofed—what happens now? The P/NC is not a petitionable issue, so I'm sorry to say that you have no recourse there. Academic advisors cannot help

you change a course to a P/NC after the deadline. Instead, you should concentrate on finding ways to help you succeed in your course after all. I have several suggestions that might help you "save" your grade. First, talk to your professor. Explain the difficulty that you've been having with the course and see if he or she has any advice for you that could improve your chances of passing. Secondly, if you've been attending the class regularly, continue to do so; if you have not been to class in awhile, you better start now. Do the homework, catch up (if need be) on the readings, turn in all missed assignments, and raise your hand and open your mouth in class. I'd also suggest forming or joining a study group with other students in the class. Sometimes you'd be surprised to find that others are struggling too and would also welcome the opportunity to put heads together and talk things through. You might also consider putting a little extra effort into your other classes, turning those B's into A's and C's into B's. This way if you can only salvage a D in the course you wish you'd P/NC'd, it won't be a total loss.

There is one more thing that I believe to be really important: embrace the power

of positive thinking. By this I don't mean that if you just "wish" hard enough and place the textbook under your pillow every night, you will pass. Rather, I mean that you should try to stay positive and do your best in the remainder of the course—as well as make sure that any feelings of anger and frustration you have about the lost comfort of a P/NC don't wind up polluting all of your classes, resulting in multiple disasters. Making a mistake in P/NC selection doesn't have to be the end of the world. You have more power than you think to change things for the better.

How can I prevent this from happening to me in the future?

Well, if this is the situation you find yourself in, I must say that I sympathize. *Correctly* selecting the P/NC option for a course on the Solar System can be a challenge if you are not very careful. There are several steps involved in the process, and if you fail to read the instructions for each step thoroughly, you can make a mistake. Your best protection against doing so is to sign off of Solar once you feel you've completed selecting the P/NC option for a course, and immediately sign back on again and check your current class schedule. You should see that the class in question is no longer listed as graded (GRU) but rather as P/NC. If you don't see the grading option has changed to P/NC, you must sign back

on to Solar and try again. Another tip is to double-check on the P/NC deadline day to make sure that your course reflects the appropriate grading option. Some students may change their minds about whether to P/NC a course or not, and therefore they may change the grading option back and forth several times before the deadline. To refresh your memory, make sure you check your schedule on the deadline day to ensure it still accurately reflects your wishes.

One more VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: You are only allowed to P/NC up to 8 credits a semester (remember my column from last semester?). However, the Solar System will allow you to P/NC all of your courses if you wanted to. If you make the mistake of P/NC-ing too many credits, the Registrar's Office will "un-P/NC" the last course(s) you selected to bring your P/NC load back to the acceptable 8 credit limit. See, you are expected to be smarter than Solar. And it does pay to read your Bulletin and ask questions.



The Undergraduate College of Arts, Culture and Humanities presents

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An Inside Look at New USG Director Louis Medina

By JENNY WANG
Statesman Staff

Louis Medina has come a long way from his humble beginnings in New York City. The journey to his position as Administrative Director of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) at Stony Brook University has not been completely smooth, but gives him experience to bring to the table for the daunting task he now faces.

Born and raised in the city, Medina moved to the suburban community of Glen Cove when he was thirteen. This move was not easy for Medina, who recalls: "In the environment I grew up in, we were all family. It didn't matter if you were Jewish, Asian, Latino, we all took care of each other. Then I moved out to the suburbs and all of a sudden I found out I was different—different meaning I was Puerto Rican."

So with no help from his high school, which he said made him feel as if he wasn't good enough for college, Medina found out about Hispanic Educational Opportunity Program (HEOP) and took the necessary steps to get into the program. "I was told to learn a trade while I was in high school; that I was not college material."

"I had to work to help the family out - I had a younger brother and my mom and dad - because that's what you did back then," Medina said. He spent a few years in and out of college, helping his family and, over a span of 35 years, finished with a Bachelor's Degree from Adelphi University in Social Work and a Masters Degree in Social Work from SBU.

Former employment included positions as an outreach worker for the Economic Opportunity Council (EOC) in Glen Cove, the Glen Cove Boys and Girls Club, and Executive Director of Three Village Boys and Girls Club for twelve years. "Helping other young people like myself to get into school and build their self-esteem made me feel better," Medina said.

As the outreach worker for EOC, he was able to do just that by helping students find out about the different opportunities available to them like HEOP. "I have been able to help high school students [and] college students to be successful and to never allow anyone to say 'You're not capable or you're not good enough,'" Medina said of his previous jobs.

Having joined SBU as Administrative Director of the new student government on February 2, the preliminary opinion seemed to be that he could make a difference and help to build a new government that will be

accepted by SBU administration. "It's been positive so far and the main goal is to get the government recertified by the university," said Esam Al-Shareffi, president pro-tempore of the Senate, of Medina's impact on USG.

However, not everyone is embracing Medina with open arms. Some are keeping a distance to analyze what is really happening with USG. Robert King, a senior who was heavily involved with the past student government, Student Polity Inc., has this precaution: "It's probable that he has good intentions, but the senators need to make sure he's doing it the right way," calling it "a wait and see kind of battle."

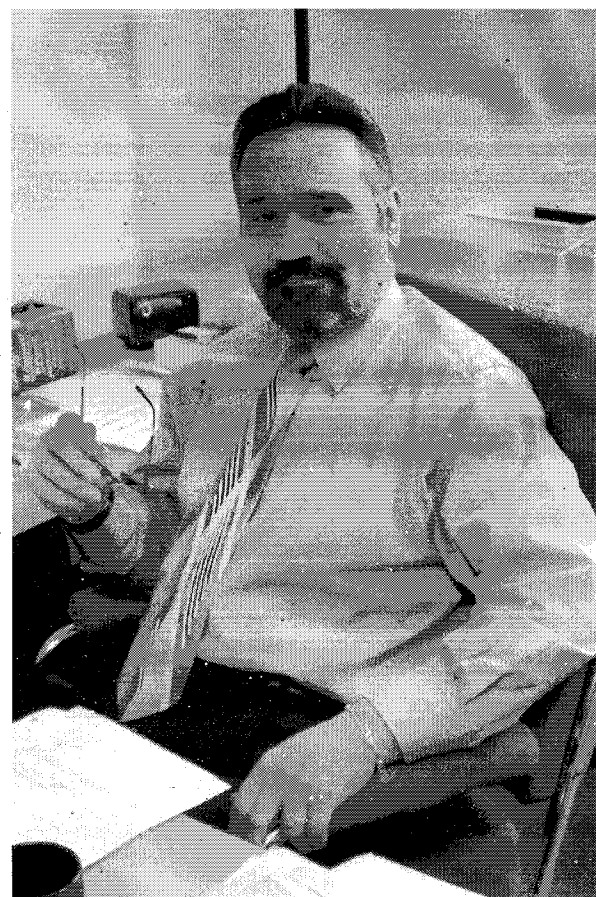
During the senate meeting last week, King made a comparison between the two governments, Polity and USG, and with a few exceptions, found that the two constitutions were essentially the same. "Everyone wants to say it's a whole new thing," King said. "How can you say that? There's still a whole area of USG where students make decisions that aren't known to the general population."

With a daughter in college from his marriage of 26 years, Medina believes he is able to understand better what students are going through at this point in their lives. "Having a 21-year old daughter who's going to college, you get an idea of what students are going through and the different types of anxiety and the demands of midterms and finals, and it's just a lot of pressure."

Through his past experiences, Medina has learned that there are certain major areas of importance for governmental bodies. "If we're giving a club or organization funding for programs and services, then it's the responsibility of the Senate and Executive Council to make sure the funding is being used for programs and services." He has found that the major areas of importance are trusteeship, fiduciary responsibility, setting policy and evaluating that policy, planning and community organization.

"Right now my goals and objectives are to develop a training for the executive council, the senate, and the judiciary that's coming in for the next term," Medina said. "They will be trained through the constitution."

In fact, the USG went through their first training session this past Tuesday. There were tensions last week during the senate meeting, because non-USG students wanted to sit in on the training sessions. After the meeting, Medina pulled some of the senators aside to advise them on proper senate meeting etiquette and



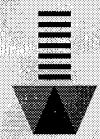
Statesman/Mansoor Khan

Louis Medina

on maintaining professional discussions.

"My hope is to legitimize what we are all doing as a government," Medina said. Al-Shareffi attests to Medina's efforts for legitimacy, saying that "he brought in a parliamentarian to ensure all the meetings are run according to parliamentary procedure" and "has worked towards making sure the senators are trained and qualified."

Medina is currently trying to get a Supreme Court Justice to swear in the Senate, the Executive Council and the judiciary and hopes to accomplish this in the fall. He believes that before a member of USG begins to do the work of government, they should be "sworn in to uphold the constitution, which is something that is approved and voted on by the student body." "I think that commitment is essential for any government to be credible and to receive the support that it should," Medina said.



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Films Celebrating Asian Heritage Month

Chick Flick Fest: Second Annual Asian American Film Series

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Thursday, April 22

Films of Anna May Wong

Two films showcase the talents of movie legend Anna May Wong, while revealing how Hollywood launched the stereotypical Asian woman on screen. Guest speaker Janet Tzou, attorney and editor of Mouter.com, will speak on "Asian Americans in the Media: Have Things Really Gotten Any Better?"

Picadilly

(Ewald Andre Dupont/1929/92 minutes)

Daughter of the Dragon

(Lloyd Corrigan/1931/70 minutes)

Friday, April 23

Do Women Ever Stop Being Chicks?

A pair of award-winning indie films explores ways of loving among young women.

Chutney Popcorn

(Nisha Ganatra/1999/92 minutes)

Examines an Indian-American family torn apart by a daughter's inability to conceive.

Puff

(Bix/2000/50 minutes)

Combines the fictional story of a young Indian woman in search of a brown man who knows the tune "Puff the Magic Dragon," with the true love stories of five women of color.

Saturday, April 24

The Red Thread/Performances!

(Cynthia Liu/ 2003/25 minutes)

What happens when a traditional Chinese mom mistakenly sets up her playwright daughter with Mr. Wrong. After the film, SB women perform hiphop, ribbon dance, and taiko drumming.

Co-sponsored by the Frank Melville Jr. Memorial Library, AURA-IAA/2, AKDP, ESP, KPL & SBU AA E-Zine. Funded in part by a grant from the Long Island Fund for Women and Girls.

For more information, log on to www.aasquared.org/AURA.

All screenings are FREE at the Wang Center Theatre, unless otherwise noted. Log on to www.stonybrook.edu/wang for a complete schedule.

The Charles B. Wang Center is open to the public Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with Asian food available from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Guided tours available upon request. To be included in our mailing list, please e-mail us at wang-center@stonybrook.edu. For more information on these and upcoming events, call (631) 632-4400 or visit our Web site at www.stonybrook.edu/wang. For a disability-related accommodation, please call (631) 632-6353. AA/EDE

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SBU Police Blotter

COMPILED BY MAURY HIRSCHKORN
Statesman Staff

April 6, 2004

5:00 p.m. - Harassment, Wagner College, subject urinating in public and yelling profanities at staff.

April 7, 2004

5:53 p.m. - Arson, rear Tabler Quad/Storage area, youths lit mattress on fire, extinguished.

11:21 p.m. - Possession of stolen property, Hamilton College, underage alcohol property broken up and recovered street sign.

April 9, 2003

5:57 a.m. - Burglary, Keller College, computer and software taken.

10:03 p.m. - Computer tampering, Chemistry room 330, network servers tampered with.

April 11, 2004

7:28 p.m. - Burglary, Wagner College, DVD player and computer stolen.

April 12, 2004

3:46 p.m. - Larceny, Melville Library, room N5004, video projector taken.

9:12 p.m. - Mechanical failure, Douglass College elevator, occupant stuck inside, released.

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