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SBU Administrators Debate Princeton Review Rankings

Stony Brook's Rankings Did Not Meet Expectations

By MICHAEL NEVRADAKIS
Statesman Editor

Recently, the Princeton Review released its annual rankings, listing the top 351 colleges and universities nationwide. The ranking incorporated subcategories that included best/worst professors and most/least politically active campus. Students using valid ".edu" e-mail accounts submitted answers to survey questions via the Princeton Review's website.

While Stony Brook once again found itself on the list of best colleges, it also ranked among the Top 20 in five subcategories.

Stony Brook was ranked #17 for diverse student population, #7 for "class discussions rare," #4 for "professors get low marks," #2 for long lines and red tape, and #1 for students most dissatisfied with financial aid. The results fell short of the school's expectations.

"I'm very dissatisfied, because that really is not the case," said Yacov Shamash, Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences. "Our faculty is ranked very highly in teaching

and research. Students that I know are pleased with the quality of education they receive."

"I find this disturbing," said James Staros, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, who also questioned apparent discrepancies between the print and online edition of the rankings and the methodology used to conduct the survey. "[The print and online versions] give very different views of the campus. I think we would do better if we had an unbiased review." Staros explained that, in the print edition of the rankings, Stony Brook received a grade of 87 for "interesting professors" and an 88 for "professors accessible," ahead of such schools such as Johns Hopkins, whose rankings were 83 and 80, respectively.

Other administrators also questioned the validity of the results. "We like to say about the Princeton Review that [concerning] the methodology—a small sample is used," said Provost Robert L. McGrath.

Dean of Students Jerrold Stein also questioned the validity of the Review's results. "Any review requires our attention, but there are concerns about how data is collected. We have also conducted surveys that give very different



Statesman/Emy Kuriakose

Although students gave Stony Brook poor ratings, administrators say that recent improvements at the University may that.

results."

Donna DiDonato, Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs said, "I'm not sure why the results are so negative, but it's almost become a small

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Giving the Ultimate Gift

Blood Shortages Prompt Pleas from LI Blood Centers

By AMANDA RUBENSTEIN
Statesman Contributor

During opening week at Stony Brook, there were two blood drives in the Student Activities Center's Ballroom B, held on August 31 and Sept. 3. Stony Brook students, professors and faculty donated blood, all of them answering New York Blood Service's call to end the emergency shortage of the summer.

Although many had suspected that the blood shortage was caused directly by the blackout in mid-August, the refrigerators and freezers that keep blood fresh and ready to be used were completely operational during incident. However, John Fletcher, the Graduate Coordinator for the University Blood Drives, says the blackout hurt New York's blood supply because "people simply did not have enough time to donate while trying to live without power for those two days."

In addition, Fletcher says, there are normally drops in blood donation during the winter and summer months because people tend to go on vacation, and donating blood is not necessarily the first thing on their minds. The blood supply in New York depends greatly on every person who donates, and missing

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Two Years Later, Stony Brook Mourns Together

By EMY KURAKIOSE
Statesman Editor

Stony Brook University came to a solemn standstill last Thursday as students, faculty and staff gathered in the SAC Plaza to honor the victims of the 9/11 attacks. Throughout the day, students attended several events designed to help relieve stress and bring the Stony Brook community together in remembrance.

"I was deeply moved by the ceremony today," said President Shirley Strum Kenny. "I appreciate the efforts of the interdenominational community. All the students were wonderful."

Carrying golden axes and the New York State and American flags, the Color Guard marched through a path lined by professionals from University Police, Fire Marshals and the Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Rabbi Joseph Topek served as Master of Ceremonies for the event and introduced religious leaders from different organizations on campus. Following the national anthem, chaplains from the Jewish,



Statesman/Emy Kuriakose

Jyuti Pandit played the sitar during the Wang Center Memorial, called "Sweet Peace."

Catholic, Muslim, Baptist, Protestant and Hindu communities read prayers for lost lives, families, rescue and recovery workers, world leaders, world peace, and the future of humanity.

After a short musical interlude by a brass quintet from the Department of Music, President Kenny spoke about the

two years since the event, reflecting on the state of the world today and changes in the Stony Brook community.

"Whatever our backgrounds, whatever our hopes and ambitions, whatever our race or religion, we must protect the very special

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President Shirley Strum Kenny on 9/11

It seems like yesterday; it seems a lifetime ago. Seven hundred and thirty days since we first came together for candlelight vigils, interfaith religious services, chances to seek comfort in our shared sorrow. A year ago the pain seemed as searing as the year before as we dedicated our memorial grove to 22 Stony Brook alumni lost in the devastation. And now, although the intensity of our sorrow has not dimmed, there is the feeling that we have carried our shared burden for an eternity; the horrors that we knew would forever change our world have become the new and inescapable reality.

We talk of healing, but we have not healed. Yet we become stronger. We knew during the blackout last month that the solidarity we achieved in our great national tragedy is here to stay. But we have lost our serenity. We know now that any incident or accident, any sudden plunge into darkness real or psychological brings immediate suspicion of some dangerous foreign force; our particularly American openness and optimism have been wrested from us. A nation built on the energies of immigrants, descendents ourselves from immigrants and mostly historically recent ones, we have, perhaps inevitably, allowed distrust and suspicion of the unfamiliar to cloud our thinking and darken our attitude.

Together and individually we are struggling with a war that has threatened to divide the country even as the tragic events of 9/11 united us. Although we routinely go through security checks at airports and other public places that we would have eschewed before, and we worry about things we took for granted, we know that we have far more to protect than our physical safety. Now we have to think deeply about what is special and essential to the American way of life. We have to realize how easily we could lose our freedoms in the efforts to protect them. We struggle and argue and watch what we say more than we should have to. But that uncomfortable effort makes us realize the importance of protecting not only life but freedom, and in doing so, we have become stronger. We know that we can—and should—be able to disagree passionately—but not violently. It is vitally important that we protect our rights to see things differently and all be good Americans.

Stony Brook must be a haven for all who believe that the freedoms for which this country was founded are the heart of our democracy. We must be a haven for all students who are here to learn so that they can make the world better. Whatever our backgrounds, whatever our hopes and ambitions, whatever our race or religion, we must protect the very special nature of this home to learning, this place to foster the true ideas of American freedom.

We honor those we lost by protecting the beliefs that make this country great. We honor them not just once a year but every day as we pass the grove dedicated to their memory. They were the best of Stony Brook. We dedicate ourselves in their memory to protecting this country and the freedom and opportunity that make it great.

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College Football Players Overworked, by NCAA Limits

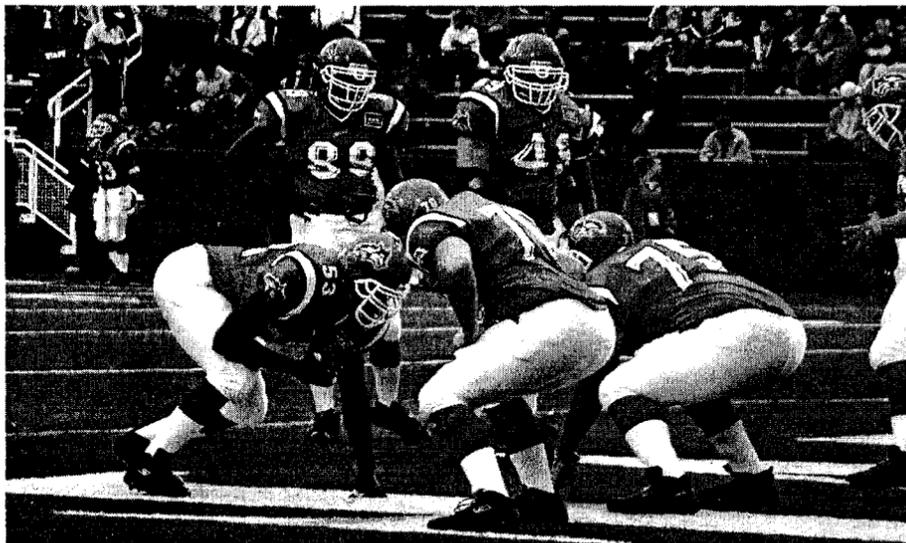
By ALICE GOMSTYN
Chronicle of Higher Education

Nearly nine out of 10 college football players may be flouting rules that limit playing and practice time to 20 hours per week during the football season, according to the results of a survey conducted by the American Football Coaches Association and released this week.

The survey, conducted last fall, received responses from more than 5,400 football players at 66 institutions in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Division I-A. Some 28 percent of the respondents admitted to spending more than 30 hours a week on football and football-related activities, while 60 percent said they devoted 20 to 30 hours a week to the sport.

Not surprisingly, the results didn't sit well with the NCAA.

"NCAA bylaws are clear with regard to student-athletes' time participating in a sport, and the association expects its member institutions to adhere to those times," said Jeffrey C. Howard, an NCAA spokesman. "It is a concern for the association any time a survey comes



Statesman/Emy Kuriakose

According to NCAA limits, college football players often practice for too many hours.

out that contradicts what the rules say."

Ensuring that students balance sports and academics is an issue the NCAA "continues to review," Howard said.

Ramogi D. Huma, a former football player at the University of California at Los Angeles, said the survey's findings speak to a culture among athletes, particularly football players, that encourages long hours on the field that often eat into study time.

"Right now, everything in a player's life shows the player that that sport comes first and academics come second," said Huma, who heads the Collegiate Athletes Coalition, a group pushing for reforms in college sports.

But the survey did yield some encouraging results on players' attitudes toward their own education, said Grant Teaff, executive director of the coaches' association. More than four out of five

players said they would attend college even if they did not play football.

Teaff said that finding helps debunk a myth that college football players focus on future professional careers and little else. "They're pretty astute people," he said, "and they know that only a small percentage go on to play pro ball."

The survey included questions about grade-point averages, family backgrounds, and socioeconomic status. Of players receiving full athletics scholarships, 59 percent reported that they needed at least another \$200 per month to make ends meet. Helping players pay for such living expenses is a priority for the NCAA, Howard said.

Other survey results include the following:

*20 percent of players listed themselves as belonging to a "lower" socioeconomic class.

*35 percent said they had "much more interest" in academics since entering college.

*38 percent said they were unaware of NCAA academic standards for prospective athletes until their junior year of high school.

University Student Sentenced for Faking Theft

By WILL POTTER
Chronicle of Higher Education

A former graduate student at Michigan State University was sentenced last month to 10 months in prison for faking the theft of his own research materials.

Scott M. Doree was supposed to be working on a vaccine to prevent a pneumonia-like disease in pigs, but he apparently had not done any research for several years, authorities said. To cover up his lack of work, he reported in Sept. 2002 that his notebooks, his computer disk, and

two vials of disease-causing bacteria had been stolen.

Fearing a potential act of terrorism -- such vials, if released, could have decimated the pork industry -- the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Joint Terrorism Task Force and the U.S. Department of Agriculture joined what might otherwise have been a routine investigation of alleged theft.

The authorities told hog farmers in the area to check their animals for illness.

But university officials discovered

that there had been no theft. According to *The Lansing State Journal*, a criminal complaint was filed in U.S. District Court in Grand Rapids, Mich., alleging that Doree had been fabricating research data since 1998.

Doree, who was pursuing a degree in Michigan State's microbiology department, told federal officials that a paper he had helped to write, published in the *Journal of Bacteriology* in 2001, was based on falsified data. The paper was retracted last month.

"The feds first feared the specter of Frankenpig," said Lloyd Meyer, an assistant U.S. attorney, who prosecuted the case. "But it turned out to be 'Porky ate my homework.'"

In May, Doree pleaded guilty to two felonies: mail fraud and making false statements to FBI agents. In addition to the prison time, the court ordered him to repay \$70,000 in federal research-grant funds he had spent.

Neither Doree nor his lawyer could be reached for comment.

Students' Pets: Not Just a Walk in the Park

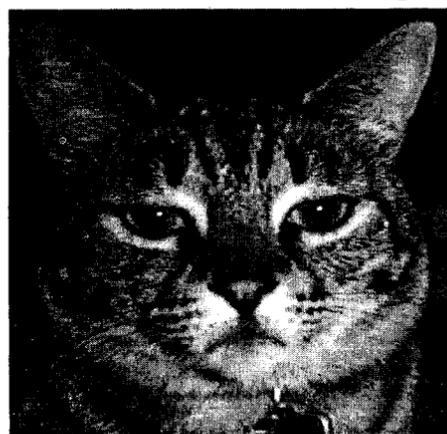
By ERIC HOOVER
The Chronicle of Higher Education

There is the occasional escapee. That's what Paula R. Palmiter, a facility manager at Michigan State University, calls the snakes that slink out of students' rooms and the gerbils that scamper into the hallways. But she usually finds the animals during routine inspections, spotting secret dormitory dwellers amid bunk beds and mini-refrigerators.

In her 15 years on the campus, Palmiter has discovered enough critters in dorms to fill a pet store or two. Michigan State, like many colleges, prohibits all pets except nonpoisonous, noncarnivorous fish, yet each year students manage to hide other animals, including cats, rabbits, and lizards, in their rooms.

Some crafty students find ways to avoid detection, going to great lengths to remove telltale traces of animal life and temporarily relocating pets right before room inspections, says Palmiter. "We know they're up there," she says, but enforcing the rules is not always easy.

This cat-and-mouse game is familiar to college janitors and residence-life officials throughout the nation, some of



Courtesy of www.google.com

Cats and other pets are being domesticated in college dorms, often illegally.

whom say that the ownership of pets by a small-but-determined percentage of students is inevitable. Three-fifths of U.S. households own at least one pet, so it's not surprising that some undergraduates seek creature comforts in college, regardless of the rules. Pet-owning students say that having a Fido figure around relieves stress and loneliness, and even makes them popular.

The relationships often end badly, however. Animals living out of sight in dorms or in off-campus apartments,

where they are also often forbidden, are particularly vulnerable to neglect, mistreatment, and abandonment, according to animal-advocacy groups. Some veterinarians say that even well-meaning students who live in animal-friendly housing can make poor pet owners because of their odd hours and inexperience with animals.

"Students see a cute cat or dog, and their parents aren't there telling them what to do anymore, and they think, 'Wouldn't it be fun to have a pet?' and much past that, there's really no thought," says Jill Shook, a veterinarian who practices near the University of Maryland at College Park. "Mainly, students are not aware of financial obligations of having a new pet, or they have no idea what's involved in terms of care."

Students often turn to their parents to foot the bill or, eventually, to take the pets in, she says, yet mom and dad may not be willing or able to do either. Shook got one of her cats, Mischief, when a Maryland student brought it into the animal hospital to be euthanized two years ago. The cat was perfectly healthy

afford the vaccinations.

Campus officials worry not only about the living conditions of pets that sneak onto the campus, but also about the effects of pets on property, not to mention on fellow students, particularly those with allergies.

"You could go into a room, even in the next academic year, and tell that there was an animal there -- dander gets in the heating system, there are fleas. If their food's not kept right it attracts bugs. There are odor issues," says Angie Sheets, director of residential life at Bryn Mawr College, who had to boot a cat this semester and who once found a puppy left in a dorm room over winter break.

"Everyone who wants an animal gets one," says Pulliam, the director of the Austin shelter, who argues that her facility is more qualified than other outlets to provide the education, help, and counseling that an owner might need.

Each August, when groups of students pour in to adopt cats and dogs, Pulliam says, she and her staff ask students questions like "Where are you gonna be in 20 years?" to get them thinking about

the student said she simply could not their commitment.



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A THOUGHT FROM RABBI ADAM

Everyone has within them, within the depths of the recesses of their hearts, a spiritual essence. When inspired, this spiritual essence becomes the catalyst for all moral decision making. A person will find themselves choosing right rather than wrong, they will be proud of the decisions that they have made and life will flow nicely, be it through the thick or the thin. Now, there are always auspicious times in which one will be inspired by their spiritual essence. In such times, a person will get a boost of inspiration that will propel them to the next round of inspiration. Sometimes it is sparked by a life-awakening experience, other times it can come by way of quiet introspective contemplation, or prayer. However, sometimes this inspiration comes as a "gift" from above. For instead of one finding inspiration from within, sometimes it comes as a blessing from Above. For a Jew, this is the significance of the High Holydays of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur. For in addition to regular life-cycle bouts of spiritual inspiration, there must be that "kick-off" dosage of inspiration that will set the pace for the coming year. It's a feeling so deep, that it moves one's very essence, one's very being. It's a feeling so powerful, that all one needs is to experience it but once a year. For it is an inner emotional shift. Called in Hebrew, "hazazah", it is literally translated as a "jolt", for a person is emotional jolted from who they were last year into a new higher level of spiritual inspiration for the up coming year. And this, is indeed, in and of itself, a blessing for a sweet new year.

Rabbi Adam Stein is a Religious Advisor in the Interfaith Center and Director of the Chabad House. He is reachable at RabbiAdam@hotmail.com

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, September 15, 2003

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- Additional variety/value:
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 - added Sandella's at Campus Connections @ H.
- Recommended addition of waffle irons at Campus Connections @ H.

Campus Dining Services

Faculty Spotlight: Karen Kramer, Anthropology

By MANSOOR KHAN AND PETER SUNWOO
Statesman Editor and Staff

In a University saturated with classes numbering well over a hundred students, the right professor can make or break a class. Assistant Professor of Anthropology Karen Kramer takes on a staggering number of students each year, but those students say she makes class an involved learning experience with her wide breadth of experience in researching cultures around the world.

"She's a dynamic teacher," said senior Girish Kunapareddy, an anthropology major who was enrolled in Kramer's Introduction to Anthropology course. "She's incredibly focused and into her work. You can tell that she loves what she teaches, anthropology."

Kramer received her doctorate in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico. Her thesis was titled *Children's Work Among Modern Maya Subsistence Agriculturalists*.



Statesman/Peter Sunwoo
Professor Karen Kramer is well-respected by students and anthropologists alike.

Kramer said she was attracted to anthropological research because it allowed her to work hands on with other cultures.

"Being outside, living in other cultures; you're not stuck in a dusty room. You get to live lives that are remarkably different from your own,"

she said. "Research is not just learning about academics. It's about life."

With a focus on demographic anthropology and behavioral ecology, Kramer spends much of her time studying environmental effects on fertility and mortality.

"Humans all share certain aspects of behavior through evolutionary past," she said, "so cultural differences are due to environmental differences."

For example, a group of Mayans in Mexico, has an extremely high fertility rate, with seven to eight children born to each family, she said. Through research she conducted in South America, Kramer sought to discover the cause of this unexpected demographic figure.

She found that changes in technology played a significant role in fertility rates among that particular group of Mayans. The introduction of wells and pumps decreased the amount of time families spent at work, thus allowing them to

spend more time raising children.

Kramer brings her experiences from abroad to her classrooms, teaching a number of courses, including Introduction to Anthropology, Sex and Human Nature, Human Demography and Native Peoples of North America.

"I enjoy teaching such diverse students," she said of her experiences at Stony Brook. "It is a challenge to keep them on the same page."

She said she hopes that as a professor at the undergraduate level, she can spawn curiosity and enthusiasm in her students about the world around them. Kramer wants to teach students how to think critically and gauge the world's popular media.

"Not all students will become anthropologists," she said. "But they do become regular consumers of media. So the critical thinking can allow them to put their own lives into better perspective."

Meningitis Outbreak Affects SBU Students

By CHRIS XANTHOS
Statesman Contributor

All SBU students must fulfill a new health requirement by November 2 in accordance with a recent New York State law. Students who do not meet this deadline will incur administrative holds on their academic accounts.

The law requires students to be vaccinated for meningococcal meningitis within the last 10 years. Alternatively, students (in addition to a parent or guardian for minors) may sign a refusal form, acknowledging that they are aware of the disease and the risks, but refuse to be vaccinated against it.

The rare Meningococcal infection is a severe bacterial infection of the bloodstream or meninges covering the brain and spinal cord. It is spread by airborne pathogens and can cause meningitis. Nearly two-thirds of

reported cases of meningitis on college campuses are preventable with this vaccine.

SBU requires all students, however,

**Students who
do not fulfill
the November 2
deadline will not
be able to register
for classes next
semester.**

to read the medical information and complete the forms located on the web at <http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu>

/shs/forms. Students over the age of 18 may submit these forms electronically while minors will be required to have the forms printed and signed by a parent or guardian by November 2.

Students who do not meet the November 2 deadline will not be able to register for classes next semester. "The new law affects all students; everyone needs to comply within the sixty-day period," said Associate Director of Student Health Services Robert Ansbach.

According to the NYS Department of Health the cost of the vaccine ranges from \$60 to \$80. The Campus Health Center offers the service for \$75, according to Ansbach.

Chuck Wong, a senior, agrees with the NYS initiative. "It's a small price to pay for safety," he said. "We have requirements for other vaccines, so why

not this one also?"

Not all students share Wong's opinion. Junior Diana Jimenez said, "They should make the vaccine cheaper if they are making it mandatory."

Cases of the disease in teens and young adults between the ages of 15 to 24 have doubled since 1991 according to the American College Health Association (ACHA).

"This is the law. This is what meningitis is and this is what the University must do to comply. It is not coming from us, but is a law that we must enforce," said Ansbach.

For more information, students can contact Student Health Services at (631) 632-6740 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Mon. through Fri., or log on to the website at <http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/shs/forms>.

Princeton Review Rankings Are Debated at SBU

Continued from Page 1

part of campus culture to be critical of the place."

According to Judith Berhanan, Dean of Admissions, the Princeton Review sends representatives to each campus every three years, and last visited the University two years ago. Berhanan said that their newest findings do not reflect today's reality: "We would like to see them revisit Stony Brook, because we feel student perspectives have changed in light of all the improvements on campus."

Addressing the student dissatisfaction with financial aid, Associate Provost for Enrollment and Retention Management Manuel London said: "We offer over \$1 million a year in scholarships to freshman; a lot of schools don't do that. We process \$56 million worth of financial aid each year, and 60% of students receive financial aid. You've got to wonder how accurate their rankings are."

In relative contrast to administrators,

students asked about the results weren't as surprised with the rankings, but didn't fully agree with them.

"I think #4 for worst professors is uncalled for," said sophomore and Political Science major Valerie Panico. "Still, we deserve the rankings for red tape and financial aid."

Jahan Mangor, junior and Biology major, also offered a mixed reaction: "There are a few bad professors that aren't in touch with students, but there are professors I've loved. I believe the education level here is the same as at many private universities. You get your money's worth."

Administrators pointed out improvements that are implemented and promoted to both current and prospective students each day. "We see more commitment to students in areas such as academic affairs, campus residences and recreation. We have seen improvement in all of those areas," Berhanan said.

"In terms of the number of activities planned, we've had a lot more events [than other local colleges]," Stein said. We have to take a closer look to see why we did so poorly in that area.

We have a powerful set of graduate and research-based programs," McGrath added. "Our faculty have a lot of stature in their fields. We get important national awards for programs we have in getting undergraduates engaged in work being done on campus, and countless faculty are creating new courses out of their own volition."

Both McGrath and DiDonato were optimistic about the newly created Undergraduate Colleges, and their role in helping transform student life.

"We've had very good response to the Undergraduate Colleges," McGrath explained.

"[They] help students manage a new university environment that may initially seem somewhat large," DiDonato said. "We've had tremendous success with

this approach in smaller programs such as the Honors College. It's important that we have programs that address all of our students."

The SOLAR system was credited with helping reduce red tape: "We have to understand that any large university has red tape. The SOLAR system has ironed out a lot of the problems," Stein said.

DiDonato and others felt that the University still has areas of concern that need to be addressed, but felt that the school has done much more to improve life for students and its own image.

"The trend I see is toward helping support students' academic futures, and a greater commitment of the University to that, led by President Kenny and the Provost," said DiDonato.

"One of our priorities is [to look] to the private sector for donations for more scholarships," said Staros. "I don't think we deserve a #1 ranking, but there is room for improvement."

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Commentary

Remembering September 11

MARIE HUCHTON
Statesman Staff

I've returned to ranting on a rather solemn note, after a summer away. This past Thursday marked the anniversary of the September 11 tragedy. The collapse of the Twin Towers forever changed the course of American history, and every day of the past two years has reflected this new world order.

My sympathy goes out to those who died in the Towers, and to the soldiers and civilians who have died in the ensuing War against Terrorism: the Afghani citizens murdered by the Taliban, the Iraqi innocents killed by U.S. bombings, the American troops hit by sniper fire and the U.N. guards killed by car bombs. My sympathy also goes to those families who have had to endure loss and the individuals who have had to live in fear.

In these two years of instability, conflict, and terror, no one has been immune. We have all been deeply scarred, and will never again blithely believe in America's impregnable isolation. The United States has been forced to recognize its role in global politics. No longer is the Atlantic Ocean an un-crossable moat, nor the United States a lone gunman.

Like the domino chain or the butterfly in China, every action reverberates with international consequences. No nation can stand alone, not even an

American Superpower. Only by recognizing global interdependence will we survive another century of nuclear weapons, suicide bombings and transnational capitalism. In the face of shotgun democracy and brutal totalitarianism, it is in international cooperation that domestic security lies.

It is not on hypocrisy, nor on tyranny, that I wish to speak here, but on remorse and remembrance; on pain and empathy; on zealous faith and a shared humanity.

It is these things that bound New York City together on September 11. It is these things that will endure in the face of continued hardship. It is not just American sympathy for those lost in 2001 I wish to evoke, but sympathy for all those who have been killed around the globe. For the children on the bus in Jerusalem, and the middle-aged couples in the bar in Morocco.

I never want to forget the women who starved to death in Afghanistan nor the soldiers who died after Iraq had been pacified.

I want to burn the images of racial hatred and religious fanaticism into my mind, along with the corpses they have both created. We will survive only by learning from our history and by never letting go of the atrocities committed in the names of both war and peace.

Those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it, and we cannot afford to let these lives be wasted by such forgetfulness.

The Gamer's Addiction

PETER SUNWOO
Statesman Staff

An addiction is a compulsive physiological and psychological need for a habit-forming substance, according to Dictionary.com. Can game playing really cause compulsive behavior with withdrawals in addicts if they go without a daily "hit"? Heck yea it can! It's sad, but true.

I used to be a gaming addict in my freshman year of college. It wasn't difficult to get hooked when half the kids in my building played Diablo 2, the mother of all addicting video games. I remember having anxiety attacks when I wasn't playing. I'd always worry about some kid with more dedication who would reach a level a lot faster than I would, maliciously finding the best items in the game before I did.

I couldn't sleep at night, I couldn't sit still for more than an hour, and my hands would start shaking at various times of the day. These are but a few symptoms of gaming addiction. Others may include calloused thumbs, extreme precision with mouse movements, having friends that you've never met in person, looking in the mirror and seeing an Asian person, and talking about games when not playing games.

It was difficult to keep up with the other addicts in my building since I had a full schedule, so what did I do to keep on top? *Not* go to class. I really showed those guys. I mean, who did they think they were messing with?

Although I was known to be what gamers call "god-like," my grades during second semester dropped to not-so-god-like levels. I'm just hoping that my gaming addiction will be a valid excuse for messing up when I apply for Medical School. And by valid, I mean incredibly stupid.

Games such as EverQuest, also known as EverCrack, have affected thousands of people across the world, espe-

cially in the United States and Asia. With new innovative games like Warcraft III and Counter-Strike that bring advanced technology into the market, the gaming addiction is rapidly spreading throughout the world.

Gaming industries such as Blizzard Entertainment took note of this addiction, and capitalized on it, making patrons pay a monthly fee to play their games online. This might sound absurd to non-gamers, but it's very normal for gamers. This is becoming a serious problem, and its time for our government to take notice.

Now, it wouldn't be a big deal if these people playing video games 24/7 were kids who should be having fun and who have no responsibilities. But the sad truth is that most of them consist of grown adults. Adults who should be going to sleep earlier than 5 a.m. Adults in college who should be studying for their midterms and finals.

The government is preoccupied, worrying about marijuana and how it will destroy the economy. But by looking at statistics, we all know that the drug war is a lost battle.

A person can easily play a game 24 hours straight without sleep or food. You can't really smoke all day can you? Well maybe some can, but can you do it without food? I think not!

Employers may think that Bob the Gamer is always sleepy and drained at the job because of family problems, or partying too much, but the reality is that Bob abuses way too much EverCrack and there are millions of others in the same situation. In the long run, gaming will decrease productivity, ultimately slowing down our economy.

So for you freshmen coming into school for the first time, I implore you to throw all those games into the trash and do something more constructive with life. Remember, it's never too late to quit. As for me, I am slowly recovering. It's hard to abandon video gaming completely altogether, but where there's a will, there's a way.

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9/11 Commemorative

Continued from Page 1

nature of this home to learning, this place to foster the true ideas of American freedom," Kenny said.

After her talk, students read the names of Stony Brook alumni, family of University staff members, and local firefighters who perished at the World Trade Center. Fire Marshal Joe Pansini, SBVAC Asst. Chief Philip Aubrey, and Officer Alan LaPage of the University Police tolled the bell in their memory.

Following a moment of silence, Dr. Fred Preston, Vice President of Student Affairs, closed the ceremony with his presentation of "God Bless America."

Students who attended the event said that the day

brought back vivid memories of Sept. 11. "When the ensemble played together, the music reminded me of the funeral music that was played two years ago for fire fighters and people who died," said Sophomore, Yelena Bogdan. "When I heard that, I almost cried."

That same day, the Wang Center hosted a daylong meditation retreat for students and community members who sought a place to reflect on the tragedy.

"I wanted to create a place where people could come to meditate on their thoughts and emotions," said Sunita Mukhi, Director of the Wang Center. "There are many elements that go into this room: we have a slide show of memorials that were erected after 9/11, we have calming Eastern music, and there is the peace crane that students put together for the

opening of the Wang Center. I thought this was the perfect time to bring it out again."

At 3 p.m., instrumental and vocal performances highlighted the room, while sweets and Indian chai were served to students and community members.

"I called the program 'Sweet Peace' because I wanted people to have something sweet in their hearts during this time of bitterness," Mukhi said. "People may feel bitter about the events of 9/11, but we want to focus on peace. We even have a small donation bin for anyone who feels charitable and wants to donate money to children in Afghanistan or Iraq."

Later that day, candlelight vigils were held in Roth Quad, and students gathered in the SAC for an open forum discussion.



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Seawolves Football Crushes Siena College 31-3

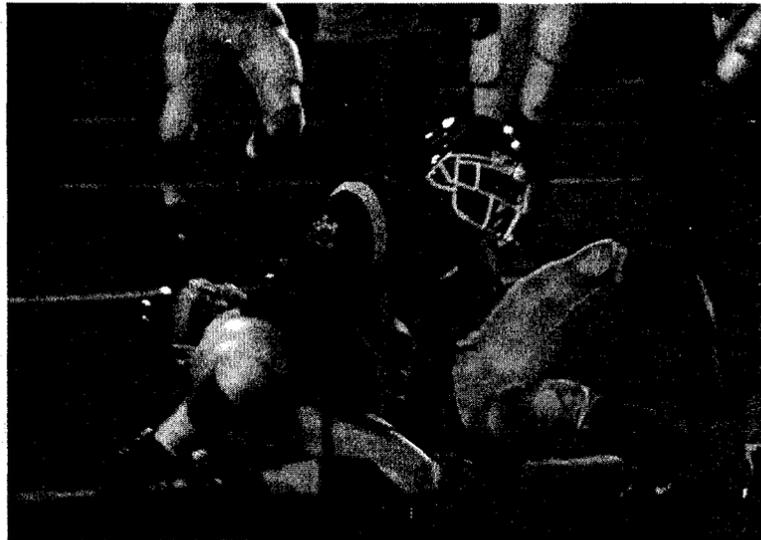
By DANA GOMI
Statesman Staff

The Stony Brook Seawolves opened their season at LaValle Stadium with a smooth 31-3 win over the Siena Saints Saturday. Stony Brook has not lost a home game since LaValle opened last year.

The Seawolves marched down the field on their opening drive, scoring on a 29-yard field goal by Michael Soto. Stony Brook never looked back, relentlessly piling on the points while pursuing Siena quarterbacks Chris Karolus and Alex Conlon.

"Siena is a good team. They have some good players." Seawolves Coach Sam Kornhauser said. "We beat Siena 14-0 last year and tonight we had a better result."

Siena's predictable line was unable to match up with the Seawolves' defense. Soon, every other play



Statesman/Emy Kuriakose

Sal Davis (above) scored the final touchdown during the third quarter. The game ended in a 31-3 victory over Siena College.

was in the form of an option pass. Stony Brook quickly realized Siena's back-to-basics offense.

Stony Brook built a colossal lead early as running back Ken Lockhart scoring two touchdowns in the second quarter. Then Quarterback T.J. Moriarty directed a 53-yard drive in the first half and brought the team to a 24-0 lead.

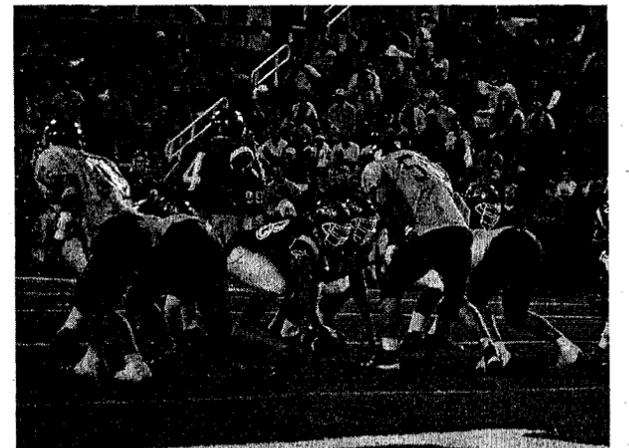
Stony Brook's defenders consistently keyed on Siena receivers, limiting the big gains with a proficient show of textbook tackling.

T.J. Moriarty exposed the weak Siena secondary as the Stony Brook passing game attacked, seemingly at will. But Moriarty's offensive line deserves much of the credit as it gave him ample time to hit the open man.

"T.J. is a very good football player for Stony Brook University," Coach Kornhauser said. "Tonight he showed what he can do. He can throw, he can run, he's intelligent. He is a good starter. I like what I saw."

The Saints narrowly avoided a complete shutout with a 23-yard field goal by Charles Conklin.

When asked about Siena's brief flurry of offense in the second half, Coach Kornhauser said, "We have

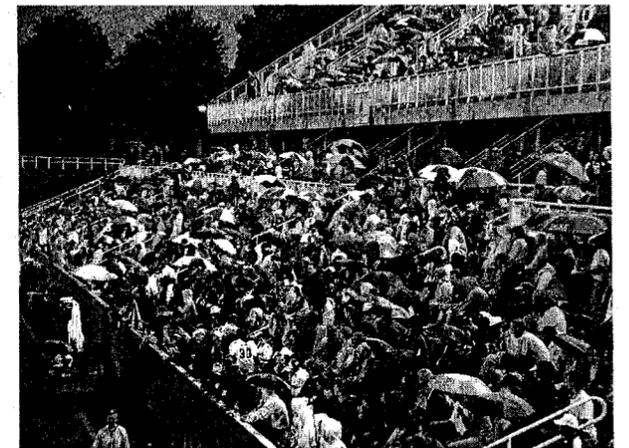


Statesman/Emy Kuriakose

The Stony Brook offensive ability proved to be too much for Siena College.

to learn as a team to play better in the second half. Our offense was sluggish and our defense was sluggish. We have to become mature and ready to play in the second half."

The Seawolves plan to continue their unbeaten streak at home as they get ready to host Wagner, their strongest competitor on Saturday. Kick-off time is at 6pm at LaValle Stadium.



Statesman/Emy Kuriakose

A large crowd from the Stony Brook community bares the hard rainfall in a decisive defeat of Siena College.



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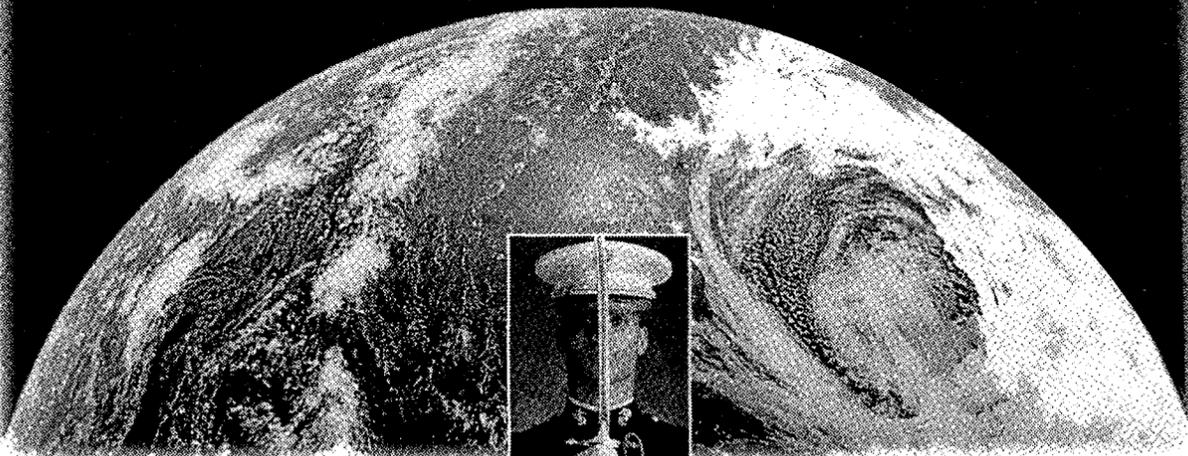
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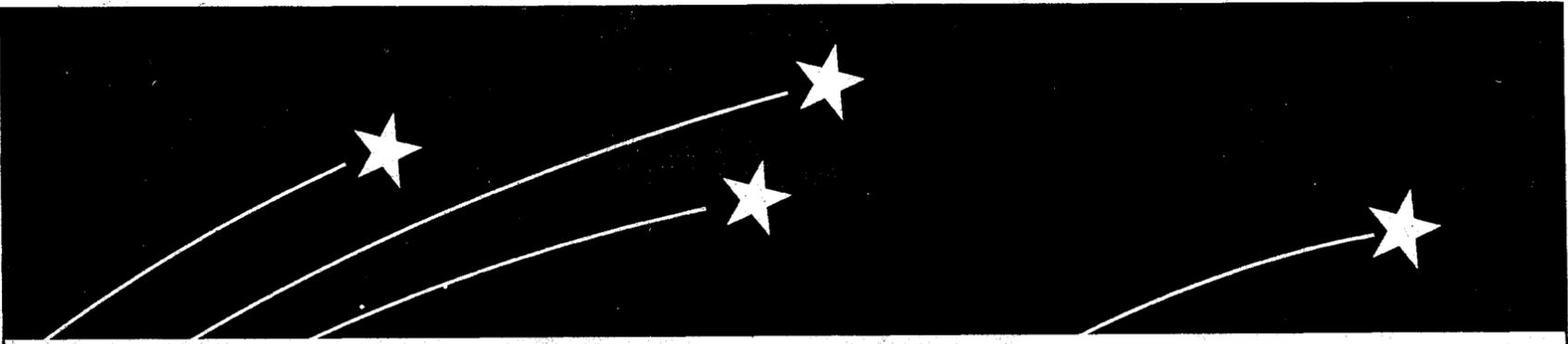


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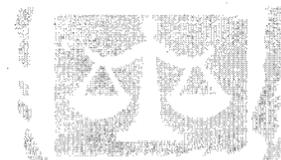
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Blood Drive Saves Lives

Continued from Page 1

some of the donors during the winter and summer for only a few days can cause major blood shortages like the one the area is facing now.

Also, there are growing restrictions on the people who can donate blood. Potential donors can be deferred because of tattoos, needles and their previous sexual relations. With the threat of mad cow disease from Europe, potential donors who have traveled to various parts of Europe during a certain range of datee cannot donate. All these restrictions are very important for keeping the blood supply safe and uncontaminated, but they lower the number of potential donors and therefore decrease the blood supply.

Blood is "literally the Liquid of Life" in the sense that only the body can make it, explains Fletcher. No one can manufacture it in a lab. According to the New York Blood Centers, "All of the money or insurance in the world is valueless if the right type of blood is not available in an emergency or when needed for surgery."

Stony Brook's avid participation in blood drives has set the university apart from other schools. It is the leading contributor of blood from universities in the greater metropolitan area, and ranks 6th among all corporations and businesses.

Freshman Hilda DeJesus, who donated blood on her first day at Stony Brook said, "everyone should [donate]." She adds that it is definitely worth the "split-second" pain of the needle to be able to save several people who need blood. According to the Blood Center's statistics, 90% of the population will need blood for their lives.

Upcoming blood drives at Stony Brook will be held in the SAC Ballroom A from 12 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. on October 7 and 8. The organization for blood drives at Stony Brook is also looking for volunteers. They need people for each blood drive to hand out fliers, post signs and actually help out at the donation. If you are interested in helping, attend one of the blood drives or call John Fletcher at (631) 632-6100. Donors will receive several perks, T-shirts, movie tickets.

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