

SUNY tuition expected to increase

By RADEYAH HACK
Statesman Editor

SUNY tuition is going up. Governor Pataki's 2005-2006 Higher Education Budget Proposal intends to initiate a \$500 tuition increase for State Universities and a \$250 increase for City Universities.

The Governor's Budget Proposal calls for an annual tuition increase that is tied to the Higher Education Price Index, which is an inflation index for colleges and universities. If this proposal were enacted, students at SUNY University Centers, such as Stony Brook, would pay a tuition rate according to the previous year's tuition, plus 1.5 times the index of that year. The index averaged at a rate of 4.12% over the last five years. The yearly annual increase will affect the incoming freshmen class of each specific year, so every entering class is expected to pay about \$200 more a year.

The proposal also restricts the availability of TAP. If initiated, the state would withhold half of the student's TAP grants while attending university, and release the withheld funds upon graduation.

"Deferment of TAP will force students to take out additional

loans," said Rose Auguste, NYP-IRG project manager at Stony Brook. "Students cannot defer their tuition bill until they graduate, so how can they defer tuition assistance until you graduate."

Governor Pataki also intends to initiate a program to encourage students to graduate in four years, instead of five years, which has become the general trend among college students. Universities that initiate the Partnership to Accelerate Completion Time (PACT) program will be given money if students graduate on time.

The proposed tuition hikes are intended to generate more revenue for SUNY institutions to employ more faculty members and improve the quality of education at State institutions. However, many feel that the budget proposal is relying too heavily on student contributions, since half of the anticipated aid is expected to be funded by the proposed tuition increases, and not enough on state grants.

The proposed tuition increases infuriates many students in the state university system, especially since it comes after a \$950 increase in 2003. "We as

Continued on page 4

How do you feel about the proposed tuition increase?

By CHRIS LONARDO

"Sigma Iota Sigma says, don't do it!"



"It's robbery, it's an absolute outrage!"
- Alesa Andrew



"Now I might have to re-evaluate my options for med school!"
- Joci Job



"The governor's proposal would cut TAP funding in half, and it is a travesty!"
- Jeff Licitra



"A Day Without Black Inventions"

By JAMES BOUKLAS
Statesman Editor

The National Society for Black Engineers put on a show this week focused on the importance of inventions created by Black Americans as a part of Black History Month. Every day this month, different organizations are teaming up to put on an event relating to Black American history.

The show featured two skits of what life would be like without inventions patented by Black Americans followed by a quiz session. It stemmed from the ideas that founded an art gallery featuring Black inventors that was in the SAC from Jan 37 to Feb 4 of this year.

The skits involved no props or aids, save a couch to sit on, and were simple demonstrations of what everyday life would be

like without utensils that we take for granted. Omitted inventions included such common items as the remote control, dustpan, and mailbox.

The student actors include Cecile Gibson, Lincois Anderson, Kinsley Adeoye, Kamar Plunkette, and Kaity Hutchinson.

"We don't think about how useful little things are, like the TV remote," said Lincois Anderson, "something as simple as a stove would be gone" if these inventions didn't exist. Anderson is the president of the National Society of Black Engineers and helped to organize this event.

While the featured inventions are fairly modern, many of the most famous products patented by Black Americans were conceived during the slavery years. The patents on the inventions, however,

Continued on page 4



Chrysler SRT-8: Chrysler-1, Competitors-0

BY JAMES BOUKLAS
Statesman Staff

Cool. This is probably the only word to describe Chrysler's latest engineering masterpiece: the 300 SRT-8. Equipped with a 6.1-liter Hemi V-8 that puts out 425 horses and 420 lb-ft of torque, this is one of the most powerful full size sedans starting under \$40,000.

More than just the bigger engine differentiates this from the standard 300C. It comes with 20-inch wheels, better anti-roll bars, and more rigid springs. There are few ways to tell an SRT from the rest of the 300Cs: badges on the seats and back end, small spoiler, and gauges with the script SRT.

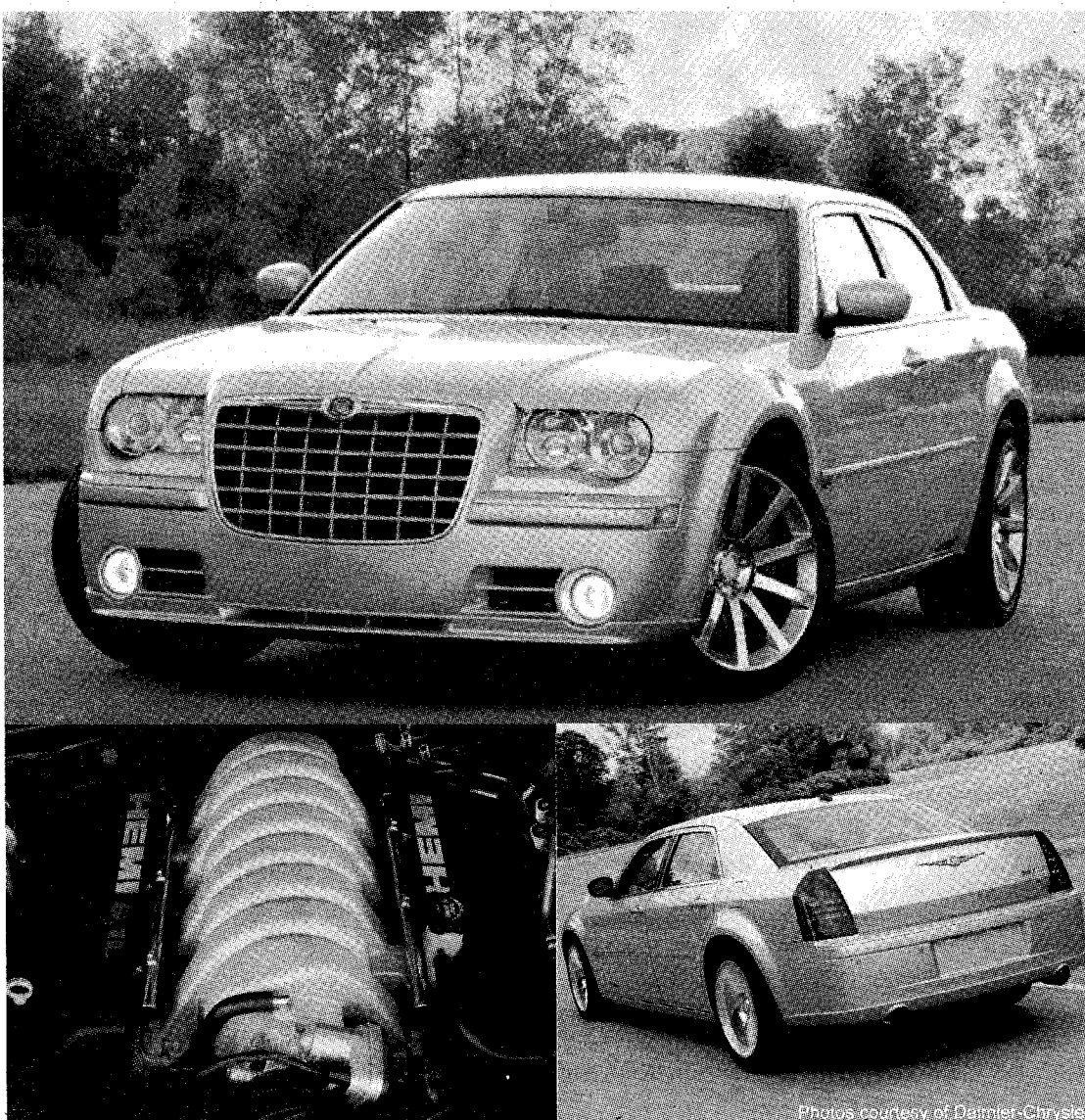
Many estimate the time from 0-60 in about 5.0 seconds, under half a second faster than the 5.7-liter 300C, which costs about \$7000 less. Of course, there's more to a car than simple acceleration. This car guarantees bragging rights that few cars can: a 6.1-liter V8.

Does this all sound too good to be true? Brace yourself, for here comes the bad news: Chrysler is only going to manufacture 10,000 of these vehicles this year.

This will, no doubt, help to inflate demand and possibly cause the starting price of \$39,995 up past \$40,000 due to lack of supply.

Something that made the Chrysler 300C innovative when it debuted last year was cylinder-deactivation technology. The 5.7-liter Hemi engine, used in the Chrysler 300C, Dodge Magnum RT-8, and Jeep Grand Cherokee, turns off four cylinders when cruising at highway speeds, increasing fuel economy by between 10 and 20 percent overall. The 6.1-liter Hemi discards this system and is expected to be eligible for the gas guzzler tax. Mileage is reported to be 14 mpg city/19 mpg highway, compared to the 5.7-liter Hemi's 17 mpg city/25 mpg highway. Needless to say, this significant difference will cost the happy owner of this car a few more bucks in gas and a guilty conscience, perhaps, for the sake of the environment.

In an almost equally exciting announcement, Dieter Zetsche, Daimler-Chrysler CEO, recently made a statement in which he said his goal is to match Toyota's quality by 2007. If this does, in fact, come to fruition, Chrysler looks unstoppable: great design, good prices, and top quality. Cool.



Photos courtesy of Daimler-Chrysler

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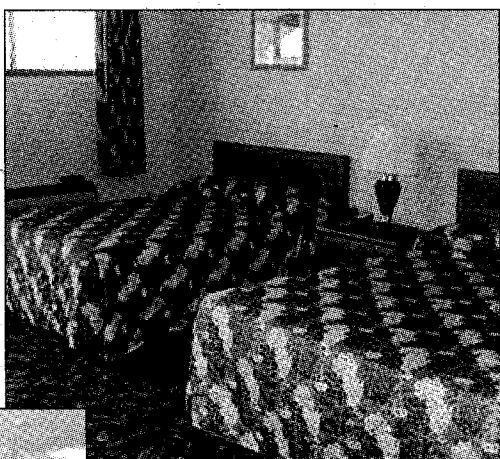
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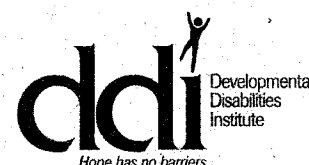
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What's in a cereal?

3

By AMANDA RUBENSTEIN
Statesman Editor

As if the low carb craze hasn't gone far enough, General Mills' sugar-loaded cereals are now being touted as "healthy" because they include whole grains.

While whole grains are, in general, healthy, this new step taken by General Mills is contradicted by the amount of sugar many of these cereals contain. Because honestly, can changing the heavily sweetened Lucky Charms cereal to whole grain really make it healthier?

The bleaching of whole grain flour strips it of vitamins, minerals, and fiber. While they have replaced the vitamins and minerals in the cereal, they have not restored the cereals with fiber.

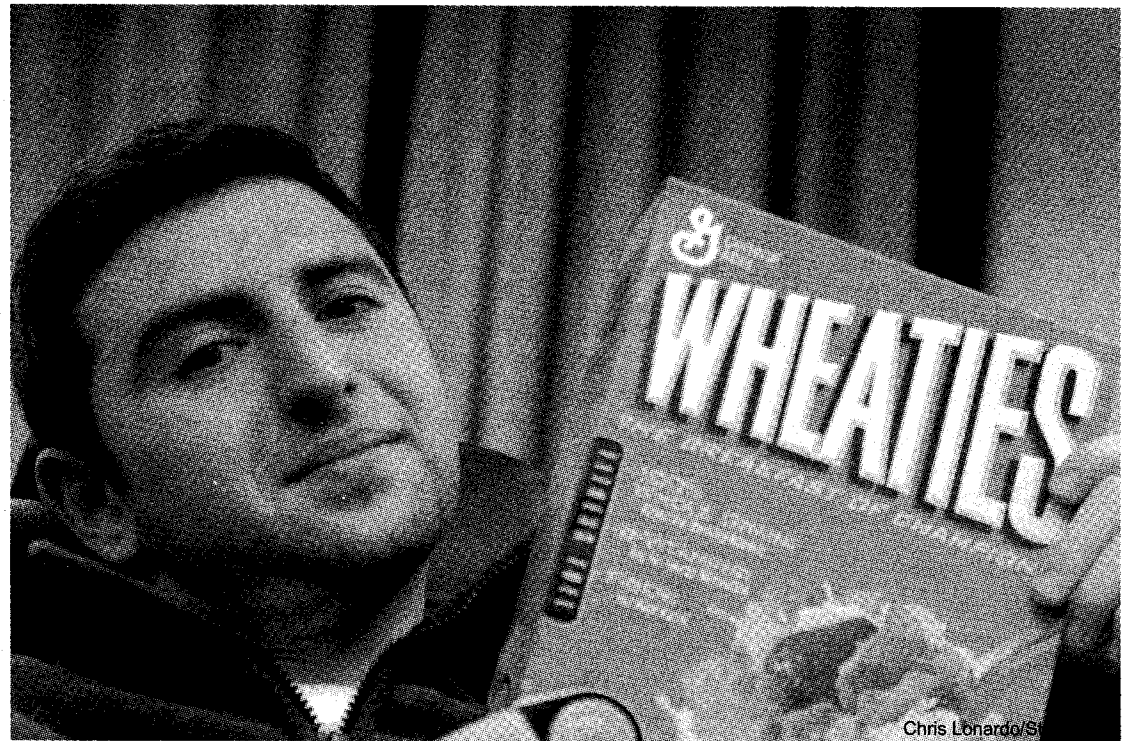
Many consumers assume that, with the addition of whole grains, they will get a bountiful source of fiber—but this is just not the case. Even if the cereal is made up of whole grains, the sugar content essentially negates the fiber. This is why, even with the whole grain makeover, most General Mills cereals only increase their fiber content by one gram.

In order to be considered "a good source of fiber," a product must have at least two grams of fiber. In fact, only a few of the cereals' fiber content changed, and none of them became "high fiber" foods because of the whole grain change.

The recommended daily allowance of fiber is 28 grams for women and 35 grams for men. Therefore, eating the new whole grain cereals will not help those who are looking to get a complete daily serving of fiber from their cereal.

Even still, fiber isn't the only thing whole grains offer. These grains add antioxidants, phytochemicals, and some other disease-fighting plant chemicals. Minerals, like chromium and selenium, also aid in fighting heart disease and weight loss. Although consumers don't often think of them, whole grains offer many other benefits.

And recently, General Mills is selling all the health benefits of whole grains—not just fiber. Also, while it is obvious that sugary cereals with whole grains are healthier than the same sugary cereals with refined, white



Chris Lonardo/S

flour, we should be cautious in considering the later to be a "health food."

According to Nutritionists, General Mills is misleading consumers by labeling the cereals as an "excellent source of fiber."

The Food and Drug Administration asserts that an excellent source of fiber must have at least

16 grams of fiber. The General Mills cereal with the most fiber is Fiber One, which actually has only 14 grams of fiber—still not enough to be officially considered an excellent source. General Mills has asked the FDA to create a government standard based on the General Mills cereals.

While they do provide many

vitamins and minerals, cereals have never been considered a "health food." Whether the FDA decides to change the nutritional allowances or not, these whole grain cereals are still health foods by any means. However, it can be argued that these cereals are at least a step in the right direction.

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The Statesman encourages readers to submit opinions and commentaries to the following address:

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To view previous issues, extra material, and to learn about how to get involved with the Statesman, visit our website at sbstatesman.org.

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WHO WE ARE

The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Sucolian" in 1957 at Oyster Bay, the original site of Stony Brook University. In 1975 "The Statesman" was incorporated as a not-for-profit, student-run organization. Its editorial board, writing, and photography staff are student volunteers while its business staff are professionals.

The Stony Brook Statesman is published twice-weekly on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the fall and spring semesters.

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God bless the Ukraine

By JAMES BOUKLAS
Statesman Editor

A corrupt leader rigged national elections by a margin of 3% and expected to get away with it, banking on government sponsored propaganda and voter apathy. Sounds familiar? Rather than simply reliving the American voting experience, people in the Ukraine stood up for themselves and demanded a recasting of ballots.

Former Prime Minister Yanukovich headed up a conspiracy to defraud the Ukraine people of democracy through voting fraud. His brave and resilient opponent, Viktor Yushenko, stood up for his people and called the prime minister out on his bluff. As the story goes, Yushenko supporters crowded the capital, Kiev, and forced a close down of the executive government. Yanukovich, fearing civil unrest, reluctantly supported new elections. This is what they told us; it's not

even half of the story.

I followed the Ukraine voting debacle as closely as I could from American and British news outlets. It was only until after the revote did they decide to tell the whole account, parts of which I'd like to share with you.

Yanukovich, our story's Evil Doer, had at his disposal security forces from the Interior Ministry. When it looked as if the opposition supporters would not leave Kiev, an order was made to disperse the crowd, no matter the cost. Would the Ukraine go the way of other tyrannical former-Soviet countries? It could have.

The protesters were defenseless against a government attack, and the blood bath would have dominated world headlines. How was this all avoided? Acts of true heroism from good men spared Ukraine the tragedy of loss of both life and liberty. Top spies in the SBU, Ukraine's modern day

incarnation of the now-defunct KGB, took a stand against the corrupt regime, leaking sensitive information out of high-level meetings to supporters of Yushenko.

A high-ranking general, sympathetic to the democratic process, was fed information about action against the protesters and acted upon it. He vowed to protect the civilians at all costs, even if it meant a counterattack on Interior Ministry troops. Faced with the possibility of civil war, the government backed down and allowed regular elections to take place.

Why can't something like this happen in America? Where was George Tenet to blow the whistle on the Bush administration wrongdoings? What happened to Colin Powell, the man who was supposed to keep an eye on Bush as Secretary of State? We already have the corrupt regime, we just need the hero.

Ask Zahra

By ZAHRA KHAN

Dear Zahra,

This semester is crazy. I'm so busy all the time. Along with a full academic schedule, I work a part time job just for extra cash to spend on things I like. My schoolwork is going great, and I'm getting a lot of money. However, I don't see or talk to my best friends that much anymore. I don't want them to be mad at me, but I'm usually too tired or strapped for time to see them. What should I do?

Busy

Dear Busy,

I know good grades and some extra cash is great, but money never bought anyone happiness. I know it sounds cliché but it's true. All the success academically and financially that you are having just won't be the same without your support group to cheer you on in your moments of triumph. Your cycle of only school and work will soon catch up to you. While right now you think you are alienating your friends, you will soon realize you are the one all by yourself. You need time to have a healthy outlet for all your stress and tension. To put it frankly, neither your Chem book nor mucho dinero are going to comfort you when you're down. Cut the hours at work, or pick up the phone and make some time for you buds.

Got Issues?

Ask Zahra...

askzahra@sbstatesman.org

SUNY tuition bike...

Continued from page 1

students think this is unfair and unjust. We attend state universities for a reason," said Auguste. "The state is not upholding their end of the bargain with continuous tuition increases and cuts in TAP, SEEK, and EOP."

The proposal also limits the availability of students from lower income families to attend a public university. "It differs students people from attending college in general," said Eric Burgie, a sophomore at Stony Brook. "If it is so expensive to attend a state school, then why bother attending any other since many students rely on TAP to fund their education."

NYPIRG representatives are working feverishly to inform students about the tuition hikes so that they will voice their concerns and speak out against it. Events such as candle light vigils were held when classes began in January, and meetings with council members from USG and various other organizations on campus are scheduled to get the word out about the tuition increase. "The tuition hikes in 2003 were projected to be higher," said Auguste, "but because students rallied against it, the increase was capped at \$950."

Black inventions...

Continued from page 1

were not awarded until the late 19th century due to deep-rooted racism in many parts of the country, according to Madelyn Augustin, one of other the main event coordinators for the show.

After each skit, the audience was asked to name what inventions were missing from the performance. For their prizes, the winners got to choose from an array of books reflective of Black culture.

"It's nice to have a program that focuses on teaching things and not just entertainment," said Kamar Plunkette, a student at the university and an actor in the skits. "It was very informative and interesting."

Following the skits was a quiz session, where winners also got prizes for their efforts. "It was good practice for the upcoming Quiz Bowl," Augustin said, "Our goal is to raise awareness for all the inventions and patents credited to Black Americans."

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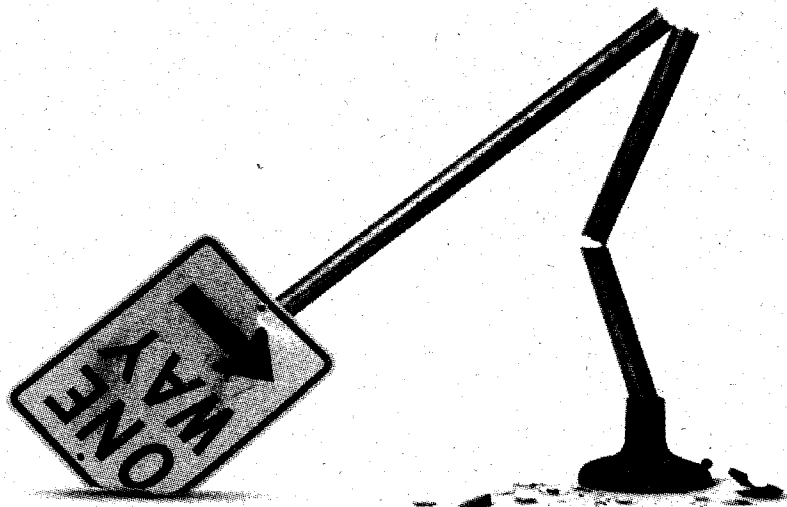
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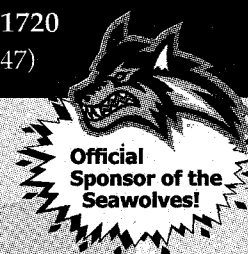
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Stony Brook celebrates the Chinese new year

By JAMES BOUKLAS
Statesman Editor



Stony Brook celebrated the Chinese New Year this Wed with a festival dedicated to the occasion. The event was sponsored by the FSA and Campus Dining Services.

The New Year is the Year of the Rooster and Riyou on the Chinese Calendar. Animal associations rotate every 12 years while name associations rotate every 60. Numerically, this is year number 4072.

This was "an exciting event" which is "always very popular with the students," said Kevin Mendo, director of Campus Dining Services for H-Quad.

Performances were put on by acrobats, dancers, musicians, and martial artists. Attendance was in the hundreds, expected for this event.



Photos 1, 2, 3, and 6 by Joy Dutta/Statesman; Photo 4 by Joseph Fann/Statesman; Photo 5 by Chris Lonardo/Statesman.



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The Futureheads vocalize their opinions

By INUR MAMOOR
Statesman Contributor

Being the music junkie I am, when I heard the buzz surrounding a new up and coming British band's debut album, I had to have a listen.

When the Futureheads' self-titled CD dropped in October of last year, it was hailed by hipsters around the world as the saving grace of British rock. That may be going a bit far, but the Futureheads sound, post-punk 80's-inspired, might just be what the music scene needs.

Their sound, inspired by Devo, Kate Bush, and Fugazi, as their website states, is different because all the members sing. What's more, they sing in their heavy North English accents. The songs all have a pop masterpiece feel, but the lyrics make the songs stick in your head.

In true punk manner, the songs are short and fast. There is a lot of music on this short 33 minute CD. These speedy songs are in response to the boring and stagnant life people have become accustomed to. The tempo of the songs can in part be credited to the high energy the band gives off. They play fast because they have a lot to say, and it all just spills out, creating a fast-paced CD with tongue-in-check lyrics.

But what makes The Futureheads different from other punk bands, besides the fact that they do not refer to themselves as a punk band, is the control they have over their vocals. The



vocals and harmonies on this CD are amazing and something you would not expect from a band like The Futureheads. They use their vocals as a melodic instrument, making their CD very catchy.

One listen is not enough. The listener finds themselves coming back to the CD. The short, catchy songs pleasantly replay in your head as you find yourself humming along to tracks like "Carnival Kids," which is the most prominent track on the CD and one of the best songs I have heard in a while.

The Futureheads were smart in widening their audience by opening up for Franz Ferdinand on their US tour. If you liked FF, then you will want to listen to The Futureheads. Their self-titled CD is a fun, catchy explosion of music and harmonies.

Recommended track: "Carnival Kids."

Bollywood on Broadway ⁷

By ROSIE SCAVUZZO
Statesman Editor

To be completely honest, I never really cared too much about diversity and other cultures until I arrived at Stony Brook University in the fall of my freshman year. Don't get me wrong, I respected other cultures and was intrigued by them. However, I never really had a vested interest in learning a much about them.

When the Broadway Show, *Bombay Dreams* opened on Broadway on Apr 29, 2004, I didn't take much note. I received a sample CD in my mail, and tossed it aside with great indifference. After becoming friends with many Indian students and realizing there existed a great pride and rich culture, I started to become interested in the show and Indian culture in general. I received an offer to go into the city to see the show at the beginning of the Fall 2004 semester, but couldn't make it. I finally got into the city right before *Bombay Dreams* closed during Winter Break.

According to the official *Bombay Dreams* website, the play is "set amid India's bustling film industry, where numerous big-budget movie musicals are made each year, this triumphant new musical tells the story of a handsome young man who dreams of finding stardom and romance in a rich and exotic land... *Bombay Dreams* is a thrilling spectacle that families and students will

enjoy as much as adults. With its lush score, the show explores such powerful themes as the challenges of success, the important of ones cultural heritage and familiar roots, and the nature of friendship and true love."

It was exciting to sit in the very first row of the theatre, enjoying the vivid colors and sounds of the Indian culture. The music had many Indian influences, but still seemed quite often to fall over to the Western tradition. In addition, the lead male had a beautiful voice, influenced with a perfect blend of Indian and Western classical tradition.

I cannot, however, say so much for the female lead, American Idol contestant Tamyra Gray. Gray was pretty awful to say the least. First of all, she didn't quite master the vocal trill that the Eastern tradition holds so close to its core. Secondly, her voice was not supported and could not fill the theatre even with microphones. Finally, she had little to no stage presence.

Although the choice of including her in the cast of *Bombay Dreams* was a poor one, I still enjoyed the show. I didn't love it for its musical score or for its wonderful story line. Instead, I was drawn into the representation of the Indian culture and particularly of Bollywood. While *Bombay Dreams* was by far not one of my favorite Broadway shows, it definitely gave me a new respect, understanding, and enthusiasm for Indian culture, both traditional and popular.

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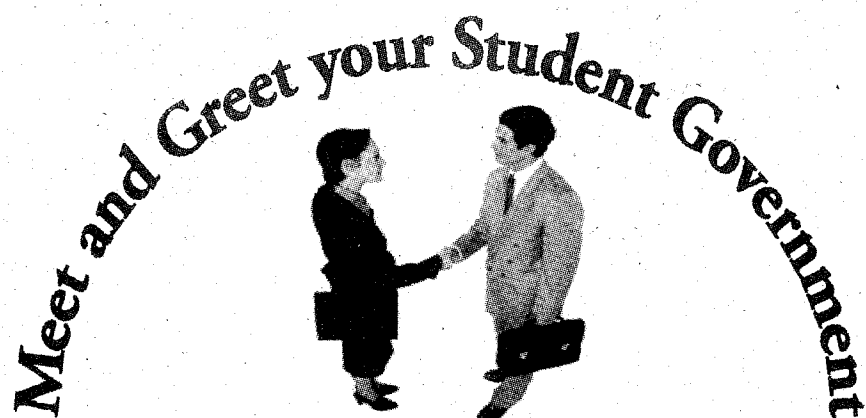
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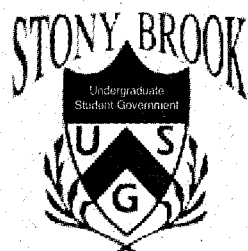
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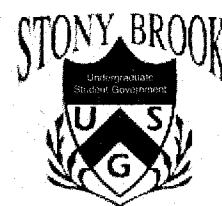
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SAC 202 to make an appointment.*

Lawyer available only when school is in session

* ATTENTION *

All USG Funded Clubs/Organizations



Please note that the 2005-06 Budget
Applications are now in your
mailboxes in SAC Suite 202.

Due to the changes in the
Chancellor's Guidelines,
**all clubs and organizations
funded by USG must submit a
Budget Application.** If you have not
done so in prior years, you must do so
now, or you will not receive funding.

The applications will be due by
Friday, February 11, 2005
without exception.

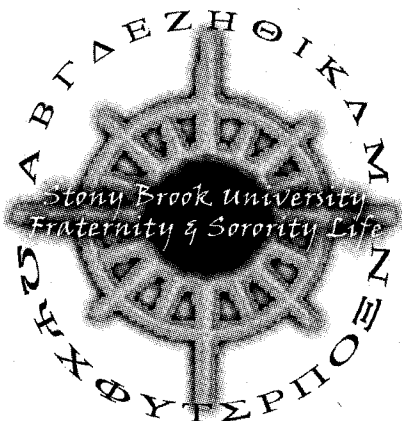
All Sports Clubs must meet with
Sue Dimonda or Marie Turchiano
to go over your budget prior to
submittal to USG.

Workshops explaining the budget
process will be announced shortly.

*If you have any questions,
please contact:*

Raj Gupta, USG Treasurer
at 2-6382 or

Sonia Guttman, USG Admin. Director
at 2-9207 in SAC Suite 202.



Fraternity and Sorority Life

The Office of the Dean of Students is pleased to announce that the following fraternities and sororities are recognized on the Stony Brook Campus.

Fraternities

Alpha Epsilon Pi
Alpha Chi Rho
Alpha Phi Alpha
Alpha Phi Delta
Kappa Alpha Psi
Lambda Upsilon Lambda
MALIK
Phi Beta Sigma

Phi Chi Epsilon
Phi Iota Alpha
Pi Delta Psi
Sigma Beta Rho
Sigma Lambda Beta
Tau Kappa Epsilon
Zeta Beta Tau

Sororities

Alpha Kappa Delta Phi
Alpha Sigma Alpha
Delta Sigma Theta
Delta Phi Omega
Epsilon Sigma Phi
Gamma Ce Upsilon
Kappa Phi Lambda
Lambda Fe Uson

Omega Phi Beta
Phi Sigma Sigma
Sigma Delta Tau
Sigma Iota Alpha
Sigma Gamma Rho
Sigma Iota Sigma
Sigma Lambda Gamma
Theta Phi Alpha

The Following Groups are no longer recognized by Stony Brook University.
For your own well-being, we do not endorse membership with these organizations:

Delta Sigma Phi, Lambda Phi Epsilon, Nu Alpha Phi, Sigma Alpha Mu, Sigma Chi Beta

If you are interested in joining a recognized organization, please visit the Inter-Fraternity and Sorority Council Office in the Stony Brook Union, Room 044 or call (631) 632-4557 for more information.

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FRIDAY FROM 8:30 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

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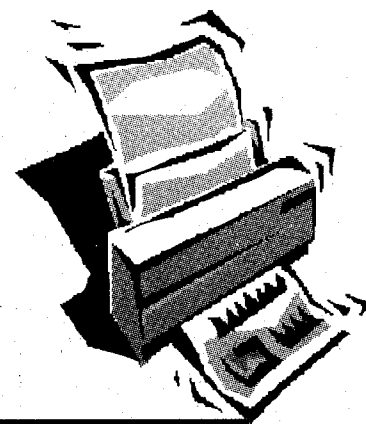
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Fraternity and Sorority Life

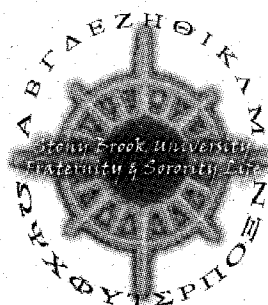
Still interested in joining a Fraternity or Sorority?

If so you must attend of the Spring 2005 Fraternity or Sorority Prospective New Member Workshops

Dates and Locations:	Thursday, Feb. 10, 2005	5:00 p.m.	SAC 225
	Monday, Feb. 14, 2005	4:00 p.m.	SAC 305
	Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2005	5:00 p.m.	SAC 305

Pledging Begins on Friday February 11, 2005 and Ends on Saturday April 9, 2005.

For more information contact Student Activities • 632-9320



Off-season baseball...

Continued from page 12

tros so that he could be closer to his family, and took an astonishing pay cut to do that, making only \$4.75 million dollars last year. What did he have to show for it last year? How about winning the National League Cy Young award with an 18-4 record, 2.98 ERA and 218 strikeouts -- not bad for an old man.

Chicago Cub's slugger Sammy Sosa was traded to the Baltimore Orioles in an effort to keep attendance in their ballpark, because of the competition that will come from the Washington Nationals (formerly the Expos). Chicago got tired of Sammy and did not appreciate him leaving the ballpark early on the last game of the season this past year. Sosa needs a change of scenery: his time was up in Chicago, but the time he spent there was great.

He is still the only player in Major League history to record three 60 home-run seasons in a career and he is just 26 homeruns away from becoming only the 5th player in league history to have 600 homeruns. Camden Yards will be a nice change of scenery for Sosa, as it is more of a hitter-friendly park than Wrigley Field is.

I think we will see a much happier Sosa, and a much more productive one. I do not think he will be as good as he once was, but he will provide a much-needed boost to a treacherous Orioles lineup.

Another big off-season move was the signing of Adrian Beltre by the Seattle Mariners. Beltre came in third in the N.L. MVP voting last year and the Mariners rewarded him with a 5-year, \$64 million dollar contract. Don't ask me why the Dodgers did not resign him, but instead signed much injured outfielder J.D. Drew to a 5-year, \$55 million dollar offer, and aging second baseman Jeff Kent to a 2-year, \$17 million dollar contract. Why they would give up a rising star like Beltre for a couple of question marks like Drew and Kent is beyond me.

Carlos Delgado signed with the Florida Marlins for 4 years and \$52 million. The Mets offered Delgado the same amount of money and were pursuing him all off-season, but Delgado decided to sign with the Marlins because he thought they were in a better position to win than the Mets.

The most recent major signing of the off-season was of former Chicago White Sox outfielder Magglio Ordonez for 5 years and \$75 million. That was a little bit too much for a guy who only played 52 games last season and has a history of major knee problems. I guess that's why the Tigers placed in his contract that it could be nullified if his knee problems resurfaced.

Overall, this off-season was huge in free agent signings and in major trades. A lot of teams got the stars they needed and a lot of teams bolstered themselves enough to make a good run at a playoff spot. As usual, the Yankees garnered a lot of the attention this off-season, but a productive off-season by the Mets took away that attention a bit. The Mets did the most to bolster their roster this off-season, with a slight chance of making the playoffs if they can hold off the consistent Braves, who have won 15 consecutive division titles. We will just have to wait and see what lies ahead this coming baseball season.

The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, February 10, 2005

hmmm, what's in a name?



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Statesman SPORTS

Winning “feels so good”

By ROBERT DAWLEY
Statesman Contributor

Yes it feels so good as the Stony Brook Seawolves Women's Basketball team won after a showdown with Vermont. “It feels good,” said Jessica Smith flashing a great big smile after the game. Jessica Smith netted a career-high 30 points and Mykeema Ford added 20 as Stony Brook held off Vermont, 78-67, on Wednesday night. Anyone could see it in their eyes that Stony Brook knew beat Vermont in a convincing show proving once again that their record does not reflect the team's talent. Leading as they were going into halftime, the team was determined to keep winning after their last victory.

The Seawolves played with a sense of passion and teamwork putting up a wall as their defense. Their opponents came into the game trying to bounce back from a loss but their efforts were to no avail. “The key was intensity and that we were more focused,” said Mykeema Ford. Both of those characteristics were clearly exemplified in the way the game was played.

Vermont on numerous occasions looked bewildered as Ford shook and baked their defense frustrating Vermont to the point that they started to continuously foul her. As the fouls mounted, Vermont started to lose it. Ford and Smith teamed up to be the offensive force and push as the score increased in Stony Brook's favor. On numerous instances,

Mykeema Ford penetrated Vermont's defense as if she was a B-2 bomber on a deep surgical strike into enemy territory. Yes, the doctor, Jessica Smith was in as she operated on Vermont's defense. She sliced threw their defense as a surgeon's knife would in a delicate surgical procedure.

In the previous game against UMBC, Smith had 17 points and Ford had 19. In an exclusive interview with Coach Mchugh, Smith and Ford, they all reiterated the same feelings almost word for word, that the team is coming together. Mchugh expressed that she is extremely proud of the team and that they played well. They are hoping to carry on this momentum this Saturday as they host Hartford at 1:00.



Yana Khotsyna/Statesman

Keeping tabs on baseball

By RICHARD CIANCIOSCO
Statesman Contributor

This baseball off-season has been one of the busiest in recent history. Many teams have made a big splash this winter, including our hometown teams, the N.Y. Yankees and Mets. The Yankees bolstered their pitching staff after they realized that the pitchers made them choke against the Boston Red Sox in the playoffs.

The biggest acquisition for the Yankees was 6 ft. 11 in. flame-thrower Randy Johnson, in a trade from the Arizona Diamondbacks. This was a huge pickup for the Yankees and, to me, the second best pickup in Major League Baseball this off-season. Johnson will provide the Yankees with a dominating #1 starter who will be able to lead an almost completely revamped rotation.

The Yankees also bolstered their rotation with the free agent signings of Jaret Wright from the Braves and Carl Pavano from the Marlins. Pavano had his breakout year last year with an 18-8 record

and a 3.00 ERA, and Wright made a major comeback with a 15-8 record and a 3.28 ERA. A lot of people think that Carl Pavano had a fluke year last year with the Florida Marlins. I, on the other hand, see him as a pitcher that had a breakout year. I think he matured greatly last year and got confident in his stuff.

The bright lights of New York City have been too much for some other Yankee signers in the past – e.g., Jeff Weaver – but I think that Pavano will excel with his new role as the 3rd starter for the Yankees. Wright has been criticized for being too injury-prone throughout his career and people think that his injured shoulder will get the best of him this year. Well last year it didn't seem to get to him at all, and if he gets the Yankees a good 13-14 win as their 4th starter, they will gladly take that.

The New York Mets have a completely new look this off-season, after new General Manager Omar Minaya went on a spending spree acquiring the most prized free agent pitcher, Pedro Marti-

nez, and the most prized position player, Carlos Beltran. The Mets signed Martinez to a 4-year, \$53 million dollar contract. Don't get me wrong, I think Martinez is an amazing pitcher – still one of the best in baseball – but to give him a contract that will keep him until he's around 37-years old is a bit too much.

The Red Sox would not offer Martinez a 4th year because they knew he was on the decline and might not last until then. Martinez has a chance this season to be amazing, pitching in the pitcher-friendly park of Shea Stadium. He even has a good chance of grabbing the Cy Young award if he is able to hold up throughout the season. But if he pitches as much as he did last year with the Red Sox – 217 innings – the most he did since 2000, then he is surely going to break down. The Mets need to hold him to less innings than that and rely on their bullpen to pull them through games, and hope he gives them a good lead before leaving the mound.

Carlos Beltran on the other

hand, was the best off-season pickup by any team. The Mets beat out the rival hometown Yankees in the sweepstakes for this five-tool player. Rarely will you ever find a player who excels in all areas, but Beltran is just that special. They signed Beltran to be the future of their franchise with a 7-year, \$119 million contract. Beltran gives the Mets someone who can hit for power, play the field and steal bases. Beltran boosted his stock during the playoffs, hitting .435 with 8 homeruns and 14 RBI's for the Houston Astros. He stole 6 bases, and also had a slugging percentage of 1.022 – a mind-boggling accomplishment.

There were a lot more off-season moves including the breakup of the “Big Three” in Oakland. Mark Mulder went to the St. Louis Cardinals in a trade, and Tim Hudson went to the Braves in a trade as well.

This was the worst move this off-season. I do not understand how Athletics owner, Billy Beane, could break up a pitching staff that included Mulder, Hudson, Barry

Zito and up-and-comer, Rich Harden. Maybe he thought that they could get by without them and that eventually, they couldn't afford it. When you have a pitching staff as talented as that, you do not throw it away. Mulder and Hudson have been two of the most consistent pitchers in the major leagues the past few years and they were allowed to leave without much compensation.

Roger Clemens also got a record deal this off-season, becoming the highest paid pitcher of all times. An arbitrator awarded Clemens \$18 million dollars for next year, which could be a staggering amount to some people. Yes, it is definitely way too much for a player to be paid these days, and some may think that Clemens is too old to be given that much money, but seriously, look at his statistics and tell me that he does not deserve to be the highest paid pitcher in baseball.

He came out of retirement last year to sign with the Houston As-

Continued on page 11