

Health Activists Speak On Global Epidemics

By GENE TULMAN
Statesman Editor

The third annual George Goodman Memorial Symposium, held last Thursday at the Staller Center, focused on public health issues in such countries as Russia, Ethiopia, and Burma. The two featured speakers, public health activists Laurie Garrett and Chris Beyrer, summarized various health care problems faced by developing countries around the world.

Nearly 100 people gathered at the lecture, entitled "Global Epidemics—Are They Real?", to hear Garrett and Beyrer report on global epidemics. The speakers related the most abundant global health threats, verbalizing their own intimate experiences as part of the epidemic overview.

Garrett, a highly decorated science journalist who won the Pulitzer Prize, the Peabody Award, the Polk Award, and the Overseas Press Club of America Award, has traveled the globe to research and report on some of the most deadly viruses known to mankind.

Following introductions by Associate Provost David Hicks and Round Table President Beverly Smith, Garrett gave an hour long presentation on ominous diseases that affect the United States, Western Europe, Russia, and Africa.

Garrett explained that recent opinion polls showed that many Americans have misconceptions about the definition and significance of public health.

"In excess of 80 percent of Americans cannot correctly define public health," she said. "Whether they define it correctly or not, they're very clear that more than 90 percent of them are against it."

Elaborating on the background of epidemics, Garrett urged educating politicians, health care providers, and general populations about the importance of diagnoses and prevention of killers such as smallpox and multi-drug resistant tuberculosis.

Garrett reviewed the lack of sterility in some foreign health care environments, emphasizing the diversity of health risks associated with drinking unclean water and using a single syringe to immunize dozens or hundreds of individuals.

Garrett also noted the dangers of bioterrorism, and potentially deadly epidemiological outbreaks. She explained that a compelling reason for the lack of universal public vaccination is that such immunization in itself is possibly fatal in every several per million cases.

Roy Steigbigel, a professor at the Stony Brook University School of Medicine,



Courtesy of lauriegarrett.com

Pulitzer Prize winner Laurie Garrett, above.

introduced Beyrer after Garrett completed her presentation.

Beyrer, a professor at the Johns Hopkins University, serves as the consulting epidemiologist to the HIV Vaccine Trial Network of the National Institutes of Health, and has a lead role in HIV trial site development for Africa and Asia.

Beginning his talk where Garrett left off, Beyrer commented on the current state of the HIV epidemic in the world.

"I think if we've learned anything in 2001, it's the unfortunate reality that we are losing the battle against HIV," he said. "This

virus continues to spread."

Beyrer went on to cover in some detail the extent of the HIV virus in Ethiopia, Burma, and Thailand, exploring a few social mechanisms that reinforce the disease.

He explored the vicious cycle of "commercial sex" and drug use that contributes to the spread of HIV in countries like Thailand. Beyrer commented on the vulnerability of the women who are sold into the "sexual slavery" of the Asian brothels.

He ended his speech on a negative note, reiterating how vulnerable the world population is to far-reaching epidemics such as the HIV virus.

"Global disease interests me because I am in the medical profession," Stan Rothman, a local health care practitioner, said. "I felt that Laurie Garrett's and Chris Beyrer's discussion of variety of diseases was terrific."

The Office of the Provost and The Round Table, a discussion group of retired and semi-retired professionals, organized the symposium.

"It is fascinating how wide spread some of these problems are," Myron Ledbetter, member of The Round Table, said. "I think one thing that people have not understood is the resistance to antibiotics and what important part this is going to play in world epidemics."

Oxfam Hunger Banquet Gives It Another Go

By JASON LAI
Statesman Contributor

The Second Annual Oxfam America Hunger Banquet will be held this week. Various campus organizations at Stony Brook University have been working together throughout the year to sponsor the event.

Oxfam America is a national non-profit group that seeks lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and social injustice around the world. The organization states its mission as being to offer the financial and moral support, as well as networking assistance necessary to enable indigent communities to better their circumstances.

"The purpose of this event is to educate the local and campus community on issues of hunger and poverty throughout the United States and the world," said Oxfam Hunger Banquet Planning Committee member Elizabeth Scotto-Lavino.

By directing expertise and resources

to local organizations in poor communities, Oxfam works to build community strengths and break the cycle of poverty.

Participants in the event are engaged in a dramatization of the distribution of



Courtesy of asiarice.org

Fifty-five percent of the world's population lives in poverty.

wealth and resources in the world. Each Hunger Banquet guest draws a ticket that randomly assigns them to the high, middle, or low income group and is served a corresponding meal.

Fifteen percent of the participants are assigned to the high-income group, and are served a sumptuous gourmet meal. The thirty percent in the middle income group eat a simple meal of rice and beans, while the fifty-five percent of the participants in the low income tier wait in line for small portions of rice and water.

The percentage of people in each income level group is an accurate representation of the distribution of resources and wealth among the world's population.

The event also includes a keynote speaker, role-playing scenarios, a slide show and a reflection period by the participants.

According to planners and those who attended, last year's Oxfam banquet was immensely successful.

"Last year's Hunger Banquet was an effective program that got its point across in a creative way," said Honors College senior Justina Geraci. "I learned about world hunger and poverty while sitting on the floor and eating rice and beans."

The Hunger Banquet is a demonstration of how food and material abundance are inequitably distributed in the world. Promotion of social justice is a key goal of Oxfam, and one which has been lauded by the University.

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Bird Song: Composition Nine

By KROSTOPHER LEE
Statesman Staff

It was my first dream, ever. I was flying. My life was simple. The feeling was euphoric, my entire body tingled as I glided through the air. The wind whipped through me, flowing all around. My sight was sharper, I looked down upon all the ant-like people ... until I saw her, Crista. She was larger than life. I longed for her. I don't know why.

Maybe because she smiled at me as I sang to her. Or was it that she fed me? Could it be how gently she held me? But I wanted her, wanted to be with her, always. She started to fade and my sight went blank, I cried out but nothing came. Darkness enveloped me. It was cold and my heart felt heavy, my lungs worked as if I was sucking in air from a straw. Was I dying? I needed her more then ever. I just needed to see her one last time.

Once more, then I could die.

I woke in a cold sweat, clutching my chest. Looking around I smelled the air for anything cooking. Of course there wasn't. Instead I found a note from Crista saying she would be late from work and that she would be out with friends. It was a lie but it helped blunt the truth. She was avoiding me, I could understand why.

Working that day would be good for me, it would help clear my mind and help me decide what to do. I of course had to confront her about her past, ask her subtly about her family and friends. Or maybe I could look through her things. But if it isn't freely given, should one really pry into another's past?

Violating another's territory, their space is one thing, but to outright pick someone's brain, to ask for memories, people and places known, that's a different thing. What right did I have to question her about her life?

And yet she hadn't told me anything willingly. Are we truly a trusting couple, do we really love each other? Do I really love her? Did get close because of circumstances, because we were living together? Or did I take advantage of a girl crying in the rain? Was I lonely and she conveniently filled the void in my heart?

A tug at my overalls brought me out of my

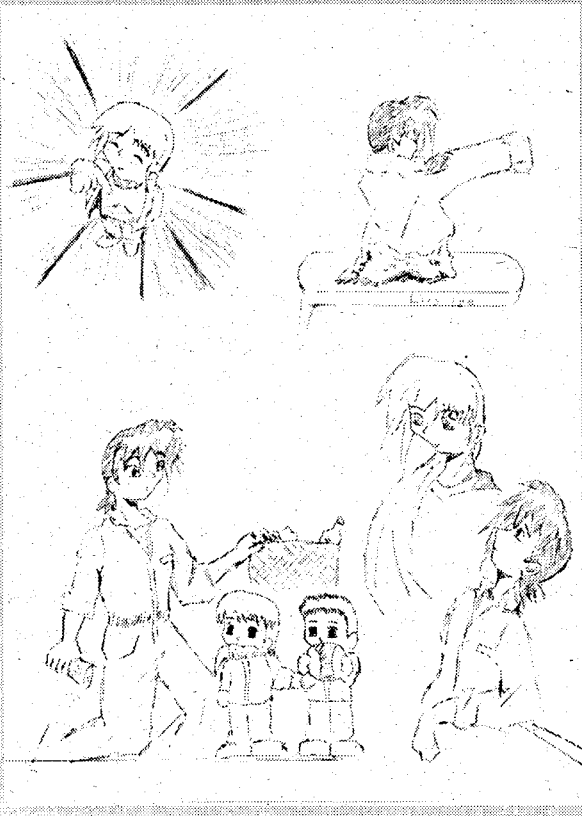
painful thoughts. It was a little girl holding hands with a boy. It was 'HIM' or rather Them now. He and the girl watched some Cyanocitta Cristata prepare for the winter by lining the nest. They spoke together with the same numbing effect, all sound muted and their words struck my heart.

"You're making things worse. You're asking silly questions you cannot answer. You'll tear your self apart if you keep thinking this way. But if you do ... don't drag her down with you. You'll be sorry when you finally remember."

I asked, even though I knew the answer, "Who ... are you?"

They sighed and turned to go. "Don't worry about what we've said, just the ramblings of some kids running around."

My mind eased and I listened to the birds. Crista came to mind again, but they were only memories. Memories of us walking in this very bird sanctuary, memories of me playing for her. Almost every moment I've been with her these past seven months. All of them wonderful.



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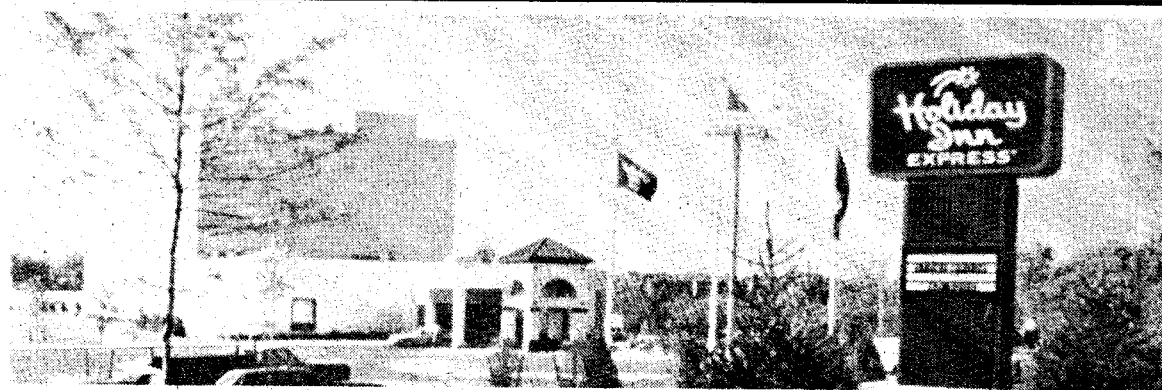
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Living and Learning in Mount College

By REETI CHAWLA
Statesman Staff

The Health and Wellness Living Learning Center housed in Mount College of Roth Quad has a diverse and rich history. Since its inception, the Health and Wellness LLC has enabled many students to experience various aspects of emotional and physical well-being.

This fall, residents of Mount College and members of the Health and Wellness LLC were welcomed by new Residence

RHD Jaquez is teaching a section of USB 101 in Mount College this fall, and will teach it again during the Spring semester. Her particular section of the course is unique, in that it incorporates pertinent themes of health and wellness into the curriculum.

"The LLC creates a sense of cohesiveness among students who share similar interests," said Jaquez.

The resident advisors in Mount College organize activities that encompass

"The LLC creates a sense of cohesiveness among students who share similar interests," said Jaquez.

Hall Director Judy Jaquez.

Jaquez has worked in university environments before, but has found that the LLC programs on campus are a unique aspect of the Stony Brook residential experience.

The general philosophy behind the LLC programs is to integrate academics into a residential student experience. A great deal of learning can happen outside

This semester, Johnson is teaching LHW 103, Intro to Health Professions.

the theme and goal of the Health and Wellness LLC. The activities planned include programs on healthy eating on campus, dealing with stress in the college environment, and wellness through the implementation of practices like yoga and meditation.

Additionally, the resident advisors are working to emphasize the importance of physical well-being. A program about weight training is in planning stages.

A number of the participants of the



Courtesy of sunysb.edu

Stony Brook students may choose to be part of one of several academic Living and Learning Centers.

LLC have majors that relate to the health sciences. These students benefit from activities and courses that relate to issues of emotional and physical health. Program coordinators hope to see the Health and Wellness LLC grow and offer more opportunities to students in the

near future.

Undoubtedly, the Health and Wellness LLC has a promising future. Jaquez believes that students would benefit from peer tutoring sessions and other study groups. "It would be great to be able to see students using each other as resources."

Cancer Center Rolls for a Cure

By BRAD JERSON
Statesman Contributor

Everyday, people all over the world take a ball and roll it forward on a wooden floor with the hopes of knocking over ten solid things at the other end.

However, this Saturday, November 17th, the simple game of bowling takes on an entirely new meaning.

The Cancer Center for Kids of Winthrop University Hospital will hold its annual "Thanksgiving Rock-N-Bowl-A-Thon," to raise money to help its patients and improve the treatment they receive.

The \$20 per person donation includes three games of bowling, shoes, and food.

On average, the past Bowl-a-Thons held by the Cancer Center have raised more than \$10,000 for the program.

As one of the center's major fund-raising events, the annual bowling festival raises money necessary for the everyday treatment of patients.

There are many programs such as the Psychosocial program, which helps children and their families cope with cancer by offering the services of professional therapists, child life specialists, and social workers, whose work is non-reimbursable by insurance companies.

In order to cover the costs of such programs, fundraisers are essential.

Many Stony Brook students

participated in the "Children's Cancer FunFest" fundraiser for the center held in early September. The volunteers operated the games in "Carnival Court," one of the event's main attractions.

"It was a lot of fun. It's nice to know that doing something enjoyable and easy was able to help such a great cause," freshman Adrienne Krone said of volunteering at the FunFest.

The bowl-a-thon will be held from 6:30-9:30 PM at Westbury Bowl on Brush Hollow Road in Westbury.

Since there can be four to five people per lane, individual groups of friends can reserve lanes for themselves.

Teams are not required, however, and people can also sign up on an individual basis.

"It is not easy to put a smile on the face of a child with cancer who faces painful procedures, side effects of chemotherapy and the pressures of spending so much time in the hospital but....our November "Rock & Bowl-a-thon" does just that!" the center's administrator, Maxine Andrade said.

Pre-registration for the event is necessary. Those interested should please call (631) 216-2752 for more information and to reserve a spot.

"It's hard to imagine that something so much fun can help a whole group of sick children," sophomore Adam Litroff said of his participation in last year's bowl-a-thon. "The feeling is irreplaceable."



Courtesy of www.creatinghope.com

Administrator Maxine Andrade with children from the Cancer Center, shown above.

Second Annual Oxfam Hunger Banquet

Continued from Page 1

Last year, the First Annual Hunger Banquet was named Outstanding Program of the Year by the Department of Student Union and Activities. The organizers were recognized for their efforts during the Campus Life Awards Ceremony.

Few leave the Hunger Banquet with a full stomach, but the hope is that most will leave filled with a greater understanding of the issues of global hunger and poverty, and the motivation to do something about it.

The Hunger Banquet will take place on Wednesday, November 14th in the SAC Lobby at 7:00 p.m. While the student organizations ask that all participants bring

a can of food or an article of clothing as a donation to area shelters, the Hunger Banquet is free.

Sponsors of the Hunger Banquet include the Catholic Campus Ministry, Golden Key International Honor Society, Sigma Beta Honor Society, several Greek organizations, the Vietnamese Student Association, NYPIRG and Oxfam America.

"The Hunger Banquet is a really effective way to educate the campus and local community about issues related to hunger and poverty," said Oxfam Hunger Banquet Planning Committee member Patricia Doherty. "Instead of just telling our participants about hunger and poverty, we have them experience it for one evening."

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For the Love of Art...and Craft

Sixth Annual Art Festival Returns to SBU



Statesman/Eisha Basit

A plethora of ceramic crafts were on display in the Sports Complex.

By EISHA BASIT
Statesman Staff

The sixth annual Autumn Art & Craft Festival took place in the Sports Complex on Nov. 10 and 11. The two-day fair displayed more than 150 exhibits that featured a variety of craft mediums, including ceramics, fiber, fine art, glass, gourmet foods, metal, jewelry, leather, photography, wood and other mixed media.

The Preferred Promotions company, which founded and runs the event, goes through an extensive planning process each year. Racheal Frislid, head of the company, stated that the fair is not just an open event at which anyone may display their work.

All the craftsmen must first submit photos and slides of their pieces, which are then selectively approved by the company. Preferred

Promotions travels throughout the country to choose a broad range of the finest crafts for their display.

"I would say it's a big success. People who come in with their hand-made products—they do it for a living. It's a little unusual, it's a different way to work, but it's a nice outlook for artists," Frislid said.

The festival hosts a greatly varied group of craftsmen. For some, their creations represent a hobby and others who create for monetary gain. Dana Porciello's talent at free-hand pottery has led her to seek the craft as a permanent business. Porciello explained the importance of the Stony Brook fair being at this time of the year, stating that crafts run on a seasonal schedule, and autumn is the high point of the business.

"In the last eight weeks, I've had two weeks off. This is a seasonal thing. I have customers who I meet at these fairs—they see my work and they follow it. They come back each year," she said.

Like Porciello, Eric Dator is an artist who sells his paintings at festivals, despite being a non-commercial painter. Dator explained that for many beginning artists, festivals are a common way to exhibit new work and drum up business at the same time. He stated that some participants in the fair fit the image of the "starving artist", struggling to reveal their craft and get widely acknowledged recognition.

Not all of the artists agreed with this outlook, however.

"Please—that thought [of the starving artist], you have to grow out of that in college. You have to find how your art can fit in the world. That's your challenge. As an artist, you have to make that transition. I enjoy the challenge," said Porciello.

The festival attracted not only a significant number of craftsmen, but also a large crowd of onlookers. The mass included scattered campus residents among the vast majority of outside community members.

Mabel Smith, who visits the event every year, said she especially enjoys the Stony Brook festival because of the tremendous diversity of artists and artwork it brings together.

"Well, this is one of the few groups where you don't just see pedestrian work, everyday stuff. I go to fairs that have a few artists. Some of these people are very old, like me, or getting there," said Smith, as she held up a little porcelain figurine. "It's all so beautifully crafted. You have to admire them."



Statesman/Eisha Basit

An artist showcases her crafts.

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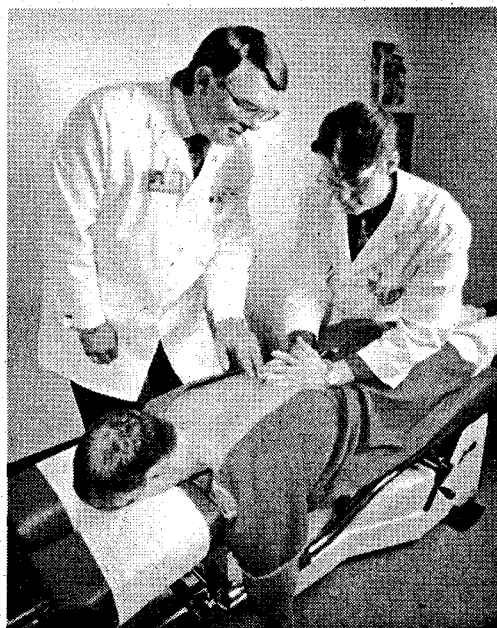
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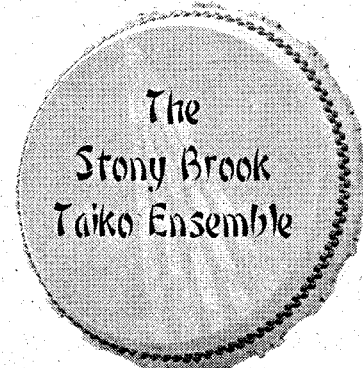


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Editorials represent the majority opinion of the Editorial board and are written by one of its members.

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Editorial

New York State of Mind

It was a sight to behold. Game 3 of the World Series. Yankee Stadium. Packed house. President George W. Bush standing on the mound, giving the rocking crowd a thumbs-up before firing a perfect strike to home plate. Over 50,000 New Yorkers roared in unison:

"USA! USA! USA!"

Our sporting events have made a stirring comeback as an integral part of our everyday lives. Two months ago, the terrorist attacks shut down virtually everything. Baseball canceled a week's slate of games, football postponed its Week 2 schedule, hockey suspended its preseason contests.

It was a time when we needed a break from our entertainment venues, and the various leagues all made proper decisions by recognizing that fact. Since then, however, millions of grief-stricken Americans have turned to sports as an outlet for stress, a temporary escape from the real world, or just a few hours of good, solid fun.

Because it is still okay to have fun.

New Yorkers especially have had reasons to cheer, as our squads have shown that we're still the town to beat. In baseball, The Mets made a valiant late-season effort, only to narrowly fall short of the postseason while the fading Yankees dynasty made one final, thrilling gasp, falling just short of another World Series crown.

The Islanders and Rangers stand 1-2 atop the National Hockey League's Atlantic Division, and last Thursday passionately renewed one of sports' great rivalries. In addition, the Jets and Giants have both amassed winning records, and are making pushes for the playoffs.

The Knicks have struggled out of the gate, but did defeat Michael Jordan's Wizards, and are over .500 at The Garden. This month also saw record-breaking times in the New York City marathon, and today, our own Seawolves team squared off against the legendary Harlem Globetrotters.

Our teams still play the hardest, our fans still cheer the loudest, and our city still stands the tallest. Some things never change.

Op-Eds

Stony Brook Has a Few Leaks

GREG KANHAI
Statesman Staff

I was speaking to a friend the other day and we were discussing the lack of school pride here. She replied that there is pride, but that, like the university itself, it is very young and has not had time to develop. I agreed somewhat.

Someone else said that it is because of the large commuter population that comes in, does what it wants and leaves the school. This I also think is a valid claim. Nevertheless, these assertions certainly do not cover the entirety of the reasons.

During this semester, I uncovered a few more when I undertook the planning of two events as part of Stony Brook LIVE! In doing so, I found that it is an onerous task to plan and execute any event while trying mercilessly hard to work and rely on other individuals and groups.

The second of the two events I planned was HIV/AIDS: "Feeling the Epidemic".

The first stage of the planning process included reserving a location that brings the show to the audience, rather than the conventional way of bringing the audience to the event. I filled out the paperwork to reserve the SAC lobby. Two days later, I inquired about the status of the booking, only to find out that the space had been previously booked by the university.

Now, keep in mind that I asked the person in reservations to show me what was available at Campus Life Time on the date I wanted, and I was shown on the computer that the

location was available. The other party, the University, insists that the lobby was booked since September.

If it was in fact reserved a month before I attempted to reserve it, why wasn't it in the computer database when I inquired? Is it that the student employee made a mistake, even though she checked it twice and was not a new employee? So things being as they were, my event was moved to a shuttered away location.

Another question: isn't it called the Student Activities Center? So why is the university reserving a student space to hold its celebration? Ok, so that may be an unfair question, but really, why?

Next, the idea of group cooperation is a very loosely understood concept here at Stony Brook. I invited about five student organizations to help me plan and execute this event. They said they would be glad to co-sponsor and told me to send them the bill. I said, "Hold on! I don't only want your money, I want you to help me organize." I ended up planning most of it.

One group in particular, a group I thought would be very close to the AIDS cause, failed to reply directly, illustrating that they were certainly not interested in collaborating. This was after I went to their meetings, sent e-mails and attended office hours to ask for their cooperation. A representative, however, asked me to retain their name on the posters.

The day before the event, I noticed they had flyers for a similar event posted around campus. This had not been mentioned when I had initially invited them to be part of "Feeling the Epidemic". I was later informed by another student organization and a university staff member that they have experienced a similar lack of feedback from this group.

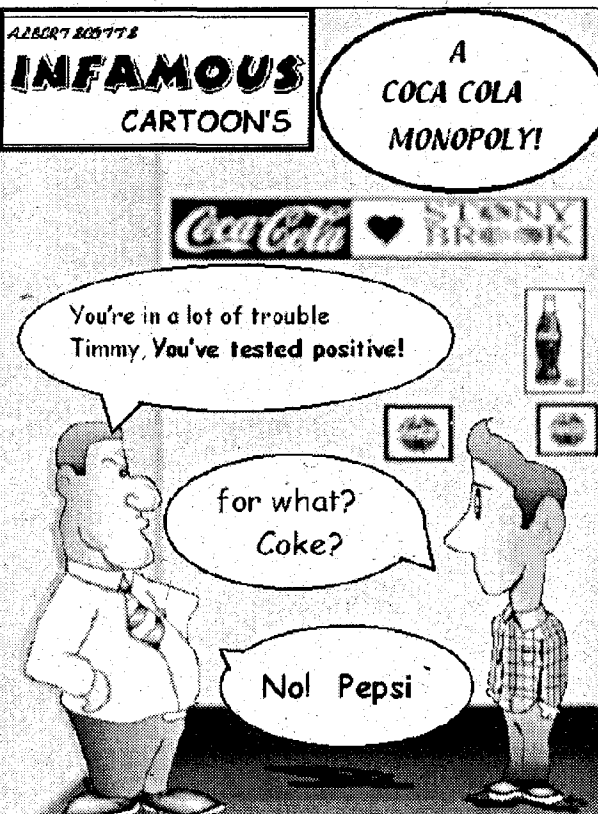
Cooperation certainly is a lost cause to them, unfortunately, since "Feeling the Epidemic" was certainly a success.

While I was considering how to advertise the event, I was told by the office for Student Union and Activities that anything posted on the new green information boards would have been done by the Polity print shop. This would be in the generic format of black text on white paper. I decided that since it costs extra to have it printed in that format, I would not use the boards.

Then I noticed the university's Veterans Day event being advertised on those same boards, with graphics and all the trimmings. They were certainly not in the generic format that I had been told all postings needed to be in. I wonder which administrator decided that the university should adopt a double standard in their advertising policies, with the students being given the second-class treatment.

I almost forgot to mention how difficult it was for me to

Continued on Page 7.



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Red Tape: A Student's Perspective

Continued from Page 6

get my posters printed. Now, it is a very challenging task to get anything printed on campus in full color. I had my posters saved on disk and went to the Polity print shop, which had allowed me to print before. This time, there was a problem with the connection from the computer to the printer. This left me with a dilemma.

I went to the graphics support office in Administration and asked the attending woman if I could be allowed to print out something in full color. I then attempted to walk into the work area so that I could help her find the file. She promptly (and aggressively) told me to stay where I was. I did, and handed her the disk from behind the counter. She didn't know how to open the file, so she called me in to show her how to do it.

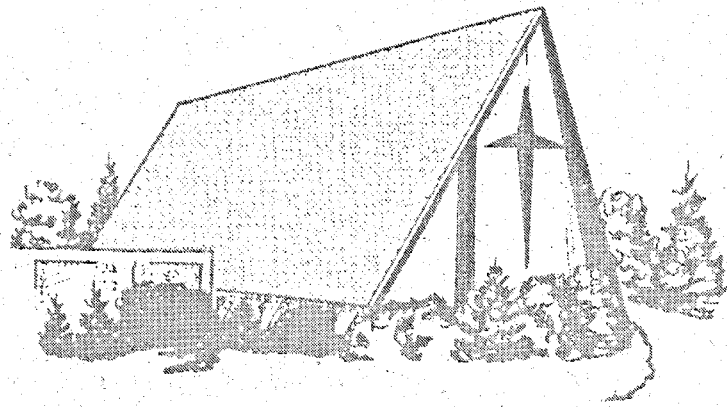
When I tried to use the mouse to open the file, she demanded that I not touch anything and just direct her. Ultimately, the version of Adobe Photoshop used at the Graphics Support office was too old to allow me to open the file. She apologized extensively for not being

able to help me.

I considered her sudden change in attitude. I decided that her apology was based on her initial position as being the one in control, and treating me as she would her dog. Then, when confronted with failure, she realized how she had acted. I later found out that others had similar experiences in the same office.

The second-class treatment being doled out to students definitely is a problem that needs to be worked on with the staff and administrators here. And as far as student cooperation goes, competition is definitely healthy. But groups are better off associating and letting others know about their point of view and reason for existing, so it may be good to share sometimes.

Well, that's all the space I am allowed. Remember that people often have to be told how they are acting in order for them to reflect on themselves. Don't take this as an attempt to embarrass, but rather an attempt to incite reflection.



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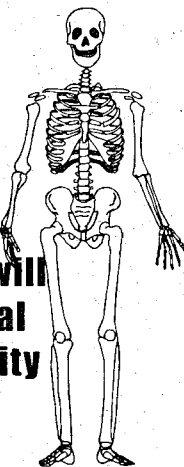
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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, November 12, 2001

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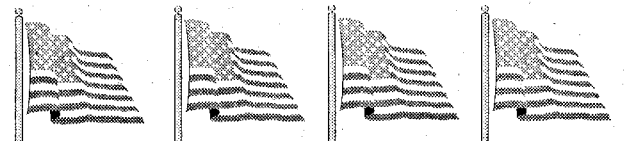
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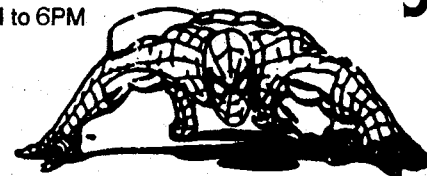
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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, November 12, 2001



Sports

Seawolves Beat Central Connecticut



Courtesy of www.goseawolves.org

Ken Lockhart helped SBU gain a narrow victory over Central Connecticut, Saturday.

Courtesy of www.goseawolves.org

Ken Lockhart rushed for 109 yards and a touchdown to lead Stony Brook to a 17-15 win over Central Connecticut Saturday afternoon at Seawolves Field.

The win snapped a four-game losing streak for the Seawolves and improved their record to 2-6 overall, 2-5 in Northeast Conference play while Central Connecticut slipped to 2-7 overall, 2-7 in conference action.

After a scoreless first quarter, Lockhart put the Seawolves ahead with a 25-yard touchdown run to

help SB to a 7-0 lead with 1:39 remaining in the first half.

Stony Brook extended the lead to 14-0 when Scott Bard hit Lucas Niskanen on a 28-yard touchdown strike late in the third quarter. Mike Soto then added a 32-yard field goal with 9:56 to play and SB had a commanding 17-0 lead.

Central Connecticut rallied late to make things interesting. Quarterback Scott Dolch threw two touchdown passes over the final three minutes to get the Blue Devils within 17-15 with :18 to go. CCSU's ensuing onside kick attempt was

recovered by Stony Brook's Londre Blocker and SB held for the win.

Lockhart finished the day with 109 yards on 21 carries. Bard threw for 202 yards on 20-33 passing, his main target being Chris McGovern who hauled in a career-high nine passes for 94 yards. Aden Smith led the Seawolves with 15 tackles.

For CCSU, Clinton Dunston totaled 75 yards on the ground while Dolch connected on 18-of-30 passes for 222 yards and two touchdowns.

SBU is back Saturday when it hosts St. Francis (Pa.) in the 2001 season finale.

Not The Knicks of Old

By CHRISTOPHER HUNT
Statesman Editor

Doubt, frustration and criticism flood the New York Knicks locker room and have spread throughout the city since the start of the season. Latrell Sprewell and Jeff Van Gundy have their opinions but something has gone wrong.

It seems the only thing everyone agrees on is that the glitch in the system and the 2-5 record must be fixed, fast.

Even before the season started Sprewell criticized the organization for the lack of talented big-men. He openly expressed his interest in his former teammate Chris Webber joining the team but Webber stayed in Sacramento.

New York officially made their offseason unsuccessful when they waived their first round draft pick, 6'7" forward Michael Wright after passing up on Arizona's 7'11" Loren Woods.

The Knicks started Felton Spencer at center in place of the injured Marcus Camby and will continue to use him until Camby's return. Spencer averaged 2.1 points and three rebounds in 12.4 minutes through seven games.

Camby does not have the type of explosive game that's going to turn the Knicks around when he returns. He'll add some help on the boards but he's far from capable of taking over a game.

The Knicks are already proving to be one of the worst offensive teams in the league, averaging only 86.7 points per game while their opponents are averaging 90.4.

While Sprewell talks about the front court, he's averaging 16.7 points and shooting

.419 percent from the field.

Van Gundy continually talks about the lack of production from his key players. What he means is Sprewell and Allan Houston need to step-up their game. They need to take charge, as leaders, of the team that their names are associated with.

Houston, the 102 million-dollar man, has yet to play to the caliber of his net-worth. He averages 15.3 points with a .394 field-goal percentage.

Houston showed flashes of aggression against Indiana but as usual he disappeared down the stretch along with the rest of the Knicks. They looked like they crawled out of their early-season ditch scoring 30 points in both of the first two quarters.

In classic New York form, they blew what was a 15-point lead at halftime and lost the game 95-103.

"I've definitely been disappointed," Houston said of his recent play following Saturday's loss to Golden State. "That's probably why it's hard for me at this point because I'm so disappointed in what I'm doing that I'm probably trying to get back to where I should be. I'm just going to keep going to practice and fighting to where I should be."

New York also lost to the lowly Chicago Bulls and lost Saturday night against Golden State. They seemed beaten throughout the game against the Warriors and were dominated 90-71 by a team struggling to be labeled mediocre.

And that game was at home in Madison Square Garden.

One baffling aspect of the Knicks drama is that point guard Howard Eisley is yet to



Courtesy of www.nba.com

Sprewell is averaging 16.7 points for the Knicks. Not enough to turn the team around.

play a minute. Eisley backed up John Stockton in Utah and Steve Nash in Dallas.

He proved a productive starter when Nash got injured and showed he can run an offensive. Eisley is certainly better than Charlie Ward and is capable of starting over Mark Jackson. But Jackson is an established starter on almost any team in the league.

Unlike some others in the organization, loyalty is high on Van Gundy's priority list, so Eisley will stay relegated to the bench as a spectator in New York's destruction.

Maybe Sprewell and Houston will get

the message Van Gundy's been sending for the past couple of games, which he repeated after the game Saturday.

"We're just in a bad way right now and we have to rebuild our team," he said. "We have to start defensively, and I've always said it has to start with our best players. They have to lead us out of this."

There's no clear answer to the Knicks' plight but that problem is for Van Gundy to correct. It's still early in the season but no fan in New York has the patience to wait for the Knicks to get it together.