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Doogie Howser, SB

11 Year Old Prodigy Skips Elementary
School for Stony Brook

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Meet the English Chair

Undergraduate, Graduate English Societies Hold Party to Introduce Manning

By JUSTINA GERACI
Statesman Contributor

Despite the tumult which has plagued Stony Brook's English Department in the recent past, the Undergraduate (UES) and Graduate (GES) English Societies demonstrated their coalescence by holding a two-hour "Meet the Chair" party last Friday. Students, faculty, and staff were invited to join the societies in welcoming Peter Manning to the English department, as its newly appointed chairman.

Manning, who said that he finds the department's potential for rebuilding and growth "tremendously appealing," said that he was happy to be at the party. "And I will put it in writing, now that I have the appropriate instrument," Manning said, referring to the pen he received on behalf of the two organizations.

Manning's appointment became official September 1. He will be responsible for the administration of 21 faculty members and close to 500 students enrolled in the English major. Manning takes over after a period of difficulty within the department which went several months without a chair after the resignation of former chair Lee Edelman in March of 1999. For months, both undergraduate and graduate students were angered over the involvement of USB administration in the department after President Shirley Strum Kenny rescinded an offer for the position from Modhumita Roy, a professor from Tufts University.

Manning joins Stony Brook after serving as an English chair at the University of Southern California and Memphis State University. He has been an English professor at at University of

California at Berkeley. Some of his published works include the Longman Anthology of British Literature, which he co-edited and Lord Byron: Selected Poems.

In spite of past problems in the English department, Friday's party showed easier times. It was another step forward in the realization of the goals of the English Societies. UES President William Burch said that communication is a main concern for the group. "The main goal of the Undergraduate English Society is to try to establish regular communication between students and faculty," Burch said. "Unfortunately, our regular meetings don't generate a high enough student

Manning said that the English department's potential for growth is "tremendously appealing."

turnout." UES member Caroline Markel agreed. "I would like to see the students and faculty become more proactive in the English Society, so that the goals we've set can be accomplished," she said.

Several issues were brought to Manning's attention, most notably the prospect of holding a Humanities job fair to build awareness of the opportunities available to English majors and minors. Former UES President Kathy Magrini commented on the future of the English department. "I hope that the department really brings itself up to

a peak where Stony Brook's English majors are appreciated," Magrini said, "where people find that being an English major can get them many more jobs, not limited to the fields of teaching and writing. It's a valuable skill." UES Vice President Cicy Kozhimannil added that what she hopes that English as a major becomes more known and represented on campus. "I'm confident that we students can make it happens" she said.

In addition to the English societies keeping active this semester, the department itself has been busy as well. Plans are in place for the hiring of new faculty, including several creative writers, and for the renovation of the Humanities building to allow more space for departmental growth. UES-GES liaison Susan Crane was optimistic.

"I'm excited about where we can go from here, with the Undergraduate and Graduate English Societies and the Chairman all interacting," Crane said. "Perhaps we could extend our circle to encompass Humanities as a whole, in order to get both literary and departmental events going." Crane said that the plans are well under way. "We've been drumming up ideas, and now we have the power to see them realized."

Much of the optimism is the result of the chairman himself. UES secretary Julie Passanante said, that it was nice to speak to Manning. "He's warm and friendly, and his door is always open," she said. "He's eager to hear from and to meet students."



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Stuffed Animals and Physics Books

11 year old Child Genius Comes to Study at Stony Brook

By TINA CHADHA
Statesman Editor

At a time when most 6th graders are racing home from school to watch cartoons and most college students are studying for midterms, eleven year old child genius and USB student Alia Sabur is doing both and a lot more.

"This is Luna and this is Artemis," said Alia, as she proudly introduced her two stuffed animals from her favorite cartoon Sailor Moon. Alia carries her two friends around campus and to classes with her, where she says students have been very respectful to them.

Alia, who tested off the IQ scale in the first grade, completed one year of eighth grade science and one year of high school of algebra while in elementary school, enrolled in Stony Brook last September when she was 10 years old. She is now a sophomore taking classes such as calculus, modern physics, optic research and she plays in university orchestra, all while trying to balance out her childhood.

"She would be in the sixth grade now," said Julie Sabur, Alia's mother. The Saburs were forced to make the tough decision of putting their child in an institution where the average age of students ranges between 18-24, after Alia's advanced classes program in her elementary school was abandoned.

"It's a hard choice to let her come here and learn or just hang out all day," said Sabur, who described the fourth grade assignments Alia



Courtesy of Newsday

Alia's mother Julie drives her to USB every day from Northport and goes with her daughter to all of her classes.

used to have as bringing books home from class and reading them because everything else was too easy for her.

Sabur said they picked Stony Brook because the University wanted her and as residents of Northport Long Island, the commute isn't too bad. "She is a little young to be going off to a dorm," said Sabur. "I'm always around her," said Sabur, who brings Alia to school and

stays with her in class.

The Saburs thus far are very pleased with their decision. "It was an experiment for us," said Sabur. "I didn't know if it would work out, if she would feel comfortable with the content, students and professors, but it has turned out pretty well." Sabur also notes, "the pace is very nice here and the adults don't condescend."

"No one treats me differently because I'm eleven," Alia agrees.

One person in particular who Sabur attributes to helping Alia adjust to her new academic setting is Professor Harolf Metcalf. "Alia considers him her mentor," said Sabur. "His intuitive understanding of her she hasn't found in any other setting." The University orchestra is another outlet that has made Alia feel more at ease in Stony Brook. Alia, who says she picked the clarinet in the first grade because she liked it, is now under the musical supervision of Ricardo Morales. "He's great and very inspirational," said Alia. "I'm going to perform in the city somewhere." For now Sabur said, "the University orchestra has provided Alia an opportunity to play with colleges on a caliber which she has only been able to find in college."

"It's nice to be surrounded by people who can play well and pretty music," Alia said.

Alia agrees with her parents that Stony Brook is the best place for her right now but she still misses certain aspects of elementary school. "I am happy but sometimes I have doubts," said Alia, "I miss my friends."

Alia who has never failed a test, says she is naturally very silly and loves to have fun, and she tries to hang out with friends every chance she gets. "The weekends are filled with Girl Scouts, art lessons and sleepovers," Sabur said.

Although Alia says she never felt "what it's like to be normal" she still doesn't brag about her intelligence or talent. "My friends announce it for me," said Alia giggling. "They say I'm in the sixth grade and she's in college."

Unlike most college students, Alia is not pressured to know or think about the future or a career path. Sabur said she wants her daughter to do whatever interests her but more than anything else she wants her to be happy.

"We feel she has a gift from God, and it's up to us as parents to make sure she's able to use it and be herself and still be a kid."



Courtesy of Newsday

In addition to physics and orchestra, Alia recently got her black belt in taekwon do.

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, October 23, 2000

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Special Athletes

15th Annual Special Olympics Comes to USB

BY JESSICA LEFFLER AND ERIN ROSENKING
Statesman Staff and Editor

Boasting the Special Olympics theme that said "Let me win, but if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt," close to 300 special athletes met up with 500 volunteers at Stony Brook University yesterday for the 15th Annual Fall Adapted Games of the Special Olympics.

Volunteers, who came from area high schools such as Sachem and Sayville, as well as from Stony Brook, met up at 8 am where they were matched up with an athlete and where they were instructed on how to escort them to the various events. They were also told about the "Golden Guidelines" which included cheering for the athletes in whatever they do and a reminder that handicapped people have the same feelings and emotions as others. The Guidelines also stressed that handshakes and hugs were encouraged. They were also warned against purchasing and sharing food with their athletes and that all medical concerns, however minor, should be reported to the first aid station. Many Special Olympics staff members were on hand for the event, dressed in bright orange jumpsuits ready to assist in any problems that may have arose.

Sponsored by Taco Bell, Long Island radio station WBLI, Northrop Grumman and Chase Bank, the Games' began with a parade at 9:30 where athletes were cheered



Statesman/Erin Rosenking

Volunteers from Sayville High School (below) said volunteering was a good experience. Athletes came from many Long Island institutions, including East Moriches ICF, like these medal winners did (above).

on as they marched to music courtesy of WBLI.

Opening ceremonies began at 10 am where each athlete received a gold medal just for participating. Following the opening ceremonies was a day full of competitions including the 10 and 25 meter

walks, the 10 and 25 meter wheelchair races, soccer, bowling, frisbee, the tennis ball throw and the bean bag drop which took place in the Pritchard Gym. The athletes hailed from organizations all over Long Island, including Maryhaven, East Moriches Immediate Care Facility, United Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Disabilities Institute. They are afflicted with various disabilities including mental retardation, Tourette's syndrome and other neurological disorders.

Danielle August, recreation counselor from East Moriches ICF, said that her organization has participated in the past and that the event is enjoyable. "They had a great day," August said, referring to her three wheel chair bound athletes, who had nine medals between them from the bowling, tennis, frisbee and bean bag competitions.

Volunteers from Sayville High School's Anchor Club said that they felt good volunteering at the event. Christina Neglia explained that the Anchor Club performs various community service projects. Jessica Reynolds said that it felt good helping people out and that their athlete had a good day. "Joey won four or five medals from the bean bag, tennis and bowling."

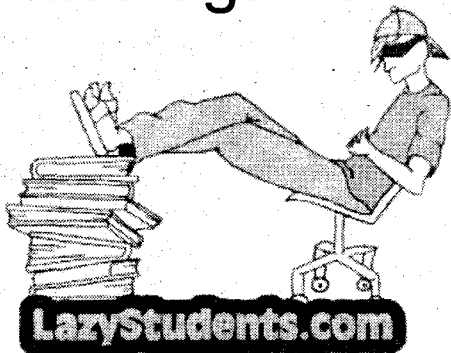
The Sayville volunteers said that they had done the Special Olympics before. Allison Dini said that volunteering gave her a chance to have fun and hang out with their friends. "It was a good experience to help out," she said.

Nancy Mariano, executive director of Special Olympics, said that she is very happy that Stony Brook hosts the event every year. "It means a lot to us and a lot to our special athletes," she said.



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Editorials

No Excuses

Last Wednesday during Campus Lifetime, the candidates who are running for the Polity positions of president and freshman representative took to the debating tables in the Union bi-level. Claudine Stewart and Jonnel Doris debated for the presidency and Sophia Moore, Ricardo Martinez and Marc Anthony Rodriguez for freshman rep. There was a sign on the window that read "Election Debates, All Welcome." As the Union is a major hub of student activity, countless students walked past the room, peeking in and making a lot of noise outside, but barely any filtered in, not even for a few minutes. Throughout the debates, there were never more than thirty people in the room. The numbers got even smaller after the freshmen reps finished debating and they left with their friends. It was pathetic.

Only thirty people showed up to find out what the two potential presidents and three freshmen reps wanted to do as your leaders. Thirty out of some 19,000 students enrolled. What is wrong with this picture? Where were the other 18,970 of you?

One reason for such a small audience is that there was hardly any advertising of the event. It may have been thrown together

in a short amount of time, leaving little opportunity to get the word out. It seemed as though the majority of those who did make it to the debates were there because they knew one of the five debaters and not because they were genuinely interested in how they were going to represent the needs of the student body or handle a \$2 million budget.

In the end, the thirty that did go were not really any more enlightened than they would have been by reading each candidates' signs. Few of the five said anything particularly pertinent and there was little actual debating among them as all agreed that bringing unity to the masses and working for the good of the students was what they would do if elected. The only plan with any significance was the one mentioned by Jonnel Doris who said that he would like to see parking difficulties alleviated, a plan he already has in the works.

While you may not have missed much in terms of platforms, those of you that missed the debates did miss the poor grammar of all three of the freshmen reps, who repeatedly used the grammatically

incorrect word "freshmans" to refer to their classmates instead of "freshmen." And a picture speaks a thousand words: Rodriguez did an adequate job but his neck was covered in hickeys.

You may be able to rely on others for information but there are some things you just need to see and hear for yourself.

Are the Polity debates indicative of the interest of students in all political issues? If they are not interested in what is going on in their very own school, are they interested in what is going on in the world? Thirty must be the magic number because that was about how many came to the SAC last week to watch the televised presidential debates between Gore and Bush. Hopefully that number was so small because the majority decided to watch them at home.

It might be a cliché but it is so important to know what is going on. There is no excuse for ignorance when educating yourself is as simple as sitting and listening to candidates speak for an hour. Maybe you didn't know about the last Polity debates but you have no excuse this time: the second round is tonight, Monday, from 8 pm until 10 in the SAC.



Courtesy of Mike Thompson, www.politicalcartoons.com

Study Shows Internet, Libraries Work Together

BUFFALO, N.Y.

Floppy disks and mouse pads are not likely to replace the musty aisles and bookshelves of public libraries, a survey suggests.

A study conducted for the Urban Libraries Council shows 75 percent of Internet users still use public libraries because they provide things the Internet doesn't. Conversely, only 60 percent library users get on the Internet, according to the research done by Dr. George D'Elia, director of the Center for Applied Research in Library and Information Science at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Only 40 percent of the people surveyed used both the Internet and public libraries.

"When the VCR gained prominence in the 80s, people were predicting doom for movie theaters but that never happened," said Joey Rodger, president of the library council. "If you're an information lover, you're not going to choose (a library or the Internet) exclusively over the other, you're going to use both."

Libraries are more likely to be used by people looking for reading material for their children, looking up local or family history and seeking community services. The Internet is used more often when

it comes to finding out the day's news, looking up career information or getting the latest consumer information, according to the survey.

The study, to be released Monday, was a random national telephone survey of 3,097 adults. Of those surveyed:

— 88 percent said the library protects their privacy better than the Internet while 49 percent said they feel protected on the Internet.

— 91 percent found libraries provided accurate information compared with 78 percent who found the Internet accurate.

— 88 percent found library professionals helpful compared with 62 percent who said Internet services provided help if needed.

— 88 percent found the Internet fun to use while 73 percent said libraries were fun.

— 93 percent found a wide range of resources on the Internet, compared with 74 percent for the library.

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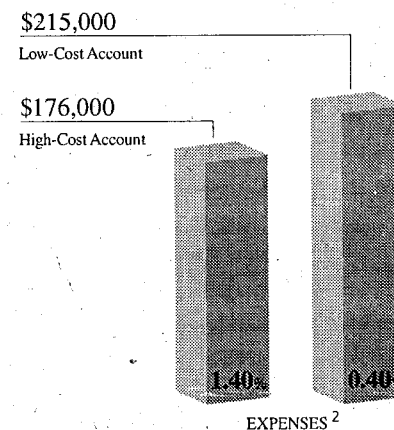
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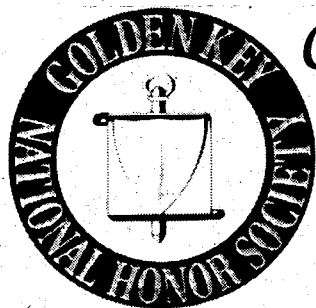
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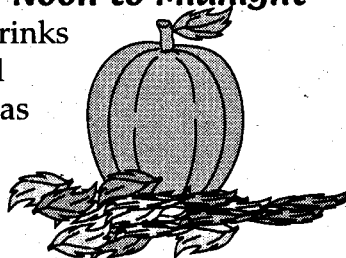
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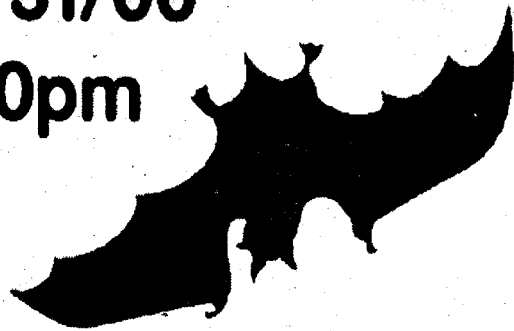


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Features

"It's About To Get Ugly" Hot 97 DJ Spins to a Sold Out Gym

By TINA CHADHA
Statesman Editor

Hot 97 DJ Funk Master Flex took off from his regular gig last Friday, handing over the turntables to Cipher Sound in order to come to Stony Brook for the biggest concert the campus has seen yet. This concert was the first time ever an event has sold out the Sports Complex gymnasium, filling to capacity with approximately 1400 people.

"We had to turn away at least 100 people from the front doors," said Rishabh Shah, SPA Events Staff director. "They didn't have tickets and still wanted to get in."

Doors to the party opened at approximately 10:00 pm which is about the time Flex arrived. Sporting a blue Mets jacket, the popular New York DJ went right to work, spinning records straight through until the party's close at 3 am. "He played non stop," said Andy Auguste, executive chair of SPAB, "he didn't even take a break." SPAB's board members made the decision to get Funk Master Flex for the concert. "We tried to do Funk Master Flex and Li'l Kim on the same night but it didn't work out," said Auguste. "We called the station and lucky we got through to his manager." Flex was paid \$8000 from the concert budget.

As he promised in his phone distribution message around campus a few days before the



Funk Master Flex

Statesman/Ferron F French



Funk Master Flex played nonstop for four hours to a sold out crowd.

Statesman/Ferron F French

concert, the party was 'off the hook.' Flex, who said he picks the line-up of music, played everything from reggae to Biggie to new beats by Outkast. For all the latecomers who complained there was no reggae, they just missed the session which was earlier in the night. "I had a lot of fun at the Funk Flex concert," said Farah Beliziano, a sophomore. "I'm glad he played a lot of oldies and classic hip-hop from this decade. I left with a smile on my face." Others were pleased that Stony Brook University, whose infamous title of being a party school has faded over the last few years, had a party of this caliber. "Surprisingly it was a good turnout of people," said Rachel Bazin, a sophomore.

Flex himself said about he was impressed with the sold out event. "It was cool, I had a lot of fun, I think people were having a good time and enjoying themselves and that's important." Flex said that the only thing that annoyed him was when some students were on the stage. "It was shaking the needle," said Flex. "But I worked with it, I know people want to have a good time." Flex said he has performed at a lot of schools like Pace and Iona, and "Stony Brook was one of the liveliest schools energy wise." Flex, who said he likes both performing in the station and live equally, is now excited about his new album Sixty Minutes of Funk Volume Four, which is being released on December 5 and which features artists

such as Nelly, DMX, Faith and Guinnee. For all the artists he has worked with over the years and interviewed, Flex says KRS 1 is his favorite.

Flex said his performance at USB was not an effort to just plug the new album. He likes to do things like this. "I do MTV and Hot 97 every day so I can't really travel," said Flex.

Some students, however, did not feel the night was as successful. There were several complaints that the line to get in was too long. "It was a long annoying wait," said Katherin Isaza, a freshman, who stood on line for a half hour to get into the party. "The line was running slow because everyone decided to come at around 11:30, 12," said Shah, "and to add to it, 100 people didn't have tickets but were on line." Shah also reported that at least 50 people attempted to break in. "Some guy tried to break in from the roof by the squash courts," said Shah. "When he saw a SPA officer, he ran and fell over the stairs." Shah, who said the whole SPA staff of approximately 85 people is required to work a concert, reported no fights.

Auguste was pleased. "I think it was wonderful," said Auguste, "It was a beautiful thing to see so many different people, white, black, Spanish, Indian from on campus and off, just having a good time and enjoying a peaceful night."