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MADD Holds Rally
page 5

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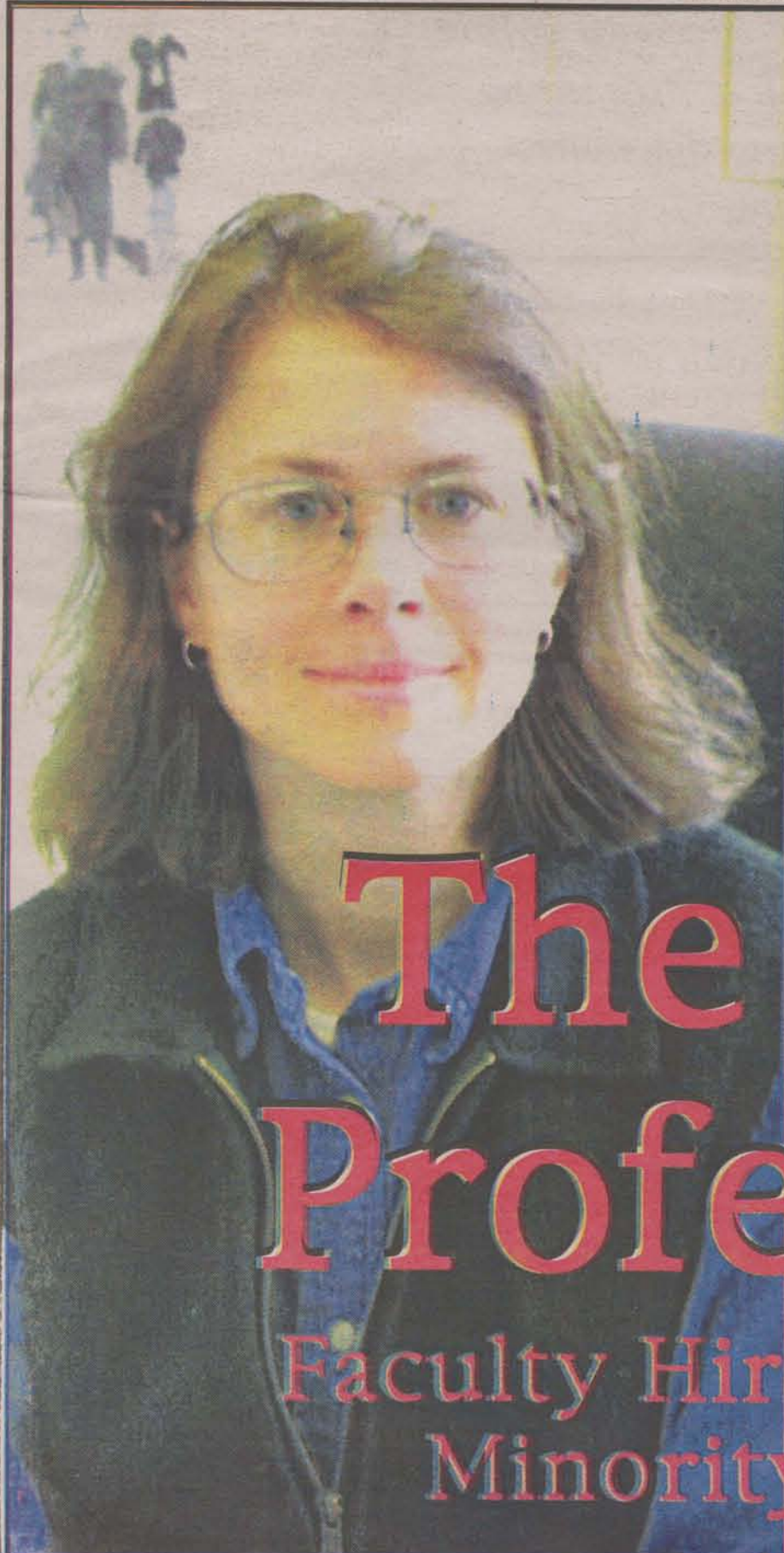
Statesman

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1999

PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY



The New Professors

Faculty Hires Represent
Minority Groups

Monday, November 1

1:07 a.m. A minivan was reported to be driving recklessly through Tabler Quad. It was gone upon University Police arrival.

2:17 a.m. RSP reported 10-15 persons throwing eggs at people and objects in the Greeley College parking lot. The subjects were gone upon University Police arrival.

3:31 a.m. Glass bottles were being thrown from a third floor balcony in Hamilton College. University Police investigated and found seven 40 gallon trash bags filled with bottles in the suite suspected of being the source of the bottles. The students were referred to Residence Life and Student Affairs.

12:47 p.m. An ID card was taken from a Hamilton laundry room.

2:10 p.m. A computer was taken from a Dana Hall office.

4:02 p.m. A vehicle was vandalized in the Indoor Sports Complex staff parking lot. A cell phone and brief case was also taken from the vehicle.

Tuesday, November 2

12:16 a.m. A key, keycard, and ID were stolen from a couch in the Student Union. **9:50 a.m.** The passenger side window of a vehicle was broken in the Hand College parking lot.

2:47 p.m. A wallet with two credit cards was stolen from the Library SINC Site.

4:49 p.m. Campus Residences in Irving College reported a stolen golf cart.

8:46 p.m. A James College resident reported receiving harassing phone calls. The Suffolk County Police Department Bias Crime Division was notified.

9:00 p.m. A Campus Bus Depot locker fell on and damaged the hood of a vehicle.

Wednesday, November 3

9:18 a.m. The Newsday lock box in the Library was broken into.

12:01 p.m. A parking permit was reported lost.

12:28 p.m. A male was transported to the University Hospital by SBVAC.

2:55 p.m. A suspicious person was spotted in the Loading Zone of the Health Sciences Center.

4:52 p.m. A beeper was turned in to the University Police at the

3:31 a.m. *Glass bottles were being thrown from a third floor balcony in Hamilton College. University Police investigated and found seven 40 gallon trash bags filled with bottles in the suite suspected of being the source of the bottles.*

Long Island Veteran Home.

8:33 p.m. A vehicle was damaged in the Chapin Apartments.

8:39 p.m. A Douglas College resident was bleeding heavily. The resident was transported to the University Hospital by SBVAC.

Thursday, November 4, 1999

9:08 a.m. The passenger side window of a vehicle was smashed in the Irving College parking lot.

10:10 a.m. A wallet was stolen in the Chapin Apartments.

10:57 a.m. A parking permit

was stolen from the Union parking lot.

11:21 a.m. The passenger side window of a vehicle in the Schick College parking lot was broken, and \$50 was taken.

4:48 p.m. A Hand College resident reported receiving harassing phone calls.

5:50 p.m. A domestic dispute between two females occurred in Wagner College. Arrests were made.

7:38 p.m. The passenger side window of a vehicle was broken in Kelly Quad. A radar detector, radio, CD's and handicap parking permit were taken.

Friday, November 5

12:07 a.m. The rear window of a vehicle was broken in the Chapin Apartments.

12:21 a.m. The rear window of a vehicle was broken in the Chapin Apartments.

8:13 a.m. A parking validation sticker was taken from the University Hospital.

8:20 a.m. The hubcaps of a vehicle was damaged in the Chapin Apartments.

9:57 a.m. The windshield of a vehicle was broken in the Chapin Apartments.

3:19 p.m. A parking permit was stolen from the Stadium parking lot.

8:19 p.m. A dispute over a parking space occurred at the University Hospital Emergency Room. The subjects were restrained by officers on the scene.

Saturday, November 6

12:06 a.m. A verbal dispute over car keys occurred between a boyfriend and girlfriend in Sanger College. A domestic incident form was completed, however, the victim did not want to press charges and refused to give a statement.

1:47 p.m. A motor vehicle accident occurred in the walkway between O'Neill College and Benedict College. One vehicle struck a parked car and fled the scene. The car that fled the scene was reported stolen after the accident.

3:44 a.m. A vehicle was reported stolen from the North P-Lot. It was the vehicle that was involved in the accident in between O'Neill and Benedict.

8:31 a.m. A vehicle drove through and broke a gate at the Health Sciences Center.

4:16 p.m. A handicap permit was taken from a vehicle in Hamilton College.

6:40 p.m. The smell of marijuana was reported in Stimson College. A small baggie was found in the garbage.

Sunday, November 7

5:45 a.m. A Langmuir resident with a high fever was transported to the University Hospital Emergency Room.

11:57 a.m. The Stony Brook sign on North Loop Road by the North P-Lot was damaged.

The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, November 11, 1999

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New Faces

Forty Percent of New Hires are Tenure-Track and from Underrepresented Groups

BY JENNIFER KESTER
Statesman Editor

When Troy Rasbury was a little girl, she grew up on a farm collecting fossils and classifying them with her father, a geologist, and her twin sister, now a geology professor at Columbia University.

"I grew up knowing geology was there," she said, which led her to pursue it full time.

Following in the family tradition proved to be a smart move. Rasbury is one of the new professors at Stony Brook University who is on a tenure-track position. This year, there were 25 such appointees within the College of Arts and Sciences and 40 percent of the new hires are from underrepresented groups.

Rasbury is the second of two female faculty in the geology department at Stony Brook and is the first person within the department to graduate from Stony Brook with a post doctorate degree and then teach there.

"It was a dream sort of job," she said. "I was pretty much blown away."

Stony Brook marks Rasbury's second teaching job. She taught at the City University of New York at Queens College for a year, which she said was more difficult. "The teaching load was heavier and they have a lot less resources," said



Statesman/Jennifer Kester

Geology Assistant Professor Troy Rasbury hails from Texas.

Rasbury, an assistant professor.

Rasbury, a Texas native, will be teaching the history of geology next semester and is researching new techniques for dating sedimentary rock. "I am more excited than nervous," she said about teaching a class in the fall. "But that

diminishes with time and experience."

Aside from her new academic surroundings, Rasbury is also adjusting to her new home on Long Island. "It's really weird coming from a small town in Texas and coming to New York," she said.

"I love the leaves here, especially with all the fall colors," she said looking out her large window in her office. "But I really don't like the cold that much."

Andreas Koenig, a new anthropology professor, is also trying to get used to his new surroundings. Coming from Germany, this is his first time living in the United States. "I like it a lot here," he said. "It's a different culture compared to Europe, but I don't miss Europe."

Koenig is also an assistant professor appointed by the College of Arts and Sciences to a tenure-track position, and he started in September. "I am really a freshman here," he said.

"There's a very exciting atmosphere here," said Koenig, who researches behavioral studies with primates. "There is no better place

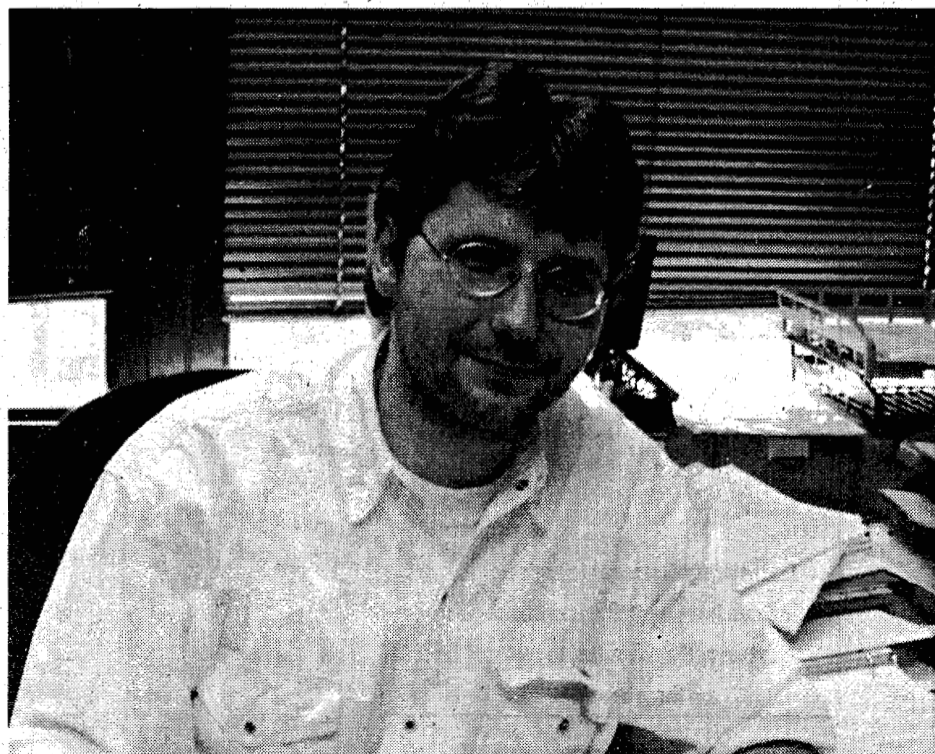
to go and I was happy with the position."

This semester, Koenig is teaching introduction to physical anthropology and an anthropology seminar class.

In the spring semester, Koenig is preparing to set up a new research camp to watch wild primates in either Thailand or India and have graduate students work at the camp. However, he plans to come back next fall to do more teaching.

Koenig and Rasbury are examples of the new faculty that the College of Arts and Sciences has recruited. Paul Armstrong, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences said, "The departments are taking seriously the importance of diversifying and now they are doing it."

"The [College of Arts and Sciences] Senate was pleased to learn that 17.5 of the new faculty lines were filled so as to replace the same number of faculty lines which were vacated last year by retirements or departures," said Hugh Silverman, president of the College of Arts. He said that he was pleased to see that some 40 percent of those new hires were from minority groups.



Statesman/Jennifer Kester

Andreas Koenig teaches in the Anthropology Department.

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MADD Campaigns at SBU⁵

By JULIE MINGIONE
Statesman Editor

To kick off their public awareness campaign across Long Island, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) held a Red Ribbon Rally outside the Student Activities Center this Tuesday.

MADD Long Island, headquartered in Huntington Station, is one of over 600 MADD organizations across the country. Their mission is to stop drunk driving, to support the victims of drunk drivers, and to prevent the consumption of alcohol by minors.

Working with MADD for the event were the organizations Allstate Insurance, the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) Police, Stony Brook University and the SBU police department.

The emphasis of the rally was placed on the upcoming holiday season and the trend of fatalities seen during this time. Last year, according to John Kane, an associate representing Allstate Insurance, "1800 people died in alcohol-related crashes during the holidays."

In an effort to awaken minds to the consequences of alcohol, MADD has singled out two high risk "victim targets of drunk driving." These two groups are young people and commuters. "College age adults and commuters are particularly vulnerable to alcohol-related situations during the holiday season," says Denna Cohen, a MADD Long Island board member. Commuters are at a double risk, according to Michelle Russo of the MTA police department. "They face... holiday office parties as well as the traditional round of neighborhood celebrations."

MADD's campaign includes a packet called the "Don't Drink and Drive Awareness Packet" and was distributed to all students present at the rally. The pack will also be given out to home-bound commuters at fourteen Long Island Railroad Stations from Stony Brook to Penn Station,

November 9 through December 28.

Speakers at the rally included Fred Preston, vice president for Student Affairs, Deputy Police Chief Doug Little, John Kane from Allstate, and Denna Cohen, keynote speaker of the afternoon. She began her talk by relating a personal story of the dangers of alcohol. Her twenty-one year old daughter Jodi was killed by a four-time DWI offender. As a result of her daughter's death, Cohen is now an active MADD advocate. Instead of using "accident" to describe what happens when people drive drunk, Cohen used the word "crash." She explained, "Accidents happen but crashes are caused."

Every thirty minutes someone in the United States dies in an alcohol-related car crash. According to MADD literature, if the trend of drinking and driving continues, forty percent of all Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related crash at some time in their lives. The MADD booklet distributed includes a list of some non-alcoholic party drinks, tips on preventing a friend from driving drunk, instructions on what to do if you see an impaired driver, and myths about drinking and driving.

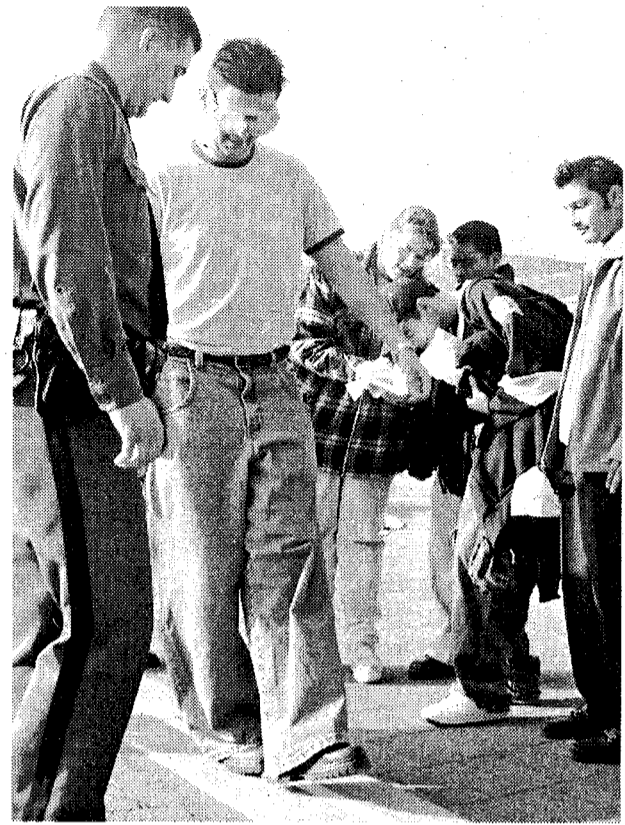
Some of the myths about alcohol according to MADD are:

-A person can get sober by drinking black coffee, taking a cold shower, and exercising.

-Beer or wine do not make a person as drunk as hard liquor does.

-Looking at a person is sufficient to tell if they are sober enough to drive.

There were several demonstration visuals at the rally, including the "Rollover Vehicle" that simulates the effects of a car rolling over; fatal vision glasses, to let the wearer experience the effects of alcohol; and the fake ID detector, a device the Suffolk County Police are currently employing to catch underage drinkers.



Statesman/Ruth Chung

University police demonstrated what it is like to walk the line while intoxicated, with the use of special goggles.

Though turnout was minimal, enthusiasm for the cause was rampant at the rally. Said Preston, "Stony Brook welcomes this opportunity to underscore its commitment to the safety of our students and staff. We wholly support MADD's life-saving cautions about underage drinking and responsible driving."

Veterans Memorial to be Built

By JOSEPH BAILEY
Statesman Contributor

Yesterday, on the eve of Veterans Day, U.S. military war veterans, Stony Brook students, faculty, and staff gathered in the courtyard in front of the Earth and Space Sciences building to dedicate a Veterans Monument to all those who served in the military.

The event, put on by the University's office of Veterans Affairs, also had in attendance many prominent members of the community such as former New York State

Governor and veteran Hugh L. Carey, New York Assemblyman Steven C. Englebright, Sargent L. Ray Colon of the New York State Division Of Veterans Affairs and SBU President Shirley Strum Kenny.

"It is appropriate as a public university to have a chance to say thank you, and we are doing that tonight," said New York Assemblyman Englebright. "It is a day that we will look back and remember, and look forward with optimism."

"Personally I believe it was important



Statesman/Ruth Chung

U.S. military war veterans attended the dedication ceremony.

to have a monument because of the sacrifices made by students, faculty and staff," said Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld, a member of the task force and Englebright's chief of staff. "Even if people protested war or have anti-war sentiments people should understand the sacrifices individuals made, especially the individuals on this campus and in the community who served in the U.S. military."

The Veterans Association undergraduate work study students Sheila Lambert and Kieth Gunsol, both from the Navy, put together displays of military attire and different war memorandums. The displays were designed to show different portrayals of the U.S. military forces such as the Navy, Army, and Air Force.

The event's keynote speaker, former New York State Governor Hugh Cary, was also among the many veterans who offered to display military attire for the night.

As he laughed and joked with the crowd, his speech full of vibrancy and authenticity, he moved the crowd of former war veterans as he reminded them about how America's slain soldiers gave their life for our freedom.

"They gave their last full measure of devotion, they gave their lives so we can enjoy today in total freedom peace and justice," Cary said. He urged the crowd never to forget about the many veterans who served our country in war.

"I was very moved by the event and about what governor Cary had to say and his caring enough to be here with us to celebrate," Kenny said.

The monument is expected to start construction soon. "We hope to have it up by next Veterans Day," said Christel Colon, the task force chairman of Veterans Affairs at the University of Stony Brook.

The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, November 11, 1999

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Editorials

Diverse All Around

New Faculty Offer a Unique Education

If there is one word that is synonymous with Stony Brook it is diversity. It pops up at practically any mention of this campus' and it is often trumpeted as a source of great pride among both students and faculty, all the way up to administrators and trustees.

The student body here consists of people representing practically every corner of the globe. But we couldn't call ourselves diverse if the faculty and staff was not comprised of a similar diverse population. But here at Stony Brook, we've got that covered too.

Out of twenty five new hires within the College of Arts and Sciences, 40 percent is comprised of underrepresented groups. In addition to contributing to campus diversity, many of these new professors are in

tenure-track positions. This means that they should be sticking around for a while, not to mention that it will more than likely breed still more diversity.

When we think of diversity we often associate it with race and ethnicity. But it can also refer to gender and other minority categories. One example is assistant professor Troy Rasbury, one of only two women teaching in Stony Brook's geology department. There is also Andreas Koenig in the anthropology department who traveled half way across the globe from Germany to teach here. These two are representative of the wide array of backgrounds and experiences that can only enrich our education here.

With all the various majors and departments that comprise the College of Arts and

Sciences, it makes sense that the faculty should reflect this variety. In addition to what an underrepresented faculty member can bring to departments such as anthropology and geology, the wealth they bring to departments that reflect their origins is even more valuable. For instance, having a professor actually from the Caribbean teaching you about the Caribbean is an invaluable resource. And learning a language from a native speaker can only help you improve, especially with your accent.

There may be many things that can aggravate you as a student of Stony Brook but in the words of Paul Armstrong, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, we truly are blessed to be in such an all-around diverse environment.

Letter to the Editor:

To the Editor:

As head of a faculty group for Asian American studies, I support student advocacy. The absence of Asian American studies from the curriculum says to Asian American students, "You don't count," and robs them of their history. I am concerned, however, that the editorial "Where is Asian American Studies?" (Oct. 14) can become a catalyst for misunderstandings.

Minority groups have been marginalized by being pitted against one another. These struggles created interracial wounds that threaten coalition-building to fight racism. The stock stories we tell ourselves and our children can be a source of perpetuating racism, especially when told without a historical context.

Asian American studies should not have to compete for a place in the curriculum by comparing victimizations. The annihilation of Native Americans and the enslavement of Africans are among the most shameful acts in US history. They were the start of our country's continued racist policies: treaties where the US border jumped Latinos and annexed 50% of Mexico, the trafficking in Asian Indian and Chinese "coolies" known as "the buying and selling of pigs," and the continuation of Manifest Destiny in

which the Western frontier became the Far East through the annexation of Hawaii and the wars in Asia. When an Asian American student finally reclaims a piece of Asian American history in college, this knowledge can eclipse the sufferings of others. The editor reflected: "I understand how important it is, and in hindsight, I realize that some of the things I said could be damaging. Too bad I couldn't see that before." The absence of this knowledge among college graduates is an argument for area studies, of which Africana studies and Women's studies are the models of scholarship.

Victimization narratives distort history. First, minorities have not only been victims of history but agents of historical change. It is those on the margins who were denied their rights who fought the hardest to secure equal treatment. The collective struggles of all minorities have made America a freer and more democratic place for all. Secondly, including the history of minorities is not about guilt, but educational justice. Area studies contribute to a more diverse and hence more accurate history. The editorial did not demean area studies as PC but questioned administrators' motives for "diversity credibility" as PR. "Political correctness" can be used hypocritically: it is a way of conceding educational racism and sexism while denying academic legitimacy of

scholarly attempts to combat them. Thirdly, relegating victimization to the pages of history blinds us from seeing the forms of racism we continue to face.

Campus statistics are not representative of the country, where the numbers of African Americans and Latinos outstrip those of Asian Americans. The argument for Asian American studies is not demographic. Even if there were no African Americans on this campus, Africana studies would be justified on academic grounds because of its impact on the disciplines. The recent push for Asian American studies, however, has been fueled by demographics ("Asian American Programs Are Flourishing at Colleges: More Students Increase Demand for Scholars", New York Times, 6/9/99, see www.aac.sunysb.edu).

Numbers, therefore, aren't irrelevant. It is necessary, however, to oppose the divisive purposes to which they might be put. Ethnic studies programs were established to critique and change institutional arrangements that have marginalized people of color. University administrations have given lip service to ethnic studies but then undermine them by offering watered-down versions of "multiculturalism," by compromising the autonomy of area studies by consolidation, creating one-

Continued on Next Page

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person programs expected to carry out the responsibilities of a whole department, or by offering Asian studies instead of Asian American studies.

The prominent quotation in the editorial is inaccurately attributed. I asked Columbia's Gary Okihiro how to get administrators to grasp the difference between Asian studies and Asian American studies. Okihiro posed the question: "Can you understand the Civil Rights movement and the experiences of Blacks in America by studying the cultures of Africa?" Neither can you do justice to the Asian American experience by studying the cultures of Asia.

There is another broad-based Asian American studies course offered besides my own. These two courses, however, still leave vast education gaps in the arts, humanities, and social sciences. A strong Asian American studies program, coupled with the Charles B. Wang Asian American Center, could make Stony Brook the East Coast center for the field, attracting scholars and students from throughout the country. A Magazine (Oct./Nov. 1999) talks about "Ripples at Stony Brook." Scholars and Asian Americans across the country are wondering what it will be before the Stony Brook administration understands the academic issues and commits resources to do what educational wisdom recommends ("A New Momentum in Asian American Studies," The Chronicle of Higher Education, 4/2/99) and what educational justice demands.

Law professor Eric Yamamoto came to Stony Brook and gave a powerful presentation on interracial healing—about the need for recognition of racial wounds and of the acceptance of group responsibility for them. Yamamoto, a member of the law team that successfully challenged the infamous Korematsu v. US on the Japanese internment, took seriously the African American scholar, who after acknowledging the unquestionable justice of the reparations, asked the nagging question, "Why them and not us?" Speaking before a diverse audience of students, faculty, and staff, Yamamoto inspired us to think how knowledge of ethnic and legal studies, critical thinking skills, and "divine luck" can sometimes flow together to bring justice. He quoted from Frederick Douglas' poem "If there is no struggle, there is no progress":

"Those who profess to favor freedom,
And yet deprecate agitation,
Are men [and women] who want crops
Without thunder and lightning.
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Without the awful roar of its waters.
This struggle may be a moral one,
Or it may be a physical one;
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Sincerely,
Professor Gary Mar
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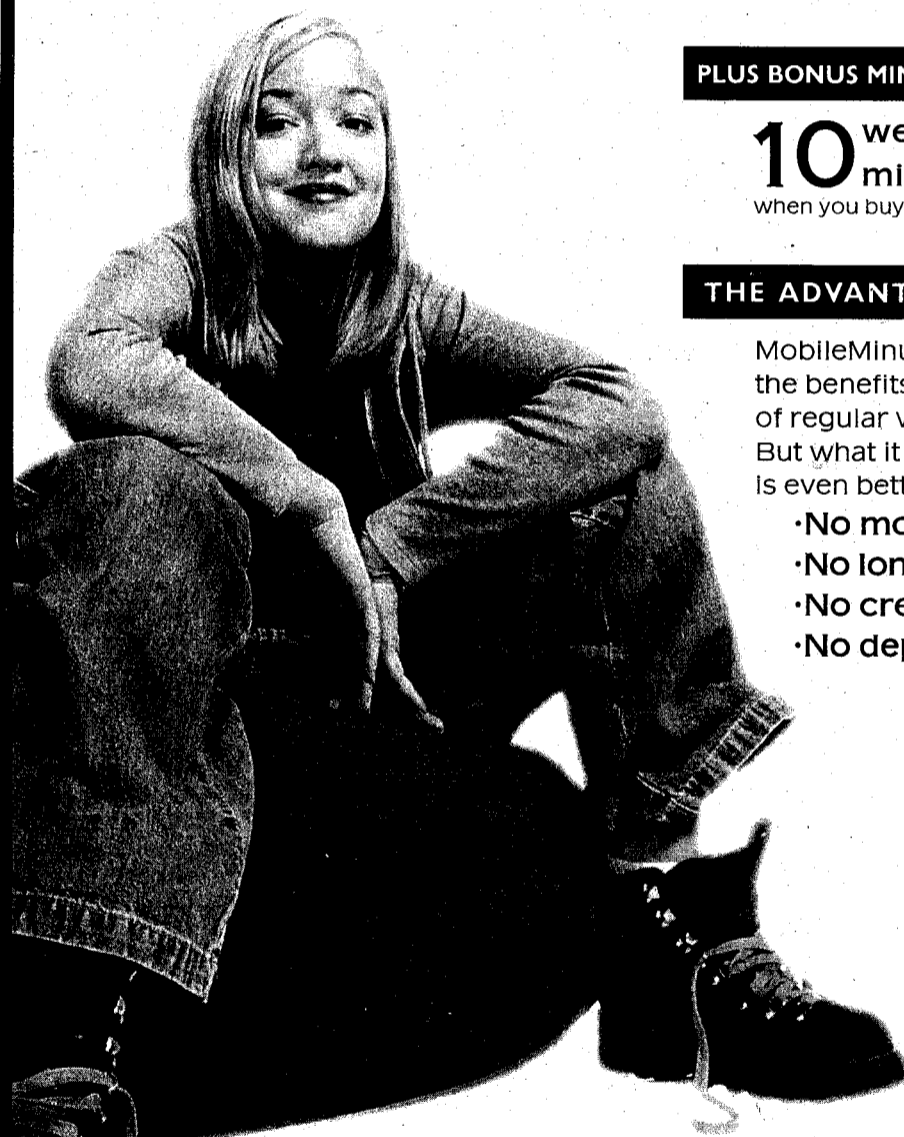
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What's Shakin' at Stony Brook

MIT Professor Speaks on Earthquakes

By GUY GRANDJEAN
Statesman Contributor

Earthquakes are perhaps the most destructive and threatening forms of global natural disasters. This was demonstrated by the earthquake in Turkey on last August, which left 3,000 people homeless and caused over \$20 million in damages.

As part of the International Focus lecture series, Dr Nafi Toksoz, professor of Geophysics and Seismology at M.I.T, gave an enlightening insight into this pressing global problem. Toksoz is currently leading a major research project that monitors seismicity and tectonic deformations in Turkey gave an enlightening insight into this pressing global problem.

Professor Toksoz highlighted the clustering of earthquakes in recent years as particularly unusual and perhaps cause for some concern. As well as the most recent earthquake in Turkey there has been a sequence of earthquakes in Taiwan, Mexico, Athens, and California.

Professor Toksoz said that identification of earthquakes and plate movements has improved markedly. Global position systems enable new

measurements and data. Satellites measure by precision shifts in plates and provide the single most important form of understanding and predicting future earthquakes. Toksoz indicated that it is often not the lack of technology that prevents the prediction of these earthquakes, but the restrictions of research funding. Such was the case with the earthquake in Turkey, which researchers were unable to predict fast enough.

The lecture illustrated the physical impact of these earthquakes. In particular he detailed the strange sight of roads and railroads precisely displaced by a few meters. He showed the stark contrast between buildings built according to the code, which remained largely intact, as opposed to weaker structures that were reduced to rubble.

One of the central reasons for the devastation in the Turkey earthquake, suggested professor Toksoz, was the lack of public awareness about the danger earthquakes present. Said Toksoz, "People do just not want to think about it." Toksoz is currently involved in improving public

knowledge and emergency procedures.

For Turkey the future seems extremely ominous. Nafi Toksoz suggests according to most experts there is over a fifty percent chance of another earthquake occurring in the region in the next thirty years, this time impacting the densely populated city of Istanbul, potentially causing a much greater loss of life and destruction than the one this year. Earthquakes therefore, will continue to cause global destruction. It is left to researchers such as Nafi Toksoz, through the implementation of monitoring and warning systems to minimize the damage.

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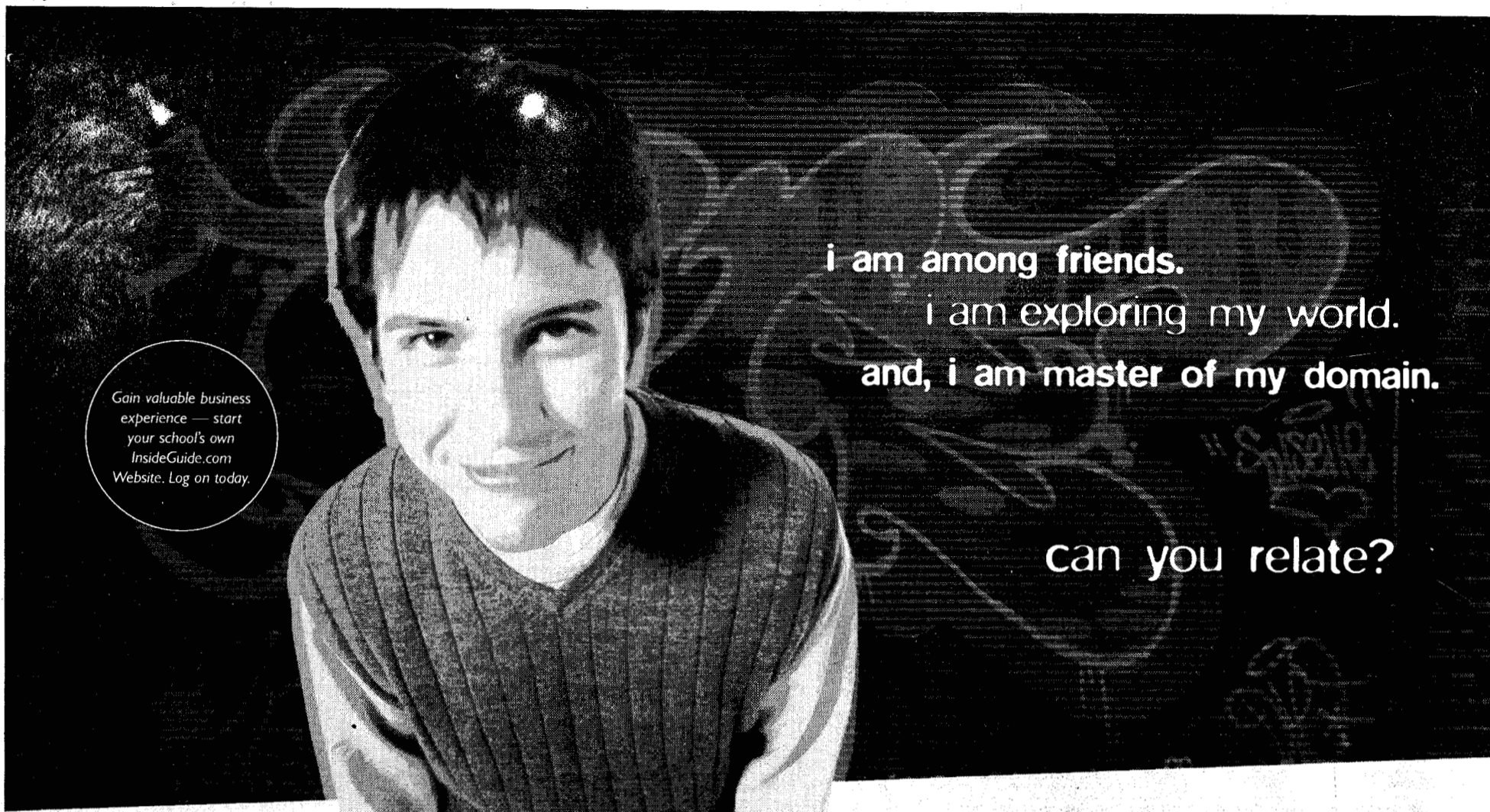
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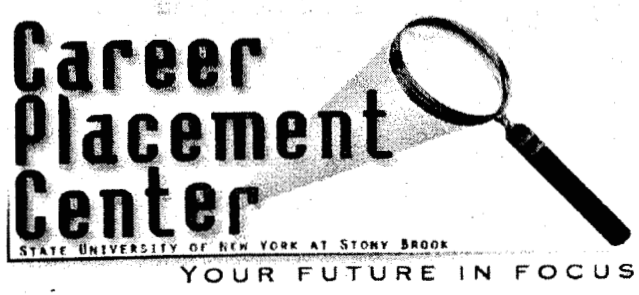
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The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, November 11, 1999

Grad School Blues

Students Deal with Stress During the Application Process

By JENNIFER KESTER
Statesman Editor

The stresses of money, applications and deadlines for graduate school forced Matthew Murray, a senior at the University at Stony Brook, to decide to take a year off before tackling graduate school.

"First there is the expense of applying to each school," Murray said. "You want to apply to enough schools, but you don't want to break the bank. Then you have to worry about applications for financial aid and admissions, then you have to worry about recommendations, then take your GRE's [Graduate School Examinations]. It's busy work I don't have time to do when I also have my undergraduate work. I probably acted too late. I should have done it in the summer."

Murray is not alone. Every undergraduate student must decide what to do after graduation, and nearly one third of Stony Brook students continue with their studies - double the national average. Although that option brings stresses of the application process and selling one's self to graduate schools, the University at Stony Brook has resources to help alleviate the stress.

One of these stresses is the application process. Murray is still receiving applications in and is finding that there are many requirements that he has not fulfilled. "Some schools require an economics requirement and some schools, like George Washington and Columbia, require two years of college foreign language," he said about the programs he is researching. Murray has not taken either requirement during his undergraduate education and is worried about his plans for graduate school.

"The big thing is to plan well in advance and to take advantage of resources offered to them," said Tim Luzader, director of the Career Placement Center on campus. The center helps students find graduate schools and complete the application process. Each year it holds several graduate school fairs, has counselors that meet with students and proofread applications, and perform mock interviews - which can be videotaped to show the student his or her strong and weak points. It also offers workshops on applying to graduate school and each year invites Donald Asher, author of *Graduate Admissions Essays: What works, What Doesn't and Why*, to speak on campus and offer tips to students.

Luzader, the director of the center, warned that each school has its own requirements and said that the first step in the application process is to research graduate schools that students are interested in attending. "Sit down at a computer terminal and go on the Internet. You can do lots of research that way," he said.

He also recommended using books such as the Peterson Guides series, available at the Melville Library and in the center, which list schools and give information about the different degrees and are indexed



Nearly one third of Stony Brook students go to graduate school.

Statesman Archives

in a user-friendly manner. A tip for students, Luzader said, is that it is more important to pursue schools that have experts in the student's similar field of interest. "It's more important to pursue experts as possible mentors," he said.

The center director also stressed that students should schedule dates to take entrance exams, like the GRE's, MCAT's for medical school and LSAT's for law school. "Students should give themselves plenty of time to prepare." He said that books are available at the University Bookstore and there are courses designed to help students take these tests.

Aside from the standardized tests, students must

"The trick is to try to set yourself apart from the others. There are basically two ways I think this can be accomplished: showing good writing skills and being visible." - David Spears

also worry about maintaining a high grade point average (GPA). "It is a source of stress when you don't test well or if your GPA is not up to par, but you can still get into great graduate schools," he said.

Luzader recommends students apply to eight schools: two that are a "stretch" to get into, four that would be "very competitive" and two where the student knows "hands down" that he or she will get in.

David Spears, a third-year graduate in the sociology department at Stony Brook offered his own advice. "The trick is to try to set yourself apart from the others. There are basically two ways I think this can be accomplished: showing good writing skills and being visible."

Spears said that if a statement of purpose is required, it is good if the student articulates interests around the interests of a few of the faculty in the

department. "This may catch the eye of a professor who might be interested in working with you, or at least set you apart from similarly qualified students."

Spears also recommended submitting a writing sample that has original, critical ideas that show off the student's analytic skills.

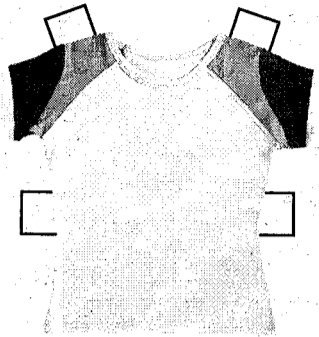
He also said that students should try to form a more personal relationship with people in the department of interest. "Call a lot. Talk to the graduate director to get updates on your status or call faculty to talk about your research interests. Go for an interview if you can. Attaching a face to a name may make the difference between you, the familiar candidate, with candidate X, who remains anonymous."

Charis Ng, a graduate student also in the sociology department and a Graduate Student Organization senator, agreed that being visible is important. "Visit the schools. Find out who the professors are, write to them via email before visiting. Is there a professor you can work with? What is the department culture like?"

However, there is only so much students can do, warned Margaret Creedon, graduate program coordinator for Stony Brook's history department. "It's not like applying to undergraduate schools." She said that in her experience, students have sent thesis papers or writing samples, both of which are not required, to set themselves apart from the other applicants. "We take into consideration letters of recommendations, GPA - a high GPA is a plus -, and GRE scores. It really depends on the competition that year. We could have many outstanding students applying which makes it more difficult."

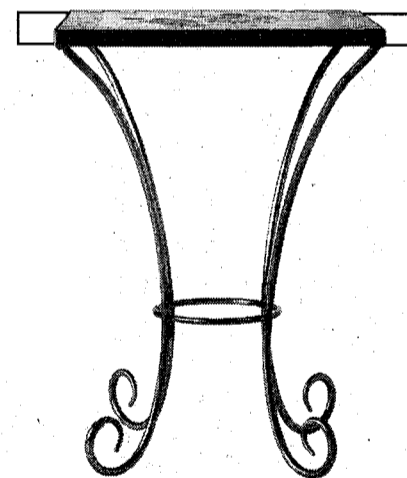
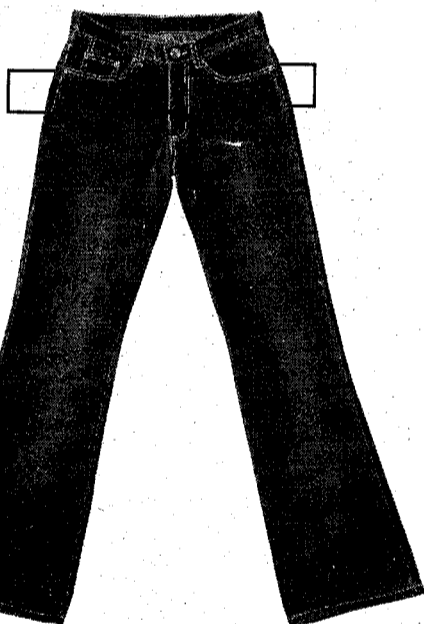
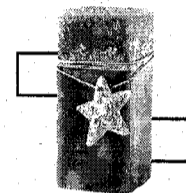
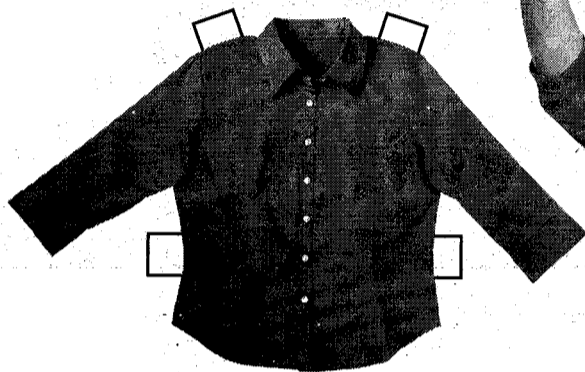
To get an edge, Luzader said students should start researching during their junior year. "Sit in on a class, make that direct connection to get an inside scoop on the aspects of going to graduate school that you would not otherwise hear about."

Other resources, such as the Academic Advising Center, can also assist with preparing for graduate school. The center has advisors in fields ranging from law to veterinary medicine. Mercy Erike, an academic advisor, said that the center really targets undergraduate problems but is ready to assist if they can. "We let the students know there are people out there for them."



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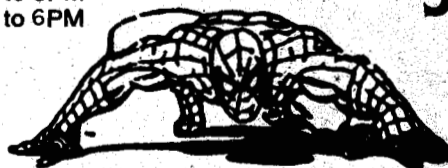
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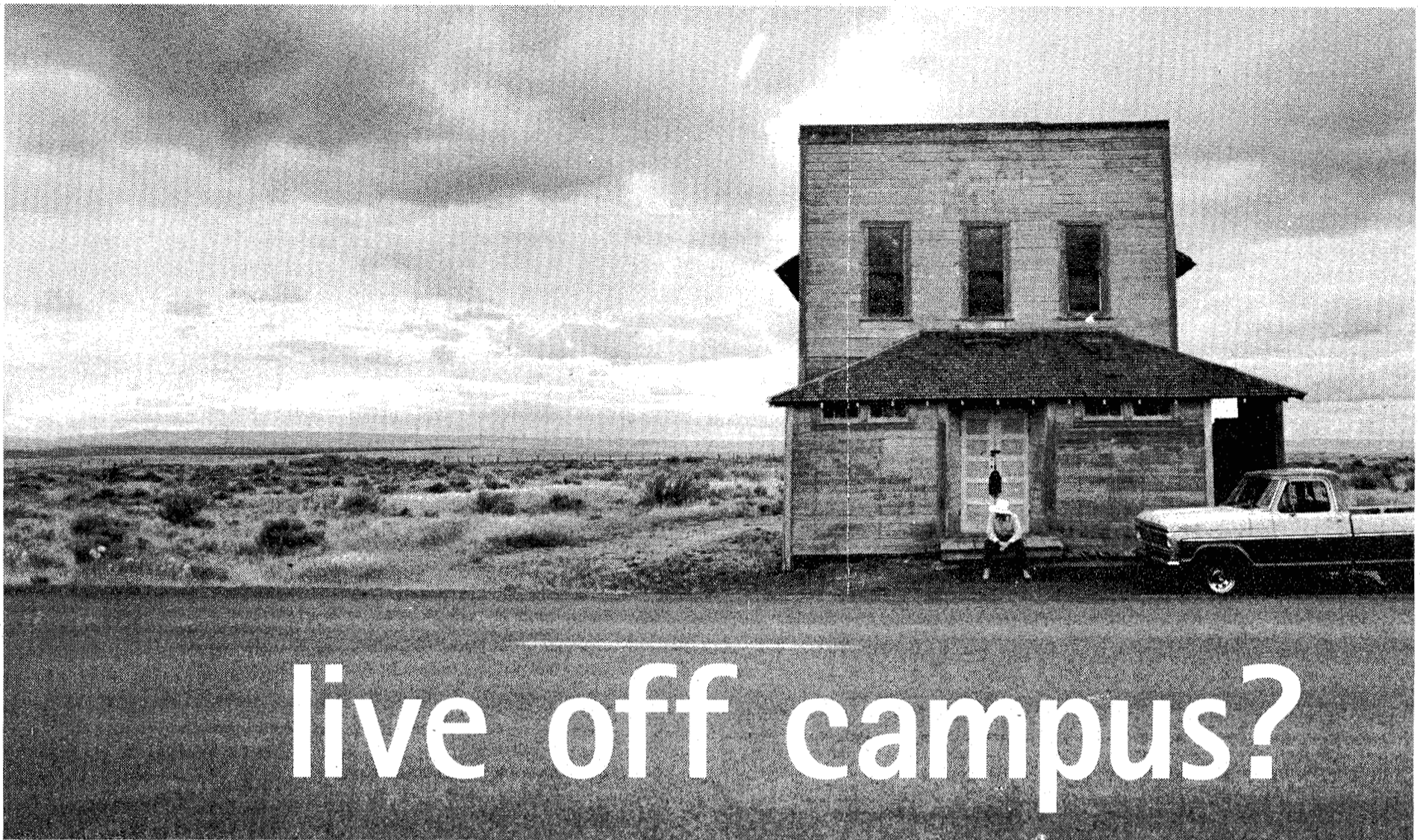
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From Stony Brook To Israel

By JULIE BLOCK
Statesman Contributor

In the kosher cafeteria, located in the Roth Dining Hall, six or seven students sit closely together, recalling fond memories of being in Israel. "Israel affected me very positively. One thing that is amazing about Israel is that when you walk there, you can feel the history. For instance, you can be walking through a spot, open up a book, and read the story of King David, and then look up and you're at that spot. It's a great feeling," said Barry Pinto, a junior, as he recounted his experience living in

Israel for about a year.

This January, Hillel, the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, and the government of Israel are sponsoring a program offering nearly 3,000 Jewish college students the opportunity for a free first visit to Israel. The University at Stony Brook is taking 40 on a ten-day tour.

Deborah Menton Peretz, who is accompanying the students, along with Rabbi Joe Topek, said, "We had 66 applicants. We were told by National Hillel we could only take 40. All 66 students were wonderful and it was heartbreaking to determine who to pick out."

Peretz, who used to be a Madrichah, a group leader, when she lived in Israel for two years, said, "Israel has a profound effect on people who have not been there before. Most people are more identified as a Jew than before. That doesn't necessarily mean religiously. It could mean they are more politically active in what's happening in Israel. It could mean culturally."

The trip will include hiking Masada, the historic mountain where Jews killed themselves to avoid being captured by the Romans, visiting Jerusalem and the Kotel, also known as the Western Wall, Tel Aviv, the Diaspora Museum, as well as other activities, which are still tentative. Peretz says that one highlight of this trip is on January 8th, when there will be a gathering of 3000 Orthodox Jews in Jerusalem and "supposedly, they [the students] are to be addressed by Prime Minister Ehud Barak and attend a rock concert. It is going to be a historical type of event."

Peretz said it is "important for Jews to visit Israel because "It's part of your history. You can't separate a person from their history, their heritage, their land."

Some of the students attending

the program do not have a strong background in Judaism, Peretz said, "Jewish philanthropists feel that it is every Jew's birthright to go to Israel so they know who they are, so they know what it is about being Jewish. It's not just living on Long Island here and having Passover once a year. That thing that you say at Passover, 'Next year in Jerusalem,' well, it becomes a reality."

A reform Jew going on the trip, Stephanie Wilson, a Graduate Marine Science student, says she is most looking forward to seeing the beached of Tiberias. Wilson, who has studied in Australia and has traveled to Fiji and England, says, "The best way to learn about a culture is to actually visit the country."

Wilson, who said she didn't grow up in a religious family, hopes the trip will open her eyes. Although she is worried about the Arab hostilities to Israel, she said that she has always wanted to go.

Lauren Saposnick, a sophomore and also a Reform Jew, said she is most looking forward to seeing the Dead Sea and the Wailing Wall. Saposnick, who has never been out of the country, said, "I want to finally get out of New York."

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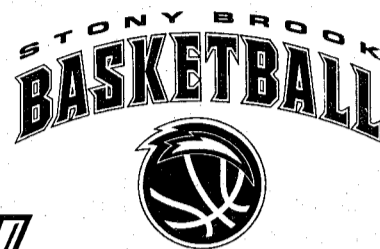
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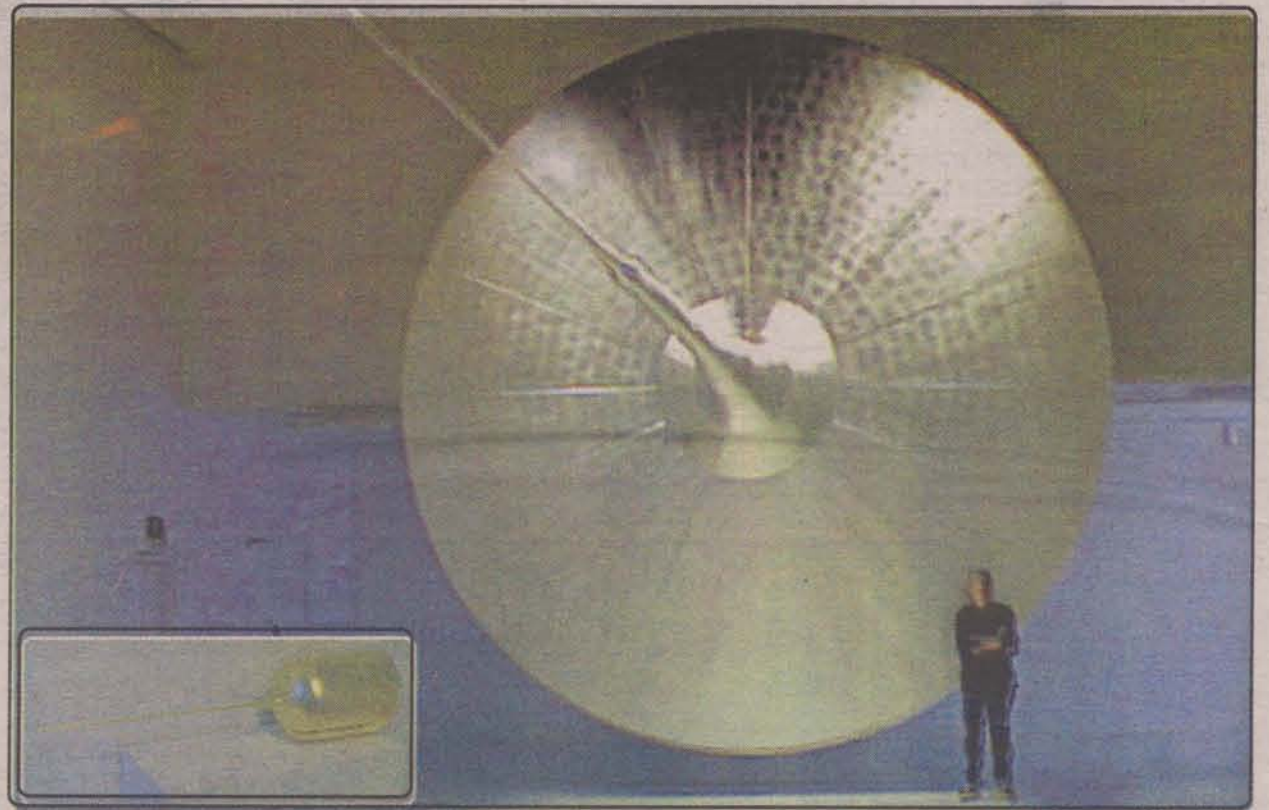
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Exhibition by NYC Artist Opens in University Gallery

By MICHAEL KWAN
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The United Nations predicted that on October 12, 1999, the population of this planet would reach and surpass 6 billion people. As the population of the planet reached this figure, a sculpture was being created by New York area artist Loren Madsen. This sculpture, along with several other pieces of Madsen's work are currently on display in the University Art Gallery, in the Staller Center for the Arts.

Madsen's pieces have been displayed in exhibitions across the country and around the world, including the Hakone Open-Air Museum



Statesman/Michael Kwan

Artist Loren Madsen with his piece (above). The gold-leafed "1-3000" (inset). Madsen installing "the clock" earlier this week (below). Wooden balls will collect on the track throughout the show, while the gravity driven clock runs the hopper (inset).

in Japan, the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington D.C., the Israel Museum in Israel, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in New York.

The exhibition has been titled 6,000,000,000 Monkeys, a name that elicits just as much curiosity as the show's largest piece. The sculpture, which was designed around the space of the gallery, takes up the whole of the length and height of the room, and extends outside of the gallery into the lobby.

The main sculpture represents the steady growth of the human population from about 10,000 BC to the year 2000. In that time, the Earth's population has increased by 1200 percent, from five million to six billion. "I was just astounded at how quickly the current population came to be," said Madsen in an interview last Monday. "Basically it's in the last century-and-a-half... so, we're the monkeys, we're all the monkeys."

The sculpture begins with a long, silver rod, measuring less than an inch across in the lobby, which steadily grows until it literally and rapidly blooms into a large disk at the far wall. The sculpture itself measures over 60 feet long and is 20 feet wide. It fills the gallery, and at the same time evokes a sense of openness in the gallery. "It's kind of alarming to look at this sculpture and how quickly the population has increased," said Madsen.

The smaller piece is similar to the large piece,

but it represents the population from the year 1 to 3000. The sculpture symbolizes the steady state, but there are two of them. Using UN projections, Madsen designed the piece in an attempt to depict the steady state of the population from the year 1 to 1900, to the population explosion of this century, and then a steady state until the year 3000.

The third of Madsen's pieces on display is essentially a wooden clock.

This clock, though, does not tell time. The gravity powered clock runs a hopper that releases small wooden balls with letters on them. The mechanism releases a ball every 10 minutes. The ball then rolls down a track, and is collected at the end of the track. The premise behind the piece is the old aphorism, "If a thousand monkeys are put to work on a thousand typewriters for a thousand years, eventually one of them will write Hamlet." Madsen hopes that eventually his "typewriter" will spell out a word, or even a sentence. "It's the same kind of probability that out of six billion people, just one of them, may be creating something worthwhile. We don't know, we just have to wait and see."

The show is currently open, and will close on Saturday, December 11. Madsen will be speaking about his work on Wednesday, November 17 during Campus Lifetime, in the University Art Gallery. For information, call (631) 632-7240.

