

Head of Campus Res Juggles Tasks, Looks Ahead

By JEFFREY JAVIDFAR
Statesman Editor

Since two of his top administrators have left the Division of Campus Residences, Dallas Bauman III, Ph.D., has spent many long hours steering the machinery for the department, which is one of the largest at Stony Brook University.

Yet, Bauman found time to sit with the Statesman to provide some insight into the workings of his office and to address student housing concerns. He discussed how he thought his department stacked up against others and shared his vision for the future of Campus Residences.

With the departure of Jerry Stein for the Dean of Students Office and the new Director of Residential Operations, Ken Fehling, still two weeks away from starting, Bauman has spent this semester performing myriad tasks. From meeting with the Provost to plan for the next

round of Undergraduate College openings to purchasing the shrubbery to plant behind James College, Bauman is fulfilling an ever-expanding job description.

A focus of his recent meetings with Provost Robert McGrath has revolved around what is to become of the former dining center in Tabler Quad. According to several individuals in administration, it may become a center for arts, culture and humanities. Plans range from having satellite offices for campus media to a small stage for theatrical productions. Bauman declined to speculate further, but said that progress was being made.

"We're proceeding [on course and] on schedule, though there are still some significant issues that have to be addressed," he said.

Handling the day-to-day tasks that come with housing over 7,000 students also finds a way of getting penciled into his



Courtesy of www.stonybrook.edu

Campus Residences administrators said they are working hard to address student concerns and improve the quality of life for residents.

schedule. Bauman said that he does much of the staff supervision himself.

But with the second round of residence hall renovations underway, Bauman hopes that Fehling, whose responsibilities will include managing the buildings, will be ready to assume some of the tasks

Bauman has been juggling.

"[Fehling] won't start for another two weeks. That will be some help, but I was hoping to have had someone here much sooner," Bauman said. "He worked at the [facilities office in] Queens Community College for 12 years and before that he was at Stony Brook for 16 years.

I'm confident that he's going to hit the ground running."

The second round of renovations began in Hendrix College over the past summer and unavoidably spilled over into the beginning of this semester. In the summer of 2003, Gershwin and Mount, which combined house approximately 400 beds, are expected to each get a \$700,000 facelift. This sum pales next to the \$2 million that was spent for roughly every 200 beds during the original renovations.

Bauman was quite proud of the fact that Stony Brook renovates its residence halls more frequently than many other institutions. He explained the reason for the low cost of the Gershwin and Mount projects.

"There is not that much that is left to do," he said. "We did major work in the mechanical sector during the first renovations."

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Two SBU Professors Go Abroad With Fulbright Awards

By TED LAI
Statesman Staff

Two Stony Brook faculty members have received Fulbright Scholar grants for their efforts in research.

John Frederick Bailyn, Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics and Izabela Kalinowska-Blackwood, Assistant Professor, Department of European Languages, Literature and Culture both received this prestigious grant.

Bailyn's grant has given him the opportunity to lecture and pursue research at Moscow State University in Russia. Kalinowska-Blackwood's grant is allowing her to conduct studies at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland.

Furthermore, the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board

also states that these grants will be used during the 2002-2003 academic year.

"I know that the Fulbright Scholar grants are very hard to come by," sophomore Jeff Kruszyna said. "However, I'm not surprised that faculty from our campus were selected. I know there are a number a great professors who are at the top of their fields that are right here at Stony Brook."

Bailyn will teach "Generative Syntactic Theory in Comparative Perspective; a Derivational Analysis of Russian Word Order." Kalinowska-Blackwood will research Polish cinema from the end of communism through the transition to the post-communism era.

Roughly 800 US university faculty and professionals will travel around the globe to over 140 countries during the 2002-

2003 academic year with the help of the Fulbright Scholar Program.

This program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. Its stated purpose is to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries.

Although the university is losing two very highly regarded faculty members to the program, Stony Brook will also be gaining Fulbright Visiting Scholar Gulay Tuter, from Gazi University in Turkey, for the 2002-2003 academic year.

"I think that we will gain much from the visiting professor. Often other countries have ideas, opinions, and different teaching styles that we normally don't encounter," junior Alex Borress said. "I'm sure we as

students and a university will benefit greatly."

The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs sponsors the Fulbright Program. Through its 56 years of existence, thousands of U.S. faculty and professionals have studied, taught or done research abroad, and thousands of their counterparts from other countries have engaged in similar activities within the United States.

Recipients of Fulbright Scholar awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement and because they have demonstrated extraordinary leadership potential in their fields.

Both Bailyn and Kalinowska-Blackwood were unavailable for comment at the time of press, but Christine Bethin, Doctoral Studies

Director of Linguistics, was available to comment on the work of Bailyn.

Bethin explained that she does not have expertise in the field of syntax, which is where Bailyn's studies have focused, but nonetheless praised his achievement.

"I think [Bethin]'s work is extraordinarily exciting," Bethin said. "He was very much looking forward to [the scholarship]."

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California Court Backs Professor in Dispute

"Tough" Professor Not Required to Change Teaching Style or Grading Policy

By SCOTT SMALLWOOD
The Chronicle for Higher Education

A finance professor known for being hard on students has won a legal battle against California State University at Chico, which had demoted him because he wouldn't change his teaching style.

The professor, Suleman A. Moosa, drew attention five years ago when it

became public that no students were enrolled in any of the four courses he was scheduled to teach. He was known for being demanding, grading severely, and having many of his students withdraw. The professor maintained that the low enrollment and low grades were the result of university policies and "the general lack of student preparedness for university-level work."

The dean of the College of Business

requested a review of Moosa, as allowed for under the collective-bargaining agreement with the California Faculty Association. Two of the three professors assigned the task found Moosa to be a "knowledgeable and resourceful educator" and agreed that the low enrollments were caused by a lack of skills on the students' part.

But two months later, in February 1998, the dean told Moosa to develop an "improvement plan" that would deal with course material, grading, and testing procedures. The professor, arguing that the request violated the faculty union's contract, submitted a copy of the majority report from the peer review committee, which made no recommendations for improving his teaching performance.

He was then temporarily demoted to associate professor for failing to submit the improvement plan. After the professor lost an appeal to the State Personnel Board, he took the case to court.

In a decision published last week, the Third Appellate District of the California Court of Appeal, in Sacramento, ruled that the demand for an improvement plan was invalid and that Moosa should not be disciplined for disobeying it. The court found that the collective-bargaining agreement allows for reviews of tenured professors that include "suggestions for improvement," but not commands or orders.

Colleen Bentley-Adler, a spokeswoman for the Cal State chancellor's office, said the university is planning to ask the State Supreme Court to review the case. "This is not an issue of academic freedom," she said. "It's a question of the university being able to take action to improve teaching for the benefit of our students. And this decision doesn't make sense."

Moosa did not return messages left for him by *The Chronicle*. His lawyer, Brendon Ishikawa, said he could not comment on the decision until it becomes final, in about two months.

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The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, October 31, 2002

Zinc Finger Peptides: The Cure of the Future?

By MARC NEWMAN
Statesman Editor

Lessons in molecular biology at Stony Brook University often bring smaller crowds than talks entailing on impending war in Iraq or Afghanistan. Wednesday evening was an exception to this sweeping rule, however, as students, faculty and staff filled the Staller Center's Recital Hall for a lecture by Aaron Klug, a 1982 Nobel Prize laureate in Chemistry.

As director of the molecular biology lab at Cambridge University in England from 1986 to 1996, Klug has worked extensively on gene expression. He discussed his work at Wednesday's talk, "Zinc Finger Peptides for the Modulation of Gene Expression", which was scheduled as part of the Provost's Lecture Series. Before explaining what exactly zinc finger peptides were, Klug outlined a basic history of microbiology in a slideshow.

DNA, the building blocks of

genetic material, are made-up of a sequence of bases: combinations of A, T, C, and G proteins. This sequence is converted to RNA, which provides the message of translation from a series of bases into genetic material. The acetone that carries the message in cytoplasm and the amino acids that comprise chains of protein called DNA, are parts of the broad process to which Klug has devoted his last 15 years.

Where and when does RNA deliver its bases? This question was answered by Klug in the form of "transcription" research. Shortly before Klug's research began, an atomic examination of DNA revealed its minor and major grooves. Within the major grooves, RNA binds itself to the protein. Such microorganisms as HIV or hepatitis follow this process by transcribing themselves in vulnerable genomes. Klug's research discovered an artificial method to replicate the processes of viruses



Courtesy of www.nobel.se

Nobel Prize winner Aaron Klug, Ph.D. spoke recently at Stony Brook.

such as HIV and hepatitis.

Transcription Factor IIIA (TFIIIA) was such a process, discovered to have taken place naturally in frogs. With seven to eleven zinc atoms, various amino

acids Klug helped artificially create fill each protein and attach themselves to fifty DNA base pairs. Three ZIF268 genes line DNA, and together make up "zinc fingers."

Structurally independent but working together, these zinc fingers, three of which as a group are called triplets, bind to proteins on the outside of DNA, while reading the precious genome that RNA delivers. Being able to penetrate the genetic code has important implications for future medical discoveries, as Klug's recent research explained.

Six years ago, targeting the Leukemia Mutation with post-doctoral student Yen Choo, Klug investigated the CML-brand of leukemia with the zinc fingers. Zinc fingers were modulated by Choo to "light up," as Klug described it. When CML attempted to alter the genetic structure, the zinc fingers would release antibodies that would

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SBU Gets Research Funding For State Schools

By CHRISTOPHER FECAROTTA
Statesman Staff

Robert L. King, State University of New York Chancellor, recently announced that the research funding for state schools for the year 2002 rose over \$100 million. This brings the total funding for SUNY research to an all-time high of \$700 million. SUNY's research funding has also increased every year for the past six years, and the most recent total is 18 percent higher than last fiscal year's total and 49 percent higher than the fiscal year 1998 total of \$472 million.

The State University of New York is the largest university system in the United States, with more than 388,000 students enrolled in more than 5,100 fields of study on 64 campuses.

Stony Brook University, as the SUNY generating the most research

money, claimed \$135 million of the research funding this year, while University at Buffalo followed close behind with a total of \$115 million.

"This surge in research funding is a result of SUNY's excellent and innovative faculty and our system-wide effort to build partnerships to attract federal, state and private funds to the State University," King said. "We are well on our way to reaching the \$1 billion dollar annual goal I have set for SUNY research by the year 2004."

The State University of New York currently ranks in the top 15 for royalties earned on inventions licensed to industry. The fiscal year 2001-2002 saw State University of New York inventions generate \$17.6 million in royalties. In the past two years, the State University of New York earned more income from patent royalties than Johns Hopkins, the

University of Illinois system or Texas A & M University system. Research and other state-sponsored programs represent activity at 29 state-operated campuses and system administration. In climbing 18 percent in 2001-2002, the volume of research achieved an all-time high. Statutory colleges at Cornell and Alfred reported research volumes of \$130.3 million and \$5.6 million, respectively.

"Research at SUNY leads to new discoveries, which lead to new patents, which lead to new products and services which improve the economy of New York and help provide jobs and a better future for all the people of New York," King said. "More than 21,000 full-and part-time jobs statewide are supported by more than 9,000 SUNY research projects, contributing to the state's economic well-being."

The United States government provides a great deal of money for SUNY research. The largest sponsors are the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Education and the Department of Defense. For the first time last year, SUNY submitted a system-wide request for federally appropriated funds. Previously, individual campuses sought money for their own projects and sometimes ended up competing against other State University campuses for limited resources. This led to a threefold increase in congressional appropriations in 2001. Nonfederal sources, such as business and industry, philanthropy, state agencies, and foreign sources, also supported SUNY research through grants and contracts in fiscal year 2002.

Bauman Works on Campus Residence Halls

Continued from Page 1

Once he assumes his position, Fehling will also oversee the custodial and maintenance staffs, the lock shop, the grounds and any new construction projects pertaining to the Division.

Coming into an office that has been vacant for some time, Fehling will be faced with guiding broad policies, as well as making many small decisions that directly impact students.

Several residents have reported to *Statesman* that, in their residence halls, bathroom ceilings are crumbling and showers are so moldy that they may pose a health concern. They expressed their frustration over failed petitions to hall directors regarding these maintenance and custodial issues. There was also

concern expressed by students that the previous renovations of the residence halls, such as those in H quad, were just topical.

"Those last renovations were simply slapping a fresh coat of paint on the walls and replacing the doors," said an H-Quad resident who asked to not be identified. "There is a lot of plumbing that has rotted and the halls smell like sewage. The plumbing needs to be replaced."

However, Bauman insisted that the problems are not really a major issue. "The pipes have a minimal expected lifespan of 50 years. And it would not be appropriate to characterize the first round of renovations as surface [in nature]."

He did admit to having some troublesome roof leak issues, which may eventually damage walls. "We're

getting a roofing consultant because we've done a lot over the summer and there still are minor problems."

In addition to addressing maintenance issues and the need for more beds, Bauman said the Division is focused on improving the residential experience at Stony Brook.

Residents are provided with residential computing centers, fitness centers and residential tutoring services free of charge and located in most quads.

Championing President Kenny's State of the University challenge to do even more for students with existing resources, Bauman, Gina Vanacore and Stacy Miller said they seek to improve the quality of life for residents. Vanacore is the Director for Residential Programming for the Residence

Halls and Miller is the Director of Undergraduate Apartments.

Together they encouraged resident assistants to improve the first year experience for students by organizing six weekly activities during the beginning of the semester. Dividends from their efforts to get residents involved are showing, they asserted, as approximately 840 residents participated in Pride Patrol, translating into a significant increase from the year before.

"From my perspective, activities at the start of the semester have been better than they've ever been," said Bauman. "I think that this interim group [which is co-chaired by a resident assistant] has done a great job. There has never been as much of a turnout at the beginning of the year activities."

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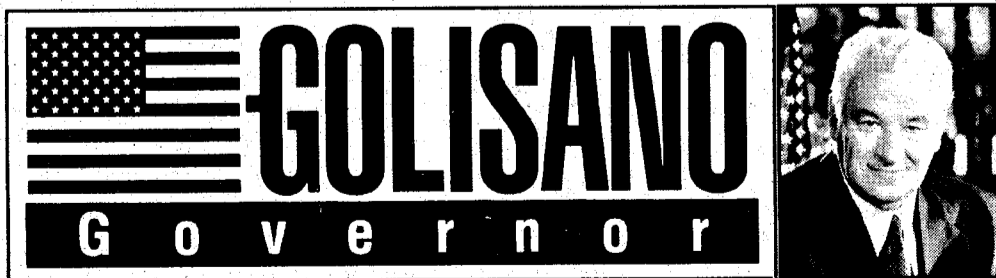
This will force Albany to start cutting the Special Interest pork that is driving our taxes—particularly our property taxes—to be the highest in the country. The *New York Post* editorial board stated that finding cuts "would be a piece of cake."*

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*Footnote: *New York Post* 9/19/02

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Klug Lecture

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help transform the cell body CML creates as it attempts to modulate the natural genome.

The B190 unca genes (the antibodies, in this case) used by the zinc fingers here helped break-up the cells that CML creates when generating the leukemia virus. Within 48-hours, Klug's antibody successfully killed 95 percent of the CML cells.

Seeing potential to end such threats as leukemia, Klug has more recently applied his research to HIV and herpes simplex, other diseases that continue to haunt the medical community. The zinc finger peptides have shown the ability, with the use of particular antibodies, to kill off many cells that help create HIV, herpes,

“Klug’s research discovered an artificial method to replicate the processes of viruses such as HIV and hepatitis.”

and other very difficult to attack viruses.

Klug emphasized the future of zinc finger research as more and more triplets may be able to be implemented successfully against the same viral infections. But often, zinc fingers have not allowed scientists to get a successful read of the genome, as these fingers bond too tightly and the genome becomes unreadable. The key is in increasing the number of triplets while allowing for the successful implementation of other antibodies, said Klug. He is also working toward the implementation of antibodies in the more elusive RNA structure.

At 6 p.m., most audience members left convinced that the future of medical research in gene expression was bright, despite the number of viruses that plague our planet today without a cure. “I really think Dr. Klug has something,” one second-year medical student said. “This offers a lot of hope for medical research.”

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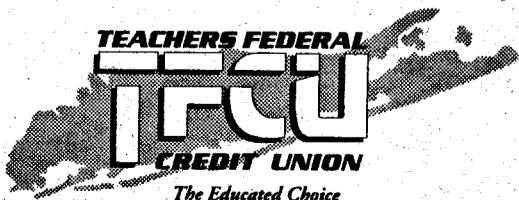
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Editor's View

Making the Case for a Federal Trial

States should hand jurisdiction in sniper case over to the feds

By ADAM ZIMMERMAN
Statesman Editor

After a harrowing few weeks of terror and violence, it would appear that the notorious snipers have finally been apprehended. Even so, John Muhammad and Lee Malvo are still creating tension stirring controversy even while behind bars.

The issue at hand is where their case will be tried. There are three options on the table: Maryland state court, Virginia state court, or federal court. Of the two states, Maryland would appear to win on the merits. Most of the murdered were committed within its borders, that is where the investigation first started, and the two suspects were arrested there as well.

Yet Maryland currently has a moratorium on the

death penalty the death penalty as punishment, which is currently the overwhelmingly rallying cry in most circles for the two defendants; indeed, only three executions have taken place there since 1976, the year the Supreme Court found the death penalty to be constitutional.

Virginia, on the other hand, has executed 86 men in that same time frame. However, only three of the murders were committed there. The 17-year old Malvo is eligible for the death penalty under Virginia law, and state prosecutors have already filed capital murder charges against both Muhammad and Malvo.

Nevertheless, I strongly believe that this is a case which belongs in federal court. First, what we have here

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Letter to the Editor

President Kenny Responds

To the Editor:

I wish that Arif Rafiq, a thoughtful and committed student who serves as a member of the Stony Brook Council, had read the advertisement in the *New York Times* before condemning me for signing it.

The advertisement, entitled "College Presidents Decry Intimidation on Campuses," was signed by 300 college presidents, including me. It commits that "Our classrooms will be open to all students, and classroom discussions must be based on sound ideas. Our campus debates will be conducted without threats, taunts, or intimidation. We will take appropriate steps to insure these standards. In doing so, we uphold the best of American democratic principles."

Although the fourth paragraph of the six-paragraph statement mentions death threats and threats of violence against Jewish students that have occurred on campuses, the entire ad speaks to campus commitment to protecting the rights of all students by sustaining an

intimidation-free campus. It makes the point that intimidation and threats "directed against any person, group or cause, will not be tolerated on campuses. All instances will be investigated and acted upon so that the campus will remain devoted to ideas based on rational consideration.

I am totally committed to protecting freedom of speech for all students; no student should have to tolerate threats, taunts, or intimidation. I am very proud of the way that students, faculty, and the Interfaith community at Stony Brook have joined together to protect the rights of all students and honor the views of all.

I joined other college presidents in signing a statement of commitment to an intimidation-free campus environment for all students. I work every day to ensure that environment at Stony Brook.

Shirley Strum Kenny
SBU President

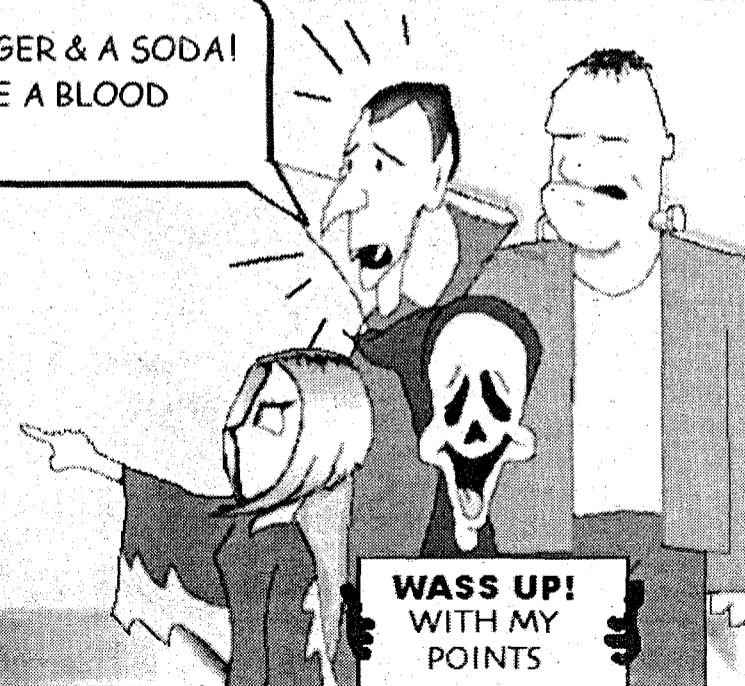
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The Case for a Federal Case

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is a case involving terrorism, plain and simple. As such, we are faced with a perfect opportunity to have a fair, open trial in federal court, something we've been lacking in most of our terrorism prosecutions thus far against alleged members of al Qaeda. This would show our government that national security is neither sacrificed nor compromised when basic fifth and sixth amendments rights are upheld for American citizens charged with serious crimes.

Second, federal court is the only venue where each and every murder can be tried at the same time. Killings were committed in multiple states and Washington D.C., meaning only federal prosecutors can try them all at once. Moreover, the suspects are already being held in federal prison due to charges of federal firearms violations. A speedy, public trial would be best ensured, then, in a federal courtroom.

Third, a federal case allows the trial itself to be held in a neutral location. Presumption of innocence is paramount in any case, even one like this where the evidence already points to probable conviction. The

enormous media coverage, combined with the feelings of anger and fear still felt in both states, would significantly dampen an effort to find an unbiased jury. While that will surely be a difficult process no matter where the case was held, it would be made easier in a venue more detached from the actual killings. In much the same way the Timothy McVeigh case was not tried in Oklahoma City, the sniper case should not be held in either Maryland or Virginia.

Finally, a federal case means the death penalty will not be sought against Malvo because there is no federal statute for the execution of minors. Indeed, while the federal government has already filed a 20-count complaint against Muhammad, Malvo is not named due to his juvenile status. No matter how heinous the crime, this nation should not be in the business of killing kids.

The nation breathed a collective sigh of relief when arrests were made, and the killings stopped. What the public now needs is a fair, public, speedy trial.

Feminist's Rant: Global Village

By MARIE HUCTION
Statesman Staff

In my recent studies, I ran across a sentence which I felt nicely characterized the current political crisis of our global village. Author Thomas Eagleton writes, "the more a postmodern culture is exported to the post-colonial world, the more, by reaction, it can fan the flames of cultural particularism there" (The Idea of Culture, Blackwell Publishers, 2000). This academic jargon may not initially seem related to the situation with Iraq, but hopefully after I give some context to this quote, it will make more sense.

First, let me say that cultural studies (and postmodernism in particular) is among the most self-reflexive and grammatically convoluted fields of theory I have ever encountered. Thus, it should be no surprise that a relatively simple concept is made into a world puzzle. When interpreting jargon, it is incredibly difficult not to resort to jargon or equally complex explanations, but I will give it my best shot.

Prior to this particular statement, Eagleton put forth the idea of America as a postmodern culture. The United States of today is a cosmopolitan society; groups from every religious, ethnic, racial, economic and social background all reside within artificially created geographical borders. All of these groups and individuals are united by their membership to the United States. The variety and diversity of these groups is an integral

part of what we define as American culture.

That's American postmodernism in a nutshell, so now on to post-colonialism. Stretch your minds back to high school history classes and remember the age of European expansion and exploration. Western (i.e., European and North American) powers managed to colonize a large portion of the globe (especially Africa and the Middle East), and then proceeded to strip-mine the natural resources of their newly created empires. After World War I, these empires pulled in their borders and abandoned their former colonies. These former colonies, though free, had no experience in governing themselves, and no economic, social or political infrastructures.

The result of these colonial empires is only now being fully realized (in our post-colonial age). The rampant political instability in Africa, the religious upheaval in the Middle East and the continual famine in Asia are all long-term effects of colonialism. For obvious reasons, this exploitation and abandonment has engendered resentment against the West. In particular, America's consumerist culture and political tactics have earned it the enmity of many nations and peoples.

Having suffered at the hands of the U.S., is it any wonder that countries rebel against American cultural practices? That America's diverse and secular society is seen as the root

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Feminist's Rant: Violence in America

By MARIE HUCTION
Statesman Staff

I won't deny that living in the UK has changed my perspective on the current goings-on in the United States. I am no longer cocooned inside America (geographically, socially and politically), and have acquired a certain degree of outsider status. However, over my lifetime I have been fully socialized into American culture, and thus have exported it with me. I hope that this mixture of insider and outsider will give me a unique and valuable perspective on current events taking place on both sides of the Atlantic.

The inspiration for this article was provided to me by an editorial in England's *The Guardian*. The editorial discussed the sniper killings around Washington D.C. This opinion piece wasn't a body count or a review of police techniques; rather it was an analysis of the culture that breeds and sensationalizes such violence. The editorial brought out several thought-provoking points, which I will use as a springboard for this column.

First and foremost is the controversial issue of race relations in the United States. America's diversity has been a source of continuous violence throughout history, just a few examples being the forced migration of Native

Americans, slavery, segregation and internment camps for Japanese-Americans in WWII. The standard response of American citizens to danger is to stereotype and revile the race, culture, or religion which they perceive poses a threat (especially if the population is something other than lily-white). After Sept. 11, anyone of Middle Eastern decent or Muslim faith was accused of being a terrorist.

That one of the men currently charged with the sniper killings is Muslim, while the other is a native of Jamaica, has only fanned the flames of America's fear of outsiders. It is convenient for Neo-Nazi groups and right-wing conservatives to forget that most serial killers have been white men, and to propound these two individuals of the sniper shootings as examples of entire ethnic populations. America's ability to simplify millions of unique people into a single mug shot will only add to the hostility and violence of race relations in the coming months.

The most eloquently argued point of *The Guardian's* editorial deserves to be quoted directly, rather than reinterpreted: "The taunting phone calls to police, the letters pinned to tree trunks, the sniper's announcement that he was "God" are precisely the behaviour of a Hollywood psychopath. My point about this is not

Continued on Page 11

AJC Unfairly Condemned

To the Editor:

Arif Rafiq's condemnation of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) was offensive and disturbing. The object of Mr. Rafiq's criticism was an AJC statement undersigned by many university presidents including Stony Brook's Shirley Strum Kenny. The statement decries recent acts of violence and hate against Jewish students on college campuses. It is a matter of public record that many, if not most, of those acts were committed by anti-Israel activists.

Nevertheless, the AJC statement refers only to the acts themselves and, diplomatically, avoids mention of their perpetrators. The words Palestinian Muslim or Arab never appear. The statement can be read in its entirety at www.ajc.org and I would encourage everyone to do so and to judge for themselves...

Recent months have witnessed some truly shocking episodes of violence and intimidation against Jewish students on college campuses. In September, a speech by former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at Concordia University in Montreal had to be actually cancelled because of violent destructive rioting by hundreds of pro-Palestinian protestors... At UC-Berkeley this past April, campus police arrested 79 pro-Palestinian protestors who had stormed into a classroom building in an attempt to disrupt Holocaust Remembrance Day commemorations by Jewish students.

Planned organized mass hate acts such as these, and others like them, truly

"introduces an unhealthy and foreign phenomenon" into our academic society. Yet, amazingly, Mr. Rafiq levels his charge not at this but rather at those who attempt to shine light on such acts and bring them to the public's attention. How bizarre...

Acts of violent discrimination against Jewish-Americans are primarily perpetrated by anti-Israel activists, often consisting of Arabs, Muslims and their sympathizers. Acts of violent discrimination against Arab Muslim and South Asian Americans are rarely, if ever, perpetrated by Jews...

By contrast, acts of hate and intimidation against Jewish Americans are almost exclusively linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict thousands of miles away...

...there are many forms of discrimination in our society; against African Americans, gays, Native Americans, etc. Why doesn't Mr. Rafiq condemn the AJC for not mentioning all of these by name? Why does he only object that discrimination against Arab Muslim and South Asian Americans is not mentioned? Is Mr. Rafiq trying to insinuate that when some ignorant lunatic attacks a Sikh man because of his turban that somehow Jews should be made to account?

Pretending to be for "the improvement of Jewish-Muslim relations in the United States", Mr. Rafiq is, in fact, actively pursuing the exact opposite by creating controversy where none exists.

Solomon Weiskop, Ph.D.

STUDENT POLITY ASSOCIATION

To: The Undergraduate Student Body

As many of you know, there have been several problems eating away at the foundation of Student Polity Association. Since the beginning of this semester, it has been our goal to fix the problems within. However, there comes a time when you can no longer mend the problem and the solution becomes to start anew. As one of our prestigious students from the Haitian Student Organization stated, "sometimes you have to break down to build up." This is exactly the road we are taking. Student Polity, Inc. is no longer the representative student organization for the administration of the Student Activities Fee. All efforts to reform the government from within have been unsuccessful, including the revision of the Organizations' Constitution.

Administration, as well as Council, recognized the need for drastic new measures to be taken to reform student governance as a whole, and thus decided to decertify Student Polity Association, Inc.. Although there will be many extreme changes made, what remains unchanged is how the functioning of clubs/organizations operate. Please remember that despite this setback, the Executive Council would like to let everyone know that we are still the elected student representatives for the undergraduate student body. We are still here to represent each and every one of you to the best of our ability.

Currently, different mechanisms are being put in place by Administration to start the process for the structuring of a new student government. There are also measures being reviewed that will ensure the continued proper administration of the Activity Fee. We will be working as closely as possible with Administration to ensure proper reform of student governance. In addition, we will be maintaining our role as student leaders and representatives of the students in campus life. You will still see us involved in the different University settings as much as time permits us; that includes sitting on University committees, addressing student concerns before different University agents, working closely with clubs/organizations and coordinating class programs. Therefore, do continue to keep us abreast of events and student issues within your areas and how we may assist and be involved. Our main goal is to continue to develop a method, in a "Partnership for Student Success."

We thank everyone who has been a strong support to us. We greatly appreciate it.

Thank you,

Akelia Lawrence, President

Natasha Elie, Vice President

Clayton John, Treasurer

Mélissa Torchon, Secretary

Jannet Mey, Senior Representative

Michelle Morris, Junior Representative

Sandy Curtis, Sophomore Representative

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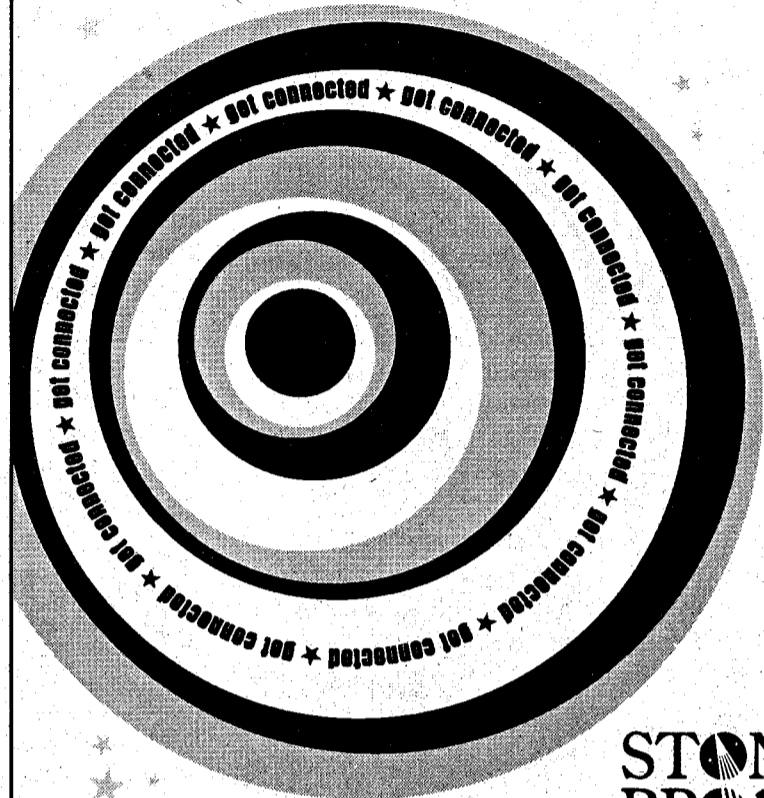
Inside is everything you need to connect to Stony Brook Offices.

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Interested in any of these programs? Stop by the Career Center, Melville Library Room W-0550, Ground Floor, or check out our website: www.stonybrook.edu/career

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Postmodern Rant

Continued from Page 7

of all-evil? Are we surprised that religions and political ideologies that are diametrically opposed to America's are popping up all over? Eagleton is saying that the more American culture is forced upon non-Western nations the more these nations will rebel. The best rebellion against a diverse and tolerant culture is a narrowly defined and extremist culture.

By now, it should be obvious that my prime example is Muslim fundamentalism, which has arisen in response to secular America. In essence, American culture is spurring on the creation of cultures that oppose and attack American ideals. I hope that I have added another kernel of insight into the current conflict in the Middle East, and driven home the point that extremism does not appear on its own. It, like everything else, is the product of social interaction and globalization.

Violence Rant

Continued from Page 7

letters pinned to tree trunks, the sniper's announcement that he was "God" are precisely the behaviour of a Hollywood psychopath. My point about this is not censorious... but the extent to which so many Americans now behave as if they were in a film. Life is unconsciously scripted by Hollywood." (Mark Lawson, *The Guardian*, Oct. 26, 2002).

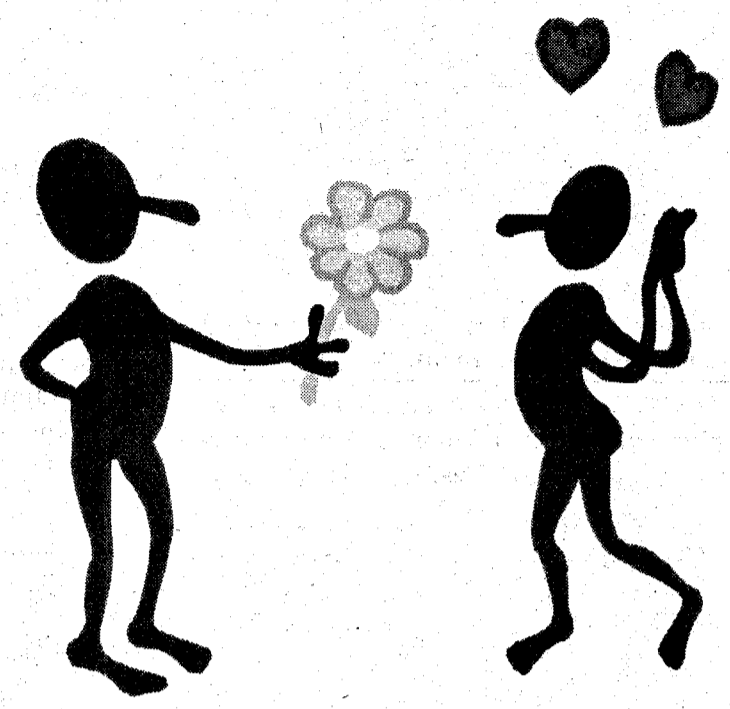
All the movies about jihad's and airplane hijackings were played out in the catastrophic real life drama of the World Trade Center. Now another film script has been enacted, with deadly and terrifying consequences. In a society that sensationalizes the graphic and idolizes the grotesque, the reality of America's fascination with violence has been driven home on the six o'clock news. The lines between film fiction and everyday reality are blurring, and people are beginning to see their lives as movie plots rather than reality.

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