

## Meal vs flex: what's the difference?

MARY VANDERHYDE  
Statesman Contributor

The campus meal point system continues to confuse many on campus who are not familiar with the current structure.

Josephine Sferranza, a senior biology major and chairperson of the resolutions committee, a student based organization that deals with student issues regarding the dining services, defined what the two point systems are and clarified why campus points can't be used at Jasmine. "Campus points are for Stony Brook food locations and flex credits were put aside just for the Wang center, which has nothing to do with Stony Brook. The Wang Center is a separate location that Stony Brook doesn't deal with in terms of income."

Since there was such a high demand for students to use their meal plans at Jasmine, flex points were enabled. Campus points can

be used at any of the campus dining units except for Jasmine.

According to Angela Agnello, Director of Marketing and Communications over at the FSA department, "Flex credits can be used at any Campus Dining Services location or the Jasmine Food Court at the Charles B. Wang Center. On March 10, 2005 students with a campus points balance of 100 or more had 100 points transferred to flex credits". Students can ask a cashier at any campus dining facility how many flex/meal points they still have on their account to check their balance. If you want to add on more points, simply go over to the Meal plan office or log onto [www.campusdining.org](http://www.campusdining.org).

Rachel Mammina, a junior and psychology major believes that "we should either have more points at Jasmine or just get rid of

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## Campus bookstore gets rid of bag check system

MIKE LEE  
Statesman Contributor

The scenario is familiar to Stony Brook students – it's the first week of classes and the busiest week of the semester for the university bookstore. After waiting on the seemingly never-ending lines to pay for their books, students have to wait on yet another line to get their schoolbags back.

This will happen no longer. During the first week of the Spring 2005 semester nobody from the bookstore staff asked students to leave their bags in the cubbies while they shopped because the bookstore has terminated the bag check.

The general manager, Cathy

Pacheco, said that the bag check was necessary in the past. "There was no security system in the store, which would allow people to come in and steal. It was too much of a liability for the store." She noted that during the non-rush of mid-semester there wasn't enough staff to watch the shoppers. Therefore, the bag check was especially utilized.

The bag check was susceptible to problems. Pacheco said it created long lines and more importantly, she and the staff members knew how students felt when they had to give up their bags. "Customers felt mistrusted and accused," she said.

Now, the bookstore has a new

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## Students rally against war



Students protesting the war gathered outside the SAC to have their voices heard.

Adhip Karmaker/Statesman

BY JAMES BOUKLAS  
Statesman Editor

Students expressed their continued anger and resentment against the war in Iraq this week by demonstrating in front of the Student Activities Center. Coalition Against War, made up of the Graduate Student Employee Union (GSEU), the Muslim Student Association (MSA), Socialist Alternatives, Social Justice Alliance, and Fashionistas Against Fascism, organized this event and a representative from each club gave a presentation.

"Our goal is to bring attention to the war to Stony Brook students; to reenergize and prepare for the protest in New York City," said Billy Wharton, a doctoral student in the history department. The rally in the city, scheduled to take place on March 21, is expected to draw a crowd of 20,000 people, including many of the people who demonstrated at Stony Brook. This celebrates the second anniversary of the Iraq war.

Organizers of the rally

passed out balloons with pictures of various Bush administration officials taped to them. On the ground they wrote "Smash a Neo-Con" and participants popped their balloons on the writing while yelling such things as "kill them!"

"It's a shame that this country is bringing democracy abroad when it can't bring democracy here," said senior Naajiya Blight, a philosophy major. "I'm upset with the Bush agenda."

"Increasingly I find politics to be a continuation of warfare," said Brady Heiner, a doctoral student in the philosophy department and a member of GSEU. "There is domestic warfare in the United States- there are over two million people incarcerated in this country, and 60% of them are of color."

These are the issues that many of these anti-war protesters also take up.

Roughly 15 minutes into the rally a small group of Ward Melville students walked out of classes and joined the dem-

onstration. Ever since the lead up to the war, students from the local high school protested by walking out on classes and joined Stony Brook demonstrators.

While the majority of attendees were against the war, there were anti-protest demonstrators there, holding banners that supported the war. "What are they protesting?" said Robert Romano of the College Republicans. "Iraq requested that American troops stay in the country."

On the issue of the troops killed and wounded in action, Romano said, "America has always honored those who have fallen in conflict. We're here to honor them, not protest them."

The rally drew a crowd of roughly fifty students in the first half hour of the event. "I'm against the war.... War doesn't solve anything," said freshman Sarah Ibrahim, an onlooker of the rally.

"We're not just against it," said Blight. "We're going to be about it- just watch the march [in NYC]."



# It's a hard knock life for commuters

MIKE LEE  
Statesman Contributor

It's 7:20 A.M. on a brisk Tuesday in October on the train to Stony Brook. Mere seconds later, the train leaves the Greenlawn station and stops. For five minutes. To someone sitting on a train eager to get to class on time, it raises a reasonable question: "What's the delay?" The conductor stopped the train because "a passenger has refused to pay his fare."

When people at college hear the word "commuter" they think of people who drive cars and not other means of transportation that people use to get to school including the Long Island Railroad train. While some students go through the daily routine of rolling out of bed ten minutes before their class begins, others who take the train to Stony Brook have wake up way earlier.

For commuter students, it's just another day on the LIRR. Many of the commuters on this train are either sleeping or reading; many are students and faculty at Stony Brook University. Some kids are 'up', talking loudly to each other in ignorance of other people's trying to sleep or read. This is routinely what goes on in the train to school every day - sleep, read, talk - three things one cannot do by himself or herself while they drive to school.

Stony Brook commuter student Victor Liu says, "It sucks. There's nothing good about it." Liu has to take the Jamaica train to get to Stony Brook around 6 A.M., and he has to be up a lot earlier before then because his parents need to drive him to the train station, which adds to the disdain he has for commuting to school. Liu lives in Bayside, New York, and because he is a transfer student and it is his fourth year at SBU, he wasn't allowed to receive room and board.

The train wasn't his first resort in coming to school. "I wanted to buy a car, but my parents won't

let me." Another thing Victor doesn't like about commuting is that it "takes too long" because of the 15-minute stops at stations and transferring from train to train. He spends most of his time reading comics, studying, and, of course, sleeping.

On the other hand, Stephen Chau had lived on campus throughout his college career at Stony Brook. But this year, his senior year, he decided to commute because "it's too expensive to live on campus." He commutes from Floral Park and says he saves a lot of money by staying at home. He finds the experience of taking the train mutual in pros and cons, and not so much a hassle as Victor because he's been taking the train all through high school. Like commuter Victor Liu, he spends most of his time either sleeping or studying. He says the downside to commuting by train is it that it's "time consuming," and "when it gets cold outside, it sucks."

A big problem for Liu and Chau is the train schedule. "The fact that the train schedule is too inflexible...I don't have the option to go back to a dorm room. I don't have the option after two hours of class to grab the train. I'll have to wait," said Chau.

What Liu and Chau did not mention were the delays. During the winter there can be snowstorms that delay trains. Last September, Penn Station was evacuated because of a fire in a transformer beneath the East River that caused a chain reaction of delays all throughout the city and Long Island.

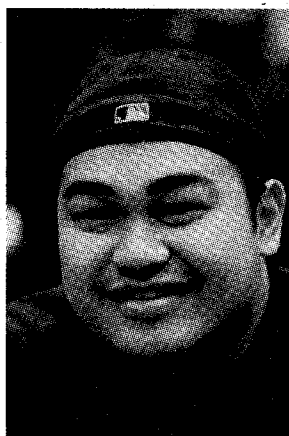
Chau "would love to roll out of bed five minutes before [his] next class" instead of waking up two to three hours prior to his first class. Liu would like to go back to a dorm room instead of killing two hours waiting for the train home.

But this is the way it is and although it may be a hassle, the familiar faces getting on and off at SBU seem accustomed to it because it has become *their* daily routine.

## CAMPUS VOICES

By NICOLE DULMER & CHRIS LONARDO

### Do you think the rallies, like the one held today, are effective?



"We're the up-and-coming generation, we represent the population of the world."

tony

- Tony George

"I think it's cool that people are voicing their opinions, it really gives them a strong chance to be heard"

-Mike Trinos



"I guess it's good... I mean, it's a great way to express your point of view, and to make yourself be heard."

-Maria, Freshman

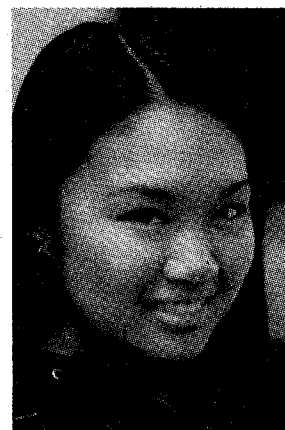
"I think protests definitely have a place on campus. I think college students are very opinionated. It's definitely important."

-Eileen Saim, Senior



I think it's important if it helps us reach a more positive goal, or a more unified student body"

-Janelle, Junior



## Meal points vs flex points...

Continued from page 1

flex points...what's the point? We paid for our points; we should be able to use them where ever we want".

Scott Stein, a pharmacology senior, agreed "the point system should be the same. I like to eat at Jasmine but it's not over-run with students so I see no reason that there should be two different point systems".

However, some students believe that the flex points are a good thing. Keith Weinberg, a senior meteorology major is neutral, stating "I think that there must be a point to them as long as you can use them at other locations besides Jasmine. Jasmine has good food though so I'll keep going there".

Eric Bredhoff, senior political science major has a positive view on flex points; "I think that they are good because they give students the opportunity to spend meal points at Jasmine which they weren't able to do before. If students are not allowed to use campus points at Jasmine then I think that the flex point system is a good idea". Whichever way you feel about the Flex Points

being separate from Campus Points the only way you will be able to see a change is to speak up and voice your comments. Students can do this at the students' resolutions committee meetings Wed 1pm at Kelly Conference center.

## Bookstore gets rid of check system...

Continued from page 1

alarm system as well as security cameras, which were installed over the winter break. But the alarm system didn't come without a hefty price tag. Although Pacheco did not reveal the price, she said, "It's expensive but since we are corporately owned, it's not so much an expense to the store." Besides the alarm system, the store continues to have guards at the entrances and exits especially during the start and end of the semester.

One of the reasons for ridding the bookstore of the bag check was because of a survey about the bookstore conducted on campus by the Faculty Student Association. Not surprisingly, many students complained about the bag checks. In addition to this survey, Barnes and Noble sponsored a focus group in all across America about

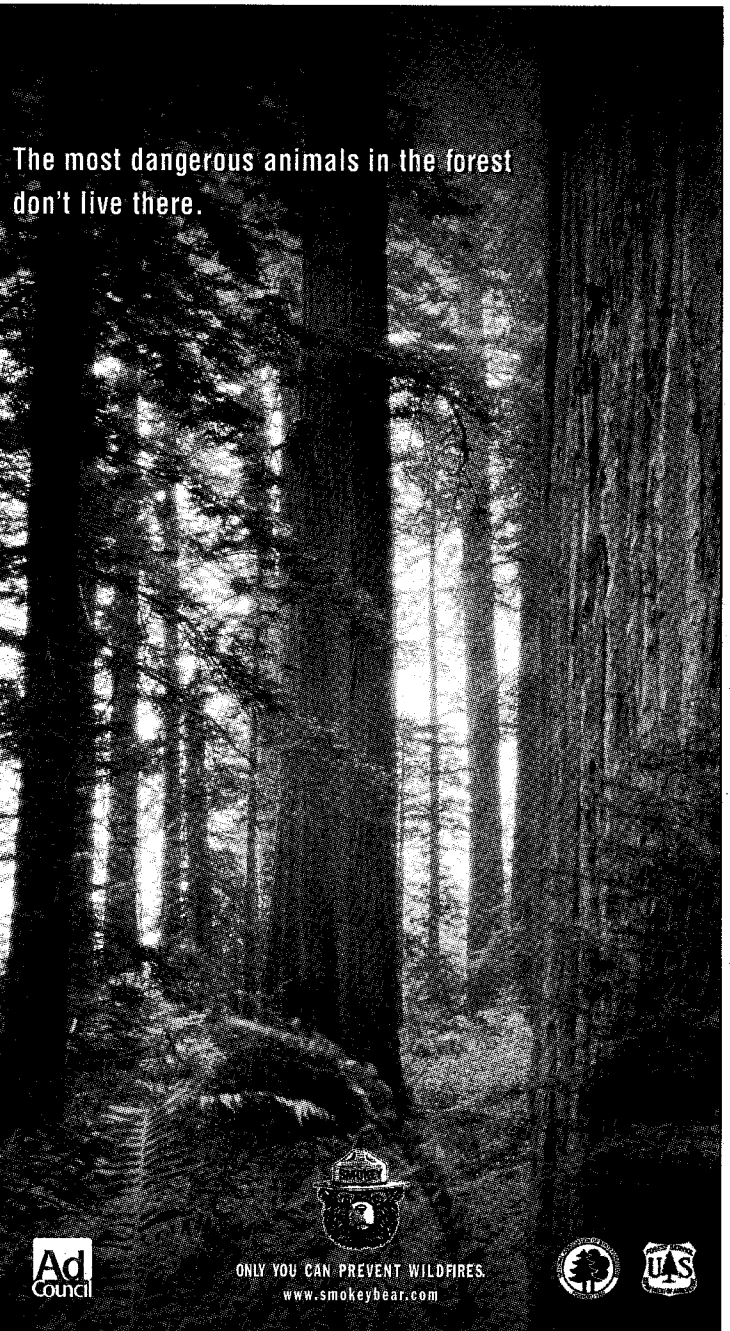
their university bookstores and the bag checks and received a similar response.

Pacheco said there would not be a return of the bag check, and that the cubbies, once used for holding students' backpacks and shopping bags aren't being used for anything right now and will most likely be removed at the end of the semester. Now that students can stroll into the bookstore without checking their bag at the cubbies, the response from the students is enthusiastically positive.

"I think that it was a good idea, as long as they have some type of security system," said Christine Sausa, a senior and sociology major. "Had they not installed the cameras I think there would have certainly been more theft. I personally like it a little better though because sometimes I would forget to take my wallet out and then I have to walk all the way back to the bag check to get it out. ...All in all I think cameras will decrease theft [instead of] a bag check."

Michael Brewer, a junior and health science major, agrees. "I think it's a great idea. The bookstore is so crowded during the first week of school especially at certain times of the day when students go to get their books in droves. The wait to pay for your books is crazy as it is."

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#### WHO WE ARE

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

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## COMMENTARY

# Harvard president opens a can of worms discussing gender

BY LAUREN MUTZ  
Statesman Editor

The remarks made by Lawrence Summers, the President of Harvard University, about women, discrimination, and the innate differences between men and women's abilities, has stirred up a great deal of controversy.

In his speech, Dr. Summers discussed some of the factors he believed could explain the under-representation of women in high-level math and science positions. Summers' first hypothesis was that top positions in math and engineering faculties require extraordinary commitments of time and energy— with many professors working 80-hour weeks— as their lawyers, bankers and business executive counterparts. According to Summers, few married women with children are willing to accept such great sacrifices.

However it was his second comment that stirred up the most vehement protest. According to Summers, it is "important to consider" that high school boys tend to score at very high and very low levels on standardized math tests compared to girls and that such differences may stem from a biological difference between

the sexes.

While we are well aware that men do score higher on measures of math, and women on measures of verbal skills, we cannot fairly ascribe these disparities to biological differences alone. Sociological research provides evidence of the importance of "social phenomena in creating the gender gap in science and math achievement at the highest levels..." which is why it is therefore "a social problem." Additionally, "sociological research also provides evidence about areas in which policy changes can foster behavioral changes that would remedy this problem."

Consider an important research study published last year by New York University Professor Madeline Heilman and colleagues. These researchers asked people to rate individual men and women who were "described as holding the position of assistant vice president in an aircraft company." The evaluator then had to rate the competence and likableness of the employees. Results show that when evaluators had no information about the assistant VPs, they rated the male VP as more competent than the woman VP (but equally likable).

However, when the background information was clear, evaluators rated the man and woman as equally competent. The stereotypes, or what Psychologists and Sociologists term "gender schemas," can have a profound effect on the competence rating that we ascribe to a man or woman performing a job.

It is for this reason that I believe the comments of Dr. Lawrence Summers to be so grossly offensive. Since, we are already aware that gender disparities exist between women and men in math and science, why does Dr. Summers find it necessary to focus on the biological differences that exist between the genders? How, pre tell, will research on biological differences help to promote women in math and science in higher education? Simply stated, it won't.

By emphasizing the biological differences between men and women, Dr Summers is reinforcing peoples' biased gender schemas and essentially doing what he is purports he wants to end: the hindering of women in math and science in higher education.

Instead of rehashing the old "biological difference" debate, the President of Harvard could

have used his speech as an opportunity to encourage women, as well as teachers, researchers, and other educators, to pursue math and science. Women need to feel 'at home' and welcome in these fields or they will continue to look to the humanities and social sciences since they are "biologically inferior" in math and science.

It really is a shame that Dr Summers felt it necessary to focus on the biological, rather than sociological hinderers—such as gender schemas, the inferiority felt by many women in their ability to tackle math and science, and the socialization of bias in elementary school—because these, as opposed to a focus on biological differences, can actually help women feel capable and confident in the pursuit of a degree in astrophysics or biochemistry.

In a time when our country requires more women in the sciences, as a result of international competition in technology, we don't need people like Dr Lawrence Summers telling us to research more on the 'inherent biological differences between men and women--' but someone who can make them feel capable and welcome in these fields.

# Protesting the protest

MARY VANDERHYDE  
Statesman Contributor

This week during Campus Lifetime many students might have noticed the Anti-War rally going on, right in front of the SAC. You might have noticed several of the protesters holding balloons featuring various Bush administration pictured on each one. Protestors demonstrated their Anti-War viewpoints by listing the names of the fallen soldiers, popping balloons over the words "Smash a Neo-Con" written on the ground while screaming such appalling things such as "kill them".

Before I start let me state that I

am not in favor of this war. While I'm all for speaking ones mind, and voicing their concerns against the war, I believe this rally against the war was stupid. The sheer fact that people are screaming such ludicrous statements such as "kill them" at a protest rally, aiming for peace, is in my opinion an oxymoron. I thank you for saying that you are trying to honor and not bash the soldiers who have given their lives. However I feel that there is a better way to honor the dead and stop the war then to shout out statements, pop balloons, and say you're against the Bush administration. Instead of mourning the dead, why don't you thank the living soldiers who

are still with us risking their lives for this country? Try something more productive to fight against the war. Try and be peaceful. I don't understand how one is fighting for peace and condemning a government official to death. Where is the logic in this? Running around and popping balloons of the Bush administration seems like a waste of time. I don't see how this will at all make any effect on the war. I seriously doubt that Bush or any of his administration staff will actually know what occurred on Stony Brook University Campus.

Instead of just making a lot of noise and making no difference on the war, why don't you

honestly try and stop the war by writing a letter, going to Washington and stating your case, or have petitions signed. VOTE TO STOP THE WAR! Something that will actually make even a small dent that will make Bush and his administrators notice. Be happy that our country allows protestors to say the disparaging comments that you declare. If you recall there are countries out there that will throw protestors in jail, torture, maim and even kill them and their entire families. So while you're out there fighting for peace, go thank a vet or member of the armed services for allowing you to protest against their fighting for your freedom.



# LI Philharmonic presents *Romeo & Juliet*

By ROSIE SCAVUZZO  
Statesman Editor

Saturday, March 19, 2005 the Long Island Philharmonic will be presenting "Romeo & Juliet" at the Staller Center for the Arts. This will be an extremely unique and innovative program that will feature scenes from the timeless classic performed by professional actors. Dramatic readings will be used to enhance the full orchestra performing classic selections from the great Romeo & Juliet scores by Tchaikovsky & Prokofiev. The first half the program will celebrate the coming beautiful spring season, as the LI Philharmonic will be performing the "Spring" Symphony of Robert Schumann. The Long Island Philharmonic, under the direction of Robert Neu, is conducted by David Wiley. Wiley encourages people to take up the great musical opportunities the Long Island Philharmonic has to offer. "Our 2004-2005 program presents a musical feast for both the ears and eyes, a

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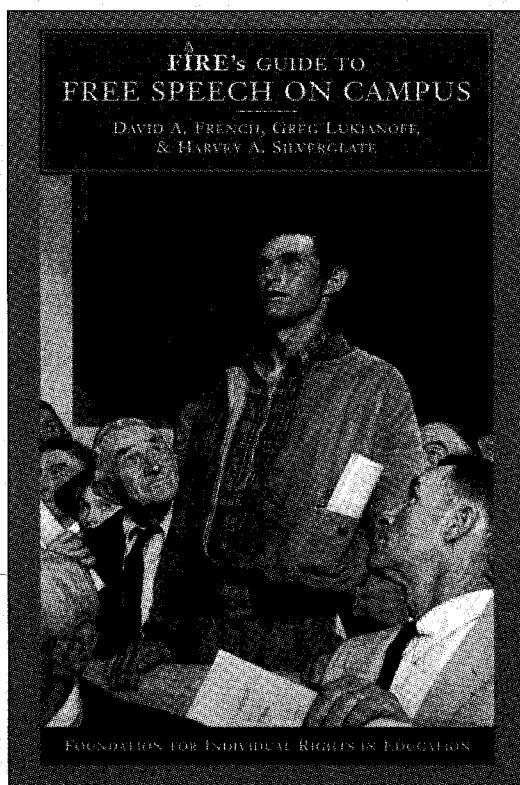
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# Faculty spotlight: Bente Videbaek



*Bente Videbaek*  
Professor of English

By JEREMY FALLETTA  
Statesman Contributor

Looking back over the last three years of my life, which I have spent at Stony Brook, one professor stands so far apart from the crowd that her brilliance is undeniable. Bente Videbaek has done more than persuade me to change my major without saying a word on the subject. She has done more than teach me how to write in a more polished and presentably argumentative fashion. She has done more than to willingly offer hours of her own time to talk to me about literature and

the finer points of life. She has inspired me to become a better student, and by way of syllogism, a better person.

Before I discuss why she is so influential, I'd like to provide some fun and interesting personal background. Bente came here from Denmark (yes, she's an accomplished scholar of English and it's not even her first language!) because her husband, a physicist, was "headhunted" and asked to come to the United States to do research. Her Master's degree in English is from Copenhagen, and her Ph.D was completed at Northwestern. She has two

teenaged sons, Christian and Thomas, and a dog named Thor. In their younger years, when her sons were asked "What kinds of books does your mother like to read?" they replied "Big ones!" with gusto. When she's not reading, though, she enjoys skiing and horseback riding, old horror movies, westerns, and computer games of the puzzle variety. Any veteran MYST players out there? Tetris is also an old favorite, of course. She knits and crochets, which she can be seen doing any time one of her teaching assistants has taken over class for the day. Perhaps most interesting

of all, she sews all of her own clothes.

When I asked her why she wanted to become an educator, she told me that she really had "no clue," and then went on to muse about maybe being "a drama queen." It has simply been something she has always wanted to do. Despite this humble statement, she has been the recipient of the President's Award for Excellence in Teaching as Part-time faculty in 2003 and also the Students' Choice Award for Most Influential Professor in 2004.

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## Alumnus profile: Belvin Gong

By NEHA MULTANI  
Statesman Contributor

As big as it is, Stony Brook University offers its students ample majors and minors ranging from the arts to the sciences. Many students who graduated from this institution have forayed into fields like law, entrepreneurship, medicine, technology and other specialized fields. One of the alumni who had graduated from Stony Brook is Belvin Gong.

In 1999, Gong graduated with a degree in Biochemistry with honors and a minor in Chi-

nese studies. She is presently working for Johnson & Johnson pharmaceutical research and development where she is pursuing her postdoctoral fellowship.

As a student in Stony Brook, Gong was a very well rounded student who maintained her studies and her extracurricular activities sufficiently. She had done four years of research in the Life Sciences Building for the biochemistry department with the neuroscience concentration. Along with that, being on the tennis team helped Gong take interest in other things be-

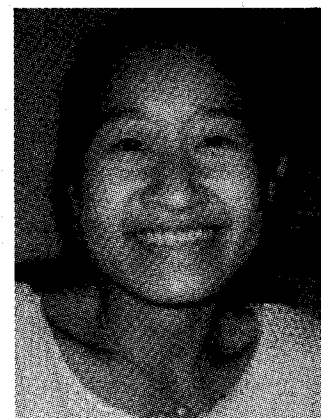
sides just school work. According to Gong, the faculty at Stony Brook was really helpful where her research helped her prepare for her career. Being treated a lot more mature than she was while doing her research, Gong felt that it helped her with her degree.

A commuter for all four years in college, Gong claims that one of the strong points about Stony Brook was that, "I saved a lot of money, the education was really good and people had a public school mentality where everyone was not full of themselves."

After completing her bachelor's degree from Stony Brook, Ms. Gong proceeded to doing her Masters and her PhD in Cambridge University in England. She had won the Churchill scholarship and being the first student in the SUNY history to win this scholarship, Gong gives Rosemary Effiom (who conducts many awards and fellowships for students in Stony Brook) a lot of credit to this success.

"Ms. Rosemary Effiom was very supportive and helped me

*Continued on page 10*



*Belvin Gong*  
Alum, Biochemistry

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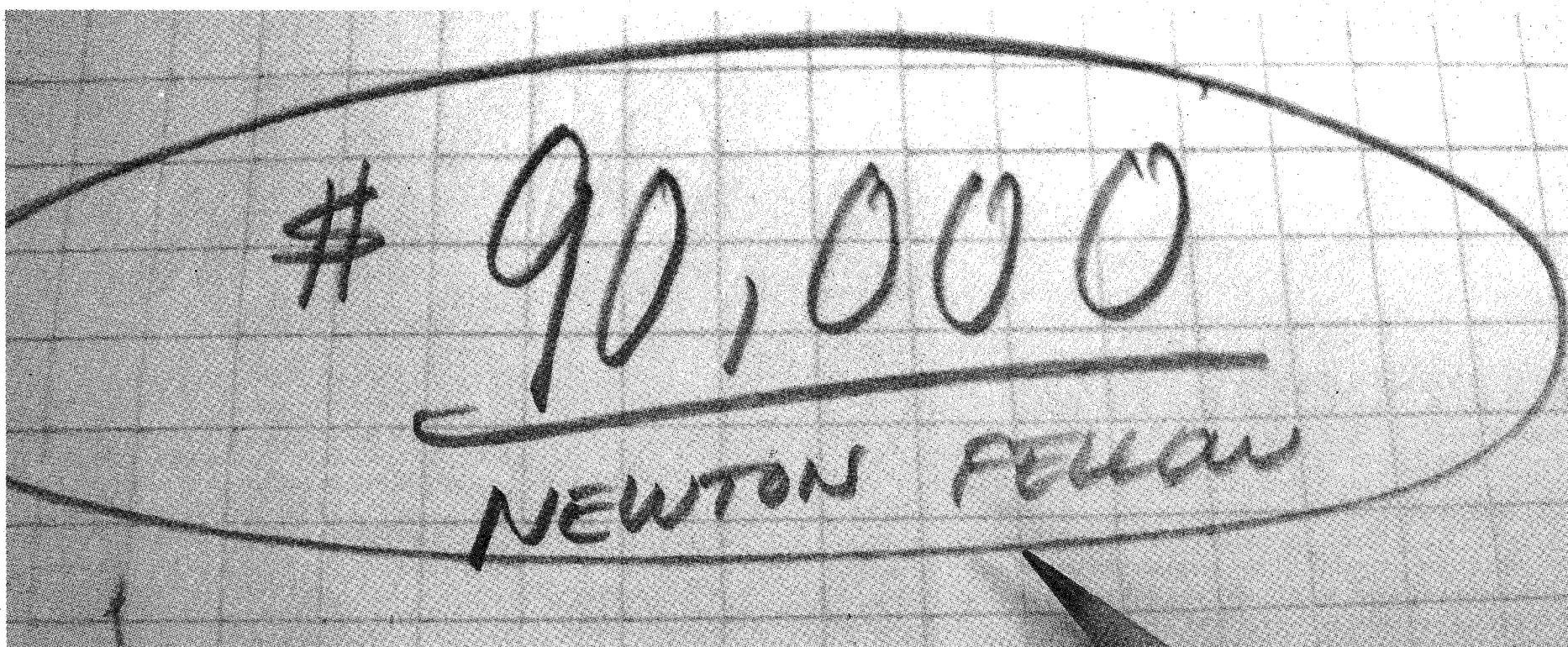
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# MFA Thesis Show reception

By CHRIS LONARDO  
Statesman Editor

The spirit of a campus as diverse as Stony Brook was reflected in the 17<sup>th</sup> MFA Thesis Exhibition's opening reception on night of Saturday, March 12, 2005. Three graduate students pursuing a Master's degree in Fine Arts attended the opening, as well as over two hundred others.

"People from the school that I've never met before are coming out, and I'm pretty impressed," said exhibitor and graduate student Gabrielle Moisan of the turnout. "It's actually pretty amazing."

On display were Moisan's works involving the establishment of a sense of community through knitting, Lawrence Mesich's tongue-in-cheek social commentaries, and Nilufer Ovalioglu's exploration of the "dynamics of power through femininity."

While Moisan's photographs and knit pieces, Mesich's interactive and video installations, and Ovalioglu's sculpture and varying visual displays seem like an esoteric combination, exhibitors are confident that the show's potentially broad appeal will catch the public eye.

"I think all of the works from Gabi, Lawrence, and me work very well together," said Nilufer Ovalioglu.

Involvement of the artist was a central theme to the exhibit. Mesich appeared as the star of his own videos and interactive pieces. His installation *Misrepresentations, Erroneous Conclusions, and Ethical Breaches* feature such amusing bits as a green-screen video of two "Mesichs" sitting at a table, across from one another. They gesture to each other, slap each other, and did not fail to draw a chuckling crowd with each loop at the opening. The video displays for Mesich's project were unconventionally installed into a number of architectural fixtures. Of this, Mesich wrote that the installations "document my often eccentric relationships to the spaces I inhabit every day."

Mesich's other project, the *Department of Behavioral Investigation*, is an interactive display

that serves to inform citizens of some of the happenings in their government, and to encourage them to openly articulate their dissent.

Moisan's project, *Tight Knit Community*, is designed to teach visitors to knit and foster a sense of community. Visitors to the display can learn to knit from books, a video, or each other. At the opening reception, Moisan was seen sitting on the floor in several knitting circles, demonstrating proper technique to eager disciples. Visitors to the display are asked to leave what they knit, and take away the knowledge they have gained. Also on display in Moisan's section of the gallery were several photographs relating to the idea of culture as both consuming and creating art in a regular fashion.

Ovalioglu's work *Mirrorland* satirizes Western expectations for women through a series of videos, images, and sculptures. Ovalioglu starred in her own films, projected on the wall for all to see, and appeared halfway through the opening reception in a mirror-coated dress she had created for the film. Another installation piece of hers, *Tainted Love*, juxtaposes romance with cruelty and trauma. *Precut Fashions* pokes fun at our cookie-cutter cultural mentality.

Of the artists' involvement with their respective works, Moisan said "We all started together three years ago, and only one of us was doing interactive work. Nilu and I were doing photography, and over the course of the next three years we all put ourselves into the work somehow. It's either performative, or instructional, or all of the above. I mean, we evolved, together, somehow, although we do totally different things and we don't always get along, we all put ourselves into our work somehow."

The level of energy and commitment these fine artists have each put into their own work is apparent by looking at just how engaging each display can be. All pieces will be on display in the Staller Center Art Gallery until Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. The students officially graduate in May.

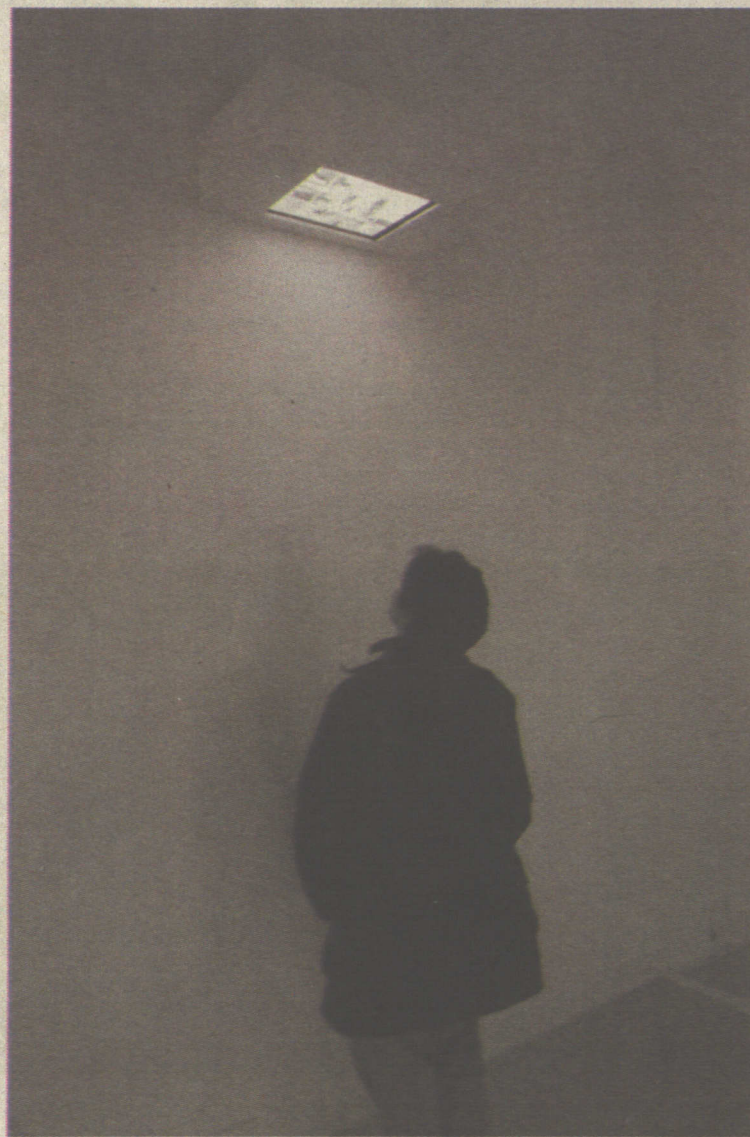


**Above:** Gabrielle Moisan teaches a group of students how to knit. Her work "Tight Knit Community" focuses on art in the community.

**Right:** A visitor looks upward at one of Lawrence Mesich's installations in his project "Misrepresentations, Erroneous Conclusions, and Ethical Breaches," which explores unique relationships between people and the spaces surrounding them.

**Below:** "Tight Knit Community"- the ideal conveyed through Moisan's work embodied in a single yarn maxim.

All Photos by Chris Lonardo





# A couple of musical couples

By JESSICA GROSSMAN  
Statesman Contributor

Two sets of couples played Sunday afternoon at the University Café in a concert that would appeal to students who like country, folk rock music. The Trachtenbergs and the Kennedys drew a crowd of fans of the Stony Brook café to watch their performance.

Martha and Tom Trachtenberg have been playing together for twenty years while perfecting their great country sound. Martha has been playing professionally for about thirty-two years. This was their first appearance at the Café. The music reflects a certain type of introspective story telling that gets to the bottom of things.

The headliners, the Kennedys then graced the stage with their presence. The pair classifies itself as a genre of folk rock. Maura and Pete Kennedy have been married and playing together for ten years. They met in Texas and "immediately connected" according Maura. Both share

the same love for music and have been touring together since they have been married. The couple has traveled half a million miles, averaging about a thousand per week. They have been to England, Ireland, Norway, Scotland and all over the United States on concert tours.

The Kennedys' upcoming CD, called Half a Million Miles, will be out in July. Their music and ideas are outside the mainstream ideals. The Kennedys appeal to all types of people from the young college student to the older music lover. Pete describes the couple's music as socially conscious, "Bob Dylan idealistic--the way U2 is now," he said. "We live way out of the mainstream and think that people find our experiences interesting," said Maura. Their songs are energetic with optimistic substance. The name the Kennedys is derived from the couple's last name but also from their deep belief of peace and the world community. "It reflects a brief time in the '60s and the symbolic icons of the time," said Pete.

The greatest message that they want to get across to their listeners is that, "You can't kill hope with a gun," said Maura. "You can kill the messenger with a gun but you can't kill the message. The message is stronger than the person." Their travels help them experience life.

At times their political agenda can make trouble for them. Maura had mentioned about one particular experience that had made an impact on Pete and her. When she was singing a song about Martin Luther King Jr., Gandhi and other influential peacemakers and how they were killed by guns some of the audience members became angry and walked out. It might be a dangerous way to live but it is better than sitting at home and watching life on the TV. Not only do The Kennedys travel around spreading their ideals through their music but they also host a weekly radio show on Saturday from 8-2pm. The radio show is called Dharma Café. They also have a website which is kennedysmusic.com.



Adhip Karmaker/Statesman

The Kennedys performed in the University Café.

The Kennedys played two forty-five minute sets at the University Café on Sunday. They started with "Life is Large," rocking out on matching orange guitars. With their plugged in acoustics they transitioned into "River of Falling Stars." This song has great significance to their performance because they play it at each show to bring them back to their roots.

While on stage the Kennedys mentioned how it feels good to be in a real environment. This is the second time the Kennedys have played at the Café and this time they are honored as the National Artist of the Month. The couple's music reflects both personal and worldwide themes of peace. "I never wanted to do anything else," said Maura. "This is the greatest thing."

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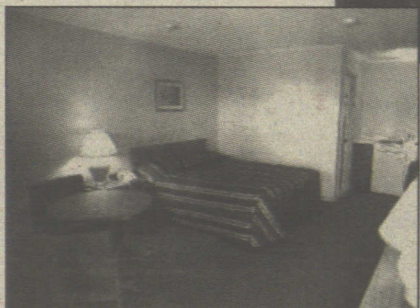
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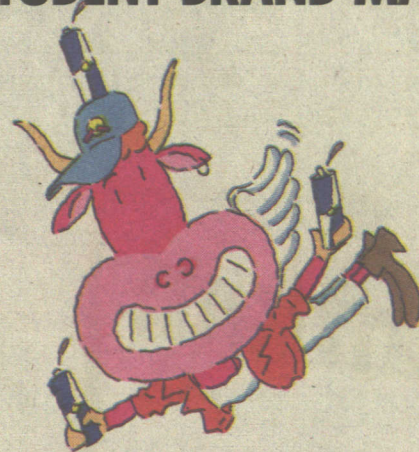
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## Faculty spotlight: Bente Videbaek

Continued from page 6

Her favorite writer is – surprise! – Shakespeare. If you ask her what her favorite play is, though, she'll answer "whichever one I'm teaching at the moment." After a brief consideration, she decided that a second favorite would be too difficult to select. She has published two volumes, including "The Stage Clown in Shakespeare's Theater" and "Revenge Tragedies," of which she is the editor. Currently, she's working on an anthology of plays, which she says allows her to "get a better feel for the plays," due to the transcribing. Because it's such an arduous process, and prone to overlooked errors, her sons are helping her by proofreading as she goes. She currently teaches EGL204, Literary Analysis and Argumentation, which is an introductory English literature course, focusing on building students' writing skills, and EGL205, British Literature I, a survey course. Next semester she is coming back to EGL243, our English department's Shakespeare survey course, and EGL362, Revenge Tragedies, which will use her book as its text. Personally, I can't wait. For prospective English majors, the advice that Bente readily dispenses is "READ! Read everything, because variance is important, and remember to appreciate everything individually, for what it is."

When I asked some of her students, both graduate and undergraduate, to comment on why

they feel she is so effective, the word "engaging" was cheerily overused by almost every interviewee. Michael, a graduate student who Bente is helping with his dissertation, described her as "terribly engaging, extremely supportive, very well read, and a dream to work with." He then added that she "makes your project her project" and that "she takes the ideas of students seriously." I think that this is quite a powerful compliment when there are so many professors who are totally indifferent to the individual opinions of their students. Amanda, an undergraduate teaching assistant, added that she "cares about the student; always makes time," and that "her lectures are enlightening, interesting, and exciting." Being a veteran student of hers myself, I can personally attest to this as well. Finally, Susan Crane, another graduate student who views Bente as her mentor, told me that briefly commenting would be very difficult, but got back to me via e-mail with a wonderful quote. She says "The Roman poet Horace wrote that the aim of poetry is to teach and delight (*docere et delectare*) at the same time. This is precisely what I have witnessed her do in classes of various sizes over the past several years, and one of the main reasons that I have found her to be an excellent mentor for learning how to teach well." I couldn't agree more.

When I asked Bente for her own thoughts on being effective in the classroom, she told me candidly "I firmly believe that the more human I am in class, the better it goes." In my experience, that really is the essence of her

talent as a professor. She becomes a peer to her students, which is an invaluable quality, because it creates an atmosphere of comfort. I have never felt awkward talking to her about matters academic or non-academic; I have always felt like I could readily speak my mind. By creating this kind of environment for her students, Bente allows them to reach their full potential. On the most basic level, inspiration is her business. While I have been profoundly inspired by her personally, I am extremely confident that I have not been the first to feel that way, and equally confident that I am not going to be the last.

## Alumnus profile: Belvin Gong

Continued from page 6

totally in getting this scholarship and the fact that I was doing a research was also very helpful in winning this scholarship," said Gong.

Overall the experience at Stony Brook had been very rewarding for Gong given that she was typical student maintaining her studies and her extra activities at the same time. She has one message for all the Stony Brook students out there.

"If not all, many Stony Brook students can be successful," said Gong. "Given that this is a public university, it should be clear that students can achieve a much higher goal and be successful in life. The University provides students with many resources and students should take advantage of that."

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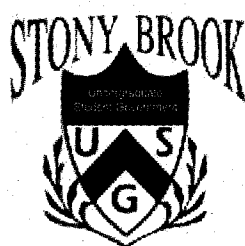


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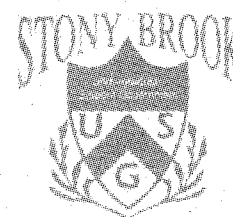
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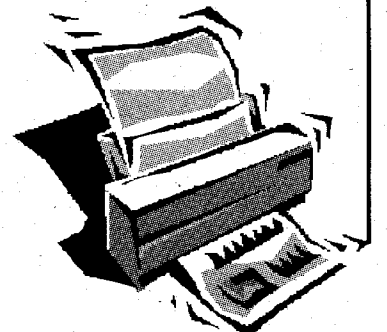
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# Pocket theatre times it all

## *Student acting troupe puts on show at Staller*

MICHAŁ NOWICKI  
Statesman Contributor

On March 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> Stony Brook's student-run drama club, also known as Pocket Theater, produced yet another dazzling and unforgettable show.

It all started about six weeks ago, when two talented students, Nelson Diaz and Kat Sarfas, decided to stage a series of short comedies from David Ives' "All in the Timing." From Ives' collection Nelson and Kat picked the six one-act plays that they thought were varied in flavor and most appropriate for a medium-length production. Auditions for actors followed, and within three days a six-member cast was ready to roll.

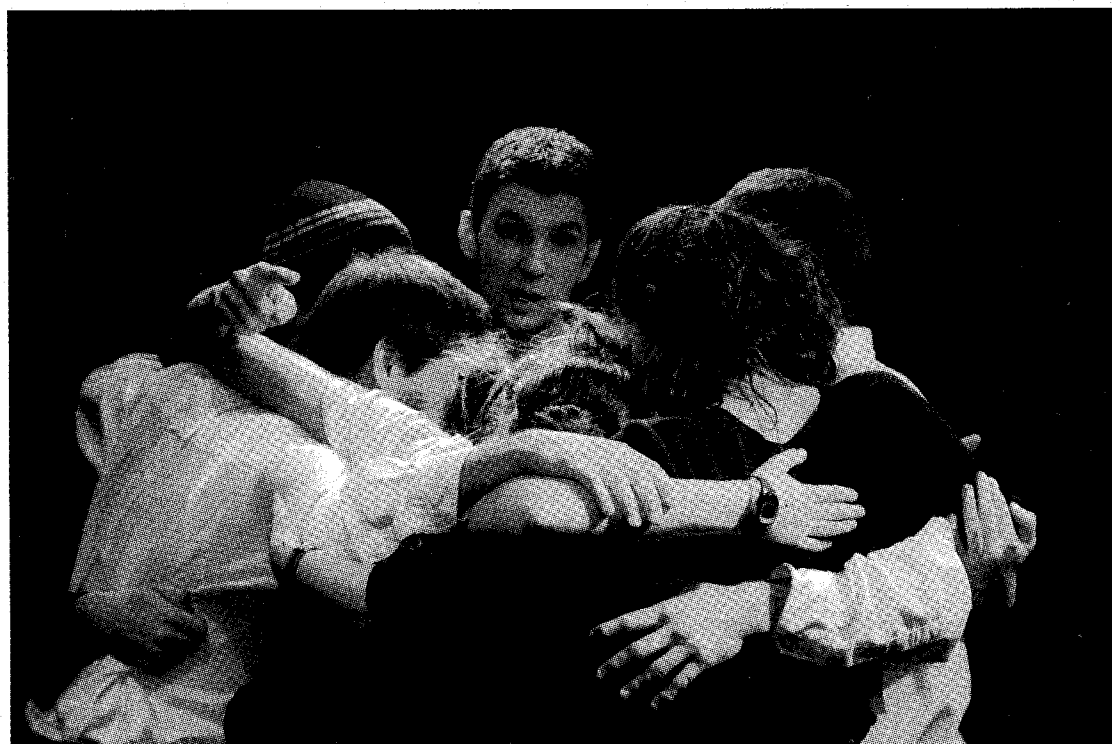
The actors and directors faced many obstacles: lack of proper rehearsal space, virtually no budget, and busy schedules. However, nothing could stop the theater enthusiasts from achieving their goals. It was not easy, but the troupe met when and where they could, always optimistic and determined to put on a memorable show.

"Sure, people get pissed and tired in the process," recalls one of the actors, "but we all love it, we're all in it together and we try to make even the tedious parts fun."

The process was fun and something every one looked forward to, especially after things started to materialize. Once acted out in costume and under lights, the rehearsals—that once made Kat and Nelson wonder why they had picked that loony bunch of actors in the first place—started to take on shape and flavor, making everyone think "This could work."

And it did work. The first night the show sold out roughly five minutes before the curtain went up. The audience was mesmerized from the moment the first lines were uttered. The overwhelming reaction encouraged the actors to give only their best. And they did. The audiences raved.

Everyone loved the witty plays and was surprised at the professional staging a student club with no budget managed to create. Saturday night sold out as



The six-member cast of the Pocket Theatre performing skits for packed crowds.

Joy Dutta/Statesman

well. On Sunday a crowd of eager and even heated spectators had to be turned back at the door as the theater was filled to its capacity ten minutes before the announced play time. The show turned out to be a tremendous success.

After the production was over the cast and crew rejoiced, hugging and congratulating each other. Every member of the troupe looks forward to continuing student plays on campus, and it just seems that the popularity of

these shows increases with every performance. We can only expect more mesmerizing productions from Pocket Theater and should be on the look out for upcoming events—after all, no one likes to be turned back at the door.

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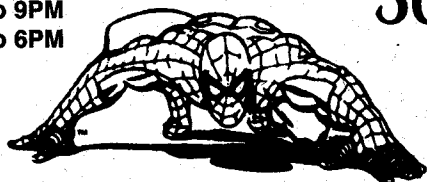
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# Stony Brook students recognized by national awards

By **MARISSA TAFONE**  
Statesman Contributor

Two Stony Brook students have recently been recognized by national organizations, Oumou Diallo and Rita Karla. Diallo received the Merck Award while Karla received the Winston Churchill Award. Each of these awards is presented annually to a student who exhibits outstanding performance in some form of scientific research.

The UNCF Merck fund, which sponsors the Merck Award, will grant Oumou Diallo \$35,000 to be used to pay for some of her tuition and two summer internships. A portion of this money will also be given to the Biochemistry Department. Diallo has received the Merck Award for her research in structural biology on the cloning expression of gephyrin. She endeavored to find the three-dimensional structure of gephyrin. Knowledge of this structure, she explains, would enable pharmaceutical companies to develop a drug, which could be used to treat such conditions as hyperplasia and premature death.

Born in Mali, Africa, Diallo

spent a considerable period of time there and then in France before she came to America to continue her education. After spending a year learning the English language she was able to pursue studies in biology and biochemistry. "I enjoy the challenge of science," she says. "I really wanted to work hard to get my education, and this award supports my efforts."

Of course, Diallo credits several people who have been influential in her success, including members of the Biochemistry Department, Dr. Frank Fowler, Dr. Deledrueckhmmmer, Dr. Robert Kerber and Eun Young Kim. She also notes that Dr. Hermann Schindlin, who was responsible for introducing her to the field of biochemistry, had helped her immensely with her research. "I found that talking with my professors was very important because it got the professor interested in my work and really helped me with my research," says Diallo. She also acknowledges the help of Rosemary Effiom of Undergraduate Affairs in helping her with the application process, and her parents in supporting her in her efforts.

Rita Karla, the Winston Churchill recipient, will be attending Cambridge University next year to continue her research studies. Karla has been involved in a number of research projects over the last several years, working with graduate students and post doctorates. This past year she had been working in the Laser Teaching Center, where she was encouraged to do independent research. She designed her own research project on physics, which helped her win the award.

The Winston Churchill Foundation, which sponsors the Winston Churchill Award, will pay for Karla's tuition and living expenses while attending Cambridge University in England. There she will work with a professor who is involved in a research project that is compatible with her own field of study. As a requirement for the award application Karla had contacted this professor before she applied for the award, and she admits that this connection had helped her write a stronger personal statement.

In order to receive either of these awards, the student applying must have a respectable



Above: Rita Karla, recipient of the Winston Churchill Award.  
Right: Oumou Diallo, recipient of the Merck Award

Adhip Karmaker/Statesman

grade point average, obtain several faculty recommendations, and provide a personal statement about herself. Karla testifies that she spent a good period of time revising drafts of her personal statement. For her personal essay she had to describe how her interest in science developed and what her career goals were. "It took me a long time before I had my final copy," Karla says, "but in the process of writing I found out a lot about myself."

Rosemary Effiom of Under-

graduate Affairs, along with Karen Kern, is primarily responsible for helping students edit their personal statements and process their applications. "It is a really wonderful process," says Effiom. "The students who participate are incredibly motivated, which makes my job so much easier." Her advice to those students who will consider applying for either of these awards in the future is: "Stay committed to what you do, and anything can be accomplished."

## Attention!

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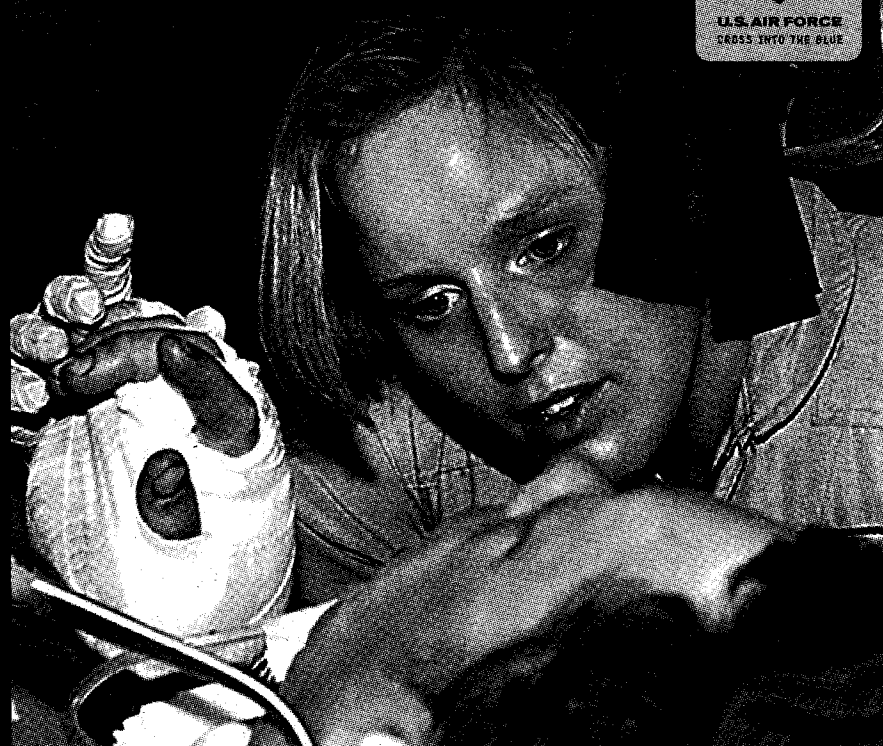


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# Statesman SPORTS

## Women's Lax: Hard fought battle came down to the wire

EUGENE KOZLOVSKY  
Statesman Editor

It was a sunny Tuesday afternoon when Stony Brook's Women's Lacrosse team took on Sacred Heart in a game that came down to the final 30 seconds. In the end, the Seawolves managed to take the victory 12-11. This team is proving to have a lot of promise winning the first three games of the season for the first time in the program's history. This win also gave the Pioneers their first loss as their record dropped to 3-1.

The game had a lot of offense and was close throughout. The Seawolves drew first blood as they took a 2-0 lead on goals by Amy Taylor and Carlee Buck. That didn't mean anything to the Pioneers, however. After exchanging numerous goals with the Seawolves, they scored four unanswered goals giving them a 6-4 advantage. Coming up on the end of the first half, Jill Gridley scored a goal with just 37 seconds cutting the deficit to only one leaving the team focused as they went into the break.

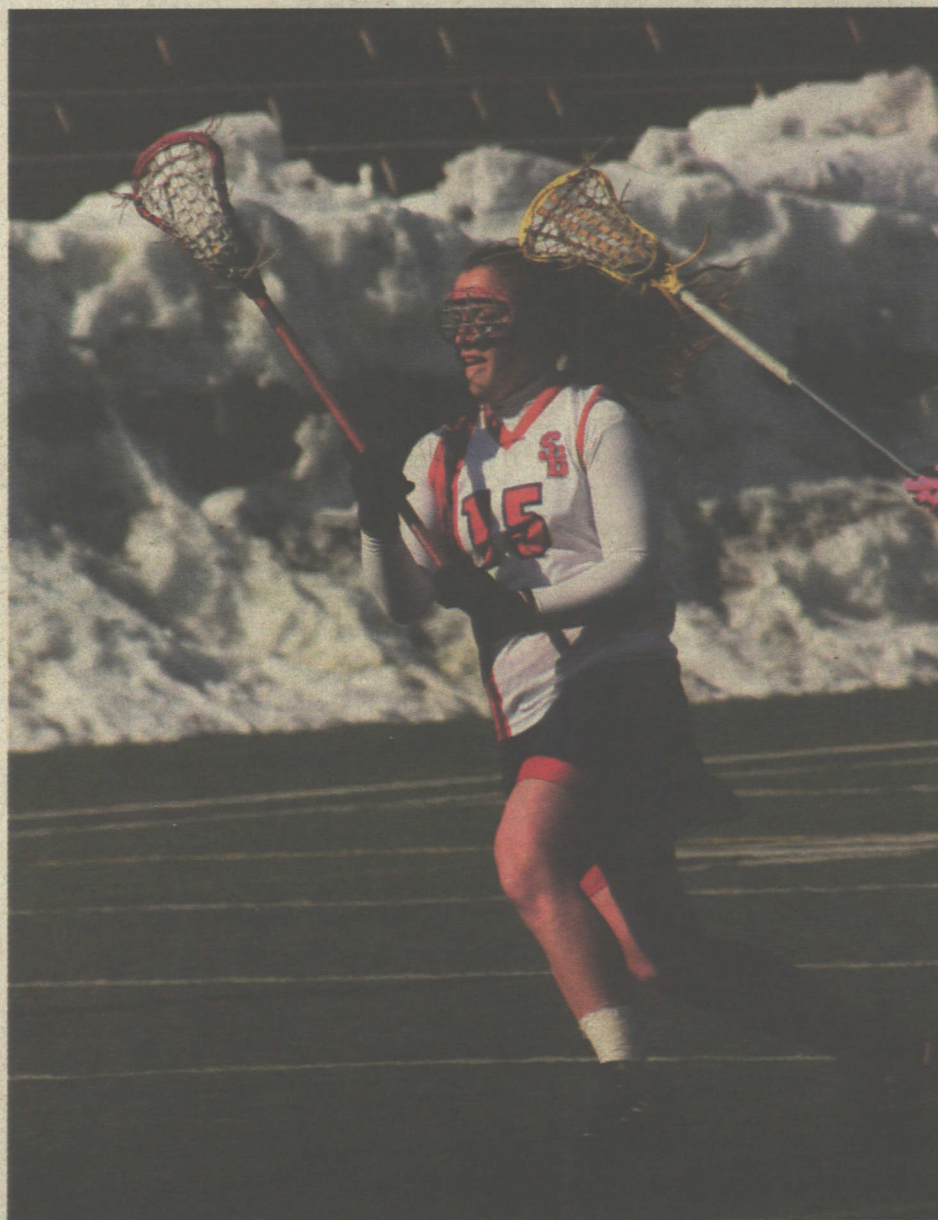
Stony Brook came out of half time tying the game three minutes into the period. This is where the game stood for a while until Sacred Heart answered back to take the one goal advantage once again. The teams alternated goals until they were tied at seven and then things got a bit tricky for the Wolves as the Pioneers dropped in three straight putting them ahead 10-7. This is where

Buck stepped up and scored three goals herself, tying the game. This led to what may have been the game winning goal by Savino with an assist from Buck with 6 minutes to play. The Pioneers, however, weren't planning on going down on home turf that easily and tied the game with just 53 seconds left. After the goal, the Pioneers must have figured the time would expire without a winner but Alexa Milano must have wanted to go home already because she scooped up a ball in front of their net scored the go ahead goal with 23 seconds left to clinch the game.

In a game where seven Seawolves scored, Carlee Buck had a hat trick and then some. She picked up six points on four goals and two assists. Danielle Werner and Katie Savino helped chipped in with two a piece. What turned the game around was the Wolves' aggressiveness in the second half taking 13 shots as opposed to the 9 they took in the first half. They also managed to cut back the Pioneers' shots on goal from 16 to 11.

This team is going places, as they haven't experienced defeat this season. So long as they are on a roll, let's see how long they can keep it up. Their next game is against Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Mass. on the 22nd of March and after one more game, they return to Stony Brook to take on Denver at 4:00 PM on Friday the 25th.

Photo by Nicole Dulmer/Statesman



## Men's baseball takes down Seton Hall

EUGENE KOZLOVSKY  
Statesman Editor

On Wednesday, Stony Brook's Men's Baseball team traveled to Orange, New Jersey to take on Seton Hall, where they took them down 3-2. After coming off a loss, this win, they evened their record to 5-5 and took Seton Hall's down one notch to 3-7.

It was a low scoring game but to keep it close, the Wolves still used 4 pitchers to make sure to come away with the win. Tom Koehler started the game but left after just 0.2 of an inning after facing five batters, giving up a hit, an earned run and a base on balls. Brian Murtagh then took over and kept the Pirates' bats silent until the eighth. By then however, the Seawolves played

a little offense of their own. They scored two runs in the sixth as Andrew Larsen drew a one-out walk. He then moved to second on an errant throw to first. He later came around to score on Matt Devins' double into left field. The Wolves picked up their second run when Nick Theoharis singled Devins home to give the Seawolves a 2-1 lead.

In the top of the eighth,

Larsen once again scored on a combination of hits, a hit batsman topped off with a wild pitch. In the bottom of the frame, Seton Hall threatened by adding a run and cutting the Seawolves lead to only one but that was as close as they would get. In the ninth inning, Nick Abel came in to throw a perfect inning and record his second save of the season. Murtagh was great in relieve

as he went 6.2 innings allowing only one unearned run, giving up six hits and striking out 6. Larsen was an offensive force as he scored to runs as Devins drove in one run while scoring another.

The Seawolves' action continues as they play in the OCYSF Tournament versus Irvine, USC and Nevada in Irvine, CA this weekend.