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Impacting the Learning Experience

Student Faculty Staff Retreat Considers New Plans and Models for **University Development**

BY EMY KURIAKOSE AND MANSOOR KHAN Statesman Editors

In the midst of the spotted autumn forests and sparkling fountains that grace the Harrison Conference Center in Glen Cove, members of the Stony Brook community convened for the 19th Annual Student Faculty Staff Retreat in an overnight program that ran from the eve of Oct. 31 through the following

Approximately 60 students, faculty members and staff attend the event each year. These individuals collaborate and discuss a common theme with the hope of improving different aspects of Stony Brook University. The program is aimed at planning out and impacting the educational experience for Stony Brook students. In the past, ideas brought up at the SFS Retreat have sparked improvements such as Campus Life



During one of the warmest days of November, retreat participants gathered in outdoor meetings to discuss action plans and recommendations for University programs.

Time and SBU 101.

This year s theme was Learning in Community, a concept which focuses on the student experience of learning through a group of peers with close-knit teacher interactions, rather than learning individually. Questions and suggestions raised during the retreat addressed the importance of such small-scale

interactions in a large-scale University community.

"More and more is happening in terms of various kinds of learning communities at Stony Brook," said President Shirley Strum Kenny, who was in attendance with her husband,

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Stony Brook Mat ematician Acclaim

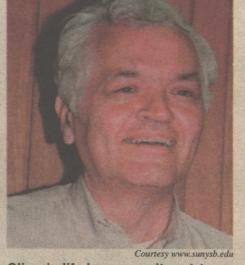
Ground Breaking Research Done at SBU Honored with 2002 Medal of Science

BY EMY KURIAKOSE Statesman Editor

James Glimm, Ph.D., a Stony Brook University mathematician, was honored by President Bush as one of eight leading mathematicians in the United States with the 2002 National Medal of Science. One of the most renowned distinctions in academia, the Medal of Science is awarded to scientists and engineers who have worked to impact their fields through extensive research on new technology, advanced research and development.

"We are very proud of Dr. Glimm," said Shirley Strum Kenny, president of Stony Brook University. "He has done extraordinary work in his field and has helped Stony Brook earn its reputation as a leading research university."

As a professor and Chair of the



Glimm's life-long commitment to research and mathematics earned national

Department of Applied Mathematics at SBU, Glimm was honored for his research in wave shock theory and other related fields in mathematics. His findings came after a career-long commitment to his landmark project, and continuous dedication throughout his time at Stony Brook.

"Science for me is the ultimate

adventure of the human mind," said Glimm, who is also a director of the Center of Data Intensive Computing at Brookhaven National Laboratory. "I am deeply honored by this recognition for my research spanning multiple areas of pure and applied mathematics, theoretical physics, and computation."

Glimm was honored with eight other winners at a White House ceremony on Nov. 6. The medal provides distinction for contributions in innovation, industry, or education.

The professor s contributions to shock wave theory include mathematical models that are developed to explain natural phenomena that exhibit intense compression. Glimm constructed models for crust displacement in earthquakes and other volcanic activity, and theorized models for air pressure changes in a sonic boom. His work as a theorist spans several mathematical foci, including partial differential equations, mathematical

Continued on Page 4

RSP: A

Closer Look

Residential Safety Program, SBU's Efforts to Solidify Safety

By JOLIE PATRICE Statesman Contributor

Late night cramming at the library is a daily routine for many residents and commuters alike. But once the books close and students look up, they find that the night has enveloped the campus. Now, how to get back to that UGA apartment? Simple. Dial RSP at 2-6337.

Founded in the 1980s, RSP, or the Residential Safety Program, was originally part of the police force on campus. Today, it is an independent non-profit organization, funded by the Division of Campus Residences, although it remains affiliated with campus police.

The purpose of RSP is explained through its slogan: "Safety in your community is our mission."

"RSP was founded to have an extra eye and ear on the community," said Emmanuel Jyamfi, program coordinator of RSP.

While RSP is well known on campus for the "walk services," it provides several other services to students as well. RSP workers report broken phones, ensure that building doors are able to close and work during the winter and spring breaks to protect the belongings of students in residence halls. They also assist during homecoming and graduation.

RSP offers services from 12 noon

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The following information has been compiled from The New York Times between 11/3 and 11/7.

THE ECONOMY

Amidst the worst labor slump since World War II, the economy had a bit of reassuring news these past weeks. Last week it was announced that the GDP grew 7.2%, the largest growth rate since 1984. On Friday the Department of Labor announced that over 126,000 jobs were added to the workforce in October, lowering unemployment from 6.1 to 6.0 percent. According to a Reuters poll, economists expected only half that amount of job growth. Over 8.8 million people remain unemployed, with two million of them out of work for 27 weeks or longer.

Democratic presidential hopefuls have been weary of the temporary good news for the economy, while Republicans remain optimistic. "This week, we learned that the economy created more than 286,000 jobs in the last three months. This is the best performance in payroll jobs growth in three years. That is good news for all Americans who are worried about their personal job security," said Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (Rep.-IL).

ABORTION

On Wednesday, President Bush



signed into law a ban on "partialbirth abortion" procedures. The term "partial-birth" was coined by abortion opponents, which describes a dilation and extraction of the fetus often performed during the second trimester. A similar Nebraska ban was struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2000, calling it "too vague." A national ban similar to the one Bush signed into law Wednesday was twice vetoed by President Clinton, President confident this ban will stay, telling reporters that he will "fight the courts." Currently, pre-emptive challenges to this new legislation are in three different district courts.

Howard DEAN CAMPAIGN

Fortyfive million dollars wasn't enough for the Dean Campaign

before primaries get underway in three months. Deciding to decline federal matching funds, totaling nearly \$20 million for the primaries that precede the Nov 4. national election, Howard Dean signed what he called the "Declaration of Independence" in Burlington, Vermont Saturday. Dean supporters were invited to vote to accept or reject federal matching funds in a day-long poll Friday night, with an overwhelming 85% voting to reject what it had foreseen as a spending cap. With President Bush expected to raise more than \$200 million before the election primaries are over, Howard Dean is hopeful to raise well over the \$45 million limit before the democrats finish fighting in the primaries.

This is the first time both major candidates for President will reject federal matching funds since the post-Watergate laws establishing such limits were put into place. John Kerry, another presidential hopeful for 2004, is considering rejecting the matching funds, and The New York Times wrote Saturday that this historic decision by the Dean campaign makes the campaign financing laws look obsolete.

IRAQ

A week after car-bombs killed dozens in Baghdad police stations, more discouraging news came out of Iraq this week. Two helicopters crashed, killing 22 U.S. soldiers. One Black Hawk helicopter was shot down by a rocket propelled grenade, while the other helicopter crash is under investigation. In total, 36 U.S. soldiers died in the first week of November. The Red Cross closed it's Baghdad and Besra offices temporarily, telling officials at CNN conditions in Iraq were "extremely dangerous."



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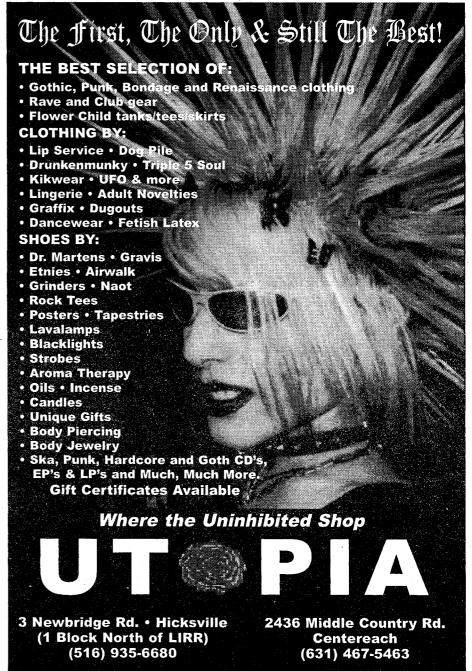
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College News Raymond Damadian Claims a Piece of a Nobel Prize

By RICHARD MONASTERSKY Chronicle of Higher Education

In the world according to Raymond Damadian -- businessman, doctor, and inventor -- he should have a Nobel Prize on his desk.

Dr. Damadian is founder and president of the Fonar Corporation, which makes magnetic-resonanceimaging (MRI) scanners. For three decades, he has been trying to write from history," said Dr. himself into the history books as the father of MRI, and he has had some success. In 1988, he shared a National Medal of Technology for developing the medical scanner, and a decade later won a \$128 million patent lawsuit, one of the largest such awards at the time.

The Karolinska Institute, in Stockholm -- which awards the annual Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine -- takes a different view of the past, however. Last month it honored two other scientists -- Paul C. Lauterbur of

the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Sir Peter Mansfield of the University of Nottingham, in England

-- as the key originators of the imaging technique now used in 60 million examinations every year. The award omitted any mention of Dr. Damadian.

"I've been stricken Damadian. "My life's work has been stricken."

It is not unusual for scientists to feel passed over in October when

the Nobel Prizes are handed out. Seminal discoveries often draw on the contributions of many people who took significant steps that garner no recognition by Stockholm.

Unlike most other Nobel wannabes, though, Dr. Damadian has decided to fight back. Soon after the award announcement, Dr. Damadian and some friends took out full-page ads in The Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times,

the daily newspaper Dagens Nyheter in Stockholm,

and The New York Times. They followed up later in October with two other ads in The New York Times and may place still more. The publicity blitz, which has cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, paid mostly by Dr. Damadian, labels the 2003 prize in medicine as a "shameful wrong" and

makes the case that Dr. Damadian's name should be added to the award.

"We intend to turn the lights on the Nobel committee so that they are accountable for their crimes," Dr. Damadian said.

But is the 2003 award the "shameful wrong" that Dr. Damadian claims it to be? Many scientists say that he has been deceiving himself with his own warped version of history. While they grant that he made an important contribution, most researchers who worked on the early development of MRI say that the Nobel committee picked the correct men.

And Dr. Damadian's protests do not surprise scientists who have watched his 30-year publicity campaign -- which has at times included accusations of intellectual theft against fellow researchers.

"I think he got a bit headstrong after a while and started claiming things that weren't really his," said James M.S. Hutchison, a professor of medical physics at the University of Aberdeen, in Scotland. Hutchison made early contributions to imaging, and his name had also been suggested for the Nobel Prize. Dr. Damadian, he said, "rather set himself up against the academic community in the way he boasted about things."

Pennsylvania State U. Offers Legal File Sharing

The Nobel Peace Prize.

Chronicle of Higher Education

In an effort to curtail unauthorized file-sharing on its campus network, Pennsylvania State University will offer students a legal alternative: free access to Napster 2.0, the recently revived edition of the once-popular music service.

Penn State will pay Napster for networkwide access to the music library, Graham B. Spanier, president of the university, announced this more at a news conference on Thursday. He declined to say how much the fee will be. By January, about 18,000 students with PC's in residence halls across the university system will be subscribed.

Spanier heralded the arrangement as a pilot program for institutions looking to cut piracy and file-trading on their computer networks. "This is a plan which we hope will revolutionize



Courtesy of www.napster.com

Napster comes back in legal file sharing.

the music world," he said. "We believe it will serve as a model for higher education -- both students and universities."

But Spanier said that Penn State is the first institution to pay for students to be able to hear free music online. The university will finance the deal with money from an informationtechnology fee of \$160 that students pay every semester.

Napster, which was forced to shut down in 2001 after legal challenges from the Recording Industry Association of America, re-emerged in late October as an online music library that charges users to download songs and albums. At present, it includes more than 500,000 songs collected from major music labels, and also offers live feeds of Internet radio stations, data about artists, and music charts.

Students at Penn State will be able to listen to streaming audio of songs in the Napster archive or download them for use on up to three computers as long as they are subscribed to the service. For 99 cents, they can download a song permanently, burn it onto a compact disk, or transfer it to a portable MP3

Record labels -- and music libraries like Napster -- hope to wean college students off of underground file-sharing networks and onto legal ones. "We want to encourage a new generation to try using legitimate services," said Mike Bebel, president and chief operating officer of Napster.

But students accustomed to unfettered file sharing might not be satisfied with Napster's downloading fees and limited database of songs, according to Fred von Lohmann, a senior staff attorney for the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a group that has opposed the recording industry in filesharing debates and in court.

"I think the only real long-term solution to piracy will be for the labels to essentially give universities a blanket license that allows students to download whatever they want," he

Lawsuit Over Military Recruiting on Campuses

By ALICE GOMSTYN Chronicle of Higher Education

A federal judge on Wednesday issued rulings that both favored and frustrated each side in a lawsuit over the constitutionality of a law that allows the federal government to withhold funds from colleges that bar military recruiters from their campuses.

The judge, John C. Lifland of the U.S. District Court in Newark, N.J., rejected a Defense Department motion to dismiss the lawsuit, but he refused a request by the plaintiffs -- a coalition of law schools, professors, and students -- to issue an order barring the enforcement of the law while the litigation is pending.

Many law schools in recent years have prohibited or restricted military recruitment on their campuses because they object to the Pentagon's ban on openly gay service members. The lawsuit, which is one of several on

this issue that have been filed since September, argues that by forcing law schools to disregard their own antidiscrimination policies, the federal law -- known as the Solomon Amendment -- inhibits their First Amendment right to free speech.

Judge Lifland said that the Solomon Amendment serves only to "limit conduct, not speech or expression," and that "the presence of the military on campus does not significantly intrude upon the law schools' ability to express their views."

Still, Ken Greenfield, a law professor at Boston College, said on Thursday that he was "heartened" by the court's decision to allow the case to continue.

Greenfield, who is president of the Forum of Academic and Institutional Affairs, a consortium of 15 law schools that is one of the plaintiffs in the case, also trumpeted the court's rejection [T]he Solomon Amendment serves only to "limit conduct, not speech or expression."

of one of the Defense Department's interpretations of the Solomon Amendment.

Pentagon lawyers had argued that the law requires colleges to provide military recruiters with a degree of access to students that is "at least equal in quality and scope" as that provided to other employers. In his ruling, Judge Lifland noted that he had "grave reservations" as to whether such an interpretation could pass legal muster.

"The judge made it clear that the Defense Department has been overreaching in its application of the Solomon Amendment," Greenfield said.

Representatives of the Defense Department did not return calls on

Provisions of the law, which was acted in 1995, were not strictly enforced until 2001, when the Bush administration threatened to pull key federal funds from law schools, including those at Boston College, Boston University, and Harvard University, that had barred military recruiters from their campuses.

Greenfield said his group would appeal the court's decision to deny the request for an injunction against the law. . الما تلا تحالها ما تعريف ما تم ياس به يم تم الما تم يم الما تم يم يم يم يم الما تم الما يم أن ما عالم الما تم

By Mansoor Khan Statesman Editor

What happened? The first "Matrix" was an amazing movie. The second "Matrix" was a letdown, but only because the first movie was so great. "Matrix Revolutions" just...well, sucks. Pretty much everything went downhill from the first movie to the last. The Wachowski brothers seemed a bit too preoccupied with making the series end as dramatically as possible, and less with actually making a good movie.

"Matrix Revolutions" is an action

This movie needed something new, and that's where it really fell short.

movie trying too hard, disguised as a war movie. Early skirmishes between the humans of Zion and machine warriors lead to a pitched battle at the gates of the human underground city.

As the soldiers and citizens defend themselves (complete with the naïve little volunteer militia-boy who forms an emotional bond with the commander of the army), Neo goes off on some metaphysical journey to the center of the machine world, leading to one final winner-take-all showdown with his arch-nemesis, Agent



"Matrix Revolutions," the final piece of the Matrix trilogy, was a disappointment.

Smith.

Throughout the movie, though, there is a feeling that the damage has already been done.

It is difficult to care again for characters who were made to look goofy in "Reloaded." "Revolutions" is a fighting familiarity. The movie's martial arts are in the famous Hong Kong style, same as always, and therein lies a problem. Maybe it's time to see how people fight elsewhere in the world. Maybe it's time for something new

I, for one, can do without another slow-motion shot of someone spinning through the air and firing two handguns at once, as the air fills with flying glass and chipped stucco. It was cool at first, and it's still pretty cool, but it does not a good movie make.

What feeble attempts the movie makes at being epic just turn out to be more cartoonish and juvenile than anything else. Neo becomes some messianic hero, who, even outside the matrix, can exercise superhuman powers, blowing up a thousand machines by looking real hard and squinting, turning his hand counterclockwise and scrunching his nose a little bit. His final battle with Agent Smith looks something like a fight between Superman and his evil twin, Super Old Man. The two fly through the air and cause undue destruction everywhere

they go. What really cuts the cake is the manifestation of the machine world leader, some sort of creepy face formed by a thousand little machines flying around like bugs, speaking in a deep voice that sounds a bit too much like James Earl Jones.

The theme of love is also a bit too rampant in this movie. Love this and love that. I love you Neo. Oh, I love you Trinity. Oh let's kiss and be in love! Okay! It's just so cheesy. You'd think you were watching a soap opera. Speaking of soap operas, everyone in this movie pauses for about six seconds between each line they say (leaving ample time to plug in your own well-placed ad-lib, for the entertainment, or aggravation, of those around you.)

The philosophy in this movie is a bit skewed. There was a random little Indian girl in it. None of the people whom I saw the movie with knew why she was there at all. We're sure it has something to do with the storyline, but we just can't figure it out. We also tried to figure out what exactly is the deal with Neo and Agent Smith, and all that outpouring love randomly intertwined in the movie, but we got bored of the topic after a few minutes.

"Matrix Revolutions" was a letdown. The acting was pretty bad, as expected, and the movie got cheesier by the minute. The action sequences were kind of cool, and the special effects were decent, as expected, but we've all been there and done that. This movie needed something new, and that's where it really fell short.

I give it 2 out of 5 stars.

Mathematician Honored

Continued from Page 1

differential equations, mathematical physics, applied mathematics, quantum statistical mechanics, and operator algebras.

Glimm was a strong advocate for the applied mathematics department at Stony Brook, and was a pivotal figure in establishing it. The department now works in conjunction with other mathematics departments around the nation to collaborate on projects, and Glimm is an active participant in ongoing research at SBU. His work in quantum field theory and statistical mechanics has had a monumental effect on those fields, and has greatly increased understanding and learning within the scientific community.

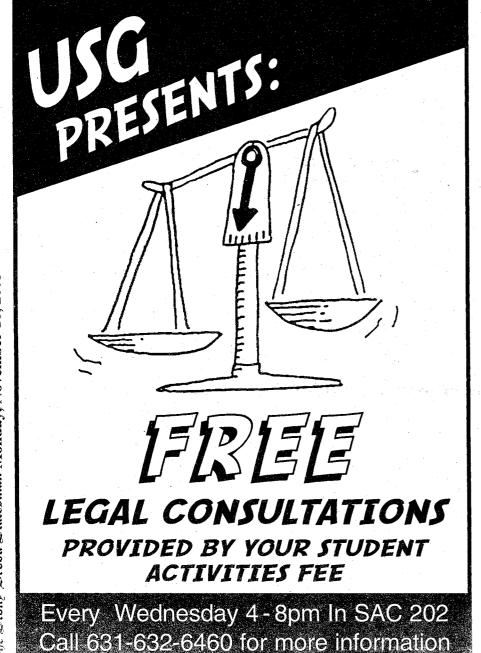
"The ideas and breakthroughs in fundamental science and engineering by these extraordinary pioneers have influenced thousands of other researchers," said Rita Colwell, director of the National Science Foundation. "These amazing people represent overall close to four centuries worth of experience in research, teaching, and leadership inside their fields and extending across many other disciplines as well."

The other winners named by the President are Leo L. Beranek of Cambridge, Mass., a retired leader in acoustical science, who received the medal in engineering; biologists James

E. Darnell of Rockefeller University in New York City, who discovered RNA processing, and Evelyn M. Witkin of Rutgers University, who confirmed the notion of DNA repair; and John I. Brauman of Stanford University who received the award in chemistry. Three other honorees in the physical sciences included Richard L. Garwin at the Council of Foreign Relations in New York City, W. Jason Morgan of Princeton University, and Edward Witten of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey.

"On behalf of the State University of New York community, I congratulate Professor Glimm for receiving the National Medal of Science," said SUNY Chancellor Robert L. King. "Professor Glimm's accomplishment adds luster to the reputation of the University and reflects the high quality of our superb faculty and the high quality of the education we provide our students. I am very proud of Dr. Glimm for receiving this prestigious award."

The National Medal of Science was established by Congress in 1959. The NSF, an independent federal agency that funds and supports fundamental scientific research at the nation's universities, administers the National Medal of Science for the White House. The 2003 awards bring the total number of science medals awarded since their inception to 409.



The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, November 10, 2003

Robert Kenny. "One of the things that students have to learn is the ability to collaborate. It's very important that they learn from each other and are teachers themselves."

Participants were introduced to each other through a number of icebreakers designed to ease any inhibitions they may have held when coming to the retreat. In the spirit of Halloween night, organizers planned a "Guess Who?" contest in which players guessed the name of a popular icon pasted onto their backs. Their only clues came from questions they asked to others who were also lolling for their identities as well.

The atmosphere was very cooperative, and welcomed interaction between all participants. "It was really exciting to meet so many interesting people in such an informal environment," said junior Mira Kinariwala, who currently works as an HIV/AIDS peer

Following the informal sessions and light games, the participants brainstormed together and considered the ways in which community can affect the university learning experience. After splitting into small groups, attendees worked together to create feasible suggestions for implementing their new ideas and models practically.

Groups discussed existing University

programs and considered their impact their experiences in existing Learning on the student learning experience. Faculty, staff and students were able to share ideas in the collaborative setting which emphasized equal input of ideas from all groups that were represented. Discussions resulted in outlines of effective suggestions and programs to implement for the future.

Thomas Cortina, a faculty member in the computer science department, proposed adding a "What to do this weekend?" link to the front page of

...the importance of mentoring, alumni guidance, consistent and personalized advising, shined as crucial necessities in any community of learning.

Stony Brook's main website. This would encourage students to stay on campus during the weekends, he said, providing a direct source for specific events and programs around the University.

The retreat also featured presentations from six Stony Brook students who shared

Communities. Students from the Health Science Major, EOP/AIM program and the Media Arts Living Learning Center addressed the group and highlighted the benefits and details of being members of a community.

Common themes emerged from these presentations, and the importance of mentoring, alumni guidance, consistent and personalized advising, shined as crucial necessities in any community of learning. Several groups even discussed the relevance of physical classroom layouts and its adaptability for group discussions and broadened interactions.

Throughout the months preceding the retreat, a steering committee comprised of students, faculty and staff worked to solidify the structure and organization of the event.

"There was a lot of debate on the layout [of the retreat] because there are so many aspects to learning in community," said Kelly Brown, graduate assistant to the Dean of Students and member of the steering committee. For example, careful consideration of the variety of participants made icebreakers and recreation time essential to insure the relaxed atmosphere.

"We learn together, we eat together, we stay together," said Jerrold Stein, Dean of Students. "It's something that requires us to work together [to] come out with a more fruitful outcome."

Campus RSP

Continued from Page 1

until 3 a.m. Programs sponsored by RSP educate resident students on how to keep themselves safe. Besides providing services to the school, RSP students also participate in campus events, including Spirit Night and the Roth Pond Regatta, in which they placed third last year.

Comprised mainly of students, RSP workers include desk monitors, who check the ID of resident students and their guests, and the walk-unit, on-call primarily at night to walk students from one location to another on campus for safety purposes. RSP supervisors and coordinators include both undergraduate and graduate students. Jyamfi, also known as Manny, oversees all RSP activities.

"It's a chance to get involved," Jyamfi said.

"You get recognition, make connections and the pay is good," said Alton Rondon, assistant coordinator of RSP. "It's like a family, not just a job."

When it comes to hiring, RSP recruiters are stringent on the qualities they seek in an employee. "You can make pocket money and study, but they're so strict," said Deborah, a desk monitor.

According to RSP guidelines, workers are required to have at least a 2.25 GPA and must exhibit good conduct at the University. Supervisors must have at least a 2.5 GPA.

For interested students, RSP can be reached at 631-632-3763.

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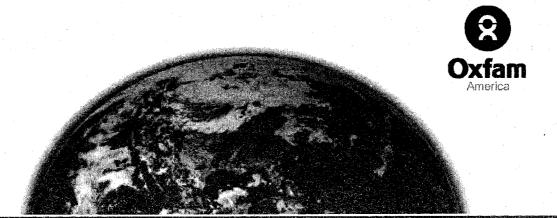
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Commentary

School of Thought: I Am Not My Report Card

By MICHAEL ZANNETTIS Statesman Staff

I go to pick up my seven-year old cousin from school on the day they give out report cards. She hands me her small white paper saying, "Take a look," as we sit down at a long white cafeteria table. I slowly open it, and my cousin opens her big mouth: "I got unsatisfactorys for behavior."

Sure enough, the card read: Follows Directions, "U"; Pays Attention in Class, "U"; Respects Authority, "U."

I slam the report card down hard against the table and say in a loud voice like Charles Heston as Moses: "Dammit, little girl, so help the great Lord above, is all this truth?"

My cousin snarls her little punk face at me and says: "Yeah. So?"

"Get over here!," I beckon, pointing to the ground right in front of me. "Repeat after me: I am not my report card!"

S h e repeats: "I am not my report card."

" M y grades do not tell me who I am. I tell myself who I am."

S h e repeats: "My grades do not tell me who I

am. I tell myself who I am."

"That's my girl! Come give your cousin a kiss."

I hold her in a hug. "So you don't listen to your teachers?"

She tells me no. I hug her harder.

"That's my girl."

Her friends sitting around the table begin repeating: "I am not my report card. I am not my report card. My grades do not tell me who I am. I tell myself who I am."

That was last year...

Brandon puts his homework on the table; he looks up to me, yawning. "Hey kid, whatsup?," I mumble under my breath. Here I am, in a Spanish classroom, on Tuesday afternoon to tutor a twelve-year old that gets B's instead of A's. I have no degree or training in teaching, tutoring or mentoring. But that's perfectly fine because I think school is stupid anyway and I hate class. So who better to teach a little kid to be a great student?

"What do you got there, kid?' I ask Brandon.

"My homework."

"Homework sucks. I hate homework." He looks up to me, confused.

"Me too," he replies, still confused, but looking like he just took the bait.

"I never did it when I was your age. I just spent all my time hanging out, or sleeping, or chasing girls?"

Brandon smiles for a second, still unsure. "Did you catch any?"

"If I was good at catching I wouldn't be spending so much time chasing."

Brandon smiles at the simple, but silly logic. He's small for his age so the kids call him "shorty" or "midget." He tells me this sincerely, and I see that he is confiding in me.

"Not very original of them. But hey, you never get to choose your own name. It's the way it goes. You think I like being called Michael every day?"

"Yes."

I have no degree or training in

teaching, tutoring or mentoring.

But that's perfectly fine because I

think school is stupid anyway and

I hate class. So who better to teach

a little kid to be a great student?

"Well I don't. It's stupid. It's the name everyone else had. I want to be original."

He asks me what name I want.

"Orion. Now that's a name. A hunter; the only constellation I could see growing up in light polluted Queens." I'm serious. I wish my name were Orion.

"Do you have any nicknames?"

"I have all sorts of nicknames, all correct. 'Idiot,' cause I'm an idiot. 'Ugly,' cause I'm ugly. And 'Moose,' cause I'm dumb and smell bad."

"You don't smell bad," Brandon replies sincerely.

I think he likes

"Thanks, that means a lot to me," I reply. "So what do they teach you in school anyway?"

"Umm..."
Brandon says
out loud as he
tries to put the
list together in

his head. "Science, social studies, math, English."

"No," I interrupt him. "Those are subjects. What are you learning?"

"Oh, how to speak English, how to..." Brandon keeps talking, but I'm not paying attention. I'm thinking about a girl. Or something.

"They teach you how to fight?," I ask. "They teach you how to eat if you were lost in the forest? They teach you how to make pizza? They teach you cooking, cleaning, vacuuming, ironing? Any of that?"

"No."

"No? How do they expect you to go into the real world not knowing how to do all that stuff?"

"I guess you're supposed to learn that stuff at home, or on your own."

"Why don't you learn English and social studies at home?"

"Because my parents aren't teachers."

"Neither am I," I tell him.

We're stuck at another silly juncture of perfect logic. I'm not a teacher, but here I am every Tuesday helping with his homework. Brandon and I confused ourselves. His homework is still sitting on the table in front of us. I pick up a page. The difference between chemical changes and physical changes...like anyone cares.

"You like this stuff Brandon?"

"No," he says smiling broadly.

"Good, neither do I. Who cares really? Of all the things that matter in this world, I mean, really?" One day they'll lock me up for this. Ten years to life for being a moron in the first degree. Ten years to life for believing that I am not my report card.

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For more information about this event, please contact Theresa Kim, Director of Asian Performing Arts Series, at (631) 632-4106 or the Wang Center at (631) 632-4400, or log on to www.stonybrook.edu/wang.

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In 2002, The Stony Brook Statesman became the first newspaper in the history of the Newsday Journalism Awards to be recognized in five different categories. The contest's previous record for the most awards won by a single organization was four. It was set by The Stony Brook Statesman in 2001.



Peter Sunwoo is a nonscience major at SBU.



Groundbreaking films for special effects like "The Matrix" primarily use pulleys, wires, green rooms and computer graphics to take jaw-dropping footage. But who really wants to shoot a whole film in a big green studio anyways? Ron Howard gave new meaning to the term "groundbreaking special effects" in his film, "Apollo 13." You could even call it gravity breaking.

I remember watching the two time Academy Award winning movie in the theaters and found myself awestruck by the anti-gravity shots of the crew gracefully flying and sweeping throughout the shuttle. Now, I thought Tom Hanks was light on his feet when playing the gigantic piano in the movie "Big," but this definitely takes the cake. Initially, I thought they used the same old green room tricks. But not so, my friends, not

Basically, being Ron Howard and all, the auspicious director extraordinaire was able to rent a special aircraft called KC-135 from NASA. Who said celebrities can't get their hands on anything?

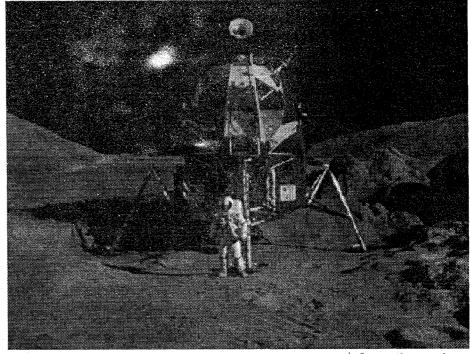
The KC-135 is a special aircraft specifically designed to fly in parabolic flight patterns. Depending on where the positioning of the aircraft is, the force of gravity varies. During certain positions of the flight, there can be an absence of gravity, where as in other positions the force of gravity is two to three times as

To give a visual perspective, let us refer to the diagram.

In the first position, as the plane

flies upward, the force that is exerted on everything in the plane grows to a level greater than the force of gravity because of the plane's acceleration forces. This is where gravity's force becomes twice as strong. In fact, you may have experienced this on a roller coaster as it came to the bottom of a hill and quickly began another upward climb. As that scooping arc begins, your neck muscles can barely lift your head! Many of us have experienced similar forces during takeoff in a plane.

In the second position, there is a transitional period where the plane begins to arc, pulling out of the upward path and into the downward path. It is during this period that everything in the plane experiences about 30 seconds of "free fall," similar to the briefer experience that one has when going over a hill in a roller coaster. This period of free fall is called the microgravity phase. During this phase, the force of gravity is effectively cancelled out by the forces produced by the plane's movement, and everything in the plane begins to float... everything including cameras, production crew, and Ron Howard. To counteract

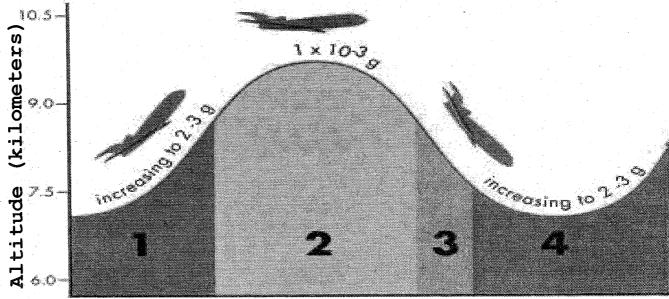


Courtesy of www.google.com

The KC-135 simulates the anti-gravity effects of outer space during its parabolic flight.

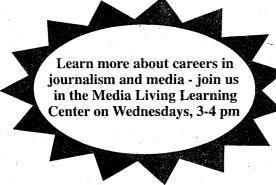
this, everything was bolted down and special seats were used to strap in all non-actors.

In the third position, the plane travels downward and gravity begins to slowly take control. It's a good thing Howard used talented actors that don't require many takes, since the process is time consuming, costly, and downright nauseating.



This figure depicts the parabolic flight of the NASA KC-135. Period two is where the 30 seconds of anti-gravity occurs.

Weekly Video Series

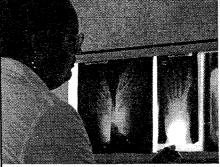


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Stony Brook Nabs A Win Over Central Connecticut



The Stony Brook Seawolves celebrate their exciting comeback victory over the Central Conneticut Blue Devils.

By DANA GOMI Statesman Editor

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The Stony Brook Seawolves outshined the Central Connecticut Blue Devils in the final minutes, pulling off a 36-31 victory on Nov. 8 at LaValle Stadium. This brings the Seawolves' record to 5-4, 4-3 in conference action, while the Blue Devils fell to 3-7, 2-4.

"I was very proud of our football team," said coach Sam Kornhauser. "We fell behind but never lost hope and never felt that the game was out of reach."

The Blue Devils' rushing attack, and running back Cory Harge dominated the first half of the game. But T.J. Moriarty kept the Seawolves alive, trying to score in any way possible. "T.J. is as tough a competitor as I have seen around," said Kornhauser. "He radiates an air of confidence and it permeates through the rest of the team. When your quarterback is tough, everyone has to step up. He leads by example and has a great

> you down. Statesman

disposition for the game."

Moriarty managed a 17-yard touchdown pass to Londre Blocker and an 8-yard touchdown of his own. But this didn't stop the Blue Devils. Harge's touchdown runs of 79 and 45 yards helped the Blue Devils to a 28-16 lead at halftime.

The winning touchdown capped a 15-point second half comeback that saw the Seawolves score twice in the final minutes of the game. With the Seawolves behind 31-23, Clinton Graham caught a pass deep in Blue Devils' territory and drove it four yards for a touchdown, bringing the score to 31-29.

An attempted two-point conversion failed, leaving the Seawolves in need of a big stop from its defense on the next possession. With the Blue Devils facing a third-and-one, Seawolf Billy Buntin stopped Harge in backfield, forcing the Blue Devils to punt. Three game, giving the Sea wolves a 36-31 win over the Blue Devils. Moriarty's four passing touchdowns of the night also helped the Seawolves pull off their win over the Blue Devils. "This second half comeback was a defining

plays later, Moriarty attacked Blocker on a 43-yard scoring strike, with just 1 minute remaining in the

moment for our 2003 football year," Kornhauser said. "Our goal was to play with passion and play as a team. We needed to pull together for 60 minutes. At halftime I reminded the team that last week we scored 30 points in a half vs. Sacred Heart and that it could be done. I felt that there was no panic and everyone knew it would be hard but it could be done."

The Seawolves have been on a roll as of late, beating Sacred Heart last weekend and now Central Connecticut. With one game left against Iona, they hope for another victory to end the season on a good note. However, according to Kornhauser, such a win may not come very easily. "Iona is going to present many challenges for us. However I feel our guys really want to end this on a good note and will work very hard this week to achieve that goal."

The Seawolves visit the Iona Gaels on Saturday Nov 15 in Iona for their last season game. Kickoff starts at 1 p.m.

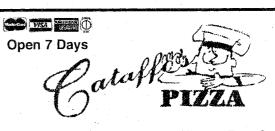


Londre Backer, pictured, scored on a 17-yard touchdown pass during the game.



FROM RABBI ADAM

We all have two inclinations: one for good and one for bad. It's like we have these two voices always involved in our decision making process. Sometimes, it's easy to decipher which voice to follow, for one is obviously coming from selfishness, our "bad inclination." Other times it can be quite confusing, for they both seem equally "good." Such was the dilemma of Rabbi Menachem Nachum, the Rebbe of Chernobyl. He was very poor and was forever pressed to feed his household. One day he was presented with a gift of 300 rubles. Soon after, a Chassid came to seek the Rebbe's advice. He was deeply in debt and in dire financial straights. When the Rebbe heard that the Chassid's needs amounted to exactly 300 rubles, he concluded that the 300 ruble gift was not destined for his own family, but rather, for this man. "However," the Rebbe related, "as soon as I decided to give away the 300 rubles, another thought entered my mind: Is it proper to give the entire sun to a single individual? Why, such an amount could support at least 6 families! I found myself in a dilemma. Both options seemed righteous. Upon contemplation, I came to recognize that these two options were coming from two "voices" within me, and the argument to divide the money among a number of families was not coming from the good voice. For if this was indeed my "good inclination," why didn't he speak up immediately? But no, this voice spoke within me only after I decided to give away the entire sum! This gave him away. For when I first assumed that the entire sum was meant for me, he was silent. Only after, when I was about to give it away, did he wake up. Obviously, he did not say, "Keep the money!" oh no, he knew that I would recognize such a desire as selfish and reject it immediately. So instead, he comes with an utterly pious and logical suggestion - anything to prevent me from



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