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Wang Center on the Forefront of Modern Education

By KELLY BROWN
Statesman Staff

The construction costs of the Charles B. Wang Asian-American Center were originally estimated at \$25 million, but that total appears to increase by the day. The cost of the building has grown exponentially with its size, which stands now at a volume of three-quarters of a million cubic feet.



Statesman/Jeffrey Javidfar

Sculpted Chinese zodiac heads will spout water into a pool adjacent to the main entrance of the Center.

Computer Associates International, Inc. (CA) Chairman and CEO Charles B. Wang is funding the project with what is the largest private endowment in the history of the SUNY system.

"This gift represents a major step forward for multi-cultural education at the University," Stony Brook President Shirley Strum Kenney said. "The generosity of Mr. Wang means that Stony Brook will be alone among major universities in having a dedicated center specifically built to meet the unique

technological requirements of advanced cross-cultural programs."

The concept was presented in 1996 as a meeting of Asian architectural style and Western construction materials, like brick and stucco.

"It's designed to be very experiential," Dexter Chen of P.H. Tuan, one of the architectural firms leading the project, said. "He [Wang] wants to make this building feel large so that visitors can spend an entire day here exploring nooks and crannies."

The facility is situated on a four-acre site adjacent to the Staller Center for the Performing Arts. It is slated for completion in September of this year, but even the designers have acknowledged that this expectation may be unrealistic, though the work is cited as 90 percent finished.

The Wang Center is filled with large open spaces, winding stairwells, and exotic water structures. Near the south entrance of the building, bronze-cast Chinese Zodiac heads, with waterfall mouths, are situated over a small pond where a conceptual topographic map of Asia will eventually be created. A hall directly off of the east entrance boasts a large still water pond.

"It's a wonderful space," Chen said.

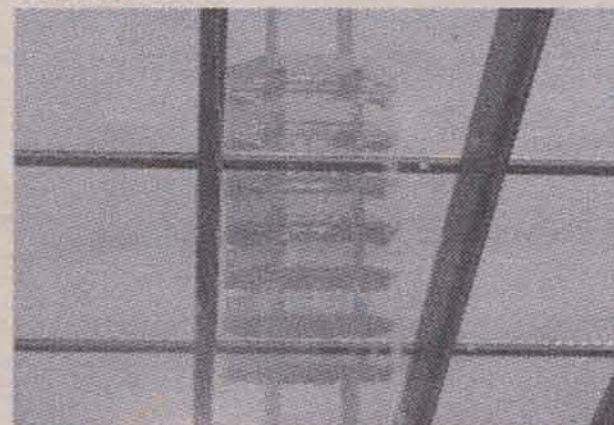
There are several art galleries in the building, a 300-seat theatre with a projection booth, and a marriage chapel. Two massive octagonal windows behind the theatre's stage provide ample lighting for performances—at least on sunny days. The walls of the small chapel will be textured with a bamboo design.

Two high-tech lecture halls will offer the latest

in fiber-optic technology, allowing for transmission of data and real-time video during teleconferences. Rooms on the third and fourth floors are multi-use, and will probably house a variety of meetings and events.

The food court can service 300 people and will offer Asian cuisine at eight kiosks near the west entrance of the Center. The food court opens onto the terrace, where a lush Asian garden will be planted for visitors to enjoy.

"The Asian American Center will be the catalyst for numerous academic, technical, cultural, and business initiatives," Wang said. "When participants have a greater understanding of each other's history and culture, such programs will always have a better chance of success."



Statesman/Jeffrey Javidfar

The pagoda sculpture atop the center, as viewed from the interior second floor, looks differently depending upon the amount of light present and the angle of the sun.

Governor Visits SBU, Promises Jobs, Progress

By JEFFREY JAVIDFAR
Statesman Editor

New York State Comptroller H. Carl McCall visited the campus last spring as he was campaigning for the Democratic nod in the gubernatorial race. Now that McCall has secured his spot, New York State Governor George E. Pataki is beginning to look to him as a serious challenger. On the eve of the general campaign season, Pataki made his first-ever visit to Stony Brook University.

Friday, August 2, in the Student Activities Center lobby, Governor announced plans for a \$230 million Long Island Center for Excellence in Wireless Internet and Information Technology at Stony Brook. Although the visit to campus was not an official campaign stop, the Center's potential to create up to 1,000 new high-tech jobs and a potential for thousands more down the line carried political undertones.

"This is tremendous news for Long



Courtesy of www.google.com

Pataki paid SBU a visit to announce plans for a new campus technology center.

Island and all of New York State," Pataki said. "The Center of Excellence at Stony Brook will bring thousands of good-paying, high-tech jobs to Long Island, while further enhancing the region's leadership role in the field of

information technology."

The global news and technology group, Reuters Group PLC, will be a principal participant in this endeavor, as it plans on making New York State one of its major global developmental centers.

"Reuters is proud to be a part of the creation of the Center of Excellence at Stony Brook University," said Glenn Wasserman, Senior VP of Development for Reuters America Inc. "This new center illustrates New York's growing stature as a major hub of technological innovation...[this] has contributed to our decision to make New York one of our major global development centers in the future."

This may bode well for a state that is still trying to regenerate revenue, rebuild its business infrastructure, and simply recover following the tragedies of Sept. 11, 2001.

Construction on a new 100,000 square foot structure that will be built to

house the Center may begin as early as the end of this year. The state-of-the-art facility will contain a cyber-security lab, an emerging wireless technologies lab, a computer networking lab, a computational sciences lab, clean-rooms and workforce training room.

Continued on Page 10

Index

Wang Center.....	1
Pataki.....	1, 10
Bridge Demolition.....	2
Alumni Survey.....	3
Summer Polity.....	3, 10
U.S. Open.....	12
Science News.....	5
Commentary.....	6, 7, 14
Entertainment.....	14, 22
Sports.....	24

Troubled Bridge Over Union Demolished

By MICHELLE PIRRAGLIA
Editor Emeritus

Due to years of deterioration and hazardous conditions, the administration at Stony Brook University ordered for the demolition of the bridge, which connected the Student Union to the Melville Library.

"Over the years we've had to make many repairs to keep [the bridge] from falling apart," said Lou Rispoli, who heads the Facilities Design and Construction department at the University. "In the past they must have used a lot of salt on top, which corroded the concrete from the inside."

Facilities Design & Construction is located in Suffolk Hall on South Campus, and is comprised by a team of architects, a civil engineer, construction managers, estimators, construction inspectors, contract administrators, designers, drafters and support personnel.

Their work involves coordinating capital project requests, design and construction, development and revision of the campus Master Plan. The team also manages oversight of projects to ensure conformance with bid documents and design drawings, and ensures work is completed in compliance with SUNY and SBU regulations and standards.

The project to remove the bridge began on May 23, and is the solution that Michael Klein, manager of Parking and Transportation department, feels is a positive step towards revitalizing the campus.

"Opening up the area is very beneficial," Klein said. "The structure closed things in. Now that it's opened up, it should be more inviting."

The bridge has had severe problems in recent years, according to Rispoli, who stated debris would sometimes fall from the structure.

"There were some incidents in front of the Union where chunks of concrete were falling down," Rispoli explained. "Since I've been here, we've done

three repairs underneath the bridge."

After the administration approved the demolition project, Rispoli and his team went through the traditional process of putting out a bid for a contractor.

"A plan was created by our architects and engineers, then we put a bid out, and the contractor was determined in April," Rispoli said. "The outside contractors came in and we've overseen them."



Courtesy of fsnt.gis.sunysb.edu/FDC
The bridge connecting the Melville Library and the Union was demolished after many years of structural difficulties.

Klein said he believes the destruction of the bridge will have little effect on traffic in the area.

Due to the construction, Center Drive was closed. This move meant rerouting all traffic on campus. But Klein believed the destruction of the bridge would have little impact on travel through the area.

"There will be very small impact in terms of parking and transportation, as the area is only slightly used," Klein said prior to initiation of the project.

Temporary bus stops were put in place until the road reopened, but all loading docks were accessible for local deliveries.

Pedestrian traffic was being rerouted around the construction site.

The demolition was part one of a two-part project to renovate the surrounding area of the Student Union, according to Klein. The parking lot near the Stadium was also redone in order to add more spaces for commuter students.

"We'll be renovating the Stadium student parking area, which will benefit commuter students," Klein said. "We're integrating academic needs along with athletics on campus."

The Facilities Design and Construction website states, "In order to increase parking capacity the northern most section of the lot will be renovated. Included in this project are the parking areas south, west and north of the Student Health Center. The parking lot construction will begin on May 20 and has an anticipated completion date of August 15, 2002."

Now that the bridge is gone, concerns as to whether it will be more difficult for handicapped students to get around were addressed, Klein said, adding that he believes accessibility will not be a problem in the area.

"We worked closely with Student Disability Services," Klein said. "We've looked at ways to improve the crossing, and I don't see it as a problem."

Rispoli added that improvements would be made.

"We'll be dropping the curb so [handicapped] students can go from one side to the other," Rispoli said of the crosswalk improvements in June. The curb has since been altered and made accessible.

"We're also repairing all the paths that lead to the Staller Center and Library," he added.

No injuries were reported during the demolition, and the area was reopened in late June.

"We were originally scheduled for six weeks of work," Rispoli said of the faster-than-expected demolition. "It went very well."

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Survey Gives Alumni Association New Direction

By KELLY BROWN
Statesman Editor

The Stony Brook Alumni Association Board of Directors held its Summer Session meeting Saturday, June 22. The Board, comprised of past graduates of the University, holds quarterly gatherings and separate committee meetings to discuss fundraising and planning for events like Homecoming, reunions, and awards ceremonies.

The agenda for June 22 included the transfer of the Board Presidency from Mark Snyder to Jane Knapp and the induction of several new members. But the crux of the meeting was a presentation given by Professor Leonie Huddy of the Political Science department.

Huddy was hired by the Board to conduct a survey among 1,000 Stony Brook alumni to examine the differences in responses between university donors and non-donors. The Alumni Association is struggling to augment and fortify its donor base, which falls far below that of many other state universities around the country.

"The news is not great," Huddy



Statesman/Jeffrey Javidfar

At the quarterly meeting, incoming Alumni Association President Jane Knapp, flanked by outgoing President Mark Snyder (left) and Director Tim Kenney (right), applauds the survey presentation.

admitted. "But there are some indications for areas of improvement. There is a glimmer of hope out there."

According to the survey, enthusiasm for the University was highest among recent graduates—a group whose pocketbooks tend to be a bit more shallow than their older, more established counterparts. The responses of donors were more positive than those of non-donors. Huddy examined several areas that the Association might target to help its cause.

alumni, is not widely read. A majority of respondents said that they only skim the articles, if they open the magazine at all.

Huddy suggested that the Alumni Association has not been attuned to the topics its audience most values.

"Most people were like, 'I don't know much [about the University], but that's fine,'" Huddy said, and encouraged the Board to figure out what it can do to interest and involve people.

The alumni website, too, scored low marks in the survey. Very few of those

interviewed said they had visited the site, which will soon be under different management and will offer more options and perks to its users.

Another area explored was participation in University programs and events. 18 percent said they had attended a sporting event on campus after graduating, and 13 percent told the interviewer they had participated in the annual Homecoming.

There was high interest among the respondents in topical seminars and professional development programs held on campus as well. Working with local students, another option presented to the interviewees, also garnered a strong positive reaction.

Board members were frustrated by the results of the survey, but acknowledged that they had at least established some of the groundwork for moving forward in building a donor culture among alumni. Several cited the curious lack of indebtedness felt by graduates toward the University.

"They think they did it [succeeded] in spite of Stony Brook instead of because of it," Board member James Keneally said.

Preston Places Student Polity in Receivership

By JEFFREY JAVIDFAR
Statesman Editor

After three years of infighting, turmoil and deadlock, Student Polity Association, Inc. has been placed in receivership, losing its ability to administer the student activity fee. Polity, which exists to represent the various residence halls, clubs, and student organizations on campus, now stands on the cusp of permanent decertification if certain goals are not reached during the Fall 2002 semester.

The decision to place Polity in what is being called a "temporary receivership" was made by Vice President for Student Affairs, Fred Preston, Ed.D. One of Preston's many responsibilities at Stony Brook is distribution of the multimillion dollar student activity fee.

"It is my understanding that Dr. Preston has put SPAB under receivership," said Jim Driscoll, a member of the Commuter Student Association and a Polity Senator.

"He's taking the student activity fee for the summer and has formed a committee to distribute the money."

The Interim Student Activity Fee Planning Committee has been ordained by Preston to appropriate funds from the student activity fee and to plan for beginning of the year activities as well as dole out money to clubs and organizations based previous years' budget patterns.

The interim committee is comprised of members from different segments of the campus population, and was established to ensure that SBU students have activities when they arrive in late August. Preston intends for the committee to work until the end of the fall semester, at which point he will be forced to decide the future of Polity.

If Polity and Preston are not on the same page by then, one potential action is the decertification of Student Polity, and the creation of a new student body government to distribute the student activity fee.

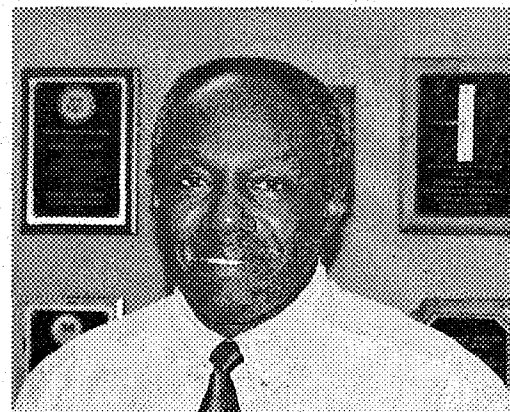
"[This] alternative is so onerous I can't entertain it for even a minute," Preston said of the decertification possibility.

Preston explained that the move towards receivership was brought on by two years of "Polity leadership problems," specifically after Polity's failure to accomplish the three tasks spelled out in a February 25 memo to then Interim President Akelia Lawrence.

Preston had asked Polity to appoint a Judiciary, correct a range of serious problems and contradictions

in its constitution "as it relates to election procedures, budget allocation and balance of power," and complete the elections that were supposed to have taken place April of 2001.

Preston referenced an earlier memo to Lawrence from the Fall 2001 semester, in which the same internal problems were cited. He had set the deadline for the completion of



Statesman/Jeffrey Javidfar

Fred Preston, Ed.D. was recently recognized as a 'Pillar of the Profession.'

the tasks for April 30, 2002.

But Polity spent the entire academic year without an elected President, and Lawrence, who entered the year as the Vice President, eventually assumed the title of Interim President. A Constitutional Committee was

Continued on Page 10

At Bethpage Black, More than One Big Winner SBU Students Volunteer in Fight Against Cancer

By BRAD JERSON
Statesman Staff

Tiger Woods may have pocketed \$1 million after dominating the competition at the 102nd US Open at Bethpage State Park this past June, but there were many lesser known winners who shined at the four day golf championship.

The massive planning of the past several years culminated in a tremendous turnout and spectacle of media attention for "Bethpage Black," the first "truly public golf course to ever host the US Open."

For the 16th consecutive year, the U.S. Open was a sellout, with 42,500 tickets sold for each day of the Championship. Joining Woods were 155 other professional and amateur golfers from all over the world.

Amidst the rush to "track the Tiger," however, spectators often paid little attention to the people working hard to make them happy: the vendors.

Some Stony Brook students had the privilege of volunteering during the US Open for Prom Catering, a Minnesota based company that managed the sale of refreshments

during the tournament.

Aside from obtaining a completely free pass into the US Open, volunteers for Prom contributed to a great cause by counting money, pouring drinks, and wrapping burgers. Prom arranged for many local charities to supply volunteers in return for a portion of the funds raised from the refreshment sales.

The Stony Brook chapter of Students Putting an End to Cancer (SPEC) teamed up with the Cancer Center for Kids at Winthrop University Hospital to contribute to the more than 700 volunteers

representing the Center.

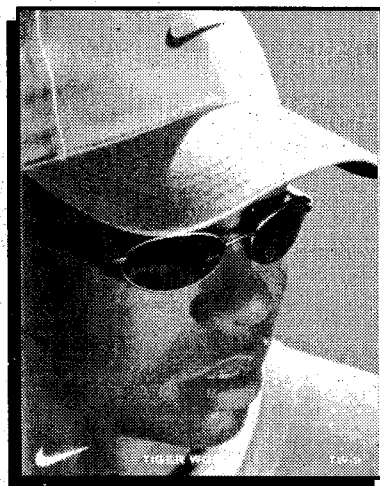
Nearly 40 Stony Brook students took advantage of the opportunity by working as volunteers at the Driving Range, Clubhouse, and Triangle Court concession stands throughout the week.

"It was definitely worth it," sophomore Adrienne Krone said. Krone flew down from the Buffalo area to volunteer for two days. "How often does someone have a chance like this? We got to be part of a great event while helping out a

Continued on Page 12



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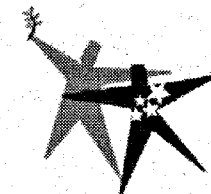
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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Distinguished Teaching Professor

Students and faculty are invited to submit nominations of faculty for promotion to the rank of **Distinguished Teaching Professor**

Stony Brook's Selection Committee requires that candidates for this honor be prior recipients of the President's/Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and be involved in developing and promoting excellence in didactic methods and principles in their disciplines on the national or regional level. Successful nominees will also have a record of extensive interaction with students beyond the traditional classroom setting.

FIRST, Nomination Forms must be received by **September 27, 2002**

SECOND, Nomination Packets must be received by **November 18, 2002**

and should consist of ten copies of each: a one-page letter supporting the nomination, an up-to-date and detailed vita, letters of support from individuals within the University and the names and addresses of other individuals who would be able to supply additional information about the nominee's qualifications, major achievements and contributions that deserve recognition. List of eligible professors and nomination forms are available on the web at:

www.sunysb.edu/pres/pres

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call Ms. Regina Funaro @ 632-7016

Please send the nomination form and/or packets as appropriate to:

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New Monkey Species Named After SBU Researcher

By MICHELLE PIRAGLIA
Editor Emeritus

It was mainly monkey business for Stony Brook University last week. A new species of the Callicebus, or titi monkey, was recently discovered in Brazil. The animal was named Callicebus stephennashi after Dr. Stephen Nash, a faculty member and research associate in the Stony Brook Department of Anatomical Sciences.

"Two new species were found," Nash said of the discovery, which was made by Dr. Marc van Roosmalen, a primatologist at Brazil's National Institute for Amazon Research. "One was named after Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands."

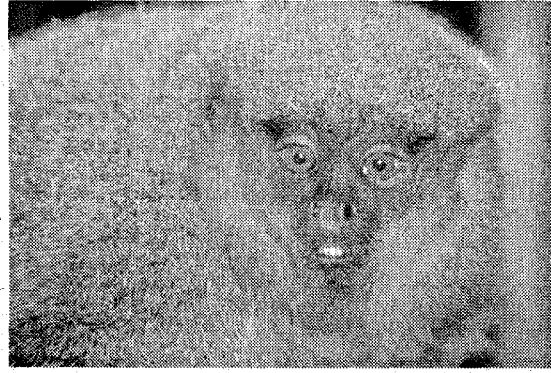
The other species was named after Nash, as a tribute to the 20 years of conservation work he has done with Dr. Russell Mittermeier at SBU.

In 1982, Mittermeier asked Nash, who graduated from the Royal College of Art in London, to come to the United States to work with him as scientific illustrator at SBU.

"I came straight from graduating," Nash said. "It was my first time abroad and I've been working with Dr.

Mittermeier ever since."

Conservation International, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that supports innovations in science to protect the Earth's regions of plant and



Courtesy of www.google.com

A new species of the Callicebus monkey was discovered by Dr. Roosmalen of SBU.

animal diversity, made the announcement of the discovery June 24.

Titi monkeys are about the size of small cats. They live in the South American tropical forests in small family groups of a mated pair and their offspring. Twenty-eight species, each with unique and colorful fur patterns, are now known to throughout the Amazon basin and the Atlantic forest of eastern Brazil.

"They're very endearing animals," Nash said of the species. "They mate

for life and live in family groups."

Stephen Nash's titi monkey is silver in color, with a black forehead and red sideburns, chest, and inner limbs. Because local fishermen brought the animal to van Roosmalen's Breeding Center for Endangered Wildlife in Manaus, Brazil, it is uncertain exactly where the monkey lived. Van Roosmalen believes it came from the eastern bank of the Rio Purús in Central Amazonia.

"Even though our closest living relatives, the primates, have been very well-studied for the past four decades, we are once again surprised by the discovery of even more species," Mittermeier said. "It proves how much we still need to learn about biological diversity, especially in the tropical rainforests."

Van Roosmalen is continuing his research in the Amazon, according to a statement he made in a recent press release.

"I am currently using my new discoveries to convince the Brazilian government to create nature reserves in the areas where I have found these species and where others, yet unknown

to science, are likely to live," van Roosmalen said.

Nash described van Roosmalen's method of discovering a new species.

"He doesn't go with a tranquilizer gun and shoot them out of the trees," Nash explained. "I stayed with him a couple of years ago. He finds a baby monkey for sale as pets in the Indian villages. He has huge cages in his yard, and some of the animals roam freely around the yard."

Nash believes that by naming the two newly discovered species after two people who come from very different backgrounds, but have both contributed to conservation, provides a positive message about nature preservation.

"Dr. van Roosmalen is sending a message that everyone has a role to play in conservation," Nash said.

Prince Bernhard, a noted naturalist, will receive a special portrait of his monkey by Nash, who is a scientific illustrator for Conservation International. Nash not only illustrates primates, but creates posters and educational materials as well.

Nash and his wife, who also works

Continued on Page 12

Study Gives New England Air Quality Low Rating

By MANSOOR KHAN
Statesman Editor

The people of New England breathe some of the worst air in the entire country, and researchers want to know why.

In conjunction with numerous other organizations, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is spending the summer in the region, conducting intense experimentation that will hopefully answer this question.

The experiments are being run during the months of July and August. The "New England Air Quality Study" was partially initiated by the NOAA-funded Atmospheric Investigation, Regional Modeling, Analysis and Prediction (AIRMAP) project, and involves more than 20 partner institutions.

The NOAA's largest research vessel, Ronald H. Brown, is sailing the waters of New England this summer in order to monitor the existence and movement of air pollutants throughout the region.

"This is a rare opportunity. You don't get a large research vessel situated off the coast like this very often, because we don't tend to study our own pollution very much," Robert Talbot, Director of the AIRMAP Cooperative Institute, explained.

The studies involve use of the latest and most accurate technologies. "With the combined capabilities of several NOAA research laboratories and our university colleagues, we have

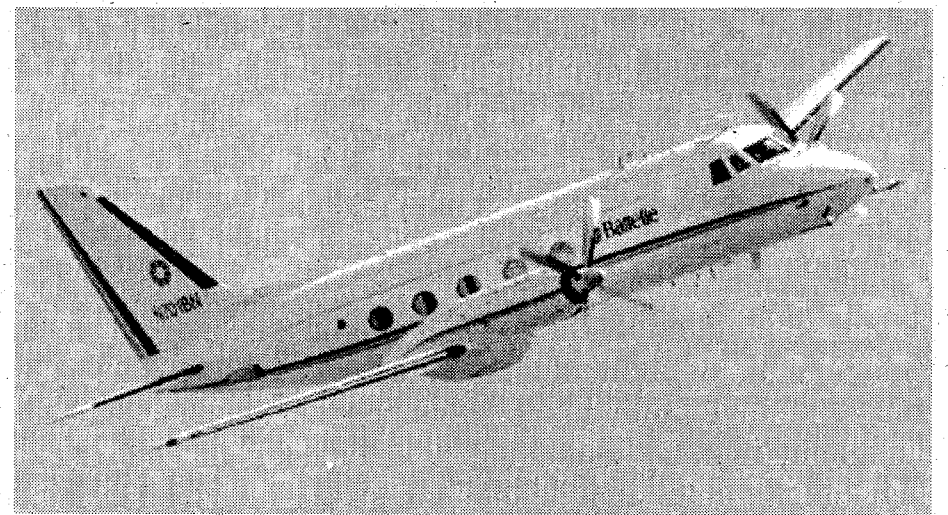
assembled the most complete package of atmospheric gas and particle sampling instrumentation ever deployed aboard Ronald H. Brown," Tim Bates, of NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle, said.

Along with the technologically advanced ship, the NOAA is also using a G-1 Gulfstream research aircraft, operated by the U.S. Dept. of Energy, with instruments developed by Brookhaven National Laboratory.

"The plane has the ability to sample over a broad range of distances and can look vertically in the atmosphere so we can understand how these pollutants are distributed in space and how they relate to the sources of these pollutants," Brookhaven's lead investigator, Peter Daum, said.

The people of New England breathe some of the worst air in the country, and researchers want to know why.

The original AIRMAP project, underway for three years now, has been obtaining pollutant measurements using monitoring stations located in three different rural positions in New Hampshire. The NOAA's new efforts



Courtesy of www.bnl.gov

The G-1 Gulfstream research aircraft, operated by the U.S. Department of Energy, is used by the NOAA to take air quality measurements.

offer an enhancement of these previous experiments.

"We have been sitting in a stationary area measuring what is coming to us," said Talbot of the AIRMAP project. "With the ship, aircraft, and additional ground instrumentation, we'll be able to go upwind and tell what is in the air coming our way."

Along with the mobile mediums, the NOAA's Environmental Technology Laboratory is employing a new Doppler lidar, which uses optical radar techniques to observe the "sea breeze effect." Seven integrated wind profiler systems are placed at various sites in New York and New England to measure wind and temperature. This helps to gauge the transport of pollution into and out of the Northeast.

All of this equipment is a sight to see. The New England Air Quality Study is quite visible, with

instrumentation and experiment stations set up throughout the New Hampshire seacoast region. The massive Ronald H. Brown can be seen off the coast, and the plane can be spotted flying overhead.

Various universities around the country, including UCLA and SUNY at Albany, have used this experimentation as an opportunity for hands on learning.

The research is not only beneficial for New Englanders, but for the entire United States. An understanding of the air transported to New England is vital in order to obtain a better idea of air pollution elsewhere.

By continuing to study air movement, scientists can learn what is in the air coming from outside New England, including the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic States, and especially urban areas such as Boston and New York.

The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, August 29, 2002

The Stony BrookStony Brook's
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State University of New York At Stony Brook

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Editorials represent the majority opinion of the Editorial board and are written by one of its members. The Stony Brook Statesman welcomes letters, opinions and information about events and issues on or around campus.

All letters and opinion pieces must include the author's name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Please type all submissions. Anonymous and handwritten submissions will not be printed. Please keep all submissions to a maximum of 650 words. Statesman reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, language and readability.

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Editorial

To the New Kids on the Block

No introductions necessary for the seasoned Stony Brook Statesman reader, but to all the freshman and transfer students newly arrived on our campus:

Welcome! Maybe you're an excited resident freshman, full of anticipation and exhausted after unloading two carloads of your worldly possessions. Maybe you're a new commuter student anxious about parking difficulties and meeting new people. Maybe you're a transfer weary of the college scene, and wary of your new surroundings.

Whatever the case may be, we hope that we can contribute to your experience here. One year ago, Statesman was floundering, kept afloat by the efforts of a couple—yes, literally two—of diehards who were determined to keep providing a valuable service to the community.

And now, we are flourishing. Our staff has grown, our morale is up, and we're rather proud of the ever-increasing quality of our paper. During your time here, it will be hard to avoid running into us, as our twice-weekly issues are distributed at residential and academic buildings across campus.

Hmm, a good time for a plug: Campus newcomers, we'd love to have fresh faces and ideas at the paper, so stop in and let us know what your talents are.

But, back to the moral of this little editorial. College is not always going to be easy, but don't get frustrated. When the going gets tough, the tough say, "Darn it, it's two a.m., the computers have crashed, the basement of the Union is flooded, but we have to get this thing done. Gimme another cup of coffee."

Op-Ed

A Letter to the Freshmen Ladies and Gentlemen of the Class of '07: Do not smoke cigarettes.

By ADAM ZIMMERMAN
Statesman Editor

Scientists have proven conclusively that smoking cigarettes is highly hazardous to your health. As for the rest of my advice, well, just remember I'm a junior with too much time on my hands.

For what it's worth, I will deliver that advice now. Here goes:

Enjoy these next four years. Even if Stony Brook was not your first choice, or your tenth choice, it is now your university. You alone will decide if it also becomes your home.

Going to class is an acceptable form of cheating: you will be given answers to exams before the tests are distributed. At the very minimum, write those answers down, study them the night before, and write them down again, in your own words, the next morning. You will be

guaranteed at least a C.

Do not plagiarize. You will be guaranteed at least an F.

In a class of 15, your professor will know your name. In a class of 50, your professor will know your face. In a class of 500, your professor will know neither. But no matter the class size, your professor will always know when you have your hand up.

You have the unalienable right to ask a question or make a comment. Do so respectfully and firmly. Your professor will appreciate the challenge, and your classmates will appreciate the diversion.

Never ask the professor to use the bathroom. Just get up and go.

Remember the three basic rules about campus dining: the food is overpriced, the shelves are

Continued on Page 14

Letter to the Editor

From One Who Was There

To the Editor:

"The Bridge" was originally intended to connect the Student Union with the Melville Library in the 70s. Legend has it that more than halfway through its construction, it was determined that the bridge's height was miscalculated and it would not be able to join the library at the intended juncture. Its terminus was subsequently walled-up: enter "The Bridge To Nowhere."

Years later, in the 80s, the Bridge made a sharp left turn and was rerouted to join the newly constructed Staller Center. The Bridge to Nowhere unofficially became The Bridge to Somewhere.

It's sort of sad to see it torn down, as it stood as a monument (white elephant?) to the times, akin to the ramp leading up to the Basic HSC Tower from Loop Road, the flaking facade of the HSC towers, the greenhouse that housed marmosets that was located behind the Old Bio Building (all unceremoniously engulfed by the SAC), the rooms which housed bats and chickens on the first floor of the building behind the Lecture Center, and the first floor men's room in Social Science B (which continues to function as a 70s time capsule). Hey, you can't make this stuff up!

Larry
Class of '77, 80 and '86.

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Summer Editorials

It's the End of the Bridge

The nameless bridge connecting the library and the second floor of the Union is gone. Watching it fall inspired awe, and a tad bit of sadness, in most of us. For all of its structural deficiencies, the bridge served an important function on the Stony Brook campus.

It offered shelter from the rain (at least until you got to the leaky juncture where you had to pick just the right moment to step beneath and avoid a deluge). It was a meeting place, a shady haven, a means of accessing the Union, a conversational topic. It was a piece of history.

We're intrigued by this last part: history. The SB Union has been around for decades, but how much of the current student body—or even the newer faculty—is aware of the building's history, or the history of other sections of campus?

What was the location of the SBU bowling alley? What's up with the zebra path? When did the bars that used to be located in the residence halls close for good?

We believe that students would feel more connected to the University if they knew more about its history. It's also important for us to recognize the history that is being made during our own years here at Stony Brook.

But, really, the one big question looming in the wake of the bridge demolition is: What are we going to call the End of the Bridge Restaurant now? We suggest that the name be retained, as a testament to the virtual "end of the bridge" that we have witnessed over the past couple of weeks.

Chronicling One Man's Colon

We figured since the hot topic of the hour seems to be President Bush's colonoscopy, we should talk a bit about it. The rest of the media seems to think you'll never tire of hearing about this man's colon, so we're going with that assumption as well.

For those of you who live under a rock—and whose sole source of news is apparently the Statesman—our President was anesthetized Saturday morning so that his colon could be examined, and he asked the Vice President to assume presidential duties until he was fully recovered.

It makes for great dinnertime conversation. Mom: "So, I heard that after the last procedure he had a polyp on his colon. Please pass the onions." Dad: Actually, there were *two* polyps. Guess that must be uncomfortable, probably, when you're going to the bathroom and all. Mm, this is one juicy burger." Little Sister: "What's a pol-isp? What's a colon?" Big Brother (laughing gleefully):

"Rectum! Rectum!"

It's surely good news that Bush is cancer-free. It's also nice to see him setting an example for others, encouraging Americans to get their colons checked out, but when we see "BREAKING NEWS" flash across the screen on CNN, it's become expected that we're going to hear another update on how many waffles Dubya consumed since the procedure. What if something newsworthy does occur? The whole thing is becoming reminiscent of the infamous pretzel-choking incident.

We will acknowledge that the big news really is the invocation of the 25th amendment. Dick Cheney was President of the United States for three uneventful hours while the Bush had his nether regions investigated.

Had Cheney ordered a military strike against Canada or cracked open the nuclear football during those three hours, all of this post-colonoscopy fuss might be warranted. But it seems that all went smoothly. So, a round of applause for the 25th and let's move on.

Throw Us a Friggin' Bone Here, People

We want to provide the campus community with the latest news, but when we don't have access to that news ourselves, it is kind of tough.

There have been a plethora of activities and events going on this summer. Carnivals, lectures, governors at the SAC. We try our best to stay up to speed with the current goings-on. However, there doesn't seem to be anyone assisting us in this endeavor lately.

Yes, we've moaned and groaned before over the lack of dissemination of information about happenings on campus. During the school year, though, there we were usually aware of major events, and there were signs and posters here and there to help us out if we hunted for long enough. We were also bombarded with calls, e-mails, and letters begging for a little (or a lot) of coverage for the Students for a Free Al Sharpton mocktails and line dancing hour. Yes, we've complained about that, too, but it almost sounds appealing at this point.

With the school year approaching, the summer dry spell will soon be history (we hope), but we would still appreciate a heads-up if, say, a huge conference with attendees from all over the country is being held on our grounds. Thanks in advance.

Summer Letters to the Editor

You Can't 'Create' Tradition

To the Editor,

As a relatively new member of the University administration, I sympathize with The Statesman's lament about the lack of tradition among students here at Stony Brook. It's not just that Stony Brook is young: my own school (Rutgers) has been around almost two hundred and forty years, and the same lament applies there.

As you suggest, one way to instill a sense of tradition is to connect current students with their past, because Stony Brook certainly has a storied forty-two-year heritage.

Another is to connect students with their future, by building relationships with the over 100,000 alumni around the country who have taken their Stony Brook experience in 100,000 different directions. The Alumni Relations Office is creating many new opportunities to do this,

through Homecoming, Reunion Weekend, and the services of our new online National Alumni Council (coming this summer).

We in Alumni Relations talk about creating new Stony Brook traditions, but of course you can't "create" a tradition. Either something takes hold of our collective imagination and endures from year to year, or it seems like a good idea at the time but does a quick fade.

At Stony Brook, as elsewhere, I think tradition is as much a state of mind as a set of annual activities. It's a reflection, when we find the time to reflect, that we are all better people for our Stony Brook experience, and that Stony Brook is a better place because of the mark we make here. And that's an idea to last a lifetime.

Bill Simmons
VP Advancement

Feedback: Keep It Up

Dear Editor:

I have been a regular reader of your paper for a few years now and I have found it to be an informative periodical. I have especially enjoyed watching it grow and improve as I feel the quality of the paper has progressed greatly during this past year especially. I want to commend you, on a job well done. I look forward to seeing the progression of the paper in the coming year as well.

I have chosen to write at this particular time because I feel that all too often readers present a negative sentiment in their letters to the editor and though we are all welcome to our opinion, I feel many people lose sight of the service that the paper provides to the campus and surrounding community. I can not begin to describe the number of events I would have remained unaware of had I not read about them in the Statesman.

I agree with your board editorials which comment on the extreme lack of publicity and involvement on campus. I have found this to be a serious problem that many students also recognize, but few try to overcome. I laud your efforts to combat student apathy and inform students and faculty alike about campus, local, national, and international news.

This is not to say that I see no room for improvement in the paper or that I never disagree with anything said in it. However, I think that all too often we remain silent until we are unhappy with something. I believe criticism certainly has its place on the pages of your paper, but I think it is definitely a publication worthy of praise as well.

I look forward to reading Statesman in the year to come and watching the paper raise its already commendable standards. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Martha Kim

FREE FOOD!!!

Statesman Open House: Sept. 4 & 18

11 am - 4 pm, Rm 057 in the Basement of the Student Union

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Isn't it time you joined a synagogue?

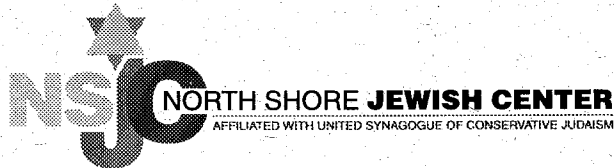


If not now, when?

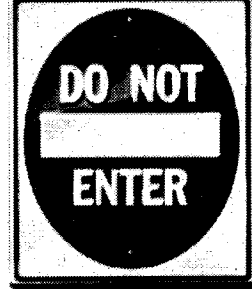
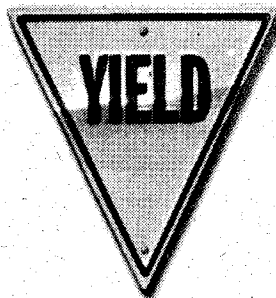
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Saturday, February 15, 2003 at 8:00 pm*



*The Ying Quartet and Turtle Island String Quartet,
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LACC Receives Rockefeller Grant

By MICHELLE PIRAGLIA
Editor Emeritus

The Rockefeller Foundation Residential Fellowship in the Humanities recently presented SBU's Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center (LACC) with a grant that will bring eight post-doctoral fellows to the university over the next four years to study durable inequalities in Latin American Histories, Societies, and Cultures.

"This prestigious, generous Rockefeller award represents what many of us here have known for a while, the global excellence of Stony Brook's advanced interdisciplinary scholarship on Latin America," Professor Paul Gootenberg, Director of the LACC, said.

"We have [in History, Hispanic Languages and Sociology], some of the country's top scholars and doctoral programs in this field, which draw talented Ph.D. students from across the Americas," Gootenberg added.

SBU is one of nine establishments in North and South America chosen as a residency site

for the humanities fellowships. This, the first ever Rockefeller Foundation grant for the University, will provide up to \$325,000 over the course of four years for the study of the construction of race, gender and ethnicity, as well as the resilience of social systems. The fellows will come from various fields, including history, literature, sociology, economics, media studies, politics and education.

"This represents a tremendous boost not only for LACC, but also for humanities at Stony Brook, and the University as a whole," SBU President Shirley Strum Kenny said. "Our vision is to bring in a wave of committed Latin American scholars to the University, across a variety of disciplines."

The Rockefeller Foundation Humanities Fellowships support scholars and writers who are conducting research on global social and cultural issues in relation to diversity, sustainability and civil society.

The LACC "serves to enhance and focus the interests of students, faculty, graduate students, and the New York regional community

concerned with Latin America and Latino issues," according to the site.

The LACC has become an interdisciplinary base for deepening ties with the region. According to the website, the LACC mission is "to connect diverse local interests around Latino and Latin American issues to global scholarship and developments across the Hemisphere."

Gootenberg feels this grant will allow for a focus on the study of inequality in the United States, as well as around the world.

"This new research site also represents the methodological possibilities and necessity of placing inequality as a core innovating concern of both humanists and social scientists," Gootenberg said. "The Rockefeller Foundation recognized the timeliness and relevance of social inequalities, not only for the vast and reparable human suffering they cause, but because of recent globalization of inequalities as well. We in the United States now share in the dilemmas of inequality found across the Americas."

Promising BME Assistant Professor Honored

By ANJALI DOGRA
Statesman Editor

The International Society of Biomechanics (ISB) awarded the Promising Young Scientist Award to Stefan



Courtesy of www.sunysb.edu

In June, Judex was honored for his work in biomechanics.

Judex, Ph.D, an Assistant Professor in SBU's Department of Biomedical Engineering, on June 24.

The Society biannually acknowledges scientific

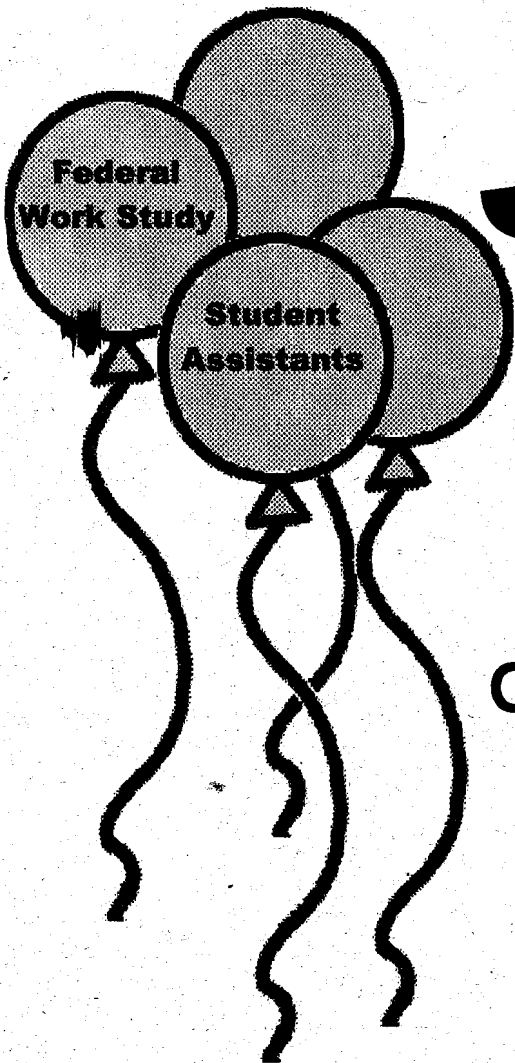
achievement, and honors individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the field of Biomechanics at the ISB World Congress, which is the official congress of the World Council for Biomechanics.

The Promising Young Scientist award recognizes those who have conducted exceptional biomechanics research early on in their career.

Judex researched how organ systems, particularly the skeleton, respond to varying functional demands, like exercise. He focused on combining molecular and genetic analyses with engineering approaches, in order to gain a better understanding of the response of bone to physical stimuli from the organ to the nucleus.

The scientific community has been aware of the increase in mass and strength that

Continued on Page 12



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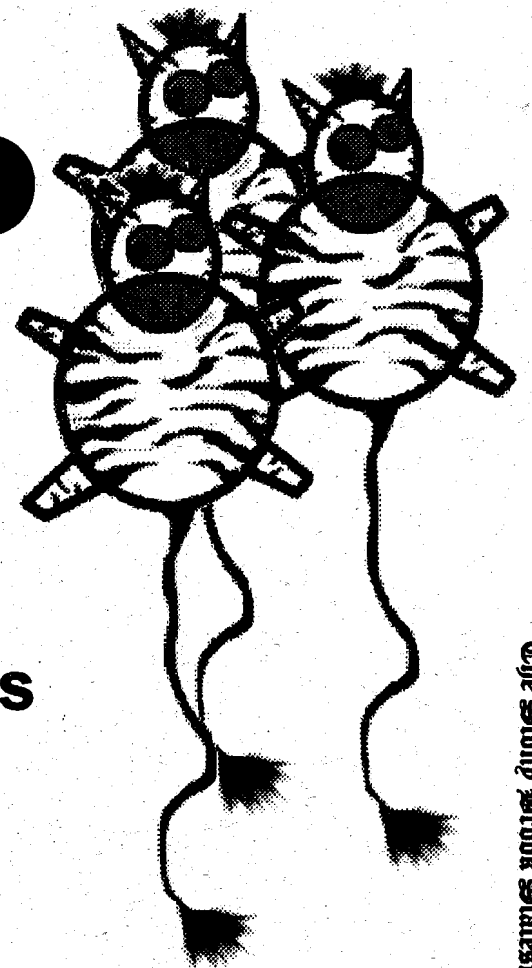
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Pataki on Campus

Continued from Page 1

SBU's Center for Excellence will be funded by more than \$130 million in private industry and venture capital investment, technology and support from locals Computer Associates and Symbol Technologies, as well as Reuters. Additionally, the state will provide \$50 million in funding to support construction with an estimated \$50 million in matching funds over the next five years from the federal government.

SBU President Shirley Strum Kenny thanked Pataki for his visit and for the Center. "This is a great testament to Stony Brook's ability to work together with business and industry—it is a very exciting opportunity for us," she said.

The early afternoon event was attended by less than a hundred people, most of whom were administrators and professionals. This was in part due to the fact that the announcement was shrouded in secrecy, apparently because there had been uncertainties regarding exact job figures until shortly before the announcement.

Though the engagement only lasted for an hour, Pataki did not solely focus on plans for the Center. He had enough time to conduct several interviews, and meet and take pictures with high school students from the Howard Hughes Summer Scholars Program, who were attending closing ceremonies in the nearby SAC Auditorium.

"It was a nice experience for them to meet the governor. He actually had a conversation with them," student counselor Jonathan Marrero said. "He didn't have to come over to say hello to me either. I was just happy to be there."

Judging from the reaction of those present, Pataki's camp should be more than content with the outcome of the Governor's visit. People seemed flattered by Pataki's presence, and happy for the attention paid the university.

Marrero expressed the sentiments of many others attending the announcement. "He was a real nice guy," Marrero said. "I would vote for him this fall."

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Mapping the Discovery of North America

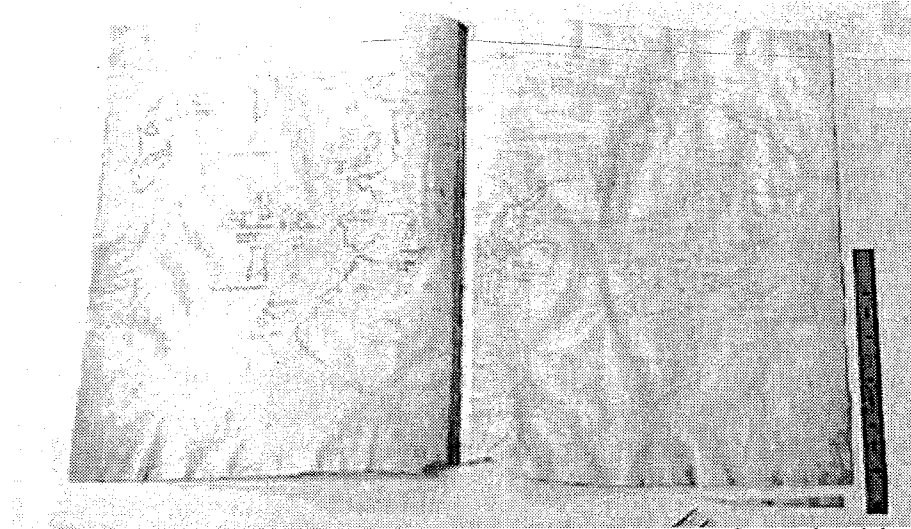
By **MANSOOR KHAN**
Statesman Editor

New scientific discoveries about an age old piece of parchment may change our ideas about the discovery of America. Researchers from the University of Arizona, Brookhaven National Lab (BNL), and the Smithsonian Institution have utilized carbon-dating technology to date a map of the new world that surfaced in the mid-1950's.

In a study to be published in the journal *Radiocarbon*, scientists concluded that the "Vinland Map" dates to roughly 1434 A.D., 58 years before the famed Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue.

"Many scholars have agreed that if the Vinland Map is authentic, it is the first known cartographic representation of North America," BNL's Garmon Harbottle said. "And its date would be key in establishing the history of European knowledge of the lands bordering the western Atlantic Ocean."

The map is drawn in ink and measures 27.8 x 41.0 centimeters. It was discovered accompanied by a manuscript entitled "Tartar Relation." Both these items were purchased in 1958 by Paul A. Mellon, who subjected the map to an intensive six-year investigation.



The tiny three-inch strip that BNL scientists removed from the bottom of the "Vinland Map" for the carbon dating study is estimated to be worth approximately \$40,000.

Housed in Yale University's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, the map shows Europe (including Scandinavia), Northern Africa, Asia and the Far East, all of which were believed to be known by 15th-century travelers.

The difference is that the "Island of Vinland" is present in the northwest Atlantic Ocean. Historians think that it is supposed to be part of present-day Labrador, Newfoundland, or Baffin Island.

Additionally, the map contains a caption reading, "By God's will, after a long voyage from the island of

Greenland to the south toward the most distant remaining parts of the western ocean sea, sailing southward amidst the ice, the companions Bjarni and Leif Eriksson discovered a new land, extremely fertile and even having vines...named Vinland."

A 1965 Yale Study proposed a connection of the map with the Catholic Church's Counsel of Basel, which convened roughly half a century prior to Columbus' expedition. It is a possibility that the counsel sent a ship to explore land west of Europe at that time.

Indeed, the carbon-dating seems to

correlate with hypothesis. The date was estimated to be 1434 A.D., with an error of eleven years in either direction. The unusually high precision of this data was a stroke of luck, since the parchment's date fell in a favorable part of the carbon-14 dating calibration curve.

The actual dating was conducted using Accelerator Mass Spectrometry of a three-inch long cutoff from the bottom edge of the parchment. Given the map's estimated value of 20 million dollars, that tiny piece of paper was worth a startling \$40,000.

There is still heated debate as to the authenticity of the map, however. Tests on the chemical composition of the ink used to draw the map reveal questionable results.

The ink contains trace amounts of anatase, a particular form of titanium dioxide. Since anatase went into commercial production in the 20th century, some scientists doubt the map's authenticity.

It is possible, however, that the titanium is only a result of contamination caused by the chemical deterioration of the ink over the centuries. It may have also simply been present in the ink used in medieval times.

Harbottle, a chemist, acknowledged that the possibility of forgery still exists, but noted, "[If it is a forgery] then the forger was surely one of the most skillful criminals ever to pursue that line of work."

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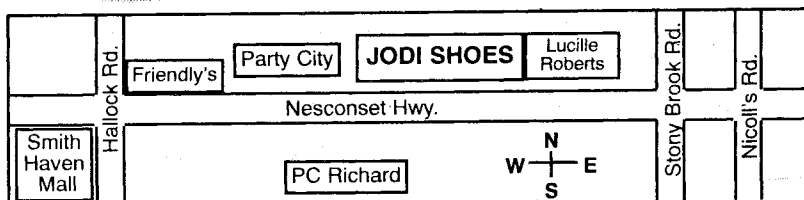
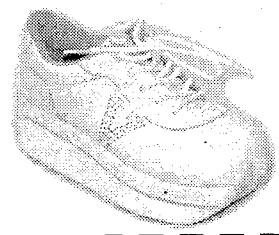
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Not Applicable to Summer Clearance

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Students Shine at U.S. Open

Continued from Page 3

definitely worthy cause."

Most volunteers had similar sentiments. Before and after their six-hour shifts, the volunteers had the chance to walk around the grounds and catch some of the tournament.

In addition to helping at the concession tents, SPEC volunteers played an integral role in the Cancer Center's "Cans for Cancer" program at Bethpage Black. The fundraiser, established nearly a year ago, raises money by collecting cans and bottles at schools, businesses, sporting events, and other venues.

"By depositing bottles into the blue collection

containers around the golf course, spectators not only contributed to our recycling program, but also gained an appreciation for the need to help put an end to childhood cancer," Maxine Andrade said. Andrade is currently the Practice Manager at the Cancer Center for Kids.

Andrade guessed that the Cancer Center earned close to \$100,000 from Prom Catering and the "Cans for Cancer" collection. She extended her gratitude to SPEC volunteers for helping out.

"They each made such a difference. I hope it was a wonderful experience for everyone," Andrade said. "It felt as if the whole world was contributing to our cause, and I can't think of a better feeling than that."



Monkey Business

Continued from Page 5

as an illustrator in the Department of Anatomical Sciences, held a class several semesters ago on scientific illustration and were encouraged by the results.

"We received the most interesting illustrations from those who had no background at all," Nash said. "I feel there should be a lot of collaboration with the arts and the sciences."

Nash said he has been impressed with the Department of Anatomical Sciences during his time at SBU.

"The resources we have here are wonderful," Nash said. "The Department of Anatomical Sciences is incredible. It's a very lively department with an interesting group of people. They've done incredible work."

According to Conservation International's website, scientists have described 24 monkeys new to science since 1990. Including these two new monkeys, Brazil now has 95 identified species of primates, far more than any other country.

While Nash has received pictures of the stephennashi monkey, he hopes to visit the new species in person.

"I'm anxious to get to see them," Nash said of the monkeys. "I'd like to travel with Dr. van Roosmalen and see them in the wild."

Nash, who is of Welsh and Irish decent, said his ancestors worked in coal mines and on the docks, and he feels this shows how everyone can become involved with science and conservation.

"Science is for everybody," Nash said. "No matter what their station in life and talents may be, they can and should make a difference in the conservation of biological diversity in the world."

Bone Research

Continued from Page 9

results from the tissue's ability to respond to exercise, but the way in which bones sense these stimuli remains unknown.

It is this incomplete understanding of the way the bones respond that has hampered the effort to use exercise interventions as prophylactic and therapeutic methods against diseases like osteoporosis, which affects the bones.

A combination of engineering and biology is needed to further the understanding of how mechanical signals are translated into a biological response. Continued studies may eventually result in safe physical interventions that will maximize tissue strength in young adults and prevent the loss of tissue mass and strength in older individuals.

The development of new drugs which, unlike those drugs that are currently FDA approved, will be able to both slow bone loss and promote bone formation may be aided by the discovery of genes involved in regulating the organ and tissue response to mechanical stimuli.

The 2002 World Congress of Biomechanics, where Judex received his award, was held in Calgary on August 9. Judex has also won the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research Young Investigator Award for 2001 and the 2001 John Haddad Young Investigator Award from the Advances in Mineral Metabolism Society.

The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, August 29, 2002

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Raining on the Summer Vacation Parade

By ADAM ZIMMERMAN
Statesman Editor

The last week in June is normally the happiest of times for those within the K-12 ranks. The tests are over, classes are done, and summer vacation seems endless. If only it did last that long, for here is what the last week of June 2002 brought to our nation's schoolchildren.

Vouchers. In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of a school vouchers program in Cleveland, Ohio. Under the program, parents may receive public tax money to place their children in private schools. In theory, parents can take their children out of failing public schools, and send them to better-performing institutions.

In practice, fully 96.6 percent of the students were enrolled in religious schools. In practice, precious funding for

public schools will be given away, resources will become depleted, and the students who remain in these schools will struggle even more. In practice, the First Amendment will be violated each time a voucher is extended. As the New York Times bluntly stated, "It is hard to think of a starker assault on the doctrine of separation of church and state than taking taxpayer dollars and using them to inculcate specific religious beliefs in young people."

Increased drug testing. In another 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court also upheld the legality of increased random drug tests for high school students. Specifically, any student that participates in ANY interscholastic extracurricular activity can now be subjected to a random drug test.

The testing of student athletes makes perfect sense, of course, what with the myriad of illegal performance-

enhancing drugs available to them. However, the High Court considerably overstepped those grounds with a misguided decision that flies in the face of the Fourth Amendment's protections against illegal searches.

Unless, of course, it is reasonable to suspect that members of the chorus and debate teams will be using steroids before the big game.

An expanded SAT. The College Board, which owns the rights to the test that most would say stands for Stress And Tension, has decided to make the exam bigger, larger, and more biased than it already is.

Beginning in 2005, the test will include a new writing section (written essay and grammar questions), more reading comprehension in the verbal section, and Algebra II material in the math section. The total test time will expand to 3.5 hours, and the point total

will rise to 2,400.

Clearly, the most troublesome change is the new writing section. The students whose first language is not English, whose schools do not have the best resources, and/or whose families cannot afford the high-quality tutors will be hurt even more than they already are. Good writing is often in the eye of the beholder; what is fine quality to one teacher maybe well be scrap heap for another. The SAT, with all that it entails for the future of millions of students, is not the appropriate forum for such subjectivity.

So there it is. In a span of one week, it was deemed legal for public school money to pay for religious indoctrination, acceptable to reward involved, overachieving high school students with drug tests, and appropriate to systematically bloat a test in desperate need of a good trim.

Thank goodness for summer camp.

News Channels Offering Less and Less 'News'

EISHA BASIT
Statesman Editor

I never was much of a "news-channel" watcher. One of those rare moments when I actually did catch glimpses of grim-faced newscasters was when I joined my mother to watch her routine six 'o clock news.

As my mother flipped between the competing news channels, I wondered silently at the futility of the daily news: a dog run over, a theft on Buffalo Street, and the latest scandal in some big-time corporation. 'Nothing of value', said the cynic in my mind.

In our modern-day lingo, we refer to these news channels using the expansive term "media." This boogie media, our scapegoat for the corruption of society, was nothing but mindless jumbo and gossip for me. I couldn't believe that people actually absorbed everything the news offered

them; after all, what is so enlightening about knowing that Bill Clinton had a new dog replace his deceased one?

Such was the skeptic who entered one of SBU's theatre classes, which centered on the production of news networks. My only consolation was that the class focused primarily on CNN's reporting.

From all I had gathered through my childhood and on, CNN was the head of the news world. It was well-known, and powerful, and a great resource for truth about the world. With this in mind, I began the weekly lesson of critiquing CNN's show Talk Back Live.

Our instructor led us through class by forcing us to question every aspect of the show: did the newscaster report well, was the topic a well-addressed one, and did the show catch the audience's attention? Most importantly, did the media inform honestly or did it seek to embellish the truth?

The more I learned how to analyze CNN's show, the more I realized how much was lacking in the show's production. Information was constantly doled out to us, and repeated over and over. The guests of the show, supposedly experts of the subject at hand, were often unsure of their own statements and lacked the confidence expected of informants. I found my own attention wandering as I stared at the multitude of images flashing on the screen, many of which had nothing to do with the topic.

Most irritating of all was the persistent label of "live" constantly on the screen. Granted, the show was meant to be live, but when random images were being displayed (obviously, not live), such a label was meaningless. While such a thing is trivial when reporting about shark attacks, it becomes a matter of concern with the

coverage of the war in Afghanistan.

So what did I walk away with? One would not expect me to be any less a cynic than I was before the class, but my perspective of the media has drastically changed. For one, I have fallen into the six o'clock routine as well, but with more professional news castings, such as BBC and World News Tonight. Their professionalism isn't based on any universal judgment, like the one I had used to initially judge CNN, but solely on my own evaluation of the networks.

My critique of CNN was not meant to be its eternal damnation. It is meant to show that one can't rely on the general opinion of what the "best" news channel is or isn't. I now find myself watching the news, not so much for the broadcasts themselves, but to be aware that when the real news does come on, at least I'll know which networks to rely on.

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FROM



RABBI ADAM

Some people, when they meet the campus Chabad Rabbi—they get all nervous. It's like suddenly, they start to feel super self-conscious, or something. Others start to get feelings of Jewish guilt. As Jews, we all know that feeling of Jewish guilt. It's that feeling you get when you don't fast on Yom Kippur. Or when you eat a ham sandwich. Even though one might do it anyway, and perhaps even enjoy it—there is always that unconscious lingering feeling of guilt, an unconscious feeling of having done something wrong. Well, when some people meet the campus Chabad Rabbi, that must be how they are feeling because they're clearly nervous. Some people are even unconsciously afraid to look the Rabbi in the eye. To tell you the truth, it all makes for quite a comical introduction. To this, I say, "Chill out!" I don't bite. The beard is just a bunch of facial hair and the hat came with the outfit. Now, there are a lot of extra-curriculars to be involved in this coming semester, but the best are the Jewish extra-curriculars. Not that the others aren't fun. They are. But tell me: What can be better than hanging out with the campus Chabad Rabbi, getting over your initial nervousness and telling Jewish jokes all night?

Jewish Jokes & BBQ: Wed, Sept. 4, 7pm @
The Chabad House (up hill left of undergrad apts.)

The Shalom Barook Statesman Thursday, August 29, 2002

Oscars Await Down the Road to Perdition

By ALI KHAN
Statesman Staff

"This is the life we choose, the life we lead...and the only thing guaranteed is that none of us will ever see heaven..." So states kingpin John Rooney (Paul Newman) to Michael Sullivan (Tom Hanks) in one of the more memorable sequences of the new gangster film "Road to Perdition".

Directed by Sam Mendes (who makes his second go round after the Oscar-winning 1999 film "American Beauty"), the movie is based on a 1998 comic book by Max Allan Collins and Richard Piers Rayner.

"Perdition" follows the trek of a character portrayed by Tom Hanks, who does a masterful job (as usual) of playing a Depression-era gangland hitman so good at his work that he's referred to as the "Angel of Death." This is one of Hanks's best acting performances, as he balances the violent life of a gangster with the nurturing life of a father looking out for his son.

Essentially, the film focuses on the second: it's the story of the unavoidably difficult relationship between fathers and sons, biological or surrogate. This theme is summed up in the movie with the line: "It's a natural law. Sons are put on this

earth to trouble their fathers."

"Road to Perdition" opens with a voice-over, spoken by Sullivan's elder son as a grown man, who establishes an unwavering tone and sets up the plot: "There are many stories about Michael Sullivan. Some say he was a decent man. Some say there was no good in him at all. But I once spent six weeks with him in the winter of 1931. This is our story."

Fittingly, Perdition's first big scene opens with a wake in the house of John Rooney (a faultless Paul Newman), who comes off as a community leader or maybe the spoiling grandfather to Sullivan's two boys, the older Michael Jr. (played by Tyler Hoechlin) and the younger Peter (Liam Aiken). But in truth, Rooney is a major underworld kingpin, someone of whom it is truthfully, and fearfully, said, "You rule this town as God rules the Earth. You give and you take away."

Sullivan is more than the top henchman who enforces the boss' wishes in blood; he has been like a son to Rooney ever since he was a young orphan taken under the powerful man's wing. This closeness is beautifully and wordlessly conveyed in a scene at the wake when the two men casually collaborate on a quiet piano duet. It's

a lovely thing to everyone but Rooney's natural son, Connor, played by British actor Daniel Craig ("Tomb Raider").

One night, Michael Jr. decides to tag along hidden in a car to find out the truth of his father's real business, and in turn, sees his father take part in a savage bloodbath. It's a moment that not only changes their relationship, but that also leads inexorably to the cold-blooded murder of the boy's younger brother and his mother (Jennifer Jason Leigh).

And so begins the big journey in the film, as Sullivan is a man built for revenge. With the added responsibility of protecting his son, Sullivan needs to find a way to smoke out his family's killer, and to stay one step ahead of Maguire (Jude Law), the eccentric assassin sent after them. Sullivan's ultimate destination is a town called Perdition, where he plans to leave his son in the care of relatives.

"Road to Perdition's" excellent cast ensures that the film gets across its message effectively. Newman is riveting as a somber, cold-blooded man of business weighing his legacy against his feelings for a surrogate son. Law brings the right amount of erratic behavior to a killer whose main drive is to photograph his victims, and Stanley Tucci has an

effective cameo as Capone cohort Frank Nitti.

Tyler Hoechlin, one of more than 2,000 kids who tried out for the part of young Sullivan, effectively creates a character who gets under his father's skin all while maintaining the innocence of a 12-year-old.

The film was essentially given a limitless budget, and through the work of cinematographer Conrad Hall (who also worked on "American Beauty"), an excellent job is done of recreating the meticulous sense of 1930s atmosphere characteristic of the original comic book.

Also integral to the production were set designer Dennis Gassner ("The Truman Show") and costume designer Albert Wolsky, a two-time Oscar winner himself. Thomas Newman wrote the wonderful score, using musical pieces very similar to ones he did in "The Shawshank Redemption".

"Road to Perdition" does a good job of utilizing its cast effectively towards telling a riveting story. The performances by Hanks and Newman are by default Oscar-worthy, and Mendes makes another standout move in a beautifully directed film. **I give "Road to Perdition" 3 stars.**

Some Wise Words for the Freshmen

Continued from Page 6

understocked, and sorry, we're fresh out of Pepsi.

Eat at least two full meals every day. Tell your parents you eat three.

Order in. Go out to dinner. Take breaks from campus food. Your stomach will undoubtedly thank you for your kindness.

Play intramurals.

Go ahead and download AOL Instant Messenger onto your computer, but do not let yourself

divide between the residents and commuters. Some residents I know stay at home every weekend. Some commuters I know do not leave campus during the week. Translation: don't believe everything you hear.

Check your email often.

Write for the Statesman. Read the Press.

There will be at least one day in mid-April when it feels like mid-July. When that day comes, don't even think twice: cut class, go to the beach. You'll be glad you did.

Start a petition.

The LIRR will put you in midtown Manhattan in under 2 hours. Take advantage. Students have free admission to all athletic events. Take advantage. Dial 333 from any campus phone to report an emergency to the police. PLEASE take advantage.

Stony Brook has its own police department. The officers are our Finest. If you see one of them, say thank you. It's a nice gesture. They will appreciate it.

Pull an all-nighter. Pull two. Try to avoid pulling them back-to-back.

No one knows yourself better than you. Blaze your own trail. Follow your own destiny.

But trust me on the smoking.

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become addicted.

Keep in touch with high school friends. Do not fall out of touch with college friends.

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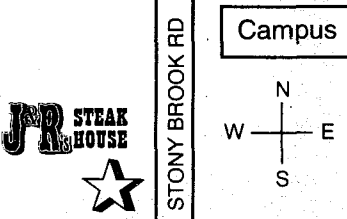
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Preston and Polity

Continued from Page 3

formed, but according to some, it met so infrequently that nothing was resolved. A complete judiciary had not been appointed, and as of the time this issue went to print, seats were still vacant.

Preston feels that by removing the responsibility of the budget from the agenda, the various branches of Student Polity will have more time to concentrate on fixing the constitution and appointing a full Judiciary. In fact, Preston said that if the constitutional question is answered by the middle of the fall semester, he would reinstate Polity's ability to administer the student activity fee.

Some in Polity feel that Preston overstepped his bounds when he placed Polity in receivership and appointed a committee to manage the fund. Because the organization is incorporated, several students have suggested that by placing it into receivership Preston has implied that the corporation is financially insolvent, or has misappropriated funds. These are two characterizations that both sides agree are not accurate.

Certain members of the Polity Senate also have misgivings about the composition of the interim committee and the rules under which it operates.

"It's very illegal, because in order to spend a student activity fee, you need an elected government," said Driscoll. "This committee was not elected in any student election. They are in violation of the Open Meeting Law of New York States because they don't post meeting times."

New York's Open Meeting Law states that notices of public meetings must be posted in the media and in conspicuous locations well in advance, so that all those who wish to attend may do so.

Driscoll goes on to charge that since no one seems to know where the minutes for the interim committee's meetings are, they are disbursing funds illegally.

Preston was not asked to comment on the legality of the Interim Committee, and remains optimistic that Polity's recent problems will not alienate the student body.

"I think we came close last year. There a number students who expressed an interest to become involved in their student



Statesman/Audrey Dettmering

Akelia Lawrence serves as the current President of the Student Polity Association.

Constitutional Committee was appointed by Lawrence and commenced meeting once a week since mid-June. Lawrence was unavailable for comment, but Driscoll, who serves on this committee, expressed his hope at presenting a draft to Preston by the end of the month.

Preston, a nationally recognized administrator, maintained that his decisions all along have been made with the student body's interest in mind.

"This judgment was made so as not to penalize clubs and organizations," Preston said. "The problem is with the [Polity] leadership structure's failure to function as a mature government. I would most like Polity to remedy the problem, so that I can get back to work."

government, but after being involved [for a short time] backed away," he said. "I just have this feeling that we may be surprised, as to the number of students who begin to engage in student government."

According to Preston, a new

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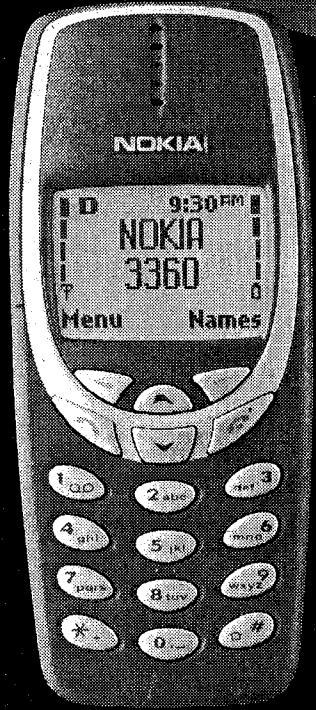
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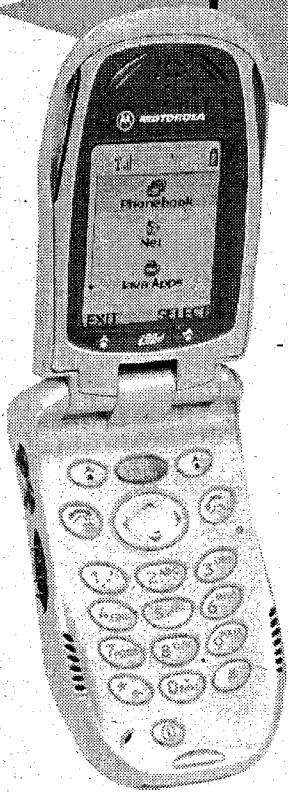
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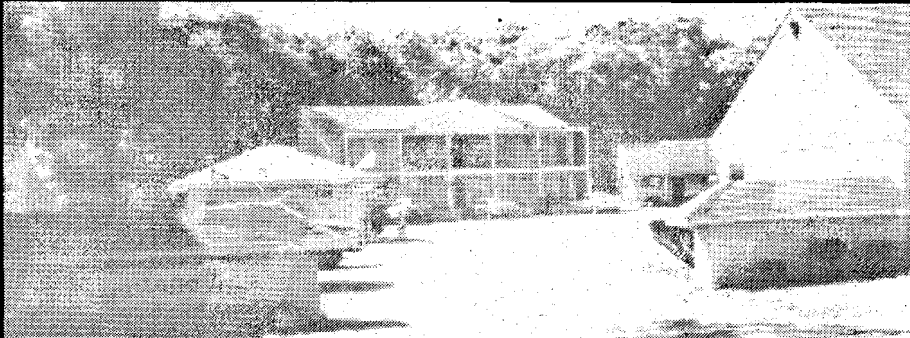
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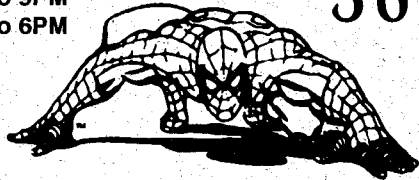
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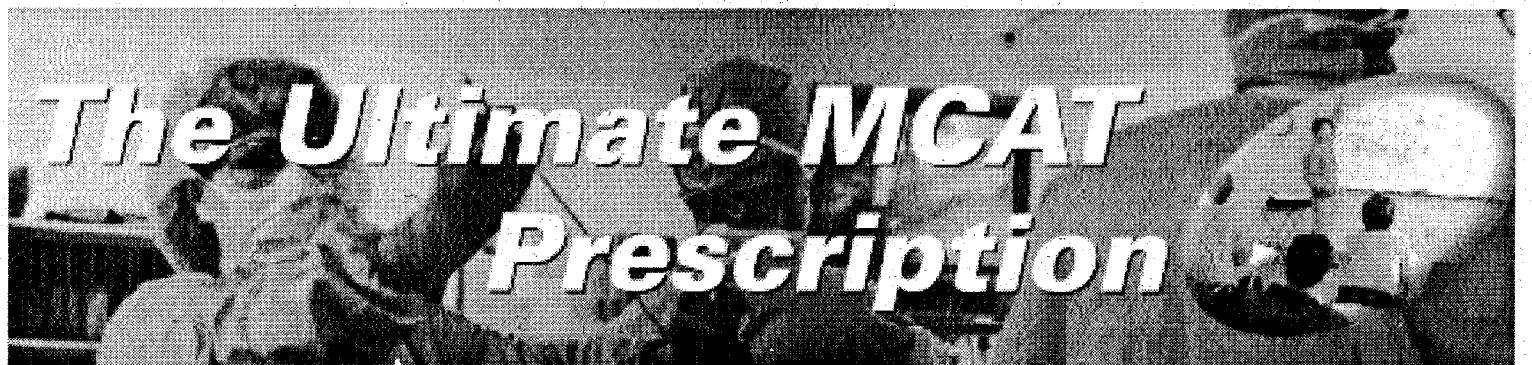


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Doorways to Something New... Opening 2002

Saturday, August 31

New Student & Family BBQ and "Get to Know Your Community" Info Fair, Student Activities Center (SAC) Plaza, 12 p.m.-4 p.m.

Catholic Campus Ministry Welcome Reception, S. B. Union, Room 249, 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

Residence Dining Location Dinner 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

Mandatory Residence Hall Building Meeting, 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

First Night Out Extravaganza, Student Activities Center, 9 p.m.-12 a.m.

Come Party, be Magically Amazed and Laugh the night away with new friends.

Sunday, September 1

First Day of Stony Brook Welcome/New Student Orientation (All new undergraduate students are required to attend.) 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Dinner and Entertainment in the Quads, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Experience entertainment, music and delicious food right here on campus! Featuring "Mardi Gras" at Campus Connection @ H-Quad, "Jazz Night" at Kelly Dining Center & "Go Seawolves!" at Roth Food Court.

Sunday Mass, Catholic Campus Ministry, Peace Studies Center, Old Chemistry, 5 p.m.

Hillel's New Student Welcome, 6 p.m. SB Union 249.

"Get In The Game" Blowout, SAC/ SAC Plaza, 8 p.m.-11 p.m. Games of all kinds, prizes and giveaways, from Casino to Lazer Tag, interact with students, win big prizes and fun giveaways.

Monday, September 2

Second Day of Stony Brook Welcome/New Student Orientation. (Required for all new undergraduate students.) 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Blazin' Saddles BBQ, Kelly Quad, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. Enjoy an outdoor BBQ dinner at Kelly Quad with lots of food, giveaways, a riding bull, music and fun!

"Drive In Movie" Stony Brook style, Physics Green, 9 p.m.-12 a.m. Showing Bad Company. Free movie, popcorn and drinks for all.

Tuesday, September 3

Ice Cream Cart, Academic Mall, Top of Zebra Path, 12 p.m. - Visit the Career Center ice cream cart.

Hillel's Annual Welcome Back BBQ, 5 p.m.-8 p.m. Field between the Student Union and Mendelsohn Quad.

Carnival and Street Party, Academic Mall, SAC Plaza, 7 p.m. - 11 p.m. Enjoy an evening of Mall Madness with our campus wide carnival featuring a giant rock wall, an orbitron, inflatables, and carnival booths with prizes.

Wednesday, September 4

Step Into Something New: Opening of SAC Phase II Celebration, 12:30 p.m. Come on out for the biggest celebration of the year. There will be entertainment, giveaways, receptions, ribbon cutting ceremony and much more.

Part-Time Job Expo, Sports Complex Arena, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Welcome Reception for Commuter Students, Main Lounge, SAC, 5-7 p.m.

Scooping Out Success, SAC Lobby, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Meet the various academic departments, clubs, and organizations on campus while enjoying free ice cream.

SAC Art Gallery Opening & Reception, 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Before and After 9/11, artist in the studio. Show will run from Sept 4th- 25th, open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

Movie, Games and Hypnotist, SAC, 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. Come and see, Changing Lanes in the SAC Auditorium, play games in the main lounge, and be amazed by a hypnotist in SAC Ballroom B.

Thursday, September 5

Street Fair, between Chemistry and Library (top of Zebra Path), 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Hillel CoffeeHouse: Karaoke, SB Union Colors Café, 8 p.m.

A Night to Step Into Something New Celebration, 9 p.m.-2 a.m. A Step show from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. The SAC Ballroom A becomes filled with great music and great students in the falls first official party of the new school year.

Friday, September 6

New Student Splish-n-Splash Pool Party, Sports Complex Pool, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Sponsored by Omega Phi Beta Sorority and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

Yankee Game Trip Game starts at 7 p.m. For more information, call 632-9392.

Saturday, September 7

Gamma Ce Upsilon "Welcome Back Bash" Party, Ballroom A, SAC, 10 p.m.-3 a.m.

Sunday, September 8

Shopping Trip to Tanger Outlet, 12 p.m.-7 p.m. Buses leave from the SAC Loop starting at 11 a.m. The last bus will leave campus at 3 p.m.

Sunday Mass, Catholic Campus Ministry, Peace Studies Center, Old Chemistry Building, 5 p.m. followed by Catholic Campus Ministry Welcome Dinner, Peace Studies Center, Old Chemistry Building, 6 p.m.

Monday, September 9

Health Sciences Center "Welcome Fest" Galleria, Health Sciences Center Level 3, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Interfaith Open House, SB Union Room 249, 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Your "Doorway" to Student Media Involvement, Living-Learning Center for Media, James College Lounge/H Quad, 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Wednesday, September 11

Campus Wide 9/11 Memorial Program, Campus Life Time, 12:40 p.m. - 2:10 p.m.

Thursday, September 12

New Student Scavenger Hunt, This is your chance to learn the campus and the offices, when you participate and complete the hunt you can win a prize. For more information call the Office of Student Activities at 632-9392

Fraternity & Sorority Night, 7 p.m., SAC Lobby. So, you want to know what all the hype is about? Come see for yourself what fraternity and sorority life is all about at Stony Brook.

Friday, September 13

Block Party, Friday Evening, Cheer on your own Seawolves Football team as we gear up for the first football game of the year.

"Return of The Light" Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity Party, Ballroom A, SAC, 10 p.m.-3 a.m.

Saturday, September 14

St. John's University vs. Stony Brook Seawolves, 6 p.m. Be there for the first game played under the lights in the new stadium!

Caribbean Student Organization (CSO) Welcome Back Party, Ballroom A, SAC, 10 p.m.-3 a.m.

Sunday, September 15

Three Village Tour 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Meet at SAC Bus Loop. Experience the surrounding towns as you discover great spots that you'll love all year round. For more information call 632-9392.

Monday, September 16

Three Village Tour, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Meet at SAC Bus Loop.

Tuesday, September 17

Intramural Registration Deadline, for the following sports; Flag Football, Indoor Soccer, Beach Volleyball, Wallyball. Call 2-7168 or visit website at: www.recreation.sunysb.edu.

New Student Scavenger Hunt. For more information call the Office of Student Activities at 632-9392

"4 Corners Of The World At Stony Brook" Program, Ballroom B, SAC, 8 p.m. Learn and explore all of Stony Brook's rich history through the faculty, staff and students talent, knowledge and travel explorations in this interactive multimedia event.

Wednesday, September 18

Student Involvement & Fraternity and Sorority Fair, SAC Plaza & Academic Mall, 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.

Chinese Association at Stony Brook (CASB) Harvest Fest, Ballroom A, 5 p.m.

Thursday, September 19

President's Convocation, Staller Center, 3:30 p.m.

Salute to Stony Brook, SAC Plaza, Academic Mall, 4:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Join us for karaoke contests, bed races, dancing on the Mall, free dinner and a grand fireworks finale as we celebrate our University!

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Plant Sale 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
SB Union Lobby, September 3, 4, 5, & 6

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Canadian Rockers Hit High Note With New Album

By RYAN SOBEL
Statesman Editor

Oh, those crafty Canadians. As of late, anything they send south of the border turns into musical gold. Such is the case with rockers Nickelback and Default, as well as punksters Sum 41.

However, it seems fair to assess that until very recently, most of these northerners have been regarded, unjustly or not, as cheap knock-offs of the rich American rock and roll tradition. Indeed, the recent radio successes of these artists have helped catapult interest and attract attention to our neighbors to the north as an untapped resource for quality rock.

Toronto's alt/rock phenoms Our Lady Peace have been forced to deal with this stigma since the release of their debut album in 1994. In Canada, they are huge. In America, though, they are known less by name than by reputation of two of their biggest hits of the mid 1990s, "Clumsy," and "Superman's Dead."

With their fifth studio album, entitled Gravity, the band seems to be searching for something more. Gone are the over-polished, heavily-produced artsy effects underlying each of the tracks on their past two releases, Happiness Is Not a Fish That You Can Catch and Spiritual Machines. Instead, the band seems to be going back to the formula that

very nearly made them a household name.

They have ended their lengthy artist-producer relationship with Arnold Lanni in favor of the opportunity to work with



Courtesy of www.rollingstone.com

Canadian rock superstars Our Lady Peace look to break into the limelight in the U.S. with their fifth, and most powerful, studio release, Gravity.

renowned producer Bob Rock in his Maui studio. The less-is-more, harder-rocking style associated with Rock seemed to be just what the band was looking for.

"In the past we would play songs 900 times and just beat every single thing into the ground," drummer Jeremy Taggart said. "We learned that you really lose the energy in a song if you go beyond five

takes. You can hear that on this album."

After just ten weeks in the recording studio, the quickest ever for the band, OLP walked away with their most melodic and addictive CD to date.

In Canada, Gravity debuted at number two. Nothing surprising there. However, the more intriguing fact is that in the U.S., the album debuted at number nine, a feat that had not been matched by any of Our Lady Peace's first four albums.

Such a positive response seems to be entirely consistent with the band's aims for this album. More than anything, it seems they want the same exposure Nickelback received, which inevitably translated into international stardom.

To accomplish this, OLP has set up more U.S. tour dates than ever and will be traveling from city to city throughout the summer and fall to promote the album.

However, the biggest reason for the initial outburst of the album is the first single, "Somewhere Out There". The brilliantly composed, melodic track that has been sitting pretty as one of the Top 10 Modern Rock Songs in America for the past few weeks.

Clearly, though, Gravity has much more to offer than just one single. In fact, it is

fairly difficult to predict which select track will be released as singles.

One that will definitely receive consideration is the opening track, "All For You," which has a sound all its own combining high tempo drums and pungent vocals. In contrast, "Do You Like It," relies more heavily on the fusion between the older OLP sound and a fierce guitar.

Possibly the best song on the album "Not Enough" will garner attention for the sheer emotion conveyed in the Creed-like guitars in the ever-addictive hook, while the more upbeat lyrics and pop-oriented guitar in the preceding track, "Made of Steel", almost cries out radio hit.

Above all, the thing that makes OLP so intriguing is their consistency. Not many bands can put out one or two critically acclaimed albums in an entire career. However, Our Lady Peace seems to do it with each attempt. They are perennial winners and multiple nominees at the Juno Awards Canada's version of the Grammys, and have sold albums by the millions.

Undoubtedly, with the punch that Gravity is packing, it seems that OLP will finally be able to jump the border. The songs are hard-rocking and fluid enough to make you bob your head, yet catchy enough to be spun on the radio. You've heard of the British invasion, but now it's Canada's turn.

Dave Matthews Band Is Back With Some Busted Stuff

By SARIKA SHIRSAT
Statesman Staff

Dave Matthews and his crew will captivate listeners with their fifth and newest album release, Busted Stuff. Several of the songs in this collection were originally produced under Steve Lillywhite, and scheduled to be released in 2000. However, the band decided to scrap the tracks and instead released their triple platinum album, Everyday.

Somehow the scrapped tracks were leaked onto the Internet. For months now, Dave Matthews Band (DMB) fans have been downloading and enjoying what are known as the "Lillywhite Sessions."

In January 2002, DMB began

rerecording these tracks. With Dave Matthews on vocals and the guitar, Carter Beauford on the drums and percussion, Boyd Tinsley on violin, Leroi Moore on the sax and woodwinds and Stephan Lessard on bass, the band has cohered to create a satisfying blend of eleven distinct pieces.

The title track has Matthews singing about love and his broken heart. Despite its subtle lyrics, the piece is jazzed up with interesting rhythms and creative musical tones. In "Grey Street" Dave Matthews talks of a woman's prayers as Moore bursts out with colorful melodies on the sax. This track is pleasantly accented by Beauford's percussion.

The mellow single "Where Are You Going?" follows. Matthews' guitar sets the

tone for this classic DMB love song. Moore is featured in a solo that helps set the dreamy character for this track.

"Grace is Gone" presents the remnants of the classic love story, with Matthews attempting to find solace in drinking. The "Kit Kat Jam" is a musical treat for Dave Matthews' fans. Purely instrumental, this piece sets all the band members truly jamming. The "Kit Kat Jam" serves as a display of DMB's immense musical talent.

"Digging a Ditch" is a slow track that has Matthews in a pensive mood. He sings, "Run to your dreaming when you're alone/where all these questions spinning round my head will die/will die/will die." Matthews follows with "Big Eyed Fish."

The catchy chorus is brought out by the melody of Moore's sax.

The band brings the collection to completion with "Bartender." Matthews touches on themes of God, drinking, and family, which are visited throughout the entire CD. Musically, this piece satisfies the listener with unique beats heard from Beauford on the drums, and an accompaniment provided by the sax and the bass. The accompaniment grows more and more powerful throughout the song and slowly gives way to a soft flute solo.

Through Busted Stuff, Dave Matthews Band has created eleven unique pieces that not only draw attention to the band's established strengths, but the expansion of the group's horizons.

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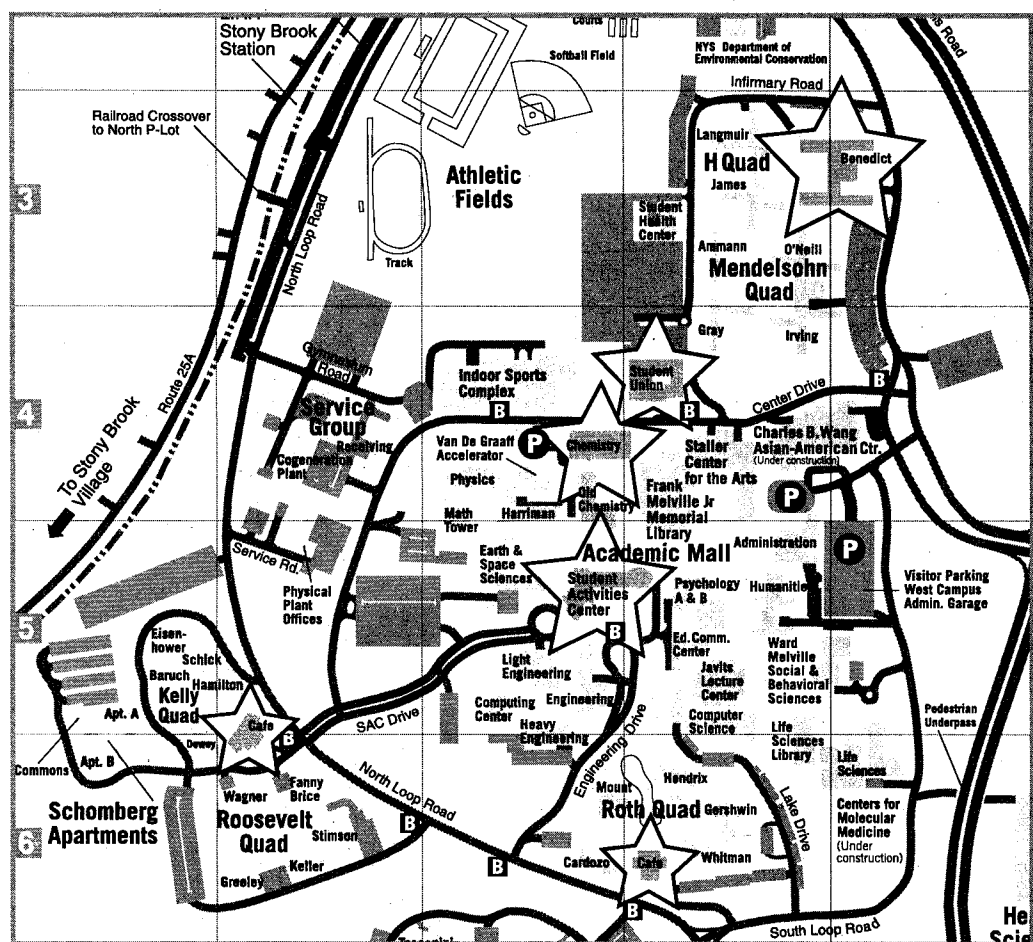
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Sports

Scouting the National Football League

By ALI KHAN
Statesman Staff

As Labor Day weekend looms, anticipation escalates once again for the world's greatest gaming season: Football. The NFC, after giving up the Lombardi trophy to the AFC for two consecutive seasons, looks to reclaim football's most prized possession, and there are a slew of teams capable of doing it.

The one major change in the NFC this year (other than the obvious



Courtesy of www.sports.yahoo.com

Tom Brady and the New England Patriots are pegged to be the likely opponents for any team from the NFC.

realignment of teams into the NFC North, South, East, and West) is the introduction of the Seattle Seahawks, formerly an AFC West team, into the NFC West. That being said, let us jump into the fray and take a look at each of the four major NFC divisions.

The NFC East promises to be a competitive division this year. Last year's division champions, the Philadelphia Eagles, look to repeat as leaders and are in the front running with the exciting young quarterback Donovan McNabb. McNabb now has the liberty of throwing to newly acquired WR Antonio Freeman, and with an already solid defense shored by players like Hugh Douglas and Troy Vincent, this team looks to go far in the playoffs.

The Dallas Cowboys bulked up their defense with key pickups, such as La'Roi Glover and Kevin Hardy in the off-season, and have a promising young quarterback in Chad Hutchinson. The talk of the town is this team heading back to the

playoffs. It will also be interesting to watch Emmitt Smith as he strives to achieve the NFL's all time rushing title.

Probably one of the most interesting teams to watch in this division will be the Washington Redskins. Led by exciting new head coach Steve Spurrier, this team has rumbled through the preseason, and has many feeling optimistic that the Skins may finally break from their recent woes and become a legitimate contender in the NFC. Spurrier has placed Danny Wuerffel as starting QB, and with pickups such as Jesse Armstead at linebacker, and veterans like Bruce Smith, Champ Bailey and Stephen Davis leading the team, the Redskins have a good core of players to make a run.

It may be sad to think that the worst team in the division may be the New York Giants. Two years removed from a trip to the Super Bowl, the Giants still have a relatively dominating defense. However, Fassel's bunch still has to shake inconsistencies on the offensive side of the ball, and trifling among players such as Tiki Barber and Michael Strahan to remain effective.

The NFC West is essentially a two team race: the St. Louis Rams and the San Francisco 49ers. The Rams are looking to rebound from a devastating last-second loss to the Patriots in the Super Bowl. As long as their core of Kurt Warner, Marshall Faulk, and Isaac Bruce remains in tact, they are always a threat. As for the

Niners, they have built up themselves in order to contend with the Rams. With their own trio of Terrell Owens, Jeff Garcia, and a healthy Garrison Hearst, their offense boasts just about as much firepower as the Rams. The Niners young defense is finally starting to mesh as well, so it will

definitely remain interesting.

As for the Seahawks and the Cardinals, both teams require a lot of work to make the playoffs. The Hawks have some potential, and their Mike Holmgren knows what it takes to play in the NFC. They have a chance if Trent Dilfer can remain healthy, as he has posted quite a successful record in recent years.

The Cardinals remain hopeless. Although they splurged in getting DB Duane Starks, their defense remains suspect. Also, QB Jake Plummer hasn't surfaced as the player he was hyped to be, and their lone bright spot may be WR David



Courtesy of www.sports.yahoo.com
QB Michael Vick hopes to lead the Atlanta Falcons to the playoffs in the new NFC South.

Boston, who had an incredible breakout season last year. The NFC North will have quite a battle for supremacy, as the Packers and Bears are both looking strong. Any team that has

considered a contender. He gives the Packers a huge jolt, and even though he lost favorite target Antonio Freeman, the Pack picked up New England bad boy Terry Glenn. The Bears are led by fragile QB Jim Miller. The offense is anchored by surprise back Anthony Thomas ("The A-Train"). With a solid defense that boasts one of the games' best middle linebackers in Brian Urlacher, hefty lineman Keith Traylor and Ted Washington, they will remain a team to beat in the NFC.

The Vikings suffered a huge loss with the retirement of WR Cris Carter. The Vikings did manage to pickup Derrick Alexander. It will be interesting to see if Randy Moss proves as effective on offense now that defenses will focus on stopping him. As usual, the Viking defense remains their weak point. As for the Detroit Lions, I don't see them doing much this season. Their offense and defense are full of holes. Their lone bright spot was the pickup of

exciting former Ram Az-Zahir Hakim. That, however, will not be enough to make them competitive.

Finally, we finish with our look at the NFC South. The biggest story here is the arrival of fiery young head coach Jon Gruden to the Tampa Bay Bucs. Gruden will bring offense to the defensive minded Bucs, and he has a solid duo of receivers in Keenan McCardell and Keyshawn Johnson. The key will be to keep the Johnsons (Brad and Rob) healthy. The defense will be solid as always. This team has the potential to go far, maybe even win it all.

The Falcons will allow Michael Vick to take control this season, and it will be interesting to watch how he develops as a full time player in the NFL. If he can carry over his success from college to the Falcons, look for this team to be a contender in a couple of years. The Saints come off a disappointing season in which they finished 5-11. They finally have allowed Aaron Brooks to take control of the offense, but with the loss of some key defensive players to free agency, I don't know how competitive the Saints can be with some of the upper echelon teams on the NFC.

Finally, the Carolina Panthers come off a season in which they set the record for consecutive losses in a season. They are led by new coach John Fox (with the departure of George Seifert), and sadly it appears that there is a lot of work to be done before this team can reach elite status once again.



Courtesy of www.sports.yahoo.com

The Detroit Lions are hoping to bounce back from their disappointing season.



Courtesy of www.sports.yahoo.com

The Vince Lombardi trophy is still the holy grail of America's new pastime.