

A Time For A New Beginning

— Graduates Celebrate Stony Brook's 35th Commencement —

By TOM FLANAGAN
Statesman Editor

Paper airplanes soared through the air in the Indoor Sports Complex last Sunday. Some did loops, some plummeted to the floor, and a select few nearly reached the sky.

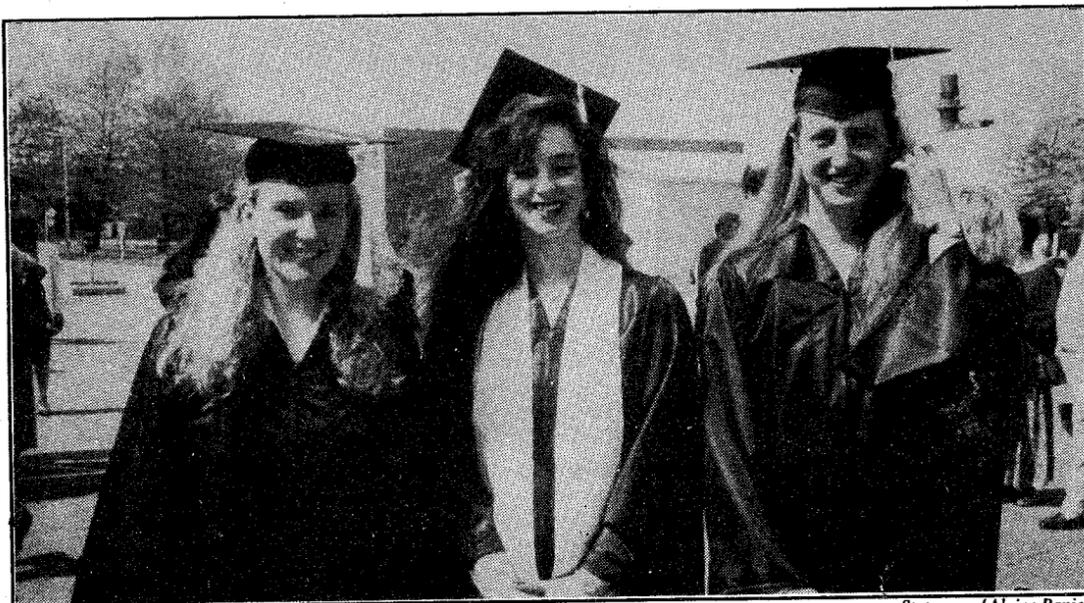
Underneath the busy pseudo-skyway, men and women in cap and gowns, the graduates of the Thirty-fifth Commencement of the University at Stony Brook, sat in triumph.

In the stands, more than 5,000 people gathered to witness the event. Parents, friends and family looked on as the 4,702 graduates were awarded their degrees.

"I can't believe it's over," said Jamie Martorana, a graduate with a bachelor's degree in Political Science. "I'm at the end of a major chapter in my life and right about to start another."

University President Shirley Strum Kenny, the keynote speaker, told graduates that it's now "time for a new beginning." She offered her congratulations as well as her expectations.

"We expect you to make



Statesman / Elaine Ranieri

Three graduates are all smiles before the ceremony outside the Sports Complex last Sunday

the discoveries, cure the diseases, design the technologies, teach the future generations, write the books and sing the songs that will shape the world of tomorrow," she said.

Kenny, presiding over her first commencement, compared the world at large to the world at Stony Brook. "When I read the newspaper or watch television news, I worry terribly," she said.

"But when I look at what is happening at Stony Brook, I see a very different picture." The University, she said, fosters understanding, community, diversity and friendship.

She also wished the graduates well on their journeys. "...[Y]ou will part for places near and far. Make them your places. Give to them, learn from them, plant seeds, harvest solidarity,"

she said. "Know, 50 years hence, that you have made your world better."

Before conferral of the degrees, three students were recognized for their outstanding academic achievement.

The Ward Melville Valedictorian Award was presented to Claudia Roussos, a scholar in medicine. Roussos, a Philosophy major, was a

member of Phi Beta Kappa, Golden Key National Honor Society and Phi Sigma Tau, the International Honor Society in Philosophy.

She has been an instructor for the American Red Cross, a medical worker on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota and is president and co-founder of the Professionals in Medicine Parachuting Society.

Roussos, a resident of Melville, is to enter the Medical School at Stony Brook in August.

The H. Lee Dennison Transfer Valedictorian Award went to two students: Olga Egorova and Carla Jane DeVincent.

Egorova, a transfer student from Moscow State University, graduated Summa Cum Laude in December 1994 with a major in Political Science. She was a member of the National

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Stony Brook Awarded \$5M Grant

By ALEXANDRA CRUZ
Statesman Editor

The University has received the Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative (MURI), a \$5 million grant to conduct research involving crystal growth.

The grant, which is being funded by the Department of Defense, is one of 22 grants being given this year. Thirty-nine universities and colleges around the country have been selected to receive grants, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Princeton University.

Stony Brook will lead the consortium, which is made up of six universities. Research will be conducted with Boston University, Central State University, Manhattan College,

Rennselaer Polytechnic Institute and Virginia Polytechnic Institute. These institutions will combine their efforts to find new ways to grow crystals.

Dr. Vish Prasad, a Stony Brook professor of Mechanical Engineering, will be leading the collaborated efforts. "We want to design the process and design the equipment such that we will be able to grow larger crystals," Prasad said.

The research is to take place over the next five years. According to a news release issued by the College of Engineering & Applied Sciences, it will work "to develop a novel capability of integrated intelligent modeling, design and control of high pressure crystal growth processes."

The research will explore new ways for crystal growth to become possible by using compounds that, at the present time, are not able to promote growth. The research will also look for ways to grow crystals in larger amounts.

The crystals are used to make micro-electronic equipment, such as microchips, and effect fiber optics, photo-refraction, lasers, sensors and light-wave communication.

"This is the first crucial step in making electronic devices," Prasad said. The purity of the crystal is highly important; if it is not pure, the materials made with it will not function properly.

The ultimate goal of the research is to find a calculation that will automatically promote crystal growth. This way, it can

be handled by computers, instead of manually.

This, according to Prasad, will be more cost and time efficient for industry.

Other University members participating in the consortium include: Dr. Michael Dudley, professor and chair of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering; Dr. James Glimm, professor and chair of the Department of Applied Mathematics and Statistics; and Dr. Foluso Ladeinde, assistant professor in the department of Mechanical Engineering.

Research will be conducted at all the institutions in the consortium, with Stony Brook serving as the base for the

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Political Science Honor Society and is currently working with Radio Communications International in New York. She is bilingual in Russian and English and plans to attend law school and pursue a career in east-west trade.

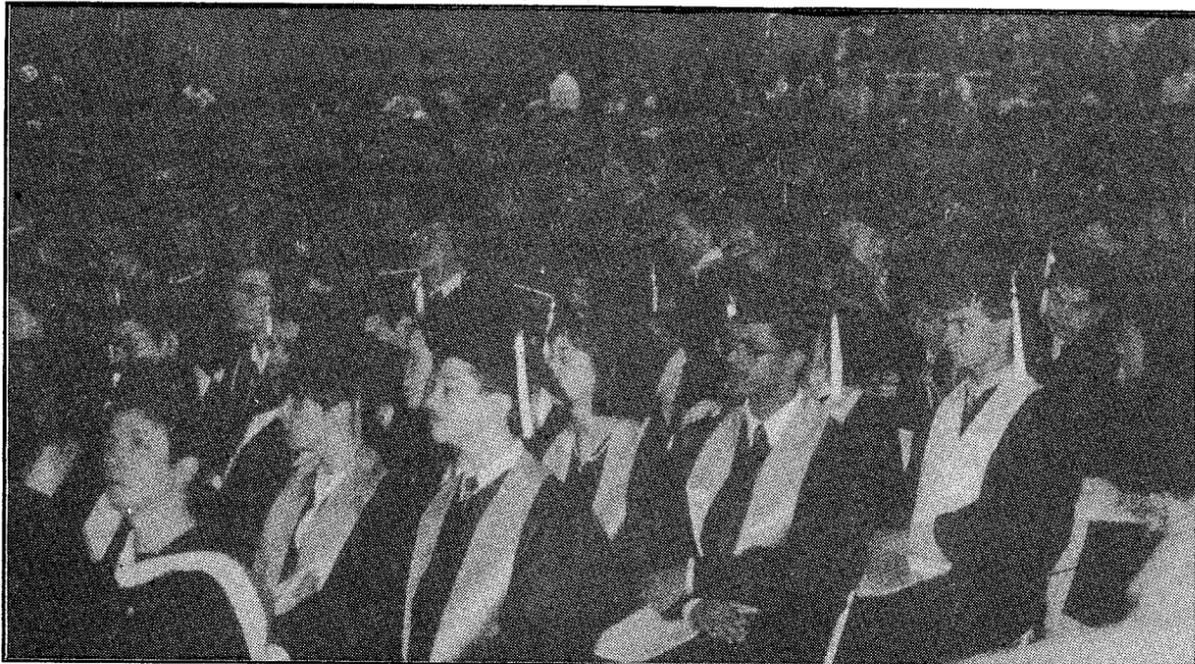
DeVincent, who graduated with a degree in Psychology, returned to academic life after raising a family. She was a member of Psi Chi, the national honor society in psychology, and Phi Beta Kappa. DeVincent plans to enter the Ph.D program at Stony Brook, with a concentration in social/health psychology. Her career goals include research and teaching.

Five students received the President's Award to Distinguished Doctoral Students, an award presented by the Stony Brook Foundation. Criteria for selection include the quality of the doctoral

dissertation and its research base, contributions in ability or service to the University or the overcoming of personal or social handicaps. The recipients and the departments they represent were Karen Harris, Materials Science Engineering; Michael Martin, Physics; Marcia Meldrum, History; Chung-Ming Danial Sun, Chemistry; and Chuan Xie, Physics.

The Student Speaker for the Commencement was Wendy Dann, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. In her speech, Dann stressed the growth into maturity that four years at Stony Brook had given her and her classmates. "We have evolved together," she said.

Martorana, cap in hand and smile on face, agreed. "Four years ago, I was an awkward freshman," she said. "Now, I'm ready to take on the world." □



Graduates listen to University President Shirley Strum Kenny's commencement address

Statesman / Alaine Ranieri

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Let it be known that *The Stony Brook Statesman* is looking for individuals to join in the quest for Truth. Interested parties should inquire in Room 057 of the Student Union or call 632-6479. Remember, the pen is still the mightiest weapon of all.

Honorary Degrees Awarded at Commencement

The following individuals were awarded honorary degrees at last Sunday's commencement ceremony:

Robert Blackburn, Doctor of Fine Arts

Robert Blackburn is a renowned artist, master printer, and dedicated teacher whose name is synonymous with the Printmaking Workshop of New York, which he founded in 1949. As the Director of the Printmaking Workshop, Blackburn has trained and nurtured more than 1500 artists from every conceivable background in the field of graphic arts, particularly lithography. He has made available to minority and Third World youths the skills for self expression, an appreciation of their cultural heritage and a means of personal expression through art.

Blackburn has won many awards and honors, including the *John D. and Catherine T. Mac Arthur Fellowship* and the *Skowhegan Governor's Award* by the New York State Council on the Arts. Blackburn has also held faculty positions at Columbia University, New York University, Cooper Union, the University of Maryland and the City College

Dr. P. Roy Vagelos, Doctor of Science

P. Roy Vagelos, M.D., is the Chairman of the Board of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc., since January 1995. Prior to this, Vagelos served as Chief Executive Officer of Merck & Co., Inc., for nine years, from 1985-1994. He is Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania, a position he accepted in October, 1994, having served as a trustee since 1988. At the National Institutes of Health (1956-1966), he served at the National Heart Institute, holding positions in cellular physiology and biochemistry.

Vagelos is an internationally known leader in biomedical education and research, being an authority on lipids and enzymes. He has held senior academic positions in biochemistry and biomedical sciences at the Washington University in St. Louis. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He has contributed his expertise to important federal policy changes in drug manufacturing, and championed the idea of a joint effort by the pharmaceutical companies to develop drugs to combat AIDS.

Under Vagelos' direction, Merck & Company and the University developed close ties. The company generously supports the Merck Predoctoral Scholars of the Institute for Cell and Developmental Biology and its senior members often visit the campus to give lectures and hold conferences and seminars.

Dennis Puleston, Doctor of Humane Letters

Dennis Puleston is a scientist, a humanist, a teacher and a conservationist, who has endeavored to educate humankind about all aspects of the natural world through his writings, lectures, sketches and photographs.

Puleston holds degrees in Chemistry and in Naval Architecture. In 1949, he began a twenty-two year career as technical and public information officer at Brookhaven National Laboratory, which he retired from in 1970.

One of Puleston's crowning achievements was his role in the founding of the Environmental Defense Fund — an organization of scientists, lawyers, economists and other citizens dedicated to the protection of environmental quality. As a noted ornithologist and scientist, his data on the decline of the osprey led to the banning of DDT. He is a member of the National Audubon Society, executes water colors of birds in their natural surroundings and leads weekend bird-watching field trips for local high-school students. As a member of the Mt. Sinai Advisory Committee and the Board of Waterways and National Resources of Brookhaven Town, he has contributed significantly to local conservation efforts. □

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The Figures Are In

But What Do the Budget Proposals Mean?

Finally, after about four months since the 104th Congress convened, the GOP leadership has finally produced a budget that could be balanced by the year 2002.

The focus of the Congress's budget cuts is not Social Security; it's Medicare and Medicaid. Technically, the budget's plans call for a reduction of spending in Medicare from 10 percent to 5 percent of governmental expenditures.

Also, the budget outlines cuts or even eliminations of approximately 284 federal programs, including the National Endowments of the Arts and Humanities, Clinton's Americorps program, and three federal departments (i.e., Commerce, Education, and Energy).

According to the two congressional Budget Committees, total savings would be \$1 to \$1.2 trillion.

Republican success?

Well, it shows how the GOP is trying its utmost to keep its promises by cutting federal spending, and thus having less government and tax cuts so the "middle-class" could keep more of its earned income.

An economist would look at this budget and say, "Finally the government is trying act like a business."

However, in the political world, cutting governmental programs will not get you votes.

The Clinton administration is already attacking the budget proposals as an "arbitrary campaign promise" to cut taxes. In addition, Laura D'Andrea Tyson, Clinton's economic adviser, argued that:

"Any effort to reduce the government spending takes a dollar out of the economy, and when it takes a dollar out of the economy, that dollar means a dollar of reduction of demand in the economy... [thus the] attempt to continue to balance the budget irrespective of the state of the economy exacerbates that risk and could aggravate the recession that the economy finds itself in."

It's an argument of Keynesian economics, where government has to pump (or spend) money into the economy, so it can be rejuvenated from a recession.

GRANT, From Front Page

research to come together.

"Each university has different [perspectives] on the problem and they will all contribute from their points of view, the expertise that they will have," Prasad said.

"Everyone will be involved; no one can do everything," Prasad added.

This research is placing Stony Brook in the role of a research competitor with MIT. "MIT is very famous for crystal growth research... but this puts us in a league with MIT and we are hoping to surpass them with this collaboration," Prasad said.

Remember folks, the economy allows recovery by itself, without needing the government to "pump more gas".

The private economy always corrects itself, the argument of Keynesian economics, is a political one. In addition, if Keynesian economics does work, then when the economy does recover, the government should cut back and not continue to spend.

The Republican Congress is very bold in its budgetary proposals; the Clinton administration will continue to attack these proposals as being "arbitrary" and "going to balance this budget on the backs of the elderly and on the backs of children."

After looking at this opening round on the federal budget debate, it makes the budget process in New York State easier to monitor.

Remember when Gov. George Pataki proposed his budget to close a projected \$5 billion budget deficit? We all screamed, "SAVE OUR SUNY!" "Invest in higher education!" "Don't cut TAP!" "Help our students, keep EOP!" "Invest in SUNY; Invest in New York!" etc.

It is similar to the complaints President Clinton and his fellow Democrats made about this congressional budget. Even the DCCC sent out a fundraising letter calling House Speaker Newt Gingrich a terrorist and "the most dangerous man in America", because of these proposed budget cuts.

It really shows how the political budget process is becoming zealous. After all, this particular budget proposal asks two simple questions: "How much government do we need?" and "What is the proper role of government?" These two questions on government are the essential points of our two political party ideologies. The Democrats mainly believe that government has to take care of society and to adjust the excessives of capitalism; the Republicans believe in "the invisible hand" of the free market, so it could always adjust itself.

Thus looking at the federal and state budgets (especially after the "Revolution of 1994"), you should ask yourself, "How much government is needed?" or "What is the proper role of government?"

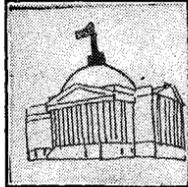
Time will tell. □

Yakov Shamash, Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, said that this project will bring the University closer to accomplishing its goals for Engineering 2000.

"In the year 2000, we want to be comparable to MIT and Stanford," Shamash said. "With this grant, we are essentially accomplishing the goals we set out in Engineering 2000."

"These are the kinds of activities we need to do to promote the college to the level of the top-notch universities across the country," Shamash said.

The consortium is to meet for the first time on June 8-9. □



The Washington Chronicles
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Editorial

Barbecues, Sales, Parades and a Day Off

If the above is all Memorial Day means to you, then you're like millions of other "Americans" who have forgotten the meaning - the privilege - of being an American.

Fortunately, most of us (students) have lived through relatively peaceful times. We have seen the Persian Gulf conflict, the invasions of Grenada and Panama, the fiasco in Somalia and a few other minor conflicts. Some may even remember the botched attempt to extract the hostages in Iran in the late 70's.

Most of the rest of us have lived through only the "minor" conflicts of Viet Nam and Korea.

In these latter years, it seems that relatively few men and women have given their lives in time of strife. Even in Viet Nam and Korea, the numbers were negligible compared to the two World Wars.

But, is that any reason to brush off Memorial Day, recognizing it now with meaningless parades, backyard barbecues, sales at the mall and a relaxing day off?

We, as a nation, should be ashamed of ourselves!

Had only one man or woman have died in the last 50 years, we should treat Memorial Day with the same reverence as ever.

We emphasize the past 50 years because many of us cannot

remember further than that. And, though we emphasize the last 50 years, we should not forget the 150-plus years before that.

Men and women have been making the supreme sacrifice for this great (and it is!) country for more than 200 years. During that time, millions have died wearing our uniforms. Men by the thousand went to war, only to die minutes - seconds - after stepping off a troop transport or jumping from planes and helicopters.

They died without firing a shot, without a prayer of survival. Like sheep to the slaughter, many of them died, knowing that they would do only one thing when they arrived in battle: die. They died in the name of freedom. They died in the hope that their sacrifice would not be in vain.

Why should we not take but a few hours - one day - to remember those who came before us, those that made our insignificant barbecues, parades and sales possible?

We are not against these activities. We are against taking these events very much for granted. And, we are not asking for much.

At the very least, when you are at your sale buying your necessities, remember those who bought your freedom with their lives.

When you are at barbecue, take a moment of silence with those around you, and have a burger and a beer for those who never got to enjoy them past their tender ages.

When you are at your parade, follow the marchers to the cemetery or memorial ceremony and reflect on those that marched to battle and will never march again.

On your day off, take a moment by yourself. Remember those whose days off were paid for with their lives. They will never work again.

For those of you remaining on campus or in the area, there is the Long Island Veterans' Home on East Campus near the hospital. Visit a veteran and thank him for risking his life. Console him on the loss of his fellow soldiers. Thank him for coming back.

One last thing, not all soldiers die in open combat. Some die in training accidents, covert operations, rescue missions and other incidents. This Memorial Day, remember those that have gone before us that have paid the ultimate price. Remember, also, that today, somewhere in the world, a man or woman is dying in the name of freedom.

Dedicated to all our brothers and sisters in arms, past, present and future.



**"For those who fought for it, freedom has a flavor the protected can never understand."
 - Anonymous**

Don't Give Up

To the Editor:

When I was a little boy, I wanted to become a doctor. When I grew up and went to Stony Brook, I still wanted to become a doctor. At the time of my interview with the Health Professions Office, it was suggested to me that perhaps I should consider other fields. I have since graduated from an American medical school, I am board certified in two specialties and I love my work. Graduates, hold on to your dreams and never let anyone wrestle them away from you.

Sincerely,
Erza B. Riber, M.D.
President, Class of 1974

Math TA Helpful

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter in reference to the article about Math 123 published in the April 24th issue of *The Stony Brook Statesman*. I was a student in one of Steve Majewicz's sections for Math 123, and contrary to the opinion implied by the students in the aforementioned article, I found Steve to be extremely helpful both in and out of class.

As a returning student, who had not taken a math class in over five years, I was quite intimidated when I found out I had to take calculus for my major. My math skills were quite weak to say the least, not to mention the fact that I had never been a very good math student.

Contrary to my expectations, though, my Math 123 experience turned out fine. And this is undoubtedly a result of having Steve as my recitation instructor. Steve was always clear, concise and unambiguous in his explanations, making very tough concepts a lot easier to handle. As well, Steve was very much concerned with particular students' difficulties in grasping the subject, and recommended students attend any lecture that they found unambiguous. He also recommended additional sources that he were very helpful.

Recognizing the course's difficulty and faster pace, he strongly encouraged students to do many more problems in these texts than required, and was readily available at any time for help in doing them. Additionally, he held exhaustive review sessions prior to each exam. Furthermore, Steve helped to virtually eliminate my fear of math, and my positive experience encouraged me to continue my math studies. Overall, Steve fostered a positive environment in recitation and always encouraged students to give it their best shot.

In closing, I urge both students and faculty members to reconsider the remarks made in *The Statesman*. Steve is not only a knowledgeable instructor who conveys information in a digestible manner, but he is also a compassionate teacher who understands and was able to allay the fears that many students faced that difficult semester.

Sincerely,
Ian Robert Brown

No Evidence of Gang Activity on Campus

To the Editor:

Your recent article "Gang Violence Preys on Students" attempts to give the impression, that there is a serious gang problem on campus.

We are aware of the incidents listed in your article, and have in fact extensively investigated each case and initiated corrective actions through the student judiciary and the criminal courts. Through hundreds of hours of investigative effort, that included interviews with witnesses, victims, alleged suspects, members of Resident Life Staff, and the Suffolk County Police Department, there has been no evidence of any organized gang activity on the Stony Brook Campus.

One must remember that Stony Brook is an open campus and that resident students are permitted to have overnight guests in conformance with the "terms of occupancy" contract. When individuals who are not members of the campus community are identified as a threat, we request "persona non grata" designation. Once granted, it subjects the individual to an arrest for trespass if he/she is found on campus.

We are very concerned with the safety of all persons on campus and will continue to vigorously pursue any allegations of wrongdoing. However, one must remember that we have to balance these safety concerns with the constitutional rights of all parties. This means the accused are entitled to due process.

While we do not believe there is a "gang" problem on campus, we encourage anyone with information to come forward. It is my policy to have an informed community on all matters of personal safety.

Sincerely,
Richard M. Young
Director
University Police

Editor's Note - While we acknowledge Director Young and his department's efforts to battle crime on campus, our investigation indicates that there is a "gang" problem on campus. Never in our previous article did we say that gangs flourish on campus, only that gang activity exists and that community members need to be aware of such activity.

To say that there is not a gang problem on campus is to disarm the campus community. It won't go away if we pretend it isn't there. It is only through programs such as Neighborhood Watch and Crime Stoppers - programs set up by University Police - that we can hope to eradicate all crime, including gang activity from this campus.

These programs only work in an educated community. A community cannot be educated when the educators deny the existence of available knowledge.

We stand 100 percent behind the validity of our reporter, his months of investigation and his report.

This Community Belongs to All of Us, so Let Each Become Aware!

A Remembrance of I-CONs Past

To the Editor:

In 1981, members of the Science Fiction Forum came to the Student Activities Board office looking for a handout. They wanted to do an SF film festival and didn't have any money left in their budget (this was before video became ubiquitous), so they came to me. Thus I-CON was born.

Back then I was "COCA Ralph," the campus movie czar. As an aficionado of S.F., I loved the idea of a film festival. I plundered the C.O.C.A. treasury and got some additional funds from Polity, as well. I talked to Carson Tang of the S.A.B. Speakers committee about getting involved and he volunteered to book Gene Roddenberry as a speaker for the film fest. After further meetings, the SF Forum put together a roster of some writers and artists that they could talk into coming (for free, of course), as well as some of Stony Brook's own prestigious academicians. Before we knew it we had put together a full-blown convention in less than a month, produced by COCA, SAB and the SF Forum.

All we needed was a name. Mud-Con was suggested. In those days, the campus always seemed to be a half-built mud pit and so it seemed appropriate. Fortunately, it was voted down when we learned that an earlier aborted attempt to produce a campus convention went by that unlucky name. L.I.-CON came up but seemed awkward, and vaguely risqué when pronounced incorrectly. I suggested a variation: I-CON. Short for Island Convention, it also had a quasi-religious, mystical quality that everybody seemed to like.

My tag line, "Long Island's largest convention of Science Fiction, Fact and Fantasy," conveyed our desire to make I-CON into something unique, taking advantage of SB's credentials in the scientific community and the presence of legendary physicists and engineers amongst the faculty, and combining them with some of the most famous (and obscure) writers in the genres of SF, fantasy and horror.

Now all we had to do was sell the damn thing. We didn't do too badly, selling more than 500 tickets for the weekend shindig. Some people came to see a few of the more bizarre movies we had booked and some of the more obscure writers (I never did find out who that old man, Raymond Z. Gallun, was, but he kept coming as an I-CON guest up until his death, and then the I-CON committee named an award after him. I assume it goes to the most obscure guest in attendance each year).

Most people came to see Roddenberry. We had taken him out for Chinese food just before the show and this may have induced an MSG hangover (or maybe it was the three Scotches he threw down), but his show was less than awe-inspiring. People seemed genuinely glad to meet and speak with him anyway.

Everyone involved with this first I-CON seemed happy with the experience... happy but not satisfied. We had thrown it together so quickly that many things were overlooked or poorly done. We had a big, post-convention dinner meeting at the Beefsteak Charlies on Rt. 341 and Stony Brook Rd. (I don't think it's there any longer) and after the third pitcher of Sangria, everyone stopped pointing fingers and started laughing and planning for the next year.

We had a full year head start for I-CON 2 but, being college students, again waited for the last minute to get it together. We had some major problems both financial and personal, but managed to get it up and running, selling nearly 1000 tickets this time.

Our guests of honor were Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Asimov. He was not well and had to leave after the first day, but was very excited and

enthusiastic about being there, as was everyone who came in contact with this great and brilliant man.

George Takei ("Mr. Sulu" of *Star Trek*) was a guest as well, and seemed a genuinely decent fellow. He came to a party in Irving College (Hall B-2) and got drunk with everybody. My friend drove him to his hotel afterwards, stopping along the way to pee by the side of the road with Mr. Sulu. (At least that's how the story goes.) Surprisingly, George was up at dawn the next day and convention-goers had the opportunity to jog through campus with him. I declined.

We also had Robert Blalock, a movie sfx wizard who had done the effects on *Star Wars* and many other big pictures. After his rather dull presentation we showed *Star Wars* in the Gym, and everyone seemed to enjoy that, especially with the distinct aroma of Northern Californian cannabis permeating the air.

I also recall all the equipment sitting in the Lecture Center... all the movie and sound equipment, and the dealers' tables that we were responsible for, and stuff like that just sitting there behind those Plexiglas doors. I decided to sleep in the Lecture Center that night to safeguard everything. I ended up having copious sex with my girlfriend on the main stage of Lecture Hall 100 while running the 16mm projectors showing *Clockwork Orange* on the huge screen above us (perhaps sex was irresponsible then, but at least it was fun...and Beethoven still brings a smile to my lips).

Dan Hank ran I-CON the following year most ably, expanding it even further and getting guests like Harlan Ellison. After that, original committee member Ralph Schiano took over for many years, but I've been told that his excesses nearly drove the committee into financial ruin. I don't know who runs I-CON anymore. I stopped attending it a few years ago because no one recognizes me there and it has become like visiting the house you grew up in, now occupied by strangers. But that is as it should be.

I-CON has grown and, despite its peaks and valleys (and near collapse), has become a tradition on the SUSB campus. I'm glad for that, but one must be careful not to let the tradition become an institution. Students should re-invent it every year for themselves, making mistakes and having fun. I hope you folks are still having fun running it, because in the end that's what you'll remember.

Life is brutish and short, so get your nose off the grindstone and look up to the stars... your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go (go ahead, damn it, and split that infinitive!) where no one has gone before...

Peace,
Ralph Sevush, Esq.

(The writer is a USB alumnus, class of 1983, and currently an entertainment attorney practicing in New York.)

Please type all letters and opinions and include any information you would like printed with your name (i.e. titles, affiliations, etc.). All submissions must include the author's name, address and phone number. Anonymous letters will not be printed.

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Statesman Features

Monday, May 22, 1995

Comedienne Renee Hicks Tops on College Circuit

(CPS) - Some men think Renee Hicks is kinky because she has a bald head. Some women think she's a lesbian because she has a bald head. And some people think she's a kinky lesbian because, well, she's got a bald head.

To college audiences, however, Hicks, who stuck with the bald look after niece botched a haircut just before a stand-up performance, is among the most popular comediennesses on the campus circuit, having played at nearly 200 colleges in the past year or so and having been named the National College Comic of the Year. Not bad for a former certified public accountant who also happens to be the daughter of a Pentecostal preacher.

So just how does a C.P.A. go about becoming a hot comic? Would you believe it's the old friends-convincing-her-to-get-on-stage-at-an-open-mike-night-at-a-San-Francisco-comedy-club-and-things-just-took-off-from-there story.

"It's true," yells the high-energy Hicks by phone from a Texas hotel, where she's staying while in town for a college show. "I'd been really reluctant to go up on stage, but my friends dared me. Then they said,

"Sometimes, when I get off stage, people say, 'Okay, you can calm down now.' I say, 'I wish I could!' I just got lucky enough to have this personality that lets me make people laugh."

'We'll give you a hundred bucks.' When they talked money, I listened. So I got on stage, and I was really comfortable. When I got off, other comics came up to me and said, 'You're really good' and 'Where do you play?' I told them it was my first time, and nobody believed me. After that night people started hiring me to emcee their shows and that led to me quitting my job as an accountant and doing the comedy full-time."

Hicks, who was born and raised in San Francisco and attended college at Cal State in Hayward, explains that the secret to her humor is her ability to mine everyday life and everyday people for laughs. "I do what I call humor people, which means that no matter who you are - black, white, Hispanic, straight or gay, male or female - you can come to my show and be able to enjoy it," she says. "What

makes me laugh is watching normal people and observing the absurdities of life. That's how I get my material. When I'm on stage, I'm just me. I'm the same way on stage that I am off it. Sometimes, when I get off stage, people say, 'Okay, you can calm down now.' I say, 'I wish I could!' I just got lucky enough to have this personality that lets me make people laugh."

The comedienne, who's single, thirty-something and splits her time between Los Angeles and San Francisco, reports that she loves performing at colleges, where she's nearing the end of her year-long "Bald Ambition Tour."

"You can't do a lot of political material for a college crowd. Even though they may vote, they may not be that up on what Newt Gingrich is up to because they're busy studying.

But the college crowd is a lively crowd," she notes. "If they like you, they really like you, and they demonstrate it. They'll yell and scream, and they want you to party with them afterwards. At a comedy club, the audiences are like, 'Oh, yeah, you're funny,' and they're drunk and slobbering on you."

In addition to her campus and night club appearances, Hicks has strutted her stuff on numerous TV comic showcases, such as "Caroline's Comedy Hour" and "Evening at the Improv." Further, she's guest starred in an episode of "Hanging with Mr. Cooper" and tackled a small role in the recent film, "A Low Down Dirty Shame." Looking to the future, Hicks foresees herself jumping back and forth between movies, television and the standup comedy circuit.

"I want to get more into the acting," Hicks said. "We've been talking with some production companies and to the networks. It's just a matter of trying to find the right projects, ones that don't rely on just on my being bald and black. My management team thinks something will happen soon... and I hope they're right." □

OnLine Resumes: Billboards on the Information Superhighway

(CPS) - On the corner of every graduating college student's desk is a pile of resumes and a pile of cover letters. Next to them is a neat stack of envelopes, already addressed, ready to hit the mailbox and to eventually find their way to employers.

Yeah, right. For most students, getting resumes out the door is a necessary evil, executed only to avoid lifelong drudgery as a fry cook at a fastfood restaurant. But, thanks to modern technology, with a few computer keystrokes, students are placing their resumes in the hands of employers across the nation without licking a single stamp.

During the last year or two, several on-line resume services have popped up. Some work over the Internet. Others work through a bulletin board system accessed by modem. Both types allow students' resumes to reach thousands of employers electronically. For example:

• **Resume Online** hit the telephone lines just four weeks ago, but already contains more than 200 resumes. To add a resume to the database, students call or e-mail the company for a resume kit - a fill-in-the-blanks form. Not only does it ask for the resume basics, it also asks questions such as "What are your most important long-term goals?" and "How do

you usually handle conflicts or confrontations?"

"We're more in-depth than other services," said Dave Czach, president of Acumark, Inc., who runs the service. "We have more in-depth questioning. It saves time for employers and prospectives."

Employers can log on with a modem and then search through the resume database, looking for specific attributes. Resume Online claims to reach 10,000 personnel directors.

Resume Online costs \$49.95 for one year. The fee includes four free updates. To order the Resume Online resume kit call 1-800-330-MY-INFO or send e-mail to resume@mailback.com.

• **Career Shop** is yet another service that, for a fee, will provide your resume to thousands of employers. Its questionnaire includes the usual info such as name, address, experience, etc., but also asks items including "Describe your career objective" and "What separates you from other candidates?"

After you fill out the questionnaire and mail in the \$39 fee, Career Shop will provide you with a laser-printed copy of your resume and IBM software to check your resume file by modem. For \$89, they'll provide you with a more detailed questionnaire and give you one full year

on line.

Although both the premiere and standard services provide you with unlimited updates, the standard service lasts just six months and only releases your resume to one state, while the premier service allows employers across the United States to see your resume.

To get a copy of the Career Shop questionnaire, call 1-800-639-2060.

• For students with empty wallets, there are many free resume services on the Internet.

The **Internet Online Career Center** (www.occ.com/occ/) allows students and everyone else looking for jobs to post their resumes for free. Employers, using the Internet, America Online or Compuserve can search for your resume by keyword or by state. Students only need to e-mail their resume to occ-resumes@occ.com. The subject line should include info about the job for which you're searching, such as "Underwater Basket Weaver Seeks Job In Ozarks." The resume will stay on-line for 90 days, which can be extended simply by e-mailing your resume again.

OCC also carries a list of job

openings, but most of these are technical jobs, as are most of the job listings on the Internet.

Another free Internet resume service is provided by **Decisive Quest, Inc.** (www.onramp.net:80/~dqi/). From the Web page, job-seekers may download an IBM program that helps them create a resume. After you send the resume back to DQI, they compare it with their job listings. If DQI finds a match, they will call you, tell you who the prospective hiring company is and ask if it's okay to release your resume.

There are other fledgling resume services on the Internet - some free, some not-so-free.

Hyper-Media Resumes (www.webcom.com/resumes/) helps you create a resume that's also a web page, for a price. DC's **Resume Net** (www.inlr.net/dc-online/~resume/) also will let you post your resume for a fee. But, if your resume is already on a web page, they'll create a link from their page to yours for only \$10.

Chances are, other Internet resume services are in the works. So keep surfing, and you might just find a job. After all (quoting from the Resume Online brochure) "Sure beats licking over 10,000 tasty stamps." □

Record Reviews: Radiohead to Duran Duran

(CPS) -
Radiohead
"The Bends"
Capitol Records

When a band debuts to such critical kudos as Radiohead, it often falls victim to second-album syndrome. Whether real or perceived, the band's next major release doesn't sound as refreshing or frank to those fans and critics who worshipped their first.

No doubt Radiohead did some soul-searching in the wake of their gold album "Pablo Honey" and their accompanying anthem to teen-age alienation, "Creep." Was it time to trash the trademark adolescent angst that brought the band their first taste of the limelight? Thankfully, the answer was "no." Moody guitar swings mirrored by equally moody lyrics still works in this second effort from the Oxford, England-based quintet. And, as a result, "The Bends" becomes subtly addicting especially for those whose music tastes border on the morose.

Lead singer Thom Yorke's vocals are, of course, the cornerstone of this sound, but guitarists Johnny Greenwood and Ed O'Brien chip in to gets things off to a start on songs like "Planet Telex" and the album's title track. Their rifts raging in the background are key, for when not countered by the appropriate measure of discordant guitar, Yorke's effeminate falsettos border on the annoying - like in "Black Star," which begins with sticky sweet crooning that holds a disquieting similarity to David Gates, the vocalist for the '70s pop band Bread.

The energy on this 12-song LP peaks in the middle, after which the band shifts into a "songs-by-which-to-commit-suicide" mode - finishing off with the spooky "Street Spirit," a song perhaps best appreciated while in deep thought in the dead of night. But if this morbidity gets too much for you, program your CD player to skip back to track number five. "Bones," is a catchy-sounding "alterna-tune" that proves Radiohead's future actually isn't as bleak as it sounds.

Soul Coughing
"Ruby Vroom"
Slash/Warner Bros.

The name of this New York club band is more fitting than most. Soul Coughing's sound is chunks of jazz, hip-hop, poetry, chant, funk, spoken word, rap - all digested and regurgitated into a style that borrows and yet births a new way of mixing alternative acid jazz with a fluid beatnik-like chant. In fact, Soul Coughing is a reference to vomiting, and the band's sound lives up to its euphemism in both composition and lyrics.

Musical vomit is not necessarily a bad thing, though, at least in the way Soul Coughing pitches it. "Ruby Vroom" has everything and more for the funk aficionado. Heavy with samples that range from Looney Tunes to the Andrew Sisters, this mixture of hip-hop beats melded with a monotone chants and melodies works in an infectious way on anyone who has the slightest inclination to this emerging musical trend.

Soul Coughing is compared with other second generation white hip-hop/funk bands (like Beck, or G Love and Special Sauce), but Coughing takes an extra step

with their disconcerting and baffling (but audiologically clear) lyrics. For example, in a particularly memorable track "Bus to Beelzebub" lead singer M. Doughty maniacally shouts "Yellow Number 5" over and over again in a tone designed to frighten and confuse. But lest you think that there's a deeper meaning to this nonsensical behavior, M. Doughty assured the press in his publicity materials that his choice of phraseology is merely whatever appeals to him musically. Such reckless poetry spawns charming couplets like, "Paleolithic Eon/Put the fake goat on."

Only the most artificially stimulated listener could derive some hard and fast meaning from these stanzas, and the band admits that many of their core fans in the ultra-hip New York club scene were messed up enough to try.

But don't let that scare you. Despite their not-so-humble origins, Soul Coughing has enough talent to back up their New York attitude.

Duran Duran
"Thank You"
EMI Records

Duran Duran's latest effort, "Thank You" is a collection of 11 covers that acknowledge the band's myriad influences in their 20 years on the mainstream music scene.

It's an album that would be better named "Sorry."

In theory, covers are supposed to be a way of paying homage to a musician's song-writing talents by illustrating how easily their work can be interpreted across musical genres. But Duran Duran merely insults such greats as Sly & the Family Stone ("I Wanna Take You Higher"), The Doors ("Crystal Ship"), Bob Dylan ("Lay Lady Lay"), and even Elvis Costello ("Watching The Detectives"), by showing that they, too, can be at least tangentially responsible for tired pop songs.

Duran Duran's musical *chutzpa* is perhaps best evidenced by the first song on the album. "White Lines" was a fairly successful single originally released by Grandmaster Flash and Mele Mel in the midst of the cocaine culture of the '80s. Not only is the social frustration and panic in Mele Mel's rapping missing from the one-time sex symbol Simon LeBon's cover, its absence is accentuated by the fact that Mele Mel's original raps are sampled - presumably in an effort to inject some much-needed life into Duran Duran's lead single.

But skewering a few iconoclastic songs from rock 'n' roll history isn't enough for Duran Duran. The band's only original song on the album, "Drive By," is a laughable attempt at spoken word, not to mention a look at how this band has become the biggest inside joke of the '90s.

If Rob Reiner remade his "rockumentary" Spinal Tap in this age of mainstream-alternative, could the focal fictional band be any more rich in humor than the combination of Simon LeBon, Nick Rhodes and John Taylor? Didn't any of them realize that a cheery Caucasian pop band from England has no business covering Public Enemy's "911 is a Joke?"

It's bands like these that prevent the '90s alternative movement from wallowing in ill-humor and introspection. And for that, we "Thank You," Duran Duran.

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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, May 22, 1995

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STATESMAN SPORTS

Monday, May 22, 1995

Wolverine Fans Shocked by Arrest and Resignation

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (CPS) - University of Michigan students and alumni say they were shocked by the arrest and subsequent resignation of head football coach Gary Moeller.

At a university where football coaches have become living legends, many Wolverine fans are asking themselves what could have led to Moeller's drunken dethronement.

In 1990, when Bo Schembechler announced his retirement as coach of the UM football team, he was honored with his share of accolades on and off the field. And while the legendary coach never brought a national title home to Ann Arbor, he was recognized for his commitment to excellence and his well-run program.

Gary Moeller had enjoyed a similar tenure until recently. Since his first season, Moeller has fallen short of a national title, but won enough Big Ten championships to keep the alumni happy. And like Schembechler before him, Moeller's program remained clean.

But after Moeller's arrest last week, some cracks have begun to appear at the base of the proud Wolverine

foundation.

"I don't think Moeller did anything wrong when he was coach, but it's obvious that the pressure just got to him," says Rick Chabula, a UM sophomore. "There's a lot of people here who want the coach's head every time we lose a game. You can put up a good face, but you're bound to crack at some point."

Moeller, 54, was arrested April 28 after hassling customers at a restaurant in suburban Detroit. As police took Moeller through the parking lot, the Michigan coach punched an officer in the chest. Moeller is being charged with disorderly conduct and assault and battery. The two charges, both misdemeanors, carry a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

Michigan President James Duderstadt suspended Moeller two days after the incident, telling reporters that "the most important thing in intercollegiate athletics at Michigan will involve the integrity of our program."

Two days later, Moeller resigned.

"I would like to make it clear that my conduct last

Friday is in no way an indicative of an alcohol problem, that it does not reflect on any family difficulties between me and my wife, Ann, or any other

from his New York home. "They crucified the guy. What he did was stupid, sure, but he didn't deserve to get hung out to dry."

Other Michigan alums aren't quite as sympathetic. "We should get (former Colorado coach) Bill McCartney in here as soon as possible," says Eric Samms, who graduated from the university last year. "Moeller wasn't a winner. We needed a new coach anyway to get the Rose Bowl back from Penn State."

Not all Michigan graduates are concerned about bowl games, however. "I would rather watch the Wolverines lose to Ohio State every year than get caught in some scandal," says John Hallowman, who graduated from Michigan in 1987. "There's supposedly a difference between our program and the SMUs and Oklahoma's. I shudder every time I read about a player getting in trouble."

Not that there has been a lot to read about since Moeller had arrived. But in

the past two years, various members of Moeller's team have been involved in a credit card scam and a bomb-making incident at the 1993 Rose Bowl and have had problems with academic eligibility. Still, some argue that the same occasional mishaps took place under Schembechler but were squelched by the coach before the press found out.

Those close to the program say Moeller was constantly stressing integrity and good conduct to his players. Two hours after his arrest last week, Moeller regretfully maintained his position.

"I tell those guys all the time you want to be good, bust your ass. Because that's the thing, I believe in that," says Moeller on a police tape. "I love my football players, and I love my daughters."

In cases where misconduct was reported, athletic director Joe Roberson says that the responsible players were all immediately disciplined.

"There has never been any question about the quality of Coach Moeller's program," he said. "We stand by the integrity of Michigan athletics." □

"I have left my job as head football coach, but I still have my family and my dignity."

- Gary Moeller
Former Head Coach
UMichigan Football

member of my family," said Moeller in a released statement. "I have left my job as head football coach, but I still have my family and my dignity."

Moeller's resignation came as a shock to most football fans, including Chris Luendowski, who graduated from Michigan in 1992. "I thought it would blow over in a week but the media really seemed intent on making it an issue," says Luendowski, who still travels to at least four games in Ann Arbor a year

Babe Ruth Subject of Academic Conference

Hempstead, NY (CPS) - While academic conferences can be pretty stuffy events, a recent program at Hofstra University could have easily had peanut and popcorn vendors hawking in the aisles, and no one would have batted an eye.

Poets, scholars and baseball fans of all ages converged in Hempstead, NY, last week for "Baseball and The Sultan of Swat," the first annual conference on Babe Ruth.

Participants in the conference discussed everything about the Bambino, from his playing style to his legendary home runs. Hofstra University's baseball stadium, more than an hour from Yankee Stadium, where Ruth spent 15 seasons, sponsored the event.

Wrap-Up of Seawolves' Baseball, in the next issue of The Stony Brook Statesman (June 5).

"It was a great way to welcome back baseball, even if I think today's players are a disgrace compared to men like Babe Ruth," said Tom Aravino, who traveled from Buffalo for the event. "Babe Ruth is all about baseball, and baseball is all about guys like Babe Ruth."

The memory of Ruth, who played seven seasons for the Boston Red Sox in addition to his time spent with the New York Yankees, inspired 30 poets, all of whom made their way to the university's Adams Playhouse to pitch their poems about their favorite boy of summer before a live audience.

In addition, more than 100 scholars presented academic papers on Babe Ruth, who died in 1948.

Mike DeLuise, director of media relations for the university, says the attendance of 500 was twice as many as expected. "We drew scholars, fans and reporters - many more than we thought we would," says DeLuise. "It was a baseball fan's dream come true." □

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