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It Big In National Finals Page 3

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Stony Brook Page 5

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Statesman

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Campus Target



The Physics Building/ Picture By Jae Kim

University Expands Security As Suspected Group Hits Again, Striking Physics Building

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Physics Latest Target in Rash of Burglaries

Police are on the Lookout as the Second Major Theft Strikes the Heart of Campus

By RAYA EID
Statesman Editor

The Physics building was the site of yet another burglary on campus, last Thursday. Officers who responded to the scene discovered forced entries in 3 different rooms throughout the building. However, equipment was reported missing from only two of the rooms.

The first burglary reported at 5:00 a.m. occurred in room B106 and 110, where a Gateway Laptop worth \$1,700 was stolen. The second entry, which was reported at 6:00 a.m. was in room D104, where a Multi Sink Monitor valued at \$2,000 was stolen. In addition to the stolen equipment, there was \$250 worth of damage to the doors of the rooms.

This is the second major burglary this month. The first occurred in the Graduate Chemistry building on February 1st, costing an estimated \$30,000, making the thefts worth approximately \$34,000 combined.

Equipment in the Chemistry building was stolen from two separate facilities. The first burglary reported was a forced entry into a 4th floor lab where a computer workstation, a digital camera, software, and two storage devices worth \$18,000 were stolen. Later that morning, police received another call reporting that yet another two computers were stolen from a different lab, worth approximately \$8,000.

According to Doug Little, assistant director of community affairs for University Police, said there

is an ongoing investigation and along with Suffolk County detectives are working on the case. Both the Chemistry and Physics burglaries are believed by the police to be related crimes. "We know this is a group that keeps hitting these areas, and we will get them," Little said.

Access into the buildings at night is not difficult because employees and students are sometimes working late at night. Little said that employees and students in the buildings should be trained to report anything that may appear to be suspicious.

There will be a Security Service Assistant in the buildings from now on and continued neighborhood watches, specifically in the Chemistry building. Undercover officers are also on the lookout at the Sports Complex for any suspicious activity in the locker rooms, where there have been a series of thefts.

Little believes that "these are crimes of opportunity that don't take long," and said he would like to see more involvement with neighborhood watches.

Perhaps a more adverse fact about the Chemistry and Physics thefts is the information that is lost on the hard drives when the software is stolen. "This is tragic because they're not only losing valuable property, but vital information and valuable data as well," said Little.

One student, Jeanine Erdman said, "if it is students who are stealing this equipment, than it's the rest of the student body who has to pay for it,



Statesman/Teo Lek D. Ying

Assistant Director of University Police for Community Affairs, Doug Little, is setting goals to prevent further thefts.

and that's not fair."

If there is anyone with any information concerning these series of burglaries, call Crimestoppers at 2-TIPS, 632-8477. Crimestoppers is offering a \$1,000 reward for anyone with information leading to an arrest. □

Computer Science Team Declares A World War

Four Stony Brook Computer Science Superstars Head to Atlanta for Finals Competition

By BEN VARGHESE
Statesman Editor

After losing by a narrow margin to Columbia University in the annual ACM International Collegiate Regional Programming Contest in 1995, Dario Vlah, a member of the Stony Brook team, set out to plot out his revenge. He was on a mission to make a name for the Stony Brook Computing Society (SBCS), which could never make it past second place in prior contests.

Vlah assembled a talented team to represent Stony Brook at the ACM contest last November. Approximately 3,750 of the world's brightest students representing more than 700 universities from 40

countries competed. Vlah's team consisting of Pedro Sander and Kok-Ho Loh, all seniors at Stony Brook, for the first time, went on to claim the top prize defeating Columbia University as well as many other Ivy League teams, advancing them to the World Finals in Atlanta.

On February 27-28, the team of Vlah, Sander, Loh, as well as an alternate member, Brian Risinger will represent Stony Brook among 50 other teams comprised of 162 students from around the world.

The Finals will once again, pit teams of three students against a host of complex, real-world problems, which they must solve in a set amount of time. Students must rely on their

programming savvy-skills, creativity and teamwork to solve problems as they race against the clock in a five-hour battle of logic, strategy, and mental endurance. But this time, it will be a bit more challenging. As Sander points out, "the teams will only have one computer instead of two. It's going to be harder and we're going to need more communication to get everything done." But Sander said they have it all planned out. "We will always have two people at the computer and one person working on the next problem, so we are never wasting time," he said.

Under the supervision of a Distinguished Professor of Computer Science, Theo Pavlidis, the team has trained twice a week, discussing strategies and working on several different types of problems.

According to Risinger, the key is speed. "One of the interesting things about this competition is most of the time in the real world, you try to make programs so they run as fast as possible, but part of this contest though is getting them typed in and working as fast as possible, not necessarily running the most efficient one," Risinger said.

Loh said that the problems that they will be up against are "real-world" problems.

"One question could be, you have a fire in a certain place, and the fire station is in a certain location, and you have to find the fastest way of getting from the fire station to the location given that streets are closed off." Loh said, however, that each problem has its own "generic solution."

"There's a common routine which can be adapted to different kinds of problems and the bulk of our training is trying to familiarize ourselves with this routine," Loh said.

"It's all about telling the computer in very definite simple steps exactly how to go about deriving the answer and that depends how quickly your program works."

Although the finals are only two weeks away, the team seems confident about their chances at victory. "We're really excited and hyped up," Loh said. "It'll be tough, but I think we're up for the challenge." Sander said it all depends on mental preparedness. "What it comes down to is that we must all have a good day. We must get a good night sleep, drink a cup of coffee in the morning, and then concentrate for five hours," Sander said.

However the team's main ace is Vlah. As a foreign student from Croatia, Vlah developed his experience in computer programming, and was a participant of the "International Olympiad in Informatics" in 1993. "Dario is the 'Michael Jordan' of our team; all we have to do is pass him the ball and get out of his way," Loh said.

With 54 teams earning the right to compete in Atlanta this year, last year's champion, Harvey Mudd College will return to defend their title. As for the team of Vlah, Sander, Loh and Risinger, their goal is to defeat MIT and Berkeley. "It's all about bragging rights," Loh said. "You look at which university comes below you, and you get to go to them and say, yeah, we beat you." □



Statesman/Teo Lek D. Ying

From left to right, Brian Risinger, Dario Vlah, Kok Ho Loh, Pedro Sander.

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Protesting the Law By Tying the Knot

Where were you? Running late for class, snacking at a campus eatery, or simply strolling through the academic mail, when you caught a glimpse of the "bride and groom" wandering around campus last Thursday.

Today, same-gender couples are not allowed to legally marry in any state, no matter how long they have been together, no matter how committed their relationship, and no matter how much their families need the protections, benefits and responsibilities that come with civil marriage. For this reason, February 12th was announced as the National Freedom to Marry Day by the National Freedom to Marry Coalition, a group of national gay and lesbian organizations and allied non-gay groups.

"Marriage is an important personal choice and a basic human right. The decision to get married belongs to the couple, in love, not the state," said graduate student Alana Samuels, the "groom." Samuel said "Legally, religious and civil marriage are two separate institutions. Though many faiths perform same-gender marriage ceremonies now, they have no legal recognition as civil marriages. The state does not dictate which marriages any religion performs or recognizes, and religions should not dictate who gets a civil marriage license."

Throughout the day on Thursday, well-wishers congratulated the couple on their marriage, only to be informed that "it's not legal, if we could, we would." The well wishers were invited to show their support of same-gender marriage by "tying the

knot." According to the Freedom to Marry web page (www.fim.org), "tying the knot" entails knotting ribbons around trees, lamp posts, buildings, door knobs, and car antennae. Supporters tied a knot around their ring finger or arm, or decided to wear a knot on their lapel.

At the moment, the Supreme Court of Hawaii is deciding the fate of same-gender marriage. Due to some recent legislation, their decision will not automatically affect the rest of the states. "If it is in fact approved, same-gender couples who travel to Hawaii to get married and return home to their home state will expect to have their marriage recognized at home, just as others do," said Melanie Clemans, the "bride" and a SUNY Stony Brook student. "Even the *New York Times* said it would be 'absurd, demeaning and unconstitutional', if a marriage lawfully recognized in one state is considered 'absolutely void' in another."

New York's attempt to legislate a ban on gay marriages was defeated in 1997. Nine states, including Florida, Maine and Virginia, have adopted similar legislation in 1997. Bills introduced in 14 others states, including California, New Hampshire and Texas, were blocked. According to Evan Wolfson, the director of the Marriage Project at Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the election-year passage of an unconstitutional federal anti-marriage law in 1996 will not stop the struggle or success, nor will it end the backlash.

The Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, created what some homosexuals have called a radical caste-system of first-class and second-class marriages. Under DOMA, same-sex marriages are denied the same legal protection and recognition as found with different sex marriages.

"DOMA's blatant violation of constitutional principles of federalism, non-discrimination, and respect for lawful marriages shows the anti-marriage law to be, not just gay-bashing, but, in the words constitution bashing," said Samuels.

For more information on the National Freedom to Marry Day or how to start a Freedom to Marry chapter in your area, you may contact the coalition



Melanie Clemans and Alana Samuels dressed in wedding attire for last Thursday's Tie the Knot Day.

at their official website: www.freedomtomarry.org, or contact any of the coalition members: Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund; the Human Rights Campaign; the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force; Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation; the American Civil Liberties Union; Gay & Lesbian Advocates and Defenders; the National Organization of Women; Parents, Friends and families of Lesbians and Gays; the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center, as well as hundreds of non-gay and gay local and state partners across the country. □

NYPIRG Visits Albany

By SEIDEL BETHUNE
Special to the Statesman

SUNY schools have declared March 2, Higher Education Lobby Day. As part of events to mark the day, the Stony Brook chapter of the New York Public Interest Research Group, (NYPIRG), in collaboration with the student government, will be sending a delegation of students to Albany to lobby for a cut in tuition.

"We are very optimistic about getting a tuition cut for students," said Todd Stebbins, NYPIRG project coordinator. Stebbins said that NYPIRG and other SUNY student groups calling for a tuition decrease have come against a backdrop of a New York State budget surplus of over 800 million dollars in revenue for the past year. Already, the University at Stony Brook stands to benefit from this windfall, with an additional allocation of 35.3 million in capital funding for the new fiscal year.

However, Stebbins said that this money will be spent on construction projects such as a new athletic stadium which he said will take a long time to be completed and has no immediate benefits for students currently attending the University. Stebbins also said that as a result, they were pushing for a 20-25 percent reduction in tuition for the fall semester in order to alleviate the financial hardships currently facing a number of students. Stebbins said that the success of this reduction lobby depends on all students, and urges them to take part in the campaign. He said that when the group goes to Albany they will also be presenting to the legislators photographs of Stony Brook students followed by quotes on what they said in regards to a tuition reduction as a means of presenting a "clearer message."

Stebbins said that this is the first year Governor George Pataki did not ask for a tuition increase. A move he attributes as a re-election ploy, and urges students not to be fooled.

Students interested in attending the lobbying effort in Albany can contact NYPIRG, in room 079 of the Student Union, or call 632-6457.

Making Graduation A Little Easier

By JAVERIYA SYED
Special to the Statesman

The University Bookstore, Jostens and the Office of Conferences and Special Events will be sponsoring their first Graduation Salute for the graduating class of 1998, beginning Tuesday, February 24 until Thursday, February 26. The event will run from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Student Activities Lobby all three days.

The Salute will be a "one stop shop," said Ann Forkin, director of Conferences and Special Events, "with a combo of services, information on graduation, and shopping."

The office itself will staff a table during the hours of the Graduation Salute and distribute information fliers on the three separate Commencement Programs: Baccalaureate Honors Convocation, Doctoral Graduation and Hooding ceremony, the University Commencement and the Commencement Festival. Individual questions will be answered as they pertain to these programs. Representatives from the Registrars Office will answer any questions relating to graduation clearance status, helping to avoid long lines at Administration.

Island Photography will be taking formal graduation portraits in front of a painted canvas (2-4 poses, the session takes approximately three minutes). Complementary color proofs will be mailed home with no obligation to purchase. Specula will also be taking orders for the 1998 yearbook. Jostens will be selling class rings and

Personalized Graduation Announcements and other accessories.

The Alumni office will be on hand as well to educate graduates on the Alumni Association, and as an added benefit first year dues will be waived.

Along with the necessities needed for graduation the Graduate School will be giving out information concerning programs being offered at Stony Brook. The School of Professional Development and Continuing Studies will have information for future graduate students interested in remaining at Stony Brook for their graduate study. SPD encourages lifelong learning and invites students to review its current catalog for programs. SPD offers three graduate degree programs, as well as open admission as graduate non-matriculating students may take undergraduate or graduate courses. Information on registering for non-credit courses will also be available in many areas including computer application, substance abuse certificate program, real estate insurance, Kaplan review and others. The Career Placement Center will provide information on the Job and Internship Fair and literature on career and grad school as well.

The Graduation ceremony itself will be held on Sunday, May 17, 1998.

The University will have a whole weekend designated for our seniors during senior weekend activities. Representatives will be at the Salute informing students of the planned activities. If you have anything in mind or would just like to volunteer for senior weekend this would be the time to do so. □

United States Has Ulterior Motives in Iraq

BY STEPHEN PRESTON,
STATESMAN STAFF

The mainstream media have recently been wetting their pants over the opportunity to destroy Iraq. Editorial pages in papers such as the "liberal" *New York Times* feature columns in which the U.S.'s military stance is debated: for example, in the January 31 issue, one column said the U.S. must send ground forces into Iraq to kill Saddam Hussein; the opposing editorial said that we don't need ground forces, just a whole lot of bombs, and we can find some other way of killing Saddam Hussein. Mainstream news outlets (meaning those owned by the 14 major corporations such as Time-Warner and Disney) have been imploring to the public that Clinton's proposed bomb-dropping is just not harsh enough, considering Hussein's crimes. As usual in these sorts of foreign-policy discussions, the Dirty 14's spectrum of debate ranges from the fanatically violent to the rabidly violent. To their dismay, however, much of the public remains unconvinced.

The media have also painted, once again, the picture of the U.S. as a lone crusader in the world, like Danny Glover in *Lethal Weapon*: always trying to retire from this pesky saving-the-world business, but always getting drawn back in by those nasty "rogue nations". Oddly, the media notes, most other nations of the world seem reluctant to follow us in our invasion. Oh well, they rationalize, it must be because the governments of France and Russia have their own greedy oil interests in mind; too bad they can't follow our selfless example. This delusional jingoism is plain to most observers outside the U.S., but here it is easily accepted because there are so few alternatives within our borders. The picture of the U.S. as reluctant policeman is more attractive than the real picture, but it obscures many issues.

Revelations about the U.S.'s actions against Iraq during and since the war it led in 1991 have come out slowly

since then. For example, after the war ended and the U.S. left Iraq, several bloodthirsty commentators complained that we had not "finished the job", since we had not yet killed or overthrown Saddam Hussein. However it was revealed in 1996 that the CIA had spent the previous five years attempting to get Kurdish factions in northern Iraq, as well as disenchanting political officials in the Iraq government, to overthrow Hussein. The operation bore much in common, both in its aims and in its ultimate failure, with Kennedy's use of C u b a n dissidents in the Bay of Pigs invasion: in both cases the CIA provided funding and military training for dissidents to overthrow the government, and in both

cases the targeted governments infiltrated the dissident groups and captured the plotters. The Los Angeles Times recently reported that the FBI investigated the CIA in 1995 on charges of conspiring to assassinate Hussein (it is illegal for the CIA to directly assassinate anyone since the CIA scandals in the mid 70's), but the charges were later dropped because although the CIA knew about such a plot, it was not directly involved.

Thus it is hardly unreasonable that Hussein has been hesitant to allow Americans free access into files of Iraq's intelligence agency, especially when the Americans who want access are former marine intelligence officers such as Scott Ritter. While you may not find it plausible that Ritter is a spy, it is understandable that Iraqis feel that way.

This brings us to the issue of Iraq's chemical and biological weapons. The U.N. Security Council imposed economic sanctions on Iraq until U.N. inspectors could certify that Iraq had no such weapons. The process has

been approaching completion, after seven years of the crippling sanctions. Iraq has destroyed about 800 warheads under U.N. auspices, and there is no evidence that Iraq has any left. But Clinton has announced he will not allow the U.N. to lift sanctions until Hussein is deposed, with or without these weapons. The Iraqi view is that the weapons inspectors from the U.S. and Britain will try to draw out inspections based on flimsy evidence in order to be able to justify continued sanctions. Again, this could just be a ploy by Saddam Hussein to distract

attention from some vast weapons stockpiles hidden in his palaces, but how credible is this idea? The Iraqis have allowed all inspection teams

except the American team unfettered access to any site they wish, and have even offered to allow 60-day inspections of all presidential palaces. The idea that they would be able to outsmart the entire world by sneaking missiles around in the dead of night from peasant house to peasant house without getting caught by all the spy planes flying overhead is ludicrous. It gets more ludicrous the more U.S. officials make claims they have no evidence to justify.

The U.S. government's selective enforcement of, and occasionally blatant disregard for, international law should raise suspicions as to the true nature of our government's policies. And this is my point. American history is very difficult to understand if one takes the standard perspective that our foreign policy is humanitarian, or concerned about "freedom" and "democracy". It becomes much clearer if we simply look at the U.S. as having more selfish motives: it sends its military wherever it feels its "national interests" i.e. the economic interests of large American-headed corporations, are threatened,

and ignores all other conflicts.

So what is America's interest in Iraq? Oil, of course, one way or another. Based on past American foreign policy, in which the U.S. used covert military action almost 2,000 times to change foreign politics to its liking, one might suspect that the U.S. still wants to depose Saddam Hussein and install a puppet government, like it did in Iran, Indonesia, South Vietnam before the war, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Chile, Zaire, Haiti, Cuba and many other third world countries in the last 50 years. What if all the calls of U.S. Senators and Representatives to eliminate Hussein are not being ignored, and the inspections have been a ruse to gain information for covert action, as Iraq suspects? The more history you know, the more reasonable this idea becomes.

Even if you disagree with this analysis, the point is that many thousands of Iraqi civilians will be killed by the series of bombings which now seems inevitable. And many more of the sanctions that Clinton wants to leave in place indefinitely. Ask yourself this: what if Clinton is wrong? Then the bombing of Iraq will be effectively genocidal, and will serve no purpose whatsoever. The most horrifying realization is that this is genocide whether Clinton is right or wrong.

The International Socialists Organization will hold a meeting on Wednesday, February 18, at 9 PM in the Javits Conference Room, on the second floor of Melville Library, to discuss resistance to Clinton's planned attacks on Iraq. Please join us if you are concerned.

"The U.S. government's selective enforcement of, and occasionally blatant disregard for, international law should raise suspicions as to the true nature of our government's policies."

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Editorial & Commentary

Give the Freedom of Marriage to All

February 12, 1998 was the first annual Freedom to Marry Day, where gay's and lesbian's across the nation protested for the legal right to marry. To put a face onto this debate, Stony Brook's Alana Samuels and Melanie Clemans decided to prove a point by dressing up in wedding outfits and parading themselves around the campus.

We wonder where the issue is. Who's business is it what two people who love, care and

support each other do in their bedrooms? Who are we to judge their choice of lifestyle? Leave these couples alone and give them the right to marry like the rest of us. They are no less human because of their choice of sexuality.

To the religious right that find the actions of the same sex couples vile and disgusting, we have a compromise for you. We're sure that these couples love

each other enough to be married by a civil servant, like a justice of the peace. They wouldn't have to step in a church or synagogue.

We recognize that people may find our opinion not to their liking. But not being married doesn't automatically stop people from loving each other, especially couples that are bonded by an equal bias against them. We wish these people luck in their fight.

Graffiti Cleanup Needs Student Help

BY KEVIN KEENEN
STATESMAN EDITOR

As the presence of graffiti increases on the Stony Brook campus, the Administration is scrambling to implement programs to prevent it from occurring. The recent "zero tolerance" policy announced towards vandals last semester, and the implementation of County Executive Robert Gaffney's anti-graffiti task force here at the university, testify to the aforementioned fact. However, while the presence of graffiti may appear to be Administration's problem, it is far more. Making graffiti on Stony Brook property effects each of us, and will only be eradicated from this campus through the combined efforts of all those who live and work here and those who utilize campus facilities.

There is a well documented theory known as "Broken Windows." The window theory maintains that crime increases in an area when the perception that no-one cares if it does pervades that area. The situation is likened to a building with a broken window. If the window remains unrepaired, people will assume that the building is not frequented by maintenance workers, and hence is not cared for. As a result, someone will break another window, then another, and soon all of the windows will be broken. Eventually, the broken-window phenomenon will spread to surrounding buildings, and if the maintenance systems in those buildings are comparable to the first, the phenomenon will spread like a disease with disastrous

results.

The making of graffiti also adheres to the Broken Window model. As Nathan Glazer, a nationally known American sociologist, has written, the proliferation of graffiti on a subway, even when not obscene, confronts the subway rider with the "inescapable knowledge that the environment he must endure for an hour or more a day is uncontrolled and uncontrollable, and that anyone can invade it to do whatever damage and mischief the mind suggests."

The result of the knowledge that one has lost control of the situation in which she or he currently finds her or himself in is a certain fear of that situation. This fear leads to a desire to change the situation, and without control over a situation, a person usually seeks to avoid it.

Now, you might be asking yourself how all of this relates to Stony Brook. Well, back in December, the first window was broken here in the sense that the first graffiti messages were scrawled on walls. Since then, more and more graffiti appeared. The graffiti plague has spread to stop signs, school signs, and other prominent places that are viewed by members of Stony Brook and visitors to the campus. Similar to the subway commuter previously discussed, members (and prospective members) of the Stony Brook community will inevitably begin to feel that the environment here is insecure. They will soon want to avoid this environment. We will lose

many prospective faculty members and students. If graffiti continues to spread, we may even lose current members of the Stony Brook community as they seek out a safer environment.

Administration is doing its job to combat graffiti, now it's time for us to do ours. According to Philip Zimbardo, a Stanford psychologist, the windows of the broken window theory are nearly almost always broken by middle class whites. No, the stereotypical view of a rough, street running minority teenager committing all the crimes finds little place in this theory. Similarly, graffiti is not solely a minority phenomenon. The fact is, young white males commit more than half of graffiti crimes. We probably know one of these young white males, and we may know a black male or hispanic female who makes graffiti as well.

But yet we, the members of this University, have done nothing to stop graffiti. Our stop signs, and our school signs, with their tag names and shoe polished cartoons, elucidate our passivity in the matter.

Graffiti artists identify themselves; they brag, they wear their symbols on their hats or tattoo them to their bodies. We notice and ignore them, just as we have noticed and ignored their graffiti on our University. But, we cannot ignore the fear that evident lawlessness creates nor can we ignore the results that that fear generates.

Act on that fear, eradicate it by assisting the Administration in finding vandals. When we do that, we will no longer have to look through a broken window to see our University.

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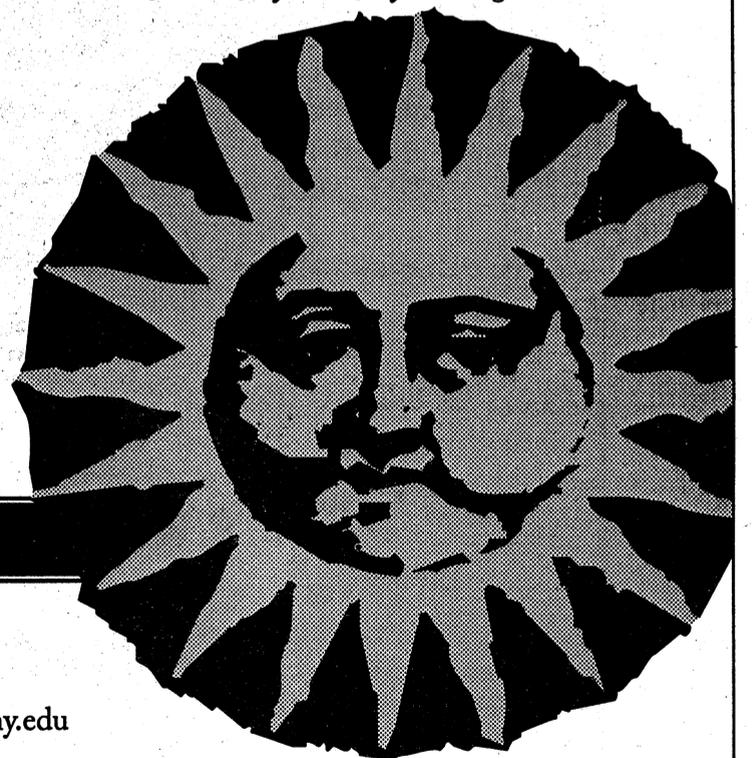
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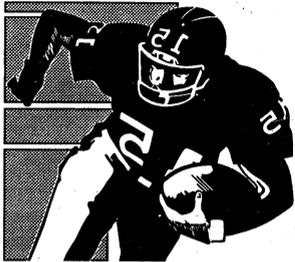
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And the Oscar Goes To...

By TED GOUNELAS
Special to the Statesman

The Oscar nominations are out, and it seems as though the massive *Titanic* has broken another record. Well, at least it tied the 47 year old record, which was held by Joseph Mankiewicz's *All About Eve*. *Titanic* received a total of 14 Oscar nominations. It will have to convert 12 of these nominations into awards, however, in order to top *Ben Hur*, which is all alone at the top, as winner of 11 Oscars.

Titanic is nominated in every major category, all but one—best actor. Kate Winslet, of *Titanic*, is joined by fellow actresses: Helena Bonham Carter (*Wings of the Dove*), Julie Christie (*Afterglow*), Judi Dench (*Mrs. Brown*), and Helen Hunt (*As Good As It Gets*). Incidentally, Hunt is the only

American actress nominated in this category, as all of the others are English.

Jack Nicholson is joined in the best actor category by hot new star, Matt Damon from *Good Will Hunting*, Robert Duvall (*The Apostle*), Peter Fonda (*Ulee's Gold*), and Dustin Hoffman (*Wag the Dog*). Nicholson, and his nomination for *As Good As It Gets*, surpasses Lawrence Olivier as the most honored actor with 11 nominations under his belt. Katherine Hepburn, with twelve nominations, is the only actor that has more nominations than Nicholson.

In the best supporting actress category, Kim Basinger (*LA Confidential*) is joined by Joan Cusack (*In and Out*), Minnie Driver (*Good Will Hunting*), Julianne Moore (*Boogie Nights*), and Gloria Stuart (*Titanic*).

Anthony Hopkins is nominated

for *Amistad*, earning this film its only nomination in a major category. Robert Forrester (*Jackie Brown*), Gregg Kinear (*As Good As It Gets*), Burt Reynolds (*Boogie Nights*) and Robin Williams' nomination for *Good Will Hunting* round out this category with their nominations.

Peter Cattaneo was nominated in the Best Direction category for his film, *The Full Monty*. Cattaneo is joined by Gus Van Sant (*Good Will Hunting*), Curtis Hanson (*LA Confidential*), Atom Egoyan (*The Sweet Hereafter*) and James Cameron (*Titanic*).

Finally, the biggest and most awaited award, Best Picture, include film nominations for: *As Good As It Gets*, *The Full Monty*, *Good Will Hunting*, *LA Confidential*, and of course, *Titanic*.

The Academy Award Ceremony will be globally telecast from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on March 23rd. □



Photo Courtesy of TriStar Pictures
Helen Hunt stars in *As Good As It Gets*

HOROSCOPES

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

A cosmic transition hints at danger. A new experience will change your outlook on life. Do not be fearful of the future embrace it with your soul.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

Don't rush, you should not be in a hurry. Decisions you'll have to make require time. Be weary of promises of fast fortune.

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)

The ones you hold dear may be holding something else, a grudge. I see cataclysmic events that will play themselves out over the

coming month, but in the end the dust will settle and only purity will remain.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)

The light in your eye is gleaming. Your intuition is on target. Your sense of direction is like never before. Make no bones about it; your life will come into focus.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Tumultuous times are behind you. Keep your head on straight and your feet firmly planted on the ground. This is not a time for risks or gambling. Walking slowly will get you where you

want to go faster than running.

Cancer (June 21-July 21)

Your world was spinning for a while now you will be given the chance to let it settle. Do not mistake cynicism for wit. The stars are in positions that will give you added wisdom and insight.

Leo (July 23-Aug 22)

Your daily routine will be altered. You will achieve fame and acclaim. Showcase your talents and don't be shy in front of the camera.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You will feel torn between two worlds, one of safety and assurance and one of upheaval. Though a path may promise great rewards, it forebodes great disappointment. Approach options with your eyes open mind clear.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

The scales are tipped in your favor. Use this newfound edge to your advantage. Your "fair shake" approach lacks cunning required in the real world. You will need to adopt a new set of rules.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

There will be a stinging sensation near your heart. Do not lose all hope for serious relationship; an old flame's ambers will be rekindled.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Your "no nonsense" approach to life is passe. Create a new persona for yourself that defies the limits that you have set on yourself. A mysterious romance will take shape.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

You are in your element. A natural born leader must learn to adapt to changing circumstances. What seemed far is now in reach. Lunar alignment evokes adventure and mystery.



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Morbid Angel's Formulas Fatal to the Flesh

By PHIL SALAMACHA
Statesman Staff

Morbid Angel's CD is close to being one of the heaviest, most chaotic, and melodic albums I own.

The guitar work of Trey Azagthoth is nothing short of incredible. Pete Sandoval's drumming is extremely fast with his double-bass and blast beats, and the new bassist/vocalist Steve Tucker is brutal in his low-pitched moans.

Morbid Angel's studio albums precede in alphabetical order. In 1989, the band released *Alters of Madness*, which created a barrier-breaking revolution in the death metal scene. In 1992, they released *Blessed are the Sick*, which set their trademark sound in the industry. *Covenant* was their next studio album, which proved that they could survive on a major label. Three years later, they released *Domination*, which was another musical masterpiece with fast, heavy songs along with the occasional instrumental composition, laden as a trademark of theirs. They quickly released *Entangled in Chaos*, a live album which Trey produced. *Formulas Fatal to the Flesh*, is the band's latest album, following their alphabetical theme, is yet another musical masterpiece.

The very first song, "Heaving Earth" is classic Morbid Angel. It contains Trey's usual spells and incantations within the lyrics, and Pete Sandoval does a sick drum roll encompassed by silence. The sixth track, "Disturbance in the Great Slumber" is an instrumental which is extremely eerie. You have to pull the shades, and turn out the lights for this one.

Xylophonic sounds, underlying low-octave cellos, and other classical instruments make this song very interesting. On track ten, "Hymn to a Gas Giant," Trey is playing what sounds like sweep arpeggios on his guitar with a classical kind of sound; very cool effect. Track eight is a sequel to an old song off of one of their past albums, "Hellspawn: The Rebirth." Brutal as all hell. Most of the songs on the

album have some incredible guitar solos, and the only way to describe Trey would be Eddie Van Halen on crack playing in a death metal band—purely magnificent.

With the last three tracks of the album, "Ascent Through the Spheres" is lead by some sort of tribal drum beat along with a synthesizer playing another eerie progression. "Hymnos Rituales De Guerra" is a two-minute and 40 second drum solo which is astounding. And the last track "Trooper" sounds as if someone is getting shot, a good way to end a great album. *Formulas Fatal to the Flesh* is one the best metal albums so far in 1998. □



Morbid Angel
Photo courtesy of Earache Records

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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, February 16, 1998

Statesman

Campus Lifestyles
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Features

Never Vedder

Pearl Jam's talents continue with their latest album, *Yield*

By ELIO EVANGELISTA
Special to the Statesman

"I'm not trying to make a difference. I've stopped trying to make a difference," sings Eddie Vedder on "No Way," the third track on Pearl Jam's newest album, *Yield*. These lyrics seem quite significant after listening to the band's latest effort.

It appears that Pearl Jam has shed the "voice-of-a-generation" label that they carried through their first three albums and decided to create fresh music for the rock fan. For the first time, the band has presented a consistency of sound and style between two consecutive albums. The music on *Yield* sounds quite similar to the heavy guitar oriented style of music present on *No Code*, released in 1996. One is left to wonder, is this the new face of Pearl Jam?

Most of the songs off *Yield* carry catchy melodies and lyrics that make it an enjoyable album on the whole and a welcome addition to any CD collection. Pearl Jam's latest assortment of songs offers a healthy mix of musical experimentation and appealing guitar riffs.

"Given to Fly," the first single from their fifth album, adheres to Vedder's talent for storytelling. At times the lyrics may seem trite, yet Vedder is able to make them fit so well within the context of the song. On "Wishlist," one of two charming

love songs on *Yield*, Vedder sings, "I wish I was the verb to trust and never let you down."

On the whole, *Yield* offers something for every Pearl Jam fan. Songs like "Push me, Pull me" and the untitled eighth track (actually, the title is a red dot) are very reminiscent of the weirder side of the band, first seen on *Vitalogy*. Tracks like "No Way" and "In Hiding" would appeal to fans of the band's second, record-breaking album *Vs*. And for those fans of the pre-Pearl Jam era (when they were still called Mookie Blaylock), "Pilate" should bring back memories of the band's contribution to the 1991 album *Temple of the Dog*.

Much of the consistency between *Yield* and *No Code* could be attributed to the addition of drummer Jack Irons to the band in 1995. Irons, who once played for the Red Hot Chili Peppers, has a distinctive style of playing which creates a noticeable difference when compared to the band's earlier albums.

Since their debut album, *Ten*, Pearl Jam has consistently been producing good music that any fan of rock and roll can appreciate. If *No Code* marks the new face of Pearl Jam, then *Yield* is a welcome follow-up. Though their style of music has changed drastically since *Ten*, one of the reasons many of their original fans have given up on the band, Pearl Jam remains one of the most talented and insightful group of musicians of the decade. □



Photo courtesy of Sony Music

Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder

Fly's Bombthreat True to Its Title

By JUMMY FORD
Statesman Staff

Bombthreat: Before She Blows is the new debut album from the four year old music group, Fly. While listening to this album, you get the distinct impression that the band has put no effort into their music, and that the thoughtless lyrics are brought about, only out of necessity.

The first song off of the album, "Nothing Will Replace," spreads a message that there isn't any hope, as "angels die and devils lose their mind." This message is very hard to take seriously, especially since the lead singer constantly sounds like he's going to fall asleep. If he doesn't enjoy the music, why should we?

The next song, "Tempted," consists of 14 words, which takes

almost two minutes to say. While slowing his voice to the point of irritation, you will wonder why you so foolishly spent your money on this CD.

Their third track, reminiscent of the previous song, has a new set of 14 words, but instead of dragging them out, they simply repeat the words over and over again, without giving us any clue as to what they're trying to say. In my opinion, "The Big Mistake" was deciding to form this band in the first place.

"Dastardly Bastard," the next track off the album, is about a drunk who wants to complain about his problems. The drunk refers to his "tired 'ol bones" and to how he's a "livin' hazard." This song is truly a shame since the title has so much more potential than the song.

The next song, "Deadline Love" makes no sense whatsoever. This song will leave you wondering as to how the band could have possibly thought that these combinations of words would pass as lyrics. At the very least, Fly is consistent with their lack of talent when it comes to music. "Martian Lounge (alien)" is another track that not only doesn't make any sense, but it will once again leave you in a state of confusion with lyrics like "I live like the scarecrow I love her like an alien."

Their other songs, including: "Tidal Wave," "Strangè," and "Top O' The Bottom," are no better. The one thing Fly does prove is that they have no business in the music industry. The feeling of apathy is very strong throughout their songs.

Listening to this album, you have to feel sorry for Kneeling Elephant Records, the label that signed Fly. Kneeling Elephant is a brand new record label, with Fly as their first client, and they are obviously already off to a bad start.

You'll be thinking that it "Just Ain't Fair" that you have to listen to this band's music, and with a song like, "Set My Head On Fire," it seems that Fly understands what we want to do when we listen to this album. The final song, "Before She Blows," includes a special hidden track that would be best left hidden.

This album apparently wasn't a waste of time for Fly, since they didn't spend much time on it. **Bombthreat: Before She Blows**, however, is a waste of our time. □

The following issue should have been numbered “35”

