



# Statesman

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Thursday, November 14, 1996

First Copy Free

## Students Rally Against Proposition 209

By **ROBERT BONFIGLI**  
*Statesman Editor*

At campus lifetime yesterday, a rally was held to protest the passing of proposition 209 in California. Posters proclaiming 'Affirmative Action is Under Attack!!' were posted all over the Student Union, where the event was held.

The rally was hosted by the United States Student Association (USSA) and the Student Association of State University of New York (SASU). Featured speakers included Andre English of the Black Caucus, Monique Maylor of the Student Polity Association and Judi Cheng of the World Workers Party. The meeting was held to warn students that the passing of Proposition 209 in California would signal the attempts of similar legislation in other states and perhaps even nationally.

Proposition 209, also known as the California Civil Rights Initiative (CCRI), was a proposed amendment to the constitution of California which passed on the ballot during the presidential elections. Rally

speakers derided the naming of the initiative saying it was neither right nor civil. The passing of the proposition was marked by the beginning of the end for civil rights in America and people of color were in danger of once again becoming slaves.

In the fireside lounge, there was a banner hanging which depicted a clenched fist with a chain around it with the epitaph "To our brothers and sisters in California, we are outraged that Opposition 209 passed and we commend you in your efforts to fight back. In unity, SUNY Stony Brook." A literature table was set up with details about the specifics of what is wrong with CCRI and three pre-written letters that just needed to be signed with addresses added on. An information sheet about differential tuition was also made available. Judi Cheng from the World Workers Party handed out literature about her organization and two recent editions of the organization's paper.

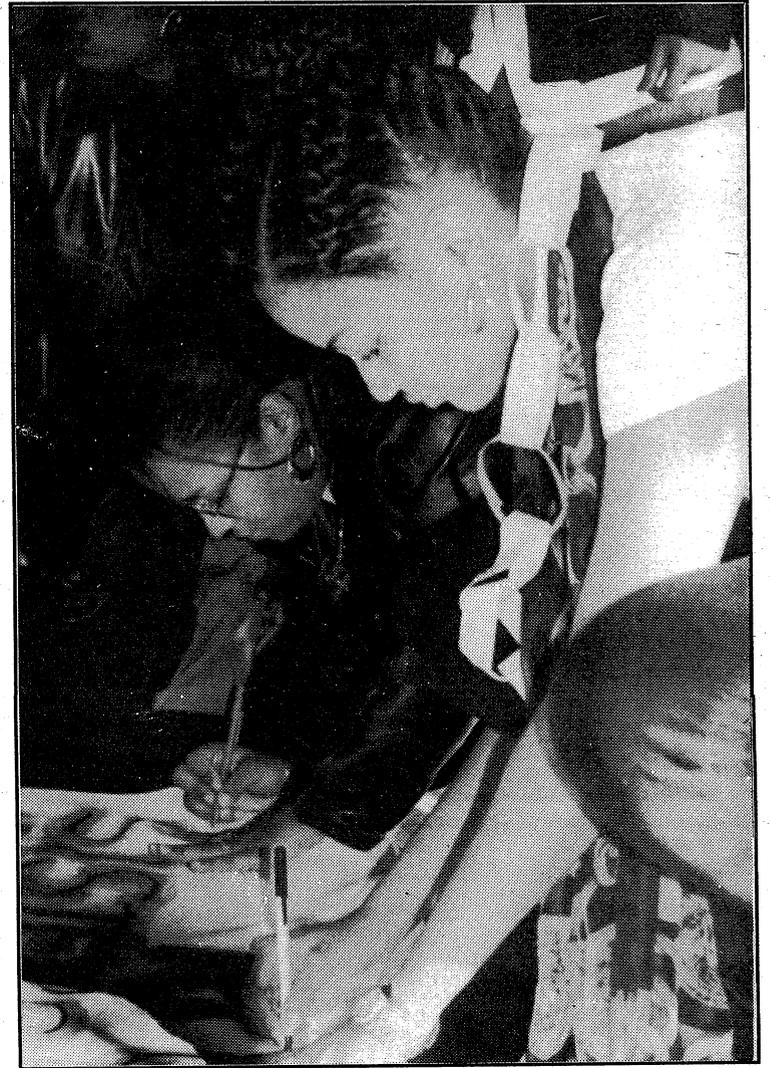
Protesters lambasted CCRI. Among the charges were that it would be devastating to abolishing affirmative action.

Anti-discrimination laws would be gutted — as it stands these are not enough. Discrimination still exists and must be combated. CCRI is divisive and it is deceitful. The intent of the legislation is to pit groups against one another. The proposition is deceitful because its title shrouded itself with the words "civil rights" which mislead many voters who were not educated on the matter.

At the literature table students were encouraged to copy out and sign a sample fax letter. In short, the letter addressed to Senator D'Amato and Representative Forbes stated that the writer was a voter. Proposition 209 is wrong and any attempt at imitating it should be resisted. Affirmative action programs are necessary for creating opportunity and the elimination of them will lead to the further stratification of women and people of color.

Specifically, it was charged that CCRI would prohibit targeted recruitment and job posting and training programs for women and minorities; end

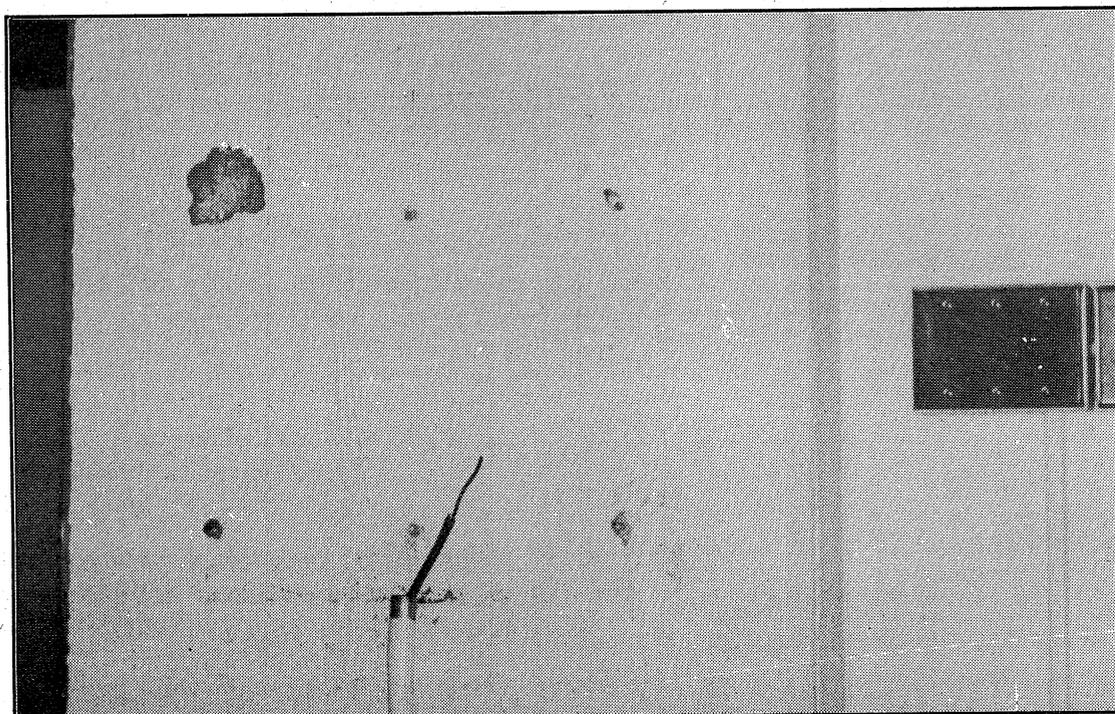
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*Statesman/Nicole Rosner*

**Polity Vice President Monique Maylor signs the banner in show of her support against Proposition 209 at yesterday's rally.**

## "Debitek" Thieves Caught On Video Tape



*Statesman/Eniel Ryan de la Peña*

**The site where the second debit machine was stolen, near the Campus ID & Meal Plan Office at the basement of the Melville Library.**

Crime Stoppers, Suffolk County and the University Police are asking for the public's help in identifying two men who were caught by a surveillance camera stealing a debit machine from the lobby of the Administration Building.

On Sunday September 29, 1996 at about 2:05 a.m., three men were observed removing a "debitek" machine from the lobby of the Administration Building. Debit machines allow someone to put in money to their ID/meal cards. Two of the suspects were caught in the act by a surveillance camera.

The men are described as follows:

Suspect # 1: a white male, 5'10" tall early 20's, 150 pounds with dark hair in a ponytail. The suspect was

wearing a long dark coat.

Suspect # 2: a black male, 5'11" tall, 160 pounds, in his early 20's wearing a dark jacket and dark baseball cap.

Police believe that these same suspects may be linked to two other crimes which occurred on campus in October. The first incident occurred over the weekend of October 4 - 7, when the University Post Office located in the basement of the Library was burglarized. The thieves removed a safe which

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# New Environmental Course Will Tackle Social Aspects

By RAYA EID  
Special to *The Statesman*

Although there are many environmental pollution courses being offered on campus, their focus tends to be based on technical aspects,

rather than social. ESC 280, a new and distinctive course concerning pollution and human health, will be offered to students in the spring semester.

Professor Stewart Harris,

who has spent years teaching a variety of courses, including courses on the technical aspects of pollution, proposed the idea of a course whose primary focus would be on various forms of pollution and

the effects on human health. Harris believes that since the majority of Stony Brook students have directed careers related to health, ESC 280 will be of more interest to them.

In order to take the class, one category E course is required. The course addresses topics such as the health of human population, population

See COURSE, Next Page



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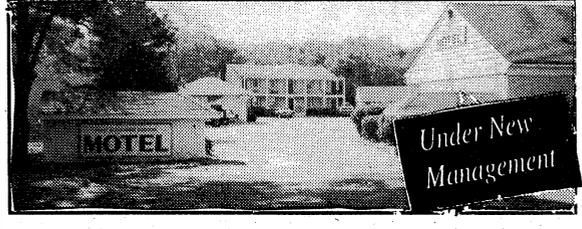
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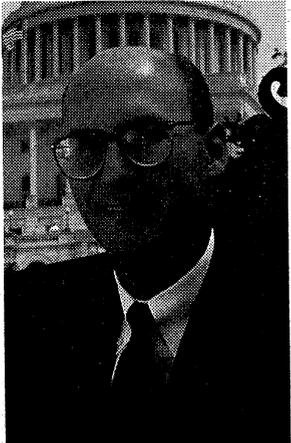
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The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, November 14, 1996

# Online Service Adds Class Schedules

By ENEIL RYAN DE LA PEÑA  
Statesman Editor

Looking for the Spring 1997 class schedules? Course offerings are now available on the Internet. The project joins the Academic Advising as one of the University services now offered in the Internet.

"This is a wonderful addition," says Gil Bowen of the University Registrar. "I think this is something that students will use often."

The service is more advantageous to students who have access online. Residents and commuters can access it through the SINC sites or their homes as long as they have access online. On the web page, graduate and undergraduate students can see the

available courses for the Spring of 1997. As Bowen said, the service "will be helpful because more and more people use the net now."

The page offers many options to users. Browsers can look up courses that are available by department and by levels of courses. When looking for available courses, users can list them by DEC categories and by the days that the courses are offered. In addition, it displays the courses that are open and closed.

Bowen notes that the display of courses that are open or close is more convenient than the telephone registration or visiting the Administration lobby to check out available courses through an overhead

projection.

Brian McConnell, an academic advisor at the Center for Academic Advising and coordinator of the Academic Advising online system, says that students can have a headstart on determining their schedule for next semester. The service is also handy for students before contacting the advising center.

The web page was installed a few months ago. Bowen says that in a period of time, he received "constructive criticism" regarding the service. "Some were good ideas that pointed us in the right direction," Bowen commented.

The web page will be continuously updated. Bowen labels this continuous updating as "a new responsibility for us

... People expect that it's updated all the time."

Students who have online access can use also another service, SOAR, which makes it possible for students to look at their academic record and degree audit among other options.

For commuters, the graduate and undergraduate class schedules will be mailed to their permanent addresses. Bowen says that commuters and residents should be receiving their copies early next week. Early registration begins on November 25.

The web site for address is <http://www.sunysb.edu/registrar/reghome.htm>. The web page can be accessed through the student information on the university homepage. □

## Thieves Caught In Act

From THIEVES, Front Page

contained several thousand stamps and over 100 blank money orders. The second crime occurred in the early morning hours of October 24 when another debitek machine was stolen from the basement of the library. Police believe the thefts of the debit machines netted the thieves about \$3,000.00.

Crime Stoppers is offering a reward of up to \$1,000.00 for information which leads to the arrest or indictment of those responsible for these crimes. In addition, the U.S. Postal Service is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the post office burglary.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-800-220-TIPS. (2-TIPS on campus.) Callers may remain totally anonymous. - *Crime Stoppers* □

## New Course To Be Offered

From COURSE, Page 2

growth, assessing risks, setting standards for human exposures, ozone layer depletion and it's implications on humans, pollutants in the workplace, and radiation. Other topics such as the effects of second hand smoke may be covered during the course as well.

ESC 280 will be instructed by Professor Harris at the beginning of the spring semester. Harris is looking forward to teaching this class due to the fact that it is not as technical as the other courses he has taught. Harris feels that "this is certainly an important issue for everyone" and he hopes students find it interesting and enjoyable.

## Students Rally Against Proposition 209

From RALLY, Front Page

efforts to create community based policing and train physicians using men and women of color who come from the communities in which they work; stop outreach and empowerment programs for girls in school to compete in math and science programs; quit college outreach, preparatory and tutoring programs, and mentorship programs targeting high schools with large numbers of minority students; inhibit desegregation programs including magnet schools; do away with women's and ethnic studies programs and classes at state colleges/ universities; abolish maternity policies and pregnancy leave, women's centers on college campuses and in communities.

The meeting was opened with a rendition of the song "Motherless Child." Polity President Keren Zolotov then stressed to the crowd of students in attendance that the passing of a similar act in New York would mean the end of this university's many cultural organizations. The rally was to make students aware of the threat to diversity and head off any local attempts.

Judy Cheng of the Workers World Party said that affirmative action was "neither a favor nor a charity." That affirmative action was no longer needed

was "the big lie" perpetrated by Wall Street. It was not white workers who were to blame but the white corporations. The charge of reverse discrimination by proponents of Proposition 209 was "nonsense." The fault of the success of this proposition falls on the heads of corporate America, saying that capitalism is the real problem.

Amanda Whitehead from the People of Color Caucus stated that as is affirmative action is not enough. To repeal it is an outrage. If the equivalent of Proposition 209 occurs on a federal level, then "we will be slaves." She referred to the uneasiness that some students had with the chanting of Black Power at a recent rally. She said people shouldn't worry. It is just a way of saying "we love ourselves — we need that." For someone to charge going around saying White Power is ridiculous she said. White Power is redundant. Saying White Power is like saying Power Power she said.

Monique Maylor, Vice President of Student Polity, complained that student turnout was too low. This issue was so important that everybody there should have brought five friends. She derided the lack of repines from people of color. This attitude was like "spitting on the graves" of all those who fought to

achieve the rights that are now enjoyed. More involvement is necessary to keep the gains that have been made or the result will take them "right back into slavery."

Andre English, the chairman of the Black Caucus, called for a moment of silence. He stated he is from California and has relatives there so this initiative has a special significance for him. He congratulated the people who came but hoped others would "stop being so lax." He ran through the directives of the Black Caucus as a revolutionary organization, emphasizing the changing of conditions. "Revolution is going on right now." He said that government is the enemy. His reasons for feeling so were the CIA crack cocaine conspiracy, the fact that AIDS was created in Fort Dietrich Maryland by the army and the Tuskegee Experiment which injected syphilis into black people but only gave them water as a placebo when testing the cure. Racism is alive and well he stated "the KKK just changed over to police uniforms."

In the end, the point was made by the protesters that this measure affected all people. As of now, 12 other states are trying to pass similar measures. The rally ended with the signing of the banner by all the students in attendance in a show of unity for the cause of affirmative action. □

## Women's Volleyball Competes in NECC Tournament

By MELISSA WRAY  
Special to *The Statesman*

Stony Brook's volleyball team leaves Friday for the NECC Championship Tournament, which will be held at two sites: University of New Haven, and Southern Connecticut State University.

The Seawolves have been on a 9-0 winning streak that has helped placed them second in the conference ranking behind New Haven (#9 in the Nation) and face a competitive pool of competition. Friday, they will face New Hampshire College, U. Mass

Lowell, and Keene State College, while Saturday they will face Southern Connecticut State. The top two teams from each pool will advance to the championship rounds which the Seawolves are looking forward to competing in.

As the Seawolves head into the NECC Tournament, they are led by Elka Samuels and Sarah Boekel, who were named to the second All NECC Tournament Team. Leading their charge is freshman Jessica Serrano, who was also named to the second team, but with the additional honor of NECC Rookie

of the Year. She has led the Seawolves all season long with a total of 357 kills in 32 matches. She is the first athlete at Stony Brook since the Seawolves joined the NECC Conference in 1995-96 to win a NECC post-season honor of such magnitude. "She was our best offensive player of the year," according to Head Coach Teri Tiso.

The Seawolves are currently ranked 4th in the Northeast Region, and are looking to host the ECAC (Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship) on the 23rd of this month. □

# EDITORIAL



"MY HUSBAND, NOW HE'S FULL OF OPINIONS... TOO BAD HE'S AT DRUG REHAB' THIS MONTH. MY FIRST HUSBAND'S A KNOW-IT-ALL, TOO, BUT HE'S LIVING WITH HIS BOYFRIEND IN SAN FRANCISCO. COME BACK TOMORROW AND YOU CAN INTERVIEW MY 18-YEAR-OLD. I'M BABYSITTING HER KIDS HERE WHILE SHE DOES HER SHIFT AT THE TOPLESS JOINT. ... BUT, ANYWAY, IF YOU REALLY WANT MY OPINION: NO, THE CHARACTER ISSUE IS NO BIG DEAL!"

The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, November 14, 1996

*The Stony Brook*  
**Statesman**

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## LETTERS AND OPINION

# Institute Safety Measures Before It's Too Late

### To the Editor:

Commuting to campus on bicycle, often early in the morning or late at night, I have witnessed numerous close calls between pedestrians and cars. Dominick Fortugno's article on the increasing problem of reckless driving on campus (*Statesman*, November 11, page 1) confirmed my impression that traffic on campus was getting worse than ever. If this trend continues, it is just a matter of time before we have a fatal collision between a pedestrian and an automobile. As an archaeologist, I regularly travel to other parts of the world where people co-exist with high-velocity traffic. Drawing upon this experience, I would like to offer two suggestions to the Stony Brook community.

Proposal #1: Speed bumps. Signs exhorting "Yield to Pedestrians" or "Stop" work only to the extent that drivers bother to read them and feel inclined to obey them. Speed bumps provide an incentive for drivers to check their velocity. In rural Mexico, where villages have few street lights and many children with concerned parents, towns set up "topes," or pairs of speed bumps, span the road at the outskirts of town. Topes are announced by a bright yellow sign and the bumps themselves are usually

painted yellow to enhance their visibility at night. Having encountered less-than-clearly marked versions of these in rural Mexico and Belize, I can attest they work as advertised. Such double speed bumps might initially be a minor obstacle for snow-plows, but if they are marked prominently, and care is taken to provide adequate drainage (e.g. catch basins) to eliminate ice buildup, they should be effective in reducing automobile speed in the vicinity of crosswalks, particularly those near the dorms along North Loop Road.

Proposal #2: Fluorescent markings. Not all of traffic accidents are entirely the fault of automobile drivers. Pedestrians and cyclists wearing black clothing after dark are difficult to see no matter how conscientious a driver is trying to be. In the Near East, many people hitch-hike and wait for buses at the sides of highways. Because the speed limits on these highways are fixed more by the horsepower of the vehicle than by any enforced traffic law, pedestrians (especially soldiers and women wearing traditional dark clothing) often fix fluorescent tape with Velcro adhesive to their back-packs, luggage, and children, so that they are visible to drivers at a sufficient distance.

Here in the USA, this sort of tape is cheap and strips of it could be distributed to dorm residents or to students as part of orientation packages (maybe with the SUNY logo on them). One can't force people to use these markings, but those who do will gain a significant degree of visibility and reduce their risk of injury.

Surely, technological fixes such as these are no substitute for education

and an ethic of consideration for others. While we work to achieve these noble goals, however, it would only be prudent to deploy technological aids such as these to enhance the safety of our students and colleagues.

Sincerely,  
John J. Shea  
Assistant Professor  
Anthropology Department

## Defund The Press

### To the Editor:

I don't know who Jim Szurko is or what the nature of his interest is in defunding student publications. For years I've advocated defunding most student publications here because they appear to be, when not simply infantile, irrelevant, ill-informed or sophomoric, merely vehicles for advertising and propaganda. Yet I do not fit the description the *Stony Brook Press* so carefully attached to Szurko.

Now, however, I find I have changed my position. I now feel that only the *Stony Brook Press* should be defunded, based on its "satirical" editorial on page 11 of the October 31 issue - you know, the piece that ends

with "He's a fat, fascistic f—," - a reference to Szurko, an elected Polity Senator. Because this editorial is labeled "non-litigable" doesn't mean individuals or the University can't be sued. But even if it did, I find this kind of pulpit bullying outrageous, unforgivable, defamatory and life-threatening - just the kind of thing that is creating a tremendous backlash against the funding of education, the lifeblood of our University.

We here at Stony Brook exist by the good graces of the State, an electorate and an honor system that is supposed to bind us in a respectful, civil civic activity - education. Evidently the editors of the *Stony Brook Press* think "free speech" is speech they don't have to be accountable for. "Let someone else pay," is their unstated motto.

As a librarian, a writer, a longstanding, activist believer in free, confrontational, controversial speech, as someone who has published widely in many mainstream and sidestream publications, I cannot find it in myself to pardon this abuse of power and feel it is time to call in the surrogate parents.

If I am wrong, then maybe the *Stony Brook Press* will take up a challenge: publish that page 11 editorial on the Internet, circulate it to all college student newspapers in the country and ask their editors whether they would have published it. For every yes vote over 50, I will donate one of my collection of slightly used ballpoint pens to the lawyers who decide to represent Jim Szurko.

Sincerely,  
Paul B. Wiener

## Student Vote Changes Face of Congress

Two years of hard work paid off on November 5th as the College Democrats of America succeeded in winning eighteen of their twenty-one targeted races for the House of Representatives, defeating extremist, anti-student Republicans and protecting pro-future Democratic incumbents at every turn.

The College Democrats of America (CDA) relied on a list of twenty-one targeted congressional districts where anti-student Republicans or pro-student Democrats won narrowly in 1994 and where the student population was large enough to shift the balance in the Democrats favor. CDA won 85 percent of these races.

Election day marked the capstone of the most aggressive effort ever to empower young voters to elect pro-student members of Congress in tightly contested swing districts. The College

Democrats of America registered one million young voters, turned out six million young voters, and recruited 50,000 volunteers for the Democratic Party. The organization distributed 400,000 pieces of visibility materials in early September as part of their "Students Vote" campaign. Those materials were supplemented by an unprecedented visibility boost in the final week of the campaign - the distribution of over 300,000 Get Out the Vote posters and Door Hangers which were plastered all over campuses in targeted congressional districts.

CDA's field effort was bolstered by an unparalleled media blitz aimed directly at young people. The College Democrats of America were featured on MTV, NBC with Tom Brokaw, CNN Morning News, C-Span Washington Journal, national Public Radio's "Talk of the Nation," and the

Oliver North Show. CDA also organized a celebrity op-ed project, leading thousands of campus newspapers to publish op-eds submitted by Matthew Broderick and Sarah Jessica Parker, George Stephanopolous, Education Secretary Richard Riley, Tipper Gore, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Vice President Al Gore and President Bill Clinton. CDA also created campus newspaper roundtable conference calls for reporters with Sen. Dodd, James Carville, and George Stephanopolous.

"Newt Gingrich is scratching his head right now wondering why all his extremist friends have disappeared. He's wondering who to blame for having Walter Capps and Rod Blagojevich and Sam Gejdensen in his way in the next Congress. Blame us Newt!" said David Wade, President of the College Democrats of America.

The Stony Brook Statesman, the newspaper for SUNY at Stony Brook and its surrounding community, is a nonprofit literary publication that is produced twice-weekly during the academic year and bi-weekly during the summer. Statesman Association, Inc.'s offices are located in the lower level of the Stony Brook Union.

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# The Strife of Commuters

*Commuters' Corner*  
*Gordafreed Bulsara*

Forty-seven percent of undergraduate students are commuters here at Stony Brook.

Why?

Well, some students live close enough that commuting just makes sense. Others cannot afford to stay on campus.

While there are advantages to being a commuter, there are many disadvantages. For those of us who drive, the traffic on Long Island is enough to drive anyone crazy. Some have to commute by train and those who have an 8:30 am class usually have to get up at 5:30 am just so that they can catch their train on time. And, of course, the LIRR is soooo reliable.

I still remember all too clearly last Thanksgiving. It was Wednesday before Thanksgiving break and so, not surprisingly, there was a huge crowd at Stony Brook station.

The train going towards the city was due at 4:15 pm and guess what? It never showed up.

We ended up taking buses (can you believe they actually sent school buses to pick us up?) from Stony Brook station. This thankfully does not happen everyday, but it does happen often enough to be an annoyance.

Late trains or trains that never arrive is only one problem among many that we face as commuters. Parking on campus is another problem and I am sure that almost all commuters will agree. It seems that there are never enough parking spots on campus. For commuters who get here early (by 8 am), spots may be available in the lot behind the sports complex or by the railroad station. Usually, commuters have to resign themselves to parking in the South P lot and then they have to wait for the bus to get to the main campus.

Actually, to be fair, the commuter buses are pretty good about coming on time, but it would be an improvement if they came more often in the evenings, too. One thing that is upsetting is that when you are running to catch the bus

See STRIFE, Page 9



## THE LONG STRANGE TRIP: THE GRATEFUL DEAD ON TV

The Grateful Dead, the most successful live act in music history and the only band that gave birth to a culture, has created a half-hour television program, "The Grateful Dead - The Long Strange Trip Continues. . ." Produced in concert with MarkeTVision Direct, the premier Boston-based direct response agency, the program features a look at The Grateful Dead of 1996 with insider interviews, and a never-before-seen peek into their fabled, but true Marin County "Vault," the home of The Grateful Dead's unparalleled and extensive archival library.

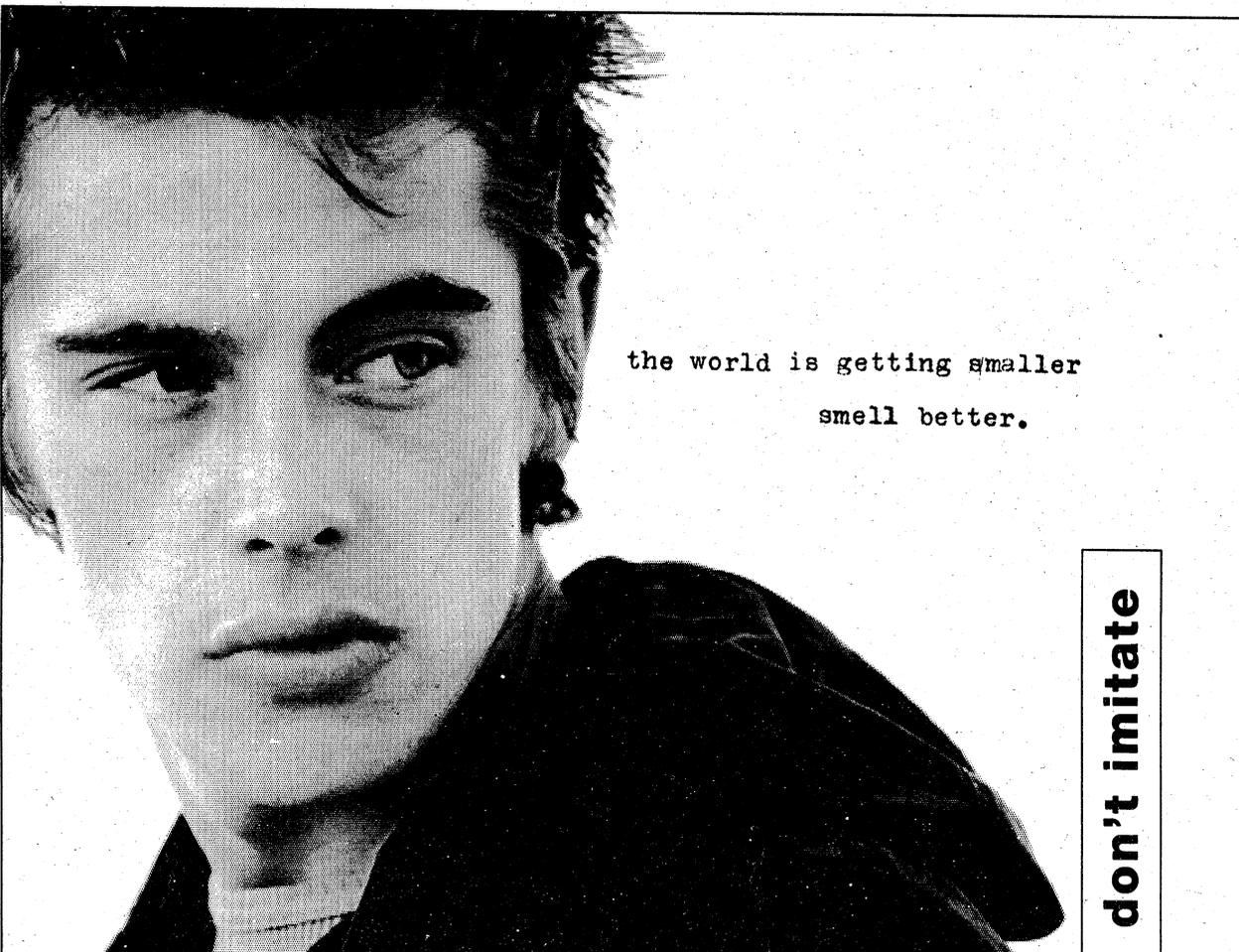
This jam-packed program will also include rare, unreleased footage of behind-the-scenes interviews with the Dead and Dick Latvala, the band's archivist since 1980. Dick is best known among Deadheads for "Dick's Picks," his personal choices for the band's best live performances. Also included in the show are scenes from the historic Fillmore Auditorium in San Francisco.

Viewers will have the opportunity to obtain free copies of the *Almanac*, The Grateful Dead newsletter, and learn about the band's new video, "A Ticket to New Years" which contains an entire New Years' Show and additional never-seen before video clips. "Dick's Picks - Volume 5," the band's December 26, 1979 performance and T-shirts will also be made available.

"Despite the passing of the legendary Jerry Garcia, the intense popularity of the group has not diminished in the least," says Mike Zapolin, CEO of MarkeTVision Direct. "The faithful came out in true form at "The Further Festival," a recently concluded tour featuring the remaining members of The Grateful Dead."

Long-time fan and friend of the Dead, basketball great Bill Walton, as well as family members who have never before spoken publicly and other celebrity Deadheads will speak out about their personal Grateful Dead experiences. "This program is designed to entertain non-deadheads as well as their legions of fans," says Andrew Miller, president of MarkeTVision Direct. "It will engage even those who perhaps have wondered what

See DEAD, Page 9



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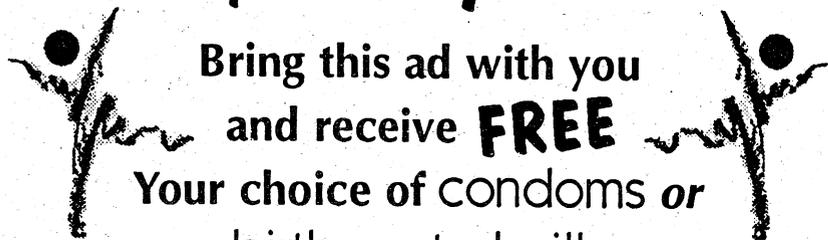
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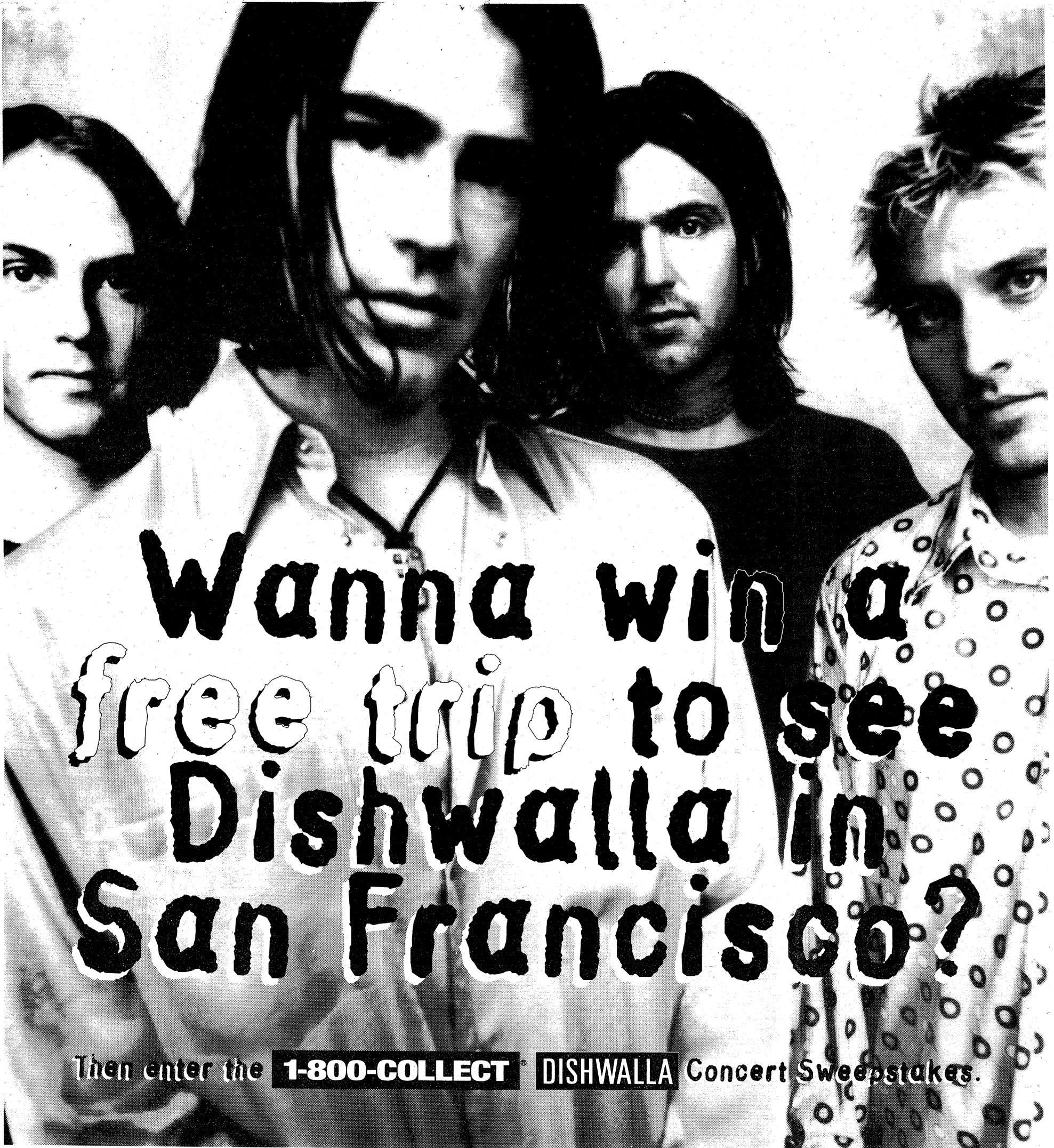


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## Commuters' Corner

STRIFE, From page 6

from the loop, it does not wait for you. This happened to me once. I was running towards the loop, trying not to fall on the stones, and there was a bus there getting ready to leave. In fact, it started to leave, but thankfully, I was close enough to see the driver. I waved my hand for him to stop. I swear he saw me and almost kept going, but by then I was already outside the bus door. Some of the drivers could definitely use a lesson in manners.

Now let me mention some of the advantages of being a commuter. You do not have to put up with a lousy roommate. There are less distractions since you are usually at home. It is also easier to study because you don't have your friends popping in every few minutes to ask you to have some fun. And, of course, mom's good home cooking that just can't compare with campus food.

I would be very foolish if I did not mention the Commuter Commons in the basement of the Union. You can play pool, ping pong, watch TV, listen to music, type your papers, relax on our comfy sofas, make new friends, etc. So take the elevator down to the basement and then follow the music. □

## Grateful Dead

DEAD, From Page 6

all the fuss is all about."

The show originally premeiered Friday, November 8 on Burly Bear Network, the most leading provider that feeds entertainment programming via cable and closed circuit TV to more than 1.5 million college students directly in their dorm rooms. The program will be rebroadcast tonight on affiliate university television stations. Bearly Bear currently has 140 affiliates spanning 41 states. □

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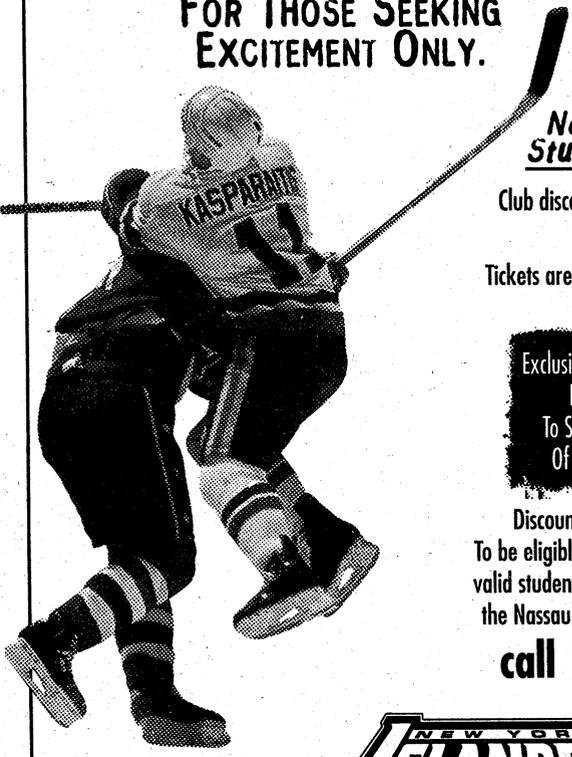
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# FEATURES

ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT & STUDENT LIFE

Thursday, November 14, 1996

## Oxfam: Focus on Women



### According to Eve

By Brooke Donatone



They sit outside the cafeteria and ask for a few dollars from your meal card, or sit under the COCA poster in the Union and wonder if you can empty the change in your pocket from the sandwich you just bought in the deli.

Oxfam has raised almost \$2,000 this semester on this campus alone.

For those who never heard of Oxfam or kept walking past the tables, the program focuses on financing development projects in under developed regions in the world. A non-

governmental organization will design a plan to implement in their own community, of which Oxfam ultimately finances.

Oxfam has a different focus every year; the focus this year is women strengthening families and communities.

"The college fund raising idea was an idea more of awareness, because the majority of donations come from corporate donors," said Allen Grgurovic of Catholic Campus Ministries, who is campus representative for Oxfam. "I think Oxfam is located on 1,000 campuses and they do it in high schools, too."

"Poverty affects women disproportionately in the world," he said. "It's something where it effects women every year, so you have to be interested constantly."

One of the main goals of

Oxfam is to create awareness. Every program Oxfam covers essentially targets women. "Women are located in the home, in the workplace, in the community, so they're probably the best people to design programs," said Grgurovic.

It's not just the idea of donating food, but the idea of coming up with solutions to problems. It's not like a Sally Struthers commercial where you're asked to give money; with Oxfam, you're helping people help themselves on a global level, as well as a local level.

In Vietnam, a credit program was established to assist women in taking out loans, and with hard work they could make a profit and start an optimistic future. Closer to home, Oxfam has helped immigrant, refugee, and minority women in creating sources of income in the United States.

On a larger scale, the World Bank is said to have policies that ignore the concerns of women, for instance, undertaking gender analysis of poverty assessments to instill policies that will actively reduce gender inequity and poverty. The Bank doesn't make

large investments in women's health services, employment or education, which are all essential for people to have an adequate standard of living.

"If you give people a chance, if you put them on a level where they can exploit an opportunity, they're going to do it," Grgurovic said. "People are in dire situations, they're in poverty, they're living on the edge constantly and they want to get out. They don't want to stay there."

Ironically, these programs don't require a lot of money to be funded. Oxfam isn't looking to start billion dollar corporations on donations from college students. In the United States, an eye exam alone would cost at least one-hundred dollars, whereas in India twenty-five hundred dollars will provide eye care and day care facilities for 128 women embroiders and patchwork seamstresses.

Most of the programs Oxfam establishes or tries to finance are under \$24,000. Three thousand American dollars, although deflated in England, is a massive amount of money when converted to the currency of most

under developed nations.

Why should women be focused on more than any other poverty stricken group? It's estimated that more sixty percent of the poor people in the world are women, two-thirds of the world's illiterate population are women and girls, and less than one-percent of the world's property is owned by women.

"Probably why Oxfam did the campaign this year focusing on women, is that they're trying to make it a long term realization that women's issues are international issues," Grgurovic said.

Emira Wood will be a guest speaker for Oxfam next Wednesday in Humanities 101 at 8 pm. She will publicize the efforts of the program to get twelve famous women to fast for a day, to gain recognition for women in poverty. So far such famous names as Paula Poundstone and Alice Walker have agreed to participate.

It's encouraging to know that the issue of women in poverty is gaining recognition for this semester through Oxfam; we can only hope that the idea will last longer. □

## Sentimental Tale of Lost Love

STRONG PERFORMANCES & FUNNY MOMENTS HIGHLIGHT *GILLIAN*

By Ai-Huei Chang  
Special to *The Statesman*

You're young, you're successful, and you're in love. There's nothing but bliss... until an ill wind literally blows death and knocks your loved one off the sailboat and leaves you haunted by a spirit you can't let go.

The movie that sounds a tad like *Ghost* is *To Gillian On her 37th Birthday*. Adapted from an 11-year-old play by Michael Brady, *Gillian* is a sentimental tale of a college professor, David Lewis (Peter Gallagher), fighting through grief, who is blessed and cursed by the nightly visits of his dead wife, Gillian (Michelle Pfeiffer).

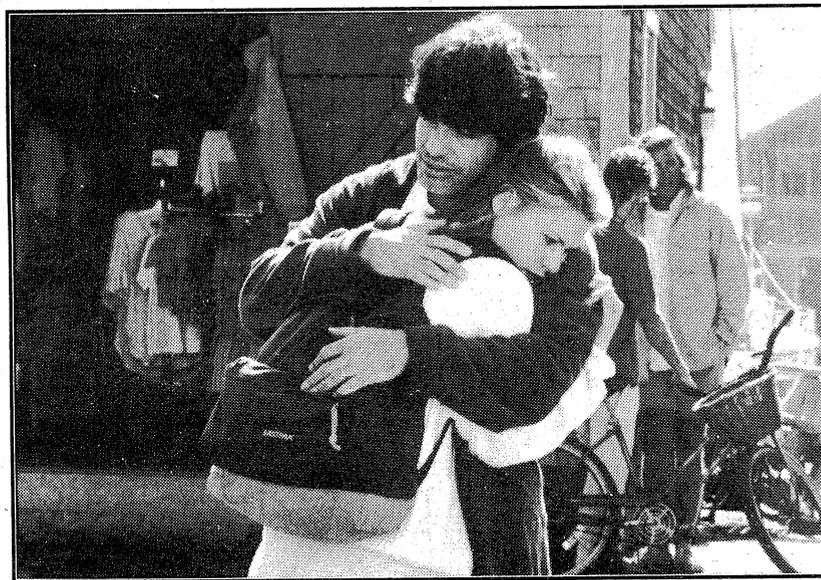
*Gillian* takes place on Nantucket Island. It is there, at the beach house, that David and his 16-year-old daughter, Rachel (Claire Danes), are joined for a family reunion by David's sister-in-law Esther (Kathy Baker), husband, Paul (Bruce Altman), and Kevin (Wendy Crewson), the divorced friend they bring along as a blind-sided date for David.

Despite parallels to *Ghost*, where we were made to feel desperate for a reunion of Patrick Swayze's roaming spirit with a mourning Demi Moore, in *Gillian*, the whole purpose is to get David to give up the ghost.

When David finally realizes that his obsession with his late wife has damaged his precious relationship with Rachel, he does everything in his power to regain his daughter's love — even letting go of Gillian.

Peter Gallagher is very convincing as a man in a delusion depression, and Claire Danes is terrific playing an awkward teenager trying to deal with her father's problems. At the same time, she's also feeling the first stirrings of romance. Freddie Prinze Jr. makes a strong debut as the object of her affection.

This movie is for all those who enjoy romance dramas as well as comedies. It's a movie that has the tiny sadness of a pop song you can't really stand, but also can't quite get out of your head. □



Photo/Triumph Films

David Lewis (Peter Gallagher) and his daughter Rachel (Claire Danes) share a touching moment in *Gillian*.

**The Black Crowes in Monday's Turn It Up... Don't Miss It.**