

Statesman

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Under Construction

By GINA FIORE
Statesman Editor

Construction and landscaping are common sights to campus, as Administration begins to use some of the \$35.5 million granted to Stony Brook in this year's SUNY budget. The most obvious and recently completed project is the bicycle paths that surround the campus, giving bicyclists a safe place to travel. Another project, a new steam pipe for H Quad, will be completed in the next few weeks.

Among the rumored projects that are being spoken about, are a new residence hall and a landscaping project known as "The Brook," which would consist of a winding pathway of water ending in a waterfall by the Administration building. Instead of the rumored stream, there will be new landscaping down, with aspects of water throughout the campus. Besides a stream, landscaping has already been completed at Kelly Quad, which mainly consisted of replanting greenery. Other plans for the campus include the removing and replacing of asphalt in front of the Staller Center.

"We're getting some new designs for the project. The planning stage will last



Statesman/Peter Gratton



Statesman/Peter Gratton

The crane, above and the construction hole, from behind the Student Union, lower left, are part of the renewal projects being performed around campus.

approximately a year," said Administration Vice President Dr. Richard Mann.

The money for these projects comes from many sources. One source is the Capital Appropriations fund that the legislature sets up for the University. Other funds come from money set aside for projects that were finished the previous year. Certain projects, such as the bicycle paths and the Asian American Center, come from private donations. The bicycle paths were mostly donations, with some money coming from the school, while the Asian American Center is all donations. Projects like the new steam pipe for H Quad are funded by maintenance money, which is set aside for projects that keep living standards at the University adequate.

"There is a list that can run millions and millions of dollars long. It just depends on which projects we can afford to do each year," said Mann. "It ranges from fixing up a classroom or office to repaving a road. Most of the time though, we have more projects that we would like to do than we have money for."

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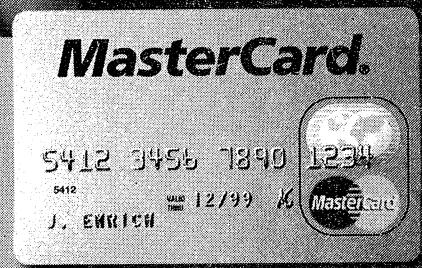


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Youth March Rally Held in NYC ³

By MICHAEL BLOOD
Associated Press

A heavy police presence and crowd control barricades greeted the thousands of people of all ages and races who flocked to Harlem today for the Million Youth March rally.

About 3,000 police officers were on hand. Some participants said the sea of blue uniforms made them angry. Rallygoers had to pass through a maze of gray metal barricades to gain access to the six-block area along Malcolm X Boulevard set aside for the rally, which was a march in name only.

Kevin Johnson and his 9-year-old son Kevin Jr., carried signs saying "Jobs, not jail." But the Harlem resident pointed to the barricades and commented sadly, "This is like being in jail."

Some blamed Mayor Rudolph Giuliani for sending the brigade of cops. Giuliani had billed the march as a hate rally because of its association with Khallid Abdul Muhammad, who has made anti-Semitic and other racial slurs in the past. Giuliani had tried to stop the march but federal judges allowed it to go on.

"I came because Giuliani said I couldn't," one sign said.

Police estimated about 10,000 people would attend, while organizers expected 50,000. As the march began after noontime, only three blocks of the area were filled.

Muhammad was dismissed as an



Courtesy of the Stony Brook Press

While organizers of the march expected 50,000 people, observers on hand found a smaller number attending.

Please see *March* on page 5

Housing Crisis for Students Across U.S.

By KAREN RUSSO
Associated Press

Before even cracking a book for grad school, Jennifer Jensen has been handed one tough assignment: competing with 67,000 other students to find a place to live.

After she sent her check to graduate school, found an apartment and packed her bags, she arrived in Boston only to learn she was homeless.

Her apartment was rented out from under her, a result of the tightest housing crunch in years.

In cities across the country, microscopic vacancy rates and anti-student attitudes are forcing young scholars to share apartments, try to get back into dormitories or even camp out on campus.

Housing is so tight at the University of California at Berkeley that one student rolled out a sleeping bag in a Bay Area Rapid Transit district station. Another lived in a van. At Stanford University, some students pitched tents on campus to protest high rents.

Boston's 3 percent vacancy rate, the lowest in almost 15 years, has Jensen and other students scrambling for housing before the semester begins.

"Loans for school are \$22,000 a year and I'm gonna have debts for the rest of my life," Jensen said. "I just didn't realize it would be so hard to find somewhere to live."

Some students are clamoring to live in dorms. But Boston's 32 area colleges and universities cannot offer the same housing guarantee as small liberal arts schools, such as William College, which provide four years of campus housing.

But students who opt out of Boston University's housing system their sophomore year, maybe for a cheaper apartment a few blocks away, have no way back in. Nationally, rents rose 3.2 percent between June 1997 and June 1998, according to a National Multi Housing Council report based on data from the U.S. Department of Labor.

In cities with large student populations, rents rose even faster.

In Berkeley, the average monthly rent now for a one-bedroom apartment is \$763, according to college housing officials. A new law could drive those rents to more than \$1,000 in five months.

Rents in the Boston area, where students pay anywhere from \$800 to \$1,400 for a one-bedroom, increased an average of 4.3 percent during the year ending in June. In San Francisco, during the same period, rents went up 8.3 percent.

For students who want to pay about \$750 for a studio, said Adam Brown of Re/Max Group on Newbury Street, "We maybe only have two things to show them in their range."

And realtors say landlords cannot get beyond the party image of undergrads depicted in the film "Animal House." They often even reject graduate students because their notorious late-night study habits may disturb professional residents.

Even if students can afford to spend \$2,000 to \$3,000 a month for rent, most landlords only want to rent to professionals, said Brown. Realtors say some wealthy students send professionals in their place to rent apartments for them because they know a landlord might turn them away.

Even in small cities, students face a crunch.

Landlords in Burlington, Vt., where a one-bedroom averages about \$660, say it's not uncommon to receive 50 phone calls the first day an apartment is advertised. Demand is so great that prospective tenants will offer to

pay more than the advertised rent, said Joan Tessier, owner of Apartment Finders.

With a 1 percent vacancy rate in Burlington, Vt., rents and property values continue to skyrocket by as much as 30 percent in the most popular areas near the University of Vermont campus, a study by a South Burlington real estate consultant found.

And in Seattle, the vacancy rate has dropped to 2 percent, according to the Student Housing Office at the University of Washington. At this time last year, the office was receiving between 30 and 40 listings a day. Now, an average day brings only 14 listings. At the same time, rents for studios and one-bedroom apartments, which range from \$550-\$700, are going up an average of \$100.

That's forcing many students to share places or try to get back into dorms. "Our school doesn't start until the end of September, so a lot of problems haven't gotten that bad yet," said Alysia Madsen, a University of Washington student. "But in about three weeks students will start to freak out."



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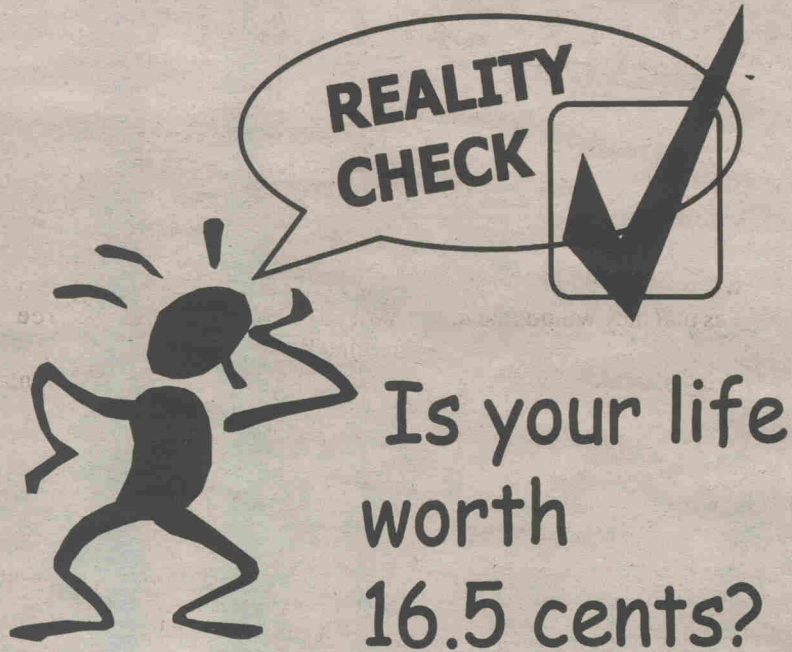
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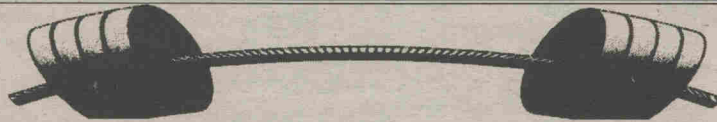
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Commentary

NY State Tax Rescinder Irks Counties

By JOEL STASHENKO
 Associated Press

The purpose of any institute of higher learning is noble, but colleges are also big-budget ventures which have big financial impacts on their communities.

As students return to schools across the state for the fall 1998 semester, counties are finding out about one aspect of that economic impact that many have previously taken for granted.

New York state has rescinded its 4 percent sales tax on college textbooks and decreed that counties must stop charging the local sales taxes, generally 3 or 4 percent, on such transactions.

The issue is turning out to be a big-budget loss for many college-filled counties.

Erie County, for instance, has 12 colleges and some 50,000 full- and part-time students. It calculates that its share of the textbook sales tax amounted to \$1.4 million a year, half of which went to the county coffers and the rest distributed to every city, town, village and school district in the county.

Like other fiscal officials, Erie County Budget Director Ken Kruly said the state-mandated tax revocation is especially hard for counties because it comes in the midst of their January-to-December fiscal years. No county was able to budget for it when formulating its spending plans last autumn, he said.

Erie County, in the midst of a three-year freeze on county property taxes, is scrambling to make up a hole of perhaps \$300,000 or more between now and the end of the year, according to Kruly.

"Albany likes to do things to us they think are in our best interests," Kruly said. "We complain a lot about unfunded state mandates. This is sort of like a negative mandate. This is taking away resources we would otherwise use to pay for the mandates that they would like to impose on us."

The financial hit is similar in the much smaller county of Tompkins, which is home to Cornell University, Ithaca College and a community college. College students make up more than a third of the county's 94,000 residents.

The loss of textbook sales taxes will cost the county about \$459,000 a year, with smaller amounts being lost by its local governments.

"That's gone forever," interim County Administrator Cathy West said. "For us, that's the equivalent of about a 2.5 percent property tax increase."

The county will not raise taxes to make up the difference. But it is looking at the services it currently provides and "whether or not we should be continuing to provide all the services that we do," she said. There has also been the promise of some state distressed counties aid in January to help make up the gap, West said.

Onondaga County's chief fiscal officer, Joe Mareane, voiced a complaint also heard from many of the county budgeters: Counties should have been given the option of continuing to charge local sales taxes on textbooks. The state will rescind its 4 percent sales tax on some clothing

items beginning Dec. 1, 1999, but it is giving counties the choice of opting in or out of that tax-cut initiative.

"This exemption caught us, and I believe most counties, by surprise," Mareane said. "We simply were told, 'You are losing this source of income.'"

In all, the state Department of Taxation and Finance estimates that counties around the state will lose \$25 million a year in revenue through the textbook tax elimination.

"It's very onerous," Ken Cranell of the state Association of Counties said. "It's clearly an unfunded mandate when the state takes away a county sales tax with no say by the counties."

State Assemblyman Sam Hoyt, a Buffalo Democrat and an early sponsor of the legislation rescinding the textbook tax, said counties and other communities which got textbook tax revenue will make out better in the long run.

"I think it is shortsighted to simply say it is a negative," Hoyt said. "I honestly think that many of these kids that are going to experience the savings are going to have discretionary income that they will be able to spend within the communities, within the counties. I think it is going to turn itself over and be a positive for the counties in the long run."

Joel Stashenko is Capitol Editor for The Associated Press in Albany. He can be reached at P.O. Box 7165, Capitol Station, Albany, N.Y., 12224.

Cops Interrupt Youth March

Continued from page 3

aid to Nation of Islam minister Louis Farrakhan after a 1994 speech in which he referred to Jews as "bloodsuckers" and insulted Pope John Paul II, homosexuals and whites.

On Wednesday, he repeated the "bloodsuckers" remark and accused Jews of taking "tractor-trailer loads of money out of our community on a daily basis. They take it into theirs, making it richer and whiter."

Fred Siegel, a professor at New York's Cooper Union who has written about racial relations in the city, said Muhammad's heated rhetoric amounts to "an attempt to reinstate the threat of riot as a political force in the city."

"It's a direct challenge to the mayor, and that makes it something that can affect the larger dynamic of the city," Siegel said.

The event, fashioned after the 1995 Million Man March in Washington, D.C., was organized to promote unity among young blacks, encourage an end to gang violence



At some points during Saturday's march, police in riot gear outnumbered participants.

and champion government reparations for descendants of slaves.

Organizers once predicted up to 3 million young people from as far away as Los Angeles would attend the four-hour rally.

But the event is competing for attention this weekend with the

Million Youth Movement in Atlanta, which is backed by a coalition of civil rights advocates including the NAACP, the Nation of Islam and Jesse Jackson's Rainbow/Push Coalition. And Muhammad has been widely denounced in the city by leaders of all races, including leading black politicians.

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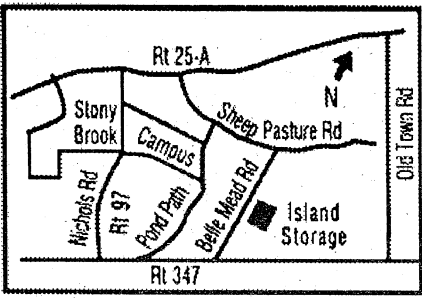
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College Lifestyle Puts Strains on Health

By SUSAN LORIMOR
Associated Press

Ahhh...late nights, mid-morning classes, afternoon naps, a social life to die for- this is the life of a college student.

But don't be fooled. It's not all peaches and cream.

"My last regular meal was about two months ago," 27-year-old college student Melvin Randolph said. "I always eat microwaveable or instant stuff."

Randolph works full-time at Borders Books & Music in Highland in addition to being a full-time college student at Roosevelt University in Chicago, where he studies marketing.

Because of his busy lifestyle, he often eats on the run, and is well-known at his dining establishments of choice.

"I love cake, so I get bakery cupcakes at Jewel," Randolph said. "The women at the registers know me by name, because that's where I get my burritos. The people at Target know me by name because I eat their nachos all the time."

Like most college students, Randolph also lacks sleep.

"I get probably five hours of sleep a night," he said.

True, it's not unusual for college students to go on to classes, work and social events in a sleep-deprived daze, but how do they function?

"I drink Mountain Dew ... and I drink a lot of coffee here," Randolph said. "I think Mountain Dew is my energy."

Tammy Elkins, director of Valparaiso University's Health Center, said some people can function on six to seven hours of sleep, while some need more.

"It is very important to get adequate sleep," she said.

But who has time for that?

"Students do keep very different hours than the rest of the world. For a lot of them, their most productive



Statesman/Peter Gratton

When away from home cooked meals, students tend to stay away from the basic four food groups, instead enjoying the fine cuisine of potato chips, above, and coffee, below, found at 7-11 just off campus.

times don't come until around 10 or 11 p.m.," she said.

This means late-morning classes are essential. But some students have a hard time even making it to them.

Munster native Tracie Austgen, 19, is a junior at Purdue University who has trouble making it to a 10:30 a.m. class. "One year I missed 27 French classes because of staying out ... but I still got a B," she said.

And while Austgen still passed course, she missed sessions because of a side effect to her extracurricular activity, partying.

"I laid around and slept it (hangover) off," she said.

Ann Reese, director of Wellness and Health at Indiana University in Bloomington, said partying will catch up to a person.

"You can look at it on the long-term or short-term," Reese said. "Alcohol can cause academic and social problems ... in the long-term, if habits don't change, you could have liver malfunctions."

Austgen's and Randolph's lifestyle habits are enough to send student health director screaming.

"Some students are not very future-oriented. They're living at the moment," Elkins said.

Elkins tries to educate students about proper lifestyle choices. She visits residence halls and holds talks on sexually-transmitted diseases and other topics.

"Some students we don't have too much of an impact on. They don't think about 20 or 30 years down the road," Elkins said.

Elkins suggests students maintain a healthy diet, get adequate sleep, drink no more than one or two cups of a caffeine beverage a day, and get some type of exercise.

Too much java or soda can cause a student's heart rate to increase. Elkins also said college students should wash their hands more often, because they are living in close quarters where germs are easily spread.

And how sick to college students really get?

Both Reese and Elkins said the most common illnesses on their college campuses are upper respiratory illnesses, such as colds, sore throats, sinus infections and bronchitis.

Elkins said these illnesses often tie into stress and how well they care for themselves.

"I see more colds and flu at the end of the semester, because of the season, and it may be because of the lack of sleep and college stress," Reese said.

Elkins said September through October generally are the busiest months at Valparaiso's health center.

During that time, she sees a large number of freshmen who are away from home for the first time, and helplessly sick.

"I think a part of it is first colds. They don't know what to do," Elkins said. "I encourage them to come in if they have a cold. We generally direct them to over-the-counter drugs."

Elkins does notice a progression, when, and if, students reach their junior and senior years, they generally know how to manage a cold, so they stop coming by.

But there are always some students whose bodies hold up well not matter how much stress is in their life.

Randolph said he's been sick about two times in his life.

"You're looking at a generally healthy population," Reese said. "These are age-related situations. A young person can appear to get by well on an unhealthy diet."



The following issue should have been numbered “4”

