

By PATRICIA McCABE
Statesman Staff

This past fall Stony Brook University secured a federal grant of \$4.1 million dollars to develop academic programs in Iraq in the fields of archaeology and environmental health. The possibility of the grants being renewed for two more years would bring the grand total to almost \$11 million.

Although they are two separate programs, the goals of both the archaeology and environmental health plans are similar. The objectives include introducing and establishing technology systems and secure methods of communication to foster an educational environment. By the end of the intervention period, the team hopes to have brought Iraqi professionals updated in the areas of information, technology, and communication to create the tools and knowledge necessary to carry out research and, in turn, educate others.

"It is very big news and [efforts to re-build Iraq after the U.S.-led invasion] is certainly a very important national agenda item," President Kenny said in a Newsday interview. "I do know that there was a lot of competition for these grants and to be selected, I think, speaks to the quality of the research we do at Stony Brook and the quality of these investigators."

Elizabeth Stone, Ph.D., Stony Brook anthropology professor, director of the project, and principal investigator of the archaeology element, said that university faculty in Iraq have not seen any new publications in archaeology in 15 years. She will head a team of professors from several universities, including Oxford and Columbia.

"It's important to get them back connected with the world," said Stone, in regard to assisting Iraqi faculty in obtaining books and access to the Internet.

Her portion of the program will have a three-fold plan, which, if completed with funding, spans three years of educational development. During the first year, professors will collaborate with faculty in Mosul and Baghdad Universities, teaching them about new technologies and discoveries in archaeology. In the second year, Iraqi students and American students will work together on field projects and digs throughout the country. Iraqi students will come to America for an intensive program in English and technology during the final year.

Stone visited Iraq in March as a

Preserving Iraq's Lost Treasures: SBU Professors Rebuild Universities Federal Grant Awards \$4.1 Million



Courtesy of www.baghdadmuseum.org

Above: These artifacts are among those missing from Baghdad museum.

National Geographic to survey the damage done to archaeological sites there. She took more than \$200,000 to the Iraq museum to conduct her work. Iraqi terrain is crucial to archaeologists as the land holds the keys to early human evolution, and the first transition from hunting to agriculture. The city of Mesopotamia runs through the area as well, and is noted as one of the first civilizations in the world, with a democratic political system, writing, law, and highly developed art.

Despite several obstacles, including security precautions, communications problems over time zones and obtaining required documentation for travel through the country, both teams have already visited Iraq, and are making plans for another visit this spring to continue building upon the foundations currently in place.

Dr. Wadji Hailoo, professor of preventive medicine at Stony Brook and

principal investigator of the environmental health element, plans to initiate the creation of what he calls "centers" in collaboration with several medical schools in Iraq. In these new centers, trained staff will have access to tools for research in the environmental sciences, preventive medicine and treatment of environmental health issues.

"The mission of the centers is to train people so they may train others," said Dr. Hailoo. The professors will work towards introducing the field of environmental health to Iraqi students and encouraging them to enter the field. They are currently organizing a national conference on environmental health to be held in Iraq later this year.

Both Stone and Dr. Hailoo are enthusiastic about accomplishing their goals and sharing their experiences with their students and the University at large.

President Kenny explained the gravity

of this endeavour in a press release: "This is an extraordinary opportunity for the University to share globally our expertise and experience, and to make a difference in the quality of life among Iraqi citizens."

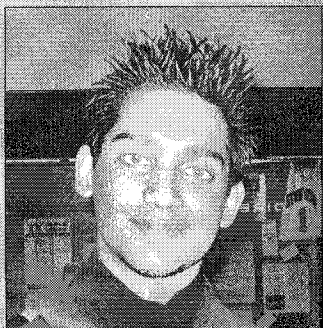
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Campus Voices

By James Caston

What was the worst class you've taken at Stony Brook?



"BIO 328. The way they asked questions in that class was ridiculous."

Vivek Sreevatsan
Senior

"Classical Mechanics- We had an exam worth 200 pts and the highest grade was a 60. I got a 30."

Matt Nguyen
Grad Student



"Chem 132. The teachers were so horrible I had to get a tutor. They don't teach here any more"

Erin Liguori
Junior

"MET 280 because all semester I didn't know what the professor was talking about."

Kamaria Blackett
Junior



"WRT 101. The teacher was from another country and could hardly speak english. And it was a writing course."

Amir Sahib
Freshman



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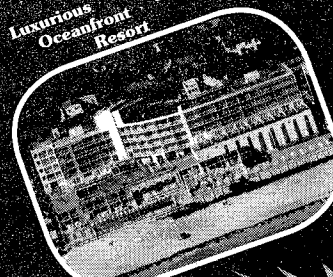
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Female Football Player Says She Was Raped and Abused by U. of Colorado Teammates

By WELCH SUGGS
Chronicle of Higher Education

The second woman to join a Division I-A football team says she was raped and sexually harassed by teammates at the University of Colorado at Boulder during her one season with the Buffaloes, in 1999.

Katie Hnida went public with her story on Tuesday in an interview with Rick Reilly of Sports Illustrated and in a subsequent statement released to the Associated Press. An all-county placekicker for Chatfield High School, in Littleton, Colo., Hnida was invited to join the team by its head coach at the time, Rick Neuheisel. She practiced with the Buffaloes and suited up for games, but never played.

During practices, she said, players exposed themselves to her, groped her during team huddles, threw balls at her head, and made crude sexual comments. One evening, while they were watching television, one of her teammates forced her to have sex with him.

Fearing reprisals, Hnida did not tell college officials or even her parents about the rape, although her father went to Colorado's athletics director, Richard A. Tharp, and Neuheisel's successor, Gary Barnett, with complaints about the other forms of harassment. Colorado officials did not return calls on Tuesday seeking comment, but Barnett told Reilly that none of the players would have sexually abused her because they would have faced consequences from him.

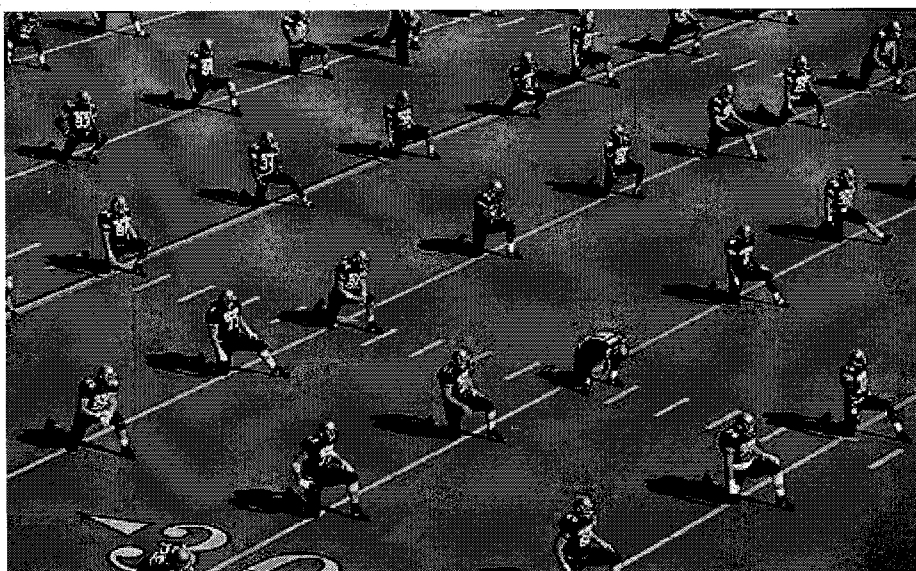
Nonetheless, Barnett said that none of the players wanted Hnida on the team, and that coaches allowed her to suit up "as a favor."

In a statement released to reporters late Tuesday, Barnett said that while "no one can substantiate" Hnida's accusations, he and Tharp "take her allegations very seriously and would look into them immediately if further information, including identities, can be ascertained."

Before the 2000 season, Hnida transferred to Santa Barbara City College. Later, she moved to the University of New Mexico, where in 2002 she made history as the first woman to play in a Division I-A game. She then became the first woman to score points in a I-A game last fall, and is petitioning the National Collegiate Athletic Association for an additional season of eligibility.

"Making this information public was not an easy decision," Hnida said in her statement. "I did this because I hope no one else will have to deal with the horrors I've endured over the past few years. I want to emphasize that a large number of my Colorado teammates during the fall of 1999 were good people. However, there were a select few whose actions toward me changed my life forever."

Her charges are the latest in a series of allegations of abusive behavior by Colorado football players. Three women are suing the university, saying they were



Courtesy of www.photosourcewest.com

The University of Colorado Football Team warms up for a full day of practice at Folsom Field.

raped by players or recruits during a 2001 party; a company says it provided strippers for recruits at Colorado and other institutions; and last week a former recruiting coordinator was accused of using his university-issued cellphone to hire prostitutes and call adult sex-chat lines.

On Monday the university's Board of Regents appointed a commission to investigate those and other allegations. One member, a former Federal Bureau of Investigation agent, Kenneth Vardell, resigned on Tuesday after admitting that he had given a lie-detector test to an athlete accused of one of the alleged assaults. Critics had said that work made him unsuited to serve as an unbiased member of the commission.

Campaign Against Productions of 'The Vagina Monologues' on Catholic Campuses

By BURTON BOLLAG
Chronicle of Higher Education

A Roman Catholic advocacy group sponsored a full-page advertisement in some editions of USA Today on Tuesday as part of its continuing campaign to stop the staging of the play "The Vagina Monologues" at Catholic colleges.

The ad, placed by the Cardinal Newman Society, sports headlines reading "Scandal!" and "Think Janet Jackson's act was bad? The 'V***** Monologues' degrades women and girls, promotes promiscuity -- but you can stop this assault on young peoples' minds and morals!"

The play is scheduled to be performed at about 30 Catholic colleges this year. But the Cardinal Newman Society, which describes itself as dedicated to "renewing Catholic identity at America's Catholic colleges and universities," says protests have resulted in the play's cancellation at 16 other Catholic institutions.

The society says its protests have had more effect this year than last, when 32 productions were staged at Catholic institutions and 14 were canceled.

Eve Ensler, the play's author, says the number of cancellations this year is really lower, since in many cases the productions have simply been moved off-campus. V-Day, a group she founded in 1998

to oppose violence against girls and women, describes the one-woman play as celebrating women's sexuality and strength, and exposing the violations that women endure. In all, students at some 700 American colleges are planning to perform the piece this year, according to Ensler.

The Cardinal Newman Society, in a news release, says the play "presents women discussing their sexuality and sexual encounters, replete with vulgarity, explicit language, and graphic descriptions of lesbian activity and masturbation."

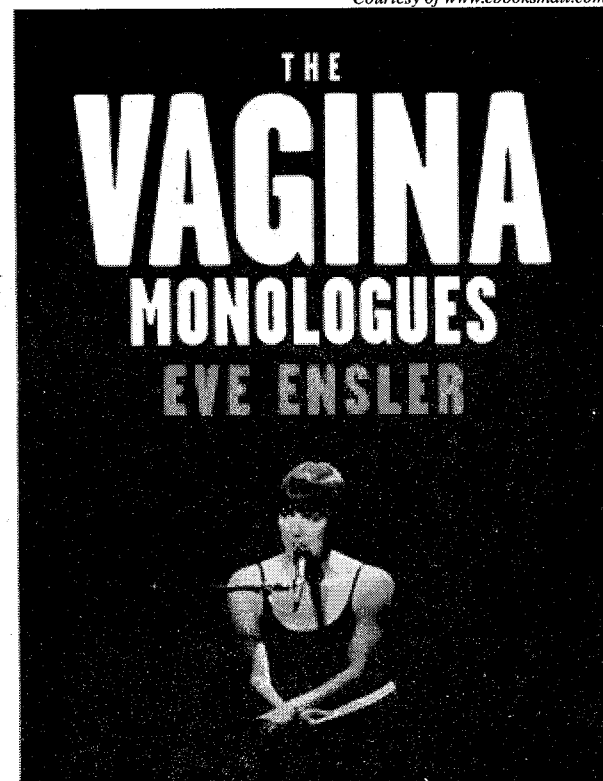
"One scene," the news release continues, "describes the seduction of a sexually inexperienced 16-year-old girl by a 24-year-old lesbian, who first intoxicates the girl with vodka. Instead of presenting the incident as sexual abuse that would be illegal in many states, the play declares it the girl's 'surprising, unexpected and politically correct salvation.'"

"What they don't say," counters Ensler, who won an Obie award for the Monologues in 1997, "is that the young woman [in the play] had been

raped, and when another woman came along and treated her and her vagina with kindness, she was healed. The Catholic church and the Cardinal Newman Society don't want girls to have control over their bodies."

The Cardinal Newman Society is not the only group that finds the play offensive. Last week the Chinese authorities canceled at least two productions of the piece. The play also figured in a dispute between William Jewell College and the Missouri Baptist Convention last year.

Courtesy of www.ebooksmall.com



4 School of Thought Forges Ahead on Walkway Plans

By SAMANTHA EARLEY
Statesman Staff

John Belle and Lynden Miller are familiar faces to the Stony Brook administration, but to students, it's their designs and innovations that are most recognizable. From the renovation of the Humanities building to the greener landscape along the academic mall, these two designers have been pivotal in changing students' college experience.

Currently, the two have collaborated with School of Thought, a campus organization, to plan the design of the Union Walkway. While Belle, a prominent architect, has been on the project since last semester, Miller, a well-known New York horticulturalist, joined the team in mid-January during a meeting at Stony Brook Manhattan.

"It is such a vast area that the way we recommend you proceed is to specifically concentrate on a certain area outside the Union," said Belle, reiterating the master plan. He believes that the best idea is to focus the renovation efforts on achieving the maximum effect.

The concrete wall currently lining the walkway and the retaining wall that has evolved into an interim seating area, were the topics of much discussion. The original idea was to divide the wall into individual benches, seating two or three individuals at a time. However, the main proposal is to transform the current wall into a curved seating wall incorporating benches and "a grove of trees in a sea of groundcover and bulbs," said Miller. Halfway between the Union and Center Drive, the oval-shaped area in question would include a curved pathway to accommodate pedestrians.



Statesman/Mansoor Khan

Students from the School of Thought (right) met with Architect John Belle (far left), Horticulturalist Lynden Miller (to Belle's right), and President Shirley Strum Kenny (seated to Miller's right) to plan a greener, more picturesque and community-friendly walkway.

Miller added that "breaking up that big asphalt sea and putting another seating wall" would enhance the landscape and foster a more comfortable community space.

"This will be the place you made for the future students," said Miller. Belle believes it's all about the interactions. "You'd be getting all that you're looking for."

The proposed grove of trees in the area will include dogwood, red bud and groundcover. Ground-breaking is set for an early evening Earth Day celebration on April 22, and will include a cultural show. The seating oval will be the first implementation of the design.

"If that gets it started," President Kenny said, "we would then know how to build it out."

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SBU Responds to High Child Car Accident Mortality

University Police Begin Free Inspections for Car Seat Safety

By PATRICIA McCABE
Statesman Staff

In a 30 mph crash, a seven pound infant weighs the equivalent of 210 lbs. Research shows that the unrestrained infant will hit the dashboard with the force of a fall from a three-story building.

Motor vehicle crashes remain the single leading cause of death in American children under the age of three, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The number of infant and toddler deaths from motor vehicle accidents remains high despite laws regarding child passenger restraints that have been in effect since 1982. In addition, a study done by the National Safe Kids Campaign determined that 85 percent of all car seats are used improperly, averaging two errors per seat.

Since 2000, the Stony Brook University Police have been involved with Governor Pataki's Traffic Safety Committee, in its efforts to provide a child passenger safety training program on campus. The purpose of the program is to raise awareness in the community about child passenger safety, the proper use of seatbelts, and to educate and assist parents in the proper use of child restraints. Since its implementation, the Safety Seat Program has successfully in-

stalled over 800 seats, and has provided valuable child passenger safety information to the drivers using them.

"Parents should be active, learning participants in the process and leave the event with knowledge and skills to use and install their own child passenger seat for the safe transportation of their child," said Lieutenant Patricia Sarubbi of the Stony Brook University Police. "The police don't just enforce the seat belt laws and child passenger safety law, they are also educators in the field."

Funded by state and other grants, the Child Passenger Safety Program at SBU currently has eight police officers who have been trained and certified as child passenger safety technicians. They work to install and inspect safety seats and educate drivers on how to install and use the seats correctly. These police officers have attended a 32-hour program standardized by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and require recertification as child passenger safety technicians every two years.

Although there are over a dozen manufacturers of infant and toddler safety seats, they are all mandated to meet federal safety standards for design and performance. The officers of the SBU program urge parents, telling them



that the best seat is "the one that fits your child, the one that fits your vehicle, and the one that you will use correctly every ride." Other suggestions supported by both the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and Governor's Safety Committee are to place infants in rear-facing safety seats until they are at least one year old or over 22 pounds. Never place a rear-facing seat in the front seat

of a vehicle equipped with a passenger side air bag. They stress that drivers must buckle their own seatbelts and restrain older children in the backseat (even if the driver is the only one in the front seat).

In the future, the program aims to train and certify more police officers as child passenger safety technicians, and increase the number of days per week for inspections and parent training sessions.

There is no cost to parents and caregivers who wish to have a safety seat installed or inspected. The session takes about 20 minutes. There will also be Child Restraint

Safety check-up events on campus this spring, in which parents can simply drive up and have their seats inspected without an appointment.

To make an appointment for a free car seat installation or inspection call 632-9317. Appointments are scheduled for Wednesdays between 7:30 am and 2:30 pm at the University Police Headquarters in South Campus. Further information on car seat safety can be found at www.nhtsa.gov and www.nysgtsc.state.ny.us.

Thursday, Feb. 19

Black Men at Stony Brook:
Achieving Success in College and Beyond
7-9 p.m.
SAC Auditorium

Blackworld Spades Tournament
8 p.m.
SAC Ballroom B

Friday, Feb. 20

Movie: Boyz N the Hood
4:30 p.m.
Humanities Institute, Melville Library E4340

Movies: The Cuckoo 7 p.m. &
Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World 9 p.m.
Staller Center

SAB Comedy Show
9pm - 11pm
SAC Auditorium

Saturday, Feb. 21

LASO Scholarship Committee
Winter Show
2 p.m.
SAC Ballroom A

Peter Schickele - Jekyll & Hyde Tour
8 p.m.
Staller Center Main Stage

Campus Calendar: Alternatives to Binge Drinking



Sunday, Feb. 22

Men's Basketball vs. Binghamton
2 p.m.
Sports Complex Arena

Celebrate Carnival!
Protestant Campus Ministries
Celebration
4 p.m.
Stony Brook Union
Room 249

Monday, Feb. 23

Lecture Series: "Diabetes Among
African Americans: Risks and
Prevention," 12-1 p.m.
HSC Level 2 School of Social Welfare
Faculty Conference Room

Batingua: Celebrating the Spirit of
our Ancestors Through Dance and
Drum
9-11 p.m. Unity Cultural Center

Wednesday, Feb. 25

Celebrating Our Diversity as
African Diasporic People: A round
table discussion
12:40-2 p.m.
Africana Studies Library

Career Center: Interviewing Skills
12:45-2 p.m.
SAC 303
For more information:
www.career.sunysb.edu

Celebration of the Sights and
Sounds of the African Diaspora
6-10 p.m.
Health Science Center Gallery
Level 3

Career Center Etiquette Dinner
6-10 p.m.
SAC Ballroom A and B

Women's Basketball vs. Boston
7 p.m.
Sports Complex Arena
For more information:
[www.goseawolves.ocsn.com/
calendar/events](http://www.goseawolves.ocsn.com/calendar/events)

Black History Month Jeopardy
9 p.m.
Dreiser College Classroom

NPC Date Rape Workshop
9 p.m.
SAC 306

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Commentary

The Search for a Vice President, Part II

Kerry-Edwards is a Winner

By ADAM ZIMMERMAN
Statesman Staff

Almost a month to the day after the Iowa caucuses, John Edwards got up once again Tuesday night to thank his supporters for a surprisingly strong second-place finish. The Wisconsin primary marked his sixth silver medal of the primary season. The man has a knack for being first runner up. Let's explore this further.

For the past few weeks, this space has touted John Kerry as the undisputed Democratic nominee for President, and the victory in Wisconsin, however close it may have been, solidified that thinking. Last week, we examined the thinking that goes into the picking of a vice presidential running mate and found it to be a matter of crucial importance. It can certainly be expected that JFK will pick his partner before spring hits. Here are the best reasons why John Edwards is the perfect choice.

1) Geography: Kerry's a Massachusetts man, and given the inevitable 'northeast liberal' tag, geographic balance is essential. Edwards fits perfectly. He represents North Carolina in the Senate, and was born in South Carolina; either of those two states would have won it for Al Gore in 2000. Edwards has polled extremely well with independents who voted in the open primaries (as opposed to closed primaries, where only registered Democrats may cast a vote). In addition to winning South Carolina, he also finished second in Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia and Iowa. Clearly, this son of the South attracts voters where Kerry might have more difficulty.

2) Upbringing: Kerry was well-off financially growing up as a child, and is now worth millions, both personally and through wife Teresa Heinz' ketchup fortune. Again, Edwards fits perfectly. Everywhere he goes, he touts the same story: son of a mill worker, first in his family to go to college, trial lawyer fighting for the downtrodden. 2.5 million jobs have been lost since Bush became President; Edwards really does know what economic difficulties are like. Moreover, he and Kerry are both in sync on repealing the Bush tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

3) Career. John Kerry's 19 years in the Senate is

a huge asset for a Presidential contender. In this case, Edwards' lack of experience in the same body (less than one full term) gives the ticket even more balance. Voters are wary of too many 'Washington insiders,' and Edwards certainly does not fit that mold. His trial lawyer career lasted two decades, where he really came through on the ubiquitous campaign pledge to "take on the special interests." Moreover, the personal wealth he amassed, and his healthy funding from fellow counselors, are also important. Bush will have just about \$200 million to spend on his reelection campaign; say what you will about there being way too much money in politics (you're right, by the way), but you gotta play by the rules. Kerry-Edwards has formidable funding, and they're going to need every dollar of it.

4) No attacks:

Edwards' campaign has been the epitome of the power of positive thinking. Ironically, his unwillingness to go after his fellow contenders has hurt him as a presidential nominee, but it's perfect for VP. He has been quick to praise Senator Kerry as a leader and a legislator, and there's been virtually no sparring between the two. While there are certainly differences between the two on some issues (NAFTA/free trade being the most immediate example), there is significant agreement and overlap on positions, issues and message. That's crucial to present a unified ticket.

5) The debate: As the nominee for President, Kerry will naturally receive the most coverage. That rule will have one exception: the night when the Democratic VP candidate debates Dick Cheney in front of the entire nation. I can't wait to see John Edwards take him on. This lawyer has a flawless delivery, respectful manner, and is incredibly quick on his feet. Democrats will seek to portray Cheney as a corrupt oil baron, manipulator of intelligence, and completely out of touch with the common American. Edwards will represent a powerful contrast; you'll never have to worry about him taking Justice Antonin Scalia out on a fishing trip.

If you're a Democrat, it's impossible not to like John Edwards. He has the intelligence, background and skills for the job, along with the temperament and stamina for the long campaign. Finally I, for one, would be honored to cast my vote for President Edwards in 2012.

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The Underdogs Who Never Made Primary Fame

By MICHAEL NEVRADAKIS
Statesman Editor

Over the past few months, the American public has been inundated with constant news footage relating to the primaries and upcoming presidential election. From Howard Dean's bellowing in Iowa, to Democratic hopefuls like Clark, Gephardt and Lieberman dropping out, to in-depth analysis of George Dubya's dental records, the lens of the mainstream media has been rigidly focused on the main candidates and their campaign for office. With the increasing likelihood of a Bush vs. Kerry race for the White House, however, it is both appropriate and highly interesting to look past these two men, past the other major Democratic contenders still in the race, and look at the lesser-known candidates who are vying for the chance to work in the Oval Office. There are over 100 of them, after all. Let's look at some of the more...interesting ones.

We begin with Jacques Yves Boulerville, also known as "Chief Jack." Boasting a high school diploma and professional experience in auto parts, Chief Jack is running under the Native American party ticket. Chief Jack is also close to the people. His official campaign website is hosted on msnusers.com, and features a non-professional photograph of him sitting at his computer, supposedly interacting with voters. What does Chief Jack stand for? His website



Courtesy of www.vote-smart.org
Campaigning outside of the spotlight of the mass media, these candidates bring unique ideas and personalities to the presidential race.

is rather detailed, and he espouses his beliefs that all foreigners should learn English within six months of coming to America, and introduces the novel concept of "limited capitalism," under which no American would be allowed to earn more than the President, among other things. But just imagine what fun it will be to sing "Hail to the Chief" when he's President.

Jackson Kirk Grimes represents the United Fascist Union, whose claim to fame is apparently that they "finished sixth" in the last presidential elections. And, lo and behold, this fascist candidate may very well have been a drama queen when he was younger, as he is a graduate of the New York City School of Drama and Arts. His artistic talent is evident in his official campaign photo, where he

does what seems to be a cross between a Roman and a Native American helmet (perhaps he borrowed it from Chief Jack). Grimes may very well have also been the first Pagan United States Army Corporal in history, but I'll leave the research on that to someone else.

Another candidate who's "close to the people" is Darren Carr, running under the Party X ticket. Darren openly publicizes his AIM, MSN and Yahoo screen names on his official website, which also features a photo of him with his two young children. The site is rounded out by an illustration of a child urinating on the Republican elephant and Democratic donkey.

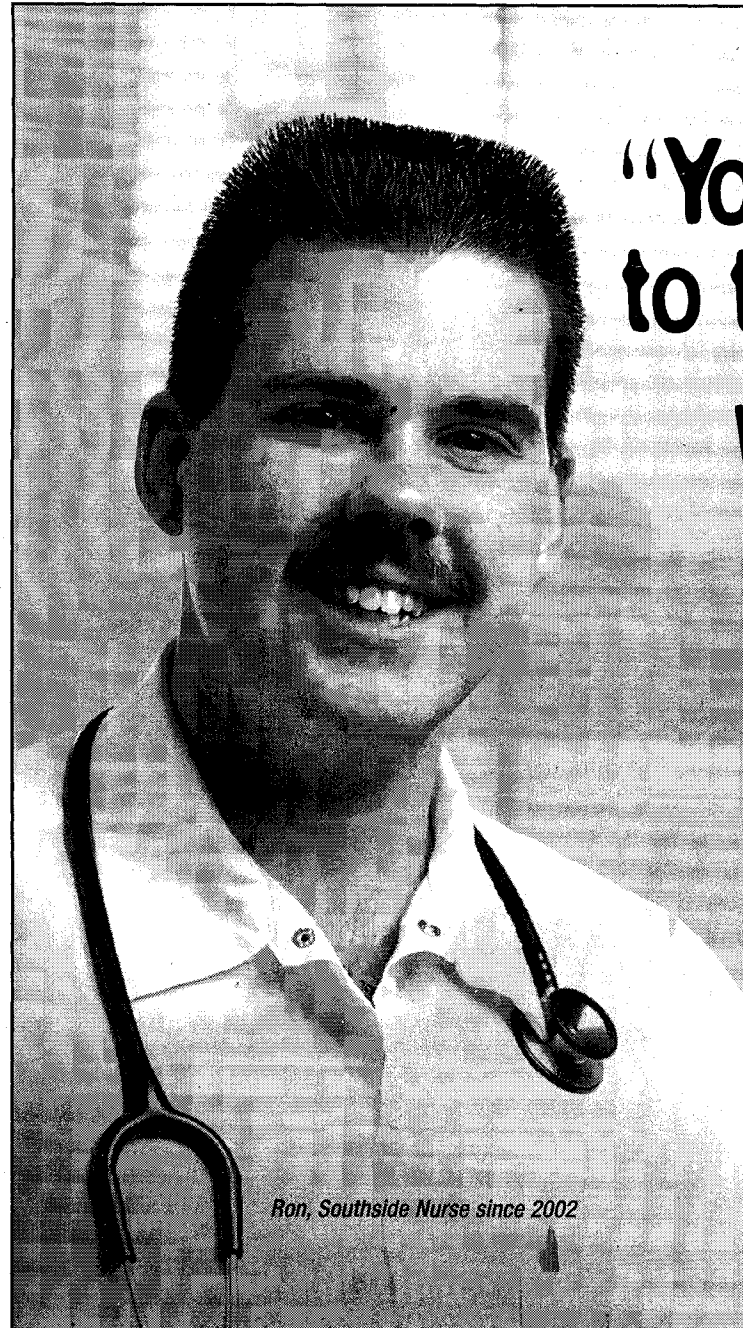
Larry J. Schuetter is the official candidate of the Turtle Political Party. One thing's for certain—if there were any

complaints about the food in the White House before, there probably won't be any more if Schuetter is elected President. His resume boasts work experience as a baker, meat cutter, and, last but not least, pastry chef for the 836th Combat Support Group in Thailand and the 32nd Tactical Fighter Wing. What does the Turtle Party stand for? I have no idea, and the official website, hosted on an AOL member's website, wasn't very helpful either.

I bet you didn't know that there's a Menorah-Thor party. There is, and Brian Baker Springfield is proudly representing it in the upcoming elections. Though there is no official website as far as I know, he provides a detailed list of positions on vote-smart.org, which I'm too bored to delve through. However, he looks like a decent guy, so, Brian...Mazel tov!

Think back to American History class in high school. Remember what you learned about prohibition? How it came and went so quickly? How it led to the rise of bootlegging. It apparently also led to modern-day Prohibition Party candidate Earl F. Dodge, who, ironically enough, is a graduate of the Narcotics Institute. The Prohibition Party, on its official website, claims to be the "oldest third party" in the United States. Amidst numerous quotations from the Bible, the

Continued on Page 9



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CHOICE: Overcoming the Pitfalls of Depression

By THE CHOICE EDUCATORS
Special to the Statesman

To be honest, I didn't receive a deluge of questions after the last column, so let me ask you something. Have you ever paced your strides when crossing the street to match the crescendo of blinding headlights, in hopes that the driver would not hit the breaks? When you run from classes to meetings to work like a wound-up toy, do you remember how it felt to think and dream? Do you feel yourself begging for the strangling choke of ambition as crippling failure loosens its grip? Have you seen your idols crack and crumble before you, as you stare awestruck at these remnants of fake gods? Do you feel the sting of family turning their back on you as you realize living and lying are synonymous; but reflexively stand on broken legs as a pillar for those you still love?

The subtle shift from this state to hate depends on your tolerance for fake laughter, broken shards of promises, defacement of honor societies as money laundering business ventures, and religion as a forum for social networking.

Is your brain reeling, as you gasp for air, readying yourself to leap after the next award or dog biscuit authority throws at you? Do you even remember what your motivations were, or have you been living so long for pats on your back that you forgot all roles besides that of a pawn in others' schemes? Who are you? What happened to you? This is "the meaning of being lonely," as the Backstreet Boys once sang.

When you realize you have lost yourself along the way and every friend you reach for, as a thirsty traveler yearns for water, dissolves into a mocking mirage. Of course, the hate is self-directed, because in this Faustian bargain, you are responsible for what you have become. You can identify yourself in the hollow shells of those

you despise, as you realize that every quality you find sickening in them could be easily compiled to form a self-portrait.

Depression raped me at the start of my sophomore year, as I felt my soul dying without understanding why I felt so miserable. Drowning, yet instinctively fighting for air, I resorted to the free counseling offered at the Infirmary. Yes, it was a last resort. However, I wish I could convince everyone of what I learned from experience. Abandon the restraints you place on yourself because you fear social stigma. There is no shame in seeking help. When I first went for counseling, it was an impulse



Courtesy of www.google.com

maneuver as I asked for a drop-in session, without making a prior appointment. I remember my first comment to the counselor was that he is nothing more than a prostitute, paid to show empathy. Except, I am not paying! This is a completely free service to students, and as vengeance for the recent tuition hikes, I was determined to come on a regular basis for counseling. Depression really is self-debilitating as I remember wanting to turn him against me too, so that I could add him to my list of enemies.

Initially, just listening to all the thoughts I had only heard as silent screams hitting my face along with the harsh winter wind, was therapeutic. I started looking forward to the soothing echo in the room as I heard the counselor's dry, gentle voice not judge, but sincerely want to help me through this. I liked not craving for a muted consciousness to get through the day by abusing alcohol and other drugs. I don't know how much you value my opinion, but please, the free Counseling Center is truly an invaluable service offered by this University. If you are feeling upset, or you are struggling through any type of mood disorder, go to the second floor of the Infirmary for free drop-in counseling sessions with professionals.

"Mental illness is absolutely going off the charts on college campuses," said Hara Marano, who prepared the report for a May newsletter published in association with *Psychology Today*. "College counseling centers used to be the backwaters of the mental health care system. Now they are the front line."

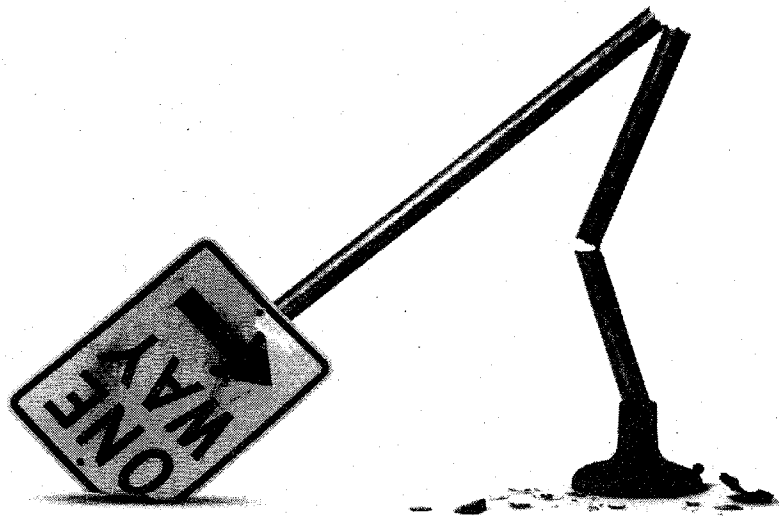
You are not alone. Please, take advantage of the resources offered by Stony Brook University's infirmary. Get help!

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E-mail any questions you would like to see answered in this weekly column, at joici_job@yahoo.com

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University Police Blotter

Feb. 10 - Feb. 16

By MAURY HIRSCHKORN
Statesman Staff

Feb. 10, 2004

8:28 a.m. - Larceny, Toscanini College loading zone, state keys taken from state vehicle.

12:56 p.m. - Motor vehicle accident, Health Science Center garage.

1:22 p.m. - Larceny, Sullivan Hall, medical records taken.

Feb. 11, 2004

12:12 a.m. - Sex abuse, Toscanini College, [A female student went on a date with a male student that she met through e-mail. The female made a complaint to the university police that the male touched her inappropriately, but she refused to press charges against him.]

10:37 a.m. - Motor vehicle accident, Dutchess Hall

(University Police Headquarters), vehicle vs. tree.

Feb. 12, 2004

8:42 a.m. - Larceny, Central Stores, room 114, cell phone taken.

10:26 a.m. - Unlawful posting, south parking lot, two (2) males posting handbills on vehicles.

11:35 a.m. - Motor vehicle accident, Social Behavioral Science loop.

Feb. 13, 2004

4:27 a.m. - Motor vehicle accident, Infirmary Rd.

3:35 p.m. - Larceny, Roth Quad/Whitman College, cash taken from room.

Feb. 14, 2004

10:51 p.m. - Medical emergency, Douglass College, female with chest pain, Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps transported her to University Hospital.

11:51 p.m. - Small fire, Douglass College, 3rd floor, small fire in

garbage can, extinguished by residents.

Feb. 16, 2004

7:32 a.m. - Criminal mischief, Social Behavioral Science building, damage to classroom wall.

11:15 a.m. - Larceny Vehicle, green 1992 Honda stolen.

1:34 p.m. - Larceny, Javits Center, room 102, cell phone taken.

1:51 p.m. - Arrest, [A female was harassing by telephone a male patient in the University Hospital. The male complained, and the female was picked up by the Suffolk County Police (1st precinct) and taken to the University Police Headquarters where she was arrested.]

9:16 p.m. - Motor vehicle accident, old "H" lot, one of the cars was parked.

Odd Candidates

Continued from Page 7

website outlines the party's positions, including a return to the gold standard, and strong laws against drugs and alcohol, which are classified as "dangerous" activities, along with homosexuality. I don't even know why I'm mentioning him...what college student in his right mind would support a presidential candidate that is so openly against booze?

Finally, there's Michael W. Bay, affectionately known as Mike. Mike is the candidate for the National Barking Spider Resurgence Party. The official website, which almost crashed my computer before finally loading, rips apart the leading Democratic candidates. It also offers policy positions on diet & exercise and alternatives to meatloaf, in light of the Mad Cow scare, which proves that the Barking Spider Resurgence Party is definitely hip with the times.

The point is, there are literally hundreds of candidates out there besides Bush, Kerry and the usual gang of idiots. At the very least, if you don't find a candidate that more closely identifies with your beliefs, you'll have some fun learning about some very interesting, and in many cases, intelligent and successful people, who have the dream of one day sitting in the Oval Office (with or without an intern). Have fun, and remember to vote in the primary elections, which are approaching soon!

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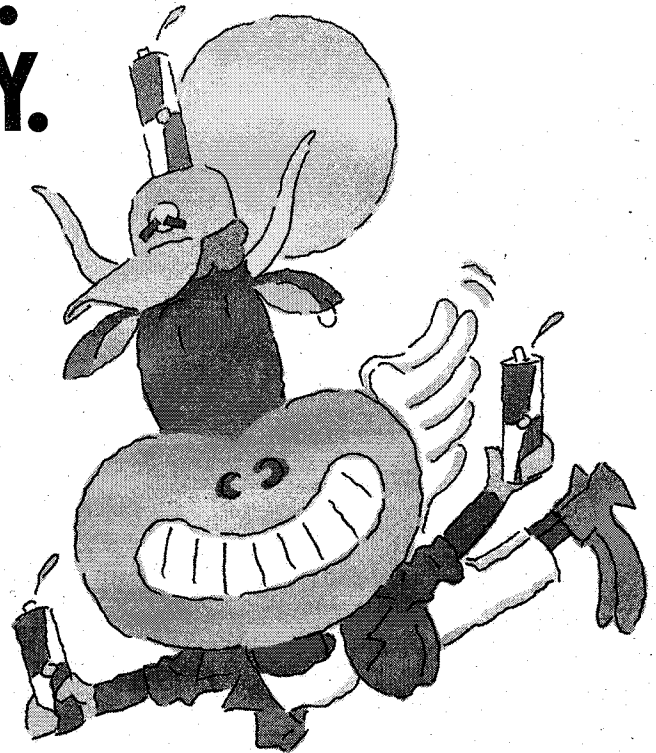
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