

# the stony brook Statesman

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## Groundbreaking at the Union Walkway



University President Shirley Strum Kenny and School of Thought President Michael Zannettis unveiled the new plans for the Student Union Walkway.

By MANSOOR KHAN  
Statesman Editor

Walk to the Union, and you might find a pile of dirt surrounded by orange cones. This is not just a symbol of

construction, however, but a microcosmic representation of student involvement, according to Michael Zannettis, president of the campus club *School of Thought*.

Zannettis' club held their ground-

breaking event for the Union Walkway Project, the main focus of SOT, this past Thursday, Earth Day. The project, which seeks to redesign the vast plot of asphalt

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## USG Elections Debates

By PAUL G. AKINS, JR.  
Statesman Staff

Students had the chance to hear their new potential leaders last Friday, when the USG Debates, held in the Wang Center, offered candidates the opportunity to voice their opinions, and make students aware of their plans.

The first debaters were the presidential candidates, Senator Brandon Fuchs, Jared Wong and current USG president Sandy Curtis. Each candidate was given 60 seconds to answer direct questions from commentator Ted Lai.

Curtis and Wong appeared professional during most of the debate, but were still burdened by a few flaws. Curtis seemed overly emotional at times, especially when attempting to answer questions posed by her fellow candidates. Later on, she was forced to reply to questions about the success of USG from audience members. She held her ground to the challenges, insisting that one year was not enough to fix the problems wrought by the previous undergraduate government, Polity. She nonetheless answered her questions thoroughly and fully.

Wong appeared flustered by questions of experience. He heads into the elections with no previous position in USG. Curtis was sophomore representative before her election to president, and Fuchs is currently a senator. Wong,

*Continued on Page 15*

## Statesman Referendum: Help Us Help You

The polls are set to open today, and students will have the opportunity to vote for what clubs they would like to keep up funding for. The *Statesman* is on that list, and we're asking for \$1.25 per student. As we print 28 issues per semester, the cost per issue is only four and a half cents per issue. Less than a nickel gets you university news, campus voices, movie reviews, and much more.

Last semester, the *Statesman* was funded with one dollar per student. That money is used to print our issues, cover media insurance, pay for production equipment, and the salaries of full time staff.

The *Statesman* is a not-for-profit organization, so all of the money we receive goes into delivering the best product we can and not to a board of directors. As a major publication, we have a lot of costs to cover that normal clubs at Stony Brook do not have. It takes a lot to run a twice-

weekly newspaper, and that one dollar just isn't enough.

This year, you will have the opportunity to vote whether to continue funding for the *Statesman* and to increase funding for this publication by 25 cents. This money is necessary to better serve you. Costs of operation are rising steadily as the nation's economy dwindles. At the *Statesman*, we ask that you approve this 25 cent increase. In reality, the cost to you is minimal: think of it as the cost of one gumball.

With this added money, we plan to improve the quality of your student newspaper. Currently, the *Statesman* has to compensate for lack of adequate student funding with advertisement revenue, forcing us to publish enough ads to make up the costs. With increased funding, we can afford to add to the content as well, offering you bigger issues with more articles. Your support will also allow us to

bring on a staff photographer, dramatically improving the way we represent you, the students, in our publication. With your help, we can increase the physical quality of the paper that we print on. Better paper and a dedicated photographer will mean more and better photographs of students and events on and off campus.

Other student newspapers around the country receive up to ten times the amount the *Statesman* receives. We make do as well as we can with what's possible, but it's getting harder and harder each year to keep up with the economic demands associated with running a major publication. We're asking you, the students of Stony Brook, to help make more possible. The *Statesman* is an integral part of student life and experience on campus; it's how we know what's going on. Don't let that go away. Vote YES to continue funding for the *Statesman* and vote YES to increase funding 25 cents.

## Inside

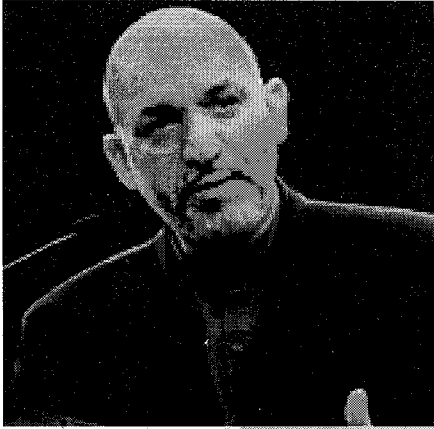
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COMPILED BY MANSOOR KHAN

INFORMATION AND PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

## Karzai Campaigns For Voting



President Hamid Karzai was back in his hometown this weekend for the first time since he narrowly escaped assassination from a Taliban sympathizer here

18 months ago. In a direct challenge to the Taliban in its former spiritual capital, he urged people to take part in the country's coming elections.

His two-day visit to Kandahar was the first of a series of planned trips to the regions of Afghanistan in the coming months, and it clearly opened the election season, the next big task for Karzai's government and for himself as a presidential candidate.

Accompanied by five cabinet ministers, he said he was there to see how reconstruction, but he also urged people to take part in the September elections even if those trying to undermine the process used violence to deter participation

## Cease-Fire in Falluja

Negotiators extended a shaky cease-fire in the volatile city of Falluja on Sunday for at least two more days, defusing the threat of an imminent Marine assault. But the American occupation authority said Shiite rebels in the holy city of Najaf were stockpiling weapons in mosques, shrines and schools, creating a "potentially explosive situation."

A spokesman for the occupation authority said it had learned from Najaf residents that insurgents following Moktada al-Sadr, the fervently anti-



American cleric, were gathering arms, apparently to defend themselves against 2,500 American soldiers who have encircled the city.

## Abortion Rights Protest in D.C.



Hundreds of thousands of abortion rights supporters rallied Sunday in the nation's capital, protesting the policies of the Bush administration and its conservative allies and vowing to fight back in the November election.

The huge crowd marched slowly past the White House, chanting and waving signs like "It's Your Choice, Not Theirs!" They turned the mall into a sea of women, men and children for the biggest abortion rights demonstration in 12 years.

## Arafat Defies Sharon, Rejects Threat



Yasir Arafat is playing down threats by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, telling supporters on Saturday, "All of us are martyrs-in-waiting."

Arafat, addressing thousands of Palestinian supporters in Ramallah, saying, "I tell Sharon and his gang, 'Oh, mountain! The wind will never move you!'"

The remarks came in response to an interview in which Sharon said he no longer considered himself bound by a long-standing pledge that Israel would refrain from harming Arafat.

Sharon said he told Bush during their recent White House meeting, "This commitment of mine no longer exists."

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# So Who Are You Voting For?

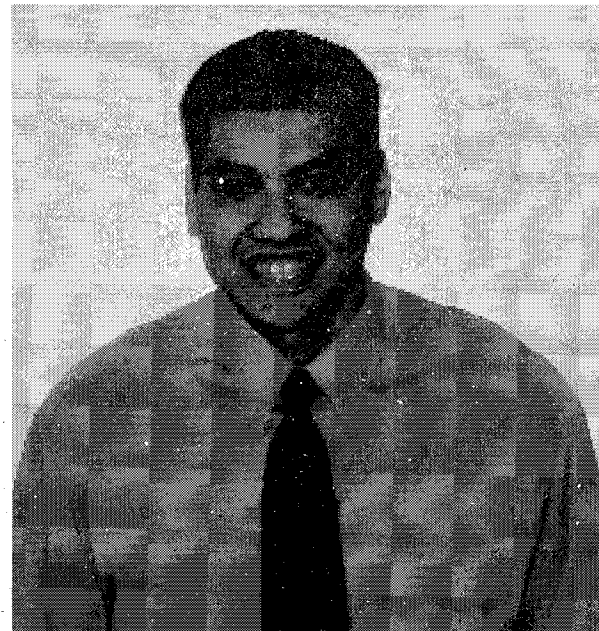
## The USG Presidential Candidates, 2004



*Sandy Curtis*



*Brian Fuchs*



*Jared Wong*

By ROHIT DAS  
Statesman Editor

The undergraduate student government election has arrived, and this year's potential office holders have shown an especially passionate desire to attain positions within USG. The most important of this year's elections, the battle for the presidency, showcases many candidates who display a desire to improve student life and assume the task of becoming the student leader of this campus. This year's candidates are juniors Sandy Curtis, Jared Wong, and Brandon Fuchs.

All candidates show credible qualifications for the position. Curtis, besides being the current president of USG, has been involved in the student government since her freshman year at Stony Brook. She was elected as sophomore representative, campus delegate for the U.S. Student Association, and many other student leadership positions. Wong is the vice president of the University Democrats and an avid member of many other campus clubs. He is also a registered Democrat, and has made contributions to the Democratic National Committee. Fuchs is also very involved in the campus community as vice president of the SBU College Democrats and a USG Senator. He has also met with Mayor Giuliani, Governor Pataki, and Vice President Al Gore on many occasions.

Though their qualifications at times seem somewhat similar, the candidates' respective platforms and reasons for desiring the presidency markedly

differ. Curtis stresses the importance of improved communication with the student body, proposing better training for executive representatives and more direct student government involvement in campus events.

"My experience lets me prioritize the issues, and lets me better understand the issues at hand," Curtis said. "If you want consistency, commitment and continuity, Curtis is the name."

Wong places more of an emphasis on student funding. He has proposed the creation of a new "President's Scholarship" for high achieving student leaders and more evenly distributed funds for political and religious clubs. Additionally, using the internet and campus media, Wong wishes to make USG much more accessible to students than it has been in the past. Wong has also proposed the creation of new governmental positions

USG senate. He is confident that such plans will alleviate many of the present student budget issues, including club funding.

"When I'm elected, the budget will be streamlined so there is no waste of your money on things such as security for a five person event, USG book bags and t-shirts, or that \$30,000 service that nobody uses," Fuchs said. "These things are why we don't have enough money for clubs and more events on campus."

Fuchs highlights his genuine desire to help his fellow students, a desire devoid of any selfish goals. "It's time we had someone who wants to stand up for the student body and not just his or her resume and their own selfish needs," Fuchs said. "It's not too late to reclaim your college experience. A vote for Fuchs is a vote for you."

Students seem impressed with the course of this year's elections, particularly the presidential one. Some have noticed an increased interest in the student government.

"The candidates this year seem to be keener as to what the student body really wants," said Brandon Gray, a sophomore majoring in Political Science. "I also think that more and more people are realizing that these elections play a huge role in determining the quality and future of this university."

All voting can be easily done through your personal account on SOLAR. Polls open on Monday, April 26 at 6 a.m. and close on Monday, May 3 at 6 p.m. Allow your student voice to be heard, and decide who should represent you in our undergraduate student government.

I think that more and more people are realizing that these elections play a huge role in determining the quality and future of this university.

*Brandon Gray, Sophomore*

Curtis also points to the degree to which she has restructured the student government. She has changed many of the professional staff members of USG in an attempt to make it more student-oriented, and has created more positions to ensure that USG's budget is allocated much more efficiently. Overall, Curtis is happy with the strides the student government has made.

"Though we're still not exactly where I'd like to be, we're light years ahead of Polity and definitely going in the right direction," Curtis said. "If I'm elected, I promise that this government will progress even further."

in order to increase the interaction between student clubs/organizations and the student government. Ultimately, his goal seems to be to enhance student interaction on campus, and to make SBU a much more close-knit community.

"I hope that students will join me in improving our school, bringing our community closer together, and ensuring that we all have a strong voice in student government," Wong said.

Fuchs' focus lies in the use of USG's multimillion-dollar budget. He wishes to apply the budget in a more efficient fashion through the creation of a budget oversight director within the

Vote this week on Solar System



## UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

### Executive Council Meetings

Open to the Public  
Fridays, 2:30-4:00pm  
SAC Room 309

### Senate Meetings

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**Tuesday, May 11, 5-7:30 pm**

(Information Systems Engineering InfoSession, 6pm)  
40 Saw Mill River Road, Hawthorne, NY

#### Brooklyn

**Wednesday, May 12, 5-7:30 pm**

6 MetroTech Center, Brooklyn, NY

#### Long Island

**Thursday, May 13, 5-7:30 pm**

105 Maxess Road, Melville, NY

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# "Kill Bill: Volume Two," Much More Depth, Much Less Action

BY MANSOOR KHAN  
Statesman Editor

It's a different movie. Not necessarily a worse movie, but a different one. It's almost as if Director Quentin Tarantino wanted to get all the killing out in the first movie, and leave the story to the second...a unique, yet often perturbing approach.

While "Kill Bill: Volume One" emphasizes action over characterization and dialogue, with none of Tarantino's trademark banter, Volume Two fleshes the Bride (Uma Thurman) out. We find out what her real name is, and learn of her disturbing relationship with Bill, the father of the daughter she thought she lost in the massacre. Fans of Volume One's over-the-top action will be disappointed that Volume Two is relatively low-key, with none of the gushing blood that accompanied the Bride's confrontation with O-Ren in the first film.

The story behind the story is brought forward in this movie, complete with a black and white crystalline introduction to the wedding chapel massacre that loomed over the heads of Volume One audiences. The Bride continues marking down her list of baddies, with Elle (Daryl Hannah) and Bill (David Carradine) left to go.

The movie takes us down some unique paths, from a grave six feet under, to an isolated training camp in East Asia. Through a series of flashbacks, we get to really appreciate the



Courtesy of killbill.movies.go.com

*Kill Bill Volume Two, focused much more on the plot of the movie as opposed to the ninja-slicing action characteristic of Volume One.*

depth of the characters, something that wasn't so easy to do in Volume One, but it came at the expense of the bone-cutting action that was so prevalent in the first movie. No anime interludes in this one, folks.

A few of the action scenes, however, are reminiscent of Volume One. The Bride's duel with Elle is spicy and action-packed. Tarantino's usual facetious, yet firm style of fighting is apparent. The two divas take Hanzo swords to each other in a crowded trailer, with a black mamba snake floating around. More

deep secrets are revealed, and more deep wounds are made.

The classic Asian-esque appeal is revitalized in The Bride's scene with Pai Mei, the ageless Shaolin Master/standup comedian that trains Bill's Lady Vipers to become deadly assassins. He relentlessly insults his trainees, and spits out snide comments a mile a minute. He's a powerful, bitter, funny old man that embodies the characterizations prevalent throughout Volume One.

Despite the decreased action in Volume Two, it was still a good movie.

Taken in and of itself, I probably would have absolutely loved it; frame it with Volume One, and it loses a little something. Emotionally, and story-wise, however, Volume Two is excellent.

Tarantino's dexterity is especially evident when he takes a startling sharp turn toward thorny emotional complexity as The Bride finally does come face-to-face with Bill. Thanks to Tarantino's gift for deliciously effusive, accessibly esoteric, pop-whacko dialogue and Carradine's unexpectedly earthy, enlightened, calmly charismatic performance as the mass-murdering assassin squad kingpin, this psychologically-charged passage becomes as much of a showdown as any action set-piece that comes before it.

Tarantino is a filmmaker with style and pretentiousness—not always a bad thing. But when he shifts from the fizzy manga styling of Volume One to the more serious, character-based scenery of Volume Two, the pace and approach of the feature completely changes. He did well with the gratuitous violence in Volume One, and he also succeeded (but not quite as well) with the depth of story in Volume Two.

Volume Two is just as spotty as Volume One, but even when it scores—such as in a hilarious flashback to The Bride's training at the hands of the dreaded Shaolin master Pai Mei (Gordon Liu)—it never achieves quite the same heights of lunacy that the first film did.

## Calendar of Events

### BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR...

#### Monday, April 26

USG Elections Open on SOLAR System

8 p.m., Staller Center Recital Hall  
Stony Brook Composers

6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., SAC 306  
Journalism Career Workshop

#### Tuesday, April 27

Staller Center Art Gallery  
University Art Gallery: Art Show

4 p.m., Wang Center, Lecture Hall 1  
Lecture: "Globalization and Jobs: Friends or Foes?"

4 p.m., Wang Center, Lecture Hall 1  
Fay Chiang: Poet, Activist, Asian American

#### Wednesday, April 28

11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., SAC Plaza  
Strawberry Fest and Diversity Day

4 p.m., 8 p.m., Staller Center Recital Hall  
Stony Brook Composers

#### Thursday, April 29

4 p.m., Wang Center, Lecture Hall 2  
Provost's Lecture Series: "How to Approach Global Present, Local Pasts, and Canon of the Globe"

4 p.m., Life Sciences, Room 038  
Lecture: "TGFBeta Signaling in Heart Valve Formation"

6:30 p.m., SAC, Ballroom A  
Symposium: "Race, Representation, and Reality"

#### Friday, April 30

11:30 a.m., Wang Center Theatre  
Pan-Asian Youth Day

3 p.m. - 8 p.m., Staller Center Recital Hall  
Fifth Annual Stony Brook Jazz Festival

8 a.m. - 5 p.m., Wang Center Theatre Lobby  
Conference: A Gathering of Science Scholars: Access for Underrepresented Students in the Biological, Engineering, and Applied Sciences

8 p.m., Staller Center Recital Hall  
Jazz Festival Concert: Eddie Allen

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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, April 26, 2004



# the stony brook Statesman

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Editorials represent the majority opinion of the Editorial board and are written by one of its members. The Stony Brook Statesman welcomes letters, opinions and information about events and issues on or around campus.

All letters and opinion pieces must include the author's name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Please type all submissions. Anonymous and handwritten submissions will not be printed. Please keep all submissions to a maximum of 650 words. Statesman reserves the right to edit letters for length, clarity, language and readability. Views expressed in columns or in the Letters and Opinions section are those of the author and are not necessarily those of Statesman, its employees, staff, or advertisers. All contents Copyright 2004.

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## Editorial

# The Student Activity Fee: What Are You Paying For?

By MANSOOR KHAN  
Statesman Editor

Voting is set to open this week, including the vote on whether or not the Student Activity Fee should be kept mandatory. A lot of students don't know *just* how important this is for the University and campus. The Student Activity Fee benefits *students*, not, as too many people think, "the people who just join clubs."

In reality, the Student Activity Fee funds a variety of events that student participate in all the time, and may not even know it. If you've ever been to the Strawberry Festival, you've used your student activity fee. If you went to the Dave Chapelle

concert, you used your student activity fee. If you ever participated in a program in your residence hall, you've used your student activity fee. It's true that some of these events charge students an admission fee, but it's nominal compared to the real cost of the program. Did you actually think you could attend a Dave Chapelle concert for 12 bucks? Students are given significant discounts because the Student Activity Fee covers the rest of the costs.

your money's worth. It's not right to take that opportunity away from the students who actually make use of it, just because you feel you don't "join clubs."

That \$82.50 is actually less than a lot of other schools with similar student body size. Syracuse University, for example, charges \$107 bucks a pop, and Cornell asks for a whopping \$167 per student per semester. Both schools have requested an increase in order to improve school spirit. All Stony brook is asking for is to continue funding.

If you want to know what happens without the fee, take a look at the Graduate School. Their Student Activity Fee was voted voluntary not too long ago, and down she went. Student life for graduates was hit hard, to the point where there *was* no student life.

For those of you who already favor the fee, it's very important to vote. Many students who are against it will make the effort to vote in order to voice their opinion, and it's necessary for the rest of us to vote YES, too, in order to ensure that the Student Activity Fee remains mandatory.

Currently, we pay \$82.50 per student per semester. This money goes to the events mentioned, and funds all sorts of organizations, including the Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps., NYPIRG, *Statesman*, Blood Drive Committee, Residence Hall LEG, and the other 200+ clubs on campus.

The cost is actually cheap, considering what you get. 80 dollars may seem like a lot, but so much is offered to you for that money. The opportunity is there, and you need to take advantage of it to get

Only recently was the graduate activity fee reinstated, and they're struggling to get back on their feet. They look to the *undergraduate* student government for a model to work with, because the loss of student activity fee crippled them.

Do you want to go to a university with no student life? What would you do after classes? Campus clubs and events are a vital part of the college experience, and you need to vote YES for the student activity fee. Without it, we may very well have nothing to do..

This week, you can vote whether to keep the Student Activity Fee mandatory on Solar System. For those of you who already favor the fee, it's very important to vote. Many students who are against it will make the effort to vote in order to voice their opinion, and it's necessary for the rest of us to vote YES, too, in order to ensure that the Student Activity Fee remains mandatory. It takes a minute of your time, and can make a world of difference.

**Monday, April 26 to Monday, May 3**

**Vote for the USG elections, club referendum, and the Student Activity Fee.**

**Log on to Solar System.**

### Statesman Staff Writers

Paul G. Akins, Jr.  
Yu Sze Ang  
Jimmy Boyle  
Lauren Conching  
Ian Cook  
Samantha Earley

James Fitzpatrick  
Maury Hirschhorn  
John Imossi  
Joici Job  
Mira Kinariwala  
Ted Lai

Jessica Landress  
Greg Lubicich  
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\* To receive the \$150 sign-on bonus, a student must start work on August 25, must work August 27-August 29, remain employed with Campus Dining Services for a minimum of 10 consecutive weeks through October 31st, and work at least 100 hours during this time.



Campus  
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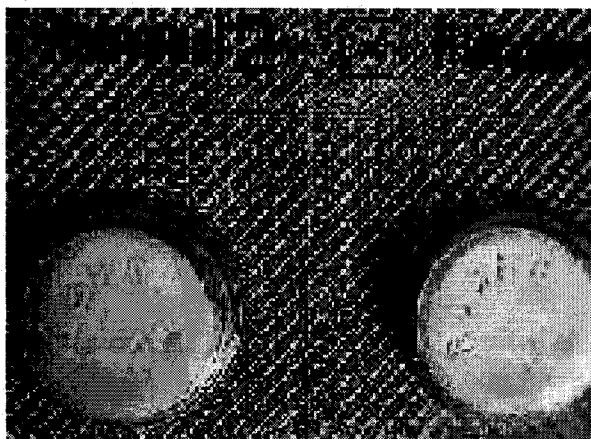


# Society and Rape - Who's Ultimately at Fault?

By CHRISTINA PATRIKALAKIS  
Statesman Contributor

I have noticed and considered a disturbing trend among my college-aged peers of both sexes. This trend is rather negative and sickening. My girlfriends have confided in me instances of rape, sexual assaults and molestations they've experienced, and some of my male peers have bragged about how they got a girl drunk and had their way with her.

At first, I only knew of a few girls who had been raped or sexually assaulted in some way. But after a personal experience of a similar nature, almost all of my girlfriends came forward with some sort of story involving being taken advantage of in a sexual way over the past few years. My first thought was, "Wow, they must be doing something wrong. What are we doing wrong?" I thought that if so many girls were being taken advantage of, we must be doing something to put ourselves into these situations, perhaps trusting the wrong people. I thought to myself that girls who claim to have been raped multiple times "are definitely doing something wrong and not learning their lessons." But how can we all be at fault? Perhaps in many cases, we aren't the ones doing anything wrong and we are looking in the wrong direction. Maybe we aren't at fault, and men are increasingly looking at us as objects of sexual fulfillment, regardless of the cost. Maybe the problem does not lie in how we are provoking these assaults, but the fact that society views these situations as acceptable, and encourages such behavior among college-aged men.



Courtesy of www.earthops.org

*Date rape drugs, like Rohypnol (shown above), often don't give rape victims the opportunity to say "No."*

So is it the ladies? Are we putting ourselves into situations that we cannot handle? According to the National Victims Center, 57% of rapes among college students occur on a date, and 75% of male students and 55% of female students involved in date rape had been drinking or using drugs. "Just say no" does not quite cut it here, as alcohol or drug-assisted rape victims often do not get the chance to say no. Odorless, colorless drugs placed in drinks often transform them into a state of unconsciousness, at least on a mental, if not physical level. These drugs were created to rob women of their will to resist, cause them to pass out, and to suffer memory loss of all things occurring after the drug is ingested. After

the rape, all that remains is often a stain on their panties, a headache or hangover, and few memories from periods of blackouts from the previous night. While after-rape medical exams can often uncover whether sexual intercourse took place, *The San Diego Union-Tribune* reports that more often than not, these date-rape drugs do not show up in blood samples taken just hours after the drug's ingestion.

So is the answer for us just not to drink a single drop of water while we are out on a date? Although that may help, the caution necessary on dates is not only restricted to dating situations, as the growing number of so-called acquaintance rapes continue. According to the National Victims Center, 84% of rape victims knew their assailant. Acquaintance rapists are often the female's best male friends, whom they trust, and rightfully so, if you know someone to be trustworthy and are close with that person. Acquaintance rapists take advantage of their female friends, knowing that they have their complete trust, and that the girls let their guards down around them. San Diego District Attorney Paul Pfingst reports that "most of the rapes we have are acquaintance rapes...most involved the use of drugs, including alcohol, to obvious excess." So who can you trust?

Many young adult males speak freely and even proudly of "doing a girl when she was wasted out of her mind." Too many times I have heard in passing a few men discussing their plans to take their dates drinking and take them back to their dorm rooms

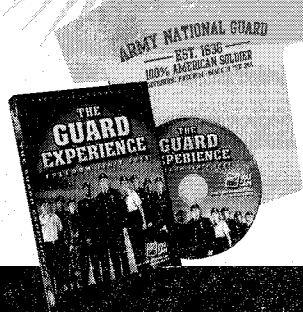
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# Who's To Blame For Rape?

*Continued From Page 8*

where the girls will be "too f\*\*\*\*\* up to care." This is not a girl making a decision and it's sickening. This is not to say that the men are necessarily forcing the alcohol on their ladies. We are old enough to recognize the repercussions of drinking too much, or in some cases, what drugs will do to us, and that we may become vulnerable. We should be aware of what we put our bodies through, and the effects that it may have on us. Just as sickening as encouraging a girl to become overly intoxicated, are the girls who continuously go out every weekend with the intentions of getting drunk and having sex, only to cry rape the next day or dramatize how someone took advantage of them, when according to these girls, it's just a part of partying. Granted, we ladies should not have to worry about someone trying to take advantage of us just because we are a little woozy. But to go out and get drunk so that you can have all the sex you want and afterwards feel guilt-free by blaming the man involved, saying "Okay well I was too drunk, I couldn't help it, he raped me," is a different matter. If you enjoy being drunk or promiscuous, at least admit that you are doing so for the attention, sympathy, or fun of it with lack of repercussions because you can chalk it up to "being drunk." It is inexcusable and pathetic to plan on going out every weekend to "get high, get drunk, and get raped."

So when did guys begin thinking of girls not as girls, but as a body only to be used in the pursuit of self-fulfillment? The media portraying girls merely as sex objects is a likely contributor; but I believe it is more about peer pressure - the pressure of a boy's teenage years and how many hot girls he can sleep with. It often makes sleeping with a girl simply the fulfillment of his sexual needs, instead of having anything to do with a relationship, devaluing the meaning of relationships as well.

So should we ladies just refrain

from drinking in the presence of guys, or going on dates? That would solve only part of the problem. Apparently, to prevent the chances of sexual assaults all together, we would have to consider acquaintance rape, and stop talking to men in general. But then you must consider the chance that a stranger will jump out of the bushes while you walk to your car and assault you. This leads me to believe that while we need to be aware of

Maybe the problem does not lie in how we are provoking these assaults, but the fact that society views these situations as acceptable, and encourages such behavior among college-aged men.

ourselves and be careful of our habits and surroundings, it is all we can do to protect ourselves. I believe that the problem lies more prominently in the values and pressures being instilled in young people of our society, morals which say: "If she gets drunk, go for it." And where legally, that circumstance is considered rape, morally it is often believed to be okay. Girls need to control themselves and take responsibility for their actions, but men need to show some self-restraint as well, and value a girl as more than a tool for fulfillment.

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# College Roommates That Simply Refuse To Get Along

By ROSEMARY ORHUE  
Statesman Contributor

*In the dormitory room where two sophomore girls co-existed, the atmosphere was filled with tension, anger and resentment. A red-headed Caucasian girl, sitting cross-legged on her bed blasted up the volume of her television as her coffee-skinned Haitian roommate competed with loud music from her computer. The glares shot from either side of the room were as sharp as a knife. Occasionally, the sounds of slamming drawers and doors could be heard from the room. After four meetings with a residence hall mediator, the prolonged drama came to an end as both residents were asked to leave the room for failing to get along, even on a civil level.*

On college campuses everywhere, many students encounter roommates that they cannot get along with. Although everyone starts the year wanting to be the best of friends with their roommate, things can soon turn ugly, creating a relationship that is hostile, frustrating, mentally stressful, and even harmful to one's academic life. Differences in lifestyles are one major cause of conflict. When one roommate is clean and organized, sleeps at 10 p.m., and is quiet, while the other piles up trash and dirty laundry, stays up until three every night and is loud, they will most likely clash. However, sometimes the underlying cause of conflict is students encountering roommates from different ethnic backgrounds.

Unfortunately, many students come to college unwilling to get to know people who are different from them ethnically, which closes them off from

any meaningful contact with their roommate. Many students come from homogeneous neighborhoods, where most people they know are of their own ethnic background, whether it is Black, Hispanic, White, Asian, etc. On campus, they encounter people

Unfortunately, many students come to college unwilling to get to know people who are different from them ethnically, which closes them off from any meaningful contact with their roommate.

they may never have been around before, especially in dorm living. Being exposed to new cultures can sometimes be difficult, but it is not an excuse for being standoffish and withdrawn from those you meet. Students often arm themselves with stereotypes and unsubstantiated fears about others when

dealing with their new feelings of uncertainty, and apprehension.

In the opening example, problems varied from how loud the television was, to having boyfriends in the room, to keeping the lights on or off, etc. But ethnic differences played a huge role in the conflicts. The Caucasian girl couldn't understand why her Haitian roommate watched Black Entertainment Television, listened to hip-hop, and talked about Black people all the time. "Why don't you have any White friends?" she asked her, without questioning herself as to why *she* didn't have any Black friends. Like her, many White students are used to thinking of themselves as "just normal," and not in terms of ethnicity, but you *have* to think of yourself in those terms as a starting point for understanding other people's ethnic backgrounds.

In addition, it is important to make a conscious effort to get to know roommates who are ethnically different from you. Ask them about the traditions they have, why they believe certain things and do things in a certain way. If you are a student of color who is used to thinking in terms of race, it is important to have an open mind towards your roommate as well. Resist the temptation of opening up only to those of your ethnic background.

It is really easy to go through four years of college only surrounding yourself with people who are like you in order to stay within your "comfort zone." Step beyond those boundaries! Be a little uncomfortable. In the end you will see that you have broadened your knowledge about what other people are like and understand better where they are coming from.

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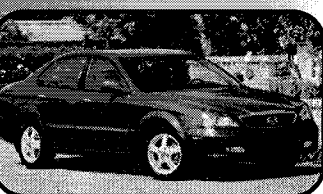
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# SBU Women's Lacrosse Falls in Overtime Thriller, 21-20

By JIMMY BOYLE  
Statesman Staff

Tuesday evening was Senior Day at Stony Brook, and fans witnessed perhaps the most exciting



## A THOUGHT FROM RABBI ADAM



Faith and science are no longer two worlds in collision. Increasingly, faith and science have become synergistic, building a worldview greater than either perspective alone. In every area of science, we find an accelerating movement towards findings that harmonize modern science with religion. (from *Mind over Matter*) This phenomenon is theologically explained by the Kabbalah, the Jewish mystical tradition, which describes how, much like a person formulates a plan before accomplishing a specific goal, so too G-d had formulated a plan before actually creating the world. Using this analogy, the Kabbalah identifies the Torah (Bible) as G-d's "blueprint" for creation. Accordingly, there cannot be contradictions between true science and true religion, for the features of our world are a mere reflection of its blueprint, the Torah. To the degree that contradictions exist, would be the degree of the need to reassess the respective principles of science and religion that propel such contradictions. However, there will be an age when "the world will [express] the knowledge of G-d" (Isaiah 11:9) in which spiritual and scientific reality will merge as one. As the Kabbalah prophesizes, "Around the [Jewish] year 5600 (1840) wisdom from above and below will open in preparation for the year 6000 (2240)". For the Jewish year 6000 represents the last date of entry of the Messianic Era, the age of "the knowledge of G-d". Accordingly, as a precursor and taste of this World to Come, the mystical wisdom of the Kabbalah ("above") and the wisdom of the sciences ("below") began to flourish during the Industrial Revolution of the 1800's. And, most recently, in our current age of information and micro-technology, this "opening of wisdom" has allowed for a common ground meeting of science and religion, a hint to the physical world's expression of the G-dly realm and a taste of the World to Come.

Prof. Herman Branover, Director of  
Center for Magnetohydrodynamic Studies,  
"Science, G-d and the Messianic Age"  
Tues. 5/4, 8:30pm in SAC 306

women's lacrosse game ever played at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium. The Seawolves fell to Wagner in the fourth overtime period, 21-20. This dropped Stony Brook's record to 5-7 and boosted Wagner's to 3-10.

It was obvious from the start that this was going to be a close game. Senior Beth Arikian started the Seawolves off with two of their first three goals in the first half. However, Wagner stuck close, and by the end of the half, the game was tied at 9.

The second half followed suit with both teams scoring another pair of 9's. Stony Brook led most

scoring a goal with 30 seconds on the clock, tying the game 18-18. The crowd erupted with excitement as the game moved into overtime.

Officials then explained there would be two three minute periods for overtime. Wagner would score the first goal, but Amy Taylor answered back as she scored her fourth goal of the night. With less than a minute left in the second overtime, Werner emerged once again rattling the cage with a goal that gave Stony Brook a 19-18 advantage. Unfortunately, it was not enough. With six seconds left on the scoreboard in the second overtime, Wagner once again tied the game.

Fans remained on the edge of their seats, anxiously waiting for the outcome as they heartily cheered on their teams. It came down to sudden death. The first team to score a goal would be determined the winner. The third overtime went without either team scoring. Then Wagner put the nail in the coffin. After a penalty, Wagner's leading scorer was left with the ball and scored the goal that would give them the win, 21-20.

The Seawolves felt that they should have emerged victorious. "We should have won it," said Head Coach Danie Caro after the game. However, neither the coaches nor the players were disappointed because they knew they had played a great game.

As senior day came to an end, Brook's two seniors Arikian and Courtney Ash shared their thoughts on playing for the women's lacrosse team. "I'm sad that it's over, but I had a great two years with this team," said Arikian. Ash agreed saying that she was both "excited that I got to play on this team and sad that I will not be playing with these girls anymore."

Stony Brook's final three games will be played at Boston University, Binghamton, and Albany.

"[I am] excited that I got to play on this team and sad that I will not be playing with these girls anymore."

Courtney Ash

of the second half until Wagner tied the game 16-16 with 8:52 left to play. Less than 15 seconds later Brook's Leann McCabe made a deposit in Wagner's goal to go ahead. Wagner came back, scoring two goals to make the score 18-17 in their favor. As the clock ticked away, SBU's leading scorer, Danielle Werner would come off the field with an injury with less than five minutes in regulation, but she was not ready to give up. Werner returned to the field

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## Seawolves Take Down BU

By JOHN IMOSI  
Statesman Staff

After splitting a double header on Saturday, the Seawolves beat Boston University 3-2 in eight innings on Sunday to take two of three games in their weekend series.

Seawolves coach Megan Bryant was pleased with her team's ability to come through in this big series. "Boston is a tough team and taking two out of three is big for us, and we did it with good pitching and some clutch hits," said Bryant after the game.

Coming into the game, Stony Brook was a half game behind Boston University for the second spot in the America East standing. With the win, their conference record improved to 8-4 and puts them in sole possession of second place, while Boston's loss drops their record to 7-4 and leaves them in third place behind the Seawolves.

This game was a pitchers duel between each team's best pitcher. Both came out and put down the first six batters that they faced through the first two innings.

In the third inning, Boston University threatened with runners on first and third with one out, but second baseman Sarah Hoffman bailed out the Seawolves with a great defensive play. Hoffman managed to catch a line drive that was deflected off pitcher Angela Andrews and then double off the runner on first base.

Stony Brook managed to finally get a hit off Boston University pitcher Ashlee Freeman in their half of the third when Margaret Blair hit a homerun that just barely cleared the foul pole in left field. Blair's homerun put the Seawolves up 1-0.

Andrews ran into trouble again in the fifth inning when a leadoff single, followed by a double, put her in an immediate jam with runners on second and third with no one out. Following a groundout to the pitcher, Boston University's catcher Josey Mendez placed a beautiful bunt down the first base line, which drove in a run and also got her on first. After a walk to load the bases, Boston University's leading hitter Jamie Haas came up with one out and the bases loaded. Fortunately, Andrews made

her hit into a force at home and then struck out the next batter to end the inning after allowing only one run.

After the fifth inning, Andrews seemed to tire as she began to miss the plate more and more with her pitches. When Boston University's DeKenya Williams took a low pitch and blasted it over the left-centerfield wall, trouble seemed to be looming for the Seawolves as they still couldn't generate any offense against Freeman. Despite losing some of her command Andrews continued to keep her team in the game, while Boston seemed to have trouble handling the pitches that were over the plate, and had even more trouble laying off pitches that were out of the zone.

Stony Brook tied the game when Kristen Brust led off the bottom of the seventh inning by going the other way to just barely put an outside pitch over the right field wall. With that run, Stony Brook managed to take the game into extra innings despite getting only two hits off Freeman.

After allowing a runner on by committing a throwing error, Andrews retired the next three batters on groundouts to give Stony Brook the chance to win the game. Margaret Blair picked up her second hit of the game by hitting a double to centerfield. Pinch Hitter Marissa Servello bunted herself aboard after doing a great job to avoid an attempted tag by Freeman. Laura Bradford won the game for the Seawolves when she hit a bloop shot into right field, which was mishandled by the right fielder, allowing Blair to score from third for the game-deciding run.

Despite their great clutch hitting, the Seawolves' win was due mainly to a gritty pitching performance by America East pitcher of the week Angela Andrews who went the distance, allowing two earned runs on seven hits and two walks while striking out seven.

Bryant felt that Andrews did a great job in securing the win. "She came out strong and managed to get out of trouble," said Bryant. "Their two runs came on a great suicide squeeze and then DeKenya just took a ball that was around her ankles and golfed it out, but she stuck in there and I'm glad to see her get the win."

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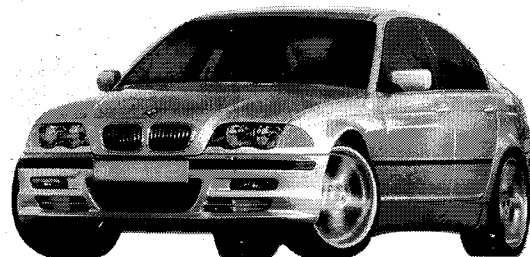
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# School of Thought Brings on Earth Day with Walkway



Statesman/Peter Sunwoo

The Groundbreaking event included cultural groups such as Capoeira and Shades of Africa, shown above. They offered lively entertainment.

Continued From Page 1

that invites students to the front of the Student Union, carries the simultaneous ambition of uniting the campus in a communal effort, Zannettis said.

"We're trying to stick to the ideals that we started this club for: to encourage human beings to coexist with the environment and live with it, rather than against it," he said. "And we picked that up from a hairy gorilla in the book *Ishmael*." SOT was founded around a novel by Daniel Quinn that attempts to elucidate mankind's inevitable self-made path to destroying the world.

"We're trying to create a space in front of the Union that is both inviting for students, and appropriate for nature," Zannettis said. "Thanks to the help of several campus administrators, we are able to make that happen, and this groundbreaking is just the beginning."

The event was well-attended, with guests of honor including University President Shirley Strum Kenny, Architect John Belle and Richard Leakey, the world-famous conservationist and new visiting faculty at Stony Brook.

"What I love about this project is that a group of students on their own

initiative wanted to do something to make their place better," Kenny said. "It takes initiative, drive, creativity. It says something about the kinds of students we have at Stony Brook."

Jerry Stein, dean of students and advisor to SOT, appreciated the unifying effort that the project created. "It is the reciprocal, interdependent relationship that will be formed that will result in a better outcome," he said. "A better outcome for you, for me, for the environment, for our community."

The event proceeded with the unveiling of the finalized architectural plans for the walkway, which were revealed by President Kenny and Zannettis. Together, the two took the symbolic first "dig" with their shovel into the dirt of the walkway. The crowd seemed impressed by the plans, with resounding "ooh's" and "ahh's" filling the air.

"I really like the design," said junior Sara Duque. "I think it's great that they're finally paying attention to the Union, supposedly one of the most important buildings a university should have."

The plans include a large oval bed of trees in the center of the walkway,

with a brick path lining the middle for students to pass. The design will integrate the dedicated bricks, trees and benches donated by campus clubs, or-

ganizations and departments to fund the walkway project. The area will offer a more "natural" look, consistent with the ideals of *School of Thought*, yet practical for the university, Zannettis said. The project is estimated to be completed by next semester.

The architectural drawing, made by Belle, can now be seen in a display case inside the Student Union. The groundbreaking event was preceded and finished with cultural acts, including Capoeira and Shades of Africa, a step-dancing team. Zannettis thought the idea was appropriate considering the aims of the project.

"We're not just trying to make the walkway look better here," Zannettis said. "We're bringing the campus together, celebrating diversity. Welcoming culture is a great way to do that."

But many students, staff and faculty agree that the renovation itself is a cause for celebration, including William Arens, dean of International Academic Programs. "Anything that makes the place look better is worthwhile," he said.



Statesman/Ted Lai

The candidates for Vice President of Clubs, Virginia Morgan and Theodore Johnson, debate as Ted Lai acts as Mediator.

## The Candidates Debate

Continued From Page 1

however, believes that his grassroots work will help him take the position, despite his lack of experience.

Senator Brandon Fuchs seemed largely unprepared for the debate, stumbling over words and failing to comprehensively and cohesively answer some of the questions directed to him.

Besides the presidential debates, there were also debates held for the Executive Vice President, Treasurer, Vice President of Communications and Public Relations, Vice President of Student Life, Vice President of Clubs and Organizations, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Representatives, and finally the senators.

Not all of the candidates for the other positions showed up to the event. Members of the USG council could not attend due to an executive

council meeting, while others simply did not show up.

In the race for Executive Vice President, Esam Al-Shareffi was the only candidate, and Rajat Gupta runs unopposed for treasurer.

The candidates and their positions are as follows - Vice President of Communications and Public Relations: Ebony Omede and Han Nassimi; Vice President of Student Life: Tatiana Poltoratskaia and Rosario Minier; Vice President of Clubs and Organizations: Ted Johnson, Coelette Martindale, and Virginia Morgan; Vice President of Academic Affairs: Diana Acosta and Reijo Saajasto. Those running for Sophomore Representative include Amol Amin, Latoya Duncan, Natasha Patel and Samone Rogers. Junior Representative candidates are Terrecia Davis and Sean Bartlett, and running for Senior Representative is Monique Howell.

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