the stony brook
Statesman

VOLUME XLVIII, ISSUE 2 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2004 PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

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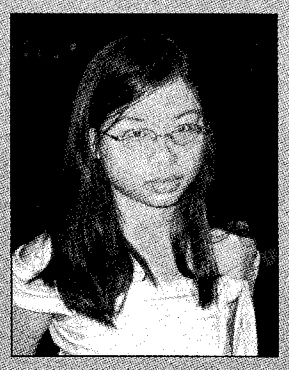
Campus Voices

By Peter Sunwoo

What do you do for fun if you're under 21?



"I usually sit in Starbucks sipping my coffee until they kick me out. Get the caramel frap, no whip cream, and low fat ;)"

Maureen Tam
Freshman, Social Welfare Major

"I chalk my ID so I can be over 21, otherwise I convince the bouncer to let me in."

Annie Vainchenker
Senior, Business Major

"I go shopping, try on everything I want, and I get it with mom's credit card. I also enjoy calling all my friends to come to shop with me for the sole purpose of asking them if I look fat in the clothes I buy."

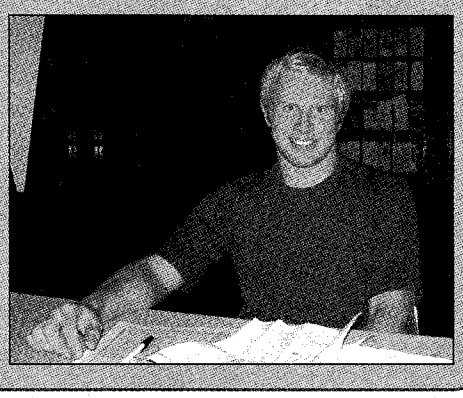
Silvia Kang
Freshman, Physical Therapy Major

"Drugs, alcohol, partying… Uh that's just about it. But now I'm reformed, doing well, and I have a 4.1 GPA."

Jesse Sieber
Senior, Chemistry Major

"Try your hardest to find a party, and if all fails, privately watch porn in your dorm room."

Reijo Saajasto
Sophmore, Math Major



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Weird Science: That Kid Will Pump You Up!

By Peter Suwoo
Statesman Editor

America has everything, you name it, we have it. Ferraris, hotdogs, roller coasters, skyscrapers, and fictitious superheroes like Batman and Robin. We've got it all! Ah, remember the good old days when it was socially acceptable to make laser sounds while running frantically with your arms out, or having that slight hope that you may be able to levitate with enough practice. Unfortunately, pretending to be a superhero faded out in early college. These days, the only power I pretend to possess is the devious X-ray vision of Superman, but that may be testosterone driven.

But what about Germany, what do they have besides Bimmers and the Autobahn? Superboy! That's right, they have their very own superhero, and he's real. Somewhere in Berlin, there is an extraordinary four year old lurking around various sandboxes and jungle gyms, beating up helpless pre-schoolers.

The four year-old has bulging arm and leg muscles, and can even hold seven-pound dumbbells with his arms fully extended, something even I can't do. He has abnormally large protruding muscles, twice the size of average kids his age with half their body fat.

So how did this mini-bodybuilder get his powers? No, he doesn't work out, didn't bath in green ooze, wasn't near any nuclear explosion. Essentially he was born with an extremely rare genetic mutation in his DNA that blocks production of a protein called myostatin that limits muscle growth.

For those who haven't taken intro bio, genes are inherited from both parents. The myostatin blocking gene or allele is recessive, meaning that both parents must have the mutated copy, and the child must inherit both copies for the gene to be phenotypically apparent, or expressed. The case is incredibly rare, since the mutation is extremely rare. The chance of two carriers of the gene meeting is slim to none, and then there is approximately 25% chance for each offspring to be homozygous or carrying both copies of the mutated gene.

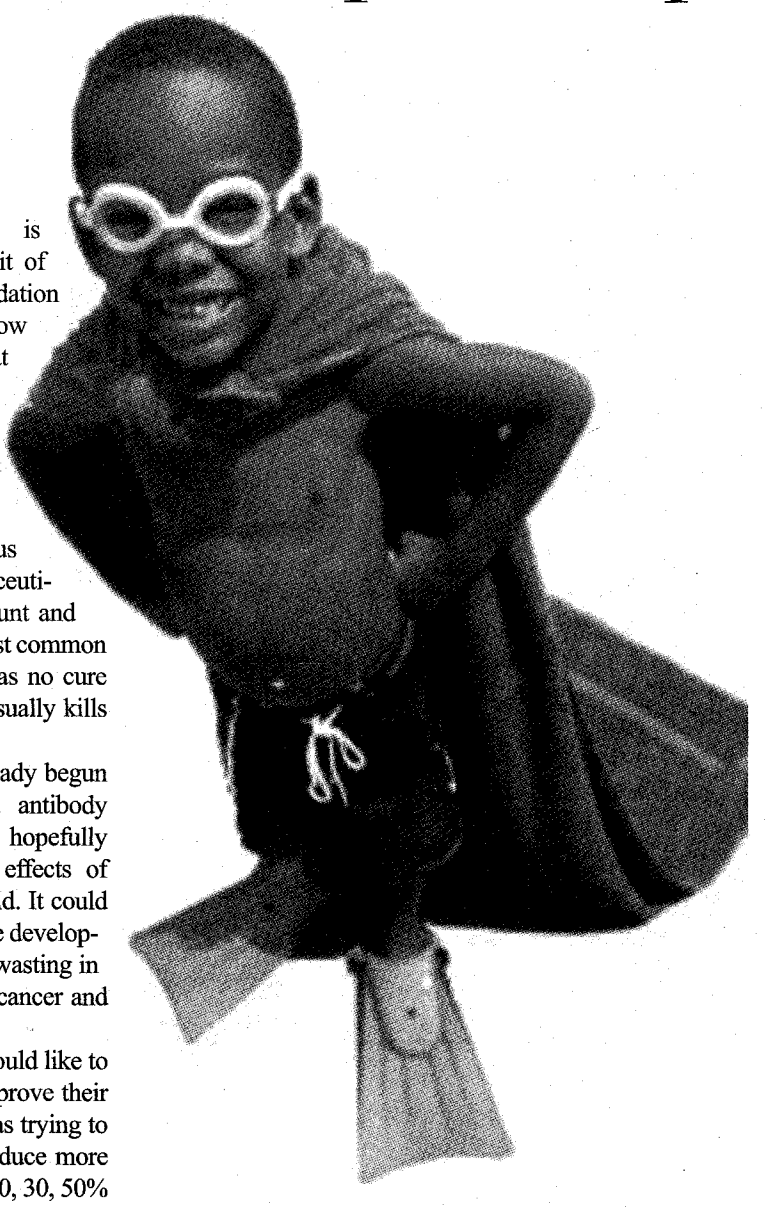
This marvel child has given scientific proof to confirm that myostatin is indeed the culprit of muscle degradation in humans. "Now we can say that myostatin acts the same way in humans as in animals," said Dr. Markus Schuelke, a professor in the child neurology department at Charitel University Medical Center of Berlin.

The discovery has caused a ruckus in various genetic engineering research labs and pharmaceutical companies to find a way to limit the amount and activity of myostatin in the body. One of the most common genetic diseases is muscular dystrophy, that has no cure and in the most common form, Duchenne's, usually kills before adulthood.

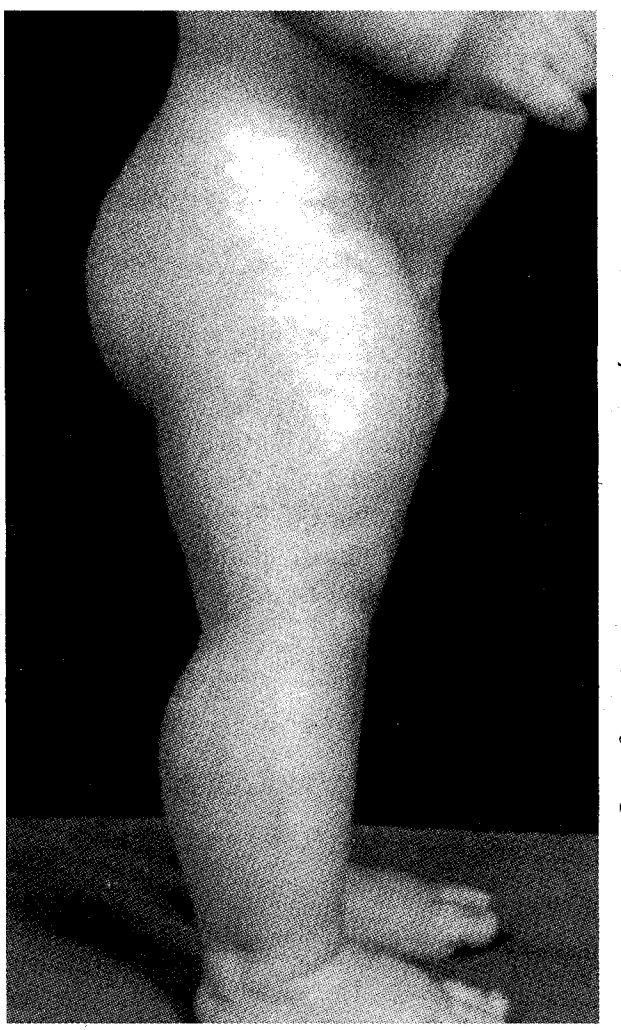
Wyeth, a pharmaceutical company has already begun human testing of a genetically engineered antibody designed to neutralize myostatin, which will hopefully eradicate the muscle disease. The potential effects of these drugs are astronomical in the medical field. It could suppress fat accumulation, which will hinder the development of diabetes. It could also prevent muscle wasting in the elderly and patients with diseases such as cancer and AIDS.

The drug can also be used for those who would like to bulk up, or even athletes who may want to improve their game. Some researchers are even going as far as trying to turn off the myostatin gene in chickens to produce more meat per bird. "Just decreasing this protein by 20, 30, 50% can have a profound effect on muscle bulk," said Dr. Lou Kunkel, a professor of pediatrics and genetics at Harvard Medical School.

Long term effects of low levels of myostatin in humans are unknown but lets all hope he stays healthy so I can become a superhero too.



Below- At four and a half years old, the Berlin child stands with abnormally large thigh muscles.



Upcoming Events This Week On Campus

Mon 9/13	Tue 9/14	Wed 9/15	Thu 9/16	Fri 9/17	Sat 9/18
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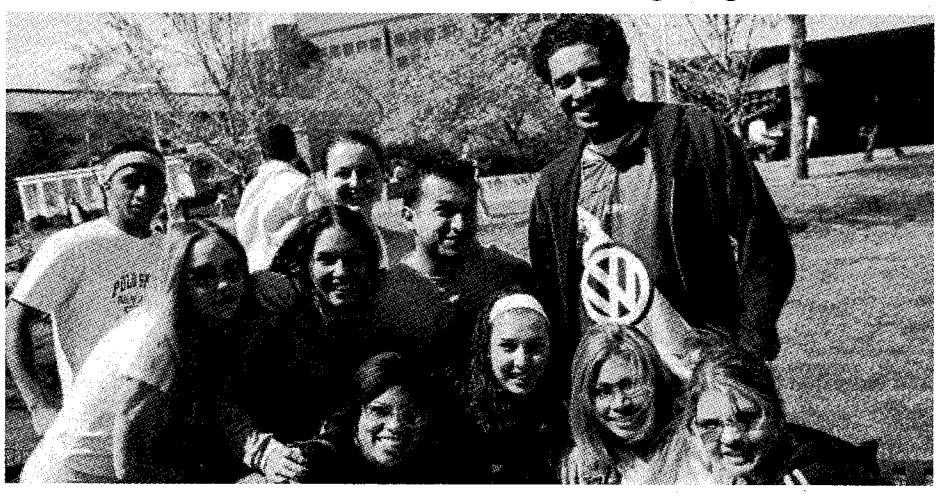

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Pi Delta Psi
Sigma Beta Rho
Sigma Lambda Beta
Tau Kappa Epsilon
Zeta Beta Tau

Sororities

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Delta Sigma Theta
Delta Phi Omega
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Sigma Gamma Rho
Sigma Iota Sigma
Sigma Lambda Gamma
Theta Phi Alpha

The Following Groups are no longer recognized by Stony Brook University and we do not endorse membership in these organizations:

Delta Sigma Phi, Sigma Alpha Mu, Nu Alpha Phi, Sigma Chi Beta

If you are interested in joining a recognized organization, please visit the Inter-Fraternity and Sorority Council Office in the Stony Brook Union, Room 044 or call (631) 632-4557 for more information.

Hero Get Your Sword:

Chinese Nation-Building at an American Crossroad

BY MICHAEL ZANNETIS
Statesman Staff

Jet Li, star of *Hero*.

After President George W. Bush quixotically invaded Iraq, literary circles jumped to compare current events with ancient Greek narrative. After all, you should always "Read the Greeks!" Aeschylus' commentary on Athenian hubris on the eve of war issues salient reminders of the downfalls of empires: rapid military expansion, pathological optimism, and burning bridge foreign relations. A year into Bush's war, a story from the East meets the Western narrative of conquest. "Hero," starring Jet Li, is a myth explaining the consolidation of ancient empires by the Qin Dynasty, consequently creating China. This Chinese movie speaks favorably on military expansion at a time when Americans are torn as to how exactly their story should be written.

Since Jet Li made his American blockbuster in "Lethal Weapon III," we in the West have come to know him as a lethal, cold-blooded villain. Unlike his harbinger import Jackie Chan, whose warm smile has endeared him as an underdog hero, Li has no relation to the common man. Fittingly, he plays the title Hero in name only. Li narrates his only biographical information at the onset of the film - an orphaned peasant obsessively training his sword technique. Like a true homicidal martial artist, the less human Li gets, the better he comes across on screen.

Bespeaking the self-reflective nature of this epic, Hero unfolds when Li is given a hero's welcome to the capital city, having recently dispatched the emperor's looming assassins. Thousands of soldiers line the palace grounds bowing to Li's triumphant efforts. As the Olympics recently reflected, we moderns are fond of the pomp and circumstance of empires. But the Parthenon, like the Coliseum, the Pyramids, and the Great Wall, were built on the backs of slaves. Marx may have argued that religion is the opiate of the masses, but it is nationalism that keeps the lower class oblivious to its exploitation. Blind nationalism is the trick of tyrants, and the indulgence of the enslaved. Few things could be worse than honoring the exploitation of humanity, and "Hero" seems to embrace it.

Ultimately, the Qin Dynasty, invaded its neighbors. What should separate a democracy from an empire is the dissent of its citizens. As De Tocqueville might warn, even though a tyranny of the majority represents the majority, its still a tyranny. "Hero" fails to explore this subtlety. It loves its king either unconditionally as a servant, or hates him absolutely as an enemy.

Fittingly, the greatest assassin of them all, Broken Sword, provides the ambivalence needed in character crisis. Sword places emphasis on the ethical struggles surrounding conquest as he wrestles with the king's vision of China's future. With each interpretation of the past also comes the normative statement of the future. Reality is, after all, about perception. If the Greeks warned of the danger of hubris, the Chinese speak loudly of the deceit of narrative.

Like Tarantino would tell you, if you put the end at the beginning, there had better be a twist or two along the way. Real life, like history, tends to be complicated. "Hero's" best triumph is the surreal way it blends together different strands of past events. Who, ultimately, is telling the truth? As each scene shifts from the deep reds of passion, to the jade-like greens of wisdom, to the autumn oranges of revenge, "Hero" builds on the uncertainty of narrative. Who is telling the truth and who is in control?

Ultimately, history is just one of the spoils of war that goes to the victor. This time war does mean peace. This time the emperor is wise and just. This time empire is good for the people. And, of course, this time the people are slaves.

Hero is in Chinese with English subtitles. It is rated PG-13 for violence and light sex, though neither are particularly graphic. Audiences should be more wary of long landscape shots at the end of the movie that may induce sleep. Ultimately, the not quite faux cheesiness of Hero and Li's poor casting are saved by rhythmic martial arts and Broken Sword's depth. Sword, in fact, demands a prequel.

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Welcome Back from the Statesman

Ah, the start of another year. The birds are chirping, the leaves are falling, and lines at the bookstore are ridiculously long. Welcome back to Stony Brook, and for those with new blood, welcome to Stony Brook. This may very well be the best four years of your life.

Here's a little quick advice for those of us embarking on a new quest for fulfillment, or, if you're like most students here, a quest for a degree. First and foremost, remember that you're here to learn. Regardless of what you're told, college is a place to get an education. We're here to increase the depth of our knowledge (sorry if that's sappy), so get out there and take a class you wouldn't expect to. If you're pre-med, take a philosophy class. If you're pre-law, take an astronomy class. If you're pre-whatever, close your eyes and pick a random course in the course booklet. Simple enough?

Now once you understand that college is indeed a place to grow as an intellectual, it's all fair game for fun from there. Twenty years down the line, you're not going to remember that all-nighter you pulled to study for your biochemistry test. You're going to remember the night you stayed out on the beach, cracking jokes and telling stories with your friends by the bonfire (Disclaimer: the *Statesman* does not encourage pyromania).

So how are you going to have that time of your life? Go out there and make friends. Get involved on campus; it's the best way to meet people. And not just people like you (although that's still a good thing); people who are your complete polar opposites, people you never thought you would like, republicans, democrats, Asians, Blacks, Whites, Greens, Blues, whatever! One of the amazing things about Stony Brook is the diverse array of students. You can't learn from someone who thinks exactly the same way as you, and meaningful conversations almost always result from people with differing points of view. The best way to meet these people is to go out and join a campus club, write for the student newspaper (hint hint), ride on the ambulance with SBVAC or just go stop a random person and play hacky sack. It's not as hard as it sounds.

Another tip: study abroad. At some time during the four, five, or whatever amount of years you spend at Stony Brook, go to another country and get a taste of a different culture. Learn from a different perspective. Try out another language. Five weeks in East Africa is a heck of a lot better than five weeks in Stony Brook. Trust me. I know from experience.

Most of all, be willing to try something new. (Disclaimer: the *Statesman* does not encourage cocaine use). Locking yourself in your dorm room and playing *Mario Kart Double Dash* on your Nintendo Gamecube is not a good way to spend your time. Laughing with your friends *is* a good way to spend your time. When those two overlap, more power to you. To each their own. I encourage everyone to make the most of their college education, and I don't just mean the books.

Commentary

Is Kerry America's Enemy?

By Robert J. Romano
Statesman Editor

Senator Kerry's campaign for Presidency of the United States is unconscionable, and frankly, he should know better. In an August 25th press release, Senator Kerry has impugned the honor and integrity of the Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld. He called for his resignation in response to the torture and abuse that took place at Abu Ghraib prison, and also because of U.S. defense policies in Iraq that in Senator Kerry's words are "failing to win the peace." Senator Kerry demanded the resignation despite former Defense Secretary James Schlesinger's comments that Secretary Rumsfeld's "resignation would be a boon to all of America's enemies and, consequently, I think that it would be a misfortune if it were to take place..."

From his press release: "Yesterday, the Schlesinger panel released their report which found that much of the responsibility for setting the conditions for the abuse at Abu Ghraib can be attributed to failures at highest levels of our government. Today the Fay report will be released and will recommend punitive action for those in our military who were directly involved... But what is missing from all these reports is accountability from the senior civilian leaders in the Pentagon and in the White House. From the bottom of the chain of command all the way to the top, there needs to be accountability."

Senator Kerry is politicizing the crimes that were committed at Abu Ghraib, the fighting that is taking place in Iraq and the sacrifices that are being made by our brave men and women in uniform. In other words, Senator Kerry is using the horrors of war for political gain. While he certainly has the right to make these statements, and if elected to enact policies that he believes are right and wise, he must now be confronted for his lack of judgment. Despite being warned that the resignation of Secretary Rumsfeld would be a boon for the enemy, he thinks it should happen anyway. Apparently, he has no problem with encouraging actions that would help the enemy win the "War On Terror."

This is not the first time that statements made by Senator Kerry, in a sense, aided the enemy in a war America was fighting. Today's episode is eerily reminiscent to Senator Kerry's testimony before the U.S. Senate's Committee on Foreign Relations on April 22nd, 1971. Then, as now, Mr. Kerry is blaming war crimes on U.S. foreign policy. Then, as now, he is challenging the honor and integrity of men who have served their nation. Then, as now, he is politicizing war crimes.

From his testimony: "I would like to talk, representing all those veterans, and say that several months ago in Detroit, we had an investigation at which over 150 honorably discharged and many very highly decorated veterans testified to war crimes committed in Southeast Asia, not isolated incidents but crimes committed on a day-to-day basis with the full awareness of officers at all levels of command... It is impossible to describe to you exactly what did happen in Detroit, the emotions in the room, the feelings of the men who were reliving their experiences in Vietnam, but they did. They relived the absolute horror of what this country, in a sense, made them do...

Continued on Page 9

Statesman Staff Writers

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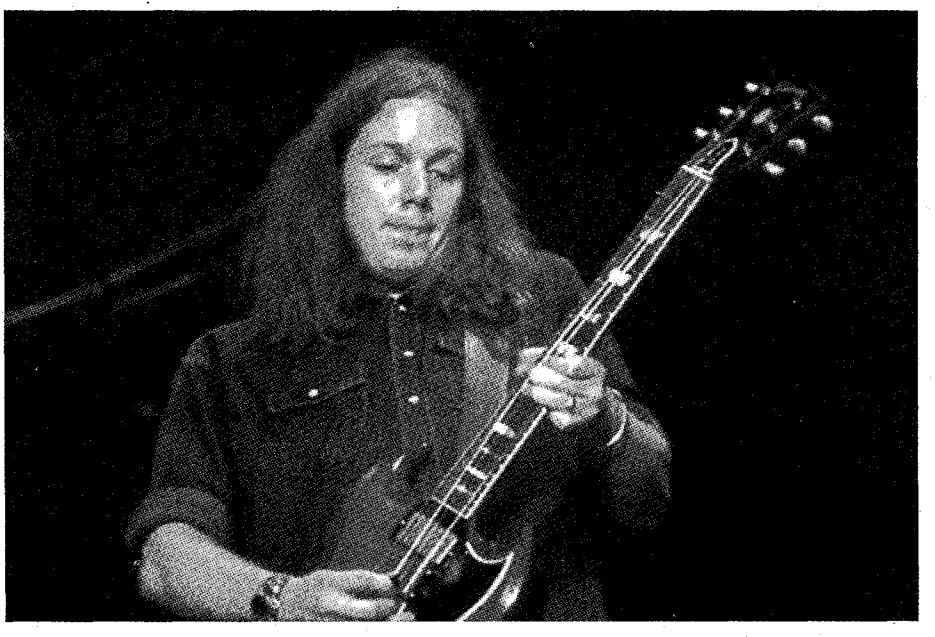
Younger Robinson Shines With Solo Debut

By Ian Rice
Statesman Staff



If Rich Robinson had walked away from his stint as guitarist and co-songwriter of the Black Crowes and simply rested on his laurels, he would certainly be sitting pretty to say the least. After all, his body of work with the Crowes (which filled six studio albums, one collaboration with Jimmy Page and a wealth of b-sides and unreleased material) is one to be admired and certainly more than any musician could accomplish in a lifetime of playing. But lucky for us, resting on his laurels isn't something that's in Robinson's vocabulary. After trying to assemble a band (Hookah Brown) and having it fold after a brief period of touring, Rich Robinson has elected to do it all on his own with the release of his studio album *Paper*.

His second release this year (following right on the heels of the internet-only live masterpiece *Live at the Knitting Factory*), *Paper* shows a side of Robinson that some might not have realized existed. Not only is the man a gifted purveyor of guitar riffs, but his lyrics aren't too shabby either. Couple them with his unique vocal style (which is miles away from brother Chris) and you've got yourself quite a unique package. Add the fact that Robinson handled everything on the album himself, save for some assorted instrumentation, and you've got the makings of a rock music force to be reckoned with.

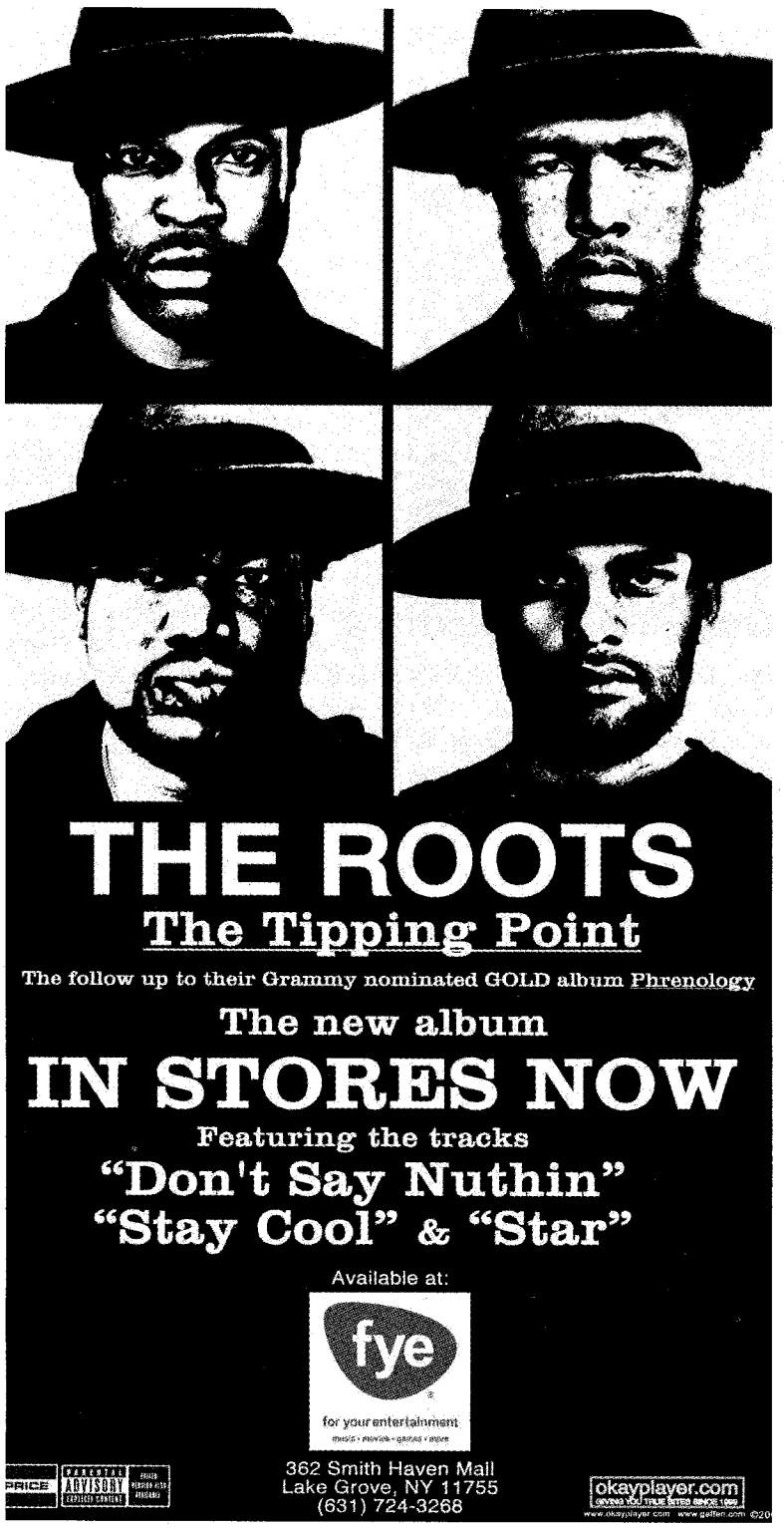
The album opens with the rocker "Yesterday I Saw You," which has a guitar riff so powerful you'd swear it'd fallen off of a Black Crowes record somewhere in the mid-90's. Robinson doesn't rest after this song's burst of energy, flying right into another piece of high-velocity rock with "Enemy." In fact, the album doesn't slow down the rock pace until it hits "Forgiven Song," a beautiful piece of acoustic-based magic that recalls Robinson's Georgia roots. Complete with a fiddle solo and pedal steel flourishes, "Forgiven Song" is one of the album's most beautiful moments.

You can't keep Robinson down for long, as he shotguns right back into the dirty boogie with "Veil." Like a handful of other tracks on the album, "Veil" began as a Hookah Brown tune under a different title. But Robinson's version is the definitive one. The guitar drips with a sleazy distortion, which although originated from Keith Richards, is now a style that undeniably belongs to Robinson.

Things slow down again to reveal one of Robinson's most intimate compositions to date, the heartfelt "When You Will." The track is like a Sunday afternoon back porch ditty you'd hear somewhere on the bayou and is nothing short of a delight. Almost in severe contrast, Robinson proceeds into the thunderous "Places," which can only be described as a Black Sabbath riff to the hundredth power. The entire song is a repetition of a single riff, yet is something that one cannot possibly be bored by. It is truly a testament to Robinson's talent.

The album culminates in the near-dizzying "Answers," which is a majestic piece of dynamics that could very well be the pinnacle of Robinson's songwriting. It's almost if the track is daring you not to get infected by its groove as it rocks along. It wouldn't surprise me if the track was never a hit on the radio, but it certainly would annoy me to no end. "Answers" is a track that should be right up there with all the other rock classics put forth by the likes of the Stones, the Allman Brothers and artists of a similar ilk.

Closing out the album is the fun and aptly titled "It's Over," which if nothing else provides the listener with a bit of a breather after the power of its predecessors. It's the perfect ending to what I consider a perfect album, one that every fan of music should have in their collection. Not that he had to, given his startlingly brilliant work with the Black Crowes, but Rich Robinson has proven himself as a rock music icon with *Paper*.



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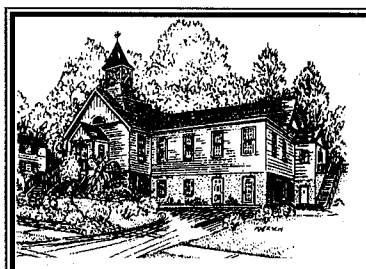
Port Jefferson Church to hold an "Alpha" program in September

Are you wrestling with *"ultimate"* questions? Are you looking for meaning and purpose in your life? Have you ever wondered: is this all there is? Where do you go to find some answers to these and other questions of life?

Alpha, from the name of the first letter in the Greek alphabet, is a good starting point. Alpha is an 11 week course of inquiry and/or renewal of the Christian Faith. The course meets Thursday evenings, 6:30-9:00 p.m. beginning with a meal. It is followed by a video presentation by a noted British theologian, Nicky Gumbel. Dessert is served and small groups discuss the issues raised by the talk or any other questions that come up.

The Alpha Course will be held at Christ Church Episcopal, 127 Barnum Avenue, Port Jefferson from September 9th through November 21st. Rides and/or baby-sitting can be provided is needed. Call 473-0273 for information.



Christ Church

The Episcopal Church of the Port Jefferson Area

127 Barnum Avenue, Port Jefferson, NY 11777
The Rev. Robert George Brandt, Vicar
473-0273 • www.christchurch-portjeff.org

We will be hosting an ALPHA course, an 11 week course exploring crucial questions on the meaning of life. Celebration dinner and kick-off Thursday Sept. 9th at 6:30 p.m.. Course begins Sept. 16th.

Course on the PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE: a 6 week exploration of the question, What am I here for? Begins Sunday, October 10th at 12 noon following the 10 a.m. services.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Services ..... 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
Prayer & Praise ..... Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study ..... Saturdays 8:00 a.m.
Women's Bible Study ..... Thursdays 9:30 a.m.

Church Office Hours: Tues. - Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Senator Kerry Blames War Crimes on Foreign Policy

Continued from Page 6

They told the stories at times they had personally raped, cut off ears, cut off heads, taped wires from portable telephones to human genitals and turned up the power, cut off limbs, blown up bodies, randomly shot at civilians, razed villages in fashion reminiscent of Genghis Khan, shot cattle and dogs for fun, poisoned food stocks, and generally ravaged the countryside of South Vietnam in addition to the normal ravage of war, and the normal and very particular ravaging which is done by the applied bombing power of this country..."

Then, as now, Mr. Kerry accused the U.S. government of being complicit in committing war crimes. I had promised myself that I would not write about the Vietnam War again during the course of this election, and to be fair, this piece is not about that conflict.

This piece is about a pattern of behavior where the Democratic nominee for presidency is politicizing war crimes. Is he excusing war crimes on America? Is he impugning the honor of 99.9+% of those who are serving that have not committed war crimes? Is he politicizing war crimes yet again? You be the judge. In my opinion, far from having the buck stop at personal responsibility, Senator Kerry is excusing the crimes of others and instead pinning responsibility on the Secretary of Defense. This is one candidate who deserves all of the condemnation he has coming to him. Despite his honorable service in the military, his record since then is not worthy of the presidency, and his press release today is just a small example of that.

This is a man who is willing to help out the enemy despite all appeals to prudence and good judgment. Just as he has the right to make such statements, we have a right to question his judgment.

University Police Blotter

By Maury Hirschkorn
Statesman Staff

Sept. 1, 2004

12:03 p.m. - Motor vehicle accident - A car hit another car near the Power Plant at the Western Campus

7:01 p.m. - Larceny - A pocketbook containing credit cards was stolen from the Social, Behavioral Science building.

Sept. 2, 2004

8:50 a.m. - Motor vehicle accident - A car hit another car at the Fine Arts Loop.

5:44 p.m. - Criminal mischief - A car's driver's side window was damaged at the Stadium parking lot.

Sept. 3, 2004

10:01 a.m. - Mechanical failure - One person was stuck in an elevator in the Physics building.

8:15 p.m. - Larceny - A purse and wallet were stolen in the Math building.

Sept. 5, 2004

1:53 p.m. - Motor vehicle accident - A car hit another car near Roosevelt College (a residence building) at Kelly Quad.

4:52 p.m. - Larceny - [A student and Seawolves football player parked his golf cart by his dormitory building, Langmuir College.

On Sept 3, the campus police told him to move it because it wasn't licensed. When he didn't, they towed it away.]

5:07 p.m. - Motor vehicle accident - A SUNY bus hit a light pole at the Health Science Center roadway

Sept. 6, 2004

12:15 p.m. - Larceny auto - A gem cart was stolen near the Student Union. It was recovered on Sherry and Penelope Drive.

LOOKING FOR A GOOD TIME?

WE NEED:

- WRITERS
- PHOTOGRAPHERS
- FUN PEOPLE

Rm 057 UNION
statesman_eic@hotmail.com

We meet SUNDAY and WEDNESDAY after 6PM and during CAMPUS LIFETIME

What's New on Campus

A brief overview of new construction on campus...

The New Face of the Seawolves Marketplace

Finished in late August, the Seawolves Marketplace underwent a massive series of renovations that left it cleaner, bigger, and more open. The increased size is to accommodate new services, including a laundry drop-off and boxed meals.

They are currently opened for business and located in the Student Activities Center. The Marketplace sells notebooks, flip flops, pencils, pens, bike locks and everything else a students need to survive at Stony Brook.

School of Thought Walkway

Tens of thousands of dollars were donated to the Union Walkway Project, an effort by the campus club School of Thought to beautify the campus and "foster a sense of a cooperation between students and the environment." Construction is currently ongoing on the walkway, which is estimated to be complete in four to six weeks. The landscaping designs for the walkway were made by John Belle of the architectural firm Beyer Blender Belle, and will include an elevated circular bed of trees with a walking brick path etched in the middle. Contributions from donors will be awarded by trees, benches and bricks with the donors names attributed.

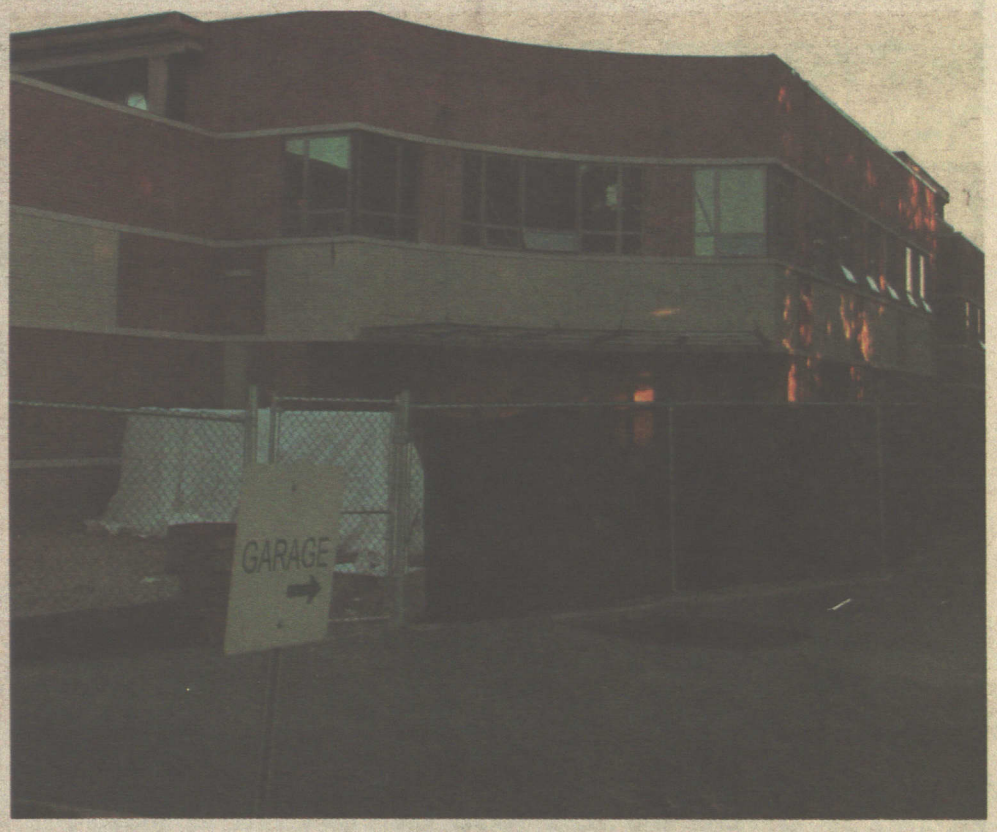
Wang Center Food Court - Feed the Masses

The Wang Center, named after Charles B. Wang, the former chairman and CEO of Computer Associates who donated millions of dollars to the university, is undergoing some new construction of its own.

A new food court is expected to be in operation sometime in October, likely sporting foreign eats as an alternative to the pizza and hamburgers so common in other places on campus. There are also rumors of a new halaal food section for Muslim students.

Humanities Construction Presses Forward

The Humanities construction project began June 1, 2002, and is expected to be finished July 2005 as scheduled. The contract for the project cost is approximately $19,920,000. The development is under the renown architectural firm Beyer Blinder Belle Architects. John Belle, a world famous architect that is responsible for the design of the Grand Central Station, and other constructions in Stony Brook, will be leading the undertaking. The building will feature three floors and a courtyard for students to relax between classes. The first floor will provide students with two large lecture halls, and will also have faculty and staff offices, as well as seminar rooms. The second floor will have mainly faculty and staff offices, and one or two classrooms. The third floor will contain mostly classrooms, approximately eight to ten. Unfortunately, the new humanities building will not have a cafeteria.



Staller Center Renovations

The University is renovating the area around the Staller Center in an effort to beautify the campus. The new format of the area will have more greenery and fewer instances of competing cement steps. While construction carries on, the land between the Ward Melville Library and the Staller Center is fenced off. When going from the Union to main campus, students can walk through the library bookstore and up to the first floor of the library. Estimated time of completion for Staller Construction is December 2004.

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*Savings based on a comparison of average sale prices for most popular textbooks on eBay.com during January 2004, with the list price of those books.
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Kelly Coffee & Tea House

Welcome Back Event

Tuesday, September 14TH

From 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

with live entertainment by

Brian Verderosa

Red Cap Promo

First 50 customers wearing a red Stony Brook cap will receive a complimentary coffee mug with purchase

Sample our new Pumpkin Pecan Coffee

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Located on the first floor of the Kelly Dining Center

www.campusdining.org

Taking the Smarter, Cheaper Approach to College Life

A Guide to the Best Sites for Online Shopping

By Eugene Kozlovsky
Statesman Editor

Hello out there, to all those who want the best, but can't stand to pay those ridiculous manufacturer's suggested retail prices, or the MSRP. Yes, I'm addressing all of you sticklers, who, like me, simply refuse to pay ridiculous prices for electronics. But fear not, because with a bit of know-how and 15 minutes of your time, you can get what you want at far cheaper prices.

Be prepared to save 30 percent off retail prices, and if you're lucky, we'll even get you these goodies for free. Just open your mind, be a little flexible, put in some time and use the right tools. Three very powerful resources are Slickdeals.net, eBay, and Pricescan.com.

Let's start with Slickdeals.net. This website, updated daily, lists some of the hottest deals on anything, and everything you set your heart on buying. Some of their recent items include laptop and desktop computers, hard drives, printers, video games, information on how to get a free domain for a year, Armani sunglasses, dress shirts and coupons ranging from 10 to 50 percent discounts at FootLocker©, Timberland® and "Best Buy".

Now that you know of the website, you're probably looking for the catch. Not all, but a lot of the products have mail-in rebates, but that check you get back is still real money. For example, about a month ago I caught a rebate on CDRs. The CDs cost fifteen dollars and the rebate was for fifteen. Fifteen minus fifteen…yes, you can subract…free! Of course, there is always tax, but $1.25 for 50 CDs is still a pretty good deal. Additionally, for a deal without rebates, I bought a $185 set of speakers for $45.

Through a deal I found on Slickdeals.net, I purchased a digital camera from the "Home Shopping Network", along with an accessory kit for about $120, and subsequently sent in a $100 rebate that I received about three weeks later. Was it worth it? Certainly. It was the best deal I ever got. I turned around and sold the camera on eBay for $111. You do the math; I made 90 bucks for clicking a few buttons and taking the time to ship the item. I spend more time walking to Javits every day.

Just about everyone has heard about eBay, but either some people chose not to buy into the hype, or they're too scared. Get over it. Over the past few years, eBay has become one of the safest ways to buy and sell items online and some of the prices are about half of what you would be paying in stores. Take it from someone who spent many years buying, selling, and scheming on eBay: you can't afford to ignore this website.

eBay cut down on almost all the scheming and made their services very buyer friendly, although there are a few things to watch out for. Make sure to review the condition of the item you're buying before you go through with an auction. Also, you should check the user ratings, which you will see as soon as you open any auction in the right-hand portion of the screen. The number accurately grades your seller's reliability, and gives you a good idea of who you can trust. Any seller who has over 250 feedbacks and a 98% positive rating is a safe bet when buying.

One last thing to mention is Pricescan.com. This website lets you search for great deals on books, among many other things. When you go to the website, just click on books, and you can search by the title, author or ISBN. It may be too late this semester, but I bought new books through this service for up 40 to 60 percent less than I would have paid for their used counterparts at Stony Books.

That's about all the money I can help you save, and I hope this article will help you with your online purchases. Go ahead, and try it out. Just check out some of the prices for some of your electronics on eBay, or take a look at how much you could have saved buying books using Pricescan's search, and you'll be surprised. Make sure to look out for "Kozlovsky's Pick," my new column in the Statesman, starting next issue, for the latest high tech gear.

STONY BROOK

Students, Faculty, and Staff

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

★ ★ ★ Distinguished Professor Titles ★ ★ ★

Distinguished Service Professor

Students and faculty are invited to submit nominations of faculty members to be considered for promotion to the rank of Distinguished Service Professor. Nominees must have achieved a distinguished reputation for service not only to Stony Brook but also beyond the campus to SUNY, the community, the State of New York, or the nation through sustained effort in the application of intellectual skills to issues of public concern.

FIRST, Nomination Forms must be received by September 23, 2004. SECOND, Nomination Packets must be received by November 18, 2004.

Nomination Package should consist of ten (10) copies of each: One-page letter supporting the nomination; an up-to-date and detailed vita; letters of support from individuals within the University and outside the University; and the names and addresses of other individuals who would be able to supply additional information about the nominee's qualifications, major achievements, and contributions that deserve recognition.

Please send the nomination forms and packets to: Selection Committee, Distinguished Service Professorships, 407 Administration Building, ZIP: 1401.

Distinguished Teaching Professor

Students and faculty are invited to submit nominations of faculty for promotion to the rank of Distinguished Teaching Professor. Stony Brook's Selection Committee requires that candidates for this honor be prior recipients of the Chancellor's/President's Award for Excellence in Teaching and be involved in developing and promoting excellence in didactic methods and principles in their disciplines on the national or regional level. Successful nominees will also have a record of extensive interaction with students beyond the traditional classroom setting. **FIRST, Nomination Forms must be received by September 23, 2004. SECOND, Nomination Packets must be received by November 18, 2004. Nomination Package should consist of ten (10) copies of each:** One-page letter supporting the nomination; up-to-date and detailed vita; letters of support from individuals within the University; and the names and addresses of other individuals who would be able to supply additional information about the nominee's qualifications, major achievements, and contributions that deserve recognition. **Please send the nomination forms and packets to:** Selection Committee, Distinguished Teaching Professorships, 407 Administration Building, ZIP: 1401.

★ ★ ★ Chancellor's/President's Awards ★ ★ ★

Excellence in Librarianship

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to submit nominations of professional librarians to be considered for the Chancellor's/President's award for Excellence in Librarianship. Nominees must have an outstanding record of skill in librarianship, service to the University, and of commitment to scholarship and professional development. These three areas must be addressed in the letters of recommendation. **Nominations must be submitted no later than Thursday, November 18, 2004. Nomination Package should consist of ten (10) copies of each:** one-page letter supporting the nomination, an up-to-date and detailed vita, and letters of support from individuals within the University.

Please send the nomination forms and packets to: Selection Committee, Excellence in Librarianship, 407 Administration Building, ZIP: 1401.

Excellence in Professional Service

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to submit nominations of professional personnel to be considered for the Chancellor's/President's award for Excellence in Professional Service. Nominees must be non-teaching professional personnel who have demonstrated excellence in fulfilling their job responsibilities while also demonstrating capabilities and accomplishments in areas of leadership, innovation, and problem solving. **Nominations must be submitted no later than Thursday, November 18, 2004. Nomination Package should consist of ten (10) copies of each:** One-page letter supporting the nomination, an up-to-date and detailed vita, and letters of support from individuals within the University. Statements should address the nominee's most outstanding qualifications and specific achievements. **Please send the nomination forms and packets to:** Selection Committee, Excellence in Professional Service, 407 Administration Building, ZIP: 1401.

Excellence in Teaching

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to submit nominations of faculty who have taught full-time for three years at Stony Brook to be considered for the Chancellor's/President's award for Excellence in Teaching. Nominees must have a record of outstanding skill in teaching, demonstrating flexible instructional policy and a mastery of a variety of teaching techniques. Candidates must also show evidence of scholarship, accessibility to students outside of class, and demonstrate an ability to help students attain academic excellence. **Nominations must be submitted no later than Thursday, November 18, 2004. Nomination Package should consist of ten (10) copies of each:** Information and materials that display the qualities and criteria noted above.

Please send the nomination forms and packets to: Selection Committee, Excellence in Teaching, 407 Administration Building, ZIP: 1401.

Excellence in Faculty Service

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to submit nominations. To be considered for the Chancellor's/President's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service, nominees must be faculty members who have taught full-time at least three years at Stony Brook prior to the year of nomination. Nominees must demonstrate consistently superior service and also initiative and creativity in exceeding these standards. Eligible service contributions may occur in a variety of venues including service to: the campus; the State University; the local community or contributions at the regional, state-wide, national, or international levels; the discipline or disciplinary and professional organizations and societies; or to leadership in local or system-wide faculty governance. There must be positive evidence of outstanding achievement and skill in providing leadership outreach, or other University and/or community service or extraordinary service and leadership in the nominee's professional organization. **Nominations must be submitted no later than Thursday, November 18, 2004. Nomination Package should consist of ten (10) copies and a nomination form. Please send the nomination forms and packets to:** Selection Committee, Excellence in Faculty Service, 407 Administration Building, ZIP: 1401.

Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities

Students, faculty, and staff are invited to submit nominations of faculty members who have taught full-time, are tenured or tenured track, and have completed at least three years of full-time service at Stony Brook, to be considered for the Chancellor's/President's Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities. Nominees must have a record of research publications in peer-reviewed journals, research monographs, or research-oriented texts; show evidence of participation in national/international conferences, presentation of papers published in conference proceedings or digests, patents awarded, grants secured, and citation of work by individuals or groups other than the nominee's collaborators; OR show evidence of excellence in any other type of creative or scholarly activity appropriate for the specific unit or discipline, such as exhibitions, shows, performances, productions, and stage work; evidence of critical reviews, grants, inclusion of works in permanent collections, retrospectives, and other forms of external recognition and acclaim. **Nominations must be submitted no later than Thursday, November 18, 2004. Nomination Package should consist of ten (10) copies and a nomination form. Please send the nomination forms and packets to:** Selection Committee, Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities, 407 Administration Building, ZIP: 1401.

List of eligible professors, nomination forms, and complete SUNY guidelines are available on the Web at: *www.sunysb.edu/pres* or call Ms. Regina Funaro at 632-7016.

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

SECRETARY/ADMIN. ASST. for Real Estate office. Must be comfortable with Microsoft Word (Publisher a Plus), Internet Explorer & e-mail functions. Organized, multi-tasker, energetic & friendly. Fax resume to **631-473-4777** or call Eileen at **631-473-4666.**

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MEDICAL ASSISTANT: PT Certified Medical Asst. needed for busy Derm/Plastic surgery office in Stony Brook. Applicant must be experienced or have training. Please fax resume with salary requests to **631-689-1153.**

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RECEPTIONIST needed for a Derm/Plastic Medical office. 15 hours per week. Monday through Thursday flexible, Friday all day. Must have some reception experience. Please fax resume to **631-689-1153.**

PART-TIME WORK, Good pay, flexible schedule around classes, evenings and weekends available. Sales/service. No experience required. All ages, 18+ conditions apply. Call for an interview today! **631-218-8882.**

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PROFESSOR ON CAMPUS who has experienced Bipolar Disorder would like to have one-on-one contact with and help students who also have this illness. Also starting an evening discussion group. Confidentiality is assured. If interested, please contact Dr. Jerry Pollock at **631-632-8924.**

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SPRING BREAK 2005. HIRING REPS!! FREE MEALS!! Nov. 6th Deadline! Free trips for groups. Hottest destinations and parties. **www.sunsplashtours.com. 1-800-426-7710.**

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LOST

PASSPORT NUMBER G01079450. People's Republic of China in academic hall on campus. Name: Yongliang Yang. Cell: **631-921-0225.** Work: Department of Chemistry, Room 747, **631-632-5796.**

PART-TIME FIELD COORDINATOR

USSTB currently has opportunities available for part-time Field Coordinators from and around SUNY Stony Brook.

You will be responsible for promoting the company's products in an assigned area. You will conduct adult consumer sampling and assist management in establishing and coordinating promotional activities/events.

A high school diploma is required. Must be able to work weekends and nights. An automobile, valid driver's license and auto insurance coverage are required. You must be at least 18 years of age.

For confidential consideration, please send/fax your resume to: USSTB, 184 Lutz Avenue, Martinsburg, WV 25401, Fax (304) 260-1382. Attn: MD or leave a message on voice mail at 1-800-934-4878 ext. 6401.

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I SAW U. Cutie at Washington Mutual. T-shirt, jeans, opening a Free Checking account. Obviously smart. Wanna buy me a coffee with some of the cash you save from not paying monthly fees? Same place next Tuesday? FDIC insured.

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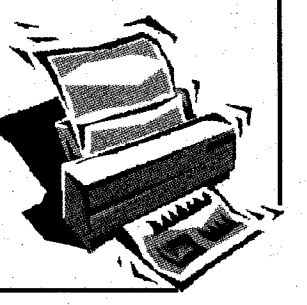
ISLIP TERRACE 1 bedroom basement apt., private entrance, EIK, includes electric, cable & heat. Own thermostat, great condition. Security required. $800. **631-277-0373.**

FOR RENT: Beautiful home in Nissequogue, L.I., known as the most beautiful community in the tri-state area. 14 minutes from P-lot. Beautiful 5,200 sq. ft. mini-mansion. Large above ground, well lit, designer apartment. 1,000 sq. ft. gym with 40 ft. ceilings. Full scale laundry room. Next door to 200 acre preserve surrounded by water. $1800 neg. Includes all utilities. Peaceful estate setting surrounded by thoroughbred horse farms. Cooled with central air. Preferably looking for faculty or grad student and spouse. **Contact Dr. Darby at 631-584-8768.**

FAX SERVICE:

Only 50¢ per page. Come to the Student Union Rm. 057



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Contested Runoff Election Brings Dramatic Changes to USG

Continued from Page 20

working agendas. One of their principle concerns lies in the task of renewing the contracts of clubs and organizations on campus.

The organization also faces the task of finding a new administrative director. Louis Medina, who formerly held the position, was fired in April after administrators decided that he made an improper call to bring police into a public senate meeting. Medina requested the presence of campus police in a senate meeting when William Schwalback III interrupted senate proceedings and called out. Schwalback claimed that he would not leave until the senate had properly voted for his removal from the floor. The police restrained him by force, arrested him, and charged him with criminal trespass and assaulting an officer. Medina has been temporarily replaced by Sonia Gutman, who also serves as the USG accountant.

Wong said he would have handled the Schwalback incident differently. "I've had classes with Bill Schwalback," he said. "He was a good guy. We didn't have to remove him from the room. We could have called a vote. I could have seen him afterwards. We didn't have to get to that point. Both sides were wrong, but the USG crossed the line first."

While many wounds remain from a semester of doubt and skepticism about the USG's ability to properly distribute student funds, the new administration offers some hope for a student body looking for change. Still, Wong's marginal win shows that a strong body of students had resisted the change nonetheless. Only a close watch on upcoming government decisions and changes in policy will provide a proper assessment of the new administration's abilities. The most pressing issues still face this new group of reformers, and students are watching and waiting.

NEW ON-CAMPUS STUDENT JOB OPENINGS

available at the new **Jasmine Food Court** located in the Charles B. Wang Center

Vacancies available all week including weekends and evenings

Interested students should apply at FSA suite 250 Stony Brook Union Building

For information, call Warren Wartell @ 632-9306 or email warren.wartell@stonybrook.edu

Student Graphic Designer Wanted
On-Campus Position

Must be proficient using Quark, Photoshop and Illustrator. Looking for responsible student with a good work ethic.
Must be available to work 15-20 hours per week, MAC/PC user A+.

To set up an interview, call Angela Agnello, Director of Marketing at 632-1464.

FACULTY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
University Auxiliary Services

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EOE. M/F/D/V/ Drug-Free Environment

Executive Chef's Kitchen Assistant
Wanted
On-Campus Position

Outgoing student must be available to work Mon -Thu 4:30 pm - 7 pm to attend demos, collect survey forms and distribute samples. Friday hours are flexible to tally surveys. Must be proficient using MS Word.

To set up an interview, call Angela Agnello, Director of Marketing at 632-1464.

FACULTY STUDENT ASSOCIATION
University Auxiliary Services

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CAREER BUILDER, CAREER KILLER OR CAREER NEUTRAL?

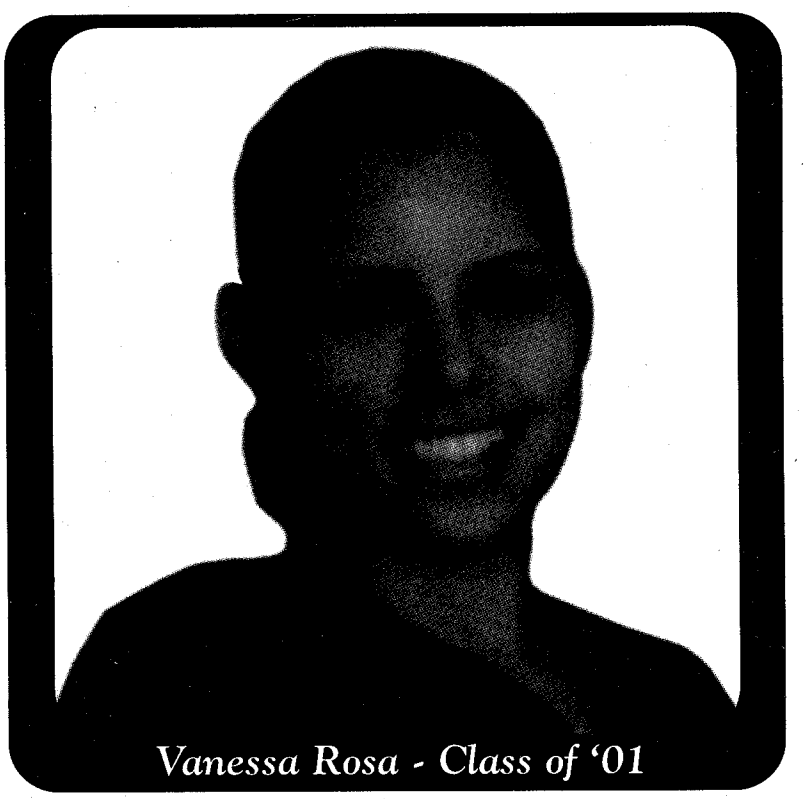
What do Jeff Bezos, Russell Simmons , Ben Cohen, Jerry Greenfield and Vanessa Rosa have in common? If you haven't a clue, Jeff Bezos is the founder and CEO of Amazon, the renowned web site. Russell Simmons is a music industry mogul and Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield are the dynamic duo better known as Ben and Jerry of the renowned ice cream empire Ben's and Jerry's. By contrast, SBU Alum Vanessa Rosa is much less well known, but shares a very significant something with these captains of industry.

What is that something? They have all been wildly successful in their careers. They also had a common experience in spite of having strikingly different careers paths. To give another clue, their recipes for success were all different yet had one common ingredient. Still uncertain?

They have all worked in food services when they were students, and contrary to some people's perceptions, each one feels that their food service work experience made a noteworthy contribution to their future successes.

To give just one example that is closer to home, Vanessa Rosa, who is a Class of '01 Alum and worked in SBU campus dining for several years, had this to say about her SBU dining job experience:

"All the experience that I gained during my time working for Campus Dining Services helped me to easily secure a fulltime job upon my graduation. I have carried the skills that I learned during my time at Campus Dining Services with me even to this day. Not only did I learn very specific work skills but I also learned extremely valuable life skills such as responsibility, time management and interpersonal skills. My time at Campus Dining Services was much more than a job, it was a learning experience that I will always carry with me."



Vanessa Rosa - Class of '01

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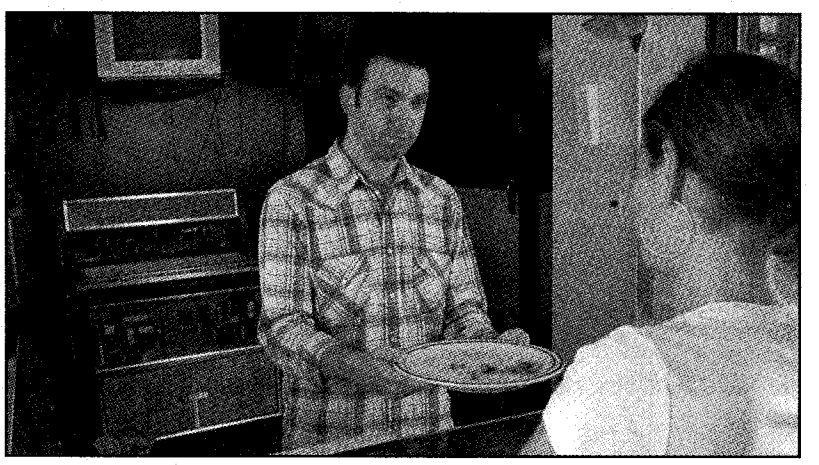
College student tries to return uneaten food for partial refund



Andy Pernsteiner, above, cautiously approaches counter with chicken bone and a few peas.

By POLLY BROWN

Checking his dignity at the cash register, college student Andy Pernsteiner recently presented a local diner cashier with a plate of picked-over food, demanding money for the vittles he didn't ingest. The cashier—who wishes to remain anonymous—was flabbergasted by the whole incident. "It was both sick and sad at the same time," she said. Pernsteiner had a different take: "I didn't eat the bone, so why should I pay for it?" Pete Woychick—a childhood friend of Pernsteiner's—said it was monthly fees tacked on to his friend's checking account that drove him to the shameless act. "Andy has been pounded for months by fees on his checking account. He's pathetic. I never really liked him when we were kids either." Woychick—who says he personally was financially saved by Washington Mutual's Free Checking Deluxe—thought his childhood friend needed to get his act together and visit a Washington Mutual Financial Center or go to wamu.com. Then he, too, could sign up for Free Checking—an account with optional Deluxe services like free online bill pay. "Until Andy decides to get Free Checking," said Woychick, "I'm never eating out with him again. I'm pretty sure I won't return his phone calls either. I might even change my name."

"I didn't eat the bone, so why should I pay for it?"

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Saturday, September 11th
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1 PM	Mary Lamont Band
2 PM	DareYa Blues Band
3PM	Lex Grey Band
4 PM	Kelly Project
5 PM	Jacks Waterfall
6 PM	Twin Shores Chorus

"Steamroom" Parking Lot Stage (Free)

Noon	Four 95
1 PM	Spoonwalk
2 PM	The Hitman Blues Band
3PM	The YaYa's
4 PM	Foundry

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*** Sunday - 11 a.m. - Children's Sing Along by Alternatives for Children ***

Sunday, September 12th
Memorial Park Stage (Free)

Noon	Bakhithi Kumalo Band
1 PM	Dem Brooklyn Bums
2 PM	Dave Isaacs Band
3PM	Dharma Allstars
4 PM	Sam Taylor Band

"Steamroom" Parking Lot Stage (Free)

Noon	Kathy Fleishmann/Kevin McLoed
1 PM	String Alley
2 PM	The Defibrillators
3PM	Too Hip for the Room
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Contested Runoff Election Brings Dramatic Changes to USG

By Maury Hirschkorn and Emy Kuriakose
Statesman Editors

At the end of a tumultuous semester of power struggles and senate controversies, Jared Wong, a senior and political science major, defeated presidential incumbent Sandy Curtis in an unexpected runoff election. He secured the position with a solid recount, taking 52.4 percent of the student vote.

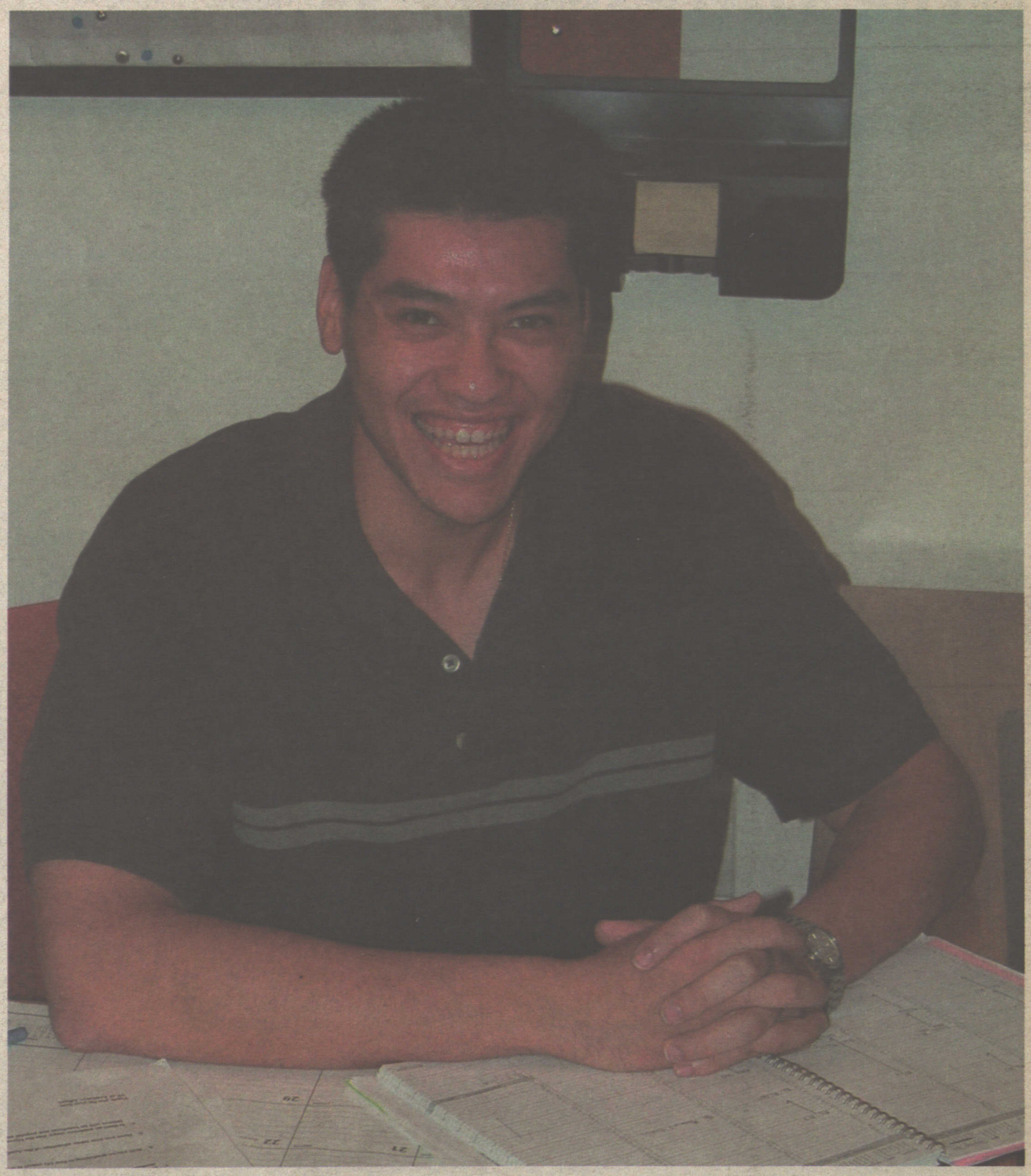
In his efforts to change the often berated organization, Wong promised that USG would be open to more students. As the primary venue of financial student power and influence on campus, USG distributes nearly $2.4 million per semester—a sum drawn from student college fees. As president, Wong is responsible for ensuring that that USG operates properly, and acts as its official spokesperson.

"[The USG] will be more transparent, we'll make the budget readily available [on the internet]," Wong said. "We'll have better communication [with students]."

The trade-off of presidential responsibilities was delayed, however, as Curtis filed a temporary injunction with the USG judiciary, citing an unfair runoff election. She claimed that the election board failed to properly advertise the runoff, showing that 2134 students voted in the general elections, while only 1409 voted in the runoff. She later dropped her injunction and assumed a position as advisor to USG.

Joe Filippazzo, executive editor of the *Stony Brook Press* (a campus student newspaper), praised Wong's leadership. "[Wong] already assisted us, and he cleared up some things with our summer budget," Filippazzo said. "And he's only been USG president [for a short time]."

Curtis and her administration allegedly lost her popularity partly because the USG withheld funds from several college organizations, including the Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps, the *Stony Brook Press*, and the *Stony Brook Statesman*. USG officers maintained that those organizations did not provide proper documentation for their expenses.



Jared Wong, president of the Undergraduate Student Government.

"Records will show than many clubs and organizations were not in compliance with the financial policies," said Sergio DeFreitas, former executive USG vice president. "These same clubs and organizations failed to bring their documentation up to standards." These organizations joined together in an effort spearheaded by the Stony Brook Press, and prepared petitions and documentation to dispute those charges. Finally, with the help of college administrators and pressure from the student body, funding was restored to most of these organizations by the end of the semester.

In an effort to prevent a recurrence of the student distrust and dissatisfaction that clouded the USG last semester, new officers have been meeting over the summer to plan new events. Comedy shows, concerts, new events, and insurance matters spotted their new

Continued on Page 17