

the stony brook Statesman

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Viruses Disconnect Campus Network

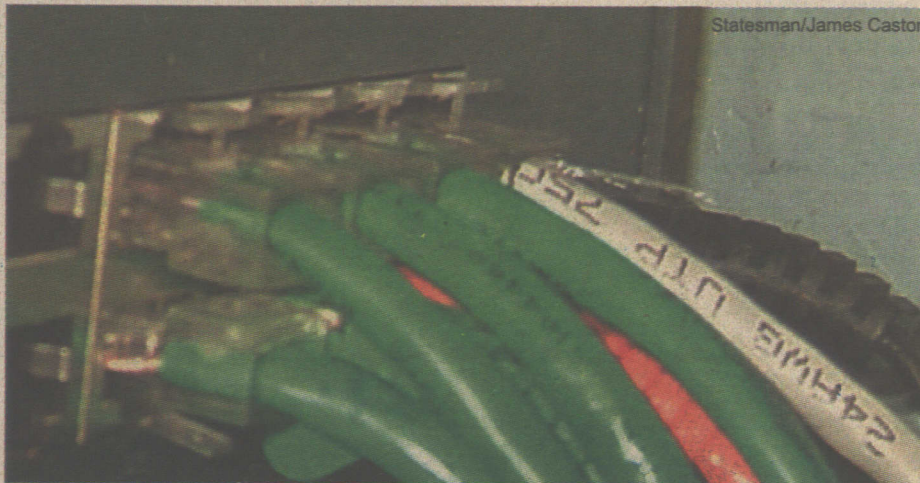
By IAN COOK
Statesman Staff

For students at Stony Brook University, outages are a fact of life this semester. A recent electrical failure left hundreds of students without power for several days. And denial-of-service attacks on the campus' residential computer network (ResNet) have been temporarily disabling Internet access all semester.

Network outages may lack the drama of power outages—candlelight, cold showers, spoiled food—but students are irritated by them all the same.

Residents have complained of frequent downtime throughout February and March. The problem reached its peak during the last week of February—when some computers went offline and back online every few minutes.

"You expect to be able to use the Internet whenever you want and whenever you need," said Jackie Hsieh, a sophomore living in Roosevelt Quad. "But it looks like the network staff is



Recent outages to the campus residential network, allegedly due to viruses, have been a major inconvenience to students in recent weeks.

incompetent."

"The primary cause of outages on ResNet is the proliferation of viruses on the network," said Richard W. Reeder, Stony Brook's Chief Information Officer and the head of the Division of Information Technology (DoIT).

ResNet is the largest and most heavily used of campus networks, con-

necting 8,500 jacks and serving more than 30 residential buildings. Telecommunications and Network Services (TeLNeT) is responsible for ResNet's physical infrastructure. Other responsibilities are shared among other offices, including DoIT and Client Support.

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Guest

Appearances at I-CON



By ABBIE TILDEN
Statesman Contributor

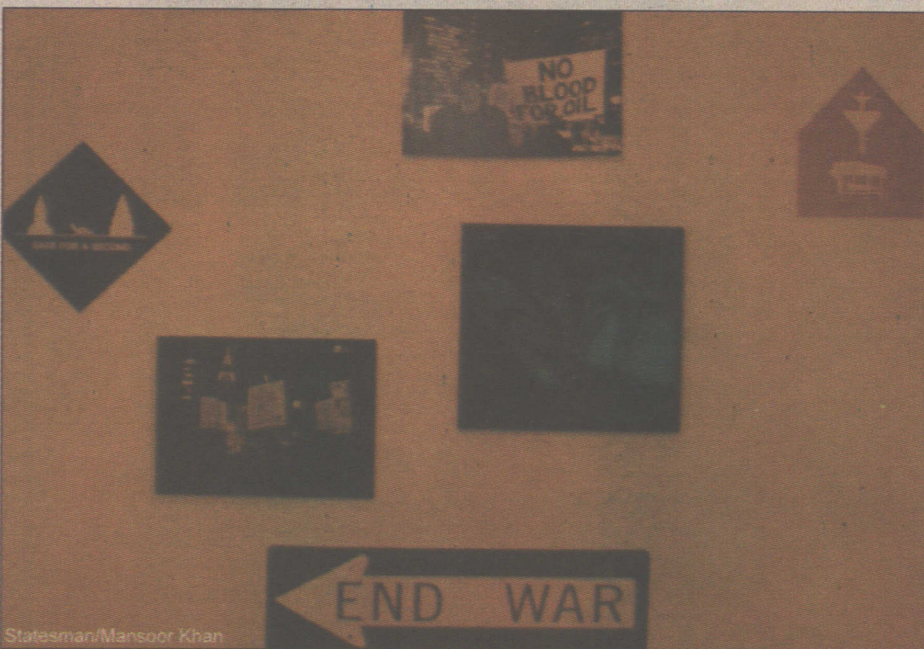
This coming weekend, the Stony Brook campus will be hosting I-Con 23, an annual "three day festival, designed to encourage literacy, creativity and interest in science and technology through science fiction and its related genres." This year a wide variety of guests are expected from a variety of backgrounds, including literature, comics, science and technology, and film and television media.

Among the featured media guests are Katee Sackhoff and Peter Jurasik. Katee Sackhoff played Kara "Starbuck" Thrace on the Sci-Fi channel's recent miniseries "Battlestar Galactica," as well as many other stage, film, and television appearances. Peter Jurasik has appeared in a wide variety of roles, including the well-known "Sid the Snitch" on the TV show "Hill Street Blues," and he joins I-Con to discuss what he refers to as the "outrageous" Londo Mollari on the popular sci-fi program "Babylon 5."

Sackhoff's appearance is a late

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Make Art, Not War: Exhibit Sends Message



Stony Brook students express their feelings on war through art at the recent "This is for Real—War and the Contemporary Audience" Exhibit.

By ARPANA RAYANNAVAR
Statesman Staff

Throughout time, images have always enabled humans to focus and form their own perspective on things. This was what curators Keith Miller and Alex Couri hoped to achieve at Stony Brook. Miller and Couri had brought

together the works of seventeen artists through one common theme, war. This exhibit, titled "This is for Real—War and the Contemporary Audience," had its opening reception on Thursday, March 11 in the Students Activities Center Gallery.

For Miller, one of the motivating factors for setting up this exhibit was

the effect of media on people during war coverage.

"When we can see the reports of civilian and military casualties, collateral damage and 'friendly fire,' one must get a sense that if this is a theater then it has most certainly passed the limits of taste," said Miller. "The idea that at least a reality on TV might be more active and interesting, apparently gives us hope (or at least something to watch). The consequences of this theater are, of course, tragic. It is not spectacular popcorn that spills, but blood, buildings, and people."

On the day of the opening reception, Miller also started off the artist panel by discussing the effects of media on the audience. Miller said, "television screens are hard to disagree with" and that "media denies you an air hole to think your own way."

During the panel, many artists commented on their motivations for creating the works displayed in the exhibit. Artist Ilona Garnet, whose work included an image of a nuclear family said that the topic of war is so sad that she "couldn't think of words" when thinking of it. Therefore, she uses art to express her

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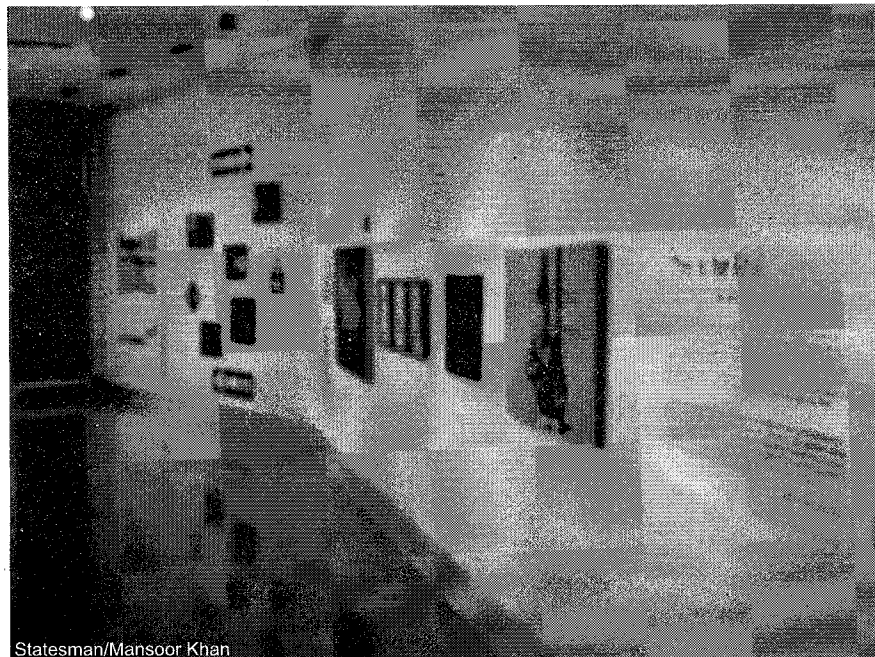
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SAC Art Gallery



Statesman/Mansoor Khan

Artists featured at the exhibit expressed their feelings about war through their artwork.

Continued From Page 1

feelings.

Artist Robin Michaels, who devotes her work to the quantitative aspects of war, also uses art to express her feelings. On the artist panel, Michaels expressed her belief that since she did not have any personal experience with war, she "could not convey horror but could convey the amount of weapons." Michaels conveys the violence and sadness of war by describing the amount of destructive mechanisms in her images.

Artist David Luke also conveys this same idea of violence, but through dif-

ferent means. Luke expressed his idea of violence through a chess board consisting of pieces, which were all queens. Luke said this board is "very playable, but at the same time violent."

While these artists came together to express their views and open people's minds, the university did not appear supportive of them, according to the curators. The support that was desired by the curators was not at all financial, but rather, participation from the faculty, especially from the Art Department, during this event. However, even with this lack of faculty participation, Miller and Couri succeeded in their obligation to get their points across.

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Nigerian Police Kill Six Students During Protest Against Leadership of Teachers' College

By WACHIRA KIGOTHO
Chronicle of Higher Education

Police officers in Nigeria shot to death six students at the Ikare-Ekiti College of Education, in the south-western part of the country, during a demonstration that turned violent this month.

Many other students suffered serious injuries in the clash, which also disrupted commercial activities in Ado Ekiti, the capital of Ekiti State.

The protest was triggered by the government's decision to appoint a new provost to replace Ade Adelodun, who has been running the college since last year in an acting capacity. According to the Daily Times, a leading newspaper in Lagos, the students rejected the government's choice for the post, whom they presumed was a lecturer at the University of Ado Ekiti.

In a bid to force the state's governor to rescind the decision, the students marched through the streets on March 13. The protest continued on the following day but turned violent when police officers sent to disperse the students used tear gas and fired warning shots into the air.

The students retaliated by throwing stones and wielding sticks and metal bars. "This annoyed the policemen, who trained their guns on the crowd and shot six students," said Sunday Kudaisi, a reporter who witnessed



Courtesy of www.xs4all.nl

College students gathered in a violent protest to express their discontent with the replacement of their current provost.

the riot. Eighty-four students were arrested.

The governor's spokesman, Idowu Adelusi, described the students' behavior as provocative and accused them of being used by certain groups at the college that were not interested in giving up power to a provost appointed from outside the institution.

"The students should have taken advantage of the conducive learning atmosphere in the college instead of going on a rampage," said Adelusi.

The spokesman added that the government was still studying a report by a committee on the appointment of a provost. "The students just rushed since no decision had been taken on this matter," said Adelusi.

After the shootings, the government ordered the indefinite closure of the college. The arrested students were charged with illegal assembly. They were released on bond of \$150 to \$300 each until May 5, when their cases will be heard in court.

National Internet2 Day Is Cause for Celebration

By JEFFREY R. YOUNG
Chronicle of Higher Education

Geeks at 35 universities last week celebrated the first-ever National Internet2 Day.

On March 18, each of the universities held demonstrations of cutting-edge uses for the next-generation backbone computer network that Internet2's members have sunk hundreds of thousands of dollars into building over the past eight years. Many presentations were Webcast and could be watched even on regular-speed Internet connections.

Although the event's goal was to raise awareness of high-speed networking, some of the presentations hardly sounded welcoming to the uninitiated. The plenary session, for instance, covered "Networks and Middleware for Cyberinfrastructure-Enabled Knowledge Communities."

Organizers did throw in a jazz performance streamed in high-quality audio, however.

I-CON Visits Stony Brook

Continued From Page 1

addition to the guest line-up, following the announcement that actor John DeLancie had cancelled his appearance. DeLancie, best known for his role as Q in the Star Trek television series "The Next Generation" and "Voyager," had been scheduled to appear with his son Keegan, who appeared on "Voyager" as well. DeLancie received a last minute offer to appear in a theater production, but I-Con hopes to book them for future conventions.

I-Con will also host many signatory guests, including Richard Hatch, "Apollo" from the original "Battlestar Galactica." Hatch's

character, a male in the original series, was reimaged as a female in the remake, which led to casting Sackhoff for the role. Hatch has remained active in television as a voice artist, guest star and leading actor. Hatch is also a published author, having written a popular series of books in the "Battlestar Galactica" universe.

Vaughn Armstrong, a prolific actor who appeared on over a hundred television shows, will also be appearing. Armstrong

is one of a small handful of actors who appeared on camera for all four modern incarnations of "Star Trek," as well as holding the most guest spots (eleven) of any "Trek" actor. His television career began with such shows as "Wonder Woman," "Lou Grant," "Simon and Simon" and "Remington Steel" in the 70s, as well as appearances

on "Days of our Lives" as David Caldwell and "General Hospital" as Jack Wagner's partner Will Austin. He has appeared on popular shows such as "NYPD Blue," "ER," "The West Wing," "JAG," "Buffy" to name a few.

Bill Blair, another actor notable for his versatility, will also be discussing his work as an alien. Blair, con-

sidered an acting expert with the use of special-effects makeup, has appeared as an alien on series such as "Babylon 5," "Star Trek," "Sliders," and "Hypernauts."

In addition, many other film, media, and literary guests will be appearing at I-Con this weekend, March 26-28. Visit the I-Con website at www.iconsf.org for further information about the convention and its guests.

photo courtesy of www.iconsf.org

This year, a wide variety of guests are expected from a variety of backgrounds, including literature, comics, science and technology, and film and television media.

Stony Brook University Police Blotter

COMPILED BY MAURY HIRSCHKORN
Statesman Staff

March 17, 2004

12:47 a.m. - Power Outage, Irving and O'Neill Colleges, resident hall director notified, power plant notified.

1:54 a.m. - Power Outage, Benedict College, resident hall director notified, power plant notified.

3:01 a.m. - Calls for assistance, near North parking lot, [At Dunkin Donuts, near the Stony Brook Railroad Station, a clerk handed a \$20 bill he just received from a customer to a university hospital security guard. The clerk asked, "Does this look counterfeit?" and the guard replied, "Yes." The clerk called the Suffolk County police, and Stony Brook University police arrived later.]

8:28 a.m. - Unlawful Posting [of bar ads]/Arrest, Math/Physics Plaza, one subject taken into custody.

3:18 p.m. - Larceny, Health Science Center, wallet with contents taken.

10:04 p.m. - Small Fire, Benedict College, pair of gym shorts ignited, extinguished, no damage.

March 18, 2004

12:47 a.m. - Graffiti, West Apartments "D", exterior building.

7:47 a.m. - Motor vehicle accident, Administration garage.

3:51 p.m. - Larceny, Benedict College, fitness center, free weights taken.

March 19, 2004

9:03 a.m. - Motor vehicle accident, South parking lot.

March 20, 2004

6:46 p.m. - Larceny, Wagner College, computer taken.

March 21, 2004

11:31 p.m. - Larceny, Baruch College, clothing, footwear and makeup taken.

March 22, 2004

11:32 a.m. - Larceny, Health Science Center, level 9, room 090, laptop computer taken.

4:09 p.m. - Larceny, Hand College laundry room, undergarments taken.

8:42 p.m. - Larceny, Student Activities Center, passport taken.

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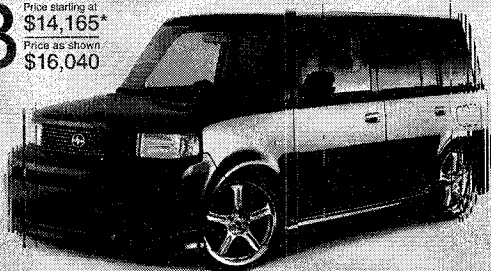
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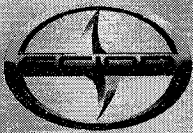


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ResNet, Viruses and Technology Fees: Students Gripe

Continued From Page 1

There are no staff dedicated solely to ResNet. "ResNet is part of the overall campus network, not a separately funded or supported network," Reeder said.

Viruses frequently attack ResNet and can launch distributed denial-of-service (DDOS) attacks, Reeder said. In a DDOS attack, a virus gains access to vulnerable computers and uses them to perpetrate further attacks. Infected computers send out millions of packets of data, flooding the network with traffic. This causes ResNet's routers and switches to overload and freeze, leaving users temporarily disconnected while the devices reboot, Reeder said.

A recent DDOS attack on ResNet was perpetrated using Internet Relay Chat (IRC). Network administrators decided to block access to IRC to stop the attacks. "The block may be rescinded," said Reeder. IRC was not blocked for policy reasons, but just to protect the network, he stressed.

DDOS attacks are hard to stop on a network like ResNet, Reeder said. Students have private control of their computers, so network staff cannot delete viruses or repair vulnerabilities remotely. "You have to understand that ResNet is like a hotel—an unknown computer may be connected to the network at any time," said Reeder. "It's a challenge to locate and repair infected machines."

Network staff identify the machines causing problems by scanning the network for vulnerabilities,

Reeder said. Then they disconnect infected machines and inform their users. Each user then must fix the machine with the help of Client Support before being reconnected.

Each computer can take support staff up to two hours to clean, Reeder said. There are over 100 machines on ResNet that are still infected.

In addition to checking for vulnerable computers, network staff use automatic filters to identify and intercept suspicious attachments, Reeder said.

"I think we're doing a pretty good job, but there are never enough resources," Reeder said. Providing a higher level of service for ResNet would require a much higher cost commitment, he said. "You can always improve the network by having more people, but are students willing to bear the cost?"

Funding for ResNet comes from several sources, including the technology fee, residence halls, and New York State, Reeder said.

The technology fee for full-time Stony Brook students is \$100 per semester. It is used to support SINC sites, mail and file servers, remote dial-in services, some "high-tech classrooms," and a portion of the cost of Internet access. Blackboard and the Library's research databases are also funded through the technology fee.

The fee has been fixed at its current level for a long time, Reeder said.

The technology fee is paid by both residents and commuters. "Since ResNet only serves a fraction of the total student population, it may not be appropriate to raise the technology fee to provide a much higher level of support for only that segment," Reeder said. "An option could be to levy an additional fee on resident students for the direct support of this network," he said.

Students at New York's other SUNY Centers often pay more in technology fees than Stony Brook students, but networks there perform better, a *Statesman* study shows.

Eric Dombroski, a senior at the University at Albany, said, "ResNet here is rarely down, and is pretty speedy most of the time." Albany students pay \$297 per semester in technology fees.

Students at the University at Buffalo pay about \$270 per semester. Melissa Chow, a junior at Buffalo, is satisfied with the residential network there. "I love the network hook up at UB. It's super fast and you have access everywhere on campus," she said.

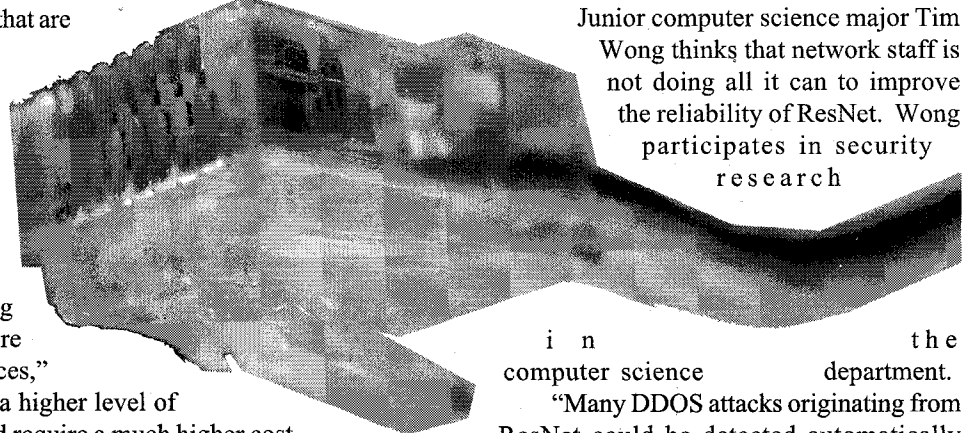
Cassie Schmitt is a junior at Binghamton University, where the technology fee for full time students is \$236 per semester. "I can't even remember the last time the network went down here," she said.

Administrators at Stony Brook are contemplating an increase in the technology fee, but much of the money would be spent on classroom and in-

structional facilities, Reeder said.

An increase in the fee would also be used to purchase more Internet bandwidth. The university currently has two OC-3 connections, each with a bandwidth of 155 megabits per sec. They are currently running at 80-90% of maximum bandwidth, Reeder said.

Junior computer science major Tim Wong thinks that network staff is not doing all it can to improve the reliability of ResNet. Wong participates in security research



in the computer science department.

"Many DDOS attacks originating from ResNet could be detected automatically using Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS), which yield some false positives, but can help track worms and viruses on ResNet to specific machines," Wong said. "Network staff could also use detection systems called 'Honeypots' to passively identify infected machines with almost no false positives. Both IDS and Honeypots software can be obtained free."

"Once you have identified the machine, you can shut off the port on the switch or router remotely and disconnect the computer from the network entirely," Wong said.

"TeLNeT is using an IPS (Intrusion Prevention System) to protect ResNet and the rest of the campus network," Reeder said. The system uses techniques

Network users should install anti-virus software, keep it up-to-date, and install the most recent patches for operating systems. Users should also avoid opening suspicious attachments.

including the ones Wong mentioned to detect viruses and other exploits, Reeder said.

"If they can identify the offending users, then why haven't they been able to stop the outages by disconnecting them?" Wong asked.

"We could be more proactive," Reeder said, but doing so would make life difficult for students. Last semester, he said, network staff instituted a mandatory vulnerability check for students registering their machines. The check protected the network but caused students inconvenience, Reeder said. Some students with infected or vulnerable computers became angry when they were unable to access the network for days.

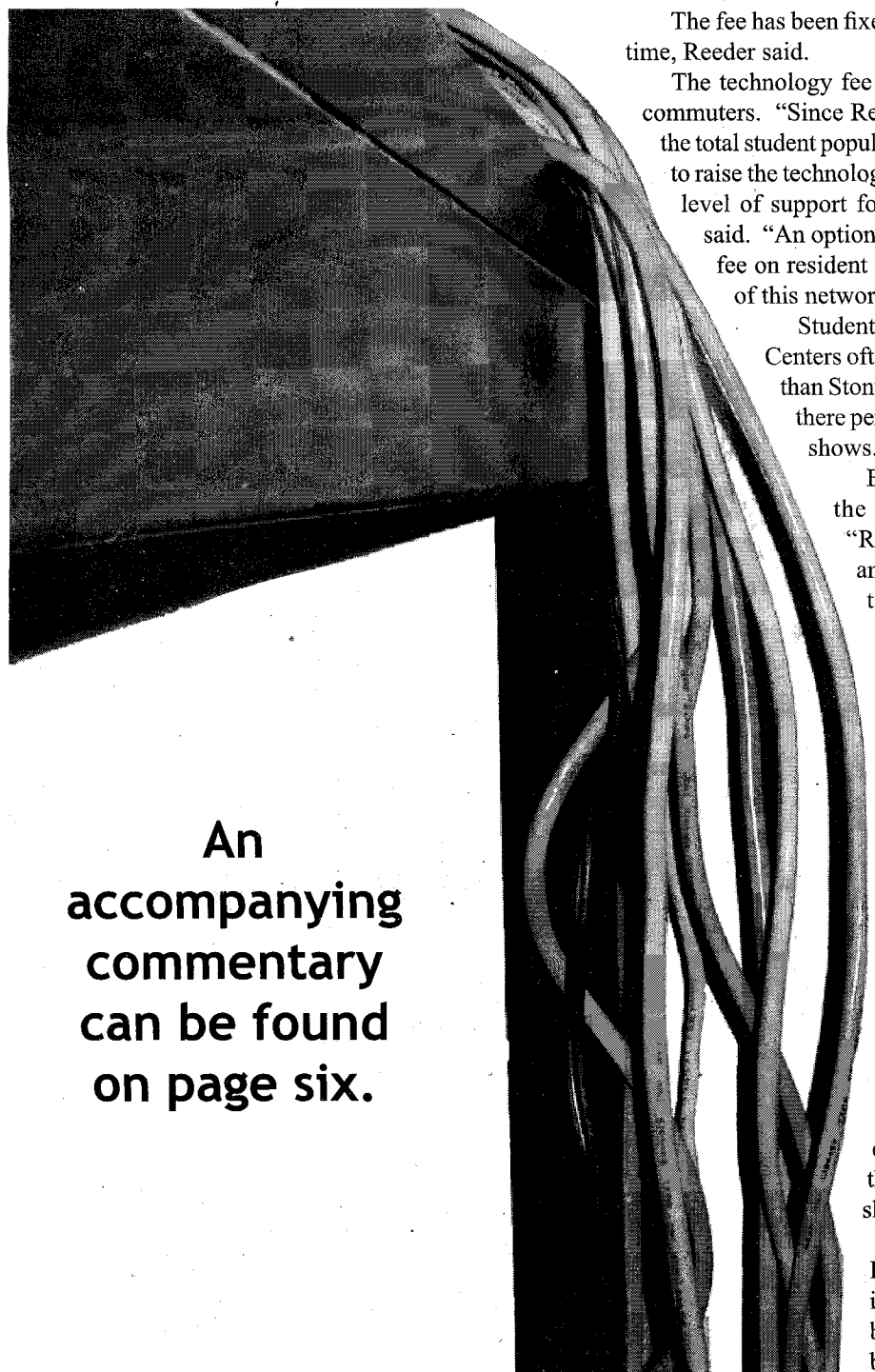
"A few angry students shouldn't stop thousands of users from getting online," Wong said.

"Clearly, network staff are not actively scanning for vulnerabilities in students' computers," Wong said. "New vulnerabilities are discovered every day."

The outages could be averted if students did three things, Reeder said. Network users should install anti-virus software, keep it up-to-date, and install the most recent patches for operating systems (usually Windows). Users should also avoid opening suspicious attachments.

Resident students who think their computers may be infected are encouraged to contact Client Support at 2-9800 or at SupportTeam@notes.cc.sunysb.edu.

An accompanying commentary can be found on page six.



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By BRAD JERSON
Statesman Contributor

Outages on the campus residential Internet network have risen to a level this semester that I and many fellow students consider inexcusable. In recent weeks, ResNet has gone down on a daily basis at best, and on some days, it seems to spend more time offline than online. Outages like these spark impatience and discontent, not just with ResNet, but with the University in general. They leave students feeling ignored and powerless, unable to proceed with their normal lives. One imagines that utterances of the familiar phrase, "Stony Brook sucks," increase in direct proportion to network outages.

But are students like myself justifiably irritated? Is it truly a tragedy for us to lose access to Instant Messenger for a few minutes? Is this a case of immature students exhibiting a postmodern sort of impatience? I would argue not.

The outages are unacceptable regardless of the explanations offered for them. The Internet has become a crucial part of the lives of our generation, and whatever opinion one may have about that, we have grown incredibly dependent. In a university setting, we must complete online quizzes, e-mail papers to professors by deadlines, and use vital research databases. E-mail is a critical means of communication, and the network's unreliability is undermining its effectiveness for resident students. When ResNet is down, people cannot send and receive e-mails in a timely and dependable fashion. This is unprofessional

The Internet has become a crucial part of the lives of our generation, and whatever opinion one may have about that, we have grown incredibly dependent.

and detrimental to our success. For these reasons, the fact that these outages are often sporadic is not an indication that they are inconsequential.

Students who choose to live on campus make the residence halls their homes. The Division of Campus Residences issues pamphlets outlining the benefits of living on campus. Supposedly, students have access to the same amenities they would at home: television, comfortable beds, laundry machines and a high-speed Internet connection. The university expects students to rate the experience of living on campus as equal,

or superior to, commuting. But network access is too often a disappointment for resident students, many of whom have more reliable and faster Internet access at home.

Consumers who use and pay for Internet services like Optimum Online and AOL in their homes

do not tolerate the slightest disturbance in service. If users are without service for a period of time, the company issues credit for the time lost. The students pay for network services as part of their fees, so why is the University not held to a higher standard of accountability?

The University should receive students' complaints about ResNet earnestly. Administrators should realize that Internet access has come to be an indispensable social and academic tool for the generation in college today. Improving ResNet access is a surefire way to lift resident students' attitudes of the University and its administrators. Without consistently reliable Internet access, we are bound not just to be unhappy, but also to fail in our social interactions

Recognizing Presidential Accountability and Responsibility

By JEFF LICITRA
Statesman Contributor

Accountability and credibility: these are the two things that we need to bring back most to the White House come this November's Presidential election. This administration's lack of accountability and credibility in domestic and foreign affairs is perhaps the biggest threat America faces. It's a threat faced not only by its families at home – with a shrinking middle class, tens of thousands of jobs lost, and a deficit spiraling into the trillions – but rather by the men and women who are risking their lives abroad for our country while this President conducts the most irresponsible and arrogant foreign policy in modern U.S. history.

The source of the problem lies in the Bush administration having lost nearly all of its credibility and accountabil-

ity in the world abroad. This administration has practiced what I call the doctrine of morph. That is, they successfully distract the media and the American public from making any lasting criticism of their actions and convictions by constantly changing the issue at hand. This administration has yet to hold themselves accountable for the claim that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction. In this year's State of the Union those weapons of mass destruction morphed into "weapons related activity programs," Osama Bin Laden morphed into Saddam Hussein as public enemy #1, and the justification for going to war morphed from disarming the terrorists to building a democracy.

This is what's fundamentally wrong with a foreign policy that refuses at every turn to hold itself accountable. The Bush administration would not have been able

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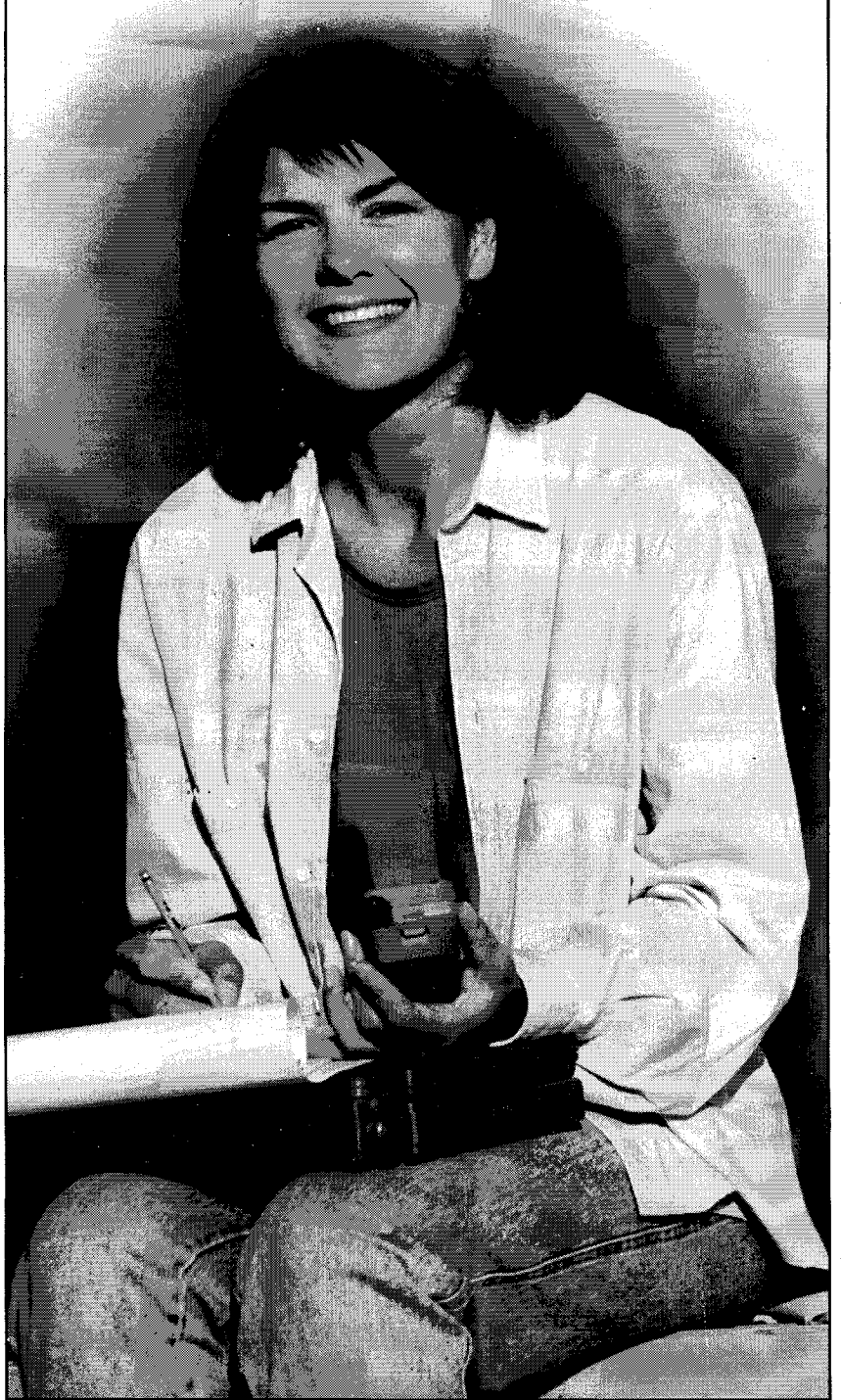
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"Cinderella" Makes Its Way to Staller

By SARAH GOSHMAN
Statesman Staff

The Moscow Festival Ballet brought to life the classic ballet, "Cinderella," at the Staller Center in front of a sold-out house last Sunday evening.

The Moscow Festival Ballet, under the direction of Sergei Radchenko, was founded in 1989 in order to bring together the highest classical elements of the renowned Bolshoi and Kirov Ballet companies in an independent new company, while still remaining within the framework of Russian classic ballet.

As one might anticipate, the company offered a very traditional rendition of this timeless classic, more closely related to Disney's version than Grimm's. While the stepmother, danced by Maxim Vasiliev, was trying on the slipper, one of the stepsisters ran on stage carrying a large pair of scissors. Though this simply served as comic relief, it also cleverly hearkened back to the Grimm story, in which the stepsisters cut off parts of their feet in order to fit into the slipper. This brush with the darker side of the story, however, was the only novel moment in the storyline.

Yuri Vetrov's classical choreography was cleanly

and elegantly executed by the company. The corps de ballet was particularly well synchronized, and the powerful principle dancers seemed to enchant and delight their audience.

The costumes and scenery followed suit; their conventionality did not detract from the performance, but supplied an enchanting fairy-tale atmosphere for the company.

Though "Cinderella" may be the dream of many little girls, the audience demographic was surprisingly older, despite the early 5 p.m. curtain. They were nonetheless enthusiastic, however, calling the principles for multiples bows.

Overall, the Moscow Festival Ballet gave a graceful and entertaining performance of this timeless ballet.



The Moscow Festival Ballet gave an elegant and beautiful performance of the timeless classic Cinderella at the Staller Center Sunday evening.

Courtesy of www.moscowballet.com

Bringing Credibility Back to the White House

Continued From Page 6

a war of choice in Iraq to the American people or our closest trans-Atlantic allies without the argument that Iraq possessed weapons for terrorists. Especially not while the nation needed its full military force focused on a war of necessity being waged against Al Qaeda. No one is saying that the goal of building a democracy in Iraq is not a noble goal in itself. In fact it is the most noble of goals: building a successful democracy in the heart of the Middle East has the potential to eliminate the poverty and disparity that ultimately breeds global terror. But if we're going to talk about building a democracy, and winning hearts and minds, we're going to need a leader who has a record of credibility with the world to do it.

That leader is John Kerry. John Kerry has made credibility sacrosanct in both his life and his work. He demanded credibility when he returned from combat in Vietnam as a decorated veteran and testified to Congress about the atrocities of war. It was Kerry who led a bipartisan effort with Senator John McCain to reopen American relations with Vietnam in the 1990's. And it was Kerry who personally traveled to Nicaragua in the 1980's to expose America's involvement in the Iran-Contra affair. Time and time again John Kerry has acted as the conscience of our nation in foreign affairs.

And this is precisely what Kerry was doing when he said he'd met foreign leaders who'd told him "You've got to win this. You've got to beat this guy. We need a new policy."

For evidence of this look no farther than the failed reelection bid of Spain's pro-American and pro-Iraq Jose Maria Aznar. Look at the opposition in England to Tony Blair that has resulted from Blair's steadfast alliance with Bush. We can't build a democracy without our allies, and as the world's disillusionment with American foreign policy grows, we're looking more and more alone in the world.

That's what the real issue is here. The world and the American people are asking for some accountability with this President. So while it's easy for the Republicans to try and morph the issues by talking about how America's relationship with the world abroad has no merit in the national elections, they're wrong. The economic vitality and national security of all Americans is now interwoven with the world abroad. If we're going to build a democracy in Iraq and defeat the terrorists it's going to take a true multi-national effort. The record shows that Bush is not capable of doing this. John Kerry is. He is the leader who can bring accountability and credibility back into the White House.

So if the Republicans want to talk about accountability and credibility in the upcoming election, John Kerry and the College Democrats have three words for them: Bring It On.

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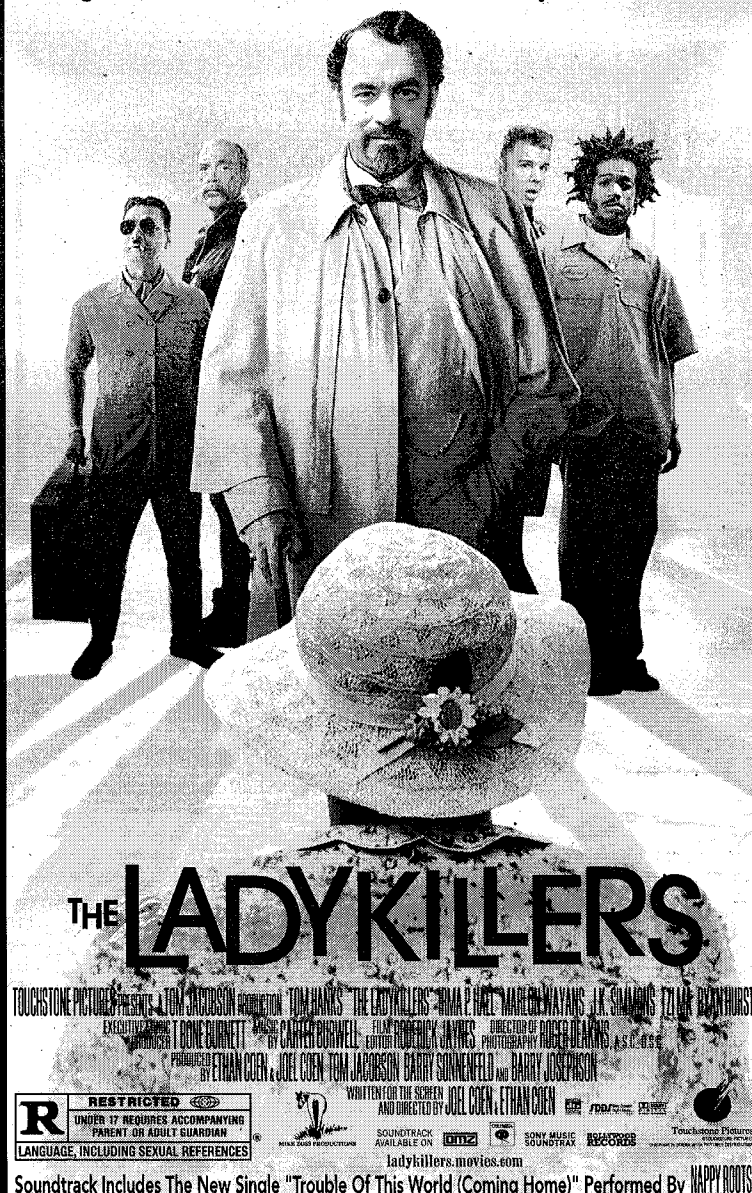
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The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, March 25, 2004

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Campus Voices

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR SPRING BREAK?




"Not stealing from
the supply closet..."

Jessica Worthington
Cinema & Cultural Studies
Senior




"Catapulting
dead cats into my handicapped
neighbor's front yard... Just
kidding -- the cats are still alive."

Joe Filippazzo
Physics
Junior



"My 'pilot,' Boba and I are taking
the SamCopter 2000 to Tatooine
for a nice relaxing bounty hunt.
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empty-handed."

Sam Goldman
Women's Studies
Senior



"I'm going to travel Europe
and get drunk every night.
Actually, I'm competing in
ballroom dancing, writing a
song, and staying home."

Kristine Renigen
Cinema & Cultural Studies
Freshman



"I'm going to UMich to visit my
cousin and roadtripping around
to see friends."

Ivy Lau
Undecided
Freshman