



# the stony brook Statesman

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# Reagan

1911 - 2004



# Former President Ronald Reagan, 93, Dies

By LOU CANNON  
Washington Post

A movie actor who became one of the most popular presidents of the 20th century, Ronald Wilson Reagan redefined the nation's political agenda and dramatically reshaped U.S.-Soviet relations while serving as president from 1981 to 1989.

After leaving office, Reagan suffered in his final years from the mind-destroying illness of Alzheimer's disease. He announced his condition Nov. 5, 1994, in a poignant letter to the American people in which he thanked them "for giving me the great honor of allowing me to serve as your president."

Often called the Great Communicator, the Republican president was an icon to American conservatives, whom he led out of the political wilderness. But his legacy eluded easy ideological classification. Former Senate Republican leader Howard H. Baker, Jr. (Tenn.), who served as White House chief of staff during a key period in the Reagan presidency, observed that Reagan, despite a proclaimed constancy of values, also displayed "a capacity to surprise."

This capacity was especially evident in Reagan's dealings with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Although Reagan was an outspoken anti-communist who described the Soviet Union as an "evil empire," he forged a constructive relationship with the reform-minded Gorbachev, who ascended to power midway through the Reagan presidency.

The two leaders held five summits, beginning with a 1985 meeting in Geneva. At

a 1987 summit in Washington, they signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, the first pact to reduce U.S. and Soviet nuclear arsenals. After a follow-up Moscow summit in 1988, Reagan proclaimed a "new era" in U.S.-Soviet relations.

The thaw that melted the Cold War followed a prolonged period of heightened tensions between the countries during Reagan's first term. The relationship reached a low point Sept. 1, 1983, when a Soviet fighter shot down a Korean Air Lines passenger jet that had strayed over Russian air space, killing all 269 people aboard, including 61 U.S. citizens. In the wake of this incident, military forces on both sides were placed on alert.

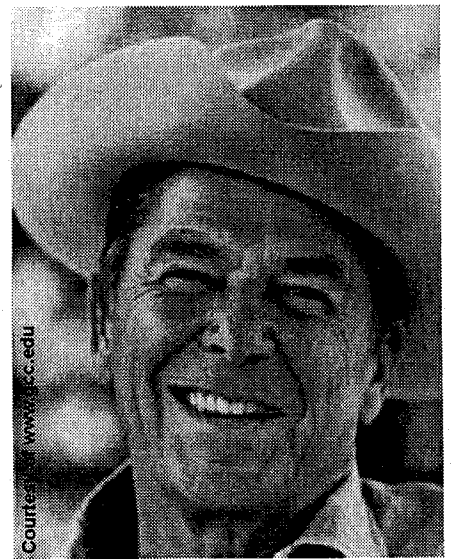
Administration critics contended Reagan had contributed to the crisis with anti-Soviet rhetoric and by conducting a massive U.S. arms buildup that he had promised during his 1980 campaign. On June 18, 1980, Reagan told The Washington Post that it "would be of great benefit to the United States if we started a buildup" because the Soviets were too weak economically to compete in an expanded arms race and would come to the bargaining table. He predicted the demise of the Soviet Union, most notably in a speech to British members of Parliament at the Palace of Westminster on June 8, 1982, in which he said the Soviets faced "a great revolutionary crisis" and would wind up on "the ash heap of history." In another historic speech, on June 12, 1987, in front of the Brandenburg Gate near the Berlin Wall, Reagan urged: "Mr. Gorbachev, open this gate! Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!"

Ten months after Reagan left office, the German people dismantled the notorious wall that marked the division of their country. On Christmas 1991, Gorbachev stepped down and the Soviet Union and the Cold War passed into history. Some historians credit Reagan for these events, or at least for accelerating them. Others say the Soviet Union collapsed largely because of internal weaknesses, while still others cite a confluence of internal events and external pressures.

There is general agreement, however, that the meetings between Gorbachev and Reagan and later between Gorbachev and President George H.W. Bush eased the transition from Cold War to peace. Alexander Bessmertnykh, deputy Soviet foreign minister during the Gorbachev-Reagan summits, said at a 1993 conference at Princeton that both Reagan and Gorbachev were more farsighted than their advisers in their idealistic determination to reduce nuclear arsenals.

Reagan's economic policies also departed from the mainstream. In his 1980 campaign, he pledged to cut taxes, increase military spending and balance the budget. He carried out the first two promises at the expense of the third.

While the nation prospered after emerging from a 1981-82 recession, the Reagan budgets produced record deficits and a near tripling of the national debt. Toward the end of his term, Reagan called the federal budget deficit "one of my greatest disappointments" and blamed it on congressional reluctance to cut domestic spending, even though the budget proposals he submitted to Congress had not been balanced.



But the deficits appeared less harmful in hindsight. Conservative analyst David Frum has described them as "wartime deficits" and a small price to pay for ending the Cold War. After the Cold War, military spending declined rapidly as a percentage of federal spending, making it easier for Reagan's successors and Congress to balance the budget. Midway through President Clinton's second term, the federal budget was in surplus. Reagan also left an economic legacy of low inflation that was maintained by his successors.

Among those who shared a high opinion of Reagan was his old rival, Gorbachev, who in a retrospective on American television called Reagan "a really big person, a very great political leader." It was an opinion widely shared by Reagan's fellow Americans.



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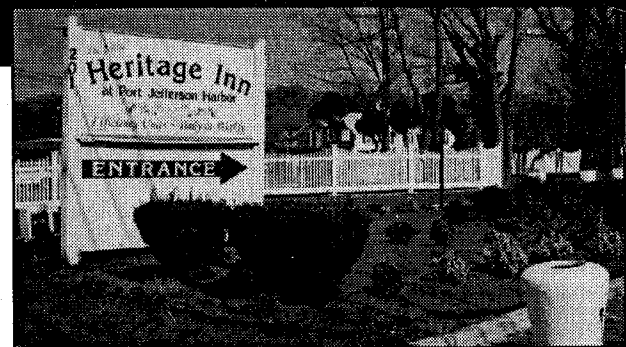
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# Looking forward to a New Student Union Walkway

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

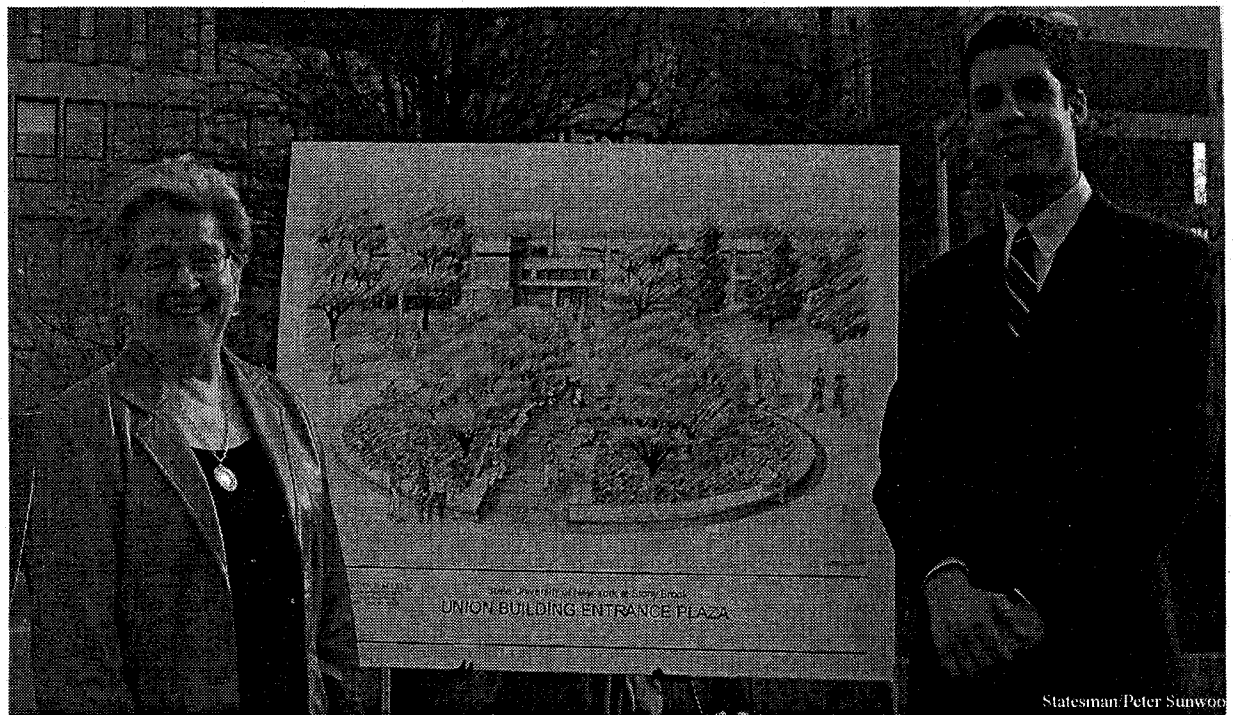
"We're trying to stick to the ideals that we started this club for: to encourage human beings to coexist with the environment and live with it, rather than against it," he said. "And we picked that up from a hairy gorilla in the book *Ishmael*." SOT was founded around a novel by Daniel Quinn that attempts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



University President Shirley Strum Kenny and **School of Thought** President Michael Zannettis unveiled the new plans.

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, organizations 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.

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

By PATRICIA McCABE  
Statesman Staff

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

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

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

Elizabeth Stone, Ph.D., Stony Brook anthropology

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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## Commentary

# New Refrigerator Makes Loud Uproar in Industry

By PETER SUNWO  
Statesman Editor

Ignorance is bliss, especially when having to deal with the environment. Well that's the case for most non-environmentalists, including myself, but whatever the case an astronomical problem does exist. America is one of the worst players when it comes to destroying the world, and all of us here reading this article are the pawns. But we all live the life we live with the mentality of, "Millions of other people are doing it, what difference would it make if I stopped killing the environment." And that argument is precisely what humans are about: our own self interest.

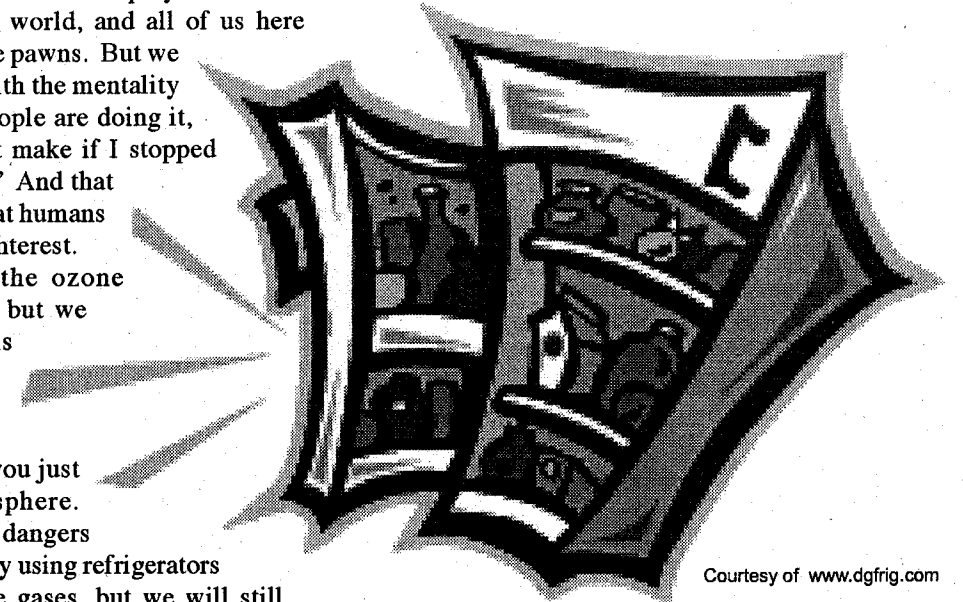
We are eating up the ozone layer using fossil fuels, but we still storm down Nicholls Road more concerned about how much gas is left in the tank, instead of the amount of fumes you just pumped into the atmosphere. We are perpetuating the dangers of the greenhouse effect by using refrigerators that work on greenhouse gases, but we will still need our beer chilled.

Hybrid and electric cars are now available to significantly reduce the problem of burning fossil fuels. It's understandable that not all of us can go out and purchase a new environmentally clean automobile, but not all of us should go out and buy a new gas guzzling SUV either. Without surprise, SUV sales soar over these hybrid or electric cars. Hey maybe if we didn't rely much on these fossil fuels, Saddam Hussein would still be chilling in his mansion smoking his cigar and drinking his martini.

We do have an alternative to automobiles, but we need to use refrigerators, don't we? For 20 years, various researchers have been trying to figure out a

way to freeze things using sound, called thermoacoustic refrigeration. Unfortunately with most scientific research projects, a theory is meaningless without the right funding. A Penn State research team was able to build a working prototype within two years after having the mega ice cream manufacturer, Ben & Jerry, cough up \$600,000 for the project.

So how's it work? The innova-



Courtesy of [www.dgfrig.com](http://www.dgfrig.com)

tive freezer is an ordinary deli cabinet piped to a 14-inch-high canister with soundproof stainless steel walls. A loudspeaker pumps sound waves (at 190 decibels, louder than a rocket launch) into the canister, expanding and contracting helium gas inside. The pressure changes chill the icebox as efficiently as a conventional freezer. Problem solved, right? Wrong. Although the new thermoacoustic environment friendly refrigerator works, it's going to be pricey. And again we are all out here for our own self interest. So why buy something that's more expensive when you can save money and buy other stuff like Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream instead of helping the environment? One word: ignorance.

## Letter to the Students

Dear Fellow Students:

Thank You Stony Brook Students

As a Stony Brook student and volunteer at Response Suicide and Crisis Hotline, I want to thank the student body for voting in support of the Hotline

Response has been an invaluable resource for the whole of Suffolk County, providing an anonymous and confidential counseling and referral service to those in emotional distress.

and to reinstate a special telephone line exclusively for University students. Response has been an invaluable resource for the whole of Suffolk County, providing an anonymous and confidential counseling and referral

service to those in emotional distress. By reinstating the 632 number to the Hotline, Stony Brook students have ensured that Response will be readily accessible to all students and members of the University community when, and if, they need it.

In addition to serving the University in a public service capacity, Response also provides internship opportunities for University students to further their education and earn college credits. Working at the Hotline has been one of the most rewarding and enriching experiences of my undergraduate career, and I encourage anyone interested in either interning or volunteering at the Hotline to call 751-7500 for further details. Then next training session begins May 18th.

Kristen S.  
Stony Brook '04

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# The Question Remains, "Just Where Are Those Weapons?"

By ROBERT J. ROMANO  
Statesman Staff

Expanding the war on terrorism to Iraq last year, one of the justifications used was Iraq's refusal to comply with UN Security Council Resolutions in its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction, and other banned weapons programs, like long-range missiles.

Nearly one year since "Operation Iraqi Freedom" began, the Iraq Survey Group (ISG) has been diligently searching for and dismantling Iraq's former programs. While the stockpiles of WMD's remain unaccounted for, and are still being searched for, the importance of locating them has been neglected by partisans who feel "betrayed," and who would just as soon assume that they never existed and that Iraq really was complying with the resolutions.

Even further buried by talk of "a nation deceived" is that the efforts of our brave men and women in uniform in the field of battle are being ignored, despite their enormous success, and to the important issue of the weapons stockpiles, including discoveries made by the ISG thus far.

In Dr. David Kay's testimony before Congress on Oct. 2, 2003, the former chief U.S. weapons inspector stated: "We have discovered dozens of WMD-related program activities concealed from the United Nations during the inspections that began in late 2002. The discovery of these deliberate concealment efforts have come about both through the admissions of Iraqi scientists and officials concerning information they deliberately withheld and through physical evidence of equipment and activities that ISG has discovered that should have been declared to the UN." In other words, Iraq was in material breach of its international obligations, and of the ceasefire agreement which followed the first Gulf War.

Also mentioned in Dr. Kay's testimony is that the unaccounted-for stockpiles are relatively small, and "[i]t is important to keep in mind that even the bulkiest materials we are searching for, in the quantities we would expect to

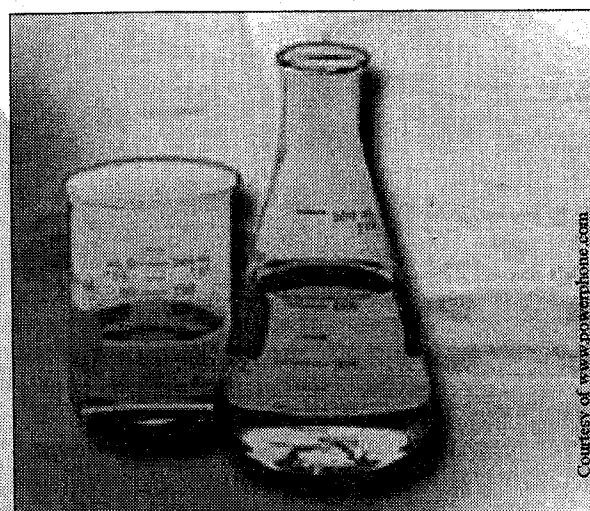
find, can be concealed in spaces not much larger than a two car garage..." This raises the disturbing question: just where are the stockpiles that the UN had confirmed that Iraq possessed?

While some view this as an opportunity to put our intelligence agencies on "trial" for being "wrong," and perhaps even the chance to downgrade our ability to gather such important information, these blind partisans are missing a very serious point: Iraq was not disarming. In fact, Iraq was concealing both the capability and the intent to reconstitute its stockpiles, hardly meeting the legal conditions set forth by the disarmament regime following the first Gulf War. Iraq had violated resolution after resolution, defied the international community, and was a grave and gathering danger. Left alone, Iraq had hoped, through deception, to have the sanctions imposed on it lifted, and once accomplished, to fully reconstitute its arsenals.

Yes, the inspections were in many ways successful, and the hard work of the inspection regime was honorable, carried out by individuals who put their lives on the line to disarm a genocidal dictator. And yet their work was incomplete, and it was not until "Operation Iraqi Freedom" commenced that we discovered the larger extent of not only the programs in place, but also of Iraq's involvement with terrorist organizations, which were previously underestimated.

Because of this, the President's special commission investigating contemporary intelligence-gathering dating before the war, is extremely important, and will improve our capabilities, but such a commission should not be made to obscure what has been accomplished by disarming Iraq and liberating the Iraqi people.

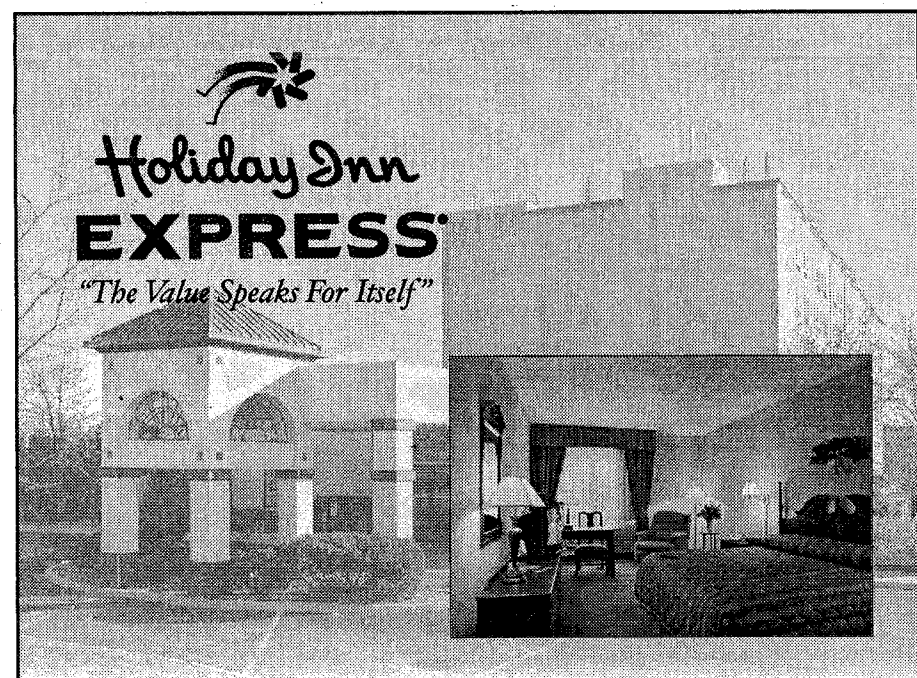
The sad truth is that those who are attempting to prove that America was "misled" are distorting the facts, and have more of an interest in reacquiring political power than in finding the missing stockpiles of WMD which we know Iraq had possessed. Yes, the world was misled... by the



Courtesy of www.powerphone.com

brutal and deceitful regime of Saddam Hussein. What's worse is that these partisans are blindly attempting, some unwittingly, to revise history, and are willing to serve as apologists for a genocidal tyrant simply so they can play "gotcha!" with national security. Saddam Hussein was a danger with the weapons, and he was a danger with the ability and intent to make the weapons. He was still in violation of the UN resolutions, and Congress authorized the President, in an overwhelmingly bipartisan effort, to enforce those all-too-often-ignored resolutions. The President made the right decision, and we must, in our efforts, fully account for the still-missing stockpiles, for the safety and security of all. We should not be so ready to close the book on the extent of Iraq's network of denial and deception, and we should never be willing to leave the peace and security of an entire region up to the arbitrary dictates of one man.

The efforts to disarm Hussein's Iraq were justified, and they deserve our collective support, as do the brave men and women in uniform who are risking their lives for you.



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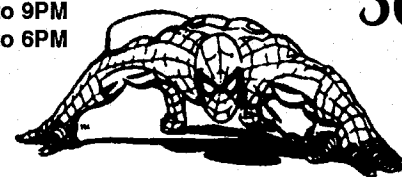
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# One Small Step for Mice, One Giant Fall for Mankind

By PETER SUNWOO  
Statesman Editor

Stuart: Momma, why do I have beady red eyes and a long pink tail?

Mom: Well son, there are just some things your father can't do.

Stuart: Like what momma? I thought daddy was like superman?

Mom: Your daddy is far from super, you little runt. In fact, he wears kryptonite underwear and he's as sterile as a Donkey. Your real father is Ralphie the Mouse. Happy now?!

Stuart: Dad?

Such a circumstance may seem inconceivable, but not so my friends, not so. According to researchers from University of Pennsylvania, it may be possible to grow human sperm using mice. In 2002, the same researchers successfully produced goat and pig sperm from mice. This was the first time in history that sperm had been produced outside the original animal. Mice have also been used to produce monkey sperm using tissue transplanted from the testes of an immature rhesus macaques monkey.

How do they do it? Elementary, my dear Watson, elementary.

Step 1: Castrate the mice.

Step 2: Graft fragments of testicular tissue from a newborn human.

Step 3: Transplant fragments into the backs of mice that have deficient immune systems, so that the foreign tissue is less likely to be rejected.

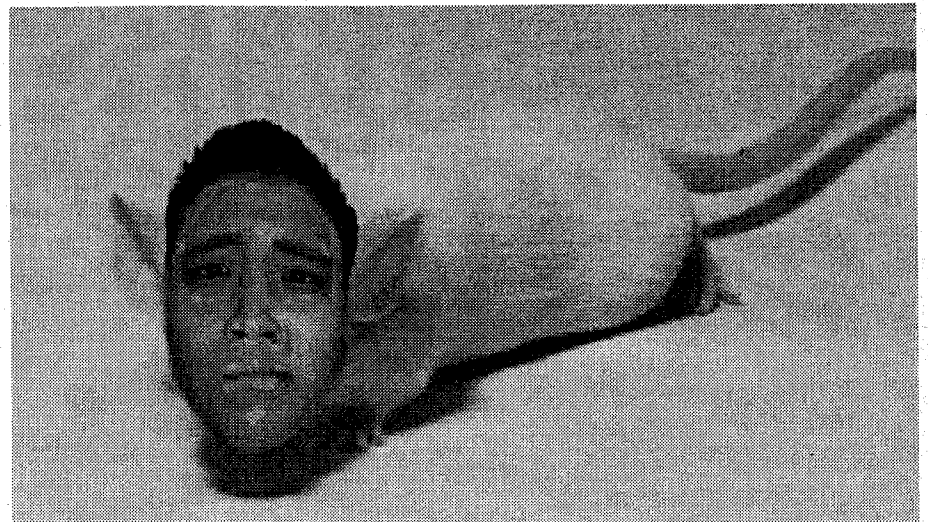
Scientists found that the inserted testicular tissue causes a mouse brain to secrete higher levels of hormones that control sperm production. These secretions cause the tissue itself to grow rapidly as well. The testis grafts take approximately seven months to produce viable sperm. The research team found that more than 60 percent of the grafts of from goats, monkeys and pigs produced mature, fully functional sperm.

As unorthodox and bizarre as it

## It may be possible to grow human sperm using mice.

may seem, this new discovery has great potential of creating incredible changes in the world. The Pennsylvania group is now trying to adapt the procedure to produce sperm of endangered big cats that rarely survive to reproductive age in captivity.

The U.S. scientists involved say their work might one day help to conserve animals that are facing extinction. "The main benefits we see are that this approach provides a system to study and



Compiled by James Caston

manipulate primate spermatogenesis, thereby minimizing the need for experimentation in primates," Dobrinski said.

Sounds sweet and dandy for animals going to extinction, but is there any practical use for us humans? Yes. The ability to produce virtually unlimited amounts of sperm using this technique could conceivably be used to help human couples struggling with male fertility problems, allowing them to conceive children carrying their own genes. Prepubescent boys undergoing treatment for cancer that will render them sterile could also benefit, Dobrinski suggests. This can be done by removing immature testis tissue prior to treatment and transplant-

ing it onto mice for sperm production. Theoretically, this would not only allow the prepubescent boy the experience of fatherhood, it would also mean the boy could be a father at any age! Now that's Weird Science!

But let's analyze the flipside. What else does this mean for human beings? Theoretically, in a crazy matrix-like artificial universe, all men could be rendered fruitless, literally. If evil feminist scientists decide to steal the testis of a healthy, intelligent little boy and graft them to a mouse, producing virtually limitless amounts of sperm, us men would be out of a job. Sometimes, I regret being the weird scientist.

## Advice for Freshman

Continued from Page 8

courage them to "explore and consider other majors," said Gatteau. A student interested in a medical career may fill his or her schedule with science courses, but Gatteau suggests taking new and different courses to make sure that that path is the correct one. Many times, students change their minds about what they want to accomplish while in college, and in their lives.

Finally, in September when these classes actually start, students find that they are thrown into a whirlwind of books, classes and social activities on a freer schedule than they had ever known in high school. The lenient schedule, however, presents a problem. One of the most important aspects, according to Gatteau, is "balance."

Introductory Psychology Professor Anne Moyer agreed, saying that time management is a very important skill to learn in college. When schoolwork, socializing, clubs and organizations, and just living itself are all competing for one's time, it seems like there aren't enough hours in a day to get it all done. Moyer also suggested that students become "distracted" by all that is happening around them socially.

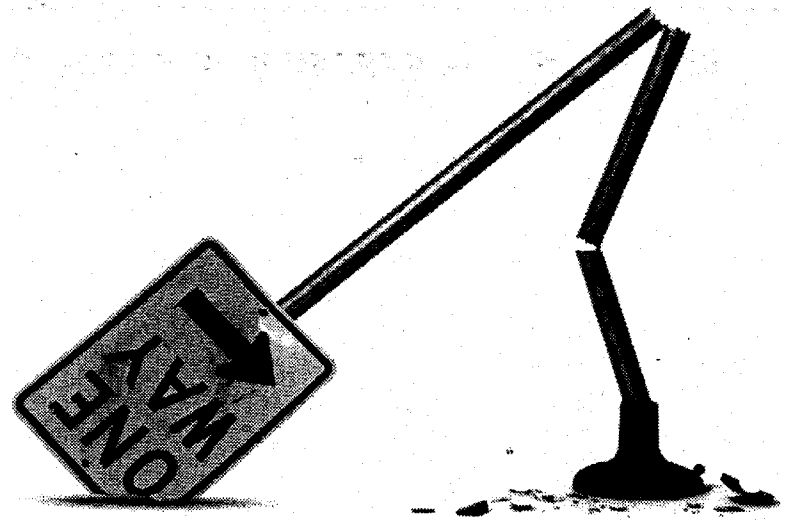
Although students are encouraged to get involved in college activities, it is important to make sure work gets done as well. As freshman Teresa Bonventre said, "All my problems with college are my fault—I procrastinate too much."

Although Gatteau agreed that the Stony Brook curriculum is very challenging, he also says, "If a student is admitted to the University, they can definitely earn a degree here." It is just a matter of balance, and taking advantage of all the resources Stony Brook has to offer.

Professor Stephen Koch, an Honors Introductory Chemistry Professor, tells his students never to be afraid to "knock on doors." Speaking to teachers during office hours, he adds, personalizes a large class. "Most professors teach introductory classes by choice—they want to talk to students," he said. Koch's idea of going to professors is also helpful in looking for research on campus. Research integrates students' textbook learning with real life experience. Moyer also said that students should "take advantage of resources like advising, counseling, professors and even friends," to help sort out the problems that first year students face.

However, the keys to succeeding in college are balance and taking good advice from teachers, friends and advisors. Most of the faculty and professors at Stony Brook are very understanding about the pressures freshman year can put on a student. It is left to students to change their experience. As Richard Gatteau always advises his students, it is very important to "take ownership" of one's education, and it is definitely possible to do that here at Stony Brook

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# Statesman Features

## It's a Hard-Knock Freshman Life: The First Year

By AMANDA RUBENSTEIN  
Statesman Staff

High school seniors spend dozens of hours, and even whole days working on their college applications. It's an all out endeavor to find the one, perfect school that will make them successful in every aspect of their lives. Once the acceptances roll in, elation fills these young hearts, and they look to the future with high hopes. Many believe, however, that once they are accepted into college, the next four years will drift by without much effort.

This romanticized and dangerously misconceived notion of the college experience causes many students' downfall. Most college upperclassmen cite their first semester, or even their whole freshman year, as their greatest regret in college. Students walk into graduate and medical school interviews apologizing for their first semester grades. It isn't hard to see that time management, from balancing

social events and extracurricular activities to reading 20 chapters for finals, is often the biggest problem. Stony Brook administration and staff are trying to intervene, creating programs that will address specific obstacles that face freshman students.

From freshman orientation, Stony Brook tries to make its students feel as involved and academically secure as possible. According to Richard Gatteau, advising director at Stony Brook, students always wonder what classes to take, especially if they haven't chosen one of the 50 majors offered at Stony Brook. During Summer Orientation (Part I), advisors suggest a broad range of large, general introductory classes to students, so that they can explore different disciplines of higher education. Gatteau suggests to "read course descriptions" to choose an "exploratory course," which may give students insight into a field they had never considered before. In time, students will narrow their interests from



Statesman/Mansoor Khan, James Caston

With myriad distractions in college, freshmen often need advisors and professors to provide time management lessons along with academic instruction.

those classes and finally choose a major by the end of their sophomore year.

Another batch of admitted students is already set on their majors. Most

often at Stony Brook, this field is medicine. Advisors nonetheless en-

*Continued on Page 7*

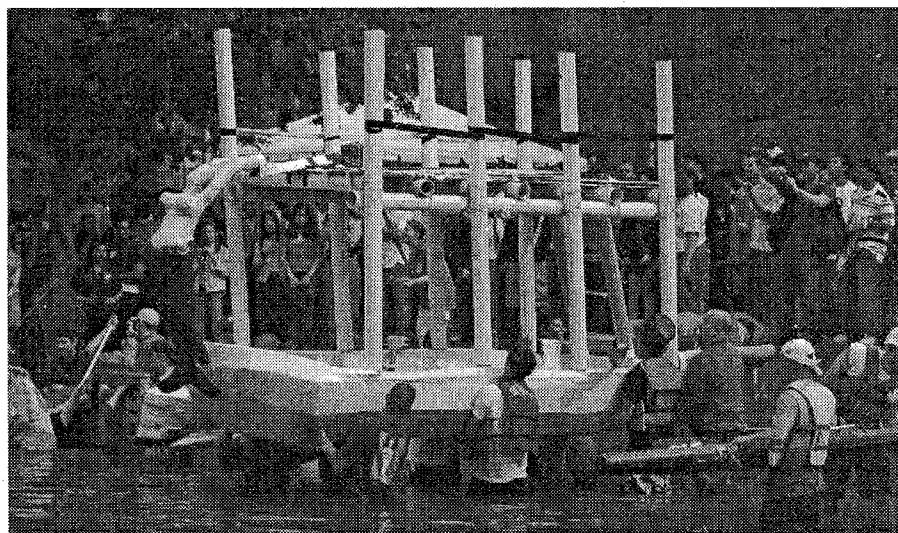
## Entering the Unknown Waters of SBU's Roth Pond

By EMY KURIAKOS  
Statesman Editor

Awaiting the loud report of a distant-gun, students hovered anxiously above the duct-taped, cardboard boats that lay before them, and looked out over the waves, eager to traverse the murky Roth Pond. These students brandished their oars and crossed that infamously muddied sea of debris last Friday in hopes of claiming a title as Regatta Champions. With life vests secured tightly to their shivering bodies, they braced life and limb for a chance to enter Stony Brook history with their ingenuity and boating expertise.

This year, 57 boats registered for the regatta, including 45 yachts; the highest number to ever compete in Roth Regatta history. Spearheaded by the Roth Pond Regatta Club, this annual Stony Brook tradition was greeted with a clear and sunny day, and came to a comfortable ending with help and input from various campus organizations.

"Organization [of the event] takes the combined effort of many people," said Nicholas Kilb, president of the Regatta Club. "The club members plan the event all year, including web design, artwork, getting price quotes, purchasing supplies for the event and advertising."



Statesman/James Caston

Mid-water collisions were common as yacht-sized boats, like this steamboat, plunged through the shallow Roth Pond waters into other misguided, smaller vessels or surrounding trees.

The club's efforts paid off, considering the enthusiastic and responsive faces at the Regatta. The pond was encircled in its entirety by the steady line of spectators that included students, parents, children, faculty and staff.

Newscasters were on hand at the regatta as well, filming the races and interviewing competitors. Larry Hoff, of WB11 Morning News, came far before the racing commenced, filming boat makers who had just woken up or had

stayed up until 6:00 a.m. building their makeshift vessels. Later that afternoon, CNN was on scene to capture the action, taking footage of racers and speaking with the organizers and winners.

In the speedster competition, which includes one-man boats made to burn through water, Student Affairs took the gold with their boat, "SA Minnow IV." The Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps won the yacht competition with their two-man canoe christened "Rolled

to Perfection." SBVAC also won the best of show contest, flaunting their stealth-fighter model entitled "Radar Schmadar."

"A lot of time, a lot of math and a tremendous amount of support from SBVAC went into those boats," said Hedrick Sy, who is a paramedic and the designer of both of SBVAC's boats. When the winners were announced, Sy was "ecstatic that all [his] hard work [had] paid off." "All I did was hold up my paddles and shout out!" he said.

The residents of James College were not as lucky, however. "We flipped over three times and couldn't get past the starting line, forget the finish line," said Samantha Earley, a member of James College LEG. Their pint-sized yacht, engineered by senior Tuan Van Tran, took to the shores with little more than a thin sheet of cardboard between their bottoms and the murky water of the pond.

After the race, students dragged their tattered and water-soaked cardboard piles to the dumpster nearby to discard the boats they had worked so hard to build.

"We really spent a lot of time building that bad boy," said sophomore James Laurenti, one of many regatta boat builders. "But it's the experience that matters. I'm going to remember the regatta, even if my boat is lying in a dumpster."