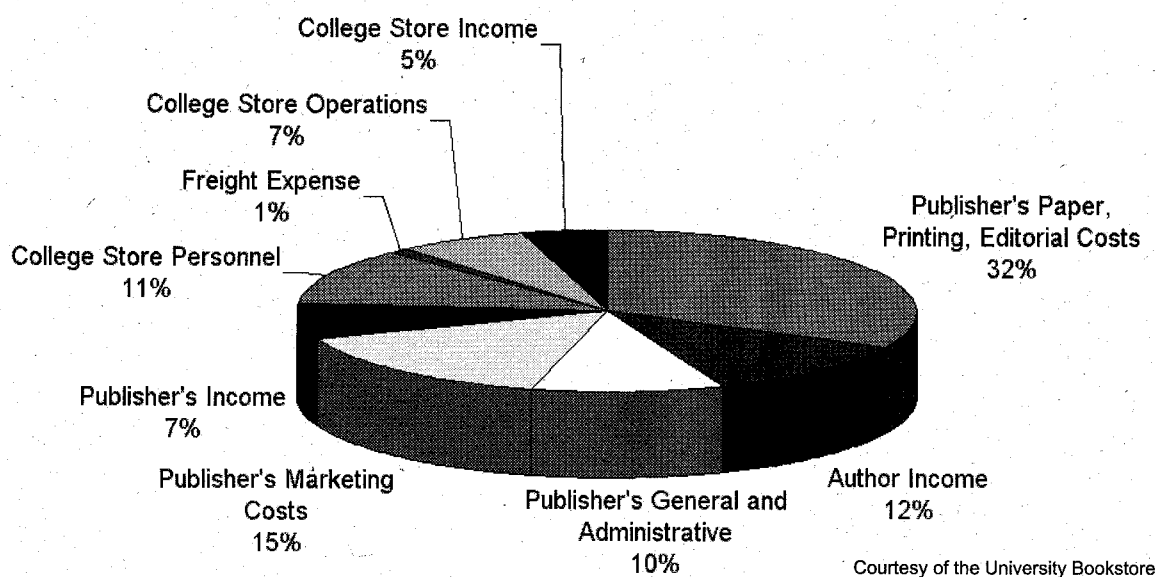


Buying Books Without Breaking the Bank

"Where the Textbook Dollar Goes..." at the University Bookstore



By SURAJ RAMHBIA
News Editor

As another semester commences, students ready themselves for the rigors of lectures, exams, papers, and presentation assignments in the weeks to come. However, students not only have to keep their minds sharp to handle the coursework, but they also must keep their wallets ready. Aside from the costs of tuition or meals, a trip to the campus bookstore may take a chunk out of any student's wallet.

Although the amount of money spent on books per semester ranges based on the number of credits a student is enrolled in, as well as the number of books a particular class may require, the total cost for books per semester is estimated as varying between a baseline of 250 dollars to the upper reaches of 750 dollars per semester. Typically, buying books at a used price from an older student or a bookstore would allow some measurable amount of savings. And, as all SBU students know, the University Bookstore is located in the basement of the Melville library, the place to purchase textbooks, new or used, tax-free.

Although the University Bookstore has been the only bookstore recognized and supported by the University, SBU students over the past several decades have had another bookstore option close to the campus where books are reported to have comparably lower prices. Stony Books, Inc., founded in 1979, is a privately owned bookstore located just beyond the train station on the western end of campus. While students seem to be somewhat split on whether they choose to purchase their books at the University Bookstore or at Stony Books, those that go to Stony Books report that the prices they find are in fact somewhat lower. Store workers who wished

to remain anonymous reported in a direct manner, "Our books are cheaper." Students who purchase used books from Stony Books also confirm that the used books they bought were in very good condition. Sarah Malik, a freshman in SBU's Honors College reports, "You really can't tell the difference." While the same level of quality has been reported for used books obtained from the University Bookstore, a comparison of prices between the University Bookstore and Stony Books shows the differences in price for a certain small set of new and used books. While the prices for new books appear to be unanimously in favor of Stony Books, it appears that the prices for used books are more variable between the two stores.

When asked whether the price disparity, especially with new textbooks, was a result of unusually high prices at the University Bookstore or unusually low prices at Stony Books, Robert J. Breun, the owner of Stony Books, Inc. couldn't pinpoint one specific reason why his store prices would be lower in prices. Breun, who was an SBU graduate in 1973, report, "We do try to cut our margins to stay competitive with the campus bookstore. We try to obtain more used books due to the demand from students. Our prices may be lower because we pay the freight cost for books, we don't transfer the cost to our customers." The pie graph shown describes how the money used to purchase a book at the University Bookstore is allotted. The pie graph shows that 1.2% of the consumer cost is used to pay for freight. Among other expenses, the University Bookstore prices may be slightly higher because of other facilities that are available through the University.

Continued on page 3

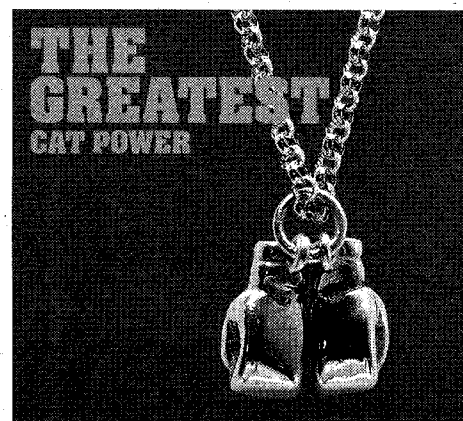
SB Bytes: MacBook Pro



Courtesy of Apple

See Page 9

Rockin' the Brook: *The Greatest*



Courtesy of Cat Power

See Page 9

From the Desk of the Editor

See Page 6



RED HOT RED CAP PROMOS

Jan/Feb 2006

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
22	23	24 All Month: Get 1/2 price Non-Alcoholic beverages at the University Café	25 FREE small Coffee or Tea with purchase @ the Kelly Coffee & Tea House	26 FREE Fountain Soda with purchase of 2 slices of pizza @ Kelly	27	28 FREE Soda with purchase of 2 hot dogs @ the Sports Complex
January 21-31 @ the Seawolves MarketPlace: Get 20% Off any 1 logo item (excludes sale or clearance items)						
29 All Month of February: Get 10% Off @ Cold Stone Creamery All Month of February: 10% Off @ Strawberry Fields	30 All Month of February: Buy 6 donuts, get 6 FREE @ Dunkin Donuts (Rte 25A Stony Brook)	31 FREE Beef Taco @ Campus Connection at H-Quad	1 All Month of February: Get 10% off on Valentine's Day products @ the University Bookstore All Month of February: Get \$5 off @ Yucatan Tanning (347/Stony Brook Rd)	2 \$1 Pretzels @ Tabler Café All Month of February: Get 1/2 price Non-Alcoholic beverages at the University Café	3 FREE Hand Fruit with purchase @ Roth	4 Get 20% off on all Red Sweatshirts @ the University Bookstore Get 50¢ off Bubble Tea @ Jasmine
January 21-31 @ the Seawolves MarketPlace: Get 20% Off any 1 logo item (excludes sale or clearance items)						
5 Get 50¢ off Bubble Tea @ Jasmine	6 FREE Small Chili @ Bleacher Club FREE fountain soda with purchase from 3pm-6pm @ Jasmine	7 Get 100 additional chips at Casino Night @ Campus Connection at H-Quad from 6-9pm	8 FREE fountain soda with purchase from 3pm-6pm @ Jasmine	9 FREE fountain soda with purchase from 3pm-6pm @ Jasmine	10 Get a bagel and small coffee or tea for \$1 at the Union Deli	11 Get 20% off on all Red Sweatshirts @ the University Bookstore Get 50¢ off Bubble Tea @ Jasmine
12 Get 50¢ off Bubble Tea @ Jasmine	13 FREE fountain soda with purchase from 3pm-6pm @ Jasmine	14 FREE any size fountain soda with dinner purchase @ Campus Connection at H-Quad Half Price Pretzels @ the Sports Complex	15 FREE fountain soda with purchase from 3pm-6pm @ Jasmine	16 Get a FREE Cookie @ the Student Activities Center FREE fountain soda with purchase from 3pm-6pm @ Jasmine	17 FREE 2 Scoop Sundae @ EOB	18 Get 20% off on all Red Sweatshirts @ the University Bookstore Get 50¢ off Bubble Tea @ Jasmine
All Week: February 12-18 @ the Seawolves MarketPlace: Get 20% Off any Red Logo Item (excludes sale or clearance items)						
19 Get 50¢ off Bubble Tea @ Jasmine	20 FREE Small Hot Chocolate @ Bleacher Club	21 Get a bagel and small coffee or tea for \$1 at the Union Deli	22 Half Price on any Dessert with purchase @ the Kelly Coffee & Tea House FREE Bag of Chips with any Deli Sandwich Purchase @ Kelly	23 FREE 16oz Fountain Drink @ Delancey Street FREE fountain soda with purchase from 3pm-6pm @ Jasmine	24 FREE Dessert from the Dessert Tray @ EOB	25 Get 20% off on all Red Sweatshirts @ the University Bookstore Get 50¢ off Bubble Tea @ Jasmine
26 Get 50¢ off Bubble Tea @ Jasmine	27 FREE fountain soda with purchase from 3pm-6pm @ Jasmine	28	Wear your red cap to be eligible for these promotions! More Info at www.stonybrook.edu/redcap			

Saving Money on Textbooks

Continued from page 1

Cathy Pacheco, General Manager of the University Bookstore, described how the online bookstore allows students to view prices of books online and make reservations for textbooks. Students have the flexibility of having their books ready at the University Bookstore, or delivered to a separate location. Students also have the ability to sell their books after the end of each semester for staggering 50% of the original cost. This "Book Buy Back" policy is in effect only if a professor places a requisition for that same book in the following semester and if the book itself is in good condition (no writing or excessive marking on the interior). Concerning how University Bookstore prices are determined, Pacheco

replied, "The prices are standardized based on a national organization recognized by the University, which deals with setting book prices for college bookstores."

Omar Moore, the Provost's Liaison for the University Bookstore, affiliated with the Faculty Student association, described how students have the ability to set up a Bookstore Campus Account (BCA), which allows students to borrow money on credit at 0% interest. Moore describes the BCA as "one of the most successful programs at the book store," that is, the BCA is one of the reasons why the students choose to purchase their books from the University Bookstore instead of Stony Books. Moore also noted that as the University Bookstore is part of the campus, it offers students opportunities for employment. Pacheco reported that approximately

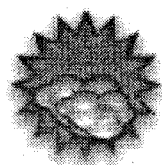
50-60 students participated in one of three orientations during the Winter Intersession for students who would be working at the University Bookstore this semester. These students are able to obtain employee discounts at the University Bookstore.

Therefore, the University Bookstore may charge slightly more money, but it is the result of the University attempting to provide students with reliable services. Although Stony Books, Inc. is also a reputable bookstore, students will not know the prices of books until they physically go to the store. During peak hours for the store (several days prior to the beginning of each semester), price quotes are not available via phone due

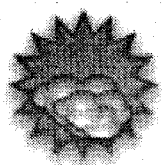
Continued on page 6

Student Forecast: Jan 26 - Feb 1

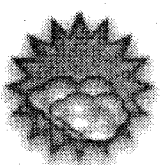
By Britta Merwin



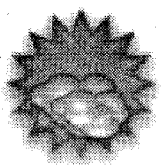
Wednesday:
High 37/Low 25
Mostly Sunny



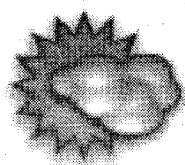
Thursday:
High 40/Low 33
Sunny and Pleasant



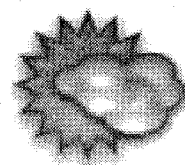
Friday:
High 49/Low 35
Beautiful Sun with few
clouds overnight



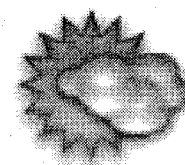
Saturday:
High 47/Low 33
Partly cloudy but
warmer than usual
With a very small
chance of showers



Sunday:
High 45/Low 35
Mix of Sun and Clouds
Still a small chance of
break out showers



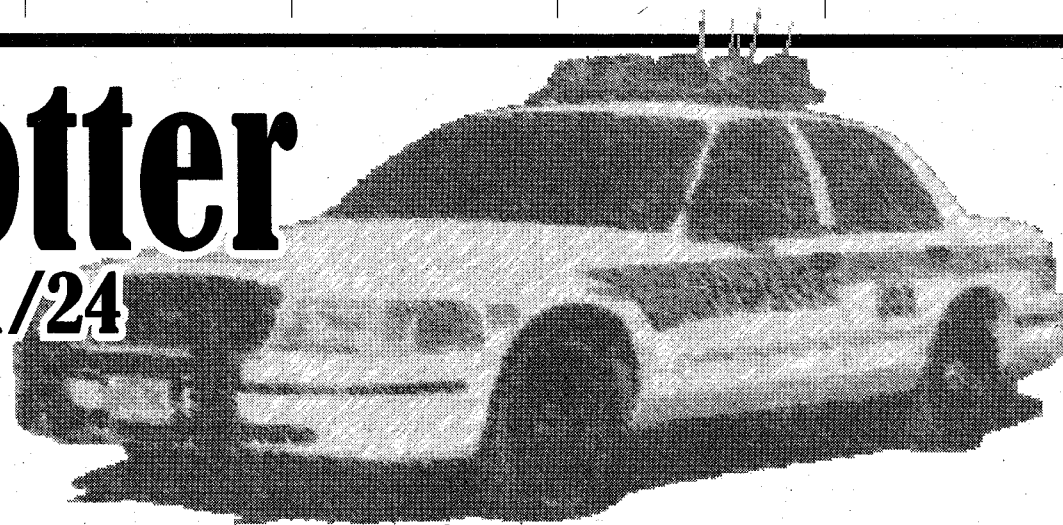
Monday:
High 42/Low 33
Cloudy with some sun,
possible rain showers



Tuesday:
High 40/Low 33
Partly cloudy

Police Blotter

Compiled by Eugene Tan/Statesman 1/13 - 1/24



Burglary

In Baruch College, an attempted burglary was reported at 1:38 PM on 1-13-06.

Vandalism

The front door handles were ripped off the door of West Apartments building G on 1-14-06 at 12:42 PM. The Residence Hall Director was notified.

Disputes

In West Apartments, a dispute between a boyfriend and girlfriend was reported on 1-14-06 at 2:01 PM. In the University Hospital Emergency Room parking lot, a dispute between individuals was reported and corrected at 1-17-06 at 4:43 AM.

Intrusions

Intrusions were reported at the Infirmary at 5:07 PM and at 6:21 PM on 1-16-06. The causes of both intrusions were unknown.

Thefts

On 1-20-06 at 11:10 AM, items were reportedly taken from a patient at the University Hospital.

Harassment

At the University Hospital, it was reported that one patient punched another patient on 1-20-06 at 10:14 PM.

Stolen Electronics

In the Health Sciences Center, various computer items were stolen on 1-21-06 at 2:41 PM. In Arman College, stolen electronics were reported on 1-22-06 at 1:41 PM, and video games were also reportedly stolen at 2:37 PM that same day. In O'Neill College, a stolen PlayStation2 system was reported on 1-22-06 at 2:20 PM.

Stray Animals

In the Earth and Space Sciences building and the Math Tower, a raccoon was reported on 1-22-06 at 3:40 PM, but the police were unable to find it.

Marijuana

In Greeley College, the smell of marijuana was reported on 1-23-06 at 8:14 PM, and two students were referred to the police.

Enjoy a **FREE** Breakfast!

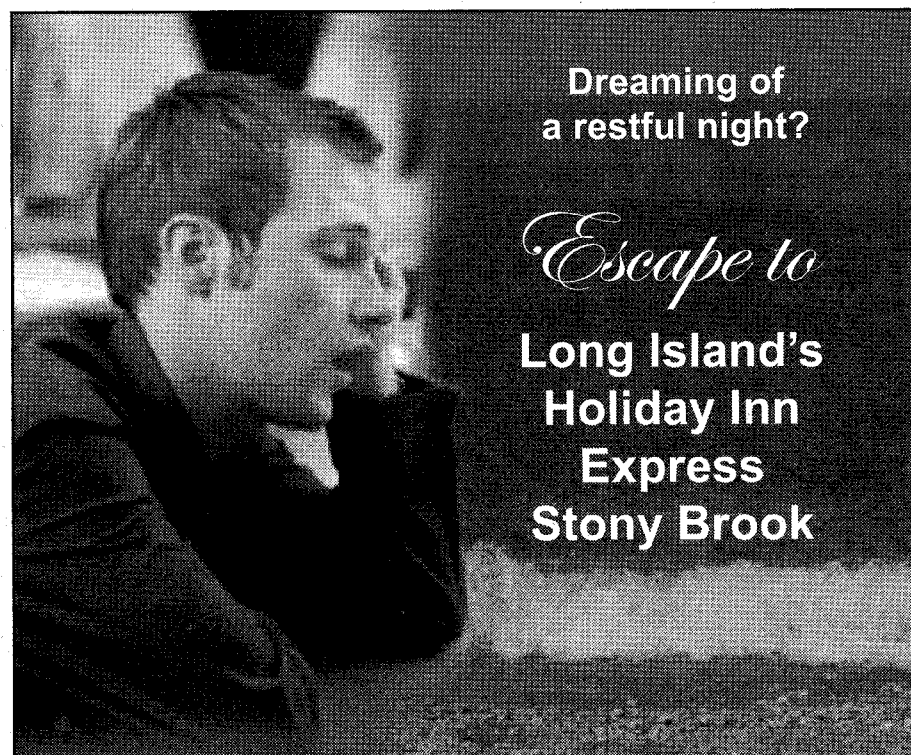
CSA's Back to School Breakfast!!!



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Location: SAC Ballroom B

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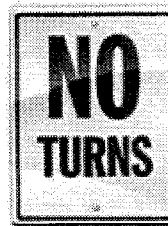
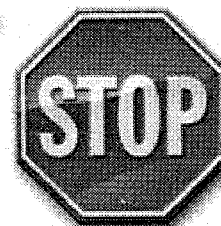
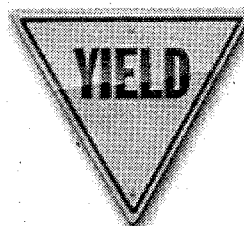


97G Main Street
Stony Brook Village Center
631-751-6953

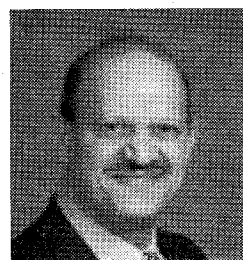
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presents

"LUNCH and LEARN" Time Management Workshop

Wednesday, February 8, 2006 • 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

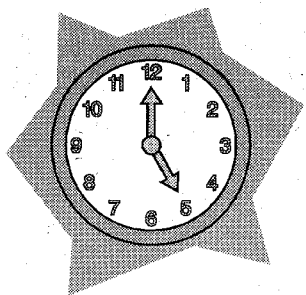
Free Lunch will be provided

Registration Location and Deadline

Office of Commuter Student Services, SAC Suite 222

Wednesday, February 1, 2006, by 5:00 p.m.

For more information, contact the Office of Commuter Student Services,
SAC Suite 222, 632-7353, or e-mail: commuter_services@notes.cc.sunysb.edu



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Statesman production meetings are held throughout the day on Wednesdays and Sundays in Rm 057 in the basement of the Student Union. Anyone wishing to contribute to the newspaper is welcome to attend these meetings.

The Statesman encourages readers to submit opinions and commentaries to the following address:

Stony Brook Statesman
PO Box 1530
Stony Brook, NY 11790

phone: (631) 632-6479
fax: (631) 632-9128

Email us at:
comments@sbstatesman.org

To view previous issues, extra material, and to learn about how to get involved with the Statesman, visit our website at sbstatesman.org.

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WHO WE ARE

The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Sucolian" in 1957 at Oyster Bay, the original site of Stony Brook University. In 1975 "The Statesman" was incorporated as a not-for-profit, student-run organization. Its editorial board, writing, and photography staff are student volunteers while its business staff are professionals.

The Stony Brook Statesman is published twice-weekly on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the fall and spring semesters.

Disclaimer: Views expressed in columns or in the Letters and Opinions section are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Statesman. All content Copyright 2005.

Outlook for This Semester

BY JAMES BOUKLAS
Editor-in-Chief

First off, I'd like to welcome all of you back to Stony Brook after a well-needed rest. At the Statesman, we are looking forward to another semester of great expansion and more in-depth coverage of the issues that affect us as a campus.

In the News section, you can expect a greater emphasis on articles that focus on the events and issues that we deal with on a daily basis. Continuing with the momentum of last semester, we will tackle the threat of long-range tuition increases, Stony Brook's

continuing expansion as a major powerhouse of Long Island and we will look deeper into the workings of government on a variety of levels within Stony Brook, including the USG and University Senate.

We will make every effort to deliver even more entertainment-related content to you each issue, building on the foundation of weekly columns established last semester. We want to review a greater range of music, movies, events and move into other areas of multimedia that interest college students. After a successful first semester of our advice column, Tell Dr. J, we encourage all readers to submit to this column to keep it

vibrant and dynamic.

After a few design revisions over previous semesters, I can proudly reiterate that Statesman Online is a stable and robust resource for the campus community. On our website, sbstatesman.org, you can find a complete archive of articles and, now, photographs that made it to print beginning with last semester. Through our website you can write us feedback, comment on articles, get information on placing advertisements, and a whole lot more.

I thank you for your continued patronage and look forward to serving you throughout the semester.

CONTINUATIONS

Saving Money on Textbooks

Continued from page 3

to the high volume of customers. Stony Books does however have books categorized at their books based on corresponding SBU courses.

It appears that the main advantage the University Bookstore has over Stony Books is availability of the BCA. However, according to new legislation that has been filed through the New York State Assembly (Bill #A02270), it appears that off-campus booksellers will be able to obtain student mailing lists, advertise in campus media and use campus charge accounts. Breun, the Owner

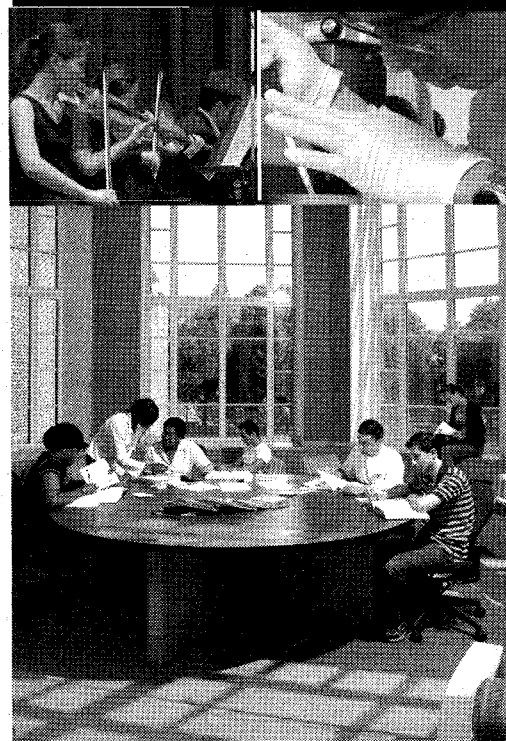
of Stony Books, commented, "Right now, students can't use their University Bookstore Accounts to purchase books at our store." If this piece of legislation gets passed, the fortunes of the University Bookstore could change dramatically.

Professor William Collins who co-teaches BIO203 with Professor John Cabot described his take on the current situation between the two bookstores. He said, quite frankly, "Having some competition is always good. As professors of the university we are supposed to only promote the University Bookstore even though I don't believe it to be a big deal where the students purchase

their books." Collins continued, "One thing I've noticed is that Stony Books is good at finding out what books students need for their classes even if they don't have direct access to the course lists." Collins admits, "There is the feeling that the campus bookstore does charge more." BIO203 is a course that requires materials costing in excess of \$185; this is only if the materials are purchased used.

If one wanted to buy all the books new, the money spent on this one course would be slightly over \$245. In reference to these staggering numbers, Collins grimaced and said, "We just want to help the students out."

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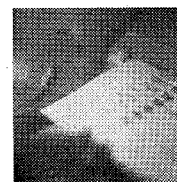
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MOMIX—Opus Cactus
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Tickets \$35

Roald Dahl's "Willy Wonka"
Saturday, February 4 at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm
All tickets \$9

**Cabaret star
Ann Hampton Callaway**
Saturday, February 11 at 8:00 pm
Tickets \$35

Emerson String Quartet
Wednesday, February 15 at 8:00 pm
Tickets \$35

**Johann Strauss'
Die Fledermaus**
Helikon Opera of Moscow
Saturday, February 18 at 8:00 pm
Tickets \$40

**The comic all-male
Les Ballets Trockadero
de Monte Carlo**
Sunday, February 26 at 7:00 pm
Tickets \$35

James Carter Quintet
In an homage to Billie Holiday
Saturday, March 4 at 8:00 pm
Tickets \$30

Sold out shows are not listed.

Artists-in-residence at Stony Brook
University present
Music for a Winter's Eve
Friday, March 10 at 8:00 pm
Tickets \$30
Includes Schubert's "Trout."

**Neil Simon's *The Prisoner
of Second Avenue***
LA Theatre Works Radio Theatre
with JoBeth Williams and Hector
Elizondo
Saturday, March 11 at 8:00 pm
(cast subject to
change)
Tickets \$35

**New
Shanghai
Circus**
Sunday, March 12 at 3:00 pm
and 7:00 pm
All tickets \$15

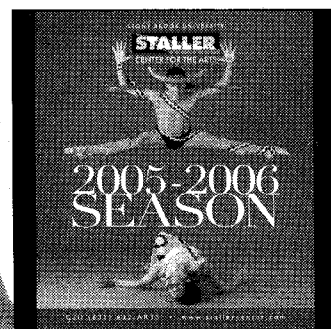
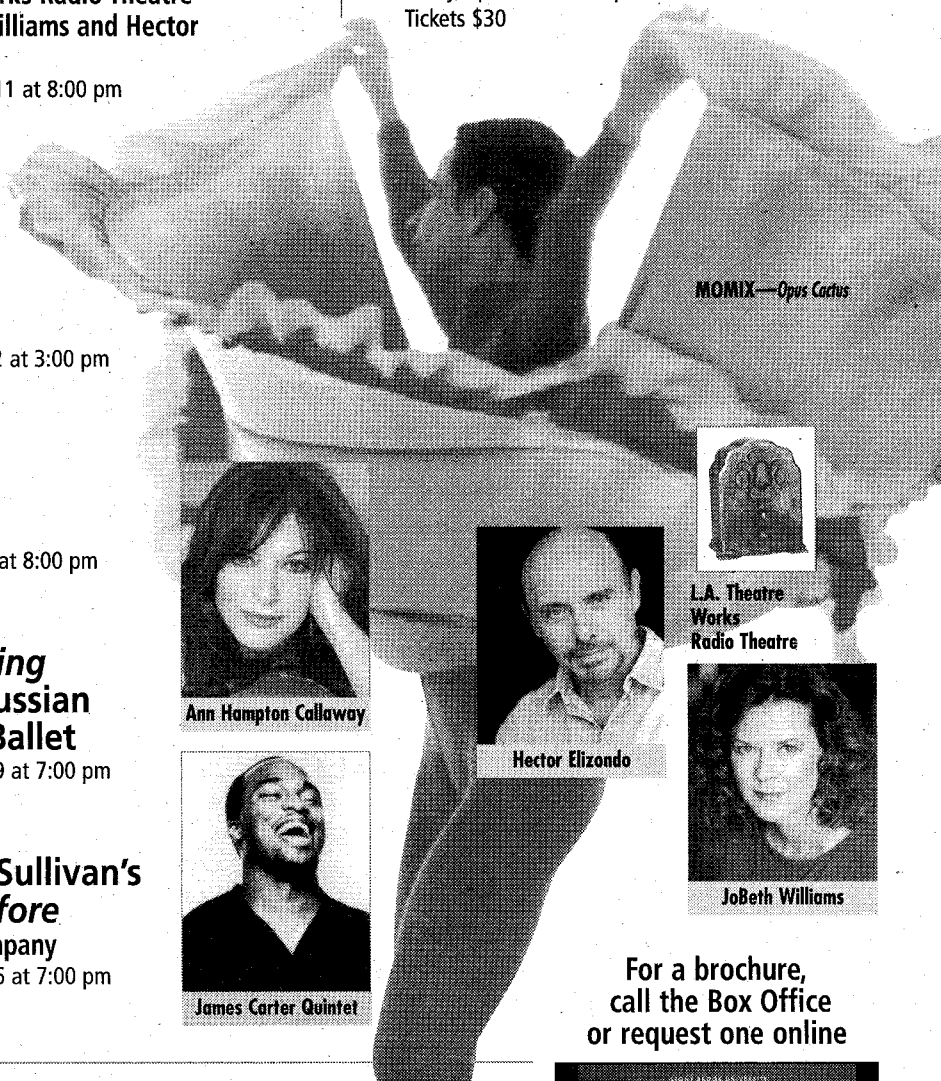
**The Irish
Sopranos**
Friday, March 17 at 8:00 pm
Tickets \$35

***The Sleeping
Beauty*, Russian
National Ballet**
Sunday, March 19 at 7:00 pm
Tickets \$35

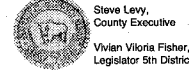
**Gilbert & Sullivan's
*HMS Pinafore***
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With live bluegrass music!
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*Under Southern Skies***
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**Jazz Vibraphonist
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Tickets \$30



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Preview of Semester's Events

Beyond the realm of academics, Stony Brook University offers innumerable events for its student body. While campus lifetime hours on Wednesday are well-known throughout the university, this is simply one aspect of student community. As we celebrate the beginning of a new semester, it is important to recall the events that made last semester memorable. Here are some memorable start-of-the-semester events of 2005 that will enliven us again in 2006:

The Hypnotists and the Mentalists

Each semester begins with hypnotists from around the world putting us in a daze. The fall of 2005 featured well-known hypnotist Steve Atwood, whose simultaneous group hypnotism of about twenty students was the highlight of the evening. As if one mind-empowering event did not suffice, the campus also brought in the popular mentalist Kevin Hurley. The Chill of 2006 continues this tradition with Dan LaRosa, known as "America's Funniest Hypnotist." LaRosa will hypnotize volunteers to perform outrageous, yet hilarious acts on January 26 at the SAC Auditorium from 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM.

The Movies

COCA Movies are routine screenings at the Union that run twice on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (7.00 PM and 9.30 PM). Last semester, the Union screened *The Longest Yard*, *Batman Begins*, and *War of the Worlds* among several other movies. The movies only cost \$1.00 for undergraduates with their ID, and \$2.00 for off-campus students. This year the COCA movies will begin on February 3rd. Other than COCA Movies, art-oriented and foreign movies are shown on a weekly basis through the College of Arts, Cultures, and Humanities, Wang Center, and the Staller Center for the Arts.

The Food and the Games

Events around Stony Brook always feature food. Most of it is free. Last semester the Roth Food Court held an event called "Sushi and Sumo," which featured students enjoying sushi prepared by chefs from New York City and wrestling with their friends dressed in sumo suits! Last semester also featured several ice cream socials. Most significantly, Stony Brook hosted Food Network's Iron Chef, Masaharu Morimoto, who conducted an interactive cooking lesson. On February 9, CSA will be hosting "Cocoa, Crafts, and Games" in SAC Ballroom B from 3.00 PM to 6.00 PM. Whether you are stressed after the first week of classes, or would just like to take a break, this event will delight you with free cocoa and games like Cranium, Jenga, and Taboo. If these games do not suffice, attend Casino Night from 6.00 PM to 9.00 PM in the H-Quad Dining Hall on February 7. Play Blackjack, Roulette, and Poker to win as many chips and raffle tickets as you can. Prizes range from shirts to DVD players.

The Amazing Race

Last semester, WISE, the Honors College, and the University Scholars hosted a version of The Amazing Race. This semester Stony Brook will be hosting it for the entire campus on January 30 in SAC Ballroom A at 5.30 PM. For more information, call 632-7168. Do not miss this great opportunity that will test both your mental and physical prowess to win grand prizes.

The Trips

Stony Brook allows you to take advantage of events outside the campus. Last year, students had an opportunity to participate in a hiking trail. This semester's weather calls for a Mountain Creek Ski Trip that will take place on February 12. Mountain Creek has an impressive array of 46 trails, 11 lifts, 7 tubing lanes, 7 terrain park trails, 36 rails, 1 huge SuperPipe with stadium lighting, 170 skiable acres, and 1,000 snowguns! Pre-registration is limited to 40 and the cost is \$20 (plus a \$15 deposit) for lift ticket and transportation. The trip takes place from 5.30 AM to 6.30 PM.

**For More Events, Visit Our Website
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SB Bytes: MacBook Pro

By JAMES BOUKLAS
Editor-in-Chief

You've been saving up for months, maybe years, and you are finally able to purchase that laptop you've always wanted. It has to be fast, with a big screen and small footprint, capable of doing anything you need it to. As of mid-February, you're in luck- that's when Apple plans to ship its long-awaited MacBook Pro, replacing the now-retired PowerBook. While the guts of this laptop resemble its predecessor minimally you'd have a hard time telling the two apart, at first glance. Nothing looks like it has changed, but the MBP is a completely different beast from anything you've known before.

The biggest change, and what I think is the best asset of the MBP, is the processor. After over a decade of using PowerPC chips, manufactured by Freescale and IBM, Apple finally took the plunge and chose Intel as its main chip supplier. This means that for the first time ever, there is very little technology that distinguishes an Apple from any beige-box PC. Most, if not all, of the components in the MBP are off-the-shelf products, from its Intel's processor, its motherboard, and its chipset. This means you can finally compare Apples to apples, so to speak, when shopping for a laptop. MHz can actually be used as a benchmark for speed between, say, a Dell and an Apple using the same CPU (Intel's Core Duo, in this case). A quick price check shows that you can get a similarly equipped Dell for a few hundred dollars less than an Apple, but you wouldn't want to do that, would you? With the MBP, you get a thinner laptop than what competitors offer, OS X: which is currently virus and spyware free, and a great suite of applications Apple dubs iLife. In essence, a Mac is still a Mac, even if it really is a PC.

Design-wise, you'd be hard-pressed to find a nicer looking notebook. Apple stuck with its "simple is better" mantra, continuing the tradition with a 1" thick aluminum case. The 15.1" screen is brighter than previous models, and Apple claims it is as bright as its desktop LCD series, which has received great reviews. New to this year's model is a fixed web camera, called the iSight. I'll leave it up to you to decide how useful it is. My guess it is not very practical. It packs a slew of other nice features, including a slot-loading DVD burner,

backlit keyboard, integrated 802.11a/b/g and Bluetooth 2.0 wireless devices, FireWire 400, and Gigabit ethernet. There is very little that you might need outside of this notebook. Missing from this revision, however, is FireWire 800- a technology present on the outdated PowerBook. This will specifically affect graphic design professionals; this is in itself a small percentile. Features-wise, this notebook is pretty packed.

As mentioned earlier, the MBP comes with iLife '06 preinstalled. This includes such great software items as iPhoto, iMovie, iDVD, iWeb and GarageBand. These applications are, of course, OS X-only, meaning you can only run them on a Mac. For many of you, this might be what clinches the deal. After having used these applications for years, I can safely say that there really isn't any true PC equivalent, making the Mac my platform of choice.

Let's talk more about the processor. The MBP uses Intel's recently released Core Duo processor, which packs two CPU cores on one CPU, both clocked at either 1.67GHz or 1.83GHz, depending on the model you choose. Compared to a 1.67GHz G4 chip that graced the PowerBook, this processor packs some serious horsepower. Don't be fooled by this, however. Despite the tremendous increase in processing speed, front side bus speed (up to 667MHz from 167MHz) and use of DDR2 RAM, you won't feel a huge speed increase immediately. By transitioning from PowerPC to Intel chips, Apple is required to implement an emulation layer for all programs that aren't x86 native yet. This includes the vast majority of software currently available for OS X. By running programs in this translation layer, called Rosetta, that extra speed is quickly spent, leaving you with a system that doesn't feel any faster than before. The good news is that companies are making the transition to this new platform very quickly. Both Apple and Adobe have pledged to release Intel-native versions of their popular software packages by the end of March and everyday dozens of applications are being converted to run natively.

The bottom line is while your notebook may look like a Corvette, it might drive like a Fiat, at least until more companies transition to this new technology. I definitely rate the MacBook Pro as a great buy that'll give you years of good use.

Rockin' the Brook: The Greatest

By INUR MAMOOR
Asst Entertainment Editor

Artist: Cat Power
Album: *The Greatest*
Release Date: January 24, 2006

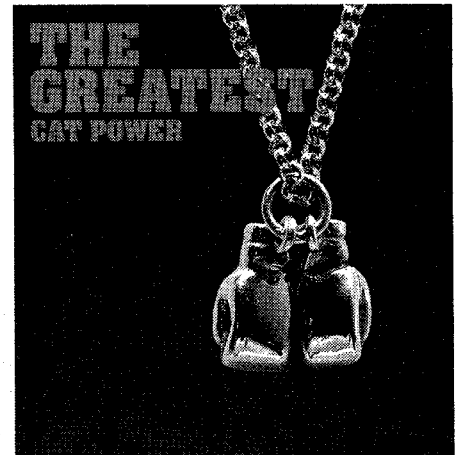
The Greatest will surprise anyone familiar with Cat Power, aka Chan Marshall. Unlike 2003's *You Are Free*, *The Greatest* displays Marshall's ability to write poetic songs, which border on the hopeful. This much anticipated album, Cat Power's seventh, is a return to Marshall's Memphis roots.

There is a sense of intimacy between performer and listener on this album because of Marshall's almost smoky voice, making the sound on this album softer and more approachable. The minimalist mix of piano and guitar echo the loss and longing which Marshall's lyrics highlight. Yet even the sometimes sorrowful lyrics cannot outshine Marshall's sexy vocals, which wrap around the listeners to engulf them in a surreal dreamlike world where potential is never limited and hope and love are real and attainable.

The tracks on *The Greatest* sound like a natural epiphany: experienced in the lazy sun soaked summer days of the South. When you let the overall mellow tone override the lyrics, there is this feeling of contentment, associated with the sense of being carefree.

"Where Is My Love," is an almost bare sounding track that highlights the sexy intimate sound, which made Marshall famous. Another album highlight is, "Love and Communication" which closes the album with its lazy rhythm. A full display of Marshall's soulful, 70's inspired croon can be heard on "Could We" while "Hate" is reminiscent of the melancholy-riddled Marshall known to *You Are Free* fans.

The Greatest creates a sound that is very



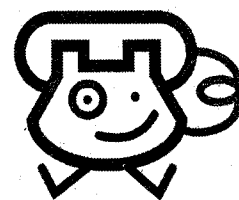
Courtesy of Cat Power

much the standard Cat Power, yet different in subtly significant ways. Marshall paves a new path, mixing old with new, by enlisting the talents of such legends like Al Green; the result is a departure from *You Are Free*, but a venture into new territories, which displays Marshall's talents as an artist.

There are a few tracks that lack the depth and the enchantment that the listener comes to expect from Marshall. Even with these duds, *The Greatest* is a stand out album. It is not stand out in the loud obnoxious way, but stand out in an understated manner. The best part about this album is the beauty it hints at and more importantly where this beauty can take you if you just close your eyes and use your imagination.

1. The Greatest
2. Could We
3. Lived In Bars
4. Islands
5. After It All
6. The Moon
7. Living Proof
8. Empty Shell
9. Willie
10. Where Is My Love
11. Hate
12. Love & Communication

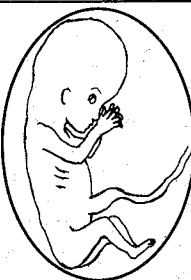
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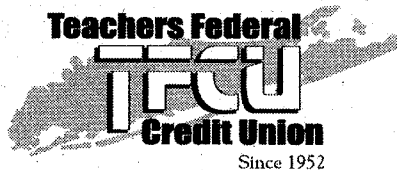
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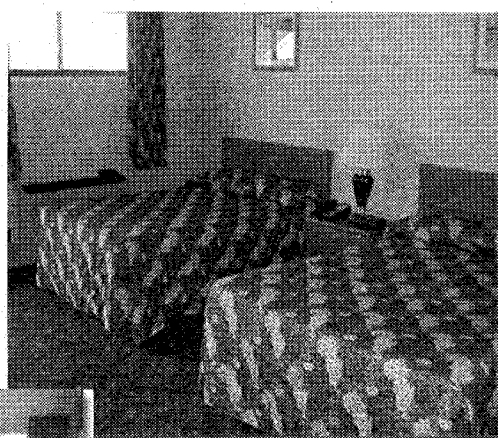
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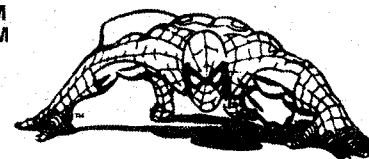
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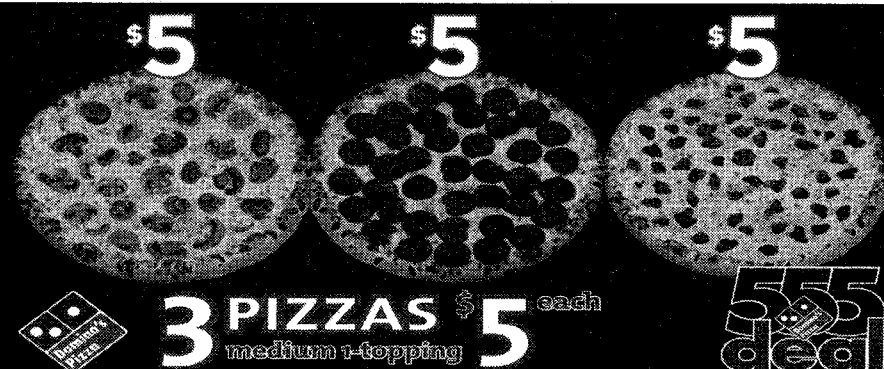
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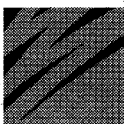
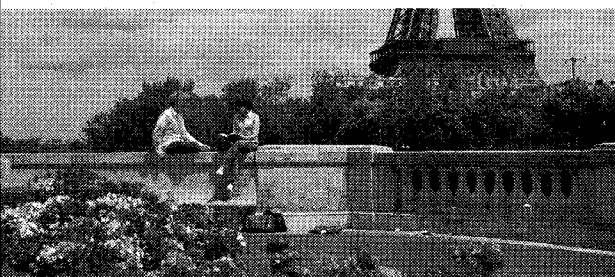
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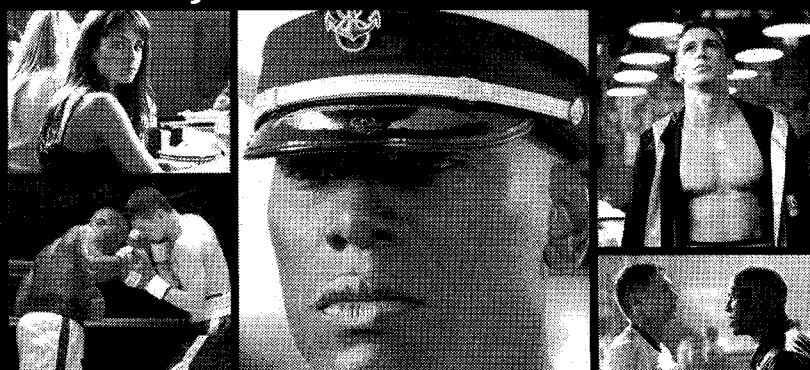
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