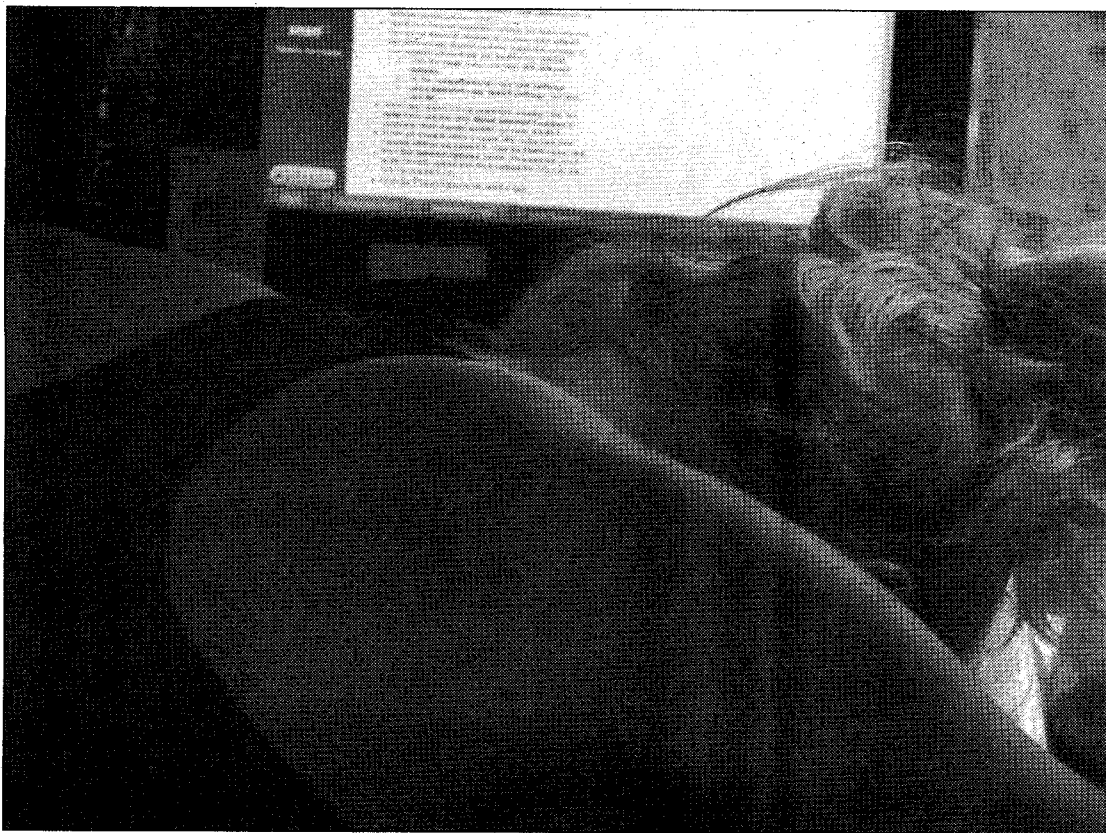


“Big Picture” Key in Course Registration



Solar System's registration process can leave students frustrated.

Nicole Dulmer/Statesman

By JOSEPH WEN
Staff Writer

As the semester draws to a close, students at all levels of academic standing are preparing to complete course registration – a process that is viewed with resignation or apprehension by some. On campus, tales of late graduation, undesired courses, and overcomplicated procedures are plentiful. However, many of the most common pitfalls can be avoided, with some effort.

Senior Dejan Davidovich, a Mechanical Engineering major, opines that his “biggest mistake was listening to my advisor.” Placed in classes that had no bearing on his major, Davidovich was initially knocked off-course for an on-time graduation. The situation was eventually alleviated after “going through about a hundred secretaries.”

Pursuing a double-major program in Business and Mathematics, sophomore Jordan Zamora possesses a dim view of the course registration process, about which he bluntly states, “It sucks.” An EOP participant, Zamora emphasized the competitiveness in selecting certain classes, leading to difficulty in choosing courses critical for completion of majors, and the lack of relevant information provided by the administration, resulting in some confusion amongst elements of the student body.

However, the situation may be improving. The worst stories appear to be circulating amongst upperclassmen, and many freshmen espouse considerably less frustration. This may owe, in part, to this year's implementation of the Undergraduate Colleges, with their smaller student to advisor ratios and accompanying 101-level University Seminars, designed to familiarize first-year students with University workings.

Undergraduate College of Global Studies Academic Advisor Michael Umbay offers useful advice on the subject. Often, he observes students “acting on their wants without considering the possible impact.” Students, in an effort to take particularly enjoyable courses or create a convenient schedule, may find that they lack courses necessary for an on-time graduation. Additionally, Umbay acknowledges that certain competitive classes may require one to eschew class in favor of commencing registration at the very beginning of one's enrollment appointment.

Competitive underclassmen who desire more of an academic challenge are advised to note that many higher-level classes provide educational benefits on the basis of the overall college experience, rather than sheer intellect. However, “if the student is willing to take the challenge, go for it,” says Umbay.

In order to avoid unintended scheduling mishaps, students should “frame the academic vision,” says Umbay. It should be determined whether one will disregard a usual length of study and focus on quantity and quality of material learned, or graduate on time to further career goals. Accordingly, students should “prioritize within courses” and “talk to professors, staff, and students.”

Students in the midst of the course registration process would likely find it helpful to familiarize themselves with all aspects of the process. Course registration demands critical attention – a poor schedule may cause one to take particularly odious classes or even put one off track for graduation. By acclimatizing themselves to the system, heeding the advice of advising personnel, and listening to the experiences of upperclassmen, students can create a schedule well-suited to their interests and sufficient for timely graduation.

LASO Makes A Difference



— SEE PAGE 3 —

Tabler Center's International Film Festival

*Breaker
Morant*

— SEE PAGE 7 —

Rockin' the Brook:

Rotten Love

— SEE PAGE 8 —

USG Senate Update

Senate Saves Best Act for Last

By WILL JAMES
Asst. News Editor

Fueled by complimentary sandwiches, and hopped up on some sort of end-of-semester superhuman burst of effort and efficiency, the Undergraduate Student Government Senate spent its last meeting blasting through its longest-ever agenda in the shortest-ever time frame. The Senators, although light-hearted and celebratory, were concurrently focused; as a function of this spirit, every single vote was passed unanimously.

Among the most noteworthy accomplishments, the Fall Revision Budget was finally presented and passed, after an all-night session of the five-person budget committee. The surplus \$120,000 was painstakingly distributed to 35 struggling organizations, based on a highly specific series of criteria. Sports clubs, who prided themselves on being the most vocal and persistent

of any of the vying organizations, seemed to have gotten what they deserved, with the Crew team receiving almost \$10,000, men's Rugby receiving \$13,000, women's Rugby receiving \$6,000, and Ice Hockey receiving the most of any club, at \$25,000. During the presentation, Senator Lynch, of the Budget Committee, faced the gallery and said, "If any clubs are present tonight, and want to discuss the money they received, we will sit with you after the meeting and go through your request line by line, penny by penny." After the committee, chaired by Executive treasurer Jackie Wu, made their case, though, the clubs seemed satisfied.

Also of note, three acts were passed in succession, (largely clerical in nature), that were tailored to improve the workings of the USG during future semesters, and appease some final requests of clubs while the opportunity was still available. The Transparency in Government Act, presented by Senator Wisnoski, established

a file of all USG documents, a copy of which is to be bound, placed in the USG office, and opened to the public. Executive council member Romual Jean-Baptiste supported the act, saying, "It creates a sense of history within the USG." The Viewpoint Neutrality Act, presented by Senator Al-Shareefi, legally recognized the Senate's support and practice of "viewpoint neutrality" (a constitutional requirement that ensures that all senators treat all clubs fairly and objectively). Finally, a Resolution in Regard to the Use of the Charles B. Wang Center expressed the Senate's recognition of clubs' frustration when trying to book activities there.

The meeting concluded with various Senators and gallery members taking to the podium to praise the supreme turnaround that the organization had experienced since last spring's notorious semester. Applause sounded as Chair Sam Darguin said, for the final time, "Meeting adjourned."

SBSTATESMAN.ORG

Police Blotter

Compiled by James Bouklas/Statesman

12/4 - 12/06



Intrusion in HSC

At 12:48 PM on 12-03-05, an intrusion alarm sounded on the third floor of the Health Sciences Center. The area was subsequently patrolled.

Suspicious Persons

In Schick College on 12-03-05, 4:03 AM, there was a report of a suspicious male. All appeared in order upon arrival of police.

Criminal Tampering

Duct tape was found wrapped around door

knobs in Douglass College at 4:02 AM on 12-03-05.

Crisis Interventions

One female was transported to CPEP from Langmuir College at 12:16 AM on 12-04-05. On 12-04-05 at 3:05 AM, a female was reported to the SBVAC regarding claims that she was suicidal..

Unruly Groups

An unruly group was reported in the West Apartments, building D, on 12-04-05 at 4:09 AM. On 12-04-05 at 4:26 AM, an unruly group was re-

ported in the Kelly Café. Both conditions were corrected.

Thefts on Campus

Large screen televisions were stolen from the Douglass and Dresier Recreation Rooms on 12-04-05 at 1:11 PM and 1:24 PM, respectively. A bicycle was reported stolen by the Student Union Building at 10:56 PM on 12-05-05.

Criminal Mischief

A window was reported broken at 6:23 AM on 12-05-05 in the Melville Library.

Club Spotlight: LASO

By JENNY WANG
Staff Writer

"They wanted love, basically," said Hilda DeJesús, Secretary of the Latin American Student Organization (LASO), of the children in the pediatric psych ward that LASO members went to visit earlier this semester.

For approximately an hour, the members first introduced themselves to the children, and then played games with them and made masks. Some games included "The 'I Like' Game" and the Hokey Pokey.

When asked what the most touching moment was, DeJesús replied, "The kids wanted us to hug them even though we're not allowed to touch them."

Although they were not able to give them hugs, their presence there helped to brighten the children's day. "It was a very fulfilling experience," said LASO president Melany Centeno. "They were able to feel like normal kids. I really felt like we made a difference for them. Sometimes they don't have any outlet to get in contact with the world."

Centeno wants LASO to be that outlet. "We're actually trying to see if we can make it the LASO philanthropy." Centeno also noted that she wanted LASO to be known for community service, not just for socials.

A specific executive board position just

for community service, the Community Service Coordinator, is currently held by Paola Travez. This position helps in having actual community service events, such as this one, but getting the word out is another task in and of itself.

And it could be a larger task than one might suppose. "I know who they are, but I didn't know that they were doing that," noted Arpana Rayannavar, a junior at Stony Brook University. Although she is not Latino, Rayannavar's response shows that at least some of the larger campus community does not know of LASO's involvement with the community.

Another student, Amiris Ramirez who is also a junior at Stony Brook and, although she is Dominican, is not involved with LASO, made a similar remark, saying, "I know they do a lot of activities and programs but I didn't know they did community service."

Although the word may not be out yet that LASO has a philanthropic side, there are those who would like to help out if presented with the opportunity. When asked if he would start being more active in LASO if they were doing community service events, Jose Navarro, a junior who has gone to a few LASO meetings, replied he would and noted, "It's one thing is to have programs and another to be active in the community; it's more helpful when you're active in the community."



Students in the Latin American Student Organization.

Courtesy of LASO

"I know they do a lot of activities and programs but I didn't know they did community service"

Raising the Tide with the HC

By SURAJ RAMBHIA
Asst. News Editor

From the early hours in the morning to the late hours at night, the Frank J. Melville library is a place on campus where SBU students can find a quiet place to concentrate on their coursework. Students have this main library as a resource for books, periodicals and references. However, to speak of the Melville library as just an ordinary, traditional library would sound preposterous to anyone who has set foot in the library SINC site along with the major offices of Undergraduate Academic Advising on the second floor and Undergraduate Academic Affairs on the third floor. Students can also venture to the basement of the Melville library if they need to employ the use of Fedex Kinkos® or if they wish to purchase books or school apparel from the Barnes & Noble® Campus Bookstore. Students also come to the Melville library to attend lectures and seminars on the upper levels.

Although a countless number of people enter and exit the Melville library every day for their own needs, it seems that few SBU students know about a small group of offices located in the Northeast corner of the Melville library. These offices include those of the Director of Undergraduate Colleges, Jean Peden, as well as the Director of Programs for Research and Creative Activity, Karen Kernan. This section of the Melville library is also home to the Honors College main office and the offices of the two Honors College direc-

tors, Ms. Laurie Fiegel and Dr. Dan Davis.

It is here in the Northeast corner of the Melville library that the Honors College holds its base, serving approximately 250 students on campus (60-65 per year). Honors College students represent only a small fraction of the total number of students on campus, representing just slightly more than 2% of the total undergraduate student population. Thus, it seems logical that an institution of such a small proportional magnitude wouldn't have the ability to positively affect the rest of campus. According to Davis, who is the Faculty Director of the Honors College and also a professor and researcher affiliated with the Geophysics Department, this is not the case. Davis commented on one of his beliefs, "Ultimately, a rising tide raises all ships."

Davis has been the Faculty Director of the Honors College for the past two years, and although he reports that he enjoys working with undergraduate students more than with his graduate students, Davis comments on the level of "energy" at which Honors College students pursue their coursework as well as extracurricular activities. Davis added, "One thing that characterizes Honors College students is that they are involved in a lot of things other than school." When making this comment, Davis mentioned several organizations on campus, like clubs and newspapers.

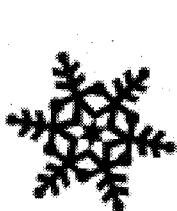
Davis clearly enjoys his work on campus as a professor and researcher. When asked why he decided to take on this

administrative role, he responded, "As any self-respecting academic, let me make it clear that this was the one job on campus that I would take on." The reason for this, Davis commented, was because of what the job offered: more time to interact with Honors College students; to aid in advising, actually having to tell students to tone down the rigor of their coursework and to become a part of the close knit liberal arts community that the Honors College has become.

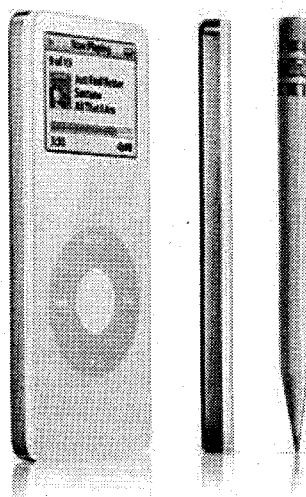
Davis's role as the Faculty Director involves handling the curriculum, to provide ideas for its improvement as well as staffing for the Honors College courses. According to Fiegel, the Administrative Director of the Honors College, this is one of the reasons why the position of the Faculty Director changes periodically every several years. Fiegel commented that, "A new faculty member comes in to provide their input and ideas." While it is an undeniable fact that the work of both directors is imperative to the proper function of the Honors College, Davis argues, "It's the role of the administrative director that keeps everything running, the day-to-day activities." In fact, a large part of the role of the Administrative Director is recruitment of students. This often takes Fiegel, who has worked with the Honors College since 1995, to high schools in the nearby area (Long Island and New York City) in an effort to reach students and increase the awareness of

Continued on page 6

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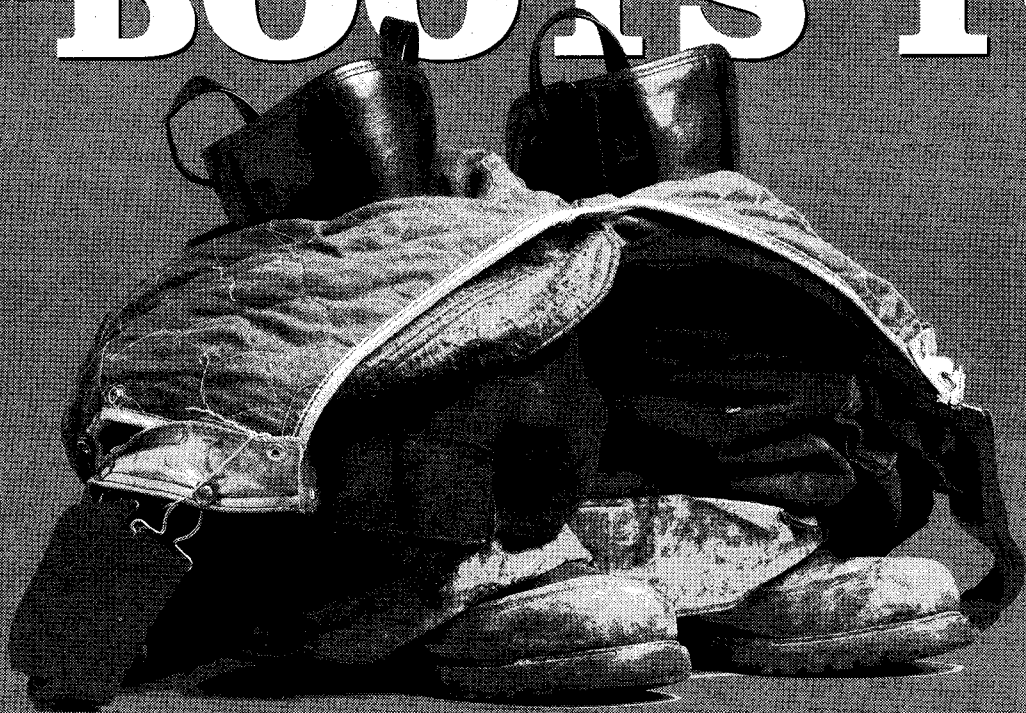
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Statesman production meetings are held throughout the day on Wednesdays and Sundays in Rm 057 in the basement of the Student Union. Anyone wishing to contribute to the newspaper is welcome to attend these meetings.

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

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Stony Brook, NY 11790

phone: (631) 632-6479
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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 Sucoian" 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.

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Registering for Classes Should Be Easy

There is no doubt that registering for classes today is much less stressful and time-consuming than it was many years ago. The days of standing on line in the administration building or phoning in requests is over, replaced by the online Solar System. But just because things are better than they were in the past doesn't mean there isn't any room for improvement. The Solar System offers a slow and clunky interface for searching for and adding classes to your schedule, and the system can be easily bogged down to the point of non-usability.

These issues wouldn't be so bad, except for the fact that the University recently revamped the Solar System within the past couple of years. Many students saw this as a step backwards, as searching for open classes

and the like became more difficult and time consuming. The concept of progress implies that we will continually be moving forward and to see such a vital system as course registration undergo a revamping only to come out less usable than before is disheartening, to say the least.

There has been progress on certain fronts when it comes to registration, however. This year, the University changed the way in which priority registration is handled. Last semester, it was the case that all priority registration dates were before regular registration, leaving many upperclassmen closed out of classes they needed to graduate. Now, registration dates are based on the year you are in, taking priority registration into account. The new order is

thus: priority seniors, seniors, priority juniors, juniors, etc., down through freshmen. This is an example of administrators hearing input from students and faculty and turning that into policy, marking good progress.

We wish it to be the case that those in charge of the online registering system would take into account the ample criticisms of this current incarnation of the Solar System and change it accordingly. We need a system that is easy to use and flexible, and one that does not buckle under the pressure of catering to such a large student body. Course registration is something that affects all students at this university and it is something that needs to be improved upon with priority, lest the current situation persist.

CONTINUATIONS

Honors College Spotlight

Continued from page 3

the Honors College at SBU.

The efforts of Fiegel and Davis along with past directors of the Honors College have increased both the number of applications as well as overall enrollment in the Honors College over the past decade. According to Fiegel, "I've seen the number of applications rise from 100 per year when I first started to about 1400 last year." While the size of each class was at about 30 for a block of years in the late 1990's, Fiegel reports that there was a move to increase the size of the Honors College about five years ago, when the number of students in each class were doubled to approximately 60. Fiegel spoke reverently about the level of diversity of the Honors College students, "We have students from so many different backgrounds, people who have chosen many different tracks."

Both Fiegel and Davis reported that the further expansion of the Honors College would eliminate some of the closeness of the program with respect to contact between the directors and students as well as from student to student. Davis commented that the honors courses (HON designation), which are used as an alternative to the DEC curriculum, would have to be expanded from their current state of three-credit seminar-based courses with three sections each, as well as the other one-credit multidisciplinary mini-courses that are offered each semester. Davis also added, "While the curricular reasons have been important in our decision to keep the size of the class down, the main reason has been to maintain a sense of community." When asked about her views on her role with advising students, Fiegel said reverently, "I feel honored and blessed in what I do." She added, "Because of the students, my job is never extremely difficult."

It should be noted here that, concerning the finances of the Honors College, both Fiegel and Davis emphasized that they feel the administration has been fair in giving them a fair amount

of funds. Davis commented rather objectively, "Most of the funds given to the Honors College go to the students in the form of scholarships, which they would have received had they not been in the Honors College. Thus, the Honors College does not pose a major financial burden for the University." Fiegel commented on the proportionality of the funds given to the Honors College as the program expanded over the past several years, allowing for events such as the Honors College camping trip which will be held in the spring, as well as a recent trip to the Metropolitan Opera to see *The Marriage of Figaro*.

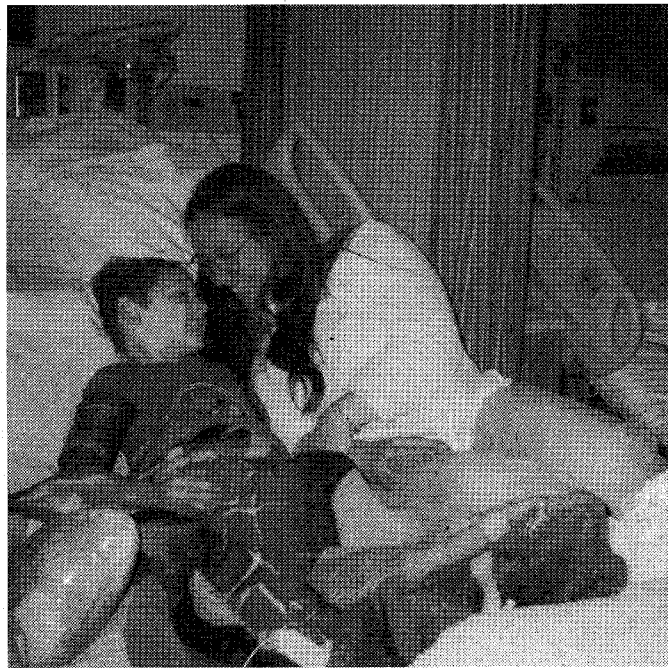
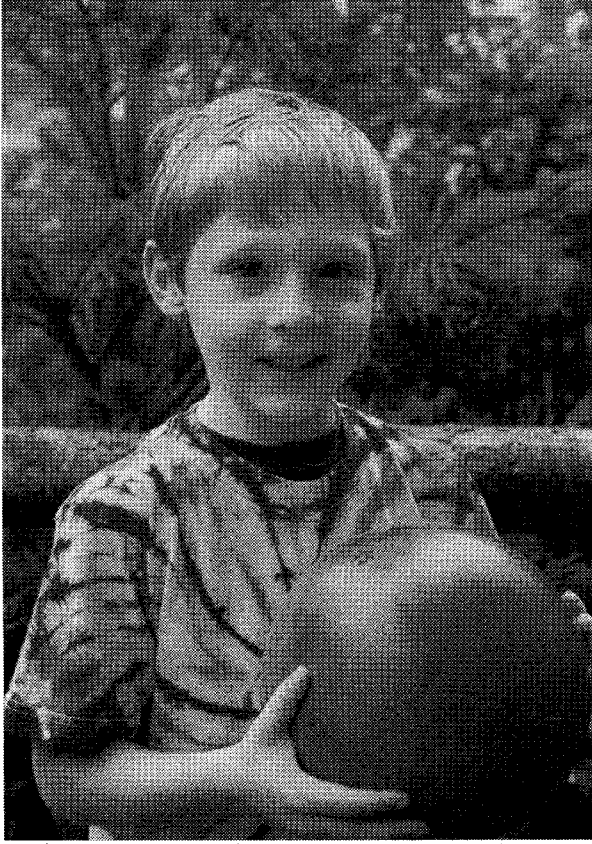
When asked about what the Honors College brings to the rest of the University, Davis said, "The time spent in actual Honors College classes is very little." Thus, most of what students gain from their Honors courses is put back into the university system, in an effort to take advantage not only of the most rigorous coursework across campus, but also extracurricular activities that require time, creativity – essentially a great deal of personal investment that is not counted in the number of credits taken. Davis cautioned, however, that the Honors College, by no means, holds the "smartest students on campus." He said, "Some students do not thrive in the interdisciplinary seminar-based environment that the Honors courses provide... Although I have had excellent experiences with Honors College students thus far, I have also met students who were not a part of the Honors College who did extremely well here [at SBU]."

Davis continued by emphasizing, "The Honors College does not make any effort to maximize SAT scores." While reading applications for the new class each year, Davis said, "We try to select students who have put their time into various extra-curricular activities as well as classes." The minimum SAT score accepted for entry into the Honors College is 1300, and the minimum un-weighted GPA accepted is 93.5. However, continuing on the idea of the irrelevance of quantitative scores as an absolute

measure, Davis went on to comment on the University's vast array of resources present, the research opportunities available and how the students who were the most involved in their high school communities would probably do the same here at SBU.

When asked about his view of the Honors College as well as his experience so far at SBU, first-year student Honors College student Saad Khan responded emphatically, "It's great! We get respect from professors and other stuff like priority registration and suite style housing. That's hard to get otherwise as a freshman, and we don't have to take DEC's." While Khan was able to describe all the benefits that come with being an Honors College student, Michael Small, also a first-year Honors College student, reflected more on how he feels his Honors coursework has helped him in other subjects. Small analyzed his first semester here at SBU, "The interdisciplinary Honors courses enable me to make connections between diverse topics. They have definitely helped me in my American Pluralism class where we examine ideas of what it means to be American. I feel I am better able to think outside the box." Commenting on the interdisciplinary nature of the Honors courses taught by a panel of professors, Alexander Bruno stated, "I think it's better to be taught by professors in different fields, giving their views on a subject from different angles."

Seniors in the Honors College also have an event coming up this spring: The Honors College Symposium. It is usually held for a about three to four days, five hours per day, and the event gives seniors the opportunity to present their theses. Davis, actually, was amazed at the variety of projects last year that people had worked on and the effort the students put into their work. Prior to the program last year, Davis commented, "I thought I would need a lot of caffeine to get through the presentations, work that the students had compiled for about a year and a half. That was not the case!"



Johnny Madonia (2000-2005)

Johnny Madonia (2000-2005) was diagnosed in August of 2005 with Stage III, T-Cell, non-Hodgkins, Lymphoma. Johnny responded well to treatment, but due to other complications he passed away on September 22, 2005.

During Johnny's stay at Stony Brook University Hospital the staff at the Child Life Room worked very hard to make his stay as pleasant as possible. The Child Life Program provides games, movies and entertainment to the children for the Pediatric, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and the Children's Hematology/Oncology (Cancer) Ward as well as to their siblings. The Child Life Program also assists children with returning to the classroom after a hospital stay.

Johnny's father, John, has been a Facility Manager at the Student Union and the Student Activities Center for seven years and works regularly with students, faculty and staff on events.

Johnny's mother, Paula Peterson ('92) and John Madonia ('89) are both graduates of Stony Brook University. Paula is a Social Worker with Riverhead Mental Health Clinic.

Please consider supporting the following in memory of Johnny Madonia:

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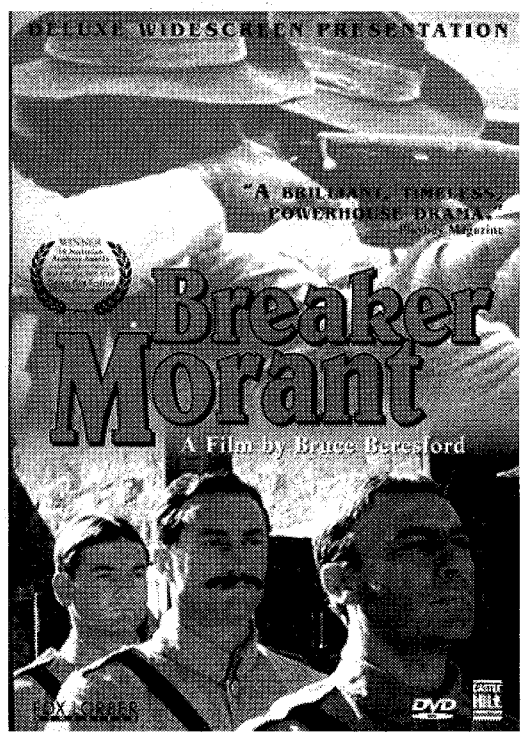
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Thank you.

Tabler Center's International Film Festival

Breaker Morant



Courtesy of Fox Lorber

By SHANZA MALIK
Staff Writer

Directed by Bruce Beresford, *Breaker Morant* runs 107 minutes and tells the heartbreaking true story of Lieutenant Harry "Breaker" Morant of the Bushveldt Carbineers. Nicknamed "Breaker" for his extraordinary ability for breaking horses, Morant is joined by two other Australian lieutenants in being prosecuted for questionable war crimes. The story takes place during the early 1900's and focuses on the brutality of the Boer War and the injustice towards three Australian men, wrongfully accused of "war crimes" in order to bring the Boer's attention to the "justice" being served by the English militia. Used as scapegoats, the three Lieutenants (Morant, Lt. Peter Handcock, and Lt. George Witton) helplessly await the inevitable verdict of guilty for crimes that were originally not crimes, but actually orders under which they acted.

The entire movie takes place in a series of flashbacks during the trial of the three Lieutenants. The General Staff believe that this will be an easy trial; an easy way to commit three innocent men to death in order to create a peace negotiation with the Boers (by proving they are fair and are sentencing their own men). However, there is a small problem: the defense puts up a surprisingly convincing front, in a desperate attempt to salvage the situation.

The defense attorney, Major J.F. Thomas, originally a non-legal figure, is assigned to this case in an attempt to minimize the publicity and time spent on it. This, however, is what creates a great

argument for the defense. Thomas forges friendships with the three lieutenants and in doing so, finds out the truth behind the entire case. He fights valiantly for their lives but, ultimately, only one is pardoned of some charges. Lt. George Witton is committed to a lifetime of military servitude, out of which he only served three before he was released. Lts. Morant and Handcock are both sentenced to death by firing squad, from which the famous line, "shoot straight you bastards..." comes from.

The set relayed a feeling of claustrophobia; the small "courtroom" with a single chair for a witness seemed to seal a very closed fate. The position of the defense and the jurors also played a role in minimizing the actual contact of the defendants and the judges. Lastly, the military uniform and the formality of entering the courtroom with a salute and at attention lent to the gravity of the situation.

Although this is based on a true story, there is always the inkling of hope that it will not be an unhappy ending. I was sincerely attached to the characters portrayed in this film and shed a few tears at the guilty verdict and the execution that followed. It was depressing to watch the firing squad shoot Morant and Handcock, but the overall film was very good and portrayed a heartbreaking story of men that were prosecuted for doing their job.

I recommend this film for anyone that is interested in early history of the 20th century as well as drama fanatics. The tense situation build up in the courtroom was enough to make this an excellent film that left you craving a verdict.

New York City CONNECTION

The Gentleman Dancing-Master

By LES HUNTER
Staff Writer

William Wycherley's *The Gentleman Dancing-Master* has, until the recent production at The Pearl Theater Company, never before been performed in New York City. A trip to view the 300-year-old play at Pearl will tell you why. Wycherly, the ribald Restoration-era playwright of the classic *The Country Wife*, shows little of the crack that his witty characters exhibit in that piece.

The Gentleman Dancing-Master centers around Hippolita, the clever niece of Don Diego, a wealthy merchant cum-Spanish gentleman wannabe. On her 13th birthday, Diego forbade his daughter from leaving the house, or from any man entering the house until Hippolita married her cousin, the foppish French stereotype Monsieur de Paris. Hippolita, with the help of her maid, Prue, connive to get the handsome young gallant Mr. Garrard to sneak into the house to pay her a pre-nuptial visit. When Hippolita is discovered with her young wooer by her uncle Diego, she concocts a story that Garrard is in actuality her dancing instructor, hence the name, as well as the logical subsequent comedic sequence of having a manly and ungraceful dancing instructor. Cue somewhat funny but otherwise banal awkward dance scene.

Hippolita, played by Marsha Stephanie Blake, is one of the few convincing performers in the production. Though sometimes you wish she would spend more time on a few good lines, she mostly delivers the wise child with

deftness and agility. Bradford Cover, playing the part of Mr. Garrard, has an amazing ability to always look surprised that he is on the stage. Sean McNall, as Monsieur de Paris, is so over the top in his fop-stock that he seems more like an antiquated campy gay stereotype. Every scene that he is in becomes so overdone that the production begins to feel more like a satire of a Restoration comedy. These Continental tropes though, that of the foppish Frenchman and the passionate Spaniard, are already too expected to cause much comedy.

Many of the problems of the production come from misreadings and misunderstandings of lines by the cast. Multiple double-entendre lines are repeated for their most basic use, and not nuanced for their subtler meanings. Take, for example, the line spoken by the character of Monsieur de Paris, when it becomes apparent that he has contracted Gonorrhea from a prostitute; in excusing himself for a late entrance to meet his betrothed, he protests, "I could not rise in the morning."

It would be best if you, too, did not rise to the occasion. Don't bother with *The Gentleman Dancing-Master*. In all, the dead really can't dance. Why raise the dead for this?

What:	The Gentleman Dancing-Master
Where:	The Pearl Theater Company, 80 St. Marks Place, NYC
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Rockin' the Brook: *Rotten Love*



Courtesy of Levy

BY INUR MAMOR
Staff Writer

Anyone who knows me will tell you that I am a sucker for anything to do with Morrissey and/or The Smiths, so when I got wind on the indie circuit that there was a new NYC band where the lead singer's vocals were reminiscent of Morrissey's well-known and loved croon, I had to get my hands on their CD. The band is Levy, and their debut release, on One Little Indian, which has been generating all that talk, is *Rotten Love*.

Listening to the album for the first time, the vocals reminded me of so much more than Morrissey and yet not quite Morrissey. The Morrissey-esque vocals add a warm and sincere touch to the tracks. Vocalist James Levy's voice sounds more like what he thinks Morrissey sounds like as opposed to what Morrissey really sounds like. It's a funny play on an iconic sound which is familiar to many. Morrissey isn't the only influence you can pick up on; call my crazy, but the deep raspy voice of Levy echoed The Pogues, while the bittersweet pop vibe called visions of Belle and Sebastian to mind.

The stripped down guitar riffs give *Rotten Love* a simple sound, but by no means does this simple sound get boring. Each song is pure and engaging in its own way. Lyrically the album is about love, but as the title may hint, it suggests that not all love ends in bliss. *Rotten Love* opens with "Rotten Love," where Levy, in a forlorn voice, sings, "I think about you and what you've done, I think about you and what you've become." While Levy sings this you get the impression that the song encompasses him, that he is losing himself within the lyrics and music of the song. This adds a touch of sincerity and true emotion to a song which is engulfed in sorrow.

"In the Woods" has vocals which make me think of The Pogues, but a softer and gentler version. Levy croons, "Don't tell me that you love me if you don't know why" over and over again. When he sings, "She told me that he's just a friend, I told her that he's just a trend," he hits the epitome of teenage angst and love lost. What makes listening to *Rotten Love* so enjoyable is that not every track is this melancholy sadness; while "In the Woods" may have a heavy dash of forlorn vocals and "On the Dance Floor" a catchy epic song, "You Be Sweet" and "Rector Street" have whimsical croons which highlight *Rotten Love*.

The thing about Levy which I cannot get over, the thing which makes this album so good to hear, is that here is an indie band which is truly expressing what it means to be indie. They are leaving the popular mode of dance punk, post-punk revival, and any other regurgitated sound to cultivate their own sound. *Rotten Love* is an album which is working on many levels and the effect is much needed and so refreshing. If you want to check out Levy's sound, which I highly recommend, visit their website, where you can hear three full songs off of *Rotten Love*.

Rotten Love Levy

1. Rotten Love
2. Matthew
3. On The Dance Floor
4. In The Woods
5. You Be So Sweet
6. Rector Street
7. Wednesday
8. See Saw
9. Rivka
10. Sunday School

Events: A Campus Xplosion

BY ELIZABETH SCISCI
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday, music, dancing and celebration filled the Tabler Arts Center as Stony Brook's Cultural Xplosion brought students from all over campus to relish in the University's diversity. Various student performers represented their backgrounds and different cultures through traditional dance, song and clothing from their nations of origin. The evening culminated in an enormous, professionally catered feast that featured dishes from all over the world.

Aside from the festival's intentions to expose and commemorate the presence of the many cultures represented at Stony Brook, the Cultural Xplosion served a humanitarian purpose as well. An assortment of different charities under the collective heading of "Tis the Season" received the benefit of the event's three-dollar ticket sales. NANA's House, standing for Not Alone and Not Afraid, is one such charity. Volunteers set up programs to help both children and their parents to recuperate from both the psychological and physical effects of domestic abuse. Proceeds also went to Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit, nondenominational Christian housing organization which aids in combating the worldwide housing crisis. Operating solely with volunteers and donations, and succeeding in building simple, affordable houses for those who lack shelter, Habitat for Humanity seemed a worthy cause especially with the approach of the holiday season.

The event had a somewhat shaky start, the technical crew a bit flustered from a no-show DJ, and having to set up and learn how to use a campus sound system. However, the small difficulties they had switching CDs for various acts and having appropriate microphones on went largely unnoticed by the audience and the result was a smooth-running collection of colorful, toe-tapping acts. Jeffery Paul, the volunteer master of ceremonies for the occasion, kept the audience entertained between acts with charming dialogues and jokes, always recognizing the appropriate times to stall for the sake of the preparing performers.

Performances ranged from poetry readings to traditional dances of Asian and Middle Eastern nations and vocal presentations from pop to gospel. Lion Dancers, with their elaborate two-man operated dragon costume, showed off

their team work and cooperation as, accompanied by a live drummer, they ducked and weaved around the platform stage, leaping and successfully operating all the moveable parts of an elaborate puppet. The Ballroom Dancers Club compiled a medley of dances, featuring a scintillating tango and doing well to keep the audience upbeat and interested. A few beautiful selections by the Gospel Choir were performed accapella, and a Chinese sword dancer showed off her fluent motions and disciplined technique. Two sororities – Omega Phi Beta and Gamma Phi Upsilon – also offered their talents toward the program's charitable cause, both showing off their hip-hop moves for an enthusiastic crowd.

A fashion show was featured, giving the audience a taste of the elaborate dress robes of various countries. Geeta Malieckal helped coordinate this aspect of the Cultural Xplosion, recruiting models, teaching runway etiquette and editing the song mixes. Every model acted professionally, an obviously well-rehearsed asset of the evening's program. "Overall, the event turned out better than we thought it would," said Malieckal. "The acts were more extravagant and successful than we anticipated – much better than in rehearsals."

Nanditha Das performed "Bharathanatyam," an interpretive dance native to southern India that serves in telling a religious story. Das has taken seven years worth of lessons, requiring as much as two months to learn a single intricate and lengthy dance. Her grace and perfect rhythm captivated the audience for as long as eight minutes. "It was so much fun to participate," said Das. "I was a little nervous though. I wasn't sure how the crowd would respond. It's not the kind of entertainment that college students are used to."

But the crowd received every act wonderfully, polite to all representations of hugely different cultures and expressing their enthusiasm only at appropriate times. The audience was the most impressive aspect of the Cultural Xplosion, a clear representation of the tolerance and understanding that Stony Brook prides its reputation on. Attendance was incredibly underestimated, and ticket takers had to refuse droves of students wishing to see the performance. If the event continues as an annual practice, holding it in a bigger space seems a necessity for its continuity.

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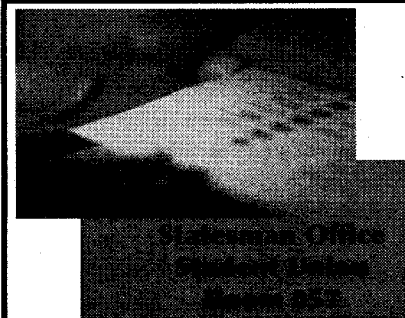


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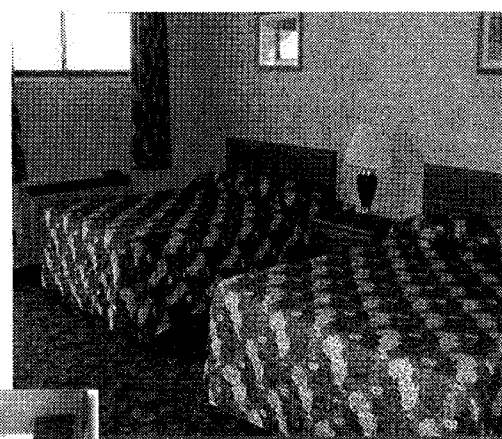
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Game Watch

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- Dec. 13:** Wm's Basketball v. Dartmouth
7pm - Indoor Sports Complex
- Dec. 23:** Men's Basketball v. Albany
7pm - Indoor Sports Complex
- Dec. 28:** Wm's Basketball v. Delaware State
7pm - Indoor Sports Complex

Away

- Dec. 9:** Track @ Fordham Quad Meet 2
6pm - Bronx, N.Y.
- Dec. 10:** Wm's Basketball v. George Washington
2pm - Washington, D.C.
- Dec. 10:** Men's Basketball v. UMBC
7pm - Baltimore, Md.
- Dec. 14:** Men's Basketball v. Hofstra
7pm - Hempstead, N.Y.
- Dec. 17:** Wm's Basketball v. St. Johns
2pm - Jamaica, N.Y.
- Dec. 28:** Men's Basketball v. Connecticut
7pm - Storrs, Conn.
- Dec. 30:** Men's Basketball v. Wagner
7pm - Staten Island, N.Y.

Sports in Brief

Indoor Track and Field Kicks Off Season at Fordham Quad Meet

Dec. 3, 2005 - Bronx, N.Y. - The men's and women's indoor Track and Field teams opened their season on Friday at the Fordham Quad meet. The men's throwers led the way, taking the top three spots in the shot put to lead the Seawolves.

Justin Miller won the competition with a throw of 48'5", followed by Julien Lemarie in second (43'07") and Ken Guerin in third (43'04"). Other solid performances came from Brian Farrell and Shaun Krawitz in the 3000-meters, finishing first and second respectively in times of 8:29.9 and 8:42.6. The men's 4x400-meter relay team of Melvin

Genao, Andre Raymond, Mubaarak Muhammad and Steve Katz finished second with a time of 3:33.3.

On the women's side, Dana Hastie won the 3000-meters in 10:12.8, while Kerry Salzano was third in 10:33.1. Sarah Herbert took second in the 800-meters in 2:19.4, while Rosanna Peralta tied for third in the 400-meters in 63.3 and Caitlin Walsh was second in the 60-meters in 8.1. The 4x800-meter relay team of Sarah Herbert, Angie Washburn, Danielle Lewis and Liz Jaquay was second.

The Seawolves are back in action on December 9 when they return to the Fordham Quad meet.

Anthony Stutz Named Stony Brook Pitching Coach

Dec. 5, 2005 - The baseball team announced that former Stony Brook pitcher, Anthony Stutz, has been named as the new pitching coach for Matt Senk's squad. After graduating from Stony Brook in 2003, Stutz spent three summers playing professional baseball for the Brockton Rox and served as a part-time instructor at All Pro Sports in Bellport and at AMAPRO Sports in

Farmingdale.

Stutz joined the Stony Brook team in 2001 and made a team-high 23 appearances. After posting a 5-3 record with five saves, Stutz made the move to the starting rotation in 2002, en route to being named the team's Most Valuable Player. Stutz closed out his career with the Seawolves with an 11-7 record and 109 strikeouts in two seasons.

Men's Lacrosse Announces 2006 Schedule

Dec. 6, 2005 - The 2006 Stony Brook men's lacrosse schedule will feature seven home games and matchups against six teams that finished in the USILA Top 20 Poll in 2005. The Seawolves will face Virginia, Army, Penn State, Albany, Denver and Hofstra as part of a 14-game regular season slate, head coach Lars Tiffany announced.

The Seawolves begin the 2006 season in Charlottesville, Va. against perennial power Virginia on February 26, one week before the home opener against Harvard on March 4. Three days later, the Seawolves renew acquaintances with Army (Mar. 7) at West Point, in a rematch of one of the best games in the nation from a season ago. Following a home game

against Siena (Mar. 11), the Seawolves visit the Nittany Lions of Penn State (Mar. 18) before returning to LaValle for a three-game homestand.

The Seawolves will host Rutgers (Mar. 28), Vermont (Apr. 1) and Denver (Apr. 3) before hitting the road to face America East defending champ Albany on April 8. The month of April also features road games at Lehigh (Apr. 12), Binghamton (Apr. 22) and the regular season finale at UMBC on April 29. Stony Brook also plays host to Hartford (Apr. 15) and to local rival Hofstra on April 25.

Stony Brook is coming off of a 10-6 season in 2005 and an appearance in the America East title game.