

## Blasphemy OR Freedom?

High-Profile Figures Take the  
Danish Cartoon Controversy to Stony Brook

By WILL JAMES  
News Editor

After all four panelists had given their introductory speeches at Thursday night's panel discussion, "Blasphemy or Freedom?: Analyzing the Danish Cartoons," a young man in the back of the room stood up, accepted a microphone, and read the evening's first comment from a folded piece of loose leaf paper: "You seem to have said that the printing of the cartoons was unjustified. I have some reasons that they might be justified..." As the filled SAC Ballroom turned, apparently shocked into pristine silence and stillness, the young blonde-haired student rattled off a long list of every major terrorist attack in the last five years. A handful of onlookers, seated around him, applauded afterward, while most of the audience appeared stunned and uncomfortable.

After the panelists had responded, the young man pivoted abruptly and stormed out of the room without another word. The outburst, which represented the pinnacle of tension and energy,

was also representative of a polarization of the players in the event. A sect of the audience claimed the printing of the cartoons was an exercise of "freedom" while the panel claimed "blasphemy." The audience contained a majority of Muslims, though not overwhelming.

The goal of the event was to host a discussion of the events surrounding the September 30th, 2005, printing of satirical depictions of the Islamic prophet Muhammad in a Danish newspaper, Jylland's-Posten. The cartoons have sparked months of international controversy, resulting in protest, violence, and death.

"Blasphemy or Freedom?" was sponsored by the Stony Brook Muslim Student Association, Americans for Informed Democracy, a non-partisan, non-profit organization that focuses on

education in international issues, and the Society of Professional Journalists. In reference to the events in question, the event was aimed at sparking dialogue between experts and students.

The panel contained many high-profile figures. Sister Sanaa Nadim, who opened the discussion with a prayer, is the long-time Chaplain of Stony Brook's Muslim Students Association and a lobbyist for Muslim rights in Washington D.C. and elsewhere. The young Imam Abu Yusef is an eminent Muslim activist and teacher in Queens. Roy Gutman is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, for his coverage of war crimes in Bosnia, and is now an editor at Newsday. Shamil Idriss, who appeared late to the 7 o'clock discussion after battling the traffic from Manhattan, is the Deputy Director of the UN's Alliance of Civilizations, and has a deco-

rated history of international humanitarian service. All of the members of the panel, with the exception of Gutman, were Muslim.

The stated goal of Imam Yusef was to explain the anger of the Muslims over the printing of the cartoons. He said, "Not only do we love good,

**"It seems  
Huntington's 'Clash  
of Civilizations' is  
coming true before  
our eyes."**

- Attendee at Discussion

but we hate evil. Not only do we love guidance, but we hate misguidance—that is why the Muslims are angry."

He also hoped to educate the listeners in the importance of the prophet Muhammad to Islam. He said, "It is difficult for someone as insignificant as myself to speak of someone so significant." He added, "We are angry on behalf of Muhammad. It is a part of our religion, part of our belief to be angry on his behalf." In reference to the widespread violence and destruction that occurred as a result of the anger, he said, "I am not justifying violence."

The young Imam viewed the cartoons as an attack on freedom, saying, "What happened to

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## Stony Brook *In Vogue*

February Snow  
Showers Bring  
March Sunshine

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## Tabler Center's International Film Festival

*The Discrete Charm of  
the Bourgeoisie*

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# Hospital News in Brief

By SURAJ RAMBHIA  
News Editor

## Patient Receives New Treatment to Remove Tumor

Two weeks ago, Jerry Mannato, received a new and effective procedure for a tumor in his lung. This new procedure, known as radiofrequency ablation (RFA) was suggested by Mannato's surgeon, Thomas Bilfinger, M.D. Bilfinger recommended the alternative minimally invasive procedure because of Mannato's past surgical history. Mannato, a man who had never smoked in his life, a man who kept up with his exercise had already undergone open-heart surgery twice in his lifetime.

The RFA procedure itself has been used to treat liver

cancer as well as other disorders. While treatment with RFA has not been prevalently tested in lung cancer patients, it is the belief of Dr. Bilfinger that the technology of RFA is promising and still evolving.

## Funding for Breast Cancer Research at SB

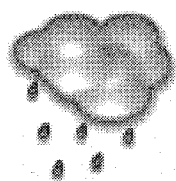
Recently, the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Fund awarded five SBU Medical Center cancer researchers a total of \$250,000. These five researchers, working in varying areas of study, were given the money to aid their investigations of the molecular basis breast cancer. These results from these studies could lead to earlier detection and targeted therapies against breast cancer. It should be noted that the Carol M. Baldwin Breast Cancer Research Fund has given a total of \$2.6 million

to Stony Brook researchers over the past 10 years.

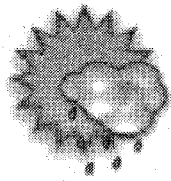
## Gala Raises Money for AML Research

Last week, Smithtown resident Joseph Colleta presided over the First Annual Marilyn Colleta Benefit Gala. The event was held in an effort to raise money for the Blood and Marrow Stem Cell Transplant Program at SBU Hospital, specifically for the treatment of Acute Myelogenous Leukemia (AML). The benefit gala, which was sponsored by the Father Seyfried Council 821 Knights of Columbus of Kings Park, was held in tribute of Marilyn Colleta, the late wife of Joseph Colleta who died of AML while receiving treatment at SBU Hospital. In total, the event raised approximately \$20,000 for AML research.

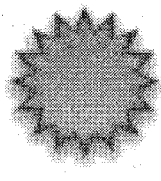
## Student Forecast: March 13 - March 19 *By Britta Merwin*



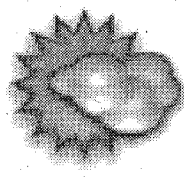
**Monday:**  
High 57/Low 46  
Morning fog with rain throughout the day



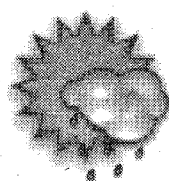
**Tuesday:**  
High 52/Low 37  
Possible showers during the day, cold front moving in during the late afternoon



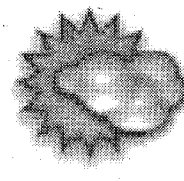
**Wednesday:**  
High 43/Low 31  
Mostly sunny but cooler temperatures



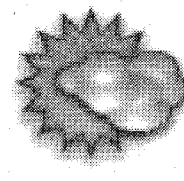
**Thursday:**  
High 45/Low 28  
Partly cloudy with a chance of showers overnight



**Friday:**  
High 42/Low 26  
Small chance of rain showers or mixed sleet



**Saturday:**  
High 40/Low 24  
Sun and clouds, coolest day of the week



**Sunday:**  
High 43/Low 30  
Partly cloudy and pleasant

# Police Blotter

Compiled by Will James/Statesman

3/8 - 3/10



## Harassment

At Whitman College, a dispute with a roommate's boyfriend warranted a police response on 3/8 at 10:05 a.m.

On 3/8, at 8:04 p.m., the police responded to a call of aggravated harassment at the Chapin Apartments.

A student at Langmir College called the police on 3/9 at 1:29 a.m. regarding aggravated harassment via phone calls.

On 3/9, at 12:44 p.m., the police responded to a call from the University Hospital, regarding aggravated harassment via telephone and email.

On 3/9, at 9:13 p.m., the police responded to a call of harassment at the West Apartments.

## Thefts

On 3/8, at 10:54 a.m., four tires were reported stolen from a vehicle at Kelly Quad.

A purse was reported missing from SAC Ballroom A on 3/8 at 3:04 p.m.

An internet router was reported stolen from Stimson College at 9:19 a.m. on 3/9.

At 10:20 a.m. on 3/9, a laptop was reported stolen from the University Hospital.

On 3/9, at 10:30 p.m., a laptop was reported stolen from Douglas College.

## Parties

On 3/10, at 12:44 a.m., the police were called to help break up a party at the West Apartments.

On 3/10, at 12:53 a.m., the police helped break up a party at Gershwin College..

## Unruly Groups

A suspicious group was reported lurking in the stadium parking lot on 3/8 at 11:46 p.m. All appeared normal upon arrival of the police.

The police were called upon to deal with an unruly crowd at Douglas College on 3/10 at 2:03 a.m. All of them cooperated with the police.

# Podcast Lectures Imminent?

By ZUHAL KHWAJA  
Contributing Writer

In this day and age, new technology is coming out left and right. Things seem to be getting easier by the day, with navigation systems in cars able to tell us where to go up to the last mile, our electronic planners ringing whenever a class or appointment is about to start, and cell phones inevitably buzzing about four to five times within the hour. What else could we possibly need to make our lives easier?

Of course, one thing we couldn't possibly live without is entertainment. And not only that, but entertainment on the go! How much more could we ask for? Not much, because now we have the massive world of entertainment tightly packed into the 2 by 4 inch iPod - from watching missed television shows to seeing new movie releases, as well as listening to thousands of our favorite hits, we can do it all with a pair of headphones and a large square of gigabytes.

The iPod, originally created as a hard drive for the Apple PC, quickly transformed into a portable music mp3 player with computer software that provides every album and artist we want to hear wherever in the world we might be. Year by year, the iPod transforms in size and capability, from only playing music to storing pictures and

playing video games. One can also store all types of contact information, and plan life day by day through a datebook and calendar.

Life isn't as easy as the iPod makes it seem. We still need to function - go to work, clean the house, and go to class. Well, actually, I can tell you that going to class might not be mandated as much as it once was. College students all over the nation are not only elated, but enormously grateful for the latest thing the iPod can do for them: podcasting lectures.

University professors throughout the nation are taking full advantage of the latest technology to give their students the full educational experience. Professors in the University of Southern California and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, to name a couple, have been recording their lectures onto the internet since the fall of 2005. They upload the lectures in recordings onto the Internet, so their students can then download them onto the iPod through the iTunes software and listen, rewind, fast forward, maximize and minimize the volume, wherever they are. From working out in the gym to studying for the next exam, you can be listening to the professor talk about the material right then and there. As Chemistry professor McKenna of the University of Southern California explains, "This gives the student different options to

get the information in the lecture and very importantly, it allows the student to go back and access it again." So, the college student wonders, "Can life get any better?"

Well, hold on there for a second - living in the world today, we have to realize that with every technology comes the inevitable positive and negative. And what can the negatives of a Podcast lecture be? For one, the student is lacking classroom atmosphere and interaction with the professor and other students on a personal level. If students do not go to class just because they feel they can catch the lecture later on their iPod while driving home or walking back to their dormitories, they are going to experience the losses sooner or later when exam time comes. Professors stress the importance of teacher student interaction, questions being asked, as well as taking advantage of office hours. Students do need class time in order to fully take advantage of the material presented. It's true, they can email professors with questions in regards to the lecture, but it is not the same as being present in class, listening to the professor present the material to you, or visually seeing diagrams on the blackboard or a PowerPoint.

Hearing other students' questions is important as well, and that isn't possible with merely listening to it on the iPod. T.A.'s to Podcasting Professors are try-

ing to make it clear to students that the Podcast is not a substitute for attending class but an additional resource for learning the material, so states Amy Barrios an assistant chemistry professor. A particular T.A. in USC explains that even though the Professor is posting the lectures on the net for all students, only a few have stopped coming to class, and that most of the class is consistent with attendance. Neda Ebrahim, a Stony Brook junior, seems to agree with this idea, explaining that with the Podcast lecture, "It makes it hard to really interact with the professor, because when you have a question you can't just ask your iPod - you have to write it down somewhere until you get a chance to meet with your professor."

Well, other students look at it differently. Stony Brook freshman Saad Khan makes his opinion clear that the Podcast is better in a way, because kids fall asleep in class a lot of the time, and it's an advantage that they can go over it however many times they want and they can listen to it before exams when they feel a sense of urgency. "That feeling where you feel like you know nothing at all, and your mind is going blank two minutes before the exam is about to start." So as students in Stony Brook give their perspectives, one is ready to ask, "So when is the podcast lecture coming to SBU?"

# Cartoon Debate Hits SBU

Continued from page 1

freedom of religion? What happened to tolerance? What happened to a multi-cultural society?" He made a point of focusing on how anger could be beneficial, in sparking cross-cultural dialogue.

Later on, Eric Berte, a member of the audience, said, "It seemed like the panel was too busy giving the reasons for why this violence erupted and not taking enough time to condemn it." Berte also said, "I wouldn't necessarily say I had a different perspective [after the discussion], but I feel like I had a slightly better understanding of what angered Muslims so much about the cartoons."

Roy Gutman's role was to offer the press' perspective on the issue. He made it clear that he was speaking on behalf of Newsday. Gutman emphasized, "The Danes have a right if they feel it's something they need to publish, so publish it." However, he defended Newsday's decision to not publish the cartoons, which, as he described, resulted from two days of debate. "We could not see any justification for publishing them," he said.

Gutman made a point of saying that some of the violence that occurred as a result of Muslims' outrage over the cartoons was a manipulation by Middle Eastern governments of what he described as "legitimate anger."

Berte said, "No one up there was really representing free speech. Not even the guy from Newsday was really defending free speech," to which Erica Smith, another

audience member, added, "It would have been nice if he wasn't so worried about representing his paper."

Idriss's goal was to address the long-term consequences of the cartoons, from the perspective of an international official. He offered various points of sociological analysis, testifying that the situation of Muslims in Europe is a much-overlooked factor in the equation. He also clarified the fact that much of the Muslim world views the U.S.-led war on terror as a "war against Islam," and that it causes them to be defensive. He described the accumulation of these factors as a "room full of standing fuel," to which the cartoons were a "spark." Gutman fortified this theory by saying, "The Muslim reaction was not spontaneous."

"Where do we draw the line between free speech and hate speech?" Idriss said. He also used his position to report to the audience the state of international affairs. "It's hurt relations at an official level."

George Agathos, who attended the event, said, "I think [Idriss'] point about the disenfranchisement of Muslims was one of the most important comments."

The reactionary violence in the Muslim world proved to steal the focus of the event, most of the time. At one point, an audience member asked whether or not the Jewish people would react in a similarly violent manner, in a similar situation. To this, Sister Nadim said, sarcastically, "Yes, power to our Jewish friends for locking up a man who didn't believe the Holocaust occurred," in reference

to events in Austria.

After the event, Berte said, "Violence like this is never justified and I felt as if some panelists were trying to excuse their behavior."

During the question/answer session, a Muslim-American audience member said, "It seems Huntington's 'Clash of Civilizations' is coming true before our eyes."

The event went a half-hour over its scheduled time to end, in order to accommodate the questions and comments of the gallery. Despite the fact, many audience members left feeling that the discussion was somewhat inconsequential. One of them said that he was turned off by the panel members coming off as, "preachy."

"I think the event could have been better if there was one member who was strictly pro-free speech - someone basically representing another point of view, since it seemed that the panelists almost agreed on everything," said Berte, adding that he heard more panelists were scheduled to attend, but couldn't make it. However, he concluded, "Still, I enjoyed the event, and I'm glad I came."

Afterward, Adam Osman, the moderator of the discussion, said, "It went a lot better than we had hoped."

Of the young man who stormed out after offering the first hard-hitting question of the night, Imam Yousef said, afterward, "It was an intellectual question - it was a question that had to be asked." He added, "I was happy he asked the question, but I was not happy that he left."

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, March 13, 2006



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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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#### WHO WE ARE

The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Socolian" 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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# Free Speech vs. Extremism

On September 30, 2005, a Danish newspaper published a series of cartoons that mocked the Muslim Prophet Mohammed – the Western world has been apologizing ever since.

Over 139 men, women, and children were killed as a result of protests or violence associated with the reactions to these cartoons – 823 are believed to be injured, according to cartoonbodycount.com. This is not the fault of the Danish newspaper or the European papers that republished the cartoons as a sign of solidarity. The fault lies entirely with the perpetrators of this shameful violence.

Newspapers have a widely-recognized right to publish material that may be considered to be in bad taste. This comes with the territory of Freedom of the Press. In this country, this is the first item in our Bill of Rights, and the majority of countries in Europe hold this right very dearly, with the recent and notable exception of Austria and other countries with Holocaust denial laws. The right to publish controversial works does not necessarily mean that all people everywhere have to like it. We, as lay people and ordinary citizens, are also endowed with the right to express ourselves, be it in peaceful demonstrations or publishing endeavors of our own.

This is not the first time, however, that religious extremism has led to extreme violence

in the recent past. According to the Canadian Broadcasting Company, in a piece published in mid-February entitled, "Muhammed Cartoons: A Timeline," a over 200 people were killed in riots protesting the statement made in a Nigerian newspaper that the prophet Mohammed "might have chosen his bride among the Miss World contestants." The article also goes on to point out the death sentence given to Salman Rushdie by Ayatollah Khomeini for publishing what he considered to be a blasphemous work. To be fair, religious extremism does not necessarily translate into Muslim extremism. Recently, British historian David Irving was sentenced to three years in prison for denying the Holocaust in Austria. When asked how the Austrian government could so grossly violate free speech, Austrian historian Hajo Funke told the BBC that the "luxury of Anglo-Saxon freedom of speech... is not for us, not yet."

It is to be expected that the violence occurred mainly in poor countries with disenfranchised populations. The real issue here lies with the numerous apologies from governments and from people across the globe. The Danish newspaper in question wrote a formal apology for publishing the cartoons; the Danish government apologized, but stopped short of honoring the insistent requests by countries in the Middle East that they sanction the newspaper – at least they

did that.

After all that has happened, Stony Brook hosted a panel of experts to address the issue of freedom of speech. Sponsored by the Muslim Student Association and the Society of Professional Journalists, a panel of three Muslim leaders and one Newsday editor defended anger by Muslims across the world. The question, "Blasphemy or Freedom?" was never explored in an adult way. There was no strong focus on condemnation of violence or praise for freedom of speech – in short, there was no debate. The goal of the panel was to help non-Muslims understand why these cartoons had such an impact on the Muslim world. This would have fit beautifully with a panel entitled, "Why The Cartoons Had Such a Big Impact," or something equally descriptive. The issue of free speech is too important to simply brush aside.

If there is one thing that this entire ordeal has taught us, it is that when push comes to shove, the principle of free speech is not protected. When the first death threat was leveled at the publishers of the Danish comic, there should have been a powerful response that they have every right to publish controversial material and will not back down. Instead, they apologized, setting a horrible precedent for media everywhere. If a newspaper won't stand up for free speech, then who will?

## COMMENTARY

# College is the People, Nothing Else

By M.M. ACKERSON  
Columnist

Before we came to Stony Brook, college was only a distant concept to us. It floated in the depths of our minds, an enigma of a thought looming somewhere in the distance.

In high school, we all spoke of it from time to time. It came up in various conversations. It was referred to with both a sense of mild apprehension and cautious excitement. Most of what we knew about college we had heard from our parents. It would be this great, big experience: a rite of passage in our lives.

Now, we're here. So what was all the fuss about? We are going to college to get an education—that much is obvious. However, what I'm talking about here is that vague

concept of it that we have all held high in our minds since we first overheard a story from someone else that had been there and thus we formed this lofty idea of the mystic "college experience."

Even those of us who have been here at Stony Brook for many years are still trying to figure it out. We search and we search. We join clubs and get involved. We go to parties. We get drunk. We get high. We make friends. We make love, we find love, and we lose it. We're social, and we're alone. We study, and we rest. Then we wake again each day to resume the search, and we keep searching, and we grow up somewhere along the way.

But for all of our efforts most of us overlook the solution to what are searching

for. It is so obvious, yet many of us feel it is something we constantly have to focus our sight on just to see.

The answer to our search for the truest definition of this notion of college lies not in the chore of studying. Neither is it about the sex or the freedom or the drama. College isn't about the parties and it's not about the drugs. College is none of those things, because college is more than those things. College is the people; the college experience is the people we meet and come to know, those whom we spend time with, those whom we laugh with, those whom we love.

Ultimately we are each other's reason for searching in the first place. What would college be, if we didn't have each other?

## GOT OPINIONS? WE WANT THEM.

## EMAIL US AT COMMENTS@SBSTATESMAN.ORG

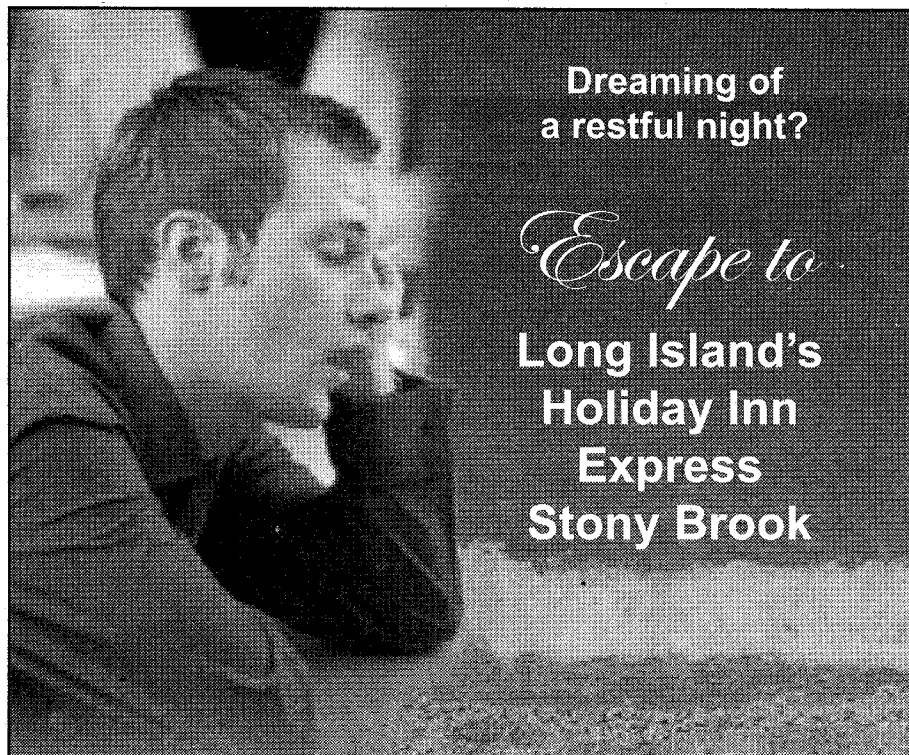


## WHEN WALKING ON CAMPUS

- ▲ Use a marked crosswalk when one is available
- ▲ Stop before proceeding across a roadway
- ▲ Use sidewalks when they are available
- ▲ On roads without sidewalks, walk on the left, facing traffic
- ▲ When walking at night, wear something reflective or carry a flashlight
- ▲ Do not use cell phones, iPods, or other handheld devices at intersections

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## If a Village of Old Field officer stopped your vehicle, a class action lawsuit may affect your rights.

A COURT AUTHORIZED THIS NOTICE. THIS IS NOT A SOLICITATION FROM A LAWYER.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, pursuant to an Order of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, dated November 27, 2005 that a plaintiff class has been certified in this action, **Brewer v. Village of Old Field et al.**, No. CV 0-6072 (ADS).

**Who Is Affected?** Motorists who paid money to the Village of Old Field in relation to a traffic ticket issued by an Old Field employee from October 10, 1994 to present, motorists subject to a traffic stop from October 10, 1997 to present and all persons whose motor vehicle records were used by the Village without a permissible purpose from September 13, 1997 to present are eligible for inclusion in this case.

**What is the Lawsuit About?** Plaintiffs allege that the Village of Old Field has no authority to operate a law enforcement agency and that it illegally enforced New York State Vehicle and Traffic Laws, violating the Federally protected Constitutional and Privacy rights of the Plaintiffs. Based on these assertions, the class action complaint seeks remedies on behalf of all Class members, including money damages. The Village denies that it did anything wrong. The Village contends that its Constables were also law enforcement officers who had a legal right to issue these tickets.

**What Will It Cost and Can You Opt Out?** Scott and Scott, LLP of Smithtown, NY has been appointed by the Court to represent you as "Class Counsel". You don't have to pay Class Counsel or anyone else to participate as a member of the Class. If you stay in the Class, you will be bound by all decisions of the Court and you will share in the benefits obtained, if any. You may request to be excluded from the Class and you may elect to retain your own counsel at your own expense. If you want to be excluded from the Class you must send a letter requesting exclusion postmarked no later than **April 14, 2006** to Brewer v. Old Field Exclusions, c/o Scott & Scott, LLP, 50 Karl Avenue, Suite 202, Smithtown, NY 11787. Your exclusion letter must be signed and include your name and address.

**How to Get More Information?** If you have not received a detailed Notice, you may view or download copies of the Notice, as well as documents relating to the litigation, and a fuller explanation of your right to exclude yourself from the Class at [www.VillagePolice-Cases.com](http://www.VillagePolice-Cases.com) or by writing to class counsel at Village Class Actions, c/o Scott & Scott, LLP, 50 Karl Avenue, Suite 202, Smithtown, NY 11787. You may also call class counsel at (631) 265-4884.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT OR THE CLERK'S OFFICE

# Stony Brook *In Vogue*

## February Snow Showers Bring March Sunshine

BY AMY DRAGANI  
Staff Writer

Simply just because last week ended so gorgeously-blue skies, sunshine, mid 60's-I felt compelled to talk about spring styles.

The top fashion magazines, from Vogue to Bazaar to Elle, have been bursting with looks for the spring. It's only mid-March, but it's time to start preparing! To start, dresses are particularly feminine and flattering this season. There is a lot of color use-subtle but bold colors (red, green, orange, coral...). Dresses are just about knee length designed from light fabrics. These spring favorites are particularly fantastic because they offer diversity. Paired with flats and sunglasses, a flowy dress is casual and comfortable. The same dress can be worn with heels and perhaps a light sweater or short jacket and you're set for a night out.

Another trend I find very appealing is the use of black and white. It may sound a bit basic, but it's actually very sophisticated look that's very easy to achieve. White is the color

of spring-skirts, tanks, dresses, shoes-white is the common denominator. White is clean, pretty, and feminine and it's a great color for light fabrics. It's when the sun goes down that white is best paired with black. White skirts with black tops (or vice versa), two toned heels, small black or white handbags, and white sunglasses are just a few trends I spotted within the black and white realm.

Other shoe trends making marks are wedges and platforms. Platforms have stood the test of time for decades-with a few alterations of course. There are a lot of great platform and wedge choices that are simple and comfortable. They are a great shoe for the warmer weather because they're comfortable and have the ability of going from the beach to the office (platforms are a great option when you need a heel-they provide the height and stylish look, and some find them more comfortable than heels because you're feet aren't on an incline).

So for a few more weeks we'll still be battling the chill, but spring is ready to blossom-as are our wardrobes!

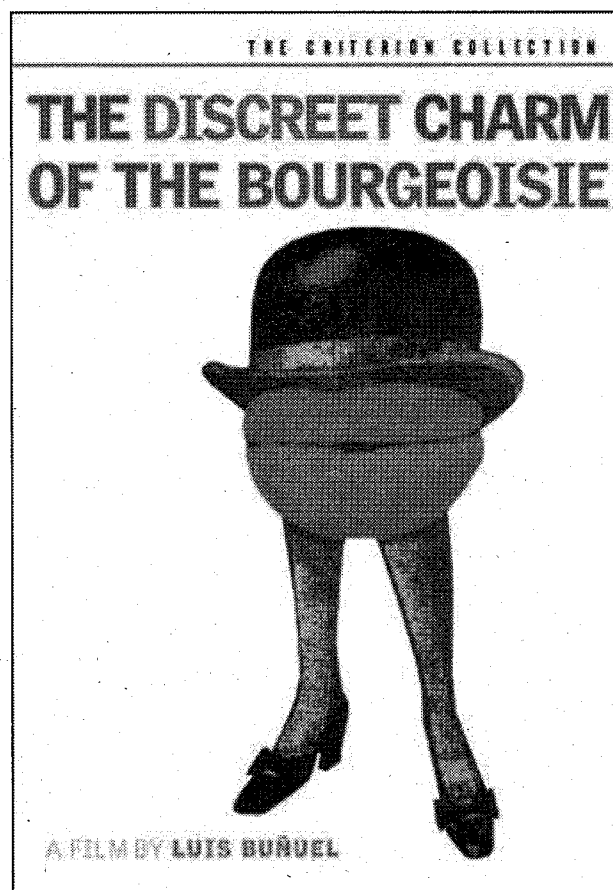
you could pick it up  
on the way to class...  
...but sometimes that's  
just too much effort.

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# Tabler Center's International Film Festival

## *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie*



Courtesy of amazon.com

BY CANDACE ISHMAEL  
Staff Writer

This week's film, *The Discreet Charm of the Bourgeoisie*, was directed by the Spanish filmmaker, Luis Buñuel. Well known for his sarcastic and critical examinations of religion and high society, Buñuel uses surreal dream sequences to convey his views on the values of the aristocracy.

The film centers around six friends attempting to get together for dinner. Each gathering is thwarted by interruptions that become more and more bizarre as the film continues. Before long, the very real action becomes entangled in dreams within dreams that leave the audience wondering what actually happened. There is virtually no way to tell where reality ends and a dream begins.

Buñuel expertly manipulates different elements of the situation to create a comic, if not baffling, storyline. From the Mirandan ambassador involved in a cocaine conspiracy, to the bishop-turned-gardener shooting the man who poisoned his parents, every minute is a new surprise.

If you are the type of person who enjoys an orderly and fulfilling plotline, this is not the film for you. The various dream sequences and random storytelling loops the plot back around itself until all that is left is a complex and confusing knot that may or may not be decipherable. In fact, one might wonder if that isn't the point.

If nothing else, Buñuel succeeds in making his characters, and subsequently the bourgeoisie that they represent, appear more and more out of touch. No matter the situation; whether they are being arrested for drug possession or if one man finds his wife in the bedroom of a friend,

they proceed with a ridiculous sense of propriety. Nothing ruffles them out of their perpetual code of conduct.

But it is not just the aristocracy that falls prey to Buñuel's exaggeration and criticism. The character of the bishop serves as scapegoat for the church as he politely assumes the position of gardener to one of the main characters as if it were the most natural thing in the world. Then, when he is called on to do his priestly duty and perform the last rites for the man who had poisoned his parents, he dutifully grants him the state of grace and proceeds to shoot him dead; as calm as could be.

If for a moment, however, you were to take your attention away from the ridiculousness of the situation, you might notice a cutting commentary on the ways of the bourgeoisie. Although they maintain their own code of proper behavior regardless of the situation, they have habits that one might consider inappropriate. They have an insatiable sexual appetite; they drink to the point of indecency and indulge in recreational drug use. In short, their "discreet charm" is rather more like hypocrisy.

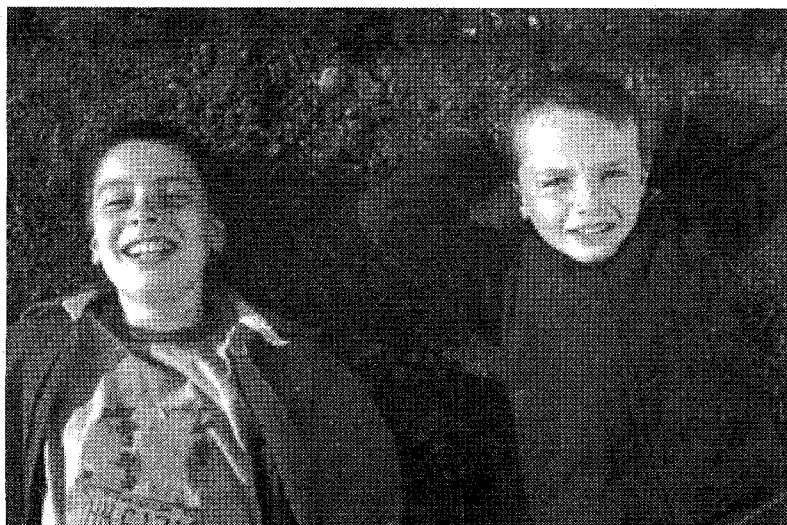
Overall, the movie is a bit of a trip that is enjoyable if it is not taken too seriously. For those of you who are not easily surprised and have a slightly twisted sense of humor, this is a great movie to inspire your own surreal reality; because our dreams are absurd but our reality may be more so.

Next week's film is a work by famed Polish director, Roman Polanski chosen and introduced by Professor Izabella Kalinowska-Blackwood. It is Polanski's first film which established him as a world-class storyteller.



# Indie Flicks:

## Millions



Courtesy of amazon.com

BY RACHEL BROZINSKY  
Staff Writer

Every now and then you come across a family focused film that is both uplifting and touching without being banal and- let's face it- corny. That may be a somewhat cynical take of the family feature, but if nothing else, Danny Boyle's *Millions* certainly, at least temporarily, squashed my cynicism about the innocent faith and kindness that still exists in the world if we're lucky enough to see it.

*Millions* is the story of Ronnie (James Nesbitt), a widower who moves his two young sons Damian (Alex Etel) and Anthony (Lewis Owen McGibbon) to a new community after his wife's death. Damian, who has visions of Saints from Nick to Peter, finds a bag full of pounds, which are days away from becoming useless as England prepares to change over to the Euro. Damian thinks that the money was sent by God, and his only desire is to do what is right and good, while Anthony, a young entrepreneur, wants to invest the money and uses it to gain a status of power in his new school.

The film has a subtle and whimsical humor that underlies what could have been a heavy-handed message. Clare of Assisi defends her right to smoke a blunt and Anthony, a nine-year-old, tells a realtor that his father sends him with a Polaroid to take pictures of their potential real estate investments. When Dorothy (Daisy Donovan), who works for an organization that collects money for charitable do-

nations, asks a schoolhouse full of children, "Who feels bad for poor children?" All the students raise their hands, and Dorothy excitedly exclaims, "Correct answer!" There is a clear comedy in the naïveté of children and the ignorance of adults.

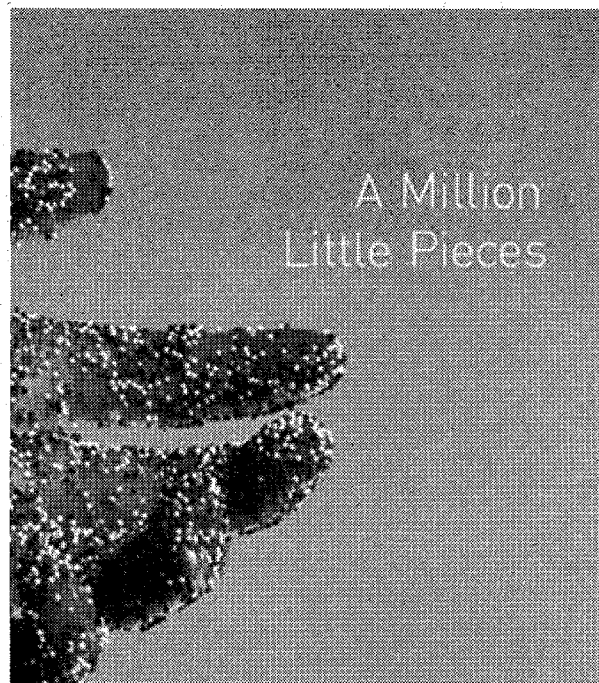
There is a deep spiritual statement being made in the film about the innocence of a child and his desire to do what's right in the eyes of God. In a sense, the message is still extremely secular. It deals with the idea of how money complicates people and what really has, or should have, the most value in our lives.

Seeing this through the perspective of a seven-year-old is simply astonishing and moving to the core.

Boyle's sense of imagery is like watching a painting being created on your screen. His use of images that utilize varying colors and light are both sophisticated and poignant. The numerous long, aerial shots give the perspective of someone watching from above as well as the sense of how minute one tiny child is. Still, this small child affects so much change in the lives of the people around him and the lives the less fortunate people who need a helping hand.

The film touches upon so many issues that the human condition is so prone to: poverty, loss, loneliness, and greed. But that's not the end of the story because there is hope, charity, and faith. *Millions* reminds us that for every evil in the world, there is the potential to be and to do good.

# Get Your Read On:



Courtesy of amazon.com

**A MILLION  
LITTLE PIECES**  
(400 PGS)

**BY JAMES  
FREY**

**PUBLISHED:  
2003**

BY JEREMY FALLETTA  
Senior Australian Correspondent

We've all heard the controversial news stories about *A Million Little Pieces* lately, and how James Frey is or isn't some kind of ethical criminal. I would be remiss if I failed to address those concerns in this review, but I also don't want that to be the focus of it. While it was awkward to read the book knowing that a lot of it was embellished, exaggerated or even fabricated, it is still a captivating and powerful book that managed to move me emotionally and mentally many times over before I was through with it. Taken as fiction, it is no less fortuitous than it would be had the events actually happened, and that, as I see it, is the bottom line. If you're still with me, cool. If you want to stop reading now, I won't be offended.

The narrative draws its strength from a fusion of several sources. It is structured very uniquely—many of the pages are not filled with text, but have a lot of empty space because of the large amount of one-liner dialogue that goes on between Frey and the various people he associates with while in rehab. No quotation marks are used, similar to Chuck Palahniuk's style of writing, but it is hardly an imitation. The dialogue in *A Million Little Pieces* is exceedingly simple, scoring points with legitimacy rather than with eloquence. When Frey first arrives, another patient, Roy, attempts to explain the rules of the clinic to him:

"The Rules are here for your own good. I suggest that you follow them.

I'll try.

Do better than try or you'll be in trouble.

I'll try...

The Rules are serious business. If you want to recover, I'd recommend following them.

I stare straight ahead.

I'll try."

Simple repetition is another of the book's persuasive weapons. The passage above is typical of the text as a whole. Frey is an extremely uncompromising character, and really does not bend for anything. He entirely refuses to follow the "AA" program and the "Twelve Steps," to the chagrin of the entire staff at the clinic. However, in spite of that, you can feel it working as a reader. Gradually, as he "gets better," you realize that he is beating the odds with his stubbornness and have no choice but to get behind him. The book is very well written, in that regard.

The third element that makes the book so compelling is the absolute extremity of Frey's actions. Toward the end of the book, he is required to write down and confess his sins in full, to the best of his ability. He writes twenty-two pages of them, sparing a few paragraphs for the reader. During college, he says that,

"I terrorized a Kid named Rob because I heard him say something about her with the Arctic eyes. I vandalized his Car and his Room. I taunted him and threatened him and intimidated him. I made his life miserable. I never told him why I was doing it, I just did."

Frey's laundry list goes on and on, naming all of his horrific and unspeakable crimes. He always repeats that he is "an Alcoholic, a Drug Addict and a Criminal" and he is entirely right. And yet, you can't help but love the guy for his resolve and the notion that underneath it all, he's not that bad of a guy. Somehow.

If you had heard of this book before, it probably won't be this review that tips the scales and makes you want to read it. But, if this is the first in-detail account you've read on it, and you like what you see, I highly recommend checking it out. I'm still very impressed by it.

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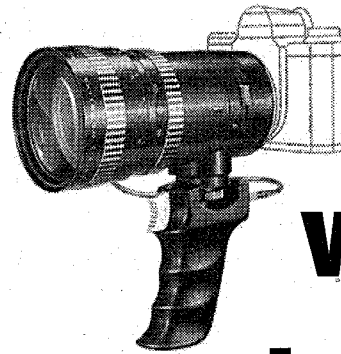
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## Feminism Usurped

SO ANY PRETENSE THAT ABORTION IS NOT KILLING IS A SIGNAL OF OUR AMBIVALENCE, A SIGNAL THAT WE CANNOT SAY YES, IT KILLS A FETUS, BUT IT IS THE WOMAN'S BODY, AND THEREFORE ULTIMATELY HER CHOICE. ~ Faye Wattleton, past president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

## Feminism Reclaimed

HOW CAN THE "DREAM" SURVIVE I WE MURDER THE CHILDREN? EVERY ABORTED BABY IS LIKE A SLAVE IN THE WOMB OF HIS OR HER MOTHER. THE MOTHER DECIDES HIS OR HER FATE....ABORTION IS AT THE FOREFRONT OF OUR DESTRUCTION. ~ Dr. Alveda King, civil rights activist and niece of Dr. Martin Luther King.

IT IS A POVERTY TO DECIDE THAT A CHILD MUST DIE SO THAT YOU MAY LIVE AS YOU WISH. ~ Mother Teresa

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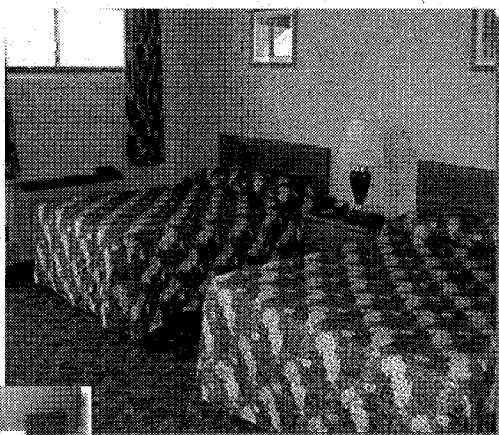
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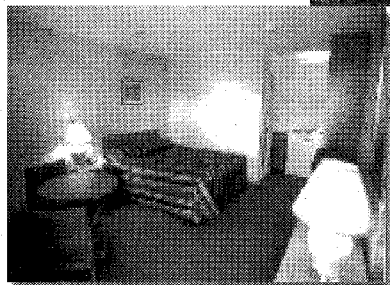
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## A THOUGHT from RABBI ADAM



**PURIM:** Jewish morale was at an all time low. The Temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Babylonians (486 BCE), the kingdom conquered, and the nation of Israel had been exiled to foreign lands. The Jews had hoped that the Persian conquest of Babylonia might herald in better times, if it was not for a man by the name of Haman, the Prime Minister of the empire. To emphasize the prestige of the Prime Minister, a royal decree was issued that all the must prostrate themselves before Haman. Mordechai, the leading Rabbi at the time, firmly refused to comply with the edict, saying that one should bow down G-d alone and non-else. The enraged Haman resolved to take revenge not only upon Mordechai, but upon the entire Jewish people. Haman convinced the king of the insubordination of the Jewish people and presented annihilation as the "final solution". Now Haman's plans would have worked, however "fate" would not have it. It so happened that the king got drunk and in his stupor, ordered the death of his wife, the queen. Not liking the life of a widower, the king took a young girl, Esther, to be his queen. "Coincidentally", unbeknownst to the king, Esther was a Jew. It so happened that the aforementioned Mordechai, uncovered a plot to kill the king. He informed the king, and was considered in high regard. And, "coincidentally", Mordechai was also Esther's uncle. So when Haman's decree about to be carried out, Mordechai readily brought the Jewish people's case to the queen, Esther. And Esther, in turn, told the king that she too would die under the decree, for indeed, she was a Jew. The king was immediately sensitized not only to the plight of his queen, but to the plight of the entire Jewish people. However, once a decree has been signed, it is never retracted. And yet, since Mordechai was already in high regard, the king appointed Mordechai to the position of Prime Minister with free reign to formulate a counter decree to foil Haman. And henceforth was celebrated the Jewish holiday of Purim, for "fate" and "coincidence" are truly miracles from Above. Celebrate Purim: Mon. night and Tues. 3/13-14

Rabbi Adam welcomes comments.  
Email [RabbiAdam@hotmail.com](mailto:RabbiAdam@hotmail.com)

*Rabbi Adam*

Rabbi Adam  
Interfaith Center, Stony Brook

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

## If a Village of Belle Terre officer stopped your vehicle, a class action lawsuit may affect your rights.

A COURT AUTHORIZED THIS NOTICE. THIS IS NOT A SOLICITATION FROM A LAWYER.

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**, pursuant to an Order of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, dated November 27, 2005 that a plaintiff class has been certified in this action, **Coco v. Village of Belle Terre et al.**, No. CV 01-5061 (ADS/ARL).

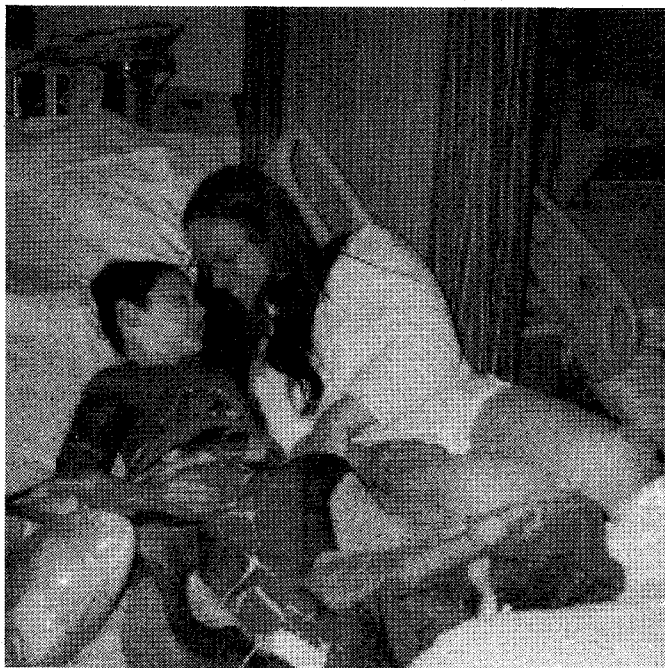
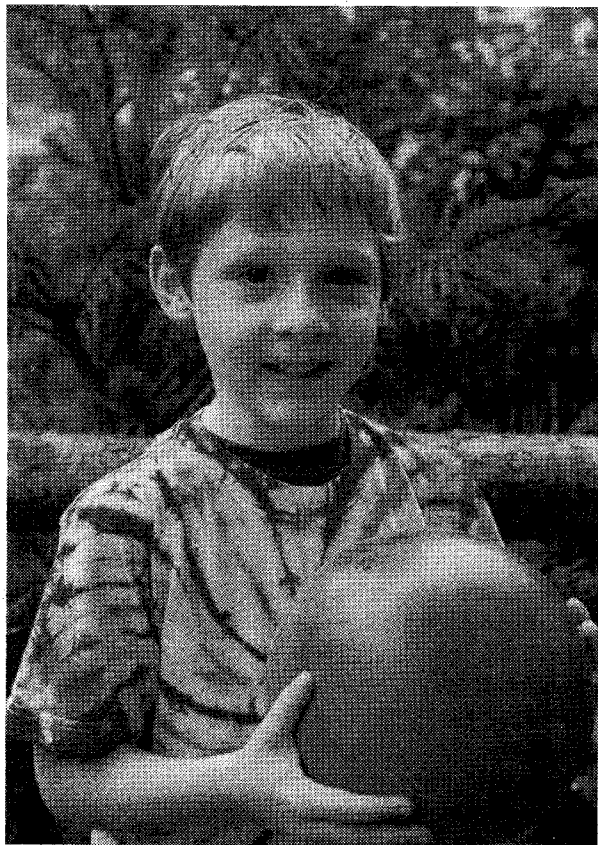
**Who Is Affected?** Motorists who paid money to the Village of Belle Terre in relation to a traffic ticket issued by a Belle Terre employee from July 30, 1995 to present, motorists subject to a traffic stop from July 30, 1998 to present and all persons whose motor vehicle records were used by the Village without a permissible purpose from September 13, 1997 to present are eligible for inclusion in this case.

**What is the Lawsuit About?** Plaintiffs allege that the Village of Belle Terre has no authority to operate a law enforcement agency and that it illegally enforced New York State Vehicle and Traffic Laws, violating the Federally protected Constitutional and Privacy rights of the Plaintiffs. Based on these assertions, the class action complaint seeks remedies on behalf of all Class members, including money damages. The Village denies that it did anything wrong.

**What Will It Cost and Can You Opt Out?** Scott and Scott, LLP of Smithtown, NY has been appointed by the Court to represent you as "Class Counsel". You don't have to pay Class Counsel or anyone else to participate as a member of the Class. If you stay in the Class, you will be bound by all decisions of the Court and you will share in the benefits obtained, if any. You may request to be excluded from the Class and you may elect to retain your own counsel at your own expense. If you want to be excluded from the Class you must send a letter requesting exclusion postmarked no later than **April 14, 2006** to Coco v. Belle Terre Exclusions, c/o Scott & Scott, LLP, 50 Karl Avenue, Suite 202, Smithtown, NY 11787. Your exclusion letter must be signed and include your name and address.

**How to Get More Information?** If you have not received a detailed Notice, you may view or download copies of the Notice, as well as documents relating to the litigation, and a fuller explanation of your right to exclude yourself from the Class at **[www.VillagePolice-Cases.com](http://www.VillagePolice-Cases.com)** or by writing to class counsel at Village Class Actions, c/o Scott & Scott, LLP, 50 Karl Avenue, Suite 202, Smithtown, NY 11787. You may also call class counsel at (631) 265-4884.

PLEASE DO NOT CONTACT THE COURT OR THE CLERK'S OFFICE



## **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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 Hamilton  
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 Handball Club  
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 Org. of Actuarial Students (OAS)  
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 Persian Cultural Association  
 Philippine United Students Organization - PUSO  
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 Pocket Theatre  
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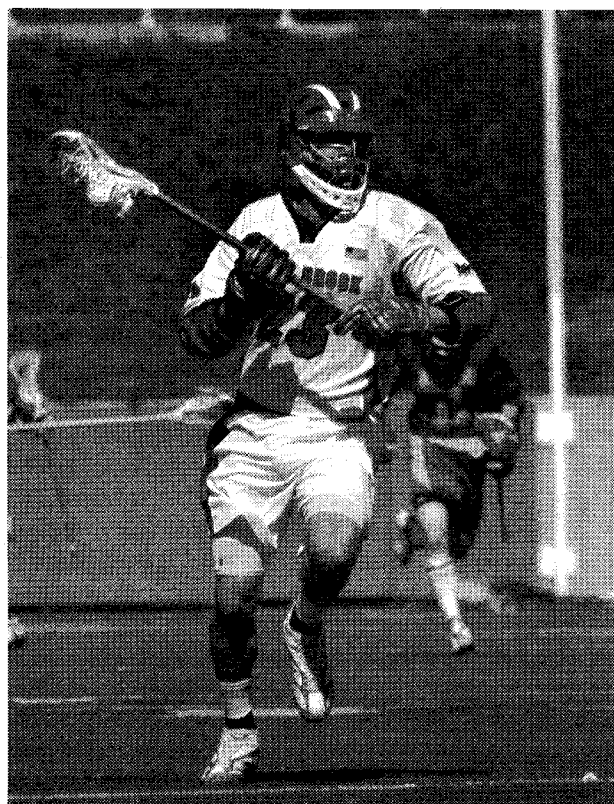
*What Would Stony Brook Be Without It...*  
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# SPORTS

## Men's Lax Cruises Past Sienna 19-7



Adhip Karmaker/Statesman

### Cappadoro sets all-time scoring record; Tripodi scores 5 goals

**Stony Brook, N.Y.** - Bo Tripodi scored five goals as Stony Brook used a six-goal second quarter to cruise to a 19-7 win over Siena Saturday afternoon. The win snapped a three-game skid for Stony Brook as it improved to 1-3 while Siena fell to 0-3. Senior Jason Cappadoro punctuated the win early in the fourth quarter when his second assist of the game made him the program's all-time leading point getter with 157 career points.

With the score tied at 4 early in the second quarter, the Seawolves exploded for six unanswered goals to close the half. Tripodi's second goal of the game ignited the six-goal outburst which saw Tripodi score three times during that stretch. Cory Conway, Ryan Maehr and Ryan Hughes also tallied in the decisive second quarter to give the hosts a 10-4 lead at halftime.

Stony Brook continued the surge in the third quarter, scoring four of the first five goals of the stanza to take a commanding 14-5 lead. Tripodi capped the run with his fifth goal of the game on an assist from Sean Chamber-

lain.

Cappadoro made history early in the fourth quarter when he assisted on Chamberlain's second goal of the game. It was his third point of the afternoon and the 157th of his Stony Brook career which made him the all-time leading scorer in the history of the men's lacrosse program, surpassing the mark of 156 set by John Warrack.

Ten different Seawolves scored in the contest led by Tripodi, who equalled his career high in goals (5) and points (6) in a single game. Chamberlain notched the hat trick while Chris Tracey, Owen Adams and Hughes all finished with two goals apiece. Brendan Callahan made six saves to earn his first win of the season.

Matt Girsch, Chris Zarins and Matt Donovan all scored two goals for Siena. John Bamford made nine saves in the loss.

Stony Brook is back in action next Saturday when it travels to take on Penn State. Face-off is 1 p.m.

*Courtesy of Stony Brook Athletics*

## Women's Hoops Drops OT Heart-breaker to BU in America East Semis

**West Hartford, Conn.** - Kasey Devine sank two free throws with seven seconds remaining in overtime to break a 74-all tie and lift No. 3 Boston University to a 76-74 victory over No. 2 Stony Brook in an America East quarterfinal on Saturday afternoon at Chase Arena. With the loss, the Seawolves fall to 20-9 on the season and must wait until Monday night to learn their fate for a WNIT bid.

The Terriers (18-11) led by four points after a Cheri Raffo three-pointer with 2:39 left in the extra frame. Kelly Watson answered with a three of her own and Dana Ferraro hit 1-of-2 free throws to knot the game at 74 with

1:19 to play.

Turnovers by both teams gave the Terriers the ball with 35 seconds to go. Katie Meinhart missed a jumper, but Devine came down with the offensive board, was fouled and calmly sank both free throws to make it 76-74 with seven seconds on the clock.

The Seawolves held out for one last shot, but Mykeema Ford's three to win went in and out of the basket as time expired to send BU to the title game for the second straight season.

The game was close the entire way with 15 lead changes and 10 ties. The Terriers led by as many as eight

points with 4:21 remaining in the second half, but the Seawolves closed regulation on a 12-4 run capped by a three-point play by Ford with 39 seconds to go to force overtime.

Watson led all scorers with a season-high 21 points off the bench for the Seawolves. Jessica Smith tallied 15 points and 12 rebounds, while Ford finished with 14 points and five assists and Sidney Orndorff netted 12 points.

Jesyka Burks-Wiley led the Terriers with 16 points and a game-high 20 rebounds, while Raffo netted a team-high 17 points in the victory.

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