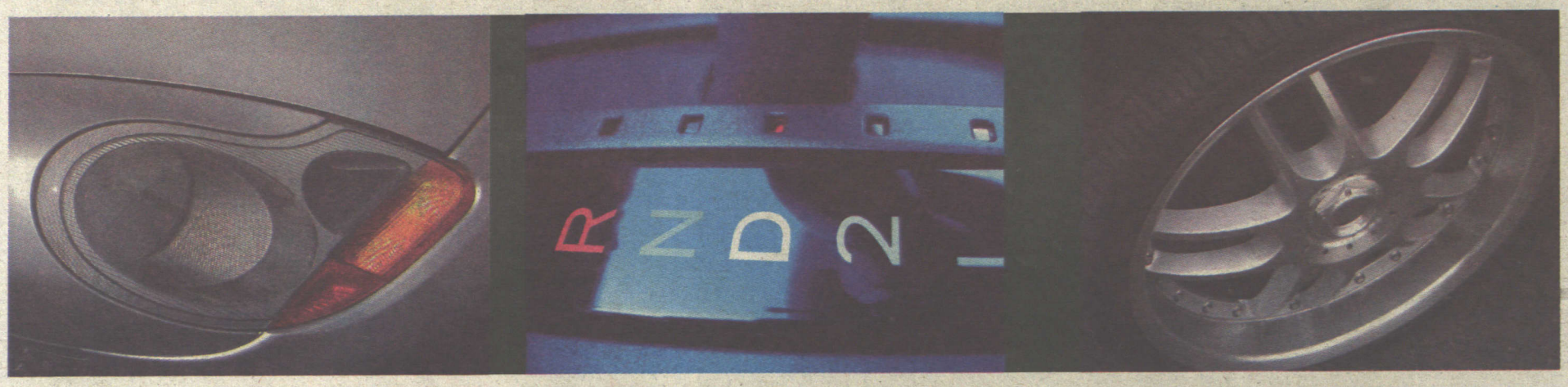
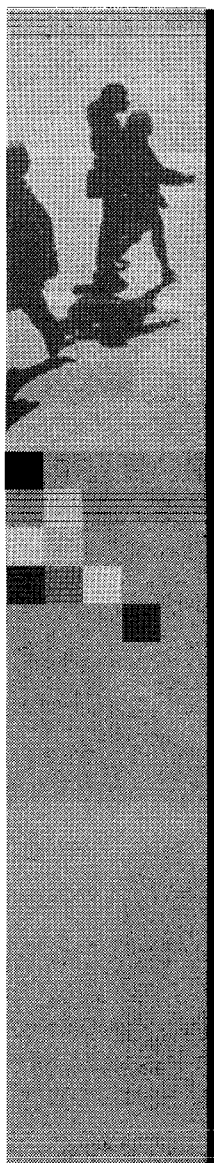
the stony brook
Statesman

Auto Guide, pg. 12

VOLUME XLIX, ISSUE 46 THURSDAY APRIL 20, 2006 PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY



Auto Guide 2006



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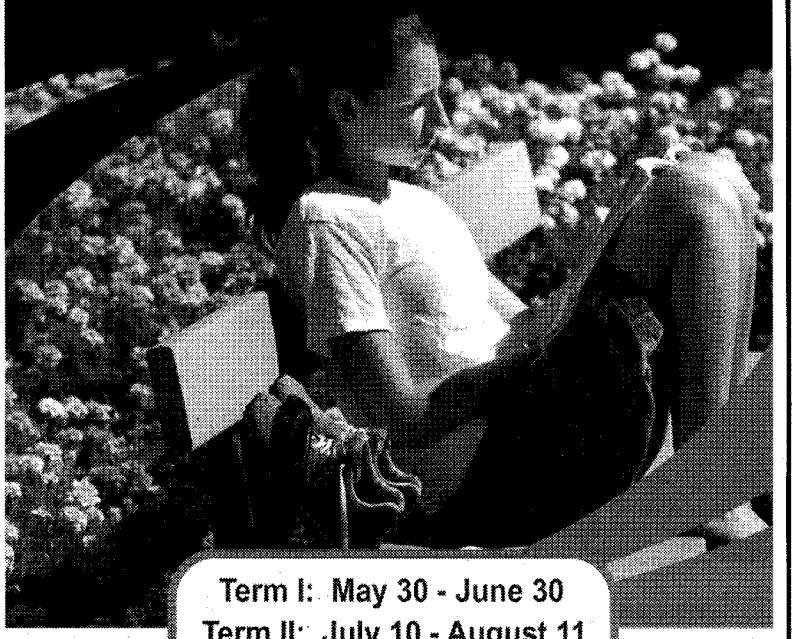

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• Police Blotter, pg. 4
• 24: The Game, pg. 8
• *Rent*, pg. 8
• Lacrosse Team Feature, pg. 24

VOLUME XLIX, ISSUE 46 THURSDAY APRIL 20, 2006 PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

SBU Students Say "Don't Walk Alone"

By Tejas Gawade
Arts & Entertainment Editor

In light of the alleged attacks that have made Roth Quad the highlight of the campus, the graduate and undergraduate student body of Stony Brook University has taken the initiative to hold a "Don't Walk Alone" program. The subdued event, characterized by students holding flashlights and signs around Roth Pond, took place on April 6 from 7:15 PM to 9:00 PM. Most significantly, the event served as an escorting forum where students voluntarily accompanied other students who were walking alone.

The aforementioned attacks purportedly first took place on March 25, when the alleged victim was grabbed from behind, around the parking lot near Hendrix building. The second attack, the following Thursday, involved the same victim and assailant in what Doug Little, Assistant Chief of the University Police, has described as "inappropriate touching."

The "Don't Walk Alone" campaign is not the first. In the past, it has taken place at freshman orientations for purposes of campus safety. According to organizer Emily Bottino, the objective of the event was "to walk student passersby who may still be unaware of the attacks and continue to unknowingly put themselves at risk."

In addition to programs, such as, "Don't Walk Alone," a resolution titled "Students Against Administrative Silence" (S.A.A.S.) has been released. The resolution, co-signed by Bottino and Undergraduate Student Government (USG) senators, Jonathan Reichman and Joseph Cavalieri asks the residential administration to strengthen residential safety by increasing the number of blue lights, extra lights and security personnel among other precautionary measures. The resolution was passed by the USG senate and the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) on April 4 and by the Graduate Student Employee Union (GSEU) senate on April 5.

Unfortunately, according to a press release, "many students feel [that] the response from the administration is inadequate and puts them at serious risk." Bottino is disappointed in the administration's lukewarm response and failure to institute a program that is "effective, stable, and accessible to students concerning general safety and incident awareness for particular safety measures." Bottino has said that the response from Chief Little, Peter Baigent, Vice President for Student Affairs and Baycan Fideli, Associate Director for Campus Residences has been "short, unclear and generally unsupportive."

> **Bottino is disappointed in the administration's lukewarm response and failure to institute a program that is "effective, stable, and accessible to students concerning general safety and incident awareness for particular safety measures."**
> *-Emily Bottino, Organizer of "Don't Walk Alone"*

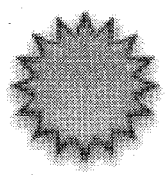
To its credit, the residential administration has held two meetings—one in Hendrix building on April 3, and another in Cardozo building on April 5—to address these concerns. The Roth quad-wide meeting in Cardozo brought together the President of the Wo/Men's Center, Dr. Jenny Hwang and Dean of Students, Dr. Jerrold Stein. Both individuals, according to Bottino, have been an "exception" to the administration's "uncommunicative and obstinate" nature and have been "supportive of student input ... without being aggressive."

Bottino wishes to highlight that even if the actions taken by students tarnish the University's image, "for [Stony Brook University] to keep things like assault reports and specified safety measures in the dark, is not only to assume student's lack of maturity [and] understanding about dangerous events, but it is also a show of laziness and apathy on behalf of [its] administration."

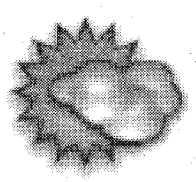
Fortunately, the student body has not been so apathetic. The "Don't Walk Alone" campaign has received a positive response from the student body. According to Bottino, "about 30 undergraduates and exactly 2 graduate students actively participated and the turnout was great." The campaign took place to gain more signatures for the resolution and to apply "vocal and active pressure" on the directors of each quad in the hope that this will instate programs that will better address student safety. In this regard, the campaign has been quite successful. The S.A.A.S. resolution was able to collect 950 signatures by the conclusion of the campaign.

Student Forecast: April 20 - April 26

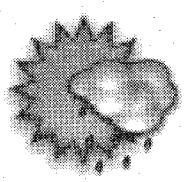
By Britta Merwin



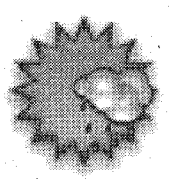
Thursday:
High 75/Low 43
Absolutely gorgeous!



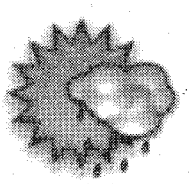
Friday:
High 56/Low 42
Sun and clouds, a little cooler with a breeze.



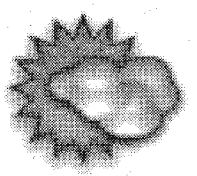
Saturday:
High 54/Low 44
Overcast with possible showers all day.



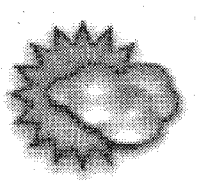
Sunday:
High 55/Low 43
Cloudy with a chance of spotty showers.



Monday:
High 56/Low 45
Clouds with a greater chance of rain.

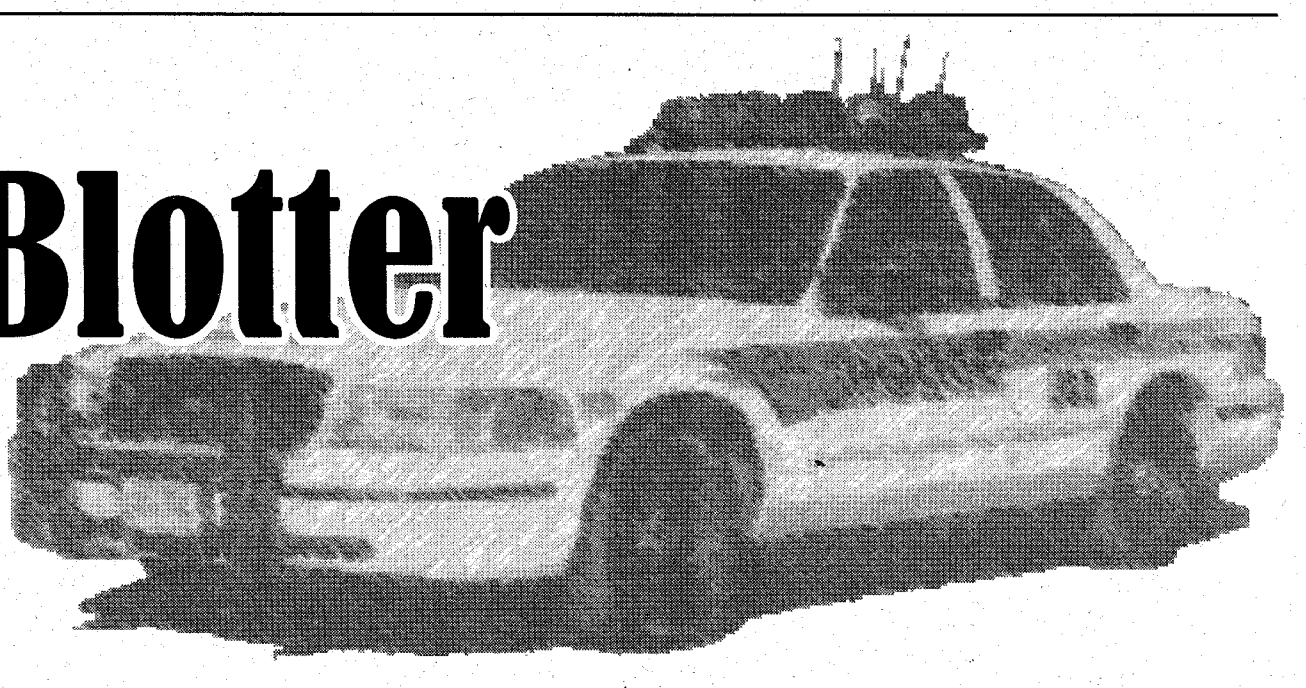


Tuesday:
High 60/Low 43
Cloudy, maybe a small evening shower.



Wednesday:
High 60/Low 41
Mix of sun and clouds.

Police Blotter



Compiled by Eugene Tan/Statesman

4/4 – 4/18

Blue Light Phones

At Irving College, a student was reportedly playing with a blue light phone on 4-4-06 at 11:33 PM. On Campus Drive and Circle Road, a call was made from a blue light phone on 4-8-06 at 3:50 AM, but the caller hung up. The area was patrolled, and all appeared in order.

Marijuana Possession

At the Roosevelt parking lot, an arrest was made for marijuana possession on 4-8-06 at 7:47 PM.

Found Property

A hypodermic needle and bottle cap were found on the fourth floor of the University Hospital on 4-13-06 at 7:00 PM. At Wagner College, a classroom projector was recovered from a resident on 4-14-06 at 12:30 AM. The projector had previously been stolen from the Humanities building. A black palm pilot was found in the Health Sciences Center on 4-17-06 at 5:09 PM.

Fight

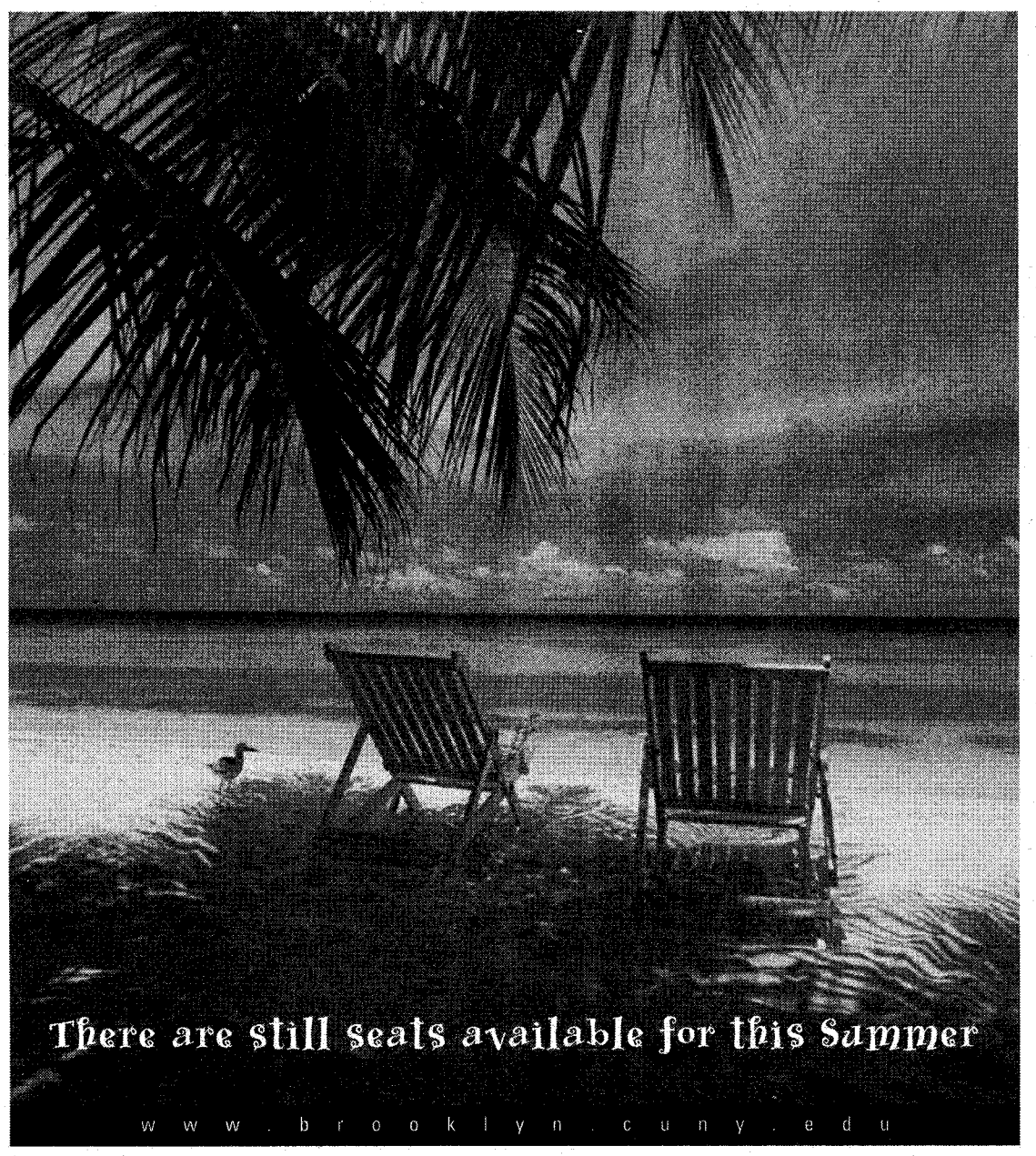
In Roth Quad, a fight between two men was reported on 4-14-06 at 6:44AM. The situation was corrected.

Alcohol

A report of alcohol drinking in the Mendelssohn and H Quad pit was made on 4-17-06 at 4:39 PM. Subjects were gone upon arrival of the police. Later that evening, eight students were referred to the police for alcohol drinking in the Mendelssohn and H Quad pit.

Skateboarders

On 4-17-06 at 11:46 PM, there was an unfounded report of skateboarders atthe Javits Lecture Center.



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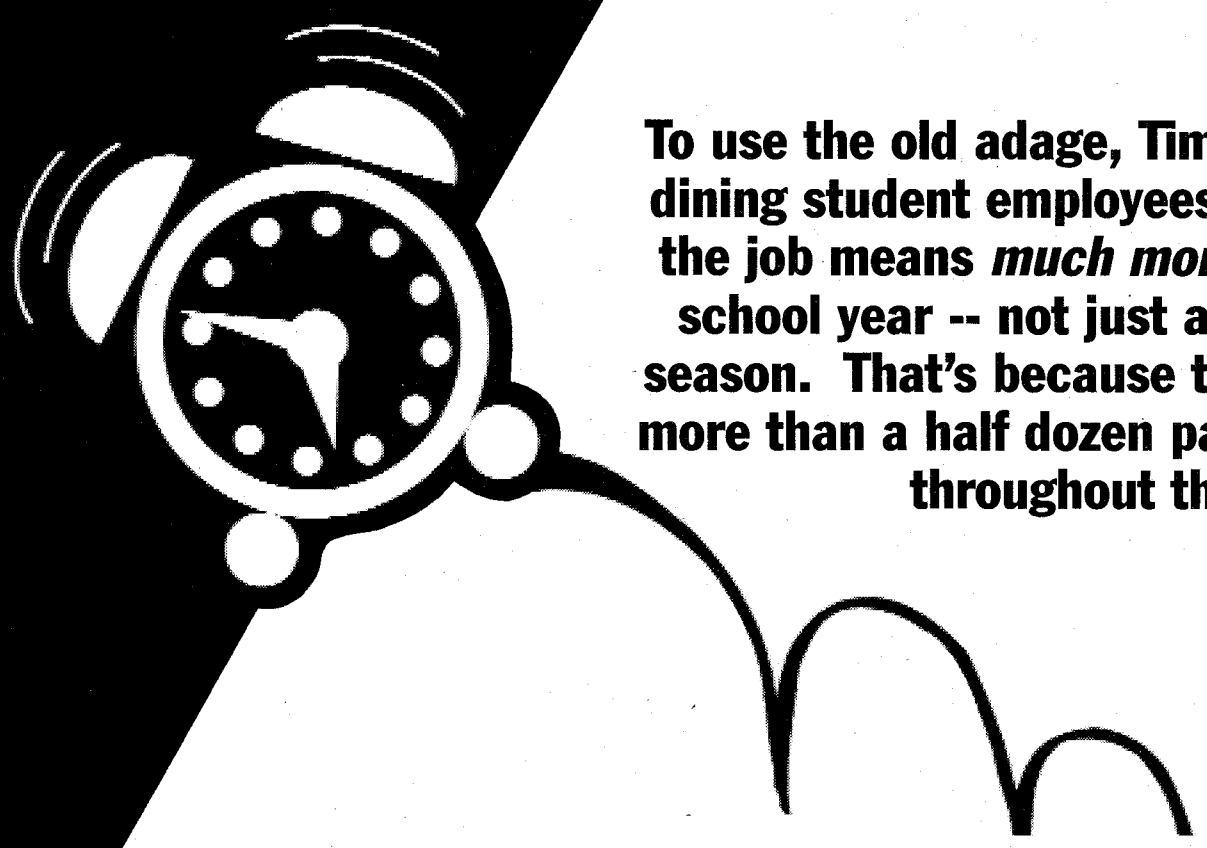

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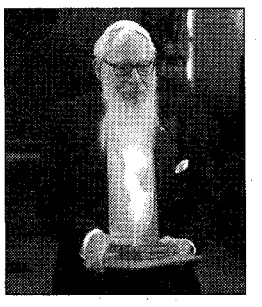

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★ ★ ★

Thursday, April 27, 2006

4:00 pm, Charles B. Wang Center Theatre

Bus transportation from East Campus to the Wang Center will be departing from the Hospital Main Entrance at 3:40 pm. R.S.V.P. to 632-6320 to reserve a seat for the bus.

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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

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

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

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Staller Movies

Rent

BY REBECCA NEWMAN
Contributing Writer

Rent is the kind of movie that stays with you. *Rent* is the kind of movie that at first seems too ridiculous and over the top but ends up making you laugh and cry at the same time. Innovatively composed by Jonathan Larson as a rock opera, *Rent* tackles some really tough issues such as poverty, disease, and drugs and celebrates life at the same time. Quoting the opening song *Seasons of Love*, *Rent* teaches us to, "Measure our lives in love".

Set in the heat of the aids epidemic of the late 1990's, this film provides an accurate portrayal of the "starving artist" in the East Village of New York City. The strife that these characters are constantly suffering makes them a strong, passionate group of friends. Headed by Anthony Rapp and Adam Pascal playing the dynamic duo Mark and Roger, this cast shines brilliantly as they sing and dance their way through a seemingly impoverished, but emotionally rich Manhattan. Together, this group of bohemians helps each other deal with aids, love, and poverty. Their struggle breeds a real sense of camaraderie, making this movie all the more touching and affective. There is no real plot here; *Rent* just portrays a year in the life of Mark, Roger, Mimi, Maureen, Joanne, Angel, and Collins. They love and live. There are some love stories in the offing, but mostly these characters stick together through everything.

Making *Rent* a musical gives it a real edge and purpose. Since it is a rock opera, the characters have the opportunity to sing every single line and distinguish it by melody. The music accurately expresses all of the tension and passion the characters are experiencing. In *Light my Candle*, Mimi and Roger flirt, exchange pasts, and illustrate a great, exciting sexual tension. *Will I* is a poignant song about the universal fear of living with aids shared by many characters. *Santa Fe* is a jubilant celebration of "escaping the cold, bohemian hell" of the big apple sung in a New York City subway car. The grand number *La Vie Boheme* symbolizes the whole movie itself. It embraces difference, culture, arts, literature, sexuality, and a real joie de vivre. Numbers like *Santa Fe* and *La Vie Boheme* are what make *Rent* seem so outlandish yet powerful at the same time. They are set in public places and have ridiculous lyrics, but the music is so captivating and the words are so universal that the audience ends up wishing they were singing along on the subway, too.

The musical numbers of *Rent* celebrate life and friendship through difficult times. That is why this movie is so memorable. That is why people who see it fall in love with it, see it again and again, and go on to the memorize all of the words to all of the songs. The late, celebrated Larson really proves that any emotion can be well expressed through song. He also shows the true power of good friends. Even if you are poor and sick, friends make you feel as alive and happy as humanly possible. That is something to sing about.

Gamers' Lounge

24: The Game

BY WILL WULFF
Contributing Writer

24: The Game is, of course, based on the ever popular Fox TV show of the same name. The show is one of the most exciting hours television has to offer. So it comes as no surprise that one would expect a video game version to be on par with the show, but does it? The answer is yes and no.

First, lets talk about what this game gets right. This game recreates the look and feel of the show perfectly. The story is written by one of the writers on the TV show, and it is just as good as anything you'll see on the show. You will want to play the whole game to see how everything turns out. Also, the cut-scenes in the game are done exactly the same way as the show, down to the shaky camera and picture-in-picture segments.

The graphics for these scenes are done extremely well. While it doesn't look like *Halo*, it is very nice to see. On top of all this, the entire cast returns to reprise their roles. From Kiefer Sutherland on, everyone gives the same amazing performances that you'd expect from them.

Unfortunately, not all is right with this game. While it may be cool to watch, it's at times not all that fun to play. The basic gameplay is similar to games like *James Bond 007: Everything or Nothing*. Unlike that game, the controls in *24: The Game* are very unresponsive. At times you'll be asked to perform certain button sequences to do things like arrest an enemy that has surrendered.

I am not kidding when I say that I had to press the X button five times before I could arrest someone. Also, the developers decided to put two functions on the same button in some cases. There will be times when you will need to do one thing, and something else happens. Aiming can also be a problem. The game uses an auto-aim mechanic, but there will be times when you lock-on to someone behind a wall or just beyond your reach. Luckily, you can get close enough to most of the bad guys to shoot them because they either can't aim or run around pointlessly.

At times, the picture-in-picture technique used during the cut-scenes are used during gameplay. While its cool at first, it can get really frustrating, especially when you are trying to attack someone or move through a hazardous area. Despite all these flaws, this style of play can actually be fun at times. You can play as multiple characters, Yet for some reason, it's more fun to play as Jack Bauer than anyone else.

The minigames are probably the best aspect of the game. Though simple, they are fun to play; the best of these being the interrogations. During these segments, you must control the intensity of your character's voice to try and find out information. Other minigames include bomb diffusing and scanning for snipers. All these must be done within a set period of time. The only minigame that isn't fun is the sniper minigame, because for some reason, Jack Bauer aims like he's drunk.

By far the worst part of the game has to be the driving missions. The car handles terribly, and at times you are bombarded by other cars trying to run you off the road. It's incredibly frustrating.

For some reason, the graphics during regular gameplay are terrible. The characters look like they could have fit in a Nintendo 64 game. I will admit that the physics in the game are really, really good. It's not as good as *Half-Life 2*, of course, but they are something to behold.

All in all, I would only recommend buying this game if you're one of those people who own every season of the show on DVD and watch the show religiously.

Everyone else who is interested should just rent it, as it can be beaten in only twelve hours (which is of course unfortunate) and there are much better games out there of a similar nature. It can be fun at times, but the driving missions and the horrid controls will put many gamers off.

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Wednesday, April 26th-Stress Reduction Workshop

12:50-2:10 SAC 306

Pre-Registration is required. 632-7353

Co-sponsored by Campus Recreation

Thursday, April 27th-Roth Regatta Kick-Off Fiesta-4-6pm

SAC Sculpture Garden and Why Lobby

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Friday, April 28th- Roth Pond Regatta-12-5pm Roth Quad

Come and cheer on the commuter boat

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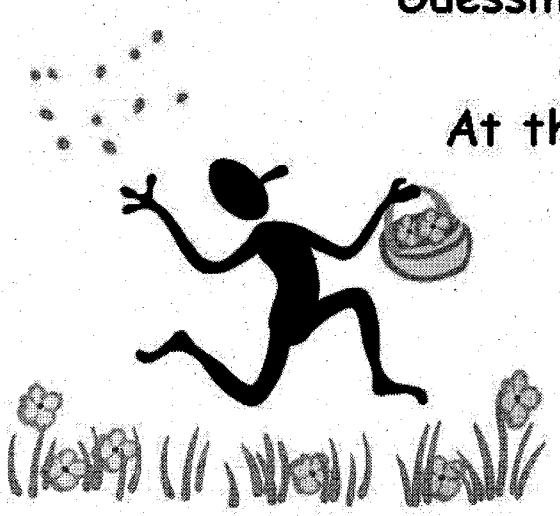

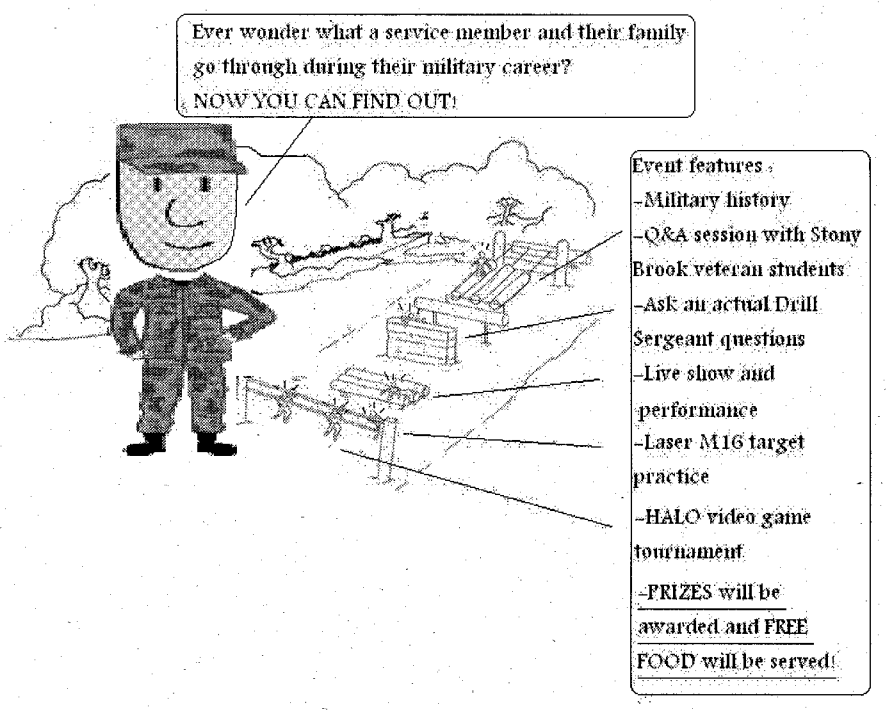

My Military Experience

April 26, 2006 11am-3pm

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To apply, please go to *www.stonybrook.edu/doit_scholarship.*
This scholarship process is paperless, everything is done online.

The employees of the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) at Stony Brook University have established a Scholarship Fund to offer support toward educational expenses to a continuing student who has demonstrated an interest in the field of Information Technology.

QUALIFICATIONS

To apply for and receive this scholarship, students must meet the following qualifications at the time of application:

- **A.** Enrolled as a full-time Stony Brook University undergraduate student with a demonstrated interest in the field of Information Technology
- **B.** Completed at least 24 Stony Brook University credits prior to the year that the scholarship will be awarded
- **C.** In good academic standing at the completion of the spring semester prior to the fall semester award
- **D.** Submitted unofficial transcript(s) of undergraduate courses and grades
- **E.** Submitted a completed application for the DoIT Scholarship
- **F.** Preference will be given to residents of New York City (Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, Bronx, and Staten Island) and Long Island (Nassau and Suffolk)
- **G.** Special consideration will be given to current DoIT student employees

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Tuesday, April 25, 7:00 pm, Wang Theatre

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Tickets: Free for students, $10 for general admission
Reserve your tickets at *wangcenter@stonybrook.edu* or call (631) 632-4400. **Co-produced with the Persian Cultural Association.**

Refusing Silence: The Life and Poetry of Huang Xiang

Tuesday, May 2, 1:00 pm, Wang Lecture Hall 1

The moving life story and poetry of Huang Xiang come alive in this bilingual reading (Chinese and English). Reception to follow. **Co-sponsored with Movement One: Creative Coalition.**

Films

Party

Thursday, April 27, 7:00 pm, Wang Theatre

This documentary explores modern Asian America through the prism of New York's vibrant, close-knit Asian party scene. In person: directors Steven Hahn and Francis Hsueh. (Steven Hahn and Francis Hsueh/2005/87 min.)

The Thief of Love

Premiere Screening of the Comic Opera by Sheila Silver

Sunday, April 30, 5:00 pm, Wang Theatre

A classic Bengali tale, *The Thief of Love* is about a powerful woman who cannot find a man smart enough, and a wealthy game player who tries to win her. This visually stunning film makes the opera experience both cinematic and accessible to everyone. Q&A to follow with the director and composer. Reception to follow. (John Feldman/ 2006/110 min.) **Co-presented with the Department of Music and Hummingbird Films.**

For Young Audiences

Modern-Day Sangaku

Communal Sculpting Session

Monday, April 24, 10:00 am

Join us for the revival of the ancient tradition of Sangaku (a shaped wooden tablet on which a geometric problem is written with colorful paint), in the form of a large sculptural construction. All are welcome! Lecture and reception to follow, 3:00 pm. Exhibition runs April 24 to May 5.

Pan-Asian Youth Day

Thursday, May 4, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm, Wang Center

Stories, performances, lion dancing, calligraphy, and workshops by Stony Brook students provide a rich cultural experience to middle and elementary school children. **Co-sponsored with the Asian American Center Bridge.**

Events are free unless otherwise noted.

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For more information on this and other upcoming Wang Center Asian and Asian/American Programs, call (631) 632-4400 or visit our Web site: *www.stonybrook.edu/wang.* The Charles B. Wang Center is located at Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY 11794, and is open to the public Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 8:00 pm. Jasmine serves Asian cuisine from Monday to Friday, 11:00 am to 9:00 pm and Saturday and Sunday, 2:00 to 8:00 pm. Guided group tours available upon request. To be added to our mailing list, please e-mail us at *wangcenter@stonybrook.edu.* Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. For a disability-related accommodation, please call (631) 632-1944.

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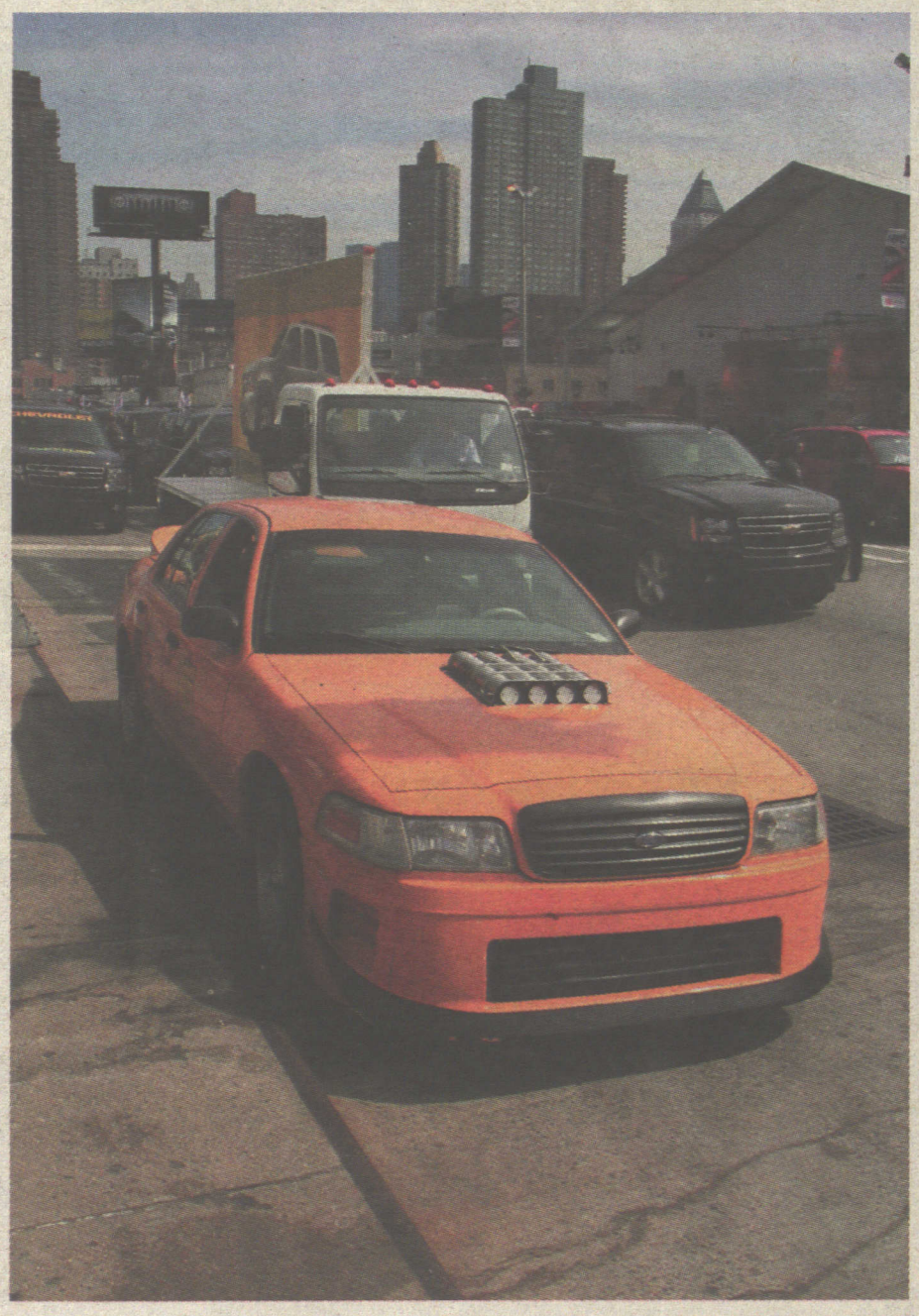
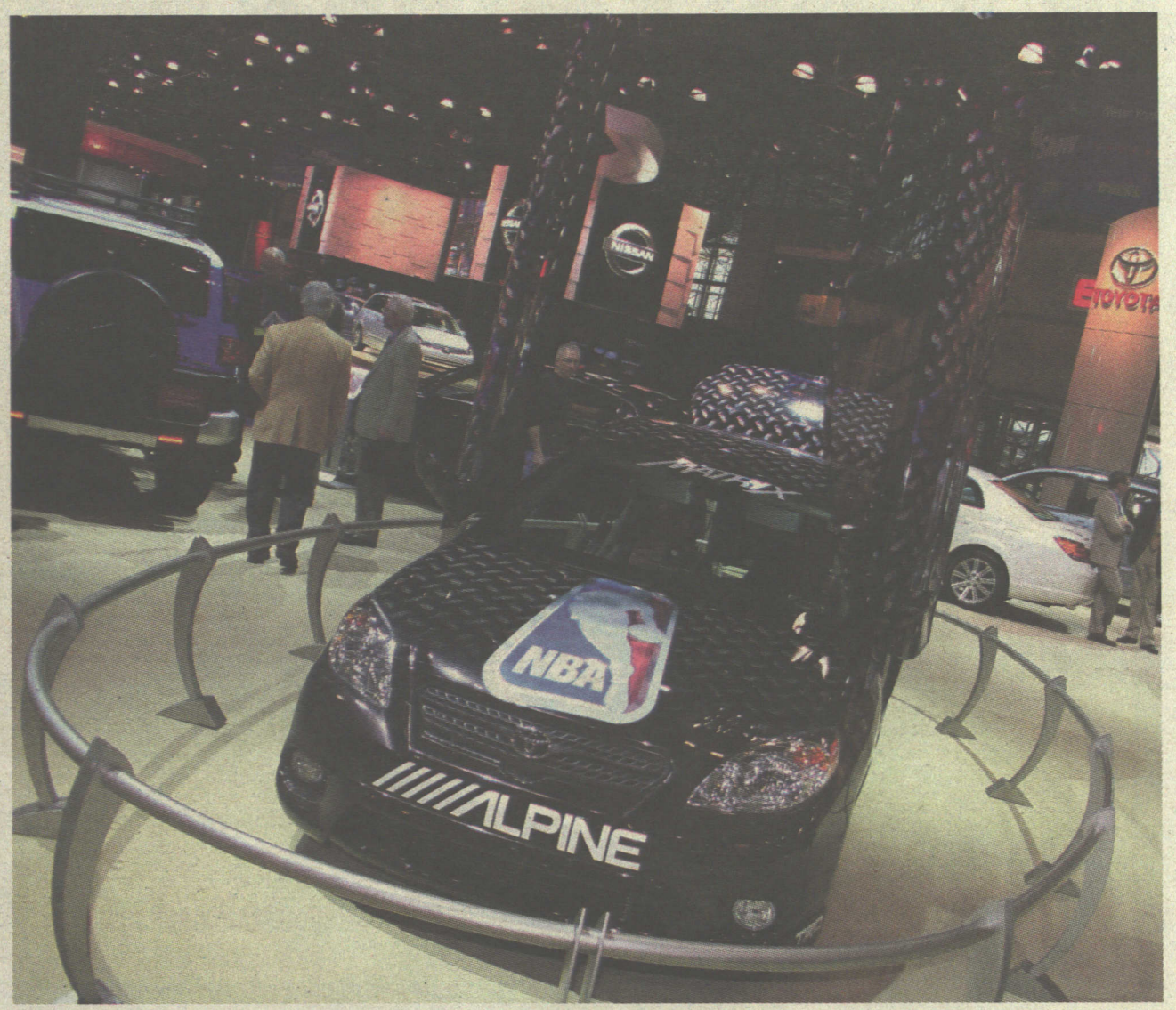
NYC Car Show

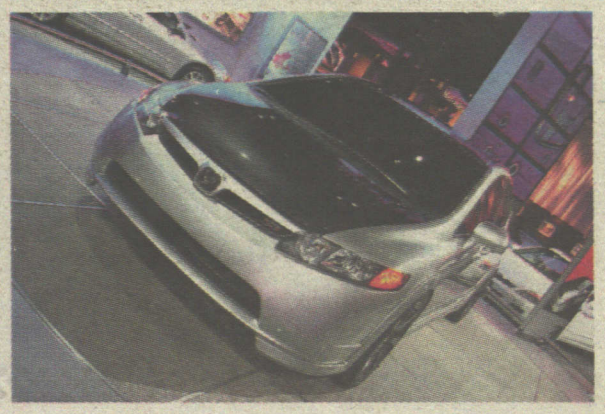
Photo Gallery of the NYC International Auto Show

April 14 - 23 Photos by Nicole Dulmer, Adhip Karmaker, Suraj Rambhia



In Pictures





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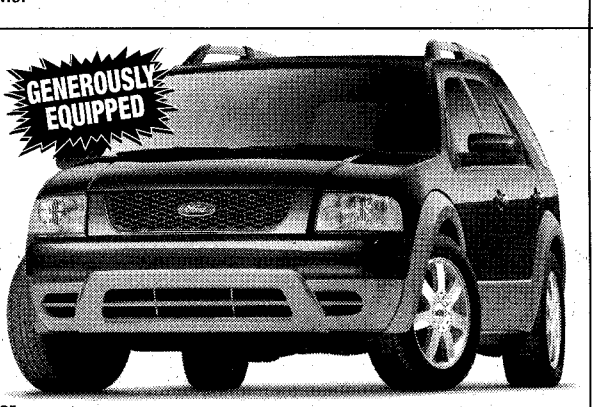

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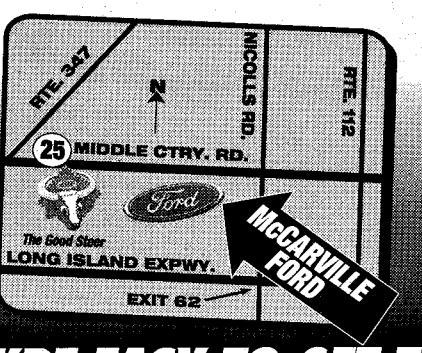

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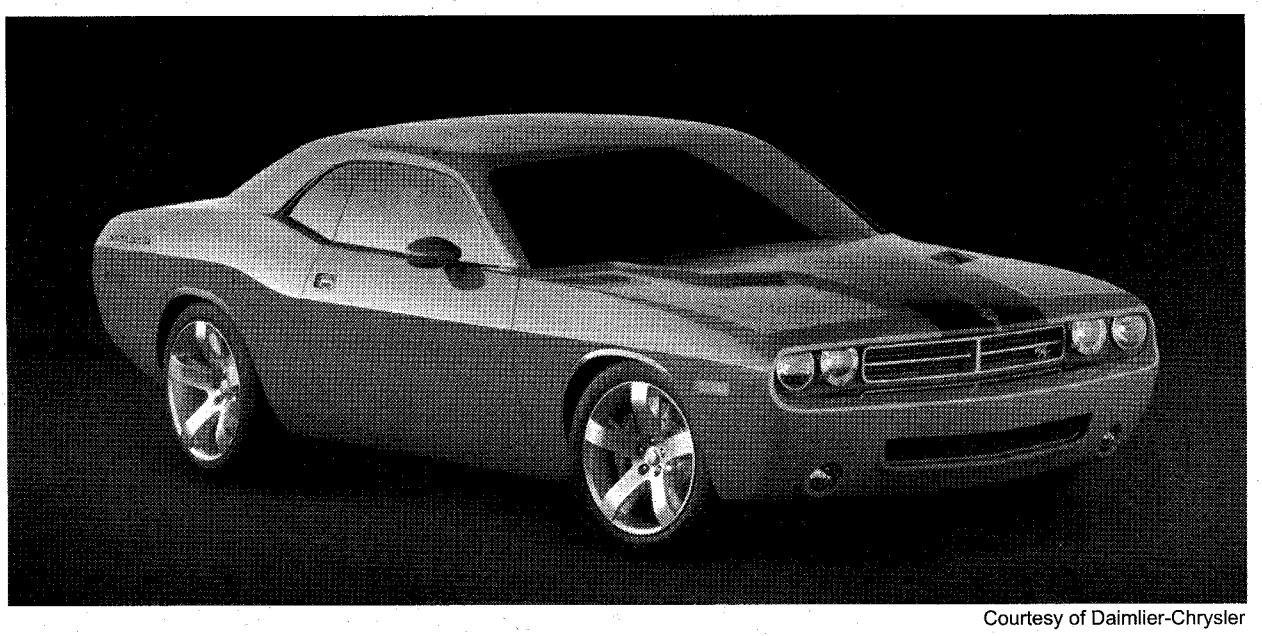
Car Insurance? *No Problem.*

By Suraj Rambhia
News Editor

After walking through the showrooms, making the decisions associated with the purchase of a vehicle, the right color, interior, add on features, after bargaining the salesperson to the lowest possible price, comparing prices from multiple dealerships, contemplating about leasing/financing options, when you're finally ready to sign the dotted line for your first car, the manager of the dealership says to you, "I need the name and phone number of your auto-insurance company." You tell the dealer, "Umm, I'll have to get back to you on that."

Aside form the actual cost of buying a vehicle, the most significant ancillary cost for the buyer is auto insurance. The problem left to many buyers is not the actual process of obtaining an auto insurance policy, but in fact, understanding the ins and outs of what each policy entails, what options would be most beneficial to have while understanding that each level of roadside comfort has is own price tag.



Courtesy of Daimlier-Chrysler

By owning a race car, such as the Dodge Challenger Concept, seen here, you are guaranteed to pay a high premium.

Any auto insurance company will attempt to sell its own image or catch the attention of prospective buyers. Geico Car Insurance® claims to save its clients 15% or more when compared to any of its competitors. Progressive Auto Insurance offers comparative price checks for equivalent policies from its competitors on its website. State Farm and Allstate Auto Insurance Companies appeal to the psyche of its consumers by advertising with slogans that emphasize safety and security. And while there are other car insurance companies out there, the best way to go about searching for the best auto insurance policy is to be informed about the options which are available, prior to speaking with any auto insurance agent.

All information provided below was complied from the Insurance Information Institute (III) located in New York City. The main goal of the III is to provide the general public with a source of unbiased information for increased understanding of insurance, its purpose and how it functions. Here's what the III had to say about auto insurance.

On a fundamental level, auto insurance is meant to provide the driver with security on the road with property, liability, and medical coverage. Any given auto insurance policy is comprised of six different types of coverage. Although most states require some type of basic coverage, all do not require purchase of all 6 types.

1. Body Injury Liability involves coverage for medical injuries sustained by you, the driver, and any family members listed on your policy.

2. Property Damage Liability covers the damage to another person's property, whether it is another person's car or public property, e.g. signs or lamp posts.

3. Personal Injury Protection covers medical payments for treatment of injuries for all persons in the policy holder's car.

4. Collision Coverage involves the cost of repairing your vehicle in the event of an accident, whether the accident is your fault or not. If an accident is not your fault, the insurance company will attempt to be reimbursed by the other driver's company. If the accident was your fault, the insurance company will respond by increasing the premium as the result of a risk assessment. You would be reimbursed fully with the exception of deductible value, a fee which is set upon purchasing of an auto insurance contract. In general, the higher the deductible that is paid initially (prior to the policy kicking in), the lower the monthly insurance premium.

5. Comprehensive Coverage involves reimbursement in the event of theft or natural disaster.

6. Uninsured Motorist Coverage is exactly what it sounds like. This coverage protects the driver in the event of a collision with an uninsured motorist.

After reading this, you might say, "Now I know the basics of auto insurance. I know I have to pay an insurance premium and a deductible. But what can I do to save money?" The III offers some hints on how to do so.

1. Ask for Higher Deductibles. By increasing one's deductible, one can significantly lower the monthly premium.

2. Reduce Coverage on Old Cars. It is often not effective to insure cars that are less than 10 times their original value. The cost for repairing such a car is, thus, often more than this original value.

3. Compare Insurance Costs. When purchasing a new vehicle, understand that the overall premium per month is based partly on the vehicle itself, how much it costs to repair, the overall safety record of the car, and likelihood of theft (new versus used vehicle).

4. Purchase Home and Car Insurance from the Same Agency. Agencies will give discounts if one buys two or more types of insurance from them.

5. Maintain Good Credit. A basic risk assessment is made on based on many factors. One of these factors is credit. Drivers that have a history of good credit characteristically get into fewer accidents.

6. Take Advantage of Low Mileage Discounts. Some discounts are available for motorists who drive a lower than average number of miles per year.

7. Safe Driver Discounts. Discounts are available for drivers who have not entered in accidents for certain periods of time (several years).

8. Group Insurance. Some companies will offer discounts for people through their employers, that is, through professional, business, alumni groups, and other organizations.

9. Shop Around. As always, it pays to shop from company to company.

For more information about auto insurance from the III, one can consult the III website: http://www.iii.org/individuals/auto/.

The insurance Gods say, "Now you may drive."

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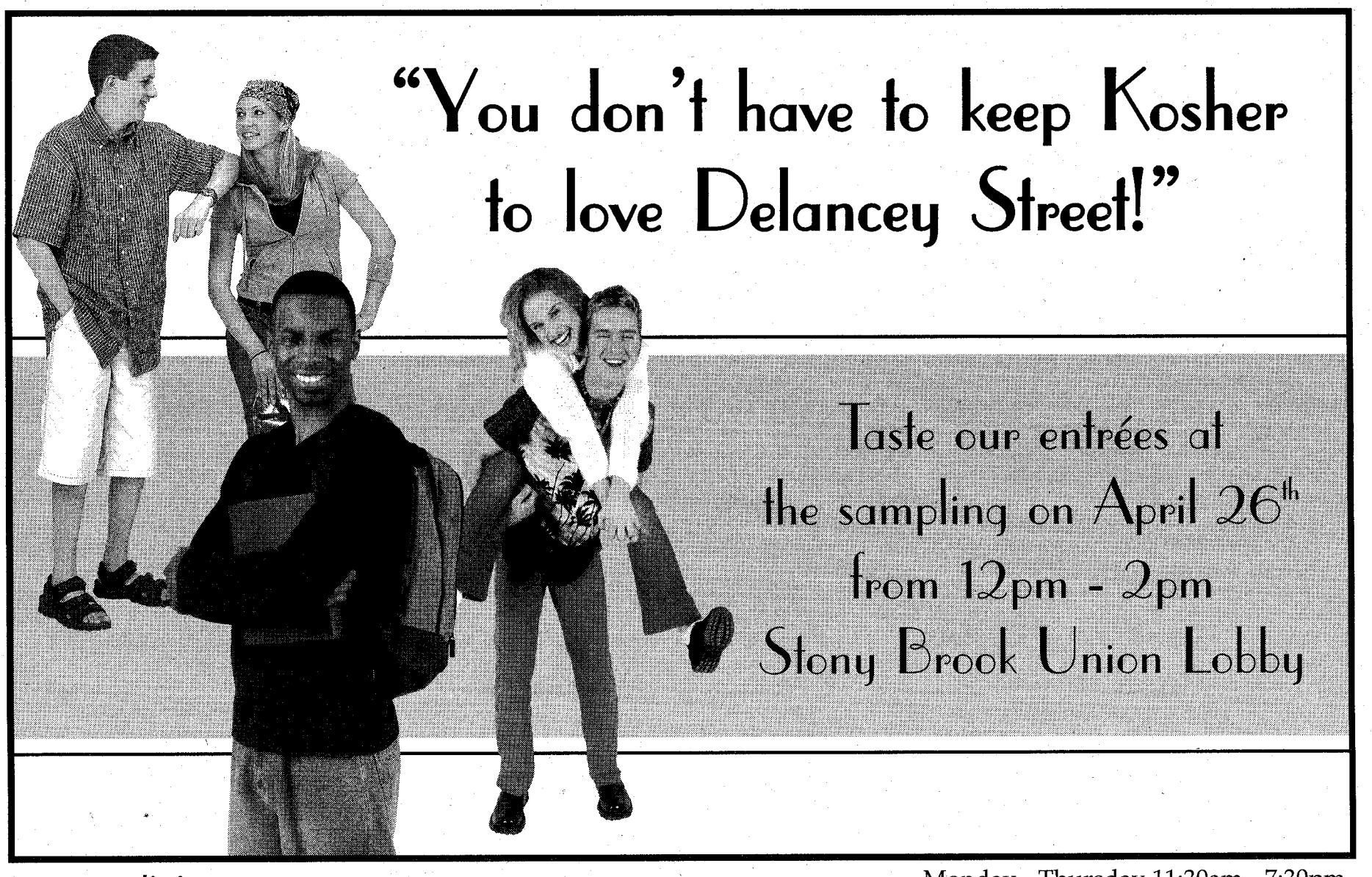

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Diesels- The Other White Meat

By James Bouklas
Editor-in-Chief

There is certainly a lot of buzz surrounding hybrid technology, with many people calling it the savior to outrageous gas prices. While these people may be right, I have a very different image of the future of cars in this country. Rather than hooking up expensive and intricate battery systems to gasoline engines to get an average of 30% better mileage, simply swap your engine for a diesel. Yes, it's that simple.

But diesels pollute and are smelly and take 2 minutes to warm up, right? That was the case with Oldsmobile's diesels in the 1980s, which have forever tainted this engine's image in the US. Right now, manufacturers such as Daimler-Chrysler and Volkswagen have diesels that are clean and offer similar fuel efficiency to hybrids without the extra cost and technological risks.

So what are we waiting for! Apparently, our diesel fuel has too much sulfur to burn cleanly, meaning that current diesels that are sold in this country (Volkswagen's Jetta and Jeep's Liberty) cannot be sold in a handful of states with stringent emissions requirements, including New York and California. Not to worry – starting now, the diesel fuel that will be sold in this country will be Ultra Low Sulfur, which actually still has more sulfur than the diesel sold in Europe. To solve this, engineers at Daimler-Chrysler and Volkswagen came up with an ingenious solution that uses urea, derived from bovine urine of all places, to neutralize any sulfur-related emissions. Thanks to cows, we're only a matter of months away from a car revolution in this country, I hope.

With the terrible rap diesels have been getting for years, are we ready to go out and buy a diesel version of popular models? I think so. The Chrysler Group, encompassing Dodge, Jeep, and Chrysler, announced that by 2008, half of their sales are estimated to be diesels, with a full offering across their line-up. Right now, the new Dodge Caliber sports a VW diesel in the European market, showing the portability of the platform. There are rumors circulating that Chrysler plans to go as far as putting a diesel version of their 5.7-liter Hemi engine in their flagship models, destroying the stereotype that diesels can only power little econoboxes. With 30% better mileage and more power than a gasoline engine, diesels are quickly looking to diminish any incentive we would have to buy a hybrid.

Courtesy of VW

Cars with diesel engines, including the VW Jetta TDI, pictured above, rival hybrids in fuel economy.

Don't Drive, Save a Soul

(Last Minute Car Advice from One with No Factual Knowledge of Cars)

By Will James
News Editor

The straight, mountainous road from Virginia made it easy to realize, for a few hours, that the rest of America was not New York. Pennsylvania, as vast and flat as I had imagined Kansas, entertained a sensational emptiness of which I had not been aware before spring break, and which made for perhaps the first pleasurable car trip of my life. Like many young Long Islanders, I have found very few reasons to leave, thus far; my youthful enterprise has demanded of me little more than regular jaunts to the city, to the west, or the perfect shoreline, to the east. Unlike most, however, I think I have been aware of the sacrifice I have been making for the sake of location.

I am now fairly sure that a line of demarcation exists exactly half way through New Jersey, north of which most people are assholes. This claim is based exclusively on the nature of the drivers I encountered on my trip home from spring break. I firmly believe that the habits of humans on the road are accurate indications of the true nature of their souls. Accordingly, Long Island is the epicenter of all that is perverse and terrible about humanity. I believe that I can realize this because I am a new enough driver, and I am nervous, spiteful, and observant by nature.

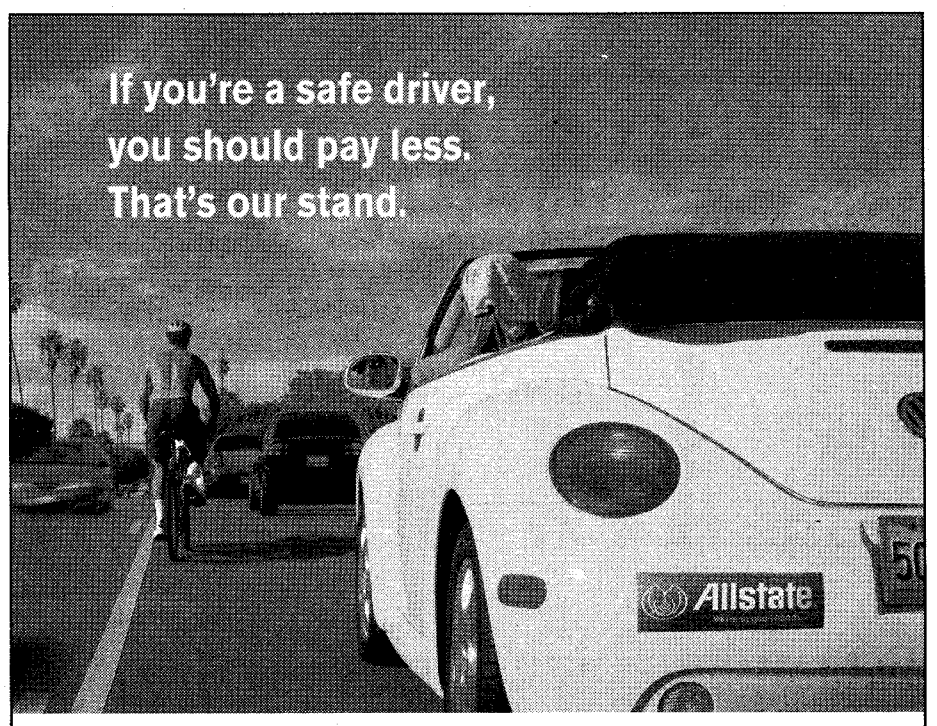
In Virginia, tailgating does not exist. My experience there, in the mountains, has led me to believe that if my father had stopped his car in the middle of the highway, the vehicle behind us would have rolled to a stop exactly fifty feet from our bumper. The man in the car, who may have been on his way to see his newborn twin daughters for the first time, would have turned up the radio, rolled down the window, and adjusted his sunglasses. If my father had looked up, into the mirror. I'm sure the man would have waved. This would have proven to me, once and for all, that all of the various flaws of Southern culture are a result of ignorance, and not the permeating, subhuman meanness that has caused me to look cynically on my place of birth. Not that one is more acceptable than the other, in the grand scheme, but simply less palpable on the roadway.

As we crossed into Long Island, I received a vision: A woman, a young mother in an Explorer, tailgating a Civic at rush hour, on Rt. 347. She crosses over two lanes, somewhat recklessly, makes a right. She is on a cell phone. As she comes to her first stop sign, she rolls through, cutting off another vehicle. I imagine that she is on her way to pick up her ten-year-old from gymnastics, and I think, "This is Long Island." As personable as this imaginary woman may be outside of her car, I cannot help but believe that the identity she takes on behind the wheel of her SUV is her true self, a more accurate and transparent vision of what she really is.

I have tried to explain the terror I feel every time I drive. I think, "It's hard to drive here as a result of sheer volume." This is partly true. Five years ago, I'm sure I would have been able to make a left onto the main road running through my village, here in central Long Island, at midday. However, I was not driving then, and it seems that the population has double since; what was once rush hour is now noon on a weekday – or a Sunday, for that matter. I am aware that Suffolk County does not boast a sophisticated enough infrastructure to be the new Nassau, just as Nassau cannot handle being the sixth borough. However, this does not suffice – the core question is one of culture.

The city of Charlottesville, Virginia, is a city in every sense of the word. However, there I felt comfortable thinking, "Here, I can just get in the car and drive;" something that I cannot even accomplish in my tame, suburban locale. Granted, I am neurotic and anxious. However, learning how to drive here has left me feeling hardened and accomplished, like a war veteran. Unfortunately, it has also yielded persistent feelings of bitterness and injustice. Every jaunt entails a battle against discouragement, when I see the car in front of me eject a coffee cup, or the car behind me driving inches from my bumper.

I'm proud of my sensitivity to these things, even though they make me nervous. The hardest fight has been to fail to succumb to the impatience and insensitivity of most of the people I have shared these roads with for the past year. I am afraid that, as a function of culture, bad driving experiences yield a bad attitude on the road. One of the most pleasant results of leaving the tri-state area was becoming enlightened to the fact that the rest of the country is different.



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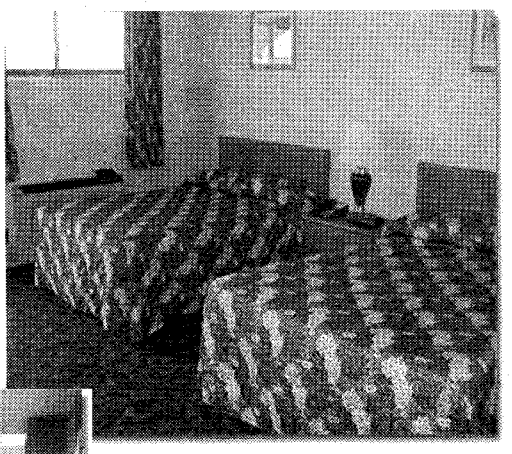

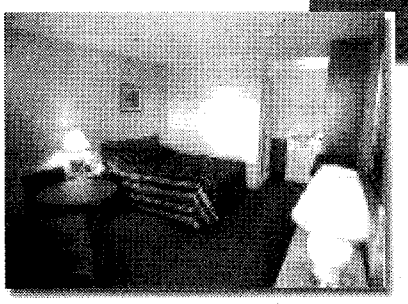

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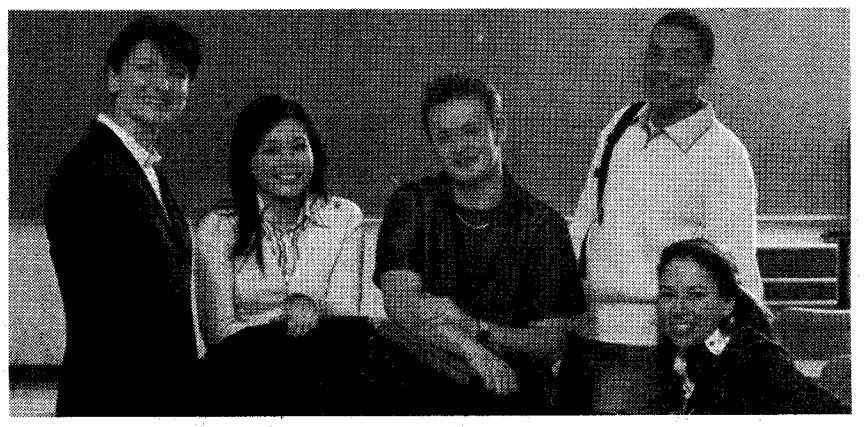

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Auto Guide

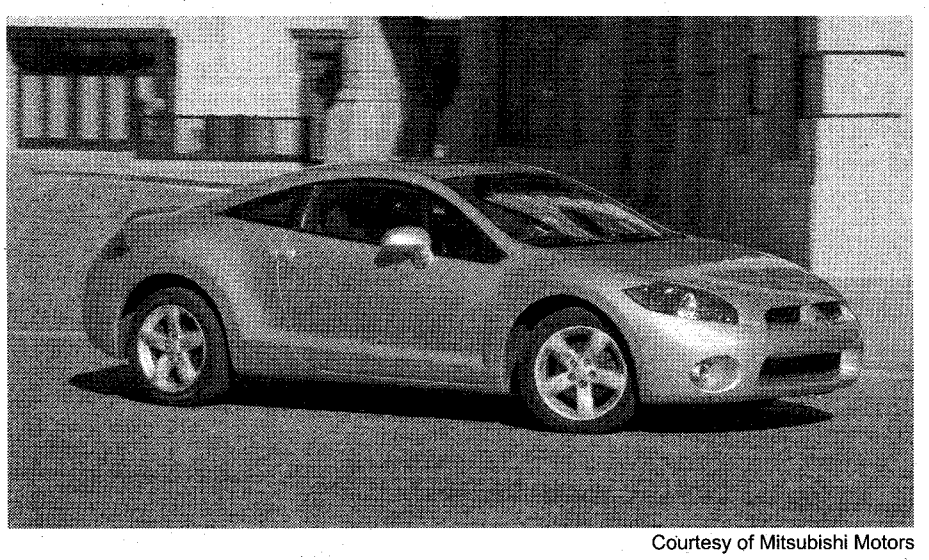
Top Car Picks for Students

Best Overall Value
2007 Dodge Caliber

Courtesy of Daimlier-Chrysler

The 2007 Dodge Caliber offers the aggressive looks of an SUV with the fuel economy and handling of a compact. In essence, this car is the best of both worlds. Starting at roughly $14,000, this undercuts the Toyota Corolla and Honda Civic price-wise while offering more power, with choices of a 1.8-, 2.0-, and 2.4-liter engines that make 138, 158, and 172 horses, respectively. Also available is AWD-unique in this class and price range. Of the various modernizations and improvements over the Neon its replacements, the Caliber comes with a Continuously Variable Transmission standard in an effort to improve both performance and mileage, estimated at 23/26 for AWD and 28/32 for FWD. Available for sale by the Summer is the Caliber SRT-4, which packs a 300-hp engine and FWD for an estimated $26,000.

Best Coupe
2006 Mitsubishi Eclipse


Courtesy of Mitsubishi Motors

Is this a nice car or what? Albeit a bit underpowered with a standard 2.4-liter four banger that produces 162-hp, this is one hell of a deal. Starting at roughly $20,000, with an optional 3.8-liter 6-cylinder putting you back $24,000, nothing even comes close to matching the style and class of the Eclipse at this price range. The interior is done up beautifully, easily one of the best in its class. The base GS model may not win any drag races, but the 6-cylinder GT might, going from 0-60 in 5.5 seconds, by some estimates. While it may look like a pure sports car, there are a few quirks to watch out for. Since it weighs in at a hefty 3,300 pounds, it handles a bit more like a heavy sedan than, say, a Mazda3. Nevertheless, the Eclipse manages .82g on the skipad, according to *Car and Driver* tests (for reference, the Mazda3 comes in at .87g). Definitely a great car at a great price.

Best Economy Car
2007 Nissan Versa

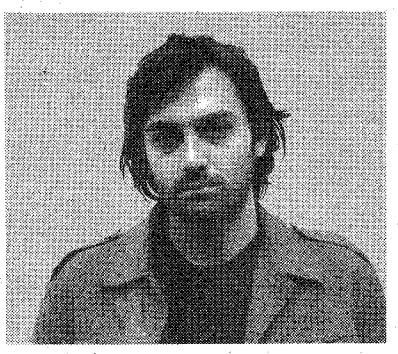
Courtesy of Nissan Motors

After years of watching companies like Toyota and GM fail to produce an exciting low-budget car, Nissan finally showed up to set them straight. The Nissan Versa is ages ahead of the Toyota Echo/Yaris and the Chevy Aveo it will compete with. Powered by a 2.0-liter 4-cylinder engine that makes at least 120-hp and will get an estimated 31/33 mpg, the Versa is one of the nicest assembled cars on the market, regardless of price range. The interior is cavernous, considering this is a sub-compact, in a category below a Corolla. The instrument panel is clean and polished, as is the rest of the interior. Surprisingly, the back seat feels at least as roomy as a Civic and even a bit more refined. With optional features including a CVT, automatic entry (one step above keyless), Satellite Radio, and a Bluetooth Handsfree system, this is one classy sub-compact, starting at only $12,000.

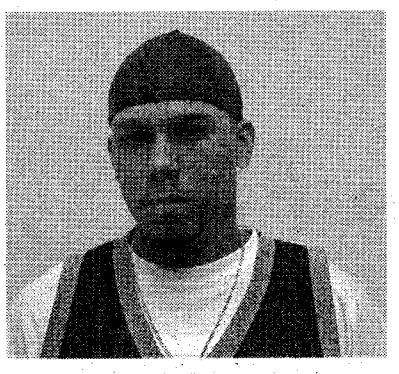
The Gamekillers **OBITUARIES** April 2006

Game Killed

Andre Massis
Fernando Nieves
Zack Danielson
Hanwey Shieh
Bharat Kumar
Eric Smith
Jon Fox
Chad Utsch



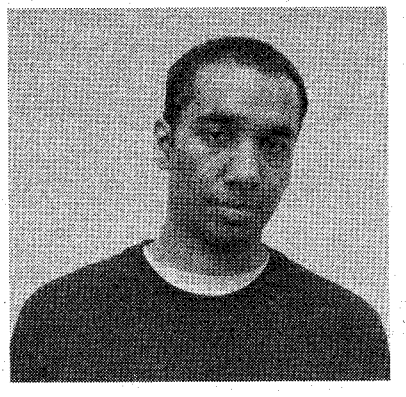
MASSIS Andre, São Paulo, BR
Was lured away from a pretty young thing and into a heated game of 'Foos' by his good friend Carl—more commonly known as "The Mayor of No Women's Land." While Andre made several attempts to step away and put himself back into contention with the said female, Carl's relentless pursuit for all things that don't involve getting some, was ultimately too much for the young Andre. He quickly found himself sweating it out over the air hockey table, from where he would catch a glimpse of his young beauty heading out the door with another suitor. Andre's game will be remembered by many, just not her.



NIEVES Fernando, New York, NY
His game was alive and well on its way to a ten digit exchange with a hottie known as Britney, but was suddenly bushwhacked by a classic Gamekiller, The Drama Queen. She ran into the scene, tears streaming, and sobbed a story of having seen her ex from four years ago. "I, I, I just can't be alone tonight, Brit." Still a retrievable situation had Fernando kept his cool. But he didn't. "Four years seems like a long time ago," he said in all innocence. By the time The Drama Queen was done flipping the script, Fernando was re-cast in the role of "the villain" in front of a crowd of horrified on-lookers. No one hooks up with an insensitive pig. Rest in peace Fernando, but you sleep alone.

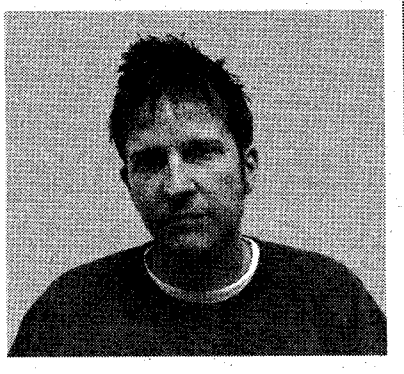
DANIELSON Zack, Atlanta, GA
It was early in the evening yesterday when Zack's game left us, and while it didn't go without a fight, Zack did have his arse unceremoniously handed to him. Upon returning from the bathroom, Zack found the girl he was seeing had been surrounded by a beefy mesomorph, Early Man, who tried to use his abundant muscle to strong-arm him out of the picture. Zack did not keep his cool and accused his young lady friend of flirting with the first guy who came along. His girl, no doubt disgusted by Zack's over-the-top bravado, fled the scene when his far from attractive jealousy escalated into Zack throwing a punch, which was caught in mid-air by something that looked like a hand, but felt like a 20lb vice. By the time Zack re-gained consciousness, he was home alone and unable to console himself with his dominant hand.

SHIEH Hanwey, Los Angeles, CA
Hanwey was chatting up a Latin diva at an apartment complex barbecue and his game was hot enough to pose a fire hazard, that is until his friend and cocoon of horror known as The Mess entered the picture and snatched Hanwey up like a flash flood of distraction. Somewhat of a loose cannon, The Mess immediately engaged Hanwey in the age-old male bonding tradition of lighting one's own farts. Sure, there's little more enticing than the ignition of one's own combustible human gasses, but much like riding an electric scooter, you don't look that cool doing it. When the laughter subsided, Hanwey was left with nothing but a good laugh and the faint smell of old eggs, while his lady was snared by a new suitor. Man, talk about blowing it.

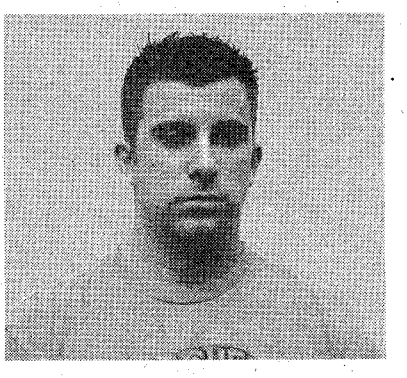


KUMAR Bharat, Jacksonville, FL
After kicking his game to a leggy redhead at a dorm mixer, Bharat was interrupted by Trevor, a.k.a. British Accent Guy. Women are drawn to men with British accents, so all it took was a single "pardon" to make his girl raise an eyebrow toward this game killing Redcoat. This prompted Bharat to get riled by calling out the guy's busted grill of yellowing bad teeth and comparing the merits of baseball over cricket. The British Accent Guy smiled and opened his mouth only to offer small bits of non-confrontational banter, allowing his accent to seep into the girl's brain like a piece of brilliant propaganda. In the end, the Brit would invade on Bharat's territory with ease, taking the girl, and leaving Bharat's game strewn on the road as a piece of collateral damage.

SMITH Eric, Washington, DC
His game came to its demise in the most unlikely of circumstances. While engaging in two of his most pleasurable pastimes: talking about boats, with his other passion, a beautiful girl who seemed genuinely interested. They were even planning to go out in his 15-foot dinghy, only to hit unseen rocks in the form of The One Upper, the classic Gamekiller who lives by the motto "Anything you can do I can do better." Sure enough, The One Upper claimed to not only know boats, but he also boasted of captaining his own 40-foot vessel. Eric tried to navigate to the calmer waters of car talk but was run over again by The One Upper's supposed vintage German roadster. The tension quickly mounted, and soon the two were engaged in a ruthless game of one-upmanship. On and on they went, seeing what the other guy just said and raising him. When the smoke cleared, Eric had won the gloat-fest, but the girl was nowhere to be found. No one likes a braggart. Eric's game was last seen drifting away towards the vast sea of loneliness in an undersized boat.



FOX Jon, London, UK
Jon's game, beloved to many a cheerleader and facilitator of the ménage of 2003, was fairing well at a Gold Coast club with a delightful pair of sisters. That is until the playboy predator and full time Gamekiller simply known as Kash Munni entered the picture. A well-endowed socialite famous for trashing 5-star hotel rooms, Kash had traveled in from oil rich lands wearing expensive Italian loafers and indoor sunglasses. Drinks were bought for willing and unwilling recipients alike with his family's fortune, which he shamelessly flaunted in the form of an array of high status plastic. This caused Jon to suddenly lose his cool and go on the defensive by opening a tab of his own. On his debit card. After three rounds, Jon's account was maxed. Shortly after he was dropped off alone would Jon learn the hard way that a woman's affection should never be for sale, and that many a man has gone broke trying to prove otherwise.



UTSCH Chad, New Brunswick, NJ
His game was faring nicely at the local coffee shop with a seemingly receptive latte drinker called Rita and he seemed well on his way to a little afternoon delight, that is until the corduroy-clad Gamekiller known as "IQ" entered picture. This pompous scholastic scavenger, famous for luring men into heated debates on subjects of which they know nothing, over-heard the conversation turning to art and pounced. Immediately he steered the dialogue into an area known as Out Of Chad's Depth where he would dish out ever increasing portions of intellectual emasculation. Chad reacted as anyone with a 20 point IQ deficit facing "IQ" would: the wrong way. No, the answer to "When do you feel Picasso peaked?" isn't to shove the questioner in the chest. Rita was left to apologize emphatically for Chad's actions and asked if she could make up for it in some way. Chad tried to recover, but it was too late. He had lost his cool, and his game would retire home, where it would begin its own blue period.

Obituaries can be created and sent via email to friends at gamekillers.com

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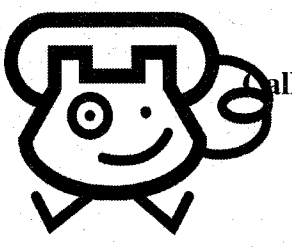

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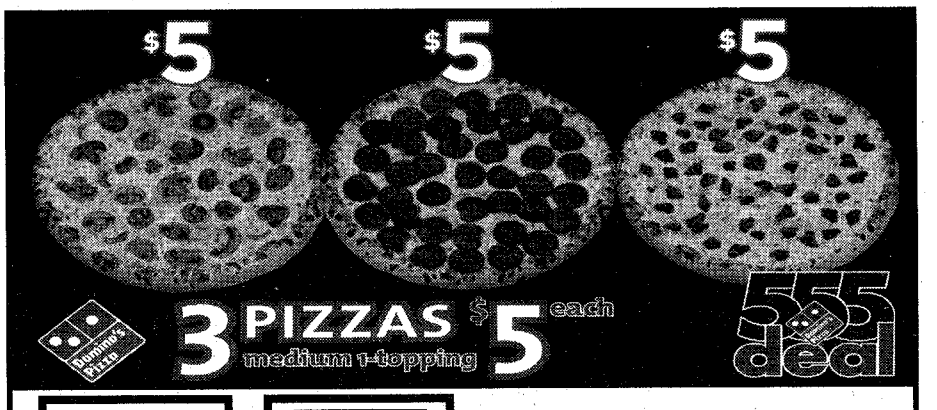

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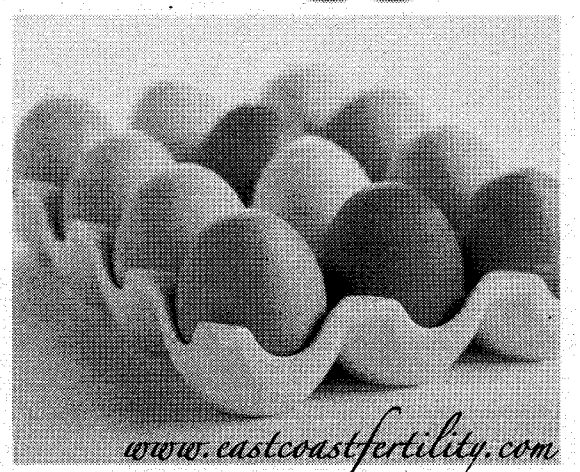

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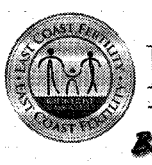

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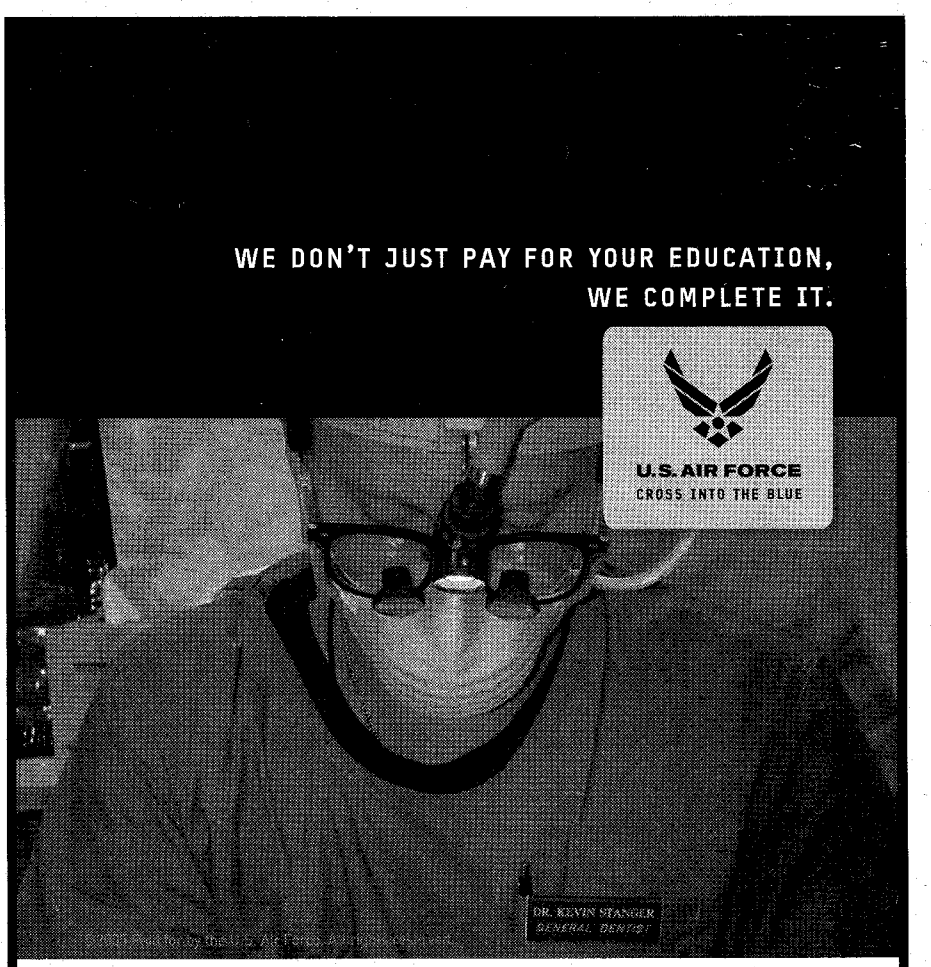

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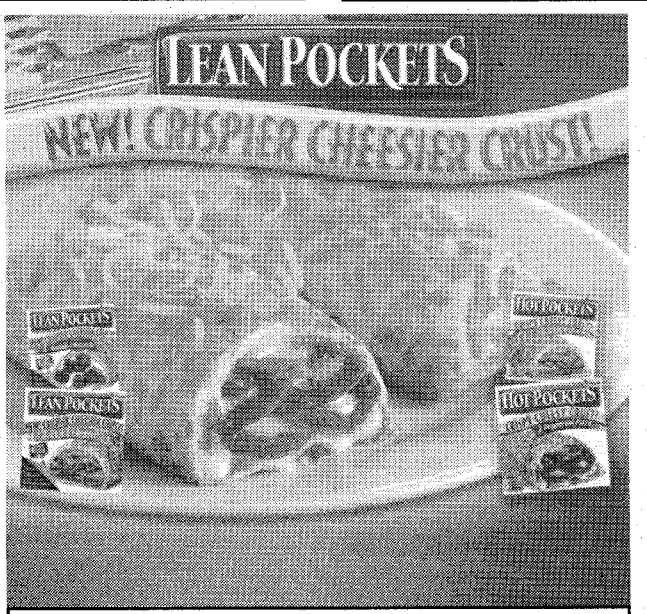

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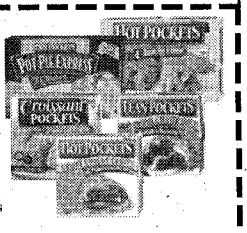

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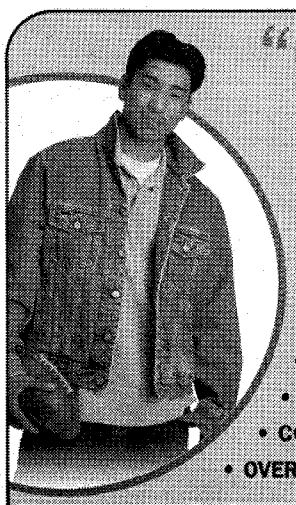

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Sports Editor

Adhip Karmaker/Statesman

After a slow start to the season, the Seawolves have found their groove and have won 7 of their last 8 games, 5 in a row, and have already clinched a berth in the America East play-offs. It is the first time in school history that the team has gone 3-0 to start league play. Impressive wins over #19 Denver (who currently stands at #15) and long time rival Albany boosted the Seawolves into the national rankings for the first time this season. The Seawolves debuted at #19 last week then tallied two more wins in the streak. Suddenly, the Seawolves find themselves unranked once again this week in one of those bizarre scenarios that makes you wonder if the people who vote on this stuff are paying any attention.

The Seawolves have managed to post a 7-4 mark on the season despite a brutal schedule in which they have faced current #1 Virginia, #17 Harvard, and #18 Army while earning big victories over current #13 Penn State and #15 Denver.

On Tuesday, April 25th at 7pm the Seawolves will host their last home game of the season against Long Island rival and current #2 Hofstra. (ha, ha. I just wrote "#2" and "Hofstra"!) Before the seniors' last game at LaValle (unless they make the NCAA play-offs) there will be a tailgate Bar-B-Q that is free to all who bring their student IDs. Students can also sign up to win an X-Box, a DVD player, or one of many other prizes.

In other Sports News...

Men's Tennis won it's fifth straight match and is currently undefeated in conference play. Last week Nihal Advani was named America East player of the week, and this week his teammate Youssef Fassi-Fehri snagged the honor. Last time out, Stony Brook didn't even lose a set as they swept Quinnipiac 7-0. League play continues this Saturday when Hartford comes to town.

Women's Tennis earned a 4-3 victory over Quinnipiac to improve to 8-6 on the year. Sandy Wijeratne was named the America East player of the week to give the Seawolves a sweep of the weekly conference tennis awards. The lady Seawolves will also face Hartford this Saturday at Stony Brook.

Women's Lacrosse had a tough time on their West coast road trip, but since returning to the Empire State they have notched wins over Albany and Wagner. The ladies are 6-2 in-state this year and they get to play their final four regular season games at home. New Hampshire comes to town Friday, with face-off scheduled for 3:30pm.

Baseball saw eight different players hit safely while only producing 2 runs in an 8-2 loss to Hofstra on Tuesday. The team currently stands at 10-20. The Seawolves will be back in action at Stony Brook on Friday as they take on Hartford at 3pm.

Softball took a 8-0 beating from Vermont on Saturday. The loss drops them to 5-6 in conference play and 19-20 on the season. Stony Brook returns to action on Thursday (4/20) when they travel to New Jersey to take on St. Peter's.