

Task Force Strives to Save SBU's Failing "Campus Climate"

By WILL JAMES
News Editor

Approximately one-third of SBU employees do not feel like part of the family or team at Stony Brook, according to a 2004 campus climate survey.

The same survey says that almost one-fourth of the campus community has observed sexual harassment over the previous two years, and that more than 40 percent of lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered respondents reported that they observed harassment based on sexual orientation by faculty or staff over the previous two years.

These statistics, and many others like them, sparked the formation of the Campus Climate Task Force Steering Committee in 2004. Recently, the committee released the first draft of their plan to improve the SBU's campus climate.

Campus climate, according to the report, is, "...both policy and practice that refer to behaviors within a workplace or learning environment that can influence whether an individual feels safe, listened to, and treated fairly and with respect." It also refers to "an organization's structures, policies, practices; the diversity of its faculty, staff and students; the attitudes and values of its members and leaders; and the quality of personal interaction and communication."

The 61-page report outlines strategies for alleviating a wide variety of interpersonal issues at all levels of the university. On Wednesday, Nov. 15, SBU employees attended an open meeting that allowed them to voice their opinions of the report to the chairs of the task force committee.

"Their experience here was that sometimes they didn't feel as

Continued on page 3



Students lined up at the "Major" Event to speak to faculty representatives from the various undergraduate academic departments.

Suraj Rambhia / Statesman

A Major Event for Major Decisions

By SURAJ RAMBHIA
Editor-in-Chief

On Nov. 15, 2006, SBU students had the opportunity to take part in the 5th annual "Major" Event. Faculty members from each undergraduate academic department were available to discuss some of the defining characteristics of their departments and the degree programs they offer. The hope was to give students an idea of the wealth of opportunities available for picking a major or minor along with the subsequent possibilities of career options for the future.

William Dawes, undergraduate director and co-chair of the Economics Department, had a few words of advice for students in their struggle to make the right decision. Dawes

said, "You're going to be wrong. People who declare their major usually don't keep it. Interests change."

Dawes, who was at the event, was further questioned on why he believed this was the case. Why are students prone to changing their career path? Dawes responded, "Fundamentally, they don't have enough information to make life plans. Students don't necessarily have to become bio majors to go to med school. Getting into graduate school for business doesn't require one to be an undergraduate business major."

The bottom line, according to Dawes, "It's okay to be uncertain."

Another faculty member, Harvey Cormier, director of undergraduate studies of the philosophy department who

was also at the Major Event, commented on some common questions students have for him. Cormier said, "Students ask me, 'What is philosophy? Is it hard?' Then they ask, 'What can I do with this major?'" He corroborated Dawes by further commenting, "Career options for philosophy majors lie in the academic realm. However, students who opt for law school generally benefit from an education in philosophy rather than a standard pre-law track." Both Cormier and Dawes emphasized the fact that the subject matter of one's education is not as important in determining where one goes as to the skills one gains in a particular major.

According to Cormier, a

Continued on page 11

Intercollegiate News: USC STUDENT CHARGED IN BABY'S DEATH

By TEJAS GAWADE
Editor-in-Chief

Holly Ashcraft, a 22-year-old student at the University of Southern California (USC) is currently facing trial for the murder of her 8-month-old premature son. The infant, who weighed only four pounds, was found in a dumpster near Ashcraft's Los Angeles apartment last year. Michael Lee Walker, the homeless man who found him testified that the infant was found inside a box, wrapped in a towel. Police also found envelopes addressed to Ashcraft in the same box.

Continued on page 3

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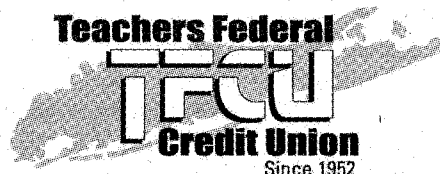
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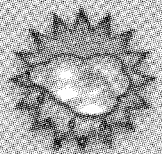
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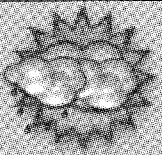
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Student Forecast:

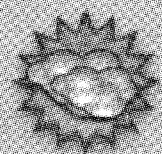
Nov. 16 - Nov. 22
by Britta Merwin



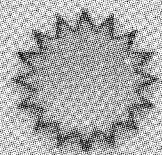
Thursday:
High 65/Low 55
Rainy & Mild



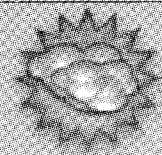
Friday:
High 58/Low 45
Chance of AM Shower,
Clearing Late



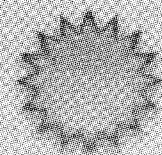
Saturday:
High 55/Low 40
Partly Cloudy,
Cooling Down



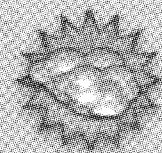
Sunday:
High 53/Low 38
Average Day



Monday:
High 49/Low 35
Feel the Chill



Tuesday:
High 50/Low 36
Mostly Sunny



Wednesday:
High 53/Low 39
Starting to Warm Up

Behind the Numbers

Today will be about ten degrees above normal with a blanket of misty moisture hanging over campus. There will be periods of rain, the heaviest occurring over night into early Friday morning. As the weekend gets under way, the misty conditions move out and cool dry air moves in. This weekend will be just around the average high of 54 degrees and the average overnight low of 36 degrees. This cooling is from an upper level trough bringing down cooler polar air. Monday will be the real chiller with afternoon highs barely making 50 degrees. As the new week continues an approaching high pressure system will bring a ridge of slightly warmer air.

Draft of Campus Climate Report Released

Continued from page 1

safe as they wanted to feel," said Carolyn Peabody, a vice co-chair of the committee, of SBU employees in general. She said that employees complained, historically, of being outside of communication loops and not feeling like a part of the university. She also said that employees have complained of different types of harassment. The other vice co-chair, besides Peabody, is Christina Vargas Law, from the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action.

The task force committee went through every survey since 1987 that pertained to campus climate, said George Meyer, a co-chair of the committee and a deputy to President Shirley Strum Kenny. A lot of the report's proposed solutions are low-cost and easy to implement, said Meyer, at the meeting.

The employees at the meeting spoke mostly of Newsday's recent coverage of Stony Brook University. "Right now, I'm defending Stony Brook. Why do I feel like this is my job?" said one employee.

Other employees said that different departments must maintain better contact with one another, that employees need to be retained longer, and that managers and bosses need to be more responsive and patient.

Often, managers are promoted and not properly trained, said Aldustus Jordan, a co-chair of the committee and the associate dean of the School of Medicine. The committee's report addresses this issue.

The task force also contains representatives from the Undergraduate Student Government, the Interfaith Center, Disability Support Services, university faculty, and hospital staff, among others.

The task force was divided into subcommittees: Building Internal Community, Participation and Empowerment, Hiring and Employment, Building External Community, and Mandated Employee Education. The subcommittees are indicative of the types of changes the committee hopes to implement. The final draft of the committee's plan will be complete in January.

Intercollegiate News: USC

CALIFORNIA STUDENT GOES TO TRIAL OVER BABY'S DEATH

Continued from page 1

In a separate incident, in Apr. 2004, Ashcraft claimed that she gave birth to a stillborn infant, and disposed of it on her own. She was examined at a Los Angeles hospital, where she showed up bleeding reportedly right after giving birth. The infant's body was never discovered, and Ashcraft was never charged or investigated for the incident.

After the most recent incident, Ashcraft was examined at the USC Medical Center, where a female nurse found evidence Ashcraft had recently given birth. Ashcraft's DNA is a match to the baby. Ashcraft's statement to the police was contradictory. She first said that she had been at her house all weekend, and then said that she was at the beach and the library. Ashcraft, pending a \$2 million bail, will be arraigned on Nov. 15. Ashcraft may face as much as 25

years to life.

California has a "Safe Surrender" law, which allows a person to anonymously drop off a baby at either a hospital or a fire station within 72 hours. Ashcraft lived within a two-minute drive from a fire station. The time between the dumpster where the infant was found and the fire station is only 42 seconds.

The infant's autopsy report confirmed homicide due to "caretaker neglect." It also said that intentional asphyxia, a condition of severely deficient supply of oxygen to the body due to suffocation, could have been a cause of death. David Whiteman, the Deputy medical examiner on board, ruled that the baby was born alive after a 32-week pregnancy.

Mark Geragos, Ashcraft's defense attorney, will be arguing that Ashcraft's baby was born dead. If he was indeed born alive, Geragos will argue that Ashcraft

did not have the intent to murder him. The medical examiner found air in the infant's lungs, which lends credibility to his theory that the infant was born alive. The coroner's investigator at the scene discovered that the child was covered in blood and birth discharge. Approximately ten inches of his umbilical cord was still attached. His umbilical cord was three vessels, which is considered normal, and not indicative of any birth defects.

USC witnessed a similar incident eight years ago with Linda Chu, who was then a 20-year-old business major. Chu was sentenced to ten years in prison for killing her newborn daughter and dropping her into a trash chute at Century.

USC's response has been to advertise its readily-available counseling service, which includes a crisis response team for urgent concerns.

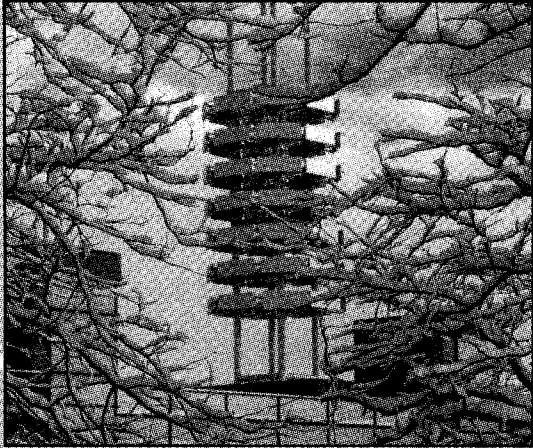
Port Jeff Spotlight, pg. 12-13



- Will They Grow Up? - A Critique of the USG Senate, pg. 5
- SB Bytes: Phishing, pg. 7
- Reel Deal: Borat, pg. 7
- A Russian Kids Circus at the Staller Center, pg. 7

Inside

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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 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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Will They Grow Up?

By ESAM AL-SHAREFFI
USG Senate Recording Secretary

Dear Editor,

The November 14, 2006 USG Senate meeting held the promise of being the shortest Senate meeting this year, but things did not turn out that way. At first, the Senate moved quickly through various legislations, killing a bill proposed last meeting which would have given the USG "subpoena" power. (The actual language used was to refer the matter to the Legislative Review Committee, but in reality it is practically the same thing.)

Afterwards, a Commission, which was organized early in the semester, delivered its final report, making recommendations on the state of the non-academic judiciary and reporting on how Stony Brook could make that process better. Whether or not these recommendations will ever mean anything, in terms of actual action by the University, remains to be seen, but the formation of the Commission and its work are all positive steps.

I hope that the Senate investigates other important issues which impact all students. (Some suggestions: Food prices on campus; parking space availability; the efficiency of campus buses; getting the "Speed" channel back on TV; the impact of increased under-

graduate enrollment on campus infrastructure, among others.)

A great deal of time was spent on "Open Agenda," primarily discussing the constitutional amendments currently on the ballot, which can be accessed through SOLAR and clicking on "Student Elections" (same as for the Fall Elections.) While I could probably fill several pages with the various accusations of intimidation, incompetence, and sheer stupidity by almost every USG official involved, I think we should take a higher path and discuss the actual issues.

Although I could score many "political" points by naming names and shaming individuals, I honestly do not think that is the best way to proceed, and despite my disagreements at times with Senators in terms of policy, I am on the whole pleased with their passion.

On the ballot, you will see two amendments that deal with the USG Constitution. Most people who have read the amendments agree with the need to incorporate them in order to address potential liabilities within the USG Constitution, but the most important problem here is not the wording of the amendments (although there are concerns,) but rather the timing of the ballot.

In terms of timing, many students, me included, feel that it is

the wrong time to propose these amendments to the student body. We have just finished a fall election in which a very small minority of students (less than 6%) bothered to vote, and this number was achieved arguably only because of the presence of many candidates running for political office, who would increase advertising and enthusiasm for the poll.

We now face the prospect of two long amendments presented to students with a minimum of advertising and with no new strategies of attracting voters or raising USG awareness since the previous poll, which achieved so little in terms of votes.

Proponents of the amendments argue that it is imperative to pass them and to do so immediately, as the USG Constitution is technically not compliant with New York State administrative laws and that we would therefore be "liable" to lawsuits.

While this might be true, in all of the years since the inception of the Constitution there has not been, to the best of my knowledge, any legal challenge in state courts regarding the USG Constitution, and there appears to be no tangible threat that such a suit would be imminent. In fact, it would be quite reasonable to say that very few people know about the USG Constitution, fewer people yet are aware of the potential inconsisten-

cies with NYS Law, and no one to our knowledge from that group is willing to file a lawsuit on the issue.

In the final analysis, it seems as if our student leaders weighed the prospect of poor turnout on the ballot with the "imminent" danger of a lawsuit and decided that democracy would have to be sacrificed a bit in order to keep the USG organization out of legal liability.

I disagree with that assessment and believe that the most imminent concern facing USG is not technical violations of administrative law that no one will bother with, but rather the pitifully small number of students who are involved with USG and its mission, and I believe that it is the government's responsibility to ameliorate that situation. In the end, the people are sovereign, and I urge all students to log on to SOLAR and vote their conscience.

Hopefully that will be the end of this matter and I look forward to the government coming together and doing what is right for students, without all the bickering and nonsense of late. I will do my part by lightning up the mood at the next Senate meeting. Can't say how just yet, you'll have to be there in person to see.

Sincerely yours,
Esam Al-Shareffi

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Russian Children's Circus Comes to *Staller*



Courtesy of Staller Center for the Arts

By AMANDA SHAPIRO
Staff Writer

On Nov. 12, at 1pm and 4pm the Russian American Kids Circus came to perform at the Staller Center's main stage. The first of the Not Just For Kids series, it promised to be an entertaining show for parents and children of all ages. I was there with my 9 year old cousin, aunt, and uncle. For \$10 a ticket, it was a fun way to spend a rainy afternoon.

Alex Berenchtein began The New Way Circus Center in 1994 with his wife and mother-in-law. The group features 10 boys and girls ages six to sixteen, and the most adorable two and a half year old boy. They have performed over 1200 national and international shows. Most of the students began at a very young age and the most advanced are taken on tours.

The show opened with black light juggling and then featured acts on unicycles, balancing, clown-like acts, and stylized gymnastics. The children changed into three crazy colored costumes and moved to a great selection of music that ranged from energized, arranged, classical to dance club beats. Just over an hour and a half

long, it was enough time and had enough tricks to keep the kids' attention and the parents from being too bored.

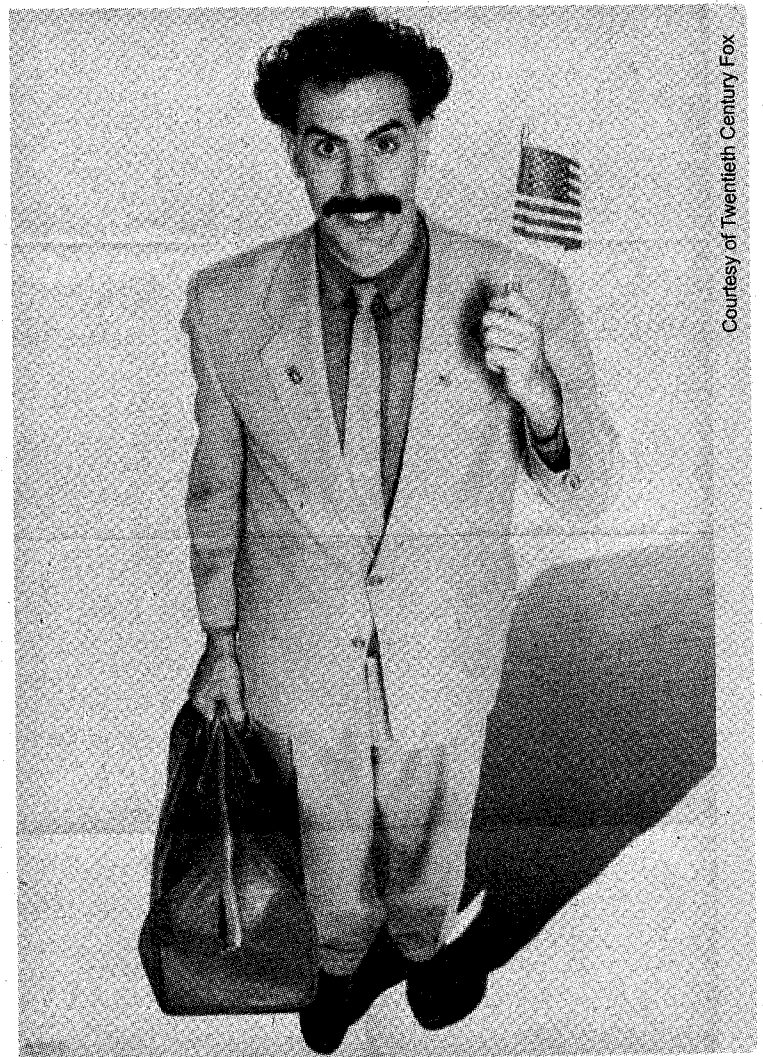
Watching these performances made me think about how hard they must practice each day to learn and perfect their routines. Although much younger than us, they displayed a certain maturity, discipline, and passion that is commendable and worthy of great respect. Juggling multiple props in interesting positions, jumping and spinning over bodies, six at a time, for example, and balancing one or more people on their shoulders while riding a unicycle, and then doing tricks with them, was all very exciting and enthralling. To be a witness to these great feats was motivating and encouraging, proving that it is possible to be successful at whatever we choose to do with our lives.

When we're tired after a day of classes, with a long night ahead, with a test the following morning, and all we can think of is our own defeat, we should just remember what these kids have achieved. If they can, we can. This is why this show is for any age; because it can remind us of our strength and endurance and persuade us to accomplish our goals.

www.sbstatesman.org

REEL DEAL

BORAT



Courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox

By ELIZABETH SCISCI
Staff Writer

British comedian and star of the unscripted "Da Ali G Show," Sacha Baron Cohen has managed to create a film that is a perfect combination of his hilarious improvisational antics and a documentary. *Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan* seems to be the pinnacle of his comedic career so far. His tactics, as he poses as a Kazakh television journalist to interview everyone from random New Yorkers, to politicians, to movie stars, to high society, are edgy to say the least.

The plot is idiotically simple, but it and the movie's feature length may be the only things that set it apart from Cohen's Borat character sketch on his television show. Borat journeys from Kazakhstan to New York City to Los Angeles to collect news footage to better his native country and to pursue a love affair with Pamela Anderson, who makes a gauche cameo. This is the plain storyline that unites a stream of awkward, candid interviews and situations. Essentially, the movie's main purpose is not to tell a story but rather to humiliate and exploit Cohen's unsuspecting and often well-intentioned

victims.

No one in the film was cast before filming other than Cohen, Kevin Devitian who plays his travel companion and manager, and those who act as Borat's neighbors and family in the opening and closing scenes showing Borat's life in Kazakhstan. Every American encounter Borat has on his journey is completely unstaged, convincing all he meets that he is actually a reporter for a Kazakh news station. The result is a series of meetings that set the audience ill at ease, knowing that these were real life situations facilitated by Cohen. But every squirming onlooker is completely vulnerable to laughter as they watch ridiculous situations unfold upon the unassuming.

Cohen comically redefines dramatic irony. Borat is totally ignorant to American customs, bringing a prostitute to a high society dinner, kissing strangers on the street, showing naked pictures of his adolescent children, and wrestling naked with his cohort in the middle of a professional convention.

There is no doubt that Cohen is testing viewer tolerance of stereotypes, blatantly offending Middle Eastern culture and other ethnicities. But what keeps the movie from veering too far from political correctness is Cohen's

genius manipulation of his real life subjects and brilliant editing. Through these means, it is clear that the social condition Cohen is most pointing to is that of the idiocy and unawareness of the American people who are uninformed in even their own international policy, and who, as depicted in the film, know nothing about the customs and cultures of others. He completely mocks Americans from the impersonal New York City, to the close-minded Bible Belt, from college fraternities, to the strange and colorful happenings of Los Angeles.

Borat is a caricature of Middle Eastern stereotypes fabricated based on American assumptions. He is fake, but the depictions of United States citizens are sadly and embarrassingly real. And if any American viewer laughs harder at the racial slurs and the ignorance of Borat than at the incompetence of his own nation, well then Cohen is especially making fun of him.

In its opening weekend, *Borat* drew in \$26.5 million, showing nationwide on only eight hundred and thirty seven screens. Second place went to *The Santa Clause 3*, which grossed \$19.5 million at a whopping 3,458 sites. Congratulations Cohen. "Is great success."

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SB Bytes:

The Latest Tools in the War Against Phishers



By WILL LAHTI
Staff Writer

We've all gotten those emails: “Problem with your PayPal account,” “Confirmation for your EBay account,” “Issue with your account,” even going as far as “Your account will be terminated.” Sometimes, the recipient doesn't even have an account with that company! However, these emails are all just ploys by some unscrupulous individuals to get some sucker to divulge all kinds of information, like Social Security and credit card numbers, allowing identity theft to take place. The practice is known as “phishing,” and has been around for years.

The emails look real, often using things like logos and layouts lifted straight from the real site. The link will claim it takes you to the site they're trying to fake, sometimes even on the bottom of the screen (some programs can be fooled). If you click on the link, the site you're brought to even looks real, almost impossible to distinguish from the real thing.

However, the latest security tools, especially ones within Web browsers, are constantly improving, in an effort to warn you of trouble before you've handed your information over to anybody. Tools that warn you that you have or may have reached a phishing site now come with the latest versions of Microsoft Internet Explorer (7.0) and Mozilla Firefox (2.0), the two most widely used browsers in the world.

Firefox's system works by keeping a list of bad sites on your computer, and trying to update it every 30 minutes. They also offer the option of checking the site against a list maintained by Google and anti-phishing groups. If the site is a match in either case, Firefox displays a warning box, and asks you if you want to continue or leave the site.

Internet Explorer (IE)'s system works somewhat differently — it keeps a list of legitimate sites on your computer. If the site you're visiting isn't on the list, it will

check the site against a list of known bad sites, which is held on a Microsoft site.

If the site is listed, IE will redirect you to another page, warning you that you're trying to access a reported site, and you'll have the option to go there if you really want to. If it isn't there, IE will look at the site to see if it is similar to what a phishing site would be. If it is, it will warn you. Microsoft claims they do it this way, instead of with a list of bad sites, because they feel sites erroneously reported as bad cannot be corrected quickly.

There are obvious privacy concerns from both methods, as the URL you're submitting could potentially contain personal information, due to the way information is submitted to certain sites, like Google. However, both tools send the URL over a secure connection, and IE claims to try to strip out parts of the URL it's checking that might contain personal information prior to sending it.

If you are concerned about this, there are ways to prevent URLs from being checked. On IE, you can turn off the automatic check against Microsoft's database. On Firefox, the default is not to check against Google; you must turn that feature on yourself. All the same, though, you'll have to reveal to both services which sites you're visiting to find out if they're legitimate or not.

So which one is better? A report was released on Tuesday by testing company SmartWare, funded by the Mozilla Foundation, which produces Firefox. The report found that Firefox blocked 243 phishing sites when IE didn't, and 117 where IE blocked, Firefox didn't. Firefox, at its lower security level, blocked around 79% of the sites compared to IE's 66% at its higher security level.

Whichever browser you use, it is strongly recommended to keep it up-to-date, to avoid security breaches like these. Firefox seems to offer the best security, as well as the best privacy. It is available for free at www.getfirefox.com, and the latest IE is at www.microsoft.com

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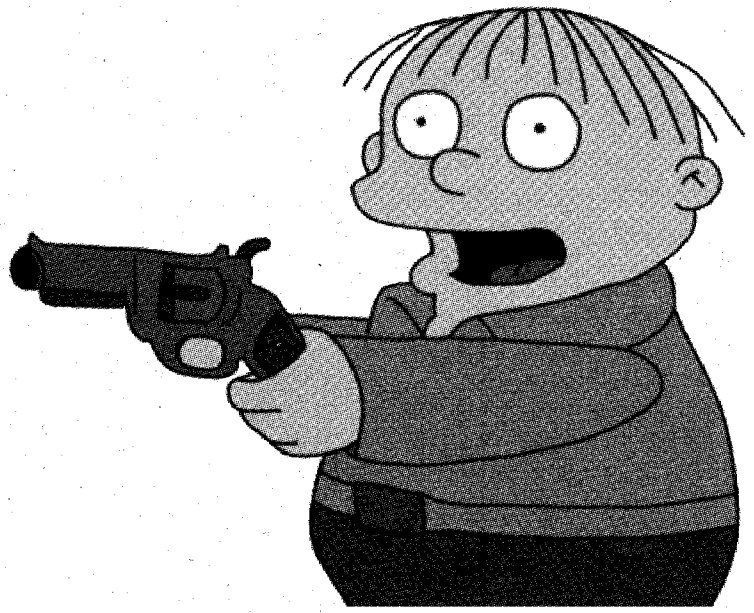
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You Are More Than Your Major

Continued from page 1

philosophy student has to be able to read critically. He said, "It's kind of hard. Writers sometimes argue with themselves. Even though there isn't a huge amount of reading, you really have to read carefully."

Concurrently with the Major Event, organized by Academic Advising, the Career Center was hosting its own workshop in an effort to help students take the right steps in choosing a particular major or career path. Elena Polenova, an advisor for the Career Center, mediated the workshop. Her audience, mostly freshmen, all intently listened to what she had to say and were able to speak to her directly towards the end of the lecture on a one-on-one basis.

At the onset, Polenova made it clear to her audience, the student should be primarily involved in his or her own major and career decisions. Polenova stated, "Nobody else under the moon can tell you what to do."

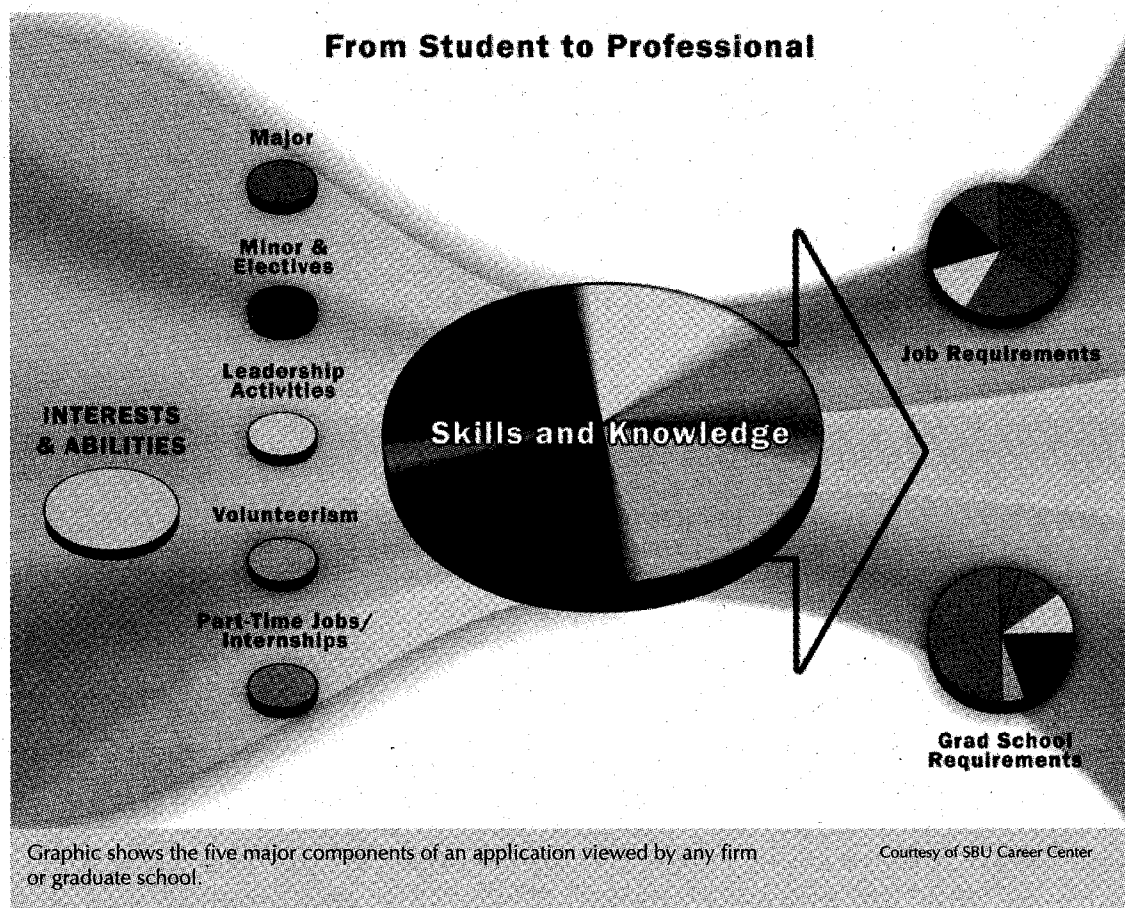
Furthermore, Polenova said, "It is important to consider how majors relate to careers. There are two types of majors, those that are directly related, and those that are not." According to Polenova, some professions that lend themselves to specific majors are accounting, nursing,

and teaching, to some extent. She commented, other liberal arts majors, such as those in the social sciences, fundamental sciences, and humanities don't translate directly to a particular career path.

Polenova supposed, "An English major could theoretically obtain a job as a programmer provided that he or she takes the proper classes. It all depends on the experience that particular English major had in the field of computer science." Concerning employment options, Polenova commented that the Career Center routinely works with employers all the time. In addition, the Career Center has summarized the main factors that employers or graduate school admissions officers see five items when reviewing a student's application. These five items are a student's major, minor and electives, leadership activities, volunteerism, and part-time jobs or internships.

Polenova commented, "Each of you will do some combination of these things. Your skills will come from any one of them. It is important to realize any one of them can serve to expand your horizons and make you more marketable for the future."

Polenova also said, "You have to know what your interests are and what you can do well."



Sandy Trapani, assistant director of Sophomore Advising from the Academic Advising Center, one of the main organizers of the Major Event, also commented along similar lines, saying, "Students should think about what they love. That usually sets them along the right path."

"Students should think about what they love. That usually sets them along the right path."

Sandy Trapani, Sophomore Academic Advising

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2		1	9					
6				5	8		4	1
					3		5	
	1						7	
	2	4	3		5	1	8	
	7						2	
	6		5					
7	9		2	4				5
					7	4		2

Daily Sudoku

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Daily Sudoku

1	8	5	6	3	7	4	9	2
7	9	3	2	4	1	8	6	5
4	6	2	5	8	9	3	1	7
5	7	8	4	1	6	9	2	3
9	2	4	3	7	5	1	8	6
3	1	6	8	9	2	5	7	4
8	4	7	1	2	3	6	5	9
6	3	9	7	5	8	2	4	1
2	5	1	9	6	4	7	3	8

Port Jefferson

PROJECTION OF A TOURIST TOWN

By ELIZABETH SCISCI
Staff Writer

Never thinking of it as more than just a quaint summer shopping district, I was shocked to find that Port Jefferson Village had so much to offer. From casual to refined eateries, contemporary stores speckled throughout streets lined with older, traditional ma and pa shops, an exciting nightlife and a beautiful view of the harbor, this town has much more to offer Long Island as a hub of commerce, dining and fun than a typical tourist pit stop.

In autumn, the foliage over the harbor is vibrant, and stores still buzz during the day with customers who are mostly locals during this time of year. "Foot traffic is definitely seasonal" says Tyler of Port Jeff Motorcycle. "We've only been open for six months now, but you can tell that there are a ton of tourists in the summer."

The store owner of a toy shop called Miss Kitty and Friends, insists however that there are two major seasons. "Well summer is one thing," she says "but the Christmas season is getting more and more popular here too."

As a matter of fact, Port Jefferson Village, with its well-developed sense of community among shopkeepers who have remained there for decades, stays festive all year round. Merchants support a plethora of festivals, including an annual September American Music Festival with concerts and traveling musicians who entertain throughout the village and arts and crafts festivals throughout the year.

This year, there is the eleventh annual Dickens Festival on December 1, 2, and 3, an attempt to recreate a Victorian England Christmas setting, with actors, musicians, dancers attending a ball, Victorian Tea times, and carolers who attempt to bring the village back to the mid-nineteenth century.

During the summer, there is a comedy festival that prides itself as the largest one ever presented on Long Island, plenty of Fourth of July celebrations, and Harborside Concerts that charmingly occur on the village green.

Shopping is surely the pervading activity. There are souvenir shops, fine jewelry stores, a Gap, several little chocolatiers, a large confectionary and ice cream shop, art galleries, such as the Soundview Gallery, and a motorcycle paraphernalia and clothing shop.

For rainy days, the Harbor Square Mall offers thirteen boutiques, an indoor version of the outside shopping district, with store

fronts similar to the ones throughout the village, including a crafting center, Sea Creations: Gifts from the Sea, an Indian product emporium, and various beach, clothing, and toy stores.

And of course, with the holiday season so soon upon us, the year-round Christmas shop, Once Upon a Christmas fills an old fashion, intimate space with the sights of late December and with the smells of pine and sweets.

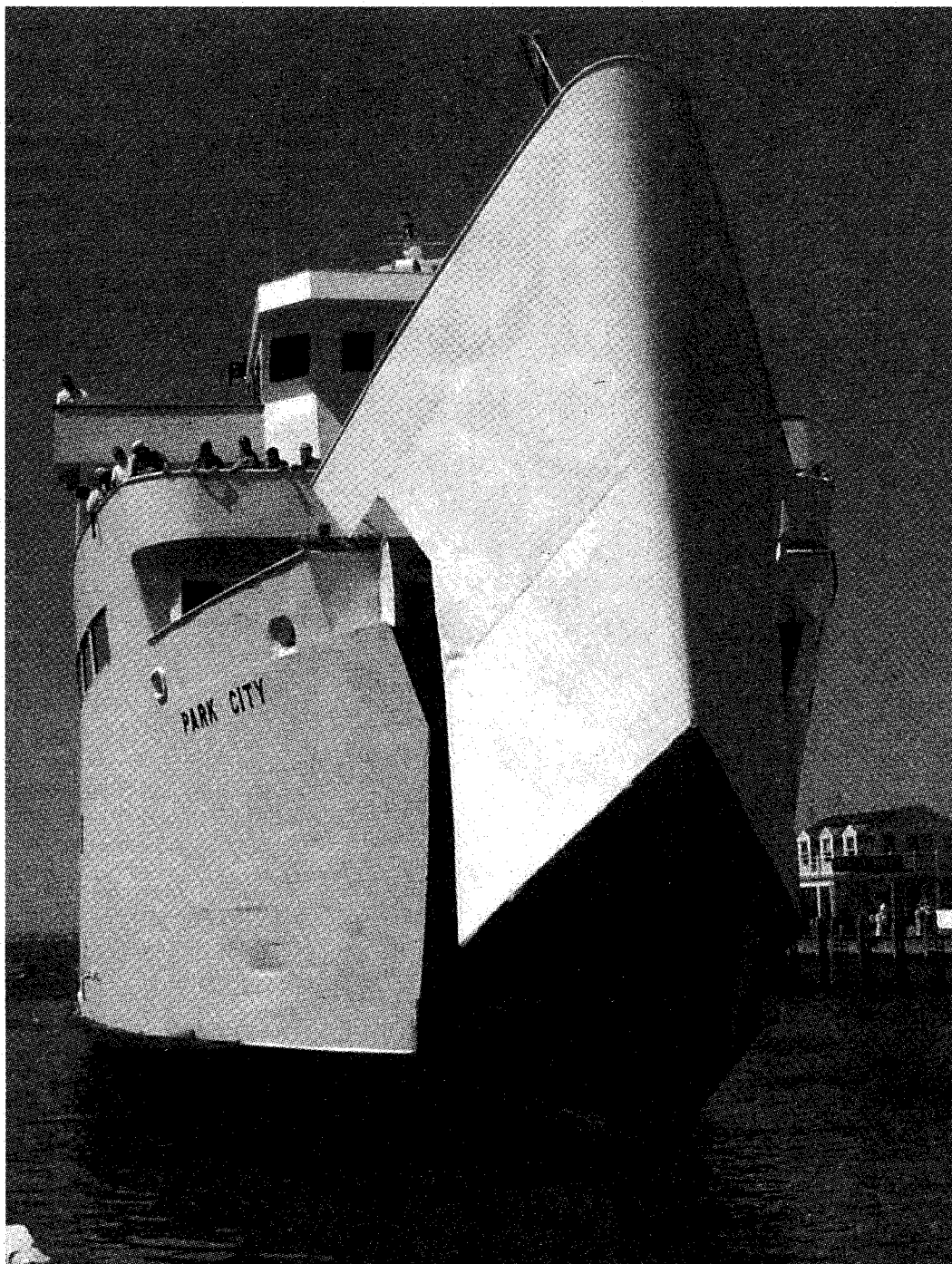
For history buffs, there is the Mather House Museum tucked away on East Main Street where you can learn of the Indian settlements that used to be in the area, its early European colonists who termed the town "Drowned Meadow," because of the constant high tide and marshland, the 1836 renaming of the village after Thomas Jefferson, and its 1963 incorporation.

There are so many options for dining. Along Main Street, there are tiny pizzerias and delis, the more contemporary Starbucks and Dunkin Donuts, as well as Kimi, a modern-looking Japanese restaurant. But what I suggest, in keeping theme with this historical maritime town, is a seafood lunch or dinner, in order to truly experience the flavors of this harbor side Long Island district.

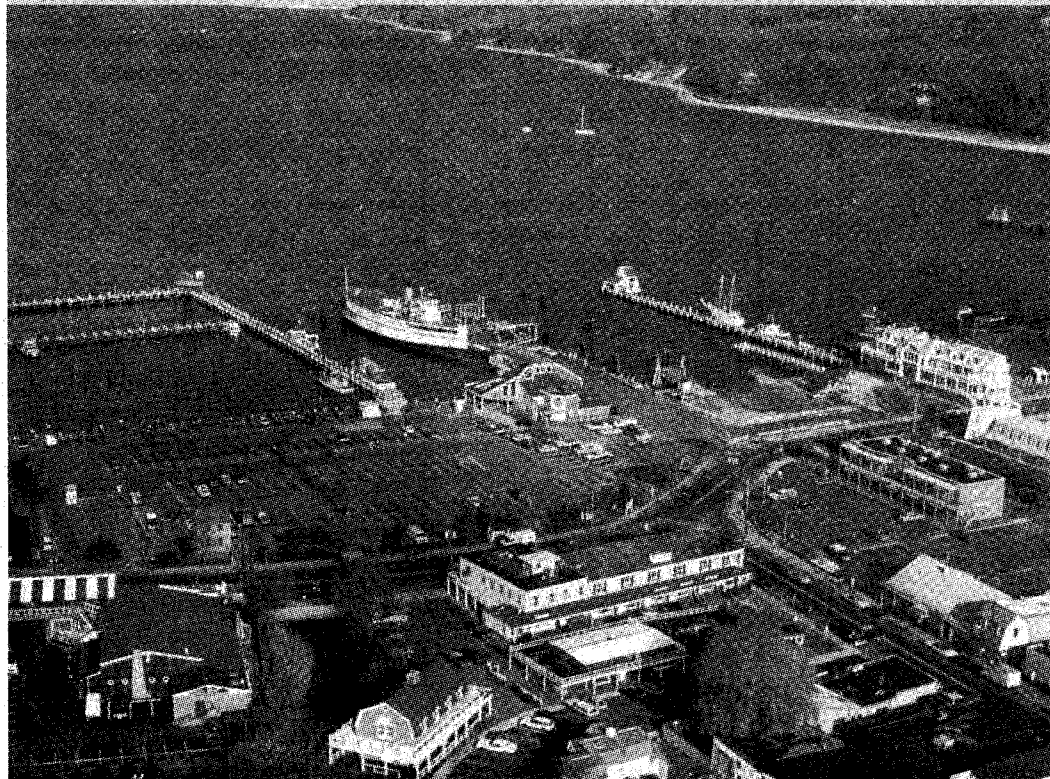
For a casual weekend brunch, lunch or anytime dinner, there is the Village Way Restaurant, with indoor seating and bar, and outdoor seating in warmer weather. Lunch there runs at about ten dollars on average, and dinner entrees range from thirteen dollar chicken dishes to lobster and steak for upwards of twenty dollars. There is live musical entertainment every Friday and Saturday night, as well as karaoke on selected weekends.

To accommodate a more formal outing, Danfords is an enormous restaurant located right on the harbor at Broadway and East Main Street. This venue offers three floors of dining areas, the top most being a deck area for outdoor dining. In addition, along Main Street is a strip of bars as well as the tiny PJ Cinemas ensuring an exciting nightlife on weekends in Port Jefferson.

The town has a touristy feeling to it, but the local people who work and shop there love the way it exemplifies Long Island living. Lisa Malone, a young student who works year round in the village at an ice cream vendor says of Port Jefferson's ambiance, "It's a very close knit community, and its amazing to me, being a local, that it's so well known outside the New York area. It's like a vacation spot in our own back yard."



Enjoy a nice day trip to Bridgeport, CT aboard the Bridgeport-Port Jefferson Ferry



Aerial view of Port Jefferson Village

Courtesy of adamsah.net

Courtesy of gpinet.com

UPSCALE AND CHIC: PASTA PASTA

By SHANZA MALIK
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Located on 234 E. Main Street in Port Jefferson, its dim lighting, faint music playing in the background, and warm wooden floors; Pasta Pasta is a cozy corner for restaurant connoisseurs. Port Jefferson is home to several great restaurants, ranging from all price ranges and all cuisines. Pasta Pasta, an upscale Italian restaurant located just off of Main Street in Port Jefferson is that dim-lit, low music, high price range restaurant. With their creative Italian menus, exclusive wine list, and monochromatic staff, Pasta Pasta is definitely the spot for some great ambiance and better food.

Generally catering to a more mature crowd, Pasta Pasta does see the likes of college students and even some families. Their excellent food is more than enough incentive to dine, however the price range may cause some prospective customers to shy away from this cozy restaurant. With dishes exotic and different as "Seafood Fra Diavolo" or traditional as "Filet Mignon", Pasta Pasta offers a pasta, seafood, salad, or meat dish that caters to every taste.

The innovative cuisine is not just pleasing, but specials vary daily, with

new dishes that are both fresh to the eye and palate. Not only is the savory cuisine spectacular, but the desserts are both creative and crowd-pleasing. Featuring desserts such as the "Dark Chocolate Bag" (a mini chocolate shopping bag filled with whipped cream, chocolate mousse and berries) to the traditional Italian "Tiramisu", rounding out the night will be no problem with these favorites.

The warm, comfortable yet upscale ambience is quite exciting. Radiating warmth starting from the first step through the door, the interior gives off the feeling of homeliness with a touch of class. The bright wooden floors contrasting with the dimly lit interior and candle accents contribute to the upscale atmosphere; paired with the range of music played in the background: classical to occasional Italian operatic, this place is a sure hit to dine at.

Pasta Pasta is not only a great place to have dinner at, but also an excellent choice to consider for catering possibilities. Although their prices are a little bit high, they guarantee excellent food and offer great package deals.

Bring someone you love, or just a close friend, bring lots of money and time to spend in this wonderful restaurant, and enjoy a night out in Port Jefferson!

Fondue Heaven: Toast

By WILL JAMES
News Editor

My first fondue experience was at Port Jefferson's Toast - and I would not have had it any other way.

The most striking thing about the tiny restaurant is the atmosphere; dark, candlelit, cozy, and unabashedly hip - the kind of thing Starbucks is trying to be. Although it sports the usual breakfast and lunchtime fare (at Manhattan prices), Toast is renowned for its late-night bar phase, which boasts great wine, fondue and, love it or hate it, a boatload of that Brooklyn hipster chic.

Unfortunately, the boat, in this case, is easy to miss; the wine and fondue only start flowing after 6 p.m., from Wednesday to Saturday. After my first time there, I tried twice in vain, to dine there again before I became aware of its sparse operating hours. For a little while, I wondered if I had dreamed up my first experience, or if Toast had ever really been open at all. The fact that it operates like a mystic oasis is not its only fantastic dimension; on Wednesday nights, a local psychic sits in and gives readings to patrons.

The fondue, itself, exudes a mystical

greatness. For dessert, a boiling cauldron of chocolate (or white chocolate) is available for \$25 for a couple. The sides are refilled for free: strawberries, pineapple, bananas, apples, graham crackers, peanut butter cornflakes, rice crispy treats, soft pretzels, peanut butter, and fluff.

The cheese, perhaps a little more sophisticated, is also a little more expensive, ranging from \$30 to \$35 per couple. In both cases, additional parties are billed \$10 each - so leave the third wheel at home. Toast, by day, is also a coffeehouse, which suits its atmosphere.

The restaurant though, is built for night life. The interior is deep, but the storefront is awkwardly narrow, and the accommodations are tight. They are great for a date, but not for a group, unless you'll be sitting at the bar.

If you're going to go to Toast, bring someone and stay late - you'll get your money's worth. It's more than the chocolate, with or without the psychic, it's somewhat of an adventurous experience, as far as desserts go.

Toast is located at 242 East Main St. in Port Jefferson.

For full menus, check out www.toast-coffeehouse.com.

Shop 'Til You Drop

By TEJAS GAWADE
Editor-in-Chief

Port Jefferson's appeal usually centers on its harbor, old houses and beautiful gardens. On any given day, you only need to walk a three block radius to satisfy your urge to window-shop. The downtown shorefront area hosts everything from quaint antique shops to boutiques to art galleries. Here is a guide to chart out an entire day at Port Jeff, when all you have to do is shop, shop and shop!

Start walking along historic East Main Street. Pause at the Pink Grasshopper, which harbors an amazing array of resort clothing and dresses. Next, visit the Lavender Fields, where you can find a full selection of home decor, bedding, pajamas, candles, and bath and body products. If you have a dog, bring him along to Fetch, a truly unique pet boutique and bakery. Here, you'll find a full selection of treats, clothing, toys and even healthy

foods. For the historical fanatic, visit Pattern Finders, which hosts a wonderful collection of antiques.

Tired yet? Unwind your knotted self with a massage at Body Wise. Hungry yet? Eat an amazing blend of vegetarian food at Tiger Lily. While you're here, take a deep breath and simply appreciate the majestic splendor of the Long Island Sound. If you have the time, go on a sightseeing cruise on the Martha Jefferson, an 85 feet Mississippi River Paddleboat.

And if you enjoy your visit so much that you decide to stay over for dinner. Then you should enjoy it at Ruvo, an Italian restaurant. If you liked the Long Island Sound view, you can still enjoy it at Lombardi's on the Sound at the Port Jefferson Country Club. End your dinner with any of the ice cream shops around Main Street. You can finish your ice cream cone while visiting any of the art galleries in the area. Some of my personal

recommendations are Studio 703 on 703 Main Street, Gallery 4222 on 318 Wynn Lane, Home Art Gallery on 213 Main Street, and C. Rose Art and Living Shop on 154B W. Broadway.

If you're in Port Jeff during the first weekend in December, you'll see the town transformed into a Dickensian Village. The Charles Dickens Festival takes over the village. All festivities are scheduled every 15 minutes. Now you can shop at the old market, while listening to a choir sing on a church corner, eat a traditional dinner with live entertainment, and to top it off, finish your day with an opera or show.

Lastly, when you are around, don't get lost. Pick up a walking guide at the Port Jefferson Chamber of Commerce for a self-guided tour. While you are picking the guide, don't forget to take a peek at the wonderful vintage shop right next door. Its stunning display of perennial gardens will leave you sighing for more.

QUICK GUIDE

Restaurants:

Pasta Pasta
234 E. Main Street
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

Toast
242 E. Main Street
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

Tiger Lily Cafe
156 E. Main Street
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

Shopping:

Pink Grasshopper
230 E. Main Street
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

Pattern Finders
128 E. Main Street
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

The Red Sled Christmas Shoppe
144 B Mariner's Way
Port Jefferson, NY 11777

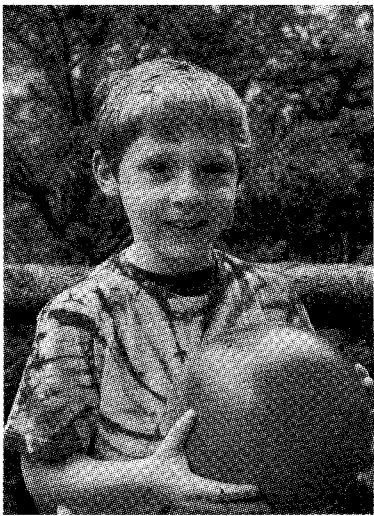
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Johnny Madonia
(2000-2005)



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:

Make checks out to: "Child Life Program/SBF"

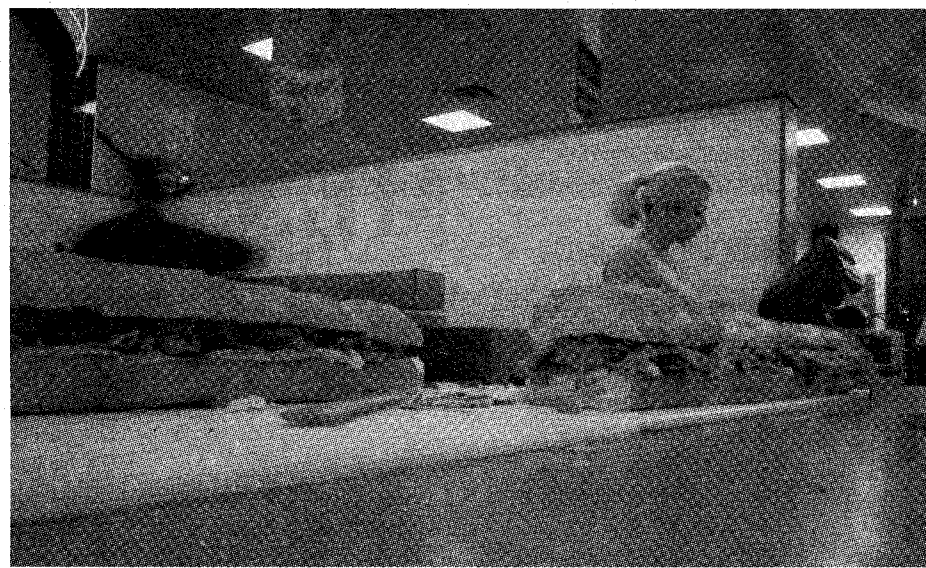
Send to: Child Life Program, Stony Brook University Hospital
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Stony Brook, NY 11794-7111

Child Life Program Phone #:
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Thank you.

Superhero Night...

Photos By Tia Mansouri



...at H Quad on Nov 14, 2006

SPORTS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Men's Swimming and Diving

The Men's Swimming and Diving team topped University of Maine in their first win of the season Sunday. The Seawolves finished with a score of 138-103, bring their season record to 1-2, 1-0 in conference play. The 200-yard medley relay kicked off the day with a first place finish by the team consisting of Raphy Labour, Jon Sigurðsson, Alexei Smirnov, and Omar Ozcan.

The men went on to sweep the 200 free, the 50 free and the 100 back. They also took two of the top three places in four events on the day. The Seawolves closed out the meet on top when the 200 free relay "A" team touched in first in the last event.

On the women's side, the Seawolves were not so successful. Despite a strong showing by Hailey Lewandoski, who swept both diving events, Stony Brook fell to Maine 140-98, bringing their season record to 0-3. Brittany Whipple, Jessica Peters and Krista Klicpera swept the 100 breast-stroke to boost the team but not even a sweep of 200 free relay could bring enough points to topple Maine.

Stony Brook travels to Brooklyn Thursday to take on Iona and St. Francis.

Awards and Honors

Stony Brook senior Hailey Lewandoski was named America East diver of the week on Tuesday. Lewandoski placed third in the one meter and sixth in the three meter dive at last season's America East Championships and swept both events in the team's meet against Fordham last week. She went on to repeat this feat at Sunday's meet against Maine.

The Stony Brook Volleyball team's Kaitlyn Deutsh was named America East Setter of the Week. This is the fourth time this season Deutsh has received this honor. The junior leads the conference in assists with an average of 11.68 per game for a total of 39 on the season. The team heads to the conference tournament this weekend looking for their first America East title.

Compiled by Candace Ishmael



The Seawolves do some soul-searching after a tough loss to Cornell by a score of 76-72.

Courtesy of Stony Brook Athletics

MEN'S BASKETBALL TAKES A TUMBLE

By CANDACE ISHMAEL
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook Men's Basketball team took a tough loss to Cornell Monday night, 76-72, bringing their season record to 1-1. The Seawolves gave up a nine point lead in the first half, going into the locker-room, and despite their best efforts in the second half, there was no recovering from the deficit.

The first half opened with an offensive run by Cornell, featuring a 13-4 streak punctuated by a three-pointer by Big Red's Ryan Wittman, putting them above the Seawolves, 22-11 with more than twelve minutes left in the first half. Stony Brook tried to come back with a run of their own,

scoring enough points to cut the Cornell lead down to 27-24. But soon, Big Red regained total control of the court, led by Wittman's skills from behind the three point line.

The Seawolves came back for the second half, ready to cut down the 44-35 lead Cornell had posted over the first half of the game. Stony Brook chased their opponents on the scoreboard, chipping away at the lead until a three point shot by Eddie Castellanos evened up the score at 56 apiece with just over seven minutes left in the game.

Fouls and turnovers late in the second half disrupted the flow of play and handed the advantage back to Cornell, who ran with it for the rest of the game. Big Red capitalized

on their foul shots, shooting 82 percent from the foul line in the second half, 77 percent over the entire game.

Powerhouses Mitchell Beauford and Ricky Lucas showed their offensive prowess despite the loss. Beauford posted 24 points on the game while Lucas backed him up with 20 points. Although Stony Brook outshot Cornell 59 to 51, the Seawolves just couldn't connect, with a shooting percentage of only 42 percent. The late fouls also hurt them, giving up 17 points in foul shots.

The Seawolves are back in action of Friday when they travel to Penn State to take on the Lions. The team's first home game of the season is Sunday afternoon against Navy.

SCHEDULE

Nov. 17 - Nov. 20

MEN'S BASKETBALL

PENN STATE

Nov. 17, 2006

7:30 PM

University Park, PA

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

ILLINOIS STATE

Nov. 17, 2006

5:30PM

Chicago, IL

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

AMERICA EAST TOURNAMENT

Nov. 18, 2006

3:00PM

Albany, NY

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

DE PAUL/YALE

Nov. 18, 2006

TBA

Chicago, IL

CROSS COUNTRY

ECAC/IC4A CHAMPIONSHIP

Nov. 18, 2006

10:00 AM

Bronx, NY

MEN'S BASKETBALL

NAVY

Nov. 19, 2006

2:00PM

Stony Brook, NY

CROSS COUNTRY

NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Nov. 20, 2006

11:00AM

Terra Haute, IN

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