

The Café Isn't Going Anywhere

By KATY O'DETTE
Asst. News Editor

Recently, rumors have stirred about the University Café closing down.

However, GSO Treasurer, Ryan Soule told the Statesman, "It is important to note that the café is not closing, however. It is still open, just under new management."

The café, located on the first floor of the Stony Brook Union, opened on Jan. 14, 2004. It's home to Italian specialties and live music. The café's 46 inch plasma TV and wireless internet access are available for its customers' enjoyment.

Soule explained that after the Café's Manager Godfrey Palaia resigned in October, the high food and labor costs were too much for the GSO to handle. On Nov. 30, the GSO committee made the final decision to withdraw funds. According to Andrei Antonenko, the GSO President, if they didn't make this decision they would just be wasting student fees.

"GSO could no longer manage the cafe because it wound up putting the organization in serious financial jeopardy if we kept with it. It was costing us to the tune of \$8,000 plus per month this year, and our subsidy is \$27,000 for the entire year," said Soule. "When Godfrey left, all the acts he booked along with his equipment were no longer, which resulted in an immediate loss of revenue for the cafe."

Even though GSO withdrew funds, the Café is still running, just under new management. To clear up all the commotion, the Café's Manager, Paul Crespo confirmed, "It is currently operating. Hours of operation for December are Wednesdays and Thursdays 7 PM to 12 AM and Fridays 5 PM to 12 AM."



A bridge runs between HSC, the research side of the hospital, and the Medical Center, where patients are cared for. Will the two united fronts of SBUMC soon part ways?

Suraj Rambhia/Statesman

ADMIN FIGHTS PROPOSED SPLIT WITH HOSPITAL

By SURAJ RAMBHIA
Editor-in-Chief

The recent legislation proposed by State Senator Kenneth LaValle to sever ties between Stony Brook University Medical Center (SBUMC) and the University has become a cause for concern among university officials. Officials say that every attempt will be made to preserve current joint structure between the University and the Medical Center.

LaValle's proposed legislation calls for a new 15-member governing body for the hospital comprised of administrators, physicians, and local residents. The hospital would be given a new name: SUNY Hospital at Stony Brook. One of the governing body members would be President Shirley Strum Kenny.

Richard M. Fine, M.D., dean of the SBU School of Medicine,

commented, "The current relationship between the Hospital, Medical School and University is absolutely the best model for serving our students, patients, faculty and the community. It is a model used by leading academic medical centers throughout the country, including the University of California system, Johns Hopkins, and the University of Kentucky."

When asked about what actions the university is currently taking to prevent such a split, Fine said, "Stony Brook University is working cooperatively with our elected officials, community leaders, and the SUNY Chancellor and Board of Trustees to ensure that we remain the academic and medical leader that we are today."

Furthermore, in citing academic institutions such as JHU, the University of California, and the University of Kentucky,

which also currently function in symbiosis with medical facilities, Fine commented, "In each of these cases, the school and the medical center reap unique benefits from continuing and mutual interaction, benefits unattainable as independent or separate entities."

Fine further elucidated on the benefits of having such a system here at the university. "The integration of the hospital with the research enterprise is critical," Fine said. "It helps take research from the bench to the bedside. Take for example, development of the virtual colonoscopy in which the hospital worked side by side with the Computer Science department on west campus."

Concerning the possible impact of this split on the university's reputation as a research

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FEATURE:

The Secrets of the Melville Library

By LYNN HSEIH
Asst. News Editor

Ray Bradbury, the famous American writer once said, "You must live feverishly in a library. Colleges are not going to do any good unless you are raised and live in a library every day of your life." Stony Brook's Frank Melville Jr. Memorial Library is this second home for students. The pervading smell of old books and the silent faces of students studying is a familiar aspect here, especially during the week before the arrival of finals where many students can be found engrossed in their studies.

Taking note, Sherry Chang, the associate director of University Libraries for Public Services said, "Right now, starting this weekend, we have extended hours for the central library for final

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Student Forecast:

Dec. 14 - Dec. 20

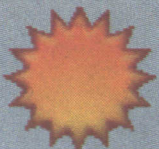
by Britta Merwin



Thursday:
High 54/Low 41
Partly Cloudy &
Warm



Friday:
High 57/Low 43
Pleasantly Above Normal



Saturday:
High 52/Low 40
Mild & Sunny



Sunday:
High 50/Low 37
Blissful Sun



Monday:
High 46/Low 32
Average with Clouds



Tuesday:
High 49/Low 38
Still Nice



Wednesday:
High 52/Low 39
Next Chance for Rain

Behind the Numbers

Beautiful and awesome is the best way to describe the current weather pattern. The week will end on Friday with temperatures more than ten degrees warmer than the normal high of 45 degrees. This mild weather is caused by zonal upper level flow. The upper level flow promotes mild weather for the Northeast and brings southwesterly flow at the surface pumping in warm air from the south. High pressure will set up over the Mid-Atlantic States this weekend keeping the pleasant weather for Graduation. The next chance for rain will be mid next week with the next frontal passage. Congrats to all the Graduates, enjoy the ride!

Inside Melville's Archives

Continued from page 1

exams and there are extended hours in the winter intersession." The hours will be extended until 4 AM in the morning for finals week starting this Thursday.

However, for most students, the Melville Library is utilized for more than just finals week. Located on the academic mall of the university, the building consists of six floors and contains offices for different academic departments, such as the Academic & Pre-Professional Advising Center or the Special Collections Department, as well as classrooms, computer labs, a career center and a bookstore.

Originally constructed in 1962, it was renovated and greatly expanded in 1967. To date, the Melville Library boasts more than 2 million bound volumes, 8,300 newspaper and periodical subscriptions, 5,800 circulating video titles and 4 million microform publications. While the main library is located in the Melville building, the University Libraries also encompass six branch libraries. They are Chemistry, Computer Science, Music, Math/Physics/Astronomy, Science and Engineering and the Marine and Atmospheric Sciences Information Center. As you can imagine, Stony Brook's libraries contain an extensive amount of information for students to absorb and use for research as well as class purposes. More so, Stony Brook's Melville Library also enables students to discover other entertaining aspects of society and culture by circulating a wide arrange of videos and DVDs.



The library's stacks hold a number of rare and historic documents, largely untapped by students.

Suraj Rambhia/Statesman

Amidst the library also lies a jewel overlooked by many students and professors. This is the Special Collections Department at Stony Brook which houses over 16,000 rare books, 800 antique and hand-drawn maps, and over 150 different collections including the William Butler Yeats Microfilmed Manuscripts Collection, the Environmental Defense Archive and the papers of Senator Jacob K. Javits. Located on the second floor of the Melville Building, next to the Pre-Professional Advising Center, the University archives contain the history of Stony Brook, research papers of faculty members, past issues of the Statesman and the yearbook, as well as faculty books and memorabilia from campus events. As quoted from Kristen J. Nyitray, the Head of Special Collections and University Archives, "This department is really diverse and....makes us unique as a library with manuscript and map collections that are one of a kind."

Recent acquisitions include

a letter written by George Washington in Setauket, part of the spy ring of Long Island in 1779, which connects Stony Brook to our past during the days of the American Revolution. On the other end of the spectrum, the WUSB donated a large collection of Punk Albums which ties Stony Brook to the present.

In addition to focusing on Long Island history, the Special Collections department also offers a series of special events including book readings by faculty members, educating lessons on Chinese banquets and traveling authors including Suffolk County Poet Laureate, Daniel Thomas Moran. Many of these events are filmed and can also be accessed through the Special Collections website.

Thus, whether it is the week before finals with students cramming in the Central reading room, or an exhibition by traveling artists, the Frank Melville Jr. Memorial Library is an essential aspect of Stony Brook and student life.

By BRITTA MERWIN
Meteorologist

Expect a Mild Winter

Most meteorologists define winter as the onset of winter-like conditions. This occurs in the Northeast around the beginning of December, although winter scientifically starts on Dec. 22, when the noontime sun is farthest south in the northern

hemisphere. This is called the Winter Solstice.

With every change of the season NOAA Climate Prediction Center publishes a weather outlook. This information is based on the calculated norms for the past thirty years of recorded observations. According to this

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Inside

Police Blotter

Dec. 9 - Dec. 12

Fires and Fireworks

On Dec. 9, a criminal misdemeanor occurred in Baruch College at when an unknown subject lit fireworks inside the building at 1:36 AM. A small fire occurred on the same day at 6:28 AM in Long Island State Veterans Home at the level 1 load dock dryers. The Fire Dept. responded after being notified. All Fire Marshalls were activated and responded. There was damage to the dryers. At 8:45 PM, a fireman was injured while helping retrieve a Center for Personalized Education for Physicians patient. The incident occurred in the University Hospital Emergency Room's P Lot.

Smashed Windows

On Dec. 9, a criminal misdemeanor occurred when a window was smashed in the Fannie Bryce P lot at 12:36 PM. On Dec. 11, the same event occurred when a window was damaged at 7:16 AM.

West F Larceny

On Dec. 9, a petit larceny occurred in West Apts. F Rm. 107E as a bicycle was stolen at 3:47 PM. On the same day, at 5:31 PM, a camera was stolen in Rm. 306E.

Hospital Cases

On Dec. 11, the Suffolk County Police Dept. took over a case of an acute ER patient in the University Hospital at 6:09 PM. The patient had contraband on himself. At 6:47 PM, a missing female patient went home. She said that she was coming back to the ER in an hour; if not the UH Staff had to notify the SCPD.

Dispute in Baruch

On Dec. 12, the University Police Dept. did a crisis intervention in a dispute between individuals in Baruch College's Rm. 122. UPD escorted a male off the premises to the Long Island Rail Road.

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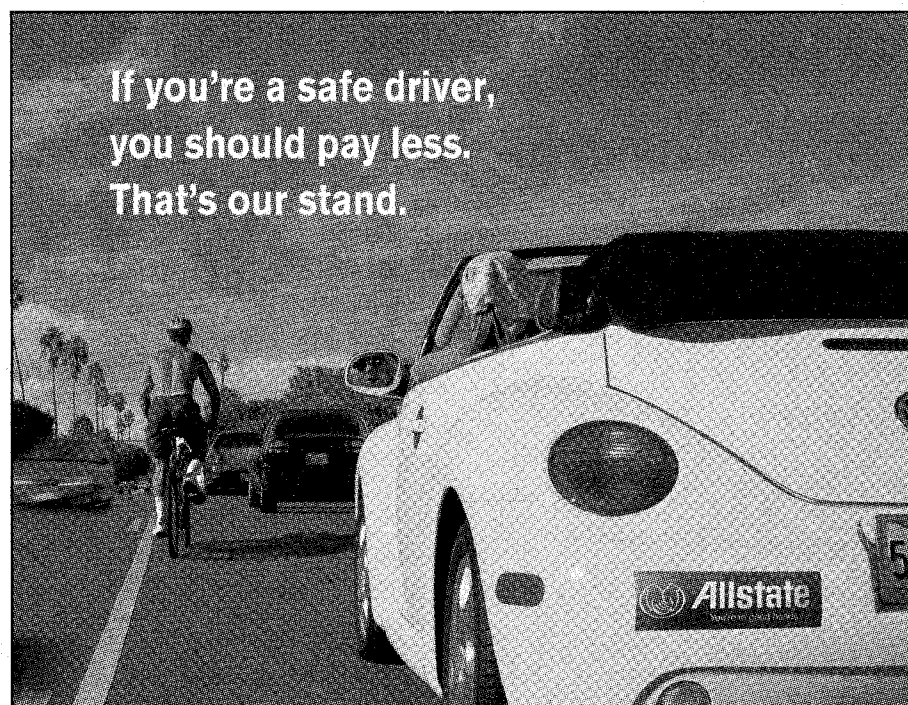
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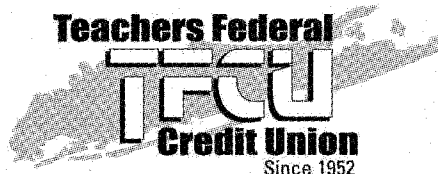
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The Statesman encourages readers to submit opinions and commentaries to the following address:

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WHO WE ARE

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

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Only Time Can Tell...

By STATESMAN EDITORIAL BOARD

Recent news of the proposed split between the hospital and university has been cause for great discussion on many fronts. You need to consider how all parties involved will be affected by such a major change.

First and foremost, many students at SBU participate in basic and clinical research studies on the east side of campus. As was mentioned, based on the amount of

power that is given to the governing body and the type of influence exerted by the 15 individuals who serve on its board, the entire 'alignment' of the hospital and academic programs could change. This will not only affect the undergraduate, graduate, and medical students currently at SBU, but also, the make up of this governing body will greatly affect how prospective students will perceive the value of an education at SBU.

While Richard Fine, speaking

for the School of Medicine, has affirmed that all possible actions will be taken to prevent any potential split between the two sides. However, I feel that the issue is much more complicated that Fine will admit.

A potential split between the university and hospital will, most likely, improve the image of (the renamed) SUNY Hospital at Stony Brook in the eyes of the community residents and other community physicians. Surely,

the new leadership will dislodge some of the built up resentment to President Kenny's desire for complete financial control of the campus. The revenue made by the hospital will now only go towards the hospital and not be placed in a giant pot to be allotted for the entire campus. Who knows, maybe Ridgely Ochs and Newsday might even publish a nice, objective piece about the hospital.

What will actually happen? Only time will tell...

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

USG Senate: Fall Semester Recap

By ESAM AL-SHAREFFI
USG Senate Recording Secretary

Dear Editor,

The final meeting of the USG Senate has just ended, and I believe this to be a good time to recap on both this meeting and the semester as a whole.

The meeting itself was rather short and light-hearted. The only eyebrow-raising moment of the meeting occurred in the Open Agenda portion, where Senator Romano and others vowed to put into law a bill that would allow clubs, organizations, and other groups to purchase religious textbooks for the purpose of proselytizing (a fancy word for converting people to their religion) using Student Activity Fee money that must every student pays.

I sat there in shocked disbelief at the audacity of this plan, which would completely obliterate the walls separating "Church and State," at least as concerns the Undergraduate Student Government. For a second I thought I saw our flag burning, with the American theme of "democracy" replaced with "theocracy."

For a brief moment I saw images of the fairly sedate and calm campus turn into ugly scenes of religious confrontation, as rival groups, each funded by the USG, attempted to peddle its unique message on the most fundamental questions

of the universe. Luckily, all of these scenes were only playing in my head, but it was shocking to think about the consequences for such legislation.

I am a great believer in religion and its positive impact on society, but I believe (and would hope that most students agree with me) that the government, be it our student government or any other, has - and should never have - any role in spreading of religion or subsidizing the purchase of religious texts meant to further a specific faith.

I can only hope that our elected representatives will instead support a bill that fully supports and appreciates the efforts of religious clubs and organizations, but refrains from directly funding proselytizing activities.

At any rate, the meeting ended with kind words delivered by the Senate's Chair, Amy Wisnoski, who rightfully commended the Senate on its hard work and commitment to students.

As for the semester as a whole, the USG Senate has more than a few achievements that deserve recognition and credit. The "PASS" Act, for one, has already helped dozens of students by providing them with free one-on-one tutoring in a variety of subjects, ranging from

Continued on page 4

Re: "Disaster Averted?"

By RABBI ADAM LUBAVITCH
Rabbi, Interfaith Center

In Erol Ruzehaji's article, "Disaster Averted? Chabad Cancels Documentary After Pressure from MSA," he says the goal of the event was "to inform the campus community about biblical prophecies of Armageddon, and that students here on campus should foster a friendly environment for the Messiah to come." While this, indeed, was the goal of the event, Mr. Ruzehaji was not very successful in covering the exact connection between Biblical prophecies of Armageddon and fostering a friendly environment for the Messiah to come.

Instead, his article contained a number of contradictions. On the one hand, he erroneously quoted me as saying that, "the Messiah will only come to the world when it is in a state of peace." And then he went on to misquote me again as saying that "the destruction of Israel will come with the rise of Iran." In this respect, Erol Ruzehaji's article was a bit confusing, and thus, I would like to clarify:

The Moshiach does not "have to come" in any particular way. In fact, given the various contradictory prophecies in the Bible, we see that there are a number of scenarios which could be signs of his coming. Specifically, all the scenarios of the Moshiach's coming could be divided into two.

Either the Moshiach will come at a time of complete destruction (hence the prophecies of Armageddon), or the Moshiach could come at a time of world peace and collective Messianic expectation.

The goal of the Chabad Student Club's event was to show that although the current "War of Terrorism" looked like the signs of Armageddon, it was in our power effect that another scenario for Moshiach's coming will play itself out, specifically by "fostering a friendly environment" filled with acts of goodness and kindness for one's fellow.

Indeed, both sides of the "War on Terror" show signs of an expected Armageddon. Where the Radical Jihadists are fueled by a violent Messianic fervor to make G-d the sole ruler of the world, by taking up arms and subduing the infidel, the Christian Right similarly sees fighting such Radical Jihadists as a their own sign of the Apocalypse.

According to Hebrew University Islamic Studies Professor Moshe Sharon and Serge Trifkovic, author of The Sword of the Prophet, this is the reason why Iran has embarked on an Islamic Revolution that supports worldwide terrorism and they now seek a nuclear weapons program.

In similar vein, with regards to the Christian Right, Televangelist Pastor John Hagee

Continued on page 4

USG Senate Fall Semester Recap

Continued from page 4

Chemistry to Business and Writing. The ALIRRT Act, which will take effect in the Spring semester, promises to subsidize LIRR tickets by cutting their costs by more than 50%, a move that will certainly benefit hundreds of students.

The USG Senate has also worked tirelessly within the Budget Committee to review and approve hundreds of thousands of dollars in allocations to many clubs and organizations on campus, allowing them to better serve students and improve campus life.

With that said, much work still remains. The Senate needs to continue to think about and address issues that students at Stony Brook face on a daily basis, including everything from

food prices, parking space availability, and infrastructure issues. This must be done in creative ways, for the student government has no direct control over these matters, but can instead harness the collective will of students by putting pressure on administrators and presenting a clear and united vision of a more student-friendly campus.

The signs are mostly good for the future, and I relish the opportunity of reporting to you, fellow student, on both the achievements and shortcomings of our elected representatives, in a bid to inform you and make you aware of what is being done in your name.

Best of luck to you all on your finals and I hope you enjoy the well-earned break when it finally comes.

“Both sides of the ‘War on Terror’ show signs of an expected Armageddon.”

- Rabbi Adam

Continued from page 4

has written a book, Jerusalem Countdown, in which he argues that a confrontation with Iran is a necessary precondition for Armageddon and the coming of the Messiah.

Although the Moshiach could definitely come through death and destruction, the Moshiach could also very well sprout from a world filled with good and kindness. And this was, in fact, the goal of the Chabad Student Club's presentation, for this is the Lubavitcher Rebbe's message to the world.

For although the Biblically-promised Moshiach could come amidst awe-inspiring miracles,

wonders, and even chaos, a miraculous coming of Moshiach could also be prefaced by a gradual process of increasing world goodness. It would be then, during such a process, that the spirituality of Moshiach be revealed into the world via the revelation of a person's soul. Since, by definition, the soul is a piece of spirituality, it is a piece of G-d. As such, it includes all aspects of G-dly revelation, including the revelation of Moshiach.

This aspect of the soul is called the “Spark of Moshiach,” in a person. And there, in the soul's “Spark of Moshiach,” there exists the eternal peace and tranquility of the Messianic Age. For there, in the “Spark of Moshiach,” there is no war nor

hunger, no jealousy nor conflict. For all that exists in the “Spark of Moshiach” is the spiritual peacefulness of being one with G-d.

Accordingly, as the Lubavitcher Rebbe explained, this is something that can be experienced by each and every one of us, if only one would embark on a path of spiritual growth that would connect them to their soul's “Spark of Moshaiach.” And thus, by igniting a worldwide revelation of the “Spark of Moshiach,” Moshiach could very well come through mass acts of goodness and kindness instead of through the destruction of Armageddon.

- Rabbi Adam Lubavitch
Youth Organization (Chabad)

CORRECTIONS

In a story published on Dec. 11, “Killer Coke Campaign Loses Leader, In Jeopardy,” The Statesman reported that Anita Halasz, a member of Social Justice Alliance, resigned from her position. In fact, Halasz is still a leader in the campaign against Coca-Cola Co. at Stony Brook. An email by Halasz was misinterpreted as a resignation letter. The campaign against Coca-Cola at SBU will continue next semester with Halasz. The rest of the facts in the story are without error.

FUN AND GAMES

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Daily Sudoku: Thu 14-Dec-2006

easy

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see page 15 for answer

CAMPUS HOSTS FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

Continued from page 9

Kwanzaa is a vibrant celebration of African heritage and family celebrated from December 26 to January 1. There are seven days to Kwanzaa, with a candle to represent a different principle, or “Nguzo Saba,” for each day. These include important principles such as unity, self-determination, and purpose.

Christmas marks the miraculous day of Jesus' birth on December 25. Traditionally Christmas is celebrated with a tree and presents, but there are also important symbols such as the Advent, the Advent Wreath, and the Creche, that many people do not think of when they think of this holiday.

Rohatsu is a Buddhist holiday celebrating the Enlightenment of the Buddha Siddhartha Gautama. This holiday is observed on December 8 and is commemorated by meditation and various Buddhist retreats. These retreats are called Sesshin and are usually held for up to eight days.

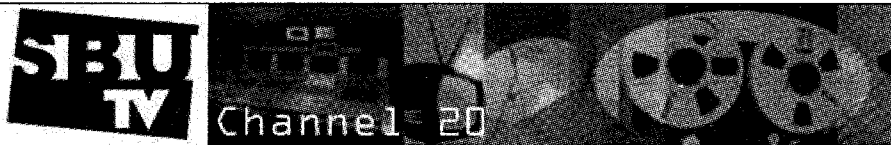
Diwali is an Indian holiday literally translating to “a string

of lights.” This happy occasion is celebrated with light decorations and fireworks all around. Diwali marks the New Year and celebrates the different forces of light over darkness.

Ramadan & Eid ul-Fitr marks a month of fasting for Muslims. This is a spiritual period for Muslims that brings them closer to God. Fasting can be done not only through not eating, but abstaining from other indulgences.

Chanukkah is a Jewish holiday commemorating survival against difficult odds. Judah the Maccabee restored the Temple of Jerusalem in 165 BC after it had been ruined by Antiochus IV Epiphanes king of Syria and overlord of Palestine. The eight candles are to represent the eight nights that the light lasted in the temple. This is special because there was only enough oil for one day.

All in all, this was a worthwhile event with great food, educational resources, and a wonderful performance. To see the diversity and cultural richness of Stony Brook, all you need to do is look around you,



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

	Mon - Wed	Thu - Sun
2:00PM	SBU Sports	Seawolves Sports
2:30PM	USG Senate	
3:00PM		
3:30PM		
4:00PM		
4:30PM	World Business	World Business
5:00PM	Think Talk	Think Talk
5:30PM	Ski & Snow	Ski & Snow
6:00PM	Zip	SBU Sports
6:30PM		SBU News
7:00PM		USG Senate
7:30PM		
8:00PM		Seawolves Sports
8:30PM	SB Spotlight	
9:00PM	IndiFilm	
9:30PM		
10:00PM	SBU News	Zilo
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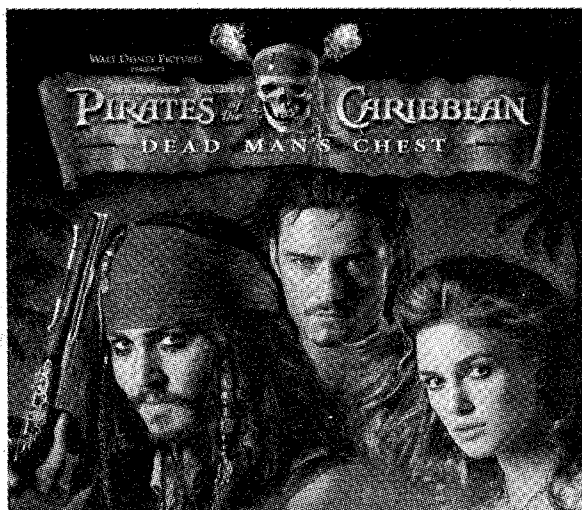
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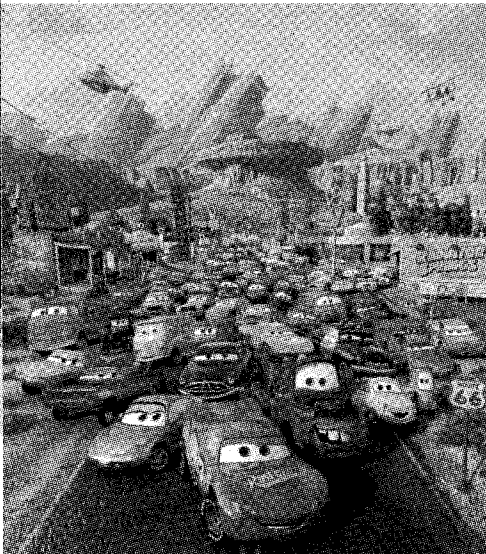
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REEL DEAL

Christmas? DVDs!



Two favorites from Disney Movies, *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* and *Cars*, for the Holiday Season. Courtesy of Disney, and Pixar Pictures



By ELIZABETH SCISCI
Asst. A&E Editor

With the holidays quickly approaching and shopping time rapidly narrowing down, it might be helpful to step away from what is currently happening on the big screen, and take a look at the newest releases on DVD. Buying someone their favorite movie is both a personal and thoughtful present to show that special someone that you do, in fact, pay attention. Better yet, even recent releases will not burn a hole in your pocket.

Starting with that younger sibling or cousin, Disney's *Cars* made its debut in a widescreen edition on November 7. This Pixar classic, featuring the voice talents of Owen Wilson, Bonnie Hunt, Paul Newman and comedian Larry the Cable Guy, is assured to put a smile on any child's face. With a little something for everyone, *Cars* tells the story of a up-and-coming young racecar who must learn, with the help of a crazy cast of automobile characters, that there is more to life than winning races to really be considered a winner.

Also for younger audiences is *Barney: The Original Party Animals*, a computer-animated Nickelodeon comedy that will appear on DVD December 12. With a cast that includes comedians Kevin James and Wanda Sykes, as well as veteran actor Danny Glover, this movie offers a unique

twist on what really goes on at the farm after the unsuspecting humans are asleep. A simple but humorous plot puts Otis the cow (Kevin James), who was only ever thought of as the life of the party, in charge of the farm. Suddenly, it is his responsibility to keep the human tendencies of the animals a well-kept secret and find the courage to become a leader.

Bridging the gap between children and adults, and suitable for the literature buffs on your list is *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe*, a magical tale based on the best-selling novel series by C. S. Lewis. This film is perfect as a winter-land fantasy, telling the story of a sibling band traveling through the mythical land they discover at the back of a wardrobe kept in the house of a mysterious professor. Together and along with talking beasts, dwarfs and centaurs, they help free the peaceful nation from the grips of an evil ice queen.

Also appropriate for all ages is the sequel *Pirates of the Caribbean: Deadman's Chest*, coming to DVD December 5, to launch another Johnny Depp frenzy. This movie is exciting, filled with laughs and thrills, but take heed when making this purchase as a gift - the person you are buying this film for should be a fan of the original movie, and in favor of the making of a second and third film. The ending is very open ended - making room for a third installment - and may make

viewers who are unfamiliar with Disney's ultimate goal to create an adventurous trilogy annoyed at such an inconclusive plot.

Also for the adventurous is *Superman Returns*, already available for purchase as a two-disc Special Edition and the Ultimate Collector's Edition. Fans of the earlier movies with Christopher Reeves will be pleased with the performance of Brandon Routh, who is almost a spitting image with a similar acting style. Kate Bosworth as Lois Lane, however, is slightly less satisfactory, but does not subtract from the movie's overall excitement and romance.

For some holiday silliness, look for *Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby*, available December 12. This latest Will Ferrell flick, also featuring Academy Award-winning John C. Riley, and Borat star Sasha Baron Cohen, does not disappoint as amusing and quotable, though still not up to the comedic caliber of Ferrell's *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy*. Despite this, it seems the ideal choice for a fellow college student.

With these suggestions in mind, shopping for the people in your life should be made slightly easier with some movie magic. Still don't like what you see here? Know that the cinema experience, or maybe just the popcorn, is worth more to a certain someone than owning a DVD. Lowes and United Artist Theaters offer gift cards for tickets and snacks.

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Courtesy of Google Images

By TEJAS GAWADE
Editor-In-Chief

Everyone has discovered the benefits of Google's Book Search. If you haven't yet, then you are missing out on more than just another interesting technology widget. Microsoft recently released the Book Search in beta, which has the capability of challenging Google, something that rarely shakes the Google world. The new Live Search Books fixes old bugs, but most importantly, augments a search engine that is for everyone, from the procrastinating college student to the self-amusing pleasure reader.

The search was released on Dec. 6. Although still a baby, it is already catching on amongst most professional organizations. The search engine seeks through keyword searches. It uses Microsoft's book scanning project, which works just like their Windows Live Search. For now, the database can be searched from Microsoft's beta home page. There is also a category for it on the main Windows Live Search page, better known as vertical search. Microsoft also added a medical content related search, which will likely quadruple its search popularity.

When the tool tests out of the beta mode, Microsoft will incorporate all scanned publications into its general search engine. The bad news is that this may take as long as six months. But most software companies will take that long for anything this good. Now when you search for Abraham Lincoln, the searches

will incorporate content types together to give you more relevant results. So, your search results will prioritize historical books that might provide better research material than an 11-year-old's book report.

My favorite aspect is the "Search inside a book" feature. Because of the option of full text view, this feature is undeniably user friendly. Using this, you can search the full texts of scanned books. The only limitation in the beta release is that we can only search through non-copyrighted books that have been scanned from the British Library, the University of California and the University of Toronto collections.

Before you pout, be patient. In the next month, Microsoft will be adding books scanned by robotic machines (how cool is that?) to include the collections of the New York Public Library, Cornell University and the American Museum of Veterinary Medicine. The next release will include copyrighted work with permission from their publishers.

What hasn't changed? Microsoft's search engine allows full text viewing, searching and printing, as well as downloading in PDF format, just like Google's Book Search. But, Microsoft guarantees housing only non-copyrighted works or soon copyrighted works with publisher's permission. So, when you chose to use this book search, you can be guaranteed to be safe with work you use. So, no dirty suits will crop up as they have with Google's search.

LIGHT UP YOUR Holiday Season!

By REBECCA NEWMANN
Asst. A&E Editor

The Festival of Lights, the multicultural holiday celebration held in the SAC on December 6, was a great display of the diversity here at Stony Brook. Even as mature, educated college students, when we hear the word "holiday," we usually just think of Christmas or Chanukkah. Luckily at the Festival, eight different holidays were provided with equally interesting (and tasty!) representation.

In addition to the eight tables of food and information for each holiday, members of different religious organizations/clubs were present to sing, dance, and proudly represent their heritage.

The eight holidays represented were the Winter Solstice, Three Kings Day, Kwanzaa, Christmas, Rohatsu, Diwali, Ramadan & Eid ul-Fitr, and Chanukkah.

The Winter Solstice is celebrated by Native Americans. This holiday marks the coming year and has to do with the return of the sun. People celebrate through prayer and fasting.

Three Kings Day is celebrated twelve days after Christmas on January 6. This is a Christian holiday for the three kings, Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar, who followed the star of Bethlehem to bring gifts to the baby Jesus. This holiday is celebrated mainly in Mexico and replaces Christmas as a gift-giving time.

Continued on page 5



Festival of Lights draws a large crowd to the SAC ballroom.

Suraj Rambhia/Statesman

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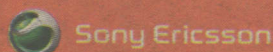
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Time to Celebrate! In Pictures...

Photos by Suraj Rambhia



The "War Against Christmas" Returns

A new front in the War on Christmas opened last week, when it was revealed that Iraqi insurgents have been painting "Happy Holiday Season" on roadside bombs and mortar shells.



Courtesy of ed-dubya-en.com

By WILL JAMES
News Editor

Now, at the dawn of the new millennium, a winter battle roars that threatens to mark the birth of a new age of unprecedented secularism. It is waged, of course, in the frosted windows of our bustling airports, in the color pages of our wintertime ads, and in the buzzing aisles of our decked-out department stores.

"Score one for the good guys," Bill O'Reilly wrote on his website, on Tuesday, Dec. 12. He was celebrating the decision of Seattle Airport to refrain from removing Christmas trees from its concourses. The airport intended to do away with the trees, initially, in the interest of being politically correct, O'Reilly said, but a public outcry persuaded them to keep their decorations.

It was just another skirmish in what some, like O'Reilly, have begun to call the War Against Christmas. This conflict has become a seasonal spectator sport on television and radio news; it is the defining characteristic of Christmas in the new millennium. The materialism thing is old news, after all.

Some people, though, think that the presence or absence of Christmas spirit doesn't deserve to be in the headlines. "Humbug to those phony Christians who

think Christmas is all about minimum-wage employees uttering vapid niceties to gluttonous shoppers in mega-store foyers and checkout lanes," Wayne Madsen, a columnist, wrote on star-telegram.com on Dec. 10.

Madsen and O'Reilly duked it out on The O'Reilly Factor on Dec. 12, in the most recent eruption of verbal violence in the War Against Christmas. The fight, though, has been heating up since last year.

In 2005, Christian Conservatives began to lash out against department stores like Wal-Mart, Target, Macy's, Kmart, Walgreens and Kohl's for using "happy holidays" instead of "merry Christmas" in ads and in-store promotions, according to a recent article in the Chicago Tribune. The advocates of "merry Christmas" claim that business and media are secularizing the holiday, according to the Chicago Tribune. Many say they intend to "put the Christ back in Christmas."

Even President Bush has managed to stir the pot. Last year, Christian Conservatives noticed that the White House Christmas cards, which were mailed to 1.4 million of Bush's friends and supporters, wished them a "happy holiday," according to the Washington Post. William A. Donohue, president of the

Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, is quoted in the Washington Post as saying, "This clearly demonstrates that the Bush administration has suffered a loss of will and that they have capitalized on the worst elements in our culture."

Last year's controversy also sparked a dogfight between two media heavyweights: O'Reilly and Nicholas D. Kristof, a Pulitzer-prize winning columnist for the New York Times. "When you've seen what real war does, you don't use the word lightly to describe disagreements about Christmas greetings," Kristoff wrote on Dec. 18, 2005, in a New York Times article entitled, "A Challenge for Bill O'Reilly."

Kristoff put O'Reilly on the defensive by writing, "Perhaps I'm particularly sensitive to religious hypocrites because I've spent a chunk of time abroad watching Muslim versions of Mr. O'Reilly -- demagogic table-thumpers who exploit public religiosity as a cynical ploy to gain attention and money." According to mediamatters.org, which had a transcription of some of the Dec. 19 episode of the O'Reilly Factor, O'Reilly responded by saying, "So now I'm Mullah Omar. How nuts is this guy?" and posting an image of his face garnished with a superimposed beard and turban.

On the same day that Kristof's column ran in the Times, Sam Donaldson of ABC News accused O'Reilly of playing up the War on Christmas in order to boost ratings, according to mediamatters.org. And so, O'Reilly was further put on the defensive.

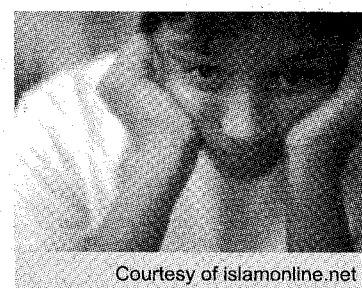
This year, the message of the White House Christmas card hasn't yet been reported. However, the tide seems to be turning in O'Reilly's favor. Wal-Mart, Target, Macy's, Kmart, Walgreens and Kohl's have all reverted back to "merry Christmas" as a result of the pressure they received last year, according to the Chicago Tribune.

69 percent of Americans prefer "merry Christmas" to "happy holidays," according to a Nov. 24, 2006 poll by Rasmussen Reports, a public opinion firm. 23 percent prefer "happy holidays." Rasmussen Reports surveyed 1,000 adults.

The conflict is less partisan than one might think. While 85 percent of Republicans report a preference to "merry Christmas," 61 percent of Democrats and 60 percent of independents share the sentiment, according to Rasmussen Reports.

So, it seems, the "merry Christmas" movement is tipping the scales in its favor. However, Dec. 12's O'Reilly Factor is proof that this war is far from over.

Bored After Finals? Read On.



Courtesy of islamonline.net

By TEJAS GAWADE
Editor-in-Chief

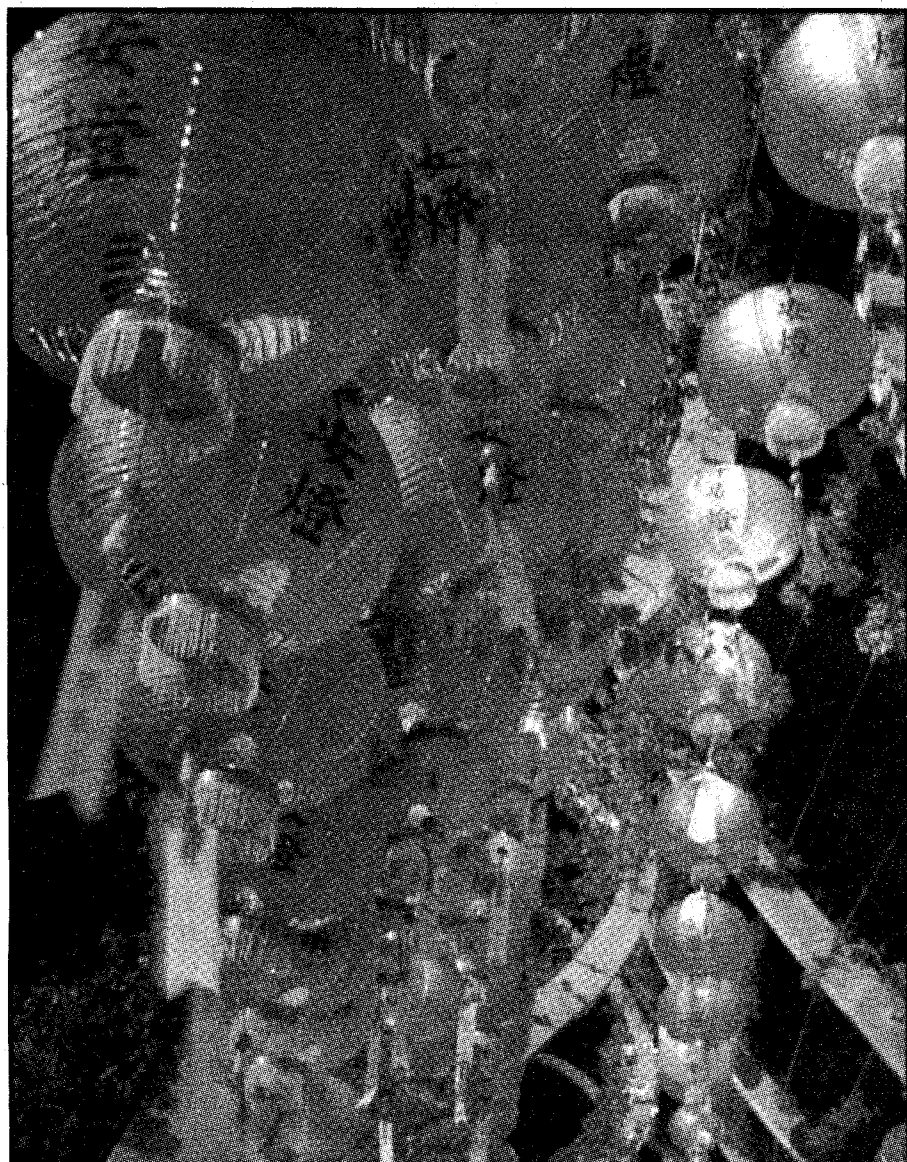
There are some events that traditionally show up during the Christmas break. For example, a Candlelight House Tour is sponsored by the Three Village Historical Society. It is a walking tour, conducted by candlelight and focuses on historic buildings and homes in the Three Village area. An annual Holiday Craft Fair & Flea Market is held by the Three Village Community & Youth Services (CYS) at Ward Melville High School.

A Holiday Festival takes place at the Stony Brook Village Center. It includes Holiday music, tree lightings, and a visit from Santa. Ward Melville Heritage Organization hosts a Promenade of Trees at the Stony Brook Village Center. Even the Setauket Fire Dept. sponsors a Holiday Parade.

If you don't want to travel far from Stony Brook, go to the Holiday Gift Sale and Silent Auction. Sponsored by the hospital's Auxiliary, it will take place on Monday, Dec. 11 from 9:00 AM through 2:00 PM in the vendor area by the deli.

Brookhaven Brite Nights will take place nightly except on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25 from 5:30 PM through 9:30 PM. You can drive through a breath-taking wonderland of lights at \$12 per carload. If this not for you, then on Dec. 9 at 7:00 PM, attend a Christman party, fundraiser, and Chinese auction. The event will take place at the Ronkonkoma Fire District Building, opposite Agnew & Taylor.

What is Buddha Day?



Courtesy of bcgallery.com

By TRISHA BARUA
Associate Layout Editor

As a person who has friends with different religious backgrounds, I am able to observe the different holidays they experience. In Islam, there is Ramadan, Hinduism has Diwali, Christianity has Christmas, and so on. Every religion I come across consists of holidays except for Buddhism. Although I am a Buddhist myself, I have never been interested until now. Because of finals, I did research the easiest way possible: Google.

So, I was able to discover the website: buddhanet.net. It is a wonderful resource for anyone who is interested in Buddhism. There is a section that is dedicated to the various Festivals and Special Days for followers of Buddhism around the world.

It seems there are many holidays observed by Buddhists everywhere, and many are different because of the varying forms of Buddhism. Nevertheless, some are universal. The most important holiday celebrated by everyone is Vesak, or Buddha Day. It is held on the day of the first full moon in May, except in leap years, when it is in June. On this day, a festival is assembled to commemorate the birth, enlightenment, and death of Buddha.

Another day is known as the Buddhist New Year. It is held on different days among several ethnicities based on the calendar they follow. For example, the Chinese, Koreans, and Vietnamese follow the lunar

calendar.

There is a holiday called Magha Puja Day, which takes place on the day of the full moon of the third lunar month. It commemorates an important event in the life of the Buddha. This event occurred early in the Buddha's teaching life.

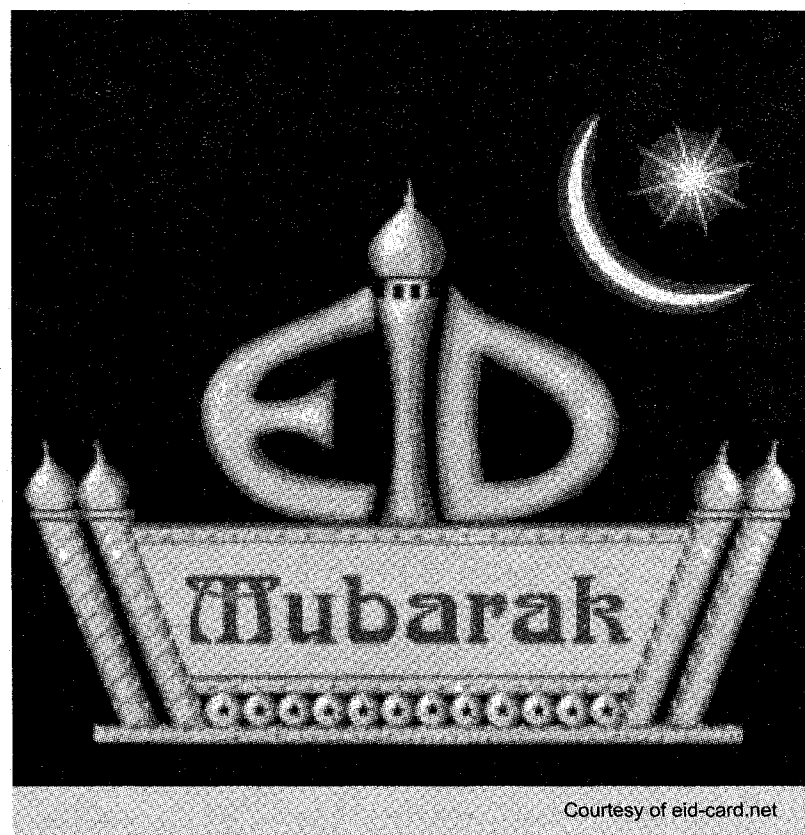
According to Buddhanet, "After the first Rains Retreat (Vassa) at the Deer Park at Sarnath, the Buddha went to Rajagaha city where 1,250 Arahats (Enlightened saints), who were the Buddha's disciples, without prior appointment, returned from their wanderings to pay respect to the Buddha. They assembled in the Veruvana Monastery with the two chief disciples of the Buddha, Ven. Sariputta and Ven. Moggallana."

Buddhanet also mentions, "The assembly is called the Fourfold Assembly because it consisted of four factors: all 1,250 were Arahats, all of them were ordained by the Buddha himself, they assembled by themselves without any prior call, it was the full moon day of Magha month (March)."

A fourth festival is the Festival of the Tooth. Every year, a special procession is held for a relic of Buddha: his tooth. The tooth is located in Kandy, Sri Lanka. It can never be seen, and a temple is built for this memory of Buddha.

Even among these holidays, there are many more types and versions. If anyone is interested in finding out more about, Buddhanet is recommended for anything related about Buddhism.

TWO EIDS: Muslims Celebrate Too!



Courtesy of eid-card.net

By SHANZA MALIK
Ice Princess

Many people associate this time of year with colorful Christmas lights, warm fires, and gift giving. Some people believe that this is the most wonderful time of the year because of the holiday spirit and the anticipation of exchanging gifts.

As a Pakistani Muslim, I am often asked what nationality and religion, as well as what holiday I celebrate in place of Christmas or Chanukkah. This leads to a conversation in which I explain the concept of Eid and how it is celebrated.

Eid is the name of a celebration, and there are two that Muslims observe in a year. The first Eid just passed in October, following the holy month of Ramadan. During Ramadan, Muslims fast and make an attempt to get in touch with their spirituality.

Eid ul-Fitr is the holiday following Ramadan. It commences with a prayer that is often performed in a Mosque, and then celebratory feasting. Children are often given money as small gifts from family and friends. Eid ul-Fitr is the Eid of Feasting, since Fitr means "to break fast", and signals the end of Ramadan.

The second Eid is Eid ul-Adha, which generally follows Eid ul-Fitr by 70 days.

This is the Eid of 'Qurban', or Sacrifice. This Eid is in celebration of the willingness of Prophet Ibrahim to sacrifice his son, Ishmael in the name of God (Allah, in Arabic). Eid ul-Adha follows the Islamic pilgrimage of Hajj, falling on the tenth day of the Islamic month of Dhul Hijj.

After explaining my piece about these two special celebrations that Muslims get per year, people are often left stunned that we don't dress up a tree or light candles for a given number of days. People often ask if there is anything else to do during these holidays.

To be quite frank, our holidays are more about finding spirituality and prayer than they are about celebration. There is usually monetary exchange between parents and children, however there is little else. We pray and celebrate the history in our religion. It is a chance to take a break from the hubbub of life and concentrate on family and religion.

When it comes down to it, our holidays may not always fall into the Season of Joy. However when they come around, we step back and enjoy our own season for a day. Generally these Eids are three or four day celebrations of family and religion, however with the greatest importance put on the first day of Eid, most celebrations commence on this day.

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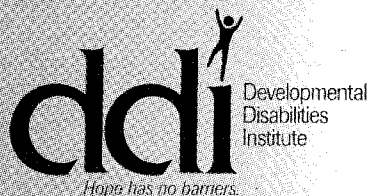
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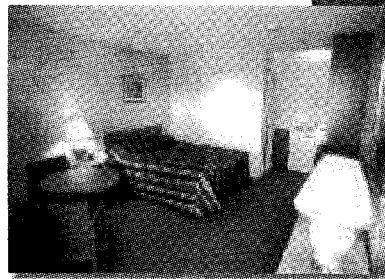
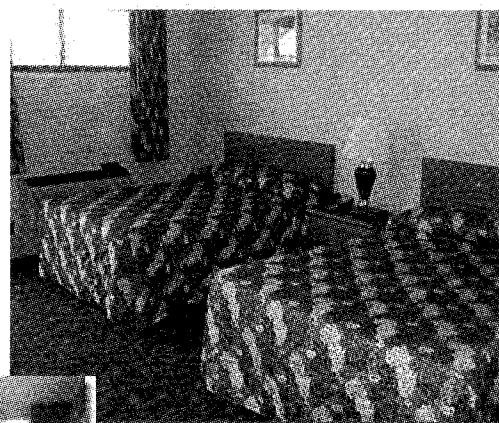
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STONY BROOK
 STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

OFFICIALS AND PHYSICIANS REACT TO LAVALLE'S LEGISLATION

Continued from page 1

institution, Fine said, "Competition for NIH funds is fierce as more grants are being applied for, and the percentage of grants awarded nationally has declined dramatically. To weaken our position in trying to get grants is not good for us or our patients. If a split takes place, the hospital would have likely to replicate the licensing technology function that currently exists within the university, as well as other infrastructure and resources that the university provides."

Furthermore, for many students who work at research laboratories or participate in voluntary work, Fine said, "Students will always be welcome to volunteer. Participation in research could, however, be jeopardized."

A testimonial statement given by Interim SBUMC CEO Fred Sganga on Dec. 11, 2006 affirmed the goals of the university against the potential legislative actions of the State. The statement was made to the Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century Report for the Committee on Health of the New York State Assembly.

Sganga said in his testimony, "The media and the public have focused on the seismic changes to hospitals across the state, including proposed closings and restructurings but our primary concern is the Commission's policy recommendation that the Commissioner of Health undertake a comprehensive analysis of the feasibility of privatizing the teaching hospitals at Stony Brook, Syracuse and Brooklyn."

Sganga further elucidated, "The best way to fulfill this mission for the 21st Century is to be what we are: the ONLY hospital that is an integral part of a medical school on Long Island....We don't fit the Berger Commission's construct of hospitals in the region because we are not like others. We are fundamentally different from all other hospitals on Long Island including those such as North Shore and Winthrop that use the term "university" in their names however, they do not have their own medical schools."

The Berger Commission is

the New York State Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century, headed by Stephen Berger, an investment banker, and created by Governor George Pataki and the State Legislature in an effort to curb the rising costs of healthcare throughout the state. Sganga, in his testimony, was responding to a report by the Berger commission that gave recommendations about what course of action to take

rier." The state system did not allow SBUMC to adapt to the marketplace.

As Parker noted, a simple task such as adding an employee could take as much as 6 months, adding a piece of equipment could take as much as a year. He continued by stating that private institutions, on the other hand, have full control over their funds and can perform the same tasks in a fraction of the time.

Newsday, which have attacked the management and leadership of SBUMC.

In the process of contemplating what he believed could have been contributing factors to LaValle's proposed legislation, Parker did make several statements that he affirmed resolutely.

Parker said, "Senator LaValle's legislation is intended to benefit the hospital to make sure it continues to benefit the

need of the people. LaValle is a supporter of this hospital. He understands that we support the community. His district doesn't even include Stony Brook. He should really be concerned with Mather and St. Charles." By Mather and St. Charles, Parker was referring to John T. Mather Memorial Hospital and St. Charles Hospital, both of which are located in Port Jefferson.

Parker continued, "We provide the largest amount of indigent care in the county. And we provide the same level of care for all patients. That is part our mission. When patients go to other private hospitals, those with lesser paying insurance are often given a

lower level of care." Parker admitted, however, that it is difficult to assess what will happen to the academic programs, specifically the School of Medicine.

Parker said, "When there is cooperation between the hospital and academic programs, there is very little issue with utilizing hospital and academic resources. There is an alignment with the hospital and medical school goals. With the creation of a separate governing body, there is more opportunity for a disconnect. It all depends on how the governance is setup and how much support the hospital will give to its academic programs. It depends on how the board sees their position."

As an overall outlook, Parker concluded, "There could be potentially be no change at all, or there could be small changes, or there could be big changes."

Fine, speaking on behalf of the Medical School, stated, "We're working diligently to maintain the existing structure because it works, and it's a vital aspect of the medical school."

"The best way to fulfill this mission for the 21st Century is to be what we are: the ONLY hospital that is an integral part of a medical school on Long Island."

- Fred Sganga, Interim SBUMC CEO

with certain SUNY Institutions. One of the recommendations, as implied by the excerpt from Sganga's testimony involves the privatization and restructuring of SBUMC.

While the State has been trying to 'rectify' the problem of rising healthcare costs and while university officials have been adamantly opposed to any idea that involves the word 'split' or 'privatize,' one SBUMC physician has decided to voice his opinion concerning the entire issue of the relationship of SBUMC with the University and the State.

Robert Parker, M.D., FAAP, professor and vice chair of Pediatrics for Academic Affairs, director of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology, and associate director of the Stony Brook University Cancer Center, acknowledged that there have been discussions over the years about the 'status' of the hospital.

Parker commented, "The state system is slow, cumbersome, and bureaucratic. Everything has to go through Albany. It's like trying to turn an aircraft car-

As a result, Parker said, "Over the past several years, there has been a movement to become more proactive. There's been discussion in the legislature to make the hospital more autonomous."

Concerning the legislation proposed by LaValle, Parker could only surmise possible reasons for its proposal. He said, "If the legislation only creates a new governing body for the hospital, it's likely that the changes are more of a direct response to the DOH rather than a means of changing the hospital's link to the SUNY system." Parker was referring to the legislation as a response to the recent violations cited by the State Department of Health (DOH).

Parker continued, "There is the fact that Dr. Kenny doesn't have any medical experience. Still, the recent involvement of the press might have been a factor. But the administrative hierarchy has always been this way since the hospital was opened." When he referred to the press, Parker was commenting on the recent string of articles in

Mild Weather in Store for Winter Break

Continued from page 2

year's winter weather outlook for December to February 2006/2007, the Northeast is in for a mild winter.

The Northeast, Northern Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, Northern Plains, and Central Plains will experience a warmer than normal winter. Now this does not mean temperatures in the 60's every other day but it does mean that the number of Arctic blast conditions will be fewer in number.

In terms of precipitation, NOAA is calling for equal chances of higher or below normal precipitation amounts for the east coast, but the entire southern part of the United States is predicted to have a wetter than normal winter.

So what causes a warmer, cooler, wetter, and/or drier winter? Many have heard of El Nino Southern Oscillation, or ENSO. These terms describe warmer than normal conditions in sea surface temperatures off the Pacific Coast of South America. This oscillation creates a shift in the Jet Stream over the United States.

The Jet Stream is a fast moving river of air high above the surface that acts like a conveyor belt for the storms that move across our nation. When El Nino is present, this Jet Stream is shifted, and the storm tracks concentrate in different positions.

With the presence of a strong El Nino pattern, the storm track of the Jet Stream is predicted to move off the Northeast, bringing a mild winter. Because other factors affect the position of the Jet Stream there can be small uncertainty in season prediction, but NOAA can be confident in forecasting fewer bitter cold outbreaks for the Northeast this winter.

Although winter will be mild it is still called winter for a reason so keep out the mittens till the spring!

For additional information and sources used please visit: <http://www.noaa.gov/stories/2006/s2742.htm>

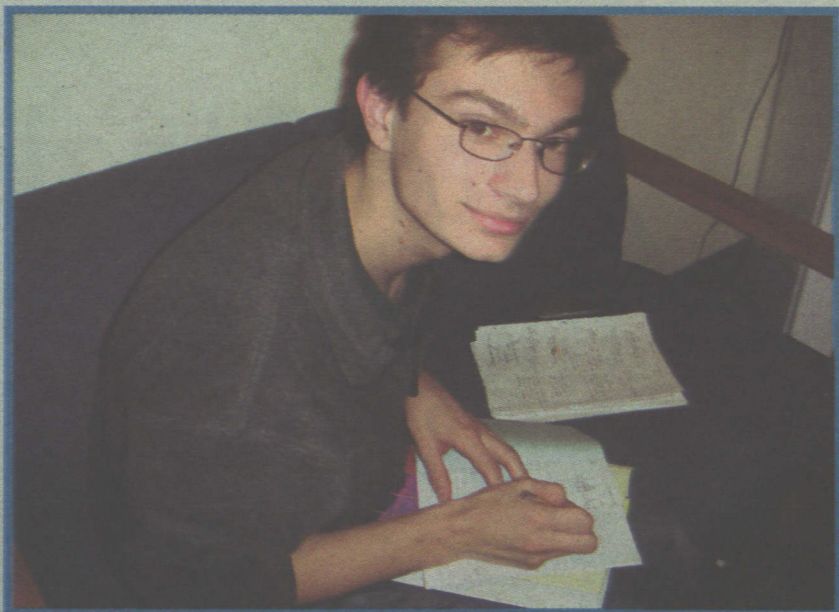
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To Yours

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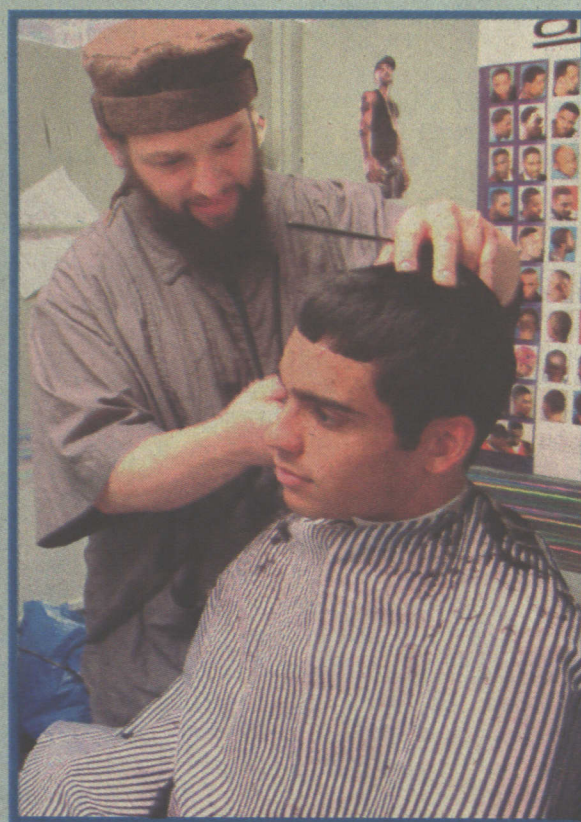
Rushabh:
"By playing chess!"



Steve:
"What's
studying??"



Megan:
"I don't have
time to answer
your question—I
have to go study!"



Jason:
"By getting a
haircut at Beauty
in Brains!"

By Tia Mansouri, Photographer on the Move



Statesman SPORTS

Men's Swimming Wins Over King's Point

By TEJAS GAWADE
Editor in Chief

The men's swimming team went against King's Point on Dec. 9 in an away game. The Seawolves won 130-109 against The United States Merchant Marines Academy in a heated match. Currently, SBU stands 5-2, having won the last four games in a row.

The event began well with the SBU's team 'A' taking first place in the 200-yard medley relay. The event, spearheaded by Ruslan Safarov, Jon Sigurosson, Alexei Smirnov and Alexander Kissel, had a time of 1:37.37 against USMMA's 1:40.02. Kissel was also impressive when he won first place in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 22.02. He was followed by teammate Ozcan Omer, who had a close time of 22.10.

Raphael Labour continued his season's strong performance by winning first place in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:47.32, beating USMMA's time of 1:49.64. He also won first place in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 52.57, beating USMMA's time of 55.24. Sigurosson also placed first in the 50-yard butterfly with a time of 54.07 beating USMMA's time of 54.48.

Unfortunately, USMMA took first, second and third place in the 1000-yard freestyle, and taking first and second place in the 200 yard Individual Medley. The spirit was raised with Bryce Cullinane winning first place in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:00.77, beating USMMA's time of 5:00.82.

Alexander Demin had an impressive first place win in the 1 meter diving with a score of 188.25, and in the 3 meter with a score of 179.90.

The Seawolves ended the meet with a first-place win in the 200-yard freestyle relay. Team 'A,' composed of Jake Dorfman, Ozcan, Kissel and Labour, had a time 1:27.65 beating USMMA's time of 1:31.50.

Men's Basketball Steals a Win On the Road

Victory over NJIT Snaps 3-Game Losing Streak



The Seawolves get psyched up for their big game against NJIT, which they won 65-61.

Feng Bo/Statesman

By SHONTA OLANDER
Staff Writer

In Monday's road game in Newark, New Jersey, the Stony Brook Seawolves pulled off a hard-fought victory, 65-61, against NJIT. The game went down to the final minute, but the Seawolves were able to hit key free throws to seal the win. Playing solid and smart basketball, the Seawolves had only 10 turnovers while forcing 21 from their opponent.

Stony Brook was lead by both Ricky Lucas who tallied 17 points and 9 rebounds, and Andre Vanterpool, with 15 points and 5 rebounds. The Seawolves also received strong bench play, getting 22 points from its reserves, while NJIT only produced 9 points off its own. To round out the impressive team effort was Eddie Castellanos. Running the point well with only 1 turnover and 5 assists, he had a

"SportsCenter"-worthy inbound alley-oop pass to Vanterpool in the middle of the second half.

The Highlanders effort was lead by Clayton Barker, who had a game high 19 points and 4 assists, and 17 points and 5 rebounds from Kraig Peters.

After taking a lead 58-50 with just under 3 minutes left in the game, NJIT put together one last run, outscoring the Seawolves 11-5 to pull with in a basket. The closest they would get would be the 2 points, as Stony Brook held on to seal the win.

"Tonight our team was able to grind out another road victory," head coach Steve Pikiell said, "Andre and Ricky were great for us in the game and I am glad to leave this gym with a win."

Starting out the first half hot on a 12-2 run, Stony Brook seemed to already have the game in control by the first few minutes

of the game. After a time out by NJIT, the home team quickly turned things around, slowing down Stony Brook's offense while creating easier shots and getting to the foul line. NJIT's Highlanders were able to finish out the half only down by 24-26. It wasn't the prettiest first half, with both teams shooting poorly; Stony Brook only hit 40% and the Highlanders 33% from the field.

For the second half, as hard as Stony Brook tried, they just couldn't seem to escape. The two teams exchanged baskets until the 5:39 mark when it was tied up at 50. Stony Brook then went on a little run of its own of 8 unanswered points. Before the Seawolves could relax, however, the home team bounced back, setting up an exciting finish for both the fans and players.

The Seawolves will look to reach .500 when they battle on the road against Dartmouth in Hanover, New Hampshire this Thursday. Tip-off is at 7:00PM.