

Assault Victims Knew Perps

By KATY O'DETTE
Asst. News Editor

The two men allegedly involved in the assault of two female students on Oct. 15th were acquaintances of the victims.

According to Douglas Little, Assistant Chief of Stony Brook Police Department, there have not been any arrests as of yet.

"The two parties were acquaintances," said Little. "This was not just a situation of someone just walking by on the street."

The University of Arizona Medical School survey of working women and college students found that more than four out of five rape victims know their attackers. Among college rape victims, more than half are attacked by dates.

Authorities say one of the accused was a student here on campus at the time of the incident. However, he is no longer a student and is awaiting a hearing. The other man, a friend of his, did not attend the school. Both have been identified by the police. Little was unable to provide the location of the incident or the ages of either the victims or the accused due to possible violations of privacy.

The Wo/Men's center on campus provides confidential counseling for victims of sexual assault and allows walk-ins on Wednesdays from 5-8 PM and on Fridays from 12-3 PM. The center offers a range of services including counseling for students seeking help with sexual abuse, eating disorders, coming out, gender identity, and depression.

"It's important for students to be aware of the resources available to them," says Dr. Jenny Hwang, Director of the Wo/Men's Center. "So many of these kinds of cases go unreported. My advice to students is to come forward if they need help and we'll be there for them." Police say for every recorded rape, an estimated three to ten go unreported.



The temperature of the SAC's salad ingredients was an issue in last month's health inspection. Suraj Rambhia/Statesman

CAMPUS DINING RECTIFIES VIOLATIONS

By TEJAS GAWADE
Editor-in-Chief

In response to the health inspections performed by the Suffolk County Department of Health, Campus Dining has begun a series of corrections and precautionary measures. The Faculty Student Association (FSA), which oversees the operation of food places on campus,

has issued a response to the critical health violations that more than half of the dining locations were reported to have.

On Nov. 1, Chartwells District Manager, Dennis Lestrage, met with Terry Marek, Registered Sanitarian and Chartwells Director of Quality Assurance, and Terrence O'Riordan, Senior Public Health Sanitarian from the Dept., to review and ensure

the correction of all health violations.

While, the Student Activities Center (SAC) and Jasmine were inspected for violations in early Oct., some places, such as the Roth Food Court and the Student Union Deli, have not been inspected for over a year. According to Lisa Ospitale, the Marketing Director for Campus

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Residential Blood Drive Hits SBU

By SURAJ RAMBHIA
Editor-in-Chief

The Student Blood Drive Committee continues its ongoing campaign this week to promote blood donation across campus with its Residential Blood Drive, the second of its two major blood drive events scheduled for this semester. Residential blood drives will begin on Monday, November 6th continuing until Wednesday, November 8th.

According to Lise-Ethlyn Maurice, President of the Student Blood Drive Committee, "Approximately 260 people

donated blood several weeks ago at the SAC Blood Drive." The Residential Blood Drive will be conducted over a three day span, and the Student Blood Drive Committee, according to Maurice, "hopes for even more people."

Maurice did acknowledge, "It's tough for people to find time to donate [blood]." Still, she continued, "We hope that the late evening times are better for people." (One can find the timings and locations for the Residential Blood Drives in the accompanying table on pg 3.)

According to Maurice, the Student Blood Drive Commit-

tee is primarily responsible for providing publicity and volunteers for the blood drives they sponsor.

Organizing of the residential blood drives was conducted in conjunction with Campus Residences and RHA. The actual medical personnel are provided by Long Island Blood Services, an affiliate of the New York Blood Center.

The Student Blood Drive Committee, as mentioned above, is always trying to get more volunteers to support its cause. Cristina Hyun, Treas-

Continued on page 3

Red Wine Might Save Your Life

By LYNN HSIEH
Asst. News Editor

There's good news for red wine connoisseurs everywhere. According to new research, drinking more than three glasses of red wine a week reduces the risk of abnormal growth and cancers in the intestinal tract by two thirds, as compared to white wine drinkers and abstainers.

Researchers at SBU, led by Dr. Joseph C. Anderson, an assistant professor of medicine at Stony Brook, discovered that a natural anti-fungal compound found in red wine, called resveratrol, offers beneficial effects to the body by inhibiting the growth of certain cancer cells and tumors by affecting one or more stages of cancer development.

The resveratrol content of wine is related to the length of time the grape skins are present during the fermentation process, which allows for absorption. "The concentration is significantly higher in red wine than in white wine because the skins are removed earlier during the white-wine production, lessening the amount that is extracted," explained Anderson.

In the study, researchers compared the drinking habits of 360 red and white wine drinkers with similar life styles to study the frequency of colorectal neoplasia (colorectal refers to cancers found in the colon and neoplasia is the abnormal, disorganized growth in a tissue or organ that may lead to tumors). Anderson's study included 1,741 people including 245 red wine drinkers, 115 white wine drinkers, and 1,381 abstainers.

The incidence of colorectal neoplasia was 9.9 percent in the abstainers, 8.8 percent in white wine drinkers (3 or more glasses), and 3.4 percent in the red wine drinkers (3 or more glasses) indicating a 68 percent reduction for the red wine drinkers.

Anderson's research is the latest in a series of studies that have

Continued on page 3

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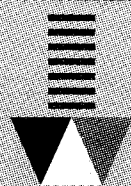


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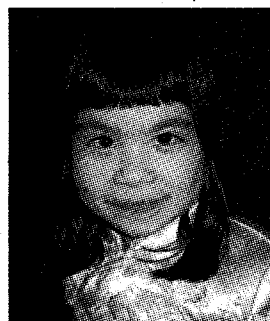
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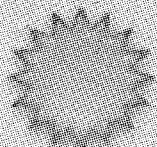


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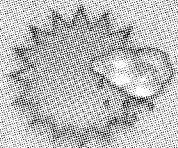
Student Forecast:

Nov. 6 - Nov. 12

by Britta Merwin



Monday:
High 57/Low 36
Sunny & Cool



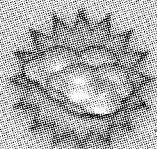
Tuesday:
High 61/Low 47
Beautiful During the Day,
Chance of Late Rain



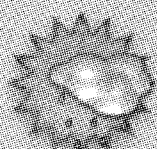
Wednesday:
High 62/Low 49
Chance of Rain Early, Clearing
to Partly Cloudy Skies



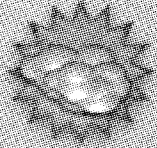
Thursday:
High 64/Low 47
Absolutely Beautiful



Friday:
High 57/Low 43
Cool with Clouds



Saturday:
High 55/Low 47
Cloudy with a
Chance of Rain



Sunday:
High 52/Low 41
Pleasant but Cool

Behind the Numbers

What a beautiful start to a midterm week! A high-pressure system off the coast will set up a southwesterly low. The change in the winds will draw in warmer air from the southern states. Temperatures will be around 60 degrees for most of the week. A frontal system will pass through late on Tuesday; expect a chance of rain overnight into Wednesday morning. By Wednesday evening the skies will clear, giving way to a beautiful Thursday. The week will end dry but cool as northern air is pulled over Long Island on Friday. So far the weekend looks to be unsettled with the onset of the next frontal system keeping temperatures in the mid 50s with a good chance for rain.

NYPIRG Aims to Mobilize Students to Vote in Midterm Elections

By JOSH SEIDMAN
Staff Writer

The election season is once again upon us. This is the time of the year when county, state, and national offices are voted upon. The outcome of these votes usually determines the direction our nation is going to head up until the next year's elections. For this reason alone, it is vital for all who are eligible to vote, to do so, and exercise their right to be a part of the democratic process.

It is important for the young adults of the country to vote and have their opinions heard. However, with the amount of school work and obligations that make

up a typical student's day, it is difficult for the members of this age group to truly explore and examine the candidates running for office.

Who am I voting for? What does this candidate stand for? Will his or her beliefs coincide with my own and make life better for myself and the people I care about?

This is where the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) steps in. NYPIRG is New York State's largest student-directed consumer, environmental, and government reform organization. This group is dedicated to mobilizing student voters and providing non-partisan

voter information. The members of this organization want to empower students, extend a hand to the campus community, and have the local and state politicians listen to and take the students seriously.

Last year the members of the organization registered more than 16,000 students to vote, nearly 3,000 of those being Stony Brook students. They are looking to surpass that total in this year's election.

NYPIRG believes that it is essential for the students to learn which candidates have ideals and visions similar to their own before they cast their ballot. That is why NYPIRG are going

to be handing out flyers and information to SBU students on this year's elections on Monday, November 6.

The goal of this event is to get students to register to vote and to inform them of the backgrounds and the stands of each of the various candidates running in the elections. Because this year is a federal election year, members of NYPIRG believe that it is vital for students to get involved in the election process.

On Tuesday November 7, between 6AM and 9PM in SAC Ballroom B, any student who is registered to vote on campus is welcome to come and utilize their constitutional right.

Blood Drive Seeks Student Support

Continued from page 1

urer for the Student Blood Drive Committee, commented, "We've been trying to spread the word." Hyun herself had volunteered in blood drives throughout her high school career and wished to continue contributing to this cause in college.

Bomy Hwang, Public Relations Officer for Student Blood Drive Committee reported that as a 6th grader in Korea, she was motivated by American Red

Cross workers who came to her school to speak about donating blood. Maurice, now a senior, initially started volunteering at the blood drives as a freshman and continued to support the Student Blood Drive Committee.

Maurice said, "There's always a shortage of blood, especially during the summer months. Here students don't have to travel too far to really help someone out."

Aside from these periodic

blood drives, donations can be made any day of the week at the Stony Brook University Medical Center (SBUMC) Blood Bank. The Blood Bank is open on L5 of the hospital from Monday to Friday 8:30AM to 8:00PM.

While blood donated at the Blood Bank is reserved for patients of SBUMC, the blood donated at either the previous SAC Blood Drive or current Residential Blood Drive will be available to people in need all over Long Island.

Red Wine Reduces Cancer Risk

Continued from page 1

found a relation between red wine consumption and a reduced risk of various forms of cancer, including breast cancer, prostate cancer, and leukemia, in animal and human studies.

However, according to plant agriculture professor at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, Gopi Paliyath, "It may be a combined action, not only one particular component doing something," he said, referring to the other polyphenols, or antioxidants, also found in red wine that may inhibit the growth of cancerous cells.

Despite its protective effects, Anderson advises people against taking red wine for this reason alone. When asked which patients he recommended for red wine consumption, he responded, "I don't recommend drinking red wine unless you are drinking already (i.e. beer or vodka) and then you should stop drinking or switch to red wine. Wine, like other alcohol, is toxic, probably in doses higher than 1 glass per day, to the brain, heart and liver."

Residential Blood Drive Schedule		
Day	Time	Location
Monday 6th	6:30PM to 12:00AM	Kelly and Mendelssohn Quads
Tuesday 7th	6:00PM to 10:00PM	Tabler Quad
Tuesday 7th	6:30PM to 12:00AM	H Quad
Wednesday 8th	6:30PM to 12:00AM	Roth Quad and West Apts.

Information provided by the Student Blood Drive Committee.

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Distinguished Service Professor, Anatomical Sciences

For creating the Madagascar Ankizy Fund, to provide education and health care for the children of Madagascar and their families.

Sarah Schlegel, M.D.

Resident, Department of Pediatrics

For bringing a national early literacy program to three Stony Brook University pediatric satellite clinics; for creating the Pediatric Resident Educators; and for co-founding the Smile Network.

Chris Summers

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REVERBERATIONS:

STALLER PRESENTS



Courtesy of Staller Center for the Arts

Anoushka Shankar

By NANDITHA DAS
Staff Writer

On Oct. 27, Stony Brook University hosted Anoushka Shankar, daughter of the world renowned sitar player, Ravi Shankar, at the Staller Center for the Arts. The Recital Hall radiated a warm ambience that complemented the night's magnificent performance, highlighted by Shankar's grace, talent and elegance.

Accompanying Shankar (sitar), were Jesse Charnow (drums), Clarence Gonsalves (bass), Ravichandra Kulur (flute), Kenji Ota (tanpura), Leo Dombecki (piano), and Tanmoy Bose (tabla). An extremely talented young vocalist, Aditya Prakash, was also present. The music was a mix of eastern rhythm and western flavor.

The sitar is a string instrument, where plucking lengthens and shortens the strings, creating various moods. It is usually associated with calmness, peace, and meditation. The tanpura, a drone instrument, provides a reference note to which all other notes are matched. The tabla, consisting of

two drums, one for each hand, is a percussion instrument used for 'Taal,' which is the beat or time measure.

Indian Classical Music is divided into Southern and Northern Classical, Hindustani and Carnatic, respectively. The differences between them lie in the styles of vocal execution, as well as instrumental accompaniment. In Hindi, microtone, or "Shruti," makes different compositions sound unique. There are 22 Shrutis.

In Hindustani music, Shankar's forte, the main musical dialogue or movement is called "Raag," composed from any of ten parent scales: various combinations using the seven basic notes, known as the "Saptak": Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Dha and Ni. Variations of notes, "Vikrit" or displaced notes include sharp, "Tivra," and flat, "Komal."

The performances included "Prayer in Passing," "Voice of the Moon," "Red Sun," "Mahadeva," and other selections from Shankar's newly released album, Rise.

All the selections were crowd

pleasers, but the best routines were "Voice of the Moon" and "Mahadeva." "Voice of the Moon," set to "Teentaal," or 16 beat measure, the most common, was based on a South Indian composition, and had excellent presentation and execution.

When the tempo, or "laya," quickened, you could see Shankar's enthusiasm, passion and love for the art. Bose (tabla) is extremely proficient and highly impressive. His fingers played so fast that they were a blur. In fact, all of the other accompaniments are worth special mention too.

"Mahadeva," written by Ravi Shankar, was one of the first compositions that Anoushka Shankar learned as a child. "Mahadeva," another name for Lord Shiva, is one of the trinity in Hinduism, commonly known as the "destructor."

In ancient mythology, Mahadeva is the creator of dance, and is famous for his "Tandava" dance. "Mahadeva" commences with extremely intense percussion and strings, which the audience praised.

The evening's performance

was appreciated by all who attended. Rupert Hopkins and his wife, who heard about Shankar on the National Public Radio, were very satisfied. Hopkins commented, "She's magnificent with her own work. [I was] listening to the CD in the car, but she's even better in person. It's very rare to be able to sit so close to an international music figure. The Staller Center is a great venue and provides such great opportunities."

Fusion, a blend of classical Indian and popular western, and often considered a dilution of tradition and culture, is not always enjoyable, but this was an exception. Her music is inevitably compared with her father's, but she can definitely hold it on her own.

Few of us are blessed with such talent, or the ability to overcome that curse of mediocrity. When she started playing, I was immediately moved to tears. She has a charm that moves the heart, and creates ripples within you, and it's quite inexplicable, unless you were there to observe and experience.

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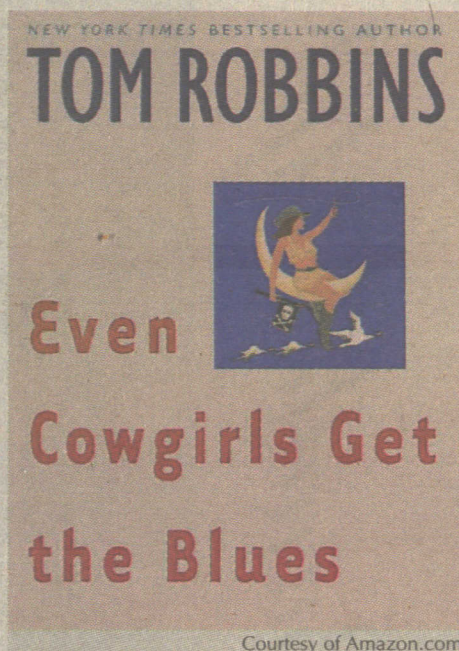
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Get Your Read On:

EVEN COWGIRLS GET THE BLUES (365 PGS)

BY
TOM ROBBINS

PUBLISHED:
1976



BY JEREMY FALLETTA
Staff Writer

Last spring I told you that if you read one book I had reviewed all semester, you should make it *Everything is Illuminated*; this time around, make it *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*, if you're short on time or one of those people who just doesn't get around to reading quite as often as you'd like. This novel is fantastic – Robbins is as gifted a writer as I have come across, easily scoring my highest rating in terms of recommendation.

One of the best things about *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues* is that it constantly questions its own text. Fairly early on, we get this passage on the nature of fiction:

A book no more contains reality than a clock contains time. A book may measure so-called reality as a clock may measure so-called time; a book may create an illusion of reality as a clock creates an illusion of time; a book may be real, just as a clock is real (both more real, perhaps, than those ideas to which they allude); but let's not kid ourselves – all a clock contains is wheels and springs and all a book contains is sentences.

Any writer able to throw his own work into such a harsh light so readily should be praised for his courage and audacity alone. Robbins does this repeatedly, even when he eventually writes himself into the narrative. His writing is quirky and consistently suspicious of itself, which is entirely endearing to the reader.

On the surface, the novel seems to be about Sissy Hankshaw Gitche, a girl born with enormous thumbs. Her initial fascination with hitchhiking, and later, the shift of her attention to "Bonanza Jellybean" and her ranch of cowgirls are the bread and but-

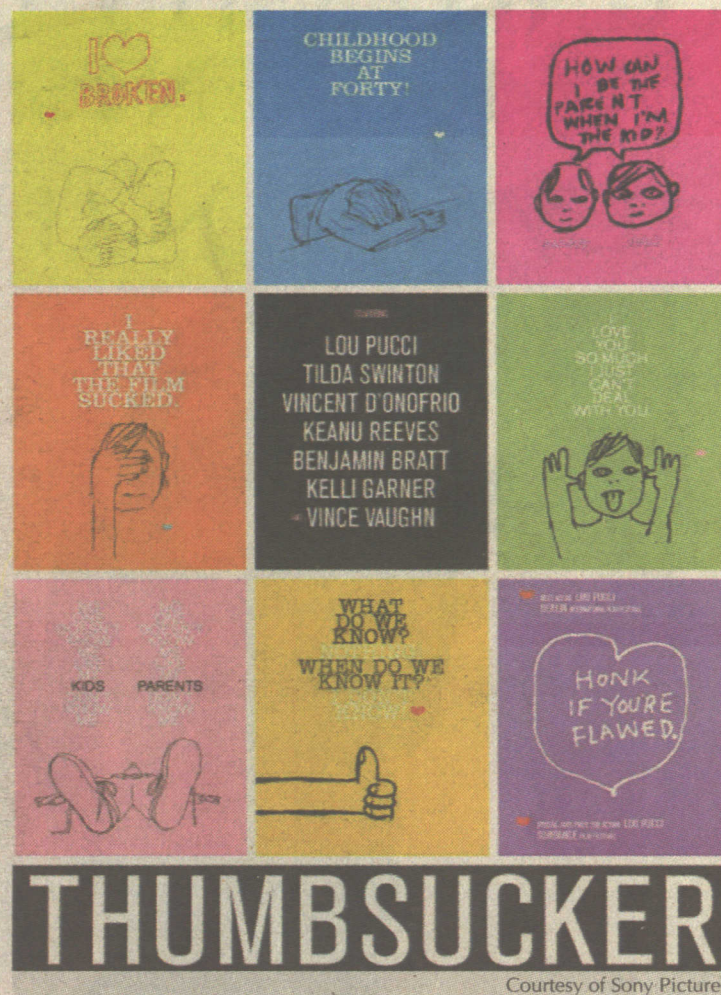
ter elements of the plot, but this is hardly a plot-driven novel. This is a book that's beauty is the way it is written, not its story. Although the plot is allegorical at times, it is basically filler material – a vessel for Robbins to describe various aspects of life.

Every few chapters (which are all quite short, all 121 of them), Robbins interrupts the flow to provide commentary on one point or another. Many times he even mentions the title of the novel in relation to itself, which is comical if not a paradox that we only let him get away with because we love him already. These interludes not only provide good stopping points, should you be convinced to actually stop reading, but generally make the reader want to continue on to the next chapter immediately. Many times I found myself thinking, "Where the hell is he going with this?" only to be enlightened by the last sentence on the page, and compelled to turn to the next one, posthaste.

Little jibes like "Maybe some brains like the easy life," or the numerous appearances of the phrase "the international situation, which was desperate as usual," allow frequent bouts of laughter (out loud, of course, the best kind) and keep the mood light even though the subject matter can be quite heavy at times. The book touches on religion, the definition of time, feminism and something that I'll call neo-feminism, and the meaning of life. It is full of wisdom and truth.

So, like I said, if you only get to read one book that I review this semester, make it *Even Cowgirls Get the Blues*. It's only 365 pages, but its fairly dense reading, so take your time with it. You'll be running to the bookstore to check out Tom Robbins in no time at all once you put it down. I know I will be.

Indie Flicks:



BY RACHEL BROZINSKY
Staff Writer

Thumbsucker is a film that is unconventional in its approach to the coming-of-age tale. With a sharp wit infused into the dark humor, it presents the story of a boy who struggles with an addiction that seemingly stands in the way of his reaching adulthood. This 17-year-old boy still sucks his thumb.

Justin Cobb (Lou Taylor Pucci) is your average teenaged loner. As he moves through life in slow motion, he turns to his thumb as a crutch and comfort for the frustrations and anxieties that he feels in school and at home. While everyone suffers from awkwardness during the high school years, Justin certainly gets a great deal of his anxieties from the pressures from his parents. His mother, Audrey (Tilda Swinton), is a night nurse at a celebrity rehab center. Audrey has an obsession of her own: TV actor Matt Schramm (Benjamin Bratt). Mike Cobb (Vincent D'Onofrio), is Justin's father, a manager of a store who failed to reach the pros in football after a knee injury, thereby failing to meet everyone's expectations, especially his own.

When Justin is berated into quitting his thumb-sucking habit by his concerned father, he seeks help from his hippie, new age dentist, suitably played by Keanu Reeves. After hypnosis fails him, Justin begins to slide from one addiction to another, whether it is his thumb, winning at his debate team matches with the encouragement of his teacher, Mr. Geary (Vince Vaughn), or a girl.

The film consistently makes a powerful statement about how people seek change for what they think will make them happy. Somehow the characters

expect these drastic transformations in themselves to suddenly and magnificently better their lives. For instance, Justin sees ADHD medication as a quick fix for his inability to focus, and while at first it seems like a success, it only turns him into an egotistical and victory-thirsty monster.

In a film that is replete with big name actors from Bratt to Vaughn to Reeves, Lou Pucci, a virtual unknown, steals the show. He is put front and center as the troubled teen struggling through his last year of high school, and he never fails to capture each moment that he is meant to portray. His soft-spoken awkwardness lends itself to his ability to contribute to the dark humor of the film, as well as the break-throughs that Justin experiences when he becomes accepting of his own humanness.

One of the most touching and relatable themes of the film is the parent-child relationship; what we want, and what our parents want for us and for themselves. While both his mother and father mean well and truly want the best for Justin, they repeatedly have difficulty expressing it in a way that Justin can accept. The quiet moments in which they do connect and find some common ground of understanding are subtle and sincere.

This honest and endearing film stands out from the crowd of generic coming-of-age stories. Played with heart and humor, *Thumbsucker* has a genuine understanding of the dissatisfaction and frustration of the formative years of an individual's life as Justin embarks on a journey in which he seems to get all the right answers at all the wrong times. But as his dentist explains, the trick to life is living without any answers. Or so he thinks.

UNIVERSITY CAFE PRESENTS: LYNN MILES



Courtesy of www.livetourartists.com

BY SHANZA MALIK
Arts and Entertainment Editor

It's easy to tell she's a down-to-earth, liberal, folksy singer/songwriter right off the bat. With her compassionate smile and love for black boots, Lynn Miles claims the one famous person she'd like to meet is George Bush - simply to ask him what he's doing, since she obviously disapproves. She starts off her mini-concert, held at the University Café, by saying "I just need to feng shui for a moment."

The atmosphere is laid back and casual, mainly because the music itself is targeted to a mature audience. Red lights light up the stage as Lynn carefully sets herself up, cradling her guitar in her hands.

With influences including Leonard Cohen, Joni Mitchell, and Tom Waits, it was bound to be an extraordinary show. There was no set list. Miles, having written upwards of 500 songs, claims she doesn't have any idea of what she wants to sing, saying she "likes to just wing it" while in front of an audience. Not only is this gutsy, but she is not backed up by a band nor background singers. "Nope, it's just me and my guitar and my harmonica," she adds with a girlish grin.

So far, Miles' list of achievements is not a short one. Claiming to have started singing when she was only 6 months old - "My mother knew I was asleep in my crib when the singing stopped," - she has now reached epic levels in Canada. Miles has released six albums in the United States, Canada and Europe, and has won

the Juno Award in Canada, equivalent to an American Grammy Award. Not only has she achieved the much longed-for fame that many of us only dream about, she says, "I feel very fortunate because I get to do what I love. It's not about being wealthy, it's about being happy." So, money can't buy everything.

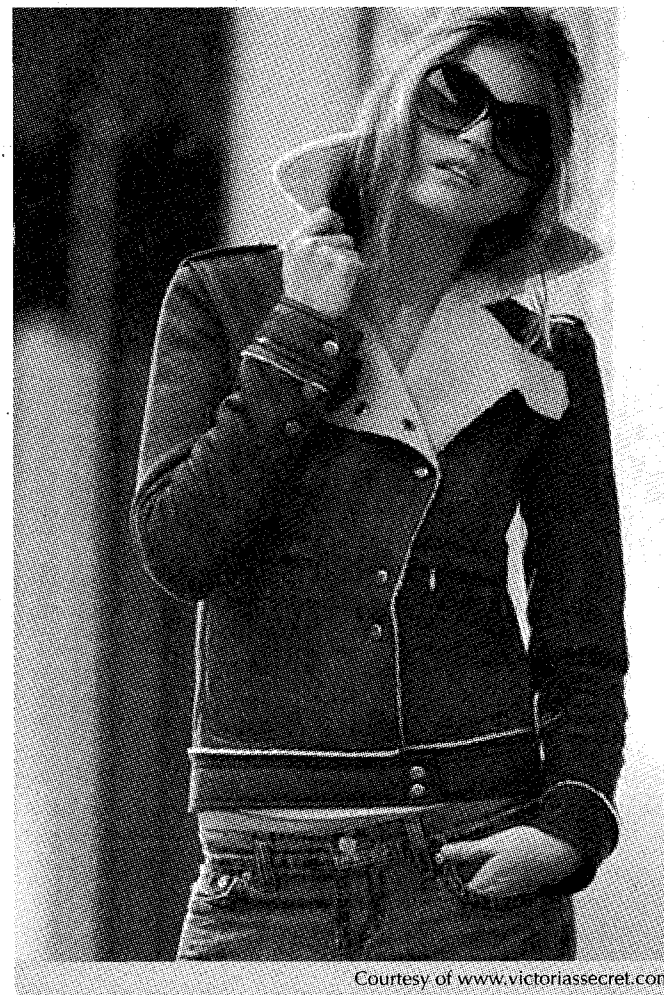
Saying she doesn't do tours, "fly-ins" allow you to see what type of a person Lynn Miles is - easy-going yet spontaneous, much like her audience. It is also very clear that she is comfortable with her audience, and has a great interaction with them. She picks up her guitar to start singing, but then pauses and asks, "Would anyone mind if the TV was turned off?" A few giggles from the audience erupt, then cheers when the box is finally shut off.

Miles begins strumming, pauses again to enter in a quick anecdote, "It reminds me of my youth when I played in restaurants and the TV would always be on. One time I played with a heavyweight fight and volume was up!" The audience laughs again and Lynn strums her guitar, and then apologizes, "I've been driving alone a lot, so I'm quite chatty, I think I'm ready to start now."

All of her songs have the same nostalgic quality to them. They are all reminiscent of the past, of love lost or remembered. All have a uniquely autumn quality, due to her folksy guitar playing, and her alto voice. Most of her songs are love or memory based, so I asked her earlier whether she has written any political songs, she responds with, "I haven't written any yet."

Stony Brook *En Vogue*

Bundle Up!



Courtesy of www.victoriassecret.com

BY AMY DRAGANI
Staff Writer

It's almost that time of year - in just a few weeks the last of the leaves will have fallen, the snow will have begun drifting in, and there will be absolutely no question of whether or not you need a coat.

When the streets are ice-glazed and it's so bitterly cold that even that extra time you allow for your car to warm up still won't take the chill out of the air, the only thing that will put a smile on your wind-burned face is the perfect coat.

A personal favorite this season is the longer, sometimes more formal pea coats and belted coats. Pea coats are always preferred because they are neat, chic, and, since they are double-breasted and traditionally wool, very, very warm. Come on now, sailors were the original pea coat trendsetters, how could you go wrong? This season, there are a lot of choices with the pea coat - the more traditional mid-length, knee-length designs, and A-line cuts.

Belted coats are gorgeous because they are so elegant and figure flattering. With the vast choices of styles and colors this season, you can't go wrong. The length, however, is somewhat standard at mid-length. Any shorter and it would be casual, any longer and it might suggest a raincoat.

The choices in shape, color, and print are endless! Some are more conservative than others, just sporting a few small buttons in the same shade as the fabric, and a thin belt with a clasp. There are choices that are a bit flared at the bottom and some with a few pleats. Adding a belt to a solid piece of fabric cinches at the waist, which creates really classic-looking curves.

There are, of course, several styles of short coats for this year as well. Short coats can be very sporty and versatile in vinyl quilt, wool-blend, and plaids. Also, some styles are a little more street-chic, maybe not for everyday wear. The use of subtle color, ruffles, embroidery, and leather create a variety of coat styles that are just dying for a night out with skinny jeans and pumps.

This is a great time to shop for a coat because every store knows you need one. Department stores are a sure thing: Macys, Bloomingdales, Nordstrom - you'll find what you're looking for. Also try your favorite clothing or specialty stores like H&M, American Eagle, Forever 21, Hollister - you might find something a bit trendier than you'll find in a department store. My favorite coat closet? Victoriassecret.com. Prices vary depending on your fancy, but the cuts and colors are beautiful.

Stay warm!

“Campus Dining can always be improved...”

Lisa Ospitale, Marketing Director for Campus Dining Services

Continued from page 1

Dining Services, the Dept. “comes in randomly ... purposely to see things in everyday action. Roth was done within a year. So, the dates on the website may not be the most accurate because the website’s not updated, maybe, by the Suffolk County Board of Health.”

In response to the fact that most of the violations are temperature-related, Ospitale said, “Any temperature issue is serious, whether it’s a degree or two degrees, we take it very seriously.” Angela Agnello, the Director of Marketing and Communications at FSA, added, “If you go to the SAC at 10, 10:30, if you’re trying to switch over between the breakfast and the lunch, you’ll see [the staff] putting the ice in before they put the salad bar items in. That’s done every day.”

In addition to the random inspections by the Dept., Campus Dining does its own personal inspections. Ospitale said,

“Chartwells is the food service company on campus. And Cafe Spice does Jasmine. Just like the Harriman Cafe, a graduate student organization runs it.” Ospitale added, “The University Cafe is now run by Chartwells, but is overseen by the Graduate Student Organization.”

In response to the Dept.’s complaint about the inadequate space in the SAC, Agnello said, “At this time, our renovations are really focused on Roth Dining. But, once Roth is renovated and they have more food service available there, I think that should take some of the pressure off from the SAC because there will be a brand new eatery on campus where people can go.”

Campus Dining hopes to take some pressure off from the SAC by making the Union and Roth Cafeteria the new hubs for dining. The Bleacher Club and the End of the Bridge restaurant will be renovated by next fall. Roth renovation will start in the summer of 2007, and will con-

tinue for over a year, ready for unveiling by the fall of 2008. The Union will also have a Starbucks by that time.

Agnello said, “The gift certificates and the coupons, [make] people come [to the Union].” These discounted offers, such as free fountain drinks with a purchase at places other than the SAC, are targeted to ease the congestion of student traffic at the SAC during the day.

In response to the possibility of a future SAC expansion, Ospitale said, “When it comes to renovations and expansions, it’s not a simple process. It’s not Campus Dining/Chartwells saying we’re going to pick this place because we’re a food service company on campus. Any renovation plans must come through the University. Because any renovations that occur stays on the University, where one day, [if] Chartwells is not here, and somebody else is here.”

Chartwells/Campus Dining has identified 24 core areas of

safe food handling and sanitation in compliance with the Dept.’s health guidelines. They have also outlined 4 core objectives: reconfirming immediate corrective action for every violation, training of campus dining managers in mid-November, instituting long-term solutions, and reviewing repairs and equipment upgrades with FSA.

Campus Dining has also resolved a student-manager dispute that led to removal of copies of the *Statesman* issue featuring an article reporting the health violations. On Wednesday, Oct. 24, a student, Max Sequeira, confronted the SAC dining manager after he witnessed her removing stacks of the paper from the cafeteria and the main lobby.

Ospitale added that “regardless of the manager’s intentions ... Dennis Lestrangle understands, and so does the manager and everybody else, that it was wrong. [The manager’s] staff and all of our staff have been spoken to about how to handle it in the

future.” Both the manager and the student have since spoken to each other, and have apologized to each other.

Ospitale said that “Campus Dining can always be improved and that is why we rely on feedback from our customers.” A resolutions committee is currently in place to address food-related concerns and issues, and new menu items and concepts. The committee is composed of FSA management, campus administrators, Chartwells management, and Student Representatives.

Every food place has a manager on duty, usually accompanied by an assistant manager. They are responsible for daily inspections, and daily feedback. Students may approach them at any time. Student consumer advocates also serve as the liaison between customer comments and Dawn Villaci, the Customer Advocate Manager. Every dining location is also equipped with a comment card box for customer feedback.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR CONTINUED

RE: “On the Existence of an Afterlife”

Continued from page 12

But I digress, as you have. It is my guess that we seek higher things in life, and ask questions like this, because we have been vitally fulfilled. We all have enough to eat and drink, so we concern ourselves with problems and ideas of increasing complexity. If you had to hunt for your food all day, you’d probably spend less time in reflection (cf. Maslow’s hierarchy of needs). Being that you have clothing, heat, shelter, water, entertainment, and at times a surfeit of one or all of these, you’re bound to start using that advanced human brain of yours to plan and think too far to the future.

I blame the forebrain for all this mess. We have the ability to make plans, and now we’ve got ourselves thinking that there should always be something that comes after. In sum, yes, life does seem somewhat arbitrary and

pointless, but where is the logic or reason behind your assumption that it should be anything but? Maybe the “point” of life is whatever you make it to be. And maybe that’s depressing (as your scary rhetoric suggests); fine, but it’s what our lives actually are. We forgo “putting a bullet [in our] brains,” because this is not a charade. It’s the sad consequence of just a little too much intelligence.

Flies can’t think, so they don’t. We can think, so we follow our human routine and - occasionally - stick our heads up long enough to see what’s going on and fruitlessly, pointlessly question the cause and purpose of life and existence, but don’t forget for a minute that for every article written we spend a week without questioning anything but what’s for lunch, what’s on TV, and who we could date.

Best,
Chaz

Sudoku!

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Daily Sudoku

hard

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Submit your doodles to Room 057 in the SB Union Basement.

Solution

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

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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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PO Box 1530
Stony Brook, NY 11790

phone: (631) 632-6479
fax: (631) 632-9128

Email us at:
comments@sbstatesman.org

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WHO WE ARE

The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Sucollan" 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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Analysis of the USG Fall 2006 Elections

By ESAM AL-SHAREFFI
USG Senate Recording Secretary

Dear Editor,

The most recent USG elections have ended, with the results published and displayed outside SAC 202. In brief, two out of the four open CAS Senate seats have been filled by the Reform Party (with the two others going to independents.) Anwer Adeel has been elected as Freshman Class Representative, the various USG Constitutional Amendments passed overwhelmingly, and students rejected a proposal to decrease the student activity fee.

The most striking feature of the elections was the incredibly low turnout, with less than 750 students voting out of a total electorate of some 15,000 undergraduates, a miserably low 5% turnout figure that would shame any "democracy." Part of the blame must be ascribed to the general apathy of students, but the overwhelming burden for this failure is on the Undergraduate Student Government as a whole.

Most students I spoke to were not aware of the elections, while

others did see the signs but did not care to vote. It is the government's responsibility to prove to the electorate that there is value in voting for USG officers and on USG issues, and for the government to prove that it can be relevant, active, and effective. The overwhelming majority of students, however, seem to have no confidence in USG's role as an advocate to students and a representative of their interests.

The low turn out has massive implications on the legitimacy of the current government and in its ability to negotiate and lobby on behalf of students. Who would take the USG President or the USG Senate seriously if they speak out on an issue, claiming to represent the will of the student body?

These results should be a serious concern to any advocate of students rights and it is imperative that the USG develop a "marketing strategy," in which the government spends most of its time tackling important issues close to the hearts and minds of students and showing real and tangible results, moving away from internal matters, paper shuffling, and other bureaucratic

rubbish which may bring untold joy to our representatives but to which students could not care less about. At the same time, USG must advertise its successes and its achievements, so that students understand the utility and worth of their government and take a more active part in supporting it.

The most recent ballot also addressed the hotly debated issue of reducing the student activity fee, and students voted 457 in favor and 282 against the proposal, causing it to fail due to the lack of a 2/3 majority. It is interesting that this proposal received the most votes compared to any other on the ballot, perhaps reflecting that a sizeable number of students logged on to SOLAR specifically to cast their vote in opposition, and I wish to thank these students from the bottom of my heart on taking that step.

By rejecting the almost negligible \$1.75/semester fee decrease, the USG now has a good chunk of funding that should be used in a productive manner, perhaps as part of a campaign to reduce the cost of food on campus, wherein the funds could be used to man-

age several "one-day" strikes on campus food locations, as part of a strategy to negotiate for lower food prices. Even if the most modest success is achieved, perhaps a 3% reduction in overall prices, this will translate to a savings of a great deal more than \$1.75/semester for each student.

Alternatively, the money can be used to fund some useful, creative programs, such as the recently approved "P.A.S.S. Act" which is designed to provide free one-on-one tutoring for students. It is up to the USG Senate to consider these and many other options and decide upon an intelligent strategy. Failing that, it will be up to students to reassert their power and shame the Senate by doing its work for it - essentially by coming up with programs and ideas that we have elected our representatives to deal with on our behalf.

A final note, there was no USG Senate meeting scheduled on Tuesday, October 31, 2006, but the Senate will be back in session at 7 pm on November 7th.

Respectfully yours,
Esam Al-Shareffi

RE: "On the Existence of an Afterlife"

By CHAZ SYLVESTER
SBU Student

To Esam:

Your approach seems to be stimulation followed by ostensibly conservative/careful opining: goad the otiose plebs and loosen the exceptionally ubiquitous and depressing stronghold of our every-day, unreflective mode of operation, throw up a few scare quotes, and what you're saying starts to make sense. I'm see your point so far.

Still, where is the support for your thesis? We have an afterlife because it would be *insignificant* to not? Here's my real question to you: who says our lives are supposed to have meaning? I certainly agree that religion is a most appropriate locus of meaning and purpose - it explains things well, and says we should look in our lives for that

meaning, purpose and something great (read God; Allah; Yahweh; Buddha, et al).

Religion is the intersection between our "short, brutish, and ultimately pointless" lives (was that paraphrasing Hobbes?) and something beyond, or supra-terrestrial. But where's my motivation for believing that there is the need for some rationalization of life? Religion gives an answer to a question that it assumes should be posed. And of course, we all feel like there should be something more, at least for us. We also feel that we're entitled to speed up on yellow ("they won't turn green for at least another second"); that the line for ice cream, the movies or an amusement park ride is there deliberately to ruin our day; and that we're special, interesting, awe-inspiring, incredibly gifted and intelligent creatures.

We believe in ourselves, and we

believe in purpose and substantive connection. We constantly assume that co-occurring instances are connected, much to the dismay of science and statistics teachers everywhere; we trust and believe in these things. Events happen for a reason, we say, but why? Why is this true?

Certainly it would be nice; sincerely, I wouldn't mind it if my education, work, boredom and late-night gym sessions were to "amount to something" at some later time. But why should that be so? You ask rhetorically in your article, "Is it reasonable for a species, or rather for all living species, to exist merely to multiply?" I ask you, is it reasonable to think that something which gives meaning to life after the fact can necessitate meaning/purpose, a priori? Maybe we do just die after 60 or 70 years.


It doesn't seem like long enough, from our perspective, but

who cares about our perspective? A dayfly's life seems so transient to us, but in turn ours seems paltry compared to any geological time frame, which in turn is marginalized by the incomprehensible scope of our galaxy, universe, and the 14-some-odd billion years of existence believed to precede us.

Why does the dayfly keep up its species, day-to-day? Because it wouldn't exist if its progenitors hadn't. If humans didn't exist to propagate, they wouldn't exist. If you were to start a sect of unnatural people, who had much loftier goals in life than sex, then you would soon be replaced by the lesser mortals who are concerned with it. That's the mechanism behind our existence; we exist because we've followed our previously-honed and sculpted instinct without much question.

Continued on page 11

Veterans Day Ceremony



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Live music by Glass Houses

A Billy Joel tribute band.

Campus Community Activity Fair

Crafts & giveaways plus a children's activities from 2 - 4pm!

Fall Favorites Menu

(Ticket: \$5.00 day of event, \$4.50 presale)

Ticket includes an Entrée*, Pumpkin Soup, Baked Sweet Potato, Candy Apple, Beverage, Roasted Corn, Ice Cream, and a Free Gift from the University Bookstore

**Vegetarian/Kosher/Halal entrée options will be available*



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Presale tickets can be purchased at Kelly Dining Center, Roth Food Court, Campus Connection @ H-Quad, the Student Activities Center Food Court, the Union Deli, the Bleacher Club, and the Administration Cart. Tickets will be on sale Wednesday Nov 1st to Tuesday Nov 14th.

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SPORTS

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Men's & Women's Cross Country

The Men's and Women's Cross Country teams put in a strong showing at the America East Conference Championships last weekend. The Men's team took second, behind the University of New Hampshire while the Women's side finished in third place behind Boston University and New Hampshire.

The Men's side was led by senior Brian Farrell's individual third place finish with a time of 24:44.80. Junior Shaun Krawitz backed Farrell up with a sixth place finish, followed closely by Alex Felce in eighth.

On the Women's side, Dana Hastie led the Seawolves with a third place finish and a time of 17:17.80. Senior Elizabeth Carlson followed up with a tenth place finish and Kerry Salzano capped off the Seawolves top three with a 13th place finish and a time of 18:12.40. Both Hastie and Carlson were also named to the All-Conference Team along with Farrell, Krawitz and Felce.

Women's Basketball

The Women's Basketball team kicked off their season Friday night, with an exhibition win over the New York/ New Jersey Gazelles. Senior Jessica Smith led the team with 21 points and was backed up by junior up and comer, Aly Young with 16 points. Dana Ferraro and Cheri Davis each added twelve points to the effort while Delicia Jernigan tacked on another eleven.

Though the Seawolves were out-shot in the first half, only completing about 45 percent of their shots, they kept the score close going into the locker room. Stony Brook came out for the second half, and put away the Gazelles, shooting 53 percent. Senior Mykeema Ford took control with 10 assists to lead the Seawolves.

Stony Brook finished the game 96-75. The team jump starts the regular season on Friday, November 10, at Marist.



Seawolves take down the competition 45-9.

Bob O'Rourke/Stony Brook Athletics

'WOLVES WALLOP WAGNER TO RECLAIM #1

By WILL LAHTI
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook Seawolves football team defeated the Wagner Seahawks by a score of 45-9 to reclaim the top spot in the NEC, going into the final game of the year. This marked the first time SBU beat Wagner at home in 7 attempts. Albany defeated Robert Morris, and as a result, Stony Brook now controls its own fate in the NEC; if they win, they are the champions for the second year in a row.

Stony Brook's offense was exceptionally strong all day, with Josh Dudash throwing for 393 yards, and Von Bryant rushing for 3 of SBU's 6 touchdowns. The first two touchdowns came from Bryant, in the first and second quarters, to put the Seawolves in an early 14-0 lead.

Wagner's only touchdown of the day came on a kickoff return following the Bryant touchdown in the 2nd quarter. The PAT was unsuccessful, however, and so the score would remain 14-6. Josh Dudash then completed a 12-yard pass to Lynell Suggs for another touch-

down. Thanks to an interception, SBU was able to squeeze in yet another touchdown before halftime, with Bryant's third touchdown of the day. The score was 28-6 at halftime.

The third quarter was uneventful, with each team picking up a field goal. In the fourth, Stony Brook would cement the win, with touchdowns from Steve Austin and Aaron Hale, with his first touchdown in his collegiate career.

Stony Brook, Monmouth, and Albany are tied at 5-1. However, Stony Brook has beaten both teams, and has the tiebreaker as a result. Monmouth and Albany play each other next weekend, and the winner of that game would be the NEC champion if SBU were to lose on Saturday.

Stony Brook will be on the road, playing Central Connecticut State University. They are 3-3 in conference play. Should Stony Brook win the title, and not be invited to an NCAA postseason game, they'll play the Pioneer League champions at LaValle Stadium on December 2 in the inaugural Gridiron Classic.

The SBU-CCSU game starts at noon on Saturday, and can be heard on WUSB, 90.1 FM.

Athlete of the Week: Lynell Suggs

Lynell Suggs has been named Stony Brook Athlete of the Week after he recorded 110 receiving yards and a touchdown versus Robert Morris on Saturday afternoon. Suggs is currently riding a four-game touchdown streak, finding the end zone in each of the past four contests.

On Saturday, Suggs caught four passes for 110 yards, including a 48-yard touchdown strike in the second quarter of the Seawolves 21-6 loss to Robert Morris.

In his two career games against the Colonials, Suggs has been lethal, combining for 325 yards and five touchdowns.

COURTESY OF STONY BROOK ATHLETICS



SCHEDULE

Nov. 6 - Nov. 11

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S
SWIMMING AND DIVING

Nov. 8, 2006
5:00 PM
Sports Complex Pool

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Nov. 8, 2006
5:00 PM
Sports Complex

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Nov. 9, 2006
6:00 PM
Sports Complex

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Nov. 10, 2006
7:00 PM
Hamilton, NY

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Nov. 10, 2006
7:00 PM
Poughkeepsie, NY

FOOTBALL

Nov. 11, 2006
12:00 PM
New Britain, Conn.

CROSS COUNTRY

Nov. 11, 2006
10:00 AM
Bronx, NY