

Winter Session a Double Success

By TEJAS GAWADE
Managing Editor

SBU conducted its second Winter session from Jan. 2 through Jan. 19 of this year. With registration rising over 50%, students took a variety of courses, ranging from the 3 credit course Christianity (RLS 270) at SB Manhattan to the 1 credit General Chemistry Lab (CHE 133) at the SB campus. While some students studied abroad, others enjoyed winter breakfasts and lunches organized by the Student Activities Board, or were hard at work in research labs.

For students who lived on campus, the Student Activities Board, co-advised by Will Nerris and Sarah Young, planned several winter activities to make their stay more welcome.

"The Student Activities Board took an active role in planning various events for the students taking Winter classes. They planned 5 events in the SAC Lobby that included two breakfasts with Dunkin Donuts, and three lunches with Dominos, Subway and Ying Yang, respectively. These events were planned to accommodate those students who may or may not have had a meal plan. The response from the students was fantastic with at least 100 students at each event," said Neris.

The popularity of the Winter session is particularly evident in the increased class registration.

"There were just over 1200 students enrolled in Winter Session 2007. This is a 50% increase over last winter. The Winter ses-

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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

BRC Hands Down Verdict

Hospital exonerated from infant deaths, but more work to be done.

By SURAJ RAMBHIA,
JAMES BOUKLAS
Editor-in-Chief and Editor Emeritus

The Blue Ribbon Commission, an independent panel of healthcare experts, in response to negative media attention from the three infant deaths last year, recently released its general evaluation of the Stony Brook University Medical Center (SBUMC). While the report found that "there were no systemic quality failures at the Stony Brook University Medical Center," much of the report was devoted to describing shortcomings at SBUMC. Areas of improvement, according to the report, include lines of communication, reorganization of administrative duties, and ways to move forward regarding the pediatric cardiac surgery program.

The findings, according to the BRC report itself, were in accordance with evaluations from the Joint Commission on Healthcare on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Regarding the quality of care at the hospital, the report noted, "Most SUNY-SB faculty state they have no hesitancy in having their family or themselves cared for at Stony Brook." However, "Most feel that the full potential of the institution is greater than its present performance."

The BRC was initially created in response to the deaths of three pediatric patients at SBUMC and an order from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) to shut down pediatric cardiac surgery and catheterization services. The BRC report acknowledges

the concern of the NYSDOH of having an itinerant physician, Jan Quaegebeur, M.D., primarily situated in Columbia Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan coming to SBUMC once a week, along with a low volume of cases (50 per year).

These deaths, after review by the BRC, were not attributed to the level of care provided by the pediatric cardiac surgery and catheterization services at SBUMC, but rather to the severe nature of the cases themselves.

The BRC report provides three options for the pediatric cardiac surgery and catheterization services. First, reopening the pediatric cardiac surgery program, pending the hiring of a full-time pediatric cardiac surgeon, while still seeking out a solution for round-the-clock coverage in the event of an emergency. Second, maintain-

ing the status-quo, vouching for the high success rate of surgeon Quaegebeur, while making minor changes to the program for safety purposes, including the training of cardiac surgeons for pediatric cases.

The third option, endorsed by the BRC, calls for the hospital to "abandon the independent pediatric cardiac surgery option at this time."

When asked about which of the three options would be a course of action the university is willing to take, university officials simply quoted the high level of care provided by the program and offered no further insight.

Other comments were made in the BRC report concerning the lack of a collegial atmosphere at SBUMC. The press

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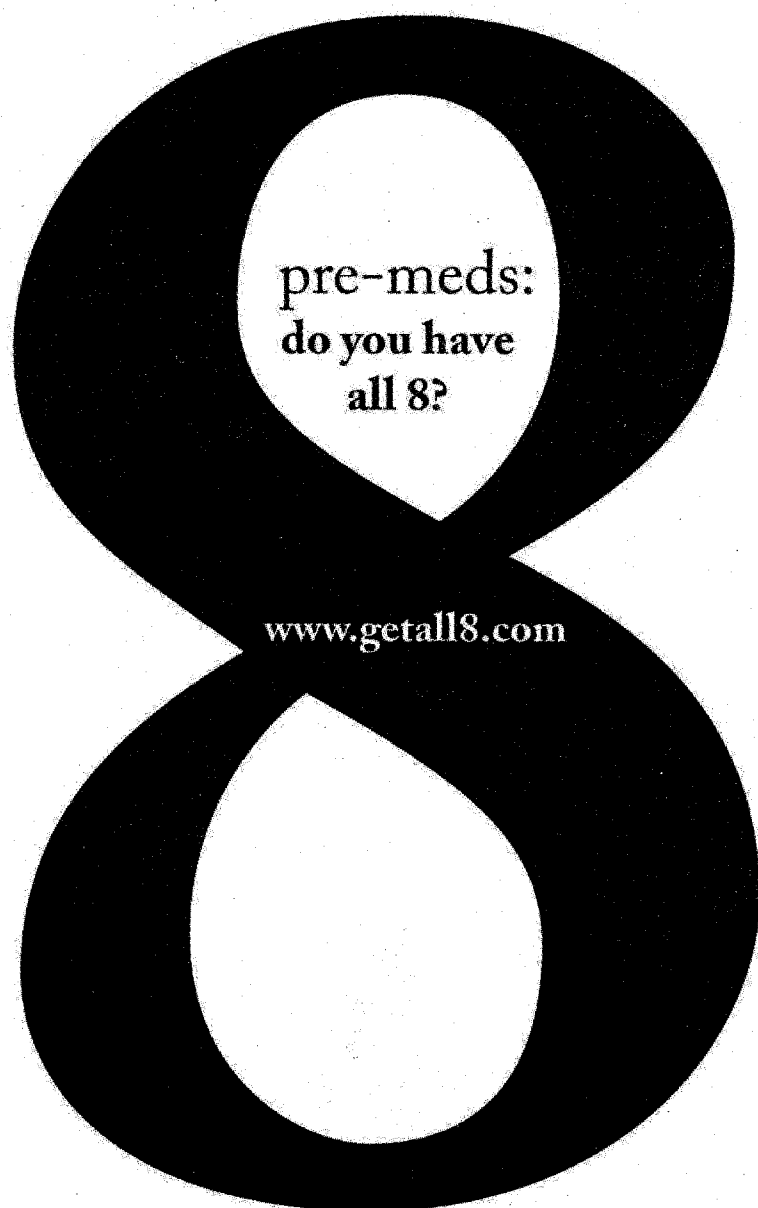
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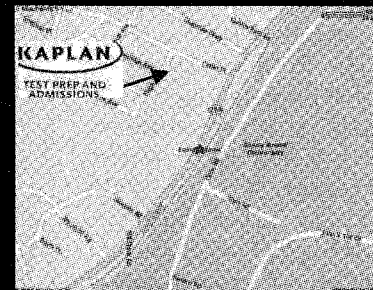
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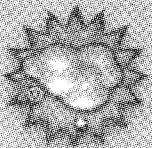
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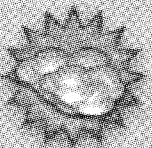
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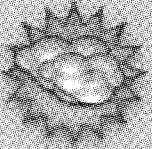
Jan. 22 - Jan. 29
by Jamie Waller



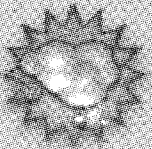
Monday:
High 35/Low 20
Cloudy, slight
chance of a snow
shower



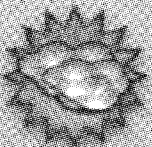
Tuesday:
High 37/Low 25
Partly Cloudy



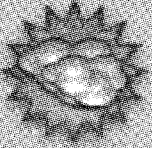
Wednesday:
High 37/Low 23
Partly Cloudy



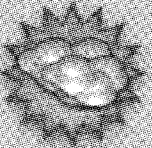
Thursday:
High 35/Low 27
Cloudy, slight chance of a
snow shower



Friday:
High 27/Low 22
Partly Cloudy



Saturday:
High 32/Low 15
Partly Cloudy



Sunday:
High 34/Low 23
Partly Cloudy

weekend

Behind the Numbers

As winds have finally diminished, the cold weather will unfortunately still be around for this week. A band of snow showers will be situated over much of the mid-atlantic region on Monday. By the afternoon, isolated snowshowers may make its way to our region. By Tuesday afternoon, skies will clear up, winds will be out of the north, and highs will be into the mid to upper 30's during the first half of the week.

Our next chance of precipitation will come on Wednesday night into Thursday, when a low moving east from the great lakes region and one off the North Carolina coast will combine and progress northeastward. A 30-40% chance of snow is possible for Thursday, but nothing too significant as of yet. By Friday mid-day, skies will clear with a Northwest wind, and highs will only be in the upper 20's and low to mid 30's by the weekend.

Second Winter Session Ends on a Strong Note

Continued from page 1

sion offerings were split between West Campus, HSC, Stony Brook Manhattan, and Study Abroad," said Brent Lindquist, Associate Provost who led much of the Winter session initiative.

The Winter session is regulated by State education regulations to deliver a 3 credit course with at least 37.5 hours of in-class instruction time. Students meet 4 days per week for 3 weeks to compensate for the brief length of the Winter semester.

According to Lindquist, "This makes [the Winter session] a very concentrated experience. As educators, our concern is not 'how to deliver the course content over that period of time,' the concern is with a student's ability to keep

pace with the curriculum delivery. (Winter session is particularly attractive to our more highly achieving students)."

It is hard to imagine compressing 15 weeks of coursework into 3 weeks. Some feel that the educational experience during the intersession is not entirely different than the academic semester.

"Students get the same amount of knowledge in these short term courses, as they get during the regular semesters ... In terms of value and content covered, there is no difference," said Prof. Kamal Sridhar of the Asian and Asian-American Studies Department.

Richard Gatteau, Director of Academic & Pre-Professional Advising Center, said that "I am a big proponent of Winter courses because some courses lend them-

selves well to be taught in a 3-week time frame. This is particularly true in the wonderful study abroad opportunities that have expanded as a result of the Winter session. I spoke with a student just before the Winter break who was incredibly excited to be studying in Poland as part of a Winter session program."

Students also took advantage of the opportunity to study abroad in Ghana, Jamaica, and Argentina, among other places.

Gatteau added that the study abroad opportunities "give a chance to do international travel and experience other cultures first hand, guided by a Stony Brook faculty member. Several students have enjoyed taking Winter classes

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SBUMC Under Scrutiny

Continued from page 1

release from the university on Jan. 11 stated, "Efforts must be made to strengthen openness and communication in both directions between leadership and faculty, to foster greater collegiality among the various specialties and disciplines, to ensure proper cooperation among the School of Medicine, the hospital, and Faculty Practice Plan."

However, the BRC report went much further in recounting the problem. The report states, "Faculty commonly describe the atmosphere of the Medical Center as 'lacking transparency' and 'opaque.' Many faculty report that there is no effort to engage them in understanding where the institution is heading and in enlisting them as a whole in marching under one flag." It goes on to say, "The result is that 'silos' predominate, with each department or unit looking narrowly into its own issues, with a resultant further decrease in the

culture of collegiality."

Many faculty members feel, according to the report, "Some issues appear to be swept under the rug. Whether the reasons are justified or not, when kept from awareness of the staff the handling of such issues can be interpreted as biased and inappropriate decision-making on the part of the leadership. In the absence of candor and effective two-way communication, perceptions, right or wrong, become the reality for individuals in whom those perceptions arise."

In response, the University cites the implementation of Town Hall meetings as a means of increasing collegiality and openness of the campus.

Steven L. Strongwater, M.D., the newly instated CEO of the medical center, commented, "To maintain an appropriate level of communication, Dean Richard Fine and I will continue to hold Town Hall meetings updating the medical center, campus, and community physicians on devel-

opments at the hospital. Several of these meetings have already been held."

Town Hall meetings, however, were not mentioned anywhere in the BRC report, even though the interviews performed for the evaluation were conducted after initial meetings were held. It remains to be seen if the University's plan to create an open, less "opaque" atmosphere from these meetings is effective.

Several other concerns were stated in the BRC report with regard to the relationship of the medical center to the SUNY system. There has been a rising movement from the State to find ways to reduce the rising costs in the state health system, as seen with the formation of the Berger Commission, also known as the New York State Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century. Recently, legislation was proposed by State Senator Kenneth LaValle for splitting the

Continued on page 12

Police Blotter

Jan. 15 - Jan. 17

Knee Injury

An accidental sports injury occurred in the Prichard Gym on January 15th to a 15 year-old that required emergency medical care.

Damaged Sink

On January 15th a criminal misdemeanor occurred when a sink was damaged in the men's room in the University Hospital at 1:21 PM. There was no further harm.

Stolen Equipment

On January 15th grand larceny occurred when computer equipment was stolen from the University Health Sciences Center at 2:50 PM.

Car Accident

On January 16th a motor vehicle accident occurred in the loading zone of the Health Sciences Center at 1:59 PM.

Stolen Money

Grand larceny took place when one credit card and one debit card were stolen from the men's locker room in the ISC at 4:35 PM on January 16th

Intruder?

An intrusion alarm was set off in the Student Activities Center at 12:08 AM on January 17th. The activation is unknown and the alarm seems to be in good working condition.

COMPILED BY BEN HAYASHI

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Inside



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REEL DEAL

Dreamgirls



Courtesy of Paramount Pictures

By ELIZABETH SCISCI
Asst. Arts & Entertainment Editor

Whether or not you will enjoy "Dreamgirls" depends largely on what you expect of it. Judging solely on its previews, it can be surmised that its categorization as a musical is based on the performance aspect of a plot fashioned around the uprising of an African American women's trio.

One would assume that music is integral in the telling of the tale, but what is also important to realize is that song is used to tell the entire story. Spontaneous song bursting out in the context of a dramatic scene will catch you off-guard if you do not anticipate it. The film's format is similar to other stage show converts to the big screen, such as "Chicago" and "The Producers," and thus to fully enjoy it, you must enter the theater as if you had walked down Broadway to get there.

In theater, music is used when simple words and acting cannot fully express the passion and emotion of a certain situation. If you appreciate that fact, "Dreamgirls" will undoubtedly move you. Jennifer Hudson, winner of the Golden Globe for this film for her role as a supporting actress, steals

the show with her voice. It is even more impressive to think how Hudson must have felt to prove wrong Simon Cowell, who constantly put down her performance during her stint as a contestant on American Idol, allegedly because of her plus-sized figure.

"My gut feeling is [Hudson] wasn't the American Idol," Cowell said. "I don't think she was the best singer." The truth is she has an unearthly powerful gospel voice. It is difficult to tell, however, if Hudson would have fared as well in a nonmusical without her pipes to serve as the core of her character.

Another actress cast perhaps only for her vocal talent, and of course her classic beauty, is Beyoncé Knowles, who is an obvious asset to the stage, a true diva during performance scenes, but less convincing in a character role. The movie is well-directed, however, and Knowles' weaknesses in dramatic scenes are artfully hidden. Also, being surrounded by a veteran cast must have elevated her novice screen status to the next level. She is never on camera alone, always playing opposite to such experienced stars as Jamie

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Theatre Review:

SPAMALOT



Courtesy of Joan Marcus, The Shubert Organization

The troupe from Spamalot: Greg Reuter (left), Emily Hsu, Bard Bailey, David Hyde Pierce and Christian Borle.

By MANUEL PROISSL
Contributing Writer

Once upon a time there were legless knights dancing with scintillating, sexy beauties on very, very early Broadway stages. Sound good? It's even better if you think of King Arthur in the middle.

Due to an ingenious call-down from his infinite imaginations, book writer and lyricist Eric Idle, last year's Drama Desk Award winner for Outstanding Lyrics, created the 2005 Tony-winning musical "Monty Python's Spamalot," which is, according to the marquee, "lovingly ripped off" from the brilliant 1975 motion picture "Monty Python and the Holy Grail." In a very successful collaboration with composer John Du Prez, they received credits for a totally new score - only three film songs remain (especially "Always Look On The Bright Side of Life").

Be prepared! The entire musical is riddled with lots of melody analogs to well-known songs, like the heart-warming "Find Your Grail" in the sound of John Denver's "Take Me Home, Country Roads." Furthermore, the extremely talented director Mike Nichols' vision of this musical is supported by Tim Hatley's overwhelming set

and costume design, whereby Hugh Vanstone's stage lighting finds the always appropriate balance within all individual scenes.

It's definitely not a lie to confess that this Ostar Boyett production is a true masterpiece in the history of musical comedy.

Unifying the glitz and glamour of Broadway with the unique tale of King Arthur, "King of the Britons," the Knights of the Round Table, and their adventurous, funny, low-budget quest for the Holy Grail, commanded by God (former Python John Cleese), makes "Spamalot" one of the most effective secret weapons on Broadway, aimed at the audience to tickle them to death. So, watch out! Or, just remember - laughing is healthy!

Watching Jonathan Hadary as the new King Arthur, entering the stage with his trustful servant Patsy (Michael McGrath, from the original cast), who's making great clip-clop sounds with coconut shells behind him (in order to pretend he's traveling by horse), is a totally luxurious, funny experience. Mr. Hadary's movements are very precisely worked out and his adapted facial expressions, as well as a convincing charisma, are a pure source of amusement. Great

acting and surprising Broadway-style singing aren't, from the first, obvious. His brilliant, well-experienced British predecessors, Tim Curry and Simon Russell Beale, raised the stakes to a very high level, but since the replacement on Oct. 31, 2006, he already exceeds all expectations. Mr. Hadary became famous through several performances in "Miami Vice" and "Law & Order" episodes, and the 1990 Tony nomination for a revival of "Gypsy".

Further impressive, outstanding performances are delivered from Marin Mazzie as The Lady of the Lake. When she sings "Come With Me," every single person in the audience becomes silent. What an extraordinary singer! When she comes on stage, you'll think she has never performed anything else, due to an awesome natural presence.

Later in the second Act, she asks in "Diva's Lament," "What ever happened to my part?" The accumulation of self-referential jokes and unexpected verbalizations, like troubleshooting of getting "constantly replaced by Britney Spears," is truly enjoyable and just pure fun.

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Broadway: 900 Years Ago



Continued from page 7

Crucial in terms of an appropriate ending, as well as simply cute, can be called the glamorous wedding at the show's end, which was often for frivolous plots in the early '20s, a real requirement. Together with the Laker Girls and the knights, they celebrate the marriage pompously with a final confetti bomb over the audience in the theater.

At this point we can already say, and herewith summarize, what we've got: a musical that

makes "Ben Hur" look like an epic.

Whether you're a Monty Python fan or not, it doesn't matter. The fact that you've never heard of the Pythons shouldn't bother you. If you're looking for a nice evening hangout and don't want to waste your money, then "Spamalot" might be the best opportunity. But the "Don't-Go" note must also be expressed here. If your laugh muscles are not prepared for extreme exposures, you should probably consider whether to take the muscle ache risk or not. Did you see the movie or even the

"Monty Python's Flying Circus" series? If the answer is yes, this is an absolute must-see show.

The purposes of watching this entertaining and hilarious musical at the Shubert Theatre may vary - savoring delicious dance performances from sexy divas, emotional songs giving you the heebie-jeebies, funny world-class actors at work - but a comparable drop-dead gorgeous anthem of musical comedy for everyone on Broadway cannot be found that fast. So, be sure to visit "Broadway meets the Middle Age."

Dreamgirls: A Musical Journey

Continued from page 7

Foxx or Danny Glover, and never recites a monologue that is outside the context of song.

Eddie Murphy is an example of surprising but accurate casting. A comedic actor such as Murphy made his role laughable as the self-righteous, misogynistic R&B star who constantly mourns the fact that he is overlooked by the public, and overdue for the attention of his manager. Although the audience finds him ridiculous the whole film through, Murphy does well to elicit pity, leaving the audience unsure if his role was comic relief or representative of the tragic frustration African American artists faced during and following the civil rights movement.

The same character duality is seen in Jamie Foxx's beautifully portrayed leading role, adding such complexity to his character that you are left feeling both sympathy and disdain for this financially successful - but often frigid - businessman who seems to use the same false pretenses to sell used cars as he does to manage a production company.

In all, "Dreamgirls" is a fabulous era piece that captures the struggle of a behave-sporting Supremes-esque group from the tension of Detroit in the 1960s, to become a disco-premiering, three-headed Gloria Gaynor in a 1970's glamorous Hollywood. And if the Golden Globe for Best Picture is not enough credibility to get you to the movies this weekend, at least check out the soundtrack.

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CD REVIEWS:

"Post-Holiday Famine ...And Feast"

Reviews of New Albums by:

Sting

Shawn Colvin

Joan Osborne

By MICHAEL KIMMEL
Contributing Writer

As the Christmas season winds down, and we have already begun to defile the earnest resolutions we made just weeks ago, I'm always reminded of misplaced ambition. We want to do the right thing - stop smoking, drink less, hook up better - but alas, our reach exceeds our grasp. We try, we fail. How human.

And this season we have plenty of company. Two of my favorite artists have released disappointing albums recently.

Sting: *Songs from the Labyrinth*
(Deutsche Grammophon)

Sting's always been musically ambitious. Remember that the first songs with the Police married pop lyrics to reggae-infused rhythms. He's been a musical vagabond, much like Paul Simon, happily picking up dozens of influences and mixing his soothingly aching vocals with many of the world's premier musicians.

On this album, Sting reaches back historically - all the way back. Sort of his version of "Roots." John Dowland was a major player in Elizabethan courtly musical world, penning beautifully melodic love poems that one can imagine filling in the intermissions of Shakespeare's plays.

But here Sting's reach exceeds his grasp. Joined by master flutist Edin Karamazov, Sting's lyrical settings for Dowland's poems seem strained, and his vocals make one yearn for those pre-pubescent high male tenors of 15th century song. Those kids could hit the high notes!

Joan Osborne: *Pretty Little Stranger*
(Vanguard)

Joan Osborne burst on the scene a decade ago with one of the more immediately arresting blues-inflected voices I'd ever heard. Her debut album, with its Grammy-winning cleverly agnostic single, "One of Us," was a modest masterpiece.

But Osborne has floundered lately, releasing an album of cover songs, early material, and now this mainstream Nashville country and western-inspired album. Make no mistake: Osborne's voice is flawless, the countrified arrangement is tight; this is one excellent new-Nashville country pop album. (Being joined on some cuts by the likes of Rodney Crowell, Vince Gill and Alison Kraus doesn't exactly hurt, either.)

But Osborne is capable of so much more than being just another Nashville country singer. Her choice of genre, not songs, holds her back from the sort of emotional risk taking that defined her first album (a

languid ode to a suicidal friend, a gutsy blues-filled regret about a one-night stand). She takes few risks here, and we're the poorer for it. If Sting's reach exceeds his grasp, Joan Osborne doesn't quite reach far enough.

Shawn Colvin: *These Four Walls*
(Nonesuch)

Compare these two disappointments with Shawn Colvin's newest release. In the past decade, Colvin has made a dramatic comeback, and her choice of material, delivery and arrangements all reflect a musical maturity and artistic contentment that is deceptively arresting.

There are just enough searing guitars to make the grownup feel like they're still rockers, and just enough thoughtful folk-inspired lyrics to make the teenager feel like a grownup. Imagine: a multi-generational album.

Several songs are hauntingly hummable, and one or two make you hit the replay button instantly. "Tuff Kid," a gutsy angry memoir recalls Colvin's earlier "Get Out of this House."

Her voice is thinner and reedier than Osborne's throaty resonance, but Colvin isn't interested in sounding like something she's not. She's content, instead, to sound like herself. Perhaps that's what being a grownup is all about.



From top to bottom: Courtesy of Deutsche Grammophon, Vanguard, Nonesuch

The New Heritage Inn

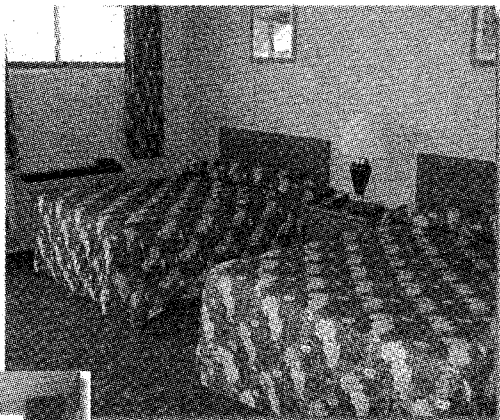
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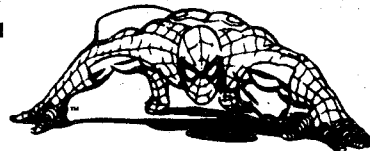
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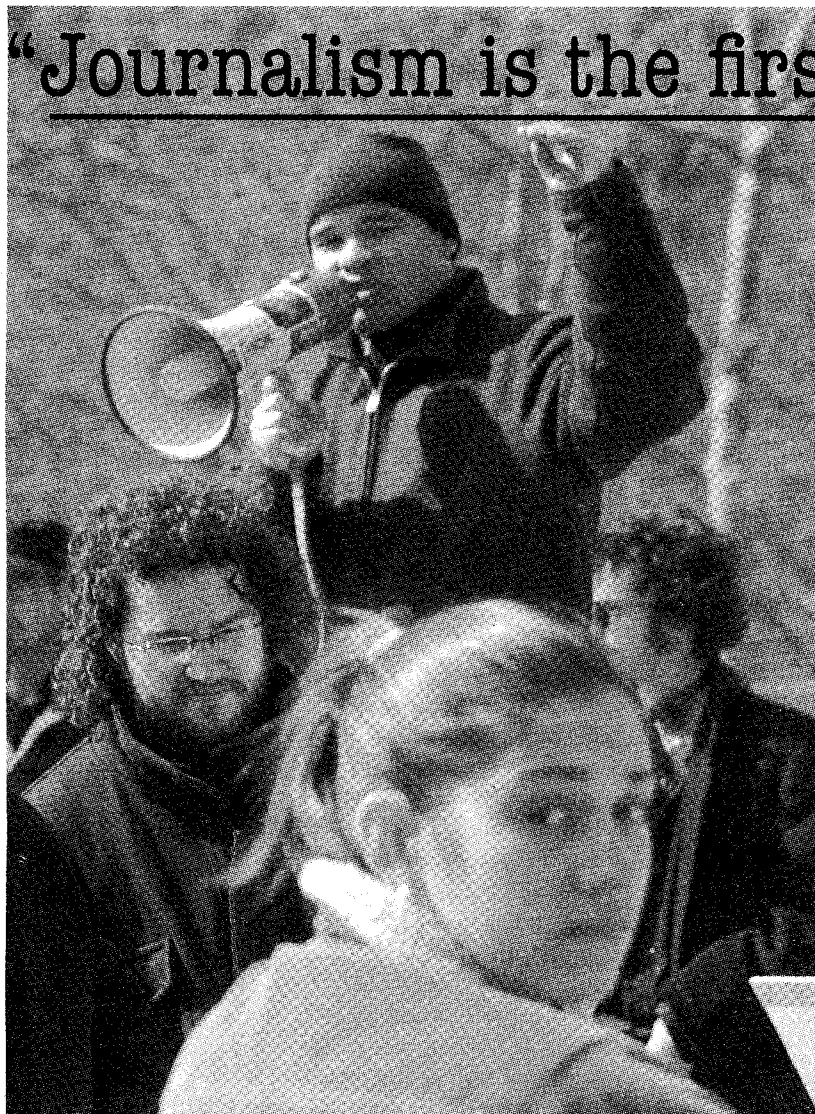
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Statesman production meetings are held throughout the day on Wednesdays and Sundays in Rm 057 in the basement of the Student Union. Anyone wishing to contribute to the newspaper is welcome to attend these meetings.

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

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WHO WE ARE

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

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

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BRC Emphasizes Need for Strong Leadership During Crisis

In 1994, Shirley Strum Kenny became Stony Brook's fourth president, inheriting an institution that many say was in danger of losing its accreditation as an undergraduate institution. She established the Boyer Commission, which has outlined a model of how to provide top-notch education to undergraduates in a research-focused university. It's been a decade since that report was published and adopted by the administration, and we've been prospering ever since.

Faced with a host of bad publicity and faltering confidence from the public over the deaths of three infants last year, the President stepped up the plate and created the Blue Ribbon Commission to scrutinize the Stony Brook University Medical Center. When the findings of the report were released earlier this month, the administration promptly posted a press release highlighting all the glowing marks that the University had received, including a full pardon regarding the stem of the infant deaths. Notably absent from their response, however, was a strong course of action

about moving forward in some areas that are obviously lacking.

One of the major criticisms voiced in the BRC report is the "opaqueness" and "lack of transparency" that the faculty feels permeate the working environment in the Medical Center. Furthermore, speaking of faculty perceptions, the BRC report describes tunnel vision in each department that is counterproductive to a "culture of collegiality." This is beginning to sound a lot like 1994.

When confronted about this seemingly deep-rooted structural issue, Town Hall meetings are described as the answer. Luckily, Town Hall meetings in the Medical Center started several months ago. Are we to assume that the organizational issues that the faculty have described in such strong language have already been addressed?

What made President Kenny such a powerful and positive force at Stony Brook in the mid to late 90s was her willingness to break with tradition in order to forge the best possible path for this university. We stand here today in the year 2007,

with hospital faculty describing an administration that would much rather "sweep things under the rug" than adequately address their concerns. Rather than tackling this in a strong way, making real and meaningful changes to the organization, it seems that this may be another example of taking something important and simply sweeping it under the rug.

On a more superficial level, it is widely expected that President Kenny will embrace many of the recommendations by this report, including the creation of the position of Vice President for Medical Affairs and providing SBUMC with more autonomy. It remains to be seen if Town Hall meetings will provide the real change that many faculty and staff desire, or if they are simply a token gesture by an unresponsive leadership.

We are at an important time in Stony Brook's evolution. Over a decade ago, when faced with crisis, it took bold leadership to change the tide and bring this institution to prosperity. We can only pray that lightning will strike twice.

From the Desk of the Editor

By SURAJ RAMBHIA
Editor-in-Chief

As the campus comes back to life after a much needed four week respite, the Stony Brook Statesman staff is gearing up to bring the University and surrounding community another semester of coverage of the most pressing, hard-hitting issues that affect the lives of fellow students and respected staff and faculty.

One of the main focuses this semester will be to increase student participation in its school's premier newspaper. We encourage students of all majors to contribute. Currently, on the editorial staff, we have students who are majoring in computer science, biochemistry, journalism (of course), English, psychology, biology and biomedical engineering.

Effective writing is a necessary skill for students in all brands of study.

The only way to hone this skill is through practice.

And as we have done in the past, Statesman editors will continue to work with writers on ways to improve writing quality from week to week.


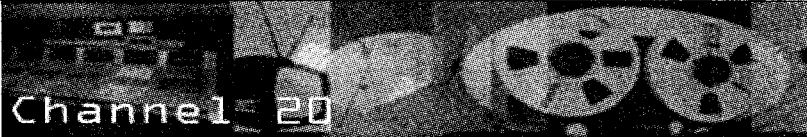
As students ourselves, we're constantly learning how to best serve our campus. New ideas are the foundation for positive change in any organization, and we have continued to promote an atmosphere of openness and collegiality between staff members as well as between the staff and our readership.

Readers can register for the online edition of our twice-weekly newspaper at sbstatesman.org/user/register.

Students who wish to engage themselves as Statesman writers can contact the editorial staff by filling out some basic information online at sbstatesman.com/join or through an e-mail to eic@sbstatesman.org. Our office is located in the basement of the SB Union, Room 057.

Editorial meetings are on Sunday evenings at 4PM, Wednesday afternoons during campus lifetime (12:50-2:00) and Wednesday evenings after 5 PM.

If these times are inconvenient, contact is there through e-mail, and someone is always present in our office during normal business hours from 9-5, Monday through Friday.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

	Mon - Wed	Thu - Sun
2:00PM	SBU Sports	Seawolves Sports
2:30PM	USG Senate	
3:00PM		
3:30PM		
4:00PM	World Business	World Business
4:30PM		
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	SB Spotlight	Seawolves Sports
8:30PM		

BRC Releases Evaluation of Medical Center

Hospital cleared of wrong-doing in infant deaths, shows overall need for improvement

Continued from page 3

Hospital and University as well as the creation of a 15-member governing body to oversee hospital operations. As seen from reports in local news, this movement has been quelled temporarily in an agreement between President Kenny and LaValle to hold off on the legislation, pending the implementation of such a governing body.

The BRC report describes the outlook for a split in terms of the university's research endeavors, "To separate the medical school with easy interaction with diverse colleagues throughout the university is, in our opinion, a move to hamper medical school scholarship, research innovation and clinical advance."

Strongwater stated, "There is no movement to separate the hospital from the university. The Berger Commission did not recommend privatization of SUNY hospitals; it has merely recommended a review of the feasibility and advisability of privatization. The Blue Ribbon Commission strongly supported the idea of keeping the university and hospital together."

Questions of leadership at SBUMC were also addressed in the BRC report. When asked about the prospect of moving forward with the tentative Kenny/LaValle agreement, as described above, CEO Strongwater said, "The SUNY Board of Trustees has delegated by resolution to the university president the role of governing body of the hospital. According to regulation, the governing body is 'legally responsible for directing the operation of the hospital in accordance with its mission.'"

The BRC explicitly states, "We cannot emphasize too strongly that operating decisions should not be made by the governing body, that is, the President. The responsibilities of the President are too vast, overseeing all of the University, to have day-to-day understanding of the complexities of each school in the Health Science Center (HSC).

And where President Kenny's background is in the liberal arts, we feel she needs a highly respected and well-organized Vice President of Medical Affairs with a background in academic medicine to serve as an intermediary between her policy making and the operations of each health sciences school."

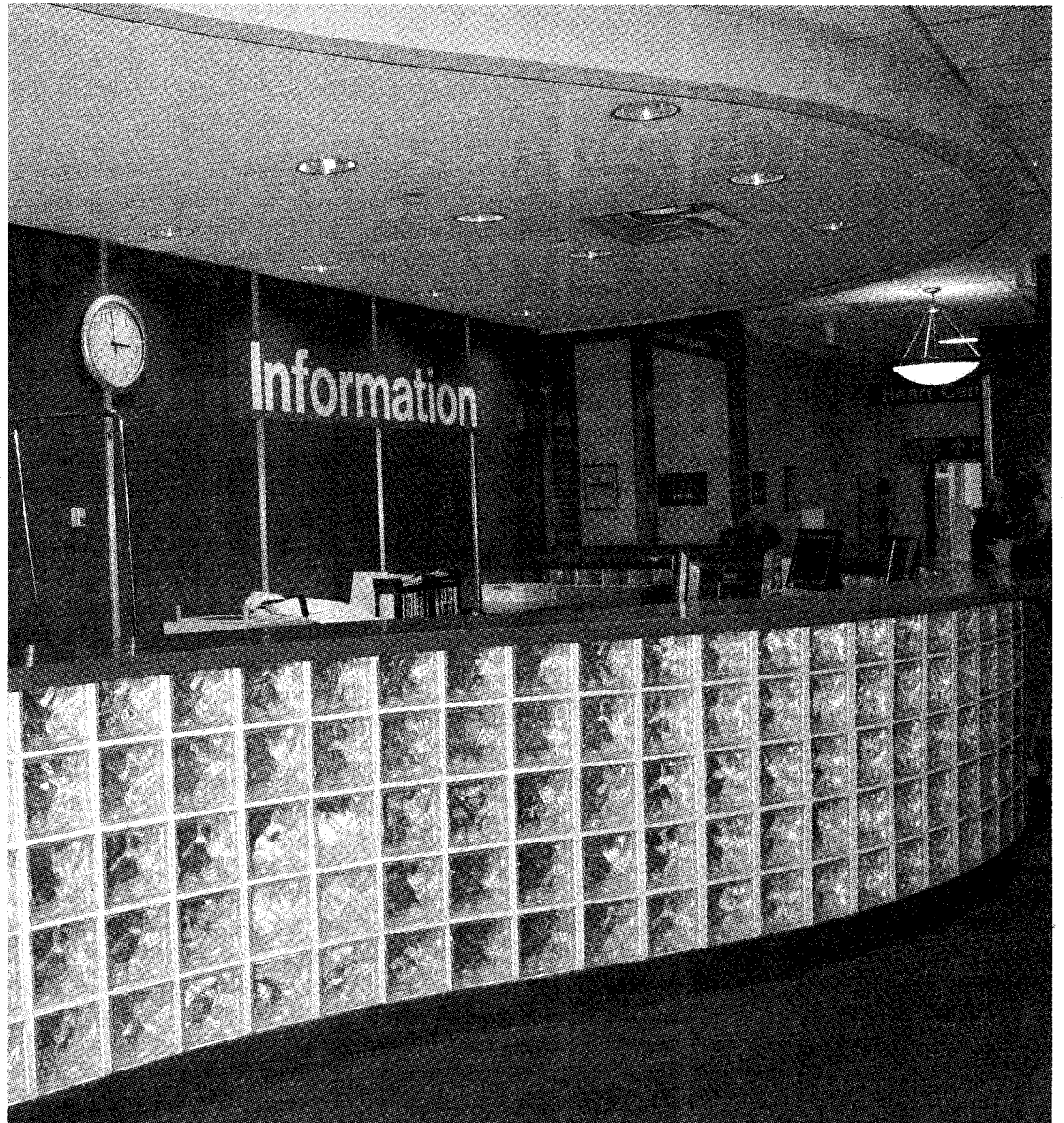
The BRC report also mentioned, regarding the proposed Vice President of Medical Affairs position, "Such an integration of complex responsibilities has not happened since Dr. Oaks departed, to the detriment of Stony Brook." Dr. Howard Oaks was the Vice President of the Health Sciences Center.

Strongwater stated, "The Blue Ribbon Commission was very thorough and we are reviewing the recommendations very carefully. For instance, an advisory board for the hospital is already being developed."

The Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) was composed of five individuals: Mitchell T. Rabkin, M.D., Chair; Aram V. Chobanian, M.D., Paul Hickey, M.D., Gilbert S. Omenn, M.D., Ph.D., and Charles Young, Ph.D. These five individuals were assembled by the Washington Advisory Group/LECG, which, according to the group, "provides strategic counsel and management consulting to companies, universities, governments and non-profit organizations with a focus on research and development and higher education."

As a parting remark, the BRC offered its thanks and hope for the future. "We are grateful to the administration, faculty, and staff of SUNY, the Medical School and Hospital for their candor, trust, and cooperation. We trust that the recommendations of this 'Blue Ribbon Commission' will be widely shared within the University and will assist SUNY Stony Brook and SUNY in working towards their status envisioned at its founding; Stony Brook University Medical Center has the potential to do so.

Tejas Gawade contributed reporting.



Visitors seek information at Stony Brook University Medical Center, the only facility in Suffolk County that provides tertiary level care.

Suraj Rambhia/Statesman

"Faculty commonly describe the atmosphere of the Medical Center as 'lacking transparency' and 'opaque.' Many faulty report that there is no effort to engage them in understanding where the institution is heading and in enlisting them as a whole in marching under one flag."

Blue Ribbon Commission Report

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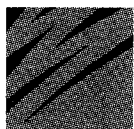
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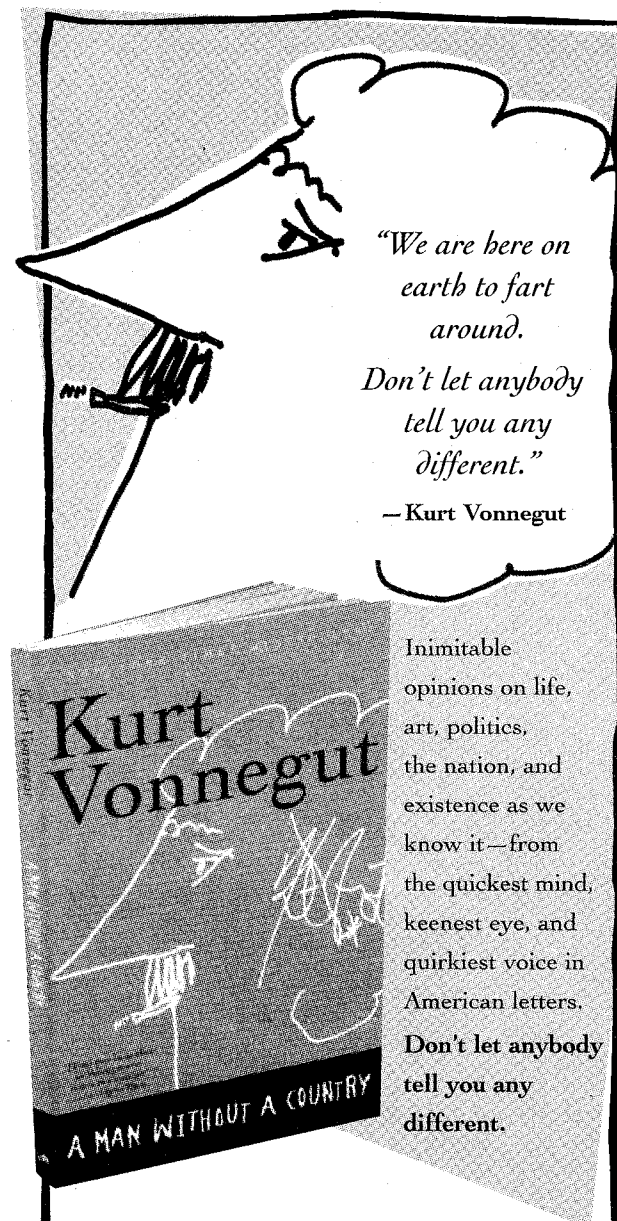


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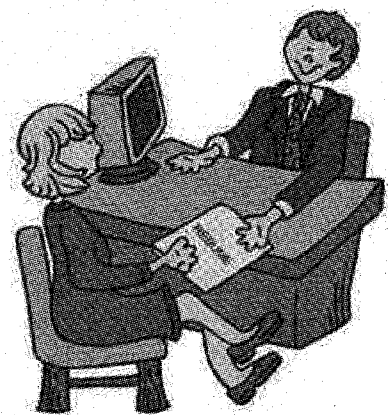
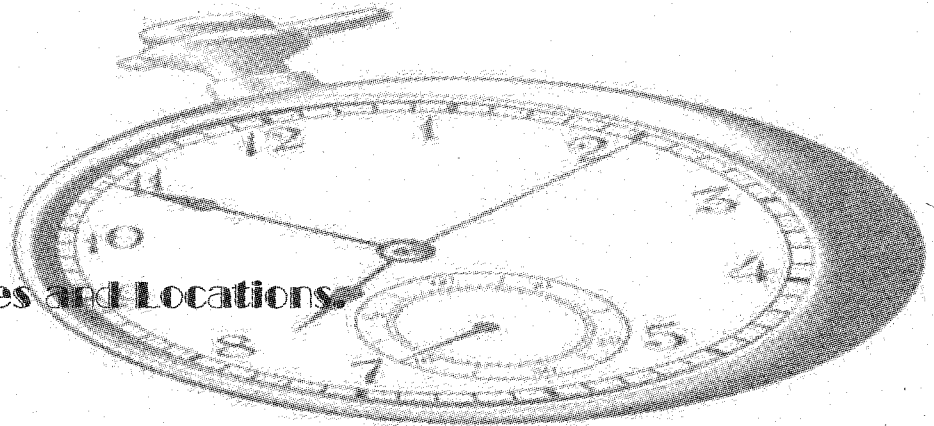
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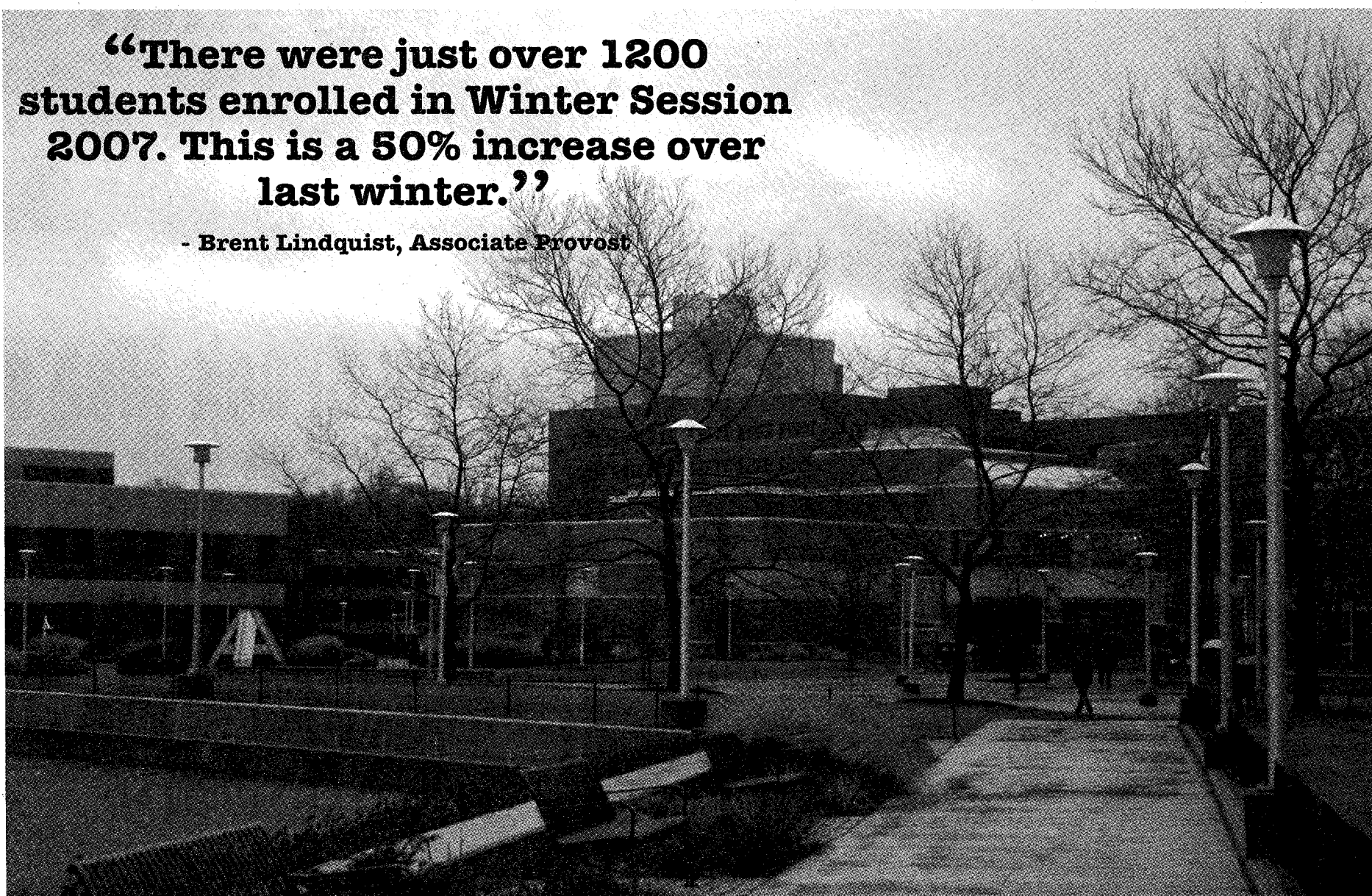
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“There were just over 1200 students enrolled in Winter Session 2007. This is a 50% increase over last winter.”

- Brent Lindquist, Associate Provost



Students trek across campus, braving the elements for the sake of higher education.

Suraj Rambhia/Statesman

Continued from page 3

- either as a way to catch up in their studies or get ahead. Most students do well in Winter classes too, in part because they are usually smaller classes than fall or spring courses.”

Some students also expressed a similar sentiment.

“From my experience, I would say yes because I learned a lot in the Winter courses I have taken. But at the same time, I do know some people who wouldn’t concur,” said Ricky Chachra, a senior.

The compressed winter course schedule also had limitations.

“What might be lacking is that there is less amount of time available for oral interaction in classes, which is also a valuable learning experience ... As a student at another university, I attended several such courses during the Winters and summers ... It all seemed a bit rushed, with little time for debates, discussions, and analysis,” said Sridhar.

Professors agree that some courses actually initiate better performance from students during the Winter session.

Prof. Joseph Lauher of the Chemistry Dept. said that General Chemistry lab course “seems to work very well in the three week period ... In fact, some students may actually find it better. In the

Winter, they are much more focused on the lab since it is the only course they are taking.”

However, many agree that there are certain restraints to exactly what you can teach during the Winter session.

“It would be much more difficult for us to teach a chemistry lecture course during the Winter break. There is simply too much material and work required for the average student to handle in a three week period. But the lab is fine,” said Lauher.

Others believe that the success of a class depends on the professors and the students.

“I would think that it would depend on the students learning style and the teacher’s ability to teach a 15 week class in a few weeks. Some classes lend themselves to this better than others,” said Carrie-Ann Miller, Director of the Women in Science and Engineering Program.

Many students take advantage of the break to perform research.

“Many of the science students who are doing faculty-mentored research in labs (including students supported currently on Howard Hughes Medical Institute undergraduate research fellowships, or who were supported in the summer through URECA, or HHMI, or MARC) do continue with research or work during the

Winter session,” said Karen Kernan, the Director of Programs for Research and Creative Activity at SBU.

One such student, Ujas Shah said that the “Winter session allows you to spend much longer blocks of time in lab, which is often essential to conducting experiments, especially those that require cell culture. During the academic terms you usually end up missing a few classes when you need to run an experiment.”

“The most rewarding thing about the Winter session is that you are still in your ‘work’ mode, and you don’t have to worry about academic stuff. Since I view research as a more liberating experience than classwork, I think one can use January to get things done and put his/her head together after the semester,” said Alex Treyer, a senior conducting research.

However, Kernan noted “there is still value in the academic semester work, and in the sustained research experience throughout college. If you were to get the chance to do 2-3 works, but didn’t have any previous background, it would be hard to accomplish much.”

While SBU does not offer any funding specifically for the Winter session, there are ample opportunities available elsewhere.

“One can take advantage of

Winter research programs at other schools like Cornell, Dartmouth, Stanford, UCSF etc. which run special programs throughout the year,” said Chachra, who is also conducting research at SBU.

The two Winter sessions have been a success. In fact, Nerris said that “since this was the second Winter Session, the Student Activities Board is looking to continue this as a tradition and maybe even add other events such as an artist in the SAC or Union, a movie showing and/or a Winter Carnival.”

Unfortunately, concrete data is limited, to truly measure student satisfaction.

Lindquist said that “as we are only in the second year of Winter session at Stony Brook, the data on [student course evaluation surveys and enrollment] is currently limited, though both course evaluations from last year and enrollment numbers for this year are extremely positive.”

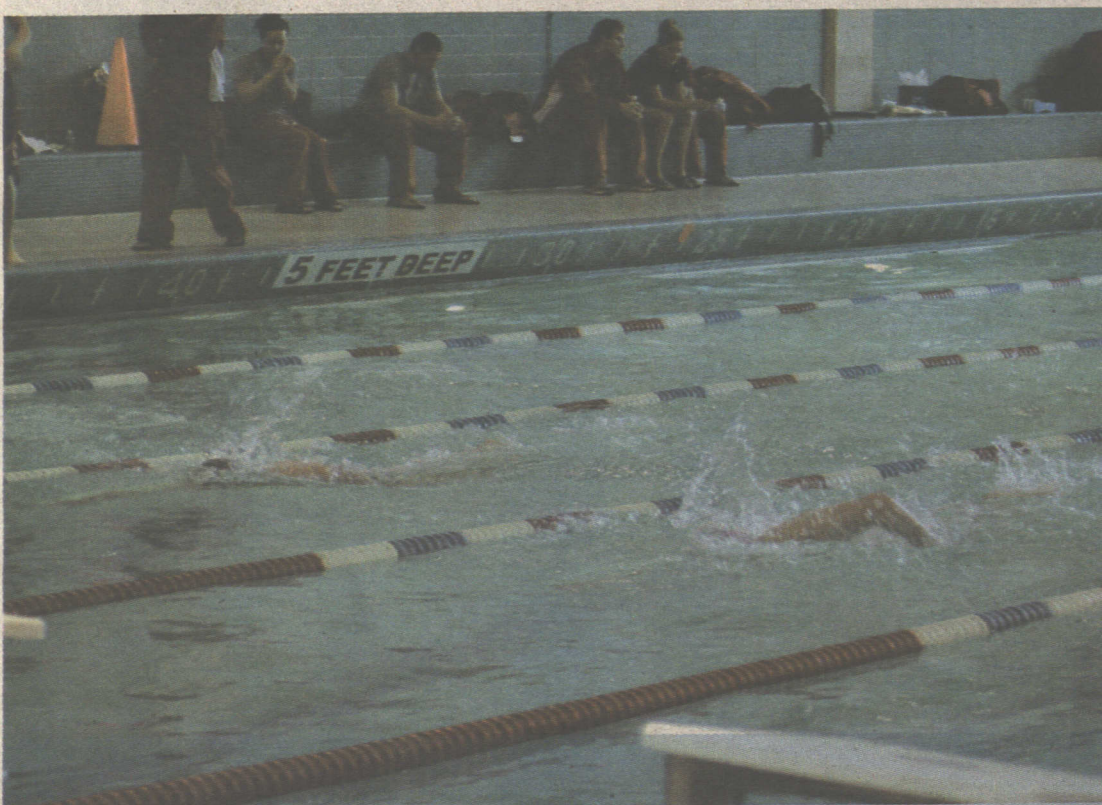
Lindquist also noted that “all of our peer institutions hold Winter sessions. The fact that we did not hold Winter session made Stony Brook somewhat of an anomaly.”

Given the well-received success of the Winter session, it is fair to say that it is well on its way to becoming a long-standing tradition.

Winter Session '07



Statesman SPORTS



Stony Brook swimmers giving it their all in a meet late last year.

Feng Bo/Statesman

Men's Swimming Wins Over Lafayette

Women's Swimming Loses to Lafayette and Binghamton

By TEJAS GAWADE
Managing Editor

The women's swimming team had a dismal showing at the Jan. 17 meet against Binghamton and Lafayette. The team fell to Binghamton 83-57, and to Lafayette 93-45. The Seawolves now stand 2-6 on the season, and 0-3 in the America East Conference.

The surprise of the night was Lucy Liu, who won the 100-yard backstroke in 1:01.56, very closely beating Lafayette's Shelby Grabowski's time of 1:01.84. Liu added to her glory with another first place win in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 2:21.18, beating Lafayette's Michelle Oswald's time of 2:16.78.

Hailey Lewandowski was no surprise, continuing her strong season performance. She won the one meter dive with a score of 247.75. Binghamton's Katherine Hassfurter who was a close second with a score of 236.10.

Hassfurter barely beat Lewandowski in the three meter dive, scoring 263.40 to Lewandowski's 244.30.

The men's swim team had more wins. The Seawolves beat Lafayette 71-69, but fell to Binghamton. The Seawolves stand at 6-3 on the season, and at 2-1 in the America East Conference.

The "A" relay team, composed of Raphael Labour, Jon Sigurosson, Alexei Smirnov and Alex Kissel came in second in the 200-yard medley relay with a time of 1:35.75 to Binghamton's team, which had a time of 1:34.90.

Labour continued to impress with his strong season performance, although he came in second in all his meets. He came in second place in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 52.79, missing first place by less than a second to Binghamton's Brian Koizim, who had a time of 52.08. Labour came in second again to Koizim in the 200-yard

backstroke with a time of 1:59.79. Koizim was distinctly ahead with a time of 1:53.13.

The highlights of the night were Sigurosson, who came in first place in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 57.91, Yoni Eldor who also posted first with a time of 22.85 in the mixed 50-yard freestyle. Ruslan Safarov also won the 200-yard Individual Medley with a time of 2:07.90.

Men's diving division also changed gears to win first place in the one meter dive, with Julian Acevado earning a score of 279.60.

The Seawolves ended with a close win and a strong finish to win first and second place in the 200-yard freestyle relay. Team "A" came first with a time of 1:27.57 and team "B" followed closely with a time of 1:29.83.

The women's team hosted Vermont on Saturday, Jan. 20. The men's team faces Fairfield next on Jan. 27 at 1:00 PM.

Stony Brook Men's Basketball Defeats Boston University

Seawolves Earn Important Conference Victory

By SHONTO OLANDER
Staff Writer

In Thursday's home game vs. conference rival Boston University, the Seawolves pulled out a decisive overtime win, 68-62. After the Terriers missed a critical free-throw in the last minute of regulation time, Stony Brook's Ricky Lucas nailed a jumper with time expiring, tying the game at 49 a piece. In the overtime period, the Seawolves took control and never gave up after taking the lead.

Mitchell Beauford led the strong play in overtime with 5 points and an assist that led to a three point play by Mike Popoko. The Seawolves scored on a couple lay-ups and free throws, pressuring BU to keep up. In the final minute of overtime Boston U. was as close as 2 points, but the Seawolves denied their attempts to come any closer by converting on their free throws and playing solid defense.

Overall, Stony Brook was lead by Mitchell Beauford's 18 points and 5 assists and Solomon Bamiro's 15 points and 4 rebounds off the bench. Emanuel Neto also reached double figures with 10

points and 3 rebounds, as part of a strong all around team effort.

For Boston University, Corey Lowe had game highs with 20 points, 8 rebounds and 6 assists. He was helped by teammate Brian Macon who shot 50 percent from behind the arc, with 12 points and 5 rebounds. For the game, the Seawolves shot only 42.6% from the field but hit 15 of 19 free throws (74.3%) to seal the win. They also forced 20 turnovers and held Boston U. to just 37.8% shooting.

The game started with the Seawolves and the Terriers playing out the first half exchanging basket after basket, but Stony Brook lead from the 17.30 mark until the end of the half. Stony Brook had 17 points off the bench to give them their 28-25 lead going into the break. The win gives Stony Brook a 7-11 record and 2-4 for the America East conference.

The Seawolves have struggled as of late, winning only one of their past 6 games, so the win was critical to stay on pace with the rest of their conference. Come help support the men's team in their next home game vs. the Maine Black Bears on Thursday, January 25th. The game starts at 7:00pm.