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Bridging the Gaps: SBU's SFS Retreat 2002

By KELLY BROWN
Statesman Editor

"The Student Experience at Stony Brook" was the theme of this year's Student-Faculty-Staff (SFS) retreat. Held at the Harrison Conference Center in Glen Cove on Nov. 1 and Nov. 2, the event brought various elements of the campus community together for intensive discussion in five major theme areas: Transition to Stony Brook, First and Second Year Experience, Education and Scholarly Activities, Stony Brook as a Community, and Life Beyond Stony Brook.

These sub-groupings fall under the general topic of the student experience at Stony Brook, which is the focus of the self-

study the university is conducting in preparation for its ten-year reaccreditation.

"Our plan is to approach the standards for reaccreditation from a variety of perspectives, using numerous methods to begin answering the fundamental question of whether Stony Brook as an institution is doing the best that it can to educate its students," stated the *Design for Institutional Self-Study*, which was submitted to the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Friday afternoon and evening consisted of orientation to the topics and casual interactions between staff, faculty, students and alumni. This last group was comprised primarily of those who attended the university and are now staff or faculty, with the lone exception of recent Stony Brook graduate Kevin Keenan.

Icebreaker activities and general introductions were followed by dinner and several student presentations. In the later hours of the evening, students lined up to battle Vice President for Student Affairs Frederick Preston, Ed.D., in games of Ping-Pong.

The weekend's principle objective, however, was tackled on Saturday morning and afternoon, as attendees broke into five groups, one for each sub-topic, and identified issues most pertinent to their area, offering personal insight and solutions.

After hours of discussion, the group of



Statesman/Jeffrey Barnett

Students, faculty and staff worked together to evaluate Stony Brook's progress in its treatment of graduate and undergraduate students.

approximately 60 Stony Brook community members reconvened for presentations by each panel. Suggestions for improvement of the undergraduate and graduate experience ranged from eradicating placement exams to building a central information facility on campus to increasing alumni involvement on campus.

Veterans of the SFS retreat said that in the past the annual event has produced policy changes at the university. "Campus Life Time is one example," explained Dean of Students Jerrold Stein.

Each of the committees will continue to meet to discuss objectives and action plans with the hope that some proposed changes

will be implemented. Several participants noted that although a critical eye is necessary, the self-study is also intended to identify the programs and processes that have already been implemented and are highly functional and beneficial to the student body.

"We are really just doing a lot of things we didn't do before," said Provost Robert McGrath, Ph.D. "We can do these [actions proposed at the retreat] without saying 'Oh, gee, I wish we had more money.'"

He said that many of the group proposals required more of a change in mentality than a huge financial commitment, and heads around the

Continued on Page 13



Statesman/Kelly Brown

Associate Provost Manny London chaired the group discussion on the "transition to SBU."

Oxfam America's Stony Brook Connection

By GENE TULMAN
Statesman Editor

Sr. Margaret Ann Landry, Chaplain of the Catholic Campus Ministry at Stony Brook University, is an advisor for the local Oxfam America connection. She oversees the charity work of various student groups, supervising the event coordinating activities of several SBU Oxfam student representatives.

"One of the things the students do is what we call 'tabling', as they sit in cafeterias for a certain period of time asking other students to donate money to Oxfam America," Landry said.

The donated amounts are deducted from students' meal plans, with the funds going to the Catholic Campus Ministry for national as well as international distribution.

"A week before Thanksgiving, Oxfam asks for people to fast," Landry said. "We get students to volunteer to



Courtesy of oxfam.org/us

The Stony Brook chapter will give students' donations to Oxfam America.

give up a meal, two meal, or three meals and, then the food service gives us a rebate on that and we are able to send that money up to Oxfam."

According to Landry, Oxfam works with local organizations that have

identified a community need and is developing practical solutions to hunger, poverty, and social injustice.

"Oxfam is a non-profit international organization," Landry said. "One of our main goals is to help [the communities in need] to do things that will bring about systemic change for them and give them the means whereby they can grow their own food."

Following a description of the organization's mission, Landry noted that a significant component of local Oxfam activities is to bring about awareness of global hunger, educating the campus community on issues of social injustice in the United States as well as in the rest of the world.

"At Stony Brook, for over ten years now, we have been working with Oxfam and also with our food services here," Landry said. "We usually send two thousand dollars a year, so we have sent

some 23 thousand dollars over the past years."

Several campus clubs are uniting in an effort to sponsor the University's Third Annual Hunger Banquet on Tuesday, Nov. 12 in SBU's Student Activity Center.

According to a letter written by the

Continued on Page 13

Index

SFS Retreat.....	1,13
Oxfam.....	1,13
Galisono.....	2
Dem. & Rep. Gubernatorial Candidates.....	3
BNL Nobel Prize Winner....	3
SBU Cat Network.....	3
U.S. Open.....	12
U.S. College News.....	5
Commentary.....	6,7,14
SFS Retreat Pics.....	16

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Candidates on Higher Education

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- * McCall will restore a merit-based appointment process for SUNY and CUNY administrators and trustees, requiring a nominating/screening process.
- * Will make higher ed. a top priority because NYS's relative investment in it ranks 47th over the last ten years.
- * Will restore student aid and opportunity programs, which have been targets of Pataki budget cuts.

Courtesy of GeorgePataki.com

- * For the last years, Gov. Pataki has not increased SUNY and CUNY tuition.
- * He has supported a \$3 billion capital construction plan to address critical health and safety needs, support the integration of technology into classrooms and labs.
- * He has increased the TAP award for New Yorkers attending in-state colleges and universities by \$975 to \$5,000 and has expanded TAP eligibility to allow more families to receive benefits.



Courtesy of NYS.gov

Brookhaven Researcher Wins Nobel Prize in Physics

BY ANJALI DOGRA
Statesman Editor

Retired chemist Raymond Davis Jr. of the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory has won the Nobel Prize in Physics. Davis won the award, which he shares with Masatoshi Koshiba of Japan and fellow American Riccardo Giacconi, for detecting solar neutrinos, ghostlike particles produced in the nuclear reactions that power the sun.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences officially recognized both Davis and Koshiba "for pioneering contributions to astrophysics, in particular for the detection of cosmic neutrinos." The Academy cited Giacconi "for pioneering contributions to astrophysics, which have led to the discovery of cosmic X-ray sources."

All three scientists will be presented with their awards, which consist of a diploma, a medal and a cash prize, at a Dec. 10 ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden. The 10 million Swedish kroner that are part of the prize convert to about \$1 million and are to be shared equally among the recipients.

Davis developed a method to detect solar neutrinos based on theory that the elusive particles produce radioactive argon when they interact with a chlorine nucleus. He constructed his first solar

neutrino detector in 1961. Davis made this initial detector more than 2,000 feet underground in an Ohio limestone mine. He was the first scientist to detect solar neutrinos, which are the signature of nuclear fusion reactions occurring in the core of the sun.

"Neutrinos are fascinating particles, so tiny and fast that they can pass straight through everything even the earth itself, without even slowing down," Davis said. "When I began my work, I was intrigued by the idea of learning something new. The interesting thing about doing new experiments is that you never know what the answer is going to be!"

Davis launched a full-scale experiment almost 5,000 feet below ground in the Homestake Gold Mine in South Dakota. He consistently found only about a third of the neutrinos that theories have predicted in his research, which spanned from 1967 to 1985. These results caused many physicists to work for nearly three decades to try to resolve what became known as the "the solar neutrino puzzle."

Using different detectors around the world, in the 1990s, researchers eventually confirmed the solar neutrino discrepancy that Davis observed. The international science community now accepts Davis's lower-than-expected neutrino detection rate and sees it as evidence that neutrinos can change from one of the three known neutrino forms into another.

This ability, known as neutrino oscillations, indicates that, contrary to the current standard model of elementary particles, the neutrino has mass. Davis observed only one form of the neutrino



Courtesy of www.bnl.gov

Raymond Davis, Jr. of Brookhaven National Lab recently won the Nobel Prize in physics for detecting solar neutrinos.

because that was the only form his equipment was sensitive to. Davis earned both his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from the University of Maryland, in 1937 and 1940, respectively. In 1942, he received a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Yale

University. He joined Brookhaven Lab's Chemistry Department, where he received tenure in 1956 and was named senior chemist in 1964, in 1948 after serving four years in the U.S. Army Air Forces and working at Monsanto Chemical Company for two years.

Although he retired from Brookhaven in 1984, he continues to be a research collaborator in the Lab's Chemistry Department. Davis joined the University of Pennsylvania in 1985 to continue his Homestake Gold Mine experiments with Professor Kenneth Lande. Davis continues to be affiliated with the university as a research professor. Davis, a member of the National Academy of Sciences and American Academy of Arts and Sciences, has won a number of scientific awards, including the National Academy of Sciences's 1978 Cyrus B. Comstock Prize, the 1992 W.K.J Panofsky Prize from the American Physics Society and the 2000 Wolf Prize in Physics, which he also shared with Koshiba and the 2002 National Medal of Science.

Davis is the fifth person connected with Brookhaven Lab to win a physics Nobel Prize. The chemistry office of Atomic Energy Commission, the Energy Research and Development Administration and the Department of Energy's Division of Nuclear Physics all funded Brookhaven Lab's solar neutrino research at the Homestake Gold Mine.

Finding and 'Fixing' Felines: SBU Cat Network

BY MANSOOR KHAN
Statesman Editor

When walking through campus at midday, one does not usually encounter masses of felines. Explore the area at night, however, and one might find a menagerie, with what some believe to be hundreds of cats veiled by the nighttime darkness.

In an effort begun during the last spring semester, various faculty, staff, students, and community members united to address the overpopulation of cats at Stony Brook. Psychology professor Nancy Franklin initiated a program called SBU Cat Network to catch stray cats, spay and neuter them, and then release them back onto campus grounds.

"The primary cause [of the cat overflow] is that students sneak cats into the dorms and then just let them go," Franklin said. These former-pets must then make a living in the winter frost.

"It's incredibly inhumane."

The program is modeled on the Stanford Cat Network model. Organization members set traps for feral cats, bring them to Brookhaven Shelter for spaying and neutering, as well as any necessary inoculations, and then transport them back to their regions of origin.

"Imagine it's so cold outside, and you have no sweater or food," said Yan Ling Ruan, a student volunteer of the organization.

The SBU Cat Network seeks to support grown feral felines, providing food and protection against the environment. Since these cats are untamed, it is best not to place them up for adoption. But in the case of kittens, the Network makes an effort to find individuals willing to adopt, on the condition that adequate vaccinations and spaying/neutering will be provided.

But we do not adopt cats to

students," said Franklin. "It would just add to the problem."

The Cat Network is a voluntary organization operating through the Faculty Student Association and funded entirely by donations.

"There is a small network of us out there, and it's a big job," said Rita Reagan Redko, faculty volunteer and Associate Director of the Outreach Program at the Center of Excellence in Learning and Teaching. "We're trying to get more people involved."

As for their progress, members said that the SBU Cat Network has largely been a success. "We've caught fifty-something cats since last spring, even though we really didn't start trapping with some regularity until a couple of weeks ago," Franklin said. "We're in it for the next twenty years. The cats do have to be fed."

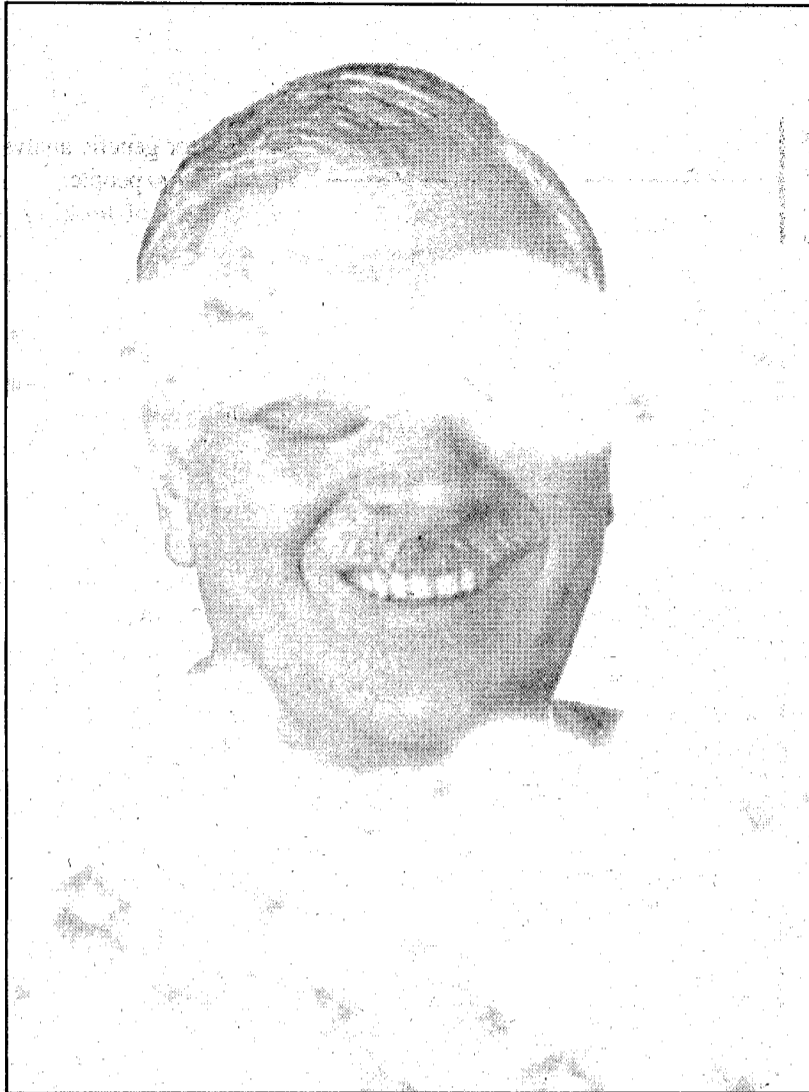
Some of these cats are very good at dodging volunteers and traps, she added.

"When we first started, we found a colony of about a dozen [cats] that lived around the bushes of the Administration building. We set a trap for a specific cat, but often get others."

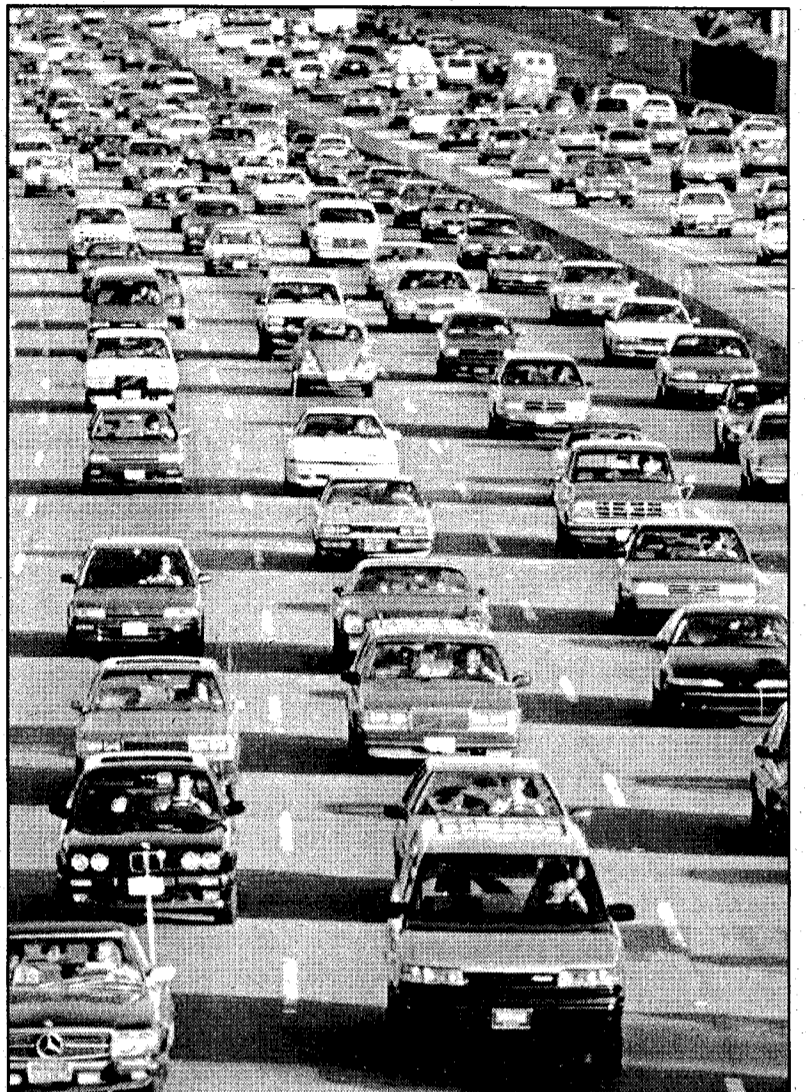
Despite their efforts in helping cats on campus, the SBU Cat Network has asserted that it is not a feline refugee group. Students who have veterinary problems with their cats, or no longer want them, are encouraged to contact an organization such as Save-A-Pet instead of the Cat Network.

"The program is restrained, and we are not responsible for people's cat problems," said Franklin.

If you would like to become involved, or have a concern about a feline roaming campus, you can contact the SBU Cat Network at sbucat@ic.sunysb.edu. The organization is working to launch a website that should answer most questions. Save-A-Pet can be contacted at 473-6333.



**Assemblyman Steve Englebright
has his head in the clouds . . .**



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Assemblyman Englebright is obsessed with issues like saving the mosquito and criminalizing the use of sinkers for sport fishing.

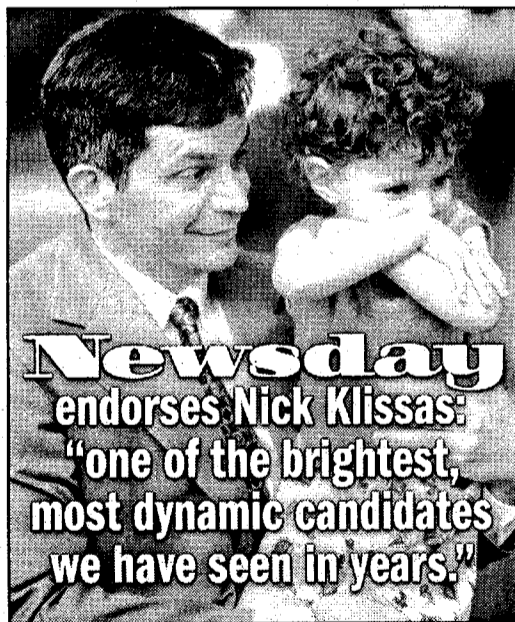
The rest of us live in the real world. And we have real problems.

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Three Professors Slain at University of Arizona Student Shooter Then Turns Gun on Self

By MEGAN ROONEY
The Chronicle of Higher Education

A student apparently shot three professors dead before turning the gun on himself on Monday at the University of Arizona, in Tucson. Two of the professors and the gunman died in a classroom at the university's nursing school, in a medical complex four blocks from the main campus, and the third professor's body was found later on another floor of the building.

The suspected gunman has been identified as Robert S. Flores, a student who was in danger of flunking out of the nursing program, Arizona's vice provost, Elizabeth Ervin, told the Associated Press.

Two of the professors were shot early Monday morning as they were administering a midterm examination. According to the Associated Press, the gunman shot the two professors, told the students to leave, then apparently killed himself. Police officers found his body later as they searched the building room by room. They also found the body of the third professor in an office on a floor above the classroom.

No other victims were found.

Officers feared that a backpack found underneath Mr. Flores's body might contain a bomb. The nursing school and several other buildings in the medical complex were evacuated, and a bomb squad spent much of the day searching for an explosive device. None was found.

Meanwhile, students who had been at the scene of the shootings were counseled at an alumni building near the medical complex. Besides the College of Nursing, the medical complex also contains the university's College of Medicine and College of Pharmacy, the University Medical Center, and several science buildings.

"The whole campus is devastated," said Julieta Gonzalez, a university spokeswoman. "The whole city, too."

The university's president, Peter W. Likins, urged students and others to take advantage of support services during the next few days. "The entire campus community is traumatized," he said in a statement released Monday afternoon. "Open up and talk; don't isolate yourself, and we will help each other get through this together."

Embryos Get 'Human Subjects' Status in Charter on Research Protections

By JONATHAN MARGULIES
The Chronicle of Higher Education

Weeks after it effectively disbanded a federal commission charged with protecting human research subjects, the Bush administration has revised the charter of the panel that replaced it to include unborn human embryos in the definition of "human subjects" worthy of protection in research.

Critics immediately accused the administration of trying to align federal research policy — especially that of the Department of Health and Human Services, which administers the panel — with the conservative political ideology of some of its patrons. Such speculation was first raised last month, when the administration did nothing to halt the expiration of the National Human Research Protections Advisory Committee, which was formed by President Bill Clinton to advise the Health and Human Services Department on ways to further protect humans participating in scientific studies.

The revision of the charter of the newly formed Secretary's Advisory Committee on Human Research Protections "is simply and straightforwardly abortion politics," said Arthur Caplan, director of the University

of Pennsylvania's Center for Bioethics. "There has not been a demand from any sector to extend the purview of human protections to embryos. There's been nothing from anywhere except from pro-life circles, and this is a response to that concern."

The new advisory committee was established shortly after the previous human-protections committee expired, but it has not yet acquired any members or concrete directives. Under the new charter, the panel would be explicitly charged with considering embryos as it proceeds with its work, though embryos will not necessarily be granted the same legal protections that children and adults currently enjoy.

The committee has no power to enact new rules on its own; it can only make recommendations to the secretary of health and human services, Tommy G. Thompson, who can then initiate rule changes or push for new legislation.

But a spokesman for the department said that no such changes are on the immediate horizon.

The charter revision is not the Bush administration's only recent move that could result in further protection for the unborn. In September, the administration initiated a new policy to extend certain health benefits to fetuses.

New Map of Human Genome Begun Scientists Seek Variations Within Large Blocks of DNA

By LILA GUTERMAN
The Chronicle of Higher Education

An international consortium of government, academic, and commercial researchers announced that it was beginning a three-year, \$100-million effort to build the next-generation map of the human genome. The so-called haplotype map, nicknamed "the HapMap," will concentrate on variation among people, which scientists say should help predict an individual's genetic susceptibility to diseases.

"The HapMap promises to accelerate medical research around the globe," Yusuke Nakamura, director of the University of Tokyo's Human Genome Center, said in a prepared statement.

Government and charitable funds for the project will come from Britain, Canada, China, Japan, and the United States, which will pitch in nearly \$40-million through the NIH. Results from the work will be made freely available on the Internet.

Researchers in China, Japan, Nigeria, and the United States will collect blood

samples for genetic analysis from a total of 200 to 400 people.

Instead of looking for individual chemical letters that differ from one person to the next, scientists from those countries, as well as Britain and Canada, will map haplotypes, which are large blocks of DNA that are inherited together.

Only a few versions of each block appear in different people's DNA. If people with a disease tend to have the same haplotype, the genetic variation within that chunk of DNA may be implicated in the disease.

Some scientists, however, have expressed doubt about the usefulness of the haplotype map.

"There's virtually no empirical evidence" that haplotypes will help scientists find genes that influence common diseases, Jonathan K. Pritchard, an assistant professor of human genetics at the University of Chicago, told *Science* magazine. Some go even further: "The whole thing is a big waste of taxpayer money," Joseph D. Terwilliger, a statistical geneticist at Columbia University, told *Science*.

States Ask Supreme Court to Take Up Michigan Affirmative-Action Case

By PETER SCHMIDT
The Chronicle of Higher Education

Ten states have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to take up a case involving the use of race-conscious admissions policies by the University of Michigan Law School.

In a brief that the Supreme Court was expected to receive by Friday, the attorneys general of the 10 states do not endorse or condemn affirmative action in higher education, but say that the states need clarity on the issue. The brief argues that the justices should take up the case because "the states and their selective educational institutions need guidance that only this court can give."

States need to know whether their public colleges' admissions processes comply with the Constitution, and also "have an interest in knowing whether and to what degree they may consider the race of applicants in attempting to create a diverse student body," the brief argues. The brief urges the court to "produce a clear standard that can be applied uniformly throughout the country."

William H. Pryor Jr., the attorney general of Alabama, took the lead in filing the brief. The other signatories were the attorneys general of Delaware, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia, as well as the attorney general of the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The initial petition asking the Supreme Court to consider the case was filed by the lawyers for a white woman who sued the university after being rejected

by its law school in 1997.

The lawyers for several students who have intervened in the case also have asked the Supreme Court to take up the case. Although they agree with the Sixth Circuit's decision to leave Michigan's policy intact, they argue that the appeals court ignored evidence of racial discrimination by the university that would justify its use of affirmative action for remedial purposes.

Michigan's lawyers have urged the Supreme Court to turn away the case and let the Sixth Circuit's ruling stand.

"...Only this Court can provide the necessary authoritative guidance that will produce uniformity of analysis and predictability of results in the lower courts," the Michigan lawyers' brief says.

The brief also urges the Supreme Court to consider whether attaining a racially diverse student body is a compelling state interest that justifies the consideration of race in admissions; formerly established in *Regents of University of California v Bakke*. If the court answers either of these questions in the affirmative it needs to describe "how an educational institution can structure its admissions process so that it is narrowly tailored" to serve the interest of creating a racially diverse student body.

Such admissions policies have been rejected by federal appeals courts for two other circuits: the 11th Circuit, which covers Alabama, Florida, and Georgia; and the Fifth Circuit, which covers Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, November 4, 2002

Editor's View

Vote: Exercise Your Right

By MARC NEWMAN
Statesman Editor

Corruption, death, resurrection. No, it isn't some exciting Biblical passage, it's American politics. Senator Wellstone dies in a plane crash and former Vice President Walter Mondale swoops in to take his place just days before the election in Minnesota. In New Jersey, Robert Toracelli takes thousands of dollars from Mr. Chang and drops out of the running as Lautenberg re-enters politics there and takes his Democratic mantle to the ballot-box.

Granted, on Tuesday, Nov. 5 they aren't bringing FDR and his New Deal back from the dead to battle President Bush and his policies. But as you sit there munching on an overpriced sandwich in the SAC, Bush is already out for plugging for '04, praying that you forget about the economy and wanting to know if you're "with him or with the terrorists."

At least let him know this much: Are you a Republican, a Democrat or something else? You can be a voice that makes a difference. People are dying, opinions are flying, so stick it your two cents and vote.

Op-Ed

Rafiq's Retort to Recent Letters

By ARIF RAFIQ
Statesman Staff

The Statesman published two letters to the editor in its Oct. 30 edition responding to my Oct. 24 op-ed, "Sending the Wrong Message", in which I expressed my dismay at the decision of President Shirley Strum Kenny to sign a biased statement sponsored by a prominent American Jewish organization. As you may recall, the American Jewish Committee published a statement in an advertisement in the New York Times on Oct. 7 condemning acts of hate and intimidation against "students who are Jewish or supporters of Israel's right to exist-Zionists", but failed to address in a similar fashion acts of the same vein committed against Arab, Muslim, and South Asian students. Attacks on all four groups have increased greatly over the past two years. The statement was signed by over 300 college and university presidents, but many chose not to sign, and a handful openly expressed their opposition to the nature of the statement.

and as an individual, I believe she is a kind, warm person.

With that said, I object to her claim that I did not read the American Jewish Committee's advertisement. In fact, I read it on the morning of October 7, between 7 and 7:30 a.m. at my home while eating a hearty breakfast of oatmeal.

In her letter, Kenny accurately noted that five out of the six paragraphs of AJC-sponsored statement were balanced and addressed acts of intimidation and hate in general. I will not accuse Kenny of not having read the Oct. 4 New York Times article, "Tolerance Plea Is Stirring Contention", in which Joan W. Scott of the American Association of University Professors was quoted as saying, "I thought it was great till I got to the paragraph about the Jewish students. Then I was appalled because it was, to put it nicely, so asymmetrical. If you count it up, there have been far more attacks and harassment of Muslims and people expressing pro-Palestinian views than on those who support Israeli foreign policy."

The first published letter, written by Kenny, was calm, clear, and concise. The second published letter, written by a fellow named Solomon Weiskop, was immature, reactionary, and sloppily written - not to mention needlessly long. It was all over the place like a drunk driver on the Long Island Expressway. The form and style of the letters are completely opposite, but I object to the content of both.

So the source of controversy is the statement's fifth paragraph, the one referring to "students who are Jewish or supporters of Israel's right to exist-Zionists". It is the only paragraph that mentions any specific ethnic or religious group, and it only mentions Jewish students and those who adhere to a certain ideology - Zionism.

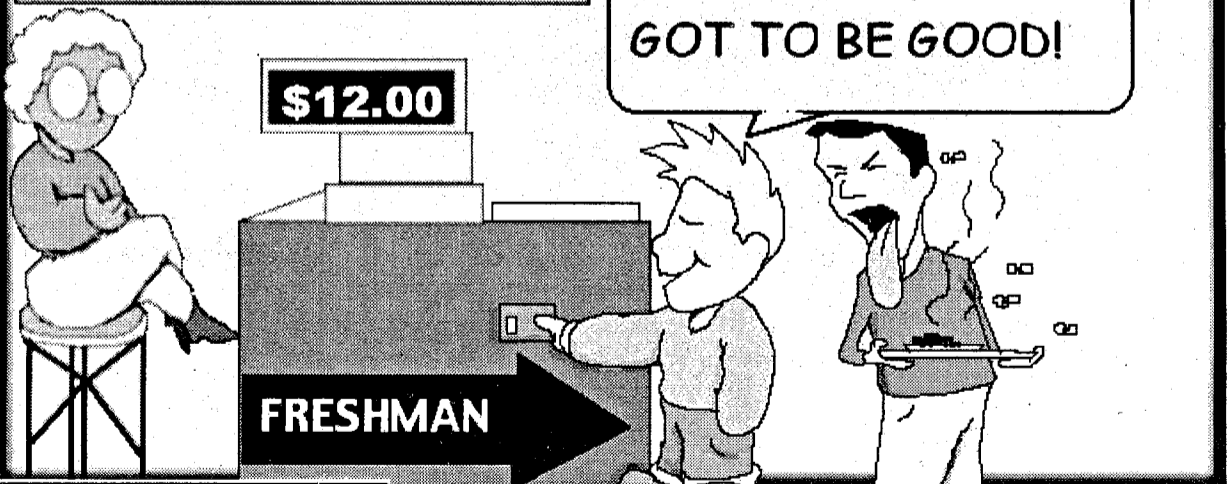
Let me first address Kenny's letter. I appreciate her referring to me as a "thoughtful and committed student". As president, I believe Kenny has served our university well,

Yes - Jewish students have been targeted in recent months by hateful individuals, and this trend must be addressed, condemned, and stopped. But Arabs, Muslims, and South

Continued on Page 14

CAMPUS DINING
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EXPENSIVE, IT HAS
GOT TO BE GOOD!



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Our Nation's Challenges, Your Generation's Mission

Letter to the Editor by Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle

In 1968, I sat in a car with three friends and drove for hours to hear Robert Kennedy speak. We had no air conditioning, our quarters were cramped and we were running late, with no time to get out and stretch our legs.

On the drive back not one of us doubted that the trip had been worth every mile of discomfort. That speech, and others like it, helped clarify the challenges that faced my country and my generation, and helped convince me that I could make a difference. The course that had first been plotted with John F. Kennedy's election had finally led me, and many other members of my generation to the realization that we had to take an active role in addressing the problems of our world.

I believe your generation's mission came into greater focus on September 11, 2001. The events of the tragic day shocked and horrified us all, causing an entire nation to wonder how this could have happened, and what we could do to help in its aftermath. September 11 also gave a new generation cause to wonder what differences they could make in the future of our country and our world.

The unity and sense of common purpose that swept the country created an opportunity to strengthen our nation in every sense of the word by working together to promote real, positive change. If the only lasting change in our behavior is our willingness to arrive at the airport earlier, we will have failed to seize that opportunity.

Every elected official, Democrat and Republican, understands that the safety and security of the American people is our first responsibility. Democrats, however, also understand that the challenges we face go beyond national security and homeland security. They involve the protection of the quality of our air and water, help in affording college tuition, the type of jobs and strength of the economy waiting for you when you graduate, the status of women's rights and worker's rights and civil rights, the integrity of our system of capitalism, and the future we're building for today's seniors and tomorrow's workers.

Some of you are helping to meet these challenged already, by volunteering your time, by organizing campus events or by mentoring neighborhood children. For all that you do, however, there is one simple activity which can

influence everything else. You can exercise your right to vote.

I was first elected to Congress by 14 votes out of a quarter million votes cast, so I know in a very personal way how much every vote counts. In the 2000 presidential race, the whole country learned how breathtakingly important just a few votes can be. And this year, your vote could be the one that tips the balance of power in Congress and defines the direction of our national policy agenda.

I would argue that, during the past year, Democrats have used our majority in the Senate to enact positive change, and to keep inadequate and even harmful legislation from slowing our national progress. We have

[Y]our vote could be the one that tips the balance of power in Congress and defines the direction of our national policy.

passed tough accounting reform to guarantee accountability in our nation's largest corporations. We have also enacted real election reform, passed a bill that invests in renewable sources of energy, and made real progress on lowering the cost of prescription drugs.

We have also prevented drilling in the protected Alaskan wilderness, and blocked a policy that would prevent students who have several student loans from consolidating them into one loan with fixed interest rates, effectively increasing the cost of college loans - and therefore the cost of college - for the very students who are having a hard time affording it to begin with.

There are real differences to be decided in this election, and real differences between the candidates. More than ever, what course we choose will make a difference - to you, your lives, and your future. So I urge you to get involved in this year's elections, regardless of your party preference. One place you can start is by going to my political website,


www.dashpac.com, and clicking on the 'Including YOUth' section.

In 1787, near the end of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was approached by a woman who asked him, "Dr. Franklin, what have you given us?"


"A republic," he replied. "If you can keep it."

Now is your time to not only keep our republic but to strengthen it. Now is your time to shape America to your ideals, and that work begins at the ballot box.

Senator Majority Leader Tom Daschle, Democrat from South Dakota, was first elected to Congress in 1978. He has served in the U.S. Senate since 1986, and has served as Majority Leader since 2001. He is not currently up for re-election.




A THOUGHT FROM RABBI ADAM



Many grapple with belief in G-d. But, sometimes, all one has to do is look at the wonders of nature. Take, for instance, the woolly aphid. As big as a grain of salt, living in colonies massing up to 1,000,000, it feeds on the tree sap of leaves and twigs in the deep forest. They are nondescript except for the tuft of white wool on their back, measuring some 10 times bigger than their entire body. To the naked eye, they look like a million tiny white pom-poms waving in unison, reminding one of a cheerleading squad at half time. Each spring, aphids hatch from whatever eggs have managed to survive the winter. The hatchlings are all female. Within days, they give live birth to more females. For direct female birth without male fertilization can only be a live birth. No eggs. These quickly mature, and give live birth to another generation of females. And so on, generation after generation of live births. Though aphids are easy prey, they are wonderfully prolific. If it were not for their predators, each spring-born female might have billions of descendants by autumn. Accordingly, their strategy for survival is to make more of themselves than any predators could possibly eat. Most of these aphid broods are wingless, but if a colony gets too big, miraculously, a female generation is born with wings, and these fly off to found another colony, thereby saving the pre-existing colony from overpopulation. With the coming of fall and the drop in temperature, the delicate woolly aphid will not be able to brave the winter. Under the threat of extinction, a generation is born that miraculously consists of both males and females. With the benefits of male fertilization, the males and females mate and lay eggs that will be able to survive the winter and hatch the following spring. The task of this egg-laying generation is so specific that nature does not even provide them with mouths for food intake. For their task is to lay the eggs for the post-winter generation, for anyway, they will never be able to survive the winter cold. So now, I ask you, is it so hard to believe that there is a G-d? Respond to: RabbiAdam@hotmail.com

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November 5th, 6th & 7th

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STUDENT POLITY ASSOCIATION

To: The Undergraduate Student Body

As many of you know, there have been several problems eating away at the foundation of Student Polity Association. Since the beginning of this semester, it has been our goal to fix the problems within. However, there comes a time when you can no longer mend the problem and the solution becomes to start anew. As one of our prestigious students from the Haitian Student Organization stated, "sometimes you have to break down to build up." This is exactly the road we are taking. Student Polity, Inc. is no longer the representative student organization for the administration of the Student Activities Fee. All efforts to reform the government from within have been unsuccessful, including the revision of the Organizations' Constitution.

Administration, as well as Council, recognized the need for drastic new measures to be taken to reform student governance as a whole, and thus decided to decertify Student Polity Association, Inc.. Although there will be many extreme changes made, what remains unchanged is how the functioning of clubs/organizations operate. Please remember that despite this setback, the Executive Council would like to let everyone know that we are still the elected student representatives for the undergraduate student body. We are still here to represent each and every one of you to the best of our ability.

Currently, different mechanisms are being put in place by Administration to start the process for the structuring of a new student government. There are also measures being reviewed that will ensure the continued proper administration of the Activity Fee. We will be working as closely as possible with Administration to ensure proper reform of student governance. In addition, we will be maintaining our role as student leaders and representatives of the students in campus life. You will still see us involved in the different University settings as much as time permits us; that includes sitting on University committees, addressing student concerns before different University agents, working closely with clubs/organizations and coordinating class programs. Therefore, do continue to keep us abreast of events and student issues within your areas and how we may assist and be involved. Our main goal is to continue to develop a method, in a "Partnership for Student Success."

We thank everyone who has been a strong support to us. We greatly appreciate it.

Thank you,
Akelia Lawrence, President

Natasha Elie, Vice President
Clayton John, Treasurer
Mélissa Torchon, Secretary

Jannet Mey, Senior Representative
Michelle Morris, Junior Representative
Sandy Curtis, Sophomore Representative

Attention

All Faculty Members

Come and learn about writing successful
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Teaching Projects and Departmental
Diversity Initiatives Mini-Grants

at the

Helpful Hints Forum

Wednesday, November 20, 2002

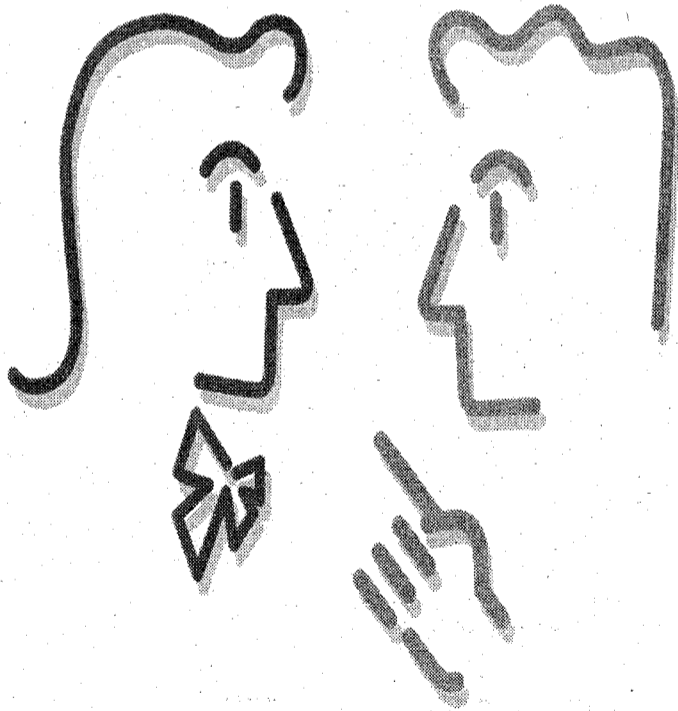
Student Activities Center, Room 302

12:40 - 2:10 p.m. (campus life time)

Refreshments will be served

- Come and speak with a panel of faculty members who are mini-grant recipients
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 - Registrar's Office – Admin. Bldg., 2nd Floor
 - CEAS Undergraduate Student Office
Engineering Bldg - Room 127
 - Harriman Hall, Room 102
- NO PICK UP OF SCHEDULES WITHOUT STONY BROOK ID**
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 - Registrar's office, Admin Bldg, 2nd Floor
 - **School of Professional Development students**
 - All new SPD students: SBS Bldg, Room N201, during office hours



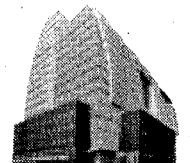
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- General Mills
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- B. Kings
- Kellogg's
- St. James Florist
- Tuscan
- U.S. Foods

Student Faculty Staff Retreat

Continued from Page 1

conference room nodded in agreement.

At the event's close, recognition was given to the various advisors and co-chairs of the retreat, including faculty co-chair Deputy Provost Mark Aronoff, staff advisor

Norman Prusslin, staff co-chair Christine Fuentes, Middle States liaison Petar Djuric and student co-chairs Roseanne Howell and Sheena Wilson.

"I've been to a lot of retreats," McGrath said. "But I feel really euphoric about this one."



Statesman/Kelly Brown

Students take a break after an intensive committee session on Saturday morning.

Oxfam Begins Taking Donations

Continued from Page 1

Oxfam America Coordinators at Stony Brook, "In coordination with [a multitude of campus organizations, including Catholic Campus Ministry, Golden Key Honor Society, and the Stony Brook Press] Oxfam will join together people who wish to experience how most of the world truly lives."

Oxfam representatives further explained, "We will present to the Hunger Banquet participants a truly global meal with participants taking on the roles of people in the under-developing, developing, and industrial nations."

As students arrive at the banquet, they randomly select group assignments that place them in the role of an affluent, middle class, or poor individual.

"What we do at the banquet is serve an elegant meal symbolizing the wealthier group, the rice, corn and water for the middle income group, and just rice and water for the low income group," Landry said. "The students portraying the low income group sit on the floor, the middle income group sits on chairs, and the highest income group sits at tables and chairs and, of course, is waited on."

Brian Wong, one of the three Oxfam America Coordinators at Stony Brook, indicated that the Oxfam connection at Stony Brook has a two-fold agenda.

"The hunger banquet is not only about raising money," Wong said. "The purpose is also to raise awareness of social issues not only on the national level, but also on the global scale."

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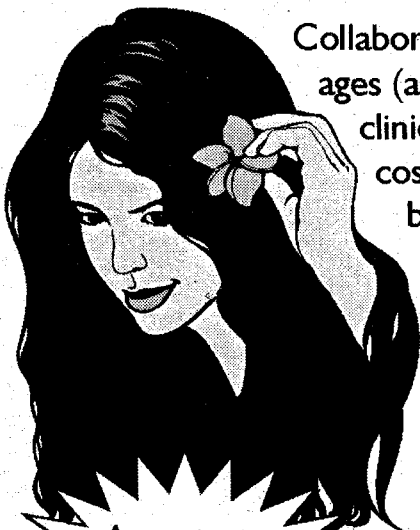
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American Jewish Committee Statement Biased

Continued from Page 6

Asians have been targets of hateful individuals on U.S. campuses in equal or greater numbers. Did not the attacks on them merit a similar full-page ad in the New York Times or at least a direct reference in the AJC-sponsored advertisement? And if a similar statement was sponsored by the "American Muslim Committee" - no such organization with that name actually exists - instead of the American Jewish Committee, and was identical to the

AJC-sponsored statement, save for a replacement of the aforementioned portion with "students who are Muslim or supporters of Palestine's right to exist", would it be controversial or not? Would 300 university presidents even considering signing it? Would Kenny sign it?

The issue is fairness and equity. Are some victims more important than others? Do some deserve greater attention than others? One of Kenny's peers, Mary Sue Coleman, president of University of

Michigan at Ann Arbor, stated in the same NYT article that anti-Muslim attacks have occurred on her campus, and "I'm really concerned about the rise of anti-Semitism worldwide, but I think we need to address intolerance more broadly". But some in academia do live in another universe. James O. Freedman, former president of Dartmouth College and an organizer of the drive to get signatories to the AJC-sponsored statement, stated in the same article, that there was "not much evidence of intimidation of Muslim students." Actually, let me correct myself, I don't think Freedman lives in another universe; I think he's an all-out liar.

Another one of Kenny's peers, Douglas J. Bennet, president of Wesleyan University stated in the same article, "I was concerned about the one-sidedness, but I was much more concerned about the hype, in a situation where we've all been trying, since 9/11, to establish reasoned discourse. I thought that the letter was unwarranted and unhelpful and should be withheld."

Now for Weiskop's letter. It does not deserve much of a response on my part. Weiskop's focus is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. By doing this, he proves the point I expressed in my Oct. 8 letter published in the *New York Times*, and in my Oct. 24 *Statesman* op-ed, that the AJC-sponsored statement "brings the unfortunate nature of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict's debate — focused on who is the bigger victim — into university administrative circles, where it does not belong."

Weiskop purposely equates hateful attacks on Jewish students with protests against the failed Israeli politician, Benjamin Netanyahu. He commits a great disservice to Jewish students who have been bullied, harassed, and assaulted. Weiskop is part of the problem - not the solution. He needs to search within for moral clarity. But I won't let foolish extremists like him discourage me from improving relations between Jewish, Muslims and others in the United States, and neither should you.

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