

Five Year Plan Draft
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The Stony Brook

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VOLUME XLIV, NUMBER 23

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2000

PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

The Results Are In



Polity Board Chosen and Recreation Center Voted Down in Student Elections

Police Blotter

Compiled by Julie Mingione, Statesman Editor

Wednesday, April 12

6:56 pm A Chapin College resident refused to allow an RA in his room for health and safety inspections. Crisis intervention was deployed.

11:11 pm A fire alarm was sounded in Baruch College. There was no fire, candles on a birthday cake triggered it.

Thursday, April 13

11:36 am A vehicle parked outside the Health Sciences Center was struck by an unknown car that fled the scene.

4:35 pm The crash bar on a door of Ammann College was reported broken.

8:55 pm The windows of the Ammann College lounge were found smashed.

Friday, April 14

12:25 am A group of females was reported to be chanting in Roth Inner Quad and creating a disturbance. The girls were probably pledging a sorority.

12:28 am The smell of marijuana was detected in Greeley College. A building RA requested assistance in locating the source.

12:48 am A person turned in a bike that he found in the North P-Lot.

3:25 am A Hamilton College resident reported receiving threatening phone calls.

5:40 pm There was a noticeable smell of gas in Keller College. Upon inspection, it was found to be elevator fluid.

Saturday, April 15

12:55 am A dispute between a boyfriend and girlfriend in Greeley College resulted in police involvement. The boyfriend was escorted back to his dorm in Chapin.

6:51 pm For unknown reasons, the glass on a bus stop on North Loop Road near the SAC was broken.

Sunday, April 16

3:26 am A roommate dispute in Eisenhower College called for the intervention of the building RHD.

10:27 am A car was struck by an unknown vehicle in the Chapin lot. The offending car fled the scene.

10:51 pm A rowdy group of underage drinkers was reported on the Kelly Paved path leading to the Bamboo Forest.

Monday, April 17

3:30 am The rear passenger window of a parked car in the Schomberg lot was broken, and stolen from the vehicle was its stereo and ventilation system.

4:27 am A student was reported missing but returned without incident.

11:22 am 45 ice cream bars were taken from a food stand in Life Sciences.

12:12 pm The elevator motor overheated in Social and Behavioral Sciences.

10:23 pm An Eisenhower resident reported his car was vandalized on campus.

10:31 pm The fire extinguishers were reported missing from Whitman College.

Tuesday, April 18

2:44 am The passenger window was broken into of a car in the Whitman lot. A CD player and radio were stolen from the vehicle.

8:26 am A convertible had its cover ripped open, and its dashboard damaged, along with its radio and mirror stolen from the Power Plant lot. Also damaged was the steering column.

11:22 am A car parked in the Kelly Quad paved lot had its driver's door

damaged as well as its stereo/CD player stolen.

11:26 am A male was arrested in Greeley College for petit larceny and possession of burglar's tools when he was observed stealing cash from laundry machines in the building.

11:27 am A bookbag containing

credit cards and a wallet was stolen from Whitman College.

4:36 pm A student skateboarding outside of the Javits Lecture Hall was caught and referred to judicial affairs.

Wednesday, April 19

3:27 am Student in Hamilton were reported to the police for playing loud music and throwing bottles from the balcony.

6:46 am Smoke detectors in Gershwin College were removed from their original locations by unknown subjects. The detectors were recovered and placed back.

USB Laundry Bandit Arrested

By JULIE MINGIONE
Statesman Editor

A 22-year-old resident student was arrested last Tuesday when he was caught stealing money from washing machines in Greeley College.

University Police had been notified of shortages in money from the laundry machines, and in each instance there was no sign of forced entry or tampering with the machines, according to Deputy Police Chief Doug Little. Surveillance cameras were installed in the laundry rooms of Greeley College in hopes to observe the source of the missing cash, and from those tapes University Police detectives caught Yusuke Yonehara, a resident of Greeley, in the act.

Yonehara had been using a screwdriver and paperclips to open the boxes filled with quarters and then stole the cash, usually during the early

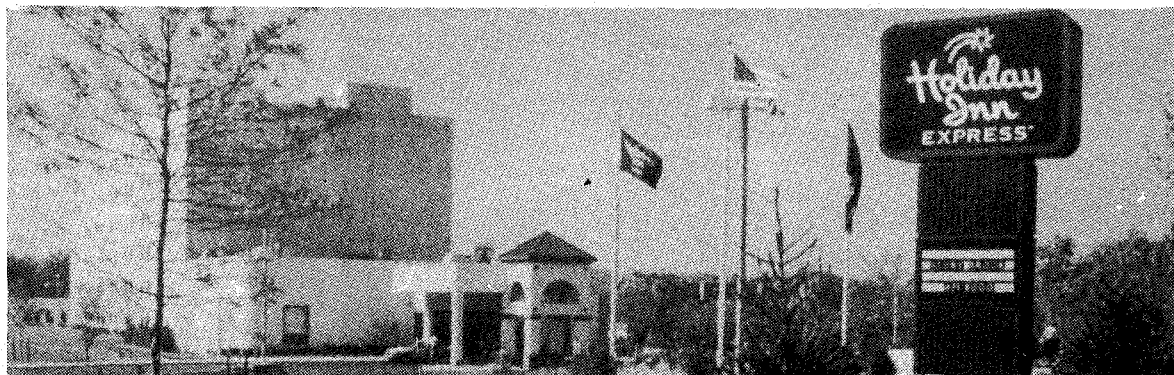
morning hours. At 11:30 a.m., Yonehara was arrested by University Police and charged with petit larceny and possession of burglar's tools. He was taken to the University Police Station, issued a field appearance ticket and released. Yonehara will have to appear before the judicial affairs board headed by Gary Mis. He could face expulsion from the University. Mis was unavailable for comment.

"He will have to face the consequences," said Little about Yonehara.

"It seems to have been going on for awhile. There was quite a bit of tampering," Little said. The police are still unsure as to how long Yonehara had been breaking into the cash boxes.

Little also cautions other students with perhaps a similar scheme in mind. "If you commit a crime you'll eventually get caught," said Little. The bottom line is that there are consequences and that situations like this are crimes."

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, April 24, 2000



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A Thought From Rabbi Adam



This Wed. and Thurs. are Jewish holidays marking the splitting of the Red Sea, exactly 3,312 years ago. Our Sages tell us that not just the Red Sea alone parted, but all of the world's waters split. Even cups of drinking water. Not only that, but from the now revealed sea bottom instantaneously grew vegetation. Incredulous? Even Rabbinical commentators have been taken aback and asked that if all G-D wanted to do was take them through the Red Sea, why did He make all these seemingly unnecessary miracles? The answer comes with the last day of Passover when we celebrate with the Festival Meal of Moshiaich (Messiah). For these seemingly superfluous miracles served another purpose: to reveal that the world is not real. That the laws of nature are of naught. That the only true existence is the "spiritual". For the physical world and all that we see around us, are really part and parcel of the ultimate reality. A reality where there is no delineation between the physical and the spiritual. A reality of ultimate good and ultimate peace. The G-dly reality. The reality of Moshiaich is when we traditionally come together with family and friends to reflect on living this ultimate reality. Thursday 4/27, 6:30pm @ Rabbi Adam's house: a 45 second walk from behind Greeley College in Roosevelt Quad, walk to left of construction fence along the tree line, first and only house.

Sponsored by the Chabad Student Club,
www.ChabadUSB.com.

And the Winners Are...

Polity Elections Bring New Officials But No Rec Center

By ERIN ROSENKING
Statesman Editor

With close to half of the ballots cast in his favor, Polity vice president Calvin Coleman was voted in as the next president of the student government in last week's elections. Coleman, who at one point appeared solo on the ballot, beat out underdog commuter senator Andrew Murray, who was put on the ticket at the last minute. Murray managed to get more than the four hundred signatures necessary, as per Polity policy, in 24 hours to get his name added to the ballot. But Coleman was elected in a landslide with 742 votes to Murray's 247. The new president said he was both happy and excited to learn he had been voted in but he was surprised by the numbers. "Truly, I was confident in the fact that I would win but the margin was surprising," he said.

It may have been large but the margin did not disappoint Murray. "I am actually very impressed with myself and with the people who were working for me," Murray said. He said that the numbers are proof of what you can get done if you really try. "In a matter of three days, I went from a nobody to somebody that managed to get one out of every four votes," Murray said. "I'm anything but feeling bad or mad right now." In fact, Murray said that his days in politics are far from over. He plans on continuing as a commuter senator and he is also running for president of the Commuter Student Association, a position he hopes to win so that he can go ahead with the plans he had if elected Polity president. "I want to make more students get involved," he said, "and I still want to bridge the gap between commuters and residents."

Coleman is also looking to get things done. He said that the first thing he wants to do in his new position is show students the role they play in Polity. "Once students learn that Polity is theirs and how they can use it to benefit them, they will use it," he said. He said that he hopes this will mean more active participation and higher attendance at events, as well

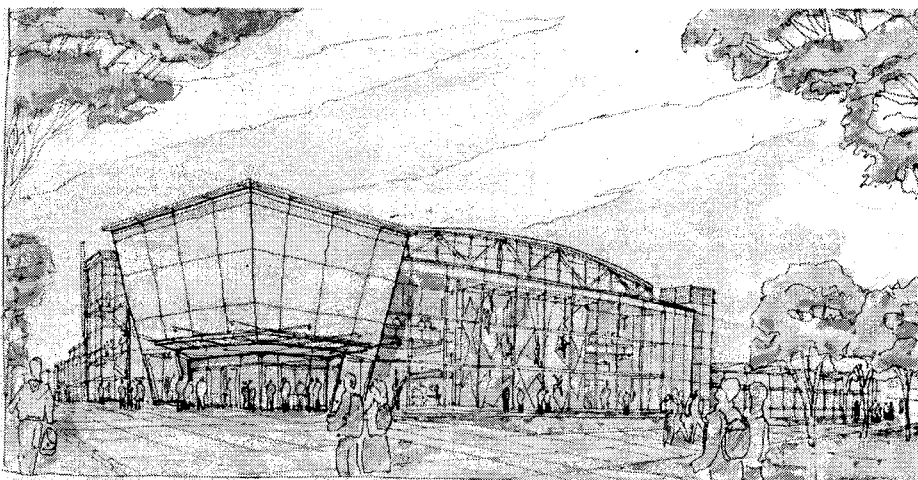
as the opportunity to solve problems. "This means more opinions on topics, more opinions means more angles and more angles means more solutions."

While Coleman prepares to teach students what Polity can do for them, reelected treasurer Renee Johnson is preparing to change the way she handles their money. She is planning a complete overhaul of the treasurer's office. "I realized that there is always room for change," Johnson said. She added that anyone who has interacted with her or her office is welcome to come to her with solutions.

Although she is returning for a second turn, Johnson said that she was nervous to find she had been voted in again. "I was discouraged because of a situation I had with a student that made me question myself." But she said that she realized she was the best person for the job. "I have to put 100 percent in it because it's important to me and the students I represent."

In addition to candidates running for all Polity positions, a number of items were up for referenda vote, including continuing college legs, intramurals, Blackworld and academic clubs. All referenda items were passed except an increase for the ice hockey team and most notably, the proposed recreation center. The center, which was to be built on the grounds in between the Student Union and the Pritchard gym, was voted down by just thirty six votes, 470 to 434.

Fred Preston, vice president for student affairs and a staunch supporter of building the center, was not surprised that it was voted down. "We know what the problem was in getting it passed this time around-upper classmen having to pay the fee who will not be here for the opening-and we plan to find a remedy to this issue." Had it been voted in, the center would carry a fee in addition to the student activity fee. Preston also said that he was convinced that most students thought the center was a good idea that will enhance student life. "We will definitely do the referendum in the fall and expect it to pass," he said.



The rec center (conceptual sketch above) was voted down 470 to 434.

Election Results

Referenda Items	Yes	No
Academic Clubs	886	40
AV	786	80
Blackworld	761	122
Cheerleaders	640	227
College Leg	784	93
Intramurals	841	53
SASU	744	103
SB Ambulance	848	45
SB Child Care	847	46
SPA Sec Equip	785	98
USSA	710	131
AV increase	517	324
Ice Hockey increase	406	453
SB Ambulance increase	681	190
SB Child Care increase	707	167

Student Polity Positions

President			
Coleman 742*	Murray 247*	Write ins 21	
Vice President			
Jackson 605	Lau 208	Shapiro 153	Write ins 15
Treasurer			
Johnson 647	Kim 295	Write ins 10	
Secretary			
Jordon 274	Pierre 264	Williams 427	Write ins 8
Senior Rep			
Gonzalez 152	Graff 53	Nicome 60	Roberts 197
Write ins 3			
Junior Rep			
Granville 129	Moses 112	Write ins 4	
Sophomore Rep			
Griffith 91	Hodgson 121	Write ins 1	
SASU			
McNeill 629	Write ins		26
USSA			
Simmons 601	Write ins		13
SB Council			
Morales 600	Write ins		16
Assembly			
Write ins 101			

* Total number written were after penalties were deducted.

As Preston prepares to get the center okayed in the next election, Polity president Andrez Carberry prepares to step down from his position. He said that he was flattered that Coleman claims to want to continue the regime started by Carberry. "Continuity is definitely something I would like to see," Carberry said, adding that he wishes Coleman all the best. He also said that

he was saddened to see his time as president end and that there was more he would have liked to do but he didn't have the time. However, he plans on sticking around by making himself available as a resource should any problems arise next year. "I did my best and I loved the job. Leaving is sad," Carberry said. "But everything comes to an end."

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The New Plan

President Kenny Looks for Campus Approval of Five Year Plan Draft

By JULIE MINGIONE
Statesman Editor

University President Shirley Strum Kenny unveiled a draft of USB's next Five Year Plan to improve academic and campus life at Stony Brook and announced a series of meetings that will be held to get campus input.

Last fall, President Kenny established task forces to assess seven different areas deemed "important to Stony Brook's future," according to the report. These categories for campus success are: Academic Excellence; Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity; Students' Experience; Facilities; Diversity and Internationalization; Campus Services; and Outreach and Entrepreneurship. From the reports of these task forces, a coordinating committee made up of various faculty members from departments such as electrical engineering, physics and astronomy, and the school of social welfare, prepared the Draft Five Year Plan, which will take effect from 2000 to 2005.

The Plan is broken down into eight subject areas, with subdivisions within each area. Undergraduate students are first on the list of eight, and specific plans to improve the lives of USB's undergraduates are promising. To support and enhance existing programs, the plan provides



Statesman Archives

USB President Shirley Strum Kenny unveiled a draft of the Five Year Plan.

that "courses required for the major and to satisfy general education requirements are well taught and offered sufficiently regularly with enough sections to assure that students can progress with no delays."

There are plans to make the transition to Stony Brook smoother for freshmen and transfer students, to recruit a more diverse and "high-achieving" student body. The report calls for the set up of an ambassador program where undergraduates will visit high schools. The University is looking to also build local support for itself in the community.

Many undergraduates will be happy to know that Stony Brook wants to improve student services. According to the draft, "Cumbersome registration and other administrative procedures are still a major problem for students." To combat the frustrations many students experience in dealing with the bursar, billing and administration, the University hopes to provide "consistent" service hours and even "extended"

service hours for those who are unavailable to meet with administrative officials from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. An 800 number is even proposed in the plan for all student services, most notably for admissions, bursar/student accounts and financial aid, to make transactions more fluid.

For graduate students, the University plans to increase teaching assistant stipends to be "competitive with other Research 1 Universities." Also specified for graduate students are campus-wide evaluations of graduate class instructors, to ensure that the classes are being well taught. Interdisciplinary research will also be easier for graduate students to do, with mechanisms to be set up making an interdisciplinary degree more achievable.

Teacher assistant orientation and training will be improved, as will the graduate students' "living and working environment." Every full time doctoral student, according to the plan, will have a private desk in a "suitable office," and all graduate students and postdoctoral associates will have 24-hour access to modern computers with Internet connections and useful software for their research.

Enhancement of Stony Brook's faculty is also provided for in the draft. Improving salaries, giving more rewards for good work, and implementing a family leave policy which would provide paid release time are all expected improvements. The University also is seeking to develop an initiative to increase the number of women faculty in fields where they are "significantly underrepresented."

Diversifying the faculty is also a main goal of the plan. Stony Brook hopes to increase the number of tenure-track faculty from groups such as African Americans, Caribbean Americans, Hispanic Americans, Latin Americans and Native Americans.

Other ways the University looks to improve itself include the enhancement of the campus computing network, library improvements, to complete campus construction in a timely way, to create new centers of campus life, to improve and expand parking and to improve campus living conditions.

The University will hold public hearings to get feedback from students and faculty on the Draft Five Year Plan. They will be held on Thursday, April 27 and Monday, May 1 from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Student Activities Auditorium. The final Five Year Plan will be published by the fall and will have taken into account campus response.

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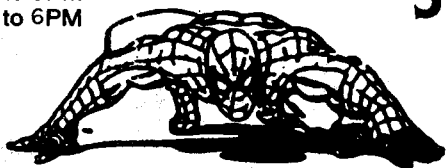
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Editorials

The Power to Vote: Use It

The results of the Polity elections are in and for those of you who have not heard the reports yet, Calvin Coleman has been elected to pick up where Andrez Carberry left off. And the guy, whose campaign slogan is the mysterious "Potts and Pans," won by a landslide. Coleman got himself 742 votes out of the 1454 ballots cast, while his underdog opponent Andrew Murray lost with 247. Both candidates had minimal percentages subtracted from the tallies after the Polity judiciary ruled on grievances both of the men called on each other.

But does anyone notice a problem with these numbers? There is something peculiar, and we are not talking about how the totals are anagrams to each other (look at the number 247 in the mirror and you will see 742. Weird huh?) The other peculiarity is much more disturbing. Why is it that on a campus of 18,000 (give or take a couple of hundred), with approximately 12,000 eligible to vote in these last elections, only 1454 students actually did? But to make matters even worse, of those 1454, there was a substantial number of jokesters

or others that were not informed of the proper procedure to vote, as in you can only vote once. Of the 1454 ballots put into the scanner, 36 were rejected for being doubles and another 26 were missing social security numbers. This left the ballot counters with a total of 1392 to count. But of these, only 1108 had verifiable identification numbers. There better not be any complaints from the majority of the campus complaining about how Polity sucks and various other gripes concerning the student government. As they say on the Lotto commercials, you gotta be in it to win it and if you didn't vote, not only are you irresponsible but you won't win anything.

But on the same token, that very same pathetically small number of voters caused a major upset with the referenda. The news is surprising but the proposed recreation center actually got voted down, a complete shocker considering that popular opinion appeared to welcome the idea with open arms. Supporters said that finally there would be something to do on campus on the weekends. Even most of the candidates endorsed the idea. New president Coleman

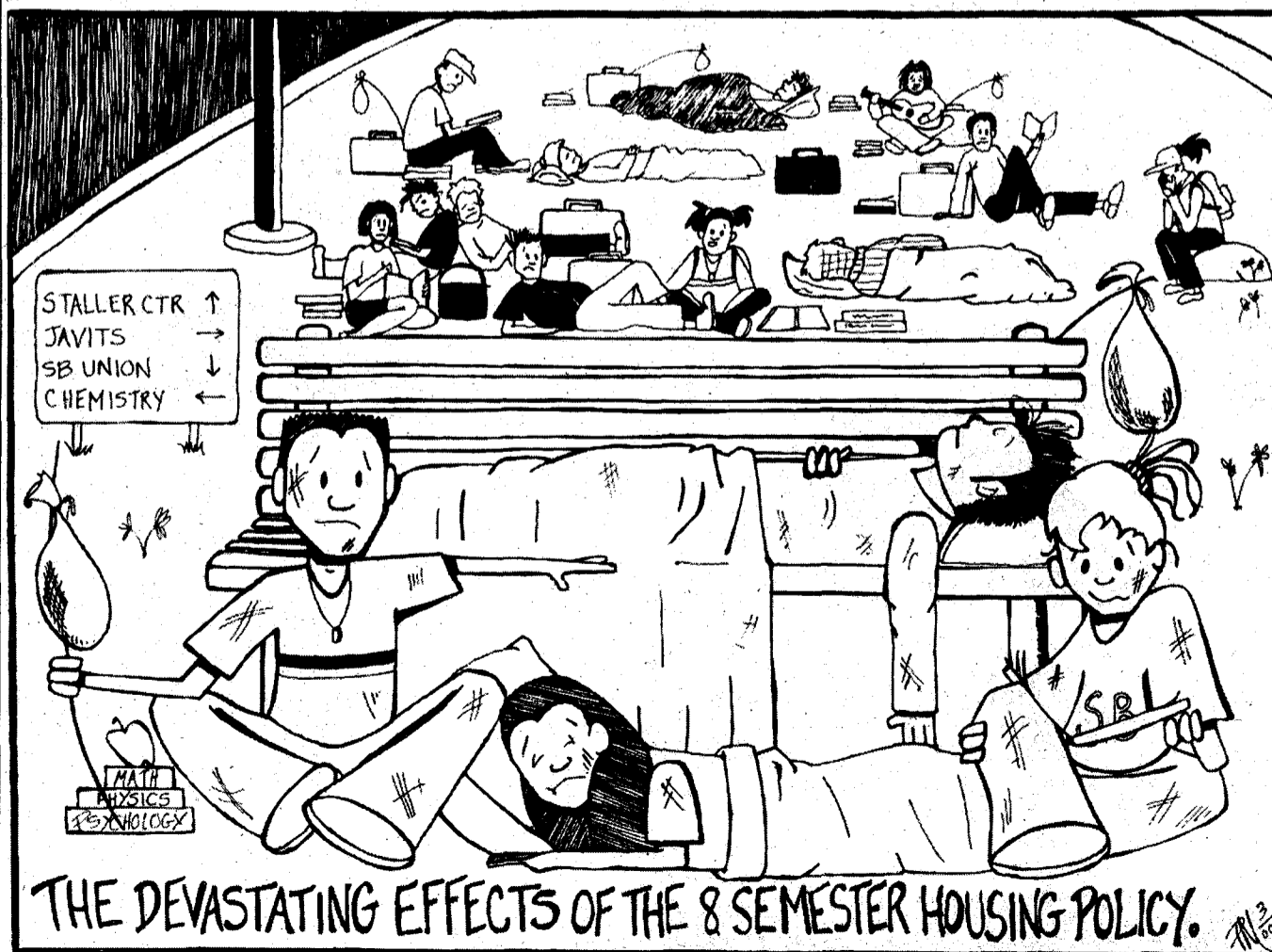
lauded the proposal himself saying that it would work to solidify the diversity on campus by bringing all different groups together under one playful roof.

The rec center was most definitely the baby of Fred Preston, vice president of student affairs, who said that the proposal will definitely show up again in the fall. He said that he believes it failed because upper classmen and women were unwilling to pay for something that they would never see. A perfectly understandable reason to reject the idea.

But with all the symbolic confetti, streamers and hoorays that the center was getting from everyone, the students that voted no should be proud of themselves for seeing through the blinding shining light the center was being proposed through. It was being touted as a heaven on earth, or at least a heaven on a boring campus. Congratulations to all of you for deciding to make a thrifty choice in how your money is spent when in the hands of other people. It is only reasonable to expect the people who will use it to pay for it. Good for all of you for being conscientious spenders. Now if only we could produce more conscientious voters.

After Eight Semesters, This Could Be You

By PAM MOENCH
Statesman Staff



USB Ignores the Commuters

By KARA VANDEN BOSCH
Statesman Contributor

Registration for Fall begins next week and the course schedules have been mailed to residents' dorm rooms. Commuter students have to go to the office of Commuter Student Affairs to pick one up. Commuter students are not notified of when the schedules are going to become available, so if they do not find out on their own they miss out.

This is just one instance in which commuter students, who make up over half of SUNY Stony Brook's enrollment, miss out. Since commuters make up over half of the student body, their needs should be considered important.

Unfortunately, they are not.

Residents and commuters pay the same tuition and attend the same classes. They use the same libraries and services provided by the university. The only difference is that residents contribute more money to the university because they pay for housing, and that residents receive more attention and focus on campus than commuters do.

"Since commuters make up over half of the student body, their needs should be considered important."

Stony Brook holds many activities each semester for students that are aimed toward making the college life enjoyable, but mailings advertising these events are rarely, if ever, sent to students who live off campus. If the university cared about commuters as much as residents, they would get information to commuters about these events. This doesn't happen. Events pass without commuters attending because they are not notified. When mailings are sent, they are often past due and received after the event has occurred.

Then there is parking. Commuters suffer the most from the lack of parking on campus. There are only two commuter parking lots on campus that are free. The parking lot by the train station is small and far away from most of the buildings in

the academic mall, and the only way to guarantee finding an open spot is to get there before 8am.

The other lot, South P, is huge and has more than enough parking spaces. However, you have to take a bus from the lot to the academic buildings. There are not many buses and the wait in the morning is often long. To make sure you arrive to class on time, you have to allow an extra 30-45 minutes for parking, waiting on line and taking the bus. That is an inconvenience for commuters.

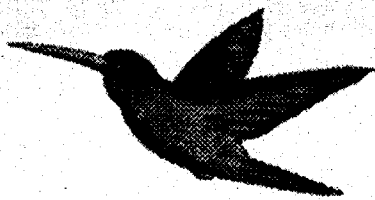
Residents, however, have the convenience of parking lots behind each dorm. These lots are more than spacious, but they are open only to resident students. These lots also are very close to the academic mall so most residents don't ever have to drive from their dorm to class. Their

cars sit in their dorm parking lots until they need to be used for a reason unrelated to school.

"I get so mad when I see students who live on campus come late to class," said Andrea Montechiari, a junior who commutes from Sound Beach. "It takes me 30 minutes to get to school, 10 to park in South P and another 20 taking the bus. But I still get to class on time. Students who live on campus have to walk from their dorm to class and they are still late."

These are just some examples, but there are others. The university rarely cancels classes due to inclement weather, even though commuter students have to travel in this weather, and that is often dangerous. A university that cared about the well-being of all of its students would not allow students to travel to class in bad weather. Stony Brook encourages it.

The list of complaints is long, but the result is the same. Commuters at Stony Brook do not receive the attention they deserve from the university. There is no reason for the majority to be ignored.



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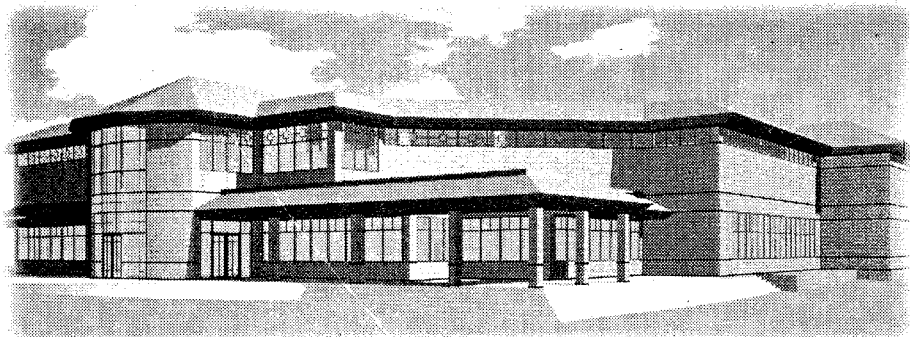
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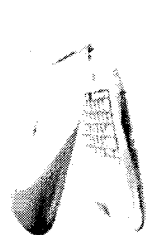
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8:00 PM

Greeley Coffeehouse
Greeley Main Lounge
9:00 PM

Thursday, April 27th

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SAC "Y" Lobby
1:00 - 4:00 PM

Arts in Motion
Interdisciplinary Arts
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8:00 PM

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Friday, April 28th

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Statesman Elections

Attention all staff members and editors! The *Statesman* will be holding its semester elections on Wednesday, May 3, in the Statesman office in room 057 in the basement of the Student Union, at 6 p.m. Nomination forms can be picked up at the office and must be in by Tuesday, May 2. All staff members and editors are encouraged to participate.

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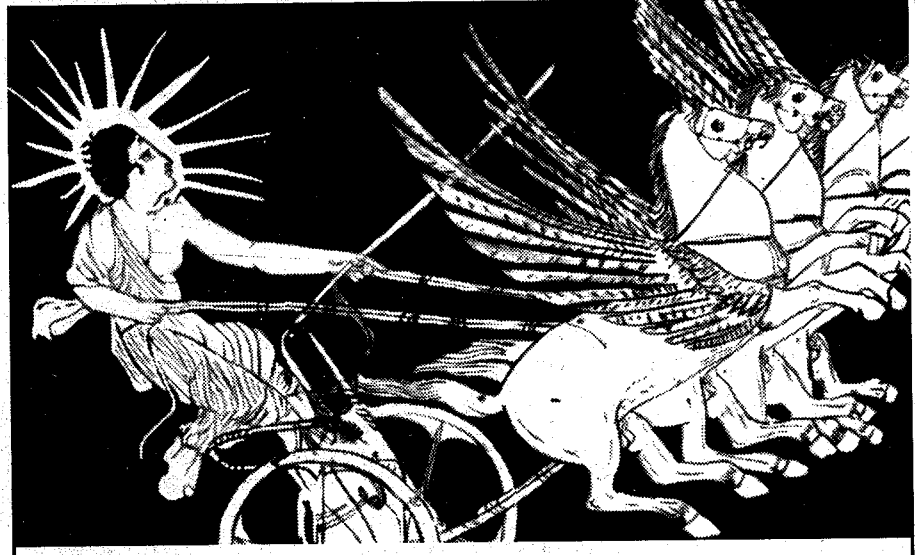
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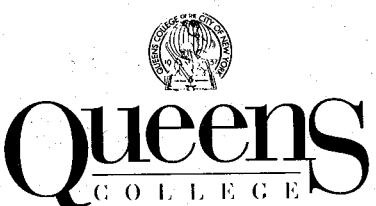


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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, April 24, 2000

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EOE

Misanthropy Hits USB

By MARIA SHIELDS
Statesman Contributor

Moliere takes Hollywood by storm! During the month of April, a brilliant interpretation of Moliere's *The Misanthrope*, took center stage at the Staller Center for the Arts. The setting was not a 17th century French one, but rather it was set in Hollywood present day, more specifically, Los Angeles. The *Misanthrope's* director, Cristina Vaccaro creatively took Moliere's basic themes and transported them into a Los Angeles landscape. The energetic cast, light comedic direction, and creative set made this interpretation a delight to watch.

Moliere's play is perfectly suited to a Hollywood script. There is enough love, deception, and betrayal to fill any movie script. The *Misanthrope* pictures a famous young writer named Alceste, played wonderfully by Joshua M. Adler. Alceste is very

much a part of the Hollywood lifestyle of gossiping and phoniness but he loathes it. He believes that everyone is fake and he is sick being a part of a place like this. "A man who can't hide what he thinks

Alyssa Amato, has many men pursuing her, all of which she keeps around in order to make sure she upholds her status in town.

Celimene uses all of them to keep her reputation and her career going

"Corruption, deceit, and betrayal are the motifs that represent the frailty of human nature, a frailty that does not change and reigns supreme, even today."

shouldn't stay too long in such places." In addition to despising the Hollywood lifestyle, he is madly in love with a woman who is the epitome of it. The flirtatious and voluptuous Celimene, played by

strong, taking whatever benefits her from each one of them. She enjoys gossiping, having parties always surrounded by people, constantly talking behind the backs of others. Her suitors include Oronte played wittily by Robert

Colpitts, as well as Acaste played by Ara H. Muradyan and Clitandre played humorously by Frank Pedicini. Although all these men are fighting for her affections, Alceste is truly in love with her despite the fact that she represents everything he is against. Celimene thinks that she stringing along all of her suitors, including Alceste, but little does she know that Arsinoe, coyly played Elisabeth Sawyer, knows what she is up to and is planning on sabotaging her. Arsinoe is going to reveal to all the betraying, lying deceiving person that Celimene really is.

Moliere's themes from *The Misanthrope* are timeless. Corruption, deceit, and betrayal are the motifs that represent the frailty of human nature, a frailty that does not change and reigns supreme, even today. These themes shined through in this wonderful performance and the audience heartily agreed. Bravo!

Socializing Cyber Style

By JENNIFER L.M. GUNN
Statesman Staff

Five years ago, Brian Strack, a USB freshman studying mechanical engineering, got America Online. "I wandered into a chat room and was just freely speaking my thoughts," he said. From that day on, Strack, like so many others, discovered a new way of connecting with the world.

Students on college campuses, including Stony Brook, are wired to the Internet in computer labs, dorm rooms, places of work and off-campus homes. While computers are used for writing papers, doing research and games, they're also a lonely student's gateway to a social life. Students regularly communicate with friends and strangers on line, and in a time of "Instant Messaging" are connecting with people from around the world. Sometimes, they even meet.

Tom, a sophomore, business and pre-med major, knows

a lot of students who have met people on the Internet. "Most of the people they meet are hundreds or even thousands of miles away," he said. "They do it usually out of boredom or curiosity." Like others interviewed about this topic, Tom was reluctant to disclose his full name because he considers the subject matter a private one.

Many students use the Internet to stay connected to friends who live far away or attend different colleges. Email and Internet chatting provide cheap ways to stay in touch with long-distance friends.

"Phone rates are so expensive," said Sean Bennett, a 21-year-old junior majoring in English at Stony Brook. "While I still feel it's important to stay grounded in the real world—talking on the phone, and hearing each other's voices—email and instant messaging are a nice, cheap way to keep in touch."

Bennett, who spends 15 to 20 hours per week on the Internet, says he has made many friends on the internet—none of whom he's actually met. Bennett refers to Internet communication as the "greatest video game ever made."

Although he doesn't pursue people on the internet, and does not participate in chat rooms, Bennett has provided a profile on America Online, which answers basic questions about his personality and is available to

all users of the internet provider. People then come to him based on something they read in his profile. Bennett's Internet friends are from all across the country and are what he considers "genuine, good friends."

"We've never met, or talked on the phone, but I share things with them," he said. "It's nice to be able to have people to talk about your life, your problems, and they are totally detached from your life."

Strack looked at chat rooms as an opportunity to vent and get impartial advice. "I guess inside, I felt a little distraught and wanted to open up to someone," he said. "I felt that if I spoke about what was bothering me to a real friend, they would just give me the same old typical answers."

Strack found the internet to be a place where a shy person, as he considers himself to be, can open up and socialize. Despite the ability to be more open, Strack says that the anonymity of the Internet can be dangerous, and one must be wary of putting one's trust in those they meet.

Christine, a sophomore with an undecided major, who was also reluctant to reveal her full name, met her male best friend on-line. She also agrees that connecting with people on-line and then in person can be dangerous and requires a long period of time before a live meeting to get to know the person.

"I guess that it's okay as long as you've been talking to the person for a long time, and you know they're not a freak or anything," she said.

Christine finally met her best friend at Stony Brook, after a summer of e-mailing one another.

"I went alone, but I wouldn't recommend doing that in normal circumstances," she said. "But since it was in a public place, and I knew he was a total sweetie, I went alone."

The America Online generation is growing and AOL now has more than 22 million members worldwide, according to the corporate website. AOL's mission, to provide a "global medium," is influencing the way people interact on a daily basis, and the ways in which people communicate with one another. The Internet saves friendships from distance, introduces people despite distance, connecting millions.

"As for me, I don't connect with people often but when I do, it's a good thing," Strack said. "I'm not afraid to admit that I talk to people online. I don't see anything wrong with it."

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H&M: A New Kind of Store

By Tina Chadha, Statesman Editor



Actress Chloe Sevigny posing in an H&M ad.

Courtesy www.hm.com

No, it's not the opening of the new Prada boutique or the relocation of Gucci on 54th street that has New York shoppers flocking to 5th avenue this month. It's the opening of H&M, an inexpensive Swedish chain store. H&M, which stands for Hemes and Mauritz, is the largest fashion chain in Sweden and has successfully branched off in many European countries, making it a major international retail brand. The company was founded in 1943 by Erling Persson as a chain of stationary shops but it

changed to clothing in 1947. "Hemes" is the Swedish word for "yours" and Mauritz is the name of a small chain of shops that existed in Sweden years ago.

H&M opened its first three US locations last month and it is doing extremely well in New York. The three-story store on 51st street is always crowded with tourists, employees on lunch breaks and students excitedly battling their ways through the aisles. "Don't go there on your lunch break, it's chaotic," warned Fashion Institute of Technology student Joanna Poppescu. "Last week I went to do some shopping and the lines were so ridiculous I didn't even have time to pay. And as I was leaving I saw there was a line to get in the store."

So what is it about H&M that has customers lining up outside? The company has put together the two main ingredients, hip clothes and cheap prices, the ideal shopping paradise. "High style for affordable prices has all of New York going mad over H&M," said Holly Crawford, assistant beauty editor at Cosmopolitan magazine.

Another aspect of H&M is its fast

changing collections. The garments produced are only meant to be worn for two to three seasons so the customer can constantly buy things that are in fashion. H&M carries everything from glitzy party wear to simple gear meant for chilling. You can find anything from pink pleather pants to a corduroy jackets. The first floor carries both men and women's evening wear while the second floor has only men's casual wear. The third floor houses women's casual wear. The store also sells accessories for the hair and body as well as lingerie, sleepwear and swimwear.

While style and price are essential they are not the only factor attracting

customers to H&M. The company has put up striking and simple but large ads all over the city featuring celebrities such as actress Chloe Sevigny, who recently appeared in the movie *Boys Don't Cry*.

If the company sounds too good to be true, you might be right. The downside is that all of H&M's goods are made in underdeveloped countries such as Bangladesh and Philippines, where until recently, poor labor conditions had not been given much attention. But with the efforts of the clean clothes campaigns, H&M has developed a code of conduct for its employees and is trying to improve conditions for their workers.

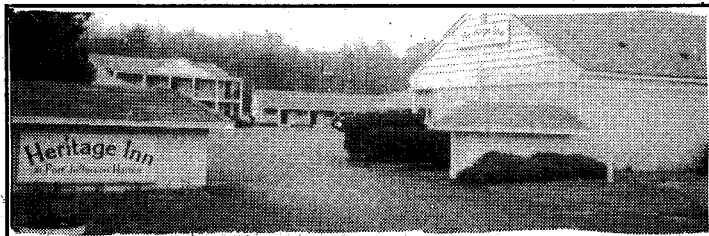


Courtesy of www.hm.com

H&M, located on Fifth Avenue and 51st Street, opened on Mar. 31.

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Tell Me About It

Advice for the College-Age Crowd

By Carolyn Hax

Hi, Carolyn:

My girlfriend and I are 28 and have known each other for a year and a half, dating for the last six months. We get along well and really enjoy each other's company. The two problems are that she smokes and refuses to meet my family.

She has resolved to herself and promised me several times to quit smoking. It has never lasted more than a week and she's back to a pack a day. She goes outside when she smokes, but of course comes back reeking and gets upset when I move away.

Secondly, the family thing. I don't think an evening to help celebrate my mom and sister's birthday is excessive. She says a birthday party is a family event and, since she's not family, would feel too uncomfortable even to stop by.

Whaddaya think?

- Wisconsin

I think I count two problems, but not the same ones you did.

1. Your girlfriend's made of Jell-O.

A nicotine addiction alone doesn't say much, except that her willpower could use work. But a girlfriend of six months who doesn't feel welcome at your family functions? That plus her shaky resolve suggests we're dealing with a major self-worth deficiency here. Which is why I'll refrain from any use of the term "head case."

2. You're not helping.

I'm not suggesting you indulge her hang-ups—caving in to every fear can't be anyone's idea of a full and productive life. But forging ahead as if she were hang-up free doesn't make sense, either. You pull away from her because she "reeks," you invite her to meet the family when they're mid-celebration—both of these could make a confident person's blood pressure spike. Put someone who doubts herself into these stressful positions, and she'll feel like the Stench Who Came to Dinner.

Maybe you'd prefer a stronger person, fair enough. But if you do care about her and you do want to make this work, you'll need to accept that she's wobbly and show some extra patience and support.

Ask her what you can do to help her quit smoking, for example, and offer to go through hell with her by



giving up a vice of your own.

Ask her if there is a way she'd prefer to meet your family—say, one at a time on her turf, or with a direct invitation from your mom instead of a, "Hey, stop by at their special party." Skittish animals require time and patience before you can draw them out into the open.

Unless they're funky deep-sea creatures, who will never come up to the light. If drawing her out doesn't work, then you'll have to decide how you feel about insecure women who smoke.

Hi Carolyn:

So here's the deal: Popeye and Olive go out to dinner with Popeye's best friend, Brutus.

During the course of dinner, Popeye and Brutus each put away most of their 32 ounces of beer. (Olive is driving, she has soda.) Brutus decides it's time to go so he chugs the rest of his beer. Popeye says he doesn't want the rest. Brutus says that, as a friend, he'd be very happy to chug the rest of Popeye's beer too. Only problem is,

Brutus brought his own car and is about to get behind the wheel drunk. Olive speaks up, only to get a reply of, "Don't worry, I've driven drunker." Not good ... VERY not good. Popeye is stuck in the middle, Olive is playing "mom" (as Brutus says), and Brutus has no intention of changing his ways.

Is there anything that can be done, short of refusing to go where Brutus has access to beer? Brutus does not accept a designated driver and gets upset when confronted. Popeye says just to ignore it.

- Olive

I know Popeye. Popeye can tell right from wrong, stands up to that bully Brutus, defends Olive's honor, eats plenty of leafy greens and unfailingly saves the day.

Your boyfriend's no Popeye.

The Brutuses of the world—also known as "jerks"—gravitate to people like your boyfriend. That way they can drive blotto, cop an attitude about it and insult their girlfriends with absolute confidence that their

heroic response will be, "I think I'll just ignore it."

Just so you know, three beers over an hour or two during dinner for a large man may not necessarily add up to a DUI. It's the chugging on the way to the car that adds up to a large, arrogant mouth-breather who should get the hell off the road.

You, Ms. Oyl, have one moral imperative that comes with two choices. You can insist that any evening with Brutus start with your stopping by to pick him up or else there's no evening with Brutus. Or you can decide that your Wimpy lacks the intestinal fortitude to be worth your time. Either way, eat a piece of cheesecake or something. You look awful.

Write to "Tell Me About It," c/o The Washington Post, Style Plus, 1150 15th St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20071 or e-mail: tellme@washpost.com. Chat online with Carolyn each Friday at noon and Monday at 8 p.m. at www.washingtonpost.com.

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Features

Arrivederci
USB Students Study Abroad in RomeBy JULIE BLOCK
Statesman Staff

Jeanette Vega was surprised by the old women on mopeds. Jenny Haseney was surprised by the unpopularity of shorts amongst the natives. Both students attended SUNY Stony Brook's Summer in Rome Program last year.

"A lot of places in Rome were overwhelmingly beautiful," Jeanette Vega, a junior majoring in Italian and Psychology, said. Vega, who had never been to Italy, had taken Italian classes prior to the program. Others, such as Jenny Haseney, her roommate on the trip, went on the program not knowing a word of Italian.

The program, which consists of courses to be taken for credit in Rome, also includes weekend excursions to Capri, Assisi, Siena, Venice, Tivoli, Florence, and an optional trip to Pompeii.

Vega found the trip to Venice the most enjoyable. "It's a different atmosphere. It seemed almost like an island," Vega said. Haseney, also said Venice was her favorite and recalls riding a gondola through Venice.

Mario B. Mignone, the director of the Center for Italian Studies at SUNY Stony Brook and who directs Summer in Rome, described Venice as magical. "It's magic when the students get on the ferry. They are overwhelmed by the surroundings, the sights, the city on water. We get there at dusk and it's really a spectacle. It's an image that you'll never forget."

Mignone said that studying abroad in Rome is enlightening for students, especially those who have not lived in urban areas. "It is extremely important that the students go abroad and see how another part of the world thinks. It's a way of life. It's behavior."

Wendy Longo, who attended the trip in the summer of 1998, said that some of the Italian manners can be shocking to Americans. Longo, who had lived in Italy for two years prior to the program, said that Italians are more open than Americans. "The guys there just make you feel like a princess," Longo said. "An American girl is not used to that because here we're practically asking out the guys."

Joanna Wegielnik, who attended the program in 1997, said, however, that she was insulted by the treatment she got from Italian men. "I found the behavior of Italian men towards women, especially American women, repulsive. I have never experienced that level of harassment in my life."

Wegielnik, a senior and a political science major, said she found the program fee to be overpriced and rented a room in an apartment in Italy. "I arranged my own housing by renting a room in an apartment for \$500 and with the rest of the money, which would have gone to the exorbitant program fee, I bought a Eurorail pass and traveled all over Europe for the rest of the summer."

Most of the participants, however, stayed at the Domus Mariae, previously a nun convent, and where the classes are held. A newly built metro line near Domus Mariae allows students easy access to all the areas of Rome, according to

Mignone.

Haseney, a senior majoring in psychology, said she liked the freedom the program gave to explore Rome. "It was good that we were able to go off on our own," Haseney said. Haseney said, however, that her desire to experience Rome sometimes conflicted with class work. "It was hard with the classes and to have to sit down and study when you are in a foreign country."

Mignone, who teaches the Modern Italy course on the program and during the school year, said that he finds it much easier to teach the course in Italy. "In Italy it is easier to teach the course since you are in the social and cultural context," Mignone said. "A lot of times I invite members of the Italian parliament. When I talk about labor in Italy and unions, I invite a union leader to speak about labor laws in Italy."

Mignone, who has been teaching at Stony Brook since 1970, started the program in 1980. "The first year we had 12 students and since then the program has been growing," Mignone said. "Two years ago we had the highest enrollment of 58 students."

Wendy Longo said she liked the program was small in number. "It's a small group of people and you get to meet everybody," Longo said. "There were people that I met that were from Stony Brook that I would never had met had I not gone on this trip."

There is a bond that forms between participants on the trip, Longo said. "Because everybody doesn't know where they are or what to do, everybody is dependent upon each other and you grow that bond."

Longo recently went to Italy over spring break. "There's so much to see in Rome," Longo said. "There is always something new."

The summer program, Mignone said, is independent from any University and is staffed by the program. Grades received in the summer program get averaged into one's cumulative average. Students can take between six to nine credits in subjects including Italian Art History, Modern Italy, and an Italian language course over a period of four weeks.

Mignone described the program, as a combination of an academic program but there is also a cultural enrichment that comes from observation." Mignone said that students on the trip observe the importance of human interaction in Italian life. "Students are amazed at life in Italian squares," Mignone said. "Here we have squares, but they are just an architectural type of thing. It's a space. In Italy it is a space for human interaction where people go to see other people."

Hilary Nat said she looks forward to examining the architecture of Italy's Vatican and Sistine Chapel this summer. Nat, a junior majoring in political science at SUNY Stony Brook said she intends on attending the Summer in Rome program. "I've always wanted to do a study abroad program," Nat said. "The timing is good because it's not a whole semester. I'll get to see the country, learn some Italian, and earn some credits."



A Stony Brook Summer in Rome includes courses that can be taken for credit, and weekend excursions around the country.