

Police Blotter: Rash of
Campus Burglaries, pg 2

Times Reporter to have *Coffee
and Conversation*, pg 5

The Stony Brook

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Statesman


VOLUME XLII, NUMBER 27

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1999

PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

The Point of Conception

Stony Brook
Researcher
Uncovers Keys to
Unlocking
Mysteries of the
Beginning of Life



University Professor Nicole
Sampson, whose team
discovered important
information in ovum-
sperm interactions, in her
lab this week.

CRR

Rash of Thefts Start Off Semester

January 19, 1999

6:11 a.m.

A beeper was stolen from the Melville Library Custodial Office.

1:25 p.m.

A 98% sulfuric acid solution splashed and hit an engineer at the COEGEN Plant on the forehead, chest and neck. He suffered an eye injury and was transported to the University Hospital by SBVAC.

3:56 p.m.

A credit card, paycheck, Stony Brook ID, and \$30 were stolen from a wallet that was in a dorm room in Baruch College.

6:14 p.m.

A bicyclist was struck by a vehicle in the Administration Garage when she crossed the pedestrian crosswalk while dismounting her bike. SBVAC was notified but victim refused treatment.

6:21 p.m.

A wallet and an Aiwa Stereo worth \$350 were stolen from a room in Benedict College. The window in the room was found open.

11:14 p.m.

A lost dog was found in Greely inner quad and was brought to H Quad. The owner later came and

claimed the dog.

January 20, 1999

12:54 a.m.

A smoke and fire alarm was pulled in Toscanini College.

3:15 p.m.

A male passed out in a bathroom in Benedict College for unknown reasons. He was incoherent and was brought to the University Hospital by SBVAC. He was not intoxicated.

5:02 p.m.

A wallet was reported lost in the Humanities Building.

January 21, 1999

Time Unknown

A Langmuir student with abdominal pain was brought to the University Hospital. The student had stomach cramps and had been vomiting all afternoon.

5:04 p.m.

An unconscious male was found at the University Bookstore. He was transported to the University Hospital via SBVAC.

6:18 p.m.

A wallet was lost in Psychology A. A bank card, several credit cards, Stony Brook ID and immigration card were in the wallet.



Statesman/Tee Lek D. Ying

A beeper was stolen from the Melville Library last week.

9:57 p.m.

A vehicle in the ESS Parking Lot was robbed. An am/fm stereo was taken along with a 60 watt amp and a car alarm system. The estimated worth of all items is \$1625.

brought to the University Hospital via SBVAC.

8:09 p.m.

Two suspicious males were reported to be seen in the Roth Quad Cafe Parking Lot.

January 22, 1999

12:21 p.m.

An intoxicated male was reported to be unconscious on the floor in Toscanini College. He was

January 24, 1999

12:06 p.m.

Money was stolen from a vending machine in the ESS lobby.

Blotter of the Week

January 21, 1999

Time Unknown

Two roommates in Gray College left many of their items in their room over the break. They came back to find \$1100 worth of items stolen, which included a scientific calculator, green cardigan sweater, refrigerator, black velvet coat, maroon bathrobe, contacts, Rubbermaid canisters, notebooks, tapes, tape recorder, paper supplies, perfume and personal hygiene items. The other roommate had her boom box, television and iron taken, and a friend had textbooks stolen. The beds, however, remained.

The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, January 28, 1999

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When the Sperm Meets the Egg

Stony Brook Scientist's Team Finds Key Protein Involved in Human Conception

By PETER GRATTON
Statesman Editor

At eight years old, Professor Nicole Sampson was already a budding scientist, playing with sugar to form crystals.

But the research that landed Sampson, a member of Stony Brook's chemistry department, in top scientific magazines earlier this month was a long way from growing sugar crystals.

Sampson's research team, using the latest in cutting edge knowledge on the interaction of the body's proteins, and "a bit of luck" as one colleague put it, brought scientists closer to understanding one of the central mysteries in the formation of human life: what is it that male sperm cells latch onto on a woman's ovum, or egg, that begins the process of conception?

"You don't really understand biological interactions until you know in some detail what the molecules involved are doing," said Professor Robert Kerber, the chairman of undergraduate studies for

"Every now and then there is research that hits on something that is really relevant to everyday life, Professor Sampson has done that."
-Chemistry Chairman
Iwao Ojima

the Chemistry Department, "Professor Sampson's results describe a key molecular step in the crucial ovum-sperm interaction."

This key step is when a protein molecule from the membrane of the sperm cell attaches itself onto a protein receptor on the ovum. Scientists have long known the identity of the sperm's protein, called fertilin-beta, but have until now been unable to identify the molecule that acts as its receptor on the ovum surface [see diagram]. An analogy to the dilemma would be that of a key and lock. For some time, scientists have known the identity of the key, the fertilin protein in male sperm, without knowing which lock it fit into on the ovum.

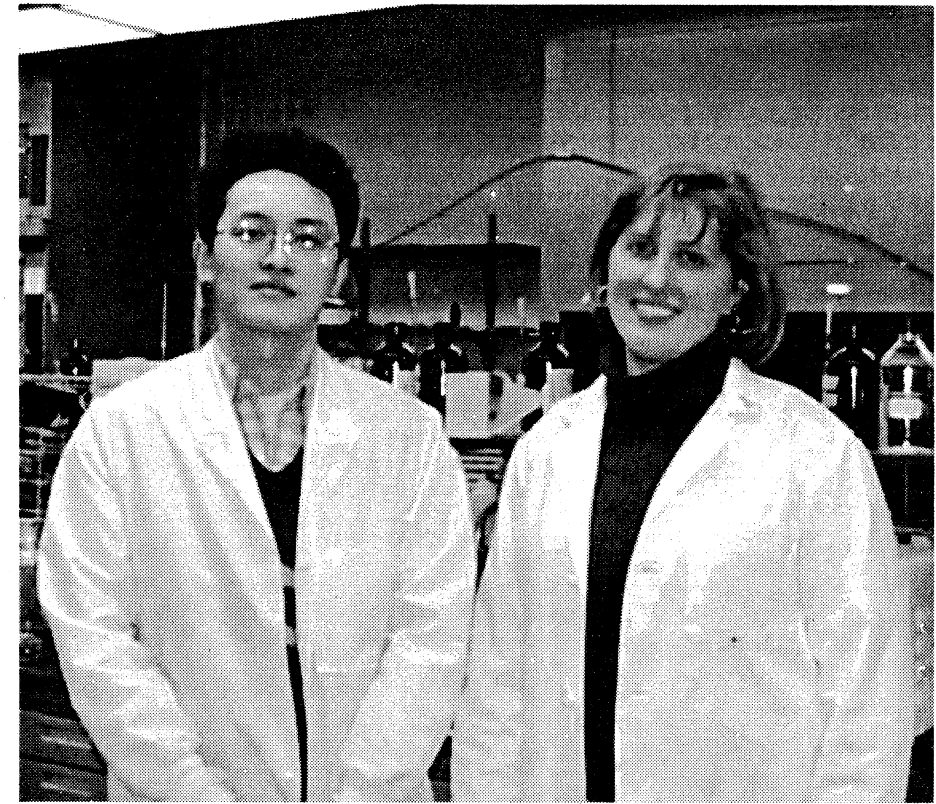
"Every now and then there is research that hits on something that is really relevant to everyday life," said Chemistry Department Chairman Iwao Ojima, "Professor Sampson's has done that."

The Sampson team's identification of the ovum receptor is important, experts say, because it may lead to a new class of contraceptive drugs that physically blocks the receptors by tricking them into believing that a sperm has attached itself to the membrane of the egg. By closing the receptors, sperm would be unable to enter and fertilize the ovum.

Sampson's findings in the area of ovum-sperm interaction is likely to aid other researchers working on other cell connections. "What she has found has implications related to a host of molecular cell adhesion issues," said Paul Primokoff, a cell biologist and professor at the University of California at Davis.

In conducting this research, Sampson's team entered an area of study that few private companies dare to tread. "Product liability is why they don't," said Sampson, "We don't have to worry about that because we're not developing drugs [that could have side effects], we're just conducting research."

The fact that Sampson conducted her research here, at a public university, has implications, Stony Brook University officials note, beyond making up for a lack of work being conducted in this area in the private sector; graduate and undergraduate students took part at various stages of Sampson's study,



Statesman/Michael Kwan

Professor Sampson with her research assistant Hui Chen, her partner in the discovery.

moving their education beyond the classroom setting.

"The importance of research to the University is the opportunity in bringing in professors who have inquiring minds," said Gail Habicht, University vice-president for research and a professor in the Pathology Department, "The kind of people that can do that can excite bright inquiring students."

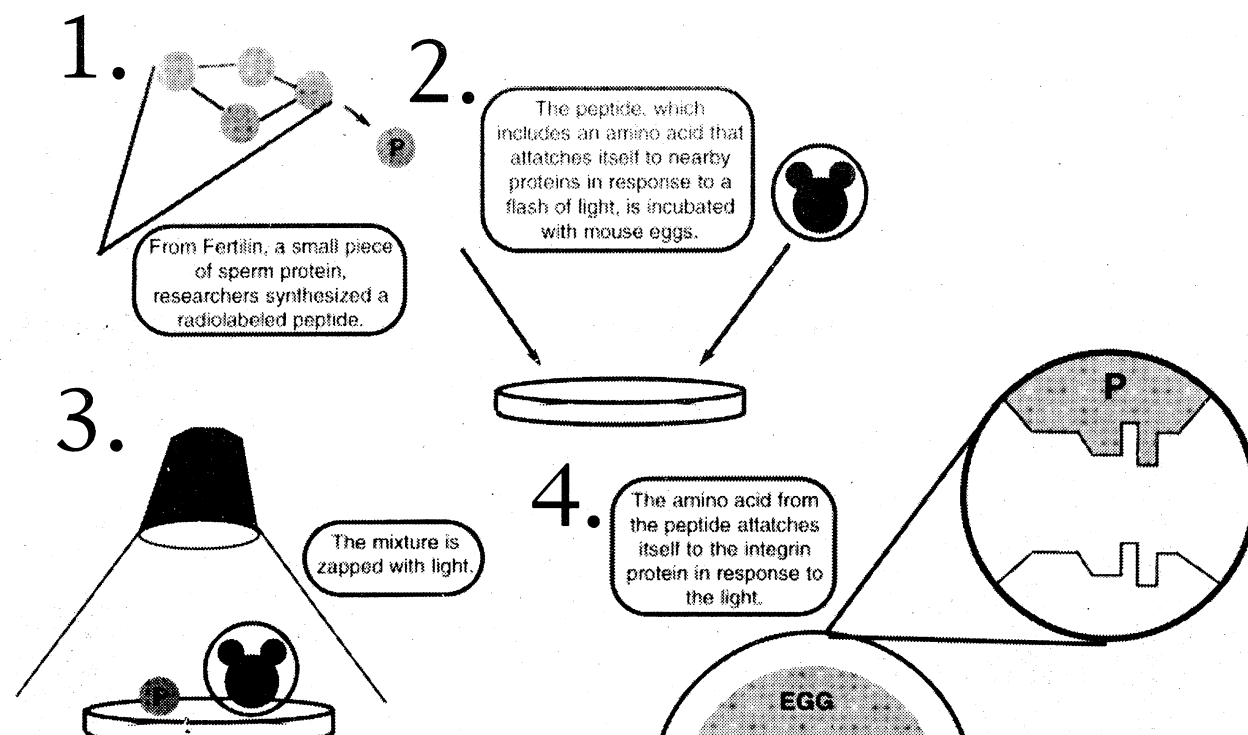
Sampson agreed. "Professors who conduct research stay excited about it, and can communicate that excitement to students," she said.

If Sampson and Habicht are correct, then a number of students at the University are getting motivated by their work

outside of the classroom. The University ranks in the top tier nationally of higher education research institutions, spending an estimated \$111 million on studies conducted at the University last year alone.

For now, Sampson says that she will continue to work to identify other ovum membrane receptors that take in sperm proteins, which begins the process of egg fertilization. "We've identified only one receptor," she said, noting that any contraceptives that come out of her research would, she estimated, block only 90% of the membrane pathways. "There's no such thing as being 10% pregnant," Sampson said, "we have a lot of work to do." □

How Researchers Found the Identity of the Ovum Receptor



Statesman Illustration/John Giuffo

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Head of the Class

Sociology Class Offered for Student Leaders

By JENNIFER KESTER
Statesman Editor

In a university where students are in classes with sometimes a hundred other undergraduates, it is easy to shrink into the background and avoid being the brave student to answer a question. But in Sociology 268, the reverse is true.

"Participation is certainly required," said Cheryl Chambers, the course coordinator and instructor. Students are expected to share thoughts and opinions during exercises relating to leadership and group theory. "The main purpose of the class is to provide students with theory and experience to acquire skills and enhance knowledge in three specific areas: leadership, group dynamics and personal development," Chambers said.

To do this, the course uses lectures, group exercises, personal assessment and experimental techniques. One example of these interaction tactics is the lesson the class learns on values and ethics. The students respond to a survey that has a variety of situations, some being bad and some good. They then compare their responses with the same survey taken by a cross-section of subjects from Pittsburgh. The comparison teaches of the different personal values that society has. The results, according to Chambers, are dramatic. One of the situations on the survey was drinking and driving. The students in past classes found that some consider drunk driving horrible and some found it to be okay, just as long as no one is killed.

Another important aspect of the class is the interactions between the students and their instructors. The class, which meets on Wednesdays from 2:20 p.m. to 5:20 p.m., in Room 216 in the Student Union, is also taught by Kevin Shannon, a student activities advisor, and Derrick Thomas, a residence hall director. The hope is that having three instructors will bring different perspectives to the class. Thomas, who brings the resident's perspectives, said that the other two instructors have the "beat and pulse" of other campus viewpoints, including those of commuters.

The course, which has a maximum enrollment of 32 and has been offered at the University for 15 years and bears three credits, targets student leaders, but is not exclusively open to them. "I recommend the class to students new to the campus, who want to learn about leadership. Whether you have never had any leadership experience or are a leader, the class has universal appeal," said Thomas, who is teaching the class for the first time.

The class, which lays its foundation in group theory and dynamics, may sound unrelated to any departmental studies, but has in-class and outside requirements based in sociological research and ideas. "There is a whole body of knowledge in leadership and leadership development in the sociology field," Chambers said.

The outside requirements of the course are four quizzes and three observation papers. There is also a group project where the students are put

together and must research a campus problem and find a solution.

The skills that are taught through these requirements include those of communication, decision making, power, time management and cultural diversity. The hopes of the instructors are that these skills will be applied in the workplace, class, extracurricular activities and everyday life. "I believe what is taught in the classroom can be brought with them [the students] to all managerial positions," Chambers said.

Thomas agreed, and said that when the course is over, the students will have a mini-library from the numerous support material, and will walk away knowing their own leadership style, their strengths, weaknesses and know how to relate to others.

Chambers said, "I would say that offering this type of course in a college or university is rare and Stony Brook has been on the cutting edge in leadership development. It is really a special opportunity."

Geology Open Night to be Held



Geology Professor Donald Weidner

By PETER GRATTON
Statesman Editor

For most Long Islanders, the threat of earthquakes is a far off concern. They remain, however, among the most powerful of forces shaping our planet.

This Friday, Stony Brook University Professor Donald Weidner will begin the Geology Department's Open Night series for the Spring semester with a talk about the latest in research on the causes of earthquakes.

"I'm going to survey the ways in which people thought about them," said Weidner.

The talk, however, will not just

concern the history of earthquake theory. "This talk will give the general public frontier science," said Geology Professor Gilbert Hanson, pointing out that Weidner will review what is known about earthquakes that occur deep within the earth's crust.

"For shallow earthquakes, friction is the key to understanding them," Weidner said, "the increased pressure at the fault line causes slips on previous folds."

Weidner's talk, which the Geology Department expects to gather over one hundred participants, will explore how these processes relate to deep earthquakes. □

Bouchier To Share Some Coffee at Stony Brook

Michael Kwan
Statesman Editor

For an interesting and stimulating evening of conversation, students should try one of the Coffee and Conversations held every month in the Social and Behavioral Sciences building.

A unique combination of lecture and discussion, the sessions feature coffee, cookies and a round table conversation with the special guest. The first will feature New York Times and NPR radio personality, David Bouchier.

Bouchier returns this year to talk about the so-called "Millennial Madness" that society is currently embroiled in. While the specifics of what his talk will be on aren't known, not even to himself, he does plan to pose the question, "Have we really made any progress in the last millennium?" He also plans to

draw a comparison between the "craziness" that we are in the midst of against that 1000 years ago, looking at the similarities and differences between now and then.

"I'm going to look at the facts and the myths about the new millennium," said Bouchier. He plans to take the audience on a "speculative tour around the myths about the millennium" by showing short videos and slides on what may come.

This will be the second year in a row that Bouchier has done a Coffee and Conversation. According to Deborah Hecht, the director of the Coffee and Conversation Series, the reason for Bouchier's return is his "combination of tremendous intelligence and wit." "When David looks at things and gives his impression, he makes his audience see ordinary objects in an extraordinary way," she said.

The other guests appearing this



Courtesy of Kim Garvin

New York Times reporter David Bouchier will be the guest speaker in the upcoming Coffee and Conversations.

season are, Alan Zola Kronzek, a professional magician and expert in deception, and author Barbara Esstman, whose novel titled *Night Ride Home* has been made into a Hallmark Hall of Fame movie.

Bouchier will speak at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, February 5, in Room S102 of SBS. Kronzek and Esstman will be speaking at the same time and place on March 5, and May 7 respectively.



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B-Ball Teams Play With Heart

BY CLIFFORD MARK
Statesman Editor

On Saturday, the Seawolves basketball teams went right for the heart. Both the men's and women's teams successfully defended their home turf against division rivals, the Sacred Heart Pioneers.

The women's team started things off right by beating the Pioneers 59-56. Averaging 11.5 points per game, freshman Courtney Ray has proven herself to be the performance leader of the team. She had another outstanding game with twenty points and seven rebounds. This is her fifth game in a row that she reached double-double figures.

The lady Seawolves controlled the first half of play and were on a roll going into the locker-room, 27-20. Ray put fourteen of her twenty points in the bag during the first half.

The Pioneers increased the pressure on Ray and the Seawolves in the second half, slowing down Stony Brooks scoring. With only six minutes left in the game, the Sacred

Heart Pioneers overtook Stony Brook 47-45, on a 10-0 run. With only two minutes left in the game, Stony Brook's Christina Pagan pulled up for a jumper and drained it to take the lead, 52-50. The Seawolves never looked back as Beth Gryns, a senior, sank four free throws within the final minute.

The Women's Basketball team has a overall record of 5-14 and 4-7 in the NECC.

However, the women weren't the only winners of the night.

The men's team demonstrated that they have what it takes to compete in Division I ball by beating Sacred Heart 83-70, which is another university that is taking the big step to Division I Basketball next year. Both teams are finding themselves in the same muddy waters, facing more experienced Division I colleges. These two division rivals were battling it out for more than the win. They were battling for the edge that would give them the reassurance that they have what it takes to

Continued on Page 8



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A Celebration of Color

Marking Black History Month

Black History Month is always cause for celebration. It is an opportunity for African Americans to embrace each other and the accomplishments they have made as a people, in spite of a long history of prejudices and struggle. It is also a time for people who are not African American to learn about the important contributions people of color have made to our world in such areas as science, medicine and the arts, just to name a few. It is a month filled with pride for all races, where we can marvel at the unbreakable spirit of humans in the face of years of brutality and subversion.

The February event has always been well-observed here at Stony Brook with such things as the Black and Gold Ball and lectures by prominent figures within the African American community. This year will be no different as we have the honor and pleasure of welcoming United States Surgeon General David Satcher, who will lecture February

10 on eliminating the racial disparities that exist in the health field. To go along with this, on February 15, there will be a program devoted to the awareness and early detection of breast cancer in women of color. There will also be the Black Expo on February 12 where positive and successful African Americans in such fields as politics, business and education will have the opportunity to meet with students to give them advice and to answer their questions.

As if all this was not enough, this year will prove to be particularly significant here on campus as the title dedicated to the festivities suggests: "A Victory for One is a Victory for All." Of course, this victory is the promotion of African Studies from program status to full-fledged department rank, as of last semester. The change was brought about in the true tradition and lessons taught by the

civil rights leaders of the past, many of whom we honor during Black History Month. This change was accomplished through demonstrations and discontent on the part of students and certain members of the faculty. It is this heritage of hard work and perseverance that we celebrate in order to keep these qualities alive. The month's festivities will be filled with the luminous spirit of success that is sure to be fresh in the minds of all participants here at Stony Brook.

It is important to note as the event draws near, that Black History Month is an occasion to be observed by more than just the African American community. Black history is American history and African American successes are American successes that we should all hail. These are important facts to remember as we move forward into the new millennium with hopes of racial unity and harmony in mind.

Safety Measures Left Undone

Dear Editor:

The Stony Brook campus definitely looks beautiful when the sun is shining. But what a difference some snow and ice makes. I think I speak for all the University employees here at Stony Brook when I say what a disgrace it was attempting to walk across the campus this morning, following yesterday's snow and ice storm. I saw several people attempting to reach various academic buildings, only to succumb to the treacherous icy conditions that existed. Numerous individuals had fallen and severely injured themselves. What a disturbing sight to see an older-aged woman stranded in the middle of a large ice patch, adjacent to the campus bookstore, with no place to go. Fortunately, with the assistance of two other people, the woman was able to make it to safety.

The amount of money expended for snow and ice removal is phenomenal. My concern is the lack of organization and prioritizing on the part of the Physical Plant. When classes are not in session, access to the academic buildings should be a top priority. Employees begin arriving on campus during the early hours, between 6:00 a.m.

and 8:00 a.m. The Physical Plant should ensure that the campus roadways and paths to the academic buildings are clear and safe for walking. It makes no sense to begin plowing and sanding the campus walkways at 9:00 a.m. after the faculty and staff have already arrived and

numerous of them have fallen.

It appears the Administration is more concerned with beautification of the campus and increase of student enrollment, while forgetting about the safety of the faculty and staff.

From a Stony Brook employee

Special Announcements

*The *Statesman* will be printing its annual Valentine's Day love and hate personals in the upcoming Valentine's Day Issue. If you want to let that special someone know how much you appreciate or despise them, you can do it for free in the *Statesman*. All submissions must be in by Tuesday, February 9. You can drop by and put them in the Columns mailbox in the office, or e-mail us at statesmn@ic.sunysb.edu

*With spring right around the corner, the *Statesman* will be putting out its literary supplement. We are currently taking literary and photography submissions. For more information call 632-6479 and ask for Peter Gratton.

Men's and Women's Basketball

Continued from page 6

compete at the next level.

The Seawolves had a good showing of teamwork with #42 Achilleas Klepkos and #33 Chris Balliro guiding the way. Klepkos is averaging almost eleven points per game with six rebounds. Balliro adds accuracy by hitting over 81 percent of his field goals. In Saturday's game versus the Pioneers, Klepkos had a career-high, twenty-two points with nine rebounds. Balliro used his skills to add sixteen points to the effort. The Seawolves passed the ball around to spread out the defense which kept the Pioneers off balance. Number 10 Steve Prata, a junior who has 74 assists and 31 steals on the year, scored 13 points. Also #34 Stefan Salden, a freshman, had ten points to round out the team effort.

The Men's team has an overall record of 6-13 and 5-5 in the NECC.

Community Announcements:

By popular demand, the Harriman Cafe has extended its hours 'till 11 pm on Tues/Wed/Thur starting February 2. Come for coffee or espresso, drinks, conversation, chess, or cards. There will be occasional live music.

The first meeting of the Undergraduate Philosophy Society will take place on February 5 in the Philosophy Undergraduate Lounge on the second floor of Harriman Hall. The first in a series of talks headed by undergraduate students will be given. All community members are welcome.

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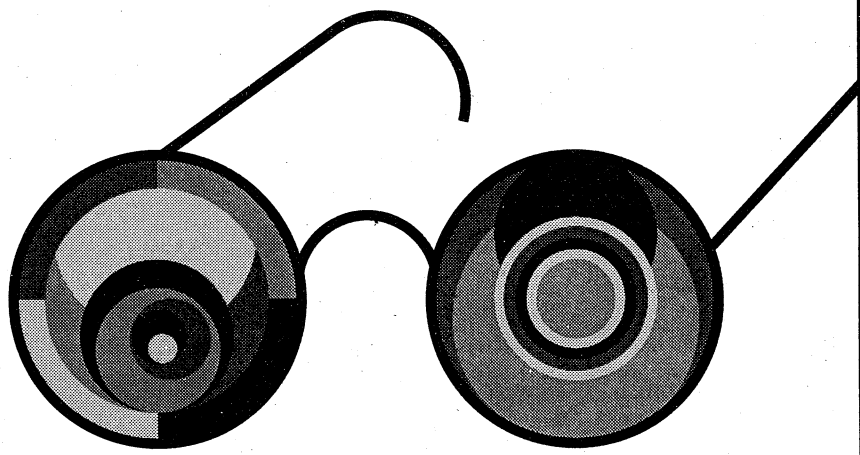
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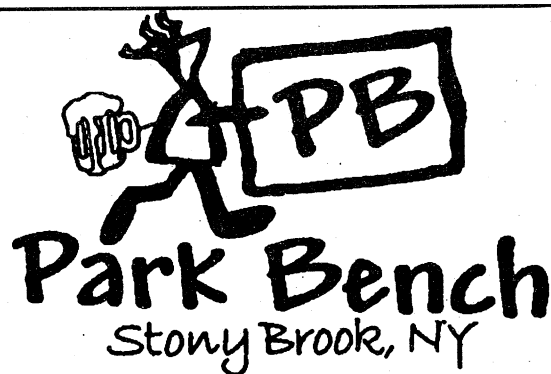
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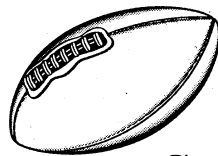
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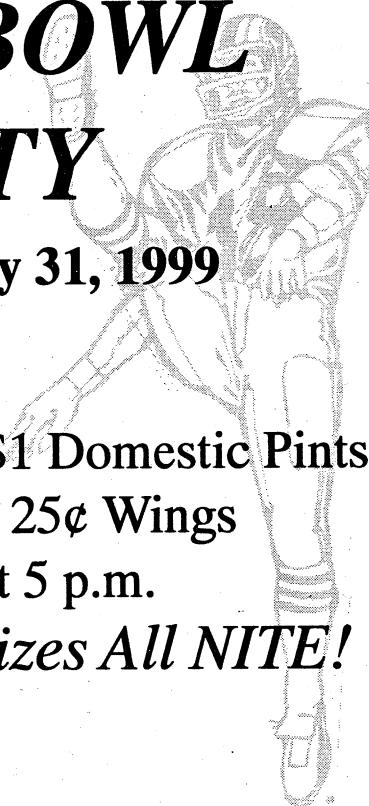
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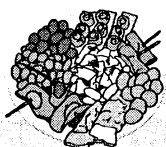


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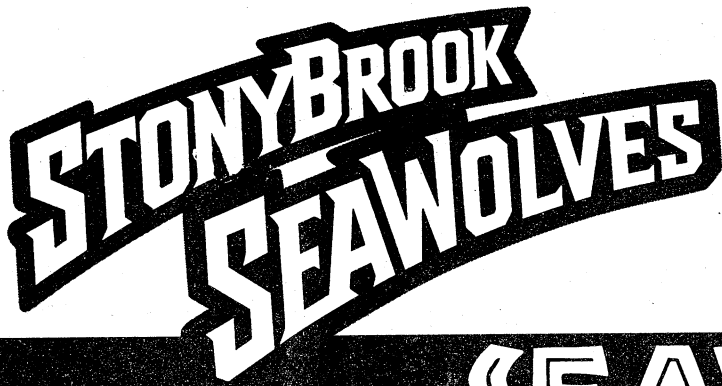
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3. Intramurals	3

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EVENT #4
FEB. 13
BANNER
CONTEST

OVERALL RESULTS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>TOTAL POINTS</u>
EXB	15.5
CSO	13.5
DSP/SLG	13
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INTRAMURALS	5
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Features

Reaching For a High Note

A Look At Student Auditions for Stony Brook Choral

BY HEATHER BRENT
Special to the Statesman

It's 7:25 p.m. As I walk down the hall in the Staller Center for the Arts I hear soprano voices singing pieces of opera. I see a nervous student making the sign of the cross before she enters room 0113 to audition for the Stony Brook Choral. Minutes later, Music Director Timothy Mount walks down the hall clutching a crate filled with sheets of music, pamphlets, and syllabi. He is surrounded by tense students as he makes his way to the piano in the center of the room. As the rest of the crowd files in, Mount directs members and prospective members of the Stony Brook Choral to sit in their appropriate sections according to voice: soprano, tenor, bass, and alto.

For the most part, the students auditioning are



Music students auditioning for the 50 member choral Monday Night (above). Dr. Timothy Mount conducting potential choral members (below).

apprehensive, mentally preparing themselves to sing different musical styles, from Broadway plays such as *Les Miserables* and *Phantom of the Opera* to more pop oriented songs like Bette Midler's *Wind Beneath My Wings*. The diverse group of musicians assembled ranges in age, musical preference, and background.

Eventually, 15 people will audition for the 50 member Choral, each bringing a musical piece of their own choice. There are no standard qualifications to join the Choral, although auditioning students are expected to be able to read sheet music. This doesn't help ease the tension in the room.

"People are always nervous for auditions," says Mount, "The more you do it, the less nervous you are."

Some students, of course, are more confident than others. Gordafreed Bulsara has always dreamed of becoming a singer. "One day I'll be filling coliseums all over the world... and you can quote me on that," she says. Bulsara's role models are Debbie Gibson and Celine

Dion. She says, "I would love to do a duet with [Celine Dion] someday."

Other students are auditioning for fun, including freshman, Elizabeth Scotto-Lavino. Scotto-Lavino sang in the glee club in high school and says that she looks up to her mother who plays piano.

Some musicians have more serious intentions and plan to pursue a career in music. Sophomore, Regina McNeish, would eventually like to see herself as a professional pianist, producer, and/or song writer. She has sung and danced in high school plays, "Bye Bye Birdie," and "Anything Goes." She also enjoys singing in the shower. McNeish has never had any role models, but as a child she fell in love with the pop star Prince, and planned to marry him until she grew up and found out that she was taller than him. She also admires the musical talents of performers such as Stevie Wonder and Jon B. She has been playing the piano since the fourth grade and is sure that the piano will be a part of her future.

"I know the piano will show me better days," she says.

If you would like to see the Stony Brook Choral perform, their first concert is on Saturday, April 24th. Director Mount said that he is looking for additional men to join the Choral. If you are interested in auditioning for the Choral, you can e-mail Mount at tmount@notes.cc.sunysb.edu.



The following issue, dated “Feb. 1, 1998” should have been dated Feb. 1, 1999 and numbered “31”.

