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## SBU and Habitat for Humanity: Building a Family's Dream

By Emy Kuriakose  
Statesman Editor

Stony Brook University and Habitat for Humanity have allied themselves in a project to build houses for needy families on Long Island. The School of Medicine and the Office of the Vice President at SBU worked together to encourage students, faculty and staff to support Habitat in the Washington Mutual walk-a-thon this past Sunday, Sept. 29 at Hecksher State Park. All funds raised by the Stony Brook team went to the organization to subsidize current and future construction.

"We [were] trying to recruit as many walkers as possible. [The walk was] an opportunity for everyone to get involved in the community, and 100 percent of our money goes to Habitat," said Lori Marjowski, Financial Specialist, Office of Grants Management, SBU.

Stony Brook's partnership with Habitat began early in 2002, when the University helped raise money for a house in Suffolk county. The building process, which began this past July at a site on the corner of, The house is located at the corner of Brookhaven and Bourdois Avenues, is being undertaken by a volunteer force of SBU students, faculty and staff.. "The University works as a whole on Habitat projects. Students can get involved by joining the Stony Brook team," Marjowski said.

In the Spring of 2002, Stony Brook surpassed its projected goal of \$40,000, raising more than \$58,000 for the organization. Organizers hope to repeat this success.

In the 2002 "Year of Community Leadership" at Stony Brook, President Shirley Strum Kenny showed stolid support for Habitat, and urged students to join the cause.

"Habitat offers the most effective and imaginative volunteer housing program yet devised, bringing volunteers and partners together and making our society more caring and secure," Kenny said in a statement about the group's spring project.

The walk-a-thon comes at a time when real estate prices on Long Island have soared to a medium resale of \$245,000, and the average income on Long Island is only \$69,000. With the supply of volunteer labor for Habitat houses, building costs run about \$60,000 including services and supplies, and the organization can build three at a time.

"We hope to finish 10 homes by this year. With our success rate, Habitat at Suffolk County is now the third ranked [chapter of Habitat] in the Northeast," said Lori Schoeller, Family Services Coordinator of Habitat for Humanity of Suffolk.

The families chosen to live in a newly built house meet certain criteria.

Recipients of a Habitat dwelling have to fall within a certain income bracket, demonstrate a need for the housing, and must become a partner with Habitat for a designated time.

"Families can work on their own houses and on others'. They have to put in 'sweat Equity' as their down payment," Schoeller said. Families are required to put in 300-500 hours for volunteer work with the organization to complete their "payment." The family also pays a low monthly mortgage because there is no profit included in the sale price and no interest charged on the mortgage.

"Right now, over 500 families live in shelters in Suffolk County," Schoeller said. The rate of poverty in Suffolk County has only increased with the rise of recent unemployment rates in the country. Habitat's mission, which SBU has adopted, is to keep families in a decent



Stony Brook volunteers for Habitat work hard to build new homes for needy families on Long Island.

quality-of-life setting at a cost suitable for a low-income household and out of substandard housing conditions.

"Join us in this valuable work, and show that, all together, Stony Brook cares," President Kenny said.

For information on Habitat for Humanity at SBU schedules and volunteer info, go to <http://www.stonybrook.edu/sb/habitat>.

## Book on SBU Brings History to the Forefront

By SAL VAGLICA  
Statesman Contributor

In 1957, a university began with 148 students in a 65 room estate in Oyster Bay. Later those numbers would boom up to 18,600 students on nearly 1,200 acres. Rock 'n roll icons like Jimi Hendrix and the Doors have played on those acres, and ceremonies honoring the likes of the 14th Dalai Lama have been held. *Stony Brook: The State University of New York* revisits these events and many more as the latest book in a series chronicling American universities.

The book, published by Arcadia in August of 2002, is a photographic timeline detailing the growth of SBU. Stony Brook alumni Kristen J. Nyitray and Ann M. Becker began work on the

project in October of 2001.

"It was a labor of love," Nyitray said. Both Becker and Nyitray work in the Special Collections and University Archives section of the Frank Melville, Jr. Memorial Library. It was in the Melville Library that the idea for a book about SBU was conceived.

Becker, who holds an MAT in social studies and is currently working towards a Ph.D. in history, became excited about the project after completing a display case celebrating the university's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1998. When Nyitray began work in Special Collections in 2000, the stage was set for the birth of the book.

"She had the idea for the book in 2001, and asked me to help

because of my work with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary display," Becker said.

Most of the information for the book was available in their department, but even so,. The project was a massive undertaking. Nyitray and Becker sifted through an estimated 700 photos from over a dozen cardboard boxes, as well as the vast resources in the Special Collections filing cabinets. More pictures came from Stony Brook hospital, and archives of campus publications like *Specula* and *Statesman*. Each of the chapters encapsulates a chronology of campus growth and development. "I did the first three chapters. Anne did four through six," Nyitray said.

Each decade had its own major

events that deserved recognition. Becker said that they could have easily dedicated the entire 128 pages they were allotted to a single decade. They created a timeline, and then located photos to

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# Stony Brook University Featured in a Book

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accompany event descriptions.

"We were trying to cover as much as we could given the parameters of the book," Becker said.

The paperback, using photos and captions, illustrates the awards, research, athletics, and achievements of the university dating back to its founding. All of the presidents of SBU are included, from Dr. John Francis Lee to current president Dr. Shirley Strum Kenny.

The cover photo is not an image current students would recognize. It is a picture of the William Robertson Coe estate that housed the first students into the then small teacher preparatory college located in Oyster Bay. Tuition at the college was free. The initial curriculum was based in humanities, communications, German, social sciences, education, mathematics and natural sciences.

The book also pays homage to the people whose vision of Stony Brook enabled the university to grow. Frank Melville, Jr., Ward Melville; former U.S. senator and New York Attorney General Jacob K. Javits, for whom campus buildings were named, all appear in the pages.

Norman Prusslin, Assistant Director of the Student Union and Activities Director of Media Minor,

has been a part of the Stony Brook community for decades, and in particular has been associated with WUSB 90.1 FM, the campus radio station, since it was first on the air.

"The book is an excellent history of the SB story, very comprehensive and complete," Prusslin said. "It sets the stage for the current growing

embarking on the project, "I wasn't that aware [of the university's accomplishments]."

William Simmons, Vice President for Advancement and Executive Director of the Stony Brook Foundation who was thanked in the acknowledgments section of the book, is excited about its ramifications.

## "Scientific discovery and laboratory breakthroughs have long been a staple of Stony Brook's research programs."

excitement on campus."

Prusslin added that he believes the publication will improve the student sense of school spirit, while providing national and international recognition of the University's accomplishments. The list of accomplishments of faculty and staff are found throughout the book.

Ground-breaking achievements, like that of biochemistry professor Dr. Masayori Inouye who discovered antisense RNA in 1983, are not rarities, according to the publication. Scientific discovery and laboratory breakthroughs have long been a staple of Stony Brook's research programs. Nyitray admitted that, before

"To today's students it gives a real sense of history to a very young institution. Our students are part of an already rich tradition," Simmons said. "What does it mean to alumni, past staff and faculty? The photos are a reminder to our older alumni and members of the faculty who were pioneers in the building of what has become; in a very short time, one of the nation's elite research universities."

The book details the social changes that affected the growth of the campus. Some of the most striking photographs depict student hunger strikes protesting war-related research on campus in 1970, the first Island Convention of Science

Fiction in 1981, and the ceremonies held in October of 2001 in honor of those lost on Sept. 11.

"I think [the publication] offers students, faculty, and staff a look at what Stony Brook has accomplished, and how far it has come from its beginnings as a teacher's college in the 1950s," Becker said.

*Stony Brook: The State University of New York* will be prominently displayed at Homecoming on Oct. 19. The authors will be hosting a booth to attract the attention of alumni, current students, staff and faculty.

After countless hours of finding and selecting photos and writing concise captions, the authors are both extremely happy with the final product.

"Writing a book was a challenging exercise in research and organization, but also a very rewarding experience," Becker said.

"We both enjoyed the project very much," Nyitray said.

The book, on display in the gallery of the Melville Library, is available for purchase at Barnes & Noble, online at Amazon.com and on the Stony Brook University Alumni website.

"Every new class stands on the shoulders of those who left their mark in years past," Simmons said. "This book is a tangible archive of a shared experience, generation to generation."

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# SBVAC Seeking Council and Financial Help

By MARC NEWMAN  
Statesman Editor

There have been myriad improvements at Stony Brook University over the past years, with new buildings erected at an impressive rate. But while these pet projects are being funded, other crucial segments of the campus feel they are being neglected. The Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps at Stony Brook (SBVAC) is one of these groups.

Since its establishment in 1971, the financial support for SBVAC has not kept up with the growth rate of the campus as a whole. "While the school is expanding, we're not," said Ann Teng, SBVAC Chief of Operations.

Two ambulances and two dollars of the Student Activity fee was what SBVAC began working with 31 years ago. Since then, SBVAC has been ranked at the top of the National Collegiate Ambulance list and has been recognized as a leading corps in Suffolk County. But although they have come so far, the organization still operates with two ambulances and receives only a dollar more from the student activity fee.

With only two ambulances at its disposal, SBVAC faces difficulties. NCAA rules mandate that an ambulance and four EMT teams be on hand during games held in a stadium. Forced to answer calls for help with one remaining ambulance, SBVAC's usual six-minute response time has been increased to as many as 20 minutes whenever a Division I game takes place at the new stadium.

"The situation has become rather dire," said Peter Rosenblum, SBVAC First Assistant Chief.

Seventy-five calls have come into SBVAC this month alone. The past average of 650-700 calls per year is expected only to rise.

Expenses and New York State Health Requirements of Volunteers have been rising as well. A new defibrillator costs \$12,000, and mandatory vaccinations for staff members for diseases such as Hepatitis B and tuberculosis run \$9,000 a year. With \$72,000 dollars in the bank for this year and projected costs of about \$77,000, SBVAC could be in deep economic trouble.

In comparison, Long Island Institute of Technology Volunteer Ambulance Corps members get free tuition, housing, room and board for responding to some 35 calls a year, said SBVAC First Assistant Chief Rosenblum. Other organizations on campus such as the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) and Student Polity Association (SPA) have annual budgets nearly two to three times that of SBVAC.

"I have a hard time explaining to my staff every time that they get vomit or blood on their shirt saving someone's life, some two to three times a week, that they have to go out and buy another shirt," Teng said. A new t-shirt is \$20 out of an unpaid volunteer's



Statesman/Marc Newman

(From left) Andrew Wong, Peter Rosenblum, Ann Teng

pocket, but SBVAC itself is \$5000 short of meeting costs this year and cannot afford to subsidize the job-related expenses its members incur," said Teng.

Last year, SBVAC members said, a \$45,000 grant from Polity was promised but has not materialized. Teng and others at SBVAC are looking into filing new insurance claims. "[SBVAC is] turning into a business," Teng said.

SBVAC leaders say that they have sought the financial help of the people

responsible for multimillion dollar projects on campus, including President Shirley Strum Kenny. They complain that they have been shuffled from office to office with no results.

"One leader of the Stony Brook community has told me that he had no idea that we came to the rescue of faculty members, as well as students," SBVAC president Andrew Wong said.

SBVAC members said that they might be pushed to a simple choice: to shut their doors, or else start charging people for syringes. Teng noted that years ago similar circumstances led to a SBVAC strike.

Ultimately, Teng and her crew felt that the diversity of SBVAC's volunteer population was being threatened by recent miscommunication between SBVAC and Stony Brook administrators. "Stony Brook needs to realize that half the people on our staff are parts of the community beyond the undergraduate community," she said. "Many of us have moved onto other careers."

To keep its volunteer emergency services afloat, SBVAC said that it needs at least \$7,000 in additional funds. Furthermore, members said, the aging 1992 SBVAC ambulance needs to be replaced completely in three to five years, and a third ambulance would help keep response times down during concerts and football games that take place on campus. But for now, members said, SBVAC will continue its operations and hope that its cries for help will be acknowledged before it is too late.

## Scientists Observe Biological Cell Membrane Fusion

By CHRIS FECAROTTA  
Statesman Staff

Scientists at the National Synchrotron Light Source (NSLS) of the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory were recently able to observe the fusion of biological cells in full molecular detail. Never before have biologists had the capability to study this process so closely.

Cellular membrane fusion is well known in the scientific community and is one of the most common ways for molecules to enter or exit cells, in processes such as fertilization and viral infection.

Cell fusion involves the creation of a connection between two cells at a certain point in the membrane. Cytoplasm constituents can then pass back and forth, from one cell to another. After a while, the two membranes

become a single, large membrane that surrounds the contents of both original cells. The end result is a single cellular entity.

Lin Yang, a postdoctoral physicist at the NSLS and the lead author of the study, said of the new observations that "[Yang and her colleagues] now have confirmed the existence of a temporary structure that occurs during membrane fusion and that has been postulated by scientists for a long time."

Yang and co-author Huey Huang, professor of physics and astronomy at Rice University in Houston, with whom Yang did his doctoral studies, made their observations by chance while studying how certain small proteins kill bacteria by digging holes into bacterial membranes.

"We were trying to understand how changes in humidity and temperature affect the properties of a certain type of cell membrane," Yang said, "when, amid our

results, we observed this structure that nobody had ever seen. That was pretty exciting."

Yang and his team used a method called x-ray diffraction to accurately determine the structure of the fusing membranes. At first, stacks of phospholipid membranes were formed into small crystals. Then, x-rays were produced and projected towards the crystals, scattering upon impact, creating an observable pattern on an x-ray film. This diffraction pattern represents a map of the atomic structure of the phospholipid layers in the membranes.

"We noticed that by changing the humidity, we could significantly alter the structure of the membrane," Yang said.

Apparently, certain humidity values showed many points at various unexpected positions, instead of the single line of regularly spaced points that was initially expected.

After a closer look, the scientists realized they were looking at patterns created by two fusing membranes.

The diffraction pattern showed that, when the two membranes fuse, they form an hourglass-shaped structure called a stalk. A bridge is created between the two membranes when the stalk stretches. Finally, the connection becomes large enough to become part of a single, unified membrane.

The membranes used in this study were relatively simple, and the observations made may not pertain to more complicated membranes that contain higher concentrations of proteins and carbohydrates.

The study does, however, provide an excellent model for comparison with complex membranes. Information from the study may also be used in the future to prevent viral infection and design more effective drug delivery systems.

## Bush Administration Hedging Over New Resolution

By RALPH D'AMBROSIO  
Statesman Staff

The White House and the Congressional Leadership proposed new terms for a resolution that will allow President Bush to use military force against Iraq. Language considered to be too broad was dropped, and new procedural conditions were added.

The Congressional resolution no longer contains a phrase that would have authorized the use of military force to "restore international peace and security in the region." The words were struck from the text when concerns were raised over

whether they would be interpreted to include the entire Middle East.

According to this new draft, the President of the United States is now required to report to Congress in the event of war. The president must formally tell Congress that diplomacy alone can not protect national security and will allow for successful enforcement of United Nations resolutions that call for Iraqi disarmament and the execution of other agendas. Much of the language in this bill can be found verbatim in the 1991 measure that allowed military action in the Persian Gulf.

Top Republican leaders such as

Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi, have endorsed the new draft and believes that no further changes are necessary in the new draft. House Democrat Minority Leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri, however, believes that a few minor changes will make the resolution acceptable to a broader number of people. A White House official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that progress toward passage of the resolution has been made but nothing has been finalized as of yet.

At the same time that this proposal was made, Secretary of State Colin Powell told Congress that the administration had reached

an agreement with Britain on a draft of a new United Nations Security Council resolution. This bill would require Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein to show cooperation with U.S. weapons inspectors within the next two months or face military consequences.

Marc Grossman, the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, has been sent to Paris to present the United States' agenda to first the French government and then to the Russian government. Both countries have veto power on the UN Security Council. Powell hopes that the U.S. case can win support before the draft of the resolution is circulated next week at the United Nations.

## The Student Experience at Stony Brook...

### *Essay Contest*

#### 2002 Student-Faculty-Staff Retreat "The Student Experience at Stony Brook"

Now in its 18th year, the Student-Faculty-Staff Retreat brings together a diverse mix of 60 Stony Brook students, faculty, staff and administrators who will focus their attention on this year's theme: "The Student Experience at Stony Brook" (as part of the Institutional Self-Study review process for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education). The retreat will be held on Friday, November 1st and Saturday, November 2nd.

The goal of the 2002 Student-Faculty-Staff Retreat is to act as a spark to stimulate not only discussion but also action on the Stony Brook campus centered on multiculturalism, leadership and global citizenry. The retreat is meant to act as a learning experience for all.

The Planning Committee invites essays from students who would like to be considered to participate in the year's event. Authors of the selected essays will be invited to attend the retreat and share their ideas with a larger audience.

Applications can be obtained in Stony Brook Union Room 266, SAC 219, and the Polity and GSO offices. The application should be returned to SAC Room 220 by Monday, October 14th. If you have any questions, please contact Christine Fuentes by telephone at 632-4591 or by e-mail at [Christine.Fuentes@sunysb.edu](mailto:Christine.Fuentes@sunysb.edu).

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# Bush Comments on Iraq Hint at Motives, Mood

By MIKE ALLEN  
The Washington Post

Speaking in the marble grandeur of the United Nations earlier this month, President Bush reminded the hushed diplomats that Saddam Hussein tried to assassinate "a former American president" in 1993. At a Republican fund-raising reception in Houston held last week, Bush dropped the formality and called Saddam Hussein "a guy that tried to kill my dad."

The two phrases had starkly different impacts. Bush's charge in New York was part of a bill of particulars against Hussein that pollsters said was convincing enough to bolster Bush's drooping approval rating and increase public support for an invasion of Iraq. The raw comment about his father, however, was seen on Capitol Hill as evidence that the administration's march toward war with Iraq is motivated at least partly by a family grudge match.

The contrast in the two statements illustrates what analysts see as a tendency by Bush to oversimplify or exaggerate delicate issues that he has handled with aplomb in formal settings like the U.N. address, or his speech to Congress as he prepared to attack Afghanistan.

While Bush became well-known during his campaign for slips of the tongue, his off-the-cuff comments as president have often offered jarring glimpses of what he really thinks about matters he has addressed more diplomatically in formal speeches. When Bush was Texas governor, reporters called him "his own worst leak" because when given the chance, he would give them a franker version of events than his staff preferred.

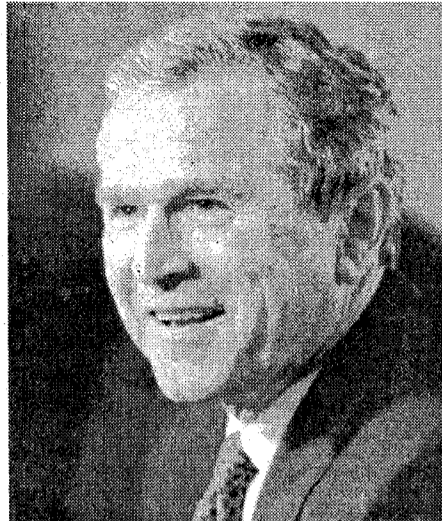
Bruce Buchanan, a University of Texas government professor who has followed Bush's political career, said the "kill my dad" remark revealed how deeply he has personalized the issue.

"These aren't gaffes or Bushisms—they're glandular reactions," Buchanan said. "This is clearly what he felt in his heart. It's part of his tendency to see things in black and white rather than gray."

Shooting from the hip, which has always been part of Bush's appeal, now has global consequences. "We have to question whether he has sufficiently nuanced views to make decisions like this under these sorts of pressures," Buchanan said. "For all his bleeding after 9/11, he's relatively new at the game, compared to most people who wind up in the presidency."

Bush, who prides himself on his goal of

changing the tone in Washington, had put Iraq policy in a political context the day after his United Nations speech, when he was using a brief exchange with reporters to urge Congress to authorize military



Courtesy of www.cnn.com

**Several insiders say that President Bush's dislike for Iraq stems from the adversity that his father faced during the Gulf War.** force without waiting for the U.N. to decide on a new resolution

"If I were running for office," he said, "I'm not sure how I'd explain to the American people—say, Vote for me, and, oh, by the way, on a matter of national security, I think I'm

going to wait for somebody else to act."

The White House press office has a stock response when Bush's remarks rattle one group or another: "The president is a plain-spoken man." His inner circle contends that is a virtue. Karen Hughes, guardian of Bush's image for the past eight years, said people see his essence in unscripted moments.

Others view Bush's unceremonious moments as simply clumsy.

The most notable example was Bush's address to Congress nine days after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, which was well-received across the political spectrum. But his own later descriptions of Osama bin Laden—"the evil one," wanted "dead or alive"—prompted First Lady Laura Bush to tell him he sounded like a cowboy, and he reined in his rhetoric.

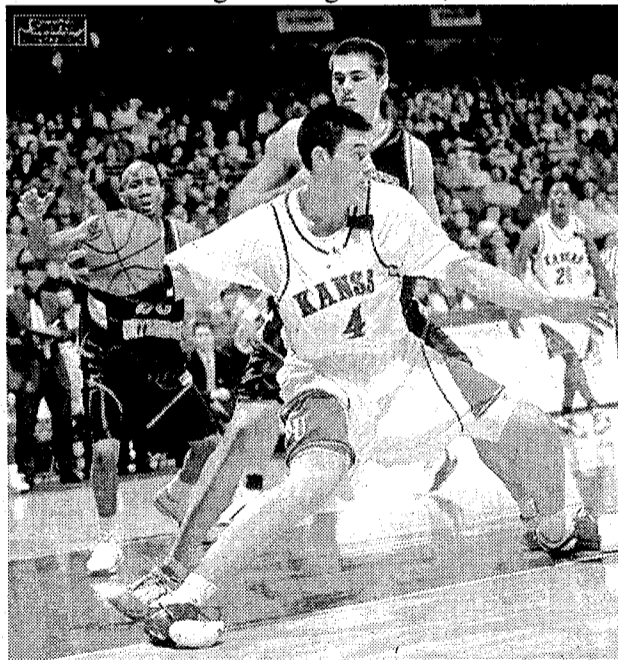
Sometimes Bush is too frank for his own aides. Two senior officials said they cringed in January as they watched Bush ad-lib a vow to accept a tax increase "over my dead body," since it revived memories of the "read my lips" line that hurt President George H.W. Bush's re-election.

The president's father had his own impolitic blurt during his failed 1992 race, when he referred to Clinton and Gore as "bozos." Ten days ago, the father told CNN, "I hate Saddam Hussein."

## Graduation Rates for College Athletes Hit All-Time High

By WELCH SUGGS  
The Chronicle of Higher Education

The incoming class of 1995-96 turned out to be the most successful on record for athletes and other students when it came to graduating on time,



Courtesy of www.sportsillustrated.com

**The men's basketball program at the University of Kansas is the only team in last year's Final Four whose players had higher graduation rates than its male student body.**

according to a report released Thursday by the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Both groups in that class earned many more degrees than any previous group at Division I institutions. The report shows that 60 percent of athletes, compared with 58 percent of all students, at those institutions graduated within six years of entering college.

Both of those rates are the highest recorded since the graduation of the class that entered in 1984, the first one tracked by the NCAA. Across sports, graduation

rates were among the highest ever for virtually every racial and demographic group. One of the few exceptions was in men's basketball, where only 43 percent of players earned degrees — up slightly from the past couple of years, but still behind classes in the late 1980s and early '90s.

Athletes in this class were the first ones required to pass thirteen core courses in high school in order to compete in college; those in previous classes had to pass only eleven classes.

The new report also shows that another gap in graduation rates is growing. As a whole, athletes are earning degrees at higher rates than other students. Although white men playing football and basketball are doing worse than their academic peers, athletes in virtually all other demographic groups and sports are doing better. Although universities are often

condemned for exploiting the talents of black male basketball players, more of them (35 percent) are graduating than black men as a whole (34 percent).

Experts say the findings result from several factors. First, the athletes in the NCAA survey are all on scholarship, alleviating the financial pressures that force many other students to drop out of college.

Second, especially at sports powerhouses in the rich conferences, athletes have legions of academic advisers and other resources at their disposal, dwarfing the support services

typically available to other students.

Critics also contend that those advisers sometimes steer athletes into less-challenging courses and majors, mainly to keep them academically eligible to play, but also making it easier to graduate.

Despite all those advantages, many athletes at Division I institutions, especially men in high-profile sports, are still failing to graduate. Coaches and athletics officials are quick to say that players are leaving early for professional careers or are transferring to other institutions, but ordinary students leave college to go to work or to transfer, too.

On the whole, male athletes graduate at lower rates than male students at just over a third of Division I colleges. The same goes for football players. At two-thirds of Division I institutions, basketball players graduate at lower rates than all male students do.

At the colleges with the best teams, the disparities are even more common. Only 9 of the 65 men's basketball teams in the 2002 NCAA tournament had graduation rates higher than those of male students in general at their respective universities; those nine included only one Final Four participant, the University of Kansas. Thirty-six of the 50 football teams that played in bowl games last season graduated players at lower rates than those of their institutions' male students.

The colleges where athletes are

graduating at higher rates than other students tend to be commuter institutions, historically black colleges, and ones with extremely low graduation rates for students as a whole.

The NCAA is discussing ways to improve graduation rates among its athletes and has plans in place to increase academic requirements for incoming players as well as returning ones. There are also plans to come up with a new report to supplement the graduation-rates study: an "academic progress" rate showing how many athletes are satisfying NCAA requirements for minimum progress toward a degree.

Such an index would provide more "real time" data showing how colleges



Courtesy of www.ncaa.org

**The NCAA is discussing ways to increase the graduation rates of its student athletes, including raising the academic requirements of its players.**

measure up academically, but critics are quick to point out that colleges will always be able to divert athletes into academic programs with lax requirements for satisfactory progress.

Monday, September 30, 2002

State University of New York At Stony Brook

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## Editor's View

### Embarrassing SBU, Alienating the Media

Students of SBU, open your eyes and see your student government for the sham that it is. It has deceived you, misled you and wasted your time (can you even count how many unproductive trips you have made to the Polity suite?)

The superstructure of Student Polity Association, Inc. is an embarrassment to this fine University, its administrators and most importantly to YOU—the students!

Its executive branch is unprofessional. Its senate is untrained. And its judiciary is nonexistent.

Now these are not the only words that can portray the leadership—or lack thereof—in Polity. In fact, so wretched is this organization that this newspaper has not the space

nor does the Oxford-English dictionary have enough words to describe it.

Now, the disaster that this government found itself in at the beginning of the semester was bad enough, but lately they've mustered their resources together and discovered unimaginable lows.

As recently as last week, their downward journey wrote yet another shameful chapter into SBU lore.

It began when the executive council, most of whom are highly unqualified, though admittedly hardworking, decided

*Continued on Page 11*

## Op-Ed

### Obvious Answers to an Obvious Question

BY RENEE DiRESTA  
Statesman Contributor

Matthew Nadelson made some interesting points in his article entitled "Weapons Inspection? No, Just Plain Rejection" from Sept. 23, 2002. But, like the Bush Administration, he failed to make a strong case for an immediate invasion of Iraq. Mr. Hussein is, indeed, a malevolent presence, and the Iraqi people would benefit from his removal. However, to claim that he is an immediate threat to the American way of life is simply factually unsupported, and to state that America should preemptively invade Iraq to force a regime change establishes a frightening precedent.

We are not, as Mr. Nadelson claims, "in an age of terrorism and rogue nations;" unless by "age" he means the sum total of human history. These threats have always existed. We are simply more sensitive to them in the post-Sept. 11 period, since America's illusory notion of "security" has been shattered and "terrorism" has become the word *du jour*. It is this nation-wide feeling of vulnerability that has provided Mr. Bush with support for an invasion that he would not have had otherwise.

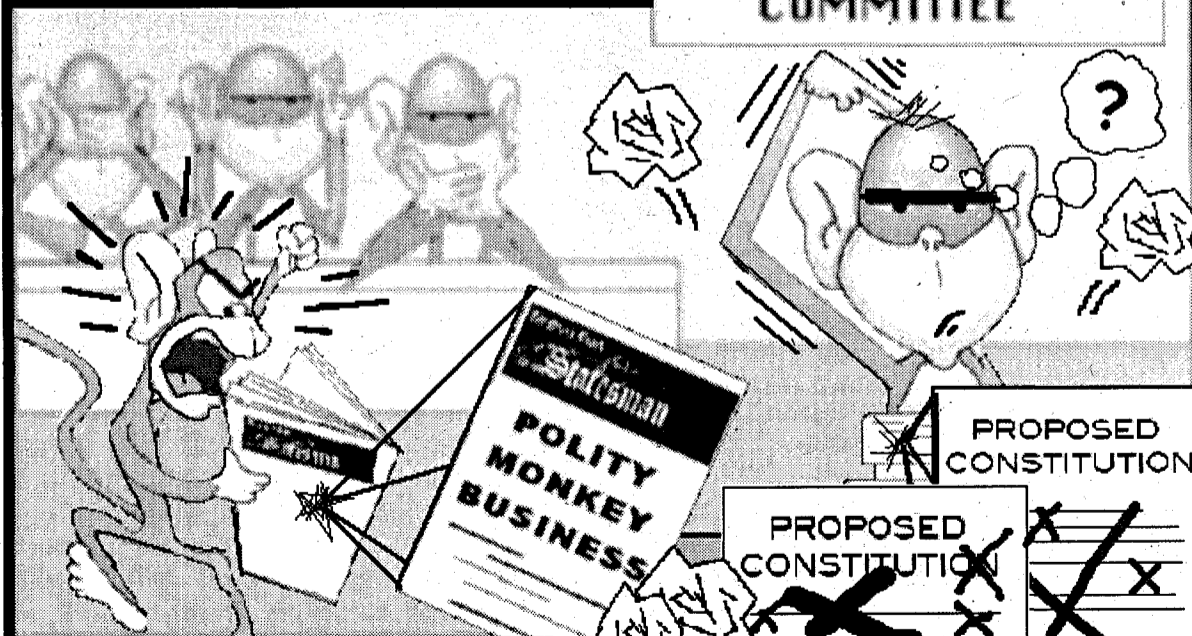
Consider the case for attacking Iraq that has been presented to the American people: Iraq is a rogue nation, declared Mr. Bush in his State of the Union address. Its leader, Saddam Hussein, is developing weapons of

mass destruction, including chemical and biological weapons, and we Americans must put a stop to it. Iraq won't let in United Nations inspectors, and besides – the UN can't really do anything to stop Mr. Hussein anyway. So it's up to America now, and any ally who won't support us in our righteous fight for security has ulterior motives and is not truly committed to our war on terror. We're willing to go it alone!

The problems with this argument for attacking Iraq are numerous. First, and most importantly, Mr. Bush has not presented the American people, Congress, or our allies with any conclusive information that would answer the question, "Why now? Why is Iraq so important *now*, that Congress should authorize a war with almost no debate? What has changed?" As the President hides under the blanket excuse that the answers we want are classified, we are given rhetoric and more rhetoric, powerful words conveying the impression that to challenge the President, to ask for these answers, is "unpatriotic." This is ridiculous; it is the American people's democratic *right* to challenge the President, and it is disturbing that more of our elected representatives are not doing so. We have not been told why Iraq has suddenly become so important; if anything, what we have

*Continued on Page 7*

### A LOOK AT WHAT REALLY GOES ON IN POLITY!



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# Feminist's Rant: The GOP's Deep Pockets

Continued from Page 7

candidates and administrations with pro-industry stances.

Because industry has historically done well and has become part of the traditional American economy, it already has a link to the policies currently characterized as right wing. That a majority of Republicans and conservatives are white, middle to upper class citizens (the same population group which runs and benefits from big business) also bespeaks an even deeper political connection. This traditional Caucasian affluence still holds sway in both

industry and government and sets the stage for unchanging and self-perpetuating policies.

Given this opportunity, I have to point out George Bush's own conservative and extremely pro-industrial agenda and link this back to his success as a CEO for a Texas oil company. He made all his money through big business, and is now in a position to protect his fellow industry magnates and their petroleum fortunes. His father also made a fortune from petroleum and what, might I ask, did we go to war for during Desert Storm? Oil. The connection is pretty obvious.

The mindset of many industries, most notably petroleum, is profiting at any cost while maintaining a stranglehold on traditional methods. Rather than seeking renewable energy sources, which may or may not be as exorbitantly profitable as oil, industrial giants pressure government officials to grant access to oil reserves located in protected areas. Destroying an ecosystem is preferable to researching alternatives. And who is it that benefits from this old-fashioned mode of operation? It's certainly not the average citizen who still finds gas prices hiked sky high. The ones who benefit are the top executives and the

political campaigns they sponsor.

I'm not saying that all big business is bad, or that America would be the super-power it is today without oil. I'm not blacklisting all CEOs as crooks and members of the KKK. I'm only questioning the link between a conservative government and lenient policies toward extremely profitable industries. I'm wondering how new technologies will evolve from political and economic structures that enforce traditionalism and unsustainable methodologies. I'm wondering, will the political right, religious right, and industrial right keep America in a gold-plated age of stagnation?



A THOUGHT FROM RABBI ADAM



Did you ever notice how great it feels to be Jewish? I mean, like, really great. It's not like the great feeling of being a Yankee fan in Yankee stadium at the last game that won the World Series. For sure that must have been a great feeling. But being Jewish—I dunno—there's something else to it. I mean, a World Series Yankee game is exciting—but being Jewish is like—like a warmth in one's heart—you know? Maybe it's a kind of pride. Like "proud to be Italian" or something. But then again, it's a lot more than just national "pride". It's hard to explain. It's like this "feeling". An emotional feeling that every Jew experiences at one time or another. Sometimes a person experiences it when they are away. When they're traveling abroad somewhere and bump into other tourists and suddenly there is an immediately connection with one of the other tourists. It's a shared warmth. Though you hardly know them, the conversation just flows and you feel connected. Then it comes up in conversation that they're Jewish too. And suddenly all the Jewish conversations start. First it's Jewish geography, "Oh! You're from city xyz? Do you know so-and-so?" Then it's off to the other Jewishly flavored subjects. Now all this may seem like normal conversation between two people who found something in common. But deep down inside, it feels different. There's an inner something. An inner connection. And that's what's so great about the Chabad House. It's a place where Jewish students can make that "inner connection".

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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, September 30, 2002



# Mike on the Mat: Religious Upheavals and More

By MICHAEL ADLER  
Statesman Staff

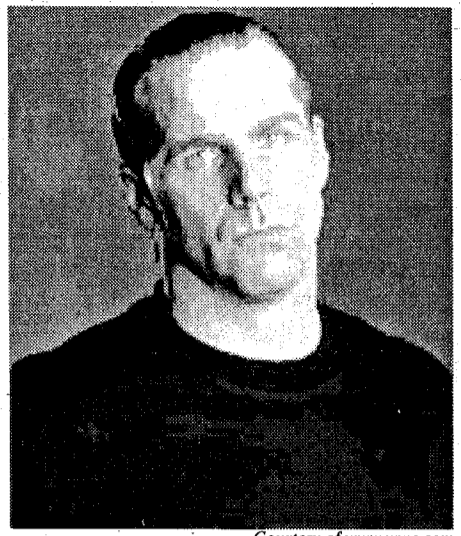
A few random thoughts this week:

Ted Dibiase, Shawn Michaels, Road Dogg, Jessie James, and Sting. What do all four of these superstars have in common? Don't scratch your heads trying to come up with title histories here folks. They're all born-again Christians. There's a trend forming here, with no clear coalitions.

Road Dogg, in an interview posted on [www.wrestlingobserver.com](http://www.wrestlingobserver.com), repented not only for his drug use, but also admitted his immense guilt for DX. Apparently the guilt of teaching America's youth to "suck it" was too much and he needed to turn to God to resolve his guilt for creating such a sinful phenomenon.

Ted Dibiase is the founder of the Heart of David Ministry, "for which he travels the world preaching the gospel of Jesus." He is now a vocal opponent of the "sex and vulgar language" associated in today's wrestling product. This is hypocritical considering he used to be the Million Dollar Man (with Greed being one of the seven sins). Sting is in league with Dibiase on his misguided approach to cleaning up pro-wrestling.

(I fully support the vulgar language in pro-wrestling today, and partially



*Courtesy of www.wwe.com*  
Shawn Michaels, pictured above, is one of several WWE stars who are experiencing the religious fervor.

support the sex in today's product.)

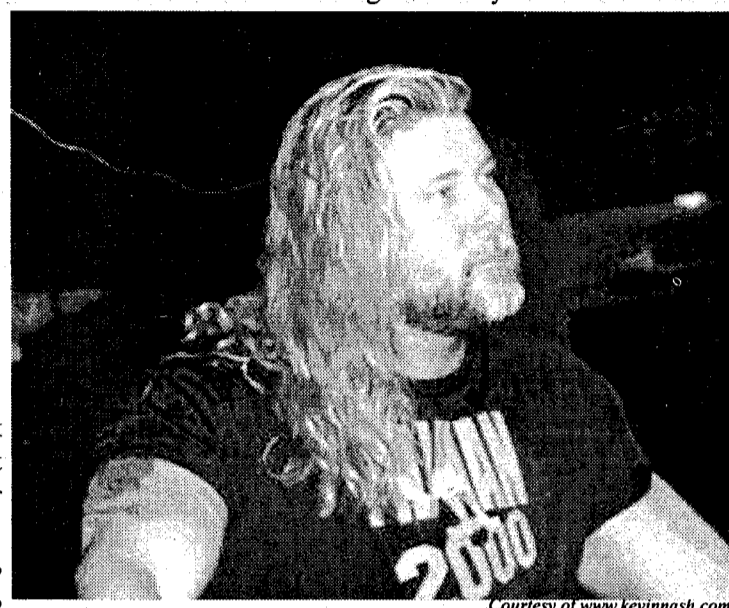
After years of being a backstage bully, and an all-around prima donna to work with when he was at the top of his game, Shawn Michaels has repented as he battled with his back injury. Many of you may have noticed his t-shirts bearing inspirational Judeo-Christian phrases.

It makes one wonder why so many prominent professional wrestlers are turning to God. The only correlation amongst them is that they've fallen a notch from the top spot. Perhaps without the fans, they have no where to turn for gratification

except to God, and God just doesn't appreciate good heel heat I suppose.

In other news, I'd like to say something positive for a change, and heap some praise on Eddie Gurrero and Edge for having a spectacular match this past Thursday on Smackdown. Amazing stuff with the ladder. It's a miracle Eddie didn't get killed. Edge was tolerable as well. It was the first time in, well, forever that I wasn't bored for a single moment watching a WWE program. (I took a bathroom break during the Matt Hardy-Undertaker match.)

Sadly, Shawn Stasiak, Mike Awesome, Kevin Nash is among the few who are totally worthless to the WWE. and Horrace Hogan (Hulk's nephew) were dropped from the WWE's line up this weekend. Stasiak and Awesome were perennial jobbers, who if given the chance may have been able to go somewhere in the WWE. It's a shame they were cut.



*Courtesy of www.kevinnash.com*

Horace, like his uncle, just sucked.

If they needed to get rid of some people, they should have gotten rid of Kevin Nash, Big Show, and Bradshaw, three men who are doing nothing to improve the current product. Nash just sits at home and collects a fat paycheck, Big Show lumbers around the ring aimlessly and collects a fat

paycheck, and Bradshaw is useless outside of the APA.

Trivia Question of the week: How scary is Chris Jericho's Goatee?

Email Mike on the Mat at [mantis\\_bog@hotmail.com](mailto:mantis_bog@hotmail.com)

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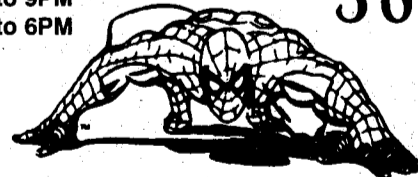
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# History of Commemoration

By BRIAN TOVAR  
Statesman Contributor

Professor Michele Bogart held a talk Sept. 19 entitled "Traditions of Commemoration" at the Staller Center Art Gallery that highlighted shifts in how survivors choose to honor their loved ones through public monuments.

The discussion, which was run in conjunction with gallery workshops in commemoration of the events of September 11, focused on a history of commemoration in New York and look forward at future plans for the former World Trade Center site.

Bogart said how he sees church cemeteries as New York's original memorials. He used examples of headstones from the East Hampton cemetery to document these early forms of private memorials.

It was not until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century that monumental memorials were erected in the United States.

This more elaborate and sculptural form of commemoration rapidly increased in popularity because in addition to highlighting the importance of the deceased they also began to serve as wealth and status symbols, Bogart said.

Public monuments in urban centers, such as the bronze equestrian figure of George Washington in Lincoln Square that was erected in 1859, also grew in popularity at this time, according to Bogart. This particular monument was developed when New Yorkers feared the loss of trade with the Southern confederate states and served as a

center for vigils and expressions of grief after the WTC attacks.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, public commemoration was extended to ordinary people within the public realm with the rise of the tradition of the common soldier memorial, which, according to Bogart, was intended to remember the soldiers lost in battle not officers or well-known heroes.

Though this trend continued into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a new one developed as well, that of the living memorial. According to Bogart, this is a memorial intended to remember the deceased through a celebration of life. These monuments are meant to be structures where people may gather to live life and reflect in their grief, he said.

The latter part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw a more humanistic approach to commemoration, as evidenced by the Vietnam Wall Memorial in Washington, D.C., Bogart said. There has also been a recent trend placing increased emphasis on reflectivity and visitor participation, such as in the case of many visitors to the site of the Flight 111 crash in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, who leave trinkets behind. They in effect become a part of the memorial, he said.

According to Bogart, current commemoration practices have become increasingly therapeutic in accordance with the value our present culture places on the achievement of happiness through self-help rather than civic affiliation. A resolution of considerate compromise would secure a lasting tribute to not only this generation but also those that follow, he said.

# Editor's View: Polity is Unqualified

Continued from Page 6

to hold a "press-conference" designed "set the record straight." The farce began 25 minutes late and ended half an hour later so that some of the council members could attend a Greek event. The duration was spent making a pathetic plea to *Statesman* to, in effect, become its public relations firm.

Council members were upset, with reporting that had taken place earlier in the semester and went as far as to blame student apathy across the campus on *Statesman*.

Now we at *Statesman* are kind of touched to hear that someone thinks we have that much control over the minds of the roughly 14,000 undergraduates at SBU, but we're sad to report that we don't.

But those asinine comments are not surprising from a lot that cannot discern an editorial from an article. And I applaud them for having the gall to try to strong-arm several media organizations with budget-related innuendoes before the press conference, and then lie before the Senate the following day by announcing the press conference as successful in "building ties with the media." It takes a special kind of leader to calmly and willfully wrong his or her constituents.

Well, let editorial be the ensign of truth: Student Polity is nothing

more than an oligarchy hiding behind the shrouds of democracy. It is incredibly unqualified to manage a budget of over \$2 million, and its members would be more than satisfied to spend the entirety of their days slinging personal insults at each other and making sure no one disrespects them.

Well, we the students would like to remind you that respected is not given; rather, it is earned. You garner respect by performing at a high caliber.

At the Senate meeting, Council read a list of things that it considered good works, but upon careful analysis one realizes their success was minimal at best.

Here are the things that they did well: the student involvement fair, getting Dean Stein to address the leadership conclave, and coming up with the idea of hold a town hall meeting and a press conference. And that's it—three things. Our student government has done only three things in the last month. They have yet to amend a constitution or appoint a Chief Justice. They have, however, succeeded in coming nearly to blows.

The simple irony that surrounds Student Polity Association, Inc. is that the executive body cannot execute and the Senate cannot pass legislation.

That is why the Student Activity Fee is in receivership and that is where it should remain!

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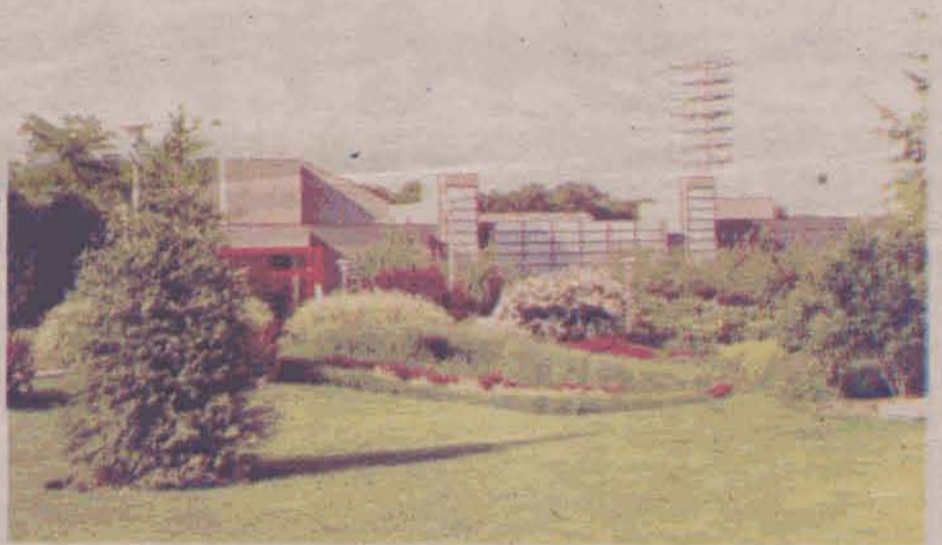
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# Features

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## Stony Brook Looking Golden After 40 Years

By AUDREY DETTMERIG  
Statesman Staff



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