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It's ITS, First of Six Undergraduate Colleges

By Kelly Brown and Jeffrey Javidfar
Statesman Editors

Debuting this year at Stony Brook is the Undergraduate College of Information and Technology Services (ITS). ITS is part of a new university initiative to enhance undergraduate education in the wake of criticism of SBU's treatment of its Bachelor's students.

"ITS is a pilot college," said Imin Kao, Director of ITS and Associate Professor of Mechanic Engineering Department. "I view my responsibility to be available to help students to learn, grow and realize their dreams at Stony Brook."

The program caters to students interested in Engineering or Applied Science fields, whether or not they have been admitted to a College of Engineering major. Mendolsohn Quad, home to the Science and Engineering Living Learning Center, houses ITS as well. Students have opportunities to attend class, receive advising, and engage in social activities within the residential quad itself.

"I think [the program] is exciting because of the positive atmosphere in this quad," said Mendolsohn Quad Director Matty Punnett. "Students know that they're all here for the same reason."



Matty Punnett (center), flanked by staff and ITS students, is the director of Mendolsohn Quad, which is home to ITS.

Deputy Provost Mark Aronoff conceived of the Undergraduate Colleges paradigm and is overseeing implementation of the ITS program. He believes that Stony Brook students, in the past, have suffered from the lack of close contact with advisors and professors as freshmen.

The University of California at San Diego (UCSD) has made progress with an initiative similar to the one created by Aronoff and Associate Vice President Peter Baigent. In fact, administrators are using UCSD as a model, hoping that its success

can be duplicated at Stony Brook.

"We actually know, based on real research, what helps students in the first year," Aronoff said. "The Undergraduate Colleges are an attempt to implement this research. We're trying to create small academic communities."

The ITS program will give students the chance to explore computer science and other technology studies with personal guidance and support from members of the ITS community. Kao said the emphasis is on faculty-student and student-student

interaction. Ten seminar courses are being offered this year as a way for new students to explore academic and career opportunities within the field.

Kao did admit that the program could hit some bumps. "There is always this apprehension which goes with of a pilot [undergraduate] college," he said. But he and his colleagues hope to iron out any difficulties before the opening of the five other colleges in the fall of 2003.

Aronoff is optimistic about the progress of ITS and how far Stony Brook has come over the last several years with regard to undergraduate development.

"What is different [on the campus now] from Stony Brook five years ago is that Academic Affairs and Student Affairs are working together on an everyday basis," he said. "That's not true on most campuses."

Current ITS students, the proverbial "guinea pigs" of the Undergraduate Colleges project, seem satisfied thus far. They have had the opportunity to participate in residential programs and receive advising in their field of interest.

"I didn't get directly into the Computer Science program, so [ITS] is the next best thing," said Amman College freshman Joseph Romano.

Dissecting Critical Misconceptions in Medicine

By Gene Tulman
Statesman Editor

A crowd of some 200 individuals gathered to witness the first of a series of seven Mini Medical School lectures presented at the Stony Brook University Health Science Center (HSC) on Wednesday. The talk, entitled, "Dispelling Popular Myths About Your Body", focused on three common medically relevant misconceptions. Lecturer Roger Cameron, Ph.D., professor of physiology at the SBU School of Medicine, discussed scientific approaches to discrediting false health myths.

Peter Williams, J.D., Ph.D., Vice Dean for Academic Affairs at the School of Medicine, introduced the lecture series, highlighting the positive relationship of the university with its surrounding community. Norman Edelman, M.D., dean of the school of medicine and vice president of HSC, then welcomed the members of the audience, and spoke of the institutions recent successes.

"[The University's] biomedical scientists are ranked in the top five percent in the nation for getting external research funding per faculty member," Edelman said. "However, Stony Brook is still a well kept secret, even though it has been recognized nationally for its basic science and clinical procedures."

According to Edelman, the Mini Medical School lecture series is one of the HSC's most popular community service endeavors. After attending all seven lectures, participants will receive certificates of achievement and will be offered membership in the University's Alumni Association.

Towards the end of his brief comment, Edelman introduced Cameron who was the instructor for the first of the seven lectures.

Cameron used audience response wireless technology to poll members of the audience throughout the presentation. The first issue he explored was advertisement of health products. Cameron asked the members of the

audience if they would buy arthritis medications advertised on television. The product he used as an example was marketed as a treatment for joint disorders, containing glucosamine as the main active ingredient.

Cameron went on to present an overview of some basic cellular physiology, stressing the concept of homeostasis, or biological equilibrium, as the main frame of reference for investigating physiological properties of humans. He concluded that segment of his lecture by claiming that the biochemical properties of glucosamine as a repairing agent of defective cartilage tissue are still relatively unknown. Cameron urged the participants to be more critical as consumers of scientific research.

Hyperventilation before diving was the next issue discussed. Cameron went over some functional properties of the human respiratory system, analyzing some graphical representations of the partial pressures of oxygen and carbon dioxide during the various stages of the human

ventilation process.

He concluded by explaining that a hyperventilation-induced drop in the partial pressure of oxygen while diving into water leads to a physiological response in which the person becomes unconscious. Thus, Cameron pointed out that modern physiology text books warn against hyperventilating before diving.

The final issue involved the Batista cardiac surgery, a procedure where a slice

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First in Series of Medical School Lectures Seeks to Clear Up Misconceptions

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of the human heart is removed in patients with compromised cardiac function.

"Would you let Dr. Batista cut out a little piece of your heart?" Cameron asked the members of the audience.

After summarizing some mechanisms of the circulatory system, he repeated the same question. Cameron asserted that the Batista procedure, although

seen as extreme by some medical professionals, is based on solid scientific principles, and has had significant success in highly critical patients.

"Certainly I think that our medical school has so much to offer and, yet the general public largely is unaware of what happens here at Stony Brook," Cameron said. "We view this as a wonderful opportunity to talk to the public, to let them know some of the things we're doing, to talk about... how you can critically evaluate the things you

see in the media... and bring to people's attention that the more you know the better you are as an educated patient."

Even those with little or no background in medicine were able to grasp Cameron's discourse, as one audience member testified.

"The time went by very, very quickly," Henry Kahnhauser said. "[Cameron] was knowledgeable and was able to communicate to laymen some pretty technical information. I found it interesting and very informative."

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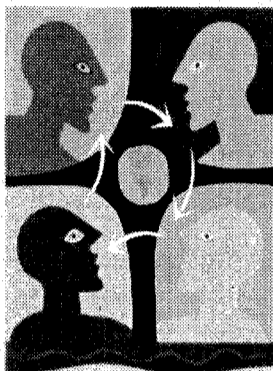
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Campus Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

By MICHAEL NEVRADAKIS
Statesman Contributor

This month the Stony Brook community is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month which is held nationally between Sept. 15 and Oct. 15.

During the month-long festivities, the achievements of the Hispanic community are celebrated, their contributions to the campus community are recognized and the many diverse aspects of Hispanic heritage and culture are presented.

The theme of this year's events is "Unification through Education." The Opening Ceremony, held Sept. 25 outside the Student Activities Center, featured guest speaker Myrka Gonzalez, a Stony Brook alumnus. She discussed her aspirations and views on the Latino population of Long Island. This year's Opening Ceremony was cosponsored by the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center and by the Hispanic Heritage Month Committee.

"[The ceremony] was pretty

successful. One of the highlights was the Mariachi band. This was also the first year that we had tables outside for student groups to publicize their organizations, so that increased student participation" said Tania Ortiz, Chair of the Committee.

Throughout October, a series of educational events in honor of Hispanic heritage will take place on campus. These events include art exhibits such as "Mexico - New York, A Vital Dialogue," "Fruitscapes" and "Nine Visions - Clay Sculptures of Mexico and US."

Events combining entertainment and education are also planned, such as "Copacabana Night," "Hispanic Heritage Month Jeopardy" and "Salsa 101."

With the help of groups such as the Latin American Student Organization, Campus Residences and various sororities and fraternities these events have been publicized throughout campus and student participation has increased.

Outstanding students and faculty

will be honored at the Awards Luncheon, taking place during the Closing Ceremony.

"We're looking for nominations. There's a leadership award, a community service award, and an academic award, and students can also nominate [faculty] for the *Patrino Madrina* award, that's given to faculty who've really educated people on campus about the Latino culture," Ortiz said.

Currently, the Committee is in the process of collecting nominations for the awards, which are open to everyone.

The biggest problem facing the organizers of this event is a lack of funding. The Committee no longer has a Polity account, and relies on funding from the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action, and from various departments around campus.

The Committee is looking for additional sources of funding.

"We're desperately need to do outreach to outside communities," Ortiz said, "We used to give out

more awards but now the scholarships are suffering."

However, despite such fiscal deficiencies, the event has been increasingly successful.

"Last year we had a great turnout. We sold out [the Closing Ceremony], 250 people showed up, every department you could think of bought a table," said Ismenia Molina, Management Intern at the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action.

According to Ortiz, the initial response has been so high this year, that the event was recently moved to SAC Ballroom A to accomodate the large crowd.

The events will be continuing until the end of the month, and weekly meetings of the Hispanic Heritage Committee are open to all who are interested and held in the Social & Behavioral Studies building.

"We welcome everybody, and don't be scared off if you aren't Latino. It's a chance to educate yourself about how diverse our campus is," Ortiz said.

Professor Receives President's Diversity Award

By ANJALI DOGRA
Statesman Editor

The President's Award for Excellence in Diversity and Affirmative Action is annually presented to an outstanding faculty member, student or employee of Stony Brook University who has made contributions that further the commitment toward the University's goal to create a more perfect campus. Clinical Assistant Professor in the School of Health Technology and Management, Anita

Marie Santasier, was named the recipient of this year's award.

Santasier, who is a member of the Division of Rehabilitation Sciences in the Department of Physical Therapy, has organized various workshops related to principles of diversity and has created several cultural events that involve a cross-section of members of the Stony Brook campus and community. Santasier has learned American Sign Language and interprets for those in need.

She developed the first diversity


awareness program in the School of Health Technology and Management, and has played an active role in the examination of issues involving minority student recruitment and retention.

An Orthopedic Certified Specialist, Santasier, who lives in Amityville with her husband and son, is the University's primary instructor in Kinesiology and co-teaches Orthopedic Physical Therapy. She has been a member of the Stony Brook faculty since 1993 and is currently pursuing her


doctorate in Physical Therapy at Temple University.

"We are extremely proud of Professor Santasier and the valuable efforts she has made in an important area," said Craig A. Lehmann, Dean of the School of Health Technology and Management.

"She is a person of ideas and action who has been in the forefront of change in many key areas. Stony Brook is a leader in making a commitment to diversity and affirmative action, and she is one of the reasons why," Lehmann said.



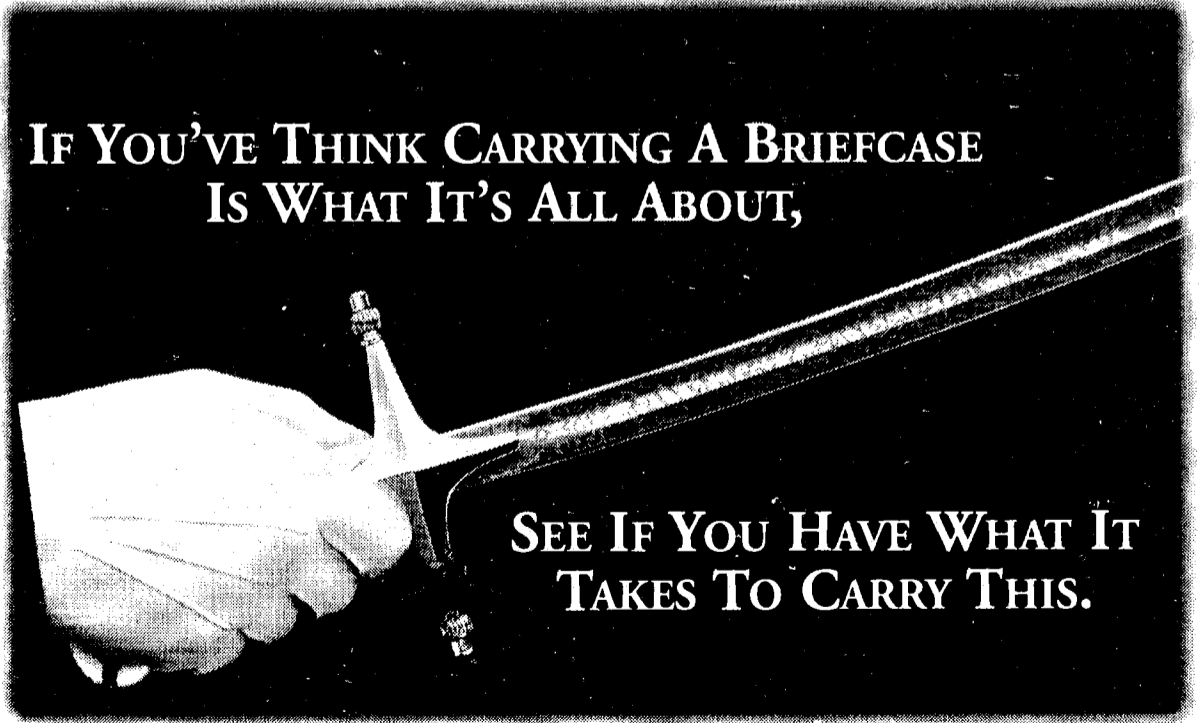
**A THOUGHT
FROM
RABBI ADAM**



This past Shabbat (Sabbath) synagogues began to read the Torah (Bible) anew. The first chapter of the Torah is called "Breishis", "In the beginning" and relates the creation of the world in 7 days. There we find the account of Adam and Eve and, specifically, of Eve's feeding Adam the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge—a most terrible "sin" that got Adam and Eve kicked out of the utopian peaceful existence of the Garden of Eden. There, they had openly communicated with G-d and nature, and had actually conversations with the animals and trees. However, outside of the Garden of Eden, they were doomed to live in the world in which we know today. Now, one must find G-d through belief instead of direct prophetic communication. We feel little camaraderie with the animal world or vegetative nature, as we are too busy acting as its ruler. The utopian peace of the Garden of Eden is long gone. However, there is a promise to the world that the utopia of the Garden of Eden will return. But this time, not just for Adam and Eve, but for the world over. It is a promise found in the prophets of the Bible with the telling of the coming of the Moshiach (Messiah). A promise of a time in which there will be no more war nor hunger nor famine. People will lose their evil inclination towards selfishness and jealousy. We will exist together as one. No longer will we relate to G-d as a form of religion or belief, but we will all experience G-d and spirituality as the basis of our reality. So real is this promise, that not only is it bound to happen, but it's actually on the verge of happening. For the Lubavitcher Rebbe has announced that ours is a unique generation, poised on the fulfillment of this Biblical promise. And by our increasing in acts of goodness and kindness we can gather the merit needed to bring Moshiach and actualize this Garden of Eden-like utopia—here and now.

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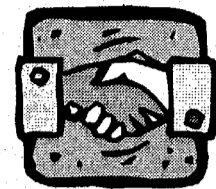
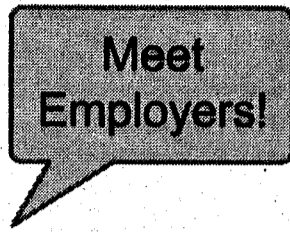
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Campus Life Time: 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
SAC Plaza (Rain location: SAC Ballroom A)

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Editor's View

Keep Lautenberg on the Ballot

By ADAM ZIMMERMAN
Statesman Editor

For an altogether uneventful state, New Jersey has been experiencing some pretty interesting times lately in a rather unexpected forum: the race to serve in the United States Senate.

The race was not foreseen to be quite so exciting. Since being elected for the first time in 1996, Robert Torricelli had served the state with distinction, and proved to be a highly skillful fundraiser for the Democratic party. As such, he was expected to easily triumph over Republican challenger Douglas Forrester.

Unfortunately, Torricelli perhaps became too adept at accepting monetary and material donations. A few months ago, he was investigated by federal authorities for taking illegal gifts from a man named David Chang, who currently resides in prison. Though he was not charged with any criminal activity in the end, Torricelli was sternly admonished by the Senate Ethics Committee for his dealings with Mr. Chang.

As a result, Torricelli's popularity rating plummeted, and Forrester made honesty and integrity the focus of his campaign. Last week, knowing his reelection chances were slim at best, Torricelli decided to withdraw from the race, and retire at the end of his term.

Democratic leadership swiftly selected Frank Lautenberg, a former Senator from New Jersey who retired in 2000 after serving 18 years, to take Torricelli's place. However, New Jersey law

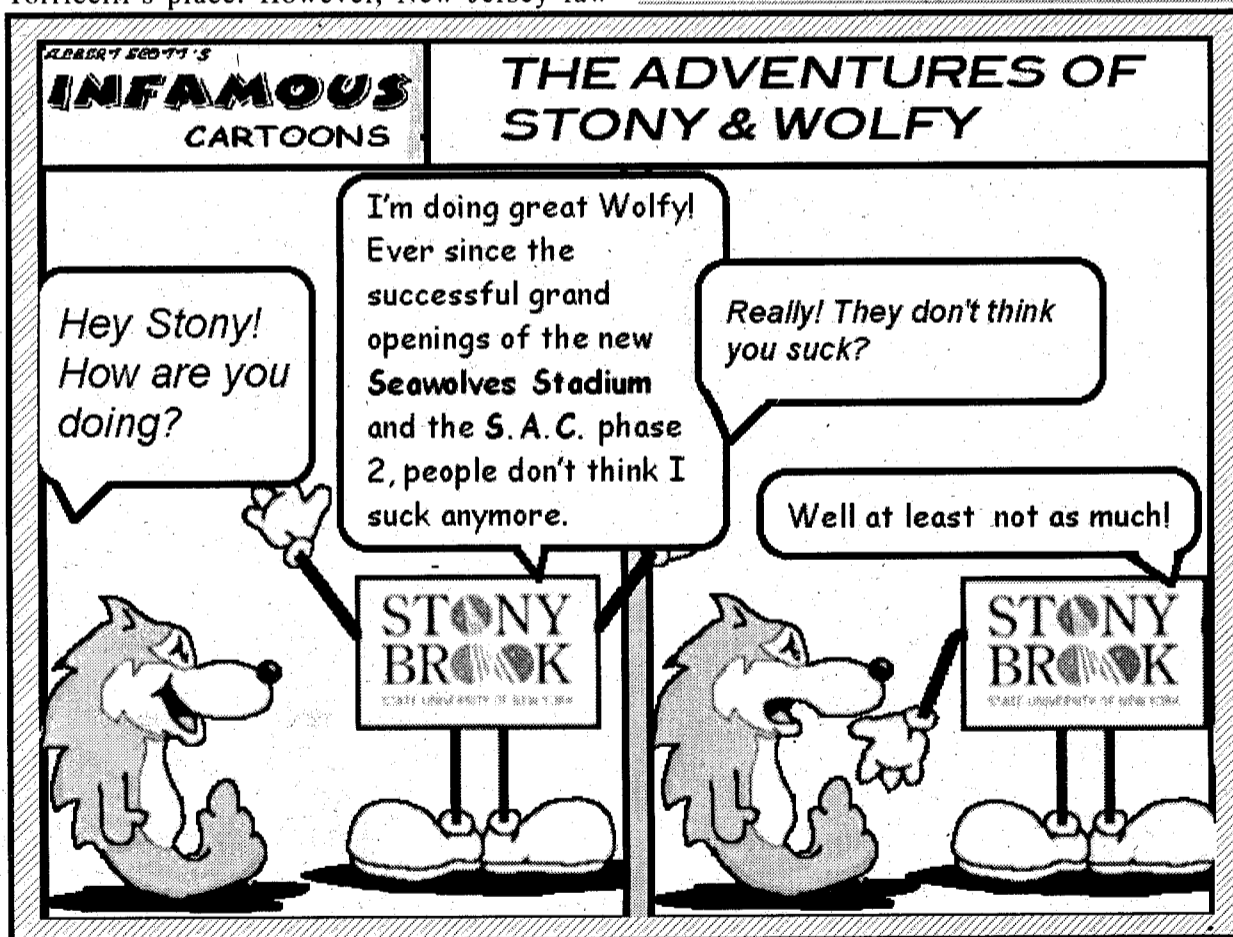
prohibits candidate substitutions within 51 days of an impending election. Since Torricelli withdrew only 36 days before Election Day, Republicans challenged the substitution in a state court. Nevertheless, the New Jersey State Court ruled unanimously that Lautenberg's name could, in fact, appear on the ballot.

Though Republicans continue to cry foul over this ruling, it was indeed the proper decision. The 51-day "line in the sand" had obviously been placed in the books out of fear that there would not be enough time to change the official ballots. Thanks to the state supreme court's expedited ruling, there remained plenty of time for a proper ballot to be in place by November 5th. The state Democratic party is complying with a court order to pay the entire cost of the ballot changes, so there should be no cause for alarm.

Republicans, however, have to decided to ask the United States Supreme Court to intervene in an election dispute. The GOP has filed a petition with the High Court, citing as precedent the *Bush v. Gore* (2000) ruling that state legislatures have the final say over the "time, place, and manner" over state elections, not the state courts.

There are two problems with this tactic. One is that *Bush v. Gore* cannot be used as precedent for ANY future Supreme Court decision. As the justices wrote in the per curiam opinion less than two years ago, "our consideration is limited to the present circumstances." The justices

Continued on Page 7



***CORRECTION: On the back page of the Thurs., Oct. 3 issue of *Statesman*, Dean of Students Jerrold Stein was erroneously identified as the former head of Campus Residences. His former position was Dean and Director of Residential Education Programs. *Statesman* regrets the error.

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Feminist's Rant: Airport Security Headaches

By MARIE HUCTION
Statesman Staff

A few weeks ago I mentioned in passing that I was studying in the UK this semester. The 12 hours of travel time over the Atlantic gave me copious opportunities to reflect upon America's current airport security procedures. So today, in the fashion of a true rant, I'm going to criticize and complain about airport security.

To preface this, let me just say that I fly a lot. I'm constantly shuttling around the country on many of the airlines that frequent the skies. I've noticed all the heightened security measures since Sept. 11, and condone most of them. This said however, I have to wonder why I am searched an average of two to three times every time I fly. If it happened on one flight, that would be fine, or on two flights, coincidental. But after eight

flights and 20 searches, I'm getting tired of taking off my shoes.

Luggage checks, yep, I've done that a couple times. It's only slightly annoying when I get to the airport early and have to watch a gloved attendant go through my personal possessions. It's worse when I am the only person in a line of 40 that has to go through this rather invasive procedure. Why are my bags so much more dangerous than anyone else's? I wouldn't mind X-ray screening of all bags, but to arbitrarily rifle through my clothes while ignoring everyone else seems rather illogical.

The second part of the major searches is the metal detectors. I can put up with being "wanded" because the snaps on my cargo pants set off the incredibly sensitive machines. I am more than willing to deal with having my backpack searched. I recognize my camera and notebooks might appear threatening and indistinguishable on a x-ray screen. But to be pulled aside, wanded, asked to remove my shoes, and have

my bag searched for no apparent reason seems excessive. I've also had my bag swabbed down to check for drugs. I can't decide if it's the facial piercing or the fact that I'm under 25 that makes the security guards think I'm a dealer.

My day of travelling really gets fun when I've checked in and I am waiting in line to actually board the airplane. Ticket in hand, I step up to the attendant and am invariably sent behind their partition for yet another search. Some days the search is indicated on my ticket, other days it's the arbitrary whim of the ticket-taker. While trying to be congenial and not bitter, I undergo a thorough wanding and pat down, which includes both the removal of my shoes (once again) and another search of my backpack. In all of my flying I have only once evaded this particular search. That makes the statistic of getting searched seven out of eight which, suffice it to say does not sound entirely random to me.

Since this is a rant, I have to comment on the attendant on my flight to England. I watched

her take 20 people's tickets in a row and then the moment she looked at me she pointed towards the partition. While being wanded the security guard apologized for the inconvenience and I responded with a good-natured, "It happens all the time."

As I got back into line, having successfully proven, again, that I had neither dangerous nor illegal substances on my person, the woman looked at me and said "Sorry, but I had to choose someone." This I understand, but why choose me? Why not select the middle-aged white guy in front of me, or the fifty-year-old couple on my left.

I've watched who they choose to search, and despite their claims of being random, there is nothing random about it. They pick anyone of Middle-Eastern descent, a couple of generally non-white kids between 20 and 30, a token middle-aged white male, and of course, me. If the airports are going to profile by race and age then be honest and admit it, otherwise they need to introduce a less arbitrary and more all-inclusive search methodology.

New Jersey Senatorial Race Takes Interesting Turn

Continued from Page 6

themselves, therefore, decreed that *Bush v. Gore* would forever, and always, stand on its own as a one-time decision."

Secondly, if the Supreme Court were to keep Mr. Lautenberg's name off the ballot, New Jersey voters would be faced with a blatantly undemocratic election. By not giving them a choice of candidates, the High Court would be effectively removing their right to decide for themselves who would represent them in the Senate. Courts do not choose candidates; the people do.

It's obvious that the Republicans are running scared in the Garden State. After all, Forrester based his entire campaign on Torricelli's ethics woes. Now, he no longer has that edge, and Lautenberg remains extremely popular in a state which has not elected a Republican Senator in decades.

The Republicans ought to drop their legal challenge and instead battle the race out in the court of public opinion. After all, isn't that the proper place for an election to be held?

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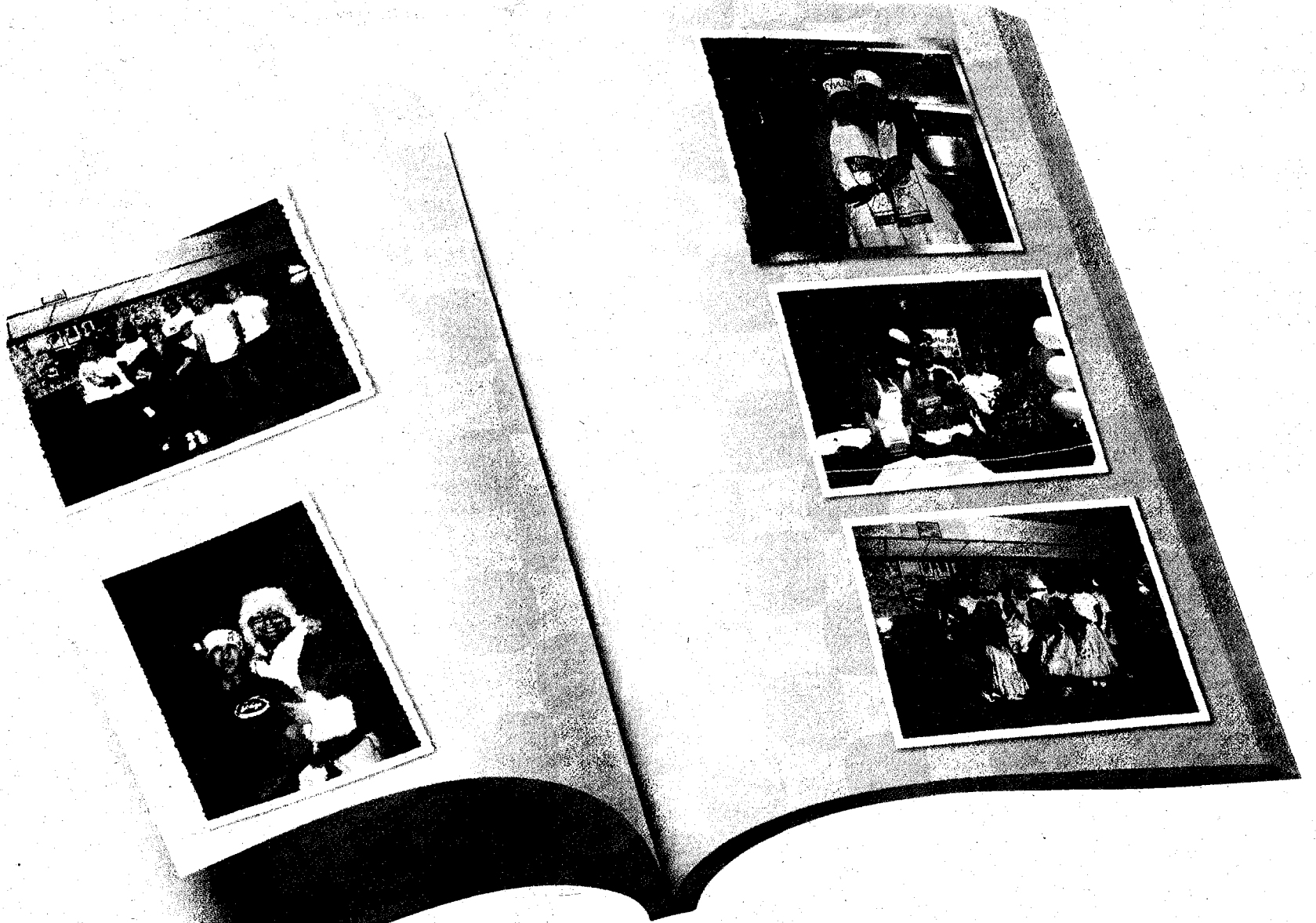
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The Solong Brook Statesman Monday, October 7, 2002

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More Help for Research Panels

By JEFFREY BRAINARD
The Chronicle for Higher Education

The federal government should require colleges and other research entities to improve substantially the safety net that protects the health and rights of volunteers who participate in medical experiments, the Institute of Medicine said in a report released on Thursday. In particular, the report says, research organizations need to provide much more assistance to their overburdened institutional review boards, the panels responsible for monitoring studies involving human subjects.

The report, 18 months in the making, is the institute's attempt to provide an overarching set of recommendations to improve the conduct of medical research nationwide. Members of the panel that wrote the report said they hope their advice will help a field of research that has been battered in recent years by reports of patient deaths and regulatory violations at some of the top research institutions.

"There is no single cause for the errors and mishaps that unfortunately have resulted in" the deaths, said Daniel D. Federman, chairman of the panel that wrote the report, and senior dean for alumni relations and clinical teaching at Harvard Medical School. "Rather, a combination of stresses, weaknesses, and lack of accountability have strained the current hodgepodge of protections to the point that fundamental changes are needed to protect all participants and keep public trust from being irrevocably eroded," Dr. Federman said in a written statement.

In particular, the report says, universities should provide additional help to lessen the burdens on members of the institutional review boards, which are at the front lines of the effort to protect patients. Federal regulations now require all federally financed research organizations to submit medical studies involving human volunteers to such panels for review. The all-volunteer panels are made up of scientists at that institution and some outsiders.

The review boards have been burdened with a variety of tasks beyond their central mission and expertise, which is to evaluate the ethical pros and cons of each study, the report says. These additional tasks include evaluating the scientific merits of studies and conflicts of interest involving researchers performing the research. Other committees and university personnel could be appointed to help the IRB's handle those tasks, the report suggests.

The report also recommends that Congress should:

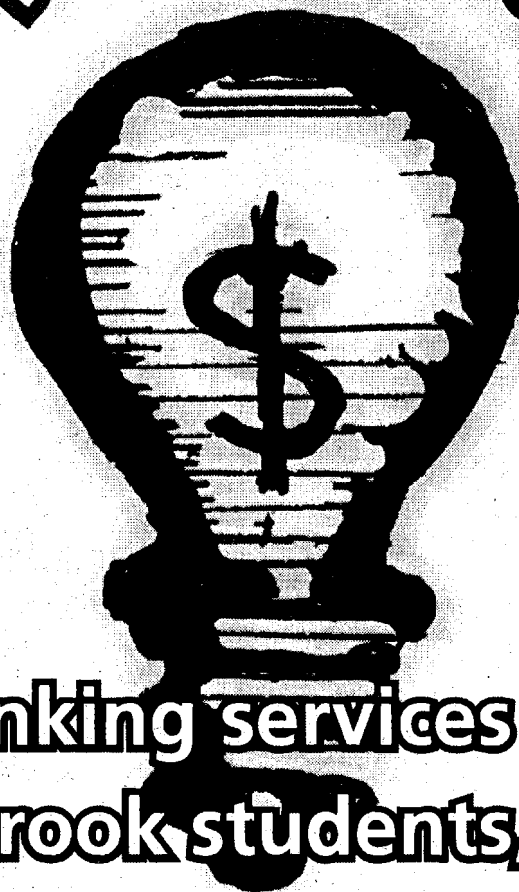
* Create a national system of no-fault insurance for research volunteers to cover any injuries that occur during experiments. In recent years, other experts have recommended such a system, but the proposal has not attracted support in Congress. The institute's report acknowledges that more data are needed on the extent to which injuries and unexpected illnesses occur in medical studies.

* Create a new, independent commission to provide continuing advice about how to protect research volunteers. The panel would be similar to the National Human Research Protections Advisory Committee, a body whose charter the Bush administration allowed to lapse this year.

Some critics of the report suggested on Thursday that problems in medical research would persist as long as institutions are required to police their own researchers, a job that poses an inherent conflict of interest.

Anticipating such complaints, the Institute of Medicine panel also recommended that universities ensure that at least one quarter of all members on IRB's are from outside the institution, are nonscientists, or are research volunteers. This would lessen the potential for conflicts of interest, the report says.

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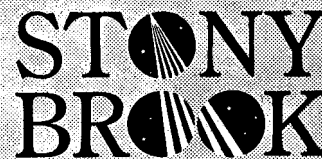
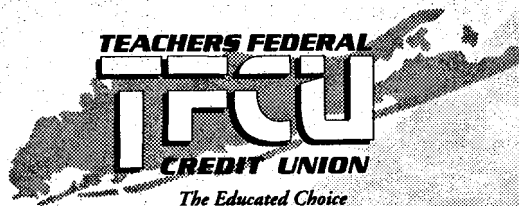
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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, October 7, 2002



Features

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Child Care Center Looking To Expand

By TRACY JOSEPH
Statesman Contributor

With new plans to expand its facilities, the staff at Stony Brook Child Care Services, Inc. (SBCCSI) is gearing up for another year of service for students and their children.

For more than three decades, childcare has been an important issue on the Stony Brook campus. In the 1970s and 1980s, three different programs were run in order to cater to children of different ages. However, in 1989 the three organizations joined together to form the SBCCSI. A fourth center was later opened for children from the age of two months to five-year-olds.

In September 2001, the childcare centers moved to a new location on South Drive across from the South P Lot. An opening potluck celebration was held in which families and alumni from the previous thirty years were able to reunite and visit the new building. The new center now has room for 160 children, 60 more than it had at previous sites. The SBCCSI is also

planning to open another infant toddler room creating a total of four infant toddler rooms and four preschool rooms.

The Center provides programs in which children from birth to eight years of age are able to interact with each other in small, mixed age groups. The SBCCSI also has plans to provide resources for children in the community who are physically challenged.

The Child Care Service is available for parents and students enrolled at Stony Brook University. The Center provides childcare for the children of students, faculty and staff from the main campus, hospital and Health Sciences Center year round.

"Our programs give parents some of the support they need to attend classes, complete their education, allows parents to work and is an



Courtesy of www.sunysb.edu

Stony Brook Child Care Center provides assistance to the SBU students, faculty and staff with prices scaled according to a family's income. It is currently looking to expand.

educational resource for parents on issues of parenting and child development," said Denise Masone, program director of SBCCSI.

For University employees and students, fees are charged on a sliding scale according to family income. The student to teacher ratio is six to one for three to five-year-olds and three to one for the infants.

The program is not only for children and parents. It is also a center

for undergraduate student interns who are able to make observations and learn from the children. Graduate students in the Nurse Practitioner program, occupational therapy students and medical residents are able to complete their rotations at the center. The Child and Family Studies Department, Linguistics Department and various teaching programs also use the Center as a practicum site for student interns.

The Center, a non-profit organization, gets most of its money from grants and fundraisers. Special events are held each year to raise money for the Center. The "Cash Bonanza," which is usually held in the early spring at the SAC, raised \$25,000 last year. Raffle drawings are held in which the grand-prize winner can win \$15,000 are also held annually. All proceeds go to covering the SBCCSI expenses.

Masone said the major goal of the SBCCSI is "to provide child care for young children that meets their developmental needs; physically, socially, intellectually as well as emotionally."

Academic Advising Center Supports Student Progress

By GENE TULMAN
Statesman Editor

The Academic Advising Center (AAC), located at E-2360 on the second floor of the Melville Library, offers Stony Brook University students a free service, helping them select areas of study as well as individual courses.

According to Rick Gatteau, the new director of the AAC, the Center offers a general counseling service aimed at supporting the University's academic missions.

"We really want to support student academic success," Gatteau said. "And part of the success factor for students is [for us] to help them develop a level of responsibility. I think it's important for students to be given the opportunities to explore all of the different options they have available at Stony Brook."

AAC's mission statement refers to the Center's dedication to oversee the progress of SBU students.

"The Academic Advising Center facilitates the academic success and responsibility of undergraduate students," the Center's website said.



Courtesy of advising.sunysb.edu

Rick Gatteau is the new Director of the Academic Advising Center.

"We provide accurate and realistic advice in a respectful, nonjudgmental manner. We establish a proactive and meaningful interaction with students. We are responsive to the diverse capabilities and goals of all students."

Gatteau said the AAC was previously known as the Center for Academic Advising and its location has changed on several occasions. But no

significant amendments have been made to the types of student services offered throughout the AAC's history.

"The main structural change that happened in the last few years is that pre-health advising has come under the umbrella of the Academic Advising Center," Gatteau said. "So we [now] perform the general academic advising for undeclared students, students in the College of Arts and Sciences, and those in pre-health, as well as pre-law."

The Center sponsors a number of special programs. The Academic Peer Advisor Program offers SBU students a chance to earn three hours of upper-division credits while providing academic advising to other undergraduate SBU students. The Achievement Support Program attempts to provide personal contact to undergraduate students who are in academic risk, advising them of their options and directing them to the resources they will need in order to be successful at SBU.

"We're in a central enough location that we can serve a lot of students," Gatteau said. "Being located in the

library brings an academic component to what we are doing."

According to a pamphlet put out by the Center, the AAC's Mentor Program helps underrepresented minority students adjust to college life, as students meet with a faculty or staff member to "promote academic success and personal and social development."

"The Academic Advising Center serves a large student population," said SBU senior Alban Bailey. "For those who choose to take advantage of the multiple opportunities provided by the Center, it serves an important role in their undergraduate careers."

The Center maintains a database of student e-mail addresses, informing those interested about the upcoming events or programs sponsored by the AAC.

"Anyone who comes to the Center and gives us an e-mail address, we are putting on a list to receive periodic e-mail updates," Gatteau said.

The Academic Advising Center may be reached by calling 631-632-7082 or by visiting the Center's website at <http://advising.sunysb.edu>.