

Study Abroad Program
Gains Popularity page 5

G and H Quads to be
Renovated page 2

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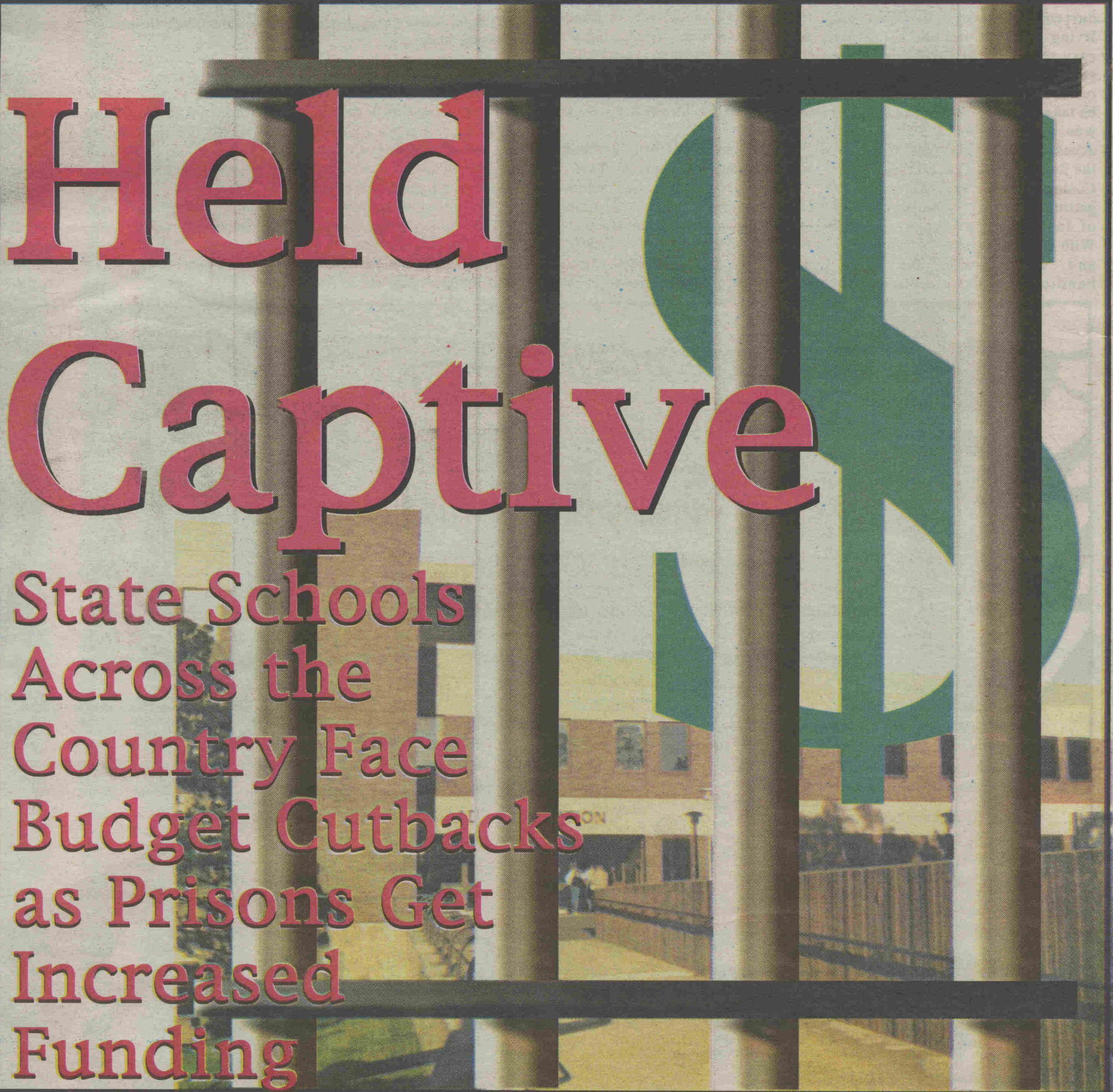


Statesman

VOLUME XLII, NUMBER 23

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1998

PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY



Held Captive

State Schools
Across the
Country Face
Budget Cutbacks
as Prisons Get
Increased
Funding

G and H Quads to be Renovated

By JULIE MINGIONE
Statesman Staff

For the first time since their completion in the early sixties, the buildings in G and H quads are finally going to be renovated. The first buildings to be overhauled are Gray and Irving, located in Mendelsohn Quad. By the spring of 2000, all the buildings in both quads will be completely renovated.

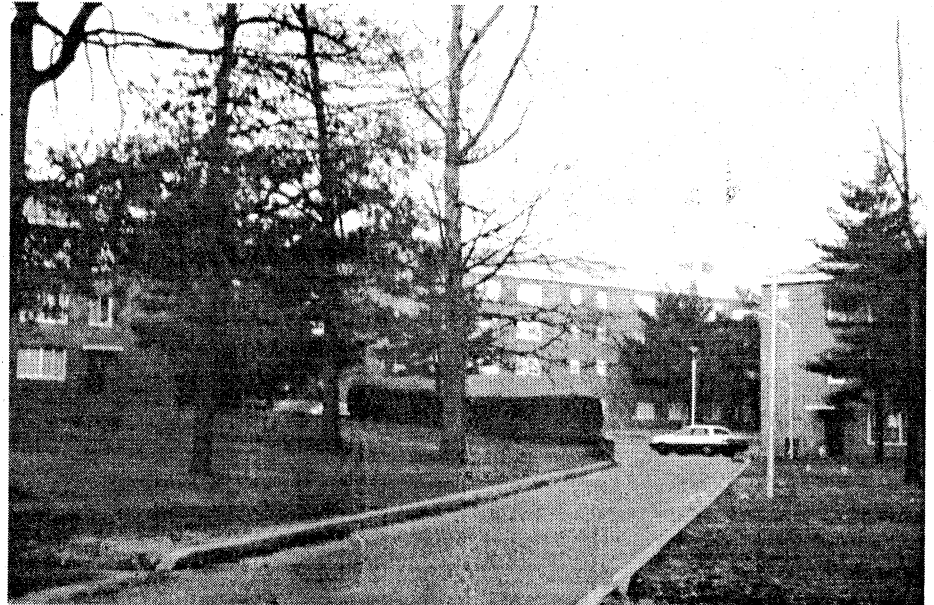
Director of Residential Operations for Stony Brook, Fred Tokash has been playing an active role in the upcoming residential facelift. According to Tokash, the renovations will start with exterior brickwork and the replacement of windows. The windows that are currently installed in Gray and Irving are quite tall and relatively easy to break into. This poses a serious security threat to all residents that desperately needs to be taken care of. "My main concern was the windows and their easy accessibility, said Victor Latimer, the Residence Hall Director of Gray College. "I'm very happy to be getting new ones." Another concern of Latimer's was the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). Gray and Irving will be "fully handicapped accessible", said

Tokash, and complete with elevators.

Currently, all the dorms in Irving and Gray have tiled floors, peeling paint, various holes in the walls, and rickety old closets. "After the renovations," assures Tokash, "there will be carpeting in the rooms, a fresh coat of paint, and new closet doors." This comes as a relief to many current Mendelsohn residents, including Randi Ehrlich, a resident of Gray College. "I'm very happy about the renovations. We'll finally be able to catch up to the rest of the dorms in appearance and comfort," said Ehrlich.

Another concern of Mendelsohn residents is internet access. As of now, all the buildings in G and H quads use an analog adapter, which is a frustrating way to get connected since it disconnects with an annoying frequency. But once the renovations are over, all the dorms will be hooked up to the ethernet.

All Gray and Irving residents will be moving in January 1999 to Tabler Quad. Tabler has recently been renovated as well. Reactions to the move have been mixed. "I think the renovations are sorely needed, but I'm not looking forward to moving to the Tabler in the



Statesman/Tee Lek D. Ying

Left to right, James College, Benedict College and O'Neill College will be renovated by the year 2000.

boondocks," said Sapna Patel, an Irving resident. Tabler certainly is in an out of the way location, but it also has been renovated recently. Gray and Irving will re-open in the fall of 1999, and all current residents will have priority to moving back into their previous dorms.

These extensive renovations are going to cost a total of 20 million dollars; 10 million per quad. This cost is funded by the Dorm Authority

of the State of New York, who sell bonds and loaned the University the required funds. Stony Brook will repay the loan over a fifteen year period.

The impending renovations and move should prove to be a long and somewhat inconvenient task. But the results promise to be well worth the effort. "In order to make this work, all Gray and Irving residents will have to come together as a community," said Latimer.

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State Schools Held Prisoners

Study Says SUNY System Faces Cuts For More New York State Prisons

By PETER GRATTON
Statesman Editor

Spotlighting what it calls "the shifting of public monies from higher education to corrections," a study to be released tomorrow has found a correlation between the growth of the New York state prison system and the State University system's budget cutbacks over the last ten year period.

The Rockefeller foundation funded study was completed by the Justice Policy Institute, a left-leaning Washington DC-based think-tank.

Since 1988, the study says, New York's prison budget has grown by \$761.3 million, while budgets for state and city colleges have been slashed by \$615 million. The deleterious effects of this trend, according to the study, has been the disproportionately African American and Latino prison population.

This study shows "a counterproductive shift in governmental shift in governmental priorities that has had a devastating impact on young people of color - and completely failed to make New York safer," said Robert Gangi, a coauthor of the study.

The blame for this movement of money from state colleges to prisons is the so-called Rockefeller drug laws passed during Nelson Rockefeller's term as governor in 1973. The laws require mandatory minimum prison terms for people possessing over four ounces of a narcotic or selling two ounces of any drug. As a result, the study says, 62.5% of all those sent to prison in 1997 were convicted of nonviolent offenses, including the possession or sale of narcotics. According to the study, the hardest hit has been New York's minority communities.

"Since the Rockefeller Drug laws were brought into effect in 1973, New York state has witnessed a substantial increase in the number of young people of color entering its prison system - eclipsing the increases people of color have achieved in college enrollment," the study says. Since 1989, it points out, more minorities have entered New York's prison system than have graduated from SUNY with undergraduate, masters, and doctoral degrees combined. While FBI and National Institute for Drug Abuse statistics point out that whites make up a majority of drug consumers and a National Household Survey on Drug Abuse found that a majority of drug dealers are white as well, 90% of people locked up in New York for drug offenses,



according to the JPI study, are African American or Latino.

"Locking up a generation of people of color is not the way to cut crime," said Vincent Schiraldi, Executive Director of JPI. "It's time for state policy makers to revoke the Rockefeller drug laws and invest in educating, not incarcerating, young people," said Schiraldi.

The increase in state money, the study says, that has been spent on New York's growing prison population has directly coincided with cutbacks

made to the SUNY system. Students now pay, with tuition, books and extra fees, an average tuition of just over \$11,200 - a jump of 35% from seven years ago.

SUNY officials were unavailable for comment this past Thanksgiving weekend. However, they have in the past pointed out SUNY's growing enrollment figures -this year's freshman class grew by 4.5% over last year - as proof that SUNY remains affordable to all New Yorkers, including minorities.

Beanie Babies at the Sports Complex

Last Saturday the Sports Complex was filled with basketball fans who not only came to see the Seawolves play but to receive a complimentary Beanie Baby of no other than

Final Score:

SBU 60

Wis.-Milwaukee 74

the SBU mascot, the seawolf.

While the Beanie Baby manufacturers, Ty, gave the crowd their gifts, the Seawolves lost 74-60 to Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The team is the first Division I team the Division II

Seawolves have hosted.

Stony Brook obtained a 15-14 lead in the first half, but Wisconsin-Milwaukee Panthers stole a 42-23 lead at halftime. They then increased their lead in the second half of the game to 53-27. Panther Chad Balliro led his team with 18 points.

SBU freshman Achilles Klepkos scored 12 of his game-high 19 points during the last nine minutes of the game.

His teammate Chis Balliro had 10 points and seven rebounds off the bench for the Seawolves.

The Panthers were SBU's third Division I opponent for the season. The other two games, against Cleveland State and Drake, SBU lost 94-65 against Cleveland and 82-54 against Drake. The Seawolves will face Binghamton on Tuesday and will host Columbia, another Division I team, on December 7.

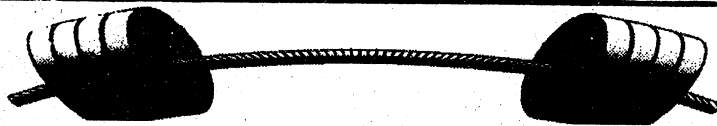
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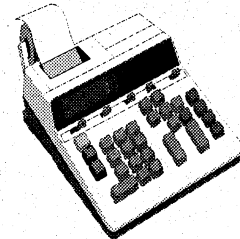
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Seeing the Sights

The Study Abroad Program Becomes More Popular at SBU

By DANIEL WHITE
Special to the Statesman

What could be better than living and studying in a foreign country for a semester or two? It seems that more and more students have been asking themselves this exact question.

In the last two years the number of students who have decided to study abroad has seen a dramatic rise across the country. Here at Stony Brook the number of students has doubled in the last two years. "There are about 175 students enrolled in the study abroad program through Stony Brook right now," said Mark Kehren an advisor for the program.

Kehren said, "Students can take what they are learning in their textbooks and see it first hand."

Once enrolled, a Stony Brook student has to choose from twelve different countries. If you attend another SUNY school, you have about 300 countries to pick from. All together, the number one choice seems to be England.

"There are a lot of misconceptions and myths about studying abroad," he said, "People should take some time and learn about the program." According to Kehren, a very common misconception is the notion that you need to have a large number of language credits under your belt. It turns out that most programs do not require that at all.

Another misconception is that the price is very costly. The price to attend a school in another country costs the same as it does to attend Stony Brook, the only difference being the room and board.

Stony Brook graduate Dina Davies used the program to study in Spain in the spring of 1995. "It was interesting. You get to appreciate American culture more and see what being a foreigner is like," she said. For Davies it was the first time she had been on her own.

She traveled every weekend to Barcelona and other cultural hot spots with her housemates and during her spring break she was able to go to Paris. "One thing I took



Statesman/Teo Lek D. Ying

The Study Abroad Offices are located on the fifth floor of the Melville Library.

from Stony Brook was this experience," she said.

Kerri Donohue, a freshman at Stony Brook who is interested in the program, said, "I want to experience another culture and broaden my educational horizons."

If you are interested in finding out more about the program go down to the study abroad offices that are located on the fifth floor of the Melville library. The offices are open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m..

Big Brothers and Sisters on Campus

By HASSAN PEREZ
Special to the Statesman

Volunteers Involved Together in Action for Life (VITAL) sponsored their annual Big Brother/Big Sister Day, on November 15, an event that VITAL, a volunteer organization based in the Career Placement Center, has sponsored for the last 13 years.

Big Brother/Big Sister is a day where about 60 children between the ages of seven and fourteen are transported from Little Flower Children's Services, in Wading River, to Stony Brook, for a day of activities in the University's arcade, pool, gym, and any other site that participants see fit.

The sixty student volunteers, most of which were members of various fraternities and sororities, attended an orientation session before the children arrived. This session provided volunteers with tips on how to work with the children. After the orientation session, the volunteers greeted the children in the Union Ballroom, who were introduced to their big brother/big sister for the day.

"The Kids love this event. They look forward to it all year round, and they are constantly asking me when are they going back to Stony Brook. They love the event so much that if one of my kids is behaving poorly, I

tell them that they might not be allowed to participate in Big Brother/Big Sister and that changes their attitude in a hurry," said Risa Stein, the coordinator for the event.

Some students brought the children to the arcade or the pool, while others brought the children to their rooms or went on walks around the campus. Lunch was served in the Ballroom in the afternoon. The food donations this year, unlike previous years were limited, "we weren't able to secure the type of donation that we have in the past. In fact, if it was not for Dennis LaStrange, Gail Engel, and Ginger Ferraro, our contacts from Chartwells, we wouldn't have had any food for the kids," said Selina Styslinger, president of VITAL, "they were instrumental in making Big Brother/Big Sister a success this semester, and for that, all of us at VITAL offer them a sincere thank you." The food service company provided ham and cheeseburgers, and chicken nuggets from Burger King.

After lunch, the children went to the Pritchard Gym, where they spent two hours in the pool. After saying a heartwarming good-bye to their Big Brother/Big Sister, the children left the campus for Little Flower.

Making Connections in H Quad



H Quad's Cafeteria was renamed in a ceremony last Thursday. Campus Dining Services, CDS, wanted a new name for the cafeteria, and "since the students eat here, they might be able to come up with a name that might be fitting," said CDS Marketing Manager, Donna Krumm.

Subsequently, a contest was held. Jane Gehring, submitted the winning name, "Campus Connection." And won a new mountain bike, donated by Coca-Cola. There were also two runners up, Patricia M. Daly, with "Good Times Cafe," and Nerlande Dalberis, with "Unity Diner."



Statesman/Michael Kwan

Donna Krumm, Jill Pistone, and Jane Gehring display the new banner, above, Gehring and Krumm with Gehring's prize, a new mountain bike

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Editorial and Commentary

Food Service Woes

By FRANK SANTANGELO
Special to the Statesman

We conclude this series with a charge of neglect against Dennis Lestrage (and other Chartwell's upper management and university officials, assuming that those parties were aware of Lestrage's behavior).

It is not easy—from a management perspective—to operate a state-influenced organization. One must always balance the needs of the university (mainly administration), students and the “bottom line”—profit. Yet, one can initially manage the same by being assertive and honest, and should remain constant in decisions. As a consumer do you see any major problem with Campus Dining Services regarding pricing, quality, staffing and general management? If so, you can be assured that in most cases the initial breakdown begins with the office of Dennis Lestrage, Director of Dining Services.

The recent incident of selling grapefruit halves for \$.90 at the dining location in the

Student Activities Center representative of this type neglect. At that time local dining management did not have an official program in place to stray from the standing price guide. Student Activities Center dining management had some grapefruit halves and instead of selling them at the agreed upon fresh fruit price (\$.67) they had opted (presumably with Lestrage's acceptance) to market them for a higher price.

As a customer I strolled through the dining service area in search of food, and noticed the grapefruit. I went through the checkout and much to my surprise was charged \$.90. The cashier, Michael explained to me that he was instructed to ring the half under a miscellaneous key not the designated fruit key. A few minutes later while talking to Mike the evening supervisor, LaKesha Marshall, came by and I encouraged them to purchase a grapefruit. They did. Naturally both students knew that they were overcharged and had requested the item for free and a \$10.00 punitive credit issued to their account. LaKesha left to investigate

“why” this was happening.

In the manager's office ensuing a concession that the .90 price was not reflected in the pricing guide Ms. Marshall looked for direction from higher management. She had already phoned William “Billy” Sallustro (the computer programmer) and had learned that he was instructed to remove the sliced fruit key and had programmed the misc. key accordingly. Dennis Lestrage phoned. It was apparent from Ms. Marshall's facial expressions that she was frustrated. Indeed, Lestrage had instructed her to simply refund only the difference between the .90 and .67 which flew in complete contrast to the standard “mistake” policy. She hung up the phone and then had explained Lestrage's order. I then had a quick conversation with him and I handed the phone to Ms. Marshall. Lestrage withdrew his order and the students were properly refunded.

The problem of course is the carelessness and disrespect toward rules and obligations that upper management passes down the line. And that is tragic. Does this behavior negatively encourage their general attitudes toward the student body?

Lestrage's poor managerial skill also directly harms his team. There was an incident that had needed the support of upper management (*Statesman* 11/5 and see also *The Stony Brook Press* 10/21) where a customer was falsely accused of stealing. Normally this would end with an apology; however, in this case the management of the Student Activities Center had encountered this individual previously. It was their position that the customer in question had ostensibly taken food while exiting the rear of their establishment. It was determined that the customer did in fact not take the food and although an apology was given the customer was irate. Voices raised and the police were called.

The customer went away with no charges filed. Later the customer insisted to upper management that a formal and public apology was needed to soothe tensions. Dennis Lestrage had urged the management team involved to do the same. In sum, Lestrage argued that sometimes “you have to eat crow.” Steve Bauman, manager, told me that he simply had penned his two week notice arguing that he and his team were not in the wrong to, among other things, approach a customer who had appeared to be stealing. I agree. Who wouldn't? Why should one admit to something that had not occurred?

People like Dennis Lestrage simply do things that encourage a larger bottom line at any cost, including, but not limited to, compromising the integrity of an institution. “We have offered any student a \$10.00 meal plan credit who experiences any incorrect purchase from the price and portion guide listing,” Lestrage stated. Yeah, but do you know the right price? Can we trust the antics of Lestrage?

Recently Lestrage had stated before a LEG that the “*Statesman* lied” and had intimated that I had done the same in my writings. I say then, I challenge Lestrage to an open meeting. Indeed, let me file Lestrage publicly. Presently, not once has he responded in writing. Dare he?

-This has been reprinted in its entirety.

Point Seven: Education

By RAYA EID
Statesman Editor

Various studies show that 1 in every 6 college women reported experiencing forceful attempts at sexual intercourse. With the latest reported rapes on Stony Brook campus, maybe people will finally wake up and realize that this statistic is too high.

Ever since the three distinct rapes were reported, the media has labeled Stony Brook's campus “unsafe.” Various television reports last week depicted the dark, wooded areas on campus with Stony Brook students declaring how frightening it is to walk around campus at night, instilling a fear in parents, students and the community of Stony Brook. So now many have decided to not walk alone around our “frightening” campus. Does it take a crime for college students to realize that walking alone anywhere is unsafe? What people need to realize is that two out of the three reported sex crimes were acquaintance rapes, meaning the victims knew their perpetrators. This does not of course make it any less of a crime than the stranger rape that occurred in the woods between Tabler and Roosevelt Quad earlier this semester.

We can attempt to make our campus as safe as possible, but this will not prevent date rapes from occurring, only education can.

So as administration tries to tackle crime by holding campus meetings to ensure safety on campus, college women continue to experience sexual assault and most go unreported. In fact 42 percent of college women who are raped tell no one about their assault. Instead of portraying our campus as dangerous and frightening, maybe we should stop and be grateful for a second that women are finally reporting these crimes committed against them.

So President Kenny wants to implement her “six point action plan,” which includes the installation of 100 new

lights around campus, forty-four blue light phones, security cameras, hiring more police officers and an increase of police presence in the residence halls. Granted this plan can only help, but perhaps it should have been implemented a long time ago and I got news for you Mrs. President, your six point plan won't prevent acquaintance rapes from occurring. While Kenny and fellow administrators sat on the panel two weeks ago in an attempt to reassure students and most importantly the media that everything is being done to ensure safety at SBU, no one chose to tackle the issue of education. Because all the blue lights in the world won't prevent a date rape in a dorm room, the presence of police officers won't make it any easier for a victim to report a sexual crime and it won't make it any harder for ignorant college males to commit the crimes. Our answer is education. Programs like S.A.F.E., sexual assault facts and education, is one method of educating college students and high school students about the frightening issue of sexual assault. Students need to know that rape isn't always a scary man jumping out of the woods and holding down a victim forcefully to have sex. The majority of rapes that occur are acquaintance rapes and 84 percent of college men whose behavior meets the legal definition of sexual assault do not think of what they did as sexual assault. That just goes to show how many students are uneducated on the topic and how much work needs to be done in order to decrease these horrifying statistics.

I encourage anyone who is concerned about this issue to please educate yourselves and educate others. If you know anyone who has experienced rape or sexual assault please contact the resources available to you. VIBS (Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk County) : (516) 360-3606, University Counseling Center: (516) 632-6720, University Police: 333 S.A.F.E.: (516) 444-SAFE, University Response (24 hrs) : (516) 632-HOPE

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Since June of 1998 and currently extending into the 1ST quarter of 1999, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) through its contractor, TESTCOM, is conducting a study aimed at creating the most effective and consumer friendly program possible. To do this, the study (called the IPA Pilot Study) must collect data from testing conducted on 5,100 vehicles. The testing facility for the IPA Pilot Study is currently located in Ronkonkoma, NY, at Colt Court, off of Remington Boulevard, east off exit 57 of the Long Island Expressway on Veterans' Memorial Highway.

The IPA Study is not an inspection or enforcement program. Vehicles do not "pass" or "fail". This is a voluntary program for the purposes of data collection and analysis.

To encourage participation in the IPA Study, TESTCOM will pay \$25 to motorists who take part in the study and will also pay separate finders' fees to associations and groups whose members participate in the study as a result of the association's referral. All appointments for testing a vehicle must be made in advance by phone. **TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM AND HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE, CALL TOLL-FREE - 1-877-472-8378.**

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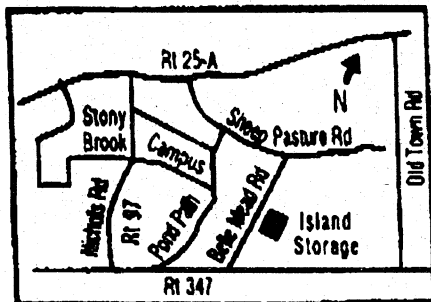
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Tuesday, December 1 at 8:00 p.m.

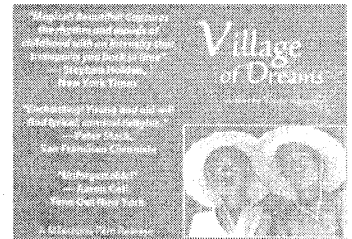
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Tickets: \$23/Half-price for Stony Brook students.

Friday Night Movies:

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Friday, December 4 at 7:00 p.m. Unrated Long Island Premiere! A memoir of childhood in 1948 Japan, set in a rural village amidst the U.S. occupation. (In Japanese with English subtitles).



Tickets: \$4/\$3 seniors and students.

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Friday, December 4 at 9:30 p.m.

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Starring Robert DiNero.

Robert DiNiro tears up the screen in this smart, thinking man's action film about a group of freelance intelligence agents who work together to steal a mysterious package, only to have a double cross throw things into confusion.

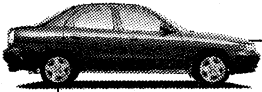
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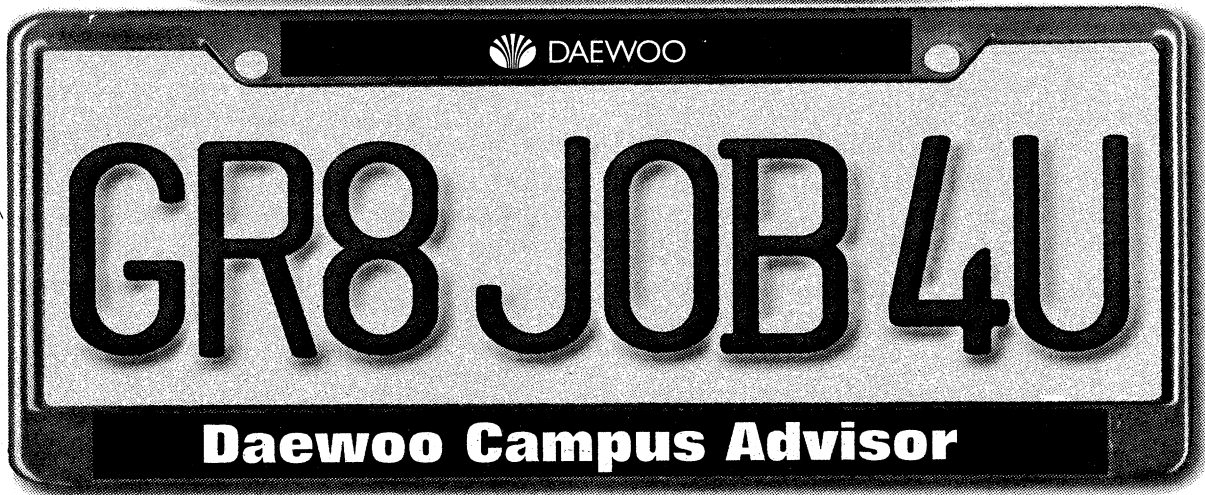
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Campus Lifestyles
Entertainment, Sports, & Alternatives


Features

An Untraditional Anniversary

The Sci Fi Forum Celebrates its Thirtieth Year

By VIJAY GOVINDAN
Statesman Staff

Where can you watch the latest science fiction shows, or catch up on the latest (and some of the oldest) science fiction books?

Where else except the oldest club on campus, the Science Fiction Forum, located in the basement of Harriman Hall Room 19 and 20.

Because of its small budget and lack of awareness by the student body, the Science Fiction Forum is not as well known as some of the clubs that have arisen from it. Such clubs include the Anime Club, the Gaming Club, and I-CON, all of which originated as factions in the Science Fiction Forum, but split into separate clubs. However, all of the clubs remain friendly with each other, and continue to associate with each other.

Perhaps you are now wondering, what activities does the Science Fiction Forum take part in and why should you be interested? It possesses its own science fiction library, dating back 30 years to its inception in 1968. Within the library room is a desk for studying or reading, and a computer for typing, checking e-mail, surfing the internet. The library, desk, and computer are available for everyone to use, and when a person is studying, the library becomes a quiet area similar to those found in certain residential hallways. A person can borrow science fiction and horror books by filling out a card that's on the back flap of the novel, and then are free to read the book over the next month.

The Science Fiction Forum also contains a lounge in the other room, where people can use the computer, eat, sleep,



Statesman/Michael Kwan

The Sci Fi Forum's huge collection of books, above, club member, Terence Reilly, taking a break from his day in the Forum's lounge, below.

and catch up on their favorite shows that they missed the previous week. Their vast taped selection includes all the current popular science fiction shows, such as the *X-Files* and both current *Star Trek* series, and cartoon favorites that include *The Simpson's*, *South Park*, and *King of the Hill*. The Science Fiction Forum's President, Jennifer Adams, and other elected members of the organization also rent recent sci-fi and horror classics that members would like to see.

Sometimes the Forum runs movie marathons in the lounge, and other times they will storm the movie theater to watch a recently released movie. Due to their large size, the Science Fiction Forum receives a group discount for club activities. Jennifer Adams also is planning on renting a screen, and showing a recent sci-fi movie outdoors. "Such a project would require fund-raising from all the related science fiction clubs to pay for costs, but the opportunity of playing a movie on a outdoor screen is something I really want to do," said Adams.

The Science Fiction Forum also conducts trips, aside from runs to the movie theater. In recent years members of the Science Fiction Forum, and other related clubs, have gone parachuting, hang-gliding, indoor rock-climbing, and white water rafting in Pennsylvania. The Sci-Fi Forum has also

participated in campus activities, like the Roth Quad Regatta, and their boat did not sink as it rowed across, happily for the rowers. The Sci-Fi Forum also holds picnics and other activities from time to time. "The Sci-Fi Forum is here to entertain members of the campus community and to promote friendship, and is not only for science fiction lovers," Jennifer Adams told me.

Recently, the Science Fiction Forum held its 30th Anniversary Banquet in honor of its beginning as a campus club. The founders of the Sci-Fi Forum were flown in to participate in the event. The keynote speaker commented that he is proud the Science Fiction Forum has lasted this long, after his departure from the club as President many years ago. He also said that he is very happy with how the organization has developed since he started it. The club has expanded from one room (which contained the library and lounge), but now contains two separate rooms for the library and lounge. The floor of the club has changed from a moth-eaten, worn floor to one of tile representing a rocket flying toward the sun. The Banquet also contained dinner, dancing, an awards ceremony honoring various forumites, and a good number of current and previous members who enjoyed the evening.



The following issue should have been numbered “25”

