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Stony Brook Council: Making the Big Decisions

By SAL VAGLICA
Statesman Staff

The nine-member, all-male Stony Brook Council met earlier this semester to review recent developments and events at Stony Brook University. The council held its meeting at Sunwood, the Ward Melville Estate in Old Field that was rebuilt after a fire in 1987. The estate now serves as President Shirley Strum Kenny's home.

A search of SBU's website about the council returns little more than the members' names. Not much is available to the students about the council's actions and responsibilities.

"[The council] exists for the benefit of the students and the university," said George Meyer, Assistant Vice President for Presidential Initiatives.

At the first meeting, administrators gave presentations on an array of topics, ranging from monetary matters to the hot-button issue of student government.

Barbara Fletcher, Director of Undergraduate Scholarships, spoke

about the growth trend of scholarships and grants at SBU.

Fletcher presented the board with a history of the university's scholarship activity since for the past five years. From January through October, 2002, the university gave \$1.8 million in merit-based scholarships, which rose from \$700,000 in 1998. Slightly more than 1.8 million went to athletics, an increase from \$595,000 in 1998.

Fletcher said the growth in scholarships comes from fundraising.

"The president has done a wonderful job of raising money for academics," Fletcher said, and added that the "Paws" campaign and SBU's jump to Division 1 athletics helped athletic grants and aid swell significantly.

Director of Judicial Affairs Gary Mis stepped up to offer members an overview of the student judicial process, and then Frederick Preston, Vice President for Student Affairs, updated the Council on the recent turmoil within the student government. Student Polity Association (SPA) was recently de-certified as the



Statesman/Audrey Dettmering

The Stony Brook Council assists University President Shirley Strum Kenny in making major decisions.

student governance body, and a configuration of interim structures has been erected in its place.

"We did hear a presentation on the Polity issue, but no action was taken," Kenny said.

Under its bylaws, the Stony Brook Council must approve all major decisions by the university, sending recommendations to the state university trustees in Albany.

A student representative sits on the council each year. This year's representative, elected by SPA, is Arif Rafiq, a senior majoring in political science.

"I appreciate having been elected by the student body to be their representative on our university's highest advising board. I take my position seriously," Rafiq said.

Governor George E. Pataki appointed SBU alumnus and current businessman Richard Nasti as chairman and also gave a seat to John C. Gallagher, the Suffolk County Police Commissioner who played an integral part in the creation of the Stony Brook University Police Department.

All of the members of the council are appointed by the governor, except for the seat held by Rafiq. The student representative seat rotates each year between graduate and undergraduate students.

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New Plans for Biomedical Engineering Program

By DEBOLINA KOWSHIK
Statesman Editor

In a move to expand education and research at Stony Brook University, the Program in Biomedical Engineering (BME) has developed plans to create a new research building on campus. The Strategically Targeted Academic Research (STAR) Center in Biomolecular Diagnostics and Therapeutics will be located near the Life Sciences Building.

Changes like this are intended to increase the resources available to the Program in BME, which received full-fledged departmental status in Dec. 2000. It is the first BME department in the 64-campus SUNY system to offer a Bachelor's degree in Bioengineering and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering.

The program receives funding from several organizations, including the National Institutes of Health, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Space Biomedical Research Institute (NSBRI), New York State Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research

(NYSTAR), the American Heart Institute and other private foundations.

The STAR Center is intended to provide cohesion within the BME Department. Some of the

current faculty remains in the Center for Biotechnology in the Psychology A Building, while others are on the other side of campus in the Health Sciences Center.

"It will benefit all the students and faculty to have a permanent home for all the laboratories and classes in one place," said first year graduate student and BME major Erin McCormack. "It is very exciting that there will be an entire new building for the Biomedical Engineering Department."

On May 3, 2001, Governor George E. Pataki announced that



Courtesy of www.sunysb.edu

Dr. Clinton Rubin, Chair of the Biomedical Engineering Department, said he is excited about the new BME Center.

Stony Brook University had been awarded \$15.7 million from NYSTAR to create the research center. In addition, Stony Brook's School of Medicine received a separate \$930,000 Faculty

Development Program award to help attract new scientists and researchers for the research program. According to the SBU BME website, this deal represents "one of the largest one-time academic research investments ever made by the State in the Long Island region."

In November of 2001, President Shirley Strum Kenny announced that a grant of \$3 million had been made by the Whitaker Foundation to recruit new faculty, expand the undergraduate and graduate programs, and develop further interdisciplinary courses in

bioinformatics, biosensors, and nanotechnology.

Partners in the STAR Center include Brookhaven National Laboratory and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

Professor and Chair of the BME Department, Dr. Clinton Rubin, described the Center as a great development.

"A lot of education happens through interactive learning," he said. "In this environment, students and faculty can work together."

The facilities in the STAR Center will allow for an interactive mode of learning, those involved said. The five-

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Spotlight: A Few Words with SBUTV Production Manager

By DEVITRI MOTI
Statesman Contributor

SBU-TV is Stony Brook University's student-run and student-operated television station. The station has run such popular programs as last year's "It's About Damn Time." This late-night talk show was an interactive forum for students to discuss—well, just about anything.

"One of the reasons students watch SBU-TV is because they enjoy watching their friends on television, said Leonid Borovskiy, SBU-TV's production manager. "If students want to see something entertaining or interesting, the SBU-TV community wants them to feel like they can turn to SBU-TV."

This semester, SBU-TV's referendum was up for renewal, and students voted to continue funding SBU-TV using the Student Activity Fee. SBU-TV came out of the ashes of SBU's previous television station, Student



Statesman/Kelly Brown

SBU-TV Production Manager Leonid Borovskiy is planning new programming.

Polity Association TV (SPATV), which was later renamed 3TV. A small group of students joined together in early 2001, meeting with Polity to discuss logistics. And, in May 2001, SBU-TV was born. With the help of Steve Kreitzer, manager of television operations, SBU-TV has continued to grow.

SBU-TV is a young organization, members said, and is trying to find its place on campus. "In the past, SBU-TV has produced programs to better the campus," Borovskiy, said. It produced four and half hours of programming for the anniversary of Sept. 11. These programs replayed scenes of events on campus that took place on September 11, 2001, aired students discussing the repercussions of this event and conducted a call-in program where students could call in and voice their opinions on the event.

SBU-TV has covered several campus events, including the Stony Brook Film Festival, Roth Pond Regatta and debates for this year's campus elections. This semester, SBU-TV started a "Game of the Week" program, where an SBU sporting event is covered on television. The show recently featured the University's football team.

New programming for this semester

includes "Stony Brook LIVE!" and "The Curb," satirical comedy programs that deal with campus and world events. SBU-TV has also pre-recorded shows in the works, including "Broken Radio" and "Feel the Flavor," which feature music videos.

Because there is no communications major at Stony Brook, SBU-TV provides students with a unique opportunity to experience and learn about the art of television on campus, Borovskiy said. He also said that SBU-TV wants to connect Stony Brook to the world and hopes to add a news program to the station's repertoire.

"I feel that the aim of every media organization is letting people know what is going on around them, and SBU-TV is heading in the direction where that is a recognizable part of what it does," Borovsky said. "I want students to turn on their televisions, flip through the channels past HBO, MTV, and then come to SBU-TV and stop."

BNL Chemist Honored for Environmental Work

By TED LAI
Statesman Staff

Peter Daum, an atmospheric chemist at the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory, which is managed by Stony Brook University, was one of four recipients of Southampton College's first annual environmental leadership awards. The awards were recently given out at Atlantis Marine World in Riverhead.

He was selected for this award because of his research, contributions and individual achievements regarding important environmental programs.

Others honored with awards include Marty Shea, of the Town of Southampton, Anita Wright, of the Group for the South Fork and Lisanne Altmann, of the Long Island Power Authority, for her environmental leadership in industry. Shea was honored for his environmental

leadership in government, Wright for her efforts in education and Altmann for her environmental leadership in the industry.

"I am pleased to receive this honor," Daum said. "Almost all of my research at Brookhaven Lab has been done in the context of large, multi-agency programs. Brookhaven encourages interdisciplinary collaborations, so that we can take advantage of expertise in many fields to solve environmental problems."

Daum said that most of his research has focused on the effects of energy-related pollutants on the earth's atmosphere, particularly photochemical air pollution, known as smog, as well as acid rain.

"Air pollution is such an important issue today," SBU junior Alex Borress said. "We need to do everything we can to make sure our future has clean air."

Daum was also the principle scientist in the U.S. Department of

Energy's funded expedition to the Middle East in the summer of 1991. During the excursion, his team studied

the environmental effects of the oil-fires set by the retreating Iraqi Army during the Gulf War. Some of Professor Daum's other projects include studies of smog in Nashville in 1995, New York City in 1996, Phoenix in 1998, Texas in 2000, and the Northeastern United States in 2002.

His research has had a direct impact on the strategies that are being proposed and implemented to control the nation's air-quality problems.

After earning a B.S. in chemistry from the Drexel Institute of Technology in 1965 and a Ph.D. in

chemistry from Michigan State University in 1969, Daum joined the faculty of Northern Illinois University, where he worked from 1969 to 1980. He then came to Brookhaven as a chemist in the Atmospheric Sciences Division. In 2000, he was promoted to head of that division.

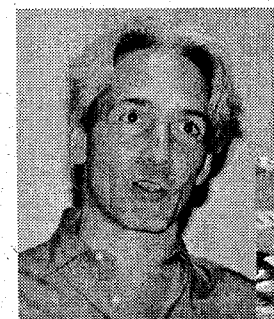
"Brookhaven National Laboratory has always conducted meaningful research," SBU junior Dan Operman said. "Daum's work is just one of the many important studies being conducted there and here on Stony Brook's campus."



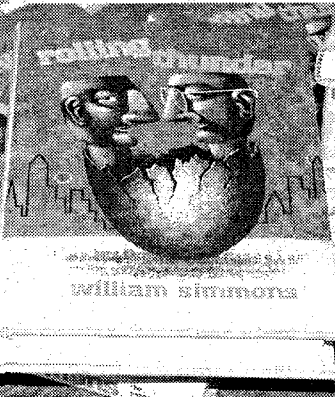
Courtesy of www.bnl.gov

Peter Daum received an Environmental Leadership award for his research on pollution.

SBU Authors Share Their Latest Works



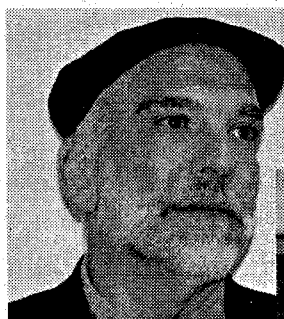
Rolling Thunder by William Simmons, Vice President for Advancement.



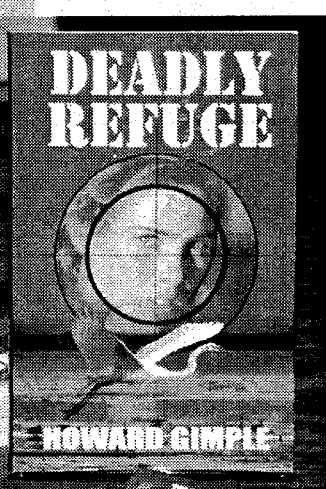
Statesman/Jeffrey Javidfar

This novel features protagonists Dennis Oldham and Roberto Velez. The duo has a hit morning radio show that may be cancelled when their station, Rolling Rock Radio, is sold.

The pair attempts to use a Veterans' Day Memorial to rally support for their show. The story intertwines scenes and characters from the Vietnam era and 90's.

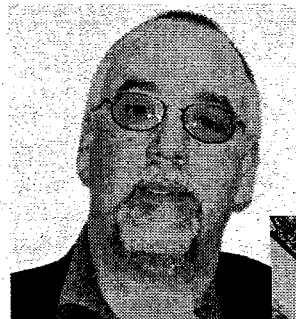


Deadly Refuge by Howard Gimple of the Creative Services Department.

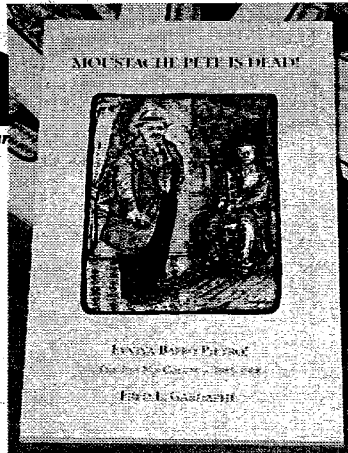


Statesman/Jeffrey Javidfar

This is a story about terrorism on Long Island. Protagonist Hannah Swensen, wildlife enthusiast, discovers suspicious activities in the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge near Kennedy Airport. She is thrown into a series of dangerous adventures when she teams up with U.S. Customs Special Agent Jack Lager.



Moustache Pete is Dead! Evviva Baffo Pietro! by Fred Gardaphe, Director of Italian American Studies.



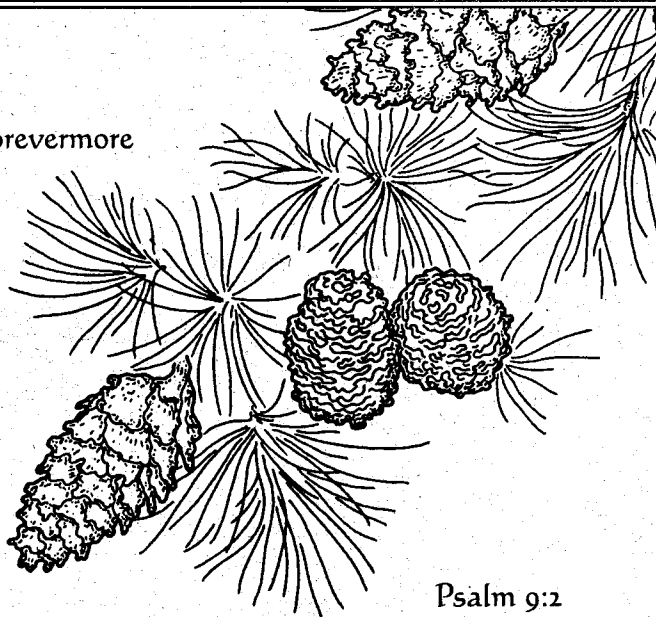
Statesman/Jeffrey Javidfar

In this collection of newspaper columns written between 1985 and 1988, Gardaphe explores the world of Italian immigrants and Italian Americans. He attempts to demonstrate the difficulties Italian immigrants and their progeny have faced trying to integrate Italian and American cultures.

STUDENT POLITY ASSOCIATION

Psalm 86:12

I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and I will glorify your name forevermore



Concert of Praise

Psalm 9:2

I will be glad and rejoice in You;
I will sing praises to Your name, O Most High

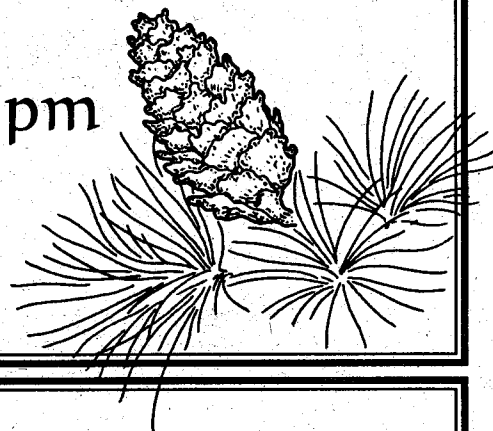
Psalm 34:1

I will bless the Lord at all times;
His praise shall continually be in my mouth

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Senate Passes Bill to Create Homeland Security Department, Clearing Way for New Research Funds

By ANNE MARIE BORREGO
The Chronicle of Higher Education

The U.S. Senate passed a bill Tuesday night creating a new Department of Homeland Security. The House of Representatives had already passed companion legislation last week. President Bush is expected to sign the bill.

The legislation, which would combine some 22 federal agencies and 170,000 employees, also would create new opportunities for colleges and universities to win federal research funds.

A new Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency would have a fund that could spend as much as \$500 million in the 2003 fiscal year to finance promising research projects that are already under

development.

Much like the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the new agency would be charged with speeding up the development of new technologies with competitively awarded contracts.

Also of interest to universities, the

The legislation...would create new opportunities for colleges and universities to win federal research funds.

legislation calls for the establishment of a university-based center, or several centers, that would train so-called first responders, the medical and law-enforcement workers who would be dispatched to handle the

immediate fallout from terrorist attacks. The secretary of homeland security would consider some 15 criteria when designating the center or centers.

That provision has already created controversy, as the 15 criteria detailed in the legislation have been interpreted to unfairly favor Texas A&M University at College Station. However, other universities have said they feel they could compete for the center.

Universities won two key fights over language in the bill. In previous drafts, Congress had proposed giving the new department primary responsibility for setting the agenda for public-health and bioterrorism research. University groups argued that those priorities should continue to be set — as they are now — by the Department of Health and Human

Services, where they would remain under the new legislation.

Academic groups also fought and won the battle to keep enforcement of the new rules on "select agents" — setting measures for researchers who deal with substances that could be used in acts of bioterrorism — within the Departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services.

The bill also would create an undersecretary for science and technology who would set research and development policy for the new department, and a 20-member Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee, to be appointed by the new secretary. The legislation would also create an Office of Science and Technology within the Department of Justice.

Up to 14% of Australian University Students May Be Plagiarizing From Web, Study Suggests

By ANDREA L. FOSTER
The Chronicle of Higher Education

Up to 14 percent of Australian university students may be pirating material off the Internet for their essays, according to a study commissioned by six Australian universities.

The study used a U.S.-based plagiarism-detection service called Turnitin.com to analyze 1,925 essays, each provided by a different student at the six institutions. The essays, which were evaluated this year, covered 20 different subjects. Turnitin.com checked the papers against publicly available Web sites and other electronic sources available to students.

Turnitin.com is among the most widely used plagiarism-detection services. The service keeps student papers in order to enlarge its database of manuscripts, books, and journals. Other services, such as Copycatch and Eve2, run student papers through a

computer program without holding on to the papers.

In the Australian study, Turnitin.com detected that 166 of the essays, or 8.62 percent of the total, had more than a quarter of their material pilfered from electronic sources. Fourteen percent of the essays had 5 percent or more of the material plagiarized.

The material was plagiarized from hundreds of Internet sites, including five well-known cheat sites, the report says. Plagiarism from other students' electronic papers also was detected.

The study was conducted by a company called CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, which is owned by nine universities in the Australian state of Victoria (CAVAL stands for Cooperative Action among Victorian Academic Libraries). The company is recommending that Victoria's universities use Turnitin.com to control cheating among their students.

The company also recommends

that universities establish education programs to help students understand what cheating and plagiarism mean. "Universities are bound to lose their reputations unless they do something about it," said Steve O'Connor, chief

The material was plagiarized from hundreds of Internet sites, including five well-known cheat sites.

executive officer of CAVAL.

O'Connor said CAVAL decided to use Turnitin.com to evaluate the essays because of the breadth of electronic sources it compares student papers to. In addition, the service was highly recommended by Britain's Joint Information Systems Committee,

which recently signed a contract with Turnitin.com under which the company serves more than 700 higher-education institutions in Britain.

The six institutions involved in the study were Deakin, La Trobe, Monash, RMIT, and Victoria Universities, and the University of Ballarat. About 150,000 students are enrolled in the universities.

Richard L. Austin, a horticulture professor at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln who designed a competing plagiarism-detection service, WordCheck, says higher-education officials need to attack the underpinnings of student plagiarism before signing up with plagiarism-detection services. Students are referred to Web sites so often that they lose sight of the difference between honest research and plagiarism, he says, adding that they also don't know how to cite material they find on the Internet.

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Mr. Higham, a reporter at *The Washington Post* and former editor of *the Stony Brook Press*, recently won the Pulitzer Prize for his coverage of the District of Columbia's role in the neglect and death of 229 children placed in protective care between the years of 1993 and 2002.

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Op-Ed

Drowning Out War Whoops

By MARIE HUCHTON
Statesman Staff

In an effort to make up for the lack of my columns in the past two weeks, I think I'll take up an extremely controversial topic for today, namely GW's proposed war on Iraq. Before my rather leftist critique is drowned out by war whoops and gunshots, let me just say that I am trying to create critical discussion, not spark a pacifist revolution. It is impossible to watch the news and not see the questionable motives and methods that the United States is using in this conflict of escalating proportions.

The first thing that makes me raise an eyebrow is America's attempt to strong-arm the international community into allowing a full-scale invasion of Iraq. The U.S. got the United Nations to back the War on Terrorism in Afghanistan. The international community was supportive of what it saw as a direct threat to the American people. Now America wants the same kind of unquestioning support in its proposed

campaign in the Middle East. The detail being (and most other countries recognize this minor fact) is that Iraq hasn't made any threats to the United States that would necessitate an invasion. Not that I'm saying Iraq is a paragon of governmental justice and domestic bliss, but Saddam Hussein has been in power for almost a decade since Desert Storm, and has yet to invade U.S. soil.

I agreed with the United Nations council when they re-negotiated the terms for weapons inspections in Iraq. The first step in avoiding WWII is to keep diplomatic channels open. Despite the protests of the U.S., and the delaying tactics of Iraq, the U.N. is working to find a resolution within the limits of international law. No, I don't think Iraq should be allowed to build weapons of mass destruction, but I don't think bombing Baghdad is going to accomplish anything either.

Continued on Page 7

Letter

SB Administration Responds

To the Editor:

Recently, the campus administration de-certified the Student Polity Association as the representative undergraduate student government for the administration of the Student Activity Fee (SAF). The consequence of this action is that while Polity may continue to exist as a student organization, it will no longer be responsible for the allocation of SAF funds for student clubs/organizations or programs/services sponsored by said funds. Prior to this de-certification, the campus administration had placed the SAF under "receivership." This was a temporary status to provide Polity additional time to remedy specified problem areas in order to resume its administration of the Activity Fee. Unfortunately, Polity did not respond effectively to this encouragement.

A Task Group has been created to oversee a process to enable our undergraduate student body to review and select a new student governance structure to administer the Activity (Creating the Blueprint for a New Student

Government, Statesman pages 1,13, Nov. 18, 2002).

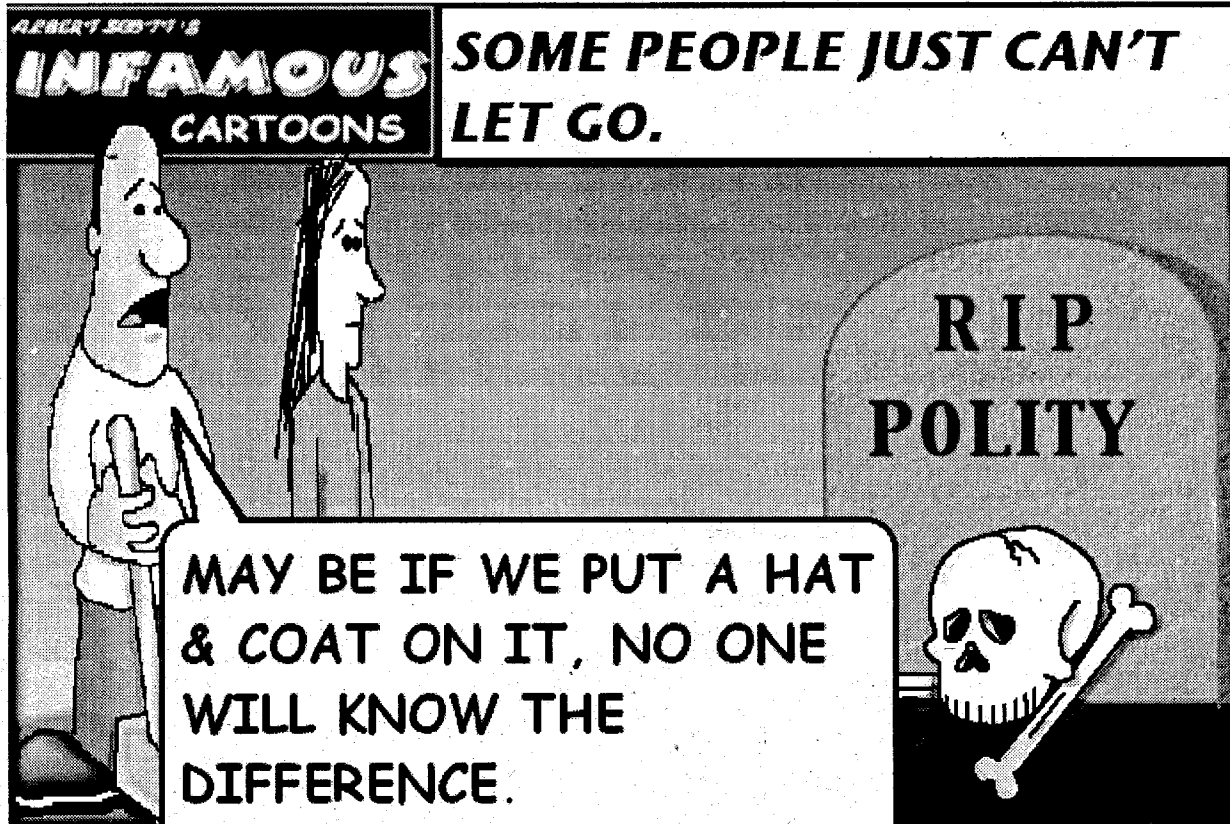
While this governance reform process is taking place, an interim student structure has been put in place to insure continued funding of student clubs/organizations and support of programs/services sponsored by the SAF.

The student membership on these interim committees (SAF Interim Planning Committee, Undergraduate Activity Fee Election Bd., SAF Special Program Council, SAF Budget Committee and SAF Promotions and Communications

Committee) is diverse and composed of individuals selected by academic dean officers and the Golden Key Honor Society, elected undergraduate leaders, and selected student volunteers.

As in the past, the SAF, Custodial and Disbursement Agent (financial manager) continues to oversee Activity Fee financial transactions, accounting procedures and financial audit preparation. The SAF Budget for this year will closely

Continued on Page 7



Statesman Staff Writers

Michael Adler
Charles Clifford
Christopher Fecarotta
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Jessica Landress

Megan Langille
Kimberly Meilak
Kristopher Lee
Arif Rafiq
Victoria Russo

Albert Scott
Brian Tovar
Sal Vaglica

Imperial America

Continued from Page 6

Today's MSNBC report was the latest confirmation of America's over-eagerness to attack. For everyone who hasn't watched the news, the United States was trying to manufacture an instance of Iraq breaching U.N. resolutions. This tactic of grasping at straws in the effort to unleash military might makes me even more convinced that America should stay out of the Middle East. A nation looking for an excuse to wage war needs to rethink its priorities.

Even more than with international political debates I'm concerned with the controversial media image of the war in America. I'm wary of the war-mongering, of the propaganda that links patriotism to a happy trigger-finger. I'm tired of the Muslim slurs and congressional speeches. I've read all the war plans, and seen all the press releases, but have yet to see anything that would require a U.S.-sponsored coup. Just because America doesn't like Saddam Hussein, it does not have the right to overthrow the Iraqi government.

I'm sorry to burst America's bubble, but the rest of the world does not have a personal vendetta against Iraq, and they think America is just trying to create an economic empire. European nations have already had their centuries of globe-spanning imperialism, and it looks like America is currently trying to create its own empire of pro-American, pro-free trade democratic sycophant nations.

Student Polity

Continued from Page 6

mirror the budget for last year. However, the SAF Budget Committee, composed of elected student leaders, has been appointed to review and propose any necessary budget modifications. Their proposed budget will be subject to the same administrative oversight as budgets previously generated by Polity.

There have been some questions regarding the current status of the Student Polity Association. As noted above, it is now a student organization whose constitution and governance structure no longer supervise the allocation of the Student Activity dollars. Polity also continues as a nonprofit corporation run by its corporate officers, the Polity Executive Council. However, its status as a nonprofit corporation is contrary to SUNY Policy and has no bearing on its certification for handling the Fee. In fact, its SAF certification predated its incorporation by several years.

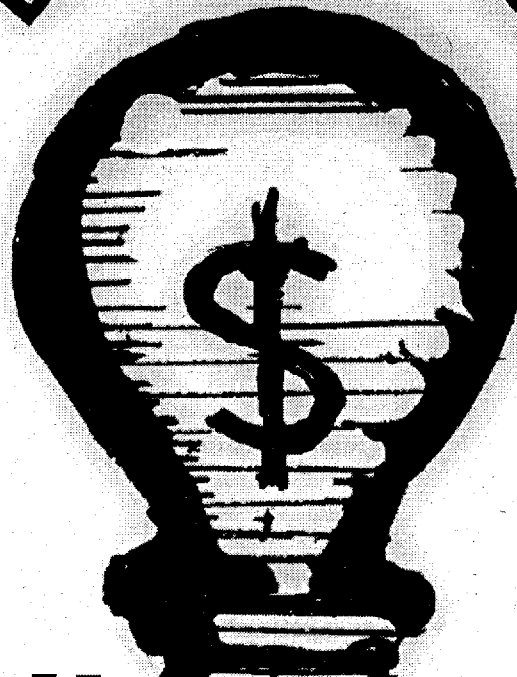
The action to de-certify Polity's SAF responsibility came after attempts by campus administration over several semesters to have the Polity leadership address weakness which impair its ability to effectively administer the SAF; after increasing complaints by students regarding problems in dealing with Polity; and after the Polity Executive Committee requested the campus administration "to take whatever steps are necessary to reformat the student government."

Throughout the de-certification and reform process we have consulted both the University and Polity Association attorneys to insure that University guidelines are followed, student rights are protected, and relevant legal requirements are met. While the need for de-certification is unfortunate, it does provide undergraduate students a rare opportunity to engage in major reform of their student government structure. The University Task Group on Undergraduate Governance Reform will be employing various strategies to get input from students on this reform initiative. I urge all undergraduates to participate.

Finally, it is important to note that several Polity leaders on the Executive Council and within the Senate have invested considerable energy in trying to get Polity to effectively resolve its problems. While their positive efforts have not been successful, they are to be commended for their commitment and leadership. I urge these student leaders to now commit themselves to assisting the success of the reform process.

Dr. Fred Preston
Vice President for Student Affairs

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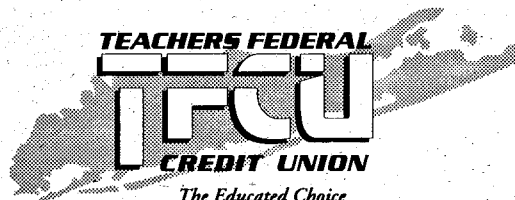
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SB Council

Continued from Page 1

Karen "Bobby" Kumar, who also sits on the council, is a successful entrepreneur who received Newsday's "Long Islander of the Century" award. He has received many awards from philanthropic and business organizations.

Kumar and other council members, said university officials, use their societal position to promote Stony Brook.

"Rick Nasti was helpful in seeking funds for the cancer center," Meyer said. "[Council members] use their connections."

Rafiq said that the student council position increases communication between the student body and administration.

"I've been impressed by George Meyer, who established the student luncheons with the president after I suggested the idea to him," Rafiq said.

According to Article I of its bylaws, the council's objective is to "promote the university's goal of enhancing the quality of undergraduate education in a research university setting; promote the development of the local, regional and state economics."

The council reviews all of President Kenny's major plans and makes recommendations. It also names campus buildings and structures, like the Kenneth P. LaValle stadium, and reviews the university's budget.

"[Council members] review the conduct code every year," Meyer said. "Any changes in policy, like alcohol or drugs, they must approve."

This month's meeting was Rafiq's second. He said that he has seen results from the last meeting.

"One observation from the first meeting is that the people in Administration really care about the future of this university," Rafiq said. "They have a strategic vision for Stony Brook and are committed to making it a reality. They are also very open to listening to the ideas and opinions of students."

BME Program

Continued from Page 1

story building will be equipped with a Biomechanics Lab, a Lower Fibers Optic Lab, a Bioinformatics Teaching Lab, and an Interactive Teaching Lab large enough to hold 100 students who can use laptops during lectures and seminars.

The second floor will be home to the Center for Sensor Systems, while the fifth floor will hold the Center for Biotechnology.

"The new building will help in forming an even more united department since at present, BME research is spread across many facilities on the campus," said first-year graduate student and BME major Jennifer Segui. "The new building will also provide excellent facilities to allow for cutting-edge research."

According to the NYSTAR website, the focal point of the STAR Center will be functional genomics, which involves research to develop DNA fluorescence detection technologies and the next generation of microarrays. The project is intended to create new algorithms for gene hunting and interaction and to develop nanoscale diagnostics and therapeutics.

"We didn't exist until recently, [but] now we are one of the most selective departments on campus," Rubin said. "Education is research and research is education. [The Center] will be an exciting place to do both."

No information on the date of the building opening has been released.

For more information on the Program in BME or the STAR Center, visit www.bme.sunysb.edu or www.nystar.state.ny.us.

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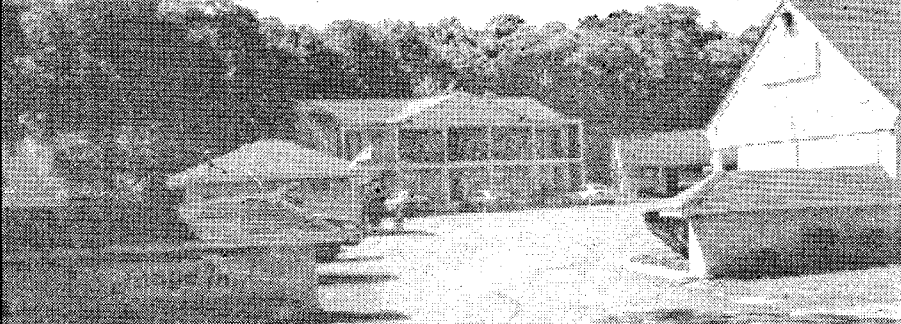
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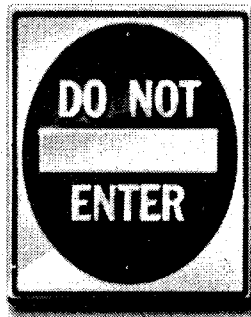
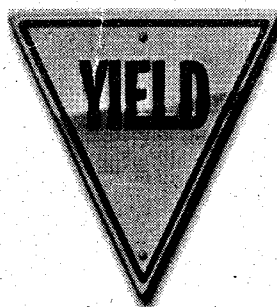
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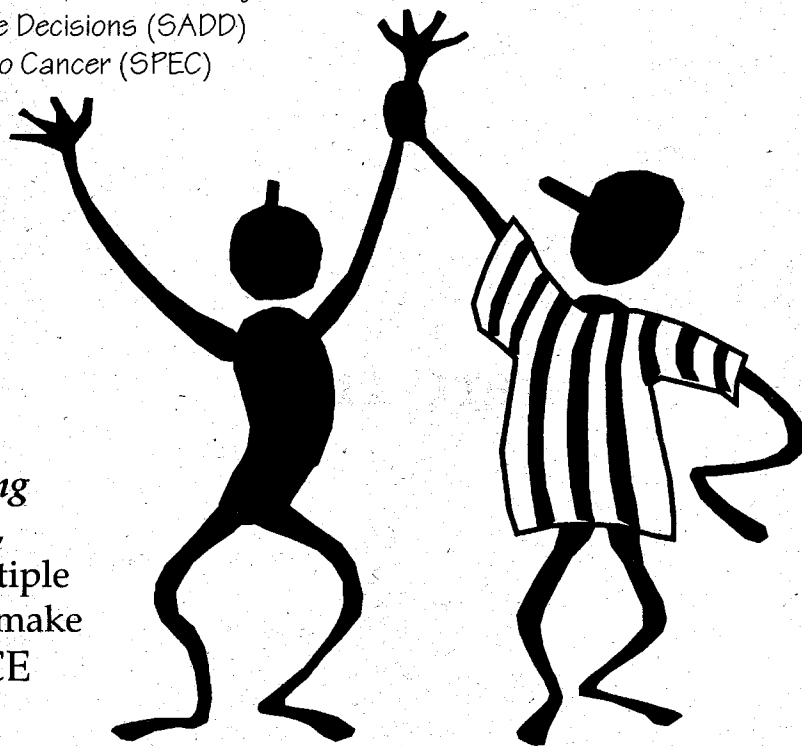
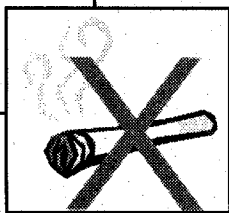
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