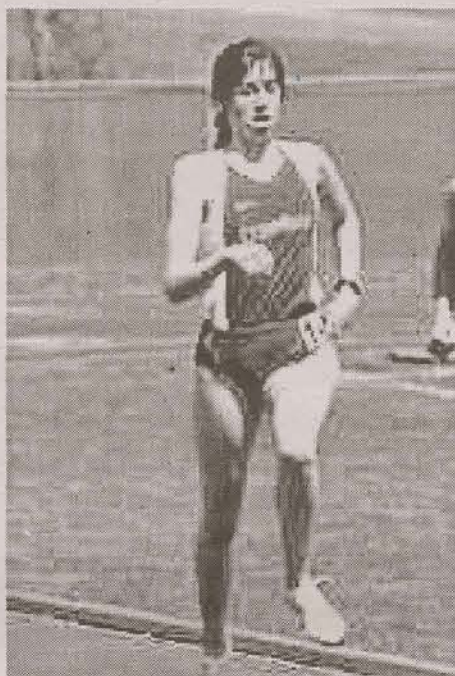


Sports

Track Continues to Set Records



Courtesy of www.goseawolves.org
Jenny Payne place third in the 3000m at the Mets Championships.

By JEFFREY JAVIDFAR
Editor Emeritus

The spring semester has just begun, but Stony Brook's track and field team spent the good part of winter break competing within the America East Conference and gearing up for the conference championships.

Over the course of the past few weeks, it appears as if the team has bought into coach Andy Ronan's plan. The direct result has been the shattering of school records set back in the eighties when teased hair and polyester were the norm.

"The big difference this year is that the team understands what I am looking for from them," said Ronan. "Last year was a transition. But they went home this summer and came back in really good shape."

Individuals on both the men and women's track and field team set three new school records at the Mets Championships on Sunday February 3.

On the women's side, Corinne Leake broke the 1997 school record in the 500m, and qualified for the ECAC Championships with a time of 1:15.47. Her time was good enough for a third-place finish.

Middle distance specialist, Jackie Berman had an outstanding run in the 1000m, bettering a 15-year old school record and also qualifying for the ECAC's with a time of 2:55.26. She finished fourth-place in the event.

For the men, Chris Hunt entered the zone as broke the university's 500m record yet again, setting his third school record in as many weekends. His time of 1:03.51 earned him third place, and more importantly was under the prestigious IC4A qualifying time.

"By their performances, they put themselves in the position to win at conferences this weekend," said Ronan. "All three of them are ranked in the top three in the America East."

Other good performances came from Jenny Payne, who was third in the 3000m with a time of 10:00.94. The women's 4 x

800m team of Nurenia Cuffee, Karla Faustin, Tina Huggler and Laura Hixson, place fourth with a time of 9:52.10 and the 4 x 400m relay team of Corinne Leake, Abigail Nathaniel, Nicola Baker and Dana Shepherd finished sixth in 3:58.78.

Top finishes for the men's side included Dave deWolfe was with in a second of breaking a 1985 school record in the 3000m by placing third with a time of 8:36.73.

"We have the potential to bring back six individual titles this weekend," said Ronan. "Getting even one would be a great accomplishment."



Courtesy of www.seawolves.org
Mike Thompson ran a season-best 4:17.99 in the mile on Sunday.

Men's 4x800m Places Second at

By JEFFREY JAVIDFAR
Editor Emeritus

Stony Brook University track team's 4x800m relay team just missed first place at the Millrose Games, finishing a blink of an eye behind the winning time.

"It's a good, strong squad of guys," said head coach Andy Ronan. "The run four strong legs."

Stony Brook was snubbed at the line by just .08 seconds by Essex College to finish second at the highly competitive Millrose Games held at the world famous Madison Square Garden on Friday, Feb. 2.

"The key was getting off to a good start," said Ronan. "DeWolfe did that and we got the stick to where we wanted it [by the anchor leg]."

In third place, anchor Chris Hunt got the baton with some distance to make up. He took over the lead with two laps to go but lost it just before the finish line.

"I didn't want to go too early," Hunt said. "But I just couldn't take it anymore and I had to go in front. I thought about it the whole ride home."

The experienced squad of Dave deWolfe, Jonathan Brims, Dale Summerville and Hunt ran the two mile relay in 7:58.50 for second place, while the winning team captured first with a time of 7:58.42.

Mike Thompson also placed ninth in the 3000m with a time of 8:50.44.

"I think Chris made his move a fraction of a second too early, he got a little anxious and he got caught at the line," said Ronan. "Overall it was a very nice effort."

Erin Byrnes Qualifies For NCAA Nationals

Courtesy of www.goseawolves.org

For the second straight meet, a Stony Brook University diver qualified to compete at nationals, as sophomore Erin Byrnes' score of 269.1 on the one-meter board makes her eligible to compete on both the one- and three-meter boards at the regional national competition. Junior Kristi Schubert made the cut on Saturday in the Seawolves' meet against Fairfield.

The regional national competition will be held March 15-17 in Annapolis, Md.

Byrnes' feat highlighted a meet that saw the Seawolves defeat Sacred Heart by a score of 124-107. Byrnes defeated

teammate Schubert on the one-meter board, while Schubert captured the three-meter with 234.5 points.

Sophomore Starlyn Rupinski swept her events, winning the 200 freestyle in 2:02.00 and the 100 freestyle in 56.44. She also helped the 400 medley relay team, which also included Jessica Claud, Alison Porteus and Michelle Miller, post a victory with a time of 4:16.21.

Porteus recorded an individual victory in the 100 breaststroke (1:09.91), while Miller won the 100 butterfly (1:01.14).

In other results, junior Sarah Doret captured the 500 freestyle with a time of 5:27.82, and freshman Laura Zuffante

won the 100 butterfly in 1:04.93.

With the win, the Seawolves improve to 5-7-1 in dual meet competition.

The Seawolves return to the pool when they travel to Orono, Maine, to compete at the America East Championships Feb. 15-17.

Seawolves Notebook

The America East Conference announced their Fall Honor Roll last week. Thirty-five student-athletes were received the honor. Sixteen made the Commissioner's Honor Roll for earning a GPA of 3.5 or higher.



Courtesy of www.goseawolves.org
Erin Byrnes joins Starlyn Rupinski as a national qualifier.

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Stony Brook Hospital Medical Mishap Leaves Parents With More Questions Than Answers

By KELLY BROWN
Statesman Editor

After undergoing a successful heart operation at Stony Brook University Hospital that was to save his life, 6-day-old Gianni Vargas died. The cause of the infant's death was a medication error, one made by the very professionals who had worked to repair his weak heart.

The baby's parents received the news last Tuesday morning, when the doctor who had performed the procedure summoned them to the neonatal intensive care unit. Giovanni and Ana Celina had not yet been able to hold their newborn, and they would never get the chance.

"He told me they made a big mistake," Giovanni Vargas told Newsday. "My baby was dead and he didn't understand what happened."

Their son had died from the effects of a lethal dose of intravenous potassium chloride, 10 times more than he should have gotten. A missing decimal point on a prescription was the cause of the fatal error.

Early in the pregnancy, it was determined that Gianni had a heart valve problem that would require surgery at birth. He was delivered by emergency Caesarean section Jan. 30, full-term, weighing nearly 8 pounds, and was placed on medication. The surgery was scheduled for Feb. 3.

Hospital staff told the Brentwood couple that the surgery had been a success, and that their son would soon be released. The baby was medicated with potassium chloride to replace his depleted potassium and regulate his fluids.

The parents said that they were told by hospital officials that a prescription for potassium chloride read 35 instead of 3.5 and nobody picked up on the mistake. The couples' attorney, David Raimondo, is in the process of filing a suit against the medical center.

It was estimated in 1999 that medical errors kill upwards of 44,000 U.S. hospital patients each year. Medication errors are the most common problem in these instances.

Furthermore, a report by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, found that the drug that killed Gianni Vargas, potassium chloride, was the most frequently implicated in medication errors they investigated.

The state Health Department said it is looking into the death at Stony Brook, and the hospital is conducting its own investigation.

"We are sincerely sorry and extend to the grieving family our heartfelt condolences," Bruce Schreffel, the hospital's director and CEO, said in a written statement. "In spite of numerous safeguards, an error occurred resulting in the tragic loss of a life. We are conducting a thorough investigation of this baby's death to determine what steps are necessary to ensure that this will never happen again."

But it is still unclear who wrote the prescription, who administered it, and why no medical professional noticed that the dosage was far too potent for a baby's system. The hospital will not comment



Giovanni and Ana Celina are suing over the loss of their 6-day old son, Gianni.

on whether disciplinary actions have been taken against any of the staff.

With a high-risk pregnancy, Ana Celina Vargas had been visiting Stony Brook weekly, where the couple believed she received good care.

"I thought we were in good hands," Giovanni Vargas told Newsday. "I guess we were wrong."

LASO Sponsors SBU Responds Finale at SAC

By DEBOLINA KOWSHIK
Statesman Staff

In response to the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, Stony Brook University presented United We Stand, a World Trade Center Benefit on Sunday Feb. 10. The Latin American Student Organization, along with the support of University Advancement, the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action, the Office of Alumni Relations, the Dean of Students Office, and Student Activities, sponsored the two-hour program in the SAC Auditorium.

The program was established to raise money for the victims and families of the WTC attacks. Tickets were sold for a minimum donation of \$8. All proceeds from the program are to go to Stony Brook Cares, which will then send the funds to the World Trade Center Relief Fund.

The coordinators of United We Stand were Ruth Rivas, the graduate advisor of LASO, and the group's president, Antonio Ferrantino. "[The event] was a collaboration of the University and the outside community,"



Students from Central Islip performed at the United We Stand Benefit.

Rivas said. Rivas described the program while Tim Kenney, the director of Alumni Relations, acted as the Master of Ceremonies. Kenney introduced United We Stand as a program that was designed to help out the victims of WTC in its own way.

After the singing of the national anthem, William Simmons, the Vice-President of Advancement at Stony Brook, and Rivas presented a check for the \$33,000 that the campaign raised to the President of SBU, Shirley Strum Kenney. "There is a philanthropic spirit of the community giving back," Simmons said.

The Diversity School of Dance, which featured mainly young children, presented five performances and was the largest contributor to the program. Among their presentations was a tap dance ensemble set to "New York, New York", a ballet to "New York State of Mind", and singing of "We are the World". Stony Brook's own Gospel Choir performed "God is an Awesome God" and "Total Praise."

The SBU Capoeira Club presented martial arts set to bongo drumming. Jahman Cunningham presented "Gospel is Light" in a poetry reading, and the members of Stony Brook's Lambda Phi Epsilon showed off their step dancing skills. The Central Islip School District Latin Dream Dancers and Essence of Praise presented dances as well.

Stony Brook students Alison Ambruster-Russell and Lindsey Yang did an interpretive ballet, which was an excerpt of a longer, currently untitled piece. The program ended with Jacqueline Rodriguez singing Mariah Carey's Hero.

Many of the presenters were

invited by LASO, and the majority of the audience was comprised of proud parents of the young performers. Costco donated the food and the Department of Alumni Relations sponsored the beverages that were offered during the intermission.

This event was a group effort of various divisions of the Stony Brook community.

"It was great that the students were able to put this together and give back to the community. I was proud to be a part of it," Tim Kenney said.

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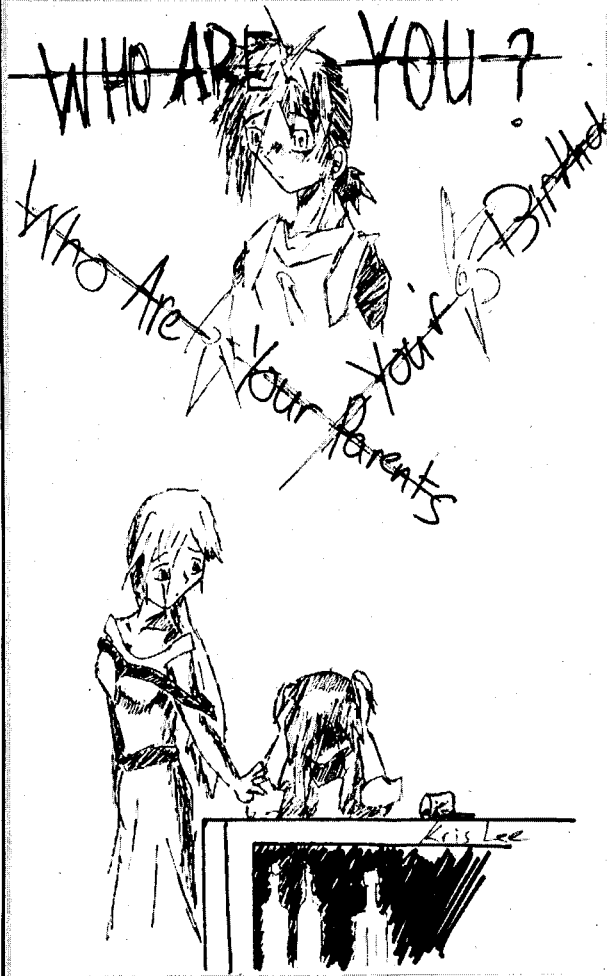
Bird Song: Composition Sixteen

By KRIS LEE
Statesman Staff

It was the other Crista again. Confident, sure of herself, and very calm. But she wasn't happy with him. A kiss here, a squeeze there and he was sated. All the physical impressions of a relationship were there, but none of the love.

I longed for that soft touch from her. I ached within, my breath shortening. But I had relinquished that part of me earlier that day. As I finished off my drink, I turned to look again. She was before me. Those strong eyes pierced me, holding me in place. I fumbled with my words. I felt like a little child caught doing something wrong.

Her eyes softened as she breathed a deep sigh. "Oh



John, you shouldn't have come. It's not what you think. You have to go."

It hurt, but I turned my back to her and just muttered, "I can't."

I suddenly felt that icy stare, those hard angry eyes on my back as she pressed against me, "Yes you CAN. You want to know so much about me, well I ask you, just who the hell are YOU John J. Blue?"

My mind went numb. I felt the pain again. It felt as if something was trying to break out of my head. Accompanying my heart beats were steady throbs in my head, each stronger than the last. I turned to face her with the face of a man who has woken from a dream. Was I the dreamer all along?

"I have friends John, in the police department. They've checked you out and you know what they found? Nothing! You have no records, no ID, social security, nothing. You just appeared one day at Shuebert Mently hospital, a John Doe, waking up from a coma and disappearing the next day after they treated your wounds."

She sat down next to me taking a quick glance at the man in the dark glasses and then turned back to me.

"Why couldn't you just let it go John? Wasn't it enough that we loved each other? Hasn't it been enough that we were happy these past few months? I never asked you about your past, I thought I owed it to you since you were so kind. It never mattered before, why now? John you don't understand that your life is in danger! If he sees you he'll kill you. I can't drag you into my problems. I thought I left them all behind me when I met you, but ... you have to leave now! Please, if not for your safety, do it for me."

I was speechless. My mind refused to work as I sat there taking in everything that she said. Recollections, memories, there was nothing before I met Crista. I didn't even know what I was doing in the rain the night I met her. Was I coming home from work? I couldn't even remember being hired by them. My only memories included Crista. I gripped the table for support as I completely lost myself to thought. I had never thought about it. Who am I really? I barely felt the soft squeeze on my hand as Crista left me.

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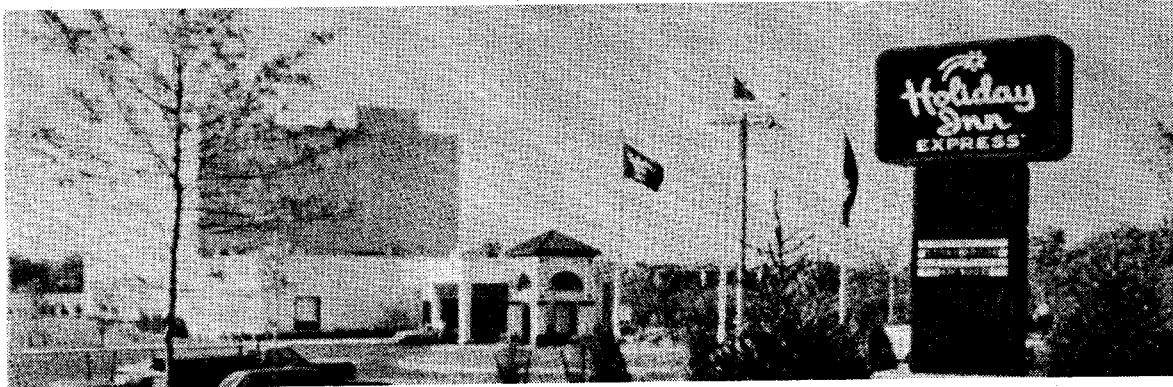
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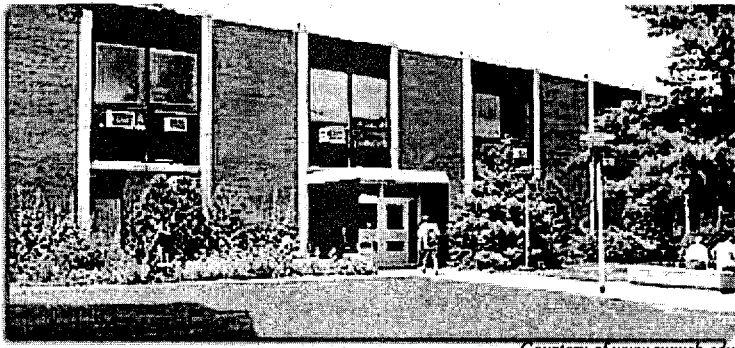


A Thought From Rabbi Adam



With regards to the Arab-Israeli issue various Israeli governments have expressed, to one degree or another, an interest in land compromises. However, such governments speak more from Middle East political reality than from a particularly Jewish point of view. The Jewish point of view is derived from the Torah (the Bible) and the Rabbinic commentary applying Biblical principles to specific situations not mentioned in the Torah. It is in these commentaries we find an interesting application of the Torah principle which states that one can profane the holy Shabbat in issues of life and death. The Rabbinic commentaries are considering what to do if a Gentile army is besieging a Jewish border-town on Shabbat, ostensibly to obtain only straw and hay, and then leave. Now one is allowed to go to battle on Shabbat, thereby profaning the holiness of the day, only when it is a matter of life and death. So the question is: Does a besieging Gentile army whose only objective is straw and hay constitute a matter of life and death that warrants the profaning of Shabbat by Jews going to battle? The answer is "yes". For, after conquering the Jewish border-town only for their straw and hay, the Gentile army could conceivably change their objectives. For now that they have taken over a strategic border-town, the rest of the land of Israel would be ripe for conquest. Therefore, according to the Rabbis, such a siege could be an issue of life or death, and one is obligated to profane the Shabbat and even attack first. So with regards to the current Arab-Israeli issue, it is a similar case. A Palestinian (Gentile) army wants only to establish a Palestinian autonomy (straw and hay) in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (Jewish border-areas). Modern Rabbinic commentators have noted that it is most probable that after taking the border-areas of the West bank and Gaza Strip, the Palestinian army would change their objective, for after all, the land of Israel would be ripe for conquest. Therefore, the Jewish point of view is that the Israeli government should not engage in any such land for peace discussions.

Choice Center Offers Peer Health Education



Courtesy of www.sunysb.edu

The CHOICE Center programs are housed in Health Science Center.

By URVI GANDHI
Statesman Contributor

The Student Health Service (SHS) at the Stony Brook is available to meet primary health care needs for all students. It offers comprehensive and cost-effective health services for both medical and psychosocial health problems.

The staff includes physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, a pharmacist, laboratory

technologists, a social worker, health educators, and a substance abuse and addictions counselor. It is open weekdays from 8 am to 12 noon and 1pm to 5:30pm. It is also open during semester breaks and the summer. Along with offering these basic health services the organization also hosts a number of educational programs.

The CHOICE Center is the health education and prevention arm of the (SHS). Located within

the Student Health Center, it offers a plethora of programs such as, student health awareness seminars, information, referrals, individual and group health education services, student and professional staff training and consultations.

Also, the CHOICE Center coordinates campus-wide health promotion and educational activities aimed at providing students with the knowledge and skills to achieve and maintain optimum health and wellness. They are also designed to promote an environment that supports these efforts.

The Center offers many services to students. One such service is the CHOICE Team-Peer Health Educators. The Peer Health Educator (PHE) is a program run through the CHOICE Center and is directed towards keeping students healthy. Since 1993, this

program is offered each year as a three credit course.

Every year, approximately fifteen students take the course and are trained to present educational programs on various topics including stress management, alcoholism, safer sex, healthy relationships and contraception. The goal of the course is to teach students healthy habits and help prevent high risk behavior by teaching them how to deal with these problems through workshops.

Students registered in the course begin with a training weekend, and then take a class that meets once per week. They must also perform two hours of public health education service a week. In addition, they coordinate information tables, a newsletter, condom-grams, TV and radio ads and various other promotional

materials.

Though the course is offered every semester, course administrators prefer that students take the course for two semesters and make a full year commitment.

Each semester, the PHE program emphasizes different topics to stress to the participants. This semester the program is concentrating on teaching its students how to maintain mental health.

"This semester we hope to concentrate on maintaining mental health to our students by holding classes on foundations of mental health and self esteem so that students can learn how to deal with depression. We also want to work on helping them achieve and maintain optimal health," said the Health Educator Coordinator/CHOICE Center Director, Peter Mastroianni.

Wellness Center Starts New Semester

By JONATHAN VAILLANCOURT
Statesman Contributor

Want to trim down, bulk up, or just lose a few pounds? The Eugene Weidman Wellness Center provides a range of services and programs for students, faculty and staff. Located in the Student Activity Center's basement (room 010) the Wellness Center advocates itself as a source for holistic development.

"It is a great program to have, because it is a unique feature of Stony Brook," Shannon Bethel, the office's manager, said.

The Wellness Center incorporates its philosophies into a "Wellness Wheel", which can be found at its website. The Wheel is comprised of "Physical, Emotional, Intellectual, Environmental, Cultural, Occupational, Spiritual and Social Wellness", all themes which the university

at large has long promoted.

Providing fitness opportunities, wellness-related programming and an arena in which students, faculty and staff can interact casually and support one another in developing a wellness style is a principle goal of the program, according to Bethel.

"The Wellness Center has greatly evolved since its beginning, and now more people than ever use it," patron Brian Baracaldo said.

Advocates for the facility tout its appearance as modern and professional. The equipment available at the site includes Cybex Bikes, a Reebok Body Trec System, Tatrix Climbmex Stepper, treadmills, free weights ranging from 5 to 50 lbs., and Body Bars.

The Wellness Center also offers fitness classes, Wellness seminars, and a Walking Club.



Courtesy of www.wisc.edu

The Wellness Center provides fitness opportunities for students, faculty, and staff.

Fitness classes (yoga, step aerobics, body sculpting, kick boxing, and others) meet weekday evenings. The sessions have begun for the semester, but still have a few openings. New classes will begin in March. Registration is free for all undergraduate students, but there is a fee of \$30 for all graduates, faculty, staff and

community members.

The Center's seminars are free of charge and feature guest presenters. The next seminar will be held on Wed., Feb. 20., from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Elyse Slavin, L.N., will be

presenting a Nutritional Workshop. According to staff, the program will be an informational presentation on nutrition and eating, and is open to all who would like to attend.

"There are typically huge turnouts for the programs in the sports complex, and the Wellness Center, with its limited space, is typically full to capacity," said office manager

Shannon Bethel.

One of the Wellness Centers newest programs is the Walking Club. This self-monitored program allows one to "renew your regular exercise habit, log times walked and qualify for great incentive prizes to reward your efforts along the way," as stated by the Wellness Center's website.

Registration and further information are available on the Wellness Centers web site at www.recreation.sunysb.edu/wellness/programs.html. To register for programs by phone, call the Wellness Center at 632-6850.

The Center's hours are: Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m. - 10 p.m., Fri. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sun. 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

President Bush Defines Reach of Geneva Convention

By RALPH D'AMBROSIO
Statesman Staff

President Bush chose on Feb. 7 to apply the Geneva Convention to Taliban, but not Al Qaeda, prisoners currently being held in Cuba. However, in neither case will prisoners be granted prisoner-of-war status.

This decision reverses Mr. Bush's earlier resolution not to apply the Geneva Convention to prisoners from the Taliban or Al Qaeda. By making this move, the administration has acknowledged the authority of the convention, which has been considered by some to be one of the most significant

international agreements in history.

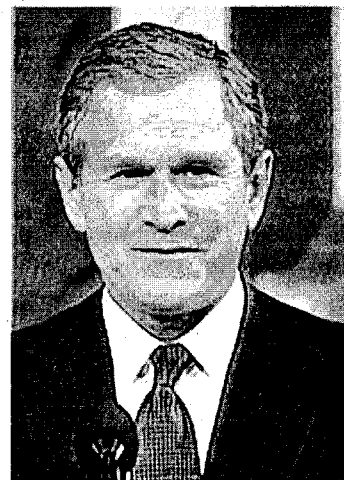
The Geneva Convention consists of four international treaties, written after World War II, designed to protect civilians during war and to regulate the treatment of POWs. While there does not exist any kind of machinery to capture, try and punish violator of the Convention, most countries have accepted all or most of the agreement.

The president's decision may have little effect on how prisoners from the Taliban and Al Qaeda are treated, because the United States have always claimed humane treatment of

the prisoners. Also, because the prisoners are not being labeled as POWs, American authority to interrogate the captives will not be limited.

Without the POW label, the prisoners may be charged with crimes committed before the conflict in Afghanistan, like the terrorist attack against the World Trade Center. POWs can only be charged with war crimes.

Once the conflict is over, the prisoners will not have to be immediately returned to their home country. Finally, there will continue to exist the possibility of trying some of the prisoners before military tribunals and applying the death penalty.



Courtesy of www.yahoo.com

President Bush is not going to apply the Geneva Convention to Al Qaeda prisoners.

The status of the prisoners in Cuba was a matter of intense

debate in the Bush's administration. Secretary of State Colin Powell had disagreed with Bush's view on the status of the prisoners, asserting that they were not protected under the Geneva convention.

Mr. Powell had successfully won over to his side Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld and chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Richard B. Myers. Vice President Dick Cheney, Attorney General John Ashcroft, and White House counsel Alberto Gonzales were against Mr. Powell's position, and would, in the end, prevail.

POLITY - YOUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT



ASU Pride Week

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| Monday- Come Home, Behold Africa w/ MEΨ Inc. | SAC Lobby 12-3pm |
| Tuesday- African Threads | Campus wide All day! |
| Wednesday- Our Roots w/ AFS Dept. and MEΨ Inc | SAC Lobby @Black Expo 12pm |
| Thursday- Colors of Love Poetry nite and Dance | Uniti Cultural Center, Roth 8pm |
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STUDENT POLITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Creed is Back in Business With Weathered

By RYAN SOBEL
Statesman Editor

Over the years, rock fans have proven themselves fickle. This is not to say that loyalty has been completely abandoned, but a generalization can be made that if a band or song is over-exposed or over-played on pop stations, rock fans just get sick of it. When a group gets played out that much, many accuse the band of selling out.

Whatever you call this sentiment, it can be said that Floridian rockers of Creed have experienced just that from many of its hard rock devotees. Without a doubt, "Higher" was a great song, but there are only so many times a person can tolerate hearing it in a period of six months.

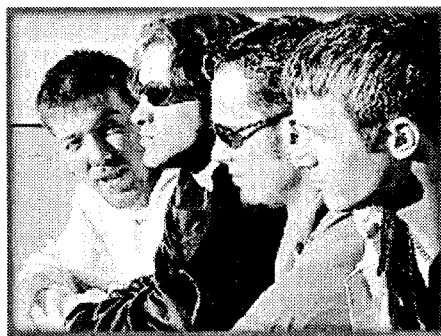
It is for this very reason that critics believed that Creed would experience something of a backlash since its immensely popular sophomore release, "Human Clay." After all, the album sold by the millions, nabbing the band a Grammy

for "With Arms Wide Open." The song had continuous air play on both rock and mainstream radio stations alike.

Well, the critics couldn't be more wrong. Since its release late last year, Creed's third studio record, "Weathered," has been a fixture in the top five on the Billboard charts, and has sold a whopping 5 million records already. This stat is even more impressive considering that the band is still thriving off its first single from the album "My Sacrifice."

On the whole, the band does not offer anything that its listeners have not yet witnessed over the course of their previous two albums. The layout of the songs have remained fairly constant, with dramatic, profound, righteously-tinged lyrics and a spoken chorus. This is followed by subsequent verses and rocked-out versions of the chorus for approximately four to six minutes per song.

However, band does seem to show a



Courtesy of users.ids.net/~net

Creed commits to an edgier rock sound with their new album.

regression to the edgier guitar sound of its debut album, "My Own Prison." To the hardcore rock fan, this is great news. The pop stations, however, are left with a void to fill after the dominating air play of "Higher" and "With Arms Wide Open." Have no fear, I'm sure Nickelback and Sugar Ray will be very accommodating for now.

With hard rocking tracks such as "Bullets" and "Signs," lead singer Scott

Stapp is forced to compete with the heavy guitar sound of Mark Tremonti. "Bullets" is probably Creed's hardest rocker to date and, by selecting it as the disc opener, the band is clearly sending a message.

Undoubtedly, Creed will follow up "My Sacrifice" with one of the three or four other single-worthy tracks on the CD. "One Last Breath," for instance, is a highly emotive song that should cause a bit of a stir on the rock charts, while "Hide" is a slower, more pop-friendly track (probably the only one on the album) that is a fit successor to "With Arms Wide Open." Its undeniably catchy hook is bound to have all of us singing along.

Clearly, Creed is back in business with "Weathered." However, do not be prepared to hear anything out of the ordinary. Though the experimentation has been kept to a minimum, the quality of Creed's tracks seem to be maintaining their course in a positive direction.

Pretty Perfect

Dear Pretty Perfect,

There's this hot guy that I'm really starting to fall for. In the short time I've known him (he's new to campus this semester) he has proven himself so much sweeter and sensitive than any girl could ever dream of. The problem- he plans on only being here the one semester. We have feelings for one another but I don't want to have to start and end a relationship quickly; breaking up in a few months would be too painful. What should I do? I really like him!

--Uncertain

Dear Uncertain,

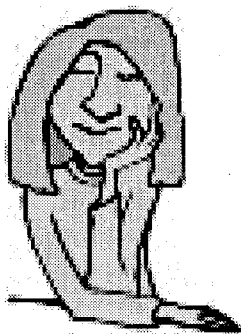
There is something quite exciting about a new relationship—the promise of adventure, intimacy, and true romance. You know, that little tickle in your stomach when he smiles at you and those restless, sleepless nights... Boy, does Pretty Perfect miss that!

When a new fling, or even relationship, ignites, sometimes there is no stopping the flood of emotions that it entails. What you need to ask yourself is, "What am I willing to invest emotionally?" Let's say you give of yourself fully, and immerse yourself in the adventure of romance, share dreams or even the sheets, and then, <<poof>>, this dude does depart at the end of the semester, you risk hurt, alienation, and the proverbial broken heart. On the other hand, the question looms, "What if?"

You never know, sweetie, this guy could be "the One". If you never take the chance, dip your toes in the cesspool of love, then you will always be left with questions and fantasies of what could have been. Anyway, who's to say what will happen at the end of the semester? Things can change in the blink of a misty eye. My advice to you is to go with the flow, but just be smart (invest little by little and see if there are potential future gains).

Dear Ms. Pretty Perfect,

I really need your input on a situation. I'm 18, and I've been talking to this dude, and I think he likes me. We met during the summer in Australia, where he resides. He



E-mail me with your queries at prettyperfect02@hotmail.com.

is nice and all, but the problem is he is 10,000 miles away from me. All we did was share one kiss, but I think that we're destined to be. He suggested that I not see anyone else once I returned to the States. Should I even consider anything with the dude?

---Too confused to know.

Hi, Too Confused to Know,

Hmm, this sounds like the classic situation of a LDR (Long-Distance Relationship). To LDR or not to LDR, that is the question. It doesn't sound like you know this guy too well, if you only "think" he likes you. I think that unless it is a VERY serious relationship, your union will not survive the distance. Simply, there are too many fishes in the sea, not to mention the fishes in the numerous oceans separating you two. I think that it was a bit selfish of him to suggest monogamy, while you're apart. 18 is a young age to be settling down with someone whom you have only known for a summer.

Sure, on the converse, some of these relationships do work out. Sweetie, it's hard enough making a relationship work when two people are in the same city, never mind 10,000 miles apart. Sure it means that you guy will never fight, and they do say the heart grows fonder. Unless either of you decides to change continents and fast, the prognosis looks bleak. What kind of a relationship is it when you receive a daily e-mail from your partner? Eventually, that fond heart is going to be searching for something more tangible.

Mike on the Mat: the Good, the Bad and Raven

By MICHAEL ADLER
Statesman contributor

Do you smell what The Rock is cooking? I don't. I haven't smelled what he's been cooking for the past two years. Unfortunately, the most electrifying man in sports entertainment is no longer electrifying. He's tired and stale. The Rock was never a great in-ring performer. Bear witness to his trademark—the worst belly-to-belly suplex in the business and a sharpshooter that couldn't make Norman Smiley scream. What used to set him apart, and what shot him up to stardom, were his passionate and strangely penetrating promos about turning things sideways, shining them up real nice, and doing odd things with them to his opponents.

It's just not exciting anymore. To compound the problem, he hasn't been in an interesting angle in years. Maybe



Courtesy of www.therock.com

The Rock remains popular among the WWF fans.

the much-dreaded NWO will provide The Rock with some interesting competition. Two sucks might make a non-suck.

One of the men the WWF should be pushing is Lance Storm, a superb in-ring performer whose unique anti-charisma proves immensely entertaining. Trained by the Legendary Hart family, Lance Storm

is easily an equal to Rob Van Dam in terms of athleticism and in-ring flair. Agile and quick, his moves are a mixture of grace and brute force. His rolling-half Boston crab is a spectacular finishing submission move. But by far the greatest crime the WWF has perpetrated against Storm is not allowing him to do his interrupted Canadian National Anthem bit. It never gets old! Upon his arrival in the ring, he asks the audience if he can be serious for a moment, then requests that they rise for the Canadian National Anthem. Inevitably, his opponent's music hits, interrupting the anthem. The mixture of anger and surprise on his face is classic: you know it's going to get interrupted, but somehow he's always shocked!!!

While Storm isn't pushed nearly enough, Edge is pushed way too much. Every week we, the unsuspecting fans, get Edge shoved down our throats.

Immensely unpopular since the Christian/Edge breakup, he's on every Raw and Smackdown in yet another boring, trivial match.

I got a tingle of excitement down my spine every time William Regal knocked him out with brass knuckles. Edge being a face does not work. His deadpan delivery was accidentally comedic when he was insulting the audience with his distinct

Canadian/Californian way of speaking. Now he just "reeks of horribleness." The time has come to send Edge off to the WWF's developmental group in Ohio.

And, "WHAT ABOUT RAVEN?!" Sadly, he was passed over during Ric Flair's round of re-hiring, and what a terrible mistake that was.

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Editorial

Grucci: Vote 'Yes' on Shays-Meehan

Yesterday marked the 38th anniversary of the signing of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Signed by President Lyndon Johnson, it guaranteed equal access to public accommodations for all persons, regardless of their race. It remains a landmark bill of our time.

This week, the House of Representatives will have the opportunity to secure passage of a similarly important piece of legislation. Thanks to a petition signed by a majority of House members that brought the bill to the floor, the chamber will finally vote on campaign-finance reform.

Several months ago, the Senate approved passage of the popular McCain-Feingold bill, which would primarily ban all 'soft money' donations to political parties. Such contributions have heretofore been unlimited, thus allowing huge corporations and the wealthiest of Americans to essentially control politicians, as well as the parties that sponsor them.

Shays-Meehan, the House's companion version of

this bill, would take the same action. In 1998 and 1999, the Republican-controlled House passed this bill, only to have it die in the Senate. With campaign-finance reform now a highly popular notion in the wake of the 2000 election and the Enron debacle, it is likely that President Bush would sign the measure were it to reach his desk.

The vote count is currently "too close to call." Yet according to an editorial in yesterday's New York Times, this is "the most important vote on cleaning up the nation's scandalous and corrupt political fund-raising system in more than 25 years." To put it simply, it is essential that this bill pass the House.

The Times identified Congressman Felix Grucci, our Republican representative in the House, as someone who "needs to think long and hard about this issue." We implore Mr. Grucci to vote in favor of Shays-Meehan as it is currently fashioned. He can be reached in his Washington D.C. office at 202-225-3826. Tell him to vote "Yes."

Commentary

A Comment on the Progress of Psychological Science

By GENE TULMAN
Statesman Editor

There is a fairly common tendency in the realm of natural science to comment on the shortcomings of the social science disciplines. In an attempt to describe human nature, social scientists have failed to produce quick fix therapeutic solutions to the most ominous psychological disorders. Interventional solutions to personality maladies are especially evasive in the presence of most behavioral treatment endeavors. An objective observer might ask, why is it that pharmacology offers better treatments than psychology for addiction disorders?

One possible answer is that human behavior is much more complicated than molecular behavior. We are "free agents," beings who are capable of making rational and not so rational choices. Our behavior is difficult to categorize in terms of cause-effect relationships, whereas most molecular

behavior is logically described in terms of electrostatic forces and thermodynamic tendency towards disorder.

The fact that the "whole is greater than the sum of the parts" is an idea that may explain some shortcomings of psychological research. Natural scientists reduce their variables to molecular manipulation, while social scientists reduce theirs to observable animal behavior. Obviously, the fact that overt human actions are observable with the naked eye does not mean that studying human behavior is any less arduous than the study of molecular behavior. In fact, one may argue that there are more confounding variables in the natural macroscopic environment than there are in the microscopic realm.

Psychologists often study behavior in a controlled laboratory environment, removing people from their natural state and placing them into an artificial world that lacks surface

Continued on Page 7

Feminist Rant: A Multiplicity of Gender

By MARIE HUCHTON
Statesman Editor

Today I think I'm going to take another theoretical topic, albeit one with considerable real world application, so I'll try to liven up this exposition of feminist philosophy.

Ok, so first a pop quiz to keep everybody awake: What is gender? How many genders are there? What are they? What characteristics differentiate one gender from another?

Pencils down, time's up. If you said that gender is a discrete categorization based upon biological attributes, then congratulations, you conform to dominant Western thought. If you said that there are two genders, masculine and feminine, you've been socialized into the American duality. If you said boys wear blue and girls wear pink, then you believe that gender is an innate and concrete thing. If you said any of the above, I'm sorry, you fail.

So, for everyone who failed because they were taught to think gender is a binary expression of biology, please pay attention as I commence my lecture.

What is gender? Gender is not something one is or has, gender is something one does. It is a performance. It is the acting out of culturally mandated norms. Gender is not something that an individual is born with, it is a pattern of behaviors and thoughts which a person is taught after birth. There is no such thing as innate gender. There is not a biologically codified set of rules for 'masculine' and 'feminine'. These constructs are creations of civilization. Culture arbitrarily designates certain behaviors and attitudes

as masculine and others as feminine (and no, not every culture divides things in the same way). It then teaches its children that men must act masculine and women must act feminine. Gender is so bound up in culture that it is difficult to see how artificial it really is.

How many genders are there? It seems like that would be an easy question, but reality is far more complex. If a man is competitive and aggressive (culturally defined masculine traits) yet also empathetic (designated as feminine) does this mean that he's not truly masculine? But how can he be totally feminine if he has masculine traits? The point I'm trying to make is that people embody both masculine and feminine traits in different combinations, so there are an infinite number of possible gender expressions. Thus, the correct answer is, there are as many genders as there are people.

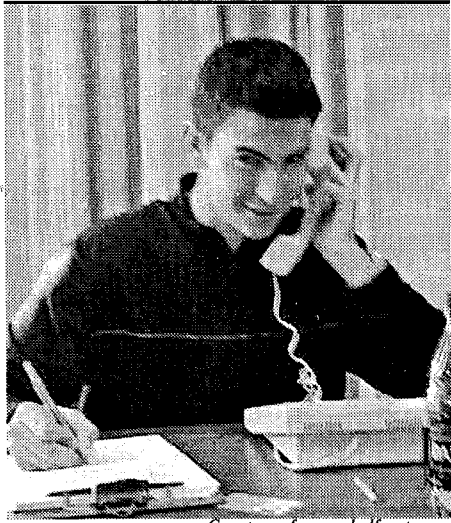
What characteristics differentiate one gender from another? This question I threw in mostly to expose people's stereotypes regarding expectations of masculine and feminine behaviors and appearances. If you said boys wear pants and girls wear skirts, then you haven't seen *Braveheart* and you haven't been to a mall recently. If you said boys are active and girls are passive, then you don't have either male or female friends. All these cultural stereotypes show what we have been taught to associate with masculinity and femininity, regardless of how inaccurate they are (and yes, they are very inaccurate).

I've run out of space, so this will be the end of today's brief foray into feminist theory. Class dismissed.

Vlad's View

One Student's Vision for Polity

By VLAD FRANTS
Statesman Contributor



Courtesy of www.vladfrants.com

Vlad Frants: Changing Polity Today, Conquering the World Tomorrow

Article II, Series I: Apathy

I would like to thank all the readers who have visited my web site, and those of you that have taken out the time to contact me with your most appreciated comments and suggestions. Your support gives me the motivation to continue my rigid involvement in Stony Student Government (SG) -related affairs.

In my last article, I emphasized the idea that elected student officers must be conscious of the fact that they are not emulating the roles of modern day politicians. These student leaders have the advantage of being much more approachable and available to the entire student body.

If you find that you do not know or do not care who your elected officials are, cannot get in touch with them, or find yourself uneasy about communicating your concerns to them, then there is a problem. It is the obligation of our SG to take steps toward alleviating these problems. Addressed in this issue will be apathy.

Apathy is defined as "impassiveness or indifference." I firmly believe that the cause of low voter turnout, low attendance at events and many other related problems is student apathy. However, I do not feel that the blame for such apathy should rest on the student body. Again, it is the responsibility of the elected student leaders to spearhead every attempt to combat this problem.

Everyone would agree that apathy is a problem on campus (most campuses, actually), though I find it to be particularly important, if not the most crucial, predicament we face. Most difficulties that arise regarding our SG are the result of it.

Elected student representatives are accountable to their constituents, the students. Your vote reflects that accountability and authorizes action. Unfortunately, when you give up your right to vote there are certain consequences.

Apathy debilitates accountability.

Representatives feel less accountable to the student body when there is either low voter turnout or unchallenged elections. There is less inducement to seek student opinion if students do not care. The actions taken by representatives go by unchallenged, or on certain occasions, unnoticed.

Student power is weakened. Cumulative student power and an effectual student government are derived from an active student body. Refraining from voting weakens the student Senate and therefore weakens student power relative to the administration.

You lose the power to complain. If you feel something is wrong with the system, change the system. There is no point in re-electing the same people into office if they did not represent you well. Also, when people running for re-election use a certain platform, feel free to wonder why they didn't accomplish what they are now promising during their previous tenure. Where is their credibility?

Candidate qualification is compromised. Under most unethical circumstances, the fewer people who vote, the more of an advantage there may be to a certain candidate.

A contender could be most unqualified for a position, most disinterested in commitment, and seeking his or her own personal gain with no intention to do the job well. This situation arises when voting turnout is so low that one's own "buddies," who may be completely unaware of the political ramifications, comprise enough of the vote to win elections. A similar situation arises when a candidate runs uncontested.

The importance of getting out the vote, therefore, cannot be underemphasized. Nevertheless, the art of getting people to go over to a polling site (SAC, Student Union), to spend two to three minutes pressing buttons on a computerized screen (which is brought in by an outside election-ballot company) is a difficult task indeed.

One of the reasons why this has been so may be due to the fact that our SG has, in the past, not done everything in its power to advertise the election well, and did not provide enough information to the students regarding candidates and voting technicalities. Whether it has been due to lack of efficiency, personal interest, or old-fashioned negligence, those students currently elected into office should not let it happen again.

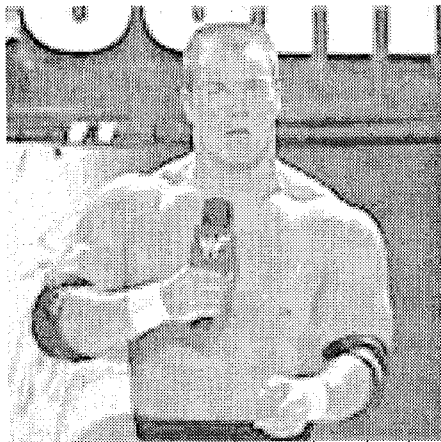
For further information, visit <http://www.vladfrants.com> or contact: vladfrants@aol.com

Please check back for future editions of Vlad's View.

Mike on the Mat

Continued from Page 5

Raven's strength is in his intelligent and provocative promos. When he first became Raven in ECW and later WCW, he used poetry, religion, cultist philosophies and other intellectual angles whenever he got mike time. Of course, in the WWF he never got mike time, as a penalty for being the former ECW world champion. (Vince



Courtesy of www.therock.com

Lance Storm established himself in the ECW and wound up in the WWF.

McMahon hates ECW World Champions.) Putting Raven back on television would give the Hardcore division a much-needed kick in the ass. After all, someone needs to beat Maven into the ground. Raven's unique style could possibly silence evil critics who complain that the WWF is too lowbrow.

And why don't Raven and Storm get more support? Two reasons: First, Raven and Storm are under six feet tall, tiny men in a land of giants. Second, they're not native to the WWF. Both made a name in ECW and then jumped to WCW. McMahon likes bigger men who started out and remained loyal to the company (e.g. Rock and Edge). It's a shame that in the escapist world of sports entertainment real world politics always come into play.

Wrestling Trivia Question of the Week: In the 1999 HHH vs. Mankind boiler room match on Smackdown, who pushed Mankind off the ledge?

Psychology and Natural Science

Continued from Page 5

realism. On the other hand, natural scientific research focuses on the dynamic motion of molecules, which is for the most part irrelevant to the immediate macroscopic setting.

Another distinction between the natural and social scientific institutions is that organized natural science research has existed for a significantly longer time than has ordered social scientific inquiry. Empiricism has only been a part of psychology since late 1800s, while the natural scientific method has been present at least since the 1600s.

The fact that there are less theoretical paradigms for human behavior than there are for molecular

behavior does not necessarily indicate a shortcoming of social science, but rather demonstrates the complexity of the human being. For all we know, in a few centuries it might be the case that psychological treatments will become more popular than drug therapies.

Instead of perpetuating a separation between natural and social science, it might be wiser for people to make their contributions to civilization by attempting to combine the social and molecular disciplines. This sort of overlap might be instrumental in development of cures without relapses or side effect. In other words, the two worlds might have to collide in order for us to discover those inevitably evasive "silver bullets."

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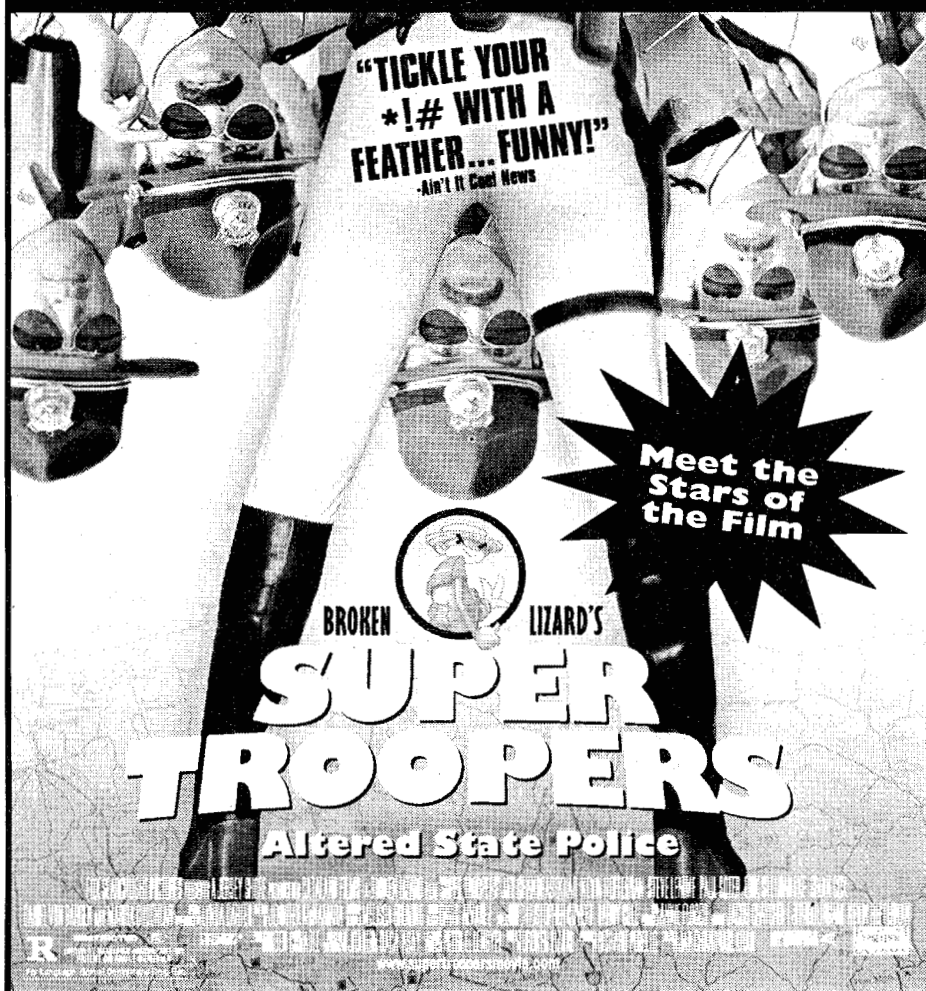


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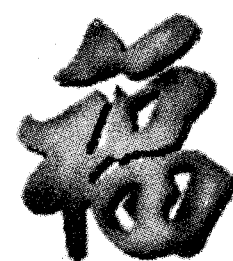
Chinese Music & Dance

9:00 pm - 11:00 pm

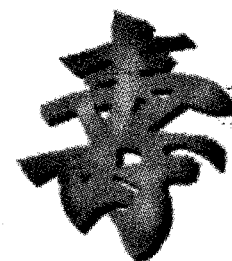
Raffles, Prizes, Giveaways! Plus a Special Menu of Chinese Cuisine



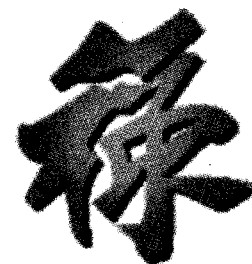
Good Luck



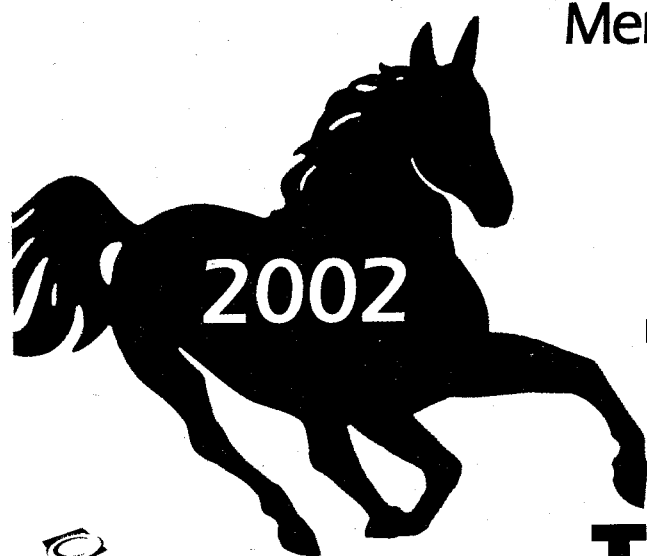
Happiness



Longevity



Prosperity



THE YEAR OF THE HORSE

Campus Dining Services
Faculty Student Association
Sigma Gamma Rho

The Selwyn Brook Statesman Monday, February 11, 2002