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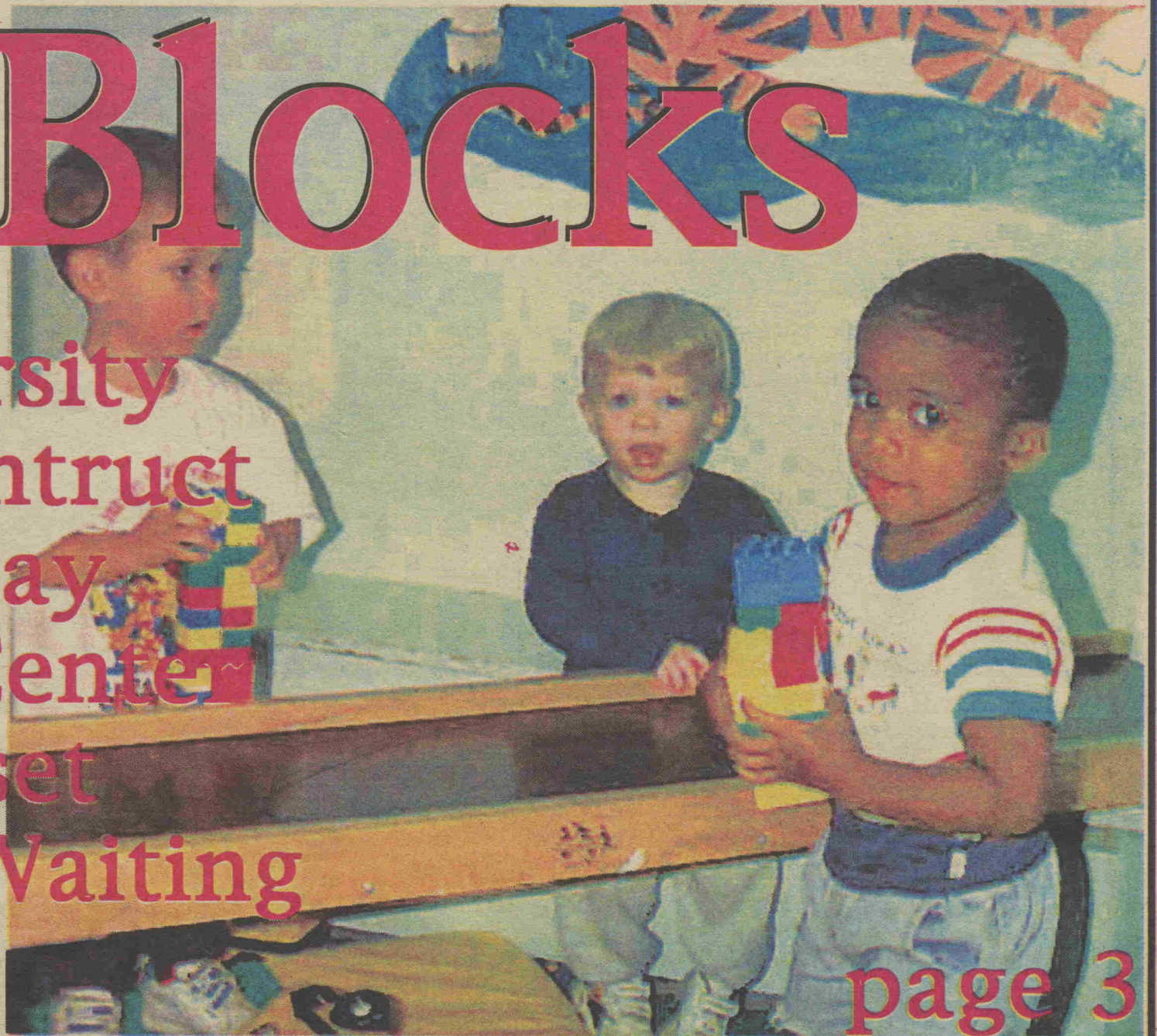
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1998

PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

Building

Blocks

University
To Construct
New Day
Care Center
to Offset
Long Waiting
List



page 3

Three children from Stony Brook's day care centers practice constructing objects with their building blocks.

CRR

Worse Than Coal In Your Stockings

By RAYA EID
Statesman Editor

As the holidays quickly approach, student parents should take care to avoid 100 toys that may be hazardous to the health of their children, according to a just released annual study by the New York Public Interest Group. The study was produced with the help of some Stony Brook students.

Results from the survey, *Toy Trouble!*, are used to educate parents about the hazards of particular toys and to advocate stronger laws and regulations to protect children from toy hazards. The annual report also includes NYPIRG's 1998 list of dangerous toys and recently identified toys containing significant amounts of toxic chemicals, especially teething toys intended for children under the age of three.

"Parents should be on the lookout for small parts, toxic substances, long cords on pull toys and sharp materials," said Todd Stebbins, NYPIRG Project Coordinator at Stony Brook. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission data, there are approximately twenty toy related deaths, and another 150,000 reported injuries, in the United States each year. The CPSC does not however test all toys and not all toys on the shelves meet CPSC regulations, and the toys that do meet all CPSC tests may still be dangerous.

On the bright side, according to the NYPIRG toy safety survey, the vast majority of toys do include choke hazard warnings on small parts, balls, marbles and balloons as required by 1994 Child Safety Protection Act regulations. Balloons, however, continue to cause more choking-related deaths than any other children's product. According to the CSPA, in 1997, six children, whose ages range from five months to five years, choked to death on balloons.

Despite the actions of the CPSC and the CSPA, children still fall victim to toy-related injuries and deaths. NYPIRG's study reveals toys on the shelves that violate many safety rules implemented by the CSPA. In addition, "toy manufacturers succeeded in their attempts to

weaken the law through the regulatory process," according to NYPIRG's toy safety report, and balloons that are very attractive to young children are still manufactured and marketed despite the deaths from choking on balloons.

The toy safety report also discusses phthalate

As Holidays Approach, Study Lists Dangerous Toys

DINP, a chemical found in toys for children under three. Scientific tests commissioned by Greenpeace found as much as 40 percent by volume of the phthalate DINP contained in children's toys, including teethingers. When purchased for scientific laboratory use, phthalate DINP contains a warning which says: "May cause cancer; harmful by inhalation, in contact with skin and if swallowed; possible risk of irreversible effects; avoid exposure; and wear suitable protective clothing, gloves and eye/face protection." But no such warning is labeled on the toys that contain these chemicals. "Children should be entertained and educated by toys," said Trina Conforti, a student at Stony Brook and an activist with NYPIRG. "Some of the toys we found could seriously injure or kill small children."

According to NYPIRG's tips for toy safety, parents should avoid or beware of toys with small parts, balloons, small marbles and balls, strangulation hazards, projectiles, sharp points and edges, toxic substances, baby walkers and excessive loudness.

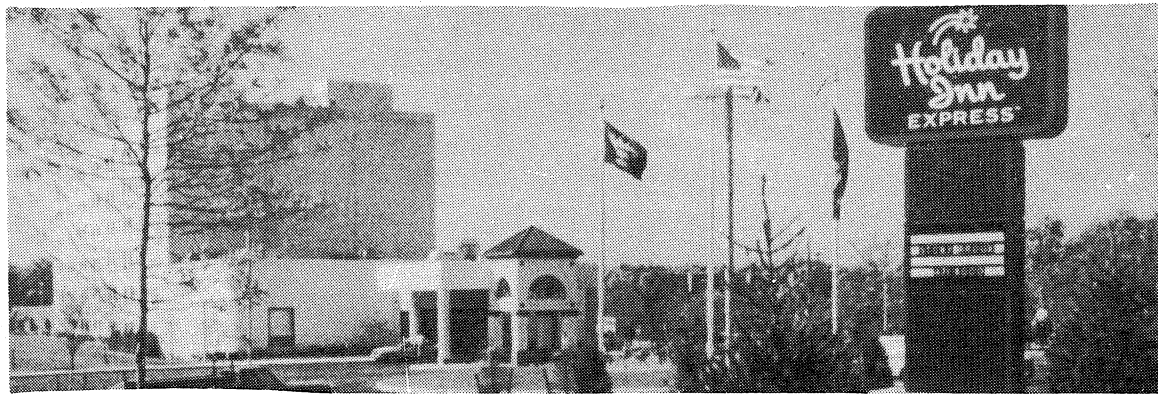
Included in NYPIRG's toy safety report are recommendations to improve toy safety where they address the CPSC, Congress, the New York State Legislature, toy manufacturers, retailers, parents and toy shoppers. The report also includes unsafe toys identified in upstate New York stores, New York City stores and Long Island stores. In order to report a toy hazard, call the CPSC at 1-800-638-2772 and NYPIRG at (212) 349-6460.

The Top Twenty Toys to Avoid

- 1) Baby King's Little Mechanic Tool Set
- 2) Battat's Toy Xylophone
- 3) Drummonds Twirling Toy
- 4) Duplo's Preschool Building Set
- 5) The First Year's Cool Animal Teether
- 6) Gerber's Looney Tunes Water-Filled Soother
- 7) Gerry's Tub Squirts
- 8) Kenner's Big Girl Baby Play Set
- 9) Manley's Battery Operated Transport Truck
- 10) Mattel's "Baby Dil's World" Rugrats Play Sets
- 11) Phantom Effects' Toteables Glow in the Dark Fashion Accessories
- 12) Playskool's Plush Arthur Figure Set
- 13) Playskool's "Po" Teletubby
- 14) Playskool's Talking Payphone
- 15) Tyco's Kitchen Littles Food Packs
- 16) Unique's First and Second Birthday Balloons
- 17) Unique's Flying Propellers
- 18) Vilac's Toby the Dog Pull Toy
- 19) Vision Products Picnic 'N Play Assortment of Play Foods
- 20) West Coast Liquidator's Dress-Up Set

-Courtesy of the NYPIRG Toy Safety Report

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, December 7, 1998



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More Room to Play

Stony Brook to Add New Daycare Facilities

By JENNIFER KESTER
Statesman Editor

With a waiting list of 250 to 300 children for Stony Brook Child Care Services Inc., the on campus child care center, child care is in great demand at Stony Brook University. To accommodate this growing need, Stony Brook Child Care Services is nearing completion with a new design for a facility that will expand their services for students, faculty, and staff.

The new facilities, which will be built in either the late spring or the early summer of 2000, will be designed for 160 children as opposed to the capacity of 100 children. It will be located on the six acre property on the corner of South Loop Road and Stony Brook Road and across from the Commuter Parking Lot.

The current child care facilities, located in east campus in the main entrance, consist of four separate houses: the Toscanini and Clark Centers focus on children from two months to three years old and the Early Childhood and Benedict Centers are for children from three to five years old. The houses, which were originally built as private homes, are deteriorating with problems such as poor plumbing.

"The houses weren't meant to use for heavy duty child care," said Dick Mann, University vice president for facilities.

Over the years, Stony Brook Child Care Services have tried to keep up with compliance codes through renovations but the task has been difficult. "There is only so much we could do," Mann said.

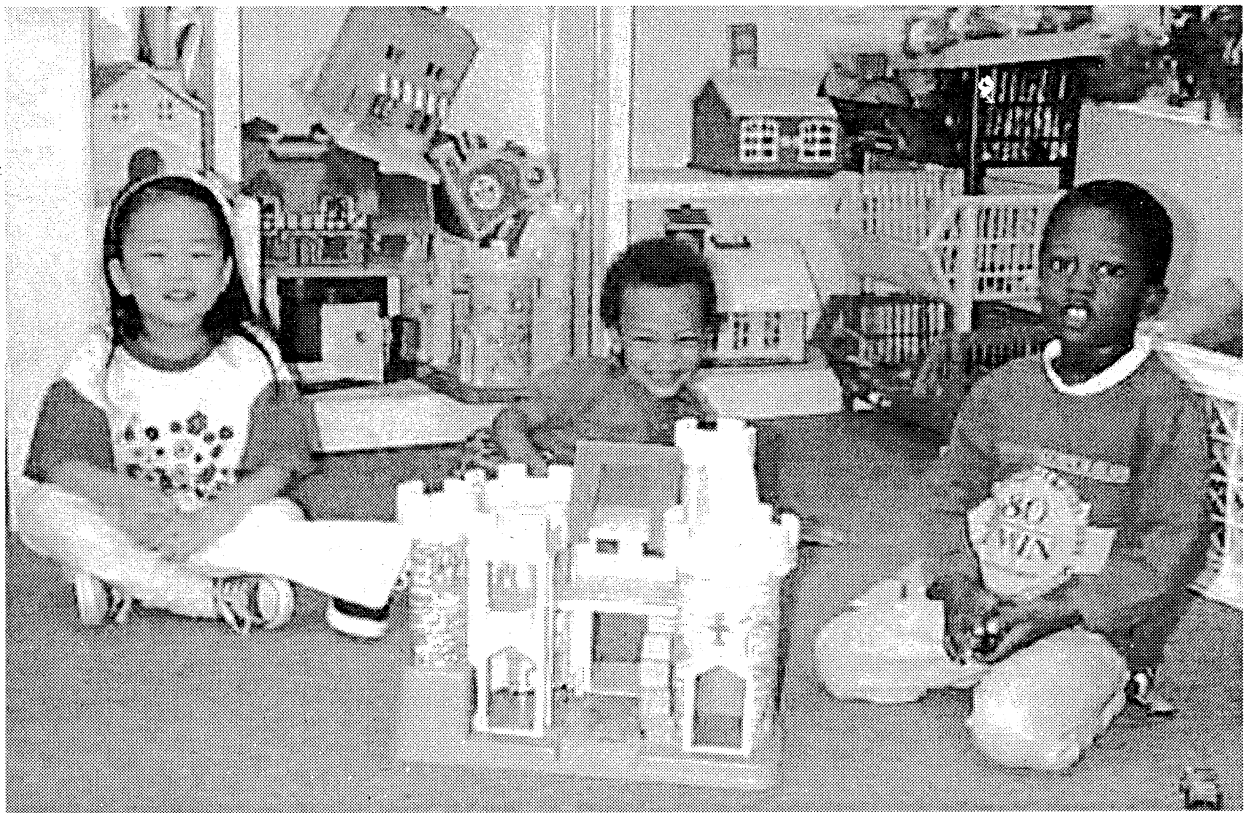
The new building will integrate the four houses and will be planned as an environment for children. Every space will have a backyard, kitchen, and nap room.

"Each mini-center will be like a house," said Lucille Oddo, executive director of Stony Brook Child Care Services Inc. The new child care center will also feature a multipurpose room to serve for various activities. One in particular is a an adaptive toy library for children with special needs. The toys, which are usually expensive, will be open to all, including community members, for free.

New services will also be added. Besides the before and after school care, a summer camp will also be available along with parenting workshops. Down the line, the Center hopes to provide flexible care for mildly ill.

In conjunction with the child/family studies minor at the University, the Center has set up a program for interns. They are seeking to work with other disciplines to get interns in physical therapy, linguistics and others willing to participate.

"We can be such a resource for the campus and the campus can be a resource for us," Oddo said. Past interns, such as a nutritionist, have come to analyze an aspect of the program in accordance with their study. The nutritionist was able to analyze the



Courtesy/Stony Brook Child Care Services, Inc.

Stony Brook's child care services has a 250 - 300 person waiting list. Above, children at the day care centers playing with a castle and with flowers show some of the reasons why the waiting list is so long.

Center's nutritional policy and conduct workshops with parents on nutrition.

The Center has a unique program that has been nationally accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs three times. The criteria for this title include positive interaction among children and adults, planned learning activities appropriate to children's age and development, and highly trained early childhood teachers.


"Families are able to have high quality daycare," Oddo said. The fee for the Center is on a sliding scale according to income, allowing the child care to be accessible to all. This also "provides the children with a socioeconomic mix" along with the already culturally diverse atmosphere Oddo said.

The new center will get their projected \$2.7 to \$2.9 million funding by agencies affiliated with the University. The United Way campaign, a national fundraising organization which is currently raising money for the campus, has chosen to sponsor the Center.

However, the Center is still looking for any donations. "We are going to need as much support as we can get," said Oddo. "The key is getting the money ..." Mann agreed. The Center is planning several fundraising activities. A brunch will be held on May 23 to honor Carl Hanes, deputy to President Shirley Strum Kenny for special projects, for his help on the project. It will be a corporate outreach fundraiser with a pledge program, said Oddo, where those who donate will have their name put onto the brick, or on a plaque in a room that they helped contributed to.

Also to be held in the spring is the center's sixth annual Big Cash Bonanza and will offer 36 cash prizes, the top prize being \$15,000, in a raffle. The event will be held in the Student Activities Center and a gourmet dessert will be served by the Three Village Inn.

Oddo said that a lot of help is needed for organizing the event. "I would like more student support," she said.



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Serving a Sidedish of Heart

By SIEDEL BETHUNE
Statesman Staff

For almost 20 years, Pilar Ramu has been working as a cafeteria employee at the State University at Stony Brook, dishing out food to her student and faculty customers. As such she has often had to bear the brunt of insults from customers for situations over which she had little or no control. So given the chance you'd think Ramu, 70, would want to dish the dirt out on her customers—well think again.

"I'd rather focus on the positive instead of the negative," said Ramu in the Humanities Cafeteria where she is stationed. "Everyone has had bad days."

She was dressed for the occasion in her usual campus-cafeteria garb: flat comfortable shoes and black pants that showed below her white apron. The cafeteria was filled with noisy students going about their business, many of them stopping by to say hello.

For the most part, Ramu said, most student customers have been good and that she has even been able to develop a "motherly relationship" with some over the years. "I love being around college kids," said Ramu, a mother of three. "If they were not so nice, I doubt I'd be here so long."

As a testament to the goodness and high expectations that she has placed in students, Ramu recalled a recent encounter with a former student who brought her a bouquet of roses. Incidentally, she said, the gesture was for a not-so-wonderful occasion: the student's mother had died.

"She came to me crying and sought solace for her loss," Ramu said. "Immediately my maternal instincts kicked in and I told her should take time out for mourning. I knew

she was in tremendous pain and could not keep up with the pressures of being in college at the same time."

The student accepted her advice and took a leave of absence until she was better able to cope with her loss. Ramu said she had forgotten all about the incident because she viewed it as "the natural and right thing to do."

But the student had not forgotten.

"One day I saw this young lady coming to me with a beautiful bouquet of white roses and she said, 'Thank you for your wonderful advice,'" Ramu said. "I'm so proud of her. She is now a doctor."

But if Ramu had helped to shape the life of one student, so had the lives of numerous students' helped to shape hers. "When I first began working here the student body was not as diverse as it is today," Ramu said with a look of seriousness in her eyes. "That bothered me." She paused and said, "Today, the school has become very diverse and this gives you a great opportunity to get to know about the other cultures."

Another change Ramu said she noticed since she began working in the cafeteria in 1979 is the landscape of the school. The University, she said, has added a number of buildings, including the Student Activities Center that opened in recent years.

She advised students to take advantage of these new facilities and to remain focused on their purpose for attending college. "Get the most out of your college experience and don't take everything for granted," Ramu said.

Ramu, who lives in Setauket, agreed that her career is very fulfilling. "Something interesting always happens in the food



Statesman/Malgorzata Pilawaska

Pilar Ramu is one of the most popular cafeteria employees on campus.

business. There's never a dull moment but you've got to be patient."

Many student customers agree that in Ramu they got everything they needed and more. "Working in a cafeteria can get crazy but Pilar is always unbelievable patient," said sophomore Alfred Cesar. "Every time I come into the cafeteria Pilar is always smiling and anxious to help me accomplish my eating agenda."

And it's that agenda, another student said, that has helped make Pilar Ramu one of the

most popular cafeteria employees on campus.

"As vain as the rest of us are, Pilar is a step above," said junior Brisette Gantt, who has known Ramu since her freshman year. "I've visited all the cafeterias on campus and dealt with a lot of the workers in my time, and Pilar is definitely one of the better ones."

And customers are likely to continue to get their course dished out by this 'better' cafeteria employee in the foreseeable future. "I have no immediate plans to retire," Ramu said.

A Breakfast Invitation Not to Miss

By FRANK SANTANGELO
Special to the Statesman

When Nat Hendricks, a USB concerned citizen and a long-standing participant in USB academic and social functions, invites you to dine, you simply go along. Nat has been active in the homeless community for many years. He has been a part of the community for nearly twenty-five years. And if one desires an historic perspective then Nat usually proffers an activist's slanted version, and this makes for fine fodder for "inquiring minds."

Nat knows all the hot spots for homeless dining. And although my first occasion in that venue was yesterday, it was a rewarding experience. Two friends and myself met Nat at 9:am. My buddy, a post-doctorate researcher from Sweden, has coined Nat, "the man with the hat"; Nat wears a Mexican straw hat. The Swede drove. Yep, we drove to a homeless breakfast!

We arrived at the Elks Lodge in Port Jefferson Station. Nat says that the Station is where the poorer people live. Notably, upon arrival there was a typical homeless cart with empty bottles—yes, some whiskey ones, too. There were several men and women smoking and conversing as we made our way to the door. Nat, glancing over his shoulder reassured us that this was a fine breakfast.

The scene inside was merry. Decorated and glowing the hall seemed oddly festive on this unseasonable day. Most folks were dressed in light clothing and Santa (and the decorated Moose hanging from the wall) simply seemed out of place. Nat led us to a table although a hostess was more than kind in trying to direct us to any one of the several tables with space available.

At "our" table sat a woman with two young children.

Perspectives

They were busy eating. I was still in observational mode and I could not help but notice her very thick Italian gold wedding band. And her children's fine eyewear. Before them sat two Pooh animal toys. I inquired, "did they give those to you?" The boys nodded with one adding, "yes, and you can get one, too."

A young lady came almost immediately to our table and asked for our orders in tandem announcing what they were serving. Nat had insisted that he would take no pork. I, somewhat feeling still odd about this ordeal, managed to ask for coffee and some eggs. The girl was relentless, however; "Would you like some pancakes... some bacon and potatoes," she spoke carrying with her a warmth—genuine at that. "No, just the eggs and toast perhaps," I mumbled still observing and still trying to analyze the lady with two kids. I eyed her suspiciously.

As our order taker was just leaving another came handing out plates consisting with the same foods. Plates were just coming. And then another younger girl came by with juice. And an older woman brought the coffee with a younger girl following with milk. Indeed, most odd. The complexity of it all. Thank the spirit(s) my initial order had arrived with the order taker. No toast. Nat had already complained that he cannot have the bacon. The Swede appeared amused by the events. And our young friend, Neal (this semester's free tuition winner), had appeared consumed by all the attention.

I had commenced to question the women with the kids.

She had worked, lost her job, learned about the "soup kitchens" and for a year—out of work—had eaten regularly at various kitchens. She raved about St. James telling me that they serve dinner at 5:pm and clothing is issued, too. Nat chimed that that was a good spot.

Our order taker was a fourth year server. A Comsewoque student (interestingly, however, when asked to spell the highschool she struggled). She informed me that they were expected to serve nearly 300 people. They had passed out eight hundred fliers at various homeless outlets. For the short time that we were there the place was steady with eaters. And the servers kept bringing food.

As I neared the ending of my breakfast I glanced over the center piece—a tuna can partially filled with dried beans with a candle in the middle—at the woman with the kids. She had told me that she had found a job, however, had recently lost it. Hence the eating out had resumed. As she encouraged her two children to hurry along—I had given the one kid a plate that had come before me and he was busy consuming the same—I observed the various sorts of people eating and having a merry time of it. It was odd, yet.

The woman left. However, a moment later came back near our table to inquire of a server if the food and clothing at the front was for the taking. It was. The man with the hat, the Swede, tuition boy and myself departed shortly after the woman with the kids. Pulling from the lot was the woman in a newer model mini van. The Swede and I chuckled as we entered his car. We even laughed harder after he had paid for gas at the station across the street with a \$50. America. We do appreciate you.

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Of Course, Not Just Intercourse

Sex. If nothing else, the subject gets your attention. Some people get nervous about it, others blush. Some consider it a mystery and still others get turned on at its mere mention. There are as many differing opinions on it as there are positions. But just what is it all about? Here at Stony Brook, we have been forced to reevaluate this question in the wake of the rapes this past semester. Last week, the one-woman comedy act 'Sex Rules,' performed by Maria Falzone, taught us that two of the most basic issues in a sexual relationship are trust and safety. Stony Brook has had to defend itself from the flak it's gotten for the sex-related programs held during the month of November, Stony Brook's Diversity month. (Not surprisingly, some of this criticism has come from the infamously prudish SUNY trustee, Candice DeRussy).

It is interesting to note that while you can't turn around without seeing sex in magazines, television, movies, ads and even in public, it still continues to be a subject of great debate. Why is this? Everyone does it. You would be lying if you didn't admit to at least being curious about it. And if you are one of the lucky ones, you may even enjoy it. So where does this controversy stem from?

Maybe it's all in how you do it. Sure it's easy but the good old missionary position can become old pretty darn quick. What a view. If you're a girl, you have nothing to look at except the pimples on your boyfriend's neck. If you're a guy, you have no choice but to study the grains in your wooden headboard. How boring. Perhaps you need to spice it up a bit... So what does it mean to be spicy? Is it performing crazy acrobatic acts and doing it while hanging from a chandelier? It's actually quite the opposite. In fact, you don't even need actual penetration to have any fun at all. To some of you, that may be crazier than doing it



Comedian Maria Falzone last Tuesday showed that trust has more to do with love than sex.

blindfolded while riding horseback sidesaddle in 'the woods. But as 'Sex Rules' pointed out, this sort of sex can be just as fulfilling and best of all, you are keeping safe. It also gives you the opportunity to find what you

..In fact, you don't even need actual penetration to have any fun at all. To some of you, that may be crazier than doing it blindfolded while riding horseback sidesaddle in the woods...

need to get the blood pumping to the right spots. A little kissing there, some caressing here...much more satisfying than going nose to nose with a headboard.

As 'Sex Rules' sought out to explain, the key to a enjoyable, healthy relationship is trust. But the trust needs to be as much in yourself as in your partner. Trust what you like. Don't be embarrassed if an issue of Penthouse is your own personal "elixir of love." Let your partner know if a good neck sucking is what you need to feel amorous.

Know what you don't want. Understand that those passionate hours (or moments) can come with some consequences. You may be blessed with a precious little

bundle of joy or cursed with something far worse.

Needless to say, the factor that most directly effects your feelings on sex is who you're doing it with. There are few things as beautiful, sexy and passionate as making love with someone you love and who loves you back just as much. Your partner is the one who makes it okay if you are not up to par one night when you went four hours straight the night before. They're the ones who make you feel sexy even if you put on five pounds over Christmas. There is no feeling in the world quite like getting turned on by simply having a conversation with someone. Who needs a busty chest, a cute butt or nice legs when someone has a brain in their head?

Maybe that's the problem with these people that shun sex and its banter. They're not getting it good, if they're getting it at all.

No matter how you do it or who you do it with, just be sure to protect yourself. We all know about the ramifications of not being careful from nasty diseases to unwanted pregnancies. Take precautions to make sure that you can continue enjoying and experimenting and having fun in bed.

Letters to the Editor can be e-mailed to us at statesmn@ic.sunysb.edu

The Truth About Fraternities

By Ed Stapleton
Special to the Statesman

On the surface many people see them as cult-like tributes to parties, hazings, and bizarre pledging rituals. However, despite the frightening stories of routine torture, their popularity continues to grow.

What is the attraction to these secret societies? Perhaps fraternities and sororities possess more than the superficial labels associated with them.

"Fraternities and sororities are involved in scholarship, leadership, service to the community, and what we call fellowship," says Kevin Shannon, the advisor to the Inter Fraternity and Sorority Council. Shannon said the societies instill positive qualities in students. "These qualities help make better citizens for our country and make them better people."

According to Shannon, studies have proven that members of fraternities and sororities are generally more successful in the real world. Perhaps the greatest example of this success is in the oldest and most prestigious of all national Greek societies, Phi Beta Kappa. Considered today to be more of an Honor society, it was founded at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia on December 5, 1776. According to Shannon, its earliest members included prestigious men such as Thomas Jefferson.

Today, although the secrecy has

vanished and it has become geared more towards scholarship than brotherhood, the prestige of the society remains in members such as presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton, Jonas Salk, and Francis Ford Coppola. Although the smaller societies of today do not possess the prestige of Phi Beta Kappa, they still carry

Stony Brook's Greek Societies run Toys For Tot's and other Charity Programs

the same values denoted by Shannon.

"We had adopt-a-child," says Tiffany Acquaziva, a member of the Sigma Delta Tau chapter at Stony Brook, describing a program in which they sponsored a child from a third world nation. Acquaziva also described their Toys for Tots program, and involvement with the National Coalition for the Prevention of Child abuse.

Shannon praised Stony Brook's Greek societies for a more direct and personal involvement in charities than other groups. Shannon cited that the Toys-for-

Tots program not only gave toys to needy children, but also sponsored a Christmas Party at which the toys were distributed directly to the children. "They interact directly with the community," said Shannon.

Shannon said that four new chapters were added last year alone, and in addition over 200 fraternity and sorority members joined last year as well. What lures these new members?

"The big thing is meeting new people, making new friends," said Shannon. "It's an opportunity to become part of the larger community." According to Shannon and various members of fraternities and sororities, these organizations provide a much larger network of dependable friends.

Many students, such as Eddie Vilas of Tau Kappa Epsilon, are inspired to join these societies by their friends who are involved in such organizations. "I was hanging out and saw there was a lot of benefits to being part of it. So I went for it," said Vilas.

Of course, no mountain of rhetoric about the greatness of such societies can elude the stories of brutal pledging rituals. Why do people undergo such treatment for the sake of brotherhood and community service? Members of fraternities are not allowed to comment on the nature of the pledging rituals. Vilas said of the pledging, "It's definitely hard, but ... it's worth it."

Recycling a Needed Old Message

By Rishad Jonuschat
Statesman Staff

Recycling is an important process on our planet Earth. Re-usage of waste products can take place in two ways. The first of which involves the biological or natural breakdown of waste in ecosystems by chemical reactions. Unfortunately humans have limited charge in this area. However, it could be said that man has full control, when it comes to the recycling of artificial products such as glass and metal bottles. The only missing factor that can make this happen is YOU! Initiative, consideration, and action can help ensure a healthier planet.

Presently, governments are taking legislative steps to encourage recycling in their respective lands. There needs to be a greater understanding and awareness of the situation from every member of society. Taxes and incentives are just two of the many measures used to persuade people to recycle. Firms unnecessarily polluting the atmosphere with harmful excess gases will be charged taxes to contribute to the clean up of the air. On the other hand, companies such as Coca-Cola offer rebates on empty bottles and cans if they are returned to the

A Small Thing That You Can Do For a Healthier Environment

place of purchase. This small refund attracts only a small percentage of the population while the majority are still neglectful of recycling.

The choice between disposing a can or placing it in a recycling container needs to be made. Therefore, to facilitate the decision perhaps a larger number of recycling units could be located in strategic areas such as immediately outside cafes and supermarkets. Several European countries have taken drastic steps to increase recycling and eliminate pollution. For example, in certain German cities units have been constructed on almost every street so that the inhabitants do not need to travel long distances to dispose of their waste. Glass, aluminum, and paper

are accepted at these sites.

As students, we need to have a recognition of the destruction done to our planet and ozone-layer by the failure to recycle. The surplus of cans, bottles, and wasted paper on the Stony Brook campus really got me thinking. I realize that there exists so much potential and opportunity to recycle but the resources to aid this process are lacking. Quads on campus are devising programs so that old cans and bottles can be collected, and there after recycled for a monetary reward. While walking around the University, I see dozens of pieces of waste, which could have easily been recycled. The excess paper from a range of sources could probably be regarded as the greatest problem on our campus. Fliers which may be seen as useful to one person are completely useless to someone else, and are later just discarded for trash. Now if this waste is multiplied by a couple of thousand students the effects are quite extensive.

Next time you buy a canned or bottled drink, or you have paper to get rid off, DON'T throw it away! Recycle it! Remember it takes the collaborative effort of our community to help protect our planet.

Binghamton Upends SBU Women's B-Ball

Long Island native Karen McClelland scored 30 points and grabbed ten boards to lead Binghamton over Stony Brook Wednesday night at the Sports Complex. With the win, Binghamton improves to 6-0, 1-0 in the NECC on the season while Stony Brook falls to 0-7, 0-1 in the NECC.

Binghamton went on a 13-0 run midway through the first half, highlighted by eight points from McClelland, to break a 4-4 tie and take a

commanding 17-4 lead. The Colonials stretched their lead to 15 with 3:23 remaining in the half before settling for a 31-19 halftime advantage.

Freshman Sarah Burkett drilled home a three from the top of the key to help Stony Brook cut the lead to nine with 8:31 left to play but that was as close as the Seawolves would get. Burkett finished the game with a team-high 11 points while fellow freshman Cortney Ray tallied 11

points and pulled down 11 rebounds to help lead the Seawolves effort.

Stony Brook will next be in action this weekend when it travels to Sacred Heart on Saturday. Tip-off is 2:00 p.m.

SBU Women's B-ball Loses in Close Game

Fairfield, CT - The Stony Brook women's basketball team fell to the first place Sacred Heart Pioneers Saturday by the score of 74-69.

Stony Brook took the lead early, racing out to a 10-3 lead before Sacred Heart rallied behind Katie Toole and Jessica Bresnahan to take a 38-29 halftime lead. The Pioneers stretched their lead to 12 on several occasions but Stony Brook kept close thanks to the play of Kelli Cofield (11 points) and Cortney Ray (13 points).

With the Seawolves trailing 62-52 with just under five minutes to play, Sarah Burkett sparked a comeback. Burkett scored 13 of her team-high 19 points in the final five minutes, scoring the team's final eight points to pull the Seawolves within three with :13 remaining.

The Seawolves had one last chance to tie but turned the ball over and Sacred Heart sealed the win with two free throws in the final seconds. Stony Brook (0-8, 0-2) will next face Southern Connecticut at the Sports Complex on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

SBU Men's Basketball Gets First Win

The Stony Brook men's basketball team earned its first win of the season with a 67-56 win over NECC rival Binghamton, 67-56, Tuesday night at

SBU 67
Binghamton 56

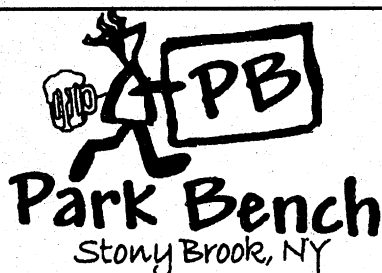
the Sports Complex. Junior point guard Steve Pratta turned in his finest performance as a Seawolf, recording nine points and twelve assists to pace the Stony Brook win.

The Seawolves used an 18-3 run to build a 15-point lead in the first half but Binghamton clawed back to draw within 29-25 at the break. Stefan Salden and Pratt hit

consecutive three-pointers to start the second half to extend Stony Brook's lead to ten but the Seawolves could not put the Colonials away. Brad Nelson kept Binghamton close throughout the contest, netting 16 points and pulling down a game-high 13 rebounds.

Midway through the second half, Stony Brook put together a 12-2 run, highlighted by two Josh Little three-pointers to stake SB to a 60-44 lead. The Seawolves never looked back and went on to their first NECC victory of the season. Little scored a team-high 14 points, hitting four-three pointers in the game. Little was one of four Seawolves to score in double figures. Chris Balliro (11 points), Bobby Mahoney (11 points) and Ryan McDermott (11 points) also scored in double figures for Stony Brook.

Stony Brook (1-3, 1-0) will travel to Columbia on Monday, December 7 to face the Lions. Tip-off is 7:30 p.m.



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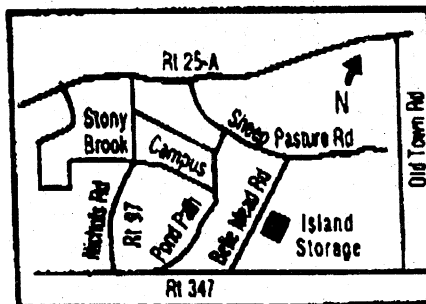
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Champions On and Off the Field

Athletes Learn to Balance Their Time While Keeping up With a Busy Season

By JIM MOLINARI
Statesman Staff

There are many students at Stony Brook who don't only have schoolwork to worry about, but playing sports as well. According to Stony Brook athletes, time management is the key to getting their schoolwork done, and attending practices and games.

Athletes who have practices and scrimmages during their off-season seem to have an easier time getting things done. Alex Trezza, who plays baseball for Stony Brook said, "it's not that bad because we have to go to the studyhalls every week so that the coaches know we're doing our work." Coaches require athletes to attend study halls twice a week for two hours. Lacrosse player, Dante Daddi said, "right now it's not too bad because we're in the off season, but it may get harder later on in the year and

than it's more like a job that you have to keep up with."

Some teams practice up to 4-6 hours a day and then have weight lifting sessions that take up at least another hour. "You have to manage your time right or else you'll be lost," said Phil

"You have to manage your time right or else you'll be lost."

Archibald. Many athletes have to stay up longer than the average student to do their work and papers for classes because they have to practice all afternoon and




Statesman/Tee Lek D. Ying

After a long hard game, athletes must find time to study.

attend classes in the morning. "It's tough because I have to leave early for classes, and I don't really have any time to eat and I come home late," said Frank Baile, a lacrosse player.

Athletes who are presently in-season seem to have a more difficult time because in addition to practices, they have games and are frequently on the road. Football players said that they feel more tired than usual and they are away from social activities more

often. "It's kinda hard, but that's why they have the studyhalls every week and it's really stressful because you have to keep up your grades to play on a team," said one athlete. Heather Martin, captain of the Stony Brook diving team, said "it's difficult managing your time and coaches want you to make as many practices as you can, but academics are first and athletics second."



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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, December 7, 1998

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Staller Happenings

Stony Brook Chorale to Perform This Week

The Stony Brook Chorale, under the direction of Li-Fen Chen, will perform a concert with the Stony Brook Baroque Players on Saturday, December 12, at 8:00 p.m. in the Staller Center Recital Hall. Featured works on this concert will be two enchanting Christmas pieces by M. A. Charpentier, Noel Pour les instruments and Messe de Minuit pour Noel (Midnight Mass for Christmas) and a joyful Christmas Suite arranged by R. Show and R. R. Bennett.

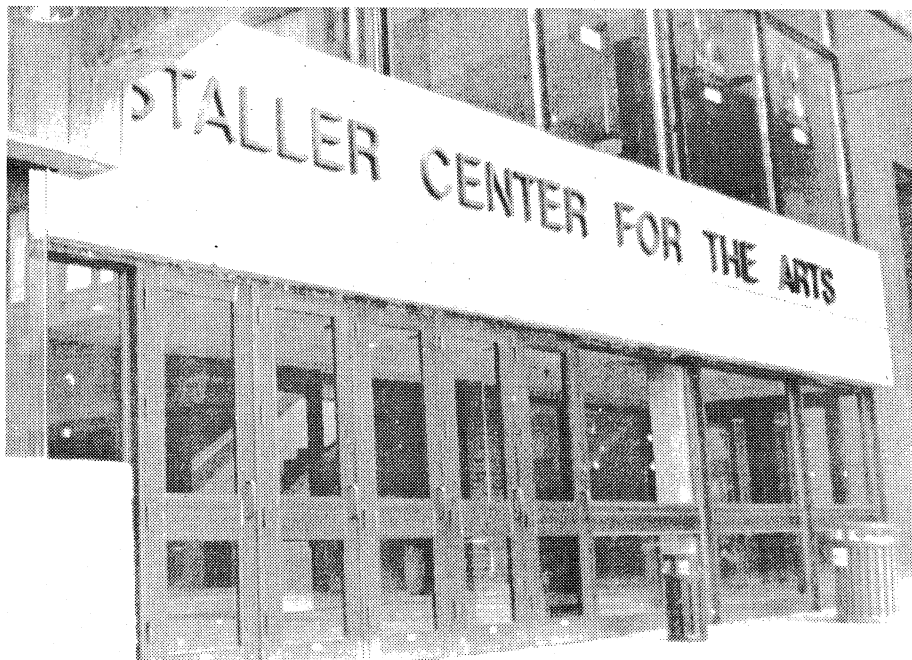
By embracing the famous tradition of French carols, Charpentier created both pieces as surprisingly fresh as well as elegant. A whole Midnight Mass based on carols had no known precedent

within the composer's lifetime. The dance-like melodies and expressive harmonies represent one of the rare instances of an encounter between art music and popular or folk music in 17th century France. Nowhere else in the whole of French Baroque music is there a work of such charm. To conclude the evening's concert, the Chorale will sing a Christmas Suite with familiar carols.

Tickets are available at the Staller Center box office for \$6, \$3 for students and seniors. For more information, call 632-ARTS, or 632-7330.

Undergrad Recitals to Be Held

The Music Department is holding its Fall Series of Undergraduate Recitals in the Recital Hall of the Staller Center. This year, the solo and chamber music recitals were held on December 2, and 5, with a final recital this Wednesday,



Statesman/Tee Lek D. Ying

The Staller Center will host the Stony Brook Chorale and the Undergrad Recitals.

December 9, at 5:00 p.m.

Selected chamber and solo compositions will be performed by undergraduates studying in the Music program at Stony Brook. There will be performances by vocalists, wind and

brass soloists, pianists, and guitarists. The music is written by such diverse composers as: Beethoven, Bartok, Mozart, Chopin, Cage, and others.

Admission is free. For more information, call 632-7330.

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Asian American Artists: Cross Culture Voices.
Noon to 4:00 p.m., Staller Center Art Gallery. For more information, call 632-7240.

Now through December 14

The Birth of Israel.
Noon to 4:00 p.m., Stony Brook Union Art Gallery. For more information, call 632-6828.

Monday, December 7

Chamber Music Winter Festival.
8:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Staller Center. Performances by music department students, featuring chamber music from the Baroque to the present. Free admission.

Tuesday, December 8

Opera Scenes.
8:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Staller Center. Staged scenes from standard operas featuring singers pursuing studies in the University's vocal programs. This year's program features Menotti's Amahl and the Night Visitors. David Lawton, Conductor. General admission, \$6, students and seniors, \$3. For information, call 632-ARTS.

A.D.A. Artists With Disabilities Show.
Noon to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday or by appointment. Union Art Gallery. Through Friday, December 11.

Trends and Problems in Contemporary Italian Literature.
2:20 p.m., Javits Lecture Center, Room 110, Center

for Italian Studies hosts this special lecture with Queens College professor Peter Carravetta. Free. For information, call 632-7244.

Humanities Institute Art History And Criticism "Critical Visions" Lecture Series.
4:30 p.m., Humanities Institute, E4341, Frank Melville Jr. Memorial Library. Free. For information, call 632-7765.

Wednesday, December 9

The Booda Velvets.
11:00 p.m., The Spot. The New York City band performs music from their new self titled release. See back cover.

Thursday, December 10

Jazz Concert.
8:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Staller Center. Music from almost every era is featured when the Stony Brook Jazz Ensemble performs. Tickets \$6, students and senior citizens, \$3. For information and reservations, call 632-ARTS.

Beginning Friday, December 11

The Nutcracker.
8:00 p.m., on December 11; 1:00 p.m., December 13 and 20; 2:00 p.m., December 12 and 19; 8:00 p.m., December 12 and 19; 6:00 p.m. December 20, Staller Center. Adults \$29, children and seniors \$19.

Saturday, December 12

Stony Brook Chorale- A French Noel.



Courtesy of the Staller Center

SBU student Shenole Latimer will play at the Staller Center on Thursday with the Stony Brook Jazz Ensemble.

8:00 p.m., Recital Hall, Staller Center. Charpentier's famous Christmas Midnight Mass, based entirely on beautiful French carols, with the chamber orchestra. Free admission. For information, call 632-ARTS.

Sunday, December 13

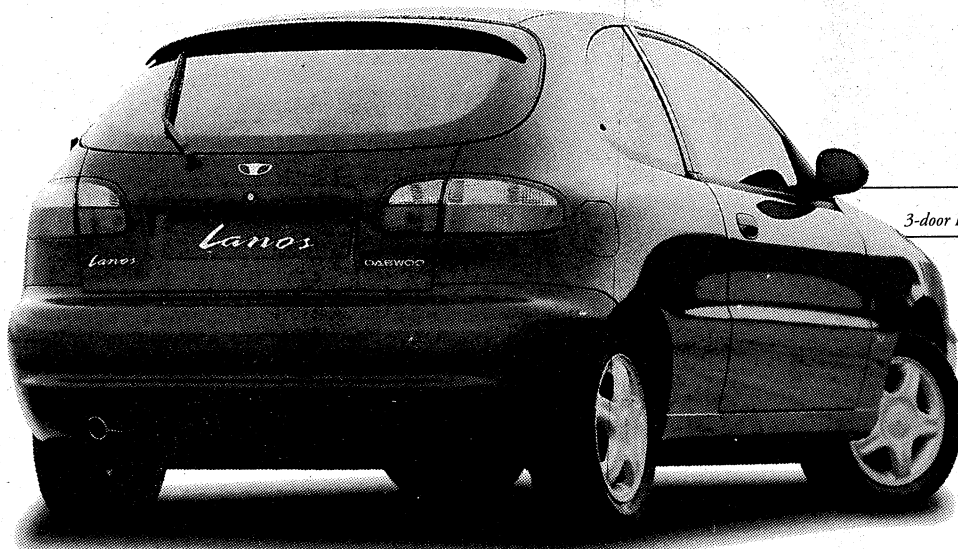
Winter Commencement.
Main Arena, 1:00 p.m., Sports Complex. For more information, call 632-6320.

Saturday, December 19 and Sunday, December 20

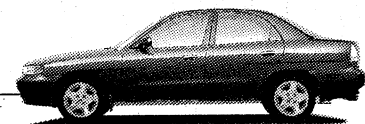
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632-6480

From all of us at **The Statesman**...have a happy holiday season!

Erin



Raya & Jen K.



Frank



Tee Lek



Silas



Jenn F.



Cheryl



Brad



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Michael

...and others too numerous to mention!

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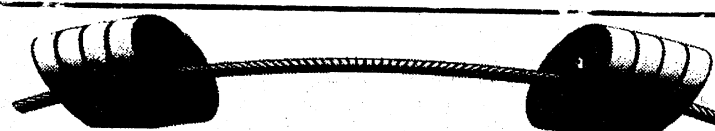
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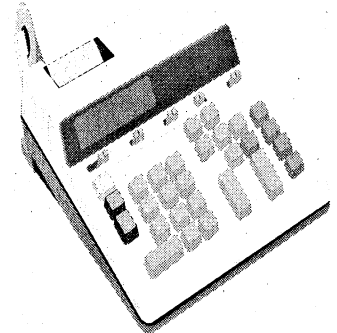
Since June of 1998 and currently extending into the 1ST quarter of 1999, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) through its contractor, TESTCOM, is conducting a study aimed at creating the most effective and consumer friendly program possible. To do this, the study (called the IPA Pilot Study) 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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R.E.M.'s *UP* Not a Downer

By MICHAEL KIMMEL
Special to the Statesman

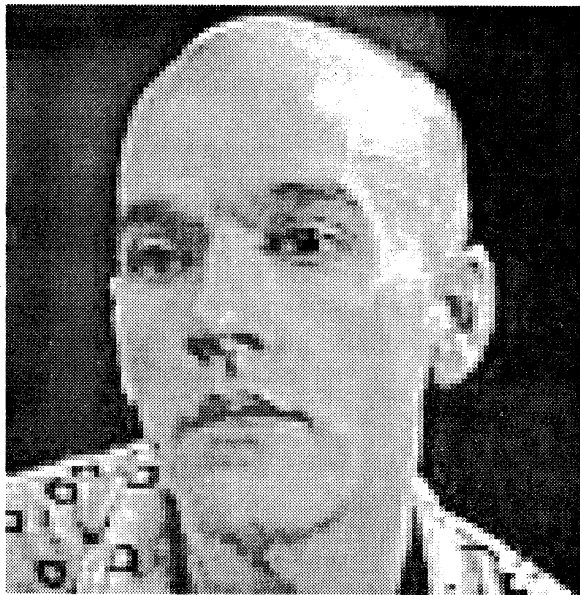
Many bands continually employ the exact same formula that originally propelled them to stardom. Afraid of alienating any of their demographics, they release album after album of similar sounding stuff - either of the interesting (Phish) or boring (Smashing Pumpkins) variety. Other bands continue to reach down the age spiral, thinking that if they pleased 17 year olds in the 1980's, they have what it takes to please one today. Think U2, for example.

R.E.M. has not fallen into either of those traps - they have allowed their audience to grow up with them, and even picked up new fans in the process. On their most recent records, the prototype college-radio band has created a very mature music - lyrically complex, musically textured, and aesthetically nuanced.

Their newest album *Up* (Warner Bros.) is no exception. It is a dramatic departure from their earlier work. For one thing, it is their first album as a trio, original drummer Bill Berry has left the band after a brush with mortality last year (he nearly died of a brain aneurysm). Other members add drum tracks - sometimes, deliberately simplistic taps on a lone snare, other times, moody and eccentric bottoms to complex arrangements. It is also the first R.E.M. album with lyrics enclosed, this from a band that often seemed to chant nonsense syllables!

But *Up* finds the band both experimental and committed to creating music that is often difficult to sing along with, but rewards serious listening.

Several songs continue to bring biting sarcasm we heard on earlier records. "The Apologist" finds Michael Stipe apologizing for everything he's ever done wrong,



R.E.M.'s Michael Stipe

and then some. It reminds me of the child who says they're sorry and then adds "not" under their breath.

And several use familiar sounds in somewhat unfamiliar ways. "At My Most Beautiful," for example, is as harmoniously melodic a love song as anything from the Beach Boys' *Smiley Smile* of *Pet Sounds* era. And the album's first single, "Daysleeper," a witty plain about being tired when everyone else is awake, leads with an acoustic guitar run that its directly lifted form Harry Nilson's "Everybody's Talkin'."

Other songs are not exactly sarcastic, but they poke fun at the foibles and follies of contemporary culture. On "Hope" for example, Michael Stipe sings, without

apparent affect, about those on religious quests: "you're looking for salvation/ and you're looking for deliverance/ you're looking like an idiot/ and you no longer care."

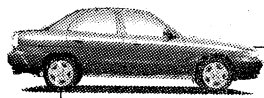
Perhaps the most complex song of the album, "Sad Professor," is also the one that pokes fun at self-absorbed, self-indulgent, slightly alcoholic, and self-hating academic poseurs - "professors muddled in their intent/ to try to rope in followers/ to float on their malcontent." I suppose it would be bad for form *this* professor to correct their paper and remind the band that the word should be "discontent." After all, as Stipe concludes, "everyone hates a sad professor/ I hate where I wound up."

Another song, "Walk Unafraid," celebrates a hard-won optimism and self-acceptance, with a nearly anthemic chorus. "Ill trip, fall, pick myself up and walk unafraid..."

A few songs are slow ethereal, almost gloomy ("Suspicion," and "You're in the Air"), with strings filling in where bass and drum once did. They almost appear to be throwaways - until you find yourself humming them in the shower.

This is an album that rewards repeated listening. It's not an easy record, but then life's not easy either. But like real life, we gradually feel comfortable, with well-worn familiar truths, with the lives we've chosen, the choices we've made.

On their last, the band sounded fatigued from nearly two years of touring, and frightened of mortality (Mike Mills and Michael Stipe had also been hospitalized at various points). Perhaps the easiest way to capture it is to say that it may be the band's happiest record in years. Well, not exactly happy. Maybe relieved and content - which in the late '90's is about as good as it gets.



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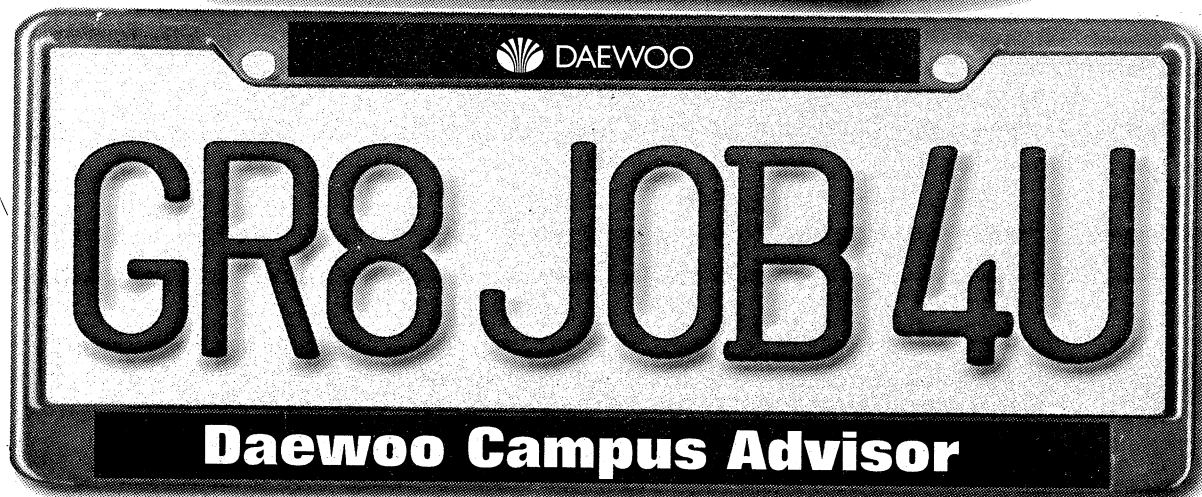
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Features

The Booda of Local Bands

The Booda Velvets to Play at Spot This Week

BY DANNY RIVERA
Statesman Staff

Let's begin this review of the local band "The Booda Velvets" with a scenario: bassist Jamie Balling and drummer Jonathan Yangmeet and become friends while in a Philadelphia college; there they decide to play in several "bands".

Fast forward a bit to a new time and place--NYC, their new home. At this point, they want to continue to play music. After finding guitarist Adam Wolfe by (what else) placing an ad in the *Village Voice*, they somehow became "The Booda Velvets"; how they added singer Dan Cromie is unknown to this reviewer. Please stop me if you've heard all of this before.

At any rate, the Velvets, as they are hereby known, begin to hone their music talents (?); they eventually land gigs all throughout the East Coast, including shows at NYC clubs like Tramps and the Mercury Lounge. But this intrepid young band did not stop there, no sir! You see, they entered in a competition for the right to play in the 1998 version of the Guinness Fleadh. Let me tell you that they won this very prestigious "Battle of the Bands," which allowed them the opportunity to play along side music notables like punkers "Chumbawumba" and (everyone's favorite Pope-hater) Sinéad O'Connor.

This reviewer was not present at this year's Guinness Fleadh, so I cannot tell



"The Booda Velvets," whose lyrics to one of their songs on their new cd is below, will be playing the Spot this Wednesday night.

you if the Velvets were able to "rawk" the house.

What I can tell you is that the Velvets' self-titled record, out on the "For Diis" label, is perfect for all the kids out there. It has most of the elements that

and Tool. Whether this is a good thing is something that you have to decide. Anyway, while there is nothing wrong with the aforementioned bands, it doesn't speak much for the group; it is probably their misfortune that this is not the year

rock kids who spend their days listening to Sunny Day Real Estate and Sebadoh. Sorry, no more name-dropping.

Well, what else can I tell you about potential modern-rock stalwarts "The Booda Velvets"? They are playing the Graduate Student Lounge (affectionately known as "The Spot") this coming Wednesday, December 9. Oh, don't forget to say hello to the band--tell them Danny sent you.

The Booda Velvets can be reached at the following addresses: theboodavelvets@hotmail.com; www.spacelab.net/~dcromie/boodavel.htm; and through their management at (212) 254-5213.

By the way, be sure to pick up Elliott Smith's newest album, called "XO". It is the best record of the year. Seriously.

The Nipple Parade

Nothing to say, but she didn't say/She'll smile me as another soon/Then I've seen the light/Then
between your lies/Then I was so blind/Nothing to say, but she didn't say/She'll smile me as another
soon/Address didn't work, and my eyes got blurry/Right out of my smoking head/Then I've seen the
light/Then between your lies/Then I was so blind/Couldn't see through it over/You can say it's
over/Then we haven't talked it over/Then I've seen the light/Then between your lies/I hope that
nothing like this ever happens to you/Even though/I'd be the punchest building justice I could over/
wish that you, you

modern-rock fans love: loud guitars, obscure lyrics, and mind-numbing song titles like "The Nipple Parade" and "Thoughts For Sale." What should become a perfect stocking stuffer for the holidays, the album sounds like a cross between Canadian band Our Lady Peace

1992 and that "grunge" is not in full force.

Not to worry, however. Their new release is in rotation in numerous college radio stations, everywhere from Pennsylvania to Maine, which should certainly please all those snotty indie-

The following issue should have been numbered “27”

