



# Statesman

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VOLUME XLVI, NUMBER 32

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2003

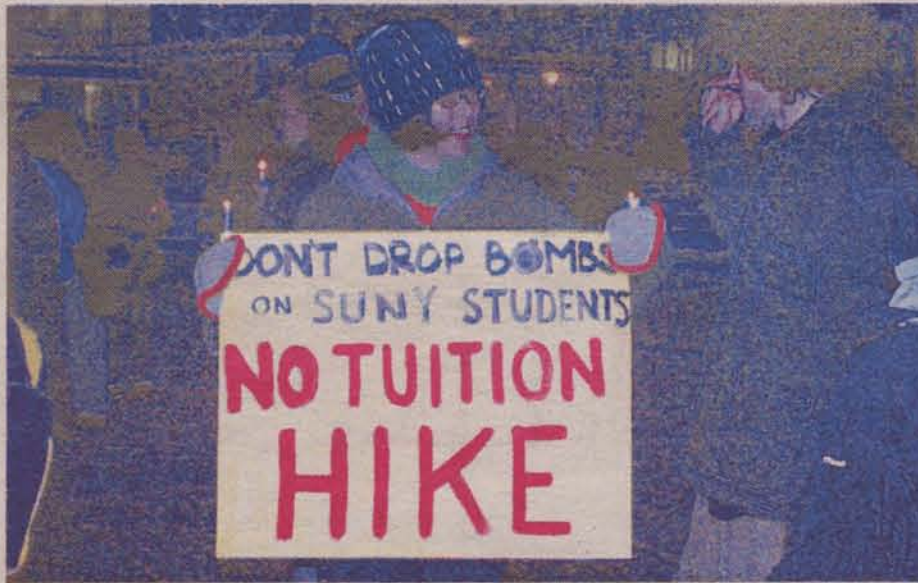
PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

## NYPIRG Braves Cold To Protest Tuition Hikes

By MICHAEL NEVRADAKIS  
Statesman Staff

Last Thursday afternoon, over 50 students gathered in the Student Activity Plaza for a candlelight vigil in protest of the proposed tuition increase, budget cuts, and financial aid cuts for SUNY and CUNY. The vigil, held by New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) and other campus organizations that have aligned to form the "No Tuition Hike Coalition," is the first of many events that are planned to protest the proposals.

According to statistics presented by NYPIRG, New York State Governor George Pataki's 2003-04 Higher Education budget proposal includes a \$1,200 tuition increase for SUNY and CUNY, a reduction of TAP grants by



Statesman/Jeffrey Javidfar

Helen Ho, a NYPIRG Project Coordinator, helped organize the rally, which included an outdoor candlelight vigil followed by a discussion in the SAC lobby.

one-third, a 15 percent cut to the operating budgets of state universities, and a 50 percent cut to programs such as EOP, HEOP, SEEK and College Discovery.

"Governor Pataki is trying to let us know that SUNY isn't a priority, and students want to let Governor Pataki know that SUNY and CUNY should be on his list of priorities," said Helen Ho, a first-year Project Coordinator for NYPIRG's Stony Brook chapter.

The purpose of the candlelight vigil was "to commemorate the students who dropped out in 1995 because of the tuition increase," explained Melissa Morahan, who is also in her first year as a Project

Coordinator for NYPIRG at Stony Brook.

"The last time there was a tuition hike, close to 30,000 students dropped out," Ho said. "A tuition hike of this magnitude will mean thousands of students will have to drop out, which will result in less full-time faculty and more job cuts. It's not beneficial to anybody."

"[The 1995 dropouts are] a symbol of what's going to happen in the future, because not only are they raising tuition, they're cutting financial aid," said Sean Bartlett, Media Coverage Coordinator for NYPIRG's Stony Brook chapter. Unfortunately for NYPIRG, news coverage was limited to on-

campus media.

Students who were at the vigil hoped that they could make a difference. "I don't see why anybody would support a tuition hike," sophomore Jason Cheng said. "Hopefully we can help stop this proposal."

During the vigil, students shared comments and stories about how a tuition hike could affect them and lit candles in protest, while NYPIRG project coordinators led chants against the tuition increase.

After the vigil, NYPIRG led a discussion held in the Student Activity Center lounge to explain the budget proposals at length and outline future protests that are being planned. Campus organizations were also invited to join the "No Tuition Hike Coalition."

One of the future events being planned is an action meeting to be held on Feb. 12 at 12:40 p.m., at the Colors Café in the Stony Brook Union. The movement will culminate in a rally to be held in Albany on March 11, which is expected to draw approximately 10,000 SUNY and CUNY students from all over New York State.

NYPIRG project coordinators Morahan and Ho said they felt the vigil was a success and called for the support of all students.

"I think it went well, and hopefully the students [that attended] will spread the word to their constituents," said Morahan. Ho added, "This is a particularly bad year, so we need to take action in a very loud way."



Statesman/Jeffrey Javidfar

Despite the frigid weather, Stony Brook students turn out to protest tuition hikes.

## SBU Police: Vandals Are Wasting Your Money

By MARC NEWMAN  
Statesman Editor

Walking into a Stony Brook bathroom, students and faculty may be overwhelmed by messages written all over the walls. This graffiti, which includes simple messages such as "Harry loves Suzy," complex messages of hate, and even artwork, is a crime that the University Police take very seriously.

"They're not graffiti artists, they're vandals," said Doug Little, University Police Chief of Operations. Simple messages written on bathroom walls, and pictures drawn here or there, he said, amount to between thirty and forty thousand dollars a year in damages. "That's your tuition money," Little said.

Men from 14 to 42 years of age are

the typical graffiti vandals on campus and across the nation. Little is helping to lead a coalition of students and faculty in an Anti-Graffiti Task force to educate students and eventually stamp out graffiti at Stony Brook.

Often graffiti becomes a gang-related activity. "There are websites and clubs for people who are interested in destroying other people's property in this way," Little said.

Notoriously violent gangs, such as the Latin Kings, often use graffiti as their calling card, combining different symbols to represent new leaders or offer drug information to its members. Often, the gang's financial gain or group cohesion comes at the expense of the community that spends money cleaning

up the vandalism.

"Every time we see graffiti on campus, we put it in a database with other policing agencies to gather intelligence. Ultimately, that information will lead us to the people or groups that are responsible for committing all this damage," Little said.

Scribbling messages in bathroom stalls, as innocent as it may sound, "is a crime," Little said. "We document this stuff when it happens, and we are always looking for the people responsible."

There are three recognized types of graffiti: the typical message writing graffiti, bias crime graffiti and gang-related graffiti, all of which have different corresponding criminal procedures. All are subject to arrest, and even little

messages on bathroom walls are misdemeanors which may result in up to a year of imprisonment and/or large fines.

"Student Affairs gets involved, you need a lawyer, and it's a very complicated process that the police department takes

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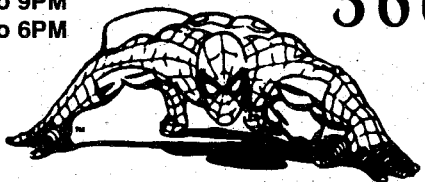


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A THOUGHT  
FROM  
RABBI ADAM



By now, most are probably aware that war in Iraq is imminent. President Bush made that clear in last week's State of the Union Address, when he said, "Let there be no misunderstanding: If Saddam Hussein does not fully disarm, we will lead a coalition to disarm him. Trusting in the sanity and restraint of Saddam Hussein is not an option." Then the president went on to list Saddam's failures to disarm for "the U.N. concluded in 1999 that Saddam Hussein had over 25,000 liters of anthrax -- enough doses to kill several million people. [And] he hasn't accounted for that material." The president continued to explain his fear that "it would take one vial slipped into this country to bring a day of horror like none we have ever known." Thus, war is imminent, as the president committed to "do everything in our power to make sure that that day [of horror] never comes." Now, things may look a bit chaotic- the threat of germ warfare, a mass terrorist attack, etc. However, only on the surface it looks like chaos and confusion, but below the surface, within the recesses of our hearts, one can find the faith that everything is going to be all right. For this war is far from being random. Because, after all, everything is by the hand of G-d. And the best sign of this being true is when one finds current events detailed in Biblical prophecy. During the Persian Gulf War, the Lubavitcher Rebbe called attention to a 2,000 year old Rabbinical Midrashic manuscript, the Yalkut Shimoni: "In the year that the Moshiach (Messiah) will be revealed, the king of Iraq will provoke the king of Arabia, and the king of Arabia will turn to the world's superpower for advice. All the nations of the world will be frightened. And G-d will say, "What are you afraid of? The time of your Redemption (salvation) has arrived." For the Midrash is telling that we need not expect destruction from a "world's superpower" going to war with Iraq, but rather miracles- even the ultimate miracle of eternal world peace with the coming of the Moshiach! You just gotta have faith.

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# Raindrop Formation Affected By A Variety of Factors

By TED LAI  
Statesman Staff

With grants from NASA and the U.S. Department of Energy, two physicists at Brookhaven National Laboratory have proposed a new theory on raindrop formation. This new theory explains how rain forms in warm rain clouds.

Robert McGraw, a chemical physicist, and Yangang Liu, a cloud physicist, researched the relationship between raindrop formation and the phenomenon of nucleation. This new approach used statistical modeling and raised several questions about the traditional theory of raindrop formation.

Rain development has generally been described in two stages. Small droplets

grow through condensation, acquiring water molecules from water vapor in the surrounding cloud. Larger droplets grow by collecting smaller droplets as they fall through the cloud—a full-sized raindrop takes over an hour to form.

This theory, however, does not coincide with the 30-minute average lifetime of a precipitating cloud. Researchers think that other variables such as cloud turbulence allow droplets to form more quickly, and McGraw and Liu have studied the details of how this might occur.

McGraw and Liu found that once a droplet reaches a certain size it can grow more quickly by collecting other raindrops. This model calculates the rate at which droplets cross the energy barrier and begin to grow based on the concentration and

size distribution of the droplets.

Another significant aspect of the scientists' research is the effect of aerosols on raindrop formation. Aerosols increase the concentration of droplets in clouds.

According to the new theory, the aerosol effect

increases the critical size droplets need to attain before they begin to grow and increases the kinetic barrier height. Therefore, aerosol-polluted clouds are more stable and less likely to produce rain.



Courtesy of www.bnl.gov

The Brookhaven Council advises the Director on matters affecting the scientific staff. Robert McGraw, standing third from right, is the Secretary of the Council.

"We already know that clouds over land have longer average lifetimes than do clouds over oceans. That makes sense because clouds over land contain pollutants like aerosols," McGraw said.

## 2002 Weather Analysis

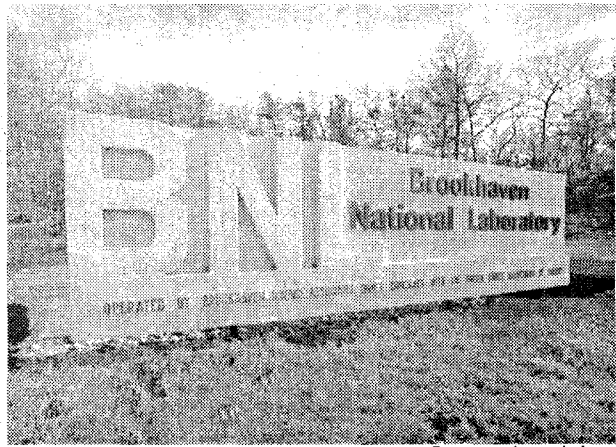
By CHRISTOPHER FECAROTTA  
Statesman Staff

Because 2002 was a warm year, with an average annual temperature of 52.7°F, almost three degrees above average, meteorologist Victor Cassella of the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory described last year's Long Island weather as "beautiful!"

This past winter was rather mild, with more than a handful of days reaching temperatures over 60°F and only 5.5 inches of snow. This makes 2002 the year with the lowest seasonal snowfall since Brookhaven National Laboratory started recording weather data in 1949.

The summer also saw mild weather, with below-average rainfall and sunny skies. Precipitation for the entire year, however, was 52.07 inches, which is above the annual average of 48.5 inches.

"Higher than average rainfall came late in the year, in September through December," Cassella explained. "Also, while several hurricanes came up the coast, none affected



Courtesy of www.bnl.gov

Brookhaven National Lab, where the weather study was conducted, is co-managed by Stony Brook University.

Long Island in 2002."

In fact, two separate weather records were broken in Long Island in 2002. First of all, a mere 1.16 inches of precipitation made February of 2002 the driest month on record. Previously, February of 1980 held the record with 1.18 inches of precipitation. Additionally, with an average temperature of 51.4°F, 2002 held the warmest April on record since 1991, when the average was 51°F.

One record-low daily temperature and fifteen record-high daily temperatures were recorded in 2002. Temperature fell to the freezing point, 32°F, on May 19, which worried those who planted crops set to grow around that time. This beat the previous low temperature in May of 32.5°F for 1956.

Record highs were recorded in January, February, April, July and August as well. On January 29, the temperature hit a high of 69.5°F, which is 11.5°F higher than the previous record, set in 1974. Additionally, on April 16, the temperature reached 89.5°F, also 11.5°F higher than the previous record set in 1976. On that day, which many Long Islanders recall particularly well, the temperature reached 96.5°F, the highest maximum temperature for the year.

In contrast, this year's snowfall has reached 16 inches already, which is above the average amount of snow for the Long Island region at this time of year.

"More snow than rain is a safe forecast for the coming winter months, since the coldest weeks are still ahead," said Cassella. "I also predict we'll also have a wetter and cooler spring than normal."

Cassella predicted in January 2002 that the spring of that year would be wetter than usual, and he was right on target, since March through June were wetter than normal. In addition, one year ago he predicted a heavier snowfall than normal for this year, and so far, his predictions have been on the money.

## Cracking Down on Graffiti

Continued from Page 1

very seriously," Little said.

Often graffiti vandals take it one step further, insulting particular religions or races of people, and commit a 'bias crime.' Others write the same messages repeatedly, in different places all over Stony Brook, adding up to thousands of dollars in damages. Either instance is prosecuted as a felony, and can lead to more than a year in prison along with thousands of dollars in fines. Thirteen bias related felonies took place in 2001.

Lastly, gang activity, which is considered a felony, is the most vigorously prosecuted. "This kind of graffiti

happens in every town, including Stony Brook, and we're most concerned with the violence and other crimes that come with this type of graffiti," Little explained.

The average time for a graffiti vandal to cover an entire wall or billboard can be measured in minutes, not hours, noted Little. With brand new facilities such as the Wang Center, SAC II and undergraduate apartments, all highly susceptible to vandalism, it's an important quality of life issue affecting Stony Brook today. Little asks that anyone who sees graffiti report it to the police department at 632-3333, 911 or 2-TIPS. By adding it to the police database, officials will be better able to prevent future vandalism.

## University Hospital Develops New Technique for Heartburn Relief

By DEBOLINA KOWSHIK  
Statesman Staff

A new technique known as the Stretta procedure is being used by doctors from Stony Brook University Hospital to treat heartburn patients.

Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) affects one in fourteen adults. Bile, stomach acid, and enzymes work their way backwards from the stomach into the esophagus. This causes the esophagus to become inflamed, or even ulcerated, which can lead to life-threatening diseases such as cancer.

The Stretta procedure is designed to relieve the pain. According to Arif Ahmad, M.D., Director of the hospital's Center for Minimally Invasive Surgery and Assistant Professor of Surgery at SBU's School of Medicine, the Stretta procedure is minimally invasive, surgical-free, medication-free approach to treating the problem.

"No hospital stay is required. The procedure takes about an hour under conscious sedation or general anesthesia," Ahmad said. "Since there is no cutting or sewing, incisions or scars, patients can return to normal activities the next day. A major benefit of the technique is that most patients are able to discontinue or greatly reduce their medications within a month."

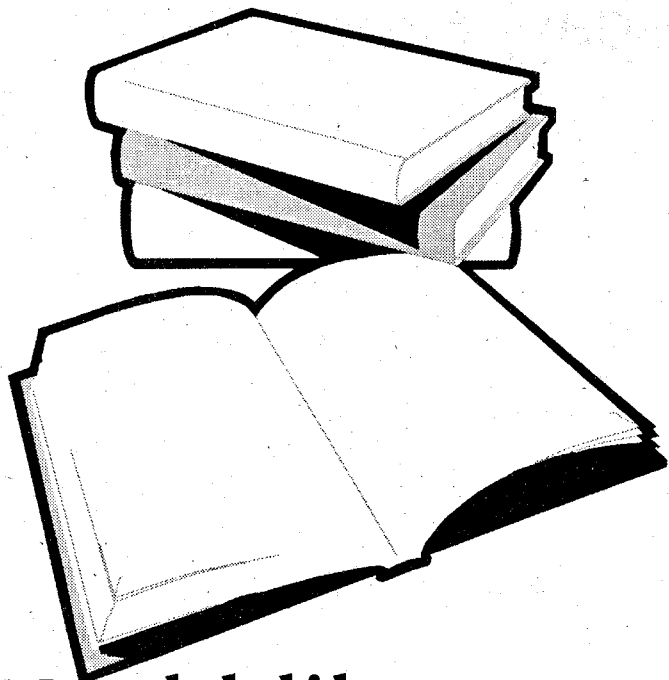
Ahmad said the success rate in a multi-center national trial was over 70 percent. "Both patients were treated in less than an hour in outpatient procedures. Through a tube in the mouth and throat, a catheter is lowered to the valve between the stomach and esophagus. Carefully controlled radiofrequency energy is given to the sphincter muscle and the uppermost part of the stomach to create thermal lesions."

The sphincter muscle's barrier function is enhanced and fortified as the lesions heal. "This reduces the reflux and heartburn because the stomach contents remain in the stomach where they belong," Ahmad added.

One patient expressed feeling heartburn relief only five days after the Stretta procedure. "It was hard to breathe from the reflux and sometimes I felt like I was dying. For the first time in several years I did not take medicine at night and I had no symptoms," said Jamna Persaud. "I am hopeful of feeling better, having a better life with no medications."

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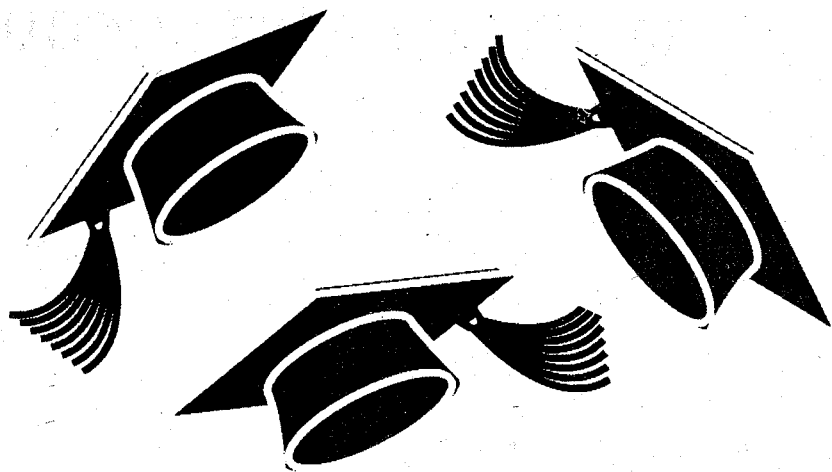


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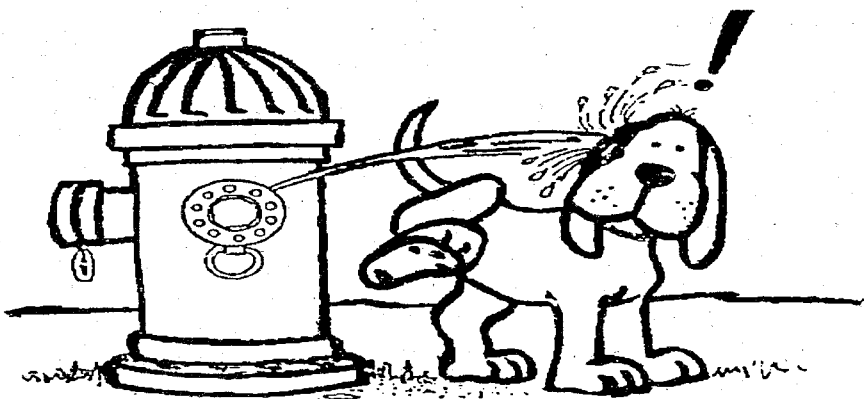


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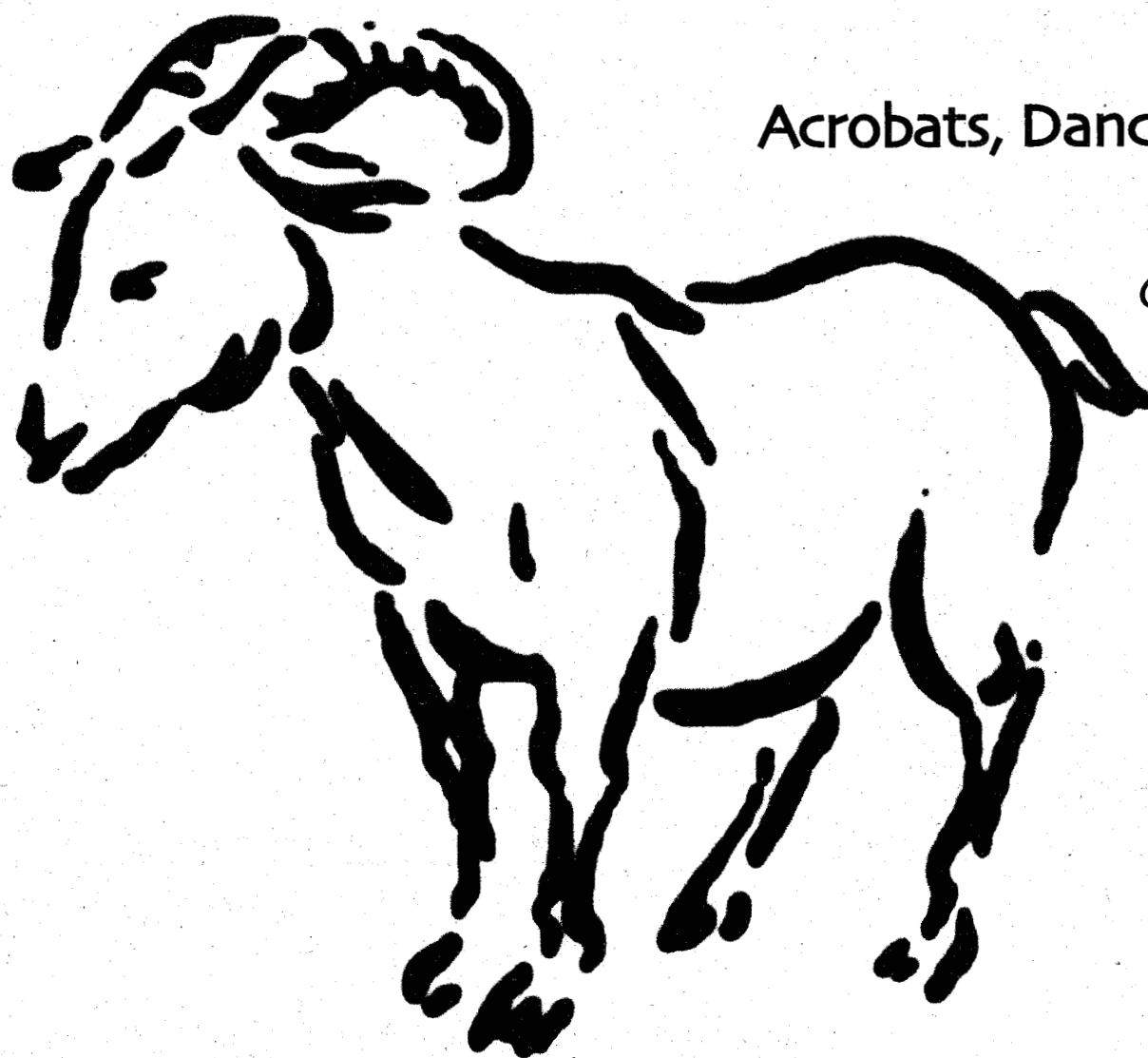
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## Editor's View

# Journalistic Standards of Decency

By JEFFREY JAVIDFAR  
Statesman Editor

"Columbia's lost. There are no survivors... These astronauts knew the dangers and they faced them willingly, knowing they had a high and noble purpose in life. Because of their courage and daring and idealism, we will miss them all the more."

Those were President Bush's words as he addressed a nation shocked by the loss of the space shuttle Columbia on Saturday, less than a week removed from the 17th anniversary of the Challenger explosion over Cape Canaveral.

This time, the tragedy wasn't captured on tape, but the loss was still pervasive. The images of debris hurdling down to earth played over and over again on the television screens of many Americans. Walking through the residence halls, I peered into room after room and saw roommates, classmates and friends sitting next to each other, shaking their heads in silence. Many were not old enough to remember Columbia's maiden voyage.

Unfortunately, our need to know—or perhaps

more accurately, the media's need to have us know—did not allow the family members and friends of those seven astronauts to grieve in peace, much less collect their thoughts.

I was appalled to see a TV journalist at the home of the mother of Captain Brown, asking how she felt after finding out that her son had lost his life upon reentry. That brave mother fought back the tears, put on a strong face and answered as best she could.

Sadly, she wasn't the only family member to be interviewed on TV. After all, there were ratings at stake.

These insensitive displays from networks trying to get an exclusive caused me to change the channel while questioning the industry that we in the media wing champion. Fortunately, we at *Statesman* aren't put in such circumstances, but it left me thinking, evaluating the standards that all those in the media aspire to uphold.

Is it sometimes better to sit on a story? What is the standard of decency for a reporter? When do journalists start acting more like human beings?

When do we let a weeping mother grieve for her lost son in peace?

## Letter to the Editor

# Students Should Think for Themselves

Dear Editor,

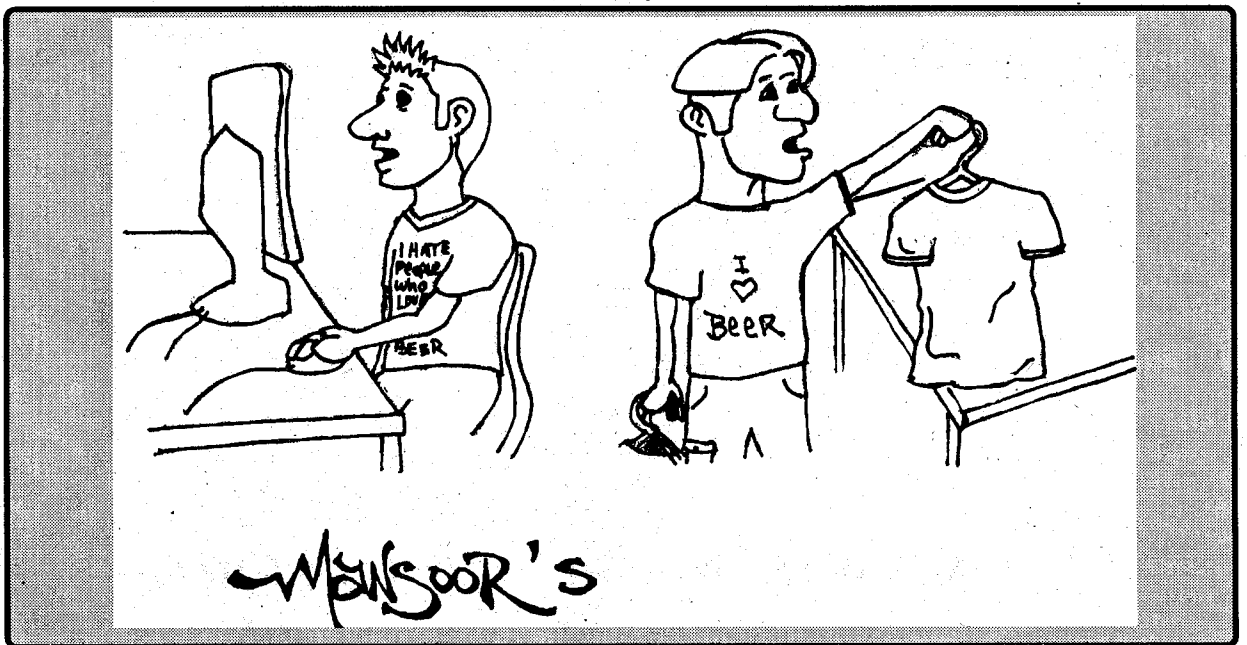
American college students should take a lesson from Hashem Aghajari, a history teacher recently sentenced to death in Iran for "blasphemy."

Aghajari's capital "offense" was telling his students that "In all matters ... your reason is a better tool of discernment than all the sayings of prophets and clerics."

Mr. Aghajari was condemned for advocating that individuals should think for themselves, as

opposed to blindly accepting the thinking—or non-thinking—of others.

If America's students, especially in the Humanities, would realize that their "reason is a better tool of discernment than all the sayings" of their politically correct professors, they might discover that most of their teachers are no better thinkers than the mullahs.

David Holcberg  
Ayn Rand Institute

## Got Something On Your Mind?

### Tell Us!!!

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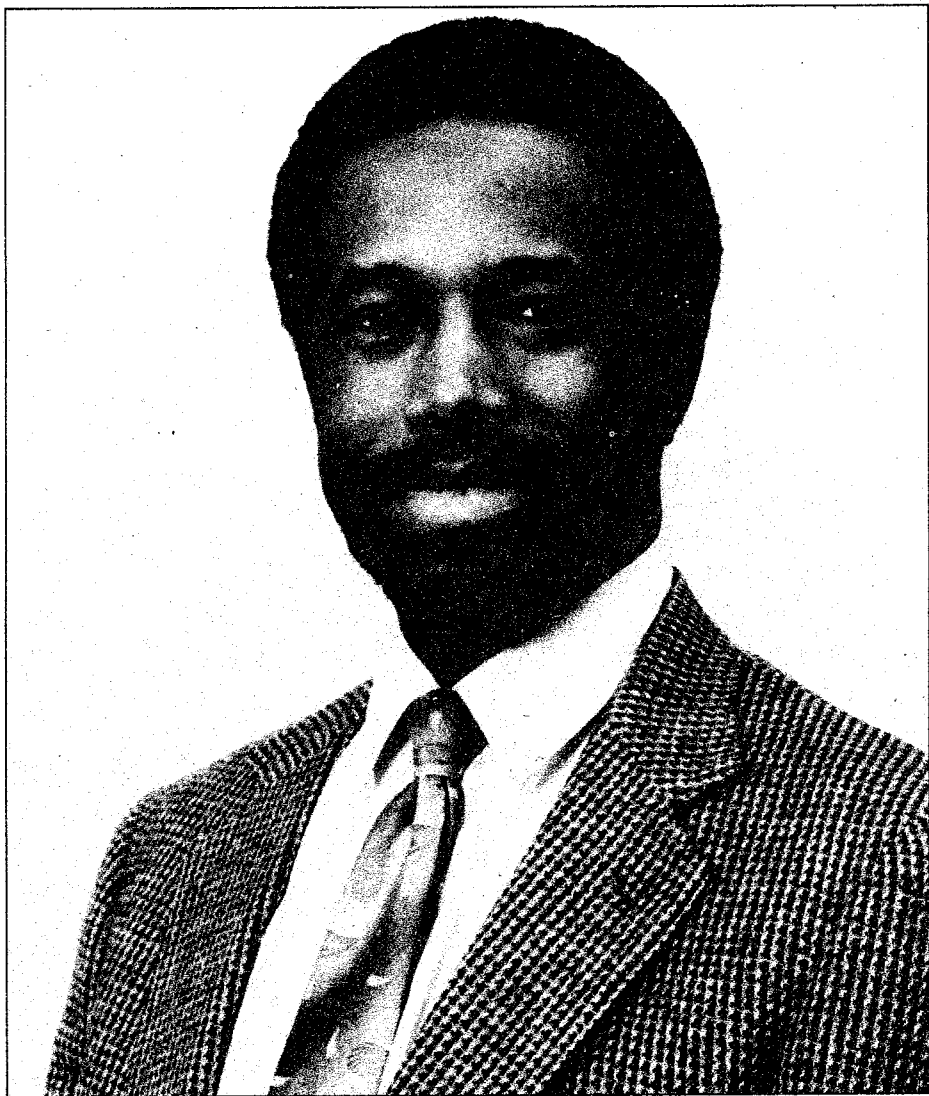
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Thursday, 1/30	<b>Scooping Out Success</b>
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Sunday, 2/2	<b>Tanger Outlet Trip</b>
Wednesday, 2/5	<b>Involvement Fair &amp; Winter Hot Stop</b>
	<b>Team Trivia Contest</b>
Thursday, 2/6	<b>Fraternity &amp; Sorority Night</b>
Friday, 2/7	<b>Rent — Broadway Show Trip</b>
	<b>LUL Party</b>
Saturday, 2/8	<b>Chillfest Party</b>

SAC Ballroom A	8:00 pm - 11:00 pm by SAFIPC
SAC Auditorium	9:00 pm by SAFIPC
Ballroom A and B	10:00 pm - 3:00 am by SAFIPC
EOB	5:00 pm by SAFIPC
Pritchard Gym	7:00 pm
SAC Auditorium	9:00 pm by SAFIPC
SAC Lobby	7:00 - 9:00 pm
SAC Auditorium	9:00 pm by SAFIPC
	7:00 pm
SAC Ballroom A	10:00 pm - 3:00 am
SAC Ballroom A	10:00 pm - 3:00 am
	11:00 am
Ballroom A & B	12:00 pm - 3:00 pm
SAC Auditorium	7:00 pm
SAC Ballroom A	7:00 pm
	8:00 pm
SAC Ballroom A	10:00 pm - 3:00 am
SAC Ballroom B	10:00 pm - 3:00 am by SAFIPC & IFSC

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For further information, please contact the Office of Student Activities, SAC 219, 632-9392

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## Stony Brook Buries Centenary College



Like their players, the coaches didn't have to work too hard.

By DANA GOMI  
Statesman Staff

Normally, reaching the .500 mark is something a team hopes for but isn't touted as a great accomplishment. But this past Tuesday, the Seawolves evened their record at 9-9 and did it as loud as they could. It didn't take much for the Stony Brook Men's basketball team to pull off another win, pounding Division III Centenary College 87-38. The victory extended SBU's winning streak to four games.

The Seawolves started strong and stayed that way, scoring the first 11 points of the game. The contest was already out of hand by halftime, when Stony Brook led 42-17. The Seawolves put the Cyclones away 87-38 in their final non-conference game of the season.

Patrick Spitzer was at his best, scoring a career high 16 points and helping the Seawolves put the game away fast. Jairus McCollum contributed 11 points and 10 rebounds for his third double-double of the season. DJ Munir put up 11 points in the game and Cori Spencer had 10. Munir also dished out six assists.

The Seawolves played without point guard Bobby Santiago and guard/forward Mike Orfini. Both sat out due to illness.

This week not only saw a fourth straight Seawolves win, but also saw Jairus McCollum named American East Player of the Week. McCollum averaged 14 points and six rebounds per game in that stretch.

"It feels good to have someone outside the program recognize us. I like it," said McCollum.

The Seawolves shouldn't expect to nearly triple their opponent's point total anymore. Their



Stony Brook's regulars, Munir, McCollum, and Mike Konopka, take seats on the bench after the score gets out of hand.



Though the men have a winning record at home and play an exciting brand of basketball, the stands are not filled.

upcoming schedule is filled with quality teams.

"Boston University and Binghamton will be hard teams to play, but we also haven't played New Hampshire yet and we don't know them inside and out," McCollum said. "It's going to be a good game."

The Seawolves are an improved team and have moved up to fifth place in the American East standings. Boston University occupies the conference's top spot.

"Everyone is learning how to chip in and do their part," McCollum said. "They are doing what they have to do to make sure we win in every game coming up. It feels good."

The Seawolves next two games will be away against New Hampshire and Northeastern. They return home on Saturday, Feb. 8 to face Vermont at 2 p.m.

## Cashing In on His Turn-Around Season

By JEFFREY JAVIDFAR  
Statesman Editor

The high-flying and flamboyant forward, Jairus McCollum, is finally coming into his own in his junior season. Last week, McCollum was named the America East Men's Basketball Player of the Week.

He helped the Seawolves snap a six-game losing streak, with a 20-point performance in an overtime victory against Albany.

McCollum followed that outing by turning in a 28-point, 12-rebound week, and helping Stony Brook post two more wins. The victories extended SBU's winning streak to three.

His award-winning week began last Sunday, when he scored 16 points and pulled down five rebounds, as SBU edged Maine, 81-79. McCollum's three-point play with less than six minutes left

put the Seawolves ahead for good. He also scored 12 points and grabbed seven boards in Wednesday's 72-67 win over Northeastern.

Most recently, McCollum registered his third double-double of the season,

McCollum has now found a mid-range jump shot, and has really begun to step it up on the defensive end.

against Division III Centenary College, posting 10 points and grabbing 11 rebounds in limited minutes.

Until this season McCollum had been plagued with inconsistency, and the routine mental errors he committed on both sides of the court hindered his playing time. Yet, all along there were

flashes of greatness. The fans slowly began to expect more from the 6-5 New Jersey native, who always seizes the opportunity to sky for a slam-dunk at the end of a Seawolves' fast break.

It was during this season that McCollum started living up to the potential that coach Nick Macarchuk saw when he brought him to SBU. He matched the intensity that he always had with the maturity of an upperclassman.

McCollum has now found a mid-range jump shot, and has really begun to step it up on the defensive end. He regularly rotates over to provide help-defense in the low post and isn't afraid to step in the path of an opponent to take a charge. McCollum currently leads the team in rebounds and charges taken. He is also the Seawolves' leading scorer in conference play with 12.9 points per game.

McCollum is the second Seawolf

to receive Player of the Week honors in the America East. D.J. Munir was recognized shortly after his return to the team in December.



The emotional leader of the Seawolves, Jairus McCollum, is back.

Statesman/Kelly Brown