

THE STATESMAN

The Paper of Stony Brook University For 50 Years

VOLUME LI, ISSUE 17

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2007

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INSIDETODAY

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Roth Quad hasn't been safe in the last few days.

Aisha Akhtar / SB Statesman

Series of Assaults Leaves Campus On High Alert

By ADAM PECK
Asst. News Editor

Stony Brook University is on high alert following an unusual and alarming rash of attacks on students all across campus that has even the University Police Department confused and surprised.

Three incidents spanning less than two weeks have left the student body questioning their safety on campus. "In my 30 years, we've had these types of situations, but it is not a day to day occurrence. I'm taken aback by this," said Doug Little, Assistant Chief of the University Police.

He and university public relations official Pat Calabria briefed campus media and answered questions yesterday, and expressed assurances that the police department was treating these incidents with the utmost importance.

"The safety of our students and staff is the priority," said Calabria.

The first attack occurred on Monday, Oct. 22 when an unidentified male grabbed a female student who was out jogging. According to filed police reports, the woman fought back, and her

attacker fled the scene.

In the scuffle, the victim was able to scratch her attacker, and Officer Little said that police were able to gather DNA evidence from the victim.

The second attack occurred on Oct. 23, when a female who was returning to her room found her door unlocked, and a male waiting inside. He is reported to have touched her inappropriately before leaving the scene. The incident was then reported to campus police on Oct. 25.

University Police Deputy Chief Suzanne Benedetto, who was also at the press conference, stated that attending to the victims was a high priority. "Giving them all the resources that are available to them" is extremely important, she stated. Included in that is the university's free and confidential counseling, added Benedetto.

The most recent attack occurred on Oct. 30. A male undergraduate student was assaulted and robbed while walking from a parking lot to Roth Quad.

Near Whitman College, the student was approached by two males who asked him for a light.

As the student approached, he was hit repeatedly by his attackers and kicked once, before one of the assailants, described as a white male, pulled out a knife and asked for the victim's belongings.

That incident comes about a year after another attack in Roth Quad involving a female student, raising concerns about a lack of sufficient lighting in the quad that could pose a danger to students.

Calabria addressed those concerns, saying that the university implemented "a fast tracking program for repairing lights after last year's incident."

Both Little and Calabria remarked on the actions being taken by the University Police department.

"All 120+ blue lights across campus were evaluated to ensure that they are in working order," Calabria said. Police have also stepped up security across the campus. According to the university, there are four outdoor cameras monitoring residential roadways, including the main entrance, as well as

Continued on page 6

Suspicion Arises from Recent USG Elections

By LYNN HSIEH
News Editor

On October 29, all five members of the Undergraduate Student Government Judiciary agreed in a unanimous vote to place a hold on the recent USG election. In other words, all results from last week's elections are pending.

The Chief Prosecutor will carry out an investigation into last week's election when students when students were suspended from voting almost three hours before the official closing time last Friday, Oct. 26. "The court ordered the Advocate General [Alexandra Borodkin], to investigate fully," said Nathan Shapiro, Executive Vice President of the USG.

Continued on page 3

Update on Failed USG Proposal

By BRADLEY DONALDSON
Staff Writer

Earlier this week, Executive Vice President of the Undergraduate Student Government Nathan Shapiro, announced that the proposed USG Constitution had failed at the polls. The proposal was defeated by a 749-236 vote opposing, and as a result, was rejected.

Jonathan Hirst, Vice President of Student Life, Programming and Activities, said he felt "disappointed" that the proposal had failed. However, Robert Romano, former USG Senator, said he was "satisfied" with the result. While the reason for voters' decisions was unclear, Hirst said that he believed misinformation was what "prompted [students] to vote no."

Elana Lancaster, Co-President of the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans-

Continued on page 3

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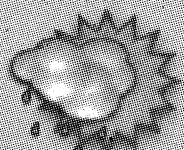
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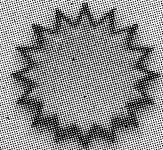
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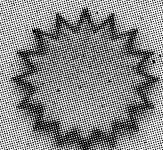
Nov. 1 - Nov. 7



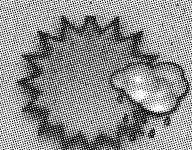
Thursday:
High 64/Low 42
Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers.



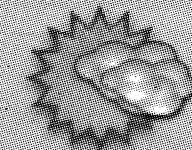
Friday:
High 55/Low 37
Mostly sunny.



Saturday:
High 57/Low 42
Mostly sunny.



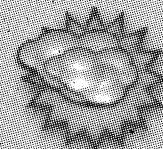
Sunday:
High 54/Low 44
Mostly sunny with clouds increasing and a chance of showers late.



Monday:
High 53/Low 44
Partly cloudy.



Tuesday:
High 55/Low 39
Partly cloudy with a chance of showers.



Wednesday:
High 50/Low 30
Partly cloudy.

A weak cold front will pass through the area today with light precipitation possible. An area of high pressure then moves into the area for Friday. However, it will move out by Saturday morning and a developing low pressure system will approach the area Sunday night. Some precipitation is possible with this particular system as it moves through the area. Behind this system is then another low pressure system that affect the area Tuesday. Showers again are possible as the cold front associated with this system passes through Tuesday. However, the coldest air of the season so far could await us after the cold front passes through.

by Alex Kahn

Lack of Funding Hurts SB Study Abroad Opportunities

BY JOSEPH BUSCANI
Contributing Writer

Some think about studying abroad as an escape. In this day and age, with its sprawling multi-national corporations and its interwoven global community, the experience one can gain from an international study program is worth nearly as much as a university degree.

Stony Brook's Study Abroad office is one of the less known aspects on campus. Students have also had different experiences in dealing with them. Some students have been satisfied with their experiences as they travel to different countries and experience hidden aspects of foreign cultures.

Other students who wish to travel abroad have complained about the difficulty of the application process. One student, Ashley, said she had only met with an advisor once despite continual attempts. The only real contact she had was with the secretaries who are student employees.

Most students would expect the university would put more emphasis on studying abroad. According to Aida Mezzanotte, an assistant dean at the international academic program, the reason for this is so difficult to get into contact with the staff of the department stems from the lack of the resources afforded them from the administration.

The responsibilities of running the department, which is much like "a mini-university" Mezzanotte said, falls solely on a few individuals in the office. They have to deal with admissions, bursar, the foreign universities, and maintain a budget that is on them alone.

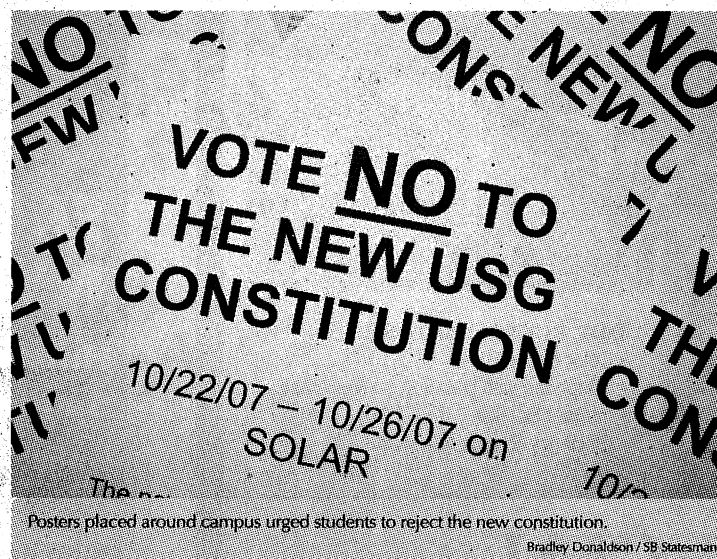
Unlike other university departments, Stony Brook's international academic office generates its own capital. It depends on a direct exchange of students from other universities. Meaning, the students that come into the university pay for the students going out and vice versa.

In some situations, such as the partnership we have with the University of Manchester, we have more students going there than they have coming here, so the department must charge the departing students a fee.

This lack of resources is the leading cause for Stony Brook having only approximately 120

Continued on page 5

Update on Failed USG Constitution



Continued from page 1

gender Alliance (LGBT), disagreed. She said that the concerns pointed out on the "Vote No" flyers that she helped to draft, print and distribute were things that mattered to the student body. She also said that her opposition was based firmly on careful reading.

Although the number of different versions of "Vote No" flyers that were posted is indeterminate, the version Lancaster assisted with said, "The new Constitution takes away our power to vote for USG officials, removes clubs' ability to appeal budget decisions, and eliminates clubs' right[s] to equal treatment regardless of ideology." Lancaster denied being involved with any other versions of the posters.

In addition to posting flyers, students actively advocated their positions on the social networking site, Facebook. Students created and joined groups such as "SAY NO TO USG CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS" and "Reminder: Vote YES on the new USG Constitution Oct 22-26" to show their support. Nevertheless, some felt that the USG failed to sufficiently publi-

cize the proposed Constitution.

Ryan James, a member of SBU-TV, was not even aware that voting for the proposal was taking place. In spite of that, he said he cared very much about a proposal that could affect his own rights as well as his club's rights.

Hirst admitted that he thought the USG did a poor job advertising the proposed Constitution, and Lancaster had the same opinion. She said, "[the flyers] informed many people who otherwise might not have even known voting was happening."

Despite the different factors that affected the proposal's outcome, the USG still has to figure out where to go from here. Matthew Anderson, a recently appointed USG Senator, said, in a note on Facebook, that the proposal's failure is "behind us". He outlined that he believed the USG should now move forward and review the proposal.

Hirst said that the USG plans to speak with students and clubs to get their input. From there, the USG would see where to go with the proposed Constitution. Others, such as former Senator Romano and current Senator Anderson, said that they would play their part as well.

USG Election Results On Hold

Continued from page 1

The hold on the election results will last until Thursday, Nov. 1 by 8 p.m. when members are scheduled to meet regarding

the investigation. According to an email from Clifford Pierre, the Vice President of Communications, "President Antonelli may not appoint vacancies until this matter has been resolved."

Police Blotter

Oct. 26 - Oct. 31

Robbery at Roth

A male student was hit repeatedly and kicked once before two unidentified males robbed him of his belongings. The area was searched by the Suffolk County Police Department but no suspects were found.

String of Medical Emergencies

Three medical emergencies occurred on separate days. A male at Greeley College was transported to the University Hospital by SBVAC first, then a female from Amman College the day after. The last medical emergency occurred at the Staller Center where one female was transported to the Hospital.

Emergency at the LISVH

Residents from the Long Island State Veterans Home were transported in four different instances to the University Hospital for Medical Emergencies.

Benedict College Vandalized

Graffiti was found in the basement walls at Benedict.

Suspicious People Found in Roth

Several individuals were noticed running through the buildings at Roth Quad between Cardozo and Hendrix.

Students Arrested at Union

Three females and one male were arrested at the Stony Brook Union. They are currently in Custody.

COMPILED BY LYNN HSIEH

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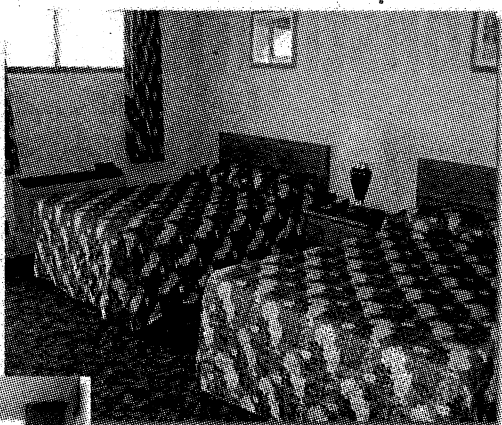
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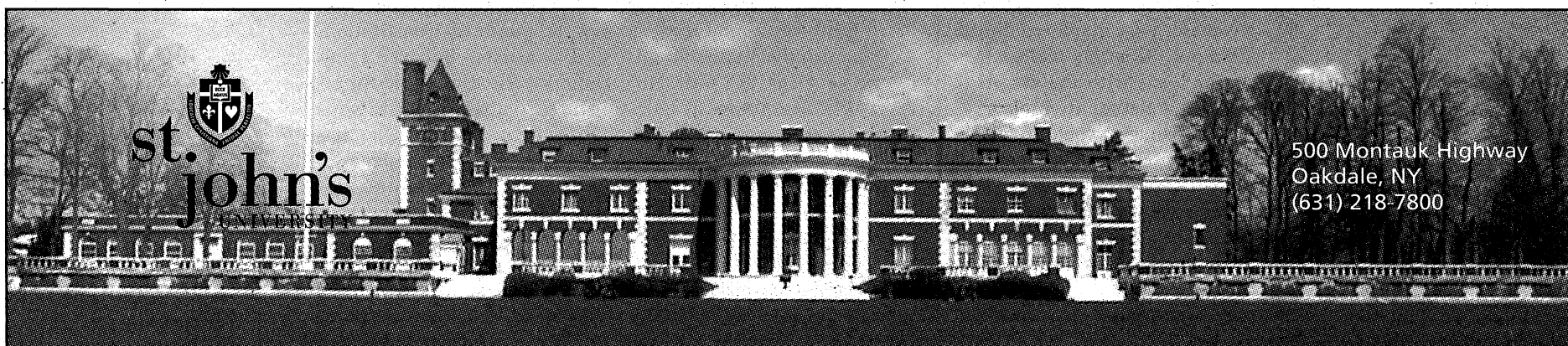
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Research News in Brief

BY SARAH KANTHARIA
Layout Editor

SB Mentors 13 Siemens Regional Finalists and 12 Semifinalists

Announced on October 25, Stony Brook University professors mentored 25 high school students who ranked either regionally or nationally in Siemens competition.

According to a recent press release, this year, SB is home to the largest group of winning regional finalists for any university in the country. 13 of the 19 New York state regional finalists were mentored at SB. Additionally, with 12 of the 54 NYS semifinalists were mentored by SB professors.

The largest single lab to contribute to this number was the GARCIA center led by Miriam Rafailovich, Ph.D., professor of the department of material sciences and engineering. The GARCIA center mentored 16 of the Siemens ranking high school students.

Furthermore, 9 of the qualifying students were participants in SB's Simons Fellowship program.

Other professors mentoring these students included: Danny Bluestin, Ph.D., professor in the department of biomedical engineering; Drs. J. Craig Gordan and Marian Evinger of the

department of pediatrics; Benjamin Chu, Ph.D., Iwao Ojima, Ph.D. and Carlos Simmerling, Ph.D., professors in the department of chemistry; Martin Rocek, Ph.D., professor of the department of physics and astronomy.

SB Professors Recognized for Findings Contributing to Nobel Peace Prize Win for Gore and the IPCC

According to an Oct. 18 press release, three faculty members from SB's School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences were recognized by the Nobel Prize Committee for their contributions to understanding and controlling global warming.

These professors were among the more than 2000 global scientists serving on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC won the Nobel Peace Prize this year along with Al Gore, former vice president.

Robert Cess, Ph.D., SB distinguished professor, published the first IPCC report discussing radiation and climate processes. He was lead author.

Minghua Zhang, Ph.D., professor, contributed to the second IPCC report on climate models.

Finally, Edmund Change, Ph.D., associate professor, published the fourth IPCC report.

He was contributing author for this report, released in May 2007, which discussed climate variability.

Additionally, Prasad Varanasi, Ph.D., professor, also contributed to research on infrared spectroscopy measurements of chlorofluorocarbons and the water vapor continuum, sponsored by the IPCC.

"The four IPCC reports since 1988 presented the most comprehensive analysis of the scientific basis and the observational evidences of global climate change. We are very proud to have been part of the IPCC," said Zhang, director of the Institute of Terrestrial and Planetary Atmospheres. "The aggregates of theoretical, observational, and numerical studies suggest, with over 95 percent confidence level, that most of the observed increase in global average temperatures since the mid-20th century is caused by human activities."

"The contributions of these Stony Brook professors demonstrate the quality of the research conducted on this critical challenge for the 21st Century," said David Conover, Dean of the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences.

The Nobel Prize Committee named the IPCC as one of the leading contributors to achieving global warming awareness for the last 20 years.

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NEWS CONTINUATIONS

Students Do Not Take Advantage of the Study Abroad Office

Continued from page 3

students going abroad in 2005. That's less than UCLA, Penn State, and the University of North Carolina, with UCLA having over two thousand students studying abroad in 2005.

The insufficient resources results a lack of staff to create new programs, process the information acquired, and an inability to develop a more user friendly and informative web page. In addition, the location of the office is at a disadvantage. Located on the fifth floor of the library, Mezzanotte said, "how many people can answer you when you ask, 'Where's the International Study

Abroad Office?'" The fact is, not many. The location makes them out of the way and it's hard to understand how difficult it is to catch an elevator in the library. Plus, there isn't much walking traffic by their office."

Despite the doom and gloom, it is a very promising time for the International Academic Programs. Since William Arens, the Dean and a professor of anthropology, took over the number of students that went abroad has increased. They project that in the 2007-2008 academic year, the number will increase to approximately 150. Although a far cry from other public universities, it's still an increase.

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Chem Buffs Throw a Halloween Bash



The Chemistry Society's Halloween party was full of fun, games and calculations!

Trisha Barua / SB Statesman

By TRISHA BARUA
Managing Editor

When it is Halloween on campus, there are signs of celebration everywhere. From costumes to props or decorations to word about all the parties, the spirit of the occasion can be sensed all around campus. One way, in which the holiday was celebrated yesterday, was a combining effort between the undergraduate and graduate chemistry society. It included food, decorations, costumes and games, but in a modified way to go with the chemistry theme.

The different types of costumes worn included a purple witch, an undertaker, a banana bond, an inspector gadget and many more. There were costume contests for the most creative, the funniest and the scariest. Of the games, one consisted of a pie eating contest. To add to the chemistry twist, on the whipped cream, an atomic letter was written and the contestants had to use their knowledge to say the name of the atom before ingesting the pie. The winner was Kanishk Kapilalakshmi, a graduate student with the Chemistry department.

Another game was the molecular structure building model race. The rules for this game were to have one partner grab two atoms from the middle of the room and bring it across half the room to the other partner, while his or her hands were tied behind their back. The partner who collected the atoms from the runner had to build the most valid, neutral weighed structure. Many people

participated in this game. So much, that they had two rounds of five partners. Undergraduates, graduates and faculty all participated in the fun. Few of the faculty in the game included Professor Frank Fowler, Professor Robert Kerber, and Professor Stephen Koch. In the end, the winners were two undergraduates, Matt Graham and Kristen Gelhaus. They built a compound that weighed 936 atomic mass units.

Overall, the party atmosphere attracted most of the chemistry department. There was an estimated number of 60 people who attended the party. Prof. Koch, who is also a undergraduate chemistry advisor, said "the party was excellent. We are trying to revitalize the undergraduate chemistry society (UCS) and also bring both the undergraduate and graduate chemistry students together. A big credit should go to Prof. Millar."

Professor Michelle Millar is the faculty advisor for the undergraduate society and was involved with organizing this event. When two undergraduates, Carson Dance and Krupa Gohil, were asked of their opinion of the party, they stated that it was fun and that there was "good carrot cake." Both the president of the UCS, David Spritzer and president of the graduate chemistry society, Ruchi Gupta were happy with the success of the party. Prof. Koch also said, "This should be the first of a tradition." "It was a lot of hard work, but people had fun," said Daniel Amarante, treasurer of the Graduate Chemistry society.

Andrew Revkin Talks to J-School Students About Climate Change

By ADAM PECK
Asst. News Editor

Andrew Revkin, a New York Times beat reporter who has covered global climate change for over 20 years, spoke to a small group of journalism students on Thursday about what he does, and how he does it in the changing journalistic environment.

Revkin had just started his new blog, called Dot Earth, the day before, and spent a good portion of the allotted hour discussing the future of journalism, the benefits of blogs, and the necessity for multi-platform journalists.

"A blog helps to capture several aspects of issues that are hard to 'print,'" he said. Revkin had mentioned earlier that while the global warming was an important issue, it hardly ever warrants a front-page story. He added that an online format also allows him to include audio and visual content in the form of podcasts and videos.

In his career with the New York Times, Revkin has traveled three times to the Arctic Circle, but besides those occasional lengthy trips, he said he doesn't travel much for the job.

On his beat, Revkin has made more than a few enemies.

Unable to take a side, he said that he "developed a thick skin," something that has come in handy following run-ins with both Dana Pirino, the White House Press Secretary, and former Vice President Al Gore, who created the film and book An

Inconvenient Truth, which won him both an Academy Award and the Nobel Peace Prize for his work to raise awareness about global warming.

Dr. Francesca T. Grifo, of the Union of Concerned Scientists, believes that the reason Revkin has such a hard time with the administration is due to what she refers to as "political interference."

"There have been efforts to distort...reports by the government" concerning global warming, Grifo stated, citing as an example a report that analyzed the bald eagle's removal from the endangered species list. Grifo said that there were still several specific populations of eagles that were in danger, but the administration failed to implement a population-specific listing, something that has always been allowed.

Revkin said that his job was particularly difficult from the journalistic side as well. "Most people don't understand science," he said. "[Editors] mostly come from a political science or business background." He added that articles that deal with the "politics of climate change" are often the stories that do work their way onto the front page.

Revkin's work towards raising awareness still has a long way to go, he admits. While Revkin said that he certainly sees some positive changes in society, there needs to be more fundamental changes. "9 billion Priuses and 9 billion fluorescent light bulbs aren't going to solve these problems," he said.

Campus Safety in Question

Continued from page 1

video recording in 47 residence halls and apartment complexes at main entrances.

Students have been irked by the incidents. Both Little and Calabria have noted a considerable number of rumors that spread following these incidents, and the sense of security that many students held has slightly diminished. According to an online Statesman poll, the number of students who felt safe only during the daytime or not at all has risen to 16%, from 0% a few days ago.

Calabria, who has been working at Stony Brook for eight years, was also startled by the surge in serious crimes this past week or so. "The history while I've been here...has been a good history with the police on this campus," he said.

And Calabria is right. Crimes like the ones seen on campus have been trending downward at a pace of roughly 8% per year.

"This is not something that were accustomed to, and that's why we are taking this thing seriously," Calabria added.

Little and Calabria also commended the university for alerting the campus in a timely fashion about each incident via email. But one question that remains to be answered is whether the new alert system being installed throughout campus would be used for cases like the ones that the university just witnessed. The system was developed following the tragedy at Virginia Polytechnic Institute where a gunman killed 32 students and faculty last April.

Officer Little asked the campus population to be more proactive in fighting to prevent these types of incidents. "Students, faculty and staff have to have an awareness of their surroundings," said Little. He added that "a lot of crimes that occur on campus are crimes of opportunity," stressing the importance of locking doors and not propping doors.

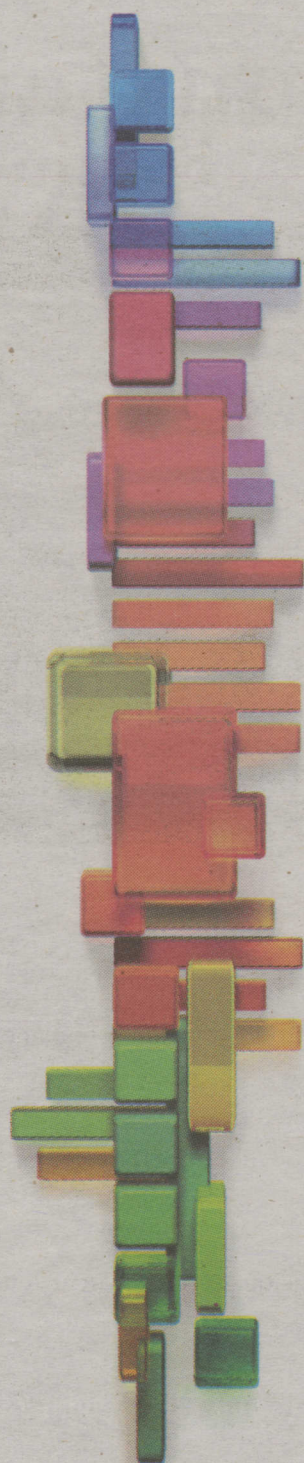
"If students see something suspicious, or if they hear something suspicious, call us," continued Little.

The campus tips line is 2-TIPS from any campus phone, or contact the Suffolk County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-220-TIPS.

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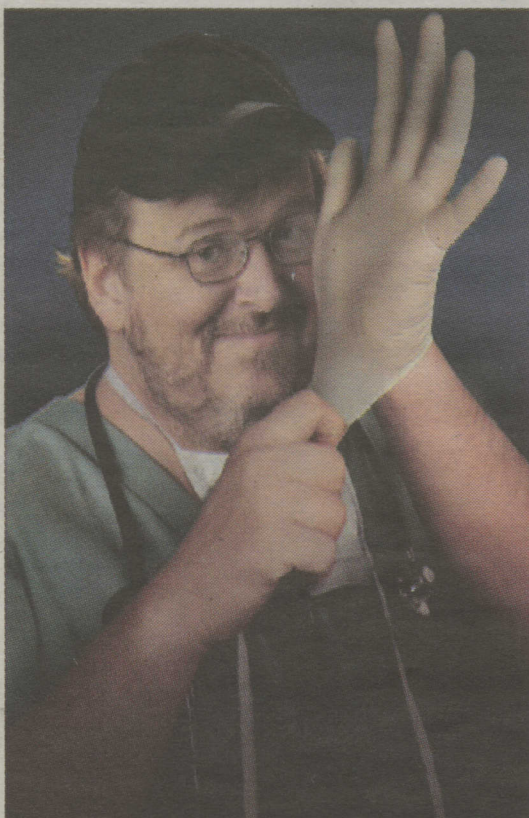


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STUDENT UNION ROOM 057

Staller Style

SICKO



Courtesy of the Weinstein Company

BY REBECCA NEWMAN
Staff Writer

If the point of a movie is to entertain, to evoke new opinions, and to stir a strong reaction, Michael Moore's "Sicko" was successful. If the point of a documentary is to expose the audience to something new; to provide the most accurate picture possible, "Sicko" was also successful.

This movie has the power to affect anyone: a doctor, a parent, a student, even a child. And like any powerful piece of art, "Sicko" is not just about one topic (in this case the American health care system), it is about the quality of one's life, the way a country takes care of its people, and the importance of a strong Democracy in which the wealth is spread out evenly to help all people.

Moore has the effective style of a good journalist, as he presented personal stories that related to a larger problem. Hearing about American health care only through statistics and impersonal newspaper clippings cannot possibly affect someone as much as hearing how these statistics change lives.

Over the course of the movie we hear from widows, parents, senior citizens, and 9/11 rescue volunteers who have lost loved ones, money, health, and faith because of the American health care system. It is hard not to have sympathy for mothers who have lost children, families who have lost fathers, and 9/11 rescue volunteers

who have developed serious ailments and are refused the help they deserve.

Moore contrasts these stories with narrations from European and Canadian doctors and patients. These stories provide alternatives to the U.S. health care system.

Some of them seem too good to be true. It is easy to question these other systems, do they actually work? What's the catch? Moore answers all possible questions by interviewing many different people in France and Canada and closely examining their home lives and happiness ratings.

Even if you are skeptical that this film is factual; that health care and home services are actually free and accessible in these other countries, Moore executes his argument well enough that it is hard not to believe that there is a more humane approach to health care.

Moore's artistic style is excellent because he uses various music and images to prove his point and create a permeating sense of irony.

It is truly ironic that American doctors get a raise for turning down as many patients as possible while British doctors get that same raise for helping as many patients as possible.

It is ironic that American hospitals flood you with bills while British hospitals provide a cashier who gives you cash money as you leave the building. Also, the detainees of Guantanamo Bay in Cuba have a full health care unit while the rescue workers are literally being left in the dust.

But beyond providing these facts, Moore uses upbeat songs like "(I've Got a) Golden Ticket" and images of American flags as a backdrop for a picture of a widow's husband to provide an eerie and haunting sense of irony and injustice.

Even if you don't agree with the facts behind "Sicko," this film at least raises some interesting questions. Is health something that should be earned? How does a more flexible, family-friendly work schedule affect quality of a life? What are the benefits of Democracy?

Like it or not, "Sicko" will make you think. And the scary, devastating facts and stories will stay with you far after the closing credits. Family, religion, large and dark estates, sights and sounds, and death itself are what these films use to drive home a feeling of insecurity and vulnerability to the viewer. It is mystery wrapped in horror that produces the most fright.

On the Stage:

What Do You Do With a B.A. in English?



BY KAYLA ROSE
Contributing Writer

It takes "four years of college, and plenty of knowledge" to earn you that "useless degree." You can't pay your bills yet, because you have no skills yet, "the world is a big scary place." Yet Princeton and the other residents of "Avenue Q" believe they can somehow "make a difference to the human race."

"Avenue Q" depicts the fear and self-doubt that hits most people in the years immediately after college. The recently graduated Princeton is desperately looking for his purpose in life, while struggling to pay rent and survive on a tiny bank account.

Most of the characters are lost in some way, searching for some meaning or direction in even the smallest, most insignificant aspects of life. They make huge mistakes, have sex with the wrong people, get themselves fired, and grapple with such issues as racism, sexual orientation, and depression. Throughout it all, they struggle to connect to each other in their rundown apartment building on Avenue Q.

"Avenue Q" opened off-Broadway at the Vineyard Theatre in March 2003. After experiencing unexpected success during its early months, it moved to Broadway's John Golden Theatre on July 31. "Avenue Q" won three awards at the 2003 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, over the popular "Wicked."

Directed by Jason Moore and choreographed by Ken Roberson, "Avenue Q" is an R-rated "Sesame Street." Most of the characters are puppets, operated by the actors onstage. Many of the puppet characters are recognizable parodies of "Sesame Street's" Cookie Monster, Bert, and Ernie.

There is also Gary Coleman, from the television show "Different Strokes." He is the building superintendent on Avenue Q, and offers colorful commentary on the racier topics that the musical tackles. Gary

sings that "You Can Be as Loud as the Hell You Want (When You're Making Love)" and criticizes Kate Monster for telling a "black joke." However, he is the first to admit that "racism has never been exclusively white," and that seeing poor Nicky "down and out" makes him happy ("Schadenfreude").

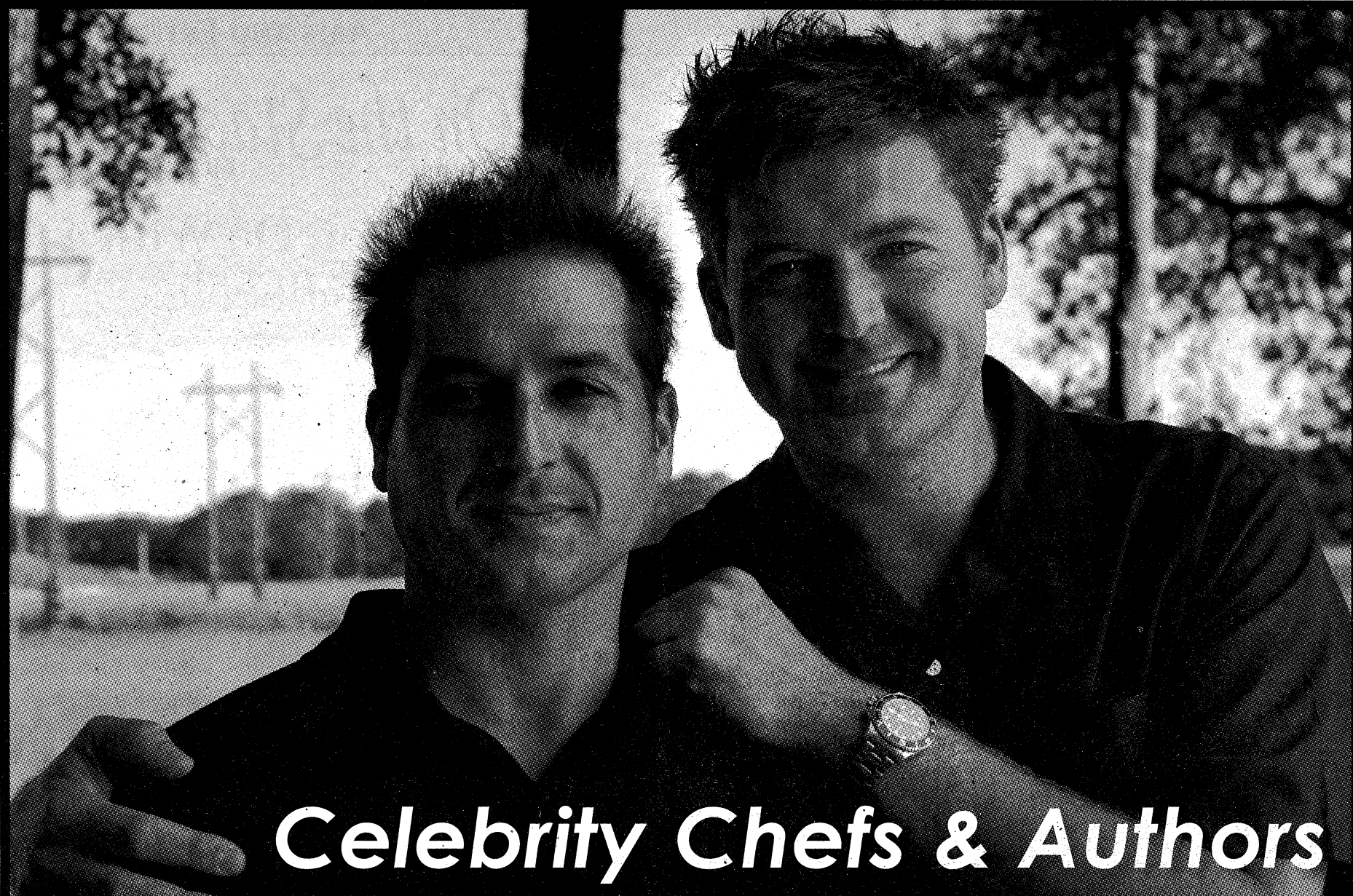
The world needs people like these who emerge on the wrong side of fate. "Because when people see us, they don't want to be us, and that makes them feel great!" Their survival comes from their ability to laugh at themselves. No matter what goes wrong, they come to realize that "There's a fine, fine line between what you wanted, and what you got." Brian is not the television comedian he aspired to be and poor Gary Coleman is stuck on Avenue Q!

The show is incredibly cynical and raunchy, but it is also extremely touching. "Is there anybody here it doesn't suck to be?" Each character thinks his/her own life "sucks" the most, and have only each other to help them find a purpose and place in life. There is uncertainty and hurt all around, but Kate sings, "You'll never know 'till you reach the top if it was worth the uphill climb."

So is "Avenue Q" worth it? Does Princeton ever find his purpose -- will you? Nothing is ever certain. "Except for death and paying taxes, everything in life is only for now."

"Avenue Q" is playing at the John Golden Theater at 252 West 45th St. between Broadway and 8th Ave. The show runs two hours and 15 minutes with one intermission. There are no shows on Mondays. The theatre is small, so tickets sell out quickly.

From November 1 through November 21, tickets are at regular prices, ranging from \$66.50 to \$111.50. Once the holiday season begins, tickets are almost impossible to come by. For more information call the Golden Theater at (212) 239-6200 or for tickets, visit Ticketmaster.com.



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Statesman production meetings are held throughout the day on Wednesdays and Sundays in Rm 057 in the basement of the Student Union. Anyone wishing to contribute to the newspaper is welcome to attend these meetings.

The Statesman encourages readers to submit opinions and commentaries to the following address:

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Stony Brook, NY 11790

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Email us at:
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WHO WE ARE

The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Sucollan" in 1957 at Oyster Bay, the original site of Stony Brook University. In 1975 "The Statesman" was incorporated as a not-for-profit, student-run organization. Its editorial board, writing, and photography staff are student volunteers while its business staff are professionals.

The Stony Brook Statesman is published twice-weekly on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the fall and spring semesters.

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THE CHATTERBOX

Halloween Costumes?

By LYNN HSIEH
News Editor

Halloween is a time when children of all ages can dress up and indulge in the joys of fun, laughter and candy. But trick-or-treating and dressing up shouldn't be limited to only children.

Most of us remember our younger, sweeter days as we traveled from house to house tricking and treating for candy and treats. I remember choosing my costume carefully, a gorgeous fairy princess outfit including wings and a wand, as I went around my neighborhood from house to house. Smiling neighbors would offer me candy while others kept their doors closed.

Each opened door allowed a glimpse into a different world as I peeped excitedly into the living rooms of neighbors' homes. But such childhood innocence

eventually fades as we grow older and realize the grey world we truly inhabit where not all things are rainbows and sunshine. The older we grow, the more we learn about the world.

But not all things must be so serious or we would end up as the boring drones we scoffed at as children. As college students, we shouldn't forget to have a little fun and let loose. Granted, most college students overindulge in parties and drunken nights (and some of the costumes can be extravagantly slutty), but simply dressing up as our favorite characters from television shows and letting our imaginations loose doesn't hurt anyone.

We are reminded of our early youth as we celebrate the only day of the year when children can dress up and overindulge in treats and adults are excused for their scantily clad costumes.



Courtesy of cool-halloween-costumes.com

The Chatterbox is a new feature in the Statesman. Each issue, two staff writers or editors will hold a heated debate on a pressing issue. And by that we mean lighthearted rant about a semi-interesting topic. This is meant to be a fun, funny, and perhaps even life changing section for the exclusive benefit of Statesman's loyal readership. Readers can suggest new topics for the Chatterbox in the comments section online, so check it out! Enjoy.

-Statesman Editorial Board

By SURAJ RAMBHIA
Editor-in-Chief

Halloween. It's a nice day for gorging on candy and chocolate. I always liked trick-or-treating when I was a little kid. It was a lot of fun.

Today, I saw many college students dressed in unique outfits, and I admit that it was certainly fun to see.

To be honest, I don't want to sound like a bitter, old curmudgeon in the body of a 20-year-old college student, but I think dressing up for Halloween is a complete waste of time. For me, there are many other ways I could "have fun." I could watch the latest episode of Heroes or House. I could go to the Sports Complex and play

squash for a couple hours. Heck, I could go to a Knicks game at MSG in the City (and pray that they win). The list of "better things to do on Halloween" can go on and on.

I don't have anything against people who do dress up for Halloween. I feel if Halloween was meant to be celebrated, it would be a holiday where everyone was given the day off. Yes, I celebrate the holidays that actually do something for me.

Oh man, I just read Lynn Hsieh's piece (seen above).

To Lynn: Dude, you really need to grow up. Childhood is OVER! You can be nostalgic about your past, but in the end we all have to move on.

Fiscal Irresponsibility in Government

By ZACHARY KURTZ
Columnist

As the Presidential primaries loom ever closer, it is important to keep in mind the most important aspect of government, but the one least talked about on the political stage. Americans have enjoyed their role as a world power over the last half century or so. Politicians enjoy policing the world and spreading 'American and democratic idealism' to the governments of foreign nations.

Unfortunately, this attitude towards foreign policy comes with a heavy cost. Here's an example of what type of money we're talking about: \$500 billion for the Iraq war so far with a request of an addition \$150bn on the table for 2008 and \$43.5bn for intelligence in 2007. We have to ask ourselves, no matter how much we may happen to like imposing democracy on

sovereign nations, is it economically responsible?

Recently the national debt just passed the \$9 trillion mark. Now, I don't know about the rest of you, but I cannot even begin to fathom such a large amount of money. Where is this money coming from? It's being taken from social security, other tax sources and we are borrowing heavily from the Chinese.

If anyone doubts that we can't support this type of spending, then you only need to look at the state of the economy to see differently. The Federal Reserve is printing more money in response to the spending, creating inflation that devalues the dollar and slowly erodes the middle class. Nowhere in sight is a plan to reduce the national debt; Democrats in congress are poised to approve increasing the national debt ceiling, and budget

Continued on page 13

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Nearly 60% of students enrolled full-time at colleges in New York State receive awards from the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP). In the 33 years since its creation, TAP has given over \$9 billion dollars to students, with awards based on their family's income. As great as this program is, there is always room for improvement.

Under current rules, the calculations that determine a student's TAP award take place only once per year. This means that any money received in the spring will be the same amount as was given in the fall. In most cases that's fine, but what happens if a student's need changes? If a parent loses a job, gets called to service in the National Guard or Reserves, or worst of all, passes away, a student's financial situation can take a dramatic downturn. There is no way for such a student's TAP award to be adjusted under the current system.

TAP needs to be updated to a more flexible program that allows mid-year adjustments of awards. There is a bill being considered by the state legislature that would enact such a change. Every student should make it clear to their representatives that they support mid-year TAP adjustments, because every student stands to benefit from them.

NYPIRG, through its Higher Education Project, is working to convince state legislators to update TAP not only by allowing mid-year adjustments, but also raising income caps and awards for graduate, independent and working or middle-class students; increasing minimum awards; and securing more funding for part-time TAP. Anyone interested in joining the project or just learning more can come to the NYPIRG office in the Union basement room 079.

Alex Walsh
NYPIRG Higher Education Project

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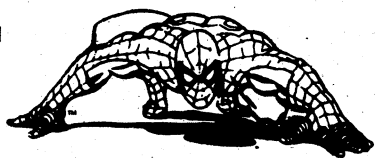
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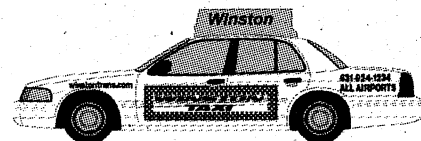
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Iraq War, Domestic Spending, and what you can do to avert an economic apocalypse.

Continued from page 11

proposals foresee us spending \$3 trillion on the national budget in 2008.

About one third of this money is marked for entitlement programs and a significant portion is going overseas. But what do we have to show for it?

Troops are dying in Iraq while the military-industrial complex is profiting. The citizens are looking to democratic presidential candidates to save us. But, this savior is not to be found in the democratic camp.

Hillary Clinton has taken a disappointingly soft position on bringing our troops home from this fiscally unsupportable war. She claims to be against Bush's war, but agrees that we should leave troops in Iraq in the foreseeable future. I don't doubt that she will spend less money in Iraq than the current administration,

should she be elected, but don't forget she would also increase domestic spending to previously unseen amounts.

There is one candidate who supports a balanced budget, and has voted for that consistently since he entered office. Ron Paul, a 10th congressman from Texas, is the only republican vocally against the Iraq war. He realizes that current foreign and domestic spending is at unsustainable levels and only a drastic reduction in the size of government can save our economy.

Paul writes in this weekly column; "The federal government has a spending problem. Each year our current accounts balance gets worse and worse, and the amount of foreign held government debt has skyrocketed. Both Republicans and Democrats; conservatives, liberals and moderates, indeed nearly every single-member of the Washing-

ton political establishment, is addicted to one form of federal spending or another."

And who is going to have to deal with this problem? The politicians spend our tax dollars and, unless Ron Paul is elected, the runaway spending in government will only continue, both overseas and for entitlements and earmarks at home. How long will it take before these policies fail and our economy collapses?

The politicians continue to raise taxes and waste our money, so that they can stay in power. They violate our liberties by taking our income, redistributing wealth and artificially regulating the economy through the Federal Reserve to make money for Wall Street. They spend it to secure oil rights and political puppets in the Middle East, and to insure that the special interests have a steady flow of cash through

Middle Eastern oil wells.

This spending, whether it's domestic or foreign, is wrapped up in a neat American flag package and sold to the citizen as patriotism, compassion and liberty. But, the only real way to insure liberty is a return to Constitutional dogma, in which the power of the federal government is drastically reduced from the present day. Letting our government control its citizens and people in sovereign nations is not compassion; it's statism and imperialism.

While the mainstream media continues to ignore these ever worsening problems, only one man continues to gather the support that is needed to challenge what is, unfortunately, considered, the traditional indoctrination of large government. I agree with Ron Paul; we don't need government to control us or wage far off wars

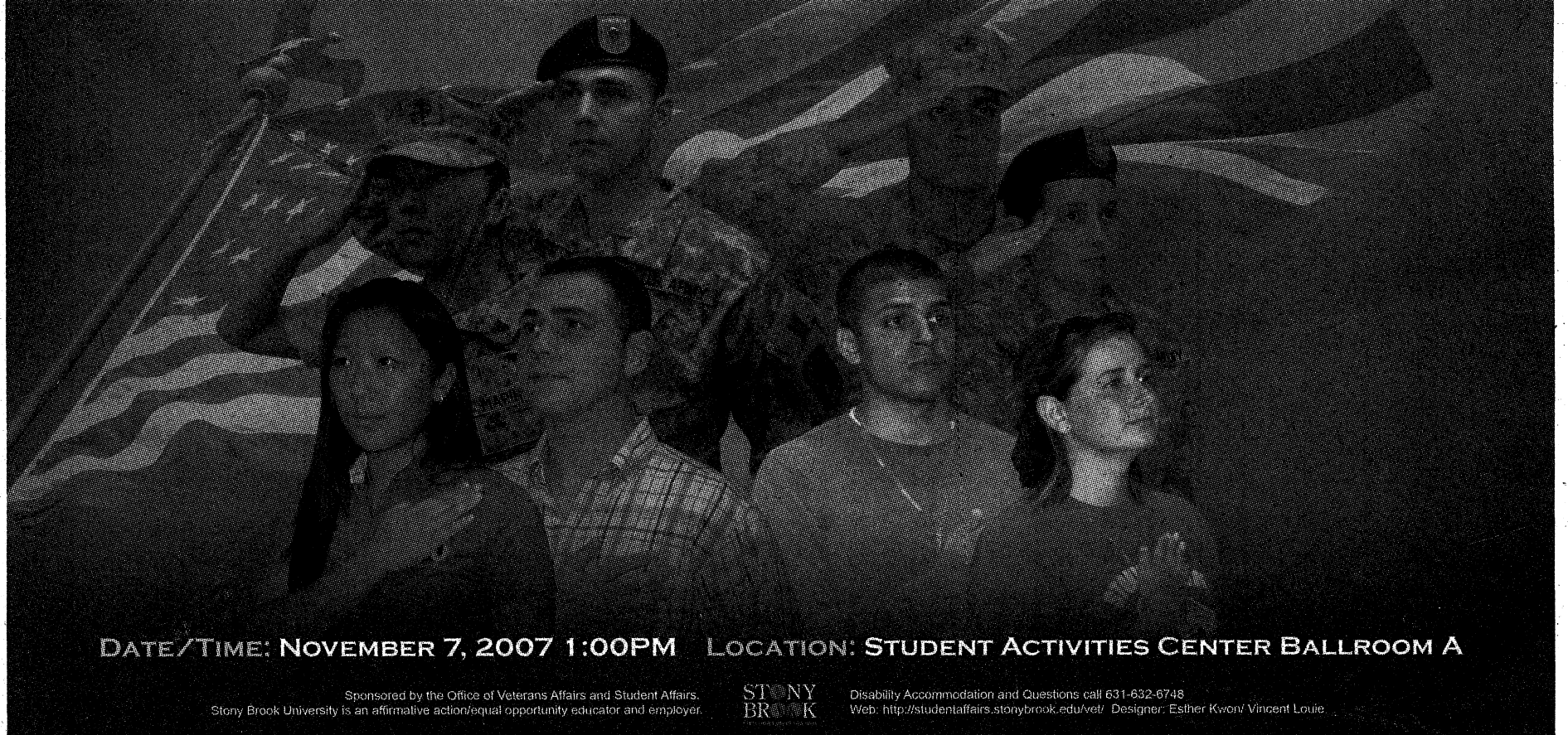
for allusive reasons. In the 2008 election, we need to send a message to our politicians. We will no longer quietly stand by while the government takes money out of our paychecks in order to exercise even more unjust authority.

Ron Paul's ideals, of gradually but significantly reducing the size and scope of the federal government, is the only policy that will reduce spending to a sustainable level while returning liberty to its citizens. And I am not alone on this libertarian viewpoint. Paul's large grassroots campaign, focused through the Internet, demonstrates that this message is gaining a following.

But in this free society, you don't have to take my word for it. Go to Youtube.com, search for "Ron Paul" and learn about the only sane economic policy that remains for this country.

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Student Recreation Center Outlook

Continued from page 16

"The assembly didn't believe in student-funded buildings. They wanted SUNY education to remain as cheap as possible, and adding extra fees wasn't part of that." In 2005, the bill was withdrawn, and the state approved a one time gift of \$19.5 million for Stony Brook.

Project Changes

With half of the money necessary for the project on hand, procurement of the final \$19.5 million is being negotiated into next year's campus budget and Baigent said that he is "very optimistic" that this will get done. Construction would then begin between summer and fall of 2008. Asked about an estimate for the facility's completion, Baigent speculated Fall 2010. The design of the new recreation center includes a three-court gymnasium, multi-purpose indoor arena, track, fitness center, aerobic studio, martial arts room and spinning room.

Since its conception in 1999, the project has undergone some major changes. "The trends have changed," said DiMonda, who has spent 19 years at Stony Brook and watched the trials and tribulations of the project first-hand, for eight years. "In 1999, Stony Brook had eight sports clubs; now there are 34." To this end, the student recreation center will cater to clubs more than originally planned. DiMonda said the center will have enclosed space for the clubs to practice and lots of storage space for their equipment.

The original plans called for an 88,400 square-foot facility, complete with a café, sauna and steam room and even a 25-foot climbing wall. These additions have since been scrapped in the planned 90,000 square-foot building. Baigent said, "we decided that the importance was in student-focused recreation

space." Plus, some things aren't as in demand as they were at first. In his matter-of-fact British accent, Baigent elaborated, "2000 was really the zenith of climbing-wall popularity."

DiMonda stresses that these changes shouldn't be seen in a negative sense. In consulting with other universities that have built recreation centers, DiMonda said Stony Brook found out that students under-utilized cafés as well as sauna and steam rooms. Space constraints made it easy to eliminate these structures from the plans. Additionally, 9/11 raised the price of construction in the New York area. DiMonda explained that in some areas of upstate New York for instance, construction can cost \$150 per square foot. Here in Long Island the figure is \$350 a square foot. The events of 9/11 also made security a paramount concern. In this vein the recreation center will have swipe card access and a separation of administrative offices from the actual recreational areas so someone entering the building for administrative purposes will not have access to the recreation space.

Committee members and architects considered two other locations before deciding on the spot between the Sports Complex and the Student Union. One spot behind the Union was scrapped because of size considerations, the "hiding" of one of the newest buildings on campus, and the loss of parking spots. The other location was next to the Union and across from the Wang Center. Trees were to be removed for construction to take place there. However, an architectural rendering of the facility in that location showed that the entrances would be awkwardly placed and that it would be difficult to reroute steam pipes that run there and continue under the Student Union. DiMonda said that archi-

itects for the facility decided that pathways would be built on either side of the recreation center after watching the way students "meander" around campus.

Facility Going Forward

The architects of the Student Recreation Center will be Sasaki Associates Inc., a company known for building quality recreation centers. Sasaki built one of the first university recreation centers at the University of Maryland in the early 1990s and Baigent, who had a hand in the construction of a recreation center where he previously worked, called that facility "fabulous." DiMonda said it is still one of the best recreational facilities in the country.

Students should take heart that two administrators with prominent roles in overseeing the planned facility are so passionate on the subject. Speaking about the project DiMonda becomes increasingly animated. She speaks of how the building will be encased by glass walls, much like the Student Activity Center. She explains how someone driving past the sports complex and then the recreation center will see students working out in a myriad of activities. DiMonda describes how the aesthetics of the university are important to President Shirley Strum Kenny and how Beyer Blinder Belle, the primary architects involved in the construction of new facilities, go over how each building fits into the master plan for the university.

She also remembers when Stony Brook was called Mudville. Not only that there was no fountain on the campus, but also that students wondered why money should be spent on one. "Can you imagine the campus without the fountain?" she asked.

In the future, students might be saying the same thing about the Student Recreation Center.

Brandon's Fitness Corner

By BRANDON CHUNG
Staff Writer

Last week, we went over one of the most basic of fitness movements: the bodyweight squat. Though there is no external load needed to perform this exercise, its difficulty should not be underestimated. Here is a brief recap of how to perform bodyweight squats:

1. Stand straight with your head and eyes straight to the front, your feet about shoulder width apart.

2. Keeping your back straight, squat down as far as possible. As you squat down, avoid the temptation to bend at the waist and bring your upper body forward. Your lower back should be naturally rounded and protected.

3. As far as hand placement goes, some prefer to keep their hands down at their sides while others prefer to hold their arms out in front of them for balance. Clasp your hands behind your head forces you to work harder to keep your balance. Find out what works for you.

4. Squat down until your butt just about touches your calves and come back up, locking out your knees. Repeat this sequence for as long as you can. Eventually, you will establish a rhythm when doing squats. You should take about one second to squat down and one second to come back up.

Here are some squat variations that you can use in your routine to train your lower half:

Star Jumps

Begin in the down position of a squat, your feet together and your hands on your ankles. Now, in one motion, jump up and bring your arms and legs out so that they form a star. Think of being in the "up" position of a jumping jack. Before you hit the ground, bring your legs back together and touch your ankles with your hands again. Star jumps will get you breathing heavy in no time flat. And that's a good thing.

Side-to-Side Squats

Begin with your feet about three feet apart. Keeping your back straight, bend your left leg and place all of your weight on your left foot so that your right leg remains straight. Keep your right foot flat on the ground and reach towards it with both hands. Come back up to the starting position

and repeat for your opposite leg. If necessary, place your feet closer or farther apart in order to ensure that your feet stay flat on the ground. This exercise works the insides of your thighs.

Feet Together Squats

These are performed in the same manner as regular squats, only your feet are placed next to each other. This will force you to maintain your balance.

One-Legged Squats

These squats are a great test of balance and strength for your legs. Begin by placing your right leg in the air, as parallel to the ground as possible. Place your arms out in front of you so they are also parallel to the ground. Keeping your back straight, squat down so your right leg does not touch the ground, going down as far as possible. After a few repetitions, repeat for your right leg. If doing one-legged squats is difficult for you, stand in a doorway and use the sides of the door frame for balance until you can perform the exercise without assistance.

Box Squats

For this exercise, you will need a sturdy object to sit on, such as a chair, table, or actual box. The object should be high enough so that you can sit down on it and have your upper legs parallel to the ground. Stand with your back toward the object and squat down as you normally would until you make contact with it.

Place as much of your weight on your backside as possible. Do not let your feet come off the ground when you come down. Now, from this seated position, stand back up. Repeat this movement, ensuring that you lean back into the squat as if you were easing back into a chair. Coming up from this seated position works your hamstrings and builds strength in your glutes as well.

Leg strength and endurance are two things that we can all benefit from, regardless of profession or age. Walking and running, the two oldest and most natural forms of transportation known to man, both require a certain amount of conditioning in order to perform. As such, it is important to include at least one lower body exercise in your training regiment to ensure that your legs develop in proportion to the rest of your physique.



SPORTS

Cross Country Excels in America East Championships

By GENE MORRIS
Asst. Sports Editor

Stony Brook Nation had a lot to celebrate about this weekend as the Men's and Women's Cross Country teams both had top 10 finishers. Alex Felce took top honors in the Men's 8K as the Seawolves hosted the America East Cross Country Championships.

The air was cool and brisk, but the runners had ice in their veins, with the Men's team placing four runners in the top ten and the Women's team placing five. Alex Felce, the sophomore from Gloucestershire, England, took home the top honors in the Men's competition, finishing first in a field of seventy-three runners, with a time of 25:32.0, five seconds ahead of the closest runner from rival New Hampshire. The run was impressive, marked with determination and grit, and the outcome came as no surprise. Coach Andrew Ronan called Felce's performance, "a thing of brilliance." Finishing third in the run behind his fellow Seawolves runner was Shawn Krawitz, a senior from Auckland, New Zealand. Krawitz finished the 8K at a mark of 25:42.3. Rounding out the top five was freshman Tim Hodge, followed later by Zach Tyerman, who came in ninth.

For the second straight year, Stony Brook has finished in second place with 37 to New Hampshire, edged out by two points. Heart and determination has led this team this far in the season; the team has run itself into the

ground, with second place being the fruits of their labor. The team has captured a very proud honor, being very consistent the entire season. Coach Ronan was extremely proud of his team's effort, calling it "outstanding."

The Women's Cross Country Team took no prisoners, finishing first in the Women's America East Championship. Not only is this the first championship for this group of young runners, but also the first time ever that a Stony Brook Women's Cross Country team has won a conference championship. The team beat out the rival Boston College Eagles by an impressive margin of twenty-eight points.

Jessica Hampson, proving time and again that she is a force to be reckoned with on the trails, came in fourth with a time of 17:58.3. The sophomore finished in the top ten with her fellow teammates freshman Holly Van Dalen, senior Elizabeth Carlson, sophomore Laura Huet, and freshman Lucy Van Dalen. Right behind them were seniors Kerry Salzano and Dana Hastie.

Coach Ronan had this to say about his team, "I'm proud of this squad and their individual accomplishments within the framework of the team. This team has been consistent from the start. Our captains have been true leaders and inspirational models for the entire team."

Next up for the Seawolves are the 2007 NCAA Regional Cross Country Championships, on Nov. 10 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Women's Soccer Drops Finale 1-0 to Maine



Brooke Barbuto and the Seawolves face Maine on Thursday

Will Lahti/SB Statesman

By GENE MORRIS
Asst. Sports Editor

Women's soccer fell in their final game of the season on Saturday, on the road 1-0 against Maine. The loss dropped the team's record to 7-4-5, 4-2-2 in conference play.

The only goal of the game was scored on a penalty kick in the 76th minute. Maine's Laura Harper scored her fourth goal of the season, beating SB goalie Marisa Viola.

Viola was able to stop the other four shots she faced on the day, but SB wasn't able to mount any real offense. As a team they attempted seven shots, putting four of them on goal. Trine Allenberg led the team with her two shot attempts.

The teams will meet again on Thursday, Nov. 1, as the America East Conference tournament kicks off. SB goes in as the fourth seed, while Maine is seeded fifth. It will be the first time SB hosts an America East Conference tournament game. Game time is 7:00 PM.

A Look at the Projected Student Recreation Center

By ADRIAN CARRASQUILLO
Staff Writer

is desperately needed."

Early History

Close your eyes for a moment. Imagine that you, the precocious, athletic-minded Stony Brook student that you are, have designs on spending time immersed in a recreational sport to unwind from your long day. Excitement mounts as you call up some buddies and set up a time and meeting place.

Chances are, that you're out of luck. Most days, the Sports Complex is full. With demand far outweighing the space available, you have to wait your turn to play and can choose from only a limited offering of sports. You can play basketball and, on occasion, volleyball, soccer, or badminton. But if the latter sports are available then the basketball space will be cut by one-third. So you curse the gods and stomp your feet, unaware that an answer is on the horizon. A project long on history but short on progress is picking up steam. The Student Recreation Center, albeit in its design phase, is closer to being a reality than ever before.

Students should take comfort in the significance ascribed to the project by those in administrative positions. Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Peter Baigent, while talking about the planned \$39 million facility to be erected between the Student Union and the Sports Complex, said, "It's a project that

The history of the recreation center is one of pitfalls and delays. Originally, a campus committee composed of students and staff began to discuss the need for the facility in the fall of 1999. The initiative grew in response to student survey results that noted the severe lack of recreational facilities on campus. The growing student population, coupled with Stony Brook's move to Division I, taxed the existing facilities.

After an initial vote failed in April 2000, students conducted a referendum in October of that year on raising money for construction and for an operating budget for the facility. The students supported a bond issue to pay for the project. Under the plan, the university would issue a \$20 million bond, to be paid back by students at \$75 a semester per student for the next 30 years. State Senator, John J. Flanagan took up the cause in 2002 and proposed a bill to pass bonding plan for the construction. For three years in a row, the Republican-dominated state senate approved the plan, but each time it was vetoed in the democratic-controlled assembly. Dr. Susan DiMonda, the associate dean and director of student life and former director of campus recreation, said,

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