

## Wisdom of Youth: HIV Pediatric Panel

### Children Speak at HSC on Life with HIV

By MIRA KINARIWALA  
Statesman Staff

A slightly tilted totem pole, dirt roads lined with forests, a murky lake and sturdy log cabins set the backdrop for the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. It may not be obvious at first glance, but this well-hidden site is the location for week long camp sessions with terminally ill children. But here, you won't encounter lives pervaded by HIV, sickle-cell anemia and cancer; you'll only see encouragement, laughter and understanding.

Stony Brook University was honored to have three campers visit the University for a Pediatric panel discussion on HIV. Held last Friday in the Health Science Center, the event was put together by several medical



Courtesy of www.holeinthewallgang.com

With horseback riding, swimming, and a variety of games, the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp provides a positive environment for terminally ill children.

school students who were camp counselors. The program was designed to give medical school students a more comprehensive view on how to understand and speak to pediatric patients with terminal diseases.

"We are taught about disease and how it affects the body, yet we remain unaware of how it may affect patients and their families," said Keith Wiesz,

a student at Stony Brook Medical School. "These incredible people have been living with HIV since birth and hope to shed some light on how they embrace life and cope with their disease."

The extraordinary young adults spoke about how it feels to live with

*Continued on Page 4*

## A Cool Kickoff for Spring Semester

By ROHIT DAS  
Statesman Editor

In these excessively cold, dreadful days of winter, the willingness to go out and find something to do on campus is reasonably diminished. Indeed, any reason to take a step outside in this time of year has to be substantial and worthwhile. Fortunately, the SBU Student Activities Center has given us that reason – Chill Fest 2004.

An especially appealing aspect of this year's Chill Fest is the large number of events running all around campus. This year's festivities feature 55 programs in only 20 days, figures that exceed those of the past. This has been a result of increased cooperation between the various departments and organization within the Stony Brook community.

"Even though we've added six more days to this year's Chill Fest, it didn't really happen because of increased effort," said Maria Terrana, Assistant Director of Student Activities. "It's been more of a case of increased coordination between various departments."

The events are not only numerous,

but also diverse. Activities include free athletic events for students, a comedy show, and even a casino night. There is seemingly an event for everyone on campus.

"The wide variety of events really reflects the diversity of this school," said sophomore Joseph McKay.

The Student Activities Center always holds a series of events to

mark the beginning of every semester. The fall series changes its theme year to year, while the spring semester is always called Chill Fest. The goal, in both cases, is to immediately set a tone of unity, which is important for a campus as large as ours.

"The goal [for] any activity we hold,

*Continued on Page 4*



A large number of programs and activities have been planned for students as part of this year's Chill Fest.

## Distinguished Stony Brook Mathematician Wins Prize

By MANSOOR KHAN  
Statesman Editor

John W. Milnor, Ph.D., was recently awarded the 2004 Leroy P. Steele Prize for Mathematical Exposition for a lifetime of analytical contributions spanning a wide spectrum of disciplines. Milnor, a distinguished professor of mathematics at Stony Brook University, received the same award in 1982.

The Steele Prize is one of the highest distinctions in mathematics, and was awarded in early January at the Joint Mathematics Meetings in Phoenix, Arizona. The citation on the award reads, "The phrase 'sublime elegance' is rarely associated with mathematical exposition, but it applies to all of Milnor's writings, whether they be research or expository. Reading his books, one is struck with the ease with which the subject is unfolding, and it only becomes apparent after reflection that this ease is the mark of a master. Milnor's many expository contributions to the mathematical literature have influenced more than one generation of mathematicians. Moreover, the examples that they provide have set a standard of clarity, elegance, and beauty for which every mathematician should strive."

Milnor is the director of the Institute for Mathematical Sciences at Stony Brook and the 1962 winner of the prestigious Fields medal, a prize awarded internationally for outstanding work

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# Under A Rock: The Weekly World News

By EMY KURIAKOSE  
Statesman Editor

## IRAQ: BOMBINGS

Twelve people were killed in two separate attacks carried out in Northern Iraq on Jan. 31. In the first attack, a suicide bomber rammed his car into a police station in Mosul, killing nine and wounding 45. The second attack took place on a road 25 miles outside of Kirkuk, killing three American soldiers. A homemade bomb was detonated in the Humvee they were traveling in. Officials fear that violence may escalate during the Muslim holiday of Id al-Adha, or Feast of Sacrifice, which is being observed through Wednesday. Security will also be heightened in preparation for the United Nations entering the country to assess the possibility of national elections. The United States oppose holding the elections, proposing regional caucuses to appoint assemblymen instead.

## CHINA: BIRD FLU

The Chinese government reported two new cases of the bird flu in birds found in two provinces, including Shanghai. Although the flu has not claimed human casualties in China, the World Health Organization remains wary of outbreaks, as 11 people have been infected in other Asian countries; eight of whom died. The virus is contracted through direct contact with infected birds, and it has not mutated into a form that would spread from human to human. Officials stress, however, that the outbreaks must be controlled to prevent a widespread epidemic. While millions of

chickens surrounding points of outbreak are being annihilated, some farmers sell infected birds overseas on the black market to make up for losses. The WHO is looking to other countries to support farmers who are forced to decimate their flocks.

## U.S. AIDS EFFORTS

President Bush announced that he will cut funds to third world countries to fight AIDS and poverty. The hardest hit organization will be the United Nations' Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which will only receive \$200 million of its previous yearly grant of \$500 million. This puts off the Bush administration's promised \$20 billion spending on global aid efforts for several years. In a conference in 2002, Bush had promised \$15 billion

over a period of three years, but has since changed that pledge, much to the surprise and dismay of health organizations that serve 121 countries.

## HAITI: PROTESTS

Fifteen thousand protestors flooded Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, in hopes of pressuring President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to step down from office Tuesday. In a four-year feud that rapidly escalated this past month with daily protests, opposition leaders say that Aristide's presence impedes democracy in that country. Aristide remains strong with the support of the Haitian police force, which is allegedly used to crush his political enemies. Opposition leaders are calling upon the United States to intervene, as the Clinton administration helped Aristide

regain power in 1994 after a coup. Experts say the U.S. is not likely to get involved, though they add that the conflict needs to be mediated before conditions worsen.

## AFGHANISTAN

Afghani officials say four men, four children, and three women were killed in a raid by American planes on Jan. 17 in the Southern province of Uruzgan. American military spokesmen said that targets on combatant areas are bombed with stringent rules of engagement, and suspected enemies are fired upon with as much accuracy as humanly possible. The United States said only five militants were killed that night.

## TERRORISM

U.S. officials Saturday reported intelligence reports about possible hijackings on six flights leaving from Britain and France for America. Reports cited Al-Qaeda as the terrorist group suspected, and international efforts kept these planes grounded. The evidence came from reports of activity that alerted the government to ground planes late December and early January. The U.S. said that any suspected planes allowed to leave Europe would have to travel with armed marshals, and would be greeted by chemical and biological screening teams on U.S. soil. Britain and France opted to cancel the flights.

*Updates compiled from NY Times issues Jan. 25 through Jan. 31.*



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# Students Still Learning in Chechnya Schools

By BRYON MACWILLIAMS  
Chronicle of Higher Education

White buses with fogged windows lumber along the dirt road like pack animals, lurching over craters filled with rainwater. Branches of overgrown shrubs slap at their sides as they pass the rubble of what were once houses, where orange flames burn dirty from rags stuffed into the open ends of broken gas pipelines.

The buses come to a stop at odd angles in a dirt parking lot. Their doors swing open. Carefully polished black high-heeled and dress shoes step down into a slick of light brown mud, spattering the backs of stockings and pants cuffs.

Federal forces and separatist guerrillas are fighting the second war in a decade in the republic of Chechnya. Open combat and aerial bombardment have subsided. But occasionally there is gunplay on the campus. And on the ride to and from the university, students are at risk from land mines, stray bullets, and random bombings, as well as shakedowns and harassment at federal checkpoints.

"They stop us, check our documents," says Milana, a third-year linguistics major who, like most students here, asks that her last name be withheld for fear of retaliation. "Sometimes they put us on our knees, or beat us." Sometimes, she and others say, they detain a young man or woman, who is never heard from again.

Yet for more than a decade, students and those who educate them have refused to let die a university that, by all measures, should no longer be alive. They say that a heightened demand for a university education has been an unexpected consequence of the wars, as young men and women study subjects such as law and social work in the hope that they will be able to help rebuild the tiny, 6,000-square-mile republic.

Students have "changed their values," says Bela Tsugaeva, a former English instructor at Chechen State, now a relief worker in nearby Ingushetiya, who returns to Grozny for visits. "Now they understand they could lose their relatives, their lives, at any time. They've become more serious."

Chechen State has survived despite a complete loss of government financing immediately after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, and only sporadic support since. Its rector was abducted, then killed by unknown assailants. The most esteemed professors left the republic for better jobs elsewhere. Most of those who remained fled in 1994, when federal forces bombed the university's campus into oblivion.

Classes were suspended while residents hid in their basements. Days grew into weeks, weeks into months. Lectures resumed regularly during a period of de facto independence beginning in 1996, but real financial support did not.

Classes again were suspended when fighting resumed in 1999. This time it was more ruthless. The university's



Courtesy of www.google.com

The Republic of Chechnya is still marred by violent conflict and constant warfare.

makeshift campus in a former orphanage in the Olympiyskiy district was the scene of intense early battles, and frequently came under fire from forces on both sides of the conflict. It also was the target of *zachistki*, or violent mop-up operations by federal forces.

Broadcasts on Kremlin-controlled television in Russia report little that is unfavorable to the national government and its effects on Chechen State and the republic's two other institutions of higher learning, the Chechen State Pedagogical

Institute and the Grozny Oil Institute. President Vladimir Putin has proclaimed the second war over. Indeed, his administration has even pointed to the revival of Chechen State as a sign of a return to normalcy.

But life is anything but normal here in the northern Caucasus Mountains. Elsewhere in Russia people are astounded to learn that Chechen State still exists. "They ask, 'Is there really a university?' We're incrementally getting things back in order. It's not to the point

that we'd like, but, among these ruins ...," said Elbusdikaeva, the dean of the history department, says, trailing off.

It is still dark and cold on a Wednesday morning in October. Students linger, scattered, in the courtyard of dirt, concrete, and sour-plum trees on the grounds of the new campus, former state Orphanage No. 2. Lectures are being conducted in the low buildings that frame the quadrangle, even in the four-story building that houses the department of economics, which is wedged into a shell without windows, plumbing, or a roof.

Vakhid Akaev is teaching 11 young men and 8 young women a subject that has never been offered before in Chechnya. Logic is now required for those majoring in social work or political science.

A student illustrates relationships by way of concentric and overlapping circles on the green chalkboard as Akaev explains, in whispers, how he is one of only several professors who are more than 40 years old. He and his colleagues remained, he says, simply because "someone is needed to teach the next generation, the future of Chechnya."

## Students' Political Awareness Increasing

By JEFFERY R YOUNG  
Chronicle of Higher Education

Political awareness among entering college students rose for the third year in a row, to the highest level since 1994, according to a key measure of freshman attitudes.

In a survey of 276,449 first-year students at 413 colleges and universities, 33.9 percent felt that "keeping up to date with political affairs" was a very important or essential life goal, up from 32.9 percent last year and the record low of 28.1 percent in 2000. And 20.1 percent of freshmen considered "influencing the political structure" an essential life goal, compared with 19.6 percent last year and 17.1 percent in 1999, the lowest ever in the survey, which began in 1966.

"Students are definitely becoming more interested in the political scene," says Linda Sax, an associate professor of education at the University of California at Los Angeles and director of the survey of freshmen. The shift is especially notable, she says, because students' professed interest in politics had been dropping steadily before 2000, and it remains drastically lower than it was when the survey began. "For so many years we were reporting plummeting political interest."

The political views of freshmen shifted to the right this year, continuing a recent trend. Only 24.2 percent identified themselves as liberal this year, compared with 25.3 last year, while 21.1 percent said they were conservative, compared with 20.0 last year. About half of students, 50.3 percent, said their views were middle of the road.

"Over time we've seen a general decline in the liberal label, and it's typically been replaced by middle-of-the-road

attitudes," says Sax.

One thing most college students agreed on was the importance of grades.

The majority of freshmen, 59.4 percent, said they expected to get at least a B average in college, roughly the same as last year's all-time high of 60.2 percent. That was about twice as high as in 1971, the year the question was first asked, when only 26.7 percent expected to do that well academically.

"Grade inflation just doesn't seem to stop," says Sax.

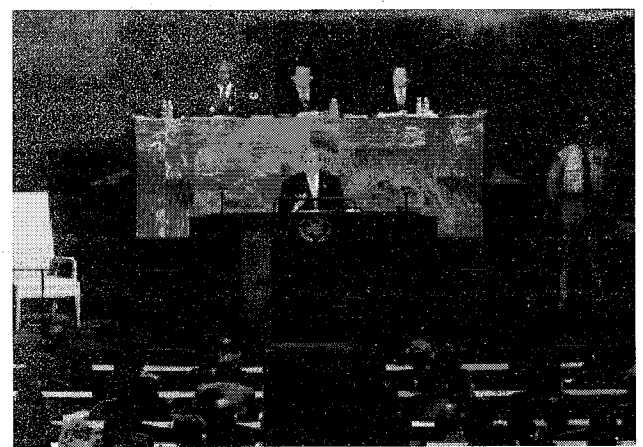
About a third of freshmen surveyed, 33.6 percent, said they chose their college because they were offered financial aid, down just slightly from last year's figure of 35.9. Nearly half of freshmen, 47 percent, said there was a "very good chance" they would work to help pay for college, about the same as last year's record high of 47.1 percent.

Race was a significant factor in whether a student was concerned about college costs. While 13 percent of all students surveyed said they had major concerns about paying for college, 22.9 percent of Latinos and 23.2 percent of African-Americans did.

The only new question on the survey this year asked if and when students visited their colleges before enrolling. Most, 57.9 percent, visited campuses before they applied; 12 percent visited after they applied but before hearing a decision; and 15.1 percent visited after they were accepted but before deciding. Fifteen percent chose their colleges sight unseen -- setting foot on campus only

after accepting the college's offer of admission.

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Courtesy of www.google.com

Students are becoming more aware of the political scene.

of admission.

Randy Giarraputo, director of college counseling at Metairie Park Country Day School and chairman of the admissions-practices committee for the National Association for College Admission Counseling, says that although ideally every applicant would visit a campus, he thought that even more students would have been forced to choose a college before visiting.

"We always encourage individuals to visit the school before they put down their money," he says. "But there are a lot of families who cannot afford those trips."



## Chill Fest: Diverse Activities

*Continued from Page 1*

especially the ones we hold at the beginning of the semester, is to further build a community on campus," said Alexandra Duggan, Director of Student Activities. "We want to create a campus environment that's both fun and educational."

The fact that Chill Fest has been able to expand on its events shows that

**"The wide  
variety of events  
really reflects  
the diversity  
of this school."  
Joseph McKay**

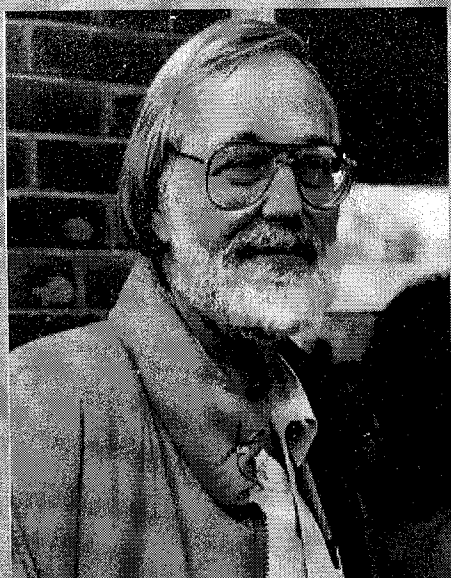
previous efforts have been very successful.

"It's no surprise that we're getting so many people and different departments out here this year," said Terrana. "Everyone has seen how much effort we've put into these events, and this year's Chill Fest is a reflection of how successful it's been in years past."

The various clubs and organizations that are participating in this year's Chill Fest are Campus Dining, Athletics, Fraternities and Sororities, the Commuter Student Association, and several other groups.

"There's no question that this is a campus-wide effort," said Duggan.

Further information about Chill Fest 2004 can be obtained at SAC 219. Questions can also be directed to the Student Activities Office at 632-9392.



*Courtesy of www.sunysb.edu*

Dr. John W. Milnor received the 2004 Leroy P. Steele Prize for the second time in his career.

## Mathematician Awarded

*Continued from Page 1*

in mathematics and promise of future achievement. The distinguished professor became a faculty member in 1989, and is married to Dusa McDuff, professor of mathematics at Stony Brook.

The Steele Prize was established in 1970 in honor of George David Birkhoff, William Fogg Osgood, and William Caspar Graustein, and is endowed under the terms of a bequest from Leroy P. Steele. From 1970 to 1976, one or more prizes were awarded each year for outstanding published mathematical research. The most favorable consideration was given to papers distinguished for their exposition and covering broad areas of mathematics.

"I think Dr. Milnor is really an incredibly intelligent man," said SBU senior James Goldstein, an applied math and statistics major who is familiar with Milnor's work. "Some of his research is astonishing, even groundbreaking."

## HIV Student Panelists

*Continued from Page 1*

this disease. Their names will be excluded to protect their confidentiality.

"The medicine tastes really bad, but you just get used to taking it," said J., one of the children in the panel discussion. "You begin to realize how important it is. It's a matter of life and death."

"I would never tell a friend I have the disease unless they're really close. I made the mistake once and then the entire school knew my business," said N., another panelist. "You learn who you want to be friends with by how they deal with something like this."

The three panelists spoke about the need for accurate education within the high school.

"The health teachers really don't know what they're talking about. One of my teachers once said that kissing can spread HIV," said C., the other panelist. "I think I should've been the one teaching the course."

"The biggest misconception about HIV is that touching someone can spread the disease," said N. "People don't realize that HIV infected individuals are exactly the same as everyone else. They are sick inside and trying to make it better."

These children offered the audience their dreams, their experiences, their advice and hope.

"If I could wish that I never had this disease, of course I would. But I never regret the fact that I have this disease," said C. "Good things can come out of something if you let it."

"HIV is something I have, it's not who I am," said N. "I want physicians to treat me like a person instead of

like a disease."

Students at the panel discussion were inspired and moved.

"I was touched. I'm so honored that they are willing to share their lives with me," said senior Grace Giammona. "This camp sounds really cool, I would love to volunteer their over the summer."

"I work with HIV/AIDS education in the campus and around the community," said junior Joici Job. "These children helped me understand how I'm not just fighting numbers. I'm fighting ignorance and feelings of pain, guilt, and confusion."

This touching event left audience

**The program was  
designed to give  
medical school  
students a more  
comprehensive  
view on how to  
understand and  
speak to pediatric  
patients with  
terminal diseases.**

members speechless and in tears, but not without smiles.

For more information about becoming a camp volunteer, visit [www.holeinthewallgang.org](http://www.holeinthewallgang.org).



## A THOUGHT FROM RABBI ADAM



A few days ago, the Lubavitcher Chassidim celebrated "Yud-Shvat" - the day the Lubavitcher Rebbe took the mantle of the Chabad movement to become the "Rebbe". In Chassidism, a Rebbe is to his followers what a shepherd is to his flock. Just like sheep depend on their shepherd for all their sustenance, and, if the shepherd would not take his flock out to graze - they would be like a fish without water - so too, spiritually, is the Rebbe to his followers. For a Rebbe is a spiritual leader, providing spiritual inspiration for those on a quest for spiritual accomplishment. Generally, Rebbes tend to be insular. They primarily are shepherds only to their own followers, leaving other Chassidim to look to other Rebbes for inspiration, leaving other non-religious Jews to their own devices, and, of course, such Rebbes would have nothing to do with the non-Jewish world! However, the Lubavitcher Rebbe is a Rebbe of a different kind. He has reached out to other Chassidim, allowing them to expand their spiritual horizons, yet never insisting that they conform to the specific ways of the Lubavitcher Chassidim. He has established some 3,000+ "Chabad Houses" in over 50 countries around the globe fitted with a Rabbinical staff dedicated to assist those non-religious Jews who prefer to grow into their Jewish identity at their own pace. And, most uniquely of all, the Lubavitcher Rebbe has encouraged all his Chabad Houses to reach out to the curious and interested of the non-Jewish world, all the while maintaining the age-old Jewish precept against proselytizing. For the Rebbe's vision is universal. The Rebbe's goal is to spark a world-wide spiritual accomplishment via a universal grass-roots spiritual awakening that would garner Divine favor to herald in the utopia as described by the prophets of the Bible regarding the Days of Moshiach, the Messianic Era. An Era in which there would be no war, no jealousy, no pain nor sadness, but rather eternal peace, joy and love. A utopian world which the Rebbe insisted is at our finger-tips, if only we would show our desire for this Era by adding in acts of goodness and kindness.

Rabbi Adam  
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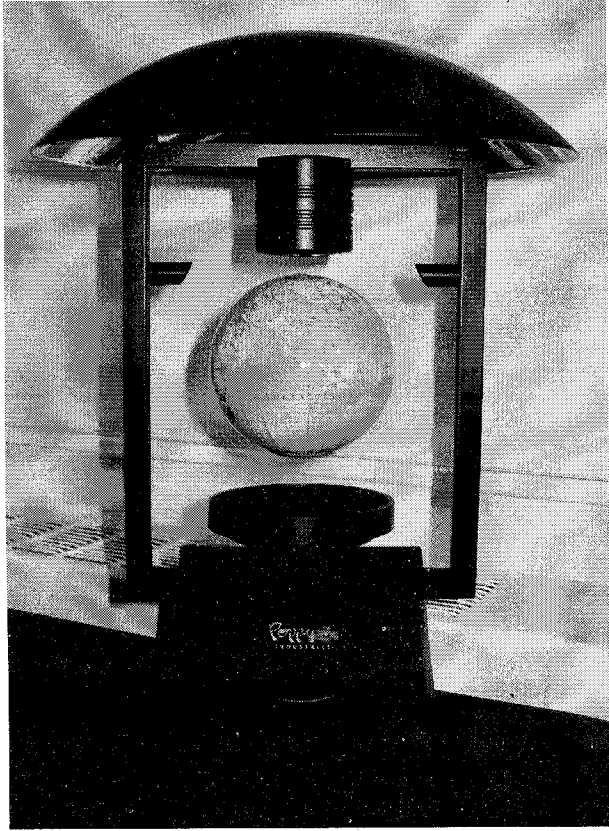


# Weird Science: Wingardium Leviosa vs. Physics

5

By PETER SUNWOO  
Statesman Editor

With a swift flick of the wand and the simple words, "Wingardium Leviosa," any free object can be magically suspended into midair. Simple enough for the young wizard extraordinaire, Harry Potter, but what about us muggles? We have to abide by the burdensome laws of physics.



Above: The Levitron allows the magnetic globe to float due to magnetic repulsion.

In our world, everything is controlled by forces. When levitating an object, we must worry about the  $9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$  acceleration of gravity and the mass of the object, since  $\text{Force} = \text{Mass} \times \text{Acceleration}$ . Now in order for us to have an object float in midair, we must match that downward force with something going up.

In 1842, a physicist named Samuel Earnshaw mathematically established a theorem that magnetic levitation cannot be accomplished by simply taking two magnets to repel each other. It turns out that his theory was correct, except for some loopholes.

For 141 years, magnetic levitation was impossible until a Vermonter named Roy Harrigan found the solution. Harrigan had one slight advantage over the 141 years of scientists that never attempted magnetic levitation in the past: he never heard of Earnshaw's theory. Who knew that ignorance could be advantageous?

Harrigan found that the precise rotation of the object creates an island of stability. So how doesn't it break Earnshaw's theorem? The theorem states that no "static" arrangements of magnetic charges can be stable, alone or under gravity. Harrigan creates dynamic stability between magnets, not static stability. Another exception to Earnshaw's theorem is that it only applies to ferromagnetism, the common north/south pole type of magnetism. Harrigan's trick is to use diamagnetism, the repulsive magnetic force exhibited to varying degrees by all materials in the presence of a magnetic field.

After patenting this breakthrough in science, Harrigan decided to create a line of products called the Levitrons, which can be purchased in any novelty shop for 30 big ones. The Levitron is basically a magnetized top and a magnetized base box. The base magnet has its magnetism pointing upwards, while the top's magnetism points down. Having the same pole of magnetism pointing towards the same direction creates a repulsion force, the same way similarly charged atoms repel each other.

The distance between the two objects is imperative. The closer they are, the stronger the repulsive forces, which would create instability and overthrow the opposing force of gravity. The distance of the top to the base should be around two inches. Now once we have the correct distance, we need to prevent the top from overturning. The magnetic field of the base gives a torque tending to turn its axis of spin. If the top were not spinning, this magnetic torque would turn it over, making the south pole of the top point down and attract to the base.

What Harrigan found was that when you spin the

top, the torque acts gyroscopically and the axis does not overturn but rotates about the nearly vertical direction of the magnetic field. This rotation is called precession. This spinning is stable at about 20 to 35 revolutions per seconds. Any higher or lower and the top will start to wobble and fall.

Although Harrigan utilized

his scientific breakthrough to make novelty products, his ignorance should be inspiring to all scientists around. It just shows that there can be loopholes in any theory, and that anything can be done. Now where's my wand?

## It just shows that there can be loopholes in any theory, and that anything can be done.

### The Music for Peace Project: Stony Brook

A festival of music, film, and ideas, in respect to the war in Iraq, at Stony Brook University

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2004**

**3 pm** Film: *Uncovered: The Whole Truth About the Iraq War* (56 min.)

By Chad Kautzer, Social Justice Alliance Discussion will follow (Wang Center Theatre)

**7:30 pm** Official Festival Opening

Naming of Peace Concerts Worldwide

Welcome by Dr. Judith Lochhead, Music Department (Staller Center Lobby)

**8 pm** Featured Concert: Colin Carr, cello J.S. Bach Cello Suites 1, 3, and 5 (Staller Center Recital Hall)

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2004**

**1 pm** Concert for Peace and Social Justice Music and spoken word by graduate students, faculty, and friends (SAC) Auditorium

**3 pm** Film: *Amadala! Revolution in Four-Part Harmony* (103 min.) (Javits Room, Melville Library 2nd floor)

**5 pm** Concert: Improvised baroque-bluegrass-acoustic-pop music with Stolen Shack

(Stony Brook University Café)

**7 pm** Presentation by the group Break-through: *Creating a "Human Rights Culture"* Music and Film (Wang Center Theatre)

**9 pm** Concert: Ray Anderson, jazz trombone with Slidera (Staller Center Recital Hall)

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2004**

**2 pm** Concert: Meditations for Peace by graduate students, faculty, and friends (Staller Center Recital Hall)

**4 pm** Film: *Song of the Birds: A Portrait of Pablo Casals* (66 min.) (Javits Room, Melville Library 2nd floor)

**5:15 pm** Reception for all (Wang Center Chapel)

**7:30 pm** Pre-concert talk by Dr. Daniel Weymouth: Music and Peace (Staller Center Recital Hall)

**8 pm** Featured Concert: Colin Carr, cello J.S. Bach Cello Suites 2, 4, and 6 (Staller Center Recital Hall)

**9:45 pm** Closing remarks for Festival (Staller Center Recital Hall)

**10 pm** Post-Festival Celebration (Stony Brook University Café)

## INTERESTED IN THE STATESMAN?

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## Commentary

## The Death of a Radio Station

By MICHAEL NEVRADAKIS  
Statesman Editor

Earlier this month, one of the longest running and most historic radio stations in the New York area went off the air, probably for good. 92.7 WLIR, broadcasting since 1958, was sold to Univision for a cool \$62 million in order to rebroadcast an existing station, Latino Mix, to a few Nassau County towns that have trouble receiving its signal.

Despite promises from The Morey Organization (TMO), its Garden City-based owners, the station and its format did not move to another spot on the dial. Instead, the WLIR call letters moved to 107.1, a station broadcasting only to Eastern Suffolk County, and was renamed "The Box," with a format largely similar to that of New York's K-Rock.

What made WLIR such a special radio station? The answer lies in the station's rich past. In the 1960's and 1970's, the station played an Album

Oriented Rock (AOR) format, which featured progressive new rock artists, similar to WNEW in New York, except with an even broader selection of music. However, what made 92.7 stand out most was its change in format in 1982 to "New Music." WLIR became the first station on the East Coast to prominently feature artists such as U2, Depeche Mode, The Clash, The Cure, Howard Jones, The Smiths and more.

The station, while never a huge success in the ratings with any format, gained a huge and loyal following. They did this by playing music other stations hadn't touched, organizing concerts and live performances, and featuring personable on-air personalities who made live appearances and who were approachable, as well as knowledgeable about the music they played. Though I was too young to appreciate the station as it was back then, the station influenced both the music world and its listeners a great deal. I've read stories of people buying special adapters to receive

the station in areas where it had a weak signal. MTV often consulted with WLIR on which music would be cool enough to feature on television as "new music," months after WLIR brought it to the airwaves.

In 1987, WLIR lost its license after a failed change of ownership, but the new owners (TMO), kept largely the same format with new call letters, WDRE, and the new slogan, "Dare to be Different." Since then, the station experienced many tweaks in its format, expanded its coverage for a time to cities like Philadelphia and Albany, and brought back the WLIR letters and many of the original personalities of the station.

Though some of the music the station played in recent years was more "mainstream" than what would

have been heard in the station's heyday in the 1980's, the station still had a unique sound, which featured many new artists, still sponsored many local concerts and performances,

With fewer local choices on the dial, and with increased corporate synergy, stations today are afraid to take risks

and still had DJs that were accessible to its listeners. That should explain why many of WLIR's core listeners remained with the station for so long, and why many new younger listeners also tuned in.

Unfortunately, in today's FCC-sponsored corporate climate, large companies such as Clear Channel and Univision have the money, power and authority to make transactions such as the one recently completed for WLIR. While this move may favor the corporate bottom line and the agenda of the Republican members of the FCC, the listeners are left out in the cold. With fewer local choices on the dial, and with increased corporate synergy, stations today are afraid to take risks, to compete against other stations in the same market owned by the same company, or to try a format that won't appeal to the advertisers on Madison Avenue. This leads to bland, predictable radio, and to the demise of stations like WLIR, that dared to be different, even just a little, in a cut-throat marketplace.

## Can Dean Win Back the Democrats?

By JEFF M. KRUSZYNA  
Statesman Staff

After a poor showing in Iowa and New Hampshire, all eyes are on Governor Dean, the former frontrunner in the Democratic race. Can Dean return to his prior spot atop the field or will "Comeback Kerry" remain the preference of Democratic voters? This is a very interesting question to ponder. Sadly, for Republicans everywhere, (who enjoy Dean's antics) it doesn't look good for the former governor of Vermont.

Dean just has one too many flaws! He is portrayed in the media as a short-tempered thug. With public outbursts clearly showing his short temper, voters are left to wonder what he would do with our country's nuclear arsenal. But even beyond this is the fact that Dean is notorious for steering clear of stating his actual policy positions and instead opts to bash President Bush. Without

letting voters know what he stands for, they are left to wonder if he has any definitive positions at all. In truth, he does! This leads us to his next and most fatal flaw.

Not only has Dean stated that this country would be no safer with Saddam Hussein behind bars, but he has also proposed to repeal all of President Bush's tax cuts, making him the only Democratic nominee to propose this. After the capture of the Iraqi dictator, this anti-war stance likened him to Michael Dukakis, who is ardently against gun ownership, and who rode on a tank in army fatigues prior to his defeat in the 1988 presidential election.

In regards to the complete repeal of Bush's tax-cuts, it is quite simple. No American will vote for a candidate who will raise their taxes. Walter Mondale

Continued on Page 7

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# School of Thought: Read the Darwinians

By MICHAEL ZANNETTIS  
Statesman Staff

Darwin had only three conditions for natural selection: 1) traits must be inheritable; 2) they must be variable; and 3) they must be selected for. He thought of this idea 150 years ago, before the advent of genetics, microbiology, or even that ambitious little double helix molecule. Darwin was so correct that today we don't even have to use his first name when talking about him. Darwin was so correct that he started an entirely new branch of science, whose practitioners we appropriately call Darwinians.

Richard Dawkins, a Darwinian who evidently needs a first name, popularized the phrase "nonrandom selection of random mutations" to summarize Darwin's three conditions, now more famously referred to as the principles of natural selection. Dawkins is not the scientist that Darwin was, but who is? Dawkins' best work isn't the discovery of new knowledge; it's argumentative thinking about what's already out there.

Some of his best work lies in his latest battle against Creationism.

To put it in his words, the battle of science and religion regarding the



Courtesy of www.google.com

If the ape prays, and man prays, does that support the theory of evolution?

correct version of history isn't a battle at all, and certainly does not live up to the creationists' lofty title: *A Battle to End All Battles*. There is more evidence, as my professor once told me, to prove evolution than there is to prove that the Earth is round or that the moon is white.

There is no evidence to prove Creationism true.

The British Dawkins was so concerned with the possibility that Creationism would defile his beloved scientific method that he drafted a letter to be signed by himself and America's great evolutionist, Stephen Jay Gould. And so, a unified

front of non-scientific embargo was created, traversing the Atlantic from Oxford to Harvard.

To Dawkins, the debate between Evolution and Creation, both spelled with capitals, would only benefit the Creationists, who seek only an audience to give their baseless claims credibility. I recently read a survey that claimed only 28 percent of Americans believe in evolution, which is, in my opinion, a stupid thing to say. You don't believe in evolution. You don't believe that the Earth is round, or that the moon is white. These things are just true.

Gould, who liked baseball and who actually did like religion in some great spiritual way, nevertheless profoundly thought that the two had no business in

regards to each other. He wrote *Rock of Ages* to articulate his point. Science is good at what it does: formulating predictable explanations of natural phenomenon. Religion is good at what it does: giving human existence meaning and purpose. Religion has no business getting involved in the factual accumulation of knowledge, and as Gould argued, science has no business giving people meaning in their life.

Gould swings a heavy bat for both accounts. But going farther: science formulates predictable explanations of natural phenomenon, and since religion is a natural

phenomenon (like culture, ever-present in all gatherings of human beings), it follows that religion is subject to be explained scientifically. But that's a story for another day.

There is a saying among writers: "Read the Greeks." These classics explore all themes of humanity and being human: jealousy, love, comedy, revenge, and belonging. There should be a saying for all scientists: "Read the Darwinians." In these classics, all explanations of humanity and being human are explored. Just remember something else my professor likes to tell me: good science isn't what it finishes, it's what it starts. Read the Darwinians, and then become a Darwinian.

## Dean and the Democrats

Continued from Page 6

learned this the hard way in 1984 when he only won three electoral votes against incumbent President Ronald Reagan after proposing a similar tactic.

With all these factors against him, can Dean reverse course and save his campaign? Although his chances are slim, he still has a chance. For the former governor to regain the lead, he must stop being negative towards not only President Bush, but his fellow Democratic competitors as well. He should also consider toning down his angry outbursts (such as his infamous

"Yeahhhhhh!" after his poor third place finish in the Iowa caucus).

If in fact Dean does win the Democratic nomination, he will face an even larger challenge in taking on the likes of current President George W. Bush. Not only is Bush successfully waging the war on terror but it also seems as though he has turned the Clinton recession around into a period of economic growth and prosperity. Any political scientist will tell you that the two most crucial factors in any given election are foreign policy and the state of the economy. So we will just have to wait until the Democratic National

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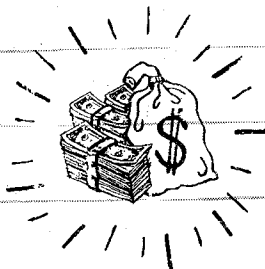
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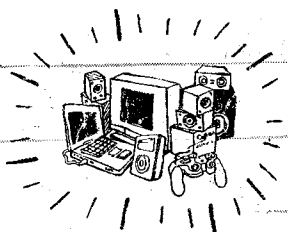
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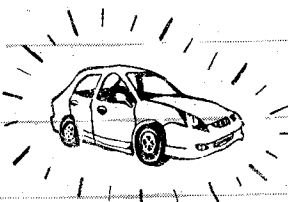


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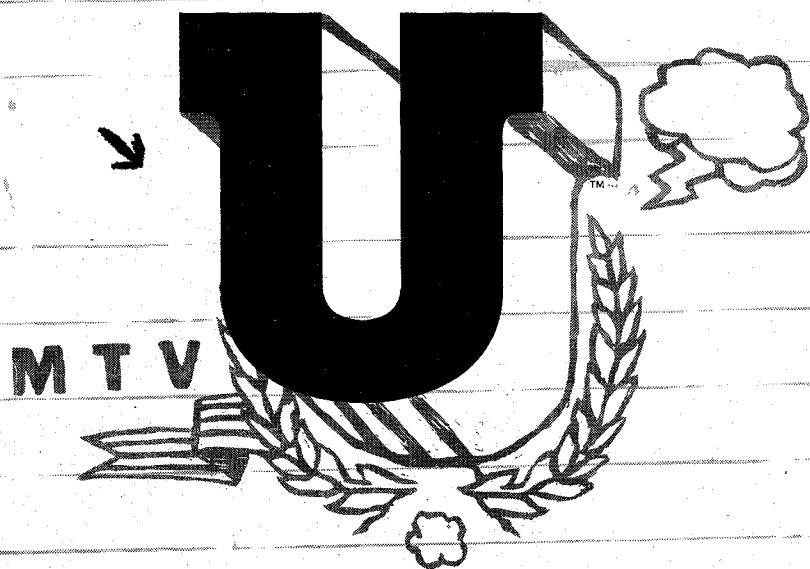
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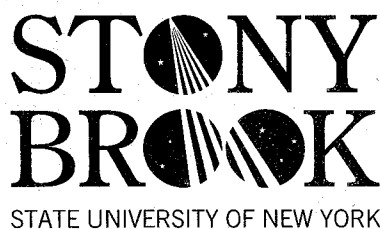
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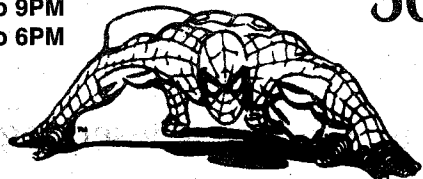
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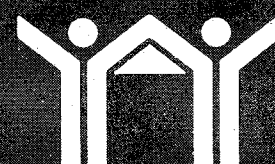
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# Sports

## SBU Men's Hockey Overwhelms Rider, 16-2

By JOHN NOBLE  
Statesman Staff

Frank Arceri had a hat trick and several other team members scored two goals apiece as Stony Brook defeated Rider 16-2 on Saturday night at the Rinx. In one of the most dominating performances in school history, the Seawolves scored at least four goals in every period, including seven in the second. The first goal was scored by Arceri just 56 seconds into the game, and this set the tone for the evening. Even with Stony Brook taking an early penalty, they were able to manufacture a two-on-one rush, and score the short-handed goal. Arthur Martrano got the first assist of the night.

The Rider's defense looked sloppy from the opening face-off. They were unable to keep the Seawolves out of their zone, and left the middle open for an assault of shots. They could not clear the puck, and so Stony Brook was able to keep constant pressure on their goalie all night.

Conversely, the Stony Brook defense quickly neutralized almost every threat by pushing Rider's forwards to the boards and clearing the puck. This clear-cut play shows in the shots-on-goal total



Courtesy of Mark Murphy

**An SBU hockey player faces off, but loses possession of the puck. With great passing and teamwork, SBU was able to gain back control and dominated the game.**

for the game; Rider took 23 shots-on-goal, while Stony Brook took 73. The Seawolves offense looked sharp all night. The team created some excellent scoring opportunities, and took advantage of almost all of them. In addition, the team spread the puck around, giving everyone a chance to score. Ten different players scored a goal, including three players with

two goals, and Arceri with the hat trick. Stony Brook had 35 points in total.

Fans in the stands at the Rinx in Hap-paugue were hoping for a shutout. There was mild disappointment when at 9:42 in the second period, Rider scored their first goal of the night. A mild, sarcastic celebration occurred on Rider's bench after they scored. Unfortunately for them,

by that time, there was little hope of a comeback. Rider would go on to score another goal in the third period, but the game was out of hand by then.

The game had a physical feel to it, with both teams committing numerous penalties. However, Rider players spent more time in the penalty box than did Stony Brook players. Stony Brook scored two power play goals. Rider did not have any power play goals, although they did give up the short-handed goal to Arceri.

Stony Brook is now looking forward to the remainder of their schedule. They've got 6 regular season games coming up in February, including the Alumni Game on February 28. If last night's performance is any indication, the Seawolves are ready for whatever challenges lay ahead. With an impressive performance on both sides of the puck, Stony Brook has shown themselves to be a capable hockey team.

However, they cannot rest now. They need to keep working hard and develop their skills in preparation for future games. Not every game can be 16-2. Not every defense will allow 73 shots-on-goal. Of course, they'll enjoy it while they can. But for that night, they were dominant.

## SBU Basketball Takes a Loss Against Maine, 71-63

By DANA GOMI  
Statesman Editor

The Stony Brook Seawolves lost to the Maine Black Bears in America East action on Saturday afternoon. Stony Brook is now 6-13, 3-7, while the Black Bears' record improved to 12-7, 6-4. The Seawolves held the lead for most of the first half. But with 6:13 left in the first half, Maine got back in the game and tied it at 19-19. D.J. Munir helped the Seawolves regain a slight lead, but Maine scored on a 3-point shot in to take a 22-21 advantage, which grew to 26-24 at halftime.

As the Seawolves attempted to recover during the second half, they seemed to fall apart. In what seemed to be a recurring problem for the team since conference play started, the defense struggled greatly in the second half. Even the players could not pinpoint the reason for this team-wide dilemma. "I couldn't even tell you," said Cori Spencer when asked about the problem with the defense. "We played hard; it's not like we didn't play hard."

Maine took advantage of SBU's weakness and scored 3 straight lay-ups during a 14-7 run to open the second half. The Black Bears shot well, hitting 65.2 percent of their field goal attempts. Maine moved even further from the Seawolves to reach its biggest lead, at 56-45. For the rest of the game, Seawolves got no closer than 7 points. Maine took the win over Stony Brook, 71-63.

D.J. Munir scored in double figures with 19 points, along with 7 rebounds. Spencer added 10 points and grabbed eight rebounds. Mike Popoko helped out with 15 points for the game.

This season has been a tough season for the Seawolves. With a more rigorous schedule and more to lose, the team is trying to maintain an effective level of play. The Seawolves lost two big games to two conference opponents: first to Boston University (#2), and now to Maine (#3).

"The league is up, [and] teams are better," Munir said. "We've got to play tough every night. Some nights it goes our way, some nights it don't."



Courtesy of Mark Murphy

**D.J. Munir, #15, takes a heavily contested shot against the Maine defense. His efforts weren't enough, as the Seawolves lost by eight.**

"It's D.J.'s last year I want him to win," Spencer said. "That is the most frustrating. It's his last year and he's not winning. As a team, it takes a toll." However, Stony Brook has more battles to fight. They hope to make it to the playoffs,

where anything can happen. Upcoming games with teams like Binghamton, Northeastern and Hartford could be difficult. Stony Brook plays Northeastern at the Sports Complex on Thursday night. Tip-off is at 7 p.m.