NYPIRG Holds First Meeting pg 2 Residents Petition at Toscanini pg 7

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1999

PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

A Risky Lifestyle

Cases of Meningitis
Strike Colleges
Across the Nation

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rsday, September 30, 1999 Stony Brook Statesman Thu

NYPIRG Meeting Held

ANN X.L. ZHU Statesman Staff

Yesterday, NYPIRG held a general interest meeting to discuss some of the challenges that the group at Stony Brook will be facing this year. Executive Director Chris Meyer feels this year will be "the most challenging one yet."

NYPIRG is concerned about the case South Worth vs. Grebe. Certain students that were recruited by law firms on the Wisconsin campus are suing their University for using their student activity fee to promote activities "not in their interest." Despite their claim, the University insists it has a responsibility to disperse funds to all areas of interest. NYPIRG is concerned that, if the Court rules in favor of those students, freedom of speech and expression across government funded campuses would be severely.

Issues of voting also rated high on the NYPIRG concern list. Liz Kelley, who is a 2nd semester intern for NYPIRG, will be leading students for the 'Student Vote 2000' project. This year, state legislature election is a prime concern since 200 legislatures are up for reelection. NYPIRG wants to help students make their voices heard by voting. One of Kelley's plans is to visit dorms, trying to register as many students as possible to vote. "Voting will help us, not harm us" said Kelley.

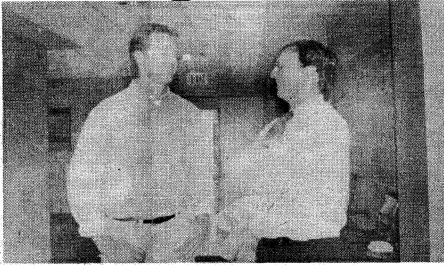
Other issues discussed were the "Wrongdoers Escape Act" Bill, which deals

with consumer action against corporations, and the Neighborhood Notification Bill, which would give local residents 24 hours notice before pesticide spraying.

Yet another problem being tackled by NYPIRG is homelessness is Suffolk County. Rory McEvoy, who is in charge of the "Homeless Empowerment" project is planning on having a Volunteer-A-Thon in soup kitchens and collecting food from dorms to help those in need.

NYPRIG representatives also discussed issues of national and international relevance, and expressed a desire to tackle issues that strike against the inherent value of humanity, specifically sweatshops. Koutsouvanous is leading the "End Sweatshops" project, which is aiming for worldwide acknowledgement of sweatshops. Aside from exploiting workers through low wages, sweatshops cause workers to be faced with the problems of starvation, forced abortions, and working unsanitary conditions. Companies that NYPIRG will be targeting are Nike, The Gap, Liz Claiborne, and Kmart. Koutsouvanous, like the rest of the NYPIRG members, hopes to educate others to make a difference locally and globally. forced abortions, and unsanitary work conditions.

Anyone interested in making a difference should contact Todd Stebbins of NYPIRG at 632-6457 or can go to the Union at room 079.



NYPIRG Project Coordinator Todd Stebbins with Executive Pirector Chris Meyer.

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The Meningitis Scare

College Students at Increased Risk of Fatal Illness

By Melissa Gabrielle

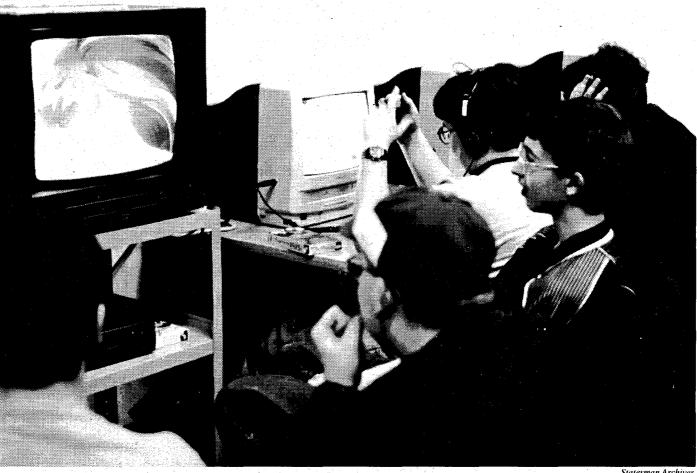
A recent report by Clinical Infectious Diseases magazine places a new hazard on the dormitory doorsteps of college students around the country, including those at Stony Brook University.

The report, presented by Dr. Nancy Snyderman of ABC's popular news show 20/ 20, states that students who live in on-campus dorms are up to 22 times more likely to contract meningitis, a potentially fatal disease that infects the fluid surrounding the brain and spine.

Although the contraction of meningitis is rare, crowded living conditions coupled with the effects of all night parties and study sessions, make college students more vulnerable to the disease. However, according to Doreen Fiore, a registered nurse at SBU's Student Health Center, students needn't panic.

A vaccine which combats bacterial meningitis (also called meningicoccal meningitis) will be offered to students within the week at a cost of approximately \$60 at the Health Center. In addition, health insurance may cover the vaccination when given by a student's own doctor. Bacterial meningitis, if left untreated, can kill an infected person within days, and Fiore warns, "It's better to be safe than sorry. I'm definitely going to bring my son to get the vaccine before he leaves for college."

Meningitis, also referred to as spinal meningitis, manifests in two forms - viral and



Statesman Archives

bacterial. Both forms are characterized by an inflammation of the tissues that cover the

devastating effects.

Bacterial meningitis is most commonly contracted through exposure to Streptococcus pneumonia, Neisseria meningitidis, and until recently, Haemophilus influenzae b (Hib). (The Center for Disease Control (CDC) reports that due to routine immunizations in small children, infection caused by Hib has been significantly reduced.)

brain and spinal cord. However, the latter

form is far more severe and can have

The disease, although not nearly as contagious as the flu or a cold, is spread in similar ways. Coughing, sneezing, kissing, or even sharing a drink with someone who is infected with meningicoccal meningitis can transfer its bacteria. College students are particularly at risk because they encounter these contagion on a frequent basis in crowded dorms. In addition, college lifestyles that include excessive drinking,

smoking, exposure to second-hand smoke, and inadequate sleep weaken a student's immune system, making him/her at even greater risk.

College students are more likely to contract meningitis.

In addition to being spread like the flu, bacterial meningitis has several similar symptoms. Students who contract the disease may see several warning signs including high fever, headache, and most importantly stiff neck.

"Students may have flu-like symptoms, but the key factor in our diagnosis is the presence of a stiff neck, so much so that the student can not touch his chin to his chest and also complains of a very heavy head," Fiore said. She added that although not all flu-like symptoms are evidence of exposure to meningitis, students should pay careful attention to their bodies and should not ignore the major symptoms listed above. "Meningitis is a rapid progressing disease, it is important to get treatment before bacteria have a chance to multiply," she said. Treatment usually consists of antibiotic therapy, and the CDC reports that appropriate antibiotic treatment can reduce the risk of dying from bacterial meningitis by 15 percent. However, if the disease is not treated immediately it can lead to severe organ failure, deafness, and even amputation (due to a lack of blood flow to the limbs caused bacterial toxins).

SBU student Harlisha Kalmanson has heard of the severity of the disease. "All' college students should be aware of it. We all live in dorms here, it's definitely a safety issue," she said. However, it is an issue that can be prevented. According to the CDC, there are vaccines against Hib, some strains of Neisseria meningitidis, and many types of

Streptococcus pnemoniae. Some of these vaccines are routinely recommended to international travelers, and Dr. Snyderman reported that these vaccines are also given to military recruits, who have similar living conditions to college students. And although contraction of bacterial meningitis is rare, Kalmanson also said that, "If you get the shot, at least you're protected." Kalmanson is planning to get a vaccination shot.

The more common, and also less severe form of meningitis can be caused by different viruses. Viral meningitis is rarely life threatening. However, according to the Meningitis Foundation of America (MFA), the illness can severely weaken a person for approximately seven through 10 days, and although recovery is usually complete, headaches, tiredness, and depression may linger. Viral meningitis can be spread through coughing or sneezing, or through poor hygiene and has similar symptoms to bacterial meningitis, including stiff neck.

The CDC reports that no specific treatment exists for viral meningitis, but doctors recommend bed rest, and plenty of fluids. And if a student suspects that he/she has meningitis in either of its forms, the MFA cautions that he/she should inform medical professionals immediately.

Meningitis is a rare, but in its most serious form, bacterial meningitis, it can be fatal. There are ways to prevent infection, some as simple as getting a good night's sleep, and vaccinations will be available at SBU's Student Health Center within the week. Leslie Ryan, an SBU sophomore, said, "I'm probably not going to change the way I live my life because of meningitis, but I think it's important to know the facts."

For those students interested in more facts about meningitis in both its forms, information is located on the following websites:

http://www.abcnews.go.com/sections/living/ DailyNews/meningitis990917.html

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbbd/diseaseinfo/ meningitis g.htm

http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/virlmen.htm http://www.musa.org/whatis.htm

Pamphlets are also available in the Student Health Center.

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Butts Named SUNY-Old Westbury President

One of New York City's most recognizable advocates for minorities has been put in charge of a Long Island campus of the State University of New York.

The Rev. Calvin Butts III was confirmed Wednesday by SUNY trustees as the new president of SUNY's Old Westbury campus in Nassau County.

Butts is best known as pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem and, until a reconciliation of sorts with New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani in April, as a frequent critic of the policies of the mayor's administration toward minorities.

Butts' candidacy for president of the 3,200-student SUNY campus was championed by Thomas Egan, the SUNY trustees chairman, and other top administrators. Egan said Wednesday that Butts will bring a "new spirit of dedication and optimism" to Old Westbury.

For his part, Butts, who attended the trustees' meeting last week in Albany, said he intended to make Old Westbury a "gem" in the SUNY crown.

"I ask for the prayers of all those who are concerned with the education of the people of New York," he said.

Butts, 49, will make \$130,000 a year in his new post. He took over at Old Westbury effective last Wednesday. He succeeds L. Eudora Pettigrew, who retired as Old Westbury's president in 1998. W. Hubert Keen, an administrator in the City College of New York system, had been running Old Westbury on an interim basis while officials looked for a new president.

While Butts has been an adjunct professor at the CCNY and at Fordham University, his enlistment as a college administrator represents something of a career change. In addition to heading the influential, 4,000-member Abyssinian Baptist Church, Butts has become more and more active in development initiatives

involving businesses, housing and community and cultural centers in Harlem.

Butts has also widely been considered a possible

NATIONAL COLLEGE NEWS

COMPILED BY PETER GRATTON

political candidate in New York City. Earlier this year, in fact, he had said he might be interested in running for mayor in 2001 or for Congress next year.

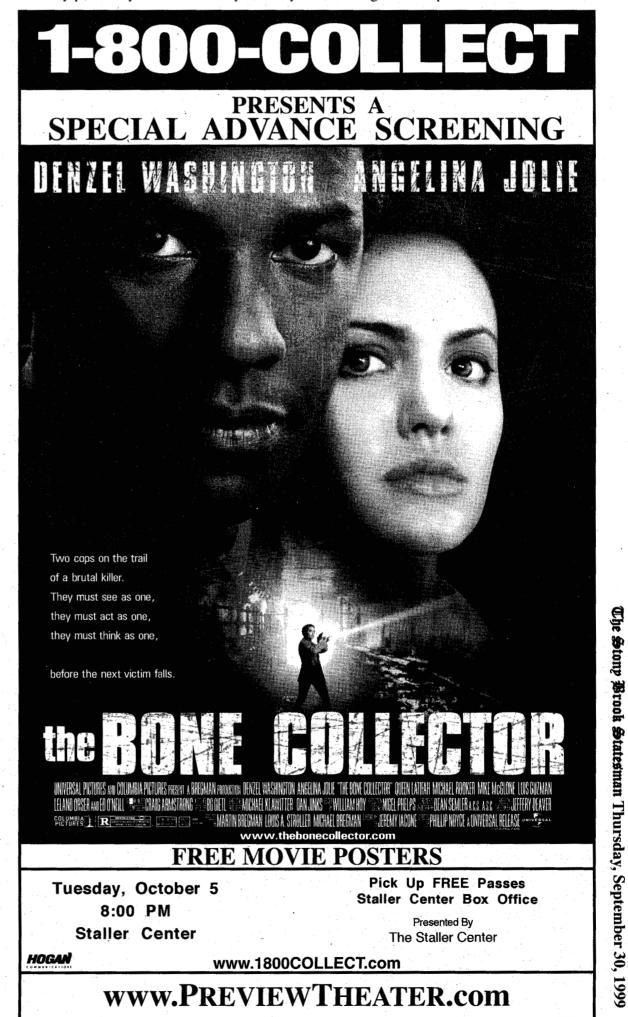
But Butts told The New York Times that getting the Old Westbury presidency "would obviously take me out of the running for anything."

Butts surprised some black leaders in New York City last year by endorsing Republican George Pataki, whose appointees control the SUNY Board of Trustees, for a second term as governor. At the time, Butts explained that Pataki's administration had been good for economic development in Harlem.

He also faced criticism in April for publicly embracing Giuliani during a prayer service in the wake of the Amadou Diallo shooting. Diallo, an African immigrant, was slain by undercover New York City police officers in the Bronx.

At Old Westbury, Butts faces a challenge of reviving a campus that has been seen as being underfunded by the SUNY system and failing to attract top students.





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Editorials represent the majority opinion of the Editorial board and are written by one of its members.

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Editorials

The Paper Caper

You don't need to tell us twice that we are a great newspaper. When we come out every Monday and Thursday, we know that practically each and every one of you clamor to the nearest distribution site to open the Statesman and read the expertly written news stories, the entertaining features articles and the hysterical editorials. Some of you undoubtedly like us so much that you take multiple copies of the issue so you can pin your favorite articles to the wall or even to send out to your family and friends to say, "Look how utterly fantastic my school newspaper is!"

We appreciate your enthusiasm and are well-aware that it is your very support that contributes greatly dwindling Statesman piles across campus, but we couldn't help but get a little suspicious about two weeks ago when every single one of the distribution sites across campus were completely stark

naked and Statesman-less. As it with the latter explanation. turns out, our friends down the hall at the Stony Brook Press were suffering the same devastating loss. Incidentally, that means a significant portion of campus was robbed of the opportunity of finding out how a girl can have the orgasm of her life in the Press' "Jack and Hil" column, Aren't you dying to know what that was all about? Too bad the issues are all gone. But just where have all the papers gone?

None of us down here are criminal justice majors and no one from the University Police writes for us but it didn't take any tough detective work to notice that the unusual paper disappearance conspicuously coincided with Homecoming.

What does that mean? Well, either our papers were all legitimately taken by the throngs of people that came out for Homecoming or, more likely, they were recklessly stolen, only to become the integral part of the paper-maché paste that made up Homecoming floats. We're going have our title!

Please be aware that a report was filed with University Police and you can be sure that next year, all armed and badged eyes will be glued to every issue of Statesman. and not because they might be on the cover.

So if you're thinking about repeating this year's performance, think again. Besides robbing us of our commodity (yes, they are worth money), the stealing riffraff of this campus robbed everybody of the useful and pertinent information those vanished copies of the Statesman and Press contained.

Equally important to your campus paper producers is the lack of gratitude you thieves have shown. What did we win?

If it wasn't for us, you people would have been parading in plain old cars, not floats. You're nothing without us! So while we are rather annoyed at the complete disregard for the service we are supposed to be providing to this campus, we are willing to overlook it with a little revote. Hey judges, the float winners

Commentary:

You've Got Inaccessible Mail!

By Kat Fulgieri Statesman Editor

Being as the semester is in full swing, one would think that all those irritating "just got back" problems would have been resolved by now but alas, no.

One problem that has been plaguing students since day one is ethernet access. Students who live in renovated buildings pay an extra one hundred dollars to cover renovation costs that are supposed to include an ethernet connection.

Well, I paid my one hundred dollars (which may seem a pittance to the administration, but is actually an annoying financial problem to me) and I am not getting my money's worth. What a shock, from a school that offers such proverbial bang for your buck.

For some reason, none of the computers in my suite would connect to anything on the first day of school. Repeated calls to network support yielded nothing until two weeks later, when I spent two hours on the phone with the head of the network. He told me to call him back the next day, but I woke up, and miraculously, my

computer was working. A week later, it was down again. I placed two frustrated calls to network support (as did my suitemates) and a technician came by in the late afternoon, copied down the number of the ethernet hub, and then left. The network was accessible again, for two out of the three rooms in my suite.

Imagine my hair-pulling, cursing, screaming tantrum when I turned my computer on a day later with the intent of starting a research project only to find that it wasn't working again. I made another call to client support. They ignored it. I called again, and someone called me back to get my room number. I got a call at six o'clock from the head of the network, who told me he was fixing something outside the building. I went to my seven o'clock class, and came back at eight to find the network guy fussing with my suitemate's computer. Magically, it connected, so he went to work on mine. It also connected. The network guy left.

Three hours later, our computers stopped connecting to the internet. Shock of shocks. I have yet to call again, because it really seems like an exercise in futility. I'm not sure if the fleeting joy I get from checking my email is worth the extra dismay when the computer fails to work again.

Yes, there are SINC sites all over campus, but I did not spend thousands of dollars on a computer with massive amounts of memory and capability just to do word processing and play solitaire. Though both of those applications are useful, my computer is not really being used for its main purpose, which is internet research, emails to my professors, and most importantly, mp3s and instant messaging.

I realize the network has been having problems, but schools all over the United States have similar networks set up, and they appear stable enough. Chalking this up to another one of those "Stony Brook problems" is the probable outcome, but that doesn't make it fair.

Correction

In the September 27, 1999 issue of the Statesman, an article titled "Catch the Wave" listed Elizabeth Kelley and Yackov Shamash as members of the Homecoming Committee.

They are in fact not members of the Homecoming Committee, but of the Year of Community Committee.

Residents Petition for More Access

By Jennifer Kester Statesman Editor

When sophomore Randi Ehrlich had to walk all the way around her building in the pouring rain to get to her room in Toscanini College in Tabler Quad, she snapped.

Ehrlich was angry because instead of going through the door closest to the parking lot and her room, she was forced to use the main door on the other side of the building. The door facing the parking lot does not have a keypad and is not accessible to the residents.

"It's really annoying to have to go around, it's a safety issue," she said.

She said that Toscanini residents are forced to walk along alcoves to get to the main door, which she pointed out was dangerous at night and if one is walking alone. "You never know when someone is in the alcoves," she said, "It's scary."

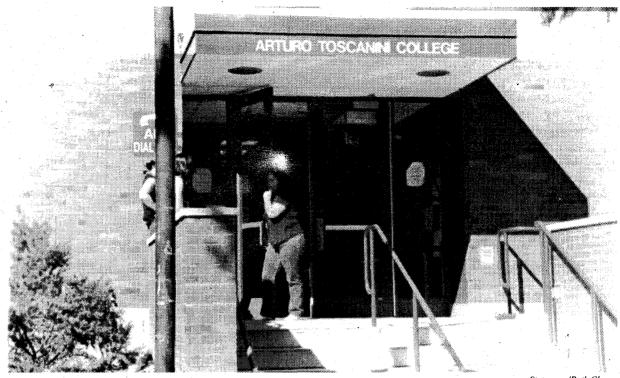
To fix the situation, Ehrlich got over 100 of the residents to sign a petition to try to get a keypad on the

Ehrlich then wrote a letter to Tabler Quad Director Chris Taylor, explaining the situation. Taylor said that he will take the letter to a committee that deals with facility issues next week.

"I've gotten complaints off and on," about the door, he said.

Taylor said that although there are no guarantees, it is possible that another keypad can be installed and other options like creating a path to another door are available.

However, Taylor stressed that the issue at hand was



Residents of Toscanini College find having to go through the main door to be an inconvenience.

convenience versus safety. He also said that allowing residents access to a third door in Toscanini would create a safety concern. "That is what we have to look at," he said.

But Ehrlich contended that residents will just prop the doors open if nothing is done. She said that last semester the door was constantly left open.

"When residents go to their cars, rather than walk to the front of the building, they prop the doors open and anyone could get in" Taylor said. "Propping doors is a problem all over campus," he said.

Taylor also noted that because of the bureaucratic process, it may be some time before Toscanini residents see any results.

In the meantime, Ehrlich is keeping busy. Her efforts were recognized by some residents who nominated her to serve on the CrimeStoppers Board at Stony Brook so she could handle similar problems.

Raising Funds at Stony Brook

By Julie Mingione

There is an organization on campus that has been relatively unknown to most students for some time. University Advancement Donations, located in room 018 of Harriman Hall, has been raising funds for the University since 1992. University Advancement Donations is a small group of administration and students, working to raise money for Stony Brook.

The program is run by Ted Klubinski, a 1973 graduate of Stony Brook. Klubinski has been running the fundraising project since 1997, and since his start the organization has seen a steady increase in donated funds. The fundraising is known as unrestrictive, and the employed students call Stony Brook alumnus, faculty, staff, and parents of current and previously enrolled students. The parents of students are divided into two categories, the donors and the non-donors. The donors are those who have given before, and will most likely contribute again. The non-donors are those who have not yet given money, and the fund raisers will pursue them wholeheartedly.

Tracy Hatter is the groups assistant director, and she oversees much of what goes on in the office. Hatter and Klubinski recruit students, about 30 per semester, who are interested in raising funds. In addition to the 30 recruited students, there are two student supervisors currently working for the organization. Vanessa Joseph and Josephine Oduro began as phone operators, and were recently promoted. Employees are paid \$6.25 an hour, and are required to work three shifts

a week. Each shift is three and a half hours in duration, and the project is underway Monday through Thursday 5:45-9:15, and Sunday from 1:45 to 9:15. Students are offered bonuses and incentives for their work. Says Hatter, "All an interested student needs to do is come down and apply, and we'll be happy to interview."

The money raised by the organization is used strictly for the University. It provides various scholarships and acquisitions for the library, and serves faculty needs as well as those of the Career Placement Center.

Students who are first time fund raisers are not pressured to meet any goals in the beginning. After they gain experience operating the automated telephone system, they are given personal goals to meet. But each day there is an overall goal to be met, the amount usually a little bit more than the previous evenings intake. The average goal for an evening is about \$3000.

What has truly helped the fundraising project pick up momentum has been the introduction of the automated telephone system. Says Hatter, "The automation has truly made it happen. Our operation is much quicker and more effective now." Says Klubinski, "The phone program is really important. I want to turn this into an elite group." The overall objective of the project is to reach the half million dollar mark within 2 years. When asked if he thought this was a realistic goal, Klubinski replied, "Definitely. I have confidence in our team."

Campus Voices

Studies have shown that college students are at a greater risk for Meningitis. After knowing that, what are your feelings/ concerns, if any?



"Can you tell'me what Meningitis is?"



"Y'know, just to play it safe. To be incredibly honest, I don't even know what meningitis is."



"Education's the best way at going about this."



"Meningitis is fatal right? That's not good..."

The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, September 30, 1999

Booksigning Tea Party

By Ann X.L. Zhu Statesman Staff

In honor of Adrienne Munich's book, "Queen Victoria's Secret," a book signing disguised as a Victorian-style tea party was held at Wallace's bookstore in the basement of the library yesterday.

Wallace's set up the signing to hark back to the Victorian era with displays put up to show the many different styles of clothing people wore during the period. The food that was served also highlighted the kind typical of Victorian times such as cucumber sandwiches, scones, and of course tea, which was served by a student dressed in a Victorian inspired costume.

Munich, who was dressed in a long plain black dress to replicate the "Queen's" style, has always had an interest in England's Queen Victoria.

The interest was inspired by her grandmother, who used to tell her fairy tales that occurred during Queen Victoria's

reign. She also cited influence from her past professors who encouraged her interest in the Queen to eventually study and write books about the monarch.

In the course of writing the book, Munich expressed how, despite her many years of studying Queen Victoria, she still found more profound information that continued to amaze her.

Munich learned that the Queen presented herself not as a ruler, but as the mother of an empire.

"It is incomprehensible to have a woman ruler but to have a woman as sort of a mother figure who genuinely cared about ordinary people is what Queen Victoria was really like," Munich said.

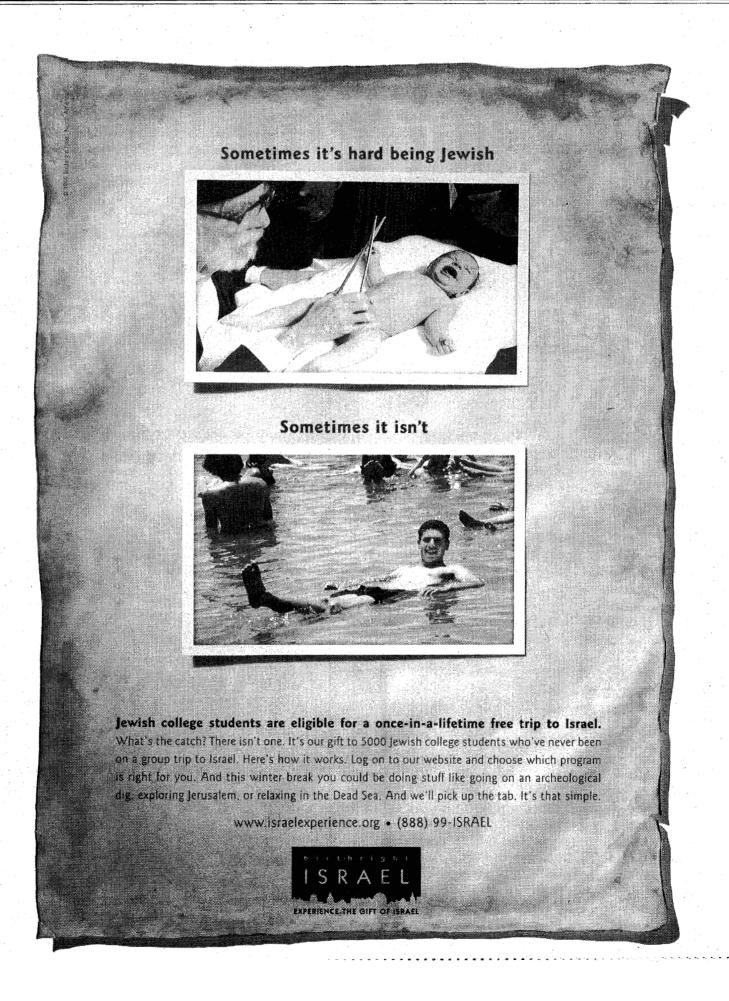
The plain style of the Queen's dress, her refusal to wear fancy jewelry, and her acceptance of being close to people was what Munich used to illustrate how the Queen was different.



Adrienne Munich at Wallace's

Munich has spread her findings to other forms as well. Through news radio in Australia, BBC radio in England, and lectures at universities all over the country, she has spread her knowledge of Queen Victoria.

Currently, Munich is teaching an English class at Stony Brook on fashion and culture but she is still planning on continuing her travels of the country.





Don't get lost in

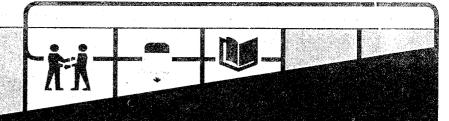
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JOB & INTERNSHIP FAIR

Wednesday, October 13, 1999, Sports Complex, 12 - 4pm

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Thursday, October 7, 1999, 1:30pm – 2:30pm Monday, October 11, 1999, 1:00pm – 2:00pm CALL AHEAD TO REGISTER

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Career Placement Center in the Melville Library
at the end of the zebra path.
Or call us at 632-6812.



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Melville Library, Room W-0550, Ground Floor
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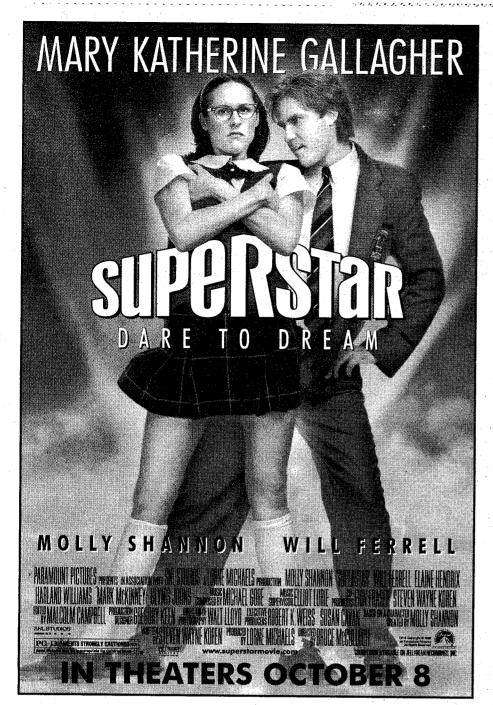
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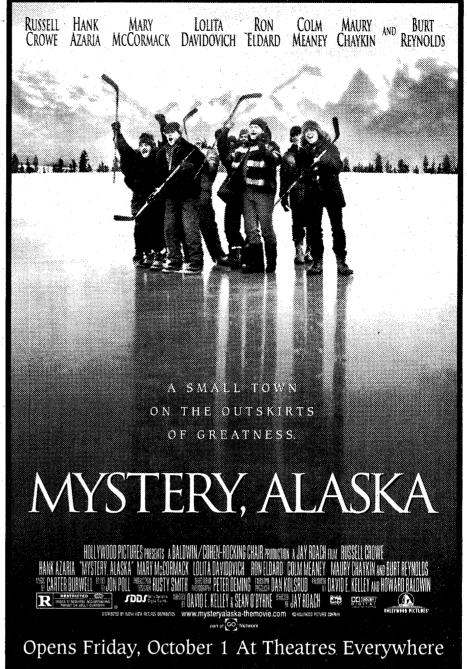
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Off to a Good Start

Women's Crosscountry Team **Begins Div** I Season

By CHRIS DAVIS Statesman Contributo

· The leaves are turning colors on the trees and the weather is getting cool, marking that time of year again: crosscountry season. In the past Stony Brook hasn't had much luck with their women's cross-country teams, only experiencing a few scattered successes. But this year, that is far from the case.

During this first year of Division I competition the women's team, led by



Jenny Payne



The women's cross country team taking a normal jog.

Courtesy of Jim Meegan

Coach Jim Meegan, has won their last two races and they look stronger than ever.

"The move to Division I is very exiting," said cross-country runner Jenny Payne, "I think the team will get stronger and faster as the competition becomes more challenging in DI."

Certainly the competition didn't phase her as she won the overall race against Rider and Iona, leading the women to a big victory two weeks ago. This past week on their home course she finished half a second behind Laura Cottrell, another of the Seawolves' speedy women. Cottrell and Payne finished third and fourth overall, leading the assault against St. Johns, Hofstra, CW Post, Hartford, Adelphi, Suffolk Community College, Farmingdale and St. Joseph's.

However in cross-country you need five runners to score points and not far behind are Isa Merritt and Jackie "Ace"

Berman giving the Seawolves a monstrous top four.

At the home meet last weekend Berman finished 9th followed closely by Merritt, 11th overall. The race was then between Stony Brook and St. John's, who Brook's monstrous four. This is where it comes down to the fifth girl.

On this day the fifth girl would be Magdalene Vardaros, who finished 16th in the overall standings. She was followed closely by Jen Saliba (17th), Meagan Barone (19th) and Merideth Croke (22nd). Although this was enough to secure the win, a stronger fifth runner would be necessary for the bigger meets. "We have a strong top four," Coach Meegan said, "We need a crucial fifth girl to step up and emerge as we get into championships."

Stony Brook still has a few weeks before any more major competition.

The team will visit Lehigh, Pennsylvania on October 9 to go up

against such powerhouses as Michigan, Michigan State, Army and Villanova. On the 15th it's back to Van Cortland Park for the IC4A championships, then only the CTC championships at Garrett Mt. New Jersey will stand between-them and had only two runners in to battle Stony . the NCAA district, then national championships.

> Perhaps the national championships are a high goal for this year, but with only one senior on the team the future looks bright for the Seawolves, and team members are optimistic.

"I see a much better, bigger team," said Merritt about the future of the team. Runner Meagan "The Rock" Barone agreed. "I think we'll become a powerhouse in the near future."

"Hopefully we'll get as much recognition as sports like football and basketball," said Payne.

Men's Soccer			
Townson		2	-3
Stony Brook	0	0	-0