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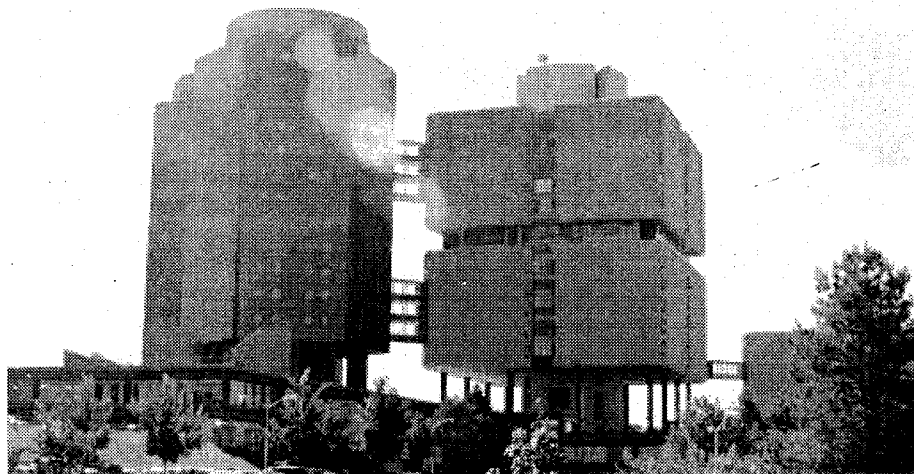
## SBU Hospital Receives Acclaim

By SOFIA KHAN  
Statesman Contributor

New York Magazine's 2003 list of "The Best Doctors in New York" included seventeen physicians from Stony Brook University. They were selected from more than 50,000 practicing physicians in the New York metropolitan area.

The physicians from Stony Brook were part of a group of 1,300 chosen from the five boroughs, Westchester, northern New Jersey, Fairfield County and Long Island.

The physicians included Carole Agin (Pain Management); Thomas Biancaniello, who is the Medical Director of the hospital (Pediatric Cardiology); Eva Chalas (Gynecologic Oncology); Richard Clark (Dermatology); Patricia K. Coyle (Neurology); Raymond Dattwyler (Allergy and Immunology); Deborah Davenport (Obstetrics and Gynecology); Magdalen Hull (Reproductive Endocrinology); Arthur Klein (Infectious Disease); Margaret Parker (Pediatrics); Robert Parker, (Pediatric Hematology-Oncology); Lesley Rechter (Family Practice); Michael Richheimer (Allergy and Immunology); John Ricotta



Courtesy of www.google.com

Stony Brook's hospital had 17 doctors chosen in New York Magazine's best doctors list.

(Vascular Surgery-General); Patrick Sibony (Ophthalmology); Deborah Weisbrot (Child and Adolescent Psychiatry); and Thomas Wilson (Pediatric Endocrinology).

"We greatly appreciate the recognition that our physicians have received, and it is well-deserved," said Bruce Schroffel, the Director and CEO of Stony Brook University Hospital. "Our patients have been aware for a long time of the outstanding care we provide in a variety of areas, such as cancer, heart, and neonatal. As the only

university-based hospital on Long Island, we have access to cutting edge research and innovative techniques developed in the university's Health Science Center that help us play a leadership role in healthcare."

Stony Brook University Hospital houses the only Pediatric Multiple Sclerosis Center in the nation, in addition to having the only federally-funded Maternal and Pediatric HIV/AIDS Center in the region. Stony

*Continued on Page 2*

## Breakthrough Breast Cancer Study

By MANSOOR KHAN  
Statesman Editor

In the most comprehensive study of its kind, researchers at Stony Brook University report no indication that electromagnetic fields increase the risk of breast cancer.

"Our study found no scientific evidence linking residential EMF to breast cancer in Long Island women," said M. Cristina Leske, MD, MPH, Distinguished Professor of Preventive Medicine at Stony Brook University's School of Medicine.

Dr. Leske, the Principal Investigator of the project, recently announced this finding at a press conference held at Stony Brook University's Health Sciences Center. The results will be published in the July 1 issue of the American Journal of Epidemiology. The \$2.5 million, six-year study, "EMF and Breast Cancer on Long Island Study," was funded by the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

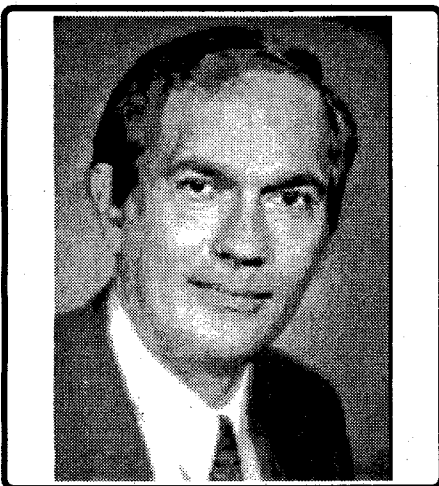
Leske said the investigation is the first breast cancer study in the eastern United States that measured power-frequency EMF in the homes.

"Its overall design and methods met rigorous standards for research, and participation in the study was high. We used the best available methods to measure EMF and assessed exposure in multiple ways. Further, we conducted extensive analyses to address potential confounding factors," she said.

Breast cancer is the most frequently-occurring cancer in women

*Continued on Page 2*

## BNL Physicist Receives Award



Courtesy of www.bnl.gov

Robert Bari received the American Nuclear Society's "Tommy" Thompson Award.

By MANSOOR KHAN  
Statesman Editor

Robert A. Bari, a senior physicist at the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory, was recently awarded the 2003 American Nuclear Society "Tommy" Thompson Award.

The award is sponsored by the Nuclear Installation Safety Division of ANS. It was established in 1980 in memory of Theos J. Thompson, a pioneer who defined world reactor safety. The award credits Bari "for his outstanding contributions to the field of nuclear installation safety and his outstanding wisdom and direction to key elements of the world of nuclear safety activities."

Bari, who earned an A.B. in physics in 1965 from Rutgers University and a Ph.D. from Brandeis University in 1970, has worked on projects and issues regarding nuclear safety and nonproliferation technologies, nuclear waste management, development of advanced nuclear reactors, and other related technologies. Bari has been involved in the design and safety assessments of complex, high-technology facilities since he joined the applied programs at BNL in 1974.

"For almost 30 years I have been part of the Brookhaven team that develops methods and performs probabilistic risk assessments for a wide range of nuclear technologies," Bari said. "I am proud to be part of the world-wide collaboration that established, implemented, and maintains nuclear reactor safety, and I am appreciative to Brookhaven for their continued support of such programs."

During the 1980s, at the request of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Bari created and managed a team of experts in the area of probabilistic risk assessment. The team expanded PRA methodologies, catering to areas of importance regarding safety of nuclear power plants.

In addition to his work for the NRC, Bari led a four-laboratory effort

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## Top SBU Doctors Picked

*Continued from Page 1*

Brook is also known for its renowned Long Island Cancer Center and a nationally distinguished Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

The Hospital's strong presence on Long Island is also seen through its leading Heart Center, which performs the only open heart surgeries in the county, the only Level 1 Trauma Center in Suffolk and the only kidney Transplantation Center on Long Island.

The selection process for the "Best Doctors" is a joint venture by the magazine and Castle Connolly Medical, a research and publishing company. The decision is based on

questionnaires sent to 16,000 top physicians in the New York area.

Castle Connolly's physician staff also conducted telephone interviews with hospital personnel, which included leading specialists and chiefs of services. The requirements for the list included education, training, residency, clinical skills, board certification, hospital appointment, fellowships, professional reputation, interpersonal skills, medical school faculty appointment and experience.

"That's really impressive that 17 doctors were picked," said junior Josephine Martinez, a biochemistry major. "I didn't realize that Stony Brook's hospital was that well known."

## New Cancer Study Denounces EMF Risks

*Continued from Page 1*

and the second leading cause of cancer deaths. According to estimates of the New York State Department of Health and the American Cancer Society, 2,252 Long Island women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, and 211,300 women nationwide will develop the disease.

There is much uncertainty about

have valuable information that leads us to conclude that we can now focus on other possible risk factors," Dr. Leske said. "Our team is most grateful for the support of the Long Island women, who made our study possible."

The study was based on a comprehensive protocol that included interviews in participants' homes as well as measurements of

"The results were reassuring in that residential levels of EMF...were not related to breast cancer"

*Dr. M. Cristina Leske, MD, MPH*

breast cancer's causes and patterns of occurrence, especially on Long Island, where concern has been expressed over higher rates than national averages.

"The results are reassuring in that residential levels of EMF, such as from electrical wiring in or around the home, were not related to breast cancer. Given these results, we now

magnetic fields at preselected locations in the homes. The participants included 1,161 women who had lived in their Long Island homes for at least 15 years.

"It's really an important study," said Stony Brook junior Peter Sunwoo. "There are a lot of things that can cause cancer, and it is important to know what can't, so that we can feel safer."

## Nuclear Scientist Receives ANS Award

*Continued from Page 1*

in a year-long evaluation of the impact of fuel enrichment on the performance of the Advanced Neutron Source.

His current research centers on energy resources, national security, and reliability of the national electrical grid.

Bari has served as chair of the former Department of Advanced Technology and as the Interim Associate Laboratory Director for Energy, Environment and National Security at Brookhaven. He is a fellow of the ANS, has served on its board of directors and is a past chair of the ANS planning committee.

Bari now chairs all the risk

standards development activities sponsored by the ANS. He has served as president of the International Association for Probabilistic Safety Assessment and Management and was also a member of the board of directors for the Long Island Museum of Science and Technology and the Long Island Forum for Technology. Bari has lectured internationally on risk assessment and nuclear safety, and authored over 100 papers and key reports in these areas.

"I am not surprised that Bari received the award," said senior Prakash Saleem, a physics major at Stony Brook University. "He is extremely accomplished and has done a lot for the field of nuclear safety."

# Students Charged With Setting Fatal Fire

By JEFFREY R. YOUNG  
Chronicle of Higher Education

Two students were arrested this month and charged with starting a dormitory fire at Seton Hall University in 2000 that killed three students and injured 53 others. Another Seton Hall student was charged with hindering the investigation.

After a three-year investigation, an Essex County, N.J., grand jury charged Joseph T. Lepore, now a student at the University of Delaware, and Sean Ryan, a senior at Seton Hall, with arson, felony murder, manslaughter, and other crimes in connection with the dormitory fire, which broke out on Jan. 19, 2000. The two students are accused of draping poster paper from a bulletin board over a couch in a lounge and purposely setting it ablaze.

Lawyers for Lepore and Ryan denied the charges. Ryan's lawyer, Michael Bubb, said his client "has denied the allegations in the beginning

and he continues to deny them."

Lepore and Ryan were each held in jail with \$2-million bail, but both men have since posted the bail and were released pending trial.

Comments by Lepore about the fire appeared in several media outlets immediately after the incident. The Jan. 20 issue of *The Record*, a daily paper in Bergen County, N.J., quoted Lepore as saying, "At first I thought it was a false alarm, that somebody did something stupid."

The third accused student, Santino Cataldo, a senior at Seton Hall, was charged with witness tampering, giving false statements to police officers and otherwise obstructing the investigation.

The grand jury also indicted three of Joseph T. Lepore's family members: his father, Joseph E. Lepore; his mother, Maria Lepore; and his sister, Lauren Lepore — on various charges of hindering the investigation and tampering with witnesses.

Soon after learning of the indictments, Seton Hall officials suspended Ryan and Cataldo. The university's president, Msgr. Robert Sheeran, said in a written statement that "while we are saddened by the news that this wrenching tragedy may not have been accidental, we can pray that today's announcement is a step toward healing for all."

Members of the grand jury also asserted that the dormitory furniture was partly to blame for the intensity of the fire, even though they noted that the furniture met all safety guidelines. The grand jury strongly recommended that New Jersey adopt standards for furniture "that will save lives by reducing the threat of deadly fires." Since the fire, Seton Hall has voluntarily adopted the standards that the grand jury recommends, says Susan Diamond, assistant vice president for public relations and marketing at the university.

"It is our inescapable conclusion that

the flammability of the couches in the lounge was a major contributing factor to the deaths of the three young men, as well as to the injuries sustained by others," the grand jury stated.

The fatal fire has already brought attention to the issue of fire safety on campuses. Some officials say it led Seton Hall and other colleges to install more sprinklers in dormitories, and it prompted legislative proposals in some states to make sprinklers mandatory in dormitory rooms — although some of those proposals stalled once the memory of the Seton Hall fire had faded.

"When you have a really tragic situation such as what happened at Seton Hall, it raises the consciousness of everyone," says Gary J. Schwarzmuller, executive director of the Association of College and University Housing Officers-International. "It gave impetus to efforts that had been under way for a long time."

## AmeriCorps Cuts Back on Volunteer Programs

By MARC NEWMAN  
Statesman Editor

Each year, more than 40,000 people join AmeriCorps. These volunteers tutor children, build new homes for the disadvantaged and help families traumatized by domestic violence. AmeriCorps is well known for its many successful domestic programs, but around New York City, Nassau and Suffolk County, some 933 AmeriCorps jobs are in jeopardy, and a large number of benefactors of the AmeriCorps program will no longer receive assistance from the group by Oct. 1.

The parent agency for AmeriCorps, the Corporation for National and Community Service, reveals that competitive grant awards may include only one New York State program, and funds available to the state to finance additional programs could be slashed to just one million dollars for the entire state. Previously, AmeriCorps was afforded 51 million dollars in funding.

At least one New York politician opposes the cuts to AmeriCorps.

"When you're talking about cutting AmeriCorps you're not talking about eliminating government waste or programs that target a small segment of the population,"

Senator Charles Schumer of New York said. "AmeriCorps delivers youth services, medical services, environmental programs, you name it. If these cuts go through, it would be a terrible setback for all of New York."

AmeriCorps estimates that 550,000 residents in New York State would be affected by an estimated 85% cut in overall funding. YMCA of Greater New York, the Fund for the City of New York, Harlem Children's Zone, Pace University, the Grand Street Settlement and the After-School Corporation are among the community groups that work with AmeriCorps to help all these people living in New York State.

A bipartisan group of 25 of Senators, including Schumer, wrote to President Bush in response to a White House push to heavily slash the AmeriCorps budget: "We should support, not oppose, efforts to encourage more Americans to enter public service. We should do everything in our power to reward the American men and women who have chosen to serve the country and their communities in the hope of meeting the nation's critical education, safety, health, and homeland security needs."

AmeriCorps national program money was reduced in the Fiscal Year 2003



Courtesy of www.google.com

**Because of lack of funding, AmeriCorps must drop thousands of volunteers.**

appropriations, but some of the difference was put into the National Service Trust. Before this year's program grants are awarded, Congress and the White House have to decide how much money needs to be in the Trust per member slot.

Ultimately, Congress and the White House will determine the number of members that can be enrolled in AmeriCorps. Regardless of the decision, there will not be sufficient funds to hire as many members as previous years and a much lower number of programs will be funded.

Schumer urged the White House to ensure that more money is placed in the National Service Trust.

"It's a fact of life that there's a limited amount of money and some programs aren't going to get the funds they require. But this is a program that everyone agrees is needed," Schumer said. "The President made national service a centerpiece of his State of the Union address and AmeriCorps is one of the world's greatest service programs. If we allow these cuts to go through, that's thousands of kids without tutors, thousands of seniors without health care, and New York will be worse off because of it."

About 400,000 people living in poverty currently receive food and clothing through the program and 40,000 families receive counseling. In addition, 23,000 seniors currently receive access to health care facilities and 20,000 young peoples receive conflict resolution training.

Schumer said that the coalition between community groups and AmeriCorps that helps assist all these people may be put in great jeopardy by huge impending cuts.

For more information on AmeriCorps visit [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org)

## Colleges and High Schools Treat 'Senioritis'

By ERIC HOOVER  
Chronicle of Higher Education

If preparing for college is a marathon, a fat envelope marks the finish line in the minds of many high-school seniors. When the acceptance letter arrives, the pulse stops racing, breathing eases, and perhaps the brain slows down, too.

"It's human nature," says Annie Floyd, who graduated from high school this month. After receiving an early acceptance in December from Randolph-Macon College, Floyd says she felt less motivated to study. Her grades dipped slightly in the spring. Classes were a drag.

"Senioritis" has long vexed high-

school teachers. Now the tendency of students to ease up on their studies is of growing concern to some college admissions deans as well. They insist that students who coast through their last year of high school are more likely to struggle academically as freshmen.

In an effort to keep students intellectually stimulated until graduation, more high schools are redesigning their curriculums to give seniors opportunities for internships or individual projects. At the same time, many colleges are taking a closer look at the students they have admitted, checking to ensure that successful applicants maintain their grades

and sending what are called "scolding letters" to those who don't.

"Usually, there's a reasonable explanation, and when there is not, we rescind admissions, which is the most unpleasant thing that any admissions director could have to do," said Audrey Y. Smith, director of admissions at Smith College.

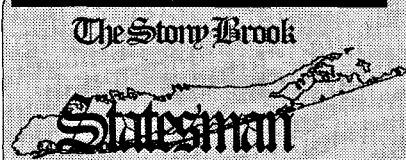
As long as there are widespread symptoms of senioritis, it is likely that high schools will continue to seek new and different treatments. Some educators speculate that the search will lead to an increase in independent programs that cater to seniors looking for a challenge.

Bill Mayher, a former high-school

history teacher, college counselor and author of *The College Admissions Mystique*, said the "psychodynamics" of finishing high school are complicated.

"In the senior year, there's a funny oscillation," he said. "Kids act badly so that they can bear to leave, and they say, 'I can't wait to get out of this dump.' They break up with their old friends. This is followed almost seamlessly by a wave of sentimentality and deep nostalgia for the school and their friends."

"If senioritis were only a matter of waning motivation, you could beat the kids with a grade book. But it's deeper than that," he said.



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## Letters to the Editor

### Court Rules on Affirmative Action

Dear Editor:

Monday's Supreme Court pro-affirmative-action decision represents one of the lowest points in American judicial history. Although the Court's rulings were somewhat convoluted—basically they said race can be used, but not too flagrantly—the bottom line is that they affirmed the legitimacy of making race a factor in admission to public universities and by implication to other institutions. This decision represents an enormous betrayal of America's founding principles. We are a nation founded on the concept of individualism, the doctrine that each person is a sovereign entity, an end in himself, possessing the same rights as every other citizen.

The affirmative action ruling undermines the

principle of individualism. It asserts that people have special rights because they are members of a racial minority, thus elevating primitive tribalism over individualism. The claim that racial "diversity" is a proper goal of an institution is wrong. The principle should be that the most qualified individuals—without regard to race, ethnicity or any other non-essential characteristic—are selected, whether the institution involved is in the field of education, business or the military. Selecting for diversity means endorsing racism—an ugly doctrine no matter what its purpose. Racism in any form should be abhorred by every American.

Sincerely,  
Edwin A. Locke

### Should the US Choose Sides?

Dear Editor:

In response to the letter to the Statesman 'Bush Must Choose Sides,' readers must be reminded that the President is elected to act in the US' national interest and to do so requires a balanced approach toward the conflict in the Middle East.

The recent killing of 16 Israeli citizens on a Jerusalem bus that the writer spoke of continues a vicious cycle of violence started long before most of us were born; it is not a time to choose Israelis over Palestinians. If we place greater attention or value upon the life or death of one race over another, then we are only legitimizing Israel's illegal occupation over the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This is the root of the problem in the region; the occupation sharply curtails America's ability to foster cordial relations with its allies in the Middle East, whose authoritarian regimes, ironically, prevent democratically elected fundamentalist governments from taking root and continuing the Intifadeh against Israel. This argument does not suggest that the US should be more sympathetic to Palestinians, either. Rather, it underscores the fact that both sides must be held accountable for their actions.

The writer assumes a moral superiority of the Israeli government in making the case for President Bush to side with Israel unconditionally. The

implication here is to create a one-sided picture by ignoring the crimes committed by that government and to de-legitimize the new Palestinian government taking shape. The Israeli government does not in fact represent a 'free country' that protects the individual rights of its citizens, since Arabs are barred from this full benefit. Apartheid is not a democratic principle. US pressure must be applied to both sides: American funding must be withheld from both the Israeli and Palestinian governments when either side fails to fulfill its commitment. This will curtail illegal settlement activity and Palestinian complicity in attacks against Israeli civilians.

Not since the presidency of Jimmy Carter has there been a genuinely impartial American administration willing to deal with this issue. That presidency has brought peace and security between Israel, Egypt and the United States for over 20 years, thanks in large part to the courage of Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, who saw the futility of the Israeli occupation. President Bush must not allow current Israeli pressure to interfere with the roadmap to peace or else the peace process will continue to fail, the Israeli occupation will sustain popular support for terrorist groups and US national security will remain vulnerable as a direct consequence.

Kevin Sorrentino

### Correction: Long Island Cancer Center

Dear Editor:

You should know that any mention of the Long Island Cancer Center must be one that reads "center" not "institute"

I saw your boxed item on federal funding on page 3 of the June 16 issue — noting the funding to the "Cancer Institute of Long Island"

The short end of this is that this — institute — was the old name. For a couple years now the umbrella organization is called the Long Island

Cancer Center (LICC). Yes, I do see this written here and there on campus publications, but it is wrong.

Take a look at our website at the place to [stonybrookhospital.com/licc](http://stonybrookhospital.com/licc)

This is even more important now to get correct because starting in 2004 there will be a building that will, literally, be an outpatient center.

Greg Filiano  
Long Island Cancer Center

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# Revisting Bakke, 25 Years Later

By SCOTT E. GRAVES  
Special to Statesman

The two affirmative action cases decided by the Supreme Court June 24<sup>th</sup> were expected to bring some certainty to an area of law that has been shadowed in uncertainty for 25 years. In *Gratz v Bollinger*, the Court struck down a point system used by the University of Michigan's undergraduate admissions program, while in *Grutter v Bollinger* the justices upheld Michigan's law school program, which allows race to be taken into consideration for admission in a less formulaic manner.

These cases take up where University of Regents of *California v Bakke* left off in 1978. In *Bakke*, the Court had struck down an affirmative action program at use in a medical school, but failed to deliver an opinion expressing how affirmative action can be implemented without violating the Equal Protection clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. By deciding two cases now, rejecting one system and accepting the other, the Court arguably provides more information about what can and cannot be done in this area.

Justice Powell in *Bakke* justified the use of race as a "plus" factor, but rejected rigid quotas like those used in the California program. Although Powell's opinion was not joined by any of the other justices, most observers have accepted it provisionally as the law of the case, without knowing whether a subsequent Court would follow it. Powell's opinion now seems to have received strong support, from both Chief Justice Rehnquist's majority opinion in *Gratz* and Justice O'Connor's in *Grutter*.

Both majority opinions rely on Powell's rejection of rigid quotas and preference for individualized consideration of applicants rather than mechanical evaluations. Taken together, the Court's decisions conclude that the law school's "holistic" evaluation method provides that consideration while the undergraduate point system does not.

However, the departures from Powell's opinion are equally important. Powell rejected various justifications for affirmative action

based on conditions external to the educational institution, like remedying past discrimination and improving service to minority communities, but concluded that promoting diversity within the student body improved the quality of higher education. Although O'Connor in *Grutter* also relies on the educational benefits of diversity, she echoes a friend-of-the-court brief filed by a group of former military leaders maintaining that diversity in leadership is essential to the legitimacy of many institutions. Justice Thomas, dissenting in *Grutter*, rejected affirmative action as unconstitutional race discrimination regardless of its intention, but also suggested that it has the opposite effect, stigmatizing minority achievements as illegitimately awarded. The arguments are as much about policy outcomes as they are about principle.

The implications of these two decisions remain to be seen. By rejecting the point allocation system as insufficiently individualized, while supporting a far more ambiguous "plus-factor" consideration by the law school, the Court may have crafted a principle that will make the use of affirmative action impractical in large institutions like Michigan's undergraduate program. Alternatively, it will make programs that must evaluate thousands of applicants per year less forthcoming about their mechanistic formulas. One could argue that the 25 years since *Bakke* have allowed the principles of Powell's opinion to take hold in law and culture and the Court declined to depart conspicuously from them. However, O'Connor writes for the Court that in 25 years, she expects that racial preferences should no longer be necessary to achieve diversity. We must now wait to see if the next 25 years will see that statement take hold.

*Professor Graves teaches courses on Civil Liberties and Constitutional Law in Stony Brook University's Department of Political Science. As an expert on the Supreme Court, he was kind enough to provide his understanding of the situation and his interpretation of the decisions.*

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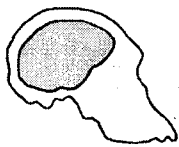
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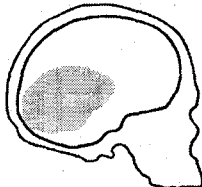
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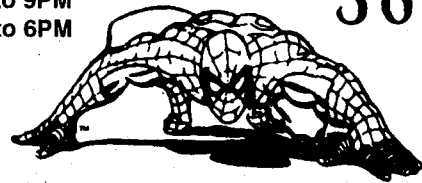
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# Finding Nemo Swims with the Big Fish

MANSOOR KHAN  
Statesman Editor

From toys, to bugs to monsters, Pixar has put out one quality movie after another. *Finding Nemo* is no exception, as the creators of *Toy Story* explore the underwater world, telling a heartwarming tale about a father and son... well, a clownfish and its offspring.

The computer animators behind *Finding Nemo* really did an amazing job, bringing the ocean to life in a way no other movie has done. The colors are vibrant, the characters are lively and the motions are crisp, clean and smooth. Every fish in the sea moves gracefully, their fins beating to the motion of the ocean. The numerous underwater settings and characters would be dazzlingly entertaining with *no plot* at all, but Pixar has combined computer technology and humane sincerity (with huge doses of successful good humor) to create a staggeringly satisfying movie.

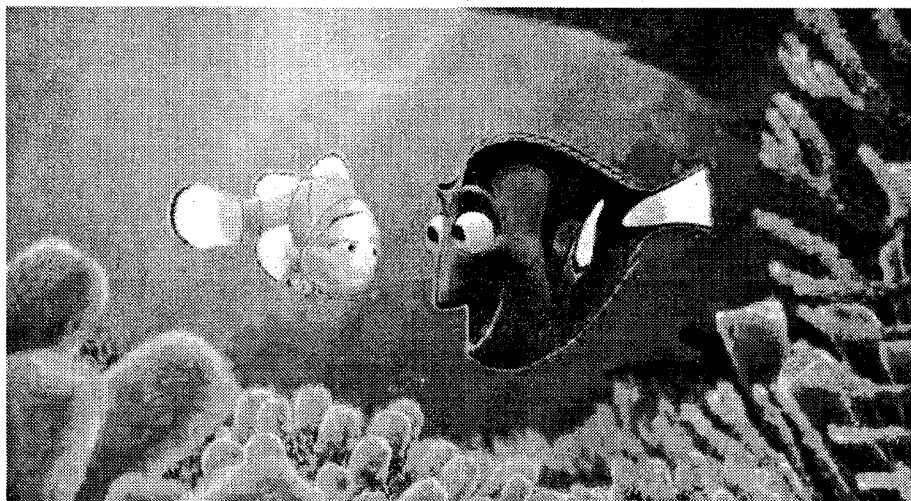
The story takes place off the Great Barrier Reef, near Sydney, where orange-and-white striped clown fish parents have just moved into their new anemone home with their 400 little eggs. All of a sudden, the mother and 399 of the children are eaten by a

barracuda, leaving Marlin (voiced by Albert Brooks) and his son Nemo (voiced by Alexander Gould) to fend for themselves.

Marlin is a clown fish who's not funny (he tells really lame jokes), and he's overly protective of Nemo. In a moment of angry defiance, little Nemo gets captured by a dentist/diver who takes him home and plops him into his office aquarium. That sets the father, Marlin, off on an exciting, but dangerous adventure to retrieve his lost son.

As he searches for his son, Marlin becomes a legend in the ocean, teaming up with Dory (hilariously voiced by Ellen Degeneres), a blue tang fish, and battles sharks, jellyfish and rides the underwater currents with a cool-dude sea turtle named Crush (voiced by Andrew Stanton). Via the chatter of a visiting pelican, word of Marlin's adventures reach Nemo, who's being held in the dentist's aquarium until he can be handed over to the dentist's Jason-esque niece, who shook another fish to death. Upon hearing about his brave father, Nemo finds hope and new respect for his daddy.

An interesting note about *Finding Nemo* is the role played by



Courtesy of www.google.com

Marlin the clownfish discourses with his partner in crime, Dory the Blue Tang, about Nemo.

handicapped characters. Marlin is emotionally handicapped, suffocating and overprotective of his son. Nemo has one small fin, and he is unable to swim normally. Dora has short-term memory loss, a la *Memento*. There is even a gang of sharks starting a twelve-step program to eliminate their addiction to eating fish. I don't think there has ever been such a socially conscious children's movie as this one.

Aside from their disabilities, the characters in *Finding Nemo* are astoundingly portrayed. With little outlet for body movement, most of

their personality must come from their voices, and Pixar does an amazing job bringing the characters to life. Their vivid emotions and sincere humanity (ironic, isn't it?) make the audience authentically care.

Nemo is a great family film. There are a lot of lessons to be learned, and the little fish do a lot of growing up along the course of the movie. Kids will love the slapstick humor and adults will love the subtle, mature nuances. All in all, *Finding Nemo* is probably one of the best films of 2003.

I give it 5 out of 5 stars.

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# Features

## UGA and New Apartments Change Name

By JEFFREY JAVIDFAR  
Statesman Editor

Although the bad weather that characterized the month of June slowed down its construction, one major change has begun to redefine the landscape of the apartments located behind Kelly and Roosevelt Quads. No longer simply known as UGA and the "new graduate apartments behind UGA that won't be ready for a while," the collective apartments are now being called the "West Apartments".

Head of Campus Residences, Assistant Vice President Dallas Bauman, Ph.D., said the change was decided upon so that students would consider the buildings as one entity and not UGA and the new apartments. He wanted students to select their living space based on the type of accommodations and lifestyle they preferred and not simply where graduates and undergraduates traditionally had lived.

The four buildings under construction will contain a total of 678 beds with each apartment offering six singles, two bathrooms, a large kitchen, and a dining and living area. The new apartments, which were designed by Urban Architects, Ltd, will also

contain laundry facilities on each floor.

Currently, the \$39.5 million project, which is being funded by 30-year bonds sold by the New York State Dormitory Authority, is in its first phase of construction. The land on the construction sight has been cleared and Delta Contractors has been hired to build the footings and foundation.

Although Bauman is hopeful that two of the buildings will be ready in time for the Fall 2004 semester, with the remaining two opening in the spring of 2005, the project has already encountered several roadblocks.

The rainy weather in June slowed down the construction of the first phase and a general contractor that will manage the entire project has yet to be selected. Bauman said that the bids were due in July, but it was clear that he is more than eager to have the major construction underway.

Once fully completed, the eight buildings will contain over 1200 beds and come equipped with a fitness center, a commons area, office space and a residential computing center.

The West Apartments will be open to upperclassmen and graduates. A choice of single or double rooms will be available in six person units.



Statesman/Mansoor Khan

**Apartments housing 678 residents are scheduled to open during the 2004-2005 school year.**

Because Stony Brook received money from a wealthy donor, the Schomburg Apartments will not change their name, but they will be managed as part of the quad or complex referred to as the West Apartments. Previously UGA, Schomburg and Chapin, which is located across from the University Hospital, were all managed out of the Chapin offices. But from now on the east and west parts of campus will be completely separate entities.

The construction of the new apartments was spurred on by the growing demand for on-campus housing. Bauman said he doesn't see the demand diminishing, but that there were too many factors to make predictions.

"I don't think anybody is in any position to predict," he said. "But we don't hope there is a drop in demand because we are taking on a significant amount of debt over the next 30 years."

## SBU's Honors College Grows in Stature and Recognition

By JEFFREY JAVIDFAR  
Statesman Editor

National ratings show that Long Island has the highest concentration of the best public high schools in the nation. So it is understandable why it's important for those running Stony Brook's Honors College to be well received by the local community when they seek to recruit high achieving students from SBU's own backyard.

Over the past 13 years of the Honors College's existence, it has slowly made a concerted effort to improve its reputation. Making a name for itself not only at SBU, but also among its peers in higher education allows the Honors College to compete for the best high school graduates.

Not less than four years ago many of Long Island's top graduates considered Stony Brook, even it's Honors College, as a *safety school* in case they didn't get into their top choice. Though it still may not be a student's number one choice, for those that live in Nassau and Suffolk Counties the university is becoming a viable second choice.

"I don't think that we need to act as a safety school," said Laurie Fiegel, the College's administrative director. "There

should be no stigma that I'm coming to Stony Brook."

For their part, those in charge of the Honors College feel that there is a lot to offer incoming students, especially when one considers that the \$14,000 price tag to live on campus is still less than half of what it would cost to attend a private university.

"My belief is that Stony Brook [University] as a whole, and the Honors College in particular, delivers the most bang for the buck," said Chair of the Honors College Richard Gerrig, Ph.D. "People waste a long of money sending students to second rate private institutions when they could send [their child] to a first rate public school."

What perhaps makes it an even better deal is that those who are part of the Honors College receive substantial scholarship support and for a select few their four-year stay is free. On top of that, Honors College students take 19 credits worth of small, specialized classes together along with a yearlong independent research project in place of the Diversified Education Curriculum. Among other things, they also receive priority registration and personalized academic counseling.

But to have access to these privileges students must be very high achieving at the high school level. The Honors College's published minimums are a 93 un-weighted grade point average and a combined score of 1250 on the SAT. Although a random sampling of the College's students shows that the actual numbers are a bit higher.

Citing several different reasons, both Gerrig and Fiegel insisted that the college's admissions committee does not base its admittance solely on the numbers. All applicants have to submit at least one essay, and special talents, experiences and leadership skills that could be of benefit to the entire class are also considered.

"We're looking for students that are generally strong across the board," said Gerrig. "We're looking for students that are sincere... It turns out that diversity comes in because you get people that are genuine."

Each year, the Honors College admits roughly 20 percent of its applicants, Fiegel said. That translates to anywhere between 200-300 "high achieving and promising" students. By the time September rolls around, a class of 60 students broken down into three sections of 20 emerges from the 1,500 or so

students that originally applied.

Although there is an optional space for race on the application, Fiegel said that very few applicants elect to fill it out and that no overt attempt is made to admit applicants based on race or gender. In spite of that the classes tend to have an equal ratio of men to women and are comprised of students with very different backgrounds. The myriad of high schoolers from the Island and the greater tri-state area offer what Gerrig calls a "diversity of interests."

At the end of the day, many of the College's students admit that they came to SBU only because of the Honors College, and leave very pleased with their Honors College experience.

Fiegel points to the College's placement numbers as a measure of the program's success. Of the approximately 400 alumni that have graduated from the College, 95 percent of them end up going to professional or graduate schools. Gerrig believes that the College's unique approach factors into this success.

"Our mission isn't just the educational aspect," he said. "It's the social, too. We try to get [our students] to grow as a community."