the stony brook
Statesman

VOLUME XLVII, NUMBER 48 MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2004 PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

Tabler Arts Center Opens to Rave Reviews

By Michael Nevradakis
Statesman Editor

After having been abandoned for over two decades, the old Tabler Café came back to life on the evening of Thursday, April 15th, for the grand opening of the new Center for Arts, Culture and Humanities. This was one of the headline events for the University's media month, which spans the entire month of April.

The new facility, which will be the centerpiece of the fledgling Undergraduate College for Arts, Culture and Humanities, will feature a cafeteria, a performance hall, and a number of different rooms that will be stocked with state-of-the-art equipment for use by students of the undergraduate college and the student body at large. These amenities will include a performing arts space and digital media, broadcasting, music and art-making facilities.

At the opening ceremony, students and faculty had the opportunity to tour the building, indulge with snacks and refreshments, and mingle with fellow students. University President Shirley Strum Kenny, Provost Robert McGrath and Assistant Director for Campus Residences Dallas Bauman spoke to the audience, which filled the center's large performance room. Following their speeches, those in attendance were treated to a dance show.

Statesman/James Gaston

The Tabler Arts Center opening took place last Thursday to an audience full of Stony Brook

Despite Thursday's grand opening celebration, work still remains to complete the facility, which is scheduled to open this summer, in time for the official debut of the Undergraduate College of Arts, Culture and Humanities. The center will complement the Living Learning Center for Media Arts, which moved from James College in H-Quad to Douglass College in Tabler Quad at the beginning of the academic year.

Earth Day: A Day of Festivity at Stony Brook

By Mansoor Khan
Sttatesman Editor

With an array of festive events, lectures and shows, Stony Brook will be celebrating Earth Day this Thursday, April 22nd, as part of "Earthstock," "National Take Our Children to Work Day," and the School of Thought Union Walkway groundbreaking.

The day-long "Earthstock" celebration will feature a lecture by world-renowned paleontologist and conservationist Richard Leakey, Ph.D., a visiting professor at Stony Brook. Dr. Leakey's lecture, entitled "Global Climate Change: Is it a Conversation Crisis?" will take place at 3:00 p.m. In addition, Grammy award-winning saxophonist Paul Winter will perform at noon. All "Earthstock" events will take place at the Charles B. Wang Center and are free to the campus community and the general public.

At 5:00 p.m., students, staff and faculty will have a chance to witness the unveiling of plans for the Student

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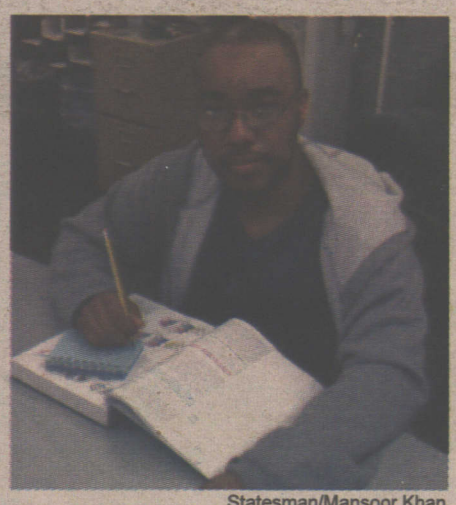
Transfer Students at SBU: An Uphill Battle?



Statesman/Mansoor Khan

Above: Junior Paul Akins, a transfer student from Kingsborough Community College.

By Maria Brock
Statesman Contributor

The transfer student is a fixture on most college campuses. Stony Brook University is no exception. But despite resentment and accusations of transfer students being dissatisfied with their overall experience at Stony Brook, the university offers them a number of services.

The transfer office, consisting of an associate dean, two advisors and a secretary, maintains extensive resources, high accessibility, and a staff that is available for assistance. Yet students continue to voice complaints and place blame, said Arlene Feldman, associate dean of the university's transfer office. "Some of the frustrations that they blame on us are really misplaced blame," Feldman said. Feldman usually finds that the least frustrated students are often the ones who take initiative and have direction and focus.

The university holds semiannual orientations geared specifically toward transfer students. All transfer orientation leaders are trained by the transfer office's associate dean. The orientation office and the transfer office work together, providing completed preliminary transfer credit worksheets entitled "Unofficial Transfer Evaluation for General Education Requirements" along with several handouts. Staff is present to answer any questions.

"The process is pretty easy, I think," said transfer advisor Tracy Iorio.

However, first-year transfer student Lauren Nilsen disagrees. "The orientations provided me with no help at all," said Nilsen.

According to Iorio, the process can be difficult for a student who does not take the initiative to investigate university policy. "A lot of times they don't do enough research," Iorio explained, "I had a woman who thought we had a design major."

The transfer office focuses mainly on the Diversified Education Curriculum (D.E.C.) and graduation requirements. Students seeking information about transfer credits for their major are directed to the head of that department.

Some transfer students have had to push back their expected graduation date to accommodate a miscalculation of transfer credits. "I could have graduated a semester early if they had accepted all of my political science credits," Nilsen said, "instead, I'm stuck here until next December, which I'm less than pleased about."

"Unless you plan really well, that's a possibility," Feldman replied.

The Stony Brook transfer guide provides course equivalencies for both Nassau and Suffolk Community Colleges as well as for SUNY Farmingdale. The majority of Stony Brook transfer students come from these three schools, according to statistics from the transfer office. The office also provides course equivalency packets for most SUNY and CUNY schools.

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New Distinguished Profs

By Elaine Shiang
Statesman Staff

On March 18, 2004, four Stony Brook faculty members were given the esteemed rank of Distinguished Professor, the highest award offered by the university. Edward S. Casey, from the Department of Philosophy, John G. Fleagle from the Department of Anatomical Sciences, Richard Howard, also from the Department of Philosophy, and Mark Schneider from the Department of Political Science were all named for their contributions to their academic area.

Edward Casey is one of the leading phenomenologists in the world, and one of the top six delving into the area of continental philosophy. John G. Fleagle, one of the most well-known primatologists and paleoprimatologists in the world, is known for his outstanding work in physical anthropology. Richard Howard is one of the most eminent political philosophers who has impacted political thought in the United States and abroad. Finally, Mark Schneider is a nationally famed specialist in political science, and one of the top five urbanists and scholars of public policy.

The State University of New York Board of Trustees named eight professors within the SUNY system for their prominent work in a designated field, whether through research, published literature, or artistic performance. Each was chosen for their unique achievements, and the quality of academic inspiration they brought not only to the institution and their students, but also to those in their respective fields.

"The achievements of SUNY Distinguished Professors serve as hallmarks of academic excellence, professionalism, and tireless dedication," said State University Provost Peter D. Salins. "These talented individuals serve as vital role models to the young faculty following in their footsteps and to the students they interact with on a daily basis. We are most fortunate to count today's appointees among this very important group."

Professors have the daunting task of not only presenting complex information in a simple manner, but also imbuing students with a sense of passion so that they might further venture out and discover knowledge in return. Each of the named Distinguished Professors accomplished feats within their own fields, were recognized by their peers, and also motivated students through their exemplary work.

Unite for Sight at SBU

By Natasha Kapoor
Statesman Contributor

On March 25, 2004, both sides of campus mutually teamed up to achieve a good cause. The students at Stony Brook University came together to prevent blindness nationally and internationally, by forming a campus chapter of Unite for Sight. The executive board consists of officers from the School of Medicine and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Unite for Sight was founded three years ago by sophomore Jennifer Staple at Yale University. While doing clinical research in ophthalmology, she discovered that most of the patients she was working with had problems that could have been prevented with further safety and health precautions. It was then and there that she founded Unite for Sight at Yale University. Three years later, Unite for Sight has more than 1,000 student volunteers working in over fifty chapters ranging from within big corporations to high schools.

Samuel Baharestani, vice president of chapter development and relations for the Stony Brook chapter, believes the campus chapter will be even more exceptional because the "med students could guide the clinical aspects of the group, while undergrads learned a lot about ophthalmology, health insurance, public health, and of course, medical school."

The SBU chapter plans to hold three to four vision screenings per month in soup kitchens, preschools and homeless shelters. An eyeglass drive on campus, as well as in stores and optometry clinics across Suffolk County, is currently being planned. The eyeglass drive is one of the key events planned by Unite for Sight. Continuing throughout the year, used eyeglasses are sent to third-world countries such as Ghana, Tanzania, and India. Unite for Sight has also established free clinics where patients can receive eye exams.

In this day and age, medicine attempts to prevent the disease, rather than treat it, and this is what Unite for Sight strives to do.

In this day and age, medicine attempts to prevent the disease, rather than treat it, and this is what Unite for Sight strives to do. But in order to make a significant difference in Suffolk County and surrounding areas, Unite for Sight needs members. The first event will take place on April 24, 2004.

The National Chapter of this organization will hold a conference where physicians concerned with public health will speak. All proceeds from the conference will go to promote eye care in Ghana. For more information, meeting times, or further questions go to www.uniteforsight.org or email nakapoor@ic.sunysb.edu.

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Annual *Catch Our Rising Stars* Art Exhibition: A Critique

By Harry Weil
Statesman Contributor

Stony Brook University is considered a school that focuses primarily on sciences and research with a limited number of venues open to the undergraduate student body with a focus on the arts. However the yearly show sponsored by URECA, *Catch Our Rising Stars*, displays a diverse array of visual art from 33 selected artists and is currently being held in the SAC art gallery. "The show encompasses a wonderful multitude of students creating very personal and intriguing pieces," said Toby Buonagurio, professor of art and coordinator of the exhibit.

Unfortunately the gallery is crammed with work because of the large number of artists. While the display for sculptural pieces in the center of the room is comfortably installed, the artworks that hang on the wall are packed closely together. Each faculty member of the department is allowed to choose and display two or three students' artwork, but the gallery itself is not large enough to accommodate a show of this proportion.

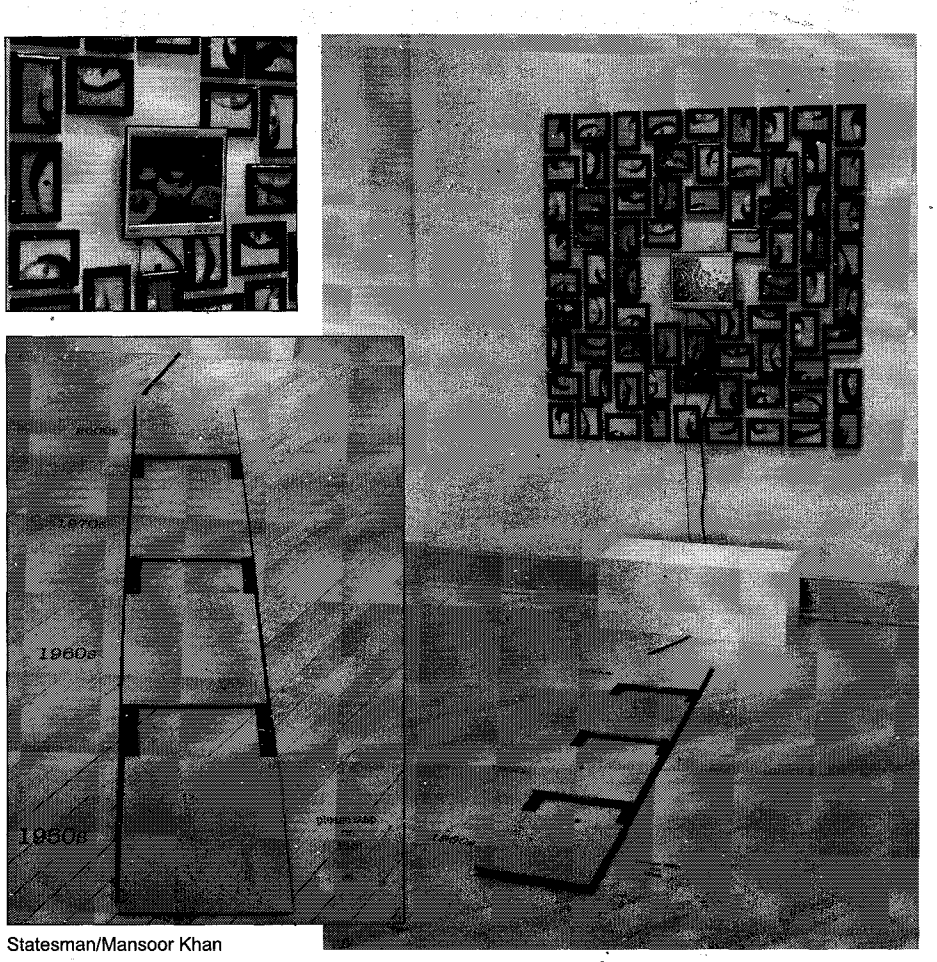
Many of the artists create personal works that assume a deeper conceptual framework. There is no compromise in the aesthetic output and several works truly capture the artist's mastery of the medium used. Megan Hoffmann's use of black and white photography exploits the image of the body that dramatizes a pose of a female figure. With one hand braced down on a surface, the figure appears to turn and almost lift herself out of the visual space. Extreme consideration was taken for composition and staging and, as Hoffman explains, her work brings about the many ideas of, "how life is relative to time and the actions of others."

Andréa Guiliano also uses a similar consideration of the human consciousness in a series of three prints. Using an overweight model, a concentration on line and texture of the body's surface she allows viewers to observe how the figure is placed in a discomforting environment, which allows them to be consumed for their physical attributes.

Many artists concentrated solely on the aesthetics of their artworks. Jacquelyn Lipp uses a heavy brushstroke and intense color palette, which emphasizes the qualities of her figures. Jennifer Grabowski, through ceramic sculpting, created a playful and whimsical piece entitled, *Uninvited Guests*. This sculpture of a wholesome picnic shows that it has been spoiled by an invasion of insects and creatures that parade atop and around the food. "I wanted to create a piece that was fun to both create and look at," said Grabowski, when considering her piece. Grabowski attempted "to give the viewer something to smile about and delight in."

Antebellum, by Leo Le, was the most striking piece in the entire show was. In a wonderful interactive installation, Le documents and probes ideas of globalization and violence in recent history. Viewers step on touch-sensitive pads labeled with different time periods in order to activate the series of images that are often gruesome and extremely violent. The participation affords the viewer a more striking and personal experience that is both evocative and compelling. Being one of the few works dealing with political issues, it was a breath of fresh air to see an artwork that was forcefully open with social and cultural commentary.

Catch Our Rising Stars is a truly wonderful compilation of artists and works. This show is just a small piece of the much larger collection of artwork created at Stony Brook. The encouragement of the arts through exhibits such as this one comes during a time in American social history when art is on the back burner in terms of financing. This exhibit is a model of how artists should be supported in their creativity and desire to work. The end product is not necessarily the sole qualification for success; rather it is in the experience of creating that we find art.



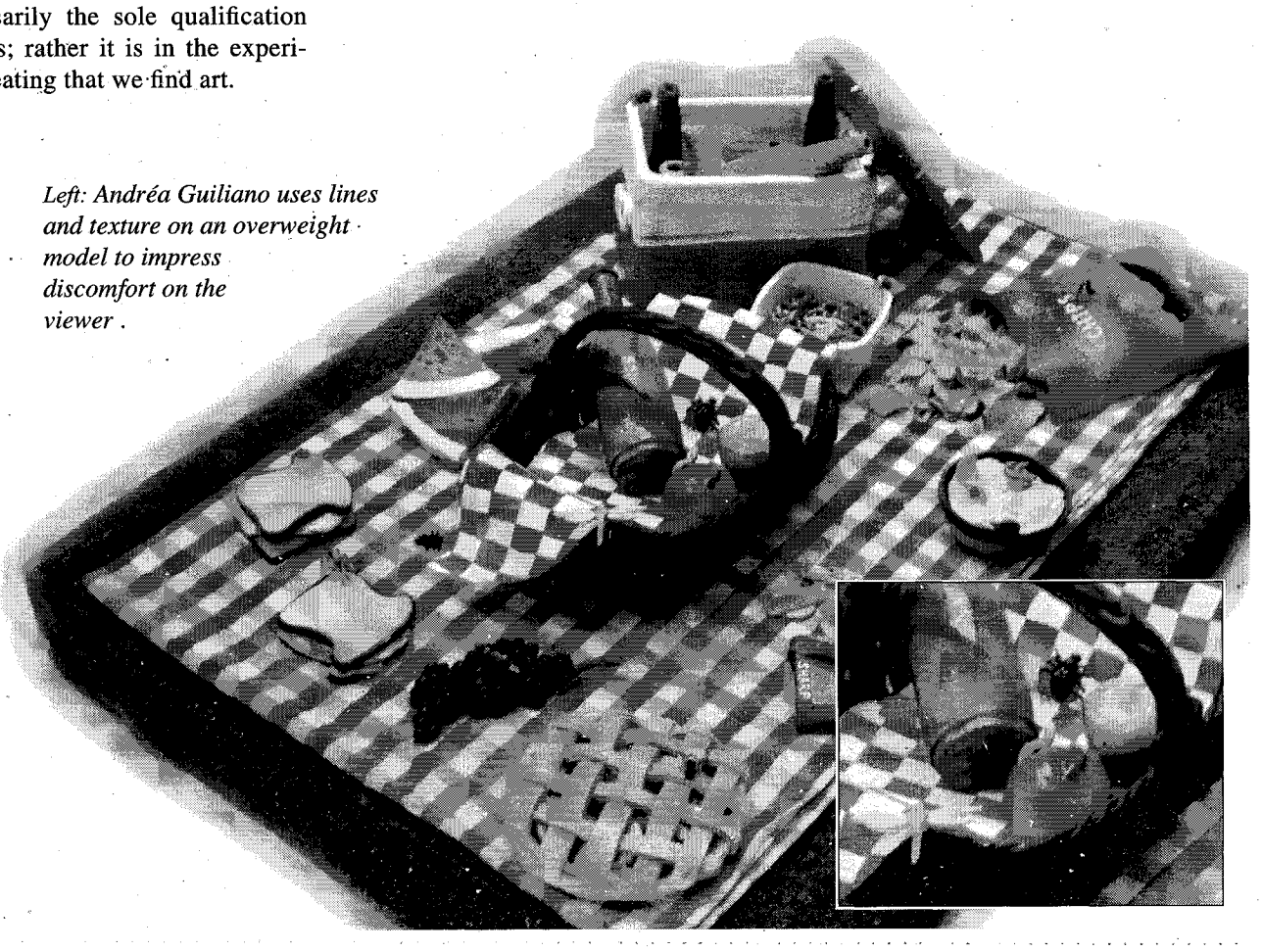
Statesman/Mansoor Khan

Above: Leo Le's Antebellum - *Viewer's step on touch-sensitive pads labeled with different time periods in order to activate the series of images that are often gruesome and extremely violent.*

Right: Megan Hoffman's photograph exploits the body in crisp black and white. With one hand braced on an unseen surface, the figure seems to lift herself out of the image.

Below: Jennifer Grabowski's Uninvited Guests. *If you look closely you can seen the insects parading over the feast.*

Left: Andréa Guiliano uses lines and texture on an overweight model to impress discomfort on the viewer .



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Tuesdays, 7-9pm
SAC Ballroom
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For more information about the Celebration, contact URECA (Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities) at 631.632.7114 or *www.stonybrook.edu/URECA/*

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*Student art exhibits on display, SAC Gallery, April 15-21. Opening: April 15, 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.
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CHOICE: The Struggle With Sexuality

By Jennifer Shoemaker
Statesman Editor

Question

The other day my friend hinted to me that he might have feelings for other guys. Although he has not pursued any partners, he seems to want to be involved with someone. I am concerned for him because he seems reluctant to admit that he may be gay. I think he is afraid, maybe of what his family might think, or what his friends may say about the issue. Regardless, he should be able to express his feelings openly. Why is it so hard for him?

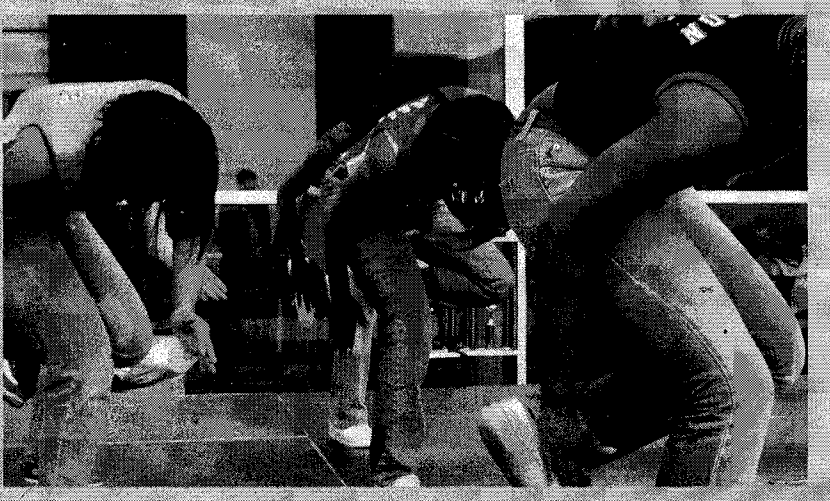
Answer

To start off, you are doing the right thing by being a supportive friend. Make sure he knows that you are supporting him one hundred percent, no matter what decisions he may decide to make. Coming out can be very tough to deal with in a society that often condemns homosexuality, whether it is because of religious reasons or traditional beliefs. There is a lot of stigma attached to homosexuality, especially when a young gay person feels he/she stands out from other people. Homosexuals can often be perceived as dissimilar from other people. Someone contemplating his/her sexuality may internalize negative messages about homosexuality and perceive their own feelings to be unacceptable by others or even to themselves. This can lead to depression and even suicide. In fact, young people that are gay, or that are questioning their sexuality, have higher rates of depression and suicide than the rest of the population. These high rates demonstrate the impact of prejudice by people in society towards those that are LBGT (lesbians, bisexuals, gays, and transgendered). These kinds of biases can even affect those in transitional stages of determining their own sexual orientations. Feelings of homosexuality are completely normal though. Now more and more people are being more open about their sexuality and homosexuality is no longer considered a psychological disorder in the DSM IV (diagnostic tool for mental disorders). With the new heightened debate over gay marriage, people may feel uneasy addressing the normalcy of diversity in sexuality. America is in a state of revolutionary changes where people can increasingly express their true identities. There is no reason that someone should have to compromise their identity for the beliefs of others. People should be able to freely express who they truly are. If you or your friend needs some help with this issue, there is a great set of staff on campus that can help deal with these issues. The University Counseling Center and Health Educators can help you and other students to feel good about yourselves. Their goal is to help students develop into people that can function well and succeed in reaching their life goals, including academic ones. Sexuality is only an issue in terms of how it affects your own feelings about yourself. It is important to be healthy and have a positive self-concept, regardless of your sexual orientation. Just know that guidance is available and that bad feelings *can* be dealt with. Contact the University Counseling Center at 632-6720 or the Student CHOICE/CHILL Center at 632-6689.

It is important to be healthy and have a positive self-concept, regardless of your sexual orientation.

Stony Brook Calendar of Events

THE FUN NEVER ENDS...



Monday, April 19th

4:30 p.m., Wang Lecture Hall 1
Growing Up Asian in the 21st century

Tuesday, April 20

7 p.m., Wang Center Theatre
Comedy Group: 18 Mighty Mountain Warriors

8 p.m., Staller Center Recital Hall
Catch Our Rising Stars: Student Musical Performances

Wednesday, April 21

10 a.m. - 3 p.m, SAC Ballooom A
Catch Our Rising Stars: A Celebration of Undergraduate Research and Creativity

4:30 p.m., Melville Library, Room E-4340 - *Lecture: "Plantations, Ghettos, Prisons: U.S. Racial Geographies"*

8 p.m., Staller Center Main Stage
University Wind Ensemble

Thursday, April 22

3 p.m., Wang Center Theatre
Provost's Lecture Series: "Global Climate Change: Is It A Conservation Crisis?"

9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Wang Center
Earthstock: Environmental Awareness Fair In Celebration of Earth Day

7 p.m., Wang Center Lecture Hall
Lecture: "Philosophy as a Sacred Traditon"

Friday , April 23

7 p.m., Wang Center Theatre
Chick Flick Fest: "Do Women Ever Stop Being Chicks?"

7 p.m., Staller Center Main Stage
Film: The Station Agent

9 p.m., Staller Center Main Stage
Film: The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King

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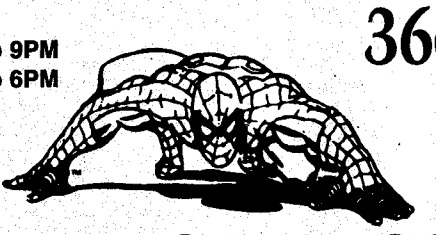

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Editorials represent the majority opinion of the Editorial board and are written by one of its members. The Stony Brook Statesman welcomes letters, opinions and information about events and issues on or around campus.

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Is the Student Activity Fee Unfair?

By Mansoor Khan
Statesman Editor

With the vote on the student activity fee coming up, I think it's time I shed a bit of light on the issue. I hear far too many individuals claim that the student activity fee is unfair, because they are paying $82.50 to join clubs that they aren't even a part of. As such, they resolutely intend to vote "voluntary" on the SAF, thereby making it an option for students to pay. Is this fair? If you join a lot of clubs, you should pay the SAF, and if you aren't in any clubs, then who cares? You shouldn't have to pay for that fee, right? There's a hell of a lot more to it than that.

I have ridden the Stony Brook buses three times in my three years at this University. I have stepped foot inside a SINC site maybe five times in three years. I have never once used the infirmary. I am a member of a gym off-campus, and I barely ever use the on-campus gyms. I am not an athlete at Stony Brook.

So why should I have to pay the $40.00 transportation fee? Why should I have to pay the $100.00 technology fee? What do I get out of paying the $95.00 infirmary fee? For God's sakes, why am I putting down $150.00 of my money for an athletic fee, when I don't use the SBU gyms or wellness center, and I'm not in the athletic program? Oh, and I don't even know what a college fee is, but I pay $12.50 per semester for it. Why do I have to pay that? It all seems unfair. All I really do on campus is join a bunch of clubs, so I am fine with paying for the SAF, but I don't really need any of the other things, so why must I pay for them?

Imagine the University putting all of these fees up for vote. Would the on-campus residents, who represent roughly half of the student body, pay for the transportation fee or the technology fee? After all, they live on campus, and may not utilize the buses as much as commuter students. If they want to use a computer, they can go to their own rooms, which is just a short walk away. If these fees were up for vote, we would very likely not have a bus system, and we would most certainly not have as many SINC sites.

Would anyone who is unconcerned about fitness, or is a member of a gym off-campus vote YES for the whopping $150.00 athletic fee? I could get two pairs of athletic shoes for that price; who needs an athletic fee? Once again, if this were the case, we would have no gyms on campus. What if we had no infirmary? Where would students go for health needs?

Would *anyone* vote YES to the college fee? We very well may have no college…or not. But regardless, I don't like the idea of paying $12.50 for something that I know absolutely nothing about.

It's pretty obvious where I am leading this article. Many of you may think that just because you're a commuter, you go home after classes, and the idea of joining a campus club has never even crossed your mind, it is unfair for you to have to pay for a SAF. In reality, think about what your life would be like if you had to *walk* from South P lot to class every morning without the buses. Think about how you would feel if you absolutely had to print out that five-page paper 15 minutes before class, and you had no SINC site to go to.

> There is almost no one who benefits from the transportation, infirmary, technology, athletic and student activity fees simultaneously, but almost everyone benefits significantly from at least one of them.

All of you buff-residents who strut like Arnold in your respective residential fitness centers, and all of you slim-waisted sorority girls who spend way too much time on the Wellness Center treadmills, what would you do? You'd put on a few pounds; that's what!

Think about it. There is almost no one who benefits from the transportation, infirmary, technology, athletic and student activity fees simultaneously, but almost everyone benefits significantly from at least one of them. I would gladly pay a $500 student activity fee, and not have to pay for all of these other things that I don't use. But that's because being a member of campus clubs is a significant part of my undergraduate experience.

How about you? What is it that you couldn't do without? Imagine losing that before you decide to vote NO when it comes time to vote whether or not the student activity fee should be mandatory. A significant number of people would lose the privilege and opportunity of joining clubs, but you would save 80 bucks. A good deal, right? Would you feel the same way if *you* were one of those people?

Vote YES for the Student Activity Fee

Let's be honest. If you vote NO, and make the student activity fee voluntary, who will actually pay for it? When there's an option for whether or not to pay money, a lot of people will decide to keep the cash, because they make a spur of the moment decision without thinking about the full consequences. What'll happen then? Our campus will be devoid of clubs, events and anything fun whatsoever. There'll be no Strawberry Festival, no H-Fest, no *Statesman*, no nothing! Think about that. You'll have to go to class, study, go to class, study, take a test...lather, rinse, repeat. College is about the experience, and by voting NO to the student activity fee, you are killing that experience. So vote YES, and keep the campus alive.

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3. Pick room
For detailed information about Room Selection, please visit
www.studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu
and click on the Room Selection banner.

The Professional Series: A Guide to Medical School Admissions

By Ahmed Belazi
Statesman Contributor

"Doctor, I have an earache."
2000 B.C. - "Here, eat this root."
1000 B.C. - "That root is heathen, say this prayer."
1850 A.D. - "That prayer is superstition, drink this potion."
1940 A.D. - "That potion is snake oil, swallow this pill."
1985 A.D. - "That pill is ineffective, take this antibiotic."
2000 A.D. - "That antibiotic is artificial. Here, eat this root!"

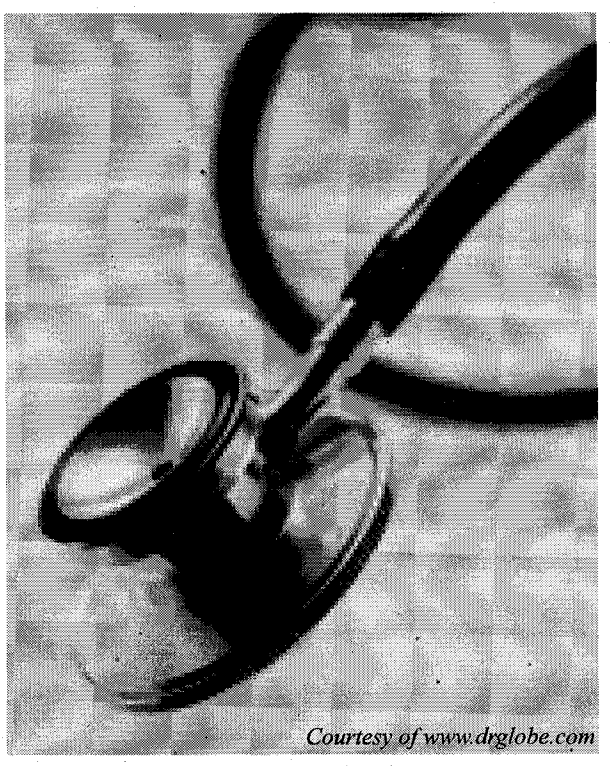
So you want to be a doctor. Well take heed in knowing that about 34,785 other people in America want the same thing, and that these 34,785 other people are vying for approximately 16,201 seats in medical school. This, in turn, leaves 18,585 rejected applicants. Are we stress-free yet? Well, don't take it too hard.

"It's really not that bad a time to be pre-med," said James Montren, pre-professional advisor for Stony Brook University.

Considering the statistics, it really isn't. Since 1996, there has been a 26 percent drop in applicants and a 2 percent rise in the number of seats available in medical school. But while your chances seem to have improved over the last eight years, like any other statistical inferences, these numbers are subject to causal uncertainty. In other words, "... it's like how the stock market fluctuates depending on who wins the super bowl," Montren said.

The size of New York's applicant pool is second only to California's. In 2003, we had 2,636 New York State resident applications, with 950 in-state and 414 out-of-state matriculations. That's an impressive 52 percent acceptance rate. Well, impressive of course, unless you're the one out every two people who won't get into med-school this year. Moreover, the slim 30 percent chance at an out-of-state acceptance can be problematic for those who intend to leave New York.

But with every pitfall, there's a silver lining; a ying to every yang if you will. In 2003, Stony Brook Medical School had a class consisting of 98 percent in-state residents while New York University Medical School, the most popular choice for New York State applicants (8,197), only had 35.4 percent in-state matriculates. Residents applying to state schools have a better chance in public universities, as these institutions receive extra funding for each in-state matriculate. This is where students need to be wise about the pros and cons of state and private school applications.


Courtesy of www.drglobe.com

Students have also expanded their scope of medical professions during recent years, marking a clear increase in the number of pre-med students applying to osteopathic schools. Currently there are about 20 osteopathic programs in the country. These tracks require students to invest a rigorous 200 extra hours of anatomy with a concentration in osteo-manipulative medicine.

Continued On Page 10

A THOUGHT FROM RABBI ADAM

B"H

To be a Rabbi:

In the Janowska concentration camp a call went out to evacuate the barracks, "Anyone remaining inside will be shot!" In a panic-stricken stampede, everyone ran in the direction of the big open field. In the middle were two huge pits. "Each of you dogs must jump over the pits and land on the other side. Those who miss will get ' 'ra-ta-ta-ta'." Imitating the sound of a machine gun, the voice trailed off followed by a wild laughter. It was clear that they would all end up in the pits. Standing at the edge of the pits were mere skeletons, feverish from disease and starvation. For the thousands of Jews in Janowska, this challenge was a matter of life and death, for the S.S. and the Ukrainian guards it was merely another devilish game. In Janowska that night stood Grand Rabbi Israel Spira, the Bluzhover Rebbe. Along side him was a non-religious agnostic freethinker from Poland.

"Rebbe, all our efforts to jump over the pit are in vain. Let's sit down and wait for the bullets." As they were walking towards the pits, the Rebbe encouraged the agnostic freethinker not to give up, and attempt the jump. The pits were rapidly filling up with bodies. Upon reaching the pit, the Rebbe closed his eyes and commanded in a powerful whisper, "We are jumping!"

When they opened their eyes, they found themselves standing on the other side of the pit. "Rebbe," exclaimed the freethinker, "we are here, we are alive! Indeed, there must be a G-d in Heaven. Tell me, Rebbe, how did you do it?" "Me? I was holding on to my ancestral merit. I was jumping in the merit of adhering to our holy Torah (Bible). But the question is: how did an agnostic freethinker like you manage to reach the other side of the pit?"

To which replied the freethinker, "Why, Rebbe, I was holding on to you." *Adapted from Hasidic Tales of the Holocaust.*

Rabbi Adam
Interfaith Center, Stony Brook
RabbiAdam@hotmail.com

Class of 2004 May Commencement

On May 21, 2004, Stony Brook University will celebrate its 44th Commencement Ceremony by conferring degrees on those who have completed degree requirements for December 2003, January 2004, May/June 2004, and July/August 2004. The main ceremony will begin at 11:00 a.m. in the Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium.

- **Doctoral Graduation and Hooding Ceremony** for all Ph.D., D.M.A., and D.A. degrees will be conferred on Thursday, May 20th at 2:00 p.m. in the Staller Center.
- **Baccalaureate Honors Convocation** recognizes candidates graduating with distinctions of cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude, and those elected to either Phi Beta Kappa or Tau Beta Pi honor societies. This convocation will take place on May 20th at 7:00 p.m. in the Staller Center.

A schedule of each department program is listed in the 2004 Commencement Planning Guide. If you did not receive one, contact Conferences and Special Events to request a Ceremony Attendance Form and information on obtaining tickets. (The Ceremony Attendance Form is also available online at *https://naples.cc.sunysb.edu/Pres/conforms.nsf/gradattend.*) This office is located in the Charles B. Wang Center, Suite 301, and the telephone number is 632-6320.

The Ceremony Attendance Form must be completed and returned by April 28, 2004, in order to obtain tickets.

Earth Day: A Day of Festivity

Continued From Page 1

Union Walkway reconstruction project, and will also get to see the actual initial groundbreaking. School of Thought President Michael Zannettis will be in attendance, along with University President Shirley Strum Kenny and John Belle, the architect who helped design the plans for the walkway. There will also be live entertainment.

Stony Brook University, with 14,000 employees, will offer a series of activities designed for children from ages 8-13 for the employees' children that come to campus with their parents. Stony Brook's celebration of "Take Our Children to Work Day" is among the largest on Long Island. Children participate in a variety of activities at the University, the Health Sciences Center, and Stony Brook University Hospital. Workshops and events include what goes on behind the scenes at the Staller Center, tours and fingerprinting at University Police headquarters, age-appropriate lessons on plant life, interactive presentations on research, and presentations on marine sciences. Children and their parents or guardians are invited to a free lunch in celebration of Earth Day and the day ends with an ice cream social.

Other "Earthstock" events include workshops on organic lawn care, environmental justice, and renewable energy. For the full schedule and more information, please visit: www.stonybrook.edu/earthstock.

Being a Transfer Student at SBU

Continued From Page 1

Although the resources and guides can be tedious and are often confusing, they do contain information on how a transfer student can properly apply and receive transfer credits. The resources sometimes demand careful reading and investigation on the part of the student, Iorio explained. "They're not using all the resources," she said. Iorio believes that the university's policy on transfer credits is relaxed. She points to the 36-credit minimum to be completed at Stony Brook in order to graduate. This minimum differs from other universities in that it is considerably lower, and the credits do not need to be the last credits completed before graduation. George Washington University, for example, requires 45 of the student's final 60 credits to be completed at the University. At Hofstra University, students must complete 24 to 33 credits in residence.

The campus curriculum committee reviews all proposals for change to university transfer policies. Anyone, including students, may put together a proposal and submit it.

The transfer process is manageable with help, and the transfer office encourages students to seek out and create a rapport with an advisor.

"I will treat every student who is across the desk from me as I would want someone to treat my own daughters," Feldman said.

"Stony Brook is not the complete do-it-yourself University that many students see it as," said Janelle Williams, a recent transfer student. "The transfer office may be small and somewhat hidden, and the only sign that exists is a small white door next to the back staircase in the Administration building, but the services are there, and so is the staff, willing to accept and research any and every question a student might have."

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1/2 Price Appetizers • Live Music 11pm

SUNDAY - Happy Hour Dinner Specials
All Sports Televised on Satellite

The Competitive Reality of Pre-Medicine Pursuits

Continued From Page 8

"If you want to be a physician...to practice medicine, to heal people...there are two ways to do it: as a M.D. or as a DO," Montrèn said. "To a substantial degree, the biggest and most conspicuous difference between the two is the two letters after your last name."

Additionally, you will also see students applying to medical schools abroad. The specialized programs offered by international schools often become a student's main impetus for applying out. For example, the Cambridge School of Medicine offers an educational program that caters to students who wish to practice medicine in developing countries.

Despite the myriad of options placed before pre-meds, gaining acceptance to a medical school can still be a difficult, competitive, and sometimes fruitless task. "I don't know what I would do with myself if I couldn't get into med-school," said William Fick, a Stony Brook pre-med student. "That's all I want right now. I couldn't bear the thought of not getting in. It scares the hell out of me."

Most pre-med undergraduates overlook, however, that the average age of first-year medical students is 25-27. "Not being accepted your first time around isn't the worst thing in the world—it may actually be a blessing in disguise," said Fares Bdier, a 29-year old medical student who was accepted at 28 after finding his "true calling" in Kenya while working for a humanitarian mission there.

Still, since there are nearly 2.1 times more applicants then there are seats, admissions committees are resolute and decisive about their acceptance standards. Typically, you will see a matriculate with a 3.70 non-science GPA, a 3.55 science GPA, and a MCAT score of 30. However, if you aren't that perfect numbers applicant, the buck doesn't stop there.

"[Admissions committees] want to know where the grades are from...and if there is other interesting or weird stuff, they will sometimes ignore or discount the importance of MCAT scores or grades," said Dr. Peter Williams, vice dean of Academic Affairs at Stony Brook Medical School.

Despite the myriad of options placed before pre-meds, gaining acceptance to a medical school can still be a difficult, competitive, and sometimes fruitless task

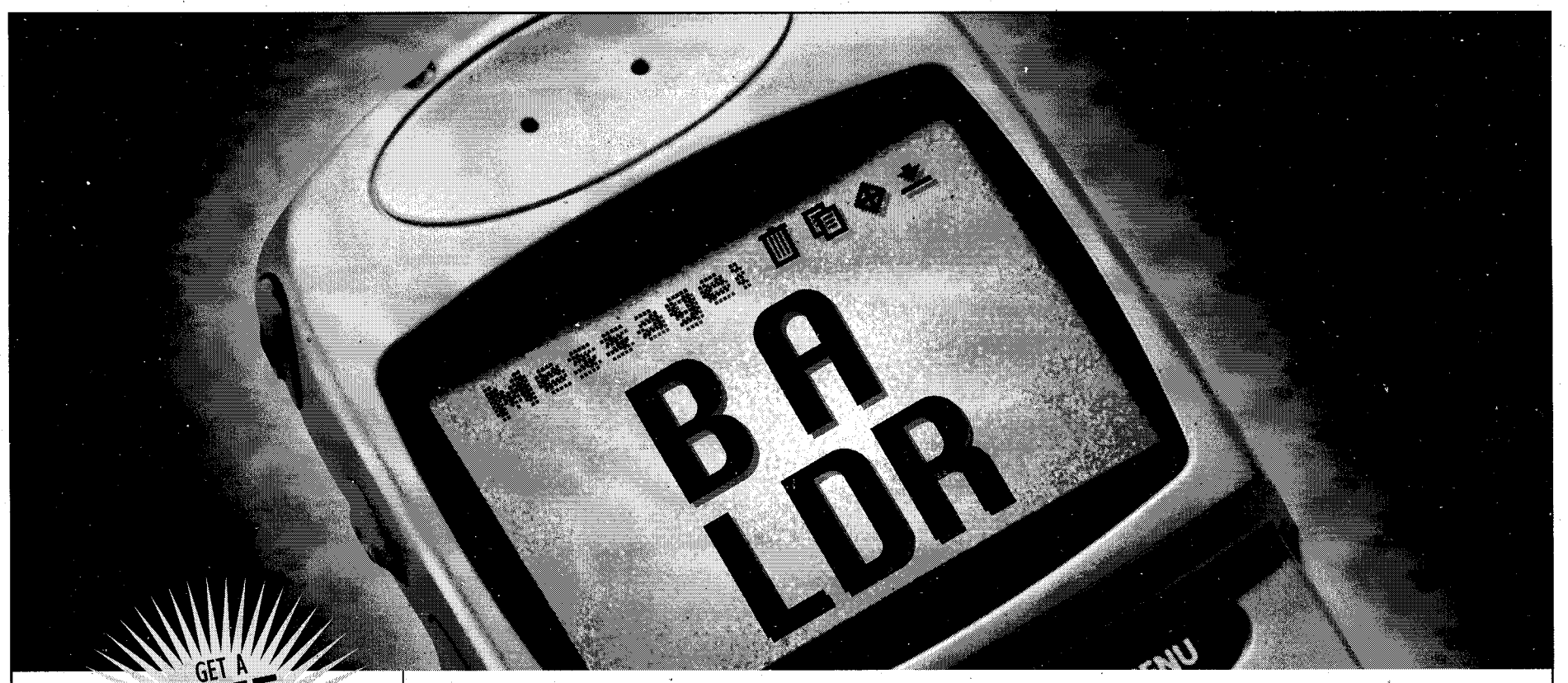
When choosing applicants, committee members look at grades, MCAT scores, demographics, community service, clinical and research experience, recommendations, personal statements, any outstanding or mitigating factors, understanding of the contemporary issues that affect the healthcare field, and finally, the dreaded interview.

"We thoroughly look at the entire application," said Dr. Jack Fuhrer, associate dean for Admissions at Stony Brook Medical School.

Most committees use a point-based system to rank prospective students before making their cuts. Though it is a cut-throat and highly competitive ordeal, it isn't final. Being waitlisted or rejected from a medical school is not the end of the world; many schools have a rolling admissions policy. In this process, a school chooses its first batch of matriculates, averaging around 75 seats per school, and leaves room to fill the seats that these students do not accept. As most pre-med students apply to about 15-20 schools, acceptances are constantly withdrawn and confirmed, and the final class must be selected based on a ranking system of waitlisted students. This process usually starts around Oct. 1 and runs through the beginning of the fall semester.

So, how are Stony Brook undergraduates at getting into medical schools? Apparently, we are pretty hot applicants. Last year, over 90 percent of the 225 applicants from Stony Brook exceeded the national GPA and MCAT average for matriculating medical students. We also had a 50 percent acceptance rate to medical school, which also met the national average.

What should you do if you are a Stony Brook pre-med student who is freaking out about medical school? Simple. Take a deep breath and relax. Life is not so dismally futile. Study hard, get involved in things you like, and have a life. Do what you love, and you will love what you do.



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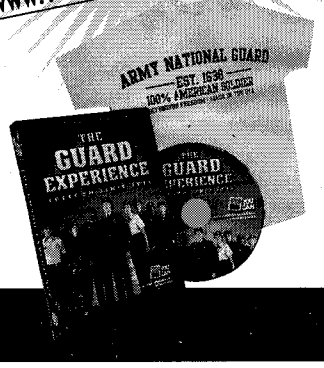

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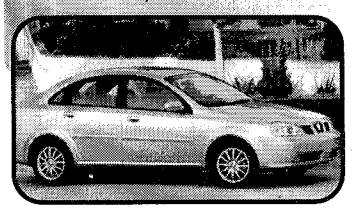

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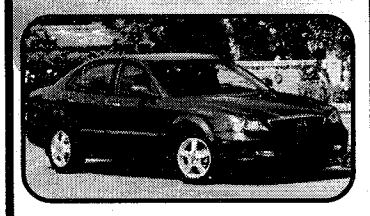

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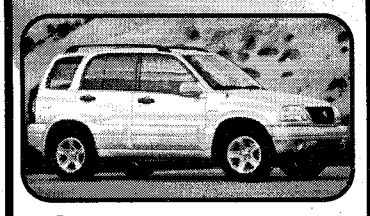

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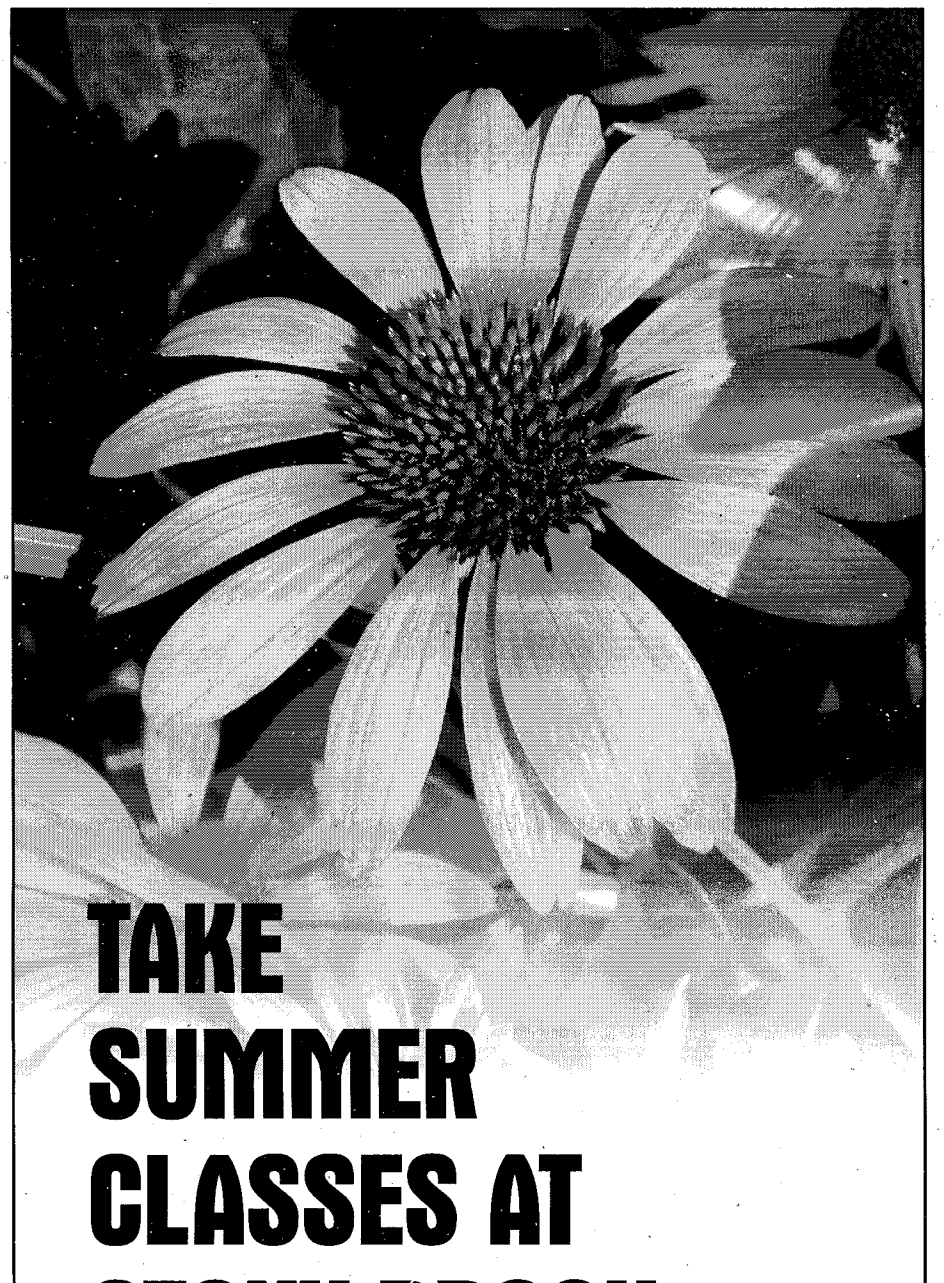

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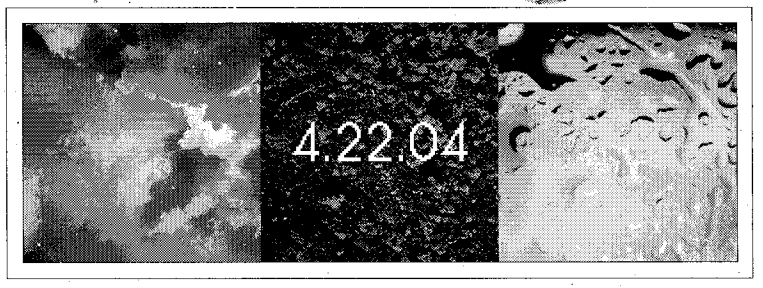

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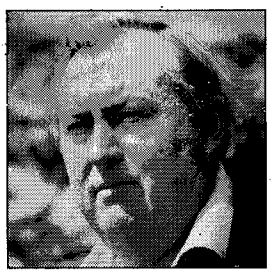

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"The Girl Next Door," Oh, What a Movie!

By Mansoor Khan
Statesman Editor

Four words: greatest teen movie ever. "The Girl Next Door" is not your regular gross-out teen flick in the mold of "American Pie," and it's not your regular romantic comedy such as of "You've Got Mail." In fact, it's not even really a teen flick, but it has the elements of one. Instead, it's an incredibly original masterpiece of a film, carefully crafted and cleverly constructed. Director Luke Greenfield got everything right in this movie. There is no joke wasted and no scene squandered; the whole movie ties together in an innovative storyline that surprises the viewer at every turn.

The story may be a little bit unbelievable, and slightly aloof, but if you come into the movie expecting entertainment rather than realism, you'll definitely be pleased. Imagine that you come home from school one day to find the most beautiful young woman you've ever seen moving in next door, with her bedroom window right across from yours. And she doesn't have a boyfriend. And she's taken a real liking to you. And she's an ex-porn star.

Oh. Perhaps that last one is a mixed blessing. At least, it is for Matthew (Emile Hirsch), a bright goodie-two-shoes high school senior who is class president, set to head off to a prestigious college, but not terribly successful with the girls. Matthew is by no means a loser, but he's also not a ladies man, instead hanging around with nerdy Eli (Chris Marquette) and Klitz (Paul Dano) while gazing longingly at the popular girls and only imagining such irresponsibility as skipping class to go to the beach.

That's where Danielle (the trouser-tightening-ly beautiful Elisha Cuthbert) walks in. She's the girl next door, the gorgeous one with the body of a Greek Goddess. Danielle pushes Matthew beyond his inhibitions, and helps him be that person he never was, the boy beyond school, the boy that's willing to enjoy life. "What's the craziest thing you've done recently?" she keeps asking him.

Everything seems absolutely perfect, until Matt finds out, thanks to Eli's extensive knowledge of pornography, about Danielle's past profession as a hot-bodied porn star named Athena. He flips out, and his view of her completely changes, and then the plot *thickens* (cue suspenseful music!). Of course, we go through this ramble jumble of feelings (the only really predictable part of the movie) and the truth comes out and feelings are revealed and blah blah blah. That's just the first twenty minutes, however. The rest of the movie is where it all shines.

In one long rollercoaster ride, the viewer is taken through a series of plot turns and twists, unexpected outcomes and irrevocably entertaining events. If you're a heterosexual male, you'll appreciate the excess of female nudity in many scenes of this film. If you're well, not a heterosexual male, you at least won't be offended, because the nudity is not completely tasteless. There's a certain element of mood and moderation that almost makes it okay. Even if porn isn't exactly your cup of tea, you'll enjoy the whimsical spin that the movie puts on the porn industry.

I left this movie feeling extremely satisfied. It's a feel-good movie, but in a dirty way...a dirty, dirty, great way. The acting is nearly flawless, with some truly memorable characters, the women are gorgeous and the story is incredibly entertaining. The only bad thing that I can say about this movie is that Elisha Cuthbert does not show any frontal nudity, but of course you can't have your cake and eat it too. Unless you're Matthew. Then you're just one lucky S.O.B.

I give the movie five out of five stars.

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SPORTS

Seawolves Shoot for the Top of the America East

By James Fitzpatrick
Statesman Staff

The Stony Brook men's Lacrosse team scorched the winless Hartford Hawks by a score of 17-7 in front of a crowd of 611 on a warm and sunny Saturday at LaValle Stadium. The Seawolves' offense put on a show for the crowd, bombarding the net with 40 shots, while the physical play of the defense dominated the Hawks and left them with few opportunities and little hope.

The Seawolves set the pace of the game early and their aggressive style of play quickly pinned the Hawks' defenses deep in their end of the field, leaving goalie Jordan Karem helpless. Senior George Laflare took advantage of Hartford's lackluster defense and scored two quick, unassisted goals to put the Seawolves up 2-0 within the first few minutes. Jason Cappadoro and Matt O'Connor added to the lead with a beautiful give and go that gave the Seawolves a 3-0 lead going in to the second period.

The second quarter began the same way the first had ended, with Cappadoro adding to his 12 assists and creating open shots for his teammates when he found Adam Marksberry, who beat the Hartford goalie for his 17th goal of the season, increasing the Seawolves lead to 4-0.

Seawolves goalie Brendan Callahan's hopes for a shutout were quickly erased, however, when Hartford scored their first goal with 12:09 remaining in the second period, cutting the lead to three. But this was only a minor set back for the Seawolves, who busted the game wide open by scoring six goals in a matter of ten minutes, making the half-time score 10-3.

Marksberry, Laflare, and Cappadoro, who lead the team in goals and assists, were a force to be reckoned with on the offensive side of the field for the Seawolves, combining for 8 goals and 5 assists in the game. O'Connor, who finished the day with three goals, had a stellar day on the offensive side of the field as well, and contributed to the dismantling of an inferior Hartford team.

As the teams came out of the locker room after half time, the Hartford Hawks didn't seem very excited to be back on the turf for more lacrosse against the Seawolves, who were hyped and ready to finish strong. Head coach John Espey knew they needed to keep the pressure on in order to physically and mentally wear down the Hawks, and get them off their game.

"This was a scary game for us, we needed to get off to a good start and keep the pressure on, and we did," Espey said. "The kids deserve a lot of credit for that." With the guidance of Espey, the Seawolves opened the 3rd quarter with the same intensity and offensive excellence that they had finished with in the first half. The scoreboard quickly and frequently lit up for the Seawolves after scoring three quick goals to increase their lead 13-3.

"Guys were finishing today and taking quality shots on the net, but it all started with the defense getting us the ball," said Marksberry, who finished off the day with 3 goals and 2 assists.

Though the Stony Brook offense was obviously the focus of the game, it's the hard hitting, aggressive style of defense that the Seawolves bring to the table that is the cornerstone for all their success. Led by Callahan and junior defensemen Kyle Pearl and David Weiss, the Seawolves' defense is the quiet storm that has out-muscled and shutdown many of the opposing teams they have faced.

"Our defense can compete with almost anyone in the nation," Espey boasted.

With a score of 14-6, the Seawolves' second unit took the reigns to finish off a defeated Hartford team. Sophomore Kurt McVey and freshman Larry Cerasi capped off the game, scoring a combined 3 goals in the fourth quarter with assists by Jamey Lacey and Shane Arikian to send the Seawolves off with a 17-7 victory over the Hawks.

The Seawolves' next match is a pivotal conference game in Baltimore, Maryland against UMBC on Saturday the 24th. This one could prove to be the most important game of the Seawolves' season.

Courtesy of Stony Brook Athletics

Sophomore Jason Cappadoro, one of the Seawolves' leaders in goals and assists, added to his 12 assists, bringing Stony Brook's score to 4-0.

SPORTS Photographers needed!

Interested?

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