

# Statesman

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## Filling in the Holes Left by Winter 2003

By MARC NEWMAN  
Statesman Editor

As the rain and warmer weather washes the snow away at Stony Brook, one of the largest snowstorms to ever hit Stony Brook may seem to some like ancient history.

But this winter's severe weather has left a lasting mark on the campus. Any driver can tell you that the gaping



Statesman/Kelly Brown

Potholes, like this one on North Loop Road, plague many campus roads and walkways.

potholes on the roadways can be as difficult to navigate as the pockets of snow and ice.

"It's a nightmare," said sophomore Daniel Galecki. "I'm going to have to get my tires realigned soon because of all of the damage done by potholes."

When a major snowstorm hit Stony Brook Sunday night, Feb. 16, crews worked 24-hour shifts for one week to remove snow and ice from walkways and parking lots.

Massive trucks hauled thousands of pounds of snow from the center of campus to South P-Lot. "A large number of us worked on it, and the removal process wasn't pretty," said Mike Bentivenga, Grounds Manager at Stony Brook.

As the snow is washed away by higher temperatures and rain, however, more problems have begun to surface.

"The potholes are a big issue," said Chris K. McAlary, Assistant Vice President for Facilities and Services. "Once the salt melted through the ice that covered the campus for the past week, and the weather moved from



Statesman/Kelly Brown

As the snow and ice melt, the focus has shifted from plowing to protecting drivers from the dangers of the gaping potholes left around campus.

temperatures well below freezing to well above, many new cracks and crevasses in the roadways developed."

Collaborating with an outside contractor, Unlimited Paving, McAlary said that his department is "working aggressively" and is hopeful that the

potholes plaguing the campus can be patched "in the near future." Unlimited Paving made its third visit to campus on Tuesday, but cold weather and rain can make filling

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## Rules Governing Complexity are Simple, Scientist Says

By IAN COOK  
Statesman Staff

Renowned scientist and mathematician Stephen Wolfram, Ph.D., lectured to a full house at the SAC Auditorium on Friday as part of the Provost's Lecture Series. Wolfram spoke about his new book, his discoveries and his work with cellular automata.

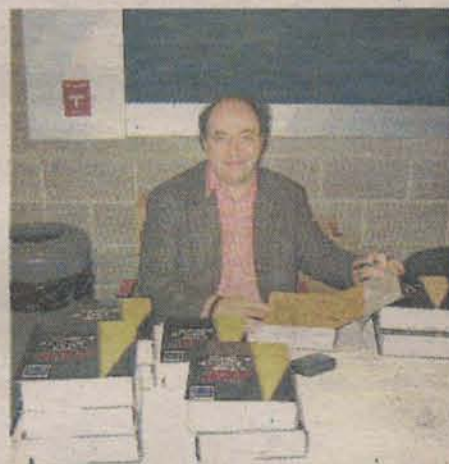
Wolfram is the creator of the computer software *Mathematica* and CEO of Wolfram Research, Inc. He was introduced as "one of the most distinguished, distinctive and controversial figures in his field."

Educated at Eton and Oxford, Wolfram received his doctorate in theoretical physics from Caltech at the age of 20. In 1981, he became the youngest-ever recipient of a MacArthur Prize Fellowship. Since 1982, he has directed his career towards understanding the origins of complexity in nature.

Wolfram spoke about his 1200-page book *A New Kind of Science*, released last year. The book was the fruit of over 10 years of intense work, and focuses on his studies of the behavior of simple computer programs called cellular automata. Using cellular automata and

other theories, Wolfram has proposed a "fundamentally new conceptual framework" for science and mathematics.

Cellular automata allow scientists to observe populations of interacting "cells," which follow a set of rules, growing into large, complex structures. Cellular automata can be used to model many processes in nature, including snowflake formation and leaf growth, Wolfram said.



Statesman/Ian Cook

Stephen Wolfram, Ph.D., visited Stony Brook to discuss his recent book and his controversial *Mathematica* software.

Wolfram's theories propose that even with very simple rules, nature can generate extremely complicated behaviors. He rejects the assumption that "to make something complicated, we have to start with complicated plans or use complicated rules." Instead, he said, the fabric of nature itself adds this complexity.

"Simple rules and simple programs can produce complicated behavior," he said. "It's as if nature has some special secret," which allows complex systems to evolve from simple rules.

Wolfram's software, *Mathematica*, is used in a wide variety of fields, and is regarded as revolutionary. In the way that Isaac Newton created calculus to solve problems that were cumbersome using the math of the day, Stephen Wolfram has created *Mathematica* as a platform for solving problems that are very difficult using contemporary math.

*Mathematica* allows computations which would otherwise take days to be done in minutes, Wolfram said. While some scientists express skepticism towards Wolfram's theories and towards *Mathematica*, he stands firmly behind his work.

Wolfram signed copies of *A New Kind of Science* before his speech. After the speech, he fielded questions from professors and students, mostly about applications of cellular automata to specific fields.

Wolfram has been giving a series of lectures around the country, describing his ideas and discoveries. He has visited Stanford and Caltech, among other universities, and is scheduled to visit Northwestern and MIT in April.

Stony Brook University has a campus-wide site license for *Mathematica*. Students or faculty who are interested in using the software should contact a computing center.

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# Stony Brook Becomes More 'Readable'

## New Reading Room Will Change the Face of SBU's Libraries and Curriculum

By EMY KURIAKOSE  
Statesman Editor

Stony Brook University now offers its students access to more resources and databases on the history and development of automatic identification and data capture (AIDC). The university recently inaugurated its first AIDC 100 Archive, which will house information on developments in bar coding, radio frequency data, biometrics, voice, iris, fingerprint and face recognition, magnetic stripe, optical character recognition, smart cards, and vision systems.

"This is very important to our department, which has been instrumental in developing the 2D barcode, the one that is on everyone's driver's license," Computer Science chair Ari Kaufman said. "Barcode has been part of the University and we are happy that this collection will be housed here at Stony Brook."

AIDC 100 was founded in 1997 to create an intellectual forum for professionals who had made progressive advancements in the data capture and automatic identification industry. The founding leaders, George Goldberg, Chet Bonoit, and Ben Nelson, hoped to collect and continue the record of achievement

within an environment that would proliferate new ideas and technologies.

"If you want to research the barcode industry, this is it," said Chris Filstrup, Dean and Director of Libraries. "This is the only place that has this kind of information, and we hope that people who are interested in this will take advantage of it. This collection documents 20th-century business in America; it documents how technologies begin, take off, get institutionalized, and get marketed. It is a very important area in understanding contemporary society."

The library has the potential to change SBU's curriculum and course offerings. The Engineering and Computer Science Departments envision new prospects for adding courses on AIDC technology and development into their curricula.

"I see us integrating this whole vast area of wireless technology and identification into the curriculum," said Dean of Engineering and Vice President of Economic Development Yakov Shamash. "We started this process in 1997, and we are delighted that it has finally come to fruition."

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# Forget Broadway-Catch *Chicago* on the Silver Screen

By MANSOOR KHAN  
Statesman Editor

With 13 Academy Award Nominations, including Best Picture of the Year, you just can't go wrong watching *Chicago*. In the spirit of *Moulin Rouge*, this epic picture brings Broadway's hit play to the screen with lights, colors and costumes, and might have you believing that you're sitting not in a movie theatre, but at the base of a vaudeville stage.

Despite *Chicago's* overbearing tendency toward style-over-substance (the story could probably be told in 20 minutes), the movie is incredibly fun. The dance scenes are riveting, the music is entertaining and there is more lace and lingerie than you can shake a stick at, no pun intended.

*Chicago* begins with a bang—literally—as the sultry siren of the stage, Velma Kelly (brilliantly played by Catherine Zeta-Jones), rushes into the club where she has been a nighttime sensation to perform solo the act she normally shared with her sister. But the sister is dead, and so is Kelly's husband—and once the starlet washes the fresh blood off of her hands, she dashes onstage to sing and dance a colorful rendition of the Broadway favorite, "All That Jazz."

Kelly is arrested in front of the crowd, including admirer Roxie Hart (Renee Zellweger), an unfaithful housewife carrying on an affair with a man who promises to get her into show business. When her lover admits he lied to get into her pants, Roxie sends him smokin'.

Both ladies are sent to jail, where they are overseen by a warden called "Mama" (Queen Latifah). When they fight over the services of Billy Flynn (Richard



Courtesy of www.movies.com

Zellweger and Gere have some terrific moments together in this consistently entertaining and engaging musical flick.

Gere), attorney extraordinaire, Velma and Roxie become enemies. Seeing potential for publicity, Flynn takes Roxie under his wing, with the help of her broke-but-devoted husband, Amos, and his life savings.

Flynn sends Roxie straight to the limelight, painting her as the "nice Southern girl who was just

defending herself." With her fluctuating fame and crooked court case, Roxie learns about the fleeting nature of public admiration. The rest of the movie is rather predictable, but well-played and funny.

Instead of having the characters just break out into song and dance a la *Moulin Rouge*, Director Robert Marshall decided to incorporate *Chicago's* musical numbers into a series of fantasies concocted by the aspiring, fame-obsessed mind of Roxie, who dreams herself on the stage of a club. While this does help to add believability to the movie, it also forces the storylines to move along a bit quickly, often leaving the audience to feel that the movie is the fantasy.

*Chicago* does a great job with casting. Zeta-Jones as Velma was the perfect decision, and was probably the highlight of the movie. She is amazingly sexy, and has a background in musicals. Her look goes perfectly with the arrogant murderess-in-the-limelight-showgirl image. Zellweger does a good job with Roxie, as well. Her shy and mousy image reflects Roxie's timid, reserved ambition, and Richard Gere has no trouble coming off as the arrogant, charming Flynn. His slickness and bravado are very convincing, as are his dance sequences.

Fast-paced and in-your-face, *Chicago* is a great movie. While the message isn't too "Mr. Rogers" (murder makes you famous!), who really cares about that anyway? Even if you don't like musicals, and I usually don't, you'll like the sexy women and bold dance sequences.

I give it 4 out of 5 stars.

## Mike on The Mat: The WWE's Current Woes

By MIKE ADLER  
Statesman Staff

Trouble abounds in the WWE this week, with a list of injuries and closings. Going into Wrestlemania, things are looking bleak.

First off is the closing of the World in Times Square. Formerly WWF New York, the World is the WWE's nightclub/restaurant/merchandising superstore. I personally have fond memories of going there to watch Wrestlemania 16, paying 80 dollars to watch it, and getting the horrible buffet food. The four-hour wait to get in was amazing, as well. I hear the VIP seats for events go for hundreds of dollars. I can't imagine why it's closing.

Even worse is that Kurt Angle will be missing a year of action, including Wrestlemania X9. This is almost unimaginable, because the Kurt Angle-Brock Lesnar match is perhaps one of the most highly anticipated matches ever.

Angle's injury leaves a huge vacuum in the Smackdown line up, not only for Wrestlemania, but also for other events throughout his yearlong absence. They're either going to have to turn someone's heel, such as Benoit or Rhyno, or push Matt Hardy or John Cena and hope they click with the fans. It's going to be a rough year without Angle.

Edge is suffering the same fate as well, and won't be expected back for a full year. While not my favorite performer, he wasn't horrible to watch, and is certainly better than, say, the A-Train. He'll also be missed.

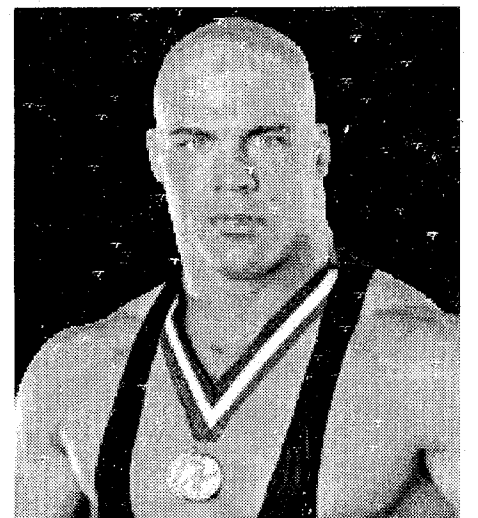
On the RAW side, Evolution has devolved in the past week. Both Randy Orton and Batista are sidelined for two and six months, respectively. This pretty much destroys the heel stable before it even got a chance to get off the ground, which I'm sure is not a big deal to Triple H (who's seen better days himself; the guy just limps around the ring). It's just more attention for him.

They may have to elevate Flair to replace Orton or Batista. Needless to say, it's only a matter of time before Triple H's quadriceps explode again. Joy. At this rate, the main event at Wrestlemania will be Spike Dudley vs. Chief Morley.

And speaking of Triple H, could his interview with Booker T have buried him a little more? Triple H referred to him as "boy," and told him to dance for the fans, without Booker getting much of a word in. The racist overtones were more proof of McMahon's prejudiced attitudes.

Furthermore, Booker T would be a far greater draw than Triple H as champion at this point, seeing as Booker T would be able to actually give a decent in-ring performance. But, hey, what do I know? He is the game, and he is that injured.

In the meantime, we can just hope that they give the Jericho-Michaels match the time it deserves. There's also going to be the Rock-Austin match. While we've seen it before, it should still be entertaining. The



Courtesy of wwe.com

Kurt Angle will be out for a year due to injury.

Rock has been particularly electrifying as a heel since his return from Hollywood. Let's just hope that Angle makes a quick recovery and is back in time for the big XX.

Email Mike on the Mat at mantis\_bog@hotmail.com

## Pothole Problems May Remain Unresolved

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potholes an impossible task. The company has to work around those conditions, as well as already naturally deteriorating roads on campus.

McAlary is new to the department, and said that he is originally from the Los Angeles area, where roads are less susceptible to rapid deterioration due to inconsistent weather.

"With the kind of traffic you see on campus, these roads should last between 20 and 30 years," McAlary said. "With a campus older than that [like SBU], and the bad weather we've seen this year, many of these roads are due for repaving."

The road leading to South P-Lot is one of the first on the long list of roads that need repaving. But the department does not foresee a major repaving project

taking place in the near future.

"We're in a budget crunch right now, and we have to recognize that," McAlary said.

McAlary noted that the department is working on new strategies to better handle future emergencies and get the roads in better shape more quickly. The snow removal process in the past was coordinated by three different departments: residential areas were handled by private contractors, the campus proper by the Physical Plant, and the University Hospital took care of itself.

But many complaints were filed at the resident halls, citing poor shoveling and dangerously icy conditions. McAlary hopes to in the future coordinate all areas of campus to reduce oversight.

"This way, for instance, a group working on the roadways in the middle of campus can then work on

roadways at the residence halls without having to incorporate a second group of people."

But there was also some praise for the University response to the season's excessive snowfall.

"I went to SUNY Buffalo for six years and it would take the crews there days to get rid of the snow," graduate student Rich Walcott said. "The people here were unbelievably quick."

Snow removal and road repaving come with a hefty price tag.

"We're still putting together the bills from all this plowing," Bentivenga said.

McAlary said that the first priority was to make the roadways onto campus drivable, and that no particular budget was allocated for this crisis. "They just told us to get rid of this snow, and we did so without a particular budget constraint in mind."

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## Colleges With High Deficits

By MARTIN VAN DER WERF  
The Chronicle of Higher Education

Colleges sold a record volume of bonds in 2002, even as the poorest among them headed deeper into financial danger, says a report from Moody's Investors Service Inc., a bond-rating company.

There were 277 new college bond issues rated by Moody's last year, with a total value of \$14.1 billion, compared with 225 issues, totaling \$12.9 billion, in 2001.

The agency sees a growing dichotomy: The outlook for public institutions and for large, wealthy private colleges is "stable," it says. They are "well positioned to weather the current environment without a decline in credit quality."

However, for smaller, regional private colleges, with endowments that don't generate significant revenue for operating budgets, the company has changed its outlook from "cautiously stable" to "negative."

"Because they have weaker enrollment pools and financial cushions, these institutions typically have smaller margins of error, and therefore are more vulnerable to credit deterioration if investment and liquidity losses are combined with operating deficits, enrollment declines, or pricing pressures," said Moody's.

The report, "Higher Education Sector: 2003 Industry Outlook," was released last month.

Moody's defines the more-endangered colleges generally as those with fewer than 3,000 students, that accept more than 70 percent of applicants, and that

have total financial resources per student of less than \$50,000.

There has been an increase in the number of downgrades of the bond ratings of the smaller, regional private colleges. Moody's now rates 15 colleges as "below investment grade," or speculative, after rating just 8 institutions in that category in 2000.

The report projects that the pace of downgrades of lower-rated colleges will remain steady or accelerate, and that the consequences for the poorest colleges will be dire.

"Unless the economy and financial markets rebound, some private colleges are likely to go out of business in the next few years," the company predicts. Moody's says it typically assigns a rating in the B range—several steps below investment grade—to a college bond "if we believed there was a reasonable probability that the institution was within two years of going out of business."

At this point, only Life University in Georgia carries a B rating from Moody's.

Moody's assesses the public credit ratings of almost 300 private colleges in the United States. Of those, about 29 percent had operating deficits in the 2002 fiscal year.

The deficits are attributable to a number of factors: Tuition revenues are declining because the colleges are giving out more in financial aid, endowments have lost value, and private gifts are dropping. At the same time, the colleges are issuing more bonds to finance campus modernization or construction to attract more students.

## Comfortable Classes Make Students Learn More

By THOMAS BARLETT  
The Chronicle of Higher Education

Put a student in a classroom where it's difficult to see the chalkboard or hear the professor. Give the same student an uncomfortable chair and a desk that's too small for a textbook. For good measure, make the room really hot.

Do the opposite for a second student. Make sure that classroom conditions are ideal.

Will the second student learn more than the first?

Experts on classroom design say yes. They argue that even the most fascinating lecture or stimulating discussion can be undermined by a bad classroom. Yet at many colleges, classrooms are an afterthought, if they're given any thought at all. They're somewhere below more parking and better cafeteria food on the list of priorities.

That's not to say there aren't some great classrooms—carefully designed, comfortable learning environments. These are among the places that colleges show off to donors and alumni, to prospective students and parents. These are the classrooms photographed for Web sites and slick brochures.

Then there are the other classrooms, the ones that aren't part of the tour. Nearly every college has them. They may be older rooms, in desperate need of renovation. Perhaps they weren't intended to be classrooms at all. Whatever the situation, these are the places professors dread being assigned, classrooms that can actually hamper learning.

Many colleges have built new

classrooms or renovated old ones to accommodate more technology. In some cases, that has meant dealing with long-overlooked problems. But not always. In fact, the emphasis on whiz-bang electronics has at times overshadowed more important concerns, like making sure every student can see the board. "Planners are still making the same kinds of stupid mistakes," said Ron Baker, who runs a Web site on classroom design. He and other experts say it's time colleges finally realized the pedagogical value of a comfortable chair.

### Different Worlds

Jennifer Thomson has classes in two buildings at the University of Connecticut, but they feel like two different worlds.

On Monday mornings, she goes to class in the School of Business, a new, \$27-million, 100,000-square foot building with glass atriums—paid for by General Electric, among other companies—along with brick archways and a cozy lounge. The place has thoughtful features throughout, from the downstairs cafe to the small "break-out rooms" that allow professors to easily divide students into small groups. The whole interior is a blend of steel and light wood that gives hallways and rooms alike a clean, modern feeling.

On Monday afternoons, Thomson, a senior majoring in communications with a minor in business, makes the five-minute walk from the business school to a building

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## Op-Eds

# In Defense of the Cowboy

BY ANDREW BERNSTEIN  
Courtesy of Ayn Rand Institute

Those who oppose war with Iraq—from foreign heads of state to homegrown antiwar protesters—employ a common expression of contempt for the American war effort. America, they sneer, is acting like a “cowboy.”

A mock interview with Saddam Hussein conducted by a European intellectual is written to show, in one news report's summary, “what out-of-control cowboys the Americans are.” A recent New York Times article explains that to some Europeans, the “major problem is Bush the cowboy.” U.S. Senator Chris Dodd of Connecticut agrees, stating that America must not “act like a unilateral cowboy.”

These smears imply that the heyday of the cowboy in the Old West was a lawless period when trigger-happy gunmen shot it out with reckless abandon and brute force reigned.

But to most Americans, the cowboy is not a villain but a hero. What we honor about the cowboy of the Old West is his willingness to stand up to evil and to do it alone, if necessary. The cowboy is a symbol of the crucial virtues of courage and independence.

The original cowboys were hard-working ranchers and settlers who tamed a vast wilderness. In the process, they had to contend with violent outlaws as well as warlike Indian tribes. The honest

men on the frontier did not wring their hands in fear, uncertainty and moral paralysis; they stood up to evil men and defeated them.

The Texas Rangers—a small band of lawmen who patrolled a vast frontier—best exemplified the cowboy code. Whether they fought American outlaws, Mexican bandits or marauding Comanches, they were generally outnumbered, sometimes by as much as fifty to one. It was said of them: “They were men who could not be stampeded.” For example, when Ranger officer John B. Armstrong boarded a train in pursuit of the infamous murderer John Wesley Hardin, he was confronted by five desperadoes. Armstrong took them on single-handed, killing one and capturing Hardin. In describing their independence and courage, Ranger captain Bob Crowder said: “A Ranger is an officer who is able to handle any situation without definite instructions from his commanding officer or higher authority.”

The real-life courage of such heroes has been

properly memorialized and glorified in countless fictional works. The Lone Ranger television show, Jack Schaefer's classic novel, *Shane*, and dozens of John Wayne movies, among others, have captured the essence of the Western hero's character: his unshakeable moral confidence in the face of evil. It is this vision of the cowboy, not the European slander, that Americans find inspiring. That's why, when President Bush said of Osama bin Laden, “Wanted: Dead or Alive,” most Americans cheered.

The only valid criticism of President Bush, in this context, is that he is not true enough to the heritage of the Lone Star State. When the Texas Rangers went after a bank robber or rustler, they didn't wait to ask the permission of his fellow gang members. Yet Bush is asking permission from a U.N. Security Council that includes Syria, one of the world's most active sponsors of terrorism.

Today the terrorists responsible for blowing up our cities are far more evil than the bandits and gunmen faced by the heroes of the Old West. To defeat them, we will require all the more the cowboy's virtues of independence and moral courage.

Even as our European critics use the “cowboy” image as a symbol of reckless irresponsibility, they implicitly reveal the real virtues they are attacking. European leaders assail Americans because our “language is far too blunt” and because we see the struggle between Western

**The only valid criticism of President Bush, in this context, is that he is not true enough to the heritage of the Lone Star State.**

Civilization and Islamic fanaticism in “black-and-white certainties.” They whine about our “Texas attitude” and whimper that “an American president who makes up his mind and then will accept no argument” is a greater danger than murderous dictators. In

short, they object to America's willingness to face the facts, to make moral judgments, to act independently, and to battle evil with unflinching courage.

These European critics are worse than the timid shopkeeper in an old Hollywood Western. They don't merely want to avoid confronting evil—they seek to prevent anyone else from recognizing evil and standing up to it.

Texas Ranger captain Bill McDonald reputedly stated: “No man in the wrong can stand up against a fellow that is in the right and keeps on a-comin'.” If America fully embraces this cowboy wisdom and courage, then the Islamic terrorists and the regimes that support them had better run for cover. They stand no chance in the resulting showdown.

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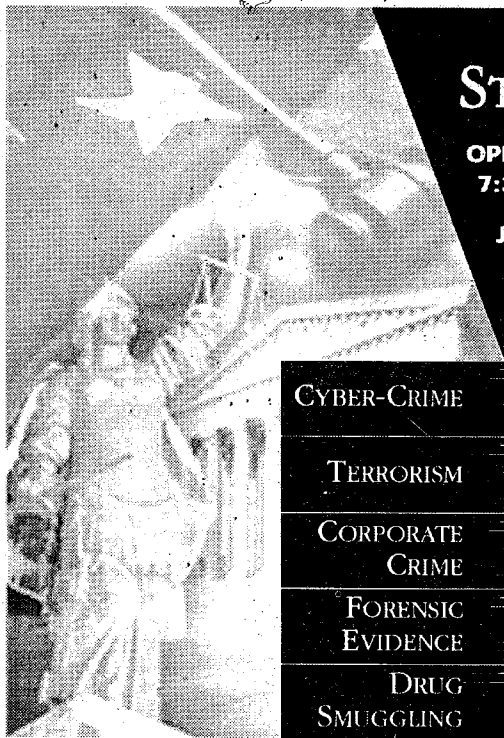
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### A THOUGHT FROM RABBI ADAM



PURIM: Jewish morale was at an all time low. The Temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Babylonians (486 BCE), the kingdom conquered, and the nation of Israel had been exiled to foreign lands. The Jews had hoped that the Persian conquest of Babylonia might herald in better times, if it was not for a man by the name of Haman, the Prime Minister of the empire. To emphasize the prestige of the Prime Minister, a royal decree was issued that all the must prostrate themselves before Haman. Mordechai, the leading Rabbi at the time, firmly refused to comply with the edict, saying that one should bow down G-d alone and non-else. The enraged Haman resolved to take revenge not only upon Mordechai, but upon the entire Jewish people. Haman convinced the king of the insubordination of the Jewish people and presented annihilation as the "final solution". Now Haman's plans would have worked, however "fate" would not have it. It so happened that the king got drunk and in his stupor, ordered the death of his wife, the queen. Not liking the life of a widower, the king took a young girl, Esther, to be his queen. "Coincidentally", unbeknownst to the king, Esther was a Jew. It so happened that the aforementioned Mordechai, uncovered a plot to kill the king. He informed the king, and was considered in high regard. And, "coincidentally", Mordechai was also Esther's uncle. So when Haman's decree about to be carried out, Mordechai readily brought the Jewish people's case to the queen, Esther. And Esther, in turn, told the king that she too would die under the decree, for indeed, she was a Jew. The king was immediately sensitized not only to the plight of his queen, but to the plight of the entire Jewish people. However, once a decree has been signed, it is never retracted. And yet, since Mordechai was already in high regard, the king appointed Mordechai to the position of Prime Minister with free reign to formulate a counterdecree to foil Haman. And henceforth was celebrated the Jewish holiday of Purim, for "fate" and "coincidence" are truly miracles from Above.

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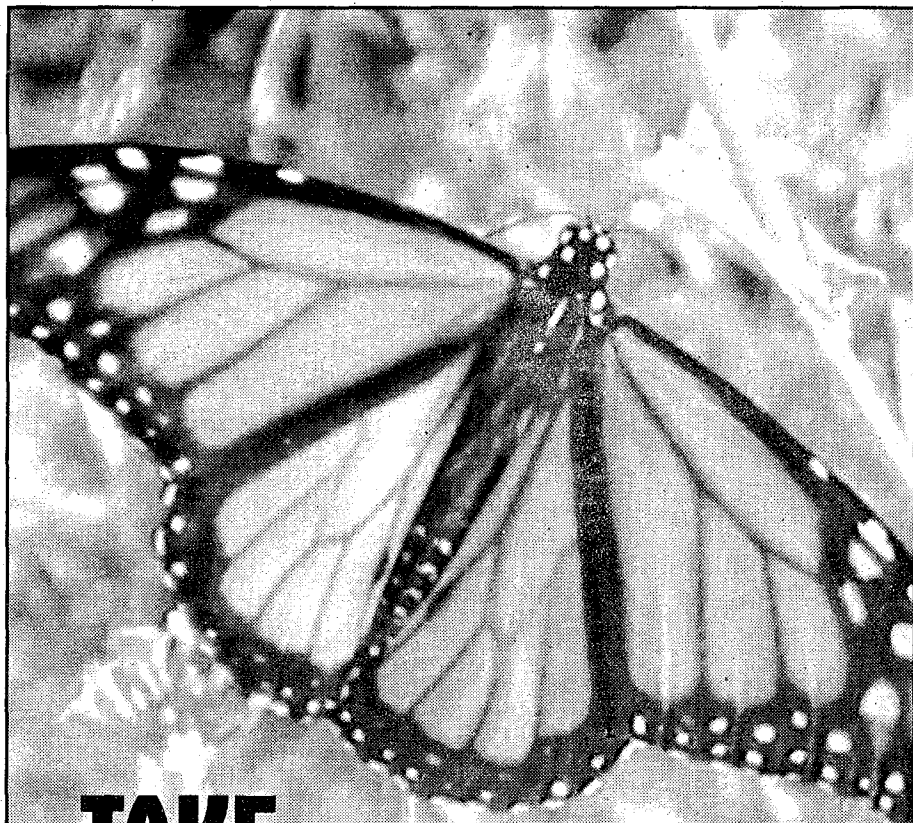
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## AIDC Databases

*Continued from Page 2*

Students seemed excited at the prospect of new classes and the new opportunities available to them.

"I think it's going to be helpful, because students can be updated on technology," said sophomore Thomas George.

The AIDC 100 Archive at Stony Brook University includes documents, conference proceedings, market studies, periodicals, books and prototype hardware. It contains market research studies, statistical analyses, standards and specifications, patents and patent litigation, trade associations and shows, U.S. government operations, and corporate financial reports, among other items.

The ever-growing collection will be housed in the Special Collections Department. The university opened this new collection last year in conjunction with the inauguration of the new Douglas Edgell Reading Room. This room will house a variety of library materials.

President and founder of Edgell Communications, Douglas Edgell headed one of the industry's largest business-to-business publishers. His widow, Gabrielle A. Edgell, donated funds in memory of her late husband to provide a comfortable working environment with computers for researchers.

"Doug's untimely death was a blow to the industry, but this is a fitting memorial that will be here in perpetuity," Goldberg said.

## Classrooms

*Continued from Page 5*

called Arjona. There are no corporate-financed atriums here. Arjona is a cinder-block monster, built in the early 1960s, with dark, cramped hallways, no air conditioning, and classrooms that ignore nearly every rule of good design. Even so, more classes are held here than in any other building on the campus. Vague plans are afoot to raze and replace Arjona, but that won't happen for another five or six years at the earliest, according to officials.

Such contrasts are not unique to Connecticut. "Colleges have their best classrooms where they take the alumni and visitors, and then they have the rooms that shouldn't be used as classrooms," said J. Thomas Bowen, associate vice president for finance and administration at the University of Georgia, who is one of the authors of the *Classroom Design Manual*. The book is regarded as the clearest guide on the subject, offering useful recommendations like optimal ceiling height and the right kind of flooring, along with advice about installing pencil sharpeners and the width of the corkboard strip placed above the chalkboard.

The "golden rules," as one of the authors calls them, sound almost too obvious to cite. Yet many classrooms fail to meet even those basic requirements. "You can go to almost any college campus and find examples of bad classrooms," Bowen said.

## Hackers Seize More Than 50,000 SS Numbers

By BROCK READ  
The Chronicle of Higher Education

Computer hackers broke into a database at the University of Texas at Austin on multiple occasions in the past two weeks, seizing the names and Social Security numbers of 55,200 individuals, according to university officials. The identity theft is one of the largest ever known to have afflicted a campus network.

The database contained information on current and former students and faculty and staff members, as well as job applicants.

The hackers who carried out the thefts—which the university disclosed on Wednesday—are still unknown, but university officials say there is no evidence that any of the downloaded information has been used illegally, to acquire credit cards or to withdraw funds from financial accounts.

The information was captured in attacks carried out from two different computers. On Friday, and on two occasions in late February, someone using a computer in Austin broke into the database. On Saturday and Sunday, more data were stolen by someone using a computer in Houston. Investigators with the U.S. attorney's office have taken over the search for the computers.

University officials have speculated that the attacks were launched by students, either working alone or with others. The attacking computers ran a computer program that cross-checked about three million possible Social Security numbers

against those listed in a database the university used to track training classes for its employees. The program entered Social Security numbers from its list into the Texas database one at a time, returning information whenever it hit upon a valid number.

In addition to names and Social Security numbers, the stolen information included e-mail addresses, office phone numbers, and addresses. No academic or health records were exposed.

College-computing administrators discovered that the database had been breached during a routine system check on Sunday. The database was taken offline immediately.

But Texas officials did not publicly announce the attacks until Wednesday, when the university released a report about the incidents on its Web site. "UT's highest priority has been to identify the source of the attack and to cooperate with law enforcement authorities to capture the perpetrators, and any associated computers and data," Daniel A. Updegrave, the university's vice president for information technology, wrote in the report.

Updegrave did not return calls for comment. But in an earlier interview he told the *Austin American-Statesman* that the attacks were made possible by lax computer security. "We flat out messed up on this one," he said. "Shame on us for leaving the door open, and shame on them for exploiting it."



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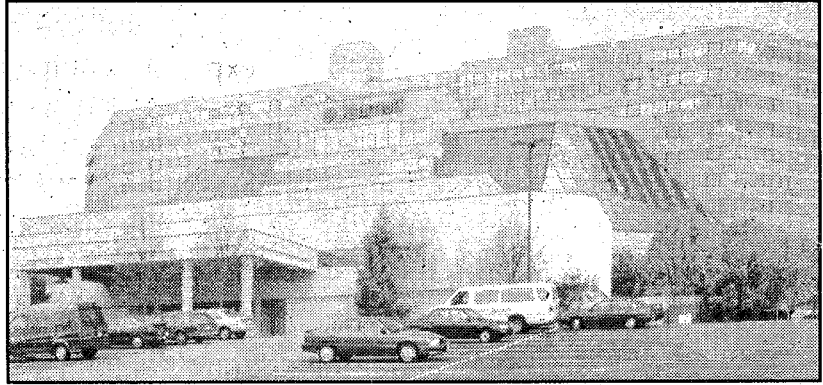


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# So Long, Sorry, Seawolves Seniors

## Men's Basketball Team Loses Season Finale to New Hampshire

By DANA GOMI  
Statesman Staff

A very bad New Hampshire squad spoiled Senior Day for Larry Jennings, Patrick Spittler, and Joakim Eriksson when they handed Stony Brook a 62-55 loss in the team's regular season finale.

New Hampshire improved its record to 3-13 in the conference and 5-22 overall while SBU dropped to 7-9, posting its second consecutive losing season in the America East Conference.

"It's time to move on. I am not sad, but happy for the other guys on the team," Jennings said. "Hopefully having a week off will get everyone focused again for the tournament."

The Seawolves just didn't have it this game, and the New Hampshire Wildcats came out of the gate very strong and led during the entire first half. All three seniors, who usually come off the bench, started for the last time at the Sports Complex, which played a part in the Seawolves' slow start.

In the 17 minutes they played, the three seniors combined for zero points on 0-2 shooting from the field and one turnover. New Hampshire used a 12-3 run along with 47.1 percent shooting from the field to give it firm control of



Statesman/Kelly Brown

D.J. Munir scored a game-high 20 points and pulled down seven rebounds for SBU.



Statesman/Kelly Brown

Jaius McCollum was suspended for the game because he missed a weight-training session.

the game in the first stanza.

With 4:58 left in the first half, the Seawolves managed to trim the Wildcats lead to one, 25-24, but SBU just couldn't get over the hump. As the first half ended, New Hampshire managed to extend its lead to half a dozen, going back into the locker room with a 31-25 advantage.

As the second half came around the Seawolves tried to focus and regain their composure. They started the half with a 7-2 run and closed the gap to within a point, 33-32, with 15:27 min left to play. Five minutes later, SBU got their first lead of the game thanks to a D.J. Munir three-pointer, making it 44-43.

But the Wildcats showed no signs of stopping and clearly were not intimidated by playing on the road. New Hampshire not only retook the lead, but used a 14-3 run to stake a ten-point advantage, 57-47.

The Seawolves just didn't have another sustained run in them. Cori Spencer's lay-up cut the lead to 60-55 with under a minute to play. But Stony Brook went cold from behind the three-point arch and could get no closer, despite having several good

looks at the basket. The Wildcats gave the Seawolves a seven-point loss, 62-55.

Although coach Nick Macarchuk was disappointed with the loss, to New Hampshire he did point to the Seawolves' victory over top-seed Boston University as evidence that SBU can play with the best.

"We just didn't play," he said. "We didn't defend well and we had trouble scoring. With us anything can happen. We beat the best team in the league and lost to the two worst teams."

When it came down to it, SBU was off their mark all day. Compared to New Hampshire's 48.8 percent shooting, the Seawolves shot 35.9 percent from the field and a meager 6.3 percent by way of 1-16 shooting from three-point land. The Wildcats also controlled the boards, out-rebounding SBU 41-30.

Munir, who scored 31 points in the team's previous game, a win over Binghamton, made just one three-pointer and had a single trip to the foul line in this game.

As SBU's marquee player, Munir blamed himself for the loss. "I shouldn't have allowed us to lose, no matter what," he said. "I will take responsibility for such a big game. I will accept the loss."

Besides the poor shooting, the absence of a third scorer was painfully obvious. The omission of forward Jaius McCollum and his 9.3 points and 5.5 rebounds per game due to suspension was a huge factor. McCollum overslept and didn't show up for weight training on the Friday morning before the game, and was required to sit out against the Wildcats. He was spotted partying at a local nightclub in the wee hours before the Friday practice.

"I was upset about McCollum not showing up for weight training," Macarchuk said.

The Seawolves also had some foul problems in the second half, going over the limit of 10 and allowing the Wildcats to get into the double bonus with a lot of time left on the clock. With New Hampshire making more free throws than SBU

took in entire the second half, the Seawolves' chances of making a comeback was severely hampered.

Mike Konopka's disqualification after picking up five personal fouls, along with McCollum's absence, left Stony Brook undersized and inexperienced in the games waning minutes.

Outside of Munir and Spencer, who scored twenty points a piece, Stony Brook didn't have anyone step up. None of the other starters registered a point, and the bench managed to contribute only 15 points.

The loss gives the Seawolves the number six seed going into the America East tournament, but with a NCAA tournament bid at stake the team isn't worried.

"Maybe this will be the best thing that happened to us, who knows?" said Macarchuk. "Maybe this helps us



Statesman/Kelly Brown

Nick Macarchuk's Seawolves posted their second consecutive losing season in the America East Conference.

going into the tournament. It is a lesson well learned."

Munir was also optimistic. "We've just got to put this game behind us as much as we can," he said. "I still like our chances in the tournament. We just got to come to play and keep our spirits positive."

The Seawolves now head off to Boston to go against the number three seed, the Hartford University Hawks.

Jeffrey Javidfar contributed to this article.