

the stony brook Statesman

VOLUME XLVII, NUMBER 44

MONDAY, MARCH 29, 2004

PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

Goblins, Witches and Wizards, Oh My!



One of the main events of I-CON is the Boffer Tournament, which takes place in the courtyard behind the Physics Building. Contestants don costumes and take arms against their opponents.

By BOMIN KIM, MINA KIM AND HANA KIL
Statesman Contributors

What do Jedi knights, sailor moon and vampires have in common? It's I-CON, "The northeast's largest convention of science and science fiction, science fact, and fantasy." I-CON, which stands for Island Convention, is a three-day event

that has been held annually at Stony Brook University for the past 23 years. It is a "festival designed to encourage literacy, creativity and interest in science and technology through science fiction and related genres." This year's convention took place from Friday, March 26 and lasted until Sunday the 28th.

"It's a lot of fun, and I always have a

good time," said Brad Hausman, director of marketing for I-CON. "It's like a reunion every year, with people that share the same interests."

The I-CON convention was staffed entirely by volunteers, who were enthusiastic about science fiction and anime. "We have about 700 to 800 volunteers annually, 90% being students or alumni," said Hausman, himself a 10-year veteran.

The events were spread out all over campus, in various rooms of buildings. The main building was the Sports Complex, where fans lined up around the block to wait for tickets. The lower level of Sports Complex is where the dealer's rooms were. There were vendors and sellers with everything from Japanese magazines to holistic rocks. DVD's, gothic jewelry, computer games such as Warcraft and Battlecry, magazines imported from Japan, comic books, posters, fantasy art, medieval clothes, movie t-shirts, and much more were also on sale. In addition, there were also autograph signings from media guests such as Peter Jurasik, from the TV show Babylon 5.

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Biology and Women's Suffrage

By MANSOOR KHAN
Statesman Editor

Women have the right to vote today because they can shoot just as well as men. Sounds suspicious? It's true, according to Paul Bingham, Professor of Biology and the first lecturer of the *School of Thought* Lecture Series, which had its inaugural event last Thursday in the Colours Café.

To explain the rationale behind his bold theory, Bingham reverted to the sociobiology of our ancestors, the first human beings. What makes us different than the rest of the animal kingdom, he said, is our ability to throw.

"If I had a 300-gram rock, I could put every single one of you at lethal risk," he said, a balloon grasped tightly in his hand, ready to be launched in a demonstration of the unique ability of humans. Throwing, according to Bingham, is an "elite skill," specific to humans, and our ancestors used it to gain an edge over the competition, essentially becoming the dominant species on the planet.

"Essentially, we could strike from a distance," Bingham said. "Our cost of coercion is so much lower because of throwing. We can participate in non-kin selection cooperation." Most animals only protect and interact with their own family, but humans, because of the defensive ability to throw, are able to interact with individuals outside of their kind, Bingham explained.

Because of non-kin cooperation,

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Stony Brook Joins NYC Anti-War Protest

By MAURY HIRSCHKORN
Statesman Staff

When tens of thousands of anti-war protesters marched in New York City on March 20th, marking the first anniversary of the beginning of the US-led invasion of Iraq, there was a sizable contingent from Stony Brook.

"About 100 people showed up at the Stony Brook Railroad Station at 8:40 a.m.," said Matt Oppen, an English literature major. "They were students, professors and others."

"We got a group ticket and got a reduced rate to ride the Long Island Railroad," said Andre Levy, a graduate student in ecology and evolution. "Our group met at the Stony Brook Railroad Station. As we headed into the city, more people got on. At Penn Station, we went outside and met more people from Long Island. Then we walked to Madison Avenue."

Levy was wearing a black cloak, a Bush mask and was disguised as the grim reaper.

Oppen and Levy are members of the Stony Brook Social Justice Alliance, a campus activist group which organizes



Protestors, including SBU students, rallied in New York City to speak out against the war in Iraq.

teach-ins, lectures and political rallies.

Oppen's opinion of the war was expressed in the sign someone handed to him. It said: "Bush Lies. Who Dies?" Levy's opinion of the war was expressed in the sign he carried. It said: "Bush Kills."

More than 580 American soldiers have died since the war in Iraq began, and thousands of Iraqis have been

killed. Stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction, which were President George W. Bush's official justification for the invasion, have yet to be found in Iraq.

When the Stony Brook protesters got to the protest site, they noticed metal barricades. "We walked in a circle. We

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USG's New Arm: The Judiciary

By PAUL G. AKINS, JR.
Statesman Staff

On Tuesday March 23, the USG Senate approved the appointment of the newly formed Judiciary. The third branch of the Undergraduate Student Government will have ten members in all: one chief justice, six associate justices and three judges.

The ten officers of the judiciary were chosen from 25 applicants, who underwent an intensive interview process. Members of the USG executive council, the Provost and the Dean of Students interviewed the applicants. Vlad Frants was chosen as Chief Justice, seniors Cassandre Pomeroy and Joseph Perry, junior Christopher D. Maccio and sophomores Suzanna A. Katz, Mathew Mroz and Christina L. Rodriguez were selected as Associate Judges, and senior Sophia Campbell, sophomore Yelena Natanson and freshman Arthur Flynn III were chosen as judges.

The creation of the judiciary is one of many recent USG efforts to improve. They have already added a parliamentarian and a Chief at Arms, Darrell Dawud.

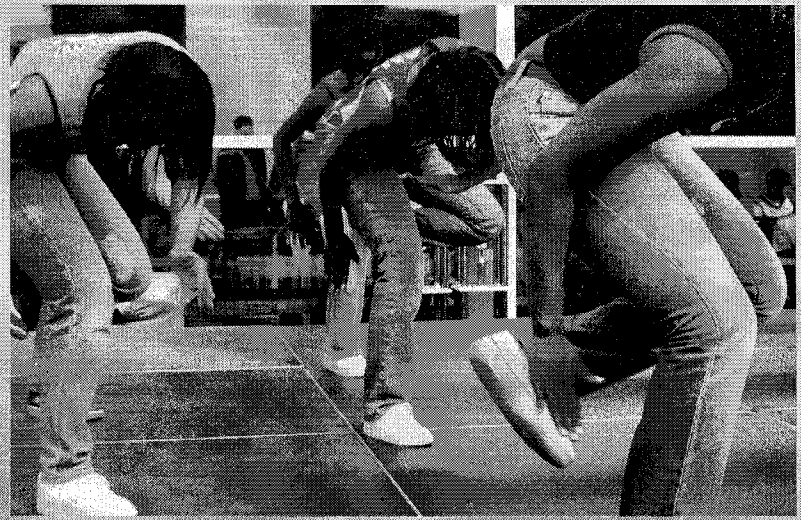
According to the chief justice, the judiciary should begin to hear cases a week from the date its members were officially appointed. The judiciary is broken up in two levels. The first level

is the Supreme Court, which consists of the chief justice and associate justices. The second level is the Judicial Council, which is composed of the judges.

Both branches of the judiciary will review cases as they arise. The Supreme Court will have control over all interpretations of the USG constitution and will be able to review any legislation brought to its recognition. According to the USG constitution, Article V, section D3, in order to bring a case before the Supreme Court, an individual must have standing. This means that one must be a member of the USG executive council, a senator, or hold some other position within the student government.

The Supreme Court will only hear cases concerning elections, impeachment, the student activity fee, and all other issues of substance arising. The Judicial Council will hear cases that the Supreme Court will not hear.

The new members of the judiciary have not spoken to the media about their appointments. They were scheduled to do an interview, but voted to cancel it due to the fact that they did not wish to answer any personal questions or questions pertaining to the role of the judiciary. According to the chief justice, the new judiciary wished to speak with a media consultant, which they do not have at this time, before they made any official statements.



Calendar of Events

Tuesday, March 30

Commuter Connection
7:45-9:30 a.m.
SAC Commuter Lounge

Career Center: Career Exploration
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Career Center

Self Defense Program for Women
5:30-7:30 p.m.
SAC Aerobic Studio

Wednesday, March 31

Career Center: Interviewing Skills
12:45-2 p.m.
SAC 303

Career Center: Getting Experience Through Volunteerism
5:15-7 p.m.
Career Center

Taiko Drumming Workshop
7:30-9:30 p.m.
SAC Aerobic Studio

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A Right to Drink Cheaply? Students at U. of Wisconsin Sue 24 Bars That Eliminated Specials

BY BETHANY BROIDA
Chronicle of Higher Education

Faced with higher prices at local bars, many students might simply have embraced an American campus tradition by drinking in their residences or at their fraternities. But two students at the University of Wisconsin at Madison this week opted for a different American tradition. They sued.

In a complaint filed in state court on Wednesday, the students allege that 24 local bars illegally fixed their prices -- an agreement that would violate antitrust laws -- by voluntarily eliminating drink specials on Friday nights and Saturday nights.

The bars' owners say they agreed to the ban at the urging of the university's chancellor, John D. Wiley, and as part of the PACE Project, a program at the university that aims to curtail binge drinking.

The university was not named as a defendant in the lawsuit, but James M. Lockhart, a lawyer for the students, said that it may be included in the future. The students are also seeking to have the suit certified as a class action.

In support of their case, the students' complaint quotes Mr. Wiley as saying: "I think a good case could be made that [the bars] actually could be more profitable businesses if they didn't have to offer such deep discounts trying to outdo each other in lower prices."

The suit also quotes unnamed uni-



Courtesy of www.Cymba.com

versity representatives as saying: "When prices go up, consumption goes down."

The students argue that, by agreeing as a group to end the weekend specials, the bar owners essentially increased drink prices in order to reduce consumption and engaged in a conspiracy that "transferred tens of millions of dollars from UW students and other bar patrons to the owners of the defendant bars."

The Madison-Dane County Tavern League, which is a defendant in the lawsuit and also represents many of the bars named in the suit, criticized the students' action.

"When you combine a student with imagination with a lawyer with time on his hands, this is what you get," said Jon Callaway, a lawyer for the tavern league.

"The suit is totally without merit," he said. "What they are trying to establish doesn't exist."

Other lawyers, however, are not so sure.

"If these facts are true, then it is illegal," said Peter C. Carstensen, a law professor and antitrust expert at the university. Federal and state antitrust

laws hold that business competitors cannot agree on matters like pricing, he said.

"This was out in public -- it should have been seen right away," he said. "I am embarrassed that I didn't see this sooner."

The university's efforts to curb binge drinking could have been accomplished legally in a number of other ways, according to Mr. Carstensen. The City Council

could have passed an ordinance banning the drink specials, or their prices could have been inflated through taxes, he said.

"From the very beginning, we pushed for an ordinance," said Susan J. Crowley, the PACE Project's director. However, in September 2002 the bar owners agreed among themselves to end the specials. The deal was not negotiated through the university, she said.

The lawsuit alleges that the university actively encouraged the agreement, making it the centerpiece of a campaign against excessive drinking. But the University of Wisconsin, the suit says, "does not have the legal authority to organize a cartel among a group of competitors whenever its social scientists believe that a particular product (beer, cigarettes, gasoline, ice cream, music, etc.) is being consumed in excess by its students."

John Lucas, a spokesman for the university, called the lawsuit disappointing. "These taverns acted in the public interest," he said, "and they are being challenged for this action."

Court Overturns \$4-Million to Parents of Northeastern U. Student

BY ALYSON KLEIN
Chronicle of Higher Education

The Appeals Court of Massachusetts on Thursday overturned a jury's decision to award \$4-million to the parents of a Northeastern University student who they said had died because the campus health clinic failed to diagnose her leukemia.

The ruling came more than a decade after Michel Goldberg, then a freshman from Fort Lee, N.J., died of complications from the disease, in 1993. A jury in Suffolk County Superior Court had awarded her parents the money in 2000 in response to their allegations that negligence at Northeastern's Lane Health Center had contributed to their daughter's death.

But on Thursday, a three-judge panel of the appellate court unanimously reversed that verdict, finding that Ms. Goldberg's parents had failed to provide the expert testimony needed to show that the university ran its clinic improperly.

Northeastern issued a statement on Thursday that took a measured

response to the ruling.

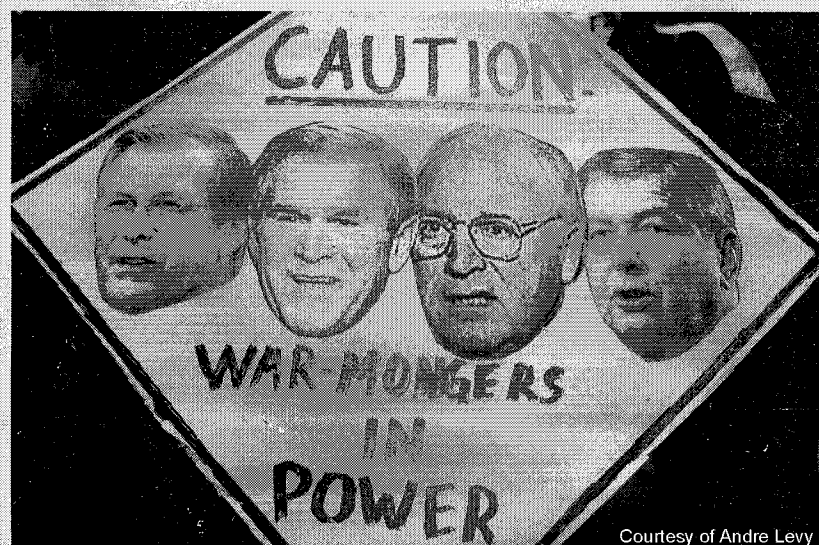
"We are pleased that the court of appeals has reached a decision favorable to Northeastern," the statement said, "but our thoughts today are with the Goldberg family and their tragic loss."

The Goldberg family's lawyer, Michael T. Eskey, could not be reached for comment. But he told the Associated Press that he was "personally shocked" by the ruling and that there had been "an abundance of expert testimony" at the trial.

While a student at Northeastern in 1993, Ms. Goldberg visited the health center several times complaining of nausea, dizziness, and other symptoms. On her last visit, about two weeks before her death, a nurse diagnosed the flu and allowed her to go back to her dormitory.

When Ms. Goldberg's illness worsened, she returned home to New Jersey, where she died on February 28, 1993. Her parents have said that a more-thorough medical examination at the health center would have revealed the cancer, perhaps saving her life.

SBU Students Rally for Anti-War Protest in NYC



Courtesy of Andre Levy

Protestors used a number of different signs and slogans such as this one above.

Continued from Page 1

walked in the street," said Oppen. "Along the sides of the streets were metal barricades, so people in the sidewalks couldn't join us."

According to Chad Kautzer, a Social Justice Alliance organizer and one of its founding members, this protest was an improvement from the anti-war demonstration in New York City last year, when the protesters had to stand behind metal barricades called "Free Speech Zones" in different sections of the city.

The Stony Brook protesters also noticed a large diverse group of demonstrators and a large police presence. "It was a large

diverse group in ages and causes," Levy said. "There were people concerned with Palestine, Afghanistan, Haiti, peace, Bush's domestic issues..."

"There were a lot of police," Levy said. "I saw a police officer on top of a van filming the marchers...I saw anarchists [with black clothes, black hoods, black boots and masks] run into an alley, and the police got upset about that and radioed about them." Later, the police had those people remove their masks.

"But the march was eventful, and there were no major problems," Levy said. Similar anti-war protests occurred on March 20th across this country and the world.

4 SBU Men's Lacrosse Takes Vermont

Continued from page 12

around, rattled the cage four times in the third period. Adam Marksberry started the trend, scoring the first goal with 7:56 left in the period. Less than a minute later, a Vermont defender accidentally kicked the ball in his own net after a vicious shot from Ryan Maehr, tying the game at four apiece. The other two goals were scored by Larry Cerasi and Sean Chamberlain on an assist from George LaFlare. Vermont was only able to add on one goal in the entire second half making the final score 6-5 in favor of the Seawolves. This victory not only gave Stony Brook their first conference victory, but added to their streak, giving them four consecutive wins.

One of the key factors in Stony Brook's recent success has been goalkeeper Brendan Callahan. Callahan, a freshman from Hanover, Maryland, had

seven saves against Vermont. When asked about his thoughts after the Catamounts opened the game with three quick goals, Brendan replied, "I knew once we got our offense started we would be alright. I wasn't too worried."

Another player who has contributed to the Seawolves' defensive support has been senior Eric Hatkewitz. Hatkewitz, one of the teams only long-stick midfielders, scooped up four ground balls in Saturday's game. Hatkewitz said of the victory over Vermont, "it feels real good to get our first conference win under our belts."

As Stony Brook begins conference play, they have some difficult games ahead of them. UMBC will be one of their toughest competitors as they are favored to win the America East this season.

The next home matchup for the Seawolves will be against Siena on Wed. April 14 at 3:30 p.m. at Kenneth

Softball Earns 3rd and 4th Victories

Continued from page 12

pitching could only last for so long, and in the fourth inning, the runs started coming. After coming close to scoring a number of times, Siena finally broke through in the fourth. An RBI double by Megan Woltz and a two run home run by Sarah Rose put them ahead 3-0.

The Seawolves answered right back in the bottom half of the inning, however, putting up two runs of their own as Kristen Brust hit a two-run home run to right field to keep the Seawolves close.

Both pitchers downed the opposing lineups in order in the fifth inning before once again running into trouble in the sixth. After a leadoff double and a sacrifice to move the runner to third, Hoffman was lifted and replaced by Andrews, fresh off her shutout performance in the early game. Andrews stuck out the first batter she faced before giving up a two-run home run to Kelly Boyle, which gave Siena a 5-2 lead heading into the bottom half of the inning.

After loading the bases in the bottom of the sixth, a single up the middle by Marissa Servello scored the first run of the inning as the Seawolves tried to mount a comeback. The Seawolves would add two more unearned runs to tie the score at five.

After giving up the home run, Andrews settled in and allowed just one more hit in the final two innings, giving the Seawolves a chance to win. They did this in the eighth, when Brust came to bat following a leadoff walk and hit her second two-run home run of the game to win it for the Seawolves.

Following the sweep, the Seawolves are now 7-17 on the season while Siena is 0-10. The Seawolves will look to extend their four-game winning streak on Sunday when they take on Iona.

Women's Lax Ends Winning Streak

Continued from page 12

mediately after that, but that would not be enough.

The Pioneers answered back with four more goals. The Seawolves found themselves trailing 8-3 at halftime

Looking to make a comeback in the second half, the Seawolves started off strong, with two goals by Buck and freshman Andrea Venditti. However, Sacred Heart responded to each of the four goals scored by Stony Brook and went on to win.

The Pioneers' Christina Macchia scored four goals, while Stony Brook's Buck scored two.

Currently, two freshman, including Buck, are leading the Seawolves in scoring.

"The freshman have really stepped it up," Caro said.

"I did okay," said Buck, "but it's not the point for one person to stand out if the team doesn't do well."

The Seawolves' next match is at Central Connecticut (0-2) on March 30. Although Stony Brook defeated them last season by a score of 13-7, Central Connecticut, led by a new head coach, will be a tough opponent.

Buck said that the team is ready to learn from the mistakes they have made in previous games and take a step in the right direction.

"We're going to try to shake things up," Caro said. "Maybe do a different combination in the lineup. Central Connecticut was not easy to beat last year, and we're going to have to come out and play."

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

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How That Fastball Makes Us Special: An SOT Lecture

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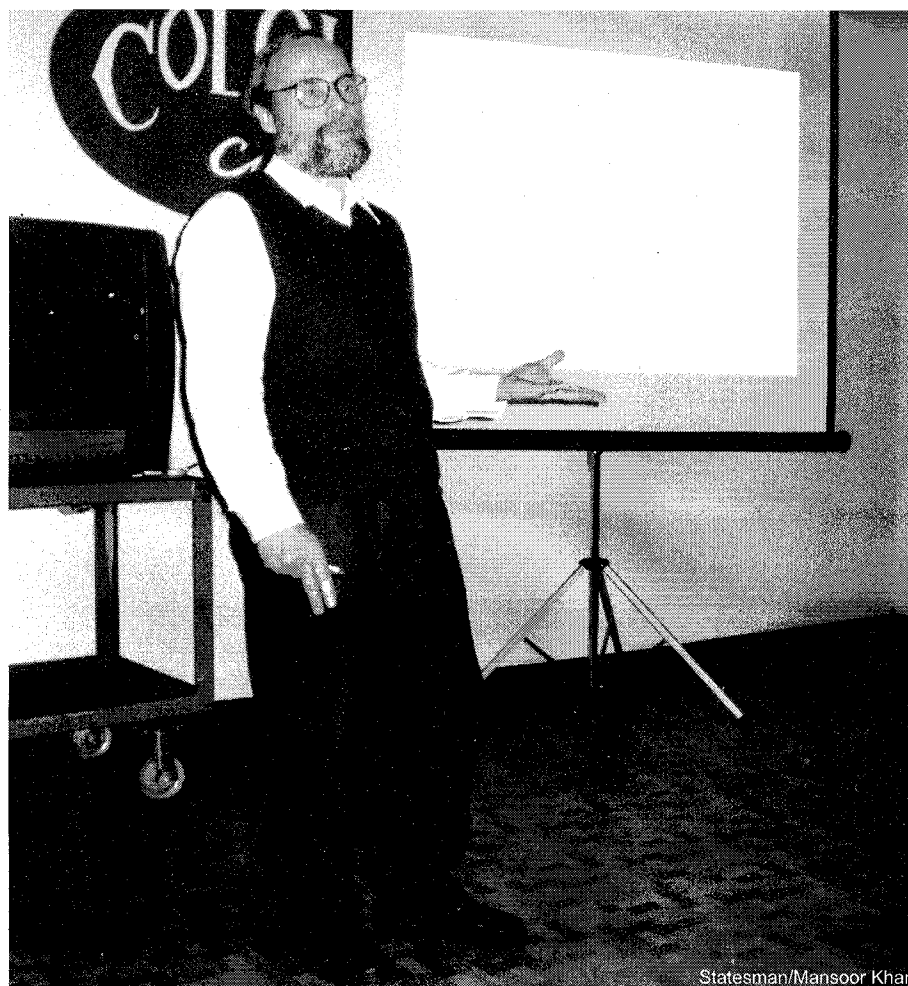
human beings developed in skull size, sexual uniqueness, language and they progressed historically. The factor of coercion allows a civil society to exist, because it eliminated the imminent threat of behavior such as stealing, Bingham said.

As society progressed, human beings gained the distinct ability to create tools, including weapons. Weapons such as the bow and arrow especially built upon our unique ability to throw, and raised a new frontier regarding societal and intersocietal coercion. But in the age of warriors and swordsmen, only the elite, trained extensively in the art of combat, could wield weapons of destruction.

"People with a lot of time on their hands, with no other responsibilities could take up these roles," Bingham said. "And that doesn't include women, who had to deal with pregnancy."

The next utilitarian revolution centered around guns, an even greater projectile weapon that effectively nullified the effect of armor, swords and spears in the age of close combat. While the first ways of guns were complex and difficult to operate, operating the guns became simpler over time. Initially, only men were able to use them because of cultural and technical barriers.

"Guns became better, better and better, until they became so easy to use that they became negligible," Bingham said. That is when women were incor-



Professor Paul Bingham, pictured above, was the first lecturer in the SOT Lecture Series.

porated into the exploit of projectile self-defense, and that is when Annie Oakley emerged. Oakley, born in 1860, became the first female contract for the

Wild Wild West Show, displaying her awe-inspiring feats of shooting. Oakley, who, from 90 yards away, could shoot a playing card five or six times on its

descent to the ground, made it painfully clear that women were as able with guns as men were, Bingham explained.

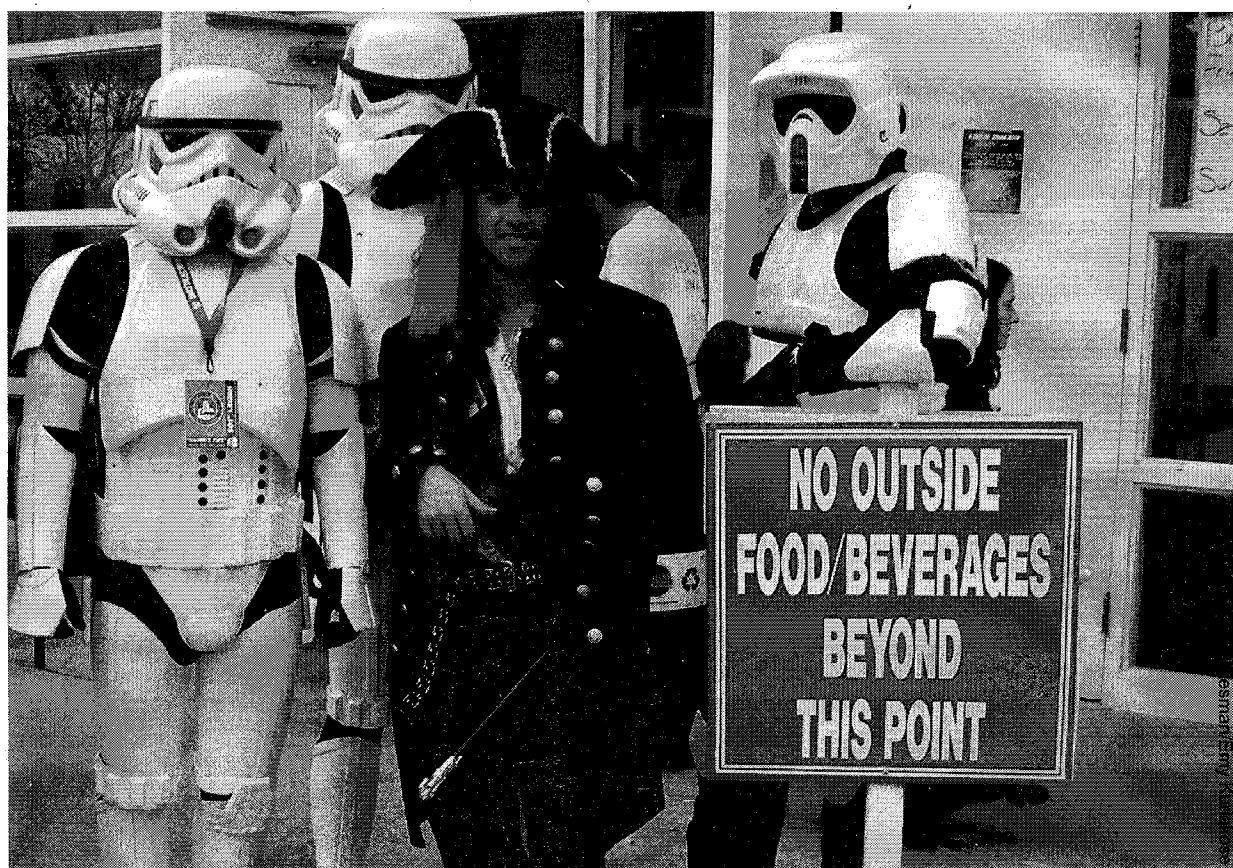
"Human cooperation serves those who hold decisive coercion," Bingham said. Decisive coercion means the ability to oppose or uphold a certain decision or action, based on your own ability to use force. Women, according to Bingham, took hold of this ability with the onset of guns. Because of their perceived threat to the dominion of men, they soon obtained the ability to vote.

The idea of human cooperation based on coercion is essential to the development of history, according to Bingham, and it shapes the world as it is today. "Our ecological power comes not from our intellectual power, but from our ability to share among each other," Bingham said, and that is why cooperation is so essential.

"School of Thought is dedicated to improving the human environment," said Michael Zannettis, president of the organization responsible for the lecture. "The best way to do that is to understand the principles of human existence, and Professor Bingham knows all about that. By knowing how the world got to be this way, it helps us forge the world we want to see."

"This planet is a fragile basket," Bingham said. "We are ignorant and ecologically dominant. We're in a race with our own consequences floundering about."

I-CON Comes to SBU: Long Lines and Mean Costumes



I-CON participants dressed up as their favorite characters from science fiction movies and books.

Continued from Page 1

At the Physics lawn, there were barbeques and events, such as jousting, with the event name being "Kingdom Fighters of Avalon." The Union and Union bi-level was where people met to play games. Lectures and readings, such as psychic readings, or "Medieval, Character and

Persona Development," were mostly held in the SAC classrooms. In addition, there were screenings of such films as "Dr. Who," "Lord of the Rings," "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Finding Nemo," to name a few.

In ESS on Saturday, there was a Cosplay competition held. Cosplay is the dressing up of a person as an anime, manga, novel or movie character. The costume can be

specially ordered or homemade. At the convention, it was easy to spot guests dressed as the Mario Brothers, Storm Troopers, various anime characters or even Neo and Morpheus.

"It's a really cool place to come with friends," said Andrea Marino, a staff volunteer. "This is my second year doing this."

"It's fun, and there are many people gathering together, sharing same interests," said Raymond Reilly, who learned of I-CON through his high school's science fiction club.

"I-CON is attended by over 6,000 people annually," said Hausman. The event is put on by the I-CON student group in Stony Brook. It is sponsored by I-CON science fiction, Inc. The two groups come together and choose someone to run it each year." This year's event coordinator is Lisa Soto.

Other I-CON events over the course of the three days included an art show, an author's panel, cabaret, charity auctions, children's programming and chemistry magic shows. Guests of Honor included Connie Willis; sci-fi author, Rowena, a sci-fi and fantasy artist, and Joseph F. Dolan, Ph.D., who is cited as the "discoverer of binary X-ray source." Special guests included illustrious figures in science fiction such as authors David Kyle and Barry Malzberg.

"It was definitely a wonderful experience and a pleasant surprise to me," said Jean Kanne, who was a first-timer at I-CON. "I just came with a friend, but I ended up having a lot of fun. I'll definitely return next year."

This all came with a price though. For students, the price of admission ranged from \$22 on Friday, to \$38 on Sunday. A three-day pass was also available for a discount price.

For more information on getting involved with I-CON, visit www.iconsf.org.

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Editorial

USG T-shirts: A Response

By MANSOOR KHAN
Statesman Editor

On March 22, 2004, the *Statesman* printed a letter to the editor by James Santora entitled "Where Can I get a USG T-shirt?" It has become painfully clear that the opinions expressed in this article are likely to be taken offensively by many students at Stony Brook University.

The *Statesman* would like to establish, before making any response, that any opinions expressed in the commentary section of the newspaper, and especially in the form of a letter to the editor, do not represent the opinion of the editors of the *Statesman* or campus students in any way, shape or form. They are simply the attitudes portrayed by the author of the article.

That being said, I would like to make an attempt at clarifying some of the views expressed by Mr. Santora in his piece. While I do not agree with his views at all, I think that his point was certainly clouded by his initial allusions, which were offensive, to say the least.

The observation that USG is staffed by a number of students who are part of the Educational Opportunities Program is partly true. In fact, our own USG president is a member of this program, but that does not condone any sort of racial generalization such as the one the author made in his article.

The author was trying to refer to the idea that a sub-

stantial number of students in EOP can be seen wearing a USG shirt, and that a significantly lower proportion of students who are not members of this program own one of the t-shirts. That is because, he said, USG members who are part of EOP tend to share the free t-shirts with their friends, who are also members of EOP. This comment itself cannot be warranted by simply making uneducated guesses at which students are part of EOP. If the author had taken the time to actually find out if these students he observed wearing USG shirts were actually members of EOP, he may or may not have found that his original belief was true.

Furthermore, it seems obvious that the author made no concerted attempt at obtaining a USG shirt himself. Just recently, a friend

of mine who is part of the Stony Brook Press was wearing one, and anyone who is even slightly informed as to campus politics knows that the Stony Brook Press is not exactly on cheery terms with USG. If he has the capacity to obtain a shirt from USG, I am sure that James Santora would not have too hard a time.

To add insult to injury, the author makes the resounding generalization, based on the distribution of t-shirts, that USG is giving special treatments to "their friends." I am in no place to make any judgment about the truth of this, but as a journalist, I understand that making a generalizing claim based on a few, unfounded, isolated incident is extremely dubious and unwise. And I'm not just talking about t-shirts.

As a journalist, I understand that making a generalizing claim based on a few, unfounded, isolated incident is extremely dubious and unwise.

Commentary

Democrats' Foreign Policy: Soup of the Day

By ROBERT J. ROMANO
Statesman Staff

The only thing consistent about Senator John Kerry (D-Massachusetts) is that he is inconsistent. Backing off statements he made on March 16th, where he said: "I have heard from people, foreign leaders elsewhere in the world who don't appreciate the Bush administration and would love to see a change in the leadership of the United States..." which landed him key endorsements from Spain's newly elected Prime Minister, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero and Malaysia's former Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, now Senator Kerry's campaign is singing a different tune. In a statement released this past Thursday, campaign advisor Rand Beers insisted that "[i]t is simply not appropriate for any foreign leader to endorse a candidate in America's presidential election. John Kerry does not seek, and will not accept, any such endorsements." So, while it is apparently appropriate to tout foreign leaders who do not approve of U.S. policy, so long as their names are kept private, it is inappropriate for foreign leaders to publicly endorse Senator Kerry. No wonder he wouldn't name names: that would have been inappropriate. Based on the Senator's prior statements, one would have thought he would be happy about landing such endorsements! But no, apparently other foreign leaders have gone too far by publicly stating their support. In other words, it's okay for foreign leaders to play

a role in a presidential election campaign, so long as they talk behind our backs.

If all this nuance was not enough, Democrats consistently bash President Bush for not gathering enough allies forward for the war on terror. But this makes "sense," too, when one considers the Democrats' logic when it comes to terrorism. The terrorists attacked America on 9/11/01, and the Democrats blamed the government for not doing enough. The terrorists attacked Madrid on 3/11/04, and Governor Howard Dean blamed the United States' policy in Iraq. Apparently, taking the fight to state sponsors of terrorism, like Iraq, is not a good idea, because then they might attack us. Of course, states that have been subjected to decades of terrorism, like Israel, could probably inform us on just how this sort of spinning rhetoric works. If you're a target for the terrorists, you should just give into their demands, because otherwise you'll get blamed whenever they do something.

Of course, this is utter nonsense. A forward strategy of taking the fight to the enemy is necessary, and free peoples throughout the world must realize that fighting back is not only their best option, it is also their only option. The terrorists are relentless, and the best strategy is to hunt them down, capture and kill them, and remove state sponsors of terrorism; countries like Iran, Syria, Cuba, North Korea, and

Continued on Page 7

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Foreign Influence on the Presidential Campaign

Continued from Page 6

yes, Iraq, among others. Not only does the argument that Hussein's Iraq did not support international terrorism hold no water, neither does the argument that certain countries which opposed Operation Iraqi Freedom did so for any legitimate reason. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, has called for an independent investigation into alleged corruption of the U.N.'s oil-for-food program to Iraq, which would explain why certain states

concern about states which support sponsors of terrorism, but to blame President Bush and his administration for the corruption of other governments is outrageous. Of course, their criticisms do serve a useful end: they demonstrate that not enough is being done by the international community to battle terrorism and state sponsors of terrorism. These criticisms are best directed at those countries which oppose taking action against terrorists and state sponsors of terrorism, but at the same time, we must give praise where praise is due, to those countries which are taking action.

A forward strategy of taking the fight to the enemy is necessary, and free peoples throughout the world must realize that fighting back is not only their best option, it is also their only option.

indeed opposed the war: they did not want to be implicated in any wrongdoing. It is becoming increasingly clear that countries that provided support to Hussein's Iraq need to be called to account. In addition to being a state sponsor of terrorism, Iraq violated numerous U.N. Security Council resolutions by its pursuit of weapons of mass destruction, and was a threat to international peace and security. Pursuing regime change, with a coalition of the willing, was the only option worth pursuing at the time.

Democrats, and all Americans, do have a legitimate

This coalition has been doing good work, and our administration here at home deserves praise for leading them in the war on terror.

Of course, this author does not expect any apologies from the Democrats here in America, for making fallacious criticisms, for opposing the war on state sponsors of terrorism like Iraq, and for insisting that we need to get more governments on board when in fact they need to get on board at their own choosing. We're not going to hold anybody's hand in this case, and America will never hand

CORRECTION: The *Statesman* would like to offer an apology to Robert Romano and readers who may have been offended by the title of Mr. Romano's previous article "Election 2004: No Europeans Allowed." The title was created by the editorial staff, and was a considerable oversight. Mr. Romano actually makes no reference to Europeans in his article.

over the matter of our national security to the objections of a few. The Democrats probably just need to do some soul-searching, go snowboarding, and think things over. After all, the Democrats' foreign policy is about as consistent as the soup of the day.



**A THOUGHT
FROM
RABBI ADAM**



The Jewish month in which Passover (next Monday night) falls is "Nissan", known as the month of redemption, for the Sages have said that, "[Since] it was in Nissan that [the Jewish people] were redeemed, [therefore] it will be in Nissan that [the Jewish people] will be redeemed." That since G-d led the nation of Israel from their bondage in Egypt during the month of Nissan, this month is an especially auspicious time for the Jewish people and the entire world to merit redemption- freedom from "bondage". The bondage of the nation of Israel was by way of being enslaved to an Egyptian Pharaoh (king) who was a self-proclaimed god. The ancient Jews were forced to feed Pharaoh's ego by building pyramids as a testimony to his false divinity. The world's current "bondage" is similar. Everyone seems to be ruled by some sort of self-proclaimed righteousness. And from the force of self-justification, we are bound to build lives that stand as a testimony to our own subjectivity. To our own falsehoods. To our own Pharaoh. This bondage has been the root of all war, hate and conflict. Through redemption we are freed from all this. With redemption we are released from our skewed assessments of right and wrong. Assessments that are always tainted by our own self-interests. With redemption we come to a realization of truth. Absolute truth. This is true freedom. For it means a world free from war, hate and conflict- a world of peace and love. A world free from selfish egos, a world free from ourselves- a world of spiritual unity. Accordingly, the Passover Seder (dinner) concludes with a prayer that the prophecies of the Biblical redeemer, the Mashiach (Messiah), should be fulfilled, and that "Next year [we should be] in Jerusalem" with the ingathering of the Jewish exiles to the Land of Israel.

Rabbi Adam

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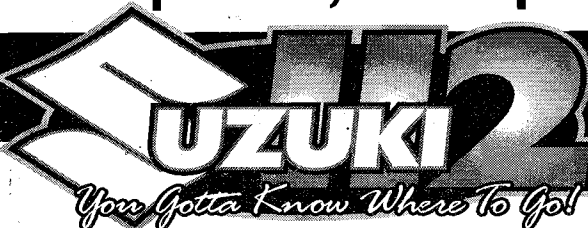
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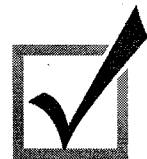
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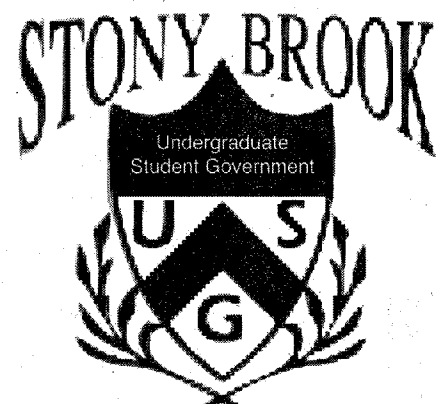
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The State of the USG

By ESAM AL-SHAREFFI
Statesman Contributor

One of the first goals I tried to attain as soon as I was settled in at Stony Brook was to join the Model UN club. Unfortunately, I discovered that the club was dissolved and I switched my ambitions to the next best thing, joining the Undergraduate Student Government. I am now President Pro-Tempore of the USG Senate and enjoy my job, despite the headaches, the dilemmas and the "brilliant" coverage afforded to the organization by Stony Brook media organizations.

At the beginning of my tenure as a Senator, I enjoyed reading the critical, sometimes vilifying, articles by the Stony Brook Press, the Statesman and other media organizations regarding the USG. I found their anger justified and I knew that without a strong and scrutinizing media, no government, not even a student government, can adequately serve its constituents. I am writing this article, however, because there seems to be an unhealthy fascination in finding everything wrong with USG, and almost no coverage of the hard work and excellent programs that USG has provided to us all.

USG works tirelessly to provide the best programs and services for the \$82.50 student activity fee that every student pays every semester. This money is used to fund myriad referendum groups, such as NYPIRG, which pursues, *inter alia*, student advocacy, consumer protection and environmental concerns in a non-partisan way. SBVAC is also funded by this fee, and is a widely acclaimed and award-winning organization, responsible for answering hundreds of calls on campus from students, faculty, staff and anyone on campus in need of medical attention and/or transport. The student activity fee is also responsible for funding over 150 clubs and organizations, as well as the necessary funding for Student Activities Board programming, which includes comedy shows, concerts and name painting events, to name just a few programs.

"So what? My beef is with USG, not the student activity fee!" might be your response, but please consider for a few moments the work it takes to insure that everything runs in a relatively smooth

manner.

With so many clubs and organizations, all vying for funding for their programs, there needs to be a way to ensure that each one receives the money they need to function, and that there are adequate funds for all. The USG Senate holds budget hearings where organizations can explain the reasons that they should continue to receive their funds, in order to ensure that the money that every student spends is not wasted or misappropriated. If you and a few friends wish to start your own club and receive funding for it, such as a Model UN (hint hint) or a book club or whatever you might like, then the SSC (Special Services Council) is there to help you with the paperwork and with initial funding. Whatever your needs may be, the USG has dedicated personnel, willing to undergo criticism, abuse and long hours to meet your needs. I encourage anyone with questions, concerns, advice, or comments to visit the USG office in Room 202 in the SAC, or to attend the USG Senate's meetings, which are every Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. in Ballroom B of the SAC, or the Executive Council Meetings, which are every Friday from 2:30-4:00 p.m. in the third floor of the SAC. Every meeting is required to have an Open Agenda portion where anyone can ask any question they wish, and if you have a private question then you are more than welcome to stop one the USG officials, who work for YOU, and ask them after the meeting.

There are those who will still be dissatisfied after reading this. Let me again emphasize that everyone in USG is working for you, and that you have the right to demand satisfaction. If I could not address your concern in this brief article, then feel free to contact me through e-mail and tell me what is on your mind. My e-mail is ExcaliburPrime1@yahoo.com. I check my e-mail compulsively, and will respond to your inquiry without delay. Finally, the easiest and most satisfying way of changing policy is through direct action. If you are truly agitated with the work of your student government, then feel free to run for office, as elections will occur this April. Just stop by the USG office, Room 202 in the SAC and ask about the election process... or if the trip is too arduous, feel free to write an e-mail, and I will be glad to help you.

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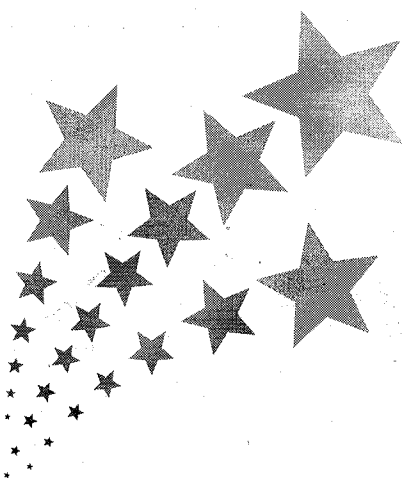
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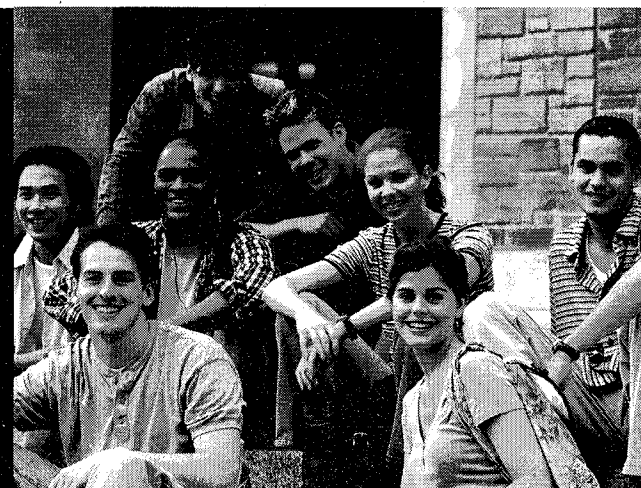
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Statesman SPORTS

SBU Men's Lacrosse on a Four-Game Winning Streak

By JIMMY BOYLE
Statesman Contributor

On Saturday afternoon, the Stony Brook men's lacrosse team emerged victorious in their first conference game of the season. The Seawolves defeated Vermont 6-5 at LaValle Stadium, improving their record to 4-3 overall, 1-0 in the America East, while the Catskills fell to 3-5 overall and 0-1 in the conference.

Vermont started the game the same way they entered the stadium, full of energy and determination. They leapt out in front, scoring three goals in the first five minutes. Noticing the concern on the faces of their players, the Stony Brook coaching staff decided to call a timeout. During the timeout, Head Coach John Espey reminded the team "a game is 60 minutes. We play so hard, we will break them down after awhile." The Seawolves did just that.

Before the end of the period Stony Brook put up their first two goals, which were scored by Jason Cappadoro on an assist from Ryan Maehr and Adam Zetzer on a pass from Cappadoro. The only other goal of the half was scored by Vermont, sending Stony Brook into the locker room trailing 4-2 at halftime.

The Seawolves, stepping back onto the field determined to turn the game

Continued on page 4



Statesman/Emily Kuriakova

Softball Sweeps Doubleheader

By JOHN IMOSI
Statesman Staff

On a rainy Saturday afternoon, the Stony Brook softball team swept a doubleheader against Siena, to get their third and fourth straight win.

The first game was a 5-0 win by the Seawolves, thanks to a four-hit shutout pitching performance by sophomore Angela Andrews. Jane Stein and Hayley Durham both had two RBIs to lead the team to victory.

While the Seawolves took the first game easily, the second game proved to be much more difficult, as it went eight innings before the Seawolves could finally claim the victory.

It was a tense game from the very beginning, as Siena loaded the bases with one out in the first inning before Stony Brook's starting pitcher, Sarah

Hoffman, struck out the next two batters to end the threat. After the close call in the first inning, Hoffman tried to settle in and quiet the Siena bats in the second, as Hoffman struck out the first batter she faced in the inning, but then she found herself back in trouble as Siena used two singles and a walk to load the bases with one out again. Finding herself in a jam for the second straight inning, Hoffman rose to the occasion once again and retired the next two batters to leave Siena frustrated and scoreless.

While Hoffman was doing all that she could to keep Siena off the board, Stony Brook was having trouble figuring out Siena's starting pitcher, Tara Campbell. In the first three innings, the Seawolves only managed one hit while striking out four times against Campbell. But the strong

Continued on page 4

Women's Lax Loses to SHU

By LAUREN CONCHING
Statesman Contributor

The third time wasn't the charm for the Stony Brook women's lacrosse team last Tuesday. The Seawolves, who pulled off second-half wins in their previous two games, were unable to come back from a five-goal deficit at halftime, and lost to the Sacred Heart University Pioneers 12-7.

"The last two games we came from behind," said head coach Danie Caro, "so instead of working for the win, we were waiting for it to happen."

Against Long Island University on March 6, the Seawolves were tied 2-2 at the half, but broke away in the second by scoring five goals and giving up only one to win 7-3. Then on March 14, Siena College led Stony Brook 5-1 at halftime.

After returning from the locker room, the Seawolves scored eleven goals, ten of them consecutively in less than 12 minutes and one more with 28 seconds remaining in the game. Giving up only two goals in the second half, the Seawolves won 12-7.

However, their two-game win streak was snapped by Sacred Heart after their attempt to make a third second-half win failed.

Freshman Carlee Buck said that lack of patience on the offense and not clicking together as a team were some main factors in their loss.

Sacred Heart opened the game at Kenneth P. LaValle stadium with two goals in the first five minutes. Stony Brook's Danielle Werner got the Seawolves on the board by scoring in

Continued on page 4