



# Required Readings Paying Off

By SURAJ RAMBHIA  
Contributing Writer

SBU students had the unique opportunity to meet with Tim O'Brien last Thursday, author of *The Things They Carried*. O'Brien held seminars throughout the day, which were filled to capacity for the most part. SBU students and faculty members got to learn first hand from the Pulitzer Prize nominee about his experiences writing the novel as well as obtaining some tips on how to become better, more creative writers. This event has become a five-year SBU tradition, where authors of the annual freshman reading assignments are invited to hold seminars with students, staff and faculty to impart their wisdom and expertise as accomplished writers.

The other novels assigned to freshman in the past four years have been *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt, *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri, *The Tipping Point* by Malcolm Gladwell, and *The Color of Water* by James McBride. At a first glance, it appears that SBU administration has taken a keen interest in emphasizing the academic importance of reading. U.S. News has reported recently – in February of 2005 – about the declining levels of literacy among the youth of America. The article describes, based on information from the National Assessment of Educational Progress, how nearly 70% of eighth graders and two thirds of twelfth graders read below levels of proficiency determined by the National Assessment of Educational Progress. This fact has startled many educators across the country, as it is widely known that the emphasis on reading increases as students attempt to obtain a college degree at a university setting.

SBU administration may have had the foresight to instate this yearly-required reading for freshman students in addition to the Diversified Education Curriculum (DEC) system, as a means of promoting literacy on campus. However, if this was the case, why did the required reading tradition start only five years ago – what did it provide that the original DEC system could not? Could there have been another reason for starting the freshman required reading?

When asked about the reasons for instituting the freshman required reading, Dean of Undergraduate Students Jerrold Stein noted that this idea was "not novel in universities even though it was new to Stony Brook." Stein also commented on the need for educational stimulation for the students that transcends the pure academic

realm, as "college students spend 80% of their time outside the classroom." Rather than instructing students in lecture halls, the common reading allows students to create their own "intellectual community," not to mention meeting the author of a highly acclaimed literary work. Stein recalled how O'Brien implored his audience of students, staff, and faculty to "look for the creativity inside ourselves," and to "take some risks when writing stories or novels," inspiring the students to attempt to reach their full potential as writers.

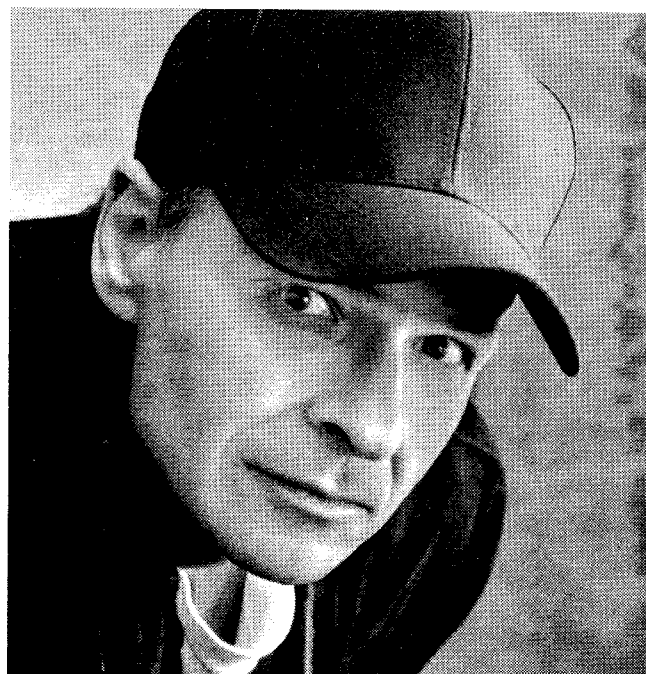
When asked about the process of selecting the required reading each year, Stein gave a reference to a committee of two members within the administration who were given the charge to conduct this year's required reading selection process. The two members of this committee are Dr. Peter Baigent, Vice President of Student Affairs, and Dr. Mark Aronoff, Deputy Provost, also affiliated with the Department of Linguistics. Although both Aronoff and Baigent recognize the fact that the committee has somewhat diminished in size over the past several years, they both made clear that there has been a motion to revive, that is, increase the size, of the selection committee in the future.

Baigent, who according to Stein, had initially "presented the concept" of the required reading five years ago, gathered the selection committee with several professors and administrators including Aronoff. Baigent reported that there were about 6-8 books in the running with the selection for this year's required reading. "The book has to meet several requirements. It should be relatively easy to read. It should have a contemporary touch. Something the students can relate to more easily. And, the author has to be available," he said.

Aronoff gave comments not only on the requirements of the book, but also for the author. The author not only had to be available, but he or she should be, "a good public speaker." Thematically speaking, Aronoff noted that, "the book should be of wide interest. I don't like books that take one side or another." Basically, according to what Aronoff said, the book should have a viewpoint that will not serve to indoctrinate the student. *The Things They Carried* does not have a pro-war or anti-war stance, which further allows a wide range of people to identify with and appreciate the literary work.

"The work should be well written," added Aronoff. This is clearly noted as O'Brien, after writing the short

## STATESMAN EXCLUSIVE: Interview with Tim O'Brien



Courtesy of Tim O'Brien

By JEREMY FALLETTA  
Copy Editor

We recently had an opportunity to interview Tim O'Brien, author of *The Things They Carried* - this year's freshman reading assignment - when he was on campus last Thursday. O'Brien is the author of nine novels, and *The Things They Carried* was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

**Statesman:** Tell me a little bit about yourself.

**O'Brien:** Well, I started as a foot soldier in Vietnam in 1969. I was drafted, and went to the war. Very unwillingly, but I went, which I've written about. I've been writing since then, and I'm a professional novelist and short story writer.

**Statesman:** Would you say that your writing has been cathartic in dealing with your war experience?

**O'Brien:** That's hard to tell. I don't know what would have happened if I hadn't. It certainly doesn't hurt, I'll say that. You never get some of the memories out of yourself, even if you're writing. It's still there, you know, late at night. It's like having head cancer, or if your girlfriend dumps you; any tragedy's going to stay with you even if you write about it. But it helps clarify things, when you take the time to sort through your emotions and memories. It's probably a little bit like going to a shrink, and talking a lot, where you get a little clarity out of it. But the purpose of my writing is

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# Required Readings for Freshmen

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story "The Things They Carried" in 1987 – the first chapter of the novel *The Things They Carried*, which he completed later in 1990 – received the 1987 National Magazine Award in Fiction. The short story was also selected as one of the 1987 Best American Short Stories and Best American Short Stories of the 1980's. For the novel *The Things They Carried*, O'Brien won the 1990 Chicago Tribune Heartland Award in Fiction, the Melcher Award, and France's Prix du Meilleur Livre Etranger award. The New York Times deemed *The Things They Carried* as one of the year's ten best novels, also in 1990. The following year, in 1991, O'Brien was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize.

Little known to the students, Aronoff mentioned one of the largest underlying factors in selecting the freshman required reading – money. There is a certain cost associated having an author give a day's worth of lectures. Aronoff commented, "We've had to turn down some authors because they ask for extremely high sums of money." Although he couldn't remember the cost for Tim O'Brien's visit, Aronoff mentioned that last year's author, Frank McCourt, who wrote *Angela's Ashes*, had initially asked for about \$25,000. SBU administration eventually bargained McCourt down to about half the price.

In the long run, however, the required readings were instituted for the benefit of the student body. As mentioned earlier, Stein

mentioned the "camaraderie" and "community" that the required reading created on campus. He also reported from his own understanding and interaction with students that "they identify their class with the author [of their freshman reading] coming to campus."

When asked, students appeared to be of mixed opinions on the issue over whether they supported the idea of having required readings or not. Josh Yeh, a student who attended the interview with O'Brien in the morning, reported in a matter-of-fact tone, "I had to read it as part of my ACH seminar. I think it was a good idea." Jenny Huang, another student, gave her comments, "They chose the book because of Iraq. [O'Brien] was a decent speaker, but I didn't think

the book was amazing." Thinking retrospectively of her statement, Huang added that the readings are, "useful because they broaden the horizon of the student body. Most kids wouldn't have picked up the book unless they were forced to." Student Jeff Fei nodded in agreement at Jenny's second statement. Another student, Seroos Salavati, remarked, "[There are] so many other things to read." He cited that he would rather put his academic energies into something more academic, like reading a biology textbook. When Salavati was asked about his views of the social implications associated with having such a required reading – how the students, as Jenny reported previously, "can expand their horizons" – he replied, "no comment."

## Thieves on Campus

By SHARON LINDELL  
Contributing Writer

There have been a few cases of theft reported inside residence halls this year. Two of these cases were at Greenley College in Roosevelt Quad. What these two cases have in common is that: they occurred on the same day, October 4; both dormitories are located on the first floor and both dormitories had their windows open.

The two thefts occurred while the occupants of the rooms were away for the holiday weekend. The windows screens were cut open. A computer monitor and cell phone were stolen from one room and two Playstation consoles and two baseball caps were stolen from the other. The thief was not caught.

University Police Deputy Chief Douglas Little says that thefts in residence halls are

a big problem. Little believes that 99.9% of people on campus are good and decent people but that .1% of people on campus are people who will take advantage of decent people. Little also said that these .1% are cowards.

According to University Police, one residence hall theft is too many in one week. Little says "We are all here to get an education and to all get the best career possible," so we must "keep ourselves safe... [and] not make yourself a victim."

If you are a victim of a theft inside your residence hall, the University Police advise that you do not touch anything and call them immediately to file a report. The Police will then do the best that they can to help you. In some cases, the report will go to Detective Stephen Varga. He says that when a thief is caught the thief is usually scared, proving that they are indeed "cowards."

Varga also believes some cases of theft can be prevented or thieves caught ahead of time by just one anonymous phone call about a "suspicious person." Varga says that recently he and a colleague tried to look suspicious and tried going through a window in perfect view of someone on a cellular phone. There were no calls made to the police alerting them to this incident.

Alana Elia, a freshman student who resides in the Roosevelt Quad, worries about thefts in her resident halls. "I am very cognizant of locking the door when I'm not there," she says, but "people always leave [the front] doors propped [opened]." She also had a theft of her own. Her father had sent her flowers to her dorm room and someone else signed for them and took them. She "felt really bad too [because] her father sent them for [her] birthday." This is what the University Police is trying to prevent

– students feeling like victims.

Some students are not overly worried about thefts, like freshman Jack Eustace. He believes he is a "scary motherf--ker" and no one would want to steal from him "unless they go after [his] shoes," believing they are his only things of value. But he claims that he takes the proper precautions so that he won't be made a victim.

Little recommends that you keep your door closed and locked, talk with roommates about doing the same, and lock your windows. If more students are more aware then thefts in the residence halls can be decreased. Also, students that see suspicious people around residence halls should not hesitate to call the University Police. If you are worried about your property being stolen from your dorm room, insurance is available from the school. For more information, you can visit the Office of Campus Residence.

## USG Executive Council: *Finding an Unexpected Surplus*

By KERRI WALSH  
Staff Writer

The Undergraduate Student Government Executive Council Meeting held last Thursday showed a great deal of improvement over the last week. The meeting began almost promptly at 5:17 PM with seven council members in their seats. Two more council members showed up late.

The meeting started off by discussing the court case that Rob Romano had brought up. After the USG Senate approved the ten-dollar raise in the student activity fee, Romano decided to drop the case. Also, because there was an enrollment higher than what was expected, there

is now approximately \$97,000 that needs to be allocated somewhere. Clubs and Agencies may apply for some of this money.

The next issue on the agenda was the Student Faculty Staff Retreat, for which \$2,500 was allocated from the Council's budget.

Another allocation made was to the SUNY Student Assembly. Four students from the branches of USG will be attending this conference. The Council allocated \$860 dollars to this event.

There was an impeachment hearing for justice Alan Chen of the USG Judiciary. After a brief executive session where all gallery members were asked to leave, the Council decided to impeach Alan Chen for never show-

ing up, negligence, and failing the student body.

The Council reports were far more substantial than the informal talks of last week. Among the notable agenda items was the Academic Bill of Rights, which gives both students and faculty certain academic rights. Currently, Stony Brook is taking a stance opposing the Academic Bill of Rights; however, the final decision will be made by SUNY and will affect all SUNY schools. USG is working on running financial workshops for students.

Also, there is a meal plan committee that is trying to work out student concerns with the meal plan – there should be a town hall meeting regarding meal plans in November.

# Students Fast for Charity

By MARWA ABDALLA  
Staff Writer

An MSA tradition that was started two years ago was back again this year. This tradition, where non-Muslims were invited to fast with Muslims for one day for charity, is called the Fast-A-Thon and was held last Tuesday

According to Adam Osman, the Treasurer of the Muslim Students' Association (MSA), 600 hundred non-Muslims signed up to fast. However, not everyone could show up because of busy schedules. Only around 150 showed up for the Fast-A-Thon event. "Because of people's generosity to fast with us, we raised \$2400 to be split between the Interfaith Nutrition Network charity organization and Katrina Relief organization," said Osman.

Sister Sanaa Nadim, the MSA chaplain, started the Fast-A-Thon with one of her inspiring speeches. Other speakers that followed were George Myers, the Vice President of Stony Brook University, who spoke on behalf of himself and President Kenny, and Dan LaRosa, from the Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN) charity organization.

Everyone broke their fast with dates, other fruits, and water, as it was the tradition of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) to break his fast with dates and water, after the calling of prayer. Then, Muslims who helped out in the Fast-A-Thon, and those

who did not, all went to pray in the courtyard in the Student Activities Center (SAC). Non-Muslims were invited to watch how Muslims pray in the courtyard.

After the evening prayer, each table's number was called upon to prevent cluttering and any food "accidents." Everyone picked their dishes and sat down to listen to Imam Abdul-Malik talk about Ramadan.

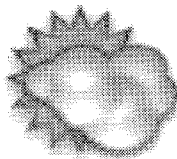
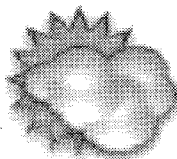
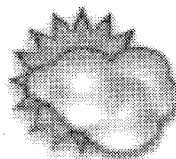
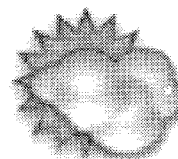
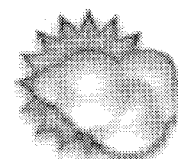
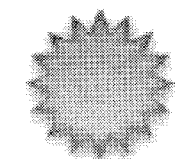
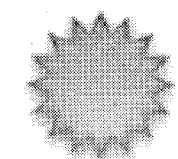
When asked about what he thought about the Fast-A-Thon, Abdul-Malik said, "I think the Fast-A-Thon is a wonderful idea, I think it has national and international implication on student bodies, and I think it's a wonderful way to introduce non-Muslims to the fundamental principles of our faith, which is our objective. We always [try] to seek to encourage people to learn the basics of Islam, in the absence of the politics and the absence of war conflict, to get back to the spiritual base. And I think that when you can bring people together, gather them where there is food, where there is fun, family, lack of hostility, just people who have come in a comfortable manner, not in an intimidating way, that would be the perfect setting for education. And I would highly encourage it."

Abdul-Malik has been part of the Fast-A-Thon since it started, which was four years ago. "I'm going to Kingsville tomorrow [Wednesday] morning for the Fast-A-Thon, and have Jumu'ah [congregation prayer] outside on the college campus, open to the general public. The largest Fast-A-Thon

I saw was in Detroit, Michigan, right outside, I think it was about 800 people. And it's growing, it may become a Fast-A-Thon marathon some day, where it becomes more part of an American culture expression. This, to me, is one of those institutions that reflect Muslims who live in Western society. We try to find creative ways to do exactly what Prophet Muhammad did without going against the grain of Islam. The concept - Fast-A-Thon, Marathon, Telethon - it speaks to the language of the American people... Even in Nigeria, they were holding the Fast-A-Thon... The idea of having the Fast-A-Thon and then having money collected and given to those who are less fortunate just adds more beauty to the process," he said.

Those who did not leave the Fast-A-Thon were given deserts after Abdul-Malik's inspiring speech. David Weisblatt, a Health Science major and one of the 600 fasters that came to the event said, "I was starving by the end of the day. This was the third Fast-A-Thon that I attended. I thought the Fast-A-Thon was good, probably [it] could be talked about more in advance for a better turn out. I thought the food was alright, there was something funny about it though. I enjoyed the speakers. I thought the main speaker was highly entertaining with many good points. I liked how the main speaker put things in a context that everyone could understand, which brought some unity amongst the audience, and I would do this again next year."

## Student Forecast: October 24 - 30 By Britta Merwin

						
<b>Monday:</b> High 55/Low 43 Breezy with developing showers through out the night	<b>Tuesday:</b> High 56/Low 47 Brisk with a chance of rain Wednesday	<b>Wednesday:</b> High 54/Low 43 Rain still possible in the early morning and then clearing by afternoon	<b>Thursday:</b> High 56/Low 49 Mostly sunny and cool	<b>Friday:</b> High 54/Low 38 Dry and cool fall weather	<b>Saturday:</b> High 56/Low 38 Crisp weather with sun	<b>Sunday:</b> High 58/Low 43 Cloudy, cool, and dry

## Police Blotter

Compiled by Radeyah Hack/Statesman

10/20 - 10/21



### Lost and Found

On Thursday, October 20th, a lost wallet with its contents were found in the Stadium at 12:44 pm. A lost cell phone was also reported in the SAC at 2:29 pm. At 10:12 am of the same day, a purse with its contents were found on the second floor café of HSC.

### Miscellaneous Events

A Noise Complaint was reported to campus police when a large group of people were reportedly making noise in the P Lot of Dreiser College. The police patrolled the area, but the group was not found.

### Hospital Assists in Emergencies

At Eisenhower College on Thursday, October 20th, a medical emergency was reported to campus police, with one female transported to the Emergency Room via SBVAC. Again at Eisenhower College on Friday, October 21st, a female was reportedly passed out, so SBVAC was again notified and the patient was transported the University Hospital.

### Theft and Vandalism

A Petit Larceny was reported on Thursday, October 20th at the FSA office when a deposit was reportedly not made. At O'Neill P Lot on

Thursday, a criminal misdemeanor was reported after a vehicle was keyed in the lot.

### Tempers Flare on Campus

Confrontations seemed to be common on campus in the last two days. At 10:19 am on Thursday, October 20th, the campus police was called in for a crisis intervention between a professor and student in the Humanities Building. On the same day at 11:41 am, an Order Maintenance was requested at Chapin Apartments due to a dispute between room mates. On Friday, October 21st at 4:17 am, a male was reported threatened by members of a fraternity in Hand College.

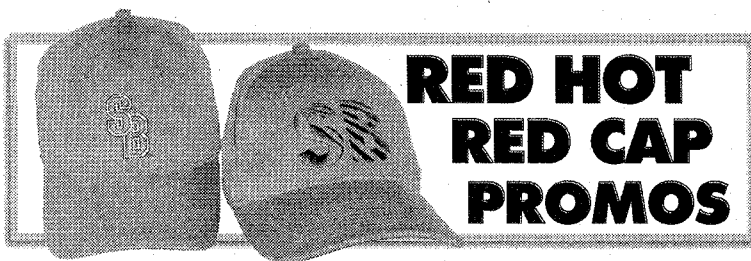


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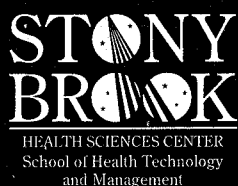
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*Photo courtesy of the Food Network*

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### Clinical Laboratory Sciences, B.S.

11/9, 12/7, 1/11, 2/8, 3/8, 4/12, 5/10, 6/14 • 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Small Conference Room 411, (631) 444-3220

### Cytotechnology Program, B.S.

11/2, 12/7, 1/4, 2/1, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3, 6/7 • 12:30 p.m.  
David Bell's office, Room 415, (631) 444-3180

### Health Science Program, B.S.

11/2, 12/7, 2/1, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3 • 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
SAC 304, (631) 444-6858

### Occupational Therapy Program, B.S./ M.S.

11/16, 12/14, 1/18, 2/8, 3/15, 4/19, 5/17, 6/21 • 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Small Conference Room 411, (631) 444-2363

### Physical Therapy Program, D.P.T.

11/16, 12/14, 1/18, 2/8, 3/15, 4/19, 5/17, 6/21 • 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Large Conference Room 408, (631) 444-8356

### Respiratory Care Program, B.S.

11/3, 12/1, 1/5, 2/2, 3/2, 4/6, 5/4, 6/1, 7/6 • 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Respiratory Care Lab, Room 464A, (631) 444-3180

### Health-Care Policy and Management Program, M.S. • Advanced Certificates in Health-Care Management or Community Health

11/21, 12/14, 1/5, 2/15, 4/4, 5/15, 6/27 • 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
7/17, 8/15 • 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
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All information sessions are located in the Health Sciences Center, Level 2, in the School of Health Technology and Management, unless otherwise noted.



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# Stony Brook University



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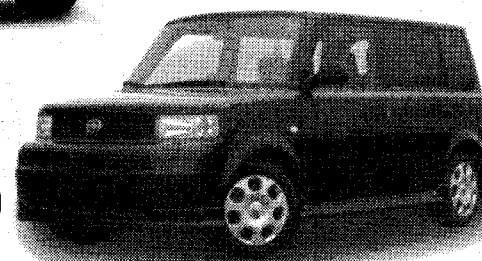


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The Statesman encourages readers to submit opinions and commentaries to the following address:

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Stony Brook, NY 11790

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To view previous issues, extra material, and to learn about how to get involved with the Statesman, visit our website at sbstatesman.org.

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#### WHO WE ARE

The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Succollian" in 1957 at Oyster Bay, the original site of Stony Brook University. In 1975 "The Statesman" was incorporated as a not-for-profit, student-run organization. Its editorial board, writing, and photography staff are student volunteers while its business staff are professionals.

The Stony Brook Statesman is published twice-weekly on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the fall and spring semesters.

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# Poor Maintenance on Campus Roads Hurts Commuters

While we all put up with the construction on campus, we shouldn't do so at the expense of our cars. It's been months since they started tearing up roads in what seems to be an attempt at modernizing the campus and there are still massive potholes and gaps in the road that can be lethal for your vehicle. There is no reason that we should have to put up with this mismanagement, especially given our tuition rates.

For practically a month, Circle Road has had major gaps in it a foot wide that can do some serious damage, even if you are paying attention to them. At night, if you don't ex-

pect a massive gap in the road, you can easily crack an axle going over it too fast if you're not careful. Some of these are just unavoidable, like leaving through the Main Entrance from the Stadium Lot. Even crawling over these gaps puts unnecessary strain on your car, forcing some students to fill their tires every week. We do not pay high tuition to have to be subjected to ill-managed construction work.

To the credit of the University, the major gaps have been fixed as of a few days ago. The problem here is that they were only fixed a few days ago, and there are still problems left. There is still uneven pavement by the

P-Lot, which is very minor in comparison to the other gaps, that is completely unmarked and dangerous for us. There have even been students who have bent their rims while driving normally over broken pavement, and this is unacceptable. If this is a work in progress, then mark it accordingly. By letting it be, unmarked for a long period of time, the University is inviting trouble. Not keeping on top of major road problems is the mark of a poor University with an uninterested administration. On behalf of the students and faculty of Stony Brook, we sincerely hope this is not the case.

## COMMENTARY

# The Real Story in Gaza

By **RABBI JOSEPH S. TOPEK**  
Director of Hillel Foundation for Jewish Life

It was good of The Statesman to cover the adventures of a former Stony Brook student who visited Gaza this summer during the disengagement process. This was a historic moment in the Middle East as Israel evacuated over 8,000 settlers and finally its military presence from a piece of territory that has been in dispute for many years. The antics of some of the demonstrators made for interesting reading, but the real story was the courage of the Israeli government and the Israeli people in making this concession for their own security, and ultimately, for peace.

What is often missing from the dramatic headlines and stories of protestors is the history of this small but strategic strip of seaside desert. Gaza is an ancient region, mentioned in the Bible and in subsequent holy texts. Its modern history saw it as part of the far reaching Ottoman Empire, then it was controlled by the British during the Palestine Mandate period from 1918 to 1948. In 1947, under the United Nations partition plan for Pal-

estine, Gaza was to be part of an Arab state that would exist alongside of a Jewish state in this Palestine Mandate territory. If this sounds familiar it's because this "two state solution" was finally agreed upon by some Palestinians and Arab governments in 1994 after they spent 46 years trying to annihilate Israel, although the radicals, like Hamas, still seek to do this. This desire to destroy the Jewish state began even before Israel declared its independence, May 5, 1948. Israel was immediately attacked by Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq. In the ensuing war Egypt seized the Gaza Strip and held it for the 19 years. Finally, in 1967, Egypt and Israel fought one another in the Six Day War, in which Israel staved off the armies of those same five neighboring countries and captured an unprecedented amount of territory from its aggressive foes. Included in the land Israel captured from Egypt was the Gaza Strip.

Israel's victory in 1967 was so swift and so complete that many thought that this would surely mean the end of Arab aggression. I clearly remember the war and its aftermath and the nearly euphoric sense of Israel hav-

ing finally achieved a sense of security in a very unstable part of the world. Not many thought that these lands would remain in Israeli hands for long. After all, it seemed that Egypt, Jordan, and Syria would be anxious to reclaim their lost territory and come with olive branch in hand seeking a permanent peace and finalized borders. It was not to be. In 1973 Israel was attacked again, and miraculously came through that war intact. Finally in 1977 Egyptian President Anwar Sadat made his unprecedented trip to Jerusalem and within a year Israel and Egypt signed a permanent peace treaty. And what happened to Gaza?

Egypt wanted Israel to return the Sinai peninsula, which it had occupied since 1967, but Gaza, with over one million Palestinians was no longer of interest to the Egyptians. For years prior to 1967 Egypt had used Gaza as a launching pad to fire missiles and launch armored attacks into Israel. The northernmost tip of Gaza was only a few miles south of Tel Aviv, Israel's largest city. Now Gaza

*Continued on page 7*

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# The Real Story in Gaza

Continued from page 6

had no strategic value to the Egyptians and would only become a burden with a largely impoverished Palestinian population controlled by radical factions of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) that had no allegiance to Egypt. Israel was stuck with Gaza.

Meanwhile, for better or for worse, successive Israeli governments had encouraged settlers to move to the West Bank (occupied by Jordan from 1948-1967 and captured in the Six Day War) and to Gaza. This was actually a program developed earlier in the days of the Israeli state when its outer lying border areas were under constant attack from its Arab neighbors. Israel defended its borders with permanent settlements that played a multifaceted role. Many of them were agricultural, and contributed to Israel's economy, but they also provided a security zone along the border and helped define it and protect it from hostile incursions. Israel defended and solidified its frontier with these settlements, much the way America had in the 19th century. Many Israeli governments applied the same basic principle to the West Bank and Gaza. Some Israelis believed these settlements to be temporary, until the Arab governments came to their senses and were willing to bargain for

peace. In fact, the settlements in the Sinai (there were only a few thousand settlers) were dismantled and evacuated in 1979 when the land was turned back over to Egypt. In the West Bank and Gaza, however, there was no one to negotiate with and there still isn't.

During the heady days of the Rabin-Arafat pact, and later the Barak-Arafat negotiations at Camp David, it appeared that Israel had a real partner to establish a permanent peace with the Palestinians. All of this went up in smoke in September 2000 with the start of the second intifada. The deal offered to Arafat, as flawed and imperfect as it may have been, would have removed all of the settlements from Gaza and most from the West Bank. The few remaining would be compensated for with equivalent adjacent land from within Israel. Even Arafat himself later admitted it was a mistake to pass this one up. Finally, after almost five years of senseless murders and suicide bombings, Israel decided to act unilaterally. The unlikely architect of this move is Ariel Sharon, one of Israel's most infamous right wing politicians. As if knowing that turning Gaza over to Palestinian authority is eventually in the cards, and that the cost of defending the few thousand Jewish settlers is very high, Sharon decided to make a bold move. It turns out that 70% of Israelis support this

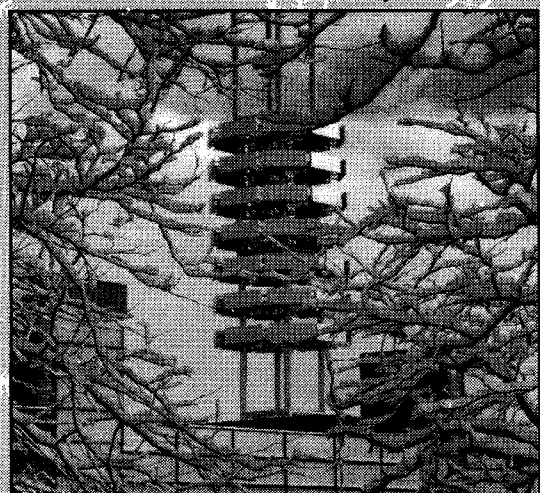
move, but his own political party is likely to dismiss him as its head. In the end, however, it is Israelis and only Israelis who could make this decision. It is Israeli Jews, and even non-Jews, who serve in that country's armed forces and defend its citizens against hostile aggression and terrorist attacks. Those of us Americans who sit comfortably in our homes and visit Israel on occasion, write checks to fund Israeli charities, and lobby our government to support one of America's great allies are friends indeed, but we are not the ones to decide Israeli policy. Yes, there are legitimate arguments over whether or not there is a religious precedent for this move, and there are certainly two sides to the political strategy of unilateral disengagement. Ultimately, however, this was an Israeli decision made by a democratically elected Israeli government, supported by a large majority of the Israeli people, and hopefully in Israel's best interest.

Watching the disengagement process on television was both sad and uplifting. It was sad to see people who had worked so hard and been promised so much by their government uprooted from their homes and forces to leave. It was sad to see soldiers whose job it was to enforce the policies of their country and follow the orders they were given have to remove some of their fellow citizens from their homes.

Many of these soldiers cried and prayed with those they came to expel. There were few incidents of violent resistance and the evacuation was completed ahead of schedule. It demonstrated once again the compassion and humanity of Israel as a country, despite the many horrors it has been forced to live through. It also demonstrated, most importantly, that Israel is governed by law, not by mob rule or gangs of terrorists. Yes, the protests were vehement at times, and the rhetoric was heated. Thousands of protestors, including some Americans, infiltrated Gaza prior to the disengagement either for adventure, publicity, or just to get in the army's way. They failed. What prevailed was the will of the Israeli people, Israel's democracy, and Israel's desire to act in its own best interest even without a Palestinian partner for peace. Ultimately this will benefit the Palestinians as well, for now the Palestinian Authority controls Gaza and can demonstrate its ability to govern its own people and improve their lives without the interference from Israel that they have long sought to end. In Gaza, Israel's presence is gone, and so is the excuse of "the occupation." It is now time for the Palestinian people to get on with the task of building the society and the state they claim to seek and to live in peace alongside their Israeli neighbors.

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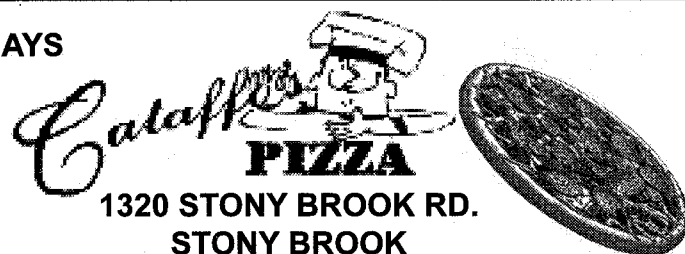
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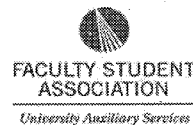
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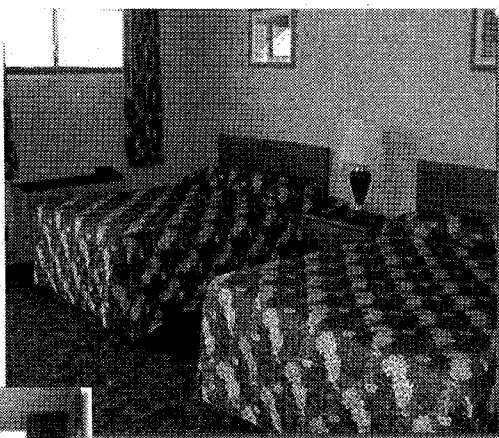
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# STATESMAN EXCLUSIVE:

## An Interview with Tim O'Brien

*Continued from page 1*

not for catharsis, the purpose is to make good stories.

**Statesman:** So, would you say that the purpose of your writing is entertainment, then?

**O'Brien:** Well, that's part of storytelling, in the same way that Ernest Hemingway would look at it, or Joseph Heller or Homer. The purpose is partly entertainment, partly education, partly just touching the human heart. Whatever stories are is what I do. I'm not quite sure what they are, I mean, I know a good story when I hear one, but I'm not quite sure what a good story does for us, except that there's a human craving for stories.

**Statesman:** How would you say that the war affected your general outlook on life?

**O'Brien:** It did two contradictory things. One, it made me much more cynical than I had been about myself, my country, and our leaders. I had kind of a naïve, romanticized version of myself and the world, and that naïveté and romanticism was blown away by what I saw and did in Vietnam. I don't mean to say just things that I witnessed, but also things I did myself. On the other hand, having come through the war, I think I'm more appreciative of peace than I had been before.

Here we are at peace, and most people don't think much about it. Peace is a shy thing that doesn't brag about itself. A war lets you know it's there, but we take peace for granted. When you've been in a war for a year, with all the noise and the horror, and the fear, and all that stuff is suddenly gone, you really appreciate the quiet and the safety. So it gave me something good, not just bad.

**Statesman:** What would you say your most poignant memory is?

**O'Brien:** I think that would be returning home. One minute you're in the bush, and you're in a war, and a helicopter plucks you out of it, and then you take a shower and get on an airplane, and you fly out. You leave really fast. Within six hours you go from being in a war to being aboard a plane with flight attendants, and those TV dinners they used to give you, and tweed seats and muzak. And you look out the window and there goes the war, you just watch it go. I remember looking down and just seeing the lights of America, all the glitzy stuff you take for granted. Like Target, and McDonalds, all that stuff, it

was home. It really brought an emotional choke to my chest, it surprised me. It was kind of tawdry looking down at strip malls and stuff in an ordinary world, after coming out of such horror. It was America.

**Statesman:** Was the book planned out when you began to write it or did it just develop as you were working?

**O'Brien:** The book was planned. I mean, I planned to write a novel in the form of a memoir. So I banged all of the rules of a memoir. Using my name, dedicating it to the characters, and trying to make it feel real. Like it really happened. And then periodically to remind the reader that it's made up. Novelists find forms to try to convey the spiritual, emotional and psychological truths, not the literal truths of things, but the feel of heaviness, and the feel of fear, the feel of indecision. All the emotional things are true. Any novel is grounded in some level of reality, but then you leave it in the world of fiction. I left it quickly. The difference between what I did and what others did is that I was up front about it. As a writer, my main aim is artistic.

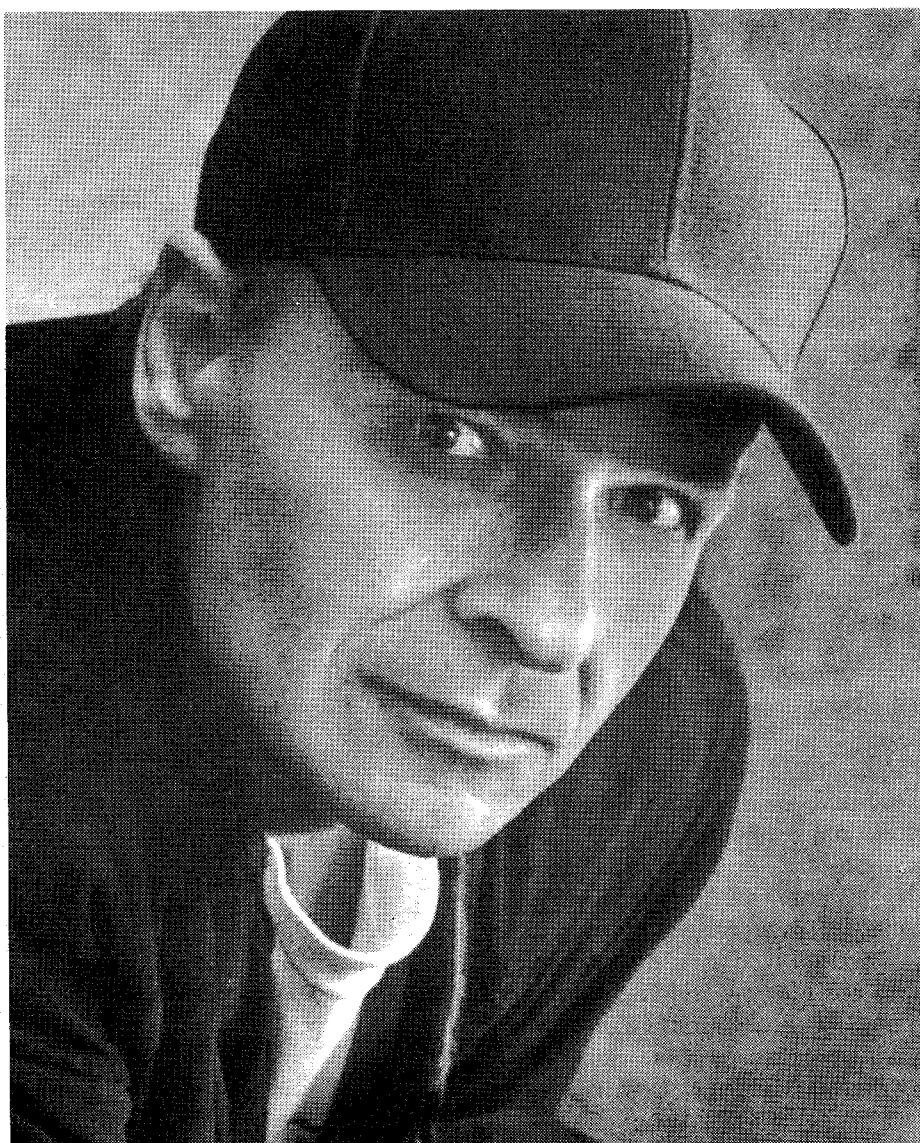
**Statesman:** How do you feel about coming to *Stony Brook* and your book being the freshman reading assignment this year?

**O'Brien:** Scared, flattered, honored – all that. Because I'm a private person – which you have to be as a writer, it's not like being a movie star or anything – it's much different from the rest of my life. Here I'm analytical, and I have to talk about things that I don't even think about when I'm doing them. You don't analyze everything you do, you try to tell a good story and make it meaningful, and have bits of humor and pace, but then here you go into another mode. It's like an English teacher mode. But by the end of the day I'll be into the swing of it and it'll be fun.

**Statesman:** What advice would you give to a young writer trying to start out or get published?

**O'Brien:** I'd say read a lot. And then read a lot more, and read a lot more. Eventually, if you have any talent, you'll soak up the sound of a good sentence. There are lots of different sentences. You'll soak up what a clumsy sentence is if you read enough of them. You'll know what a clunker sounds like. You'll soak up stories, you'll know what's been done before, and what's melodramatic, etc.

Your taste will slowly become elevat-



Courtesy of Tim O'Brien

Tim O'Brien, Pulitzer Prize Finalist and author of *The Things They Carried*.

**"Peace is a shy thing that doesn't brag about itself. A war let's you know it's there."**

ed. And then the second thing is tenacity. You have to put your butt down and keep it down; you have to be willing to write a whole bunch of bad sentences and bad stories, until you find a good sentence. Then you back up and say, "OK, what's the next good sentence I can write?" You do that until you can see something, you know, like a guy falling in love with someone, or somebody watching his mother die. Until the sentence is as good as the material that you're looking at in your mind's eye.

You have to put in the hours, be kind of a mule. No stories or novels have ever happened without muledom. Talent, yes, you have to have an ear for language, which you can develop by reading. But you can't make good at it without sitting in front of a piece of paper. It's impossible.

You have to be really stubborn. Once you're into the habit of doing it, then you love it. It's like working out every day, it's hard to start but after a month or so, you miss it if you don't do it.

# The History of Stony Brook

*A weekly feature chronicling the little known origins of our Alma Mater*

## The Migration to a Research University

By RADEYAH HACK  
News Editor

The Cold War era brought a greater emphasis on the study and research of the sciences in American society. To keep apace with the Soviet Union, government funds were funneled into universities across the nation to enhance academic research. New York State and the SUNY system were no exception to this trend. "Millions and millions of dollars went into the campus. Stony Brook came on stage in a day of heady rhetoric about education, research, and social opportunity – a rhetoric almost a reality, thanks to state and federal dollars," said Professor Joel Rosenthal, of the History Department.

The Heald Report of 1960, which was a study of New York State's higher education, recommended that a major new university center be established on Long Island to "stand with the finest in the country." The report was commissioned by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller and coincided with the building of the new campus at Stony Brook. SUNY Stony Brook would become the research university that was needed on Long Island.

Although the mandate of the Coe Estate campus was to be a teacher's preparatory college, as Professor Robert Kerber of the Chemistry department points out, a science emphasis was always there. "The State College on Long Island began with the original intent of training science and math teachers," he said.

"A major goal of the new mission was to have graduate programs in place across the board – designed to train people for advanced work leading to masters' degrees (MAs) and doctorates (PhDs), and the march in this direction began early," said Rosenthal. By 1962, when the move to Stony Brook's campus occurred, the shift to research was well underway with Physics, Chemistry and Mechanical Engineering already approved by New York State to grant PhDs.

A university to "stand with the finest" required top class research and the facilities to make this vision possible, as well as an experienced and well known faculty to develop a prestigious program to attract graduate students. "Faculty already on the ground (and hired at first by the administrators) were then authorized to bring in others...senior faculty got on the phone, wrote letters and talked to friends in an effort to recruit others," said Rosenthal.

The Physics department at Stony

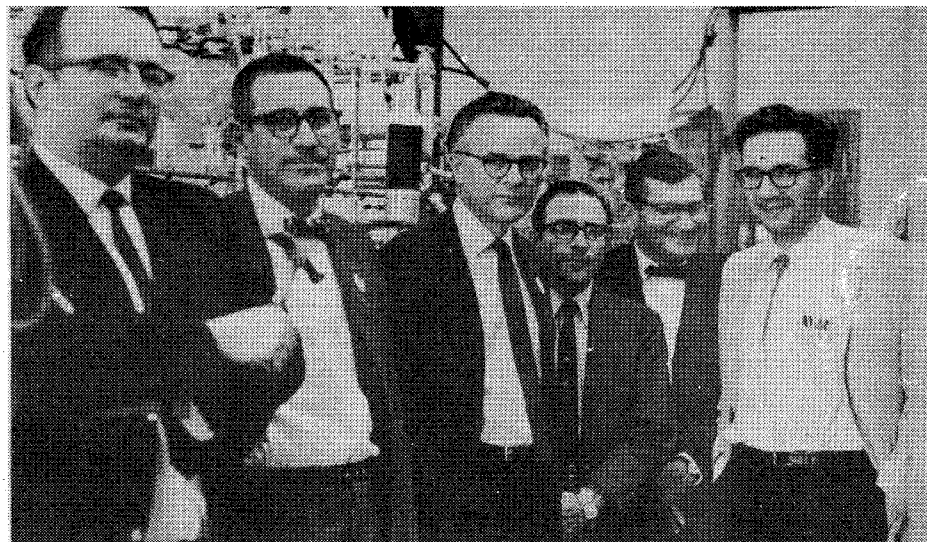


The Oyster Bay Astronomical Society

Courtesy of University Archives

Brook grew relatively quickly, particularly with Stony Brook's proximity to Brookhaven National Labs, which was famous for government-sponsored work in physics. A major contributing factor to Stony Brook's growth as a prestigious research university was due to the appointment of John Toll in 1964 at University President, who was a physicist and chair to a large physics and astronomy program in Maryland.

To further Stony Brook's prestige, Toll successfully recruited C.N. Yang to join Stony Brook's faculty in 1965 as an Einstein Professor. Yang, who was the first Asian to win a Nobel Prize, received his PhD from the University of Chicago in 1948 and was a Professor at Princeton University until he agreed to come to Stony Brook. According to Rosenthal, the appointment of Yang was "the most important single stroke in establishing Stony Brook's academic credibility by giving the university an academic world figure." By 1969, SUNY Stony Brook had already granted PhDs in a number of academic areas, such as Applied Math, Biology, History, Psychology, Electrical Engineering, English, Sociology and Anthropology. Approval and authorization for several more PhD programs were underway by the 1970's, as well as plans for a Medical School and Health Sciences



Members of the Chemistry Department, from left to right: Sujishi, Ramerez, Hagen, Goldfarb, Kerber, Whitten

Center.

The Heald Report's call for a comprehensive, acclaimed research university on Long Island was fully met by SUNY Stony Brook.

It has been classified as a Type 1 Research University, which is the highest distinction granted to fewer than two percent of all colleges and universities nationwide and in the past ten years Stony Brook has been invited to join the Association of American Universities. It was ranked 10th among U.S. public

universities by the London Times Higher Education Supplement, achieving Governor Rockefeller's dream of a university to stand amongst the finest.

*Quotations for this article were taken from Joel Rosenthal's book From the Ground Up—A History of the State University of New York at Stony Brook.*

In the next installment of the History of Stony Brook, we will look at Halloween though the years at Stony Brook University, as well as the lost event of Octoberfest.



# MAP Raises Funds and Awareness

By TEJA GAWADE  
Contributing Writer

The past few years have witnessed natural tragedies and wars. These events have led to massive relief efforts and protests. One such effort was recently organized at Stony Brook University by the Musicians' Alliance for Peace (MAP), a three-year old organization created to popularize international peace efforts in the wake of September 11, 2001. Through the College of Arts, Culture and Humanities and the co-sponsorship of the College of Global Studies, the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action and the Social Justice Alliance, MAP performed a benefit concert for victims of Hurricane Katrina, and the Earthquake in Southeast Asia.

The concert attracted an audience of more than a hundred in Ballroom A of the Student Activities Center, a well-lit room with poor acoustics. The anti-war piece was followed by three different performances, featuring varied musical genres including jazz and alternative. A performance by Kent Gustavson, of the Early Music Program at Stony Brook University, and Gabe Shuford, a composer, featured their own genre of "Appalachian-Bluegrass-Baroque-Jazz."

The concert picked up pace as it progressed, featuring a variety of musical performances. The opening Jazz performance by Ray Anderson, the trombonist, Bakithi Kumalo, the guitarist, and Jim Mansfield, the drummer, alternated between slow and upbeat non-vocals. On the other hand, Gustavson and Shuford performed songs about poverty and war, including Bruce Springsteen's "On Fire," which received various accolades. The final performance, by Tim Hrivniak, and Adam Obernauer, both guitarists, and Charlene Obernauer, the drummer, was the most vocal performance. They performed a fifteen-minute long alternative piece, during which Charlene read aloud the "Doctrine for Joint Nuclear Operations," combining words with guitar riffs.

Originally planned to be an anti-war performance, the concert featured an anti-Iraq war art piece by Dr. Daniel Weymouth, associate professor in the Music department. Weymouth commented on the recent tragedies in his speech when he said that "nature has a way of taking over...showing how trivial our political differences are." His piece, titled "There are no..." featured a prisoner under a black hood, who kept repeating the phrase, "There are no weapons of mass

destruction." As the background drone got louder and the prisoner got more agitated with every repetition of the phrase, dead bodies amassed on the stage.

This is not MAP's first benefit performance at the University. MAP has held a Tsunami relief and Habitat for Humanity festival, called "The Music Peace Project" from April 8-10, 2005. MAP will be sponsoring another project from March 31 to April 2, 2006. Describing MAP's ongoing efforts, Charlene Obernauer, the concert performer and secretary of the Social Justice Alliance (SJA) at Stony Brook University, said that MAP organizes "concerts for awareness monthly, where [MAP] raise[s] awareness for certain issues through music."

Like MAP, the Social Justice Alliance at Stony Brook is involved in raising social awareness throughout campus. In the past, SJA has organized lectures, workshops, and panels. It has participated in various protests in Washington D.C. and New York, among other events, such as anti-war campaigns, counter-recruiting camps, the Coca-Cola Boycott, and the Fair Food Campaign. On October 26, The SJA will be holding a workshop on Alternative Media titled, "Do you trust the media?"

In addition to the SJA, the undergraduate colleges have been attempting to raise international awareness. Dr. Perry Goldstein, of the Music Department, commented on the co-sponsorship of the College of Arts, Cultures and Humanities, which he said "is a conduit for events on campus." The College holds "international film series every week...[and] the professors contribute." Goldstein discussed the original plan for the MAP concert to be a debate and concert in concurrence with the visit of acclaimed author Tim O'Brien, whose novel, *The Things They Carried*, is about war. Unfortunately, the times of the events did not synchronize.

Although a majority of the MAP concert focused on anti-war themes, it was a success in that it was able to reach out to the student body in collecting funds. According to Dawn Chambers, a composer and organizer of the event, "[MAP] raised \$344.02 with several promises of more donations. [MAP] also collected two sleeping bags, a blanket and a tent." MAP and the co-sponsoring organizations, including the Music Department, continue to collect bedding, tents, sealed painkillers, stomach medicine, and first aid kits. These may be donated to Chambers, Malini Srinivasan, or Ilari Kaila at their office, 1345 Music.

## Tell Dr. J

Reach Dr. J anonymously at: [sbstatesman.org/telldrj](http://sbstatesman.org/telldrj)

Dear Dr. J,

I try not to overextend myself, but somehow I ended up as being part of an e-board, an active member of a service organization and a part-time employee, all on top of being a full-time student. I want to do these things, I love helping others, and I need money to stay in school. Still, with all of this and trying to keep up my schoolwork, I am losing it. I need more hours in the day...I feel like I am in over my head, but I can't back down now. How do I get through the semester alive?

Overwhelmed At Stony Brook

Dear Overwhelmed,

Excessive obligation is the perfectionist's heroin. Seriously, look at and feel the tone of your question. You sound desperate, you poor thing. You say you want to do all those things, but what does it say about your sense of self that "these things" take priority over feeling sane. In many ways, what you are struggling with is worse than a heroin habit because being busy and "accomplishing things" won't raise the concern of your friends, neighbors and parents in the same way as glazed eyeballs, track marks and careless prostitution. I don't mean to sound glib; the risk of an addiction to being overwhelmed is that there is an endless source of rational-sounding excuses: I'm providing service, I'm making money, I'm padding my resume... God fear the junkie holding a bottomless arsenal of justification. There is reason for hope when you admit, "I am losing it" and "I am in over my head." Admitting you have a problem is the first step.

The next steps will also be difficult. The overextension is the symptom of some larger problem or emotion that you are avoiding. Are you feeling guilty/ashamed/afraid about something? Before you can address this underlying cause, you first need to stop running away from it. Try saying "No" to one thing. One extracurricular or volunteer activity for which you can say, "Yes, this is important, but more important for right now is to feel better, and stronger." Once you break the cycle of automatically taking more on, you can make rational decisions about a reasonable list of obligations. Then you will need to confront whatever it is about you that is making you want to get away from you. It may not be pretty. But if you clear a weekend, and sit with the good, bad and ugly of the feelings that come up (bring a friend if you think it would help), I think you will feel better on the other side.

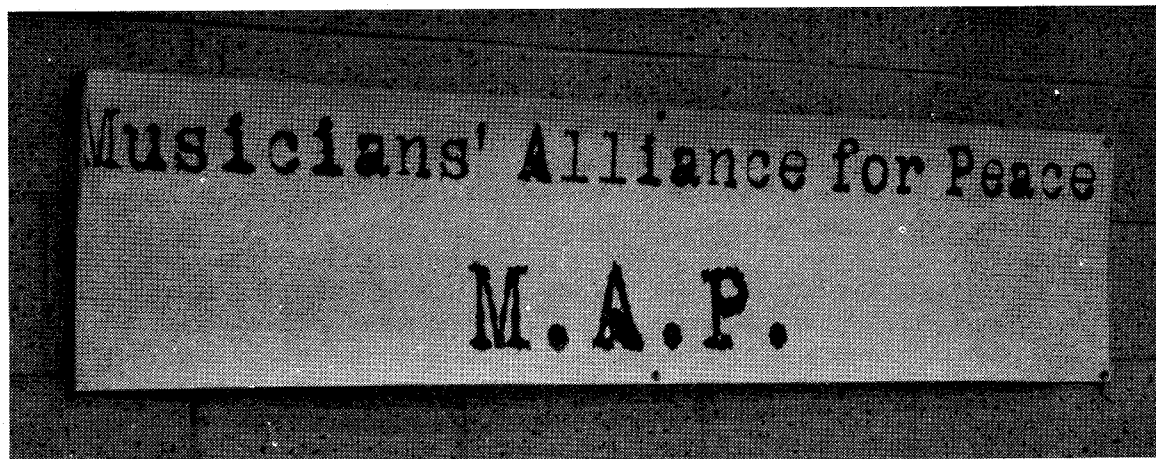


We ask you to send any of your questions and concerns anonymously to:

Tell Dr. J  
[telldrj@sbstatesman.org](mailto:telldrj@sbstatesman.org)

Tell Dr. J will appear every week in our twice-weekly publication. When writing your question, please keep in mind that Tell Dr. J is not intended to replace face-to-face counseling if you are currently in distress. The University Counseling Center, located on the second floor of the Student Health Services building, offers free and confidential professional counseling to Stony Brook students. The center is open Monday through Friday from the hours of 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., with extended hours until 7 p.m. on Tuesdays. All you need to do to make an initial appointment is call 631-632-6720 (2-6720 if you are on campus) and say "I'd like to speak to a counselor."

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, October 24, 2005

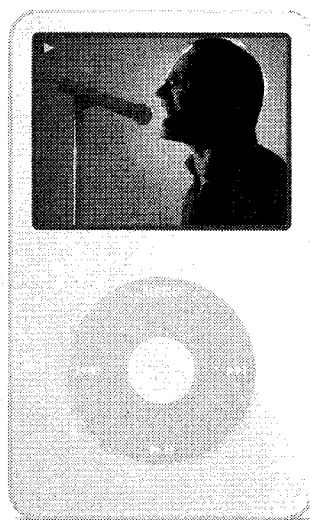


Nicole Dulmer/Statesman



# SB Bytes:

## New iPod (Video)



Courtesy of Apple

By JAMES BOUKLAS  
Editor-in-Chief

When I heard the news that the iPod Video came out, I was very excited. That is, until I realized it isn't the iPod Video at all, but just an iPod that happens to play videos. At least, that's what Apple is saying about its latest gadget.

As a music player, this latest iPod remains the best choice on the market. The 5G, or fifth generation, iPod is a mere half-inch thick with a 2.5" screen, which makes for a well-proportioned package. As a comparison, the last generation iPod was nearly 3/4 of an inch thick with a 2" screen, and the same price. The battery has improved as well, up to 14 hours and 20 hours respectively for the 30GB and 60GB, up from 15 hours from the previous generation. To top it all off, it is now available in a sleek-looking black, to match the lineup of the Nano.

When you begin to view this as a video player, the new iPod disappoints. Real-world tests show that the battery lasts little over two hours while playing video, severely limiting its usefulness on long trips, like a plane ride. The screen is also a bit small to watch a movie on, though many people find it just right for a shorter TV show or music video.

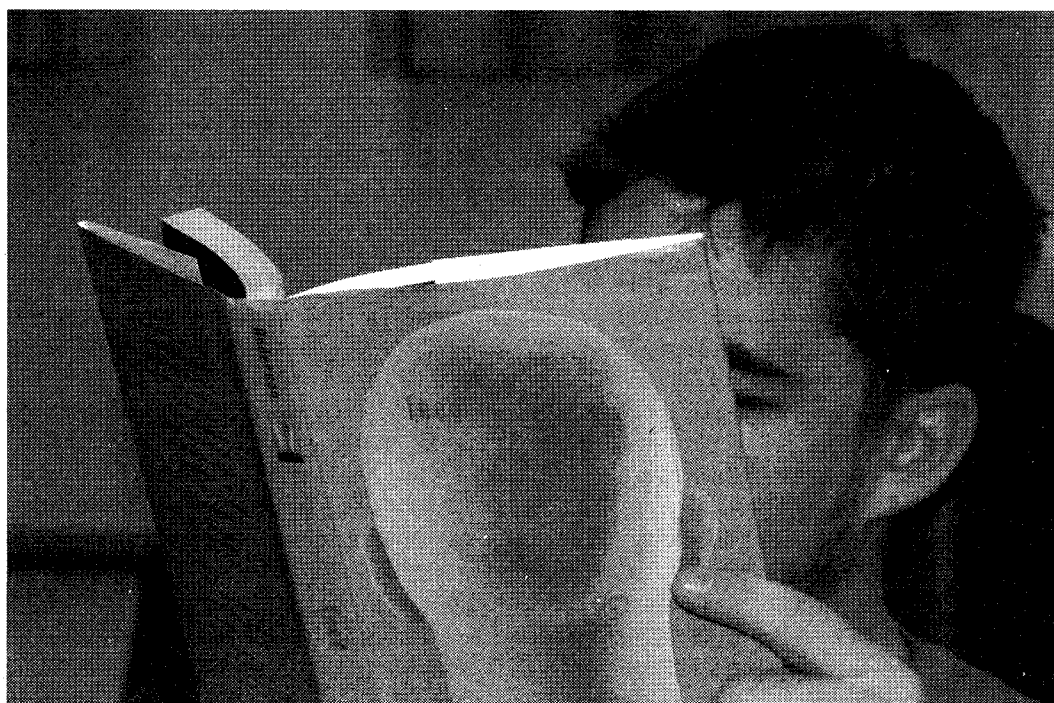
The most exciting prospect of this iPod is that it connects to your TV, theoretically allowing you to carry around your entire movie collection to watch with your friends in a device smaller than a deck of cards. Sadly, Apple provided too many roadblocks for this to be the case. First off, it only plays video encoded in MP4, or MPEG Layer 4, or in H.264 formats. This obstacle can be overcome by re-encoding your Divx files to this format fairly easily in QuickTime Pro. One obstacle that can't be overcome, however, is the quality of the video as it appears on screen. The highest resolution it can output is 480x480, which translates very poorly to a decent size screen. Owners have reported very poor quality when hooked up to a television, essentially eliminating what could have been the most appealing part of this iPod.

To test the waters, Apple has also made it possible to buy videos to play on your new iPod or to just watch on your computer. iTunes 6, released at the same time as the new iPod, lets you buy a wide range of music videos and a much more limited selection of TV shows just as you would purchase music. At the moment, videos from the iTunes Music Store cost \$1.99, and music videos come with the song as well. Even this isn't nearly as useful as it could be: all videos are limited to 320x240 resolution (very small on your screen) and the only TV shows that are offered are a small assortment of drivel produced by ABC and its owner, Disney.

As a caveat for anybody thinking about buying either this or the iPod Nano, a smaller version of this popular player, they tend to scratch rather easily. There is actually a class-action lawsuit pending against Apple for selling a product that becomes littered with scratches under normal use, making the screen almost unreadable. This is the same problem that has plagued iPods from the beginning, since its debut in 2001. While I personally find this unacceptable, the fact that it scratches easily hasn't stopped millions of people from lining up to buy them. Just know what you're getting into when you put down your \$299.

When all is said and done, the latest iPod is a great music player with great features, for playing music. Don't buy this with the expectation to do a lot with videos. According to Steve Jobs, the CEO of Apple, this is simply an iPod that happens to play videos and not the Video iPod that everybody has been waiting for.

# Get Your Read On: *Feed*



Adhip Karmaker/Statesman

By JEREMY FALLETTA  
Copy Editor

**Title:** *Feed* (237)  
**Author:** M.T. Anderson  
**Published:** 2002

M.T. Anderson's award-winning dystopian novel *Feed* stays with you in the tradition of classics like Orwell's *1984* and Huxley's *A Brave New World*. The difference is that those books are set in worlds that are so far apart from ours that they are clearly metaphorical, while *Feed* takes place in the relatively close future of humanity as we know it.

In the novel, almost all of the characters have the "feed" implanted into their brains, which is basically an extremely advanced version of the concept of having chips in our hands—to pay for things, to identify ourselves, and to keep personal records. Everyone has heard of this idea at one point or another. Some think it is a highly advantageous technological advancement, while others believe it to be the mark of the beast. *Feed* plays with this concept, using the characters and their behavioral patterns as an example or prediction of what would happen were we to progress technologically to the point that *Feed* is at.

Specifically, the main character Titus battles the influence of the feed along with his girlfriend, Violet. Their futile attempts result in ruin, more pointedly in Violet's case. This gives the novel a dark overtone all the way through, and leaves the reader with a sense of foreboding as the final page ends.

On a lighter note, Anderson's contrived vernacular is very impressive. On the back flap, he says that while researching the novel, he "read a huge number of magazines like *Seventeen*, *Maxim*, and *Stuff*. [He] listened to cell phone conversations in malls." Words like "meg" for "very," "unit" for "man," and "brag" for "cool" make the book hard

to read at first, but extremely intuitive and enjoyable after the first couple of chapters. I felt like I was in on some secret society that no one else knew about. Furthermore, it's not only the youth of the book that use these terms, but the parents and older generations as well, though they are notably behind the kids in the "hip lingo" department.

Titus is such an interesting and compelling character to read about because he is entirely like us, but entirely different. He is a typical adolescent living in an atypical world. He experiences the same emotions and desires that we do, but they are manifested and satiated in entirely different ways. While he is talking (m-chatting) to Violet about delayed gratification, he says, "At this point, I was really turned on. I wanted to get more doughnuts, but it was this debate between getting more doughnuts, which were really good doughnuts, but not being able to stand up because I had complete prong."

The feed takes over the lives of the characters completely. Titus is lost without his feed, but Violet is more rebellious, and makes a more conscious effort to live without its aid. When the group is in the hospital after a hacker attack, Titus finds out that Violet can read and write.

"I looked at her funny. 'You write?' I said. 'With a pen?'"

'Sure,' she said, a little embarrassed. She wrote something down. She put the pad of paper on my lap.

She asked me 'Do you know how to read?'"

*Feed* is a very unique glance at what our future could possibly hold. The short chapters make it an exhilarating read, and since it's fairly short to begin with, you can read it without taking up too much of your precious time as the semester begins to gear up for crunchtime. Whether you're into science fiction or not, I guarantee that you'll enjoy this book if you take the time to read it.

# Indie Flicks:

## Particles of Truth

By RACHEL BROZINSKY  
Contributing Writer

Opening with a litany of contradictions, *Particles of Truth* captures you in the first two minutes. It sets up the story with a series of disturbing images accompanied by the narration of Lilli Black (Jennifer Elster), the protagonist.

She is totally optimistic and totally pessimistic. She loves herself and can't stand herself. She says, "I was born to two sixteen-year-old degenerates, and I am totally flawed." Lilli's not the only one. The film is character-driven by people whose flaws are standing between them and moving forward with the rest of their lives.

Lilli is an artist, and the film takes place during the forty eight hours before the opening of her show, *Particles of Truth*. At the same time she is struggling to avoid her heroin addict father's imminent death. The day before the show she meets Morrison Wiley (Gale Harold), a handsome, germophobic writer. His concentration on his obsessive compulsions (i.e. ritualistically scrubbing his face and never taking the subway) prevents him from dealing with his issues with his father. Lilli and Morrison have a lot more in common than even they realize.

The other less central characters also struggle with flaws that hinder them from facing the truth. Flora (Elizabeth Van Meter), Lilli's fanatically religious roommate, and Morrison's youth and image-obsessed father, Richard Wiley (Larry Pine), both guard themselves from reality.

The story takes place in New York City, from the aesthetic streets of artsy TriBeCa to the worn down buildings of Harlem. The setting, however, becomes inconsequential compared to the actions of the characters. What is central to the message of the movie is the falling apart, and in some cases, coming together of the players. As walls crumble and boundaries are crossed, some find that they can handle moving forward while others are left behind.

Elster, who also wrote and directed the film, gives a performance that doesn't do justice to the character she portrays. Throughout the movie she wears one expression: a dejected scowl that makes it look like she ran to the set from her most recent botox treatment. Just as her face never changes, her voice doesn't shift in tone or tempo. Harold, on the other hand, who is best known for his role as Brian Kinney on *Queer as Folk*, gives a flawless performance as the neurotic writer. In one particularly poignant scene, you observe washing his face turn into something violent, as if he is scrubbing away sin.

Later he makes walking into a subway station a much greater personal triumph than the mundane experience it is to most.

Though her acting fell flat, Elster's words are subtle but moving. Instead of a gaudy, banal declaration of undying love, an infatuated Morrison tells Lilly, "I knew it, when I met you."

The most fascinating aspect of the movie is the complicated but impeccably timed romance between Lilli and Morrison.

The more we learn through flashbacks to Lilli's troubled childhood and Morrison's interactions with his parents, the more we realize how perfectly matched they are. They need each other to overcome their fears and faults. The bits of truths that the characters discover are usually found in the declarations of the people they interact with. Despite the mediocre performance of the lead actress, the movie makes a powerful statement about overcoming our obsessions to move on with our lives.

*Particles of Truth*, which premiered at the 2003 TriBeCa Film Festival and was the 2003 winner of the Austin Film Festival Jury Award for Best Feature, is now available on DVD.

# Stony Brook

## *In Vogue*

## Dress for Success

By AMY DRAGANI  
Staff Writer

Stony Brook's Career Center recently held a Job Fair and for any of you juniors and seniors who will soon be entering the professional world, you may not be fully prepared to handle a difficult part of the career process – the interview. One important aspect of the interview process, believe it or not, is the first impression. This is a basic guide on how to dress for an important interview or meeting.

For the ladies, you can never go wrong with a suit. Ladies suits have been designed to be modern and chic while also being professional and sophisticated. A pair of well fitting pants with a matching jacket creates the perfect look. Department stores such as Macy's or Bloomingdales will carry a large selection of women's suits. I've also found that the suits that Victoria's Secret carries are beautiful. These days, ladies suits are especially complimenting because there is such a variety of styles, colors, and fabrics. Pants can be straight fitted, flared, or wide. Jackets are form fitted; there is the classic button up and also jackets sporting a low V with only one or two clasps. A woman's business suit can be worn practically year-round because they are available in heavier fabrics and also in lighter cotton and linen. The other choice for ladies is a skirt suit – my personal favorite. Instead of pants coupled with a matching jacket, a skirt is worn. Once again, the skirt is a fabulous aspect of the suit because of the variety of choices. Skirts that are fitted to the body, straight skirts, belled skirts – there are so many options. For an interview, it is appropriate to wear a skirt that is just about knee length. It's feminine and flattering, but it's also simple and somewhat conservative. Lauryn Couch of the Stony Brook University Career Center claims, "You want to project the image of the employee that you can be. If you arrive at an interview dressed inappropriately or sloppily you can't expect someone to imagine you

would be an organized or attentive employee."

Ladies suits can be worn over tanks or thin-sleeved shirts and it's often attractive to wear a color under a suit. If wearing a gray or black suit, which are very common colors, a red or dark blue can be complimenting.

Some other very important points for women to keep in mind are hair, makeup, and jewelry. Keep each of these as simple as possible. Make sure the hair is neat and professional, for some it may be best to put the hair up in a clean bun or ponytail. The rule for makeup almost all of the time is to keep it as natural as possible. This is absolutely true for an interview. We all wear makeup so it doesn't need to be kept a secret, but bright eye shadow or dark lined eyes look a bit tacky in a professional situation. Lastly, never wear too much jewelry; big bracelets or earrings can be a burden and distract from your face (which therefore distracts from what you say). Choose pieces that are somewhat simple yet beautiful, and make sure you wear jewelry that you really love.

For men, the best choice of attire to look your absolute best is, again, a suit. There is nothing more attractive than a man in a suit. Men's suits are most definitely available at department stores and specialty stores such as Men's Warehouse. However, suits can become expensive, so the alternative is separates (this goes for women as well). It can be more cost-efficient to purchase a pair of dress pants, a shirt, and a tie. This also provides a very nice look for a man, and may be less expensive. Express carries a decent selection of men's professional wear and has a variety of colors and styles to choose from. Separate pieces are also an option for women. Women's stores, as well as Department stores, carry dress pants as well as sophisticated tops that can be put together to create a professional look.

This can be much more affordable than purchasing a suit.



### *Fashion Tip of the Week*

Carry yourself with respect and pride. An employer wants an employee that exudes intelligence and self-confidence. Smile and be yourself – your attitude absolutely affects the way you look and the impression you give. Good luck!

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October 24 to 27, 2005

### October 24 to 27

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*You will have the chance to win a \$10, \$15, or \$25 gas card!*

### Wednesday • October 26

#### Decorate-A-Pumpkin and Creative Pumpkin Contest

**SAC Lobby • 12:40 p.m. to 2:10 p.m.**

Take a break between classes to decorate a pumpkin. If you are up for the challenge, enter it into the "Creative Pumpkin Contest."

*Prizes will be awarded to the three students with the most creative pumpkins.*

### Thursday • October 27

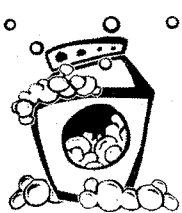
#### Commuter Appreciation Day

**South P Lot • 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.**

Take five minutes before getting on the bus to grab a bite. Eat and mingle with representatives from departments around campus.

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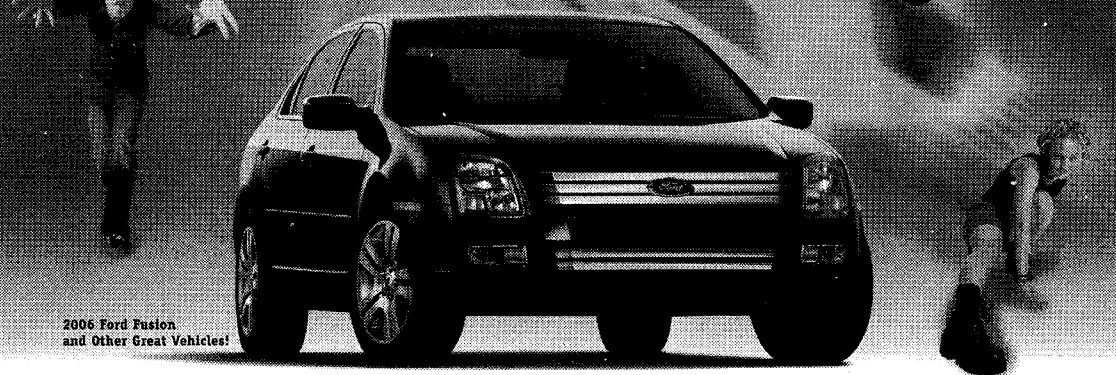
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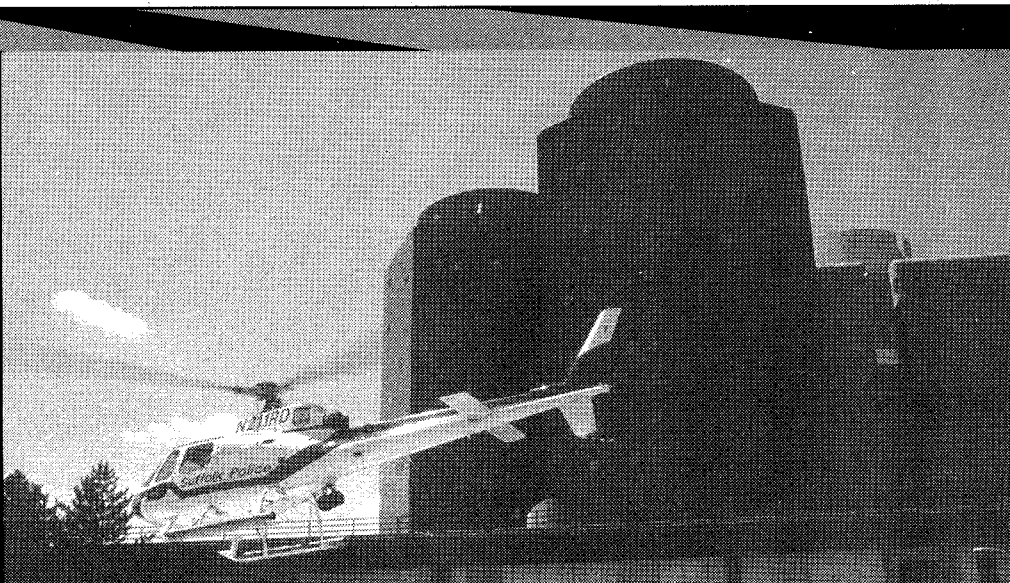
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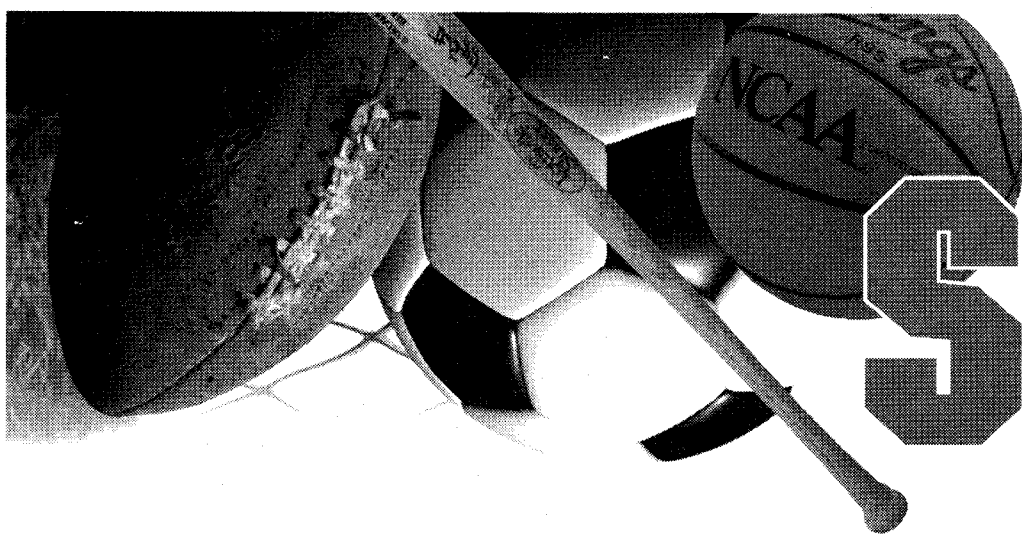
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# Statesman SPORTS

## Men's Soccer Manages 1-0 Win Against Vermont

BY ANDREW FEI  
Staff Writer

Saturday night's 1-0 victory over Vermont by Stony Brook's Men's Soccer Team was a game to remember in more ways than one. Firstly, it saw the home team take another step towards the much coveted first place in the America East Conference, and secondly it was a farewell gift to seven senior Seawolves players, this being their last home game in the white and red jersey of Stony Brook.

The windy, rainy night began with a small ceremony celebrating the achievements of the senior players including Dorin Djura, Rob Fucci, Chris Megaloudis, John Moschella, Douglas Narvaes, Chris Scarpati, and Mark Zajkowski. The event turned out to be more celebratory than expected in the terrible weather, with friends, family and fans partaking in the cheerful atmosphere.

The result of the game was likewise an event for celebration, although it was marred by sloppy play by both teams in the first half, and unruly altercations between the players in both halves of the game. For Vermont, the night was just plain nightmarish.

The winning goal that buried the opposition occurred in the 20th minute when a short play from a corner kick by the Seawolves resulted in an unstoppable shot. Michael Palacio nudged the ball to Narvaez who in turn

lifted the ball quickly into the Vermont penalty box for the perfectly placed Pete Halkidis to volley it home. Halkidis' first goal of the season was enough to ensure a Seawolves victory.

The troubles then began on the field. With the Seawolves leading and playing very aggressively, they tallied 18 fouls with three yellow cards by the end of the game. Vermont's forward Caleb Doyle-Burr was fouled hard by a Seawolves defender; rather than walking away from the incident, Doyle-Burr decided instead to physically confront his opponents, causing both teams to lock heads for a few tense moments. The small scuffle was eventually broken up by the more levelheaded players and the referees. What resulted from this was a game that became more than a contest for points – it became a contest for pride as well. Doyle-Burr, in reaction, attempted to play a very aggressive one-man game that further angered the home players and fans.

Overall, the game was marred by the cold rain, wet turf and slippery ball. This resulted in very sloppy passing by many of the players and resulted in a very drab atmosphere. However, with the first-half incident the home fans became enlivened. Courtesy must go to the fanatical fans sitting in the left stands and a lady with a cowbell for energizing the atmosphere.

The family and friends of the players also got into

the mood and clearly showed their disdain for the opposition. Doyle-Burr received the most disdain, getting 'boos' whenever he touched the ball. The opposition's goalkeeper was also victim to jeering due to his position in left field where the fanatics were standing.

The second half saw both teams getting more offensive chances, although clear-cut goal opportunities were rare. The game might have ended peacefully for both teams, but Doyle-Burr had a point to prove and started another scuffle after the final whistle. This scuffle cleared the benches and once again had to be quelled by many of the players and coaches. The Vermont players were actually jeered and booed as they left the field by some individuals in the stands.

Seawolves head coach Cesar Markovic said, "Great win, last regular season game for a lot of these guys." He added that the mentality was that "If we win now, we win the league." Regarding the altercations on the field, he said, "One of their players was a little out of control," obviously referring to Doyle-Burr. Concerning the fan reactions he said, "It was fantastic, they were making noise; they helped us a lot."

The Seawolves continue on their goal to "win the league," as coach Markovic said, on October 20 at Maine. In between will be a non-league competition game at Duke University on the October 28.

## Women's Soccer Shuts Down Albany

BY CANDACE ISHMAEL  
Staff Writer

The Seawolves pulled off a big win on Thursday night against Albany in the final home game of the season. The seniors stepped up to make their last appearance at LaValle Stadium worth remembering. The final score was 2-0, bolstering Stony Brook's record to 4-12-2 (1-6 American East).

Before the game, each senior was honored for her time spent on the team. Jackie Anthony, Cindy Bennett, Danielle Lewis, Kirsandra Seaton, and Chelsea Van Horn were presented with a bouquet containing four roses; one for each year at Stony Brook. Seaton added to the sentimental-

ism of the night by belting out a beautiful national anthem.

From the first whistle, the energy on the field was electric, aided by the proud parents, loyal fans, and two local girls soccer teams in the stands. The Seawolves stepped up to the task at hand, pressuring the Great Dane defense. Stony Brook kept Albany goalkeeper Andrea Dunn on her toes, with 24 shots on the night.

At the other end of the field, senior goalkeeper Cindy Bennett had a quiet night in the net. She faced only five shots and was well-protected by her defense. They were able to shut down Albany power player Uju Ogbuawa and neutralize her best attempts at putting the Great Danes on the board.

Offensively, the Seawolves just kept at it until they could put something together. The first half ended scoreless; but not for lack of effort. Lewis led the offense with her speed and determination, cheered on by her father in stands.

In the second half, Lewis was rewarded for her efforts with a set up from sophomore Tiffany Fasullo that she powered past Dunn into the back of the net. "Every game should be her last game" Lewis's father commented on his daughter's energy.

That energy powered the Seawolves through the second half as they continued to shut down Albany's offensive attempts. With the 1-0 lead, Stony Brook refused to stick to the defensive and seven minutes later, Fasullo added a goal to her recent

assist.

From outside, the sophomore midfielder launched a shot that slipped through the Great Dane defense and catapulted into the left corner of the net. No one expected it, and no one could stop it.

The Great Danes desperately tried to fight back, but the Seawolves were not about to let their win slip away. They protected the field like a mother protecting her baby; nothing could get through. Worn down and shut out, Albany had to settle for the loss as the final whistle found them in front of their own goal trying to keep the damage from increasing.

The Seawolves hope to win their final game of the season when they travel to Vermont on Sunday, October 23.