

## SB Profs Advance Community Connections

By JOSEPH WEN  
Staff Writer

Stony Brook University recently enhanced its relationship with the surrounding community by providing research facilities and mentoring for a number of outstanding area high school students – four of which have been chosen as national finalists. Professor Arthur Samuel, a part of the Stony Brook community for fifteen years and a member of the Psychology department, offers unique insights into the nature of his work with Ward Melville High School student Jerold Lieblich.

Titled “When the Brain Doesn’t Hear What the Mind Does: A Lexical Approach to McGurk Adaptation,” Lieblich’s study sought to “combine two lines of [cognitive-psychological] research; the ‘McGurk Effect’ and ‘Selective Adaptation,’” says mentor Samuel. The McGurk effect occurs when visual and auditory stimuli interact, creating a third perception. For instance, a subject watching a person pronounce the sound “gi” on a monitor, while hearing the sound “bi,” will report that the perceived sound is “di.” Ultimately, says Samuel, Lieblich wished to determine if “the McGurk perception is [so ‘real’ that] it produces selective adaptation.” Thus, Lieblich presented words containing the relevant sounds (“academic,” “armadillo”) to test subjects as stimuli, later shifting to altered versions of the same words (“armabillo,” “armagillo”). It was found that actual “di” percepts were processed differently than “di” percepts resulting from the McGurk Effect. Lieblich’s findings will impact current knowledge of the association between conscious perceptions and are slated to be included in “a major science journal,” says Samuel.

Substantial effort was involved in the Intel finalist’s experiment, with work

*Continued on page 2*

## Roth Food Court Needs Renovations

By DANIEL BAEZ  
Contributing Writer

Missing floor tiles and water leakages: these are just some of the sights Roth food court consumers find familiar. What cannot be seen is the congestion of workers in the kitchen or the grease from weeks of cooking building up in a yellow skin around the air vents.

Roth food court does not meet current fire codes. The entry to the food court would have to have a larger landing than it currently does. The door opens right onto the top step, resulting in a possible injury to any student coming up the stairs while the doors are closed. The vents over the wok pans in the Chinese food section of the Roth food court are covered in grease and do not vent smoke properly. The crowding in sections, lack of exits, and sprinkler systems are other safety violations that the food court must change to meet the current fire codes.

While other food courts on campus have been remodeled, as in the case of the Kelly Quad food court, given new spaces, as

in the case of the Kosher Cafeteria, renamed Delancey Street in 2005, or upgraded, as in the case of new touch screen registers seen in the SAC dining hall, Roth food court has remained untouched for 40 years. Employees of Roth food court have gone through great lengths to keep students coming back, yet most of these efforts have resulted in frustration.

These problems make the need to renovate the Roth food court urgent. Although many ideas are being considered, no concrete deadline has been set to begin renovations.

Roth food court opened for business in 1966. It started out as a board location: a food court where students would pay a certain amount and would be entitled to all they could eat. Since it opened, the building has not received any renovations except for small repairs and changes to allow the sight to remain minimally functional.

A survey conducted by the Center for Survey Research at Stony Brook University showed that “Roth Cafeteria has

*Continued on page 3*

## Senator Wants \$1000 Stipends

By CECILIA KIM  
Contributing Writer

The concern over the lack of student participation in forms of voter apathy and inactive senators was the theme of Tuesday’s USG Senate meeting. The forum commenced with a reality check of possible impeachment charges against senators who have neglected their responsibilities to attend meetings and hold office hours. The Senate has collectively noted the decrease of active senators and has urged the representatives to become more devoted to the position and responsibilities they were elected to uphold.

Senator Cohen took this issue to another level by proposing the “USG Fairness and Equality Act”- which entitles a \$1000 stipend for active senators who participate by standards outlined by his proposal. Senator Cohen argues that by passing this act, people will have the incentive to join, fully participate and compete for senate positions. By offering a stipend, Cohen believes the elections will attract smarter students and in turn draw in more competent, competitive candidates.

Senator Cohen stood by his Fairness and Equality Act as other senators reacted with opposition and concern. Senator Ortiz stated the proposed act to be “horrendous” and further opposed by claiming “We [senators] don’t need \$1000 to do what we need to do.” Senator Amy Wisnoski also expressed her concern of the image of the senate if this act was to come in affect. She asserted that the “motives are selfish” and passing the Act will

scar the image of the senate for allocating funds to themselves while clubs are being shortchanged- “our job is to look out for the student and this act is not in the best interest for anybody else but us.” Senator Cody Peluso voiced his concern as well with the possible advantage incumbent candidates might gain if they were to use their stipend toward their re-election campaign.

Despite the opposition Cohen’s act received, some senators also defended the idea of instigating student interest into Student Government positions by offering a flat stipend. Cohen and his supporters believe that extra funds will allow senators to work less to alleviate financial burdens and will allow them devote themselves more to their representative position. Cohen argues that a stipend for senators fosters a sense equality amongst the student government branches since Executive Council members already receive hourly wages.

Senator Peluso agreed with the need to promote student participation in the elections but offered an alternate solution of possibly evolving the senator position into an internship. This incentive might also attract busy students who want to participate in the Student Government and allow them to receive credits, reduce their work load and receive valuable guidance from mentors. Senator Cohen stood firmly by his position for passing the USG Fairness and Equality Act but also recognized the need to tailor the conditions of his proposal. He received the opinions of his peers by stating the Act was “just an idea to get people thinking, to get this body moving” toward fixing Stony Brook’s ongoing issue of student apathy.

# SB Profs Mentor HS Students

*Continued from page 1*

commencing last February. In addition to logistics issues surrounding the organization of approximately one hundred test subjects, copious amounts of writing, preparatory research, video editing, and data analysis contributed to the workload.

Professor Samuels described his role in mentoring Lieblich as "less directive." He provided the high school student with various undergraduate and graduate texts, and directed Lieblich to choose topics that caught his interest for further examination. Samuels also noted that his duties as a mentor were "a lot like the early stages of mentoring a graduate student," rejecting the supposition that the additional demands were too strenuous.

Lieblich will head to Washington, D.C., in March to compete in the finals. The grand prize is a \$100,000

scholarship. When asked how he viewed Lieblich's prospects, Samuels asserts that "the top prize rarely goes to a social science program – the 'hard sciences' tend to get those. However, it'd be a pleasant surprise."

According to Samuels, participants in the Intel competition approach professors on their own initiative in seeking mentors. Additionally, a significant number of Intel competitors seeking to utilize Stony Brook's resources come up through the Simons Summer Research Program and various Garcia Center programs. This appears to be a common practice, as professors "get approached very often by students from area high schools."

However, Samuels doesn't mind. Lieblich's mentor notes that years of working with area high school students have opened up avenues of research that he might not have otherwise examined in depth. "I've enjoyed

it," concludes Samuels.

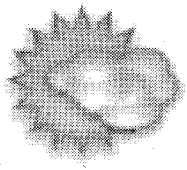
Historically, the University has had a tradition of providing extensive academic resources to area students, exemplified by years of mentoring Intel competition participants and providing numerous academic programs for high-achievers. Lieblich's cooperative effort with Samuels represents only one small part of Stony Brook's overall contributions to the academic enrichment of the surrounding area.

This year alone, Stony Brook professors mentored thirty Intel semifinalists – thirty-seven percent of all semifinalists hailing from Long Island.

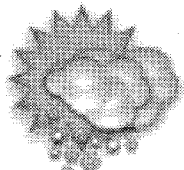
Further cooperation can only benefit all involved; budding scientists will flourish with access to university-caliber research facilities and educators, and Stony Brook will gain further acclaim for its role in cultivating scientific minds.

## Student Forecast: Feb 9 - Feb 15

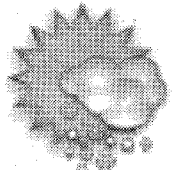
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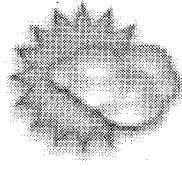
**Thursday:**  
High 36/Low 21  
Winter sets in with cold temps and partly cloudy skies



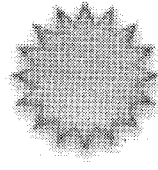
**Friday:**  
High 38/Low 28  
Mostly cloudy possible snow through out the day and evening



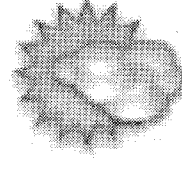
**Saturday:**  
High 35/Low 25  
Cloudy with possible snow flurries in the evening



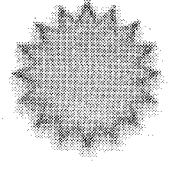
**Sunday:**  
High 34/Low 24  
Partly cloudy



**Monday:**  
High 36/Low 24  
Mostly sunny and dry



**Tuesday:**  
High 37/Low 25  
Partly cloudy, with warmer temperatures

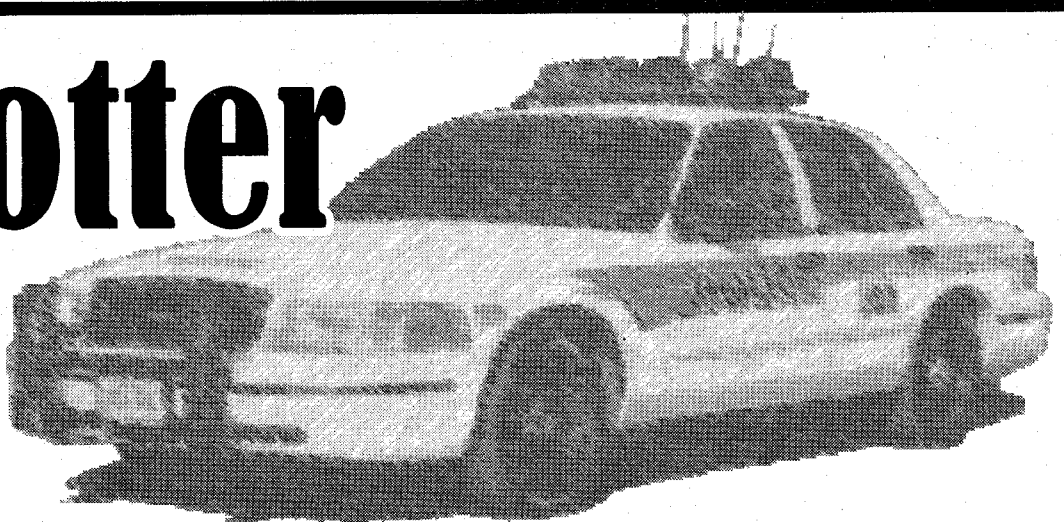


**Wednesday:**  
High 40/Low 33  
High Pressure brings lots of sun

## Police Blotter

Compiled by Eugene Tan/Statesman

1/31 – 2/7



### Suicide Threats

In Toscanini College, a female was reportedly threatening suicide on 2-4-06 at 2:38 AM but was gone upon arrival of the police. She was later found outside the building and transported to the University Hospital.

### Thefts

In the Engineering building, a book bag with contents was reportedly stolen at 2:23 PM on 1-31-06. In the parking lot at Stimson College, an iPod and credit cards were stolen from a vehicle on 5:53 PM on 1-31-06.

### Oil Spill

A campus bus spilled oil at the SAC loop at 7:34 AM on 2-1-06.

### Graffiti

In Douglass College, graffiti was reported on 2-3-06 at 8:36 AM.

### Skateboarding

In the top level of the Health Sciences Center garage, three youths were reportedly trespassing and skateboarding on 2-6-06 at 1:42 AM.

### Assault

In the Harriman Basement, an assault took place on 2-1-06 at 1:28 PM. The suspect was arrested, and the victim was treated at the University Hospital.

### Marijuana

In Irving College, the smell of marijuana was reported on 2-1-06 at 2:17 PM but was gone upon arrival of the police. In Langmuir College, the smell of marijuana was reported on 2-6-06 at 12:48 AM.

### Criminal Mischief

On Stadium Road, a gate was reportedly broken through by an unknown vehicle on 2-4-06 at 1:11 AM.

### Disputes

In Ammann College, a dispute between individuals was reported on 2-6-06 at 1:42 AM, and a knife was confiscated.

## Continued from page 1

Lestrangle said that Campus Dining Services have done a "darn good job with what has been given" to them, and as for the progress of the food court renovations, he concluded, "Stony Brook is always moving."

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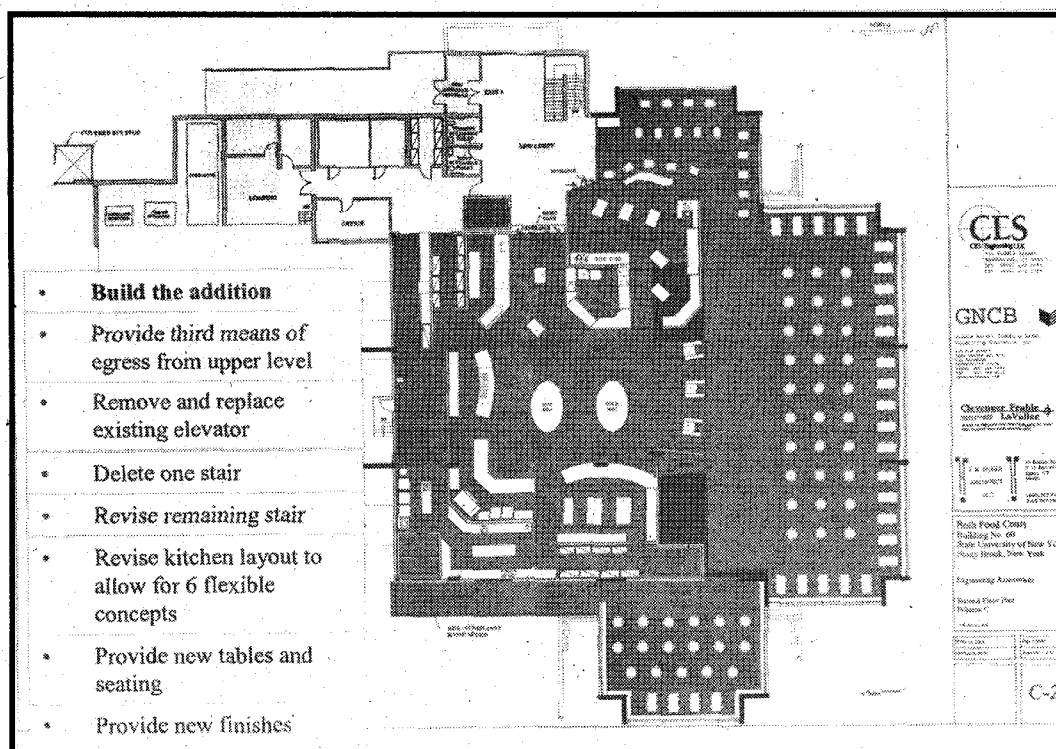
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Statesman production meetings are held throughout the day on Wednesdays and Sundays in Rm 057 in the basement of the Student Union. Anyone wishing to contribute to the newspaper is welcome to attend these meetings.

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

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#### WHO WE ARE

The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Socolian" 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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# We Put Up With A Lot At SBU

As students at Stony Brook, we put up with a whole lot of low-class treatment, and with little complaint. The Union buildings leaks to the point that it rains on the inside. The brand-new Humanities building saw ceiling tiles plummet towards the ground in bad weather. To continue on the subject of rain, on less fortunate days, students have dubbed the area surrounding the lecture hall "Lake Javits." The Roth Food Court is in shambles. We attend a school that calls itself World Class. It's a disingenuous label if we are left to go to classes and eat in sub-par conditions.

There are far too many students who are fed-up with the statement, "Well, we do go to a state university." If you were to walk into a

nice state university in California or even Penn State, you'd find that much more attention is dedicated to the campus infrastructure than here. What gives?

The obvious answer that well-meaning people in the campus administration give is that there are only so many funds that we receive for renovation projects. And, they would add, we have come a very long way in just the past ten years. The Wang Center is wonderful, the Humanities building is a great resource, the apartments have undergone extensive renovations and are a pleasure to live in, and the SAC is a great hub of activity that remains polished and useful. Despite all this, Stony Brook still has a cheap qual-

ity to it. President Kenny is moving us in the right direction, but for students here, the time frames seem to be off. Our undergraduate lives begin and end in a relatively short four years, five for some of us. To say that the Roth Food Court will be beautiful in five years is an exciting prospect for the campus but completely useless for us and all students who will be admitted in the next two years. The vast majority of us won't be around to enjoy a campus that we can really be proud of. We will finish out our academic careers as we began them: carefully avoiding Lake Javits, looking out for falling ceiling tiles, and wincing just a bit every time we walk through the badly-aging Union.

suggestions, comments?  
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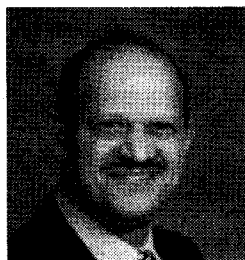
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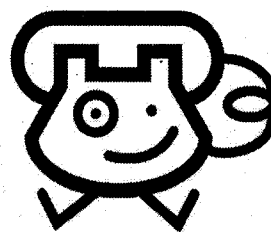
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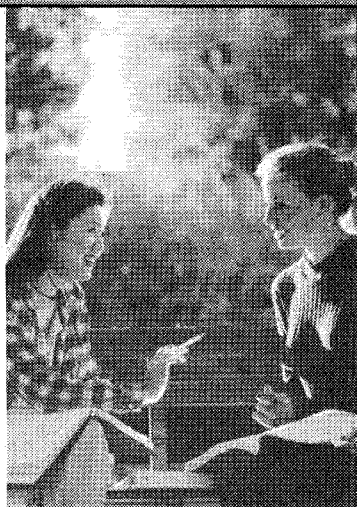
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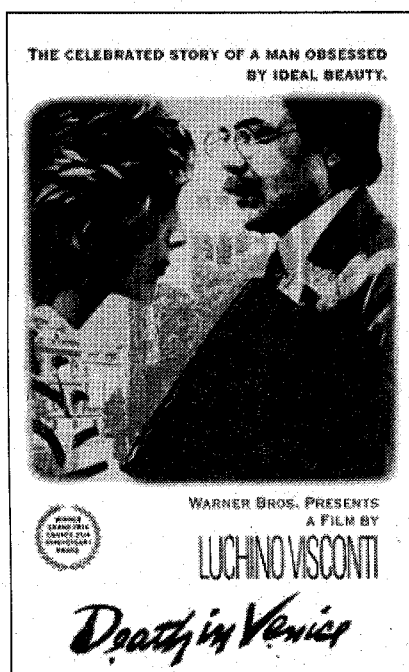
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# Tabler Center's International Film Festival *Death in Venice*



Courtesy of Amazon.com

By CANDACE ISHMAEL  
Staff Writer

The Tabler International Film Series resumed this past week with a wonderfully heartfelt movie of physical and mental breakdown. *Death in Venice* tells the story of an ailing composer, Gustave Aschenbach, who travels to Venice for a bit of rest and relaxation. However, he finds that he is unable to enjoy his vacation after he becomes fascinated with a young Polish boy on vacation with his family.

As the connection between Gustave and the boy, Tadzio, grows, flashbacks tell the story of Gustave's life and serve to explain his conflict over the current situation. In one such flashback, his close friend Austin ridicules him, "you want your behavior to be as perfect as the music you compose."

Gustave believes that as an artist, he must be the model of "balance" and when he finds that his desires are out of balance, it tears him apart. Although he is attracted to Tadzio, he does not believe that it is appropriate. More so, Tadzio represents a level of angelic beauty that Gustave has sought in his music but is unable to achieve.

The film is based on a novella by German writer, Thomas Mann features the music of composer Gustave Mahler, which director Luchino Visconti seamlessly weaves into the atmosphere created by the scenery of Venice. Although at times the story may seem to drag or be vague, the music pulls the story along in superb fashion.

Much of the dialogue of the film is done in a variety of different languages without subtitles, including Polish and Italian. At times it is frustrating to not know exactly what is being said. On the other hand, the music has such weight and emotion to it

that subtitles are not really necessary.

In addition to the conflict Gustave feels toward his interactions with Tadzio, he is also consumed by the pestilence that is spreading throughout Venice, unbeknownst to the flood of tourists staying at the beach resorts. The government has posted signs to warn the locals, but refuses to give out any information that will disrupt the tourism that fuels the city's economy.

Gustave finally finds out the truth about the potential epidemic and realizes that it is only a matter of time before Venice succumbs to the disease threatening its population. But it is not simply the city that is fighting a losing battle against the passage of time. As he watches Tadzio and admires his beauty, Gustave realizes that he is no longer young; his life has flown by, marked by the death of his daughter and downfall of his career.

While Tadzio watches on from afar, Gustave finally succumbs to the physical breakdown that has threatened him since the beginning of the film. The music at this point is at its most heartbreaking, heightening the sense of tragedy inherent in the death of a man who was only just beginning to live.

Overall, *Death in Venice* is a wonderfully tragic film with a truly heartfelt score that evokes the emotions of the characters, rather than simply blending with them. The actors' performances are subtly conveyed, which can leave the audience slightly confused, but it is certainly more refreshing than the in-your-face acting of many other films.

There is no film on February 10th, but the International Film Series returns on February 17th with a work by Swedish director, Ingmar Bergman, titled *Wild Strawberries*. The film is a Professor's Choice, introduced by Krin Gabbard.

# Statesman Internationale *Ciao dall'Italia*



Courtesy of buffalo.edu

By CARRIE COTTON  
Contributing Writer

There is an ancient myth that says if you visit the Trevi Fountain in Italy, stand with your back to the sculptural masterpiece, and throw a coin over your shoulder, you will return to Rome. Now, I am not a believer of old wives tales, yet each time I revisit the Trevi Fountain, I cannot help but question it's validity.

The first time I traveled to Italy was on a school trip. As I headed from the airport to the hotel, I eagerly looked out the bus window, but the night revealed only shadows of Rome's beauty. Suddenly, the bus turned a corner, and outside my window stood the Coliseum. Lights illuminated each arc and every last minuscule detail giving the eternal structure a God-like appearance. Overwhelmed by its ancient beauty, tears filled my eyes, and I knew I would experience much more than a week free from parental supervision.

A few years later, during my freshman year of college, I saw a flyer advertising study abroad programs. The Coliseum and my trip to Italy immediately came to mind, but I soon became distracted as most freshmen do. It was not until a rough day in my junior year that I decided to get more information on the offered programs. The programs are so exquisite, that many students study abroad through Stony Brook instead of through their own universities. Stony Brook gives students the opportunity to study in countries all over the world for the price of a semester's tuition, not including airfare (\$600.00 - \$1200.00 round trip) or housing (\$300.00 - \$850.00 per month). Although I immediately knew I wanted to go to Italy, I was not completely convinced that I wanted to leave behind the world I knew, and the people I loved. Where to go is only the first choice you have to make. The second, and the hardest, decision comes next: Do I (or rather can I) go?

There are a lot of considerations that factor into the decision to study abroad. The

"can I go" question goes far beyond the literal ability to take a plane to a foreign country. First and foremost, there are the academic concerns to consider: the challenge of attending classes in a foreign language, your GPA and planned graduation date. Then there are the more personal matters to consider. Being alone in a foreign country, oceans apart from friends, boyfriends, girlfriends, and family is a terrifying thought. Speaking for myself, it was the hardest decision I have ever had to make.

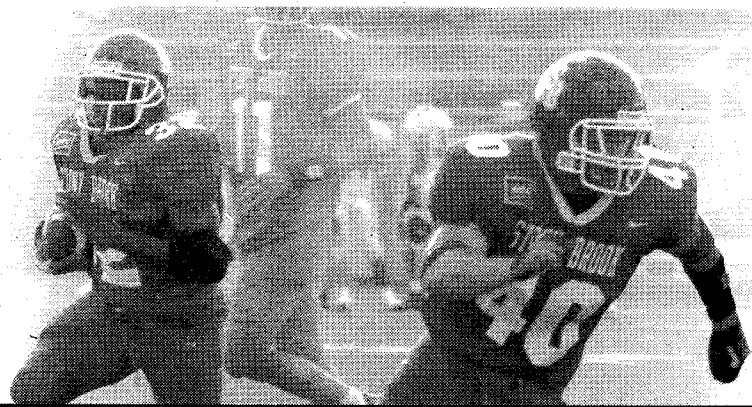
In all aspects of life, we can only guess the consequences and outcomes of the decisions we make, and watch as they unfold before us. The choice to study abroad is no different. What has unfolded before me thus far, is that tests and lectures in Italian are difficult, but the grades you receive while studying abroad do not factor into your GPA. Possibly interrupting your planned graduation date is a personal choice based on individual priorities. In my opinion, studying abroad is more valuable than one less semester of college. Regardless of how long it takes, I will exit school and enter into a career that I have the rest of my life to pursue. Never again will I receive the gift of six months to be completely immersed in another culture, while exploring a timeless legacy of history and art.

As for leaving behind the world I know, I highly doubt six months will reveal a drastically changed America. However, people change a lot faster than the world, and distance can make and break all types of relationships. Oddly enough, being away from the people I love has turned into the oxymoron of distance bringing us closer together. Their support in my decision to leave them, and their effort to keep in touch, has only proved that distance will never extinguish the bonds of true love and friendship.

I cannot even begin to dream what the next six months will bring, but then again when I threw that coin over my shoulder into the Trevi Fountain six years ago, I never would have thought that my dream of coming back to live in Rome would come true.

The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, February 9, 2006





# SPORTS

## Seawolves' Frustrating Season Winding Down

By ROB DWYER  
Sports Editor

WordNet defines a rut as "a settled and monotonous routine that is hard to escape." No single word captures the state of the Stony Brook men's basketball program as aptly as this three-letter noun. Since joining the America East athletic league in 2001, Stony Brook has finished the season 9th, 7th (02-03), 8th (03-04), and 7th (04-05). The Seawolves have not posted a winning record in any of these previous seasons, and their best effort was a 13-15 season back in 2002-03. For a long time the administration was satisfied with their "settled" basketball program and the "monotonous" losing that it produced. But the suits have gotten savvy to the big-money potential of college sports and they long for the alumni dollars that are generally showered upon institutions whose athletic teams perform well. Having said that, Stony Brook has set out to right the ship and escape the rut.

Oh, but remember, a rut is a rut because it is hard to escape; doubly so if you have just hired a first-time head coach and handed him the toughest schedule in school history. Steve Pikiell came to the campus with NCAA player credentials (he played for UConn from '87-'91), a list of famous former bosses, and a reputation as a recruiter who could help to build the foundations of a championship team. What he did not bring were any quick answers. The Seawolves have played a schedule littered with high-caliber opponents including current #1 UConn, #4 Villanova, and #8 George Washington, with an upcoming game against #17 Boston College on Monday night. In all, Stony Brook plays 5 teams who made it to the NCAA tournament last year, and 4 from the Big East conference, which many believe is the best in the nation. Add to that the tough level of competition within the conference, and it is easy to see why the Seawolves were picked to finish no higher than 7th. Let's take a look inside the numbers to see what the state of the program really is.

At 4 wins and 16 losses, the Seawolves have a 2-8 record in the conference. After dropping the first nine games of the season, Stony Brook got its first win against Colgate and followed that up with a win over Vermont. The second non-conference win came against Dartmouth, and a victory over UMBC rounds out the season's victories. Five defeats have been by

margins of 5 points or less, so I guess you can say that the Seawolves had a decent shot at winning 9 of the 16 games so far. As a team, the Seawolves rank fifth in the conference in 3-point field goal percent (0.383) and offensive rebounding (11.45 off. rpg), but are near the bottom in virtually every other statistical category. Individually, Mike Popoko ranks ninth in the conference for rebounding (5.7 rpg), blocks (0.57 bpg), and defensive rebounding (3.83 def. rpg), while ranking 10th in offensive rebounds (1.83 off. rpg). Antwan Hardy is number seven in the conference in 3-point field goal percentage (0.383), and Bobby Santiago's name is seen just outside of the top 10 in several statistical categories.

The most important numbers for the Seawolves are these:

There are 15 people on the team: 9 upperclassmen and 5 seniors. This is where Steve Pikiell has to earn his money. With a reputation as a stellar recruiter, Pikiell has been given the ideal situation to back that up. A third of the team is departing after the season's end and Pikiell is going to have to scramble just to get enough bodies to run practices, let alone pick and choose the players who will suit his coaching style. He stresses patience and has a very logical perspective when it comes to first-year performance. Coming to Stony Brook should help suit this style, since expectations are low after years of mediocrity. But with the administration's newfound interest in their brand new Division I programs, years of 7th place finishes will not cut it in the future, and Pikiell's teams will have to perform better once he has a chance to establish his system. No one said that coaching in college was easy, and the term "job-security" does not exist in the language of college athletics. You are judged not by what you accomplished in the past, but by what you have done for the school lately. Good luck, Steve.

But that is for the future, and this season is not yet over. College basketball's wonderful and zany method of determining conference championships (and NCAA tournament bids) with a tournament rather than win-loss records ensures Stony Brook of a chance to win the conference. If the Seawolves can improve on their rebounding and free throw shooting, and if they can play with some consistency, they may have a chance to pull off the Cinderella story. If not, we will look to the future with the hope that our new coach will meet expectations and raise the bar for Stony Brook basketball.



Adhip Karmaker/Statesman