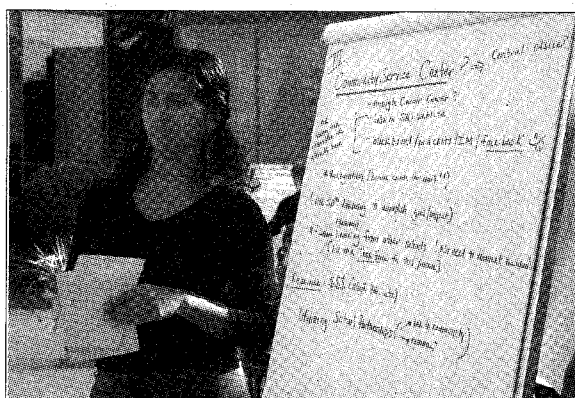


Interview with A. Wali Karzai



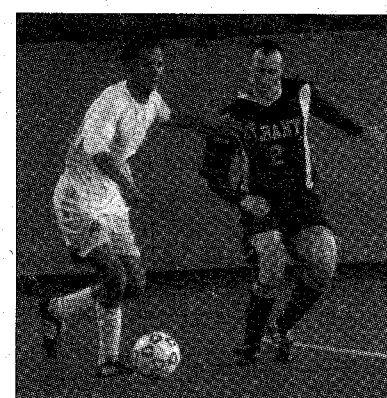
— See Page 3 —

SFS Retreat Fosters Community Service



— See Page 9 —

Soccer Beats Albany, Bing on Saturday



— See Page 12 —

Pre-Med Advising Ripe for Expansion

BY SURAJ RAMBHIA
Staff Writer

For most undergraduate students at SBU, the Academic and Pre-Professional Advising Center, located on the second floor of the Melville Library, is an all-too-familiar place on campus. Whether students come in as freshmen knowing their interests and probable major, or if they are still deciding where their primary interests lie, all undergraduate SBU students need the guidance provided by the academic advisors at the Academic and Pre-Professional Advising Center to have all the opportunities available at the end of four years.

For some, the end of the four-year road leads to a job in the real world. These students undoubtedly will have visited the Career Center, also located in the Melville Library. For others, the end of the road leads to more learning — that is, these students find themselves applying for graduate school, in whatever field they may be in. Some students on campus end up deciding that they are destined for professional school, that is, for law school, medical school, or any of the other health-related professions. Though the process is tedious for students in any of these three categories, and though all of these students have an academic advisor to assist them in any and all endeavors, students who apply for professional schools have an additional and necessary

resource, an individual who devotes his time solely to the upper class pre-health and pre-law students on campus.

James Montren is the sole pre-health and pre-law advisor, a senior associate affiliated with the Academic and Pre-Professional Advising Center for the entire campus. As stated above, by virtue of the extensive application process, he is an additional but necessary resource for students applying to medical or law school. Concerning the process involved

“It’s a question of numbers and making the tools [available to students] to get the opportunities that will make them stand out.”

with applying for medical school, Richard Gatteau, Ph.D., the Director of the Academic and Pre-Professional Advising Center, commented on Montren’s role in the application process. Montren provides “recommendation letters, autobiography, mock interview and committee letters,” he said. That is, students are required to submit their recommendation letters from faculty members as well as an autobiography of themselves to allow Montren to write an effective committee letter, somewhat like a face sheet sent to the medical schools

along with the rest of the application. Gatteau described Montren’s role in writing the letters as, “capturing who [the students] are.” With each of the students for whom Montren writes committee letters, he also performs a mock interview, allowing the students to better prepare for the interview requests from the actual medical school admissions committees. For pre-law students, Gatteau also described the process as involving essays to be written on the part of the student as well as a Dean’s Certification, both of which Montren handles.

In a separate interview, Montren himself described his history with the Academic and Pre-Professional Advising Center and some of the problems that need to be dealt with. When he first came to SBU in 1998, Montren commented, “We had two pre-health advisors, and a secretary who spent half of her time just on pre-health letters of recommendation.” Referring to the numbers of committee letters written at the time, Montren said, “We wrote a little under 130 letters of recommendation.” He then added, “And we had a part-time pre-law advisor who did just a few hours every now and then.”

Montren juxtaposed his situation in 1998 with the current day Academic and Pre-Professional Advising Center where he reports, “So far, I’ve done 179 [letters] and right now, it

Continued on page 3

USG SENATE UPDATE: A Sense of Real Politics

By WILL JAMES
Asst. News Editor

Senate Chair Sam Darguin's gavel swung for the first time this semester, when November eighth's well-attended meeting leapt into desultory bouts of debate-spirited chatter, centered around such recurring topics as voter apathy and the university's stand on a Coca Cola boycott.

A disproportionate amount of debate, however, was centered on one man, Esam Al-Shareffi, who stood before the Senate as a former Senate Chair and current Supreme Court nominee. He and three other nominees were presented by USG President Diana Acosta early in the meeting, for Senate approval. The three other nominees, Erica Smith and Aleiya Gafar for the Supreme Court, and Renee Wallace for Judicial Council, were approved quickly and overwhelmingly, while Al-Shareffi was rejected with only ten of twenty votes, despite a long résumé of academic qualifications and expansive history of USG involvement. After the surprise rejection, many senators and gallery members leapt to the former chair's defense, speculating that his premature mid-term resignation as Senate Chair, last year, may have characterized him as undependable. After a long bout of deliberation, Al-Shareffi was given a chance to

explain his resignation, which turned out to be a result of CORE politics, and which seemed to bolster the credibility of his impartial and objective image. After a re-vote, however, he was again rejected. "Of course, I respect the Senate's decision. Thank you for your time," he said, before sitting down and observing the remainder of the meeting.

Again, Senators Amy Wisnoski and Igor Levenberg stood before the Senate to propose an alternative to last week's almost unanimously rejected Voter Turnout Improvement Act. Their new act, titled "You Can Do It, We Can Help," focused only on the introduction of polling stations, and omitted any mention of a minimum voter pool, which was the cause of the last act's demise. After some rigorous problem-oriented discussion, focused on impracticality of the various costs involved in creating polling stations, it appeared that Wisnoski and Levenberg were up for another defeat at the hands of their peers. "We have to be more solution-oriented," Wisnoski urged. "I know it's hard, but we have to find a way to do it." However, when it came time to vote, even the most argumentative of the senators raised their hand in favor, and the act was passed unanimously.

Wisnoski and Levenberg stood before the Senate a second time, to propose a USG boycott of Coca Cola, after various corporate atrocities were brought to the

attention of the USG last week by the Social Justice Alliance. "The University has contracts with Coca Cola, and we have no power over that," said Levenberg. "But the Senate's power is over USG funds, so all we can do is ensure that no USG funds go toward Coca Cola." Acosta, again with a couple senators, focused on the impracticality of a USG boycott of the corporation, which is ubiquitous on campus. Acosta said, "Basically, you're saying that no clubs will be able to use Campus Dining for their events," at which point Levenberg was fed up. "Listen, I know that this is hard. It's a boycott. Just because something's hard doesn't mean we shouldn't do it...I thought we wanted to do something that was right." Wisnoski and Levenberg explain the fact that this act, titled "Take Action," is a logical progression after last week's approval of a resolution acknowledging the alleged criminality of Coca Cola's corporate conduct. To the dismay of the advocates of the act, the vote was postponed for the next meeting.

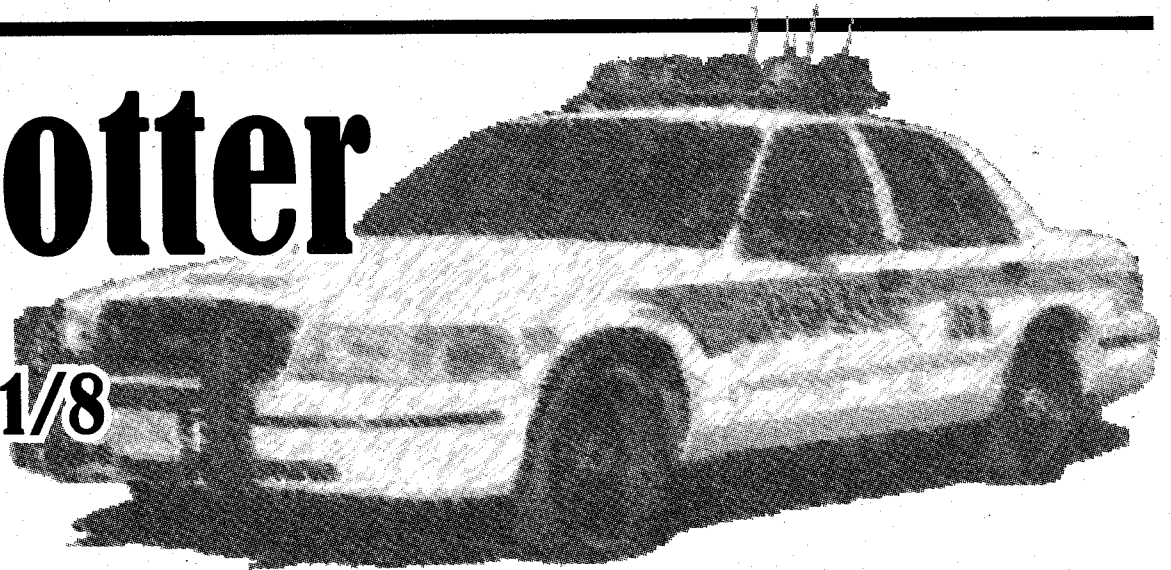
Despite the various chatter and unfocused debate that characterized this Senate meeting, the small room was alive with the sense of an unfolding of real-life politics. Al-Shareffi stood up at the close of the meeting and testified, "I have to say, it's encouraging to see the difference between last year's USG and this year's...Actual acts are being proposed...Things are getting done."

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Police Blotter

Compiled by Eugene Tan/Statesman

11/5 – 11/8



Motor Vehicle Accidents

At the Health Sciences Center, the arm of the loading dock gate hit the windshield of a vehicle on 11-07-05 at 1:21 PM. There was no vehicle damage, but the gate arm was broken. Near the main entrance, a motor vehicle accident involving two cars was reported on 11-07-05 at 12:41 PM.

Lost Property

A Samsung cell phone was found on campus on 11-07-05 at 1:18 PM. In the athletic fields, a student ID card was found on 11-07-05 at 1:35 PM.

Marijuana

On 11-07-05, at 10:03 PM, the smell of marijuana was reported in Baruch College but unfounded.

Burglary Alarm

On 11-08-05, at 2:31 AM, the burglary alarm at Cardozo College was set off. The cause of the alarm was unknown.

STATESMAN EXCLUSIVE: An Interview with A. Wali Karzai



Nicole Dulmer/Statesman

BY SARAH MALLIK
Staff Writer

You may think that politics is one of the main interests of Dr. A. Wali Karzai, who happens to be the brother of Hamid Karzai, the President of Afghanistan. Karzai's true passion, however, lies in Biochemistry. At Stony Brook, he teaches Biochemistry to undergraduate students and Molecular Genetics to graduate students.

Karzai has been a professor in the Biochemistry department since 2001. When he was an undergraduate at the University of Maryland, his Organic Chemistry professor, Timothy Adams, inspired him to pursue a career in science, a field that had always interested him. Karzai completed his Ph.D at Johns Hopkins University and continued post-doctoral work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Stony Brook's good reputation in research attracted him to come teach here and continue his research.

Karzai's team of undergraduate students, graduate students, technicians, and post-doctoral researchers are interested in RNA-protein interactions and the regulation of gene expression. The team hopes to utilize the information they obtain from their studies to develop new antibiotics. Karzai is extremely dedicated to his work; he spends 11 to 12 hours a day over

six days a week teaching his students.

"Teaching" in this context does not just refer to Karzai's lectures to his 150 students; research is a part of teaching as well. Karzai instructs his team in how to analyze data critically. This requires time and effort, but he still prefers to teach small groups instead of large classes. "Small group discussions are a better way of learning," he stated. "A large part of teaching is learning, and in small groups, the students can question my own understanding of the topic. In large classes, there is only one-way communication. Students do not have as much opportunity to interact with me, and sometimes, they have a hard time keeping up with the material."

In order to improve the learning environment at Stony Brook, Karzai suggests that the school should have more classrooms and smaller classes. Also, he would like to see the university reduce its bureaucracy and improve the research support infrastructure. These improvements will help the entire community at Stony Brook. Karzai is interested in teaching and motivating Stony Brook's students in many different ways, and he offers one piece of advice to them: "No matter what circumstances or conditions you come from, you should not get discouraged. Just keep working hard and inevitably, you will achieve what you want to do."

Advising Ripe for Expansion

Continued from page 1

looks like I will finish up the season writing somewhere between 215 and 230." Evidently the work has increased significantly for Montren in the past seven years. Each letter he writes is two to three pages long – after he performs the mock interview with the particular student, understands all of the extracurricular and co-curricular activities he or she may have participated in, how he or she fared in his or her academics, research endeavors and MCAT scores. Montren described the process further. "All those pages have to go through a university committee and then get edited and changed...you need to give everybody a fair shake and try to make each letter as personable as possible." At the same time, in recent years, Montren has been given the responsibility as the pre-law advisor, not to mention that he is also the Webmaster and founder of the SBU pre-medical and pre-law websites, started by Montren during his seven-year term.

With all this work on his plate, one wonders how he finds the time to distribute between all of the students he advises. Are the students hindered in any way in obtaining a seat at a medical or law school because of Montren's extremely busy schedule? When asked these questions, Gatteau, the director of the advising center, commented, "I think students who follow deadlines won't have a problem." Gatteau also cited the fact that students who are in their freshman and sophomore years get advising from their own advisors, as part of their undergraduate college. Only students who are working on the application process set up a file with the pre-professional center – students who are in their junior and senior years. According to Gatteau, Montren's time is spent exclusively for students who have finished the basic coursework, taken their MCATs, students who "know what they're in for." Gatteau added with a chuckle that "The early bird gets the worm," regarding the discipline that students need to be capable of to complete their medical or law school applications.

At the same time, Gatteau also acknowledged the fact that he, Montren, along with Manny London, Ph.D., associate provost for SBU, are looking for ways to expand the program in order to satisfy the growing demand for Montren's services. London commented in a diplomatic fashion, "We recognize the importance of pre-professional advising, the valuable work that James Montren is doing, and the need to provide additional support for the function [of the Academic and Pre-professional Advising Center] in order to serve students better." It appears, however, that London believes the other academic advisors at the center are sufficient at the moment. "We currently have considerable depth of knowledge and help from the academic advising staff," he said. Both Gatteau and London mentioned the expansion of the academic advising staff in the past three years. However, concerning the future, London replied only vaguely, "I'm confident that we will find the resources to ensure that students interested in medicine, or other health careers, and law receive the support they need."

Montren himself expressed strongly the need to expand pre-health and pre-law staffing, "I think that there is a tremendous need for expanded pre-professional advising." He has ideas to improve the quality for pre-professional advising, but based on the provision that there are more people staffed alongside him. Montren pondered out loud, "How would you [the student] like to be able to pop a CD into your computer and be able to watch a presentation on how to get a good research position? Or download MP3s about various topics or interviews with doctors and researchers over at the Health Sciences Center." Some of Montren's ideas have already been drafted. The only caveat, again, is the understaffing of pre-professional advising. Montren repeated, "I am enthusiastic about the possibilities, but expansion is likely to be a prerequisite."

While Montren is overloaded with his work, SBU students, to his credit, are succeeding in their attempts to gain spots in credited allopathic medical schools in the United States. The Stony Brook Faculty Committee on Health Professions notes that 95-100% of all students who have an MCAT score of at least 30 and a GPA of at least 3.50 gain a spot in a U.S. allopathic medical school. If one disregards the MCAT score, 73% of students who earned just a 3.50 GPA earned spots in U.S. allopathic medical schools. 78% of these students, with at least a 3.50 GPA, earned a spot in either a U.S. allopathic or osteopathic medical school.

The message is clear enough. SBU is doing well, but it could be doing much better, provided that funding is increased for the Academic and Pre-Professional Advising Center. As Montren stated in his interview, "It's a question of numbers and making the tools [available to students] to get the opportunities that will make them stand out."

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the stony brook

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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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UGrad Student Gov't Getting Things Done

Things might be looking up for the Undergraduate Student Government for the first time in a long time, as it appears that they are actually moving legislation through the Senate that could benefit students. In the wake of a dismal voter turnout for recent elections, certain members of the Senate have made it their mission to work towards rectifying this problem.

After a definitive defeat of the Voter Turnout Improvement Act last week, the Senate unanimously passed the You Can Do It, We Can Help Act in their most recent meeting. This bill, again sponsored by Senators Amy Wisnoski and Igor Levenberg, is very similar to the one that was defeated, with the notable exclusion of a minimum voter pool. This was the hottest

topic of debate, as the previous act would have set a floor of 20% voter participation for an election to be declared valid. Failure to attain 20% would have required a suspension of USG funds and a new election to be held. Wisnoski and Levenberg argued that this condition, while tough, would kick-start the student body into caring about government. Opponents saw the consequences of student apathy as being too extreme, possibly grinding USG to a halt should students fail to vote.

The fact that there was active debate on this issue and comprises made by all parties involved shows a remarkable move in the right direction. The You Can Do It, We Can Help Act may not be as far-reaching as it needs to be, but it certainly does

indicate a step forward. The main point of this act is to create polling stations for elections, which are easily accessible to students. This will very likely increase voter participation, and all the senators have recognized this.

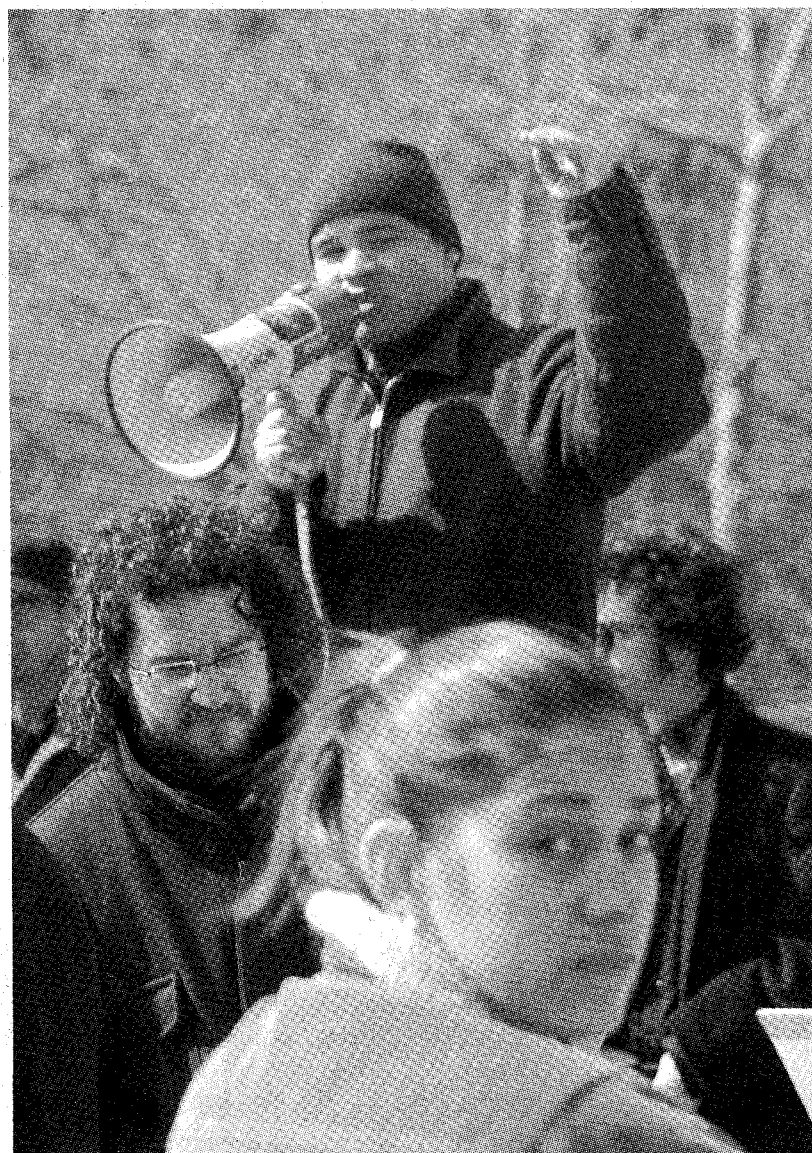
After semesters of ineffectual government, this is a very hopeful sign. The democratic process is being utilized and, more importantly, it is working. The Senate recognized an issue that needed to be addressed, had a good debate on the topic and tried different approaches to fix it. They ended up with something that is good for the students and establishes a platform for further reforms. To the members of the USG Senate – keep up the good work.

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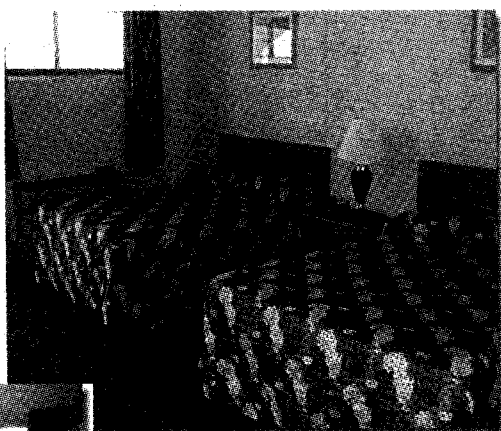
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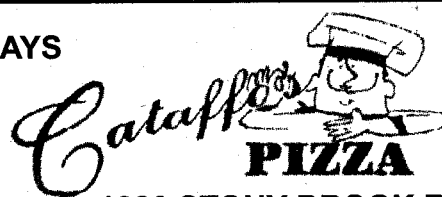


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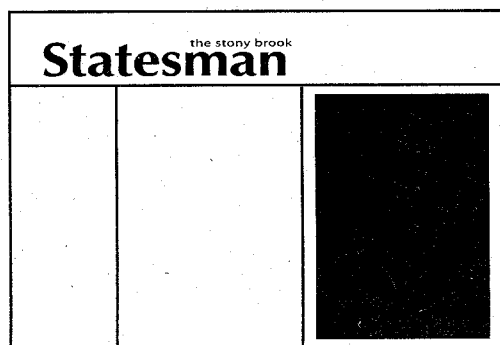
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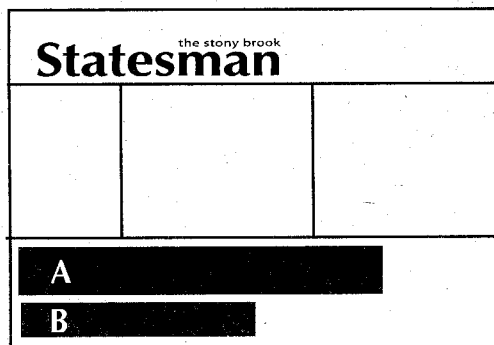
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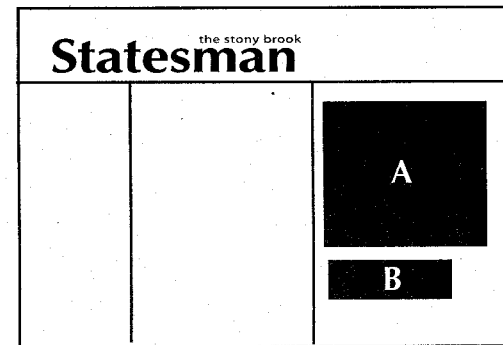


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Students & Faculty Brainstorm SBU's Impact on Community

By RISA GOREN
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Imagine all of those big name professors and university officials you hear of but have never met, gathered into one room. Then imagine 25 or so of your peers, also inhabiting that same room. This conjured up universe actually took place in the Harrison Conference Center of Glen Cove during the Student-Faculty-Staff retreat last Friday through Saturday.

Applicants accepted to this retreat are a selective few – my initial thought was that I didn't belong. Some part of me still believes that, but either way, I went, and it is an experience that will stay with me for the rest of my academic career.

I can remember looking around that conference room when I first arrived, experiencing the customary panic of not knowing with whom I should speak, or how to proceed. So for the first hour or so, I hid behind my cynicism and humor, hoping no one would notice how terrified I was to be discovered vulnerable and out of my element. The customary icebreaker events ensued, and I could see the room beginning to open up. (Maybe icebreakers *are* effective). Once we started to get a grasp on the 60 or so names floating around the room, the real work began.

Our time in the conference center was divided between panel discussions, lectures, and group “break-out” sessions. Most lasted little more than an hour, allowing for absorption of material and ample time to formulate an opinion of how to better our campus community.

The retreat was centered around integrating community service with the Stony Brook community, as well as on a global scale. Speakers such as Journalism Professor Howie Schneider asked us if we, as SBU, had done enough for our community – a question most would agree could be answered with a “no.” With the resources available to our university, it seems absurd that we don't do more to aid not only Stony Brook, but also Long Island as a whole. The question at hand is: how?

Possible solutions were brainstormed throughout our 24-hour retreat, ranging from implementation of a service-learning program into DEC requirements, to offering retired computers to the community. It was within the group brainstorming sessions where real personalities came together as equals, and spawned ideas that could change this university.

One particularly interesting speaker, David Krause, described his experiences in Madagascar, and showed heartbreakingly photogenic impoverished children whose lives could drastically improve with just a little effort on the part of SBU. For example, did you know that \$500 would employ



Courtesy of Tony Scarlatos

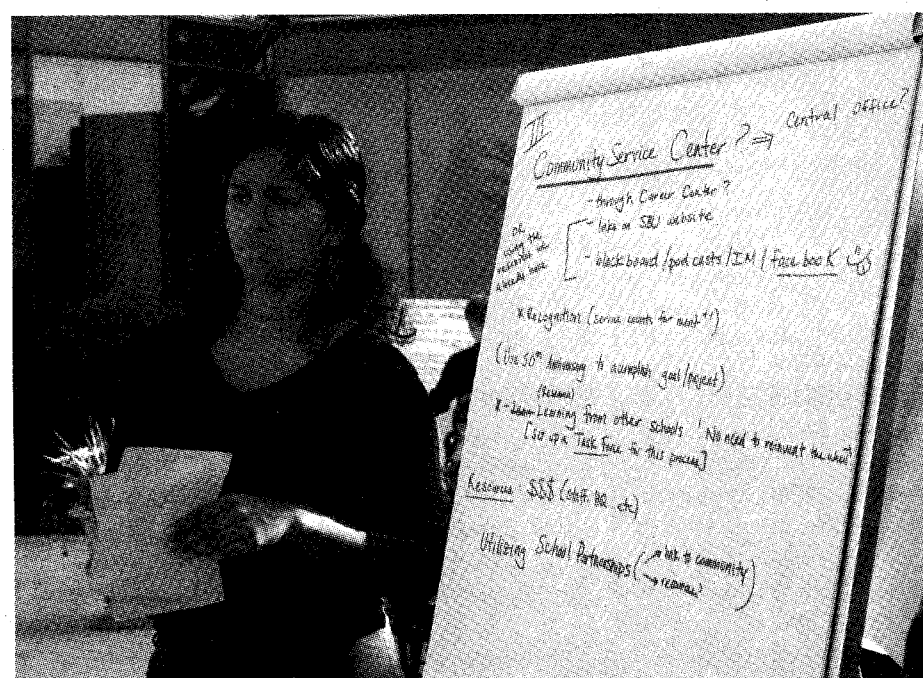
a teacher, in an area where no school has ever existed, for an entire year? Or that 10 blood pressure cuffs could save hundreds, if not thousands, of lives?

Granted, the driving force of this retreat to involve the university on a larger scale is noble, but there was an underlying theme I found profound. Within the property of the Harrison Conference center, we were all speaking on the same level. There were no such titles as “Mister,” “Dean,” or “Professor” – there was Norm, Jerry, and Shirley (you know, as in, *Strum Kenny*). We disagreed and even battled egos at times, but in the end, we all listened – and ideas flourished as a result. It turns out that these people who had previously been names on a piece of paper are real, and they do in fact care about the student body and what we have to say.

By the end of the retreat, I looked around and saw a room of familiar faces, all of whom I would look forward to running into on campus. The official titles may have gone back up, but my sense of unity with this university and its employees has strengthened. If there is one thing I brought away from this retreat, it is the strength of great minds working in unison.

I realize that not everyone will be able to experience what I have while they attend Stony Brook, but there are other ways to get involved. Great resources lie within every classroom we enter. It just takes a little extra effort and involvement to become an active participant on this campus.

So go ahead and attend your professors' office hours. Tell them about your weekend, and ask them about theirs. What's the worst that could happen? You might even make a new friend.



Courtesy of Jonathan Reinstein

Top - SFS Retreat attendees gather outside of the Harrison Conference Center.
Bottom - Students and faculty Brainstorm ideas to improve campus/community relationships through community service.

With the resources available to our university, it seems absurd that we don't do more to aid not only Stony Brook, but also Long Island as a whole.

Tabler Center's International Film Festival *La Strada*

BY CANDACE ISHMAEL
Staff Writer

This week's presentation was a delightful film by Italian director, Federico Fellini. *La Strada* won more than fifty international awards and was the first movie to receive the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. It catapulted Fellini into the spotlight.

The main character, Gelsomina, is played by Fellini's wife, Giulietta Masina, and is a simplistic, childlike young woman who is sold to a traveling strongman, Zampano. Gelsomina becomes part of Zampano's performance and travels with him around the country. Unfortunately, he abuses her and treats her as if she is simply a nuisance; she continues to serve him, and even to love him, however.

At times, she tries to run away and wants nothing more than to return home to her impoverished family. Then, when they join an established circus, Gelsomina meets The Fool, an all-around performer who shows her how much Zampano really needs her. From then on, the character is more aware of herself, and although she is still mistreated, she feels that at least there is some purpose to her life.

Zampano and The Fool do not get along though, and in an altercation on the road, he kills The Fool, to the dismay of Gelsomina. She is so traumatized that she enters a state where she is not completely lucid and can only repeat over and over again the phrase "The Fool is hurt." At one point, she seems to pull out of it, but Zampano tells her that he did not mean for him to die, and she immediately slips away from reality again.

Zampano abandons her in the mountains, but he does have the decency to leave her with money and the trumpet she learned to play. Years later, he is traveling with a different circus, performing the same trick as always when he happens on a young lady living in the village which the circus is performing. The woman is humming the song that Gelsomina used to play on her trumpet, and Zampano learns that she has died.

At this point, the emotions that have been kept hidden for the entire film are finally revealed. Zampano tries to drink away his sorrow and the final scene of the movie leaves him laying on the beach, grasping at the sand as if for dear life.

The character of Gelsomina is heartwarming in her simple perception of life. She is someone that the audience can truly latch on to, even though her situation is so extreme. Although few people can relate to the extreme poverty that forces Gelsomina's mother to sell her, there is something about the character herself that inspires empathy.

There is something almost Chaplin-like in the way that she is presented. With her oversized clothes, shorn hair, and wide eyes, she evokes the vision of a child trapped in an adult body. She is naïve about the ways of the world and the nature of human interaction, but she is more than able to care for her fellow man, even when that man is a beast like Zampano.

When the film was released, audiences fell in love with Gelsomina and clamored for a sequel to *La Strada* simply so they could see more of her. To this day, she is still able to capture audiences with her innocence and big heart.

Next week's film is another of Fellini's masterpieces, *Amacord*. It is an autobiographical coming-of-age story set in his hometown during the age of Fascism.

Theatre Dept

Boy Gets Girl

REVIEWS

BY LES HUNTER
Staff Writer

The Long Island Play Project opened Thursday with Rebecca Gilman's *Boy Gets Girl* at the Staller Center for the Arts.

Like other Gilman plays, *Boy Gets Girl* takes its plot out of a scenario you might expect to see in a contemporary newspaper. The story itself is concerned with the news, with what makes it, and who makes it. Theresa (Sophie Vaner) is a successful New York magazine writer who acquiesces to a blind date with Tony (Eric Webb), a somewhat geeky computer programmer. After two dates, Theresa nicely but firmly rejects Tony. He is hurt, and one almost feels sorry for him. Though Tony is only in one more scene, his presence begins to ominously pervade the entire play. Theresa begins to receive ever-increasingly hostile messages, hate mail, and phone calls from Tony, and it soon becomes apparent that this suitor-turned-stalker is intent on hurting her.

To avoid Tony, Theresa moves in with her boss, Howard (Robert Colpitts). Her relationship with her co-workers becomes strained as her fellow writer, Mercer (Brian Avery), admits that he wants to write an article about stalking. Theresa is alarmed not only about being stalked, but about becoming the subject of writing. As a writer herself, she sees that the pen has been turned against her, and she has been objectified.

Theresa's ditz secretary Harriet (Ashley Straw) pulls

the last straw by unwittingly aiding Tony in his quest to hurt Theresa. Throughout the piece, Theresa encounters diverse characters from an aging porn director named Les (Jonah Rosenberg) to a sympathetic cop (Kat Safras).

Topically, *Boy Gets Girl* deals with stalking. It's also about objectivism, power dynamics between men and women, and the degrees between what is acceptable and what is not. With each transgression, Tony gets more creepy and more powerful. Mercer notes that Tony is not alone in feeling rejection by women. And Theresa explains that women often take the blame for men's mistakes and faults.

Directed by Lauren Rosen, a visiting director from The Women's Project, *Boy Gets Girl* has lots of funny moments, especially given its subject. Sometimes one questions one's own laughter. The stage is composed of simple black flats that rotate on a central axis, allowing for easy transitions. Colpitts playfully brings about Howard, the mostly-out-of-it wisenheimer elderly editor. Vaner, as Theresa, makes the quick changes in temperament necessary to play the simultaneously anxious/interested and excited/despaired reflective victim. *Boy Gets Girl* is playing November 3-6, 12 and 13 at Staller Center Theatre II.

The next L.I.P.P. play is *Escape From Happiness*. It goes up next weekend, November 10, 11 and 17-20, at Staller Center Theatre I. For more information, call (631) 632-ARTS. Student tickets are \$6, faculty/staff are \$8, and for the general public the price is \$10.

Short Fiction Writer Wins SBU Award

BY JEREMY FALLETTA
Copy Editor

With his rumpled shirt and jacket, his matted hair and mild southern drawl, he stepped to the podium to deliver his creation. Despite some misgivings about "things inappropriate to say in front of your mother," he presented his tale charmingly, gaining confidence as he went along.

Last Friday, the winner of this year's Stony Brook Short Fiction Prize, D. Lowry Pressly of the University of Georgia, read his winning story in the Poetry Center of the new Humanities building. He was introduced by John Westermann, the current director of the contest, and a professor of fiction here at Stony Brook.

Pressly's story, entitled "U," was about an aging Japanese man named Toshio and his return home to the village he grew up in, where there is a beautiful three-hundred-year-old Usuzumi tree that is dying. The story is heavily laden with haunting imagery and a sense of mortality, which is evinced by Toshio as well as the Usuzumi. Although "U" seemed to be rife with symbolism, Pressly, when asked about it, began a detailed description of what he was trying to show just before interrupting himself and saying "Yeah, I'm making this up as I go along." At another point, he had the audience laughing again with a comment about having written poetry in the past, but stopping because "[he] realized [he] was writing really terrible poetry."

The Stony Brook Short Fiction Prize is awarded annually, to the best short story submission amongst those from over a hundred undergraduates nationwide. The prize is worth \$1000 and a trip to Long Island, where the winner (and his or her parents) is put up in the luxurious Three Village Inn in Stony Brook for several days and generally treated like a published writer. This includes dinner with Stony Brook English department dignitaries, including Peter Manning, the department Chair, Westermann and the other judges of the contest. Following the dinner by a day is the opportunity to read the winning story on campus, and participate in a question and answer session afterward, resplendent with a delicious and tastefully arranged luncheon.

During the luncheon, Pressly shared some advice for writers who may be just starting out. "Reading a lot is absolutely essential," he said. "Writing takes a lot of practice," although he admitted to having written "U" in two halves over two nights, without revising. Impressive, under any circumstances.

When asked about his influences, Pressly replied that they are "constantly changing." He says that he reads a lot of poetry, which helps him out with writing with such a focus on imagery. He also dabbles in other genres, including screenwriting, which he said is a big help with dialogue. After graduation this December, he plans to do a bit of traveling before beginning to apply to MFA (Master of Fine Arts) programs for creative writing.

Rockin' the Brook:

Invisible Invasion

By INUR MAMMOOR
Staff Writer

Artist: The Coral
Album: *Invisible Invasion*
Release Date: August 30, 2005

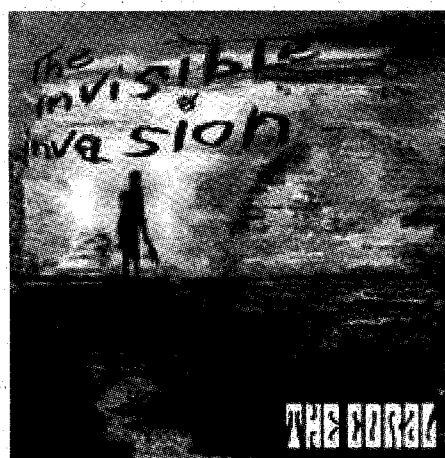
What do you get when you have a good indie rock album but it's not great? It's good enough to remember the band but not good enough to also remember the lukewarm feeling you got when you listened to the album. *Invisible Invasion* is that kind of album. You can't argue that The Coral aren't talented but after the last track has been played, there is a sense of letdown because they were good enough to make you think they would be great.

Invisible Invasion is the UK band's fourth release, and with each release, it can be heard that their sound has evolved, which gives hope for The Coral's future. The overall sound on *Invisible Invasion* echoes the album's ghostly, haunted house-like artwork. Their sound is a mixture of all things indie blended with a psychedelic vibe and also carrying an art-rock twist. Imagine the sound you would get by cross-pollinating 60's pop like The Beatles and Doors with the current, generic indie British invasion sound; that's how The Coral sound on *Invisible Invasion*.

One is filled with hope when one hears the first track, "She Sings the Mourning," because it is so damn catchy that it encompasses all the factors that make a good pop song good. There is a dark side to the album and it can be heard on "She Sings the Mourning." "Cripples Crown," the second track on the album, also leads you to believe *Invisible Invasion* will have a lasting affect on your musical memory. "Cripples Crown" is eerie and a bit more edgy than the other tracks on the album.

But the first impressions don't hold up as the album progresses. Listening to "So Long Ago" you can't help but ask if they were trying to cover The Beatles. "Far from the Crowd" has a mellow indie-folk-rock vibe, which is reminiscent of Simon & Garfunkel.

There are moments, while listening to *Invisible Invasion*, where one finds oneself



Courtesy of The Coral

tapping one's feet or turning up the volume. They are few and far between, but they are there, making the album a good listen that stops short of something profoundly wonderful. "Arabian Sand" may be the most psychedelic track on the album. As the song reaches its climax one finds oneself immersed in the music. The confusion and excitement felt at the end of "Arabian Sand" makes one realize The Coral's potential. But with the overly generic and very conventional radio-friendly "In the Mourning," one hears The Coral fall short of this potential.

After hearing the catchy and dark sounds on *Invisible Invasion* one knows one just heard a good album. But the unfulfilled potential The Coral possess makes *Invisible Invasion* an album that leaves one wanting more while realizing one won't be getting it.

The Coral *Invisible Invasion*

1. She Sings The Mourning
2. Cripples Crown
3. So Long Ago
4. The Operator
5. A Warning To The Curious
6. In The Morning
7. Something Inside Of Me
8. Come Home
9. Far From The Crowd
10. Leaving Today
11. Arabian Sand
12. Late Afternoon

University *café*

Cross-Cultural Café

By ELIZABETH SCISCI
Staff Writer

This Thursday, the University Café's cross-cultural theme was embodied in the continuation of the Hindustani Music Series. Hindustani is historically best described as Indian classical music. A form of music consisting of a seven-pitch system of five-note scales called ragas, Hindustani allows looseness, promoting complete rhythmic and tonal improvisation. While formal compositions, those with a set meter and recommended instrumentation, are important to this genre, its uniqueness is in its sections of embellishment and freedom. Singer, Dipanjan Das, and Dr. Kingshook Biswas gave a beautiful presentation of this exotic type of music, eager to share an exciting, and beautiful aspect of their Indian culture.

The two performers sat barefoot upon beautifully colored rugs of eastern design on the Café stage. Dressed in traditional rust-colored Kurta, a long cotton or linen man's shirt, the pair succeeded in transcending their audience deep into East Asia. Das, a Stony Brook graduate student, studied music while in India, but came to the United States in other academic pursuits. Biswas is currently completing his post-doctorate in mathematics at Stony Brook University, also having Indian music as a passionate hobby. The two combined their talents in two prior performances at the Café for which admission was free, and will perform together on Saturday, November 12 at the Charles B. Wang Center.

Das accompanied him own vocals on a standard electric keyboard programmed to sound like a harmonium, a hand-pumped organ typical of Indian music, but created in Europe and imported to the east in the nineteenth century. While the keys of the harmonium are of strictly European design, the air being pumped through Indian

reeds give Hindustani its basic, familiar sounds. Biswas played the tabla, a set of connected drums originating in Northern India and requiring tremendous skill and technique. Such an instrument illuminates some of the fascination of American culture with Indian instrumentation, being used in popular music since the 1960's.

The two musicians played to a fairly large crowd, all seeming interested in the experience, lending to the diverse and culturally well-roundedness Stony Brook has a reputation for. The performance was delightful overall, a wonderful display of vocal range and effect from Das. His constant fluctuation and movement of his voice to add runs and ornamentation was impressive, as was his flawless breath control and consistent pitch despite the duration of any note. Das's voice slipped in and out of dramatic dynamics and from a full, rich sound to a more nasal tone. Generally, the style of the music seemed to require only the presence of sound as accompaniment rather than a strict melody or supplementary chords. The keyboard part, therefore, was sporadic and unfocused, perhaps an intentional, stylistic aspect.

The tabla was played wonderfully by Biswas, adding to the consistency with a rhythm not really present in other parts. Hindustani is definitely structured quite different than western music.

Very few songs had a distinguishable melody to return to as a chorus or refrain, and repetition was limited, probably due to the large degree of improvisation.

The two young artists were thrilled that they were received so well. They appreciated the community's support in their attempt to promote and celebrate Indian culture, and look forward to more performances in which they can spread the influence of this integral and unique facet of their background.

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"When you're doing a dismemberment D&E usually the last part to be removed is the skull itself and it's floating free inside the uterine cavity...So it's rather like a ping-pong ball floating around...So typically there's several misdirections, misattempts to grasp. Finally at some point either the instruments are managed to be placed around the skull or a nip is made out of some area of the skull that allows it to start to decompress. And then once that happens typically the skull is brought out in fragments rather than as a unified piece, the result being that sharp bony edges of the skull are exposed and are drawn out unprotected through the cervix where they can lacerate or cause other injury or damage. The instruments themselves while you're attempting this grasping technique can also cause damage to the uterus as attempts are made to grab the, this free-floating skull."

[Abortionist Martin Haskell, May 1999, under oath, U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, Case No. 98-C-0305-S, describing a legal abortion procedure.]

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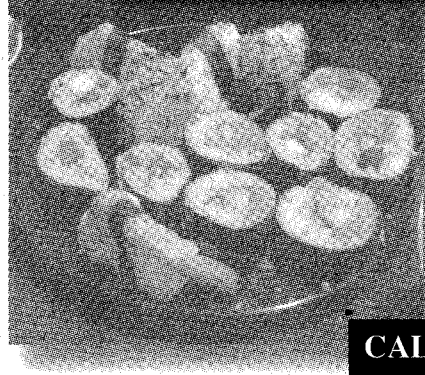
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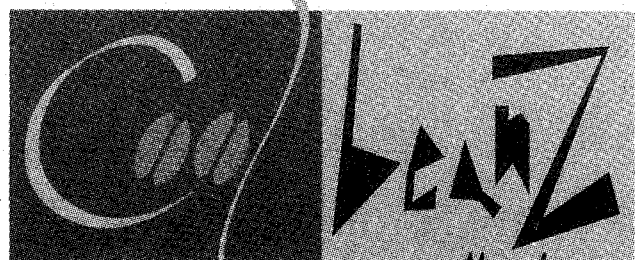
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- **Dec. 4 - TREE LIGHTING** - The Stony Brook Village Center will have tree lighting, caroling, shopping & a visit from Santa. Join us for "Brunch with Santa" at 11 am or 2 pm. Enjoy the "Promenade of Trees," over 80 beautifully decorated trees, throughout December
- **Dec. 4, 11 & 18 - BRUNCH WITH SANTA** - Santa's taking time out to join us at 11 am & 2 pm. Don't pass up a delicious brunch, a gift for every child, and a chance to give your list to Santa! Adults \$27, Kids (under 10) \$17
- **Dec. 3, 10 & 17 - BREAKFAST WITH SANTA** - Santa comes early at 9:30 am to share a festive breakfast. Meet Mrs. Claus & the elves. Sit with Santa for photos. Adults \$27.50, Kids (under 10) \$18.50, inclusive. Advance purchase required
- **Dec. 12 & 19 - SMALL OFFICE HOLIDAY PARTY** - A complete holiday gala celebration; each company will have their own reserved tables from 6 to 12 guests & share an evening of great food, DJ dance music & good holiday festive cheer! 7:30 - midnight, \$50 pp inclusive. Advance purchase required
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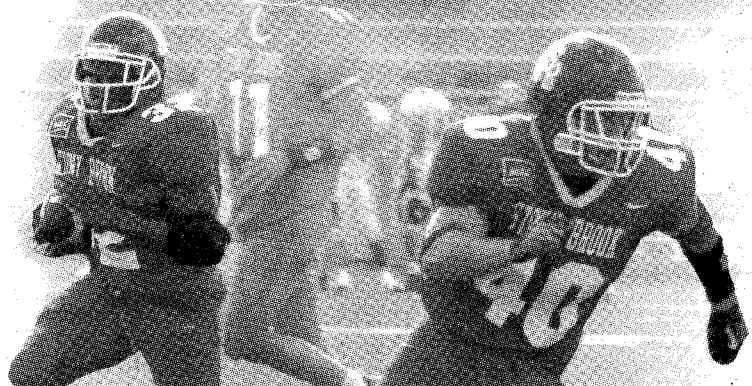
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Men's Soccer In Finals After Defeating No. 5 Albany 2-1

BY JAMES CASTON
Managing Editor

The top-seeded Seawolves defeated No. 5 Albany 2-1 in overtime in last night's semi-final game at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium. "We got it done. We're in the final," said Seawolves coach Cesar Markovic. The Seawolves will host No. 3 Binghamton this Saturday at 7 PM in the conference final to advance to the NCAA College Cup.

This is the first post-season victory in the history of Stony Brook's men's Soccer program. "It's something for the players, the coaches, the administrators, the school, the students; for everyone to be proud of," said Markovic, who is in his second season with the Seawolves. "That's who we're playing for Saturday. We're playing for everyone."

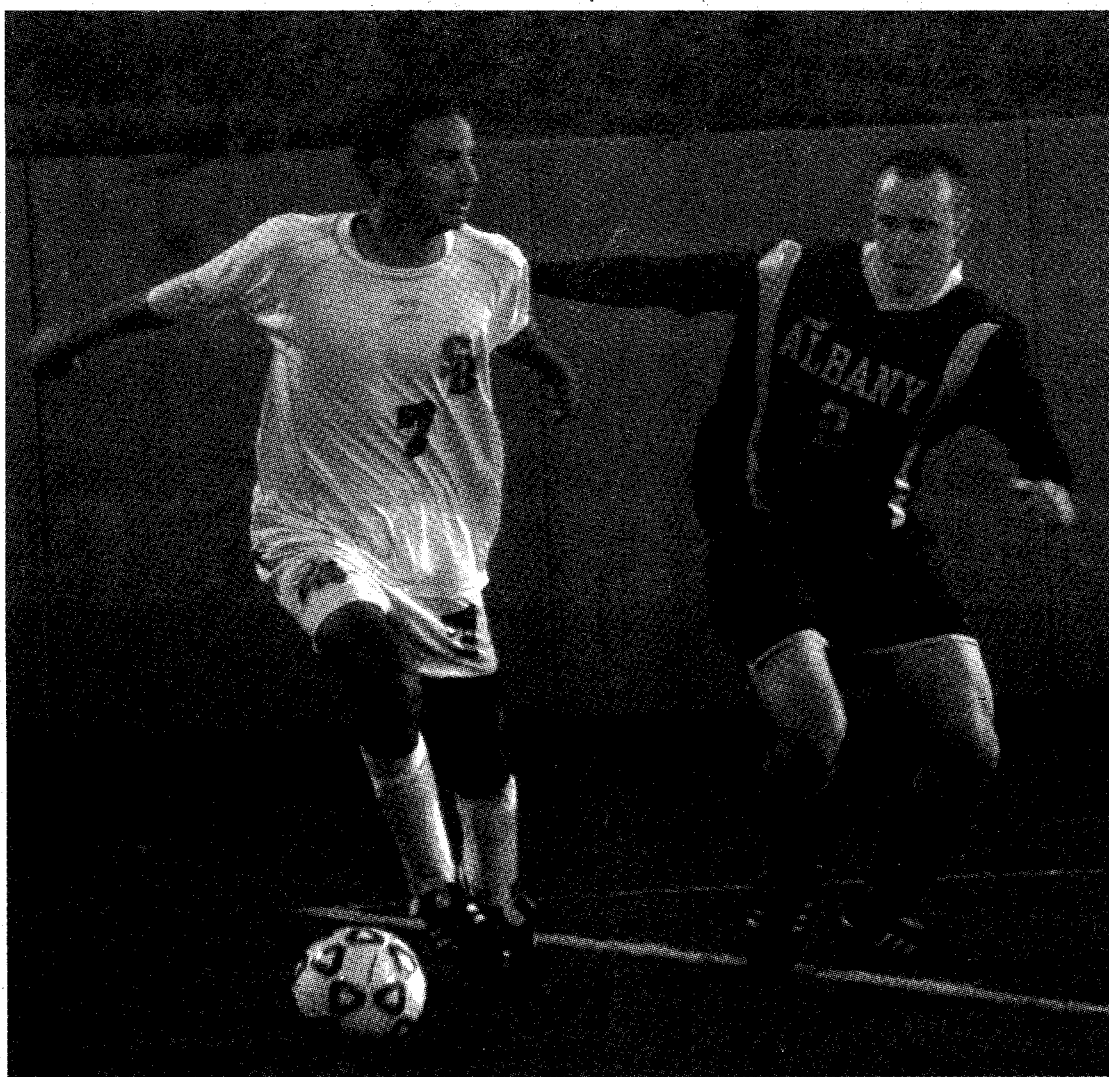
After a scoreless first half, the second half saw a goal from each team. Sixty-two minutes into the game, Michael Palacio's free kick from 30 yards was received by Douglas Narvaez at 10 yards, and then centered to Adam Ciklic who netted a goal in the lower right corner.

Fourteen minutes later, the Great Danes tied it up after Stephan Hall sent a cross from ten yards to Yan Gbolo who was able to find the back of the Stony Brook goal.

The Seawolves ended the game five minutes into overtime. Tamer Mohamed brought the ball up the left side of the field into Albany's territory, and crossed it over to Chris Megaloudis at ten yards. Megaloudis fired the ball into the near corner for his sixth goal of the season, simultaneously ending a fourteen-game dry spell in scoring. "I saw Tamer get the ball wide on the left and I knew that if I made that run where Coach always tells me to go, right in front of the box, I'd be very dangerous in there," said Megaloudis.

Goalkeeper John Moschella denied seven shots for the Seawolves while Stewart Ceus stopped the same amount for Albany.

The Seawolves will square off against their "nemesis" Binghamton this Saturday at 7 PM. "We're going to put that [team] to rest," said Markovic. Binghamton bested No. 2 UMBC 4-1 last night with two goals in each half.



Adhip Karmaker/Statesman

No. 7 Tamer Mohamed, a sophomore, assisted in Wednesday night's game-winning goal, crossing the ball to No. 9 Chris Megaloudis, a senior who was waiting just outside of Albany's box.

Saturday, 1 PM

Football v. CCSU for NEC Title
Coach Kornhauser's Last Home Game

Saturday, 7 PM

Men's Soccer v. Binghamton
Winner Advances to NCAA College Cup

the stony brook Statesman

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PUBLISHED TWICE WEEKLY

'05

CHAMPIONSHIP EDITION

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Men's Soccer

**America East
Champions**

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Football

NEC Co-Champions

pg. 13

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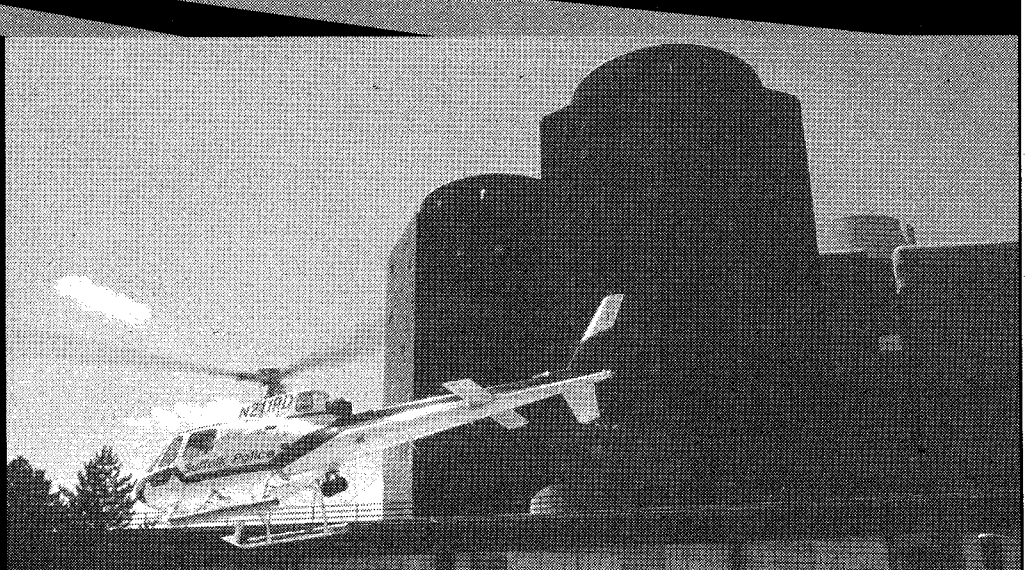
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