

The Fine Line Between Curving and Grade-Inflation

By STEPHEN CHEN
Staff Writer

Tests are a major aspect of every Stony Brook student's life, but the grades one receives on these tests may be dependant on more factors than just one's knowledge of the material. Some professors of large classes assign grades on a variable scale. Many students commonly refer to this scale as a "curve."

Chemistry Professor Robert Kerber is one of the instructors on our campus using a curve on his tests.

"I have a more floating or relative scale", says Kerber, pointing out that putting up advanced cutoffs may lead to some problems, as some students who miss such cutoff points by very little find the system unfair. "For example, let's say the cutoff point for an A is 90. Everyone with an 89.5 will complain." Kerber also notes that having an absolute scale gives less

room for error on the test creator's side. "To set an absolute scale implies, to me, that you think exams you write and give are perfect."

Kerber states that a class with a low average shows a problem contained not only within the students, but with the instruction as well. "No one wants to see [such low grades]."

Jack Wang, a junior and business major at Stony Brook, feels that a curving system would show more weakness of a test design. "If a curve exists, it is the failure of a professor to provide a better test," he said.

The idea that all that is necessary to do well in the class is to maintain grades slightly over the class average, referred to as "surfing the curve" by some, may lead to less incentive to do better.

Kerber did admit that some students might try this.

He does not feel that this is much of a prob-

lem, however, citing the difficulty of figuring out the amount of work necessary to make the class average. Kerber also cautions that these habits "carry into the real world."

Physics Professor Abhay Deshpande has a system that works on percentiles rather than a curve. The top 15 percent of his students received grades in the A range on the first test administered in his class; the next 30 percent receiving grades in the B range and the next 30 percent after that receiving grades in the C range.

These absolute cutoffs may lead some stu-

dents who just miss the grade to argue, but Deshpande feels that this is unavoidable. "Somebody always [gets cut off]. That is what life is about." Deshpande also points out that the United States is the only country that chooses a system to compare performance rather than an absolute grading system.

Deshpande notes that he looks at how classes do

as a whole before deciding on the basis for grading. "Theoretically, it is possible [for the top percentile] to start at a B," a situation that Deshpande has never encountered before, due to the huge distribution of grades. Deshpande notes that his classes do not have test results that result in a bell curve graph, making it impossible to curve grades.

Wang sees classes with heavy curves as a problem. "Classes that constantly use drastic curves are in detrimental reliance on them. Somebody messed up in the beginning, and instead of correcting it ... issuing a curve was a quick fix."

Both Deshpande and Kerber state that grades based on the distribution of scores are necessary for large classes and that smaller classes have more of an ability to use absolute scales due to the lack of the huge range that a large class would typically provide.

"Classes that constantly use drastic curves are in detrimental reliance on them."

Wang Center Exhibits Peace Through Artwork



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Tell Dr. J

Reach Dr. J anonymously at: sbstatesman.org/telldrj

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New York City CONNECTION

See Page 8

Getting Help at the Ombuds Office

By YICK LEE
Contributing Writer

In a diverse campus such as Stony Brook, problems and conflicts between students, staff and faculty are often unavoidable. However, a good mediator can often help reduce tension and avoid confrontations. The University Ombuds office serves the vital role of impartial conflict mediation within the campus.

Supported by the University, the Ombuds office was established 16 years ago in 1989. As "Ombuds" is a Swedish term, students in the United States generally have a difficult time deducing the function of the Ombuds office from its title. "I think I've heard of [the Ombuds office]," said Laura Harjes, a sophomore. "But I have no idea what it is." Although the term is not frequently used in the U.S., the Ombuds concept has been practiced ever since the 18th century in Europe. Currently, more than 200 U.S. colleges have Ombuds offices for conflict management.

According to the University Ombudsperson, Judi Segall, an ombudsperson responds objectively and confidentially to individual concerns ranging from interpersonal problems to University administration issues. The office currently deals

with issues of discrimination, sexual harassment, workplace disputes, housing concerns, housing problems, university policies and more. "It helps you deal with personal issues," said Steven Poon, a senior. "[The ombudsperson] acts as a median to negotiate a problem, such as working out a problem between your [resident assistant] and yourself."

The ombudsperson also provides consultation on general issues related to problem solving. Segall is experienced in playing the role of a problem-solver; she often helps visitors to see the "bigger picture" in a problem. Through discussion, she can often clarify students' primary interests or objectives, and lead them to realize the importance of interpersonal relationships in achieving objectives in life. She points out that one must understand that, "Relationships matter, and so you wouldn't want to destroy relationships just to prove a point."

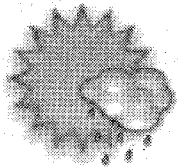
One of the principles of an Ombuds office is to maintain information confidentiality. For this reason, visitors of the office can speak openly to the ombudsperson without feeling personally threatened. "The Ombuds office is an informal and independent resource," Segall said. "We don't make policies. We are a compliment to the formal grievance processes or complaint handling system." To ensure impartiality,

the office is independent of all other administrative offices to avert conflict of interest. Most cases are resolved collaboratively between the parties involved, and the Ombuds office serves as a consultation and mediation instrument throughout the discreet process. The Ombuds process is meant to "engender positive response" from the different parties and to minimize the threat of "fingerpointing" or "whistleblowing." Segall believes that most problems can be attributed to a lack of clear communication, and part of her duty is to help conflicting parties to "reframe a problem or an issue, in a way that is not adversarial or confrontational."

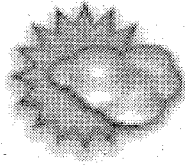
Segall, who have served in the office since 1997, is also the current President of the International Ombudsman Association, the largest international association of academic, corporate, and government Ombuds practitioners in the world. She urges all members of the campus community to take advantage of this university service to address their concerns: "There is no wrong reason to call here and to make an inquiry [at the Ombuds office], and in a lot of cases, we can refer you to the correct place to handle problems directly."

The Ombuds office is located at W-0505 Melville Library, Monday through Friday, 9 AM – 5 PM. Or you can call (631) 632-9200.

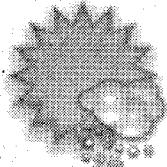
Student Forecast: Nov 21 - Nov 27 By Britta Merwin



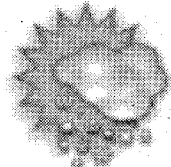
Monday:
High 55/Low 39
Warm temperatures and clear day with rain coming in evening



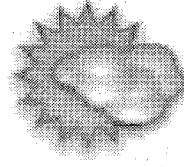
Tuesday:
High 50/Low 45
Cloudy with warmer temperatures



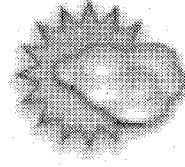
Wednesday:
High 44/Low 33
Partly cloudy during day, slight chance of first snow



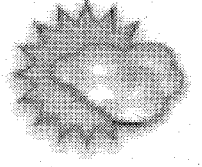
Thursday:
High 43/Low 30
Happy Thanksgiving! Cloudy and cooler with chance of snow overnight



Friday:
High 39/Low 30
Partly cloudy and brisk, great day for Black Friday



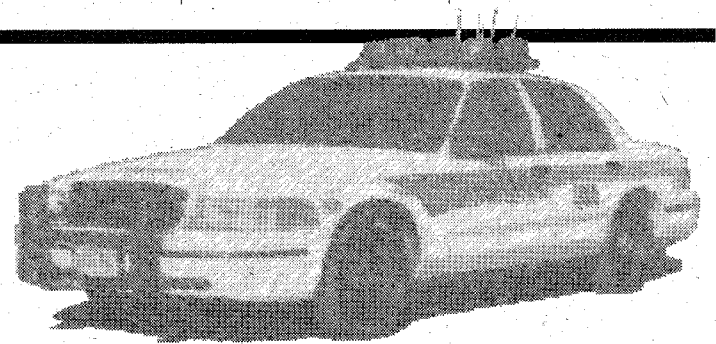
Saturday:
High 39/Low 30
Cloudy and winter-like temperatures



Sunday:
High 38/Low 29
Mixed sun and clouds, the cooler temperatures have set in

Police Blotter

Compiled by Eugene Tan/Statesman 11/15 - 11/18



Marijuana

In Langmuir College, the smell of marijuana was reported on 11-18-05 at 11:59 PM. The area was patrolled, but all appeared in order.

Parties

In Baruch College, calls for assistance were made on 11-18-05 at 12:12 AM to help an RA break up a party. The police had to return Baruch College for the same reason at 1:19 AM.

Thefts

In Douglass College, a bike was stolen on 11-15-05 at 2:30 PM. A bookbag and a computer card were taken from Stimson College on 11-17-05 at 1:00 AM.

Unruly Groups

On 11-13-05 at 1:45 AM, a fight was reported in SAC Ballroom A. In the Kelly Café, an unruly group was reportedly causing a disturbance at 2:48 AM on 11-13-05.

Burglaries

In Langmuir College, the burglary of a laptop and cash was reported on 11-15-05 at 8:41 PM. On 11-17-05 at 8:10 AM, the burglary alarm at the Student Union SINC Site was activated. Upon arrival of the police, the area was unattended. The building manager was notified.

Medical Emergencies

On 11-16-05, in Toscanini College, a 22-year-old female was reportedly intoxicated and the

Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps (SBVAC) was notified of the situation at 4:05 AM.

Disputes

In the Toscanini parking lot, a dispute between parties was reported on 11-16-05 at 7:41 AM. In James College, a dispute between roommates was reported on 11-17-05 at 1:17 PM.

Motor Vehicle Accidents

On 11-16-05 at 9:49 PM, a motor vehicle accident involving a pedestrian and a vehicle occurred in front of the Student Union. One female was transported to the University Hospital Emergency Room by SBVAC. In the parking lot near Douglass College, a hit and run was reported on 11-17-05 at 2:32 AM.

The History of Stony Brook

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

Vietnam and the Counter-Culture Comes to Campus



Stony Brook students protest the Vietnam War on March 12, 1969, meeting resistance from the University Police.

Courtesy of University Archives

By RADEYAH HACK
Staff Writer

As the war in Southeast Asia escalated in the late 1960's and early 1970's, American society became increasingly polarized, and a volatile culture of political dissent was stirring among college students and campuses across the nation. The anti-war movement and counterculture had an unrelenting presence at SUNY Stony Brook's suburban campus, and reared its opposing, radical stance in a series of protests and rallies during the turbulent war years. Stony Brook became engulfed by the political issues of that time.

"The woes of our society came home to a suburban university with a vengeance, fueled by student and faculty links with Columbia University and NYC," writes Joel Rosenthal, history professor at Stony Brook and author of *From the Ground Up – A History of the State University of New York at Stony Brook*.

As the University was building up the physical grounds of the campus, the presence of war-supporting construction workers created an air of tension with the radical student population. "The physically segregated turf of a construction site came to symbolize the divisions of a class and culture that plagued our society through Stony Brook's first decade... 'Us' and 'Them' were in our faces, all the time, year after year," writes Rosenthal.

With the Vietnam War raging, growing distrust for the Johnson and Nixon administrations carried over into opposition to the campus administration among the rebel student population. This distrust and opposition was brought to a forefront when faculty and students banded together to voice dissent against the University's acceptance of research money from the Department of Defense, known as DoD.

"The sentiment swung heavily against DoD when a number of research scientists – colleagues with heavy

credentials and a professional stake in funded research – said that they did not want DoD money to subsidize their inquiries into the natural world," writes Rosenthal.

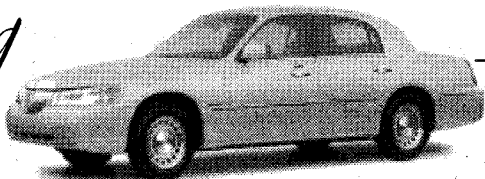
The University claimed that the research money was accepted only for non-military or non-mission oriented purposes. The mere university association with DoD, however, was enough to fuel dissent, so the University Senate, composed of faculty and staff members, endorsed a resolution calling for the University to stop accepting DoD funding, which the administration openly disregarded.

"In fairness, the DoD only gave research money to people who applied for it; not even John Toll, in his most imperial days, forced a grant upon us. Nor was DoD funding ever more than a minor source of all those research dollars," writes Rosenthal.

Research and facts 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.

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Grand Opening



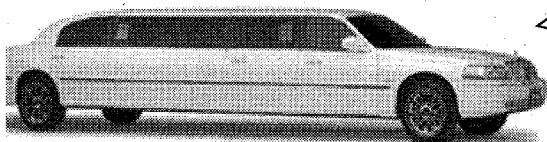
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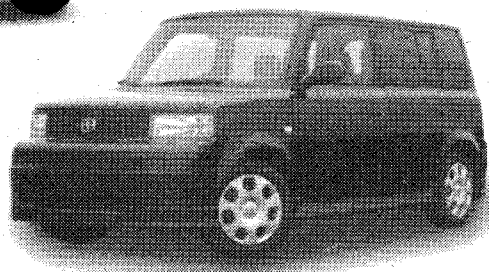


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**A THOUGHT
from RABBI ADAM**



Thanksgiving

Everyone knows that the very basis of being polite is by saying, “Thank you.” For with the expression of one’s thanks, a person tells the other that he recognizes the effort put out on their behalf and appreciates all that the other has done for them. However, with regards to the holiday of Thanksgiving, the traditional explanation of thanks doesn’t seem to apply. Granted, if we were talking about the original Pilgrims, then it would be quite different, for the original Pilgrims were forever grateful to the original Native Americans of South-Eastern Massachusetts. However, nowadays, although we reap the benefits of the Pilgrim settlements, no one celebrates Thanksgiving by directing their appreciation to the original Native Americans. Instead we celebrate a general holiday of being thankful, even though there is no receiving end of that thanks. But this is really an oxymoron. For if thanks is to be given, by the very definition of what it means to give thanks, there must be a receiver of that thanks. Perhaps we can say that on Thanksgiving we give thanks to circumstance. For we are thankful that such a country was settled and formulated. We are thankful that it has absorbed our family amongst all those who were in search of a better life. We are thankful that we have “made it” in America. We are thankful that we have enough food to eat and a roof over our head. We are thankful that we have the opportunity to get a higher education so as to maintain the “American Dream”. And thus, as we sit around the Thanksgiving table, we are thankful for all of the abundant blessings we have received and how we are able to share this with family and friends. However, if one really thinks about it, “circumstance” is not the true benefactor. For “circumstance” doesn’t determine who survives the colonial New England winter and who doesn’t. Nor does “circumstance” determine if a country will be taken over by a military junta or will remain “free” and run by the people. And neither does “circumstance” determine which families get to immigrate to America to have the opportunity at financial success and which do not. For in truth, all these factors are only in the hands of G-d. For if thanks is to be given, by the very definition of what it means to give thanks, there must be a receiver of that thanks.

Rabbi Adam

Rabbi Adam
Interfaith Center, Stony Brook
RabbiAdam@hotmail.com

Fight Apathy Tour Comes to SB



Brent Shuttleworth, performer, will play for Stony Brook's Fight Apathy Tour.

Courtesy of the Fight Apathy Tour

By RADEYAH HACK
Staff Writer

Motivated by the social injustice that persists in the world, spoken word poet Carlos Andrés Gómez is determined to inspire college students into activism. As one of the performers for the Fight Apathy Tour, Gómez is returning to bring his inspirational poetry to Stony Brook on November 29.

Backed by mtvU, the Fight Apathy Tour is a student-produced music and poetry production that mobilizes the college community to take action against the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Launched by NYC Student Initiative for AIDS, Inc., the tour is ground-breaking in its artistic and innovative approach to HIV/AIDS education. Its previous performance at Stony Brook University in April 2005 drew a crowd of over 300 people and was featured on national television.

Gómez, who graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2001 with a degree in history is a world renowned slam poet, performing at such acclaimed venues as the Nuyorican Poetry Café, Bowery Poetry Club and HBO Def Poetry Jam, and will also star in a supporting role in the upcoming Spike Lee movie. His poetry is emotionally charged and serves as commentary on contemporary political and social issues, such as the war in Iraq, world poverty, human rights abuses and his most passionate and personal issue, the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

"People ask why I feel so passionate about HIV/AIDS," said Gómez. "It's because HIV/AIDS encompasses all dimensions of activism since it addresses human rights issues, gender issues and sexuality issues."

With this in mind, Gomez has traveled across the globe performing in South Africa, Zambia and Montreal with his band the Excelano Project, hoping to inspire his listeners into

taking a proactive approach to HIV/AIDS and trying to clear up the misconceptions and stigma associated with it.

"Students have a tendency to feel they are immune to the pandemic, not knowing that just being on a college campus puts you at a higher risk for infection," he said. The Fight Apathy Tour is aimed at making students aware about this, while educating them on the risks of infection and demographics through innovative workshops that follow the artist's performance.

Performers on the current Tour include Celena Glenn, ranked 2nd in the Individual World Poetry Slam Championships; Brent Shuttleworth, world-renowned acoustic guitarist and singer; Clara Sala, New York Foundation for the Arts Fellow and the critically-acclaimed playwright/spoken word artist POSTmidnight.

"This tour is not merely an awareness campaign or grassroots project, but a national call to action for college students across the country," said Gómez.

The Fight Apathy Tour consists of evening performances followed by artist-led workshops designed to examine social justice issues through the lens of HIV/AIDS. Founded in June 2004, the Tour has visited schools like Princeton University and Amherst College. In January 2006, the Tour will kick-off the new year with 15 performances along the East Coast.

As the Stony Brook organizer for the Tour, I can say that the student response was astounding and apparent, while the artist succeeded in mobilizing numerous students into joining campus AIDS awareness organizations to fight the pandemic.

Admission is free for all students, faculty and staff and is part of the World AIDS Week activities that include a video-conference with students from South Africa and the Ivory Coast to discuss the impact of the virus, a presentation on the impact of HIV/AIDS activism and film screenings at the Wang Center.

Tell Dr. J

Reach Dr. J anonymously at: sbstatesman.org/telldrj

Dear Dr. J:

Thanksgiving is coming up, and while I feel bad for feeling this way, I don't think I want to go home this year. I have felt this way for a couple of years. It's not like my life is perfect here at school, in fact the opposite, but my parents treat me like I'm still a kid. Not to mention having to watch them argue, and my dad drink too much and yell at my mom, and my mom complaining to me about him and my brothers and sisters acting like nothing is happening. I'd rather stay in my dorm room and watch a Real World Marathon. Can I do this and not be disowned?

No Thanks(Giving)

Dear No Thanks:

No, you can't skip Thanksgiving without serious consequences. It is the attendance of yourself and 50 million other children of marginal parents at holiday dinners (and lots of medication) that allow said parents to avoid acknowledging their inadequacies. The first thing we need to address is your feeling bad for how you feel. You have discovered that you enjoy life grazing in saner pastures, and that's a good thing. The feeling of not wanting to go, and your recognition that some in your family are basking too comfortable in familiar misery, bodes well that you might one day raise children who want to come home for the holidays. But you can't skip. The first thing you can and should do is try to keep your visit short, until Friday morning at the most. Say that you have lots of papers to do, need to get to the library, etc. Once you know that the torture will only last a few hours, you should not try to have a good time. Nothing makes an uncomfortable situation worse than trying to pretend it isn't. Enjoy the food, but allow everything that makes you feel sad to feel sad. Sit in it. Breathe it in. You are quickly outgrowing them, and your future will hold a far more appealing range of choices.

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

Tell Dr. J
telldrj@sbstatesman.org

Tell Dr. J appears 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."

Statesman

the stony brook

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James Caston

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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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fax: (631) 632 - 9128

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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.

For advertising inquiries, call us at (631) 632 - 6480.

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.

Disclaimer: Views expressed in columns or in the Letters and Opinions section are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Statesman. All content Copyright 2005.

Stony Brook Gets Aggressive with Recruiting

Stony Brook put out a great effort this weekend to recruit prospective freshmen with its annual Open House, and by many accounts, it was a success. Some university officials estimate that between 3,000 and 5,000 people were in attendance, a marked improvement over last year.

Students got to tour the campus and see all the recent improvements that have been made, albeit tempered by the cracked asphalt that litters the walkways. In a recent press conference, President Shirley Strum Kenny said that many university critics in magazines and review forums who still call the campus ugly have not seen it recently; otherwise, they'd stop calling us one of the most unattractive campuses in the

nation. This is a fair statement to make, as the campus of today is phenomenally more appealing than it was just twenty years ago.

For four hours in SAC Ballroom A, representatives from each major sold both their respective programs and the University. This is a great tactic to get students to feel like they are already a part of Stony Brook. The reps from each department talked to the prospective freshmen in terms of specifics about the majors and what to do with a Stony Brook degree. Kids and their parents walked away with a lot of positive information, feeling good about the quality of the education this university offers.

It is encouraging to see so many people

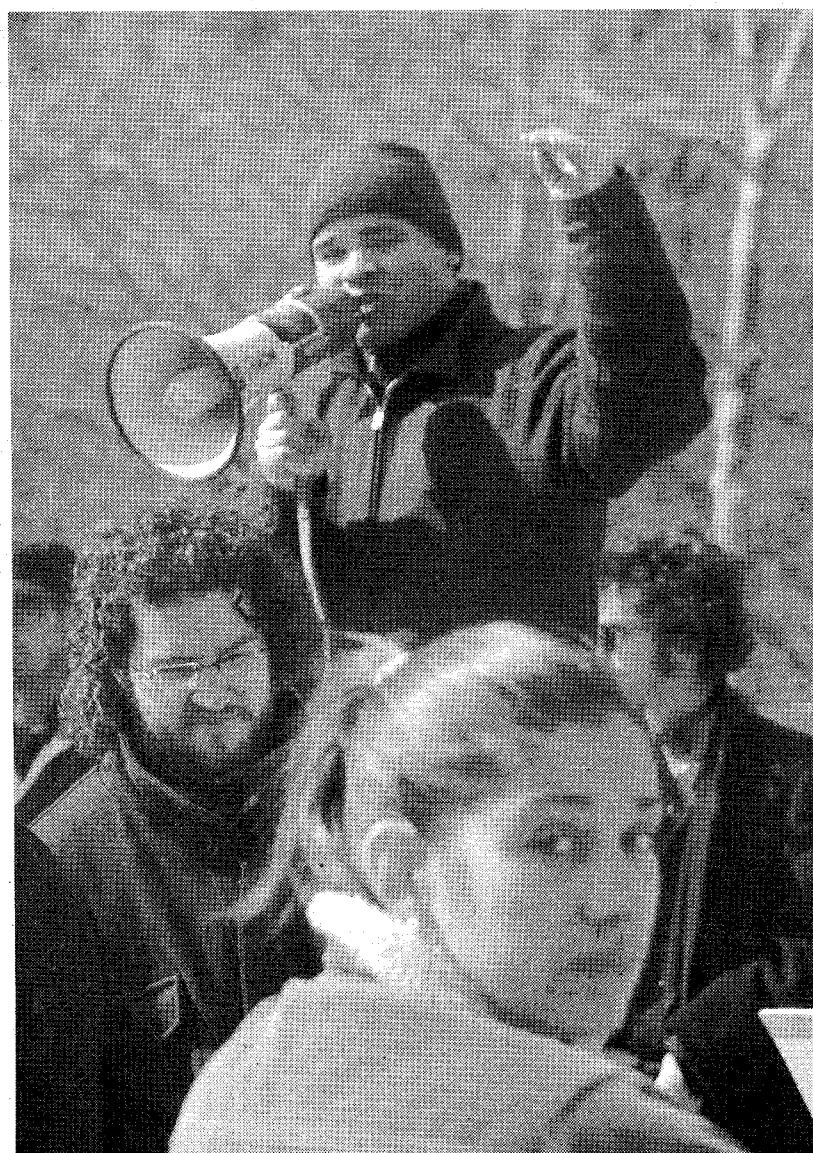
taking Stony Brook seriously and not simply considering it a safety school that's close to home. A good number of the attendees were out-of-staters and New Yorkers who don't live on Long Island. It looks as if all that Kenny has done to improve this school's image, academically and in terms of student pride, is paying off. Departments outside of the sciences, such as English, can proudly say that they stand out nationally when it comes to the undergraduate experience. Years ago, this was certainly not the case; in fact, in the years before Kenny, we were very close to losing accreditation as an undergraduate institution. We have come a long way as a university, to the point where students can be proud to go here.

Comment on this Editorial

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"Journalism is the first rough draft of history"

-Donald Graham



"Students staging a protest against the war in Iraq," Spring 2005, *Statesman*

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Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise

- November 29** **Fight Apathy Tour**
7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. *Student Activities Center (SAC) Auditorium*
A multimedia, interactive music and poetry production that is igniting a social consciousness surrounding issues of race, gender, and sexuality through the lens of HIV/AIDS.
- November 30** **History of HIV/AIDS Activism**
12:50 p.m. to 2:10 p.m. *SAC Room 302*
Speaker: Sarah Howell, CHAMP
The talk will focus on the impact AIDS treatment activism has had in the United States, in addition to progressive politics.
- December 1** **Film Screenings**
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. *Wang Center Theatre*
To Live is Better Than to Die
A Chinese documentary about a province of China afflicted with HIV/AIDS.
- 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. *My Brother Nikhil*
This film addresses the social stigma associated with HIV/AIDS in Indian society, followed by a panel discussion on the movie.
- December 8** **HIV/AIDS Benefit Ball**
8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. *SAC Ballroom A*
Proceeds will go towards Thursday's Child, a 501(c)(3) charity that provides independent, supportive housing for families and individuals affected by HIV/AIDS.



Sponsors: Visions WorldWide, Undergraduate College of Global Studies, Undergraduate College of Leadership and Service, and University AIDS Awareness Task Force
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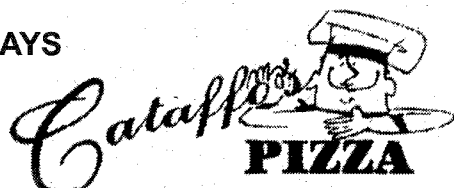
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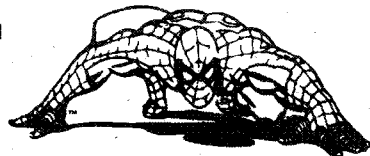
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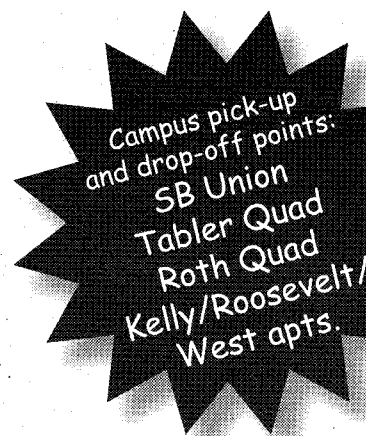
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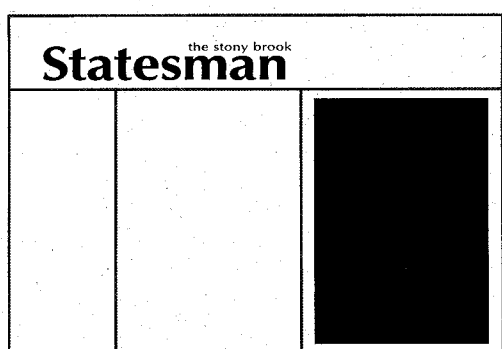
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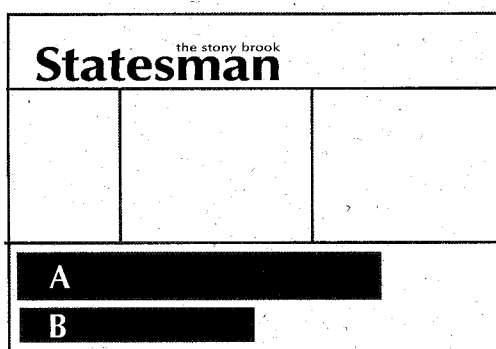
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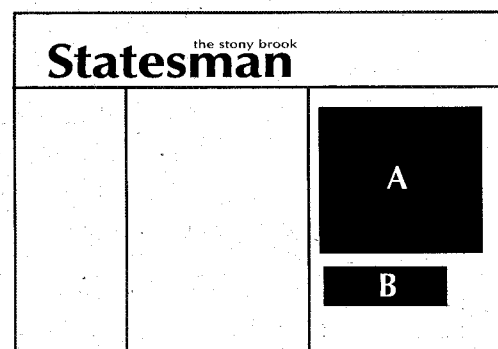
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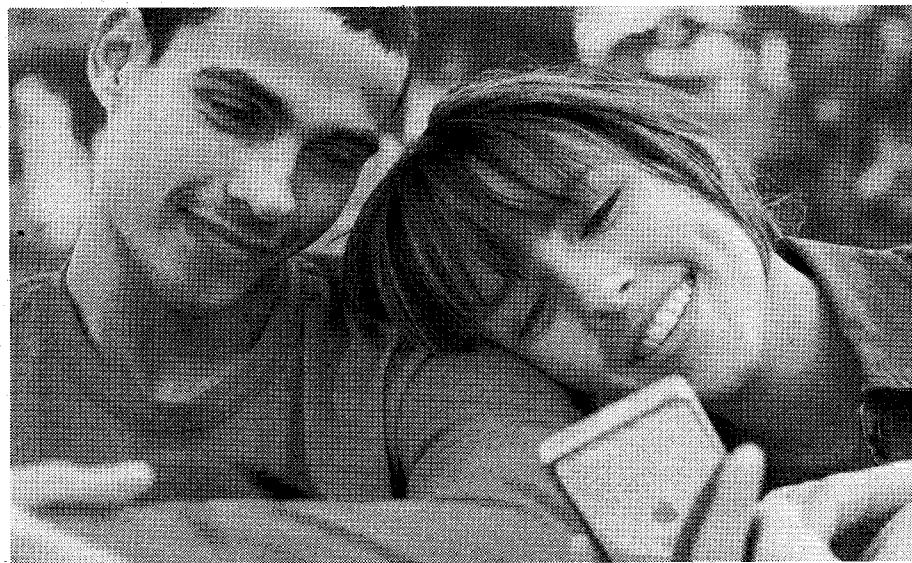
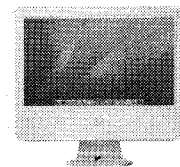
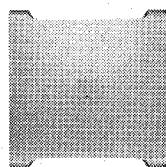
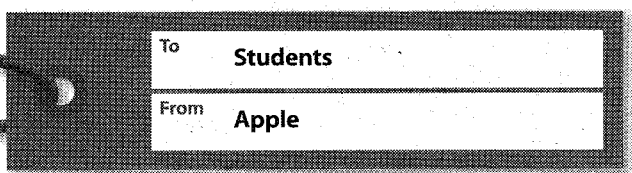
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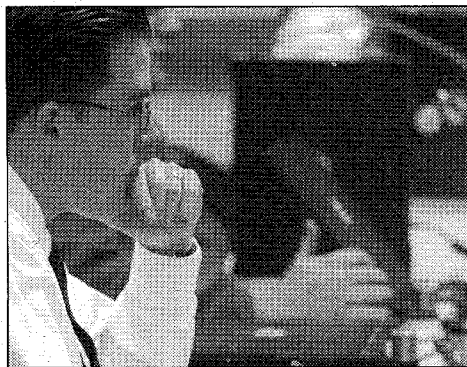


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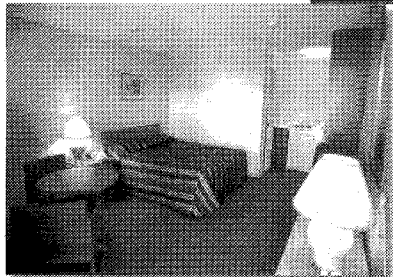
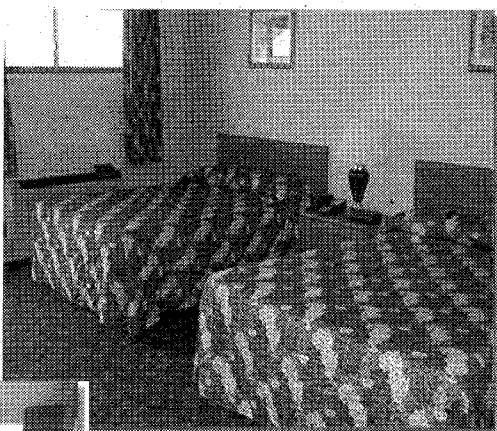
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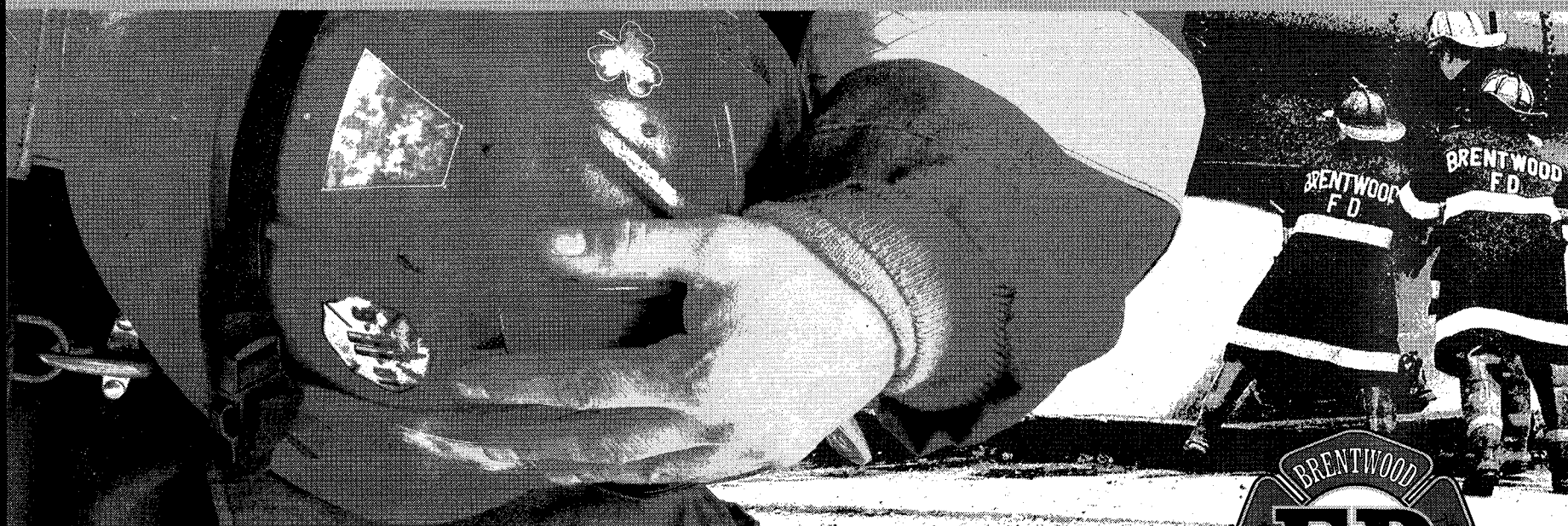
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Wang Center Exhibits Peace Through Artwork



The art gallery *Art Healing Space II: Seeing Through Sixty Years*, as presented in the Charles B. Wang Center.

Adhip Karmaker/Statesman

BY TEJAS GAWADE
Staff Writer

The Charles B. Wang Center contains a deceptively enclosed place known as the Skylight Lobby. The Lobby, in its isolation, is peaceful and harmonious. Such tranquility suits the *Art Healing Space II: Seeing Through Sixty Years* exhibition currently being held there. The exhibition is meant to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings.

Set up by curator, Nobuho Nagasawa, and Stony Brook University's Art department, it attempts to reconcile the extremes of hostility and peace through artwork.

The opening ceremonies introduced a reminder of the fatalities of nuclear weapons. Through a collection of sculptured bodies that have broken into pieces along the fountain in the Lobby, the exhibition demonstrated the fragility of human lives. This horrifying image is worsened by the appearance of what Zubaria Iram, a freshman attending the exhibition, claims are "everyday objects," such as flip-flops and utensils. This part of the exhibition resembles the ghastly remains of the bombings.

The exhibition also reflects on the contemporary dangers of nuclear dissemination and destruction of the Earth's ecology. Amidst a collection of caricatures, the

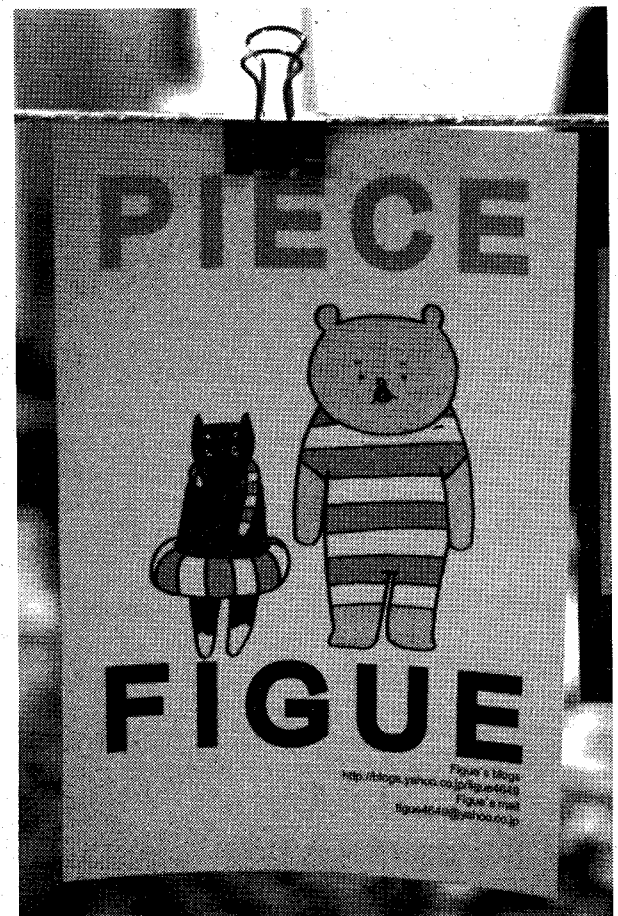
exhibition displays cans of Campbell's "Clouded Mushroom Soup," as a reminder of the inevitable damage that human beings are perpetrating in the environment. In a dualistic portrayal of human nature, the exhibition demonstrates the good and the evil that characterizes our world.

At the center of the exhibition is the Piece of Peace project, a theme furthered with postcards by both artists and non-artists from around the world. Organized by students in the Master of Fine Arts program – Takafumi Ide, Ha Na Lee and Karsten Grumstrup – this initiative attempts to bring together messages of peace and hope for the destruction that is the other half of the exhibition.

The postcards, which are displayed in the Lobby, contain everything from messages of peace to images of the dove by artists of all colors and ages.

The exhibition endeavors to raise awareness and consciousness of issues that are dear to humans. Through its artwork, it brings forth healthy public dialogue about our past and our future. As Nanditha Das, a Stony Brook University student at the exhibition, put it, "The artwork was heartwarming, especially when you learn where the art came from."

In its simplicity and subtlety, the artwork matter-of-factly displays our mistakes and our attempt at redemption. For those who have yet to experience this splendid exhibition, it is viewable through November 23.



The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, November 21, 2005

New York City CONNECTION Ghost

By LES HUNTER
Staff Writer

The Norwegian Realist Henrik Ibsen haunts the off-off-Broadway adaptation of his classic *Ghosts*. The DJM production is set in the manor of a blue blood New England family in the late 1800's where Ms. Alving, the wealthy matriarch, courageously attempts to liberate herself from the traditions of Victorian duty. She is visited by her old friend Pastor Manders – local protector of the faith, manager of Ms. Alving's late husband's property and spiritual journeyman who, it becomes apparent, was once involved romantically with Ms. Alving during the first year of her unhappy marriage to her licentious and lecherous late husband.

All of the characters in this brooding piece are haunted by the past. Pastor Manders (Curtis Harwell) is visiting to dedicate an ill-fated orphanage to Ms. Alving's deceased husband. Throughout the course of the evening, it becomes evident that her husband was a monster, and that Ms. Alving only remained in the marriage because of her sense of duty and her love for her only son Oswald (Dale Church). Oswald, the "prodigal son," has returned from years spent away as a bohemian artist in Paris. He is slowly losing his mind due to the ravages of syphilis – one of his doctors aptly noting "the sins of the father" are visited upon the son.

The sparseness of the apparitions, the fact that no "ghosts" ever actually appear, and the fact that these ghosts are not really "real" but haunt nonetheless imbue the piece with a ghostly tinge of disturbing melancholia. The actual ghosts in the play are more like memories of deception experienced by the elderly Alving; her phantasms are more psychological than physical. In one scene, where she is reminded of her husband's adultery with their maid by the fact that her son Oswald is speaking with their housekeeper in the other room, Mrs. Alving, played convincingly and sadly by Melanie Boland, lets out a ghastly groan. "Ghosts," she moans, as a recorded sound produces a cacophony of noise-rain, shrill screaming and thunder to a chilling effect.

Many aspects of the piece are overwrought in melodrama, a sentiment that Ibsen would have been dismayed with. This is mostly apparent in the performance by Church as Oswald, who almost always looks like he is about to cry, making him tiring and distancing him from the audience, which ultimately detracts from the empathy that the ending should evoke. The ending, which could have been sadly beautiful, falls short by its saturation with overacting and, at times, stiff blocking. Harwell, playing Pastor Manders, is effective if sometimes annoying in (intentionally or otherwise) often stuttering his lines.

The small one room theater has arena style seating around a sparsely decorated set, the "stage" (more of a floor space, really) having only two chairs. On a stage so small, with such minimal props and setting, a great burden is placed on the acting and the directorial choices. Unfortunately, (noted exception of Boland aside), lightness of setting in this production has created heaviness in the acting resulting in a performance that leaves room for improvement.

What: *Ghosts*, by Henrik Ibsen

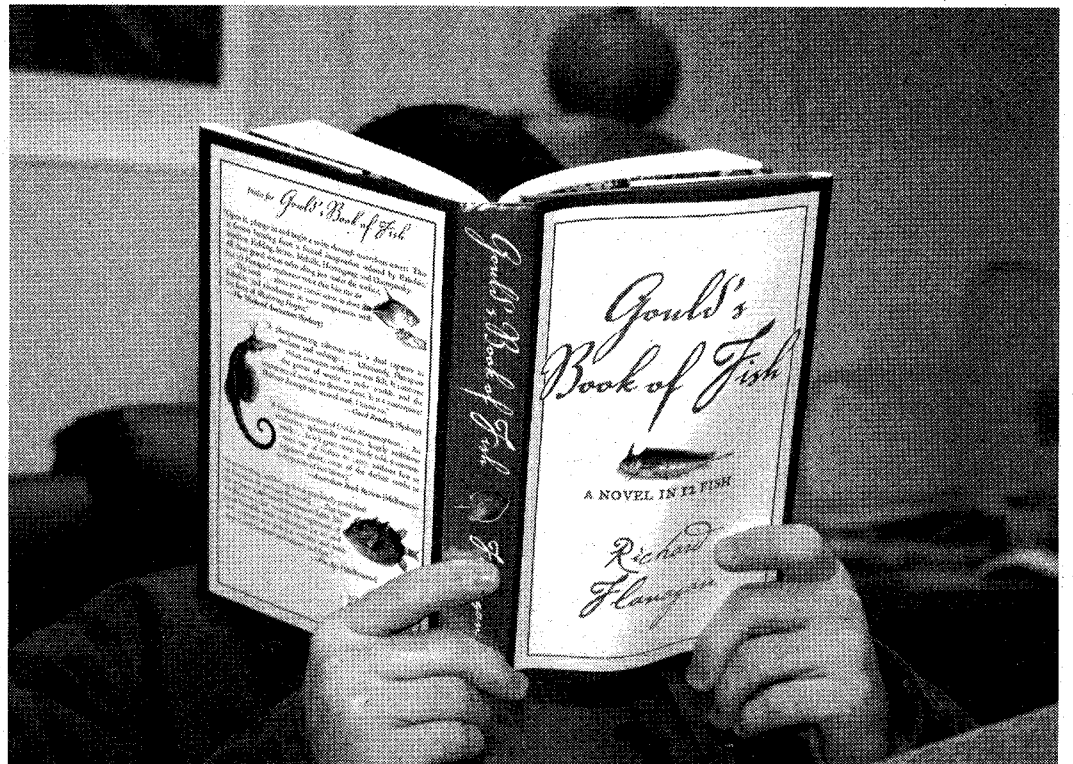
Who: DJM Productions

Where: Dionysus Theater, 270 W. 36th St. NYC (@ 8th Ave.)

How: Tickets at www.djmproductions.com or (646) 621-5171

When: Through December 18. Shows every Thursday through Saturday at 8 PM, Sunday at 3 PM.

Get Your Read On: *Gould's Book of Fish*



Adhip Karmaker/Statesman

By JEREMY FALLETTA
Copy Editor

Title: Gould's Book of Fish:
A Novel in 12 Fish (231 pages)
Author: Richard Flanagan
Published: 2001

This novel is divided into twelve sections – one for each respective type of fish. It's all metaphorical, of course. Well mostly, anyway. The story opens with Sid Hammet (the Pot-Bellied Seahorse), an interesting Australian gent with a proclivity for hanging out on the wrong side of town (and the law). Hammet relates some of his various adventures before encountering the Book of Fish and the Weedy Seadragon, which somehow communicates the thought "I shall be you" to him. Once this idea is presented, it seems to happen, and the rest of the story is told by Hammet as the Seadragon, as he recreates the Book of Fish. Now, this may seem a little silly, but let me tell you, if you like psychological novels, this is for you.

An intriguing aspect of *Gould's Book of Fish* is that it is, in essence, the same Book of Fish that is discussed in the first part (the Pot-Bellied Seahorse). This metaphysicality becomes a huge part of the way things work later on, when the narrator encounters the Book of Fish again. He reads passages from it as he writes them down, and they are the same. During a particularly frantic scene where he is ripping out pages and throwing them in the fire, the text reads:

Trying desperately to avoid the conclusion that if this book of fish was a history of the settlement, it might also just be its prophecy, I then realised that the book was not near ended, that it contained several more chapters, & with mounting terror I read on

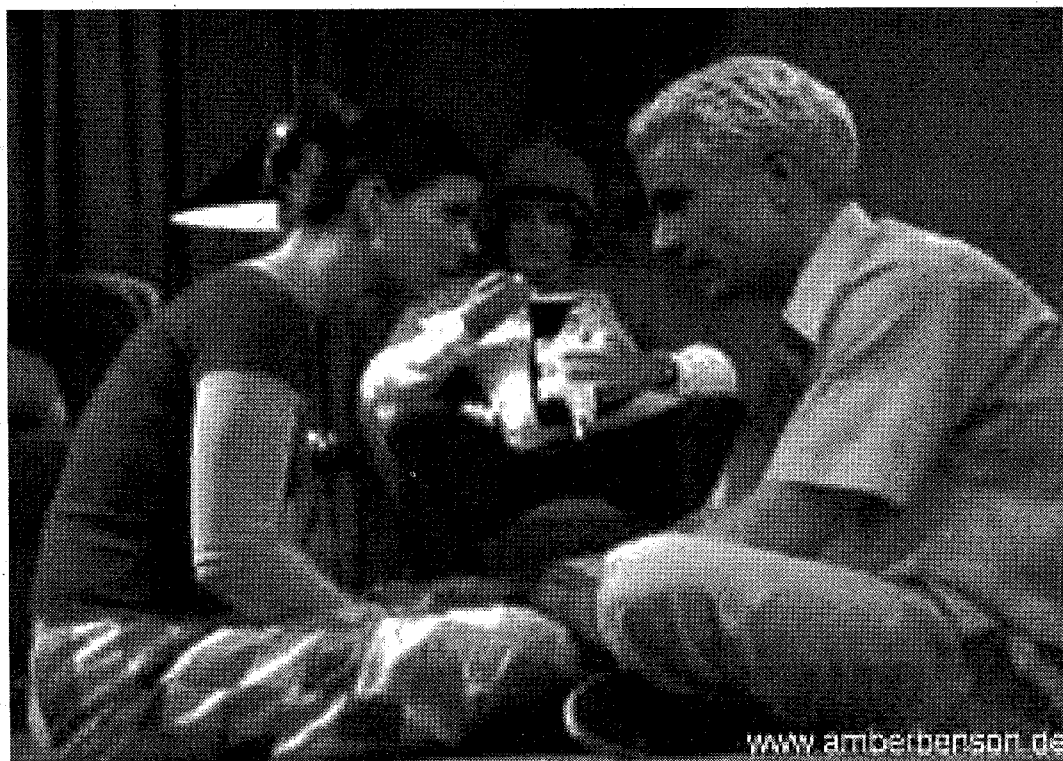
the succeeding page of how—'I realised that the book was not near ended, that it contained several more chapters, & with mounting terror I read on the succeeding page of how—'

The book seems to be alive. Creeped out? Try not sleeping all night while you think about it. And that's on top of being up until five in the morning because you can't put it down until you finish it. You'll feel like you're the guy writing the book. In the beginning, when he first finds it, he reads it for a month, but still seems to find something new every time he opens it. He takes it to several experts in an attempt to identify it, but no one comes up with anything other than to tell him that it is a fake, a forgery.

A professor tells him that there is no way the events of the book (which is about a convict, William Buelow Gould, and his time spent in an Australian penal colony) could possibly have happened, according to historical record. He tells Hammet that "if [he] were to publish it as a novel, the inevitable might happen: it could win literary prizes." Interestingly enough, it has done just that. Flanagan is the winner of the Commonwealth Prize, and *Gould's Book of Fish* was also a New York Times Notable Book of the Year.

If you decide to check this one out, do make sure you get the hardcover edition. It's infinitely cooler than the paperback; each section is printed in a different color of ink, just as the narrator describes writing it. He uses various methods to create ink to write with while in his small, saltwater cell: his own blood (he picks the scabs off every day to get more), grinding up various seashells and mixing them with water, and, when he can manage it, by siphoning some of the ink that he is provided with to paint pictures (for the corrupt guard, Pobjoy, to sell). Now go get your hands on a copy.

Indie Flicks: *Chance*



By RACHEL BROZINSKY
Staff Writer

Quirky and awkward isn't always a bad thing. Such components don't necessarily make for the most coherent film, but that doesn't mean it can't be entertaining. *Chance* is a prime example of this principle.

Written and directed by Amber Benson, who also stars as the title character, Chance, the film takes a cynical and comical look at time, relationships, female sexuality and death. James Marsters co-stars as Simon, Chance's super-sensitive and way-too-nice best friend and squatter in her trust fund-paid-for apartment.

Chance's narrative often includes her looking right at and talking to the camera, taking the audience through an aimless series of strange events. Chance brings home a girl (just because she feels like it), who dies in her bed, but not really. A one-night stand bawls in Chance's bed for another go. And Chance meets the most beautiful man ever, who, of course, turns out to be gay.

If you're expecting to find some definitive point or greater message, you're out of luck. Every now and then there's a poignant statement about life or death or both, but the movie isn't often much more than skin deep. That's okay if you like superficial, comedic one-liners or singular scenes. And despite what some smug critics might tell you, there's nothing wrong with enjoying such moments if they are genuinely funny.

One particularly humorous incident is when Chance's mother comes to visit and, for no

apparent reason, Simon dresses as Chance and vice versa. This calls for Marsters to wear a floral dress and make-up while Benson draws on a mustache and goatee.

Another completely pointless but utterly funny, and possibly genius, aspect of the film is Random Guitar Guy. A troubadour of sorts pops in and out of the scenes with his acoustic guitar, singing songs such as "Don't You Understand, This is a One Night Stand," "That Whore Stole My Heart" and "It's All Gone to Sh-t." Every time this man is on screen, there's at least one laugh-out-loud moment if you listen to his lyrics.

One particularly obnoxious element was the constant and gratuitous cursing. This probably seems prudish, but there were many moments when the swearing was completely unnecessary. This often diluted the dialogue.

Overall, the discourse was witty and well written; however, toward the end of the film, there is an almost unforgivably corny conversation that Chance has with her pseudo stalker that contains a cheesy metaphor about sad, dead bugs.

One of the most surprisingly wonderful components of the film is Christine Estabrook's portrayal of Chance's Zen mother, Desiree. She plays the role that is moving and genuine in an otherwise frivolous film.

Chance may not have a finite plot or a distinct message, but that doesn't make it a waste of time or unentertaining. If you're looking for a quick laugh without a lot of thought but with considerable amount of heart, this is an excellent pick.

Stony Brook *In Vogue* Earrings and Scarves and Belts, Oh My!

By AMY DRAGANI
Staff Writer

Accessories can be just as important as an outfit itself. An everyday long sleeve top and pair of jeans can be completed with a matching belt, tasteful earrings, and my personal favorite – a long scarf.

For the past few months, the use of belts as part of an outfit has taken on a new meaning. Belts aren't just for keeping you pants where they belong! A seemingly plain solid belt can be worn over a long shirt, around the hips, to add another aspect to the outfit. This creates a fabulous look because, worn in the correct spot, a belt can help elongate the torso and slim the upper body. I've also spotted oversized tops cinched at the lower waist with a belt, creating the beginnings of a "Bohemian sheik" style. Sparkly belts and belts with a little bit of luster can be worn when you want to dress up an outfit a bit. The perfect jeans, a nice top, and maybe some high heels can be topped off with a bit of shine around your waist. Belts are a fantastic accessory because they're available in so many styles and colors, and they are versatile. All local clothing stores and department stores carry a selection of belts, making it simple to find a few that fit your personality.

Jewelry can make or break an ensemble. For casual outfits, tasteful earrings are usually the perfect choice. Large or small dangling sets, hoops of all sizes, and even a small stone stud can finish off the perfect look. Keep in mind that not every style is for you – some find that they prefer a smaller set, while some people love a larger or longer set. Be aware of your hair and face shape. For me, I'm always comfortable in a medium sized earring, but I do need to be careful with very large sets (I have very short hair and a thinner face). This is just an example of some things to keep in mind. For casual ensembles an overly sparkly earring can be too much, and will not compliment your outfit. But for formal occasions, dangly chandelier earrings can be a fantastic choice. I find a somewhat simple black dress or pant outfit can be dressed up to perfection with a stunning pair of earrings. Jewelry is often an accessory that is personal; jewelry can be sentimental. Those are the types of pieces to wear as often as you'd like as long as they work with what you're wearing.

Lastly, my favorite accessory for the chilly weather is a scarf. Long scarves, short scarves, oversized – whichever you like. Scarves are great because they add a lot to an outfit. Very long oversized scarves not only keep you warm, but look really cute over a simple long sleeve or sweater. The longer scarves give you the choice to wrap it several times or fold it in half and pull it through. H&M carries scarves all year around, some in light cotton, some in wool – a little bit of everything. Many local stores do the same. A scarf can be matched intricately to what you're wearing, or add a little bit of color or texture. Because so many colors, styles, lengths, and fabrics are available (and at reasonable prices) a scarf is a fabulous accessory for everyone!

Fashion Tip of the Week

The key to accessories is to never have too much. From oversized belts to flashy jewelry – you never want your accessories to overpower your outfit (or you)!

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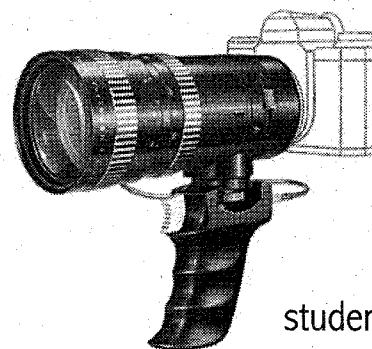
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Volleyball Upsets Top-Seeded UAlbany in America East Semis

ALBANY, N.Y. - Amy Oleksiej has six of her 17 kills in the fifth and deciding game to lead Stony Brook to a come-from-behind 3-2 victory over top-seed UAlbany in the semifinal round of the America East Conference Tournament on Friday evening at University Gymnasium. The Seawolves, who won by scores of 26-30, 30-28, 22-30, 30-26 and 15-12, advanced to tomorrow's championship against the Binghamton-Maine semifinal winner. The America East champion receives an automatic NCAA berth.

UAlbany (26-4) won the third game in convincing fashion behind the play of senior Ashlee Reed, who had a career-high 21 kills and added 13 digs. Reed put away four shots in a run that stretched her team's lead to 26-19, as the defending America East tournament champions pulled away. Blair Buchanan, who totaled 51 assists, five kills and eight digs, scored off a set with a dump to tally the game point.

Stony Brook (12-17) came broke to take the fourth game by reeling off five straight points for a 14-11 lead. Morgan Sweany, who recorded a double-double with 19 kills and 19 digs, drilled a service ace to end that run. The Seawolves, who had dropped a pair of three-game sweeps to UAlbany during the regular season, never trailed in the fourth after that outburst. Noelle Bay, a 5-foot-10 freshman, had five of her 17 kills in that game.

The Great Danes, who had their 11-match win streak halted, were behind by as much as four points in the deciding game. However, UAlbany closed within one on two occasions in the stretch, including 13-12 when Reed delivered a kill off a block attempt. Oleksiej then spiked a shot in the middle and a Great Dane attack sailed wide of the right sideline to close out the upset.

"This hurts a lot, especially for our five seniors who have helped build the program," said Buchanan, the America East

player and setter of the year for the second consecutive season. "Our defense was not up to its usual level. They served the ball aggressively and caught us off guard with the number of jump serves they used."

Ashley Hunter and Ashley Crenshaw had 12 and 11 kills, respectively, for the Great Danes, who had won 11 of 12 home matches this season prior to the contest. Shelby Goldman, one of six all-conference performers on the UAlbany squad, was forced to leave the match in the second game when she suffered a high ankle sprain.

"We had two big wins to even get into the tournament," said Sweaney, a first-team All-America East outside hitter. "I think that helped us pull together because we had to win. After we won game two tonight, we said to ourselves that we've got one, now let's get more. The coaches had us change to jump serving for this match and that helped keep their offense off the net."

Football Falls to Marist 30-28 in Last Game of Season

By JON WALTER
Statesman Staff

With just 7 seconds left in the 4th quarter, Marist quarterback James Luft launched a 20-yard TD pass to Prince Pempeh, pushing the Red Foxes into the lead and defeating Stony Brook 30-28 in the last game of the season for both teams. With the loss, Stony Brook falls to an overall 6-5 and Marist improved to 7-4. The game was the last for Stony Brook head coach Sam Kornhauser, who retires after this season.

In his final career game, Stony Brook's Josh Anderson caught two touchdown passes and helped lead the team in what looked to be another come from behind victory in the last quarter. With just a minute left in the game, Josh Dudash led Stony Brook on a 16-play drive for 85 yards, which was capped by a 13-yard pass to Anderson to put the team up 28-24.

The momentum swung back toward Marist in a 44 second drive, which amounted to 73 yards and led to the winning touchdown reception by Pempeh.

Both teams scored evenly in the first half of the game until the third quarter when Marist kicker Bradley Rowe put a 27-yard kick through the uprights to put his team ahead. Matt Weeks attempted to tie the game up with a kick of his own in the third quarter, but hit the uprights.

Dudash completed 14 of 20 passes, amounting to 171 yards and threw two touchdown receptions, both to Anderson. Anderson made 7 catches for 80 yards. On only 5 carries Assad Haffiz ran for 84 yards, handing off rushing responsibilities twice on touchdown opportunities to C. Sturmski, both of which he carried for 1-yard touchdowns. Ray Goodsir and Chris Merkle led the Stony Brook defense with 13 tackles each.

Marist's Luft completed 20 of 32 passes accumulating 252 yards and making 2 touchdown passes. On 26 attempts, Obozu Ehikioya ran for 105 yards to lead Marist's rushing.

Game Watch

HOME

- Nov. 26 Men's Basketball v. Columbia, 1 PM
- Nov. 30 Wm's Basketball v. BYU, 7 PM
- Dec. 7 Wm's Basketball v. Temple, 6 PM
- Dec. 13 Wm's Basketball v. Dartmouth, 7 PM
- Dec. 23 Men's Basketball v. Albany, 7 PM
- Dec. 28 Wm's Basketball v. Delaware State

AWAY

- Nov. 22 Men's Soccer v. UConn, 6 PM - NCAA #2
- Men's Basketball v. Lehigh, 7 PM
- Dec. 3 Swimming v. BU, 1 PM
- Wm's Basketball v. Arkansas State
- Dec. 4 Wm's Basketball v. Hampton/Brown, 1/3 PM
- Dec. 7 Men's Basketball v. St. Johns, 7:30 PM

Basketball Suffers Loss in First Game of the Season

By JON WALTER
Statesman Staff

Stony Brook men's basketball suffered a tough loss in their first game of the season, losing 78-35 against No. 5 Villanova. Randy Foye led Villanova on points, scoring 21, with Allan Ray coming in second with 16. Villanova forced 18 turnovers from the Seawolves. It was a disappointing debut for Stony Brook's head coach Steve Pikiell, the former George Washington assistant.

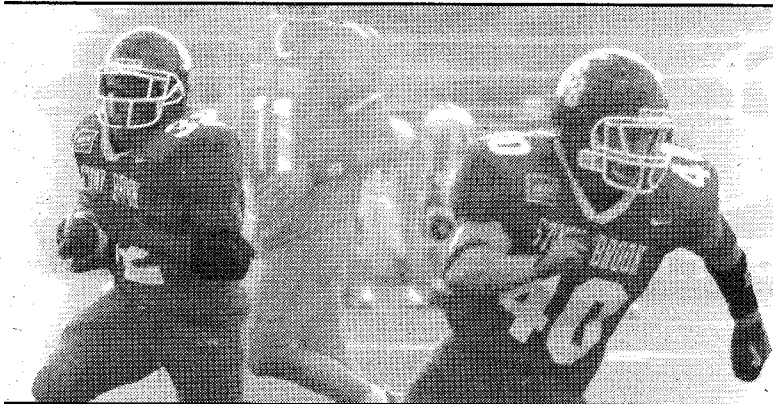
The Seawolves offense was led by Marques Cox, Bobby Santiago, and Tre Cunningham, who scored 7 points each. Stony Brook's offense from the foul line was 16-for-50 and 1-for-11.

Villanova's lead was ever increasing after they ended the first half leading 37-16. Their tight man-to-man defense held Stony Brook to only 19 points in the second half while scoring 41 of their own. With just 5:46 left to play in the game, Villanova's 67-26 lead was insurmountable.

Villanova's Will Sheridan had 11 rebounds and 6 assists. Stony Brook's Hendrick Feist made 2 rebounds and had 3 assists.

The Seawolves travel to Lehigh on Tuesday. Their home opener is Saturday, November 26 against Columbia.

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, November 21, 2005



SPORTS

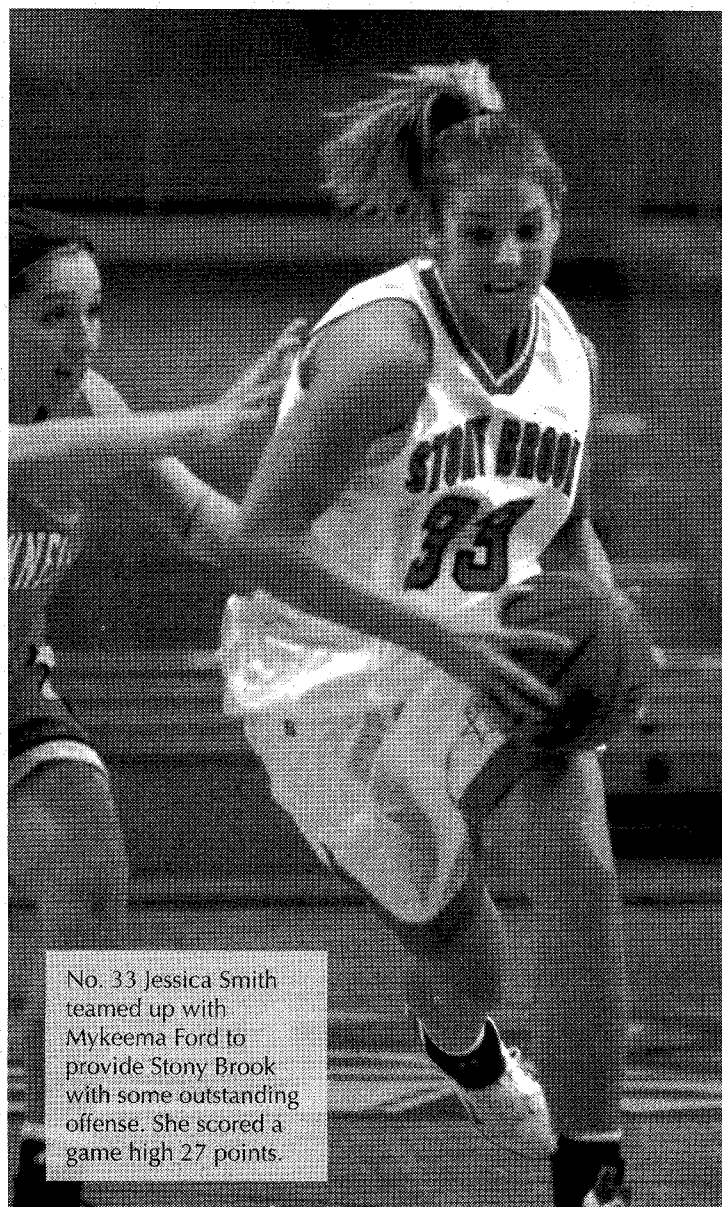
Statesman

Women's Basketball Looks Impressive in Season-Opening Win

By ROB DWYER
Statesman Staff

Stony Brook women's basketball began the season on the right track Friday night as the Seawolves downed the Bucknell Bison, of the Patriot League, 81-72. Perhaps riding the wave of championship fever sweeping across the campus right now, the basketball team came out with a ferocious press defense that set the tone for the evening. Dana Ferraro, Jessica Smith and Mykeema Ford showed why the trio was selected to the all-conference team last season, as they lead the Seawolves in blocks, scoring and assists, respectively.

Bucknell, a team that passes well and moved the ball effectively at times, was never able to get into a rhythm against the tight coverage of Stony Brook. And just when it seemed like Bucknell would be able to manufacture a run against the Seawolves' lead, Head Coach Maura McHugh would mix things up with a zone defense look that stymied the Bison. From the opening tip you could tell that Stony Brook had more intensity and hustle and they outplayed Bucknell to the end. With less than 50 seconds remaining in the contest and the Seawolves holding a comfortable nine-point lead, Dana Ferraro sold out to break up a Bison pass, crashing into the sideline and knocking over a V.I.P. table in the process. She got up with a slight limp as the crowd gave her a hearty round of applause, but was able to finish the game without any ill effects. However, I'm sure coach McHugh had some choice words for her starting forward about protecting your body while protecting a lead.



No. 33 Jessica Smith teamed up with Mykeema Ford to provide Stony Brook with some outstanding offense. She scored a game high 27 points.

Adhip Karmaker/Statesman

Stony Brook was at a disadvantage when it came to height (the Seawolves' tallest players are not starters), but Ferraro brought her Windex and cleaned glass all night, collecting a game-high 13 rebounds.

As a team, the Bison won the rebounding battle and their 14 offensive boards led to much of their scoring. But it was not enough to offset the Seawolves' potent offensive attack, which

was orchestrated masterfully by Ford, and that kept Stony Brook ahead for the entire second half. Ford looks comfortable running the half court set, but she excels at pushing the pace in the transition game. She gets the Dime of the Night award for the best pass of the contest, with a second-half beauty that yours truly saw from the perfect perspective. After juking her defender and penetrating to the hoop, Ford found

Men's Soccer Advances to NCAA Second Round

Wins 2-1 in OT at Yale

NEW HAVEN, CONN. - Adam Ciklic scored the golden goal 3:35 into overtime to lift Stony Brook to a 2-1 victory over Yale in the first round of the NCAA College Cup on Friday evening in New Haven, Conn. The Seawolves improve to 13-4-4 on the year, setting a program record with their 13th win of the season and, more importantly, advancing to the second round to take on eighth-seeded UConn on Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

"We were very excited about playing a quality team like Yale, and they were a handful all game," said head coach Cesar Markovic. "We have veterans who have been through these types of games and we have a great survival instinct. It seems like we've been playing one-goal games forever. We were really happy to get a win here and happy to move on to face UConn."

Shortly into the extra period, Douglas Narvaez began a Seawolves' counter attack, sending a ball from the middle of the field up to Tamer Mohamed on the left side. Mohamed dribbled into the box and fired a shot that Ciklic headed into the far right corner to lift Stony Brook to victory.

The Bulldogs (10-4-4) came out strong to start the contest and connected just 3:35 into the game. Alex Cuzinski sent a through ball to the right side up to Gage Hills, who chipped a shot into the far left corner for the early 1-0 lead. Yale controlled the pace of the game throughout the remainder of the half and took a 1-0 advantage into the locker room.

Stony Brook finally responded in the second stanza, knotting the game at a goal apiece in the 94th minute. Chris Megaloudis passed the ball into Mohamed, who dribbled through the box and fired a shot past Yale goalkeeper Erik Geiger to tie the game.

The Bulldogs came right back, as Hills broke through the Stony Brook defense and was all alone with goalkeeper EJ Xikis with a chance to give Yale the lead. Hills lasered a shot towards the center of the goal, but Xikis came up with a huge stop, punching the ball a way to preserve the tie.

Xikis was outstanding all game and finished with seven saves, while Geiger turned away five for Yale.

the narrowest of passing lanes opening up as the defensive help came to meet her. She threaded the needle to complete a pass to Smith that appeared to be nearly impossible, and Smith was able to draw the foul. The Ford-to-Smith combo was particularly effective all night, and you could tell that these ladies work well with each other. Whether it was down in the blocks for a quick power move to the hoop, or

outside for a jump shot, Smith is an offensive weapon and she had a game-high in scoring with 27 points.

There are still a few kinks left for the Seawolves to work out, but it was only the first game of the season. As the season progresses, look for Stony Brook to play competitive basketball in all of their games, and hopefully outperform their predicted fifth-place finish in the conference.