

# the stony brook Statesman

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## Entering the Unknown Waters of SBU

By Emy Kuriakose  
Statesman Editor

### SBU Boating Traditions Live On at 26th Annual Roth Pond Regatta

Awaiting the loud report of a distant gun, students hovered anxiously above the duct-taped, cardboard boats that lay before them, and looked out over the waves, eager to traverse the murky Roth Pond. These students brandished their oars and crossed that infamously muddied sea of debris last Friday in hopes of claiming a title as Regatta Champions. With life vests secured tightly to their shivering bodies, they braced life and limb for a chance to enter Stony Brook history with their ingenuity and boating expertise.

This year, 57 boats registered for the regatta, including 45 yachts; the highest number to ever compete in Roth Regatta history. Spearheaded by the Roth Pond



Statesman/James Caston

Mid-water collisions were common as yacht-sized boats, like this steamboat, plunged through the shallow Roth Pond waters into other misguided, smaller vessels or surrounding trees.

Regatta Club, this annual Stony Brook tradition was greeted with a clear and sunny day, and came to a comfortable ending with help and input from various campus organizations.

"Organization [of the event] takes the combined effort of many people," said Nicholas Kilb, president of the Regatta

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## GSEU Protest for Healthcare and Salary



Statesman/Mansoor Khan

Members of the Graduate Student Employment Union marched on the academic mall in protest.

By Mansoor Khan  
Statesman Editor

Members of the Graduate Student Employment Union organized a protest last Wednesday, in order to demand that New York State provide a fair contract to graduate students who are employed by the university. That contract, according to the GSEU, must address the fundamental inequities in wages, healthcare and workplace rights.

Over the past ten months, negotiators for the GSEU have attempted to bargain a new contract for their 4,500 members. According to the press release for the protest, "Governor George Pataki and SUNY have offered a contract that would increase the cost of most healthcare co-payments by 230 percent, tripled the price of prescription drugs, and offered a meager 1.5 percent wage increase."

"We are demanding better salaries

and defending our healthcare," said Hernan Pruden, a graduate student who acts as the business agent for GSEU. "We do not get paid enough and they are trying to increase our [medical] co-payments 200 percent."

Over a hundred people started the protest during campus lifetime at the fountain and marched first through the Administration Building and then out through the hordes of people flocking at the SAC Plaza for the Strawberry Festival. They chanted phrases such as "What do we want? Contract!" and "Healthcare is our right!"

"Graduate students teach so many classes, and the university needs us," said Claude Francis, a graduate student at the protest. "But we still get paid the lowest in NY State, and our healthcare costs are through the roof. The state and the university don't care about graduate workers and their health."

On April 28, the GSEU publicly demanded that the state provide a "just contract." They demanded livable wages that reflect the high cost of living in Suffolk County and a healthcare policy that ensures affordable treatment, according to the press release.

"We're employees, like anyone else," Francis said. "Why shouldn't we have these rights?"

## The Myth of Cannibalism

By Mansoor Khan  
Statesman Editor

A husband and wife are stranded on a seemingly deserted island when a group of half-naked "natives" approach them and take them hostage. The petrified pair is taken to a large boiling vat of vegetables, and told that they will be the chief guests for dinner. As they are tied to a stake and lowered into the steaming pit, the community rejoices at its newly acquired feast.

Now consider the image that you hold in your mind, and look at the skin color you assigned to each of the key characters. Were the natives blonde and blue eyed? Or was that the image of the husband and wife? Cannibalism, a phenomenon deeply ingrained into our social psyche via Hollywood, has become, in our minds, something that "others" take part in. Our notion of this alleged act of "tribal" peoples comes with several pre-conceived images and judgments that lack solid support with scientific observation and proof, argues William Arens, Ph.D, Stony Brook professor of anthropology.

Arens contends that cannibalism has never existed as a cultural phenomenon. There may have been instances of cannibalism among individuals in history, Arens said, but as a cultural phenomenon, there is no proof for the organized practice of eating other human beings.

Arens spoke as part of the *School of Thought* Lecture Series last Thursday, in a lecture entitled "Cannibalism: How the Nobel Prize Got it All Wrong!" He

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# Red Red Strawberries, Stay Close to Stony Brook

By TED LAI  
Statesman Staff

What do you get when you mix a warm sunny Wednesday afternoon and 52,164 strawberries? Well, at Stony Brook, you get the annual Strawberry Festival sponsored by Campus Dining.



## A THOUGHT FROM RABBI ADAM



Now that the academic year has come to a close, a saying comes to mind, "Chassidim never part." Even if people might be physically distant, in essence they remain spiritually close. For our souls exist in the ultimate Divine unity, and it is but our bodies that separate us from one another. So distance and even the infrequency of getting together doesn't really matter. However this connection that we have is a hidden one, and unfortunately, that which is revealed before us is the distance and the infrequent visits. Yet there will be a time when that which is hidden will be revealed. When the nature of the world will be defined by its unifying basis, and that which separates and causes to grow apart will be of naught. This is the meaning of the well-known Jewish saying, "Next year in Jerusalem". For we no longer want to remain apart and we wish not for another year of mundane existence. Rather we want to experience the coming year in an atmosphere of "Jerusalem", which in Hebrew means "seeing-the whole" - seeing the Divine unity and experiencing a world that is without distance and separation. And now the time is ripe for all this to happen. For ours is a unique generation poised on the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy. Prophecies that speak of the coming of the Mashiach (Messiah) and the resulting era of goodness and kindness, the Messianic Era. Amongst Jews, all of the great Rabbinic leaders of the last century have proclaimed that, indeed, Mashiach is coming. The most recent of which, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, stated that the Messianic Era is so much at hand, that all one has to do is figuratively "open their eyes" and see a new world reality on the verge of being revealed. A reality in which there will be neither famine nor war. An age of eternal peace and love. The age of "Jerusalem". An age in which people do not really part, for we are all really one.

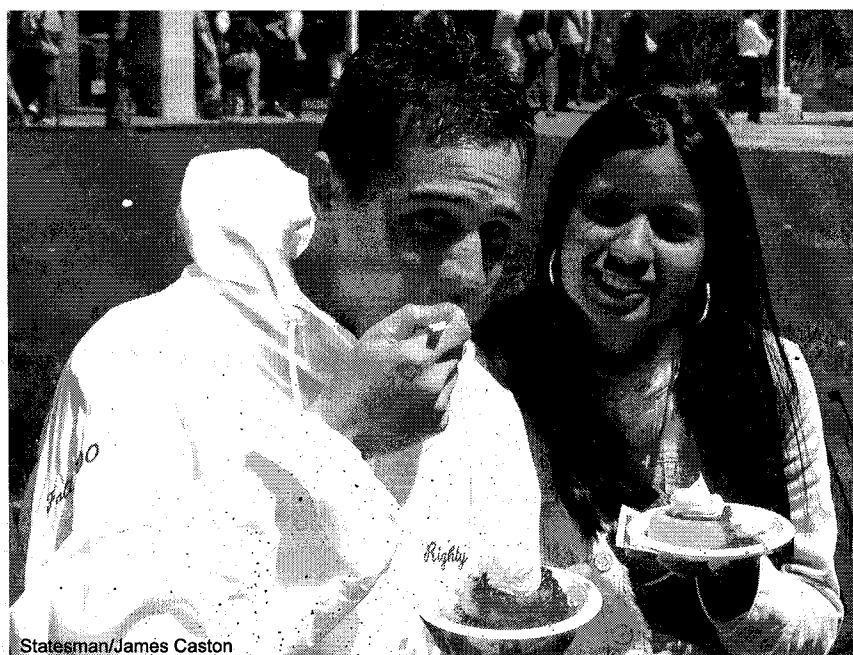
"This is Campus Dining's 11th Annual Strawberry Festival and we are proud of our annual tradition," said Lisa Ospitale of Campus Dining Services. "In the last several years, we are proud to say that we have collaborated with the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action and coordinated Strawberry Fest and Diversity Day so they happen simultaneously. This allows the Stony Brook community to enjoy fresh strawberries while learning about diverse cultures, religions, and lifestyles."

Strawberry Festival is the annual event where all food served is made with strawberries, from the favored strawberry shortcake to strawberry Snapple to strawberry cookies. The festival is a strawberry fanatic's dream come true.

The academic mall was flooded with students, faculty, and staff who had come out to enjoy the afternoon festivities. Everyone was treated to performances from the Stony Brook Ballroom Dancing Club and the Stony Brook Cheerleaders. The Stony Brook Gospel Choir also serenaded the crowd with their tunes.

"I have never seen so many people at one place on campus before," states Eva Chrysanthopoulos. "It's great to see everyone out enjoying this event and having fun."

For Diversity Day, many student clubs set up tables to share their organizations with others. Students were able to sample food from different cultures, experience the heat of a turban wrapped on their heads, and take part in mock marriages.



Statesman/James Caston

"The planning for Strawberry Festival starts a year in advance," said Angela Agnello of Campus Dining Services. "Managers and employees from every dining unit assist with this event. Faculty and staff volunteer every year to assist with serving the strawberries. [From] six a.m., Campus Dining Services employees are out there setting up."

"It was a great event," said graduating senior Dan Operman. "Even though there were long lines for each table and everyone is crammed into the pathways, I am going to miss Strawberry Fest next year."

"Strawberry Fest is a huge tradition that takes lots of time and energy, but Campus Dining loves implementing it because of all the smiling faces it brings," Ospitale said. "We look forward to doing it again next year."

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# School of Thought Lecture



Statesman/Emy Kuriakose

Professor William Arens

Continued From Page 1

received his doctorate from the University of Virginia and has completed most of his anthropological research in East Africa.

In 1979, Arens published his controversial book, *The Man-Eating Myth*, which argues that there is no single piece of conclusive, reliable evidence in the history of anthropology or any other discipline that proves cannibalism existed. The book was written partly in response to the 1976 Nobel Prize awarded to Carleton Gajdusek, who concluded that cannibalism was responsible for the transmission of a disease called "kuru" among the Foré people of the Highlands of New Guinea.

Gajdusek and other anthropologists, Arens argues, report cultural cannibalism without conclusive proof. "I've known too many anthropologists who said they had been among cannibals," he said. "I always ask them if they had actually seen it, and they always say no."

What reports do occur are usually a result of gross misrepresentation, Arens explained. For example, in one of his publications, Gajdusek juxtaposed a photo of a dying woman with a photo of a group of boys eating meat. Arens was skeptical about the presentation, and contacted Gajdusek. He asked him if the boys were actually eating the dead woman, as the arrangement and literature implied.

"He said 'no, they are eating boar,'" Arens said. "They aren't eating people, they're eating pork!" Arens also questioned Gajdusek as to whether he actually had seen the act of

cannibalism while in New Guinea, which Gajdusek reported was quite prevalent among the Foré. Arens received a letter in reply, which reported that Gajdusek had never photographed cannibalism, except on rare occasions. Those photographs were never published, Arens said.

"I don't know if these people are cannibals, but I do know that this is fraud," Arens said. "This is being done not at some community college or high school, but at the level of the Nobel Prize!"

The history of reporting cannibalism long precedes Gajdusek, however. The first representation of the "natives" of America were provided by Theodor De Bry in his book, "Grand Voyages: Early Explorations to the New World." It included accounts of cannibalism provided by a number of explorers, including Marco Polo, who had never even been to the new world, Arens said.

These same accounts of cannibalism were plagiarized in later literature, Arens said. He provided the audience with two pictures depicting cannibals that were published 300 years apart, clearly done by the same artist. "Plagiarism in the nineteenth century uses the same ideas from the sixteenth century," Arens said, and that is why those ideas have prevailed so fortuitously.

The anthropological insistence on cultural cannibalism, according to Arens, is really a product of a sensational bending of the truth. "Even my own colleagues are involved in the manipulation of evidence," Arens said.

Students in the audience were interested in Arens' lecture, often thrown aback by his direct and unabashed explanations, and even suspicious of his accusations.

"The lecture was really revealing," said Allison Engallena, vice president of *School of Thought*. "We asked Dr. Arens to speak because his ideas promote the proper representation of culture, which is often exploited in society. I think he makes some really solid points, and if everything he says is true, then he is bringing something very significant to light."

Still, others were hesitant to accept everything Arens had to say. "I liked the lecture," said Paul Sokolson, "but his theory seems to have some holes in it. There are a lot of questions that pop up when you consider cannibalism to be a myth."

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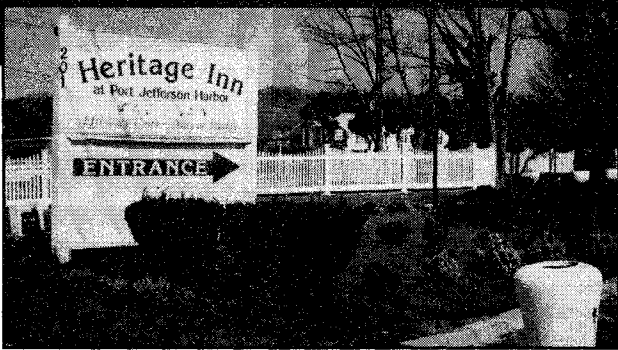
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# Roth Pond Regatta

Continued from Page 1

Club. "The club members plan the event all year, including web design, artwork, getting price quotes, purchasing supplies for the event and advertising."

The club's efforts paid off, considering the enthusiastic and responsive faces at the Regatta. The pond was encircled in its entirety by the steady line of spectators that included students, parents, children, faculty and staff.

Newscasters were on hand at the regatta as well, filming the races and interviewing competitors. Larry Hoff, of WB11 Morning News, came far before the racing commenced, filming boat makers who had just woken up or had stayed up until 6:00 a.m. building their makeshift vessels. Later that afternoon, CNN was on scene to capture the action, taking footage of racers and speaking with the organizers and winners.

In the speedster competition, which includes one-man boats made to burn through water, Student Affairs took the gold with their boat, "SA Minnow IV." The Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps won the yacht competition with their two-man canoe christened "Rolled to Perfection." SBVAC also won the best of show contest, flaunting their stealth-fighter model entitled "Radar Schmadar."

"A lot of time, a lot of math and a tremendous amount of support from SBVAC went into those boats," said

Hedrick Sy, who is a paramedic and the designer of both of SBVAC's boats. When the winners were announced, Sy was "ecstatic that all [his] hard work [had] paid off." "All I did was hold up my paddles and shout out!" he said.

The residents of James College were not as lucky, however. "We flipped over three times and couldn't get past the starting line, forget the finish line," said Samantha Earley, a member of James College LEG. Their pint-sized yacht, engineered by senior Tuan Van Tran, took to the shores with little more than a thin sheet of cardboard between their bottoms and the murky water of the pond. "Even if we didn't do so well, all in all, it was one of the best times I have had at Stony Brook."

After the race, students dragged their tattered and water-soaked cardboard piles to the dumpster nearby to discard the boats they had worked so hard to build.

"We really spent a lot of time building that bad boy," said sophomore James Laurenti, one of many regatta boat builders. "But it's the experience that matters. I'm going to remember the regatta, even if my boat is lying in a dumpster."


Students who had rowed boats left with their clothes soaked, feet dirty and smiles wide. "I'm quite pleased with the outcome of the event," Kilb said, "and I expect it to get better with each passing year."

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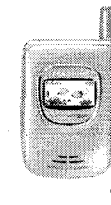
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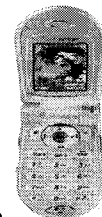
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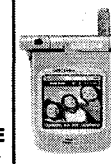
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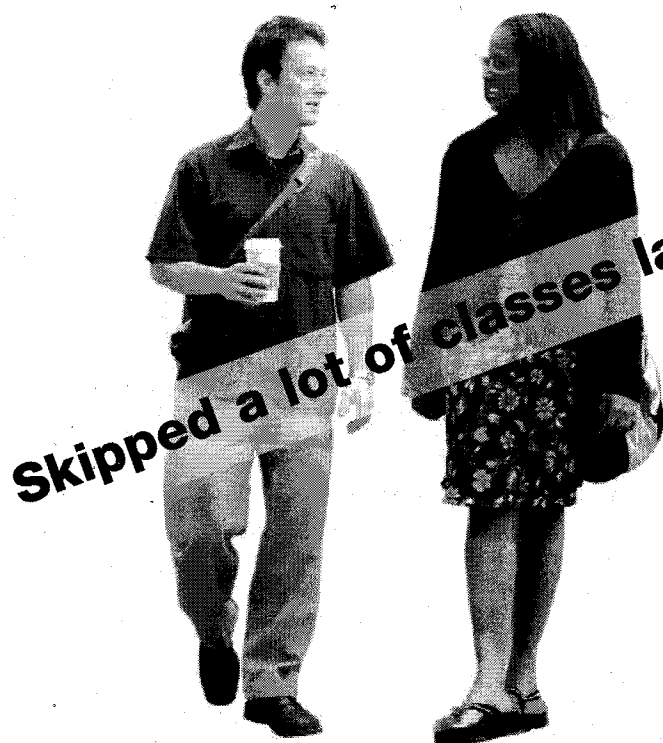
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## Commentary

# e-Voting in 2004: Are We Destined For a Repeat of 2000?

By JAMES BOUKLAS  
Statesman Editor

The 2000 presidential election will forever live in infamy due to "miscounted" votes in Florida and despite the pledges of Governor Jeb Bush, the upcoming election may be a case of history repeating itself. These machines, manufactured mainly by Diebold Inc, record votes electronically through the use of touch-screen displays. Once registered, the votes are susceptible to hackers, something that is not possible with good old paper.

Why can't the country just adopt the voting machines that we have here in New York? When you go into a voting booth in this state, you are presented with rows of candidates for different offices. Next to each candidate is a little switch that, when thrown, indicates your vote. Pulling down the lever registers your vote mechanically and safely, without any room for hackers. I fail to see how other states can pass over this tried and true method of voting in favor for insecure, expensive and unreliable software-based machines.

The one saving grace of e-voting is paper redundancy. If there is any dispute over the digitally recorded votes, election officials can always rely on paper receipts. Or, at least you would think so. Florida Governor Jeb Bush, little brother to the President, firmly opposes the idea of mandatory paper verification for electronic ballots. I, for one, do not feel great confidence in this man or the state that he governs.

Let's walk through the downside of printing paper receipts that can be used to recount. There's the added cost: printers don't come cheap. Or do they? I did a search for "receipt printer" on CNET.com to see just how much they cost. Mind you, these are retail prices and purchases by a state should be less after searching for the lowest

bidder. I found small receipt printers for as low as \$175, more than adequate for the job of printing out a paper record for votes. According to Wired News, the voting machines themselves cost about \$3000. The Washington Post wrote that Maryland signed a \$55.6 million contract with Diebold for 11,000 units. That comes out to \$5,000 per unit; the \$2,000 difference is most likely in the form of a maintenance contract with the company. Another \$175, plus maintenance, doesn't seem like an unjustified cost if it protects the right of voters to have their voices heard.

The Help America Vote Act of 2002 deemed lever- and paper-based voting methods unreliable. By 2006, all voting machines in the country must move to electronic systems. Again, I fail to see the logic in this. Lever-based systems are tried and true and have been in use for over 40 years. It baffles my mind that Congress would want to force reliable machines to be replaced by their controversial and faulty electronic counterparts. Of course, Diebold has done a good job of smearing money over politicians.

Walden O'Dell, Chief Executive of Diebold, wrote in a fundraising letter last year that he is "committed to helping Ohio deliver its electoral votes to the president next year." O'Dell personally collected over \$100,000 in campaign contributions for George Bush to use in the 2004 presidential elections and is in charge of supplying the majority of the 37 states that are moving over to e-voting. Coincidence? I sure hope so.

It looks like supporters of Bush are closing in months preceding November. Luckily, there is a glimmer of hope. California recently banned the use 14,000 machines manufactured by Diebold and conditionally decertified another 28,000 e-voting machines until their security is brought up to par. I, for one, hope that other states follow California's lead in banning dishonest voting.

## More Money, Less Classes

By MICHAEL NEVRADAKIS  
Statesman Editor

Think back to last spring. One of the big stories on many students' minds at the time was the tuition increases that had been proposed by the SUNY Board of Trustees. Students on our campus and across the SUNY system mobilized, and arguably, their efforts were successful in limiting the tuition increase to \$950 (from the original proposed amount of \$1,400) and preventing cuts to TAP, EOP and AIM.

Fast forward to this year. The SUNY Board of Trustees is currently weighing a proposal to increase tuition annually, in relatively small amounts, instead of large amounts every few years. In addition, there is an increased likelihood that fees for services such as housing will increase as well. What hasn't increased? The amount of classes being offered. Most students have registered or are set to register for classes for the fall semester, and are facing a very limited selection of classes to choose from.

Why are so few classes being offered? The answer lies in another one of the consequences of last year's higher education budget: a reduction in the budgets of SUNY colleges and universities.

As a result of cuts, many departments did not rehire

adjunct professors, offered less sections of many classes, increased class sizes of others, or phased some other classes out completely. This has led to an appallingly small amount of course offerings, overcrowded classrooms, and it has made it more difficult for many students to complete their education on time.

Departments such as Economics and Physical Anthropology are offering only a small portion of all the classes listed in the course bulletin, and because of these reduced offerings, many of those classes quickly fill up, making it difficult for most students to register.

The statistics speak for themselves. State funding for higher education between fiscal year 1994 and fiscal year 2004 has increased by only 21.6%, among the lowest rates in the country. Only \$5.35 out of every \$1,000 taxable the state collects goes to higher education, placing New York State 41<sup>st</sup> out of 50 states.

It's clear that higher education is not a priority of many of our elected officials in Albany. While spending money that could be earmarked for higher education on other pursuits may win politicians the support of certain interest groups, the quality of higher education in New York State diminishes, and with it, so does New York State's future and the future of students who look to SUNY schools for a quality education and better tomorrow.

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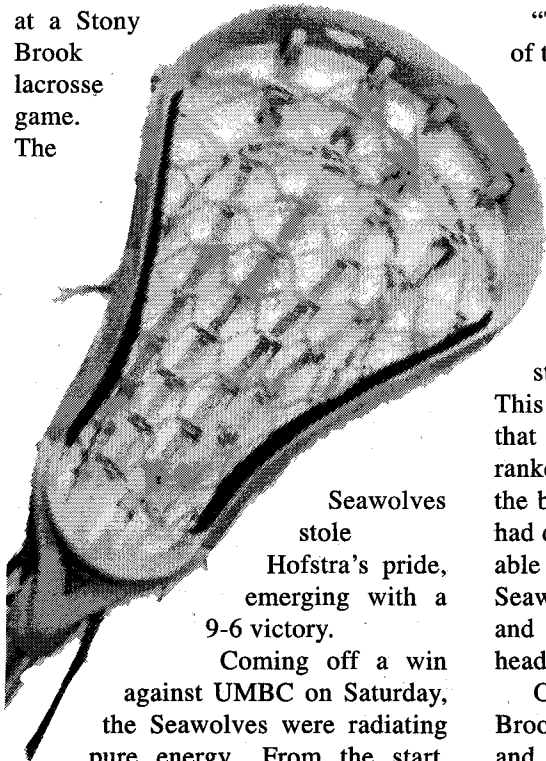
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## Seawolves Men's Lacrosse Tops Hofstra

By JIMMY BOYLE  
Statesman Staff

On Tuesday evening, the Battle of Long Island took place as the Hofstra Pride took on the Stony Brook Seawolves for the first time ever in men's lacrosse. The match was held in Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium in front of 3,750 spectators, the largest attendance ever at a Stony Brook lacrosse game. The



Seawolves stole Hofstra's pride, emerging with a 9-6 victory.

Coming off a win against UMBC on Saturday, the Seawolves were radiating pure energy. From the start, Stony Brook dominated the game, scoring the first two goals. Mike Kirschner made the first deposit at 10:10 in the first, followed by George LaFlare, who scored two minutes later. Larry Cerasi tacked on a point and then Jason Cappadoro scored the first of his three goals on an assist from Jamey Lacey with six minutes remaining in the second quarter. With a 4-2 lead, the Seawolves led every statistical category in the first half.

Stony Brook came out strong in the

second half as well, scoring all three goals in the third quarter. Hofstra came back in the fourth and scored four goals, but it was not enough. The Seawolves would go on to win 9-6.

After both teams shook hands, Cappadoro took off his jersey to show the fans the t-shirt he was wearing underneath. It read "SBU The 'Pride' of Long Island." Seawolves fans cheered with approval.

"This was one of the biggest games of the year so far," said Cappadoro.

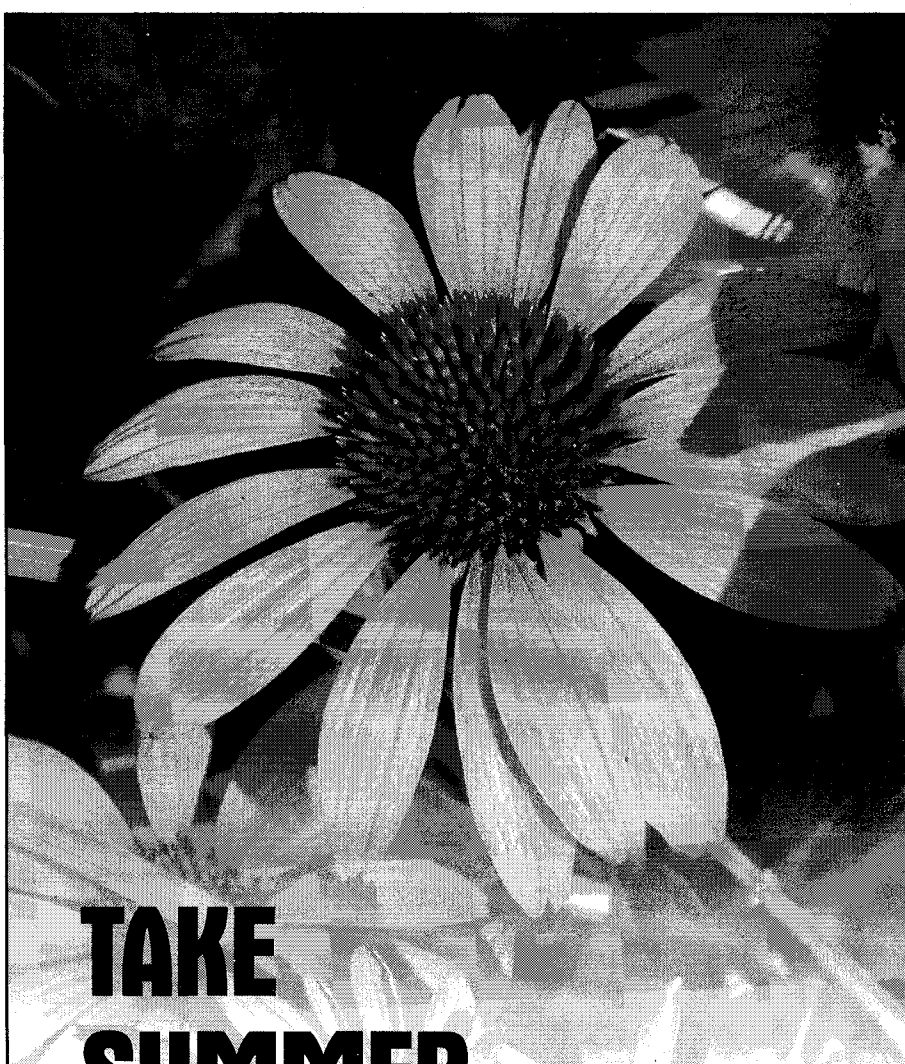
"The emotion carried us through tonight," said Goalie Brendan Callahan. It was the win over UMBC that had sparked this emotion.

When discussing his thoughts on the game, Head Coach John Espey said, "I've always said that Hofstra set the standard for excellence in lacrosse."

This just makes Stony Brook's victory that much sweeter. Hofstra had been ranked in the top 15 in the country at the beginning of the season and many had doubts that Stony Brook would be able to compete against them, but the Seawolves showed their true colors and sent the Pride home with their heads hanging.

One of the prime reasons for Stony Brook's success against Hofstra, and throughout the season, is their newly acquired goalkeeper Callahan. Callahan is a freshman from Hanover, Maryland who played both football and lacrosse in high school. Setting football aside, Callahan was able to focus more on lacrosse at Stony Brook and improve on his skills. Because of his tremendous efforts, Callahan has become the leading goalie in the nation in both goals against average and save percentage this season.

The Seawolves now look forward to the playoffs, which begin May 5.



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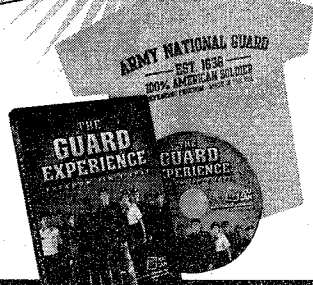


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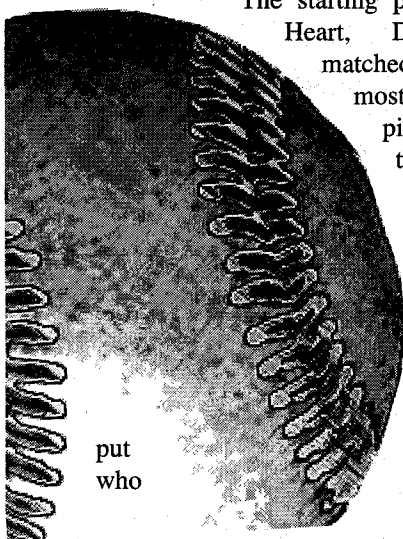


# Seawolves Softball Continues Winning Streak

By JOHN IMOSSE  
Statesman Staff

Seawolves softball continued its hot play Thursday, finishing up its home schedule by sweeping a double-header with non-conference opponent Sacred Heart, thanks to two great pitching performances and some big hitting by junior first baseman Kristen Brust.

Stony Brook won the first game 3-0 in eight innings, in a match dominated by pitching as both teams struggled to generate any offense. Stony Brook's Angela Andrews got the win, going eight innings and striking out six while giving up no walks and just two hits. Andrews breezed through the Sacred Heart lineup, going five and two thirds innings before allowing Sacred Heart's only two hits of the game in the sixth inning.



put  
who

The starting pitcher for Sacred Heart, Danielle Mellin, matched Andrews for most of the game, pitching seven and a third innings giving up three runs on four hits and five walks. Despite a solid effort by Mellin, she lost a walk in the eighth inning and an error two on for Brust, lined a shot over

the right field fence for a walk-off three-run home run to win the game for the Seawolves.

The momentum from the end of the first game carried over to the beginning of the second game for the Seawolves, as Brust came up with one on in the bottom of the first and hit a home run to give the Seawolves a 2-0 lead. Brust then came up again in the sixth and hit her second home run of the game and her third of the day to give the Seawolves a 3-0 lead.

That would be all the scoring that the Seawolves would need as they got another shutout pitching performance. Sarah Hoffman pitched a complete game, surrendering just four hits and no walks while striking out three to earn the win. The loss in game two went to Sacred Heart's Bethany Lemenager, as she pitched six innings, giving up three runs on five hits and a walk while striking out six.

With the two victories, Stony Brook's record improved to 25-27, while Sacred Heart's record fell to 12-30. As

they approach the end of the season, the Seawolves appear to be hitting their stride as they have won five of their last six games and currently stand in second place in the America East conference with a 9-5 record.

Having finished up their home games, Stony Brook will play their final eight games on the road, beginning with a trip to conference opponent UMBC for a three game series on Saturday and Sunday.

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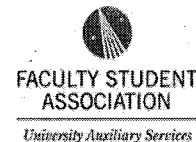
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