

the stony brook Statesman

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Final countdown to *'Tis the Season*

By AHMED BELAZI
Statesman Staff

"I had no shoes and I complained, until I met a man with no feet" – Indian Proverb

Amidst the crunch of classes and finals that pile up at the end of each Fall semester, students are called upon by a determined group of individuals to give more of themselves through 'Tis the Season, a program that raises money for various non-profit organizations in the Stony Brook community.

"The program has been running for about 10 years now," said Dave Scarzella, Campus Residences Quad Director, who, as an RA, spearheaded the program since its inception.

In the past, 'Tis the Season has donated over \$15 thousand to beneficiaries such as children's hospitals, Habitat for Humanity and soup kitchens. Throughout the years, it has become a valued tradition here for students and organizers alike.

"It's not about how much you give, but that you've participated and understand how important it is to give during the season to those who might have been forgotten," said Cindy Lake, H-Quad director and chair of the Leadership and Service Committee that is responsible for 'Tis the Season this year.

The committee is adding a new facet to its donations and plans to use proceeds from 'Tis the Season to purchase two gifts for each of the 151 residents of Maryhaven Center of Hope, a local medical center that specializes in healthcare and rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities. They hope to have enough funds to purchase two gifts for each of the inpatients. Volunteers who work with the residents at the center will suggest ideas for one gift, while the residents themselves request one more gift to complement their holiday wishes.

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Impeachments ahoy, USG in turmoil

By RACHAEL O'BRIEN
Statesman Contributor

Revisions were made to the agenda at the beginning of the Tuesday, Nov. 30, Undergraduate Student Government meeting, as Jeff Kruszyna took his place for the first time as vice president, serving as chair of the Senate under President Jared Wong. The meeting started peacefully, but soon turned into a chaotic battlefield of accusations. Supreme Court Chief Justice Vlad Frants proposed the impeachment of President Wong and seven other members of the Executive Council by a senator.

Wong, holding a letter written by members of the Executive Council, excluding Treasurer Rajat Gupta and Vice President of Clubs and Organizations Virginia Morgan, addressed the assembly about the division of members within the USG, namely members of the Executive Council against members of the Senate and himself. Wong accused those who had written the letter, former Vice President Esam Al-Shareffi, Vice President of Communications Ebony Omede, Vice President of Student Life, Programming and Activities Rosario Minier, Vice President of Academic Affairs Diana Acosta, Senior Class Representative Monique Howell, Junior Class Rep. Sean Bartlett, Sophomore Class Rep. Latoya Duncan and Freshman Class Rep. Romual Jean-Baptist, of "hiding behind a letter" when addressing



Jared Wong, USG President, was accused of violating the USG Constitution by members of the Executive Council and Judiciary.

their concerns to him about two pieces of legislation that had been passed.

The letter was written in response to two pieces of legislation passed by the Senate: the Continuity of Government for Senate Act (COGS), and Participation, Attendance, Legitimacy and Students Act (PALS). In the letter, these two bills were attacked by the Executive Council members, listed as "a mockery" and lacking "sensitivity, reason and justification." However, what was criticized the most about the letter was the fact that it was allegedly written by Executive

Council members in an illegal, "secret meeting."

Wong, in his disgust over the matter, ripped up the letter from the Executive Council and tossed the pieces on the floor in front of council members. Members of the Senate then proceeded to rebuke Executive Council members for their act, labeling it as near "treason".

A motion was made by the proxy for the senator representing the Commuter Student Association, Vince Rasulo, to impeach all members of the Executive Council who had signed the letter in agreement. At this point, Virginia

Morgan asked to be excluded from the list, claiming that she had withdrawn her signature after initially signing the letter.

In reference to the move to impeach the council members and responding to accusations that council members were irresponsible in the manner in which they presented their problem with the bills, Al-Shareffi said, "What is irresponsible in my mind is a Senate that has turned into a witch hunt."

The vote to impeach the Executive Council did not pass,

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Rory Kennedy lectures at the SAC

By MANSOOR KHAN
Statesman Editor

Red ribbons graced the shirts of countless people walking through the Student Activities Center yesterday. The occasion? World AIDS Day, a yearly occasion dedicated to remembering those who have died from AIDS and those who are currently struggling with the disease. As part of the events for the day, Rory Kennedy, award-winning producer, director and writer came to Stony Brook to speak about the global AIDS

crisis and her new documentary, "Pandemic: Facing AIDS."

Kennedy, the youngest of Robert Kennedy's 11 children, said that the AIDS problem facing the world today is not unstoppable. With education and awareness, she stressed, we can prevent the number of infected individuals from reaching the current estimate of 100 million by 2010.

"We have the tools to prevent this," she said. "We can make a difference in the fight against AIDS, and we have to try." In the spirit of World AIDS Day, or-

ganizers of this event and others throughout the day encouraged students to take a proactive approach to the fight against AIDS.

"Wear a ribbon, attend a World AIDS day event or encourage others to do so," said Ashby Wolfe, a medical student at Stony Brook University and a member of the World AIDS day planning committee. "Protect yourselves and others during sex. By focusing on AIDS for one day, we hope to spread info about the disease, its transmission and remember the ones we've lost."

Kennedy has recently been working to complete her documentary, and along the way has traveled to a variety of countries where the AIDS epidemic is staggering. What she has found is encouraging: the campaign against AIDS is extremely effective. In Uganda, rates of infection have decreased by 80 percent. In Brazil, rates have been cut in half, all because of efforts at educating the public, encouraging condom use and fighting the stigma of AIDS.

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Worth my time?

Required research experience has some students perturbed

By JENNY WANG
Statesman Staff

For students who wonder what it might be like to be a guinea pig, or who want the chance of getting cash and credits at the same time, Introduction to Psychology (PSY 103) is the perfect resolution.

Students who take this class are required during the course of the semester to participate in five credit hours worth of research, or do an alternate assignment. The research studies often give credit hours as well as the bonus of giving cash for participants. Most have complaints about the experience, others love the money, and some find it a learning experience.

A student who wished only to be referred to as Joe claimed that being a subject in research for his PSY 103 class

was "an insane assignment. Students already have to study for exams, and to have to go out of their way to get half a letter grade is ridiculous."

Many of the Psychology professors, however, disagree. "If you put [the research requirement] in the context of other courses [with required laboratories]" said Dr. Richard J. Gerrig, "it's a fairly moderate requirement." Gerrig has taught PSY 103 in the past and currently teaches other higher-level psychology courses such as Psychology of Language (PSY 365).

Gerrig finds that although some students may find participating in research studies pointless, students who want to major or at least further their studies in psychology find the research to be a fundamental portion of their psychology education.

Gerrig has found that in his upper

division courses he can ask students if they have participated in a certain study and there will inevitably be at least one student who has and he is then able to relate the experience of participating in research to his class.

"I liked that it gave me some insight into the scientific method," said sophomore Mary Hahn, a biochemistry major who has taken PSY 103. Hahn feels that the experience would have been much more rewarding if students were briefed upon conclusion of the experiment. "For me to really appreciate what I had participated in, I would have liked to find out the final results later on [because] it's like you only see one piece of the puzzle."

Sophomore and Psychology major Hilda DeJesus had to participate in

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Vaccine possible?

By RADEYAH HACK
Statesman Senior Staff

Diminishing the stigma associated with AIDS and clearing up the common stereotypes was one of the main goals for World AIDS day. Students and members of the Gay Men of African Descent (GMAD) discussed these issues yesterday in the SAC, along with the possibility and need for the development of an AIDS vaccine to control the epidemic.

"There is currently no vaccine, but several are being investigated," said Borris Powell, program director for GMAD. Powell hopes that the discussion will encourage others to contribute to the development of the vaccine by participating and supporting the research. People need to be aware that you cannot be infected by participating in a vaccine trial," he said.

World AIDS day conference at SB

By RADEYAH HACK
Statesman Senior Staff

Education on HIV/AIDS has always been a key method to combating the spread of the virus. The World AIDS Day Info Fair in the SAC lobby was organized with this purpose in mind. "AIDS has taken a backburner in public awareness in this country, so we are trying to boost interest about the issue," said Peter

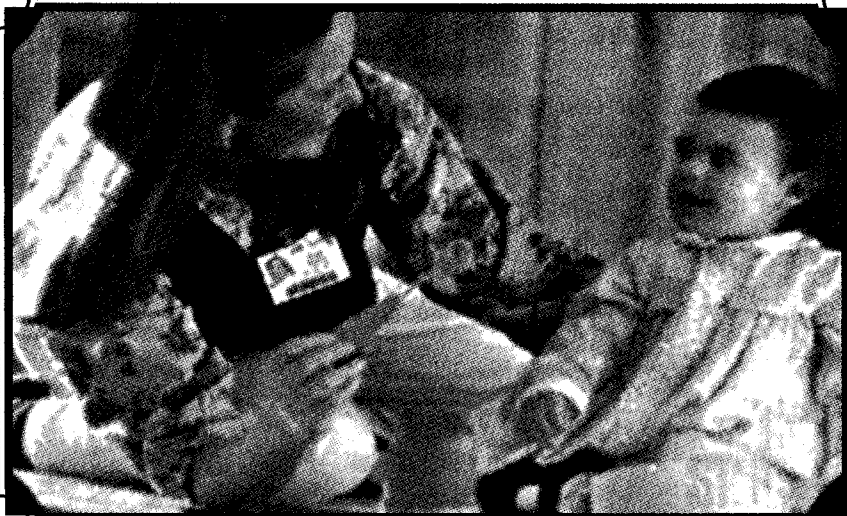
Mastrianni, a counselor at the CHOICE Center and organizer for the events of the day.

Distributing condoms and red ribbons to show solidarity and awareness for the issue, representatives from various AIDS organizations informed students about the importance of protecting themselves from sexually transmitted diseases while clearing up misconceptions about ways AIDS can be transmitted.

Representatives from the Community Service

Learning distributed red stickers for students to give to their friends as a symbol of the ease and rapid transmission of the virus while members of Visions World Wide educated students on the rising infection rates in Asia.

The Info fair was also intended to decrease the apathy associated with the pandemic and the increasing infection rates in New York. "Long Island has the highest infection rate for the suburbs of the U.S.," said Greg Beltrani, treasurer for the Community Service Learning, "Stony Brook students need to be educated to protect themselves."



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The comforts of the long journey

3

By MICHAEL KIMMEL
Statesman Staff

Every now and then, you hear something completely new and different: a melody, a song structure that is unlike anything you've ever heard. You sit up; you take notice; your life changes.

The number of groups who have changed my life could probably be counted on both hands, and three of them have new albums. All three – Dire Straits, R.E.M., and U2 – began in the late 1970s or early 1980s, with breakout hits that defined a new sound: "Sultans of Swing," "Radio Free Europe" and "Gloria" respectively.

For nearly 30 years these bands have evolved, grown and changed, and yet the qualities that first propelled them to stardom remain the same.

Mark Knopfler's career has been defined by the most fluidly melodic electric guitar that has ever graced a rock and roll record. Clean yet complex, lithe yet languid, his melodies are immediately arresting, and eventually haunting.

For years, he sang about people who never quite realized their dreams – the failed musicians in "Sultans of Swing," the refrigerator delivery guys of "Money for Nothing."

On his new album, "Shangri-La," he suggests that life isn't so grand on the other side of those dreams either.

Here are some songs about those who have realized their dreams – and still they're searching for something. "5.15 a.m.," which opens the album is soft and soothing, languidly melodic, until you realize it's about a gangland murder and the gambling rackets. And on "Boom, Like That" – one of Knopfler's most arrestingly musical songs in years, you're so busy



R.E.M. has recently released their newest studio record, *Around the Sun*.

humming along to the chorus and tapping your foot that it only slowly dawns on you that it's about Ray Kroc and the cutthroat competition of the burger biz.

A few songs puncture pop-star glory. "Back to Tupelo" is a slow dirge to the declining Elvis Presley, "Song for Sonny Liston" describes how the great fighter was used and abused by his handlers, and "Donegon's Gone" offers an upbeat skiffle obituary to the originator of the skiffle sound. (Lonnie Donegon is best known in the U.S. for "Does Your Chewing Gum Lose its Flavor...")

And a couple of songs are more about place than people. I'm particularly fond of "Postcards from Paraguay," the swan song of an embezzler, and the title song, a sweet ballad that cautions about pie-eyed dreams. "This is all the heaven we've got," Knopfler sings. And given his outout over the past three decades, it's enough.

R.E.M. has always been about the music; on earlier albums, Michael Stipe mumbled seemingly incoherent lyrics since songs sort of "needed" words to be sung. But that's changed now, and while the band (now a drummer-less trio) continues to offer some of the most melodic rock music around, their new album, *Around the Sun* (Warner Brothers) actually offers a lyric sheet! Words matter!

To be sure, "Around the Sun" is all about the sound. A bit more electric, with touches of rap, folk and electronica, this time around. But all the elements are there for a superb album. It's almost inadvertently thematic: times of crisis, one cannot play it safe. Virtually every song finds Stipe throwing away the ballast, casting off without a net, taking emotional and musical risks.

"Leaving New York," which opens with the first single, finds Stipe in a state of anticipatory mourning, knowing what he will feel when he leaves his new home (Stipe moved to Tribeca a few years ago, and is happily ensconced with his partner as transplanted New Yorkers). "It's easier to leave than to be left behind," he sings – memorable lines even! (Reminds me of Neil Young's "It's easier to burn out than it is to rust.")

Subsequent songs, like "Electron Blue," with its incessant buzz and "The Outsiders" (with a little rap from Q-Tip), elaborate the theme. The title track, which closes the album, is a fitting paean to sustaining hope in an increasingly despairing time. Swirling organ swirls around thudding drum machines, and Stipe whispering "let my dreams set me free."

Sure, a few songs rely too much on lush production – orchestral backup, and sonic walls of sound – for my taste, but all reveal a long-standing and hard-working band at the top of their form.

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Finding friends and more at thefacebook.com

By EUGENE KOZLOVSKY
Statesman Editor

Thefacebook.com has arrived and it's taking Stony Brook by storm. For anyone that's ever said that they don't know what to do on campus, complain no more. All you have to do is register and next thing you know, you have a link to every friend you've ever made at Stony, and you can easily make new ones.

After you register, you just have to upload a picture and post some information about yourself like your major, what classes you're taking, some contact information, what you're looking for (friendship or relationship), some interests, clubs you're a part of, and some quotes that define you. The program then shows you all the people you're connected to through classes and clubs, but that's only a start. Once you list a few people as your friends, people who are friends with them get to see your name and picture. Before you know it, you have 20 friends listed.

There are countless groups that you can join depending on your interests. You can join "a Texas Hold'em alliance" to find other poker fanatics like yourself. One of the latest groups I found was "City Dwellers," where people can post great places they've been to in the city and see where others have been. If you

want to party, take a look at "Delta Iota," a frat/sorority club, whose parties are not to be missed. Another fun club is "Sexaholics anonymous." I'll let you figure that one out yourselves. If you're serious about school and future, there are clubs to fit your interests too; you can look into "Pre-Med Students," "Biology" or whatever it is you're passionate about. Best yet, you can find out about people in the club before you join by seeing their interests. If none of these clubs tickle your pickle, create your own, invite a few friends and watch it take off. Do you like someone in your class, but want to know more about them? Just check them out on Thefacebook. You can see their relationship status, what they are looking for in a relationship and their interests. If you're afraid to approach them in person, just send them a message through the service or through instant messenger if they list their screen name.

Thefacebook is free and connects you to more than just Stony Brook; its network spans over 300 hundred schools. It lets you search by college or your high school's graduation year to find friends all around the country you may have lost touch with. I have to warn you though, this site is addicting. Before you know it, it's the first thing you check in the morning and the last before bed. Other than that, the site is amazing... find your friends, find great clubs, find your next hook-up.

Rory Kennedy lectures on AIDS...

Continued from Page 1

The Ugandan government has campaigned a massive distribution of condoms, communicated about AIDS on radio and billboard and commissioned AIDS education in public schools. Brazil has fought against the epidemic by producing low cost drugs for AIDS and encouraging pharmaceutical companies to lower their prices on AIDS cocktails so that individuals can live past the one to two year life expectancy for victims of HIV around the world.

Kennedy intermixed these encouraging facts with clips from her documentary, "Pandemic: Facing AIDS," that illustrated the shocking reality behind all the statistics thrown at students throughout AIDS day. One of the particularly moving clips showed orphans from Uganda singing their song for AIDS. These children, who lost their parents to the gripping disease, had tears streaming down their cheeks as they sang, "What are we to do? What are we going to do? Where shall we hide from

AIDS?"

Another clip showed a woman from Thailand who contracted HIV by having unprotected sex as a prostitute. Having faced the reality that she was HIV positive, she decided to visit her parents, only to face a father that was more concerned with the stigma than his own daughter. This stigma, Kennedy explained, propagates the spread of AIDS. It prevents people from confronting the disease, finding out how to prevent it and seeking treatment.

This is why, Kennedy said, it is tremendously important to forward efforts at spreading awareness and education about the disease. "If we apply our resources and our energies, we really can overcome this devastating disease," she explained. "We can't let what happened in Africa happen in the rest of the world."

Anyone interested in finding out more information about AIDS awareness programs throughout the world and on Kennedy's documentary can visit PandemicFacingAids.org.

'Tis the Season...

Continued from Page 1

"It's nice to know that people are getting what they want and what they need for Christmas," said senior Tom Thalakkottur. "It's great to be able to do so little and still make someone else happy."

The remaining proceeds will be donated to Habitat for Humanity and the American Foundation for AIDS Research (amFAR), which is the nation's leading non-profit organization dedicated to the support of HIV/AIDS research, AIDS prevention, treatment, education and advocacy of sound AIDS-related public policy. Habitat for Humanity has been a long-time beneficiary of the

Stony Brook community, providing several services, from financial support to student volunteers.

Donation programs like "Penny Wars" and service auctions are just a few ways students have helped donate to 'Tis the Season in the past. Interested volunteers can also help at the gift-wrapping party held on Monday Dec. 6 at Benedict College.

"I spent all Thanksgiving bored at my house, but at least all my couches are cleaned out of their change now," said Tiffany Franklin, a Benedict College RA.

For more information, talk to your RHD or call H-Quad Service Manager, Jen Curtis, at 632-6775. Hurry, this Friday Dec. 3 will be the last day to donate monetarily.

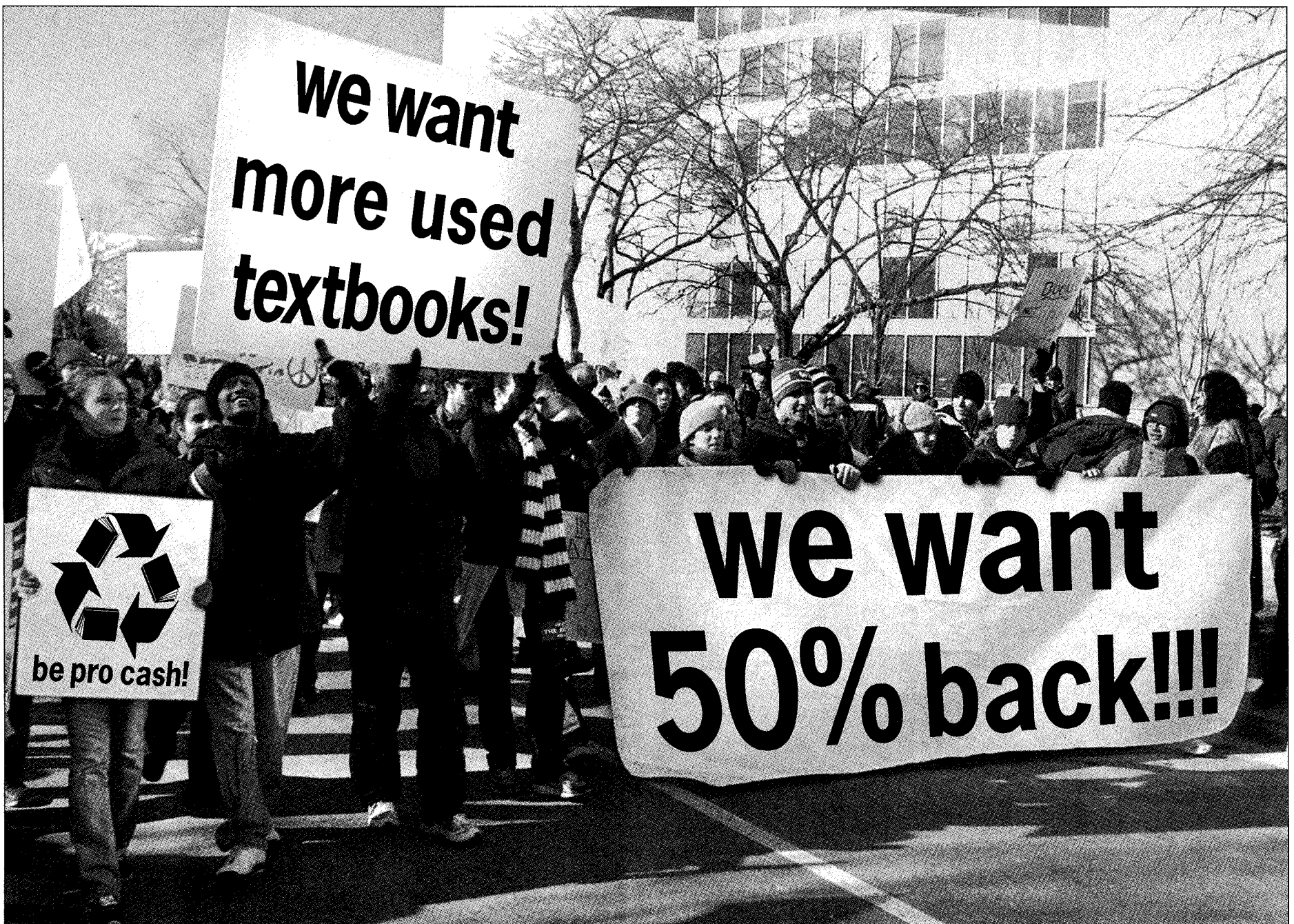
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The Festival of Lights

Photos by Joy Dutta



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*Required research
 experience has some
 students perturbed...*

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multiple studies in her PSY 103 class and agrees with Hahn. "You just do it," DeJesus said. "They don't even tell you what they're going to do with the data; they just tell you what to do and that's it. All these studies go on for years so you may not even find out even after graduation."

In contrast to PSY 103, DeJesus has found that Supervised Research in Psychology is (PSY 273) "interesting because I learned to interpret the data. Also, I'm a kinetic learner so I get the hands-on experience of how a research lab would proceed."

While it may be contended that some students like Hahn do view participation in PSY 103 as a positive learning experience, others find it a waste of time or a semi-worthwhile experience that leaves them wanting more.



On Wednesday the fourth annual Festival of Lights was held to unite the diverse Stony Brook community and showcase the holidays of various religions. "We must shoulder the responsibility to promote understanding and respect for different cultures," said Dean of Students, Jerry Stein.

Holidays celebrated in the festival include Christmas, Ramadan and Eid ul-Fitr, Kwanzaa, Diwali, Bodhi Day, and the Winter Solstice. In commemoration for World AIDS Day a moment of silence was held to remember those who have died of the disease and show love and support for those who are infected.



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Quote of the Week:

A witty saying proves nothing.

Voltaire (1694 - 1778)

USG in turmoil...

Continued from Page 1

five to ten. Despite this, the Executive Council left the room in the middle of the meeting.

Chief Justice Frants tried to present his appeal to have President Jared Wong impeached, and eventually became visibly agitated in his effort to convince the Senate. Chaos broke out and Frants' appeal was filibustered by Kruszyna. In a letter to administration, Frants later wrote, "When a speaker on the floor finally yielded his time for me to give my talk, pandemonium broke out as specific individuals began to verbally thwart my appeal to the Senate. I was harassed, verbally abused and threatened. The police were called intentionally to remove me from the hearing." Vice President Kruszyna called for a recess to the meeting, because of the loud booing and arguing emanating from members of the Senate and gallery.

In his intended address to the Senate, emailed to members of the campus community, Frants claimed that Wong failed to appoint justices to the Supreme Court, a duty required of him constitutionally. "According to Article VII, Section D of the Judiciary Bylaws, all judiciary appointments to fill vacancies shall be made within thirty days while school is in session," Frants wrote. "It has now been well over one hundred days, yet the Judiciary branch still has unfilled vacancies."

Rasulo made another move to impeach, this time for Frants, based on the premise of Article 8, Section 3 of the USG constitution stating "wrongful act of substance." USG members voted to hold the vote at the next meeting where Frants would be given the opportunity to represent himself.

Illan Nassimmi, a member of the gallery, approached the podium to speak. "There's been a lot of mudslinging all through the night and I don't think it's fair," Nassimmi said. "When [the executive board] got up and left, Jared sat here and took it and stood his ground. Jared Wong is here for the good of the student body and anyone who doesn't recognize that shouldn't be here."

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Don Linne (Seawolves MarketPlace Manager) and Jim Fiore (Director of Athletics).

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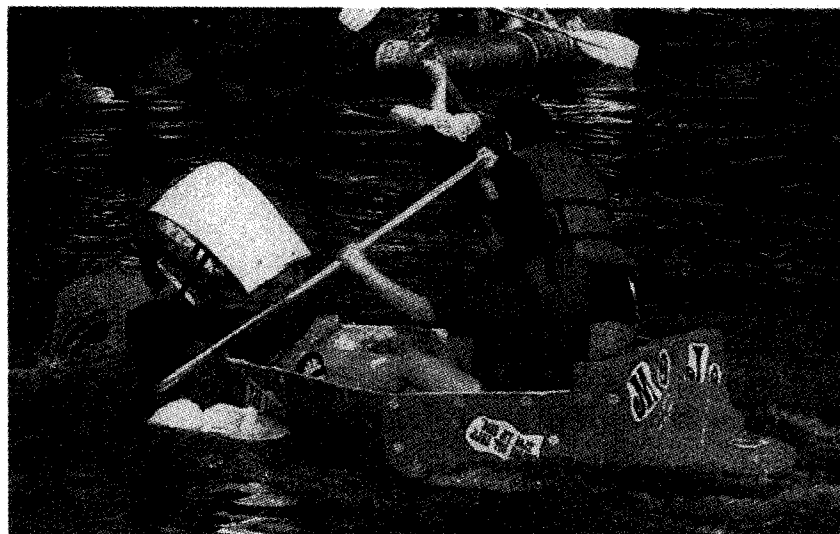
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Sailing to Success

True Tales Beyond the Regatta



It had been not once, but twice, that Bill Sallustro, in concert with a team of students, sailed his homegrown seafaring vessels to victory in the Roth Pond Regatta. This was indicative of one of Bill's personal assets: seizing opportunities and transforming them into achievements.

In an unsuspecting fashion, he managed to accomplish that feat, and a surprising number of others in a relatively short period. But how?

To start with, when Billy was an undergraduate student at SBU, he applied for a position in campus dining to help make ends meet. After starting as a beverage runner, Billy sailed through a progression of positions in campus dining as a student manager, supervisor, production manager, director of management information systems and assistant director of operations.

Billy had simply leveraged his accumulated work experiences in Campus Dining by building upon the most desirable work skills— interpersonal, technological and managerial. In other words, just as he crafted a seaworthy vessel to assure its buoyancy— to keep it afloat during all kinds of circumstances— he built tangibility into his budding career.



Lesson learned?

The key question that typically goes unasked— and unanswered— by students during their college years, is whether there is any “ship” that they can anchor to, for launching a series of future successes.

When have you last asked yourself:

Am I seeking and seizing opportunities that can pay off with various perceived— and unimagined— dividends?

No time like the present. Do you take advantage of opportunity when it comes knocking on your door? For example, in the realm of student employment, employers who offer progressive programs should be looked at closely. Around campus, the smart money

is on the exclusive
Excellerated Pay Program

from Campus Dining Services

which can yield more than a dozen pay increases— not to mention all sorts of

bonuses in one year. Of course, all the other unimagined dividends such as expanding your network of contacts, work knowledge, etc, can also come along for the ride.

**EXCELLERATED
PAY PROGRAM**

For more info contact:

Warren Wartell

(631) 632-9306

FSA Student Staffing Resources

Suite 250 Stony Brook Union

Email: Warren.Wartell@stonybrook.edu



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SPRING BREAK Bahamas Celebrity Party Cruise! 5 Days \$299! Includes Meals, Parties! Cancun, Acapulco, Nassau, Jamaica From \$459! Panama City & Daytona \$159! www.SpringBreakTravel.com. 1-800-678-6386.

SPRING BREAK 2005 Travel with STS, America's #1 Student Tour Operator to Jamaica, Cancun, Acapulco, a Bahamas and Florida. Now hiring on-campus reps. Call for group discounts. Information/Reservations 1-800-648-4849 or www.ststravel.com.

Students Wanted for Alumni Event

Stony Brook Alumni are holding another Mid-Winter Reception this coming January 27, 2005 at Club 101, at 101 Park Avenue in Manhattan. The Alumni need 15 students who are interested in dressing up and acting as hippies and 1970's disco people while roving and mingling with alumni guests. Out of the 15, 5 students should be able to do a few karaoke songs. Theater students and singers are encouraged to join in, but acting and singing experience aren't necessary. This is a great opportunity to mingle with Stony Brook's best, including Rob Roth, '77, Chief Financial Officer of Home Box Office, Inc., among other notable alumni. President Kenny will be there as well. Students will get paid \$100 each, receive free dinner and costumes.

TO SIGN-UP, PLEASE CONTACT:

STEVE MARSH, DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS
631-632-4291, SMARSH@MARSHMEDIALTD.COM

*Remember, you're a student for only 4 years, but an alumni for life.
The alumni need your involvement, you'll have a great time
and it will help you too!*

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1999 SATURN SL. New tires with Firestone warranty. New brakes. Dual front airbags. 5 speed manual transmission. THIS CAR GETS BETWEEN 35-40 MPG. ABS braking system. Traction control for inclement weather conditions. DRIVES GREAT IN SNOW! AM/FM CD Player with Anti-Theft. Highway miles. One owner, a non-smoker. \$2,900 or BEST OFFER!!! Call Rob 631-921-9322.

SERVICES

FAX SERVICE. Only 50 cents per page. Come to Room 057 in the Student Union Building or Call 631-632-6480.

PROFESSOR ON CAMPUS who has experienced Bipolar Disorder would like to have one-on-one contact with and help students who also have this illness. Also starting an evening discussion group. Confidentiality is assured. If interested, please contact Dr. Jerry Pollock at 631-632-8924.

LSAT TUTOR

Let a lawyer teach you how to become one. One-on-one LSAT tutoring by attorney. Call **RAISING THE BAR** at 516-454-7620.

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MOVIE EXTRAS AND MODELS NEEDED! Movie Production Co. needs candidates to work for various productions. Musicians and dancers also needed! No speaking/experience required! Have fun while being a movie extra! Local/State/Nationwide Work! Variety of Looks Needed! Earn up to \$300 a day! Call 1-877-CAST-DIRECT.

STUDENTS WANTED. \$75.00 paid per client referral - distribute flyers to local businesses - build network - good income potential. 631-941-0079.

RESPONSIBLE SELF STARTER. Local laundromat attendant. Part-time. Hours flexible. 631-243-7700.

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STUDENT WANTED. to deliver newspapers on campus. Mondays and Thursdays. Afternoon-Evening. Call 631-632-6480 after 1:00 p.m. for more info.

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STONY BROOK

Stony Brook Council Meeting

Friday, December 10, 2004 • 9:00–11:00 a.m.

President's Conference Room
310 Administration Building
Stony Brook University

If you wish to attend, please call 632-6270.

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Why the NFL succeeds

By RUPESH DAS
Statesman Staff

There aren't many sports out there right now that can boast the popularity that the NFL can. Granted, Major League Baseball's heated rivalries are drawing in millions; but even the World Series can't compare to the popularity of the Super Bowl. There are many reasons why the NFL is so successful, and most of it can be attributed directly to how the league is run.

In the NFL, there is a fine line between good teams and average teams, and any given game can be a last second thriller. Great teams can become horrible teams within a very short period of time, and vice versa. The currently 10 - 1 Steelers finished last season way out of the playoff picture with a 6 - 10 record, while last year's NFC Champions, the Carolina Panthers, are all but out of the picture for the playoffs this season with a disappointing 4 - 7 record. This may seem like a bad thing when looking at it from a team perspective, but as a whole, it's done nothing but great things for the NFL.

Unlike most other sports, the NFL doesn't have that group of dominating teams that are sure to be in the hunt every year. Only the Patriots have exemplified the team play that keeps teams consistent, where no one player can put a franchise over the top. With the controlled salary cap, there is a big limit on what one team can do with their player salaries per year, and puts more of an emphasis on

producing a *team* that will win, rather than a bunch of superstars inked for millions.

You simply just can't have that in the NFL. Going out and buying yourselves every top market free agent will leave you with huge holes in the rest of your team, and they will easily be exploited during the season.

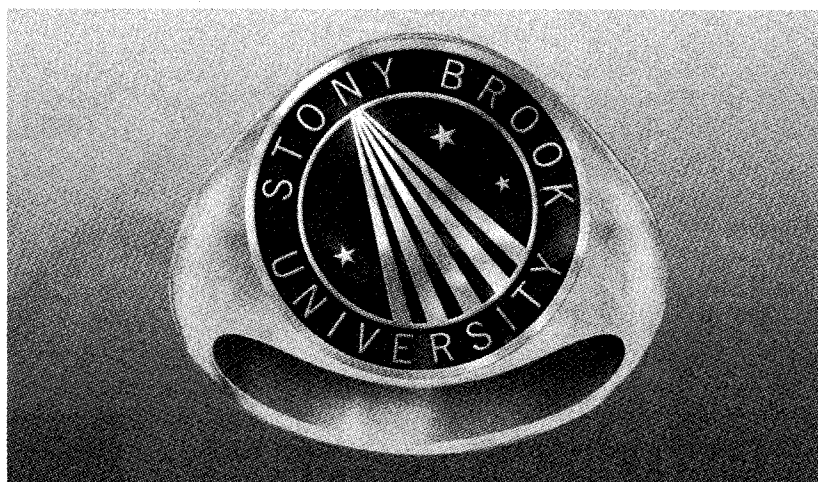
This keeps every team in the hunt every year, and the wider the fan interest is across the country, the more popular the sport will become. Teams that don't seem to have even the slightest chance for the playoffs some years could take 180 degree turns the next. It keeps the interest across the country high, which keeps the revenue high, which is the cornerstone for any successful business.

The stories in Major League Baseball are undoubtedly huge, but, the NFL has countless stories every year that keep the whole country involved, not just a portion of main fans. San Diego, Atlanta and Pittsburgh are all teams that had disastrous seasons last year (all finished last in the standings), but now all three are leading their divisions.

On top of that, you have the headlines Terrell Owens brings on a weekly basis, Big Ben the rookie phenom, Brett Favre, football's iron man, Peyton Manning going for the all time single season TD record and that's only naming a few. Thanksgiving football and the Super Bowl have become household rituals across the country, and it's no doubt that football isn't just a normal sport - it's become part of American culture.

Stony Brook Pride...

It Has a Nice Ring To It.



Stony Brook is proud to announce its new official class ring manufactured exclusively by Balfour. Designed in classic signet style, the ring is a unique reflection of Stony Brook pride.

All eligible juniors and seniors purchasing the Stony Brook ring during Ring Week, February 7-10, 2005, will be invited to the inaugural Ring Ceremony in the spring hosted by President Kenny.

The rings will be on display in the University bookstore during Ring Week. Watch your mail for more details.

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Statesman SPORTS

Seawolves Basketball begins season on positive note

By ROHIT DAS
Statesman Editor

The month of November means one thing for Stony Brook sports – the start of the basketball season. In its first home game of the season at Pritchard Gym, the Seawolves Men's Basketball team easily took care of Army, 68-54. After losing to Utah in their first game of the season, the Seawolves' victory against Army moves their record to 1-1 for the season and put Army at 0-3.

Stony Brook dominated the first half of their contest against Army, outscoring their opponent 37-23. The Seawolves gave their fans an early treat as they quickly jumped out to a 15-7 run, establishing a lead that they essentially would never relinquish. Mike Popoko and Mitchell Beauford lead their team with

offensively, scoring 16 and 14 points respectively. The second half was far more even than the first, as both teams scored 31 points during the half. Despite some good play by Army in the second half, it wasn't enough to pose a significant comeback.

Since their first home game against Army, Stony Brook has played two more games against Columbia and St. John's. The Seawolves defeated Columbia 77-73, but could not squeeze a victory out of the illustrious Red Storm as the Seawolves took the defeat from their local rival, 66-57.

The Seawolves will come back to Stony Brook with a 2-2 record and will be up against Lehigh University this Saturday at 1 pm at Pritchard Gym.

*Information courtesy of
www.goseawolves.org*



The 'Wolves crush Army, 68-54, bringing them to 1-1 overall.

Photos by Chris Lonardo/Statesman

