

Views from Beneath the Keel

David Doubilet, National Geographic Photographer, Speaks to SBU

By KATY O'DETTE
Contributing Writer

David Doubilet, who started taking pictures at the age of 12, sold his first photograph before he even had a driver's license. Now 60, the National Geographic photographer and contributing editor offered a photo presentation to Stony Brook students and faculty on Sept. 5 in the Sac Ballroom.

The photographer has published seven books and has received numerous honors and awards, including the Sara Prize, the Explorers Club Lowell Thomas Award, and the Lennart Nilsson Award. In 2002, he was inducted into the International Diving Hall of Fame.

"I loved it," exclaimed social sciences professor Gregory Tsontakis-Mally, referring to the Wednesday presentation. Tsontakis-Mally has experience in Doubilet's field, as has done about 200 underwater dives in Guam.

Although the presentation was

themed in the sciences, it was not excessively technical, and was made enjoyable for those without science or photography experience. Doubilet's down to earth personality and sense of humor made provided for a comfortable atmosphere.

Throughout the event, in detail, Doubilet explained everything from the use of lighting in photos to how sand is formed. His presentation, which included a vast array of slides, captured glances of sharks, dolphins, manta rays, sea horses, octopi, sardines, and clown fish, to name a few. He explained the mating rituals of turtles on Rain Island in Indonesia, the behaviors of the Great White Sharks in South Africa, and techniques for swimming with sharks underwater.

"The pictures were so awesome, so vivid, and lively," said Mohana Anwar, a freshman biology major who attended the event. Doubilet said, "I want people to feel, when they look

at my pictures, a little bit like a fish - to feel that freedom, that weightlessness of the sea."

During a brief Q&A session, Peter Brink, who organized the event asked, "In all the places you've been what would you say is the greatest threat to coral reefs?" Doubilet replied, "Fishing... Coral Reefs are in the most trouble in Indonesia, and in the long-term view, global warming will have the biggest effect."

Photography can be applied to anything, according to Doubilet. Because a photo captures things the human eye cannot see, it can be used as a means of studying the world, one picture at a time.

"Photography is a way of exploring your interests," Doubilet said. "Photography alone is not a future. What do I want to do with my life? What do I want to learn? I wanted to study the ocean, and photography is a way to look at the ocean."



Top Right: One of Doubilet's photos, as presented in his lecture.

Right: Peter Brink, David Doubilet, Lucille Betti-Nash, Stephen Nash

Courtesy of David Doubilet

Katy O'Dette / Statesman

SB CARES

By SARAH KANTHARIA
Contributing Writer

The annual Stony Brook Cares fundraising campaign, jointly sponsored by State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA) and United Way, runs from September 5 through October 31, 2006. Chaired this year by Dr. Martin Lawrence, Dean of the Graduate School, the campaign encourages employees of the University to donate money to their "neighbors, fellow citizens and humanity in need."

According to Lawrence, Stony Brook University has been participating in this annual fundraiser for "many, many years" with an impressive record. For the past

ten years, Stony Brook Cares was solely responsible for raising half of Long Island's annual SEFA campaign. Last year the campaign raised close to \$240,000 in contributions with about ten percent participation.

Lawrence exclaimed in this year's letter to University employees, "I [am asking] you for your money!" with the hope of encouraging even more people to donate. Ever eager for challenge, Dr Lawrence is pushing for at least \$250,000 in expected donations for 2006.

Charitable individuals can

Continued on page 3

CBS EXEC JOINS FACULTY

By JESSE COZZETTI
Contributing Writer

"Passion is one of the things you will need to get into this field," said former senior CBS news executive Marcy McGinnis at the "My Life as a Famous Journalist" event on September 27th. McGinnis is a new staff member at the Stony Brook School of journalism. She has given a detailed account of her life and work experiences, and advice for future journalists. McGinnis will build the broadcast journalism course in the new journalism school and hopes to be an important contributor. With staff like McGinnis, Stony Brook

University hopes to become one of the most competitive journalism schools in the nation.

McGinnis started at CBS as a secretary, while in college. In 1971, at 21 years of age, she covered her first CBS news story: the launch of Apollo 14 at the Kennedy Space Center. She continued to describe some of her experiences in journalism, from the election of a new pope at Saint Peter's Square to the Berlin Wall coming down with Gorbachev.

"I went for, I picked, every job opening. I didn't wait for anyone to promote me," said McGinnis of her 35 years at CBS.

She moved steadily up the corporate ladder to eventually build the backbone of CBS's news gathering operation in London and Europe as Bureau Chief. It was there that she covered the death of Princess Diana in 1997.

One of the hardest stories McGinnis had to cover was the September 11th terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in 2001. Coworkers at CBS had family and friends that were killed that day, and McGinnis called it "very personal." McGinnis's last big story was her coverage of Hurricane Katrina.

Continued on page 3

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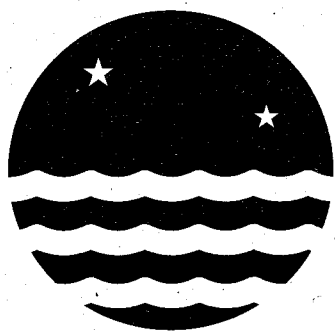
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Former Network Executive to Teach

Continued from page 1

After the Dan Rather scandal, the newly elected president of CBS opted for a new deputy, ending McGinnis' career with the network. "It's just the way the ball bounces," said McGinnis. "If it hadn't happened, I wouldn't be here."

Now at Stony Brook, McGinnis will be leading journalism students at a practical and moral level. "What you are writing and what you are producing in television is what people will believe," said McGinnis. "There is so much out

there and you picked a job career that's exciting, fun and interesting."

After her story, McGinnis opened the floor to the students. Questions ranged from how a journalist can attain a normal family life to questions regarding her stance on the Iraqi war. Before she left, McGinnis said, "Try to be the best at whatever you do, to be humble and understand there are people ahead of you and behind you; never loose sight of that." This was the first of the "My Life As..." series, which plans on bringing top journalists to SBU for lectures.

INSIDE SBUMC

Following recent scandals and major investigations at Stony Brook University Medical Center, a Statesman writer was invited for a tour of the entire hospital. This article is her account of the Center's recent advances, daily goings-on, and general facts she learned.

By LYNN HSIEH
Contributing Writer

I met Lauren Sheprow, the Director of Media Relations, and Stephen Roggemann, the Assistant Director of Nursing at the fifth floor of the hospital lobby. We were just on time as the busy elevator door opened. A stream of doctors, nurses, patients and visitors left as another group went in. So, in a crowded elevator, my hospital tour began.

Our first stop was on the South Side of the Nineteenth Floor where many of the surgical cancer patients reside. This is where the many of the bone marrow transplants occur, and where leukemia, lymphoma and other cancer-related illnesses are treated. With eighteen patients, the department provides care in general adult hematology and chemotherapy, and provides nutritionists, psychiatrists and religious counsel for the comfort of patients. Near the end of the hallway, the more serious patients reside in an isolated area with lists on every window and door detailing careful directions for visi-

tors, such as the necessity of gloves and masks to prevent any chance of infection from outside sources.

Mr. Roggemann also showed us a new program called the Pyxis System that the hospital has installed to more efficiently monitor the intake and outtake of prescriptions. This system shortens the prescription process, allowing nurses to directly enter their patients' name to obtain the prescription, which has already been entered by the pharmacy, instead of having to go through a doctor. The Pyxis system also has a fail safe program to prevent abuse. Each transaction is recorded and a limit is set on the quantity of medicine available.

Next, we stopped at the eighteenth floor, north side, where the trauma patients are located. It is an intermediate care system, meaning there is one nurse for every four patients. On the walls were charts indicating the downward trend of hospital-related patient accidents, and other information. On 13 North, on thirty beds in isolation, the seri-

ous neurology cases like seizure and epilepsy patients were found. Stony Brook is the primary source of neurological care Suffolk County. As a tertiary care center, Stony Brook provides care for difficult and complicated cases involving patients referred from neurologists and other specialists from all over New York.

After visiting several other departments, Mr. Roggemann ended the tour with a visit to the pediatrics department. It was an amazing experience looking at the nursery and seeing beautiful and precious babies as they slept. This was a sharp contrast to the babies we saw first - tiny ones that weighed less than a pound, and with very bleak futures.

During the tour, I noticed the word "CARE" posted, which stands for the values that the hospital holds dear (CARE is an acronym for commitment, accountability, respect and excellence). While I had seen only a portion of the hospital, Stony Brook University Medical Center, with 504 beds, is in fact a large institution focused on excellence in patient care.

SB Pushes for \$250 Grand in Charitable Donations

Continued from page 1

choose from an entire booklet of available charities to direct their donations to. All of the major local, national and international charities and organizations are included. The Salvation Army, Greenpeace Fund and Doctors Without Borders and many more are available as options. Everything from humanitarian aid and education to Earth conservation and protection of civil liberties is represented in the list of participating agencies.

The secret to the success of the campaign is encouraging employees to give by payroll deduction. "It's a lot easier to give one, two or ten dollars a paycheck

than it is to gasp every time you write a check to give a lump sum donation," concludes Lawrence. Payroll deduction encourages greater donation and conveniently spreads it over the entire year.

"I believe everyone is charitable," says Lawrence, "giving really just depends on one's ability to donate and the ease of the donation."

This method of facilitating charitable giving from employees also allows the various charities and organizations supported by the campaign to plan their efforts in advance. Charities are thus able to allocate donations to worthy causes with the confidence that enough funds will back their work. "Giving aid to certain

causes, especially in times of great need like the Katrina disaster, is much more efficient if the charities already have money in the bank," notes Lawrence.

With over 14,000 people employed by Stony Brook University, it is difficult to keep promoting continued support. For this reason, almost every academic and staff department has its own captain to keep encouraging participants and newcomers to give as best they can. Between 100 and 150 highly dedicated captains assist yearly in supporting the ever growing Stony Brook Cares Campaign by hosting speaking events and other activities.

"Securing just one dollar per paycheck from an employee

is a significant donation," says Lawrence. Although it doesn't seem like much, a dollar every two weeks can provide 24 meals for one elderly person, sponsor five volunteers to clean a portion of a polluted river bed, or fully immunize two children against infectious diseases.

For those individuals who are able to make larger donations, different levels of recognition can be achieved. The Leadership Club acknowledges employees who give an annual gift of at least \$250. Similarly, the Cornerstone Club distinguishes individuals who make a minimum \$500 contribution. Finally, the Pillars Club recognizes charitable givers who make an annual donation of

\$1000.

Employees of the University are not the only people invited to make contributions to the Stony Brook Cares fundraising campaign. Students and other non-employees are encouraged to make donations by contacting any of the Stony Brook Cares Captains or through the campaign website: www.stonybrook.edu/stonybrookcares. Students are also welcome to get more deeply involved in the campaign by becoming captains or hosting events to promote greater student contribution. Charitable giving begins with the right first step and the 2006 Stony Brook Cares campaign provides an excellent vehicle.

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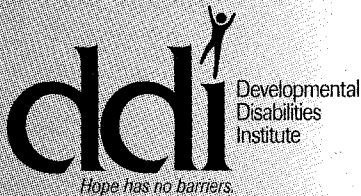
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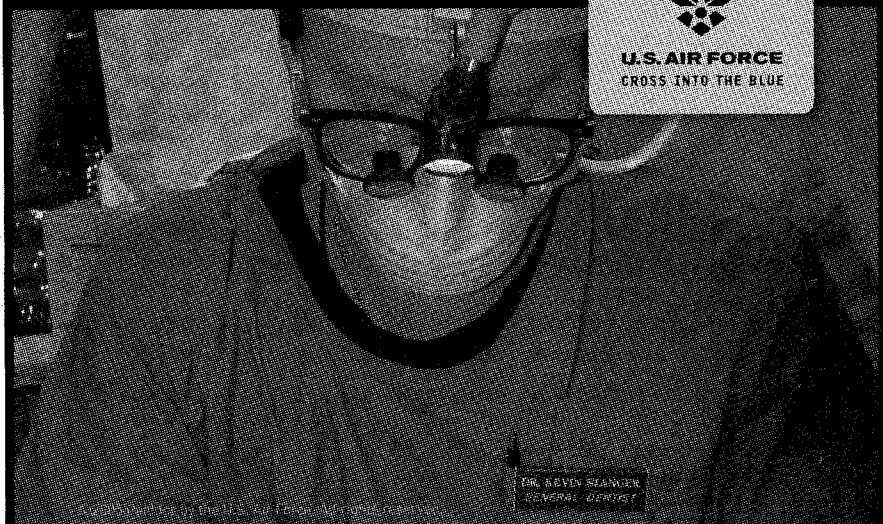


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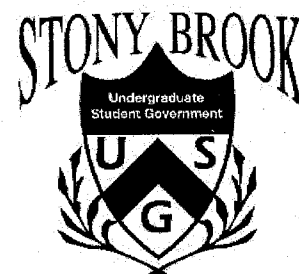
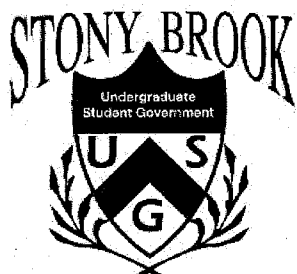


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WHO WE ARE

The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Socolian" in 1957 at Oyster Bay, the original site of Stony Brook University. In 1975 "The Statesman" was incorporated as a not-for-profit, student-run organization. Its editorial board, writing, and photography staff are student volunteers while its business staff are professionals.

The Stony Brook Statesman is published twice-weekly on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the fall and spring semesters.

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News On TV: The Future?

Former CBS News Director, Marcy McGinnis delivered an informative but moving lecture with implications that expand beyond the scope of the lecture. Her experience in news reporting began at the age of 21 when she delivered her first story on Apollo 14. Such an accomplishment makes us wonder, what will we be doing at the age of 21? It makes us question ourselves as a media source, why aren't we on the tube?

Broadcast journalism made its debut in the 1940s. It was popularized by Edward R. Murrow, whose 1954 report on Joseph McCarthy made simultaneous transmission a possibility. People in the West Coast didn't have to wait for their regional newspapers to report the same news.

Ironically, broadcast journalism is still

young. It has yet to develop the reach of newspapers, magazines, or even online blogs. Yet, broadcast journalism is unique in its ability to visualize, and not just verbalize. The most captivating events of our time are still fresh in our memories because television has had them on an almost never-ending loop.

Most newspaper stories, on the other hand, will not stay in our long-term memories. Even the Woodward and Bernstein expose on the Watergate scandal continues to stick as a national phenomenon after numerous documentaries revived the whole story.

Stony Brook attempts to imitate television reporting through SBU-TV. Although we admit SBU-TV isn't comparable to major news stations such as CBS, SBU-TV still has a lot of potential.

Consider, for example, Dr. Sanjay Gupta, a neurologist who writes regularly for Time Magazine. In addition to this, Gupta does science-related reporting for CNN. Both sources use Gupta's expertise to deliver information to an audience that is willing to take it both ways.

Today, broadcast journalism has become a pervasive medium for information. It is now a popular career option. The lure of a handsome salary and opportunity to become popular quicker, attracts reporters to the television side of media. Not everyone has a television, and not everyone prefers the occasionally dramatized or biased reporting that broadcast journalism introduces. Yet, the implications of such a medium are so vast that if other media do not tap into it, it is their loss.

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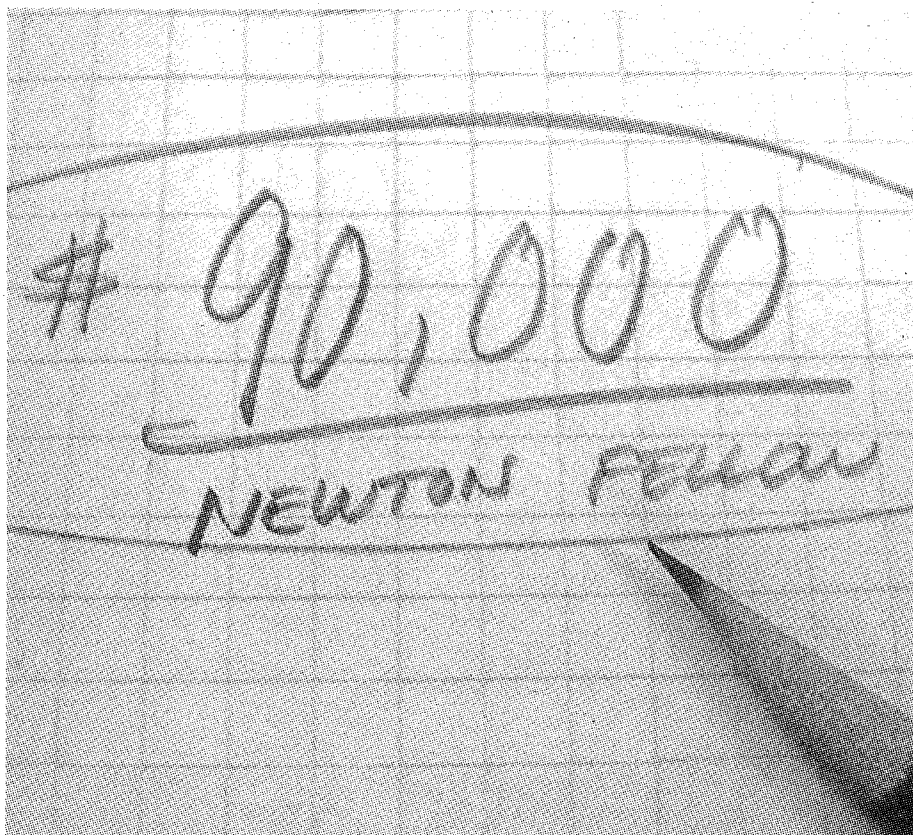
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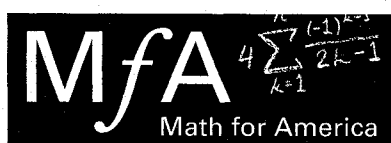


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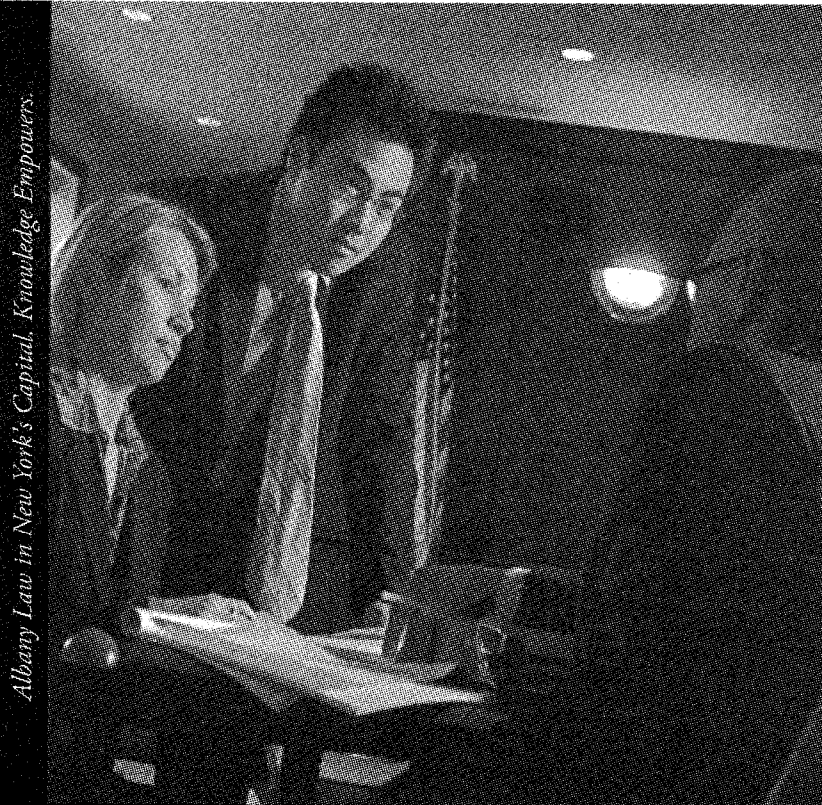
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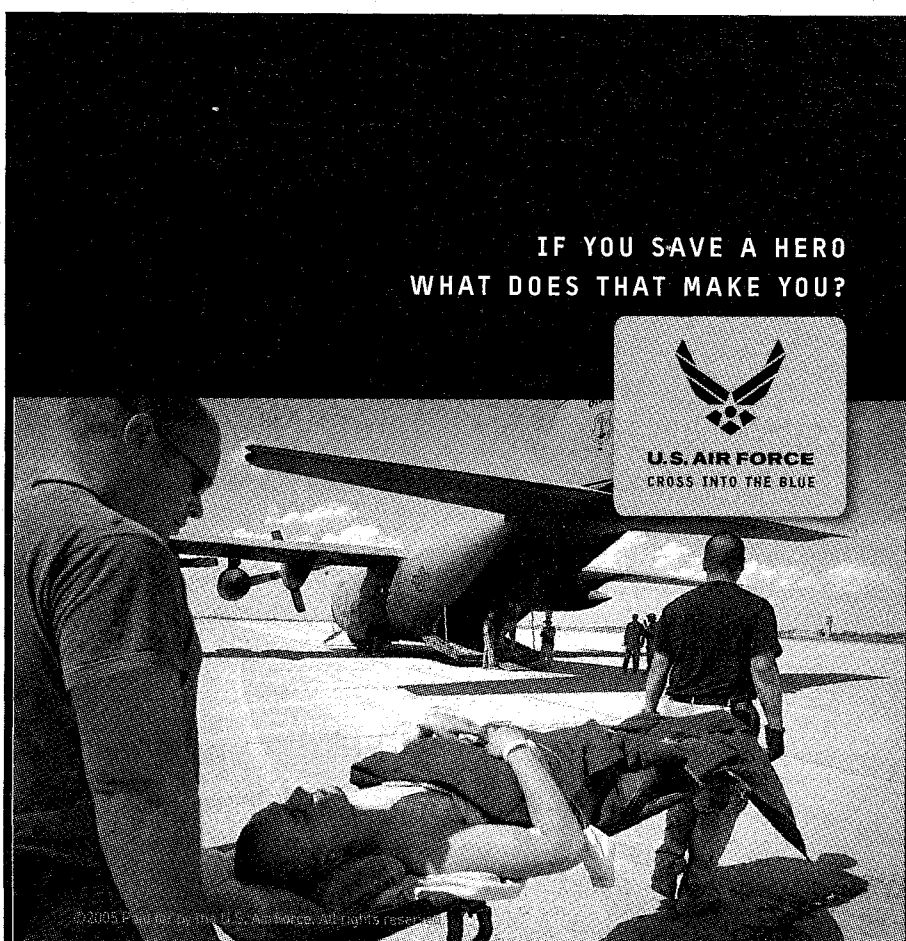
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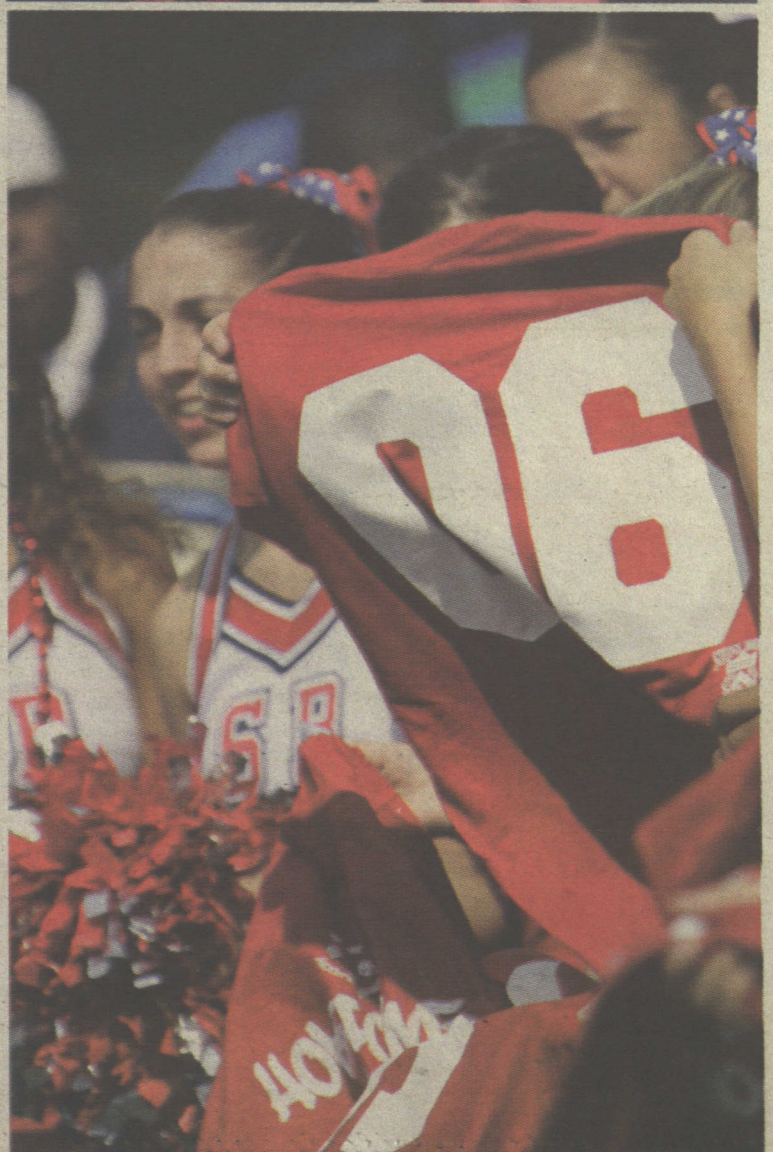
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Wolfstock Homecoming

Pages 10-11, See this year's King and Queen Contest contestants.
Below, Photos of Homecoming Kickoff by Mike Rudzikewycz



Meet the Homecoming Candidates

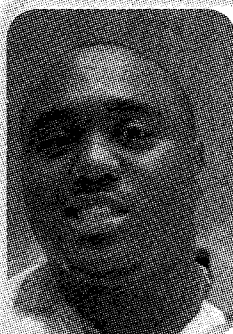
KINGS



Name: Bryan Gershen
Year: Senior
Major: Biology
Age: 22
Hometown: Farmingdale, NY

Why do you deserve to be homecoming king?

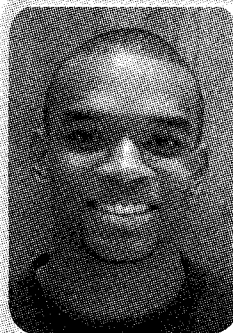
I think I should be Homecoming King because I represent what it means to be one. The Homecoming King should be a student who is actively and intrinsically involved in every aspect of his University. I feel I exemplify that through all of my extracurricular activities and my genuine spirit for the Stony Brook University campus. For this reason, I feel I should be Homecoming King.



Name: Jeffrey A. Paul
Year: Senior
Major: Biology
Age: 22
Hometown: Uniondale, NY

Why do you deserve to be homecoming king?

Stony Brook is more than just an institution to me. It's home to me. In May 2007, I will be part of the second generation of college graduates in my family to receive a degree from Stony Brook University. Along my years here, I have learned the fine lessons of diversity, enlightenment, and empowerment of others. The opportunity to compete for the honor of Homecoming King is a culmination of my experiences here at Stony Brook University.



Name: Onte Johnson
Year: N/A
Major: Political Science
Age: 23
Hometown: Bridgeport, CT

Why do you deserve to be homecoming king?

I think I should be Homecoming King because of my leadership and involvements to the University. I have only been at this institution for one year, and I already I stand out as a perfect leader. My involvements are LEG President, Senator, USG Junior Class Representative, founder of Business and Law Society, Student Life Advisory Council, Student Conduct Board, and Rugby. My commitments and contributions make me more than confident in why I think I should be King.



Name: Eric Burgie
Year: Senior
Major: Marine Vertebrate Biology
Age: 21
Hometown: Ozone Park, Queens

Why do you deserve to be homecoming king?

I represent the diversity that Stony Brook is all about. I try to represent Stony Brook to the best of my ability in a variety of campus activities and have been opened up to the world as a result of that. I love this school and what it does for so many different kinds of students, and I am determined to help it along as best as I can.



Name: Ali Mehrabian
Year: Senior
Major: Respiratory Care
Age: 20
Hometown: Centereach, NY

Why do you deserve to be homecoming king?

I think I should be Homecoming King because of my leadership and involvements to the University. I have only been at this institution for one year, and I already I stand out as a perfect leader. My involvements are LEG President, Senator, USG Junior Class Representative, founder of Business and Law Society, Student Life Advisory Council, Student Conduct Board, and Rugby. My commitments and contributions make me more than confident in why I think I should be King.

Meet the Homecoming Candidates

QUEENS



Name: Antoinette Otoo
Year: Senior
Major: Sociology
Age: 22
Hometown: Bronx, NY

Why do you deserve to be homecoming queen?

As diverse as Stony Brook is, I couldn't possibly represent every aspect of the University's diversity, which contributes to its beauty and enviable national status. However, in the two and a half years since I have been in Stony Brook University, I have pressed through academic vicissitudes to enjoy much of what our University has to offer its students. This involves participation in campus events, as well as interactions with students, faculty, and staff through the Gospel Choir, and NSCS Honor Society, RA for Campus Residents, and Teaching Assistant, to name a few. With my aspiration to explore and celebrate more of Stony Brook University, I believe it is only expedient that I am honoured as SBU's Homecoming Queen of 2006.



Name: Anna Verde
Year: Senior
Major: Italian Literature / Pre-Med
Age: 21
Hometown: Casteldaccia and Valley Stream, NY

Why do you deserve to be homecoming queen?

I would like to be Homecoming Queen because Stony Brook gave me so many great qualities: leadership, time management, loyalty, and respect. Stony Brook has taught me to never stop learning. After being involved in many ways on campus, I can honestly say that Stony Brook has become my second home. Stony Brook has helped me become who I am today.



Name: Danielle Filler
Year: Senior
Major: Biology
Age: 20
Hometown: Bethpage, NY

Why do you deserve to be homecoming queen?

I would be honoured to be the 2006 Homecoming Queen. I feel that I would be a great representative for the University because I have taken advantage of all that it has to offer. I always strive to do my best and hope to give back to the campus community as much as it has given to me.



Name: Danielle Gell
Year: Senior
Major: Philosophy
Age: 20
Hometown: Gainesville, NY

Why do you deserve to be homecoming queen?

I should be Homecoming Queen because every day I demonstrate Stony Brook's ideals and what this University represents. Stony Brook is known for how this institution contributes to bettering the world for others. I have dedicated my time at Stony Brook to service for the community. I have organized and assisted in numerous service projects from Blood Drives to Dance-Offs for Diabetes Research. These contributions, in addition to my academic commitment and leadership on campus, are reasons why I should be Homecoming Queen.



Name: Marianna Karavolias
Major: Biochemistry, Child and Family Studies Minor
Age: 21
Year: Senior
Hometown: Lindenhurst, NY

Why do you deserve to be homecoming queen?

We can all agree that Stony Brook's Homecoming Queen should be a student who exudes campus pride and school spirit. There are lots of ways to go about this task. Which way is the best and most deserving of the prestigious title of Homecoming Queen 2006? I believe that the best way to show enthusiasm for your school is by getting involved in activities that truly interest you. If you like Karate, join the Karate club. If you advocate governmental reform, get involved with NYPIRG. I have integrated my leadership skills and love for community service into the organizations I am involved with. I am a member of the Commuter Assistant Program, and Women in Science and Engineering Program. I am a volunteer for the Stony Brook University Hospital Pediatric Unit. I was also President of Sigma Beta Honor Society, and Alpha Tau Freshman Honor Society. What I am alluding to is that as long as you show commitment and dedication to what you love, you are a living testament of Stony Brook pride, which is exactly what a Homecoming Queen is intended to be.

Audra Wows Crowd



Courtesy of Staller Center

By REBECCA NEWMAN
Staff Writer

The four Tony Award winning singer/actress Audra McDonald certainly is a busy bee. Just four days after the release of her latest album *Build a Bridge*, Audra has been touring the country. She greeted the Stony Brook audience with a big smile, an endearing Long Island accent, and a gracious anecdote about being happy to be in a part of America where people actually know who she is. After being in her company for an hour and a half not knowing who she was or at least not remembering her seemed impossible.

In her Staller debut on Saturday, September 30th Audra performed a wide vocal repertoire accompanied by pianist Ted Sperling, guitarist Kevin Kuhn, bassist (and husband) Peter Donovan, and percussionist Gene Lewin. This jazz quartet really enhanced the performance and showed great range by playing show tunes, folksongs, and even lullabies as well as jazz pieces. Furthermore, Audra's reoccurring interaction with her band added a touch of intimacy to the performance, and the audience could really sense the connection between Audra's singing and the instruments.

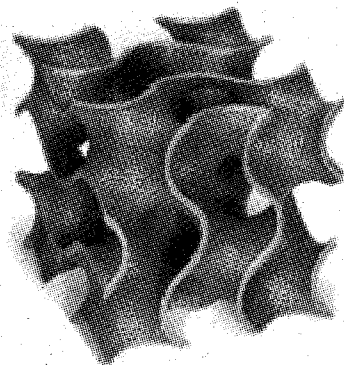
Besides the quality of the band, there were many other elements that made this concert worth skipping a Saturday night party. From the second she stepped on stage, Ms. McDonald had a gorgeous glow and an encouragingly inviting smile. Although her claim to fame is Broadway, she is not your typical ingénue (even though she can sing most of them out of the water). She even admitted after her

first song "When Lola Sings" that she has "wide hips"; she also has big, beautiful curls and a wide bright face that lights up with personality. In addition to her warmth with the audience, Audra is one of the funniest Broadway singers out there. She constantly peppered her act with jokes from the road, the stage, her family, and her childhood. She would even stop during songs to add statements here and there, adding a level of unexpected but welcomed humor. By the end of Audra's show, it was easy to feel like you had gotten lucky made friends with one of the best singers in the world.

Audra's songs ranged from Broadway hits such as "I Could Have Danced all Night" (in which she sweetly invited the audience to sing along) and "Stars and the Moon" (in which she sweetly uninvited the audience to sing along) to jazz songs like "When Lola Sings" and "I Double Dare You". The best moments however, were her more personal picks like "It's Not Easy Being Green", which seemed to have undertones of race and identity, and her unplugged version of "Edelweiss". Her voice is absolutely flawless but still original and although she didn't dance, she moved to the music with her hand gestures and vivid facial expressions.

This concert was impossible not to enjoy. There were moments of laughter, tears, excitement, and joy between the performers and the audience. The song selection was nicely personalized and varied to appeal to a broad group. And Audra's voice was so good that by the end of the concert, you'd have wanted to be a singer too. If the best art is the art that inspires other, Audra certainly accomplished that here at Stony Brook.

Art



Talk

A Votive Offering

By THOMAS BROOKS
Contributing Writer

There is something reassuringly human about the pair of statuettes that stare dumbly from the projection screen during Professor Jennifer Wingate's ARH 101 lecture. At first I don't know whether to laugh out loud or to rudely dismiss these apparently crude and comical figures (This is the best you can do when your neighbors, the Old Kingdom Egyptians, were creating sculpture and pyramids of incredible weight and moment?). And yet there is something engaging about these objects that the Great Pyramids never offered. You experience an emotional resonance, a sense of ease emerging from a feeling of connection and familiarity with the artist that created these sculptures.

These statuettes are the product of the inhabitants of what historians term "the cradle of civilization", those city-states that began to emerge between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers in Mesopotamia in the late fourth millennium BCE. They were hand-carved from smooth buttery-colored gypsum and inlaid with shell and black stone. Cylindrical in shape, standing bolt-upright and perhaps 30-inches tall, the figures are recognizably male and female, but offer insufficient detail to enable the viewer to state with confidence that they represent specific persons. Sufficient detail is provided to indicate clothing but it is obvious that these are not great works of art.

Hands clasped at their breasts, heads tilted slightly upward, the figures are frozen in a prayerful attitude. It's the eyes that grasp and hold your attention—unnaturally large and blankly staring, made of a dark-colored stone different from the rest of the figure; they seem to emit invisible laser beams aimed at the skies. It's the eyes that give you the first hint of the purpose

of these objects, for they are Sumerian votive figures and a reminder of a time in history when art was perceived as spiritually, even physically, instrumental, the potential source of reality-altering energy. The statuettes are not meant to accurately mirror reality or to serve as objects of beauty but instead serve as conduits of spiritual power. They are meant to span that great chasm that separates mankind from god.

Dozens of these sculptures, ranging in size from 12 to 30-inches tall, were found buried beneath the floor of an ancient temple in what is now modern-day Iraq. The men wear belts, fringed skirts, beards and shoulder length hair; the women, long robes with the right shoulder bare. Some figures bear inscriptions with the name of the donor, the god to which they are dedicated or even specific prayer intentions, strongly evocative of Roman Catholic votive offerings and Buddhist votive paintings. I get great pleasure out of the thought of a Sumerian factory producing hundreds of these anonymous votive objects, each waiting to be awakened by the primal religious impulse to approach the divine.

Votive objects serve two purposes: to thank the almighty for a favor granted, or to implore supernatural aid. The statuettes were left in the temples and ziggurats of the Mesopotamians as an expression of an individual's relationship to the gods and may be one of the earliest expressions of man's desire to understand himself in relation to the world, and then to give that understanding an artistic manifestation.

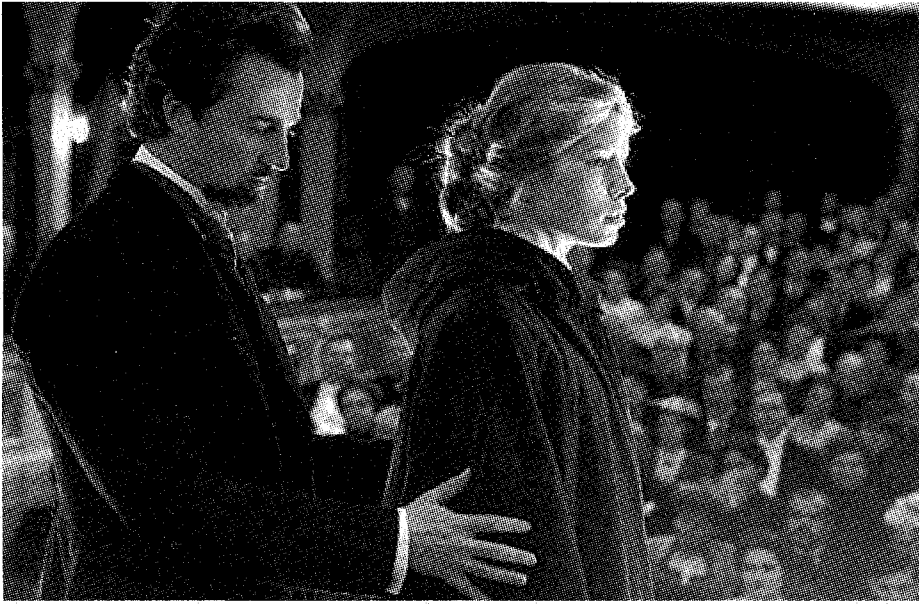
It's comforting to know that we are not so far separated from these ancient Mesopotamians. Each of us strives to make sense of things by framing explanations that sort out our relationship to the world around us. The art objects we choose to surround ourselves with can serve an important role in this quest.

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REEL DEAL

The Illusionist



Courtesy of amazon.com

By ELIZABETH SCISCI
Staff Writer

There is no way to easily summarize the plot of *The Illusionist* or even to place it into a particular genre. Perhaps that is just what the movie industry really needs to stray away from the monotonous repetition of romantic comedies and low-budget horror flicks. It is obvious that most films today are eagerly striving to earn the attention of the Academy. Neil Burger has written and directed a masterpiece, a multifaceted gem of a story based on the human desire to suspend disbelief.

The screen play is based on a short story written by Steven Milhauser. In the first hour of the movie, it does not seem far-fetched that the simplicity of the opening scenes could have originated from a few short pages of text. There is a common love story, thwarted by the fact that our main character's young love is a duchess. There is a reunion of the pair after many years, and a jealous crowned prince of Vienna who plans to marry the aforementioned noble lady and use her in his ploy to overthrow his father's rule and expand his empire.

There was an air of disappointment in the theater as everyone seemed to settle in for a cliché battle of the classes, a skillful and compassionate peasant competing for a woman's affections with an arrogant, violent dictator. Though the plot advantage of having a protagonist who is a skilled magician, whose skill transcends illusion and sneaks into the realm of the supernatural, takes its effect and the story is salvaged and becomes wonderfully complicated. It spins off into a murder mystery, a spiteful battle of wills between the crown prince and our hero, an underdog story as Vienna's people stand by a magician who has given them hope for life after death, the great escape of a fugitive, and an ending that twists and shocks.

There is something in this movie for everyone. To the delight of period film lovers, it takes place at the start of the nineteenth century, and of course to satisfy the hopeless romantic, there is a passionate, time-withstanding love. There is murder and magic, and if for nothing else, surely any viewer can find solace in an all-star cast.

Edward Norton is faultless as the stern, nearly unapproachable and confident talent who is either powerful enough in sorcery or skillful enough in trickery to enter into a battle with Vienna's dangerous royal court. Paul Giamatti of *Sideways*, an award winning movie produced by the same team as *The Illusionist*, is the perfect plot facilitator, his character, an aspiring chief of police and mayor of Vienna, hovers between audience affection and hatred.

Giamatti demonstrates the fine-tuned qualities of an accomplished actor in subtle but very effective body language and facial expression. And a surprising leading lady who rises to the occasion is Jessica Biel as Sophie von Teschen, whose elegance and composure in what could be called her second ever "grown-up" role after starring alongside veteran actress Susan Sarandon in *Elizabethtown*, was as captivating as any magic act.

Of course, many aspects of the movie prompt a skeptical twenty-first century audience to ignore their overpowering inclination to rationalize all things. However, in under a two hour runtime, this film could prompt anyone to leave logic at the theater door and partake in the mystery of illusionism, inspiring and renewing that childlike awe everyone has felt in the presence of magic. While still going fairly strong at the box office, *The Illusionist* has been open since mid-August, so catch it quickly before it too disappears.

The Black Dahlia



Courtesy of amazon.com

By AMANDA SHAPIRO
Contributing Writer

When I left the theater I felt lied to. *The Black Dahlia* was not a murder mystery. This movie was simply worthless. None of the elements came together to create a decent film, despite De Palma as the director and despite the cast chosen. Those who deserve some good credit for the very few good moments are the art director and cinematographer. The one most responsible for its heavy faults is the screenwriter.

There are two ways to critique the cast: One- They tried too hard portraying their characters. Josh Hartnett and Scarlett Johansson as Bucky and Kay came off insincere, inexperienced, uncomfortable, and immature. Aaron Eckhart as Lee was borderline cartoonist in over expressing himself. Though known for ability to play gender-bending roles, Madeleine was too strange even for Hilary Swank. 2- Knowing what the actors have accomplished in the past, the fault lies in the script. These characters were not well created and thus impossible to bring to life. It wasn't just who they were but what they said. Aside from the era's vernacular, what they convey about themselves through the subtext (and in Bucky's voiceover narrations) are low class children pretending to be adults.

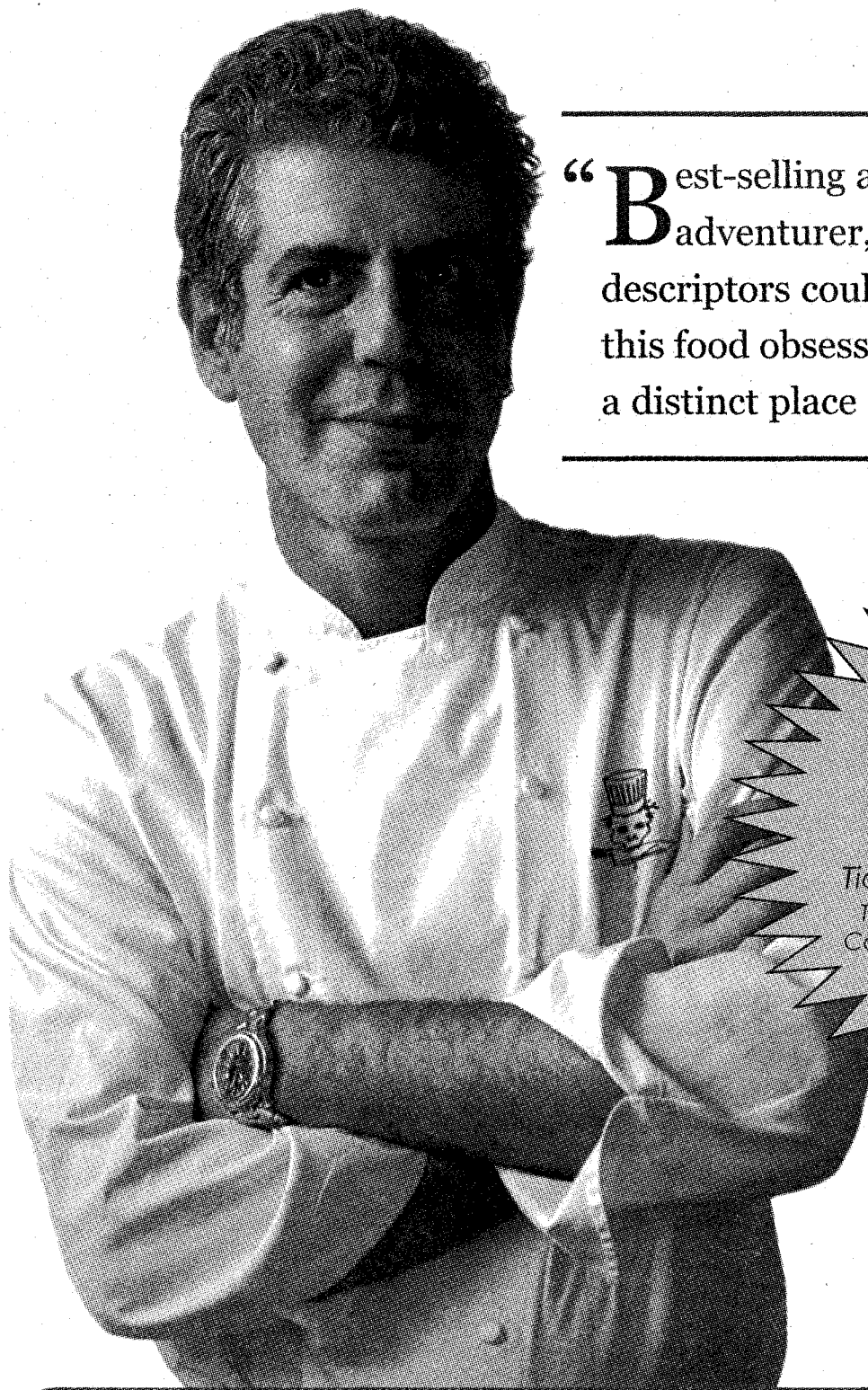
The structure of the plot is poor from the beginning. Within the first five minutes is a long flashback to explain why Lee and Bucky are going to box each other. Instead of beginning with the discovery of the Black Dahlia's mutilated body, there is a half hour introduction to Lee, Lee's girlfriend Kay, and Bucky's triangular relationship. By the middle of the film it is beyond obvious this triangle (and then Bucky's relationship with Madeleine) is more important than the Black Dahlia murder.

I have not read the book that this movie is based upon so I can't critique it as an adaptation but it could have been better. In reality, there have been many hypotheses as to who killed the Black Dahlia but it remains an unsolved crime. The ending was supposed to reflect one of these but a hyperactive and depressed woman rushed through the explanation. *The Black Dahlia* is more of a commercial vehicle than modern noir. It will just be one more credit for Scarlett Johansson's resume, proof that Josh Hartnett will be forever young, another B movie for Aaron Eckhart, and further pigeon-holing Hilary Swank's roles.

There was so much wrong with this movie it may be the reason why so much money was spent advertising it. How *The Black Dahlia* was good enough for the Venice Film Festival baffles me.

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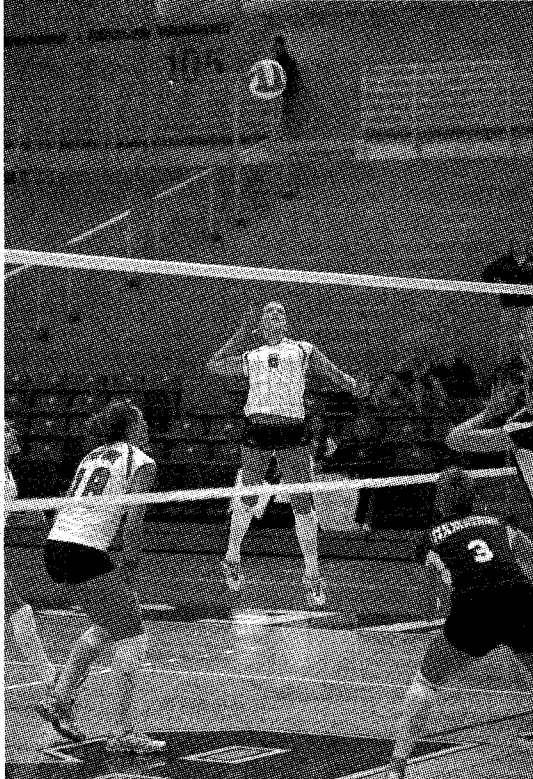
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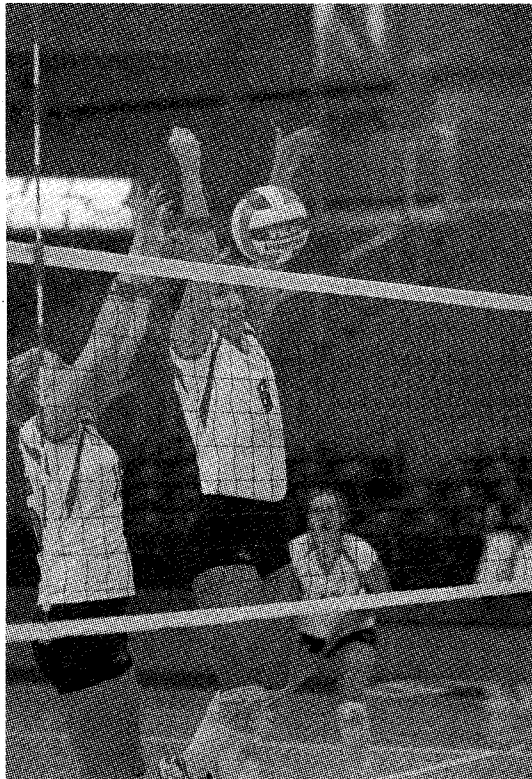
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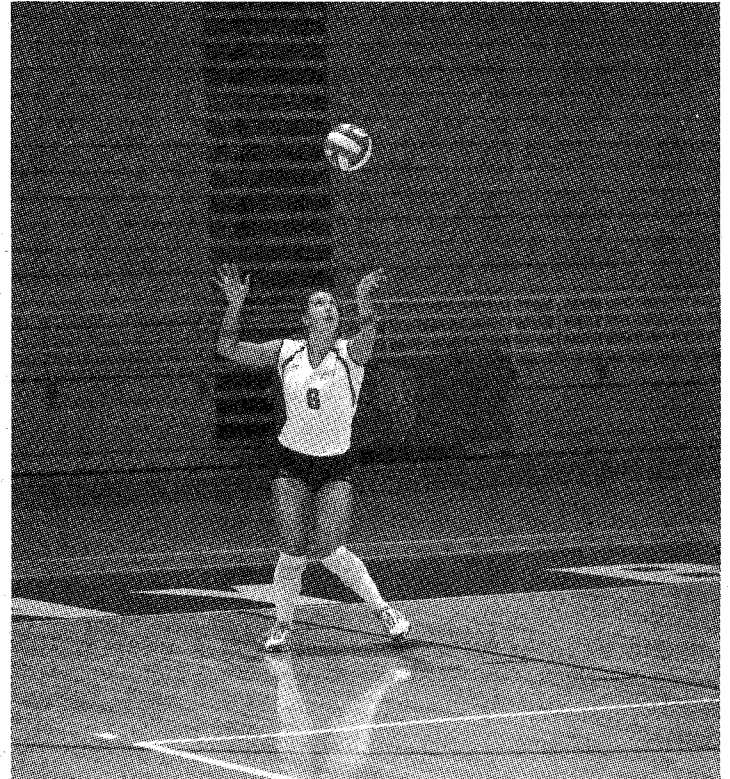
Volleyball Opens Conference Play With a Win



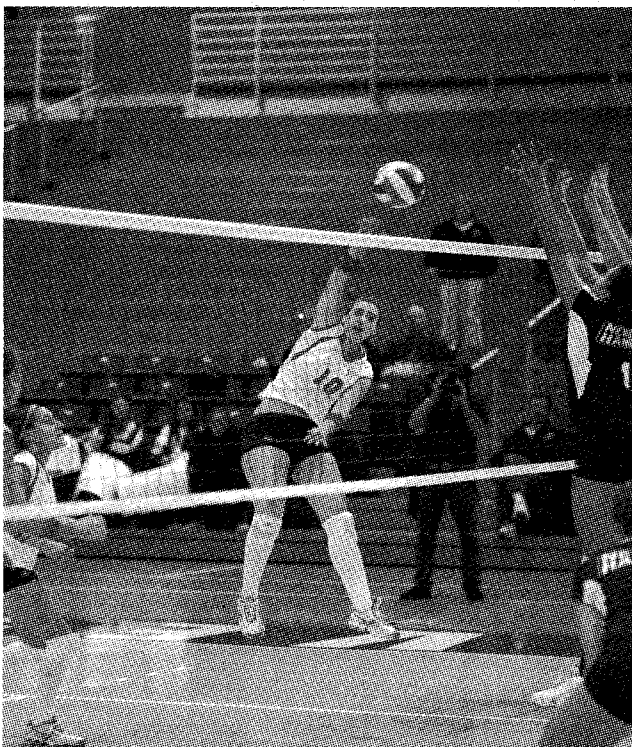
Megan Roehl looks on as Amy Oleksiej makes a drive.



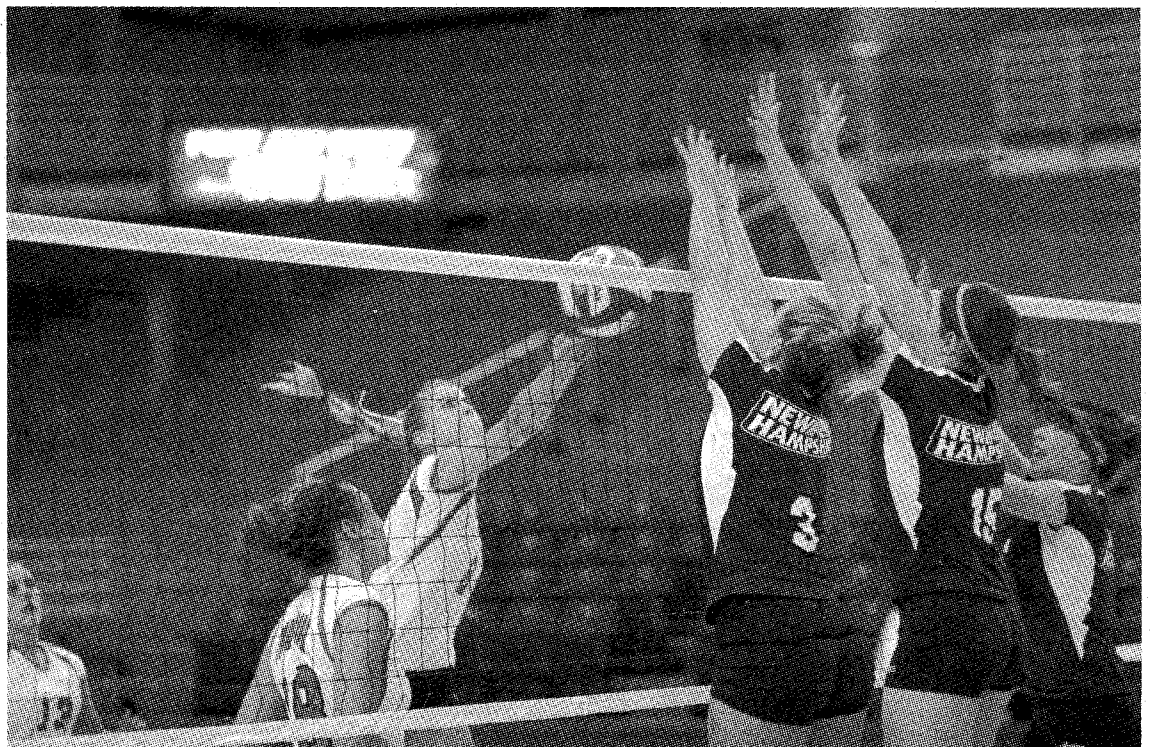
Amy Oleksiej blocks the net.



Amy Oleksiej serves it up for the Seawolves.



Gulce Nazli Dikecligil continues her domination.



Morgan Sweany tips over New Hampshire's defense

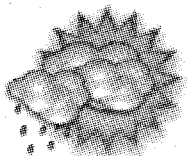
Photos by Adhip Karmaker/Statesman

WEATHER

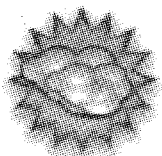
For more SBU student weather forecasts, visit <http://atmos.msrc.sunysb.edu/npages/sbmets.html>

Student Forecast: Oct. 5 - Oct. 6 By Britta Merwin

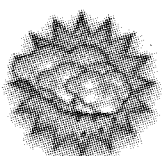
THE WEEKEND



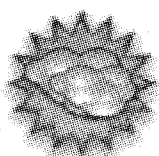
Thursday:
High 67/Low 58
Cloudy with Rain
Heaviest in the AM



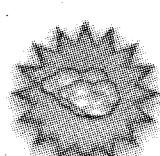
Friday:
High 62/Low 45
A Cooler Day, Partly
Cloudy



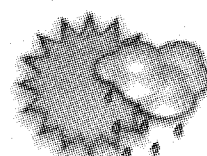
Saturday:
High 61/Low 47
Slight Chance of Rain



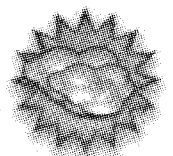
Sunday:
High 68/Low 49
An Average Fall Day



Monday:
High 70/Low 50
Beautiful Day!



Tuesday:
High 69/Low 49
Next Chance for Rain



Wednesday:
High 63/Low 45
Cool but Pleasant

Behind the Numbers:

The end of the week will whip by with a cold front pushing through very early on Thursday morning. There will be some rain, the heaviest concentrations occurring in the morning. By Thursday night the skies will be left mostly cloudy. With the passing of this cold front, a polar high-pressure system sets up to our northwest bringing some breezy conditions. As the weekend arrives temperatures will be cool around the mid 60's with a slight chance of rain on Saturday from a low-pressure system trying to form off the coast to our south. After a beautiful day on Sunday the week will begin on a pleasant note but a cooling trend starts on Tuesday afternoon with the on set of the next system.



SPORTS

Women's Soccer Goes 1-1 in Conference Play

By HANG YU
Staff Writer

In its excitement to kick off the American East Conference, the Stony Brook women's soccer team (5-4-1, 0-0-1 America East) found themselves visiting a national ranked opponent, No. 12 Boston University (7-2-1, 1-0-0 AE). The Seawolves were able to hold off the Terriers for the most part of game, until Boston's Lauren Erwin scored the game's lone goal in the 66th minute to lift the home side to a victory.

The Seawolves were able to force a 0-0 draw in the first half despite having fewer shots on goal. The Terriers created a couple dangerous threats, but goal keeper Marisa Viola (Mattituck, NY) made terrific saves to keep them off the scoreboard. The Seawolves had a good game plan by putting numbers in the back while seeking counter attack opportunities. However, sometimes you just cannot give up too many possessions.

The Terriers saw their attacking pressure pay off in the 66th minute off a right corner kick blasted by McClearn toward the far post. Marissa Nucci (Hebron, CN) was there to deflect the ball away, but Erwin of the Terriers collected the rebound and put the ball in the lower right corner of the net. Overall the Seawolves played a good game, but just cannot get its offense going as it was out shot by 3-22.

The Seawolves hoped their middle fielders and the offense could pick up

their intensity in the conference home opener against Binghamton the following Thursday night at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium and were rewarded with a 1-0 win. Kate Collins' game winning goal helped the Stony Brook women's soccer team defeat its in-state rival Binghamton in the American East Conference home opener.

With the win, the Seawolves improve to 6-4-1 overall and 1-1-0 in conferences games, while the Bearcats' record fall to 3-6-2, 0-2-2 respectively. Early in the first half, Brooke Barbuto took control of the ball in the midfield, dribbling past three Bearcat players. Barbuto made a quick pass to Kristin Mishrell, who was running down the left side for the wing play.

Mishrell crossed the ball from deep in the left corner to Kate Collins whose left foot first-time volley screamed past the reach of the Bearcats' goalkeeper and found the right side of the net. With that play, the Seawolves took the early lead 1-0. The Seawolves played good possession soccer throughout the game, out shooting the Bearcats 17-11.

Marisa Viola performed well as a keeper, earning her 4th clean sheet of the season as she made eight stops in the win for the Seawolves. Kristie Bowers, the Bearcats counterpart made six stops for the visitors. For the next game, the Seawolves will travel to Baltimore to play against UMBC on Sunday afternoon, October 1st at 1:00pm.



Seawolves put on a tough offense.

Adhip Karmaker/Statesman

Stony Brook Seawolves Fall to UMass

By WILL LAHTI
Staff Writer

On Saturday, the Stony Brook Seawolves were defeated by the UMass Minutemen, 48-7. The Minutemen controlled the game from the start, had a 28-0 lead by the end of one quarter, and a 42-0 lead at halftime. They proceeded to pull many of their starters from the game at the start of the 2nd half.

Stony Brook made a couple of significant errors which resulted in points for UMass, including a fumbled kickoff return by J.J. Cox, which was brought back for a touchdown.

Stony Brook's only score came when Chevar Rankins forced a fumble by UMass receiver Tony Nelson on the Minutemen 10-yard line. Leonard Wright III picked up the ball and carried it in for the score. With the loss, Stony Brook drops to 0-4. UMass improved to 3-1 with the victory. Stony Brook will try to bounce back from two large losses when begin conference play in Monmouth this coming Saturday at 1PM, the final game before homecoming.

Seawolves Football Takes First Win of Season

By WILL LAHTI
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook Seawolves wrapped up their road trip with a win over the Monmouth Hawks by a score of 36-17 to get their first win of the season, and to deal Monmouth their first loss of the year. The game marked the beginning of conference play for each team. This was also the first win under new head coach, Chuck Priore. Stony Brook led early on, following a bungled punting play by Monmouth, which gave Stony Brook the ball deep in Hawk territory, which was quickly turned into a touchdown following a Josh Dudash pass.

The punt gone wrong turned out to be the first of many mistakes for Monmouth. They had four passes intercepted, and lost two fumbles. The first interception was turned into a touchdown the very next play, a play in which Dudash handed the ball off to Steve Austin, who then threw the ball 45 yards to Dwayne Eley.

Stony Brook went into halftime with a 29-0 lead, and was able to hold off Monmouth to seal the victory. The Seawolves go to 1-4 (1-0 in conference play), and the Hawks go to 4-1 (0-1 in conference play). Stony Brook's next game is at LaValle Stadium on Saturday, October 7, at 2PM against Albany, in the homecoming game.