

# the stony brook Statesman

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## Election Survey for Truth *Stony Brook's Own Fights Fire with Fire*

By STEVEN GIALLI  
Statesman Contributor

Fearing the worst during the Republican primaries (a John McCain nomination), George W. Bush commissioned a "push poll" – a telephone survey designed to sway voters instead of gauging their interests. As documented by Al Franken's "Lies, and the Lying Liars who Tell Them: A Fair and Balanced Look at the Right," the survey included questions on how a voter might respond to McCain having fathered illegitimate Vietnamese children – ostensibly, while a prisoner of war, having been captured serving America in combat.

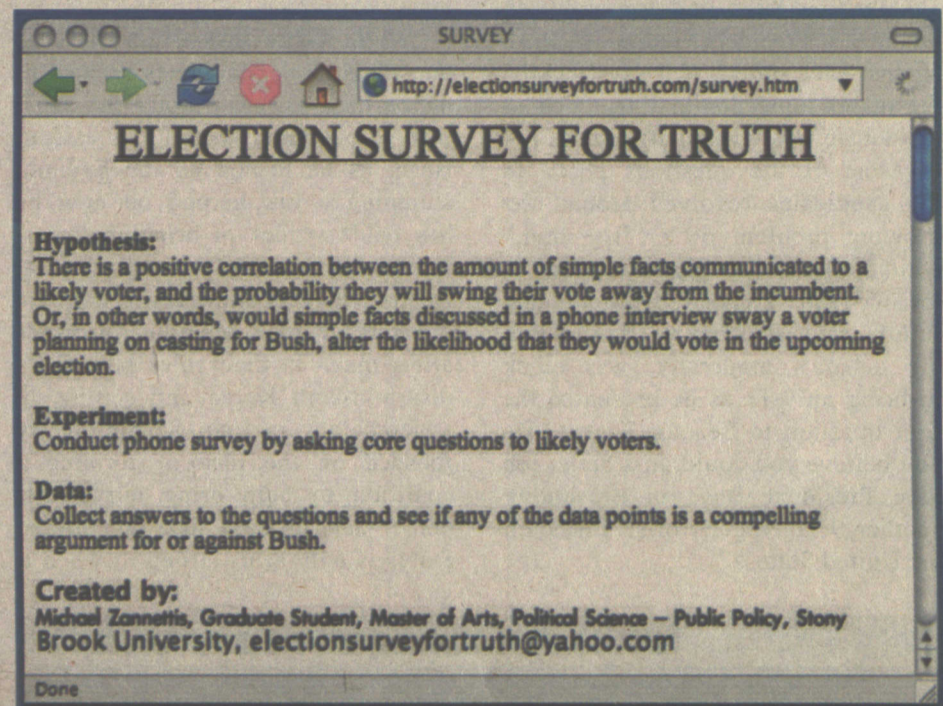
Having read this, Michael Zannettis, a Stony Brook graduate student, Political Science – Public Policy, was inspired to create his own telephone survey, entitled "Election Survey for Truth" ([www.electionsurveyfortruth.com](http://www.electionsurveyfortruth.com)). The survey consists of twenty questions relating facts in order to sway voters either towards voting for Senator John Kerry, or abstaining from President George W. Bush. The brief survey is posted on the Internet for prospective volunteers to download and use as a basis for which to speak with potential voters in America's battle-

ground state.

"I was especially interested in the problem of how someone from a non-swing state, like New York," Zannettis explained, "could contribute to the Kerry presidential campaign without either physically traveling or contributing monetarily." Zannettis theorizes that individuals who are willing can make a positive contribution to the campaign just by volunteering their time.

It is an interesting exercise in efficiency. How much can you get with how little? The web site itself is very minimalist, possessing no fancy graphics or Flash programs. Its only picture is the home page's American flag. But in the presidential contest, what ESFT lacks in style it makes up for in substance, according to Zannettis. It seems to take the right approach by beginning with five strong pro-Kerry questions (e.g., Did you know John Kerry was awarded three purple hearts for his service in Vietnam?) before shifting to the anti-Bush strategy (e.g., Did you know Bush's tax cuts favor the rich over the poor?). The questions are written purposefully in clear, plain English, borrowing heavily from Bush's talent of simplistically relaying information, Zannettis explained.

"Intrigued I took the journalistic



initiative to try the survey myself," he said. "Having done a google search of phone numbers using the area codes provided, I dialed people in Nevada. While unclear how much of a contribution I made to the campaign, it was a personally enriching experience to speak with so many people about their hopes and fears for the next four years. One elderly couple warned of the rising

costs of Medicare. Bush supporters seemed to rely on more abstract ideals, like staying the course. Regardless of presidential impact, it was worth my time."

As Zannettis himself puts it: "Millions of people died for democracy in America, died for the vote. Do we still deserve democracy if we are no longer willing to fight for it?" He

## From One End of the Country to the Other *Stony Brook's National Student Exchange Program*

By EVAN HSICH  
Statesman Contributor

Imagine lying on a sandy Hawaiian beach, smoothie in hand, calculus textbook lying on your lap. Calculus textbook? Yes. With Stony Brook's National Student Exchange program, students are given the opportunity to pack their bags and head off to study in one of many universities across the country, at Stony Brook's in-state tuition rate.

NSE is a program offered by Stony Brook for full time students to take courses in different places throughout the United States for one or two semesters. "It's basically a domestic study abroad program," said Barbara Fletcher, the NSE coordinator. "You leave Stony Brook to study at another place with another

institution while enjoying the benefits of paying state tuition no matter where you go."

Students accepted into NSE have the opportunity to study in schools throughout the fifty American states, and also Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"The NSE program allows students from all different walks of life to interact with each other," Fletcher said. "Students from Iowa would get a chance to live by a big city or see the beach, while students from New York can go skiing in Colorado."

"I went to Cal State Northridge, which is about 10 minutes outside Los Angeles," writes Suzanne Scibilia, former member of NSE. "I drove my car

across the country to get there, which was an adventure in itself."

Unlike the Study Abroad programs offered by Stony Brook, NSE is not a slot-based system. What this means is if 200 eligible students apply, it is possible for all 200 students to be accepted, Fletcher explained. "It is a non-competitive process," she said. "The competition is getting into the school of your choice, because there are only a certain number of students that some schools would allow."

To qualify for NSE, you must be an undergraduate student who has completed two consecutive, full-time semesters with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better. The application includes personal information, two references and a meeting with

the NSE coordinator. Citizenship or Permanent Residency is required.

Students from other schools can qualify to come to Stony Brook also. "Stony Brook has received students from Alaska, California and even New Jersey," Fletcher said. The requirements may vary from for each school, so contact the NSE coordinator to find out what has to be done.

Information sessions for the NSE program will be offered throughout the semester. An upcoming session will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> at the Students Activity Center, room 308, from 4 p.m. till 5 p.m. You can also find information at [www.stonybrook.edu/nse](http://www.stonybrook.edu/nse) or you can contact Barbara Fletcher at [Barbara.Fletcher@stonybrook.edu](mailto:Barbara.Fletcher@stonybrook.edu).

# Bush and Kerry, Center Stage

By NICK GUARIGLIA  
Statesman Contributor

Debates are a critical component of every presidential campaign. Candidates must keep their poise, have great posture and seem confident in what they believe. Not only that, they must also have clear, consistent and effective answers to the questions asked of them. This year's presidential campaign has been called one of the most important in recent history, and last Thursday's debate lived up to that title.

The first of three presidential debates, Thursday's war of the words took place at the University of Miami, and pitted the democratic candidate Senator John Kerry and the republican incumbent President George W. Bush against each other. Not surprisingly, the major topic dominating much of the debate was foreign affairs.

Most of the questions posed to the candidates revolved around the growing problem of a "free Iraq," while others brought attention to Osama Bin Laden's freedom and future terrorist attacks. Jim Lehrer, the debate's moderator, was quick to bring up 9/11 as he presented the first question to Senator Kerry: "Do you believe you could do a better job than President Bush in preventing another 9/11-type terrorist attack on the United States?"

Almost without hesitation, Kerry took command of the entire debate. After thanking the University of Miami and the moderator, he was quick to say, "Yes, I do." He said it with confidence, held his head high and his back straight, setting the tone for the solid debate to come.

President Bush's rebuttal was strong for the first question: he pointed out that the Taliban is no longer in power and seventy-five percent of Al Qaeda's leaders have been captured, while both are still hiding and running from an ongoing attack by United States soldiers. He then referenced the capture of Sadaam Hussein, and his administration's continued pursuit of those who possess weapons of mass destruction.

While Lehrer asked a variety of questions, both candidates seemed to dance their answers along the same lines throughout the debate. President Bush, as he leaned on the podium, slumping a bit, harped on how he has made strides in bringing terrorists to their knees by capturing Al Qaeda's leaders and freeing Iraq. He did not, however, mention America's allies much in their roles helping to disarm North Korea and setting up a democracy in Iraq. Senator Kerry focused on the idea of forming a coalition to help bring our troops home, and insisted that the United States is only at its strongest when it



Last Thursday night was the first of the three presidential debates between the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates, Bush and Kerry.

has the support of allies.

These few ideas were recycled and thrown around through most of the debate, until a key point in the event in which President Bush, leaning forward, was asked to answer a question, stalled for about eight to 10 seconds, then fumbled the names of Saddam Hussein and Osama Bin Laden in a couple of key points of the debate. He continued on points he had

already made at the beginning of the debate, while Kerry stood his ground, never hesitating to answer a question or rebut Bush. He also made use of his war record in every appropriate point.

The debate was almost overwhelmingly won by Kerry, as many post-debate polls indicate. The next debate will be broadcasted on Friday, Oct. 8.

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**WEBSITE: [www.sbstatesman.com](http://www.sbstatesman.com)**

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## Commentary

# The Sad State of Debating

By JAMES BOUKLAS  
Statesman Editor

Bush and Kerry: two skilled debaters of their time. Sadly, it seems that their time has passed, as both seem very tired behind their respective podiums. Kerry, with his solemn and long face, told the American people of some of the President's blunders, while Bush, tired and crabby, was perpetually constipated, referring to Kerry's "flip-flopping." There was no real talk of ideology or practical differences between the two. What the American people gained from the first debate was a plethora of reasons not to trust either candidate.

Kerry hammered home the message of a stronger America through alliances and goodwill, and that's the only point he hammered home - again and again. Of course, every time he mentioned a failure of the current administration, his opponent, President George W. Bush, turned red and produced a harried, if somewhat defiant, look. "I'm getting too old for this crap," the President seemed to write on his notepad whenever his challenger spoke. He continually received 30 second rebuttals, which he used to simply state that America is doing just fine and Kerry is a no good flip-flopper. "Who can trust a flip-flopper?" was Bush's message, prompting Kerry to defend himself, rather than simply countering with, "Well, who can trust a LIAR?"

Both men listened to the questions directed at them, spoke for ten seconds or so about the topic, and then promptly took lines out of their stump speeches to fill the remainder of the time. "I am going to hunt and kill the terrorists, wherever they are," Kerry said, more than once. I'm sure this really relieved the American people, many of whom were not sure that

Kerry was against terrorists. "Whew, that's a relief." I can picture a swing voter in Ohio saying, "Because I kind of thought he was buddies with Osama." Tell us something of interest, candidates, or don't bother debating. It's becoming monotonous, especially with the media's rush to analyze every phrase right after it's spoken, as if there were some great puzzle to unravel. Maybe some people enjoy this game, but I begin to tire of it.

The one moment in the debate that really caught my attention was when Jim Lehrer asked John Kerry to elaborate upon comments he had made on the campaign trail accusing George Bush of lying. This was Kerry's chance to speak clearly and with authority, adding legitimacy and substance to his accusations. But, rather than take the bull by its horns, he decided to dismiss the chance, telling the nation instead that he never called Bush a liar, but perhaps the President could have been straighter with the American people. Funny, because I thought Kerry really wanted to be President, and part of that process includes defending your platform to the best of your ability, not playing softball. Shame on you, Senator, for not delivering. This was Kerry's moment to shine, and he deliberately set it aside, preferring instead to repeat his soft rhetoric.

What happened to the days of great speeches, when content and delivery both mattered? What happened to the time when both candidates were polished, prepared, and spoke with determination? These two men, both regarded as excellent debaters, simply have the skill of dodging questions while throwing in popular campaign slogans and catch phrases. That's not debating; that's campaigning. And as far as campaigning goes, I've seen better than what either candidate has to offer.

# Is Nader Just an Egotist?

By NICK GUARIGLIA  
Statesman Contributor

You've all heard it. Maybe you have even said it a few times, but does that mean it's true? Is Ralph Nader egotistical? I can't tell you the honest answer to that one because I personally have never met the man, nor have I ever heard of anyone ever knowing him. But it's certainly possible. Does he run just for the pure satisfaction of knowing that someone out there is willing to trust him enough to lead this country, the only superpower left?

Well let's get some facts out in the open right now. He has run before and must realize that not being nominated by one of the two major parties in this country means there's no chance of winning this election. And let's face it folks, every candidate running for President of the United States must have a huge ego just thinking that he has the charisma, intelligence and perfect sense of leadership that will cause millions upon millions of people to vote for him, trusting him with their livelihoods. Their jobs and families rely, for the most part, on the decisions the president makes each day, whether to pass a law

raising minimum wages, or raising or lowering educational standards.

But to think that one man has an ego big enough to get a few million votes so that he is content with his own life, as well as change the outcome of one of the most important elections this country has ever seen? No...it can't be true, can it?

Well maybe he is trying to help out the Republican Party by stealing votes; but then why run under the Green Party? Why not a more radical group? Is it because he truly believes in the Green Party's ideology? Then why hurt the closest thing to that in the Democratic Party? Maybe he is just trying to be heard on a national stage?

Well if he wanted to be heard on a national stage, there are other ways to get that done, like present bills to Congress or hold protests and rallies in our nation's capital. That will attract media attention like no other.

To tell you the truth, nobody but Ralph Nader knows exactly why he runs for presidency. But this November, I urge you to voice your opinions and vote for the candidate you think is best fit to run our country, regardless of egos.

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# Weird Science: Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking **BIC** Barrels?

By PETER SUNWOO  
Statesman Editor

\$600 for a wheel, \$200 for tires, \$2000 for a frame, and \$300 for shocks. It sounds reasonably inexpensive for a car, but the description above illustrates a top of the line bicycle. Biking has become a popular activity within both the urban and suburban areas. Nowadays, bikers in Manhattan seem to outnumber the amount of Yellow Cabs zooming by. Urban Fetch, a revolutionary way of delivery within Manhattan, uses bicycles as a mode of transportation for quick drop offs all across the Big Apple.

Consumers interested in top-notch bikes should invest in a top-notch security lock, like a Kryptonite Bike Lock. Kryptonite is the world's leading bike lock company, and was always known to have the best and most reliable types of locks. These locks are quite expensive, ranging from \$30 to up to a ridiculous \$300. But if you have a bike that costs thousands of dollars, then a kryptonite lock may not sound like a bad investment, or is it? What's so special about these locks anyways? Bolt cutters, no matter how thick they are, can snap any bike lock in the market. The thicker bike locks become, the

bigger the bolt cutter needed. According to recent statistics, there are over 1.5 million bicycle thefts each year in the United States, and only 20% of these stolen bikes are recovered.

Most wary bicyclists use their bike locks for temporary parking usually during the day, and will leave their precious two-wheeler in an enclosed area for safekeeping. Normally, bike thieves will not parade in broad daylight with a giant bolt cutter hidden underneath their shirt, so a Kryptonite Lock is pretty effective. But discouraging news for bike owners has recently seeped out. These costly Kryptonite locks that guarantee maximum security and customer satisfaction have put their money where their mouth is.

Bike thieves are now equipped with a new revolutionary tool for their illegal activities, a Bic pen. Pros at this cunning method will cut four small slits in the end of a Bic pen barrel to ease it into the Kryptonite locking mechanism. Amateurs take the easier, less efficient, way out by simply jamming the barrel into the lock for it to mold into the crevices. Both methods work, and with a single twist of the wrist, Walla,

the lock magically opens. A demonstration can be seen at [www.engadget.com](http://www.engadget.com).

Assuming it was a hoax, I went out and gave it a try on my friend Mario's \$60 Kryptonite Evolution lock. To my surprise, it worked and it was easy. "Holy #&%\*," he replied. The vulnerability of the locks apply to many of the company's cylindrical-lock products, such as the Kryptolok, the New York Chain, the New York Noose, Evolution Disc Lock, Kryptodisco, and the

DFS Disk Lock. Kryptonite said it will provide free product upgrades for certain locks purchased since September 2002. According to CNNMoney, a recall of the flawed U-shaped locks could cost firms tens of millions of dollars.

There are three lessons to learn from reading this article. One is the knowledge of stealing bikes while strolling to class, but make sure you have at least two pens with you, one for class, and one to lock your new stolen bike. And the second lesson is: if you have one of these locks, buy a new one immediately! Just because something is expensive, doesn't mean it's good.



Bic Pens are causing a huge ruckus in the bike lock industry. The most renowned bicycle lock company, Kryptonite, is discouraged by how easily a Bic Pen can break into their top products within seconds.

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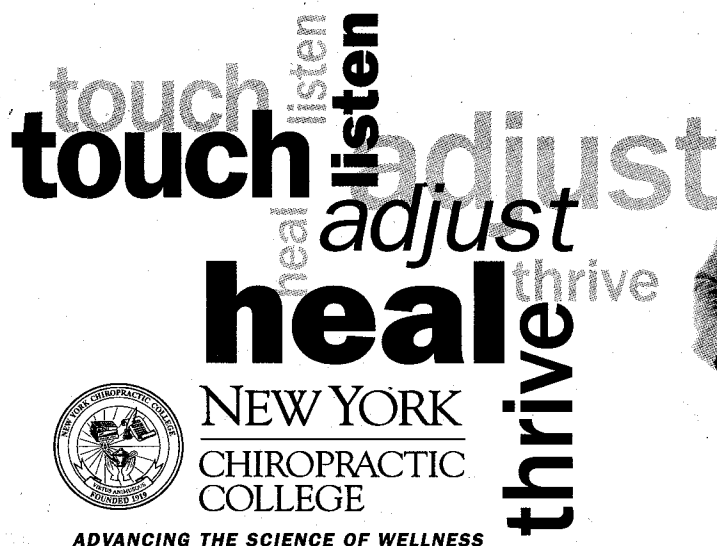
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# Calendar of Events

## Friday, October 8

COCA Movie: Troy  
7pm & 9:30pm  
SBU Auditorium

Casino Night at Campus Connection  
5:30 p.m. - 9 p.m.  
H-Quad

Women's Tennis vs. Hofstra University  
3pm  
Tennis Courts

Latif Bolat: Turkish Delight  
8pm  
Wang Center Theatre

## Saturday, October 9

Women's Tennis vs. Sacred Heart Univ  
9am  
Tennis Courts

Men's Soccer vs. Hofstra University  
12pm  
Tennis Courts

Seawolves Football vs. Hofstra University  
6pm  
La Valle Stadium

Alpha Phi Alpha Step Show  
7 pm  
SAC Auditorium

## Thursday, September 30

Men's Tennis vs. Sacred Heart Univ  
9am  
Tennis Courts

Men's Tennis vs. Wagner College  
1pm  
Tennis Courts

Women's Soccer vs. Hartford University  
1pm  
La Valle Stadium

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- 3- Mansoor
- 4- The gnarly couches
- 5- Having to paying senior staff writers
- 6- British spellings
- 7- The frickin' drip in the damn ceiling over my desk.
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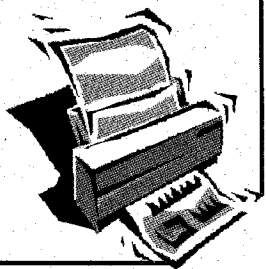
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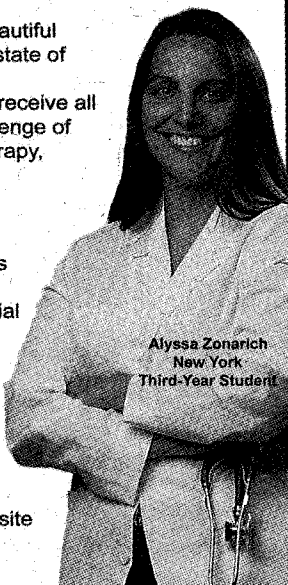
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Alyssa Zonarich  
New York  
Third-Year Student



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# Political Crisis in Sudan

By MARC NIOLA  
Statesman Contributor

Sudan's portion of the Nile River meanders through arid desert in the north and tropical, petroleum-rich terrain in the south. Yet, the world's attention has fallen on the brutality, disease, famine, and the dreaded word - genocide - that have come to characterize the nation. These harsh conditions are the daily circumstances faced by the people of Darfur, an area of Western Sudan.

The carnage started about eighteen months ago in early 2003. Non-Arabic Black Africans from the Darfur region requested political representation and economic participation in the country's government and economic institutions. Their demands turned violent when rebel insurgence clashed with Arabic government and para-government forces.

The two main rebel groups leading the insurgence against the government are the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM). These groups share similar goals for justice and equality in Darfur. Though the violence and subsequent atrocities are a fairly recent occurrence only emerging within the past two years, the Darfur region has been entrenched in a 21-year civil war.

Moreover, the complications of civil war, minority rule and insurgent uprisings breed a nebulous situation where facts and figures routinely conflict with reality. Under this cloud of ambiguity, the SLA and quasi-government forces have both violated cease-fire agreements, causing skirmishes to erupt throughout the Darfur area.

Amidst this atmosphere of instability and rebellion, a mass exodus has occurred, in which Darfurians are forced to flee to neighboring Chad where refugee camps have been set up. The U. N. Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has estimated that some 200,000 Sudanese have

sought refugee status in Chad; over 1.2 million internally displaced people (IDP) remain in Darfur despite the repeated aerial bombing of villages and armed combat there. The growing levels of refugees and IDP's have spawned a humanitarian crisis, with malnutrition, disease and seasonal flooding compounding the crisis.

The international community has accused the Sudanese Government, led by President Omar Hassan Ahmed al-Bashir, of crimes against humanity; United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell, went as far as to call the act genocide. During a speech to the Foreign Relations Committee on Sept. 9, Secretary Powell said "... genocide has been committed in Darfur, and the government of Sudan and the Janjaweed bear responsibility," accusing the government and militia that are in power in Sudan.

Following the speech, the international community also condemned the Sudanese government and denounced the Janjaweed, an Arab militant group charged with the ethnic cleansing of the Darfurians. International sanctions are looming while the government of Sudan struggles to comply with the international intervention. The Sudanese government vehemently denies any involvement with Janjaweed, despite repeatedly contradicting claims from humanitarian watch-dog groups.

However, the Sudanese government has recently relaxed access to foreign aid works in Darfur to assist in the refugee effort. Various international organizations are calling for strong international intervention in Sudan, echoing memories of Rwanda where approximately 800,000 Rwandans were butchered with machetes by ethnic Hutus in less than 100 days. In addition, the United States has been criticized for its strong language, invoking genocide, while pursuing no military or political decisive action.

The underlying problems in Sudan stem from the conflict between the Sudanese government and the in-

surgers. Both groups are trying to gain control of a volatile political-economic situation, and neither group is emerging on top. Despite U.S. sanctions that were imposed on the government of Sudan in 1997 under the Clinton administration for supporting terrorism and human rights violations, the Sudanese government is still able to prosper from the country's rich oil reserves.

The small Arab-dominated ruling class is responsible for the bulk of the conflict, as they attempt to secure minority power grip on the monetary and political systems of Sudan. Yet, this ruling class is resistant to any type of political power sharing or economic restructuring. However, the struggle of minority rule over the majority has persisted in Sudan for decades and has perpetuated a 21-year civil war

that has killed 2 million people. The shift to the Darfur region, which is an extension of the civil war, is due to the slaughter of non-Arabic Darfurians, allegedly at the hands of the Sudanese government.

The Sudanese government has finally given in to some of the international community's threats of the deployment of African Union troops on the sovereign borders of Sudan. The African troops will aid in the enforcement of cease-fire agreements as well as facilitate humanitarian aid. However, most internationalization agendas ignore the root problem of maintaining a sustainable democratization of Sudan. In reality, the international spotlight has been on the humanitarian crisis, which is only the symptom of a much larger systemic problem in Sudan.



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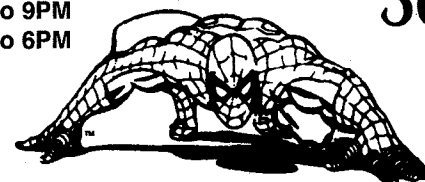
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# Statesman SPORTS

## Seawolves Come Out On Top, Twice!

### Seawolves Women's Volleyball Sweeps UMBC, 3-0

By MELISSA MESEROLE  
Statesman Staff & Contributor

The Seawolves swept UMBC in a 3-0 victory in the American East volleyball opener on Saturday afternoon. Both teams started out evenly matched in the first set, until the Seawolves broke away 22 points into the game.

The Seawolves came out with strong offense in the first set, with great passing and setting being the key factors in Stony Brook's first set victory. Maria Samilo had some pretty astounding kills, leading the Seawolves' offensive attack. The Seawolves finished the first set averaging 20 kills, and completed a 30-22 victory.

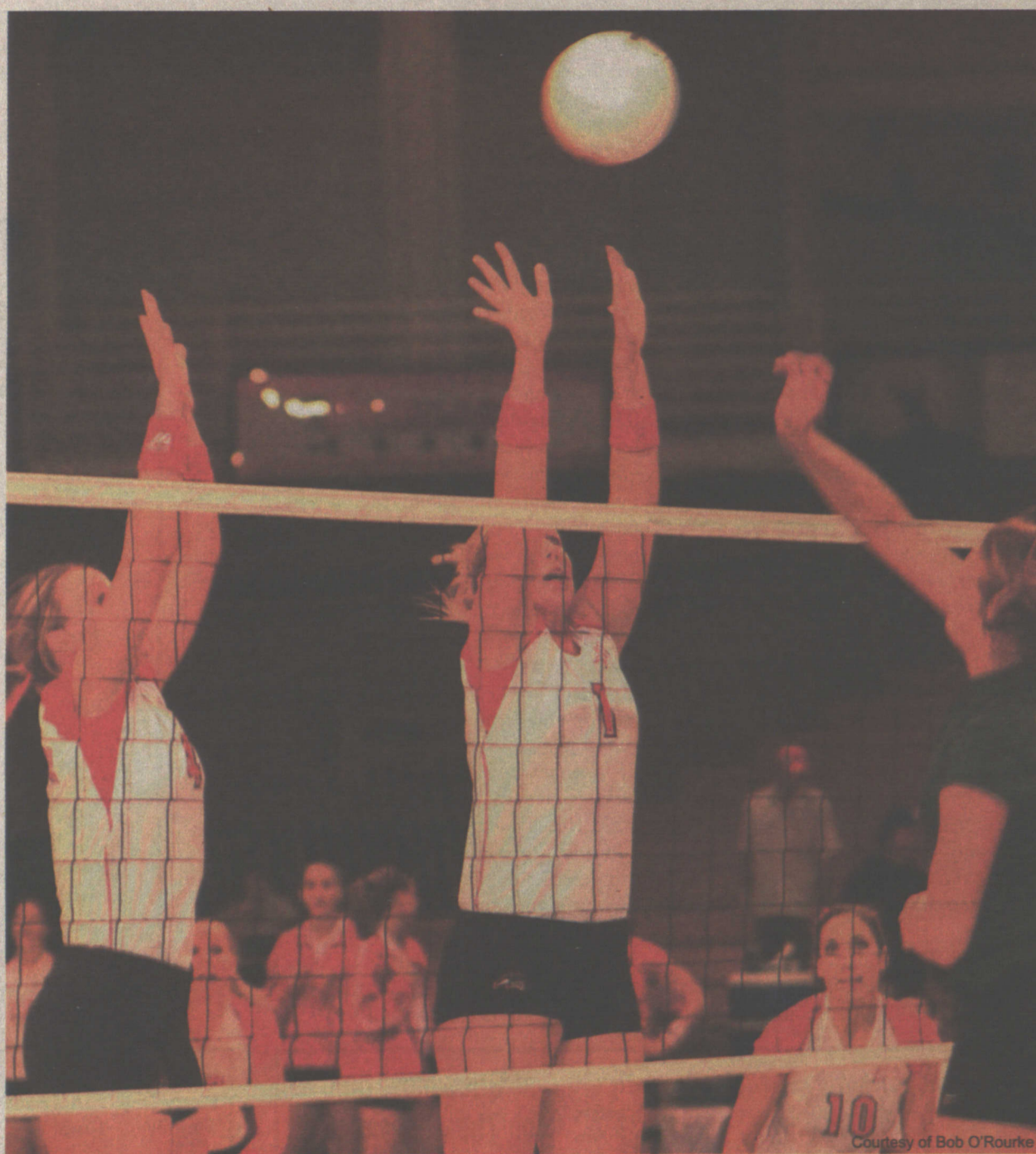
The second set was a bit troubling for both teams at the start, but the Seawolves pulled away with the victory and won 30-22 once again. Stony Brook held on by winning every intense set, where a crucial mistake could have cost them a point, but not allowing it to happen.

The Seawolves came out strong in the third set, only allowing UMBC to score one point in the first 10 points of the game. The Seawolves finished up the game winning that set, 30-17.

Samilo led the Seawolves in offensive attacks, recording 14 kills for the match. Moran Sweany picked up 11 kills and 10 digs, while setter Julie Zub contributed to the win with 40 assists and 12 digs.

UMBC was led by Jocelyn Teoh's seven kills for the match.

With the win, the Seawolves improved to 8-7 overall and 1-0 in league play, while UMBC fell to 8-9 and 0-1.



Courtesy of Bob O'Rourke

## Seawolves Women's Volleyball Sizzles Seton Hall

By MELISSA MESEROLE AND  
MIHALIS SAKALOU  
Statesman Staff & Contributor

The Stony Brook women's volleyball team finished up the weekend with two wins against UMBC and Seton Hall. The Seawolves swept Seton Hall on Sunday in an intensifying match. They came out strong in the first set, going hard after every point.

Whie Beach Volleyball earned unprecedented popularity because of the standout play of Misty May and Kerri Welsh -- not to mention NBC's relentless marketing of the duo as modern day

Amazonian-like athlete-supermodels -- Indoor Volleyball trudged along in its workamanlike way. In place of bikinis there are uniforms, and in place of spectacle there is sport.

The first set was close, decided by only two points, 32-29. Each team has points that could have rallied them to victory, but neither was able to capitalize on their momentum. It was a classic case of evenly matched opponents playing to a competitive equilibrium, punctuated perhaps randomly by a brief spurt of superior play from one team.

The second set was a mirror of the first, all about who wanted it more and

who would fight for it more. Sports tends to bill itself as a competition of determination, feasting on the tried, true, and tested cliché's of "will to win" and "big game moments." Fittingly, the second set framed these themes with poignant elegance: This game came down to the final points. Rallying back and forth, the game was decided on the last two points. The Seawolves hung in there, not giving up on mental and physical focus and emerged victorious, 31-29.

The Seawolves took their level of play upon several notches in the third set where they dominated and controlled, winning 30-21 to complete the sweep.

Star offensive player Maria Samilo once again led the offensive attack, recording 15 kills. The Seawolves received a yeoman's contribution from both Melissa Votruba and Danielle MacKniht who together added 22 kills in the win. Julie Zub pinpoint passing skills contributed to the Seawolves to a whopping total of 44 assists. The fearsome foursome in themselves guarantee a competitive Seawolves Indoor Volleyball season.

With the win, the Seawolves improved to 9-7 while Seton Hall dropped to 5-12. The Seawolves will travel to Maine this Friday for their next conference match.