

the stony brook Statesman

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USG Elections remain valid; investigation pending

By ROHIT DAS
Statesman Editor

In a recent article printed by the *Statesman*, the USG was reported to have proposed the suspension of this semester's elections due to numerous alleged violations on the part of the USG Election Board Committee. Not only did this proposal potentially compromise the efforts and status of recently elected student government officials, but it more importantly illustrated the confused and unorganized state in which USG is currently in.

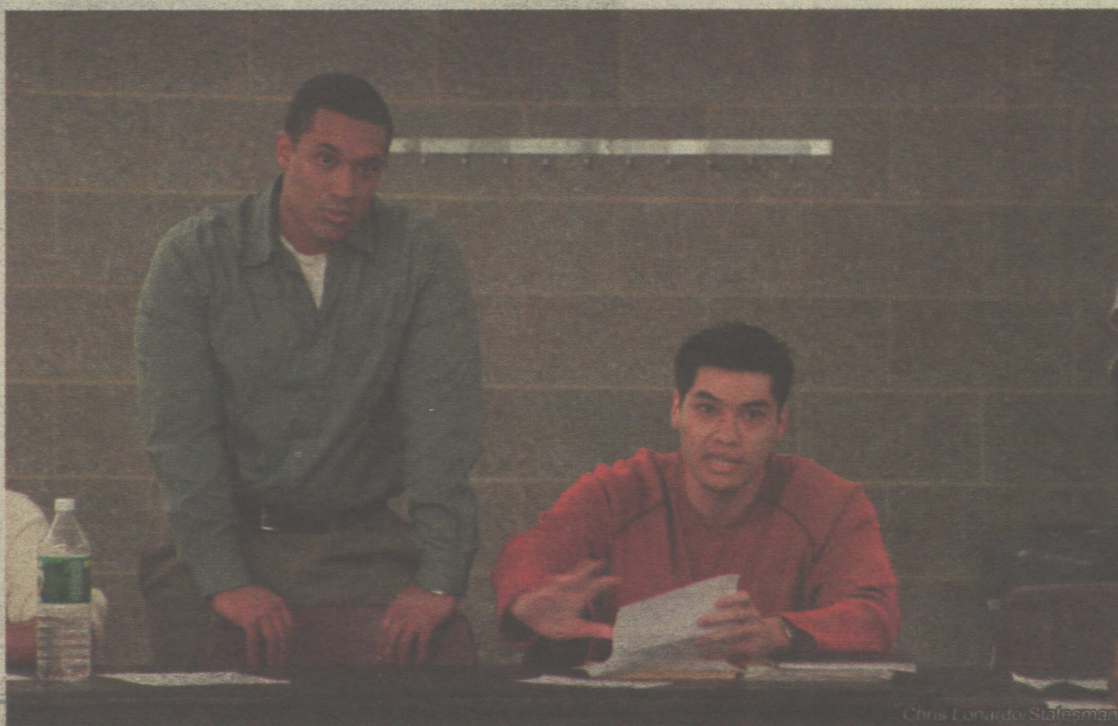
In voting for this proposal last Tuesday, the Senate actually voted 9-8-1 in favor of suspending the elections and to additionally conduct an investigation to clarify the issues that created this situation in the first place. This vote was nullified, however, when then President Pro Tempore, Jon Lawson, who voted for the suspension, was dismissed permanently from the Senate because he

didn't meet the academic requirements for USG senators, according to Executive Vice President of USG, Esam Al-Shareffi. As a result of this expulsion, the Senate decided not to suspend the election, but did rule in favor of conducting an investigation.

Though this ruling did avoid a potential catastrophe for the Senate, it nevertheless exposed the general faults in the USG. The ruling itself is a mark of inefficiency - it was the result of a senator being expelled from his office and not a consequence of a complete, unhindered, Senatorial vote. The Senate right now is an unstable entity, and certainly in need of reform and refinement.

Recent Senate proceedings have left many newly elected representatives helpless in the last few weeks, wondering if the positions they had worked for would be taken away.

"I was shocked when this came to my attention," said Romual Jean-Baptiste, who



President Pro Tempore Jon Lawson (left) with USG President Jared Wong at a Senate meeting.

was recently elected Freshman Representative. "I only wanted to do what I had to do as Freshman Representative. If the faults are on the system, I feel it's unfair to make faultless members suffer for it."

Jean-Baptiste emphasized that not all of our current Senators and elected officials understand their roles as student representatives and this has led to the problems we currently see in USG

today. "People don't know their duties because they don't know the Constitution," said Jean-Baptiste. "We need better training. Once you're

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Goodman Symposium discusses wartime news reporting

By GINA JANASH
Statesman Contributor

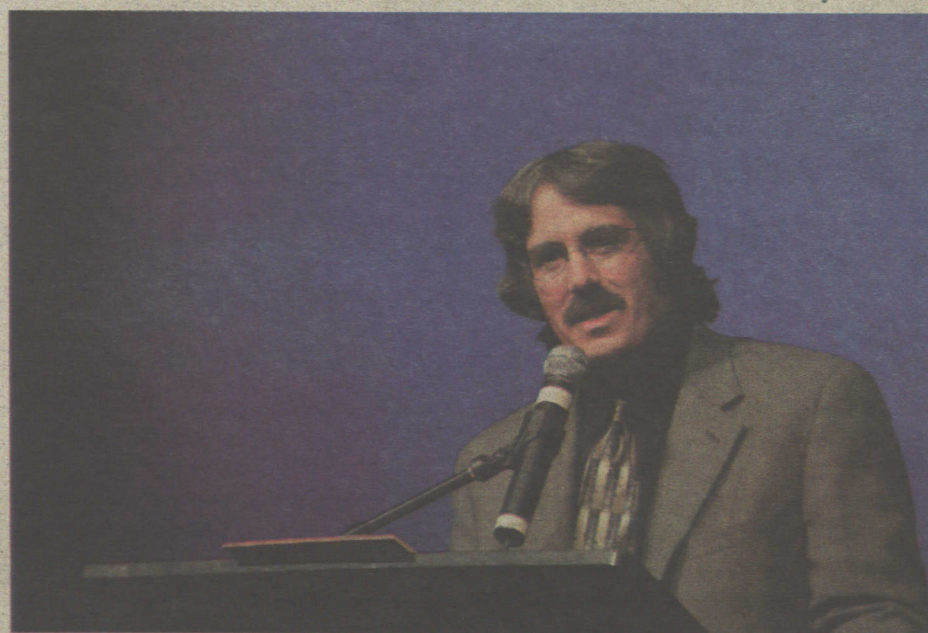
During critical and uncertain wartimes, modern Americans quench a constant thirst for information through popular news media. But what happens when the most easily accessible source of information is unreliable, or worse, predisposed toward a single point of view? Award-winning journalists David and Amy Goodman, hosts of a national, daily and independent news program, *Democracy Now!*, attempted to answer this important question during the Wang Center's annual George Goodman Symposium in a lecture aptly named "Independent Media in a Time of War."

Siblings and co-authors of their new book, *Exception to the Rule: Exposing Oily Politicians, War profiteers, and the Media that Love Them*, David and Amy Goodman lectured the day after Tuesday's election about "a media that has reached an all time low" and the importance to "challenge

the media because so many lives depend on it," they explained.

David Goodman asked in his opening, "How did a man responsible for fraudulent crimes in Iraq, a falling economy and the deaths of 1200 U.S. troops become president?" The answer, he explained decisively, is the media. For example, Goodman explained that news reporters who went off to Iraq with U.S. troops returned home with biased views of the war. "We are presented with a one-sided view looking down the barrel of the gun, but not the target end of the gun," he said. "What about Iraqi hospitals on the receiving end?"

Discussing the Swift Boat Veterans advertisements under the media spotlight in August, David Goodman explained that although these ads were discredited even by the Bush administration, the media "took a 30 second T.V. attack ad and gave it legs." Both siblings discussed examples of such "pro-Bush" subject matter supposedly prevalent in the media, as well as the



Above: David Goodman

Joy Dutta/Statesman

supposed lack of "anti-Bush" subject matter, including the absence of stories from those targeted by the Patriot Act, and the media's disinclination to portray a "sense of betrayal soldiers

feel not only from the President, but from the media as well."

While the Goodmans discussed

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Takin' trivia to the limit

Annual College Bowl sparks battle of the minds

By EUGENE KOZLOVSKY
Statesman Editor

With a cream-colored baseball cap tipped down to hide the confidence in his eyes, Jonathan Reinstein grasped the buzzer loosely in his hand. Having carried his College Bowl team on his shoulders to the National Championship last year, Reinstein glared at the opposition with a serene stare. The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Straight Association (LGBTSA for short) had made it to the finals, and stood firmly against "Shazbot," Reinstein's team. Despite having played a closely fought first half, LGBTSA eventually fell under the iron fist of Reinstein, who answered almost all of his team's questions.

The College Bowl is an intense game of general knowledge and quick recall. It's geared to the fastest minds on campus as they are put to the ultimate trivia test. The questions asked include a broad spectrum of information, from current events, history, sports, art, social sciences, physical sciences, literature, travel and cartoons. College Bowl was created in 1953 but it was not until 1977 that the campus program and intercollegiate competition began.

The rules in College Bowl are simple, yet stringent. The teams consist of four



Members of the College Bowl team Brainstormers await pensively for the next question.

players and no less than three at any time. A moderator asks a toss up question that can be answered by any team for ten points. If a player buzzes in before the question is read in its entirety and gives an incorrect answer, the team is penalized five points and the other team gets a chance to answer. The team that wins the toss up also gets a chance at a bonus question worth between 20 and 30 points. The game is played in two halves of seven minutes, and at the end of the game, the official score

keeper announces the totals for each team and the winner is revealed.

To help ready students for this rigorous contest, the honors college offered a one-credit mini-course this semester called "Just the Facts." The course was taught by Maria Terrana, Assistant Director for Student Activities and TAed by Reinstein, a senior in the Honors College. Students practiced by writing questions and asked them of each other. Four teams were later formed, and they practiced competing

against each other.

"I'm proud of them," Reinstein said, speaking of his students. "In the class, everybody made progress. Some people are maybe naturally better than others, but they all tried."

When asked if he thought that having a semester worth of practice for the College Bowl was unfair, Reinstein responded "Only one of the teams ended up making it to the quarter finals or semi-finals, so it wasn't really unfair. It was just an opportunity for them to learn trivia facts and expose them to areas outside of their knowledge."

Three of the four Honors College teams getting knocked out early wasn't the only surprise. "Our team was officially the shocker," said Ali Nazir, a member of the Rugby team. The men's rugby team was just one of the 12 teams participating in this year's College Bowl. According to Cody Peluso, the team prepared just a few hours, most of which was spent learning the rules. This was apparently enough to win five games and get them to the semi-finals, where they got eliminated in overtime by team Superiora. They didn't go down without a fight though. The rugby team originally thought they won but were told otherwise because of a deduction they

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USG election remains valid; investigation pending

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informed about your duties, you'll be better able to represent your constituency."

Established members of the Senate have also recognized the problematic state in which our student government is in currently, but offer different reasons behind these current circumstances. "There is simply not enough participation in USG," Al-Shareffi said. "The USG has not done all it can to advertise student participation, but the student body has not responded sufficiently, either."

Al-Shareffi also pointed out that the current Constitution is still in an early phase of its development. "We are certainly working with an untested Constitution," he said. "We, as a government, are in a transitional period and all of our branches need a significant amount of refinement."

Al-Shareffi alludes to what is largely agreed to be the most important problem in not only student government, but of campus life in general – lack of campus involvement and interaction. As large as a campus as we have, it is far more divided than it is united, many students feel. This is certainly an aspect of Stony Brook that many students, including some of our representatives, wish to change. "I dream of making a more interactive community on this campus and a student government that is more connected to its constituents," said Jean-Baptiste. "I want to say 'Good morning' to anyone passing by the Academic Mall and actually receive a response back."

Goodman Symposium discusses wartime news reporting

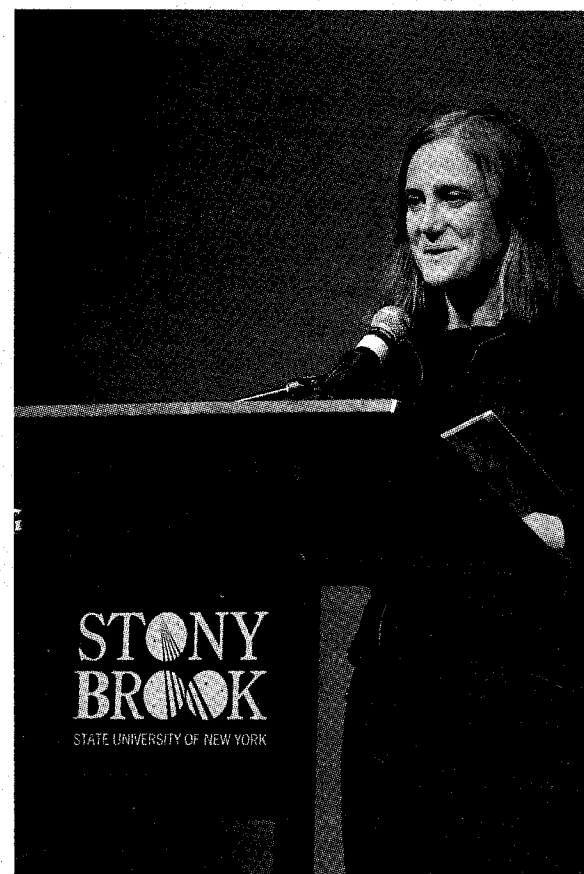
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"Independent Media in a Time of War," they recognized a bias tilted only toward the right, favoring war and supporting the Bush Administration. "The most important thing is that her media outlet is the only voice if dissent," said Sulekha Prasad, a senior at Stony Brook, "and that the media doesn't have an anti-war perspective."

Yet endless examples of anti-Bush and fairly liberal news coverage comes to the minds of many others, including to Shimon Shakhnovich, another senior at Stony Brook who listened to Goodman's lecture. "I thought the lecture was very subjective. The media does give the other side in Iraq, and she has no right to blast heroes or reporters who risk their lives," Shakhnovich said.

According to an article in USA Today released exactly one month before the election, a survey of 4,000 full-time and part-time troops showed that 73 percent of the troops were voting for George W. Bush. This number, along with the large majority of U.S. troops who actually voted for Bush on Election Day, sheds doubt on Goodman's account of the soldiers' "sense of betrayal."

Finally, Amy Goodman explained that Bush won re-election "not because people are stupid in this country, but because people are good media consumers." Yet the Goodmans failed to mention the hundreds of news broadcasts depicting the horrors of war and the voices of millions opposed to it. While the Goodmans see the media biased toward one way, millions of others swear that it is biased toward the other. Many wonder, is the media really responsible for Bush's re-election as Amy



Above: Amy Goodman

Joy Dutta/Statesman

and David Goodman suggested? The proposal may very well undermine the intelligence of millions of citizens who voted for Bush not because the media swayed them, but because they actually preferred George W. Bush to John Kerry.

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By ROBERT J. ROMANO
Statesman Contributor

In an historic victory for the President and Republicans in Congress, a sweeping mandate has been achieved for the policies of the president's administration. Majorities have been earned in both the Electoral College and popular votes (286 electoral votes to 252, 55,601,359 votes, or 51%, to 51,828,044, or 48%). More people voted in this election than ever, and the majority wanted President Bush to serve four more years. Four seats have been picked up in the U.S. Senate, and one in the House, a historic achievement that has not been accomplished by a president winning re-election since 1936.

Much has been done to ensure security by spreading freedom around the world, in growing our economy, by reducing the cost of doing business in America, in working to ease the burden on senior citizens by enacting a prescription drug benefit in Medicare and medical savings accounts, in improving standards nationwide through education reform, in improving our safety by reforming the Federal Government and modernizing the homeland defense through creation of the Department of Homeland Security, passing the Patriot Act, and hunting, capturing and killing terrorists who mean our people harm.

Over 75% of Al Qaeda's known leadership has been captured or killed. Saddam Hussein, a known sponsor of terrorists, maker and user of poison weapons, chemical and biological agents, and known to have developed nuclear capabilities, is no longer in power. The mass graves will never be filled again, and the Iraqi people's nightmare is over. The people of Afghanistan have just elected their first president, Hamid Karzai, in a ringing endorsement of democracy and freedom in a country that once suffered under the illegitimate Taliban, the harborers of al Qaeda. Because we acted, there are two less state sponsors of terrorism, and America's two newest allies in the war on terrorism.

The reasons Senator John Kerry and the Democrats were handed defeat are two-fold. They thought they could successfully separate the war on terrorism from the theatre in Iraq. They failed. Not even the Iraqi people believe that. Quite the contrary. Prime Minister Iyad Allawi believes that Iraq is one of the central fronts in the overall war on terror.

Commentary

What now? A Republican view.

Secondly, the Democrats divided the country with too many differences on the security issue when they could have been talking about other areas where they are stronger with the American people. By vowing never to "cede" the security issue to Republicans, the Democrats missed opportunities to talk about their traditional base issues of support: social benefits, health-care, education, the economy and the environment. The wiser path (to me) appeared to be for the Democrats to essentially support our foreign and domestic security strategies, and in doing so, unite the nation in a time of war. I believe the Democrats would have persuaded more so-called swing voters if they had remained strong with support of the theatre of war in Iraq, and overall in the global war on terrorism. By losing seats in Congress as well as the Presidency, it is clear that now the president has a clear mandate to move forward with his vision for America, and that the Democrats will remain a minority party for some time to come, perhaps even years.

Russia's president, Vladimir Putin, has stated that the president's victory proves to the world that America is not afraid of terrorism. I couldn't agree more. I believe it also proves that a majority of Americans are committed to eliminating terrorism across the globe. I hope that the president will take the opportunity to solidify and expand our coalition in the global war on terrorism, and continue to work with our friends and allies to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as we try to stop them from getting into the wrong hands. I hope that not only America, but the entire world will rise up to defeat terror, and expand freedom and democracy around the world.

To amend the divisions of our own country now that the elections are over, it is important for our elected leadership to work together to affect those issues that moved the people to the polls on Tuesday. We expect to see real social security reform. We expect that the tax cuts be made permanent so as to encourage long-term investment in our economy and jobs. We expect to see medical liability reform, which in truth is really health-care reform, because passing meaningful tort reform will bring down the costs of healthcare. We expect that as Iraq moves towards elections, and as Afghanistan continues to rebuild, that Democrats and Republicans can come together in ensuring unity on the foreign policy issues which challenge the free world.

Quote of the Week:

"A sense of humor is part of the art of leadership, of getting along with people, of getting things done."

-Dwight D. Eisenhower

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Exposing Europe to Chinese literature

5

Novelist lectures on her experience

By TING TU
Statesman Contributor

Award winning novelist Shu Hsia Chao (Susie Chen) used many unique phrases in her lecture. That is, if you understood Mandarin. Throughout her lecture on European Chinese and Chinese Literature in Europe, Chao spoke fluently in Mandarin with a translator by her side to fill in audience members.

At first glance, you would think that Chao was just an ordinary novelist, but her lecture revealed much more about her. She translated some of her own books from Chinese into German. A writer's style and meaning are sometimes lost when translated into another language, and Chao remarked in Mandarin (loosely translated), "Translations of my writing were not good."

Shu Hsia Chao has led quite a dynamic life. As a high school senior, she moved from Taiwan to France to study abroad. "[I was] aware I would be even farther from my dream [of becoming a writer] if I studied abroad," she said. She recounted how her flight departure was like a funeral procession. "You would go away, you would never come back."



Joseph Fanni/Statesman

While studying in Europe, Chao felt very distant from her homeland and its culture. "There were very few Chinese in Europe," she said. Chao did not have the luxury of speaking the same language. To sum up her feelings at the time, she quoted a book that she once read, "The loneliness you feel among the crowd is the true loneliness." The audience was able to relate to her sense

of verbal miscommunication as the translator corrected what Chao vaguely seemed to be saying. "What I knew was 'ja' (yes) and 'nein' (no) in German," she said. Years later she was able to overcome this language barrier and translate her books into German.

Chao has written about 30 Chinese novels as well as collections of short stories and prose. "At the time, there

was no Chinese literature in Europe," she said, speaking of the time before she wrote. As the founding president of the European Chinese Writer's Association, Chao as well as other Chinese literary figures worked hard to expose Europe to Chinese culture through literary venues.

"Europe has exerted greater force on more Chinese literature than any other country," Chao explained.

Secma Kothari, a sophomore, believes that Chinese literature provides an outlet for the Chinese culture. "If the literature is written by a person of that culture or religion," Kothari said, "it gives [other people] a better understanding of their culture. It's more accurate and precise."

Chao has won many awards for her novels and her achievements. She won the Golden Award of the Taiwan Writers Association in 1980 for *Our Song*, which was later translated into German. Her novel *San Jin Hua* won the "Yat-Sen Literary Award" in 1991, the most exalted literary award in Taiwan. Although she has proven herself as a prominent novelist, she gave praise to another Chinese writer, Go Xing Jian.

Chao was adamant in expressing

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Opening outlets of communication

USG installs new "Street Team" to promote campus life



USG is taking new strides to let the students know what's going on around campus.

Chris Lonardo/Statesman

By KRISTIE SCHLAURAFF
Statesman Staff

On a campus filled with commuters and residents stuffed in their dorm rooms, a little bit of effort must be made to get the common student out to an event. Students often cite a lack of communication as the primary reason why they do not participate in campus life. Recently, a new Weekend Life initiative was taken up by Student

Activities to encourage student life on the weekends, and two weeks ago, USG took its own initiative in the form of the Street Team, to encourage student participation in campus life in general. The USG Street Team has taken to the roads of Stony Brook campus, seeking to let students know what is going on, what activities and events they can participate in.

"Last year a lot of people said that there was a lack of communication between USG and the students,"

said Ebony Omede, Vice President of Communications for USG. The Street Team was created to help better communication between USG and the student body. "It will be visible to everyone around campus," Omede explained.

The Street Team was formed to tell the students what activities are going on. Not only are they putting up flyers, the Street Team is also talking personally to the students about upcoming events. "[The Street Team] actually goes up to students and there's more of a personal [aspect]," said Omede, "it's more like a word of mouth thing." USG's Street Team has been around during campus life time, and at the involvement fairs handing out flyers and other information, and just talking to the students.

In addition to advertising events, the Street team is giving out interest forms in order to find out what students would like to see around the campus. "They have more projects that they're going to be working on, but now they're basically trying to storm the campus," said Omede.

The campus seems to be responding well to the new communication efforts of the USG. So far, there hasn't been much negative feedback at all, according to Omede. "Students have been coming up to me saying wow," she exclaimed, "some have actually said [...] 'how can I get involved with that?'" The Street Team is comprised of undergraduate students, and students interested in becoming part of the team can visit USG and express their interest.

"We're here for the students," said Omede, "if there's anything they'd like to see done as far as communications, they're welcome to let us know."

So while you're hanging around the campus, or checking out campus life time, be on the look out for the Street Team. In addition, keep your eyes open for the new USG newsletter, which is available as another new activity information source.

"The Fourth World War," a review

Powerful documentary depicts the stories behind the fighting

By INUR MAMOOD
Statesman Staff

Walking up the stairs in the Student Union, a certain flyer caught my eye. It pictured a boy with a bandana covering most of his face, with a caption reading, "The Fourth World War."

The flyer grabbed my interest, so I took it and read further. It was promoting a documentary being shown in the Social Behavioral Sciences building, sponsored by the Socialist Alternative.

I show up to a room with no windows, just four bare cream colored walls, a TV in the middle and about 12 Stony Brook Students. Billy Wharton, a member of the Socialist Alternative, introduced the documentary along with an explanation of the title.

The title of the documentary is a reference to the class war, existing in many underdeveloped countries. The film described it as a, "war without a battlefield, a war without an end."

The documentary opened with images from Buenos Aires, Argentina. Images of policemen standing around

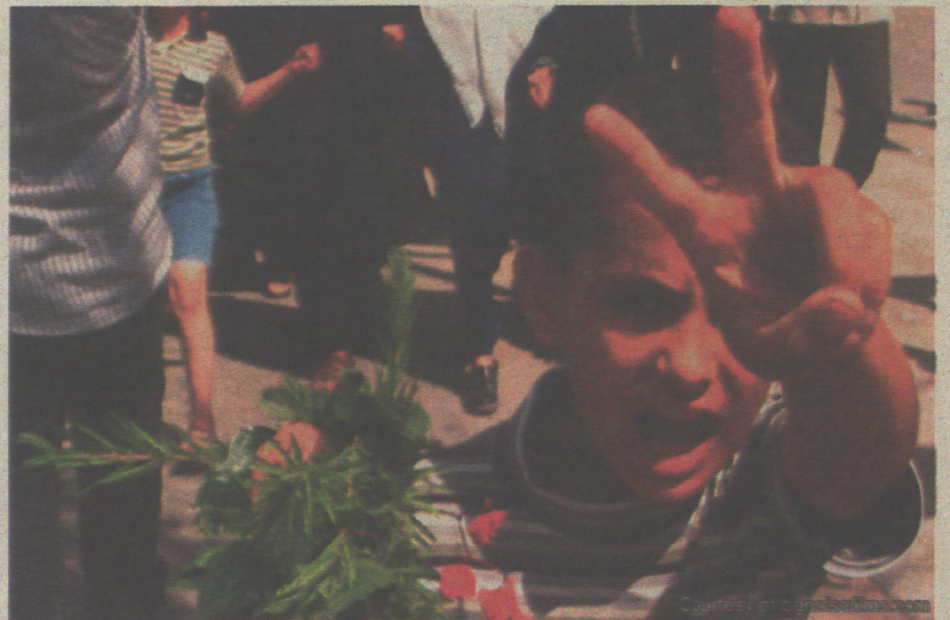
looking intimidating filled the screen, while the voices of chanting protestors could be heard.

The Fourth World War deals with political and historical issues, giving background of countries such as Mexico, Korea, Argentina, Iraq, South Africa and Palestine, and their organized protest movements. It does not blatantly point an accusing finger, rather it calls for awareness.

Fear is mentioned repeatedly and how it is used to run communities. "Terror is a form of globalization power," echoed the narrator. Protestors are the unsung heroes, risking their lives for a chance to have their voices heard. They turn fear into struggle and organization.

Occupation was another issue touched in the film. The fear associated with living in occupied land, using Palestine and Iraq as examples. Stating startling statistics about the number of civilian deaths, "The Fourth World War" humanizes a group of people we barely give a second thought to.

The documentary urges us to feel



In the film, a Palestinian boy celebrates a small victory in his war-torn country.

as if we are the "other," dying, with no food, homes or rights. The imagery is powerful, at times painful to watch. Images of masked protestors, unarmed, marching for their lives because they have nothing else left. It makes us realize

war is not just bombs and guns, but also hunger, neglect and malnutrition. "The Fourth World War" made a powerful statement, presenting alternative ways to solve the problems within not only other communities, but also our own.

Blackboard in the classroom: *Taken for granted?*

By LISA ASNIS AND ZAHRA KHAN
Statesman Contributor

The typical college experience has not changed since our parents walked the campus grounds. Fat textbooks, sleeping through classes, pulling all-nighters and that one professor that thinks you have no other class but his to do work for are still widely present on any campus. However, our generation has at least one benefit our parents did not have: computers.

Blackboard Learning and Community Portal System and websites maintained by professors are just some of the things that are becoming abundantly used in universities across the nation.

"Computers have a very positive effect on education," said John Metzger, professor of mechanical engineering at Stony Brook. "I have seen the web develop from a novelty to being a great resource of information."

Students use Blackboard to connect with teachers and peers. They can access class announcements, grades, assignments and utilize discussion boards. Although the intentions of Blackboard are to make things easier, some students have mixed feelings about the efficiency of the system.

"It's not really that organized," said Sophomore Lamya Karim. Some students would agree. There are several functions to choose from while accessing the system, many of which are never used.

"It's not user friendly," said sophomore Joseph Grillo. "I don't like the way that it is set up. It is complicated to use." Despite these minor setbacks, there is a consensus between teachers and students that Blackboard can prove to be a very useful tool.

Erin Cassese, a professor of political science, is just one of the myriad faculty at Stony Brook that utilizes Blackboard in her classroom. "It [Blackboard] centralizes all the course information and student information," she said. "It's an efficient way of communicating with students and managing grading."

Blackboard can be a way to



Computer technology, particularly Blackboard, revolutionized classroom learning.

Chris Lonardo/Statesman

encourage students who are shy in class to express their thoughts on the class material. Professor Cassese regularly utilizes the discussion board, and finds that, "sometimes...there are students who don't participate very much in class, but post very thoughtful Blackboard discussion comments." Blackboard is generally seen as a positive asset to the university.

Professor Metzger is among some of the professors who choose not to use Blackboard, but instead create and maintain a class website. "I try to keep a good webpage for any course I teach," Metzger said. "I believe that it serves as a useful aid in providing a good education for the students - which is why we are here." The webpage can provide more than Blackboard by exclusively catering to the professor's needs.

Both Blackboard and professor websites can contain lecture notes. Students find posted class notes to have positive and negative effects on class at-

tendance. While some agree that posted class notes may dissuade students from attending class, Junior David Chan says, "That's part of the college experience, being able to choose [to attend class]."

Even if there is a shortage of class attendance, Grillo said, "It is still better to post them [notes] because of how helpful it is. In class you can concentrate more on what the professor is saying because you don't need to waste time copying notes."

Other students disagree with the leeway that Blackboard grants. "In my biochemistry class, the notes were posted on Blackboard," said senior Jason Hetler, "and we had about 50 percent attendance. The professor was always upset about that, but it was so obvious why no one was going to class." Hetler explained that students simply downloading notes from Blackboard and not attending class were lulled into a false sense of a security. "When the test hits," Hetler said, "the people who didn't go

to class had no idea what was going on. Just the notes are not enough."

Regardless, many professors still insist on the merits of Blackboard. Professor Bente Videbaek has been teaching at Stony Brook for over 30 years. She has experienced education before Blackboard was implemented at the school. Prior to Blackboard, Videbaek said, "[there was] a lot more paper, a lot more confused students, a lot more people that had to come and ask things." The use of computers also gives Videbaek the ability to easily communicate with her students through email.

Generally, students and staff recognize computers to contribute greatly to our education system. Regardless of some complications that may arise in using computers, most students will acknowledge the accessibility of assignments, notes and additional teacher communication to be a positive resource for the university.

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, November 8, 2004

Annual College Bowl

Continued from Page 2

weren't aware of.

Other players had less to worry about. "We have been crushing everyone," said Daniel Khalily, team captain for Shazbot. "We are the winning team," he added, prior to the final round. With Reinstein on his team, it was almost a given.

But contrary to the expected rules of trivia games, the winning team in the College Bowl does not necessarily

advance to the regionals. Two years ago, the rules were changed to allow individual participants with the best average scores per game to merge and advance together, forming a new team.

But one thing is for sure; Reinstein will be one of those heading to New Jersey for the regionals. It's hard to get him to admit it, though. "I'll probably be going," he said with a modest laugh. "The thing I'm most proud of is the turnout for the trivia event."

Chinese Literature Lecture

Continued from Page 5

her opinion that Jian's work should be considered Chinese literature. Jian is a political dissident in China, because he opposes social realism in Chinese literature and authorities condemned his work. Jian writes in French as well. "I affirm that he is a person that writes with his life," Chao said. "Goa Xing Jian is [one of the] most significant Chinese writers today."

Europe has steadily become more influenced by Chinese culture and language. Chao noted that Chinese is offered as an elective in some European high schools such as those in Germany. "All of this is encouraging for Chinese writers," Chao said. Chinese literature will continue to expose people to Chinese culture as long as literary figures such as Shu Hsia Chao continue to give an inside view of its rich culture.

Texas Hold'em: the new addiction

BY PETER SUNWOO
Statesman Editor

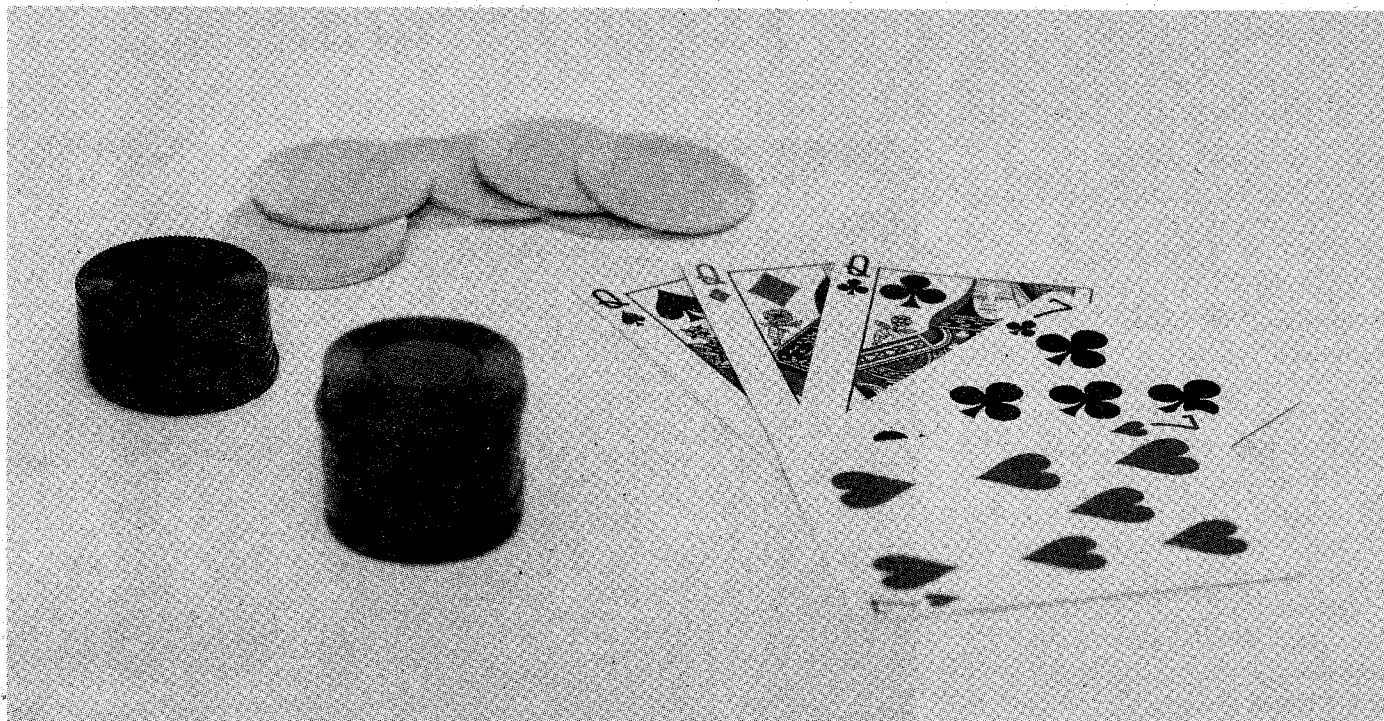
It was three in the morning on a Friday, and I found myself in a nail-biting showdown. It was the hand of all hands out of six straight adrenaline-pumping hours of play, and my hard-earned work was piled in the middle, up for grabs. Two giant chip stacks were the only thing separating me from my stern-faced opponent.

The flop was a 10, Jack heart suited; and a beauty diamond Queen. I slowly re-check my two-card hand, cradling it like a newborn child. I think to myself...it's still there. My pair of gorgeous Queens was tucked quietly under my sweaty hands, waiting to unleash her smite. We were "all in," a \$250 pot, and there was room for only one person's glory. There was no turning back; we were both in for an exciting ride.

With a flick of the wrist, we both cast our weapons faced up into the center of the table. He was armed with a suited Ace of Hearts, and the last and only Queen, giving him a pair of queens and several outs for a straight or flush. Fear and anxiety surged through both players, and all eyes were on the dealer. The turn, a deadly 7 of Hearts, my worst nightmare was staring me down. My opponent just came up with an Ace high flush, taking the stronghold.

At this point, all social rules are out the window. I found myself screaming to God in the middle of Atlantic City for the river card to either be a 7, 10, or Jack, which would give me a powerful full house. The Dealer wished us good luck, and flipped the last card, a sparkling lucky 7 planted down onto the rich green table, giving me the win. It was my moment, and for a short while, I felt like a rock star.

Texas Hold'em Poker is taking the world by storm. The intense game has reached popularity with extraordinary



Poker is monopolizing the free time of students everywhere.

Chris Lonardo/Statesman

speed. New York Times published an article about problems with teenagers as young as 13, gambling amongst friends pretending to be like the pros we see on television. Celebrity Poker, aired on the Bravo Channel, is a new hit in which audience members watch celebrities such as Matthew Perry take each other on in the game of Hold'em. This, and related shows, exemplify what young teenagers are currently trying to mimic.

The 2004 World Poker Tour Championship had an astounding \$8,342,000 prize pool, the most ever for a poker tournament. The buy-in was a mere \$25,300, the largest poker tournament entry fee to date, which is increasing by the year correlating to its popularity. Martin Deknijff was the winner of the Championship, taking home \$2,728,356, the largest first prize ever paid. Deknijff is a professional gambler that makes his living on sports

betting, poker and professional bridge since he graduated high school in Sweden. He now lives in Las Vegas.

The great thing about Texas as opposed to other conventional poker games is that you're playing against other people, not the casino. The player's personality really comes into play during these games. There are players that play "tight" or conservative, players that are aggressive, bluffers and some that are just darn out wild.

"I love that they think I'm lucky. I don't mind at all. I mean... let them just think I'm lucky. I think it helps me if people think I'm a little bit crazy because there's definitely rationale behind a lot of things I do. They might seem wacky but I'm not totally crazy...just a little bit," said Gus Hansen, a rising new star in the poker world.

But with any type of entertainment,

there is addiction, and it's high for Texas. Once most players doodle with friends in the game of Hold'em, they become hooked, making it a monthly event, then a weekly event, and when you're really bad, you start gambling everyday. Internet Casinos bring Hold'em addiction to a whole new level. Gamblers can wire their hard earned money to these poker-hosting sites, and within minutes, you can find yourself in a digital room playing against people all over the world, 24/7.

Addiction can start escalating, and players may find themselves buying strategy books and videos to increase their game play. Addicts will learn small tricks like flipping chips into the air or shuffling cards with style. The poker game is growing strong, and is reaching college dorm rooms across the world. After all, entertainment starts to become a business when you're good enough.



A THOUGHT FROM RABBI ADAM



Religion's major goal is to achieve perfection in this world in order to merit the next world- the Heavenly sphere. The premise of such an attitude is that the world is inherently not good, and as such, is in need of some serious perfection. For the (poor) soul is trapped by the world of the body. And the world of the body is bound by its desires for self-pleasure and self-satisfaction. And it is the body's unrestrained pursuits of self-pleasure and self-satisfaction that lead to our dog-eat-dog world full of war, strife, and even, sin. However, if the world would only be perfected, then the body would be free and no longer be bound by vain physical pursuits of empty desire. And this, in turn, would free the soul from its bodily encasings and allow it to reunite with the revelations of the Heavenly sphere. However, if one considers the spiritual significance of the concept of Resurrection of the Dead, the world and the physical body doesn't seem like such an inherently bad place after all. For in the end, the souls who want so much to merit the revelations of the Heavenly sphere, will come back down to this world - for it is this world and the physical body for which the souls in Heaven yearn. The reason being is that this world has a power even greater than the Heavenly sphere. For being spiritual in the Heavenly sphere is like lighting a match during the day. The light of the match makes no impression vis-à-vis the daylight sun. However, should one light a match at the mid of night - then WOOSH! - the light of a tiny match can illuminate an entire room! And so too it is with the soul. It's stature in the Heavenly Sphere is like a match in the midst of the afternoon sun. And there, it is of little impression. However, the light of the soul in this "dark" physical world is like the potency of a tiny match in a darkroom. The effect of which is that the darkroom becomes immediately alit. Therefore, the light of goodness and selflessness in a world of self-pleasure and self-satisfaction is a spiritual illumination unmatched by even the revelations of the Heaven Sphere. Therefore, this world and the physical body is the "real thing". It is only up to us to reveal it as so through the selfless actions of the soul.

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, November 8, 2004

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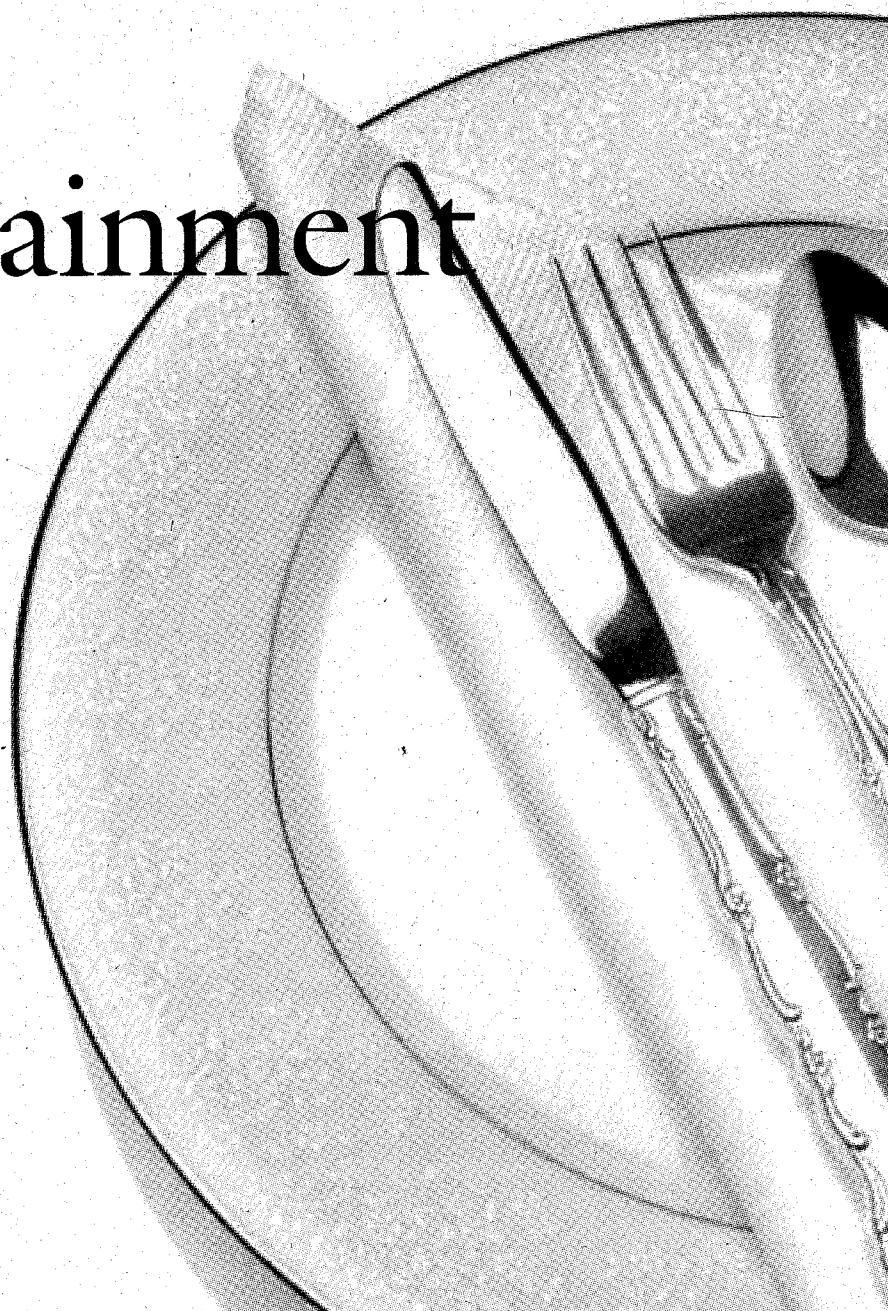
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Dining & Entertainment Guide

The holiday season is approaching. We at the Statesman are creating a special pull-out section of our regular publication to appear on **December 6, 2004**. The "Dining Guide" will feature restaurants in Stony Brook & the surrounding Three Village Area.

For information regarding advertising in this issue, please contact the Statesman Business Office at 631-632-6480.

the stony brook
Statesman



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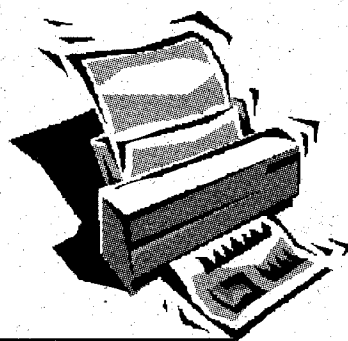
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calendar of events

Monday, November 8th

Open Recreation & Swim Hours
9 am – 7pm
Pritchard Gym

Provost's Lecture Series: "Self-Advocacy in Brazil, Japan, and the United States"

4 pm
Charles B. Wang Theatre, Lecture Hall 2

Speaker Annibal Coelho de Amorim is a neurologist and social psychologist who coordinates a Mental Health Community Center Program in Rio de Janeiro.

Tuesday, November 9th

EOP Dean's List Dinner
5:30 pm – 9:30 pm
SAC Ballroom A

USG Senate Meeting

7 pm – 9pm
SAC Ballroom B

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship
Concert of Praise

7 pm – 10 pm
Tabler Café

Wednesday, November 10th

Food Show
11 am – 2pm
SAC Ballroom A

Student Activities Board Campus
Lifetime Events: Fun & Games
12 pm – 3pm
Stony Brook Union Ballroom

Men's Swimming & Diving vs.
Fordham
Sports Complex
5 pm

Sports Scoreboard

Friday, November 5th

Women's Volleyball
Albany
L, 3-0
Albany, N.Y.

Saturday, November 6th

Men's Soccer
Vermont, America East Tourney
W, 2-1
Burlington, Vt.

Football
CCSU
L, 38-28
New Britain, Conn.

Women's Volleyball
Binghamton
L, 3-0
Binghamton, N.Y.

Men's soccer: first post-season victory

By ROHIT DAS
Statesman Editor

After completing their regular season with an exhilarating game at LaValle stadium, the Seawolves Men's Soccer Team traveled to Burlington, Vermont Saturday to take on the Vermont Catamounts in their first America East Tournament match since joining the conference in 1991.

In yet another exciting match, the Seawolves defeated the Catamounts 2-1, and will travel to Boston to face number one seed Boston University Wednesday.

The Seawolves clinched the victory in the second round of a shootout on a Rob Fucci penalty kick.

The Seawolves and Catamounts were tied at 1-1 coming into the first shootout. Both teams converted on all four of their penalty kicks in the first round, leading to a game-deciding second shootout round. After Seawolves goaltender John Moschella, who had eight saves in the win, denied a Catamount penalty kick with a diving stop, Fucci clinched the game, giving the Seawolves their first America East tournament victory since 2001.



Chris Leonardo/Statesman

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:

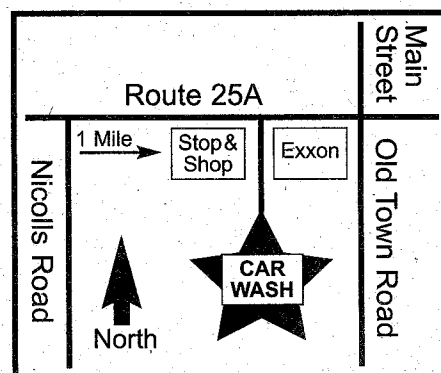
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Statesman SPORTS

Men's soccer conquers Pioneers, 2-1

By SAMEER KHANLJO
Statesman Staff

The Stony Brook Seawolves men's soccer team left everything on the field Wednesday night as they played their final home game. "It was unbelievable," said Head Coach Cesar Markovic. The Seawolves beat the Northeastern Pioneers 2-1 in front of 500+ fans at LaValle Stadium. The victory earned a playoff spot for the Seawolves and lifted their record to 11-5-2 overall, and 4-3-2 in America East play.

This was the final home game of the regular season, also called Senior Day. The evening and the game was a dedication to the hard work and dedicated play that the seniors have given to Stony Brook during their years. It was also these four seniors, Josh Allen, Mike Salvador, Anthony Barberio and Jose Sura who lead the Seawolves to this hard fought victory. "The seniors played with a lot of heart," said Coach Markovic. "This is the best I have ever seen." Markovic's compliment is quite impressive, considering his 100 plus win history.

Wednesday's fight was a back and forth, physical match up. One day after finding out they moved up to 6th in the New York Region poll, the Seawolves started out strong, scoring a goal midway through the first half. The Seawolves first goal came at the 21:44 mark of the first half. Barberio sent a cross to Sura, who was running up the left side. Sura then directed the ball to Chris Scarpati. Scarpati proceeded to pound the pass just inside the left post, giving the Seawolves a 1-0 lead. The Seawolves maintained this lead and went into halftime with a one goal advantage over the belt.

Coming out of halftime, the game picked up where it had left off - intense and physical. At 36:25 left in the game, Northeastern tied the match at one goal apiece on a direct kick by Tom Heimreid. The Pioneers were awarded the kick on a questionable call by the referee. This was one of many calls, and non-calls, by the referees that drew considerable reactions from the players and fans.

"We played with a lot of heart and emotion," said Coach Markovic. Stony Brook's heart and pride began to show as the Seawolves were tested. With the game tied, and the physicality increasing, the Pioneers began to shove and trip Sura. Sura responded with tough play of his own, even drawing a yellow card. More importantly, Sura's energy seemed



Chris Leonardo/Statesman

Above: Senior Anthony Barberio launches his game-winning goal towards the Pioneer net.

Right: Senior Jose Sura proposes to his girlfriend after the Seawolves defeated the Northeastern Pioneers in their last home game of the season.

to light a spark under the team.

With the match still tied at 1-1, Dan Salazar sent a cross to Barberio who was positioned about 20 yards out in the middle with his back to the goal. Barberio trapped the ball, quickly turned and bulletted a shot past the Pioneer goalkeeper. The goal, coming with only 2:58 left in the game, gave Stony Brook the 2-1 advantage. The Seawolves booted the ball around for the remaining few minutes and took the win.

After leaving everything out on the field, the Seawolves wanted to let the fans know they appreciated their support. "We thank you from the bottom of our hearts," said junior Rob Fucci. This sent a roar through the crowd. The post game celebrations got even louder as Jose Sura, after playing his last home game for the Seawolves, got on one knee and proposed to his girlfriend, and of course, she said yes. It was fairytale-ending fit for the Seawolves' magical season at home.



Gabe Sakellandis/Statesman