

“Die In” Steals the Spotlight During Clinton’s Visit

AISHA AKHTAR
Staff Writer

Anti-war protestors demonstrated in front of the Staller Center this past Thursday during Hilary Clinton’s visit to campus for women equity issues. The Social Justice Alliance, along with other Long Island community peace groups, petitioned and publicized literature on the Iraqi occupation in efforts to support their cause.

“The students showed dissent for the war in Iraq by lying down to represent the people who died in war,” said Student Justice Alliance secretary, Charlene Obernauer. The grass in front of the building was set up with cardboard boxes in shapes of coffins and draped with the American flag. Around 75 protestors laid down while the Protestant Campus Minister, Cathy Schyler read names

of the people that have died in the war.

“People were interested and we received positive feedback. People were open and encouraged and they came up to me and asked me questions,” said Social Justice Alliance president Michelle Wenderlich.

“People keep emailing us and want to get involved,” said Social Justice Alliance founder, Chad Kautzer.

While Clinton was inside the auditorium talking about women equity, protestors were present inside as well. Around 35 of the protestors stood with their back to the senator and wore black shirts with white lettering saying “Troops out Now.” Some of the demonstrators yelled out comments during the talk, but none of those statements were planned or implemented by the



Continued on Page 9 A protestor stands alone on a field of carnage, in front of the Staller Center.

Matt Ackerson/Statesman

SBU Pulse: Spring Break in New Orleans

By JOSEPH WEN
Staff Writer

SBU Alternative Spring Break: New Orleans Restoration

Alternative Spring Break Outreach (ASBO), a new student organization which seeks to develop useful skills in students in the process of undertaking social and civic action, has recently announced that 45 students and 2 advisors from Stony Brook University will be traveling to New Orleans for a week-long community service “immersion.”

The founding of ASBO is one result of discussions held at the 2005-2006 Student/Faculty/Staff Retreat, an annual summit on the betterment of all areas of the university involving a small number of selected student applicants, administrators, faculty, and staff members. This is the first official “alternative break” program held in the university’s history.

The activity is being administered with the assistance of New Orleans’s Habitat for Humanity Affiliate. Through its Collegiate College pro-

gram and local affiliates, Habitat for Humanity regularly sponsors similar week-long programs across the nation.

Local Poetry to be Celebrated

On April 4th, at 4:00 pm in the Wang Center, a reception will be held to honor the publishing of , a collection of 135 works by 80 Suffolk County poets. The free event, sponsored by the University Libraries and the Department of English, is open to the public.

The anthology’s editor, Dr. Daniel Thomas Moran, holds the position of Suffolk County Poet Laureate, created in 2002. A Stony Brook alumnus, Moran will remain Poet Laureate until 2007.

Among the featured guests are Louis Simpson, Vince Clemente, Allen Planz, Ron Overton, Fran Castan, Millie Swaningson Eckhoff, Lenny Greco, Lila Zemborain, Harvey Shapiro, Charles Fishman, Claire Nicholas White, Mindy Kronenberg, Grace Schulman, Virginia Walker, and Stanley Moss.

Student Safety: Burglary Analysis

By JENNIFER CHOI
Contributing Writer

The day began like any other for David Lee, a freshman at the time. He turned off his alarm clock, jumped off the top bunk and hopped in the shower. When he returned to his room, he realized that this day was not like any other at all. His room had been burglarized.

“I came back to my room and saw that my laptop was gone,” Lee said. “Nobody worries that their stuff is going to be stolen while they’re in the shower. Nobody really thinks, ‘I’m going to be in the shower for a few minutes, so let me just lock my door.’” Lee, who is now a senior, says he moved back home at the end of that semester because he did not feel safe.

Burglary on campus is not something all residents worry about because they feel that they and their belongings are safe in dorms, but it’s something that can happen to anyone at any time. As Assistant Chief of Police Douglas F. Little put it, “It can happen very quickly, so students should be aware of their

Continued on Page 9

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Mind Brain Lecture Probes Evolutionary Basis of Love

By ANABIA HASAN
Contributing Writer

Monday, March 27th, Stony Brook University hosted its 10th annual lecture of the Stony Brook Mind/brain lecture series: "The Drive to Love: The Biology and Evolution of Romantic Love" at the Staller Center for the Arts.

The speaker Helen Fisher, PhD, an Anthropology Professor at Rutgers University and author of the book *Why We Love* discussed the brain's influence on the emotion of love. Why do we fall in love? Can humans really experience love at first sight? Why do we prefer one person over another? These were some questions that shaped the theme of Monday's lecture.

Fisher, in answering these age old questions discusses three primary drives of romantic love, long term attachment and the human sex drive, linking them to reproduction. "Mammals and birds have evolved three primary, discrete, interrelated emotion-motivation systems in the brain for mating, reproduction, and parenting: lust, attraction, and male-female attachment" stated Fisher. Fisher describes them as forces which

act together to intrinsically mold human mating and reproductive cycles.

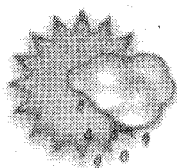
In supporting her theory, Fisher cited her anthropological research consisting of brain scanning and studies of men and women in love, and those who were rejected in love. Her research described the nature of romantic passion at both peaks, on the verge of despair and also ecstasy. Her findings revealed that people who have been rejected in love show signs of increased brain activity which can be linked to obsessive/compulsive behaviors as well as anger management. "These people are suffering physical pain. They are obsessively ruminating on the intentions and actions of their rejecter; and they are trying to control what is known as abandonment rage. No wonder recently rejected people are so willing to take big risks" stated Fisher. She also claimed that "the basic brain system related to romantic love is much stronger than the sex drive---indeed; it can be stronger than the will to live." The implications of these findings will extremely significant in explaining problems such as suicide, homicide, stalking and other related issues.

Fisher concluded her lecture by evaluating the cur-

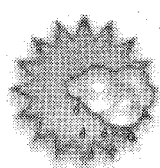
rent worldwide trends that influence sexual behavior, love and marriage. Fisher brought into account the heated debate of homosexuality and lesbianism and their place in this spectrum. Fisher attributes this to be no new phenomenon but one that has received more attention and publicity in modern years. She argues that such lovers undergo the same emotional responses that are attributed to conventional love.

The mind/ brain lectures attempt to bring attention to the leading researchers expose them to the university community. This lecture particularly successful because it was able to convey its message that could easily be understood and appreciated by researchers and non scientists alike. It attracted over 150 students, faculty and staff. One student Lubna Qazi, a sophomore and anthropology major, commended the lecture's appeal in being both engaging as well as informative to all. "Love is definitely a popular topic among college students; I like how Ms. Fisher was able to link it to science in interesting yet also informative manner" said Lubna. The lecture appeared to be a great success in displaying Stony Brook's leading current research and effectively engaging its audience.

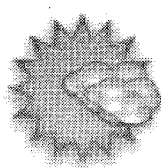
Student Forecast: April 3 - April 9 By Britta Merwin



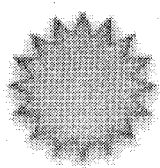
Monday:
High 52/Low 43
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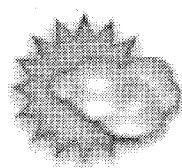
Tuesday:
High 48/Low 32
Breezy with a chance of showers clearing overnight.



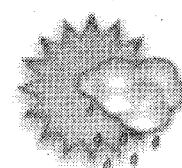
Wednesday:
High 49/Low 32
Slight chance of a morning shower.



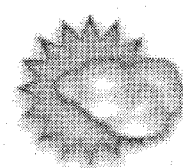
Thursday:
High 50/Low 35
Mostly sunny.



Friday:
High 53/Low 38
Small chance of an afternoon shower.



Saturday:
High 56/Low 39
Possible showers throughout the day.



Sunday:
High 55/Low 37
Mostly sunny.

Police Blotter

Compiled by Eugene Tan/Statesman

3/27 - 3/31

Wandering Around Campus

A white dog was found wandering around in the Chapin Apartments on 3-27-06 at 6:43 PM. The Town of Brookhaven was notified. At the Staller Arts Center, three suspicious males were seen wandering around on 3-28-06 at 12:01 PM.

Fake Gun Found

At Cardozo College, one fake pellet gun was found on 3-28-06 at 11:47 AM.

Marijuana

At the University Hospital cafeteria, a small amount of marijuana was found on 3-28-06 at 8:08 PM.

"Walkie" without the "Talkie"

Two walkie talkies were reportedly stolen from the University Hospital on 3-30-06 at 9:37 AM.

Slashed Tires

At the SAC parking lot, two tires were slashed on a

car on 3-30-06 at 2:19 PM.

Skateboarders

At the Javits Center, one student was referred to the police for skateboarding on 3-30-06 at 5:52 PM.

Feel the Burn

In West Apartments, the fire alarm went off due to burning incense on 3-30-06 at 9:24 PM. The Stony Brook Fire Department was notified.



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GET INVOLVED

Statesman production meetings are held throughout the day on Wednesdays and Sundays in Rm 057 in the basement of the Student Union. Anyone wishing to contribute to the newspaper is welcome to attend these meetings.

The Statesman encourages readers to submit opinions and commentaries to the following address:

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To view previous issues, extra material, and to learn about how to get involved with the Statesman, visit our website at sbstatesman.org.

For advertising inquiries, call us at (631) 632-6480.

WHO WE ARE

The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Sucolian" 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.

Disclaimer: Views expressed in columns or in the Letters and Opinions section are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Statesman. All content Copyright 2005.

The Sound and the Fury at Stony Brook

By M.M. ACKERSON
Columnist

A pulse of questions and murmuring remarks went through the audience like a shock of electricity. Everyone paid less attention to the panel discussion on "Equity Pay for Women" and repeatedly looked back to see how many more protesters there were. The majority of them were in the back rows, about two dozen total.

A final male protester stood up. He faced the stage and began yelling, calling the Senator Clinton's name, shouting down the discussion. He ranted about the war, that we should pull our troops out now because we're killing Iraqis and that this should be of concern to everyone there because this was also a women's issue since women were getting killed.

President Kenny interrupted him at one point asking him to be quiet and to respect the other audience members' right to listen.

The discussion continued but all eyes and focus were now on the heckler and the rest of the protesters who remained standing and silent with their backs to the stage, the words "TROOPS OUT NOW" printed on their shirts. The press people were now turning to photograph the protesters.

The heckler anxiously rubbed his hands together and cupped them over his mouth in preparation to shout again.

Members of the audience tried to quiet him more this time.

"There's a time and a place," someone muttered.

"Shut up!" said another

"What about our rights?" cried a woman seated in front of me.

The secret service personnel were tense, leaning out from behind the backstage curtain, ready for anything. The suit at the foot of the stage talked into his ear piece.

It was soon apparent that the discussion was to be cut short. Hillary wrapped up, summarizing the issues and saying what she was doing in the Senate to continue the fight to level the playing field for women in the workplace. She was a master of public speech, deft in every way—she must have done this a thousand times, I thought. Depending on your political view, every word and movement she made could be understood as clear and thoughtful, or well-calculated.

Finally, Mrs. Clinton thanked everyone for coming and the organizations involved. We all stood and clapped, and the event was over.

When I walked out of the Staller center the first thing I saw was the half dozen coffins draped in the U.S. flag with people playing dead all around.

I noticed that those playing dead weren't very good at it. Many of them moved around and sat up to talk to their peers. They were dressed in garbage bags. Some adorned themselves with the names and pictures of those soldiers killed in the war. I don't believe that any of them took to heart that the majority of those whose faces they draped across their body had died for a war that they believed was right.

One sign held by a protester read, "SAY NO TO USA EMPIRE." Another read, "Hillary is a Hypocrite." Another read, "Why?" Another read, "Not one more day, Not one more death, Not one more deception, END THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ."

A home video camera was stationed off the side recording the protest. Next to the camera

a woman read the names of those killed in the conflict into a megaphone.

I saw one of the press photographers who had been inside the auditorium. He was maneuvering around the grass field snapping pictures of the protesters. I walked over to him while he was in the middle of changing the flashes on his camera.

"So are you with a news organization?" I asked him.

"New York Times," he responded.

"Oh."

He ignored me, connecting the flash onto his camera.

"So, what do you think about what happen in the auditorium?"

"I don't think anything," he said. "I learned to stop thinking a long time ago. I just do my job and that's it." He then pulled out a pad and walked away to interview one of the demonstrators.


I walked around a bit more, snapping photos of the scene myself. A few reporters were scattered about, interviewing the demonstrators. It was creepy walking back and forth through that crowd of people playing dead and standing righteously next to those mimicked coffins.

I interviewed Chad Krautner, president of the graduate chapter of the Social Justice Alliance. He helped organize the demonstration. He held the view that the occupation was only causing more sectarian violence in the region and that our military was a cause for much suffering by Iraqi people.

I asked him if he thought we were targeting civilians there.

"That depends what is meant by targeting

Continued on Page 3



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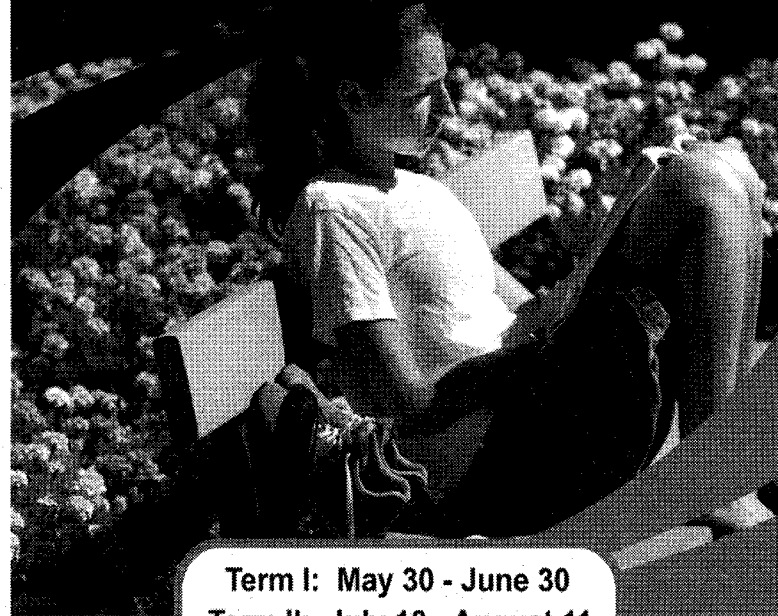
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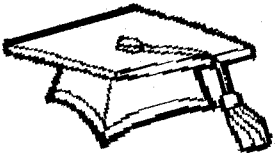
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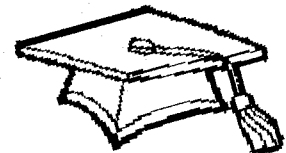
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Class of 2006 May Commencement



On May 19, 2006, Stony Brook University will celebrate its 46th Commencement Ceremony by conferring degrees on those who have completed degree requirements for Fall 2005, Winter 2006, Spring 2006, and Summer 2006.

The main ceremony will begin on Friday, May 19, at 10:00 a.m. in the Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium.

- **Doctoral Graduation and Hooding Ceremony** for all Ph.D., D.M.A., M.D., D.D.S, and D.A. degrees will be conferred on Thursday, May 18, at 2:00 p.m. in the Staller Center.
- **Baccalaureate Honors Convocation** recognizes candidates graduating with distinctions of Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude, and those elected to either Phi Beta Kappa or Tau Beta Pi honor societies. This convocation will take place on Thursday, May 18, at 7:00 p.m. in the Staller Center.

The **CEREMONY ATTENDANCE FORM** will be available on the **SOLAR SYSTEM** starting on **March 27, 2006**.

The **CEREMONY ATTENDANCE FORM** deadline is **May 4, 2006** (You must submit this form on **SOLAR SYSTEM** to obtain tickets).

A schedule of each department program is listed on the 2006 May Commencement Web site: www.stonybrook.edu/graduation

If you need additional information, contact Conferences and Special Events at (631) 632-6320, located in the Charles B. Wang Center, Suite 302.

ON CAMPUS EVENTS: Dancing to the Beat of a Korean Drum

By REBECCA NEWMAN
Contributing Writer

Do you get eight hours of sleep a night? Are you able to concentrate well in class? Do you know what day of the week it is? If you answered 'no' to either of these questions, chances are that you are a tired, stressed, college student. Because being constantly stressed is not exactly a prescription for long life, sometimes, you just need to let go, and enjoy a little. But the problem is that you need a good opportunity.

Well, opportunity has been knocking for four years now, so it's about time that more people opened their doors. The Stony Brook Crafts Center, located in the lower level of the Stony Brook Union in room 049, hosts Craft Night at the beginning of each semester. As a part of the opening activities of Chill Fest that usher in each new semester, students have a chance to relax and bring friends to a complete informal session of arts and crafts. You are left alone, free to create whatever you please. Art supplies are provided, as well as food and music, and it's at no cost!

Craft Night is supposed to be a pressure-free, stress-free environment, meant solely for the purpose of enjoyment and repose. Students can make ceramic magnets, sun catchers, bird houses, bookmarks, pennants, and anything pertaining to the season. This past week, students made Valentine's Day cards and photo cubes.

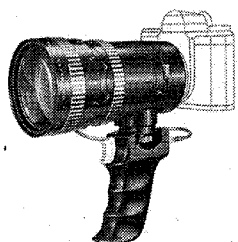
The Craft Center is dedicated to promoting student involvement in arts and crafts. T.J. Maher, a graduate assistant at Craft Night, noted that students come to spend half an hour or so, and end up staying longer because they become so involved. "It's laid-back; you're free to

express yourself." Irena, an undergraduate involved with the Craft Center, commented that coming to Craft Night allows students to bring out the "child in them."

Students seemed to agree. Nineteen-year old freshman, Asfa Akram, whose first time it was at Craft Night said that she had heard about it last semester and wanted to check it out. "I was not disappointed," she said. Eighteen-year old freshman, Laura Tattersall, described the experience as "very relaxing." Cindy Qian smiled as she said, "I'm taking a break from school."

While it may appear that arts and crafts are "feminine" outlets, it's often a common misconception, as it is in this case. Craft Night seems to be equally popular among females and males. When asked about his opinion about Craft Night, Sumit Taraphdar remarked, "It's great, and refreshing to have these events. It's good once in a while to have a break from studies."

If you discover an artist in yourself, you can enroll in classes offered by the Craft Center, like photography, painting, ceramics, and many more. Students at Stony Brook receive reduced prices for these classes. If you are interested, contact Janice Costanzo, the coordinator, at (631)-632-6822. The programs offered at the Center are sponsored by the Stony Brook Student Union Activities. The Center's website provides more information regarding classes, prices, schedules, and upcoming events: <http://www.stonybrook.edu/craftcenter>. They are also located on Blackboard. They can be reached by email at SB.Union.Crafts.Center@notes.cc.sunysb.edu. Often, in the grand scheme of things, we forget to appreciate the smaller things in life. You're not five anymore, but you're just as entitled as a five year old to have fun.



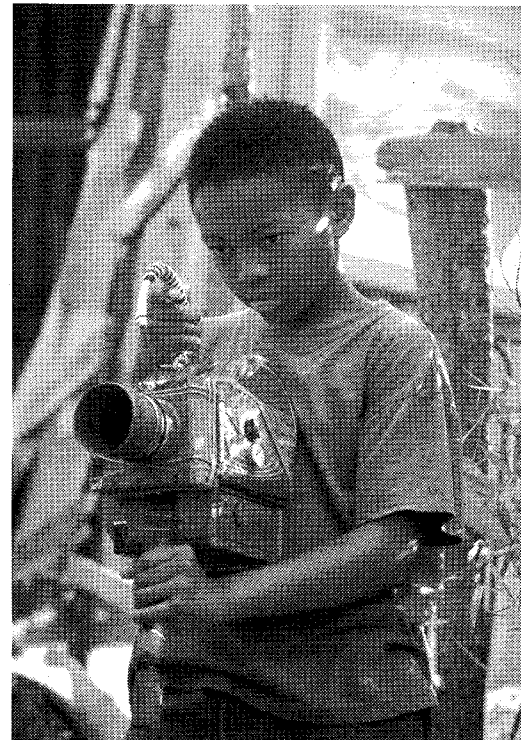
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Indie Flicks: *The Wooden Camera*



Courtesy of amazon.com

By RACHEL BROZINSKY
Staff Writer

Everything we think we know changes when viewed through the delicate lens of a child. There is an undeniable force that focuses our senses when the innocence of youth influences our perspective, which is seen in *The Wooden Camera*, a film by South African filmmaker Ntshaveni Wa Luruli.

The story follows the divergent paths of best friends Madiba (Junior Singo) and Siphon (Innocent Msimango) when they find a corpse by train tracks. From the body Madiba takes a video camera; Siphon steals the deceased's gun. Clearly the audience is about to witness two very different types of shooting.

Madiba uses the camera to capture images of his impoverished township as well as the much wealthier Cape Town. While Madiba is using his newfound tool to further his creative aspirations, Siphon exploits the weapon to gain power and influence over the gangsters in the city but finds himself in a world of trouble he wasn't prepared for. During their trips to Cape Town, Madiba befriends the free spirited Estelle (Dana de Agrella), who helps to encourage his artistic endeavors.

The performances of the young actors are certainly a highlight of the film. The depth in their presentations of the

characters in such troubling situations often goes from warmly moving to outright heartbreaking. It is refreshing to see such sincere acting from such young individuals.

A troubling aspect of the movie is that some of the situations often feel forced. The most difficult of all to ignore is the friendship between Madiba and Siphon, which is supposed to be the center of the film. It is simply supposed to be accepted that these two adolescents are best friends; meanwhile, there is no evidence of the development of this friendship. Even during the movie, the two often seem to be close for no apparent reason.

The movie also tends to lack a consistent flow from scene to scene. Overall the film is not difficult to follow, but it could be frustrating at times understand the movement of time and because of this the motives of the characters.

One particularly pleasing aspect of the film is its artistry. Madiba's movies are often a compilation of images from his world. What the audience sees reflects this in the use of quick cuts as well as unusual and interesting camera angles.

Despite some of its flaws, *The Wooden Camera* is an engaging and thoughtful film about loyalty and trust. It also touches upon other pertinent issues from racism to poverty to a child's loss of innocence from a first crush to a first crime.

**FULL ARCHIVE OF INDIE FLICKS
IS AVAILABLE AT SBSTATESMAN.ORG**

ON CAMPUS EVENTS: BiTrip Performs a Fusion Drama

BY MARSHA ZUNIGAM
Contributing Writer

Last week I was fortunate to attend the BiTrip Fusion event which took place on Thursday night. As an avidly curious individual of Japanese culture, I was excited to see what was said to be a dance of Japanese, hip hop and modern blend. I do admit it was very entertaining and anyone with an appreciation for the arts, and in particular dance, would agree with me in saying the dancers were extremely talented. Yet to my surprise this was more than just dancing, it was a play.

The play was entitled *The Journey of a Businessman*. This was divided into three acts, each taking the audience along to see what occurred in one man's journey to find himself and discover all he is capable of. The main theme behind this play was focused around the idea of courage, and that determination and effort is what allows one success and enables them to get through even the hardest of times. As for the dancing, it was a mix of modern American hip hop and Japanese dance. One of the performers was a former martial arts student for several years, and it was easy to spot him out during the performance because much of his dance had added martial art style to it. This I found most interesting to watch and it made it more enjoyable to see the combinations, which blended dance and martial arts because it was something new and unique. Different types of dance styles accompanied the different scenes within each act. The style of dance used was unpredictable but each type was theme fitting to its particular scene. During the Second Act was where I witnessed the diversity of dances each dancer was capable of performing. Not only did they excel at one style of dance, but they also stood-out in all the styles which they performed. This demonstrates not only their talent, but as well their discipline within the overall art of dancing.

It is only expected that such a group with a majority of its members having many years of experience and many prestigious recognitions within the dance community, would perform such a

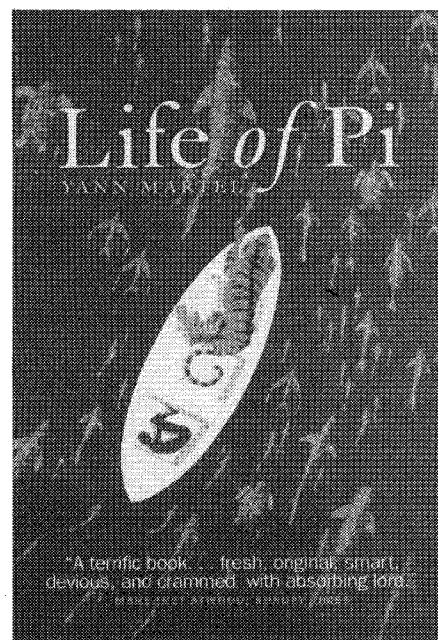
spectacular dance drama. It was pleasing to see the different type of attire worn, which added to both diversity and excitement of the event. With each new act came different costumes and characters. Although the props were a bit cheesy, they made the best of what they had and so they satirically presented each crop not only as a tie into the act but also acknowledged it for its cheesy-ness. Overall, the play was quite comedic. Their humor was expressed physically through dance and facial expressions. There was no talking within the script, it was all strictly dance. The group was able to convey its theme and message to the audience all through the remarkable use of body language.

The end of the performance was a free style dancing session on stage, where members of the audience were encouraged to participate. Although few were eager to dance with the ever-so talented BiTrip Fusion Dance Group, those Stony Brook students who did participate enjoyed it and eagerly displayed their dancing abilities.

BiTrip, short for Bi-Triangle Performance, was founded in 2001 as a dance company of Japanese dancers. The name was created because of the dance and drama performance principles the group holds, one of which is based on two balanced triangles. Each triangle represents the themes of: Peace, Power, Pleasure or Pledge, Passion, Pioneer. Among their list of credible performances include those for BET and the Apollo Theatre. The company took first place in the Apollo Theater's Amateur Night Event, and was pleased to be the first Japanese group to win such a notable award.

Many students are eager to see the performers again, and as Ewelina Fiedor, a sophomore at Stony Brook added, "I would love to see them again, not necessarily seeing the same play, but I would like to see what else this group can do. They are all talented individuals and their performance was remarkable." Any one who wishes to see this group again, or anyone who missed this performance, can see them perform on April 13 at New York University.

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BY JEREMY FALLETTA
Senior Australian Correspondent

This week I'd like to tell you about *Life of Pi*, a winner of the Man Booker prize and a hauntingly smart piece of fiction in today's market. Yann Martel has created a book that challenges the traditional meaning and stigma of storytelling to the point of redefinition. His narrator, Pi Patel, is a young Indian boy who sees no harm in actively practicing three different religions. He simply wants to be close to God, in whatever way he deems that he can. Pi's innocence and simple logic are touching, and they lay the framework for the ordeal around which the story is based.

Pi, whose full name is Piscine, endures terrible ridicule at school for his name. Eventually, when he starts a new class, he writes on the board:

"My name is
Piscine Molitor Patel
known to all as
Pi Patel"

From there on, Pi continues to find creative ways to solve his problems. His ultimate test, however, comes in the second and larger part of the book, during which he is stranded on a lifeboat with an enormous Bengal tiger after being shipwrecked. While these circumstances would be frightening for nearly anyone in the same situation, the diminutive Pi must go to greater and greater lengths in order to survive, eventually fishing to feed himself and Richard Parker, which is the tiger's name. Of course, Richard Parker needs to be fed first, lest he feed on Pi himself.

He spends the better part of a year on the lifeboat, encountering many different trials and tribulations along the way. He goes blind for a period of time, and

**LIFE OF PI
(336 PAGES)**

**BY YANN
MARTEL**

**PUBLISHED:
2001**

encounters another survivor in another lifeboat. He lands on an island that harbors a dark secret. But most of all, he endures the company of Richard Parker, so much so that he eventually is almost heartbroken when the tiger leaves him. He says, "I was weeping because Richard Parker had left me so unceremoniously. What a terrible thing it is to botch a farewell." Martel spends a lot of time subtly building up the emotional connections that Pi creates with his surroundings, and when poignant moments such as this one come along, readers will find themselves hard pressed not to go at least slightly teary-eyed.

Also, much in the same way that Tim O'Brien does in *The Things They Carried*, Martel, through Pi, questions the meaning of storytelling. As he recounts his adventure to the authorities, they seem incredulous. Pi then tells them an entirely different story of what happened on the lifeboat, and asks, "Is that better? Are there any parts you find hard to believe? Anything you'd like me to change?" This kind of flexibility is a constant reminder to readers that stories are just that — stories. They are written to entertain, to commemorate and to instruct, all of which Martel has managed to do with *Life of Pi*.

This book is a tour de force in writing skill. Anyone who has dabbled in the fine art of fiction writing will be able to appreciate the talent that Martel has for spinning a good yarn. His plot elements are sound, and his ear for detail is equally impressive. 336 pages can be downed pretty smoothly over a week or so, but once you start reading, a week will probably turn into a couple of days, since this book is incredibly hard to put down. Oh, and make sure you have some snacks around; all that lifeboat starvation made me ravenous.

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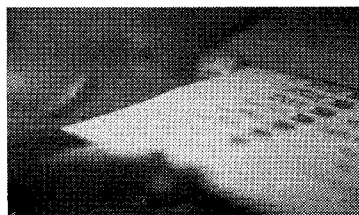
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Passover From Rabbi Adam

Passover is the most complicated of all the Jewish holidays. Ostensibly, it would seem like Passover should be but a simple family get together in commemoration of the Jewish exodus from Egypt in which, to remember the Israelite experience, all eat Matzah. However, it goes a bit deeper than that. For the Passover festival meal is not just a meal, but a "Seder" – a specified order of culinary Mitzvot (commandments). For if one's "Seder" is just a meal, then one's stomach will be filled. However, should one's "Seder" be a Mitzvah, then one's soul will be fulfilled.



THE SIX MAIN MITZVOT OF THE SEDER:

One should use this as a sort of Mitzvah check-list so as to ensure that you cover all the Mitzvot. Make sure to heed the required measurements:

- 1) Conscientiously eat 2 machine Matzot or 1 hand-baked Matzah within 4 minutes.** The Mitzvah is to have a Matzah dinner. Anything less than 2oz. of Matzah is considered "snacking" and not "dining". And similarly, if it takes longer than 4 minutes to eat, that's called "nibbling" and not "dining".
- 2) Recount the Jewish Exodus from Egypt by reading the "Haggadah" Seder book aloud.** Reading aloud allows for discussion
- 3) Gulp 4 full cups (or at least more than half) of wine or grape juice.** The Mitzvah is to "drink". Having only half a cup or less is called "sipping", not "drinking". It's also "sipping" if you don't gulp it down all at once.
- 4) Eat "morror" bitter herbs: 3/4oz. of grated raw horseradish** Here we are remembering the bitterness of slavery. If the horseradish is not "raw", the bitterness will have long been neutralized. And again, 3/4 oz. ensures the Mitzvah of "eating" vs. "nibbling".
- 5) Recite "Hallel" Psalms at the end of the Haggadah aloud.** Prayers are said aloud to enhance concentration.
- 6) "Next Year In Jerusalem"** Just like Moses took the Jews out of Egypt to the Land of Israel, we pray for Moshiach (Messiah) to ingather the rest of the Jewish exiles back to Israel.

Important note: all Matzah eating and wine drinking should be done whilst reclining (leaning to the left) – as that is how relaxed "free" people eat. For at the Seder, all are supposed to see themselves as "free from all bondage".

OTHER MITZVOT OF PASSOVER:

Don't Eat Leavened Products

Besides the culinary Mitzvot of the Seder, there is also a prohibition against eating "Chametz" – leavened bread products. Leavening is a chemical reaction that causes rising to occur when flour is mixed with cold water for 18 minutes, or less if mixed with warm water. Matzah is a flour-water combination that was cooked within 18 minutes of being mixed. Therefore, Matzah is flat and unleavened. During the entire 8 days of Passover (4/11-20), because bread, crackers, cereals, etc. are leavened, Jews are forbidden to eat them.

April 12: Stop eating chometz before 10:40 am

Sell Your Leavened Products

Not only is one bidden not to eat any leavened food, one is not even allowed to own any leavened products. Therefore, although one can leave all their leavened food products in their pantry, they must sell it through a Rabbinic "Chametz" broker. At the end of Passover, it will be bought back, and thus one's ownership will return to the leavened products in the pantry.

Sell your chometz on line: www.chabad.org

April 20: Passover ends after 8:23 pm.

But wait one hour before eating chometz to allow time for the Rabbi to buy it back for you.

"Die In" During Clinton's Appearance

Continued from page 1

Justice Alliance.

Clinton did not respond to any of the protesting, but President Kenny made remarks on how the demonstration was rude and disrespectful.

All the while, the Alliance passed out sheets of paper giving reasons for why the war is not a good idea. One of the issues of great concern for the alliance is how funding for education is cut due to funding the war.

The alliance also firmly believes that the troops should be withdrawn due to the number of deaths. "If she runs [for presidency] in 2008, we hope

that the protests will pressure her into being antiwar, or to withdraw troops from Iraq," said Obernauer. Kautzer made a point of clarifying the hypocrisy he perceived in Clinton's appearance, saying, "Clinton is a big supporter of the war, but how can she talk about women equity and be in favor of a war so oppressive of women?"

The Justice Alliance was collecting petition cards to influence other politicians, senator Charles Schumer and congressman Tim Bishop for troop withdrawal.

"It was very organized event and very active. It showed that Stony Brook is not silent," said Kautzer.

The Sound and the Fury at SB

Continued from page 4

civilians," he said. If you drop a bomb on a building to kill a terrorist, he went on, then any civilians who are inside the building will get maimed or killed as well. That is targeting civilians, Krautzer said.

"If we pulled out all of our troops now, the country would probably degenerate into civil war causing even more death and suffering, right?" I said.

He agreed with this but went on to say that not all of our troops would be pulled out under the plan he was arguing for. An international force would remain in the region until the country is stabilized. This way the government that is put into power would be seen as more legitimate, rather than it being viewed as a mere puppet government of the U.S., he explained.

I then told him I had no more questions and thanked him for talking with me. It would be pointless to try to challenge anyone's opinion in this situation.

My final understanding of what happened is this. Senator Hillary Clinton, a high profile politician, came to speak about

women's workplace issues and since she was there, reporters and photographers from the press were there as well. Thus the protest was organized around this fact as a way to gain publicity for the group's cause. And they did get publicity, but it was self-defeating. The protest itself was morbid and appeared anti-American. No one wants to hear the rhetoric that we're targeting civilians, even if it is true (which it isn't), just as no one wants to hear that we're trying to create a world empire. Such accusations are ludicrous and are in general a turn off to most other Americans who are more politically centrist.

There will always be a small minority to support any cause. For example, if I came up with a political cause that said all types of clothing is evil, I would have at least five nudists rallying behind me. It doesn't mean that a cause is right no matter how many or how few people support it. This situation is no different.

So last Thursday afternoon, as the reporters and cameras and onlookers shrank away, so too did the signs of a protest, signifying nothing.

Burglary Analysis

Continued from page 1

surroundings at all times."

According to data found on the university police web site, which was confirmed by the university's chief of police Richard M. Young, there was a 137 percent increase in the number of reported burglaries from 2002 to 2003, from 19 to 45. Little said this increase was due to an organized team of burglars who broke into rooms through open windows; about half of the 45 reported burglaries in 2003 were caused by this team, he said. Two members of the team were later arrested, and the number of reported burglaries decreased to 28 in 2004.

Federal laws require the university police to submit these records to the Department of Criminal Justice Services and SUNY Central, the SUNY office for statistical data.

Little said most crimes are crimes of opportunity. Leaving doors and windows unlocked gives criminals the opportunity to burglarize dorm rooms, he said. "Common-sense actions like locking doors and windows will make it more difficult for these criminals to commit burglary," he added.

Even though "99.9 percent of people are

good," Little said, "students are too trusting at times. They should always be aware of their surroundings, even fellow residents within their dorms."

Philip Choe, a former resident advisor, said a resident in his dorm pulled the alarm to empty the building, and then burglarized another resident's room. "When you hear the fire alarm, your first response is to exit the building," he said. "Residents don't worry about locking their doors because they never suspect that it might be a false fire drill." Even though the crime was reported, the burglar was never caught because the building was empty of all possible witnesses, he added.

In an effort to reduce burglary on campus, the university police are installing better locks in dorms and educating faculty and students about protecting themselves, Little said. If anyone on campus sees something suspicious, the police should be contacted by dialing 911 from a campus phone or 632-3333 from other phones.

"The police are here to be the public's eyes and ears," he said. "We're here to serve the good people; but for the bad people, we have no problems locking them up."

Profile on Cheerleading Team

Continued from page 12

The Stony Brook cheerleaders will compete in the preliminaries of the NCA championships this Thursday at 2:53 pm.

If the team is not chosen for the finals, they will have a chance to earn a wild-card bid the next morning at the challenge competition for teams not selected. Finals are then held Friday afternoon.

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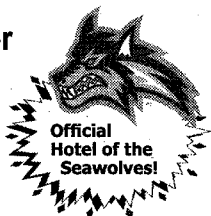
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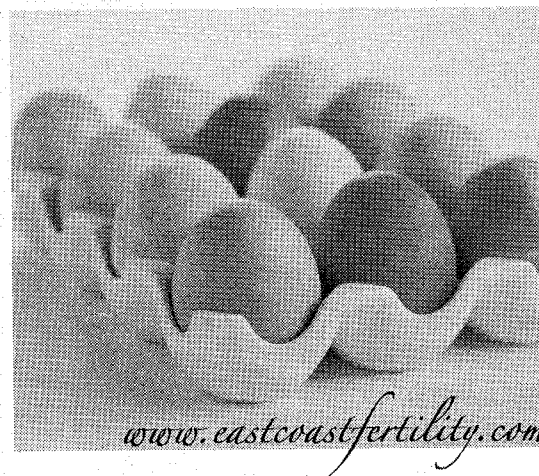
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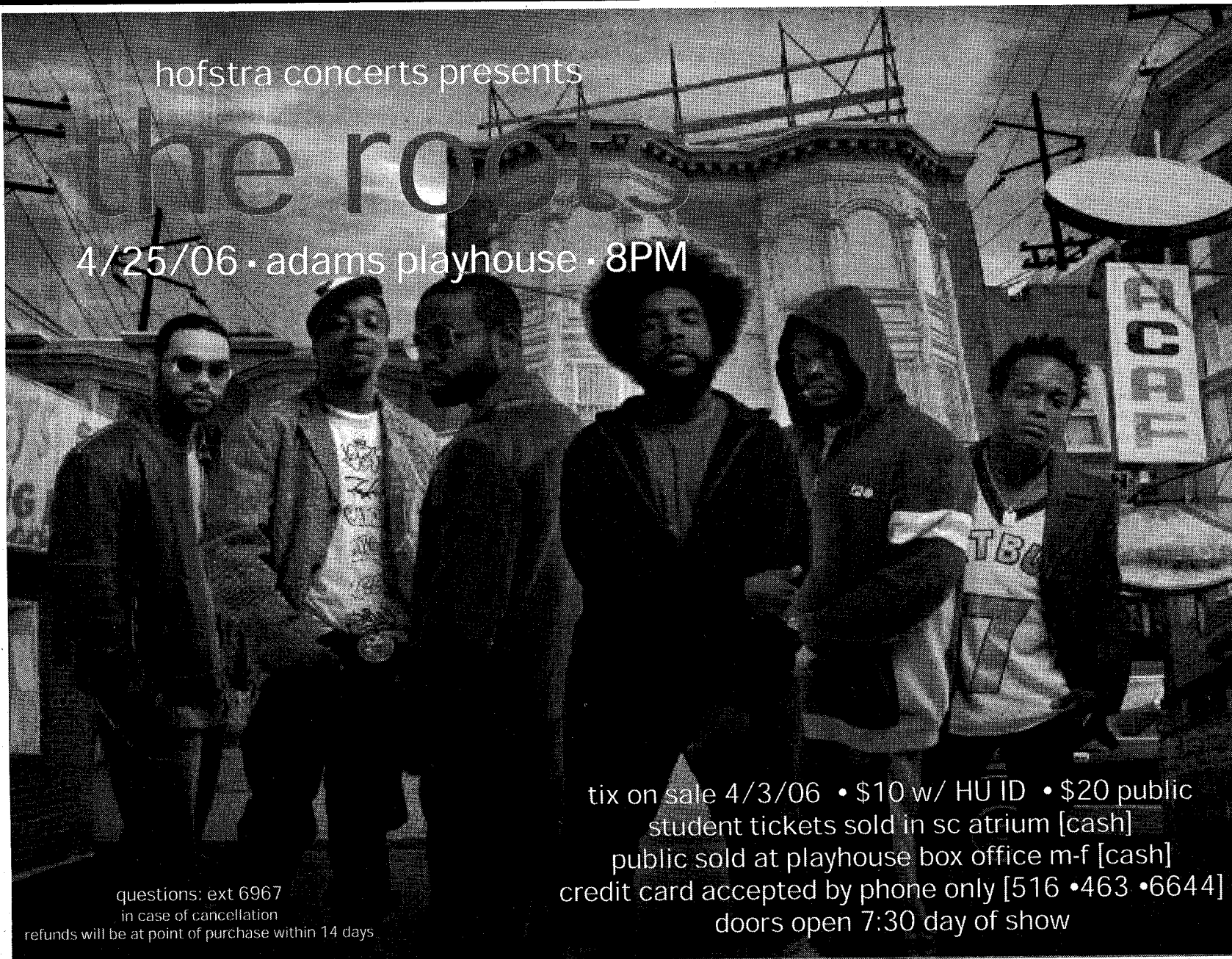
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SPORTS

Spirit at Stony Brook

By ROB DWYER
Sports Editor

Stony Brook's is an athletic department that is experiencing some growing pains. Since becoming a Division I program three years ago, the school has tried to put teams on the field that can compete at the new level in hopes that fans would come to watch. It's all about trying to build a Stony Brook identity, trying to grow a little school spirit. So far the pursuit of this spirit has been tough, but there are those groups on campus that are doing their part to celebrate their school pride. This is the first installment of a three-part series about Stony Brook spirit and pride. We will be taking a look at three programs that are infusing our athletic competitions with some much-needed energy and excitement.

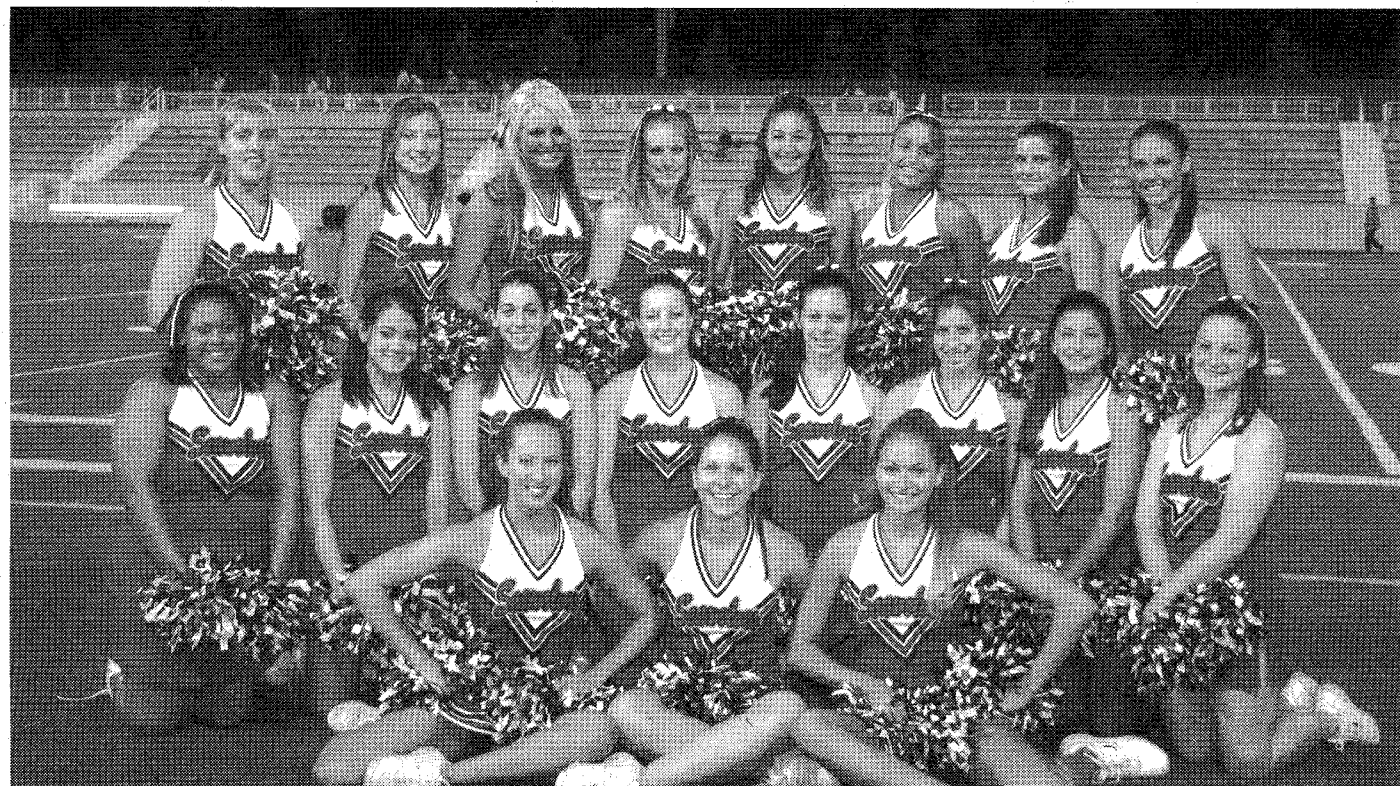
The cheerleading team, the dance team, and the soon-to-be-formed marching band bring enthusiasm to contests that are generally lacking in crowd size. Members of these groups hope that by taking the lead and setting an example with their school spirit they can foster that same spirit in others, and maybe one day the Stony Brook campus will have the feel of other big-name schools such as U Conn or Duke. Obviously Stony Brook has a long way to go before we can start comparing it to schools with traditions of athletic excellence, but steps are being taken in the right direction.

For instance, the cheerleading team has been around for a long time, but it is only within the last three and a half years that the group has begun focusing on lifting stunts and has hired a coach. I spoke with the Stony Brook Statesman's own weather woman, Britta Merwin about her experiences as one of the team's three co-captains:

Statesman- How has the program changed since the time you started?

Britta- "When I joined, I joined as a freshman and we didn't have a coach, we only had six members. And then my second semester we got our coach who has been with us the last three and a half years and the program has just exponentially grown each year, and now we have 17 members and we're an all-girl squad."

Statesman- Do you choose not to have male members?



Nicole Dulmer/Statesman

Britta- "We would love to have male members, but it's hard to come across guy cheerleaders. Male cheerleaders are generally going to go to Hofstra or another school that can offer them some type of scholarship that Stony Brook doesn't offer. We (cheerleaders) are not part of the athletic department. Technically we are a club organization and we get all of our funding from the USG, which in turn comes from the student activity fund."

Statesman- Will the situation change to allow you a little more freedom to fulfill your vision of what Stony Brook cheerleading team should be?

Britta- "A lot of things will actually be changing next year. We're probably going to become a sport club, which would mean that we will be completely under USG. Making that move will probably be very good for us in terms of getting all the support that we can. Right now, technically, we're just a club."

Statesman- Is it your goal to have the team classified as one of the athletic department's official programs?

Britta- "I think it's a dream of every cheerleader to be under the athletic department,

because we are always trying to prove ourselves as a sport, and a lot of people don't consider us a sport. But if anybody were to come to a practice and watch us perform, they would see that it definitely is a sport at the college level."

Statesman- The National Cheerleading Association's national championship meet starts Thursday, April 6 in Daytona, Florida. How did the team qualify and who will you be competing against?

Britta- "We went to a camp in Massachusetts in August, and based on our performance we got invited to compete at Nationals. You compete in the same divisions as your school's athletic department, so we are competing at the division I A level. We will be competing against UMass, Louisville and other big name schools. It's the first time in a long time that Stony Brook has made an appearance at this competition."

Statesman- Most people hold this conception of the cheerleader as eye candy in a cute outfit, but this stereotype doesn't really hold true any longer. When and how did cheerleading become what it is today?

Britta- "I'm not sure about when or how, but it's probably been within the last decade that cheerleading really became a sport. The routines are more crowd-pleasing, but it makes it so much more fun to be a cheerleader because you really have to train hard and work for it. You have to spend five hours at the gym each week, on top of about 8 hours of practice."

Statesman- In competitions, who judges you and how do they judge you?

Britta- "There is a panel of judges that look for tumbling and gymnastics requirements, as well as transitions between stunts, because the idea is that the routine should flow seamlessly. Being a cheerleader is about being a dancer, being a gymnast, a stunter, and knowing how to turn a crowd on."

Statesman- Is it easier to cheer for a team that is doing well? Who is your favorite team to cheer for?

Britta- "I try not to get too involved (with the teams winning or losing). I like the girls' basketball team because they are just a really great group of girls, and they really seem to appreciate what we do for them."

Try-outs: For those interested in joining the cheerleading team, there will be try-outs held on April 25 and 26 at 6:30 pm at the Sports Complex Main Arena. Applicants will need to fill out several forms and get clearance from a trainer before they are allowed to try-out. Please download and complete the forms before coming to try-outs! The forms can be found at stonybrook.edu by clicking on the "athletics" link and following the directions to the cheerleading forms.