



The four Intel Semi-finalists from Ward Melville High School. From the left: Sarah Kirsch, Hillary Lin, Rebecca Yu, Rachel Yu, Dr. George Baldo.

Suraj Rambhia/Statesman

## Congress' Proposal Cuts Interest Rate

By LYNN HSIEH  
News Editor

On Wednesday Jan. 17, the House of Representatives debated and passed legislation that would cut certain student loans in half over a period of five years. 124 Republicans joined a nearly unanimous group of Democrats to pass the bill (H.R. 5), the College Student Relief Act of 2007, by a margin of 365 to 71. It was fifth of six bills that Democrats had vowed to pass within the new Congress' first 100 hours of legislation. Democrats also pledged to address other ways to make college more affordable, later in the year.

The College Student Relief Act of 2007 would cut the current rate on the federally subsidized Stafford student loans from 6.8 percent to 3.4 percent in stages over a five year period. This will come at a cost of \$6 billion to tax payers. To cover this cost, the bill would reduce the government's guaranteed return to lenders who make the student loans, require banks to pay more in fees, and also cut several subsidies that the federal government currently pays to banks, guarantee agencies and other participants in the federal guaranteed loan program.

For instance, under the current program of subsidized Stafford loans, the government guarantees lenders a rate of return that can be higher than the interest rate paid by the student. In financing this proposal, the House decided that the bill would lower the rate by 0.1 percentage points for the largest lenders. It will also cut payments that lenders receive if a student defaults.

While Pell grants go to students with family incomes under \$40,000, Stafford loans also ben-

# Intel Reveals STS Semis

## High School Students Display Research Prowess

By SURAJ RAMBHIA  
Editor-in-Chief

Results of the Intel Science Talent Search (STS) were released last week on Jan. 17, 2007. Of the 300 semi-finalists announced, 20 individuals had conducted their research at SBU. The Intel STS is a national competition for high school seniors, with about 1600 applicants every year. The competition places a heavy emphasis on seeking talent in science. Thus, while a research paper plays a major role in each application, the STS application also requires five essays and multiple short answer responses focusing on the student's experience in conducting his/her project. Sarah Kirsch, Hillary Lin, Rachel Yu, and

Rebecca Yu, currently seniors at Ward Melville High School, make up four of the University's 20 semi-finalists.

Kirsch, Lin, Rachel Yu and Rebecca Yu, members of the InSTAR Research Program at Ward Melville High School, performed their research in a wide variety of fields. Kirsch's research focused on identifying differences in hypersensitivities between autistic males and females, one of those differences being levels of serotonin in blood platelets. Kirsch, who worked with Patricia Whitaker-Azmitia in Psychology, said she wanted to pursue research in autism because she has an autistic brother and has conducted fundraising for autism for many years.

Lin's research, with Turhan

Canli in Psychology, involved seeing differences in male and female brain activity during varying emotional states, sadness, fear, and happiness. Lin used functional MRI (fMRI) for her studies, a technique that detects differences in brain activity based on oxygen consumption. Lin will be attending Stanford University this Fall.

Rachel Yu worked in the field of molecular electronics under Andreas Mayr in Chemistry. She focused on the development of cubic molecular cages to control the flow of electrons between metal blocks. As Rachel Yu described, her project was highly theoretical and worked in collaboration with the Physics and Chemistry departments.

Rebecca Yu's research, conducted with Philip Allen in Physics and Astronomy, was much more abstruse. In her own words, Rebecca Yu described her research as a continuation of the Fermi-Pasta-Ulam experiments of the 1950s. Contemplating the prospect of a career in engineering, Rebecca Yu commented that she is still deciding. She said, "There are many different careers available."

Karen Kernan, Director of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities (URECA) at SBU, remarked on the variety of projects that won this year, "They're from many different departments. The faculty here put a lot of time and energy into

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### 10. Where does it go?

It's easy to go to the ATM (another twenty missing) and not track the money you're taking out. Set a limit on how much you take out each time and how many times per week.

### 9. You download music, why not your account balance?

With online access to your accounts it's easy to check your balance and see what transactions have been processed. And TFCU offers Free Online Banking and Bill Payer.

### 8. Create a spending plan to control your money.

Write down your fixed expenses such as rent and utilities. Then account for debt payments and some savings. You can use what's left for fun, so plan for it.

### 7. What's in a name?

Whether buying beverages or clothes, look for bargains. Name brands don't always mean an item is better—remember that \$250 sweater that fell apart?

### 6. Stay out of the red.

This is simple—don't spend more than you take in. And remember, student loans aren't income: Borrow what you need, not what you can.

### 5. Split it.

Dating can get expensive, but this is the 21st century. Take turns buying dinner or movie tickets.

### 4. Shop around to find the best value.

Believe it or not, where you shop makes a major difference in what you spend.

### 3. Avoid eating out (every night).

Eating out adds up. Cook dinner several nights a week and share the responsibility with roommates to cut down on the time commitment.

### 2. Stash some cash.

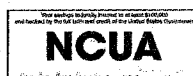
Do yourself a favor—try to put away \$10 a week for one semester. Use this as an emergency fund when you're in a jam.

### 1. Keep the credit card balance low—like at ZERO.

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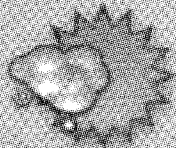


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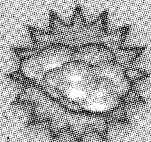
## Student Forecast:

Jan. 25 - Jan. 31

by Jamie Waller



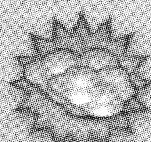
**Thursday:**  
High 32/Low 21  
Cloudy w/ 30%  
chance of snow,  
clearing by evening



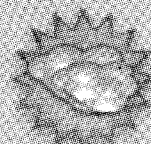
**Friday:**  
High 20/Low 13  
Scattered clouds,  
colder and windy



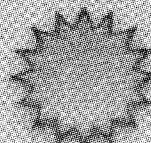
**Saturday:**  
High 36/Low 12  
Partly cloudy, mostly  
cloudy by evening



**Sunday:**  
High 37/Low 27  
Partly Cloudy



**Monday:**  
High 26/Low 18  
Partly Cloudy



**Tuesday:**  
High 31/Low 16  
Sunny but still cool



**Wednesday:**  
High 33/Low 19  
Mostly Sunny

### Behind the Numbers

Lately, conditions on Long Island have been around average (High 36, Low 20). Our only chance of snow will be on Thursday, with flakes coming in from the Great Lakes region. By Friday, clouds will diminish but a very cold airmass from Canada will dip southward, bringing with it high winds of 20-25mph and a high of only 20 on Friday. Wind chills will only be in the single digits. Currently, the weekend is shaping up to be very nice. Expect sunny skies and highs to be around average. But be sure to bundle up overnight, as lows will make their way into the upper teens by the start of next week.

# House Bill May Alleviate the Cost of College

Continued from page 1

efit the vast majority of middle-income students who are also in need on financial aid with the soaring cost of colleges. About three fourth of students who hold Stafford loans are from families with household incomes under \$67,000 just above the median income for a family of four, which is \$65,000, said Luke Swarthout, advocate for the U.S. Public Interest Research Group Higher Education Project, to The New York Times.

However, this bill did not hold up to the campaign promise made by House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, to cut all student loans in half, nor does it hold up to the broader goal of lowering interest rates for college loans that parents take out for their children. Critics also argue

that the bill, which expires in Jan. 2012, will only keep interest rates at 3.4 % for only six months before rates begin to rise again.

Student advocacy programs though, applauded this effort. Mr. Swarthout said "It [the bill] will save millions of students thousands of dollars on their debt." According to the Project on Student Debt, a nonprofit group, the bill would save \$4,000 for a student who graduates from college with \$20,000 in debt over the 10 year life of a loan.

However, the student loan industry criticized the bill when it had already received \$12 billion in reduced payments from the government last year as part of the larger, Republican led deficit reduction effort last year. Professor Sanderson, the Co-Chair of the Department of Economics,

said "Currently, we are in a time of high interest rates (5% and up) so this [bill] may result in fewer lenders."

The Bush administration questioned the new bill with regards to encouraging more loans rather than focusing on grants. In a statement issued by the Office of Management and Budget, "Student debt loads have soared in recent years, and it is not clear that encouraging more loans is a wise course. Instead, the administration would support efforts at direct savings to additional grant support for low-income students." Many Republicans also contend that the \$6 billion budget should be spent, maximizing the Pell grant to \$5,100.

In a world of rising college

Continued on page 13

# Intel Semifinalists at Ward Melville High

Continued from page 1

helping high school students and I think it does show."

While winning a prize is always nice, George Baldo, Ph.D., the director of InSTAR emphasizes the efforts of all the 33 applicants to the Intel STS from Ward Melville High School this year. Baldo, a research assistant professor at SBU, wrote to the Village Times Herald on Jan. 10, 2007, "The Three Village area is blessed with an unusually high percentage of industrious, motivated students who strive to attain their intellectual potential....These young scientists dedicate their final summer as high school students not to bask at the beach with friends, but in laboratories across Long Island completing their research projects...We congratulate these students for their exemplary efforts, whether or not they are recognized by judges."

Baldo's sentiments were echoed by several other university professors as well.

Miriam Rafailovich, Director of the Garcia Center where high school students have participated in research for the past 10 years, commented "We have a center for studying polymers and other materials funded by the national science foundation....We emphasize that it is more important to do quality work which is published in a refereed journal than to win a high school competition."

Srinivas Pentayala, Director of Translational Research and Associate Professor in Anesthesiology, said, "I don't really care about the prize. If a student comes into my laboratory and learns how to be patient, organized, efficient, if he/she learns how to interact with a group, this is enough for me. I like to take students who, when I speak to them, are enthusiastic about learning, even if they don't know exactly what they want to do."

Pentayala is also the coordinator of SARAS, short for Science and Research Awareness Series, and according to Pentayala, "People of all ages come, high school stu-

dents, post docs, everyone. But I want to see more undergraduates participate."

The mission statement of SARAS is, "...to bring enthusiastic students on different aspects of basic, clinical and translational sciences and associated specialties of the biomedical field. Scientists, physicians, allied health professionals, health administrators and other experts will be involved in educating the students about different topics, specialties, and also laboratory and clinical techniques. The interaction between these experts and the students will enhance the participant's educational experience and gives the students an insight into different fields and careers of biomedical sciences."

Pentayala questioned, "We have 17,000 undergraduates here. How many of them know what they want to do?" This year, SARAS will be held from July 9th through July 26th. A comprehen-

Continued on page 13

## Police Blotter

Jan. 17 - Jan. 22

### Finding a way in...

On Jan. 17, two suspicious men were found climbing through a window in the West Apartments Complex. These two men were gone when the police arrived at 2:43PM. Shortly after, another suspicious person was found at Schick College in Kelly Quad.

### Stolen Checkbook

Grand larceny was reported when a checkbook was stolen in the Chemistry Building at 8:16AM on Jan. 18. Two forged checks were also found.

### Stolen Possessions

On the morning of Jan. 18, there were accounts of stolen items in the University Hospital, including grand larceny of a computer and prescription pads, as well as petit larceny of a cell phone. In the evening, there were also accounts of a passport and \$1000 being stolen.

### Harassment Dispute

Around noon on Jan.18 there was a harassment dispute between two students in the West Apartments Complex.

### Suspicious People

On Jan. 20 at 10:50PM, there were four suspicious men found around the Student Union. All four were transported to the police headquarters.

COMPILED BY BEN HAYASHI

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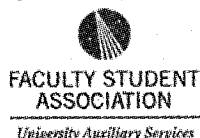
Inside



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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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#### WHO WE ARE

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

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

*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 2007.*

# Towards Affordable Education: Is There Any Relief In Sight?

While it is probably a popular step to lower the interest rate for students who are attending school, this is only a small portion of the national debate regarding the affordability of college. It is all too easy to attend a college like Harvard or Yale and end up with more debt than is conceivable to many high school students who make the decision to attend these universities. It is so commonplace to end up in debt that it permeates society. If a couple has two or three children of college age, it is inevitable that they will hear, "Wow, those tuition bills must be stacking up!" Then again, not everybody has to go to Harvard. Or even a school like Hofstra. What's wrong with a SUNY school?

Let's compare a school like

Hofstra to a school like Stony Brook. Hofstra costs over \$20,000 a year, while Stony Brook is about \$5,000 a year, give or take assorted fees. Hofstra also happens to be in Hempstead, while Stony Brook is a somewhat ritzier town, to make a gross understatement. Hofstra has mediocre academics by all measures, while Stony Brook touches shoulders with the most prestigious universities in the nation in more areas than one. Rather than asking why it is the case that a student graduating Hofstra is up to his ears in debt, it is more appropriate to ask why there are not more Stony Brooks.

The quality of public education is very good right now, especially in states such as New York and California, which offer

very affordable tuition rates for students. It is not a terrible hardship to attend a public university and work a reasonable amount of hours during the week in order to minimize one's debt. People do it all the time with great success. We have a system that works- provide kids with an affordable and smart way to go to school, and they will meet your expectations.

It is time for this government to stop trying to subsidize those of us who "just want to get away" for four years and to start putting valuable resources into a more accessible and higher quality public education system. Too many students go to party schools, attending classes as a secondary function of their higher education, and then struggle

through debt. The government should take no pains to make life easier for those who are unwilling to consider a school that falls under the purview of a state education system.

The smartest way the government can provide debt relief for students is to help them from incurring debt to begin with. There should be a university with the academic rigor of Stony Brook in everybody's backyard, providing people the opportunity for an affordable, top notch education. If people would rather spend the \$20,000 a year for "the college experience of a lifetime," which includes a lot of drinking hundreds of miles from home, then by all means they are welcome to it. But not on the federal dime.

## FUN AND GAMES

	7		6	3		8		
						1		
			2			6	7	
4	8	7			9			6
3								7
5			4			3	8	1
	1	4			8			
		2						
		3		2	6		9	

medium

# Sudoku!

## solution:

8	9	4	6	2	3	5	7	1
5	1	7	3	4	9	8	6	2
3	6	2	8	5	7	4	1	9
1	8	3	7	2	4	6	9	5
7	4	9	5	6	1	2	3	8
6	2	5	9	3	1	7	8	4
9	7	6	4	8	5	3	1	2
2	8	1	3	9	6	4	5	7

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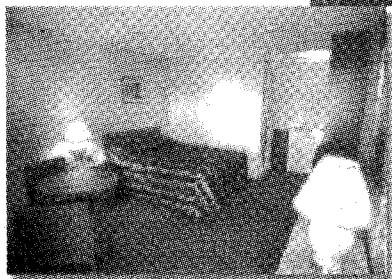
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# Get Your Read On

**Title:**  
*As I Lay Dying*  
(261 Pages)

**Author:**  
William  
Faulkner

**Published:**  
1930

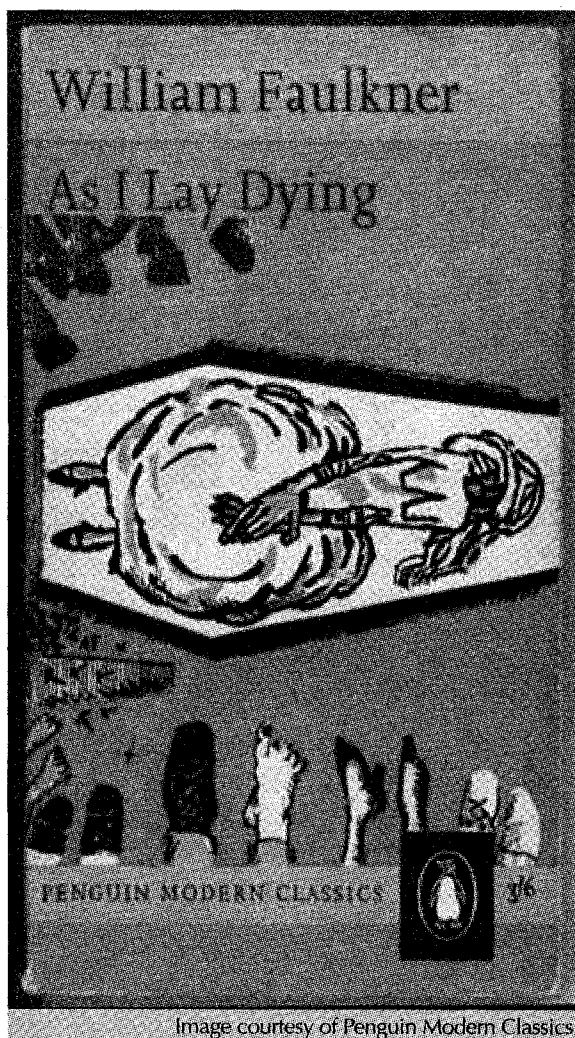


Image courtesy of Penguin Modern Classics

BY JEREMY FALLETTA  
Staff Writer

After promising myself that I would do so for almost four years (pretty much since reading "A Rose for Emily"), I finally got around to reading William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*. Faulkner is quoted as saying that when he began to write the novel, he set out to create a "tour de force." He wasn't kidding. Just under two months later, he wound up with one of the twentieth century's most classic pieces of American literature.

*As I Lay Dying* is narrated in a unique fashion, especially for its time. Each chapter is simply titled by the name of the character speaking; the same character never speaks twice in a row, and the focus is shifted around an entire family, from one member to another, occasionally making exceptions for outsiders or, in one case, even the dead. This style affords the reader a very complete picture of each plot situation, and although first person narration is the best way to "get to know" a character, it is only strengthened by hearing the firsthand impressions of others directly afterward. Of course, the most

interesting parts of the novel come when a character says - or does - one thing and thinks another, or when two different characters think in radically different directions.

The plot centers around the Bundren clan, as they make the journey to Jefferson to bury their dead mother. Her widower, Anse, is a bitter and self-righteous man, who will accept no charity along the way. The poor farmer's life has taken its toll on him; he says, "Nowhere in this sinful world can an honest, hardworking man profit." But despite that, and despite his constant quoting (and misquoting) of the Bible, he seems relieved at his wife's passing, not for the end of her suffering, but because "[N]ow [he] can get them teeth. That will be a comfort. It will." He has been without teeth for most of his adult life, and getting a false set is his first priority before his wife is in the ground.

Anse is, of course, not the only flawed character. Most of the Bundrens have something to be ashamed of. Jewel is a distant middle child, independent and brooding, though he will do anything he believes his mother would have wanted. Dewey Dell, the only daughter,

fastidiously conceals her own dark secret from the rest of the Bundrens. She says, "It's like everything in the world for me is inside a tub full of guts, so you wonder how there can be any room in it for anything else very important." Cryptic, I know, but I don't want to spoil anything. Anyhow, it is knowing so much about each family member and their own personal conflicts - with each other, with themselves - that makes the novel ripple with tension and strife. Even when there is no overt conflict, the reader feels one evolving in the minds of the characters. Breaking points are, of course, inevitable.

*As I Lay Dying* is a bit slow starting off. There are a lot of character traits and back-stories that Faulkner sets up early only to bring them back later in critical moments. Nonetheless, it has not gained so much acclaim over the last seventy years, by not gaining considerable strength as it progresses. Faulkner has a lot to say about the American south, the nature of life and death, and the human spirit, in all its various states. Finally, the book is quite short, so you have nothing to lose by giving it a whirl. Let me know what you think.

# The Book of James

## Revelation I:

The Need to Define Stems  
From the Need to Halt Growth

BY JAMES BOUKLAS  
Senior Columnist

Growth cannot occur without change. This necessitates a stable psychic framework, which many of us find difficult to achieve. How much more difficult it must be, then, to keep finding your center, knowing that soon enough this center will change. It is simply too much for many people to handle.

This is the foundation of repetition. Let's examine how this is not only appropriate, but necessary for many of us. When we define change as a fundamental aspect of growth, it becomes clear that "off" position of growth is to remain static. This is most easily achieved through the act of defining, in many circumstances. We can look at the case of people who wear their disorders as a patch. "I'm an ascetic person." "I'm a hypochondriac." "I have an anxiety disorder." These labels help to define us, and in turn, allow us to exist with some degree of stability. Simply floating along without purpose or definition is a scary proposition. Taking on a clinical label is very comforting in many ways, despite its wealth of detriment.

To a less negative degree, somebody might define herself as a type of person. A girl who prides herself as being a Prude can now follow an accepted script. Prudes act in a certain way, which affords a great deal of comfort and security. Rather than having to explain one's actions to oneself and to others, the Prude can take comfort in the fact that her behaviors are in line with that of a script.

By following a script, one engages necessarily in repetition. There is a small repertoire of actions and behaviors in any one given script that, while it provides security and stability, forces people into lives that are limited in scope. Part of the Prude script may include the denial of certain pleasures, which perpetuates an unhealthy situation. Nevertheless, stability is so important that people are willing to sacrifice both

happiness and normality for it.

This begs the question, what does healthy growth look like? A person can be very into indie music in her high school years. The Indie Rocker script can influence many aspects of her behavior and self identity. As time goes on, she undergoes several reevaluations, resulting in more maturity, changes in taste, and different ways in which she defines herself. Healthy growth is marked by the extent to which one is not afraid to evaluate personal dogma and change as necessary.

Since quality of growth exists on a gradient, with repetition on the negative end, what kind of growth do we aspire to? If we are aware that growth is made possible by constant self evaluations, resulting in adjustments and changes, then the superlative of this process requires a high level of self monitoring. This means that we must question every action and every belief we have, while at the same time recognizing that we must not confine ourselves to inaction. This is difficult concept to both articulate and to understand. The people who experience the best kind of growth know that it is okay to have strong feelings and to act boldly, but at the same time question their motives and belief structures, facilitating change.

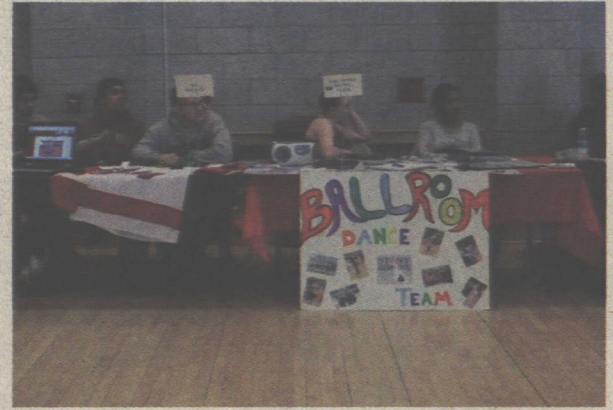
*As I began this entry, growth requires stability. For those of us who struggle with maintaining a stable psyche, stability is achieved through dogma and sometimes through unhealthy labeling, leading to severely stunted growth. Those of us who have stable egos can be afforded the luxury of constant self monitoring, which provides the most rapid and meaningful growth.*

*The Book of James is the musings of columnist and former Editor-in-Chief of Statesman James Bouklas. This column appears weekly in Statesman. To send in your feedback for the Book of James, feel free to email us at the-bookofjames@sbstatesman.org.*



# Sport Club Expo in Pictures

Photos by Munirah Hasan



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# CD Review:

# Wincing

# the Night Away

## By The Shins

By WILL JAMES  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Despite whatever Natalie Portman blurts out on screen, The Shins will most certainly not change your life, as many reviews have already pointed out. However, their newest release, *Wincing the Night Away*, which debuted on Jan. 23, continues the band's legacy of solid across-the-board performances. Furthermore, while *Wincing the Night Away* doesn't exactly blow away The Shins' earlier releases, it is quite clearly a step in an interesting new direction.

Every track on the new album is highly distinguishable - The Shins aptly avoid the song-title memory blur that accompanies many albums when they first emerge, largely because the CD covers such a wide stylistic range. Its ambition is proven early, when the first track, *Sleeping Lessons*, slow and whimsical, fades into *Australia*, a jangly power-pop number reminiscent of classic Shins.

You'll want to play *Phantom Limb*, the first single from the album, about one thousand times. It manages to be both tightly focused and strikingly interesting all at once, making for a smart power play of a song. Also of note is *Sea Legs*, which imbues a well-written pop song with a hip-hop groove, marking new ground for the New Mexico quartet.

*Wincing the Night Away* maintains itself from beginning to end. *Split needles*, a tense late-album track, shows a dark side of the Shins that's alluded to, briefly, on past albums. *A Comet Appears* is a classic Shins finisher - folky and stripped down, it's the only track on the album to really come close to the thick,



Courtesy of Sub-Pop Records

autumnal atmosphere of the Shins' first album, the breakout hit *Oh, Inverted World*. Undoubtedly something Ms. Portman's Garden State character would swoon over, if you're a fan of that side of The Shins.

Lead singer James Mercer's lyrics are as cryptic as ever - confusing college English stuff that ties love themes to social and existential commentary. However, he still makes it work. It'll take you a couple listens to figure out the songs, but it'll sound like poetry all the way through.

Most reviews will say that The Shins have fallen into

their stride after their freshmen and sophomore albums, and have successfully branched out in *Wincing the Night Away*. It's true that the new album is a triumphant experiment. However, it's important to note that something was lost along the way - a sort of high school autumn atmosphere that permeated the first album, and waned on the second release, *Chutes Too Narrow*.

I have a friend who used to say, "Why listen to The Shins when you can just listen to the Beatles? They're practically the same band." He was good at pointing out the similarities

in tone and song structure, in the lyrics and in the harmonies. However, there was always something special about The Shins, in my opinion. It was hard to classify, something in the production or in the words, in the timbre of the guitars or in the sound of James Mercer's voice. What it amounted to, though, was an atmosphere of extreme nostalgia and thoughtful sadness. The band, in their experimentation, has ditched this mood. Although it's a solid album, the question remains: will they still mean the same thing to us sans their original magic?

arts@substatesman.org



# Cool Things to Do On Campus

Katharine O'Dette, Features Editor  
Yi-Jin Yu, Staff Writer

**Free Exercise Classes at the Gym** These are, of course, not limited to the spring semester and are held all year. However, there's something about spring that inspires the sign-up. Whether it's what we eat over the holidays or the desire to fit in our bikinis, these exercise classes do much more than just work. Number one: They are free! Take it from someone who took the hip hop class last semester - they are fun as hell. They offer everything from abs to belly dancing to cardio to the intense cycling which, I heard from a friend definitely, whips you into shape. Just go to <http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/recreation/wellnesscenter/fitnessclasses> for the spring schedule.

**Dinner & A Movie "Grease"** If you're going to sit around with your roommates in your dorm room and complain there is nothing on television, you might as well lay around and take in a dinner and movie. On January 30 at 7:00 PM, come and relive the '50s with an old favorite. The event, hosted by FSA, offers the food and film at the SAC. So why not do the dinner and the movie scene only seconds away from your room without spending any money?

Contact Information Phone: 632-6770

**\$4 Movie Tickets at any Loewes Theater if you buy it at the SAC** I bet all of us can say we have been to the AMC Loewes movie theater seconds away on Rt. 347 and paid full price. But why? Just go to the ticket booth in the SAC and show them your ID card. You get a ticket for \$4 no matter what movie you want to see, and they also give you coupons for a small drink and popcorn.

**Is the Smithhaven mall starting to get old?** Try out some new shops - the outlets alone can fill up a whole entire day! Tanger Outlets: 1770 West Main St., Suite 200, Riverhead, 800- 407-4894, 631-369-2732.

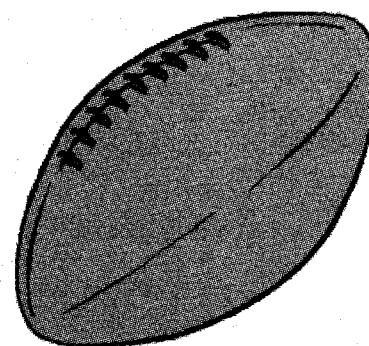
**Intramurals** Whether you're the shoo-in for the poker tournament, have a chance in the bench pressing competition, or are just crazy about white water rafting, Stony Brook's Intramural and Recreational Events site has something for everyone. Check out: <http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/recreation/intramural>, with registration deadlines for soccer, softball, volleyball, and dodgeball on March 12, and basketball on January 29, you'd better hurry to sign-up fast.

**SBU Annual Super Bowl Party** Still trying to figure out super bowl plans? If you're completely stumped, why not celebrate it Stony Brook style at the SBU Union's Annual Super Bowl Party on February 4 from 6-10 PM at the End of the Bridge Restaurant? Call 632-6770 for further information.

**Executive Chef's Kitchen** If you love to cook, or just love to eat free, come down to Kelly Dining. This program includes a variety of free - yes, absolutely free - demonstrations on how to make and create dishes from all over the world on your own. The demonstrations, which are held Monday through Thursday nights, cover everything from cake decorating to Thai cuisine. Participants get to sample the delicious dishes made by the featured chef of the night. They teach healthy lifestyle recipes and introduce vegan and vegetarian cooking techniques as well. Times and locations of the events can be found on the Stony Brook web site under "Campus Dining" in the For Students Section.

**Staller Center Film Screenings** If the AMC Loews is just too far away for some of you, the Staller Center for the Arts right on campus offers Friday night films throughout each semester. For the 2007 Spring Semester you can see all twelve movies offered with a \$20 pass (with student ID) but if only some of the featured presentations interest you, single tickets are also sold at the Staller Center Box Office (limited quantities) for \$5 with your student ID. The first film screening to kick off the season is House of Sand (Casa de Areia) on Friday, February 2, 2007.

For more information on this and other events, the entire line-up, and tickets, call (631) 632-ARTS, visit [stallercenter.com](http://stallercenter.com), or drop by the Center itself.





It's the spring semester already, and with it comes tons of things to do around campus. So many things that some are ones you may not have even heard of! So we at the Statesman decided to give you a few choice activities which are worth filling up your busy (or not so busy) spring schedule.

**Rooting for the Seawolves at Home Games** The Sports Complex is more than just the gym. It's also the home of Stony Brook's NCAA Division I Seawolves and this semester gets rolling with the first Men's Basketball game (part of the America East Conference) on Thursday, January 25 at 7pm against University of Maine's Black Bears. All students, faculty, staff and supporters are welcome to join Wolfie at this and many of the Seawolves' home games.

For complete schedules and information, visit Stony Brook's Official Athletics Site at <http://goseawolves.cstv.com/>.

**Influence Campus Activities and More** Ever wonder who comes up with all the cool stuff to do on campus? Both the Undergraduate Student Government and Graduate Student Organization come up with school sponsored events and activities for the thousands of students who are on campus everyday. Along with these two groups, the Student Activities Board, a USG agency encourages undergraduates to pitch ideas, opinions, and views on upcoming things to do and offer the UG community. The SAB holds General Body Meetings at 7pm at SAC 302.



For more information in participating in and with USG, their office is SAC Suite 202. GSO's office is located in the Computer Science Building in Room 2105.

**Revel in the Greek Life** Stony Brook's fraternities and sororities offer students plenty of opportunities and events to explore Greek life and have fun both on and off campus. The Inter-Fraternity and Sorority Council (IFSC) hosts events at the beginning of each semester and individual fraternities and sororities sponsor their own activities. This semester, IFSC welcomes everyone with a who-can-really-resist Chocolate Factory event. Taste all the chocolately goodness on Wednesday, January 31 during Campus Lifetime from 12:30pm - 2:30pm at SAC Ballroom A.

IFSC Events and other organizations' activities are routinely held at the Student Activities Center. For more information on SAC events, call (631) 632-9392.

**Experience Art at SAC** The Student Activities Center is also home to its very own art gallery, one of various on campus, including the University Art Gallery at the Staller Center and the Melville Library Gallery. Gallery Shows are typically free for anyone wandering by when it's open on Tuesdays to Fridays from 11am-5pm. The airy, open space features a wide variety of multimedia exhibits and traditional and nontraditional works organized by Interim Gallery Coordinator Keith Miller and Gallery Assistant James Pearson. Shows and exhibits rotate regularly.

Contact the SAC Art Gallery at [sacgallery@yahoo.com](mailto:sacgallery@yahoo.com) or call the Student Activities Office at (631) 632-9392. The Gallery's website is [studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/sacgallery](http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/sacgallery).



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# Semifinalists Conduct Experiments at Stony Brook

Continued from page 3

sive schedule with a listing of all topics for discussion can be found at the SARAS website, <http://anes.anesthes.sunysb.edu/teaching/sas.html>.

A brief perusal of the workshop titles shows the variety of fields are covered, from "Smile and Be Happy: Dentistry" with Maria Ryan, DDS, Ph.D., to "Smart Robots invade the lab" with Arun Kumar, Ph.D., and even "The Business of Biotechnology" with Joseph Scaduto from the Center for Biotechnology.

Focusing on the experience of doing research and the overall learning process is championed by

other facilities on campus as well. The Laser Teaching Center, run by Harold Metcalf, Ph.D. and John Noe, Ph.D., is known for taking high school students for summer research.

Journal entries written by students of the Laser Center showing their overall investigative journey through their research can be found online at the Laser Center's website, <http://laser.physics.sunysb.edu/projects/>.

For more information on undergraduate research, one can speak to just about any professor at the University. Also, Karen Kernan, Director of URECA, can be found in the Melville Library N3005.

# Stafford Loan Decreased by Fifty Percent

Continued from page 3

education costs, there has been an increase by 35% over the last five years. The average cost of a public college is nearly \$13,000 while for private colleges, it is about \$30,367, according to the 2006 College Board report, "Trends in College Pricing." The average college student now graduates with nearly \$18,000 in debt. The bill would affect the 5.5 million students who currently receive the need based federal tuition loans. For Stony Brook students, in the 2005-06 academic year, 50% of Stony Brook students took out the subsidized Stafford loan while 6% of students have parents who took out the Plus loan, according to the Stony Brook Financial Aid Office.

A companion bill, the Student Debt Relief Act, will be co-sponsored by Senator Edward

M. Kennedy, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee. His bill will increase the Pell Grant from \$4,050 to \$5,100 and cap federal student loan payments at 15% of a borrower's discretionary income. It will also forgive student loans after 25 years, and provide an option for 10-year loan forgiveness for individuals in public service careers, like teaching, law enforcement, and social work. In a statement issued on his website, he wrote, "The crisis in college affordability affects every low and middle-income family in America, and is threatening our economic progress as a nation...Students should not have to mortgage their futures in order to attend college."

The Director of the Office of Student Financial Aid Services, Jacqueline Pascariello, called the bill "a good first step." In response

to Senator Kennedy's companion bill, she said, "The nice part is freeing payment to 15% of your discretionary income because this allows you to make your monthly payments and still live."

According to Professor Albert Cover, the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Political Science at Stony Brook, the new bill "would make college expenses a smaller burden on students. However, students who have already taken out substantial loans under the existing rules would not get much benefit from the new program." In addition, he said, "By making it easier to handle debt, it may marginally advantage private colleges at the expense of public ones since the lower cost of the latter will no longer comprise a larger advantage."

The Senate will address the legislation in a Jan. 25 hearing on higher education.

# did you know about the Budget Application Process?

**MANDATORY BUDGET WORKSHOPS FOR ALL USG CLUBS & ORGS WILL BE HELD ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

Date:	Time:	Place:
Wed, January 31	7:00 PM	Javits 105
Thu, February 1	7:00 PM	Javits 105
Fri, February 2	3:30 PM	SAC 306

**BUDGETS WILL BE FROZEN FOR CLUBS THAT  
DO NOT ATTEND ANY OF THE MEETINGS.**

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT THE USG TREASURER STEPHEN HUI AT  
STEHUI@NOTES.CC.SUNYSB.EDU**





# **USG Leadership Day**

**Saturday, February 3 2007**

**10 AM - 4 PM**

**SAC Ballroom A**

**MANDATORY FOR ALL CLUBS' PRESIDENTS,  
SECRETARIES, AND TREASURERS**



# New Hampshire Beats Men's Hoops

Continued from page 16

chance to build some momentum going into the second half of the season. With 12:10 remaining in the game, Stony Brook led 37-36 off of a dunk by Solomon Bamiro.

Without warning, New Hampshire began a run with Jermaine Anderson's downtown triple to start a 23-5 run over the next 8:00 minutes. The Wildcats would sink 3 out of 6 shots from behind the arc along with several layups and trips to the foul line. Stony Brook's loss came despite having only 13 turnovers to the Wildcats' 16 and out-rebounding the home team 40-34.

What cost the team, as shown by the run, was allowing their opponent to hit 63.2% in the second half and 50% from 3 point range. The Seawolves did show some bright spots, however, with Emanuel Neto's surprising play (10 rebounds, 6 points and 2 blocks) and the increasingly productive Solomon Bamiro (8 points, 5 rebounds), coupled with Ricky Lucas' 18 points and 5 rebounds. Also, despite their opponent's extraordinary shooting in the

second half, Stony Brook's defense held strong, only allowing them to hit 33.3% in the first period while controlling the boards.

To start the game, the Emanuel Neto hit back-to-back jumpers and blocked a shot to help pick the Seawolves up where they left off a few nights before. After exchanging baskets over the entire period, the half would end with both teams tied. Each team would have the lead and lose it in a grind-it-out first half where each team only scored 23 points a piece.

Stony Brook continued its solid play into the early part of the second half. After getting the game started again with a 3 pointer by Marcus Robinson, the game would continue to be played neck and neck until the dramatic run when the Wildcats took control. The loss brings Stony Brook's record to 7-12 overall and 2-5 in their conference, while Vermont moves forward with an 8-12 overall and 4-3 in the conference.

Men's Basketball next plays a Sunday matinee against Vermont, where they will try to avenge their loss from earlier this month. The game is at 2:00pm in the Sports Complex.

# Track and Field Competes in Albany

Continued from page 16

On the Women's side, the Seawolves finished in twelfth place with a score of 19 points. The University of Connecticut squad led the pack of 18 teams with a score of 172 points. On this day, freshman Laura Huet recorded the highest finish for both teams. She took home second place in the championship mile with a time of 5:11.60. Fellow Seawolf, Lisa Carlson (5:14.10), tagged Huet closely for the bulk of the race and ended up finishing the contest in third place. Both of these times were under the Metropolitan (Met) Championship qualifying standard. Some other notable scorers for the Women's team were Kerry Salzano and Jacquie Kehoe, finishing in fifth (10:38.21) and eighth (10:55.75) respectively in the 3000m, both of which were good enough to qualify for the Mets.

Similar to the Women's team, the Men's squad was also led by a freshman sensation, Daire Bermingham. Bermingham took third place in the 3000m with a time of 8:36.34 which was not only a personal best time, but was also good enough to qualify him for the Met Championships. In addition, Ian Whitfield and Shaun Krawitz took fourth (4:18.79) and fifth (4:22.92), respectively in the championship mile. Both of these results qualified the two individuals for the Met Championships.

Some other Met qualifying scores were attained by Robert Dantone in the weight throw (14.60) and Justin Miller in both the shot (14.30) and weight throw (14.44). The next scheduled event for the two squads is on Jan. 26th when they compete in the Boston Invitational. The Met Championships are scheduled for Feb. 4th in New York City.

# Women's Basketball Over the Break

Continued from page 16

And the team did just that. They played tough defense and efficient offense for the entire game. Their efforts resulted in a 72-60 victory, the team's first conference win of the season, and an end to their 3 game losing streak. "I was proud of the way we played defense today after the loss to Hartford," said head coach Maura McHugh. "We were able to get a hand in their face, making it difficult for them every trip down the floor."

The win against UMBC seemed to ignite a fire under the team. In the 10 days following the UMBC game, Stony Brook won by double figures against Boston University, New Hampshire, and Maine. This 4-game winning streak was led by Mykeema Ford, who scored 29, 32, 22, and 27 points in the four contests. In addition, Jessica Smith's all around play throughout

this two week period earned her the honor of being named the America East Player of the Week. This was the third time this season that Smith was given this honor.

Now that the rollercoaster winter break has ended, the Women's Basketball team finds themselves sitting in second place in the conference with a 4-1 record. The team seems to finally be playing the type of basketball that might just get them a bid into the NCAA tournament this coming March. The team's next game is scheduled for Wednesday Jan. 24 against the Catamounts of Vermont.

## SCHEDULE

Jan. 26 - Jan. 29

### TRACK

#### BOSTON UNIVERSITY INVITATIONAL

Jan. 26/27, 2006  
4:00 PM, 9:00AM  
Boston, MA

#### MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SWIMMING AND DIVING

Jan. 27, 2006  
1:00 PM  
Fairfield, CT

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

#### ALBANY

Jan. 27, 2006  
2:00 PM  
Indoor Sports Complex

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL

#### UMBC

Jan. 28, 2006  
2:00 PM  
Baltimore, MD

# Men's Basketball faces a Shaky Year

Continued from page 16

Wright's 8 points and 6 rebounds.

Last week, on Jan. 15, the Seawolves visited Albany only to leave with another close loss 66-61. Despite getting strong production from Ricky Lucas (17 points, 3 rebounds) and Beauford (15 points, 5 rebounds) and forcing 20 turnovers as a team, the Seawolves allowed their opponent to make 50% of their shots and go to the foul line 30 times. Stony Brook only had 5 assists, while Albany tallied 13.

Finally back at home, on Jan. 18th, the Seawolves took care of business against Boston University, winning against BU for the first time in nearly 3 years, 69-62. Ricky Lucas sent the game into overtime, nailing the game tying jumper with the clock expiring. For the game Emanuel Neto netted 10 points, Solomon Bamiro scored 15 points and pulled down 4 rebounds, and Mitchell Beauford led all players with 18 points and 3 steals, to go with his 5 assists. The game brought their overall record to 7-11 and 2-4 in the America East Conference.





# Statesman SPORTS

## Men's Basketball Falls Short to New Hampshire

By SHONTO OLANDER  
Staff Writer

Tyrece Gibbs and the New Hampshire Wildcats rode a 23-5 run in the second half to defeat the Seawolves for another America East Conference loss. After an impressive win earlier in the week against BU, Stony Brook fell on the road 69-56, on Sunday, losing their

Continued on page 15

## Track and Field at the Albany Invite

By JOSH SEIDMAN  
Staff Writer

While the majority of students were squeezing every last second out of their winter vacations, both the male and female Stony Brook track and field squads were in action at the Great Dane Classic this past Friday, at the Armory in New York City. The Men's team finished with a score of 15, which landed them in eleventh place out of the 22 teams that competed on that side of the event. The team from the University of Pennsylvania finished with a top score of 115 points.

Continued on page 15



The Seawolves try to regroup amidst their struggles ending conference at 5-7.

Feng Bo/Statesman

## Men's Basketball Begins New Year with Mixed Results

By SHONTO OLANDER  
Staff Writer

On Dec. 30, the Seawolves traveled to South Bend, Indiana to face nationally ranked Notre Dame. In a losing effort, 95-66, Mike Popoko and Mitchell Beauford each scored 14 points, and were helped by 8 assists and 2 steals from Eddie Castellanos. Stony Brook ended their out-of-conference schedule 5-7, having faced tough opponents such as Villanova and Hofstra in the previous months, but still surpassing their win total from last season.

In their first game of 2007, the Seawolves began their conference schedule on the road against the Vermont Catamounts. Stony Brook fell 80-69, in a game where three

players (Mike Popoko, Ricky Lucas and Mitchell Beauford) reached double figures. The Seawolves allowed Vermont to hit 60% of their shots in the second half, giving the Catamounts a comfortable lead that proved too much to overcome.

Playing at home, Men's Basketball took on UMBC on Jan. 6, losing their second conference game 72-53. Despite getting 15 points and 3 rebounds from Mike Popoko and 10 points, 6 rebounds and 5 assists from Mitchell Beauford, stealing one on the road proved a difficult task for the visiting Seawolves.

Marques Cox came off the bench to record 3 steals in just 15 minutes. Three days later, on Jan. 9, the Seawolves came alive at Binghamton, winning

decisively, with a score of 67-55. Leading all scorers, Ricky Lucas had 21 points along with 4 rebounds, and was assisted by Solomon Bamiro and Mike Popoko who had 14 and 11 points, respectively. The game raised their record to 6-9 overall and 1-2 in their conference at that point.

On Jan. 13, Stony Brook traveled to Hartford, coming up just short of another conference win, 50-47. Shooting 45.5% in the first half, the Seawolves could not find the basket and hit only 25% of their shots after the intermission. Ricky Lucas had 11 points and grabbed 7 rebounds as the only player in double figures. Mike Popoko had 6 points and 8 rebounds, in addition to Kyle

Continued on page 15

## Women's Basketball Over the Break

By JOSH SEIDMAN  
Staff Writer

Winter vacation is a time for relaxation and recuperation from an exhausting semester of college life. However, for the Stony Brook Women's Basketball team, this break consisted of a full slate of games, which contained both a 3 game losing streak and a 4 game winning streak.

To begin the time off from school, the team pulled out an eight point win against a tough Quinnipiac squad (87-79). Senior Forward, Mykeema Ford, led the team in scoring and had 23 points in the contest. At this point in the season, the Seawolves seemed to be heading down the right road. This victory was the team's second in a row, and improved their record to 4-6 for the season.

The brief winning streak quickly came to an end five days later, when Stony Brook fell to Sacred Heart 77-65. This defeat was followed with two more losses to St. John's and Hartford, respectively. During this losing streak, the Seawolves had three different players lead the team in scoring. Jessica Smith had a team high, 19 points, in the Sacred Heart game. Kelly Watson had 22 points in the loss to St. John's and Mykeema Smith dropped 19 points against Hartford.

In each of these contests Stony Brook had several opportune chances to seize the momentum and, ultimately, the lead, but each of these chances were disrupted by the opposition, thus resulting in the losses.

With the season beginning to slip away, the Seawolves needed to enter the UMBC game with virtually a "must win" attitude.

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