

SB Students Participate In Louisiana Winter

By ADAM PECK
Contributing Writer

Sixteen months after Hurricane Katrina decimated the Gulf Coast, a group of 100 students from 20 universities, including two students from Stony Brook, traveled to Louisiana to offer their assistance. The student campaign, entitled Louisiana Winter, was focused on persuading Congress to pass legislation based on the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project, a campaign that would create 100,000 civic works jobs for the newly homeless in New Orleans and the surrounding area.

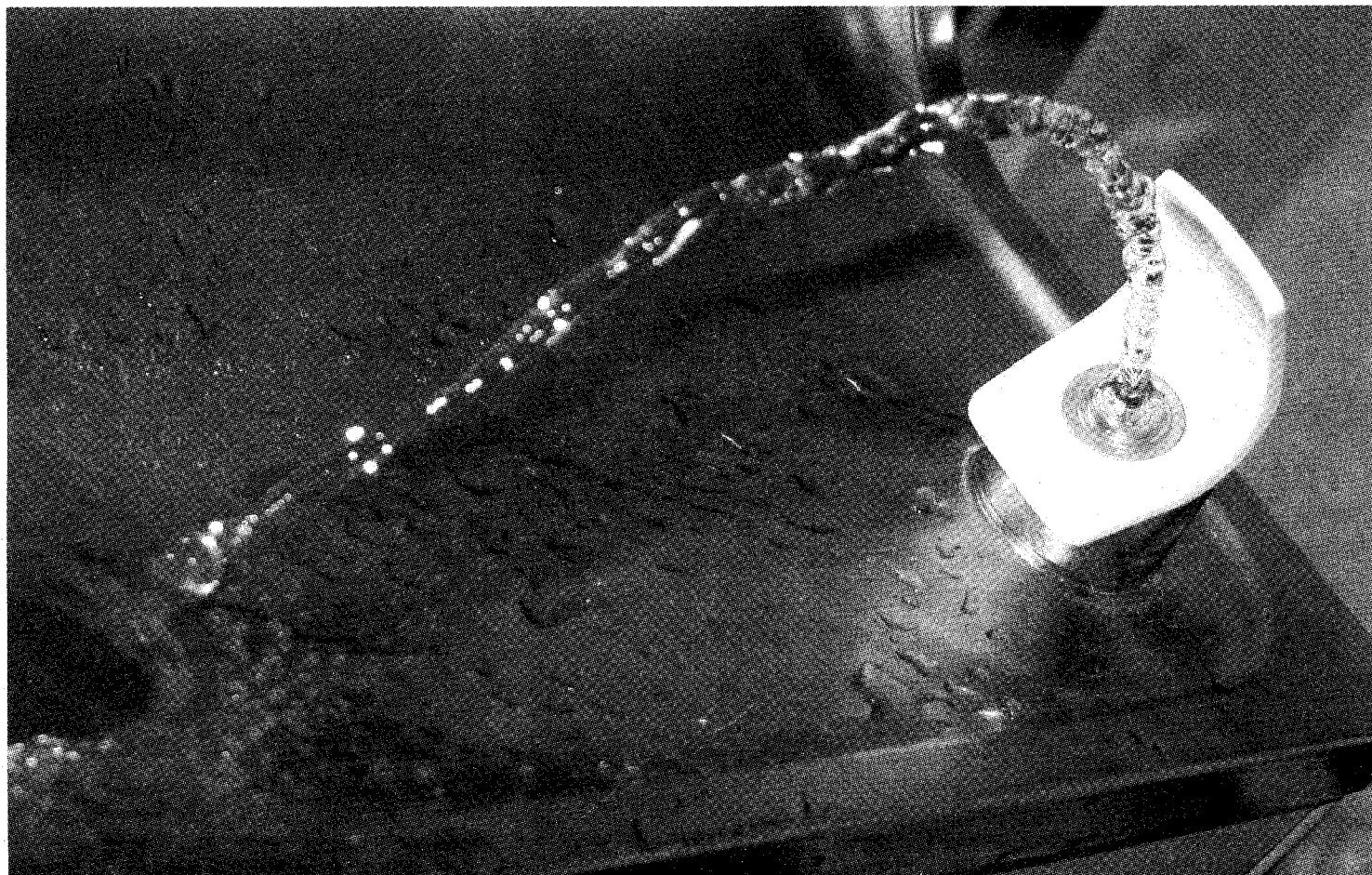
Simone Crichlow, a graduate student in the School of Social Work, was one of two students from SBU to travel to New Orleans. From Jan. 19 to 20, she, along with friend Claire Green-Forde, traveled to communities to see for themselves the effects of Katrina.

Speaking about houses and schools that were destroyed after the Category 5 storm made landfall in Aug. 2005, Crichlow said, "There is no way to describe it."

"It was like a ton of bricks hit me," Crichlow later recalled, when she described how seashells were clearly visible on the floors of what were once living rooms, and twisted fences and a slide lined the playground of a former public elementary school. Most shocking, said Crichlow, was the lack of construction and repair. There was "not one crane, not one construction site" in the Lower 9th Ward, the now-famous low income area of New Orleans that was virtually underwater for weeks following Katrina.

In the aftermath of the hurricane, the Bush administra-

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As news of a water main break hit campus, students in several residential quads were already without water and heat.

Suraj Rambhia / Statesman

Water Main Break On Campus

No Heat or Water in Many Dorms

By LYNN HSIEH
News Editor

This Monday evening, a water main break occurred in the vicinity of the Center for Molecular Medicine. Campus Operations and Maintenance shut down the water service in response to this and began repairs at around 11:00 PM.

According to University Media Relations Officer, Patrick Calabria, "The water main ruptured. Values in that area were turned off to isolate the problem. Emergency repairs were made to the water main and service was restored. Additional repairs will be made over the next few

days on that section of the water main."

The water main break not only affected many areas in the Academic Mall, such as Harri-man Hall and the Life Sciences Building, but several residential quads on campus were also affected. Many students who dorm were without water and heat. The buildings affected included Challenger Hall, Dana Hall, Discovery Hall, at the South Campus and Douglass College, Dreiser College and Hand College, at Tabler Quad.

A press release was emailed early Monday afternoon to all faculty, staff and students to

inform them of the situation. According to the email, repair work was in progress and that due to the repairs, Circle Road, east of Marburger Drive, south of the main campus entrance, was closed to traffic.

Mark Woodruff, Assistant Director for Facilities and Services, commented late Tuesday afternoon, "The break has been repaired now. It'll take sometime for the water to get through the system."

The majority of the residents were irate about the situation and complained about the lack

Continued on page 3

First USG Senate Meeting is Encouraging

By SURAJ RAMBHIA
Editor-in-Chief

On Tuesday, Jan. 31, the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Senate convened for its first meeting of the Spring 2007 semester.

While opening remarks by Senator Esam Al-Shareffi aimed to push Senators to continue to build upon the success of the P.A.S.S. and Alert programs from the previous semester, much of the meeting was devoted to organizational issues resulting in some contentious debates. Al-Shareffi also addressed the need for more programs like P.A.S.S.

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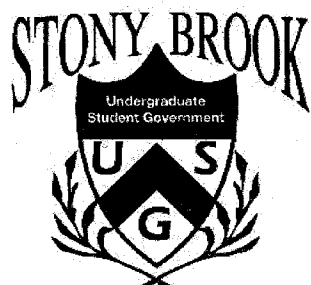
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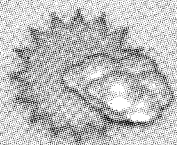
March 27, 2007 SAC 302

April 24, 2007 SAC Auditorium

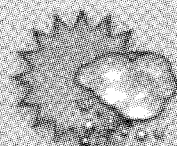
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Student Forecast:

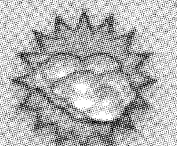
Feb. 1 - Feb. 7
by Jamie Waller



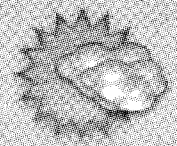
Thursday:
High 35/Low 21
Partly cloudy,
becoming mostly
cloudy



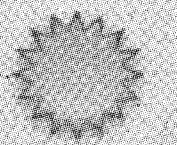
Friday:
High 40/Low 29
Cloudy w/ possible rain or
snow showers



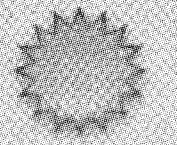
Saturday:
High 36/Low 22
Mostly cloudy, clearing
by evening



Sunday:
High 29/Low 16
Partly cloudy, but colder



Monday:
High 26/Low 10
Pleasantly sunny



Tuesday:
High 23/Low 13
Mostly sunny, but
colder



Wednesday:
High 22/Low 8
Mostly sunny

Behind the Numbers

Today's weather seems to be the last good one for the next few days. As the end of the week rolls around, an area of low pressure will be developing in the gulf coast. This low will intensify and track its way up the Atlantic Coast, making it to our area on Friday. Rain or snow-fall depends on the exact location of this low, and at this time is not entirely certain what we will get. Currently, models are indicating snow showers during the day, with rain mixed in towards evening, and leftover snow showers overnight. Saturday should be an improvement, as the low tracks into Canada. Temperatures will begin to drop by the second half of the weekend, as strong Canadian winds make its way into our area. Highs for the beginning of the week will be lower than average. Overnight lows will only be in single digits to lower teens. However, skies should be mostly clear with abundant sunshine. Check back on Monday for a better outlook.

Water Break is Fixed

Continued from page 1

of basic necessities. Chelsea Stern, a sophomore from Douglass College, said "It was incredibly inconvenient. I'm sick, and I had to shower at the SAC. It was cold and very unpleasant. We found out at one in the morning so we didn't have time to plan for anything else. There was absolutely no water to brush your teeth or do anything."

According to an RA at Douglass College who wishes to remain anonymous, "I found out last minute right before I got off, when the RHD called. I contacted other RAs but most people were surprised. I put up signs to warn [the residents]. It was a major

inconvenience and all of Tabler was affected. The residents were really upset. Some people even called Campus Residences for refunds."

Many students also felt that the alternatives SBU offered for the residents were lacking. Sue Lee, a sophomore from Douglass College, stated, "I thought it was entirely crazy that the whole quad did not have water and expected all of us to go to Roth Quad's 'Tub Rooms.' I can't believe they shut the heat, too. It's so cold."

One major complaint many residents had was regarding the plumbing situation and how they could not flush the toilet. "We had to go to the classroom or library to pee. When the water finally came

back around two in the afternoon, we were really happy," said former RHA of Dreiser College, Stephanie Tam.

Residences at the colleges were made aware of the situation at different times during the night. At Tabler Quad, residents from Douglass College found out around one to three in the morning, when they noticed signs around the building. Students at Dreiser College were not aware of the situation until the morning after when signs were posted around noon.

At Tabler Quad, the water came back at different times for the colleges, starting from 4:00 PM yesterday, to the relief of residents.

Environmental Threats to L.I. Pine Barrens Warrants Study

By JESSICA JONES
Contributing Writer

Monitoring the growing threats to the Long Island Pine Barrens is important and will be beneficial to students who can learn from the research, according to Professor Gilbert Hanson, Department of Geosciences. Hanson gave the first Geology Open Night lecture of the semester on Jan. 26. His lecture addressed the environmental threats to the Pine Barrens and the research that has begun to monitor those threats.

Hanson is participating in the "Program for Integrated Natural Environmental Sustainability (PINES) for the Long Island Pine Barrens Region." He wants the data collected to be useful to the

public and students. "Research is in the very early stages. We have to develop exercises to use data in classrooms, that is very important," said Hanson.

SBU's purchase of the South Hampton campus has played a role. Hanson said that teachers can "use the Pine Barrens as a test of sustainability... use as part of the curriculum for South Hampton." There are courses offered this semester, BIO 301/ECO 301/ENG 301/ESS 511/GEO 301, Sustainability of the Long Island Pine Barrens.

Research on the sustainability of the region is being done because serious threats place the future of the Pine Barrens in danger. The primary environmental threats to the Pine Barrens are

acid rain, global warming, the rising sea level and ground level ozone. "These threats need to be monitored because we know the threats now, but in the future we don't know how it will change," said Hanson.

Currently, long term monitoring is a problem. In remote locations, data has to be collected with hands-on measurements, according to Hanson. Funding is being sought to purchase monitoring stations. The Long Island Group Advancing Science Education provided a station, known as HOB0, which is capable of monitoring multiple factors. Hanson is planning to set up a HOB0 station in the Pine

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Inside

Police Blotter

Jan. 24 - Jan. 27

Graffiti

At 8:30AM on the 24th of January graffiti was found on the side of the Frank Melville Library.

Stolen Spoiler

Grand larceny occurred on January 24th when a spoiler was stolen from a vehicle in the Kelly parking lot. This occurred around 12:40PM.

Stolen Computer

There was another account of grand larceny when a computer was stolen from Dewey college on January at 4:12PM.

Ferret?

At 8:08PM on January 24th a stray Ferret was found and contained in a bathroom. There were no further accounts of stray ferrets.

More Graffiti

Graffiti was found in Roth Quad and Mount College on January 25th at 8:43AM.

Parties

Two parties were broken up on the night of January 25th/ Morning of January 26th, one in Douglass College and one in Eisenhower College.

Criminal Misdemeanor

Criminal Misdemeanor occurred at 8:41 on January 26th in the Earth and Space Sciences lecture hall.

Stolen Item

Grand larceny occurred at 12:46PM on January 26th when a laptop was stolen from the Health Sciences Center.

Fire!

There was a small fire in West Apartments at 3:00PM. The Stony Brook Fire Department was notified and there were no further issues.

COMPILED BY BEN HAYASHI



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Reconstruction of Louisiana

Continued from page 1

tion received harsh criticism from citizens in New Orleans, as well as thousands of Americans who believed that more should have been done to help those stranded in the Gulf Coast. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), was blamed for a botched recovery effort, and Michael Brown. Brown, then head of FEMA, resigned amidst outrage over his handling of issues like temporary housing for the thousands of misplaced families.

Many believed that the poor response of the U.S. government was racially motivated, as many of the affected families in Louisiana and Mississippi were African American, but Crichlow is not one of them. Instead, she cites socio-economic discrimination as the reason for the mishandled recovery. As an example, she mentioned that while the poor 9th Ward was left unattended, even after over a year, the richer middle class areas have started to

undergo serious reconstruction. Additionally, insurance rates in the area have spiked, and while the wealthier population can afford the new rates, many of the city's poorest residents cannot keep up.

There is hope, however. The Louisiana Winter project has received national attention in the media, and the Gulf Coast Civic Works Project has picked up traction in Congress. Mississippi Congressman Bennie Thompson (D) has expressed his interest in the Civic Works project, and calls the plan "a model" for reconstruction.

Scott Meyers Lipton heads the Louisiana Winter program and is pushing for a few things to be accomplished within the year, chief among them being the passing of a non-binding resolution in Congress promoting the ideas outlined in the Civic Works project. Additionally, Green-Forde and Crichlow are in communication with Rev. Willie Walker, who wishes to set up a tour of

SUNY schools to teach students and professors alike about what has been done in the Gulf Coast and what needs to happen in the near future.

In the meantime, both Crichlow and Green-Forde are focusing on their upcoming graduation in May, as well as the continual publicizing of what they saw in New Orleans. From visits to town hall meetings to tours of towns destroyed by the storm, both students were moved by what they witnessed.

"For me to forget what I saw would be an injustice to them," said Crichlow. "I got here today because of those before me," she said. "I cannot walk away from that." There are many people out there who feel bad for the victims of Katrina, she continued, but "passion means little without commitment."

For more information on the work of the Louisiana Winter project, as well as suggestions on what you can do to help, please visit solvingpoverty.com

Researching the Long Island Pine Barrens

Continued from page 3

Barrens, in the coming weeks. "You can put them anywhere and they are relatively cheap," he said.

The Pine Barrens is the largest remaining section of a forest that is believed to have once covered most of Long Island. It is home to many plants and animals, some of which are endangered, according to Hanson. The over 100,000 acre forest is protected under the Long Island Pine Barrens Protection Act-1993.

Students who are interested in participating in the Pine Barrens research should contact Hanson at gilbert.hanson@stonybrook.edu. General information about the Pine Barrens can be found at the Long Island Pine Barrens Society, www.pinebarrens.org.

pinebarrens.org.

The series of science lectures continues throughout the semester with a variety of departments. Lectures are held on Fridays at 7:30 PM in ESS 001. The schedule for the upcoming month includes Astronomy Open Night on Feb. 2 with Dr. Kathleen Flint, discussing "Astronomy from the South Pole."

The World of Physics lecture is on Feb. 9 with Dr. David Schyler, the topic is "Medical Imaging- Using Physics to Look at Drug Addiction." The Living World, on Feb. 16, will be made up of a panel discussing "Faith and Science: Is there an Interface?" The next Geology Open Night is Feb. 23 with Professor Robert Liebermann, who will give a lecture on "New Tools/ Toys to Study the Earth's Deep Interior."

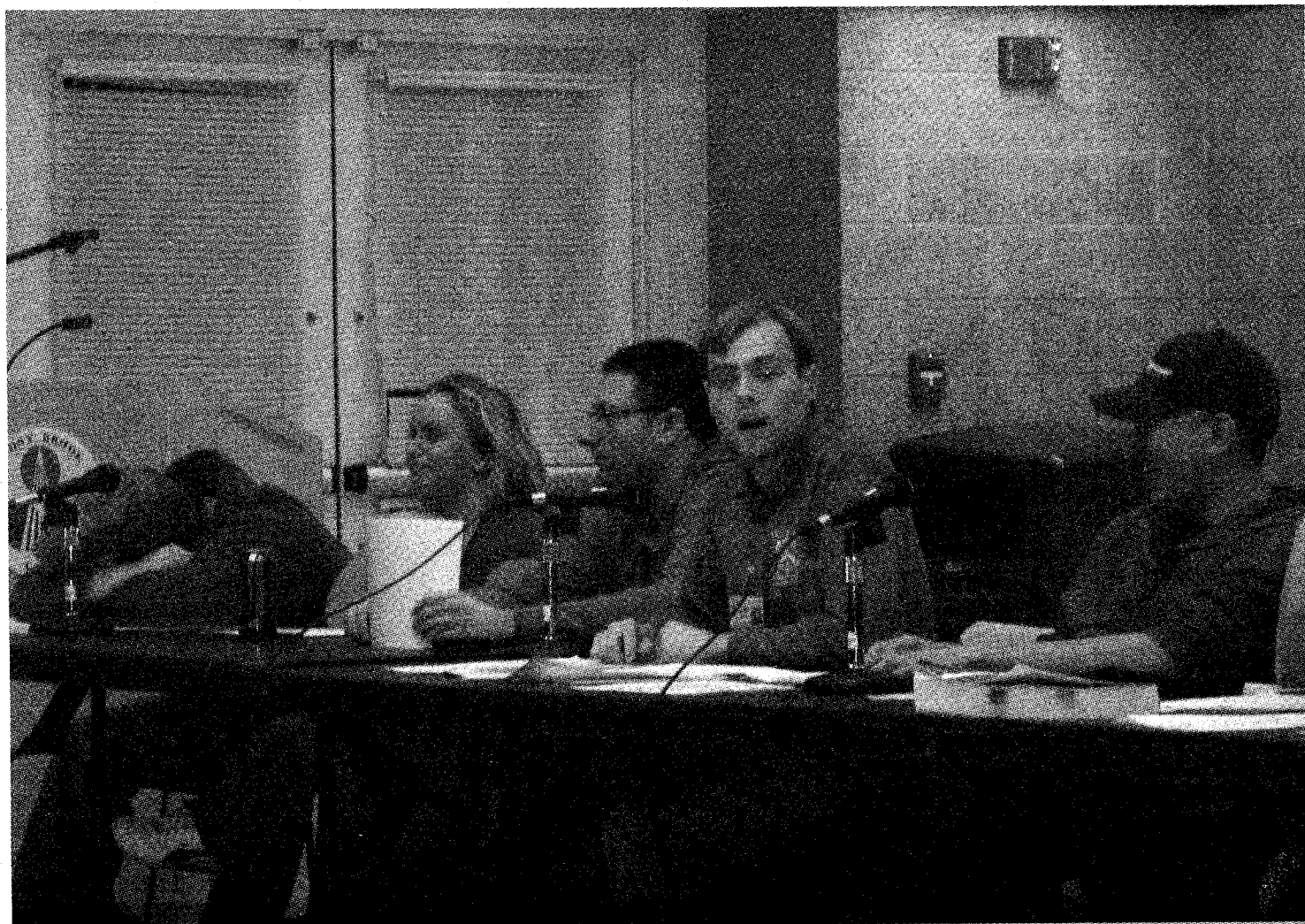
USG Senate Meets

Continued from page 1

and Alert for the student body to recognize the role of the USG in directly affecting campus life.

Among the items on the agenda, the Budget Process Act, enacted at the meeting, made official the mandatory workshops for clubs and organizations wishing to remain funded by the USG for the 2007-2008 academic year. These mandatory workshops are already being held, with dates of Wednesday, Jan. 31 at 7:00 pm in Javits 105, Thursday, Feb. 1 at 7:00 pm in Javits 105, and Friday, Feb. 2 at 3:30pm in SAC 306.

Some questions about the Budget Process Act were raised by Senator Diana Etienne, representing the Residence Hall



USG Senators during the lengthy debate on amendments to the Clarification in Employment Act. From the left: Senators Jonathan Hirst, Jillanna Vincent, Joseph Antonelli, Nathan Shapiro, Tae Soo Kim. Suraj Rambhia/Statesman

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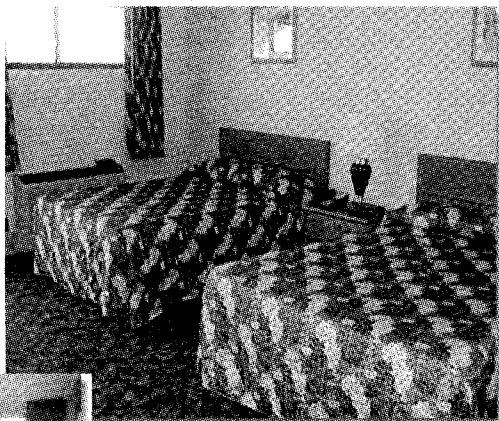
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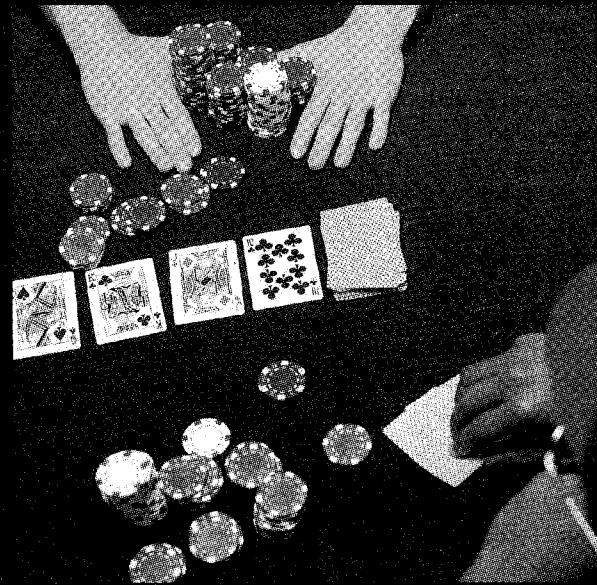
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WHO WE ARE

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.

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Thank You Roto-Rooter(r)

What can we say? Things happen.

While a water main break might be a "big thing," and while many people may have been inconvenienced by the lack of water and heat, you can't forget the efforts taken by all parties to make the situation as bearable as possible.

At the same time, this is not the first time that the University has failed the students. Many of us who dorm here can remember a time when our dorms failed us, whether it was lacking basic necessities such as heat or water, sluggish responses to electric outages or planned fire alarms at 3 in the morning. How can such a large university with an enormous student body, provide such negligent care?

However, what is most significant is that construction workers worked diligently to fix the actual leakage. Campus Residences made periodic press releases to update the faculty and students of the current situation and they were able to fix the leak within one day. RAs and RHDs accommodated students from the buildings that didn't have water or heat. RAs made signs to post around the buildings to inform the their residents. Students made the most

of the burden, readily adapting to the situation. These are examples of how a community can work together to make the best of an unfortunate situation.

And to those students who complained about the inconveniences, they were able to learn a valuable lesson. Mistakes happen. Unexpected things pop up and you just have to learn to deal with it.

Sure, we could easily blame the University for having bad pipes. But, the truth of the matter is, we've all had a frozen pipe or two in our own homes. We've all had to call Roto-Rooter® some time or another. And while the University's pipe problem was (or still is) much larger, administration officials did what anyone would do for their own home: call the plumber.

SBU has worked together in the past in more than one instance. Roth Quad faced a blackout last year, and both Tabler and H Quads have faced water shortage problems. Yet, the administration has stepped up to the plate and resolved problems in less than 24 hours. Their efforts are not just commendable, they are a reflection of the University's intent to keep the campus as a second home for students.

CONTINUATION

Track at Boston

Continued from page 16

and Felce were under the IC4A qualifying standard for the second time this season with a time of 10:15.11.

For the women's side of the team the top performers were Laura Huet, Natalie Jasmin, Lisa Voltaire and Kerry Salzano, the members of the women's distance medley relay team, who finished 3rd with an ECAC qualifying time of 12:04.21.

There were several other personal record performances achieved during this meet. This list included Zach Tyerman (3000m-8:49.35), Kevin

McCarthy(3000m-8:58.56, Kerry Salzano, who produced a personal record performance in the mile on Friday of 5:13.42, then came back on Saturday to anchor the DMR with another personal record performance for the mile of 5:07.70, and Liz Carlson (3000m-10:15.11).

The men and women's track teams return to action this weekend when they travel to the University of Rhode Island. The men will compete this Friday afternoon at 5:00 p.m. and the women will compete Saturday morning at 10:30 a.m. Then on Sunday, February 4 both squads will compete in the Metropolitan Championships.

The Reverse Psyche of Library Mobs

BY TEJAS GAWADE
Managing Editor

We've all done it - rushed like a flock of bees to the library for a few hours of quiet, uninterrupted study. In fact, the North Reading Room of the Frank J. Melville Library is known to house mobs of students buried in piles of books, watchful of their backpacks, and afraid to give up their seat to satisfy hunger pangs. The great thing about the library is that you get a work-oriented space where you can be so productive that it would completely overshadow any instance of procrastination you had over the semester. Unfortunately, this almost euphoric feeling is short termed.

The administration is generous enough to extend library hours during finals week. But what about during the semester, when we are still frustrated with midterms and unwelcome projects? Although SBU is as much a commuter school as a residential campus, it is an undeniable fact that students tend to stay late nights. Some find it best to work over the weekend, especially on Saturdays and Sundays when our free time can be better spent than simply sitting in a classroom.

You could argue that students can study in their dorms. But anyone who lives in one can attest to the loud obnoxious singing next door, or the disheartening loud bass upstairs. The library is intended purely for academic study, with a wealth of resources for research and printing, which is usually unavailable in residence halls.

According to a Fall 2005 survey by Vassar College's Library Committee, 70 percent of students indicated a desire for more extended hours during exams, and 50 percent of students wanted extended night hours throughout the semester. Is it not fair to assume that the same sentiment would be shared by SBU students?

The North Reading Room, which holds the most students in comparison to other libraries on campus (besides the Health Science Centre Library, which isn't officially considered part of

the University libraries), is only open until midnight Monday through Thursday. That is only a few hours from when students get around to studying. The latest a library open after that is the Central Reading Room, which cannot accommodate even a half of the students in the North Reading Room. On Fridays and Saturdays, the latest library times are 8:00 PM and 10:00 PM, respectively. This is hardly enough time for most students, who would rather work at night to keep in sync with their week-day schedule. Furthermore, the earliest libraries open is 8:30 AM, which is too late for early risers, as a lot of their classes start at this time.

Several colleges pride themselves on libraries that stay open 24/7. As a well-renowned research institution and pioneering SUNY, shouldn't SBU take the first step towards instituting this policy? The administration needs to realize that students are not simply class rats; they work at odd hours on campus, or have extracurricular involvements that often start after dusk. Some students attend classes and seminars that last from morning to evening and their only viable time for studying is late night. Student-athletes are usually only able to devote weekend evenings for their strenuous week, especially when they face away games. During weekends, the library night, especially if assignments require research materials housed in the library.

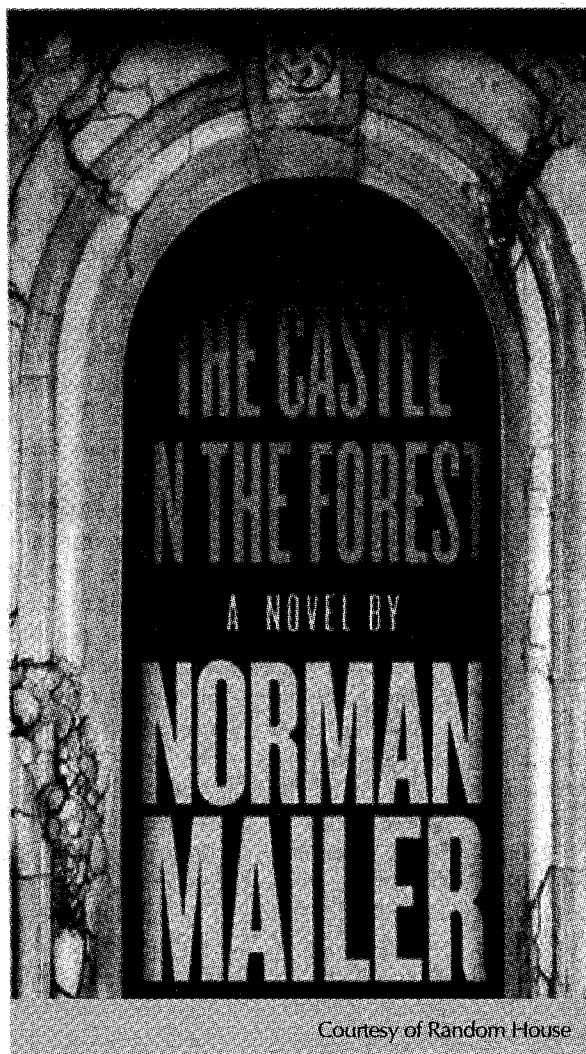
Essentially, instead of imposing the unrealistic expectation that students, commuters and residents alike, will get their work done by midnight, the library can now facilitate a better work ethic. Extending library hours during the regular semesters will motivate students to make the fullest use of this incredible resource. It will discourage procrastination as students will now get their work done during weekdays. In the workplace, longer hours mean frustrated workers and low-quality productivity. The reverse is true in college, where longer hours will actually result in happier students and a better quality of productivity.

Get Your Read On

The Castle in the Forest (496 Pages)

Author:
Norman
Mailer

Published:
2007



Courtesy of Random House

BY TEJAS GAWADE
Managing Editor

The first time I discovered Mailer was in an English class at SBU. We read his short non-fiction piece, "Why Are We at War?" I found his writing not just revolutionary, but seething and hotheaded. His thoughts echoed mine, but much more eloquently and with better audacity. From then on, I vowed to read everything that he'd ever write. Fortunately, I was just treated to his latest novel, "The Castle in the Forest," his first novel in 10 years. Mailer's genius is the pick of his story - an account of Adolf Hitler's coming of age. Unlike his non-fiction works, this novel is cold and calculating, presenting an incredible manifestation of evil. And so far, I find no reason to hold you back from this book or any of Mailer's creations for that matter.

Unlike his other works, the narrator here is not Mailer, but a devil who goes by the name of Dieter. Dieter, who lives in the body of an SS man, begins the story with a prologue about what is to come:

"It is more than a memoir and certainly has to be most curious as a biography since it is as privi-

leged as a novel. I do possess the freedom to enter many a mind."

Working for Satan (or rather The Maestro, as Mailer refers to him), Dieter brings to light a truly dysfunctional nineteenth century middle-class Austrian household that gave rise to the nascent evil of Hitler. Known in his younger days as Adi, Hitler is born from the incestuous union of a dry domineering civil servant, Alois, and an extravagantly indulging mother, Klara. In no time, his peculiar tendencies are discovered, including an obsession with feces, his self-image, and mass slaughter, as evidenced by the joy he derives from burning beehives.

Dieter's commentary is similar to that of a storyteller, subtly injecting what side he takes. He recounts the boy's growing ego and ability to manipulate the weak minded. His asides are what I found the most intriguing:

"Spirits like myself can attend events where they are not present. I was in another place, therefore, on the night Adolf was conceived. Yet I was able to ingest the exact experience by calling upon the devil (of lower rank) who had been in Alois' bed on the primal occasion ... A minor devil can, on the most crucial oc-

casions, implore the Evil One to be present with him during the climax. (The Maestro encourages us to speak of him as the Evil One when he does choose to enter sexual acts, and on that occasion, he was certainly there)."

This cosmology and inner workings of evil fill the novel with such a somber background that you will be forced to dwell on how deep evil can seep in. My only complaint was that the Dieter's tone is irritatingly pompous. No one likes a know-it-all, and the facade of pompousness will get to some readers. But, you have to realize that Hitler's arrogance indirectly resembles that of Dieter's. In fact, what I drew from his account was that evil simply had more than one form.

"The Castle in the Forest" is a shocker, which is part of what makes it fascinating. Yet, it is incredibly insightful and fascinating in the most unnoticeable ways. Even at 84, Mailer's evil does not hesitate from embracing religion, metaphysics and even perverted sexual desires. The novel is undoubtedly very Freudian and psychoanalytic. Yet, Hitler's portrait is so compelling that it leaves you feeling short-breathed in the pits of someone that monstrous.

The Book of James

Revelation II:

Given Solid Character
Judgments, Personal Histories
Are Irrelevant

BY JAMES BOUKLAS
Senior Columnist

Have you ever been in the situation where you think you know somebody well, and then he or she will completely shock you by dropping a bombshell about his or her past? I haven't. Been shocked, that is. Experiences are only important to the extent that they influence a person's character. After one conversation, most people are going to form a whole judgment about the other person. Given that most of these judgments are accurate, which I believe them to be, why does it matter how an individual's character developed?

The underlying message here, one that I'll be tackling in multiple entries, is that character is inherently dispositional, not situational. This sounds like an easy enough concept to embrace, and yet people consistently fail to utilize this on a daily basis. I will provide an example: you meet a girl and get to talking. The talk is mostly surface level, about school and movies and everyday mundane things. At this point, you know everything you need to know about each other to make accurate character judgments. You can see the way she carries herself, her mannerisms, her tells, and like everybody, she's got a million of them. Based on this multitude of information, some verbal and most not, you have built an accurate mental representation of the other.

A few conversations later, she reveals to you a horrible secret in her past. She was abused by her parents. She has a juvenile record. She grew up ashamed of her class status. The revelation doesn't matter, the point is that it is now out in the open. For some odd reason, a common response to this is shock and reevaluation. Not only should you not be shocked, her past should be completely congruent with the mental representation of her character

you already have. In fact, it is.

So why do you experience that moment of shock? My bet is that the answer is to preserve our sense of self. We have grown to lie to ourselves, to believe that we couldn't have known so much about a person from so little interaction. It plays to our own sense of privacy. If I accept that I know all the important contours of your being after one interaction, then I am completely exposed as well. I must accept that you know me after one conversation and any sense of secrecy I ever had is gone. Therefore, we play this game, pretending to be oblivious and overplaying the faux shock of learning the other's history.

What are the implications of this? As I mentioned earlier, character is dispositional, not situational. Experiences are only as important as the effect they have on our character. If I already have a good enough knowledge of your character, then how can I be at all shocked or disturbed to learn something about your past? I already know how the book ends. Everything that has ever shaped you has culminated in your current being. While tracing the path may be interesting, it is completely irrelevant.

In the end, for many of us, the game is an important part of our defenses. It affords us our mythical sense of privacy. It allows us to experience a range of emotions that we don't get to often experience (shock, surprise, rage), even if it is only in pretense. I don't want to spoil the game for you - I just want to put this in writing to give you all a way out, should you seek it.

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 thebookofjames@sbstatesman.org.

REEL DEAL

SMOKIN' ACES

BY AMANDA SHAPIRO
Staff Writer

From the moment you see what Ben Affleck is dressed in at the pool hall, you know "Smokin' Aces" is a comedy. The characters and situations are so exaggerated, there is no way this could or should be taken seriously. And in the spirit of Kill Bill, there is plenty of blood and death. Aside from the good cinematography, edit transitions, and some dialogue, most of the film's technical and structural elements were obviously the work of an amateur. Writer/director Joe Carnahan has made a guy's film. And as a woman, I was not the target demographic.

Buddy "Aces" Israel made a successful career as a Las Vegas magician, had an in with the local mob, got too full of himself, took the lower ranks of Don Sparazza for his own, then decided to snitch on Sparazza. Waiting for his deal to be settled with the FBI, Buddy is held at the not-so-secret hiding location of a Lake Tahoe hotel penthouse. Meanwhile, since there is a \$1 million bounty out for his heart, the world's top hired assassins begin their race to accomplish the job.

Although the story exists because of Buddy, the story is more about the predators than the prey. The tag line on imdb.com reads, "May the best hit-man win."

"Smokin' Aces" sports a cast of impressive veterans like Jeremy Piven, Andy Garcia, Ray Liotta, Ben Affleck, and Ryan Reynolds to the relatively unknowns of Martin Henderson, Chris Pine, Christopher Holly, and the introduction of Alicia Keys. Even Wayne Newton makes a cameo.

For years Jeremy Piven has been best known for his supporting roles and his latest part in "Entourage." However, except for a few good card tricks, it is unfortunate he couldn't take center stage. This being Alicia Keys' first major try

at acting, she should realize ASAP that the best way for her to earn a paycheck is to put out music, not movies. Andy Garcia and Ray Liotta's characters were too flat to be done with depth but they were the right choices to bring the story's eccentricity back to a cool calm.

Only one performance stands apart from the rest and deserves extended recognition; Ryan Reynolds. We know and love him from "Just Friends," "Waiting," "Van Wilder," and even the show "Two Guys and a Girl," but this character, Richard Messner, shows just the right spark of his dramatic talents. His performance was natural, believable, and enjoyable to watch. He has done so many

comedies in the past but this could be his transition into more serious roles; especially once you've seen the ending.

Mauro Fiore as the cinematographer really helped this film's image presentation. His previous works include "Driven," "Training Day," and "The Island." His professional style brought "Smokin' Aces" to a much better level than what it would have been if it rested on the ideas of the director. The editor, Robert Frazen, has his most experience with television, and so even though the transitions were based on image or dialogue, there wasn't much "out-of-the-box" creativity.

As said before, this is a guy's film.



USG Senate Meeting

Continued from page 5

Association (RHA), on the implementation of the Budget Process Act, giving clubs and organizations short notice for these budget workshops.

Any motion to rehash the timings of the mandatory workshops was, however, quelled by Senators Robert Romano and Shapiro.

Shapiro noted, "We're trying to help, not hurt the clubs."

Student Activities Board (SAB) members were also present at the meeting to speak on their own behalf. The Senate has proposed the USG Activities Board By-Laws Act, which according to the text of the proposed legislation, aims "to reform the Student Activities Board and make it more efficient, transparent and responsive to the needs of the Undergraduate Student Body."

In the body of the USG Activities Board By-Laws Act, several violations of SAB by-laws were cited, calling for a dissolving of the SAB, reevaluation of the overall structure of the board, the responsibilities designated to the members of the board, followed by the re-establishment of the SAB in a new name, the Undergraduate Student Government Activities Board.

While a motion on the USG Activities Board By-Laws Act was postponed until next week's meeting, the violations cited by the Act were addressed by the SAB members present at the meeting. Members of the Senate wished to be more deliberate with their decisions, citing that they would meet with SAB members later this

week to further discuss the extent of the violations and ways to move forward.

Organizational issues, which constituted most of the meeting, included a fierce debate on the proposed amendments to the Clarification in Employment act, spearheaded by Shapiro and aimed at limiting and distributing the aids who currently serve the USG President Romual Jean-Baptiste. The amendments, which would allow for no more than one aid to each Executive Council member for a maximum of 15 hours per week, were not passed.

The debate on amendments to the Clarification in Employment Act lasted for about 30 minutes. Comments were made by a number of senators, as well as Jean-Baptiste and a number of his aids. While the motion to amend the Clarification in Employment Act was voted down, several senators stated the need for a more detailed evaluation of the responsibilities of each aid.

Shapiro defended his rationale in proposing these amendments. He stated, "We need to find aids after we define their responsibilities, not the other way around."

The meeting ended with several senators commenting on the need for improved communication.

Senator Jonathan Hirst commented, "We need to fight for issues that we feel are important for the student population."


Issues to be discussed at future USG Senate meetings include mandatory student meal plans and the legality of religious clubs purchasing religious texts with USG money.

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4	5 FREE 2 piece Appetizer in Chinese Section from 3-6pm with purchase @ Jasmine	6 FREE Dessert with purchase of a Small Coffee @ the Kelly Coffee & Tea House HALF PRICE smoothie @ EOB	7 Purchase a deli sandwich and a large fountain soda, receive a FREE apple at Kelly Dining Center FREE fountain soda with purchase from 3-8pm @ Jasmine	8 \$1.00 OFF any hero between 4pm-7pm @ the Union Deli FREE small hot cocoa at Tabler Café	9 50c OFF any combo meal @ Bleacher Club Choose any side for 25c @ Delancey Street	10 All Month: Buy 6 donuts, get 6 FREE or Buy 25 munchkins get 25 FREE @ Dunkin Donuts (Rte 25A Stony Brook)
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18	19 FREE 2 piece Appetizer in Chinese Section from 3-6pm with purchase @ Jasmine	20 FREE Dessert with purchase of a Small Coffee @ the Kelly Coffee & Tea House HALF PRICE smoothie @ EOB	21 Upgrade to the next size soda for FREE at Taco Bell at Campus Connection at H-Quad FREE fountain soda with purchase from 3-8pm @ Jasmine	22 \$1.00 OFF any hero between 4pm-7pm @ the Union Deli Buy one get one FREE small fries @ Burger King @ Roth Food Court	23	24 All Month: 10% OFF @ Strawberry Fields (Rte 25A Stony Brook)
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25	26	27 FREE Dessert with purchase of a Small Coffee @ the Kelly Coffee & Tea House	28 Purchase a pre-made salad and receive a FREE small fountain soda @ Kelly Dining Center	All Month: Save 10% on all red sweatshirts every Fri & Sat @ the University Bookstore	All Month: 25% OFF all rolled T-shirts @ HSC Bookstore All Month: HALF PRICE non-alcoholic beverages @ University Café	All Month: Get 10% OFF @ Cold Stone Creamery
All Month Mon-Fri: Get 10% OFF your entire check @ Uno Chicago Grill (Rte.25 across from Smithhaven Mall)						

Student Profile of the Week

President of the Rugby Team John Gemma



Courtesy of John Gemma

By SONAL HARNEJA
Staff Writer

With the exception of the infamous "Friends" episode where Ross gets trashed by his girlfriend's British friends in a friendly game of rugby, most Americans know little of the sport. It is a particularly demanding sport, a combination of both football and soccer, and it is relatively unknown in the States.

However, junior John Gemma, President of the Men's Rugby Team, hopes to change all that. He hopes to bring it to the main-

stream, or at least as known as the other sports teams at Stony Brook and it's already catching on.

John Gemma is currently a Business and Economics major at Stony Brook. When asked about his future plans after Stony Brook, he replies "I'm not sure yet. I just want to be a grown-up," he adds, laughing. While he may be undecided about his life after Stony Brook, he is very much decided in how he spends his life at Stony Brook. "It's awesome. It's great. Rugby is my life," he says.

However, it wasn't all happiness for Gemma. Like most students arriving in their freshman year, he was overwhelmed by the vastness of Stony Brook. He says that the first month at Stony Brook was miserable and even considered transferring out. However, it was several guys on the rugby team that changed his mind. "It changed my life. [Rugby is] a huge part of my life," he says.

Gemma wasn't a stranger to the game. He had first been introduced to it in high school, when one of his friends at Siena College brought home a ball during

break. "We threw it around, the two of us" he says. He adds that was when he really got interested in the sport.

As much as the game interested him, he wasn't even thinking about rugby when he arrived at Stony Brook as a bewildered freshman. "I rode crew. I didn't know that Stony Brook even had a rugby team," he says. But all that changed when a few members of the team invited him to practice. He went to a practice, a game, and a social event after that. He says that that was it. "I was hooked. It's unlike any other sport out there."

He quickly rose up the ranks, elected as Vice President in his sophomore year and President for his junior year. He says the

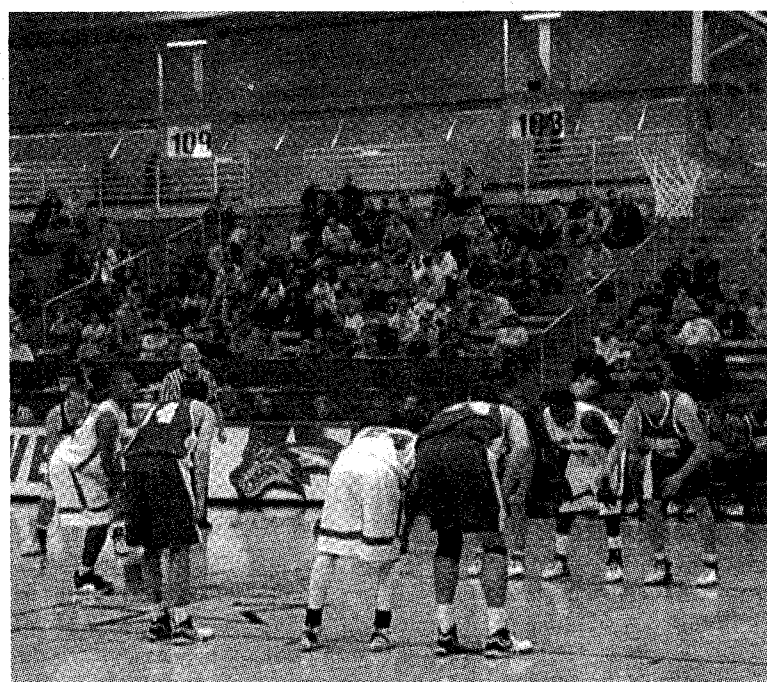
responsibilities are just like anything else. "It's what you make of them," he says. His goal for the rugby team is for it to expand into not only a sports team but an all around team, a team that helps the student body and the community. He is also hoping to lead the rugby team to the National Championship. It's not a far-fetched goal. In fact, during last fall's competitive season, the Stony Brook Men's Rugby Team finished in the Top 8 in the Beast of the East Tournament, the largest Rugby Tournament in the country.

Not only has Gemma helped lead the team at the tournament, he has led the team to help out the community. Last Semester, the Stony Brook Men's Rugby Team

joined with Seton Hall University to raise \$11,000 and donated it to the St. Baldwick's Research Center for Children with Cancer.

But that's not the end of it. The Rugby Team, this past Monday, also sponsored a Blood Drive in the SAC. The team will also be holding a fundraiser along with sorority Theta Phi Alpha on Valentine's Day in the SAC, selling flowers and candy.

Gemma believes that he's been lucky. He hopes others will follow his lead and get more involved on campus, whether it is rugby or anything else. New members are always welcome and can find out more at stonybrookrugby.org. "I found rugby," he says. "When you associate yourself with a group, it makes everything more fun."



Stony Brook shot 70% from the foul line in their loss to Vermont, which had an 81.3% free throw percentage.

Courtesy of Stony Brook Athletics

Vermont Beats Men's BB

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close the Vermont squad would push the lead back to double digits.

The Seawolves fell behind by fifteen points within the first few minutes of the half. However, they were then able to cut the lead to a meager five points with 8:42 remaining after a Ricky Lucas jumper in the key. Over the next four minutes the Seawolves experienced a scoring drought. The Catamounts took advantage of this drought as they went on an 8-0 run which virtually cemented their victory. The Catamounts shot 26-32 from the foul line during the game.

Ricky Lucas was scored a game-high 18 points, but he was the only Seawolf in double figures. Two freshmen, Kyle Wright and Marcus Robinson, scored 9 and 8 points, respectively. Mike Trimboli led Vermont with 17 points. Lucas and Trimboli were named the America East Players of the Game for their performances.

This Wednesday, January 31st, the Seawolves are taking on Binghamton where they will look to snap their three-game losing streak. The game is scheduled to tip-off at 7:00 pm in Vestal, New York.

Women's Hoops Wins 5th Straight

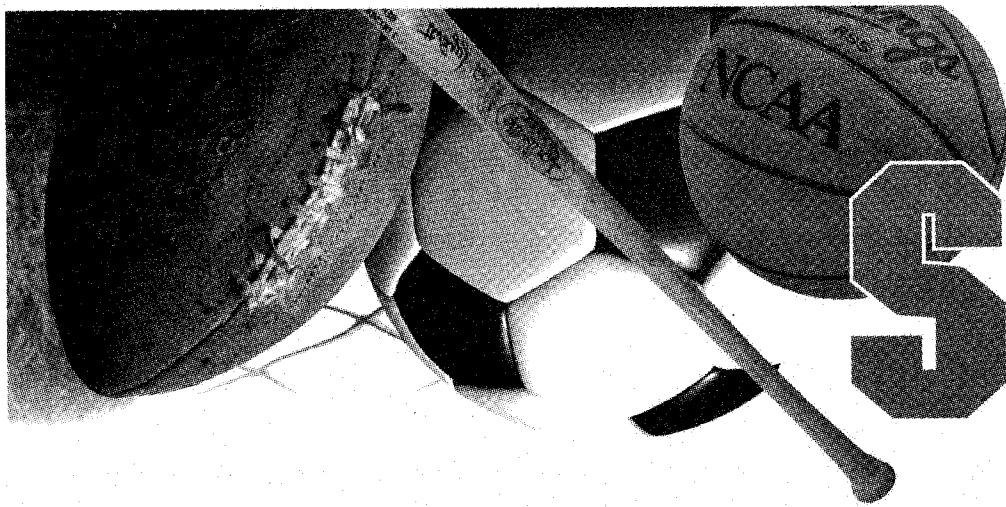
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in the bonus and were able to retake the lead at 60-59 with 5:13 left in the contest.

Over the next two minutes the Seawolves couldn't find the bottom of the net. They fell behind 67-59 with a little over three minutes remaining on the clock. However, the tide quickly turned as Stony Brook went on a 10-2 run to knot the game at 69 points a piece. Courtney Pilypaitis sank two clutch foul shots for Vermont with only 20 seconds showing on the scoreboard.

After a Seawolves' timeout, Ford received a pass at the top of the key and drilled the field goal that would ultimately give Seawolves the win. Ford was named America East Player of the Game as she had a game-high 21 points, all in the second half, and seven assists. Getz added 18 points to the Seawolves' total for the game.

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Statesman SPORTS

Men's Basketball Defeated by Vermont

By JOSH SEIDMAN
Staff Writer

From the opening whistle to the final buzzer the Vermont Catamounts outplayed the Stony Brook University men's basketball as the Seawolves fell 71-61 this past Sunday afternoon. With the loss the Seawolves overall record has fallen to 7-13, while their conference record has dropped to 2-7. On the other hand, the win has improved the Catamounts record to 15-6 overall, and 7-1 in conference play.

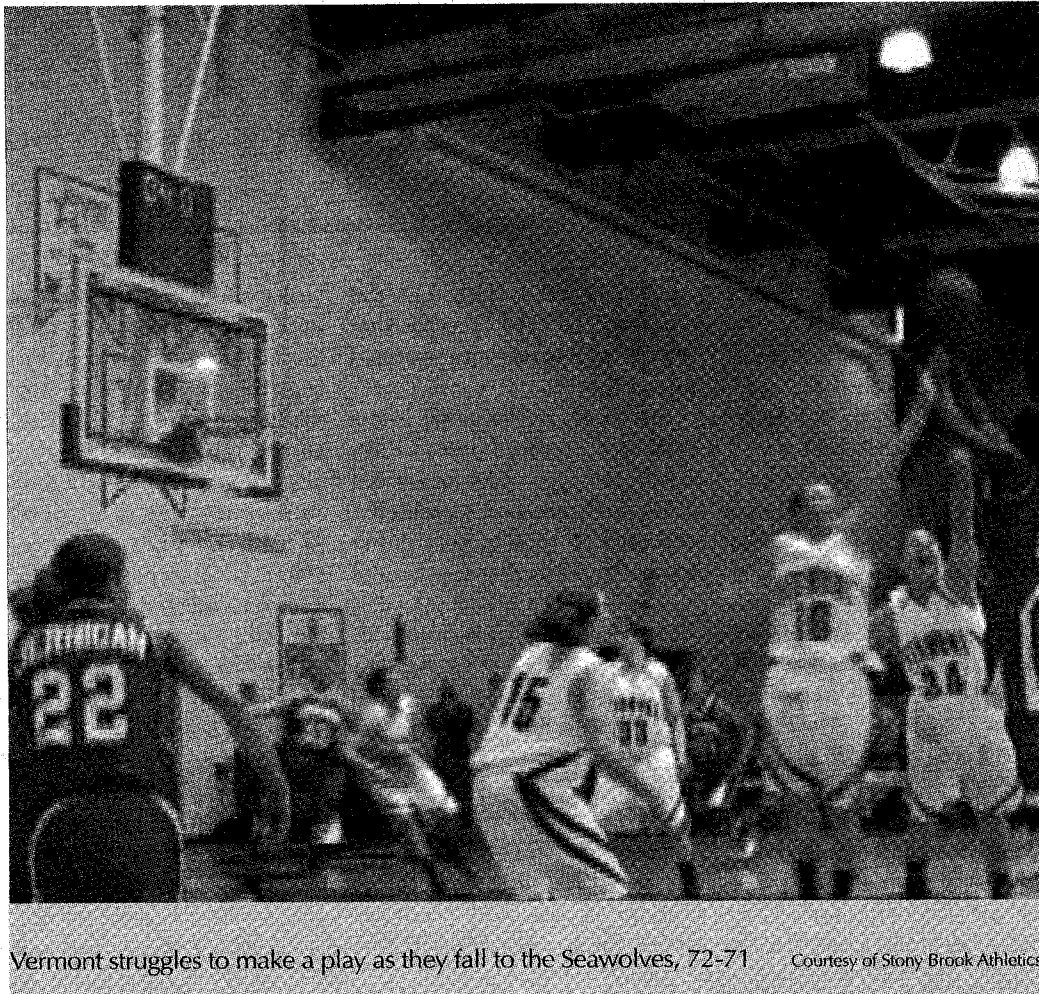
"When you play a very good team like Vermont, you cannot shot 24% in the first half and expect to win," said head coach Steve Pikiell. "We didn't make jump shots when we needed to today."

Right out of the gate Vermont jumped all over the Stony Brook as they started the game on an 8-0 run. In the first half the Catamounts shot 50% from the field. The opposing catamounts had a lead as large as fourteen points after a three pointer by Kyle Cieplicki with 7:09 left in the half.

The Seawolves displayed some signs of heart as they cut the lead to five after nailing three straight shots from downtown. This momentum was quickly lost after Vermont went on a 12-3 run to close the half, putting them up 36-22.

The second half played out very similar to the way the first half played out. Early in the half Stony Brook struggled to run their plays as well as score the ball with any consistency. There brief spurts of energy which gave the Seawolves' fans hopes of achieving a win, but every time they got

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Vermont struggles to make a play as they fall to the Seawolves, 72-71 Courtesy of Stony Brook Athletics

Last Second Magic Gives Seawolves Fifth Straight Win Against Vermont

By JOSH SEIDMAN
Staff Writer

Mykeema Ford's game-winning three point field goal with barely :02 seconds left in regulation gave the Stony Brook University (SBU) women's basketball team a dramatic 72-71 conference victory on Saturday, which increased the team's winning streak to five straight games. This win improved the Seawolves' overall record to 9-9 for the season and 5-1 in conference play. This is the first time the Seawolves' have been at .500 since back on December 2nd. With the loss Vermont falls to 13-6 overall and 3-3 within the conference.

Maura McHugh, the head coach of Stony Brook, commented after the game that "Mykeema was terrific for us once again. We didn't play quality basketball in the first half, but we overcame our foul trouble in the second half snuck out of here with a win."

The first half of the contest was full of turnovers, missed shots, and missed opportunities by both squads. The momentum went from one side to the next as the minutes of the half wore down. With a little over a minute left in the game the Seawolves' grabbed their first lead at 30-28 following Leah Getz' put-back. Amy Rosenkrantz of the Catamounts nailed a three

pointer to give her side a 31-30 lead going into intermission.

The Seawolves started the second half on fire. They came out of the gates with a new aggression that was virtually nonexistent in the first half. This aggressive play translated into a 13-0 run to start the half, which was sparked by Getz' seven points.

After this fast start SBU became plagued with foul trouble. Many of their primary players, including Getz and Ford, spent good portions of the second half on the bench. With 10:18 remaining in the game the Catamounts found themselves

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Stony Brook Track and Field at Boston Univ. Invite

By JOSH SEIDMAN
Staff Writer

This past weekend the Stony Brook track and field team traveled to Massachusetts to compete in the Boston University Invite. Accompanying the Seawolves team at this event were teams from elite athletic programs, including Duke and Yale. The field also included runners who are being sponsored by Nike and Reebok. Despite this high level of talent the Seawolves were still able to take home two second place finishes.

Mubaarak Muhammad maintained his positive season by finishing in second place overall in the triple jump with a jump of 14.05. This occurrence was the second time this winter that Muhammad has jumped over 14 meters. In addition to Muhammad's second place finish, Alex Felce was also able to finish runner up in an event. He managed to take home second place in the 1000m with an IC4A qualifying time of 2:27.73.

On this day the Stony Brook was able to attain five other IC4A/ECAC qualifying marks from its runners. These five individuals included Shaun Krawitz, who achieved a 14 second improvement in the 3000m (8:20.73) and Iain Whitfield, who also beat the IC4A mark in the 3000m with his best time over the distance of 8:25.68. Also, Daire Bermingham reached the IC4A standard with a time of 4:14.18 in the mile, and the distance medley relay team composed of Bermingham, Muhammad, Brandon Leung,

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