

VIRGINIA TECH MASSACRE SHAKES COLLEGE SAFETY

By TEJAS GAWADE
Managing Editor

The Virginia Tech Massacre this Monday has shocked the nation in another instance of an isolated student using violence as a solution to their problems. But the question arises on how such incidents are able to occur in a large scale institution such as Virginia Tech and why Cho Seung-Hui was able to continue with the shooting in two separate episodes.

Students and parents are most aghast over why the police response was so delayed. According to the New York Times, the Virginia secretary of public safety, John W. Marshall has said that "Steger and Chief Wendell Flinchum of the campus police 'made the right decisions based on the best information that they had available at the time.'"

Response and awareness to the incident has been widespread among colleges through the use of their media, and online outlets, in-

cluding Facebook and MySpace.

According to Stony Brook University Media Relations officer, Patrick Calabria, if a similar situation occurred here, "Campus-wide alerts are sent when there is a perceived threat to the campus. These decisions are made based on the information developed by University Police in conjunction with other University departments."

In an e-mail sent earlier today, President Shirley Strum Kenny wrote "In the wake of the tragedy at Virginia Tech, is it important that our campus community is informed about what efforts are being made to ensure the well-being of our students, faculty, and staff." The meeting was held in the Union auditorium from 1:00 to 2:00 PM with senior administrators present to discuss safety measures and outreach services.

When asked about what can be done to improve safety, Calabria said, "The University maintains an

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In the wake of
what is being
called the dead-
liest masacre in
US history, the
SB community
braces for the
future.

University Senate Votes Against Proposed Smoking Ban

By AMANDA MAYO
Contributing Writer

A proposal to ban smoking across campus was defeated at the University Senate meeting on Apr. 9. The University Senate, the chief governing body at Stony Brook, opposed the ban 17-16 with two abstentions.

Marianne Zacharia, community resource manager for the Tobacco Action Coalition on Long Island, said she attended the Senate meeting in support of the smoking ban's subcommittee. She said it seemed like a lot of the voters at the meeting could have been more educated on the proposal, and they

Continued on page 3

Match Day: Med Students Rise to the Next Level

By SARAH KANTHARIA
Asst. News Editor

Fourth year medical students crowded into the Health Sciences Center Galleria on Mar. 15 anxiously awaiting news of where they will be spending the next few years of their lives. On "Match Day," coordinated by the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC), fourth year medical students around the country were informed of their residency program matches.

For medical school graduates, residency is a post graduate training period, usually between three and five years long, in a given specialty area, such as pediatrics or general medicine.

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Tragedy at V Tech Shocks Nation

By TEJAS GAWADE
Managing Editor

At least 30 people were killed at Virginia Polytechnic Institute in what is now being hailed as the biggest massacre in the United States. Cho Seung-Hui, a 23 year-old student at Virginia Tech, was armed with two guns and killed at least people on Monday morning. The shooting spree stemmed from a conflict he had with his girlfriend, Freshman Emily Hilscher, who was his first victim. The gunman was a South-Korean immigrant, who preferred to be known as Seung Cho.

The West Ambler Hall, a 900-freshmen dormitory, was the site of the first shooting. At 7:15 AM, the police received a call about a

shooting and responded to identify the two victims, Hilscher and Ryan Clark, a resident advisor. Clark had responded to noise in the dorm. Between 7:15 AM and 9:45 AM, the police searched for Cho under the presumption that it was an isolated domestic incident. Cho was carrying two handguns, a 9-millimeter and a .22-caliber, both of which were legally obtained. He shot dozens of rounds, leaving those who survived with multiple bullet wounds.

Two hours later, 30 people were killed at Norris Hall, a classroom and engineering building. At least four faculty members and students from four separate

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Town Hall Meeting; Response to Virginia Tech Shootings

By WILLIAM LAHTI
Sports Editor

On Wednesday, Apr. 18, a town hall meeting was held in the Stony Brook Union Auditorium, during which senior administrators discussed emergency management procedures with the campus community. The meeting was called in the wake of the shooting spree at Virginia Tech, which killed over 30 students and faculty. Administrators present included President Shirley Strum Kenny, VP of Student Affairs Peter Baigent, and Assistant Chief of University Police Doug Little.

The administrators tried to

assure the students and faculty that no effort is being spared in protecting their safety. Among things discussed were ongoing refinements to emergency procedures, current abilities of law enforcement, and mental health resources available.

Among new plans for publicizing services, such as the Counseling Center include daily announcements on Blackboard and SOLAR, according to Chief Information Officer Richard Reeder.

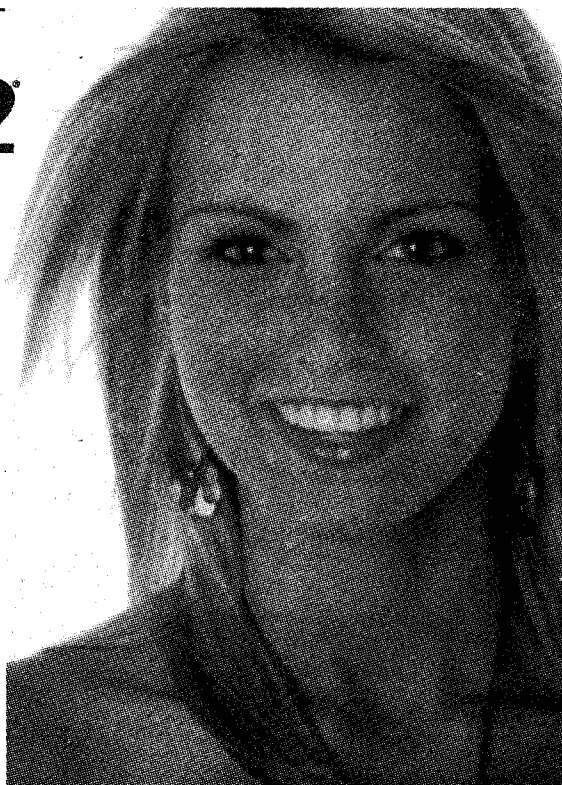
A new crisis hotline is in the works, which would provide a single number to call about concerns of the emotional health of

Continued on page 5

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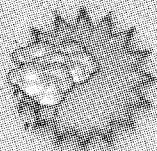
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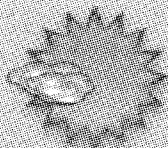
Student Forecast:

Apr. 19 - Apr. 25

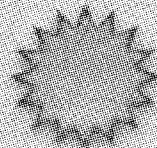
by Jamie Waller



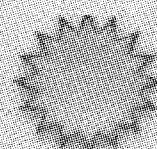
Thursday:
High 50/Low 38
Cloudy w/ a stray
shower possible



Friday:
High 57/Low 37
Cloudy AM, P. Cloudy PM



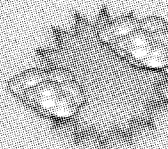
Saturday:
High 63/Low 35
Mostly Sunny



Sunday:
High 62/Low 42
More fine, sunny skies



Monday:
High 62/Low 42
Partly Cloudy



Tuesday:
High 65/Low 47
Partly Cloudy



Wednesday:
High 60/Low 47
Mostly Cloudy

Behind the Numbers

It feels like a lifetime since we last saw the Sun, and the clouds have been sticking around for quite some time now. Fortunately, Spring will finally come back into our area just in time for the weekend. Clouds will begin to clear on Friday afternoon, and sunshine will dominate the region for the entire weekend. Temperatures will also be on the rise, reaching into the 60's, indicative of more seasonable values. Thankfully, rain will not be an issue until next week, when a weak system may bring showers to the area on Wednesday night.

Campus Wide Smoking Ban Proposal Narrowly Defeated

Continued from page 1

could have put more time into reading the subcommittee's Minority Report. "I don't believe that a lot of people even looked at or read the report," she said.

According to the report, dated Mar. 1, the Campus Environment Committee at SB developed the proposal to institute a campus-wide smoking ban last spring. The proposal states that if passed, smoking would be banned from all areas on campus, indoors and out, over the next three years.

The report also says that the minority does not support a total ban on smoking, but does recommend that the existing smoke-free policy on campus be revisited. According to the report, the current policy prohibits smoking within 15 feet of a building.

Zacharia said that the proposal was third on the Senate's agenda for the Monday meeting, and the University's President, Dr. Shirley Strum Kenny, left the meeting before voting took place.

"I have a feeling that no one kept an open mind about it," Zacharia said. She said that at one point during the meeting, there was a lot of yelling and controversy, and one person compared supporters of the ban to Nazis. "The point is we want to get them to stop smoking here, and help them to quit smoking," she said.

Kate Valerio, a health educator at SB, said that four students presented a petition supporting the smoking ban at the University Senate meeting. According to the

petition, a little over 700 students were in favor of the ban. "Their effort was an attempt to have the 'silent majority' of non-smoking students heard," Valerio said.

The Graduate Student Organization (GSO) and Undergraduate Student Government (USG) both passed a resolution in opposition to the smoke-free proposal last fall, according to the Minority Report.

Louis Esparza, a member of the GSO Executive Board and a cosigner of the Minority Report, said that he is in favor of the current smoking policy, but he does not support a total ban because of hardships it could cause for people who choose to smoke. "Smoking outdoors is not an illegal activity under New York State law and a ban would not be enforceable," Esparza said. He added that University Police have said they cannot issue tickets against anyone who smokes outside.

Craig Brodmerkel, a graduate student at SB, said he wasn't surprised that the proposal didn't pass because it would be hard to enforce a complete ban. "People should be able to smoke outside if they want to," he said, and added that he is not a smoker.

Currently, campus-wide smoking bans are being implemented on other campuses across the country including SUNY Upstate Medical Center and Indiana University. For now, SB will not be included in that list of schools, but there have been talks of updating existing policy. Supporters of the ban say they are still hopeful and think that this campus will eventually be smoke-free.

Coca Cola Possibly Renewed at Stony Brook

By ADAM PECK
Asst. News Editor

The Social Justice Alliance is gaining momentum again as the semester winds down with their campaign to prevent The Coca Cola Corp oration from acquiring another large contract with Stony Brook University.

A resolution created by the Social Justice Alliance calling on the formation of an "Ethical Contracting Committee" has been passed by the Graduate Students Organization, and is now waiting to be reviewed by the University Senate. SJA is looking to create a sub-committee of the Student Life Committee or the University Senate, one that will be responsible for reviewing Stony Brook's large, long-term contracts and ensure that the companies involved obey a corporation code of conduct.

Coca Cola would be the first company on the agenda. When Stony Brook University's 10-year contract expires in 2008, SJA wants to see alternatives available to students.

According to the campaign leader, senior Anita Halasz, the University Senate has yet to respond to the resolution.

At the same time, contact with the administration seemed to have paid off for the campaign. The administration announced that they had invited representatives from Coca Cola to come to campus to answer questions any students may have. But this invitation is insincere, says Halasz.

Continued on page 5

Police Blotter

Apr. 16 - Apr. 18

Graffiti

Graffiti was found on the Sports Complex around 8:30AM on April 17th. No other graffiti was found.

Stolen Items

Multiple items were stolen around campus on the 17th including a computer from the Library, multiple items from West Apartments, and a few wallets including contents.

Missing Camera

A surveillance camera was found missing near the main entrance to the university campus.

Car Accident

A motor vehicle accident occurred in the Engineering Computing Center around 8:40AM on April 16th. No injuries occurred and both cars only inflicted minor damage.

Tampering

Near Dutchess hall, a door was found tampered with around 4:40PM. No other issues were found.

Gas

The smell of gas was found in the University Hospital around 5:00PM. The area was cleared out and tested for natural gas leaks. No leaks were found and the air was negative for gas.

Traffic Light Failure

The traffic light in the intersection with circle road and the main entrance failed around 5:00PM. Light was repaired and is working properly.

COMPILED BY BEN HAYASHI

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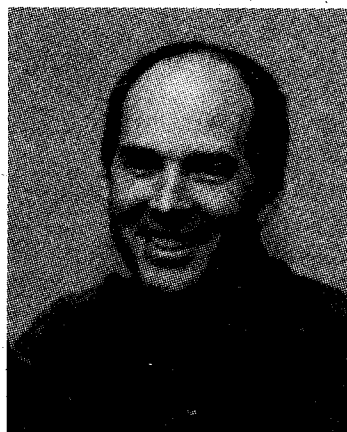
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For the last 10 years he has been a leader in online journalism, first at Congressional Quarterly, where he helped spearhead that company's digital publishing strategy, and since April 2000 at USATODAY. He is president of the Online News Association.

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Coca Cola Possibly Renewed at SB

Continued from page 3

"The SJA has been requesting a meeting with Coca Cola representatives since last semester," according to Halasz. And the meeting that had been scheduled was done so on short notice, not giving the Coke campaign enough time to invite a representative of their own to debate the Coca Cola representatives.

"They are not listening to their students," said Halasz, talking about the administrators. "By maintaining this contract, they are complicit in these crimes."

The Coca Cola Corporation has been charged with human rights abuses in their bottling plants in Colombia, including the murder of nine union workers. Over 30 college campuses across the country, including NYU and Hofstra, have ended contracts with Coca Cola based on these charges and the failure by Coke to allow an independent investigation in Colombia.

The administration has been adamant about including students from the SJA in the process of writing a new contract and assessing the current one, but Halasz and other SJA members disagree. "They asked us to be involved in the process, but this is not involving us," Halasz said.

An email sent from the office of Karol Gray, Vice President of Finance and Administration, explained that "Coca Cola will be on campus to... answer any student concerns." The meeting was to be held on April 17th, but after Halasz and fellow campaign member Dan Woulfin sent an email criticizing the administration for not listening to the requests of the SJA, the representatives from Coca Cola were asked to reschedule. The meeting took place with only administrators, allowing Halasz and other SJA members to address their concerns. A meeting with Coca Cola representatives will be rescheduled for a later date.

SB Admin Speaks out at Town Hall Meeting

Continued from page 1

oneself, or another.

The administrators said that following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, they began a reevaluation of emergency procedures, and came up with a plan implemented for every situation that arises. Little said that the police answer around 20,000 calls every year, and most are "level 1," or minor emergencies. There are 3 levels, with level 2 being one affecting multiple buildings or classes. An example of a level 2 emergency is Sunday's storm, which knocked out power to most dormitories. Level 3 is one involving a major disaster, such as a major fire, hurricane, or terrorist attack.

All administrators stressed that the university works very closely with other law enforcement and emergency management agencies throughout the county and state, and has a very close relationship with the Suffolk County Police Department. To this end, school administrators were in meetings last Friday to prepare for the storm early this week.

Campus officials also reminded those present that they are the eyes and ears for the police, and to report suspicious activity, or distressed students. Little encouraged student leaders to discuss safety matters in their organizations.

Counseling Center Director Anne Byrnes reminded everybody that free psychological help is available through their offices, and patients can usually be seen immediately. She told the audience that many people don't seek help for themselves or another out of fear of negative consequences. She said that people do report students who seem distressed or disturbed on a regular basis. Such students include those who submit threatening messages much as the VT shooter did. Depending on the situation, the student can be mandated to come in for an evaluation. However, if a case is severe enough, the student will be

told to take a medical leave until they can document that they've addressed their problems. This happens once or twice a year, according to Byrnes.

Dean of Students Jerrold Stein added, "Everybody's a contact to make a referral."

Another subject discussed was how to quickly inform the campus of a major emergency. Ideas of a mass text-messaging system, a public address system, and a siren were discussed. According to Reeder, there has been a discussion of digital signs on the campus, which could be used in emergencies. Reeder added that the services available in an emergency could dictate the means of informing people.

One system currently in place is the emergency email mailing list operated by Emergency Management, which is currently advertised in new student orientations, but open to anyone.

As far as current status goes, Little said that university police response time is about 1-3 minutes, and Suffolk police soon after. In addition, officers receive training at an actual police academy, such as Suffolk County's.

When the question of a 'lockdown'-type procedure arose, Little said that such a procedure would be unfeasible. "We're a city, and a city has to run."

He felt that a lockdown, in the high school definition, would not be possible on a campus with over 110 buildings and 35,000 people. They do, however, cordon off buildings and cancel classes, with the permission of the president's office.

Baigent added that though they do close off buildings over issues of safety, they are taking "a hard look" at current procedures. An audience member expressed concern about the inability to seal classroom doors in some buildings with a desk due to the height of the door knobs. There were also calls for more emergency information TV monitors, as well as a broadcast system.

Over 30 Dead, Mass Shooting Stuns Nation

Continued from page 1

classrooms faced Cho at 9:45 AM. He had chained the door, and the police were unable to enter. The targeted classrooms were on the second floor and included Intermediate French, where Cho killed Prof. Jocelyn Couture-Nowak and students, Daniel Perez, Reema Samaha and Leslie Sherman. The class that had the greatest toll, Elementary German, was next to the French class. Two engineering classes, Advanced Hydrology and Solid Mechanics, also had student and faculty deaths. Some students jumped out of the building as Cho entered.

After Cho killed himself, officers found several knives on his body. Prescription medications related to treatment of psychological problems were also found among his effects. The officials have not specified what drugs they were. A bomb threat against the engineering school buildings was found near Cho's body. It also mentioned two other bomb threat notes against the campus that were received over the past three weeks.

As of Tuesday afternoon, there were 14 injured victims at four hospitals, out of an initial estimate of 28, two of whom died. The 14 include two at a Level 1 trauma center in Roanoke, one in critical condition and the other in serious condition.

Classes at Virginia Tech have been canceled for the rest of the week. Virginia Tech President, Dr. Charles Steger, announced that Norris Hall will remain closed for the rest of the semester.

Virginia Tech Massacre Shakes College Safety

Continued from page 1

Emergency Operations Center which serves as the operations and communications center in the case of an emergency. Once an emergency arises, the Emergency Management team comes together to assess the situation, communicate with students, faculty, and staff, and respond to the issue. Communication is done through a multi-media platform, including campus-wide e-mail alerts, web site announcements, campus TV and radio, and external media. Students, faculty and staff can also register for alerts to go to their cell phones."

He added, "There has been more concern about security since 9/11 and the establishment of the EOC was a response to that concern. The University Police is a professional police force, armed and trained. University Police work cooperatively with local police authorities in the investigation of crimes where appropriate. The University also focuses on preventive measures, such as the Counseling Center and other student support services, and the training of staff to identify students who may need support."

SBU's crime statistics are posted annually at <http://ws.cc.stonybrook.edu/police/stats.shtml>. There have been no reported homicides in the past 4 years and the crime rate has dropped consistently.

Thousands of students and staff gathered Tuesday afternoon at Cassell Coliseum, Virginia Tech's basketball arena, for a solemn convocation. President George W. Bush and Laura Bush attended the gathering. "This is a day of mourning for Virginia Tech, and it is a day of sadness for our entire nation," said Bush.

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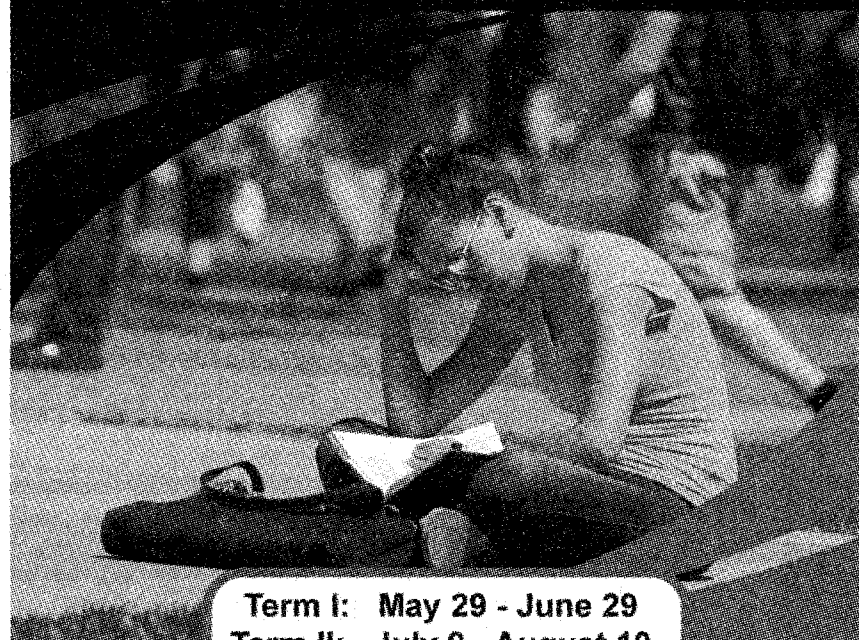
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The Office of the Provost Presents Dr. Isaac Ehrlich

The Evolution of Income and Fertility Inequalities over the Course of Economic Development

By JAMES FALLETTI
Staff Writer

On April 12, 2007, the Office of the Provost hosted a lecture event, which was presented by Dr. Isaac Ehrlich. The lecture was titled "The Evolution of Income and Fertility Inequalities over the Course of Economic Development: A Human Capital Perspective." Dr. Ehrlich's lecture posed a question in reference to why and how the United States became the economic superpower during the twentieth century.

Taking the United States and the United Kingdom as a case study, Dr. Ehrlich states that because of lagging UK education in the nineteenth century, the US replaced it as an economic superpower in the following centuries, not just by real GDP (\$13 trillion), but by Gross National Product Per Capita GDPPC as well.

In an attempt to theorize the possibilities to what drives wealth accumulation across nations, Ehrlich proposed that using an endogenous-growth, overlapping-generations framework where human capital is the engine of growth, we derive propositions concerning the evolution of income and fertility distributions and their interdependencies over three phases of economic development.

In our model, heterogeneous families determine fertility and children's human capital, and generations are linked through intra-family and inter-family interactions. Through simulations and regression analyses we test key implications concerning the dy-

namic behavior of inequalities in fertility, educational attainments, and three income inequality measures - family-income inequality, income-group inequality, and the Gini coefficient. In this context, we also reexamine the "Kuznets hypothesis" concerning the relation between income growth and inequality.

Using historical data from a number of developing and developed countries, Kuznets argued that income inequality first rises and then falls during a transitional development period. Post-Kuznets studies fall into two main groups. The first re-tested his hypothesis against data from many other countries. The second dealt with the development-inequality nexus theoretically as a causal relation going from either growth to inequality or vice versa. Both sets of studies offered conflicting conclusions about the competing theoretical and empirical hypotheses.

With this Endogenous Growth Theory or EGT Ehrlich generally identifies technology with human capital, or knowledge. Human capital can grow via investments in the individual, families, firms, government through schooling, observational training, and research. A persistent human capital formation can be sustained over time only if parents invest in their children's knowledge.

Dr. Ehrlich stated during his presentation that "human capital has two dimensions: labor-augmenting skill which can lead to a higher output level and creative knowledge which leads to innovation and productivity growth.

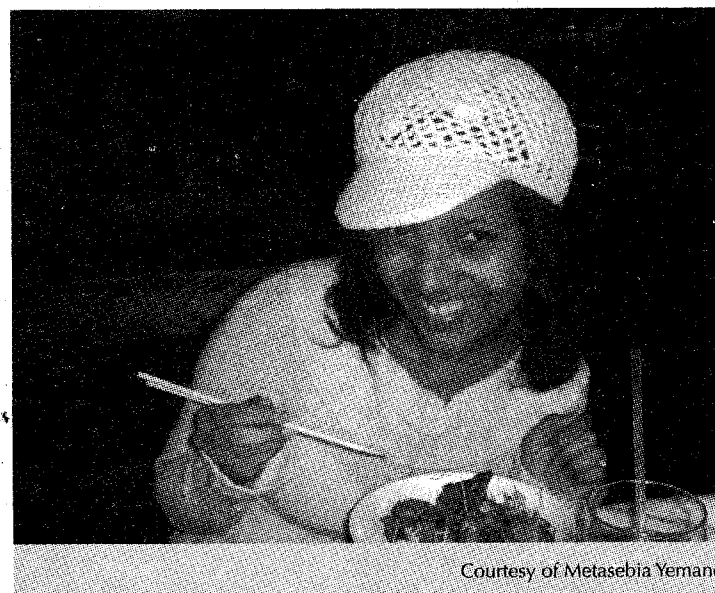
Ideas flowing from the human brain usually wind up as a product of some sort."

A University at Buffalo faculty member since 1978, Ehrlich has helped pioneer several new programs in the field of economics, including the economics of crime, the economics of advertising, the relation of human uncertainty to insurance and the economics of human capital, particularly as it pertains to aging, health and economic growth. Dr. Ehrlich is a Distinguished Professor and chair of the Department of Economics in the University at Buffalo's College of Arts and Sciences, and Melvin H. Baker Professor of American Enterprise in the UB School of Management. Recently he has been named a SUNY Distinguished Professor for having achieved national or international prominence and an established reputation in his or her field of expertise.

Dr. Ehrlich is the author of more than 50 articles in major journals and collections. He was included in the first edition of "Who's Who in Economics: A Biographical Dictionary of Major Economists 1700-1980." His widely cited work has been supported by numerous grants from the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies, including a major USAID grant to study economic development and the role of free enterprise. His new book, "The Economics of Crime", co-edited by UB assistant professor of economics Zhiqiang Liu, is scheduled to be published by Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd. in May.

Student Profile of the Week

SB Senior, Metasebia Yemane lands an internship at Simon & Schuster.



Courtesy of Metasebia Yemane

By AMANDA ZANFINI
Contributing Writer

Metasebia Yemane, known as Meti, is a senior graduating in May 2007 with a B.A. in English and a minor in International Studies. Now at the end of her rewarding undergraduate years, Yemane has landed an internship at Simon & Schuster for the spring semester.

The internship is part of the Children's Publishing Department, called Simon Spotlight. Simon Spotlight deals with publications based on television shows and characters such as Dora the Explorer, Diego, and SpongeBob SquarePants.

As part of the internship, Yemane's work includes writing drafts and mailing contracts to contributors, maintaining contact with authors and illustrators, and updating editorial worksheets and blurbs that will go into upcoming catalogs.

"I also go over edited copies of new publications to make sure all of the corrections and suggestions of the editor have been implemented," said Yemane.

On campus, Yemane is the Associate Editor for The Folio,

a literary magazine on campus. She is also a tutor at the Writing Center, and has worked as a Peer Career Advisor at the Career Center, where she has assisted students in selecting majors.

"Meti is a pleasure to work with," says Jody Cardinal, Interim Writing Center Director and Lecturer from the Writing and Rhetoric Program here at SB. Having known Yemane for a year and a half, Cardinal commented, "She is conscientious and responsible. She works well with her colleagues in the Center and with the writers who bring their work. We are very lucky to have her in the Writing Center."

At the Writing Center, Yemane helps undergraduate and graduate students improve their writing. She helps them develop ideas, construct a thesis statement, organize long projects and improve the clarity and focus of a writing assignment. Having held a position as a Supervising Tutor, Yemane has also mentored other tutors and assisted with other administrative tasks.

Originally, Yemane had aspired to become a lawyer or a

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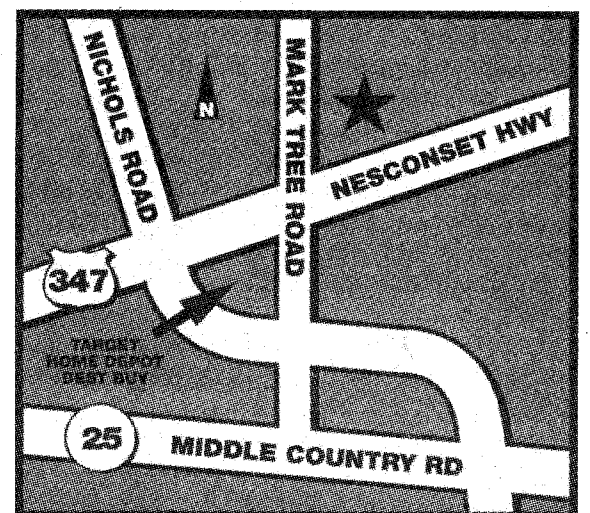
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Statesman production meetings are held throughout the day on Wednesdays and Sundays in Rm 057 in the basement of the Student Union. Anyone wishing to contribute to the newspaper is welcome to attend these meetings.

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 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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A Lesson Not Learned

Tragedies at schools, such as Columbine spark our memories of the infamous events of our recent past. But it is also times like these that rouse us to the importance of having our emergency forces both within the University and surrounding community.

The Stony Brook administration has taken the lead in addressing the campus on the Virginia Tech Massacre, informing students, staff, and faculty about the safety measures that are in place here on campus. Essentially, they are attempting to quell concerns about the "what ifs" in the event of a comparable disaster on our campus. It is true that measures are always in

place for such an event, but they aren't measures that are used on a routine basis. And what works in theory rarely plays out the same way in practice.

Regardless of the preparedness, level of training, and overall cohesiveness of our police force, in a crisis situation, there will always be some uncertainty of how the system will work when it is needed the most.

One way to alleviate some uncertainty is to continue to inform students, staff, and faculty about safety measures that are in place. Rather than just mentioning campus safety in an introductory freshman class, make it a point to remind individuals of campus

safety measures every year of their education. Why stop at fire drills? Isn't a complete safety drill called for at this point? The more we educate ourselves on safety measures on campus, the more vigilant we become, and the less common events such as the Virginia Tech massacre become.

A greater question arises on how these incidents can occur in our academic institutions and how students respond to the malicious teasing or fun poking of by other students. The adage, "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words can never hurt me," no longer runs true in our generation. Words can hurt, and students easily obtain weapons as

a means of defense.

The massacre at V Tech was not the first of its kind in history, but it has won the honor of being the deadliest. Society has not addressed the greater issue of how to prevent such tragedies from occurring if possible. Some proponents suggest gun control or greater security measures at schools, yet the issue remains that our peers are turning to violence to solve these problems. Only continual reinforcement of safety measures on the part of the university can alter such perceptions. In these instances, it may be better to discipline us like kids than to treat us like independent adults.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Senate Continues to Fumble Budget Decision

By ESAM AL-SHAREFFI
USG Recording Secretary

Dear Editor,

The USG Senate largely used this meeting to continue its debate on the 2007-08 Budget, which has been riddled with confusion, objections, modifications, and general discord. The reader may recall that during the Senate's last meeting the legislative body was close to passing the budget, but the debate surrounding it intensified after it was discovered that there were several technical errors, which when corrected caused the expenditures to exceed income, forcing the Senate to make some tough choices on how to deal with the shortfall. After intense debate, leave was granted from Dr. Baigent (who was called at his home at around 9:30 PM) to postpone a final decision on the budget for an additional week, to allow the Budget Committee to return with a complete and balanced proposal.

That was not the case! The

debate was opened by Senators Maiorella and Shapiro, who had spent an incredible amount of time last week reviewing every club's budget proposal, adjusting their final numbers and then providing justifications for such changes so that clubs (and Senators) would understand the reasoning behind their decisions. Unfortunately for the duo, the majority of the Senate, while largely commending them on their tireless efforts, took exception with some of the increases and decreases the two Senators recommended, and jumped on the chance to postpone the budget for an additional week, after Dr. Baigent (this time through e-mail) granted them yet another week for final vetting and approval.

The issue, dear reader, is quite complex. On the one hand, I deeply commend and support Senators Shapiro and Maiorella for taking the initiative to embark on the tedious

Continued on page 11

We Reap What We Sow: Virginia Tech to Algiers

By KHALIL ROBINSON
Staff Writer

Normalcy has been turned completely on its head once again. In the last week we have witnessed several events that I have written about and I sincerely wish they did not happen. In my article "The Broken Glass," I had written "the youth of this nation are in an active revolt against society as a whole," and are "becom[ing] so alienated from each other and isolated from the greater society that [they] don't quite understand where they fit in. They struggle to rebel against everything and everyone, which [will lead] to further Columbines..." I just wish this hadn't come true. But unfortunately all the signs were there and still are.

The Virginia Tech Massacre, now recognized as the worst campus massacre in American history, is an extreme example of the perilous nature of American culture. There is an obsession with death and a belief that situations such as this one "can't happen to us." However, there may be hundreds or thousands of Cho Seng-Hui's in this society. We should also remember the fact that in the United States around 30,000 people a year are

killed through gun violence. There are obviously many individuals who have specific grievances with institutions or individuals within them and they go over the edge. We can see this pervasive behavior in the bullying and bullied, in rampant sexual abuse, or other forms of anti-social behavior. Shootings are merely an extreme form of this violence.

Though the details are sketchy, it seems Seng-Hui fit the standard depiction of a school shooter. Seng-Hui's neighbor, Abdul Shash, said he was "very quiet" and "always by himself." He further stated that Seng-Hui "played basketball and wouldn't respond if someone greeted him." ABC news reported, "Cho returned to his own dorm room after the initial shootings, where he re-armed himself and took the time to write a 'disturbing note' before heading to Norris Hall." The Chicago Tribune reported that in the note he seethed about the "rich kids" and "debauchery" and "deceitful charlatans" on campus.

I had also written in an article titled, "The End of Impunity," that the "Iraqi resistance has effectively

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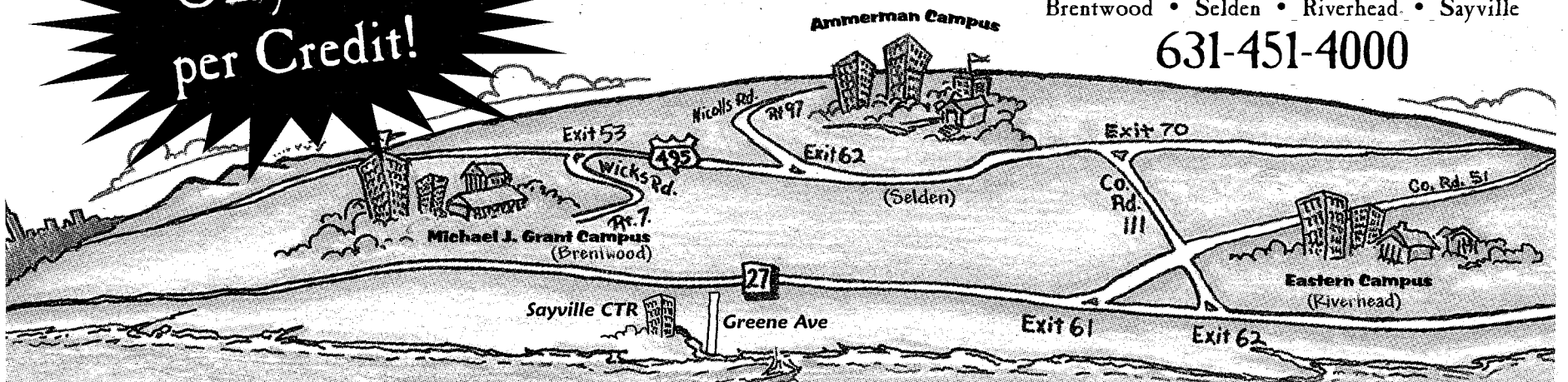
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Senate Continues to Fumble Budget Decision

Continued from page 9

but extremely important task of reviewing club budget applications, coming up with objective criteria for funding decisions, and then combining the funding decisions on over 150 organizations into a cohesive, balanced budget, including justifications where cuts were made. At the same time, a few other Senators were concerned that the final budgetary decisions were in essence only made by two Senators, and wanted to take part in this important process, but for whatever reason were ultimately unable to and thus wanted the one-week extension to add their input to the final numbers. I also suspect that a significant number of Senators wanted to hold off from making a final decision not because they were concerned with the legitimacy of the budget, but rather because the version presented at the last USG Senate meeting hurt their favored clubs monetarily and thus sought a final extension in order to "tweak" the budget, a euphemism for "restore the cuts to my favored club or organization."

The issue is further complicated by the need to maintain "viewpoint neutrality," a concept that enjoins the Senate from making funding decisions based on their personal opinion of a club

or organization. For instance, just because a Senator is not a fan of the College Republicans, it does not give him or her the right to scoff at their funding increase, as one Senator (who shall remain nameless) did tonight. Senators must make objective criteria that judge a club's final budget on neutral grounds, judging for example their ability to execute successful events, spend frugally, and make a convincing case at the Budget hearing. Senators Shapiro and Maiorella are rightfully concerned that the proposed motion to delay deciding on a final budget until next week, which passed by a 14-6 margin, will now create an opportunity for Senators to inject their personal opinion and other subjective criteria in these final days.

So, how will this turn out in the end? Senators Maiorella and Shapiro were extremely dissatisfied with the delay in passing the budget, so much so that they have resigned from the Budget Committee in protest. It is now up to those Senators behind the extension to do an extremely thorough and unimpeachable job during the next week in re-reviewing all of the Budget expenditures, in a manner that will hold up to minute scrutiny. Given the reasoning behind postponing the budget, as well as the frustration with a

sizable minority of the Senate with that decision, it is difficult to imagine that the Senate will even pass any Budget at all if those behind the latest postponement cannot provide an extremely polished budget that addresses everyone's concerns completely.

If that does happen, then all bets are off. Constitutionally, if the Senate does not pass a budget the decision devolves to the Executive Council, which has had three officials impeached this year, including the USG President. Furthermore, that chamber has rarely met with the required quorum to make decisions, and it is difficult to imagine how they would deal with an issue as important as the Budget. In addition, the Senate's recent image as a competent and effective chamber will be tarnished irreparably, as the Senate's most important role is to pass a balanced budget. I therefore fervently hope that the next week will allow all sides in this issue to take a step back, reassess their positions and the legacy they will leave as USG Senators, and work together to make a "fair" budget, with "fair" applying not to how the Budget treats a Senator's favored club or organization, but in a manner that is equitable to all clubs and organizations and that reflects the best interests of the student body.

Another important event of

note, largely overshadowed by this meeting, was the announcement made by President Pro-Tempore (PPT) Robert Romano to resign his position as PPT, effective at the end of the last Senate meeting. I have had numerous disagreements with Mr. Romano, on nearly every issue of importance regarding USG, but I believe that his heart has been largely in the right place and that he genuinely works and has worked to promote what he sees as the best interests of the student body, so it is with some regret that I bear this news of his resignation. It is unfortunate that Mr. Romano has taken the side of the disgraced USG President, Romual Jean-Baptiste, by choosing to defend him at his upcoming (and long-delayed) impeachment trial, the official reason for his resignation. Still, I hope that Mr. Romano does so in homage to the work of the great patriot, John Adams, when he defended at trial the British soldiers implicated in the "Boston Massacre" over two centuries ago, and not for any other reason.

Stay tuned for next week's Senate meeting, where the USG Budget saga shall hopefully come to a successful end, and hopefully not mutate out of hand to be remembered as the worst failure of this otherwise largely successful 2006-07 USG Senate.

We Reap What We Sow: Virginia Tech to Algiers

Continued from page 9

ruined the United States' credibility," and that the "main Algerian Islamist group... has recently joined the al Qaeda movement." Since I had written those words al Qaeda in Iraq has launched the first suicide bombing in the Green Zone targeting the Iraqi parliament. In Algeria, al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb launched one of the most devastating attacks on the country in years, killing 24 people and wounding 222. They were targeting a government palace, a police barracks, and an Interpol headquarters. In Morocco there were also attempts at bombings, but they failed to reach their targets and detonated too early wounding many civilians and killing the suicide bombers.

These events were easily pre-

dictable events but were ignored by most of the Western media. People reacted with justified horror, but irrational stupefaction. These are only logical occurrences from the events of the last few years. Al Qaeda is now a reality in daily life. British journalist Robert Fisk wrote, "Nuclear scientists invented the atom bomb. What would have been the point of arresting all the scientists afterwards? The bomb existed. Bin Laden created al-Qa'ida. The monster was born." The only path forward is to deal with the problem logically, not with an endless escalation of violence.

American military and political credibility is already ruined. Insurgent leader Abu Omar al-Baghdadi stated that "The fear of the American Marines has disappeared from the hearts of the people of the world, as the mujahadeen have

become thousands from the few they were after the fall of the infidel Baath regime." Now that this fear is gone, it is time to look at the world realistically and begin to alleviate the wounds.

These two situations may seem completely different but I believe they are representative of a grave trend in domestic and international affairs. The similarities may appear tenuous and to some degree they are. But what is similar is that people don't care about dying any longer. American culture has driven its own citizens to such alienation that massacres are common place and its driven citizens of other nations to look at suicide as a means of liberation. I don't claim to have the solution to all of these problems but I do believe [and I do not find solace in religion] that we reap what we sow.

Metasebia Yemane's Hard Work Finally Pays Off

Continued from page 7

social worker, but as she prepares to graduate she is interested in editing (either for a magazine or newspaper), advertising, or marketing.

Throughout her four years at SB, Yemane has learned valuable lessons. "Do something you're comfortable with. It must be something you can succeed in and enjoy. And you cannot do something superficially," she said, assisted with other administrative tasks, assisted with other administrative tasks.

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From MTV to SBU Gym Class Heroes

By MAUREEN HINE
Contributing Writer

Sunday evening at Stony Brook University was filled with the hip-hop beats of a band on the rise, whose hit single recently reached number one on the pop charts just last week. Students and fans gathered outside Prichard Sports Complex, mostly in high spirits as they walked through an unusually high level of security for a concert.

on stage and the rest of Gym Class Heroes followed closely behind. The band opened the concert by playing "Papercuts," the first song off their 2005 release, "The Papercut Chronicles." The majority of the crowd bobbed their heads to the beat, while others stood on the first row of bleachers pulling out synchronized danced moves, and some rested on the shoulders of their friends. A feeble attempt at crowd surfing did not make

Towards the middle of the concert, McCoy broke out into freestyle after telling a quick story of how he was insulted at a Nas concert. A young boy walked up to McCoy and told him that he was only there to see Nas. McCoy responded by saying, "Yeah, but your girlfriend isn't." McCoy's anger transformed into his freestyle: "Yeah, I got your CD, I use it to break weed on." The words were directed towards both Nas



Photo by Jessica Graham

Nevertheless, a small mass of fans made their way into the gym at around 7:00 PM, several minutes before the first act would get on stage to open for Gym Class Heroes.

Around 7:20 PM, an unknown band by the name of LMT appeared on stage as a small audience slowly began to congregate around the music. The band's style could be compared to that of an alternative/jam-band, which seemed an odd choice for an opening band at a hip-hop concert. Or perhaps, a cheap pick by the University. The band played five songs before urging the crowd to hang around for another 15 minutes for the Gym Class Heroes to make their way to the stage.

The room went dark, as neon stage lights beamed onto the walls and a flag, displaying a blue face found on the cover of the band's latest CD, waved over an eager crowd of somewhere around 200 people. The "Rocky" theme song bellowed from the speakers as the lead singer Travis McCoy set foot

it far.

After "Papercuts," Travis McCoy addressed the floating misconception that Gym Class Heroes came out of nowhere. He pointed out that they have been around for almost 10 years, since McCoy first met drummer Matt Ginley in gym class back in '97. McCoy told the crowd to remember "...For the Kids," which was their first self-released album in 2001. McCoy stopped talking as the harmonizing beats of the keyboard floated out of the speakers, and the band switched things up with "Shoot Down the Stars," off their most recent album, "As Cruel As School Children."

The concert continued in the same fashion with the tempo and mood picking up a bit, but not much. The band continued with "Taxi Driver," another song off "The Papercut Chronicles," then borrowed a Franz Ferdinand beat for the next song in their set. "Pillmatic," got the attention of the crowd with an upbeat tempo laced with McCoy's fast paced lyrics.

and the kid, describing how he would rather rap about meaning than himself.

The concert came to an end as the band "brought the beach" to the audience with a cover of the Beach Boys hit, "Good Vibrations." "It's time for us to go," McCoy bellowed. "As much as this song is for the ladies, I want everyone to sing along." Just as the band began to play the song most of the crowd was there to hear, a girl sitting on a friend's shoulders threw a black laced bra at the stage. As promised, the audience sung along and the familiar lyrics of the overplayed radio single, "Cupid's Chokehold," were barely heard over the screaming, tone-deaf crowd.

McCoy ended the show with a tribute to James Brown as well as a message to be aware of the events unfolding throughout the country today. However, most of the crowd was filing out of the gym once "Cupid's Chokehold" was over. Fans cheered loudly as the concert, which lasted just over an hour, ultimately came to an end.

Stony Brook's Masters

The school's best artists unite in one powerhouse gallery

By NANDITHA DAS
Staff Writer

The University Gallery at the Staller Center for the Arts recently had their 19th MFA Thesis exhibit. It ran from Saturday, Mar. 17 to Saturday, Apr. 14. The exhibit featured the work of eight students in the Master of Fine Arts program offered by the Department of Arts here at Stony Brook University, including Alton Falcone, Angela Freiburger, Melanie Gerules, Karsten Grumstrup, Takafumi Ide, Athena LaTocha, Tim Murray and William Sherrod Tyson. The exhibit consisted of paintings, sketches, sculptures and electronic and mixed media components.

Having gone to the MFA Thesis exhibit last year and enjoyed it thoroughly, I was looking forward to viewing the creative and innovative handiwork of the MFA students this year. This year's exhibit was different from last year's, although still quite interesting and thought-provoking. Art changes with time, as do most aspects of life, so changes were expected. However, sometimes it seems as if the only tradition we keep is not to keep tradition. More and more of the exhibits that I have visited seem to employ more modernistic expressions of emotion and life in general. The word "modern" has both positive and negative connotations, but the negative undertones always seem to overpower the positive ones in my mind. And it is with this handicap that I approached the artwork of this exhibit.

The themes of these art pieces were very mature, inspiring and stimulating. Falcone's artwork, for example, consisted of dilapidated cylindrical wood installations. In the accompanying catalogue he wrote, "The simple, monolithic, centripetal quality of the form is meant to contrast with the breaks and openings from torn wood edges and knot holes. This should

give the viewer the sense of both solidity and openness." He went on to write,

"Worn wood, rusted iron and other such materials, corroded through the slow insistence in time of atmospheric elements and human abuse, offer a contrast to the purity of the geometrical form, a cylindrical dodecahedron." From where I saw it, it was a successful attempt at portraying the ephemerality of life. I found great joy in knowing that I understood the work when I saw the artist's following statement: "There is a beauty to endurance, a dignity to aging, and an existential quality of fragility in firmness to works of this nature."

The death of innocence (Tyson), questioning the meanings of signs that are the result of societal concord (Grumstrup), open interpretation (Murray), the use of color and shape to generate dynamic objects and people (Gerules), using landscape unconventionally to portray strife, turbulence and disorder (LaTocha), juxtapositions of fragility with tranquility (Ide), and the examination of emotion and mood (Freiburger) are among the other themes that were explored in the exhibit.

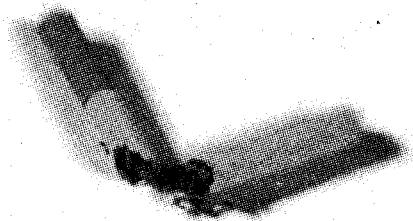
While Falcone's work was more encompassing, with its examination of impermanence, Freiburger's presentation of mood and the contrast of viewer versus narrator was more personal and equally interesting. She stated in the accompanying catalogue, "By layering references to woman, body, and landscape, the installation merges feelings of desire, sensuality, and childhood memories to create an emotional experience. Through dual video projections, large-scale installations that envelop the viewer, my work aims to dissolve the conventional boundaries between artist and audience."

Sound proves to play an important role in such media

Continued on page 15

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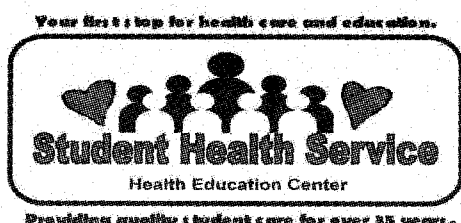
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MFA Thesis 2007

A Hotbed of Innovation

Continued from page 13

installations. Deep utterances in the video presentation that I thought were noteworthy include, "Place there is none. We go forward and backward and there is no place. Empty space that needs to be fulfilled. We are living in a placeless society." Freiburger also commented on technology and how human accessibility has declined as a result.

While Freiburger's piece involved mixed media and Falcone's work was 3D, Gerules' presentation included several self-portraits. But at the same time, dynamism was achieved through the use of color. Also, what struck me is the consistency of the self-portraits - each looked like the one preceding and the one following. As she stated in the catalogue, "My objective in painting is to create a believable world that comes alive through the play of color and form. I seek to show a certain drama with the objects of people."

Two-dimensional pieces are quite capable of making a shattering impact, just as 3D sculptures are. LaTocha's work depicted chaos and distress through landscapes. Landscapes usually employ a lot of color and show scenes of serenity. The most striking characteristic of LaTocha's pieces were their lack of color. She stated in the catalogue, "My landscape imagery implies a state of unrest and a sense of discomfort through the struggle, as well as the tension, between representational and abstract imagery, the known and unknown, the other and the self. I am concerned with the ideas and sensations resulting from conflict, doubt, rejection and resistance. My work is process-based, dependent upon the manipulation of the paint surface and sense of movement and forms found inside the recurrent image."

Grumstrup's questioning of symbols and the meanings of signs that were collectively agreed upon by society can be

paralleled with Murray's work. Grumstrup said, "Comprised of symbols, the pictorial acts as an emblem, but as an emblem of what? How do we arrive at meaning? The proliferation of signs and their collectively agreed upon meanings obscures and important possibility; pointless mundane life has more to do with meaningful experience that it is given credit. My formal decisions are intended to lead the viewer into the picture, making the act of looking fun." He further stated, "I want viewers to answer their own questions and come to their own conclusions."

Murray, like Grumstrup, encourages the viewers to examine the work and make their own conclusions. "The work is a vehicle for the critique of what is perceived as (and subsequently presumed to be) a fundamental truth(s) and how these assumptions guide our finite existence in society."

Ambiguity can be a plus point in art, because it allows the artwork to be interpreted from multiple perspectives. However, too much ambiguity makes the art lose its purpose. The piece that I enjoyed the most was by Ide, which I felt had the perfect combination of ambiguity, mixed with innovation and creativity. As Ide said, "I have controlled my installation by incorporating delicate objects, sound, video, and light. As a result, the viewer can feel the harmony and participate in my installation, rather than only see and feel the individualistic energy from only one. I hope the experience created by my work encourages audiences to reflect on important transitional moments in their own lives."

Everything combined together created a unique sense of calmness. The sounds that were repeated over and over again included, "I love you. Don't worry. Take care. I'll see you soon. I'll never forget you. Good luck. Thank you." The repetition of these phrases created a beautiful spiritual experience. If you

were looking for a moment of reflection and peace, this would have been the perfect place to be.

Each piece of artwork has something distinct to offer, and can arguably stand on its own. I found an interesting link between the artwork, but am unsure whether it is fabrication or fact. Tyson's work, depicting the massacre of innocence, in some ways connected all the other pieces in the exhibit. By scattering everyday objects we associate with childhood, like crayons and drawings, he was easily able to convey his message.

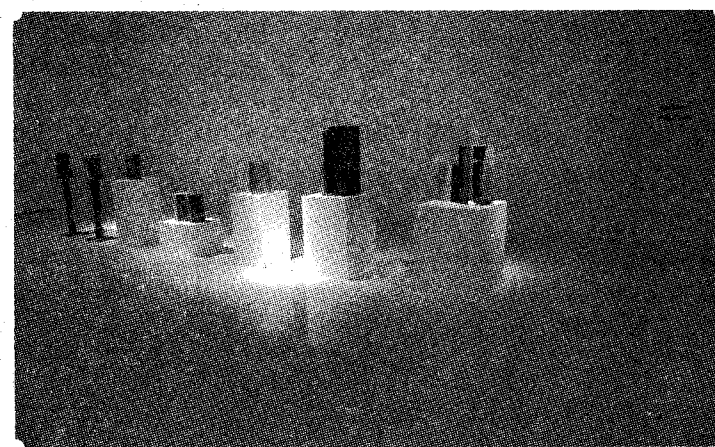
Tyson's work was a 3D representation, in color (like Gerules' work), of LaTocha's sketches that showed disorder and chaos. At the same time, it allowed the viewers to develop their own interpretations, like Murray and Grumstrup's work. The death of innocence symbolizes the birth and growth of adulthood, which is also aging, like Falcone's work. And finally, his work seems more relevant when compared with Ide's depiction of calm.

At a time when we try very hard to be unique, so that we may leave a mark on the world, sometimes we forget that simplicity is invaluable. While complexity adds spice to art and life, it further complicates what can easily be accomplished in a much simpler manner. I feel as if some of the artwork was too much a tribute to the out of the ordinary. At the same time, I can understand the desire to be different, just to avoid monotony.

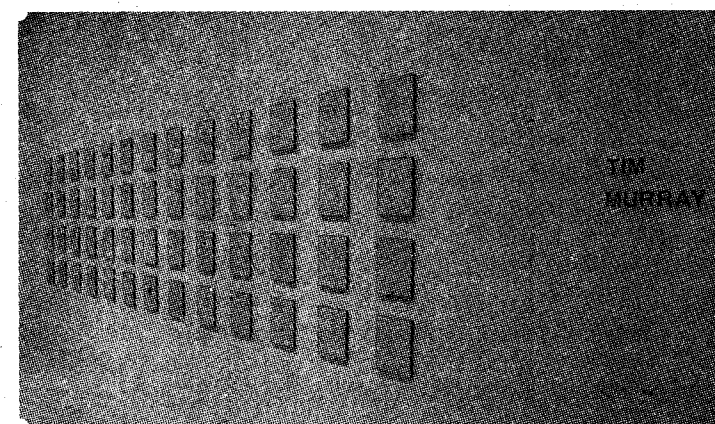
In the end, if the artist was able to successfully convey their messages they can be satisfied, even if their art was meant to be up for open-ended interpretation that is neither right nor wrong. I suppose, then, that Murray and Grumstrup were right. Although I was confused, I had approached their work with my own expectations and experiences. And they were able to allow me to discover the truth about myself - perhaps I am more conservative than I cared to admit or realized.



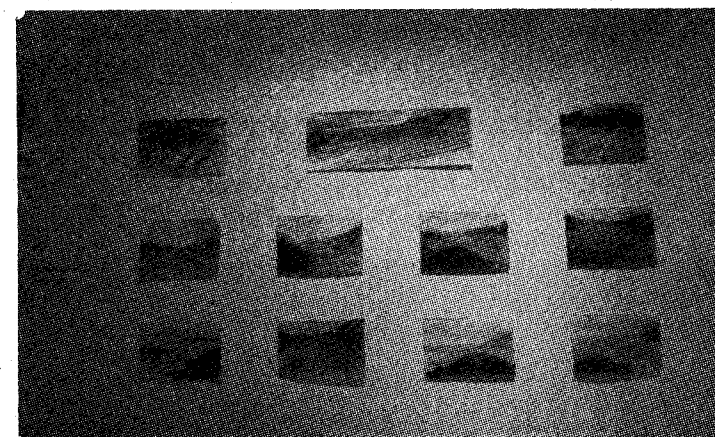
Karsten Grumstrup



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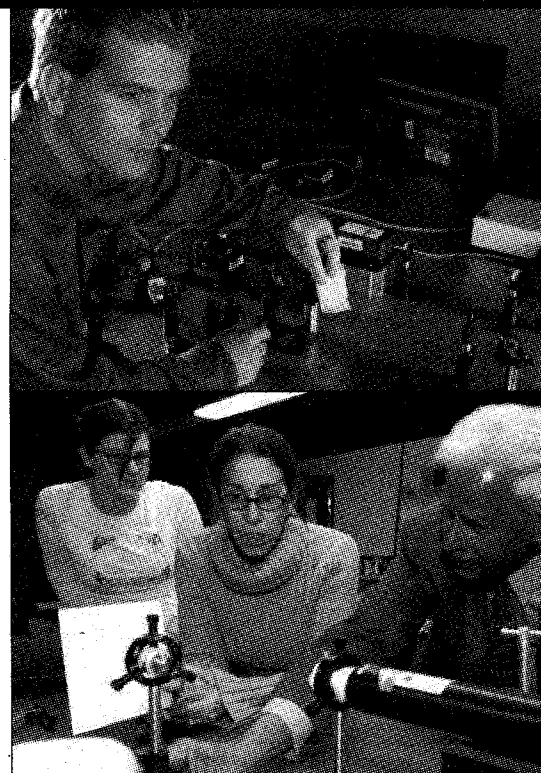
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STRING THEORY:

A Good Time For Rock, a Hard Time For God

BY WILL JAMES
Arts and Entertainment Editor

At the library where I work, I have a lot of free time. For fun, I decided to see if God was real. So I read Sam Harris' "Letter to a Christian Nation," and it seemed to make sense. And then I read Ray Comfort's "God Doesn't Believe in Atheists." Very reasonable.

I guess the subject was on my mind lately. After all, some of the most prominent musicians of my age have taken a very strong stance on the subject of late. In fact, as Muslim extremists continue to wage a holy war in the East and the debates over abortion, evolution, atheism, church and state and prayer in schools have cut the West in half, three precious albums, like diamonds, have been born of the pressure over the past year.

Now, rock has a history of

/ But father, certainly it's troubling to see all these people kneeling, instead of dealing with the fact that we are all we have / So, rise up! Rise up! / There's no one to worship! / But plenty of life to lose! Ray Comfort had better get to work on this guy.

Happy Hollow is a concept album that tells the story of a small Midwestern town of the same name - and there are some crazy stories. "Bad Sects" describes the agony and paranoia of two priests who become romantically involved. "At Conception" tells the tale of an anti-abortion activist (and priest) who gets a young woman pregnant - then demands she abort the child. These two songs are bristling with power - and the second one, especially, is brilliantly written.

Many of the tracks are more like "Rise Up! Rise Up!" - Kasher

picked up Kasher's cry. His close friend Conor Oberst of Bright Eyes fills his new album, *Cassadaga*, with religious imagery. Granted, Oberst's content is a little less "Freud" and a little more "agonizing God complex" - what else would you expect from old Conor? But you can't ignore lines like, "The Bible's blind, the Torah's deaf, the Qur'an's mute / If you burned them all together you'd get close to the truth / Still, they're pouring over Sanskrit on the Ivy League moons / While shadows lengthen in the sun."

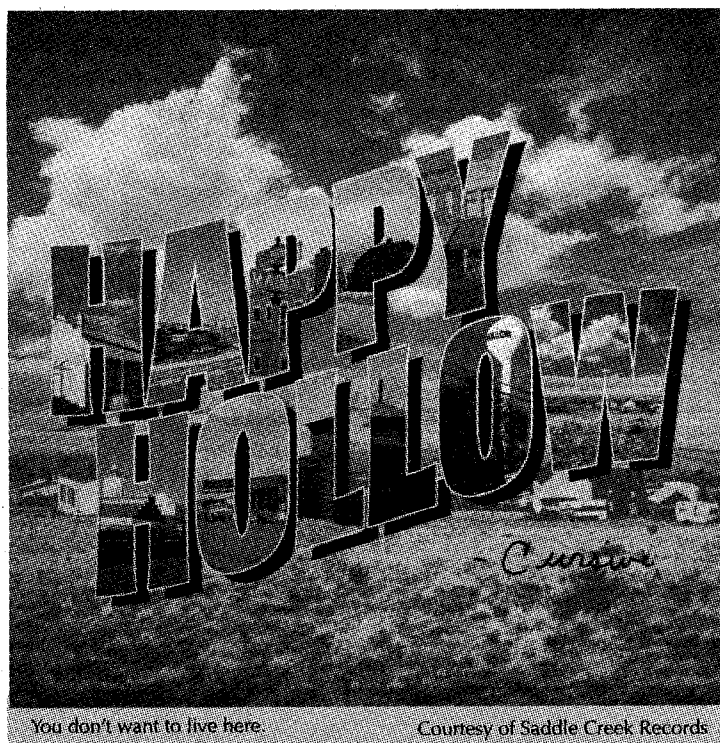
Most recently, The Arcade Fire's "Neon Bible" has joined the campaign. The title track of the album cautions, "There's not much chance for survival / If the neon bible is right." At the end of "Intervention," the album's thundering epic, lead singer Win Butler roars "Working for the church while your life falls apart / Singing Halleluiahs with the fear in your heart."

And we can't forget Tim Kasher's other good friend, Tim Kinsella of Make Believe. In 2006's "Of Course," Kinsella counters the Christian Right (in some not-so-simple terms) in the masterpiece "Pat Tillman / Emmitt Till."

What is a Pope to do? He breathed a sigh of relief when heavy metal ran its course. Now they're about to see the fight renewed by a bunch of plaid-sporting, bespectacled indie rockers. And just after Ray Comfort warned me so passionately about youth occult music!

Rock has a strong tradition of religious heresy (Creed?). What's different about this new push? For one, the motivation has changed. It's no longer about rebelling against our parents - this generation has seen more horrors executed in the name of God than any other since the Crusades. Secondly, these releases protest with an eloquence and intellectual savvy thus unseen in the pop world. For fans of Sam Harris and Richard Dawkins, it's a triumph. For free spirits, it's commanding, beautiful, and angst-ridden art. For the Pope, it's high time to get past "Hotel California." For punk rockers - be ashamed that these whiners are doing your job better than you. For the rest of us rockers, it's refreshing to see some semblance of a unified social movement rising in the tumult of today's far-out world.

Now, in 2007, two bands have



You don't want to live here.

Courtesy of Saddle Creek Records

angering the Pope (especially The Eagles). But since 2006, rock has dropped its dopey call for teenage hedonism and antichrist promotion. No, the albums that have emerged over the past year have approached religious culture and philosophy intellectually. These aren't heavy metal bands. The modern movement stems from - of all places - Omaha, Nebraska.

In 2006, Cursive's "Happy Hollow" lead singer Tim Kasher publicly and emotionally decries the faith of small town America. The most direct and vitriolic rant comes in "Rise Up! Rise Up!," where he sings, "Reverend, sir, I don't want to seem malevolent / My teenage angst is far behind me

unloads on the church and, very often, the concept of God, without restraint or shame. The first track, "Opening the Hymnal/Babies" declares "The beautiful truth of it is / This is all we are / We simply exist / You're not the chosen one / I'm not the chosen one / But we don't need anyone / Let's not choose anyone." "Big Bang" reasserts this claim: "We need a purpose in life, a survival guide / We need explanations for how we arrived / There was this big bang once, now we're standing on our own two feet / There was this big bang once, we've been sharpening up our teeth." In "Retreat" Kasher cries, "Lord, let us go!"

The Book of James

Revelation VIII:

America, Now More Than Ever, Needs Her Truck Drivers

BY JAMES BOUKLAS
Senior Columnist

It may or may not come as a surprise to learn that America is in the throws of a rapid moral decline. While this is the sort of rhetoric one might expect from Jerry Falwell, he is a perfect example of the pervasiveness of this decade. Any man that can blame the terrorist attacks of 9/11 on gays and lesbians is fit to become the poster child for the sort of stupid behavior that we need to stop. I believe the best way to bring ourselves back to our senses is to perform the Truck Driver Test early and often.

The Truck Driver test is simple: whenever you are about to make decisions of varying degrees of importance, imagine ten truck drivers sitting in a diner, drinking a cup of coffee. Imagine yourself telling them your idea, and imagine their reaction. That is the Truck Driver Test.

This is how the Truck Driver Test might have helped Jerry Falwell, had he taken the thirty seconds to conduct it. "Terrorists took down the Twin Towers, killing over 3,000 Americans because gays want the right to marry," he might have told a group of imaginary truck drivers. These hard working Americans would have surely scratched their heads and muttered, "You sure about that? Sounds pretty stupid to me." Hence, the Truck Driver test.

I consider myself a good decision maker, and as such, I conduct the Truck Driver Test nearly daily. Just last week, I was discussing my future after graduation with my parents. We were talking about the high cost of rent, about the need to be autonomous, and so forth. Up popped the idea of living in a large shed in my parents' ample backyard. Better yet, a Winnebago in the back would be far more flexible. Before moving past that point, I asked my father to perform the Truck Driver Test. We laughed, and decided it wasn't a good idea. The test probably went as such, "Hey fellas, I live in my parents' backyard in a trailer. And I just graduated college with honors. Sound good?" The

drivers promptly slapped their knees, threw their heads back, and laughed.

To put this into a better context, most people aren't good at objectively judging their own behavior. They operate by ambiguous guidelines and without any oversight. This is the source for deviant behavior. A psychology graduate school, known for its psychodynamic orientation, is even better known for its ridiculous interview tactics. Rather than have any sort of meaningful conversation with applicants, interviewers for this school sit in the corner and say nothing for two hours. At the end of those two hours, they decide whether or not you are competent to pursue an education in psychology. These are a group of people who have never conducted the Truck Driver Test. Ever. They have spent their professional lives burrowing their heads under the sand at the first sight of normalcy, and have become deviant as a result. Had they stepped back for just one moment and asked themselves how normal people might interpret that, I am confident that good sense would have prevailed.

Finally, George W. Bush is a man who hates truck drivers. He has never taken the test, likely for fear of failing miserably. He never once stepped back to ask such important questions as, "Is cutting taxes during a time of war good for this country? Does sending in only 130,000 troops to Iraq, ignoring the advice of my top generals, make any sense?" and "Whilst in our War on Terror, is it in our best interests to allow a company based in a Middle Eastern country, one which supports terrorism, take over a good portion of our seaports?" Truck drivers would have not only failed him - they would have ridden him out on a rail.

The Truck Driver Test is all about keeping it real. I urge all of you, the readers of my column, to remember this very important lesson. If you have a decision to make, and you feel it is worth making the right one, step back for a moment and ask yourself if it makes sense. Please.

Match Day: Med Students Matched to Residency Programs

Continued from page 1

Three computer-based matching systems - the National Medical Residency Program (NMRP), the San Francisco Match, and the match sponsored by the American Urology Association (AUA) - are available to students seeking residency positions after graduating from medical school. While the NMRP caters to a wider range of residency programs, the San Francisco and AUA matches are specific to a few particular residency options.

After months of interviewing at various hospitals and deciding which field of medical specialty was right for them, American medical students each entered a list of hospital residency programs by rank into the ERAS computer system. Likewise, hospitals around the nation with available residency positions entered their own lists of about 100 prospective physicians, also by preference, into the same system.

After the lists are prepared, ERAS shuffles the lists together and pairs graduating medical students with resident-seeking hospitals by best possible match. The results of these pairings are revealed at medical schools on Mar. 15, Match Day.

Students are chosen based on the quality of their applications which consist of transcripts, board exam scores, a personal statement, letters of recommendation, including one from the Dean of Medicine, and an interview. Once the applications are submitted, all that students can do is "hope for a good match," said Schiavone.

"The system is really geared in favor of the students," explained Fred Schiavone, M.D., associate dean for medical education at SBU Medical School.

Every year 22,000 residency positions are available in the United States. 16,000 of these positions are taken by American medical students through the ERAS matching program. The rest of the positions are filled by foreign students. Nearly 85% of applying students are matched to a hospital and residency program within their top three choices.

Many students want to remain close to home while they continue their training. From this year's graduating senior class of 108, 66% of students were matched to hospitals in NYC, Long Island or Upstate New York. Of these students, 20 will be remaining at Stony Brook University Hospital

for at least a year of residency training.

"I basically limited my looking to the Northeast because although I was ready to leave Long Island for a while, I wanted to stay within driving distance from friends and family," explained Dava Szalda, a fourth year medical student.

The medical specialties chosen by these students ranged from ophthalmology and radiology to gynecology and emergency medicine. Highly competitive fields, such as surgery and anesthesiology were among the most popular residency matches for this year's fourth year SB medical students.

Medical students choose which field of medicine best suits their interests during their third year of schooling. Students pass through a series of rotations through different departments during their third year of medical school to help them decide which path is right for them. "I tell my students to find their passion and make sure they will love what they're doing," said Schiavone.

"I became interested in a combined internal medicine and pediatrics program during my third year when I recognized a group of chronically ill adolescent patients who were getting lost in our current healthcare system," explained Szalda of her inspiration for finding the right specialty field. "I wanted to help find ways to best treat these patients."

Increasingly, lifestyle is becoming a more important deciding factor in which field of medicine students pursue. Being able to balance a healthy family life with a strong and demanding career is critical. "Times are changing," continued Schiavone, "it is difficult to be continually available, or 'on call,' while simultaneously trying to maintain a life."

"Location was my main concern during the application process," said Richard Hong, current fourth year medical student recently matched to a radiology residency program. "My and my wife's families are in NYC and I really wanted to move back to be closer to them."

Students look for programs that not only meet their family and convenience needs but also those that will best meet their career goals as physicians. "I was looking for a large academic center with the opportunity to do great clinical research. I think I found it!" exclaimed Szalda.

However, jumping straight into residency after graduation

is not for everyone. "Some [students] will take a year off to do research or pursue a Master's degree, often in public health [M.P.H.] or business administration [M.B.A.]," notes Schiavone "others will take a year off in order to start a family."

Often, if students feel unsure of the strength of their candidacy, taking a year off to pursue an additional degree can enhance a future residency application. A year of dedicated research is especially valuable as medical residents are required to perform it as part of their training.

Students expressed their anxiety the morning of the Match Day ceremony as being intense. "It was such an odd experience," explained Szalda, "take a group of type A personalities and put them in a room with small white envelopes that hold the answer to the question 'Where will I live, work and grow over the next 3-5 years of my life?'"

"I was anxious," said Hong, "I was uncertain as to where I would match since radiology is one of the more competitive fields."

Uncertainty is part of the matching game for these fourth year students and future residents. "There are a terrific group of applicants out there, so you never know how things will pan out," said Szalda of her matching experience.

Every medical school holds its Match Day ceremony differently. At SBU Medical School, residency program directors from SBUH for each specialty hold the envelopes. Students seek out the program director of their chosen specialty "in a mad rush," recounted Schiavone. "Most students appeared satisfied with their match results," he said.

"I couldn't wait one more second after waiting so many months," Szalda said "I opened my envelope immediately."

"I peeked at [my envelope] and told my wife we were going back to NYC," recounted Hong "we hugged; she cried tears of joy."

In evaluating the entire matching experience Hong noted that the system favors students. "I felt that [hospitals] were trying to sell their program to you rather than the other way around," he said.

For future fourth year students, it is important to keep goals in focus. When making lists of prospective residency programs, "be realistic about your choices," said Hong "but try to relax and enjoy the process as much as you can."

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9		8	4		6		3	

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hard

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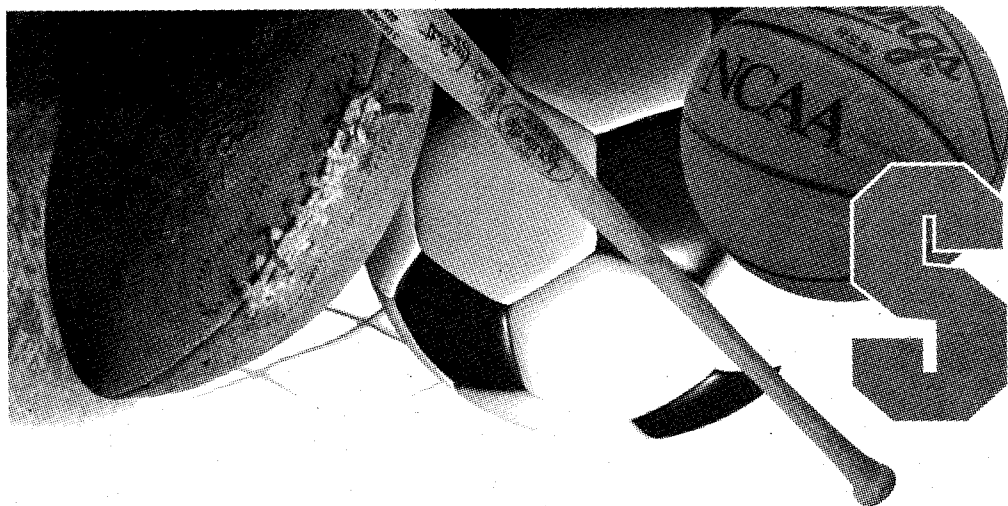
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Statesman SPORTS

Women's Lacrosse Tops Wagner Buck and Leggio Each Net Four Goals

By SHONTO OLANDER
Assistant Sports Editor

Staten Island, NY- Bouncing back from a hard fought loss to UMBC last week, the Seawolves got back on track with a 15-10 triumph over Wagner on Tuesday, April 17th. Paced by Senior Carlee Buck's eight points, the game was basically decided by two pivotal runs in the first half that gave Wagner little hope for a win.

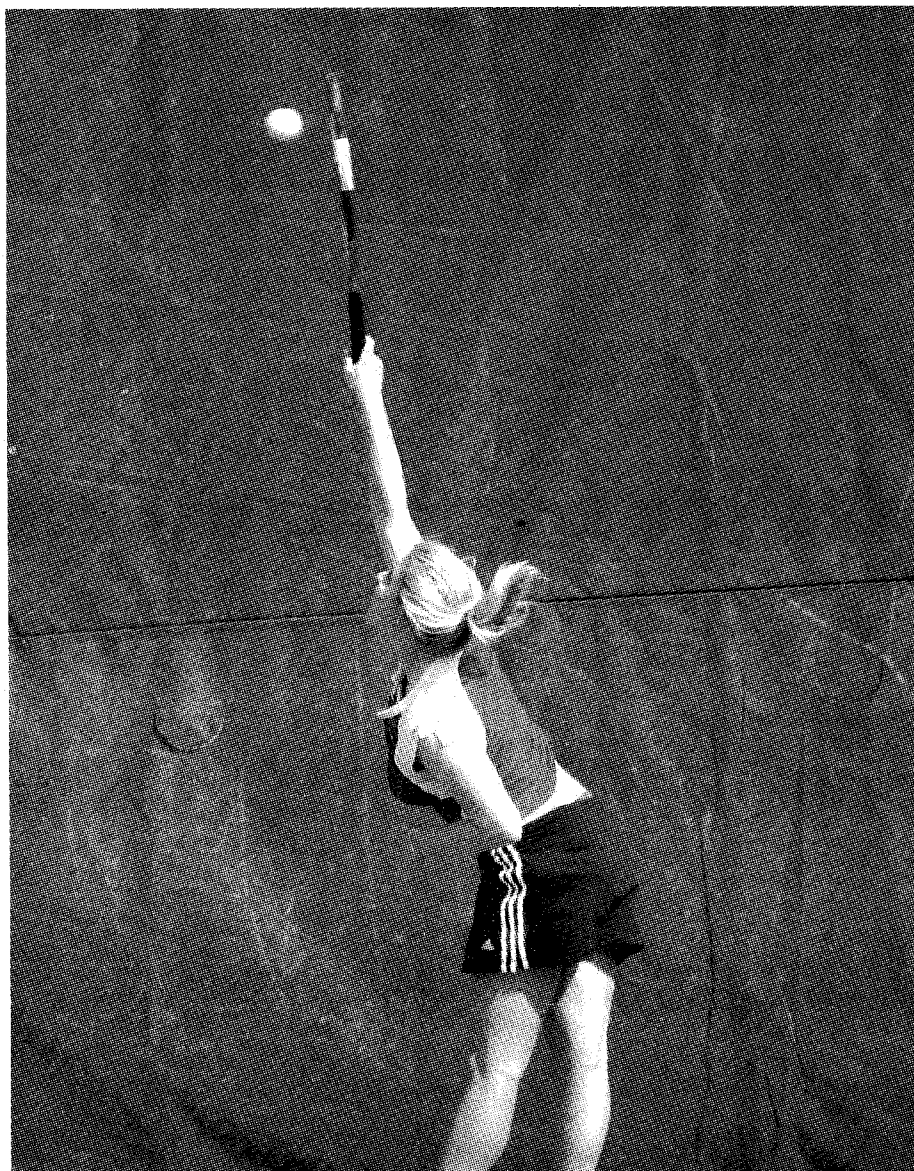
Opening with Buck's unassisted goal, only a minute into the game, the Seawolves saw Senior, Amy Taylor and Sophomores, Kaitlin Leggio and Jenna Celano, all score for an early 4-0 run. Wagner would respond with two goals at the 24:54 and 21:26 marks, but would see their efforts soon erased by another two SB scores. SB and Wagner would then exchange goals over the next 8 minutes until Wagner's deficit was only 8-6. Wagner's Jessica Richmond would net back to back goals to bring them within two, but SB would then rattle off their second four goal run. The Seawolves run helped them close out the half with an imposing 12-6 lead.

Leading scorers for SB were Buck with four goals and four assists, improving on her America East Conference leading 2.3 assists a game. Leggio scored four goals and assisted twice, while Diana Caroleo notched two goals and two assists. Several other players boosted the Seawolves' attack and the defense held the Wagner Seahawks to 29 shots. Wagner saw Richmond rack up four goals, along with Teri Noll's two goal, one assist and Kelly Blundin's one goal and two assist efforts.

The win brought the Seawolves, who lead the America East conference heading into the final stretch of the season, record to 11-2. Wagner, who continues to struggle this season, dropped to 2-11.

The second half saw the blistering scoring cool off, as the Seawolves registered only three goals. Wagner would net four goals of their own, but would be unable to crack SB goalkeeper Jen Sandtorv to make it a game once again.

The Seawolves play host to Albany this Saturday at the LaValle stadium. Face off is at 4:00 PM.



A Seawolf takes a shot in SB's 6-1 win over at home over Hofstra.

William Lahti/Statesman

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LaValle Stadium

A Pair of 6-1 Wins for Men's and Women's Tennis

By JOSH SEIDMAN
Staff Writer

Both the Stony Brook Men's and Women's Tennis teams defeated their respective opponents from Hofstra by a score of 6-1 this past Wednesday, Apr. 11. Both teams' senior players, Victoria Vasile and Arlene Barksdale on the women's side and Nihal Advani on the men's side, were sent off in style. The seniors were recognized in a ceremony before the matches began.

With these wins, the men's team improved to 6-10 and the women's team improved to 9-5 for the season.

During the women's segment of the evening, SB swept all three doubles matches

to claim an early 1-0 lead in the overall scoring. Paola Rodolfi and Erica Federgreen won at No. 1 doubles, 8-4. Claudia Sanua and Brooke Flanigan won at No. 2, 8-0, and Vasile and Barksdale won at No. 3, 8-2.

On the men's side, the Seawolves won two of the three doubles matches to jump out to a 1-0 lead early on in the match. Quirijn Van Veen and Ilan Shvartz won at No. 2 doubles, 8-1, and Youssef Fassi-Fehri and Jon Epstein won at No. 3 doubles, 8-0.

Both teams were able to hold on to the momentum they had gained during the doubles portion of the matches, and went on to win five of the six singles matches to clinch the two 6-1 victories.

For the women's team Sandy Wijeratne won at No. 2, 4-6, 6-4, 10-8. Federgreen won at No. 3, 6-0, 6-1, Victoria Vovsha at No. 4, 6-1, 6-0, Shaina Murugan at No. 5, 6-3, 6-1 and Caitlin Crowley at No. 6, 6-0, 6-0.

In a similar fashion for the men's team, Van Veen won at No. 1 singles, 7-6, 4-6, 10-7, Advani at No. 3, 6-2, 6-2, Shvartz at No. 4, 7-5, 6-0, Epstein won at No. 5, 2-6, 6-2, 6-1, and Alex Markovich won at No. 6, 6-0, 6-0.

Each squad had its respective matches against Binghamton canceled this past weekend due to the weather. The men's match will not be made up, while the women's match is rescheduled for Sunday, Apr. 22.