

USG Election: Lowest Voter Turnout

BY LYNN HSIEH
News Editor

The Spring 2007 USG election has received the lowest student turnout in history with only 742 students voting for our USG president out of an undergraduate student body of about 15,000. This is about one third of last year's student turnout of 1,569.

According to Robert Romano, the President Pro-Tempore of the Senate, "This happens to be the lowest student turn out in history."

In addition, the 16 senators running for the College of Arts and Science automatically gained their positions because there were 17 positions available. There were no candidates running from the other colleges, including the College of Engineering and College of Health Sciences. All but two positions, the USG President and Vice President for Student Life, were left uncontested.

Pulse: SBUMC

BY SARAH KANTHARIA
Staff Writer

Center for Outpatient Services

Mar. 23 marked the opening of SBUMC's new Center for Outpatient Services. This 65,000 square foot facility located next to the Ambulatory Surgery Center on the SBUMC campus offers a host of different, specialty services and aims to serve as a "one-stop resource" for all its patients.

Featuring services once located all around SBUMC, the Center for Outpatient Services includes a Center for Pain management, Cancer Center, Imaging Center, Breast Care Center, Medical Oncology, Pediatric Hematology and

Continued on page 3

Icon 26: A Fair to Behold



Students dressed as brave knights spar at the medieval fare.

David Stevens / Statesman

BY KRYSTAL KARPf
Contributing Writer

I-Con 26 is something one may need to experience to understand. The convention is three days long and is attended by about 5,500 to 6,000 people each year. The convention's goal is to promote interest in the science fiction genre. I-Con 26 was held at Stony Brook this year from March 23 through March 26. In order to attend the event you have to buy a membership. These range anywhere from \$15 for children and \$52 for adults with a special break if you registered for all three days. The money will be used to help support the conventions, which are non-profit. The event offers many different activities

for the three days including guest speakers, genre-specific celebrities, games, discussions, films and an entire room designated for purchasing items.

On Friday night there was easily about 200 people on the two lines in front of the sports complex. One line was designated for those who had pre-registered and the other was for those who had not. Even though it was cold and drizzling the wait on the line was far from boring. Every few minutes a Sci-Fi character greeted you. People dressed up as numerous different characters including Harry Potter, The Joker, Gandalf and many many more. It almost made you feel as though if you had not dressed prepared you were out of place.

The people who attended were of all ages and origins. There were many high school kids there, college students, and even many adults. I expected the majority of the attendants to be from Stony Brook but as I walked around I learned that these people came from all over to see this convention. There were people from all over the East Coast. One student from Suny Albany said, "It's tradition, you drive all the way here and have fun with people for three days straight."

It seemed that most of the excitement was about the stars who would be attending the convention. The highlight for most this year seemed to be Kari Byron and

Continued on page 3

Student Enrollment Rising at SUNY

BY ADAM PECK
Staff Writer

This year, State University of New York officials reported a rise in student enrollment for the ninth straight year, setting a new record with over 417,000 full and part time students.

The SUNY system, created in 1948, incorporates 64 campuses and now educates a total of 417,583 students, making the SUNY system the largest comprehensive university system in the United States. According to SUNY officials, "especially strong growth" at the four university centers--University at Albany, University at Buffalo, Binghamton University, and Stony Brook University--helped push SUNY past last year's record enrollment. The SUNY system grew in almost every area for which records are kept.

Full-time student enrollment has grown since last year, pushing ahead 2.1% from last year for a total of 290,688, and the minority student population grew by 2.6% for the Fall 2006 semester, according to a statement released by the SUNY Office of Public Relations.

Here at SB, enrollment for the fall 2006 semester was 22,522. Administrators have been discussing a possible increase of the student body in the coming years, raising questions about the effects such an increase in population would do to the cost of tuition and the already cramped dormitories.

Chancellor Ryan, who recently announced he would resign in May, said in a statement released by SUNY that the "record-setting enrollment means SUNY continues to provide access to an affordable high-quality education."

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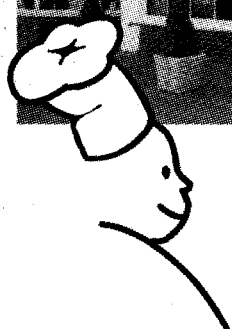
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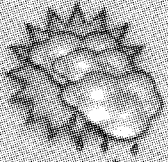
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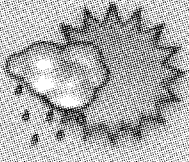
Student Forecast:

Mar. 19 - Mar. 25

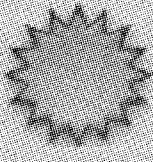
by Jamie Waller



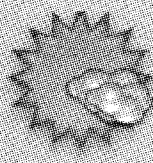
Monday:
High 49/Low 33
Increasing clouds,
chance of rain
showers late



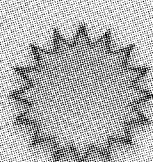
Tuesday:
High 64/Low 41
Overnight showers,
clearing by afternoon



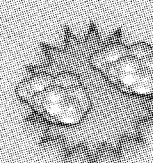
Wednesday:
High 58/Low 43
Mostly clear and pleasant



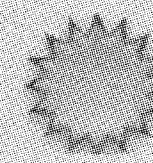
Thursday:
High 52/Low 36
Fine weather continues



Friday:
High 49/Low 33
Sunny, slightly cooler



Saturday:
High 52/Low 35
Partly Cloudy



Sunday:
High 55/Low 37
Sunshine starts April

Behind the Numbers

The beginning of the work week will begin with cloudy skies and a chance of showers late tonight and overnight. A chance of showers remain possible early on Tuesday, but skies will clear by the afternoon, and we will likely not see any more rain until next month. The rest of the week should be mostly sunny, as temperatures will peak into the low to mid 50's, average for this time of the year (Average High 52 Low 35). The last week before spring break looks like a winner. Check back on Thursday for one last check on the weekend outlook.

News in Brief: SBU Medical Center

Continued from page 1

Oncology and Surgical Oncology. Striving to provide patients with the best in comfort and convenience the Center also features on-site food services free valet services and parking.

"This facility was designed to be efficient both clinically and architecturally," explains Richard N. Fine, MD, dean of the SBU School of Medicine, as quoted from a recent press release, "It unites outpatient care specialists under one roof for the convenience of our patients, and is equipped with the most modern technology available in the areas of diagnostic imaging, pain management and cancer care." Each area of the Center features spacious, quiet consultation rooms where physicians can interact with patients and their families in comfort and privacy.

Championing efficiency, the Center for Outpatient Services provides an "ideal way for our medical experts to come together, share their knowledge, and to provide the best team care," said Steven L. Strongwater, MD, Chief Executive Officer of Stony Brook University Hospital in a recent press release.

Stony Brook Researchers Find "Anti-Pulmonary Hypertension" Gene in Mice

37 years after the initial discovery of the Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide (VIP) gene by Sami I. Said, MD, distinguished SUNY professor, it has been identified as an "Anti-Pulmonary Hypertension" gene by a team of SBUMC researchers also lead by Dr. Said. This finding may eventually have an immense impact on the treat-

ment of idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension disease (PAH). This condition which involves the activity of the VIP gene, often results in heart failure as the pressure in the pulmonary artery rises high above normal levels. According to the American Heart Association, PAH is a rare and chronic condition affecting mostly young women.

These findings were reported in the Mar. 13 issue of Circulation in a study entitled "Moderate Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension in Male Mice Lacking the Vasoactive Intestinal Peptide Gene." The study found that mice lacking the VIP gene developed PAH but when these mice are given VIP-replacement therapy, they exhibit fewer signs of the disease condition.

According to Dr. Said, in a Mar.19 press release, "The ability of the VIP to ameliorate the pulmonary arterial hypertension pathology in these mice provides a solid rationale for its therapeutic potential in chronic human disease." This study along with an earlier study from the same investigative team published last year in "The American Journal of Physiology, Lung Cellular and Molecular Physiology" continues to explore the significance of the VIP gene to pulmonary vascular pathology.

Contributing team members include Sayyed Hamidi, M.D.; Richard Z. Lin, M.D.; Tarek Abdel-Razek, Ph.D.; Kathleen G. Dickman, Ph.D.; Anthony M. Szema, M.D., and and Smadar Kort, M.D.

Stony Brook University Hospital to Participate in IHI's 5 Million Lives Campaign

During National Patient Safety Awareness Week, Stony Brook University Hospital as part of its dedication to spreading patient safety awareness committed itself to the Institute of Healthcare Improvement's (IHI) Protecting 5 Million Lives From Harm Campaign.

This campaign aims to reduce the number of incidences of medical harm in American hospitals. SBUH promised to aid the IHI campaign to protect patients from at least 5 million incidents of medical harm through Dec. 9, 2008, covering a 24-month period. Medical harm, according to IHI, is any unintentional physical injury caused or contributed to by medical care and that subsequently results in the need for further medical attention.

SBUH was a successful participant in IHI's previous patient safety initiative, Saving 100,000 Lives by saving an additional 242 lives over an 18-month period and was cited by IHI as a mentor hospital in the prevention of central line infections. Stony Brook was one of 3100 hospital nation-wide that improved patient safety conditions by saving an estimated total 122,000 additional lives over the extent of the Saving 100,000 Lives campaign. The 5 Million Lives campaign at SBUH is, in many ways, an extension of the 100,000 Lives campaign and strives to exceed its previous levels of success.

Among the many initiatives of the 5 Million Lives campaign, according to a Mar. 9 SBUH press release, are reducing surgical complications, preventing central line and surgical site infections, preventing adverse drug events, orga-

Continued on page 15

Icon 26: The Ultimate Experience

Continued from page 1

Tory Belleci from the television show "Mythbusters", they would be at the school on Saturday and Sunday. One student seemed especially excited about Denise Crosby from "Star Trek" who was also confirmed on being there as I heard him say, "She's so hot, and I can't wait to see her." From what I was told most of the guest stars and speakers would be speaking on a panel and answering questions from the audience. However, there was an autograph session set aside from 8-9 p.m.

What seemed to be equally exciting was a special room designated for purchasing science fiction memorabilia. This was known as the Dealer's Room. People seemed to rush into this room as soon as it was opened. In there everything from swords to complete outfits were sold. Any Sci-Fi memorabilia you were looking for could be found in here.

Another interesting event was held in the Student Activities Center. Inside there was different games set up in which people could play with each other. The games included everything from "World of Warcraft," "Dungeon Twister," and "Shadows over Camelot."

Throughout Friday evening there was also many discussions, films and workshops assigned in different rooms throughout the campus. The first workshop was one instructing people on how to draw anime. The films were all related to the Sci-Fi genre for example, "The Trading Cards Trilogy," "Battle of Worlds," and "Children of Men." Discussions were on all different aspects of the Sci-Fi world. Two interesting ones as I was told by two students were "Pirates Ye Be Warned: The Truth Behind the Legend," and "The Top 10 Most Evil Wizards Ever."

The Icon event was unlike anything I had ever seen at Stony Brook. The fact that so many people were drawn to this one event was amazing. There was so much work put into it and the event had so much to offer. There were enough things to do that people drove here from all over the East Coast and stayed for three days. It was an interesting weekend at school.

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, March 26, 2007

weekend

Inside

- Profile of the Week: Chef Hristos, pg. 5
- My Life As ... Randall Pinkston, pg. 5
- SB En Vogue: Spring Styles with an Old Flare, pg. 8
- String Theory: Punk Rock is Dead, pg. 8
- Book of James: Revelation VIII, pg. 9
- Indie Flicks: Quinceanera, pg. 9
- The Highs and Lows of Student Politics, pg. 11
- From a Student's View: Icon 26, pg. 11
- Letter From Your President-Elect, pg. 11
- In Pictures: Icon 26 - A Fair to Remember, pg. 12-13

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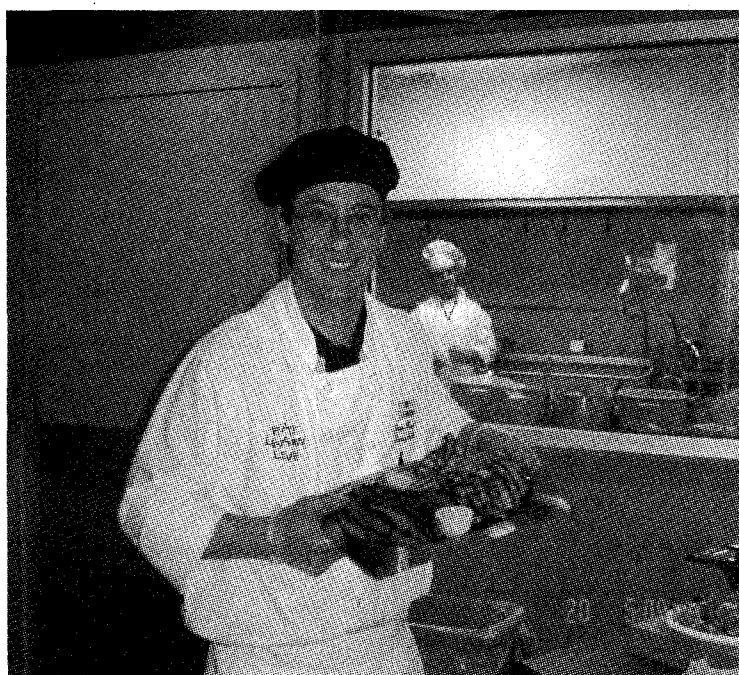


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Profile of the Week

Chef Hristos Exposes Students to the World of Greek Cuisine



Chef Hristos shows off his delicious creation.

Sonal Harneja/Statesman

BY SONAL HARNEJA
Staff Writer

If there is one thing Stony Brook students can get excited about, it is free food. As the semester winds

down, remaining meal plan points seem few and far between. However, there is one place where no meal plan is required. The Executive

Chef's Kitchen at the Kelly Dining Center offers free demonstrations of food being cooked by some of SBU's finest chefs. The best part? After the demo, it's all you can eat. Held Monday through Thursday at 5:30 PM, this is one of SBU's best kept secrets.

This past Monday was Greek Night and one of SBU's chefs, Hristos, showed students how to make gyros and with Greek salad. Students eagerly waited for this savory combination and watched

Hristos' skill with the knives. It wasn't his first time in the kitchen; in fact, he's had a lifetime of experience. He said smiling, "Cooking has been in the family since I was born." He added laughing, "It was

"Cooking has been in the family since I was born. It was like, 'Here's a spatula!'"

-Chef Hristos

like, 'Here's a spatula!'" He said he's always enjoyed cooking; he watched his aunts and uncles around Easter time whip up their greatest dishes. As

much as he enjoyed cooking, he didn't know at the time that he was eventually going to be a chef. He didn't realize until his late teens that this was what he wanted to do. He said, "It was like, why not? I had been doing it in my uncle's kitchen since I was 13 years old."

Hristos has always enjoyed cooking; he said he likes the thrill of it. He added, "I like to make people smile." He especially likes

Continued on page 15

My Life As...

NBC News Correspondent,
Randall Pinkston

BY DONALDA LEVEILLE
Contributing Writer

On Mar. 13, the Stony Brook School of Journalism hosted another "My Life As..." event. The guest was CBS anchor, Randall Pinkston. Dean Howard Schneider introduced the theme of the night and how the "My Life As..." series came to be. He then called Marcy McGinnis to introduce Pinkston. Pinkston is an award-winning correspondent covering both Iraq and Afghanistan - especially Baghdad - before and after Saddam Hussein's reign. Pinkston engaged the crowd by being humorous from the beginning. In relation to the response to what time the program would end, he said, "Well, some of us have to go to bed."

Pinkston formally reported for "The Jackson Daily News." He lived in Jackson, MS, at a time when civil rights were not reported in a positive light. Originally, Pinkston wanted to join the Air Force, but discovered that in order to join a letter of approval was needed from your state's Congressman. The Congressman for Mississippi was a segregationist, and Pinkston wished to join during the Vietnam War - needless to say, this plan did not take off. It was at Wesleyan University where Pinkston discovered his love for journalism. He had originally intended to pursue a career in law.

Pinkston decided the best way to go through his presentation was to speak to the audience about his defining moments, "points in [his] career that made [him] realize something about [himself] and why [he] chose this profession."

Pinkston described to the audience his first defining moment. He worked at WCBS-TV

for 10 years before being asked by his boss, Eric Ober, to be the network correspondent in Washington, D.C. He had been reporting on politics in NY area, including the Bronx, Queens, and Staten Island.

Leaving WCBS to be a network correspondent covering the White House was a scary transition for Pinkston. When George H. W. Bush fell ill in Tokyo, he had to make sure it didn't sound worse than it was, yet explain what was happening and why. "It was the longest live shot in my career," he said. Pinkston could be seen in the clip that he was writing down what to say to the viewers and receiving word from NY what clips were going to be played. "People say anchors are scripted...they're not," he said as he let out a chuckle.

"People don't give Mrs. Bush

"Journalism is the first draft of history; it's written by people, such as your esteemed Dean. I'd like to think that anchors, such as myself, we're more like the footnotes."

- Randall Pinkston

enough credit for her shrewdness. She is the only one whom the public would believe that President Bush was truly okay. If anyone else had said it, Secretary of Defense for example, the public would've immediately been skeptical and suspicious," Pinkston said. Mrs. Bush calmed everyone's nerve by describing President Bush's competitiveness, as well as how they had been playing tennis earlier that day in a light-hearted manner. He covered the White House until Bush was defeated in 1993 by Bill Clinton. This is when he said he came to his second defining moment, "I had to find a way to survive and obtain a new beat."

He began to pitch stories to magazines and news shows until

he obtained a new beat. Vicki Mabrey invited him to Haiti while the politician, Jean-Bertrand Aristide was being exiled. 1994 was his first experience of covering conflict in a foreign land. "Verification, you must trust your source if there is no trust you must be careful of what is put in the story. I felt in physical danger when the Haitian refugees were being brought back." The refugees get beaten. He described the hypocrisy in the US foreign policy regarding refugees in comparison to the procedure taken when Cubans arrive on US soil. "Castro's communist government," he said sarcastically, eliciting chuckles from the audience.

In 2001, Pinkston was again covering conflict in a foreign area. He was sent to Tora Bora in Pakistan which is located southwest of Jalabad. This is the last place where Osama Bin Laden was seen. A number of men said they didn't see Bin Laden in the area, but a 16-year-old said that he

did. "I chose to believe the kid, you have to maintain your skepticism."

Pinkston came to his third defining moment when three journalists from stations such as ABC and NBC were ambushed. The CBS crew luckily stayed behind and did not travel to Jalabad. "It was one of the roughest moments because I always wonder if I would've been a victim of kidnapping and if it was safe to even stay in Jalabad."

The sad part of the story is that a female Italian reporter from ABC was going to ride with them, but her photographer told her that they were leaving immediately, thus she went with those that were later ambushed

Continued on page 15

All *This* Under One Roof!



The Stony Brook Union - the *Red Hot* place to be!

The **Bleacher Club** will become the **NEW Union Commons** after a Summer 2007 renovation.

New concepts will include **Coyote Jack's** Southwestern char-grilled burger and chicken concept that offers Wild West condiments and dipping sauces, **Bamboo** featuring Asian wok favorites with tangy sauces, fresh tossed Asian salads and wraps, **Calypso** authentic West Indies Caribbean cuisine such as curried goat, mahi mahi, rum marinated chicken breast, oxtails and fried plantains, Callaloo soup and jerk chicken wraps plus Golden Krust products such as coco bread and chicken, beef or veggie patties, **Halal New York** will feature entrées and sides, grab-and-go sandwiches and wraps in addition to the **NYC Gyro Cart**.

Hours: Monday - Friday 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM

The **End of the Bridge** will undergo a Summer 2007 renovation to become **Starbucks** and **Wolfie's Wings & Things**, a restaurant with big portions, great taste, and a super value.

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The **University Café** will be the home of **Fuzions Cuisine** - a lunch concept featuring gourmet panini and salads. In addition, beginning Fall 2007, the University café will begin accepting meal plan during lunch hours.

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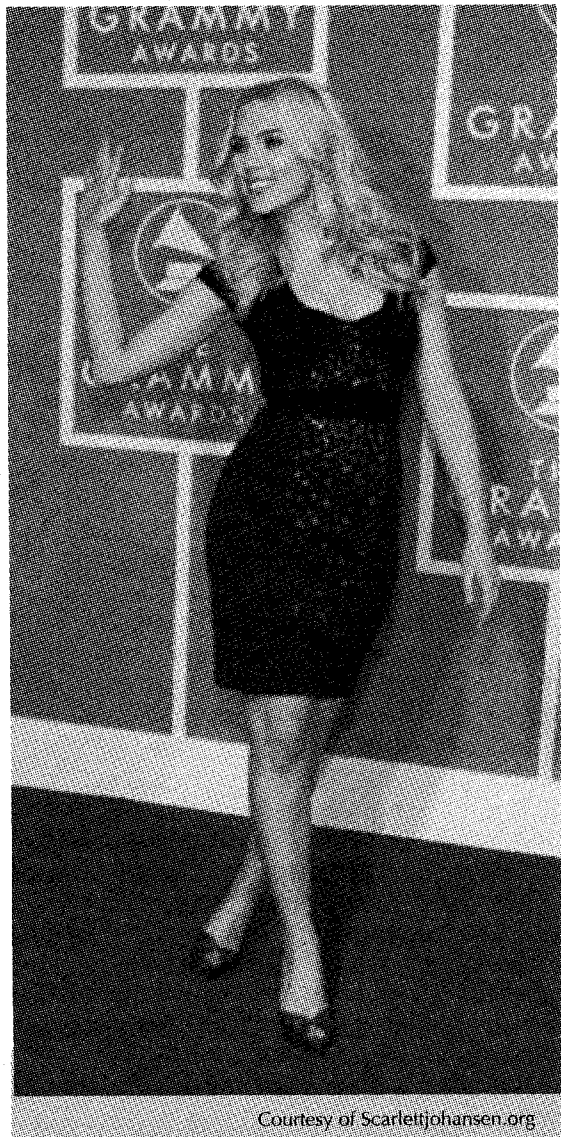
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taste of the business
world, working at an
intensive pace in a
tightly knit community
of high-achieving
students guided by
great professors."*
Lukasz Surowiec,
Environmental
Studies Major

*"As a student from the
Biology major, looking
at the world from the
business perspective
definitely gave me a
different point of view.
The diversity and
challenges throughout
the program couldn't
be greater."*
Susanna Li,
Biology Major

Spring Styles with an "Old" Flare

SB En Vogue



Courtesy of Scarlettjohansen.org

By AMY DRAGANI
Staff Writer

The streets are flooding from the last of the melting snow. Windows are open and sunglasses are on. Flip-flops are being discovered in the backs of closets and are beginning to see the light of day once more. March 21 officially marked the first day of Spring and this weekend has certainly risen to the occasion. As the days gradually get milder and eventually even warm, your sheepskin boots and down coats will be a thing of the past. This spring and summer, we'll look to some trends of the 1950s and 60s to warm up our closets.

The 1950s featured full skirts combined with fitted tops to create a contrasting silhouette. Dresses with hemlines at the knee, heart-shaped necklines or capped sleeves are girly and sexy enough for '07 while remaining feminine and flirty enough to suggest the earlier time period. Actress Scarlett Johansson has perfected fusing

the new with the old, sporting 50 or 60-year-old vintage pieces and exuding beauty and just a little sex appeal.

The 60s-inspired styles feature bold colors and straight, blunt cuts. Keep an eye out for short, thigh-length dresses with square necklines or bloussant sleeves. Empire waist, non-fitted dresses also cater to the 1960's style. These dresses are a fantastic spring choice because they're loose fitting and comfortable, while remaining figure-friendly, girly, and chic simultaneously.

Another item to quickly mention for the spring and summer you've undoubtedly already seen and have probably already worn. The ballet slipper flat will continue to be a '07 footwear style. The ballet flat is comfortable and cute - you'll find an endless array of colors and patterns anywhere from Coach to Kohl's. Try them with jeans, shorts, and of course, your 50s and 60s inspired dresses and skirts.

STRING THEORY: Punk Rock is Dead

By WILL JAMES
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Punk rock is dead. And I have seen the it's shambling corpse dragging itself across a New York City dance floor, under Irving Plaza's twin chandeliers and exposed ceiling pipes. Under the twisted iron caterpillar of the lighting rig, under the strange ancient mosaic tiles, with its gore mixing with the black spray paint on the plywood sheet walls.

The children dance on the floor, in the colored lights, and with their strange sociology. The circle pit is like a massive churning gear. The featherweights inside throw themselves into the kids along the edge, like maniacs against a plush padded wall. The crowd surfers are on an assembly line - they fall forward on the canopy of hands to be cradled like babies by the bored security, at the end of their cheap carnival ride. Fringe pits are born like tiny suns, fitfully forming and collapsing on top of themselves. Everywhere, larger punks are falling into protective roles, stabilizing themselves against the dancers for the sake of the smaller people around them.

Haha, the band is Anti-Flag. The whole thing is ritualized fun.

After the set, kids avoid stepping on the spot where the pit raged minutes earlier, like they're afraid it'll fire up again and trap them inside. Who lost their glasses? Someone holds up a mangled pair.

During Alexisonfire, I watched some twins with hair dyed red. They seem to be embarrassingly unaware of the social code of the punk rock show. Their hands reach out longingly to the stage as they sing along - they look like two girls singing to a bathroom mirror. They are constantly offended by the people smashing into them, glancing them with shoulders and elbows. One twin pushes back then shakes her hands in disgust as if she just touched something slimy. Before long, the two get swept away by the tidal crowd.

At some point, Anti-Flag urges us to reject nationalism in all its forms. But, "Watch out for each other in there." I count two real mohawks in the crowd. Only heads with shaved sides count as "real."

How did I get here?

More importantly, what am I expecting? These kids are dressed up like for Halloween. Would real punks be more violent? Would glasses get saved? Would crowd surfers submit to cradling? Would they "watch out for each other in

there"?

And just how long have the real punks been looking down on these poseurs?

On this night, I am inclined to think that the punk ideal is actually a long-held fantasy. I am suddenly enlightened to the fact that the amongst the small pool of bands that the punk elite hold dear, not one has not done anything original or interesting in twenty-five years. I am aware that ever since the Sex Pistols, The Ramones and The Clash, kids have been dressing funny and forcing themselves to like really bad music to fit a trend

each other," I rolled my eyes. But later, I realized that was the closest he had probably ever been to being correct. Punk is a powerful trend - the game of jockeying for legitimacy and claiming membership in an elite "punk" class is part of the larger, overarching system. Being a punk is constantly struggling to establish oneself as a "real punk." But, being part of the punk culture does not necessitate actually being a part of this elite - to acknowledge yourself or anyone as "real" is to mistakenly give punk credit for being anything more than a trend. Real punks don't exist and punk



Anti-Flag and the punks of Rotterdam

Courtesy of Anti-Flag

that they pretend is a lifestyle.

As if anyone on earth has ever been filled with anti-establishment rage that they just had to form a circle and swing their arms around and jump into each other. The kids who are dancing to Anti-Flag are not any less legitimate than the kids who dance to the Casualties and the little club bands out in California and deep in Brooklyn. They are not any less legitimate than the kids who were dancing through the seventies and the eighties. They are all little fish dressing up and falling into a system of ritualized, well-practiced angst. They are carefully self-monitoring and trying to part of the tribe, refining their culture. They are all acutely conscious, before and afterward, of just "letting go" during those manic nights with those horrendous bands who pride themselves on shoddy musicianship.

So, when Chris #2, the carefully made up bass player said, "We all know punk rock is about so much more than the music. It's about beauty, being ourselves, being a family and taking care of

rock is not dead - it never was.

Conceptual "real punk" is a cultural electromagnetic field generated by bands, magazines, peers, documentaries and a vague sense of cultural history. It is abstract - energy, not matter. Poseurs are not striving to be punks. Everyone who self-identifies with the culture is striving to tune in to the same frequency, with varying degrees of success. With personalized collages of media-compiled ideals, they cast their arrows at a blurred target. Maybe these Halloween costume punks just have a different idea of what "punk" means. They can only go on what they've absorbed, after all. The point is that no one is right or wrong.

So, at Irving Plaza that night, maybe it wasn't a corpse that I saw. Maybe it was the moaning, clanking shade of something that died when my parents were young. Or maybe it was like almost remembering a dream. As the kids were dancing, I felt, vaguely, what they were striving for. And, in the same moment, I knew that it never existed.

The Book of James

Revelation VIII:

America Needs You, Fred Thompson

BY JAMES BOUKLAS
Senior Columnist

I want Fred Thompson to be the next Leader of the Free World. I do not claim to know much about him. In fact, I know very little about this politician, save for hearing that he is very conservative. None of this matters, though. I just want him to be our President. Even his name is all-American. Fred. Thompson. That's the name of a leader if I ever did hear one.

As a nation, we have endured nearly two terms of a broken man with poor speaking skills, who laughs nervously when in front of the camera. It would be very hard to underestimate him, indeed. Before that, our television screens were filled with the smooth and somewhat unctuous message of a lady-killer; and before him, a man who more resembles Dana Carvey than he does a president of this great nation. We need a big man with big presence. We need Fred Thompson.

Fred, as I will genially refer to him from this point forward, looks and talks like a leader. His southern twang, his large build, and his aged face only go to tell the American people that everything is going to be okay; that even though the world can be a scary place, it is all going to be okay. We had punks running the show for a very long time, between Dick Cheney's signature snarl and Karl Rove's maniacal smile. They are the children who were always jealous of the football players and would spend their time sulking and plotting, whilst playing long games of Dungeons and Dragons. Fred, on the other hand, is precisely the man that the malevolent nerds hated: the jock, handsome and charismatic, who even did well in math class.

I want to be able to turn on the television and have respect for my president. Dubya makes that nearly impossible. He is a man who exudes incompetence, from his inability to wage war

effectively to his inability to take care of his people. Bush is not in it for the right reasons. Bush practices the economics of rapine - the economy that so many men and women have worked so hard to build provides him with fat to carve away, taking profits for himself and his cronies. You can see it in his eyes, and he makes no attempt to hide it. Any man that cannot at least pretend to be presidential is thoroughly unworthy to be my president.

Perhaps even more importantly, Fred Thompson draws a stark contrast with the other contenders on the field for 2008. Let's go down the list. There's John McCain, the Maverick. The Maverick who is bending over backwards to support the right-wingers, flip-flopping on every issue he can get his hands on, and running a very amateur race. The Maverick who is so desperate to be president that he practically begs to be one.

There's Rudy Giuliani, America's Mayor. Unfortunately, firefighters hate the Hero of 9/11, as he cut their funding and worked them to the bone without adequate resources in the days after the Twin Towers fell. And wait until he opens his mouth - I mean the man no offense, but being able to speak is essential to performing the job well, as our current president has so eloquently demonstrated.

Mitt Romney. I'll be honest, I like the guy. It was recently reported, however, that he has recently been diagnosed with a rare and possibly fatal disease: McCain Syndrome. This is another moderate leader who feels the need to whore himself out to the religious right, pretending to be what he obviously is not. There'll be no whores in my White House.

Barack Obama is so afraid to open his mouth that I find him painful to watch. Once he starts tackling the issues, they are going to eat the poor man alive. He is made of paper, and therefore, not presidential material.

Everybody used to love John

Edwards. With his Southern charm and perfect hair, the ladies went ga-ga for good ol' John. That's before he started talking tax hikes. Goodbye, John.

Fred's only rival, as I see it, is Hillary Clinton. Fred versus Hillary. I like it. She has about 70 IQ points on all her competitors, and has been described by close associates as cold, calculating, and unfeeling. And yet, she manages to move a crowd like few others, perfectly on message every single time she speaks. Her conduct during the Iraq War is nothing short of brilliant, walking a very fine line between being a New York Liberal and a true leader, bent on defending America from those despicable Iranians. What Hillary lacks is Fred's heart, and I would love to see the two duke it out.

Nevertheless, Fred, you're our Man for All Seasons, our Fearless Leader, our Wisened Father. We need you. Your country needs you. I count on you, Fred, to rise to the challenge. You won't regret 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.

Indie Flicks

QUINCEAÑERA



BY RACHEL BROZINSKY
Staff Writer

"Quinceañera" is the less-than-inspired story of two adolescents trying to find their place in a conservative society that has difficulty accepting them for who they are. Magdalena (Emily Rios), a 15 year-old high schooler, gets pregnant mere weeks before her "Quinceañera," the traditional Hispanic fifteenth birthday party for a girl that celebrates her entrance into womanhood.

When Magdalena's family discovers that she is pregnant, her minister father kicks her out of the house and refuses to believe that she has never had sex. The twist? Magdalena is telling the truth. But believe me, she is no Virgin Mary.

The second teen that we encounter is Carlos (Jesse Garcia), Magdalena's trouble-making cousin who has been kicked out of his own house after his father caught him looking at gay porn. Carlos and Magdalena both move in with their kind and accepting great uncle Tomas (Chalo González), who is possibly the only real and substantial character in the film. His unconditional love combined with his gentle nature and somewhat complicated past takes him beyond the stereotypes that most of the other players tend to portray.

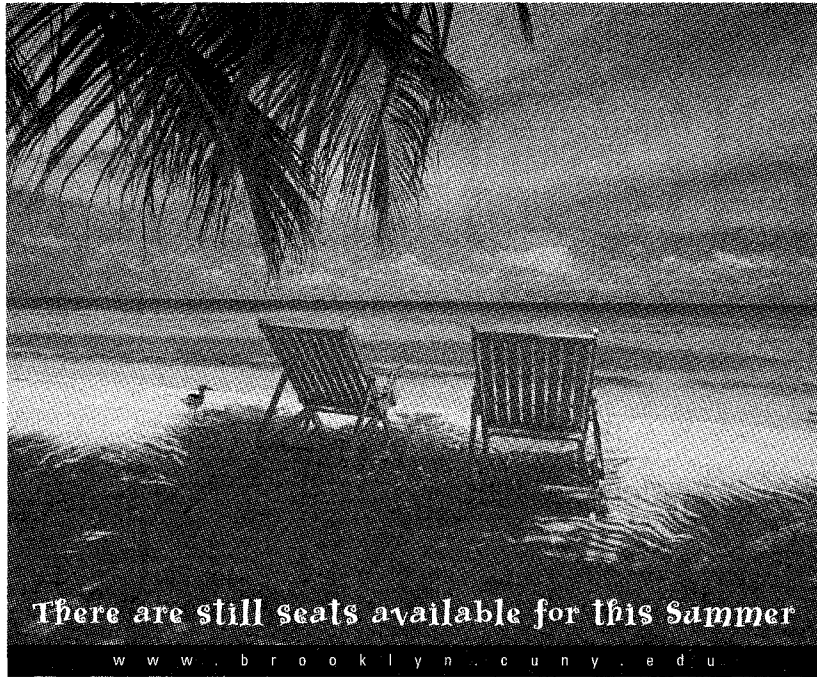
Though at first glance it would seem that the stories of these two youths are greatly intertwined, but the bond between Magdalena and Carlos is virtually nonexistent until it magically solidifies out of nowhere in a time of grief. They lead very separate

lives even though they are under the same roof, and the connection that they ultimately make is forced and unconvincing.

The film jumps from scene to scene and plot to plot in an incongruous and arbitrary manner that depletes the impact of both storylines. While Magdalena is trying to force the baby's immature and manipulative father into the picture, Carlos is lured into an affair with the gay couple next door, Gary (David Ross) and James (Jason L. Wood), who "love their Latin boys."

At some point, the issue of gentrification of urban areas gets thrown into the problem pot when the couple that Carlos is sleeping with begins to buy out the houses in the neighborhood, including Tío Tomas's. Coincidentally (but really, not), the eviction notice arrives the day after James discovers that Gary has been having a romance with Carlos without James's presence.

The events of film, which start off as simply awkward and strange, ultimately feel convenient and contrived. The idealism of "Quinceañera" is disappointing in its lack of truth and its habit of always finding a quick fix. At the end, there is no sense of being challenged or of truly overcoming the odds, as all of Magdalena and Carlos's problems seem to simply fade into the ether. I mean, are we really supposed to believe that hummer limo during her "Quinceañera" is a sufficient apology for being thrown out of the house and virtually disowned? I guess Magdalena is just easy to please.



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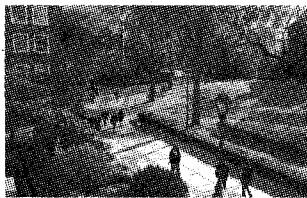
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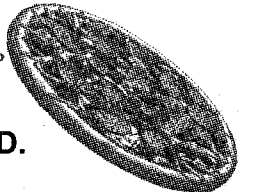
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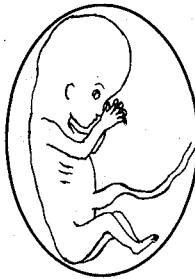
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The Statesman encourages readers to submit opinions and commentaries to the following address:

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Stony Brook, NY 11790

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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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The Highs and Lows of Student Politics

The recent Undergraduate Student Government scandal, involving former President Romual Jean-Baptiste, has not just shook, but nearly eroded the foundation of politics at the campus level.

The USG today is a bleak remnant of what it was 20 years ago. Senate meetings were not spent looking at one's watch every five minutes, or making origami art-works with the meeting agenda. Senators were punctual and effective. Setting and executing long and short term goals was their forte, not a once-in-a-blue-moon occurrence. Most significantly elections were unadulterated by personal greed and gain.

But there is no point in dwelling on the past. What is crucial at this moment is to burst light into

the dark clouds enshrouding the senate right now. The job is now that of the new President, who must not only bring back the glorious and politically proactive days of the past, but also bring back the lost respect and importance of the seat of the President.

What the senate must now also realize is that its power will only grow when it begins to work and succeed as a team. As traditionally assumed, it is not simply the responsibility of a sole individual, the President. Rather, meetings must now flourish with new talent and new power to harden the foundation and cultivate student activism. After all, who doesn't love a good comeback?

From a Student's Perspective: Icon 26

BY DAVID STEVENS
Staff Photographer

I-Con rocks! From the second you enter the lobby of the Sports Complex, you find out that the Stony Brook Campus has been transformed from a place of mundane education, to a Sci-fi/Fantasy/Anime dreamscape.

My previously held belief was that I-Con was completely contained within the confines of the Sports Complex, but boy was I wrong! I-Con is composed of many different events held all over the campus, from the Computing Center to the Earth and Space Sciences Building.

This year, Jamie Bamber, the man who plays Lee Adama on Battlestar Galactica came, signed autographs and gave lectures. The Javits' center, normally a very boring building, badly in need of repair, played host to two of the MythBusters! Kari and Tory of the MythBusters spoke about experiences behind the scenes on the set of the show.

The most memorable things about I-Con for me were the highly ornate costumes that clearly took weeks to make.

From Your President-Elect: Joseph Antonelli

BY JOSEPH ANTONELLI
President-Elect

Dear Students,

First off, I would like to thank all who have supported my campaign by coming out to vote. You have made the right choice. After the results surfaced, I have received much congratulations to my victory. No real victory has occurred. The real win is going to occur when the right changes are made around here.

Right now we are going through a sad state of affairs in USG. We had such an outstanding Fall 2006 semester and good start to the Spring 2007 semester. Even though USG is currently dealing with some nasty issues, the positive work of USG will not be stopped. The USG Student Activities Board has continued to do an excellent job even with all that is going on, in and around the USG suite. With the senate budget committee in deliberation and preparing the budget, much of the planning for the 2007-2008 academic year is in full gear. We must not forget that

USG is here to serve the students.

I have dedicated myself to this as a USG Senator and will continue to do so as USG President.

In this next year, many issues need to be tackled. This election's voter turnout is a clear indication of the apathy towards USG. We need more students to get involved. As President I will make it my personal duty to do all that I can to increase student involvement. USG is an excellent organization that truly serves the student body as we have shown this year.

Working in USG is a truly rewarding experience as you gain personal satisfaction in knowing that you are making a difference. As we move towards the future we need to keep the organization moving in the right direction and let nothing come in the way. I look forward to serving as your voice, your representative and your USG President and cannot wait for my first day in office.

Sincerely,
Joseph Antonelli
President-Elect

MIDTERM MAYHEM? TAKE A BREAK

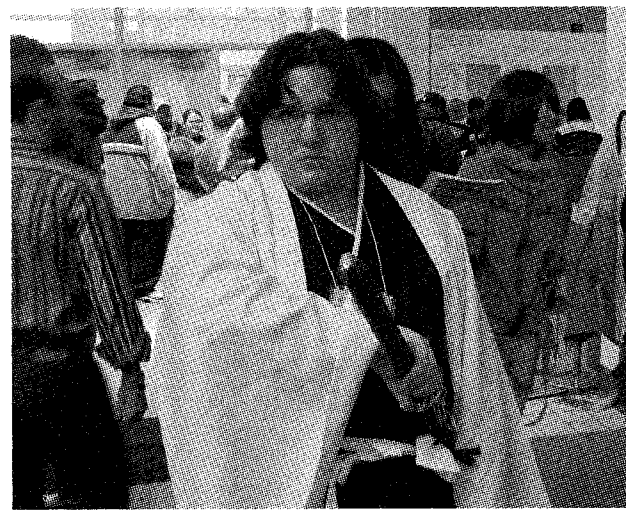
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FACULTY STUDENT
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Faculty Profile Continued

Continued from page 5

working at SBU, having said, "I just love the atmosphere here." Hristos wants to see more students get involved with special events like the Executive Chef's Kitchen. He said, "It's special," and added, "You get to see different ideas, different ethnicities, and different styles of cooking." of it. He added, "I like to make people smile." He especially likes working at SBU, having said, "I just love the atmosphere here." Hristos wants to see more students get involved with special events like the Executive Chef's Kitchen. He said, "It's special," and added, "You get to see different ideas, different ethnicities, and different styles of cooking."

Pinkston Advises Students

Continued from page 5

and kidnapped. One of the things Pinkston learned that enabled him to avoid harassment is to be yourself and what you are not. "Always try to learn something about the local culture and language," he advised the students.

Time soon ran out, and Pinkston did not get to finish showing the students all of his clips, but left them with one last statement. "Journalism is the first draft of history, it's written by people such as your esteemed Dean, I'd like to think that anchors such as myself, we're more like the footnotes." ambushed and kidnapped. One of the things Pinkston learned that enabled him to avoid harassment is to be yourself and what you are not. "Always try to learn something about the local culture and language," he advised the students.

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News in Brief: Stony Brook U. Medical Center

Continued from page 3

nizing rapid response teams at the first signs of patient decline and reducing harm from high-alert medications such as insulin and anti-coagulants.

An estimated 15 million incidents of medical harm occur annually at American hospitals. SBUH's participation in IHI's 5 Million Lives campaign represents its commitment to sig-

nificantly reducing this number and promoting patient safety.

In summing up the efforts of the 5 Million Lives campaign, Donald Berwick, MD, President and Chief Executive Officer of IHI insisted that, "We can, and we will, equip all willing health care providers with the tools they need to make the motto, 'First, do no harm,' a reality," according to a recent press release.

Stony Brook's Equestrian Team

Continued from page 16

On The Flat, Novice Equitation Over Fences, Intermediate Equitation On The Flat, Intermediate Equitation Over Fences, Open Equitation On The Flat, Open Equitation Over Fences, Alumni Flat, and Alumni Fences.

The ultimate goal of these riders is to take home the Cacchione Cup at the end of the season. Since the mid-1970's the IHSA has presented the Cacchione Cup to the open rider who wins a competition at IHSA Nationals involving a flat phase, a jumping phase, and, in recent seasons, a work off phase. The IHSA Nationals are being held this season from May 3 to May 6 in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The number of entries in the Cacchione Competition is much larger today than it has been in the past. For instance, as recently as 1992, there were only 15 riders competing for the prestigious cup. However, this season in the IHSA, there are 9 zones each with 3-4 regions. In total there are 30 regions and each one gets to send a rider to compete. Therefore 15 years later the number of riders in the cup has doubled from 15 to 30.

Rachel Cresswell of SB will

be returning to the Cacchione Competition this season to compete for the second straight season. Last season she finished outside the top ten at Nationals. As of Mar. 11, Cresswell was in the lead of the Zone 2 Region 4 open rider standings by 24 points. She had accumulated 85 points and the next closest rider is Diana Patterson of Columbia University who has 61 points on the season.

This season the Zone 2 Region 4 Regionals are scheduled for Sunday April 1st at Good Shepherd Farm in Yaphank, New York. Through March 11th Stony Brook had six different riders qualify for Regionals. Cresswell has qualified for both the Open Equitation Over Fences and On The Flat. Brittany Ekstrom and Sara Ford both qualified for the Novice Equitation Over Fences and On The Flat. Stacy Munoz qualified for both the Alumni Fences and Flat, and Amanda Urbanski and Anne Zeumer qualified for the Intermediate Equitation On The Flat.

The team is currently looking for riders of all levels, from beginner to open. All they require is that you have at least six months of regular riding with lessons, and a passion to join the fun of a great team and a fun sport.

USG Spring 2007 Election Results

		Votes	%
President			
2	Antonelli, Joseph Thomas	528	71
1	Onochie, Chinelo Ann	214	29
Executive Vice President			
1	Shapiro, Nathan Michael	486	100
Treasurer			
1	Wright, Leonard William	391	100
VP of Communications			
1	Pierre, Clifford	455	100
VP of Academic Affairs			
1	Cohan, Michael	399	100
VP Student life			
1	Hirst, Jonathan	469	74
2	Watson, Lynn - Marie Alyce	163	26
Vice-President for clubs and organizations			
1	Akita, Jeffrey	455	100
Senior Class Rep			
1	Robergeau, Gabrielle Noelle	227	100
Junior Class Rep			
1	Bedminster, Juvane Anastasia	149	100
Sophomore Class Rep			
1	Adeel, Anwer	72	100
College of Arts & Sciences Senator			
13	Desrosiers, Brian Mitchell	305	9
14	Lombardo, Thomas	295	9
15	Connor, Eric Randolph	304	9
2	Elardo, Stephen Matthew	282	8
6	Dautruche, Kitty Bonnie	257	8
8	Grogan, Kyle Douglas	271	8
11	Sreeharshan, Suhas	278	8
12	Ramsaran, Nirmala Alicia	261	8
9	Pitera, Christopher James	241	7
7	Markow, Alexander Gregory	190	6
1	Wind, Blake Asher	127	4
3	Bader, Brian Matthew	131	4
10	Hauptman, Steven Brian	130	4
16	Kriscenski, John Christopher	151	4
5	Stfleur, Richard Steven	112	3
4	Kamenetskiy, Leontiy	67	2

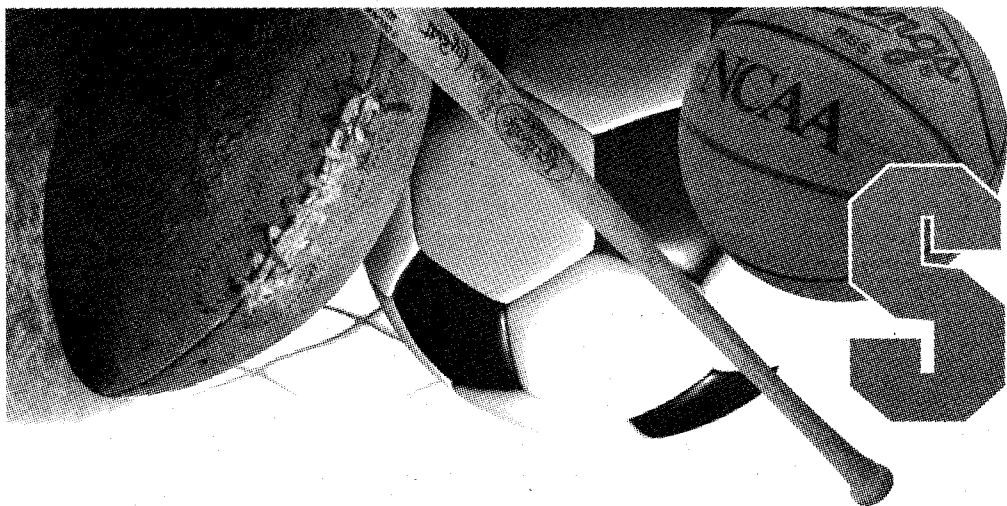
SUDOKU SOLUTION

medium

Monster Daily Sudoku

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5	0	7	4	E	B	6	8	2	1	D	9	3	F	C	A
3	B	6	D	A	7	2	C	F	8	0	E	9	5	4	1
9	E	8	C	5	F	1	A	3	4	B	7	0	6	2	8
F	A	2	1	D	3	0	6	4	9	5	E	C	B	8	7
1	2	0	C	E	3	4	7	D	5	9	6	A	8	B	F
0	9	D	3	4	2	A	6	B	1	7	5	F	8	E	C
6	8	4	A	F	C	5	B	1	7	2	0	3	D	9	E
7	F	B	5	8	E	9	1	0	C	A	D	6	4	2	3
D	6	F	7	B	4	0	9	2	1	A	3	C	8	E	5
2	C	A	B	1	9	8	E	0	3	F	7	4	6	5	0
4	6	1	8	C	D	3	7	E	B	6	0	F	2	A	9
E	3	0	9	2	5	F	A	C	6	4	8	B	1	7	D
B	4	E	0	7	8	D	3	6	9	C	2	1	A	F	5
C	D	5	6	0	A	E	2	7	F	B	1	8	9	3	4
8	7	9	F	6	1	C	5	A	D	3	4	2	E	0	B
A	1	3	2	9	4	B	8	F	0	E	5	7	C	D	6



Statesman SPORTS

Tennis Teams Struggle

Seawolves Fall on the Road

BY HANG YU
Staff Writer

The Seawolves (4-6) Men's Tennis Team fell to the Black Knights 4-3 Friday evening in a hard fought match at West Point, NY. The Seawolves won three singles matches in the loss.

At No. 1 singles, freshmen Quirijn Van Veen won 6-3, 6-3. Freshmen Jon Epstein came away with a victory at No. 5 singles. Playing at No. 3 singles, sophomore Youssef Fassi-Fehri edged his opponent in a three-setter, 2-6, 6-3, and 7-6.

Splitting singles matches with the Black Knights was not enough to give the Seawolves the win as they dropped all three doubles. Van Veen, Epstein, Fassi-Fehri, along with teammates Nihal Advani, Ilan Shvartz and Alex Markovich only saw their efforts fall short in the doubles matches.

The Seawolves (3-4) Women's Tennis Team could not manage to overcome its Queens rival Red Storm, 6-1, Monday evening at Cunningham Park in a non-conference game. Freshmen Claudia Sanua picked up the lone victory for the Seawolves in the loss. Sanua, who played at No. 4 singles, outlasted her opponent in a hard fight with three setters, 2-6, 6-2, and 10-8.

The Seawolves could not pull off a victory in the rest of the matches though, as they dropped all three doubles matches and five singles. The men's team will be back in action Wednesday, Mar. 28 when they travel to New Haven and take on Yale.



Senior Midfielder Amy Taylor tied the school record with 9 points in SB's rout over Binghamton.

Adhip Karmaker/www.sbsportspics.com

Women's Lacrosse Crushes Binghamton BEATS BEARCATS BY 14

BY WILLIAM LAHTI
Sports Editor

Stony Brook Women's Lacrosse opened up conference play with a dominant win against Binghamton on Saturday, by a score of 21-7. Their record now stands at 7-1, while their SUNY rival, Binghamton Bearcats is yet to win, with an

0-5 record.

Within nine minutes, SB pulled out to a 5-0 lead. Binghamton was able to cut the lead to 6-3, but by halftime, SB was up 12-4. Nine seconds into the second half, senior Amy Taylor scored, and SB dominated from there.

In all, 7 different Seawolves scored goals, including 2 coming

off the bench. For the Seawolves, Taylor led the way with a school record-tying 9 points. Australian star Amy Hallion also had a strong performance, with 7 points. Jen Sandtorv had 9 saves and 6 goals against, before first-year goalkeeper, Laura LaBianca replaced her with 4:24 to play.

The Seawolves host Oregon on Friday at 3:00 PM.

Stony Brook Equestrian Team Wraps Up Season

BY JOSH SEIDMAN
Staff Writer

There are currently over 250 active clubs on the Stony Brook University campus, each of which has its own unique style and culture. Despite being one of the lesser known clubs with the SB community, the Equestrian Team has experienced a great deal of success over the past ten years.

The SB Equestrian Team won the Regional Team Championship in both 1998 and 2004. This current season, the team is led by head coach, Myrna Treuting and they are competing in Zone 2 Region 4 of the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). They compete against 11 other schools including Yale University, Columbia University, New York University and Hofstra University.

Through Mar. 11th, SB was sitting at third place in the overall team standings with a total of 266 points. Fairfield University is at the top of the list with 307 points and New York University is at second place with 297 points.

Each season the team attends several shows and competes against the other schools in their region. At these shows there are typically ten categories of events. These categories are Walk-Trot, Advanced Walk-Trot-Canter, Novice Equitation

Continued on page 15