

### BUILDING HOPE OVERSEAS: THE STRUGGLE FOR AFRICA

By RIDWAN HOSSAIN  
Contributing Writer

The streets of Accra can be lively and exciting at night, much like an African New York City. In fact, the capital of Ghana is one of the most modern cities in Africa, and boasts an active night life for its relatively well-off residents. However, the national attractions, beaches, and museums only serve to hide the stories of some 15,000 homeless children living in the streets day to day with little hope.

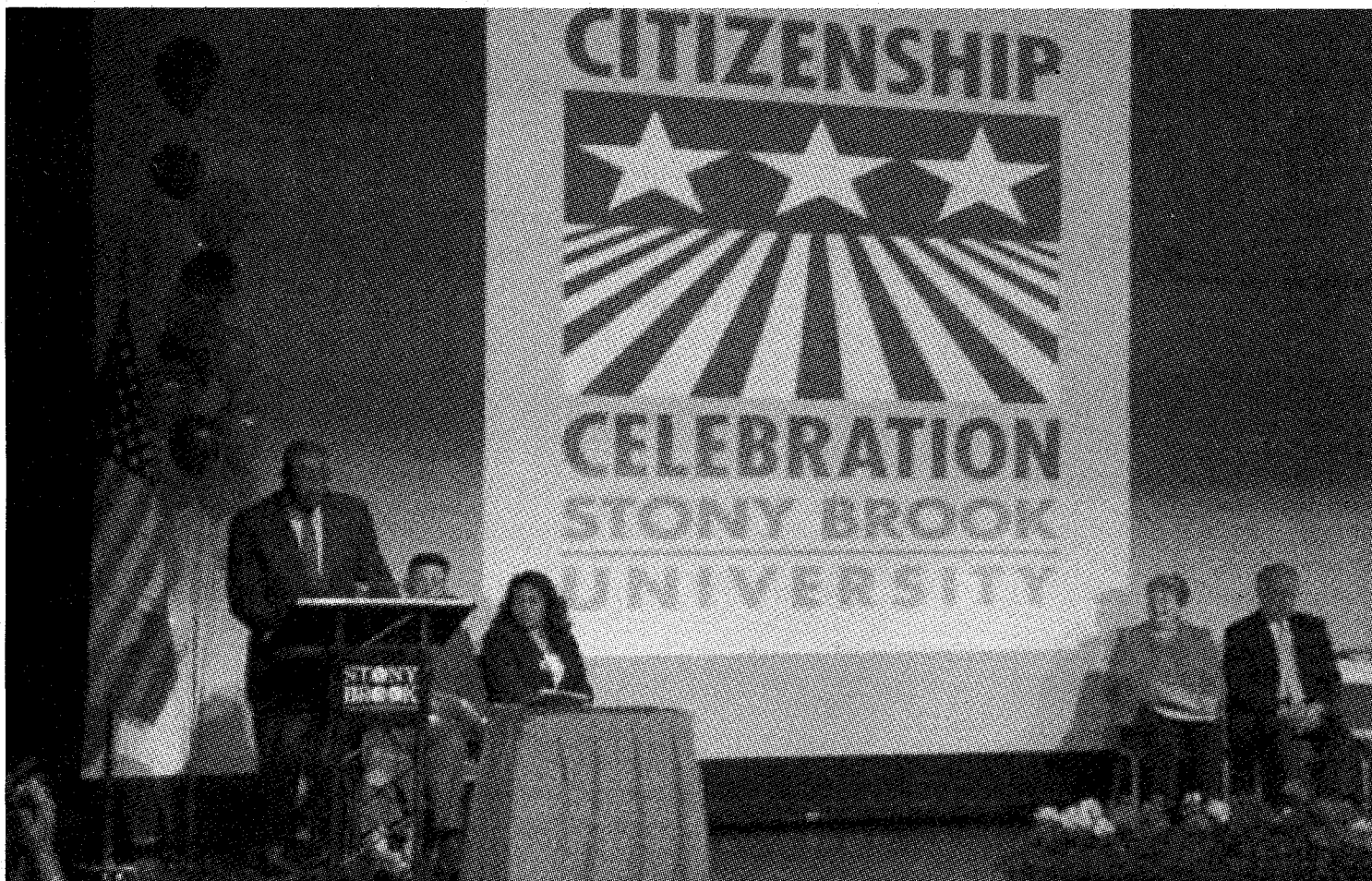
According to Catholic Action for Street Children, a non-governmental organization active in Africa, more than 30,000 children live daily on the streets of Ghana's bustling cities. Many have fled their rural homes, hoping to escape poverty and build a better future for themselves. Trapped alone in the cold without education, family, or work, it becomes immediately apparent that their prospects are rather dim.

Not all hope is lost, however. Just ask the dozens of kids who now have their own schoolhouse near Breman, Ghana. While they may be a tiny portion of the needy children in their country, they are the potential success stories who owe their newfound hope to a group of young students who spent their summer building the school.

Lisa Bevilacqua, a freshman at Duke University, was one of the students who answered the call of Global Routes, an NGO that gives high school and college students the opportunity to perform community service projects all over the world.

Lisa and her 18 fellow volunteers worked hard in the day to build the school, while staying with villagers at night in the town of Breman. They experienced local culture firsthand, living and eating with the very people they were helping. She reflected on what a positive experience it was, also saying that she was exposed to things she never even knew about, whether good or bad. She adds, "I would tell anyone who is considering doing something

Continued on page 3



On Thursday, October 26, members of the Stony Brook community came together to participate in the campus naturalization ceremony. U.S. Citizenship applicants were able to complete the final step of naturalization, an oath of allegiance to their new country.

Feng Bo / Statesman

## An Interview with Charles B. Wang

### Former Computer Associates CEO Speaks

By SURAJ RAMBHIA  
Editor-in-Chief

Charles B. Wang, former CEO of Computer Associates (CA) speaks about his multi-million dollar donation to our campus, the Charles B. Wang Center. This interview was conducted in response to the recent interview of P.H. Tuan, the architect who designed the Wang Center. This previous interview of P.H. Tuan was published in the October 26, 2006 edition of the Statesman. The interview with Mr. Wang was conducted via email correspondence.

*Statesman: Why did you feel the need for an Asian Center? In your opinion, what benefit does the Wang Center give to the university?*

Wang: I was approached by Dr. Gary Mar who had asked me to fund the conversion of part of a building into an Asian American Cultural Center. Based upon

meetings with Gary, Dr. Kenny and many others at Stony Brook it became clear to me that there was a need for a Center and that a single corridor in an already crowded building would fall short of the vision we all shared. The Wang Center is a remarkable building with incredible architecture and state-of-the-art facilities. The uses for the building do not duplicate what had already been on campus but adds new space for showcasing art, music, dance, and cuisine and fostering diversity and cultural education.

*Statesman: Maybe, we could have benefited equally from an "American Center" or "African Center."*

Wang: It is important to note, that although the initial idea was an Asian Center, the Center is a place where all nationalities come together, in a setting that has more of an Asian influence.

*Statesman: Location. Why did you choose Stony Brook University? Were there any other locations you were choosing between? Was Stony Brook chosen just because you knew Shirley Strum Kenny previously? Was SBU deserving of having this large investment?*

Wang: I have a long history with Long Island. It is my home and the place I have chosen to conduct business for the majority of my career and so it was a natural choice to make this gift to an institution on Long Island. I am a firm believer in public education and the fact that a public university like Stony Brook is uniquely capable of building cultural connections as it has an incredibly diverse student population. The Wang Center helps support the growing diversity on campus and within the Long Island community while encouraging cross cultural exchange and forging relationships. Stony Brook University is a great institu-

tion providing quality education. I admire and respect Dr. Kenny and working with her through the years has been a pleasure.

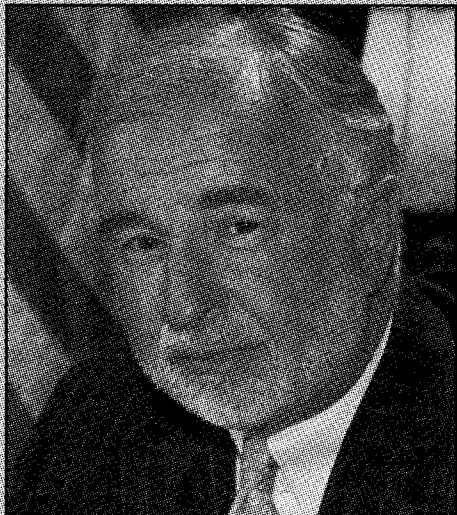
*Statesman: I understand (from Mr. Tuan) that you wanted to process to move as fast as possible. When did you originally initiate the idea of having an Asian center? When did you actually contact Mr. Tuan? I understand that Mr. Tuan designed your home.*

Wang: I have worked with PH for many years, including on the design of my home. It was natural for me to turn to him when we decided to move ahead with building the Wang Center at Stony Brook. PH designed a truly stunning building that I believe inspires greater understanding, respect and tolerance of all cultures.

*Statesman: I have read that you put*

Continued on page 3

# This Election Day vote for the Democrats who stand up for students



## Congressman Tim Bishop

Tim worked at Southampton College for 29 years, so he knows how hard it is to pay for college. That's why he supports:

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- \* increasing Pell grant levels
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## Assemblyman Steve Englebright

Steve has been a part of Stony Brook University for 35 years and is Stony Brook's Assemblyman. In Albany, Steve led the fight to:

- \* fully fund TAP (Tuition Assistance Program)
- \* successfully reject tuition increases
- \* secure funding to strengthen academic programs
- \* secure funding to build a new Student Recreation Center at Stony Brook without using student fees

✓ Pro-Student

✓ Pro-Environment

✓ Pro-Choice

## Election Day is Tuesday, November 7

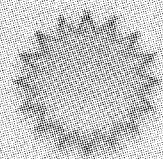
Vote at the SAC - Ballroom B - 6 am to 9 pm



## Student Forecast:

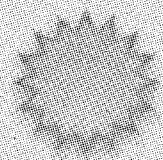
Oct. 30 - Nov. 5

by Britta Merwin



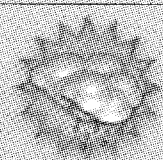
**Monday:**

High 60/Low 42  
Sunny & Breezy



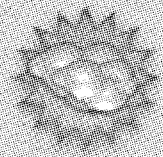
**Tuesday:**

High 64/Low 48  
Beautiful. Happy Halloween!



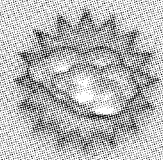
**Wednesday:**

High 62/Low 52  
Mostly Cloudy,  
Slight Chance of Rain



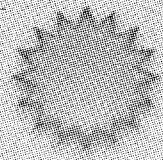
**Thursday:**

High 55/Low 40  
Slight Chance of AM Rain  
then Partly Cloudy



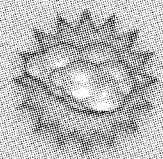
**Friday:**

High 52/Low 39  
Cool with Clouds



**Saturday:**

High 50/Low 37  
Mostly Sunny



**Sunday:**

High 51/Low 36  
Pleasant but Cool

### Behind the Numbers

With the presence of an upper level short wave ridge and southwesterly flow afternoon highs will reach into the low to mid 60s. A weak system will come through on Wednesday increasing the chance of precipitation through out the day and Thursday morning. This system looks to weaken before it reaches our area but keep an umbrella around mid-week just in case. Although the topic of rain is not conclusive this system will lower temperatures for the end of the week bringing afternoon highs down into the lower 50s and overnight lows into the mid to upper 30s.

weekend

# An Interview with Charles B. Wang

Continued from page 1

a large sum of money into the building of the Wang Center. How much of that money was involved with the accounting scandal that was widely publicized in the news?

Wang: My Foundation spent over \$52 million dollars towards the design and construction of the building. I am proud that I have been able to find projects that can benefit from my accomplishments.

Statesman: Mr. Tuan mentioned a worry that the building would be further altered by other architects when the building reverted back into the hands of the university. Was this one of your concerns in the building of the Wang Center?

Wang: I trust that Dr. Kenny and Sunita [Mukhi, Director of Programs at Wang Center] will maintain the Wang Center and use the building as intended.

Statesman: How often do you visit the Wang Center? Do you have a favorite spot in the building?

Wang: I visit the Center several times a year. The Jasmine food court is my favorite spot.

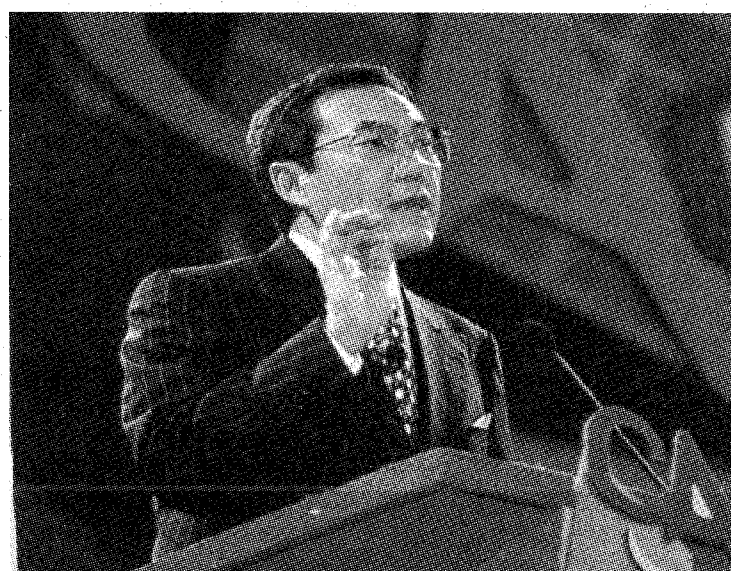
Statesman: I understand that you

have stepped down as CEO of CA. What projects are you currently working on with the CBW foundation and elsewhere?

Wang: In addition to owning the New York Islanders I am working on transforming the area around Nassau Coliseum into a vibrant icon. That project, The Lighthouse, includes upgrading the Coliseum and building an athletic complex, sports technology center, residential buildings, a conference center, and a grand hotel. In addition to The Lighthouse I am also working on developing a smart growth 164 acre community in Plainview and revitalizing the Historic Oyster Bay Hamlet. I have continued to support The Smile Train, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center along with other charities through my foundations.

Statesman: Mr. Tuan said the building was originally slated to be 25000 sq ft. Why did you make it so much bigger? Is there a purpose for having a chapel, theatre, etc? In your mind, when you first had the idea for the Wang Center, what purpose did you want the building to fill? Does the Wang Center fill that purpose now?

Wang: The original plans were to



Charles B. Wang addresses his company.

Courtesy of cvm.qc.ca

build a 25,000 square foot building with additions to be built at a later period. As construction progressed we decided it would be better for the Stony Brook if we handed over a complete building rather than one which would be under construction for many years to come. The purpose of the building was to bring the community together to celebrate Asian American culture. The Center fulfills that purpose and all of the rooms in the building provide space for showcasing art, music, dance, and education.

Statesman: Do you have any regrets concerning the building of the Wang

Center?

Wang: I regret that I do not get to spend more time at the building than I do.

Statesman: Do you have a general interest in architecture? What else do you do in your spare time? Do you have family here?

Wang: I enjoy sports and besides owning the New York Islanders I also own an arena football team, The Dragons. I also enjoy playing sports such as basketball. I live on Long Island with my family and work here every day.

# THE STRUGGLE FOR AFRICA

Continued from page 1

like this to do it and do it as soon as possible."

NGOs are not the only ones mobilizing young adults to help ease the situation in Africa. The Peace Corps, which is a US federal government agency inspired by President Kennedy's challenge to college students to "serve their country in the cause of peace by living and working in developing countries," has sent more than 182,000 volunteers to 138 developing countries that have invited the Corps' young volunteers. The volunteers, who serve a 27-month tour after completing their undergraduate degree, perform duties, such as teaching, preserving the environment, and training in technical aspects.

South Africa, Madagascar, Ghana, and Tanzania are among the 26 African countries that benefit from the presence of these well-educated, highly-motivated volunteers. The students also receive benefits, such as up to 30% student loan cancellation, a modest stipend after their tour is com-

plete, and the chance to complete a Master's degree in conjunction with their tour under the Master's International program.

Along with those tangible benefits, adds a Columbia University medical student who served a 2-year tour in Mozambique. This brings the satisfaction of having made a major difference in the lives of dozens of people and recognition of one's dedication to service during the graduate school application process.

As a group of thirty underclassmen at Herricks High School in New Hyde Park, NY they have proved, teens do not have to wait until they are college students to make a significant difference. For the past two years, the history classes of social studies teacher Matthew Jehn have organized fundraisers to help benefit the victims in Sudan.

In 2005, they held a track event called "I Ran for Sudan," which raised over \$6,000 for Doctors Without Borders. In 2006, they hosted "Stop the Genocide, Start the Music: Dance for Sudan," raised more than \$6,500.

While the sum of this individual effort may seem miniscule in comparison to the resources needed to wage an effective humanitarian operation in Africa, if one were to multiply it by the many thousands of high schools across the country, the potential for incredible impact is obvious.

Doctors Without Borders, also known as Medecins Sans Frontiers (MSF), has more than 2,356 medical and support staff operating throughout Darfur to help ease the humanitarian disaster that has prevailed there. In 2006, thanks to the efforts of such individuals as the Herricks High School students, they had an operating budget of \$25 million just for their Darfur operation.

Matthew Jehn, who is involved in numerous charitable activities at Herricks, says that "it is one thing to learn about the world. It is another thing to act on your knowledge in order to make a difference." He added that change occurs when educators "empower students to understand the world and then challenge them to act on their beliefs."

With many NGOs accused of corruption and inefficiency these days, it has become more important than ever that young, motivated minds like those of college students be involved in the effort to aid African development.

College students are in a unique position to help, since they have both the education and the enthusiasm to affect change. At the same time, students also have the room to grow and develop from their experiences, whether it is a volunteering position in the Sahara, or a simple fundraiser on campus.

If college students become involved in more service projects that they believe in, they not only gain a better sense of the world, but also become true global citizens who can restore hope abroad and become leaders in their fields at home.

Students interested in making a difference can visit the Global Routes website at [www.globalroutes.org](http://www.globalroutes.org) for overseas volunteer opportunities. To find out more information about the Peace Corps, visit [www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov).

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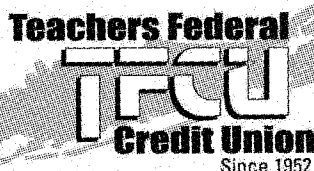
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# Liberal Bloggers Manipulate Google

By WILLIAM LAHTI  
Columnist

There's a new tactic in political campaigns today, known as "Google Bombing." The New York Times recently reported that around 50 Republican political candidates have been attacked in this manner.

Liberal bloggers have been posting names of Republican candidates with links pointing to articles that portray them negatively. The objective is to make Google's system for cataloging the Internet assign the articles the bloggers are linking to as being the most relevant to the candidate's name when searched for.

The New York Times article uses Congressman Peter King, of Long Island, as an example. A Google search for his name yields several articles intended to damage King among the top 100 result. Another, somewhat humorous example is "miserable failure." The first result that comes up is President Bush's of-

ficial Web page.

However, above it is a sponsored link to an official Google blog explaining the situation. They condemn anything like this, and say they'd rather not manually alter search results. They add that their service strives to remain unbiased. Chris Bowers, the man behind the liberal blogging campaign, says it is simply "search engine optimization," the act or process of creating Web content to improve your search engine ranking. He adds that if both sides did it, the playing field would be equal.

Another interesting case of search engine quirks is that of Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia which can be edited by everybody. Articles from that site are consistently among the top results when one exists for what you're looking for, as this site is often cited as a source of information by other sites.

Those articles have also been known to have been defaced from time to time, sometimes to convey a particular message,

or sometimes for the sake of vandalism.

Wikipedia's articles are also prone to being less than impartial. However, Wikipedia's philosophy of trying to be neutral has also resulted in the whole truth being told, including a few very negative points on a subject among many non-negative ones. One researcher found that on average, a Wikipedia article showed up as result #11 on a Google search for any of the top 100 brand-name companies in the country, which places them in a position to impact consumers' buying decisions.

These are prime examples of why seemingly impartial Internet sources, like Google, cannot always be trusted to be unbiased. It was relatively easy for a committed group of people to manipulate Google, one of the most widely-used Web services in the world, to produce the results they wanted. However, there's little more that you can do than to actively seek out views opposing the ones flooding Google.

# PLAY PROJECT SWAYS STALLER

Continued from page 13

the present, and dreaming about the future. However, it seems as if the small world of comfort that the girls created for themselves gets turned upside the down the night Lieutenant Portuondo comes over with some alcohol. He ends up finally confessing his feelings to Maria Celia and making love to her.

This was a very powerful scene in that the audience could really sense the lovers' need to connect emotionally and physically. After this union, nothing is the same. Maria starts letting go and wearing her hair down, the friendship between the sisters diminishes, and one can sense Sofia being particularly thrown and annoyed by having the Lieutenant in her home all the time. Like college relationships, Maria and the Lieutenant become deeply immersed in each other extremely fast, and Maria is less focused on her sister.

Sofia seems almost jealous that Maria found an escape while she, in turn, is left alone with her thoughts and desires. This shift really illustrates what a man can do to a solid relationship between two women. It is scary to think that a woman can easily throw away all her loyalties and bonds to a friend as soon as a man comes in to sweep her away.

This play was extremely rich. The actresses did a fabulous job portraying a myriad of emotions as they wrote, played, danced, laughed, cried, and reminisced. The actors added some turbulence and much needed excitement to the sisters' lives. The elements of art and love as a means of escape created a beautiful groundwork for the piece and made it very aesthetically pleasing. The message of sisterhood and escape stays with you. Because at the end of the day, all we have is our loved ones and our memories.

## SENIORS

The photographer will be here in November & December to take Senior Portraits for the Yearbook.

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# Halloween

## Horrors, Happenings and Hauntings

### ARE YOU BUSY ON HALLOWEEN?

By SHANZA MALIK  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Halloween isn't your typical holiday. You don't get money or gifts, no one makes a turkey, no one hides eggs around the lawn, and no one gets kissed by dreaded Aunt Gertrude. Instead, you get to dress up and go trick or treating; that is, if you are five, of course.

During this spook-fest, there are better things to do than parade around your neighborhood and beg for candy. As a college student, Halloween is often spent getting really into it: picking out a great costume and going out, or just sitting home and reading for your next midterm. There are no intermediates. However, there are cases of people who wish to celebrate, and don't know where to go.

This Halloween, look no further! On and off campus events are a-plenty, and there is enough candy to go around! Make sure you are dressed in your Halloween best if you plan to attend the Sanger Halloween Party in the Student Activities Center on Tuesday, Oct. 31. This event requires a costume and a desire to celebrate this hedonistic holiday. The event begins at 7:00 PM, and is hosted by Sanger LEG in SAC Ballroom B.

If you're looking for something a little less crazy, and a little more traditional, look no further than our very own Stony Brook Village. Each year, the old village is decorated with scarecrows that

are featured in a Scarecrow Contest. The little village is lit up with Halloween jack-o'-lanterns and displays lights that illuminate the scarecrows. Children in costume are everywhere, just enjoying a safe space. It is a perfect place to take a walk with someone you love on a night of total mayhem.

If you have plenty to do for your evening activities, but nothing to fill up those awful gaps during the day, you might want to contemplate attending the Frank J. Melville Library's Halloween Party. It will take place on Halloween from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM in the Library's Galleria. It is hosted by the Library Club, and will include prizes for the best pre-carved pumpkin and the most original, funniest, and scariest costumes. On-campus clubs and organizations, such as the Pre-Med Society and the Society of Professional Journalists will be hosting tables, dressed up in costumes!

Find yourself getting the munchies later at night? Attend Roth Quad's Halloween event, hosted by Roth Dining. The event will take place in the dining hall. Find yourself low on points? Enjoy free food and other giveaways! The event will take place from 6:00 PM through 10:00 PM in Roth Quad Dining Hall.

If you still have nothing to do, you might as well go trick-or-treating. Who knows, you may have a great time, and who doesn't love free candy?

Happy Halloween, and remember to stay safe!

### Host Your Own Scary Movie Marathon

By CANDACE ISHMAEL  
Sports Editor

Halloween is the perfect time to curl up on the couch with some friends in the dark and scare yourself silly with a few really good movies. But there are so many to choose from. How do you put together the ultimate marathon of creepy films? Do you go out or stay in? The fact is, you can go to the theatre and hope that you will be scared, or you can go for some tried and true favorites.

The king of all scary movies is of course, Alfred Hitchcock. Give it one night, good friends and some popcorn, and you have the perfect setup for some Halloween fun. Most people would limit Hitchcock to just



*Psycho* in their film repertoire, but one film cannot do a genius justice, regardless of how great it may be. For a change of pace, throw in *The Birds* or *Dial M for Murder*.

Of course, by modern standards, Hitchcock's films are pretty tame when it comes to gore. If you're looking for pure blood and guts, go for last year's hit *Hostel*.

Not for the faint of heart or weak of stomach, just try to find a plot beneath this film's severed body parts and rivers of blood. If you're looking for a storyline to go with your mutilation go for the *Saw* series. The plot may seem out there, but remember, it's a horror movie.

If you're looking for a film that will scare you even when

you turn on the lights and make you wonder, if that could really happen, pick up *Suspect Zero*. A film somewhat forgotten after its 2004 release, *Suspect Zero*, follows the investigation of a string of murders, all of which target other serial killers. The only clue left behind is the number zero slashed into each victim. Who is *Suspect Zero*, and can he really exist? You'll have a chilling night trying to figure it out.

Finally, if you're one of those people who think the whole horror movie genre is completely ridiculous, you might lean towards the classic spoof series, *Scary Movie*. On the other hand, get into the genre with a few laughs by finding classically bad movies you can really throw some popcorn at. Some good choices are the awesomely bad 1973's *The Legend of Hell House* and 1990's *Mom*. You'll be laughing so hard at the absurdity of these films that you'll have to ask yourself if they were really meant to be scary.



# SPOOKED YET?

## Superstitions and Customs

BY TEJAS GAWADE  
Editor-in-Chief

Are you superstitious? Halloween is one holiday that floods our minds with the supernatural. Even scientists will feel muddled by the innumerable superstitions and customs that Halloween brings. Whether they are true or not, most will agree that superstitions are interesting and fun. Here are ten superstitions and customs that will surely haunt you on Halloween:

### The Black Cat

If a black cat crosses your path, it will bring you bad luck. Black cats were once believed to resemble the devil. During the Middle Ages, black cats were hunted and burned during Easter. Interestingly, in England, white cats are believed to bring bad luck.

### Inside-Out Clothing

It is believed that if you wear your clothes inside out and walk backwards on Halloween night, you will see a witch in the sky at midnight.

### The Flame

If the flame on your candle goes out on Halloween, you are believed to be in the presence of a ghost.

### The Stone

An old Celtic custom is to build big bonfires and wait for them to go out. Celts would make a circle with the ashes from each fire. On the edge of each circle, each family would place a stone. If any stone was damaged or out of place on the day after Hal-

loween, the person who originally put the stone there was predicted to die within twelve months.

### The Bell

Ring a bell on Halloween will scare away evil spirits.

### Owls and Pockets

It is believed that owls dive down to eat the souls of the dying on Halloween. People were obviously afraid of owls hooting on Halloween night, so, they pulled their pockets out, and left them hanging to be safe from them.

### Satan, the Nut-Gatherer

Satan is believed to be a nut-gatherer. On Halloween, nuts were used as magic charms.

### Bats

If a bat flies into your house on Halloween, it is a sign that ghosts or spirits are near. It is believed that the ghosts and spirits let the bats in. If bats are out early on Halloween, and they fly around playfully, then nice weather is expected. The scariest is perhaps that if a bat flies around your house three times on Halloween, death awaits you.

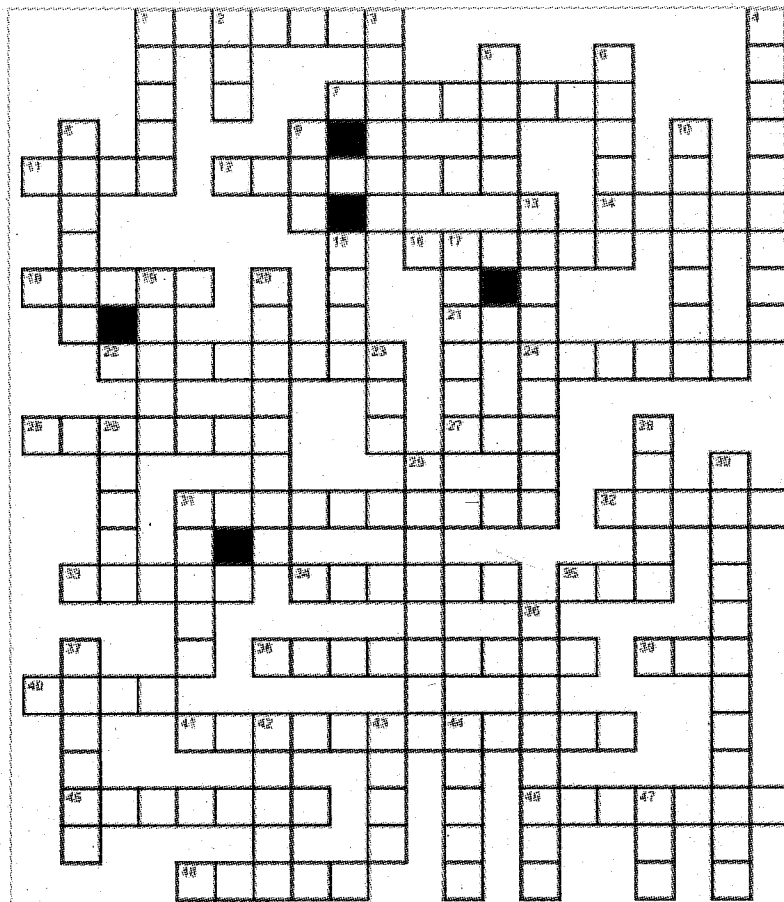
### Warding Off Evil

There are two ways to do this. You can bury animal bones in your front yard, or put a picture of an animal in your doorway. You can also walk around your house three times backwards before sunset on Halloween.

### The Spider

Sighted a spider? It could be the spirit of an expired loved one watching you.

# KNOW HALLOWEEN?



### Across

1. These are found in the corners and ceilings of a haunted house.
7. A witch's pet. (5-3)
11. Bloody and gross.
12. A monster made from bones.
14. A monster from Egypt.
16. Another word for scary.
18. She wears black clothes and rides a broom.
21. It looks like a mouse but much bigger.
22. What kids wear on Halloween
24. The creature that makes cobwebs.
25. Have a ghost inside.
27. The Cyclops has one.

### Down

1. What children get at Halloween
2. Flying animal found in haunted houses.
3. The kind of bullet you need to kill a werewolf.
4. A place with many tombstones.
5. Where you get goose bumps.
6. The weather around haunted houses.
8. The walking corpse.
9. The color of blood.
10. Dracula.
13. You can hear these in the hallways of a haunted house at night.
15. Little animals with long tails.
17. This wears a patch and has a sword.
19. This wears bright colorful clothing.
20. A big black pot that witches use to make potions.
23. The kind of light that vampires hate.
26. The monster the stairs.
28. What vampires drink
29. The time when werewolves come out.
30. What kids say on Halloween
31. Something that haunts houses.
36. A monster that changes from human to wolf.
37. Makes me scared; gives me the
42. A monster from space.
43. The opposite of good.
44. Frighten.
47. A night bird
31. What you get on your skin when you are scared.
32. These slam shut or creek open.
33. Witches ride this.
34. Vampires hate this.
35. Another word for strange.
38. October 31st.
39. What a ghost says.
40. A big black bird.
41. A monster with stitches on his face.
45. What children carve
46. The month of Halloween.
48. Sharp teeth.

## Solutions

### Across

cobwebs, black cat, gory, skeleton, mummy, spooky, witch, rat, costumes, spider, haunted, eye, goosebumps, doors, broom, garlic, odd, halloween, boo, crow, frankenstein, pumpkin, october, fangs

### Down

candy, bat, silver, graveyard, skin, stormy, zombie, red, vampire, footsteps, mice, pirate, clown, cauldron, sun, under, blood, full moon, trick or treat, ghost, werewolf, creeps, alien, evil, scare, owl

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

Stony Brook Statesman  
PO Box 1530  
Stony Brook, NY 11790

phone: (631) 632-6479  
fax: (631) 632-9128

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comments@sbstatesman.org

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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.

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# Why I Love Being Single

By LAURA POSITANO  
Columnist

Single life is so great. I may not have realized that until recently, when I saw two people who graduated from high school with me who were married shortly after finishing high school. They used to always be together, being real high school sweethearts.

As cliché as that sounds, that is what they were. My memories of them throughout high school are bittersweet, since I was single for almost all of my teenage, high school experience. How I envied them, how close they were, or at least how close they seemed to be, in the eyes of an outsider. Holding hands, finishing each other's sentences all the time, going to all the dances together, taking the same classes, and practically never straying from the other's side.

I have to admit that I was even more immensely jealous of them when they became engaged, since they seemed to be practically joined at the hip all through high school and they seemed to be meant to be for each other. I wished at the time of their announced betrothal that I would have someone for me one day like that. Not necessarily meaning that I wanted to be married at seventeen, eighteen, or even nineteen.

No, I wanted a guy to be my boyfriend who would be there for me as much as he was for her. She never seemed lonely, or without a date. I was shy at the time when I was in high school, despite appear-

ances to the contrary. Guys later on would tell me that they wanted to go out with me but were too afraid that I was not going to be interested in them. When prodded further, these guys, these almost suitors, most would tell me that I was either too beautiful for them, (an idea that shocked me because I often felt as an adolescent that I was ugly, acne-faced, and awkward, which in retrospect is how many teenagers feel) or that I was too smart (I excelled in science, history and economics, subjects traditionally guys are only supposed to be good at, so I am not surprised if I intimidated them).

A guy or two would say that I was too much of a tomboy for them, but more guys than not liked the fact that I'm not much of a girly-girl. Now, four years later, I have found out that that happy couple I mentioned earlier has since divorced. (They recently ended their marriage for irreconcilable differences, something that can be expected if you and your significant other marry as teenagers, according to sociologists. After all, can you possibly be the same person at twenty one as you were at seventeen?)

It's possible for such an early marriage to work out, but it is not likely according to sociologists who study the societal institutions of marriage and family for a living.) When I heard the news, I couldn't help but remember how they broadcast their engagement by telling their classmates and friends and publishing an an-

nouncement in local papers to let even more people know. I could not help but wonder why I was so jealous of them in the first place. I should not have expected that they were going to be a perfect couple, but then again, so did other people who thought that they would have such a fairy tale married existence.

Our society promotes such delusions; no one ever publishes any announcements when people become single. Is it such a bad thing to be single? If I could, I would call up *Newsday* and declare that I should have a celebratory announcement for the fact that I am single. But if I were to do that, they would think I was either crazy or some radical feminist bent on mocking the institution of marriage. I would be, in a way, making fun of the concept of having marriage announcements in *New York Times*' Styles section like the gloriously single Carrie Bradshaw and her group of friends did on the now syndicated television show *Sex and the City*.

So it actually is not an idea exclusive to me as a way to say, "I deserve to shout to the world that I am not engaged to anyone, not getting married to anyone at any time soon". Being married is something I do hope to achieve as a life goal, but not now. Probably when I am thirty, maybe even a little older. When I am ready to be a wife, I'll know it.

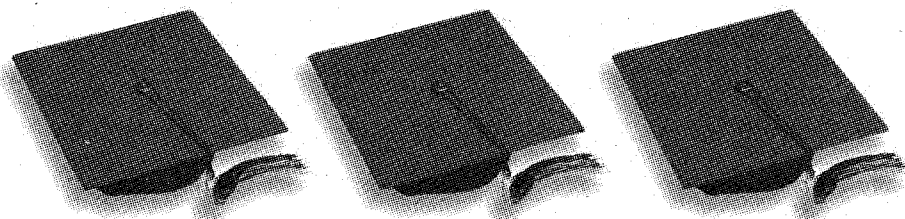
Just because I am feeling frustrated that I have not had a date in a few months, due to busyness and

mediocre selections of guys does not mean I have to get desperate to get married, or even have a boyfriend. I used to have one, but the joys of being with him, being seen as a couple, soon became outnumbered by my desires for independence and my need for self-respect. It feels nice to not be part of a couple anymore; at times I miss having someone there in that capacity but now I know that single life is really the life for me.

How ironic it is though that now that I am single, I have found out that a guy who I have had feelings for a while for now is in a relationship himself but has feelings for me too. That is the one bad thing about being single-once you finally are free and on your own, then somehow someone comes along that makes you want to be in a couple again. When you are single, as Carrie Bradshaw so eloquently has said, you tend to be viewed as a threat to all the significant others of those who find you attractive, who fear you are out to end their relationship...I hope that that particular guy I am referring to is reading this column of mine; I want him to know that until he is single himself, it is okay if he wants me too. Just think of me for now, so your girlfriend does not think of me as another evil single woman.

Even with that occupational hazard of being a single girl, I still can not say I hate being single. Single people can be lonely, but so can many people in relationships, as I have observed recently.

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# On the Existence of An Afterlife

By ESAM AL-SHAREFFI  
USG Senate Recording Secretary

Normally, discussions involving religious overtones are considered too taboo and controversial. I have thought about this theory for a few days now and cannot find any obvious faults with it, and thus I hope to share it with the reader, who may offer support or criticism as he or she chooses.

First, are our lives merely the time that we spend on this earth as functioning organisms, ending with death and oblivion, or is there more to the story after our last heartbeat? I find it difficult to accept an existence in which we are limited to a finite number of years. Our main mission is to reproduce and propagate our species, which ends in irreversible death and then the decay of our bodies.

What meaning is there to our "life" if it is so short, brutish, and ultimately pointless? What value do all of our experiences have, our melancholy times and our happy occasions, our periods of growth and our periods of decay? Could it all really amount to nothing in the end; do we simply emerge from nothingness and then return to it afterwards, for all eternity, enjoying a mere flicker of animation before all of it disappears again?

Some theorize that our highest mission is to reproduce, that our species, and in fact all living species, exist primarily to multiply, expand, and propagate. But really, what is the point to all that? So, we give birth to a new generation, who in their time will give birth to the next generation, and so on and so forth, but if life has no other "point", why do we continue this sorry exercise?

What are our goals in life? For some, the accumulation of wealth and power; for others happiness and pleasure, but are these

not all transitory? How little it all matters! Even if you were the greatest ruler, with the whole galaxy to command, controlling unlimited wealth and enjoying the most awesome of pleasures (be they with your harem of beauties or enjoying the more subtle joys that our existence allows), all that would last a few decades, a century at most, and then we would wither away! Lest we also forget that for most, life is not so appetizing, indeed many struggle to find the basic necessities and some even suffer unspeakable oppression and torture, just based on where they live.

So then, with all of this pointlessness, how does our species continue to exist? Perhaps the non-sentient living creatures, the birds, fish, and terrestrial animals simply do not know better, but with all of our philosophy and deep thought, why do we as a species find it necessary to experience the gilded richness of life; why do we subject ourselves to its mélange of emotions, the heartbreaking losses and the joyful resurgences, if we know that it will all end, and strictly speaking, sooner rather than later?

Why do we torture ourselves through life, gaining education, experience, working endless hours, doing impossible tasks, fighting and sometimes dying for intangible words like "honor," "victory," and "nation"? How can we ever justify it to ourselves to offer the "ultimate sacrifice" to any ideal, no matter how grand, if it means that we let go of that short time span that we have before we return to complete oblivion?

I have posed many questions, in the hopes of getting you to think about what makes life work for you, in order to challenge you to think about why it is that you wake up every day and do what you are currently doing, instead of putting a bullet

to your brain and letting the sad charade end? Perhaps you have some answer in mind that does not involve religion, and if so, I hope that you would share it with me one day.

For myself, however, I can only find the answer in something innate that belongs to the vast majority (but not all) of humans, and that is an inborn understanding that there is indeed more to life than what appears on the surface, and it is in order to reach this "transcendent" plane of existence that we live and continue living.

Perhaps the fact that I am devout in my religious beliefs influences my thought here, and I certainly suspect this to be the case. Depending on the faith that you believe in, there is usually some provision for an afterlife, which either involves (at least on a basic level) some sort of "reincarnation" back into this world. Or if you follow the world's two faiths with the most adherents, namely Christianity and Islam, there is the concept of a "Day of Judgment," in which your actions in life are judged and you are assigned (again, at a basic level without delving too deeply into the details) to either eternal punishment or eternal bliss.

Still, this answer will not satisfy many. Unfortunately (it is subjective of me to say "unfortunately," but so be it), in this secular age, few are to be swayed by religious arguments, and yet logic and reason fails us here.

Is it reasonable for a species, or rather for all living species, to exist merely to multiply? What is the mechanism or driving action behind the concept of evolution? Why must species continuously compete, adapt, and struggle in changing environments over limited resources?

What is so precious about "life" and

passing on some bits of genetic material onto the next generation, where your own contribution will diminish even further, and so on? Does this not strike anyone as a bit arbitrary and pointless, as if it was the simple plot of a novel used as a device just to get the story going, while the real purpose and moral lurk in between the lines?

I believe that the real purpose of life is simple; it is a time in which our minds and (dare I say) our "souls" mature. We face a multitude of incidents, events, and experiences, all of which influence our life. Our quest to get the basic necessities - food and shelter - as well as our genetic imperative to "procreate" are all merely the filler plot in a story whose real purpose is to get us to form and test beliefs, concepts, and values.

But what significance would these "beliefs, concepts, and values" have if we all just die anyway? Why do we bother to seek education, to think, to write or read articles, to do anything other than meet our basic needs and fulfill our genetic instructions, if all of it is to be thrown away and rendered useless in a relatively short time span?

I submit to you that none of our knowledge is lost, but rather that it is used and preserved in an afterlife, the construction of which is explained (and at times in contradictory ways) by various belief systems. The exact structure is unknown to me, or rather, I cannot hope to know it using the information currently at my disposal, but I hope that I have at least given you the opportunity to question some of your beliefs, to think about the "meaning" of your life, and to admit to the possibility of an afterlife, even if you do not necessarily stake any belief in traditional religion.

*Esam Al-Shareffi may be reached via email at ExcaliburPrime1@gmail.com.*

# Lobbying in the 21st Century

By SURAJ RAMBHIA  
Editor-in-Chief

Our nation has been built on the idea that people have some fundamental, inalienable rights. Although these rights are outwardly stated in the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments, the exact nature of these rights is still debated to this day. The first amendment gives people living in the United States the right to speak freely without any threat of violence or repression from the government. Still, certain rules and etiquette are required in certain venues. One will not hear the same type of language spoken at a football game as he or she would in a courtroom.

Like the soul of a living body, we the people give life to our government. The way we enact legislation is, to put it bluntly, innately human. People with varying concerns and views all have their

own idea of what legislation should and shouldn't be enacted. The only way people can have their individual concerns addressed is to get the attention of legislators. As the population grows, more and more Americans will be vying for Congressional attention. One could say that the subject matter of legislation will not change dramatically. For example, people will still be concerned about issues such as education, healthcare, social security, terrorism, etc. However, with more people, the most basic concerns will be pulled in many more directions.

The only way to 'get what you want' will be to have representatives vie for the attention of the government. People want to see certain types of legislation passed, so they hire people to support them. While this process of lobbying can be considered Machiavellian, especially from the way lobbyists are portrayed in the news, the

proper term to describe lobbying should be "innately human." Lobbying is innately human because it's very reasonable for human beings to look for opportunities, ways to make money, ways to extend influence. From time to time, lobbyists commit crimes, but there are ways of dealing with those particular situations as seen with the convicting of Jack Abermoff and others.

People hire lawyers to represent them in a court of law. If one really wants, he could represent himself in front of a judge. In reality, there is no need for a lawyer. However, people still hire them for their knowledge of the law and the proceedings of a court room. For a similar reason, people who lead public interest groups need individuals who know the nuances of our government. Many individuals today, even those individuals who are actively involved with particular activist groups, see the government is simply divided into its three

main branches and different levels of purview at the national, state, and local level. They are oblivious to the actual nature of proceedings in the government and need the help of individuals who have worked in the government, individuals who have the ability to speak clearly and effectively, individuals who have already been there, and done that, so to speak.

Lobbyists are able to provide this service, to keep the people and interest groups in proper view of elected legislators. Some may not like government officials being influenced by individual partisan bodies, but these partisan bodies do not speak for themselves, they speak for the public interest groups they represent. Rather than representing a group of people by region as elected legislators do, they represent people by a particular issue, making them a powerful asset for interest groups and people across the nation.

# Campus Dining Services Corrects Health Violations

Chartwells/Campus Dining Services would like to present this response to the recent Suffolk County Department of Health Services Inspections that occurred at our Stony Brook Campus Dining locations.

We take these inspections extremely seriously; we have been addressing each infraction immediately, and will continue to address each code violation with the utmost priority. Dennis Lestrage (Chartwells District Manager) is meeting with Terry Marek (Registered Sanitarian & Chartwells Director of Quality Assurance) and Terrence R. O'Riordan, (Senior Public Health Sanitarian, Suffolk County Department of Health Services) on Wednesday, November 1, 2006 to review each Health Department Inspection/code violation to ensure that all corrections have been made.

In addition to the Health Department Review, Campus Dining Services will conduct its own internal sanitation audit, which includes both Quality Assurance Standards review of the 24 Core areas of safe food handling and sanitation as well as compliance with all required Suffolk County Health Department Codes.

Chartwells Sanitarian Terry Marek will lead a task force review of each operation. This Audit and Dining service location review will accomplish **Four Core Objectives** in response to the noted health dept violations.

- 1) **Reconfirming Immediate Corrective Action** for and every code violation.
- 2) **Training** campus dining managers will be retrained in the Chartwells Quality Assurance program - scheduled for mid-November.
- 3) **Long term solutions** such as increasing independent third party inspections to assure consistent code compliance and additional multi-lingual food safety training for all staff.
- 4) **Facilities/Equipment** - Review any necessary repairs and equipment upgrades with the Faculty Student Association.

1) **Reconfirming Immediate Corrective Action**; Each Suffolk County Department of Health Services inspection report will be reviewed by line item to insure compliance and/or create immediate action plans. This is already underway in all dining locations. The outcomes will also be reviewed by Chartwells Sanitarian, Terry Marek, and Suffolk County's Terrance O'Riordan.

## 2) Training:

A) All managers and staff will undergo intensive training/retraining of Quality Assurance Standards to include the following core safe food handling areas:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| • Cleaning/Chemical Handling and Storage         | • Food Storage Practices                           | • Wiping cloths   |
| • Cleaning Procedures                            | • Thawing and Slacking                             | • Cooking and Reheating CCP (Critical Control Point)                                  |
| • Associate Health                               | • Washing Raw Fruits and Vegetables                | • Cooling CCP (Critical Control Point)  |
| • Hand Hygiene                                   | • Thirty Minute Rule                               | • Service Standards   |
| • Preventing Contamination from Hands and Gloves | • Preventing Food Contamination During Preparation | • Returned food and Second Portions   |
| • Cleaning Schedules                             | • Frequency of cleaning equipment and utensils     | • Cold and Hot Holding CCP (Critical Control Point)                                   |
| • Food Thermometers                              | • Pot Washing                                      | • HACCP/time and temperature (Hazard analysis critical control point) Compliance Plan |
| • Receiving CCP (Critical Control Point)         | • Dishwashing                                      |   |
| • Cold Storage CCP (Critical Control Point)      |  |   |

B) All managers who have not completed either the Suffolk County Food Manager's certification training or the nationally recognized "Serv Safe" safe food handling certification **will undergo this training** immediately. In addition, all hourly cooks/kitchen staff who have not completed the Suffolk county food manager's certification **will receive the same training**.

*Note: This step goes beyond the Suffolk County Department of Health Services minimum requirements that only one person on duty in each food service location have this certification.*

3) **Long Term Solutions**: Chartwells will use a third party food inspection organization (Steritech) to conduct ongoing and regular "surprise" inspections each semester and audits of all food service facilities, to insure ongoing compliance in all areas. *(This will be in addition to self inspections by Campus Dining Director of Operations and/or Executive Chef.)*

4) **Facilities and Equipment**: Any equipment including refrigeration (cold holding) that may have contributed to any temperature violation is scheduled to be repaired or corrected immediately. In addition all facility related areas that were or may contribute to any potential code violations will be reviewed by FSA's Facility Manager and Campus Dining Services Director of Operations and will be addressed and prioritized as necessary. All Facility related violations will also be reviewed by Terry Marek (Chartwells Sanitarian) for further recommendations on specific facility/equipment related issues.

Each Suffolk County Health Department Inspection Report is currently being addressed as follows: All "Red Critical" Violations have been corrected and/or are undergoing compliance requirements now- as Priority One. All "Blue Maintenance" Violations also have been corrected and/or are undergoing compliance requirements immediately. Copies of these reports and the actions plans are available for review.

All customers may contact Dawn Villacci, FSA's Customer Service Manager, with any dining concerns which can be brought to the Meal Plan Resolutions Committee. She can be reached at 632-9374.





By REBECCA NEWMAN  
Staff Writer

The title of the play "Two Sisters and a Piano" gives away its most important elements. Amidst the turmoil and adversity facing Cubans during Fidel Castro's regime, all anyone had was their family and home. Since they were not allowed to venture outside, the victims had to create their own alternative world to escape to. From the beginning it is clear that the two sisters Maria Celia and Sofia are trapped in a home filled with art, music, literature, and nostalgia.

The sisters assert their characters very well in just the first scene alone. Maria Celia, the older sister played by Ilfanesh Hadera, seems to be a good mother figure in that she has the ability to appear young and old at the same time. She has much wisdom in her, but there seems to be something yearning beneath the surface. She is clearly plagued by her house arrest, but she has another motivation behind it. She is very much in love with her husband who is away at war. Her letters to him are the only connection between them.

Maria Celia is also a writer and one can sense this helps her to hang on. Sofia, played by Janine Fittipaldi, is an endearingly humorous contrast as she is clearly an ingénue with many girlish dreams and desires. And she puts as much passion into her discourse about men and eroticism as she does into her piano playing. It is hard to take your eyes off of her as she soulfully plays with eyes closed and arms gliding across the keys. Their connection is so strong that you sense the literature

and music is taking the place of family members in the house.

The art is very symbolic here. Not only are the art and romantic desires central elements, but they also serve as escapes that transport the sisters from house arrest to a place where they can be happy and free to be themselves.

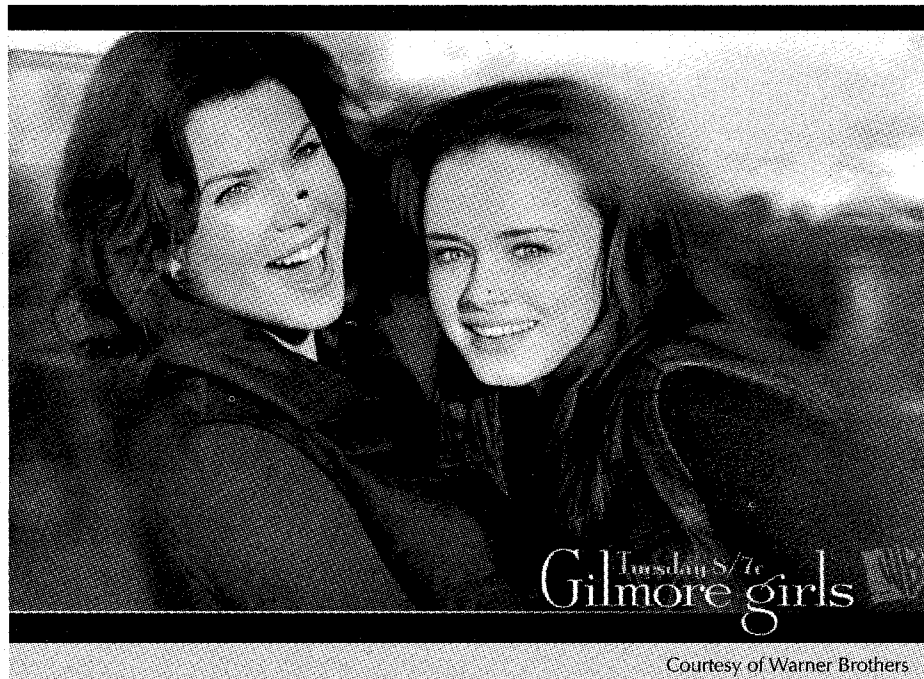
The men in this play serve important purposes in this play to fuel the women's desires and give them distractions. In Act I, Sofia is smitten with Victor Manuel, played by Dan De Jesus - a charismatic, funny piano repairman who seems almost unfazed by the current political situation. The man in Maria Celia's life brings much more drama, conflict, and passion to this play. Lieutenant Portuondo, played by Richard Ferreiro, is a frequent houseguest for the two sisters. He develops a relationship with Maria Celia over the countless letters from her husband.

Lieutenant Portuondo is Maria's only connection to her husband, and it is only through him that she can read his correspondence. As the play progresses, the Lieutenant develops very strong feelings for Maria Celia. Ferreiro's acting here is particularly strong in that the audience can keenly feel his yearning and desire even though he is trying desperately to hide it from his love interest.

The second act of this play is somewhat reminiscent of a girls' dorm room. The script and setting really reflect the sweetness of female companionship. These sisters can always make each other feel better by laughing about the past, lamenting

Continued on page 5

# TV nation



By PRIYA MADHAVAN  
Staff Writer

The television series "Gilmore Girls" airs every Tuesday at 8:00 pm on the CW network. This humorous, multigenerational show is about family, friends and the bonds that form between them. Coming back for yet another season, the series revives the classic mother/daughter relationship and portrays the everyday lives of the eclectic townsfolk.

The main characters in this drama include Lauren Graham as Lorelai Gilmore and Alexis Bledel as Rory Gilmore. Both characters, apart from their respective sitcom careers, have made their debuts on the big screen. Alexis Bledel acted in the movie *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* and *Tuck Everlasting*. Also, Lauren Graham premiered in the movie *Bad Santa*. Other characters in the series include Lorelai's patrician parents played by Kelly Bishop from *Dirty Dancing* and Eduard Herrmann from *The Cat's Meow*.

The sixth season ended with the bitter breakup between Luke and Lorelai. Surprisingly in the seventh season, we find Christopher and Lorelai back together. It is like history repeating itself where one can only wonder when Christopher, the rebound guy, will disappear. After witnessing their first fight about letting Christopher's daughter go to Paris to her mother, the viewer wonders if Lorelai is jealous of her presence, or if she genuinely cares for this four year-old. Their fight is resolved when they decide to go to Paris themselves.

While Lorelai is dealing with her love

life, Rory, who is back at Yale, is coping with her long distance relationship with Logan. Logan has taken over his father's business and now spends most of his time making deals in London. Both seem to be living in their own bubbles. When Rory goes to dinner with Logan to celebrate a deal, she finds herself completely out of place among the group of British speaking business associates. When she complains to Logan about the whole dinner fiasco, we see how much she misses and loves him.

However, we also see Rory's loss of assertiveness and Logan's indifferent response of kissing her and forgetting about the whole thing. This television series depicts the lives of everyday people. It is a show worth watching because it brings up issues that we all deal with one time or another.

Unlike other television series about extraordinary superhuman powers used to save the world or being stranded on an island, this series is something that the viewer of all ages can relate to. It is appealing because you are repeatedly trying to guess what will happen to Lorelai and Christopher and if Luke will ever come back into Lorelai's life. The distance between Rory and Logan makes you question its longevity.

The last scene of the episode ends with Lorelai, Christopher, and Rory going back home together from their Friday night dinners. While they ride in the car, the picture of the perfect family comes into mind. However, the question to be asked is whether or not this perfect picture will last.

**Like to Review? Email [arts@sbstatesman.org](mailto:arts@sbstatesman.org)**

# Get Your Read On:

**EXTREMELY LOUD AND INCREDIBLY CLOSE (354 PGS)**

**BY  
JONATHAN  
SAFRAN FOER**

**PUBLISHED:  
2005**

**BY JEREMY FALLETTA**  
Staff Writer

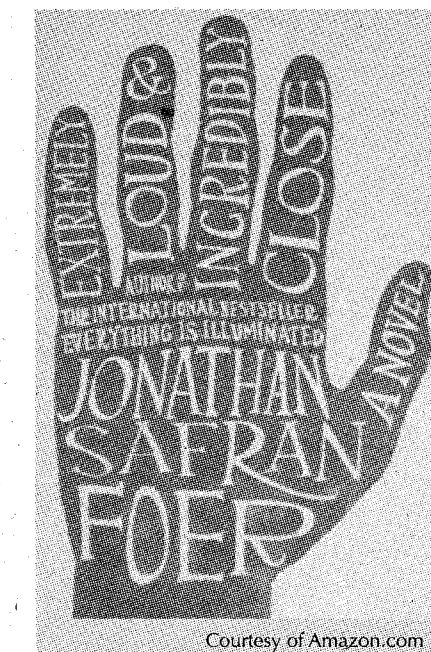
After reading and reviewing *Everything is Illuminated* last semester, I decided I would be on a continual mission to read anything from Foer as soon as possible. *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* was hardly a disappointment. It lived up to my expectations fully, and now I would like to pass it on to you.

Without mentioning it directly for quite some time, this book addresses the 9/11 tragedy and one boy's method of coping with the loss of his father. Oskar and his family are of French heritage, and though he has quite a firm grip on the English language for a pre-adolescent, fans of Alex in *Everything is Illuminated* will be pleased with the subtle linguistic inconsistencies that he manifests. They are comical, at least, and utterly charming, at best. Oskar is a boy of many talents. His business card describes him as:

Inventor, Jewelry Designer, Jewelry Fabricator, Amateur Entomologist, Francophile, Vegan, Origamist, Pacifist, Percussionist, Amateur Astronomer, Computer Consultant, Amateur Archaeologist, Collector of: rare coins, butterflies that died natural deaths, miniature cacti, Beatles memorabilia, semiprecious stones, and other things.

When he discovers a couple of clues in his late father's bedroom, he begins a nearly year-long search of New York City for answers. Of course, there is no real question, but the searching is his way of reconciling his father's death. It allows Oskar to reclaim some proximity to him, as his father used to send him on scavenger hunts quite frequently.

One of the most unexpectedly great things about this book is that it contains illustrations and pictures. They do not



Courtesy of Amazon.com

account for a majority of the pages by any means, but certainly have a considerable presence. They help to explain what Oskar is describing at times, and give the reader insights into his character that he is unable to provide himself, at others.

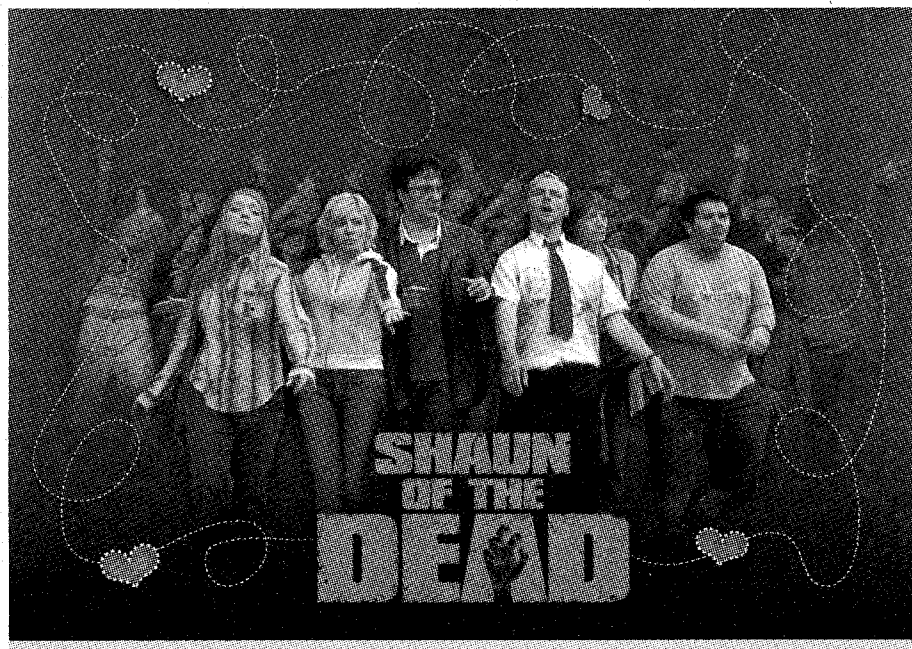
Again resembling *Everything is Illuminated*, this book's chapters are told from several generational points of view. When Oskar is not speaking, we get anecdotes and letters from some of the older members of his family. These are not, of course, all from the present or immediate past. The book has an ability to jump around temporarily, which, while slightly confusing at times, is beyond clever by the time Foer ties it all together.

The symbolism present in *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* is extremely acute and manages to wrench the deepest sympathies and emotions within the reader. One of the letter-writing characters describes how he "lost" his "words." He says, "'Want' was a word I lost early on, which is not to say that I stopped wanting things - I wanted things more - I just stopped being able to express the want."

He tells us how, when he eventually lost the words "yes" and "no," he "went to a tattoo parlor and had YES written onto the palm of [his] left hand, and NO onto [his] right palm." His communication to other people from that point on takes place in the pages of a daybook that he carries, when he is unable to use his palms. Obviously, there are lots of layers of meaning here, waiting to be unraveled.

This is a fantastic novel, and it is short to boot, so no excuses! Foer allows us a porthole into the reservoir of human emotion and feeling; he is a master wordsmith, and, needless to say, I will be waiting with bated breath for his next adventure. I hope you will be too.

# Indie Flicks: Shaun of the Dead



Courtesy of www.moviemaze.de

**BY RACHEL BROZINSKY**  
Staff Writer

What do a 29 year-old man working for an electronics store and flesh eating zombies have in common? Apparently, quite a lot, according to the horror-comedy *Shaun of the Dead*, which spoofs classic zombie movies such as - you guessed it - *Dawn of the Dead*. Rather than mocking the zombie-like nature of individuals sucked into the conformity of mindless mall culture as *Dawn* does, *Shaun of the Dead* criticizes the drab monotony of the day to day life of someone who simply settles.

Before the living dead begin to take over England, where the film takes place, there is a montage of shots of people mechanically living their mundane lives - they are already zombies. The hilarity of this film without a doubt outweighs its horror or politics.

The main plot follows Shaun, played by Simon Pegg, who also co-wrote the script, who seems to have reached a breaking point in his life. His girlfriend has just dumped him, he has a strained relationship with his mother and stepfather, and he's at a job that's going nowhere.

The morning that Shaun realizes that he has to turn it all around, he wakes up to a whole new world where zombies are roaming the streets, eating the flesh of the living. Determined to save his mother and Liz (Kate Ashfield), his ex, Shaun decides to take matters into his own hands and fight off the zombies with his best friend and lazy sidekick, Ed (Nick Frost).

A great deal of the humor lies in the spoofing of classic horror movie tactics.

The creepy, ethereal music is alongside quick, almost panicked cuts of ordinary activities. Shaun's brushing his teeth! Cut. He's flushing the toilet! Cut. He's drinking his morning tea! Cut. The music and tensions also seem to heighten at mundane moments such as when Liz is leaving a voicemail on Shaun's machine (gasp!), or Shaun's step dad is visiting him at work (horrors!).

The film's wit also lies in how it is extremely self-aware, even if the characters are not. The characters, particularly Shaun and Ed, are so wrapped up in trivialities that they fail to realize, for instance, that the girl wandering around in their backyard is a zombie, not drunk, as they first assume.

The movie is mostly, but not all, laughs. Pegg and director/co-writer Edgar Wright manage to get in a few moments of genuine emotion. It is done with a slight of hand that makes the transitions from laughing to screaming to crying seem perfectly natural and, in a strange way, realistic.

The real horror in the movie seems to emerge during the human moments between the characters. One of the highlights of *Shaun of the Dead* is Shaun stepping up and accepting his role as the unlikely hero. Short, thin, and pasty is not what the audience has come to expect of the brave savior in most bloody horror films, but Shaun is so endearing that we can't help but root for him as he struggles selflessly to save his loved ones.

Halloween is less than a week away, and many enjoy popping in a scary slasher flick to set the spooky mood. This year I would recommend watching *Shaun of the Dead*, because unlike other horror movies, this one is trying to be funny.



# REEL DEAL



BY ELIZABETH SCISCI  
Staff Writer

It is not for the weak of heart, or the short of attention span, but *The Departed* beautifully demonstrated that a movie does not have to be predictable to be a crowd pleaser. The majority of this two hour and thirty minute film plots along at an even keel, definitely keeping interest, but not nearly as action-packed as its last twenty minutes.

The cast is a huge pull factor. Jack Nicholson gives a flawless performance as the deranged and maniacal leader of the Bostonian sect of the Irish mafia, Frank Costello. Matt Damon, as a Boston police detective acting as an informant for the mafia leader with whom he has an avuncular relationship, is an easily hated criminal. And as the downtrodden, and luckless underdog, is Leonardo DiCaprio, a failed police cadet from a dysfunctional family who is placed undercover as a main player in Costello's gang.

Essentially, the plot revolves around a police and mafia cat and mouse game, a battle of wills between each of the moles, and a complex love triangle involving the precinct psychiatrist. An all-star cast was extremely necessary for a plot that depends upon character depictions as the vehicle for powerfully conveying human will, self preservation and sacrifice.

Confusion is eminent at first, as the movie is uniquely strung together in a very rapid back and forth between the lives of the two spies, the world of the mafia, and the tension of the police department. The film's main theme is corruption, and an audience watches in wonder as even the simplest of loyalties are completely unraveled, distorted, and enlarged to become implications of who will survive and who will be killed.

The majority of the movie is kept light, with amusing vernacular, oddly

timed humorous remarks, and is almost generally funny because the terms and lifestyle illustrated is so far removed from those of an average Long Island audience. There were many reasons along the way to laugh out loud, a joviality on screen and amongst the viewers that was usually curtailed by gun shots.

As mentioned before, there is a disturbing amount of violence in the movie's action, but not needlessly. The gore drives home the urgency of the situation: that anyone can die at anytime because they have said too much, were in the wrong place at the wrong time, or were not careful enough in lying about their identity. What was most striking concerning the film's brutality was the audience reaction.

While gasps from viewers peppered *The Departed* throughout, most left the theater virtually unscathed, totally complacent with the bloodbath they had just witnessed. Perhaps American cinema's recent hard luck has to do with a public that is totally desensitized to both fiction too bizarre to ever be reality and happenings, like those of *The Departed*, that probably actually occur.

*The Departed* should definitely not be missed, but be warned that it is not a straightforward, weekend first date type of movie. It requires focus to understand the plot and the characters' rapid changing motives and alliances.

What makes it different from other mafia themed shows or flicks? The entire movie sets up a variety of ways for either opposing side to come out on top, constantly baffling the audience as to who to root for, and opening up so many paths for various predictable endings. But the resolve comes rapidly and is entirely unexpected, turning a masterpiece of characterization, the blurred lines of good and evil and the complexity of storytelling into a simple contrast between life and death.

# TAC

## American Film Festival

### Young Frankenstein

BY AMANDA SHAPIRO  
Staff Writer

Who doesn't know Mel Brooks? By this time in your life you should have seen any one of his movies; *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*, *The Producers*, *Spaceballs*, *Blazing Saddles*, etc. This past Friday the Tabler Arts Center screened *Young Frankenstein* starring Gene Wilder, Peter Boyle, Marty Feldman, Cloris Leachman, Terri Garr, Madeline Kahn, and Gene Hackman.

Mel Brooks loves spoofing classics but the idea of *Young Frankenstein* was conceived by Gene Wilder. Just as *Blazing Saddles* was getting its finishing touches Brooks was invited into the project, accepted, and helped Wilder with the script. The result was a film that sent Brooks to the top.

The young Frankenstein was a scientist in America teaching future doctors and trying to set himself apart from his family's history, "an accidental relationship to a famous cuckoo." But once a will is introduced he travels to Transylvania and eventually accepts his legacy. Manipulated to finish and succeeding the experiment of reanimating dead tissue turns him into the babysitter or a groaning misunderstood tall 'thing.'

After failed attempts to keep it controlled, Frankenstein decides to present it to the scientific community. The last resort is combining their brains so The Creature could express itself better. And throughout Igor and Inga prove their loyal friendship to Frankenstein, creating the strong bonds that keep him engrossed with his goals. The second level supporting characters or Frankenstein's fiancé and Frau Blucher enhance the story in what are considered minor scenes.

In black and white fashion *Young Frankenstein* upholds the classic artistry of shadows and light but with its colorful cast has a modern attitude. After the camera slightly zooms into the silhouette of a dark and daunting hilltop castle it slowly

pans its exterior walls into a room and then along a casket. This is usually used to create suspense and fear but here it causes laughter because it is just so long. And the evidence of this purposeful joke is what comes next; on the second try a man pries a box out of a skeleton's cold dead fingers.

Peter Boyle as The Creature had to rely on his limited body movement and simple facial expressions. There were many moments when with humor he had to make a connection with the audience. The acts of turning his face toward the camera and slightly rolling his eyes required an understanding of the script and anticipating how the audience would react at specific times. Whether just screaming out in pain, signaling disappointment or sadness, pretending to catch butterflies, or trying to sing with a locked jaw was enough to change the dull to memorable scenes. At the end Boyle successfully humanized his character from The Creature to a deformed man.

Terri Garr as Inga and Marty Feldman as Igor knew their characters were one dimensional in personality and purpose but they put the best of themselves to give life. The extra characters were to remain in the background but Madeline Kahn and Cloris Leachman were too good to allow it. They brought the story full circle.

The love for physical comedy is what makes *Young Frankenstein* such an adored film. Everyone is so expressive that there never is a need to question their underlying intentions while presenting a realistic humor within its fiction. Brooks' and Wilder's films are always meant to entertain the audience first and then let them think about its theme afterwards.

The message in every adaptation and original *Frankenstein* is serious and an immortal truth. Humans have a universal need to manipulate the world but it is the direction and of how far they go that must be checked before they have created a monster.

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### This year's Ray of Light Award honorees are:

#### Larissa Figari

Dental student

For her volunteer work on behalf of the families of Berivotra, Madagascar.

#### David Krause, Ph.D.

Distinguished Service Professor, Anatomical Sciences

For creating the Madagascar Ankizy Fund, to provide education and health care for the children of Madagascar and their families.

#### Sarah Schlegel, M.D.

Resident, Department of Pediatrics

For bringing a national early literacy program to three Stony Brook University pediatric satellite clinics; for creating the Pediatric Resident Educators; and for co-founding the Smile Network.

#### Chris Summers

Physician Assistant (Class of 2006)

For his international relief efforts, including providing emergency medical treatment to earthquake victims in Pakistan.

#### Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps

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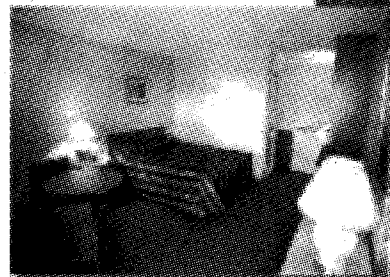
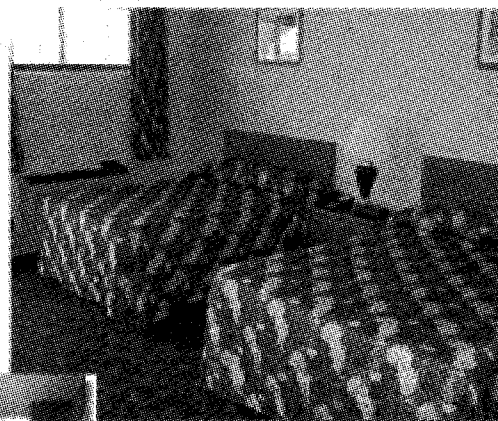
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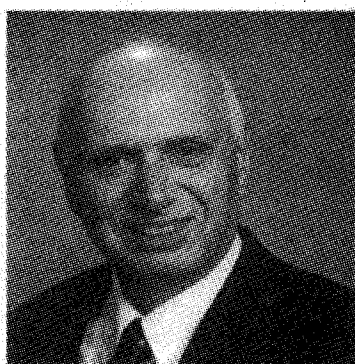
(Across from Harbor)

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## Russell for US Senate

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[www.RussellForSenate.org](http://www.RussellForSenate.org)

Paid for by Russell for Senate



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Brought to you by Campus Dining Services, the Faculty Student Association, Jasmine, and the University Bookstore.



# Seawolves Look to End of Season

Continued from page 20

their way up. He said that they'd needed to "step back, be realistic, and understand the long term goals."

In reference to the team's success, Priore said that they're taking it one week at a time, and weren't going to look at this Saturday's opponent, Robert Morris, until after the Sacred Heart game was over, despite the fact that Robert Morris is the only other undefeated team in the conference. When asked what the chances are of a perfect season, he said they haven't thought about that, and are taking it a week at a time.

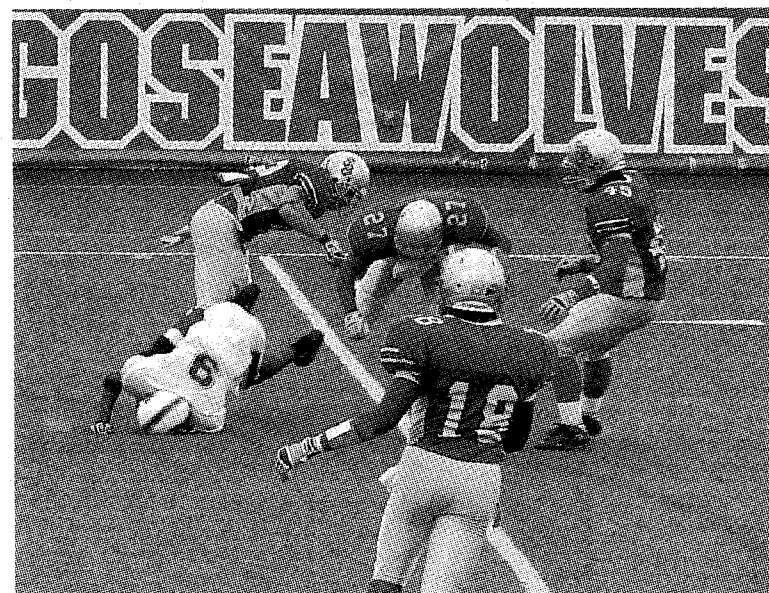
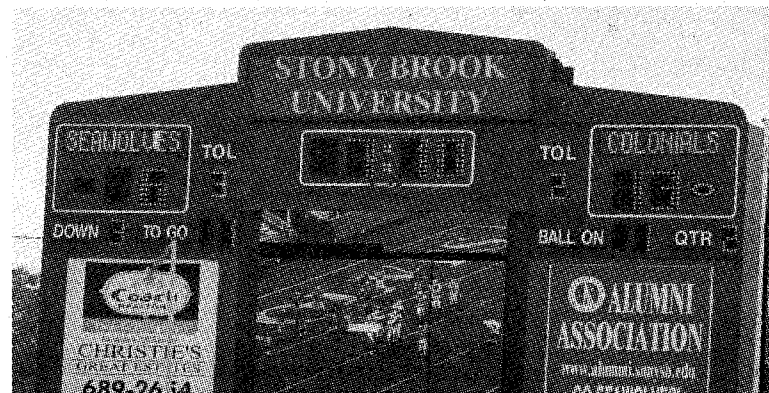
According to Priore, things haven't been too bad on the injury front. Defensive Lineman Tahir Messam had knee surgery during the preseason, and fellow DL Kyle Brown is to have knee surgery. Both are out

for the season. Aside from that, though, the team has stayed healthy.

As for his first year on the job, Priore's happy. He also spoke highly of the administration, including President Shirley Strum Kenny, and Athletic Director Jim Fiore.

The Seawolves appear to be a very promising team. They are the only undefeated team left in the conference. It is worth noting that Albany and Monmouth, two of the three one-loss teams, suffered their loss at the hands of Stony Brook. Robert Morris, which comes to LaValle Stadium this weekend, suffered their loss to Monmouth last week.

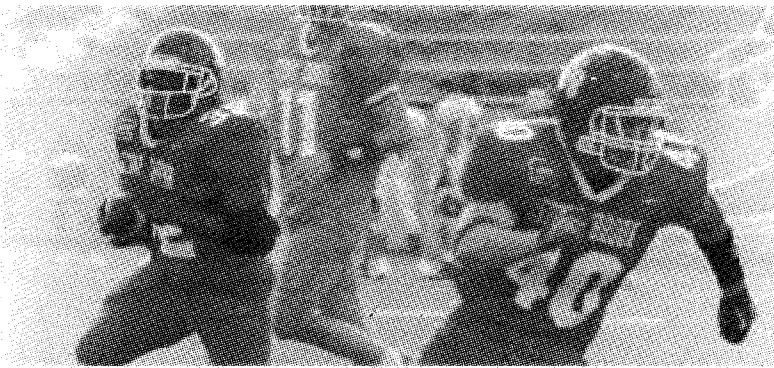
If they keep up their current performance, especially when it comes to taking care of the ball and making the big defensive plays, we just might see them in the postseason.



The Seawolves challenged Robert Morris but it wasn't enough for the win.

Photos by David Stevens / Statesman





# SPORTS

## Seawolves Cough Up Ball & Game Against Robert Morris

By WILL LAHTI  
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook Seawolves football team was defeated by the Robert Morris Colonials by a score of 21-6. The loss moved the two teams into a tie once again for the top record in the Northeast Conference. The game was played in terrible weather conditions, with strong winds, a wet field, and a fourth-quarter downpour.

Robert Morris struck first, with a 20 yard run by Brian Harden, to put the Colonials up 7-0. On the next possession, Stony Brook responded with a 48 yard pass from Josh Dudash to Lynell Suggs. However, Matt Weeks missed the PAT, and the Colonials retained the lead, 7-6. Along the way, Stony Brook had picked up their what would be their only fourth-down in 5 attempts, following a fake punt. Head Coach Chuck Priore said he was "scared" after calling that play.

Turnovers played a huge role in the outcome of the game. Robert Morris had a fumble lost and an interception, while SBU had 2 lost fumbles, 2 interceptions, and 4 turnovers on downs. Stony Brook's offense had a rough day as well, having committed 3 of the turnovers. Dudash completed 18 out of 36 passes, for 190 yards. Their special teams especially struggled. Aside from the missed field goal by Weeks, they averaged about 3 fewer yards per punt than Robert Morris, and about 7 fewer per kickoff.

Later in the second quarter, Priore chose not to punt on a fourth down at the RMU 36. The pass to Cosentino was incomplete. Priore said that the call was made in part

because the wind would be against the Colonials. On the ensuing drive, Robert Morris would pick up another touchdown, on a 1-yard run from Vince Magnone. The score would remain 14-6 going into halftime.

In the second half, Stony Brook seemed to have a sense of urgency, but they were unable to convert that into points. They also botched a punt return in which Stony Brook returner Dwayne Eley touched the ball, but didn't hold it. The Colonials' Jarvis Powers grabbed and downed the fumbled ball. That entire play seemed to be heading for trouble from the beginning, as the Seawolves were changing lines while Robert Morris was lining up to punt the ball, apparently due to some confusion about when a Colonial timeout would end.

The Seawolves were unable to crack into Colonial territory, and Robert Morris was able to put up another touchdown to make it 21-6. Throughout the rest of the game, the Seawolves played desperately, often choosing not to punt on fourth down. An intercepted pass from Dudash late in the fourth would seal their fate.

Dudash wouldn't make excuses about the loss, saying that "we made a lot of mistakes," and adding that throwing into the wind "wasn't a big deal." Priore said he "knew it would be tough," and reiterated that mistakes were their undoing. About the loss, he also said, rather philosophically, "Lightning bolts are critical in life and this lightning bolt will help us, meaning the shock of losing when you expect to win. You learn more from losing than winning if you handle it correctly and we will handle it correctly."

With the loss, Stony Brook drops to 4-1 in conference



Conte Contino runs a pass down the field. Bob O'Rourke / Athletics

play, and Robert Morris improves to 4-1. Monmouth and Albany both won, so the four teams are tied for first in the conference. Stony Brook's next game is at Wagner, which is winless in conference play. Kickoff is at 1PM, and the game can be heard on 90.1FM, WUSB.

## State of the Team: A Midseason Report on Football

By WILL LAHTI  
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook Seawolves football team has completed half of its conference schedule. They have been undefeated since starting conference play, despite having gone winless in non-conference play. They are also the only undefeated team remaining in the NEC.

Following the October 14 win against St. Francis, QB Josh Dudash and DE Corey Giddings were named the NEC's Offensive Player and Rookie of the Week, respectively.

On this, Head Coach Chuck Priore says they did a "nice job," but, like the rest of the team, must be sure to put that behind them to win on Saturday. He also mentioned how Dudash is getting more comfortable in the system, where he had been turning to the sideline constantly early in the season.

Following the Seawolves' victory over Sacred Heart, Giddings said he "would never [have thought about] anything like that," referring to his very productive past several games.

Priore credits the entire team for contributing to the

individual performances Stony Brook has seen recently. He said, "Corey [Giddings] picked up the fumbles but somebody caused the fumbles, Josh [Dudash] threw the passes but somebody caught them, Conte [Cuttino] and Steve [Austin] run with the ball but somebody blocks for them." He also credits the entire team for playing within the system, which he attributes greatly to their success.

He also attributes the team's success to their ability to get to, and take, the ball. They had a +10 turnover differential in the first four conference games, committing only three to the 13 of their opponents.

Priore had some things to say about the struggles the team went through in the non-conference portion of the season. He said that the team learned to practice and prepare better, as well getting them into a new system.

However, Priore says that he and the team "never look back until it's over." He also pointed out that the teams were "good competition," as they have a full complement of scholarships, and was well established, where SBU is only starting to offer football scholarships, and is working

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