

Spitzer's Budget Proposal Gives Higher Education a Boost

NYPIRG WANTS MORE CHANGE



A couple hundred miles away, the State legislature is debating Governor Spitzer's proposed executive budget.

Satellite Image from Google Earth

By SARAH KANTHARIA
Staff Writer

On January 31, 2007, Governor Eliot Spitzer proposed an executive budget of 120 billions dollars. The proposed budget tries to address the health, safety, environmental, educational and fiscal needs of the 19.3 million NY state residents by filling a 1.6 billion dollar deficit without tax increases.

Among the provisions of the budget is a 4.6% increase in higher education funding for SUNY and CUNY schools. This amounts to a 148.1 million dollar increase in aid to SUNY schools and a proportional 71.8 million dollars to CUNY schools. The budget proposal also recognizes community colleges as a responsibility of the state and allocates an additional 100 dollars per full time entry. This school budget increase comes without a corresponding tuition hike.

Cate Contino, Program Director of NYPIRG at SBU, says "this is the first student and family friendly executive budget proposal in 10 years." She continued to outline the benefits of the 2007-8 executive budget proposal, "with no tuition hikes, no cuts to financial aid and no cuts to opportunity programs, this is good for students."

For Stony Brook University, the executive budget higher education funding increase brings aid to its operational budget. This means more full time faculty, maintenance of buildings and general coverage of mandatory university expenses. A raise in the university operating budget provides SBU with more flexibility to give teaching adjuncts full time position, ultimately giving students greater accessibility to their professors.

The increase in state aid would help "keep the lights on and sidewalks clean," adds Contino. She

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U. Colorado Halts Grants to Children of Employees

By TEJAS GAWADE
Managing Editor

The University of Colorado Foundation has decided to hold off its scholarships to the dependents of its employees. The State enacted a law on Jan. 2 to instill such benefits and oppose State Constitutional Amendment 41, which prevented the disbursement of employee benefits.

According to the Rocky Mountain News, the provost of the University, Mark A. Heckler,

asked lawmakers to pass legislation to deal with the unintended consequences of Constitutional Amendment 41. The Amendment prevented public officials from accepting favors and barred public-university professors from accepting monetary rewards from Nobel Prize wins. It also barred state employee children from receiving dependent-specific scholarships.

In a lawsuit brought by the

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Killer Coke Campaign Looks to Expiring Contract in 2008

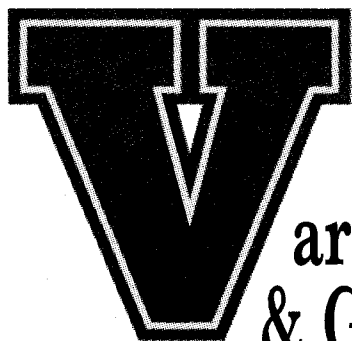
By ADAM PECK
Staff Writer

On Feb. 28, the Social Justice Alliance held an event to raise awareness for their Coca Cola campaign. With over 100 balloons to attract attention, a handful of members asked students passing by between classes to sign petition cards calling on the administration to refrain from renewing its contract with the Coca Cola Company when it expires in 2008.

Anita Halasz, one of the coordinators for the ongoing campaign, spent the morning before hand with a few other members fastening over 100 red balloons with campaign stickers to empty Coca Cola bottles. During campus lifetime, she along with about half a dozen other members of the Social Justice Alliance lined the path between the Student Activities Center and the Zebra Path with

Continued on page 3

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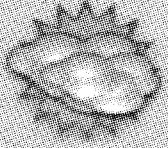
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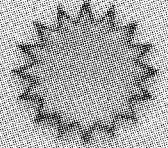
Student Forecast:

Mar. 5 - Mar. 11

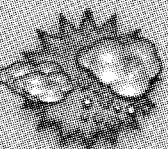
by Jamie Waller



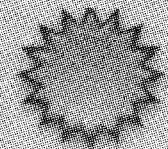
Monday:
High 38/Low 25
More clouds then sun.



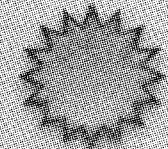
Tuesday:
High 27/Low 16
Mostly sunny but cold.



Wednesday:
High 25/Low 7
Increasing clouds with 50% chance of snow.



Thursday:
High 32/Low 10
Clear skies, sunny, still cold.



Friday:
High 32/Low 9
Mostly Sunny.



Saturday:
High 42/Low 25
Partly cloudy skies, increasing clouds P.M.



Sunday:
High 47/Low 32
Cloudy with scattered rain showers.

weekend

Behind the Numbers

The weather in our area has been fairly mild, thanks to a ridge of high pressure dominating our region. Unfortunately, temperatures will be dropping and reaching below average numbers (Average High 44, Low 28). The beginning of the week will be dry. Then a clipper system moving in from Canada will swing in on Wednesday, with a chance of snow on Wednesday afternoon. Once that system moves out, skies will be clear, but temperatures will not make it out of the upper 20's, and lows may reach the single digits. Conditions will improve by the weekend, as temperatures will rebound into the low to mid 40's. A week away and still uncertain, a low will move into the upper. Great Lakes and bring rain showers to our area on Sunday. Check back on Wednesday for a better outlook.



Expiring Coca-Cola contract may be an opening for the Coca-Cola campaign.
Courtesy of Jason Alegria/ SJA

SJA Focuses on Expiring Coca-Cola Contract in 2008, Administration Open to Change

Continued from page 1

the balloons.

"Students were taking very well to it, and agreed with the campaign and what we were saying," said Halasz on the reaction of the student body. SJA ended up with over 150 petition cards signed by student supporters.

The campaign has been bogged down in red tape of late, as the administration is reluctant to talk about the contract. But the hesitation is not necessarily due to disagreement over the charges made against Coca Cola.

"They haven't been opposed to [the campaign], but they haven't taken the initiative to support it either," says Halasz. "They haven't put in as much effort as we have, and there's no reason for it."

When asked why there was a seeming disconnect, Halasz remarked that there was a "large divide between students and the administration" which in

turn makes it "hard to tell the response of the administration because there hasn't been clear discussions."

The Coca Cola campaign is one of the largest campaigns run by the Social Justice Alliance; it has been ongoing since last year.

The campaign is seeking to end SB's exclusive contract with Coca Cola, citing human rights violations spanning the entire globe as grounds for denying Coke a new contract. SB is nearing the end of a ten-year contract dating back to 1998.

Currently, Coca Cola controls at least 90% of the shelf space on campus, and has exclusive vending rights as well.

The Social Justice Alliance will be following up this action by holding a discussion with Ray Rogers, the president of Corporate Campaign Inc. He will be discussing the Coca Cola Corporation's labor rights abuses on Mar. 7 during campus lifetime.

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NEWS

Colorado State Opposes Its Own Constitutional Amendment

Continued from page 1

Boettcher Foundation in Feb., a state judge ruled that the Foundation could grant scholarships to the dependent children of government employees because the criteria for the award was good grades and Colorado residency. The amendment permits gifts if it requires a future action, or a gesture in return on the part of the recipient. However, it is still unclear whether the state ruling will apply to the University Foundation.

The State University at Stony Brook is not dictated by any such amendment. However, children of employees benefit from scholarships reserved exclusively for members of the United University Professions, whose Benefit Trust Fund scholarship program awards \$500 scholarships for tuition, fees and books per semester. The award goes to any student who is enrolled in the University, is a dependent of a UUP member and has a C or better average (2.0 grade point average). A maximum of eight scholarships can be awarded per dependent child.

The local 614 chapter has also recently begun a scholarship program to award college grants to a member and the children of two others. This year the award went to Biju John, a member of the Physical Plant Department, who received the Phil Santella Scholarship.

The students who received awards included Marissa Sheryll, daughter of Margaret Sheryll, who works at the school of Health Technology and Medicine, and

Continued on page 7

Police Blotter

Feb. 28 - Mar. 2

Harrasment

Around 8:30AM on February 28th a harassment problem occurred in Hand College of Table Quad. No further issues occurred.

Suspicious Person

An unknown suspicious person was found near the Sports Complex around 9:20AM. The person was gone on police arrival.

Car Crunch

A hit and run car crash occurred on Lake Drive around noon on the 28th. There were no injuries and no further incidents.

Suspicious Person

Around 4:00 PM, a suspicious person was escorted from E Loop Rd to the University Hospital's Emergency Room.

Fire Alarm

Criminal Misconduct occurred in Harriman Hall around 5:20PM when a fire alarm was pulled. The Stony Brook Fire department was notified and responded and no further issues arose.

Stolen Items

Multiple accounts of both petit larceny and grand larceny occurred in the Prichard Gym in the Sports Complex around 9:00PM on March 1st. Items missing included \$80 and debit cards among other things.

Skateboarders

Skate Boarders were found on the inner courtyard of Roosevelt Quad around 9:30PM. All skaters were gone on police arrival.

Smoking Box

An in ground electrical box was found smoking on the Marburger Bike Path at 10:30PM on the 1st. A repair crew was notified and no further issues occurred.

COMPILED BY BEN HAYASHI

Inside

Just Who Are Those People on CSI?

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The Office of the Provost Presents Dr. Jonathan Farley

1967 - The Year of the Panther

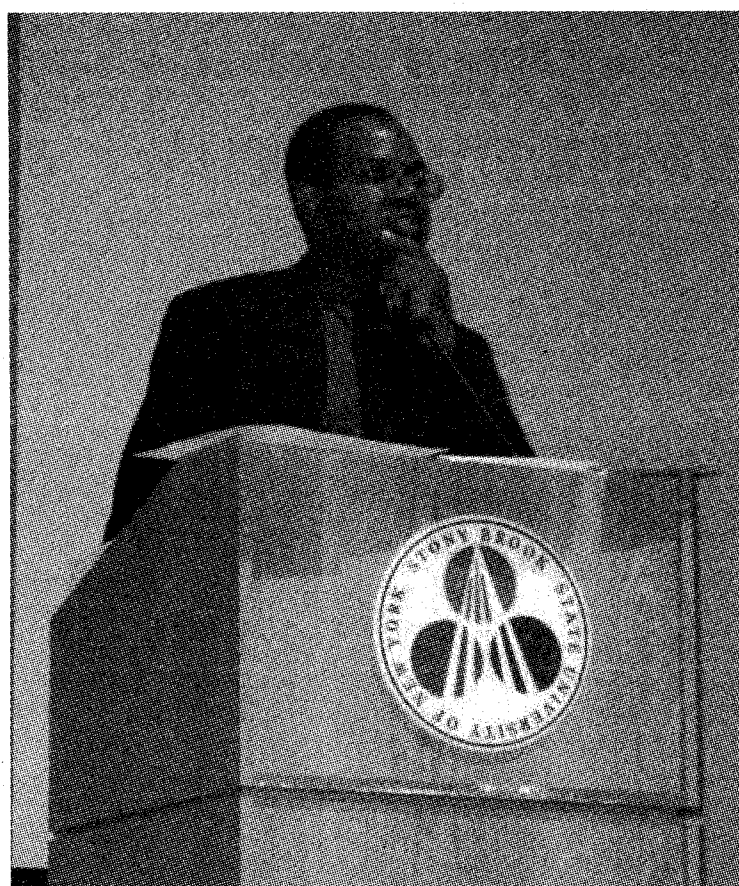
By JAMES FALLETTI
Staff Writer

In celebration of Black History Month, Stony Brook University's Office of the Provost hosted a series of Lectures; one of which was hosted by Dr. Jonathan Farley from the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at the University of West Indies. In what was a successful attempt to educate his audience, Dr. Farley lectured on the myths, stereotypes, and misconceptions of the noteworthy group The Black Panthers, appropriately addressed as, "1967 - The Year of the Panther."

"After 20 to 30 years of oppression and suppression, these false ideas of the Black Panthers still thrive throughout this country, and that's one of the reasons why I am standing here before you today," stated Dr. Farley during his lecture, preceding a detailed and touching opening statement pertaining to stories which are "full of holes" in black history - past and present.

With much enthusiasm about the topic, Dr. Farley spoke to each and every member of the audience with hopes of breaking down the barriers and misconceptions which many possess about the Black Panthers. From the look of everyone's facial expression as well as the respectable silence given during the presentation, it became obvious that Dr. Farley's passion and beliefs were not only touching everyone in the auditorium, but were about to embark on a bigger journey to ensure his success in getting his point across to a larger audience, the community.

Associate Provost and professor of African Studies here at SBU, Floris Barnett Cash, PhD, introduced Dr. Farley to the ensemble with a welcomed and



Johnathan Farley speaks out to the Stony Brook Community about the noteworthy group the Black Panthers.

James Falletti / Statesman

With much enthusiasm about the topic, Dr. Farley spoke with hopes of breaking down the barriers and misconceptions about the Black Panthers.

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Staff Profile of the Week

Marianna Savoca, Director of the Career Center



Courtesy of Marianna Savoca

By SONAL HARNEJA
Staff Writer

Not many people can say that they love their jobs. However, Marianna Savoca, director of the Career Center at Stony Brook begs to differ. She not only loves her job; she takes pride in helping SBU students find jobs and internships that they love, too.

The path to director of the Career Center has been an interesting one for Savoca. She was a work study student at Binghamton University and worked at the Student Career Developmental Center during her undergraduate years. She said laughing, "It happened to be the coolest thing around." It was then that Savoca realized her passion for helping others. She wanted to help students create their future. She said, "Whenever a student walks through that door, we do our 200% best to address their needs. That's why we are here."

Many students are unaware of the value of the Career Center until their senior year. Savoca realizes the tough task of getting students through the door earlier in their college career. She says, "We understand that thinking about life after college is intimidating. Most students aren't ready to think

about it, but we are here when you need us."

The Career Center offers many benefits for students throughout the school year. With their friendly, smiling, welcoming faces, the employees of the Career Center, including Savoca, are all about helping. Savoca added, "Our philosophy is pro-student. Our hope is for students to make connections with professionals to obtain internships and jobs."

Some of the services that the Career Center offers include the Career Contact Network, a database of 500+ SBU alumni and friends that want to help current SBU students. "Students should be taking advantage of this" Savoca said. Past events have included Job Shadowing that took place this past January, where students followed a professional around and got a chance to step into different work environments. The sold-out Etiquette Dinner was held this past week with 272 people in attendance. These attendees included students, faculty, mentors, alumni and even the Provost himself. Savoca believes that these types of events teach students how to be successful in a business/professional environment.

Upcoming events include the kick-off of Internship Week this week, where certain workshops have been set up for students. Each day this week, these workshops will provide information on how to obtain internships in many different fields, including government and public service, writing and media, health-care, and corporate industry. Internship Week culminates on Friday with Mock Interview Day with about 150 students. Savoca explained, "It's sort of like a speed dating format." Round tables will be set up with each table seating 5 students and 1 adult cor-

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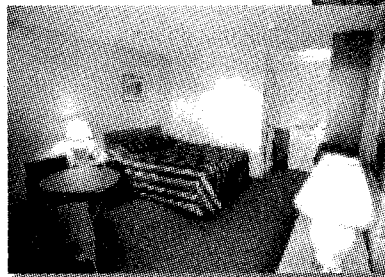
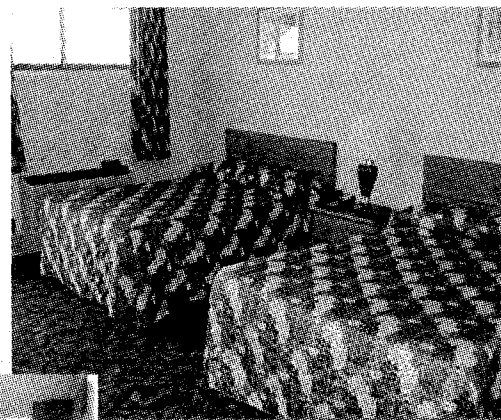
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According to Contino, although the executive budget is a "good first step, we can do more," there is space for improvement in the state budget's higher education tuition and financial aid components.

Continued from page 1

further explains that if this budget proposal is passed by the Senate, it will help SBU increase its services by "getting the little things done - it will address student needs."

According to Contino, although the executive budget is a "good first step, we can do more," there is space for improvement in the state budget's higher education tuition and financial aid components.

For example, as part of his executive budget proposal, Spitzer wants to create a higher education commission to develop an affordable, predictable, and rational state college tuition policy. This policy would entail automatic annual tuition increases. According to Contino, incoming students must handle a tuition rise that is set a price index and is locked for 4 years. She explains that, "the policy sets a floor for minimum tuition increase but no ceiling and no end. The tuition hikes can be potentially outrageous."

NYPIRG is also pushing for the state to fully fund TAP financial aid. The current system does not allow for mid-year TAP adjustments. TAP financial aid is allocated on a need-basis to students who maintain at least a C average, with family incomes less than 80,000 dollars and extends four years. Contino, judging from these guidelines, maintains that "the system cannot be abused."

Unlike students with federally subsidized Pell grants, most students with state-funded TAP aid who find themselves in emergent financial situations cannot appeal for more aid mid-year because of the existing eligibility requirements. According to a recent NYPIRG press release, "nearly 60% of full-time students statewide receive TAP." A student's current TAP aid is based on his or her FAFSA report from the previous year. Therefore, any drastic change in income will not be accounted for until the following year.

NYPIRG insists that adjustments to the state budgets are necessary so that "New York students [can] adjust their state financial aid awards just as they can at the federal level."

An additional NYPIRG reform platform targeting the state budget is TAP financial aid reform for graduate students. According to Contino, "graduate students are the workhorses of the SUNY education system. They are teaching assistants, adjuncts and do research."

The current TAP provisions for graduate students range between a minimum semester award of 75 dollars to a maximum award of 550 dollars and is limited to students who have an income below the 20,000 dollar ceiling. Contino insists that a "better funding mechanism for graduate TAP is needed." With the present job market saturated with recent college graduates, one needs at least a Master's degree to secure a reasonable position. "A baccalaureate degree is no longer enough!" exclaims Contino. According to NYPIRG, the state budget should be amended to provide more aid to the future NY workforce.

Ultimately, although the budget amendment process is "huge and complicated," says Contino, students should be "optimistic for a student and family friendly outcome."

The executive budget is proposed annually by the governor and sent to the Senate for debate along with the senate budget proposal, amendment and eventual approval. Among the promises set by Governor Spitzer is a timely approval of the state budget.

"NY has a 20 year history of late budgets," says Contino, "and all schools would benefit from a timely budget." She continued to explain that a budget passed on time would ensure that schools have the opportunity to appropriately outline and allocate their resources as soon as the fiscal year begins. This year's state budget is due on April 1.

Breaking Down the Barriers & Misconceptions about Black Panthers

Continued from page 5

distinguished honor. When asked about his thoughts as to having such a distinguished guest speaker lecture about the Black Panthers, he stated "It is important to comprise lectures at this caliber, not only for the students and the faculty, but for the entire Stony Brook Community."

Black History Month is celebrated throughout in the United States in the month of February. SBU's annual community-wide observance of Black History Month, coordinated by the Black History Month Planning Committee, includes panels, symposia, and lectures, as well as cultural and social events. It was only fitting that SBU Office of the Provost would assemble such a spectacular event, hosted by a man who by reputation believes in equality, respect, and education pertaining to the topic of Black History.

Professor Jonathan David Farley earned his A.B. with honors from Harvard University and won a Marshall Scholarship to study at Oxford where he earned his Ph.D. in Mathematics. Dr. Farley's work focusing on using mathematics to counter terrorist activities has been widely acclaimed. He is the recipient of Oxford's highest mathematics award, the Senior Mathematical Prize and Johnson Prize, and won the 2004 Harvard Foundation's Distinguished Scientist of the Year Award in recognition of outstanding achievements and contributions in the field of mathematics. Dr. Farley's work applying mathematics to counterterrorism has been profiled in "The Chronicle of Higher Education," "Science

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U. Colorado Halts Grants to Children of Employees

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Karissa Gropper, daughter of Catherine Gropper, who works in the Occupational Therapy Department.

In the Local's newsletter, the Local President Carlos Speight said, "We understand the high cost of education. That's a big burden. We don't make big dollars and we want to help fellow members along."

He added, "Many of [the] children [are] of public service workers, and we want our children to move onto professions."

Besides these scholarships, dependents of SUNY employees also benefit from the New York College Savings Program, which is available through a payroll deduction. Through this initiative, parents, grandparents, other relatives and friends of employees can set up a Tuition Savings Account for a future college student. The first \$5,000 invested each year is deducted from their income. All investment earnings are not subject to federal or state tax.

Marianna Savoca's Wish for the Futures of Stony Brook Students

Continued from page 5

porate representative. Savoca added, "In this way students get practice interviewing and getting feedback immediately. It helps students learn from each other." The goal for Internship Week, according to Savoca, is to give students access to as many opportunities as possible.

Marianna Savoca herself has a wish for SBU students who are just getting started in thinking about their future. "My wish is that students would do something. Do anything. Get some experience." She believes this is the first step students should take in making themselves more attractive to companies. She added, "In the end, all we want for the students here at Stony Brook is to graduate, be employable and be happy. That's all that matters."

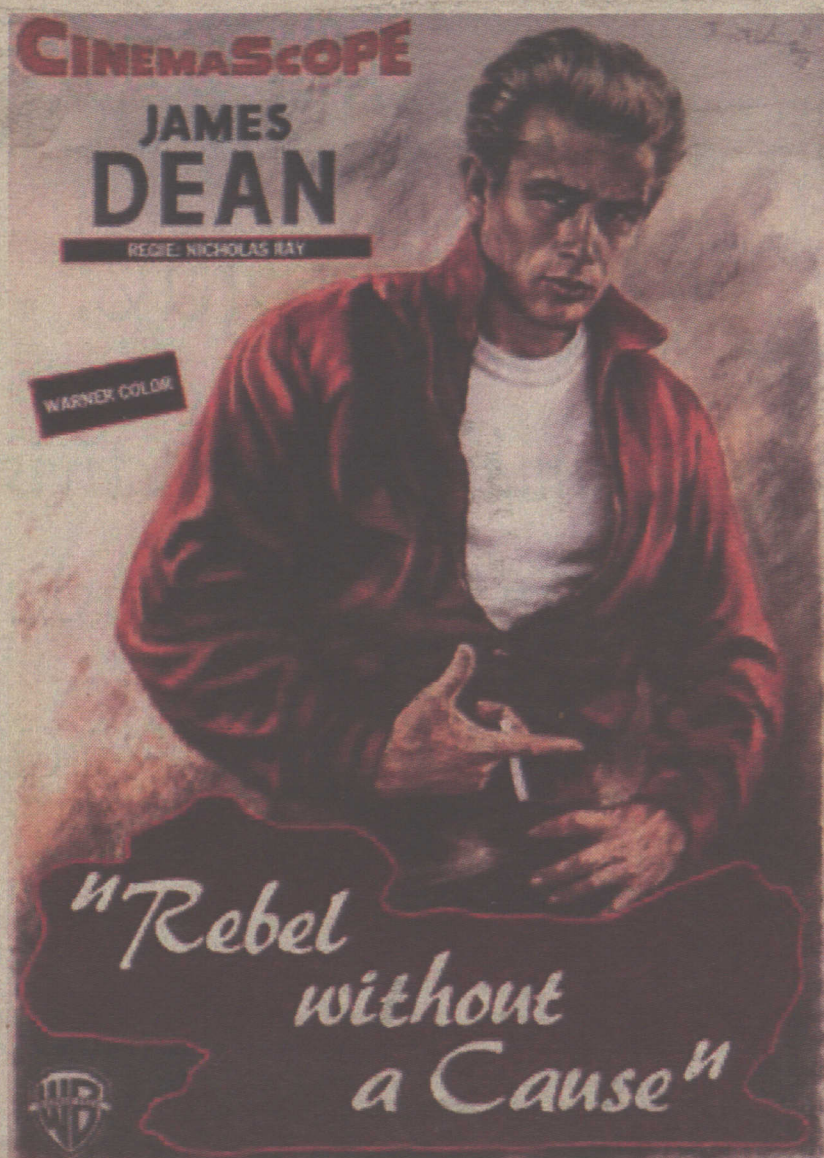
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REEL DEAL

REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE FOR THE TEENS OF EVERY ERA

By AMANDA SHAPIRO
Staff Writer

No one has been or ever will be able to escape the confusion, fun, torture, and drama of adolescence. Despite the commonality, each generation experiences it differently. The change in music, the political climate, the fashion, and the mov-

victims. Because their home-lives seem to be in shambles and the parents have lost their godly image, teens turn to their friends for influence while the loners are forced to figure it out on their own.

The three main characters each have a problem with their father. Judy wonders why her father isn't as affectionate to her as before. All she wants



Jim Stark and Plato prepare to play chicken.

Courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

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ies have made each generation of teenagers of the last 100 years unique. "Rebel Without a Cause" is a classic of the 1950s.

James Dean only had three starring roles before he died. His style of acting was emotional, expressive, and different. He captivated the youth of America. His co-star, Natalie Wood as Judy, took this as a turning point in her career into more complex roles and even better performances.

Color was a very important choice put to great use through clothing, makeup, set design, and locations. Green coats, fire engine red lipstick, the mansion's garden, and the sunset behind the observatory are just some examples. Just like Marie Antoinette of last November, "the whole movie is like an animated photo album."

The theme of "Rebel" was the dark side of suburbia's post-WWII teenagers of America. Without the fear of poverty, like the Great Depression and the draft, the teens of the time had to amuse themselves by dividing into bullies and

is his attention, which is why she acts out. Jim thinks very little of his father for not standing up for himself to the women of the household. Jim even found his father on the floor cleaning while wearing the mother's apron. John's ("Plato") father left him when he was very young and grew up without one. This left Plato with no set male influence and sees Jim as the father figure. When Jim, Judy, and Plato are hiding out in the mansion they are playing house.

Even though teenagers of all generations have the same emotions, "Rebel Without a Cause" does not resonate with those of later generations, especially the most current one. No longer are problems solved by playing Chicken or with switchblade fights. Unfortunately, problems are solved much more violently with more casualties.

If "Rebel Without a Cause" defined the 50's teen generation, the Breakfast Club and Brat Pack defined the 80's, then which movie has defined ours?

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, March 5, 2007

On The Stage: "Salvage"

Dystopia Wreaks Havoc at Lincoln Theater

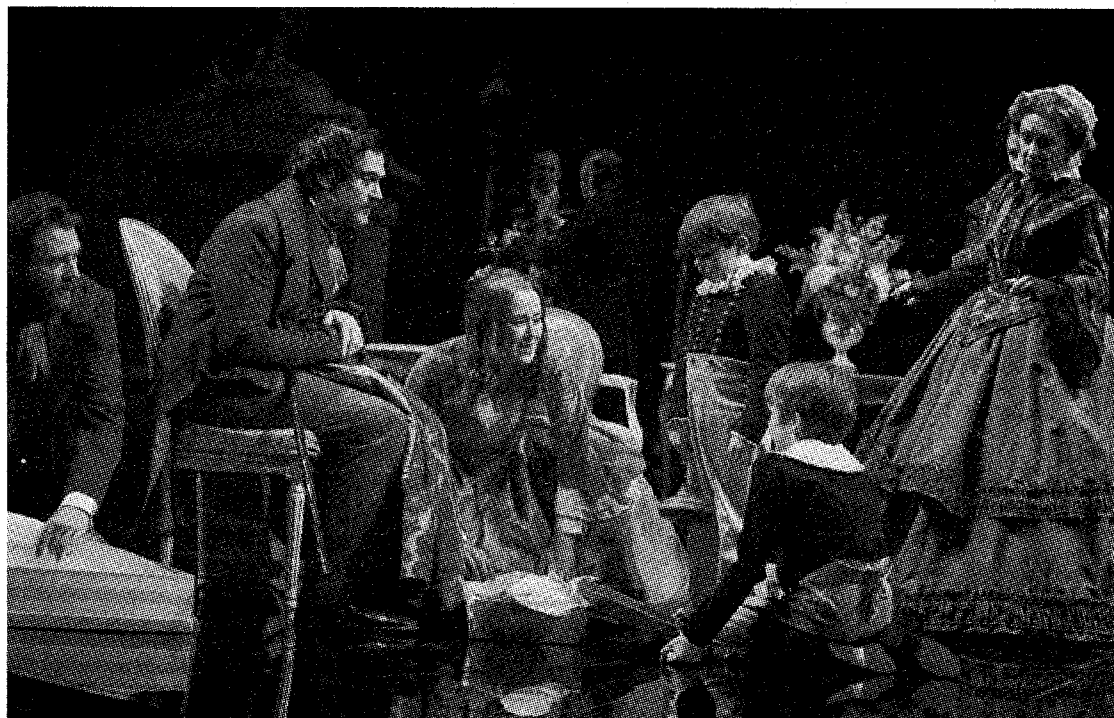
By TEJAS GAWADE
Managing Editor

This weekend I had the fortune of watching a play with a Theater Arts major. What I realized is that my knowledge of theater is embarrassingly minimal, and that I have been too fair to

historical period, the play is entertaining in the literal respect.

You will require an ample amount of patience because "Salvage" carves three decades into 2 hours and 30 minutes, which is too large of a period for the attention span of the average American viewer. Yet, it is sur-

because I feel drawn toward lines that one does not understand immediately, but needs to ruminate over with their theater pal. In the ending scene, Herzen says, "It takes wit and courage to make our way while our way is making us, with no consolation to count on but art and the summer



Jason Butler Harner, Billy Crudup, Jennifer Ehle, August Gladstone, Beckett Melville and Patricia Conolly.

Courtesy of Lincoln Theater

the plays I have reviewed in the past. To really appreciate or not appreciate, as is the case with the last few plays I watched, one has to uphold extremely high standards. Tom Stoppard's "Coast of Utopia" trilogy reinforces this particular notion so much so that it'll be quite some time before I see another play that can match this one's virtuosity.

The Lincoln Center is currently playing the third and concluding part of this trilogy, an artistic spectacle called "Salvage." The background is surprisingly archaic, filled with life stories of 19th-century Russian revolutionaries. Yet, the play easily appeals to the sensibilities of today's soap opera-watching audiences. Jack O'Brien has to be commended for his sheer ability to concentrate drama into a play that is spiced with racy narratives about the sexual histories of European aristocrats. More than simply an intellectual recollection of a moving

surprisingly easy to sit through this or even the eight hours of stage time that the trilogy offers altogether. This is probably because there is so much irony in the play that it will be hard to tear yourself away from your seat. The play is, after all, actually about dystopia.

Every scene establishes the futility of creating order, thus propagating the natural rule of chaos. The set supports this, as Bob Crowley and Scott Pask both succeed with historical objects like a crashed crystal chandelier and a rotting piano that are reminiscent of a chaotic Europe. O'Brien lays it out for you, for example, when a banner celebrating a political victory is used as a sleeping blanket for a young child. This shattering of audience expectations resonates throughout the play.

The trilogy's central-most character is the political theorist, Alexander Herzen, played by Brian F. O'Byrne. I found O'Byrne's delivery nearly perfect simply

lightning of personal happiness."

Set in England for the most part, "Salvage" collects various stories and winds them together for a timeless narrative. Herzen and his friend Nicholas Ogarev (Josh Hamilton) establish a subversive printing press and periodicals. In one instance, they shift households when they set up a sexual ménage through which Ogarev's wife, Natasha (Martha Plimpton) becomes Herzen's mistress.

The best part of "Salvage" is the character's ability to morph in front of our eyes, something that only lengthened trilogies can bring. The actors expertly reincarnate by playing a different role than the earlier installments. Any fan of "GATTACA" will be pleased to sight Ethan Hawke's Bakunin (the anarchist) as ever more obnoxious. Furthermore, the actors grow old to fill in any gaps created by transitions in the time period. Herzen's fixation on personal inconsistencies wors-

Stony Brook in Vogue:

Human Rights Activists (and Fashionistas)...

THIS ONE'S FOR YOU

By AMY DRAGANI
Staff Writer

Last month, the fashion capitals around the world boomed with new designs for the fall 2007 fashion weeks. New York's Mercedes Benz Fashion Week was the home to the runway shows of Tommy Hilfiger, Evisu, Anne Klein, Ralph Lauren, and many more. On Feb. 9 at the Roseland Ballroom, a new chapter in fashion history was made with the "Designs for Darfur" fashion event in which almost 100 American designers came together to help raise funds and awareness on behalf on the Save Darfur Coalition.

The designs strutted down the runway on celebrity models like Carol Alt and Iman as well as other heavy-hitters of the fashion business, including Designs for Darfur co-founder Lydia Hearst.

The common denominator for the designs was class and femininity. Several designers boasted long gowns and deep colors. Shorter length dresses of light chiffon and delicate satin stood out boldly in yellow and red. This combination of "hard and soft" is fantastic because it doesn't necessarily identify with one season. Deep colors suggest evenings.

There were a few men's designs presented in the show fea-

turing clean-cut suits and boyish sweaters. The trend, as it was with the women's collection, was sophisticated and flattering. The designs were contemporary mixed with neat and noticeable fashion which complimented the beauty of the feminine silhouettes of the ladies' designs.

"Designs for Darfur" was created by designer Malcolm Harris and model Lydia Hearst-Shaw. According to savedarfur.com, Malcolm Harris said, "I want to get on a soapbox to make the world see that [the genocide in Darfur] is real and it is happening. I will do everything I can to help." EBay held an auction following the fashion show. All of the proceeds went to the Save Darfur Coalition.

Truth be told, I had some difficulty this week deciding what to write this column about. I was going through the Fashion Week wrap-ups and came upon endless photos from the "Designs for Darfur" show and it won my heart in seconds. This is an event that took place during one of the biggest social and cultural events that New York holds and it was orchestrated and executed to aid those in dire need. Almost 100 designers came together with their specially-designed pieces to combine beauty with humanism. As if I needed another reason to love fashion.

ens, as he portrays a physique that ages with more refinement with the play's progression.

The beauty of watching "Salvage" is that it can stand on its own. Both "Voyage" and "Shipwrecked" are considered to be more artful and tasteful versions of "Salvage" (al-

though this opinion is that of my theater buddy because I have not seen these). But after watching "Salvage," there is no doubt in my mind to work my way backwards in this trilogy.

"Salvage" is playing at the Vivian Beaumont Theater in Lincoln Center.

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

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

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WHO WE ARE

The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Suelian" 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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Students Must Lobby to Improve State Based Financial Assistance

With Apr. 1 as the deadline for the approval of an amended version of the executive and senate state budget, students still have a lot of time to try and make a difference. As students, we have the opportunity and the responsibility to be actively involved with the issues that affect us.

An additional \$148 million dollars being spread across the SUNY educational system is a lot of money. And we will likely see the benefits of the higher education budget increase, if it is passed, in the smoothness of daily operations at Stony Brook University. However, the state budget can still be amended to benefit students even more.

If we want to see our tuition costs remain steady, or if we want to see a more practical financial aid system that accounts for real-life financial emergencies, we should be the ones fighting for it.

We could all easily complain to our friends and professors about what we perceive as the injustices of the state higher education sys-

tem. Complaint, however, doesn't engender change.

Students inspired to get involved in the budget process have the Stony Brook chapter of NYPIRG at their disposal. Found in the basement of the Student Union, NYPIRG gives students the opportunity to participate in letter-writing drives, lobbying events and outreaches to the local media and to our state representatives.

As SUNY Stony Brook Day at Albany quickly approaches, students should be inspired to make the trip and lobby with NYPIRG for favorable changes to the state budget. This is the chance for students to extend their hands into the politics that directly changes their educational experience.

Students also have the opportunity, through NYPIRG, to speak with State Senator John Flanagan and State Assemblyman Steven Englebright about ways to improve state based financial aid, thus help our state representatives renew their own efforts to effectively represent us on the issues that matter most.

Keith Ellison A Target of Growing Muslim Intolerance

By ZUBARIA IRAM
Contributing Writer

During the past few years, religious prejudice, especially towards the religion of Islam, has escalated rapidly, gaining momentum each time the events of Sept. 11 are dredged up from the recent recesses of people's memories, or whenever the increasing death toll of American soldiers in Iraq is brought to their attention.

This has established a film of obscurity over people's judgment because the majority of the American non-Muslim population condemns the worshipers of this faith and many have even labeled them as active practitioners of terrorism.

Among many other Muslims, the newly-elected congressman Keith Ellison has faced an enormous amount of controversy and outrage from the American population who are infuriated by

the Muslim congressman's decision to use Koran in the informal oath-taking ceremony which took place in January.

Keith Ellison, the first Muslim to serve in the U.S. Congress, was elected by his constituents in Minnesota who were not unaware of his religious affiliation. There are, however, people outside of his constituency who have not hesitated to voice their opinions about Ellison's decision to use the Koran on the floor of the House of Representatives. Among these individuals is Dennis Prager, whose comments have been irrational and excessive. Prager claims, "He [Keith Ellison] should not be allowed to do so - not because of any American hostility to the Koran, but because the act undermines American civilization."

This, however, is incongruous with the history of this na-

Response to Letter, Understanding "Campus Cash"

By ROMUAL JEAN-BAPTISTE
USG President

To the Editor,

Response to Understanding "Campus Cash" published 03/01/07.

It is very sad when one takes position on an issue they themselves are not informed of and does not seek to investigate and ask questions in order to gain accurate facts regarding the issue. It is even sadder when that person deliberately takes it upon himself to educate others of his lack of information.

In the 03/01/07 issue of the "Stony Brook Statesman", one of our own has committed this act of deliberate misinformation. Please allow me to provide you the facts, so you may no longer be misinformed: What is "Campus cash"? The Laundry Vending debit account is being renamed "Campus Cash" by the Faculty Student Association (FSA). Other than the use for laundry purposes, "Campus Cash" can be used in some printing machines (HSC Library) and is starting to be accepted in snack machines in the Union Lobby. This is simply an expansion of the laundry account. Therefore, your ID card now has three distinct accounts, your meal plan (if you have one), your bookstore account (if you possess one) and "Campus Cash."

What is the Off-Campus Debit Account? Final administrative approval to conduct an experimental plan with off campus vendors to accept "Campus Cash" was obtained on the 18th of December and equipment was immediately ordered. An agreement was signed with Dominos (10% discount on all but 5-5-5 and 7-7-7 specials). An agreement was also reached with Subway's (10% discount). These vendors did not offer this discount prior to the signed agreements.

The experimental program will begin as soon as the equipment arrives and is tested (expected to be sooner than later). Marketing materials have been prepared by the FSA and are ready for release in order to inform students. We thank Kevin Kelly, Karol Gray and the FSA Board of Directors for all their hard work and dedication to this project. The plan is to expand this program in the near future.

The expansion plans goes beyond adding more vendors to the list of approved vendors,

it also includes the ability of students to utilize their financial aide awards in order to fund their "Campus Cash" account, just like the book store account. I hope I have provided ample information regarding this Off-Campus Debit Account and "Campus Cash".

Please feel free to email at rjeanbaptiste@notes.cc.sunysb.edu or contact me at 631-632-9667 or even show up to the USG suite at SAC 202 if you would like to gain more information or ask me any questions regarding this or anything else. I have spent many months working with the FSA to come up with some significant manner to give us the students of Stony Brook University more choices in regards to food options, specifically having the option to enjoy off-campus dining.

With many ups and downs and compromises being made by both sides, this current Off-Campus Debit Account plan was reached with the potential to be more beneficial to us than one can imagine. I would encourage all students to take part of this experimental program if possible, because the greater benefits of the Off-Campus Debit Account depends on the success of this current experimental phase. If me spending my entire summer months here on campus in order to start conversations that were necessary to come about an off-campus debit account and all of its future benefits and to address other student life concerns was "wasted effort of time and energy...", then I'm guilty as charged.

If understanding that as president of the student body I need to advocate for student needs and also understanding when to compromise and not to compromise while not burning bridges with the administrators that are essential in helping to bring about change and reform to campus life is "wasted effort of time and energy..." I am again guilty as charged.

All of us are attending Stony Brook University, which speaks greatly of our level of education and critical thinking skills. Please, my fellow students, seek to be properly informed and most importantly do not let others deceive you.

Sincerely Yours,
Romual Jean-Baptiste
USG President
(Your Chief Servant)

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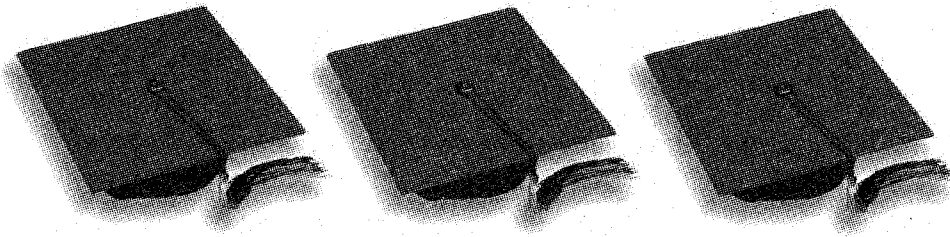
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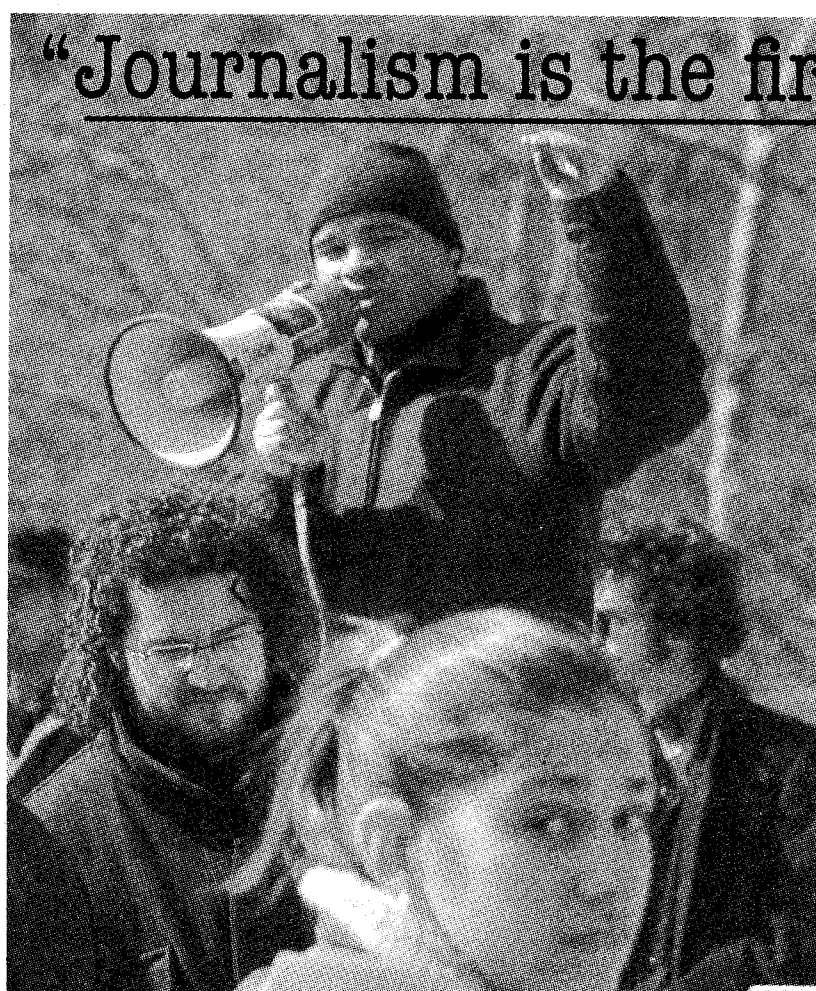
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"Students staging a protest against the war in Iraq," Spring 2005, *Statesman*

Keith Ellison Continued...

Continued from page 11

tion. Among the first people to arrive on the American mainland and set up a colony were the Pilgrims, who had been persecuted in England for their religious beliefs, which were not in unity with the Church of England. These Pilgrims with separatist beliefs escaped the coercion of a religion in which they had no faith and came to North America in order to practice their freedom of religion.

A somewhat different, but nevertheless, similar situation arose with the Puritans who also came to North America due to religious differences and intolerance they faced in England. The foundation of the emerging nation was the unity among people with different beliefs. The American civilization has for centuries been based upon principles of freedom.

This later led to the establishment of the First Amendment in the U.S. Constitution, which allows unprohibited exercise of any religion of choice. Some have argued that all elected officials in the history of this nation have either affirmed their allegiance to the Constitution or have taken an oath on the Bible. They are intolerable of the minor change inflicted on the history of the swearing-in ceremony.

Prager shares this point of view and states, "If you are incapable of taking an oath on that book [Bible], don't serve in Congress." Such statements undermine the

freedom of religion granted to U.S. citizens by its Constitution, and the act of forcing a religion on an individual is unconstitutional.

In the past, men have placed their hand on the Bible to take an oath because they have believed in the contents of that book. If Ellison is forced to put his hand on the Bible, in which he has no faith, the entire purpose of the oath-taking ceremony would be wasted. A person's oath gains credibility if he swears by something that he holds to be the ultimate truth and sacred.

Therefore, it is obvious that Keith Ellison should place his hand on the Koran, which would increase the integrity of his promise to uphold his support for the Constitution of this nation. Using a Koran for a swearing-in ceremony does not mean that a person will not perform to the utmost of his abilities compared to a man who uses a Bible to take his oath.

The United States is a symbol of freedom, and allowing Keith Ellison to take an oath over Koran is a testament to that fact, which was established long ago by the forefathers of this nation. This act is not to initiate the "Islamization of America" as feared by some individuals; instead, it is to strengthen the legacy of its Constitutional powers. Those who choose to disagree with this matter are simply restricted from understanding the basic principles of this country due to bias and inconsequential hatred.

Women's Hoops Wins Regular Season Finale

Continued from page 15

ing in the second half.

Prior to the start of the game the Seawolves recognized the seven seniors, Sabrina Thompson, Inbar Orion, Farah Vasquez-Jacobo, Leah Getz, Kelly Watson, Mykeema Ford and Jessica Smith, on the Stony Brook women's basketball team.

Smith scored 16 points, had seven steals, and was named America East co-player of the game for the second straight game. Ford had 15 points, 11 of which came in the second half. Dana Ferraro had a double-double with 13 points and 10 rebounds. Getz also added 13 points.

Despite the poor shooting in the second half, Underwood was still the game's high scorer with 21 points and was named America east co-player of the game for Maine.

The Seawolves' next game is this Friday at the Events Center in Birmingham when they will square off against UMBC in the America East tournament.

Men's Lacrosse Beats Harvard 13-8

Continued from page 15

players scored in the victory. They also had only one penalty to Harvard's three. The Seawolf defense was strong as well, with Brendan Callahan making a career-high 23 saves. Harvard was able to clear the ball almost every time, unlike SB, but was unable to make much of those opportunities.

Head Coach Rick Sowell was "very happy" with the win, his first as the team's new head coach. He described this as a "key game," as last year the team started with a very similar schedule, and went 0-4 to begin the season, including a close loss to Harvard.

The Seawolves travel to Colorado to face Denver this Saturday. The game begins at 1:30PM.

Black Panther Stereotypes...

Continued from page 7

News Online," "The Economist," "USA Today," on "Fox News," and on Air America Radio. He is Chief Scientist of Phoenix Mathematics, Inc., a company that develops mathematical solutions to homeland security-related problems. distinguished honor. When asked about his thoughts as to having such a distinguished guest speaker lecture about the Black Panthers, he stated "It is important to comprise lectures at this caliber, not only for the students and the faculty, but for the entire Stony Brook Community."

Black History Month is celebrated throughout in the United States in the month of February. SBU's annual community-wide observance of Black History Month, coordinated by the Black History Month Planning Committee, includes panels, symposia, and lectures, as well as cultural and social events. It was only fitting that SBU Office of the Provost would assemble such a spectacular event, hosted by a man who by reputation believes in equality, respect, and education pertaining to the topic of Black History.

Professor Jonathan David Farley earned his A.B. with honors from Harvard University and won a Marshall Scholarship to study at Oxford where he earned his Ph.D. in Mathematics. Dr. Farley's work focusing on using mathematics to counter terrorist activities has been widely acclaimed. He is the recipient of Oxford's highest mathematics award, the Senior Mathematical Prize and Johnson Prize, and won the 2004 Harvard Foundation's Distinguished Scientist of the Year Award in recognition of outstanding achievements and contributions in the field of mathematics. Dr. Farley's work applying mathematics to counterterrorism has been profiled in "The Chronicle of Higher Education," "Science News Online," "The Economist," "USA Today," on "Fox News," and on Air America Radio. He is Chief Scientist of Phoenix Mathematics, Inc., a company that develops mathematical solutions to homeland security-related problems.

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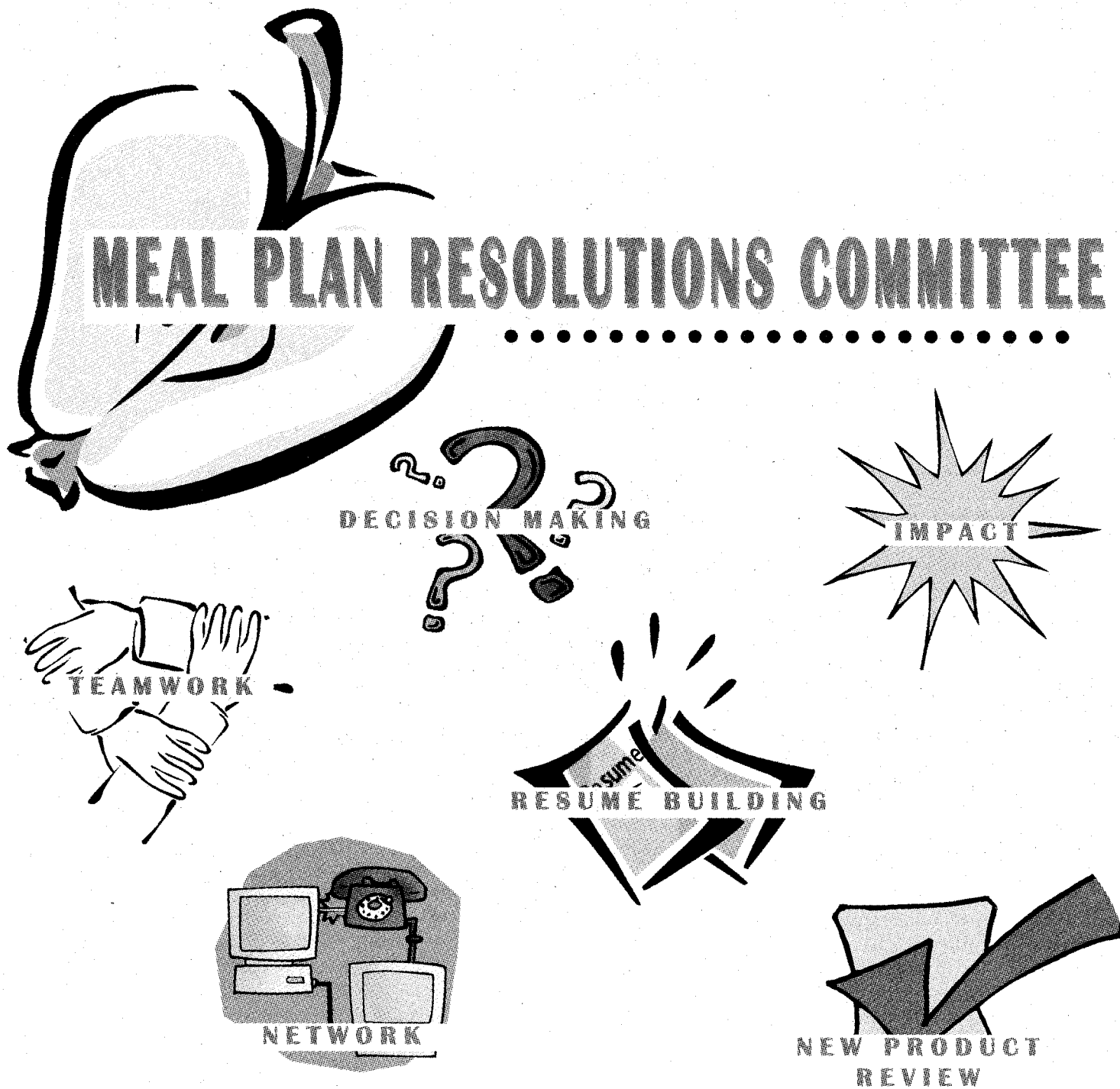
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Women's Hoops Wins Finale

Continued from page 16

Following a similar trend as of late, the Seawolves fell behind to the opposition early on in the contest and then was able to rally together in the second half and take home the win.

With the victory the Seawolves' overall record improved to 18-10, and 14-2 in conference play. The 18 wins this season sets a new school record for America East wins which was previously 14, and the 14-2 record in conference play gave the Seawolves a second place finish in the conference standings. The loss dropped Maine to 13-14 overall, 7-9 in the conference.

"This team showed a lot of resiliency this season and tonight was no different," said head coach Maura McHugh. "We got a full team effort and I'm proud to see the seniors go out on a high note at home."

From the opening whistle to the closing whistle of the first half Maine appeared to be in control of the game. The team went 5-7 from behind the three point line, and shot 60 percent (12-20) from the field. The offensive onslaught gave Maine a 37-27 lead going into halftime.

Ashley Underwood had as perfect a first half as a player can

have as she led all scorers with 18 points. She went 4-4 from the field, all of which were three-pointers, and 6-6 from the foul line. Senior Jessica Smith led the Seawolves in scoring at the intermission with eight points.

Within the first ten minutes of the second half the Seawolves displayed a passion to win that was nonexistent in the first twenty minutes of the game. Stony Brook capped off an 18-7 run in the first 9:11 of the half to take a 45-44 lead, their first of the game. Smith concluded the run with a mid-range jumpshot that put the Seawolves ahead.

The hot shooting of Maine died off as the team collectively only made six field goals in the entire half. The Seawolves extended their lead to seventeen with around six minutes to play in the game, and then held on to win 67-56.

Defense was Stony Brook's biggest weapon in their victory over Maine, and has been the team's biggest weapon over their last fifteen games. The Seawolves forced 29 turnovers during the game. Stony Brook also outscored Maine 40-19 and held their leading scorer, Underwood, to just three points on 1-8 shoot-

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Men's Lacrosse Gets First Win

Continued from page 16

wolves broke it open in the second, and never looked back.

Harvard drew first blood, with Greg Cohen scoring 1 minute into the game. Stony Brook scored a pair of goals to make it 2-1. Harvard responded with 2 of their own, to which SB answered with 2, to close out the quarter up 4-3. In the second, SB scored 3 more goals, to finish a 5-0 run. Harvard was able to get one shortly before halftime, to make the score 7-4 at the break.

The intermission didn't seem to break the Seawolves' momentum, as they opened the half with 3 unanswered goals. Harvard got 2, but Sean Chamberlain scored his second goal of the quarter to make it 11-6 with one quarter to play. With an assist in the second, he finished the day with 3 points. In the fourth, each team scored 2 goals, and Stony Brook was able to pick up their first win.

Stony Brook was led in scoring by Ryan Hughes. The junior midfielder had 3 goals and 2 assists. In total, 9 different SB

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Women's Basketball over Albany Wed.

Continued from page 16

figures on Wednesday night. With the victory the Seawolves overall record improved to 17-10 and 13-2 in conference play, while the loss dropped Albany's record to 8-20, 4-11. The win was the Seawolves sixth straight and 13th win in their last 14 contests.

"We came out of the gates slow once again and turned the ball over too many times," said head coach Maura McHugh. "Jessica was terrific for us in the second half and I am pleased with how we recovered from our slow start and stepped up the defense intensity."

Albany opened the game aggressively, and, as a result, they took an early 16-7 lead with 12:15 left in the first half. Charity Iromuanya nailed a three pointer with a little over eight minutes left in the half to put the Great Danes ahead, 21-11. Following a timeout, the Seawolves took the court with an intensity that had been missing from their play for the first 12 minutes of the game. With their passionate play on the defensive end of the court, the Seawolves were able to cut Albany's lead in half.

Mykeema Ford sank a jump shot with 4:26 to play in the half which made the score 26-21. Over the next four minutes of play the Seawolves went on a 6-1 run to close out the half. This run was capped off by Morgan Patrick's jumper from the key, which gave

SB a 28-27 lead going into the intermission.

For the first 10 minutes of the second half the teams traded baskets and momentum as it appeared that neither squad could create any separation from the opposition. SB took a two point lead at 39-37 after a Dana Ferraro layup with 14:47 left in the contest. However, on the ensuing possession the Great Danes, Sherri Mikus hit a shot from the paint that knotted the game at 39. With 4:43 showing on the clock, the Seawolves took a 58-54 lead following a Ferraro bucket.

A little over two minutes later the Seawolves took their biggest lead of the game, seven points, when Ford hit a pull-up jumper which virtually secured the victory. SB held on to their lead and won the game 67-61.

Smith was named America East co-player of the game for her performance. She had a game-high 21 points and 13 rebounds. Ford scored 16 and Leah Getz added 13 to the Seawolves' total. Iromuanya scored a team-high 17 and was named America East co-player of the game for Albany.

SB's next game is schedule for this Saturday, Mar. 3, when they will be facing off against Maine in the regular season finale. The seven seniors on the team will be honored prior to the game for their commitment to the team and the school over the past four years.

Men's Basketball Loses Tourney Game

Continued from page 16

shot by Hartford's Bo Taylor, following a turnover by Mitchell Beauford. Stony Brook blew a huge lead, having been up by 19 points with only 15:10 to play. They went the last 16:40 without a single field goal. Stony Brook finishes the season 9-20.

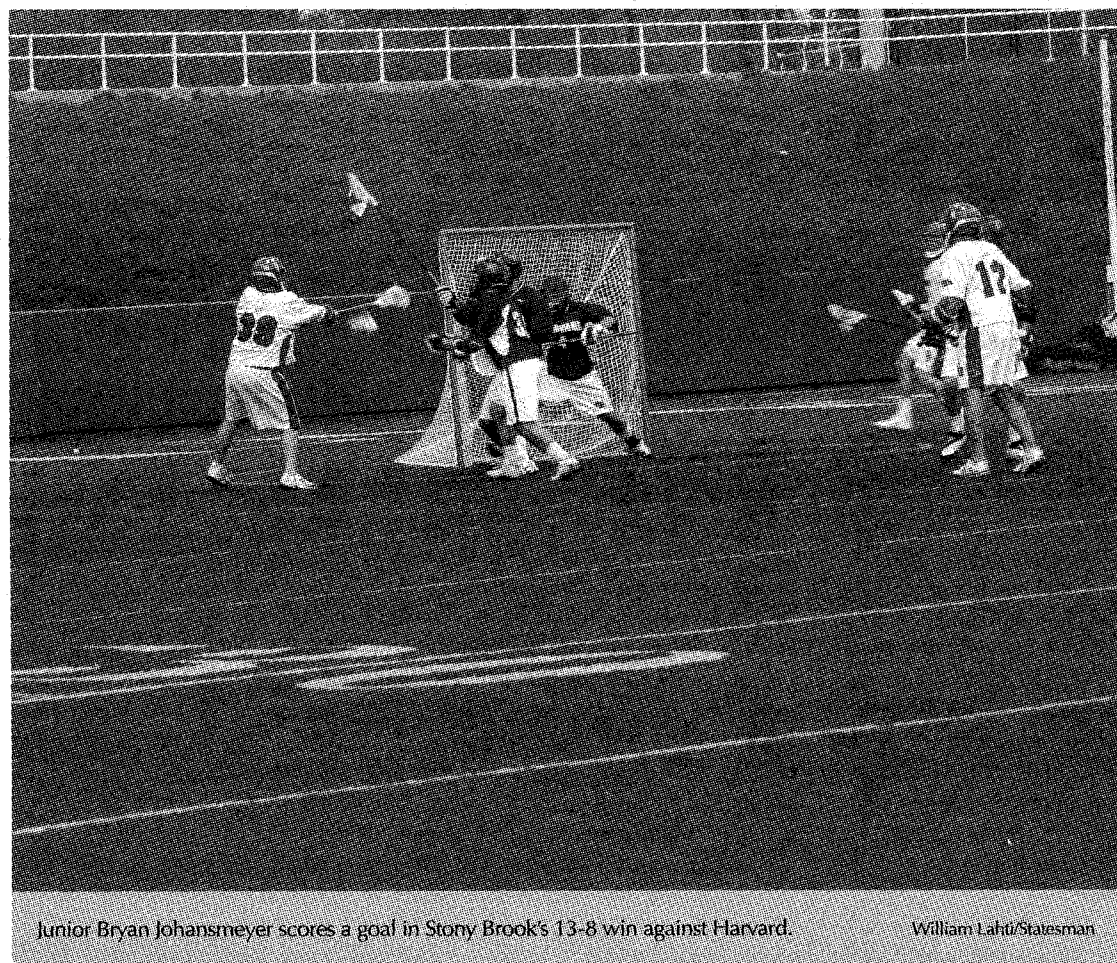
The game had a very promising start for Stony Brook, with the Seawolves taking an immediate lead. The closest Hartford got in the first half was 2, about halfway through. Stony Brook would continue to pull away, and lead 34-17 at halftime.

Going into the second half, SB's lead fluctuated, getting as low as 13 just under 2 minutes in, but they pulled it back out to 19. From then on, though, Hartford would shut them down, with the Seawolves only being

able to score on the occasional free throw for the rest of the game. Jaret Von Rosenberg and Joe Zeglinski stepped up their offensive play, and Hartford was able to close the gap, and tie it up at 47 with 1:26 to play. Mitchell Beauford missed a jumper with 59 seconds left. Hartford got the rebound, but Solomon Bamiro stole it back with :40 to play. Beauford lost the ball, and Bo Taylor was able to steal the win for Hartford at the last second.

Mike Popoko was the only Seawolf with double-digit points, getting 11 points. He also had 11 rebounds, the most for Stony Brook. No other SB player managed more than 7 points. Hartford had one player with 23 points, and another with 10. Hartford also had 3 players with at least 36 minutes of court time, where SB had nobody break 30.

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, March 5, 2007



Junior Bryan Johansmeyer scores a goal in Stony Brook's 13-8 win against Harvard.

William Lahti/Statesman



Statesman SPORTS

Women's Basketball Finishes Regular Season with a Win

By JOSH SEIDMAN
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook women's basketball team emerged victorious in their regular season finale against Maine, 67-56. The win was the team's 14th in their last 15 contests. For the senior players of the squad this game most likely marked the final time they will play at the Stony Brook University Arena.

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Men's Lacrosse Wins Against Harvard

By WILLIAM LAHTI
Sports Editor

The Stony Brook Seawolves Men's Lacrosse team defeated the Harvard Crimson by a score of 13-8. Stony Brook improves its record to 13-8 with the win. Stony Brook's offense dominated the game, having gotten off 50 shots. The game had gone back-and-forth during the first quarter, but the Sea-

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Senior goalkeeper Jen Sandtorv had 8 saves and 4 goals against in Stony Brook's blowout win. Vilan Trub/Statesman

Women's Lacrosse Blows Out Lehigh

SEAWOLF SETS SCHOOL RECORD IN WIN

By SHONTO OLANDER
Staff Writer

Stony Brook, NY- In just their second game of the season, the Seawolves jumped out to any early lead and never looked back, delivering a 22-4 beat-down on visiting Lehigh. Wednesday's contest saw Amy Taylor, Jenna Celano and Sam Strebel each net four goals. The team's defense was also impressive, holding Lehigh to only 15 shots in the contest.

Senior Carlee Buck scored a goal and dished out 5 assists,

bringing her career assist total to 103, an SB record. Buck led an offense that saw 11 players record at least one point- 10 of them scoring at least a goal.

The Seawolves got off to a quick start when reigning America East Rookie of the Year, Kaitlin Leggio, scored only 57 seconds into the contest. Coming off a 5-point performance in SB's 11-10 season opener against Colgate, she now has 7 points in just 2 games.

Following Leggio's early goal, the Seawolves would jump out

to a 5-0 lead off a Taylor goal at the 18:46 mark. Lehigh would attempt to comeback with 4 goals, but still trailed the Seawolves 9-4 at the end of the half.

The second half saw an even more dominant performance from the Seawolves. The team scored 13 unanswered goals and blanked out Lehigh, who managed only 5 shots and no goals.

SB continues their 3-game home stand this Sunday, Mar. 4 against Brown, and a week later, on Mar. 11, in a home game against Denver.

Women's Basketball Tops Albany for Sixth Straight Win

By JOSH SEIDMAN
Staff Writer

After a slow start to the game, the Stony Brook women's basketball team came roaring back in the second half to defeat Albany 67-61. Jessica Smith scored 11 of her game-high 21 points in the second half, giving the Seawolves the offensive firepower they needed to overcome a first half double digit deficit.

Smith was one of three Seawolves who scored in double

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Men's Basketball Out Of Tournament

By WILLIAM LAHTI
Sports Editor

The Stony Brook Seawolves Men's Basketball team lost their America East Tournament game by a score of 49-47, ending their difficult 2006-2007 season. They were seeded #9, having finished last in the conference, and were facing the #8 Hartford Hawks for the right to take on #1 Vermont on Saturday. Vermont beat Hartford, 81-62. The loss came on a buzzer-beating jump

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