

## The Advising Center Makes Itself Over

By VICTORIA MUNOZ  
Contributing Writer

The Academic and Pre-Professional Advising Center at Stony Brook is currently revamping its services to students. The new advising structure creates a network of academic advising units that will offer more personalized attention and efficient communication of information to students.

As of this year, specialized advising will be offered to all freshmen within their respective undergraduate colleges and to transfer students at the Transfer Office. Special academic programs like Educational Opportunity Program/Advancement on Individual Merit (EOP/AIM), the Honors College, Women in Science and Engineering (WISE), and Freshman Learning Communities will also operate individual advising units.

Beginning in their sophomore year, students will report to the Advising Center for career and degree-related counseling. This includes pre-law or pre-health advising, guidance in choosing a career path and major, satisfying degree requirements, finding internships and study abroad opportunities. For further degree-related advising, students might also contact the advising units in the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Business, the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, as well as the individual major and minor departments.

According to Dr. Richard Gatteau, Director of Academic and Pre-Professional Advising at Stony Brook, the Advising Center will now function as an "overarching umbrella" to provide training and communication of information to all of these advising units. Dr. Gatteau reports that one of the Center's most crucial roles and greatest challenges is

Continued on page 3



Daisy Gomez, freshman, does her schoolwork in her tripled dormitory bedroom.

Yi-Jin Yu / Statesman

## Disappearing Marshes at Jamaica Bay

By ANA MARIA RIVERA  
Staff Writer

The disappearance of salt marshes in Jamaica Bay, located at the Gateway National Recreation Area, has led many researchers, including Stony Brook University's Waste Management Institute, to track the causes and consequences of the damage.

According to the Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan Advisory Committee's assessment on the marshes, released on August 2, 2007, between 1924 and 1999 more than 50 percent of the marshes vanished. Researchers suggest the remaining marsh lands will disappear by 2024. The Department of Environmental Conservation estimated that if the loss continues at the rate of 44 acres per year

Continued on page 5

## Crowded Students Stuck in Cramped Dorms

By PARIJA SHAREDALAL  
Contributing Writer

With over 2500 new students enrolled this year, Stony Brook University is once again facing some well expected, but familiar problems with overcrowding. Similar to the congestion they have to face in the classrooms; many incoming students are forced to triple in a room made for two.

Stony Brook University promises housing to all the students as long as they pay their housing deposit by May first. As a result, and with more and more students wanting to live on campus, the housing situation worsens every year. In an attempt to fight the spilling population, Stony Brook is in process of constructing new buildings in the west apartments as well as in the locality of Kelly/Roosevelt with total of over 950 beds.

Although students seemed pretty relaxed about their housing and the lack of space, it is their parents who were anything but happy. Alicia Arso, RA of Gershwin College, Roth, said "It's more the parents who complained." Alicia has heard complaints from parents about everything from the room size to the number of people their child will be sharing the room with.

"All the students understand it," said Arso. "They knew of the situation beforehand." In fact, many students want to stick with their current housing situation. "I wouldn't mind continuing to be tripled, I love my roommates," said Jesse Oney, who is tripled in Roosevelt, Wagner. "Seriously, they're amazing."

"You are getting closer with two people rather than one," said Alicia.

Oney who is double major-

ing in Journalism and Middle Eastern Studies said that the biggest challenge she faced in her tripled room was the closet space. "It is difficult to find enough space for everything," she said. But overall Oney found the space exceeding her expectations. "Really I thought it would be much more cramped and much less enjoyable," she said.

For first year biology major Nidhi Shah, the first thing that came to her mind when she saw the room was the size. "I didn't know how we are all going to fit our stuff," Nidhi said. "But we managed."

"So far, so good. I actually like my roommates and they are more friends than anything, so it has been as really good experience," said Shah. "Every once in a while we trip over each other but laugh it

Continued on page 3



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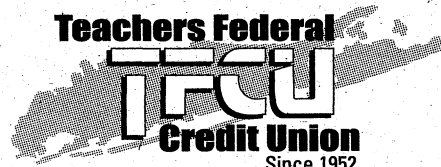
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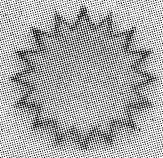
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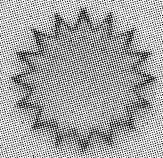


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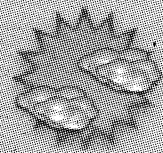
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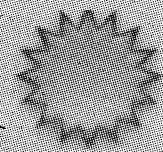
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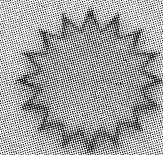
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Sunny



**Saturday:**  
High 79/Low 63  
Partly Cloudy



**Sunday:**  
High 74/Low 56  
Sunny



**Monday:**  
High 73/Low 58  
Sunny



**Tuesday:**  
High 75/Low 63  
Mostly Sunny



**Wednesday:**  
High 76/Low 61  
Scattered T-Storms

Courtesy of  
weather.com

# Advising Center Expanded for Freshman Students

Continued from page 1

to effectively communicate with students about new policies, deadlines, programs, events and opportunities available to them. Stony Brook hopes that the decentralization of advising into more specific categorical units will help to combat confusion and unawareness of valuable resources available to students.

Some of these resources provided by the Advising Center include special events and information sessions. For example, on September 26th, the Advising Center will host Academic Advising Day in order to promote the services that it offers to Stony Brook students. Also, the Advising Center sponsors academic major events, which allow students undecided about their major to meet with faculty from various academic departments.

The second component of

Stony Brook's plan to improve undergraduate advising is to expand its advising staff in order to better accommodate the university's large undergraduate community. The Advising Center has increased its staff from six to nine advisors, and is currently in the process of hiring six more, in the hopes of developing more one-on-one relationships with students.

As a further effort to revolutionize advising at Stony Brook, all advisors will now be required to undergo a certification course that will train university staff to be better equipped to counsel students as they make important career decisions. The university hopes that this course will improve the manner and content of academic and pre-professional advising at Stony Brook.

Academic advising is a valuable but often under-utilized resource available to Stony Brook

students. Dr. Gatteau hopes that these changes will help to foster a more close-knit relationship between students and the Advising Center and to make the services offered by the Center more easily accessible to the entire undergraduate population. He believes that the undergraduate colleges, improved advising, and the freshman 101 seminars will allow students to become well oriented with the University and to make informed decisions about their futures.

"Our goal is for students to be academically successful and to graduate in a timely manner. If we can be more proactive about our communication, we hope students will take advantage of the opportunities available to them, be it internships or jobs, whatever they can do to follow a roadmap that they create for themselves along the way to a successful career," Dr. Gatteau said.

## Freshman Triples

Continued from page 1

off," Nidhi added.

Tiffany Huang, whose room at home is much bigger, said that "For three rooms and three people, it is really small space."

"My head hits the ceiling some times," complained Tiffany, a first year computer science major. "But if they lower them, then we don't have the space to put stuff."

Besides the triples, there are 120 transfer students who are temporarily placed in lounges. "It's transfers in the lounges and they are going to be the first to be reassigned," said Alicia. "They don't really tell us much."

**"My head hits  
the ceiling  
some times, but  
if they lower  
them, then we  
don't have the  
space to put  
stuff."**

- Tiffany Huang, freshman

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# Inside

## Police Blotter

Sept. 13th-17th

### Larceny

Around 6:30PM, a room in West Apartments was found holding over 90DVD's, 15 Play Station 2's, 2 Video Games, 1 Knife Set, and 1 George Forman Grill. All items appeared to be stolen.

### BMX Bikers

Five male BMX bikers were found near the Computer Science Building around 5:00PM on September 13th. All bikers were transported to Police Headquarters, issued warnings and released to parents/guardians.

### Gunshots

A report was made in Kelly Quad of possible gunshots around 12:22AM on the 17th. Area was patrolled by police and all appeared to be in order.

### Keyed Car

A car in the South Parking lot was found with all of its doors keyed around 12:20PM on the 16th.

### Barbeque

Around Schick College around 6:40PM on the 13th, 12 individuals were found having a barbeque. Warnings were issued by the police for improper use.

### Trespassing

On the 5th level of the University Hospital, a room appeared to be trespassed around 8:10AM on September 14th. Property was found damaged, though nothing appeared to be stolen.

### Car Accident

A small motor vehicle accident occurred in the Health Science Center Parking Garage around 3:50PM on the 14th. Owners of both cars declined to make reports.

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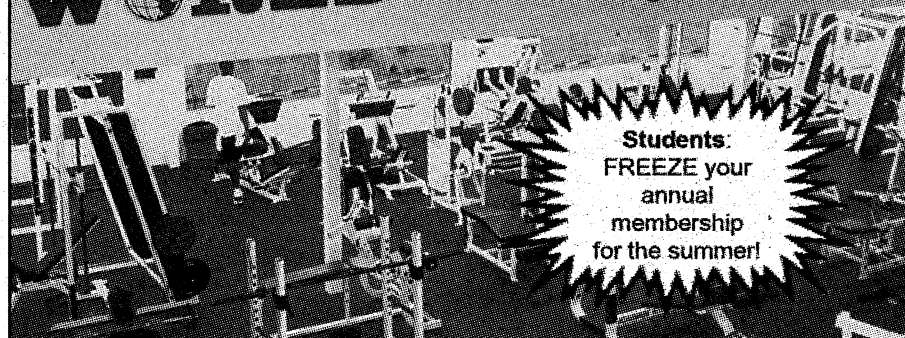
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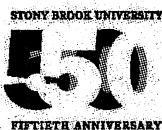
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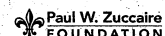
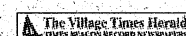
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# Marshes at Jamaica Bay Threatened

Continued from page 1

the marsh lands could be gone.

This damage will result in the loss of more than 80 fish species, and disrupt the habitat of many endangered species, such as the Atlantic Ridley sea turtle and peregrine falcons. There are also many places in the bay where people cannot swim because of the poor water quality.

In July 2005, Mayor Michael Bloomberg signed Local Law 71, which required the Department of Environmental Protection to develop a plan to save the marshes. This resulted in the development of the Advisory Committee. Included in the research are the National Park Service and the Natural Resource Defense Council. The Waste Management Institute at SBU was appointed by the New York city council and the mayor's office to analyze research conducted over the years and to make recommendations to improve Jamaica Bay.

Larry Swanson, the director of the Waste Reduction & Management Institute, said a series of factors can contribute to the destruction of the marshes. This includes an excess amount of nitrogen, storm-water pollutants and human actions. The amount of nitrogen can "stimulate hypoxic conditions," Swanson said. In other words there will be too little oxygen in the water.

This condition is the result of wastewater processing at sewage treat-

ment plants. The assessment stated that the plants release more than 250 million gallons of treated wastewater into the bay every day. This wastewater contains 30 to 40 thousand pounds of nitrogen each day, which according to the Advisory Committee is "far too much nitrogen for the bay to assimilate."

Research shows nitrogen can create an environment where a surplus of organic matter in the water will boost the growth of algae which in turn decreases oxygen levels. When the oxygen level falls extremely low any marine life that cannot swim away will ultimately die.

Human influence on the disappearance of the marshes can be attributed to the development of infrastructures to accommodate residential, commercial and transportation needs. These new developments contribute to the changes in the physical structure of the bay. The assessment states that the construction of JFK decreased the surface area of the marshes by 18 square kilometers.

"Other than the physical damage occurring it is not clear which is the main cause of losing wetlands," Swanson said. However, there have been recommendations as to how to stop future damage. One way to decrease the loss is to design a treatment plant to handle storm water.

Currently, the treatment plants handle a volume of sewage that is greater than what the plant can actu-

ally treat. According to the assessment, there are areas that separate storm and sanitary sewers where wastewater goes to the plants and storm water is sent directly to the bay. The problem is that storm water contains pollutants. The goal is to treat both wastewater and storm water.

The Advisory Committee said increasing the system's wet weather holding and system maintenance will decrease pollutants and will result in cleaner water with a decrease in organic matter. The committee also said cleaning out sewer lines will enhance the storage capacity. There have also been plans made to remove nitrogen by spraying basis, but there is not enough proof to determine whether this idea will work.

Swanson said the damage that is caused by hydrodynamics is "over and done with." However, he believes there can be steps taken to eliminate further change. "...might not be able to stop wetland loss, but might be able to treat it," Swanson said. In some cases, Swanson said, there might be a way to change the dynamics back. If nitrogen could be delivered to another location or treated, the problem would be eliminated or "die off."

According to the assessment, more than 25 governmental agencies have "jurisdictional" responsibilities in Jamaica Bay, but the programs are insufficient and the funding and structure dedicated to them was found lacking.

## RE: Campus Media and the USG

Continued from page 1 (Nathan Shapiro)

In this article, however, you decided that basic journalist precept wasn't worth your effort. As a journalist, you are supposed investigate a topic thoroughly before you published, not uncover half the story and go to print. You did only half the work, but ran the article anyway. It was lazy and unprofessional. You have certainly lost this reader's faith in the veracity of your future reports by undermining my respect for your methods.

Respectfully,  
Nathan Shapiro

Continued from page 1 (Jonathan Hirst)

the article is factual. If it is not, and it continues to be such, I will speak with other papers. The Statesman is far from the only game in town. I have also said that we do make mistakes, as USG officials, and if we do, we should be called on it. Just make sure the facts are right. That's all we ask.

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## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

# Rufus Wainwright

## Artist Scoop:



Courtesy of Universal Music Group

BY MAUREEN HINE  
Asst. Arts and Entertainment Editor

Over the last 40 years, music has made a drastic change from innocent lyrics about good-night kisses and romantic evenings to vulgar expressions about sex, drugs and money. In this day and age, it is easy to produce a hit song with a catchy beat that sounds similar to every other club banger song you hear on the radio. True talent, however, is found in artists who can reinvent themselves and who hold an appreciation for the generation of artists that once inspired them.

Rufus Wainwright released his self titled debut album "Rufus Wainwright" in May of '98, and his popularity has been growing ever since. In June of 2006, Wainwright proved that he still has an undeniable talent as both a composer and a lyricist by paying tribute to a legend he once worshiped as a kid.

On a hot summer night in June, backed by a 36-piece orchestra,

Wainwright performed just as Judy Garland had in her legendary 1961 concert at Carnegie Hall. Playing the exact same set as Garland, Wainwright thrilled the audience with his smooth voice, sometimes appearing on stage in drag. Lorna Luft, Garland's daughter, also made an appearance during the concert in a duet with Wainwright singing, "After You've Gone."

"I'm trying to think of it as my continuing education in how to be a legend," Wainwright told fans in response to his two sold out concerts.

Wainwright is certainly proving himself to be worthy of the title with sold out concerts and the successful release of his latest album, "Release the Stars." It is entertainers like Rufus that give hope to the music industry and future artists. Rufus will be performing his last Judy Garland concert this Sunday, Sept. 23 at the Hollywood Bowl in California. If you have the money, or a free plane ticket, I suggest making the trip.



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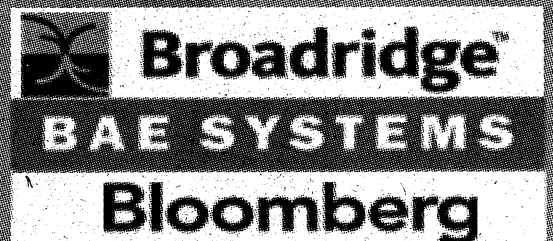
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## Do Your Pull-Ups

Continued from page 15

to swing with the towel. Don't be a pendulum.

### Finger Pull-ups

Before you attempt this variation, you'd better make sure you don't have any jammed or broken fingers. Instead of using all five fingers of each hand to grasp the bar (or four fingers and one thumb, depending on how you look at it), try using less. For example, try using four, three, or two fingers on each hand to pull yourself up. You can even use one finger per hand if you're feeling like a stud. Use your thumbs as well. Everyone can always use stronger hands.

These are but some of the many variations of pull-ups that exist in the realm of fitness and physical training. Give one or two of them a shot during your next trip to the gym and I am sure you will agree that, although they are tough, the rewards gained by doing them will compensate for their difficulty.

# In Defense of A-Rod

Continued from page 15

the media (I will exclude myself until after the publication of this sure-fire Pulitzer contender). My thought was So what? What's the big deal?

A-Rod was skewered in the media for this and more. But A-Rod is someone we can look to in a more positive light than some of our other sports heroes. According to Ric Bucher who covers the NBA for ESPN, the American sports icon of our time Michael Jordan, routinely treated teammates badly. He had a "zealotry for winning" that made him "cutthroat and brazen." The reason many people love him and don't know about that side of him is because he had a "polish and personal veneer" that helped him hide it. Kobe Bryant, the heir to MJ's throne, put himself in a terrible situation and was tried for sexual assault. Ray Lewis, one of the most dominant players in football, was tried for murder. Barry Bonds, the all-time home run champion, has a head the size of a baby elephant. Fourteen years into his career when most

players should be on the down swing Barry Bonds went from 49 to 73 home runs in a season, and subsequently has been accused of steroid allegations from many different angles.

A-Rod has his issues but so do a lot of people. He is the man who, like it or not, baseball is hoping will become the new all-time home run king. He is 32 years old and has averaged 43 home runs a year in his full seasons in the majors. At this pace and barring injury (he has stayed relatively injury free his entire career) he would break whatever Bonds record ends up being sometime in 2013 or 2014 at age 38 or 39. He would most likely still be putting up great numbers, albeit on the downside of his own career.

"A-Haters" think that in this day and age, A-Rod could be a steroid user as well. I guess you've got me there. A-Rod has gone from 190 pounds his rookie year to 210 pounds this year. The problem is that he has gained 20 pounds in 14 years of prime weight gaining territory. Be sure to query any of your esteemed professors as to their weight in their first year of

college compared to their early 30's. Changes occur; natural and gradual ones, but changes nonetheless. Compare that to Barry Bonds. The authors of *Game of Shadows*, the book that shed light on Barry Bonds' steroids use said that "Most attributed the changes in Bonds body to a heavy workout regimen, as though a 34-year-old man could gain 15 pounds of muscle in 100 days without drugs."

More fodder for "A-Haters" is that in the postseason he has not produced. I present Exhibit A: Peyton Manning. For years he was bashed because he couldn't lead his team to a Super Bowl win. Like A-Rod, Manning had good postseason games and bad ones, but people focused on the negative. Now Manning, for all intents and purposes, is a big performer in the clutch. Now he is validated.

This season Rodriguez has performed like someone ready to take his regular season game to the penthouse that is postseason baseball. A-Rod has come to the plate 68 times in the 7th inning or later when the Yankees are

within one run of their opponent. In those plate appearances, Rodriguez is hitting .328, has a .412 on base percentage, and has 6 home runs and 19 RBI. In 46 ninth inning at bats, Rodriguez is batting .447 with 8 home runs and 20 RBI. He also has four game-winning walk off hits, two of them home runs. Anything to say "A-Haters"? That's what I thought.

Last time I checked this was America. We like entertainment, we like talent, and we like winners. We don't continuously kill a guy because he cares what people think or say about him. Sure he makes \$250 million but he's human. Even if you were rich it would probably irk you to open up the paper and read my scathing take on your sub par performance at work yesterday. So here's the thing. A-Rod will shatter Barry Bonds' tainted record whether we nestle him to our collective bosom or not. I just think we might as well root for him. It's the American Way. And in this world climate, that's just as unpopular as defending him anyway.

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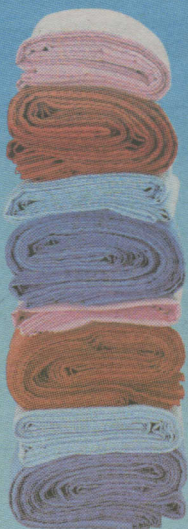
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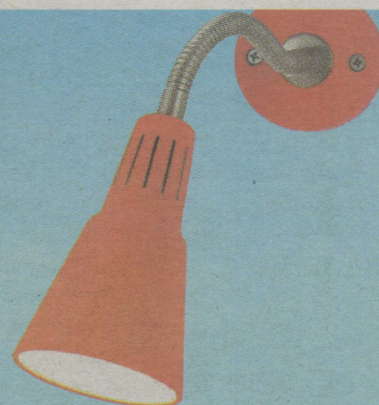
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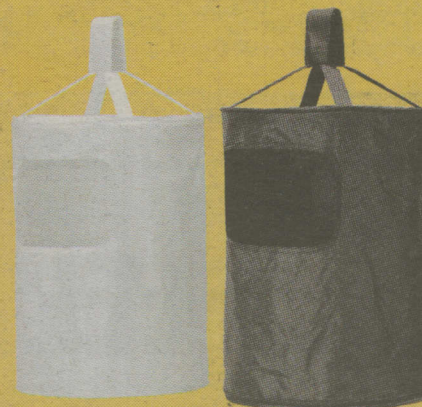
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Photos by Lynn Hsieh





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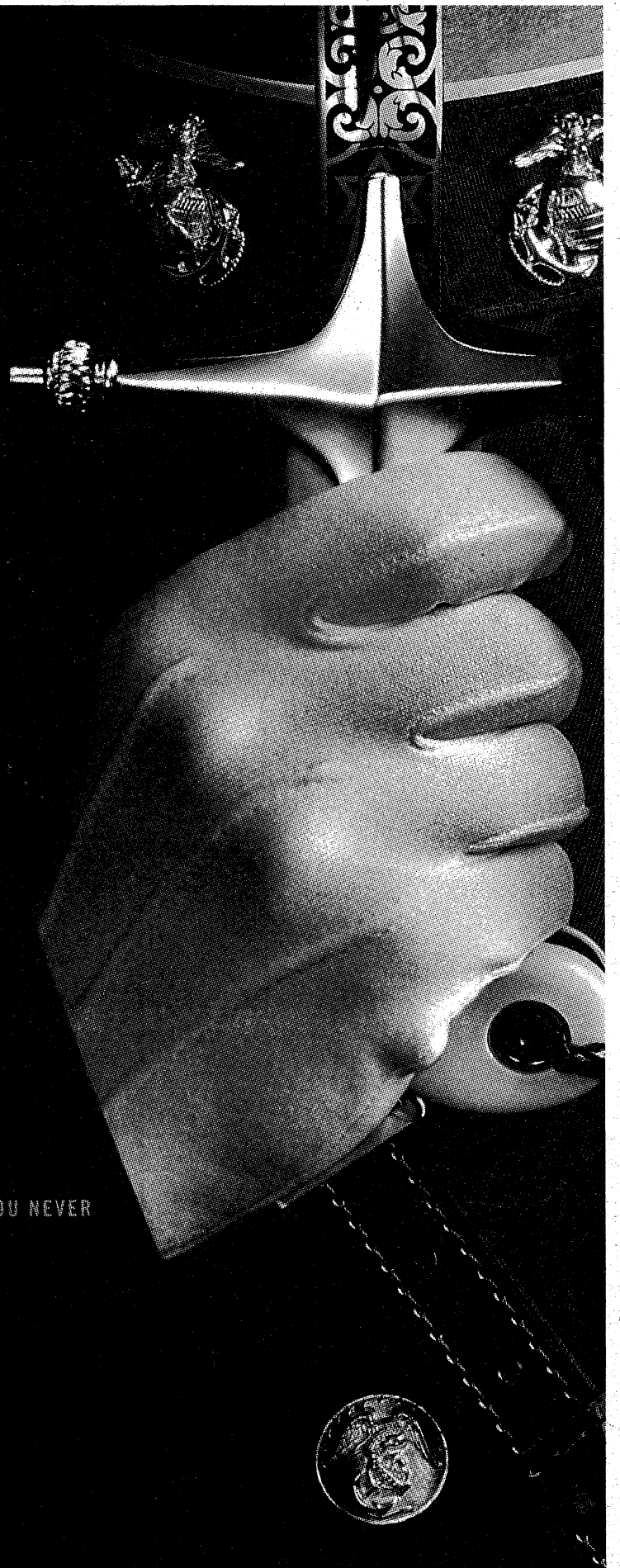
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# REEL DEAL

## THE NANNY DIARIES



Courtesy of Warner Bros.

By AMANDA SHAPIRO  
Staff Writer

I just couldn't let summer go yet, so I saw "The Nanny Diaries". Summer is now officially over.

A recent business graduate of NYU, afforded by her mother's overtime as a nurse, Annie Braddock runs out of an interview because she can't answer the question of who she is. By accident, she meets Mrs. X and her son Grayson. Soon after, she is their nanny. Originally, the job was to give her some time to figure out what she wanted, but she barely had any time to rest. Throughout the film, Annie narrates her graduate school essay for entrance into an anthropology program. The opening scenes are those of Natural Museum of History dioramas, but look more like Madam Toussaud's.

For the last few years, Scarlett Johansson has been the 'it' girl of Hollywood. Since 2000 she has starred in many movies. I remember one film in which she was a young teenager: "An American Rhapsody". She definitely had talent then. Although she hasn't gotten into legal trouble, like other popular American starlets have, her acting abilities have not gone beyond 'pretty blonde' roles. As 'Annie the Nanny', Scarlett was hidden behind the poorly written character's flaws. Annie stereotyped those she was supposed to observe without judgment. She also was naive, confused, a little immature, and was the 'pretty brunette.' We don't know how smart Annie really was supposed to be except for her continual use of social-anthropological jargon. The daydreaming of red umbrellas didn't help either.

We are supposed to see Mrs. X through Annie's perspective as a typical Upper East side woman, but Laura Linney, being the wonderful actress she is, turned a 'flat as a pancake' character into a whole person; one in denial of her

life's problems, but still able to recognize that it's never too late. Her desperation to feel better at the expense of hurting her son is heartbreaking and more complex than appears. Her behavior is summed up in one line to her husband said with sadness and frustration, "Why are you so cruel to me?" Her hope and desire is performed in one shot as she stands ready to celebrate her and Mr. X's anniversary.

Nicholas Art, the young boy who personified Grayson X, was superb. He was an adorable menace already showing the emotional scars of parental neglect. Because of his innocence, Annie cannot allow herself to quit and leave him to be like every other adult who abandoned him. Instead she allows their bond to strengthen as if they were family: not employer and charge. Spoiler: After having been unjustly fired, Grayson watches as Annie's cab leaves, runs after her with tears in his eyes, and helplessly falls to the ground in a terribly beautiful moment.

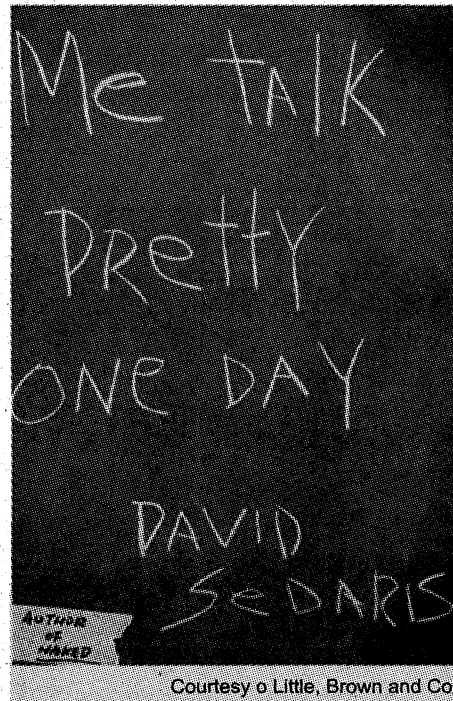
There were three other poorly written characters. As Mr. X, Paul Giamatti's face was hidden for the first few scenes behind props, until after he had been discovered cheating with a co-worker. There was no point in making him so mysterious because everyone knew that Giamatti was that role. Chris Evans as Hayden, the 'Harvard' Hottie, played Annie's Prince Charming, whom she judged to be typical as well. Although he's supposed to be a great guy, he still had a touch of Manhattan arrogance.

As I said in my Smokin' Aces review, Alicia Keys is an amazing singer, but does not belong in movies.

The Nanny Diaries was supposed to be a comedy, but it did not inspire laughter. There may have been a few cute lines, but nothing funny. This movie failed to find its proper niche and was thus harder to appreciate.

# Get Your Read On:

## ME TALK PRETTY ONE DAY



Courtesy of Little, Brown and Co.

BY DAVID  
SEDARIS

PUBLISHER:  
LITTLE, BROWN  
AND COMPANY  
(2000)

By QUDSIA HUSSAIN  
Contributing Writer

I picked up my first copy of "Me Talk Pretty One Day" at a small little shop called "Hudson News" at the airport. Since I would be traveling via Jet Blue, I already knew that the flight was going to be delayed. I read the reviews in the beginning of book claiming that it was "blisteringly funny" by People magazine and "hilarious and insightful" by the Wall Street Journal. Initially, I thought that the book would entail lame jokes that would wildly entertain the old, but I found myself laughing so hard I had to put the book down due to a stomach cramp.

I think we pretty much all know someone who is hysterically funny, but doesn't mean to be. One who simply tells a story with a complete straight face and at the end of the story you find yourself swamped with tears of laughter; Dave Sedaris has mastered this very technique. All of us can have strange thoughts towards a person or a situation in our head from time to time, but we'd never elaborate on them because we have humility. Sedaris takes these very thoughts that most would be too embarrassed to talk about and writes them down—play by play.

In his collections of somewhat vulgar stories from his life, he writes about a particular time when he attends a dinner hosted at his friend's house. He informs everyone that he is going to the bathroom, and when he gets there he finds a huge turd floating in the toilet. Since he has already told everyone of his trip to the bathroom, he is stuck with flushing it down before someone accuses him of leaving it there in the first place. "The tank

refilled, and I made a silent promise. The deal was that if this thing would go away, I'd repay the world by performing some unexpected act of kindness. I flushed the toilet a second time, and the big turd spun a lazy circle."

Sedaris moves to Paris from New York City and doesn't fail to mention all the stereotypes that Americans have about the French and vice versa. It is quite hysterical. At one point in the novel Sedaris, boards a train in Paris and encounters with an American tourist couple. The couple, mistaking that everyone around them is French and that no one speaks English, mock Sedaris in front of his face. "I'm willing to bet that our little friend here hasn't had a good bath in two weeks. Jesus Christ, someone should hang a deodorizer around this guy's neck."

It is difficult to understand Sedaris's sense of humor right off the bat. I found myself debating which was funnier: his life or his stories. He deals with serious drug issues in the beginning and considers himself an artist when his "artwork" consists of literally piecing together pieces of garbage and putting them on display. His narratives aren't in any chronological order. Instead, just like his life, they are random.

I would definitely recommend this book to anyone who loves to have a good laugh. The absurdity resembles that of the hit television show "Seinfeld". When reading Me Talk Pretty One Day I couldn't help but think of the following quote from the movie Garden State: "If you can't laugh at yourself, life's going to seem a whole lot longer than you like." Dave Sedaris's ability to create one big witty comic skit about his life is hands down, incredible.



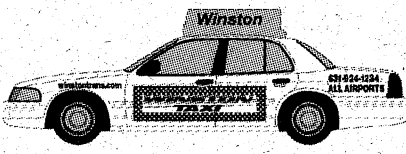
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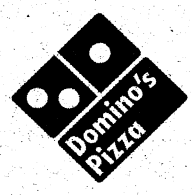
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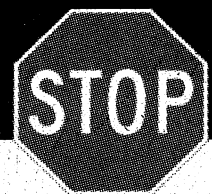
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The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Socolian" in 1957 at Oyster Bay, the original site of Stony Brook University. In 1975 "The Statesman" was incorporated as a not-for-profit, student-run organization. Its editorial board, writing, and photography 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.

*Disclaimer: Views expressed in columns or in the Letters and Opinions section are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Statesman. All content Copyright 2007.*

# Don't Stop Believing

**By GABE FARACI**  
University Police Officer #567

I want to applaud all of you out there who fight the good fight and continue to be faithful. I want to commend all of you who knock even though some doors never open. To the lost, keep seeking because you'll eventually find what you're looking for. To those of you who ask and never receive, keep asking anyway.

The other day I was sitting around drinking coffee and fighting off a horrible toothache when I came across a story in Newsday about some schmuck out in Roosevelt. This guy decided that he didn't like waiting for his prayers to be answered so he took out his anger on three innocent churches.

I want to share his name with you but if I did he would get exactly what he was looking for from the get-go. Recognition. Needless to say I don't believe his actions are worthy enough to make the papers, so I'll spare you his identity.

It's a shame that even the most sacred of buildings aren't safe from predators who stalk the night and hide in the shadows. You know what? Maybe it isn't his fault really, maybe it's society's fault. You know how it goes -- if someone isn't

happy with themselves they tend to blame everyone and everything around them. Maybe we should pat him on the back and tell him how sorry we are and next time we'll do a better job for him. Let's all hold hands and in one big collective shout tell him that it's O.K. to desecrate holy property and it's O.K. to use steel pipes to rip off screens and smash windows. Heck, maybe we should give our offerings to him.

Or we could have him perform community service on all three of the churches he vandalized. He could tidy up the sanctuary, vacuum the rugs and wash the windows that he so willingly smashed. Maybe even help hand out pamphlets come Sunday afternoons.

Here's a thought. An irrational, against-the-grain, politically incorrect thought. Maybe, just maybe, we could forgive him? I don't condone his actions one bit, but maybe he's just a down-on-his-luck type of guy who never received acknowledgement from above so he took out his anger on churches.

I wanted to bad mouth this dude, I wanted to give him a stiff kick in the pants, but decided not to -- and I'll tell you why. I cut the article from Newsday out and have it hanging in front of me. I'm

looking in to his eyes because the paper so generously left us a mug shot to stew over. For some reason or another I can't help feeling sorry for him.

I know, I know, he's a chump who picks on innocent churches and should be hung by his toes for committing such acts of defilement. The thing is this: I don't know him or his situation from a hole in the wall, but I do know there were times in my life when I thought nobody heard my prayers. There was a time when I thought the only things listening to me were cobwebs and doorknobs. But lo and behold, I can't help shaking the feeling that I have someone looking over my shoulder.

I don't know what possesses people to do things like this. I'm not sure what the courts are going to do with this guy and I don't think this is the last time we'll see something like this happen. In this day and age anything is possible when it comes down to it.

Like I said earlier, for those of us still fighting, for those of us who continue to do what's right but get no recognition -- give 'em hell anyway.

Gabe Faraci  
Gabesthinktank@yahoo.com

## LETTERS

# Re: Campus Media and the USG

**By NATHAN SHAPIRO**  
USG Executive Vice President

To Mr. Peck (and thankfully I am barely restraining myself from making a Ghostbusters reference here)

As usual with the Statesman, I find myself needing to make major corrections to what you have printed. First, let me make one thing very clear: we do not expect a pass from any publication on campus. We do, however, expect truth and quality journalism. Do not forget that the press is a powerful tool, but also requires an enormous amount of responsibility to wield it, and all too often the Statesman has eschewed that responsibility.

You assert the claim that USG has "all but boycotted the Press," but nothing could be further than the truth. I've not only made myself available Press USG reporters, I've offered to sit down for interviews with them. In my journalism classes, I am in direct contact with many student journalists on campus and they all know I am available to talk about USG issues at any time. And

your conspiracy theory regarding the Enduring Freedom Alliance is rather off-the-mark as well. I was the president of that organization, the publisher of the Patriot, but I've since left it (on bad terms) and now serve as a writer on the SB Independent staff. And anybody who knows me knows I am a firm defender of civil liberties, especially the right of the press and never have I ever made an assertion that they do not have the right or obligation to investigate their public officials. Now it seems it is you who are throwing out the wild accusations without evidence.

You also criticized me because I did not respond to your article under "the auspices of [my] USG positions," but I didn't do that because I wasn't offended as a USG officer. As a member of USG, I can take criticism. But as a journalism major, I was highly shocked by the low caliber of journalism your publication was engaged in. And if you published my letter to the editor on why I was disappointed, I think most people would agree with me. For

transparency's sake, I've attached my first letter to this message. --Nathan Shapiro Executive Vice President Re: SBVAC Cringes as USG Cuts Budget I write this response not as an official of the Undergraduate Student Government, but as a journalism major. The article "SBVAC Cringes as USG Cuts Budget" represents, in my opinion, one of the shoddiest pieces of journalism I have ever read on campus. As a student of the journalism school I am embarrassed that the same university that has the premier journalism program in the SUNY system also hosts a paper so lacking in journalistic integrity.

One of the very first things I learned in my high school journalism class was that when you are reporting on something you must give the subjects of your article, at the very least, the opportunity to comment, and should include comments when the subject takes you up on the offer. You owe that to your readers, to the truth and to yourself as a basic tenet of journalism.

Continued on page 5

# Re: Campus Media and the USG

**By JONATHAN HIRST**  
USG Vice President of Student Life

Adam,

I enjoyed reading your article and agree with you on some points. If you think that we don't care what the media says about us, you are very mistaken. While I know that many other USG officials read the media and are very well informed, I will only speak for myself.

I would first like to dispel the notion that we are all members of College Republicans. We are not. I am, in fact a Democrat and would never step foot at a College Republican meeting. It's not to say that I disapprove of them meeting, I just don't subscribe to their missions. I, however, believe that we have every right, as a student, and as an officer of the USG to call into question your papers journalistic integrity. Last year, I don't think I can recall reading an article regarding USG when there wasn't an error. Whether it be a misquote, incorrect spelling of a name, or outright bad reporting, you guys got it wrong almost 100% of the time.

I recall one time when you referred to Romual as "former President Jean-Baptiste." Yes he was impeached, but the supreme court had not met to decide his fate. The District Advocate, whom your paper had written was to run impeachment proceeding as "outlined in the USG constitution," was never in the constitution. The list goes on. That is just irresponsible reporting. To have that continue this year and end articles stating that you will contact us on how the budget process works is unthinkable after having conversations with your reporters and your editors. I do not shy away from reporters. In fact, I invite them to come to my office and speak with them. I go out of my way to make sure that my side of the story is heard and that I can back everything up with fact. To be denied that, however, is just inexcusable. Then to compare us to McCarthyism, well, I just don't think that's fair.

I have maintained, and will continue to maintain that I will speak with any reporter, but what I will not do is speak with a reporter who reports for a paper that I have no faith in. I have told beat reporters on numerous occasions that if you interview me, just get it right. Make sure that

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# SEC Heavyweights Square Off

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be enough. The game should be exciting; however LSU currently has a 15 game winning streak at home that will most likely be 16 after this game. They won all of their previous 10 games and they haven't lost to South Carolina since 1994. South Carolina's head coach Steve Spurrier has done a great job thus far, but his team is far less talented than LSU and home-field advantage will prove to be too overwhelming.

Another important SEC match-up will take place Saturday evening at 6:00 EST, when #21 ranked Kentucky will travel to Arkansas. Kentucky has been a huge surprise this season, cracking the AP Top 25 Poll for the first time since 1984. They obtained their ranking by beating offensive juggernaut Louisville, then ranked #9 at the time, in a dramatic ending this past weekend. It was close the entire game, and it seemed over when Louisville took lead after scoring with 1:45 to go in the fourth quarter. However, Kentucky never gave up. After allowing the touchdown, Kentucky prevented Louisville from converting a two-point conversion and kept the score at 34-33 in Louisville's favor. Then in thrilling fashion, Kentucky's quarterback Andre Woodson completed a 57 yard pass to his receiver Steve Johnson, scoring the go-ahead touchdown with 28 seconds remaining and claiming victory.

The Wildcats will be tested once again this weekend, playing their first road game of the season against an Arkansas that was ranked #16 before last week's heartbreaking loss to Alabama. Although they lost, Arkansas ultimately played a great game. Alabama dominated the first three quarters, and took a 31-17 lead into the fourth quarter. While momentum seemed to be in the Crimson Tide's favor, the Razorbacks hung tough and scored three quick touchdowns to begin the fourth quarter and brought them-selves a 7 point lead with 8 minutes left in the final stanza. Arkansas looked prime for the win; however Alabama didn't give up and managed to take the lead back after scoring their go-ahead touchdown with only 8 seconds remaining in the game to take a 38-34 lead and win. With the loss Arkansas was not only knocked out of the top 25 in the AP rankings, but Alabama replaced the Razorbacks as the

#16 ranked team.

Saturday night at 7:45 EST, #16 ranked Alabama (3-0) will host #22 Georgia (2-1). After stealing him from the Miami Dolphins, newly hired head coach Nick Saban has brought hope and excitement to an Alabama team who came off a disappointing 6-7 season last year. Besides beating Arkansas in dramatic fashion last week, they otherwise have been untested this season, winning their first two games easily, so it will be interesting to see if they can repeat their strong performance against another top 25 team in Georgia. As far as Alabama's foe, the Bulldogs, so far they recorded two blowout wins to lesser opponents and a tough 16-12 loss to South Carolina during the second weekend of the season. They recovered nicely in the third week winning 45-16 against Western Carolina, so they will have a boosted confidence level coming into this weekend's game.

Although it's early in the season, all three games will be played in a championship atmosphere. These games will play a vital role in determining the eventual conference champion. At this point, the SEC has 6 ranked teams, including four teams that are undefeated both in the conference and overall. Alabama will have the most to gain from a victory this weekend, because out of all the undefeated teams, they have the easiest schedule. Besides playing LSU, who is currently ranked #2, they finish the season playing only two teams that currently have a winning record, none of which are ranked. Although many consider LSU the favorite to win the SEC, their remaining schedule is very difficult and they will play several teams that have the ability to pull off an upset. Besides playing South Carolina this week, who upset Arkansas last week, some of their tougher future opponents include the defending champions, the Florida Gators, who are currently ranked #3 behind LSU, Kentucky (#21), who already pulled off an upset last week beating previously ranked #9 ranked Louisville (currently ranked #18), Alabama (#16), who also pulled off an upset last week beating Arkansas (currently unranked) previously ranked #16, and Arkansas, who shouldn't be overlooked. LSU will have to face Kentucky and Alabama on the road, so it will be a difficult path to the SEC championship for the Tigers.

# Defending A-Rod

By ADRIAN CARRASQUILLO  
Contributing Writer

I am here to defend A-Rod. There are more popular things to do than to present a spirited defense of a man who makes \$250 million. I could go the easy route and come to the aid of the flavor of the week underdog in the sports world, but screw it. I'm putting my eggs in this basket: the Alex Rodriguez basket-of eggs. Moving on.

A-Rod is a polarizing figure. That much is obvious. Those who loathe him as well as those enamored with his top notch musculature and piercing green eyes use two different means to measure him. The two measuring sticks are on field performance and his perceived personality faults. Those who back A-Rod-let's call them "A-Backers"-point to his off the charts regular season performance. Consider that Alex Rodriguez is the youngest player in history to reach 500 home runs. He currently sits at 516 for his career, has 52 home runs and 141 RBIs (run batted in) this season. He will certainly be the MVP of the American League and should be the unanimous choice. Undoubtedly a couple of "A-Haters" will be voting and this won't occur, but the fact remains.

On the flip side, those who don't like A-Rod cite his tendency to put his foot in his mouth and to worry about what people's opinions of him are. In the April 2001 issue of Esquire magazine he said "You go into New York, you wanna stop Bernie and O'Neill," speaking of Bernie Williams and Paul O'Neill. "You never say don't let Derek beat you. He's never your concern." His concern with people's perception of him was evident during spring training of this year when he said that he and Jeter are no longer best friends. He even went as far as to confirm, to the shock of the country, what we had all feared. The famed Jeter and A-Rod sleepovers were over, a relic of a time long since past. Once I regained consciousness and got over the sucker punch that was this news I thought about something that occurred to seemingly no one in

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# Brandon's Fitness Corner

By BRANDON CHUNG  
Contributing Writer

Last week, I went over the benefits of adding pull-ups to your fitness regimen and also laid out the basics of doing them. Here is a brief recap:

1. Using a pronated (palms away from you) or a supinated (palms towards you) grip, grab a sturdy bar or other fixture capable of supporting your bodyweight.
2. Come to a dead-hang, where your arms are completely extended and your body is perpendicular to the ground.
3. To begin the exercise, pull your body up until your chin passes the bar.\*
4. Lower your body and return to the dead-hang position.\*

\*It is essential that you perform your pull-ups with a complete range of motion, bringing your chin above the bar at the top of the movement and locking your arms out at the bottom. Equally as important is the idea that you must not use momentum to bring yourself above the bar.

For those of you who are experienced with pull-ups or for those trainees looking to add an extra bit of hurt to their routine, here are a few juicy variations of pull-ups that will be sure to make your hands, arms, and lats scream for mama. Keep in mind that most if not all of these variations can be done with either a pronated or a supinated grip.

## Mixed Grip Pull-up

Grip the bar with one hand facing away from you and one hand facing towards you. Pull yourself up as you normally would. So easy, a caveman...I'll avoid the lawsuit and stop right

there.

## L-Pull-up

In this variation, your body will be in the shape of the letter "L". From the dead-hang position, lift your legs until they are straight and parallel with the ground. Lock your knees out. Pull yourself up, keeping your midsection tight. Do not allow your legs to dip below parallel. Make it hurt.

## Side to Side Pull-up

Grasp the bar with a pronated, shoulder width grip. Pull yourself up to your left hand and kiss it. Lower yourself back to the starting position and then repeat for your right hand. Kiss that hand, too. Wow, you can practice kissing while you workout. Talk about killing two birds with one stone.

## Crossover Pull-up

Stand under the bar so that your shoulders are perpendicular to it (as opposed to a regular pull-up where they are parallel). Grasp the bar as you would a baseball bat. From this position, pull yourself up until your shoulder touches the bar. Repeat for your opposite shoulder. If desired, you can lace your fingers around the bar, as if praying, and alternate shoulders after each repetition. You certainly will be praying once you do enough of these.

## Towel Pull-ups

Take a towel (and please don't use a face towel, bright one) of sufficient length so that you can throw it over the bar and have the ends hang down low enough for you to grab them. Once again, stand with your shoulders perpendicular to the bar. Grab the ends of the towel and pull yourself up as far as possible. Avoid the temptation

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# Tennis Hangs Tough Over Weekend

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"There were some mixed results. We had some good wins in a very strong field," Glassman said.

Paola Rodolfi made it to the finals of the B flight, before losing to the #1 seed from Buffalo.

"Without question, the player that stood out was Paola Rodolfi," Glassman said after the tournament.

Sandy Wijeratne, who was seed #1 in the D flight, lost in the quarterfinals, but was able to recover and win the consolation bracket.

In the E flight, Shaina Murugan advanced to the semifinals. Erica

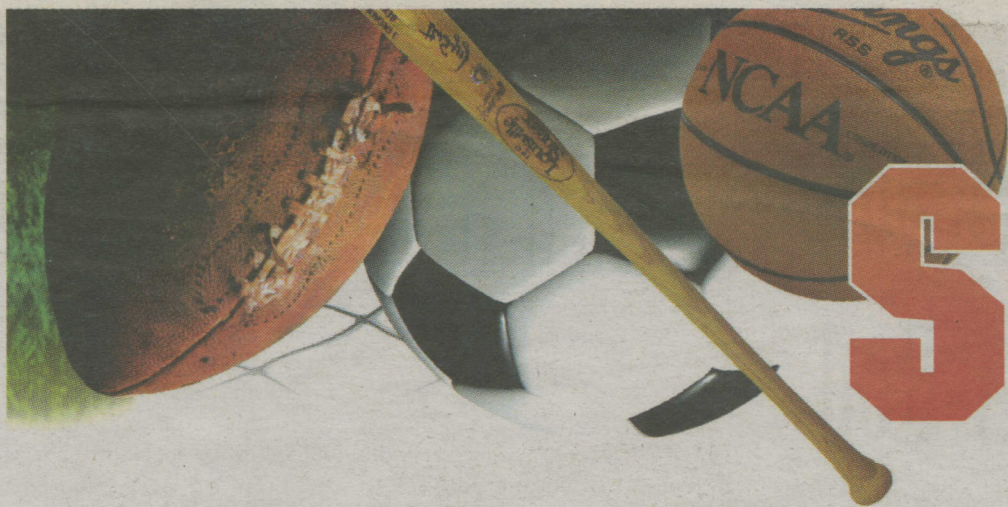
Federgreen also had some success, reaching the round of 16 in the C flight.

Claudia Sona dropped her first match in the A flight, but was able to get to the quarterfinals in the consolation bracket.

The one doubles entrant, Brooke Flanigan and Victoria Vovsha, won their first round match before losing in the round of 16.

"The women have a veteran squad and will look to reach the America East Finals for the first time since 2002," Glassman said while assessing the chances of his team this year.





# Statesman SPORTS

## M. and W. Tennis Recap

By GENE MORRIS  
Staff Writer

Men's tennis opened up their season over the weekend in Ithaca, N.Y. at the Cornell Invitational.

Although host, Cornell University, dominated, winning three of the singles draws and both doubles draws, Stony Brook University's Alex Markovich won the flight D singles draw.

"Alex played extremely well," Head Coach Garry Glassman said. "More importantly he competed extremely hard."

Markovich defeated Fernando Ferreira of UMBC in a tense three set final. The final two games were decided by tie breakers.

In other action, Ivan Rumel, Ilan Shvartz, and Juan Carlos Cotto were all first round winners, in the A, B, and C draws, respectively. None of the three was able to advance past the quarterfinals.

SBU's second entrant into the A draw, Artem Baradach, was defeated in the first round. Will Allen also lost the first round of the C draw.

Both double entrants lost in the first round. Youseff Fassi-Fehri and Markovich lost in the A draw to the eventual champions from Cornell. Shvartz and Allen lost to another Cornell team in the B draw.

"I don't think we competed as well as we are capable of doing," Coach Glassman said of the weekend's results. "We are a young team with no seniors, but with some raw talent. It will be a matter of some guys stepping up and setting an example of how to compete at the Division 1 level."

The women began their season at the Army Women's Invitational in West Point, N.Y. Every one of the women's entrants won at least one match.

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## SEAWOLVES WEEKEND PREVIEW

FOOTBALL HOSTS MONMOUTH, M. AND W. SOCCER,  
VOLLEYBALL ON THE ROAD

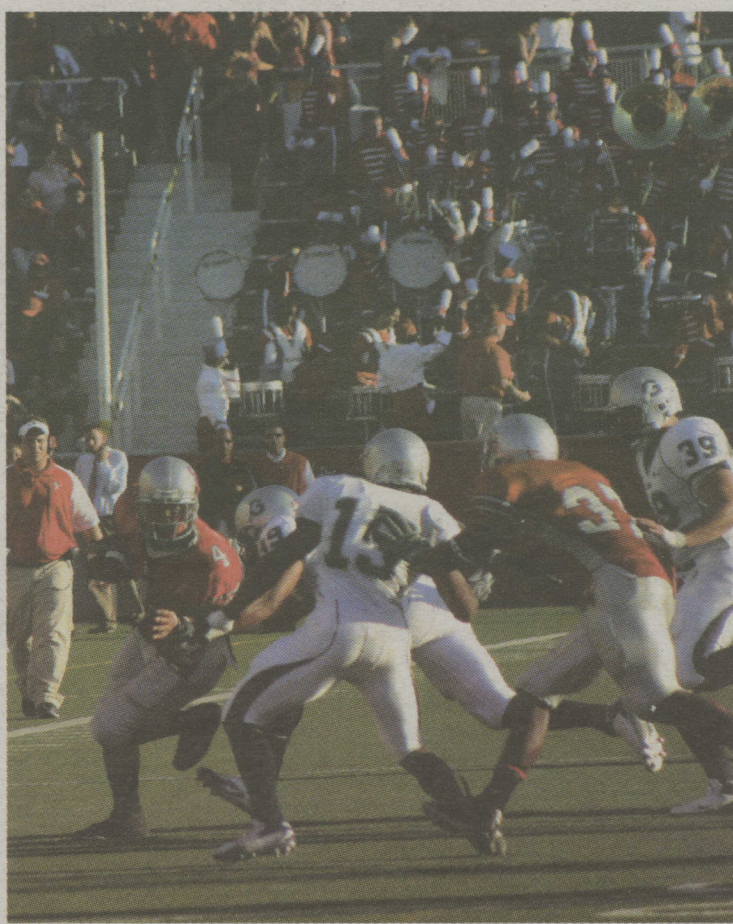
By SHONTO OLANDER  
Sports Editor

This Saturday, Senior Quarterback Josh Dudash and Stony Brook (SB) football (2-1) will host Monmouth in the Kenneth P. Laval Stadium. SB is coming off a 42-6 loss at the hands of #6 ranked Youngstown State. The Seawolves had won the previous two games against Georgetown and Bucknell. Saturday's game kickoffs off at 6:00 PM.

Both Men and Womens' Soccer are action this weekend on the road. Men's soccer (4-2) is coming off an impressive weekend where they shut out Adelphi 2-0 last Thursday, followed up by 2-1 win against visiting Niagara on Sunday. Men's soccer will look to extend their four game win streak against Towson on the road. Midfielder Michael Palacio won this week's America East Player of the Week award, as well as the Stony Brook Athlete of the Week for recording a goal and two assists this week. Palacio leads the team with four assists. The Seawolves will play Saturday at 1:00 PM against Towson in Towson, MD.

Women's soccer (3-2-1) hits the road to play against Columbia on Friday at 7:00 PM. This past weekend they played two overtime games, winning an away matchup against Fordham last Friday, and coming out with a scoreless tie against East Carolina on Sunday. Freshman Morgan Sims scored the game winner in the Seawolves 2-1 over Fordham last Friday.

Volleyball (8-6) is also on the road, looking for a repeat performance of last weekend's Bucknell Invitational tournament, which they won by sweeping all three games. Volleyball will take a four game win streak into Friday's match against Brown (7:00 PM), followed by two Saturday showdowns against Portland (10:00 AM) and Central Connecticut (4:00 PM). Morgan Sweany, Jackie Ahlers and Noelle Bay were all named to last weekends Bucknell Invitational All-Tournament team for their outstanding play.



Football hopes to get back on track against Monmouth (Saturday @ 6:00 PM), while Men's Soccer travels to Towson, MD (Saturday @ 1:00 PM).

Above: Will Lahti/ SB Statesman; Bottom: Shonto Olander/ SB Statesman

## College Football: SEC Showdowns

By BRIAN MORGAN  
Staff Writer

This weekend features several heavy weight match-ups sure to receive a lot of attention. The SEC is by far the most successful conference in college football this season and will be the focus of college football this Saturday. The biggest match-up will be Saturday afternoon at 3:30 EST, where #2 ranked LSU (3-0) will be tested at home by a tough #12 ranked South Carolina team. LSU has coasted thus far, overwhelming every team they have played, both on the offensive and defensive sides of the ball. In the first three games, they beat their opponents by a total score of 137-7 including a 48-7 victory against a Virginia Tech team that was ranked #9 at the time.

South Carolina, on the other hand, has had to work for their 3-0 record. Although the final score was 28-14, their first game against Louisiana-Lafayette was close until the fourth quarter, and was no easy victory. Their second game against a Georgia team that was ranked #11 at the time was no picnic either. The final score was 16-12 in South Carolina's favor, with special teams being heavily featured in this game. South Carolina scored the game's only touchdown in the first quarter and from there the game finished with seven field goals, three by the Gamecocks and four by the Bulldogs. South Carolina's third game was easy however. They won against their inter-state rivals, South Carolina State, at home by a score of 38-3 which surely gave them a confidence boost, but it won't

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