

# THE STATESMAN

Volume 52, Issue 50

Thursday April 30, 2009

www.sbstatesman.org

Arts & Entertainment: 9  
**CHINA NIGHT 2009**

Sports: 11  
Men's Lacrosse Beats Albany to Move  
on to AE Championship Game

Only two issues left for the semester.  
Next week's issues will be in color!

## ARTS

### China Night 2009

Tickets for this year's China Night performance were completely sold out, and it's not hard to understand why. The variety show centered around the various antics of Shanghai Jones, Indiana Jane and Sum Ting Wong. Singers, dancers, steppers, musicians, and models added energy and flair, rounding out the entire performance. The story may seem tired or childish when taken out of context, but it fit the actors' personalities exceptionally well.

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## OPINION

### Time for Coleman to Throw in the Towel

"We shall never surrender!" This famous line is attributed to senate candidate Norm Coleman, refusing to concede the Minnesota Senate race. Or maybe that was Winston Churchill, during WWII... Who knows? In perhaps the only instance when these two men could ever be confused for one another, Coleman has made it clear that he will not back down under any circumstance. Even if he gets fewer votes.

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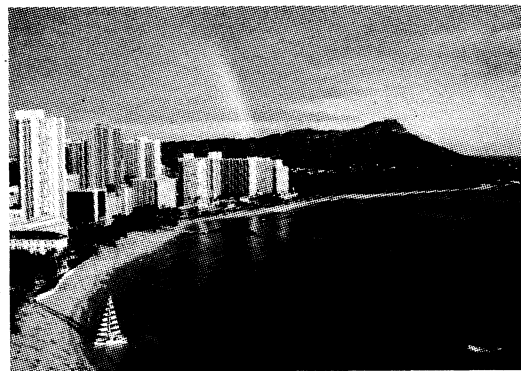
### Democrat, Republican - Potato, Potato

The buzz currently going around the media networks is about Arlen Specter - the 79 year old Senator from Pennsylvania - jumping off the Republican bandwagon and joining the Democratic Party. The move has prompted some on the left to start the celebrations. Assuming that Al Franken will be able to take his Senate seat sometime in the next six years, this gives the Democrats a 60 seat majority in the Senate - making them filibuster-proof.

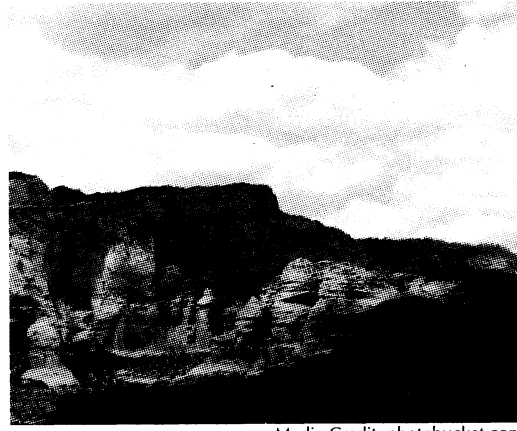
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Clockwise: The Golden Gate Bridge in California, The Grand Canyon in Arizona, New College of Florida and the beaches of Hawaii. All places popular are sites for students who are part of the National Student exchange.

## Studying Away, But Not Too Far, From Home

By TARA DILLON  
Staff Writer

Most students know all about studying abroad and what it entails, but what if they were given the opportunity of studying in a different state? That's exactly what National Student Exchange (NSE) is about. It allows undergraduate students the opportunity to exchange within the United States, its territories and Canada.

Students are allowed to either participate in a summer program, a semester program, or they can choose to spend the entire year at the exchange school.

Across the country, 49 states have at least one school in the program. The territories of Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands also have schools participating in the program.

The program was brought to Stony Brook around 1987, with the hopes that it would give students another option besides just studying abroad.

The Stony Brook coordinator, Barbara Fletcher, says most students do not know the program exists, but when they do find out, they're immediately interested.

Fletcher, though, says she tries very hard to spread the word about the program.

"I've got posters, the web site and I send out e-mails as well," she said.

Most Stony Brook students are given information about the program during orientation and Fletcher says at that time students are very overwhelmed and that's when NSE gets overlooked.

For those who are interested in the program, the application process is not as tedious as one would think. It is required that all students who are interested in the program must have a GPA of at least 2.5.

Students who would like to participate are required to call Fletcher and set up a meeting in which they will discuss GPA,

major, degree progress report, and finally, what schools the student is interested in.

It is expected that the student also meet with their major's undergraduate director as well as the academic advisor. "This way, the student knows what he or she has to take when arriving back at Stony Brook," Fletcher said. The student will also need two letters of reference.

For financial purposes, the student has two options depending on their exchange school. They could either pay Stony Brook tuition or they could pay in-state tuition in accordance with the university they are attending. Some universities, though, only have one option, such as paying Stony Brook tuition instead of paying the exchange school's tuition.

The application deadline for the program in Feb. 14. During the month of March, Fletcher

Continued on page 3

## Buyer's Beware: Gift Cards May Become Worthless Plastic

By ERICKA A. BOLTE  
Staff Writer

Gift cards have always been popular gifts when you don't know exactly what that perfect present is. And with Mother's Day, graduations, and Father's Day all within the foreseeable future, consumers will surely be purchasing those plastic cards when they can't find that perfect item.

But with retailers filing bankruptcy because they aren't strong enough to survive the recession, unused gift cards are becoming worthless pieces of plastic.

"I am less likely to buy a gift card because of this," said Bryan Lew, a junior at Stony Brook University. "My family received a Sharper Image gift card and faced a similar situation."

Last year when the Sharper Image filed for chapter 11 bankruptcy, they stopped accepting their gift cards only to later accept them as a 50 percent off coupon. Eventually when they announced they were closing all their locations in May 2008, they stopped accepting the gift cards altogether.

There are some remedies for gift card holders when the retailer goes out of business. They have the right to file a claim with the bankruptcy court as a creditor to attempt to get their money back. However, they are usually on the bottom of a large list of creditors and may never see a dime of their money.

If they get lucky a competitor store may have some sort of deal to allow you to get some use out of the gift card. For example, when KB Toys went out of business earlier this year, Toys 'R' Us was offering 15 percent off of any one toy item with a KB Toys gift card between January 12

Continued on page 3

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# Studying Away, But Not Too Far From Home

Continued from page 1

attends an annual conference in which she places all the interested students at their respective schools. After the student is placed, it is then time to talk about what financial option they will choose and what courses they are interested in taking.

The courses, just like Stony Brook, are not guaranteed at the exchange school, so students do have to come up with alternatives in case.

The courses that the student will take will come back to Stony Brook and be received as transfer credits.

The program is what Fletcher calls a "constructive risk" and overall that the average amount of Stony Brook students participating program is usually around 12. "I would love to see more students to participate in the program. I would actually like to see the number double," Fletcher said.

The states that have the most appeal to Stony Brook students are Hawaii, Florida, California and Arizona.

There is also a number of students who come from different states to study at Stony Brook. Every year, Fletcher says, there are the same migration patterns with students across the United States. "The east goes west, the west goes east, the north goes south and the middle disperses in every direction." Students coming into Stony Brook

come from all over the

country, including Texas, Connecticut, Iowa, New Hampshire, California, South Carolina and Tennessee.

"I really enjoyed the experience," said Deanne Scarpulla, who went to New College in Florida. "The school was very accommodating and friendly. I made so many new friends that I still keep in touch with." Scarpulla says she made the

decision to participate in NSE instead of studying abroad to get the experience of going to a school in Florida that she otherwise wouldn't be able to afford.

NSE "is an excellent program for any student to take advantage of for reasons such as experiencing a new place, meeting new friends and studying a subject you do not necessarily have the resources to study at your home school," said Devin McCarthy, who comes to Stony Brook from the University of South Carolina.

McCarthy, who is hunting for a job in New York City, came to Stony Brook in order to get a feel on what it was like to live on Long Island. "I want to eventually live out here where Stony Brook is located, so by going to a school here it has given me a sneak peek of what it would be like living out here."

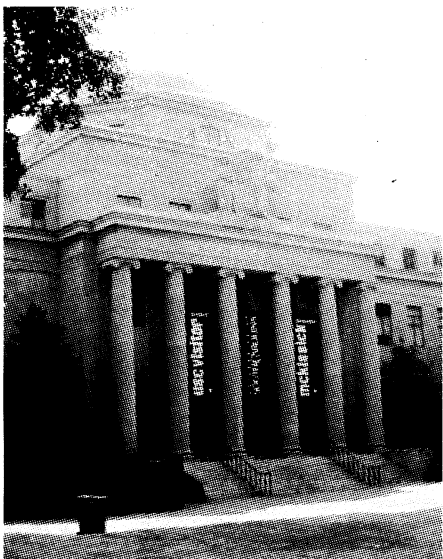
While some students who come to Stony Brook from other states wind up transferring here, not everybody stays after their time is up.

Holly Grodsky, whose home school is located in Colorado, came to Stony Brook to get the experience of living in a state other than Colorado. While she says she enjoyed her time here and would never take it back, she says school wise she might have preferred to go to a

different university. "I am a Math major here, and it's tough, but it's a great program. On the other hand, I haven't had a lot of extra time to experience life here in

Stony Brook and New York."

Grodsky says she would recommend NSE to interested students but she wouldn't recommend Stony Brook as an exchange school. "Yes, I have met some really amazing people here, and had some very amazing opportunities, and enjoyed my time here as much as I could, but it wasn't quite the right school for me."



Media Credit: usjournal.com  
The University of South Carolina



Due to economic conditions, some retail stores have stopped accepting gift cards.

Media Credit: geardiary.com

## Buyer's Beware: Gift Cards May Become Worthless Plastic

Continued from page 1

to January 31 -- all you had to do was surrender the card.

Courtney DeMarco, a former employee of KB Toys, recalls customer frustration to their unusable gift cards. "They were very disappointed and they did want their money back," DeMarco said. "They were angry with the fact that they could not use their gift cards because the business was

going out of business."

According to the Tower Group, a research firm, they "expect consumers to become more sensitive to the potential risk of failures in the retail industry that expose private label gift cards to value loss in the event of bankruptcy," states a late 2008 press release. "The sensitivity to this issue heightened in 2008 following the bankruptcies of Linens 'N' Things and Sharper Image,

where more than \$100 million in gift card value became compromised in the wake of retailer filings."

"I have never bought a gift card myself," says Josefine Felix, a senior. "As soon as I get one as a gift, I try to spend it as soon as possible. One reason [being the fear of bankruptcy] and the other one because I tend to forget how much money left I have in the gift card."

## Because I Had a Bad Day...FML!

By ERIKA KARP  
Staff Writer

Diminishing food points, growing to-do lists and pulling all nighters -- the end of the semester can get a little stressful. But, many people have found the website fmylife.com, which is letting them share their everyday stories that make them want to shout, "F\*\*\* My Life" (FML)!

Launched in January 2009, fmylife.com was originally a French web site. Created by Maxime Valette and Guillaume Passaglia a year earlier, it is now the top entertainment web site in France, receiving over 400,000 hits a day.

"The web site started out as a gathering of friends on an IRC channel as a place to tell each other the crappy things that happened to them that particular day," fmylife.com's public relations representative Alan Holding said.

The web site allows members to post everyday stories that show how rough life can get. According to the web site, the only rule is that each story must start out with "today" and end with "FML." Visitors can then choose to agree or disagree with the story by clicking "I agree, your life is f\*\*\*ed" or "You deserved that one."

"I like fmylife.com mainly because if I'm having a bad day or something, the site shows me that things could always be worse,"

said Cindy Jones, who found the site through a 'bumper sticker' on facebook. "It's funny -- and this is bad to say -- but people like to hear about others' misfortune. I don't really think most of them are funny, some of them are just plain horrible."

Some postings like, "Today, I wanted to have a good lunch with my wife before fasting for my surgery which I may not survive, she decided getting her hair cut was more important. I ate alone. FML" are depressing.

While others, like, "Today, I brought back the puppy I adopted for my family. I spent months doing all the research on puppy care with two young children, and at least five hundred dollars for the dog, the supplies, toys...the whole bit. Turns out everyone's allergic to her. FML" are more humorous.

"I think it's hysterical because it's almost like 'America's Funniest Home Videos' as a web site," Amanda Vidal, a freshman, said. "It's hard not to laugh because it could have been prevented and it's just the most intricate ways to mess up."

According to Holding, the English web site receives more than 1.7 million visits a day.

"It became obvious that an international version was needed, so Maxime and Guillaume were joined by Didier Guedj, and they set about creating the English language version," Holding said. "We knew from the success of

the French version that it would be popular, but we're quite overwhelmed by the speed in which we've reached so many people so quickly!"

While many people enjoy the website, sometimes too much self-pity over time may be a bad thing.

"Although it is good to be able to express emotions that are not targeting others in a hurtful way, there is an aspect of the process of focusing on all the negative things in life that can reinforce the feeling of negativity and for some, hopelessness," said Mary Behling, a psychiatrist at the Stony Brook University counseling center. "It really depends if this is how someone always looks at their life as opposed to an occasional way of feeling. If others offer helpful suggestions, then it might be a positive resource but if it regresses into a competition of who has it worse it might only be a negative pastime."

But, for those pessimists who can't get enough of fmylife.com, a book of the top FML moments is being published in June. In addition, Italian and Spanish versions of the site are in the works.

"The main audience is obviously in the U.S. at the present, but we hope to go global," Holding said. "At the moment, most of the posters and users are from the U.S.A., but we have many other members from other countries -- the U.K., Canada, South Africa, Australia, Poland, Romania and eventually many more countries sharing their woes."



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

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

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#### WHO WE ARE

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

The 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 2009.*

## Time for Coleman to Throw in the Towel

By PATRICK JACQUES  
Contributing Writer

"We shall never surrender!" This famous line is attributed to senate candidate Norm Coleman, refusing to concede the Minnesota Senate race. Or maybe that was Winston Churchill, during WWII... Who knows? In perhaps the only instance when these two men could ever be confused for one another, Coleman has made it clear that he will not back down under any circumstance. Even if he gets fewer votes.

The first Tuesday following the first Monday of November is long past, May is fast-approaching, and Minnesota still only has one senator. It's now apparent that the disputed race between Democrat challenger Al Franken and Republican incumbent Norm Coleman will not be decided until the summer months, due to a subtle court victory for Coleman which pushes the schedule for hearing arguments on the case in the Minnesota Supreme Court to June 1st.

The Coleman-Franken dispute continues even after Coleman's loss per a decision by the Minnesota State Canvassing Board, which found all of Coleman's calls for recounts and the counting of absentee ballots to be without foundation.

As Churchill encourages, Coleman is fighting on, taking the case to the Minnesota Supreme Court

and if he doesn't succeed there, he vows to take it to the federal Supreme Court level despite the calls for Coleman to close up shop. Meanwhile, Franken has suggested that the US Senate, rather than the courts, use its Constitutionally-authorized power to judge the elections of Senate members.

Although most of the calls for Coleman to quit are coming from the left, Minnesotans from both sides are fed up with this long, drawn-out election.

Dennis Sanders, who voted for Coleman, blogs that even he believes it is time for the flag to be thrown in.

"Coleman should drop out with honor while he still has some," writes Sanders. "After nearly six months, the people of Minnesota want this election resolved."

Evidently, Coleman is not one of those people, and the costs are piling up. The cost of the recount has hit \$12 million for the people of Minnesota. Supporters of both Franken and Coleman are tapping into all possible fundraising outlets to keep up the pressure on the opposing side and maintain expenses for the continuing litigation. Each side is playing off of the anger this race has conjured up along party lines to raise more money.

Still it remains unlikely that Coleman could conceivably win the seat. Even if he were to somehow pull ahead of Franken in the recounts, the Democratic backlash would be vicious.

So why continue?

Its clear Coleman can't come to terms with the fact that he is no longer a U.S. senator. So perhaps he is stalling, banking on a last minute miracle. Or maybe it is a party stunt to rile up Republicans against what could be a perceived slight in favor of the Democrats and Coleman. It might just be a ploy to keep another Democrat out of Congress for as long as possible. Or maybe Coleman just can't get that Churchill quote out of his head.

Unfortunately in democratic elections someone has to lose—a flaw in the system is how Coleman might describe it.

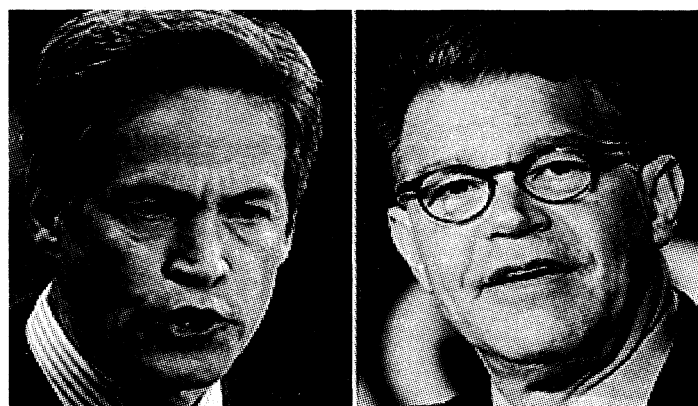
No one might consider this a big deal because what do U.S. senators do anyway? Besides cutting off businessmen mid-sentence during hearings and appearing on afternoon TV shows, that is. But the state of Minnesota is being

deprived a senator as Coleman continues to chase this increasingly futile senate bid.

This is not to suggest that depriving Minnesota of Al Franken, the former Saturday Night Live comedian turned pundit turned politician, is a particularly bad thing, but some are interested to see his efforts as a senator. Namely all those people who voted for him.

The thing that will probably put an end to the Coleman campaign is money. According to Nate Silver, a blogger for FiveThirtyEight, the legal fights for Coleman are costing him approximately \$20,740 a day and \$145,181 a week, and Coleman has not demonstrated the potential to raise money at the same clip that Franken can.

No doubt even the legendary British Prime Minister would bow out of this one by now.



Republican Norm Coleman (left) and Democratic challenger Al Franken (right)  
Media Credit: LA Times

## Democrat, Republican - Potato, Potato

By ZACHARY KURTZ  
Opinion Editor

The buzz currently going around the media networks is about Arlen Specter - the 79 year old Senator from Pennsylvania - jumping off the Republican bandwagon and joining the Democratic Party.

The move has prompted some on the left to start the celebra-

tions. Assuming that Al Franken will be able to take his Senate seat sometime in the next six years, this gives the Democrats a 60 seat majority in the Senate - making them filibuster-proof.

At last!, the left proclaim, the liberal mandate can truly begin - wealth redistribution, carbon taxing and universal healthcare galore!

However, some commentators describe Specter's flip-flop as a political maneuver. He knows his future political career hangs in the balance - he's up for re-election in 2010. His Republican label but "moderate" voting record is making him unpopular with the state's conservatives, throwing into question his ability to win the Republican party primary. His likely Democratic challenger in his new party's primary is Rep. Joe Sestak, a former admiral and perhaps more moderate than Specter himself.

Specter has admitted that the

party switch doesn't mean that he'll start toeing the Democrat party line. He certainly didn't seem to mind to go against the Republican crowd when he wore his red hat - voting for measures such as the stimulus bill, 'amnesty' for illegal immigrants and weighing in against pro-life bills. On the

other side of the fence, Specter is against most gun control legislation and opposes same-sex marriage, though says he would not support a federal ban.

Specter admits to finding himself "at odds with the Republican philosophy," which is apparent

*continued on page 9*



Arlen Specter  
Media Credit: Salon.com

### Guidelines for Opinion Submission

Letters to the editor or op-ed contributions can be submitted by e-mail at Op-Ed@sbstatesman.org, on our online submission tool at www.sbstatesman.org, by hand at our office in the Student Union Rm 057, or by mailing it to us at the address in the left column. They must be received at least two days before the next printed issue. The Statesman reserves the right to edit or not print any letter based on appropriateness, length, timeliness, or other reasons at the discretion of the editorial board. Letters should be no longer than 350 words, and opinion pieces should not exceed 550 words. Please include your full name (which we may withhold if you request it), phone number and email address for verification. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses will not be printed. Letters submitted anonymously or under false names will not be considered for publication.

# Deadly Medicine: How Science Was Used to Legitimize Persecution and Murder

By SHIREEN JAYMAN  
Staff Writer

Visitors are exposed to the calculated logic of the Nazi Germany government at the "Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race" exhibit in the Wang Center, which showed how science was used to legitimize persecution and murder.

The exhibit, which opened on April 6 and continues until June 12, "contains historical photographs, artifacts and survivor testimony from the Holocaust, including explicit images of medical experimentation on children," according to the Deadly Medicine page on the Stony Brook University web site.

When visitors first enter the exhibit they're met with a giant panel explaining the history of natural selection and biological superiority, introducing the concept of Darwinism in the context of Nazi Germany. Turning the corner, one can hear voices booming in German but cannot see the source.

A display of paper mache and plaster masks of men and women from all over Asia showed how scientists traveled the world in the 1920s to measure and document dominant features of different races, trying to find recurring traits.

Small screens mounted on the walls play clips of Adolf Hitler speaking to a large audience, and several doctors standing behind him repeating the infamous salute of the Nazi Party.

The accompanying panels show images of doctors experimenting on children, the picture

of two young boys with mouthpieces attached to their faces in order to test their lung capacity drawing the most attention.

A walk through the exhibition educates visitors about the Nazi party's rise to power and the adoption of eugenic ideas in order to promote the "long-headed, fair 'Nordics' as 'eugenically advantageous' and the idea of an 'Aryan master race,' according to the Deadly Medicine pamphlet.

Political pamphlets from the 1930s encouraged "clean marriage" and promoted the mass sterilization program. A poster of a large man of Nordic descent holding up two people with ape-like features on his shoulders prompted German citizens to realize the cost of caring for the mentally ill. The drawing advertised "You Are Sharing the Load! A hereditarily ill person costs 50,000 reichsmarks on average up to the age of sixty."

Eugenic advocates in Germany started sterilizing and killing the mentally ill as a way of preventing them from reproducing and to save on the costs of special care and education. Some screens were devoted to playing clips of doctors experimenting gassing methods on emaciated people who were deemed mentally ill.

The following panels traced the research done by German scientists and doctors, who all examined citizens who suffered from certain hereditary conditions in order to find the genes that, if eliminated, could lead to the Aryan master race.

Giant floor-to-ceiling charts show how

scientists made assertions in their research in order to connect racial hygiene to the elimination of people of Jewish descent. Large charts, made by the Nazi party, promoted certain marriages that would result in offspring of the Aryan race.

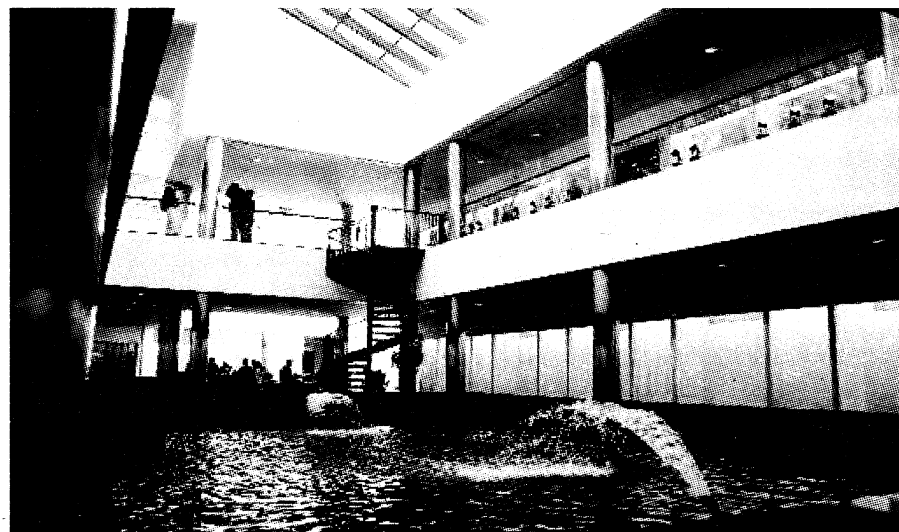
The Nazi party started promoting the duty of the German people to only marry the "hereditarily healthy" in order to create a "genetically and racially 'fit' nation," according to the exhibit Eternal People, an example of the propaganda used during the Third Reich.

The end of the exhibit led to the source of the booming voices, a large screen that played interviews of survivors of experimentation and

concentration camps. Men and women talked about how they could not scream as they were being tested and how they blame their inability to have children on the Nazi scientists.

The Deadly Medicine exhibit also showcases lectures by experts in history, medicine and ethics, made possibly by the Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care, and Bioethics.

The display is based on the Deadly Medicine exhibition that originally opened at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., and [www.ushmm.org/deadlymedicine](http://www.ushmm.org/deadlymedicine) houses an online version of the exhibit.



Daniel Kim / SB Statesman File Photo

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2008 - 2009 Nominees List

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# Deadly Medicine: Lecture Seeks to Dispel Disheartening Thoughts

By ANNIE FRIEDMAN  
Staff Writer

To Professor Robert Goldenberg, catastrophe is both a blessing and a curse.

Goldenberg explained the thought of catastrophe by saying that it has identifiable causes, while people believe that catastrophe has no meaning and that history is out of our control. The results of catastrophe make people realize the actions of their behavior.

Goldenberg mentioned his thoughts in his lecture entitled "National Catastrophe in the History of Jewish Thought," as part of the "Deadly Medicine" exhibition at the Wang Center. He began the lecture saying that he will not touch upon the theme of "deadly medicine" but instead the medicine that ensures life and human thinking.

Goldenberg wanted the lecture to answer questions, do justice and turn a difficult and controversial topic into a lighter one.

Jill Zucker, the associate director of Hillel, makes it her mission to stress the importance of education to students. As part of Hillel, she helped organize the exhibition and lecture series.

"Professor Goldenberg is the most brilliant Jewish scholar and delivers in a way that students will listen," Zucker said.

Goldenberg touched upon the relationship between Jews and Christians by saying that Christians believe the teachings of the Scripture are false. While Christians have the right to believe this, Goldenberg feels they should respect their beliefs and the fact that they have a relationship with the Creator of the World.

Rachel Landau, a member of Hillel, found the lecture very informative and important. Landau believes Goldenberg's thoughts on condemning Jewish children when brought into the world are not necessarily the fault of the parents.

Goldenberg said religion is often the target of genocide because religion can be chosen, while race cannot.

After World War II and the Holocaust came to an end, parents felt an extreme amount of guilt for bringing their children into the world and raising them into the Jewish religion.

"When you raise a Jewish child, you inescapably expose that child to mortal danger," Goldenberg said. "The rational response, the loving parental response to this realization should have been to protect their children from such danger by any means possible, yet the opposite was happening."

Lee Margulies, a first year student at the Stony Brook University School of Social Welfare, wishes every seat in the lecture hall had been filled.

"The lecture was an important topic given what is going on in the Middle East," Margulies said.

Goldenberg's last words were about how the very existence of Jews is a problem and that they should be protected from hate.

"The origins of anti-Semitism don't involve the Jews," Goldenberg said. "The world could've decided to hate someone else."



Photos by: Frank Posillico / SB Statesman

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, April 27, 2009



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## MUSIC

## OH YES FOR "003"

BY IVANNA AVALOS  
Assistant Arts and Entertainment Editor

It is amazing to learn that the band Oh No Not Stereo is only comprised of two members who not only produced their latest record release "003," but also played a variety of the instruments that appear on the album.

Oh No Not Stereo consists of lead vocalist Sky Nielsen, who plays guitar, keyboard, and bass, and Mykul Lee, who plays the drums, acoustic guitar, and piano. Currently, Marc Wysocki and Jussi Karvinen have joined the duo on the bass and guitar respectively, on their lineup while on tour.

Nielsen and Lee met and formed Oh No Not Stereo in 2003 after moving to Los Angeles. Since then, they have had four releases. Their first debut release was the EP

"001" in 2005, followed by their six-song self-titled EP in 2006. In 2007, they released the EP "002."

Their latest LP was digitally released Jan. 13th of this year and physically released in stores March 10th.

The dynamic duo has created an amazing sound with this latest release. "003" has a mix ranging from high-energy pop/rock to beautifully written and moving ballads to harder-edged tracks. It would be difficult to try and pinpoint Oh No Not Stereo under one category.

The album leads in with the appropriately titled track "Let's Get It Started" that catches your attention from the start and pulls you into the album. But don't get too comfortable because these guys often switch gears from one song to the next. Oh No Not

Stereo goes from "Shot Down By The Man," which has guitar riffs that belong in the popular video game Guitar Hero, to "12 Years Later," with a much slower guitar section and a melodic piano section in the background (producing a somber mood) and back to a brass and aggressive rock track in "Something New."

With a continuing tour planned for 2009, Oh No Not Stereo is on their way to making a lasting impression. It is already apparent through "003."

The band is currently on tour on the West coast and will be touring in Toronto, Canada starting mid-June, as part of the North by Northeast Festival.

**Recommended Tracks:** *Let's Get it Started, Hurricanes, All You, and 12 Years Later.*



Media credit: Coy Keohler, www.ohnostereo.net

## CHINA NIGHT 2009

BY JOE TROLLO  
Assistant News Editor

Tickets for this year's China Night performance were completely sold out, and it's not hard to understand why.

The variety show centered around the various antics of Shanghai Jones, Indiana Jane and Sum Ting Wong. Singers, dancers, steppers, musicians, and models added energy and flair, rounding out the entire performance. The story may seem tired or childish when taken out of context, but it fit the actors' personalities exceptionally well. More importantly though, the act was greatly amusing to the large crowd Saturday night.

Shanghai Jones (Kevin Chen), a history professor, is called away from his class and given the simple task of bringing the spoils of his previous adventure, a golden good fortune kitty, back to China. However, the task quickly evolves into a chase through the ancient and historic cities of China in search of other artifacts needed to find the "lost scroll of Confucius."

There were the obligatory pop-culture references but they were presented in a relatively (and unusually) tasteful manner; for example, when Jones needed to reach his next destination, and had no immediately available vehicles, "T-Pain" would appear with a boat, or a Jeep, or even a cloud.

Periodically, stones inscribed with guru- and not-so-guru-like advice showered Jones and Jane (Linda Kim) to guide them on their journey.

As the two traversed China independently, the audience was discreetly treated to Chinese fables and folklore, enough that it was not immediately evident until the show was over.

Classic romantic tensions between Jones and Jane, shifted from contempt and developed into compassion, which added additional depth to the story and plot line. This is especially illustrated when Jane is kidnapped by Sum Ting Wong (Kevin Chiu). Jones is forced to choose between saving her from Wong's ambitious polygamy -- in which Jane would become his eighth wife -- or continuing his quest. Around then, Jones becomes tired of trekking all over China as well, and must consider

whether he wants to continue at all.

The several performances by the live band, dance teams, singers, and other entertainers were seamlessly blended into the story and setting, along with being impressive. They contributed to the show's lighthearted mood and spiced up otherwise dull segments, while longer and more elaborate pieces occupied the audience's attention during scene changes.

The step-dance routine when Jones encountered the terracotta soldiers in Xi'an in an attempt to retrieve a sword from one of the statues, could have easily been its own independent performance. Also, while being told of the first (additional) artifact Jones must find -- the staff of the Monkey King -- the legend of the was acted out utilizing the Lion Dance Team during the Monkey King's battle with the dragons of the four seas.

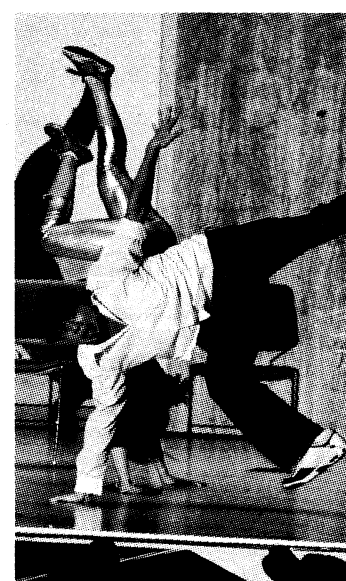
Jane, in a valiant and successful attempt to save Jones' life near the end of the evening, unfortunately dies, prompting a somber yet spectacular singing performance by Monica Feng after Jane breathes her last breath in Jones' arms.

However, all is not lost at this point. Jones returned the artifacts he collected throughout the night to find the lost scroll of Confucius, a papyrus roll with a smiley face drawn on it, an extremely unexpected yet amusing outcome. Seeing it as worthless, in what is still an amusing scene, Jones reflected on why he went through all that he did, and came across a revelation: it was not the final result that mattered, but the journey he took to achieve it.

After this realization and via a disjointed transition, Jones promptly wakes up in his history class, having dozed off during the lecture, to find that Jane is alive, sitting just a few rows behind him, mocking him for awkwardly saying "Hello."

Although the ending felt awkward, as there was no indication of this other reality, it was still a satisfying conclusion to Jones' epic adventure, which was overall a very entertaining event to watch.

The Chinese Association at Stony Brook hosts China Night every year in the spring, and it is always their largest event, closing the academic year's activities.



Photos by Kenneth Ho / SB Statesman

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# The Republicrat Paradigm

continued from page 5

by his record. That is, its apparent if you consider the typical perceptions of the right-left paradigm as being true. If you do, then you know that Democrats like to tax and spend, are anti-war and support social issues such as abortion and gay marriage.

Republicans, on the other hand, think that government shouldn't get involved in the economy, are socially conservative and more than willing to bring American values, by law or by force, to people at home and abroad.

Under this simplified world view, your average liberal lambastes Republicans for having parochial ethics, being racist jingoists, legislating morality and being negligent about the plight of the poor - who need to be protected from capitalism's greedy maw.

On the other hand, to the 'necon,' liberals are sexually deviant, peacenik commies who want to destroy traditional American culture and values, and use government to steal money from hardworking Americans to give handouts to those too lazy to do an honest day's work for themselves.

Which of these representations are right? Both might have elements of truth, but neither is actually correct.

Since the 2008 primaries, when the religious right failed to solidify themselves around a single candidate, protecting traditional social and cultural values has taken a back burner. More recently, because our current economic situation presented itself, less people seemed to care about keeping gays from entering the bonds of holy matrimony or felt the need to prevent single, poor, teenage girls from terminating unwanted pregnancies.

Economic issues have always been more important to voters than dictating social dogma, and now even Republicans seem to realize this. So even though social conservatism is important to some on the right, they are less likely to vote on these issues. Some Republicans even realize that conservatism means preserving personal liberty, not legislating morality - I point to long-time Republican congressman Ron Paul as an example.

So, if legislating parochial social values isn't conservatism, that really just leaves the economic and foreign policy stuff. So let's see just how economically conservative the Republicans have been acting lately.

Sure, lately there have been lots of 'tea party' protests at the

grassroots level, which finally has Republican politicians ruffling their 'free market' feathers. But where was this anger when George W. Bush proposed the first round of bailouts? Obama is just continuing Bush's policy of deficit spending to bail out Wall Street. Even the Bush tax cuts - the supposed modern bastion of free market policy - isn't really that conservative, when you consider that trillions of dollars in tax cuts wasn't coupled to significant cuts in spending.

What's conservative about deficit spending?

The Bush/Cheney ties to big business is no secret. Neither is Republican-supported policies of government subsidies to big Oil and other businesses; a form of corporate welfare that any true conservative would be against. And, since congressional Republicans are now finding it fashionable to bash government spending these days, let's not forget about one of the largest expenses over the last decade; the Iraq war.

The war is costing us

the Balkans. Hard to believe we're talking about the same person.

However, despite modern conceptions, Democrats have often been the party of hawks; Lydon B. Johnson - a Democrat - scaled up the unpopular Vietnam war while Republican Richard Nixon withdrew troops and reduced casualties during his tenure. President Obama was able to lure the MoveOn.org crowd into his camp without much trouble, but now he's promising to increase our involvement in Afghanistan, won't rule out the use of force against Iran and, worse still, doesn't seem to be too concerned about human rights abuses under the Bush administration or committed to changing policies on torture.

Any real conservative worth his salt wouldn't sacrifice the principles of the Constitution, not even for his worst enemy.

These facts give us reason to question the right-left, Republican-Democrat dichotomy that is pervasive in the thoughts of voters and sprinkled throughout our media outlets.

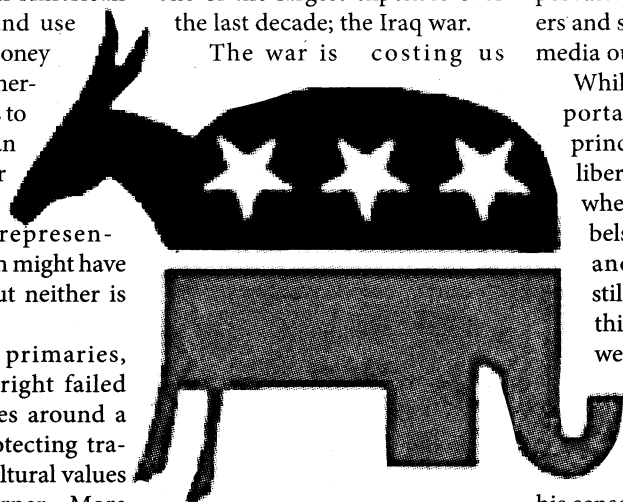
While there are real and important differences between principled conservatism and liberalism, those same terms, when applied as political labels, have become distorted and meaningless. Worst still, since most of us actually think they are still relevant, we divide ourselves on party lines and fruitlessly argue if Arlen Specter is a traitor for turning blue or has finally come to his senses.

In reality, political philosophy has little place in practiced politics. Campaign promises fall by the wayside as some important crises comes along that supposedly necessitates the bending of this principle or that constitutional amendment.

Political dissent is an important check and balance of power. I am supportive of Republican attempts to slow down the deficit spending and Wall Street bailouts. However, I can't throw my hat in with the Republicans just yet, because their past abuses of power - which rival the current Obama administration's policies - and violations of true conservative principles are too fresh in my mind.

We can't afford to be myopic or we'll forget that the differences between the parties are not that substantial, once a party gains power.

You say Republican, I say Democrat, you say potato, I say potato in a slightly different way. Let's call this whole thing off.



over \$650 billion dollars today - a number which seemed big a couple months ago - so no matter how 'important' the goals of winning the conflict in Iraq may be, can any politician who supports it really be called "fiscally conservative"?

And what about war anyway? Is supporting armed conflict in a far off places to protect American interests - or if you're really paranoid, the interests of big Oil - really a conservative ideal? Is opposing war really a Democratic/liberal one? Let's play a game called "who said this?":

"If we don't stop extending our troops all around the world in nation-building missions, then we're going to have a serious problem."

Nope, it isn't a quote from Cindy Sheehan or John Lennon. It was uttered by the unholy lips of George W. Bush, himself, in January 2001. Under the guise of small government conservatism, in 2000 George W. Bush ran on a platform of non-interventionism overseas, to contrast the militarism of Bill Clinton's campaigns in

# Media Show Ugly Side in Susan Boyle Coverage

By ANDY BOCKELMAN  
The Mirror / UWire

Boyle as she is.

Making role models out of those who don't quite fit the traditional Hollywood standards - Nia Vardalos in "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" or America Ferrera in "Ugly Betty" - has been a pet project of the entertainment industry lately. But while such endeavors promote a differentiation in standards of beauty, these have been counterproductive more often than not, turning talented women into martyrs of body image.

To quote another well-known musical act from across the pond, "another one bites the dust."

Though Boyle has not been quick to jump into makeover mode, much has been made about recent facial touch-ups, most notably her newly curled hair and trimmed eyebrows, chronicled in the tasteless E! Online story, "Big Plucking Deal."

A joke about Boyle on the recent episode of "South Park" said what we're all thinking: too much hype. The news media outlets have gone out of their way to promote Boyle's offbeat look more than her singing and as a result, have become guilty of preaching the same narrow-mindedness that made it easy for her to be overlooked in the first place.

One can only hope that Boyle can rise above this misguided attention to prove true the lyrics of the song that made her famous, a cry for a better life filled with love.

Attractive people are the only ones worth the world's attention. Unless, of course, you've got talent. Then you can be forgiven for your appearance. Such is the message sent with the popularity of up-and-coming Scottish singer Susan Boyle.

Boyle, 47, made a huge splash that rippled worldwide when she appeared on "Britain's Got Talent" facing off against renowned nitpicker Simon Cowell. The heavyset chanteuse - plain and dowdy by her own admission - shocked the crowd by belting out the "Les Misérables" tune "I Dreamed a Dream." Since then, the Internet has been abuzz with the emergence of a fresh, musical voice who represents the common people.

Much has been made of Boyle's ugly duckling story and her background. Originally surprising people with a false confession of never being kissed, Boyle seems to take pride in making her life sound worse than it is. This kind of media fodder is amusing in a kind of self-awareness viewpoint as the singer can keep everyone guessing as to what she will do next.

With a marketing campaign of having an unglamorous appearance combined with her amazing voice, Boyle could stand to make a phenomenal career out of her tale. But the public is uninterested in keeping



Susan Boyle sings on UK show, Britain's Got Talent  
Media credit: Telegraph.co.uk

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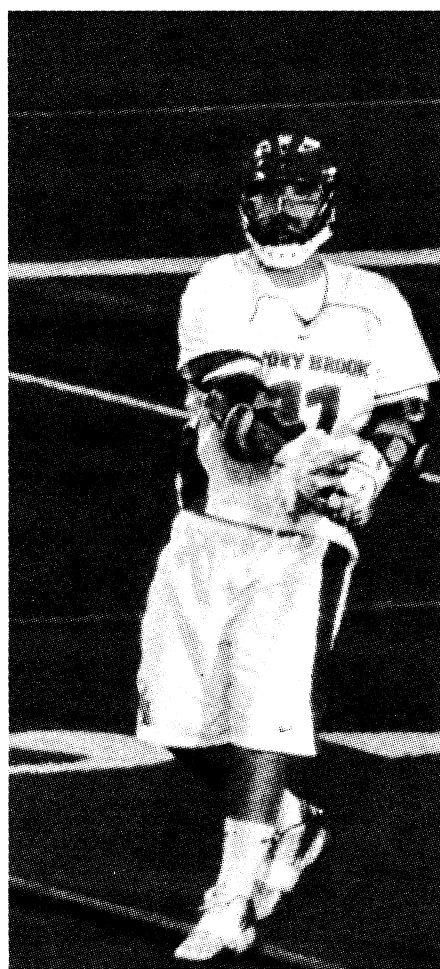
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# Men's Lacrosse Beats Albany to Move On To America East Championship Game

## Six Seawolves Honored With All-America East Selections



Six Seawolves, including Jordan McBride, were honored by the America East Conference Wednesday. McBride, Kevin Crowley, Steve Waldeck, and Adam Rand were named first team all conference.

Alex Berkman/ SB Statesman

### First Team All-America East

Jordan McBride Attack  
Sophomore #11  
42 Goals, 8 Assists, 22 GB's

Kevin Crowley Mid-Field  
Sophomore #21  
24 Goals, 23 Assists, 56 GB's

Steven Waldeck Defense  
Junior #24  
5 Goals, 91 Groundballs

Adam Rand Faceoff  
Sophomore #10  
64 GB's, .643% Faceoffs

### Second Team All-America East

Jared LeVerne Mid-Field  
Freshman #13  
4 Goals, 1 Assist, 33 GB's

### All-Academic Team

Timmy Trenkle Mid-Field  
Sophomore #20  
16 Goals, 5 Assists, 17 GB's

By GENE MORRIS  
Sports Editor

The Seawolves have been in this situation before. Stony Brook has been involved in every America East tournament since they began eight years ago. And Albany has stood in the Seawolves way of advancing in each of the last four.

But on this night the roles were reversed. Behind a blistering offensive effort that included five goals from Jordan McBride, the Seawolves defeated the Great Danes 18-12 to advance to the America East final on Saturday night in Baltimore against UMBC. The winner of that game wins the leagues automatic berth to the NCAA tournament.

These two teams played on this same field just four days ago. The Seawolves held onto a 13-12 victory in a thrilling game. The Great Danes made some noise late in this one, but the Seawolves offense and goaltender Rob Camposa made sure Albany never really got back into the game.

After Albany cut the Seawolves lead down to 16-12, junior Chris Scott made sure it would get no closer, scoring the games final two goals and putting the game away. Scott came into the game with three goals on the season, but he found the back of the net four times in this contest.

Head Coach Rick Sowell was very happy with the way his team jumped out of the gate.

"Playing our first home playoff game gave us some juice," he said. "We came out on fire."

## Seawolves Ready for Rematch With UMBC

The Seawolves scored eight goals in the opening quarter, repeatedly beating the Great Danes with point blank shots from right in front of the goal.

The second quarter had a little less action, as the Seawolves outscored Albany 2-1, and went into the half with a 10-5 lead.

Playing their second straight game without injured goaltender Charlie Parr, who Sowell said is about a week and a half through a two-week injury, Camposa stepped up and played his second straight strong game against Albany.

When asked about going to Camposa in Parr's absence, Sowell responded strongly. "I'm absolutely confident," he said. Rob is "more than capable."

Another key contributor in the Seawolves victory was Tom Compitello. He finished the night with two goals to go along with four assists.

Going into Baltimore on Saturday to play UMBC, who defeated the Seawolves 14-8 on March 28 at LaValle Stadium, will not be an easy task.

"They have a dynamite mid-field," Sowell said of the Retrievers. "We just have to try and contain them."

UMBC barley hung on to defeat the fourth seeded Binghamton Bearcats in double overtime last night, which has to give the Seawolves some extra confidence they can knock off the Retrievers.

"The name of our opponents change, but we need to play the same," Sowell said. "Right now we feel like we'll play anybody."

## Spring Track and Field Recap

By MIKE FODERA  
Senior Writer

As the sun has begun to shine a little bit more brightly these past days following a dreary March and February, the Stony Brook University Seawolves Track and Field team hit the ground running on Sunday in the Yale Springtime Invitational. Looking to add a fourth straight record breaking performance, Lucy Van Dalen led the Seawolves to three top-three finishes on the afternoon.

Van Dalen has continued her hot fall and winter performances this year by breaking three records in three consecutive meets this spring, the latest one being a record in the 3,000 meter run held previ-

ously by her sister Holly, who, in fact, had broken the very same record fifteen days before the Penn Relays.

At the Yale Springtime Invitational, Van Dalen competed in the 1,500 meter race. Although Lucy did not break a record this time around, she ran well enough to place first with a time of 4:32.52, just barely missing out on a chance to make a bid for an ECAC qualifying spot. The next runner, a freshman from Manhattan, placed a good fourteen seconds behind with a time of 4:46.74. The women also placed five more runners in the top ten.

Fisayo Tunde, a senior from Selden, NY, placed tenth in the women's 100 meter dash with a time of 12.90, and Justine

Noel, the freshman from Brooklyn, NY, also placed tenth in her respective event, the 400 meter dash, with a time of 59.76.

Jacque Kehoe finished a strong second in the 3,000 meter run with a time of 10:40.42, just ten seconds behind the highest finisher hailing from Quinnipiac, the rookie freshman Jillian Fauser took ninth in the 400 meter hurdles with a time of 1:10.22, and rounding out the top six women competitors was sophomore Leanne Skrabacz who placed third in the 3000 meter steeplechase with a time of 12:28.00.

On the men's side of the day, juniors Tim Hodge, hailing from Tawa, New Zealand, and Daire Bermingham, who calls Portmarnock, Ireland home, crossed sec-

ond and third in their races, respectively. Hodge competed in the men's 1,500 meter race, finishing in 3:55.15, which happened to be less than three seconds behind the top finisher, Yale's Jake Gallagher. Bermingham took third in his event, the 800 meter, and finished in 1:54.95, two seconds behind the first place runner from Manhattan.

The men had one more finish in the top ten on the day, with the spot belonging to freshman Brett Crandell, from Penfield, NY, who finished sixth in the 3000 meter steeplechase, with a time of 10:18.47.

Next up on Stony Brook's docket is the America East Outdoor Championships this weekend as both Stony Brook's track & field teams will travel to Binghamton to compete.





# STATESMAN SPORTS

## On To Baltimore



**Seawolves Defeat  
Albany 18-12 in  
AE Semi-finals,  
Play UMBC For NCAA  
Tournament Bid**

Alex Berkman/ SB Statesman