THE STATESMAN

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OPINION

Missing I-CON 28

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What Happens to a **Weed Deferred?**

On March 26, 2009, I felt a sense of generational pride in my government. President Obama was testing out an excitingly new means of representation by addressing public qualms and quandaries of the people via an online white house forum. That's right, the internet. Now I'm not old enough to remember a time when the Internet didn't exist, a fact that has greatly influenced my generation.

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Who Punishes the **Punishers?**

The outrage propagating through the media over the AIG bonuses is starting a cascade by which the government is descending down a slippery slope into micro-management of the economy. First we attach strings, preventing companies receiving bailouts from fulfilling contractual obligation of granting bonuses.

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Brooke Ellison speaks about the controversal issue of stem cell research.

Kenneth Ho / SB Statesman

The Brooke Ellison Project: Campaigning For Stem Cells

By TARA DILLON Contributing Writer

At 11 years old, Brooke Ellison was just like any other kid. She danced, she sang and she enjoyed playing in her neighborhood with her friends. That is until her life changed in an instant. "One day I'm walking home from school, anxious to play with my friends, and the next I'm confined to a wheelchair, breathing with the help of a tube," says Ellison, now 30, of the car accident that ended with a one-year hospital stay from a spinal cord injury. It is then that she decided that she would become an advocate for stem cell research, "I wanted to help further the issue in any way that I could."

Ellison now spends her daystraveling to different schools and communities across the country to educate the public on stem cells and how millions of people could benefit from them. Ellison, along with her organization, the Brooke Ellison Project, recently made a stop at Stony Brook University on Mar. 25.

The event, sponsored by the College of Engineering and the Women in Science and Engineer-

umentary "Hope Deferred," and a panelist discussion. The panel included experts and researchers from all over the field including biomedical engineering, medical humanities, compassionate care, and bioethics. Turnout to the event, which was held in the SAC auditorium, drew over 100 people, including a few who would benefit from stem cell research

The documentary "Hope Deferred," by Jimmy Siegel, gave the audience a wide understanding of what Stem Cells were and how scientists go about getting them. Siegel owns a well-known creative services business and has worked with the likes of Hillary Clinton and Eliot Spitzer.

The film takes the issue out of the political sphere and brings the issue into a new light -- one involving human life," Ellison

According to the documentary, "Stem cells are unique cells that have the ability to both selfrenew and to develop into other types of cells in the body." For people suffering from diabetes, spinal cord injuries, neurological disorders, cancer, Lou Gehrig's ing program, included a speech disease, multiple sclerosis, and

by Ellison, a screening of the doc-various other diseases, stem cells could mean relief from the pain they have been suffering for years.

> "A world without Alzheimer's and Lou Gehrig's disease is a world we can look forward to," says Lawrence Goldstein, the director of the stem cell program at the University of California, San Diego, who was quoted in the documentary. Many people interviewed in the documentary agree with this statement, including family members of those suffering from incurable diseases.

> Douglas Melton, the co-director of the Stem Cell Institute at Harvard University, has a son and daughter who both suffer from diabetes. For him, stem cells would take away the painful insulin shots and multiple pills that he has to watch his children take every day.

> For Kieran McGovern who suffers from Friedreich's Ataxia, a painful neurological disorder, stem cells would mean being free from a wheelchair and the ability to walk. McGovern, though, doesn't let this stop him from having a positive outlook of the world, "You have to take a bad hand that you got and use it to

> > Continued on page 7

Exploring Other Cultures Through Study Abroad

By Gabriela Penaherrera Staff Writer

The thrill of globe trekking around the world as an undergraduate student can be a fulfilling experience that teaches the differences of cultures, languages, and lifestyles that are different from

"The thought of exploring another country through excursions, different types of food, culture, and people always captivated my interest," said Christine Lee, a senior at Stony Brook University, who visited Tanzania before deciding upon her major. "Before deciding on Tanzania, I almost went through another program after reviewing other study abroad options, but I decided not to due to a sudden change of plans. The next year, I declared Anthropology as my major."

Lee said that she was more excited to go to Tanzania because she had academic drive to go on the trip. "While the excursions to Kilimanjaro and the Serengeti remain as the highlights of the trip, I really enjoyed the overall experiences throughout my journey in Tanzania," she said. "Playing soccer with the local school girls, exploring the city of Arusha by ourselves, and playing with the children from local orphanages. Throughout the trip, I took comfort in feeling more like a visitor in a novel country than a common tourist.'

Stony Brook University offers a variety of study abroad programs for a short-term program in summer or winter, or a long-term international exchange program that can extend over a semester or academic year.

These programs offer course credits in a foreign environment and also excursions to different landmarks and historic sites that are incorporated with the learning experience. "Besides a beginner's knowledge of Swahili, I've learned to be happy and be free," said Lee. "While we stayed at various locations around the northern part of Tanzania, our motto became "be

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Tuesday: High: 55°F Low: 38°F Sunny.



Wednesday: High: 49°F Low: 42°F Partly cloudy.



Thursday: High: 56°F Low: 44°F Showers.



Friday: High: 54°F Low: 41°F Showers.

From weather.com

HIGH TECH BEALW

LinkedIn and Twitter, Helping Graduates Find Jobs

By Charles Costa

As another school year comes to an end, many college graduates are about to enter what is the worst job market in recent history.

Despite the grim outlook, there are many Internet services and websites which greatly reduce the odds that you'll be flipping burgers or collecting unemployment right after graduating.

LinkedIn is essentially the business equivalent of Facebook. Rather than focus on job searching, Linked-In places an emphasis on networking and building business connections.

The main difference between the two is that with the LinkedIn, you build business relationships which can lead to jobs in the future, whereas with the conventional job search sites, you just ask for jobs up front.

While you might not get a job immediately, networking is important because about 80 percent of employees find their jobs through personal connections, while only 20 percent are recruited through cold calls.

When using LinkedIn, there are some points worth noting. The following is by no means a tutorial on using the site, meaning I will be skipping over tons of material.

Starting off - LinkedIn is a busi-

ness network, meaning you need to keep things professional. Using common sense is sufficient for this requirement, so going into detail is not necessary, however I will say that for your profile photo (if you choose to add one), make sure it is of you in a business appropriate outfit or suit. For more information on networking in general, the Career Center here on campus is an excellent resource.

While on the topic of networking, "Twittering" is gaining popularity as a way to snag a job. For those who have not heard the term before, Twittering isn't something you do when your ADD kicks in. Twittering is just posting messages to Twitter. com; a popular micro-blogging service which lets you post messages as long as they are under 140 characters.

How can a 140 character message get you a job? You see, just like LinkedIn, Twitter is a way to get your name out to the world and connect with others. While there is no set guide on how to use Twitter, generally the people sharing useful information -- related to their field of expertise -- are the ones who have the most influence and respect (indicated by their number of followers).

Unlike LinkedIn, Twitter can be used for fun, business, or a combination of the two (assuming you exercise common sense-The Facebook status feature can be utilized instead

kept private). When you create an account,a photo is a must, as accounts without photos are viewed as spam. Also, fill your biography section with information that is relevant to your education and/or work experience. If possible, try to use your full name as your Twitter ID as it will make it easier for employers and the public in general to find you.

Tweet My Jobs.com is a service. which delivers job postings in your area to your cell phone via Twitter. An advantage to using this service is that you are notified as soon as the job is posted.

A useful site for finding top Twitterers is Twellow (Twellow.com) which calls its self "The Twitter Yellow Pages." The site constantly adds Twitter users to its database and then sorts the users into categories. Visitors to Twellow have the option to find users by browsing categories or searching. By default, the results are sorted by follower count, so the most popular users will be at the top.

While the previously mentioned sites are great alternatives to conventional job search sources, sites like Monster.com, HotJobs.com, and CareerBuilder.com still are frequented by large amounts of employers and hiring agencies. While registering with job sites can be difficult, time saving meta-search engines now allow users to search hundreds of sites at once for job listings.

One such site is Indeed.com. Although the site has a simple layout, it proves to be a powerful tool due

of Twitter for things that should be to sheer number of sites it checks for jobs. Indeed supports RSS feeds for your searches so you can always stay on top of the latest job postings without having to constantly check

> It should be noted that Indeed only directs you to job postings (just like Google does with websites) and does not handle the actual registration/application process, meaning that you will need to register with the individual sites hosting the job postings. Still, Indeed helps to narrow the number of sites worth using especially by showing duplicate job listings that appear on multiple sites.

Last but not least - actually compared to the other services it is the least impressive feature wise, but it cannot be beat for quick entry-level employment. Craigslist is the digital equivalent of the classified ads in your newspaper. While the site is not as elegant as the major job search sites, Craigslist is filled with plenty of opportunities, so if you're looking for a quick way to make additional money, you definitely should give the site a look

When searching for a job, regardless of where you look, keep in mind that if a job offer seems too good to be true, then it probably is. If that isn't enough to make you think twice about paying \$50 to learn how to, "MAKE \$12,000 PER MONTH BY WORKING AT HOME!!!," ask yourself, "If this program really worked, then why are people still working at conventional jobs?"

Exploring Cultures Through Study Abroad

Continued from page 1

free." I came across many local residents who never failed to be charming and content with their lives."

There are similar programs including a summer or fall stay in Madagascar, where students are able to learn about nature conservation and research. "Students live near the rainforest and live in tents," said Jennifer Green, an international study abroad advisor at Stony Brook University. She said that the Madagascar program appeals to students because of its remote location and proximity to endangered animals.

Another popular program, the summer session in Italy, is celebrating its 30th anniversary. "This program is run by a Stony Brook professor who is from Italy and knows the language, so he is very passionate about the way he instructs his students," she said. Green said it runs for four weeks, visits museums, and cultural sites in cities like Naples, Capri, Pompeii, Venice and others.

In summer, students can get academic credit from the prestigious St. Anthony's College at Oxford University in England. This program uses

field trips in Oxford and London where students visit the Oxford City Council and see important political and social institutions. Some of the trips include one to the Oxford Museum of Natural History, Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology and others that focus on ecology and science.

Many of these study abroad options are considered more beneficial for students to take advantage early in their college career. "We want the students to go away in their first two years rather than wait until they declare a major because when they declare a major it gets very difficult to go away," said William Arens, Ph. D., Dean of International Academic Programs. "If they can't take these courses in their junior year then they can't take these courses in their senior year and they can't graduate."

The professor of Anthropology explained that students can take all their graduation required courses abroad their first two years of college rather than later, when they have to take courses geared to their major.

Dean Aren's takes about 25 students to Tanzania in East Africa every summer. "We try to look for a Christine Lee and her group in Tanzania.

the best universities there are for our students," he said. "Students are interested in Tanzania for the sake of conservation, to see animals, to see parks, and people."

According to Green, studying abroad is as popular as ever before. "Nationally, Stony Brook is an affordable place to study abroad from, and students who are not eligible for financial aid get pretty decent interest rates on federal loans," she said. "Even with the current economic situation, the study abroad office was not anticipating a dramatic decrease in students applying for

these programs."

"Living in Tanzania for a month will change the way you see the entire world. You will be enlightened for years even after the trip once you come home,it just will never leave you. You will gain life experience at it's best," said Kathryn Saganic, another student who went to Tanzania with Arens. "When I went I was bio-premed, and now I am an anthropology major. I had always loved anthropology, but didn't think it could ever take me too far. Now I am going with my heart."



Media Credit: Christine Lee

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, March 30, 2009

MUSIC

Not Without a Fight

By Anthony Dobrini



New Found Glory "Not Without a Fight' (Epitaph)

Google Images

It could very well be the year of pop-punk. With new releases by Blink 182 and Green Day on the way the music scene might shake up a bit. Another band called New Found Glory is battling their way to the top to join the others. They've been doing their thing for a while now and have just delivered much to find a 'hit.' But nowatheir sixth album, Not With-

influences in order to influence themselves (if that isn't confusing as it sounds.) There is definitely a taste of their recent tour mates in Four Year Strong and a Day to Remember, bringing back a hardcore-influence fused with the pop-punk they know and we love.

It's almost as if they never grew up and are still playing the same songs about girls breaking their hearts, lost friendships and meeting new people each night. But that's perfect for the people that are going to pick up this record - all are easily relatable topics.

They sometimes strive too days who knows what is going



Media Credit: Ben Ritter/MTV.com

out a Fight. They might not be to pop and what will deflate as the other two, but they are certainly responsible for most of the new music that is com-Boy or All Time Low).

away with a track titled "Right Where We Left Off." In this single track they have completed several tasks: named the new album in the lyrics (which is always fun to see how and when bands find it appropriate to do corner. this), given a straight pop-rock song filled with the edge that would get anyone's adrenaline to pump, and basically said that 1. Right Where We Left Off they are literally started where 2. Don't Let Her Pull You they left off. The whole the al- Down bum is reminiscent of their last 3. Listen To Your Friends record Coming Home -- minus 4. 47 the excess keyboards but filled 5. Truck Stop Blues with hints of flavor from their 6. Tangled Up early records. "Listen to Your 7. I'll Never Love Again Friends" is the first single of 8. Reasons the record and has lead singer 9. Such A Mess Jordan Pundik's lyrics move 10. Heartless At Beat along with the fast-paced mu- 11. This Isn't You a-long brings memories of the End old days.

doing what they do best for 10, 2009 NFG. They have certainly taken into account some of the very bands that cite them as

as much of a household name just as quick in the current state of the music industry anyway?

It doesn't matter if you were ing out nowadays (see: Fall Out a fan of the band in the past or you are just looking for new The record begins right music. Regardless it's a solid release. Well produced, and something worthwhile to put in the CD player while driving out in the real world. And a perfect soundtrack as spring and summer creep around the

Tracklisting:

- sic behind him. A perfect sing- 12. Don't Let This Be The

However, it's not just about Original Release Date: March

MOVIES

PAINFULLY REAL

By Ula Lukszo Staff Writer



Anne Hathaway as a moody ex-junkie just out of rehab? Somehow, I just don't buy it.

That's not to say that Ionathan Demme's moving family drama "Rachel Getting Married" isn't worth watching. As long as you have a box of Kleenex with you, that is.

"Rachel," like "Introducing the Dwights" or "Flight of the Red Balloon" (2007), is all about realism to the point of painfulto-watch, only tempered by the reality that families ultimately pull through and enjoy one another, no matter how screwed up they are.

"Rachel Getting Married" centers around Kym (Hathaway), who is released from rehab for her sister Rachel's wedding. Kym has been clean for nine months and is still dealing with many of her demons, as we learn throughout the movie.

Heavy eyeliner, a haircut that looks like it was done with a machete, and dark clothes are supposed to code Hathaway, usually a bubbly naif, as troubled and complex.

Rosemarie Dewitt ("Mad Men") is much more believ-

perhaps overlooked sister, who does not wish for her big day to be spoiled by her attentionseeking sister.

Things are tense from the start as Kym wanders the house with a lit cigarette, complains about being under constant suspicion from her family, and makes a scene at the rehearsal dinner by giving her "12-step" apology to Rachel in the form of a blasé toast.

The family's dirty laundry slowly but surely unravels over the course of the film. Bill Irwin ("Across the Universe"), as the

able in her role as the good but time portraying the wedding and its preparations.

> The wedding is Indianthemed and exotic strains of music, a multicultural set of wedding guests, and silky saris proliferate.

> The film attempts to include the viewer in the wedding preparations, the rehearsal dinner and the wedding itself. Its attempts at realism succeed in the sense that we feel as if we are flies on the wall at this festivity.

Although it could perhaps be slightly shorter, the film is beautiful and moving, imbued with



Media Credit: Staller Center for the Arts

Anne Hathaway, as Kym, in "Rachel Getting Married."

Deveare Smith ("The West Wing"), as his second wife, and Debra Winger ("Forget Paris"), as Rachel and Kym's mother round out a strong supporting

Although much of the film circles around Kym's neuroses and how they have affected her family over time, "Rachel Getting Married" shakes things up by spending equal amounts of

over-protective father, Anna real emotion, and it reminds us that not every film about weddings has to be a soppy romance or a slapstick comedy.

Most often, moving occasions like weddings are a mishmash of wonderful, happy moments and painful confrontations with the past and with the ones we love. And this is just what "Rachel Getting Married" attempts to capture, with much

PhD Comics By Jorge Cham

Undergradese

What undergrads ask vs. what they're REALLY asking

"Is it going to be an open book exam?"

Translation: "I don't have to actually memorize anything, do I?"

"Hmm, what do you mean by that?"

Translation: "What's the answer so we can all go home.

"Are you going to have office hours today?"

Translation: "Can I do my homework in your office?"



"Is grading going to be curved?"

J. PHDCOMICS. COM

"Is this going to be on the test?" Translation: "Tell us what's going to be on the test."

Translation: "Can I do a mediocre job and still get an A?"

Translation: "Can you re-arrange your life around mine?"

"Can i get an

the stony brook

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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.

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Missing I-CON 28

By Zachary Kurtz Opinion Editor

For the past 27 years, Stony Brook has played the variablygracious host to the Northeast's biggest science-fiction, fact and fantasy convention. It started up occupying a few rooms in the student union, but as interest in the sci-figenres grew, so did the "Island Convention.

During the last couple of years attendance during the three day event has exceeded 6000 people and programing has stretched across many buildings at the Stony Brook campus. Having volunteered for, and attended, the CON since my high school days, I've seen the

growth of anime and trading card tion of being held at Stony Brook games, to supplement the usual sci-fi favorites.

But, 2009 is apparently the year for change. For the first time in Icon history, the convention is moving off the Stony Brook University campus. At a time when the state university system is heavily strapped for cash, Stony Brook is threatening to risk a profitable partnership with Icon, as space is allegedly made this year for 'renovations' in ISC - the indoor sports complex building that is the heart and brain center for I-CON activities. This year, citing the \$20 million renovation project in store for the ISC. University officials have put I-CON's long standing tradion hold.

While I understand why the move was necessary - the arena is the only place large enough to hold the scores of dealers, merchandise and the thousands that come to shop - it doesn't mean I have to like it. During a time of such budget short fall, tuition hikes and hiring freezes, is pumping millions into a new sports infrastructure really necessary? I value Stony Brook sports, but I hesitate to believe that throwing money at new stadiums is going to suddenly help propel Stony Brook into the final four.

Meanwhile, the school could be making money of of I-CON, and grooming the next generation of

smart, nerdy Long Islanders to associate Stony Brook University with geeky goodness. I'm not going to lie - my familiarity with Stony Brook campus, due to my participation in I-CON, factored into my decision to go to school here. I'd like to think that SBU has somehow benefited from that decision.

Although I-CON staffers have been officially insisting that its a mere technical issue and I-CON will probably be welcomed back to SBU when

the renovations are done. I've been hearing rumors for years that Stony Brook has wanted to boot I-CON with their costumed weirdos. anime freaks and sci-fi nerds - for a while now.

But - here's the kicker - there's little reason to believe that I-CON couldn't have been held at Stony Brook this year. Perhaps the budget has caught up with renovation construction, or maybe the construction administration has gotten sidetracked through the usual SUNY bureaucratic channels. Because, even though the basketball team has been stuck in the small, old Pritchard Gym for the past season, the large arena displays little signs of construction, nor much physical indication that the dealers room couldn't have gone in there.

Of course, there are probably a dozen bureaucratic reasons - contracts, administration, construction site safety - why I-CON 28 couldn't go in the ISC this year, but I can't help think that something a little more sinister is going on. First they took away the weapons dealers (think Lord of the Rings, not Lord of War), then they started making us "peace-bond" plastic swords, and

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I-con's Past - Dealers Room In the ISC

Media Credit: Andrea Marino/SB Statesman

What Happens to a Weed Deferred?

By JOEL FOXE Contributing Writer

On March 26, 2009, I felt a sense of generational pride in my government. President Obama was testing out an excitingly new means of representation by addressing public qualms and quandaries of the people via an online white house forum. That's right, the internet. Now I'm not old enough to remember a time when the Internet didn't exist, a fact that has greatly influenced my generation.

For better or worse, this is a fact that I am proud of, as it marks the end of accepted authority. In the digital age if there's a question needing answered, you have nothing but your intelligence, hand-eye coordination, and a library card to stop you from finding entire communities faster than you can think them up.

So when I read that the man I voted for president would be utilizing the very implement that incalculably aids me and my many like-minded peers on a daily basis. there was a sensation of vindication. Finally, a president who doesn't need to have explained what "a google" is, maybe this will herald a personal offense to this remark.

renewed age of direct democracy. Upon visiting the forum, I was genuinely shocked to notice that 4 out of the 10 major issues (e.g The Budget, Financial Stability, Jobs) were dominated by pro marijuana legalization questions. Not only were the most popular questions by far pertaining to the 'cannabis question, but also the subsequent second, third and sometimes fourth most voted on questions in each category were also marijuana related. Surely this is not what the Obama administration had in mind when they polled the American people. But over 3 million votes were cast in either favor or opposition to these questions, with the general opinion seemed inextricably tied to this central point.

The President however limited his statements on legaliza-

"... whether legalizing marijuana would improve the economy and job creation. I don't know what this says about the online audience...The answer is no, I don't think that is a good strategy to grow our economy."

As a proud American, and responsible cannabis user, I take

It seems that our leader is proposing that the online community is populated by potheads, rather than concerned Americans. Do you mean to say we are too lazy or stoned to stand up and be counted at the tradition town hall meetings, or is it that we are too scared? It is, under current federal law, still against the law.

I'm not a criminal, and I'd like to keep it that way. I'm also a proud cannabis user, who like

many of you would not admit to that on a government survey. So where can we meet, organize and lobby our interests without fear of retributions? Since 1965 20 million people have been arrested for the nonviolent offense of possession, so excuse me Mr. President if it's a good way to save money. The point is this industry is in place, and not going any

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Guidelines for Opinion Submission











Letters to the editor or op-ed contributions can be submitted by email 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 withold 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.

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, March 30,





Stony Brook Color Guard

Photos by April Warren













Honor Societies Hope to Pull in More Students

By Jasmin Frankel Contributing Write

Golden Key presented the second annual Honor Society Fair Wednesday in hopes of bringing more awareness to the different honor societies on campus to students.

Invitations for the event were sent to any junior or senior with 57 credits or more and a GPA over a 3.3. Those who be added to your resume," Staebler said.

are inducted to the different honor societies are invited to a ceremony held in each November, and are presented with a certificate of achievement.

According to Annette Staebler, who is in charge of new student programs including the Honor Society Fair, 2,400 students were sent invitations last year and 792 of them were inducted. Golden Key is then added on the student's transcripts. "It can

awareness to many chapters, some groups did not attend and student participation was diminutive.

Among the chapters who attended were Psi Chi representing psychology. President Kimberly Alexander of Psi Chi believes the organization is a way to educate and inform students for future opportunities such as grad school and the interviewing process. "It is great because it

Though the fair was intended to bring shows us what grad school life is like. It also teaches us how to interview well and how to write a personal statement," she said.

> Extracurricular activities are not required as part of the induction process, but many chapters do try to organize events. Mark Geraci, president of Golden key, is incorporating community service to his chapter, for those who want to volunteer. "I'm trying to make it into a community service organization." said Geraci.

The Brook Ellison Project: Campaigning For Stem Cells

Continued from page 1

better the world." Both Melton and McGovern were contacted by the Brooke Ellison Project and interviewed in the documentary.

While stem cells could be a very beneficial thing to many, there is still the argument of where they are taken from, and the biggest road block of them all: When does life begin? For many, stem cells is thought to be murder -- killing innocent embryos -- thought to be at that stage, humans. According to the Brook Ellison Project, this is a misconception they want to dispel.

Stem cells, according to the documentary, are frozen in vitro fertilization embryos that are

of the most important pieces of information the panel wanted the audience to walk away with is the fact that stem cells are taken out only four days after the egg has been fertilized. According to one panelist, one shouldn't call it an "embryo," they should be using the correct technical term, which is "blastocyst."

According to the documentary, calls were made to pro-life organizations asking for comments on their side of the argument. None of the calls were returned.

The panel said that the problem with trying to dispel this misconception was the fact that this argument has been going on for years and that the fire is

fueled every year by politicians, with each party supporting a different side.

"It's shameful that politicians would use it as a thing to divide us," Melton said. For stem cell research supporters, it is a moot argument that's standing in the way of a daily life that could be pain-free.

The argument that Stem Cell research involves killing innocent embryos isn't the only argument that's making waves in the research field. For so many, the words "stem cell" have become synonymous with "cloning."

According to a presentation given by Michael Hadjiargyrou, Stony Brook University's Associate Vice President of Research

and Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering, stem cells have nothing to do with cloning and scientists have no interest in cloning an infant. "Cloning, it's stuck in the public's mind and were stuck with it in the debate," said Jonathan Moreno, a Professor of Medical Ethics at the University of Pennsylvania.

The way Ellison views it, the political spectrum isn't involved. "It's about scientific truth and how we care for each other."

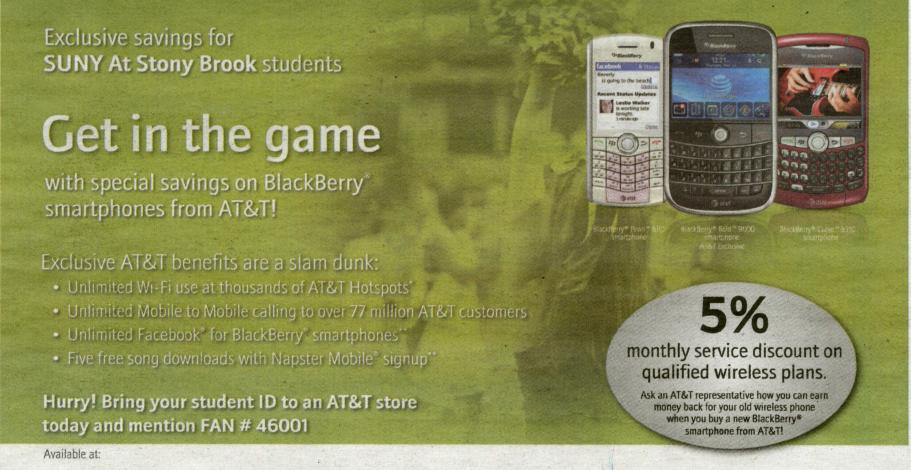
As the event came to a close, Ellison brought up the bill that President Obama recently signed, that gives more federal funding to Stem Cell research. While it is a step in the right direction, Ellison made a point to say that the field

still needs much support. "We still need do to a lot more work on stem cells. We already lost eight years because of ex-President Bush and his ban," Hadjiargyrou

For many, including Ellison, the idea that research is no longer banned, has made the organizations days a little bit brighter. "Research provides the very basis that keeps my hope alive," says Ellison.

For now, those suffering from an incurable disease, will have to take it one day at a time and hope that future generations will not have to suffer like they've been doing. "I'm walking in my dreams. But I have to wake up and face reality and hope that one day it will change," McGovern said.

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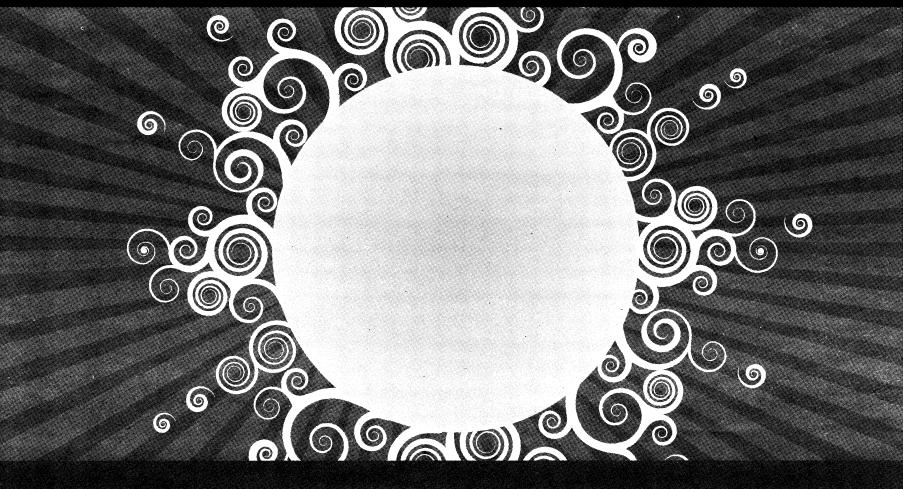
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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, March 30, 2009

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The Worst Part...

By Josh Glazer Staff Writer

The worst part of the world financial crisis is this: A handful people have nearly wrecked the global financial system, unemploying millions and deleting large quantities of peoples' money, and yet these few have not even been identified yet. Sure, a few large name CEOs are being shot at by the media, but the truth is that the workers in the financial products division of AIG are the ones who precipitated this entire mess.

For evidence, one need only read the recent op-ed contribution to the New York Times by Jake DeSantis, an executive vice president of the American International Group's financial products unit, which is an open letter of resignation to the CEO. In this letter, Mr. DeSantis clearly states his very hard work at the company, none of which contributed to the evil mumbo jumbo that many bankers stupidly took advantage of, by writing that:

"I was in no way involved in or responsible for — the credit default swap transactions that have hamstrung A.I.G. Nor were more than a handful of the 400 current employees of A.I.G.-F.P. Most of those responsible have left the company and have conspicuously escaped the public outrage."

This is not cool. That those who actually made the decisions that caused all of this havoc are unscathed at all is unacceptable. The first thing to do is find out who, where, and when. The why we know; people cheated the system to make millions. The next thing to figure is what to do with these people. Now, I am not a fan of corporal punishment in any form, but the money these people made should be taken away from them, and their lives should be effected in such a way that they somehow learn the evil of their ways. Personally, I would prefer that these people spend their time helping those less fortunate, like the homeless or starving, rather than in

jail. But, alas, the system works the way it does. Either way, they still have to pay.

These types of situations often happen all the time throughout history and the world. Large screw-ups occur, and only those at the very top are held accountable, sometimes to a minimal extent, or not at all. But I do feel this situation is different. The whole world was effected!

We, as humans beings, must continue to move in a positive direction regarding our morality and rules about the way we live. The problems we have are myriad; but we can only really deal with the ones that are right in front of us. We didn't enter WWII until Pearl Harbor was bombed, yet morality would suggest we should have been involved much earlier, intelligence be damned. In this instance, where our global economy and very lives were shifted, the lesson we should learn is that what we do really matters, and those who make mistakes should suffer the correct punishment.

Who Punishes the Punishers?

By ZACHARY KURTZ

The outrage propagating through the media over the AIG bonuses is starting a cascade by which the government is descending down a slippery slope into micro-management of the economy. First we attach strings, preventing companies receiving bailouts from fulfilling contractual obligation of granting bonuses. Then, we get new 'regulations' over how much executives of financial companies are allowed to get paid - regardless of whether or not the company isreceiving bailout money. Now, there are rumors that Rick Wagoner, the chairman and CEO of General Motors is being 'asked' to step down by President Obama.

This all makes me wonder - exactly how far down the "rabbit hole" are Obama and Congressional Democrats trying to take us?

I understand, and largely agree, that lots of people screwed up handling their affairs in mortgage markets and complex derivatives - from the finance modelers to the CEOs. We are rightfully outraged that the bail-out money is being used to secure the retirements of the very people that messed up. But, what worries me now is not that the economy is now in a corrective recession - it's that Obama and company are opportunists - playing on our fears and uncertainty to concentrate power in the hands of the political elite.

Shouldn't we be equally outraged that the same politicians who created legislation that made the subprime market possible - such as Barney Frank and Harry Reid - are now 'in charge' of creating more regulation that somehow supposed to stop people from being greedy? I, for one, am outraged that we're tripling the federal $\,$ deficit to buy up toxic assets, so that prices don't have to be determined by market demand - prices would fall and banks would lose billions if such a thing happened. Instead, the government is propping the industries that were doomed to failure - increasing the national debt just to postpone the inevitable.

What's worse, is that because the public is demanding punishment for those invovled, the government is expanding itself to take on the role - supposedly fulfilling the will of the voter. But, the market crash is itself the thing that's punishing those who made the mistakes - if the government would only let that happen - by taking away undeserved profits. But why let the market do a job that the government could mess up doing?

The Federal Reserve is pumping money into the big banks so financial capital starts flowing again, but nobody knows what the federal government is going to do next, so they aren't lending. Deficit spending, coupled with stifling regulation is going to make it even harder for finance companies to profit - and many of it's best talent will probably just quit for greener pastures.

Government is propping up businesses that would have normally failed, and are, for some reason, suprised that CEOs are taking advantage of this lifeline. What's worse, politicians are taking advantage of this for political manuvering and power grabbing - all on the back of current and future tax payers.

If we don't let the free-market punish bad decisions made in the market, and allow the politicians to punish and create new regulation - who is going to punish the punishers? Who wll tell the politicians that they're going too far? Or, like government is doing with the bad banks - will we write the politicians a blank check for usurp authority at the expense of our precious economic freedom?

Marijuana Laws a Sticky Issue

continued from page 5

where. I agree you can't think to fix the long coming financial problems facing America by simply legalizing it. Sure, an infusion of cash would replace the hemorrhage of money that is the Drug War.

Alcohol prohibition was always toted as the nation's "great

experiment", so why when presented with the freedom of personal choice, it seen as an outrageous debate not worth even discussing? I know you don't want kids telling their parents the president said it's ok to do drugs, but you did promise to always listen to the people, and tell us what was on your mind. I always thought

President Obama was different not because he admitted to trying marijuana, but the alacrity with which he placed it in perspective. It didn't ruin his life, damage his brain, or destroy his future. Well you know what, for some 20 million other Americans, it did, who knows how many of them wanted to become president.

Missing I-CON 28

continued from page 5

dissallowed us to bring in outside food and beverages into the ISC. Are Evil State officials now colluding with building contractors to keep my beloved I-CON away from me? Maybe that's just the sci-fi nerd in me talking.

I-CON 28 is going too far. The new site will be centered around Suffolk Community College's Brentwood campus, but with one significant catch - SCCC is only giving I-CON one building, for the dealers room, table-top war gaming and some media guests. The rest of the con will be split between the Marriott Hotel in Islandia and the Ronkonkoma Holiday Inn, with buses taking con-goers between

Although this means I'll be able to avoid most of the annoying anime fangirls - sorry, but you know who you are - the giant question is: can thousands of people coordinate locations that are at least a 15 minute driving distance apart? This inconvience might keep me away from the con this year, the first time in a long time. Keeping track of all my friends whereabouts was hard enough when we were all in one place, now this may prove impossible.

I know Brentwood isn't too far, but I've gotten lazy with I-CON in my backyard. I've traditionally volunteered to set up the dealer's room on Thursday evenings, and now I'm not sure I'll be able to make it, and the ticket prices are

We can only hope that Stony Brook will come to its senses by the time I-CON 29 rolls around. However, I wouldn't suprised if Stony Brook officials cite the 'continuing construction' to deny convection space to us next year. Maybe, even then, more excuses will be made, with less to show for it

I believed, I-CON to be one of Stony Brook's best kept secrets. Few enough students stay on the weekends and have an interest in sci-fi that SBU student attendence at the con was unusually low. Besides for a passing curiosity about the cosplay, most students probably don't care about I-CON moving on. Maybe some of them even are happy that their campus will be weirdo-free this year - although this is debateable.

I will miss the void I-CON has left on Stony Brook campus this year, but I won't declare the time of death just yet. I'm hopeful that Stony Brook will come to it's senses and bring back the con.



Me with Firefly's Ron Glass at I-CON 25 Media Credit: Kurtz/SB Statesman

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SPORTS

Baseball and Softball Crush The Competition

Softball Runs Win Streak To 14

By AMIR KAHN
Contributing Writer

Stony Brook women's softball extended their win streak to an outstanding 14 games this week, improving their record to 18-3. Tuesday, March 24th saw them dominate Rhode Island in a double header winning 10-0 in the first game and 6-0 in the second, with the American East Player of the Week Marissa Fleury knocking three RBI in the first game, and Molly Kestranek hitting three herself in the second game.

Wednesday, March 25th saw them with two more wins against Monmouth.

Both games were very close due to some misplays from the Seawolves, due to six errors and four unearned runs. However, they were able to overcome then and sweet two Monmouth. Alyssa Struzenberg had yet another double-digit strikeout game, and led the Seawolves to a 4-2 win in the first game. The second game was called due to darkness in the fifth inning, but not before

the Seawolves rallied to win 4-2 yet again.

Up against Binghamton on Saturday, the Seawolves were dominant, winning 8-0 in the first game, and 13-2 in the second. After routing the Bearcats in the first game, Binghamton jumped on the Seawolves early in the first after a two run double. However that would prove to be all the offense that they could muster as Stony Brook went on to crush the Bearcats 13-2.

Stony Brook and Binghamton were scheduled to play the finale of the series on Sunday, but the game was postponed to Monday March 30th due to rain.

Reigning America East Pitcher of the Year Alyssa Struzenberg threw 13 strong innings in starting two of the four games.

Against Monmouth, Struzenberg pitched all seven innings, allowing only two unearned runs in the fifth inning due to two Seawolve errors.

Her performance against Binghamton was even stronger. She pitched all six, striking out nine and allowing only six hits.

Baseball Sweeps Overmatched NY Tech

By GENE MORRIS

Sports Edito

The Seawolves used strong pitching performances to sweep New York Tech in a three game series this weekend here at Stony Brook.

In Saturday afternoon's game the Seawolves defeated Tech 11-3. They blew the game open with a five run second inning, after the Seawolves had five straight men reach base, including a two run double by outfielder Brian Witkowski.

Starter Mike Érrigo made it stand up. Errigo picked pitched six solid innings in picking up his first win of the season. He allowed three earned runs and struck out three batters.

Witkowski also added a three-run home run in the top of the sixth inning.

In the first game of the Sunday double-header New York Tech could not get out of their own way in the field, and could not get a hit in the batters box against Stony Brook freshman starter Tyler Johnson.

Johnson improved his record on the year rival Hofstra on Wednesday at to 2-1. Because of the doubleheader, both pitch is scheduled for 3:30pm.

games only went seven innings. Johnson allowed only three hits over all seven, and struck out eight while walking only two.

Stony Brook put the game away in the second inning in this game as well. They scored four times while getting only one hit, thanks to four errors by Tech.

The Seawolves added five more runs in the bottom of the third to push the score to 10-0, which would eventually be the final score.

Another freshman right-hander, Nick Tropeano, led the Seawolves to victory in the final game of the series. He also threw all seven innings, allowing only four hits while striking out six. He improved his record on the season to 3-0.

Jeremy Nowak's two run double in the fifth inning gave the Seawolves some breathing room, pushing the score to 4-0. The Seawolves went on to win 6-0.

Stony Brook continues its season with a make-up game Monday afternoon against New York Tech, before hosting Long Island rival Hofstra on Wednesday afternoon. First pitch is scheduled for 3:30pm.

Men's Lacrosse Falls To Conference Rival UMBC

By Keith Kobasiuk

The Seawolves dropped a spirited affair on Saturday afternoon to America East Rival UMBC, 14-8. The game followed an earlier contest between Duke and Dartmouth, the other half of the autism for lacrosse doubleheader.

UMBC jumped out to an early 2-0 lead with good ball movement all around. UMBC did a good job the entire game of finding the open man and getting the open shot, something the Seawolves could not do.

Freshman Graham Adams scored his first career goal after putting a nifty move on the UMBC goaltender Jeremy Blevins to get the Seawolves on the board in the first quarter. The Retrievers and Seawolves exchanged goals at the end of the quarter, and again, Adams got the tally from Sophomore Kevin Crowley.

UMBC scored the first goal of the second quarter to pull ahead 5-2, but the Seawolves scored twice late in the quarter to bring the game to 5-4.

the Seawolves third goal, and Adams added his third of the game off the third assist of the game by Kevin Crowley. "Kevin was finding me like he did all ter, UMBC capitalized on back to back week (in practice) and I just managed to score," Adams said.

The early goal was the first of Adams career. Coming off an injury in December, he worked himself into the starting lineup this week. "He had a great week of practice," Head Coach Sowell said. He previously appeared in 2 games.

"It felt good," Graham said. "At first I couldn't get open because they were face guarding me a bit, I guess because they didn't see me on film at all."

Just as they did at the end of the first quarter, UMBC was able to score an important goal in the final seconds of the half to push their lead back to two goals.

The end of the second quarter, that sixth goal hurt us a little bit" Sowell said. Then we win the face-off but turn it over, which has kind of been our Achilles heel as of late."

constant for Stony Brook, and they also took advantage of man up opportunities.

After an early goal in the third quarman up opportunities to extend the lead to 9-4. Again, they were able to find the open man in front of the net.

After Stony Brook hit a post, Freshman Jack Hewett was able to get the rebound and find Sophomore Timmy Trenkle who buried the ball into the net with two minutes to go in the quarter. UMBC added another late in the

One of the few brights spots for the Seawolves was sophomore Adam Rand. After a strong game against Denver, Rand was again masterful on face-offs.

"Adam's been very good," said Sowell. "He played a lot last year, and he's a hard worker. He's playing at a really high level right now." He went 9-12 in the first half, and would finish the game 19-26.

After a fast break goal for UMBC and some more good ball movement, The Retrievers took control in the sophomore Kevin Crowley scored his

Sophomore Jordan McBride scored third quarter off turnovers which were a first goal in the game off an assist from Tom Compitello. Crowley also later assisted on a Jack Hewitt goal. He finished with 4 assists on the day.

> McBride scored the final goal of the day with 15 seconds left, bringing the final margin to 14-8.

> "UMBC's a pretty good team, they're not ranked 8th in the country for nothing," Sowell said. "They're really solid across the board."

> Stony Brook once again encountered problems with turnovers. "If you're going to beat a team in the top 10, you can't have more turnovers than they had," Sowell said. The Seawolves had 22 while the Retrievers only recorded 14. "Its not due to lack of trying, we shoot ourselves in the foot sometimes," he said. "You just don't have the margin of error. We're trying to figure it out."

> The Seawolves will look to get back on the winning track next week at Vermont. The Catamounts are coming off a win against Hartford in another America East match. The game starts at 1:00pm on Saturday.

UNH Smashes Women's acrosse

By Mike Fodera

Coming off a disappointing game against Long Island Rival Hofstra in which the Seawolves allowed 10 straight goals after being up 5-1, things were not any better Saturday afternoon in New Hampshire.

Mickey Cahill as the women's lacrosse team struggled to find both defense and offense against the New Hampshire Wildcats.

Cahill made a career-high 20 saves on 54 shots as the Wildcats, now 7-3 (1-1), cruised to a 21-7 win over the Seawolves, who fell to 3-7 (0-2) on the year. The Seawolves had 13 shots on goal.

The Seawolves knew they needed to dig in the trenches for this game when the first goal came 45 seconds in. A free-position shot from Michaela Hardy made it 1-0, and then a second free-position shot by Hardy just 30 seconds later made it 2-0. Then the proverbial floodgates opened up.

The Wildcats scored three goals in the next four minutes, all unassisted, to increase their lead to 5-0. The whirlwind continued until the Wildcats made it 11-0 nothing with 5:26 remaining in the first half.

Stony Brook's first goal came when attacker Kim Wodiska, from Lake Ronkonkoma, NY, ripped a feed from Jackie Hughes to put the Seawolves on the board with 1:55 left in the first half. New Hampshire responded quickly to close out the first half with a score of 12-1, and with the shot count totaling 36-4. Cahill, who hails from Bay Shore, NY, stopped 11 of the 36 shots in a dizzying half.

The second half started very promising America East conference games.

for the Seawolves, who desperately needed a fire lit under them to get going.

Samantha Djaha answered that call. Djaha, a sophomore from East Islip, NY, scored at 29:14 on an unassisted scorcher to start the Seawolves scoring drive. Despite an answer from New Hampshire to make it It was a busy day for Seawolves goalie 13-2, the Seawolves went on a run of their own, scoring four goals in a span of seven minutes.

> The first Seawolf to step up was Kaitlin Leggio of Bay Shore, NY. Jenna Celano assisted on Leggio's 27th of the season. Samantha Djaha put away her second of the day unassisted to pull the Seawolves to 13-4. Melissa Cook, from Bay Shore, NY, and Kim Wodiska each traded free-position goals two minutes apart to pull the Seawolves to with seven with a little more than 12 and change left to play. This would be the closest the Seawolves got to the Wildcats all day when New Hampshire scored back to back goals before Amy Hallion added the last Stony Brook goal on a feed from Samantha Djaha, who finished with three points on the day.

> New Hampshire would go on to score six unanswered goals during the rest of the second half, and when all was said and done, the final score was 21-7. Mickey Cahill played through the tough times and wound up with 20 saves through 60 minutes on 54 shots, a game Cahill would like to forget. A game the women's team would like to forget.

> The forgetting process will begin on April 4 when the Seawolves start a three game homestand against Boston University, Binghamton, and Albany, all important

Track and Field Opens 2009 Season in Monmouth

By MIKE FODERA

Looking to follow up on an outstanding and record-breaking indoor season, Stony Brook's men's and women's track & field teams were ready to begin their outdoor seasons this weekend. Their first meet was the Monmouth Invitational in West Long Branch, N.J. on Saturday. Stony Brook enters the outdoor season having been picked eighth in the preseason America East coaches' poll, not a slap in the face considering their tough competition but a ranking that will no doubt leave the runners with a determination to climb the ladder to first. That process began Saturday. The Seawolves placed three top finishes on the day.

Brandon Leung, a junior from Rego Park, started the Seawolves off strong, crossing first in the men's 800-meter run with a time of 1:59.39. Shamell Forbes, a sophomore from Springfield Gardens, NY, was the next Seawolf to cross in that race, placing seventh with time of 2:01.91. Leung's first place finish was out of 41 total runners and provided a thrilling race that was decided by less than one second. A sophomore from Bergen Community College finished at 2:00.14, giving Leung a run for his money but provided the young junior with a first place finish nonetheless.

Sophomore Carolina Cortes also placed first in her event, the 1500-meter run. Cortes, a sophomore from Woodmere, NY, beat out fellow Seawolf Kristal Conklin, a freshman from Middletown, NY, with a time of 4:48.78. Conklin placed second behind Cortes in this seemingly two-horse race with a time of 4:51.76. Two more runners from Stony Brook placed in the top ten, swinging this decided event in the favor of Stony Brook. Junior Jacquie Kehoe, from Katonah, NY, placed fifth with a time of 4:56.70 and sophomore Leanne Skrabacz, from West Seneca, NY, rounded out the top four from Stony Brook, finishing eighth with a time of 5:02.94.

Finishing out the three top finishers on the day was the women's 1600-meter sprint medley, which placed first out of nine teams, placing with a time of 4:16.28. The squad consisted of Cortes, senior Rosanna Peralta from Port Jefferson Station, and freshmen Christina Johnson from Elmont, NY, and Justine Noel, from Brooklyn, NY. Noel had herself a nice day as well, placing fifth in the 400-meter dash with a time of 1:00.26, just three seconds behind the first place finisher from Monmouth.

The next meet for the team will be Saturday, April 4th in Princeton, New Iersev where the Seawolves will compete in the Sam Howell Invitational.



