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A&E

A Complicated Debut

Laleh Khadivi's debut novel, "The Age of Orphans," is a strange and difficult read. I say this with the utmost respect to an author who is both ruthless and daring in her description of the Kurdish land.

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OPINION

Learning From Our Mistakes

Teachers have long been regarded as some of the most influential people in the lives and on the minds of young people. Surely most people can think of a handful of teachers by the end of their education career, that have changed their life in some way. So it made sense that President Obama put education at the top of his priorities.

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Response Hotline is "Here2Help"

Recently when driving over bridges, I have seen signs that say "Life is worth living- call 1-800-273-TALK." They have also installed phones on these bridges, so that anyone who feels the need can call that number -- which by the way, is Lifeline, the national suicide hotline.

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Why Obama is an Economic Genius

I know in the past I've been critical of Obama's economic policies. I know that I've said that his proposed policies undermine economic health and violate free market principles. In light of the American Insurance Group's (AIG) use of federal bailout funds to grant bonuses to executives and Obama's condemning response to it, however, I admit that I have to reform my opinions.

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Photo credit: Joe Arico

Church's rapid expansion is pushing it to move to a new location.

Students Remain Faithful as Local Church Expands

By JOE ARICO
Contributing Writer

True North Community Church in Port Jefferson has become a destination point on Sundays for many college students, but its rapid growth is forcing the church to move to a larger building in Holtsville. Its two pastors said they're hoping that their young congregation will follow.

Since this non-denominational Christian church first opened its doors in September 2005, it has had to make adjustments to accommodate its growth.

"We started with one [service] in the morning and one at night and we just kept adding on," said Michael Brennan, 37, the associate pastor.

Now the church holds three services each Sunday morning and another two at night, with seating for approximately 215 people at a time. There is also a room across from the main sanctuary filled with a few circular tables where congregation members can sit and watch the service on a projection screen.

Karen Warren, 55, has been a member of the Village of Faith Church in Farmingville for 20 years, six of them as an elder. She said that she believes some of the growth within churches over the past few months could be attributed to the country's economic troubles.

"It's a little bit like when 9/11 happened. After that churches were filled up," Warren said. "It takes crisis for people to realize they can't do it on their own."

Brennan said the goal at True North is to make everyone feel welcome from the moment they walk in the door. "We try to make all our messages applicable so that people can go out and use them in their lives," Brennan said.

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Running on Sustainability

By SANHITA REDDY
Staff Writer

Lisa Ospitale is seeing green. As director of marketing and communications of Campus Dining, she's initiated many sustainable programs to help Stony Brook University reduce its consumption. When a friend jokes that she's a member of the "green police," she doesn't disagree. "If I see you not throwing paper out properly, I'll yell," she says with a smile. "But it's a love yell."

But don't think that she's just telling others what to do. Over the course of two years, Ospitale has been tweaking little habits in her life, in hopes of reducing her carbon footprint and living greener. "I was doing what everyone else does: recycling, shutting off the water when brushing my teeth," she explained. "But once I helped coordinate Earthstock, I learned that I could do much more."

Daily habits have accumulated into a mountain of reduction for her. Ospitale now avoids hot water when washing her family's clothes, and uses all-natural cleaning supplies. Other than her paper Starbucks coffee cup, which she says is an exception (normally she brings a reusable mug), she's completely eradicated plastic bottles from her

lifestyle. "Before my husband and I would get the huge Poland Spring packs from Costco," she said. "Now I have a Sigg bottle that I use -- and I've been giving them out as gifts, too."

But Ospitale doesn't want to be the only one running around with green on her mind. She tries to influence the people around her to start becoming sustainable. Even her four-year-old daughter is starting to follow suit. "I keep it simple with her," she explained of the habits that she has taught her daughter. "We use canvas bags, and she helps separate our recycling. Sometimes she'll even catch me slipping up."

Other family members of

Ospitale's can count themselves in on living sustainably. "I'm definitely more conscious than my friends," said JoJo Guadagno, Ospitale's nephew, who was shadowing Ospitale during his day off from school. "Now whenever my friends leave the lights on I yell at them to turn it off."

Even her coworkers and staff are catching green fever.

"She's always e-mailing me articles about ways that I can conserve," said Laura Young, a junior who works with Ospitale. "Now I'm a lot more conscious of how I recycle and waste water."

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Frank Posillico/ SB Statesman

Ospitale keeps a reusable water bottle near her desk.

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Running on Sustainability

Continued from page 1

Ospitale is a founder of a "green" discussion group based on the book "Gorgebously Green." She and her friends, who include a woman whose house and two cars run completely on converted food waste, come together once a month to find ways to increase their sustainability. They chat over some organic food and non-bottled water as they discuss the sustainable measures in each of their lives. "We try to solve each others' problems," she said. "Because of the group, I've stopped using

paper towels and plates. I even own green nail polish."

"She really thinks before she acts," said Jacqueline Taylor, a coworker and fellow green group member. She and Ospitale participate in Golden Earthworm, a community share agriculture program on Long Island. "She does the research to make sure what she's doing is really worth it."

Ospitale's influence has stretched to her job at Stony Brook University. Through Campus Dining, she's helped initiate Trim Trax, a way to track and thus reduce the amount of

food waste at school. The food waste is categorized in plastic bins, which are recorded by volume. Some of these food bins will soon be used to feed the new Roth food composter. Ospitale also started tray-less brunch at Kelly and H-Quad's dining centers. "It's less waste, less water and less washing," she said of the initiative.

"It's surprising to see how much I've done," she said as she rattled off the many measures that she has taken to reduce her footprint. "Once you start living it, it's easy. One small step after another becomes a lot."



Photo credit: Stony Brook University

Ospitale helped coordinate Earthstock.

Circle K Rolls Back Onto Campus

By IVANNA AVALOS

Asst. Arts and Entertainment Editor

The community service organization Circle K held their first event since their reformation last semester at the St. James soup kitchen.

Circle K is an international college and university community service organization that promotes leadership, fellowship and service. Circle K is a branch of the Kiwanis club, which is the head-start organization dedicated to promoting community service both locally and internationally.

According to their brochure, the first Circle K was originally formed as a fraternity at Washington State University by the local Kiwanis club. Within the next eight years, 168 Circle K clubs were chartered throughout the United States and Canada. In 1956 a special department was created in the Kiwanis International Office known as the International Headquarters for Circle K. Since then, there are now 550 campuses around the world that participate in the Circle K organization.

Originally, Stony Brook had a Circle K organization on campus, but it eventually "dissolved" because all the members graduated and it was not picked up by younger students, according to Vice President James Ren.

The newly formed club's e-board is comprised of President Manny Shokralla, Vice President James Ren, Secretary Kelly Lion and newly added Treasurer Matt Marin.

"Our aim is to donate our time for worthwhile causes," Ren said.

Shokralla and Ren thought of bringing Circle K on campus because of the

similar community service organization they were part of when they were in high school. The organization was called Key Club, which is another branch of the Kiwanis Club that operates within high schools.

An old web site run by former members of Circle K is still listed under the campus' list of clubs and organizations, but the new members have not created a new site yet.

Before officially bringing Circle K onto the campus, the e-board members went through a year and a half long process with the university.

According to Ren, in order to create Circle K on campus the e-board

members had to contact the local Kiwanis club, Three Village Kiwanis, for a sponsor. They then had to go through the Undergraduate Student Government to discuss budgets for the club. They also had to attend several meetings with school officials to learn how to advertise on campus, what a club consists of, what they have to do financially and what goes into starting and maintaining a club.

At the first official meeting in December, the e-board discussed their short-term goals for the organization next semester. Shokralla said Circle K would participate in helping "beautify the campus" and may sponsor a section

of the Stony Brook campus, maintain it and add shrubbery to the area. The organization is also looking to help surrounding communities such as Smithtown and Port Jefferson.

As for long-term goals, Shokralla said their ultimate goal is to help communities outside of Stony Brook and outside of Long Island.

As of now, the club plans to start off helping out locally within the Stony Brook campus, but they eventually want to expand their services.

"Our ultimate goal is to help out in Africa, and to help out in Asia, to help out in Europe, to help out all over the world, where help is needed," Shokralla said. It's a goal the e-board wants accomplished even if they are no longer students at Stony Brook.

Members who attended the first meeting in December were asked to list a preference for organizations for committees. These committees are event planning, fundraiser, public relations and fellowship. Each committee will meet together throughout the organization and will have one person in charge.

Circle K will host a total of seven meetings throughout the rest of the semester which members are expected to attend six of. Each meeting is held bi-weekly on Tuesdays in the Students Activities Center.

Since their first meeting last semester the club has seen an increase in membership and hopes to expand more as they plan further events.

"We want very motivated members," Shokralla said at the end of the meeting. "We just want people who are willing to do good."



Photo credit: Manny Shokralla

Circle K is a new group on campus dedicated to community service



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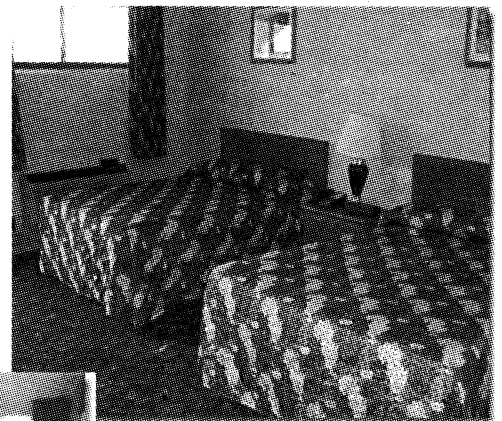
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Students Remain Faithful as Local Church Expands

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Although the purchase of the new building has not yet been finalized, Brennan said he expects the deal to close within the next month.

"One thing is for sure, the current building is sold and a new congregation is coming in here," he said.

According to Brennan, the building at the new site will hold about 150 more people per service than the current one, and with vacant land to spare the church could expand even further someday.

Brennan confirmed that the congregation does include a significant number of college students from both Stony Brook University and Suffolk County Community College's Selden campus. He added that college students and young adults account for nearly all of the church's attendance at its night services.

Brennan said he is confident that those students will follow the church to its new location. "We already have people who drive from all over the place, even some from Nassau," he said.

Bertrand Crabbe, 37, the senior pastor, doesn't foresee the new location being much of an issue, either.

"I don't think it will affect our college population," Crabbe said. "It's about the same distance from Stony Brook University and quite a bit closer to some other campuses."

But Mario Botros, 20, a Stony Brook student who lives in Lake Grove, said his attendance might become less frequent as a result of the added distance between his

home and the church. Botros has been attending True North for the past six months and understands the reason behind the move. "They really need it. A lot of people go there regularly," he said.

Dan Fruhauf, 21, a junior from Port Jefferson, is a member of an eight-person leadership team for Lumina, a social group for college

students within the church.

"I think that the ties that have been made with the Stony Brook University crowd and True North Church are strong bonds that don't just get marginalized by distance," Fruhauf said. "These bonds run deep, to Frisbee games we've had, to the long talks about God's plans at the university."

Fruhauf also said he thinks that the church is attractive to college students because "when they look around, they see people their own age actually an intricate part of things."

While no one would reveal the exact location of the new building until the sale has been finalized, Brennan emphasized that the new location is easily accessible. "It's right off of Nicolls Road and the expressway," he said.

According to Crabbe, the church plans to close its doors in May and get the new building ready in June. If all goes as planned, the church would hold its first services at the new facility in July.

As for a correlation between the growth of the church and the current economic recession, Brennan thinks that it makes a lot of sense. "People are hurting and when that happens they want to find something beyond themselves," Brennan said. "People are looking for God."

Fruhauf said he doesn't think that college students will abandon the church when it moves. "True North embodies the call to the next generation; that is why so many students attend," Fruhauf said, "We want to answer that call."



Photo credit: True North Community Church's Facebook group

Church's rapid expansion is pushing it to move to a new location.

ART

Slice of Life - Heifferon at Alloway Gallery

By CAROLINA HIDALGO
Contributing Writer

Just inside the library's main entrance, four glass-paned doors stood covered with black garbage bags. One was open just a crack, spilling out throbbing music.

Behind them, Elizabeth Heifferon was lying on a wooden platform in the dark. She was nervous but excited. She lay completely still, except for when the door would creak open, flooding the dark room with harsh light, and she would turn her head in curiosity.

She wore a pair of white shorts and a white midriff top that glowed bright under the black light bulbs shining down on her. The vibrations that the low frequency music sent through the platform reverberated through her.

Onlookers sat around the platform, becoming shadows against the white walls. They watched the still body, which was covered in thick scraps of paper. Five miniature castles rested in piles of sand near the edges of the platform. Hanging above them were wing-

like loops of wire wrapped with shredded paper.

Elizabeth, a Fine Arts student, was enveloped in her solo exhibition at the Lawrence Alloway Memorial Art Gallery, one of four galleries on campus. Each academic year, about a dozen graduate art students present a one-person exhibition in the

"A cell phone went off. Someone standing against the wall slid to the floor. Somewhere, a pen clicked."

gallery; each runs for about two weeks. The students have access to metal and wood shops and a ceramics studio to construct their projects.

"I'm a yogini," Elizabeth explained later. The exhibit, titled "Maya Kosha," was inspired by the Kosha system in yogic philosophy. Each castle consisted of five rings, which symbolized the five layers of being. "The outermost layer is the skin. Then there's the emotional, mental, vital. The inner-most is the bliss that we all

share."

At 6:59 p.m., Elizabeth's body began to move. The scraps of paper -- covered in a mixture of cornstarch, rice flour and water -- rustled against each other as they tried to remain stuck to her skin. With jagged movements, she lifted her legs over her torso in a balancing act.

Five minutes later, a rush of latecomers flooded the room. Art students, clutching giant portfolios. A skateboarder wearing a hooded sweatshirt.

About 40 people were watching now. Elizabeth stretched and rocked her body back and forth as if trying to hoist herself up.

A girl in the corner lifted her video camera off of its tripod and held it to her eye. Elizabeth was crouching, moving, pulsating with the music.

The scraps made sounds against the platform. She stood for the first time, swinging her upper body in circles. Her hand banged against a hanging purple bulb.

A cell phone went off. Someone standing against the wall slid

to the floor. Somewhere, a pen clicked.

Elizabeth slathered her arms across the platform before lying still. The music faded away. Everyone waited.

The photographer moved across the room for a better angle. The viewers began to shuffle in their spots. The anticipation in the room seemed to subside; they expected nothing more.

Someone coughed. A bottle cap twisted open.

But the music began once more, sending Elizabeth into her crouch, her arms extended like a bird's wings. Then she got up and climbed off the platform, circling it twice before pausing.

She bowed. "Thank you everyone for coming."

The crowd applauded, then rushed toward the platform. They inspected the wings hanging from the ceiling.

"Tears," Elizabeth said. "They represent the body; the outer layer."

The viewers ran the sand through their fingers. They pressed their hands on the platform to feel the vibrations of the

music. Some took off their shoes to walk across it.

"Oh my God," exclaimed a short girl with facial piercings. "I love this."

Elizabeth explained her work to visitors who waited around to speak with her.

"Stoneware," she said of the mini-castles.

"Bamboo," was what the platform was made of. "I built it myself, yes."

Someone asked about her inspiration.

"Through the body we experience suffering and we forget that our universal body is one of bliss."

As Elizabeth spoke, a staff member screeched out to the thinning crowd, telling them to sign the guest book -- a brown notebook with the word "imagine" on its cover, sitting atop a short column by the door.

Miranda Karla was the only one to scrawl a comment on the otherwise blank page.

"Primordial, continuous, everflowing," she wrote. "Thank you for being -- for expressing. For understanding."

BOOKS

A COMPLICATED DEBUT

By TEJAS GAWADE
Editor Emeritus

Laleh Khadivi's debut novel, "The Age of Orphans," is a strange and difficult read. I say this with the utmost respect to an author who is both ruthless and daring in her description of the Kurdish land.

As a whole, the novel paints a grim picture that is both culturally and politically charged and manages to entice the reader into a dark, unforgiving land that gives rise to the orphan, Reza Pejman Khourdi.

In the tradition of such novels as "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini, this one follows

tragic acts against the Kurds, which compel him to join the military ranks. At Kermanshah, where he is finally assigned, he oversees the Kurdish people as they assimilate into Iran, vainly craving independence. Meena, his Iranian wife, fuels

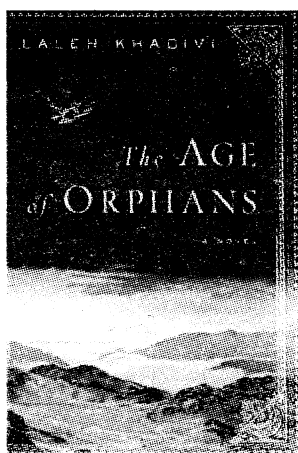
his inner turmoil over Kurdish independence and Iranian assimilation, even as this leads to an unanticipated end.

One of the novel's charms is its historical quality. Even as Khadivi maintains a constant narration, she relates the history of the Kurdish land, a place that has seen more owners than most others. As

Reza is urinating, Khadivi tells us in one rich sentence:

"The boy pees through the slats of wood and takes water from the cask as the medley of men and burdened beasts moves atop the arid earth that never belonged to anyone after the Parthians (once)"

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Media Credit: Google Images
"The Age of Orphans" was released March 3rd by the publisher, Bloomsbury USA.

MOVIES

SERIOUSLY, I LOVE YOU, MAN...

By KWAME OPAM
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Who says boys can't love each other? That's the question "bromantic" comedies of the past few years' and this year's "I Love You, Man" ask and, in degrees, answer -- they are filled to the brim with ribald, real-life sensibility and maybe a few too many gross-out moments. The answer this time around seems to be, "All you need is love, and the kind of humor that might alienate your grandmother."

Here, director John Hamburg creates Peter Klaven, played by comic everyman Paul Rudd, a regular guy in love with and about to marry his girlfriend Zooey, played by Rashida Jones. Peter's got a good life -- he's mature, grounded, and committed, with a good job and a loving family. He also happens to be what the movie terms a "girlfriend guy," a guy who

is always focused more on his relationships with women than with men. In short, he may or may not just be a girl's dream date.

That seemingly wonderful characteristic throws a wrench into Peter and Zooey's wedding

"I Love You, Man" is yet another film that owes its spirit and voice to Judd Apatow. Its sense of humor comes out of improvisation, a love for the bawdy and subversive, and is mixed with a real sentimentality that makes for more than a few moments that tug at the heart-strings.

With this film in particular, the audience is given a formula-driven romantic comedy whose premise is gently twisted to apply to the idea of guy love. Guy love, as the film reveals, is the kind of deep friendship guys

don't typically share. So here, it's not boy-meets-girl. It's boy-meets-boy.

Of course, by the time Peter meets Sydney, the course of the rest of the film is perfectly mapped out and predictable. You have the first date, the first fight, the break-up, the make-up, and the dash to the altar. The ride never gets

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Media Credit: Scott Garfield/DW Studios L.L.C.
Paul Rudd, as Peter Klaven, and Jason Segal, as Sydney Fife, in "I Love You, Man."

plans when they find his lack of male friends makes for a lack of a best man. That concern is captured perfectly in the moment Peter admits to himself, "I need some f---king friends." What follows is a series of hilariously awkward man-dates that don't lead him anywhere other than into the proverbial arms of best-man-to-be Sydney Fife. And the rest, as they say, is history.

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Learning From Our Mistakes Obama's Education Policy

By HIRA AHMED
Assistant Opinion Editor

Teachers have long been regarded as some of the most influential people in the lives and on the minds of young people. Surely most people can think of a handful of teachers by the end of their education career, that have changed their life in some way. So it made sense that President Obama put education at the top of his priorities, investing in long-term economic recovery, when he allotted billions of dollars in his stimulus package for improving the quality of American education. His methods in doing so seem wildly unprogressive at first. However, when carefully considered, removing the cap on charter schools, and rewarding good teachers through merit-based pay, might be exactly what our education system needs.

Charter schools, and performance-based bonuses are seemingly, the nightmare of every teachers union. However, there is tact in the manner in which the programs will be executed, and they may be quite beneficial to our lagging education system. According to article The

Chicago Sun Times, "Obama Wisely Makes Education a Priority," performance pay for teachers would be modeled after a system in Chicago which doesn't reward teachers based on mere improvements in students' scores, but implements training and mentoring programs for teachers and considers the change in test scores from year to year, rather than looking for a general increase. The nuances of Obama's merit reward program are not entirely clear, however, if executed so that their success affecting students positively is somehow made to be quantifiable, raising the reward for good teaching may be a solid investment in better education.

The more controversial of his major propositions in education reform is the bold decision to remove caps in charter schools. Typically teacher's unions have opposed charter schools citing that they deduct from the funding public schools get. However, with the exorbitant amount of money Obama is pouring into public education, perhaps that will be less of a concern. According to The New York Times

Article, "Obama Outlines Plan For Education Overhaul," he suggests closing down the charter schools that don't work, and allowing those that do in various states, to be able to expand. Since, there is controversy over whether or not charter schools provide a better education than public education, it seems the general idea in regulating charter schools is to close them in states where they aren't working and allow them to flourish in those in which they are successful. This ambiguous plan is a little alarming since it is unclear as to whether or not the new charter schools will be a formula for success, thus risking good investment of funding.

Although some of Obama's plans about education reform are a little ambiguous, his other methods are a guaranteed success. He plans on increasing investment in early childhood education, which are widely agreed to be critical years in the development of a child's abilities and probability of success. According to a white house press release "Fact Sheet: Expanding the Promise of Education in America," Obama

plans to give incentive grants to states that, "push for uniform quality standards, and step up efforts for the most disadvantaged children."

Obama also seeks to expand either the school years or school day hours, since they are compared to other academically thriving nations as South Korea, significantly shorter.

Various provisions of the education reform plan may be unclear, while others are more definitive. However, it is most noteworthy, that Obama is far sighted enough to understand that our education system is integral to the economic recovery of our nation. Not only will a better education give our youth better prospects at competing in the world economy, but it will also enable future generations of Americans to lead fuller lives. Many are opposed to the unprecedented amount of money being invested in education reform, especially during a bad economy, but as demonstrated by the failure of the No Child Left Behind Act, poorly funded programs only have negative effects on an institution.

Response Hotline of Suffolk County is "Hear2Help"

By RUCHI VIKAS
Staff Writer

Recently when driving over bridges, I have seen signs that say "Life is worth living- call 1-800-273-TALK." They have also installed phones on these bridges, so that anyone who feels the need can call that number -- which by the way, is Lifeline, the national suicide hotline. Yet despite these very inspirational signs -- and I am very grateful have been put up -- I doubt that most people are clear on the difference between Response of Suffolk County and Lifeline, and exactly what it is that these lines do.

I can say that too often, students on college campuses are not quite happy with the way they feel or the way their lives are going. The journey through college life can be just as difficult as the work life afterwards, or the traumatic high school experience before.

Yet these college students, or anyone, for that matter, often don't know where to turn. Perhaps they don't have anyone they would feel comfortable talking about it with. Or perhaps even worse, if they tried to open up they feel they would not be understood. Few things can possibly be felt as more degrading

than someone else telling you that your problems do not matter, but it happens very often, even and especially by the people who care about us the most.

However, there are resources available to everyone for when they feel this way -- students, faculty, parents or anyone at all who is going through a crisis or who just wants to talk. Response of Suffolk County is such a resource. What is written about it is the fact that counselors are there 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. While this is true, it is also incomplete. It could very well say, "Counselors are there 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to listen."

Listening is an art. It is not as easy as many seem to think it is. At the hotline, every volunteer who picks up the phone will listen, free of judgment. Even if someone else tries to tell you are not critical and don't matter, Response counselors will never say that. They know that your perceptions are your reality; you are going through a crisis if you believe that you are, and will try to empathize with your feelings throughout the call.

I cannot stress enough that Response is open to all people who feel that no one is listening

to them, to people who are going through a crisis, or to people who are lonely and need someone to speak to. Everyone has those moments where they feel alone, when they feel no one cares, or when they feel lost and need a push in the right direction. Moreover, if you need a push in the right direction, Response may be able to offer you a referral to help you on your way.

If you have been in pain from a breakup for over a year, and all your friends are sick of hearing

about it, Response will not be. If you're suffering from a disease, and no one understands, Response will try their best to understand. If you have had a terrible day, if you are confused -- even if you had a wonderful day and want to share it with someone who will listen to your story, Response will be there for you.

Although response may not be able to promise to make your day better or to make the problems in your life go away, no one can do

continued on page 7

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.

Why Obama is an Economic Genius

The President's Secret Plot to Save the Economy

By ZACHARY KURTZ
Opinion Editor

I know in the past I've been critical of Obama's economic policies. I know that I've said that his proposed policies undermine economic health and violate free market principles. In light of the American Insurance Group's (AIG) use of federal bailout funds to grant bonuses to executives and Obama's condemning response to it, however, I admit that I have to reform my opinions.

Allow me to explain my reasoning. As the federal government adds to the list of restrictions on how corporations are allowed to spend bailout funds, some economic conservative pundits are criticizing politicians for "micromanaging" the economy. They say that saving industries that made poor decisions encourages moral hazards and further bad behavior.

These conservative pundits point to AIG's continuing bad behavior as an example of how the bailouts have failed. Meanwhile, liberal pundits see the opposite trend -- corporate "misuse" of funds is proof that people can't be trusted to act in their own best interest, so they need the sublime hand of government intervention to save them from themselves. Obama, being an expert in eco-

nomics psychology, has got both of these groups fooled.

What Obama is doing is invoking Bush's philosophy of "abandoning the free market principles to save it," only he's not doing it in the way you might think. Obama is pursuing a liberal policy agenda in order to coerce the free market into correcting itself.

The coolest, and most admirable, part of Obama's plan is that he's doing it in complete secrecy, promoting policies for one reason, and using political doublespeak so that the market won't guess his agenda. By now you're probably asking, "If the plan is so secret, and he hasn't revealed it to anybody, how could you know what's going on?" While I don't actually know what the President is thinking -- he wouldn't reveal the plot even to me -- the evidence of his secret plan is so obvious, if you're looking at the right places, that the conclusions are inescapable. Here follows the infallible logic of the "Obama plan."

When Obama pursued a policy of bailing out failing companies, he was reacting to a recession. People feel comforted when they're getting bailed out -- regardless of the possibility that it was their own mistakes that led to the problem. During a recession,

market actors get nervous, even if their particular industry isn't directly related to the source of the problem. Nervous market players tend to be jumpy, making recessions that much worse by propagating the volatility in markets.

Obama's no dope, however. He knows that government intervention in the economy cannot fix long-term problems. He knows that fiscal stimulus is just a way of restructuring debt, so that it comes back to bite you harder in the ass later.

He knows that recessions are caused when the demand for a particular bubbled sector is physically unsustainable and must collapse. He knows that providing stimulus continues the same unsustainable practices, and props up the same bad firms and that, eventually, the market will eventually correct itself. He knows that avoiding market correction will make it that much worse when it does happen. He knows that central planning is inefficient and is not foolish enough to try to predict, or appoint a "czar" to guess, which sectors are, in fact, sustainable.

You, of course, see the dilemma that Obama is facing. People in the bad sectors react positively to government bailouts, but the economy ultimately doesn't. If the people in the "bad sectors" are politically powerful, that puts further pressure to deny the obvious logic of the corrective market forces. If then, people expect a bailout, but one does not come, the short-term recession pains are, perhaps, greater than they have to be.

The problem is, while Obama is astute enough to see the problems with using government stimulus to avoid a recession, that people in the economy just think they need a bailout -- and why shouldn't they? The government -- pre-Obama, of course -- has been interfering in markets for decades, providing subsidies, bailing out their darlings, creating moral hazards, etc. We don't have a free market today, so people have forgotten how they need to behave to survive, and thrive, in a free market.

This is where Obama's solution comes in.

Step 1: Propose massive bailouts to calm down

markets that are unused to government intervention.

Step 2: Convince the American public that the economy will be worse off without lots of government intervention.

Step 3: Start to let the money flow, but keep an eye on how the

out a mechanism to return their share of bailout money. Some of these include small local banks, but also some big players like Goldman Sachs and Wells Fargo. Signature Bank of New York, for example, announced that they would returning \$120 million



Media Credit: TheInsider.com

Like Superman, Obama's secret 'free marketeer' identity is a secret. However, all the clues that identified Clark Kent as the 'Man of Steel' were there if you knew where to look. Similarly, we can discover Obama's secret by looking at the evidence.

money is being used. Alert the media when companies spend the money in ways that the public, most of whom are not CEOs of large corporations, don't understand and think is wrong.

Step 4: Use that as an excuse to attach heavy strings to the bailout funds, so that any corporation which accepts the money will be a virtual slave to micromanaging politicians.

Step 5: Appoint an incompetent "bailout czar," one who knows nothing about running a business, to dictate the conditions by how the CEOs have to use the money. Watch the market react as the companies lose their competitive edge.

Step 6: Sit back and relax. CEOs will come to their senses, realizing how government interference makes their own companies, and markets in general, less productive, and that the costs of the strings are simply not worth the trouble of having the bailout money. Eventually, people will realize how their mistakes and bad behavior was largely a result of signals from the Federal Reserve and federal government and demand that governments stop interfering with markets, altogether.

The plan is beginning to take hold as step six of the plan is slowly coming into place. Many banks are already trying to figure

to the treasury because of new executive pay restrictions in the economic stimulus package. Other banks that wanted bailouts for themselves have officially backed out.

As the economic crisis continues, and bailout funds continue to be divvied out, companies will seek to use that money in what they perceive is the optimal way. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, leaders of the subprime institution, have decided to give their own round of executive pay bonuses at a half a million dollars a pop. While the bonuses help attract the talent, the American people don't understand this. Quite understandably, they want to end the recession and preserve frugality with their own money.

Obama knows that the only way to end the recession for real is to return to the logic of the free market -- decentralized actions help coordinate information about market needs better than any central planner. However, to an economy that isn't used to laissez-faire economics, we needed to learn this lesson the hard way. Obama's bit of reverse-psychology is an economic masterstroke.

But, don't tell the CEOs, because it'll only work if they don't realize it's happening.

Suffolk Co. Response Hotline

continued from page 6

that for you, but the service they do offer is just as valuable. They offer an outlet, a warm voice to listen to you whenever and wherever you need to talk in the hope that when you hang up the phone, you feel a little more understood and a little less alone. Also, every caller is free to call back whenever they need to, even if they just hung up an hour ago.

Lifeline is the national suicide hotline, of which Response is a part. If you are feeling suicidal, if you know someone who is feeling suicidal, or if you have just had an experience with suicide that you need to talk about, Lifeline is the place to call. Counselors there will talk you through whatever you are going through, try to support you, and understand you, just like Response.

There are over 200 branches for Lifeline -- however, if you are calling from a 631 area code, it will get routed to the Suffolk County branch first. They will offer you referrals and send help if you need it. If someone in your life is feeling suicidal, Lifeline will do

their best to offer help to that person if the caller allows it. Of course, Response does all these things too. If you don't feel comfortable talking over the phone, the Response hotline has an online, private, chat on their website -- responsehotline.org -- called "Hear2Help."

Too often, we don't talk about the way that we feel. We get caught up in a rat race, push our emotions off to the side, and even listen to people who tell us that our problems are "not a big deal." Yet if you think something matters; if something is disturbing you, then someone else's opinion on how serious it is is not relevant, because they are not the person dealing with it. Both Response and Lifeline know this, and are there to help you through it.

It is so easy to become depressed and lonely when something as simple as a warm voice and a few kind words could help you. In those difficult times, and even in the good times, everyone should feel free to call Response at (631) 751-7500, visit the website or Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK.

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Barbie Kaufmann

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BOOKS

KHADIVI'S DEBUT

Continued from page 5

and the Sassanids (once) and the Mongols (once) and the Turks (just then) and the Russians (now and then) and the shah (soon), and so the Kurdish clan moves on, to own whatever piece of land they step on or roll over or smash for just that single moment of impact and no longer."

This technique on its own doesn't always work for Khadivi. She throws a lot of information on one page, while the next ten may not even reveal much. Furthermore, she ungracefully uses otrotund phrases infused among successive "and"s with no commas at all. Thankfully, this zealous locution only spans the first section of the novel.

When looked at in sections, the novel does not always maintain the same tone. But as a whole, it has the unpredictability of the author and the place that Khadivi is narrating about. Hence, even as the flow appears inconsistent, it manages to weave a dynamic narration that captures the life of an orphan from

all aspects.

The one caveat of the novel is that it doesn't soften the reader's journey early on. When I said earlier that the novel is a difficult and strange read, I meant to use that to describe not just the jarring content, but also the jarring narration, which is minimal at best. We do not learn the central character's name or age until several pages into the book. If the first section is meant to serve as

the introduction to this novel in parts, it does so both uncharacteristically and ineffectively.

However, even as we struggle to read more about this unnamed character, it's hard not to feel the agony of a young boy being circum-

cised as he longs for his mother's milk. Although syntactically difficult to read, Khadivi's descriptions are crafty in the first fifth. It is perhaps this ability of the author to stir within us a sense of empathy while narrating a foreign tale that is her genius. This is also why even though you might be tempted to put down the book in the first few pages, I encourage you to read on as it is rare to experience empathy for something so unimaginable.



Media Credit: Google Images
Author Laleh Khadivi is one of the ten recipients of the 2008 Whiting Writers' Awards. She is the 2007-2009 Creative Writing Fellow in Fiction at Emory University.

MOVIES

Feature "Bromance"

Continued from page 5

boring, though. Every character has great chemistry on screen with their counterparts, and even at its most awkward, the viewer rarely feels left out of the joke.

At the heart of the movie is the relationship between Paul Rudd's and Jason Segel's characters, which is made believable by the very relatable plight of a guy having trouble making friends when he's still learning how to.

Rudd's performance as the slight man and Segel's antics are full of honesty and capture the intent of the entire film -- that is, to show human, and therefore flawed, relationships.

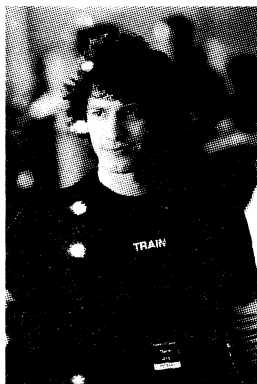
Attention should also be paid to Rashida Jones and her fellow

actresses, Jaime Pressly and Sarah Burns. They, along with Andy Samberg's rather restrained turn

as Peter's younger and gayer brother Robbie, offer the conceptual backbone for the entire picture, as those who are comfortable with their sexuality (heterosexual and homosexual) and are capable of finding deep, meaningful relationships with the same sex. They effectively make it alright for Peter to eventually love Sydney and alright for the audience to give in and go "Awww!" when they

admit their love for each other.

"I Love You, Man" makes for a great movie, even with its flaws. If it has anything to say on a deeper level, it would be that we all need each other. Still, if you watch it simply for a laugh, I doubt you'll be disappointed. (4/5 Stars)



Media Credit: Scott Garfield/DW Studios L.L.C.
Andy Samberg, as Robbie Klaven, the younger brother of Peter, in "I Love You, Man."

MUSIC

FLEETWOOD UNLEASHED

By APRIL WARREN
News Editor

The pale light emitting from overhead inside Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum vanished. A pregnant pause followed -- a pause that seemed to last five months. Even in the darkness a few stragglers could still be seen meandering to their seats. Sporadic drumbeats pounded the air. Black silhouettes walked stoically across the stage.

The lights and applause blared as Fleetwood Mac's "Unleashed" tour steamrolled into Uniondale Friday

night for one performance.

"Welcome everybody, we are Fleetwood Mac," said singer Stevie Nicks, dressed in black. "Let's get this party started."

The tour, the band's first in five years, does not introduce any new music -- a first for Fleetwood Mac. But the band played through their decades of songs like a well-oiled

machine.

The clear and crisp voice of Stevie Nicks, coupled with the intricate yet edgy guitar riffs by band mate Lindsey Buckingham sliced through the air as the band played straight through a set that reached

As the concert pressed on, Nicks underwent several subtle wardrobe changes -- becoming more bohemian as the night progressed.

One thing that wasn't subtle was the band's list of number one hits. The band played several hits off the 1979 "Tusk" album including "Storms," "Tusk," "What Makes You Think You're The One," and "Sisters of the Moon."

The band did not play any songs sung by keyboardist Christine McVie, who no longer tours with the band.

The tour, which

kicked off Mar. 1 in Pittsburgh, will meander through the United States through the spring and into the summer. Currently, 44 concerts are anticipated with stops in Canada scheduled.

Fleetwood Mac was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1998 and has won several Grammys.



Media Credit: Matt Becker/Wikipedia

Fleetwood Mac in St. Paul, Minn. in early March. The classic rock band performed at Nassau Coliseum on Friday as part of their "Unleashed" tour.

past 25 songs.

Drummer Mick Fleetwood and bassist John McVie kept a low profile throughout the show but led the group through hits "Rhiannon," "Gypsy," and "Big Love."

The show started off with "Monday Morning" as Buckingham, now slightly graying, tried to pull off the rocker look with a leather jacket.

STALLER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

STUFFED ANIMALS AND STRAVINSKY

By JASMIN FRANKEL
Contributing Writer

Pink bears, white cats, and green dogs accompanying tiny hands waited to come alive through the course of events planned

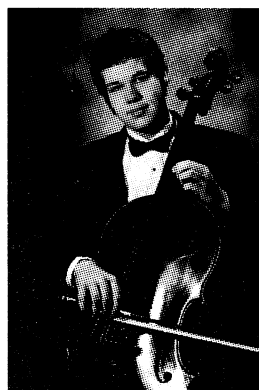
that evening. The creature-shaped material began to take its lively form as the lights dimmed on the main stage of the Staller Center, with an introduction of a lion.

The lion, among many animals, was present that night as the University Orchestra instilled life in them one by one awakening their annual children's concert, "Magical Musical Zoo."

Illuminated faces filled the room as imaginations flourished with the impression of each in-

strument depicting animal personalities. The young and the not so young, as music director and coordinator Susan Deaver

introduce their beloved friends. Each unique toy won a Best Stuffed Animal medal for its owner.



Media Credit: Staller Center
"Magical Musical Zoo" featured high school cellist Kyle Foley.



Media Credit: Alexandria Le

In the company of the children, a special guest was present, and his name was Wilbur. Standing at approximately four feet with a width of about three children, Wilbur was adored almost immediately by the audience. The most fa-

vored Wilbur was a fascinating stuffed monkey.

Concluding the show with "The Firebird" by Igor Stravinsky, the crowd was left with pleasant reminiscences of the magical night. They relished, with visible appreciation, both the sounds and thoughts of a magical zoo.

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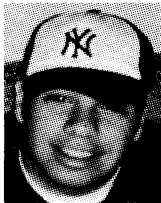
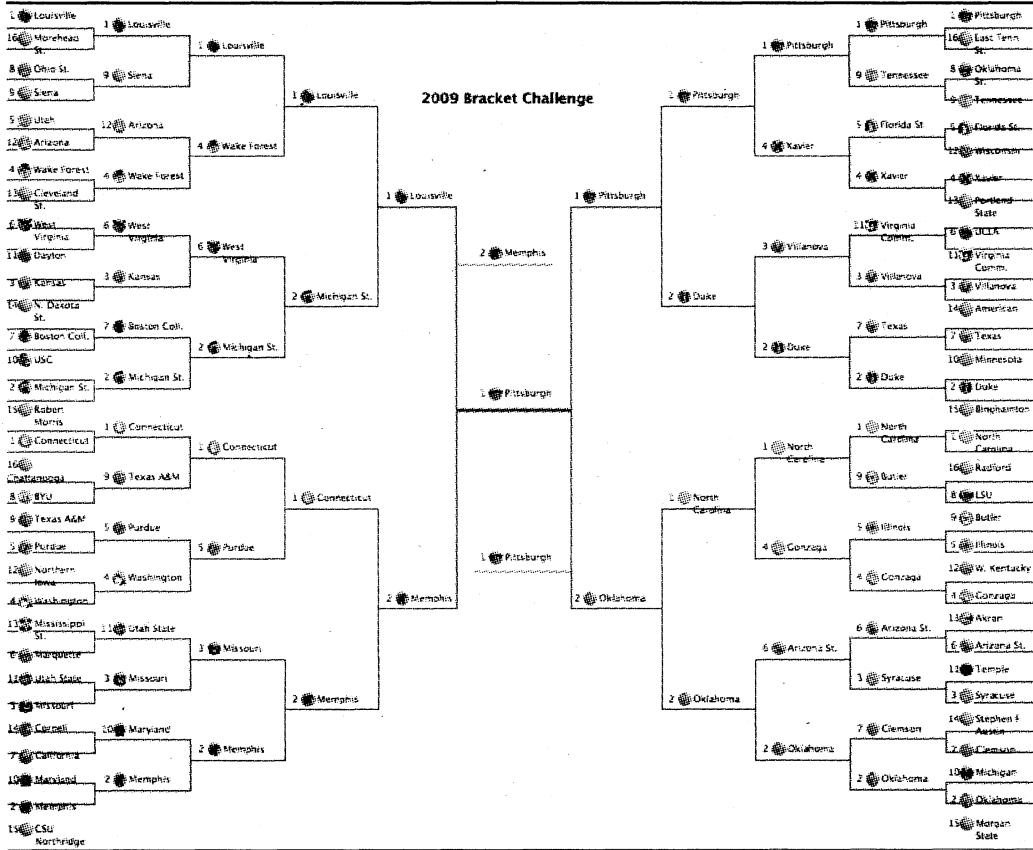
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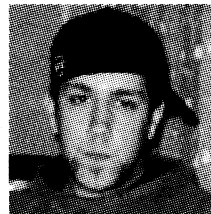
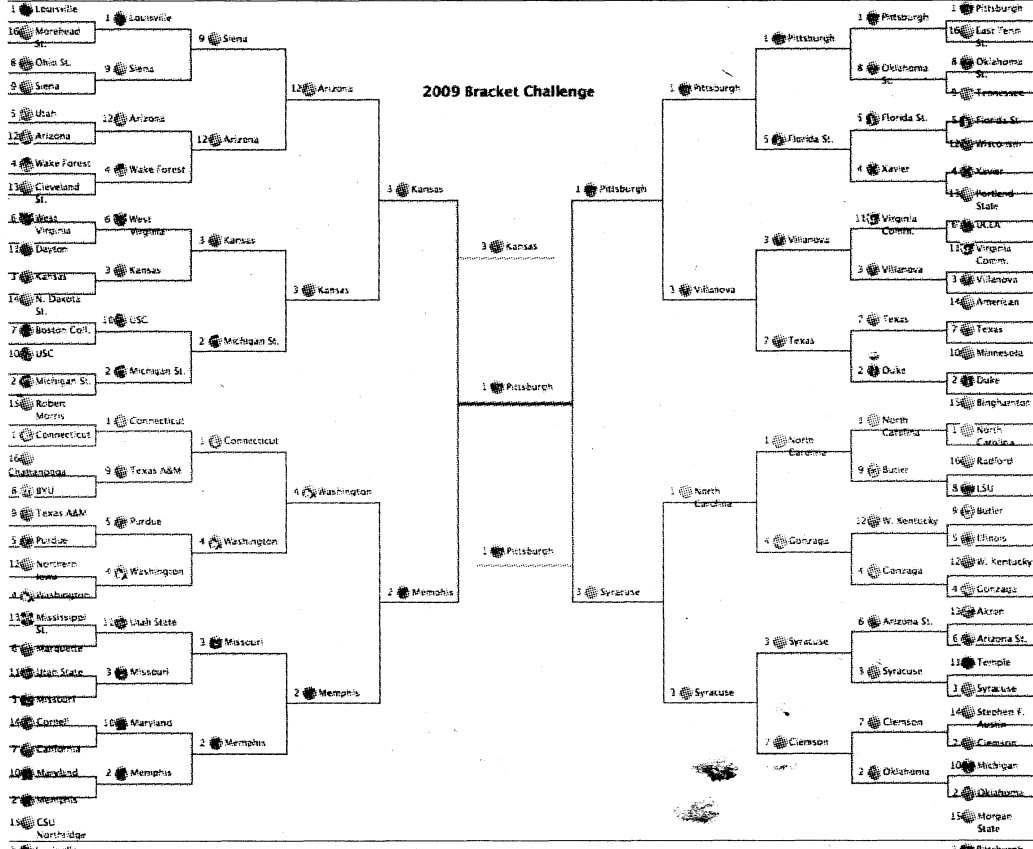
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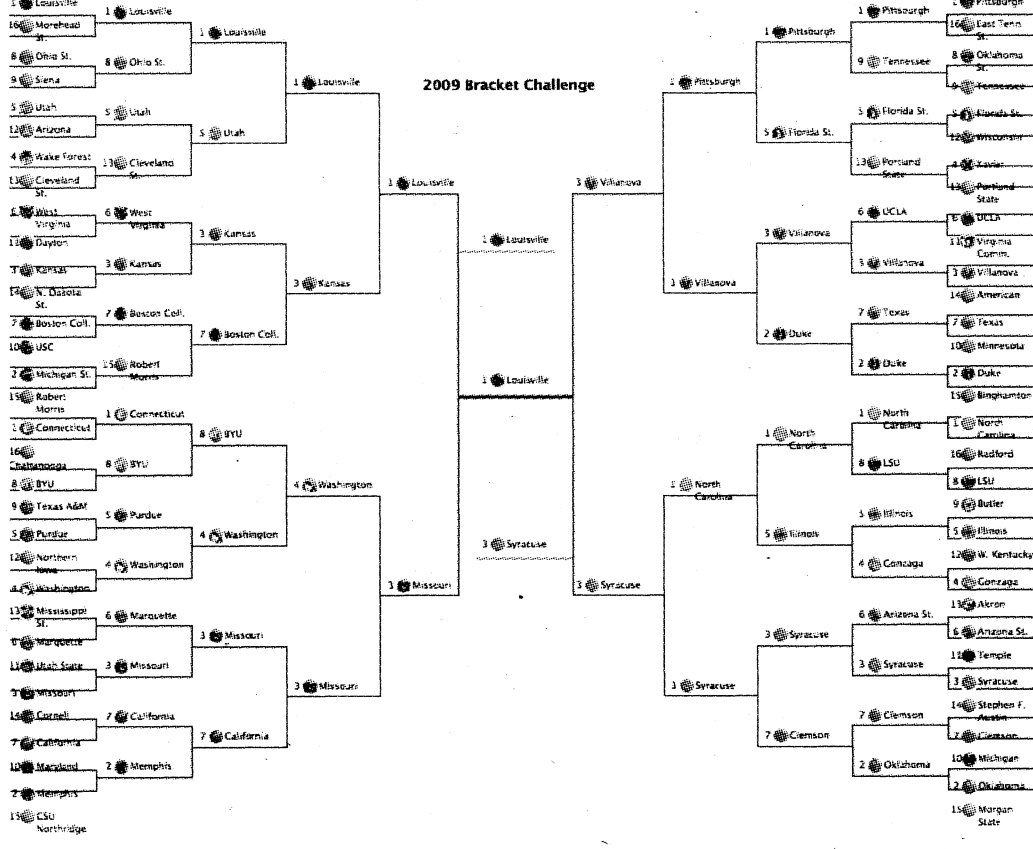
Carl Carrie- Assistant Sports Editor

I went with two trains of thoughts here. Dominating big men can usually will their team to victory, which is why I picked UNC, Pittsburgh, and Oklahoma with Hansbrough, Blair, and Griffin respectively. As for Memphis, they're undefeated since moving Tyreke Evans to the point, and are the hottest team going into the tournament.



Gene Morris- Sports Editor

I consider myself to be a fairly knowledgeable sports fan. When making picks, it's always easier to go with the higher seeds. This probably gives you a better chance of winning your office pool too. But I want a perfect bracket, not a solid one. I also know that if Louisville wins the tournament, which they very well may, I'll probably lose to Emily. You gotta take some chances.



Emily Glover- Copy Editor

If you couldn't tell, I don't really know anything about basketball, so I used a complex process of elimination to organize my bracket. Essentially I want the Louisville Cardinals to win because I enjoy the fine red-feathered creatures, and BYU does fairly well due to the Mormons being the underdogs all these years. Wish me luck?

LAX On Four Game Win Streak

continued from page 12

the Seawolves defeated last season in a breakout game for McBride, visited LaValle Stadium. McBride again found himself in the middle of the action, and although he didn't score 10 goals this time, he did net the most important goal of the game.

The Seawolves led 9-7 with five minutes remaining in the game, but Delaware was able to beat goalie Charlie Parr twice to knot the game up.

It was off to sudden death overtime, where Tom Compitello made a great pass over the cross bar to McBride, who had a wide-open net to deposit the ball.

"That was a heck of a game," Sowell said. "I really proud of my guys for battling. The past couple of weeks we have been in some battles."

Trenkle also had one of his best games of the season, scoring three goals.

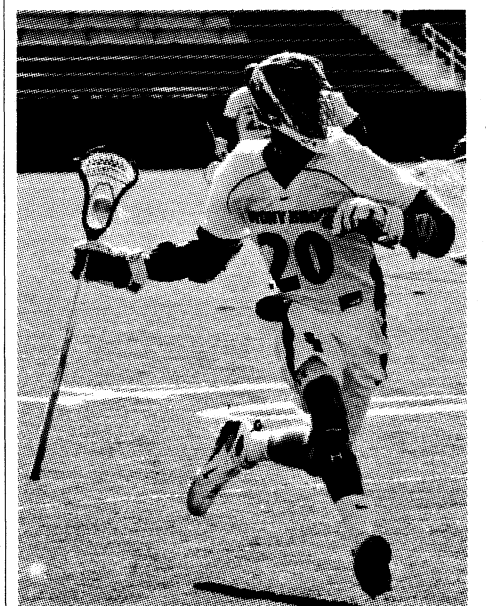
"We're finding ourselves," Trenkle said. "We're a young group, but we're coming together, finding out what we can do and work off each other."

The final game of the streak saw the Seawolves win in another dominating performance. By the time the game was eight minutes old the Seawolves held a 6-0 lead.

The Seawolves wound up winning the game 12-9. Lafayette was able to get the game within two goals, but never any closer than that.

"We're starting to get into game shape," McBride said.

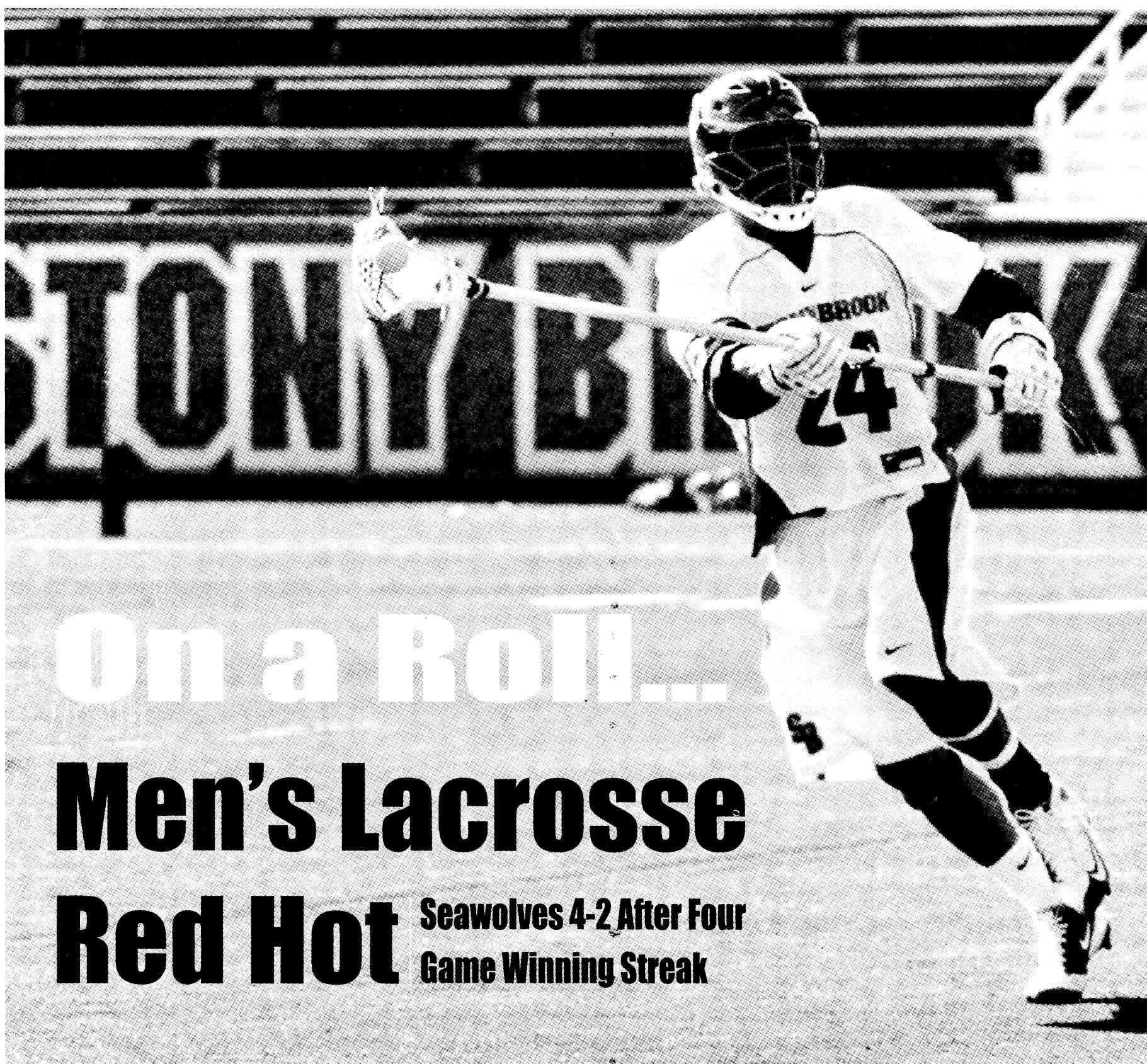
"We're doing things totally different offensively (from a few weeks ago)," Sowell said. "We scrapped some things, we brought some things back from a year ago. It's starting to come together. Playing in the heat of battle certainly helps."



Alex Berkman/ SB Statesman

Sophomore Timmy Trenkle has been a big reason for the Seawolves recent success.

STATESMAN SPORTS



On a Roll... Men's Lacrosse Red Hot

**Seawolves 4-2 After Four
Game Winning Streak**

By GENE MORRIS
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An 0-2 start against two of the better teams in the country, #1 Virginia and #14 Harvard, put a young Seawolves squad in a hole to begin the season.

"We're an inexperienced team still trying to find our way," Head Coach Rick Sowell said after the team's losses to Harvard.

Since those early season losses the Seawolves have seemingly turned it

around, winning four in a row. Two of those wins were in convincing fashion, while the other two went right down to the wire.

After being snowed out on March 3 against Lehigh, the Seawolves came back the next day to battle the Mountain Hawks. Stony Brook fell behind 1-0 early, but afterwards dominated the first quarter. They ripped off eight straight goals in the frame, and added the first two in the second quarter to jump out to a 10-1 lead.

Lehigh was able to get some offense going later in the game, but never enough to put any pressure on the Seawolves. The game ended 16-6 in Stony Brook's favor, with Canadian sophomores Kevin Crowley and Jordan McBride leading the way with four goals each.

The Seawolves next victory was a hard fought game at Siena. Stony Brook never trailed in the game, but also never led by more than two goals.

Stony Brook led 5-3 at the end of

the first half after a goal by sophomore Timmy Trenkle.

It was tied going in the fourth quarter, and each team scored once to push the score to 7-7. The game remained tied until the final minutes, when freshman Robbie Campbell scored the game winner unassisted.

The next game for the Seawolves was even closer. The Delaware Blue Hens, who

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