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## FEATURES

### An Afternoon At Starbucks

At 5:30 p.m. one recent Thursday, Melissa, a barista at a Stony Brook, N.Y. Starbucks stood behind an array of syrup flavoring and smiled at a crowd of what she called "regulars." A line of four people waited at the register to order while a group of teenage girls in black pea coats and Ugg Boots waited at the other end of the counter for their drinks to be made.

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## OPINION

### What's Best for Brookhaven

Many people, particularly those on campus, don't even know that there's an election coming up on Mar. 31, an election that will determine a new Brookhaven Town Supervisor - Stony Brook University's township. Since our previous town supervisor was elected to the New York State Senate in November, the town supervisor position is currently vacant.

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### The Politics of "Slumdog Millionaire"

Despite its acclaim here, however, the film has garnered much protest in India. Understandably, people are protesting the use of the word "dog" in the title, considering the fact that there are many people left in the slums who do not consider themselves dogs. (The term "dog" is very derogatory in India.) There are those who call the film "poverty porn," showing the slums of India in colors and Oscar-winning cinematography. They also say the movie isn't realistic, and that living in the slums doesn't make you intelligent enough to succeed on a game show.

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# Recyclemania Reaches Halfway Mark



Joe Trollo/ SB Statesman

BY JESSICA RYBAK  
Contributing Writer

Halfway through the competition, Recyclemania is in full swing.

About three weeks remain in the annual competition, that will last until Mar. 28, and Stony Brook students and faculty are encouraged by the Department of Recycling and Resource Management to participate in any way that they can.

The department is encouraging the campus community to get involved any way they can.

Promotional banners have been draped around the campus and a "kick-off" event was held on Jan. 28 in the Student Activities Center lobby. Also, "Recyclemania Bucks" are being distributed by RAs of different residential halls to residents who show that they're actively participating in the program by recycling in their building.

There are many factors that

contribute to Stony Brook's performance in Recyclemania. First, there's the method in which the school measures the total weight of its recyclables. Stony Brook uses a certified university truck scale to measure its data in "actual weights," while other schools make estimates about the weights of their results.

Another aspect that goes into Stony Brook's performance in Recyclemania is its participation in the "whole campus" designation of the competition. This requires all of Stony Brook's campuses, including the Southampton campus, Veterans Home, Medical Center and apartments, to be taken into consideration when weighing and gathering the school's results.

Typically, campuses such as Stony Brook that operate with large hospitals as well as other medical and research-related activities generate a lot of trash instead of recyclables.

A final aspect that comes

into effect when considering Stony Brook's results is the Full-Time Equivalent (FTE), campus population. The FTE number of students is 21,199, the number of faculty members is 3,833 and the number of hospital staff is 4,945, according to recyclemaniacs.org. The FTE complete population of the Stony Brook campus, which is the number used to determine the "per person" results in most categories, is 29,977 people, according to the website.

While Stony Brook's performance in some aspects of the competition so far have been deserving of praise, other categories have room for improvement. Stony Brook has shown the best results in the Gorilla Prize category -- being ranked 20 out of 288 participating schools. This category measures the highest gross tonnage of recyclables per school.

Stony Brook's worst category thus far is the Waste Minimization category, which determines

which school has collected the lowest amount of municipal solid waste per person. The goal of this competition is to determine which school yields the least waste in order to determine which is the most effective at diverting recyclables to their correct destination instead of the trash. Stony Brook is currently ranked 132 out of 146 participating schools in this category.

In the Grand Champion category, which combines the school's performance in all of the competitions, Stony Brook is currently ranked as 152 of 198 participating schools.

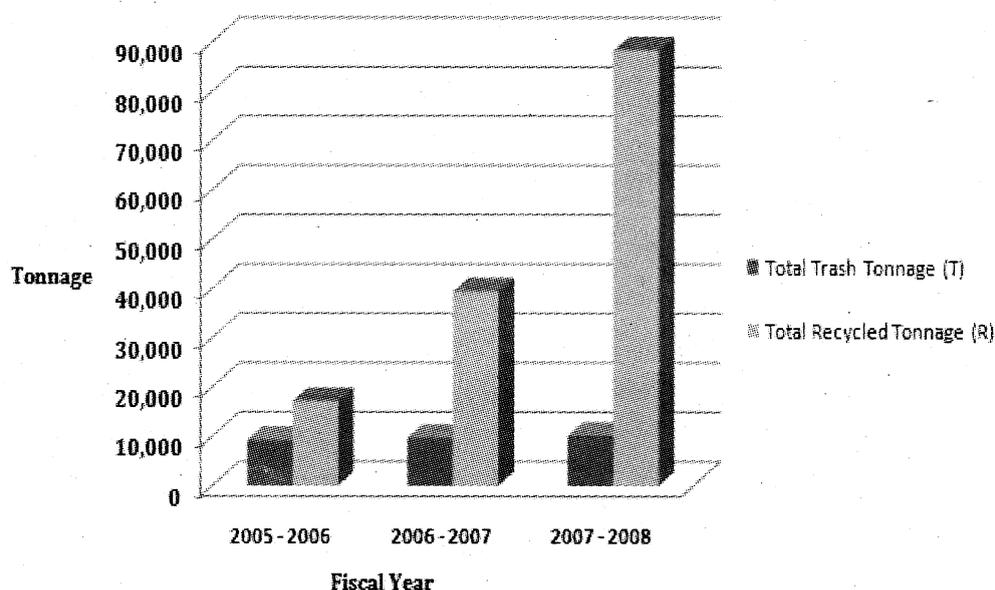
Stony Brook is currently ranked second of all participating schools in New York State in the Gorilla Prize category, slightly behind the Rochester Institute of Technology.

In addition to recycling paper, bottles, cans and cardboard both around the campus and in residential halls, there are many ways that students and faculty are able to help boost Stony Brook's score during the 10 weeks of Recyclemania.

If the national contest wasn't incentive enough, students living on campus are encouraged to participate in internal contests between residential halls in each quad. The building within each quad with the highest recycling statistics during Recyclemania will win a prize.

"The internal contests are a great way to motivate the student residential population as they get very spirited about who is conducting the best recycling program, and in turn get to have bragging rights over fellow students," said Michael Youdelman, manager of the Department of Recycling and Resource Man

Trash and Recycled Tonnage (Past 3 Fiscal Years)

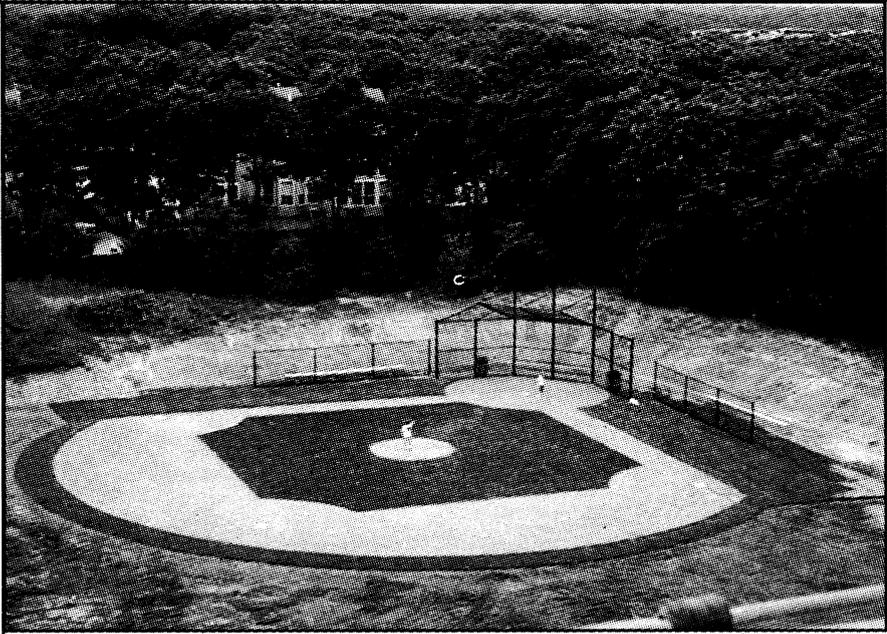


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Continued on page 4



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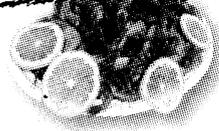
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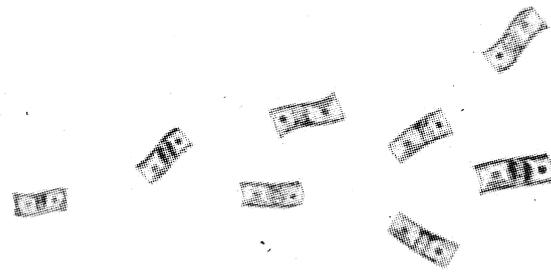
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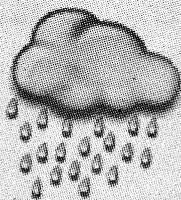


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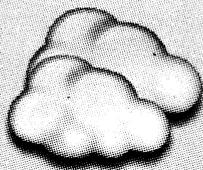
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# Student Forecast

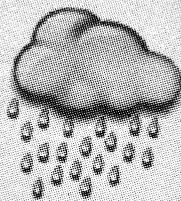
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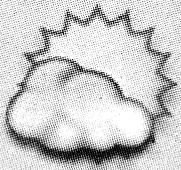
**Monday:**  
High: 44°F  
Low: 30°F  
Rain.



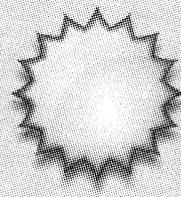
**Tuesday:**  
High: 42°F  
Low: 37°F  
Mostly cloudy.



**Wednesday:**  
High: 49°F  
Low: 31°F  
Showers.



**Thursday:**  
High: 41°F  
Low: 22°F  
Partly cloudy.



**Friday:**  
High: 34°F  
Low: 29°F  
Mostly sunny.

From weather.com

## An Afternoon At Starbucks

By NICOLE INDELICATO  
Contributing Writer

At 5:30 p.m. one recent Thursday, Melissa, a barista at a Stony Brook, N.Y. Starbucks stood behind an array of syrup flavoring and smiled at a crowd of what she called "regulars." A line of four people waited at the register to order while a group of teenage girls in black pea coats and Ugg Boots waited at the other end of the counter for their drinks to be made.

"Oh my God," one of the girls shrieked while looking at the pink Motorola Razzr her blonde friend gripped with excitement. "I can't believe he said that!"

"I know!" the cackling blonde said while clicking through a text message.

"Tall vanilla latte, non-fat milk," yelled the cashier loud enough so that the barista could hear her over the giggling girls.

Two separate doors at opposite ends of the shop allowed for customers to enter and exit in mobs. Each time the door closest to the counter opened, a rush of cool air would swirl in and rustle the pages of a novel being read by a woman with thick black hair and bangs sitting at a round table. She didn't seem to mind.

The sun was just beginning to set behind the bustling rush-hour traffic on 25A and the after-work and school crowd had arrived for their caffeine fix. Among them were grocery shoppers who had just checked out of one of the two grocery stores that reside in the same shopping center as this particular Starbucks.

"I'm here for the convenience," said Maria Bailey, a senior at Stony Brook University who was holding a shopping bag filled with Bok Choy



Media Credit: The Guardian

and green sprouts. "I was just shopping in Waldbaum's right over there and now I have some time to kill before the bus comes to bring me back to my dorm."

She leaned against one of the windows across from a display of Guatemalan Coffee sipping her tall cappuccino.

"I don't mind waiting here - even if I have to stand," she said with a chuckle.

Maria was standing because all 11 round tables and three couches were occupied by people with important books and flickering laptops.

All of these people were away from the chaos of the counter in a different ambience - a cove of concentration so deep, that an onlooker could practically see the imaginary cubicles engulfing them and their Blackberries. Each person sat alone engaged in work under nine dim lights except for two women chatting at the far corner of the store. An orange fire crackled intermittently and warmed the air as Dean Martin played lightly in the background.

The setting and music was enough to make one imagine another era. Perhaps a time when lean, luxurious women lounged in their velvet covered parlors and gingerly smoked long, thin cigarettes. They didn't have to work or worry about lung cancer. They just had to smoke, gossip and look positively poised and beautiful while doing so.

But it was a different time at Starbucks and women had notable careers.

Young women wrote feverishly in notebooks and typed rapidly on MacBooks. One overweight woman in a red shirt and thin gold glasses sighed loudly as she graded papers with a red pen. Every so often she'd explode with a heavy cough.

"Minus 16 points, plus two for the bonus would make this 84, 85, 86 percent," she said to herself quietly.

A young Chinese woman in a plaid jacket and Chuck Taylor's sat near a window with a giant biology textbook and a small black laptop. Her name was Helen, an aspiring nephrologist at the Stony Brook School of Medicine.

"I come here because of the yellow light," she said while brushing her straight black hair out of her eyes. "It helps me to focus. I'm also paying for the Internet right now so I don't waste my time doing unnecessary things on it."

Three tables away from Helen sat Shawn, a linguistics graduate student at Stony Brook who once took the LSAT when he was considering law school.

"I like there to be stuff going on around me while I study," said the hot chocolate drinker who expressed a profound interest in documenting lost languages. "It helps me feel like I'm not missing out on anything interesting."

Squirring in his chair, he craned his neck to look around.

"I'm here everyday and so is that girl over there," Shawn said and pointed inconspicuously to a young woman by the fire place with a navy blue hooded sweatshirt on. "And people just get more diverse as the night goes on."

Approximately 10 paces away from Shawn, a pre-pubescent-looking boy sat breathing noticeably. He seemed jittery.

Less than five minutes later, a woman of about 50 walked in and looked around until her eyes landed on the boy. They embraced each other in an awkward handshake and then sat down.

It could have been mistaken for an eHarmony date gone horribly wrong until the boy took off his black jacket to reveal a suit and reached for his resume laminated in plastic binding.

Suddenly, at the far door entered a woman dressed in leather from head to toe. Her spiked heels pounded the tiles in a staccato rhythm. Her rough suntanned face blurred through the air as her platinum blonde hair careened along with it. She only came in to use the bathroom.

Some customers snarled. "We've seen some crazy people," Melissa the barista said with a giggle. Working at Starbucks for eight years had put her through college at Stony Brook University where she majored in art. She was now working towards a teaching degree.

"She means that in a good way," Ruth, a cashier, added.

"Not always!" Melissa instigated.

After thinking for a minute, Ruth went on to talk about a time when someone had left a backpack outside the store and a customer had reported it as suspicious. Melissa laughed as she remembered the incident as well.

"Someone said it could have been a possible bomb so the police came and taped off the area," Ruth said. "And it was just beer! So afterwards, I took the backpack for myself."

"You took the backpack?!" Melissa asked in disbelief.

"Yeah, why not?" Ruth said with a shrug. "It was a perfectly good backpack."



Media Credit: Dries Buytaert

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, March 9, 2009

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B. 65%

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## HIGH TECH REALM

By CHARLES COSTA  
Columnist

Who knew that social networks aren't being used for networking? Sites like MySpace and Facebook have long been hailed as great ways to stay connected, however, an article from "The Economist" points out that most social networking users often connect (leaving comments on photos, status updates, etc.) with only an average of seven friends.

No, that was not a typo. I did type seven, and that figure is geared towards any social networking user, including the "elites" -- the users with hundreds or thousands of "friends."

The article mentions "the Dunbar number," which comes from a theory that the maximum number of people in a stable network is approximately 150 persons. Taking that number one step further, the average Facebook user has about 120 friends. Of these 120, the user only often connects with an average of seven.

For users with 500 friends, interactions occur with about seventeen people.

Is this news? Not really. When I first got a MySpace in 2004, I remember seeing some of my (actual) friends with over 1,000 people in their networks (my network peaked at around 112 people). There also were the numerous reports in the news about child predators, and there was also the MSNBC show "To Catch a Predator."

Really, this isn't surprising at all. Social networks are geared towards the younger generation where everyone wants to be cool. For some unknown reason, having a trillion friends on a social network is a status symbol.

While the concept isn't abstract, it's interesting to get precise figures as to how social networks are being used. Really, everyone seems to want their 15 minutes of fame. Maybe that's the reason it's cool to have a trillion "friends" on social networks.

## Recyclemania Reaches Halfway Mark

Continued from page 1

agement.

Faculty can contribute by scheduling events in their offices where old papers that aren't being used are recycled in order to harvest more paper for the competition.

Students can do the same in their residential halls by cleaning their rooms to eliminate clutter while cultivating Recyclemania points. RAs can schedule presentations given by the Department of Recycling and Resource Management that will further educate attendees from their residential halls about Recyclemania and recycling on campus.

"Ultimately, what we are after is helping to educate the university community about

the benefits of recycling and sustainability, and how it all adds up when each of us does our part," Youdelman said.

"The cumulative effects of all of our actions at Stony Brook University, combined with the 500-plus universities compet-

number of pounds per person in the Waste Minimization Category. In the Gorilla Prize category, the school has actually improved its score by an average of 13,301 pounds than where it stood at this point in the competition last year. With all

categories considered, however, Stony Brook has dropped in its Grand Champion score, from a 19.54 percent recycling rate per week in 2008 to 17.13 percent this year.

Participation by everyone on campus will be necessary to improve the school's overall score and help push Stony Brook towards a victory in this year's

2009

Media Credit: Stony Brook University



ing nationally is a great way to make a difference and lower our overall negative impacts on the environment," he said.

Stony Brook is yielding slightly higher results than those of last year. Compared to week five in the 2008 competition, Stony Brook has the same

Recyclemania competition. With half of the competition already behind us, we can use the knowledge of our current scores to motivate us to achieve better results in the future weeks.

To check for weekly updates in the competition, visit [recyclemaniacs.org](http://recyclemaniacs.org).

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

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

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**WHO WE ARE**

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

The Statesman is published twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the fall and spring semesters.

*Disclaimer: Views expressed in columns or in the Letters and Opinions section are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Statesman. All content Copyright 2008.*

# What's Best for Brookhaven

## Lesko vs. Mazzei

By **DAVE COOPER**  
Contributing Writer

Many people, particularly those on campus, don't even know that there's an election coming up on Mar. 31, an election that will determine a new Brookhaven Town Supervisor - Stony Brook University's township. Since our previous town supervisor was elected to the New York State Senate in November, the town supervisor position is currently vacant.

My views on the subject might surprise some people: I'm a senior political science major who likes to write and think about politics, although I'm not registered with a party, I've never made a campaign donation and I'm — as far as most people can tell — relatively apathetic about politics. I don't think of it as being apathy; I prefer to say that I'm "chronically unconvinced." I'm just waiting for someone to convince me.

I guess the bottom line is that, in terms of policy, I don't know what's best for the world or the country or Stony Brook University, and the fact remains that most of the problems we face today don't have easy answers, despite what many politicians, activists and pundits will tell you. This,

however, isn't any reason to ignore politics. In fact, I would argue that it's a reason to care that much more, to give that much more thought into whom you support and why you support them.

In the end, I vote. Sometimes I weigh out the nitty-gritty policy options and come up with whom I think is the best candidate, and sometimes I don't. Sometimes it's easy: one guy is clearly dishonest, the other isn't. Maybe one guy doesn't seem like he'd really be able to unite people or maybe I think he's just not intelligent enough. But because I don't always know what's best for the world, my decisions at the ballot often come down to something more primordial than this.

Back to the election at the end of March. On one side, we have the candidate from Party A, the party that controlled Brookhaven Town until 2005, the party that gave Brookhaven national recognition as "Crookhaven" after some Suffolk County and Brookhaven leaders from Party A were convicted of racketeering, extortion, and bribery, much of it in connection with a chop-shop ring that stole trucks and chopped them up for parts, as well as an extortion scheme related to the

infamous and enormous landfill located in Brookhaven.

Party A controlled Brookhaven for many decades and although for much of this time you were probably either (a) not politically active or (b) not born yet, I have not heard very many good things about these days, days when your prospects of getting a job in the town were directly correlated with the party with which you were registered, the days when policy decisions were made in the Party A headquarters rather than town hall.

In 2005, however, Party B gained a majority in the Town Council. At the same time, Party B's candidate became town supervisor, promising reform and a complete turn-around of government. Now, I've lived in Brookhaven Town my entire life. Over the last 3-plus years with Party B in control, I don't feel all that different—it's not like one day we were all slaves to the Party A machine and the next day, the infallible light of Party B shone upon us, the asphalt was replaced with gold and all manner of sea and woodland creatures singing to the tune of a brighter tomorrow. Okay, so we have a higher

bond rating than ever before, that's a good thing. And as far as I can tell, the town isn't stealing our cars anymore.

So as far as I'm concerned, Party A (the Republican Party) has had its chance. Party B (the Democratic Party) it's doing a decent job so far, and I'm willing to give them a few more years to clean up Party A's mess.

This is besides the fact that the Democrat in this race, Mark Lesko, is a Yale graduate who went to Georgetown University Law School and recently resigned from being a federal prosecutor in order to run for town supervisor. This is a guy who could pretty much get a job anywhere in the country, even in today's economy. But for whatever reason, he opts for a mediocre salary in public service when he could be making a killing in some private practice somewhere.

Yes, this is true of many politicians, but partly because of this, it's pretty clear to me that Lesko is in this because he wants to be a public servant, not because he wants to be a politician. And while I honestly don't know what policies are best for Brookhaven Town, on some level I trust Mark Lesko to figure it out.

# Horrible Movie Trailers

By **JOSH GLAZER**  
Staff Writer

There are many things on television that can cause one's soul to pale, but perhaps the worst for me are horror movie trailers. These trailers consistently use a type of screen flash between their brief segments that I find to be offensive, due to the way it takes advantage of our reflex to focus on sudden bright bursts of light. Many commercials use this technique, but horror movie trailers are the worst abusers, both because they use it the most, and also because the trailers themselves are often very disturbing in content.

Once you notice this advertising technique, it is hard not to see it when you watch TV. The flash between commercial segments immediately brings a person's focus straight to the TV set, no matter where you are in the room. In fact, I usually try to press mute during commercials, but even that does not lessen the effect of the screen flash on one's senses.

As highly evolved living organisms, we have powerful sensory apparatuses that react to such stimuli by activating our flight or flight reflex, and these advertising techniques seek to take advantage of that. When I see the screen flash during these kinds of commercials I feel like a deer stuck in the headlights, frozen for a second by the powerful light. Like a moth to a flame, we cannot help being fascinated by such bright lights. I would like to raise the question, however, of whether such techniques are morally right?

I believe that, as Americans, we all have a basic right to a minimum level of decency from our fellow citizens. This level of decency should extend to things that are not necessarily covered or strictly enforced by law, like signaling before changing lanes or trying to talk quietly on your cell phone when in a train car.

George Orwell once wrote, a bit tongue in cheek, that "one has the right to expect ordinary decency even of a poet."

I take this statement to mean that there is a limit to what lengths are acceptable to go to when attempting to reach your audience. In a way, we are all poets, since any action involves some sort of creation, and therefore we should all take some care with how our art affects other people.

Television may be inherently evil (although a necessary

one for me), but I think that advertisers should refrain from using distasteful and exploitative techniques like half subliminal screen flashes. Personally, I find it disgusting that it is horror movie trailers that most often use the screen flash technique, forcing their images of fear and pain onto your brain.

## 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.

INTERCOLLEGIATE

# SXSW Festival Brings Beats, Business to Austin, Texas

By CAROLINE ASHMORE  
Daily Texan / UWIRE

A man playing an acoustic guitar covered entirely with bumper stickers and drawings stands alone in the center of the sidewalk at the intersection of Sixth Street and San Jacinto Boulevard. A couple holding hands and carrying Styrofoam coffee cups strolls past leisurely, but the sounds of cars drown out the sound of his strumming.

Fast forward four weeks on the same street corner. Multiply the lone musician by 200, the couple by 5,000 and the noise level by 1 million, and then you might have a slight idea what the 23rd annual South by Southwest Music and Media Conference and Festival will look like.

"It is unlike any other night you have ever experienced downtown in Austin, Texas," said Jake Hiller, a Latin American studies senior and past SXSW attendee. "Sixth Street is unrecognizable. The people, the music, the venues — all of it is unbelievable."

In addition to entertaining attendees, the festival provides a perennial boost to the Austin economy. For five days, Austin hotels are booked, local restaurants are packed and the city streets are inundated with celebrities, music moguls and festivalgoers.

Last year's SXSW injected about \$103 million into the Austin economy, an 8 percent increase from \$95 million in 2007, according to the 2008 SXSW economic impact report.

Over the past 23 years, SXSW has grown from attracting 700 attendees to nearly

10,000 in 2008.

Last year SXSW showcased 250 films and 1,700 bands. This year it will host more than 250 films and 1,800 bands, according to the SXSW Web site. Similarly, the festival's



Media Credit: www.sxsw.com

sponsorship has also increased this year, and its international registration increased 33 percent.

Expectations for this year's festival remain the same despite the harsh economic climate.

SXSW officials remain optimistic that the festival will maintain its projected growth for 2009 and provide the city with its annual economic influx, said SXSW spokesman Mike Shea in a report.

Although the numbers suggest the current economic crisis is having little to no effect on SXSW's profitability, there is an unresolved issue: What about people attending the festival who aren't industry professionals, the people who can't afford to purchase a \$1,145 platinum badge and the bands that can't pay to travel across the country to perform?

"In order to offset some of the cost of getting to and from the festival, we're booking more shows with some friends'

bands to and from, just to have the opportunity to make some gas money via playing and selling merchandise," said Vince Corsaro, drummer for The Sleepover Disaster, a band from Fresno, Calif., slated to perform at the event.

"Regardless of the economy, though, the consensus among the many bands we're in contact with is that, given the opportunity to play SXSW, we'll make it work."

The band first appeared at SXSW in 2008, and Corsaro credited the festival with securing a label deal for the band and increasing its credibility.

Even in 2008, when gas prices approached \$4 a gallon, the band rented an 11-passenger van and drove 24 hours straight to Austin and then directly home. Without the help of several benefactors, they wouldn't have been able to make the trip and might not have been signed six months later, Corsaro said.

Similarly, despite the current crisis that has led millions of Americans to cut unnecessary spending, local excitement for the festival continues to grow, and students are finding ways to attend SXSW regardless of their financial capability.

Hiller has attended the music portion of the festival for the past two years, and although currently low on funds, he plans to make it this year as well.

"In a city like Austin, there will always be music," Hiller said. "Shows are still selling

out, so it's obvious the economy isn't ruining everything. It's just forcing us to become more creative."

In 2007, after waiting in line at Waterloo Records for nearly two hours, Hiller purchased a \$129 wristband that provided him access to any show — provided they weren't at full capacity after festival badge holders were given first preference.

In 2008 he attended free SXSW after parties that required an online RSVP ahead of time, still enabling him to see an assortment of different bands in smaller, more intimate venues.

Alyssa Estrada, a broadcast journalism senior, also found a way to attend the festival the past two years without breaking the bank.

interviews she will conduct and performances she will attend will take place in a more personal setting than most get the privilege of experiencing, she said.

"South by Southwest has remained a staple to Austin's musical success for the past 20 years," Estrada said. "And I think that although things may be more challenging because of the economy, it isn't going to stop people from attending a festival that defines who we are as Austinites."

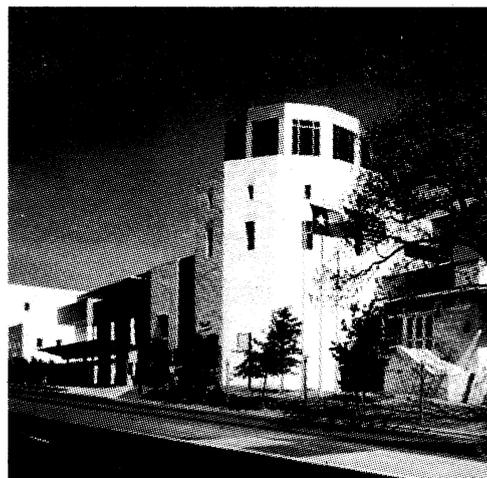
Casey Monahan, director of the Texas Music Office, the liaison between music businesses in Texas and government agencies, said it is wishful thinking to believe that the economy will have no effect on SXSW.

"There is no doubt that a slowing economy affects all sectors," said Monahan, who has attended SXSW for the past 23 years. "Austin is a very desirable place to live and work, but we aren't immune to the changes in the national or international economy."

As the sun sets on Sixth Street and San Jacinto Boulevard, the man playing his acoustic guitar is nowhere to be seen.

In his place, there is a man with makeshift bongo drums and another holding a trumpet case. When asked of their thoughts on the economic slump, the man with the bongos laughs and quickly counts the coins passersby have dropped in his cup.

Banging on his bongos to emphasize his words, he said, "I'm going to be just fine."

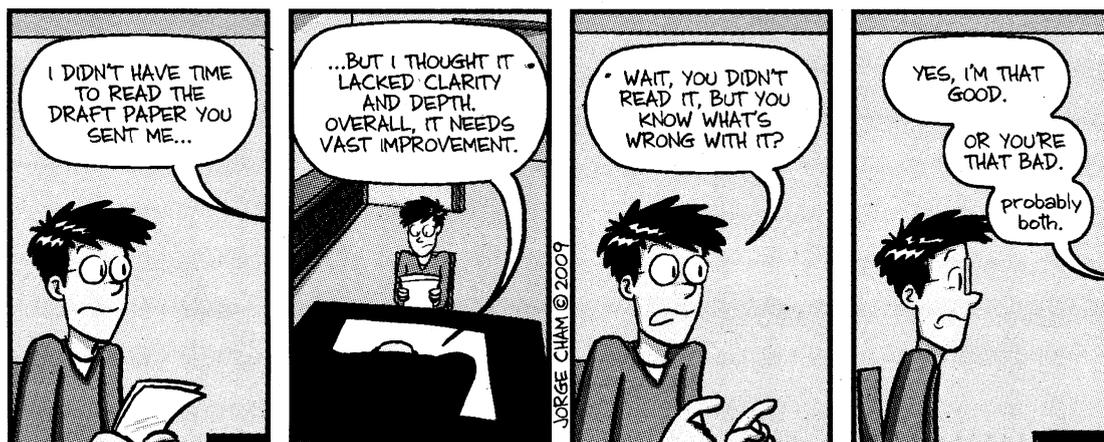


Media Credit: www.austinconventioncenter.com

Estrada worked as an intern at KUT radio, the NPR affiliate in Austin, during SXSW in 2008, and although the job was unpaid, she made contacts with band and tour managers who put her on several guest lists for free access to shows.

This year, Estrada will intern with ME Television during SXSW and still won't receive a badge for free. But the in-

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Media Credit: www.sudokuapplication.com

# The Politics of "Slumdog Millionaire"

By RUCHI VIKAS  
Contributing Writer

"Slumdog Millionaire" recently won eight Oscars and four Golden Globes. In the months since it has come out, I have not met one person who didn't like the movie.

Despite its acclaim here, however, the film has garnered much protest in India. Understandably, people are protesting the use of the word "dog" in the title, considering the fact that there are many people left in the slums who do not consider themselves dogs. (The term "dog" is very derogatory in India.)

There are those who call the film "poverty porn," showing the slums of India in colors and Oscar-winning cinematography. They also say the movie isn't realistic, and that living in the slums doesn't make you intelligent enough to succeed on a game show. Lastly, some Indians also say that it wasn't the place of a British director to make a film about the slums of India to begin with.

I have grown up as an American, but I have roots in India. Therefore, when I saw this movie, I tried to see it both from the perspective of an American and from that of an Indian. For me, the main character was not a genius. At least, he was not portrayed as one. He did not use his intelligence on the game show; he used his experience. It is true that the chances of the questions on a game show coinciding exactly with ones' life experiences in reality are slim to none. Movies, however, are usually a stretch of reality -- an exaggeration meant to make a larger point.

What I took away from the film was a feeling of the strength and courage of people living in the slums, and moreover, the strength and courage of the Indian people. Those who live in the slums now have to face experiences similar to Jamal's every day of their life. Although there is no miraculous game show at the end of it for most of them, this film does what it can to try to honor them and to show the world hardships that they face.

There was a similar controversy when Sir Richard Attenborough began the production of Gandhi. Indians questioned the right of a British director to make a film about Gandhi, who belonged to India. Supposedly, Sir Richard Attenborough replied by saying "You had more than enough time to make this film. Besides, Gandhi belongs to the world."

Poverty is and should be a worldwide problem. Therefore, the slums do not

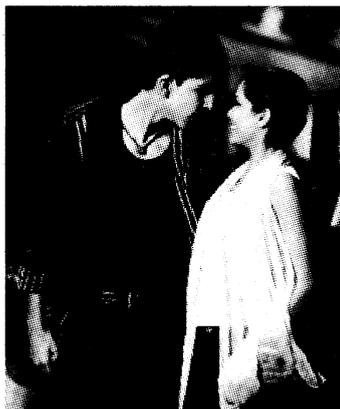
belong solely to India but rather to the world.

India is now a growing power, perhaps with less poverty in it than in the past. Yet there are still those who live in the slums, and who make their living by stealing scraps of metal and cardboard for 12 hours a day. There are those who have had their eyes gouged out for being caught stealing these things. If a movie can bring attention to this, then why shouldn't it?

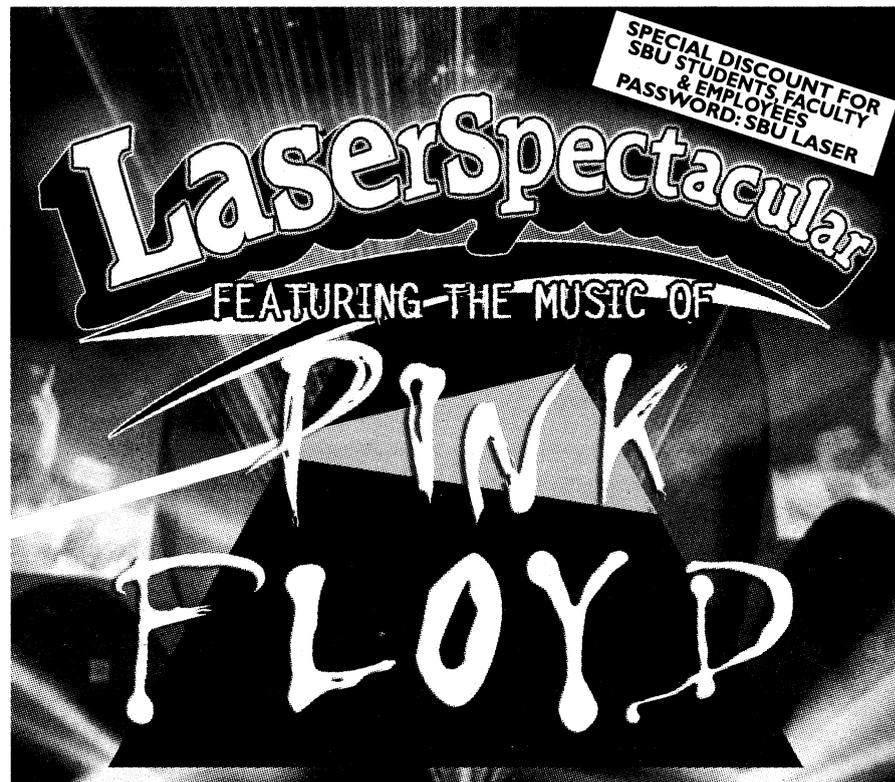
People are not naive. Most will not believe that the slums of Mumbai are glamorous and the children living in them will grow up and use their experiences and poverty to make it big. But hopefully they will take home the fact that children are suffering in the slums even now. However, this does not necessarily forsake them to a lifetime of poverty. After all, the child stars in the movie were taken from the slums. They too "just got lucky."

As for the complaint that the movie is derogatory due to the use of the word "dog," I agree that research was probably not put into the decision. The director may not have known how offensive calling someone a dog really is. However, I say again that the movie is not about people from the slums being dogs. The term dog was never in the film used in the context of a person being a dog, but rather as a person down on his luck.

The film "Slumdog Millionaire" is, to me, about the bravery and resourcefulness of the Indian people. The slums were not portrayed as colorful and charming because they are so, but rather because the children living in them were able to look on the bright side and see life as such. Maybe that outlook is what gave the main character the opportunity that he ultimately got. If we could all take home similar messages, perhaps the controversy over the movie could ultimately be used to make the slums a better place to live, rather than squabbling over semantics.



Dev Patel and Freido Pinto from *Slumdog Millionaire*  
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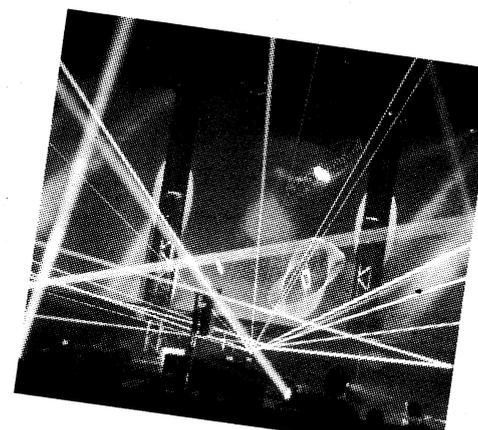


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# AMERICA EAST CHAMPIONSHIP COVERAGE

## Bright Future in Store for Men's Basketball Program

BY CARL CARRIE  
Assistant Sports Editor

While the Seawolves season may have come to a disappointing end, their season was anything but a disappointment. Even opposing coaches were singing praise for the program.

"Stony Brook deserves an awful lot of credit," said Bill Herrion, head coach of UNH. "The job Steve Pikiell did with that basketball team, the people from Stony Brook should be so proud."

And Stony Brook should be proud, as they improved in almost every facet of the game, and have tons to look forward to.

First off Stony Brook won 16 games, including eight conference wins—one less than their last three years combined. They ranked first in the America East Conference and 27th in the nation in scoring defense, holding opponents to 60.4 ppg and to 42 percent shooting.

The Seawolves won nine games away from Pritchard gymnasium, setting a Stony Brook D-I record. At home they received great fan support averaging nearly 1,300 fans a game, and selling out numerous games.

"It's nice playing at home," said Head Coach Steve Pikiell. "The environment is great. The fans are there. The band is there. It really makes a big difference."

As for individual awards, the Seawolves had four players make All-America East teams; Tommy Brenton and Bryan Dougher on the All-Rookie Team, Muhammad El-Amin on the All-Conference 2nd team, and Marques Cox on the All-Defensive team. The future looks bright for the team, as of these four, Cox is the only graduating player.

After the game Dougher knew the program is on its way forward, but knows that victories won't just be handed to them. "It's a big step for the program. We just got to work really hard in the offseason and just keep getting better."

Coach Pikiell is also ready for the future. "We had a lot of good stuff happen this year for our program," he said. "We're going to use this year as a stepping stone, and hopefully we start new traditions here at Stony Brook."

If this year is any indication, it looks like the tradition they might be setting is winning. And that's a good sign.

BY GENE MORRIS  
Sports Editor

It was too early to think about in the Seawolves locker room Saturday night at SEFCU Arena, but things are certainly looking up for the Men's Basketball program.

Picked to finish last in the pre-season coaches poll, Head Coach Steve Pikiell found a way to mold together a team of young freshman, junior college transfers, and returning veterans forced into new roles.

"We had 11 new players this year, a lot of role changes," Coach Pikiell said. "It was tough trying to figure it all out."

But in coming away with 16 victories overall and eight in conference, the team is set to reach places it has never gone to as a Division I program.

"I was pleased the program took a big step," Coach Pikiell said after the game. "I thought we were ready to take (another) step tonight."

The Seawolves, who have only two seniors in their regular rotation, will return five players who saw significant minutes this year, along with current freshman Danny Carter, who saw some playing time early in the year, and 6'9" center Desmond Adedeji. Adedeji's season was thrown off track before it started with a DUI in November, a nagging knee problem, and his subsequent inability to get into game shape.

Those two seniors, Marques Cox and Demetrius Young, saw their playing time fluctuate over the past two seasons, but we're still ready when called upon to

contribute heavily to the team this year. Cox, who was asked to do much of the team's dirty work, earned the respect of his teammates.

"He played a big role this year," Muhammad El-Amin said. "He was guarding the best player every game, taking charges, doing all the little things we needed."

Coach Pikiell felt the same way about his older players.

"It was a rewarding year," he said. "I'm disappointed right now for our seniors. Our seniors really blended with our rookies."

Three of those rookies, forwards Tommy Brenton and Dallis Joyner, and guard Bryan Dougher, were in the starting lineup against New Hampshire.

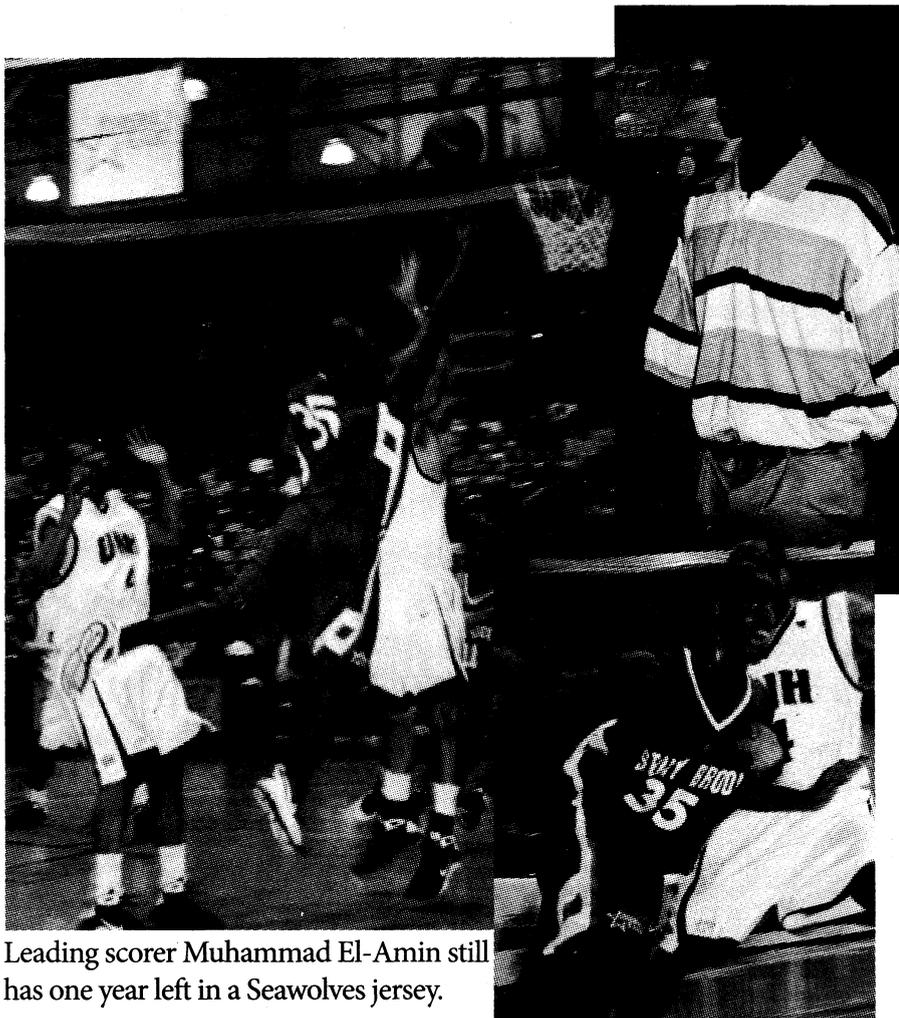
Dougher stepped up and played his best game in weeks, scoring 17 points and making two three-point shots.

"It's a big step for the program," he said. "We just have to work really hard in the offseason and just keep getting better."

With the majority of his rotation intact going into next season, Pikiell is excited to finally have some continuity in the program.

"I like our newcomers coming into the program and our guys returning," Coach Pikiell said. "Next year will be the first year I know what I have from one through five. I haven't been able to coach like that in three years."

"We had a lot of good stuff happen this year for our program," he continued. "We're going to use this year as a stepping stone, and hopefully we start new traditions here at Stony Brook."



Leading scorer Muhammad El-Amin still has one year left in a Seawolves jersey.

Josh Seidman /SB Statesman



Stony Brook Award Winners Muhammad El-Amin, Tommy Brenton, Marques Cox, and Bryan Dougher at the America East Awards Banquet

Carl Carrie /SB Statesman

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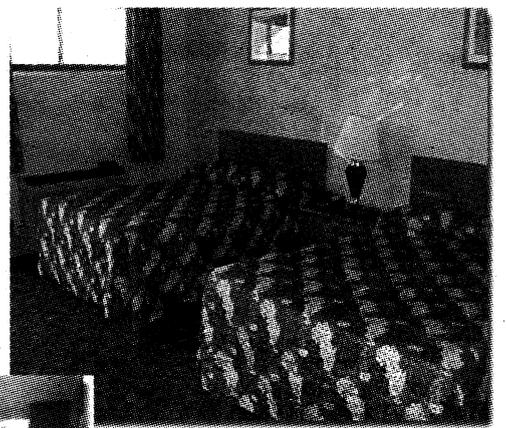
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# AMERICA EAST CHAMPIONSHIP COVERAGE



Stony Brook's Muhammad El-Amin and Bryan Dougher

Gene Morris / SB Statesman



ABOVE: UNH's Tyrece Gibbs Post Game

Gene Morris / SB Statesman

LEFT: SB School Spirit

Josh Seidman / SB Statesman

## Young Seawolves Must Wait Until Next Year For Taste of Championship

BY GENE MORRIS  
Sports Editor

The second free throw from Eric Gilchrese, which would have put New Hampshire up four points, arced through the air. The ball caught the side of the rim, and landed in the hands of Demetrius Young with seven seconds remaining.

Young turned quickly, and passed the ball to Muhammad El-Amin.

"I just ran down the court looking for an open shot and I got it," El-Amin said after the game. "I just missed it. It's a desperation shot, 50-50 chance, but I just missed it."

So ends the season of the Stony Brook Seawolves men's basketball team, another in a long line of close losses to the teams just above them in the standings.

Stony Brook and New Hampshire, the two best defensive teams during conference games, played an uncharacteristically high-scoring 76-73 game on Saturday night at SEFCU Arena in Albany.

"I'm just disappointed," Seawolves Head Coach Steve Pikiell said. "I thought we were ready to make that next step as a program. What got us here was great defense, and unfortunately we didn't play great defense tonight."

With starters Demetrius Young and Dallas Joyner in foul trouble just ten minutes into the game, Coach Pikiell turned to seldom used big man Andrew Goba and freshman Danny Carter to fill the void.

"You have to do what you have to do when you get in foul trouble," Pikiell said. "I thought those guys did a good job holding the fort down."

It was the second half when the game nearly got totally away from the Seawolves.

A three-point basket by New Hampshire's Tyrone Conley pushed the Wildcats lead to 60-47 with 12:18 remaining in the contest. That 60 points nearly matched the number of points the Seawolves usually allow in an entire game.

"We did not play defense the way we prepared to play defense this week," Pikiell said. "It's as simple as that."

But the Seawolves never gave in.

"Stony Brook deserves an awful lot of credit," UNH Head Coach Bill Herrion said. "The job Steve Pikiell did with that basketball team, the people from Stony Brook should be so proud."

A three-pointer by El-Amin with 1:06 remaining got the Seawolves back within four, but UNH's leading scorer, Tyrece Gibbs, had an answer.

Gibbs, who scored 18 in the game, worked the shot clock all the way down before he attempted to split two Stony Brook defenders on the way to the basket. "I heard the ref blew the whistle and just threw it up and hoped it went in," Gibbs said. "And thank god it went in."

But five quick points and three UNH missed free throws left the door open for the Seawolves. But there would be no late game heroics from El-Amin this time, although he did lead all scorers with 23 points.

"I'm just disappointed because I think we could have won this game," Pikiell said. "It's a humbling game, one jump shot here, or get off to a better start in the second half and I think we would have won the basketball game. But we didn't do it."

"I told the guys before the game you have to play well for 40 minutes," he said. "Unfortunately we didn't and you go home."

## Championship Results

Friday:

#9 Hartford 65  
#8 Maine 56

Saturday:

#7 Albany 56  
#2 Vermont 52 (OT)

#6 UMBC 79  
#3 Boston U. 75 (OT)

#1 Binghamton 73  
#9 Hartford 65

#4 New Hampshire 76  
#5 Stony Brook 73

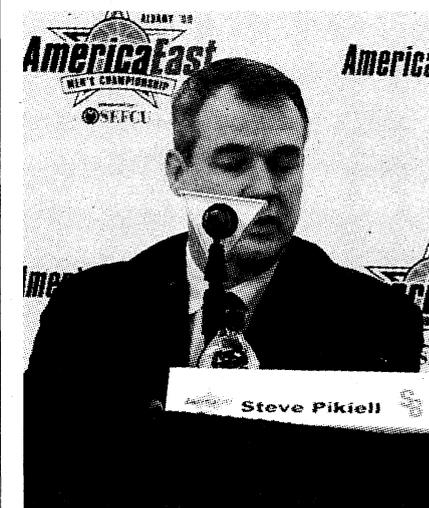
Sunday:

#6 UMBC 64  
#7 Albany 58

#1 Binghamton 72  
#4 UNH 67

Championship Game:

March 14, 11:00 AM  
#6 UMBC @ #1 Binghamton



Coach Pikiell was not happy with his teams defense in Saturday's loss to New Hampshire

Gene Morris / SB Statesman

## America East: War Zone

BY GENE MORRIS  
Sports Editor

Down seven points with just 2:23 remaining, UMBC found themselves in a world of trouble against Boston University.

The Retrievers, the defending America East Champions, had a rough year, finishing 7-9, good for sixth in the conference.

The Terriers, led by the high scoring guard tandem of John Holland and Corey Lowe, were looking to put their stamp on this year's tournament.

Holland had drained multiple long three's earlier in the game, and it looked like BU was going to pull away from UMBC.

But nothing comes easy in this conference, and even when a game looks like it's over, it never truly is until the clock strikes zero.

"Every game is a war, a dogfight," UMBC Head Coach Randy Monroe said after the game.

That was after his team went on an 8-1 run to tie the game with four seconds remaining in regulation, and rallied to win in overtime, fueled by Senior Daryl Proctor.

"This was a typical America East game," Monroe said. "It's almost like WWE Smackdown on Friday nights."

Because of the lack of foul calls during the game between Stony Brook and New Hampshire, the two best defensive teams in the conference, Seawolves Head Coach Steve Pikiell told his players the game "was like a cross between football and sumo wrestling."

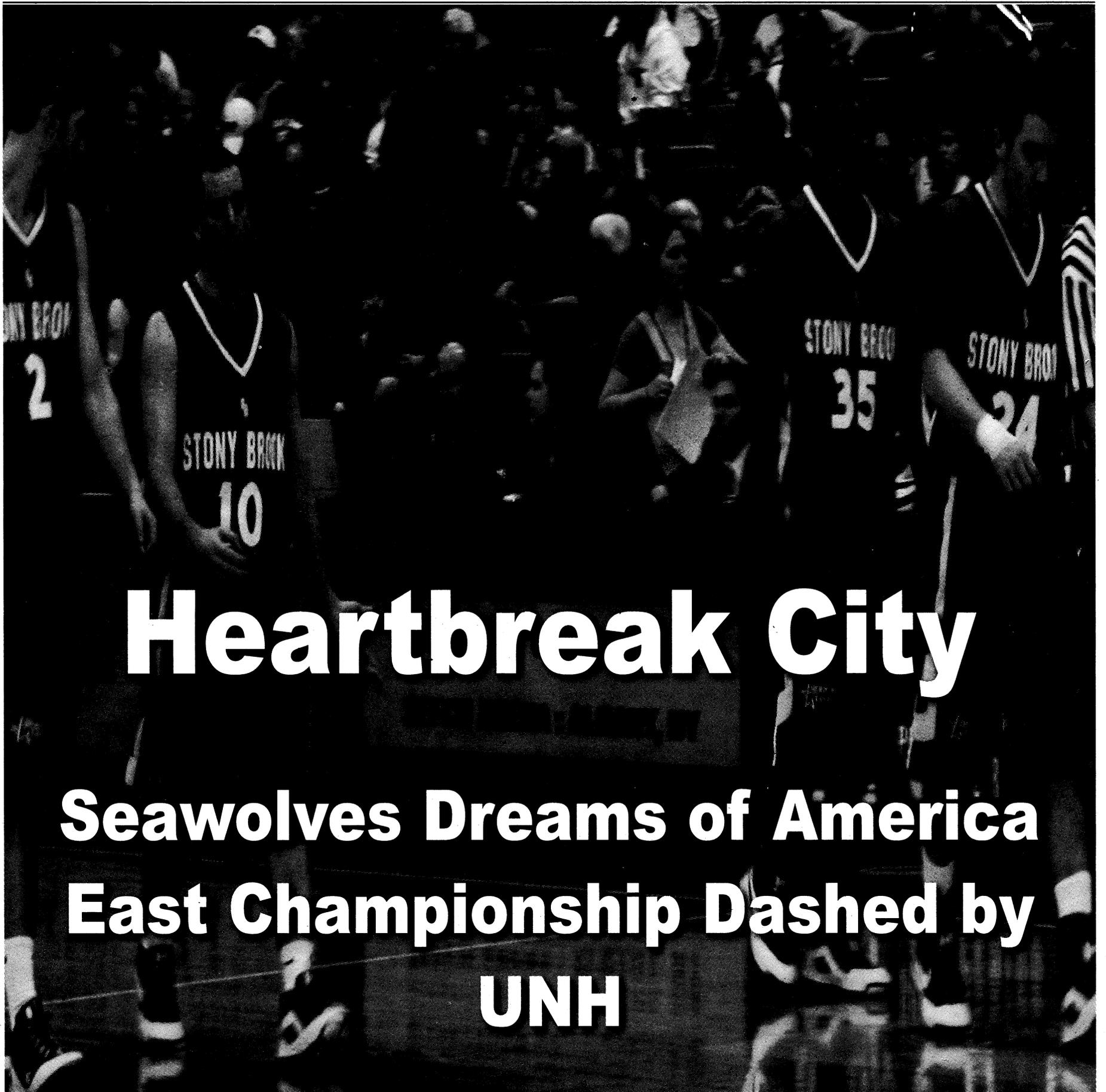
Later in the evening, this year's number one team, the Binghamton Bearcats, got a first hand lesson in how tight every conference game really is.

Hartford, the worst team in the conference all season long, took a quick 6-0 lead in their game.

Binghamton eventually took over, but not before Hartford made a strong run at the end of regulation, draining three-point shots and making it necessary for the Bearcats injured Tiki Mayben to check back into the game.

"That was America East Play at it's finest," Binghamton Head Coach Kevin Broadus said. "It was a war."

# STATESMAN SPORTS

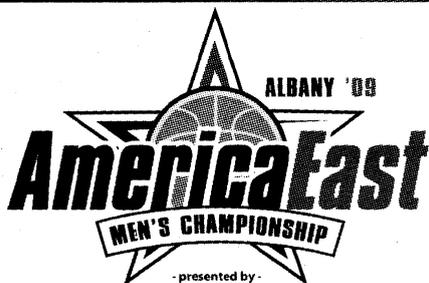


## Heartbreak City

Seawolves Dreams of America  
East Championship Dashed by  
UNH



76



73

