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#### Poor Parenting In America

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#### Letter: Energy Efficiency Comes at a Cost

In the Feb. 2 issue of the Statesman, a news story described Stony Brook's initiative to comply with the The United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, program.

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#### **Celebrating Black History and Future**

Every year during the month of February, we take time to honor and appreciate the black and African-American experience in the United States. This year, the occasion is particularly poignant due to the election of Barack Obama to our country's highest political office. While African-Americans have much to celebrate this year, they also have many grievances to remember l and economic equality in this country.

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#### Let's Go, Lesko!

With the election for Brookhaven Town Supervisor arriving in less than two months, we need to make our decision. For me, it's obvious: the former federal prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney, Mark Lesko, is the clear choice.

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Aetna will pay students nationwide for underpaid out-of-networld claims.

Frank Posillico / SB Statesman

## Aetna to Pay \$5 Million to Students

By CAROLINA HIDALGO Contributing Writer

Aetna Student Health, Stony Brook University's health insurance provider, will reimburse nearly 300 current and former students for underpaid insurance claims.

From 1998 to April 2008, Aetna underpaid out-of-network claims by \$5.1 million. These claims are made when patients visit a provider who does not have a contract with their insurer. More than 73,000 students were affected nationwide. Aetna will be repaying students under an agreement made with New York Attorney General Andrew Cuomo.

"Students were particularly vulnerable to being cheated because they placed their trust in health care plans sponsored by their colleges," Cuomo said in a prepared statement.

Stony Brook students without health insurance are required to purchase Aetna insurance through the Student Health Services. The plan, which lasts one academic year, costs \$959.

Aetna, the third-largest insurer in the country, had been using outdated reimbursement tables to decide how much to pay health providers. Providers usually bill patients when insurance fails to fully cover costs.

Students who are due payment will be directly contacted by Aetna, which has not released student names to any of the 200 schools involved.

burse nearly 300 current and former students for underpaid insurance claims.

From 1998 to April 2008, Aetna underpaid out-of-network claims by \$5.1 million.

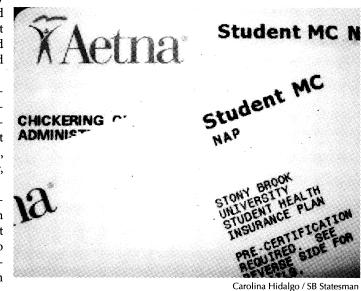
"They're going to be coming out with notices in about a month," said Leta Edelson, manager of the Student Health Insurance Office. "That's about all they're telling us."

Students will receive and must return the response forms to Aetna for either reimbursement or to authorize payment to their health care provider. If the form is not returned within 45 days of receipt Aetna will automatically pay the provider, according to a company repre-

sentative. Payments will be sent out within six months.

"I wouldn't have expected this to be allowed to happen," said Michael Chuprin, a student covered by the university's insurance. "But at least something is being done now."

Under the agreement, Aetna will also invest \$20 million in creating a new, independent reimbursement database. Ingenix, the largest supplier of healthcare billing information in the country, had provided the outdated rates. Ingenix has been under investigation by Cuomo's office since an industry-wide inquiry was launched in February 2008.



Approximately 300 current and former students will receive reimbursement.

# For One Student, Internship Experience Helps Calm Fears of the Future

By Lauren Cioffi Staff Writer

After a long sleep in his Brooklyn residence, Vincent Szeto awoke to the sound of his alarm clock blaring at 7 a.m. on Monday morning. Szeto -- galvanized to wake up and start the day -- hauled his duffle bag over his shoulder and scrambled through the busy streets of New York City to his destination, a clear glass building on W. 57th St.

The human resources department of Hearst Corporation, which resides over 20,000 employees, is where Szeto works twice a week as an operative controller. Szeto, an intern at the corporation, is part of the application reviewing process for companies such as O, the Oprah Magazine, and Cosmopolitan, as well as newspapers and broadcast stations all over the United States.

"I've learned a lot from my internships like how to do information for an interview or how to make a resume better," Szeto said. "I've learned that it's more about the experiences you have, not the major or the minor you choose."

The streets are brimming with businessmen and women when Szeto ends his 9-hour day in the city at 5 p.m. After taking three trains to get back to the Stony Brook University campus he lethargically sits down at his desk, unloads his duffle bag and diligently prepares for his Tuesday classes.

The experience Szeto is gaining in the work force is allowing him to develop a taste for the "constant grind" of the real world. "What is the point in majoring in something if you don't have experiences?" Szeto said. "That's like saying 'I'm studying to drive a car' but have never driven a car."

Now Szeto is a double

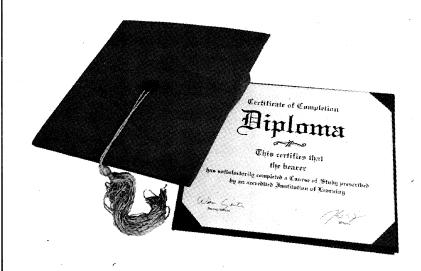
Continued on page 3



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#### University **Forecast**

Feb. 23 - Feb. 27



Monday: High: 36°F Low: 21°F Partly cloudy.



Tuesday: High: 37°F Low: 20°F Partly cloudy.



Wednesday: High: 40°F Low: 32°F Partly cloudy.



Thursday: High: 47°F Low: 40°F Morning showers and afternoon sun.



Friday: High: 51°F Low: 23°F Rain.

From weather.com

#### For One Student, Internship Experience Helps Calm Fears of the Future

continued from page 1

threat. His life experience and preparation in the classroom makes him confident that any employer will feel comfortable allowing him to sit behind the wheel of their business.

The path Szeto paved for himself has left no room for fear of the future.

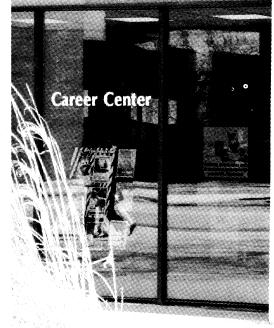
Yet, while many students like Szeto are fighting in the competitive job market before graduating college others who do not have the same internship experiences could loose hope.

One month ago, CNN reported a loss of 2.6 million jobs this past year. This number more than doubled from November and has created a fear among many Stony Brook students who are looking for jobs.

Mariana Savoca, a staff member of the career center has seen first hand the alarm among students who will be entering the work force within the next year.

"We are seeing more of a panic among students," Savoca said. "We're thinking kids went home from break, parents started asking questions and now they're scared."

However, though jobs have become scarce in the market she believes the most useful networking tool for students is





Lauren Cioffi /SB Statesmar

their belt.

"Companies still know that they need to bring in interns," Savoca said.

But for some reason students aren't applying for these internships that would increase the network options available to them, according to Savoca.

Representatives from Fortress Investment Group, a global alternative investment and asset management firm, stood on Stony Brook campus grounds for four hours last week recruiting students. Only four juniors came

about the business.

We are puzzled with all the marketing we do, are the students thinking the market stinks or are they just not applying? Savoca said.

Savoca believes that the biggest problem the career center faces is the inability to fill the average 250 internships presently advertised on Zebra Net.

Internships have created a pipeline connection among universities that allow companies to "bring in new talent into their organizations, strategically not the internships they have under to the Career Center to inquire haphazardly," Savoca said. The the future."

cut of higher paying jobs has resulted in an increase in entrylevel workers, that is beneficial to the college students.

Savoca can only hope that students develop a more aggressive attitude applying for internships in order to keep companies recruiting from Stony Brook.

"A lot of people are afraid of the real world, but I'm not afraid of it anymore," Szeto said. "I've had a taste of how it works and my exposure to the corporate setting and the real world setting has helped me be prepared for







Photos By: Frank Posillico







The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, February 23, 2009

# Environmental

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www.stonybrook.edu/sustainability



#### SENSE! CHA

CONTROLLING THE DYNAMIC NETWORKS OF THE BRAIN

Larry F. Abbott, Ph.D.

Professor, Co-Director, Center for Theoretical Neuroscience, Columbia University

Monday, March 2, 2009 • 4:30 pm

Staller Center for the Arts • Main Stage • Stony Brook University



Can a state of chaos actually be a good thing for the human mind? Activity recorded from neurons in the brain often looks random or chaotic. How do we make sense of the world and produce precisely controlled responses when so much of the activity in our brains is chaotic? Professor Larry Abbott will show how brain circuits can switch between chaotic and well-controlled patterns of activity, illustrating these points with computer demonstrations. He will also discuss how chaos may be essential for a healthy brain and demonstrate what goes wrong when activity is insufficiently chaotic.

For more information, please visit www.stonybrook.edu/sb/mind

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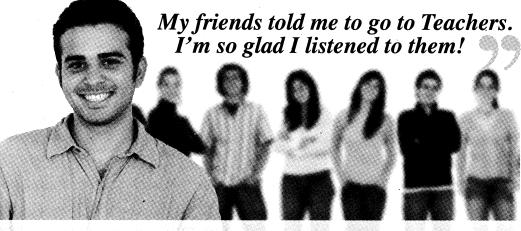
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# **he Stony Brook Statesman** Monday, February 23, 20

#### Poor Parenting in America

By HIRA AHMED
Assistant Opinion Editor

For the past few weeks, the infamous mother of the California octoplets Nadya Suleman has been the subject of intense media scrutiny. The mother of 14 has been accused of everything from being an irresponsible parent and being celebrity obsessed, to taking a toll on taxpayers' dollars by birthing so many children. This media scandal, however, is more telling of the self-righteousness of much of our society than it is of a woman, who whether responsible or not, is only noteworthy for being something of a first in medicinal fertility. So then why is everyone in the nation adamant on condemning her parental decisions?

Suleman's widely-watched interview with Ann Curry on "The Today Show" was perhaps the most insulting bit of media coverage on the octuplet controversy. Curry shamelessly interrogated Suleman, questioning her knowledge of in vitro fertilization and its risks, implying that because Suleman is on food stamps she must have been an idiot. Suleman, like many, confirmed that the probability of even one of her children surviving was, at best, 50 percent. She claimed that she was expecting at most, twins.

Curry continued to accuse Suleman of being selfish in considering her own desires for more children without regard for the wishes of her other children, the oldest who is seven years old. Curry patronized Suleman for jeopardizing the lives of all those children, without regard for the fact that all eight children did survive -- a medical miracle. Even more appalling was Curry's audacity to suggest that Suleman had conceived so many children as a money-making ploy.

There are many possible underpinnings for the utter indecency Suleman has had to face. Perhaps her story would have been depicted in a positive light had she been married. Had eight children survived in a single pregnancy, to be born to a mother and father, maybe this medical miracle would have been a tear-jerker story for Curry to capitalize on. Socioeconomic well-being obviously had an impact on how "responsible" this move was considered as well.

Suleman has widely been accused of bringing so many children into the world, all to put them on food stamps. What is baffling though, is that Suleman's 14 children are being projected as a toll on tax dollars, but the billions of dollars we are investing in bailing out greedy financiers, whose

poor decisions have impacted Americans more than a family on welfare ever could, is perceived to be a necessary measure. We can forgive people that have left many of our parents unemployed, our children unable to afford a college education at private institutions, but Nadya Suleman is the most irresponsible, unintelligent woman, being crucified in our media?

It seems to me like there's some gender and class bias going on here. Suleman, a single mother whose only desire is to raise children, with or without the means, is being vilified by the same people who hardly batted an eyelash when the Bush administration gave billions of dollars worth of no-bid

contracts to Haliburton. But single mothers and food stamps are the real dangers our media is warning us of.

Suleman is not the most responsible parent and she obviously doesn't have the means to support all her children. Although Suleman's own mother's negative comments about her daughter confirms this, they should be taken as the comments of a disap-

proving mother, making a judgment about her child. I can think of countless parents that have disapproved of most decisions their children make. In our culture, it is a defining feature of the parentchild relationship -- your parent tells you no and you go ahead and do what you want anyway. Even when you're a 30-somethingyear-old woman. In fact, bringing parents into an "issue" regarding a grown woman is insulting, and again begs the question, are we treating Suleman as a child who is being given lessons on right and wrong from every Tom, Dick and Harry sitting on their high horses, because she is a single mother?

The treatment of Suleman

that past few weeks has been a reflection not only of our media and societies general indecency towards a regular woman, but also a measure of how we put ourselves on such high moral grounds when we judge others. People in upper middle class families with their two and a half kids, college funds, and golden retrievers are equally capable to severely damaging their kids, and failing to fulfill their emotional needs which are equally, if not more important, than their financial needs. The next time we point our fingers at Suleman, it would be responsible of us, to critically assess our own failures as parents, whether we have two or twenty children.



Nadya Suleman and and Ann Curry on 'The Today Show'
Media Credit: NewsShopper.com

#### **Economic Equality and Freedom**

continued from page 5

paying African-Americans less for the same amount of work, despite legislation that forbids it.

However, this idea is not economically logical. If the market and government permitted racist salary patterns to exist, then a smart, albeit deceitful, businessman would be able to hire black workers only, save money by paying his labor force less and bring in more profits for the shareholders. Since there are plenty of white people gainfully employed, the answer cannot wholly be due to be racism by individuals in a free market. Although racism does exist, it cannot fully account for wage discrimination.

Labor economist Walter Block of Loyola University has a different hypothesis. According to his research, when an individual's wages are adjusted for his average productivity, an estimated quantity, the gap disappears. The wage gap, therefore, cannot be completely due to wage discrimination in the workplace, but to factors that affect one's productivity.

While there are no significant physical or mental differences between races, other factors that account for productivity of labor, in turn affecting wages, are unequal as a function of race.

Because productivity is affected by such things as education, health and financial burden, addressing economic inequality must come with an honest discussion about how to improve the educational opportunities for Black Americans, decrease their financial burden, so they can focus on self-improvement. In this discussion, we must consider abandoning social welfare programs, because they have failed to fix inequalities, and are being expanded even as the wage gap continues to grow.

Historically, individuals have influenced government to enforce policies of institutionalized racism. This is, by all accounts, what is still responsible for continued patterns of poor economic growth in African-American communities. I remain skeptical, therefore, that using this same institution to directly address these grievances will meet with suc-

cessful results.

As Fredrick Douglass discovered upon escaping the bonds of servitude, all it took was a little bit of freedom and mobility to improve his economic lot in life. I suggest we encourage economic prosperity by sticking to the core principles of the Constitution -- individual freedom -- which has served all Americans well in creating economic growth.

Instead of creating more welfare-dependence among our nation's poor, let's reduce the tax burden on the poor and end regulation which stifles business and entrepreneurship in poor communities. We should promote educational freedom by relying less on grossly inadequate public schools and allow people to exercise school choice. Let's end the "war on drugs," which disproportionately targets Black communities.

We can learn from the lessons of the past this February, and seek to promote individual freedom and economic wealth by returning to the principles of the Constitution, which will help to empower the poor, rich, black and white alike.

# Letter: Energy Efficiency Comes at a Cost

In the Feb. 2 issue of the Statesman, a news story described Stony Brook's initiative to comply with the The United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, program.

This is all well and good, but the story neglected one important detail: the financial costs of green technology. While improving all the time, green technology is still young and still expensive. Surely the University will perform a cost-benefit analysis to ensure the savings on energy costs outweigh the building costs before they squander tax payer money.

Green technology, while it will be an important feature of the new global economy, would, largely, not be able to stand on its own if it wasn't for government intervention. Investing in green technology with tax payer money, before the market lowers the costs, will prove to be a big source of wasted funds. Market-selected technologies are almost superior, but government investment is influenced by wasteful special interests.

Fighting global warming and increasing our dependence on fossil fuels is important, but this will come through consumer demands on the market. When we expect government to take care of our problems, we should also expect inferior results. I hope that Stony Brook University officials will keep this in mind before the conform to government green standards.

- Brookhaven, NY

#### Sing It & Swing It 1940's Styles at Staller

By Ula Lukszo

What could be better than sharing an evening with your played like a trumpet). Valentine listening to luscious three-part harmonies of some spirited and energetic, in ad-synchronized dance steps,

of the best songs of the 1940s and

The Puppini Sisters delivered just such an evening of magic and music this past Saturday to a packed house at the Staller Center.

'Mr. Sandman," "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree," and "In the Mood," were just some of the vintage classics they converted into

They played up their retro dition to singing "old" song, ing in differing silver dresses appeal with dazzling, 1940s-inspired dresses, glittering ruby stilettos and sky-high feathers in their hair.

The Puppini Sisters, who aren't sisters at all, are a UKbased jazz group that already has its second record out. Their first record, "Betcha Bottom Dollar," appeared in 2006. Their second, "The Rise and Fall of Ruby Woo," debuted last vear.

The group, comprised of singer/musicians Marcella Puppini, Stephanie O'Brien and Kate Mullins, formed in The Puppini Sisters covered Beyoncé's 2004, after the women met at London's Trinity College of Music.

During the concert, the three occasionally played instruments in addition to singsounding like an accordion but

electric violin, and Mullins Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Surplaying a melodica (something vive," as well as Beyoncé's "Crazy in Love."

The audience seemed en-Obviously talented, high- chanted by the rich harmonies,

> and warm personalities of the performers. The girls themselves encouraged the audience to clap in time to the music and to sing along to "In the Mood."

> An excellent three piece band of electric guitar, drums and upright bass supplemented the harmonies of the singers.

> Performing in matching red dresses in the first half and reappear-

after the break, the Puppini Sisters really did seem like they had just been transported straight out of 1950.

They managed to balance their sets with equal parts fast and bouncy numbers and slower, more thoughtful ones. The performance even included a couple original songs written by the "sisters" themselves.

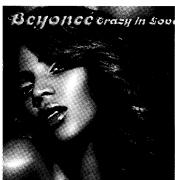
The act also included some on-stage antics, carefully choreographed, to add humor and whimsy to the performance. However, they seemed, at times, to go a little overboard with the act. The music is strong enough to stand on its own, girls.

Overall, it was an evening enjoyable for both lovers and families, with music that is sure to be recalled with nostalgia for quite a while.



The Puppini Sisters from left to right are Kate Mullins, Marcella Puppini, and Stephanie O'Brien.

the Puppini Sisters, who chose their name in homage to The Andrews Sisters, also arranged



2003 single, "Crazy In Love" in addition to classics from the 1940s and '50s.

several new and newer songs in their signature style.

Some of the more memorable arrangements included ing, with Puppini playing the Blondie's "Heart of Glass," Kate accordion, O'Brien on the Bush's "Wuthering Heights,"

**UNIVERSITY ART GALLERY** 

#### Seriously... Art at Stony Brook

A reception honoring the

people. I was lucky

enough to meet

the artists and ex-

perience their ex-

hibitions firsthand.

Each artist brings

something differ-

ent and exciting to

the floor near the

entrance is a com-

pass by Jin-kang

Park. Called "The

Compass of De-

sire" (2006), it is

Situated on

the table.

artists was held on Saturday,

By Kayla Rose

For as long as there has been human life there has been art. Feb. 14. They experienced a suc-From cave drawings to the pyra- cessful turn out of well over 300

Seriously

mids, the Renaissance to Impressionism, artists have created visual images of their ideas and the ideas of the world around them. Artists have been revered for their visionary genius and persecuted for their dangerous beliefs. However, there is no clear definition



for what makes someone an made of fabric collected from artist. Whether it is the ability to family and friends. Around the

paint, or the way in which one edge of the compass are different views the world, it is clear that art- phrases, such as "Good Person" ists are found everywhere. Here and "Good Artist." With these, at Stony Brook, we have some of our own.

There are artists here who acknowledge the playfulness of art; however. they take themselves. and their work, verv seriously.



Media Credit: www.austinfurtakcole.com

"Cradled" (2009) by Austin Furtak-Cole is composed of oil on canvas. It is part of "Seriously," the 2009 MFA Thesis Exhibition currently showing at the University Art Gallery through this Saturday, Feb. 28.

year's "MFA Thesis Exhi-

This

bition" includes photographs, paintings, drawings, and mixed media and electronic installations by Austin Furtak-Cole, Alan Goodrich, Shannan Lee Hayes, Jin-kang Park, Verónica Peña, and Nalani L. Williams.

These six artists are degree candidates in the Stony Brook University Department of Art's Master of Fine Arts program. This program is currently in its twenty-fourth year, and attracts its talented artists from all over the United States, Latin America, Europe and Asia. The program focuses on contact between not only professors and artists within the Art department, but also encourages interaction with other university departments, in order to create a more well rounded and diverse individual. This thesis exhibition is the culmination of three years of this immersion and

Park explores the possibility of being many things at once. She is interested in "human networks, interactive art and the strangeness which is hard to explain with language."

Indeed language cannot begin to explain Verónica Peñ a's performance installation, "Each Time I see Tables" (2009). Her installation protrudes into the gallery space in a seemingly chaotic fashion. Her performance, coupled with her charcoal drawing "In My Bedroom" (2009), evoke emotion and allow the viewer a glimpse into the soul of the artist.

This glimpse continues with Shannan Lee Hayes' "Pocket Pal" piece. There is pain, anger, anxiety, compassion, jealousy, and love. Hayes' work has focused

#### PhD Comics By Jorge Cham









continued on page 7

#### An Old Favorite, Revisited

#### "Mourning Becomes Electra"

By Les Hunter Contributing Write

Chekhov, for his part, said that one must "bring the people up to Gogol, and not Gogol down to the people." It's an old question: Should artists attempt to appeal to a general, popular audience or would they be better off to create something they believe has a high aesthetic quality, which may only interest a small, select crowd?

It's evident which way Scott Elliott and his company, The New Group, have decided to answer the age-old question in their new production of Eugene O'Neill's classic tragedy "Mourning Becomes Electra," to mostly disappointing effects.

The production is paced at breakneck speed, which isn't a surprising choice, because the play can be considered long for a contemporary audience. The 1931 original production ran five-and-a-half hours, while a recent successful London production ran four-and-a half. The New Group's foray, however, rattles to the finish line at just over four hours. Sadly, in trying to speed up the play for contemporary viewers, there is little breathing room left for the necessary emotional connection with the tragic events on stage.

"Mourning Becomes Electra" is an adaptation of the Greek myth Orestes set in a small New England town at the close of the Civil War. A few days before General Ezra Mannon (Mark Blum) triumphantly returns from battle, his daughter, Lavinia (Jena Malone) discovers that her mother, Christine (Lili Taylor), is having an adulterous affair with Adam Brant (Anson Mount), a clipper captain who wants to get revenge on the Mannon family because his

mother was abandoned by Ezra's brother. When Ezra returns ready to make amends with Christine after years of unhappy marriage, Christine decides that she would rather escape her past and run away with Brant. Lavinia, of course, has other plans and entreaties her shell-shocked brother



Media Credit: The Karpel Group Jena Malone, as Lavinia and Lili Taylor, as Christine.



Media Credit: The Karpel Group Joseph Cross, as Orin Mannon and Lili Taylor, as Christine.

Orin (Joseph Cross) to help her bring sparks fly. Lavinia, played by Ms. justice against Christine.

There's no shortage of plot, and, given the fact that this "play" is actually a trilogy of three full-length plays, the time can add up. Ironically, the experience of feeling time passing too slowly happens in this production not because the tempo is too slow, but because it is entirely too fast. Since the show races through lines at lightening speed, the actors have little time was more satisfying than not is in the

between their rapid-fire back and forth to find the logic of a line which makes it work.

This is especially true of an early scene in the first part, The Homecoming, after Lavinia has learned of Brant's true intentions, where Brant continues to operate under

> the guise of seducing her. This scene should be wrought with the kind of tension brought about in dramatic irony where the audience knows something that a character doesn't. The audience should feel the excitement of holding a secret and watching it reveled. Yet, there is little tension in this scene. Instead, lines are given quickly and flatly at the same emotional level, so the conflict does not rise but remains listless throughout.

Despite the offkilter tempo, there are a few moments where truly dramatic

Malone, in her best moments shows the kind of bold determination for justice that becomes her. It is in one of these rare, bright moments, in the second confrontation with her mother, Christine, played by a far too-young Ms. Taylor, where they slow down, and discover the real tension in the dialogue, waiting to be exploited.

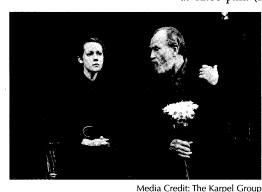
Another moment in the play that

strange scene between Brant and The Chantyman (John Wojda), where the O'Neill's haunting use of repeated thematic songs builds an eerie kind of suspense.

Also haunting is the excellent original music by Pat Methany, which erratically weaves its way in and out of the story in unexpected



Media Credit: The Karpel Group Jena Malone, as Lavinia and Anson Mount, as Adam Brant.



Jena Malone, as Lavinia Mannon and Robert Hogan, as Seth Central at www.

the haunting nature of the Mannon its second half and the ghostly im- www.thenewgroup.org.

ages of former Mannons appear as illuminated portraits.

These bright spots are rare. It is as if the show's artistic management doesn't trust the audience's ability to sit through the entire trilogy. Instead of relying on a viewer's innate desire to know what a character is feeling, they have chosen simply to get all the way through in as little time as possible. The result is similar to watching a favorite DVD on fast-forward: you are reminded of parts that are good, and you fill in the story as it goes, but you have little connection to the events happening, and that's not how anyone wants to spend four hours.

Where to see it:

"Mourning Becomes Electra: A Trilogy" plays at The New Group @ Theatre Row (The Acorn Theatre / 410 West 42nd Street, between 9th & 10th Avenue) as follows: Monday - Saturday at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday at 12:00 p.m. (matinee). NOTE:

Beginning Mar. 1, the show plays as follows: Tuesday - Saturday at 7:00 p.m., Saturday at 12:00 p.m. (matinee) and Sunday at 1:00 p.m. (matinee).

Tickets may be arranged through Ticket ticketcentral.com or (212) 279-4200,

moments. The stage, mostly a set or at the Theatre Row Box Office piece at the Mannon estate, evokes (12:00-8:00 PM daily). Tickets are \$61.25. Call for student pricing and legacy, especially as the play enters rush. For more information, visit

**ART** 

#### Presenting... The Annual MFA Thesis Exhibition

continued from page 6

"on the relationship between language and emotion in the cultural surface of social exchange."

Her individual show at the library gallery in September featured a neon sign with the words, "Everything Will Be Okay." Currently on display in the University Art Gallery is an acrylic and papier-mâché collection of roses and her "Pocket Pal" piece, which deals with rationalization and empathy. A work in progress of ways to cope with life. Looking at her work, I cannot help but feel as if the artist has reached into my own head, and drawn out my deepest feelings for the world to see. With this interaction, the viewer can truly identify with the art-

Interaction within oneself and society is indeed a driving theme of the exhibition. The four paintings on display by Austin Furtak-Cole are but a small sample of his work, however, they successfully "explore the conflicts that inevitably occur within our interactive human experience."

As an artist, he deals with such themes as the relationships between people and within the individual, while exploring how paint can be used to reach the viewer. "Cradled," "Idle Hands," "Restless," and "Tough Love" were popular topics of conversation throughout the reception and definitely worth a look. While the paintings themselves may seem abstract, the abstraction created by the artist aptly expresses the "uncertainty of

Abstraction of some kind or another is often inevitable in art. Nalani L. Williams' installation focuses on the use of space in the gallery, "turning the gallery itself into an organic body that is raw, wounded or decaying." Her "Welcome" (2008) is a highlighted space which begins as a brand new stretch of white wall and eventually dissolves into a gaping hole. There are often arguments asking what makes something a work of art. Williams' work is not a conventional painting or sculpture, however it is still an artistic manipulation of space, a vision forced into being.

So what makes an artist? Alan Goodrich describes the artist as "one with a God complex." Perhaps this is true in a sense. An artist is a creator of ideas and images. Two of the most popular exhibitions of the evening were Goodrich's video installations. "That's Entertainment" (2008) and "The Obscure Object of Desire" (2008) are multimedia works that combine images and sound. His works focus on the ways in which "modern forms of mysticism rely on speed and collision" to achieve "self (and hence universal) understanding."

It is fascinating to watch modern media manipulated in the space

The 2009 MFA Thesis Exhibition is running until Saturday, Feb. 28. University Art Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, from noon to 4 p.m., and Saturday, from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is free, so take the time to enjoy the artwork of Stony Brook's own.

You can also visit the artists' individual websites: www.austinfurtakcole.com, alangoodrich. net, www.shannanleehaves.com. emedia.art.sunysb.edu/jinkangpark and www.veronicapena. com. For further information, please call the University Art Gallery at 631-632-7240.

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# Stony Brook Statesman Monday, February 23,

#### the stony brook

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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 mettings.

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

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To view previous issues, extra material, and to learn about how to get involved with the Statesman, visit out website at sbstatesman.org.

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#### WHO WE ARE

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

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

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

#### **Celebrating Black History and Future**

By Zachary Kurtz Opinion Editor

Every year during the month of February, we take time to honor and appreciate the black and African-American experience in the United States. This year, the occasion is particularly poignant due to the election of Barack Obama to our country's highest political office. While African-Americans have much to celebrate this year, they also have many grievances to remember and a way to go in reaching deserved social and economic equality in this country.

Without a doubt, withholding basic civil rights from black Americans throughout history is one of the gravest miscarriages of justice perpetuated by the United States government and its citizens. Now, when looking to the future, it is important to pursue a fair course of action that will correct these wrongs.

a failure to protect the rights of the individual. Ayn Rand, founder of the Objectivist philosophy, said, The smallest minority on earth is the individual. Those who deny individual rights cannot claim to be defenders of minorities."

Ensuring the protection of the rights of the individual is a government's primary function and, it is through this act that personal freedom is assured. All individuals, regardless of national origin, have the right to pursue life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, as expressed in America's Declaration of Independence. Only by indiscriminately preserving the natural rights of man does it become possible to pursue economic and political freedom and social equality.

In an 1848, open letter to his former "owner," Fredrick Douglass myself; you are yourself; we are without asking any odds of any

The wrongs were, in essence, two distinct persons, equal perbody." sons. What you are, I am. You are a man, and so am I. God created both, and made us separate beings. I am not by nature bound to you, or you to me."

As Douglass so eloquently put it, individuals are not bound to each other as property is to an owner. The right to labor and obtain property for one's self is a necessary condition for freedom. It is through labor in which private property is amassed and personal wealth and well-being is built. Particularly within the context of slavery, the contrast between economic serfdom and being free is the difference between being someone else's property and being privileged to earn and keep private property for oneself.

Further in his letter, Douglass expressed the glory of earning "my first free dollar. It was mine. expressed this sentiment: "I am I could spend it as I pleased...

Being free to exploit the product of ones own labor is a much more desirable position that being exploited yourself, despite the fact that either scenario contains its own risks. Here, Douglass reveals an important truth: that preserving economic freedom is necessary to experience prosperity, a condition which leads to further social and political equality.

However, black Americans today remain economical unequal, despite the presumption of legal equality. Less than 5 percent of black Americans own their own businesses and they have a 30 percent salary gap, on average, compared to their white counterparts. This wage discrepancy is commonly viewed as being discrimination in the market. It is assumed that racist employers have been able to get away with

continued on page 9

#### Let's Go, Lesko!

By Amy ellis

With the election for Brookhaven Town Supervisor arriving in less than two months, we need to make our decision. For me, it's obvious: the former federal prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney. Mark Lesko, is the clear choice. Not only does he have the experience and credentials to guide Brookhaven through this troubled time, but he knows what we need, and how to accomplish it.

In these troubled times marked by home foreclosures and lost jobs, we need a leader that we can look up to and trust. Mark

qualifications that Brookhaven Town needs. Mark's main platform for this election is keeping jobs. In addition, this plan would the corruption out of our town and moving forward to improve in this most uncertain time for our country.

Lesko has spent the last 10 vears as a federal prosecutor for the United States Attorney's office, where he has taken on cases that have relevance and meaning for everyday life on Long Island. He has worked hard to eliminate corruption by taking on cases like the Asphalt Cartel case, and William Floyd District case.

Lesko has also taken on a

number of envi-

ronmental cases, including a case against Lawrence Aviation. In this case, the corporate defendant ted to decreasing Brookhaven Town government spending by generating positive tax revenue by fostering industry, alternative energy in particular. He has promised to promote job growth by offering a 100-

Lesko has the knowledge and day approval for developers who tinue to resonate in Brookhaven agree to offer town residents a fourth of the related construction allocate 1 percent of the assessed value of new developments to a parks fund.

Mark Lesko was also the lead prosecutor in the widely known Muttontown Slave case, where he prosecuted a Muttontown couple charged with enslaving two Indonesian women, and severely mistreating them. He will bring this experience in defending civil rights into local government by fighting corruption and creating a "community court" to deal with public concerns.

Mark Lesko is committed to reforms being initiated in Washington by President Barack Obama. The mantra of change Americans everywhere will con- supervisor.com.

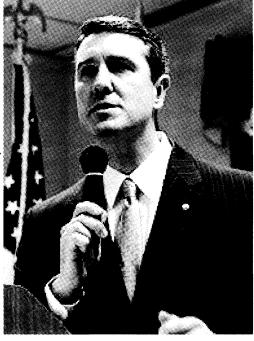
when Mark Lesko is elected on March 31.

It is time for the students of Stony Brook to get involved with our town, and to make an impact on the things that we feel are most important. By electing Mark Lesko on Mar. 31, we will be able to change our town, and we will be able to have a voice in local government. I urge you as Stony Brook students to continue your interest in government and vote for Mark Lesko, because without this win, Brookhaven will not be connected to the transforming national culture of political change and ultimately regress to a time of George Bush-like Republican rule on a town-wide basis. Your vote is needed!

Learn more about Mark Lesko that has enveloped the minds of by visiting his web site, leskofor-

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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 withold if you request it), phone number and email address for verification. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses will not be printed. Letters submitted anonymously or under false names will not be considered for publication.



Mark Lesko

LeskoForSupervisor.com

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#### A Reminder from

#### Office of Financial Aid and Scholarship Services

180 Administration Building, Phone: (631) 632-6840 Fax: (631) 632-9525 www.stonybrook.edu/financialaid

#### 2008-2009 (Current Year) Applications IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

Students who have NOT applied for financial aid for 2008-2009 (current year):

• File the 2008-2009 (FAFSA) immediately! Go to FAFSA on the Web (www.fafsa.ed.gov) and follow the instructions (Stony Brook's federal school code = 002838)

Federal regulations require students to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in enough time for Stony Brook to receive an electronic copy of a valid Student Aid Report (SAR) prior to the last day of classes for the spring semester. Federal financial aid cannot be processed after your last day of class attendance.

• The deadline to apply for New York State TAP is May 1, 2009.

#### **Summer 2009 Financial Aid Application**

Continuing students enrolled for the summer can request to be considered for the following available programs administered in the summer: Federal Work-Study, Federal Pell, Federal Stafford Loan (Subsidized and Unsubsidized), and NY State TAP.

The Summer Financial Aid Request link is accessible on Stony Brook's SOLAR System from April 1 to mid-August.

#### **Summer Application Steps:**

- 1. File the 2009-2010 FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov) with federal school code 002838.
- 2. Enroll for the summer term
- 3. Submit your summer request on-line via the Summer Financial Aid Request link on SOLAR prior to the end of the summer term

(NOTE: Deadline for requesting summer Federal Work-Study is May 1, 2009 in addition to filing the FAFSA by March 1, 2009).

#### 2009-2010 Applications

- 1. Students should file the 2009-2010 FAFSA with Stony Brook's federal school code 002838 so that it is received by the federal processor by March 1, 2009 to be considered for campus-based financial aid programs: Federal Work-Study, Federal SEOG (grant), and Federal Perkins Loan.
  - Go to FAFSA on the web (www.fafsa.ed.gov) and apply on-line. If you are unable to apply on-line, you can mail a paper FAFSA to the federal processor
- 2. NY State Residents: Apply for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and other NY State Grants and Scholarships.
  - If you file a FAFSA electronically and indicate that you are a New York State resident, you will be able to link to your on-line TAP application at the end of the FAFSA session. If you missed the NYS link or you filed a paper FAFSA, you can apply directly at www.hesc.org (Stony Brook's state school codes: undergraduates = 0875; graduates = 5430).
  - The deadline to apply for New York State TAP is May 1, 2010.



# The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, February 23, 2009

#### Men's Basketball Knocks Off **Boston University**

SimplexGrinici

enior Michael Tyree exploded Wednesday night in

Pritchard Gymnasium, scoring a career high 25 points.

Ken Ho/ SB Statesman

By GENE MORRIS

When the pre-season rankings for America East Basketball were released in late October, Boston University was chosen as the number one team. The Seawolves were picked to finish dead last.

But four months later, Stony Brook has done its best to wipe away those preconceived notions.

Celebrating senior night, the Seawolves came away with their most impressive victory of the season, a 66-54 victory over Boston University.

Senior guard Michael Tyree, who appeared in 30 games last season but only played 55 minutes coming in the BU game, lit up Pritchard Gymnasium to the tune of 25 points, including 14 points in the games opening five minutes.

Tyree shot 10/13 from the field, including 5/7 from beyond the arc.

"It's about time something like that happened to Stony Brook basketball," Head Coach Steve Pikiell said after the game. "I started him because he's had a great at-

titude in practice. It's been a tough year for him, he started last year and this year he had to fill a different roll."

Tyree's role has been limited because of the emergence of several other players, but on this night it was all about the seniors.

Forward Demetrius Young finished with 10 points, seven rebounds, two assists, two blocks, and a steal.

"We needed to start a new tradition here that we win on senior night," Pikiell said. "Hopefully this gets us going in that direction."

Pikiell also spoke about the things that have helped send his program in the right direction.

"Jim Fiore got us a new locker room, huge," he said. "We got a new film room, we do much more film work. We break down film and we're not looking at the TV with our heads turned around the corner.

We have a great facility now, it's louder and tougher to play. It's not just the players and the coaches, it's everybody, everyone here at Stony Brook."

"Most importantly, we improved our toughness," he said. "If you ask other coaches, we're a tough out now. I like the fact that teams don't enjoy playing us anymore."

After the Seawolves saw their 12 point halftime lead dwindle down to one with 13:18 remaining, that toughness showed.

Tyree came away with a steal, and eventually fed Young for an alley-oop

that got the crowd going. On the next Seawolves possession Tommy Brenton came away with a big offensive rebound that led to another made jumper by Tvree.

No one was more excited to see Tyree get an opportunity than his teammates. After they saw what kind of zone he was in, the entire bench would rise in unison as Tyree rose up for another jump

"Our guys hang out, they'll watch basketball, NBA games in the locker room," Pikiell said. "We never did that last year. As soon as the game ended we ran right out. Those things are really big, and they won't go down in the media, but they're big to a basketball team. Cohesiveness, liking each other, watching more tapes, talking more basketball, being around each other more."

Even with all the progress the program has seen this season, Pikiell realizes his job is not nearly done.

"Recruiting, I got some time off, I'm going on the road," he said when asked what he needed to do before the America East Tournament in two weeks. "I have to get some more players." If the incoming freshman are anything like this years class, the Seawolves rise to prominence will undoubtedly continue.

#### Men's LAX Opens Season With Tough Loss to #1 Virginia

continued from page 12

"They've played with each other for a while. Today was a good learning experience, a stepping stone."

Many of the Seawolves saw their first collegiate action. At least 14 Seawolves played their first game, several in over a year (injuries) and many others who were freshmen or sophomores.

"That's a lot of guys to be playing in their first game, especially when you're playing a team of Virginia's caliber," Sowell said. The Seawolves only have two seniors on the roster.

The Seawolves showed some life in the second half. After giving up two more goals, Trinkle scored his second of the game, but Virginia came right back to increase their lead to 13-4. While Virginia would put up three more in the second quarter, the Seawolves matched them with goals from Sophomore Kevin Crowley, and two from Freshman Robbie Campbell, from British Columbia.

The fourth saw some more back and fourth action, similar to last year's game at Virginia, which the Seawolves lost 15-13.

Sophomore, and Pre-Season All-American, Jordan McBride scored his first goal of the season to make the score 16-8.

Belton scored later on, but Virginia tallied three more to increase its lead to 10. The two teams would exchange goals late in the game, bringing the final to 20-10, with Junior Tom Copatello getting the final goal for the

'We scored 10 goals. Once we settled down, I think we got more comfortable in the second quarter and third quarter and put together some good offensive possessions," Sowell said. "I think we can score some goals". The Seawolves had 22 shots on goal.

Virginia attack Garrett Billings tied a school mark with eight goals on the day. The senior from British Columbia has 101 career

Stony Brook will look to get on the winning track next week against Harvard.

'We're going to be fine." Sowell said. "We'll have to lick our wounds for these next couple days, but we're looking forward to playing Harvard." The game is scheduled to begin at 3:00 PM on Saturday.

#### Hockey Finishes Home Schedule, **Honors Seniors Serse and Capizzuto**





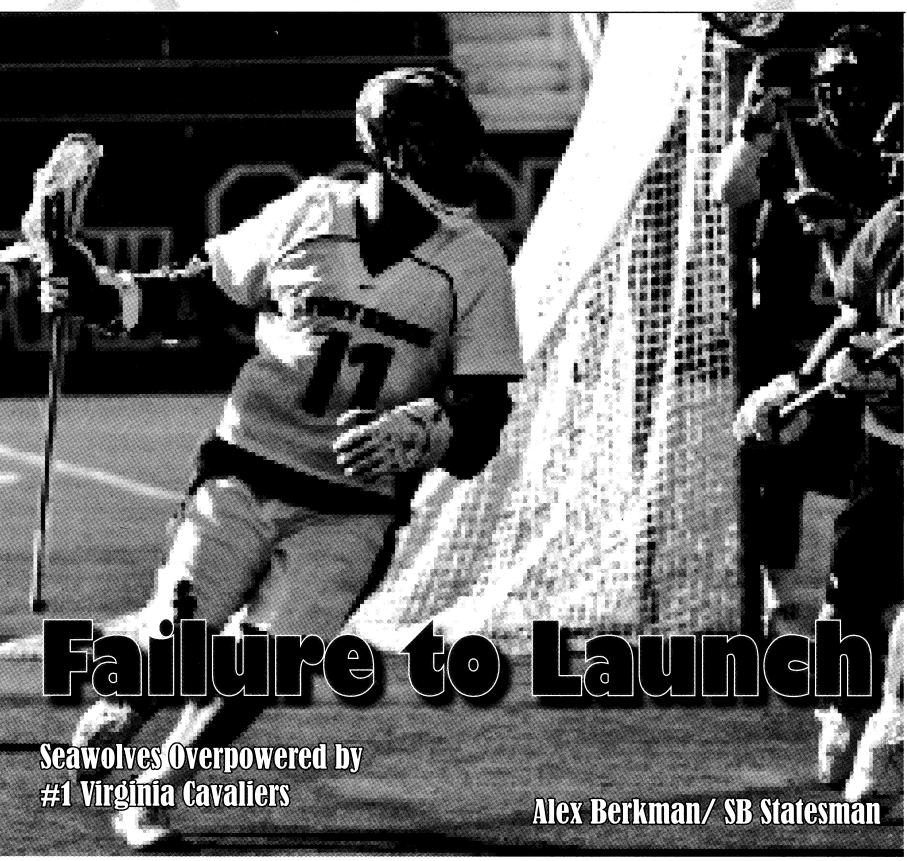
The Club Hockey Team took time after the game to sign jerseys for their graduating captains, and thanked the young lans by signing autographs.



"They're irreplaceable. They played with a lot of heart and fire, something that you can't teach. Something that every coach wishes they had. They gave me 4 good years, if they put that same intensity in their lives they'll be really successful" - GM Chris Garofalo

For More Pictures from both Senior Days and reactions from players, family, and fans, go to www.sbusports.blogspot.com

# STATESMAN PORTS



By KEITH KOBASIUK

In their first two games, Virginia had the luxury of playing two unranked opponents to start the season. So when the #1 nationally ranked Cavaliers came Saturday to Kenneth LaValle Stadium, they had already had their game feet under them. Stony Brook did notand it showed, losing 20-10.

Putting up 20 goals, the Cavaliers put together a sharp game, offensively and defensively, against the Seawolves, who failed to

show cohesiveness in the first half.

"It's a little different doing the real thing, especially against Virginia, for guys who are playing their first collegiate game," said Stony Brook Head Coach Rick Sowell. "Once we got past that and settled down, I've seen us do some things that we have done over the past two or three weeks."

The Cavaliers, who did not play up to their ranking in their first two games, showed a drastic improvement.

"We've been playing hard all season, but we haven't been that sharp," said Virginia Head

Coach Dom Starsia. "Today, I think offensively, we began to demonstrate the team that I think we can be."

The Cavaliers quick start allowed them to take a 5-0 lead, until the Seawolves scored their first goal of the game and season. Freshman Kyle Belton, from British Columbia, scored, getting the Seawolves on the board to close out the first quarter. Virginia kept possession for most of the quarter, not giving the Seawolves much time in the offensive zone.

The second quarter proved to be much like the first. Virginia again netted five more, taking

a commanding 10-1 lead. Sophomore Timmy Trinkle and Junior Chris Scott would score late in the quarter for Stony Brook, closing the half with a 10-3 score.

"Speed and stickwork," made Virginia dynamic, according to Sowell, not only in the first half, but the second as well.

Goalie Charlie Paar made his first start for the Seawolves, making 15 saves. Virginia tallied 62 shots with 34 hitting the net.

"They're a developed team" said Paar.

Continued on page 11