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NEWS

Nationwide, Colleges Step Up Sustainable Food Efforts

Organic tofu and sunflower seeds on fresh spinach greens. Roasted zucchini and hand-formed lamb hamburgers. Grilled wasabi salmon with mashed sweet potatoes. These are not the menus of five-star restaurants in New York City. These are menus of universities across the nation that are committed to serving sustainable food in their dining halls.

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OPINION

Baseball's Juicing Up

A-Roid! A-Fraud! These are the names that are being bestowed upon Major League Baseball's highest paid player, Alex Rodriguez. Everyone acts shocked that the Yankees superstar, A-Rod, had taken steroids earlier in his career, but frankly I am not surprised in the least. I think it would be naive to think that only a few major league players are on the "juice."

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Obama's War on Terror

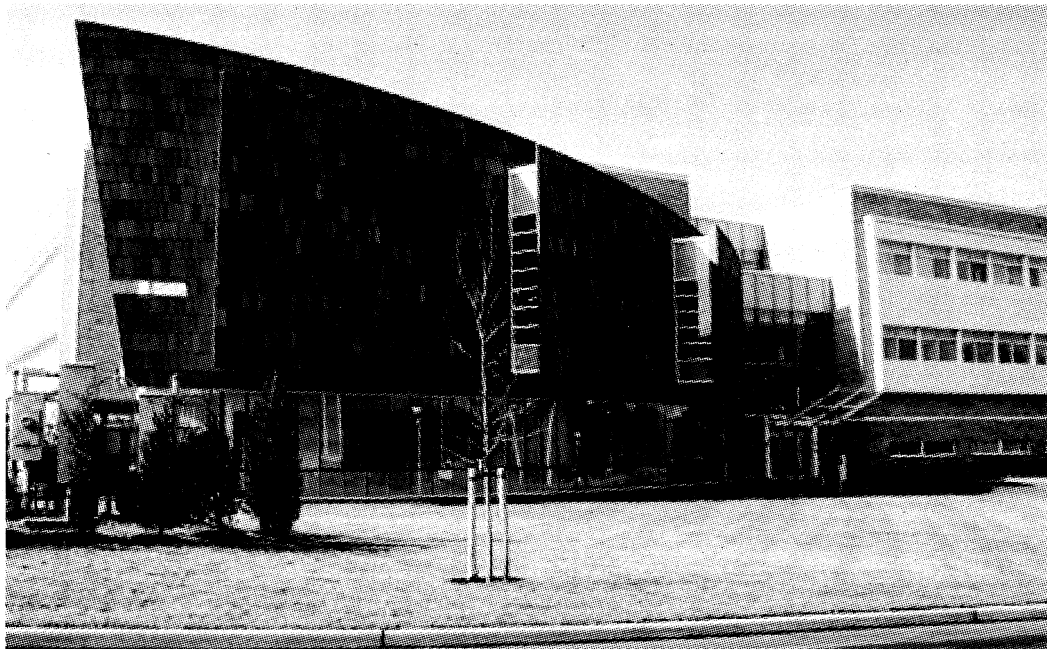
We have grown accustomed to a certain degree of immediacy and perceived transparency in Barack Obama's actions. But whereas a campaign is about appeasement, a presidency is about responsibility to both the present and to the future.

>> page 9

Get Out of Your Comfort Zone

I enjoy going into the city one night a week, getting the opportunity to learn how to take the subway myself, or navigate around the streets. It's important, in fact, I am learning just as much getting to class as I am in class.

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Eric Luu / SB Statesman

The Center for Excellence in Wireless and Information Technology is expected to help the Long Island economy.

Wireless Center Expected to Aid Long Island Economy

By ERIC LUU
Contributing Writer

In December, a \$200 million research facility opened on Stony Brook University's Research and Development Park. This facility provided a new home for the Center for Excellence in Wireless and Information Technology (CEWIT), which is expected to stimulate Long Island's tech industry, especially in the current economic downturn.

Created in 2003, CEWIT is a \$250 million government, academic and industrial research facility that is designed to help Long Island's information technology industry. It has generated more than 600 jobs in the information technology sector during the past several years, and CEWIT is likely to create more with the opening of the 100,000 square-foot facility.

As the economic crisis deepens, CEWIT will play a crucial role in Long Island's economic future because of the resulting job opportunities.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate in December was 7.2 percent nationwide, the highest level since 1993. The figures for January were even worse, with the unemployment rate at 7.6 percent. With the economic crisis expected to intensify, the information technology industry will be significant for job seekers.

The information technology sector has continued to grow steadily over the past few years and has accounted for a third of the economic growth over the past decade.

Lee Koppelman, the director of the Center for Regional Policies Studies, pointed out a promising future in technology. He explained that CEWIT would be one of the stabilizers for the Long Island economy in the aftermath of the financial

Continued on page 9

The History of Black History Month

By JASMIN FRANKEL
Contributing Writer

Black History Month is a time to celebrate, reflect, remember and appreciate the struggles and accomplishments of African Americans.

The month-long tribute began in 1920 by Carter G. Woodson -- the son of a former slave and the second black person to receive a degree from Harvard, according to biography.com/blackhistory.

Woodson believed it was important for black heritage to be preserved, so he created -- along with fraternity Omega Psi Phi -- Negro History and Literature Week, which was changed six years later to Negro History Week.

The week in February, which was held on Feb. 12 and 14 was chosen to honor African Americans because it contains the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln, who ordered the Emancipation Proclamation, and Frederick Douglass, a nationally known abolitionist. Woodson's idea was to celebrate two men who changed the African American future.

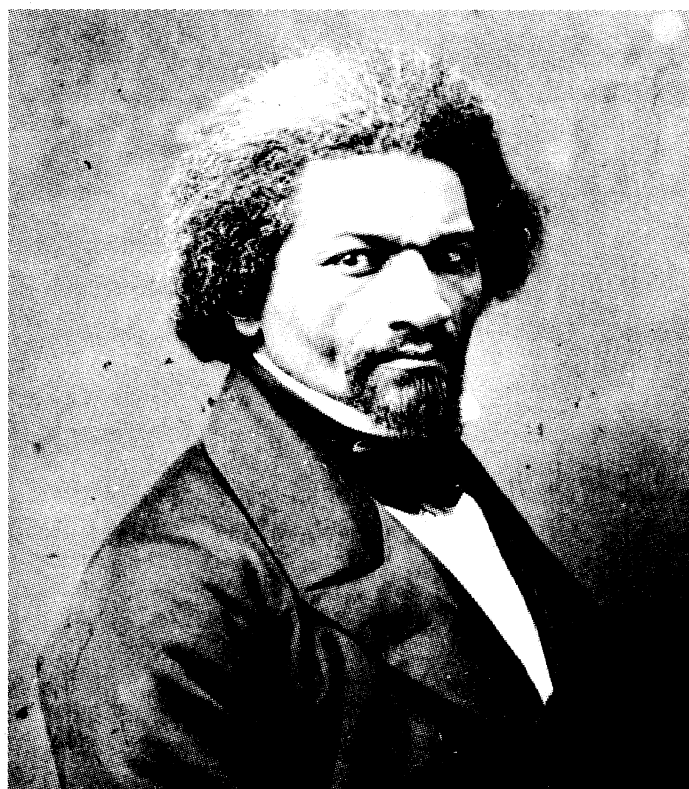
In 1970, Negro History Week was changed to Black

History Month by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, who in 1976 decided to make it a month-long celebration.

Each year carries a theme, and in 2009 the person who the association designated "will mark a water shed in American history" is Presi-

dent Barack Obama, according to the association's website.

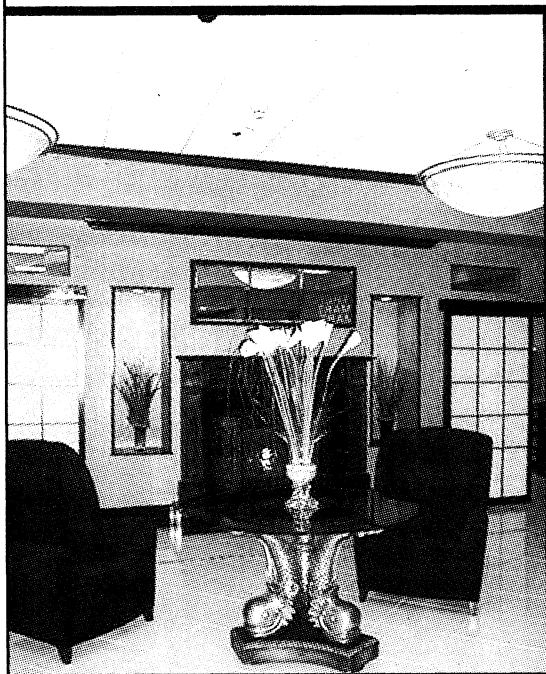
This year Stony Brook University's third annual celebration of Black History Month began with an opening ceremony with guest speaker Joyce S. Johnson, President and CEO of Black Equity Alliance.



Frederick Douglass

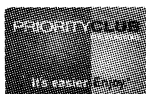
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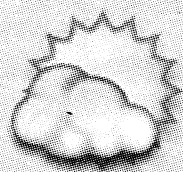
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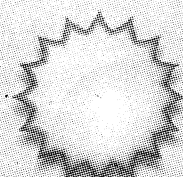
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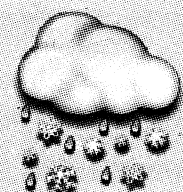
Feb. 16 - Feb. 20



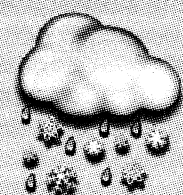
Monday:
High: 38°F
Low: 21°F
Partly cloudy.



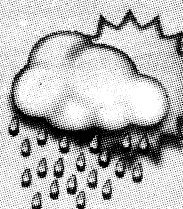
Tuesday:
High: 38°F
Low: 26°F
Mostly sunny.



Wednesday:
High: 42°F
Low: 34°F
Rain, snow showers and wind.



Thursday:
High: 42°F
Low: 23°F
Rain, snow showers and wind.



Friday:
High: 37°F
Low: 27°F
Morning showers
nighttime sun.

From weather.com

Wireless Center Expected to Aid Long Island Economy

continued from page 1

collapse on Wall Street.

"It will be one of Long Island's saving graces," Koppelman said.

Jason Dedrick, a researcher with the Center for Research on Information Technology and Organization and expert on the information technology industry, disagreed with Koppelman.

Dedrick believed there will be some impact because CEWIT is a research facility and an incubator. He explained that CEWIT will probably not be the savior for Long Island because many of the projects the information technology sector embarked upon were commissioned by the financial sector, but he believed that investment in information technology is a catalyst for economic growth.

Research funds granted by large corporations facilitate CEWIT's operation. Large corporations like CA, Inc. and Motorola have partnered with CEWIT. If large corporations need research and development assistance, they work with CEWIT to solve their problems through research.

"Sea-wit, what is that?" Joseph

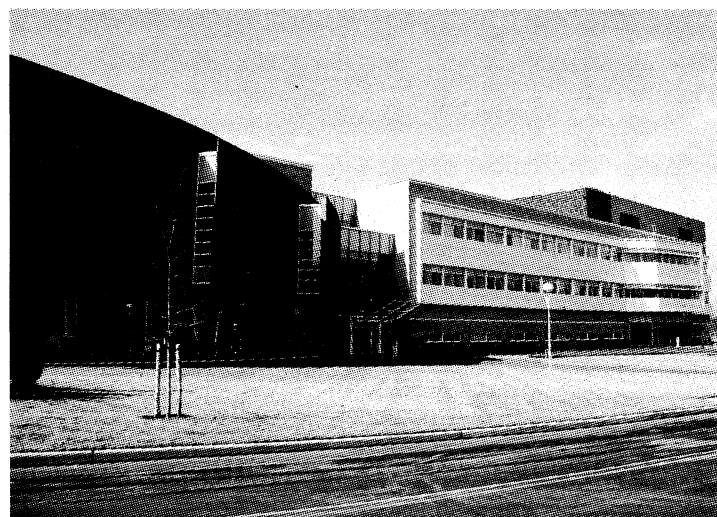
Fabisevich, 19, asked. After a brief explanation, the computer science student at Stony Brook thought CEWIT would rob diligent researchers of their work, but that is not the case.

"CEWIT is a well thought out program that has taken technology beyond the thought level," Scott Passeser, the director of industrial outreach for CEWIT, said. He explained the difference between other research organizations and CEWIT.

It is more than just research because new companies can be launched based on the products its research yields.

Koppelman, also an expert in economic development programs at Stony Brook, explained that CEWIT's ability to create new companies helps the economy by creating more jobs. "CEWIT is in its formative years, and the potential is tremendous," Koppelman said.

Koppelman also emphasized the fact that students are offered scholarships and internships that prepare them for careers in information and technology. Some students even land jobs with CEWIT.



Eric Luu / SB Statesman

When Fabisevich learned more about the CEWIT's operations, he thought it was a good idea that would advance his knowledge of computer science. Fabisevich also expressed interest in CEWIT's operations.

According to Driving the Long Island Economy, a report about the impact of Stony Brook University by the Center for Regional Policy Studies, CEWIT has already obtained \$40 million in federal research grants. An investment in Stony Brook by the state has gen-

erated a \$4 billion return, nearly a 2,300 percent return. CEWIT contributes to this number.

Many students are like Fabisevich, unfamiliar with the five-letter acronym. After a thorough explanation, students shared positive views on CEWIT.

Rowena Eng, a junior at Stony Brook studying marine sciences, thought Stony Brook might see a surge in computer science students.

"I think people might start changing majors," Eng said.

Nationwide, Colleges Step Up Sustainable Food Efforts

By SANHITA REDDY
Staff Writer

Organic tofu and sunflower seeds on fresh spinach greens. Roasted zucchini and hand-formed lamb hamburgers. Grilled wasabi salmon with mashed sweet potatoes and coconut frozen fruit bars for dessert.

These are not the menus of five-star restaurants in New York City. These are menus of universities across the nation that are committed to serving sustainable food in their dining halls.

The movement towards serving sustainable food at universities has gained a strong following over the past couple of years.

University of California at Berkeley boasts organic salad bars in every dining hall, Yale University's sustainable food project remains at the forefront of schools that serve locally grown food, and more recently, Stony Brook University has joined the trend in making food on campus more sustainable.

90 miles east of New York City lies Stony Brook Southampton,

the latest campus to commit to serving wholesome, fresh food produced in its kitchen. The dining hall boasts a "no fried foods" policy, with a sign to that effect plastered next to the daily menu.



A dining hall at Yale University.

Here, students can choose from locally grown foods that have been chosen for their healthiness. Foods like vegetarian lasagna with a side salad are labeled for nutritional value -- green for

the healthiest, red for those that should be eaten in moderation.

"We want students to sit down and eat," Martin Schoonen, dean of Stony Brook Southampton, said.

In September, the university hosted its first Harvest Dinner. All the food came from the campus vegetable garden or was harvested in local waters. The dinner of vegetarian chili, sea scallops, blue

potatoes and butternut squash soup was a hit with students and faculty alike.

The campus vegetable garden is overseen by Professor Jeffrey Goodman. The 1,600-square-foot plot is a source of the fruits and vegetables in the kitchen, reducing the trip from farm to kitchen.

"Food has a huge ecological footprint," Schoonen said. "The transportation, et cetera, often has more calories than the food itself."

Food calories often come from not just the nutritional value of the food, but the amount of energy it takes to transport the food to campus kitchens.

The United States annually transports \$120 billion of produce, averaging around 1,500 miles from farm to fork, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

At Stony Brook's main campus, officials are taking steps to promote local and environmentally conscious food services.

For the last three years, Campus Dining has offered a sustain-

Continued on page 5

The New Heritage Inn

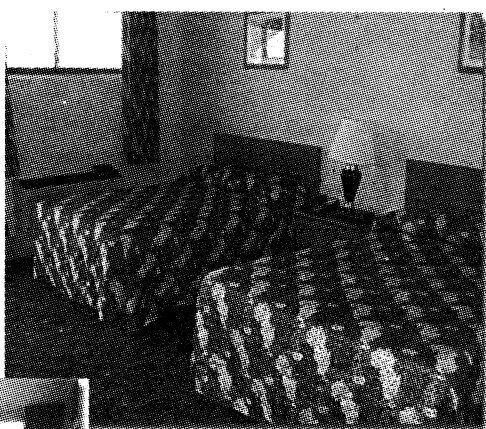
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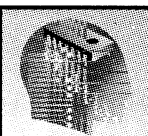


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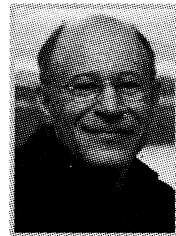
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Federal regulations require students to file the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* in enough time for Stony Brook to receive an electronic copy of a valid Student Aid Report (SAR) prior to the last day of classes for the spring semester. 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.

Nationwide, Colleges Step Up Sustainable Food Efforts

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able seafood program.

In October, Campus Dining hosted a one-day on-campus Farmer's Market so the campus community could purchase produce grown in Long Island and New Jersey.

Because of the massive size of the university, and its location, however, it may be hard for Stony Brook to go completely local.

"Our local region does not offer as much opportunity as other areas because farms are not as plentiful on Long Island, and the produce they produce tends to be seasonal," Angela Agnello, director of marketing and communications at Stony Brook's Faculty Student Association, said. Agnello oversees the dining service.

She estimated that during the late summer, when Long Island produce is in season, up to 50 percent of the fruits sold on campus are local.

Instead, Stony Brook has turned its attention to other eco-friendly food acts.

The new Roth food court houses Pura Vida Coffee Bar, which serves fair-trade organic coffee, hot drinks and pastries.

This semester, for the first time, biodegradable utensils and paperware have replaced all non-recyclable plastics. A new composter in Roth Quad will start recycling food waste from its dining hall.

"We want to teach people how to create a sustainable food program," Kevin Kelly, director of the Faculty Student Association, said.

At other schools across the country, the commitment to environmentally-conscious food services goes further.

At UC Berkeley, 40 percent of all food, including organic milk and eggs, is served by the in-house dining service and comes from local farmers within a 16-county radius around the school. UC Berkeley is one of a handful of schools that chose to switch to an in-house dining system rather than contract out their food services.

The university was influenced by the surrounding area.

Alice Waters, of Chez Panisse fame, brought the idea of sustainable food to five-star restaurants in the early '70s, paving the way for a new way of thinking about the food on our plate.

Companies like Aramark and Chartwells are mass campus-dining food distributors. Because of the scale of the companies, they are able to get reasonable prices for the large amount of food that a college campus demands.

Because these companies are so large, however, many of the produce and meat come from large-scale farms, where sustainability is not a priority.

For UC Berkeley, who made the switch to the in-house model five years ago, the new system brought an unforeseeable benefit.



Media credit: Douglas Healey / The New York Times

Yale's Sustainable Food Project organic garden in 2005. Yale is one university that is moving towards organic, locally-grown and sustainable foods.

"Our meal prices have actually gone down, and staff and faculty are buying more meal plans," Chuck Davies, associate director of residential dining at UC Berkeley, said.

Davies said that smart purchases and downsizing unnecessary food costs made it easy for the school to transition to purchasing more locally grown food.

Yale Sustainable Food Project is at the forefront of the sustainable food trend, creating the model that other universities have been aiming to follow.

The program started five years ago, with the guidance of Berkeley's Waters, with a completely sustainable dining hall. The food became so popular that the university had to expand the program to all the college dining facilities.

Currently 40 percent of the food Yale serves is either locally-grown or ethically-handled, like using free-range chickens that are grown around New Haven, Conn.

The food project, in addition to promoting the menus on campus, is committed to teaching Yale students about American food culture. Departments from Political Science to Environmental Studies teach about everything from food legislation to the environmental effects of mass-produced food.

Unlike UC Berkeley, Yale's transition wasn't cheap. The cost of having sustainable food, however, isn't reflected in food prices because Yale subsidizes students' meal plans.

Yale now spends 30 percent more on its food service, according to Anastasia Curley, communications director at the Yale Sustainable Food Project.

The increase came from all sides -- from obtaining local food to teaching the chefs how to cook it.

"They're not unsealing a vacuum-packed bag and putting it in a microwave," Curley said. "The chefs have to learn what to do with those tomatoes."

Yale's dining services may have become more expensive because unlike UC Berkeley, which is in close proximity to a large number of farms that supply food throughout the nation, Yale is in New England, where only limited types of food are available year round.

One thing that prevents many schools from following Yale's example is the fear that going local will be more expensive. But some advocates for sustainable dining do think there is a benefit.

"It's good for the university because it can be a marketing tool," Cecily Upton, a spokesperson for Slow Food on Campus, which promotes serving locally grown food on campus, said.

Upton said she has seen the rise from zero to 15 schools over two years that have become committed to serving sustainable food.

Boston University and Rutgers are trying to change from using a catered food service, like Chartwells at Stony Brook, to an in-house dining system, like Yale and UC

Berkeley, to increase the amount of locally grown food on campus.

"It takes a real desire to get it done, but the schools have made it a priority," Upton said.

But all schools agree that certain foods will never be local at universities. The demand is too great.

"Students want their coffee and bananas," Davies said. "You can't grow things like chocolate locally."

At the same time, small steps seem to be the best way to start.

"If you can change even one food item purchased in your dining hall from conventionally grown to organic, think of the magnitude of that change," Nina Merrill, author of "Organic on the Green," a blog about sustainable food movements at universities from the Organic Trade Association, said.

Merrill mentioned that many universities start small by switching to selling organic cotton t-shirts and fair trade coffee. Princeton University started by selling locally grown apples, then moved on to coffee and fish.

But most agree that it seems that the biggest benefit from sustainable dining might just be the food that comes out of the kitchen.

"It's nice to know that our school is doing all it can to encourage us to start living a sustainable, responsible life," Connie Wang, a senior at UC Berkeley, said. "Plus, their fresh greens for salads and the fruit are so amazing."

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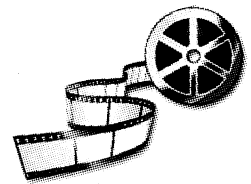
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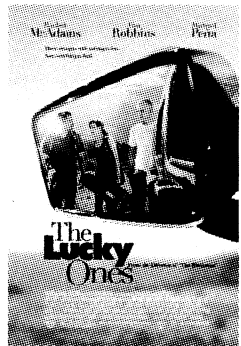
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REEL DEAL AT STALLER

Just Lucky to Be Here



By ULA LUKSZO
Staff Writer



Media Credit: impawards.com

Director:
Neil Burger
Genre: Drama,
War, Political,
Road Movie
Rating: R
Release Date:
Sept. 26, 2008
Running Time:
1 hr. 55 min.

"The Lucky Ones" is an ironic title for a sincere little film with lots of heart.

Starring Tim Robbins ("Mystic River"), Rachel McAdams ("Wedding Crashers") and Michael Peña ("Crash" [2005]), this moving and funny indie flick managed to cruise under the radar when it was released last year. It was shown at the Staller Center on Feb. 6 as part of the center's spring film series.

"The Lucky Ones" deals with three soldiers coming home from Iraq for various reasons. Robbins, McAdams and Peña's characters all meet on an airplane headed

to JFK Airport from Germany.

Fred Cheaver (Robbins) is a middle-aged reservist done with his tour of duty after getting injured in a noncombat-related accident. He is looking forward to seeing his wife and teenage son again after two years away.

Colee Dunn (McAdams) is a Polyanna-type who means well but isn't so bright. She and T.K. Poole (Peña) are both on 30 days' leave after getting injured, and both happen to be headed to Las Vegas.

The three soldiers land in New York just after the massive blackout in the summer of 2003. Their connecting flights are canceled and they nearly miss getting a rental car. They decide they will drive out with Cheaver, whose family lives in St. Louis, and Colee and T.K. will fly from there.

From here on out, the film takes audiences out on a road trip, combining sprawling views of American cities and landscapes with the characters' first few attempts to get to know one other.

As they make their way further into the Midwest, Cheaver, Colee and T.K. get to know each other more and more. Colee tells

them about her friend Randy, who saved her life only to die and leave her his guitar. Colee and Cheaver learn that T.K. was wounded in the groin and worries that he may no longer be able to perform in bed.

In St. Louis, Cheaver has his own mess to deal with when he learns that his old job is gone, his wife wants a divorce, and his son needs \$20,000 so he can go to Stanford University in the fall.

Cheaver's new friends, however, don't

style, and Robbins, McAdams and Peña all deliver understated but powerful performances.

Humor is incorporated into the film in a way that does not distract from the real-life dramas the characters must go through in their travels.

Throughout "The Lucky Ones," the three main characters discuss how each of them is or is not lucky. Each feels lucky because he or she is still alive, yet they are unsure exactly how this luck works.

Ultimately, the film leaves the discussion of luck and fate open-ended.

"The Lucky Ones" manages to deal with a difficult topic -- the Iraq war and its effects on our troops -- in a way that is both honest and engaging, without being overly depressing.

It is a heartwarming film that explores just how much our servicemen and women leave up to chance when they leave home, as well as how strangers can make a difference in one another's lives.



Media Credit: Google Images

Michael Peña, Rachel McAdams, and Tim Robbins, from left to right respectively, play T.K. Poole, Colee Dunn, and Fred Cheaver in "The Lucky Ones."

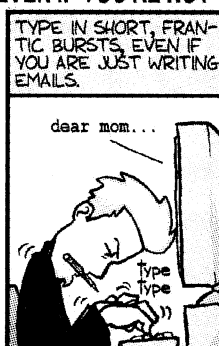
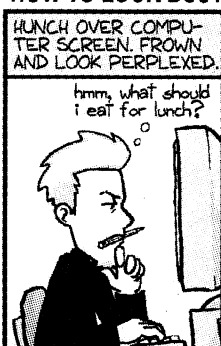
let him down, and all three go on together to Vegas.

The film is shot in a simple, yet beautiful

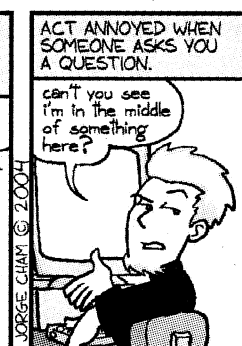
COMICS

PHD COMICS BY JORGE CHAM

HOW TO LOOK BUSY EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT



PART 1: GOOFING OFF AT YOUR DESK



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MUSIC

Springsteen Dream

By MICHAEL KIMMEL
Staff Writer



Media Credit: Amazon.com

Bruce Springsteen
"Working on a Dream"
(Columbia)

Bruce Springsteen is one happy guy. And why shouldn't he be? He rocked the SuperBowl, penned a Grammy-nominated movie song, and performed for the nation on the eve of Obama's inauguration. His campaign song, "Working on a Dream," caught on, and he sang at several key Obama rallies. He's said that he feels the return of the America he's always believed in.

And on this big-release studio album, currently riding the crest of the wave at #1 on the charts, is about as cheery as he's likely to get. It's even titled after that Obama-fest song - and why not? Gone here is the melancholy anguish of his working class roots, or his compassion for the rescue workers of 9/11, or even the underdogs like Amadou Diallo. But now, well, I guess "we" finally won.

His sound remains big, brassy, and optimistic. Musically, he's generous, retrieving some riffs from some of the American rock canon: you'll hear hints of the Beach Boys on "What Love Can Do" and Credence Clearwater Revival on "This Life" before he launches into his trademark big-band sound.

But, I've always thought that what makes Springsteen embody that working class sensibility is the trade off between two irreconcilable forces: lyrics of the downtrodden -- those trapped and pained by their working class despair, who can only dream of getting out, and being born to run and a large, anthemic, almost mystically grand sound, filled with hope and glory. That dichotomy is captured, most notably, on the iconic "Born in the U.S.A.," whose sound is so anthemic that Ronald Reagan wanted to use it as a theme song (he didn't listen to the lyrics of a guy in utter despair because of Reagan's policies). Or "The Promised Land" - driving, cascading sound carrying lyrics of near-suicidal rage and anguish.

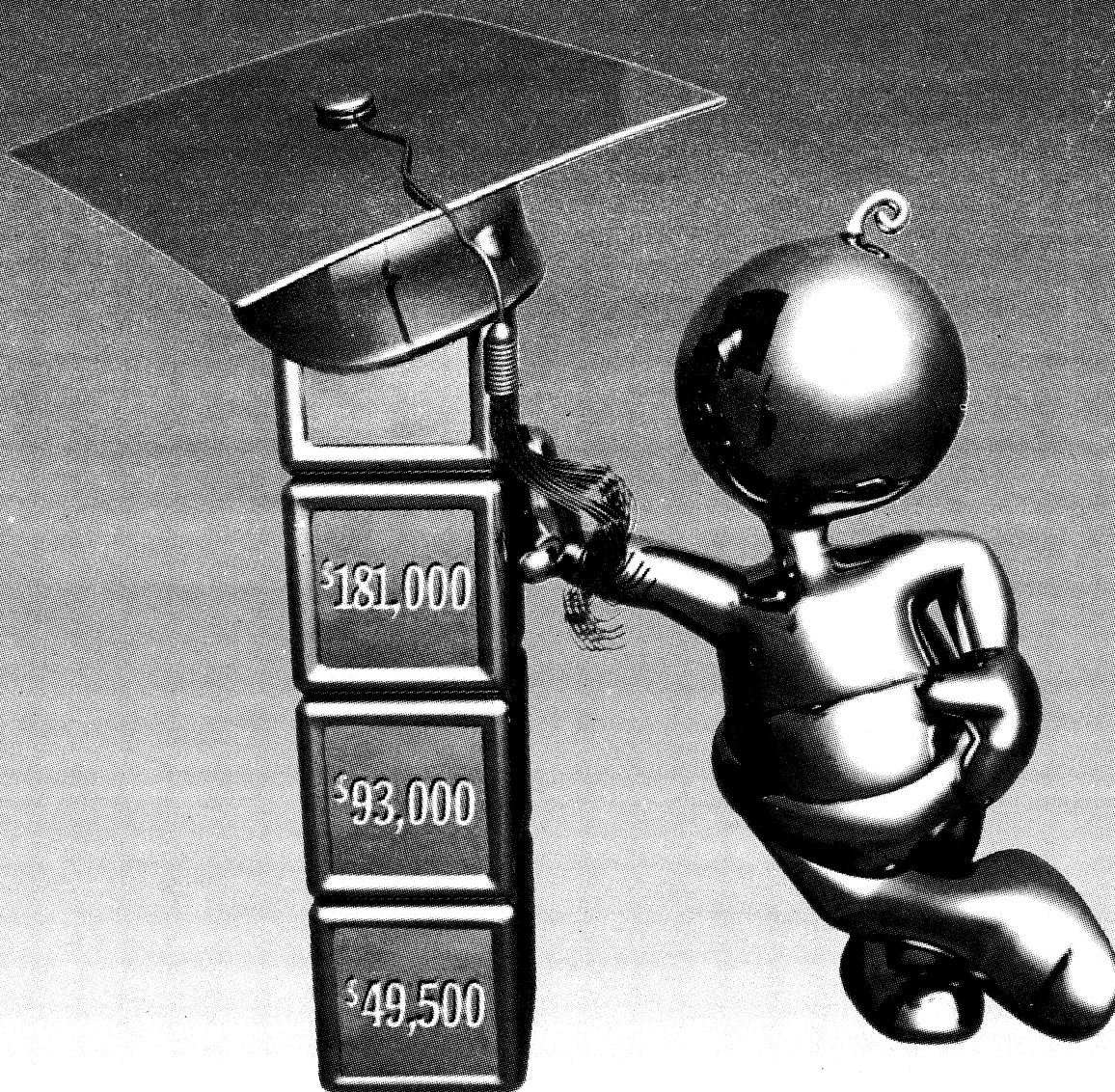
Not here, alas. Happiness has often, for Springsteen, thinned out his music -- those two forces don't crash into each other here. More often they blend, which is nice, I suppose, if you're mixing a smoothie, but not if you're the Boss. The production is a bit to big, almost bloated. And the songs are less compelling because there is less of Bruce in them.

And that benighted working class? No longer lost and anguished, now one character is "the queen of the supermarket." Sorry, Boss, but great rock 'n' roll doesn't happen when you're pining for the cashier at the Stop and Shop. Unless, it's unrequited. And when you're Bruce Springsteen, no love is unrequited anymore.

SCHIZO² BY TALIA EAPEN



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Obama's War on Terror

By ZEB A AHMAD
Staff Writer

We have grown accustomed to a certain degree of immediacy and perceived transparency in Barack Obama's actions. But whereas a campaign is about appeasement, a presidency is about responsibility to both the present and to the future.

Litigation surrounding Binyam Mohamed, a suspected terrorist, calls attention to abuse of the "state-secret" privilege and the policy of extraordinary rendition. While torturous practices exacted on Mohamed were inhumane and unacceptable, the press cannot be allowed to sensationalize them for the public's benefit.

Obama cannot be expected to, or applauded for, making quick judgments based on public opinion. His current decisions also shouldn't be expected to signify his policies for the rest of his presidency because we are still undergoing a necessary period of carryover and transition.

Binyam Mohamed and four other inmates at Guantanamo Bay filed a civil lawsuit against Jeppesen Dataplan in 2007. The subdivision of Boeing Airways allegedly organized flights for the government, which took the detainees overseas and tortured them in a process known as "ex-

traordinary rendition."

The case was dismissed a year ago, when the Bush administration asserted that discussing the case, even within a courtroom, was a threat to national security. Government lawyer Douglas Letter stood by the move for dismissal per the "state-secret" privilege during an appeals case on Monday.

When asked explicitly whether the change in administration had been taken into account, he assured the three-judge panel that the appropriate authorities had been consulted. He explained that after the judges read the classified documents, they would "... understand... precisely why this case can't be litigated."

Although the state-secrecy privilege has existed since the 18th century, it has been invoked much more frequently in the last eight years than ever before. In effect, it keeps United States "torture victims shut out of the courtroom," as Ben Wizener, Mohamed's American Civil Liberties Union lawyer, said before Monday's appeal.

The Bush administration stated that "none of the evidence [against Mohamed] was obtained through torture," which surely only implies that the torture committed yielded no results.

We can only expect that President Obama will use the state-secret privilege with much less abandon than the Bush administration did, and that the necessary steps will be taken to curb its future abuse.

Patrick Leahy of the Senate Judiciary Committee has proposed a "truth commission" to investigate possible injustices that occurred during the previous presidency, complete with witness protection. In light of Mohamed's case and the possible evacuation of Guantanamo Bay, the commission should be expanded to examine the motivations and possible implications of Obama's potential use of the privilege as well.

The court's decision to dismiss Mohamed's case has met with public outrage and opposition. "This is not change. This is definitely more of the same...if this is a harbinger of things to come, it will be a long and arduous road to give us back an America we can be proud of again," ACLU director Anthony Romero said. Binyam Mohamed's prison diaries, which describe his mistreatment, malnutrition, and the fates of those around him, were very recently released to the media.

Graphic reports of Mohamed's corporal punishment have

also been circulated by the press. Government lawyers continue to assert that they can't discuss the case, but the media supposedly has most of the information already - "the only place in the world where these claims can't be discussed is in this courtroom," Wizener said.

President Obama may have his own reasons for allowing this injustice to continue instead of immediately reviewing the case or allowing it to go to court. Ultimately, media reports of mistreatment, obfuscation, and torture committed towards Mohamed only strengthen Obama's case for evacuating Guantanamo Bay, and he may want to direct public attention, while sympathetic, towards the other 245 detainees.

Whatever his motives are, we can only credit Obama for deliberating over the matter instead of getting swept up by public fervor. When President Bush was pressured by the public during the first term of his presidency to create punitive legislature in the face of 2001's tragic terrorist attacks, his administration hastily created the protocols and precedents that have led directly to the injustices being committed today.

continued on page 10

Baseball's Juicing Up

By MIKE VALENTE
Contributing Writer

A-Roid! A-Fraud! These are the names that are being bestowed upon Major League Baseball's highest paid player, Alex Rodriguez. Everyone acts shocked that the Yankees superstar, A-Rod, had taken steroids earlier in his career, but frankly I am not surprised in the least. I think it would be naive to think that only a few major league players are on the "juice."

With revelations that the best players, such as Roger Clemens and Mark McGuire, have been using performance enhancing drugs in the past two decades, assuming that others do it too is not a great leap of logic. It seems that if the game's superstars are juicing, it stands to reason that also the lesser skilled players would be jumping at the opportunity to artificially enhance their game, if only to keep up with the best.

Of course, I'm not encouraging the use of steroids, they are morally reprehensible, but the fact of the matter is that the players have an incentive to take them with little risk if they get caught.

A-Rod is still going to make \$25 million next year for playing baseball even though he just admitted to taking banned substances. Mark McGuire is still considered a baseball legend.

Many people wanted to put an asterisk next to Barry Bonds' achievement in the record books when he broke the home run record to show that he cheated. Yet people failed to notice that he was not the only one juicing up. If Bonds had been the only one juicing then he would have had an unfair advantage. The same will be said about Alex Rodriguez if he breaks the home run record. The truth of the matter is that the playing field is level. Before steroids, skill on the diamond was the only thing in proving your merit as a ball player.

Barry Bonds broke the home run record while on the sauce, but I believe that most of the league was also guilty of this. It is impossible to know for sure how many players have taken steroids, since designer drug companies can create new steroids that don't show up on drug tests. With these test resistant drugs and the in-

centive to use the drugs, I would wager that more players had taken them than not. If all the players are cheating, does anybody really have the upper hand?

What bothers me most about these steroid scandals is that Congress will inevitably call hearings to investigate the use of steroids in professional baseball. While Congress was investigating Roger Clemens' apparent use of steroids last year, it was wasting valuable time and resources they could have been using to deal with other, far more important issues. These hearings waste tax payer money

and prevent us from finding solutions to the nation's real problems.

If Major League Baseball wants to get serious about steroids they need to create the incentive for players not to take them. What is needed is harsh penalties for the use of performance enhancing substances. If baseball is to reclaim its purity it is about time that the league create an atmosphere where the use of these substances is discouraged and punished. Only then will professional baseball players again be role models for the youth of America.

Guidelines for Opinion Submission



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OPINION

Letter to the Editor

Re: Grassroots Organizing and Clean Elections (2/09/09)

To the editor,

Mr. Cooper provides an unusually frank and honest account of the difficulties of promoting taxpayer-funded political campaigns. This refreshing honesty doesn't change the fact, however, that these schemes don't work and aren't needed even if they did.

First, he dramatically mischaracterizes modern-day fundraising. Candidates don't get on the phone and ask "what do you want" to big oil or pharmaceutical CEOs. It apparently escapes his attention that many people in America think that oil and pharmaceuticals are important industries, and we shouldn't be choking them with unneeded regulations and taxes. Mr. Cooper may disagree with those folks, but nevertheless such people do exist and are often found in sufficient numbers to elect members of Congress who share their perspective.

Second, candidates don't spend 80% of their time fundraising, or anything near it. Dramatic exaggeration may be useful in some areas, but public policy discussions are not among them.

Third, such programs do not work. The so-called "special interests" that are presumably distorting politics in Mr.

Cooper's view simply assist their favored candidates to qualify for taxpayer funds, leaving them just as grateful to them as if they had simply given them a contribution.

Money is important in politics, and limiting the amount of money means limiting political speech. Mr. Cooper mentions the Vietnam War as something that grassroots efforts helped stop, but neglects to mention that President Johnson was forced to abandon his re-election campaign because of the candidacy of Gene McCarthy - a candidacy that was funded by a handful of enormously wealthy liberals writing half-million dollar checks.

There is a reason these 'clean election' schemes are difficult to sell, because many people instinctively understand that they don't want their tax dollars being diverted to fund campaign ads and political consultants, particularly for candidates they oppose. Mr. Cooper should learn more on this topic before pressing ahead with a "realistic strategy for change."

Sean Parnell

President
Center for Competitive Politics

Get Out of Your Comfort Zone

By NICOLE ROACH
Contributing Writer

I have recently begun to be a bit more adventurous than I have been in the past. I have been trying to get out of my comfort zone and find somewhere to go besides my home, Stony Brook's West campus, work, etc. It's the "Wow, I put a lot of miles on my car, but I haven't gone anywhere" sinking feeling that you have when you, all too often, are filling up your tank.

But seeing as there is still school to attend, and work to go to, I found myself wondering exactly how I was going to pull this off, when it dawned on me: Stony Brook Manhattan.

Technically, it falls in the whole school bubble but it is totally outside of anything that I have ever known Stony Brook to be, and more in what I had always thought that my college experience would be. There are approximately twelve students in the class including myself, and an engaging professor who seems to be living off the beat of Broadway. Modern Drama on Stage is the class. Seriously, take it.

And I'm thinking, "Wow, this is the

experience I have always wanted from school." A small class in which the professor can actually engage us, and allow us the opportunity to direct our own learning as well as guide us with his experience. And isn't that what college is supposed to be?

I enjoy going into the city one night a week, getting the opportunity to learn how to take the subway myself, or navigate around the streets. It's important, in fact, I am learning just as much getting to class as I am in class. So I have a suggestion. I feel that it should be mandatory, just like a DEC, that all Stony Brook students take one class on the Manhattan campus. You can take more if you want, but I think the university should require one.

Trust me, I am usually on the side of reducing the number of musts that we must do. The DEC's, in my opinion, are crippling and distracting to our curricula; unless of course you are pursuing liberal arts, but I really feel that I am going to learn more about real life and things that are applicable to it at SBU Manhattan, than I ever did in my doubled-up humanities DEC's.

Obama's War on Terror

continued from page 9

Only a few months ago, Mohamed may have been portrayed as the current face of terrorism rather than an object of sympathy and compassionate outrage.

The government should not be directed by the public's every whim, nor

can it be allowed to exploit contemporary public opinion.

Measured steps should be taken to redress the Bush administration's unjust appalling practices toward both suspects and detainees, and President Obama should be permitted to prioritize and acclimate during these early weeks of his presidency.

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Seawolves Baseball Players Disappointed In Alex Rodriguez' Use of Drugs

By SARAH KAZADI
Senior Writer

One by one, they fell from grace; a slew of potential Major League Baseball Hall of Famers, tainting their legacies by the alleged use of the sport's banned substances. For the past few years, baseball has been a game of asterisks and court cases. Superstars, like Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens, have been tangled in a web of legal matters and seen their achievements questioned. Last Monday, Alex Rodriguez was added to that list.

A Sports Illustrated article reported that A-Rod, the sport's highest paid player, tested positive for performance enhancing drugs in a 2003. Major League Baseball had conducted the survey to determine if random drug testing in was necessary, and the results were to be kept anonymous. However, the results were confiscated by authorities, in relation to the Bonds and BALCO investigation. Now, Rodriguez is one of 104 positive tests that have dealt major league baseball another blow.

Once the news hit, A-Rod sat down with ESPN's Peter Gammons and admitted that he used some banned substances from 2001-2003. "I was young, stupid and naive," said the 3-time American League MVP. "I wanted to prove my worth as one of the best players of all-time." A-Rod won't face any legal trouble for his positive test since it was conducted before baseball disciplined players who used banned substances.

So what does this mean for striving college baseball players, with dreams of one day playing in the major leagues? Baseball players at Stony Brook University all agree that Rodriguez has severely damaged his image as one of the best and completely natural players in the league. The A-Rod news is a little more personal to these guys and is a constant topic of locker room conversation.

The fact that it was Alex Rodriguez came as a shock to freshman pitcher/shortstop

Nick Tropeano, who still considers A-Rod one of his favorite players. "When the whole steroid scandal came out, everyone compared everyone to A-Rod because of how good of a natural player he was," said Tropeano. Before this, Rodriguez had never been publicly connected to a positive drug test. "Now that he did use steroids, you can't use him as an example anymore," added Tropeano.

The news has cast A-Rod in a different light. He is no longer the face of how to succeed without the help of banned substances. Rodriguez expressed his remorse by saying, "If I was a fan, I would be very pissed off. I am deeply sorry. I'm sorry for that time and I'm sorry to my fans." He added that the young hopefuls that look up to him should learn from his mistakes.

"It gets you thinking," said junior first-baseman Rob Dyer in response to the Rodriguez situation. "How many more people are using banned substances?" Like A-Rod, many players have admitted to using steroids, citing the pressure to perform at the highest level, day in and day out, as an incentive. However, many of the accused, like Bonds and Clemens, are still fighting to prove their innocence. "A-Rod has always come off as the clean player," added Dyer. "He even did the interview when he straight up said no." Dyer is referring to Rodriguez's 2001 "60 Minutes" interview with Katie Couric, in which he denied ever using performance enhancing drugs. A-Rod added that he never felt over matched and had no problem competing at any level, and that steroids give the game of baseball a big black eye.

"As a college player, you look up to these guys," said senior pitcher Mike Errigo. "To see them cheat, it's just not right." Errigo went a step further, saying, "We work hard everyday, the right way, then you see these guys taking steroids and cheating." The prof

of their hard work was reflected in a solid season last year, in which the Stony Brook Seawolves won the America East Conference Championship and earned a NCAA tournament berth.

These college athletes have given baseball huge chunks of their short lifetimes, picking up a bat at the age of 4 or 5 and earning college scholarships through the sport. Having a black cloud shadowing the sport they've devoted so much time to has been tough.

Tom Kohler is a former member of the Seawolves and is now pursuing a major league baseball career with the Florida Marlins, after being drafted in June. "It is a terrible feeling," said Kohler, "Not knowing whether the guy you are competing with or against has used a banned substance, but unfortunately, it's a reality in these times."

The pressure to perform well is felt in the college ranks too, and the pervasiveness of steroid use in the major leagues has affected college athletes with hopes of one day playing professionally.

"Honestly, it has passed my mind," said Dyer, "Thinking, will this make me better? Will this take me to the next level?" Dyer also added that he believes that there are many college baseball players that use steroids because of this. "I'm doing my best naturally, so I would like my competitors to be natural," he added. "I feel betrayed by people that use steroids."

If players are starting to inject their bodies with banned substances before they reach the professional league, is there any hope for a reversal of this steroid era? Will we ever be able to look at records without the doubt that they have been set naturally and without the help of steroids? These questions still remain to be answered. What we do know, however, is that the Stony Brook Seawolves baseball team will continue to pursue the goal of heading back to the NCAA tourney this year, naturally and with hard work.

Hockey's Season In Hands Of Coaches Poll

By GENE MORRIS
Sports Editor

Knowing their season was on the line, the Club Ice Hockey team was supposed to travel to Iowa to battle the Top-5 Iowa State Cyclones on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.

But do to inclement weather, the team was not able to get out to Iowa on Friday night. The team opted to get there as soon as they could, and played the scheduled game on Saturday after virtually no rest.

But the Seawolves persevered, shocking the Cyclones 5-3 in a high spirited game.

After falling behind mid-way through the first period, Angelo Serse scored a goal at the 11:03 mark to tie the game at one off an assist from John Wong.

Wong added an unassisted goal later in the first to put the Seawolves ahead 2-1 after one period.

The lead was extended to 4-1 on a pair of goals by Mauricio Torres.

Iowa St. was able to get back to within 4-3 with just over a minute remaining in the game, but Serse was able to hit the empty net to secure the win for the Seawolves.

The next morning at 10:00am central time the Seawolves were back out on the ice.

They fell behind 2-0 in the first period before a power play goal cut the deficit to one. Iowa St. added another goal to go ahead 3-1, but the Seawolves stormed back to tie the game at three.

Just before the end of the second period Iowa St. scored a backbreaking goal to go ahead 4-3. They added another in the third to go ahead 5-3, but the Seawolves turned on the offensive pressure.

But a five-minute major was assessed to Seawolves goaltender Derek Stevens and Stony Brook had to spend most of the rest of the game fending off the Cyclones power play.

Quotes from General Manager Chris Garofalo after Sunday's game:

"Whether they get in or not, in my eyes they got in, they deserved it. It would be a shame if we didn't, because we are truly one of the top 16 teams in the country."

Men's Basketball Continues To Play Rough, Tough Defense

Continued from pg 12

The second half saw even more physical play, and big contributions from players like Marques Cox and Tommy Brenton, who made big plays that didn't show up in the box score.

"He does everything for us," Pikiell said of Cox. "He's tough as nails, he takes charges, gets big rebounds, always guards the best guy on the other team. He gets no attention, no credit, but not from the coaching staff. He brings high energy, he's had a great year for us," he said.

Although Cox did not score in the

game, his presence was felt, diving for loose balls, coming up with big steals, and sacrificing his body and taking multiple charges.

Brenton, the 6-5 forward who grabbed four rebounds, was forced to guard 6-8 forward Brian Connelly and 6-11 center Brett Gifford all night.

Brenton and Connelly had some spirited battles under the basket, and Connelly gave Brenton one of two elbows the freshman took straight to the face.

"He's tough, I don't worry about Tommy," Pikiell said. "He's always in some type of commotion because he's physical, which we need. He's pretty

calm and cool during the course of games, but he's physical and playing guys that hit him, and he's going to hit back."

After Albany's Jamie Covington sent Brenton to the floor and eventually the bench with a bloody nose, Martin took it upon himself to stand up for his teammate.

"I was just trying to defend my teammate," Martin said. "He got hit with two elbows, the ref wasn't doing anything so I went to defend him."

"We don't really need a fourth ref out there, but I appreciated Chris going in there to help out," Pikiell joked. "I like the fact that he was defending

his teammates, just do it a little quieter next time."

Pikiell also spoke of the rest of the teams chemistry.

"We have a lounge now, they hang out, they watch TV together, they watch games together, they do more things as a team," he said. "And all those little things are huge things. We have good chemistry, we're very unselfish."

It all adds up to the best season in the Seawolves' brief Division I history.

Check out sbuport.blogspot.com for information about yesterdays game against Vermont.

STATESMAN SPORTS



By GENE MORRIS
Sports Editor

The men's basketball team had a total of nine conference wins in Head Coach Steve Pikiell's first three seasons on the sideline. With a revolving cast of players, the Seawolves were never a serious threat in the America East. But for the first time under Coach Pikiell, Stony Brook is battling for one of the top four seeds in the America East conference.

They've done it all season, with a tough defense and an offense that has been able to make big shots when necessary.

The Seawolves lead the America East conference in scoring defense, allowing only 61.2 points per game. They also lead the conference in steals with 8.8 per game.

Those two factors played heavily into the Seawolves 58-47 win over the Albany Great Danes on Thursday night at Pritchard Gymnasium.

"We came out today to play hard, to move up in the rankings and secure fourth place," sophomore guard Chris Martin said after the game. Martin led the team with 20 points off the bench.

Stony Brook used a high pressure, harass-

ing defense early on, and forced the Great Danes into many of their 21 turnovers before the 12-minute mark of the first half even came. The Seawolves turned those mistakes into fast break points.

The 12-4 run to start the game was highlighted by an alley-oop thrown down by Demetrius Young from Muhammad El-Amin. The play was #8 on the Sportscenter top-10 plays of the night on Thursday evening.

After that, it got ugly. But it seems the Seawolves like it that way.

"We just play," Coach Pikiell said. "We did a great job defensively in the first half, even

when our offense wasn't great."

The Seawolves went into the half up 20-19 after a three-point play by Young with nine seconds left.

The game stayed close in the second half, and the Seawolves used their defense and toughness to hold the Great Danes at bay.

"I was real pleased that we learned from the Binghamton game and made free throws down the stretch, made big stops," Coach Pikiell said. "We beat a good basketball team that dominated our league for years."

Continued on page 11