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NEWS

Some Facilities Projects Put On Hold

As many students amble to class, the hammering and banding often interrupting their daydreams is a sign of the ongoing campus construction. However, in times when SUNY's budget faces extreme cuts -- initially \$210 million and more recently an additional \$140 million -- certain aspects of the campus must be cut as well.

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OPINION

Grassroots and Clean Elections

Our nation was founded on grassroots political organizing - and I'm not just saying that to be quixotic and inspirational. One of the basic principles of being American is this idea of "regular" people sticking it to the man and people outside the government banding together to make a difference.

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"Bye" American

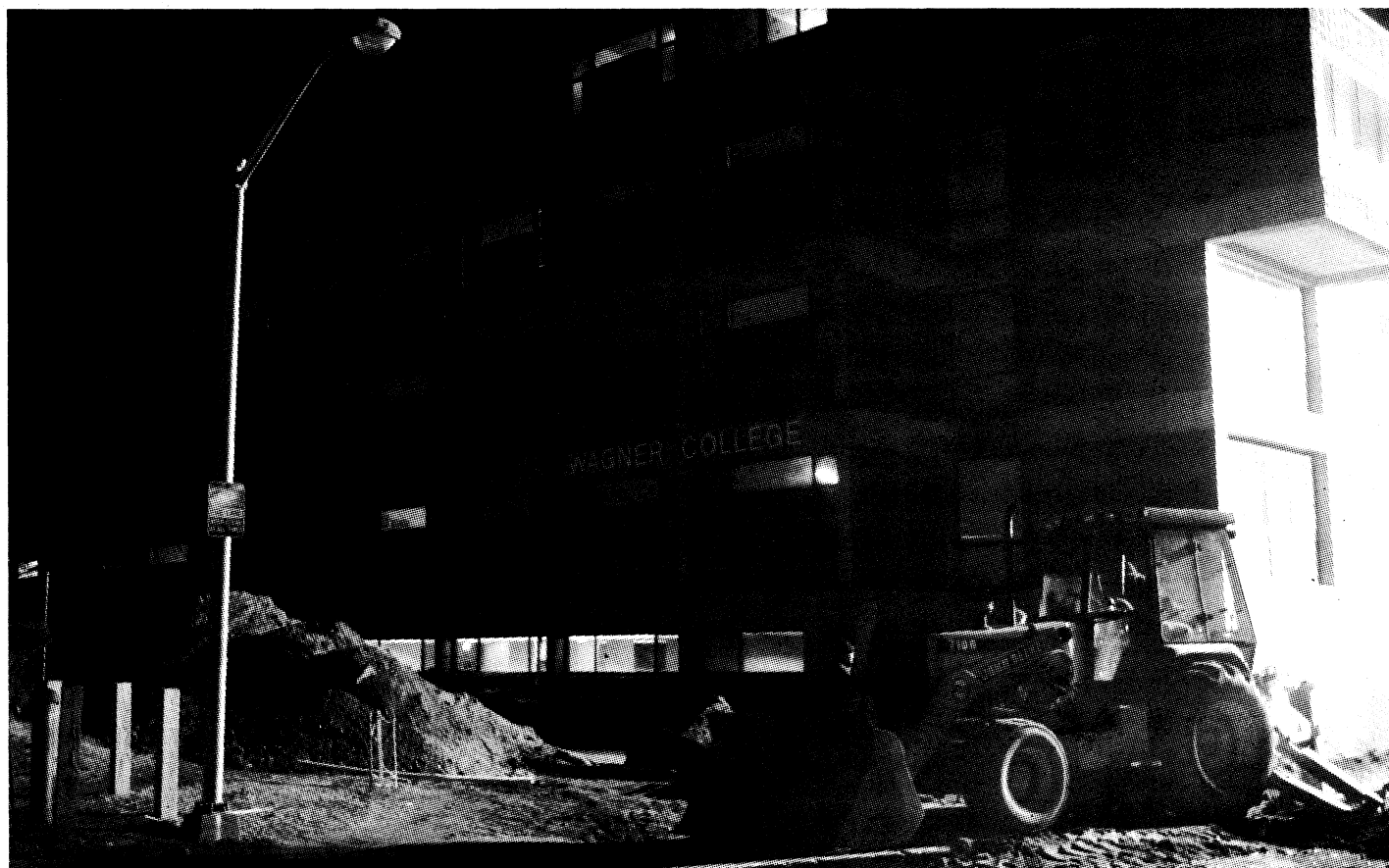
This is not a review of history. This column is about mistakes happening right now, passing through congress right now, under the noses of Americans who should know better.

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"Bye" American

To the detractors of my previous article on the current Gaza conflict: let me make this clear. I do not support violence against the refugees living in Gaza. But whose fault is it that those refugees are living there in the first place? Is it Israel's, or is it the Arab nations who attacked Israel in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, and so on, and who have continually refused to agree to a negotiated settlement?

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Yi-Jin Yu / SB Statesman

A construction crew works to remedy pipe leak in Roosevelt Quad. The pipe caused all of Roosevelt Quad and some of Kelly Quad to lose heating and hot water.

Pipe Leak Leaves Kelly and Roosevelt Quads Without Heat and Hot Water

By BRADLEY DONALDSON
Editor-in-Chief

Amanda Budha is one of many students who spent Sunday night in a friend's room after Stony Brook University asked all residents to vacate Eleanor Roosevelt Quad.

According to Lauren Sheprow of the Office of Media Relations, a pipe serving Roosevelt and Kelly Quads on campus began to leak Sunday afternoon. This leak stripped all four buildings in Roosevelt and three of the five buildings in Kelly -- Eisenhower, Baruch and Dewey -- of their heat and hot water, according to SB Alert, an emergency notification system the university implemented.

Because the buildings would be unheated, students were advised to make arrangements to sleep elsewhere or have the university assign them temporary spaces somewhere else on campus. Students would be assigned to a space with a bed, a lounge or

another student's room, the notification said.

"I think it's kind of a hassle," Budha, a junior in Keller College in Roosevelt, said. "Stony Brook is just finding ways to piss people off in every way. I don't feel like I need to leave. All I really need is hot water."

"We should be refunded for all the days we don't have hot water, Internet or heat," she said.

Budha would be staying in a friend's room.

"I resent being kicked out of my room," Marina Jabsky, a senior in Keller College in Roosevelt, said as she lifted on her jacket.

She said the resident assistants did a good job of notifying students, but that she thought students should decide. "I think it's ridiculous. I think we're old enough to see whether we can stay in 50-degree weather."

Jabsky and her roommate would be staying at a friend's dorm as well.

RA's made rounds to inform students of the evacuation and of

the heating problems, but even at 7 p.m., some students were still unaware.

"I didn't hear anything at all. I feel terrible. I didn't get hot water for two days and I actually thought it was coming back today," Ed Suh, a junior in Keller said after reading one of the neon-colored evacuation notices posted on a door. "It's f----- up," he mumbled.

Even though signs posted around Keller said students must make arrangements to stay elsewhere, they did not make it clear students would not be allowed to remain in the building.

"Students may elect to remain in their dorm," Sheprow said.

Amanda Haxer, quad director of Roosevelt, declined to comment.

"They told us that because there's no heat, you have to leave," Paula Bardales, a student of U5 status said. "I'm pissed off, to say the least."

"It's a pretty big inconvenience... telling unaware students they suddenly have to leave, when

not everybody has transportation or a place to say," said David Depouli, a senior in Roosevelt. "And this isn't the first time they shut hot water off or heat on the students."

Recently, the loss of hot water has been an intermittent problem throughout resident halls on campus. Some buildings lost hot water for a week in September 2008.

Matthew Lopatto, a freshman in Baruch College in Kelly, said he wasn't going anywhere. "We are going to all just bundle up in sweaters and blankets and go to sleep," he said. "The heat was been off for two days and it's annoying they are just doing something now."

E-mails from Campus Residences said heat may not return to the building until sometime Monday, but even as crews worked to fix the problem, it is not clear when the problem will be solved.

Kwame Opam, Frank Posillico, April Warren and Yi-Jin Yu contributed reporting.



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The Information Valet Program

By ERIC LUU
Contributing Writer

Internet ad revenue totaled \$11.5 billion in the first half of 2008, up 15.2 percent from last year, but news organizations have found it difficult to effectively use the Internet to be lucrative.

The layoff of 400 jobs at Scripps in the third quarter and nearly thousands of other media job cuts presages the demise of traditional business models. News organizations will cease to exist if they do not find an effective way to monetize the Internet. The Information Valet Project seeks to effectively use target advertising to make money on the Internet, although it is only in its planning stages.

Online readership has great potential and continues to grow. Students procrastinate in the late hours of finals week clicking and scrolling through stories off the Internet. Headlines on Yahoo! News continue to grab viewers while they surf through the Internet.

The Information Valet Project plans to reap the potential yield of Internet readership through target advertising. It uses demographic information that is managed by information valets. Information valets are content providers that a user pays for and a user chooses. The content provides bundles the demographic information together into a profile allowing for targeted advertising and a shared network.

The process begins with logging onto the information valet. When the user accesses a website, the web site contacts the information valet for demographic information on the user. The website receives the information and uses it to alter its website or advertisements, catering to the user.

The project seeks to supplement revenue by charging users for consuming content. Dean Singleton, CEO of Media News Group, suggested in the Pioneer Press that Internet ads alone cannot sustain journalism. Additional payment is needed to

supplement the Internet advertisement revenue.

"Long term, we've got to get paid for news online or we can't keep producing it," Singleton said.

Paul Maidment, the executive editor at Forbes Magazine, said on "On the Media" that consumers will be annoyed with advertisements and pay less attention to them. "What will happen next is that the audience will say, 'If you're going to sell us to advertisers, then you've got to pay us,'" Maidment said.

Users choose to view the advertisements that are geared towards them. The more advertisement users view, the more credit they receive on their account. This results in discounts on their bill at the end of the month.

Bill Densmore, a fellow of the Reynolds Journalism Institute at the Missouri School of Journalism, is spearheading the new economic model for news

opinions about paying for news content. Densmore talked to a man who was not a particularly enthusiastic news consumer, but the young man would still pay for news content to keep journalism alive.

Douglas Lerner, an avid news consumer from the Upper East Side, is willing to pay for the news because he believes in keeping journalism alive. Without the news, he believed that corruption would skyrocket.

Lerner, however, had mixed feelings about the packaging of sensitive information. He felt at ease after an explanation of the project.

"I'll give my soul to the devil," Lerner said jokingly about handing over his key information.

The Information Valet Project is strictly in its preliminary stages and many of the key features of the project still need to be hammered out. Loopholes may exist in the project, but



Media Credit: informationvalet.wordpress.com

providers to sustain journalism. The challenge of this project is developing the technological infrastructure to sustain the information valet. It is also difficult to quantify whether news consumers are willing to pay for news and information.

Aleksandr Grzhibek, a sophomore at Stony Brook University, felt indifferent about the news. Grzhibek is reluctant to pay for the news that he gets for free now. "I'd just click on the ads all the time to get the content for free," Grzhibek said.

Densmore explained that some consumers have had mixed

Densmore's main concern is garnering support for the idea. "Usually, more people do what's right rather than what's wrong," Densmore said.

Dana Todd, the CEO of Newsforce, another organization working with advertisement on the Internet, thinks that advertisements need to be reworked in order for maximum profits. She suggests that it is necessary to educate people on new business models to effectively advertise to news consumers.

"It's going to be an uphill battle to educate people," Todd said.

HIGH TECH REALM

Useful Software for the "Average Joe"

By CHARLES COSTA
Contributing Columnist

In December 2008, I attended an event run by NextWeb (www.nextwebny.com) that featured several companies in the digital sphere. Aside from speaking with representatives of the presenting companies, I also met with the founders of two non-presenting companies who also offer interesting products.

Yelp (www.yelp.com) is a city guide which embraces the Facebook and MySpace models of social networking. The site is filled with numerous reviews and databases. It is the go-to site of restaurant and store reviews. A search for clubs in Stony Brook turned up 547 results, many of which had at least three user reviews.

Aside from the large amount of data, Yelp has an iPhone application which uses the built-in GPS to show location based results, from a four-block radius to over a mile. For those of you without an iPhone, you can still access Yelp on the go via mobile.yelp.com.

Boxee (www.boxee.tv) is a media center program that runs on Windows, Linux and Mac OSX. Unlike many other media center programs, such as Windows Media Center, Boxee does not support cable or satellite hookups, but rather places an emphasis on streaming movie/TV sites such as Hulu and Netflix. The Windows version of Boxee does not have all the features as the Linux and Mac versions because it was only released recently.

Boxee also supports music, photos and self-produced video collections. Most notably with audio, Boxee integrates with Last.fm, the Internet radio website that picks music based on your individual tastes.

Aside from integration with different websites, Boxee allows you to show your friends what TV shows, videos, music, etc. that you consume. There also is a

thumbs-up, thumbs-down rating system which allows Boxee to recommend related materials to your tastes.

Boxee also supports integration with remote controls, so a keyboard and mouse are not required to use the program. There are no plans to charge for the service when a final version is released.

Although they weren't presenting at the event, CyberSynchs (www.cybersynchs.com) is a must for anyone with a BlackBerry, iPhone or Windows Mobile device, although the Windows Mobile version of CyberSynchs is the only version available for testing. As the name implies, CyberSynchs backs up your phone's contacts, calendars, ringtones and more -- up to 1 GB of data -- to a secured remote server, so should you lose your phone, your data will still be accessible to you.

According to Amos Winbush III, the CEO and founder of CyberSynchs LLC, his company places an emphasis on security and privacy such to the point that his software does not backup pictures stored on the phone.

At the time of publication, CyberSynchs is free, as it is still in beta testing. I was told by Winbush, however, that when it comes out of beta, CyberSynchs will cost \$2.99 per month.

Convos (www.convos.com) is a group collaboration application which is a great medium to host study groups. The application provides a centralized system, similar to Blackboard, which provides mass mailings to group members, rosters of your group, announcement boards, calendars and more.

Unlike its competitor Basecamp (basecamp.com), Convos has plans ranging from free, going up to \$8 per month. On the other hand, Basecamp ranges from \$24 per month up to \$149 per month. While Basecamp has features Convos lacks, such as time tracking and enhanced security, Convos should be sufficient for the average college student.

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Some Facilities Projects Put on Hold

By FRANK POSILICO
Assistant News Editor

As many students amble to class, the hammering and banding often interrupting their daydreams is a sign of the ongoing campus construction.

However, in times when SUNY's budget faces extreme cuts -- initially \$210 million and more recently an additional \$140 million -- certain aspects of the campus must be cut as well.

The current capital budget for 2009-2014 has two components: critical maintenance, which includes repairs to current buildings, and strategic initiatives that include all new projects, such as the recreation center scheduled to open in 2010.

Stony Brook University's capital budget is allocated \$364.4 million, which is up from the previous amount of \$223.7 million.

However, because of the recent budget cuts and the state of the economy, things have changed.

"Imagine how happy I was months ago when I had this very healthy capital budget for 2009 to 2014," said Barbara Chernow, vice president for facilities and services.

"I had plans to spend \$364.4 million to refurbish our existing buildings, and had plans to build the strategic initiative,"

Chernow said. "But right now we are on hold for the critical maintenance and were told that we can only go ahead with the first project."

The first project that will be completed is the recreation center as it is already underway, Chernow said.

The overall budget has been put on hold because of the current condition of the state and country. Moreover, because of the lagging economy, the university is not able to spend what has been appropriated.

In a recent letter to the campus community, Chernow outlined current and future projects that are in planning stage, which include the new recreation center, with construction to begin in June of 2009 and completion anticipated by 2010.

Also, as featured in a recent issue of the Statesman, the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics is set to begin construction this spring, and construction on a new Biomedical Engineering building is scheduled to be completed in June 2009.

In addition, a project that many students have been anticipating is the construction of a 600-bed facility in Kelly Quad.

In addition to new building projects, plans have begun for a renovation of Kelly cafeteria and laboratories in the Chemistry, Health Sciences Library, and Life Sciences buildings.



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Grassroots and Clean Elections

By DAVE COOPER
Staff Writer

Our nation was founded on grassroots political organizing - and I'm not just saying that to be quixotic and inspirational. One of the basic principles of being American is this idea of "regular" people sticking it to the man and people outside the government banding together to make a difference.

The tradition is certainly still alive. The Progressives did it in the early 1900s, the women's suffrage movement kept it strong throughout the teens; in the 1950s and '60s we saw the civil rights and anti-war movements. Perhaps it has died down since then, but there are certainly still a gamut of issues people could be protesting about, if you're into that sort of thing. Luckily for all of us lazy Americans who like to complain, there still are lots of people who are into that sort of thing.

One of the bigger issues getting attention from activists nowadays is the recent push for publicly funded elections. The idea here

is that politicians, in order to run their campaigns, need to accept donations from rich people. The politicians are then indebted to the rich people who fund their campaigns rather than their constituents. I'm a politician; you're the CEO of an oil or pharmaceutical company. I call you and ask you for money and you say, "What are you going to give me in return?" And I say, "Well what do you want in return?" There's a great Family Guy episode about it, except that in Lois's case it's more of a bribe. This is kind of like a bribe, except that it's perfectly legal. I kid you not.

Some people out there see this as a problem, apparently because politicians now care about the people who give them money rather than the voters who they're supposed to be representing. Groups like the non-profit political organization Democracy Matters argue that if these campaigns were fully funded with public money, rather than private donations, politicians wouldn't have to spend 80% of their time fundraising and would be able to focus instead on the needs of their constituents rather than the

needs of their funders. Okay, fair enough. So how do you actually get a public funding system?

The presidential election already has one. State offices in Maine, Arizona and Connecticut also have it. The thing to remember, though, is that it's always optional: if you want to take public money, you can; if you want to fund your campaign privately, that's fine. The problem is that politicians are in a bind. If you're a congressman deciding whether or not to support public funding, on the one hand, you really don't like spending all that time on the phone or at cocktail parties begging rich guys for money. On the other hand, you already know all the rich guys who funded your previous campaign, which means your opponent is at a disadvantage. Offering him the option of public funding will level the playing field, which means you're more likely to get voted out of office.

So being that politicians have stalled on the issue, political activists have decided that the best way to affect change is to create a grassroots movement in favor of publicly funded elec-

tions. If people support clean elections, they'll pressure their representatives to do the same. It'll be just like the women's suffrage, civil rights and anti-war movements.

The problem is that the push for clean elections is nothing like any of these other movements. If I was trying to convince you to support women's suffrage, I could basically sum it up in one sentence: women should be allowed to vote. The same for the civil rights movement: minorities should have equal rights. No more war. We're here, we're queer get used to it, etc. But for whatever reason, people just don't have the same emotional reaction to the slogan "We need to legislate in favor of creating an optional publicly funded campaign system. Yeah!" Even if that somehow got people's attention, they would inevitably proceed to ask for some details on how a program like that would work since no one wants to throw their support behind something they don't understand. So go on, go try to explain the issue of public

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"Bye" American The Great Depression Revisited

By ZACHARY KURTZ
Opinion Editor

This is not a review of history. This column is about mistakes happening right now, passing through congress right now, under the noses of Americans who should know better.

In 1930, Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, signed by President Hoover, passed congress, and had the subsequent affect of raising tariffs on some 20,000 different imported goods. The ultimate affect was retaliatory tariffs passed by other nations which had a stifling affect on international trade contributing to economic depression that was being felt around the world.

The stimulus bill which just passed the House and awaits Senate approval contains similar provisions to purchase U.S. steel, iron and manufactured goods over imports on large scale projects. Not only will this raise the price tag on these projects, by not considering potentially cheaper foreign providers, but we also risk the return of spiraling protectionist measures which will once again stifle trade and prevent economic

recovery through normal market activity.

Due to political pressures from the EU and Canada, the Senate has since revised the bill to uphold current free trade agreements, but this still excludes nations that we do not have explicit agreements as well as the implicit call to 'Buy American.' Washington politicians are bending slightly to foreign political pressure on this one but they are still taking economic advice from people that support protectionism measures. Paul Krugman, who is a Nobel laureate for his work on trade theory, no less, supports protectionism, as he reports in his NY Times column, due to the externalities of policy decisions. An externality is the economic impact on a party not directly involved in a policy decision. In this case, Krugman postulates, a external benefit is created for foreign competitors when US consumption is increased by US stimulus, at cost of the US economy. Without protectionism, foreign companies could benefit from the fiscal stimulus without having to shoulder any of the debt.

However, Krugman makes two

erroneous assumptions. The first is that fiscal stimulus can ever produce long term growth. The second is that fiscal stimulus can produce growth in the presence of a protectionist spiral. These two assumptions are different but inextricably linked.

Fiscal stimulus is the injection of capital into an economy, in this case, by borrowing money or by simply printing it. In either case, while the actual amount of money in the economy is increased, the

value of the total money supply has not increased at all, over the timeline at which that debt must ultimately be repaid (in which case the probable scenario is that money will be printed to repay these debts anyway). Adding capital to the money supply without affecting the value of the total money supply - which requires new produc-

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Fiscal Stimulus and Protectionism

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tion - is the phenomenon known as inflation. Generally, inflation does have the potential to help get capital flowing through an economy, but the ultimate result is a rise in prices and eroding savings.

The assumption that fiscal stimulus can create economic growth relies on the assumption that giving people money will increase consumption, which in turns increases productivity. However, during FDR's New Deal, which Obama is attempting to emulate and expand upon, this concept didn't work. Fiscal stimulus provided new jobs and increased consumption, but the affect was temporary and limited. At the end of FDR's first term, unemployment was "down" to 14% due to federal work programs, but these numbers rose after programs failed to improve longterm growth. The New Deal also failed to stimulate an innovative environment for businesses, showing that fiscal stimulus failed to stimulate productivity. Fiscal stimulus has failed, and will continue to fail, to provide real economic stimulus, because it is not creating real productivity but only nominal and temporary appearance of growth, which is all that's necessary to win reelection. Additionally, debts created by stimulus that will have to be repaid, which will cause an equal and opposite decrease in productivity, after real growth fails.

If fiscal stimulus is to increase economic activity, it would at least need the input of foreign dollars to add

real value to the domestic money supply. If we inflate the currency and trade between ourselves, we will all be poorer when the debtor calls or when hyperinflation will make the dollar useless. If fiscal stimulus managed to produce even a temporary increase in the output of production, we would need foreigners to sell these products to. However, in Krugman's world of the protectionist spiral, this would be impossible.

According to an analysis by the Congressional Budget Office, a non-partisan federal agency that supplies economic data to congress, released a report detailing how Obama's "recovery" package will hurt the economy worse than doing nothing at all. The report said short term growth was possible, but that ultimately long term debt would crowd out private investment, causing a drop in GDP after apparent recovery over the next two years.

This outcome is obvious when you consider how business cycles work. Economic bubbles occur when there is misplaced investment into an economic sector with a seemingly unbounded capacity for growth. When reality sets in, the demand in these markets drop off, and over-valued assets must come down in price. This is an economic recession and is the cure for the unsustainable bubble period.

Since the housing and subprime mortgage bubbles were, at least partially, inflated by government interference in markets, the government is attempting, through loose monetary policy and fiscal stimulus, to recreate bubble con-

ditions. However, they forget that the housing bubble collapsed because it was being financed, unsustainably, through personal debt. Obama and Congress are hoping to create new growth in the same old sectors - and hopefully some new ones - but government is notoriously poor and picking economic winners, because they have a hard time controlling demand through aggregate economic factors. The government is trying to generate economic growth by creating more debt, when they should be trying to return fiscal responsibility through ensuring economic freedom.

So not only is fiscal stimulus ineffective on its own terms, it is doubly ineffective when faced with protectionist attitudes. The fact that many of our politicians, including Congressional Democrats and President Obama, support the stimulus and protectionism demonstrates that they have little inclination to listen to economic sense. They use the brand "buy American" without considering the high costs to American consumers, instead choosing to pay lip service to the industry and union special interests. They use labels like "recovery package" and "stimulus bill" thinking they can dupe us into believing more bad debt can cure problems initiated by too much bad debt.

History tells us that these tricks will only prolong and worsen the economy; turning recession into depression. Isn't it about time supposedly bright politicians and economists learn from the mistakes of history?

Elections Need Public Financing

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funding to someone and watch them ask you for every minute detail of the plan, details that will inevitably bore them until they want nothing to do with you. I've been trying to organize around this issue for some time now and believe me, absolute boredom is a pretty popular response.

Other popular responses are: "the problems associated with private money in politics are overrated," as well as, "publicly funded elections are an unrealistic goal because congress will never go for it." In my mind, there are three kinds of people who are interested in politics: people on the activist side, people on the academic side, and the people who work for the politicians themselves. Academics tend to say that none of what I've just discussed is actually a problem. Crazy activists and conspiracy theorists made the whole thing up in order to complain about something. People who work in government tend to see it as a problem but don't think there's much of a solution. The funny thing is that I've sat down with politicians, I've talked to their aides, I've debated with professors and many of them quickly realize that this is kind of a problem and, according to Main, Arizona and Connecticut, there is a reasonable solution. The best part is that, since these peo-

ple are already interested in politics, they have the attention span to hear me out.

Now, instead of focusing their efforts on people who are into politics, activists are concentrating on the throngs of Americans who really couldn't care less. They mostly target colleges (Stony Brook, among others) telling students about the injustices of private campaign donations, hoping to start the sort of student revolts we saw in the '60s. The essential reason for this is that these activists truly believe that a grassroots movement is possible here because they truly believe that this issue is just like women's suffrage and civil rights. To find out how the Vietnam War or the Civil Rights Movement affected your life, all you had to do was look to a friend, a neighbor, a relative who had been killed in combat or oppressed because of the color of his skin.

To figure out how the corrupting influence of private money in politics affects your life, you have to be a bloody policy expert. When Clean Elections came to Maine, Arizona and Connecticut, they didn't come by popular demand, they came because it makes sense. What we need to do now is put aside these feel-good, populist tendencies and develop a realistic strategy for change. What we need to do now is reform how we reform.

More Thoughts on Gaza

By JOSH GLAZER
Contributing Writer

To the detractors of my previous article on the current Gaza conflict: let me make this clear. I do not support violence against the refugees living in Gaza. But whose fault is it that those refugees are living there in the first place? Is it Israel's, or is it the Arab nations who attacked Israel in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, and so on, and who have continually refused to agree to a negotiated settlement?

My opinion, based on years of study of books - not unsourced websites - is that the state of Israel is a democratic, well developed nation, and an American ally. Israel's military is made up of its citizens, who must serve by law, and who risk their lives for the good of their nation. The decisions that the Israeli military makes are based on strategic information that we have no knowledge of, and so I realize that no outsider can possibly

understand all of them, despite the our desire to criticize them.

Regarding the 1967 borders issue, history clearly shows that the 1967 war was an attack on Israel's borders by armies from Egypt, who had precipitated the Sinai war in 1957, Jordan, and Syria.

In that war, Israel successfully defended herself and also captured additional territory from Jordan and Syria. Israel eventually signed a peace deal with Jordan, but Israel has not reached an agreement with Syria about the Golan Heights, which were annexed by Israel in that war. However, since Hezbollah used the Golan as a platform from which to launch attacks onto Israelis below, Israel has held onto it as a strategic necessity, out of tactical considerations.

As for the UN, except for the shining moment in 1948 when they endorsed the initial partition plan, with even Stalinist Soviet Union voting "yes", the UN has repeatedly served

as a mere vehicle for propaganda against Israel. A close look at their many, unenforced resolutions shows little regard for Israel's right to defend herself or keep secure borders.

The biggest mistake one can make is to criticize Israel's actions when one does not have a true understanding of the history of the conflict. Arguments that uses the United Nations' politically correct, but hopelessly idealistic resolutions, and the 1967 borders issue are at heart tricks to convince people that Israel has repeatedly acted without provocation.

However, the history clearly shows that Israel has always acted to defend herself. The proof lies in the fact that Israel has built itself into a modern democratic power, while the under-developed nations that have continually attacked it have lagged behind both militarily and economically. Who should we support, a democratic, progressive, nation, or an extremist front supported by Iran, Hez-

bollah, and Hamas? Although the violence against the refugees living in Gaza is, by all accounts, deplorable and regrettable, history clearly shows that Israel has acted in defense for the last sixty years.

Due to the impassioned response to my last column, I would like to spell out my position a little clearer, in the hopes of strengthening my point. First of all, regarding the terrible plight of the refugees living in the Gaza Strip: it is a tragedy, and it saddens my heart to think of each person suffering because of this conflict.

However, I would argue that any action Israel feels necessary to take is justified. Period. The killing of innocent Israeli civilians is not only terrorism, it is anti-Semitism. The rockets that have been falling on Israel for years now are an open statement of hatred for Jews. Whence does this hatred come

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MOVIES

Colorful "Coraline"

By YI-JIN YU
Arts and Entertainment Editor

The latest from Henry Selick and Neil Gaiman does not fail to please. "Coraline," this year's first mainstream animated movie is as charming, if a bit sinister and unpredictable, as the trailer suggests. It is to be expected after all, especially from a team whose credits include the classic adaptation of Roald Dahl's, "James and the Giant Peach" to more recent blockbusters "Stardust" and "Beowulf."

The stop-motion animation is completely enveloped with minute and extensive details that certainly reflect its three-year production schedule as well as the team's dedication to quality and craft. Nonetheless, the visuals would never have been complete without Neil Gaiman's original story. His celebrated novels have already enjoyed enormous success within the publishing world. Director Selick adapted Gaiman's 2006 fairytale for young readers into the screenplay with flourishing depth. Imagination takes on a whole new meaning as the audience member follows the title character, Coraline Jones, through an alluring alternative reality that speaks to many of us who are secretly still young children at heart.

Coraline's journey does not take her too far from home for as audiences soon find out, the Pink Palace Apartments are magical enough. The mini pink Victorian house that Coraline and her parents just moved into is set somewhere in Michigan and its dilapidated appeal is just about the perfectly realized haunted house incarnate. Bored and stuck inside, Coraline stumbles onto one small door in the eerie house's vacant rooms. It is soon the most appealing attraction in the house

and the motif itself is reminiscent of Narnia's wardrobe or Harry Potter's Room of Requirement. Quirky characters keep her and us entertained, like Mr. Bobinsky or Mr. B. who is your amusing resident circus acrobat who also happens to train with jumping mice. The entire show they perform

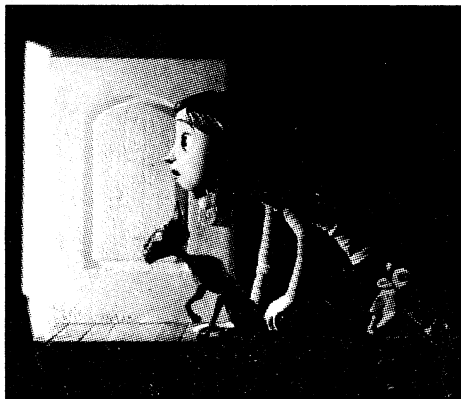
for Coraline and her friend Wybie Lovat is a splendid, vivid performance that rivals the resplendent garden just outside. What else would be better than to literally escape through a tunnel in the wall to your very own

perfect world? The bright colors are stunning throughout the movie, almost tangible as with Coraline's brilliant blue hair, and complements the story's twists and turns. Coraline's adventure moves quickly and even as the fantasy soon shifts into a nightmare, the story thankfully, does not rely on clichés. Indeed, the jibes and humor in this movie is not always perfect for the

very young, hence the PG rating instead of the general audiences rating. "Coraline" is clearly strongly influenced by Tim Burton's quintessential style, evident in previous creations such as "The Corpse Bride" and "The Nightmare Before Christmas." Somewhere along the spectrum as defined by Pixar, DreamWorks, and Disney, Laika Entertainment has quite effectively produced the first and longest stop-motion animated film shot in 3-D. What truly makes "Coraline" extra special is the fact that it is being offered in 3-D. Focus Features is also distributing the film in the conventional 2-D option is still an option but then seeing the film in theatres would not be essential. I still recommend it all the same though. It is no surprise there is already talk about it being the first worth Oscar-contender of the season.



Media Credit: filminfocus.com
Neil Gaiman wrote the original children's novel, "Coraline" in 2006.



Media Credit: Laika Entertainment
Coraline Jones is voiced by Dakota Fanning and the cat is voiced by Keith David.

STALLER CENTER: MET LIVE IN HD

A Met Masterpiece
Donizetti's Haunting Scottish Story

By ULA LUKSZO
Staff Writer

Star-crossed lovers, a cruel brother, a murder and a mad woman. Who could possibly resist Gaetano Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor", especially in its lavish, highly stylized Metropolitan Opera production?

Donizetti's opera was screened Saturday, Feb. 7, at the Staller Center, as a part of the Met Live in HD broadcast series. Based on Sir Walter Scott's novel "The Bride of Lammermoor", "Lucia di Lammermoor" is set in 19th century Scotland (despite the Italian-sounding names of the characters).

Lucia is in love with Edgardo, and, despite being from rival families, the two lovers manage to secretly meet and swear eternal love to one another in Act I.

Act II, which takes place several months later, introduces audiences to the avaricious Enrico, Lucia's brother. He plans on marrying his sister off to a wealthy man, Arturo, because his estate is running out of money.

Enrico tricks Lucia into thinking that Edgardo no longer loves her, by showing her a forged letter in which Edgardo professes his love for someone else. Lucia, already on the brink of madness by Enrico's goading, signs the marriage contract, only to have

Edgardo show up at the wedding. He makes Lucia more unhappy by berating her for her betrayal of their love.

Act III climaxes with the superb madwoman scene with Lucia. After going completely mad and stabbing her husband to death, she sings one of the most beautiful and technically demanding arias in all opera, "Il Dolce Suono."

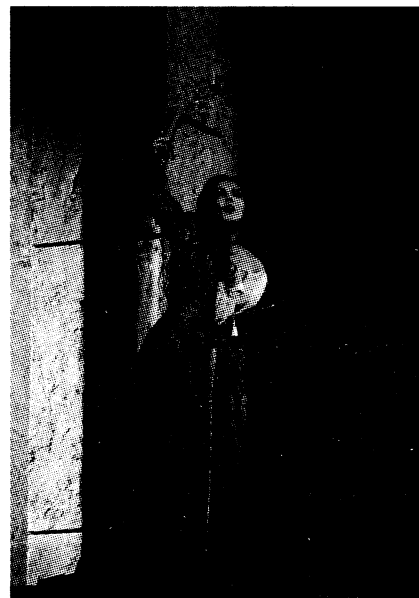
Anna Natrebko, in the role of Lucia, is luminescent. Her full, resonant soprano blends movingly with the mellow tenor tones of Piotr Beczala in the role of her lover Edgardo.

Baritone Mariusz Kwiecien is also notable as Enrico, bringing flair and passion to the role of the evil brother who abuses Lucia and pushes her into insanity. Ildar Abdrazakov, as well, in the role of Raimondo, the chaplain and Lucia's tutor, plays his role with feeling, as his powerful bass filled the auditorium.

Together with the magnificent sets designed by Daniel Ostling and the intricate, highly detailed late Victorian style costumes by Mara Blumenfeld, this season's Met production of "Lucia di Lammermoor" is unforgettable for its drama, music and visuals.

Promoted as a "Victorian ghost story," "Lucia di Lammermoor" not only evokes the misty moors of Scotland where the story is set, but also elicits pathos with its gray, silver, muted blue and green set pieces. There is nothing that distracts from the passionate plot or fantastic singers.

The next Live in HD broadcast will be Madama Butterfly at 1pm on Sat., March 7th. If "Lucia di Lammermoor" is any indication, then Puccini's melodic masterpiece should be worth every penny.



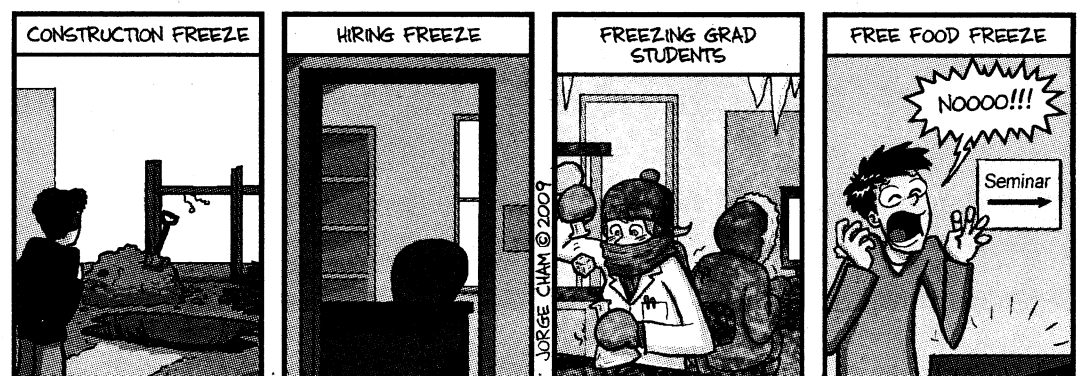
Media Credit: Staller Center for the Arts
Anna Natrebko as the title character, Lucia.



Media Credit: Staller Center for the Arts
Anna Natrebko, left, and Mariusz Kwiecien, right, as Lucia and Enrico, respectively.

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THE ECONOMIC CRISIS TAKES ITS TOLL



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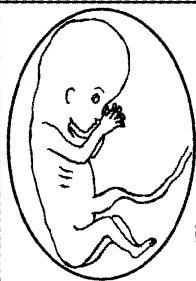
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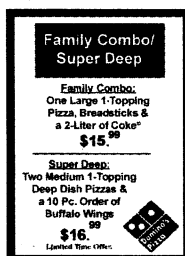
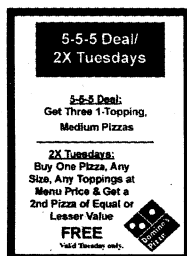
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OPINION

Peace in the Middle East?

continued from page 7

from? In my last column I tried to briefly detail the beginning of the conflict, and the irrational hatred of Jews that has kept the region from peace. I believe that this hate comes from a dark place in the human soul, and that as such it is pure evil. The only way to confront evil is to fight it head on, but the enemy that Israel is fighting is almost invisible.

It is spread out through a population of millions of civilians, with weapons hidden in mosques and schools, and even young children taking part. I cannot blame these poor victims of this war; if they choose to pick up weapons, it is probably because they know of no other way to respond.

However, the worst part of it all is that the entire Arab world lets the refugees fight their battle for them. They turn a blind eye to the suffering of these refugees, nations like Egypt restricting movement from their side of the Gaza fence, despite little security reason to do so. Any people with an ounce of feeling would have tried to solve this crisis decades ago, by accepting these poor people into their own lands, rather than using them to act as a constant thorn in Israel's side. However, the Arab world, in 1948, refused to accept refugees from the newly created state and so the crises continues to this day.

What I do not understand is how Israel does see that the crux of this dilemma is the refusal of the Arab nations to come to a negotiated settlement regarding the refugees. I would guess that Israel is adamant about refusing to give up Jerusalem or any of the other demands that the Israelis consider out of the question, and that this prevents them from seeking peace more directly. Israeli political structure gives power to small, but vocal, extremist political parties, so that proposals that could potentially partition Jerusalem in a two-state solution are too easily blocked. In order to have a lasting solution, there has to be a strong partner for peace and so far there have only been weak allies and soft associations between Israel and Arab organizations and governments.

Despite this political problems, in the end, Israel has an entire military full of people who go to work everyday in order to defend their country and their people. When they decide to act, they do it rationally and based on strategic goals. Compare this to rockets fired at random, in an effort to hurt anybody possible. I will never believe that these two strategies are comparable. It is sad that the refugees have to suffer, but they are merely serving as the surrogate for the desire to fight Israel. What the Israeli military does to shake up the world and make them see what is going on is a necessity.

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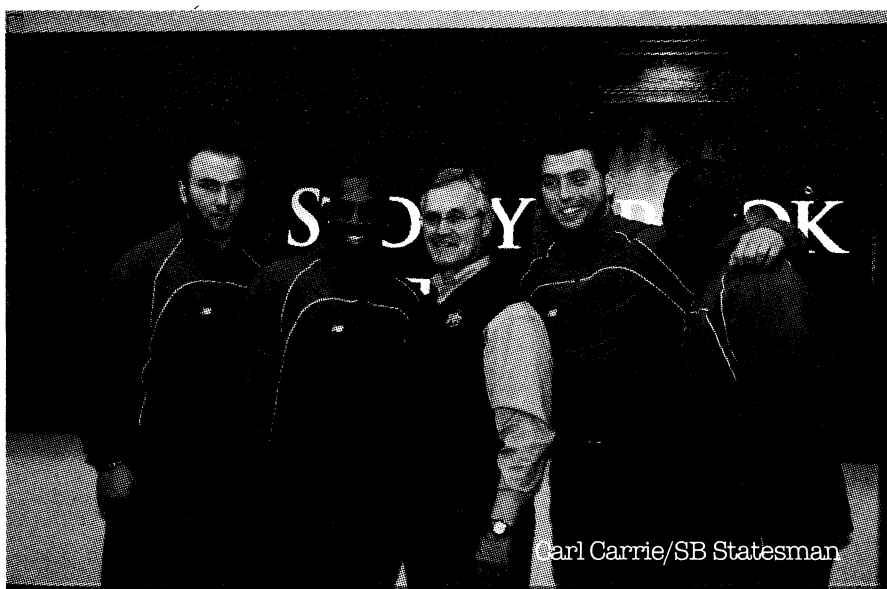
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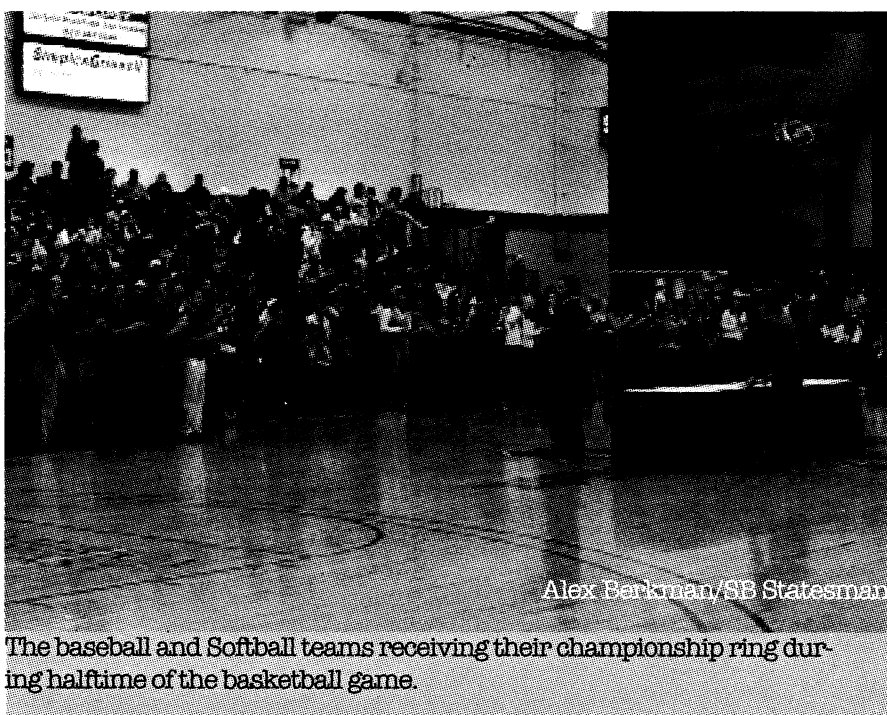
Shots around the Brook: Ohio State Head Football Coach Jim Tressel Visits Stony Brook and Baseball and Softball Receive America East Championship Rings



Coach Jim Tressel (center), with Athletic Director and staff.



Coach Tressel with a few Stony Brook football players.



The baseball and Softball teams receiving their championship ring during halftime of the basketball game.

Nationals Now a Longshot for Hockey

Continued from pg 12

first goal midway through the first period to tie the game at one. But the Seawolves could not shake their sluggish start and found themselves down 2-1 after allowing a power play goal three minutes later.

After a scoreless second period the Seawolves seemed to come to life early in the third. Kevin Wong stuffed in a rebound left from an Angelo Serse shot to once again even the score. It was the 32nd shot of the night for Stony Brook, who controlled play for most of the game.

But with the Seawolves on the power play, that innocent shot fell in front of Stevens and was jammed home by the Pioneers.

Stony Brook was not able to find the tying goal, and it puts the Seawolves in a precarious position. The team travels to play the top-five ranked Iowa State Cyclones in a pair of games Friday and Saturday.

"I think this weekend coming up is going to be our whole season as far as Nationals go," Garofalo said.

Notes: The Seawolves defeated Villanova 4-3 at the Rinx Sunday afternoon. The Seawolves held a two goal lead with 2:52 remaining. But Captain Angelo Serse scored the game winner with a deflection.... The Seawolves outshot Villanova 62-24 for the game.... Serse also had three assists on the game.... The first line consisting of Serse, Ryan Hodkinson, and Chris Ryan accounted for all four Seawolves goals.

B-Ball loses to Binghamton

Continued from pg 12

stopped just short of the three-point arc and drained a contested jumper to bring his team back within one. Rivera, who finished with 22 points, had his fourth consecutive game scoring 20 or more.

Running out of time, Binghamton reluctantly sent Bryan Dougher, a 79 percent free-throw shooter, to the line. But Dougher could only make one of two.

The Bearcats called timeout to set up a play, and again it was Rivera putting a dagger in the Seawolves heart. He nailed a mid-range jumper with four seconds left to send the game to overtime.

"I knew he'd have the ball down the stretch of the game," Head Coach Steve Pikiell said. "I didn't want to double him, I wanted Marques Cox to guard him.

Marques is one of the best defenders in the league. We just didn't get it done."

In overtime, Tommy Brenton made one of two free throws to tie the game at 61 with nine seconds left, but once against the Bearcats had an answer.

This time it was Emanuel Mayben, who scored 12 points on only 4-15 shooting while dishing out ten assists, drilled a jumper with only four seconds remaining in the extra frame.

With no timeouts left, the Seawolves moved the ball up the court as quick as possible, and a 30-foot three point attempt by Cox, who was looking to redeem himself, came up well short, missing the basket entirely and sending Stony Brook to a disappointing defeat.

"We're a good defensive basketball team,

we just need to get some stops," Pikiell said. "We scored plenty of points to win this basketball game tonight if our defense was a little better when it needed to be."

The Seawolves held the Bearcats to 23 of 53 from the field (43.4 percent) which is slightly lower than Binghamton's season average. But Stony Brook was not able to capitalize on its large rebounding disparity. They out rebounded Binghamton 52-33, including 24-8 on the offensive end. Stony Brook also made 23 field goals, but shot the ball 70 times from the floor.

El-Amin, Brenton, Young, and Dallis Joyner all had at least five offensive rebounds. Brenton had 17 total, while Young pulled down 13.

"We stopped them in transition and we played our pace," Pikiell said. "We wanted

to hold them 10 under their average score, they average 70.4 points per game, and even with overtime we held them to 63. I thought we did a good job."

"We just came up a little bit short," he said. "You have to make free throws down the stretch, and you have to make that big stop in regulation. And we didn't."

Notes: Brenton's 17 rebounds ties his career high and team record. He also had 17 in a four over-time loss to Boston University on 1/19. Dougher is 7/39 (17.9 percent) from the field in his last four games, Young's 5/14 (35.7 percent) is the worst shooting day of his career (min. 5 attempts). Young's 13 rebounds were a season high and one off his career high (14 vs. Dartmouth, 12/1/07). This game was the 14th consecutive in which El-Amin has scored at least 12 points.

STATESMAN SPORTS

Blown Chances

Men's Basketball Falls to Binghamton 63-61

By GENE MORRIS
Sports Editor

The Seawolves had a chance to show that they were for real in the America East Conference against #3 Binghamton. But they blew their chance with missed free throws and shoddy defense at the end of the game.

With 1:07 remaining, after a lay-up by Demetrius Young, the Seawolves were up four points. It seemed as if the Seawolves would grind out their third consecutive

conference win and inch closer to a top four spot in the America East.

Muhammad El-Amin, who finished the game with 16 points on 5-16 shooting and is an 83 percent shooter from the charity stripe, went to the line for two free-throws and the chance to push Stony Brook's lead to six points. He missed them both, and Bearcats guard D.J. Rivera, grabbed the rebound off the second El-Amin miss and drove up the floor. He

Continued on page 11

Hockey Loses 3-2 to D-II William Paterson

By GENE MORRIS
Sports Editor

Just over a minute remained when an innocent looking slap shot came flying in towards Seawolves goaltender Derek Stevens.

"It was a bouncing shot, I didn't get a good handle on it," Stevens said. "I went to go knock it away from him, I saw him crashing the net."

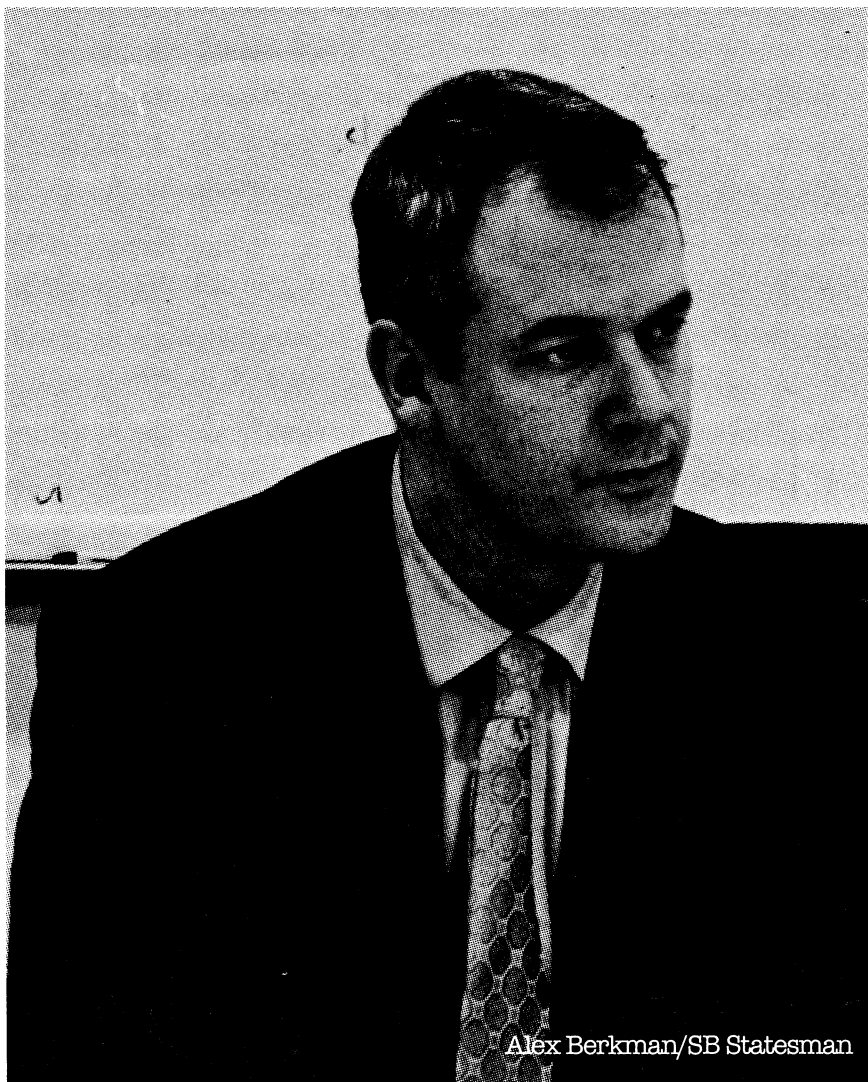
Unfortunately for Stevens and the Seawolves the rebound shot found its way

into the back of the net, and Stony Brook found themselves down 3-2 to division II William Patterson University with 1:08 left in the game.

"When you lose to a division II team, although I feel they were a formidable opponent, it hurts," General Manager Chris Garofalo said. "The powers that be, the other coaches that do the rankings, will look down upon losing to a team like that."

John Passantino scored the Seawolves

Continued on page 11



Alex Berkman/SB Statesman

Steve Pikiell: "You have to do one thing or another - wrap it up from the free throw line, make a big 3, or get a big stop, and we didn't do that."



Alex Berkman/SB Statesman

Buzz DesChamps: "There goes the F***ING season right down the toilet."