

Arts & Entertainment: 6
Music: Working on a Dream

Sports: 11
Women's Hoops Wins Second Game in a Row

Arts & Entertainment: 6
Tours: Say No to Neon Tour

Sports: 12
Men's Basketball Hangs on to Defeat UMBC

NEWS

Campus Construction's Move Toward Sustainability and All its Challenges

Stony Brook University has recently turned its attention to "greening" buildings on campus. The university has decided to comply with The United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, program -- the de-facto standard for sustainable building of today.

>> page 3

OPINION

A "Bipartisan" Party?

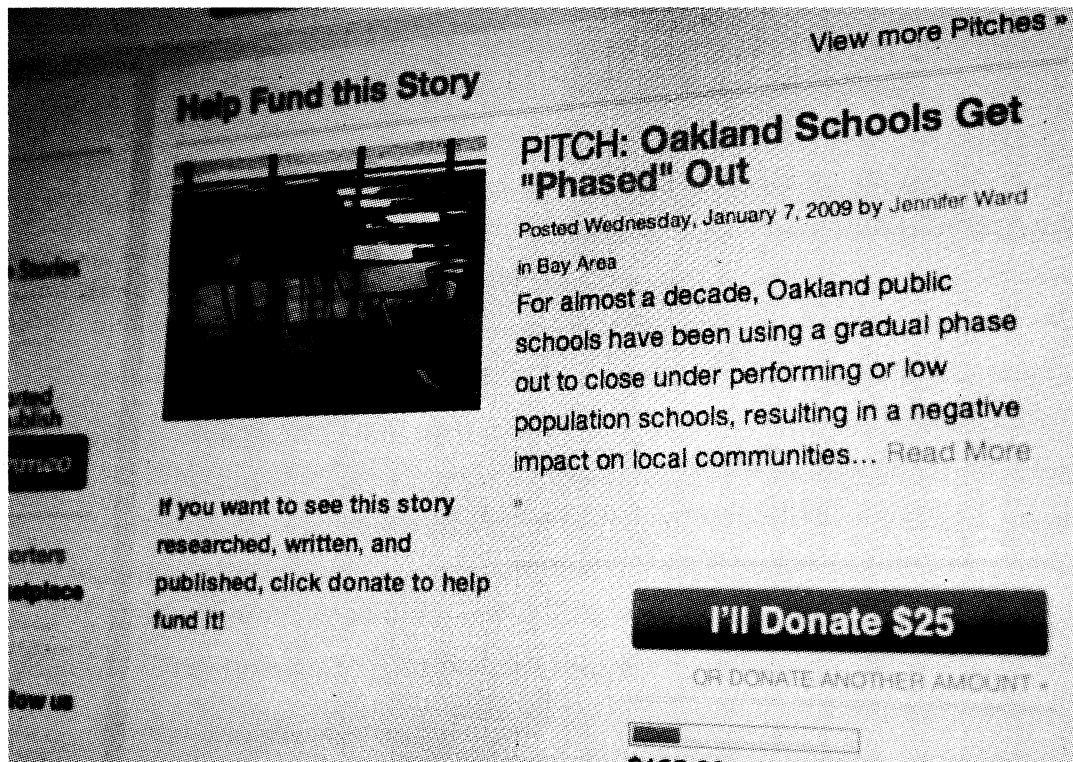
A key promise of President Barack Obama's 2008 campaign was to "change the tone" of squabbling Washington, D.C., politics. The ideological deadlocks that have mired progress so often would be a practice of the past. A new age of change and transparency would become the way of United States government. Now that he is president, how well can Obama come through on his hopeful philosophy?

>> page 7

President Obama is Forgetting Us

President Obama has worked hard to get the \$900 billion stimulus passed; he's given speech after speech touting the state of the economy, the necessity of stimulus, the efficacy of the bill. But in all the radio addresses and public speeches, I fail to hear the single concern that's most important to our generation: How are we going to repay it?

>> page 10



Spot.us is one website where people can help fund journalism.

Frank Posillico / SB Statesman

Campus Competes Nationally for RecycleMania Title

By SHIREEN JAYMAN
Staff Writer

RecycleMania 2009 kicked off on Wednesday as residents all over campus started properly disposing of their bottles, cans and paper in hopes of winning points for their residence halls.

This recycling contest is "a friendly competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities," according to the RecycleMania web site.

While Campus Residence encourages this competition between dorms, Stony Brook University is competing on a larger scale in the 2009 RecycleMania competition -- 510 schools registered for this year.

This year's RecycleMania competition also coincides with President Obama's latest five-year plan, one of the priorities being to "support sustainability through a green-campus initiative," according to the Stony Brook Foundation web site.

Over a 10-week period which ends Mar. 25, schools will report recycling and trash data to the RecycleMania Administration, which are then ranked

according to the following categories: the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, and the highest recycling rate.

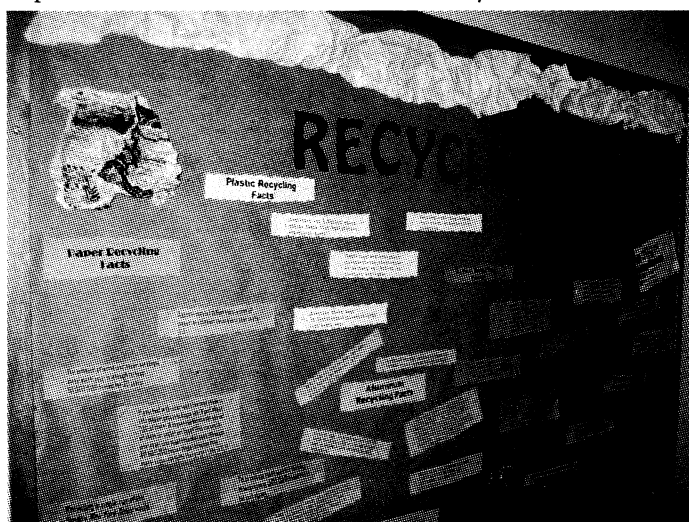
Posters throughout residence halls and department buildings give tips on how to live green in the spirit of the green-campus initiative and RecycleMania.

Students, faculty and staff are advised to e-mail whenever possible to save paper, turn off lights and other electronics, and use mugs instead of disposable cups.

In order for recycled bottles to add up to points, students must empty the plastic containers of all liquid and crush them in order for them to be considered properly recycled.

"RecycleMania gives a competitive spirit to residents, and it gives them incentive to recycle correctly," said Melissa Nuruzaman, president of the Gray College Hall Council. "The fact that we have recyclable bags, containers and utensils, small things like that do make a difference."

Gray College, located in Mendelsohn Quad, was the winner of RecycleMania 2008.



Shireen Jayman / SB Statesman

Internet Donations Hope to Halt Print Journalism Decline

By NICOLE INDELICATO
Contributing Writer

It all started with an idea. Then all it took was a compelling story pitch and accompanying video blog recorded from Thea Chroman's living room to raise the \$550 needed to investigate the rise of car and tent cities as low-income San Franciscans are driven out of their homes.


"I'm just so thrilled that it worked," Chroman, who compared these growing communities to the Hooverville shanty towns during the 1930s, said. "I find it very heartening that the public is so eager to participate in the production of reportage, especially at a time when the future of journalism seems so tenuous."

Chroman, 27, was the first journalist to receive full funds for a story less than 10 days since the official Nov. 11 launch of Spot.us. This nonprofit organization, designed by 26-year-old David Cohn and propelled by a two-year grant for \$340,000 from the Knight Foundation, was designed to pioneer community-funded reporting.


The project accepts story tips from the public and pitches by journalists, which are then funded by citizens to be materialized into mostly investigative stories for publication.

But Spot.us is not alone in its mission. In the wake of declining circulation and advertising revenue in American newspapers due to the Internet, this project represents one of the ways journalists have struggled to identify and reverse the trend of vanishing newspaper sections and job losses by using micro-donations from the public to support superior journalism.

Continued on page 10



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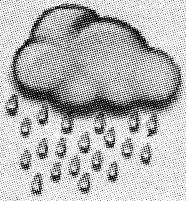
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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, February 2, 2009

University Forecast

Feb. 2 - Feb. 6

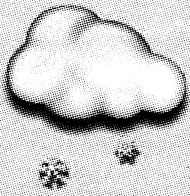


Monday:

High: 41°F

Low: 30°F

Nighttime Showers.

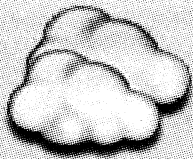


Tuesday:

High: 32°F

Low: 19°F

Snow.

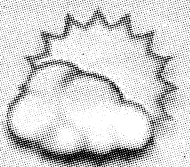


Wednesday:

High: 25°F

Low: 12°F

Cloudy and windy.

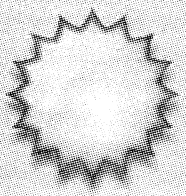


Thursday:

High: 25°F

Low: 21°F

Partly cloudy.



Friday:

High: 37°F

Low: 31°F

Mostly sunny.

From weather.com

Campus Construction's Move Toward Sustainability, And All its Challenges

By SANHITA REDDY
Staff Writer

Stony Brook University has recently turned its attention to "greening" buildings on campus. The university has decided to comply with The United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, program -- the de-facto standard for sustainable building of today.

Yet behind the simple plaque, an enormous amount of energy is put into applying for LEED, making sure each and every facet of the building complies with LEED standards. The process ends up making buildings more expensive, the process itself time-consuming, and hundreds of thousands of dollars just to apply for certification.

The heart of the LEED program revolves around point allotment in six major categories of sustainability.

An energy model is first created for the building, and then it is up to the building owner to accumulate points by reducing energy consumption, stated by the model. The location of the building, the plumbing system, even the way the windows are placed are all allotted points, and the more points obtained, the higher the certification level. After meeting a pre-requisite level, building owners can strive for certified, silver, gold, and platinum levels of certification.

In 2007, under President Shirley Strum Kenny, Stony Brook University committed all of its new construction to LEED silver certification. This includes buildings like the campus recreation center, and the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics, slated to open in Sept. 2010.

The Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center, or AERTC -- located at Stony Brook's Research and Development Park -- is currently the only building on campus to strive for LEED platinum certification.

In addition to LEED certification, the university also complies with Executive Order 111, put in place by former New York State Gov. George Pataki in 2001, to "promote green buildings and conserve energy." While obtaining LEED certification guarantees that a building complies with 111, buildings that do not obtain certification still have to use energy efficient systems, such as better air conditioning controls.

Seeing Green

Getting a building LEED certified isn't cheap. According to Louis Rispoli, director of facilities and construction at the university, a LEED silver building typically costs 7 to 15 percent more than a non-LEED building. This can be a problem, because if state funders like the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York allocated money for construction before the University's commitment to LEED silver, money may fall short--only enough to meet

Order 111.

Because of this same logic, getting higher than LEED silver certification can be tough -- AERTC had originally constructed plans for 50-52,000 square feet. The current model of the building is 43,000 square feet, losing generic lab spaces to get higher LEED certification.

"You hope that the tradeoff costs are offset by the energy conserved," said Rispoli.

Tally up

The LEED point system also has some questioning whether the sustainable acts are really weighed properly.

"You might put in a bike rack and get one point and you might put in a solar panel array and only get one point for that too," said Vincent Bataoel, a LEED consultant for Above Green, LLC.

And while LEED does look at a building's reduction in energy consumption, it may miss a big factor in global warming.

"It doesn't focus that much on greenhouse gas emissions," said Amy Provenzano, executive director of the environmental stewardship at Stony Brook University. "It should focus more specifically on the contributions to global warming."

But for Stony Brook University, the skeleton of the LEED point system

the building. Because of this, certain energy conservation points cannot be gained -- according to LEED, construction for energy efficiency must be shown on the building.

Buildings at Stony Brook Southampton and the Research and Development Park do not fall under the contract--this might make it easier for them to get a higher level of certification.

"Students and professors ask why we can't add solar panels to every building on campus," said Peter Krumdieck, campus energy manager. "The truth is that they're expensive, but they also violate our contract."

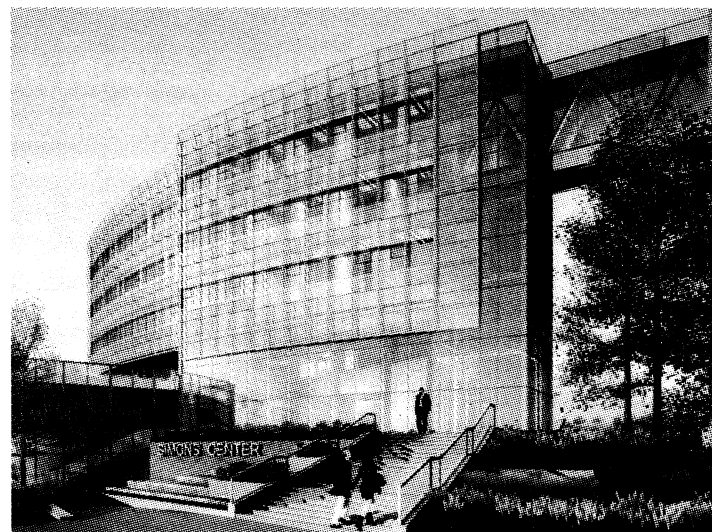
The point system also makes oversight on compliance with all aspects of construction escalate. The architects aren't the only ones that have to be green-conscious.

"We can lose points if the contractor doesn't recycle properly," said Ken Fehling, director of residential operations at Stony Brook University who is overseeing the construction of the new dormitory between Roosevelt and Kelly Quads.

A green future by cutting down trees

For all the clamor about greening buildings and being more sustainable, LEED involves a lot of paper.

"It is actually a lot of paperwork,"



Media Credit: Stony Brook University

An illustration of the Simon Center which is scheduled to open in Sept. 2010

poses a huge barrier to getting higher certification levels. Because points are given to a stand-alone building, outside energy sources cannot be factored in. Because the university gets its electricity and steam from the co-generation plant on campus, this central source cannot be used to gain points.

"If we could account for the amount of money we save from using the co-gen plant, almost every building on campus could be LEED certified," said Rispoli. "But because LEED evaluates just the building, we can't."

Others think that the contract is a hindrance to getting higher LEED certification levels. The 26-year contract, which is due to end in 2023, forbids the university from added external sources of energy, such as solar panels, natural gas resources, even wind-power to

said Rispoli.

Each point on the checklist must be accounted for in some way, showing proof that the conservation effort did indeed reduce energy consumption. Because of this, it is necessary to have a LEED consultant to help get certified. The LEED consultant is usually brought in at the planning stage, and shows what the possibilities for construction are. They also keep track of the majority of LEED paperwork, all of course, at a price.

"Some consultants charge 1 to 5 percent of the total building cost for the paperwork. This is a small cost that is usually built into the contract with the architectural firm," said Bataoel.

"It's no joke putting it together -- that's why people don't go for the actual plaque," said Provenzano.

Provenzano may have a point.

Boston University has said that it will not go for LEED certification, choosing to spend the LEED administrative money on other green projects. Some schools, such as University of Arkansas and Mesa State University, have decided to use an alternative green building rating system, such as Green Globes.

Like it or not

Despite all the brouhaha surrounding LEED, it will probably remain the most veritable certification system in sustainable building.

"The big benefit of LEED certification is that it is third party verified," said Bataoel. "There is some quality control or objective guarantee of the environmental quality of the project."

LEED also guarantees that the building is comprehensively green.

"A contractor could say a building is green, for instance, just because they use non-toxic materials -- but maybe the building is really energy inefficient or wasteful with respect to water," said Bataoel.

There are also benefits to having the LEED plaque for Stony Brook University. According to Provenzano, LEED certified building may attract prospective students who are interested in a university's commitment to sustainability. In addition, both she and Bataoel agree that work environment is better in a LEED building.

"Surveys show that not only are energy costs less when a building is built to LEED standards, but you also have a happier staff," said Provenzano. "You have a more productive environment."

Looking to the Future

In 2009, LEED will be coming out with new guidelines, which may change the weight of the points in the checklist. It also will include new points that a building can obtain, most of which come from their "innovations and design" credits section, an area where builders can earn two points by showing creativity in sustainable building. Stony Brook Southampton's new sewage treatment center will get innovation credits by creating the treatment plant into an educational facility, complete with visitor's center and guided tour.

With the recent proposition on budget cuts, it is still up in the air how this may affect the LEED certification levels for building construction on campus. Buildings such as the campus recreation center have already secured money for construction, but according to Rispoli, the outcome on whether it will still attain LEED silver is still unclear.

But as these new, glitzy, green buildings go up on campus, there is one thing clear about the university's commitment to sustainability.

"We should be building our buildings green regardless of whether or not there is LEED," said Provenzano.

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MUSIC

Working on a Dream

By KWAME OPAM
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor



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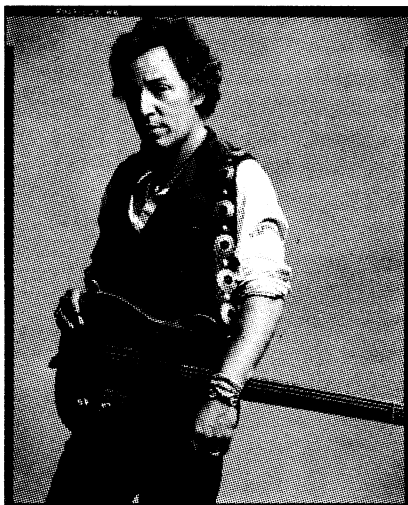
Bruce Springsteen
"Working on a Dream"
(Columbia)

How do you measure a year? Outside of quoting Jonathan Larson's "Seasons of Love," listening to Bruce Springsteen's latest effort will let you know that it can be measured in song. What a year it has been. October 2007 marked the release of the Boss' "Magic," an angry, angsty album that finds the singer disillusioned with his America. You can see on the cover a face hardened by the times, a look that cuts like a knife. This year, with Bush behind him and change on the American horizon, Jersey's favorite son releases "Working on a Dream," hope lining his softened face as the clouds race away into the clear morning of a new day.

Hope and the redemptive power of love are the overarching messages of "Dream," as especially exemplified in the title track. Throughout the album,

Springsteen's lyricism ranges from dreamy metaphor in "This Life" to rich, spaghetti western-esque storytelling in "Outlaw Pete," and back to down-home river delta blues in "Good Eye." Darkness does creep in, as Springsteen writes in "What Love Can Do:" Darling I can't stop the rain/ Or turn your black sky blue/ Well let me show you what love can do/ Let me show you what love can do

Accompanying him is the constantly lauded E Street Band, who lends Springsteen's already lush and vivid imagery an even better color, shape, and character. As Outlaw Pete makes his final ride up that icy mountain, the sun of your mind's eye sets on that tragic figure. Even when the work stumbles – once, with the syrupy "Queen of the Supermarket" that simply takes itself too seriously for its subject matter – it never fails. The music, with every



Media Credit: Myspace.com

violin, guitar, and crying sax, is in lockstep with the singer's poetry.

I hope you watched the Super Bowl, because the spirit of the album came alive in Tampa, Florida during the halftime show. Springsteen and the E Street Band put on a 12-minute set of four songs from throughout their career that electrified the audience and shook the stadium to its heart. Opening with "Tenth Avenue Freeze-Out," he led the fans through "Born to Run," "Working on a Dream," and closed, with great fanfare, with "Glory Days." It was 12 minutes of great showmanship and probably one of the better halftime shows in recent memory.

If you must measure the year that passed from the release of "Magic" to "Working on a Dream," then it must be measured in the character of the words – in the distance between despair and hope. Clearly, from the work to the performance, for Springsteen that dream is on its way to coming true.

Deluxe Version Tracklisting:

Disc: 1

1. Outlaw Pete
2. My Lucky Day
3. Working On A Dream
4. Queen Of The Supermarket
5. What Love Can Do
6. This Life
7. Good Eye
8. Tomorrow Never Knows
9. Life Itself
10. Kingdom Of Days
11. Surprise, Surprise
12. The Last Carnival
13. The Wrestler

Disc: 2

1. My Lucky Day (Video Version)
2. Queen Of The Supermarket (Studio Sessions)
3. Kingdom Of Days (Studio Sessions)
4. Tomorrow Never Knows/What Love Can Do/This Life (Studio Sessions)
5. Life Itself (Studio Sessions)
6. Working On A Dream
7. The Last Carnival (Video Version)
8. End Credits
9. A Night With The Jersey Devil (Video Version)

Original Release Date:
January 27, 2009

TOURS

SAY NO TO NEON TOUR REVIEW

OFF CITY LIMITS, SET IN COLOR, ARTIST VS. POET, HOUSTON CALLS, & VALENCIA

By ANTHONY DOBRINI
Staff Writer

For a brisk wintry day, there was a large group of kids anxiously waiting on line in the cold to get into The Crazy Donkey in Farmingdale to check out some bands. Some, however, decided it was a smarter idea to sit in their cars with the heat on while listening to some of the very bands that were going to be playing that night. The "Say No to Neon Tour" had arrived on Thursday and The Crazy Donkey was the first tour stop. Overall, it was a little shaky.

From inside the room, the first group of people that made it through the front charged the stage to get their best views. It was doubtful they were there for any of the locals, or perhaps not even the supporting acts. It was Valencia that a large portion of these kids came for.

Shortly after 6:30 p.m. the first local act, a fairly unknown band called Off City Limits, took the stage. They were mediocre at best, though it was more inexperience in front of a crowd rather than musical quality. But don't be fooled, they do have a little to learn. Regardless, the crowd seemed mostly into it, as the room filled halfway by the middle of their set.

The next local act, Set in Color, has

really been making waves in the scene in recent months. They started off with "With Fingers Crossed," a MySpace favorite. Lead singer Matt Villani was sick, but his voice blended well with the rest of the music. Trey Ewald, the

everything else out there.

Artist vs. Poet, straight from Dallas, took the stage next. They came out to intro music which doesn't work unless it is for the headlining band. The entire set was fixed with background beats that were prerecorded.

The most noticeable fact was their style. Each member had a very similar haircut minus the drummer. It goes to show the way music is heading nowadays – less about the music, more about the appearance. Oddly enough the crowd, which was made up of mostly teenage girls, ate the gimmick up. Their set was easily forgettable.

Next up was Houston Calls. They hailed all the way from New Jersey. First notice to any fan was the different bass player and guitar player. Their set comprised a wonderful mix of new and old songs including classics like "Exit, Emergency" and "One More Won't Hurt." It was a nice refreshing set of good pop-punk songs. The most memorable part of the set was during one of their songs in which they let particular members of the crowd sing along. A lesson was learned – don't let the audience sing.

Shortly after the end of that set, Va-

lencia jumped up for their turn. These Philly boys, most likely saddened by the Eagles' shortcomings in the playoffs, started off with a bang and continued on with a pretty full set.

Valencia has always been one of the few bands that still write catchy choruses with an edge. One could argue that they have always been underrated. But on this headlining tour they were the ones in charge, and the crowd accepted that. From circle pits, to jumping up and down, to choruses where lead singer Shane Henderson didn't even have to use the microphone, the set had a wide variety of positive feedback.

They flew through popular songs and filler songs as one in the same. The set wasn't as flawless as the band had hoped, as Shane's vocals went in different directions, and even cracking. Max the drummer had also messed up the beat in "Away We Go" – their messiest song of the night. The band decided to end the set with their previous hit "The Space Between" as the audience chanted and danced – glow sticks and everything.

All in all it was a quick concert, but memorable nonetheless. Valencia gave us all "a reason to believe" in music once again.

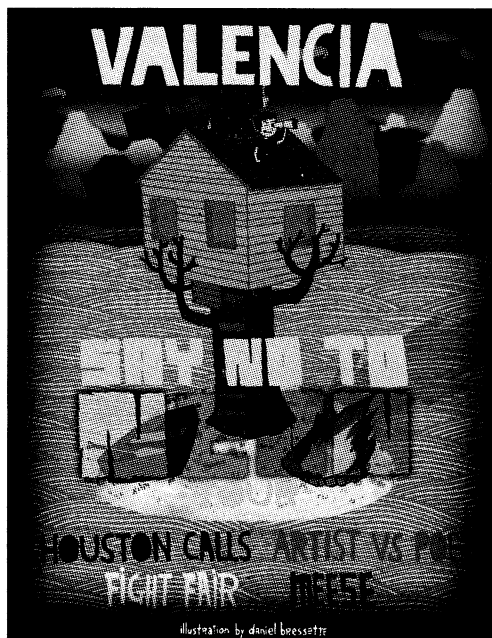


Illustration by daniel breussotte

Media Credit: Google Images

newest addition, seemed much more comfortable than last time they had played so the music sounded a lot tighter. Unfortunately their musical style isn't very unique, it sounds like

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

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WHO WE ARE

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

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

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Letters to the Editor

Re: "The Truth About Gaza"

To the Editor,

The first thing I must say concerning the editorial piece, "The Truth About Gaza," is that it should have been entitled "My Perception about Gaza." One can supply facts about the situation, but to claim that one has the "truth" about a very complex situation is beyond comprehension.

As a Jewish American I am personally appalled at Israel's attacks on the people of Gaza resulting in over 1,100 deaths, 300 of who were children. Who is the author to suggest that Israel holds no moral responsibility for the deaths of all these civilians? There are many Jewish peace groups out there who hold Israel responsible not only for the deaths of these Palestinians but for the complete marginalization and oppression of these people.

I used to believe, too, that Israel wanted peace, but sadly, I have seen that Israel is not a shining light to the world. Settlement construction is taking place at the greatest rate ever within the occupied territories while a great wall is being built to segregate the indigenous Palestinian villages and people.

Israel is not serious about peace, if it were it would have returned Gaza to Egypt and the occupied West Bank territories to Jordan when it signed peace treaties with these countries. Sadly, Israel's charade of wanting peace has been exposed to the world for what it really is: a fraud. Its goal is to push and punish the Palestinians -- the indigenous group here -- to the very limits of existence.

Even worse is that the foreign policy of the United States, badly mismanaged over the past eight

years in particular, continues to be manipulated by Israel and its needs. Until the United States begins to assert some control over Israel, beginning with its requirement that settlement activity cease in the West Bank, this country will continue to lose its esteem throughout the world, weaken its international clout, and continue to put our young women and men in harm's way in needless battles abroad.

Jewish Americans and others who are appalled by Israel's behavior should find out about the "Jewish Voice for Peace" which looks at the situation much differently from Glazer. And while Glazer is entitled to his opinion, he must not be mistaken into believing he has the "truth about Gaza."

- Harry Katz

To the Editor,

The Jan. 26 op-ed piece "The Truth About Gaza" ranks among the less sophisticated propaganda to have emerged since the Israeli government invaded Gaza on Dec. 27. Due to space constraints, I will simply point out that its basic argument - that "Arab parties to the [Israel-Palestine] conflict have never considered negotiation as an option" - relies almost entirely on evidence from the 1940s and 1950s. The last date cited is 1957, yet the conclusion is categorical.

The author of the piece is wise to sidestep the last 50 years of the conflict. Any decent propagandist learns from the beginning that "the correct historical context" is that which fits his or her preconceived argument while excluding inconvenient information. However, serious observers who wish to understand the present conflict might feel compelled to pay at least some attention to the last half-century of history, which if considered reveals some interesting facts.

The most fundamental of these facts is that the Israeli government has no legal right to occupy Palestinian territory (composed of Gaza and the West Bank), as it has done since 1967. The highest legal and judicial bodies in the world - the United Nations and World Court - have repeatedly condemned the Israeli occupation, starting with U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 in 1967 calling for Israeli withdrawal to its pre-1967 borders. Since then an international consensus encompassing virtually every country except the United States and Israel

has supported a peace plan akin to that outlined in Res. 242 and subsequent legal decisions.

This consensus has long included the major Arab governments. Though initially resistant to these terms, the Palestinian leadership has also consistently accepted them since the late 1970s. Most Hamas leaders have also accepted these terms in practice (despite the bellicose language in the party's charter), offering on multiple occasions to abide by a long-term ceasefire in exchange for an end to the Israeli siege of Gaza and the occupation more generally. Israel, by contrast, has been virtually constant in its rejection of any peace plan that would require it to withdraw from its illegally-occupied territories.

The immediate roots of the ongoing crisis in Gaza go back to summer 2007, when the democratically-elected Hamas party took control of Gaza. Israel - again, with full U.S. backing - sealed the borders of Gaza and severely limited the amount of food, medicine, and other goods going in or out. As the United Nations and numerous human rights agencies have pointed out, by 2008 the Israeli blockade had created (quite deliberately) a severe humanitarian crisis for many of the 1.5 million people living in Gaza. As these same authorities also note, the continued blockade constitutes a flagrant violation of international law (e.g., Articles 33 and 55 of the Fourth Geneva Convention).

On Nov. 4, 2008, Israel unilaterally broke a six-month ceasefire with Hamas by invading Gaza. Less than two months later it invaded again, this time killing

at least 1,300 people, a third of whom were children, nine Israeli soldiers and civilians were killed by Palestinian fire. This death ratio, of well over 100:1, has been steady in recent years, and frequently applauded by Israeli officials and U.S. politicians and media.

For more on this history and the current situation, readers can consult some of the books and articles listed at <http://israel-palestine-readings.blogspot.com>. For U.S. citizens, the fact that the U.S. government is the primary military and diplomatic sponsor of Israeli aggression should be cause for much reflection. On the Stony Brook University campus, concerned individuals can join the Social Justice Alliance in working to bring an end to U.S. complicity in Israeli crimes and to promote the terms of the international consensus. The Social Justice Alliance meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in the third floor lounge of the SAC.

- Kevin Young

A "Bipartisan" Party?

By JOSEPH LABRIOLA
Columnist

A key promise of President Barack Obama's 2008 campaign was to "change the tone" of squabbling Washington, D.C., politics. The ideological deadlocks that have mired progress so often would be a practice of the past. A new age of change and transparency would become the way of United States government. Now that he is president, how well can Obama come through on his hopeful philosophy?

The recent vote over the more than \$800 billion stimulus package is a sobering reminder of the kind of opposition he is up against. As the bill moves to the Senate, Obama has to be formulating what to make of the fact that zero house Republicans voted for it despite his personal meetings and concessions to right-wing leadership.

Although they claim to be glad for his outreach and openness, Republicans say that the bill pushes the liberal agenda too far while not doing enough to meet the true needs of the American people during this economic crisis.

Despite its passage in the house, 11 Democrats also chose not to support the bill. Obama seems determined rather than deterred by these events. The night after the vote, he held what could be called a conciliatory cocktail party with the leaders of both parties of the house. Even in victory, the president is looking to lobby his positive political momentum in time for the next big bill.

It is unlikely that Obama ever expected such a stimulus bill to pass without contention and debate. With the economy in the forefront of the citizens' minds, both politicians and the

Continued on page 9

Guidelines for Opinion Submission

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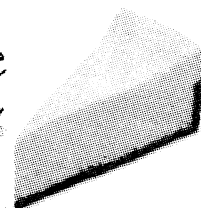
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A "Bipartisan" Party?

Continued from page 9

public want something done, and fast. The package will almost certainly pass, so what can Democrats and Republicans do to adjust the terms of this historic measure so that it works the best and for the most people?

The bill as passed in the house is two-thirds spending and one-third tax cuts. That is not good enough, according to the GOP, as well as a growing number of Democrats.

Both parties are concerned about mounting job losses in their districts and many cite that millions of dollars in stimulus funding to things like the already conceded contraception provision do not create work. Still, others disagree. There is an undertone of ideology already permeating the façade of bipartisanship. Liberals see the bill as providing much needed relief for working people in the form of progressive programs and investments in infrastructure, while conservatives seek less spending and larger tax cuts for average Americans.

There is no easy solution to this economic debacle. Years of governmental incompetence, overconfidence, and corporate corruption eventually culminated in the problems of today. A lack of federal oversight and little moderation within big businesses led to practices such as the sub-prime mortgage lending, the bursting housing bubble, and crumbling credit. These are effects that will likely take years for the market to work out, no matter how much the federal government chooses to intercede.

What is most important about this stimulus bill is that it has to work at fixing the cause of the economic problems, rather than trying to just stave the bleeding.

The bailouts last year were a perfect example of where the government dropped the ball on actually trying to identify and solve the issues that led to this financial downturn. Rather than setting spending rules and instituting transparent oversight to track, monitor, and even dictate to some extent how this money was spent, they simply threw billions of dollars at the problem, hoping that these greedy corporations who were not mature or caring enough to behave the first time, would make the right changes after being blindly handed a fortune courtesy of the American taxpayer.

Despite the faith in these ill-run banks, the economy has only gotten worse. Sure, the billions have successfully propped up these floundering financial institutions for now, but how does unconditionally giving bailouts to companies invigorate the will to innovate? Is it safe to say that those working at these institutions that made killings off of their practices will keep on doing the same things if they know their industry will be preserved by the federal government?

Even if one assumes that the money given to the banks and now being proposed for infrastructure investment by President Obama works at helping to alleviate the countries current woes, who plans on paying back all this money? George Bush left the United States' taxpayers with a \$10 trillion burden. Now on top of this, the government is adding trillions more in bailout and stimulus spending while cutting taxes.

While this may be appealing in the short term to get the nation back on track, its setting up future generations to have to deal with the bitter reality of paying the price for their grandparent's corruption and

greed. Is it to soon to start wondering about how in the world is anyone ever going to pay off this still mounting debt?

We have all heard the stories of CEOs flying to Capitol Hill on private jets to beg for billions and banks giving out multi-million bonuses during these tough times. It is these kinds of excesses that led the United States down the dark path and into this dead end. Hopefully, a moral lesson arises from the ashes of all of this. People cannot be left to police themselves.

Now this is not to say that government should dictate how companies are run, but at some point people need to put aside their partisan politics and realize that no ideology holds the clear-cut answer to how the world should be operated. Rather than letting markets run wild with fraudulent, inflated investments, the government's future role should be about preventing businesses from engaging in corrupt and short sighted profit making endeavors that ultimately hurt more than help customers and the overall economy.

The government's role is not to tell all people and businesses what they should do, just as much as it should not completely stay out of the financial realm. Instead, there needs to be a balance so that this kind of financial collapse cannot happen again.

Whatever happens with the stimulus bill, the American people can only hold their breaths and hope that the Obama administration, Congress, the Senate, and all other governmental institutions realize that the answer to the country's problems does not lie in fighting and lobbying for political philosophies, but instead in getting done what makes the most sense for everyone.

President Obama is Forgetting Us

By JOE LABRIOLA
Columnist

President Obama has worked hard to get the \$900 billion stimulus passed; he's given speech after speech touting the state of the economy, the necessity of stimulus, the efficacy of the bill. But in all the radio addresses and public speeches, I fail to hear the single concern that's most important to our generation: How are we going to repay it?

The answer deceives us by its simplicity -- deficit spending, borrow from China or Japan. But that doesn't answer the question: How are we going to refund this money? Thousands of us are getting our degrees on college loans. And it's painfully clear to us that someday, after graduation, we will have to find work and begin the grueling job of repaying our loans. It's a hard reality, but it's worth it in order to finance our education.

A little-discussed burden of our generation is the debt our parents' generation is leaving to us. The national debt is coming due, and it's nearly \$11 trillion that will need to be repaid in 15 or 20 years, on our watch. We are the workforce that must compensate for the recent excesses of our government.

So while we applaud President Obama's good-faith efforts to jump start our economy, we're understandably skeptical about the cost of this stimulus. We realize that something has to be done about our economy. And sure, some of those 3 million jobs will come to us. But 3 million jobs at the price of \$900 billion? That's...\$300,000 per job? Can it be done more cheaply, Mr. President? How long will we be able to defer paying this debt? How much will taxes be raised to cover this expense? Give us some

answers, President Obama.

During the campaign, President Obama often declaimed the failed policies of the last eight years. He needs to remember that among those failures were a deficit-financed war in Iraq and an ineffective \$700 billion bank bailout. Not to mention the sizable federal debt that Bush inherited and passed on undiminished. So, for change, what about a government that takes practical steps to get us out of debt? And for hope, what about a plan, a real plan for reducing our deficit and helping the economy without expensive loans?

But no, according to the latest reports, President Obama is satisfied with just passing the bailout and leaving it to our generation to pick up the tab. He's already onto Economic Solution No. 2, a bank to buy the worst of the assets in the economy, the ones that no one else wants. All of course, at a multi-billion dollar cost. And has President Obama explained to us what the price of this will be? How many more millions must we pay in taxes? How is this going to affect our economy in 2015? And 2020? And 2025?

All we get is silence from the Oval Office. President Obama is so busy fixing our parents' problems that he's forgotten to address our vital concerns.

We need more from President Obama than silence. We need answers, solid answers on how long we'll be able to defer paying this loan, and how the interest on this \$900 billion will affect our budget, and how, exactly how, he plans to repay it.

Please, President Obama, be frank with our generation. Spend if you need to on the economy, but give us the hard, clear details about the cost. We deserve to know. That's change we can believe in.

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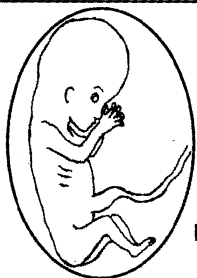
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Internet Donations Hope to Halt Print Journalism Decline

Continued from page 1

Between 2006 and 2007, the circulation of traditional American newspapers decreased 3 percent due to the shift in news readers from print to Internet, according to the Audit Bureau Circulation. In response to the decline in circulation, total print advertising revenue fell 9.4 percent in 2007 compared to 2006, according to The Newspaper Association of America.

These rapid declines, which have caused hundreds of newspapers to condense or cut sections and jobs, have spurred many nonprofit organizations to try and salvage what has been lost.

Reporters who create pitches on Spot.us are considered contractors or freelance journalists and typically request an amount of money that is more or less the same as what they would be paid for producing similar work.

The public can either pledge news "tips," which do not represent real money but instead express interest in a reporter's idea, or they can donate tax-deductible transactions toward a reporter's story. If a pitch is unsuccessful, the donor will receive their money back in the form of Spot.us credits, so that their generosity will go to support journalism either way.

Finished stories are licensed under Creative Commons, a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding the possibilities of creative works available for others to legally add on to or share. These licenses permit original creators of a work to claim certain reserved rights as well as waived rights for the benefit of other

creators. Partner news organizations of Spot.us may also obtain first publishing rights to completed stories if they donate 50 percent or more towards a pitch.

The idea for Spot.us had been brewing in Cohn's head since late 2005 when he began working for New York University professor Jay Rosen at NewsAssignment.net, a nonprofit site devoted to sparking innovative journalism through open collaboration over the Internet. Cohn, who received his masters in journalism at Columbia, said his interest in citizen journalism stemmed from being a tech reporter for Wired as well as a big consumer of blogs.

"I was constantly examining how technology is changing different professions in a profound and often positive way," Cohn said. "I was also a big believer in aggregation and the journalist's role in aggregating good content."

Another organization that aims to build sustainable journalism via crowdfunding is Representative Journalism, also known as RepJ. Leonard Witt, a journalism professor at Kennesaw State University and creator of RepJ, has received a \$51,000 grant to start his project from "Locally Grown," a two-year old Northfield, Minn., blog and podcast that covers local civic issues. Witt and staff could not be reached for comment.

On a video stream posted on his blog at PJnet.org, Witt tells a crowd that although the old economic models of journalism are deteriorating, people are still going to have to pay if they want high quality news in the future. He uses the example of a Florida news reporter who is no longer able to cover

endangered species since his newspaper cut the section. Witt explains that RepJ would be the platform for thousands of people who care about endangered species in Florida to donate money to professional journalists to cover these stories.

One of the main differences between Spot.us and RepJ, Witt explains during an email interview with MediaShift blogger Mark Glaser, is that Spot.us is story-by-story funding and the RepJ model is seeking long-term sustainable funding by hiring a full-time journalist to cover specific issues in the Northfield area. In addition, RepJ is dealing with a population of 17,000, whereas Spot.us is dealing with the entire San Francisco Bay area -- approximately 7 million inhabitants, according to Bay Area Census.

Though many are bullish about this approach to journalism, there are still some skeptics. Contributing editor at Wired and "Crowdfunding" author, Jeff Howe, is optimistic about this model of journalism. He points out to Glaser, however, that funders may expect a certain outcome from the story pitch and may get upset when their expectations aren't met.

Chroman also mentioned that reporters may view their pitches as fairly "proprietary" or a business deal. Both Cohn and Chroman also point out that this model will not support day-to-day reporting.

"I won't make millions from it," said Cohn. "But my goal is really to experiment in new models that might sustain meaningful journalism."

Others question the level of accuracy in

each story with the lack of a formal, traditional editor. But both Spot.us and RepJ do have a source of vetting. On Spot.us, there are "Fact-Check Editors" who are typically other journalists assigned by Cohn that ensure fair and accurate reporting. Stories are not permitted to be published without the Fact-Check Editors' approval. On RepJ, there is only one journalist, Bonnie Obremski, who is supervised by Witt as well as monitored by her own editor, Linda Seebach.

"To be honest, the biggest skeptics about accuracy are always other journalists," said Cohn, who makes each Spot.us journalist submit a video to chaperon their story pitches in order to create a sense of intimacy and trust between reporters and public funders. "Citizens tend not to dwell on this."

With both organizations launched only months ago, it may be too soon to tell exactly how successful they've been journalistically, but there have already been some success stories. Other than Chroman's story receiving all the money it needed to take flight, Spot.us reaped success before it was even a fully formed website.

"Over the summer we did a beta phase where we raised \$2,500 which was used to fund journalists to fact-check the political advertisements for the San Francisco election," Cohn explained. "We did this using just a wiki."

Both models are localized at this point, but plan on expanding in the future. Spot.us hopes to reach another region as soon as 2009.

"Journalism will survive the death of its institutions," Cohn said.

Women's Hoops Wins Second Game in a Row

BY GENE MORRIS
Sports Editor

The Stony Brook Women's basketball team also did battle with the UMBC retrievers on Saturday at Pritchard Gymnasium.

And like the men did later in the evening, the women came away with a victory, winning by a score of 78-62. The victory improved the Seawolves record to 4-15 overall, and 2-5 in America East play.

The Seawolves were led by sophomore forward Kirsten Jeter, who had a team-high 24 points on 10-21 shooting. Jeter made one of two attempted three-pointers, and also added seven rebounds, six steals, two blocks and an assist in 34

minutes of playing time.

Supporting Jeter's big game was Misha Horsey, who played all 40 minutes and scored 14 points. She also chipped in seven assists and five rebounds.

Up 30-29 with 6:17 remaining in the first half, a jumper by Kairsten Nunn ignited a 13-2 run that the Seawolves used to close out the half and go up by a score of 43-31.

UMBC was able to get within six points, 47-41 with 15:49 remaining in the game, but a lay-up by Jeter and a jumped by Destiny Jacobs pushed the Seawolves lead into double digits, and they would lead by at least 10 points for the remainder of the game.



Guards Chris Martin (30) and Bryan Dougher (10) helped Stony Brook control the pace of the game and defeat the UMBC Retrievers on Saturday night.



Alex Berkman/SB Statesman

Men's B-Ball Knocks Off UMBC

Continued from pg 12

Another big factor in the game was free throws. UMBC only shot two free throws, missing both. While the Seawolves only shot eight themselves, they made seven.

"Every game is a war," Pikiell said. "Before every game we stand up and say this game is going to be a war. UMBC is good. Anyone in our league is capable of beating anyone on any given night. Every game has been a war; there hasn't been one league game that hasn't been."



Demetrius Young had 8 points and 4 rebounds off the bench for the Seawolves.

Alex Berkman/SB Statesman

UFC 94 Battle of The Best Turns Into Beat Down

Georges St. Pierre Dominates BJ Penn



George St. Pierre (left) used his size, strength, and wrestling advantage to batter lightweight champions BJ Penn in the main event at UFC 94.

Media credit: The Canadian Press

BY GENE MORRIS
Sports Editor

There comes a time when the hype of a matchup out does the competition itself. No matter how hard both sides battle, it can't be as great as it's "supposed" to be.

Don't tell that to Georges St. Pierre, who showed up at the MGM Grand on Saturday night ready to go.

The Georges St. Pierre-BJ Penn fight was the biggest, most hyped fight in the history of the Ultimate Fighting Championship. It was the first time two current champions fought inside the octagon.

St. Pierre blocked out all that hype, along with all of Penn's trash talking and did what he does best.

"I don't trash talk my opponent," St. Pierre said in an interview on UFC.com after the fight. "I do my talking inside the octagon, that's what I do," he said.

In the first round both fighters felt each other out, and St. Pierre won a close fought round 10-9.

Early in the second St. Pierre finally scored the take down he was looking for. It was no surprise that St. Pierre, obviously the superior wrestler, would be able to put BJ on his back. But Penn, with his world class Ju-jitsu, was supposed to be able to not only negate GSP from his back, but also put up an offense. St. Pierre would have none of that.

Early on it was apparent that GSP would not be defeated. He pounded Penn over

the final 15 minutes, while easily passing the guard of the man considered the best Ju-jitsu fighter on the planet.

No matter Penn's defense, St. Pierre moved freely and easily, always improving on his position, and he eventually pounded Penn into submission.

"I knew I broke him mentally after the first round," St. Pierre said in the post fight press conference. "My game plan was to make the first and second round mostly a wrestling match. BJ Penn, when he comes out, he always comes out very strong because he has very good hand speed. I wanted to make him tired, carry my weight. He has very small and agile shoulders for speed, so all the blood would have gone in his shoulder. So by pushing me away, his hands would not be as fast as normally."

Penn, who called out St. Pierre before the fight for tapping out to strikes in a GSP loss to Matt Serra nearly two years ago, never gave up. But it was Penn's lead training partner and brother who advised the doctor that BJ would not be able to come out for a fifth and final round.

"He's a very tough guy, even at the end of the fourth round, I was trying to finish him, hard, hard," St. Pierre said. "I was surprised."

But Georges St. Pierre showed once and for all that he has that killer instinct.

"I really wanted to take him out," St. Pierre said in the Octagon after the fight. "I'm glad I did."

STATESMAN SPORTS

Men's Basketball Hangs on to Defeat UMBC 56-55

By GENE MORRIS
Sports Editor

Chris Martin went to the line with 18 seconds left in the game and a chance to put the Seawolves up by two. He calmly swished the first free throw through the net.

But the second hit the rim and fell off into the hands of UMBC's Justin Fry.

"I just rushed it," Martin said after the game.

The final 18 seconds dragged on after time outs by both teams and two intentional fouls by the Seawolves.

UMBC finally got their chance to win with five seconds left.

Matt Spadafora drove the lane and had a great look at the basket, but his bank shot was strong, and Tommy Brenton made sure there would be no tip-in after swatting the rebound away to end the game.

"We showed a lot of resiliency," Coach Steve Pikiell said. "When we lose games we're able to bounce back."

The win was big in terms of positioning in the conference, as the Seawolves are now alone in fifth place with their 4-5 America East record. But Coach Pikiell is not ready to worry about anything but the next game.

"Our program isn't in that place yet," he said. "University of Vermont, they can talk about seeding and looking ahead, but not us."

UMBC, playing with a short bench, did not tire out at the end of the game. They were able to tie the game at 55 after trailing 55-50 with 3:42 left in the game.

Offensively the Seawolves were again led by Muhammad El-Amin, who had a team high 15 points on 6-14 shooting.

Brian Dougher, the team's second leading scorer on the season, took only two shots in the game, hitting one and scoring only two points.

"Guys are really guarding Dougher, he doesn't get a lot of open looks," Pikiell said. "He's got to learn different ways of getting open, but we really wanted to throw the ball inside today. That was our advantage in today's game."

Martin contributed 11 points of the bench, and again was the catalyst in crunch time.

"We're never going to blow a team out in this league, never going win by 20," he said. "Every defensive stop is a grind out. We just have to keep grinding."

Martin also added three assists, two rebounds and a steal in his 23 minutes of playing time.

Alex Berkman / SB Statesman

Continued on page 11