

THE STATESMAN



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OPINION

New Semester, New Politics, New Commentary

2009 will bring many changes. The United States, and the world, are getting into the swing of the new millennium, which promises to be a time of technological innovation, social and economic advancement, reformation of old cultural heritage, and the unleashing of the competitive forces of globalization.

>> page 6

The Truth About Gaza

When viewed in the correct historical context, Israel does not ultimately hold moral responsibility for the many deaths, both civilian and fighters, inside Gaza during the latest incursion. The history of the conflict shows, going back to the time just preceding the establishment of Israel in 1948, shows that Israel has been fighting virtually the same foe in all this time: Arab and Muslim extremism. There are two basic historical points that need to be remembered.

>> page 6

Now What?

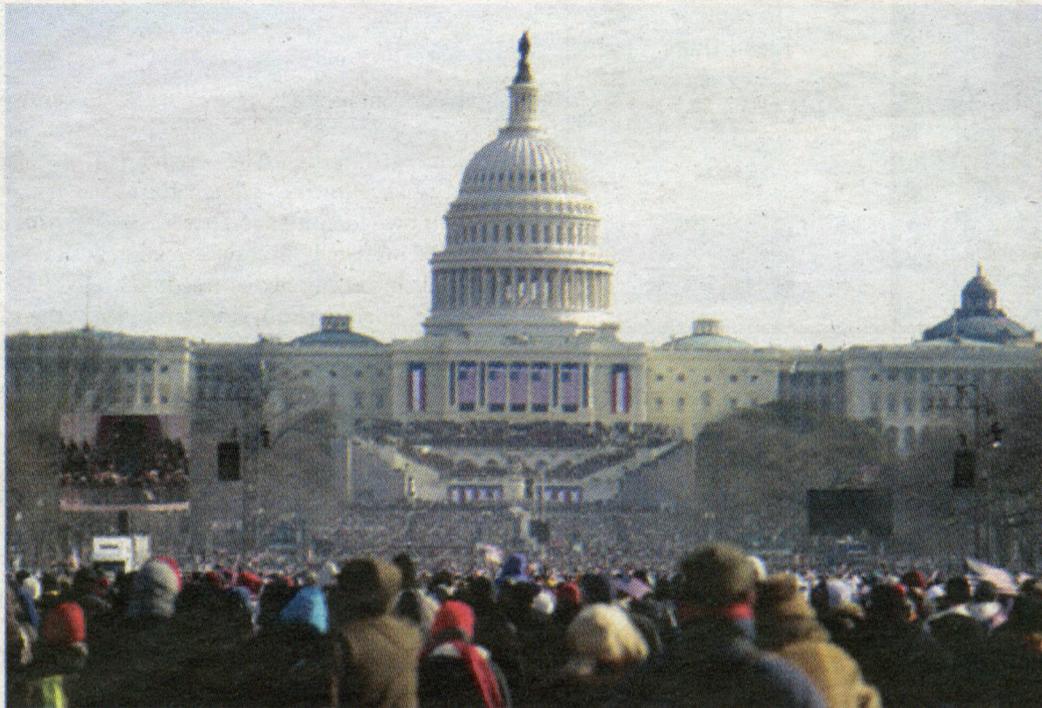
Now that all the pomp and circumstance is over, the time has come to really start realizing what the Obama administration's first year in office will be like.

>> page 7

Settling For Obama

I did not want Obama in office. I mean sure, I voted for him. But, I wanted Hillary. I know, sour grapes, let it go. But, I just did not trust the man, everyone said he was charismatic, appealing, a breath of fresh air. I didn't see it.

>> page 11



Nick Gingold - The GW Hatchet/UWIRE

Americans from across the country migrated to Washington, D.C. to witness the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

For Stony Brook Mom, Giving Up is Not an Option

By BRADLEY DONALDSON
Managing Editor

Jennifer Portnoy loves her son Javier Romero, a four-year-old boy she may very well outlive.

Before Javier was born, Portnoy said she was full of hope. "Just like anyone pregnant for the first time," she said. She imagined where he would go to school -- "He'd go to Harvard or something," she said -- and to whom he would get married. Later in life, he would become an actor. It made sense, "with the name Javier," she explained.

Portnoy doesn't have those dreams anymore. If she does think of things like that, like being a grandmother, it's only in the context of Javier's fatal illness.

At the age of one, Javier was diagnosed with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a rare genetic disease characterized by rapid muscle degeneration.

Those with the disease usually die in their teens or early 20s because of heart and respiratory complications, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. By then, most children are already

confined to wheelchairs, unable to walk because of their deteriorated muscles.

When Javier was diagnosed, Portnoy was devastated, and her husband, Rich Romero, was in denial. But as she moped around, she realized that her behavior would not help her son.

With the help of her family, Portnoy rebounded and now devotes countless hours to researching Duchenne and assisting her son. It's stressful, she said, but she has to stay busy.

Portnoy, 36, is determined to defy the odds. She's trying to keep her son alive and as healthy as possible in a country where Duchenne affects a tiny portion of the population -- about 20,000 newborns each year, according to Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy, an organization focused on Duchenne. That's about 0.4 percent of the total births in the United States.

The disease is rare, yet it is the most common fatal genetic disorder among children. To date, Duchenne has no cure.

"It was like being given a death sentence for your child,"

Continued on page 3

Some Female Students Give Derogatory Terms New Meaning

By MAUREEN AHMED
Contributing Writer

Recently, female students at Stony Brook University and other campuses nationwide have adopted the custom of transforming slurs and derogatory terms for women into terms of endearment for one another.

"I love you, bitch!" and "I love you, slut!" are increasingly flung around campus between college women. They can be heard in conversation, read in BlackBerry texts thumbed in secret beneath classroom desks, posted on Facebook walls and even shouted in passing. Many female students are now displaying a growing affection for speech that was once taboo and degrading.

According to Ritch Calvin, a women's studies professor at Stony Brook University, the trend toward some young women accepting those words as legitimate forms of endearment is a symptom of "third-wave feminism."

Third-wave feminists -

Continued on page 2

Governor Paints Grim Outlook in State Address

By FRANK POSILICO
Staff Writer

The economy was the main focus of Gov. David Paterson's first "State of the State" address as both the country and the state of New York face troublesome times.

"The state of our state is perilous," Paterson said. "New York faces a historic economic challenge, the gravest in nearly a century."

Paterson said that the extent of what is to come is still unclear but "we in government need the courage to balance our budget as well as our priorities."

Focal points of the speech included health care, for which the governor will propose a bill that would allow families to keep their children on health care until the age of 29 at their own cost. Under this plan parents would be able to claim dependents that are full-time students up until the age of 29.

Along with health care coverage, Paterson expressed his interest in a bill that would form the New York State Higher Education Loan Program. "[The program] will provide more than \$350 million in affordable loans to students who meet educational standards," Paterson said.

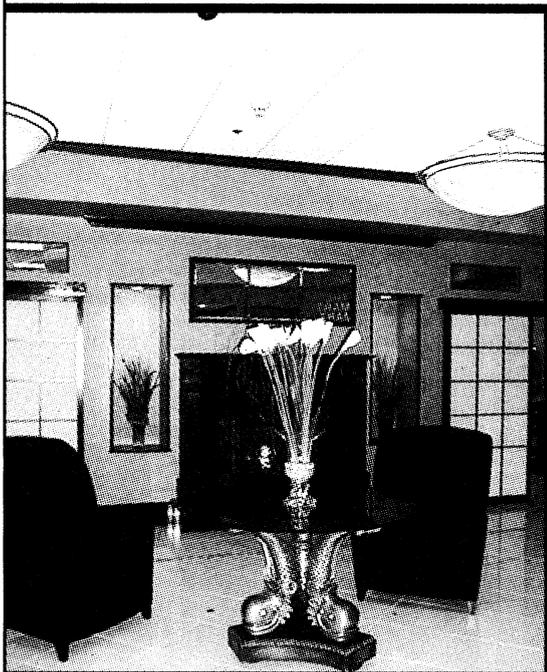
Of the many topics Gov. Paterson covered in his first State of the State address, the current cuts to the State University of New York (SUNY) system were not included.

Since before the fall semester, significant cuts have been made to SUNY. At first SUNY's budget was cut by \$210 million, followed by yet another cut of \$65 million.

Moreover, according to a report recently released by the Fiscal Policy Institute, the SUNY system does not receive enough state aid. This is more crucial now because of the rise in the number of students both enrolling and be-

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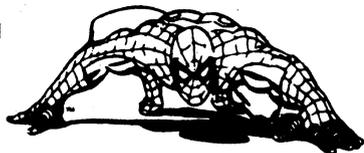
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Some Female Students Give Derogatory Terms New Meaning

Continued from page 1

which emerged in the 1990s -- redefined femininity by allowing women to integrate their own identities and perceptions into what feminism is all about- freedoms of all kinds including sexual freedom.

A major goal for third-wave feminists was to reclaim their own sexuality. "Before the movement, femininity still called for a woman to be non-sexual," Calvin said. "This reinforced gender roles already set by society."

According to Calvin women generally avoided public acknowledgement of their sexuality before third-wave feminism. Sexual freedom may mean more willingness to express opinions but members of Stony Brook's Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance say the use of derogatory words goes too far.

"The society is turning towards superficiality," said Maria Castillo, 21, a biology major. "We're making sex less of an emotional thing. It's more like capitalism on sexuality -- sex without meaning, sex without love, or for that matter, any kind of emotional attachment."

Castillo also thinks such vocabulary creates a lose/lose situation for women.

"The term slut, along with its colorful synonyms, puts false pillars on sexual liberalization," she said. "Women are supposedly liberated because they can have more empty sexual encounters. Yet society looks down upon that. I think this is dangerous because it objectifies women's sexuality even further."

But where does this leave the men? What happens when a male student sneaks one of these words into their lexicon?

Jeanie Romero, 24, a psychology major and Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance member, said the reaction could get ugly.

"This is a girl's club," she cautioned. "Us girls can use them as terms of endearment because its our 'club.' If a guy calls you a ho, it can't be seen as a term of endearment because he's not in our 'club.'"

Serge Petrosian, 19, an economics major and a male member of the Stony Brook Swim Team, finds this hypocritical. "When women call each other such names, it makes us think that it's okay to call them that as well," Petrosian said. "It's not out of the blue for me to address my close female friends with a 'slut.' They take it just as if one of their girlfriends used it."

Recently, Petrosian witnessed a changing tide when men encounter female acquaintances. "Women suddenly get offended when men who aren't friends with them use them," he said. "I'm thinking, if you call each other that, then why

are you getting mad at us men for using them as well"

Janice Lorenzana, 24, a women's studies major and Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance member, said it's wrong for anyone to use those words.

"No matter who uses it, it reinforces the idea that women are sexual beings-- they have one purpose and that's sex," Lorenzana said. "It's all people care about. We have to have our sexual behavior displayed on our sleeves."

Some use the words to help discredit the negative images they conjure. "When I use 'bitch' or 'slut,' it's my way of brushing off the stigmas that are placed on us as women," said Diandra Rodriguez, 20 a double major in psychology and sociology and the president of the Latin American Student Organization.

Rodriguez described one example of how many women from Latino backgrounds deal with the advent of sexist slurs.

"As a Latina in my third year of college, I can assure you that Latina women especially know how it feels to be stigmatized for the way they look, dress, behave, and even speak," she said. "Sometimes it feels like you can't even breathe a certain way without being called a slut."

Rodriguez uses these words to fight back. "We're empowering ourselves by stripping the power these words have over us," she added. "It's the use of these terms as put-downs that keeps us from progressing at a faster rate."

Popular networking sites such as Facebook have made these put-downs more popular

"These sites are probably the place where these terms are evident, both as a form of endearment and as a derogatory slur," Rodriguez said. "It's not uncommon for me to leave my best friend a comment on her Facebook like 'Hey ho,' but it's also not uncommon for me to open my honesty box and find 'You're a slut' eagerly waiting there for me."

Websites such as juicycampus.com, comprised entirely of gossip posted by anonymous students, are filled with posts on topics like, "Who's the biggest ho on campus?" or "You won't believe who this slut had sex with!"

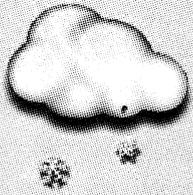
"Sites like Juicy Campus are famous for the way they degrade women and men," said Rodriguez. "Many people on this site, including myself, have been called a slut; ho, skank, etc. because it's suspected they slept with someone."

But since sites such as Juicy Campus allow users to sign in, anyone could become a target for this particular form of endearment.

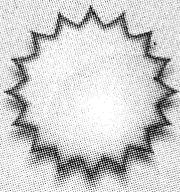
"I guess that'll mean we're all hoes," Rodriguez laughed.

Student Forecast

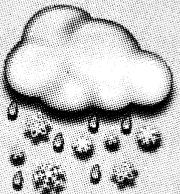
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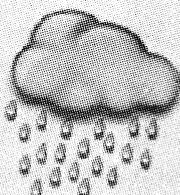
Monday:
High: 30°F
Low: 19°F
Scattered flurries.



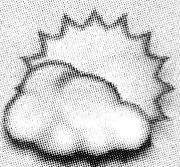
Tuesday:
High: 30°F
Low: 21°F
Mostly sunny.



Wednesday:
High: 35°F
Low: 27°F
Mix of rain and snow.



Thursday:
High: 36°F
Low: 26°F
Showers.



Friday:
High: 36°F
Low: 23°F
Partly cloudy.

From weather.com

Governor Paints Grim Outlook In State of the State Address

Continued from page 1

ing accepted to state colleges.

Since the 1991-1992 school year, state aid has dropped five percent at four-year SUNY colleges, while also declining by 14 percent at SUNY community colleges.

The \$65 million cut has more recently risen to \$140 million. These cuts have been offset by the recent tuition increase by \$75 million.

"The picture is not real bright," Dan Melucci, associate vice president for strategy, planning and analysis said. "It's hard to be optimistic."

The cuts have pushed both the SUNY Board of Trustees and the Stony Brook University administra-

tion to take action.

In the fall, University President Shirley Strum Kenny enacted a hiring freeze so the campus would not have to lay off many staff and so overall payroll would not decline. The freeze was lifted in December.

"Everybody is struggling to meet reduced budgets," said Melucci. If a vacancy opens in a department, the department needs to get the position approved before it can be filled.

In December, to help ease the budget, the SUNY Board of Trustees agreed to raise tuition with in-state undergraduate tuition from \$4,350 to \$4,970, starting with a \$310 rise in the spring and another \$310 for the fall 2009. Out-of-state undergraduates' tuition was set at

\$13,620, increasing from \$10,610.

"We are worried about the tuition increase because of the effect on students," Melucci said, who personally favors a rational tuition policy, which would have modest percentage increases over time.

This concept has been on the table for a long time and has come up every budget year for the last five years. According to Melucci, however, he does not see this plan succeeding.

Currently Stony Brook's budget woes have not had a major effect on the academic sector.

"We have to stand by our position of doing everything we can to protect the academic sector," said Mr. Melucci. "We don't want to make it more difficult to gradu-

ate."

So far no major cuts have been made to academics besides a very few courses that had low enrollment being dropped.

"As soon as you start cutting full-time faculty, which means you can't bring in as many students, which means you don't bring in as much tuition and can't get as much tax money and all of a sudden you are going on a downward spiral," Melucci said. "We are intent on not having that happen and are looking at generating revenues through some other programs and will have some success there."

As President Barack Obama said in his inauguration address, the nation is in trouble and SUNY is, as well.

For Stony Brook Mom, Giving Up is Not an Option

Continued from page 1

Portnoy murmured, referring to Javier's diagnosis. He was talking with his father in the other room. "You want it to happen to yourself, you know. You wanna fix everything, but this is unfixable."

It took a year for doctors to find out why Javier's blood looked abnormal, and when they did, Portnoy said she tumbled into depression. She described nights when she would lie in bed, in the dark, and cry.

"I couldn't get out of bed. I felt completely drained," she said. "I just stopped hoping."

Javier's shortcomings were obvious, Portnoy said. "I'd pick him up from school, before he even knows I'm there, and watch him play with his friends," she said. "He can't jump, yet it's something so simple."

Javier used to attend physical therapy at St. James hospital, but it was difficult for Portnoy. "A lot of the kids there would get better and not need it anymore," she said. "But I knew he was not getting any better."

Now Javier does physical therapy at his preschool because it's more convenient.

Portnoy's family could see she was in pain the first year, and they intervened.

"We could constantly be there for her," said Anastasia Pornoy, her sister. Anastasia said the family told Portnoy over and over, "You're not doing it alone. You're not gonna go to pieces, and Javier needs you."

Since then, Portnoy has done, and is doing, a lot to help her son. "I realized while I'm crying about this, he's still alive," she said.

Shortly after, Portnoy formed

Hope for Javier to "fund the science that will save Javier's life," she said. The proceeds will go to research that will help find treatments for Javier.

She spends at least six hours every day working on the charity, maintaining the website, replying to donors personally, researching

He already wears leg braces to keep his heel chord stretched, but wakes up at night because of leg pains. He can't sit up entirely by himself, either.

Still, they try to carry him out to do things that "normal" children do. During the summer they went to the beach almost

"She's really running this circus, so my job is to help this along," Rich said. "She's so busy sometimes that he needs someone to hang out with."

"It stresses me out a lot, but I have to be busy," Portnoy said. "I take on more than I can do, but I've learned to ask for help."

Portnoy's sister helps out with the charity, and they don't hire any assistants to make sure all donations go straight to charity. They've collected about \$250,000.

"I need to be able to look him into the eye at the end of the day and say I did everything I could," Portnoy said.

The only regret she said she had was criticizing Javier before his diagnosis. "I was like, 'Hurry up. Come on. Get up the stairs already,'" she said. "I was always frustrated like, 'Why can't he just do this?' But I have no other regrets."

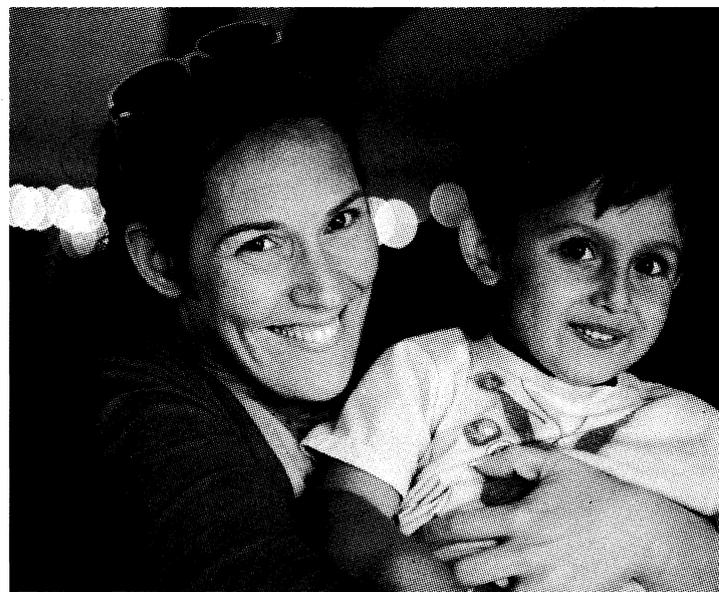
"If you regret something it means you could have done something differently," she continued. "Maybe regrets will come later."

"She's a lovely mom," Furlong said. "She's the type of person where a child can lay in her lap and feel loved."

As far as Javier's knowledge of his own disease goes, he only knows that he has "special muscles," Portnoy said.

"We have a policy of honesty. I wouldn't keep anything from him." But at the same time, the couple hasn't sat Javier down and told him. "One day I will have to tell him."

"I just look at him, even when he's being a wicked toddler," she said. "But this is it. This is today."



Media Credit: Jennifer Portnoy

Portnoy with her son Javier

new treatment breakthroughs and contacting other families with children with Duchenne.

Getting Javier into a clinical trial is Portnoy's ultimate goal. The trials would give researchers the opportunity to collect data for new drugs that could help slow Javier's disease. Javier has a special mutation of Duchenne, however, so his current clinical trial options shrink to zero. Portnoy, however, is hopeful.

"If I don't get Javier into a clinical trial, that's the end of it," she said. "We want to invest in things to buy him more time."

Every day Portnoy and her husband give Javier his daily medicine doses and stretch him.

every day, and they go to the city often to play in Central Park.

"I'm really just trying to enjoy each day that I have with him than mourning the days I won't."

"There are people like Jen who get the diagnosis and say, 'I'm a fighter,'" said Pat Furlong, president and CEO of Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy, who lost two children to the disease. "We don't have a choice, we can't give up."

Portnoy occupies herself constantly with charity and research duties that sometimes takes away from her time with Javier, but when that happens, Rich is there for him.

The New Heritage Inn

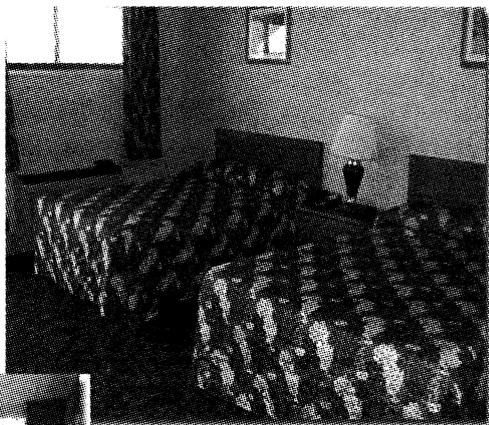
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STALLER CENTER : CLASSICAL MUSIC

Discovering Nikolay Roslavets with Kostov and Valkov

BY NADER NOURAEI
Contributing Writer

The timelessness of music is becoming more apparent with each new generation of musicians. Rediscovering music of the past seems to be an interest that many composers and performers hold strongly. Forgotten pieces of music that are nearly a century old are being researched and played with a renewed passion by some of the world's most talented and respected musicians.

Two such musicians are pianist Viktor Valkov and cellist Lachezar Kostov, who have separately performed in recitals and competitions across Europe, Japan, and the United States. Their most recent project has been researching and performing the music of Soviet modernist composer and sound organization innovator, Nikolay Roslavets.

Last October, the musicians collaborated on a small concert performance in the Choral Hall of the Staller Center.



Media Credit: Google Images

Nikolay (also spelled Nikolai) Andreyevich Roslavets, an avant-garde composer, lived from 1880 to 1944.

They were kind enough to participate in an interview. Kostov discussed his and Valkov's musical backgrounds, as well as the controversial life and works of the composer whose work they have recently dedicated themselves to.

Both from Bulgaria, Kostov and Valkov started professionally collaborating on works composed for the piano and cello in 2000. They have each

received numerous awards and critical acclaim for their performances. Valkov, described by critics as "sensational" and "lion of the keyboard," has won several impressive prizes at international piano competitions in Bulgaria, Germany, and England. He has also given recitals in Bulgaria, Macedonia, Greece, Italy, Germany, Japan and the United States, and received a full scholarship to the 8th Hamamastu Piano Academy after completing an extensive Japanese tour in 2002.

Kostov made his orchestral debut at age 15 and, as a guest soloist and chamber musician, has performed extensively across Europe. In 1999, he played as a soloist for the European tour of the "Dobrin Petkov" Chamber Orchestra

in Germany, Belgium, and France, and has appeared as a guest soloist and recitalist in the United States, Japan, Italy, the United Kingdom and Bulgaria. Recently he has collaborated with prominent composers, including John

Harbison, Ellen Taaffe Zwilich, and Harvey Sollberger, through a residency at the Tanglewood Music Center. He is currently pursuing his Artist Diploma at The Yale School of Music.

Their appreciation for Nikolay Roslavets' work is in-

leftist art there after 1917.

Roslavets was often attacked by proletarian musicians for being "counterrevolutionary," a "bourgeois" artist, and an enemy of the proletarian class as a result of his criticisms of

inappropriate identifications of music with ideology. He was later accused of supporting propagandist music and counterrevolutionary literature. His works were purged in what became a professional prohibition. He published one last song before suffering a fatal stroke in 1944. Though Roslavets was buried in an unmarked grave and many of his works are believed to be lost, many of his unknown manuscripts have recently been found and continue to be discovered.

A concert followed the interview, where the duo played several of Roslavets' pieces composed for piano and cello. From the start of the recital, I was impressed with the pro-

fessionalism with which the two musicians regarded their performance. It was not only evident through Roslavets' composition, but by Kostov and Valkov's interpretations, that the piano and the cello are capable of achieving an incredible harmony.

The arrangement of the pieces alone was mesmerizing and beautifully volatile. The music was soft and flowing at one moment and then suddenly, clashing and unsettling the next, as I recall from hearing "Dance of the White Maidens," which was performed along with "2 Sonatas" and "Meditation."

The duo has a certain chemistry that works wonderfully, which is a strong testament to the years Kostov and Valkov have spent bonding and collaborating. Their skills as musicians are remarkable. It was clear that they are dedicated to their work. In person, they were also both very charming and welcoming.

After their performance, they worked on recording the whole program in New York City for the prestigious NAXOS label. It was recorded in only two days, according to Valkov. Look for their album of these rare recordings of this once-forgotten Russian composer. It will be in stores by March.



Media Credit: Sarah Katz

Lachezar Kostov, left, and Viktor Valkov, right, performed at the Staller Center in October, showcasing Nikolay Roslavets' classical compositions.

teresting, as they have focused on exposing the life and music of the controversial composer to audiences in this country. A skilled musician of Ukrainian descent, Roslavets worked for most of his life in Soviet Russia, becoming a prominent figure of

MOVIES

HEELING THE LOVE

BY SAMANTHA BURKHARDT
Contributing Writer

Sold as a "clearance" puppy because of his rambunctious behavior, kicked out of obedience school because he follows the beat of his own drum, and almost kicked out of his home for never following the rules, Marley the dog, is certainly a handful. Based on John Grogan's book "Marley and Me," the movie of the same title, illustrates the strength behind the bond between a dog and person, especially during tough times.

Owen Wilson plays the ambitious reporter John Grogan, who is hesitant about having kids with his wife Jennifer, portrayed by Jennifer Aniston, and decides a dog would be the best gift as an early birthday present to take her mind off of things. Little does he know what a big responsibility he is taking on.

Marley's first night in his new home proves what a lit

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BOOKS

"The Spoken Words of Spirit"

By JOSEPH LABRIOLA
Columnist



Media Credit: jimfargiano.com

The Spoken Words of Spirit: Lessons From The Other Side

By Jim Fargiano
212 pp. Outskirts Press.

"Freedom and peace can be achieved only when oppressors turn blind

towards the ignorance of their own philosophies and open their hearts to sensible freedom and peace for all. Sometimes, they need help seeing this. Are you prepared to teach them?" This quote, from "The Spoken Words of Spirit" by Jim Fargiano, essentially sums up the underlining

message of his book: How can you make this world a better place for you and your children?

Fargiano is more than just a spiritual author. He is a psychic medium. His first book, published last year, offers a thoughtful look into the world of the metaphysical being. He offers explanations on an assortment of messages that he has collected over the years from the spiritual side. His text does not try to convert readers, but seeks to affirm the hints and whispers that we all experience in our daily lives. It is a book about believing in what we already know.

There is quite a shocking cast in "The Spoken Words of Spirit," including everyone from Saint Paul to Leonardo Da Vinci, to One Feather. Each spirit comes across with an identifiably distinct voice. The last member on Fargiano's list has a particularly philosophical impact on the book's theme, relating past life experi-

ences to relevant teachings. To many, this might sound strange, ridiculous, or even intriguing. If you approach this read with an open mind, you might find that the lessons conveyed in these messages are more important than the spirits who are orating them.

Fargiano's style and tone is somewhat literary, but it does not conform to a standard format. There is an interweaving story which does more teaching than developing an actual plot. His writing evokes a sense that the great biblical authors of the past have been resurrected. If they were around today, this is the kind of book they might write.

At some points, his story almost reads like a self-help book. This is not necessarily a bad thing for his genuine concern about taking control of one's destiny is a respectable goal. He consistently reminds us that our abilities are only limited by our own self-construed confines over the

years. We must learn to break free of these binds and embrace a higher existence.

There are many themes layered in each message, but at its roots, the book is about taking action, accepting responsibility for what you do, and embracing positive change with an open mind. It is your mind, after all, that often bars us from truly and honestly connecting to our spiritual existence. More than anything, life, according to Fargiano, is about having the right mindset in all endeavors in your life.

If you want to believe in messages from the higher power, then this is the book for you. If you are a skeptic, then you can still find value in the lessons of positive thinking and general goodwill. Fargiano believes that we are the masters of our lives. We often attribute our ills and successes to fate or fortune, but these outcomes are ultimately connected to our wills and what we make out of what we have been given.

INTERVIEWS

An Interview With Pandora's Westergren

By DENISE DEGENNARO
Staff Writer

Internet radio has been gaining popularity quickly, especially among college students who spend so much time in front of a computer screen. Whether you are working on that first paper of the semester or checking Facebook, it is nice to have some tunes in the background. Customizable Internet radio stations like Pandora, Slacker Radio and last.fm provide a sometimes-needed change from the iTunes shuffle, and is usually free - and free is always attractive to students.

A major player in the Internet radio world is Pandora - a free service that allows users to create a custom-tailored radio station. Users can type in an artist or song that they like to create a radio station that will play music similar to the artist or song that was initially entered.

"I can just put it on and listen to whatever I want and I get to discover new artists that I've never listened to before," stated freshman Tracy Calvacca. The station doesn't select these artists because they look alike, or are the same "genre." What track the custom station plays next is based on a comprehensive music analysis done by musicians with trained ears who know the basic musical components of a song.

Pandora is supported by advertisements that come in the form of banners as they would on any other website - not like commercials on a radio station. Pandora is available ad-free with a subscription, \$36 a year.

Free radio allows you the same

control of the station that a subscription does with the exception of a longer time-out period. What that means is that after one hour of no input from the listener, the station will stop. Subscribing will let you listen continuously without having to give input for five hours.

Input is considered skipping a song or clicking around on the page. Both free and subscription users can bookmark an artist or song, as well as purchase music on demand. Signing up for a free account on Pandora will let you save these settings and reference them later on any computer.

In addition to this, you can give a song thumbs up or thumbs down, or skip a song up to six times per station per day. Freshman Gillian Decker considers the limited skips a big flaw, along with the idea that "you can't really request a song."

According to Pandora.com, licensing agreements prevent users from being able to play a song on demand, or to fast forward or rewind songs. For the most part, however, when you type in an artist their song will usually come up first. If not, similar artists will play - and you may just discover great new music.

Pandora is a product of an extensive music-categorizing effort called the Music Genome Project. Created and developed by musician Tim Westergren, the project takes songs and breaks them down into their basic musical structure like the Human Genome Project breaks DNA down into genes.

I spoke with Westergren over the phone about how he came up with the idea for the Music Ge-

nome Project and eventually Pandora. Westergren, a piano player with a B.A. in computer acoustics and recording technology from Stanford University, was 34 when he began the project. A lover of a broad range of music (by broad I mean Beatles, Ben Folds, Dixie Chicks, Oster Peterson and everything from punk to bluegrass), Westergren had already worked extensively in the music world by this time.

Westergren spent 10 years as a "working musician" on the band scene. He saw how hard it was for a band to get "exposure and promotion." Some working bands and artists will play shows upon shows and do tours and tours with nothing gained at all. Pandora allows musicians to find an audience - and vice versa.

Finding an audience can help an unknown band to be put on the radar, or increase the turnout at gigs. Westergren also worked for years as a film composer. "I thought a lot about how music was constructed," he said.

Westergren wondered why people like certain music. He began to think about the "musicology" and how underlying components of songs could link one song to another. At first, he began to break down songs to their basic components as his own as a sort of side project. Soon after, Westergren started the Music Genome Project, what he called "a process of trial and error."

"We made a list from scratch and refined it little by little," he said. The list, literally written on a large white board, contained hundreds of the basic qualities of songs. He

called on musicians he knew and worked with them to expand the project. The more songs they classified and cataloged, the larger the company grew.

That was nine years ago. Today, according to Pandora.com, the company employs a team of 50 music analysts who catalog songs based on 400 different musical qualities. Westergren serves as the company's Chief Strategy Officer.

Pandora harnesses the power of the Music Genome Project and brings it to listeners in hopes of introducing them to new artists that fit their musical taste. When asked if musicians have seen any kind of increase in sales since becoming a part of Pandora, Westergren replied, "Oh yeah!"

"We haven't been responsible for making one artist's career, but we have heard feedback that Pandora has helped increase their sales," he said. Westergren also talked about how lesser known artists have had fans come up to them and say that they found them through Pandora. That was one of Westergren's goals in creating Pandora - to help those working musicians get publicity and exposure.

What does the future hold for Pandora? Westergren plans to have Pandora "continue growing, and fast." Currently, Pandora is available on the iPhone and a select number of AT&T, Sprint and Windows Mobile phones (free for the iPhone, but other phones come with extra cost).

Westergren hopes to expand Pandora's availability to include more mobile devices and even make Pandora available right in your car. Today, Pandora faces

challenges in the market from other free Internet radio stations like last.fm and Slacker Radio. Both boast the same customized stations that Pandora offers listeners. However, both stations work a little differently than Pandora.

Slacker is less about discovering new music and more about customizing your station to what you already like. It allows you to type in an artists or song, and to either take their suggestions and play the pre-selected artists on the station, or it allows you to customize your station manually.

Slacker comes up with a list of related artists and lets you refine the list to include only artists you want to hear. However, advertising comes in the form of audio rather than banners, like on a radio station in your car. You cannot skip the advertisements, which pop up in the middle of your music shuffle. A paid upgrade (\$3.99 a month), Slacker Radio Plus, offers ad-free listening as well as unlimited skips and song request.

Last.fm works more like a music social networking site. It allows you to create a profile with songs and artist you like, and links you to other people who share the same musical taste. You can comment about the music or share it you like with other people in the last.fm community.

Currently, Pandora is number one on the list of most popular free applications for the iPhone in the iTunes store. Slacker comes in at number five, while last.fm did not make the top 100. It really is more

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

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New Semester, New Politics, New Commentary

By ZACHARY KURTZ
Opinion Editor

2009 will bring many changes. The United States, and the world, are getting into the swing of the new millennium, which promises to be a time of technological innovation, social and economic advancement, reformation of old cultural heritage, and the unleashing of the competitive forces of globalization.

The world has, much like in the spirit of the past century, accepted American political leadership as the moral model. The manner in which the new executive, legislative, and judicial administrations conduct themselves, however, will largely determine whether this trend continues into the future. During this time of economic crisis, the world will be watching America very closely. Will we be able to maintain the economic superiority that we have enjoyed in the past? Will America continue to dominate entrepreneurship and technical innovation in an increasingly

competitive, non-hierarchical world?

This is a crucial period in our history because the world has two options: accept or reject the American example of governance, guaranteeing personal and economic freedoms and minimizing the scope of government. These vested values have largely endured the test of time, withstanding: fascist, communist, and now, terrorist foes.

Somewhere along the line, however, when we began adopting ideas from our political adversaries under the presumption of security, be it physical or economical, the chemistry of our country has changed. Even within the confines of constitutional law, the scale of government in our lives is completely different than what our founding fathers intended. Politicians, who can stay in power too long and too easily, dictate all aspects of our economic, social, and professional lives in ways most of us don't even realize.

It's always easier to point out a problem than to propose a solution. While I look at the world through my own lens, and declare that it would be a better place if only we could eliminate inefficient central planning, someone else may come to the opposite conclusion despite the fact that we are looking at the same picture. As a writer, it is my goal to sway popular opinion, but as an editor I seek to censor the ideas of none; the only caveat being that they are logically defensible, intellectually honest, and minimally offensive.

Only time will tell the total effects of President Barack Obama's decisions, actions, and policies. As president, he will be receiving, filtering, and choosing to act on information from many different sources and he will be getting advice from many places and people with conflicting interests. While I may disagree with most of the decisions he will make, I can appreciate the enormity of the task laid out before him

and the lofty expectations of his supporters.

My goal this scholastic semester and new year is to challenge the president's conceptions about the effectiveness of government planning and spending, encourage the return of competitive free markets to produce economic growth, question the effectiveness of maintaining a large military overseas, and convince readers that the economic recession will not be improved by further government intervention.

I invite all readers and writers, in turn, to challenge my own beliefs by penning letters and articles to share your own ideas, which are as important as my own. Whether you agree with me, or another author, we would love to hear from you. If you disagree, it is even more important that we hear from you.

After all, what is the point of having an opinion if you don't share it with the masses?

OPINION

The Truth About Gaza

By JOSH GLAZER
Contributing Writer

When viewed in the correct historical context, Israel does not ultimately hold moral responsibility for the many deaths, both civilian and fighters, inside Gaza during the latest incursion. The history of the conflict shows, going back to the time just preceding the establishment of Israel in 1948, shows that Israel has been

fighting virtually the same foe in all this time: Arab and Muslim extremism. There are two basic historical points that need to be remembered.

The Arab parties to the conflict have never considered negotiation as an option. After the U.N. vote on Nov. 29, 1947, in support of a plan to partition the then-territory of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states with an international zone in Jerusalem, the Arab nations

refused the partition plan and instead intended to massacre the Jewish inhabitants. "This will be a war of extermination and a momentous massacre," Azzam Pasha, secretary-general of the Arab League, said on the radio.

Supporters of a Jewish state in Palestine were eager to accept any U.N. proposal that mandated a Jewish state and were open to negotiating for a final settlement. However, in response to murderous raids

on Jewish towns and the gathering together of several Arab armies on their non-secured borders, the pre-Israeli forces united the various Jewish enclaves in preparation for the outbreak of war, which began on May 15, 1948.

Afterwards, the Arab nations refused to consider the 1950 U.N. plan for re-settlement without discussion, as well as any other plan over

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The Gaza Strip

Media Credit: NY Times

Guidelines for Opinion Submission

Letters to the editor or op-ed contributions can be submitted by e-mail at Op-Ed@sbstatesman.org, on our online submission tool at www.sbstatesman.org, by hand at our office in the Student Union Rm 057, or by mailing it to us at the address in the left column. They must be received at least two days before the next printed issue. The Statesman reserves the right to edit or not print any letter based on appropriateness, length, timeliness, or other reasons at the discretion of the editorial board. Letters should be no longer than 350 words, and opinion pieces should not exceed 550 words. Please include your full name (which we may withhold if you request it), phone number and email address for verification. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses will not be printed. Letters submitted anonymously or under false names will not be considered for publication.

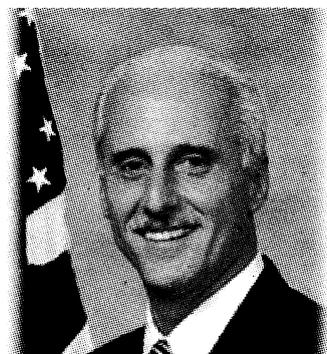
Brookhaven's Special Election

BY AMY ELLIS
Contributing Writer

It was the power of people that won this past election for President Barack Obama. Millions of unified voices were able to demand the change they needed through committed campaigning. Brookhaven Town residents must not forget that there is another election in just two months that is equally important as this most recent and historic national race.

With Brian Foley headed to the State Senate, the residents of Brookhaven are left to fill his position of Town Supervisor. This special election is set for Mar. 31. Both parties have picked their candidates: Tim Mazzei (R) and Mark Lesko (D). Tim Mazzei has been a councilman for council district 5 for the past five and a half years. He is a practicing attorney and resides in Bayport. Mark Lesko was a federal prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney, and is a staunch advocate for the environment and ending corruption in Brookhaven.

Throughout his tenure, Brian Foley had enacted many reforms to improve the quality of life for all Long Islanders. He ended no-bid insurance contracts for political bosses and opened up access to local government through the 451-TOWN information system. Foley also instituted reforms, creating the lowest town tax rate in Suffolk County while achieving the highest bond rating in Brookhaven's history. Now that there is an election about two months away, we need someone to fill his position who will continue the reforms Foley



Tim Mazzei -- Media credit: Brookhaven.org

started.

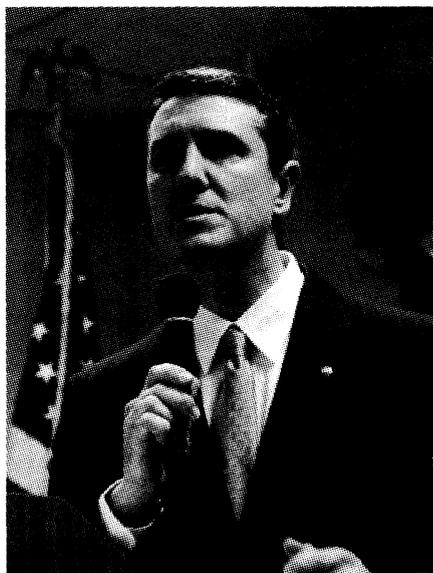
Being a federal prosecutor for over 10 years, Lesko fought cases very dear to the people of Brookhaven. In the Lawrence Aviation case, Lesko led the prosecution against the illegal dumping of toxins that contaminated the local drinking water in Port Jefferson Station. Lesko also led in the Muttontown "slave" case in which two immigrants were enslaved and worked against their wills. As far as fighting corruption, he headed the prosecution over the fraud at Symbol Technologies involving corruption of the company's senior management. Lesko also oversaw federal prosecution of the "Asphalt Cartel" case in which the owners of major asphalt companies in Suffolk County conspired to rig bids.

"Who better than a Federal prosecutor

to fight corruption, continue our reforms and make sure things never go back to the way they were?" Foley said.

It is so important to vote and to help spread the word about local elections because these contests end up having the most impact on our quality of life here in Brookhaven. My advice for you is to research both of the candidates, find out when debates and other events are, and determine for yourself who is the candidate that deserves your vote. Whatever your choice, just remember to mark your calendar for Mar. 31. It's not called a "special election" for nothing.

If you are interested in helping at all with this campaign, please call the Brookhaven Democratic Committee at 689-7315.



Mark Lesko -- MediaCredit: LeskoForSupervisor.com

Now What?

BY JOSEPH LABRIOLA
Columnist

Now that all the pomp and circumstance is over, the time has come to really start realizing what the Obama administration's first year in office will be like. There are a slew of monumental issues on the table that demand immediate action by the incoming president. An economic crisis, two wars, a planet in peril -- we all know the stump speech pledges. Bush is out and Obama is in. So how exactly will his campaign promises unfold?

Some say that Obama has dug himself a hole. Many of his proposals were originally outlined prior to the deep economic downturn seen in the early fall months of last year. He has tried to take this financial disaster in stride but even he admits that some of his bolder plans will have to be deferred until the current crisis is alleviated.

The truth of the matter is that not everyone is going to be happy. Some liberals, especially within the gay community, have already grown soured by Obama's choice of Rick

Warren, who delivered the invocation at the inauguration. For those who saw this pick of an anti-gay pastor as alienating, others believe it to be Obama simply fulfilling his loudest touted campaign commitment of ending bipartisanship and working with those who he ardently disagrees with.

With Obama now in the Oval Office it will be interesting to see how his first 100 days unfold. From his inauguration speech all the way through the ten balls he attended later that night, he never hesitated to reaffirm that his fresh approach and broad perspective were going to bring Washington together to get things done. So what can we expect to see actually change in his first few months?

He has already ordered that Guantanamo cases be halted for 120 days. This is just one of his campaign promises that people are expecting him to follow through on. The fact that he is acting so early on such a deeply divisive national security issue does not make his

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Barack Obama and family at the Inauguration -- MediaCredit: Boston.com

Paterson's Appointment

BY ZACHARY KURTZ
Opinion Editor

When Caroline Kennedy's name floated to the top of the rumor mill of Governor Paterson's potential appointee list, it became immediately obvious that the governor by de-

fault is not above strategic political maneuvering. No doubt he wanted to satisfy as many special interest groups as possible to smooth the way for his first official run at the governor's office.

The strong feminist wing of the New York Democrat party wanted

a female replacement. The elitist crowd wanted a celebrity. However, what the voters didn't want was a senator with no experience sitting in the nation's capital. Indeed, Kennedy was relying on her family name alone to secure her run.

What may shock some voters, but please others, is who Paterson did appoint. Upstate congresswoman, Kirsten Gillibrand, slipped by the media hullabaloo, vying for the spot in secret. For Paterson, it was a good political move for New York Democrats.

Gillibrand is a self-professed Conservative Democrat -- yeah, I bet you didn't think they existed anymore, either -- and is quite popular in her district. Both Gillibrand and Paterson will have to run for reelection in 2010 and are hoping for the support of conservative voters of upstate New York. They'll have beat out popular liberal contenders,

like Rep. Carlyn McCarthy who is already speculating on a Senate run, and former Presidential front-runner and ex-NYC mayor Rudy Guiliani, who could be interested in either position.

Gillibrand will be a friend to fiscal conservatism, as a member of the majority party in the Senate from an influential state. She opposed the corporate rescue plans while in the Congress, which would prop up failing banks with public funds. She has voted to support tax cuts, favoring the reduction of government spending via tax credits. She has expressed her support for mandating a balanced annual Federal budget, which would prevent fiscal stimulus packages that would raise the national debt. She has the endorsement of the NRA, as a protector of gun rights.

While Gillibrand clearly has the intent to minimize government as

much as possible, her record hasn't been perfect. She supported the auto bailout bill, seemingly hypocritical to her fiscal conservative stance. She has angered fellow Democrats on her stance on illegal immigration, she clashed with Spitzer's proposal to grant driver's licenses to illegal immigrants and, worst of all, supports making English the language de jure of the United States.

Like libertarian Republicans, conservative Democrats are all but a dying breed in the new "Washington consensus" of deficit spending and printing money to find economic stimulus. Paterson himself, has tended towards fiscal conservatism during times of economic crises, so his Senate pick makes sense. Hopefully Gillibrand can band together with the other sane voices on Capitol Hill, urging restraint during a time which her contemporaries are preaching economic gluttony.



Kirsten Gillibrand with David Paterson -- MediaCredit: Newsday.com

HEELING THE LOVE CONT'D

Continued from page 4

the devil dogs can be. He knocks down shelves, eats through drywall, and tears through anything in sight. John and Jennifer love him anyway. Marley is, after all, family, from the minute he was brought home.

John starts to feel overwhelmed over the next few years when Jen has her first child, and then a second... and then a third. He sits in his car a little longer every night when he comes home, says his house has become too small to fit everyone, realizes he doesn't have a life outside of his work and family, and he watches his best friend reach his dreams of working for The New York Times.

Jen isn't having an easy time, either. She stays home all day to take care of the kids and Marley. She has to leave her job even though she loves her work, in order to take care of her new responsibilities, and she never

gets enough sleep. Even through all their hard times, they stick together with love and support for one another.

Although John never really reaches his dreams of becoming a big time reporter, his columns about Marley and his life, as published in the South Florida Sun-Sentinel touched the lives of many people. Through his writings, he discovers how important Marley is and that he was the start of his family.

No matter how John's day went, Marley would always be there for him when he got home. "A dog doesn't care if you're rich or poor. You give him your heart and he'll give you his," John says at the end of the movie.

This movie is funny, unexpected, and a tear-jerker at the end. If you're an animal lover, in the mood for a laugh, or even if you're just thirsting for a good movie, look no further, because "Marley and Me" will appeal to you. It's a great movie to watch with your family and even good for a date night.

THIS CHRISTMAS, HEEL THE LOVE



Owen Wilson Jennifer Aniston
Marley & Me
LIFE AND LOVE WITH THE WORLD'S WORST DOG

Media Credit: Google Images

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Inauguration Impacts Universities' Schedules

By LAURA HOFFMAN -- Cavalier Daily UWIRE

The University of Virginia's decision to cancel classes from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 21 reflects a compromise between the challenge to continue regular course schedules and to allow participation in today's inauguration ceremonies. University of Virginia is not the only higher education institution facing these schedule challenges; some colleges and universities had to determine whether the inauguration would affect exam schedules.

At Harvard University, for example, a revised schedule of exams continued Jan. 20 despite some students' protests.

Harvard sophomore Jason Shah created an online petition and Facebook group "Petition for Make-Ups of Harvard College Exams on Inauguration Day 2009." The petition proposed to allow students to take exams the Sunday before the inauguration or offer students the opportunity to do alternative projects instead of a traditional in-class exam, Shah said.

Although about 600 people signed the online petition and almost 300 joined the Facebook group, Shah said the efforts were ultimately unsuccessful because administrative officials did not allow the requested alternatives.

Instead, exams originally scheduled to begin at 9:15 a.m. Jan. 20 would start at 8:30 a.m. Harvard students who have a three-hour exam in the morning will be able to watch the noon swearing-in

ceremony, said Robert Mitchell, Harvard director of communications for the Faculty of Arts and Sciences.

The slight schedule change, however, did not satisfy Shah.

"It's not an agreeable compromise, because people who want to travel can't," Shah said.

Some professors, however, tried to avoid scheduling exams for inauguration day and chose earlier exam date changes when possible, Shah said. A class titled "The American Presidency," for example, had its exam moved to an earlier date. Some schedule changes, however, were ultimately restricted by Registrar guidelines.

Harvard was not the only university to proceed with final exams. Exams continued as normal for students at Princeton University, Media Officer Emily Aronson said, with three-hour tests scheduled for 9 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Virginia Tech and Virginia Commonwealth University, while not holding final exams on Jan. 20, also operated on normal schedules. Some other colleges and universities, such as Cornell University and Yale University, held screenings of the inauguration events but continued with classes.

Students at Washington D.C. schools, meanwhile, including Georgetown University, American University and George Washington University, had the day off as officials predicted crowds of up to two million people would crowd the nation's capital.



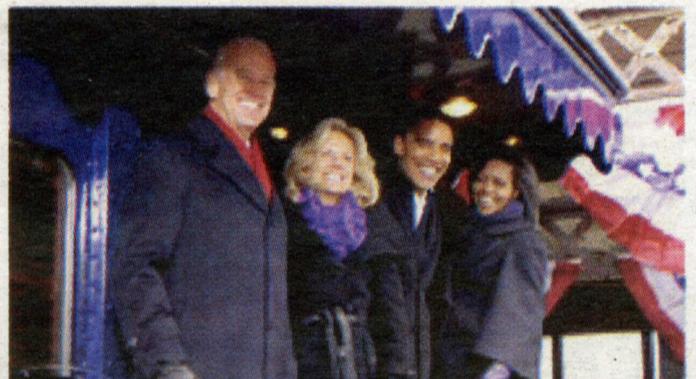
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"Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and

begin again the work of remaking America."



Students React to Obama's Inauguration

By ERIC RANDALL - YALE DAILY NEWS UWIRE

WASHINGTON — Allison Rodriguez '09 could barely move. Worse still, her position near the Smithsonian Institute amid Tuesday's two-million-strong inauguration crowd prevented her from watching President Barack Obama's swearing-in on giant screens scattered across the National Mall. It was 7:30 a.m., and Rodriguez had more than four hours to go before Obama would appear on the steps of the Capitol almost a mile from where she stood.

"I'm cold. I'm hungry. I don't even know where I am," she said. "But I'd do this 10,000 times."

Rodriguez shared the moment with several hundred Yale students, all of whom skipped classes Tuesday to fly, take a train or bus, or drive the 300 miles to Washington for the inauguration of America's 44th president. Those who were here said they will remember the cold and the crowds, but that their defining memory will forever be watching Obama's inaugural address and oath of office.

The students came on buses

chartered by Saybrook College, the Afro-American Cultural Center, the Asian American Cultural Center and La Casa Cultural. Students did not have to be members of the organizations on whose bus they rode.

All left late Monday night or early Tuesday morning, with those on the Monday night AACC buses chattering excitedly for an hour before settling down for a few hours of sleep. Others woke in the wee hours to board buses and start the six-hour journey southward. Aboard the Afro-American House bus, students spoke of the magnitude of the moment they were about to witness. "We are going to live history," several passengers repeated.

Such was the sentiment on the La Casa bus, too. "This is going to be in the textbooks," Rodriguez said.

The vehicles arrived at Robert F. Kennedy Stadium in eastern Washington in the early hours of dawn Tuesday. In the parking lot, students crowded a fleet of shuttles that drove them four miles to the Capitol. Despite the early morning cold, spirits were high.

Along the streets, vendors hawked food and Obama para-

phernalia. With the shuttles bearing AACC bus passengers approaching central Washington, the sun began to rise behind the Capitol.

Some lucky students had inaugural tickets for coveted seats near the Capitol's western steps, from which Obama would take the oath. Most others joined nearly two million others who lacked tickets to watch the festivities from the National Mall.

Initial excitement dimmed as students settled in for the long, cold wait ahead. A troupe of students aboard the AACC bus arrived on the mall at 6:30 a.m. They would wait six hours in 25-degree cold for Obama's address. "I'm so miserable," Laurika Harris-Kaye '11 said, "but it will be so worth it."

Kevin Qiu '11 said the cold was not a problem; his problem was trying not to fall asleep on the Mall after the early-morning ride. Hopefully, he said, the speech would be worth the wait.

With the crowds settled, students watched giant screens airing footage from Sunday's "We Are One" concert at the Lincoln Memorial that featured performances from U2, Beyonce and Bruce

Springsteen, sometimes singing along as the crowd spontaneously picked up tunes such as "Stand by Me." Any time Obama appeared on the screens, he was met with loud cheers from the crowd. President George W. Bush '68 was met with boos, although a few Elis, like Carmen Chambers '12, refrained from joining in.

"The booing made me upset because it was disrespecting the tradition," Chambers said. "The day was about passing power."

But when Chief Justice John Roberts administered the oath of office to the nation's 44th president shortly after noon, it was a different story. The 2-million-strong crowd burst into raucous cheers. JuLondre Brown '10 found himself consumed by emotion.

"At the swearing-in, tears started streaming down my face, and I swelled with pride for my country like never before," Brown said. "It could be one of the greatest moments that I've ever experienced."

Quiet reigned in the crowd throughout Obama's speech, broken only by applause after lines such as, "Know that America is a friend to each nation and every

man, woman, and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and that we are ready to lead once more." The students stood captivated. Throughout the roughly 18-minute address, Kevin Olusola '10 said the adrenaline never stopped rushing through his body. ("And it was very much needed," he added, "because it was so cold outside.")

The euphoria of Obama's swearing-in soon faded as students turned to face the logistical difficulty of exiting a 300-acre greenway crammed with nearly two million people. Traffic stopped in the streets and lines of people moved slowly around police barricades.

"It was exactly like the cattle-killing industry at some points," Rodriguez quipped.

Then it was back to the buses and back to New Haven.

"It was one of the most exhilarating parts of history to be a part of," Jordan Schneider '12 said. "It's something I'll tell my grandkids. It was a beautiful day, a beautiful moment"

Reporting was contributed by Gabriel Barcia, Taylor Lasley, Jessica Letchford, Lauren Motzkin, Rachel Wang and Han Xu in Washington.

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History of Mid-East Conflict

continued from page 6

the next several decades. Any treaty would have been viewed as a defeat for the Arabs, and therefore the refugees were forced to await a victory which never came. As Cairo radio put it in 1957: "The refugees are the cornerstone in the Arab struggle against Israel. The refugees are the armaments of the Arabs and Arab nationalism."

It is the record of terrorist attacks on Israeli citizens that has prevented the full integration of Palestinian refugees into Israeli society. During the period of war in 1947-1949 and for years afterward, Israel accepted about 550,000 Jewish refugees, many of whom were fleeing persecution in Arab countries. All of these refugees were re-settled into Israel. Arab countries, however, refused to settle refugees in their own countries or to agree to a structured, negotiated settlement.

The development of a resistance movement in the occupied

territories of Gaza and the West bank was inevitable, as was the increased vigilant defense by the Israeli military. What has kept the conflict fueled is the blind eye turned towards the history of the refugee problem by the Arab nations and the world. This has allowed Hamas its continued existence, despite its charter's call for the "destruction of Israel."

The truth of the Arab-Israeli conflict is that a peaceful solution has been impossible, and will continue to be impossible, as long as Arab governments and other inciters continue to use the historical refugee situation as a reason for their people to hate Israel. This deliberately fomented hatred is used to help control populations by redirecting their political anger. In the end, it is simply irrational to hold Israel responsible for a refugee situation held in place by the deliberate refusal of Arab governments to seek peace and re-settlement.

Settling for Obama

By NICOLE ROACH
Contributing Writer

I did not want Obama in office. I mean sure, I voted for him. But, I wanted Hillary. I know, sour grapes, let it go. But, I just did not trust the man, everyone said he was charismatic, appealing, a breath of fresh air. I didn't see it.

And then he was inaugurated. I cried. Not once, but twice. His speech was compelling. It was a call to action, for America to re-

gain its pride. Other people were crying, all over the television, the people I was with were glued to the screen hanging on his every word. Everything about it felt historic and significant.

But, the moment passed. The speech ended and something settled in me. Were all my anti-Obama sentiments and dreams fake? Had I jumped on the "change" bandwagon? I felt like a big ol' sell out.

So I thought about it, I still don't really like him. I have hope

that as our president he will do the right thing, help the economy and the United States regain the status in the world arena that it once had, but I don't like him yet. But I realized, I don't need to like him. How I feel about him is unimportant in the grand scheme. Most people like him, and if nothing else he has gotten people to care about the issues, which alone helps the issues. And that's what's important. I don't need to ever like him, but I do want everyone else to keep doing so.

What to Expect from Obama

continued from page 7

job any easier, it only complicates his agenda. But this is the type of change people voted for however, and as of now, it looks like they are going to get what they wanted.

Spending will increase during Obama's first fiscal year as it has in the past. Some of his more aggressive aims in education and alternative energy funding might have to be cut back, possibly until his possible second term, and definitely until whenever the current financial crisis is "solved". The main goal on the ta-

ble now is to revamp the American economy. How and if he can do this is a whole other debate, but it will be a focal point of his policies and leadership early on this year.

Whatever happens, Obama is savvy enough to know that action is often more popular than inaction, and in these times, the one thing people are demanding more than anything is for the government to get them help now.

His biggest challenge lies in getting others aboard the Obama Express. He needs to get other politicians to understand is that people do

not really care about ideologies and political philosophies as much as they think they do. At the end of the day, the average American just wants to know that their job is secure and their family is safe.

Obama's hopeful attitude brings a good deal of positive energy to the scene, but it only goes so far. It is time for him to show us, the American people, what he can really change about this country. Will he truly unite us to get work done? Or will the reality of bitter bickering and partisan politics come crashing down?

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Continued from page 5

of a matter of preference and deciding which works the best for you.

Either way, discovering new music on the Internet can be something of a Pandora's box situation - except with more positive results. Westgren's own curiosity led to the Music Genome Project and eventually to Pandora Internet Radio, proving that your own curiosity can lend itself to something much greater.

INTERVIEWS

Q&A WITH

JIM FARGIANO

By JOSEPH LABRIOLA
Columnist

Jim Fargiano lives in Quogue, N.Y. I was able to hold an interview with him in order to gain a deeper understanding of what his book is really about.

Did you have a target audience in mind while you wrote your book?

I really think the book came to be very nondenominational, especially for people who have lost a loved one. It just seems to encompass a whole lot. Obviously it covers different topics. It's sup-

posed to be all-inclusive.

Your book reads more like it's about validating people's thoughts and experiences rather than trying to convert people who are unwilling to listen. What might you tell someone who is skeptical of mediums or religion in general to try to open their minds and read your book?

I have people challenge me all the time. A lot of times they say that I'm working with the devil or against God's will, and the Bible says this, that, or the other thing. Usually what silences them is when I ask them where a prophecy comes from, since the Bible is basically comprised of all prophecies, they say it's somebody who's gotten messages from God or from Jesus. And then I ask them if those people were seen as ordinary, normal day people back then, or were they already seen as saints? And usually, I get a lot of stammering and stuttering and they either just walk away from me shaking their head, or if it's an e-mail situation, they just stop writing to me. I tell them that instead of judging me or making assumptions, why don't they just read the messages? Most of the time when people are talking negatively, it's because they haven't ever actually read any of it.

Some of your stories, especially that of One Feather's actually relate what seem like realistic, real life events that occurred in these spirit's past lives. Are these stories meant to be taken literally, or is there some figurative meaning to them? Such as One Feather and his communication with his wolf-companion?

The way it comes through to me is that it definitely happened. Almost like how someone would train a pet or a police dog. The stories One Feather gives are the ones people seem to love. Not only is he talking as if we are with him, his stories are usually relevant to the way society is today. The general message is that assumptions and miscommunication are what usually get people into trouble. If we just open our minds and thoughts instead of being so judgmental, we'll get a lot further in life.

Furthermore, have any spirits ever related messages that conflict with what we think we know about past events and peoples? Have they ever named anything specific in regards to pending events ahead of time like Sept. 11 and 2012?

In that book, no. They kept it more to inspirational type messages. They've absolutely given me stuff like that other times though. The problem I have is that mes-

sages like that never come in with any great clarity. I used to see the World Trade Center all the time with the bottom smoking, but I used to look at that like there would be another attempted attack like the one in '93. They never showed the extreme outcome we saw in 2001.

In retrospect to such events, when they mention them, they point not to the 3,000 people who died, but to the fact that 95 percent of the people in the towers and Pentagon survived. They mention it so nonchalant. To put it into more recent terms, with the plane that went down on the Hudson the other day, all you hear is that it's a miracle, an absolute miracle, and I had that voice go off in my head when I was typing the other day that said, "You all call it a miracle, we call it a normal, everyday experience." It stops and makes me think about how many times we are protected and don't know about it.

I thought the spirits had very distinct voices. When spirits like Saint Paul and Da Vinci appear to you and tell messages do they present themselves in the tone and vision that people commonly think of them as?

Most of the time for me, no. I get different vibrations and an-

announcement of who they are. Almost like a subliminal ad that flashes for a nanosecond. They all have a distinct feeling. I channeled Saint Peter for the first time a few months ago, and it almost felt as if my body was vibrating off of the chair. I physically felt my body shaking. The only way I can describe it, was I felt like my voice was velvety. There's just no way to put into words sometimes what I get.

Do you have any plans to write any other books? If so, how might they connect back to your first book?

I actually have two more in the works right now. The way it's supposed to work is the second book I'm working on was supposed to be the first because that really explained more what I go through on a personal level and all my experiences. But they didn't want that. They wanted the one with of the messages. When I started working on the second one, I also work on my blog and all of the sudden people started telling me that they want me to put those messages into a book. And then I'm getting the same message from higher up. So the third book's actually more finished than the second book right now. I'm just trying to find time to get them both done.

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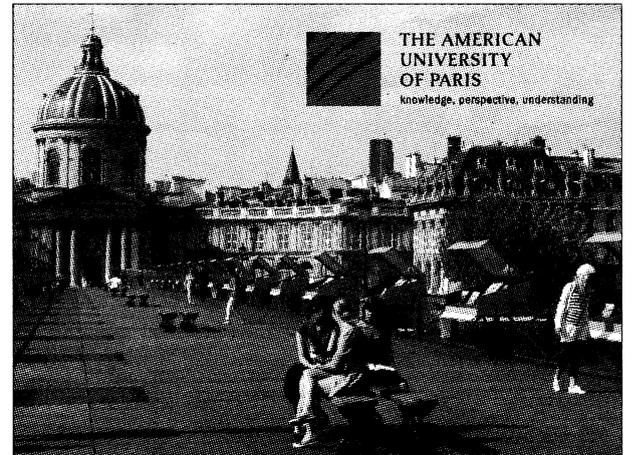


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ICE HOCKEY CONTINUES ITS WINNING WAYS AGAINST RUTGERS

By GENE MORRIS
Sports Editor

In front of a crowd of over 450 people, many of them local children in attendance for the Seawolves "Kids Day," the club ice hockey team put on an impressive performance.

Squaring off against the Rutgers Scarlet Knights, a team the Seawolves defeated earlier this season in a game that will be remembered for a big hit that got star Angelo Serse suspended for a game, Stony Brook put up over 50 shots and picked up a 7-4 victory.

Both Serse and defense man Phil Borner didn't believe any of the physicality in the game was a result of the incident in the last game.

"For the most part that ends when the game ends," Borner said.

"A little bit," Serse said when asked whether the Rutgers players were giving him any extra attention. "There was a little bit of chirping, but nothing to bad."

Rutgers got on the board first, and even though the shots were 17-5 in favor of the Seawolves after the first period, the score was tied at one.

"We took them a little to lightly," Serse said. "We should have dominated most of the game."

The second period was more of the same shot wise, but Stony Brook was able to put the puck in the net three times. Chris Ryan, John Pasantino, and Serse each scored for the Seawolves.

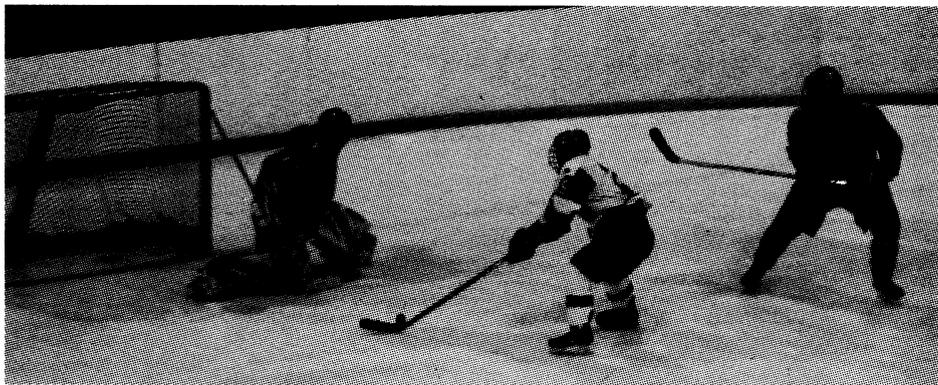
In the third, Serse picked up a hat trick when scoring the Seawolves sixth goal, and an empty-netter capped the scoring.

Although the Seawolves were able to pick up the victory, they know there is more work to be done to get to nationals.

"Defensively we weren't as good as we could be," Ryan said. "But we are getting better and better as the season goes along."

Next weekend the Seawolves travel to Pennsylvania for a tough pair of games against Drexel and West Chester before returning home for a two game series the following weekend.

"Big win, every win is a big win at this point," Borner said. "We're behind the 8-ball. We need to win every game from here on out, doesn't matter who we're playing, every win is a big win."



Physical play and constant pressure were the keys to a Seawolves victory.

Gene Morris/SB Statesman



Men's Basketball Keeps Up Best Division I In School History

Continued from pg 14

"We forgot what got us to 8 wins," said Head Coach Steve Pikiell, "And that is our defense." The Black Bears came out firing, scoring in transition and building an early double digit lead, which swelled to as much as 18. The Seawolves shot a mere 31 percent from the field in the first half and were down by 11 at the break. The Black Bears, on the other hand, had little difficulty putting the ball in the basket, constantly scoring in the paint and shooting 64 percent from the field in the first half.

The second period provided a steady diet of the same, with the Seawolves constantly misfiring and allowing the Black Bears to score easy buckets on the other end. The Seawolves cut the lead to 12 at 50-38 with 8 minutes to go, finally showing signs of life to the 900-plus fans in attendance. But the lead quickly ballooned back to 17 as the Black Bears converted on a 3-point play and fastbreak layup to put the game out of reach.

The Seawolves had beaten the Black Bears the previous three times the two teams met, a streak the Black Bears convincingly ended. "Every

league game is a war," said Coach Pikiell, who also shot down any notion of underestimating the Black Bears. "We just didn't play D and we got what we deserved," he added.

The Seawolves were now headed to Dartmouth, looking to right their ship and regain their defensive prowess.

Dartmouth.(1/13/09)

Away from home again, the Seawolves used a solid second half performance to defeat the Dartmouth Big Green and get back in the win column. The Seawolves had 3 people in double-digits, led by Muhammad El-Amin's (Lansing, Mich.) 20 points, and received a second double-double in as many games from Tommy Brenton (Columbia, Md.) to pick up a 60-52 win.

"We showed great toughness tonight and our defense in the second half was superb," said Stony Brook Head Coach Steven Pikiell.

After the Seawolves were up early at 12-6, the Big Green went on an 8-0 run to grab a two point lead at 14-12 with 9:42 remaining in the opening period. The teams traded buckets as the lead changed repeatedly, until the

Big Green used a 9-0 scoring flurry to take a 25-20 lead with five minutes to go in the half. As the halftime buzzer sounded, Dartmouth's Dan Biber nailed a tough three-pointer to put his team up 32-30 at the break.

El-Amin's 12 first half points paced the Seawolves, who forced the Big Green into 11 turnovers in the first twenty minutes.

The Seawolves kept up the defensive intensity, holding the Big Green scoreless for the first eight minutes of the second period. Three-pointers from Demetrius Young (Sacramento, Cali.) and El-Amin gave the Seawolves a 45-39 cushion with eight minutes remaining in the game. The Big Green would draw as close as two, but buckets from Young and El-Amin once again stretched the Seawolves' lead. They held on to pick up another road victory, their sixth of the season.

Vermont.(1/17/09)

The Seawolves returned to the comforts of home to face the Vermont Catamounts and even their conference record at 2-2 in another televised game. However, a slow start dug a hole too deep for the Seawolves,

handing them their third conference loss. Despite having four players score in double digits, led by Chris Martin's (Springfield Gardens, N.Y.) 17 points, the home team could not string together enough defensive stops to pull out a victory in front of a sold-out Pritchard Gymnasium.

The game took on a steady pace from the tip-off, and the Seawolves maintained a tight 11-10 lead with 11 minutes to go in the opening period. The Catamounts then went on a 10-0 run, spurred by a Marqus Blakely jumper, that gave the road team a 19-11 lead. After the Seawolves cut the lead to four with nearly five minutes remaining in the half, the Catamounts went on a 13-3 run to extend their lead to 35-21. A Martin jumper drew the Seawolves within 35-23 going into the break.

The Catamounts continued the offensive attack early in the second half, stretching their cushion to 45-31 with 14:41 remaining in the game. Three consecutive baskets from Muhammad El-Amin (Lansing, Mich.) and a layup from Eddie Castellanos (Jersey City, N.J.) cut into the Catamounts' lead. But the road team capitalized from the free-throw line and once again stretched its lead to 51-39

with just over 11 minutes to go. The Catamounts would finish the game going 35-47 from the charity stripe, compared to the Seawolves' 20-28.

The game continued in the same manner, with the Catamounts stretching their lead and the Seawolves rallying back to get close. The home team went on a 9-1 spurt that cut the Catamounts' lead to just one with six minutes to go. But Vermont then went on a 12-2 run, ignited by a jump-shot from Blakely, that gave the visiting team a cushion and put the game away.

Head Coach Steven Pikiell was mostly disappointed with his team's defense, saying "Our effort on the defensive end needs to be better if we're going to beat a team as good as Vermont."

The Catamounts shot 48 percent from the floor, scoring from both inside and outside and having four players in double figures, led by Blakely's 20 points.

For the rest of the recap check out SBstatesman.com and to see videos of the Seawolves thrilling 4-OT matchup with Boston University check out sbports.blogspot.com

Men's Basketball Blow-out

BY SARAH KAZADI
Staff Writer

While most college students spent the past few weeks enjoying their winter recess, the Stony Brook Men's Basketball team remained on the deserted campus. Their time was occupied by long film sessions, weight lifting, and tough practices, all in preparation for looming conference play. Over the break, the Seawolves played nine games, with only three of those taking place at Pritchard Gymnasium.

They finished with a 5-4 overall record, going 2-4 in conference.

After starting off with a three game winning streak, defeating St. Peter's, Air Force, and defending conference champion UMBC, the Seawolves struggled in consecutive losses against the Binghamton Bearcats and Maine Black Bears. After bouncing back with a victory over Dartmouth, the Seawolves fell to the Vermont Catamounts at Pritchard gymnasium. They then traveled to Boston for a thrilling quadruple-overtime battle against the Terriers that also ended in defeat. The Seawolves then headed to Albany to break the rivaling Great Danes seven-game home winning streak.

Saint Peter's. (12/28/08)

The Seawolves made the short trip to Jersey City, N.J. to face the Saint Peter's Peacocks. Led by Muhammad El-Amin's (Lansing, Mich.) career-high 27 points, the Seawolves cruised to a 68-52 victory.

The first twenty minutes established the tone for the rest of the game for the Seawolves. Stingy defense forced the Peacocks to shoot a mere 35 percent from the floor. However, the Seawolves scored in flurries, going on a 13-2 run towards the end of the first period and entering halftime with a 41-23 cushion.

"Our guys were really focused coming in and it showed in our performance this afternoon," said Stony Brook Head Coach Steven Pikiell.

The second half showed more of the same, with the Seawolves shooting 55 percent and stretching their lead to as many as 22. Along with El-Amin, freshmen Tommy Brenton (Columbia, Md.) and Bryan Dougher (Scotch Plains, N.J.) scored in double figures, contrib-

uting 12 and 14 points, respectively.

But the Peacocks showed some fight, repeatedly cutting into the lead and drawing as near as 12 with a little over two minutes left in the game. However, the Seawolves were too tough, making 6 of their 11 shots from downtown and forcing 20 Peacock turnovers, easily hanging on to win the game by a 16-point margin.

Air Force. (12/31/08)

The Seawolves then traveled to Colorado to face the United States Air Force Academy Falcons. Making clutch plays down the stretch and holding a 35-23 rebounding edge, the Seawolves stunned the Falcons and picked up a 67-64 win in front of over 3,000 shocked fans at Clune Arena.

The first half was close throughout, with both teams exchanging buckets. A Bryan Dougher (Scotch Plains, N.J.) three tied the game at 15 a little past the halfway point of the opening period. Although the Seawolves shot only 33 percent from the floor, they went into the break up 26-25, with Muhammad El-Amin (Lansing, Mich.) leading all scorers with 10 points.

In the second half, the Falcons went on a 9-0 run, building a 34-29 advantage with a little over 15 minutes left in the game. The Seawolves rallied to tie the score at 34 and the teams continued to trade baskets, leading to numerous lead changes. Two free-throws from Bryan Dougher (Scotch Plains, N.J.), who won America East Player of the Game Honors, gave the Seawolves an eight point lead with a little over a minute left in the game.

The Falcons used a 12-5 run to slice the Seawolves' lead to just one with 10 seconds remaining. After being intentionally fouled, Dougher swished in two clutch free throws to give the Seawolves a three-point lead that would prove to be the final margin.

"I couldn't be prouder of my team and the heart we showed," said Head Coach Steven Pikiell.

Prior to the defeat, the Falcons had a 75-7 record at Clune Arena, dating back to the 2003-04 season.

"This is a very difficult place to play and our kids never lost their composure," added Coach Pikiell, "We were terrific on the defensive end all day and made the plays we needed to make.

down the stretch."

The win was the Seawolves second in a row, giving them momentum heading into UMBC.

UMBC. (1/03/09)

The Seawolves headed into University of Maryland-Baltimore County's RAC Arena looking to extend their short winning streak to three. In their first America East Conference game, both Muhammad El-Amin (Lansing, Mich.) and Bryan Dougher (Scotch Plains, N.J.) tallied 19 points, leading a balanced scoring attack that gave the Seawolves a quality 69-61 win over the defending conference-champions.

"We were able to make tough plays down the stretch to get a win against a terrific UMBC team," said Head Coach Steven Pikiell.

The Seawolves started off the game on a 17-2 run, ignited by Tommy Brenton's (Columbia, Md.) monstrous two-handed dunk on an El-Amin assist. After the Seawolves lead ballooned to 14, an 8-2 run by the Retrievers sliced it back to eight with a little over 7 minutes left in the first half. But back-to-back three-pointers from El-Amin and Dougher stretched the Seawolves' lead once again. Stony Brook went into halftime up 31-20, after holding the Retrievers to just 30 percent shooting and going a stellar 4-8 from long distance.

The Retrievers returned to the court with a vengeance, going on a 13-2 run to slim the Seawolves lead to just two early in the second period. However, the road team kept its composure and pushed its lead back to seven with 13:35 to go, after consecutive buckets from Chris Martin (Springfield Gardens, N.Y.) and El-Amin.

But the Retrievers would not surrender, using a another scoring flurry to tie the game at 54 with a little over 5 minutes left. El-Amin's three-pointer with 3:40 to go gave the Seawolves a small cushion, and they went on to win by a slim 69-61 margin. The Seawolves' shooting was stellar all game long, as they hit 57 percent of their shots, a season-high, and went 8-13 from three-point land.

Binghamton. (1/05/09)

The Seawolves were on the road again, this time heading to Binghamton for a date with the Bearcats to be televised on MSG. Despite a double-double from Tommy Brenton (Columbia, Md.), who scored 14 points and pulled down 11 boards, the Seawolves struggled on both ends and lost a 67-60 decision at Binghamton's Events Center. The loss snapped the Seawolves three-game winning streak and evened their conference record at 1-1.

The game started off at a slow pace, with both teams bricking shots and turning the ball over. Once things settled down, both teams started making plays and putting points on the board. An early 14-1 run gave the Bearcats a 11 point lead halfway into the opening

period. The Seawolves answered with a run of their own, an 11-2 boost that cut the Bearcats' lead to two, at 19-17. A one-handed slam by Demetrius Young (Sacramento, Calif.) made the game's highlight reel and kept the Seawolves close, but the Bearcats were still up 34-28 at halftime.

After a Young bucket early in the second half cut the Bearcats' lead to four, the home team scored five straight to extend its lead to 46-37 with a little over 13 minutes left in the game. A 10-3 Seawolves run followed, spurred by a three-point play from Muhammad El-Amin (Lansing, Mich.) and five points from Bryan Dougher (Scotch Plains, N.J.), that cut the Bearcats' lead to just one with nine minutes remaining.

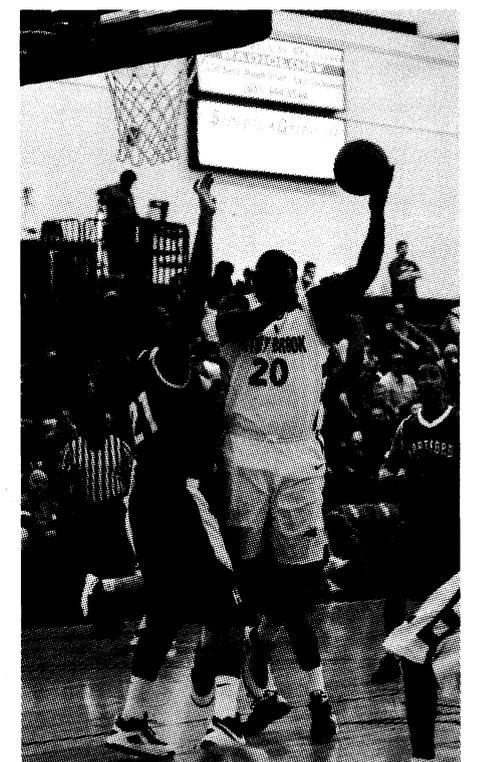
The teams traded baskets and Stony Brook was still down just 56-55 with a little over two minutes remaining, after a layup from Dallis Joyner (Norfolk, Va.). But the Bearcats answered with a quick 8-0 run, giving them a cushion and a solid 67-60 win.

The Bearcats rode a balanced scoring wave, having D.J. Rivera lead five players in double-digits with 16 points. "We just didn't play well enough on the defensive end of the court to beat them tonight," said Stony Brook Head Coach Steven Pikiell. Brenton's double-double was his third of the season, but only two other Seawolves scored in double figures.

Maine. (1/08/09)

The Seawolves finally returned home for a matchup against the Maine Black Bears, looking to improve their conference record to 2-1. Despite strong performances by Muhammad El-Amin, who earned America East Player of the Game honors, and Demetrius Young, who contributed 14 points and 7 rebounds, the Seawolves struggled on both ends of the court and suffered their second loss in as many games after winning three straight.

Continued on page 13



The Seawolves went 5-4 over the winter break
Ken Ho / SB Statesman

Ice Hockey Looking To Roll To Nationals



Angelo Serse scored a hat trick Sunday against Rutgers and is hoping to lead the team on another trip to nationals.

Gene Morris /SB Statesman

By GENE MORRIS
Sports Editor

After a sluggish 0-5 start, the Stony Brook Seawolves ice hockey team has regained its edge.

Currently sitting at 13-9 and ranked 19th in the ACHA Polls, the team is looking to make another strong run towards a spot in the national tournament in March.

Looming large in front of the Seawolves are a pair of road games against the Iowa State Cyclones, currently ranked #5 in the nation.

According to both sophomore forward Craig Ryan and junior starting goaltender Derek Stevens, the team is on a roll they both expect to continue.

"I think the team became familiar with each other," Stevens said. "We had a lot of new kids and I think everyone was nervous and a little slow from the off season."

The early season schedule didn't help either.

"We jumped into the season playing #4 Liberty with a whole group of new guys, many of us who had never played together," Ryan said. "It took a little time to adjust, but we got our bearings, and we've been playing really well," he said.

The slate of games over the break began with a tough road trip to play the University of Delaware, who was ranked #4 at the time of the weekend series.

In the first game of that series, the Seawolves feel behind 2-0 in the first period before John Wong scored to cut the lead in half going into the first intermission.

Mauricio Torres scored the next goal for the Seawolves, but Delaware scored twice in the third period to push the score to 4-2. Torres was able to score again that night, but it was not enough, as Delaware won 4-3.

The next night the Seawolves picked up one of its biggest road wins of the season.

Sixty minutes of regulation, and five minutes of overtime was not enough to decide the game.

After facing 52 shots during the game, Stevens made three saves as Angelo Serse and Chris Ryan scored the winning goals in a shootout.

"I think the Delaware weekend was huge for us," Stevens said. "They were ranked fourth but we beat them and outplayed them both games."

The team's next game, on the road against

the Maryland Terrapins, again saw the offense led by Serse and Ryan. Serse had a goal and three assists, while Ryan picked up two goals and an assist.

Up next was Towson University, and Ryan outdid his previous game. He scored four of the team's seven goals on the way to a 7-2 victory. Serse added three assists and assistant captain Ryan Hodkinson had a goal and an assist.

The final weekend series against the #4 ranked University of Rhode Island shows some of the Seawolves' strengths, as well as their weaknesses.

Trailing 2-0 in the second period of the first game, the Seawolves stormed back and scored three unanswered goals, the final one scored by Serse and assisted by Hodkinson in the third period.

Game two saw the exact opposite scenario. The Seawolves were ahead 3-0 midway through the first period but allowed Rhode Island to score four times in a row and pick up the victory 4-3.

Both Stevens and Ryan believe the team is playing its best hockey now, and the team should continue to roll into nationals.

The team faces one more tough road test before they begin its conference championships in March. On Feb. 13 and 14, the Seawolves will travel to Iowa to take on the Iowa State Cyclones. Iowa State is currently ranked #5 in the nation.

"The games in Iowa will be fun," Stevens said. "It's always fun to head somewhere we normally don't go. But they are a very high ranked team and I'm sure it will be very tough to play, especially at their rink."

"We will need to come back with two big wins," he said. "To further prove the beginning of the season was just an adjustment period for us."

Next weekend the team travels to Pennsylvania to face off with Drexel and West Chester. The last regular season game is Feb. 22 at home against Montclair State.

"As of now every game is huge for nationals, not just from points but from a morale standpoint too," Ryan said. "Any time you lose, you hang your head a little low, even if the game was a great game. We're looking to win out the season, keep our heads high, and just keep winning. We're looking at it as our next game is the biggest game of the season."

Football Looking for New Defensive Coordinator?

By CARL J. CARRIE AND GENE MORRIS
Sports Editors

Has Defensive Coordinator, Joe Tricario, coached his last game for the Stony Brook football Seawolves?

According to a job posting on the Stony Brook University Human Resources site, put up on Jan. 9, 2009, the Seawolves are looking for a new defensive coordinator, along with an assistant head coach and two other assistant coaches.

Head Coach Chuck Priore was non-committal when asked about the job listing "We'll let you know when it's the appropriate time. It's nothing to be discussed now." When asked if Tricario was still the current coach, he said, "Oh yeah he's still here."

Tricario joined the Seawolves in 2006 after eight years at Fordham, five as a defen-

sive coordinator and three as a special teams coach. In 2007, the Seawolves defense ranked 25th in the nation among FCS schools in total defense. However, in 2008, the Seawolves total defense dropped to 65th and gave up 26.3 points a game.



Defensive Coordinator Joe Tricario

Winter Track Recap

By MIKE FODERA
Senior Writer

Coming off a late season disappointment in Women's Cross Country and a rough season for the men, Coach Andrew Ronan has welcomed the coming of the indoor track and field team for the winter. Coach Ronan is expecting big things for his teams this season, feeling that they are well-prepared and hungry to show the NCAA that their successful fall season last year was no fluke.

The indoor season began on December 5th at the Fordham Invitational, with the Seawolves ranked sixth in the conference. Junior Lisa Voltaire, from Stockholm, Sweden, took the only Seawolves top finish, with two others finishing in the top five in that event.

Voltaire took the top spot in the 3,000-meter run, finishing in a time of 10:53.5, seven seconds ahead of the second place finisher from Iona. The other runners in the top five were junior Jacquie Kehoe, and junior Kurt Wende, both finishing fourth in the 3,000 meter.

In the 1,000 meter, sophomore Kristina Doyle, took third in a time of 3:23.1 and sophomore Kristen Connolly finished fourth with a time of 3:26.1.

For the men, Junior Brandon Leung, took third in the men's 1,000 meter with a time of 2:38.1. The men's overall top finish came from senior Merlon Pinnock, who had crossed second in the 400-meter in a time of 52.6. The men's team also received a second-place finish from their 4X400 relay team, finishing with a time of 3:39.3.

On the 15th of December, Stony Brook got to send three runners to compete in the exclusive Harvard Open. The select three

were Daire Bermingham, Alex Felce, and Laura Huet.

Huet dominated the competition, placing first in the 3,000-meter run, which was 35 seconds faster than the second place finisher. Her time of 9:52.88 qualified her for the ECAC's.

Bermingham and Felce both competed in the men's 3,000-meter run, finishing one and two, respectively. The race was a close one, with the two runners exchanging leads throughout the entire race, but it was Bermingham who proved the better, finishing with a time of 8:30.01, three seconds better than his counterpart, who finished with a time of 8:33.19.

The next race did not take place until a month later, in New York City at NYU, with the Seawolves competing in the Gotham Cup.

Continuing their domination of the 3,000-meter event, Lucy Van Dalen, finished first with her school record setting victory in this event. Finishing with a time of 9:26.68, Van Dalen shattered the old time of 9:38.71. This time also qualified the sophomore for the ECAC Championships, not to mention the time being a NCAA Provisional qualifying time. On top of that, the NCAA saw fit to name Van Dalen the America East Track Performer of the week.

On the men's side of the 3,000-meter Daire Bermingham placed third with a time of 8:21.99. This time is fast enough to qualify for the IC4A Championships.

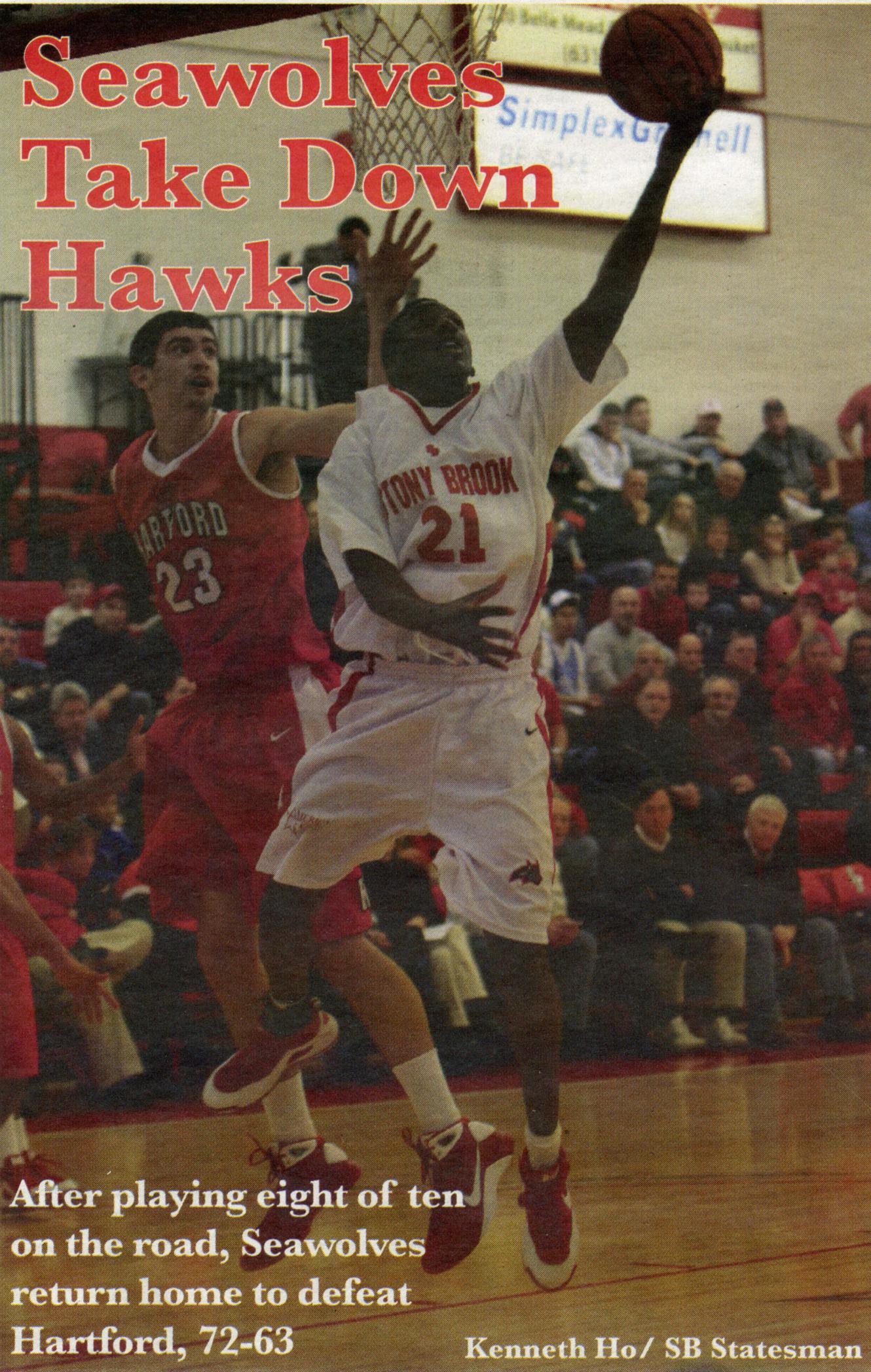
All in all, the Seawolves finished with eight total runners to place in the top ten, no small feat for any team.

After a stop in Albany this past weekend, the team travels to New York City for the Metropolitan Championships.



STATESMAN SPORTS

Seawolves Take Down Hawks



After playing eight of ten on the road, Seawolves return home to defeat Hartford, 72-63

Kenneth Ho/ SB Statesman

By SARAH KAZADI
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook Seawolves opened a three-game home stand against the Hartford Hawks on Sunday afternoon at Pritchard Gymnasium. Led by Bryan Dougher (Scotch Plains, N.J.) and Demetrius Young (Sacramento, Calif.), who both contributed 21 points, the Seawolves secured their first home conference win, a 72-63 decision that improved their overall record to 11-9, 3-4 in America East play.

"We made some tough plays," said Stony Brook Head Coach Steve Pikiell, "And we strapped it up defensively when we had to." The Seawolves held the Hawks to 37 percent shooting in the opening period, while they hit 50 percent of their shots.

This told the story of the entire first half, which began with back-to-back three pointers from Dougher, which gave the Seawolves a 6-0 lead. After the teams exchanged buckets, the Seawolves started a quick 6-2 run that gave them a 16-7 lead at the under-8 media timeout. The game maintained a slow pace, until the Seawolves went on an 11-4 run, capped off by a reverse layup from Young. The spurt pushed their lead to 27-11 with just over two minutes to go in the half. A three-pointer from the Hawks' Michael Turner ended the run, but an El-Amin layup gave the Seawolves a 29-18 lead heading into the break.

Dougher led all scorers with 11 first half points, going 3-5 from three-point land. "When you hit a couple of shots early," said Dougher, "It gets them out of what they want to do and opens up shots for other people." The Hawks struggled from the floor, with no player cracking the double digit mark in the first half, and the Seawolves capitalized on the other end.

The second half began by showing more of the same. After another three-pointer from Turner cut the Seawolves' lead to eight, Tommy Brenton (Columbia, Md.) converted a three point play that ignited the crowd and gave the home team a 34-23 lead with 17 minutes left in the ball game. The Seawolves then caught fire from long range, receiving three-point buckets from Dougher and Muhammad El-Amin (Lansing, Mich.) that ballooned their lead to as many as 15.

But the Hawks did not quit, rallying back with a 16-5 run that cut the lead to 48-44 on a Jaret Von Rosenberg trifecta. Suddenly, the game was competitive again and the crowd was back into it. The Seawolves were unrattled though, calmly pushing the lead back up to 13 on two Dougher free-throws with a little under four minutes to go. The Hawks would fight to cut it back to as little as three on another Von Rosenberg three-pointer. Clutch free-throws by Young down the stretch sealed the deal, giving the Seawolves a 72-63 victory.