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Engineering Students Failing Physics Classes

Engineering professors and teaching assistants work hard to teach their students the skills they need to graduate from college and obtain jobs, but there are developing concerns from engineering professors that their students are having trouble with one of the requirements needed for graduation: physics.

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OPINION

American Media Coverage of Mumbai

I didn't spend Black Friday shopping. I spent Black Friday sitting in front of my television, watching the continuous coverage of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

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Dealing With Canadian Health Care

Last Monday, I attended a health care policy debate, hosted by the Stony Brook Patriot. I admit to entering the debate with a predisposition to desiring private health care systems. I believe that the inefficiencies of current health insurance problems are perfectly explained by cumbersome and counter-intuitive regulatory policies which prevent beneficial competition.

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Mediate, Not Participate

We must clean up the mess in our own back yard before we meddle in the affairs of others. Perhaps the United States will retain its role as mediator in this issue.

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Media credit: Lane Johnston from amNewYork

Many Stony Brook University students depend on the LIRR for transportation.

LIRR Addresses Safety Concerns

By LAUREN CIOFFI
Contributing Writer

Samantha Raimondi, a freshman at Stony Brook University can still remember the first time she rode the Long Island Rail Road.

"I've been riding the LIRR since I was little," Raimondi said. "The first time I ever took the train was to go to a Broadway show with my mom."

In high school Raimondi used to take the train to see Broadway Shows and meet friends, but now this means of transportation has become a necessity to campus life.

"I rely on the LIRR a lot," Raimondi said. Without a car on campus, the accessible train station has become a necessity for students like Raimondi to make it home for weekend trips.

Some students do not always have a positive experience.

Sophomore Harminder Singh, a commuter who relies on the LIRR, can also recall a recent trip. "Two weeks ago I was on the train coming home, there was a two hour delay because of the derailment" Singh said. "That was the first time I ever heard of a derailment on the LIRR."

Recent ABC news reports

revealed that 60 percent of the 16 derailments involving the LIRR over the past eight years where caused by human error. The reports also said that "four times this year state investigators were called in to figure out why they derailed."

According to Jerry Shook, Director of the Rail Safety Bureau, the amount of derailments in the past eight years and the overall accident rates have decreased. The 2000 Annual Report by the Public Transportation Safety Board (PTSB) revealed 21 accidents occurred on the Long Island Railroad for every 100 million miles. From that time to 2006 the number of accidents decreased by 3.34. The 2007 Annual Report is not yet available according to PTSB.

According to Shook, recent news reports did not give credit to the development of the LIRR. "The newspapers did not give credit for their efforts in making the LIRR a safe place to ride as opposed to it being a disaster waiting to happen," Shook said.

"The news report bothers me," said Dan Mullaly, a LIRR worker for the signal department. "If they would come into the field with us they would see that everybody is safety efficient," said Mullaly who has

been working for the LIRR for about two years now, and considers the LIRR to be safe. "Once you have three derailments, which we have had recently, all your safety statistics go down," Mullaly said.

The decrease in safety statistics that Mullaly explains is demonstrated in the 2006 annual report by the PTSB. The LIRR had a large number of rail accidents since 2000 and -- though the numbers have decreased -- in 2006 the amount of injuries were more than Metro-North, Staten Island Railway and the New Jersey Transit combined.

With many students depending on the LIRR, sophomore Rohit Navlani sees the important need for safety. "So many students rely on the train," Navlani said. "If it's not safe, a lot of students would be at risk."

The Port Jefferson branch is a reliable means of transportation for students. "I've seen a lot of people from Stony Brook take the LIRR," Singh said. If the source of conveyance became highly unsafe, many students like Singh would need to find another way to get home. "I think the LIRR is safe. They're always telling you to watch the gap," Singh said. "Basically people just need to be careful."

University Students Not Alone in Meal Plan Frustration

By ERIKA KARP
Staff Writer

As students scramble to finish last minute essays and guzzle down coffee and energy drinks to fight off sleep, their meal plan cards could soon be the ones running on empty.

Stony Brook University students often complain the campus food is not worth the high prices. But, it may bring comfort to some to know they are not alone.

Meal plans tend to vary by school. Generally, campus meal plans are either set up as a debit card for meal points -- such as Stony Brook's -- or on a fixed amount of meals students can purchase per week such as SUNY New Paltz.

"Both the size and the diversity of Stony Brook influence the needs that the university has for its meal plan," Angela Agnello said, director of marketing and communications for Stony Brook's campus dining. "For example, the large variety of cultural food preferences combined with the fact that there are many students with complex class and work schedules at Stony Brook requires the flexibility of a full declining balance meal plan."

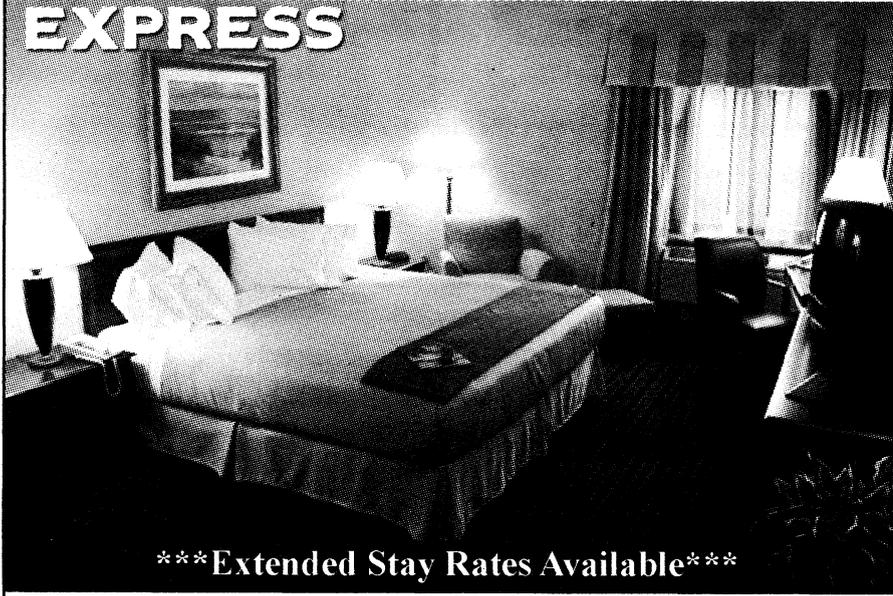
At the University of Maryland the student dining plan works on a fixed amount of meals per week students can eat. According to Alison D'Ottavio, a freshman at the university, the school has "meal deals" which equal one meal, and if you want something different from the meal deal and it goes over the price then you start using "flex dollars."

"I like how my meal plan works. They have a lot of options for everyone," D'Ottavio said.

The University of Maryland is self-operated -- meaning the school does not employ a dining contractor such as Chartwells,

Continued on page 3

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Stony Brook University Students Not Alone in Meal Plan Frustration

Continued from page 1

which in the dining provider for Stony Brook, according to Colleen Wright-Riva, the director of dining services at the school.

At Stony Brook, Chartwells has served as the dining provider since 1998.

According to the Michigan State University website, the school offers a plan that has unlimited access to all of the dining facilities with no limit on how many visits.

However, this option does come with a price -- starting at \$2,063 per semester.

Campus dining has looked into the all you can eat plan option, or "board plan," according to Agnello.

"The Bid Selection Committee over the last two semesters has visited other colleges and universities that offer such a plan," she said.

The committee was not pleased with the board plan for several reasons.

"In order to have an all-you-care-to-eat dining facility you need dining locations that offer a very large number of seats for students to dine," said Agnello. "The facilities at Stony Brook University would have difficulty accommodating everyone who wanted to sit and eat their meal at the same time."

The board plan would not allow students to bring back leftovers.

"You cannot take food out of the dining location which eliminates the grab-and-go convenience that Stony Brook students enjoy with the current meal plan," said Agnello. "Most Stony Brook students want the grab-and-go convenience so that they can take food back to their room, a lounge or study area."

The university is not planning on switch-

ing anytime soon, but students are suggesting changes. At an executive board meeting at Dreiser College in Tabler Quad, members of the board agreed on a number of things that could be changed about the meal plans at Stony Brook, like better food at the Tabler Arts Center, less expensive food and meal points rolling over to next semester. Sejad Nikezic, a junior said, "I would like to see more money go straight to the meal plan."

According to Nancy Richardson, the ID and meal plan office manager at New Paltz, the campus policy permits meal points to roll over from fall to spring semesters, but must be used by the end of the spring semester.

At Stony Brook, commuter meal points do the same, but residential ones don't. "In order for meal plans to be tax-exempt they must have a definitive start date and an end date," said Agnello. "If students were to roll over their meal points until May, dining services would not be able to accommodate the amount of students rushing to spend their points at the last minute at the end of the spring semester."

While students may think that Stony Brook

is the only school that seems to serve expensive food, students from other colleges and universities such as Quinnipiac, C.W. Post, Fredonia and Geneseo agreed that campus food is overpriced.

Hofstra, which shares similarities in location and commuter percentage, has a very similar meal plan to Stony Brook's.

"It's terribly expensive here," said Hofstra student Nicholas Kolasinski. "I'm sure all campuses are, though. I haven't run out yet, but I'm on the verge. The school recommends how

much should be spent daily to make it through the semester, but it's really hard to do so."

Wright-Riva said, "In general, students would prefer that things cost less, but once they learn of how and why we do what we do, they seem to acknowledge the costs of doing business on a college campus."

Agnello tackles these comments by posing the question, "Are students getting a good value for their money? The cost of food could be lower, but other conveniences and flexibility may be lost in the process."



Frank Posillico / SB Statesman

Students lining up for food in Roth Food Court in Roth Quad.

Engineering Students Failing Physics Classes

By LUIS GRONDA
Contributing Writer

Engineering professors and teaching assistants work hard to teach their students the skills they need to graduate from college and obtain jobs, but there are developing concerns from engineering professors that their students are having trouble with one of the requirements needed for graduation: physics.

Deb Klein, a teaching assistant in PHY 131, said that freshmen retain the study habits they had in high school and often don't realize that college-level physics means a bigger workload. "People think they can go to class and just sit there," Klein said, who attends Stony Brook University on a combined degree program. "They think they can teach themselves by using the textbook."

Nevertheless, students from around the country say they get mostly A's in their classes. The National Survey of Student Engagement conducted a survey of almost 380,000 freshmen and seniors at 722 four-year colleges. The survey found that students spend about 3 1/2 hours a week preparing

for each class, about half of what professors expect from a typical college student.

The NSSE survey also found that 29 percent of freshman and 36 percent of seniors still got A's in their classes even when they didn't turn in homework assignments.

Even with the survey numbers, students taking PHY 125 and PHY 131 have trouble grasping the material. According to physics professor Philip B. Allen, the 42 percent failure rate of PHY 125 is the second highest of the courses offered at Stony Brook University.

The failure rate may stay firm; as the average midterm score of the 310 students enrolled in PHY 131 this semester was 33 out of 60. Last semester, the average scores for the same class were around 60 to 65 out of 100 for the first midterm and 55 to 60 out of 100 for the second.

Engineering students like Arieh Hammer say physics gives them trouble. "A large portion of engineering students are hands-on people," Hammer said. "We are big fans of the concept of physics. However, we are not fans of the math behind physics."

One problem engineering students have

involves units and directions. Klein said they are able to do the math required to solve the problem, but they have no concept of what the answers mean. "They do all the math in the problem, and then they just write any unit at the end of the problem," Klein said.

One example she gave is when students are asked to measure the velocity of waves on a string. They do this by measuring the period of the wave's motion and its wavelength. Klein says that even though the students are able to find a number, they often report the numbers without any type of units attached to it.

She stresses to her students that every number means something in physics. On the first day of classes, she posed the question "How do you know what a unit means?" to her class.

With the number of students needing assistance with physics increasing, the number of outside-the-classroom tutoring opportunities is also rising. This semester, Klein started a program called "The Physics Help Session." The program, which takes place every Wednesday during campus

lifetime, gives students a place to go if they need help with the concepts that the professors are teaching.

However, attendance at the help sessions has been in the single digits. The highest attendance so far has been five students. "It's quite depressing," Klein said.

Elyce Winters, assistant dean of the college of engineering and applied sciences, said that students are reluctant to ask for help. "Some students are shy because they didn't need to ask for help before. They were used to having success come to them."

Professor Allen said that students do not do enough to reach out for help.

Despite the low attendance, Klein said that the students who come often return to the program the next week for more help. She also said the program has benefited the few students who have attended.

Klein recalled working with one student during a session, "We were working on the problems he had, and at the end of the session he understood what we were working on." When they solved the problem they were working on, the student said, "I feel like good will hunting."

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Michael Zweig's Continuous Battle For Equality

By GARY TROISI
Contributing Writer

After 53 years, Stony Brook University professor Michael Zweig can't forget Emmett Till.

In August 1955, Till, a 14-year-old black youth from Chicago, was abducted from his aunt's house in Money, Miss. He was then taken to a field where he was tortured and lynched for whistling at a white woman.

Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam, both of who were white, were soon arrested, but acquitted in a court of law by an all-white jury. Four months after the trial, the two men confessed to the murder to a reporter for \$4,000.

The court's verdict galvanized the nascent Civil Rights Movement. It also left an indelible imprint on Zweig, who was 13 and living in Detroit when he read about Till's murder in the newspaper.

"He was black, and I saw what happened to him," Zweig said. "And I knew what happened to my cousins, and my grandparents, and my family who were murdered and butchered and killed off in the Holocaust. And I thought, 'He's me. I'm him. We can't allow this to happen.'"

Till's murder drew Zweig to the Civil Rights Movement, which presaged a career of helping others. In 1962, Zweig helped found Students for a Democratic

Society, an activist group that protested the Vietnam War and civil rights abuses. During his 41-year career, this economics professor has been published widely in professional journals and written several books about working-class exploitation.

In and outside the classroom, Zweig is guided by a deep-seated feeling of responsibility for others. In 1991, he received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

After 41 years in the classroom, his enthusiasm has not waned.

"I get tired of people who are looking at young people and say, 'They don't know anything, they don't know how to write, they're ignorant, they are just into their iPods,'" Zweig said. "Who's telling them anything different? Who's bringing them a different way to look at the world and their own lives? That's what I'm trying to do."

Despite his commitment to teaching, not every student extols Zweig. On the website RateMyProfessors.com, 23 out of 38 students gave Zweig poor ratings. Several lampooned him, with one poster calling him a "one-sided, opinionated, backward, self-absorbed person."

Some of the students that gave Zweig a poor rating wrote that his political leanings affect his grading policy. Following a

class Zweig taught on Oct. 30, several students defended Zweig against these claims.

"I think he has very strong views about his beliefs and that's fine," said Sharon Weiss, an applied mathematics and statistics major. "But I've never seen him shut anybody down, and say, 'Nope, you're wrong.'"

Outside of the classroom, Zweig is trying to help working people by marshaling support for his first legislative proposal. The economy is nose-diving as unemployment rates swell, home foreclosure rates rise, and the financial and auto industries teeter on bankruptcy.

To reverse these trends, Zweig recently released a study in which he recommends a \$220 billion economic stimulus package aimed at helping the working class. Zweig calculates the working class makes up nearly two thirds of the United States labor force.

Zweig sounded the call to help working people long before congressional leaders like Nancy Pelosi and Barney Frank advocated stimulus plans for low-income families.

"Michael has been involved in issues like the social movement and helping the working class for as far as I know 40 or 50 years," said economics professor Hugo Benitez-Silva. "Michael is one of those true believers...in

that there is a role for the state to be a safety net, to care about the people and not just let capitalism go crazy here."

On Sept. 29, Zweig released the study "Economic Stimulus and Economically Distressed Workers," which he co-wrote with Stony Brook graduate students Junyi Zhu and Daniel Wolman. In the study, he recommends increasing "income support programs like food stamps, housing subsidies, (and) unemployment compensation," and sending an average \$2,000 check to 55 million households earning less than \$50,000.

To drum up support for his proposal, Zweig sent copies of this study to congressmen Tim Bishop and Steve Israel, as well as Congress' Economic Joint Committee. Zweig said he will not hear from the congressmen until the new Congress convenes in January.

But it's difficult for Washington outsiders to push proposals past the denizens of Congress. Even though the political timing is right, some think power-brokers in Congress will torpedo Zweig's proposal.

"There are other proposals that are out there, that are crafted by members themselves, that will probably wind up getting priority for consideration by the Congressional leadership," said political science professor Albert

Cover.

Despite the uphill battle Zweig faces in Congress, he will not capitulate.

"I have a personal commitment to it, it is not just an intellectual position," Zweig said. "It's the right thing to do, and there's a possibility this can have some positive influence on the discussion."

A painting that hangs in Zweig's office spurs him to keep fighting for his economic proposal. The painting looks like a rainbow in a whirlpool. It was done by Louis Redstone, an architect who designed an international terminal at Detroit's Metropolitan Airport in the 1960s.

Serious problems emerged during construction, so Redstone called Zweig's father, a structural engineer, to rescue the project. Zweig's father solved the problems and the terminal still stands.

To show his appreciation, Redstone gave two paintings to Zweig's father. After Zweig's father died, Zweig took the paintings.

"You know, I'll take those paintings and put it in my office and I'll remember what hard work gets and what it means to be rewarded," said Zweig.

Now 66, Zweig has no plans of slowing down.

"There is still work to do," Zweig said.

Spotlight on Southampton

By TARA DILLON
Contributing Writer

Though students at Stony Brook Southampton enjoy the close knit atmosphere and rustic setting of the campus, it's the universities' academic programs that draw them to the college on Long Island's east end.

Southampton focuses on the Marine Sciences and Ecology, and many of the students arriving at the university already know they want to enter these fields.

Students also benefit from small classes at the university. Meredith Smith, a freshman with a major in Marine Vertebrate Biology, said the deciding factor to enroll in the Southampton campus was the fact that she would be able to get one on one attention from her professors.

"Everybody knows everyone here, both faculty and students alike, and your professors' call you by name, which made it much easier to adjust to college," said Smith.

Since fewer students are registered at Southampton than at the West campus, Southampton offers fewer classes. While the West campus has many different lecture times for Introduction to Economics, Southampton only has one lecture time. This makes it a little bit more difficult to complete D.E.C.'s.

"I'm in pretty good shape with my D.E.C.'s but I will probably have to make the trip to the main campus to complete them in good time," said Megan Harned, a sophomore and Sustainability Studies major.

Many students apply what they learn inside the classroom to the outdoors. The location of the Southampton campus gives students the opportunity to hike, swim, run and boat. For example, the students of the Scuba Diving club regularly go out with the Boat club to get certifications for both groups.

Other activities at Southampton are similar to the ones offered at the West campus.



Stony Brook Southampton.

On the events calendar you can see activities like an art exhibit, comedy night, and even a weekly bowling trip.

"The only main difference is the number of enrolled students, which is mainly because of how new of a school we are, and in the future, I see us growing, not only student wise, but activities wise as well," said Redo.

Students at Southampton, though happy with the university, think it will improve with time.

"We are a work in progress and I only see us moving upward," said Diana Gallagher, a first year grad student and RA of the Shelter Island Building.

Media credit: stonybrook.edu/southampton

Research Assistants Vote "Yes" to Union

By FRANK POSILICO
Staff Writer

Stony Brook University research assistants voted "yes" on Friday to the formation of a union.

The vote passed 214 to 135, and the National Labor Relations board now officially recognizes the research assistants.

Now that the vote passed the assistants will create a contract that will include everyone's interests. Moreover, the contract will not be passed unless everyone votes yes on it.

The union will provide the assistants with job security, a pay raise that will bring them to the average of other universities, and a grievance system among other things.

"Our goal is to give research assistants at Stony Brook a voice," according to the unions website.

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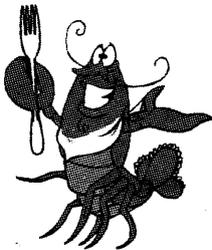
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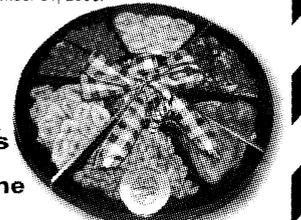
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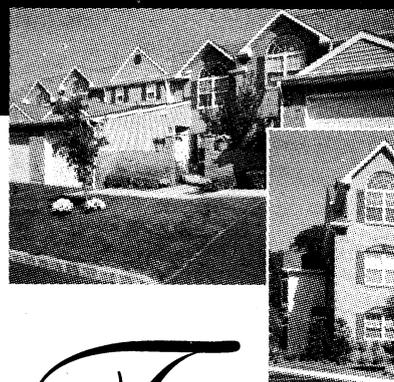
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A&E FINALE 2008: The Statesman's Staff Recall the Year's Best and Worst in the A&E World

Carl Carrie, Assistant Sports Editor

I Loved...

"Iron Man;" it was great to see Robert Downey Jr.'s comeback. It doesn't get the props it deserves because "The Dark Knight" came out only a few weeks later. "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" and "Tropic Thunder" were the funniest movies of the year

"Entourage." It is the best show on television and Jeremy Piven might play one of the best characters of all time.

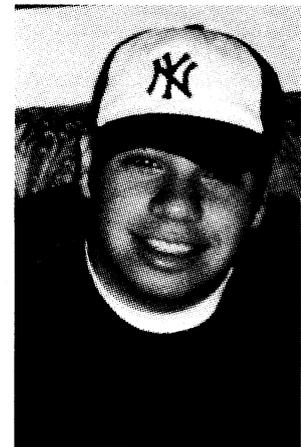
Jack's Mannequin; they came out with a great CD, "The

Glass Passenger." Andrew McMahon went back to his Something Corporate roots on parts of the album, and it paid off.

I Hated...

"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" and "Quantum of Solace." These sequels did not live up to their hype.

Soulja Boy.



Kwame Opam, Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor



I Loved...

Lykke Li. Her album, "Youth Novels," was definitely a surprise for me and I wish her the most success. And I am not afraid to say I think she's gorgeous. Also, her performing with Q-Tip was a definite bug out.

[still love] "Pushing Daisies." I adore Kristin Chenoweth. And I think it's a shame that ABC is cancelling it. Another one bites the dust. Bryan Fuller does intend to continue the story in comic book form, but he really is the master of Great Television that No One Watches.

"Sex and the City." Yes, it was a good movie. Deal with it.

I Hated...

how JJ Abrams rules all. My life vanished with that island. It hurts.

yes, the direction "Heroes" has taken this season. What the hell happened? Why is the Haitian the most interesting character and big-bad Arthur Petrelli an utter bore?

"Twilight," on the other hand... You will never see me near that movie.

April Warren, News Editor & **Joe Trollo**, Assistant News Editor

We Loved...

"Wall-E." It makes a powerful yet subtle statement on environmentalism and materialism in today's society in such a way that children understand the message without being fully aware of what it means.

It's an interesting intellectual thriller that gives viewers incomparable insight into the more abstract applications of advanced mathematics.

Jason Mraz's "I'm Yours" - The smooth and summery feeling of this song incites a contented emotion in listeners, compelling them to stop and listen to the underlying message about love in the song.

"Associated Press Stylebook" - The news section's favorite guide to news writing.



Note: This A&E Finale is a special feature of The Statesman's last print edition of the Fall 2008 semester. It is continued on Page 9 and online at <http://www.sbstatesman.com>. Enjoy and thank you for reading!



Gene Morris, Sports Editor

I Loved...

Fox's "Prison Break."

I Hated...

"Entourage" because I haven't had HBO in a year.

"The Playboy of the Western World" Charms Stony Brook

BY TEJAS GAWADE
Editor Emeritus

The Stony Brook Department of Theatre Arts is currently hosting an Irish play under the direction of Deborah Mayo. "The Playboy of the Western World," a three-act play written by John Millington Synge, takes place near a village on a wild coast of County Mayo, Ireland. It has likeable characters who bring together a rustic, comic play.

The story revolves around Christopher Mahon (Dan O'Reilly) who runs away from home and claims to have killed his father. Soon enough, his stories outrun the truth as villagers, especially Widow Quinn (Jennifer Crawford), becomes enamored

with him. He wins the village race by using the slowest beast and earns the title of the Playboy of the Western World.

But Christy only has eyes for a barmaid who goes by the name of Pegeen Mike (Natalie Allen), the daughter of the drunk, Michael James (Kevin Villaran). But she is about to be betrothed to her cousin, Shawn Keogh (Eli Jacob Clark-Kramer).

Unfortunately, for Christy, his acclaim is about to turn into shards when his father, having just been wounded, tracks him down. What follows is a comedy of errors in the likes of Shakespeare and his village fools who entertain the audience with charming dialogue and witty intrigue.

The likability of the characters comes through, as in the words of Christy, who at one point exclaims, "it's great luck and company I've won me in the end of time - two fine women fighting for the likes of me - till I'm thinking this night wasn't I a foolish fellow not to kill my father in the years gone by."

The one aspect that stood out the most was Jeanette Yew's dull, yellow lighting. It perfectly complemented Tanner Cosgrove's set design and Peggy Morin's costume design, who has already succeeded with plays staged here in the past.

The one aspect that soured the performance was the command of the Irish dialect, which feels forced and is inconsistent among the characters. The length

of the play, nearly two hours, also feels stretched for one that entertains more than preaches.

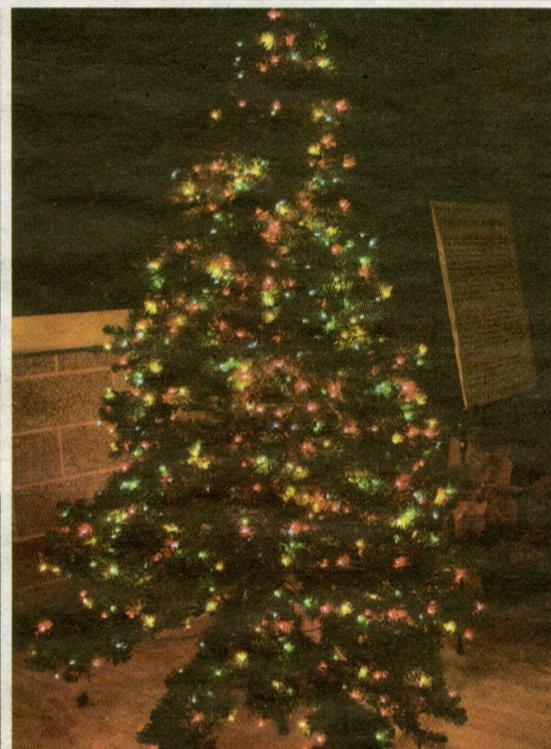
The ending of the play surprises the audience, but not for the right reasons. The ending is unexpected, but it is also markedly different in tone when compared to the rest of the play. Whether you prefer it one way or the other, is left up to you, and the only way to find out is to go see it.

Editor's Note: The final run of "The Playboy of the Western World" is this weekend from Dec. 11 to Dec. 14. Thursday through Saturday performances are at 8 pm and Sunday's performance is at 2 pm. Student tickets with ID are \$8 each.



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS 2008

Photos by: Kenneth Ho



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The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, December 11, 2008

A&E FINALE 2008: The Statesman's Staff Recall the Year's Best and Worst in the A&E World

Aisha Akhtar, Photo Editor

I Loved...

"Desperate Housewives;" I feel like each season gets better and better with great cliffhangers and twists that keep you watching.

"Sex and the City." As much of a chick-flick hater that I am, the movie was genuinely funny with an interesting plot.

the "Viva la Vida" album by Coldplay. They are the best alternative rock band, and the best song is "Violet Hill."

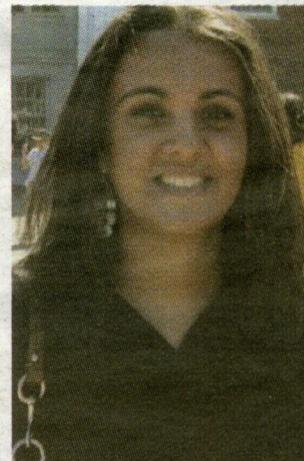
I Hated...

"Twilight." The author is incapable of creating characters and developing a plot the way good novels are written.

"Wipeout." The hosts of this new game show tried really hard to be funny, and it wasn't entertaining to see contestants struggle through obstacles.

"Tropic Thunder;" it was painful to sit through. Once again, Ben Stiller played a complete idiot.

"Damaged" by Danity Kane, and "No Air" by Jordan Sparks. The lyrics are simply corny and meaningless.



Bradley Donaldson, Managing Editor

I Loved...

"The Dark Knight" because only Heath Ledger's Joker can disturb (like, really) and amuse me at the same time.

Despite everyone else's hatred for "Heroes" season 3, I actually enjoyed it. Yes, it was a roller coaster ride like no other, but if I can hold my breakfast, then no problem.

I'm not afraid to say, Britney Spears' "Circus" was pretty good! It can't get out of my head! Not to mention Dir En Grey's "Uroboros" and Jack Mannequin's "The Glass Passenger."

I Hated...

that Warner Bros. postponed "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" until next summer. I died a little inside.

"The Secret Life of the American Teenager" initially because the acting was just painful. The characters did grow on me though (and their acting improved a bit) so I looked the other way.

"I Kissed A Girl" even though it just wouldn't stop playing in my head, on my iPod, and on the radio.



Emily Gover, Copy Editor

I Loved...

"High School Musical 3" because it involved flamboyant dance routines and ZEfron's muscular bare back.

I loved Michael Phelps on "Saturday Night Live" because his acting was as bad as a class five peppah twista.

Jonas Brothers' "A Little Bit Longer," Death Cab For Cutie's "Narrow Stairs," Girl Talk's "Feed The Animals," Jack's Mannequin's "The Glass Passenger," Snow Patrol's "A Hundred Million Suns," The Killers' "Day & Age," Keane's "Perfect Symmetry" and Fall Out Boy's "Folie A Deux" because the wait for all of these albums was

totally worth it. Particularly JoBros, but overall this was a great year for music.

I Hated...

"Twilight" because even though I didn't see it, I can tell it's totally overrated. (Dan Radcliffe > Robert Pattinson.)

"Hate" is too strong of a word, but I wasn't too keen on Portugal. The Man's "Censored Colors." Slightly too mellow for my liking.

[I will love] "Tales of Beedle the Bard" because, in my opinion, J.K. Rowling has to drag out Harry Potter for as long as humanly possible.



Lynn Hsieh, Editor-in-Chief

I Loved...

"Sex and the City" because Carrie and Mr. Big can finally have their "happily ever after."

Tina Fey and Alec Baldwin because they are hilarious on "30 Rock." It is currently my favorite series on television. Liz Lemon is too cute in her psychotic, insecure and affable way while Jack Donaghy rocks.

Jack's Mannequin's "The Glass Passenger," Nayo featuring New Kids On The Block's "Single," "Kizuna" by Kamenashi Kazuya, and Kevin Rudolf's "Let It Rock" with Lil Wayne. Christina Milian really surprised me with her

song "Us Against the World," but I loved it. A timeless class; Tim O'Brien's "The Things They Carried."

the new Wall Street Journal website with its multimedia and slideshows. It's a big improvement.

I Hated...

Katy Perry's "I Kissed A Girl" too.

Paris Hilton's "My BFF" on MTV. It's the worst show ever and I hate that I watch it sometimes.



Yi Jin Yu, Arts & Entertainment Editor

I Loved...

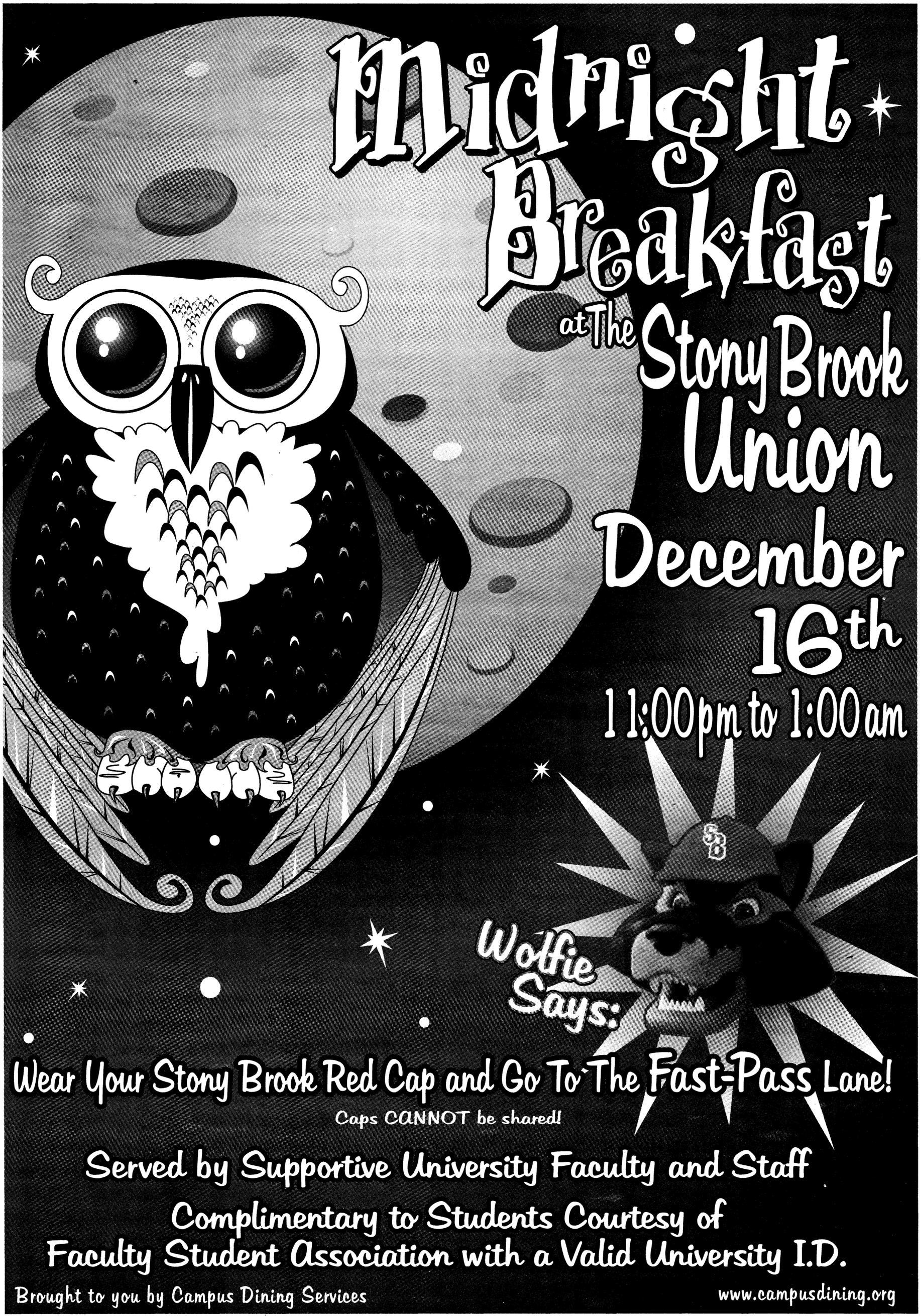
Tina Fey as Sarah Palin, Queen Latifah as Gwen Ifill, and of course, Bobby Moynihan as Mark Payne -- How do you NOT smell that peppah up in HERE?! "Saturday Night Live" definitely justified their 33rd year on air with the best skits.

"Paper Bullets" for Kip Fulbeck's raw, honest and realistic tour into the male psyche.

I Hated...

[I didn't hate] but nearly fell asleep in the theater watching "Madagascar 2." Sorry all, the talking animals don't do it for me anymore! How about a compromise? I did download the soundtrack...





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

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

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OPINION

Dealing With Canadian Health Care

By ZACHARY KURTZ
Opinion Editor

Last Monday, I attended a health care policy debate, hosted by the Stony Brook Patriot. I admit to entering the debate with a predisposition to desiring private health care systems. I believe that the inefficiencies of current health insurance problems are perfectly explained by cumbersome and counter-intuitive regulatory policies which prevent beneficial competition. I believe that these problems will be carried through to a single-payer, universal system and we should, therefore, avoid them. That said, however, I was duly impressed by Stony Brook's own Dr. David Brown, who was arguing in favor of a universal system. His plea for a fair and equal health insurance system is a hard one to ignore, especially considering the 47 million Americans who go without insurance and the many people who get denied coverage despite having insurance.

We must consider, however, the type of care that one would receive under such a system. I asked Dr. Brown, during the Q&A session why my Canadian relatives have to wait months for procedures that would be considered "next-day" here. His response, which makes sense only on the surface, is that someone in the system, maybe some government bureaucrat on some doctor's advice, decided to put my grandmother on a wait list because they felt that her condition wasn't in immediate need of a diagnostic procedure. Perhaps this was also true for a cousin, who had to wait six months to get an MRI, despite the continuous painful headaches, which could have been indicative of serious problems.

Dr. Brown claims that he considers health care to be a universal right, but he is supporting a system that doesn't let people exercise that right very well. For, when you have a single payer system, it also means you have no choices. You couldn't get a better health care coverage even if you wanted to, even

if you could afford it. You can't pay extra to get extra services. You have to accept the authority of a government wait list that places your health and well-being below another person's.

In truly a private, competitive system, this would rarely, if ever, be the case. If you get put on a wait list that you don't want to be on, simply find different coverage that gives patients more choices. This plan may be more expensive, but shouldn't people be allowed to decide for themselves how much their health is worth? Shouldn't a person decide for themselves, with the advice of their doctor, that waiting six months for an MRI is unacceptable?

People blame greedy health insurance companies for denying care without realizing that government bureaucrats do the same thing, when there is no competition and no incentive to improve quality. Profits incentivize in an atmosphere where competition is insured; incentives lower cost and improve quality to attract consumers. Government is slow to improve the quality of anything, because it does not have to respond immediately to consumer demands. Americans spend more on health care costs today than any other Western nation, even more so than other 'single-payer' countries because we have a patchwork of private/protected and government care. The ability to choose between products works to produce the most desirable products. I say that it's time to get the government out of direct insurance and so we can let the free market innovate on health care solutions, as the free market does for anything else. A single-payer system does provide health care for all, but the quality of care should not be ignored.

As Alex Chamessian, editor of the Patriot, said, "Do you really want the people who run the DMV running your health insurance?" Waiting on line at the DMV is an expected annoyance. Waiting on a line to receive desired health care is intolerable.

American Media Coverage of Mumbai

By RUCHI VIKAS
Contributing Writer

I didn't spend Black Friday shopping: I did not eat leftovers, and I did not revel in the wonderful afterglow of a wonderful and happy holiday. I spent Black Friday sitting in front of my television, watching the continuous coverage of the terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

The attacks began sometime on or around Thanksgiving and continued well into the next day. I'm not quite sure when they ended, but by Black Friday, most news channels had moved on to something else. CNN was the only channel I could find that devoted the next day almost completely to the terror going on halfway around the world.

As the day went on, I continued watching. There wasn't much new information rolling in, but I found out which hotels had been held captive, the age of terrorism, and the measures being taken to stop the attacks. It was mentioned more than several times that Westerners were specifically targeted. For the first time, in my own memory, it was dangerous to be American in India, as five of us were killed in Mumbai.

What surprised me, over the hours I spent watching the news, was the total lack of coverage of the actual Indian people whose lives were cut tragically short. There was one clip on the Indian commandos as they went into the hotels, but that was all. The news focused completely on the Americans that were killed and the Americans that survived.

The mother of one survivor told her daughters' story, and one Canadian survivor told his. A few passing words from the

people of India were filmed, and they were seen in the background of some of the other clips showed, of course. I had to wonder, though -- with the death toll at 150 in India and constantly on the rise, shouldn't some Indians have told their story, too?

Finally, towards the end of the day, they promised that some of the Indian stories would be told. And they were -- briefly. Almost immediately afterwards the news returned to the five American deaths. I had to wonder, didn't the Indians and their families deserve a voice, too?

Of course, this is America and American viewers are more likely to relate to American stories. Even so, Americans don't benefit from the fact that so many of the Indians remained nameless and faceless. If this attack has shown us anything, it's that terrorists seek out all "free" people wherever they find them. Should we not want to hear the stories of all those people, so that we can better stand united against terror, in all of its ugly forms?

One survivor advised everyone to "go right now and buy a plane ticket to Mumbai, because they are wonderful people." This survivor, hours before, had gotten on a plane as fast as he could after narrowly escaping a hotel that was under siege.

I'm not suggesting that he should have stayed in Mumbai after what happened, but that, rather than repeat this quote all day, the media should have given some attention to the wonderful people of Mumbai that he referenced, so the world could see their courage and strength for themselves.

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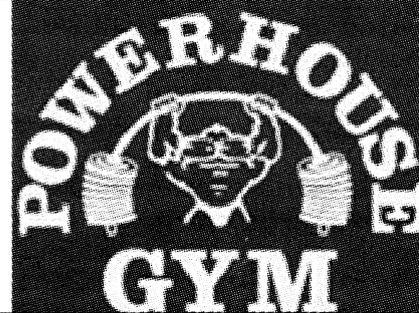
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The United States of Drugs

By JOSH GLAZER
Contributing Writer

This country is in a crisis with deciding the correct way to handle drugs, medicine and health care for its citizens. Two main issues arise from these issues. One is the pricing of medicine, the cost of research and how decisions are made as to who gets what care. The other is how illegal drugs fit into all of this.

To reply to the first, there is a serious disconnect between the role of financing research into new drugs, and the exorbitant prices the average consumer pays for certain drugs. There can be no doubt as to the importance of having continual financing of new drugs research, but in order to get that money, some drug companies have resorted to devious and arguably criminal methods. For example, The New York Times reported that the company, well within the extent of law, Celgene raised the price of their pill, thalidomide, from \$6 per pill to \$180 per pill, after it was re-classified as a cancer drug. The company's new drug, Revlimid, is priced at \$260 per pill.

These prices and trends are forcing some countries, such as

Britain, to restrict their citizens to certain drugs that the government considers "cost effective." In the United States, where health care is a hodgepodge of worker and personal policies, the best health care goes to the people who have the right policy at the right time. Some Americans receive no health care at all. How can we, as a country, assure good health care for all?

The only solution this author can see is to re-organize the industry in a way that eliminates the problems inherent in the current system. I am not recommending a vast overhaul of the system overnight - these kinds of revolutionary changes have never worked out historically. Rather, as this country has proven time and again, legislature can be worked out that tackles issues one by one.

The first thing to be done is to guarantee fair financing to all medical research, and this includes stem cells. Next, the marketing and selling strategies of pharmaceutical companies must be curtailed. Not only is drug pricing a problem, but the ads we all see on TV and in magazines for different drug remedies are also frankly nauseating. Side effects

are played down, and customers are urged to ask their doctors for a particular prescription drug. These are not ethical practices. It is up the job of government regulation to reign in these flagrant abuses against the American public by the pharmaceutical companies.

Finally, how should we deal with illegal drugs in this country? As almost anyone will tell you, the war on drugs, which costs more money than we can afford, does little to curtail drug use in this country in regards to its cost and efforts. A good historical precedent is prohibition, which was eventually repealed. Perhaps the same method can be used to reform the war on drugs that can be used to reform the health care industry; namely, gradual legislative laws passed over a period of time with healthy debate involved. The end goal would involve the axioms of treatment and safety as opposed to punishment and deterrence.

Now that this country, and world, is dealing with economic problems, we need to come up with responsible and cost effective solutions to the deepest and most expensive issues we face.

Mediate, Not Participate

By NAJEE SIMMONS
Contributing Writer

The recent tragedy in Mumbai was foreseen by American military forces, who warned the Indian authorities. Sadly, the attack was not prevented and around 200 lives were lost. According to BBC News, India has alleged that the attackers had Pakistani links, a claim which is denied by Pakistani authorities.

Clearly, India and Pakistan must work together to discover who the aggressors are and why they chose to take about 200 lives in the Mumbai attack. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is set to travel to Delhi to assist negotiations. It is of utmost importance that she, as well as any other U.S. representatives assigned to work with the two nations, play the role of an unbiased mediator.

While it was appropriate for the U.S. government to alert the Indian authorities about a possible attack, this was certainly the furthest extent our nation should have acted. We should behave only as distributors of information and a possible channel for negotiations. At this point in our nation's history, we cannot afford to become too deeply involved in the conflicts of others. Too often

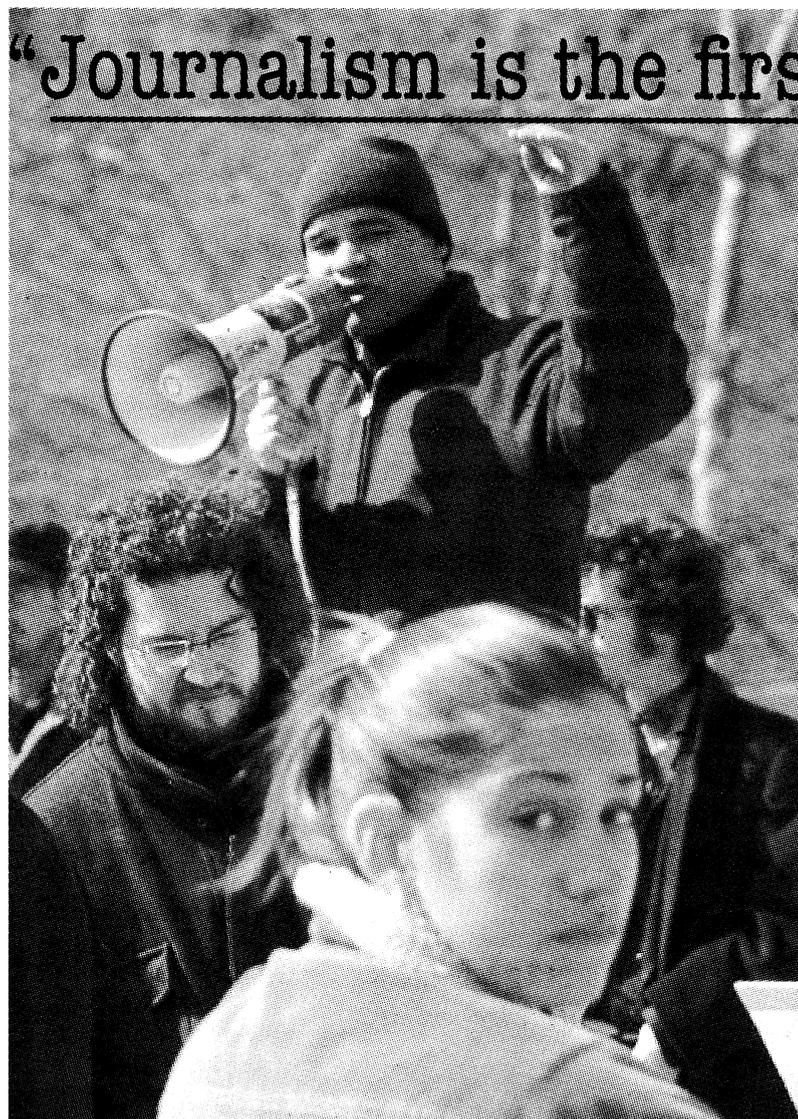
unnecessary involvement in foreign affairs becomes costly in terms of the dollar and American lives.

While we shouldn't prioritize and assign value to human life, we must not forget that it is the leaders of a nation who are ultimately responsible for the lives of their own citizens. As Americans, we should refrain from impressing our ideals upon others. Furthermore, our nation is currently at war and we can't afford to be involved, militarily, in anywhere else right now. Our secretary of state should be free to maintain the quality of the state of our nation. With our attention divided, to the conflict between Pakistan and India, Iraq and Afghanistan, we will be hard pressed to finally resolve any of these decade-long conflicts.

We must clean up the mess in our own back yard before we meddle in the affairs of others. Perhaps the United States will retain its role as mediator in this issue. Hopefully, as a nation, we will recognize that this is not our issue to resolve. Conflicts persist in every part of the world. As concerned citizens we must carefully consider the differences between those that the United States attempts to resolve and those that it does not.

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-Donald Graham



"Students staging a protest against the war in Iraq," Spring 2005, *Statesman*

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01/05/09	at Binghamton 
01/08/09	vs. Maine
01/13/09	at Dartmouth
01/17/09	vs. Vermont
01/19/09	at Boston University
01/23/09	at Albany 
01/25/09	vs. Hartford

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01/24/09	at Bryant University

Ice Hockey

01/09/09	@ University of Maryland
01/10/09	@ Towson University
01/16/09	@ University of Rhode Island
01/17/09	@ University of Rhode Island
01/24/09	@ University of Rhode Island
01/25/09	vs. Wagner College
01/26/09	vs. Rutgers University

For times and locations
check out

goseawolves.org and
stonybrookhockey.com

For coverage of the home
games check out [sbusports-
report.blogspot.com](http://sbusports-report.blogspot.com).

By BRIAN MORGAN
Senior Writer

Two years ago, Emanuel Neto transferred to Stony Brook from San Jacinto College to further his basketball career. Early in his first semester, he said, he felt like an outcast because of his appearance and "wackadoo" attitude.

"Everyone was scared of me. They all thought I was crazy," Neto said, who stands at 6'10".

But shortly after hearing the sound of a whistle coming from Kenneth P. Lavallo Stadium, he became the face of Stony Brook's entire athletic program.

Neto said the whistle was blown by a referee of a women's soccer game. When he heard the sound, he decided to look inside the stadium. When he saw that it was from a soccer game, and his favorite sport, he said became a new person.

"It was a turning point for me," he said. "I watched the game and went crazy rooting for the team. I haven't missed a game since."

After that night, Neto began attending volleyball games, tennis matches, and swim meets, where he also made his presence known.

"He knows how to get your adrenaline going," said Nathan Fleshman, a member of the men's swim team. "I remember one time during a meet he got up on the three-meter board to get the crowd going."

Shirley Strum Kenny, president of Stony Brook University, has also felt his impact.

"One moment I remember is the recent pep rally, when he ran with the huge Stony Brook flag, bounded up the stairs carrying it, and waved it for all to cheer," Kenny said. "That enthusiastic participation spoke of a pride in his university, even as Stony Brook feels pride in him."

Jim Fiore, athletic director of Stony Brook, says Neto has "brought great spirit, pride and energy to both the athletic department and the university."

Neto's intensity and love for Stony Brook was also evident on the basketball court. He led Stony Brook's men's basketball team in both rebounding and blocks in both seasons he played for the Seawolves. In his senior year, he was a captain of the team.

"He brought fire and energy to the team," said former teammate Andrew Goba.

Their coach agreed. "He was the emotional leader of the team and gave everything he had to Stony Brook," said head

coach Stephen Pikiell.

Pikiell recalled that Neto incurred many injuries during his two years at Stony Brook including injuries to his knee that led to surgery mid-season.

But his biggest challenge was overcoming the death of his mother last December.

"I hit rock bottom when she died," Neto said. "I wanted to quit school and give up."

He did not face this challenge alone, however. On hearing about his loss, Neto's fellow athletes came together to help him through his rough time. On the day she lost her battle with kidney disease, Stony Brook held a service in her memory.

"Nearly every athlete showed up to the service," Pikiell said.

"It was very touching to see how much

"He was on our minds the entire game."

After her death, Neto honored his mother by becoming a member of Team Darfur, a coalition of athletes who use their spotlight to raise awareness about they call "the world's worst humanitarian crisis." Growing up in Angola, Neto witnessed similar violence, so he joined Team Darfur to help the ravaged region, he said.

"I saw 9-year-olds trained to use a gun," he said. "I can't tolerate injustices. So much needs to be done."

His affiliation with Team Darfur, however, led China to ban him from the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, where he was supposed to play basketball for Angola's national team.

As he was getting ready to leave for China, Angola officials delivered the bad news.

"Right before the Olympics they called me and told me, 'We have your plane and hotel tickets ready, but China won't give you a visa,'" Neto said.

Although disappointed, Neto doesn't regret his decision to support Team Darfur.

"No way," he said. "I would do what I did every time."

After Neto finishes his undergraduate sociology degree this month, he hopes to continue his basketball career on a professional stage. He hopes that by being on a big stage, he can continue to help those in Darfur.

"I'm proud of him," Pikiell said. "He has other opportunities, but he decided to stick it out and finish his degree."

Neto, 24, is excited to graduate because that means he'll be able to return to his home in Texas and rejoin his wife, Andice, and two daughters, Faith and Eva Prestine.

"I miss them and think about them all the time," Neto said. "I'm the proudest daddy ever."

Neto carries around a stuffed frog, named Ginobili, that his daughter gave him.

"I'm Manu, and he's Ginobili, like the basketball player Manu Ginobili," Neto said. Manu Ginobili plays for the nearby San Antonio Spurs.

But until he graduates, Neto plans to enjoy his remaining time in Stony Brook. He said he'll still attend every athletic event even though he is no longer a member of the basketball team.

"You may be a student for four years," Neto said, "but you're a Seawolve for life."

"The team won for him," Goba said.

Fan Of The Year: Emanuel Neto



everyone cared," Neto said. "It was a hard time for me, and it was great to see everyone there to support me."

"We're family," said Brooke Barbuto, a member of the women's soccer team. "He supports us on and off the field, so we supported him through his tough time."

"He supports me, I support him," said Fleshman. "I love Manu."

Later on the day of the memorial service, Neto played in his team's game against New Jersey Institute of Technology, where he helped his team win 62-53.

After the game, Neto flew home to Angola to attend his mother's funeral. While he was gone, the team played Long Island rival Hofstra, winning 77-74 in his honor.

"It was an emotional game for the guys," said Pikiell. "The second the game ended, the first thing any of them wanted to do was call him that they won the game for him."

Best Sports Performances of Fall 2008

By: Statesman Sports Staff

Top Moments of the Semester:

1. Women's Soccer Defeats Binghamton to Advance to America East Championship:

"Before the game the music was cranked up, the field illuminated and the bleachers were ice cold. The Seawolves had their largest attendance of the year, as 351 fans carrying extra coats and blankets arrived ready to cheer the team on. The Seawolves and Bearcats took the field in their semifinal match-up, each knowing that there was only room in the championship game for one of them." **Shawn Brown** - 11/3/08 Issue

2. Football Win's Homecoming Thriller:

"It didn't come easy. Nothing has for Stony Brook football thus far in 2008.

Red shirt Freshman Dayne Hoffman found tight end Adrian Sawyer

for a 23-yard game winning strike with only 1:06 left to lift the Seawolves 20-19 over Charleston Southern on Homecoming." - **Gene Morris**, 10/20/08 Issue

3. Gowins and Cuttino Carve Up VMI, Set Records:

"Conte Cuttino and Edwin Gowins once again surpassed 200 yards individually, and set some more records.

"Cuttino's 233-yards on 28 carries pushed him to 2,808 yards in his career. He passed running back Ralph Menendez's 2,623-yards to become Stony Brook's all time leading rusher.

Gowins had another huge day, scoring three times, with each touchdown over 30 yards. His 250 yards on the day put him at 1,310 yards on the season, the highest total in Stony Brook history, and he also had a 65-yard touchdown run called back due to a holding penalty. Cuttino's season total of 1,243 yards leaves him second

on the individual season list." - **Gene Morris**, 11/17/08 Issue

4. Women's Cross Country Win's America East Championship:

"The Stony Brook Seawolves Cross Country team was awash with excitement on Saturday as the Women's team once again took home the Conference title for the second year in a row.

The women placed four runners in the top ten spots and five overall in the top fifteen." - **Mike Fodera**, 11/3/08 Issue

5. Men's Basketball Sets Pritchard on Fire With Huge Second Half

"The Seawolves' defense was relentless, seemingly feeding off of their offensive success to force the Hawks into difficult shots and costly turnovers. A three-pointer by John Moore (Cleveland, Ohio) brought the Seawolves within one, followed by another layup by Adedeji that finally

put the Seawolves on top at 41-40 with nine minutes left. The home team would never look back, playing stifling defense and capitalizing on offense.

Over a nine minute stretch, the Hawks were held to two field goals, en route to shooting a mere 30 percent (9-30) in the last 20 minutes, while the Seawolves hit 53 percent (16-30) of their shots. The Hawks were held to 50 points and committed 23 turnovers, after averaging 74 points and only 11 turnovers in their previous seven games.

A 19-2 Seawolves run, in which Martin contributed seven points, sealed the deal and gave the home team a 62-44 cushion with 2:30 minutes to go." - **Sarah Kazadi** 12/8/08

Athletes of The Semester:

1. Edwin Gowins
2. Marissa Viola
3. Conte Cuttino
4. Holly Van Dalen
5. Colleen McKenna/
Brooke Barbuto

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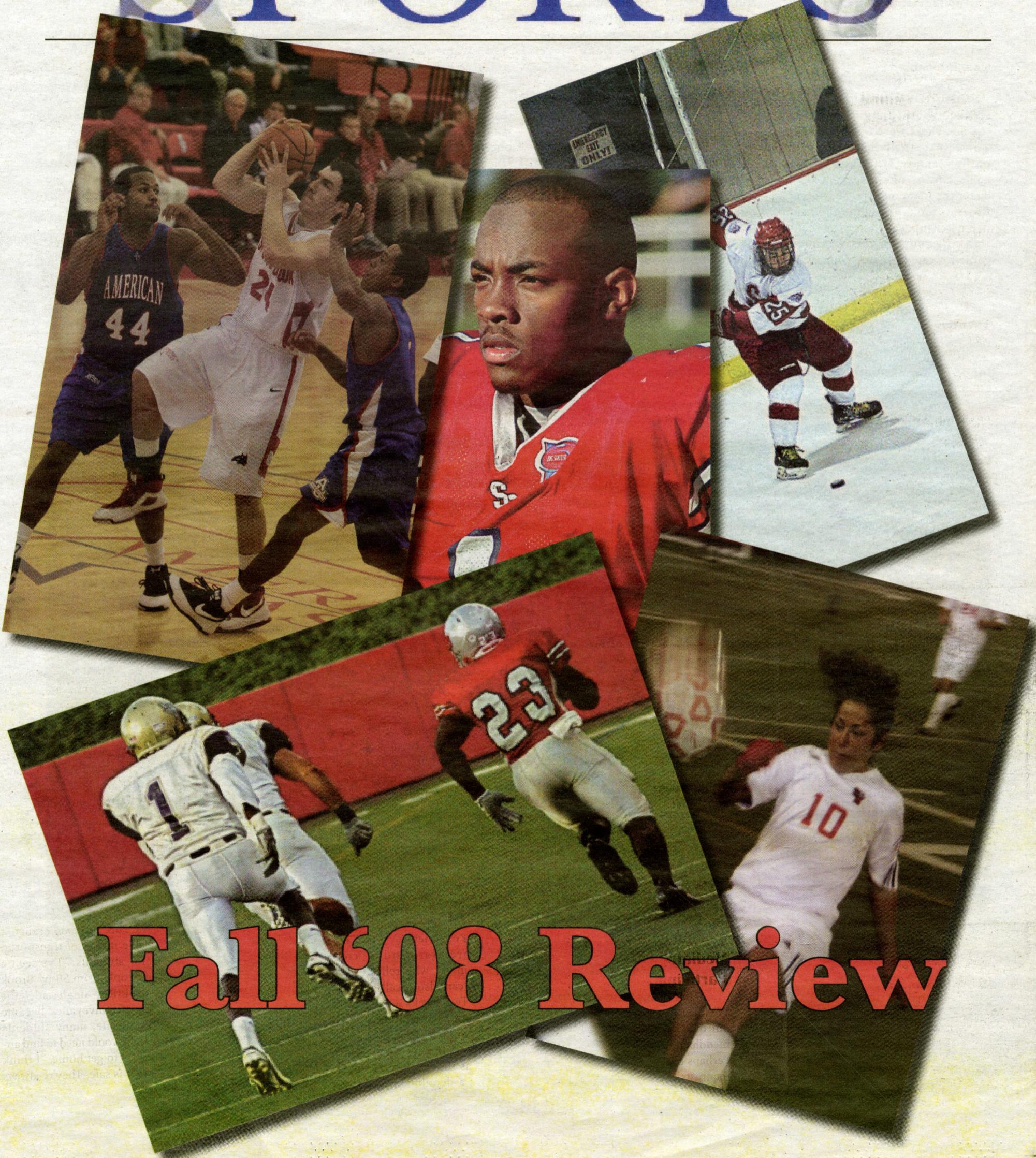
LOCATION: Student Union Ball Room
DATE: December 12, 2008 TIME: 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.

LOCATION: Roosevelt Quad Stimpson Building Lobby
DATE: December 13, 2008 TIME: 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.

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