

Arts & Entertainment: 7  
Music for Grown-Ups:  
Yes, We Can!

Sports: 11  
Cross Country Stumbles, Women  
Land in NCAA Championships

Arts & Entertainment: 7  
'Twilight' Score Shoots to No. 1

Sports: 12  
When Will Athletes Ever Figure it  
Out?

## FEATURES

### Students Celebrate Roth's Opening

Students have been pouring into Roth Food Court since the cafeteria opened its doors on Oct. 27. To officially commemorate the opening of the cafeteria, last Tuesday Campus Dining held a grand opening celebration. The celebration had an arts and crafts table, a caricature artist, personalized graffiti t-shirts and a live band.

>> page 3

## OPINION

### The GOP Needs a Facelift

I thought it was a bit premature to already be picking the GOP's new face and deciding on the 2012 Republican front runner, but I guess after the stunning electoral defeat we saw just a few weeks ago, it is never too early to start rebuilding your party's image. After all, the Republicans were not just beaten on Nov. 4. They suffered a crushing loss; a complete repudiation of George Bush's administration and the warped world of neoconservative thought.

>> page 9

### Letter: Understanding Robert Spencer

In your op-ed article "Robert Spencer's Radical Agenda," you attempt to invalidate Mr. Spencer by saying that he is not a scholar on the Islamic doctrine or scripture. Mr. Spencer's M.A. is not in "Christianity," as you say, but in "religious studies;" his master's thesis was on Christianity. We think it is safe to say that having an M.A. in "religious studies" at least qualifies as having more than a passing interest in the subject.

>> page 9



Joe Trollo /SB Statesman

At least 3 residents have contracted MRSA.

## "Raw" Deal at Jasmine for Students and Faculty

By CAITLIN STEIGER  
Contributing Writer

Jasmine Food Court and Kelly Cafe are pending reinspection by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services for violations; meanwhile, there have been complaints of food related illness by students and professors.

A professor and a student were ailed by food purchased from the Jasmine Food Court in September.

Professor Raiford Guins of the Comparative Studies department ate at Jasmine on Monday, Sept. 8 and was sick for two days with intestinal symptoms associated with food poisoning. Paige Eastwood, 19, a journalism student, ate sushi from the same facility the week of Sept. 22, and was plagued with nausea for a day.

Professor Guins is not new to the food establishment inside the Wang Center, in fact he ate at Jasmine often and this was the first time he got sick.

"It was the first time that I tried the Chinese food at the Wang Center. I normally stick to Indian," he said. Guins was sick for two days with signs of food poisoning. "I did ask around and seven people reported similar circumstances all associated with Chinese

food from the Wang Center. I would also worry about the yogurt-based sauces with Indian food. They are often frozen or warm."

Guins has not returned to Jasmine.

Similarly, Eastwood ordered Japanese and described her hesitation to finish the salmon roll she ordered, due to its unusual taste. She said the sushi was "not cold." Eastwood finished the sushi since she was so hungry, but regretted doing so after she came down with nausea that lasted an entire day.

This was the first and last time she ate at the Wang Center.

Although these minor complaints have not been reported, Jasmine does have outstanding health violations. According to an inspection by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Jasmine Food Court has eight health violations of Article 13 of the Suffolk County Sanitary Code on Apr. 10, 2007 and is currently awaiting a scheduled inspection.

According to management,

Continued on page 3



Amanda Cressotti /SB Statesman

Two campus members complained about illness after eating at Jasmine.

## MRSA Outbreak on Campus

By CHER ARMSTRONG  
Contributing Writer

At least three Stony Brook University residents contracted infections of Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bacteria, university officials confirmed Wednesday during an afternoon press conference.

MRSA is a particular strain of staphylococcus aureus -- commonly referred to as staph -- that is more resistant to anti-biotics such as methicillin, penicillin, and amoxicillin.

Around 30 percent of the population naturally has staph bacteria on their skin or in nasal passages where it doesn't cause any problems, simply taking advantage of the warm, moist environment that bacteria relish. Most of these people never get infected.

"If it's not causing any problems, it's not an issue," said Dr. Sharon Nachman, a pediatric infectious disease specialist at Stony Brook University Medical Center. "MRSA has been around for decades. It's not a new thing."

When bacteria enters the bloodstream -- usually through physical contact with open wounds -- it can cause health problems.

Cuts affected with MRSA develop redness around the infection that sometimes escalates into an abscess or boil that causes fever, pus, swelling, or pain.

The most rare -- but deadliest -- cases of MRSA can cause infections in the bloodstream, joints, bones, heart, lungs, as well as pneumonia and potentially death. This particular strain of bacterium has become prominent in the news due to deaths in the most advanced stages. What makes MRSA alarming to many is its resistance to certain antibiotics.

Continued on page 3

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# "Raw" Deal at Jasmine for Students and Faculty

Continued from page 7

improvements have been made since the violations were issued.

Jasmine has four violations in which "potentially hazardous food shall be received and maintained at or below 41 degrees Fahrenheit (5 degrees Celsius), or at or above 140 degrees Fahrenheit (60 degrees Celsius)"

There are two additional "potentially hazardous food" violations for Jasmine in which proper storage and storage containers were not used. Raw egg shells were found beside a ready-to-eat mango lassi dish, violating the code that "food not subject to further cooking before serving shall be stored in such a manner as to be protected against contamination from food requiring washing or cooking."

Finally, the walk-in refrigerator read air temperature at 48.0 Fahrenheit, violating the regulation that temperatures must be monitored appropriately with an accurate thermometer to maintain temperatures that are required by the department.

"Jasmine Food Court at Stony Brook University is scheduled for inspection prior to the end of the calendar year," said Grace Kelly-McGovern, of Suffolk County Department of Health Services.

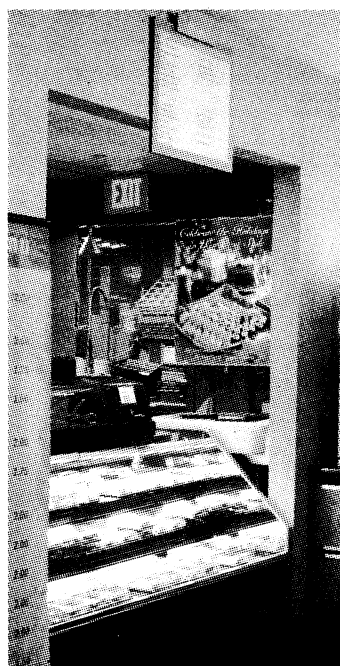
Until the board returns to evaluate past violations and present improvements, the violations will remain as noted.

"We have made changes as required by the Health Department since their last visit," Vineet Kapoor, the general manager of Jasmine said.

According to Jasmine managers, Vineet Kapoor and Andy Kumar, improvements have been made since the inspection. Such improvements are the Chinese steam table. The once hot plate has been replaced with a water well that maintains a temperature above 180 degrees.

Food storage in the refrigerator has changed from deep pans to shallow pans. Temperature regulation have also been improved. Sushi labeling has been enforced stating consumption of raw fish advisories.

As for food handling, stu-



Amanda Cressotti /SB Statesman

dents work the front line and are trained in sanitation. Experienced chefs with 25-30 years in the food industry work in the back kitchen. Managers Kapoor and Kumar are certified by the Board of Health.

The Faculty Student Association has also inspects Jasmine every three to four months,

Kumar said.

Sushil Malhotra and Rajesh Bhardwaj, both who are involved in the restaurant industry, own Jasmine. Bhardwaj was a food and beverage manager at the Taj Group, a luxury chain across India. Malhotra opened the restaurant Dawat, which was rated as the best Indian restaurant in New York City by Zagat. Together, they own Cafe Spice Restaurant Group.

Upon opening with such renowned owners, the dining facility was labeled on its website as an "upscale food court," which has brought a variety of cuisines to campus. Located on the second floor of the Wang Center, the restaurant accommodates up to 350 people.

According to managers at Jasmine, between 1,400 and 1,500 students are served each day.

Meals served at Jasmine's include Japanese, Indian, Chinese, Korean and Thai cuisine. While the dining facility may be receiving fresh ingredients, according to the violations these products are not being properly handled

for freshness and quality.

Of the 17 dining facilities at Stony Brook University, only two eateries are pending reinspection.

In addition to Jasmine, Kelly Cafe had two violations of Article 13 during an inspection on Apr. 10, 2007. Besides these eateries, Stony Brook University's dining halls obey Article 13 of the Suffolk County Sanitary Code.

The Bureau of Public Health Protection is responsible for maintaining and regulating health and food conditions by Suffolk County Sanitary Code and Laws. There are five units of the bureau to provide utmost protection -- food control is responsible for restaurant inspection. Problems concerning food poisoning can be reported to the Bureau of Public Health at 631-787-2200. In an effort to promote more interaction among ethnic and cultural student groups on campus, the Office of Multicultural Affairs hosted the Multicultural Student Leadership Council on Friday afternoon. They would not normally program with.

## MRSA Outbreak on Campus

Continued from page 7

Campus medical experts insist that there is no cause to panic about MRSA.

According to experts, although penicillin does not work against MRSA, there are plenty of other effective antibiotics.

"The phrase 'superbug' has been used unnecessarily," said Dr. Susan Donelan, a specialist in adult infectious disease at the Stony Brook University Medical Center. "In fact, you can prevent MRSA just by using proper hygiene just like your mother always told you."

MRSA is generally contracted in hospitals, where patients are more likely to have weakened immune systems. However, MRSA is also present in crowded settings and communities like dormitories.

MRSA is not new on the Stony Brook University scene. According to Robert Ansbach, the associate director of Student Health Services, "There are cases every year. They just have not been reported."

For the past two years, there have been signs -- complete with close-up photographs of worst-case scenarios -- around the Sports Complex advising athletes on how they should keep

themselves clean and avoid sharing personal equipment, which houses the team locker rooms, the athletic training room, the laundry rooms, and other facilities for the 300-plus student athletes.

These signs appeared after an athlete contracted an infection several years ago. Donelan pointed out that basic hygiene practices ensure that infection does not come to fruition.

"This bacterium might be resistant to penicillin, but it is not resistant to things such as soap, bleach, and showering," she said. "Use a clean towel after you use workout equipment, and cover open wounds."

In spite of the fact that MRSA commonly spreads within one small area, the infections of the several students do not seem to be linked. Ansbach said that the several infected students "are not from the same living area, nor are they related in any way. This does not look like an epidemic."

Ansbach was able to say that Student Health Services treated the cases, but due to privacy laws, he could neither confirm nor deny the rumors that at least one of the infected students lives in H Quad, nor could he disclose other personal information. He

emphasized that cleanliness suffices for preventing the infection -- the usual household and bathroom cleaners kill the bacteria.

If a student does have an infected wound of any sort, Nachman and Donelan both emphasized not permitting these skin infections to fester. Donelan said that the standard redness that accompanies a cut is a "simple irritation" and thus generally not something to panic over.

However, Donelan emphasized the importance of seeking medical assistance if need be.

"If this redness expands and starts streaking away from the area and swelling, then you need to see a doctor," Donelan said.

In treating these infections, alternative antibiotics to penicillin are used. "You take medicine, cover it up so it does not spread, and yes, you are allowed to go to class," Nachman said. "You won't infect anybody as long as you keep it covered."

Removing students from dorms or quarantining the infected individuals is unnecessary. All that is needed is proper hygiene.

The campus does not intend to undergo a lengthy investigation into the matter.

"If there's no epidemiological link, there's no justification

for delving deeper into possible dormitory issues. There is no cluster," said Donelan.

"The unfortunate deaths over the past couple of years have been sensationalized," she said.

"This sensation is advantageous, because it raises awareness that a perfectly healthy person can potentially become very sick if they don't take care of themselves and keep themselves clean."



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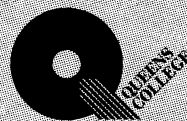
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## Students Celebrate Roth's Opening

By ERIKA KARP  
Contributing Writer

Students have been pouring into Roth Food Court since the cafeteria opened its doors on Oct. 27.

To officially commemorate the opening of the cafeteria, last Tuesday Campus Dining held a grand opening celebration. The celebration had an arts and crafts table, a caricature artist, personalized graffiti t-shirts and a live band.

"It's been more than a year since Roth has been open, it's really exciting," said Emily Logan, a junior who works with campus dining.

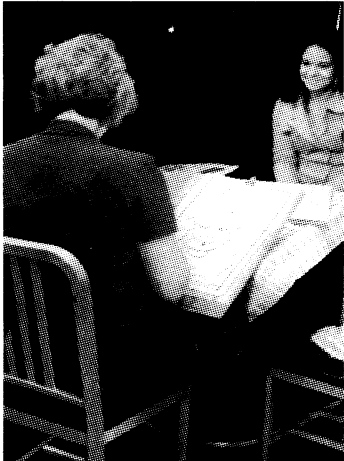
Logan, among other campus dining employees, spent the evening helping out with the event. The craft table let students paint and decorate jewelry boxes and

picture stands. The caricature artist was very popular and many students toughed it out on the line to have their picture drawn.

Long Island's own Peat Moss and the Fertilizers provided the entertainment for the evening. They covered songs such as "Beat It" by Michael Jackson and other hits. Students seemed to enjoy their performance and some even broke out a few dance moves.

Campus Dining also administered a survey. The survey asked students questions such as what types of food and franchise restaurants would they like to see at the Roth Food Court.

Pallavi Mathur, a junior who helped with the event, said the survey was given to help Campus Dining adapt to student dining preferences.



Erika Karp / SB Statesman

continued from page 7

debut, "Relish," Joan Osborne returns with an album of original material that shows off her myriad vocal gifts. From blue-eyed soul, gut-wrenching blues, scratchy-throated aching ballads, and snarling anger, there is a soul-wrenching intensity, a soothing calm, or a soaring power that is matched only by the most gifted singers around.

Add to that the local angle, while earlier albums mined her southern roots, this album is a virtual love-poem to New York City. She's positively overjoyed to live in New York, and it shows on every song, whether the uptempo "Hallelujah in the City" or the aching beauty of "Daddy-O" or even the bluesy "Sweeter than the Rest," where she riffs off Walt Whitman's "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry." Osborne evinces a vocal integrity in Osborne's phrasing that still comes through. You ache when she does, you get turned on when she's feeling sexy, you feel her pain.

Lucinda Williams: "Little

Honey" (Lost Highway Records)

Talk about authenticity - Lucinda Williams sounds like she practically invented it. Long a critical and fan favorite, Williams revels in her pain, and takes the listener along from the descent and the redemptive climb out of the darkest pit of despair. Her country-twang only enhances the gutsiness of it, as if those southerners know something about unperturbed pain that we northerners can only understand by empathic listening.

On this album, Williams reverses her missteps from last year - an album preoccupied with mortality and unredemptive sadness. Little Honey finds her happier, more upbeat, but no less willing to bare her soul, whether in a country roadside bar rave up like "Honey Bee" or in her countrified versions of soul song like "Tears of Joy."



Media Credit: Google Images and Amazon.com

And just in case you missed the rock and roll influence, she closes the record with AC/DC's "It's a Long Way to the Top."

Dar Williams:  
*Promised Land*  
(Razor & Tie Records)



Thea Gilmore: *Liejacker*

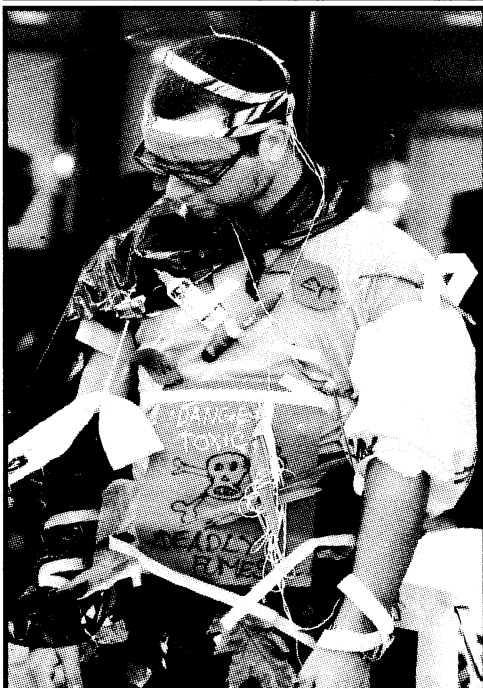
(Ryko Records)



These two singer songwriters - Williams

the veteran and Gilmore the newcomer - are just dripping with sincerity, and that's the good news. Both range widely over styles, from uptempo pop-rock to soothing ballads and aching, needy yearnings. Both are melodic and strong, with lyrics that are both uplifting and inspiring. Gilmore's "Come Up With Me" and Williams's "It's Alright" are catchy, but I find their CDs drifting into the background as I read or write. On the other hand, every single track on Joan Osborne's CD makes me sit up and pay attention - and feel what she's feeling. She reaches for something beyond beautiful melody - and she snatches it.

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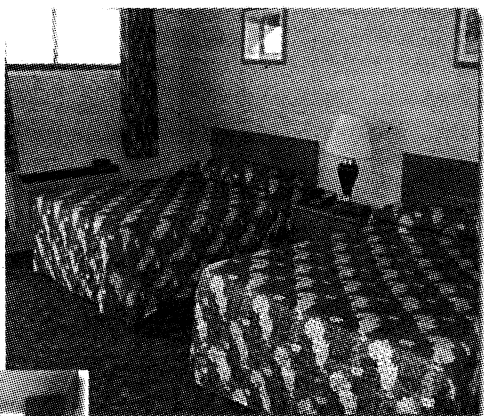
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# A MONGOLIAN GLADIATOR

By ULA LUKSZO  
Staff Writer

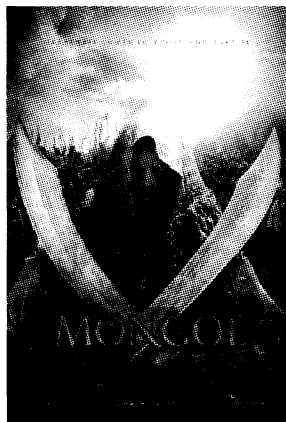
Every country needs a hero whose name is larger than legend.

And every couple of years, movie studios profit by directors and writers who render these historic figures into movie characters.

This year, joining the ranks of "Braveheart," "Rob Roy," and "Gladiator," among others, is Russian director Sergei Bodrov's contribution: "Mongol," the story of the rise of Genghis Khan.

Most of us recognize the name of Genghis Khan, the Mongolian ruler who controlled much of modern day Asia in the 13th century, from history classes on Marco Polo.

By the time Polo reached Genghis, however, his reign was already established. The action in



Media Credit: IMDb.com

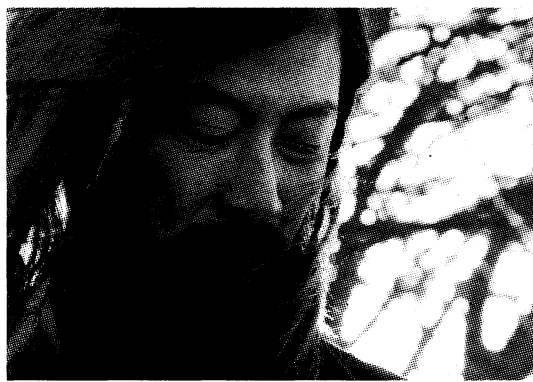
"Mongol" takes place well before this point in history.

Instead, "Mongol" traces Genghis Khan's tumultuous beginnings, from a young boy named Temudjin, who witnesses the cruel murder of his father, a local tribal chief ("khan"), and is persecuted by his father's enemy, Targutai, until he is finally sold into slavery, but only after making another powerful enemy -- Jamukh.

Eventually, Temudjin breaks out of his slavery with the help of his wife, Börte. He escapes back into the wild steppes of Mongolia, rallies his men, and defeats Jamukh and Targutai, as we know he must. We know, because we know this is the story of Genghis Khan.

Bodrov supplements his epic narrative with beautiful scenery that ranges from endless green steppe unbroken by trees or shrubs, to sandy, red dunes and

high, snow-capped mountains. For the most part, Temudjin and his men are filmed in traditional Mongol dress, complete with peaked, furry hats that border on



Media Credit: IMDb.com  
Tadanobu Asano plays Temudjin, more commonly known as Genghis Khan in Sergei Bodrov's "Mongol".

stereotype.

The film's downfall is its inability to step outside of Hollywood epic-biopic conventions. Temudjin must be insulted, demeaned and branded a slave over and over again before he can rise up and defeat his enemies.

By the end, Temudjin is barely a man at all -- he is larger than legend, leaving the simple life with his wife and children be-

hind in order to unite the Mongol tribes. He seems to have no heart, no soul, only a fathomless drive to live up to his khan status and organize the tribes.

Throughout the film, we are reminded of the innate qualities of the Mongols. "Real" Mongols don't kill children. "Real" Mongols stay loyal to their khan. And on and on.

In trying to excavate a

rich and nuanced history for the edification and entertainment of people around the world who may be unfamiliar with the lesser-known history of Genghis Khan, Bodrov plays to the lowest common denominator.

He does this by giving us pretty landscapes and gory violence in epic medieval battles. He gives us "Gladiator" and "Braveheart" in one, and does us one better, because we know that Genghis Khan has to come out on top.

"Mongol" is only the first in a trilogy of films that director and writer Bodrov is making to document all of the famous khan's life, so there is more to come. The second installment promises to include Marco Polo.

Perhaps that next one will contain the spark of originality and psychological depth that the first one merely implied.



Media Credit: IMDb.com

## MUSIC FOR GROWN-UPS: YES, WE CAN!

By MICHAEL KIMMEL  
Staff Writer

Yes, the Obama election is historic, transformative, and epochal. But don't forget that this was the first election campaign that featured a woman running seriously for president, and another woman running for vice president. Sure, Sarah Palin was an attempt to try and keep white women from voting for Obama - a ploy that crashed and burned in the hills of western Pennsylvania - but it still seems fitting to celebrate some recent strong women's voices, raised here to serenade W. out the door.

**Jonatha Brooke: "The Works"**  
(Bad Dog Records)



Woody Guthrie was among the most pro-

lific folksingers in American history. But while he was celebrating the down and out Tom Joads of the country, who would have imagined that his words and music would be so malleable and versatile? Every generation of musicians rediscovers the Woody Guthrie they need: whether Bob Dylan's nasal twangy homages,

or Billy Bragg teaming up with Wilco to render the more ironic and offbeat country-rock Woody Guthrie is like another Brooklyn-ite, Walt Whitman - his contains multitudes.

Now singer/songwriter Jonatha Brooke takes Guthrie's unrecorded poetry and sets it to music, making him everything from an earnest balladeer to a lounge or cabaret act. And yet Brooke's musical sensibility is so unerring that Guthrie's words, usually so straightforward and black and white journalistic, take on new shades of meaning, new tone and color. And some of the half-century old lyrics positively leap off the page with fresh, contemporary meanings. It's hard to imagine that Woody would ever have come up with these stylings, but impossible to consider that he wouldn't have been mightily pleased with the result.

**Joan Osborne: "Little Wild One"**  
(Plum Records)



Nearly a decade after her breakthrough

continued on page 5

## "TWILIGHT" SCORE SHOOTS TO No. 1

By DENISE DEGENNARO  
Contributing Writer

As of Nov. 4, "Twilight" fans have a soundtrack to go with their vampire romance.

Released about two weeks before the movie, the "Twilight" soundtrack has climbed to the top of the Billboard Top Album chart. This indicates just how hard Twilight fans have been bitten by the "Twilight" bug -- or vampire, in this case. The film and soundtrack are all a result of Stephenie Meyer's number one bestselling book of the same title. In short, the book is the first in a four-part series that follows the trials and tribulations of a romance between the mortal Bella and the immortal vampire, Edward.

The soundtrack features two original tracks from Paramore that were written exclusively for the film. "Decode" is a moody rock-romance song that Paramore's front-woman Haley Williams said, in an interview with MTV, "is about the building tension, awkwardness, anger and confusion between Bella and Edward."

The other exclusive Paramore track, "Caught Myself," has a lighter feel than "Decode." The lyrics talk about a girl, presum-

ably Bella, who is experiencing the varied emotions of falling in love. Both songs, driven by Williams' powerful vocals, are both fun to listen to and catchy.

"I can't write without music," Meyer reveals on her web site. A few artists on the soundtrack are who author Stephenie Meyer considered inspiration while writing the book. In chapter seven of the novel, Bella is listening to a CD, which Meyer revealed on her web site is Linkin Park. "Leave Out All the Rest," a rock ballad, made the track list for the CD. One of Meyer's major influences who she credits much of the book to is Muse. Muse's almost trippy "Supermassive Black Hole" begins the soundtrack.

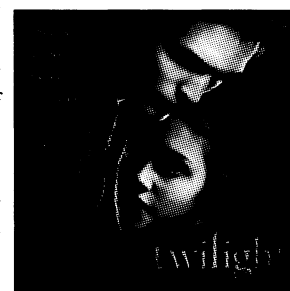
Another exciting thing about the soundtrack is that actor Robert Pattinson, who portrays vampire heartthrob Edward, has an original track on the album. "Never Think" features Pattinson on acoustic guitar and vocals.

The song has a very melancholy feel to it. The song is solely guitar until just over one minute into the song, when Pattinson's deep and soft voice comes in. His vocal style is a little strange -- it sounds as if he is slurring the lyrics. It has an emo-yet-bluesy feel that works really well to create a pretty, melancholy acoustic piece.

A highly anticipated part of the soundtrack is "Bella's Lullaby." In the novel, Edward composes a piano lullaby for Bella. The song comes up throughout the series of books -- it is an important part of their relationship. Fans of the novel began speculation within the blog-o-sphere very early and a few versions began to float around on YouTube.

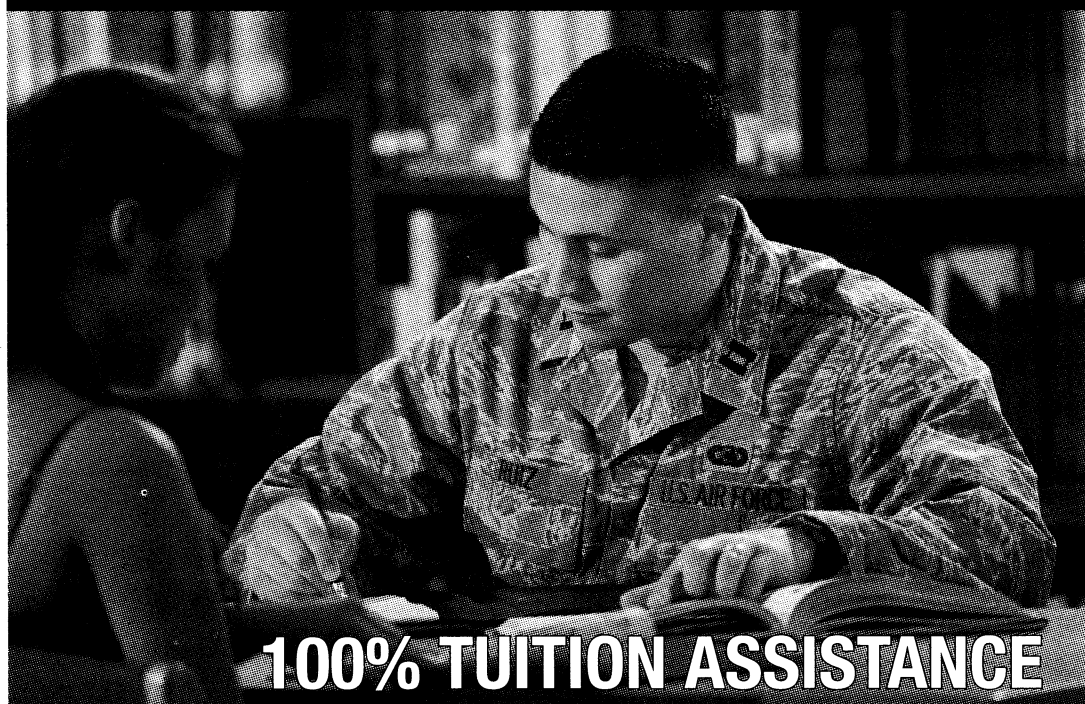
When it was announced that Carter Burwell version would be the official lullaby, reactions were mixed. Personally, I was a bit disappointed. It is a beautiful song, but I had hoped it would be only piano. The Burwell version features an orchestra, though the piano is the most pronounced layer. I had hoped it would have a simpler melody.

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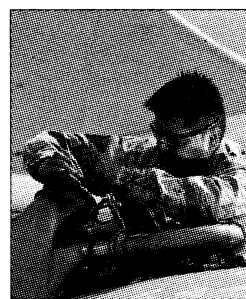
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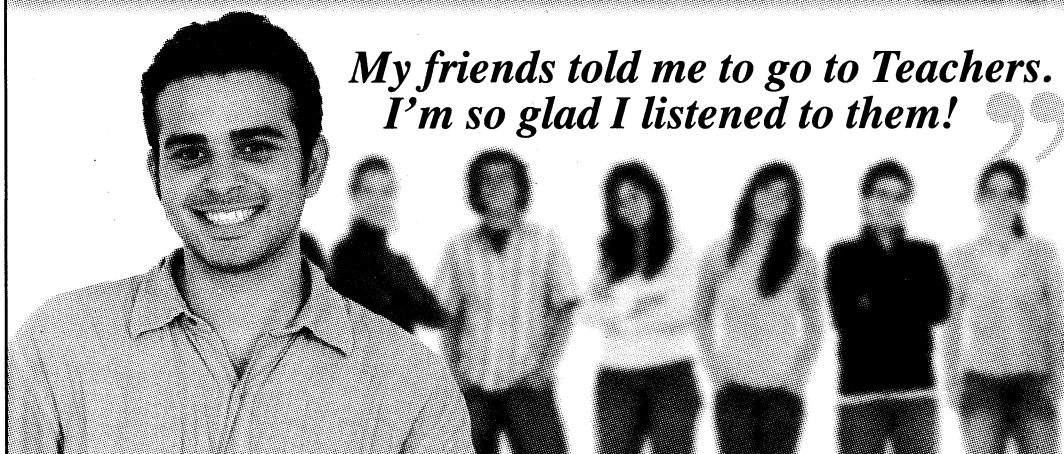


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The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Sucolian" in 1957 at Oyster Bay, the original site of Stony Brook University. In 1975 "The Statesman" was incorporated as a not-for-profit, student run organization. Its editorial board, writing, and photography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

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

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By JOSEPH LABRIOLA  
Columnist

I thought it was a bit premature to already be picking the GOP's new face and deciding on the 2012 Republican front runner, but I guess after the stunning electoral defeat we saw just a few weeks ago, it is never too early to start rebuilding your party's image.

After all, the Republicans were not just beaten on Nov. 4. They suffered a crushing loss; a complete repudiation of George Bush's administration and the warped world of neoconservative thought. Surely, it is never too early to start thinking about the future.

How will the GOP restructure themselves so that they have a

## The GOP Needs a Facelift

chance to seriously compete in the next election? I have been reading about possible candidates and all seem as desperate as the next. There are some polls that show how Sarah Palin is still viewed favorably by a majority of Republicans. However, the problem is that her platform is exactly what failed the McCain/Palin ticket.

The Republicans should focus on restructuring the party's platform. I think that one of the strongest voices for the revival of traditional Republican ideals is that of Ron Paul (R/ Texas). I still shake my head at how little consideration he was given during the primaries.

He seems to be one of the few Republicans who truly realizes how far his party has strayed

from its origins. Hopefully after the GOP's massive loss, there will be a movement to shift back to their roots. Small government, individual rights, and economic freedoms are ideas that I think will appeal much more to the modern, middle class American than surrounding your party around divisive issues like abortions, gay marriage, and creationist education.

Perhaps the Republicans will continue to continue on, just tweaking the ideology that represented them during the George Bush era. For their sake I hope not. The average American is tired of watching politicians fight over philosophical differences. What allowed Barack Obama to clinch the election was his ability to say, "Hey you're being

screwed over. Here's a plan and this is what I'll change." This was key over John McCain's warning words of, "Who is the real Barack Obama?"

If the Republicans are going to win in 2012, then they have a great deal of work to get done. Much of their chances, however, probably lay in Barack Obama's ability to cope with the country's current crises. If he is able to "fix" the nation's economy, then any candidate is going to be at odds to beat an already favorable figure. If he fails however, then we're playing a whole new ball. The next election might still four years away, but if the 2008 election has taught us anything, it's that the primary season is always just around the corner.

## Letter: Understanding Robert Spencer

RE: Robert Spencer's Radical Agenda (10/30/08)

Dear Hira Ahmed,  
In your op-ed article "Robert Spencer's Radical Agenda," you attempt to invalidate Mr. Spencer by saying that he is not a scholar on the Islamic doctrine or scripture. Mr. Spencer's M.A. is not in "Christianity," as you say, but in "religious studies;" his master's thesis was on Christianity.

We think it is safe to say that having an M.A. in "religious studies" at least qualifies as having more than a passing interest in the subject. Robert Spencer has also held seminars on Islamic jihad for the United States Central Command, United States Army Command and General Staff College, the Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, branches of the Joint Terrorism Task Force, and other parts of the U.S. intelligence community. Would they have given him the time of day if, instead of being an expert on the matter, he were just some dilettante?

So, as one person commented online in response to your piece, Noam Chomsky - someone whose opinion you might think highly of - has no business talking about foreign policy, since his training is in linguistics. Similarly, Paul Krugman, who just won the 2008 Nobel Prize in economics, should just quit writing his weekly column in The New York Times because he rarely restricts himself to economics.

We dare say that this idea of disregarding the views not emanating from the elite cabals of the ivory tower poses an even greater danger to our intellectual climate than listening to "bigoted" ideologies ever could.

We assume you attended

the lecture, although we do not see how Mr. Spencer can be misconstrued as bigoted. He made it a point to reiterate the fact that he did not believe all Muslims were terrorists, but rather that it was up to everyone, especially Muslims themselves, to speak out, condemn and fight against the doctrines of Islamic jihad.

Over the years, he has made it abundantly clear in his writings that he does not believe all Muslims are terrorists, or that Islam needs to be destroyed. He has even worked with Muslims such as the late Tashbih Sayyed on these matters.

We sincerely wonder, have you - who lectures us on the need to keep an open mind regarding different ideas - ever even read any of Mr. Spencer's multiple books, two of which are New York Times bestsellers? After reading your article, we are unfortunately led to believe you have not.

Instead of attacking Spencer's supposed lack of professional credentials, perhaps you can next time enlighten your readers to the inaccuracies of Spencer's work, if you can find any. That would be the most honest and effective way to debunk someone's arguments, would it not?

Perhaps you can explain to us how Spencer's mention of Ibn Ishaq, Muhammad's first biographer, is wrong when Ishaq - not Spencer - explains the genesis of Islamic doctrine on jihad on the Qur'an, as it relates to the events of Muhammad's life, in his commentaries.

Perhaps you can explain to us how the Tafsir al-Jalalayn and Ibn Kathir, two of the Islamic world's most respected commentaries on

the Qur'an, are wrong on their doctrine of jihad.

Perhaps you can explain to us the futility of examining surat in the Qur'an such as 9:5, 9:29, and others that insist on violence against kuffar. Again, Spencer is merely bringing forth Qur'anic scripture, jurisprudence and commentary, not opinion.

We did not hear any of the MSA students, Sister Nadim - or you, for that matter - try to refute any of the direct references Mr. Spencer used, both out of the Qur'an and the Hadith. You simply say he "hijacked" the quotes out of those books without giving any substantial evidence to back that up.

So our question to you is, if what you say about Mr. Spencer is true, which anyone actually listening at his lecture with an open mind would realize is false, how are you being any different? You are very concerned that Mr. Spencer "spreads politically incorrect propaganda" at the same time you insist we keep an open mind. But how can one keep an open mind if one is slavishly following politically correct bromides and multicultural clichés?

We expected criticism of Robert Spencer when we made the decision to invite him, and indeed, we welcome it. For we, like you, believe that when we encounter people with whose ideas we disagree, we "should challenge them, not by engaging their bias, but rather by becoming knowledgeable individuals." Yet, it is clear you do not practice what you preach, for your entire criticism, from the title to the last word, is rife with your own bias against anyone who makes unflattering

comments about Islam, no matter if it's true.

Knowing that most of your readers are equally held captive by a similar bias against those who don't genuflect at the altar of political correctness, you took the easy road and craftily exploited that proclivity by vilifying Spencer without addressing his claims.

Your aim was to evoke from your readers an unthinking, knee-jerk repulsion to Spencer so that they are never tempted to examine his work on their own. Is this not the same tactic of "preying on our impressionability" that you accuse Spencer of? Such hypocrisy is what results when, as Spencer so eloquently put it, "you believe in your own propaganda."

At the end of all this, we are happy to reflect on the fact that Spencer's visit has inspired much debate and discussion in our campus community, but are saddened to know that some of that dialogue is comprised of the trite invectives and disingenuous critiques you present here.

The best we can do is hope that our fellow classmates are more curious and intelligent than to be turned away by an opinion piece in the campus newspaper, and that they will not heed your advice to flinch from ideas and views that are not standard fare at Stony Brook University.

Sincerely,

The Editors of **The Patriot**

*\*Editors note: The Patriot is a Stony Brook University publication, which, on 10/23/08, hosted guest speaker Robert Spencer, an author on American-Islamic relations and director of Jihad Watch.org*

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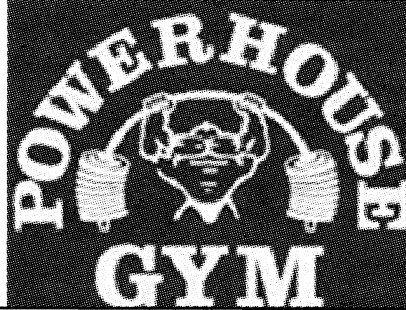
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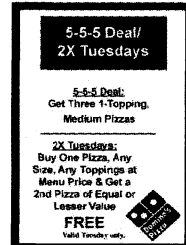
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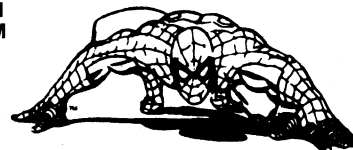
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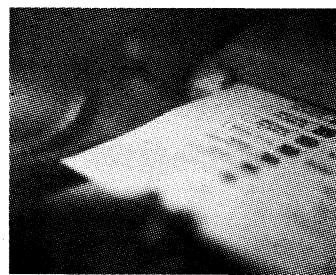
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# Cross Country Stumbles, Women Land in NCAA Championships

By MIKE FORDERA  
Staff Writer

When a team expects nothing but perfection, it is hard to walk away from any sporting event you've just competed in not in first place.

The Stony Brook Seawolves' women's track team could do nothing but hold their collective heads up high after a fourth place finish this past weekend in the NCAA Northeast Regional.

The men were in the same boat, not performing up to standard, taking 16th place. Sophomore Tim Hodge was in contention to make a run at an individual bid in the NCAA Championships later in the month, but like his team, came up just short.

Also, just like his team, Hodge finished in 16th place, which placed the Seawolves with a time of 32:18.8.

Coming into the race, the women's team was the favorite to win it all at this meet, seeing as how they came into it the top-ranked team.

The team, however, did not perform up to their own standards, seeing a fourth place finish as nothing short of a disappointment.

They placed behind Providence, Syracuse, and Boston College. The Seawolves were led by sophomore Holly Van Dalen, who crossed 12th overall in a time of 22:00.0.

Finishing behind one Van Dalen was the other Van Dalen. Freshman Lucy Van Dalen finished just two-spots later, crossing 14th with a time of 22:02.8.

Freshman Hayley Green crossed the finish line 19th in a time of 22:10.9, junior Laura Huet crossed 26th in a time of 22:21.8 and junior Jessica Hampson finished the Seawolves taking 47th in 22:44.8.

Coach Andy Ronan was upset with the final standings after the meet. "While we're disappointed with the fourth-place finish today, I feel the success we've had at Notre Dame and the pre-NCAA meets will help us receive an at-large bid," he said. "If that is what actually happens, it is going to be a great achievement to make it to the NCAA Championships for the second straight year."

Coach Ronan will get his wish, as the NCAA granted the Seawolves an at-large bid from a pool of 13 teams, which included such schools as Florida, Illinois, and the two teams that beat them this past week, Providence and Syracuse.

"We are thrilled to be returning to the National Championships," he said. "Only 31 teams in the country out of about 300 remain at this stage. No matter the sport, the goal is to be one of

the teams competing in the final meet or game of the season."

"This is a tribute to this group of young ladies who have worked hard and overcome many obstacles in the last month to defend their conference title and make a return trip to the national championship," Ronan said. "Our goal now is to take another step forward with the program and have a top 25 finish next Monday."

Tim Hodge's performance was eagerly anticipated to thrill the entire team, hoping to be one of bids to make it to the NCAA championships.

But it did not happen on this day. Fortunately for Hodge, he will still have two more years to qualify, which will make the upcoming seasons an exciting environment. In the present, however, Coach Ronan was not impressed with his team.

"I feel we did not perform up to our capabilities," he said. "We need to figure out why that was and solve it the problem so we can become a top-ten team next year."

Junior Alex Felce was the second male Seawolf to cross the finish line, taking 30th overall in a time of 32:53.0 and junior Daire Birmingham finished in 92nd place with a time of 34:22.7. Freshmen David Frankel and Gerard Harley crossed 124th and 127th, respectively.

The next step towards NCAA Cross Country immortality for the Seawolves will come on Nov. 24, where the ladies team will travel to Terra Haute, Ind., to compete in the NCAA Championships.

## "TWILIGHT" CONT'D.

Continued from page 7

The story of "Twilight" is set in a rainy town in Washington called Forks. The CD definitely compliments the weather -- the majority of the songs could be classified as rainy day music. There are a few exceptions, such as Perry Farrell's "Go All The Way." The song is upbeat with a techno/electronic feel. Another upbeat track is "Spotlight (Twilight Mix)" by Mute Math. The song had a cool driving beat that will make you tap your toes along with it.

Even if you are not a "Twilight" fan, the CD may be worth checking out. If you enjoy a healthy mix of alt-rock and pop, chances are you'll enjoy the soundtrack. For those who are fans of "Twilight," you'll enjoy reading into the lyrics and getting pumped for the release of the highly-anticipated film adaptation of the story.

# Early Season Basketball Wrap-Up

By STATESMAN SPORTS STAFF

## Opening Night See's Rabid Crowd, Impressive Victory

In front of a packed house of 1,536 in the newly renovated Pritchard gymnasium, the Seawolves got its 2008-09 season off to a good start with a 60-44 victory over Maryland Eastern Shore.

Freshman Danny Carter led the team with 11 points in his first ever collegiate game. He also had three rebounds and three blocks in his 25 minutes of play.

Another freshman played brilliant for Stony Brook as well.

Tommy Brenton had eight points to go along with 16 rebounds for the Seawolves.

## Men Dropped 81-70 vs. Lafayette

With only 4:57 remaining in the game and down 22 points, the men's basketball team was staring its first loss right in the face.

But a three-pointer by freshman Bryan Dougher ignited a 12-0 Seawolves run that cut the deficit to ten points.

The Seawolves could not fully capitalize on that momentum, and although they were within seven points with under a minute left in the game, they eventually fell by a final of 81-70.

Muhammad El-Amin led all Stony Brook scorers with 15 points in 20 minutes of action.

Dallis Joyner was another leader on the floor for the Seawolves. In just 18 minutes of play he scored 14 points, grabbed five rebounds and had two steals.

Both El-Amin and Joyner shot 6-10 from the field. The rest of the team combined to shoot 14-43, just 33 percent.

Chris Martin was the only other Seawolf with double digit scoring. He had 11 points and four rebounds in 14 minutes.

## Women Drop Opening Game At Home

Women's basketball lost their first game of the season 59-45 to Quinnipiac. Stony Brook was only behind 23-22 at the half, but a 13-3 run in the second half catapulted the Bobcats to their first win of the season. Junior Kairsten Nunn led the Seawolves with 10 points.

## Michigan State Offense Too Much For Stony Brook to Handle

Women's basketball lost their second game of the season, 73-42, to the Michigan State Lady Spartans. Even though the Seawolves forced 24 turnovers, they were unable to stop the Spartan's balanced attack, as three players scored in double figures. Junior Sarah Kazadi led the Seawolves with 11 points.

## First Half Struggles Doom Seawolves

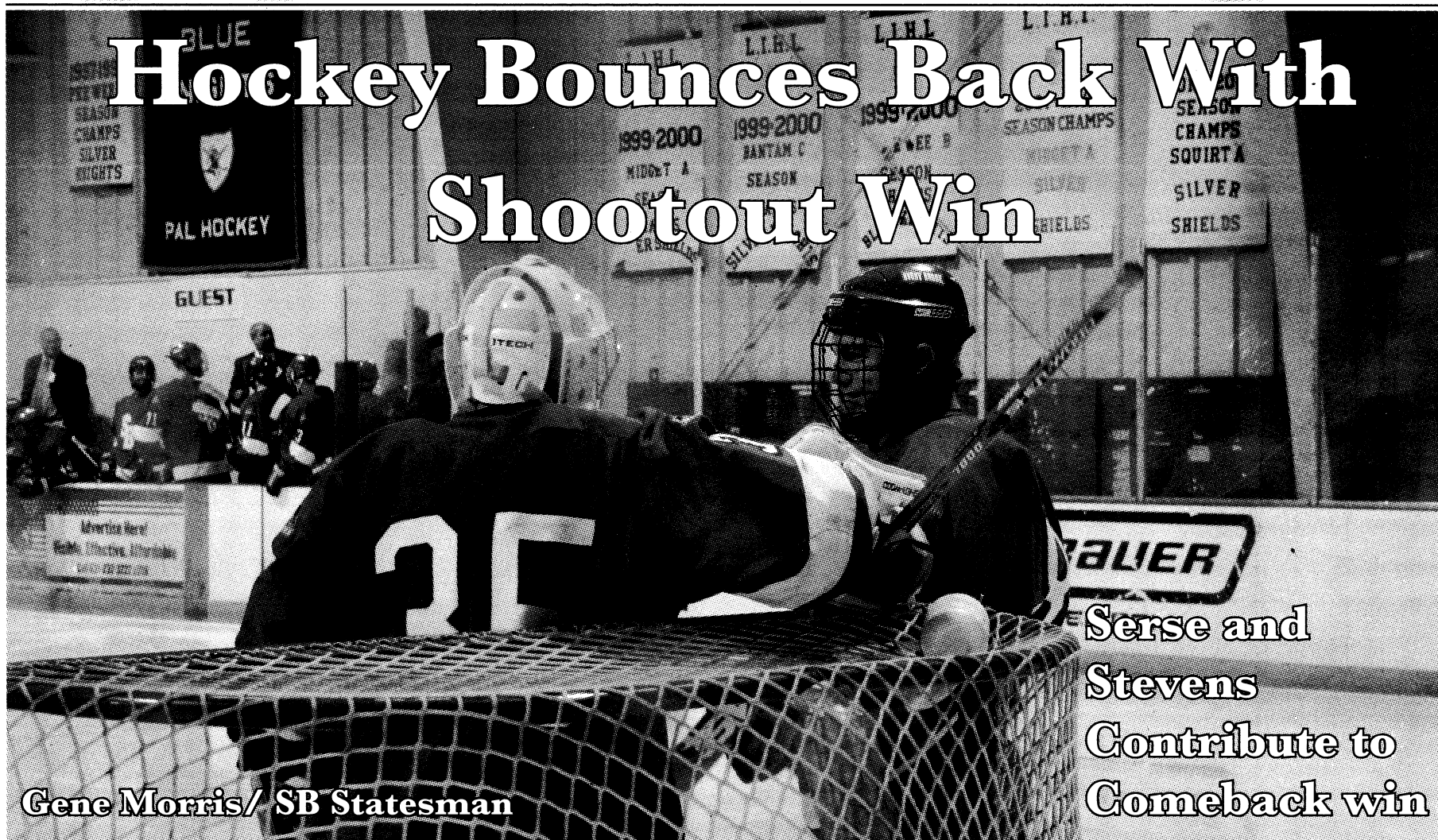
The Seawolves fell to 0-3, losing the Penn State Lady Lions 97-58. The Seawolves started off slow, scoring only 14 first half points, but came out strong in the second half, scoring 44 points. Sophomore Samantha Norwood led the Seawolves with a career high 15 points. Penn State's balanced attack had five scorers in double figures. They improved to 2-0.



The Seawolves record stands at .500 going into this weekend's two home games at the Rinx. The first semester action concludes with the two game set this weekend and a two game road trip to play #5 nationally ranked Delaware. Gene Morris/SB Statesman

# STATESMAN SPORTS

## Hockey Bounces Back With Shootout Win



Gene Morris/ SB Statesman

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## When Will Athletes Ever Figure it Out?



By CARL J. CARRIE  
Assistant Sports Editor

Joba Chamberlain, the phenom.

Carmelo Anthony, the superstar.

Tony La Russa, the World Champion coach.

Kareem McKenzie, the Super Bowl Champion.

All these sport figures can also add one more to their list of "accolades"—they've all been arrested for DUI.

Luckily, in their drunken endeavors, these figures hurt no one—but what if they had? What if one of these athletes, who in between salary and endorsements make millions, had killed someone. It's happened before, and unfortunately, because of their stature they have gotten off relatively easy.

In 1998, Leonard Little, defensive end for the St. Louis Rams, got drunk and barreled his giant supped up Lincoln Navigator through a red light and into the side of a

car driven by a wife and a mother. She died a few hours later. His blood alcohol level was .19.

At the scene, Little told police, "The (expletive) ran a yellow light and hit me, wrecking my \$45,000 (expletive) car." At the trial, he pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter, got 90 days in jail and was suspended for eight games, losing \$125,000 in salary.

The man killed someone, and he talked about a wrecked car?

I like how he conveniently left out, according to the BAC chart, he had at least 13 drinks, and he was wrong and should have taken a cab or spent some money from his recently inked \$1.2 million contract to hire a limo.

Little was given a second chance by society, and even with this chance, he still didn't learn his lesson. In 2004, he was arrested again for drunk driving and speeding. According to the officer, he had bloodshot and watery eyes, smelled of alcohol and

failed three sobriety tests. Tried as a felony case, Little was acquitted of driving while intoxicated, but was convicted only of the misdemeanor speeding charge.

Athletes shouldn't get the easy way out. They are setting the wrong example for the children and teenagers of this country—"It's ok to drink and drive if you're rich and famous, because you'll get off." As role models they should be setting a good example.

Charles Barkley once said, "I AM NOT a role model! I'm a professional basketball player. I am paid to wreak havoc on the basketball court. Parents should be role models!"

Well that's too bad Charles, because a person in your position has the power to affect a lot of people, and you're just sending the wrong message. Athletes are role models, whether they want it, or not.

### ALCOHOL IMPAIRMENT CHART

NEVER  
DRINK  
AND  
DRIVE

APPROXIMATE BLOOD ALCOHOL PERCENTAGE									
Drinks	Body Weight in Pounds								
	100	120	140	160	180	200	220	240	
0	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	ONLY SAFE DRIVING LIMIT
1	.04	.03	.03	.02	.02	.02	.02	.02	Impairment Begins
2	.08	.06	.05	.05	.04	.04	.03	.03	Driving Skills Affected
3	.11	.09	.08	.07	.06	.06	.05	.05	Possible Criminal Penalties
4	.15	.12	.11	.09	.08	.08	.07	.06	
5	.19	.16	.13	.12	.11	.09	.09	.08	
6	.23	.19	.16	.14	.13	.11	.10	.09	
7	.26	.22	.19	.16	.15	.13	.12	.11	Legally Intoxicated
8	.30	.25	.21	.19	.17	.15	.14	.13	Criminal Penalties
9	.34	.28	.24	.21	.19	.17	.15	.14	
10	.38	.31	.27	.23	.21	.19	.17	.16	

Your body can get rid of one drink per hour.  
Each 1 1/2 oz. of 80 proof liquor, 12 oz. of beer or 5 oz. of table wine = 1 drink.

Source: Journal of Studies on Alcohol, Vol. 42, No. 7, 1981.