

THE STATESMAN

Volume 52, Issue 16

Thursday, October 30, 2008

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Spooky Haunts on Long Island

It would not be right to talk about ghosts on Long Island without mentioning the house in Amityville. At 3:15 a.m. on Nov. 13, 1974, Ronald DeFeo shot and killed his parents, two brothers and two sisters as they slept soundly in their beds. During his trial, Ronald DeFeo claimed voices in his head told him to do it and said, "Whenever I looked around, there was no one there, so it must have been God talking to me."

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Roth Food Court Opens Its Doors

By FRANK POSILICO
Contributing Writer

The Roth Quad food court opened its doors on Monday to a crowd of eager students - the first patrons the dining hall has seen in the past year after being closed for renovations.

Students have new options to choose from including Wendy's and Mama Leone's Pizza, open from 11:30 AM to midnight, and Seawolf Subs and International Market, open from 11:30 am - 9:00 PM. The Pura Vida Coffeehouse will be open from 6:00 P.M. to midnight.

The building also has offices and two large classrooms, which will be home to the undergraduate college of science and society.

The university didn't have just a dining hall in mind. They wanted students to have a new place to gather, in hopes of developing more of a sense of campus community at Stony Brook.

"I think all the residents of Roth Quad are about to get very very fat; the freshmen fifteen is



Students enjoying Wendy's the first day the Roth Quad food court re-opened.

Frank Posilico / SB Statesman

definitely here," said freshman Matthew Carnes.

Roth Food court was opened in 1966 and has served over 25 million meals to Stony Brook Students.

Originally the building was designed to accommodate residential dining during fixed meal periods, according to the Roth renovations web site. These plans had students coming within two-hour blocks for 3 meals a day.

It was in 1992 that Roth changed over to declining balance, which is what we are used to today. Burger King also opened up in 1993 and was the first national franchise on a University campus.

But there was one problem; the kitchens in Roth were not designed for supporting preparation to order, so Roth Food Court was closed for the 2007-2008 academic year, along with part of the current semester.

According to the Roth food court website, "The food court has been designed for maximum efficiency and will accommodate anticipated new technology that will eventually allow students to pre-order meals on-line and from personal hand-held communication devices."

It will also have wireless Internet.

The university hopes its proximity to the Academic Mall will help alleviate the overcrowding of the Student Activities Center that we have all seen in the last few months. They expect to serve 1 million customers per year.



Frank Posilico / SB Statesman

OPINION

Economy Obscures Other Issues

According to the latest CNN.com poll, 58 percent of voters ranked the economy as the most important issue when they will decide who to vote for for president. Indeed, Barack Obama and John McCain, as well as the mainstream media, have put economic concerns at the top of their agendas. In all three debates, the same question was asked about their plans to solve the country's financial woes.

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Beware A Democratic Majority

George W. Bush's name, over the past eight years, has become associated with all the problems this country will have to face over the next eight. I have my doubts over how active a role Bush has had over messing things up, but regardless of how this country started to unravel at the seams, many independent, liberal, libertarian and moderate voters have come to blame it on Bush's neoconservative wing of the Republican party.

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Environmental Club Celebrates "Halogreen"

By JASMIN FRANKEL
Contributing Writer

The very first Hallogreen -- an environmentally friendly Halloween bash -- was held earlier this week.

Created and hosted by the Environmental Club, Hallogreen welcomed its guests with dimmed lights, music, and games made out of recycled cardboard or reused bottles.

Every game was devoted to spreading information on saving the environment.

The games included bowling, using recycled bottles as pins, bobbing for apples, which all apples were locally grown, and environmental Jeopardy!, where all the questions were based on the environment. There was a make-your-own plant table and for those willing to donate a dollar, they would receive a kiss at the kissing booth.

The event -- though not fully packed -- had many students involved in the games. Each game allowed players to win points and turn them in for a prize.

With environmental themes, the prizes consisted of 100 percent recycled bottles, buttons endorsing help for the environment, and tote bags.

"It was good fun, entertaining, and very interactive," said Yentl Garcia, a freshman, who won a game of musical chairs. "It was relaxing and thrilling. I learned to recycle."

When asked about the origin of the theme for this Hallogreen, Michelle Pizer, president of the Environmental Club, said, "We wanted something to get people excited. People would understand the environment more."

Though the majority of the event was environmentally friendly, Pizer wanted the party to run on solar energy, but was unable to because the company Go Solar could not make it.

Secretary of the Environmental Club Taina Pierre-Pierre strongly believed Hallogreen was "giving an environmental aspect with a Halloween theme" and

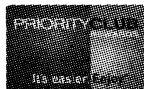
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Statesman production meetings are held throughout the day on Wednesdays and Sundays in RM 057 in the basement of the Student Union. Anyone wishing to contribute to the newspaper is welcome to attend these meetings.

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

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WHO WE ARE

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

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

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Robert Spencer's Radical Agenda

By HIRA AHMED
Assistant Opinions Editor

Last Thursday, the President of Stony Brook University's The Patriot, Alex Chamessian, introduced the paper's invited guest speaker, Robert Spencer, a man whose views many may not agree with but should still be respected for what they are. Spencer approached the podium, thanking Chamessian for the introduction and added that his lecture was on Jihad (an Arabic word meaning "for struggle") was not a compilation of his views, but rather "truth," that could not be disputed. This was the first sign of one-sidedness in Spencer's lecture, which by the end of his rant, began to sound like full-

fledged bigotry.

Spencer, an author of several books on Islam and a contributing writer for FrontPage magazine, conducted an hour-long speech about how Islam's fundamentals and the teachings of its prophet Muhammad, preach destruction of Western values, ideals, and culture. Needless to say, the lecture quickly began to sound like a post-9/11 President Bush speech, with the added adornment of hijacked quotes from the Qu'ran and Hadith (the sayings and teachings of Muhammad).

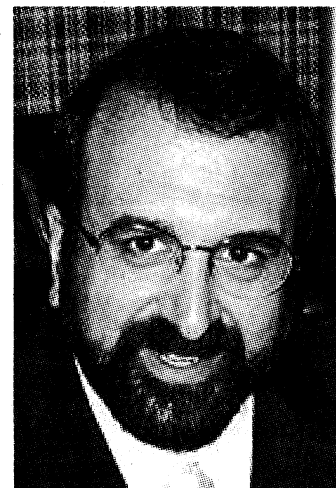
Spencer, who was very quick to quote the Qu'ran in substantiating his biased arguments, is not a scholar in the field; he has not received any formal education in Islamic studies, nor is he fluent in

Arabic. He does, however, have a Master's degree in Christianity. These two traits may seem menial to anyone who is self-taught in any subject or ability, but they have an immense impact on an individual's understanding of people and a faith.

Firstly, Arabic is widely known to be a nuanced language that is often lost in translation. Secondly, one who seeks to self-educate in a field bears the responsibility of selecting literature that is well balanced. Considering the virulent words of Spencer about Islam, it is evident that he was learning about Islam with an agenda. But most importantly, on the subject of hijacking quotes from religious doctrine, such can be done with any religious book.

The wrongdoings and atrocities committed by everyone in all of Western civilization for the past 2,000 years could be attributed to the sayings and teachings of Christ and the Bible, if the attempt was made. However, it is understood that the failures and crimes of people in Western society were a reflection of their own failure to adhere to the teachings of Christ, rather than a reflection of Christ and Christianity itself. In the same way, many Muslims around the world have committed wrongdoings, both in and not in the name of God, but they too should not be a reflection of Islam and Muhammad.

Spencer's website, jihadwatch.org, features an article called "Saudi Calls for Interfaith in Context," in which King Abdullah's efforts to engage in interfaith dialogue, which even right-wing Israeli politician Ehud Barak responded to optimistically, were criticized. The criticism isn't what is surprising about the article, though, it is the repeated "typo" Saudi Sheik, Abdul Rahman Barak's name as "Barack." In fact, there is even a link to an article on arabnews.com that correctly spells his name. This cheap, subliminal ploy to associate Obama with Arab culture is a testament



Courtesy of Wikipedia

to Spencer's extremist agenda.

Spencer is a caricature of himself and the ignorant people who read things the way they want, rather than challenging themselves to develop a thorough understanding of the subject. His efforts to protect America from Islam's alleged goal to destroy the West -- while its followers take a break from being honest, charitable citizens of their society who are good to their neighbors -- are nothing but transparent. Spencer takes advantage of mainstream America's ignorance about Islam and Islamic history, and spreads politically incorrect propaganda instead. I don't know what is more appalling, that a university newspaper would compromise its respect and credibility to invite such a bigot, or that his audience would ever take him seriously. The real service to America would be to condemn such hatred towards Islam.

Spencer and I do agree on one thing, we live in a wonderful country that gives faux-scholars like him a forum to speak in and express his hateful ideas, but we also live in a country in which we have infinite knowledge and differing views at our disposal. When we encounter hateful people as Spencer who prey on our impressionability we should challenge them, not by engaging their bias, but rather by becoming knowledgeable individuals.

The Word "Terrorist"

By JOSH GLAZER
Contributing Writer

The word "terrorist" has been so overused and misused during the past several years that it has lost all definite meaning. It has become a catch-all phrase for any person perceived as an enemy of western society. Now it is common for politicians and media commentators to say phrases like, "Ten terrorists were captured" or "We can't let the terrorists win."

But what exactly is a terrorist? Before 9/11, it was much easier to define a terrorist - they were a person or group who threatened civilians for political causes. But with the United States fighting wars in two different countries, how can we still continue to use the word "terrorist" to describe those who perpetrate attacks overseas?

There is no cover-all definition of the word "terrorist" that is truthful. It has been used to describe not only attackers, but planners, helpers, members, and just about anyone picked up by military police overseas. Any politician or pundit who uses the word "terrorists" to group together all of America's enemies into this fictional army of darkness is only betraying their ignorance of the on the ground realities of this war that we are in.

The worst part of our communal numbing to the true meaning of the word 'terrorist' is the terrible treatment of prisoners of war by the United States. In the documentary Taxi to the Dark Side, which won the 2007 Academy Award for Best Documentary

Feature, and is currently being shown on HBO, the story of an unlucky taxi driver is told, from his leaving his home to look for fares to his death at the extrajudicial detention center at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

According to the documentary, Dilawar was originally arrested by an Afghan guerilla commander who was later arrested by American forces himself. The commander was suspected of helping to perpetrate an attack and then handing over fake "suspects" in order to gain trust and dispel suspicion about himself. In the end, Dilawar, although thought to be innocent by interrogators, was beaten so many times in his legs and left to stand for so long by guards that the strain was too much for his heart, and he died in captivity in December 2002.

The next president should make it a priority to close down these extra-judicial detention centers and re-focus our war on terrorism. America should not be using torture indiscriminately on any foreign captive we choose to detain. In order to regain the moral high ground in the world, America must discard the inhumane treatment of prisoners and the naïve world view that still sees "terrorists" as our enemy. The real enemy is religious fundamentalism, of which we have plenty here in the United States as well. The only strategy that will win for the USA in the long run is the embracing of diplomatic initiatives and the fostering of education in the USA and around the world.

Guidelines for Opinion Submission

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

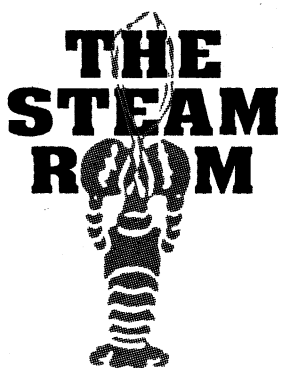
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An Evening with Garrison Keillor

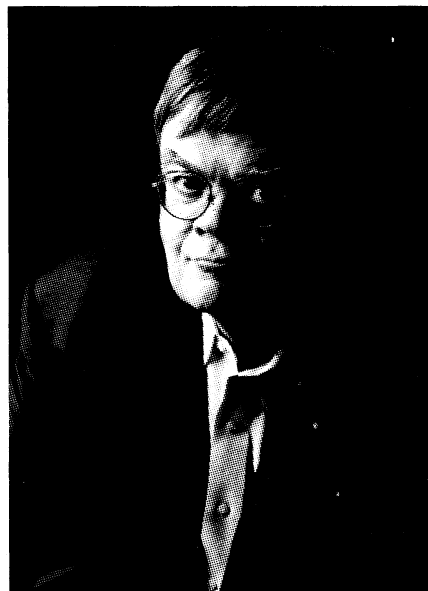
By JAMES BOUKLAS AND TEJAS

GAWADE
Editors Emeritus

STALLER MAIN STAGE Well, it was a quiet week at Stony Brook, my hometown, here in this old island that so many of us have come to call home. It rained a lot these past few days, a lot of rain for the folks here, something that takes a bit of getting used to, I suppose; for one of the benefits of living on an island, especially this one, is a temperate sort of weather that you come to expect over time. That's why New Yorkers live in New York as opposed to, say, Minnesota. We're a touchy people, a people who seem to take the weather personally, and a harsh few days of rain are enough to get us down in a bad way.

But this past Monday, the clouds parted for a bit that night, and the weather cleared up just in time to see the Staller stage graced by the signature red sneakers and socks of a certain Mr. Keillor, with his black stool and bottled

water in the middle of a very large, very empty stage. Garrison is himself a large man who sort of stoops a bit, as if his low mellow voice isn't quite soothing enough



Courtesy of Staller Center for the Arts
Garrison Keillor, radio raconteur, performed at the Staller Center for the Arts.

to put his audience at ease; he has

to do that in this physical way, too. He's a radio man, with a show that plays Saturdays on public radio. A few million listeners tune in each week to hear his folksy music and tales, colored with the biting wit of a former New Yorker writer.

He walked on stage in his worn, red kicks and old blue jeans covering his lower half, with a sport jacket, crisp white shirt and power-tie up top. He looked out to the people in the crowd and saw his aged peers, with a few young folks, like us, scattered about.

He casually took the microphone from its stand, ignoring the two stage props that serve little more than as testament to his minimalism. The air filled with a serenade of life and love, sung to a hymn-like tune, for a surprisingly long and engaging time. When he finished,

after the applause died down, he looked back and forth from the first few rows to his sneakers, and in an even mellow voice than before, told us that he had grown up in that part of the country you pass when you fly out to California or Canada, and that us New Yorkers were probably interested in what goes on out there. "I flew out here to tell you," he told us in that wry, hushed tone, familiar to so many of us in the crowd.

He didn't disappoint us, though the performance did have the feel of a "Best Of" collection, or perhaps a farewell tour; his fans surely recognized many of the stories that night from his radio show, reformatted and combined in a unique way for this performance. Some might call him an anachronism, standing up there alone on stage, spinning tales of love, death, intrigue, and humility, all through the lens of small town America, and with a deftly light humor.

It was effortless, really - even the intricate and several minute

long hymn tailored to New York. Never once did his face betray any wasted energy; there was no palpable sense that he was even trying too hard, and yet his performance was masterful and rich. Watching an experienced, practiced hand who has built upon his immense talents for more years that we have been alive is a real spectacle is all too rare these days, especially among our demographic. Dane Cook he is not.

We sat there enrapt, for ninety minutes, by Mr. Keillor's reflective commentary on the simple pleasures of life. He sang old Lutheran hymns throughout, weaving them into his narrative that described the beauty in the mundanity of both coming of age and what happens when you get there. When he was finished, had told all the stories that he was prepared to that night, he stopped, looked down, uttered his goodbye, and left. Because all good things must come to an end, including an evening of moving introspection.

BEEN THERE, SAW THAT

By RUCHI VIKAS
Contributing Writer

The "Saw" movie series began as something new. When I saw the first one, I appreciated it as the first passable scary movie in awhile. In an age where horror movies are restricted to cheap thrills and special effects, the original "Saw" had a plot device to keep it going for a single movie. Two movies? Maybe. A third movie? Pushing it. Four was where I drew the line, but, apparently, I was the only one.

The star of the movies is a man who calls himself Jigsaw. He has terminal cancer, and since he knows he will die, decides to punish those who he feels do not

appreciate life. Punish, however, is an extremely weak word. These movies offered not only a new plot premise to the horror genre, but also a level of torture and sadism rarely seen in previous movies. Jigsaw's claim is that he only kills those who don't want to save themselves, but really, he puts everyone in a death trap that only a select few can work their way out of. It is incredibly gruesome, but that's the main reason so many people flock to see it every year, especially before Halloween.

When "Saw V" came out, everyone asked "Isn't everyone dead?" The answer is -- yes! Jigsaw, the star and the mastermind behind the torture,



Courtesy of imdb.com

died in the last movie. His protégé died too, so what way is there to

continue?

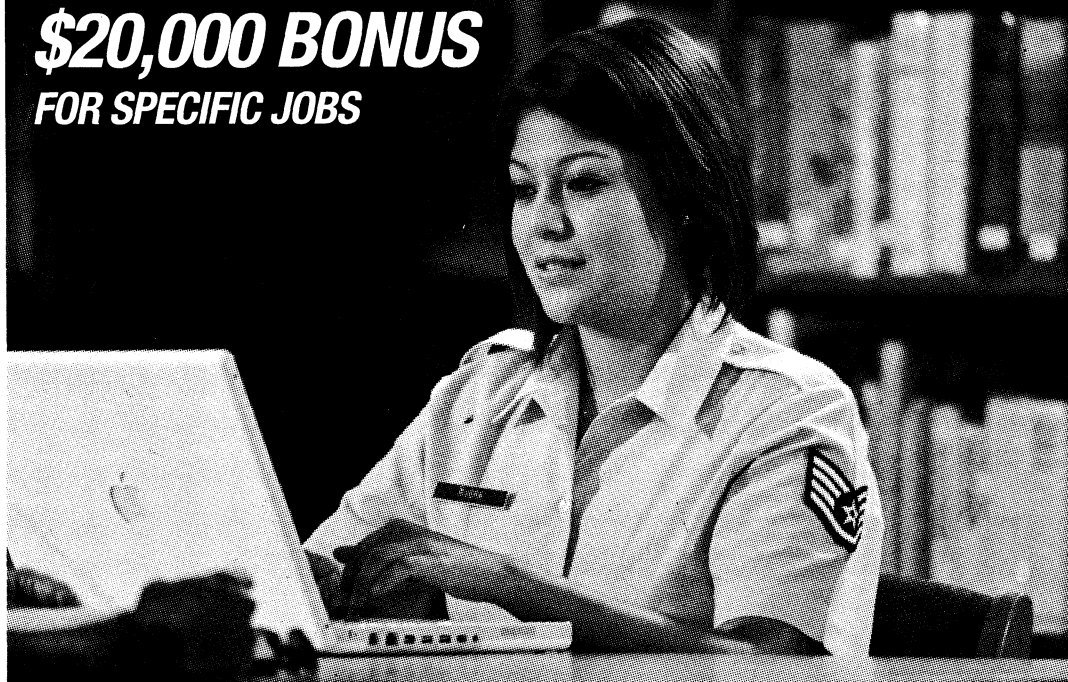
The movie opens with a torture scene, of course -- an extremely graphic pit and pendulum scene. That is the film's shining moment, because everything gets worse from there. Apparently, the way to keep these movies going is to bring back characters that were never that appealing in the first place and fill up the remaining time with flashbacks. Jigsaw now has a new protégé, who happens to be a local cop. How he met Jigsaw and devoted himself to Jigsaw's philosophy is explained in flashbacks, which take up about half the film.

Meanwhile, five new victims have not-so-coincidentally found themselves in Jigsaw's mas-

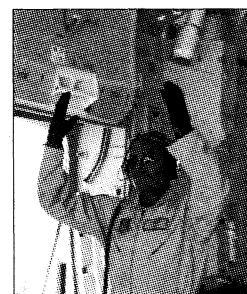
ter trap. They are forced to run through the mousetrap, face the torture devices, and learn how to cherish life if they make it. However, the people who go to see it just for the torture will be disappointed, because the pit and the pendulum scene is the most creative in the movie. The rest, compared to the previous movies, are just quick and lackluster.

Although it is a Halloween tradition to hear Jigsaw's raspy voice say "I want to play a game," you are better off staying home and renting the first one this Halloween. Despite what the tagline said, I believe how it ends. What's more, I could have told you how "Saw V" ended after seeing the first one.

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Environmental Club Celebrates "Hallogreen"

Continued from pg 1

The event ended with a costume contest.

Out of the handful of people who came in costume, two won the contest. One student in a head-to-toe green body suit named Green Man, and another student who was dressed as a polar bear. The winners were chosen by members of the Environmental Club. The requirements for the winners were based on how much their costume related to

the environment.

Kamazima Lwiza, faculty advisor and creator of the Environmental Club, had a petition for students to sign encouraging double-sided copies when printing. Lwiza, who started the club in 2004, said "I wanted students to be more environmentally aware and make it fun."

For those interested in recycling please call 631-632-1514.



Kenneth Ho / SB Statesman

Pumpkin lanterns helped set the mood at "Hallogreen"



Kenneth Ho / SB Statesman

Spooky Haunts On Long Island

By ANNIE FRIEDMAN
Contributing Writer

• Amityville Horror House

It would not be right to talk about ghosts on Long Island without mentioning the house in Amityville. At 3:15 a.m. on Nov. 13, 1974, Ronald DeFeo shot and killed his parents, two brothers and two sisters as they slept soundly in their beds. During his trial, Ronald DeFeo claimed voices in his head told him to do it and said, "Whenever I looked around, there was no one there, so it must have been God talking to me." DeFeo was found guilty and sent to prison for murdering his family.

The following year, George and Kathy Lutz moved into the house with their three children.

Upon moving in, the family experienced repeated unexplained activity such as the inside of the upstairs toilet bowls turning black, doors ripping off their hinges and a crucifix turning upside down and giving off an unpleasant smell. Only 28 days after they moved in, the Lutzes left the house, claiming it was haunted by demonic spirits. The house still stands today, and the current residents haven't reported any paranormal activity.

• Reid's Ice Cream Factory

During the 1950s, a girl who worked as a dancer at a local nightclub in Blue Point went to the ice cream factory with a man she just met. The factory had been abandoned since the 1920s

By ANNIE FRIEDMAN
Contributing Writer

While you were at Party City this year searching for the best Halloween costume you could find, did you ever stop to think where Halloween originated and why you're shelling out \$50 for a Borat tankini?

Halloween originated from the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain.

According to the History Channel, the festival of Samhain, a celebration of the end of the harvest season, was used by the ancient pagans to prepare for winter.

The pagans believed that on Oct. 31, the boundaries between the living and the dead overlapped and the dead came back to life to cause chaos.

When European immigrants migrated to America, they brought their Halloween

customs with them, creating the American version of Halloween. Some of the first celebrations were "play parties," which were public events celebrating the harvest, where neighbors shared stories of the dead. By the mid-nineteenth century, autumn celebrations were popular, but Halloween wasn't celebrated everywhere.

During the second half of the nineteenth century, millions of Irish immigrants came to America, helping spread the celebration of Halloween.

Americans began to dress up in costumes and go from house to house asking for food or money, which is known today as "trick-or-treating." Halloween became a holiday with an emphasis on community rather than on ghosts, pranks, and witchcraft.

Halloween parties with games, food, and costumes

were the most common way to celebrate. Newspapers and community leaders encouraged people to eliminate frightening elements from their Halloween celebrations and because of that, Halloween became less superstitious by the start of the twentieth century.

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, parades and parties were the main features of Halloween entertainment. Between 1920 and 1950, the practice of trick-or-treating became popular again since it was an inexpensive way for a community to come together and celebrate Halloween.

Each year, Americans spend about \$6.9 billion on Halloween, making it the second largest commercial holiday in the country. Since its arrival in America, Halloween has become a new American tradition and it continues to grow.

and was used by many as a local make out spot. The man supposedly attacked the girl with a razor, killing her and leaving her body outside the factory. People claim they can hear screams and cries from the abandoned factory. There are also claims that the girl will walk towards you, tilt her head to show the cuts her murderer made, and vanish before she reaches you.

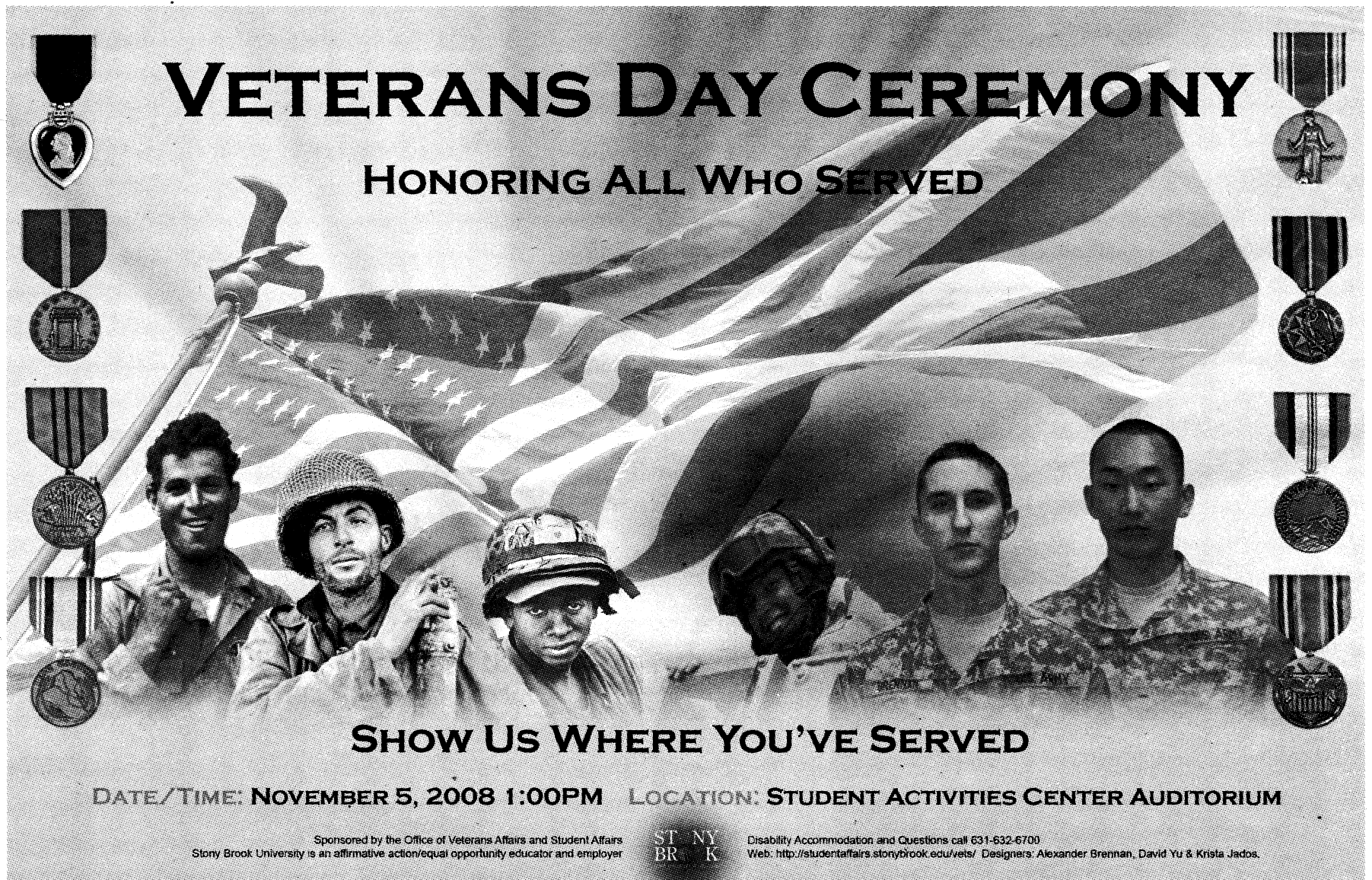
During the 1970s, a little boy was climbing on an old piece of machinery in the factory and fell to his death. Since his death, people say they hear giggling and singing, and even the sound of small feet echoing down the main entrance inside

the factory. A fire supposedly destroyed the original building, and plans to rebuild the factory were planned but more fires occurred each time the rebuilds were intended to take place. The owners ultimately gave up on their plans to rebuild the factory and they boarded it up and abandoned it. In 2003, the factory was demolished and houses were built on top of the land where the factory once stood.

• Sweet Hollow Road, Huntington

This long stretch of road in Huntington has been the source for many stories throughout

generations. There are many stories about the road, including a ghost called the "white lady" who supposedly walks in front of cars and then vanishes. A little girl who died on the road back in the 1920s after being hit by a car is also said to be seen walking down the road late at night. People also say about 75 years ago, a newly married couple was killed in a car accident on the road and the groom can be seen looking for his bride along the road. The bodies of three boys who hung themselves years ago on the Northern State overpass are also said to be seen hanging off the overpass as you drive by it.



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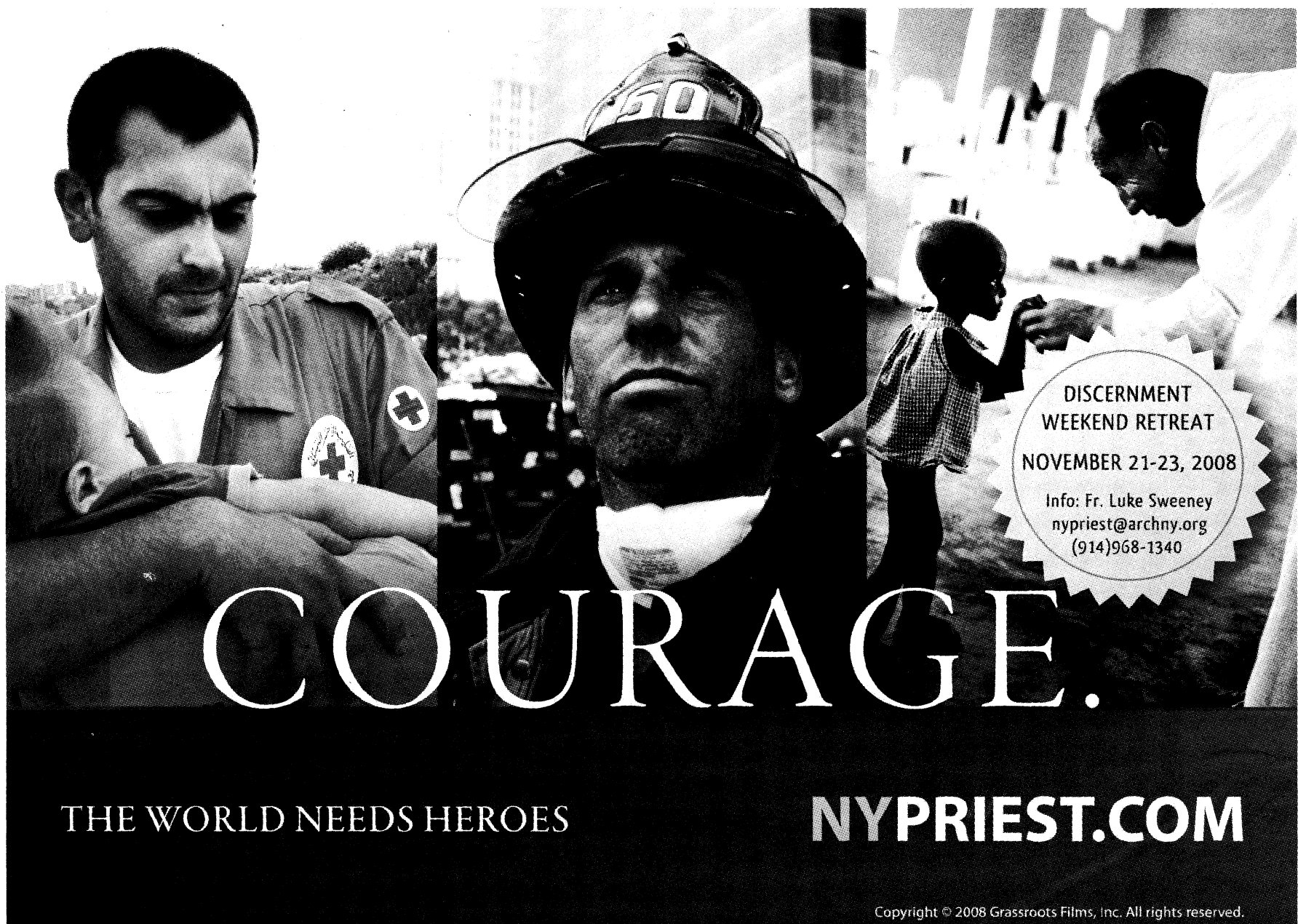
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Economy Obscures Other Issues

By JOSEPH LABRIOLA
Columnist

According to the latest CNN.com poll, 58 percent of voters ranked the economy as the most important issue when they will decide who to vote for for president. Indeed, Barack Obama and John McCain, as well as the mainstream media, have put economic concerns at the top of their agendas. In all three debates, the same question was asked about their plans to solve the country's financial woes, and each answer sounded suspiciously like the last. Both men laid out their blueprints and explained their ideology, but this allowed little time for discussion about other topics that might have dominated a debate even only a few months ago.

The need for energy independence, national security, and healthcare all came up; however, these exchanges always related back to the key point of how it affects our pockets. There were some infrequently mentioned issues, however, that I think should have been given much more attention. What about immigration reform? I do not recall the candidates sparring over immigration in the debates -- an issue related to the economy and national security as well.

Maybe I'm being a bit too harsh. After all, why should the main concern not be the main focus of debates and stump speeches? America is the richest country in the world after all, shouldn't we be most worried about what we most prize and possesses,

our wealth?

Of course we should be worried, but I also think we need to take a close look at what we really care about as Americans. If only 7 percent of polled Americans are willing to rank issues such as illegal immigration, abortion rights, gay marriage, gun control or stem cell research above the economy, then how much do these issues really matter to the average American?

These issues matter, but the panic related to the economy shows the true values of the everyday average American. Perhaps if the economy was thriving and the Supreme Court was poised to overturn Roe vs. Wade, then a majority would rank abortion rights as the most important issue. I suspect, however, that most other Westernized and or industrialized countries share a similar concern about strictly financial matters when economic times turn tough.

We are motivated by monetary gain and the only thing we focus more on than gaining money is how to avoid losing it. When our bank accounts go awry, all other issues plummet to the bottom of our watch list. Maybe this is the result of years of capitalist gaining and training, our enjoyment and fulfillment of the benefits of the free market and democratic system, but whatever the reason, at the end of the day we care about our money and much less about social and philosophical ideologies than we claim we do.

Beware of a Democratic Majority

By ZACHARY KURTZ
Opinions Editor

George W. Bush's name, over the past eight years, has become associated with all the problems this country will have to face over the next eight. I have my doubts over how active a role Bush has had over messing things up, but regardless of how this country started to unravel at the seams, many independent, liberal, libertarian and moderate voters have come to blame it on Bush's neoconservative wing of the Republican party.

The problem with this is, many of the aforementioned are looking towards Democratic politicians to fix so-called "Republican administration" problems. This is contributing to Obama's lead in the polls, but even more worrisome, it is contributing to an increasing likelihood that we're going to be seeing 60 members in the Democratic caucus in the senate. That would be sufficient to break filibusters from a Republican minority group, giving Democrats the power, if they can come to an internal consensus, to pass any law over Republican objections.

We'll find out for sure next week how likely this is, because it relies on the local politics in several places turning simultaneously against Republican candidates. However, with such incidences as the indictment of Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), this is a possible reality that we should consider.

I fear a Democratic majority, because, even though the Republicans have done a fair job of messing up the country, Democrats have done a far worse job at fixing it. With an Obama presidency, the government will have the chance to fundamentally change the role of government in the lives of its citizens, without the role of a significant opposition party.

Therefore, ideas which Democrats generally accept, such as increasing the domestic umbrella of government over our economic lives, will not see the proper debate of ideas in the public sphere. It wouldn't surprise me if members of a future Republican minority have no problem abandoning their conservative principles when the "winds of change" start blowing, because we have already seen this trend in recent months.

The congress and senate are suffering from some of the lowest approval ratings of all time, because, as it is popularly believed, we have been dealt a "do-nothing" congress. But I disagree with this analysis. It is more likely that the issues which congress has taken the strongest position on, like financial bail-out plans, aren't actually the best plans for America. Yet there is little discussion about this between politicians. There is some variation about where tax dollars are best spent, and which government programs should be granted increased regulatory duties, but precious few politicians are arguing for less spending to improve our economic position.

We need more debate right now, even if that means congress is locked, and some bills get delayed. That just insures that all sides of an argument have time to be heard. A Democratic congress might be able to make sweeping changes, but I'd rather see "more of the same" than changes we can't believe in, changes which alter what it means to be an American.

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Protect Your Voting Rights

By DAVE COOPER
Contributing Writer

Students have registered in unprecedented numbers for the upcoming election. The youth vote will undoubtedly have a huge impact, but there are several things you should do to make sure your vote counts.

First of all, confirm your registration. You can call 1-866-OUR-VOTE and operators will hopefully help you make sure the registration form you filled out has been processed and that you have been placed on the voting rolls.

I can't guarantee that you'll get a human being, so you're probably better off going to www.elections.state.ny.us; the first thing you should see in the middle of the page is "Look up your voter registration and confirm your polling place." Click that and give them your information. This will tell you where to vote, whether or not you're "active" and it'll even indicate if you're enrolled in a party, just in case you were concerned that someone switched your party ID after you handed in the form or

something.

Knowing the location of your polling place is extremely important. Many people think you can vote at any polling place, but the fact of the matter is that each poll has its own list of registered voters and if you aren't on that list, you cannot vote. If the address you used to register is on campus (on campus, not near campus) then you will be voting in the SAC Ballroom. If you went to the website above and you still don't know where this place is, then you can go online to maps.google.com/vote and type in the address at which you registered; your polling place should pop up on the map. Then you can even get directions and hire someone to escort you. Okay, that last part I made up.

Another reason people get turned down is because they don't have the proper identification. Some, but not all voters in New York State are required to present an identification at the polls. I believe that first-time voters are always required, but acceptable forms of identification include a driver's license

(or other department of motor vehicles photo ID) or most other current and valid photo ID. You can also bring a copy of a utility bill, a bank statement, a government check or other document that shows your name and address. They essentially need you to show that you are who you say you are and that you're supposed to be voting at that particular poll.

If for some reason you get denied, do not leave the polling place without casting a ballot. If your name is not on the voter list, or you went to the wrong polling place, or you do not have the correct ID, you still have the right to vote. Ask for a provisional ballot. You can then call the county election office later that day to confirm that your ballot has been processed.

If you think a poll worker is illegally challenging your right to vote or if someone is intimidating you, call 1-866-OUR-VOTE and speak with an election lawyer, if possible. This could be the most important election of your lifetime, make sure your vote counts.

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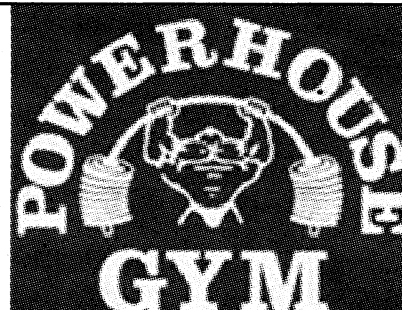
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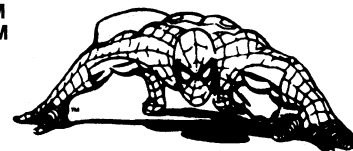
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Seawolves Look to Continue Big South Success on Saturday

continued from page 12

Bulldogs average nearly the same number of yards rushing per game. GWU averages 147.8 yards, led by Philip Peoples, who has gained 564 yards on 106 carries this season. He's second on the team with four rushing touchdowns.

The Seawolves ground game continues to be led by junior Conte Cuttino and freshman Edwin Gowins. Cuttino and Gowins each have over 600 yards this season and have combined for five touchdowns.

The key in all of the Seawolves wins this year was taking care of the football.

"We always need to hang onto the ball," Offensive Coordinator Jeff Behrman said.

Stony Brook recovered four fumbles on Saturday against Coastal Carolina and did not turn the ball over. The Seawolves only lost one fumble in the victory over Charleston Southern, and in the opening weekend

win over Colgate, Stony Brook came up with three interceptions and only turned the ball over once.

Jeffery Williams, the Runnin' Bulldogs star linebacker and reigning Big South defensive player of the week, had a huge day against VMI. Williams made 19 total tackles, had a sack and made two tackles behind the line of scrimmage. He also leads the team with three interceptions on the season. Containing him will be a big factor in deciding whether Dayne Hoffman has a successful day for the Seawolves.

Behrman also noted safety Daniel Cook and nose tackle Kenny Baker as important players on the GWU defense.

He also attributes the team's recent success to improved quarterback play.

"Dayne's been getting more comfortable," he said. "He's gaining experience, which comes from playing and managing the game."

Cross Country Preparing For America East Championships

By MIKE FODERA
Staff Writer

Prior to next weekends America East Championships, the Cross Country team had one final tune up at the Central Connecticut State University Mini-Meet. The Women's team gave its regular a rest, looking ahead to the championships next week.

The men's came up with its strongest showing yet this season. Junior Alex Felce, from Stroud, England, was the first of 148 runners to cross the finish line, finishing the 5K course in a time of 14:44, five seconds faster than the second-place finisher from rival Providence. Junior Daire Birmingham, from Portmarnock, Ireland, finished twelve seconds behind Felce in fourth place with a time of 14:56. Kurt Wende, a junior from Williamsville, New York, was the next highest finisher, crossing the line in 13th place. Also placing for Stony Brook was Freshman Daniel Sierra from Islip Terrace, N.Y. and sophomore Alex Varone from Providence, R.I., taking 24th and 26th. Their times were 15:48 and 15:50, respectively. All in all, the men came in second overall with 68 points, finishing

behind New Hampshire, who took first with total point score of 45.

With its top guns having the event off for the weekend, the women's team faced a daunting task, but rose to the occasion and pulled off a tenth place finish, behind rivals Boston College, Providence, and UCONN. Leanne Skrabacz, a sophomore from West Seneca, N.Y., led the Seawolves, crossing 28th in a time of 11:52. Freshman Kathryn Ferry, hailing from Hampton, N.J., took 38th with a time of 12:06, sophomore Kristina Doyle, from Lockport, N.Y. crossed 52nd in a time of 12:21, sophomore Kellyann Moniz, from South Hamilton, Mass., finished 62nd with a time of 12:30 and sophomore Kristen Connolly, a local girl from Massapequa, N.Y., took 65th in a time of 12:36.

The event of the season takes place next Saturday in Baltimore, Maryland. The collegiate Cross-Country world will turn there eyes to this famed seaport where the Seawolves Women's runners will be looking to defend their title against all America East opponents, while the Men will be looking to build on a strong finish this past week and win a title of their own.

Women's Soccer Clinches #2 Seed and First Round Bye In AE Tourney

By SHAWN BROWN
Senior Writer

The Seawolves sent a message to the rest of the teams in the American East Conference, concluding their season with a (5-0) rout over the Maine Black Bears. With the victory the team clinched the second seed and a first round bye in the American East Tournament.

Forward Brooke Barbuto, one of the four senior players that were honored before the last regular season game, contributed to three goals in the game, finishing with a goal and two assists.

After the pre-game ceremony, the Seawolves came out firing on all cylinders, scoring two goals in the first half of the game. It was only five minutes into the game when Barbuto hit Colleen McKenna in stride with a strong pass from the right wing. McKenna faked out the goalkeeper and scored one of her two goals in the game. The Seawolves struck again in the 18th minute, as Barbuto threaded the needle with a pass to Kate Collins, who kicked the ball passed the goalkeeper, adding to the lead.

In the second half, the game turned physical, as the players battled for field position. "Keep your foot on the gas," assistant coach Steve Welham shouted to the players.

The Seawolves defense, led by Alexis Lindo and Sarah Dwyer, pressured the Black Bear offense into taking nine difficult shots that were all denied by the Seawolves goalie, Marisa Viola.

The Seawolves pushed the ball up the field.

Barbuto received the pass and drove towards the goal.

She looked for an opening in the defense, but as was tripped up by one of the Black Bear defenders as she made a move.

The referee blew the whistle and Barbuto lined up for the penalty kick.

The goalkeeper prepared to defend a high shot and leaped to the right, as the Seawolves forward kicked the ball into the lower left corner of the net.

The crowd erupted as the teammates rushed to Barbuto, who scored what could be her final goal as a member of the Stony Brook Seawolves.

"It felt amazing to score a goal today," Barbuto said. "This was a big win for us."

The Seawolves added two more goals, winning by the largest margin of the season. With the victory the Seawolves captured the second seed in the American East Tournament, the first time in the team's history.

"Clearly the goal for us coming into the season was to finish in the top two seeds of the conference and we did that today," coach Sue Ryan said.

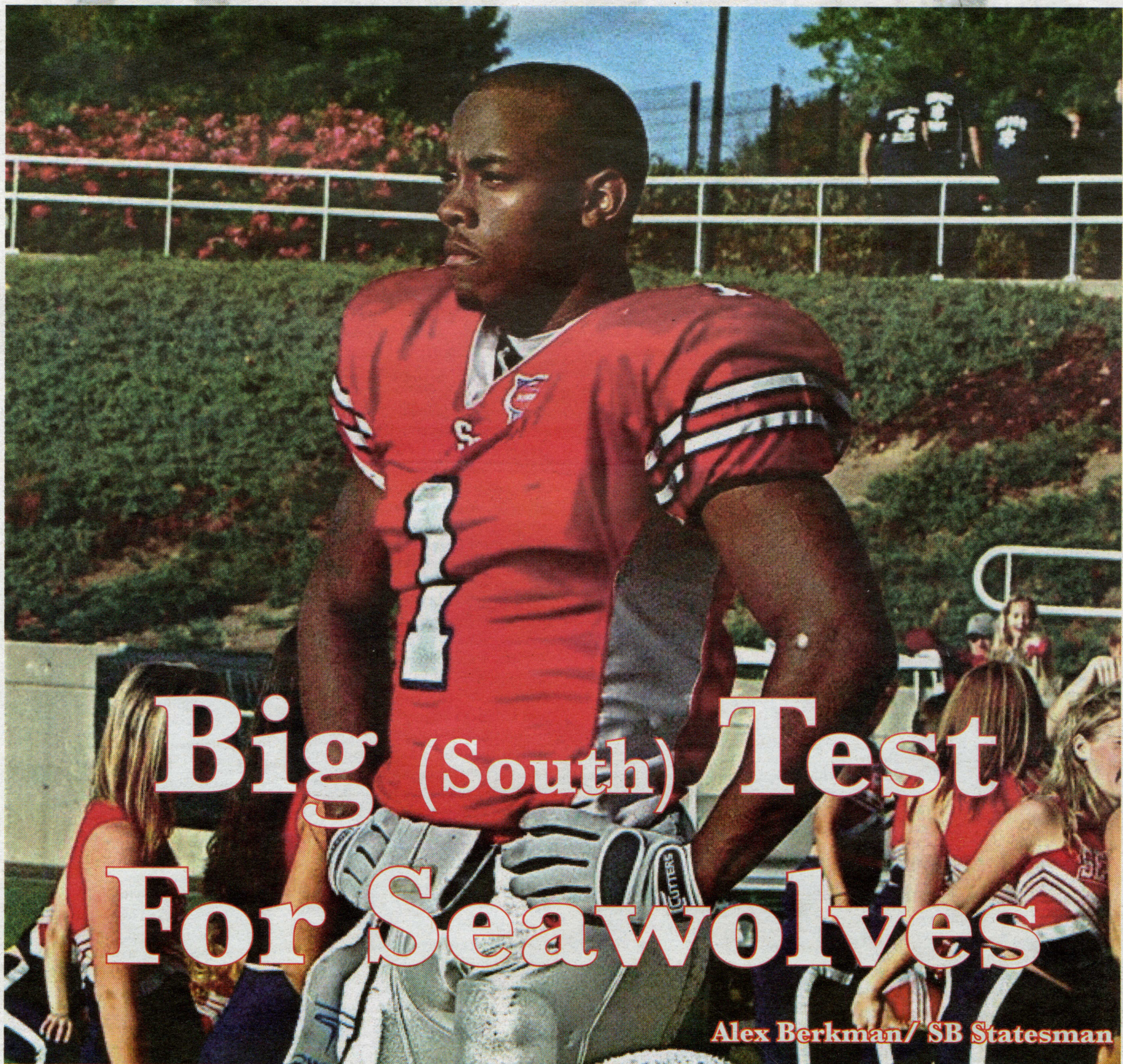
The Seawolves will get a few days to rest and prepare to play this Sunday at 6 p.m., when they will host the winner of the New Hampshire and Binghamton quarterfinal match-up. The Seawolves will face strong competition, as the difference in the regular season match-ups against both teams was a single goal. The Seawolves lost (3-2) to New Hampshire on Oct. 2 and defeated Binghamton (3-2) a week ago.

The Seawolves have won five of their last six games heading into the tournament, losing only to number one seed Boston University Terriers.

"We are riding the momentum after a strong finish to the season," assistant coach Welham said. "I think that will be our biggest advantage going into the playoffs."

Binghamton/New Hampshire v. Stony Brook Sunday at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium.

STATESMAN SPORTS



By GENE MORRIS
Sports Editor

Coming off two big wins against Big South Opponents Charleston Southern and Coastal Carolina, the Seawolves return to LaValle Stadium on Saturday afternoon to do battle with Gardner Webb (4-4 overall, 1-1 Big South)

The only common opponent between the two teams is Charleston Southern. The Seawolves beat Charleston Southern 20-19 at

home on Oct. 18 on a late touchdown pass from Dayne Hoffman to Adrian Sawyer.

Gardner Webb was defeated by Charleston Southern 13-10, on Oct. 4. Although GWU dominated the stat sheet, they lost on a last second field goal. GWU traveled to Atlanta the next weekend and lost by only three, 10-7, to BCS team Georgia Tech.

In GWU's victory last weekend against conference foe Virginia Military Institute, the Runnin' Bulldogs captured four Big South

Player of the Week awards, including offensive player, defensive player, special teams player, and freshman of the week.

Bulldog quarterback Devin Campbell picked up the offensive honors for his career day on Saturday. He threw for 392 yards and three touchdowns while completing 28 of 38 passes. Campbell, a fifth year quarterback, is currently filling in for injured starter Stan Doolittle. Doolittle, a junior, took Campbell's starting job last season when Campbell went

down with an injury.

Stony Brook Defensive Coordinator Joe Tricario said they are preparing for both quarterbacks, but that Campbell is expected to start.

"Campbell's a great passer," Tricario said. "They've opened up the offense a bit, but they are still pretty balanced," he said.

Offensively the Seawolves and Runnin'

continued on page 11