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The Stony Brook

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Monday

The Rise of the Computer Science Major



New College Survey Shows that Computer
Science Majors have more than Doubled
Over the Last Decade

CRK

The Unison of Words and Music at USB

A Rare Concert Performed at the Staller Center, Blending Music and Poetry From Around the World

By CHRIS LATHAM
Statesman Editor

The ladies crossed the stage silently, their black clothes flowing gracefully. Soon, soft flute notes danced a drifting melody to Pan's roguish pursuit of woodland nymphs. Uniting Claude DeBussy's "Syrinx" with Ovid's "Metamorphoses", master flutist Eugenia Zuckerman and veteran actress Claire Bloom opened their exclusive Staller Center performance of "Words and Music."

Once the hearty applause from the audience began to subside, pianist Brian Zeger accompanied his partners, signaling the end of the first act.

The trio, each of whom have garnered illustrious careers individually, came together for a rare concert at Stony Brook University's Staller Center, last Saturday night. Bloom, Zuckerman and Zeger joined narrative vocals with the flute and piano, blending music and poetry from around the world and across time. Sounds from classical Europe, Asia and 20th century America complemented words from the ancient Greeks, imperial Japanese and Victorian English.

"The expressivity of music and words, when brought together, make an exciting combination," Zuckerman said. "The poetry is meant to illuminate the music, and the music is meant to illustrate the text."

Eight acts were performed during the 90-minute recital.

Act II, entitled "The Blackbird", followed Bloom's introductory remarks. It merged the score "Le Merle Noir" by Olivier Messiaen, to the poem "Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird" by Wallace Stevens. Here, Bloom portrayed a dramatic speaker following an elegant blackbird; while Zeger's deep piano chords balanced Zuckerman's fast, shrill flute play.

The next act, "From Asia", focused on Chinese and Japanese compositions. It addressed themes of nature, love and warfare. This called for a closer symbiosis of flute and piano, both

compiled by Erik Satie, followed the intermission. Next came "The Song of Bilitis", this consisted of another series of songs by Debussy, put to poems by Pierre Louys.

"They (the texts) were something of a fraud," Zeger said, introducing the act. He explained that Louys claimed to find a set of risqué poems by the ancient Greek writer, Sappho, as an excuse to present works of a very sexual nature. When the work was originally performed, in the 19th century, the female lead approached the stage in the nude. Though

careers.

Bloom, a London born actress, has been performing for over half a century. Some of her more recent films include Woody Allen's "Crimes and Misdemeanors" and "Mighty Aphrodite".

She has acted as narrator with many leading orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic and the London Philharmonic.

In 1996, Bloom published a best-selling memoir, "Leaving a Doll's House", which recounted her years as an actress and her celebrity romances.

Zuckerman, renowned as a master flutist, has been performing for over 25 years.

As a recording artist, she currently has an exclusive contract with Delos, though she has worked with a variety of other labels in the past.

The flutist also maintains a career as a writer and television commentator. She has published two novels, sold three motion picture screenplays and has been the arts correspondent for "CBS Sunday Morning" since 1980.

Zeger gave his New York piano recital debut little more than a decade ago, and has been steadily building his career ever since.

He has toured around the world, and is also a recording artist. Zeger holds degrees from Harvard, the Julliard School and the Manhattan School of Music.

To learn about the Staller Center for the Arts, or to check its 2000-2001 season, log on to www.stallercenter.com.

"The expressivity of music and words, when brought together, make an exciting combination," Zuckerman said.

beginning slow and ending in rapid repetitions.

William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream", as arranged by Felix Mendelssohn, was the last segment before the intermission.

"Mendelssohn, when he was 17, wrote the overture to 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'," Bloom said, introducing the piece. "So this is not simply our fancy, but something long established."

A series of comedic shorts,

considered a musical masterpiece by many critics, Zeger admitted that it has a "dirty old man quality" to it.

The final act on the bill, entitled "Scherzi", fused a group of lighthearted musical scores by Henry Mancini to various English nonsense rhymes. The trio closed the show, however, with a stirring rendition of Shakespeare's "Orpheus".

A post-performance reception was held in the Staller Center lobby, where audience members got a chance to meet the artists and learn about their



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**A Thought
From
Rabbi Adam**



Israel. The Holy Land. A place of G-d. A place of history. Some 45 students from USB braved all tales of media headlines to accept a free trip to the Jewish homeland in hopes of finding their Jewish identity. The question begged to be asked: Where do I, as a Jew, belong? After the death of Moses, Joshua brought the Children of Israel to the Promised Land. There the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob flourished for 1,500 years till the Romans exiled them to suffer at the hands of persecution from without, and assimilation from within. And now, after 2,000 years of wandering, hints of the Messianic prophesies of the Torah/Bible, the "ingathering of the exiles" (Deut. 30:3-5), is happening- for the Jewish people are returning to the land of Israel. Eighty years ago, 50,000 people, .003% of world Jewry lived in Israel, now, 1/3 to 1/2 of the world's Jewish population lives in Israel, numbering some 5.5 million people. So the question is: Perhaps I, as a Jew, also belong in Israel. In the early 1800's a Chassid of the 3rd Lubavitcher Rebbe felt spiritually inspired. He wanted to move to the Land of Israel and live a life of piety and prayer. Israel, at the time, was a deserted wasteland. A person needed a major blessing to be able to survive in such an environment. With this in mind, the Chassid approached his Rebbe for such a blessing. Instead, the Rebbe responded, "Make the 'Land of Israel' here". And there's a lesson for all of us. Holiness and spirituality is found here. Within us. Granted, it may seem hidden and afar where as elsewhere it appears close and revealed. But know, this is our mission, to reveal that which is hidden. To sift the truth from amidst the untruth. To experience the soul from within the body. And to turn the "unholy" land into the "Holy Land"

Sponsored by the Chabad Student Club,
www.ChabadUSB.com

Jumping on The Computer Bandwagon

Computer Science Has Become One of The Hottest Majors Among College Students

By JENNIFER KESTER
Editor Emeritus

With the Internet revolution thrusting the country into the technological age, colleges and universities are getting bit by the bug as well.

The hottest college majors among undergraduates today in the United States are those dealing with computers. The computer science major, which is the study of computer systems, including development of software and architecture of computers, has more than doubled

“We have outgrown Javits 100, the largest lecture hall on campus, and the course is actually offered in two separate lectures this semester,” Bachmair said.

in the last decade to 3.7 percent of all majors, according to the University of California at Los Angeles’ national annual survey of freshmen. The survey also found that as computer-related majors

are increasing, business majors are decreasing. Business remains to be the most popular college major, but has fell to 16 percent from 25.7 percent at its peak in 1987, the survey said.

At the University at Stony Brook, business remains to be the third most popular major on campus, with computer science coming in fourth, according to University statistics. Psychology snagged the title of most popular major, with biology in second, according to 1999 statistics from the University. Business majors accounted for 604 of the 12,055 undergraduate students, while computer science counted 486 in its program.

USB offers two majors within the computer science department: computer science and computer information systems, a major that focuses on the design and implementation of business information systems. Moreover, both of these majors have evidently followed the trends being set forth by Universities and colleges across the nation.

“It is really impossible for me to not have noticed the tremendous increase in computer science enrollment,” said Leo Bachmair, the computer science undergraduate director. According to Bachmair the first course for prospective majors, CSE 113, has grown from 229 students in 1995 to 744 last fall. “We have outgrown Javits 100, the largest lecture hall on campus, and the course is actually offered in two separate lectures this semester,” Bachmair said.

The rise of the computer science department at



Statesman archives

The computer science major has more than doubled in the last decade.

Stony Brook also can be attributed to the increase of institutional support from the University, as well as from private sources such as Long Island-based company Computer Associates.

While Bachmair believes that many of the cs majors developed a strong interest in computers in high school or earlier, the majority of the approximate 800 students in the two programs, computer science and information systems, were drawn by the excellent job prospects for cs and IS graduates. “The pervasive spread of computers and applications of the internet have created new job opportunities for computer experts, while a tight labor market has resulted in high salaries,” Bachmair said.

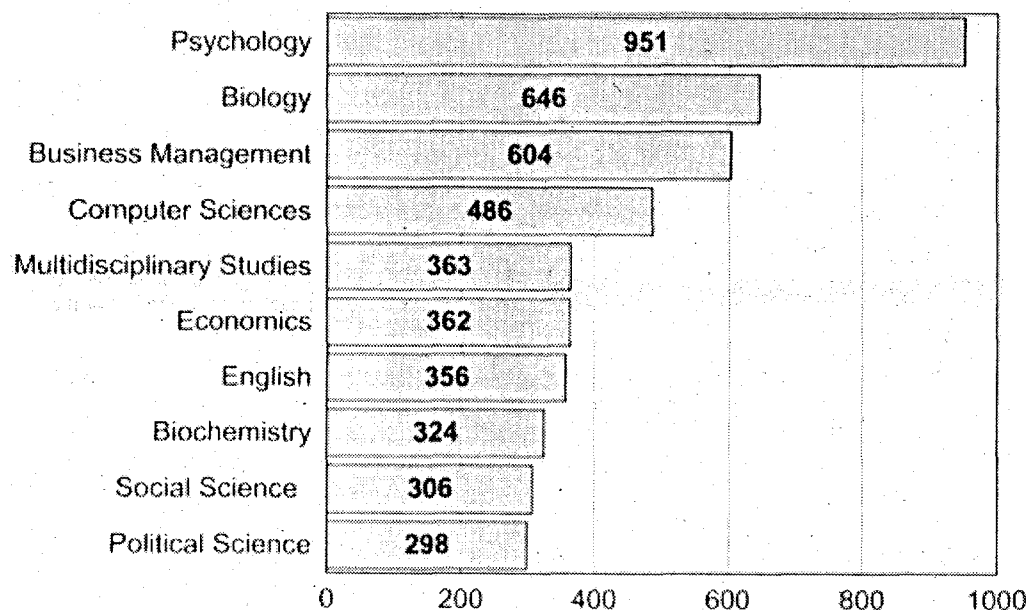
“I hear that is where the money is at,” said Jogy Thadathil, a junior cs major. “Everyday you hear about all the job openings in the field.”

Another CS major, senior, Peter Rissland, echoed this view about choosing the computer field for employment security. “I chose cs as a major because that is where the leading job openings seem to be,” said Rissland. “The economic trend at the time was all about dot-com’s.”

Senior Dheeraj Maria summed up the reason for the majority of students taking up computer science. “There is no better deal” he said. “No other major can offer such lucrative positions for such a short period of time spent at school. You’re even luckier if you like computers.”

Ten Largest Undergraduate Majors

Full and Part-time Students, Fall 1999*



*Counting double majors

Computer Science major ranks fourth at USB

Contributions Mady By Tina Chadha

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Brown Bears Drowned in The Brook

SB Men's Basketball Team Wins Again At Home

JEFFREY JAVIDFAR
Statesman Editor

Three players scored in double figures as Stony Brook shot 52.6 % from the field en route to 20-point trashing of Brown at the Sports Complex. With a 79-59 win over the Bears, the Seawolves have reached double-digit wins in only their second season of Division I play.

Stony Brook's 10-9 record, including a 7-1 mark at home, is predominately due to the possessed play of Leon Brisport (#45). The 6-8 center is a bit undersized for his position; this is especially apparent when USB plays some of the big time programs. But don't tell that to him, because all Brisport has done this season is dominate the post by scoring in 10 or more points

Indeed a remarkable turn around is taking place within the program, as it appears that Coach Macarchuk has found the proper blend of experience and young talent.

in 17 of the Seawolves 19 games.

Unfortunately for Brown they came into the contest lacking size in their front court and Brisport, a Big East talent, put on a low-post clinic in the first half. In spite of the relentless double teams Leon shot 5-9 from the field for 12 points and 6 rebounds, all the while allowing Brown's starting center to zero points and zero rebounds. Subsequently, Brown's center, Alaivaa Nuualitia, fouled out after playing only 11 minutes and scoring a mere 2 points. For Brisport, the second half was no different, as he shot 2-2 from the field and finished the game with 17 points and 8 boards. On a night when it appeared that Brisport might put up his 3rd 30pt spot of the season, Coach Macarchuk showed some real class by taking Leon out early and not running up the score.

Not to be out done, freshman D.J. Munir (#15) ran the point superbly, as he has done all season, and still managed to score 14 points, dish out 4 assists and come up with three steals. D.J.'s ability to slash and penetrate allows him to get easy shots in the lane and earn many trips to the free throw line. Against Brown, four of Munir's six baskets were either layups or dunks.

Freshman Jairus McCollum (#30) is by far the most entertaining Seawolf, as all of his 6 points came by way of monstrous slam-dunks. His high-flying dunks and aerial acrobatics

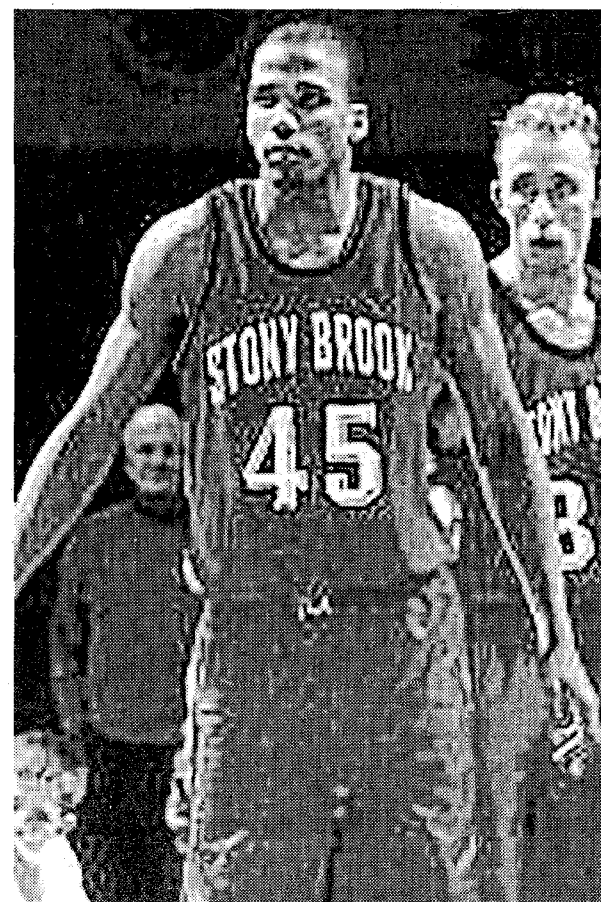
always fire up the crowd and make it seem as if he unlike the rest of us is not subject to the laws of gravity. Although his minutes have been erratic and his production inconsistent, the energy with which he plays, the game of basketball permeates through the stands. There is always a little electricity in the air when Jairus touches the ball.

In fact, the game's first points came by way of an emphatic dunk by McCullum after he wasn't boxed out on the offensive boards. Although the contest was tight in the opening minutes, the Seawolves managed to break from the mold and rattle off a 17-1 run midway through the first half. Brisport and Joakim Eriksson (#22) started the run with back-to-back layups and Chris Balliro (#33) ended it with a jumper, giving the Seawolves a commanding 33-15 lead with 3:22 to go in the first half.

SuperSub Chris Balliro who had been going through a mini-slump in January seemed to have awoken a bit, as he shot 4-7 from the field and scored 11 points.

Lee Church's (#20) basket with 2:27 to go made the score 36-19. Yet, Brown continued to fight and they closed the remainder of the half with a 7-2 run thanks to a six-point outburst from Ramel Carrington.

Stony Brook's defensive scheme stifled the Bears who shot an anemic 29% from the field in the first half while committing 14 turnovers. The Seawolves were able to take advantage of Brown's 25 turnovers on the night, by scoring 30 points off of them. The Bears on the other hand were only able to produce 12 points from USB's 20 turnovers. The 18-point advantage in this category



www.goseawolves.org

Leon Brisport has dominated the post by scoring in 10 or more points in 17 of the Seawolves 19 games. In spite of Brown's relentless double teams Leon shot 5-9 from the field for 12 points and 6 rebounds, while holding Brown's center to zero points and zero rebounds.

continued on page 9


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Editorials

Congratulations to Erin and Rafael Duenas



We wish you both the best!!!

Commentary:

Money Talks, Education Walks

By SHIVANI SHAH
Contributor

Stony Brook is a community of individuals. A place over the last four years I have believed was built for and around the students of this university. To not only train and educate the students but to broaden their horizons by giving them the tools to succeed in life and fulfill their dreams. The tools

I am referring to are the classes and the Professors this university has to offer.

This is what I was led to believe...but this is not reality, is it? As many of us have come to realize our needs are not important, our money is. With all the money that is put into this school by each student you would think the University could enlarge classes, perhaps pay Teaching Assistants a stipend to generate more interest for these positions. But no they'd rather spend this money on a new bowling alley, or better yet a fountain.

Every semester I've heard students complain about class size and not getting into classes that they need. Not to forget our

esteemed Professors, my question to them is why are you here? Do you care about us? Or are we just there while you write your books and prove your theories? Maybe it's just me but I have only felt indifference from most of my professors. When can I turn to them with a problem and get a solution, very rarely. Will they go out of their way to help me? No, so I don't even bother. Counselors, supposedly the one group of people to bring us solutions right? Wrong, all they can say after offering a solution that won't apply is, sorry tough luck for you. If you are a graduating senior, who has been dealing with this university for four years, you understand where I'm coming from. Or better yet if you are a senior trying to graduate in the Economics department and can not because of the indifference of administrators and faculty in this university, you know

The facts right now are that two economics classes have been cancelled this semester due to a professor's retirement. That in itself is understandable but is any notification given to the students within the major? Yes, but out of approximately a hundred students, ten knew. A small

sign posted in the department is our notification. So where does that leave the rest of us, you would think we could just pick other classes right? Well I'm sure all of us would, but are there any replacement classes? No. Are any other classes enlarged? No.

What are graduating seniors suppose to do? Well we asked and these were the replies we got. "Take classes over the summer", "Take them elsewhere" and best of all, "Just stay an extra semester". All these solutions just bring in money to the university, since they believe money of course grows on trees, and who better to know this but those that teach economics!!

So what should we do? Not just those in the economics major, other Stony Brook students as well. Who can we turn to? Where can we learn? We are left to callour mommies and daddies, as that seems the best way to get anything done around here. So to this community? I ask what are Stony Brooks priorities? They obviously dont rest with students they admitted and chose to mold.

Celebrating the Holocaust Memorial Day

A Student Reflects on Jewish Survivors

By ADAM ZIMMERMAN
Statesman Editor

If you ask someone on the street about Oswiecim, Poland, you'll probably get a blank stare. That is, until you provide the German translation of Oswiecim.

Auschwitz.

The history books tell us that on January 27, 1945, the Nazis abandoned Auschwitz in the face of the advancing Soviet army which eventually liberated the camp. Saturday marked the 56th anniversary of that event, now celebrated as Holocaust Memorial Day.

CELEBRATED as Holocaust memorial day? Rare is the day when "Holocaust" and "celebration" are juxtaposed. Especially with regard to Auschwitz, the world's largest Jewish burial ground.

More than 1.5 million Jews in the two years of Auschwitz's operation. For the average prisoner, the slave labor broke you, the gas chamber killed you, and the crematorium burned you from the face of the earth. It was the alarmingly efficient method of turning a person into a prisoner, a prisoner into a number, and a number into nothing.

Taken as a whole, the Holocaust is the darkest chapter in human history. The goal of Hitler's Germany was the systematic, cold-blooded, government-sponsored annihilation of an entire race of people as the number one byproduct of eventual world domination. The Third Reich was to be the final solution to the Jewish question. And even when Germany was forced to surrender in May of 1945, 6 million Jews were not around to witness it.

Very quickly, that would become the most famous statistic ever recorded. But survivors remained. Germany lost. Hitler failed.

Therein lies the celebration.

Two survivors of the Holocaust

are my grandparents, Freida and Morris Zimmerman. Teenagers when World War II broke out, my grandparents were taken from their families and sent to work in Nazi concentration camps; my grandmother to Bergen-Belsen, and my grandfather to Buchenwald. Though survivors of the Holocaust, they were hardly as "liberated" as the camps themselves. My grandparents each lost their parents and several siblings to the Germans, and found themselves alone

round-trip to The Bronx High School of Science. In his junior year, one of his fellow homeroom students was Lauri Bardin.

Lauri had lived in the Bronx all her life, though her family history dated back to Russia. Anti-Jewish pogroms there had caused her grandfather, Isadore Oksman, to make the trip across The Pond to Ellis Island in the early 1900s. Lauri began her Bronx Science career in 1965, and actually sat directly behind my dad in homeroom for her entire

D.C., even took a Holocaust class here at Stony Brook last semester. Yet it seems the more I know, the less I know. Nevertheless, I consider myself a survivor. My two brothers are survivors. My parents are survivors. Every person of Jewish ancestry is a survivor. In fact, every living human being is a Holocaust survivor – those who did not lose blood relatives still lost members of their human family, so they too are survivors.

Obviously, we are different from the survivors who actually journeyed through Hell and then lived to tell about it. But each of us is still charged with a responsibility, for each of us has a story to tell. The number of people who actually went through the Holocaust dwindles with each passing day. But each death is matched by a birth, a new human being who enters a world where people die, but their stories never do. Stories which are to be told, stories which are to be treasured.

That is why 500 people gathered in Auschwitz Saturday. That is why they commemorated January 27, 1945. Those 500 are just like you, me and every other survivor. We are all in the paradoxical position of wishing the Holocaust never happened, and at the same time feeling eternally grateful and blessed for the families which arose from its aftermath. It is a difficult position to be in, but it has its silver lining. For when we each tell our stories, those 6,000,000 rise from the dead to live in our hearts.

And therein lies the celebration.

Teenagers when World War II broke out, my grandparents were taken from their families and sent to work in Nazi concentration camps.

in a war-torn Europe.

Alone, until they met each other. They married in 1948, and by 1950 had moved to America, living in the Bronx with relatives of my grandmother. On September 29, 1951, my dad was born.

Therein lies the celebration.

When my Dad was four, they moved to Flushing, Queens. 34-15 Parsons Boulevard, to be exact. It was nearly in Shea Stadium's backyard when the New York Mets began playing ball there in 1964. A year later, my Dad started high school, riding the subway

junior year.

Ironically, she wouldn't meet him until midway through that year at a birthday party for a mutual friend. Introductions at that party led to their first date, a movie entitled "The Subject Was Roses." Eventually, the subject was love, and on June 9, 1973, Lauri Bardin became Lauri Zimmerman, my mom.

Therein lies the celebration.

I will never know just what my grandparents survived. I've learned about the Holocaust all my life, visited the Holocaust museum in Washington

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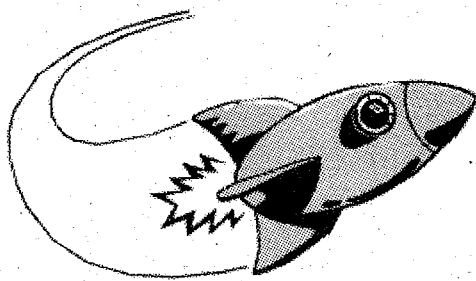
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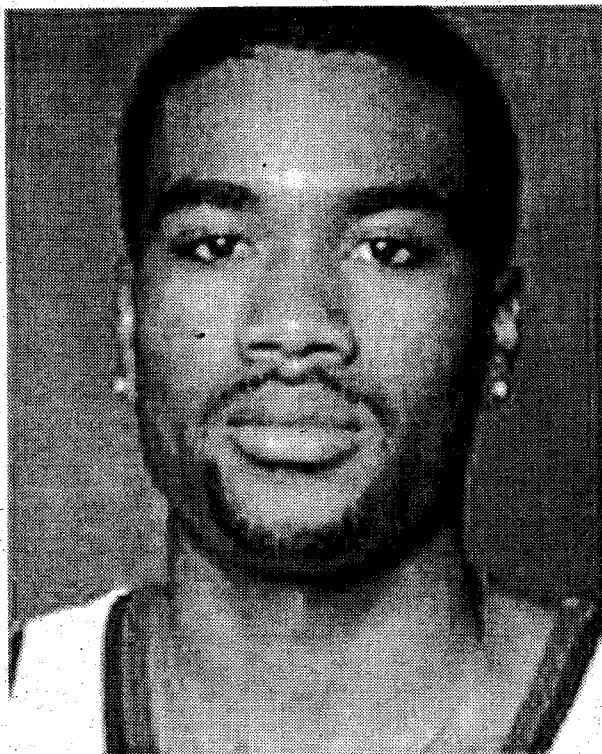
SB Seawolves Win Over Brown Bears 79-59

continued from page 5

went a long way towards Stony Brook coming away with a victory.

In the second half, Brown got no closer than 11 points. After a pair of free throws by Will Collier at the 13:25 mark, Stony Brook answered with a 10-1 run to put the game away. The run was fueled by dunks from Jairus, Brisport, and Munir. Stony Brook nailed 62% of its field goals in the second half and shot 53% for the game.

The Seawolves held Brown's leading scorer, Earl Hunt, to just five points on the night. Hunt came into the game averaging over twenty one points per outing.



www.goseawolves.org

Freshman D.J. Murfir ran the point superbly and still managed to score 14 points, get 4 assists and come up with three steals.

Indeed a remarkable turn around is taking place within the program, as it appears that Coach Macarchuk has found the proper blend of experience and young talent.

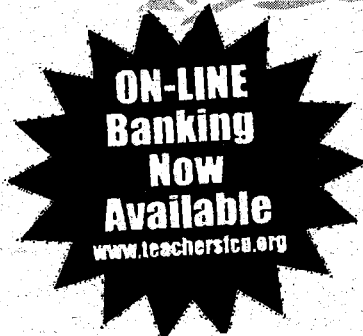
Freshman guard D.J. Munir appeared to have his finger on the pulse of what was taking place with the team. "This is a big turnaround for us, said Munir, to go from winning just 6 games all of last year to 10 so far is huge." "I'm sure this is a new experience for the fans and I'm just trying to do my part," Munir said.

Mike Konopka, a freshman forward from Toms River New Jersey, who had a career-high 16 points last time out for the Seawolves discussed the strategy they used against Brown. "We wanted to get the ball inside from the beginning," said Konopka. "We thought we had an advantage with our big man and if we could get them into early foul trouble then we'd have a good chance to win."

The Seawolves have won 3 of their last four games and will begin a five-game home stand this Monday against Cornell with tip-off at 7 PM in the Sports Complex.

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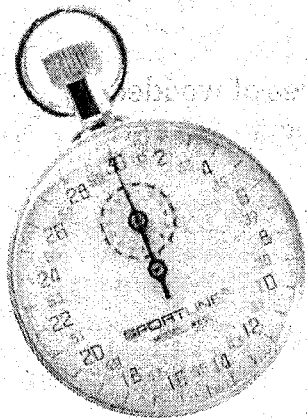
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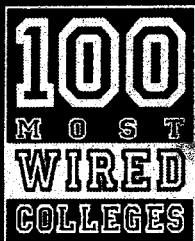
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Super Bowl At Stony Brook

By Ferron French
Salesman Staff

America's favorite past time, football, includes an even more popular event, the Super Bowl, which has been brought to the student's of Stony Brook by the End of the Bridge.

Students share thoughts on their most enjoyable event of the Super Bowl....



Theresa Gonzales

"The excitement of hoping for my team to win...I have faith."



Jasmin Khargi

"I like the new commercials that premier on the Super Bowl."



David Seid

"It's one big game. You either come through or you don't."



Johann Brown

"Every play is that one big play so everything counts for this big event."



Reinaldo Henry

"Ravens were bigger, stronger and faster. Overall, they were a better team."



Irena Pressley

"The Giants couldn't run fast enough."



Peter Lucciolino(left); Joshua Cringle(right)

"They played bad. Kerry Collins had too many turnovers."



Allan Martin Jr.

"They didn't run with Ron Dayne and they dropped a lot of passes. Kerry Collins was not on today."

Statesman
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Campus Lifestyles
Entertainment, Leisure, Sports & Alternatives