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Constitutional Proposal Fails on SOLAR

By ADAM PECK
Asst. News Editor

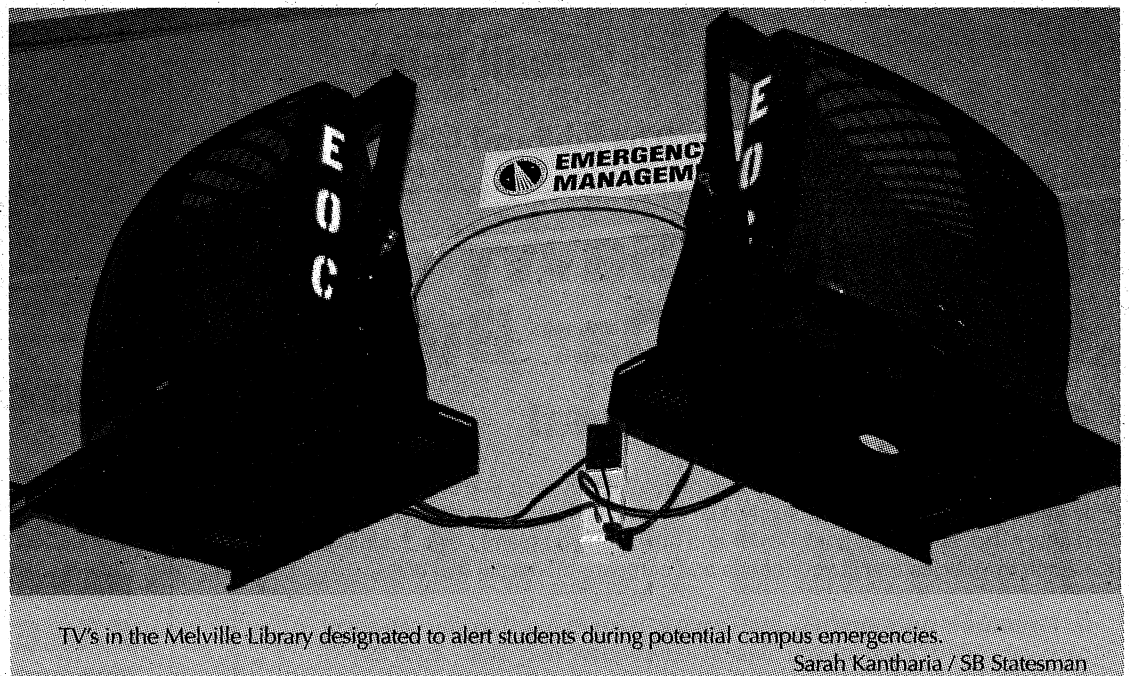
The proposed USG Constitution, which went to the student body for vote last week, has failed, according to Nathan Shapiro, Executive Vice President of the Undergraduate Student Government.

The vote was not close. Over 70% of the 1075 votes cast, or 749 students, were against the new constitution, compared to just 326 votes in favor. Alexander Markow, a USG Senator, expressed his disappointment in both the result and what he saw as the cause for the result. "Fear mongering and spreading [misinformation] were unfortunately the tactics used in this counter-campaign," he wrote on Facebook.

Members of the USG were already discussing how to move forward, with the general consensus being that there would need to be significant changes to the proposed constitution, and an increase in student input.

Last weekend before the election took place on SOLAR, an individual or organization put up several fliers around campus

Continued on page 3



TV's in the Melville Library designated to alert students during potential campus emergencies.

Sarah Kantharia / SB Statesman

Text Messaging Alerts For Campus Emergencies

By LYNN HSIEH
News Editor

SB Alert, Stony Brook's text messaging system, MIR3, is officially available for use, said Gary Kaczmarczyk, the Interim Director of Emergency Management. SB Alert is part of a greater initiative by SB's Emergency Management Team to alert the Stony Brook community through a variety of mediums in the case of possible emergencies. Campuses across the nation have been steadily

updating their communication systems after the massacre at Virginia Tech.

There are currently 10,165 people signed up, including 8,310 students, about 23 percent of the whole campus population, including faculty, staff and private contractors. Unlike other universities, students do not have to sign up separately for the text messaging system. Their information is automatically inputted into the alert system via Solar, a process that takes only a minute or two.

The text messaging system available on campus is a combination of two services. NY Alert, a mass notification system developed by the State Emergency Management Office, was "production ready" by September 4, said Richard Reeder, the Chief Information Officer for the Division of Info Technology. However, Reeder felt that NY Alert, because of its size, would be challenging to oversee and lacked the flexibility in operations. "SEMO [the NY State Emergency Management Office] wrote this for itself, not all of SUNY...flexibility that is not needed for their application, is needed for our private side,"

Continued on page 3

International Partnership Broadens SB's Boards

By ADAM PECK
Asst. News Editor

Stony Brook University will play host to a partnership between the State University of New York and Nanjing University in China involving a dual diploma program with two years of study at Stony Brook and two years of study at Nanjing University.

"Having a dual-diploma program in China represents a fantastic opportunity for

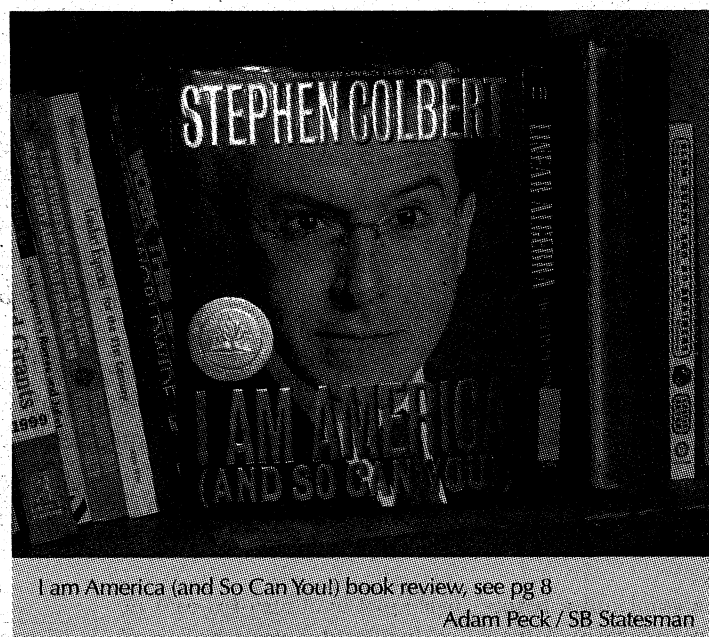
SUNY and NJU students and faculty," said SUNY Chancellor John Ryan in an official press release by the SUNY system.

Incoming students at Nanjing University will be given the opportunity to study for two years at Nanjing University and two years here at Stony Brook.

Students at SBU are able to participate in study abroad programs at Nanjing University as well. Stony Brook will also coordinate a study abroad program that all students in the SUNY system will be able to utilize.

The program, which will

Continued on page 3



I am America (and So Can You!) book review, see pg. 8

Adam Peck / SB Statesman

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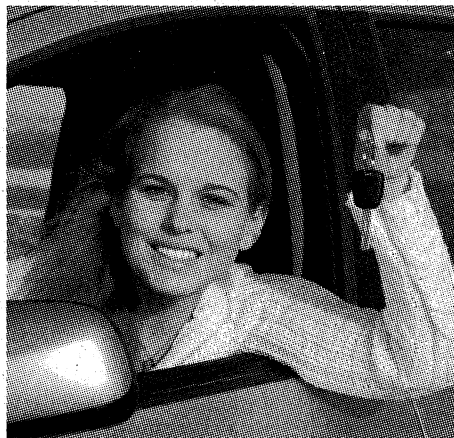
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3. Set your price. Review your living expenses, debt, cash on hand and income to determine the amount you can afford to spend on a vehicle, which includes the cost of the car, insurance premiums, maintenance and fuel. Avoid devoting more than 15% to 20% of your income to transportation. Also decide a fair price for each model you are considering based on the dealer's invoice and/or the true market value.

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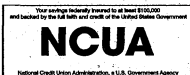
5. Go shopping. Now it's time to consider individual cars. Limit yourself to vehicles within your budget and model search and test them in various driving conditions. If you are considering a used vehicle, have an independent mechanic check it over.

6. Settle on a price. Negotiate a satisfactory price for the car you are buying before you discuss financing or your trade-in. Start below what you are willing to pay. The price you can afford is your upper limit, so try to negotiate below it. And remember you can walk away if the offer is higher than you can afford. Chances are, you can find another dealer who will give you a better price.

* Web sites provided for information only; no endorsement is implied.

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An Unlikely Candidate Spices Up the 2008 Race

By ADAM PECK
Asst. News Editor

The 2008 Presidential season has been in full swing for close to a year now. Already, five people have entered and exited the race, tying a record for a single election cycle. But for one unexpected entrant, the world of politics, especially presidential politics, is extremely new. It was on his television program "The Colbert Report" that the host Stephen Colbert announced he would be running in the South Carolina presidential primary election, as both a Republican and a Democratic candidate.

"I AM DOING IT!" Colbert proclaimed, to wild cheering from the studio audience and a nearly instantaneous mobilization of what has come to be known as "Colbert Nation." The Facebook group "1,000,000 Strong For Stephen T. Colbert" was created just hours after the announcement on the Oct. 16 show. The episodes end at midnight, and the group was created just after 2:00 AM.

Following the announcement, the media went into a dither. Most analysts believe that the move was just a promotional tool to boost the sales of his book "I Am America (And So Can You!)," which debuted atop the New York Times bestsellers list. But others are taking Colbert's run seriously, including Stephen Colbert. According to The New York Times, the staff of "The Colbert Report" approached the committees of both the Democratic and Republican parties in South Carolina about his plans, and to alert them of his intention of running on both party ballots. Such a move is allowed in South Carolina, so long as the candidate meets the requirements of both parties and gets approval from both committees for such a move.

Executive director of the state's Democratic Party, Joe Werner, told The New York Times that he would "have a hard time not putting him on the ballot" should he choose to move forward with his plans, but only if he ran strictly as a Democrat. In order to be placed on the ballot as a Democratic candidate, Colbert would have to pay a \$2,500 filing fee or collect 3,000 signatures. The Republican requirements are a \$35,000 fee according to Katon Dawson,

Continued on page 3

Philip Pearlstein, a Different Kind of Artist

By JOHN PAUL GOVINDAVARI
Contributing Writer

Philip Pearlstein, 83, artist, is full of contradictions. His work is graphic, vibrant, provocative. There is a nude woman. Her ribs, the bags under her eyes, everything that she would want to hide or disguise, are visible. While extremely unflattering, it is still beautiful in its entirety.

An endearing, old, technology-inept man, Pearlstein's work seems to come from a hidden younger version of himself – a modern and hip artist still tuned into the current vogue. He himself doesn't seem to know how his work sprouts, claiming his work has been due to more necessity than passion.

Pearlstein says that his career never really took off until he received tenure at Brooklyn College, and explained that most of his earlier work was created just so he had something meaningful to discuss in his lectures.

Most artists would claim inspiration struck them while watching a sunset or kissing a passionate lover. Philip Pearlstein does not attribute any strokes of genius to such occurrences, but rather he gives the glory to the art of house cleaning. Indeed, several of his ideas for paintings came to him as he rearranged pinwheels around his house to clear the way for sweeping. Not exactly romantic.

Pearlstein said, in regard to his paintings, that, "almost all happen by accident."

But as one looks at his work, one can't help but wonder if this is some ploy at modesty. As he went on, however, it was clear that it was no facade. Pearlstein showcased a level of modesty that truly garnered my respect in a short amount of time. When discussing one of his more powerful depictions – a dollar sign with two children hanging off the ends of the parallel lines – he didn't boast of creativity but said that he was simply surprised no one had thought of the idea first, it seems so logical.

Even as he discussed the techniques he has mastered in his career, Pearlstein didn't sound proud but rather grateful that he discovered the correct methods to achieve the desired

look. Such techniques, for those interested, include making surfaces convincing (the sheen of bare skin, the softness of cloth, etc.) and using real space in his work. Most painters do not advise using real space; rather, one is supposed to stick to the paper's plane, not purposely straying away from it.

However, Philip Pearlstein doesn't seem to care even the slightest bit about the norm, about what is expected. One of his main principles when painting is, "To go against what everybody was pushing." And judging by his vast collection of work, Pearlstein certainly adhered to his convictions.

It's as though a young rebel is still residing within his aging frame. But this modest man would simply state that he just loves to paint; he's not there to ruffle any feathers.

All through the lecture, Pearlstein pays homage to those artists that inspire him, crediting them for the output he has produced. Pearlstein claims that it all started in his high school art class, taught by Joseph Fitzpatrick – who also taught Andy Warhol – and he, apparently, fostered quite a few students in his Pittsburgh art class who went on to pursue successful art careers.

While Pearlstein says that his career started rather late in his life, he never stopped adding to his portfolio. After winning awards in high school for a few of his paintings, he went on to use his skills in the army, in psychology texts, in catalogs, as well as blue prints.

Although he doesn't speak passionately about painting, one can see that the fire and love for the act by simply watching him lecture. His eyes remained lit by some sort of invisible, self-sustaining light and his good nature never wavered.

This joy does not seep from his good fortune or fame but rather from his own love of painting. Upon hearing that his hospital roommate of this past spring knew Pearlstein's work, the artist was pleased but mainly shocked. As Allyson Regis – a student who had attended the lecture – said, "He still keeps it real." Fine words to describe such a man.

SB, An International Institution

Continued from page 1

award students with either a bachelor of science in biology or a bachelor of engineering in engineering science, was announced last spring and was scheduled to commence in August.

But interest and awareness about the program remains very low. Out of 30 students questioned about the program, only three had heard of its existence. Even staff in the international studies office were unsure of the program's status.

A second concern is the lack of preparation by the administration for even more students onto the Stony Brook campus.

Peter Gergen, a biochemistry professor working mostly in the graduate school, was one professor who did know of the program but remained skeptical of the format of the new program. "We do not need more biology students here. Our seats are filled to capacity as is," he noted. Gergen was unsure of how Stony Brook intended to meet the needs of new students.

"We haven't been told to make accommodations yet for these students," Gergen added.

Nonetheless, signatories from both SUNY and Nanjing University have a positive outlook for the program.

Nanjing University Chancellor Hong Yinxing said through press release that the new program "provides a solid foundation for collaborative research and other forms of mutually beneficial academic cooperation."

Chancellor Ryan echoed Yinxing's sentiment. "The SUNY-NJU agreement will also further strengthen cultural and economic relationships between SUNY and NJU," he said last March.

The program has gotten off to a good start, according to a Nanjing University official through email. "Nanjing is admitting students in China, and they do the first two years here. Stony Brook won't see any [students] for at least two years"

President Shirley Strum

USG Proposed Constitution Fails to Win 2/3 Vote From Student Body

Continued from page 1

urging students to "Vote No" on the proposed constitution. The flyer also listed several reasons why, but Markow claims that those reasons were untrue. "Lying to clubs and telling them that the New Constitution would cause them to lose funding is unacceptable," he wrote.

But new USG Senator Matthew Anderson doesn't completely agree with the cause for the final vote. "Irregardless of any misunderstandings, ultimately the students did not like what they read," he wrote.

Former USG official Robert Romano, who was believed by some to have spread certain erroneous facts about the proposed constitution, wrote in response to Markow's statements on Facebook that "there were enough real reasons to vote no without having to conjure up fake reasons." He added that many clubs "honestly didn't buy assurances that club rights after being taken out of the Constitution would be put back in again in the same form through a new amendment process."

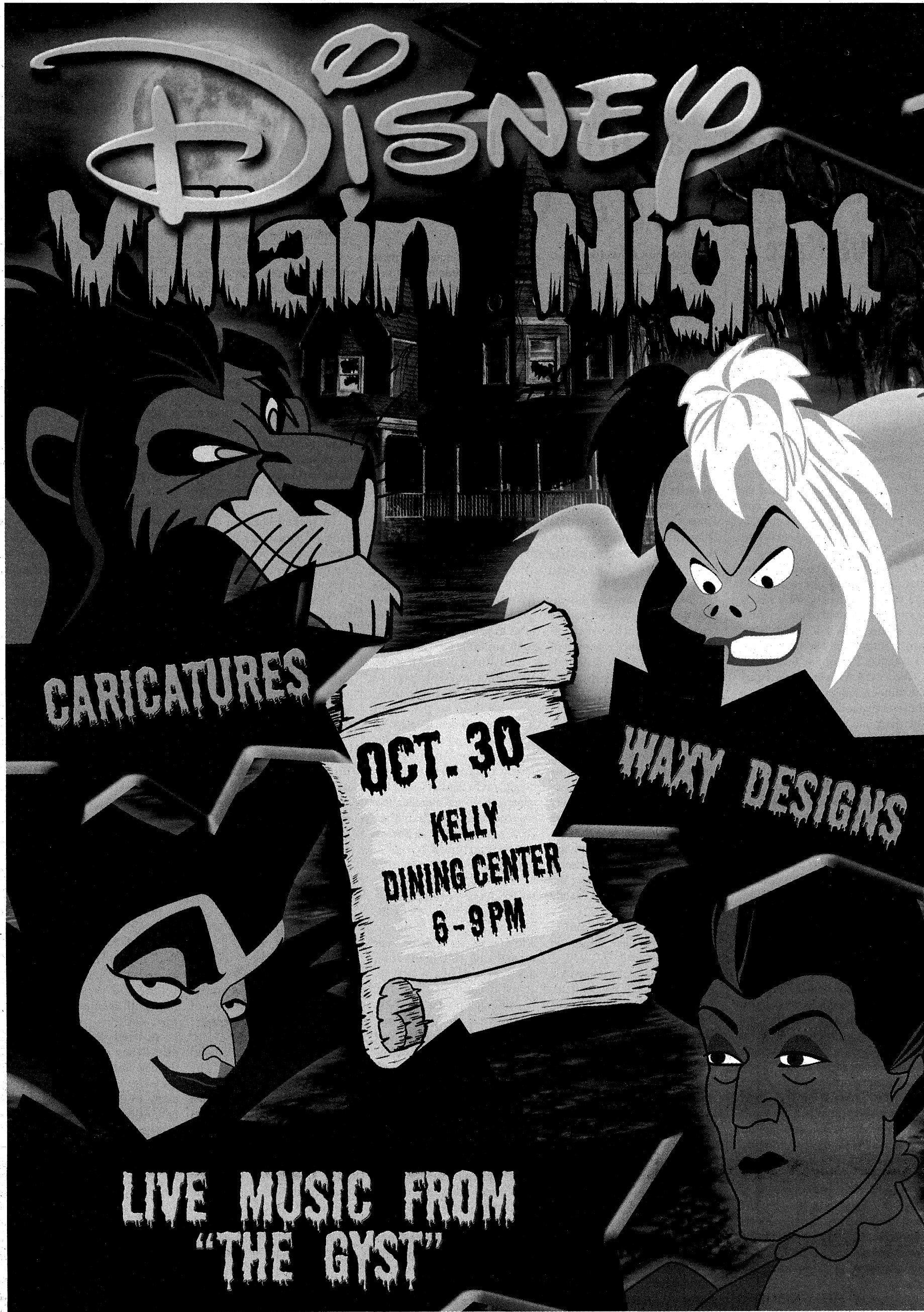
The USG, as written by several officials, will now work on rewriting parts of the constitution to make it more accessible to the student voters.

Kenny attributes the creation of the unique partnership to a growing need for students to "think globally." Kenny added that the "partnership between Stony Brook and Nanjing University will prepare students from both campuses for tomorrow's world."

Just two weeks ago President Kenny unveiled a draft of the new five year plan, in which it clearly states Stony Brook's desire to expand its reach both nationally and internationally.

It is no surprise that this partnership will significantly help to "expand the footprint" of "Stony Brook on the international landscape," said Kenny.

According to the office of John R. Ryan, the chancellor of the SUNY system, there are now more than 30 international partnerships between SUNY and universities in Turkey, Russia, Mexico Poland and China.



Student Forecast:

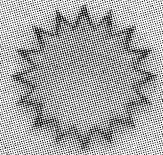
Oct. 29 - Nov. 4



Monday:

High 51/Low 35

Cool & clear with areas of frost late Mon. night



Tuesday:

High 62/Low 43

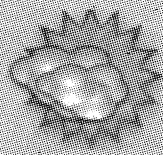
Mostly sunny and warmer



Wednesday:

High 62/Low 47

Sunny early, with clouds increasing at night



Thursday:

High 64/Low 43

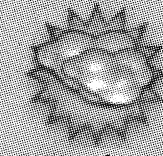
Partly cloudy and possibly breezy



Friday:

High 56/Low 42

Mostly sunny with some clouds at night



Saturday:

High 55/Low 43

Partly cloudy



Sunday:

High 53/Low 40

Partly cloudy

Cooler and drier conditions should continue through Tuesday as an area of high pressure remains over the region. It exits off the coast on Wednesday, allowing for a cold front to pass through on Thursday. Little precipitation is expected with the front. Another area of high pressure returns behind this cold front for Friday. However, it exits to the northeast late Friday and a cool and possibly dreary weekend may be in store for Stony Brook.

by Alex Kahn

V-Tech Tragedy Brings Urgency to Updated Alert Systems

Continued from page 1

Reeder said.

The flexibility that Reeder emphasized included NY Alert's inability to create groups within the system. For instance, when an emergency strikes, NY Alert would send text messages to every member in its system. Students must also provide their cell phone carrier, such as Verizon, along with their number while signing up.

In response to this, Stony Brook purchased a one-year contract with MIR3, the Intelligent Notification system. According to Reeder, MIR3 Campus Alert provides greater flexibility because it allows Stony Brook to send individual text messages to a group of the campus community instead of sending mass messages to the whole community. For instance, MIR3 can differentiate between faculty, staff, students, volunteers as well as any other group that Stony Brook makes within the system. Information such as the student's cell phone carrier is not needed for the operation of MIR3. MIR3 can also send warnings as well as ask for a response.

Reeder continued, "We fully intend to settle on NY Alert when it comes to speed on all the features we need that are important."

The one-year contract with MIR3 was purchased for \$25,000 as opposed to NY Alert, which is free for all schools within the SUNY system. This amount was not deducted from the student technology fee stressed Reeder when he said, "this should not be your [the student's] responsibility." However, it is deducted from Stony Brook's operating budget.

Stony Brook's increased emphasis on emergency communications is partly due to the effect of Virginia Tech as text messaging alert systems have become a necessity as hundreds of campuses

across the nation have upgraded their emergency management plans. When asked if Stony Brook's text messaging system was influenced by this reason, Kaczmarczyk said "Absolutely."

Brown University as well as St. John's University has signed with MIR3 for their campus alert system. It has gained national recognition since New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly praised MIR3 when he said during a news conference, "St. John's newly instituted emergency text messaging system worked like a charm." Other universities such as Buffalo University have signed with private companies such as Rave Wireless.

Along with MIR3, Stony Brook is also implementing other communication systems as recommended by the Chancellor's Task Force on Critical Incident Management. Two new systems that will be implemented within this semester are a set of campus sirens and a digital signage system.

Stony Brook is currently in the process of purchasing a siren, first in a set of possible three, which will be located on top of the library building, Reeder said.

According to Kaczmarczyk, the digital displays, which are large LCD screens similar to television sets, will be available in all high traffic areas such as in the Administration Building, the Student Activities Center and the Student Union. In the Melville Library, the digital display will replace the TVs currently available in the lobby.

The lesson learned, Reeder said, is "no one technology will save our lives." Kaczmarczyk echoed this belief when he said, "[we should] realize that there is no one system that guarantees a hundred percent of everything that happens. We need a variety of systems we can rely on so that everyone gets the message."

Colbert to Run for U.S. Presidency in 2008

Continued from page 1

chairman of the South Carolina Republican Party, with no option for a fee waiver. Neither Mr. Dawson nor Mr. Werner were too keen on the idea of Colbert running on both tickets.

Even though many questions surround his bid for the presidency, the support of Colbert has been overwhelming. Months before Colbert even announced his presidential intentions, entrepreneurial students nationwide created a stockpile of "Stewart/Colbert 2008" memorabilia, including t-shirts, bumper stickers and official petitions in the hopes of talking at least one of the comedians into running.

Facebook has been one of the most telling signs of support. Senator Barack Obama (D - Ill.) has been regarded as the most "user-friendly" candidate, attracting huge numbers of students online on sites like Facebook. But in comparison, Obama could only hope for the same turnout that Colbert enjoys. In 283 days, the group "1,000,000 Strong for Barack Obama" has attracted roughly 350,000 people. Colbert's group reached that number in four days, and after just 10 days, that number reached the 1,000,000 mark. The growth was so enormous at one point that a Facebook server crashed for several hours. Based on an unscientific test, the group was growing at an average of about seven new members per second at its peak.

So what are Colbert's chances? While support may be widespread, it would be almost impossible for Colbert to even make it to the general election. But Colbert's goal is not to make it to the White House anyway. "All I need is enough votes... to get one delegate and I'll feel like I've won," he said on "Meet The Press."

Police Blotter

Oct. 25 - Oct. 26

Car Accident

Around 2:30PM on Oct. 25, a motor vehicle accident occurred on South Drive. No injuries were reported.

Fan Punching

Around 10:45PM on Oct. 25, a student punched out another student's window fan.

Party

Around 11:45PM uninvited guests and underage drinking were found in Douglass College. One referral was made, and order was maintained.

Found Property

Around 8:30PM on the 22nd of October, \$3,000 in U.S. currency was found behind the Social and Behavioral Sciences Building. Money was secured by the police.

More Car Accidents

On the 24th, two car accidents occurred on the Stony Brook campus. The first car accident occurred around 8:00AM around the South Entrance and Nichols Road. The second occurred around 12:30PM and was near the intersection of Circle Road and Marburger Drive.

Squirt Gun

A student was referred for shooting a water gun in the lobby of the Student Activities Center around 12:30AM on the 25th of October.

Suspicious Person

A suspicious person was found in the Long Island Rail Road parking lot around 1:30AM on Oct. 26. The suspicious male was in possession of a knife.

COMPILED BY BEN HAYASHI

www.sbstatesman.org

TRESTLE AT POPE LICK CREEK

PLAYS POWERFULLY

BY TEJAS GAWADE
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Last week, the Stony Brook University Department of Theater Arts presented "The Trestle at Pope Lick Creek," first in a series of two of Long Island Play Projects. Written by Naomi Wallace and directed by Valeri Lantz-Gefroh, the play explored the saga of two teenagers, Dalton Chance (played by Dan De Jesus) and Pace Creagan (Kaitlin Burke) who find an escape from an era of depression by running to survive against a 150-ton train.

Performed in a black box theater, the darkness enshrouded by the space was felt by the audience because of the expert blackouts, cross-fades and other dimming cues by designer, Jeanette Yew. It managed to heighten the sense of darkness brought on by poverty in the depression year of 1936. The venue was intimate and the action took place before the audience, as well as above them as Pace faced the train in end.

The play began with Dalton making puppet shadows from a lamp hearing the ghost of Pace, who is already dead. It ended with Dalton and Pace in an erotic scene that brought the play to a full circle. In between, it switched between the past and the present non-linearly, increasing the suspense in a climactic fashion.

It was evident pretty early that Pace and Dalton were trying to escape the suffocating older generation made up of Chas Weaver (Robert Shilling), the town jailer whose son died at the trestle while playing the same game.

Other characters included Dalton's parents - Dray (Brian Avery), who broke dishes to take out his frustration after being unemployed and Gin (Knilo Soleil), who fought fiercely for the survival of her family.

Although the pace was somewhat slow with the play lasting nearly two hours, it felt necessary for the fragmented plotline, which was delivered with the least bit of confusion. The mix of chronology also kept the audience guessing by keeping the conclusion till the very end.

Costume designer, Peggy Morin's sepia-toned and faded-denim ripped and soiled costumes were reminiscent of the 1930s and worked well with the minimalist set design by Shaun Fillion. The set consisted of a trestle with rocks to represent a dry creek on the right of the stage, serving

the dual purpose of the jail cell, and two chairs and a table on the left to represent Dalton's home.

Minute attention was paid to every detail from the nice shoes of those who are employed (Chas and Gin) to the hole in Dalton's socks. The sound of the train whistle coming from afar evoked an atmosphere of the perfect blend of edge. The effect of echoing as Dalton chased Pace saying "I'm going to get you this time" repeatedly also worked well. The only instance where the sound seemed overwhelming and too melodramatic was the scene where Pace faced the train.

All of the characters performed the scenes with clarity and great pitch. Although most actors had neutral accents, Shilling, who played Chas, switched accents in between, chopping words (makin' instead of making) in the first jail scene. He then enunciated them in later scenes, where he clearly shined with humor and bravado, especially with the "apple" song. Avery, who played Dray, performed with too much restraint at some points, occasionally seeming to be stuck in the character of Duke Senior, which he played in "As You Like It."

Gin, on the other hand, didn't have enough restraint, especially when she screamed Dalton's name a little too dramatically, although this worked to the advantage of the passionate nature of her character. But the real star of the night was Burke as Pace, who managed to capture the youth, the boldness and the charisma of her character. De Jesus complemented her effectively, although it was clear that he was not the protagonist from the start.

Overall, the reception of Trestle was probably better received than other Dept. of Theater Arts' plays, partly because it was more relatable than the past Shakespeare and Oscar Wilde productions and partly because in itself it was an entertaining, yet educational play.

Trestle managed to capture the failure of America in providing its youth with a hopeful future in a testy time and place. More importantly though, it was able to translate generational conflicts and the capitalism's exploitation of labor to an audience that was predominantly young. Like me, the audience left the play disquieted, pondering greater reflection as was evident in the seemingly never-ending ovation.

Poet's Corner

MORNING GLORIES

BY JON PLAISTED
Contributing Poet

Brilliant, bell-like,
twisting one by one,
rising, and stemming,
praising every sun.

In soil thick
with clay and stones,
rooting what's theirs
to anywhere,

they fade at noon
and face with dignity
each near defeat.
Meek and unpampered,

solid blue and white,
they thrive quietly
in soft light's gaze,
and grow untended,

calmly feeding
on what's left behind,
as if to understand, they
grow from what they find.

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REEL DEAL: HALLOWEEN SPECIAL FIVE SCARY MOVIES



Courtesy of Hawk Films Ltd.

By AMANDA SHAPIRO
Staff Writer

Rosemary's Baby, The Shining, The Others, Frailty, and The Mothman Prophecies are some of the scariest movies because they constantly question the rationality of time, place, and people. The viewer is unsure of what is real and what to believe, and throughout these films there is a secret not revealed until the end.

It is the progression of a vague plot that keeps the viewer hooked. Can Rosemary really trust her husband and elderly neighbors? What happened in that isolated hotel that led a man to insanity? Who are the dead, and who are the living in The Others? Which brother is the narrator in Frailty? And what is the major disaster that will happen to the small town in The Mothman Prophecies?

Rosemary's Baby (Roman Polanski, 1968): Although a pregnancy for a young married couple should be a happy time, Rosemary suffers from disturbing dreams and paranoia. Her husband and strange neighbors are of little help because they

might be the cause. Female viewers showed their support for the innocent mother by copying Mia Farrow's haircut.

The Shining (Stanley Kubrick, 1980): This is one of Jack Nicholson's best films. His character's change from a normal family man to family killer expresses the psychological effects of long term isolation. One of the film's most famous scenes is when the boy rides his tricycle through the hallways and stops because at the opposite end are twin girls with expressionless faces.

The Others (Alejandro Amenabar, 2001): A brilliant ghost story and a great example of suspense. Nicole Kidman did very well as Grace, the religious fanatic who denied killing her children for an undisclosed reason. The spookiest moments are seeing the dead people's photographs, which were

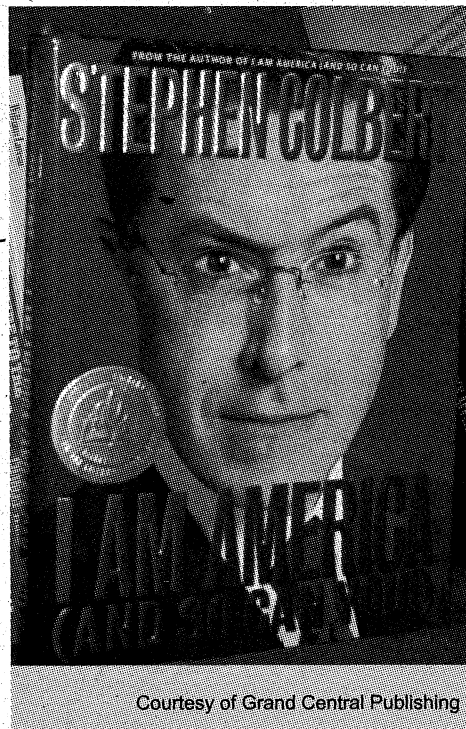
actually practiced in the 1800s.

Frailty (Bill Paxton, 2001): Also featuring a religious fanatic; a dad uses God as an excuse to follow his homicidal instincts. The audience is supposed to believe it is one brother telling his family's story to an FBI agent when really it is the other brother. Bill Paxton's calm voice as he explains his mission to his sons is eerie to say the least.

The Mothman Prophecies (Mark Pellington, 2002): Richard Gere unknowingly drove to a small town in West Virginia, but decided to stay until he figured out what mysterious force was haunting him and the town folk. The sound and visual effects representing the Mothman are nightmarish.

The greatest qualities of horror films are not the amount of blood spilled or ways of killing a person, but using familiarity and identifiable characters to question the viewer's point of view and expectations. The real monsters of these films are not ghosts and goblins, but people experiencing the unexplained.

On the Bookshelf: I AM AMERICA (AND SO CAN YOU!)



Courtesy of Grand Central Publishing

371 PAGES

BY
**STEPHEN
COLBERT**

PUBLISHER:
**GRAND CENTRAL
PUBLISHING
(2007)**

By ADAM PECK
Asst. News Editor

Viewers of Stephen Colbert's Comedy Central hit, "The Colbert Report" know that he does not much like the idea of books. Too many facts, he contends. It comes as a bit of a surprise then to learn that Colbert is in the middle of a book tour across the country in order to not only promote a book, itself a shock, but that the book is one that he himself wrote.

"I Am America (And So Can You!)" is the first entry into the world of the written word for Colbert, and he makes quite a splash.

Colbert's book reads like an encyclopedia of political talking points. Everything from the family to animals to religion to higher education is covered, and at every juncture Colbert pokes large holes in the politicizing of many social issues in the United States.

The book quickly reached number one on the New York Times bestsellers list within one week of its release. The release of the book, despite its obvious selling power, was quickly overshadowed by the announcement that Colbert was running for the office of president of the United States. Many think that his announcement was made to promote his book in the first place.

"I Am America (And So Can You!)" also happens to be wildly entertaining. Colbert and his writing staff turn out comedic gold on a nightly basis on the show, his White House Correspondence Dinner speech last spring (the transcript of which can be found in its entirety in the back of the book) is hailed as one of the most biting and hilarious political presentations in recent memory, and who can

forget his work on "The Daily Show"? The same people who participated in all of the above have lent their talent to this book as well.

Perhaps the only detraction from the book, certainly the most glaring, is the perpetuation of Colbert's character. On television, he portrays a far right wing pundit (think any or all anchors on the Fox News Channel). And while the act plays well on television, it doesn't translate quite as well onto a book: at times, the joke seems a bit overdone.

The book of course is filled with images and graphs not usually found in the traditional New York Times bestseller. For example, there is a built-in "gaydar" test to give to your friends. Also included are stickers to place throughout the book on sections where you agree with Colbert, as well as nomination badges to affix to other works of literature deserving of "The Stephen T. Colbert Award for The Literary Excellence."

The final product is a well-conceived piece of comedy perhaps deserving of that Emmy that keeps eluding Colbert (if only the Emmys were meant for books). It is fun, funny, and even eye opening. Many of the jokes made by Colbert are exact replications of the "serious" points made by the likes of Ann Coulter and other conservative fiction writers.

Colbert calls homosexuality "the biggest threat facing America today-next to socialized medicine, the Dyson vacuum, and the recumbent bicycle." When conservative authors write about homosexuality, they tend to stop at it being "the biggest threat facing America."

And that is the point: Colbert laughs at the stupidity of conservatives by playing one on TV and now in bookstores, and America laughs along with him.



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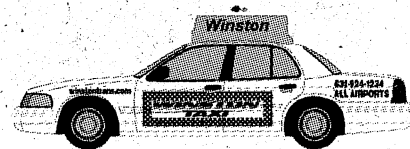
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WHO WE ARE

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

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

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THE CHATTERBOX

Dumbledore? Gay?

By ADAM PECK
Assistant News Editor

J.K. Rowling announced last week that loveable wizard Albus Dumbledore from the Harry Potter series was written as a gay character. And while the news gives a whole new spin on those closed-door meetings between himself and Harry, the move should be applauded.

Homosexuality is becoming more and more mainstream in American society. Sure there are a few sour apples, but at least humans recognize that gay men and women are in fact people too, deserving of equal treatment by everyone. Rowling is using her superstardom to promote tolerance, and anyone who would disagree with that isn't deserving of the title of human being.

I understand that there is some debate over whether or not children should learn about

homosexuality at such a young age, and that I understand, to a point. If you're talking about the physical relationship between two men or two women, fine. But why should kids not be exposed to the concept of two daddies or two mommies?

Too often people in positions of power don't take advantage of their status to affect positive change. Rowling recognized her position of power and took action, positive action, to right a wrong that permeates our society.

And let us not forget that the audience for Harry Potter has aged with the main character. College students were the target market when book one came out in the late 1990's, and many have stuck with the series ever since. Indeed, the books have become increasingly filled with love and death, motifs hardly reserved for children's books.



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The Chatterbox is a new feature in the Statesman. Each issue, two staff writers or editors will hold a heated debate on a pressing issue. And by that we mean lighthearted rant about a semi-interesting topic. This is meant to be a fun, funny, and perhaps even life changing section for the exclusive benefit of Statesman's loyal readership. Readers can suggest new topics for the Chatterbox in the comments section online, so check it out! Enjoy.

-Statesman Editorial Board

By SURAJ RAMBHIA
Editor-in-Chief

J.K. Rowling's recent announcement that Albus Dumbledore is gay has certainly created a tumult in the literary world. What do I think? I think Rowling needed a way to keep a buzz about her 7-part series until the 6th and 7th movies have been completed. I can understand, she may feel like she ran out of ideas. What do rich people do when they know they're wealth is going to stagnate? They try to spark controversy.

Saying that Dumbledore is gay, which is still debatable in my opinion because Rowling just wanted some publicity, is almost as bad as Barack Obama supporting sex education for kindergartners. Now, keep in mind, I don't have anything against gay

people, and I actually do place my support behind Obama for U.S. President in 2008.

Does this new fun fact actually change the way a person is supposed to read the Harry Potter series? The little 3rd and 4th graders who read the Harry Potter series today certainly don't know what's going on. So why should anyone, much less the author of these books, even try to force this idea upon the populace and mar the innocence of these little kids.

Certainly, Rowling isn't going to put a disclaimer on her books about Dumbledore being gay, but still, I think this is very unnecessary. If Rowling is trying to say something about gay people, she could have presented her ideas in a more appropriate setting, not in a book meant for children.

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Men's Soccer Takes Two

Continued from page 12

defeating Maine in a 1-0 defensive battle. SB's only goal came in the 41st minute when a Maine player headed the ball into his own goal.

Dawid Ditrich had to make only two saves to pick up the shutout. The SB offense managed only four shots on goal, including two by Michael Palacio, in a sloppy game on a rain soaked field. The win moved SB to 3-3-2 on the season in conference, and was their first road conference win of the year. They have one more conference game left when they host Binghamton Nov. 3 in the teams final game of the season.

Their next game is Wednesday night, when they host Yale in a non-conference game at 7:00PM.

Seawolves Dominate Visiting Bryant

Continued from page 12

that started the breakaway as "a boost."

Head Coach Chuck Priore said that the game was competitive during the scoreless period. He also talked about the team's plans for the off week. The players will be able to turn more attention to academics. Practices can focus more on basics. The coaches won't be in a rush to come up with a plan for the following game. The coaches will also be preparing for the 2008 season, by traveling throughout the country for recruiting.

SB has next week off, and will play its final home game of the year the following Saturday against CCSU, the team that ended their title run last year. Kickoff is at 1:00 PM.

Swimming Hosts Boston College for Parents Weekend

By SHONTO OLANDER
Sports Editor

Lukasz Ochamnski's record-breaking 1000 yard freestyle was part of an exciting home win for Men's Swimming Friday night against Boston College. Women's Swimming came close against the visiting Eagles, but fell 164-134.

In their first home meet of the season, both the Men's and Women's teams had excellent performances from Omer Ozcan, Maja Gudelj, Alexander Kissel, Julian Acevedo and a host of other swimmers who placed in their events. The Men's 200 Yard Medley finished first with a time of 1:38.44, just edging Boston College's team

by .2 seconds.

Freshman Ochamnski's time of 9:34.42 broke Stony Brooks past record in the 1000 yard freestyle, and gave his team 11 points in their 164-134 victory.

Freshman Maja Gudelj and Junior Courtney Teague took first and second place, respectively, in the Women's 50 yard freestyle, helping the Women's team pick up 13 points. The Men's 50 yard freestyle had Seawolves finish in the top three spots, lead by Junior Alexander Kissel's time of 22.30.

The Men's and Women's squads both return to action on Nov. 7th against Fordham University.

Volleyball Beats Albany

Continued from page 12

30-21 victory. Stony Brook hit .353 in the game while keeping the Great Danes at bay with only a .200 attack percentage.

Game Four was close all the way with neither team holding a lead of more than three points until the Seawolves scored four straight off two kills apiece from Sweany and freshman Linda Weber to easily take a 22-15 lead. Albany responded by scoring seven straight to tie it at 22. The lead exchanged hands four more times until, with the score tied at 26, the Seawolves scored back to back points on kills from Ahlers and Weber to take a 28-26 lead. Albany closed to within 29-28, but a Sweany kill gave Stony Brook the victory and sent the rivals into a fifth game.

Stony Brook took a quick 6-4 lead in Game Five but the Great Danes rallied together to tie it at six and then at seven. The Seawolves responded with kills from senior Amy Oleksiej and Deutsch to take a 9-7 advantage and impose an Albany timeout. The Great Danes continued to hang in the game by cutting the lead to one point at 11-10 but Ahlers countered that with a kill and the Seawolves closed it out on Sweany's 21st kill of the set. The Seawolves hit a game-best .407 in

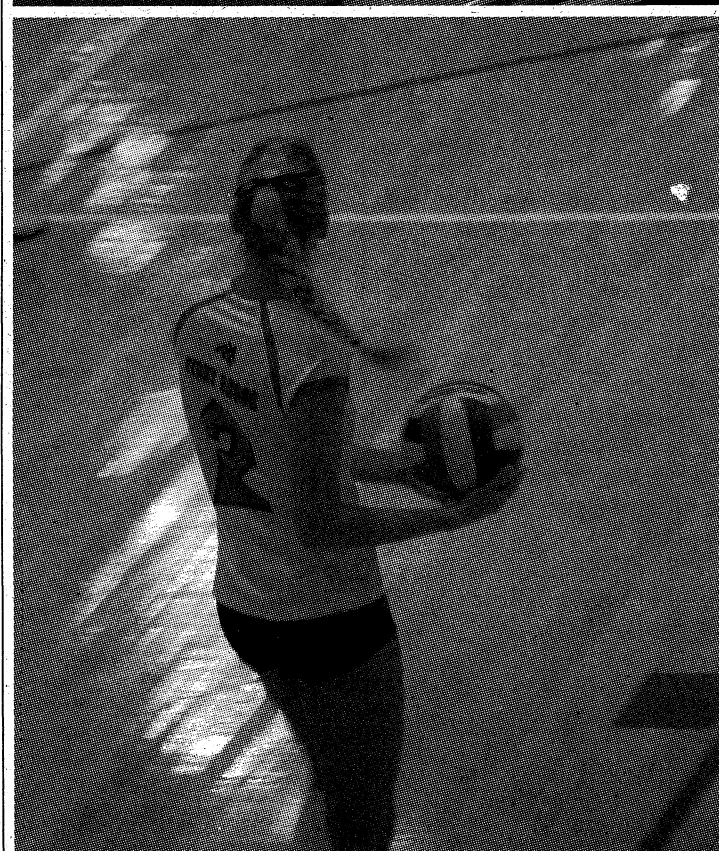
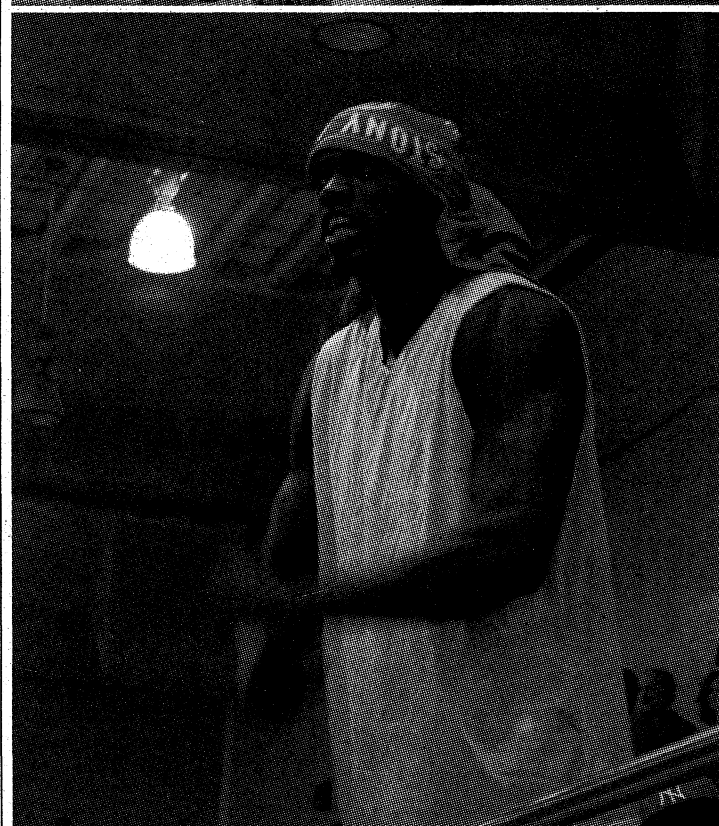
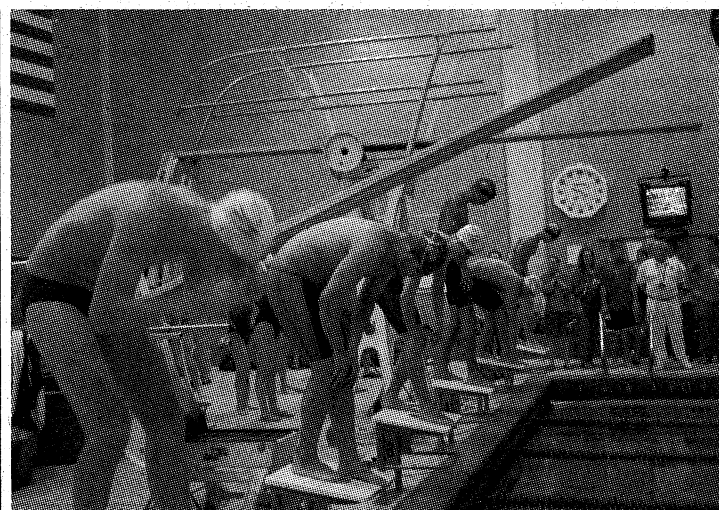
the fifth and deciding game.

When asked about their most recent win, senior Amy Oleksiej said, "Friday's win was huge not only because we came behind from a 2-0 deficit and won, but also because it was the first time in four years that we beat Albany during regular conference play."

In addition to this outstanding win, Ahlers was named America East Volleyball Player of the Week for the third time this season on Monday Oct. 22nd, after taking the first-place Seawolves to successive victories against Hartford last weekend. Ahlers totaled 30 kills last weekend (5.0 per game), while also hitting a collective .364. Her overall tally was a match-high of 13 kills with an attack percentage of .429 in the Seawolves' 3-0 sweep on Friday October 19th. She came back on Sunday to achieve a match-best 15 kills in Stony Brook's second consecutive victory over the Hawks.

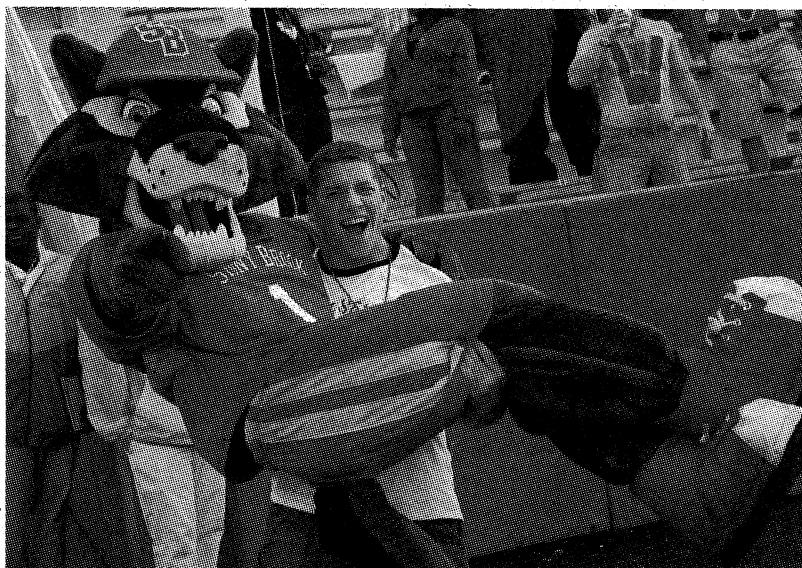
Ahlers finished the week with a conference-best 5.25 points per game and has now registered at least 13 kills in every Seawolves match this season.

The Seawolves move to 19-7 overall and 7-1 in the America East while the Great Danes fall to 15-8 and 4-3. The Seawolves will resume play at a home game on Friday, Nov. 2nd against Maine at 7 p.m.



From the top: Men's Swimming gets ready to hit the pool, Seawolves fans made their presence felt and gave the Men's and Women's Swim Teams a huge lift on Friday, while Senior Morgan Sweany gets ready to open up a vicious serve.

Johnathan Chang/ SB Statesman



SPORTS

Check out pictures from this weekend's Football, Volleyball and Swim Team Action at sbstatesman.org

Men's Soccer Picks Up Two Conference Victories

By GENE MORRIS
Assistant Sports Editor

Men's Soccer Beats Albany

SB was able to snap its two game losing streak and keep its undefeated home record intact with a 1-0 victory over Albany Wednesday night. The win improved SB to 8-6-2 overall on the season, and 2-3-2 in conference.

Maurice Brown scored his third goal of the season in the 59th minute. In a tight, feisty game, three yellow cards were handed out in the final three minutes, including one to SB's Mahamadou Simpara.

Dawid Ditrich made three saves to pick up the shutout, making his best save of the night in the 28th minute on a close range shot from Albany's Gaby Seguin-Gauthier.

Albany's Steward Ceus was nearly as good as Ditrich, making five saves. His spectacular one handed save on Oscar Leis in the 6th minute kept SB from gaining momentum and taking the early lead. Leis had another good chance in the first half, but was unable to beat Ceus.

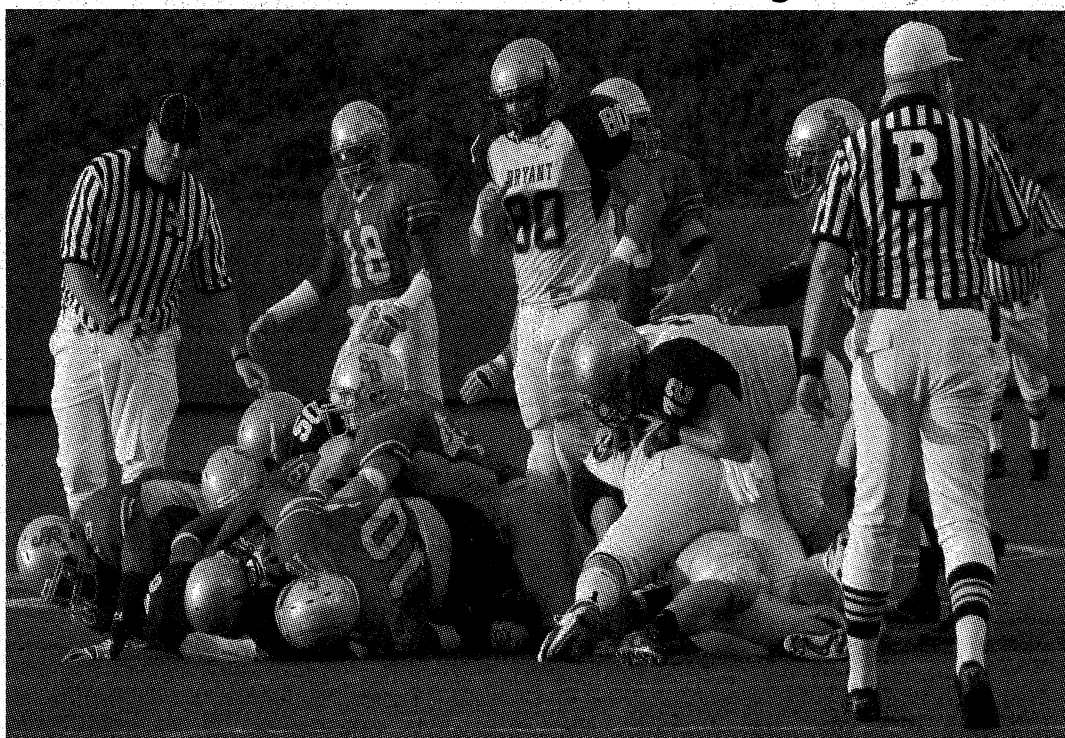
SB's defense was solid once again, allowing Albany to attempt only nine shots, only three of which made it on goal. Albany did not record a shot on goal in the second half.

SB Holds On In Maine

SB picked up its second conference win of the week on Saturday,

Continued on page 11

Seawolves Shutout Bryant



The Seawolves dominated both sides of the ball in Saturday's 30-0 win, holding Bryant to just 224 yards total offense while racking up 458 total yards. This was the Seawolves first shutout of the season.

Johnathan Chang/SB Statesman

By WILL LAHTI
Co-Managing Editor

The Stony Brook Seawolves football team defeated the Bryant Bulldogs by a score of 30-0 on Parents Weekend. SB's offense pulled out to an early lead, then broke it open in the 3rd quarter. The game marked the first SB shutout since September 2004. SB improves to 5-4. Bryant, a Division II school about to jump to I-AA, suffered its first loss of the year, falling to 7-1.

The first quarter began with a huge play for Bryant, with a 75-yard passing play putting them on the SB 4-yard line. Two plays later a pass was intercepted by

sophomore linebacker Tyler Santucci, giving SB the ball at the 20 on the return. Big runs from Conte Cuttino and Brandon Mason set up a pass from QB Josh Dudash to Melaquan Saffold to give SB a 7-0 lead 5 minutes into the game. On the following SB drive, a run by Brandon Mason put SB up by two touchdowns. The 2nd quarter saw the ball bounce between the two teams, but with no further scoring.

SB exploded late in the 4th quarter. A punt put Bryant at their own one yard line. A running play couldn't get out of the end zone, and SB picked up the safety. SB got the ball, and scored a touchdown on a pass from Dudash to Lynell Suggs,

putting them up 23-0.

SB took the ball down the field again in the 4th, with a pass from Josh Dudash to a pressured Dwayne Eley. Eley was able to get the ball across the goal line before being chased out-of-bounds, and SB took a 30-0 lead.

SB had double the offensive production Bryant did, with 458 yards to 224 for Bryant. The Seawolves would rush for 280 yards. The only turnover of the game was the interception in the 1st quarter by Bryant. SB had fumbled on a bad snap, but Dudash fell on it.

Cuttino referred to the safety

Continued on page 11

Women's Volleyball Defeats Albany

By JESSICA MCCLINTOCK
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook women's volleyball team overcame the Albany Great Danes on Friday night, Oct. 26th. Senior Jackie Ahlers marked a match-high 31 kills, and Senior Morgan Sweany contributed 22. The Seawolves came from behind at 2-0 down to clench their seventh straight victory, a 3-2 win at the Stony Brook Arena. Ahlers achieved an excellent hitting percentage of .403 for the Seawolves, who also received a double-double (67 assists, 17 digs) from senior Kaitlyn Deutsch. Junior Noelle Bay led Stony Brook with a match-high 21 digs.

The two rivals scuffled back and forth in Game One, but when the game became tied at 20, the Great Danes scored three straight points. The Seawolves closed the score to within one at 28-27 on an Ahlers kill, but Albany was able to close it out with more kills. The Great Danes picked up right where they left off for match two. The Seawolves closed the shortage to six at 29-23 however; a Stony Brook service error gave Albany the win and a 2-0 lead.

Stony Brook began to change the energy in Game Three, building a 15-8 lead with the help of four Sweany kills. Albany came up to within four points at 16-12 but the Seawolves scored four straight points to drive the lead to eight and continued from there to the

Continued on page 11