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Construction crews are still working to complete the new Roth Quad dining hall by the scheduled 2008 deadline.
Suraj Rambhia / SB Statesman

Roth Quad Dining Renovations Taking Longer than Expected

By APRIL WARREN
Contributing Writer

When Allie Russo sprinted out from under a canopy of maple trees in Roth Quad with her mouth watering at the thought of a chicken nugget, her jaw dropped at the unexpected sight before her: Roth Dining Hall was gone.

Roth Dining Hall still stood where it had been for the past forty-two years. However, for Russo, it was as good as gone. A chain link fence entrapped Roth. From this fence hung a white, cardboard sign that read: closed for renovation.

The Roth Quad dining hall is not scheduled to re-open until August 2008. Some residents and commuters glare with disgust at the building every time they walk by and are reminded that their quad is the only one without a dining hall. "With the drastic increase in the student population, if they were going to renovate Roth, they should have done so last year when there weren't nearly

so many kids," said Russo, 20, a commuter.

Over the years, many students have preferred Roth over the SAC. "We were surprised at how many commuters actually used Roth during the day, it was really unexpected," said Lisa Ospitale, Director of Marketing and Communications for Campus Dining Services. Roth dining has served over 25 million meals in the last 4 decades.

The constant heavy traffic the dining hall received has taken its toll on the building. "This is not just a makeover, this is a complete renovation," said Ospitale. The entire Roth dining hall renovation will cost \$11 million and be overseen by Beyer Blinder Bell Architect and Planners LLP.

The construction will be paid for through state grants and a \$27 increase in commuter and resident meal plans. "That's not totally fair because what about commuters and students in the West Apartments who don't have meal plans," said Katie LoBiondo, a

Tabler Quad resident. This is a loophole, acknowledges Angela Agnello, Director of Marketing and Communications for the Faculty Student Association. The fee will be added to meal plans starting next fall.

"We always used to say that Roth Quad is held up by duct tape," said Ospitale. The inside of the building has been completely gutted and the new building will have new plumbing, new electric, and better utilize the downstairs space, unlike the previous Roth dining hall.

Christine Lee, a Roth resident, is still skeptical of the renovation. "Other renovations that started in the summer are pretty much completed or about to be pretty soon," she said.

According to Ospitale the renovation is taking longer than other campus renovations because Roth dining hall is receiving a new kitchen.

The construction in the

Continued on page 9

Drop in Funding for Schools in the Health Sciences Center

By JESSE COZZETTI
Staff Writer

Since 2004, schools in the Health Science Center have experienced a drop in funding for equipment needed for students to learn proper clinical skills.

In 2004, the School of Nursing spent 1.6 percent of its budget, on its equipment. This number, in 2007, decreased to 0.8 percent.

The newly built Clinical Skills Center (CSC), used only for the School of Medicine, took 4 million dollars of funding over two fiscal years for its equipment. Students in the School of Nurs-

Continued on page 5

SB PULSE AIDS Awareness, More International Dual Degree Partnerships, and Expanded Prowess in Clinical Studies

By SURAJ RAMBHIA
Editor-in-Chief

AIDS Awareness on Campus Precedes World AIDS Day

On Thursday Nov. 29, SB University will have a one-day exhibit of the largest section of the AIDS Memorial Quilt on Long Island.

The AIDS Memorial Quilt on display at the Student Activities Center will be comprised of twenty-five, 12-foot by 12-foot sections, according to a university press release. The quilt itself is composed of 5748 such sections, amounting to 1,293,000 square feet, which, according to the university, is around the size of

Continued on page 3

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- **Number of inquiries (10%)**—When you apply for a credit card, that company makes an inquiry on your credit report. A lot of inquiries in a short amount of time can lower your credit score.
- **Types of credit used (10%)**—Do you have a healthy "mix" (loan, credit card, retail card, personal loan)?

What's a good score?

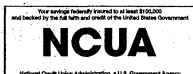
Lenders have varying standards on what's considered a "good" credit score. On average, 680 to 720 and higher is considered good.

How can I check my score?

You can order your score through each of the three credit reporting agencies at Equifax.com, Experian.com, and TransUnion.com. It typically costs \$5 to \$7. For more details on ordering a credit score and a free credit report, go to www.teachersfcu.org and click "Free Credit Reports" under Helpful Links.

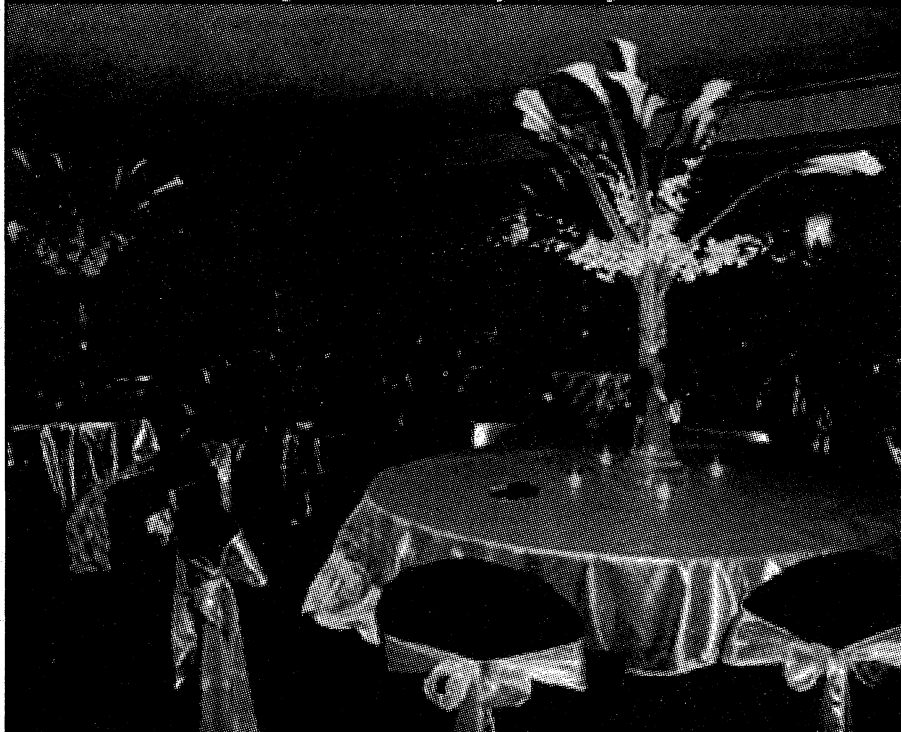
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Student Forecast:

Nov. 29th-Dec. 5
by Alex Kahn

Monday:

High 57/Low 44

Sunny during day, with increasing clouds and showers in PM

Tuesday:

High 53/Low 40

Mostly cloudy, showers possible through the day, especially AM

Wednesday:

High 50/Low 36

Partly cloudy and cooler

Thursday:

High 48/Low 37

Sunny with clouds increasing during the night

Friday:

High 50/Low 39

Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain showers

Saturday:

High 48/Low 35

Sunny and cooler

Sunday:

High 49/Low 34

Partly cloudy, chance of showers overnight

Monday morning and afternoon will be dry and seasonable. However, as a low pressure system approaches the region on Monday evening, clouds will increase ahead of it and showers are expected for Monday Night and early Tuesday morning. The cold front associated with this low will exit the region Tuesday and bring in chillier conditions for the rest of the week. Another area of low pressure will approach the region again on Friday and behind it should be another shot of cool Canadian air that will keep us dry until late on Sunday.

SB PULSE

Campus News

In Brief

Continued from page 1

275 basketball courts.

According to the university press release, since its creation in 1985 by the NAMES project Foundation of Atlanta, over 15 million people have visited the AIDS Quilt.

The Quilt was previously exhibited at SB in 1992, 1994, and 1996.

On Nov. 30, the Student Health Center will be turned into a walk-in HIV Testing Site for the 2nd HIV Testing Day. The event, in collaboration with the Student Health Center, was coordinated by the SB University Center for Prevention and Outreach Health Education Office, Project Safety Net: Long Island Association for Aids, Inc., EOC of Suffolk, South Brookhaven Family Health Center, NYS Department of Health and SB Suffolk Project for AIDS Resource Consortium (SPARC).

Partnerships with East Asian Universities on the Rise at SB

SB University has followed up last year's commencement of a pilot dual degree program through Nanjing University in China with a two new dual degree partnerships in South Korea, according to a recent university press release.

The two universities in South Korea, Konkuk University and Kyungwon University, will allow international students to receive degrees in any major at SB. Both programs call for participating students to spend two years in South Korea and two years at SB.

The dual degree agreement with Konkuk University, more recent than its Kyungwon University counterpart, should eventually accept 40-50 students every year, according to William Arens, dean of International Academic Programs at SB in the recent university press release.

Fifteen universities in the East Asian region have partnerships with SB.

Shroyer, a National Expert in



The AIDS Memorial Quilt on display in its entirety at Washington D.C.

courtesy of www.riverdeep.net

Clinical Science Investigation, Comes to SB

Recently, the Division of Evaluative Sciences added national expert in clinical research, A. Laurie W. Shroyer, Ph.D., M.S.H.A., to its faculty. Shroyer was appointed Professor of Preventative Medicine by Richard Fine, M.D., dean of the School of Medicine, according to a university press release.

As a new member of SB University, Shroyer will take part in "advanced academic training and facilitating clinical science research," according to the university, as a part of the Graduate Program in Public Health (GPPH), an organization that strives to "improve the health of populations on Long Island and regionally through education, research, and community service."

Shroyer, coming from the local Northport VA Medical Center office of Research and Development, will continue her efforts as Co-Principal Investigator of a multi-center clinical trial, the "Revascularization On- and Off-Bypass" (ROOBY) Study. According to the university press release, Shroyer's ROOBY Study serves to "compare the clinical outcomes between patients with on-pump versus off-pump coronary artery bypass graft procedures." She will continue to oversee ROOBY through the VA Cooperative Studies Program.

Thanksgiving Break

Police Blotter

November 21st - 28th

COMPILED BY BEN HAYASHI
Staff Writer

Residence Hall Police Reports

Grand Larceny

Around 12:00PM on November 20th in Mendelsohn Quad in Gray College, grand larceny occurred.

Marijuana

A total of 6 referrals were made regarding marijuana. Two at 5:15PM on the 20th at Hamilton College. Four more were made at 4:10PM on the 21st at West Apartments H. The final two were issued at 1:50AM on the 20th for smoking of marijuana.

Burglaries

Theft on numerous items and burglary occurred in Schick College around 8:45AM on November 21st.

A second burglary occurred in Dewey College around 9:30AM on the 21st. Multiple miscellaneous items were stolen.

Two video games were reported stolen in Baruch College around 1:00PM on the 21st. Later on grand larceny occurred in Baruch College when two credit cards were also stolen.

Odor of Gas

An odor of gas was reported in West Apartments H. Upon inspection, no gas odor was found.

Gasoline Spill

A report was made in Sanger College B Wing of a large amount of gas spilled on the ground at 7:09PM. Speed dry was placed on the ground and the situation was monitored until dry.

BB Gun

Reckless Endangerment occurred when a student was found firing a BB pellet gun in Langmuir College. The pellet gun and jar of BB's was confiscated and a student referral was issued. This occurred around 12:38AM on the 26th of November.

Campus Roads Police Reports

Car Accidents

A motor vehicle accident occurred around the Main Entrance and the Guard Booth at 11:07PM on the 20th of November. No injuries were reported.

Another motor vehicle accident occurred on the Engineering Drive around 10:50AM on the 21st of November. No

Continued on page 5

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"We don't have blood pressure equipment, enough physical assessment items..tuning fork, the reflex hammer, otoscopes etc. We also have outdated equipment in the bed lab...our dummies are old and a lot of them are outdated, making them completely obsolete."

-Sofia Reyes,
Nursing Student

Funding Cuts Hurt School of Nursing

Continued from page 1

ing continue to use outdated equipment.

According to the medicine school's Associate Dean of Finance John Reilly, three million of capital money was used for construction of the CSC, and around one and a half million from quality of life funding went to technology and audio between two fiscal years.

Reilly said the CSC had a strong proponent in the School of Medicine Dean Norman Edelman. Edelman, apparently, had been pushing for the center for a long time.

Reilly said that the quality of life funds go to the provost's office where all the schools in the HSC are vying for the same quality of life funds. He said, "It is very political."

In the CSC, students learn to diagnosis and acquire bedside

manners with trained actors playing the part of patients. The CSC features 6,000 sq. feet, including exam rooms, computer stations and conference rooms. It contains one simulated operating room and one emergency room with one-way glass for viewing and critiquing student patient assessments. They also have simulated men and baby patients.

The CSC is supposed to be used not only as a resource for the specialized training of physicians and other healthcare professionals such as nurses. However nursing student Sofia Reyes stated that 10 lab beds in the nursing school are lacking.

Reyes said, "We don't have blood pressure equipment, enough physical assessment items..tuning fork, the reflex hammer, otoscopes etc. We also have outdated equipment in the bed lab...our dummies are old and a lot of them are outdated,

making them completely obsolete."

The coordinator for the nursing lab and exam rooms, Kathy Miller, was unavailable for comment.

The School of Medicine's Associate Dean for Educational Development and Evaluation Elza Mynoa said that money from Albany only covered the building of the skills center. The money for technology came from the medical school money from courses and other resources.

Mynoa emphasized, "The dean gave me a budget that covers the medical school needs and we don't have the money for nursing school to use it." An advisory committee was put together to develop financial policies for the CSC.

The coordinator and trainer Pat Bly said the committee has a lot of pieces to work out. The two meetings held have not done

much to help bring nursing students and other schools into the skills center.

Bly said, "it's owned by the school of medicine."

Mynoa stated, "What we need to do is see if we could get a grant with other schools. Dean Fine is also interested in integrated projects to help the other schools use the CSC equipment."

However because of summer and busy schedules, Mynoa said it would be some time before the committee will finalize policies for schools like nursing to use the CSC. So as students of the School of Medicine practice their clinical skills in the CSC, other schools suffice with what they have.

Reyes said, "It's difficult to learn on a dummy that is falling apart or has been injected so many times...since nursing has become more technologically advanced, it's hard to learn with this equipment."

Thanksgiving Break Police Blotter

Continued from page 3

injuries were reported.

Around 5:11PM on the 26th a motor vehicle accident occurred on the traffic circle near Roth and Tabler Quad.

Around 4:25PM on the 27th, a car accident occurred around Circle Rd and Tabler Quad. Drivers walked into Police Headquarters to report accident.

A motor vehicle accident occurred in the University Hospital Parking Garage around 8:43AM on the 21st. No injuries were reported.

Verbal Harassment

Reports of verbal altercation occurred around 12:38AM on the 21st in the North Parking Lot. This harassment occurred between 1 female and 5 males.

Driving While Intoxicated

A motor vehicle accident occurred on John S. Toll Drive around 11:55PM on the 22nd. Two male students were transported to the University Hospital, and one student was arrested under DWI charges. Alcoholic beverages were confiscated.

GPS Stolen

Around 5:20PM a Global Positioning System was stolen from a car in the Gym Road Parking Lot.

University Hospital Police Reports

Damaged Vending Machine

The glass of a vending machine was found smashed around 25th of November on the 9th level of the University Hospital.

Other Police Reports:

Smell of Gas

The smell of gas was found in the Southampton Technology Center around 10:00AM on the 20th. Area was patrolled and was found to be clean.

Misuse of Fire Extinguisher

Around 5:00AM on the 21st of November, a fire extinguisher was found sprayed all over the floor in the Melville Library.

Petit Larceny

Petit larceny occurred in the Computer Science Building around 4:00PM on the 21st when one laptop was stolen from its owner.

Graffiti

Around 1:15PM on the 26th, graffiti was found in the Prichard Gym in the men's locker room.

The New Heritage Inn

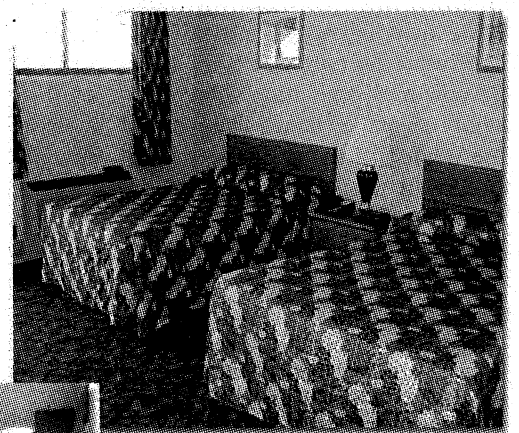
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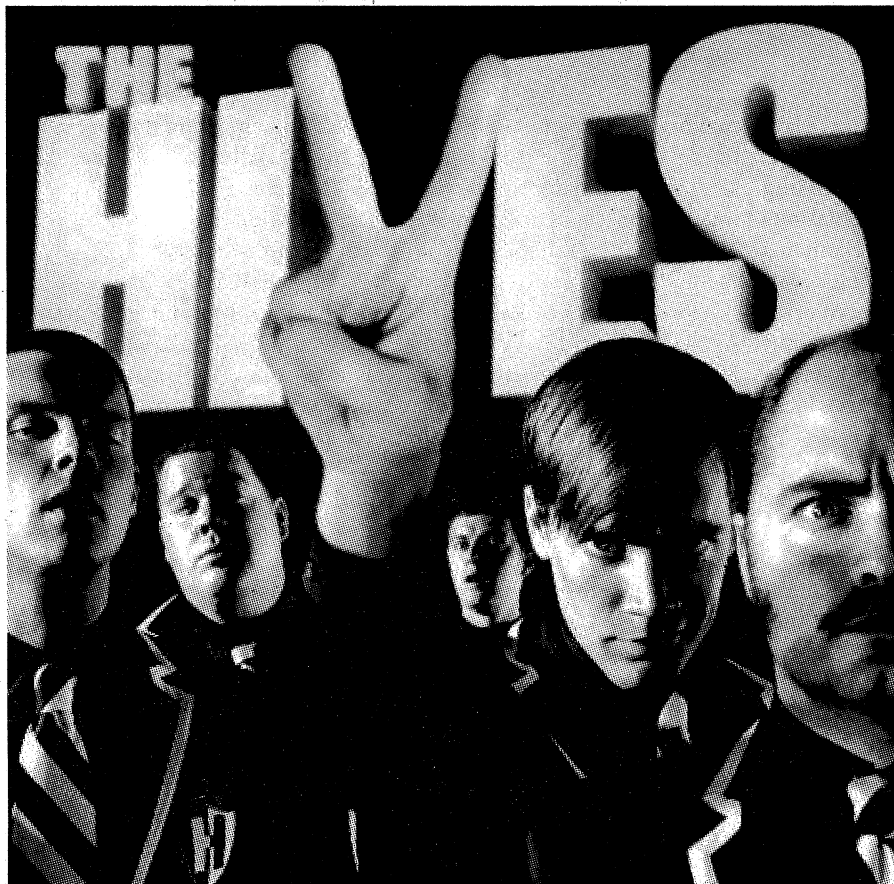
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Back in Black and White



Courtesy of A&M/Octone

By MAUREEN HINE
Asst. Arts and Entertainment Editor

Sweden's "favourite" quintet is all suited up in black and white school boy uniforms for the American premiere of their best comeback yet, "The Black and White Album." The Hives highly anticipated fourth album has just dropped and the critics, including myself, are raving.

The Hives, who were part of the class of 2002 new rock revolution along with now highly acclaimed bands The Strokes and The White Stripes, are beginning to catch up in the race to stardom. With a little help from Modest Mouse producer, Dennis Herring, and Neptunes hip-hop/skate punk, Pharrell Williams, The Hives are back on the map. Together, the producers helped the band to record between 20 and 30 songs, including the hit single, "Tick Tick Boom." Sadly, only 14 tracks appear on the album.

The first track and coincidentally the first single, "Tick Tick Boom," holds true to the band's garage rock nature. The repetitive chorus of the words "tick tick tick" speeds up to an explosion accompanied by the band screaming boom, which is perfect for gamers who can hear this track on Madden NFL '08. The best part of the song, however, comes when Pelle says "check it" and the song transitions to a slower beat that progressively builds with the steady drum of 'Dangerous' Chris.

The Hives keep the momentum of excitement building with track four's feel-good beat, "Well All Right." Howlin' Pelle shines, putting his name into action as he wails "heeyyyy, yeah!" at the start of the song. As the band chants, "Well all right!

I know just what you mean," you have to fight back the urge to raise your hand up in a clenched fist and riot along.

Pharrell's robo-sounding beats throw the album into an 80's flashback on the seventh track, "T.H.E H.I.V.E.S," with a chorus that has the band spelling out their own name, is reminiscent of the Men Without Hats hit single, "The Safety Dance." Unfortunately, the lyrics to this song boast about the bands return "for the fourth time coming, cause if you don't know we'll make it very clear," not some clever lyrics for a club dance routine to practice with your friends.

"Black and White" does take a quick strange venture into the world of instrumentals on "A Stroll Through Hive Manor Corridors," combining a keyboard, guitar melody eliciting the feeling of taking a moonlight walk through a dark, foggy park in the middle of the woods. "Puppet on a String" also takes a dip into instrumental land as whispers of "like a puppet on a string you hold on tight" echo amongst the pop of snapping fingers.

"You Dress Up For Armageddon" is one of the most underrated "Black and White" tracks. The song's catchy lyrics in tune with the pleasing dynamics of Howlin' Pelle's voice, make for an easy track to fall in love with.

"The Black and White Album" moves the Hives one step closer on the ladder towards garage band stardom. Pelle and the gang keep things light, as they continue to perform amusing, captivating shows on their current European tour.

The band will be back to the States in February, and if their live performances are anything like their latest album, it won't be a show to miss.

REEL DEAL

Purple Violets

By AMANDA SHAPIRO
Staff Writer

There is no doubt that offering a film exclusively on iTunes is a smart business and marketing plan. It is just one more push ahead into the future of distribution options and technological advances. Independent filmmakers will especially benefit because there are no extra fees to enter the festival circuits or major studios to contend with.

"Purple Violets" is the latest project from Edward Burns. He has received praise from his past directorial works -- "The Brothers McMullen," "She's the One," and "Sideways of New York" -- and little acknowledgement for what he only acted in.

"Purple Violets" was supposed to be a return to his intellect but instead of originality it is crossing over the line to cliché conventions and an unaffection plot.

The good memories and unresolved issues between two college ex-couples are played out in the same manner as if they had been high school classmates. And just like any other love obstacle story, there are factors that prevent their immediate romantic reunions.

Patti, played by Selma Blair, and Brian, played by Patrick Wilson, are writers who have not achieved their career expectations. Patti had received unanimous applause but no sales for her book, has become a real estate agent to make money, and is married to a man completely wrong for her. Brian has written a successful detective series but fails his first attempt at true Literature, and is dating an immature drama queen.

Kate, a teacher played by Debra Messing, and Michael, a lawyer played by Burns, dated, but due to a misunderstanding of him cheating on her they broke up and don't seem to have had their own serious relationships since. Patti and Brian easily rekindle

their love while it take much longer to even talk face to face.

While Patti and Kate are celebrating Kate's 33rd birthday, they see Michael, Brian, and his girlfriend at the other side of the restaurant. They all notice each other, wonder what to do next, and Brian decides to go over. Some time later Patti and Michael bump into each other and she agrees to find him a new apartment. It is this platonic pairing that sets themselves up with their respective exes.

Selma Blair, Debra Messing, Patrick Wilson, and Burns are well known enough to promote the film and their acting talents give stable performances. The only casting complaint is Donal Logue as Patti's husband for his pitiful attempt at a fake English accent.

The costume designer is very deserving of recognition for perfectly choosing the best of NYC style wardrobes. A nagging problem is Patti and Brian constantly complimenting each other's writing but there are no clear excerpts from their works to prove how good they are. Burns also might have lost his own touch at writing; conversations between characters are poor and vague.

Perhaps why "Violets" is different from "Sideways" is the large ensemble stories of the latter: there are so many different relationships that by switching between them there was a concentration when each time featured and not realizing the absences. But by focusing only on two couples, each path must be stretched out and the writing flaws are more noticeable.

The smartest decision he made regarding "Purple Violets" was not the movie itself but putting it on iTunes, leading the way for a new method of distribution. Although not worth purchasing, doing so means entering a future of more possibilities.

Poet's Corner

Insomniella

By POORNIMA PEREIS
Contributing Poet

With no glass slippers to
spare

And with the absence of
tears

And a godmother left for va-
cation

I stare and squint and try to

conjure up lines

At the strike of midnight.

Ears erect, naturally awake
with no coffee mugs to share
my burden

I write, think, and create

Fervently

Ready to prance and consume
nocturnal ideas

Staller Style

Diva, French Style

La Vie En Rose



Courtesy of Picturehouse

By ULA LUKSZO
Staff Writer

Edith Piaf.

It is the name of a singer known throughout France, though she died nearly 40 years ago. With "La Vie En Rose," the rest of the world is coming to know her name and her phenomenal repertoire, just a few notes of which are enough to raise the hair on one's arms.

Having only seen her performance in Ridley Scott's pleasant but forgettable "A Good Year," I was blown away by Marion Cotillard's ability to completely subsume herself in the role of the Parisian "sparrow" ("piaf" is Parisian slang for sparrow). Appropriating Piaf's bent posture and painted-on eyebrows, as well as her fast barking talk, Cotillard truly became the French diva.

The film eschews chronological biopic cliché of the sort that "Walk The Line" indulged in too much, and no attempt was made to have Cotillard sing the songs that Piaf made her own with her unforgettable, gravelly voice.

Instead, the film unflinchingly depicts the sparkling highs and harrowing lows of Piaf's tragically short life. Though there are moments that are inevitable to telling the story of an internationally-known singer-the "discovery," the "mentorship," the first successful performance, the drug addictions and attempts at rehabilitation -- "La Vie en Rose" manages to avoid most of the pitfalls, leaping across time from the beginning of her life to the end and back.

The audience is left to put together

the pieces of her life, rather than having it force-fed, from her early childhood blindness, to her collapsing on stage after years of morphine addiction and various car accidents ravaged her body; from her first time singing on the street for money to her luxurious affair with boxer Marcel Cerdan; from one of her last interviews on the beach in California to the moment she first heard a composer audition "Non, Je Ne Regrette Rien" ("No Regrets") for her, which would become one of her biggest hits.

At the end, the film makes an effort to make the audience understand that no life can be fully captured on the screen. While Piaf is on her deathbed, thinking over her life, unlike other biopics, the audience does not see scenes that they would usually be familiar with.

Instead, the audience sees new scenes, learns new things about Piaf's tragic life, and realizes that no biopic is ever truly "complete." The best it can do is give us a sense, an inkling of the complexity of anyone's life, much less the life of someone as well-known and yet as mysterious as Edith Piaf.

With beautiful period costumes from the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s; superb performances by Cotillard, Gerard Depardieu (as the man who "discovers" the Sparrow on the streets of Paris) and the rest of the supporting cast; magnificent views of Paris and New York; as well as a tight screenplay that, even in translation, never indulges in cliché or triteness, "La Vie en Rose" is a magnificent film and nothing less than a beautiful ode to one of the legends of the twentieth century.

Julius Caesar

Shines at

Staller Center



Courtesy of Staller Center for the Arts

By REBECCA NEWMAN
Staff Writer

There is always something to be gained from watching a Shakespeare play. Whether it be the beautiful language, the dynamic, interesting characters, or the plot, audiences alike have been flooding theaters and auditoriums for literally centuries just to hear those familiar thous and thines.

Sunday, Nov. 18 at the Staller Center for the Arts was no exception. The Aquila Theater Company's production of "The Life and Death of Julius Caesar" was a performance worth seeing. Although it was not performed in its traditional ancient Roman setting, the play was strongly produced and well acted.

The aesthetics in this production were not necessarily strong, but that seemed to be proving a larger point. Julius Caesar is a strong political drama that transcends setting. The almost bare stage and plain costumes seemed to convey that this play could be happening at any time and in any place.

This play raises many provocative issues throughout. It was certainly interesting and illuminating to be seeing it during a time where political image is heightened and public figures are highly scrutinized. Since Shakespeare always includes soliloquies and introspective scenes in his works, the audience gets a

multi-faceted view of the characters.

These contrasting scenes are especially valuable in this play because each political figure has a separate public and private image. What is exciting here is to learn what motivates each figure's public image; does anything from his inner life and conscious spill in to his public self?

Julius Caesar effectively communicates how pride can hurt you just as easily as it can help. The popularity that helped Caesar rise to the top is also what causes his downfall. Even though his wife Calpurnia accurately predicts his death, Caesar blindly marches on because his comrades pressure him to do so.

The actors in this production did a great job portraying the seriousness and complexity of the conflicted characters. Brutus, played by Richard Sheridan Willis, is particularly conflicted as he has the choice of remaining loyal to Caesar or usurping power. He is convinced and partly molded by the persuasive, equally strong Cassius, played by Charles Goforth.

Julius Caesar is a timeless political drama that proves how universal public image and power can become in a society. The Aquila Theatre Company gave a potent performance complete with great acting, intelligent lighting design, exciting stage combat, and of course all those thous and thines.

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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 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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OP-ED**A Renaissance 50 Years in the Making****The Statesman is
Ready for
Change**

With the year 1957 came the beginning of Stony Brook University and the Sucolian. The student paper, soon renamed "The Statesman," has lasted all 50 years, transforming from a small student organization to the only incorporated student paper on campus.

This year, our 50th year of production, we are ready to begin another renaissance. We have written this message because we feel it necessary to inform our readers the changes that lie ahead.

Changes... where do we start? They're happening right now. Changes for the better, changes that will strengthen the Statesman moving ahead in the coming weeks, months, years.

Our new website should be up and running by the time this issue hits the stands. And with our new website comes new podcasts, to be launched on a rolling basis. First, basic news summaries, appropriately titled "Statesminutes," will provide our listeners with a very brief rundown of the content in the latest issue from the news, A&E, and opinion sections of the print edition. Following those podcasts, in subsequent months, will come the more elaborate features with music, photos, videos, and unique programming straight from the minds of the Statesman's editors and writers.

Starting next week will be our blogs, sites with specific designations expanding on the content in the print edition. We will have a political blog, a sports blog, an editors' blog, a Newsroom blog; all providing for limitless opportunities to express what we can't in the paper.

The biggest changes are going to be seen next semester. Our 50th Anniversary celebration will serve as a launching pad for some of our most exciting features. Videos will be incorporated into the new website as this semester comes to a close, but the Statesman will officially begin to film exclusive content starting in the spring. By then, we will have already made significant strides online, and our print edition will be expanding simultaneously. Also in the spring will be the launch of our new features and literary magazine, a compilation of in-depth reporting by students, fiction writing from various members of the Stony Brook community and contributions from some big names in the world of journalism.

The last part of our extreme makeover will be the print edition itself. For all 50 years, we have operated in the tabloid format, opting for the smaller sized paper. Starting in the Fall 2008 semester, we hope to begin production with the larger broadsheet format. We feel it will improve the overall aesthetics of the paper, and will be the final exclamation point of our first 50 years as well as the start of the next 50 years of reporting on campus.

All of these changes will take some time to perfect. We make no claims at excellence for the first few weeks with our new features. However, we feel confident that, with the right amount of time and effort, our changes will create a lasting impression upon the paper, the campus, and ultimately the students of Stony Brook University.

THE CHATTERBOX

www.oprah.com

By ADAM PECK
Asst. News Editor

If Hillary Clinton were to lose the Democratic primary to Barack Obama next year, there are many people Obama would have to thank: John Edwards, for effectively criticizing Clinton at the debates; Norman Hsu, for creating a fundraising controversy; and Clinton herself for casting questionable votes on everything from Iraq to Iran. But the biggest "Thank You!" card just may be owed to... Oprah?

Oprah Winfrey is a goddess. Not that I am a fan or anything, but the power of Oprah is undeniable. Who else can turn a bookshelf dud into a New York Times bestseller with a few well-chosen words?

It should come as good news then for the Barack Obama campaign to hear that Oprah wants

to throw her (substantial) weight behind the political superstar's presidential bid. She can deliver what not even Obama's good looks can: women's votes. Hillary Clinton has enjoyed a commanding lead amongst female democratic voters in the polls, but that was before the queen of daytime television decided to directly campaign for Obama.

So just how big is Oprah's blessing? It is too early to tell, but there is no reason to suspect she will have any less impact on politics than she has on books. Huge numbers of registered female voters remain at home on Election Day, but with Oprah telling them to get off the couch and head to the polls, how many will heed her plea? I say enough. Besides, if worse comes to worst, Oprah can just hand out another thousand cars in return for their votes for her man.

**Obama... No,
Oprah '08?****By SURAJ RAMBHIA**
Editor-in-Chief

I think Barack Obama is the best candidate out there to run for the 2008 U.S. Presidency. I won't go into why I think he's the most "electable" of all the Republicans and Democrats, because that's a topic for another chatterbox.

I'm not going to lie, however, about my qualms regarding the next couple of months. I think it's going to be hard for the country to accept a president named Barack Hussein Obama, regardless of how well spoken he is.

Enlisting the support of Oprah Winfrey is certainly not going to get Obama through the primaries. As my friend above is applauding the decision to have Oprah campaign with Obama with the belief that she will, by herself, get Obama more votes, enough to win the primaries,

I make myself clear: only Obama can win the election for himself.

Maybe, for some odd reason, people actually listen to what Oprah says, but I don't believe that even a person of her status can physically garner votes for Obama. As it was mentioned a recent issue of Newsday, maybe Oprah can attract voters who originally wouldn't have gone to see Obama. Thus, more people might hear Obama's message.

Oprah's star power, might attract enough people to overthrow Hillary "always a First Lady" Clinton. Yes, that's right. Hillary will never be more than a First Lady in the White House. If she really wanted to be taken seriously, by this voter, she shouldn't be counting the 8-years she piggybacked of old Bill. Sure, Hillary got exposure, but that should not be considered the same as experience.

CAMPUS SECURITY:

Communication Can Still Improve

By ZACHARY KURTZ
Columnist

As commuter to Stony Brook, I've tried to integrate myself into campus life. Despite this, keeping up with what's going on around campus can be a chore for all of us who go home at the end of the day. While most people knew about the recent string of muggings and attacks on campus by word of mouth, I found out from the Statesman frontpage.

Now, I admit, it's probably my own fault that I remained in the dark about the new security alerts. My cellphone display screen is broken, so I don't get text messages, and I lost my SPARKY password on day one of freshman year and haven't bothered to reset it. Therefore, I don't receive any of the announcements sent by the University.

Despite my own shortcomings, I applaud the University's effort to improve

school to student communications. The incident at Virginia Tech last year proved that communication is key to ensuring a safe campus environment.

However, what I find still missing are advisory warnings for what immediate actions to take.

For example, during the gas leak, it would have been nice to know that the North Entrance was being blocked off, and that redirection of cars was causing massive traffic tie-ups. Instead of sitting in my car watching the needle inch towards empty for a half hour, which is how long it took me to get off campus, I could have been studying in the library.

Last Tuesday night, I was hanging out in Roth quad. On the trek back to the Tabler parking lot, I noticed how dark it was. So much for campus police being out in droves. I didn't see a single authoritative-looking figure around. A few months ago, I would have sauntered across Circle

Road, taking in the fresh night air. These days, though, I scuttle quickly, trying not to make eye contact with anyone. I don't want anybody thinking I'm a mugger or, worse, for girls to think that I'm a sexual predator. Unfortunately, fear breeds unfriendliness and an unwillingness to meet strangers.

I finally got to my car that night at 11:30PM. I decided to take the South Entrance to Nichols Road. Since the signs say the gates close at midnight, I figured I was safe. I drove all the way to the end of Marburger Road, only to find that the meaning of the word 'midnight' has been changed; the gate is locked ahead of schedule.

As a commuter, I've noticed a recent trend only a commuter might see. The gates are being locked earlier; the Main Entrance is being guarded more regularly; and overall people just seem to be getting inside earlier. It's annoying, it's

inconvenient, and it assumes that dangerous people don't have school IDs, or that they can't walk. Still, I suppose a betting man would be grateful for these changes. It's better to improve security slightly than not at all.

The annoyance is for the greater good and as a closed institution, the University certainly has a right to check who comes and goes through its gates. It would be nice, however, if the University changed its policy so that the gates closed an hour earlier, they change the sign and inform commuters who are directly affected by these changes.

I'm not an unreasonable person. I understand that improvements take time, and maybe even a little money to implement. But it's not just clearing up the 'annoyance factor' that's important; improving communication to streamline the system will not only make everyone safer, it'll improve campus life as well.

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NEWS CONTINUATIONS

Roth Dining Hiatus an Inconvenience for Students

Continued from page 1

Stony Brook Union, which was completed before the semester began, added five new meal stations to the dining area, but kept the same kitchen. Since the Roth kitchen is being completely redone with new, energy efficient appliances, more time is needed to complete the project.

The hassle of the closed dining hall is what students are most concerned about. "It's really inconvenient because you can't just walk across and get food anymore," said Lee. Lee's concerns are echoed by Russo who used to retreat to Roth to escape the overcrowded SAC so she could "at least hear [herself] think."

While students complain of the inconvenience the Roth dining hall renovations has caused, there are still over six places to

eat on campus. Other SUNY schools, such as SUNY Cobleskill and SUNY New Paltz have fewer than four main dining areas and SUNY Purchase has just two for the entire campus. All of these schools' dining facilities have very limited hours of operation.

Ospitale assures residents and students the university is doing everything possible to ensure that students are not inconvenienced. There is a bus that now directly runs from Tabler to the SAC. The Union, SAC and Tabler eating areas have increased their hours and the Kelly Quad eating area is now open 24-hours from Sunday through Thursday.

"Once students see all the new eating areas, Wendy's, the new pizza place, a hot sub place, an area they can get different types of chicken," they will be impressed, said Ospitale.

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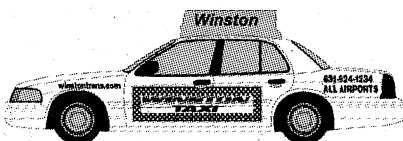
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Yankees Making a Mistake

Zeroing in on Santana

By ADRIAN CARRASQUILLO
Staff Writer

If reports are true, the Yankees are in hot pursuit of the most dominant pitcher in baseball. He is a two-time CY young award winner who went 32-3 in the second half of the three seasons before last year. Last season he was dubiously motivated as his team floundered and held up a white flag in the form of trading their starting second baseman. He would be invigorated by going to a winning team and his performance would reflect that. His name is Johan Santana and the Yankees should not trade for him.

Now hold your horses. Quiet down. You in the back, I have no use for that incredulous look directed towards me. It's not that Santana isn't amazing, it's that the price to get Santana is too high. The names currently being bandied about as the main cogs of a prospective deal are Phil Hughes and Melky Cabrera. Thankfully, Joba Chamberlain and Robinson Cano have been deemed untouchable. The rumored inclusion of Phil Hughes is the problem for me.

Anyone who saw the exhibition masquerading as Yankee baseball in the division series against the Indians knows that highlights were few and far between. One of the only bright spots was Phil Hughes coming out of the bullpen. He showed poise beyond his years and the promise of what is still to come. Hughes was also dealing with the effects of a hamstring injury he suffered in May, in the midst of six plus no-hit innings against the Rangers. He consistently threw 91-93 during the second

half of the season instead of 95.

So why are the Yankees considering trading him besides the lure of the artistry from the magnificent Johan? Fault lies with the lovable bunch of try-hards known as the Boston Red Sox. Poor guys and poor fan-base might I add. Curse of the Bambino. Can't catch a break. Haven't won in eighty...What?! They won in 2004 and again this year?! Sure buddy, I'll take one of whatever you're having on the rocks.... you're serious? And they have the second highest payroll and paid \$100 million for a Japanese pitcher? I thought they were still lovable losers. Sigh.

But I digress. The Red Sox have a playoff star in Josh Beckett, who vanquished the Yankees in the 2003 World Series when he was on the Marlins. He was decidedly ordinary this season against the Yankees but he helped lead the Red Sox to another World Series championship this year. Baseball, like any other competitive atmosphere, is a place where the top dog is emulated. So the Yankees have taken to operating like this: "If Boston has a dominant ace in his prime, then we need one who is better." It's a cold war arms race. The Yankees have drawn a line in Chamberlain and Cano but it's not enough.

What bothers me the most is a lack of perspective and selective memory. Beckett had a 4.39 era against the Yankees last season including a couple of stinkers.

No pitcher is a sure thing and that includes the sage-like fire-breathing Santana. When Boston traded for Beckett they received a pitcher who was 25-years-old. If the Yankees trade for Santana he will be

29 by Opening Day. They will be missing out on much of his prime while giving up a pitcher who is just entering his.

The preoccupation with getting the best current pitcher is also unnecessary. Does no one remember that the Red Sox finished in third place last season? As in, on the outside looking in to the playoffs. And this year they had a parade with pink Ortiz shirts as far as the eye could see. Why can't the Yankees give the young pitching staff a year to do their thing? Why not give Hughes the chance to be the ace that everyone is clamoring for? They have a high-powered offense and are probably the favorite for the wild card. Low expectations for a change might work as reverse psychology and keep everyone loose. Every writer might jump at the chance to wax poetic on the fall of the franchise while the Bombers come to town and throttle the home team.

Minnesota wants major league talent to replace the departure of center fielder Torii Hunter and to cushion the blow from losing Santana, which is why the Yankees are the favorite. Boston is a close second with the possibility to be the favorite if they offer more but they seem unwilling to do. Boston has Clay Buchholz who threw a

no-hitter this season, Coco Crisp a great defensive outfielder, Jon Lester who came back from lymphoma and pitched very well in the World Series and Jacoby Ellsbury who was a rookie revelation for them.

The Yankees are leading if they are indeed offering Hughes and Melky. Cabrera came into his own after a shaky start to his major league career and is the type of young centerfielder Minnesota would be interested in acquiring. The poor guy had a very good season and now might see himself traded from the only organization he has ever known and away from his best friend Robinson Cano. I know that it's

not an episode of *The Young and the Restless* but I am still affected.

But it all comes back to Hughes. As Hughes has risen through the Yankees system he has stood for more than his abilities as a player. He represents the Yankees recent commitment to developing their young players rather than trading them for veterans. He came into the season as Baseball

America's top pitching prospect and showed flashes of brilliance the Yankees haven't seen in a young pitcher since 1995 in a guy named Pettitte.

I was looking forward to rooting for Hughes next year and still am going to. I'm just hoping he won't be wearing a Twins cap when I do.



Women's XC Ends Season in NCAA's

Continued from page 12

the standings. Jessica Hampson finished in the top 100 runners in a field of 253 runners with a total time of 21:27.9. She finished the 2K time at 6:51 and the 4K time at 14:07. It was a modest finish for the sophomore considering the talent in the field, finishing only two minutes from the top runner from Texas Tech.

The remaining six runners all finished in the top 200. Dana Hastie, the senior from New Zealand, finished 148th, less than a minute behind Hamp-

son with a time of 22:15. The two young phenoms from New Zealand, Holly and Lucy Van Dalen finished 154th, with a time of 22:18, and 169th, with a time of 22:33, respectively.

Rounding off the seven women was Kerry Salzano with a time of 22:18 at 155th place and Elizabeth Carlson in 175th place at 22:35. The strong six here all finished within 20 seconds of each other, giving Stony Brook a strong and modest showing for their first foray into the world of national NCAA Championships.

Coach Andy Ronan was just

recently announced as the 2007 Northeast Region Women's Cross Country Coach of the Year. Ronan, who is in his eighth season as Stony Brook Coach, could only express pride and delight in his team for their hard work this year, overcoming numerous obstacles and doubts to place 31st in the nation of top Cross Country teams. Their hard work and sacrifice paid off, and even though the season has come to an end, Coach Ronan and the returning runners look forward to next season, to improve on an already memorable year.

Men's and Women's Swimming Results

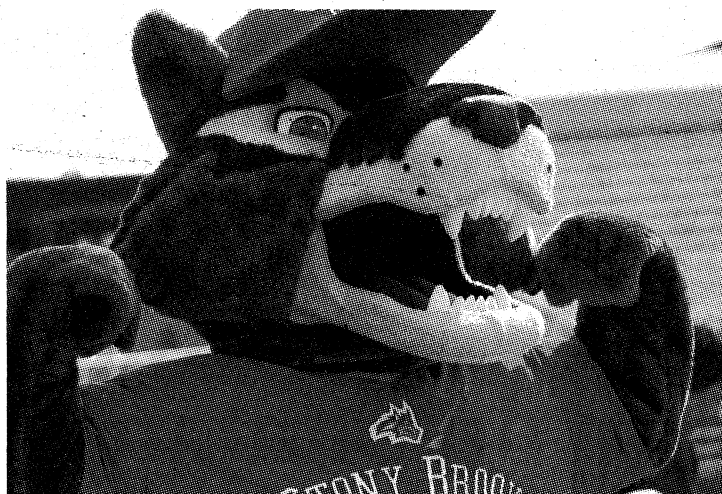
Continued from page 12

the 200-yard medley relay team Nathan Fleshman won the 1000-yard freestyle, Omer Ozcan won the 100-yard backstroke, Gaffey won the 100-yard breaststroke, Labour won the 50-yard freestyle

and 200-yard backstroke and Dan Piastuck had the teams final first place finish in the 100-yard free style.

The teams next travel to Boston University on Dec. 1 to take on the Boston University Terriers.

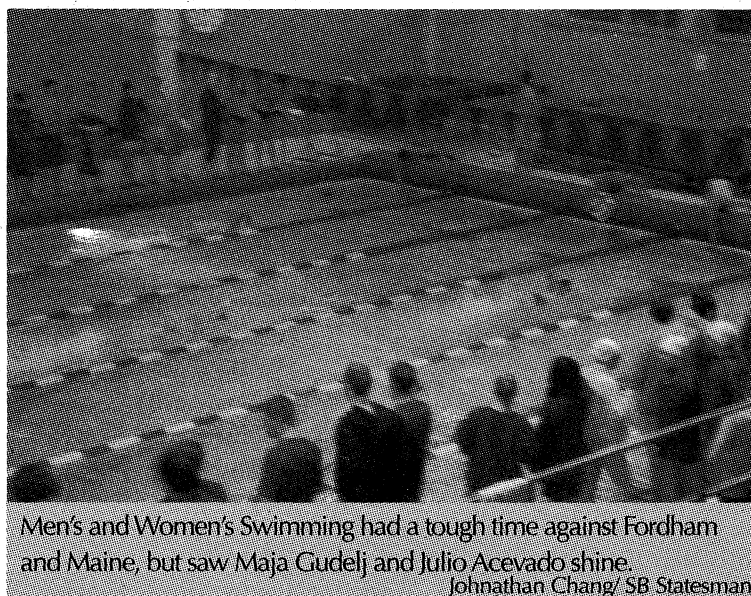
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STATESMAN SPORTS

INSIDE: P. 11 Yankees Making a Mistake: Hank Steinbrenner Eyeing Minny's Santana, At Any Cost

Swimming Rundown



Men's and Women's Swimming had a tough time against Fordham and Maine, but saw Maja Gudelj and Julio Acevado shine.
Johnathan Chang/SB Statesman

By GENE MORRIS
Asst. Sports Editor

Women's swimming lost their last two meets before Thanksgiving, falling on the road to Fordham on Nov. 7 and losing at home to Maine on Nov. 10. The two losses dropped the teams record to 0-5 on the season.

The team lost 141-95, but Maja Gudelj was a bright spot for the team, winning the 50-yard freestyle and finishing 2nd in the 100-yard freestyle.

Talia Schizzano was another bright spot, finishing 2nd for the women in the three-meter dive. In the 400-yard freestyle, the team of Gudelj, Nyisha Green-Washington, Brittany Whipple and Courtney Teague finished first.

In the 175-125 loss to Maine, Maja Gudelj was once again the team leader. She won both the 50- and 100-yard freestyles. Brittany Whipple also won the 100-yard breaststroke.

The men's team fared better;

after also losing to Fordham by a 140-103 score, they rebounded to beat Maine 177-118.

In the loss to Fordham, Lukasz Ochmanski did his best to lead the team. Ochmanski won the 1000-yard freestyle, and led the team in the 200-yard IM and 500-yard freestyle.

SB also had winners in the 50-yard freestyle and 200-yard backstroke, with Alexander Kissel and Rafeal Labour Jr., winning, respectively. Kissel and Labour were also a part of the 400-yard relay team that took home first place. Also in the race were Eric Gaffey and Yoni Eldor.

The victory over Maine included 11 first place finishes for the men. Ochmanski also set a school record in the 200-yard freestyle (1:43.3)

Julio Acevado won both the one-meter and three-meter diving competitions. Ochmanski also won the 100-yard fly and was apart of

Continued on page 11

Men's Basketball Struggles With Back-to-Back Losses

By SHONTO OLANDER
Sports Editor

Seawolves Ousted by Columbia 66-46

Returning home after back to back road losses, Men's basketball squared off against Columbia on Nov. 24. Done in by poor second half shooting, the Seawolves allowed a seven point half time deficit to become a 20 point rout.

Led by Nick Carter's 13 points, the Seawolves had only one player in double figures. Head Coach Steve Pikiell said in a post game press conference that "it's just a matter of executing," as shown by the teams 14% shooting in the second half. The Seawolves did manage a better defensive effort as the game progressed, holding Columbia to 29 points in the second. Offensively, the Sea-

wolves could only produce seven assists on the game, and looked to do better against upcoming Kentucky.

Kentucky Drops Stony Brook 62-52

Playing on the road on Tuesday against a national powerhouse, the Seawolves faced their toughest opponent since the season opener to Villanova. Much like the season's first contest, the Seawolves were out matched but managed a strong second half effort. It was just not enough to take home their first win of the season.

Senior Mitchell Beauford's 20 points led all scores, as he helped the Seawolves with a 14-2 run with just 6 minutes remaining. At 6:37 the Seawolves trailed only 43-37 off a three pointer by

Michael Tyree, but this would be the closest the Seawolves would come to an upset of the Wildcats. Kentucky would push the lead back up with a quick dunk by PF Perry Stevenson, sparking a run that would bring the lead back to double digits by the 3 minute mark. The game closed with both teams trading baskets, and ended with a layup by Beauford with six seconds remaining.

Senior Emanuel Neto would pull down a game high 12 boards, and Tyree would score 13 points as the only other player in double figures.

Kentucky improves to 4-1 on the season, with hopes of returning to a national Top 25 ranking. SB falls to 0-6 and looks to Saturday's home game against Dartmouth for their first win of the season.

Women's Cross Country Competes in NCAA Championships

By MICHAEL FODERA
Staff Writer

It was a cold and brisk autumn day in Terra Haute, Ind., where the NCAA Cross Country Championships were being held. Looking to put the finishing touches on a memorable year, the Stony Brook Seawolves Women's Cross Country team was determined to stand out in crowd that

encompassed the best teams from around the country. This would be the first time in Stony Brook history that the women's team was qualified to run in the NCAA championship.

By NCAA rules, the teams have to present seven of their best runners to complete the course. On their way to Indiana were Jessica Hampson, Dana Hastie, Holly Van Dalen,

Kerry Salzano, Laura Huet, Lucy Van Dalen, and Elizabeth Carlson.

Standout sophomore Jessica Hampson from Smithtown, New York, was determined to lead her team by example.

Located on the LaVern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course, the Stony Brook team finished 31st in

Continued on page 11