THE STATESMAN

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Health Wealth: Washboard Abs... Can You Get Them at Stony Brook?

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OPINION

THE GREAT DEBATE: ICON--Cool or Not?

PRO:

So, don't hate us. It's not our fault we're creative, fun and free-spirited. You can become one of us at any time. Embrace your inner-nerd. So, next time you're sitting on the couch, and the facebook server is down, just think -- you could have been a 1337 sci-fi gamer.

CON:

This is just one example of why it is good that I-CON is leaving campus indefinitely. Whether the thousands of costume-wearing havok producers brought business to campus or not, Stony Brook is better off without I-CON.

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Stony Brook Student Competing for $25,000 Scholarship

John Callejas, a Sophomore, Is Competing Against Nine Others for $25,000 Prize

By Bradley Donaldson
News Editor

John Callejas, a sophomore at Stony Brook University, spent four weeks of his summer vacation at the New York Film Academy learning filmmaking, editing, cinematography, and directing. But all that work, and the $4,000 it cost his family, will all go to waste if he doesn't get into film school.

That's where Upromise, a business that helps families save money for college, comes in.

Callejas, along with over 250 other people from across the nation, entered a contest, which Upromise calls "Tuition Tales," in which contestants have the chance to win $25,000 to go towards his film school education.

To enter the contest, Callejas had to make a video telling viewers why he deserved the $25,000 prize. And by luck, skill, or both, his video, "Passion," was chosen as one of the final 10 videos to be judged. This time, however, the videos will be judged based on the votes of viewers from the United States, anyone 18 years or older.

His video can be found, and voted for, at http://upromise.eprize.net/tuitiontales/, and voting for the videos in the competition ends at midnight on Apr. 16.

In Calleja's 30-second video, which he spent five days of his spring break creating and perfecting, he explains that without the help of Upromise, his "visions are just ideas."

Still, regardless of the outcome of the competition, John is determined to go to film school and fulfill his dreams. "If I don't win, even though I hope I do, I'm going to have to take out a loan," he said.

He already applied and has been accepted to Five Towns College in Dix Hills, N.Y., whose undergraduate tuition for Fall 2008 is $8,700, according to the college's website. If all goes well,

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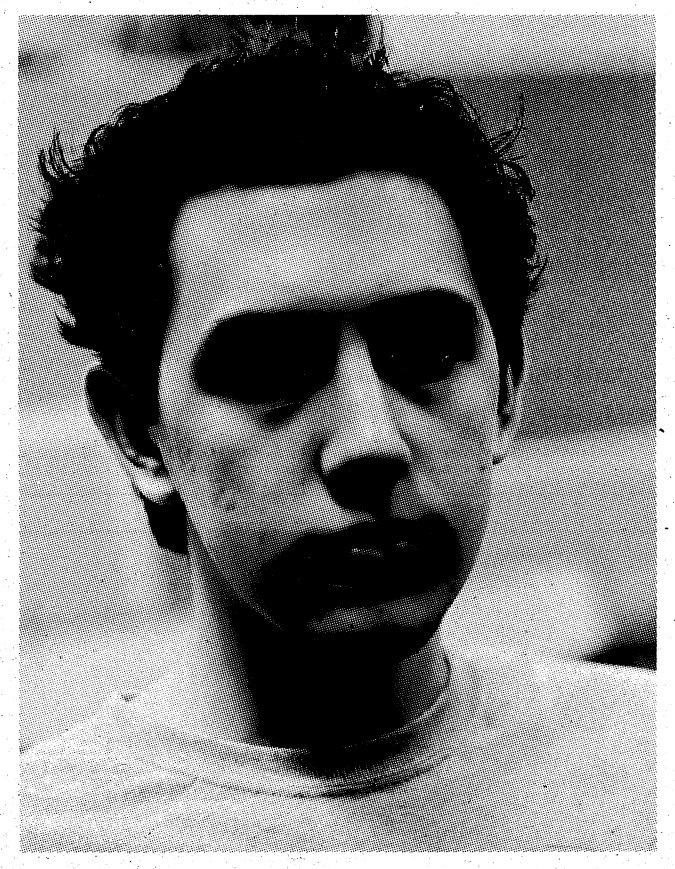


Ilya Rabkin / SB Statesman
John Callejas, a sophomore who dreams of going to film school.

Fighting Fraud With DNA

By Josh Seidman
Staff Writer

Ben Liang goes to work every morning fully aware that his efforts will be directly combating counterfeiting and piracy.

The type of security that he and his associates provide does involve weapons, just not the kind that are fastened in a holster. He does conduct investigations, just not the kind that involves tracking money orders or interrogating a witness. And he does use technology to solve a case, but not secure frequency radio transmissions and laser-sighted guns.

When Liang steps into his office, he comes fully equipped with a microscope, DNA segments and a plethora of items ranging from wool products to fine wine, in order to protect against fraud.

Since 2005, Liang has been an employee of Applied DNA Sciences, Inc., and is currently the company's chief technology officer. Applied DNA is housed at the Long Island High Technology Incubator on the Stony Brook University campus.

Currently, Applied DNA is heading the charge in what hopes to be the next phase of authentication and validation of products. Its technology has already been successfully used to mark approximately one billion items, including DVDs, CDs, fine art, wines and many other items.

According to the 2005 Document, Product and Intellectual Property (DOPIP) Global Counterfeit and Piracy Report, there is over $283 million worth of clothing and accessories worldwide that are fake.

Additionally, the report stated that each year there is over $12 million worth of counterfeit fragrances and cosmetics circulating the world's markets.

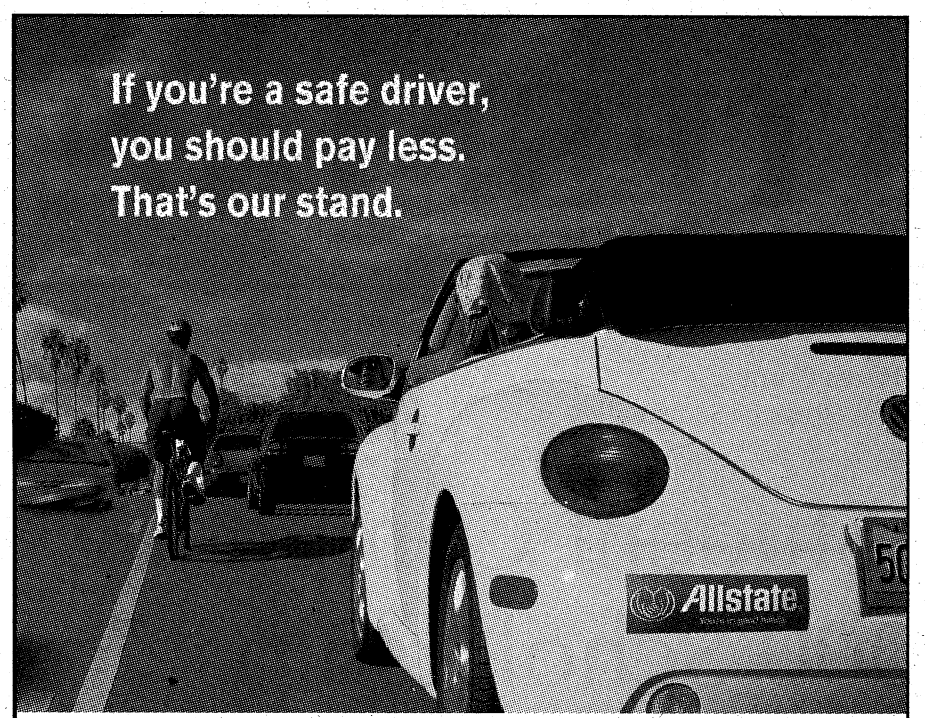
Members of Applied DNA believe that their version of defense can serve as a secure and cost efficient complement to other forms of security on consumer products, like barcodes, watermarks and holograms.

"Our DNA technology is used as a last defense to prevent the counterfeiting of many products, like DVDs," said Liang. "This ensures that I'm actually getting what I'm paying for. It gives the buyer proof that the product is authentic."

The method used by Liang and his associates involves using DNA segments from everyday plants to verify the authenticity of a product.

This process occurs in several steps.

Continued on page 3



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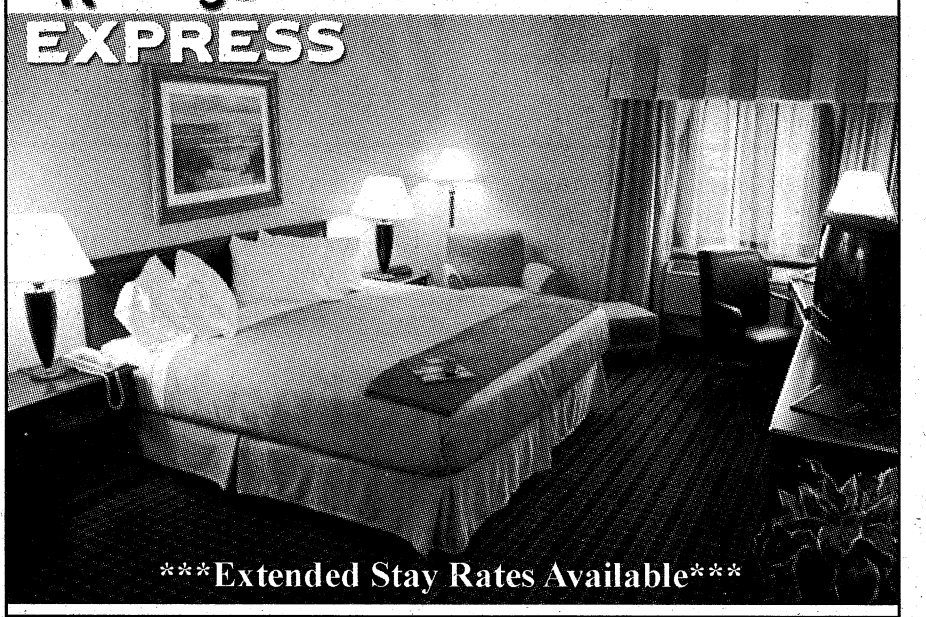

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Fighting Fraud With DNA

Continued from pg 1

The initial phase includes an encryption system that is used to isolate strands of the plant's DNA. In the next phase, these strands are reconstructed into encrypted "DNA chimers" whose sequences are known only to the researchers. The DNA chimers are then covered with a protective coating that can be identified for centuries after being applied to a product.

Finally, an embedding process allows the DNA markers to be inserted into various substances such as inks, dyes, glues and threads.

"In order to get around the DNA marker you need to have the primer that matches the unique DNA," Liang said. "The effort and expense that comes with recreating the DNA segments makes our defense very difficult to copy."

Liang currently leads a company project called the Cotton Project. This research is aimed at developing the first generic test to tell the difference between the two primary types of cotton, Pima and upland, in mature textiles and fibers. Pima cotton typically has fibers that are much stronger and longer than the fibers of upland cotton.

Prior to eight months ago, there was no definitive scientific process to distinguish between the two types.

"When the cotton fibers are turned into a product you can't tell which type of cotton is being used from its physical texture," Liang said. "Many companies are hiding the quality of their cotton products. At first, it'll feel like Pima, but after a few washes the treatment wears off and the upland cotton reveals itself."

In the past, most of the players in the cotton industry believed that the original DNA from the cotton fibers couldn't survive the process of turning those fibers into textiles, namely articles of clothing and towels. Applied DNA, however, is erasing this belief.

Liang's team discovered that portions of the original cotton DNA is recoverable, even after hundreds of washes. They were able to extract DNA from the dead cotton cells and then compare it to DNA samples of Pima and upland fibers.

Supima, a trademark for American Pima cotton, hired Applied DNA in September of 2007 to prove that its technology works. If Liang and Applied DNA receive favorable results from this process, they will simultaneously be working to quell the counterfeiting of cotton products in America.

Stony Brook Student Competing for $25,000 to Go Towards College Tutition

Continued from pg 1

Callejas said he would be transferring there next semester.

Currently a member of Alpha Phi Delta, John spends most of his free time skateboarding, making music -- he plays the guitar -- or taking photos. Oh, and making films, of course. His interest in filming, he said, came mostly from his fraternity brothers who had an interest in it, too.

"I want to write and direct my own stuff," he said. He explained that he's currently working on a project for his fraternity with some other members that will include slideshows as well as a series of short clips.

One of his biggest inspirations, he said, is American screenwriter and director Kevin Smith, and Callejas also named "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind" by Michael Gondry as one of his favorite films.

Callejas' parents fully support his decision to go to film school, and it was actually his mom who told him about Upromise's contest. He said he really wants to get the scholarship so that he wouldn't have to burden his parents with his expenses.

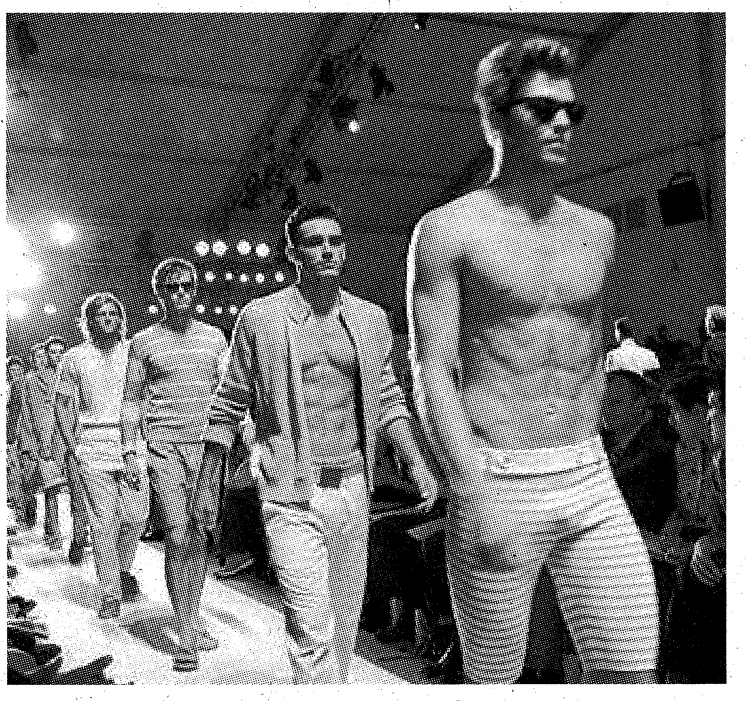
Callejas also wants to make sure his little sister has as many opportunities as she can when it's time for her to go to college. "If she wants to go to Harvard or something, she should be able to," he said. Callejas said he mainly came to Stony Brook because of its low tuition.

Although he's competing against nine other people, Callejas said he's confident in his video. "All the videos that are in the top definitely deserve to be up there," he said. "But I showed that I could be a good artist and make a good video."

For Callejas, winning the $25,000 would mean the world. And it would also give him the opportunity to make his dreams a reality.

Health Wealth: Washboard Abs

Can You Get Them At Stony Brook?



COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

BY SANHITA REDDY
Staff Writer

If there is one part of our body that everyone wants to get better, it has to be our abs. Our stomach, for some reason or another, has always been a source of critique for otherwise fit bodies.

I am no exception. Years of ballet, combined with the scattering of high school athletics and grade school swimming and soccer has left me quite trim -- but since I started college my body has been slowly fighting the transformation of fab to flab.

Thus, as an effort to prevent the Freshman 15 from becoming a reality, I decided to take some fitness classes at Stony Brook. While I am used to the structure of a good workout (yoga, Pilates, and all my dance classes have trained me for this kind of discipline), I had no idea of what to expect from a class that was simply titled, "Ab Lab." Visions of thousands of crunches surrounded my Abercrombie stomached students made me almost cringe, turn, and run away. I barely made it to the first class. But I'm glad I did. A few weeks later, and a whole lot stronger, I am slowly starting to realize the pleasure in the vanity of having a flat stomach.

Ab Lab, as the name implies, is a 25-30 minute class based solely on the toughest part of your body: the core. Depending on the teacher, exercises can range from exercise ball crunches, to planks, to various sit-ups -- one of the teachers even works your inner thighs -- but the effect is the same: that wonderful, post workout soreness the next day, knowing that you didn't slave away yesterday afternoon for nothing.

All the exercises can be done on your own, but there is something about the idea of taking a class that makes me, in particular, want to push myself. I don't know if it's the years of pliés and relevés, but I know that I am not the only one who believes it. The classes get packed, so come early if you want a spot, and don't worry if you have never taken a single fitness class in your life: everyone in the room is at different levels, and the teacher makes it very clear that you should work at your own pace. There are the beginners, intermediates, even the advanced -- those who can actually stay on their balls during the duration of the class: it's tougher than you think!

For the first time in a really long time, I have finally found that I feel physically fit everywhere; it's a really great high that no one should miss out on. And even if you don't get a six pack by the end of the semester, I can guarantee you that this class will be one that you won't fall asleep in -- if anything, it'll be one of the most productive classes of your life.

The Spring Fitness Schedule can be found at: http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/rec/fitness_schedule.shtml

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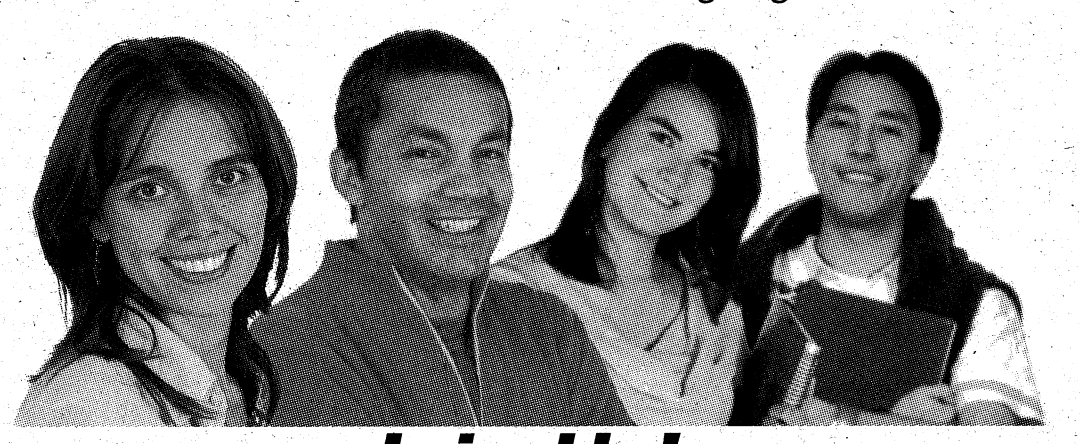

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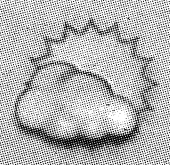
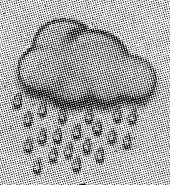
Student Forecast

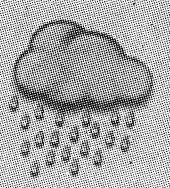
Apr. 10 - Apr. 15



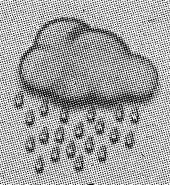
Thursday:
High: 70/Low: 48
Mostly sunny and warm with clouds increasing at night



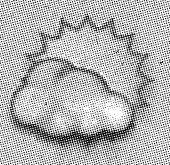
Friday:
High: 57/Low 46
Mostly cloudy and cooler with a chance of rain starting in the afternoon



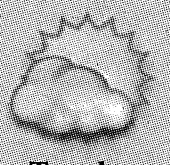
Saturday:
High: 56/Low: 45
Mostly cloudy with some areas of fog and a chance of rain showers



Sunday:
High: 53/Low: 44
Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain



Monday:
High: 50/Low: 39
Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain



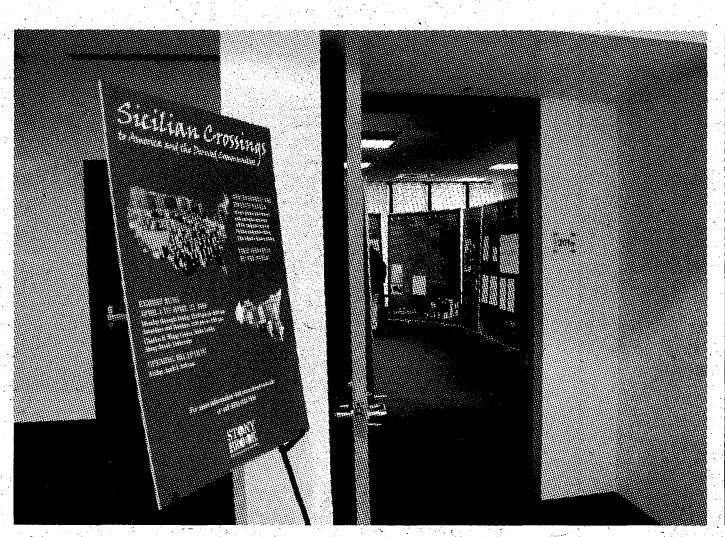
Tuesday:
High: 50/Low: 36
Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain.

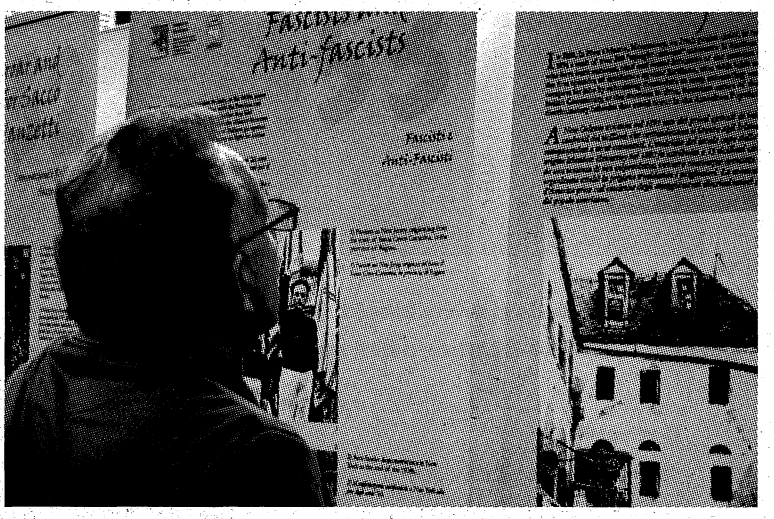
By Alex Kahn

Photo Exhibit:

Sicilian Crossings to America & the Derived Communities

Photos by Bradley Donaldson / SB Statesman





News Continued

Former SBU Student, 21, Dies In Car Collision

By Emily Gover
Copy Editor

Anthony Priolo, a former Stony Brook University student who was a member of Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity, Delta Theta Chapter, died early Tuesday morning. He was 21 years old.

Priolo died after doctors were unable to stop internal bleeding he received as a result of a car crash late Monday night, a report in the Staten Island Advance said.

Priolo left Stony Brook University and transferred to the College of Staten Island, where he was studying computer science. During his time at Stony Brook, Priolo was a part of the North American Interfraternity Conference, headquartered in Indianapolis.

The collision occurred shortly after 11:30 p.m. on Monday, according to the Advance's article. Priolo was driving a Mercury Grand Marquis down Utica Avenue in Brooklyn, when he was struck by a GMC Yukon at 90 miles per hour.

According to the article, police identified the driver of the Yukon as Tarike Sylvester, a resident of Williamsville, N.Y. Sylvester, who was traveling northbound on Utica, had swerved into the southbound lane and hit Priolo's vehicle in a head-on collision.

John Dianora, a passenger in Priolo's car, was not hurt.

Priolo was a bassist in a heavy metal band, "This Dying Soul," of which Dianora is the drummer. The two were heading back to Staten Island from band practice earlier that evening, Dianora told the Advance.

"I saw the white car; it kind of jerked a little bit but I didn't think anything of it," he said in the Advance's report. "I was going to say something, but before I knew it, I just saw sky...I looked over and he was just slumped over the seat."

The Staten Island Advance reported that the funeral will be held Friday, April 11, at the Colonial Funeral Home, New Dorp, with a service at 9:45 a.m. in the Holy Family R.C. Church, Westerleigh.

"Rest in peace brother," wrote Evan Capelli, a junior at Stony Brook, on Priolo's Facebook profile. "You won't ever be forgotten."

Corrections

In our Apr. 7 issue, we incorrectly called the past I-CON 27 festival, "I-CON 28." We apologize for any inconvenience caused. This was not the fault of the writer, but our layout staff's.

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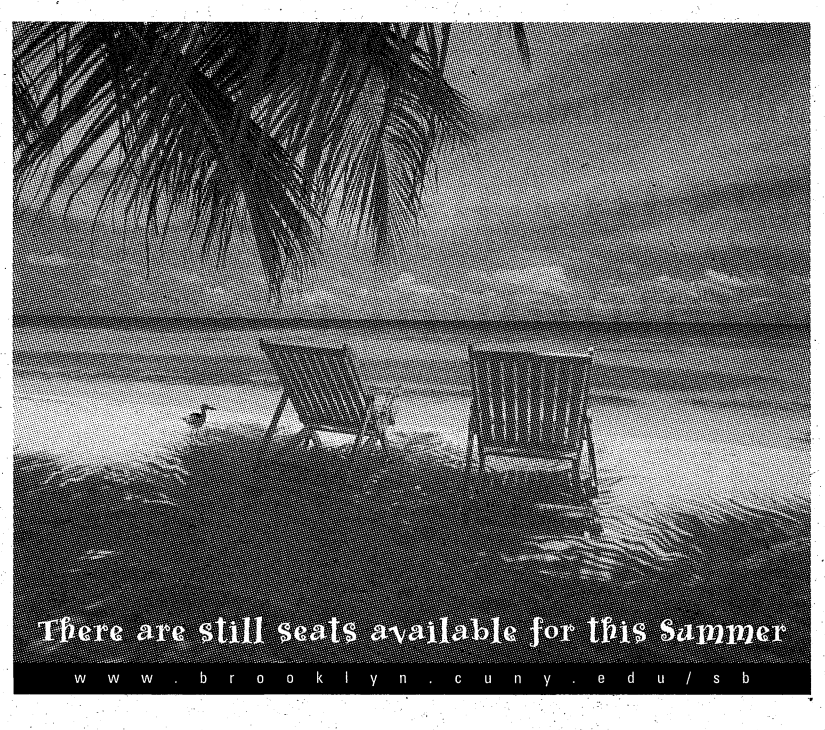

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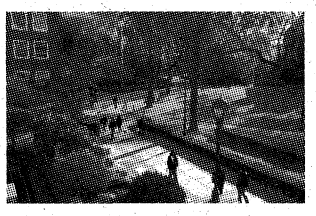

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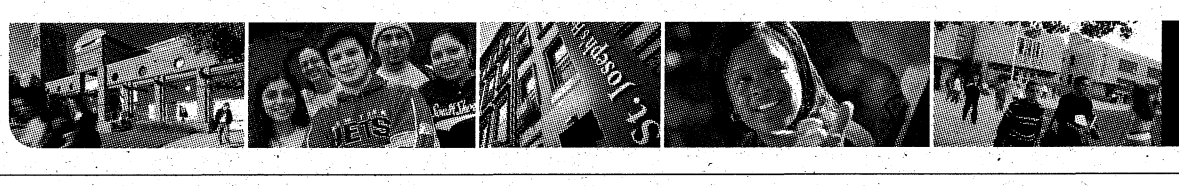

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Staller Style: One Mistake

COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

BY ULA LUKSZO
Staff Writer

How do you ask for forgiveness for a mistake made when you were 13 years old that ended in tragedy?

This seems to be the central quandary at the heart of last week's Staller Center film, "Atonement," based on the Ian MacEwan novel of the same name.

Rising stars Keira Knightley ("Pirates of the Caribbean") and James MacAvoy ("The Last King of Scotland") play lovers torn apart by a false accusation in pre-WWII England, though their love has barely had more than an instant to flower.

She is the daughter of a wealthy English family; he is the son of the steward, little better than a servant in the eyes of Cecilia Tallis (Knightley), despite having gone to Oxford. Though sexual tension exists between Cecilia and Robbie (MacAvoy), they never act on it until a hot summer's day and a broken piece of porcelain bring things to a head.

However, things go awry when Robbie gives Briony, Cecilia's sister, an apology letter than he has mixed up unknowingly with a sexually graphic love letter to give to Cecilia. Briony, who is 13 and in love with Robbie herself, despite being woefully innocent in the practices of love, desire and courtship, runs home and reads the letter herself, interpreting it as a manifestation of Robbie's evident sexual deviance.

That same night, Robbie and Cecilia consummate their desire while their cousin Lola goes missing. When it turns out she has been sexually molested, Briony accuses Robbie of the crime, believing, or wanting to believe, that it was him she saw running away from Lola that night.

Briony's misconceptions, confusions, feelings of jealousy, and ultimately, her accusation as the only eyewitness other than Lola, who refuses to speak on the subject, condemn Robbie to prison and later to fighting in the war. A rift forms between Cecilia and her family, and she goes to London to be a nurse. Eventually, Briony, who with age realizes the mistakes she made and starts writing a book about it, follows her.

The senses of loss, loneliness, and desires unconsumed are overwhelming in the film, and the chemistry between Knightley and MacAvoy is palpable. It is easy to see why "Atonement" was nominated for so many Academy Awards, and difficult to understand why it only got one: for best score.

Undoubtedly, its grand themes of war, loss and love might seem tired and overwrought to some, but in cinematography alone, the film excels. As we watch Robbie dying on the coast of France, hallucinating a meeting with his mother (Brenda Blethyn), we cannot help but feel that the surreal, nightmarish quality of war is accurately portrayed while we hope against hope that Robbie makes it back into the arms of Cecilia.

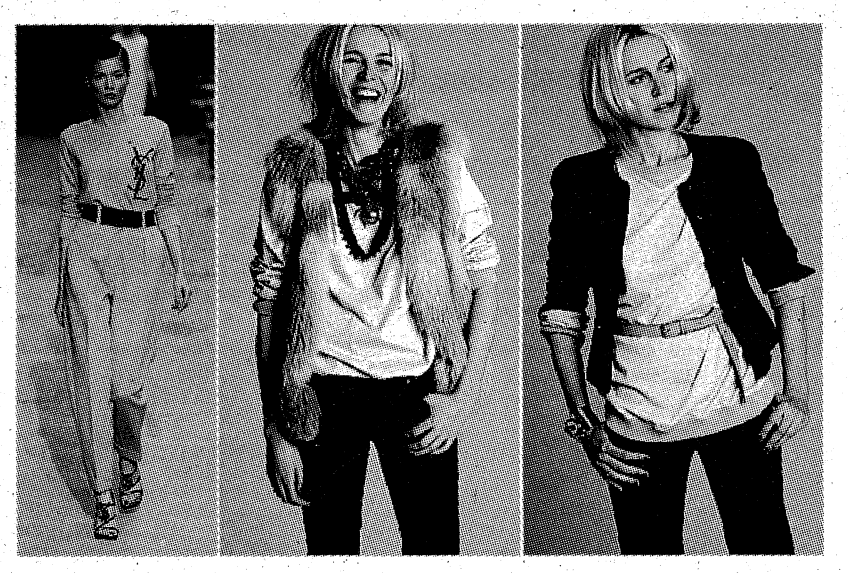
The end of the film is tragic, and we find that Briony, whose story we have been following more closely than that of Cecilia, is unable to ultimately atone for what she has done. The opportunity is lost to her, and the only thing left to her is atonement in fiction and poetic license.

At times dreamlike, and at times realistic in the vein of late 19th century realism, "Atonement" grapples with 1930s British class structures, the personal tragedies of war, and one woman's inability to come to terms with the pain she has caused others due to her own feelings of jealousy.

Perhaps there are other, better war films, or other, better love stories. However, "Atonement" is powerful in its own ways. Despite its tendency towards cinematic lushness, it is ultimately a story that explores the complicated ripple effects of a mistake, a mistake that could be rectified but isn't.

Style Note:

A Lesson in Predicaments: Sweatshirt Dressing



COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

BY SANHITA REDDY
Staff Writer

In the late 1970s Norma Kamali made a name for herself by recreating what it meant to dress casually. Her clever take on the everyday fabric of sweatshirts became a revolution within itself: the "ladies who lunch" were seen toting their Hermès Birkin's while donning soft, grey hip hugging pencil skirts made of the soft, unfussy fabric reserved (normally) only for Saturday morning breakfast.

Enter 2008. Sweatshirts have become a staple in every college student's wardrobe, and whether or not they are still fashionable remains an ever present question in the minds of many voguettes. This season, YSL decided to do their take on sweatshirt dressing by sending out gorgeous pieces to an art gallery opening. The sweatshirts were elegant enough to wear , yet comfortable enough to know that you would never feel the need for scotch guard for those last minute alterations. And though sweatshirt dressing has had its fair share of critique on and off the runway, one can only wonder how exactly to incorporate the "lazy luxe" trend, as Elle magazine calls it, to work for a number of occasions, in and out of the classroom.

Karen Nelson, of The New York Times, looked to stylist Aleksandra Woroniecka for some advice. "It's like a T-shirt or a pair of jeans - a good basic that you can dress up," Woroniecka said of the trend. Woroniecka recommends balance, which, as it seems, is key for this style to come out looking 'just right."

Jeans and a sweatshirt can look frumpy on most days, but when paired with a sharply tailored, boy's blazer from Brook's Brothers, and a frothy, layered necklace à la Erickson Beamon or Subversive Jewelry for Target, the outfit can end up having the perfect balance of chic and casual. But the sweatshirt itself must be chosen carefully. Hooded sweatshirts have plenty of mass appeal, especially on cold winter days, but the outfit looks cleanest with a crew neck cut (American Apparel makes versions that seem to have infiltrated into the closets of fashion editors and Brookers alike).

This trend is clearly not a new one. For years we have been trying to incorporate high and low fashion sense, and it is one's dream to be able to wear formal wear that actually looks (and feels good). But this rejuvenated trend is the perfect answer to the layering effects that cold spring mornings and warm afternoons have inflicted upon us. It also answers our desire of being able to look good for class, yet not amazingly overdressed or formal. The sweatshirt can take you from your 9 AM coffee to your 8 PM post workout dinner. Just be forewarned that you should never try too hard with this style-casual luxury is best attained as you rush to the door, late for class, grabbing that favorite raglan and a scarf to match.

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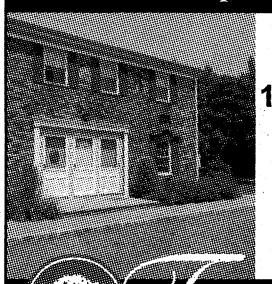

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POETS' CORNER

The Cows of Sams Valley

By Jon Plaisted
Staff Writer

They stand in the grass
nearby, in long and silent lines,
seemingly half-dead,
no anger or courage
to cloud the empty air,
the pasture grows to them.
Their heaviness serves them
well, this well-fed herd
sinking down in the valley,
thickset and swollen with pride.
I watch them go, and I go,
relaxed in a drunken slumber-
they hew a broad path for me...

They low as they move away
bellowing and slow,
rolling their eyes up and down
with silent gaze, hidden
among their hidden ways.
A mutual love seems theirs,
their quiet sleep of death
no different than their peaceful
days...but would they come to me
if I called? Perhaps if the need be,
but theirs is a patient willingness
that passes, passing without haste,
a stand in the grass.

Courtesy of Google Images

PATHETIC! Dots...

By Madgestic
Staff Writer

Dots have him floating foolishly in centrifugal motions
His thoughts of her too often, presumptuous notions
He's obsessed with all of her DAMN "mole marks"
They are "Stickers marked on her before birth from my heart"
PA-THE-TIC!
Aaand, he continues, "On the palm of her hands are my initials, 'M'"
"O please let her be mine" he beseeched
I laughed in his face,
HARD- BODIED!
But allowed his heart to seek.
He's unsound
...
...
I HAVE
A
NEVUS!
...
You see, with him,
I don't get nervous
When the dots on His skin are connected, they spell 'MINE'
And my name too begins with an 'M'
And for a while now we've been very close friends
Together we've eaten dots,
M&M's
I just don't know how to tell him what I've been thinking:
'Yo! Homie! Can't you see what the dots at night in the sky are telling you...?'
'I've fallen out of loneliness and flew in love with you'

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April 11 to 18, 2008

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Friday, April 11

- Sustainability Symposium: Experts Speak on Environment and Sustainability Issues
  Chancellors Hall, Duke Lecture Hall
  4:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Saturday, April 12

- Sustainability Symposium:
  Experts Speak on Environment and Sustainability Issues
  Student Center Special Events Room
  1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
- Renewable Rock Concert
  Student Center Special Events Room
  8:00 pm to 12:00 am

Monday, April 14

- Film: *Farming the Future: Farm Life on Long Island*
  Endeavour Hall (South Campus)
  Room 120, 5:30 pm

Tuesday, April 15

- Lecture: "Sustaining Biodiversity: Reconciling the Science and Law of Conserving Threatened Species"
  Stony Brook University Professor
  H. Resit Akcakaya
  Charles B. Wang Center Lecture Hall 2
  4:00 pm
- Parliamentary Debate: UC Science and Society vs. UC Global Studies
  Charles B. Wang Center
  Lecture Hall 2, 5:30 pm

Wednesday, April 16

- Parliamentary Debate: Is the Media Under-reporting Climate Change?
  SAC Ballroom B, 6:00 pm
- Lecture: "Understanding the Potential Impact of Climate Change: The Example of Sea Level Change," Hans-Peter Plag
  University of Nevada, Reno
  SAC Ballroom B, 7:00 pm

Thursday, April 17

- Lunch and Learn with Great Neck Breast Cancer Coalition: Environmental Effects on Breast Cancer
  SAC Room 302, 1:00 pm
- Discussion Panel:
  "Nobel Laureates Speak Out: Behind the Workings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change"
  Charles B. Wang Center Lecture Hall 2
  3:30 pm

Friday, April 18

Earthstock Culmination Celebration

Academic Mall, Beginning at 10:00 am

Rain Location: Charles B. Wang Center

Highlights include:

- Pride Patrol, 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
- Live Musical and Dance Performances on Three Stages
- Environmental and Educational Displays and Exhibitors, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Green Pledge Ceremony, 12:15 pm
- Free Ice Cream Social, 2:45 pm
- Concert on Staller Terraces, 3:00 pm

Charles B. Wang Center Theater

- Earthstock Environmental Research and Creative Activity Exhibition, 6:30 pm
- Provost's Lecture by
  Hans-Peter Plag:
  "Sustainability: A Mosaic of Many Small Steps in the Right Direction"
  Sponsored by the Provost's Office and the Living World Lecture Series
  7:30 pm

University Café

- Music by the acoustic sounds of Jack's Waterfall, 9:30 pm

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For more information and a detailed schedule of events visit

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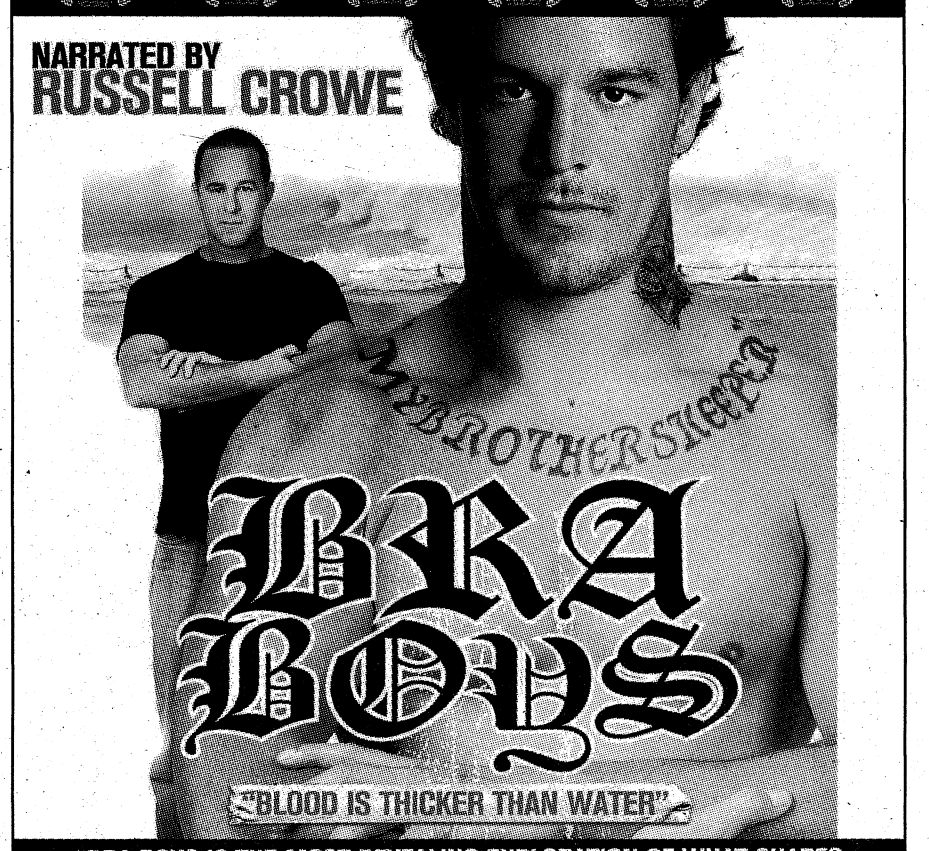

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WHO WE ARE

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

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I-CON 27
"There, I Said It--It's Cool"

By Sarah Asselta
Contributing Writer

"So, what did you do this weekend, Sarah?" "Oh, nothing. Just had Billy West write on my torso. The usual." Yes, the voice of "Futurama," "Ren & Stimpy," and "Doug" made character noises as he signed my shirt (for free because I sang him "Killer Tofu") and I guess he just felt bad for me.

But honestly, I hate how people bash I-CON. It's cool. There, I said it -- it's cool. And I'll prove it to you.

I-CON is a place you can come and feel free to be... whatever the hell you want to be. Deep down, I'm a Great Axe holding, level-75 Dark Knight with cat ears and a tail, who comes out to frolic around campus for three days, letting everyone know that I would so beat them in a duel.

We accept you, closet fantasy kid that mixes comic books in with his porn, or you with the Vader alter-ego, or people that just watch the Science Channel way too much.

"Come for gaming, stay for the [freak] show!"

Sit, and listen to actual engineers and physicists that come to I-CON and talk about "future weapons," and "robots and humans for exploring space." What? Yes!

Life is good at I-CON. "Wouldn't it be great if people naturally had blue hair?" was all I could think of all weekend. We bask in the sun, eat smoked turkey legs, and cheer on while Vikings beat each other up with swords and shields.

The April sunlight flickers off their metal armor and drinking horns...

Yeah, we sit in panels and intelligently debate "Why people suck," and listen in on "A Brief History of Awesome." Down the hall a crowd is deeply philosophizing showdowns between pirates and ninjas. We could teach the Discovery channel something, all right. Forget about Sharks vs. Crocs! This is the real deal!

And if you just so happen to have mad leet skills, show it off at the Guitar Hero 3, Dance Dance Revolution, and Halo tournaments. The ladies love it. Not enough experience points to compete? That's O.K. too -- I'll see you in the showing of "Hey, You've Got Zombies in Your Back Yard." Chicks dig zombies, dude. I'm tellin' ya.

The open gaming room is lame, only because that is where all kids go to play systems they have at home. It's like giving that one, concaved spot on your couch a rest, and parking your ass in Javits for the next seven hours.

But stuff gets interesting when the sun goes down, and the Hentai (+18) seekers come out to play.

"Don't touch the floors of the I-CON Hentai rooms!" was overheard by a cautious CON-goer, as the masses filed into the dark rooms... it's a full house tonight!

But luckily, the audience tries to keep the already immensely awkward situation as light as possible, as we scream, "Ohh man!"..."For real?"..."That looks like clam chowda!" and other various dork humor, which always seems to be strangely right on point.

Outside in the hall, a rave blares, and ninjas dance until the break of dawn...

Come Sunday evening when the costumes disperse and another CON is over, cold reality sets in and you wonder why people don't really carry around nunchucks, axes and light sabers.

So, don't hate us. It's not our fault we're creative, fun and free-spirited. You can become one of us at any time. Embrace your inner-nerd. So, next time you're sitting on the couch, and the facebook server is down, just think -- you could have been a 1337 sci-fi gamer.

Good Riddance to I-CON

By Alex Berkman
Contributing Writer

I have been on this campus for many years and every year have dreaded and avoided the campus for one weekend in the spring semester.

This past weekend thousands of people, wielding cardboard swords and wearing costumes of their favorite Japanese animated characters, converged on Stony Brook's campus for the last year of I-CON.

For 27 years, I-CON has been held at Stony Brook, and for 27 years these people have wrecked or defiled our campus with their "activities." Some of the most popular of these activities are showings of hentai, Japanese animated pornography, and "gatherings" of furries.

Furries, for those of you who don't know, are individuals who dress in costumes resembling stuffed animals and proceed to fornicate.

A few years ago, a friend who has already informed me of an incident involving furries during I-CON a number of years ago. A group of furries, during the I-CON festivities wandered into Javits Lecture Center and began to have an orgy just in front of the stage. During said orgy, two men in Star Wars storm troopers costumes were walking through Javits when they heard some noise, went into Javits and called campus police. The stormtroopers assisted with the detainment of the furries while remaining in character the entire time.

This is just one example of why it is good that I-CON is leaving campus indefinitely. Whether the thousands of costume-wearing havok producers brought business to campus or not, Stony Brook is better off without I-CON.

I speak for myself when I say this, but it makes me little unnerved to know that strangers have either watched pornography on large lecture hall projection screens that I take exams in or have had sex in that same room. Let Suffolk Community College deal with those problems next year.

OLPC: Eliminating Poverty through Education

By Zeeshan Mughal
Web Editor

One Laptop Per Child is a not-for-profit project founded by Nicholas Negroponte, a computer scientist at MIT, and other faculty members at the MIT Media Lab. According to Negroponte, the aim of OLPC is to eliminate poverty in the developing world through education. He believes that the best way to provide education would be to provide laptops to children.

However, critiques have argued that a laptop is not the best way to created more educational opportunities for children. Instead, charities should create funding for schools. But God knows where would that money end up going if that happens.

In reality, OLPC is the best solution to the poverty equation in developing countries. True, most government-funded schools in the developing world lack resources. They lack teachers, basic necessities such as books, classrooms, and most importantly, an environment suitable for learning. As a result, a major portion of the future generation becomes deprived, which results in an uneven distribution of the national resources between the elite minority, and the oppressed majority.

According to the Progress for Children survey conducted by UNICEF in 2007, there are 93 million children of primary school age that are out of school around the world. Therefore, in this scenario, a laptop, which will stay with the child all the time, is the best resource of education. Children would be able to learn on their own, and at their own pace due to the level of intuition they exhibit in their early childhood.

Education is the only way to eliminate poverty. Poverty is the result of an uneven distribution of the wealth between different social-classes in a society. During the medieval period, Europe remained in the dark ages because of the triangular feudal system it exhibited. The system divided the people into distinct social classes, such as nobles, peasants, and knights etc. As a result, the majority became deprived of their most basic natural, and fundamental human rights. That huge distinction between the social-classes resulted in the miseducation of the lower-class habitants.

History repeats itself, and the same situation exists in the developing world today. Therefore, education is the only way to go. It would force children to think with an open-mind beginning from their childhood. Education would also open horizons with opportunities abound.

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The Rangers-Devils Showdown

Rangers Have the Upper Hand

By Gene Morris
Asst. Sports Editor

In the eight head to head match-ups this season, the Rangers won seven. Plus, they just flat out have the superior talent. The Rangers can roll three lines that can score goals, plus a fourth line that is centered by a guy who is great with face-offs and a valuable penalty killer in Blair Betts. They can also throw two wingers on that fourth line that have great energy to go along with pretty solid skill. Team captain Jaromir Jagr is playing his best and most inspired hockey of the season down the stretch. He has seven goals in the last eight games, and is finally looking like that player who can take over a game with a rare blend of size, power, and agility. The team went 15-3-7 in the final 25 games. They got 37 out of a possible 50 points.

The only Devils forward playing at a high level is Zach Parise. The team's second leading point scorer, Patrik Elias, is a shell of his former self. The defense that once boasted the names of Scott Stevens, Scott Niedermayer, and even Brian Rafalski, lacks a clear shut down guy. As a group, they just aren't that good either.

Unfortunately, they must be given the advantage in goal, however slight of an advantage that it is. Martin Brodeur is a legendary goaltender. His playoff success is unparalleled by anyone in the game today. Chances are he will show up and play a great series, but his time is limited. He doesn't have a whole lot of time left as the best goaltender in the league, or even the tri-state area. I have a feeling that after a mid-season slump by Henrik Lundqvist, "The King" will be on top of his game, as he has been the last month and a half, and lead the Rangers to victory. Out of the eight games the Rangers and Devils played this season, the Rangers won seven, and Lundqvist was in net for each one. He had two shutouts, a 1.09 goals against average, and a .956 save percentage.

This should be a long series with a bunch of low scoring, close games.

Rangers in six.

Devils Proven in the Clutch

By Brian Morgan
Senior Writer

Last week, before they played on Sunday, it seemed the New York Rangers would beat the New Jersey Devils in the first round of the playoffs. But now that the Devils have shown they can beat Lundqvist and the Rangers, its clear that the Devils have the upper hand in the series.

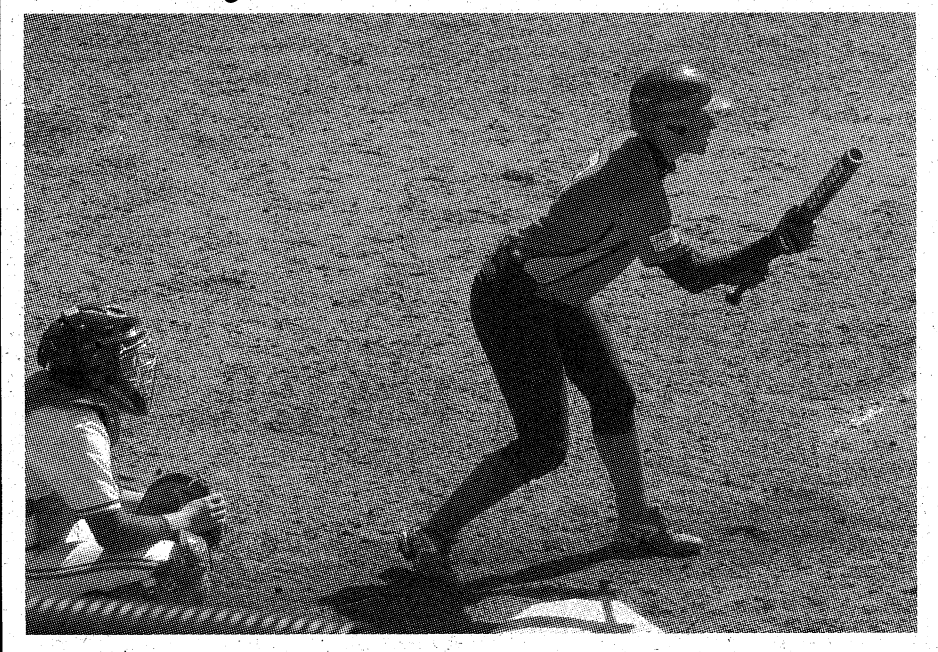
On Sunday, April 6, the final day of the regular season, the two teams played their most important game of the season. Forget about the pride issues involved and the Devils losing all seven of their previous matches, the only thing that mattered was home ice advantage. The Devils had 97 points coming in, while the Rangers had 96. They were the fourth and fifth seed, respectively, and as long as the Devils made it to overtime, they would've stayed in fourth because of their wins advantage. Besides winning to retain some dignity, the Devils really needed the victory to get the extra home game. Lundqvist went only 13-12-7 on the road this season, while going 24-12-3 at home. On the road he had a 2.53 goals against and two shutouts, while logging 8 shutouts and a 1.98 at home. The game did go to overtime, which clinched the fourth seed for the Devils. They would continue through overtime and win the shoot-out, restoring some of their pride and gaining some needed confidence going into the playoffs.

Even if the Rangers had won the game in regulation and took the home ice advantage, it still wouldn't change the tough task ahead. The Devils have arguably the best goalie in the history of the NHL. Besides winning three Stanley Cups and three Vezina trophies (Best Goalie in the NHL), this season he led the Eastern Conference in Games Started, Minutes Played, Wins, Goals Against Average, and Saves. The Devils also have the best checking line in hockey led by John Madden, which led them to being the second best team defense in the Eastern Conference. As the saying goes, "defense wins championships," and the Devils' defense has led them to 3 Stanley Cup victories in the last 12 years.

It'll be an interesting series. The Rangers also play defense well and they have stars such as Jaromir Jagr, Brendan Shanahan, Chris Drury, and Scott Gomez who all have playoff experience and can definitely bring heat to the Devils. However, the last game of the season really set the table in seeing which team will step up when it's all on the line.

Devils in five.

Softball Endures Tough Schedule, Stays Above .500



Ashley Westphal fakes a bunt against Boston University on Saturday, but they were shut out in back to back games. Sunday saw Stony Brook claw back for a 2-1 win, giving first place BU their only conference loss of the season.

Shonto Olander/SB Statesman

By Jessica McClintock
Senior Writer

In 2007, Coach Bryant led Stony Brook to a 28-20 record, its best overall record in the school's Division I history. Five Seawolves were named to the America East All-Conference team. With four of those players returning, the Seawolves hope to build on last year's success.

On Wednesday, April 2, the Stony Brook women's softball team went to Fordham and won 4-2. Sophomore Alyssa Struzenberg threw a complete game for Stony Brook, leading the Seawolves to their thrilling victory at Bahoshy Field in Bronx, N.Y.

The Seawolves started off strong in the top of the second inning with a double to right-centerfield by junior Marissa Fleury. Junior Kelsi Fanelli continued the hitting with a single up the middle to put runners on the corners, for sophomore Vicki Kavitsky, Stony Brook's shortstop, lined a pitch to right-centerfield for a bases-clearing triple, giving her team a 2-0 lead. It didn't take long for the Seawolves to score again as the next hitter, junior Kelly Oberto singled, driving in Kavitsky. Oberto scored two batters later on a groundout by sophomore Crista Cerrone.

Thursday, April 3, Stony Brook had a double header at home against Rutgers in which they won the first game 10-5 and lost the second game 2-1. Vicki Kavitsky went 2-for-4 with two runs scored and two RBIs as the Stony Brook Seawolves topped Rutgers, 10-5 in game one. In game two, both teams were quiet offensively, until Kavitsky hit her second home run of the season over the right-centerfield wall, giving Stony Brook a 1-0 lead. However, Rutgers came from behind with two runs in the top of the seventh inning to pull in front by the final score of 2-1.

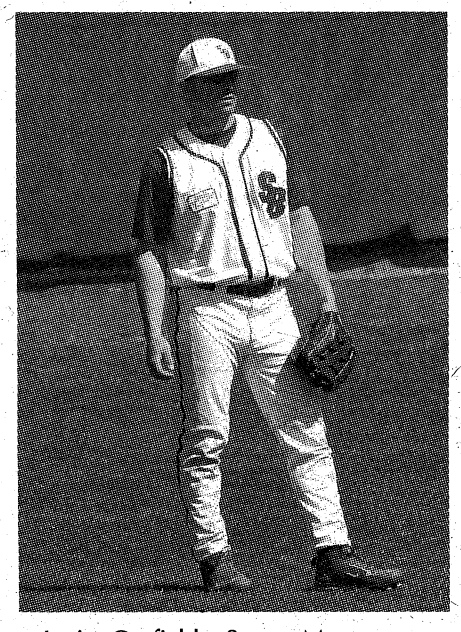
Saturday, April 5 had another double header on the home field against Boston University. Unfortunately, Stony Brook fell in both games with scores of 1-0 and 2-0. Alyssa Struzenberg put forth a dominating performance in the circle over the first four innings of game one. Struzenberg began the game by striking out nine of the first 12 batters she faced. Game two featured some great pitching as well, as the two teams combined for just eight hits. Freshman Colleen Matthes and Marissa Fleury led the Seawolves offensively in game two with two hits.

Stony Brook bounced back by winning their third game against Boston on Sunday, by a score of 2-1. Alyssa Struzenberg pitched all eight innings for the Seawolves, striking out nine batters while picking up her 10th win of the season. Marissa Fleury hit a walk-off RBI single to right-centerfield in the bottom of the eighth inning to give Stony Brook a 2-1.

In their most recent series, the lady Seawolves split a double header against Hartford Wednesday. They continue their demanding season on Saturday, against UMBC for a weekend three-game showdown.

Stony Brook is currently 16-15-1 and in sixth place in the America East Standings. Boston University remains in first place with a record of 18-12-0.

Baseball Comes Up Big Over Bing



Junior Outfielder Steven Muzzurco and the Seawolves defense held strong against visiting Binghamton this weekend.

Shonto Olander/SB Statesman

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inning to beat the Bearcats 7-6 in the third game of the series. The seven hit onslaught began when junior Steven Mazzurco doubled to start the inning. An RBI single by Marino was followed by a bunt single by Keith Fier. A sacrifice fly by Brian Witkowski made it 3-2 Binghamton. Chad Marshall had another single and Stephan walked. Fier put pressure on the Bearcats by running on the final pitch to Stephan and was rewarded when the Binghamton catch threw the ball into leftfield. He scampered home to make it 3-3. Nowak followed with an RBI double to plate Marshall and Rob Dyer punctuated the inning with a three-run home run to make it 7-3 Seawolves.

Rob Dyer went seven for 13 with seven RBI's in the series. Senk said that Dyer's importance to the team is measured in more than just numbers. "He has a great energy level, guys feed off his energy," he said. "When you play with that positive outlook, good things are going to happen to you and he exemplifies that mindset."

The fourth game featured a dominating performance by junior Mike Errigo. He shutout the Bearcats for eight and two-thirds innings and gave up seven hits. He also had seven strikeouts. Asked about Errigo's importance to the team, Senk believes it is necessary to have a solid third starter to go along with Koehler and Gary Novakowski "Mike is extremely important. He's starting to put it together, coming off a red-shirt year, he hadn't pitched for so long, but we definitely need him. Pitching depth, whether in a conference weekend or in the tournament is what sets the winning teams apart."

Senk believes in the importance of depth at all positions. This allows him to do tinkering and take advantage of particular skill sets. Marino is usually part of a platoon but that wasn't the case on Sunday. "At third base we can go lefty-righty with Steve and Chris Maier," he said. "Steve had such an excellent defensive game on Saturday and with Bing's better hitters hitting to the short and third base side I decided to go with Steve on Sunday."

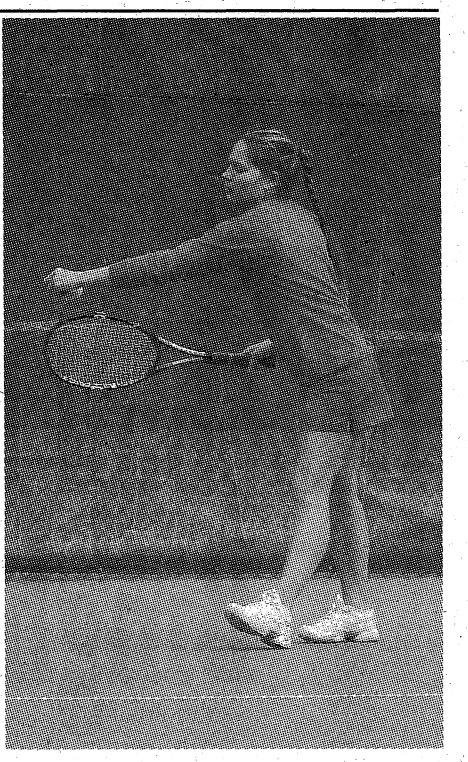
There was no injury update on starting catcher Justin Echevarria who has a bad shoulder. He went two for three in the last game of the series with an RBI. "He caught two of the four games, he split games because of the double-headers, he's good to go," Senk said.

With the Seawolves starting 4-0 in conference play, Senk only had good things to say to his team. "I told them that they did an excellent job, short of four shutouts or four no-hitters, you can't do much better than we did." The Seawolves will play Hartford this weekend. They started out 3-1 in conference play and come to Stony Brook for another four-game series. Senk said his team knows what they have to do. "They have to take care of business at home. Hartford has a coach who is in his third year and he brought in a bunch of players. They took their lumps but now they're juniors and seniors and they think that it's their time.

Senk doesn't think its too early to look at these conference games as a chance to create separation between first and second place. "There are still 20 games left, next weekend it will be eight down and 16 to go. We want to have a good weekend and do what we did to Bing to Hartford and to the rest of the teams."

If the first four conference games are any indication, the America East will continue to have their hands full with the deep and talented Seawolves.

A Recap From the Seawolves Successful Weekend



Senior Victoria Vovsha won her singles match on Monday against Britany Price of Sacred Heart 6-2 and 6-1. She would also team up with Fanny Charliquart for a doubles match, part of Stony Brooks sweep of Sacred Heart earlier this week.

Jessica Laforrest/SB Statesman

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Stony Brook's only blemish was Charlotte Tatler of Albany defeating Erica Federgreen with a score of 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Coach Gary Glassman said, "This was the best Albany team I've seen since the nine years I've been coaching, they are a confident team."

April 7- The Seawolves crushed the Sacred Heart Lady Hawks tennis team, sweeping all nine matches. First and second single players Claudia Sanua and Paola Rodolfi led the way, dropping only one game each. The other matches were won in straight sets. Sanua and junior Erica Federgreen won their 1st doubles match 8-6. The other two double matches went 8-1 and 8-3, in favor of Stony Brook.

April 9- Senior Sandy Wijeratne was named the America East Performer of the Week for the second time this season for Women's tennis team. Wijeratne was undefeated in both singles and doubles player, leading Stony Brook during their four game winning streak. She raised her season record 16-5, and has won six of last seven matches. Later in the day the Seawolves took down their fifth straight opponent, on the road against Hofstra. Their last loss came over three weeks ago, against Florida Gulf Coast on Mar. 19.

Upcoming Schedule:

4/12 vs UMBC 11:00 am
4/13 @ Binghamton 10:00 am
4/15 vs Quinnipiac 2:00 pm
4/19 vs Hartford 12:00 pm
4/25 America East Championship @ New Haven, Conn.

Track and Field's Bermingham and Salzano Go For Seconds

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with a time of 10:16.06 and ninth with a time of 10:23.18, respectively. The teams then came back the next day, Saturday, at 9 o'clock, to complete the second leg of the Duke Invitational.

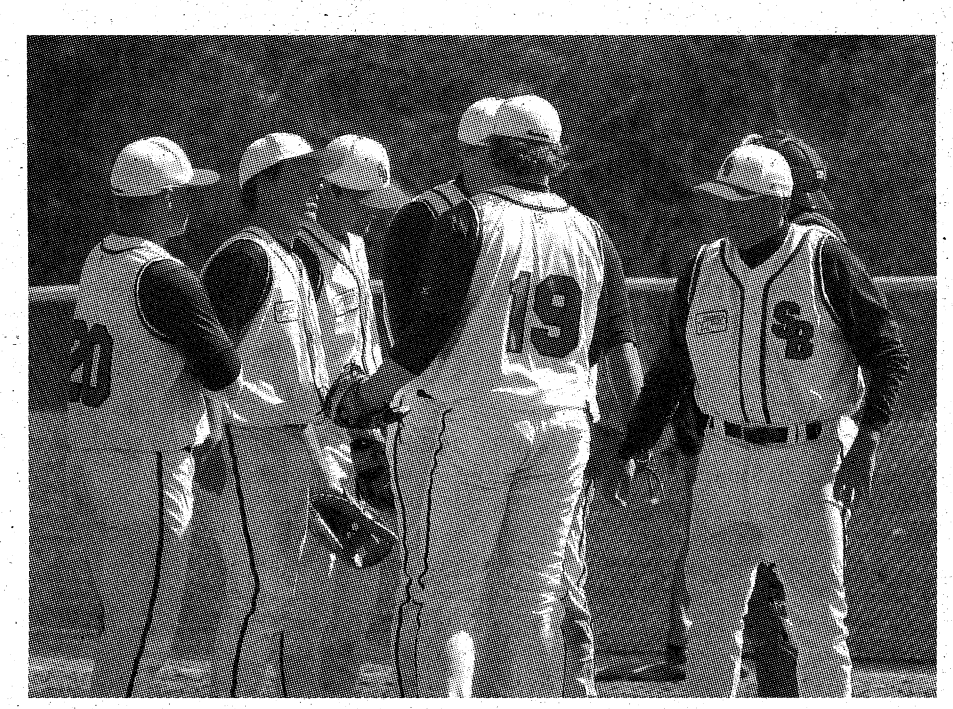
Representing Stony Brook in the all day events was a veteran who knows her way around first place finishes. Senior Dana Hastie finished first in the women's 5,000-meter run with a time of 16:42.09. Wanting to keep the crowd impressed, Hastie blew past her opponents with a finishing time of nearly 18 seconds faster than the second-place finisher. Freshman Jessica Hampson was the next highest finisher, after Hastie, for the women's team. Hampson claimed sixth in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 11:00.53. Fellow freshman Carolina Cortes finished just two spots behind Hampson in eighth, with a time of 11:02.93.

The Stony Brook Seawolves will continue their road trip as they visit Tempe, Ariz., next weekend to compete in the Sun Angel Track Classic.

STATESMAN Sports

Baseball Dominates Binghamton

"Timely Hitting" Propels Seawolves Over Conference Rival



Seawolves baseball during their four game weekend sweep of Binghamton. The weekend gave them a leg up over the rest of the Conference as they move to 4-0. Next comes Hartford for another four game series. Shonto Olander/SB Statesman

By Adrian Carrasquillo
Asst. Sports Editor

The Stony Brook Seawolves vaulted themselves into first place in the conference over the weekend when they swept the Binghamton Bearcats in back-to-back doubleheaders. The Seawolves depth and talent was on display throughout the series.

Sophomore Jeremy Nowak was eight for 13 during the series with a couple of three-hit games. He also saved three of the four games. Head coach Matt Senk thought that his offense shined when it was most important. "I thought that overall we had timely hitting, Jeremy's game-tying home run, Nick Thode's game-winning home run," he said. "Mike Stephan did a great job. Stephen Marino had timely hits. It was a great team effort."

The Seawolves won the first game 11-9. Senior starter Tom Koehler had 13 strikeouts but was charged with eight runs, five of which were earned. Senk doesn't fault his pitcher for the uncharacteristic numbers. "The runs he gave up -- we had a bunch of errors that inning. It was a crazy inning, there were bloop hits and some inherited runners scored after he came out."

In game two the Seawolves were down to their last chance to score when Nowak hit the game-tying home run. After Thode's home run, Nowak came in to save the game. Senk couldn't hide how he felt about Nowak's performance. "He had a tremendous weekend. He hit for average, he hit for power and he added the three saves. He's a pretty special player," he said.

The Seawolves used a seven-run third

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Tennis Unstoppable & Unbeaten of Late

Sandy Wijeratne was the America East Performer of the Week, after sweeping both her singles and doubles' matches against Albany and Sacred Heart. Shonto Olander/SB Statesman

By Jessica Laforrest & Carl Carrie
Staff Writers

April 5- The Stony Brook Women's Tennis road momentum on their way victory over Albany. The Seawolves won the meet 6-1, first singles player Paola Rodolfi defeating Aimee Kern 2-6, 6-0, 6-0. The team proved to be consistent with their wins. Rodolfi stated "I always have to put one hundred percent in every game." Rodolfi also added to the win in a No.2 doubles match with partner Sandy Wijeratne, just named the America East Performer of the Week. The duo had a victory of 8-1, while No.3 doubles Fanny Charliquart and Victoria Vovsha had an 8-5 victory, putting the Lady Seawolves in the lead for the team score. Second singles player Claudia Sanua defeated Susan Ma with a 6-3, 6-3 triumph, and Sandy Wijeratne had a victory over Kim Weltman of Albany with a 6-3, 6-0 score.

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Seawolves, Hastie Excel in Duke Invitational

By Mike Fodera
Senior Writer

The Stony Brook Seawolves track and field team traveled down past the Mason-Dixon Line to compete in the Duke Invitational in Durham, N.C., last week. The Seawolves had five runners place within the top 10 during the first day on Friday, two runners place in the top 10 on Saturday, and one first place finisher from a familiar face.

Friday's first day of the meet proved to be an eventful one. For the men's team, with a time of 8:21.49, sophomore Daire Bermingham placed highest with a second place finish in the 3,000-meter. Competing in the same event for the men's team was sophomore Iain Whitfield. He placed eighth amongst the other runners with a time of 8:31.11.

For the women's team, senior Kerry Salzano took second for the women's team in the grueling 10,000-meter event with a time of 37:11.81. Competing in the 3,000-meter on the women's side was freshman Ruth Gillespie and senior Elizabeth Carlson. They finished seventh

Continued on pg. 15