

THE STATESMAN

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OP-ED

Summer Gas Tax Proposals Are Full of Hot Air

Oil is hitting record highs of \$120 per barrel, gas prices are climbing toward the \$4 per gallon mark, and everyone is feeling the pinch. This leaves politicians scrambling to be the ones that propose a solution. With the presidential election in its constant state of being "right around the corner," we've gotten to see plenty of empty political pandering across the board.

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Bigger Better Bottle Bill Excluded From New York State Budget

By APRIL WARREN
Staff Writer

The Bigger Better Bottle Bill, which would have expanded five-cent refundable deposits on beverage containers to water bottles and other non-carbonated beverages, was not included in the finalized state budget put out on Apr. 9, despite student activists' lobbying efforts.

Stony Brook University's environmental club and the Stony Brook chapter of the New York Public Interest Research Group, also known as NYPIRG, has been lobbying the state legislature for months. They did so by writing 95 letters and hand delivering them to state senator John Flanagan's (D -- Second District) office, hosting rallies and even driving up to Albany to make their voices heard.

The original Bottle Bill, passed in 1982, required five-cent refundable deposits on beer and soda containers sold in New York. The bill did not include non-carbonated beverages because at the time most of them did not exist.

"The bill is sound not only for environmental reason, but for the fact that it will make the state money," said Luke Schordine, a student concentrating in

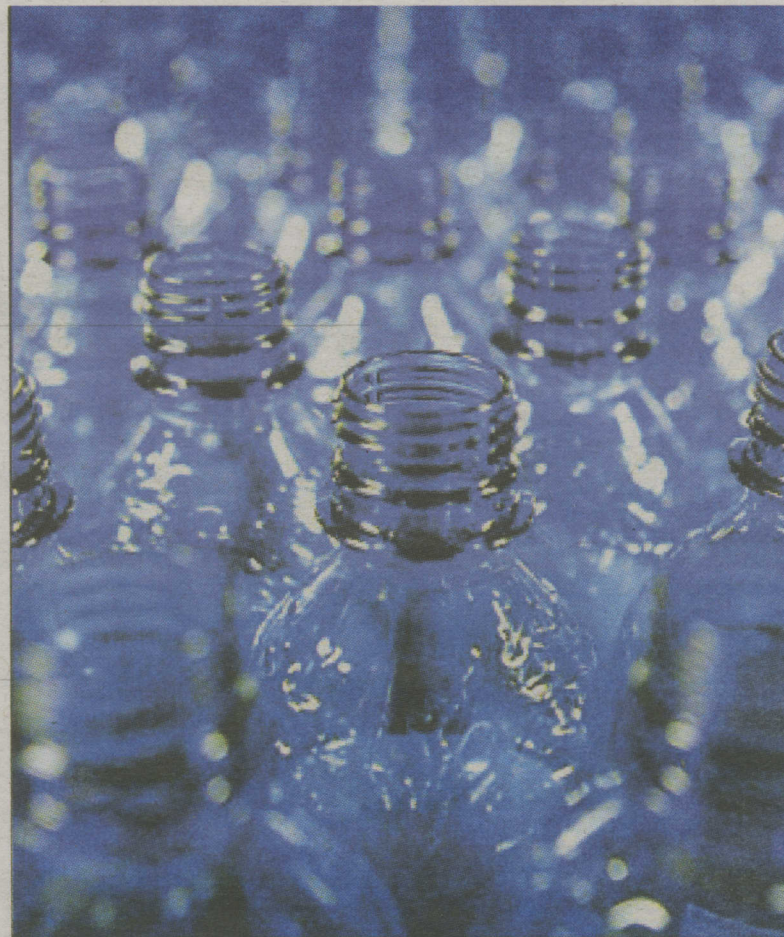
environmental studies.

The defeated bill's extension required beverage distributors to transfer any unclaimed deposits to the State Environmental Protection Fund. Many beverage companies hold onto the unclaimed deposits resulting in an estimated \$140 million a year that can not be used to help fund special environmental projects.

"It's not only good for the environment, but it also generates millions of dollars that can be used to help improve the state," said Christian Williams, a NYPIRG intern and student activist.

Bigger Better Bottle Bill opponents include the Coca-Cola Company, PepsiCo., Anheuser Busch, grocers and even some liquor store owners. The opposition is largely in response to the possibility of higher operating costs if the bill was included in the budget.

"The soft drink industry, along with breweries and grocery retailers, opposes deposit legislation because this kind of



Courtesy of www.treehugger.com

legislation is too narrowly focused to effectively address the solid waste problem," according to the Coca-Cola Company's web page. "Furthermore, deposits divert only 3 percent of waste as opposed to compre-

hensive systems which divert up to 25 percent."

Environmentalists don't agree. "While soda containers are only 2.7 percent of the waste

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Aisha Akhtar / SB Statesman

Stony Brook University held its 15th annual Strawberry Fest on May 7.

Student Passes Out At Roth Regatta, Later Dies In Hospital

By ERIN MCKINLEY & SCOTT MOORE
Contributing Writers

Stephen Stakey, a freshman at Stony Brook University, passed out during the annual Roth Regatta on May 2. He was taken to the Stony Brook University Medical Center where he died later that day. He was 19.

The cause of Stakey's death is still unknown, pending an autopsy, his mother, Cathy Stakey, said. "He was perfectly healthy,"

she continued.

According to witnesses, Stakey -- who was a member of the university's marching band -- passed out midday while attending the regatta with the band, which had a boat in the race.

When he passed out, the Stony Brook Volunteer Ambulance Corps. immediately attended to him. They were already on call at the event. His friends

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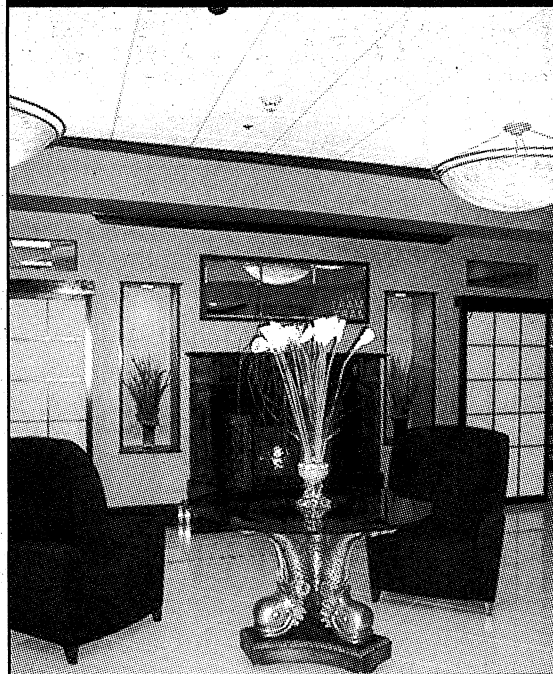
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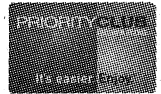
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Bigger Better Bottle Bill Excluded From New York State Budget

Continued from pg 1

stream, all beverage containers (excluding milk containers) are 4.4 percent of the waste stream," according to the Container Recycling Institute web page. "More importantly, the upstream environmental effects of container wasting are disproportionately high. For example, beverage containers account for 20 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from land-filling a ton of municipal solid waste and replacing the wasted products with new products made from virgin materials."

There are 27 states in the United States without any form of Bottle Bill.

In 2002, Hawaii became the 11th state to pass any form of deposit legislation joining states such as Vermont, Connecticut, New York and California.

Currently, five states, including New York, are campaigning for expansions to their existing

Bottle Bill legislation.

Lobbyists throughout New York will continue to push for the expansion of the bottle bill.

"I'm sure that John J. Flanagan, who has in the past

been a good representative of the people of our district, could have

done more to push the bill to his fellow senators," said Schordine. "Our letters, e-mails

and other contact with the senator unfortunately fell on deaf ears." Senator Flanagan's office did not return phone calls by deadline.

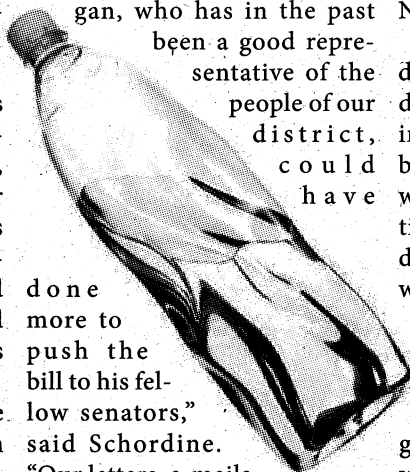
NYPIRG will continue to lobby for the bill expansion because of the results shown

by the existing bottle bill. Over the last 25 years, over 90 billion bottles and cans have been recycled and returned as a result of the original bill, according to NYPIRG.org.

Environmental club president Michelle Pizer hoped the deposit on water bottles would increase recycling on campus because the five-cent deposits would give students the incentive to return bottles instead of discarding them because they would be making some money.

"It also means that the task falls to the environmental club and other socially and environmentally conscious groups on campus to spread the word about recycling and future versions of the Bigger Better Bottle Bill," said Schordine.

NYPIRG and the environmental club will continue to lobby for the expansion in hopes of it being included in the 2009-10 state budget. ■



FEATURES

Rape Victims' Fear Contributes To Secrecy

By ARIELLE BRECHISCI
Contributing Writer

Eva Feldman's daughter waited 72 hours to report to campus police that she had been raped in her dorm room at Indiana University. She waited four more days to tell her parents. "I didn't want to make daddy cry," was Feldman's daughter's reason.

Her behavior is typical of rape victims, who delay reporting their attacks, if ever, for many reasons including shame, fear, guilt and a flawed judicial system.

One in four women become victims of sexual assault during college, and five percent of these victims actually report it. Acquaintance rapes are most common, accounting for over eighty percent of rapes on college campuses.

"It's hands down predictable, so it should be preventable," Feldman said, who started CampusRape.org in response to her daughter's tragedy.

This trend affects college campuses all over the country, where victims often remain silent about their physical, mental and emotional anguish.

"Current research on the victimization of college students confirms that rape and sexual harassment continue to be serious problems on campuses," the 2002 U.S. Department of Justice National Victim Assistance Academy report said.

In 2005, the U.S. Department of Justice examined rape on college campuses and determined that five percent of college women experience a completed or attempted rape per calendar year. In 2006, Stony Brook University had 11,874 female students, which would translate to 594 rape incidents. That year, there were three reported acquaintance rapes, six reports of sexual abuse and zero reported attempted or stranger rapes.

Feldman blames Indiana University's administration and cam-

pus police for failing to adequately prosecute the man who raped her daughter. He served no jail time, and was allowed to re-enroll after a one-year suspension. Feldman says the university deemed the case hard to prosecute because alcohol was involved. "Alcohol should not give a predator immunity from prosecution," Feldman said.

"That's pretty typical," Margaret Mikkelsen said, executive director of Students Active for Ending Rape (SAFER). "Instead of getting support, victims are asked 'Were you drinking? But didn't you already sleep with this other guy?' It's a reasonable questions for a victim to ask 'Do I want to go through all this? Is it really worth it?'"

Even though the rapist had several penalties against him prior to raping Feldman's daughter, including sexual harassment allega-

Continued on page 5

Student Passes Out At Roth Regatta, Later Dies In Hospital



Ilya Rabkin / SB Statesman

Stephen Stakey, back left, participating in the Roth Regatta on May 2.

Continued from pg 1

received word shortly after that Stephen had died at the hospital.

Stakey's friends held a candlelight ceremony near the fountain by the Administration building at 11 p.m. on May 3. The damp night did nothing to stop friends and supporters from attending the ceremony. Several of them spoke about Stakey during the ceremony, including friend Harrison Glaser and his roommate, Geoffrey Bansen.

"I remember one time I saw him doing his homework," Glaser recalled. "I watched on for just two minutes and it made my head spin."

According to friends, Stakey was a dedicated student and friend. He was part of the Honors College at the university, and resided in Toscanini in Tabler Quad.

"Stephen, you were one of the first people I met at Stony Brook, the nice guy across the table from me at orientation," wrote Natalie Crnosija, a freshman at the university, on Stakey's Facebook wall. "I feel blessed that I got to know you a little bit over the year and I will miss bumping into you in odd places."

"Stephen would want us to go and be the best we can be, and do great things," Glaser said. "There is no doubt in my mind that Stephen would have done something great with his life, his gift. Because that is what life is, a gift, it's precious."

Stakey graduated from Mattituck Junior-Senior High School in Mattituck, N.Y., in 2007, as valedictorian.

While attending Stony Brook University, Stakey planned on majoring in computer sciences.

His Facebook page shows many references to his love for technology, with things ranging from quotes from one of Apple, Inc.'s co-founders to links to his blog, "TechPerspective."

In one of his last online blog posts on Facebook, "Examination of Self," Stakey wrote about his past year at the university and the memories he made with his friends. He thanked all of his friends for having been part of those memories and called his first year "amazing."

An online memorial was started on Facebook. The group, "R.I.P. Stephen Stakey 5/2/08," was created less than 12 hours after the start of the regatta on Friday.

"I figured I have only known Stephen for about a year and will not do a wonderful kid like him justice, so I leave this space open to anyone who knew Stephen well," wrote the group's creator Harrison Glaser, one of Stakey's friends.

Glaser announced his intention to ask for the regatta's name to be changed to the Stephen Stakey Memorial Roth Regatta. Furthermore, the university is reportedly looking into holding a larger candle lighting ceremony in honor of Stakey. Information on both is pending.

A wake was held on Tuesday, May 6, for Stakey at the DeFriest-Grattan Funeral Home from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. in Mattituck, N.Y. His burial was held the following day at the Our Lady of Good Counsel Mission Church, also in Mattituck, at 10 a.m.

Stakey is survived by his father, Kevin; mother, Cathy; 16-year-old sister, Laura; and nine-year-old brother, Andrew. ■

The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, May 8, 2008.

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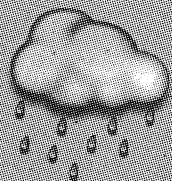
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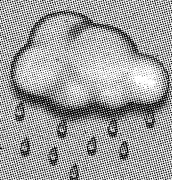
Student Forecast

May 9 - 13



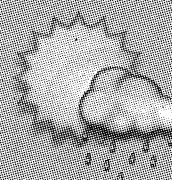
Friday:

High: 54/Low: 49
Mostly cloudy with rain.



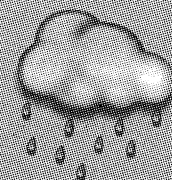
Saturday:

High: 65/Low: 47
Mostly cloudy with rain ending in the morning and clouds clearing in the evening.



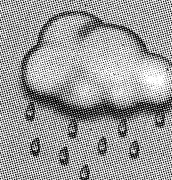
Sunday:

High: 66/Low: 46
Mostly sunny in the morning with clouds increasing and a chance of rain in the evening.



Monday:

High: 62/Low: 48
Mostly cloudy with rain.



Tuesday:

High: 60/Low: 47
Mostly cloudy with rain in the morning.

By Alex Kahn

Rape Victims' Fear Contributes To Secrecy

Continued from pg 1

tions by another woman living in the same co-ed building, he was still permitted to live on campus. Indiana University also allowed him back on campus after the he raped Feldman's daughter.

The university did not prohibit him from attending frat parties on school grounds during his suspension, which Feldman discovered through his MySpace page. "He came back for frat parties," Feldman said, who believes that this response sends a message to rape victims that they won't be taken seriously or get justice if they report a rape. "How would that make a victim feel safe, especially when she's the reason he was suspended for a whole year?"

University judicial hearings are separate from criminal charges. "A disciplinary hearing is not a court case, nor should they be because it's an educational institution not a criminal one," Mikkelsen said. A disciplinary hearing "is much faster than a court case so the perpetrator is at least off campus," Mikkelsen said. Since universities are an educational institution, many require the offender to attend educational sessions.

"All the girls that knew my daughter saw the guy get one year off and he can come back and he's not barred from returning to campus," she said. "They don't take into consideration how much longer she has at the school. And he doesn't get brought up on any charges...it's like telling girls, 'Don't bother, because you might have to deal with this guy a month from now - and he'll be mad.'"

Mikkelsen said that this is typical for colleges, where "sometimes the woman is so frustrated with having to see her attacker on campus that the victim will drop out or transfer."

In a 2005 National Institute of Justice report, Congress delved into the reasons why women condemn themselves to silence rather than oust their attackers. "Campus policies on drug and alcohol abuse have been adopted at three-fourths of the schools studied" the report said. "At more than half of these schools, administrators say these policies inhibit reporting."

Feldman credits the alcohol policies at Indiana University for creating a reporting barrier in her daughter's rape. "She waited because campus administrators make it very clear that if you've

been drinking, you better not come back to the dormitory inebriated," she said.

"A majority of campus administrators believe that requiring victims to participate in adjudication discourages reporting; about one-third of these schools still have such a policy," the report said.

Requiring the victims to initiate the judicial hearing means "the woman has to deal with her attacker, whereas police initiate judicial hearings for other crimes," Feldman said. Feldman believes that none of her daughter's friends will ever report a rape to campus police after witnessing her daughter's participation in the harrowing judicial process that followed. Feldman's daughter was so exasperated during the judicial hearing that she asked the administrators present, "What do I need - an eyewitness?"

Mikkelsen says that this judicial process is beneficial in some ways because it "gives control back to the victim," but more often, women don't report because it's "a traumatic reporting experience where they ask the victim to repeat the story and ask uncomfortable questions and in the end, the attacker might get a slap on the wrists," she said. "Victims ask themselves, 'Is it worth going through this if I'm not going to get any justice?'"

A report by the Bureau of Justice in 2002, "Sexual Victimization of Collegiate Women," found that 48.8 percent of women who were raped did not consider it rape. "Given the extent of non-stranger rape on campus, it is no surprise that the majority of victimized women do not define their experience as rape," the report said. Organizations obtain data for underreporting by surveying people.

Feldman's daughter fell into this category immediately following her rape. "It took a few conversations with a friend for her to realize that it was rape," says Feldman.

Feldman asserts that victims experiencing shock and blaming themselves works in favor of protecting the university's reputation.

"Often campuses don't take alleged crimes very seriously," Mikkelsen said.

Because of her dissatisfaction with how the university police handled the situation, Feldman filed a civil rights complaint with the U.S. Department of Educa-

tion, citing that the school failed to provide a safe environment for her daughter to pursue an education. The complaint was unsuccessful because the Department of Education "didn't find enough evidence of any wrongdoing by the university."

"It's a little vicious merry-go-round we're on," Feldman says.

Because acquaintance rapes are the most common, the alarm buttons placed around college campuses give visiting parents a false sense of security about the dangers rapists pose. "The idea that it's a stranger that pulls you into the bushes is a big fallacy," says Feldman. "The reality is that the dorms need to be safer." Women who live on campus are at a higher risk for sexual assault than commuters, according to the National Institute of Justice.

A debate exists over whether there is a higher rate of victimization for students attending college. Some students found that this is true while others have not. Mikkelsen notes that the most common age group for sexual assault falls between 18-24 year olds and 40 percent of women in this age group attend college.

Short Blackout Darkens Campus

By Yi-Jin Yu
Asst. News Editor

In the early hours of Wednesday morning, five residential quads and five academic buildings on West campus lost power because of a temporary power outage. The blackout began at approximately 1:30 a.m. and by 3:30 a.m. all electricity and voltage had been fully recovered, according to University Spokesperson Lauren Sheprow of the Office of Media Relations.

A feeder failure to the university caused an interruption in power supply and the incident is currently under investigation.

The residential quads affected were Kelly Quad, Roth Quad, Schomburg Apartments, Tabler Quad, and the West Apartment Complex. The outage also affected the Educational Communications Center (ECC), Computer Science, Heavy Engineering, Javits Lecture Center, and Old Engineering buildings.

The power cut is unrelated to last year's power failures in residence halls and the current renovation and construction work happening at Roth Food Court.

OPINION CONTINUED

Summer Gas Tax Proposals Are Full of Hot Air

Continued from pg 14

her website, are as follows: "Hillary will make it unlawful for any supplier -- wholesaler or retailer -- to sell crude oil or gasoline at an unconscionably excessive price."

Never mind who gets to determine what "excessive price" means, or where Clinton came up with her \$1 million and prison term penalties, what I want to know is how Clinton is planning on passing all this legislation? Does she really think that the Federal Trade Commission's Bush-appointed administrators will play along? And how exactly does she plan on getting this approved by the Senate and signed by Bush and Cheney (and their oilman cronies) before Memorial Day?

Obviously, neither Clinton nor McCain really expect this bill to be passed. This is just yet another political maneuver designed to fool the independent working class into thinking that something is being done. I believe that Obama has

done this too, though thankfully, he has so far refused to subscribe to this particular foolery.

In reality, the only way to get relief from the high cost of oil is to decrease consumption, and any political fixes are temporary and ineffective. Our consumption-based economy is unsustainable at current levels, as evidenced by the 70% rise in oil prices over just the last nine months coupled with the falling dollar. Since oil is still largely traded in U.S. dollars, our economy is, at the moment, tied to oil. We can't keep consuming as we are, produce little to no tangible or valuable goods and still expect to have low oil prices.

The irony is that, given the primary production that we do have -- wheat and corn, for example -- relies heavily on our transportation system in order to be distributed across the globe. If we don't keep our highways in shape now, we won't have the opportunity to shift to a production-based economy, be it one that runs on fossil or some alternative fuels.



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Music World: Bamboozle Invades New Jersey

By IVANNA AVALOS
Staff Writer

With cloudy skies, cooler temperatures and a chance of rain, this past Saturday was probably not the ideal day to spend 12 hours standing outside, but that's exactly happened. Bamboozle was this past Saturday, May 3, and although it was hectic and exhausting, it was an amazing concert overall.

For those of you who have never heard of Bamboozle, it's a two-day outdoor concert in Meadowlands Parkway in East Rutherford, N.J. There are usually at least 100 bands playing throughout the day on nine different stages, spread out across the parking lot next to Giant Stadium. There were also several different vendors, tents with people selling band merchandise such as

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Staller Style: Baby Blues

By ULA LUKSZO
Staff Writer

Baby Mama: Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, Steve Martin, Sigourney Weaver and Greg Kinnear. 99 min.

As funny as it is problematic, "Baby Mama" knows that it is one in a line of recent films and TV shows that have addressed pregnancy.

In contrast to "Knocked Up" or "Juno," however, "Baby Mama" addresses the obverse issue of the unexpected pregnancy

-- the pregnancy that refuses to happen.

Tina Fey ("Saturday Night Live," "Mean Girls") plays a 37-year-old corporate type who has sacrificed family for career until her biological clock suddenly goes off, and she begins to see babies everywhere.

As is typical in these scenarios, Fey's character Kate finds out that she is practically infertile and her chances of conceiving a child naturally are slim.

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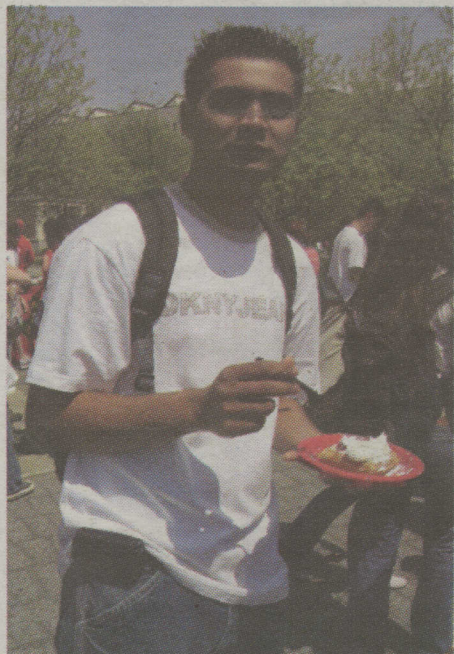
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Photos by Aisha Akhtar



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Bamboozle Invades New Jersey



Ivanna Avalos/Stony Brook Statesman

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t-shirts, hoodies, stickers, pins and CDs. There were also charitable organizations such as To Write Love on Her Arms and Keep A Breast were selling stickers and t-shirts.

On Saturday, Jimmy Eat World, Paramore, Secondhand Serenade, Aidan, Story of the Year, Jack's Mannequin, Alien Ant Farm, The Bravery, The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus, Snoop Dogg, and many others performed.

The doors opened around 11:30 a.m. and to energize the crowd, the band Say Anything started a 20 minute set on an elevated stage away from the main entrance. It was pretty evident that the crowd's momentum was high after seeing their reaction to Say Anything's performance. It was 11 a.m. and people were already moshing and screaming at the top of their lungs, a sign of what was to come throughout the day.

Once the doors were opened, massive amounts of people rushed into the venue like herds of cattle. There were long lines on everything from food to merchandise. By midday the floors were covered with empty beer bottles, half eaten food, paper, and even articles of clothing.

Getting around was difficult as the day progressed because more people

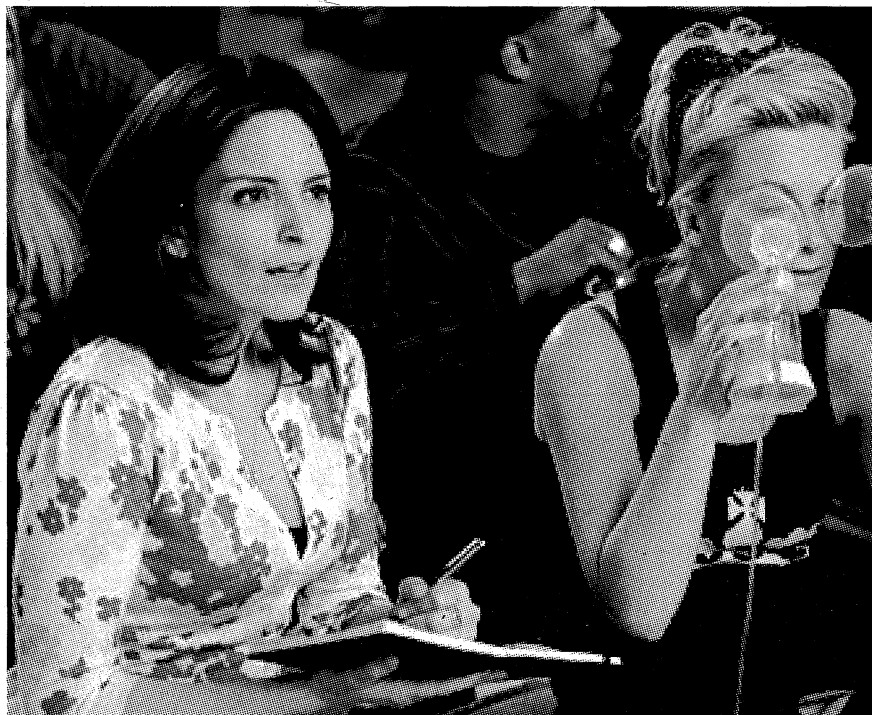
were coming in. It was like trying to walk through a maze where you just hoping to somehow make it out unscathed, reunited with your group.

With so many bands playing, it was inevitable to not discover a few new bands throughout the day -- specifically, Sparky's Flaw which performed a 35-minute set on one side of a two sided stage, divided by a black, mesh curtain.

While I was waiting for The Morning Of to perform their set, I heard Sparky's Flaw performing on the stage to the right. I found myself in a trance, watching across at their stage at this group of five musicians I had never heard of before. I was really intrigued with their sound, especially since one of their keyboard players played saxophone for a couple of their songs. I never would have imagined hearing a saxophone on an alternative rock band's set. It was different. In their song "Under Control," the saxophone provided a nice soulful sound and blended with the lead singer's vocal surprisingly well.

Although the day was long an exhausting, the experience of going to a festival is unforgettable. There's something about listening to live music that nothing else seems to compare. There's an energy and adrenaline when you see a band perform on stage just a few feet away from you, especially if you managed to make it to the front of the stage without getting crushed, which is rare.

Baby Blues



Courtesy of Universal Pictures

Continued from pg 7

As a single woman, an adoption process would take forever, so Kate opts to go the surrogacy path.

In an at-once hilarious and painfully embarrassing cameo, Sigourney Weaver plays Chaffee Bicknell, the pompous head of a surrogacy agency that extorts money from child-hungry infertile or gay couples, but who herself is able to have children "the normal way," thus birthing an inordinate amount of ageist jokes in the film.

The surrogate mother Kate finally ends up with is Angie (Poehler), a white-trash caricature with a "common law" husband from Dreary (get the pun?), a suburb of Philadelphia, where the film is set.

Naturally, Kate and Angie have wildly different ideas on how a mother-to-be should take care of her body, and hilarity ensues when, for example, Kate gives Angie some water to drink and Angie spits it out, telling Kate "it tastes like sh-t!"

Luckily, both Fey and Poehler are smart ladies and rarely allow their clichéd roles to feel like clichés. They both give funny, energetic performances and their one-liners are impeccably timed.

Steve Martin, as the head of the natural foods store chain that Kate works for, is delightfully funny as he embodies the "zen" way of life in a corporate setting, and Greg Kinnear provides a love interest for the lonely Kate.

The love story line is undoubtedly the most clichéd and seems out of place in the film, despite Kinnear's solid performance. Ultimately his role is to make the corporate Kate somehow more likeable and to keep to Hollywood's generic standards that demand a comedy end in a marriage -- or at least a relationship.

However, given the fact that it appears increasingly impossible for

Hollywood to make a credible and empowering film about pregnancy or infertility, "Baby Mama" manages to be both funny and light-hearted enough to be worth watching, skirting the bigger issues and

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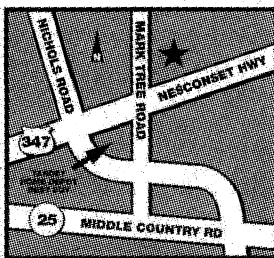
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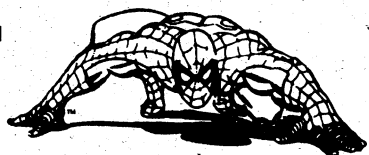
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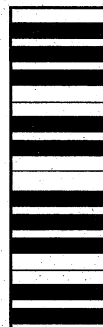
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The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Sucolian" in 1957 at Oyster Bay, the original site of Stony Brook University. In 1975 "The Statesman" was incorporated as a not-for-profit, student-run organization. Its editorial board, writing, and photography 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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Evolution and the Word "Theory"

By MICHAEL GIARDINELLO
Op-Ed Contributor

The theory of evolution is arguably the most misunderstood theory in all of science. In a recent poll conducted by USA Today, it was found that almost half of Americans (47%) believe that evolution is either definitely or probably not true. But almost all scientists (95%) believe the theory to be either definitely or most likely true.

The poll reveals two things: nearly half of Americans doubt evolution, and there is a significant difference in belief between the general public and the scientific community. Being that evolution is a scientific theory, why would so many nonscientists doubt the beliefs of scientists? An underlying reason is unreason -- misconceptions.

One of the greatest misconceptions about evolution is embedded in the misuse of the word "theory" in its application to science. The common antecedents that result in this misuse of the word are manifested in either genuine ignorance, or disguised ignorance.

People are either genuinely mistaken of the word's intent, or they are well aware of the word's scientific definition, but still use the nonscientific definition in an effort to spawn doubt. The word "theory," when used in everyday language, can be defined as a general assumption that is formed by speculation -- for example, "I have a theory on why those girls keep looking at us so oddly." The word "theory" when applied to science, however, can be defined as a myriad of facts evaluated in relation to one another, which are then used to explain phenomena -- for example, the Atomic Theory or General Theory of Relativity.

The difference in meaning is significant. The difference between the two can be deduced to validity, with the common definition being least valid, and the scientific definition being most valid. What makes science science is the application of the scientific method to cause and effect relationships. For explanations to be devised, the cause and effect relationship being experimented on must be observable, measurable and empirical.

The everyday use of the word "theory" does not require these standards. Upon clarification of the scientific meaning of the word "theory," there are many people who will, subsequently, reassess their opinions on evolution. But there

will still remain those people who will continue to deliberately spread the misconception. These traffickers of misconceptions infiltrate the psyche of their targets with their half-truths with the intent to devalue the theory of evolution.

In 2002, the administrators of the Cobb County School District in Georgia mandated that warning stickers be put on the biology textbooks used by the school district. The warning stickers read, "This textbook contains material on evolution. Evolution is a theory, not a fact, regarding the origin of living things."

This material must be approached with an open mind, studied carefully, and critically considered." The problem with this sticker is conspicuous -- the administrators were implying that evolution is a sham. They flat-out said that evolution is "not a fact" and "is only a theory." Out of all the content composing the text, they chose only evolution to be "critically considered."

Why not the cell theory or other theories? The reason they tagged evolution by its lonesome is because the administrators were supporters of intelligent design. They didn't want students to approach evolution with an "open mind" as they said. The administrators were aware that by using the stickers, the students would generate false impressions about evolution.

The children would obviously be affected, wondering why someone would put the stickers on in the first place. Well, the U.S. Supreme Court was also aware of the false impressions the stickers would generate. The court ruled that they were in violation of the First Amendment, and the stickers were removed. On Election Day, after the court had made its decision, all of the administrators were voted out of office.

A fair portion of the nearly half of Americans who doubt evolution vindicate their skepticism of evolution based upon this, and other, propagated misconceptions. Evolution, because it's a theory, is a higher form of knowledge than a fact.

Virtually all biologists will agree that evolution is the glue that holds all of biology together. Theodosius Dobzhansky, the late distinguished evolutionary biologist, once said, "Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution." Evolution is by no means only a theory.

Summer Gas Tax Proposals Are Full of Air

By ZACHARY KURTZ
Op-Ed Contributor

Oil is hitting record highs of \$120 per barrel, gas prices are climbing toward the \$4 per gallon mark, and everyone is feeling the pinch. This leaves politicians scrambling to be the ones that propose a solution. With the presidential election in its constant state of being "right around the corner," we've gotten to see plenty of empty political pandering across the board.

I suppose if there's one thing this situation shows, it's that political demagoguery beats out serious debate on either side of the political aisle. On this issue, at least, presidential candidates Hillary Clinton, a Democratic senator from New York, and John McCain, a Republican senator from Arizona, are proposing the same useless solution.

It's really McCain who should get the credit for proposing the idea of a temporary, summer-long "holiday" from the Federal excise tax on gasoline, which is currently set at 18.4 cents a gallon for gasoline and 24.4 cents for diesel fuel. Clinton has since expressed her support of the idea, as well as proposing to set an extra windfall profits tax on oil companies, in order to make up for the lost revenue.

Although I dislike taxes in almost every form, as far as this excise tax goes, it's actually not a terrible one. Since we expect the federal government to build and maintain our complex road system, they are obviously going to need a source of funding to do the job. And, since there's no such thing as a free lunch, they've got to

get the money somehow.

The excise tax, in principle, operates more like a usury fee than a tax anyway, because 80% of the money collected from this gas tax is put directly into the Highway Trust Fund, an organization that oversees and sponsors construction and repair of highways, bridges and related infrastructure. The logic behind this usury fee is the more gas you put into the car, the more you use the road systems, the more stress you put onto the system, the more economic responsibility you have to keep it in order. People who use public transportation shouldn't have to pay for the damage caused by drivers.

McCain's proposal is to cut this tax and replace it with nothing, though he suggests we should try to save money by cutting earmark spending elsewhere, though he is oddly nonspecific of what earmark spending should be cut.

This nonspecific proposal would threaten to underfund our aging highway infrastructure, which is already in sore need of replacing (remember the bridge collapse in Minnesota last year?).

Clinton, on the other hand, has provided a perfectly unreasonable way to make up for the lost revenue. She proposes to institute a windfall profits tax, a tax on industry to recoup sharp profit increases, on oil companies. Clinton is not completely ignorant about how the free markets works, so she at least recognizes that oil companies won't meekly absorb the extra costs, they'll raise prices to make up for the lost revenue.

Clinton plans, according to

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Mixed Martial Arts: The Next Big Thing?

By GENE MORRIS
Sports Editor

The parking lot was packed. Not a single space was open. Inside the building was not any better. Ten large, high-definition television sets blared the heavy rock music that is the theme song of the Ultimate Fighting Championship. Scantily clad women in small, tight orange shorts and even smaller, tighter white shirts shuffled around the floor, carrying trays of wings and pitchers of beer. They moved quickly, snaking through the throng of mostly young men hoping to get seats at the already overfilled tables.

"I've never seen the place this crowded," a 20-something man said to his friend as they stood in the entrance, surveying the scene of the Hooters in Islandia.

A blonde "Hooter's girl" -- as the waitresses are called -- whose shift has just ended, said what many waiting in the crowd don't want to hear: "I don't think you guys are gonna get in here tonight. People aren't gonna get up 'til the fights are over."

The fight card features five bouts, headlined by a middle weight title fight between champion Anderson "The Spider" Silva and Dan Henderson. The crowd is excited to see whether the tough veteran Henderson can beat the seemingly unstoppable Silva, or if he will fall victim to Silva's powerful, flowing offense, once deemed by UFC color commentator Joe Rogan as a "ballet of violence."

Filling up restaurants in New York and selling out arenas in the 32 states that sanction mixed martial arts, the UFC is thriving years after then Arizona Senator John McCain condemned the sport as "human cock fighting."

One man who has been a fierce proponent of the sport of mixed martial arts well before the first UFC even was held in Colorado in 1993 is Dante Purita. In 2006 he took control of the "Unified Martial Arts Jiu-Jitsu" gym in Shirley -- a small gym off William Floyd Parkway. He took over from two friends who previously ran the gym. It's sandwiched between a deli and the Shirley Nail and Spa. The location in a small suburban shopping center seems out of place -- not unlike mixed martial arts itself, which has had a meteoric rise to become one of the country's most popular sports.

Purita has been cross-training -- practicing and mastering multiple different disciplines under the martial arts banner -- since the 1980s. "When I first came here my intentions was to cross-train [students]," he said. But as it has been since main stream martial arts training began, different people decide to train for different reasons. "Certain amount of cliental look for cross-training, adults come in for self defense, and you have parents sign up their kids for discipline and work ethic."

Purita has trained with the first family of Jiu-Jitsu, the Gracies. Gracie jui-jitsu is an adapted version of traditional Japanese jui-jitsu that was modified by members of the Gracie family in

Brazil in the early 1900s. Today the name is synonymous with submission fighting, and is used by many of the worlds top fighters. Purita has also been involved in seminars with one of mixed martial arts longest running superstars, Frank Shamrock. On March 29, Shamrock competed in one of the most anticipated MMA events ever not under the UFC banner when he fought Cung Le in San Jose. He also holds victories over big names such as Tito Ortiz and Bas Rutten.

Purita opened his own gym in St. James in the early '90s, but eventually took over the Unified Martial Arts gym years later.

Today's mixed martial artist is different from those who fought during the original era. After the initial events in 1993, the UFC was blacklisted because it was thought to be too brutal, and not enough rules were in place. Fights were no longer televised on Pay Per View, and many states refused to regulate the sport. The company barely held on. But today it is the shining light of the mixed martial arts scene.

In May 2001, a landmark event occurred in the sport. The New Jersey State Athletic Control Board "drafted and adopted rules known as the Unified Rules of Mixed Martial Arts under which the sport is now governed," according to MMAfacts.com, a website recently launched by the UFC to tout the sport in hopes of getting it sanctioned in New York state. This led to other state athletic commissions sanctioning the sport, and allowed it to be put on Pay Per View again. To date the New York State Athletic Commission has not sanctioned MMA. Those wishing to see the events live still need to travel to the Mohegan Sun in Connecticut or to the Meadowlands in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

In the year 2007, the average UFC gate revenue drew \$2.8 million, according to MMAfacts.com, with the majority of events taking place in Las Vegas. The sport as a whole has taken off since the New Jersey State Athletic Commissions rulings, and gyms and sparring centers like Purita's have sprung up all over the country.

Purita's gym is rather small. Walk in past the quaint office directly on the left where Sensei spends his time before the evening classes begin, and you see the raised up floor covered with mats where the action takes place. The wall running down the right side of the gym is covered in full length mirrors. The wall directly across the room is adorned with an American and Japanese flag. Against the back wall sits assorted gloves, pads and punching dummies. A basket sits in the far left corner, holding various poles and weapons.

"All those weapons over there are basically modeled after farmers tools," said Josh, a student in his mid-20s from Bay Shore who has been training for four months. "The poor farmers trained to fight because they were tired of the big armies coming in and killing. Really getting into the history of the art is great."

Josh's training doesn't extend far beyond his weekly sessions with Purita. He has a young

child at home who takes up most of his time. He still enjoys the workout and discipline he receives by coming down to the gym every week.

Along with Josh, two other men are training on this night with Sensei Purita. Joe, wearing the same yellow belt and white outfit as Josh, and Chuck, a Judo competitor, wearing a blue outfit and blue belt.

The workouts began with multiple stretching exercises and cardio workouts. After completing that, one-on-one drills began. Sensei Purita paired up with Josh, and Joe paired up with Chuck. Each pair came together, locked at the elbows, and ended with a judo leg sweep.

"You can knock me down," Chuck said to Joe.

"Okay."

"Nice," Chuck said while flat on his back. They stood up again.

"Damn," he muttered the second time his back landed flat on the mat.

The striking drills continued. The three students stood next to each other, throwing various strikes as the Sensei barked out orders. Left round house kicks. Right hooks. Spinning back fists. Body parts in perpetual motion thrusting through the air, creating "swish" sounds as the air tried to resist. Ten of each strikes, spread just seconds apart. Sensei counted out each one, yelling out the numerals in Japanese.

Their attention then turned to another part of martial arts, one that is often overlooked. Defense. Among all mixed martial arts events sanctioned by state athletic commissions in the United States, only one death has ever occurred directly related to an in ring incident. Sam Vazquez died late last year after an event in Houston's Toyota Center, which also houses the NBA's Houston Rockets.

Each man ran through his set of strikes, his partner using his arms and legs to block the damage.

"Oh!" Joe winced in pain after catching Chuck's forearm in the ribs. "Yeah, you caught me with the edge of your forearm."

Sensei ended the drill and the partners switched places. "Well, now it's your turn," he told Joe. "Pay him back." They laughed, and the two men shook hands, exchanged apologies, and continued on.

The combatants went back and forth, and with each solid strike and every hard fall to the mat, the momentary grimaces were quickly replaced with smiles.

Sensei soon brought a stop to this routine, and the three men stood shoulder to shoulder, staring intently at their teacher. He called Josh forward first, and as quickly as Sensei took hold of his wrist, he was on his back tapping the mat furiously, trying to end the quick and sudden shot of pain. One by one, Sensei walked towards his students, and one by one, they all went to the mat tapping.

The men squared off once again and attempted to implement this new hold on each other. Josh grabbed Chuck and spun his arm behind his back, to no avail.

"Were you going really light?," Chuck asked him.

"Yeah."

"Try again, put some more pressure."

"Okay."

"Ah, ah, yeah, you got it," Chuck said while grunting in pain.

After Chuck was able to pick himself up off the ground, Sensei approached him again, demonstrating another submission.

"Wow, that looked painful," Joe said as he watched his training partner squirm in pain. "I'm sure I'll find out for sure in a second, actually," he quickly added.

As the men finished up training with their Sensei, he bowed out of the mat and attended to a few other people in the waiting area. But his students continued to work, doing push-ups, more stretches. Those who train in mixed martial arts know the training never stops.

With the booming popularity of the sport, there will always be someone bigger, stronger, faster. But hard work and discipline, two core fundamentals of the ancient arts, and training in small gyms is still enough for those looking to focus their energy, and not looking to become a superstar.

On the big screen televisions, where the current superstars are worshipped by the masses, Anderson Silva takes down Dan Henderson and lands on his back. He quickly slips one arm under Henderson's chin and begins squeezing the air out of him. Henderson turns purple before finally succumbing and tapping on the mat to end his misery. The crowd erupts. Perhaps they don't truly appreciate all the training that these fighters do, but their interest and money is what pushes more and more young men into mixed martial arts training.

The old and new roots mixed together. That's what will take MMA to the next level.

Women's Rugby Goes Undefeated

By COACH ALI NAZIR
Contributing Writer

Women's rugby finished undefeated in the regular fall season, making it all the way to the final match of the Metropolitan Rugby Union Championship. #1 going into the Divisional Playoffs, they ended their run in the championship final, coming up short in an emotional game against rival University of Marist. Marist ended the year ranked number #2 in the US for Division III.

This spring season the Widows played in high profile tournaments like the Savannah Shamrock's Tournament in Savannah, Ga., where they were competitive against the likes of the University of Michigan and Ohio State University. They played in the Beast of the East Tournament in Providence, R.I., which is the biggest collegiate rugby tournament in the northeast, and advanced to the semi-finals.

In their last contest of the year, the team won the Big Apple Classic Tournament, posting a shutout. Captain Nyoka Pierce, a senior, was awarded the Player of the Tournament Award for 2008. The Big Apple Classic is considered one of the premier tournaments held in the spring. At the after party, Nyoka Pierce was quoted yelling "Spring Break '08," a reoccurring phrase amongst the team. This refers to a week-long rugby tour down south organized by David Hairston of Campus Recreation, which gave the team an opportunity to bond and move beyond the tough defeat they accrued in the final game of the fall season.

The upcoming 2008-2009 year looks promising as well, because of the addition of many new rookies who stepped up to the plate and contributed crucially in the dominant style of rugby. Rookies such as Meagan Border and returning veteran players Amy Drislane and Sophia Qadri are a sure sign of many future victories and titles for Stony Brook University as this team embarks on this new era of rugby.

STATESMAN Sports

Bowling Club Finishes Up First Full Year



The 2007-08 Stony Brook Bowling Club after finishing their season

Photo courtesy of SBU Bowling Club facebook group

By BRIAN MORGAN
Senior Writer

On Tuesday, May 6, the Stony Brook Bowling Club ended its semester with a fun night of pizza, trophies, and of course, bowling.

The club has met every Tuesday night at Port Jefferson Bowl for the last two semesters, growing in size from 12 to 30 members. This semester, the club was divided into ten teams, three people per team, which competed all semester in a handicap scoring league. Ultimately, The Shockers took the honors as the league's best team.

This was my first semester in the club, and my first bowling league in seven years. I was a member of the Shaolin Trio with two friends from high school; we finished in third place. Although we wanted to win, we definitely wouldn't replace the good times that we had.

"There were winners and losers, but everyone had fun" said one of my teammates, John Coffaro, a sophomore cinema and cultural studies student. "Since the SBU bowling club is a handicap league, despite ones average, the chances of winning are unpredictable."

Whether one had a 70 average, a 120 average, or 200 average, the handicap allowed for an even competition. However, the competition element of the league wasn't even evident. Everyone encouraged each other, giving high-fives after strikes and congratulating those who bowled a great game. Not once did I feel

the standings got in the way of having fun.

The Shockers, comprised of Jeffrey Yu, Liz Cox, and Elena Haepner, finished the season as best team in the league. They were consistent every week, and truly deserved the top honor. Perfect 10, comprised of Matt Gosselin, Kendy Wu, and Jeremy Arnoff, finished in second.

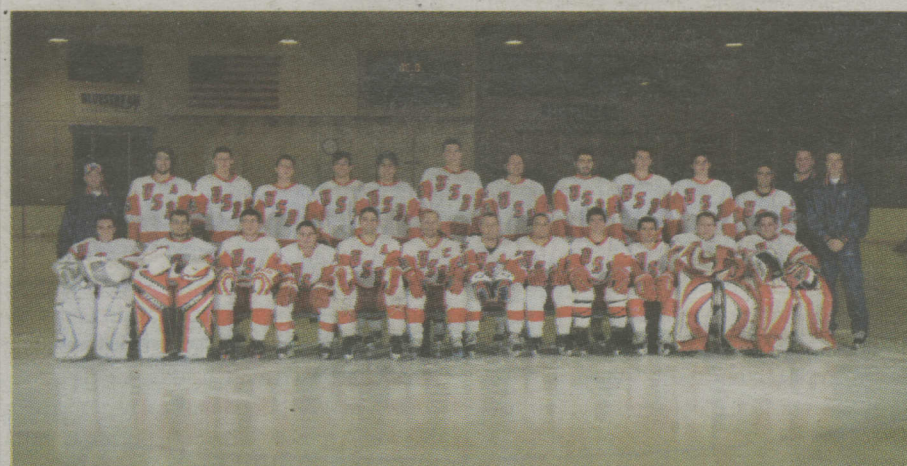
As far as individual achievements, on the men's side, the highest averages went to Jeffrey Yu (207), John Coffaro (185), and Matt Gosselin (180). The top scratch game was a 289, followed a 278 by James Palowski, and a 257 shot by Jeffrey Yu, Matt Gosselin, and Kendy Wu.

On the women's side, the highest averages went to Jennifer Traditi (150), Liz Cox (139), and Elena Hoepner (135). The top scratch games were by Traditi (200), Ann Marie Tedesco (184), and Aisha Breland-Henry (177).

There will be another league in the fall semester, and the president and founder of the club, Jennifer Traditi, encourages new members to join the league. "It's a great way to have fun off campus," said Traditi. "It doesn't matter if you're a good bowler or not, everyone has fun." Port Jefferson Bowl is located 10 minutes away from Stony Brook's campus.

If anyone is interested in joining the league, there is a Facebook group called SBU Bowling Club, with more information. Or you can email Traditi at sunyt73@optonline.net.

Club Ice Hockey Looking to Continue Winning Ways



The 2007-08 Stony Brook Club Ice Hockey Team

(c) 2008 Mark D. Murphy - Lensman

By GENE MORRIS
Sports Editor

Much has already been said in this space about the Stony Brook club ice hockey team. The team finished its season in March after qualifying for the American Collegiate Hockey Association Division I playoffs. The ACHA encompasses all club ice hockey teams in the country, and is divided up into three separate divisions for the men.

This past season was the team's first

in Division I, and they ended up 15th in the country. Led by general manager and current interim head coach Chris Garofalo, the team has been building up a reputation, and even has two players from California.

The team plays its home games at The Rinx in Hauppauge, and will be looking to build on their successful run last year. The season begins in October and runs until about March, depending on how far the team advances in the tournament.

CLUB LACROSSE ENDS INAGURAL SEASON

By SHONTO OLANDER
Sports Editor

Finishing 4-4, Men's club lacrosse fell just short of qualifying for the NCLL playoffs in their first season. The club, with over 25 players, and games against major programs like Hofstra, Brown and Yale, came away with a few surprising wins and a memorable year.

The club's first win came against NYU in a "muddy brawl" on March 1, according to the club's website. The team was lead by Dan Deland's three goals, with Captain Riston Rocchio, Kelvin Leung, Rich Seguritan and Ivan Mak also finding the back of the net in the 7-3 victory. The team followed up with another win the

next day, dropping Brown University 3-1.

"The guys are all great, and it's just great to get out on the field with people I like and play some lacrosse and have some fun," said Rich Krudner, a sophomore goaltender. "I can see the team making the playoffs, and competing for championships in the upcoming years."

With 15 freshman and sophomores on the team, club lacrosse returns a number of players now with a years experience under their belt. "We have lots of potential, we just need to get everything hitting on all cylinders," Krudner said. "If that happens, the playoffs are attainable, and once you get there you never know what's going to happen."