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Prosthetics are all the rage these days. Manipulating robotics to circumvent the motor problems or to simply play video games is overtaking some of the most nuanced biological discoveries. A European Union funded team, which goes by the name of RobotCub, is attempting to evolve robotic technology by treating it like child's play.

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OPINION

Op-Ed: Rethinking Environmental Policy

"Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" is a wise waste management policy and words to live by. However, we also need to "Rethink" our approaches to environmental policy and the role of government in its enforcement.

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Op-Ed: Life As A Physics Student

Coming out of high school I wanted to be a physicist. I was ready to dye my hair grey and let it grow in an unkempt manner. I was ready to question the world under a tree and have a gravitational constant knock me on the head. I was ready to make my contribution to the physical world.

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Letter: We Need Your Vote

We would like to remind students that the Undergraduate Student Government is holding elections this week on SOLAR from Monday, April 28, to Friday, May 2, at noon.

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Campus Network Tends To University's Deserted Cats



April Warren / SB Statesman

Vice-President of Stony Brook Cat Network Christina Dheel shows off one of the cat "houses."

BY APRIL WARREN
Staff Writer

The gray sky seems to hang lower and lower as the threat of rain grows. A fair-skinned female, dressed in dark blue denim jeans and a plum colored, thigh-length pea coat walks out of the Student Activities Center. She's sporting thick-rimmed glasses and her hair is pulled away from her face in a perfect French braid.

She strides toward the Zebra path, now painted red and white to mark Stony Brook University's 50th anniversary. She scurried, so engrossed in discussing the task ahead of her. Slinking past the Stony Brook Union, the blur of plum heads to a little patch of woods just to the right of the H-Quad dormitory.

She then wades through damp brown leaves in search of something.

Suddenly, a heavy wooden box covered in a blue, bubble-wrap tarp pops into view from behind a tree trunk. The tarp helps the box retain the sun's warmth after nightfall. A small, circular hole is cut into the side of the box about four inches from the ground.

She walks over to the box, the top parallel to her hip, and lifts up the lid. "There are no cats today because of the rain," said Christina Dheel, vice-president of the Stony Brook Cat Network.

Dheel points to the hole in the box just above ground level, explaining it allows a cat to enter the straw-lined haven to escape the elements and chow down on the fresh food placed there

daily by the network volunteers. "I guess I would call it a... cat... house," she said, struggling for the proper term.

The network is a campus organization of 342 students and faculty members that "Trap, Neuter and Return" (TNR) both domestic and feral cats living on the Stony Brook University campus. The TNR technique refers to the method with which organizations nationwide hope to control the increasing problem of feral cats.

TNR includes trapping the cats, bringing them to the vet to be neutered -- making them unable to reproduce -- then either releasing them to a family for adoption or returning them to their natural environment.

Continued on page 5

Journalist Dahr Jamail Relates His Experience In Iraq

BY LYNN HSIEH
Editor-in-Chief

In late 2003, Dahr Jamail, a fourth generation Lebanese American journalist, left his comfortable job writing about mountain climbing for an Alaskan newspaper and went to Iraq to cover the war. He went by himself.

With only a laptop and Internet connection, Jamail entered a world of military injustice and "collateral damage" far beyond what the military or embedded journalists acknowledged, he said.

During the lecture held in the Student Activities Center on Apr. 24, he relayed accounts of soldiers with an "altered state of mind," and blurred lines between politics and multinational corporations.

Jamail entered Iraq as an un-embedded, independent journalist with the goal of covering the full truth of the travesties committed by the U.S. military, he said.

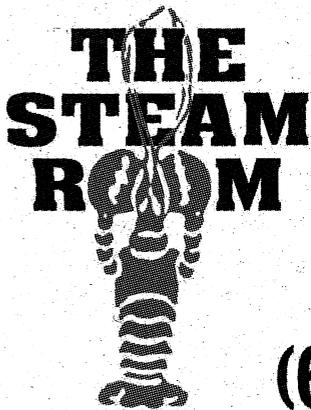
In Iraq for eight months between November 2003 and February 2005, Jamail wrote about the "wave of propaganda" spread by the U.S. government to justify their involvement in Iraq as "successful." Although not outright lies, the improvements made by the United States were in fact, he said, hurting the Iraqis more than they were helping. For instance, Jamail mentioned a widely used statistic by the government: the fact that about 30,000 Iraqis have returned home since the invasion. Jamail continued, and explained the facts behind this number.

The large trend in returned Iraqis was not because of improvements in society or the government. In fact, most Ira-

Continued on page 3

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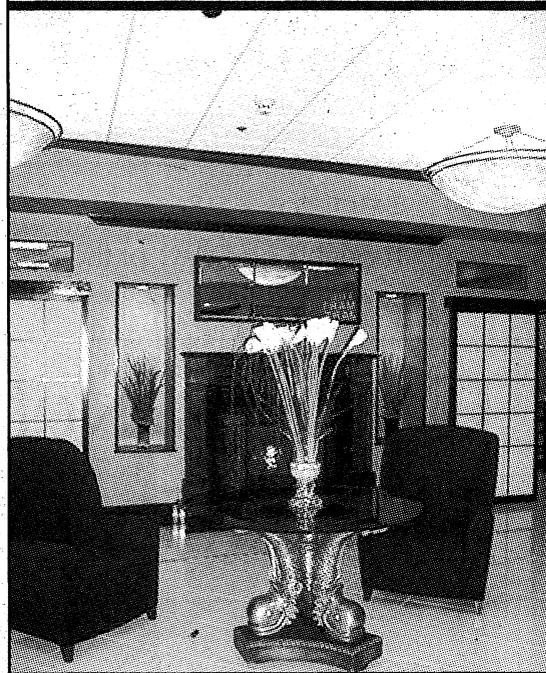


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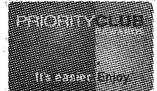
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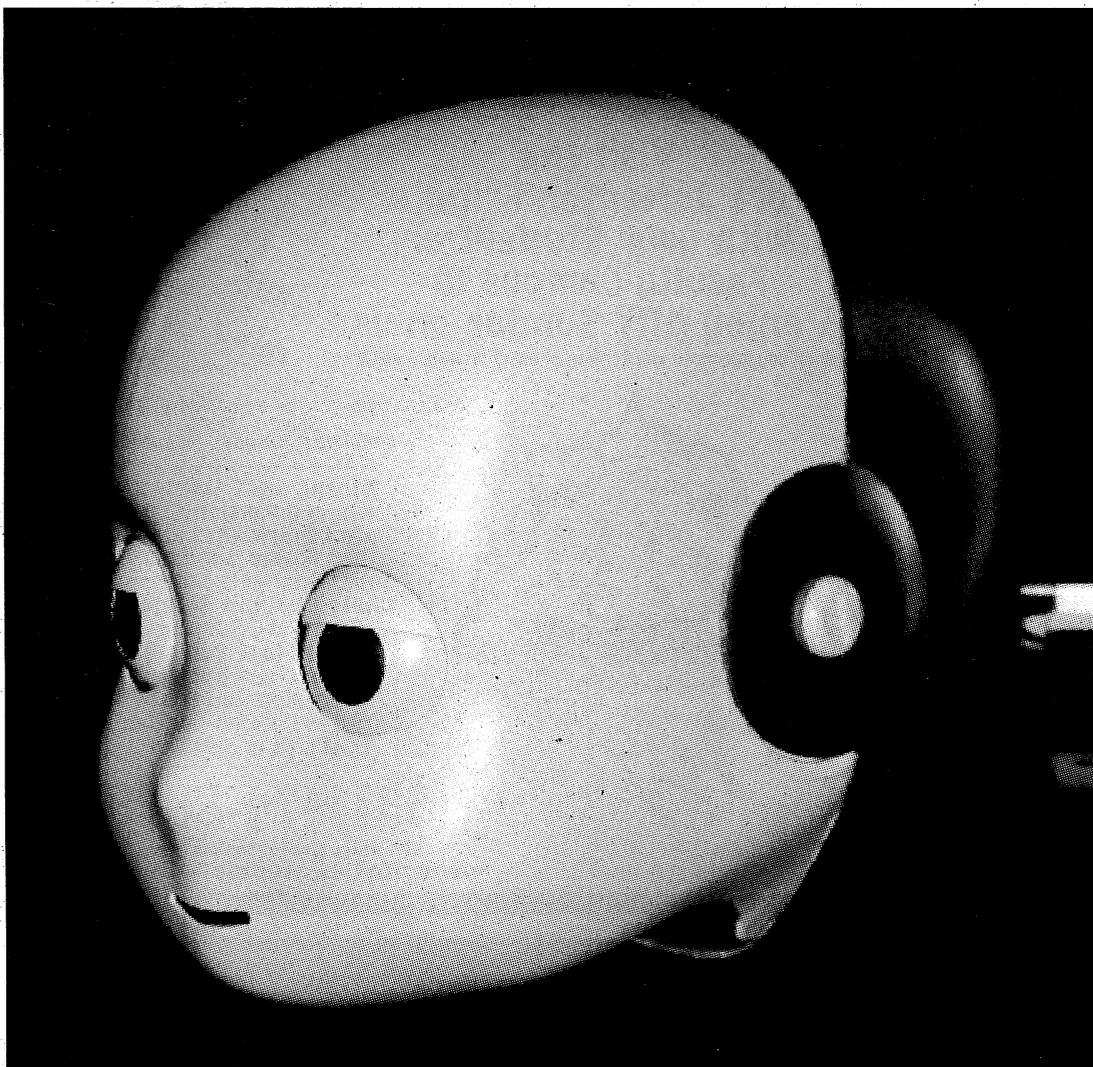
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Wired Science Robots: Child's Play



Experimental head for iCub

Courtesy of <http://birg.epfl.ch>

By TEJAS GAWADE
Editor Emeritus

Prosthetics are all the rage these days. Manipulating robotics to circumvent the motor problems or to simply play video games is overtaking some of the most nuanced biological discoveries. A European Union funded team, which goes by the name of RobotCub, is attempting to evolve robotic technology by treating it like child's play.

The team's joint effort has managed to produce the modularly-designed robot, iCub. About the size of a three-year-old child, they are dexterous with their hands and demonstrate full articulation with their heads and eyes. They can hear and touch, while managing to crawl on all fours or even sit upright. The team behind iCub wants to develop the robot's cognition by mimicking the action of others, which is how young children learn.

Six iCubs have been now produced and will be sent to each of six different European laboratories.

The projects proposed several interesting goals before they

were selected. One of these, in particular, has been proposed by the Imperial College of London and will study "mirror neurons" for their translation into a digital application. Mirror neurons, still a recently discovered phenomenon, trigger old memories when human try to understand others' physical actions.

On the other hand, a team at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, will be studying the iCub's cognitive architecture. Another team at the University of Pierre and Marie Curie in Paris will investigate the dynamics needed for full body control in the iCub.

Scientists at the Technical University of Munich will be working on developing iCub's manipulation skills. A team at the University of Lyons will study internal simulation techniques. These entail the intense activity in the brain when it plans to perform an action or attempts to understand someone else's actions.

The sixth team, at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, will be concentrating its work on language acquisition and iCub's ability to connect objects to

verbal utterances.

In relation to the selection of the six teams, Giorgio Metta of the University of Genoa, was quoted as saying that "The six winners had to show they could really use and maintain the robot, and secondly the project had to exploit the capabilities of the robot. Looking at the proposals from the winners, it was clear that if we gave them a robot we would get something in return."

The hardware and software of iCub is not expected to change for at least the next 18 months. In fact, by October of this year, the researchers plan to put out a robot capable of analyzing its surrounding information and feel "senses." This way, iCub will be able to gain some crude grasping behavior, including reaching outwards and closing its fingers around a given object. The researchers plan to create 15 to 20 more iCubs once the first six are underway.

The project is unique in not just its conception, but also in the way that it is being carried. Having more than one team of researchers working on it, allows for better layering of knowledge and better information-sharing.

Journalist Dahr Jamail Relates His Experience in Iraq

Continued from pg 1

qis who returned home did so because of less noble reasons. Most simply ran out of money while others had visa problems. He added that a minimum of 4.9 million people was displaced from their homes with a other four million people in need of aid. Both numbers never mentioned by the government.

Jamail also recounted tales of the horrible things the American military did.

"At the time of the invasion, Fallujah welcomed the Americans," Jamail said. But three weeks later, residents protested when U.S. forces occupied an elementary school. Classes were scheduled to begin the next day, and they wanted their children to attend school. The outcome of this protest was gunfire, and 17 people were killed, Jamail said.

That day also marked the birth of the resistance movement in Fallujah, he said, with hostilities escalating as the military brought in U.S. contractors to help. "I prefer to call them mercenaries because that's what they are. They literally raped and pillaged."

But the soldiers were not only ones to blame. Most were in an "altered state of mind." They were soldiers too young for such

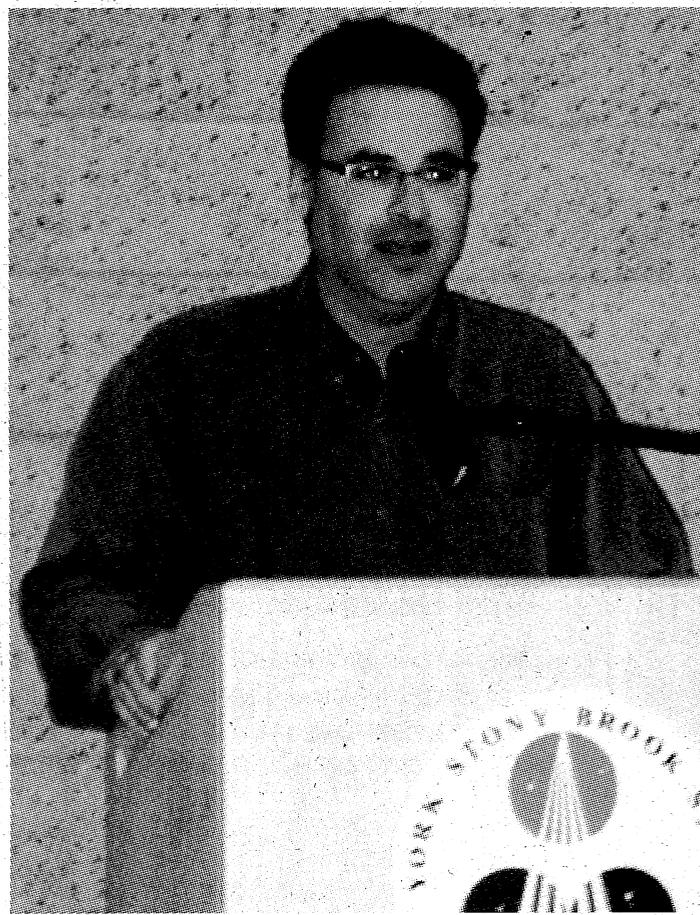
a heavy burden.

The military was also lacking in various ways, Jamail said, by forcing soldiers to go out in raids without interpreters, maps or any sense of direction. Soldiers were told to round up suspects, and they had to come back with suspects, even when they raided the wrong house. "We were always pissed off and hated the Iraqis," and we "assumed everyone was out to kill you," said one soldier that Jamail said he interviewed.

In his lecture, Jamail also mentioned the close relationship between the government and corporations, citing Dick Cheney as the best example, with Halliburton.

He also mentioned his invited testimony before the World Tribunal on Iraq in June where he said he described the rampant torture and mistreatment of detainees, the lack of any semblance of a health care system in Iraq and the summary of "on the ground" conditions in Iraq after over two years of occupation.

Jamail has been recognized as an important media source and his reports have been published with The Nation, The Sunday Herald, Islam Online, the Guardian, and Foreign Policy in Focus. He also reports for Democracy Now! and the BBC.



Aisha Akhtar / SB Statesman

Dahr Jamail addresses Stony Brook students on April 24.



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- G. Special consideration will be given to current DoIT student employees

Campus Network Tends To University's Deserted Cats

Continued from pg 1

"It's a great idea if you love cats, and it's a great idea if you hate cats because we are reducing the number of cats," said Dr. Nancy Franklin, psychology professor at the university and head faculty advisor to the network.

Across the United States, TNR is practiced by thousands of individuals and hundreds of organizations, according to Alley Cat Allies, a national, non-profit organization advocating non-lethal methods of reducing the outdoor cat population.

The goal of using TNR on campus is not to eliminate the entire cat population. Instead, the goal is to make way for the next generation. According to Franklin, it would be impossible to rid the entire campus of feral cats.

There are currently more than 16 million feral cats sashaying across the United States, according to the Nassau County Legislator's webpage.

As a result, more and more areas nationwide are turning to TNR to help control the problem.

"There is an epidemic on Long Island," said Dawn Reilly, a representative of Pitter Patter Paws, just one organization that makes up the Long Island Cat Project. The current problem of feral cats on Long Island is a result of previous generations letting their animals run loose without being spayed or neutered, according to Reilly.

New York is starting to try to tackle the problem. "The Legislature will look into the adoption of New York City's law of mandatory spaying and neutering of pets, starting a county registry of volunteers, and the implementation of a TNR program," said Nassau County legislator Diane Yatauro (D-Glem Cove) in a legislators' news release on the county's webpage.

But with so many wooded areas on the Stony Brook University campus, the network's task of counting how many cats are on campus year to year is impossible.

"What we do know is that we have far fewer cats walking into traps than we did in the first several years," said Franklin. "In some ways we're operating on blind faith that we're achieving a long-term humane solution to this problem."

The Stony Brook network is part of the Animal Alliance of Long Island, which works with animal shelters, individuals, and rescue organizations to find homes for feral or abandoned animals. The Long Island Cat Project is a division of the alliance.

Unlike other organizations across the island, however, the network only deals with cats on campus.

At the university, before a cat is released, a small v-notch is cut in its ear so that if it is trapped again, the volunteers know it has already been neutered. If a cat with a v-notch is caught, it is released back onto the campus.

But all of this could not happen without the first step -- setting the trap.

Dheel walks to the right of the wooden cathouse to a rectangular, metal-mesh box just tall enough for a cat to walk into. She lifts the latch on top of the cage, and then presses her hand against a metal plate

that covers the entrance. The plate moves down to the floor, leaving the doorway wide open.

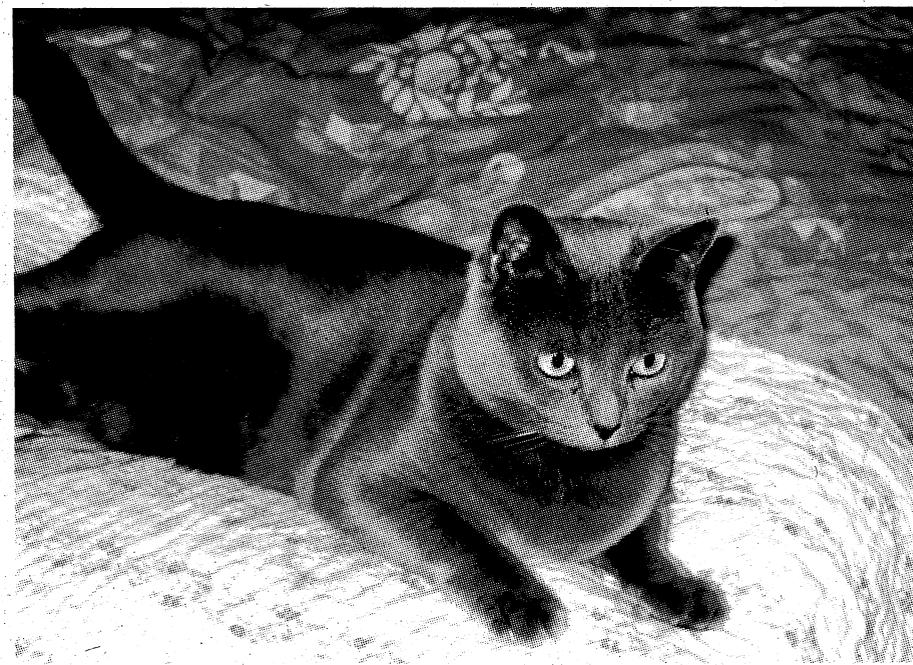
The trapper fills the white, Styrofoam bowl inside with Tasty Treasures dry cat food and places it at the back of the trap. One side of the bowl is missing. Dheel explains that if no cat food is left, a trapped, nervous cat might eat part of the bowl.

She points to another plate just in front of the bowl. "If the cat steps here, it will trigger the door to close," said Dheel. "But the cat is so far inside the trap at this point he won't get hurt."

She sprinkles catnip in the trap and throughout the surrounding area to entice the cats.

Turning to face the dorms, she bounds out of the woods, moving fast enough so the damp leaves don't soak her jeans.

"Most of the stations are not this close to an area where students can easily see them," said Dheel. This is because students have been known to steal traps and because cats



Anna Floyd

Blossom, a cat Dr. Nancy Franklin, head faculty advisor to the Cat Network, rescued. Blossom (also called Bloss-Bloss) now lives with a graduate student at the university.

will not approach a station that is situated too close to humans.

There are six trapping stations on campus, but usually only one is set each day because there are only 15 trappers. All are willing to try and balance the cats with their homework.

The stations are also usually quite far from the center of the campus. Trapping stations are located, behind the soccer fields, in H-Quad, behind the West Apartments and near Tabler Quad. There are 35 feeding stations set up across campus.

A trapper will open the trap in the morning, check back in the early afternoon to see if a cat has been caught, and then close the trap around 6:30 p.m. If the trap is closed too late, a raccoon might wander in because raccoons are also attracted to cat food.

Scenes like this occur 365 days a year on the Stony Brook campus going back to the early 1990s when Chris Saporita, -- a graduate student at Stony Brook and now a prominent Brooklyn environmental attorney -- along with several other students,

formed the Student Action Coalition for Animals.

Most cats on campus, though, are not feral. Feral cats are the wild offspring of domestic cats, according to the Feral Cat Coalition. They are domestic cats that have been abandoned because their owners don't want them or can't take care of them.

A nationwide telephone survey conducted by Alley Cat Allies revealed 81 percent of adults would rather release an unwanted cat into the wild than euthanize him or her.

"Dumping your cat is just plain cruel," said Franklin. "You take an animal that lacks skills to fend for itself and you subject it to a whole range of dangers."

Franklin has been involved with the project since the Student Action Coalition for Animals first caught her eye.

"It was from Chris I learned both how big the problem is on campus and how to do TNR," said Franklin.

Since the 1990s, 269 cats -- including

kitten. She drove back to campus, set up the trap and then left to kill some time.

As Franklin approached the trap several hours later, she heard a thrashing noise. What Franklin at first thought to be a rabbit, turned out to be the kitten.

She raced home to her cottage, kitten in tow. Once home, the kitten dashed under the couch in Franklin's spare room and refused to wander from her new cave while Franklin was around until one month later.

The kitten -- now named Blossom, after a friend's favorite cartoon character -- lives with a graduate student.

A cat can't be placed with a family until it's been neutered and Franklin decides it's ready for domestic life. That's when the cats' pictures are posted on the network's website for adoption.

The network also posts photos of the adoptable cats on Petfinder.com, a website where cat lovers from across the country can search for pets. Families have come to adopt cats found on the Stony Brook campus from as far away as Connecticut, New Jersey and Virginia.

Between trapping, feeding, and searching for good homes, keeping the network going isn't an easy task. The Undergraduate Student Government slashed the network's 2007-08 budget. It suffered a loss of \$1,354. The government could not be reached before deadline.

Saving felines is also time consuming. "It's a lot of work," said Dheel. Volunteers like Dheel have busy lives. Before trapping in the wilds of the Stony Brook campus on a wet afternoon, Dheel spends two-and-a-half hours at Stony Brook University Medical Center. The biochemistry major, who dreams of being a doctor one day, volunteers in the Neurology Department, placing labels on blood samples and updating the computer databases. "I joined the network because I wanted to do something completely different," she said.

The sophomore from New Jersey credits her own cat with inspiring her. Dheel found the brown tabby she named Dreyfus, in PetSmart. He is blind in one eye. "No one else wanted him so we figured we'd take him," she said.

Dheel, along with the rest of the network has made an impact on the four-legged orphans roaming about the university campus. And although the primary goal of the network is to get all the cats off campus and into good homes, sometimes this is not possible.

For example, behind the Administration building, tucked safely in the hedges resides Seamus and Bongo, two large, orange feral cats that are "too wild to work with," according to Franklin. When humans step too close, the cats run -- forcing Franklin to leave their names off the adoptable pets list permanently.

The network is also in need of homes for the older cats pictured on the website.

"We have sweet adults," said Franklin. "Someone who may not be adorable and tiny, but who still needs a home."

Any inquiries about TNR or feral cat across Long Island should be directed to the Long Island Cat Project (www.licp.org)

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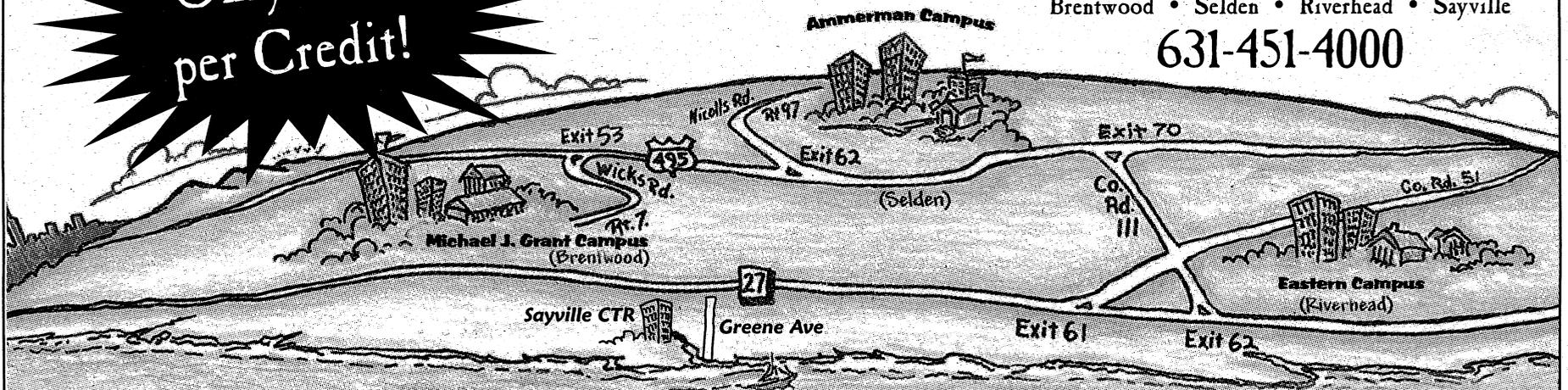
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BATTLE OF THE BANDS: The Finals



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THE BAND MEMBERS OF MOTHER F'NATURE FROM TOP LEFT CLOCKWISE: DAN WORTLEY, MAX TIEZE, DAN MARTINGANO, PATRICE ZAPITI AND JOE CACIOLA

By IVANNA AVALOS
Staff Writer

On a cool Thursday night the black box theatre in the Tabler Arts Center was crowded with anxious, energized students awaiting the announcement of the SSO and ACH Councils's first Battle of the Bands

finalists.

As the judges deliberated, tickets were drawn for the third and final raffle of the evening. After the iTunes \$15 gift card and Staller Center tickets were raffled out, the judges had come to a decision.

Continued on page 11

A Campus Lifetime Event: Dance Wars Stun Audience

By KWAME OPAM
Staff Writer

Throngs of students, faculty and staff assembled on the lawn of the Staller Center plaza to witness the first, annual "Dancing with SBU Stars" event during Campus Lifetime on Wednesday, April 23.

The event, sponsored by the Commuter Student Association, Residence Hall Association, and the Dean of Students office, was the first of its kind to be held in during the 10-day long Shirley Strum Kenny Arts Festival.

Sitting in the audience, Sarah Young, Director of Student Activities, said, "I think it's going to be a great event. It's a good idea to have faculty and staff to participate in a student event."

The event started at 1 p.m., and featured the talents of the Stony Brook University Dance Team, as well as such notables as Philosophy Department Chair and Professor Dr. Robert P. Crease and SBVAC President and 2007 Homecoming Queen Patricia Ng.

The show was themed after ABC's popular program "Dancing with the Stars," with one twist. The dancers were divided into two teams, Team Stein and Team Fiore, named after faculty members and friendly rivals, Dean of Students Jerrold Stein and Director of Athletics Jim Fiore.

"It's a fun day out, and we wanted to put on an event for Campus Lifetime and make sure the campus gets involved," Sushma Gaddam, a member of the Ballroom Dance Team, said. "I think events like this are important because students complain that there's not enough going on on campus."

The Dance Team worked hard to bring the performance together, said dancer Nathalie Morales, working around students' schedules and practicing for

three weeks. They also accounted for the unexpected. Langmuir RHD and RHA Advisor Melissa Mastrogiovanni was a late stand-in. She learned her routine in the space of an hour.

Each team competed in four dance categories: Foxtrot, tango, rumba, and cha-cha. Dancers from each team would step out onto the stage and show their dancing chops (and occasionally lose shoes) for the judges and audience. Afterwards, the judges -- Assistant Dean of Students Jeff Barnett, Sister Margaret Ann Landry of Campus Ministry, and Assistant VP of Communications Yvette St. Jacques -- would give positive feedback for the performers, complimenting their style, grace, and "hip action."

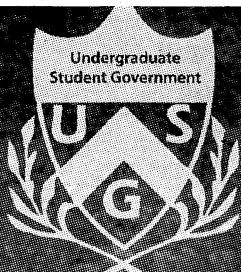
Sister Margeret Landry lauded the spectacle. "This is such an exciting event," she said. "Something that will live on as a tradition at Stony Brook."

After the main event, the audience was allowed to vote for their favorite team while the performers went on with the show in an exhibition of swing and jive. With the votes cast, Team Fiore came out on top to much applause.

Yesenia Gomez, an audience member, was most impressed with the Foxtrot. She saw the whole event as something that could bring people on campus together.

Navneet Singh, a senior, President of the Dance Team and member of Team Stein, was pleased with the show. "I thought it was great. We definitely didn't expect as many people as we had," Singh said. "We knew it would be popular, but we didn't expect this. We're really happy to see everybody come out, and the greatest thing is that everybody seemed to enjoy themselves."

Dean of Students Jerrold Stein took his loss in stride, more impressed with seeing the growing community of students. "I don't mind losing this event for the first time... it feels good that I won by seeing the crowd out there."



Undergraduate Student Government

ELECTIONS

APRIL 28TH - MAY 2ND

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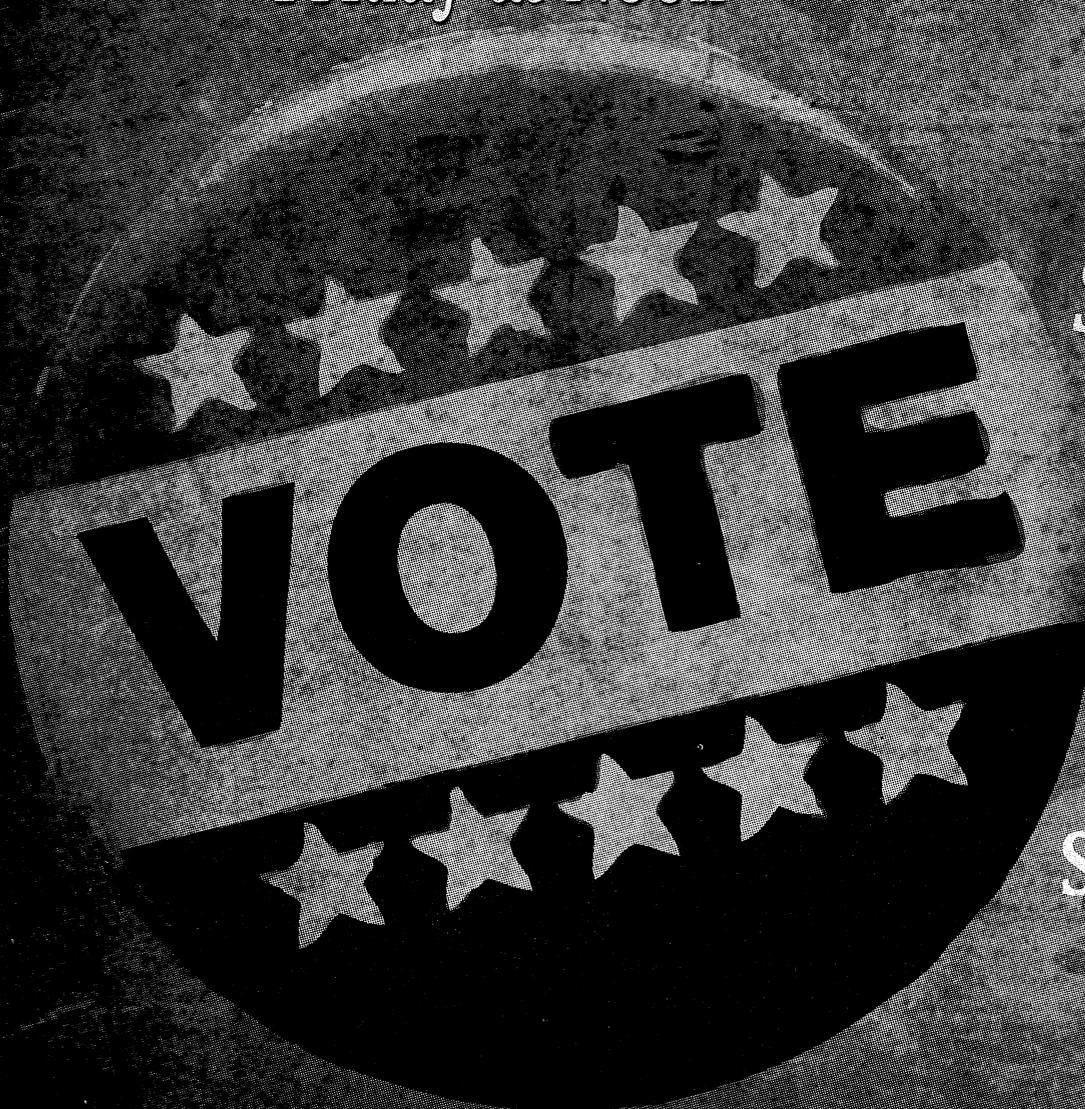
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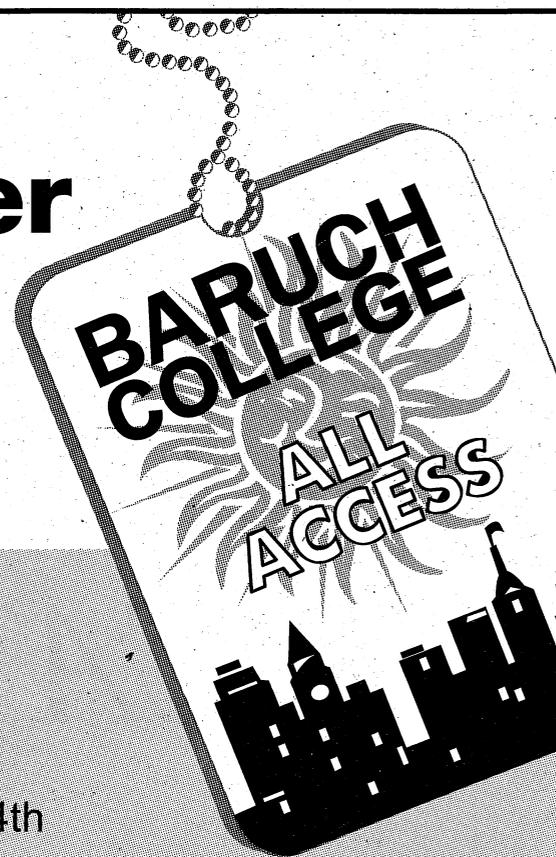
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The Finals

Continued from page 7

The room grew with anticipation as the judges passed on the results to Jen Green, undergraduate college advisor for Arts, Culture, and Humanities. There had been much build up to that moment, the closing of Stony Brook University's first Battle of the Bands.

The night started off slow, with people slowly lingering into the room as a slide of performances from the semi-finals appeared on a projector and music played while the first band started setting up. Sometime after 8 p.m. the first band, Honus Wagner, started with their set. Unlike the semi-finals, the finals was hosted by somewhat of a popular figure here on

audience was so close to the stage that they were eye to eye with the band.

With the last performance of the evening, Mother F'Nature did not have the smoothest set. The band had a few technical difficulties, including an amplifier that blew out, but in spite of these difficulties the band performed an adrenaline pumping set. While the lead singer attempted to fix the feedback on her green, acoustic-electric guitar, the crowd chanted "NATURE, NATURE," showing their support for the band.

Honus Wagner was second runner-up, Thursday was Cloudy was first runner-up and Mother F'Nature won first place. Regardless of the results, each band brought something interesting and new to the stage. Each had their own personal musi-



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RUNNER UP, THURSDAY WAS CLOUDY PICTURED ABOVE

Long Island, a radio disc jockey from WBAB 102.3.

One of the judges, Perry Goldstein, said he is looking for "interesting, original composed music" and "impressive levels of musicality" from the performers. The other judges included MTV producer Scott Segal, radio host Mark "the Animal" Mendoza, Paul Bingham, professor of biochemistry, Joanna Souza, and James Faith.

The bassist played on a red Fender Jaguar bass and the guitarist played an oak brown Gibson electric, while the drummer belted out the bands six songs of the night. The second band to perform was Thursday Was Cloudy. They started their set with a high energy intro that was a great way to get the audience pumped to hear them. They performed their new single, "Retreat, Retreat" off their self-titled album.

As the night went on, the crowd had doubled and their intensity was higher and moved closer to the stage. By the time Mother F'Nature went up to perform the

cal style and great talent.

It is clear that the Battle of the Bands is an event on campus that has gained a lot of popularity among the students on campus. It provides a great outlet for anyone on campus who is interested in playing music either as a hobby or to begin a career. It brings together a group of diverse individuals who share a common interest in music and that was evident in the energy in the room that night.

Each of the competing bands have their music available on MySpace. Check them out at the following addresses:

Thursday was Cloudy
www.myspace.com/thursdaywascloudy

Honus Wagner
www.myspace.com/honuswagnertrio

Mother F'Nature
www.myspace.com/motherfnature

POETS' CORNER

Port Jeff Ferry

By Jon Plaisted
 Staff Writer

Where's she going?

The universe must move slowly...

For tonight, the moon's the same

old brass-cold moon, above

the ferry boat that takes her

from me again into the empti-

ness, across the unmapped sea

that does not move.

I imagine her again sitting,

on a slow ferry that glides,

her hands knitting, twisting

soft yarn into something warm,

both hands reaching and touching,

in repeatable gestures, while her heart

like the moon, barely noticeable,

beats its little story.

These are not questions but:

can she feel me holding out

my arms in the crisp November

night? Can she feel my presence

beside her, my hand on her thigh-

preoccupied? I can see her dark hair

and eyes, the blackness

in those glances that keep

coming back for me,

her dream deepening,

her knitting coming loose...

unraveling...like the unmapped

parts in me not touched in

so long, those strange

sweetnesses...the places

where she's gone.



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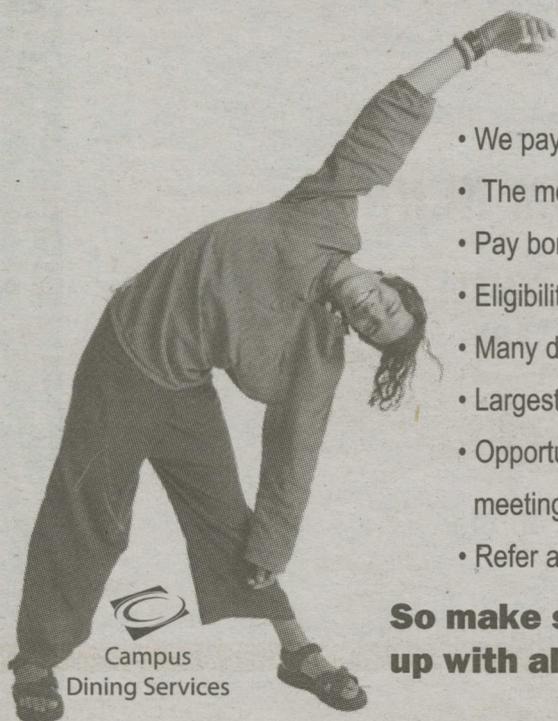
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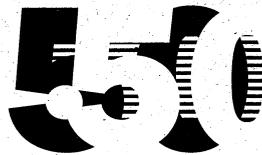
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POETS' CORNER

We as a Nation/ Who Are?

By Madgestic
Staff Writer



Courtesy of Louisville.edu

We are super heroes in our own minds

We are superheroes who supposedly make 3rd worlds better and fine

We are in denial of what is going on, and what we really do

We are ego/centric on how we hurt other places, except for us very few

We are deemed the strong/est, when in actuality we are weak

We distract our ignorant with our as/i/nine media, and keep'm busy enough so that no one will have the time to speak

We've sta/ined the complexions of some with our very silly notions

We've forgotten all that we've done/still doing, and no one is putting anything into motion

How can we "take care" of others if we choose not to SIN/CE/RELY take care of our own

How can we say our place is "free" if we won't say to our new brothers and sisters welcome home

How can we make things better if most of us who can, simply choose not to see

How can we evolve as a Nation when sim/ple human needs always come with expensive fees

How can we get wiser if no consideration is given to our veterans and our old

How can our Nation get better if we're teaching the young lies and showing them hypo/cri/ti/cal ways to unfold

Things are getting better but not at a fast enough pace

Everything seems ok, but some truths are hid/den, is our Nation getting bet/ter? Are good ideas going to waste?

...

I should do what was taught to me/ keep it move'n/be in denial

And lie to supposed "enemies" / "evil doers" with a smile

...

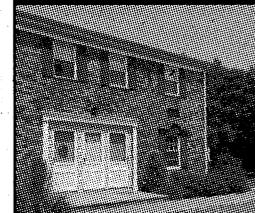
Maybe in the end e/very/thing has nothing to do with me

But if everyone thinks this way, then in a couple of years/months/ days, where the HELL will our Nation be?

We/ are/ young...

But I'm almost ashamed to admit that these are things that deeply just worry me

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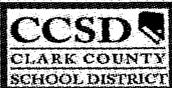
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The Statesman is published twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the fall and spring semesters.

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Rethinking Environmental Policy

By ZACHARY KURTZ
Columnist

"Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" is a wise waste management policy and words to live by. However, we also need to "Rethink" our approaches to environmental policy and the role of government in its enforcement.

Government organizations, implemented by legislation or executive order, tend to be large and intrusive. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), for example, has largely been a positive motivator for environmental awareness. This large federal bureaucracy, however, also uses its power to violate states rights. Back in February, the EPA blocked 16 states from raising fuel economy standards for new cars, with unreasonable justification. Presumably, EPA administrators were trying to shield automakers from environmental responsibility.

Though, thankfully, this type of abuse of power is not too frequent. But the fact that any federal agency not administrated by elected officials has this level of authority is worrisome. Further-

more, it is against the spirit of the Constitution to forbid states from making their own environmental policy, especially when that policy would tend to improve the environment.

Without federal agency to police our treatment of the environment, how would we ensure a healthy planet? One effective idea could be to implement property law. The idea that the role of government is to protect individual's private property is set into the Constitution. However, what constitutes property? Certainly the land we build our houses on, but also the air we breathe and the water we draw from our wells and reservoirs are also private property. This is private property that can be greatly affected by other individuals and as such, must be monitored by the public.

If some corporation dumped its garbage in the backyards of private homes, they could be tried under the domain of destruction of private property. Similarly, if air quality is being compromised by smoke stack emissions, this

Continued on page 19

Life As a Physics Student

By JOSH SEIDMAN
Op-Ed Contributor

Coming out of high school I wanted to be a physicist. I was ready to dye my hair grey and let it grow in an unkempt manner. I was ready to question the world under a tree and have a gravitational constant knock me on the head. I was ready to make my contribution to the physical world.

When I stepped into my first college-level physics course, Classical Physics I Honors, at Stony Brook University, I was definitely knocked on the head, but not by the type of apple I expected.

What hit me can be considered a sort of science, yet it had very little to do with actual major that I am studying. Instead of acquiring knowledge on electromagnetism, circuitry and relativity, I acquired knowledge on how to manipulate a laboratory experiment, a quiz, or even a syllabus so I would get a decent grade without actually understanding the material. To me, this has become the true science

behind being a physics major.

This plan of attack didn't come to me overnight, nor was I its sole creator. Over my two year relationship with physics at a university where the graduate physics department was ranked 22nd in the country in a 2007 U.S. News & World Report's study, this plan of action blossomed. It was during this maturation that I realized I was merely being taught how to pass the courses, rather than how to investigate the world and the physical phenomena that describe its behaviors. As this understanding became clear, I realized that in order to survive this course of study I had to learn the science behind the science of physics.

In the pursuit of a college education in physics, engineering or any of the other major sciences, students like me are becoming a rare species. We stay. We endure. But many others do not. In 2002, North American countries as a whole awarded 122,000 first engineering degrees, Asian

Continued on page 19

A Well-written Article

By DANNI LIU
Contributor

To the editor,

I have just read Arielle Brechisci's recent article, "Stony Brook Campus Safer Than Some Believe," in the April 24 issue. This was actually the first article I've read from Statesman since I entered Stony Brook University, and I really liked the examples and statistics Brechisci provided in the article.

The title of the article drew my attention right away because of its timeliness, proximity and because of it contains human interest.

I believe the security and safety of the campus is a topic that all the students and faculty on campus are concerned about, especially after the "gunman scandal" in late February.

Before reading this article, and just by looking at the title, I expected there to be a lot of pro-type support for the university. To my surprise, however, it contained both pros and cons about the campus' safety. Her statistics seemed fair and unbiased for me, and made me trust her writing.

In the beginning of the article, the interview with Douglas Little, the Assistant Chief of Police, was

reasonable and convincing. It was much better and fairer to let a police officer report about campus safety than a professor or a student.

Moreover, she mentioned the e-mail and text message notifications sent on the day the "gunman" appeared in February. The article said that we need to sign up for the security notifications on the homepage of SBU or we won't receive anything.

I didn't receive any alerts of the "gunman" and I just heard about the scare from my friends. I didn't think too much about it because I figured the university did not have my e-mail address or phone number. However, after reading this news, I realized I need to sign up. So, this information was really useful to me.

Basically, this is a well-written and useful article.

Although there are still some crimes involved on campus, after reading this story I found that the university is actually trying its best to improve the security and safety gradually. Therefore, I decide to trust my campus and give it more encouragement, instead of condemnation.

Danni Liu is a sophomore at Stony Brook University.

We Need Your Vote

By JOHN KRISCENSKI & KATHLEEN SCHULTZ
Contributors

To the editor,

We would like to remind students that the Undergraduate Student Government is holding elections this week on SOLAR from Monday, April 28, to Friday, May 2, at noon.

Both of us are running in this election for the Undergraduate Student Government Senate and are asking for the support of all undergraduate students on campus.

We have ideas that are in touch with the students and clubs on campus and have consistently opposed forcing students to pay for club-sponsored trips out of their own pockets (the 85-15 rule that was nearly enacted by the Senate last fall).

Additionally, we were among the 800 students to vote against the Undergraduate Student Government Constitutional Proposal last fall. Our complete platforms are listed on most of the posting boards on campus for your reference as well as on the ballot itself. Both of us are Independent Senators for Change, and we want to earn your vote.

P.S. Voting is on SOLAR under "Student Elections." The 17 candidates with the highest number of total votes wins.

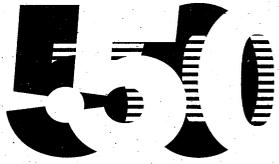
John Kriscenski and Kathleen Schultz are Stony Brook students running for positions in the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Government at Stony Brook University.

Guidelines for Opinion Submission

Letters to the editor or op-ed contributions can be submitted by e-mail at comments@sbstatesman.org, on our online submission tool at www.sbstatesman.org, by hand at our office in the Student Union Rm 057, or by mailing it to us at the address in the left column. They must be received at least two days before the next printed issue. The Statesman reserves the right to edit or not print any letter based on appropriateness, length, timeliness, or other reasons at the discretion of the editorial board. Letters should be no longer than 350 words, and opinion pieces should not exceed 550 words. Please include your full name (which we may withhold if you request it), phone number and email address for verification. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses will not be printed. Letters submitted anonymously or under false names will not be considered for publication.

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Thursday, May 1, 2008, 4:00 pm

Health Sciences Center, Lecture Hall 1

Reception to follow 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm
in Health Sciences Center Galleria, Level 3



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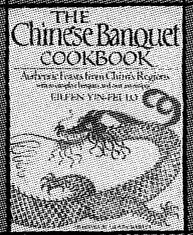
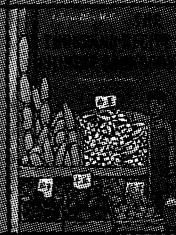
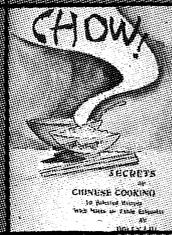
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Rethinking Environmental Policy

Continued from pg 17

compromises the health of individuals. Pollution of the air or water is to threaten of the private individual's right to pursue health and happiness.

The idea of private property is fundamental to civil rights. Every individual has the right to own property and remain relatively undisturbed on that property. However, when one neighbor does something that can threaten the civil liberties of another, it is the government's role to step in.

However, large federal bureaucracy is not needed to mandate the property laws. This has its place in the court system, as was intended by the founding fathers. Environmental monitoring systems and standards could be set up by state and local levels, rather than implementing some blanket plan across a large and diverse nation. The government has a role in funding research into environmental science, but how that research should be applied should be up to the states and communities, thereby avoiding at least some of the corruption and political skew seen in EPA administrators at the federal level.

Additionally, we should rethink the role of federal government in regulating greenhouse gas emissions and coming up with alternative energy solutions.

Cap and trade policy, which sets up a market for carbon emissions trading, is a gross violation of the concept of the free market. In a financial stock market, shares of businesses are traded because there is an incentive to invest when there is money to be made from successful businesses. In carbon emissions trading, the government decides on how to assign monetary value to greenhouse gases. Each company is allowed a certain amount of greenhouse emissions, and then must buy "pollution rights" from another company who has pollution to spare.

The problem with this system is that there is no incentive for trading, only financial punishment. This is a poor ap-

proximation of the free market. In cap and trading systems, prices aren't set by the laws of supply and demand, but by the government. Putting a specific price on carbon emissions requires a lot of research, in order to avoid cap and trade problems such as those seen in Europe. Set too high a price, corporations will needlessly suffer, passing on higher operating costs to the consumers. Set too low a price, and the system is ineffectively expensive.

There is little doubt in my mind that global warming is occurring because, at least in part, of anthropogenic forcings. However, that does not mean that I support government-sponsored hysteria in the matter.

Once again, at the urge of environmentalists, the government has overstepped its bounds in sponsoring alternative fuel sources. Providing subsidies for crop-based ethanol is a bad idea, because there is little market demand for these types of biofuels. They are affordable only with massive taxpayer support, but are economically unfeasible now, in wide scale use. Also, it provides incentive for farmers to turn farmland from food to fuel, driving up prices at the supermarket.

Funding other alternative energy and technology, before the market is ready for them, is a costly risk. Technological solutions to environmental problems will come, but entrepreneurs in the free market must make them, when they are economically sustainable. When government tries to force the hand of the free market too much, the economy weakens.

The most important role the government could have right now is to stay out of the markets and to scale down its meddling during times of economic hardships and let the free market come up with solutions for itself. Meanwhile, state and communities should educate citizens about the importance of developing sustainable solutions to environmental worries, so that we are a population of smart consumers, with a demand for environmentally friendly consumer goods.

Life As A Physics Student

Continued from pg 17

countries awarded 636,000, and European countries awarded 370,000.

While some students simply aren't fit to study a science, many of the ones that are willing to dabble in the introductory courses are scared away because of the absurdity behind some of the course requirements.

To pass my physics courses I've had to fulfill certain requirements. Three semesters ago my classmates and I were expected to complete weekly online quizzes that were meant to provide examples of the concepts the professor addressed during the lectures. These questions came with a component that allowed you to "guess" the answer ten times before marking it incorrect. Through basic algebraic manipulation of the numbers in the problem, any physics student who took a high school math course could solve the problem in about five "guesses." There was no physics required.

Most physics courses also come with a mandatory lab component. At first, the five-page lab manual, full of its complex calculus-based formula derivations and perplexing physics jargon, seemed overwhelming. However, after realizing that if my lab report followed a general format of abstract-procedure-data-analysis-conclusion, it became very possible for me to get an 8 out of 10 on the lab, while understanding virtually none of its central concepts.

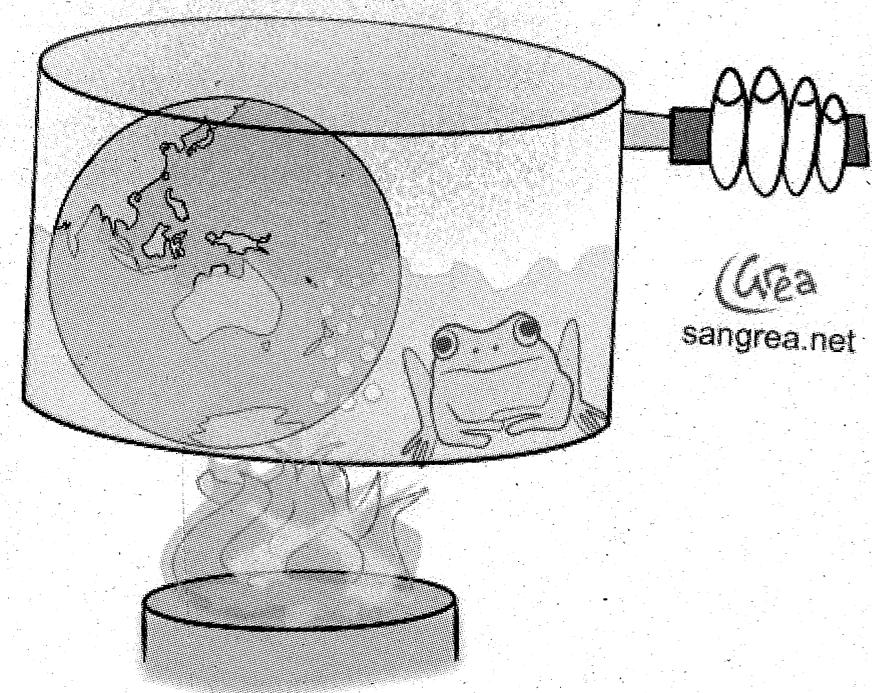
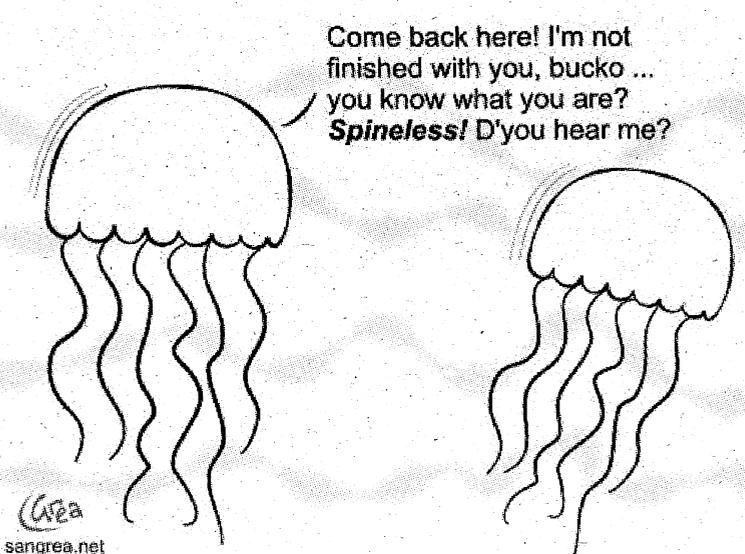
Another condition of this major is to simply complete the sequence of related calculus courses. For someone like me, who avidly enjoyed math in high school and completed a year of A.P. calculus, this should have been no problem. Yet, it was.

To make up for their complexity, some of the courses allow you to blanket index cards with equations and relationships to use during exams. While on the surface this strategy might appear to be helpful, it actually removes the student's need to comprehend the information on the test.

Other calculus courses consist of questions that are so challenging that not only do students have to purchase the required textbook, which mirrors the Encyclopedia Britannica in size and content, they also have to purchase the solutions manual as well. This manual contains the exact derivation of every odd problem in the textbook, which equates more to copying the answers than to using them as a guide.

In the midst of completing these requirements I realized that, for me, physics had lost its appeal. My one-time yearning to follow in the footsteps of Einstein and Newton has been buried beneath the plethora of puzzling Greek symbols and the weight of 1,000-page textbooks that can only be described as the world of undergraduate physics.

Josh Seidman is a staff writer for the Statesman.



All you need to do is boil it slowly

Stony Brook Strawberry Fest Spring '08



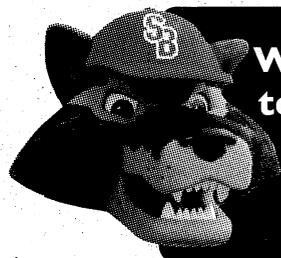
**Wednesday, May 7th From 1:00am - 2:00pm
In Front Of The Student Activities Center**

Visit all 12 Stations for \$7.99!

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Strawberry Ice Cream with Stony Brook Red Chocolate Shell and Vanilla Drizzle
Strawberry Salsa with Nachos • Frozen Strawberry Yogurt Smoothie Bars
Hershey's Ice Cream Bar • Coke • Vitamin Water • Glen's Candy • Fuze
Thai Strawberry Lime Marinated Chicken Lettuce Wrap
Waffles with Strawberry Topping and Powdered Sugar

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Union Commons, The Student Activities Center Food Court, or the Administration Cart.



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Men's Lacrosse Beaten In AE Playoff Preview

Continued from pg. 25

opportunity.

Stony Brook won 11 of 21 face-offs throughout the game, but were only 4 of 9 in the second half.

The Seawolves, ranked third in the American East tournament, will take on Albany, the second seed on Thursday at 4:00 p.m. at UMBC. Last year, the Seawolves were the fourth seed and lost to Albany, the one seed, by a score of 17-5. The Seawolves will look to rebound after the past two losses and if they win, will play the winner of the Binghamton-UMBC game.

2008 America East Men's Lacrosse Championship Semifinals -

- Thursday, May 1

Game 1: No. 3 Stony Brook vs No. 2 Albany, 4 p.m.

Game 2: No. 4 Binghamton at No. 1 UMBC, 7:30 p.m.

- Final - Saturday, May 3

Game 3: Winner Game 1 vs Winner Game 2, 7:30 p.m.

News & Notes



From Around the 'Brook

Baseball- 23-16 (10-5 conference)

-Tue, April 29 @ Iona - 3:30 PM
-Wed, April 30 vs. Fairfield - 3:30 PM
-Sat, May 3 vs. Lafayette- 1:00 PM & 4:00 PM

Softball-26-18-1 (11-7 conference)

-Wed, April 30 @ Sacred Heart- 3:00 PM & 5:00 PM
-Thu, May 1 vs. Manhattan- 3:00 PM & 5:00 PM

Men's Lacrosse 7-6 (3-2 conference)

-Thu, May 1 vs. Albany (@UMBC) 3:00 PM -America East Semifinal
-Sat, May 3 TBD- 7:30 PM -America East Final

Track & Field

-Sat, May 3- America East Championships in Orono, Maine- 10:00 AM
-Sun, May 4- America East Championships in Orono, Maine- 10:00 AM

COMPILED BY BRIAN MORGAN

Thoughts on DAY 1 of the NFL Draft

BY CARL CARRIE
Staff Writer

It's the end of April, which means it's time for the NFL draft. First, let's talk about the local teams in the order they drafted.

JETS

(6th pick) DE/OLB Vernon Gholston, Ohio State, 6'3" 266 lbs., 4.66-. With the dearth of playmakers on the Jets roster, Darren McFadden had to be to top player on their board, but when he went to the Raiders at four, they had to rethink, and took the best available player on the board-DE/OLB hybrid Vernon Gholston. Gholston is one of those freakish athletes who started playing football at a late age, so he needs good coaching to reach his full potential.

Best Case Scenario: He reaches that potential and will be one of the better players from this draft, who will terrorize quarterbacks for years to come as a great pass rushing OLB in the John Abraham mold.

Worst Case Scenario: He doesn't realize his potential, he'll be another first round

bust for the Jets.

(30th pick) TE Dustin Keller, Purdue, 6'2" 242 lbs., 4.59- In a surprise move, the Jets traded up to get TE Dustin Keller. They traded their 2nd round pick (37th overall) and a 4th round pick (113th overall), to move up to get another first round pick. Keller is an all-catch, no-block, tight end. A converted receiver, he has good hands and great speed for a tight end. This pick was made to give whoever the Jets quarterback is options in the middle of the field. The Jets have drafted a lot of tight ends over the years, and well, none of them have really turned out.

Best Case Scenario: Keller turns into a pass catching option for Pennington or Clemens and opens up the middle of the field.

Worst Case Scenario: Johnny Mitchell, Kyle Brady, Anthony Becht.

GIANTS

(31st pick) S Kenny Phillips, Miami, 6'2" 212 lbs., 4.48- The Giants needed a safety with Gibril Wilson leaving the Super Bowl Champion Giants for the Oakland Raiders.

Kenny Phillips was either the top rated or 2nd safety on many draft boards. The Giants signed Sammy Knight during the offseason, but Knight is getting up there in age, so Phillips was a smart pick. He comes from Miami, which is known for their safeties-Ed Reed, Sean Taylor-but he is not as athletic as they were.

Best Case Scenario: He becomes the ball-hawking, hard-hitting safety like Taylor or Reed

Worst Case Scenario: He is just an average safety, an interchangeable part.

(63rd Pick) CB Terrell Thomas, USC, 6'0" 202 lbs., 4.45- The Giants secondary is getting up there in age, with Sam Madison and R.W. McQuarters. Thomas, is an injury prone corner who had an up-and-down career at USC.

Best Case Scenario: He becomes an integral part of the Giants defense.

Worst Case Scenario: The Giants are forced to look for defensive back help.

Bits and Pieces

Miami did the right thing by drafting

Jake Long with the first overall pick. If you're going to build your team around a running game, you are going to need a cornerstone left tackle to run around. Now the only question is, who is he going to be blocking for at quarterback?

Atlanta desperately needed a QB to move on from the Michael Vick fiasco. The question though, is Matt Ryan a franchise quarterback?

No wide receivers were drafted in the first round -- what a weak crop in a league desperate for playmakers.

The Patriots made the smart move in backing up a couple of spots, and still getting the guy they wanted. They pick up an extra late pick and now pay Jared Mayo a lot less guaranteed money by moving out of the top 9.

The Pittsburgh Steelers got a lot better by getting Rashard Mendenhall late in the first round and Limas Sweed in the second round. Mendenhall was the second rated running back and Sweed the top rated receiver. Ben Roethlisberger must be doing backflips right now.

SOFTBALL HEATING UP AS SEASON DRAWS NEAR AN END



Sophomore Vicki Kavitsky and the Seawolves are 12-4 since April 6, including back to back wins over Albany on Sunday.

Continued from pg. 25

ing out ten batters. The offense responded with six runs, and the Seawolves were well on their way to an easy victory.

Struzenberg, who retired 15 straight batters at one point, granted merely three walks in her dominating performance and faced only 24 batters. In the seventh inning, Marissa Fleury led off with a solo shot to centerfield and Kavitsky, who reached on a walk, would eventually score on a wild pitch, finishing the game off at 6-0.

In the second game of the double header, the pitching shined again. The combo of Jacobs and Struzenberg combined on a four hitter. Binghamton picked up its only run of the weekend in the third against Jacobs:

The game was tied at one going into the seventh, until a pair of RBI singles by Kelsi Fanelli and Ashley Westphal provided the Seawolves with the final 3-1 margin.

Struzenberg pitched another amazing game on Sunday, April 20, as Stony Brook concluded the three-game sweep of Binghamton with a 2-0 victory. In the top of the seventh inning, the game was still scoreless, and junior Kelly Oberto earned a leadoff walk. A groundout by senior Ashley Westphal moved Oberto to second and a double to center field by junior Molly Kestranek scored the games first run. Kestranek advanced to third on a wild pitch and was then driven in with the company of a single by junior Kelsi Fanelli. Struzenberg got Binghamton's first batter to groundout to third and then proceeded to strike out the

final two batters to put the game away.

Struzenberg extended her scoreless inning streak to 23 straight as she shutout the University of Hartford over seven innings on Wednesday, April 23 at University Field. Stony Brook used a two-run third inning to win the game, 2-0. With the win, Struzenberg improved to 17-6 on the season.

Alyssa Struzenberg was named America East Pitcher of the Week. This is the second time Struzenberg has been honored by the conference this season with this award.

On Thursday, April 24, the Stony Brook Athletic Department recognized the team's two seniors, Ashley Westphal from Huntington Beach, Calif., and Sara Cerrone from Floral Park, N.Y., in a brief ceremony before the game against Fairfield University. The Seawolves put forth a valiant effort, but

Shonto Olander/ SB Statesman lost the game 5-2.

In a three-game series against Albany on Saturday, April 26, and Sunday, April 27, Stony Brook lost game one, 5-1 and beat Albany 4-0 in game two. The rubber match on Sunday resulted in a triumphant win for Stony Brook. Struzenberg picked up her 18th win on the season in this game, and Jacobs got her fourth save. Struzenberg gave up two runs over six innings after a shaky start in the first game of the double header on Saturday.

Stony Brook's now in third place behind Boston and Albany in the America's East Standings with a record of 11-7 in the conference. They are 25-18-1 overall. The Seawolves have two non-conference games against Sacred Heart University on Wednesday starting at 3:00 PM.



Women's Rugby went undefeated in their Fall 2007 schedule, and finished in the final four of each of their tournaments this season. Most recently they took the top spot in the Big Apple Classic Tournament hosted in New York City.

Courtesy: Women's Club Rugby

Black Widow's Rugby Finishes Number One

BY COACH ALI NAZIR
Contributing Writer

After coming home early from the Beast of the East Tournament, the biggest collegiate rugby tournament in the US, the Stony Brook Women's Rugby Team defeated all in their path to win the Big Apple Classic Tournament held in NYC.

Nyoka Pierce, a senior, was also presented with the Prestigious Player of the Tournament Award by the Administrating body of the tournament, as she led the Black Widows past rivals Hoftra University 12-0 and then to shut-out RPI University in the Final Match 15-0.

The women's team has come a long way since the rebuilding year of 2005-2006 when they did not record a win, to this year going undefeated in the regular season of fall 2007 and then placing in the final four of every tournament played in the spring, including the domination of the Big Apple

tournament placing first.

"I think our turning point was the Spring Break Tour to Savannah," said coach Ali Nazir. "The team bonded and developed chemistry when faced with high powered teams such as University of Michigan, and chemistry is what I believe essential for the success of sports teams."

Looking forward to next year, the Women's team is readily recruiting for talent; already the Black Widows have been contacted by prospective players from all over the country, and also held strong to the walk-on policy for new athletes looking to try something new, as the program has done for the past twenty years.

Stony Brook will be losing many seniors this year namely, Katherine Makkosong, Kelly Giuffre, Natasia Mascol, Nyoka Pierce, Jessica Inoa, Katherine Malagone and Stephanie Hernan. New players are encouraged to come out and play to keep Stony Brook Women's Rugby on top for years to come.

STATESMAN

Sports

Men's Lacrosse Downed by Albany Prepares for Re-Match in America East Tournament

By KEITH KOBASIUK
Senior Writer

The Seawolves went to Albany knowing that they would be playing the Great Danes in the American East Tournament this weekend. They also knew that although Albany was 5-7, it would be a difficult game.

Stony Brook fell to the Danes 10-7 in a game in which they got the early lead but could not hold on to it. The Seawolves scored early right off the face off 10 seconds in when freshman Jordan McBride scored his first of the game. They continued to add to their lead, with senior Rhys Duch scoring halfway through the quarter, his 13th of the year.

McBride would strike again, this time in back to back man up opportunities, one late in the first quarter, one early in the second. Stony Brook had 13 shots in the first quarter, with 10 hitting the net. They also got 10 ground balls, and took advantage of seven turnovers by the Danes.

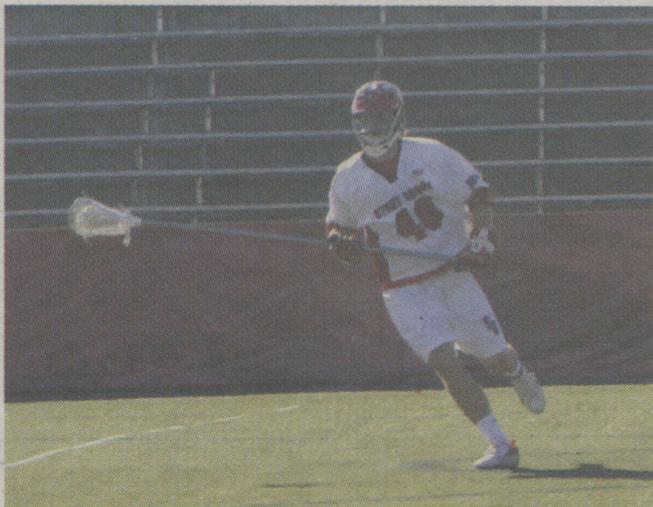
Albany netted two goals to get within two, but senior Bo Tripodi would receive a pass from freshman Timmy Trenkle and extend the Stony Brook lead back to three. It was Trenkle's fifth assist of the year. Albany tallied three

more goals to go into the half tied at five.

Albany came out in the second half and scored two goals. Stony Brook was held to only four shots in the third quarter, and ten in the second half. Tripodi would score 10 seconds into the fourth quarter to get within one. This was Tripodi's 27th goal of the season. Albany then scored two goals within a minute, giving Albany a 9-6 lead.

With two minutes left in the game, McBride scored his fourth goal of the game to pull within two. He leads the team with 43 goals and is ranked in the top five in the nation in goals per game. Albany would score on a man up opportunity late in the fourth quarter to give Albany the final 10-7. Albany was 2-4 on the man up

Continued on pg. 23



The Seawolves attack was held to just seven goals, their second lowest output of the season

Shonto Olander/ SB Statesman

SOFTBALL CONTINUES CHARGE TOWARDS AMERICA EAST TOURNAMENT



Alyssa Struzenberg has been named the America East Player of the Week award twice this year; on Sunday she continued her amazing play by holding visiting Albany to just two runs in a 4-2 win.

Shonto Olander/ SB Statesman

By JESSICA MCCLINTOCK
Senior Writer

The Seawolves are moving right along this season as they rack up some more wins. They are improving their record and playing magnificently. The team has shown a brilliant display of teamwork and made some noteworthy achievements along the way.

Stony Brook traveled to Iona in New Rochelle, N.Y., Thursday, April 17. A two-out RBI double in the top of the seventh by junior Kelly Oberto proved to be the difference for Stony Brook as they won 2-1. In game two, sophomore Casey Jacobs not only went 2-for-4 with an RBI and two runs scored, but furthermore

recorded the win, as the Seawolves swept the two-game series with a 6-4 win. The win was Alyssa Struzenberg's 13th on the season, while Jacobs picked up her third save of the year. Sophomore Casey Jacobs not only went 2-for-4 with an RBI and two runs scored, but also recorded the win.

The team then traveled to Binghamton for a three game set. The Seawolves pitching staff gave up a total of one run in the series, and they outscored Binghamton 11-1 over the weekend. In the first game of a doubleheader on April 19, Alyssa Struzenberg once again came up with a dominating performance. She pitched a no hitter over seven innings, while strik

Continued on pg. 24