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## FEATURES

### Work Order For Two Langmuir Residents Takes Longer Than Expected

College is all fun and games until someone loses a door. Since move-in day, two residents of Langmuir College in H Quad had a damaged door, and two months later, pair had no door at all.

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## OPINION

### The World Likes Obama

At the very least, the rest of the world seems to like Obama. If you've been following the news over the course of the last week, you can't help but have noticed the crowds of Chinese people parading the streets, the swarms of French guys partying like its May 1945, throngs of African families celebrating the victory, all because some guy on the other side of the world won some election.

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### Looking Past The Lies: Marginal Rates and Capital Gains

Obama is famous for selling himself as friendly to families in the working-class tax brackets. His oft-quoted line is, of course, that he's going to offer a tax cut for 95 percent of American workers and their families. This figure is challenged by the Tax Policy Center, which critiqued the details of Obama plan and concluded that this number would be closer to 81 percent of households that would see a tax decrease and 10 percent would see a tax hike.

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## 26-Year NYPD Veteran Named Chief of Police

By SAMANTHA BURKHARDT  
Staff Writer

NYPD veteran Robert Lenahan is the new Police Chief of the Stony Brook University campus police force.

It may be a different type of police work, but the 26-year NYPD veteran is confident that under his authority, things will run smoothly.

"It's certainly a transition but it's one I'm comfortable with," Lenahan said.

Lenahan became the school's director of emergency management in January and in just under a year -- the new Police Chief.

Chief Richard Young was the head of Stony Brook University's police force before Lenahan was appointed to

the new position. Young retired after 20 years to spend more time at home.

Lenahan was Captain and Executive Officer of the 30th Precinct in Washington Heights, Manhattan, from 2000 to 2003. During that time he was one of the officers responsible for sustaining the security perimeter at the World Trade Center after the Sept. 11 attacks.

"That was long and tiresome," Lenahan said. "I worked 15 hour days, seven days a week, but the good part about it was that I was still standing there when other people weren't. My sacrifice is nothing to what other people

did."

He was also selected to be the commanding officer of the 25th precinct in Manhattan in 2003. In 2004, he was assigned to the Republican National Convention, where he operated advanced security measures, connect with federal agencies, and protect the VIPs that night. He oversaw a staff of 300 in 2006 and was a part of a citywide study of current time trends and implemented crime reduction strategies.

With every new position given, there are plenty of challenges that the person must conquer.

"The challenges that not only Stony Brook faces, but every university especially after Virginia Tech -- the challenge is re-

ally, 'How do we keep people safe?'" he said. "I think as far as emergency preparedness and emergency communication compared to any other university, we are way ahead of the game," Lenahan said.

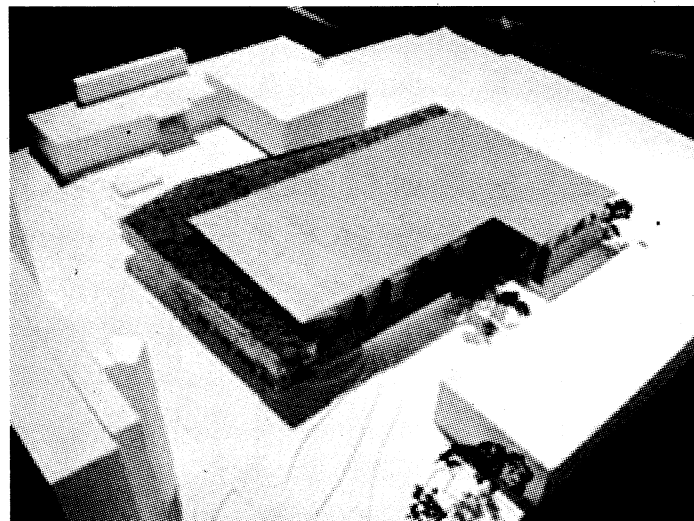
The campus-wide budget cuts are not affecting the police department. Chief Lenahan hopes it stays that way, but even if some positions are cut, it won't affect the service the police provide.

Lenahan is staying positive and keeping his ears open to anyone who asks for help. He wants the students to know that he intends to provide a safe environment for everyone.



Samantha Burkhardt / SB Statesman

## University: New Recreation Center Will Open In Fall 2011



Media credit: Stony Brook University

By FRANK POSILICO  
Contributing Writer

This June, Stony Brook University will break ground on a \$37.5 million recreation center.

Although departments across campus are coping with budget cuts, plans for the recreation center will not be put on hold.

"This money is allocated for a 'capital project' and therefore could not be utilized for other items that are affected by the budget cuts," said Susan DiMonda associate dean and director of student life.

Each SUNY college or university was allocated one project and the recreational center is what Stony Brook chose. Currently the intramural sport teams and club sports share facilities with the athletic department and they don't have as much flexibility as needed.

The current Wellness Center is also too small to accommodate the students' needs.

"Right now we are sharing our facilities with the athletic department, and that puts strain on the facility and it doesn't give our students the access they need," DiMonda said.

Undergraduate students will have free access to the facility, which will house a three-court gymnasium for basketball, badminton and volleyball. Intramural programs will run at various times throughout the day and not be as constrained, according to Dr. DiMonda.

On the first level there will be

3,574 square feet of heavy and free weights. On the second level, there will be 11,952 square feet of weight and cardio space, as well as three fitness studios that will accommodate just over 100 people.

"This will really enhance our fitness class opportunities but will also help with our sports clubs who desire that space," DiMonda said.

Also on the second level there will be a .10 of a mile track where students can warm up. There will be men's and women's locker rooms in the basement, each with 133 lockers. In addition, there will be an arena for indoor soccer, floor hockey, badminton, and basketball.

The new center will offer extra space for sports clubs that usually have a hard time getting space at the current Sports Complex. They will also have storage space, which are currently lacking.

Moreover, this will also create jobs for students who want to work for campus recreations at a time when tuition may on the rise.

Currently no decision has been made about what will happen with the Wellness Center at the Student Activities Center. According to DiMonda, the university would like to convert it into two studios for performance space.

The new facility will be open from 6:00 a.m. to midnight seven days a week. It will also have a lounge area and wireless Internet.

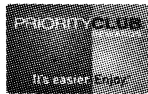
The new recreational center is scheduled to open in fall 2011.

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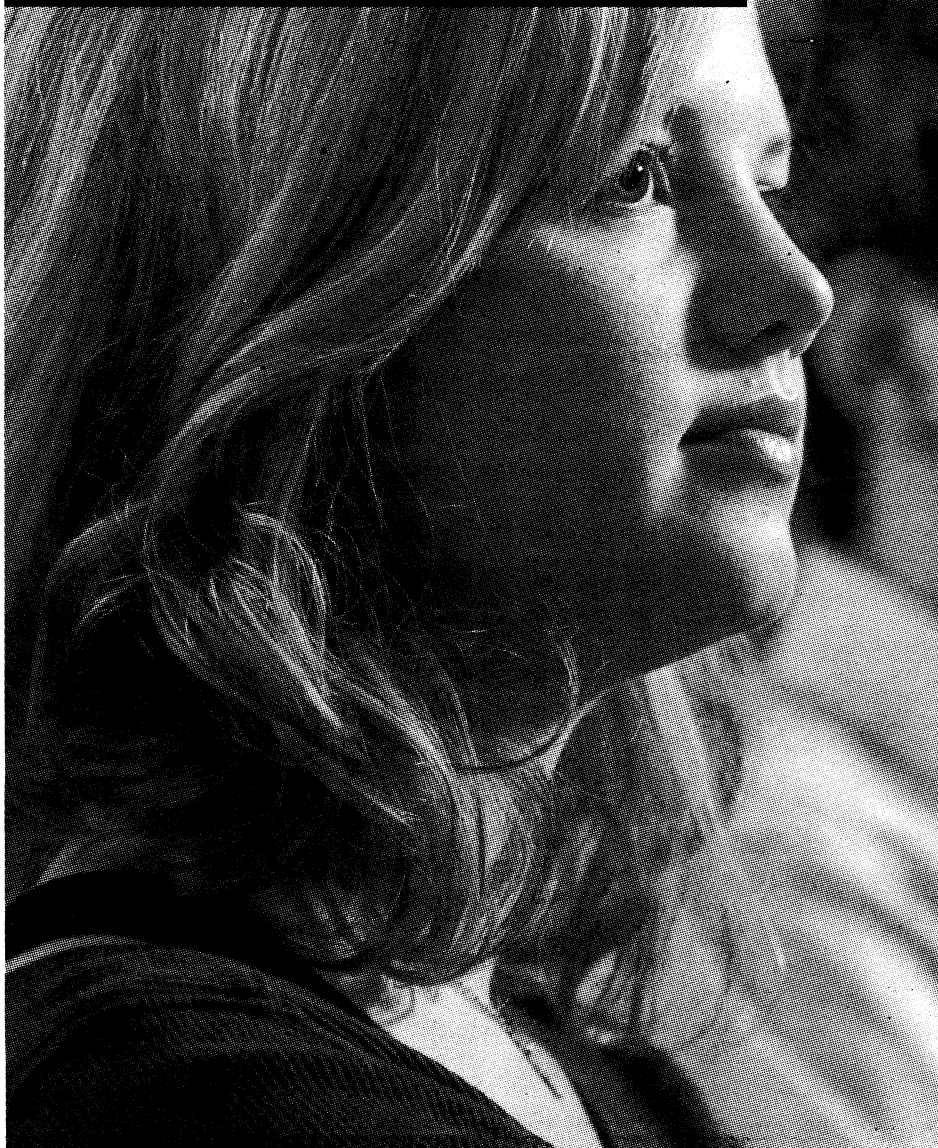


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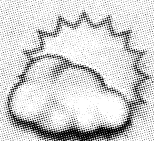
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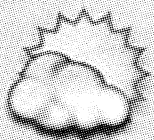


## Student Forecast

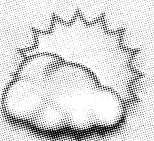
Nov. 17 - Nov. 21



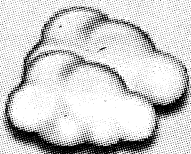
**Monday:**  
High: 48°F  
Low: 33°F  
Chilly with clouds and sun.



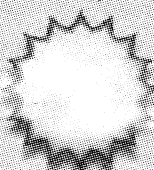
**Tuesday:**  
High: 44°F  
Low: 26°F  
Partly sunny, windy and cold.



**Wednesday:**  
High: 39°F  
Low: 26°F  
Cold with periods of sun.



**Thursday:**  
High: 38°F  
Low: 27°F  
Mostly cloudy and cold.



**Friday:**  
High: 42°F  
Low: 28°F  
Sunny and breezy.

From [accuweather.com](http://accuweather.com)

## Multicultural Student Leadership Council

By CAROLINA HIDALGO  
Contributing Writer

In an effort to promote more interaction among ethnic and cultural student groups on campus, the Office of Multicultural Affairs hosted the Multicultural Student Leadership Council on Friday afternoon.

Around 25 presidents and representatives from various clubs and organizations gathered in Student Activities Center Ballroom B to network and socialize.

"This is a way for members of our community to better understand each other," said Cheryl Chambers, associate dean for multicultural affairs. "I hope this is going to be the beginning of a

great network."

Natalie Munoz, the event's organizer, encouraged attendees to reach out to at least one organization that they would not normally program with.

To spark conversations, the students participated in a short icebreaker exercise. They were then invited to enjoy refreshments and talk amongst themselves. Many stayed for over an hour.

"The response from the students was really fulfilling," said Munoz. "It went better than I had imagined."

"I'm definitely going to collaborate with some of the people I met," said Ryan Jackson, president of Capoeira, a group that

practices the Brazilian dance form of the same name. "The more we converse with each other, the more our clubs will grow."

Other students shared Jackson's excitement. Diandra Rodriguez, president of the Latin American Student Organization, said she invited Bengalis Unite to participate in Thanks-4-Giving, an upcoming charity dinner that LASO is co-hosting. "They'll invite their general body and they might put on a performance, so I'm excited," she said.

The students were also encouraged to utilize the UNITI Cultural Center, a group of rooms in the Union that can be reserved for meetings and

events, and to apply for the Diversity Challenge Grant, a monthly \$500 grant awarded to help students fund collaborative events that encourage multiculturalism.

In previous years, the council was made up of representatives from a few of the most active groups on campus, said Munoz. But this year she decided to reach out to all of the ethnic and cultural groups.

"I think this will lead to more collaboration because now that we can put faces with groups, and we've met each other, it'll be easier to reach out," said Ilia Thomas, president of Black Women's Weekend. "It's also great to get to know other people."

## Work Order For Two Langmuir Residents Takes Longer Than Expected

By JOE TROLLO  
Staff Writer

College is all fun and games until someone loses a door.

Since move-in day, two residents of Langmuir College in H Quad had a damaged door, and two months later, pair had no door at all.

The residents, John Harris and Niccolo Pagano, had their resident assistant submit a work order on Sept. 14 for the door, but heard nothing of it for a week.

"Fairly early in the school year, no more than a week in, I noticed when I closed the door, it would jump a little bit to lock," said Pagano.

At the bottom of the door near the hinge, the outer panel was loose and pulling away -- making the door difficult to close. Additionally, a deep crack ran along the edge of the door around the top and bottom hinges. Harris said, "It caused the door to not shut smoothly or at all."

At the time, the residents did not know that the university was reworking their contract with the manufacturer which would delay the door.

Approximately one week later, according to the residents, workers came to assess the damage, and told them that it would need to be replaced.

Two weeks passed, and Harris and Pagano still had a broken door. They submitted a second work order, stating no work had been done.

Workers came two days later to confirm that no progress had been made, and again the residents were told it would be replaced. They were also told that a new door had been ordered and they were waiting for it to be delivered.



After living with a broked door, the door jam is drilled out to fit a temporary one.

Joe Trollo/ SB Statesman

In the time between their move-in and the second assessment, the front panel pulled farther away from the door, the hinges loosened, and the door no longer properly fit in the frame. Pagano said, "When we closed it, it stopped before it set in the frame."

On Oct. 22 as a friend of the residents left the room -- unaware of the tricks devised and used to make the door close, such as lifting the handle and pushing the front panel back into place -- he slammed the door shut, the force completing the crack near the hinges. The door was severed from top to bottom about two inches from the hinge, leaving nothing but a small strip of wood.

"Everyone expected it [to fall]" Harris said. "It was a relief because we knew we'd get a new door."

Krystina Randazzo, the resi-

dent assistant on duty at the time, called the number to submit emergency work orders, 632-9585, and waited with the residents until the workers had arrived and she knew that the room would be secured.

The workers replaced the remains of their door with a temporary door from the warehouse at about 6:00 p.m. that same day. The door was not a perfect fit. It lacked a finish and peephole.

Randazzo was glad that it was done quickly. "It's the first year we've had the emergency number," she said. "It's a great tool. In general, I was happy with the way they responded to the door breaking."

Sean Law, Harris and Pagano's resident assistant, said that the university was reworking its contract with the company that provides its residential doors, after which it would take six to eight

weeks for the new door to arrive. He also said that the department did not want to replace the door with a temporary one unless they had to. "Why do the job twice when it can be done once?" he said.

As soon as it arrives, a finished should replace the temporary one. It is unclear when the door will arrive, the students said.

The H Quad office would not release a summary of the work orders for Harris and Pagano's room. Sept. 14 and Oct. 22 are the only known dates of the reports and repairs.

Kenneth Fehling of Residential Operations, who is in charge of all work orders on campus, would not comment. As such, it is unclear if the contract had been settled.

Harris and Pagano still have the temporary door at this time.

## MTVU WOODIE AWARDS REDUX

By KWAME OPAM  
Assistant Arts and Entertainment Editor

Like any great college party, the mtvU Woodie Awards, held on Nov. 12, came and went, fading into the night like stereo feedback.

Winners, revelers, and a sweet (if sick) sense of satisfaction as the flickering lights blinked "Time. To. Go." were left in its wake. Our ears were ringing. Our legs ached. The floor was wet and sticky from stale drinks. But, by night's end, Roseland Ballroom was still singing, alive with the sound of music.

The Woodie Awards, now in its fifth year, is one big celebration for the music and efforts of new and underground artists from all over the world, as well as for their many fans. It is a night of lights and sounds that MTV announced as "the only college award ever!"

"I think the Woodies is a crystal ball for what's about to break big," said Ross Martin, mtvU executive producer, in a previous interview. "College students are prophesying the future of new music everyday on campuses across the country."

The doors opened at 7 p.m., and as students and young fans poured onto the ballroom floor, stars, newcomers and fan-favorites alike lined the glittering black carpet. First out in his Maryland Terps sweatshirt was up-and-comer Asher Roth, who is currently gracing the cover of the December issue of "XXL" as part of "Hip-Hop's Class of '09."

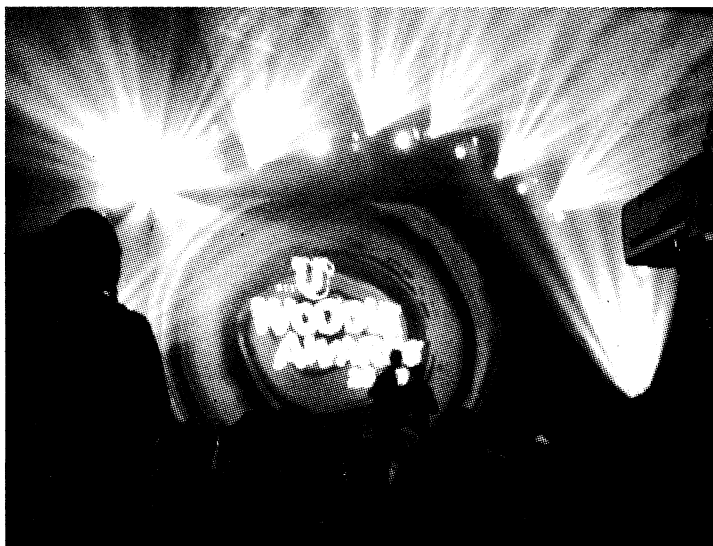
"I started when I was like 16 years old so it's been like a hobby transforming into a job," Roth said of his experience as a rising rapper. "That whole transition has been kinda crazy, but right now I'm just having fun with it. It's a blast, man. We lead a blessed life."

Following him were models, actors, activists, MTV personalities, and of course, the musicians. Names like Sudanese child soldier-turned-rapper Emmanuel Jal, Motion City Soundtrack, Spank Rock, and The All-American Rejects followed. Each artist was excited to be there -- be it for the atmosphere or for the waiting alcohol.

"I expect to have a really good time," said Boys Like Girls frontman Martin Johnson. "I think you should be scared. I'm really excited to present a Woodie to one of our best friends. You know, we got the Breaking Woodie last year and it was a really great moment for us, and we get to pass that on to one of our best boys. Whether it be All Time Low, Tyga, We the Kings, it doesn't

matter. We're all family and we're stoked to pass it on."

"This is my first time," said former



MTV news correspondent SuChin Pak, "and it's so nice to actually sit and watch [an] award show without having to work, so I'm really looking forward to it."

Santi White, better known by her stage name Santogold and dressed in a flowing Marc Jacobs outfit, had only words of praise for her fellow artists. "I think that it's a really good group of talent," she said. "I think that it's telling of how 'on-the-money' college bands are."

By 8 p.m., it was lights-camera-action as the show was ready to officially begin. On the main stage, Asher Roth, college-appropriate red cup in hand, opened the show with his track "College," later meeting up with The Cool Kids and at least a dozen audience members to perform and kick things off right.

After their performance, the theme of the night was revealed: "The Debate is Over." Onscreen, students dressed in debate team colors discussed such collegiate



Vampire Weekend and Chromeo perform.

issues as, "Does sex really sell?"

Things went off without a hitch. As Paramore's Hayley Williams and Jeremy Davis prepared to give the first award, Best Video, Hayley reminded the audience why they were there: "No one's getting on this stage unless millions of college students put them here!"

Lykke Li performed "I'm Good, I'm Gone," among others from her album "Youth Novels." Surprise guest Q-Tip then

joined her on-stage, to great audience applause, to perform a cover of the A Tribe Called Quest classic "Can I Kick It?" Their duet segued into Q-Tip's own set that culminated with "Vibrant Thing" and his proclaiming, "The Renaissance is here!"

The rest of the night followed the award-performance-award

format, with a few surprises. Kid Sister and DJ A-Trak were called on stage to present the Left-Field Woodie, the award for the most genre-bending artist. The prize went to the crowd favorite, electro-funk band Chromeo.

And of course, it had to happen. After WICB of Ithaca College took home the College Radio Woodie, everyone there that night got Rick Roll'd. Cut into Britney

PHOTOS BY  
KWAME OPAM

Spears' new video "Womanizer," was the all too familiar Rick Astley dancing badly to his 1987 hit "Never Gonna Give You Up." There was laughter. There were even a few tears. Nice one, mtvU.

After most of us had recovered, Moby and Emmanuel Jal came onstage to present the Best Music on Campus Woodie, the



Zoe Kravitz and Riley Keough

award given to the most popular college band on the rise.

"Music is the only thing that have

Continued on page 5

## MORE CHOCOLATE THAN RAP

By TEJAS GAWADE  
Editor Emeritus

Last week, the Charles B. Wang Center wrapped up its Taiwan Film series with Chi Y. Lee's "Chocolate Rap." The story narrates the tale of Chocko (Hsin Hung Chen), whose break-dancing days end when he injures his leg.

In his attempt to recover, he realizes that he has to dance for himself and not for competition ("anything less wouldn't be me"). Besides having such a grand epiphany, he also trains a backstabbing dancer, makes amends with a lost friend and even finds true love. The multitude of themes, although all endearing, come together in imperfect harmony, which makes the movie harder to digest.

The film is sort of a rehashing of kung fu, and instead of Jackie Chan as the pro-

tagonist, it has young blood and Western-fueled music. For all its uprightness, it attempts too much in too little time and is

overwrought with morality. Chocko's overcoming of poverty, setbacks and enemies, without stooping to dishonesty, is too quixotic for its own good.

Although superficially, the film manages to paint some likeable characters. Most notably, Chocko's father (Akio Chen), who is an excellent actor playing a modest

dockside ice-chopper, turns his drunken stupor into a positive investment for his son's success. The father's philosophy on chopping ice ("Pulling ice is like walking a dog. Tug a little and it will follow.") is stretched a little too much, especially when



Media Credit: Google Images

Continued on page 5



## EXCLUSIVE IN-DEPTH COVERAGE FROM THE SHOW

Continued from page 4

power to move your soul without you even knowing it," said Jal. Before presenting the award to its winner, Moby added, "This award really belongs to everyone nominated for it." With that said, the Woodie went to a New York University band, the humbled The Bride Wore Black.

As the night wore on, we saw Mark Hoppus of former blink-182 glory, All Time Low perform, and

There for Tomorrow take home the Breaking Woodie. Debbie Harry of Blondie brought Santogold to the stage, where she performed "L.E.S. Artistes" and "Shove It" with Naeem Juwan of Spank Rock. She ended her set with thanks to her fans and these words: "Big

up to Obama, our new president!"



The alternative pop quartet, Paramore, wins Woodie of the Year.

Comedian Jon LaJoie, kind of famous for his online videos "High as F#%k" and "Show Me Your Genitals," came on to not-so-raucous applause to present the Good Woodie, the award given to the artists doing humanitarian work in the global community. Andrew McMahon, lead singer of Jack's Mannequin, won for the "Dear Jack

Foundation," a group that raises money and awareness for cancer research. This year, according to McMahon, the group was able to raise over \$100,000 in funding for research.

Finally, a very rowdy All-American Rejects arrived to present the Woodie of the Year to Paramore, much to their own surprise. After a few words from Zoe Kravitz and Riley Keough, Vampire Weekend closed the show, playing "The Kids Don't Stand a Chance" with Chromo and their hit "A-Punk."

As the last note was played, the doors were swung open. The show was over. But like any college party worth going to, we were left with exhausted grins and marks from having maybe too much

fun. In this party's case, however, we also left with more than a few faces to look forward to seeing in the coming year.

"It was a lot of fun," said Michaela Hyams, a sophomore from Stony Brook. "I'm really looking forward to next year."

**Editor's Note:** The mtvU Woodie Awards airs on mtvU on Wed., Nov. 19. More photos are on display at <http://www.sb-statesman.com/>.



The audience packed Roseland Ballroom in New York City's theatre district.

Continued from page 4

it guides Chocko into an epiphany at the end of the movie.

The side story of Ally (Megan Lai), Chocko's piano-playing attractive neighbor, is somewhat of a distraction. Ally plays someone too mature for her age and doesn't help the fact that all the men in the film are juvenile. Chocko craves for her affections, which are fixated on his friend, Pachinko (Po Ching Huang). This triangle is an unwelcome distraction to the whole dance theme that is purportedly the film's focal point.

The one character that brings some reality to what seems to be Chocko's fantasy adventure is King Kong (Jian Hong Tong), who trains under him, monopolizes the field and then challenges him for competitions.

It is unfair to say that the film fails more than works. It manages to generate laughs while delivering a sober story and has some very entertaining choreography. The actors are obviously talented in more than one way. It also manages to capture the popular culture of Taiwan without judgment, but simply as detached observations in the way the camera captures.

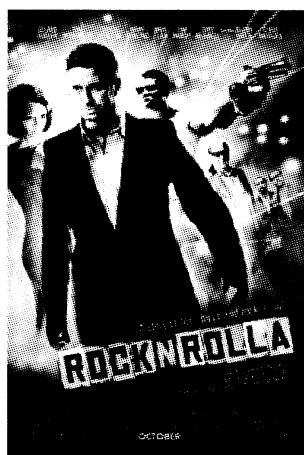
The film is not meant to win Cannes or create dents in Hollywood. In fact, it hardly tries because it is commercial enough for better or for worse. It also might be better received by a non-Taiwanese audience, simply because of the pervasive adaptation of American subculture. But for all its underdeveloped characters, overused themes and bubbly ballads and popular rap, the film redeems itself in the way it sweetly captures a culture that is both youthful and conflicted.

By SAMANTHA BURKARDT  
Staff Writer

"Wild" is the best word to sum up Guy Ritchie's new movie "Rock N' Rolla."

Director and writer Ritchie gives his audience a different and witty look at London's criminal underworld along with how it's divided into groups with the Old School, the New School, the Wild Bunch, and the junkies.

When Lenny Cole (Tom Wilkinson), the leader of most of London's underworld, makes a shady deal with Russian mobster through bribes and violence, the following events do not unfold in Lenny's favor. Mr. One Two (Gerard Butler), with the help of his two best mates, Mumbles (Idris Elba) and Handsome Bob (Tom Hardy), want a slice of their own share, when the sexy accountant of the



Media Credit: IMDb.com

Russians, Stella (Thandie Newton), leaks information that several million pounds in cash will be transferred to Lenny through the streets.

There are many twists and turns to the story that will have you craving more. Millions of pounds go missing, a painting is stolen, two Russian thugs are craving revenge (who also have a very high tolerance for pain), a famous rock star mysteriously dies, traitors are discovered within groups, killer crayfish, a night club brawl, a carjacking, a fight in a sporting goods store - it's all there.

The movie is smart when it

needs to be and is outlandish in so many ways, never mind being laugh-out-loud funny. Not only is the movie violent and crude, but the soundtrack is killer as well.

I recommend this movie to anyone who is a Guy Ritchie fan and for those who don't know his movies well, be prepared to get hooked. With its fast paced scenes and clever fight sequences, this movie is appealing to any action movie enthusiast and for those who are looking for a good time. Plus ladies, Gerard Butler is pretty easy on the eyes. His character will make you smile, especially in what could possibly be the worst dance scene to ever take place on the big screen.

It will make you laugh throughout, without a doubt. The one thing he shares with the other characters in this movie is that

everyone wants to be a Rock N' Rolla. Some people just want either drugs, sex or money... but a Rock N' Rolla wants it all.



Media Credit: IMDb.com

Tom Wilkinson, left, and Karel Roden, right, as Lenny Cole and Uri, respectively, in Guy Ritchie's "Rock N' Rolla".

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# The World Likes Obama

## He'll Get By With a Little Help From His Friends

BY DAVE COOPER  
Contributing Writer

At the very least, the rest of the world seems to like Obama. If you've been following the news over the course of the last week, you can't help but have noticed the crowds of Chinese people parading the streets, the swarms of French guys partying like it's May 1945, throngs of African families celebrating the victory, all because some guy on the other side of the world won some election.

This is probably because much of the world views the America of the last eight years as a somewhat temperamental, aggressive beast with a less-than-stellar economy and a fondness for heightened carbon emissions with the occasional denial that global warming exists. Barack Obama is promising to turn all that around. I can't wait.

The thing is, there are an awful lot of Americans who seem to think that approval from the rest of the world is the last thing that a U.S. president should have, because if you aren't constantly trying to max out your list of enemies then you aren't being tough enough. Besides, you can only fit five people into your "Fave 5" and you don't want anyone to feel left

out, right?

The fact that much of the world generally likes Obama means a lot. Take, for example, the Sith Lord Ahmadinejad, president of Iran. There are a lot of Muslims in that part of the world who, at least on some level, look to Ahmadinejad for guidance, and that's besides the fact that Iran may soon be a nuclear power. Ahmadinejad warmly congratulated Obama on his victory, meaning that Ahmadinejad might like him even if he hasn't actually done anything yet. If he likes Obama now, it means that Obama has a head start on any upcoming diplomatic talks that will probably occur between the U.S. and Iran, talks that may serve as an example for the rest of the Muslim world. The bottom line is that Ahmadinejad takes Obama seriously, which is already altogether different than the way Ahmadinejad perceives President Bush. Turns out the extremist Iranian president has something in common with the average American after all.

Even if it turns out that Ahmadinejad really does hate the West that much and seeks to continue construction of his Death Star, we will be able to build a much stronger case for tough action if we can demonstrate that

we first wholeheartedly attempted a diplomatic resolution of our differences and if we have the rest of the world on our side. Pursuing a clear-minded approach to foreign relations could have allowed us to avoid, at least in part, the messy, poorly-planned, unilateral foreign policy catastrophe called the Iraq War.

Another side of this issue is the simple fact that when you're the most powerful nation in the world and a bunch of other nations seem to like you, it means that a bunch of other nations will also like you, to avoid being the odd man out. As I have discussed in a previous column, this was Nixon's approach to the China-Russia situation in the '70s. While the situation is different today, if we can make friends with a few key nations in key regions, it will work wonders for our foreign policy capabilities. It's about gaining leverage, so the more people we've got on our side of the seesaw, the more leverage we'll have.

But we also can't forget about the economic impact of having friends. The global economic system is based on one thing -- confidence. If an investor is not confident about the direction of a particular asset, then he will be reluctant to invest in it. When over

80 percent of our own population thinks that the direction of our country is on the "wrong track," according to a RealClearPolitics polls, and global opinion of the United States has worsened significantly over the last eight years, according to an analysis from the Pew Center, it's not difficult to see why all the high-rollers have put their chips on other games. If you don't like how your horse has been performing lately, you put your bets on someone else -- like a Chinese or an Indian horse.

The bottom line for me is that when you've got a bunch of enemies, it seems pretty childish to respond by trying to blow them all up. Perhaps we're not on great terms with Russia right now, but it makes no sense to use our already bad relationship with them as an excuse to make it worse.

It may be true that the entire Islamic world hates us, but we have to decide to act like adults here. When someone makes fun of me and calls me names, I hope that I'd have the maturity to talk to them and figure out why they feel that way, rather than attempting to solve our differences by making fun of them right back, thereby escalating a resolvable and petty conflict.

## Obama Tax Plan Defies Free Market

*continued from page 9*

cheaper. This will allow lower income workers to save more of their own money and make their own investments. Markets are driven by entrepreneurs and innovation in a competitive market, which creates economic wealth for everyone and, by extension, more investment sources for itself. The government cannot hope to efficiently create this kind of economic wealth by raising taxes and affecting investment incentives. The market can do this efficiently and naturally.

So, while the government seeks to raise taxes to provide opportunities for lower incomes to increase their earnings potential and spur investment from the bottom up, this is not the way wealth is created. Government policy of economic interference stifles personal economic growth by increasing the marginal tax rate and stifles necessary free market growth. This is a double-edged sword, because government programs create a niche for

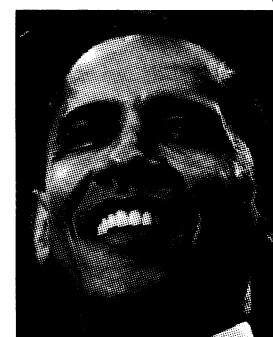
themselves, where the recipients become more reliant on them for survival.

The Obama tax plan will ensure that lower income families will be stuck in a financial hole, and corporations will not be able to lower prices to help them out. As a result, Americans will be looking for even more government programs to fix the perceived failure of the free market, which is in actuality the failure of government programs to properly regulate the economy to create growth.

Economic bailouts, stimulus packages, increasing taxes to fund government programs to create growth. These are all the titles under which politicians operate to increase the scope of government. They tell us that only government can save the economy, that government is needed to create wealth for our nation's poorest.

We must question, however, the extent to which the government can positively affect the economy, through fiscal and monetary policy. Do we really need

government to create wealth from the "bottom up"? Isn't wealth created at the bottom, for itself, when the free market can increase the economic wealth for all through innovation of entrepreneurs, in a process that is hindered by excessive taxation of these entrepreneurs?



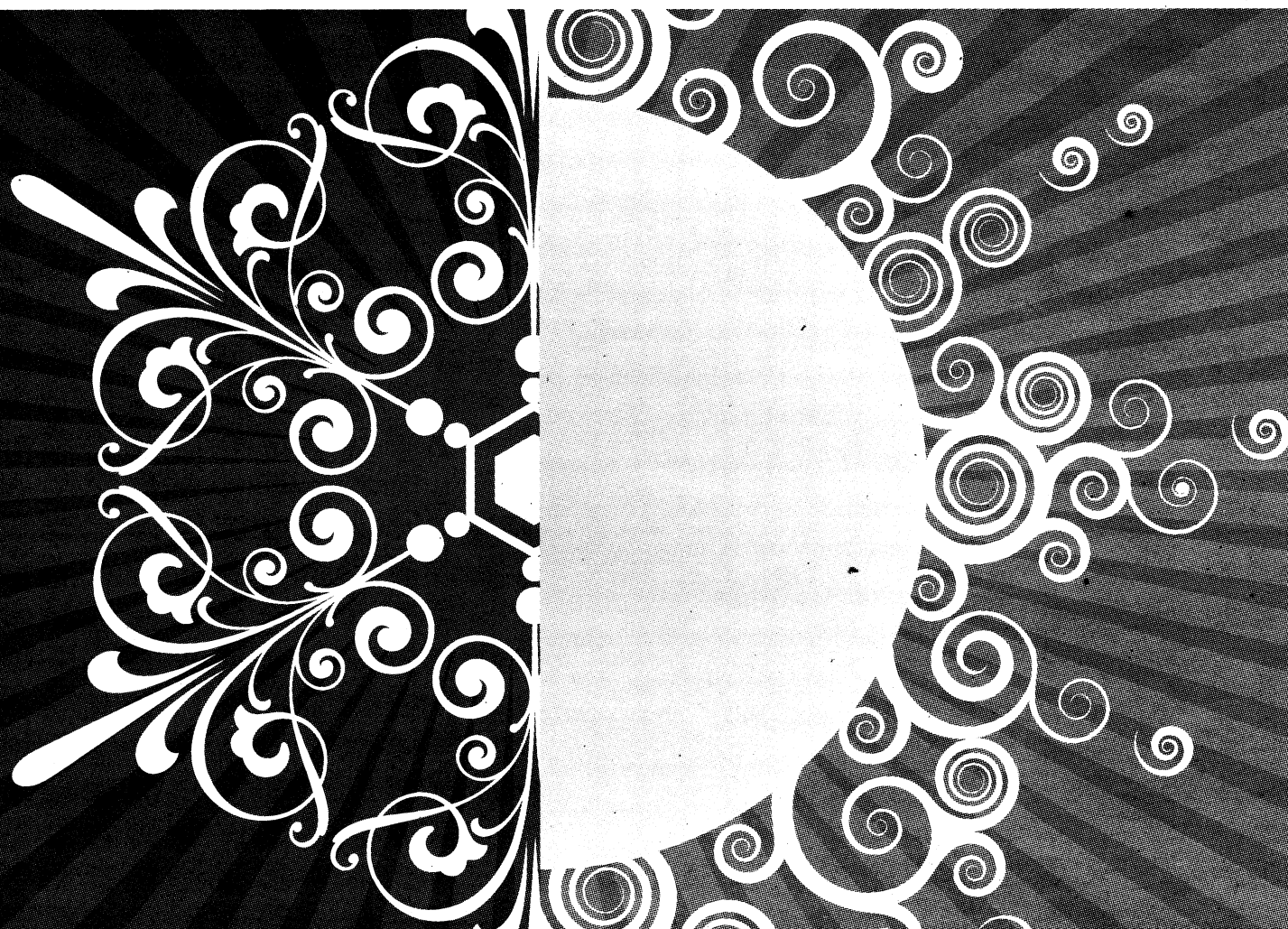
Obama is hopeful about the success of his tax plan. Others aren't so sure.

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# Right, Left and Center: Obama's Tax Plan

## A Postive Progressive Tax Plan

By JOSEPH LABRIOLA  
Columnist

If you want to talk taxes and debate the point and purpose of them, than you have to consider the point and purpose of government. From these considerations, the following questions naturally arise: Why do we bother having a governing body that collects money?

What should government be able to spend that money on? Shouldn't people be able to spend what they've earned directly on what they themselves deem valuable, without the government middleman?

These are all good questions and they all have good answers. America has just elected its first African-American president in a grueling election that will be taught in history classrooms for countless generations to come. Whether you like him or not, President-elect Barack Obama will be entering the White House near the end of January with a Democratic agenda, and with it, a Democratic, progressive tax policy.

If you watched any of the debates or stump speeches, you know what his basic tax plan is by now. Keep corporate tax levels where they are and raise taxes on the wealthiest Americans in order for the middle and lower classes and small businesses to receive monetary relief. It is an appealing platform to many, and Obama proposes that it will benefit 95 percent of the American populous. But what about that other 5 percent, whose spending power stands to be decreased? Many of these people seem understandably angry at such a plan.

Perhaps the Obama plan should be rejected, maybe these rich people have a point. After all, if enough people want something badly enough, they can decide

for themselves to pool together enough collective funds in order to pay for it themselves. Why should it be the responsibility of the wealthiest Americans to pick up the tab?

I understand this argument and would agree with them if I was in a position where, given Obama's tax plan, I might stand to pay tens of thousands of dollars more from out of my half a million dollar a year salary than I did under George Bush. However, it just happens that I am a poor college student.

I think the underlying problem here is that people need to start understanding that we live in one society. Whether you bring home an annual salary of \$10,000 or \$10,000,000, there needs to be some sort of tax system in order to fund programs that benefit those who have been exploited, injured, or just need help doing what they can't pay for on their own. Sure, it's understandable that you might not want your tax dollars going towards programs that don't interest you, but there are federally funded programs programs that do benefit everyone, such as highways, law enforcement and military, schools, libraries, etc.

And even if there are programs that individuals don't directly benefit from, such as Social Security, Medicare, and welfare, is it not worth sacrificing a bit of your wealth in order to ensure that your children will one day be able to receive these benefits when they're elderly? Employers should also consider than any service that the government offers for free is a service you don't have to guarantee and pay for your employees and customers. Public safety nets benefit society as a whole and in our individual wallets.

The counterargument is that it should be up to the people to decide how to spread their own

wealth. This may be true, but the number of rich patrons lining up to create a private organizations that don't stand to profit, seem limited, at least to me. If the current financial crisis taught us anything, it's that greedy corporations can't be trusted to govern themselves to manage investments in a responsible manner to ensure long-term economic growth, preferring the allure of quick profit.

I would think that savvy investors would understand this by now and I think that some of them are actually starting to come around. Surprise: taxes are an investment! If you want to feel safe walking down the street, then let the government spend some of your taxes to fund education and the police. If you want a happier, more productive American workforce, let's ensure that Social Security will be around when those putting in now are old enough to one day collect from it. In other words, let's invest.

My main point here is that although I understand the counterargument, let's be reasonable. There's a ten trillion dollar debt, forty million people have no health care, and various other programs are in dire need of public funds. Maybe it should be done more efficiently on the state and local rather than federal level, and if you believe that then fine. But if you seriously want to argue that the government has no right to raise taxes on money earned, then you need to take a harder look at what kind of country you want to live in.

If you truly wish to live in a nation with no taxes, no business regulations, and no security, then move to a banana republic, open a factory and buy armed guards to secure your gates and escort your stretch Hummer around town. Otherwise, try opening up your pockets and your minds, and remember that especially in this economy, that it's as easy to go from rags to riches as it is from riches to rags.

### Right, Left and Center

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## Looking Past the Lies

### Marginal Rates and Capital Gains

By ZACHARY KURTZ  
Opinion Editor

Obama is famous for selling himself as friendly to families in the working-class tax brackets. His oft-quoted line is, of course, that he's going to offer a tax cut for 95 percent of American workers and their families. This figure is challenged by the Tax Policy Center, which critiqued the details of Obama plan and concluded that this number would be closer to 81 percent of households that would see a tax decrease and 10 percent would see a tax hike. Married couples, in particular, are at greatest risk for a tax increase.

Another substantial claim made by Obama is that anyone making under \$200,000 is going to see a tax cut. However, Obama's "Making Work Pay" credit, which offers workers an additional 6.2 percent of \$8,100 maximum of their earnings, phases out quickly as you approach the \$80,000 mark. As a result, low income earners, who pay no income tax at all, can get up to a \$500 check, but earners of above \$150,000 per year will see nothing at all. This is the (right) magic number cited by Joe Biden as the maximum salary the Obama plan is designed to help.

Obama's \$200,000 remark is patently false, for none of his specific policies are designed to cut taxes for this level of earner. His child care credit maxes out at \$58,000, his exemption for senior citizens at \$60,000, the \$4,000 in college tax credits - really a payment for community service work -- phases out as family income rises from \$100,000 to \$120,000.

The Obama plan won't actually help all the people he says that it's going to help, according to a study done by the Tax Foundation. On the surface, Obama's tax cuts and redistribution plans seem to put more money into the hands of those who need it. In a progressive taxation system, however, the real tax rate doesn't provide an accurate assessment of tax obligations. This is because the deductions available at each tax bracket creates a disparity between actual tax liabilities and taxable income, depending on what tax bracket you fit into.

The marginal tax rate is a

measure of these two terms and, in real terms, gives an assessment of earning incentive. People faced with a high marginal tax rate have less incentive to increase their earnings potential, and jump into a higher tax bracket, because the extra money that would push them over would result in all their income being taxed more heavily. The incentive in a society with a high marginal tax rate is to stay in a lower tax bracket.

Almost surprisingly, in the Obama plan, the marginal tax rate would only fall for very low income earners, inclusive of a much smaller population that Obama claims to want to help. Other low, middle and high income earners could see their marginal tax rate rise a whopping 40 to 50 percent. The Obama plan, which is supposedly designed to get low income workers more money in their pockets -- in order to spur innovation and investment from this sector -- actually decreases the incentive for workers to increase their earnings potential. They will get taxed at a higher rate if they put in too many overtime hours, so there is less incentive to move out of their current tax bracket.

Another part of Obama's plan is to push the Capital Gains tax to 25

percent. This is basically a tax on money earned through the investment of assets, rather than normal income, and will serve to stifle investment during a time when Wall Street is already suffering. So while Obama pretends to be friendly to business by leaving the corporate tax alone, he will cut out a much needed revenue source for publicly traded companies, which need investment to fund innovation and to stay competitive in global markets.

While the left thinks that raising the capital gains tax with allow lower income families to become more competitive in the business world, in reality, the bulk of investment does not and will not come from this sector, and spreading the wealth thinly around will not promote this policy, especially in light of high marginal tax rates. Companies need investment to make their products and services

continued on page 7

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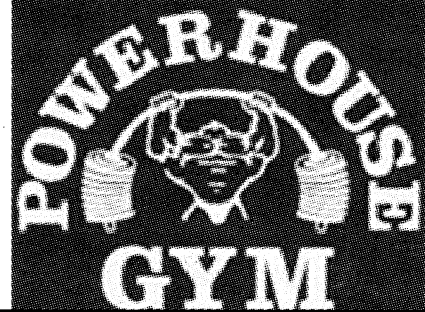
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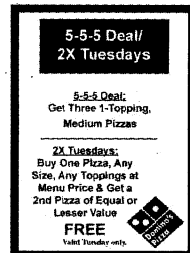
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# Freshman Danny Carter Adjusting to Life On and Off the Court

By SARAH KAZADI  
Contributing Writer

Danny Carter misses his mum's roast-dinner. Burgers from the cafeterias at Stony Brook University just don't taste as good. But his mother's kitchen and a helping of his favorite meal are an ocean and 3,397 miles away.

On Jul. 12, 2008, 19-year-old freshman Danny Carter exchanged his home in Windsor, England, located only a mile from the Queen's 484,000 square-foot Windsor Castle, for a cramped dorm room on campus.

Offered a scholarship by the men's basketball program, he is one of eight new players on the roster, recruited to erase memories of last season's embarrassing 7-win and 23-loss record. Carter is the only European in this year's recruiting class, and one of three foreigners currently on the roster.

Carter represents the flood of non-American athletes permeating both amateur and professional American basketball.

The number of foreigners in the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the National Basketball Association has been steadily rising for the past few years. A recent NCAA study found that 6.2 percent of Division I athletes in 2007 were foreigners, significantly higher than the 2.4 percent involved eight years prior.

The NBA's database showed that 76 international players were in the league last season, up from the 44 of two years ago. The commercialization of the American game is fueling this trend, causing countless young hopefuls worldwide to stay up late for NBA games, hoping to fulfill their dreams of playing in the league.

Carter was one of those kids, admiring the San Antonio Spurs and his favorite player, Tim Duncan, from his living room. But basketball didn't become a priority until later.

"I was really obsessed with football, I mean soccer," says the 6-foot, 9-inch forward. Attending Windsor Boys High School provided an ample supply of friends for soccer and cricket, and an audience for his sense of humor. As a prank, he hid a teammate's clothes and towel as he was in the shower, and repeated the process daily for six weeks.

"It was his introduction to the team," Carter said with a smile. Acts like this one earned him the reputation of a "jester," according to his girlfriend Ellie Langford. "Danny is the funny one out of his friends," she said, "He's constantly making jokes and keeping them all entertained."

When his mother nudged him towards basketball at 14, the sport quickly became his favorite pastime. By age 17, he started to stand out for more than his

large repertoire of jokes, becoming the best player on his team and attracting athletic scouts.

"When not on the court, I try to be a clown," says Carter, "but when I step on the frontlines, it's business." This was displayed in last season's men's National Trophy Final between his Reading Rockets and the Worthing Thunder. After being intentionally elbowed in the jaw by an opponent, Carter returned the favor with a head-butt. The act earned him an ejection and a two-game suspension.

"It was a stupid decision," he said. "I regret doing it but it also made me a better player."

Despite the incident, many scouts were still interested in Carter. Among them was Stony Brook's Head Coach Stephen Pikiell.

"I was excited about his energy and versatility, his size, and his passion," Pikiell said. "He plays with an attitude and a chip on his shoulder."

After much deliberation, Carter chose Stony Brook due to Coach Pikiell and the school's proximity to New York City. Langford agreed with the choice. "It's brilliant that Danny's moved to America to play basketball, as the standard of play is higher than here in England," she said.

His new teammates quickly grew accustomed to him. Ironically, many of them believe that Carter has difficulty getting a taste of his own medicine.

"He's a really funny guy, great to have around the locker room," said guard Brian Dougher, his closest teammate. "But he has a bit of a short temper. You can't joke around with him too much." Carter disagreed. "I'm very short tempered. I get ticked off by people that say annoying things or ask really obvious questions," he said with a laugh. "And I usually take jokes well, as long as nothing gets ruined."

What's considered funny or not is just one of the new things that Carter is adjusting to. "Sarcasm is used all the time back home, people take things more literally here," he said.

Basketball is significantly different, too. "Everyone here wants to dribble, whereas everyone in Europe wants to shoot," he said. But he adds that he is learning and improving with every practice.

Though his major is undecided, Carter hopes to play professionally after college. For now, he will display his combination of European fundamentals and American athleticism in intercollegiate play throughout the season.

Check out Thursday's issue for coverage of the Seawolves opening basketball weekend!

# Hockey Loses Tough Game To West Chester

By GENE MORRIS  
Sports Editor

The road to nationals just got a little bit tougher.

Up 2-0 nothing and dominating into the second period, the Seawolves still could not find a way to put away conference rival West Chester on Saturday night at the Rinx, and were defeated 6-3.

Still ranked #19 in the country, Stony Brook will be battling until the end of the year for its annual spot in the championship tournament. But a victory over West Chester would have given the Seawolves a leg up on the automatic bid awarded to the winner of the Eastern Collegiate Hockey Association.

John Wong, who has been playing strong hockey all season, scored the Seawolves first goal with a slap shot from inside the right circle 7:13 into the game. The puck squirted through the legs of the goalie and crossed the goal line to give the Seawolves the early lead.

Three minutes later Dan Capizzuto scored off an assist from Kris Deckenback to put Stony Brook up two goals. Deckenback nearly scored a goal himself later in the first on a Seawolves 5-on-3. He rang a shot off the crossbar for the Seawolves best chance of the man advantage.

Even though Deckenback did not score, he played an all around great game, mixing it up physically with players much bigger than him, and giving valuable minutes on the penalty kill.

But everything seemed to fall apart midway through the second period.

"A seven or eight minute lapse in the entire game," Assistant Coach Pete Hall said. "We outplayed them for 53 minutes."

Captain Colin Brumstead was whistled for a two minute minor for interference with 13:57 left in the second period.

Stony Brook managed to kill most of the penalty off, but with 11 seconds left on the man advantage West Chester got on the board.

Senior Robert Bushman slammed home a great pass from the corner all the way to the opposite goal post by Shane McGarry.

Just 23 seconds later Bushman assisted on a goal by Jim Gehring, and just like that the game was tied up.

"It sucked," Captain Angelo Serse said about watching the game from behind the glass. "I saw what was happening. We outplayed them but a few breakdowns killed us."

1:20 later West Chester struck again.

Dave Bixler and Patrick Johnson found themselves alone behind the Stony Brook defense. Goaltender Derek Stevens had no chance and West Chester went ahead 3-2.

Stevens played a solid game, but was let down on a few occasions by his defense. He finished with 21 saves.

The Seawolves responded after the third West Chester goal and put together a great five minute stretch that culminated in a West Chester holding penalty.

Deckenback and Tom Pacifico broke out for a two-on-one odd man rush but where not able to get a clean shot on goal. 30 seconds later John Wong and Mauricio Torres had another two-on-one, and again were not able to put a quality shot on goal.

Twenty seconds into the Seawolves power play West Chester stuffed all the Stony Brook momentum with a short handed goal. A West Chester forward got in alone on Stevens and deked backhand and put the shot just under the crossbar.

Three minutes later the Seawolves found themselves on another power play.

After consistent pressure that was turned aside by acrobatic goaltending, Mauricio Torres was finally able to put the buck into the West Chester net. Defenseman Pete Zarolla was down in the corner and found Torres by himself in front of the net.

"I was at the end of a shift," Torres said. "Zarella came out of the corner and I stepped out and he gave me a good pass."

Three minutes after that Stony Brook got yet another power play.

West Chester won the defensive zone face off and lifted the puck high in the air down the ice.

Capizzuto, the only Seawolves player back, took a baseball like swing at the puck and whiffed. That allowed West Chester's Gehring to get behind him and pick up the loose puck.

He got in alone on Stevens and scored the goal that put the Seawolves in a hole they could not dig out of.

The Seawolves had chances in the third period, with three power plays. But the only goal in the frame was scored by West Chester, pushing the final score to 6-3.

"We played really well in the first period, came out strong and caught them flat footed," Torre said. "We came out flat in the second, and gave them a chance to come back. And they took advantage of it."

# Running Backs Set More Records In Final Game

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Seawolves up 10.

But the ensuing extra point was blocked by VMI and returned for two points of its own. The three point swing pulled the Keydets within a touchdown at 26-19. It was the second week in a row the Seawolves had an opponent block an extra point and return it for points.

Senior wide receiver Dwayne Eley

also played his last career game for the Seawolves. He finished this season with a team leading 48 receptions, 697 yards, and five touchdowns.

Eley leaves Stony Brook second on the all time reception list with 157, third on the all time receiving yards list with 2,062, and fourth on the receiving touchdown list with 15.

The Seawolves end the 2008 campaign at 5-6 overall, 3-2 in Big South play.

# STATESMAN SPORTS

## Still Rolling

**Cuttino, Gowins, and the rest of Seawolves offense continues its strong play in final game of season**

**Gene Morris/ SB Statesman**

By GENE MORRIS  
Sports Editor

After starting the season 1-5 and looking inept on offense, the Seawolves' running game pounded another opposing defense and led Stony Brook to its fourth win in the past five games.

In a battle fought primarily on the ground, the Seawolves topped the Virginia Military Institute 40-26 in its final game of the season.

Conte Cuttino and Edwin Gowins once

again surpassed 200 yards individually, and set some more records.

Cuttino's 233-yards on 28 carries pushed him to 2,808-yards in his career. He passed running back Ralph Menendez's 2,623-yards to become Stony Brook's all time leading rusher.

Gowins had another huge day, scoring three times, with each touchdown over 30 yards. His 250 yards on the day put him at 1,310 yards on the season, the highest total in Stony Brook history, and he also had a

65-yard touchdown run called back due to a holding penalty. Cuttino's season total of 1,243 yards leaves him second on the individual season list.

Red-shirt freshman Dayne Hoffman managed the game well, completing 11 of 21 passes for 175 yards and two touchdowns and one interception.

Virginia Military Institute did not complete a single pass on the day. Quarterback Tim Maypray was 0-3, but gained 99 yards on the ground. His 60-yard run through the

Seawolves defense midway through the first quarter kept the Keydets in the game.

They ran the ball 62 times for 390 total yards and accounted for all three of Virginia Military Institute's touchdowns.

After Virginia Military Institute scored a touchdown early in the third quarter to draw with in three points at 20-17, Gowins broke off his 65-yard run on the next drive to put the

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