



ALEEF RAHMAN / THE STATESMAN

Part of an exhibit revealed in the Stony Brook University Medical Center. See page 2 for more photos.

## CONSTRUCTION ON CAMPUS RECREATION CENTER HAS BEGUN

By **BERNIE LUBELL**  
Contributing Writer

February's frozen earth has proven to be no challenge for construction workers currently breaking ground for the new campus recreation center between the Sports Complex and Union.

"This project has been on our minds since 1999, when we visited the campuses of the University of New Hampshire and Northeastern University," said Susan DiMonda, associate dean and director of Student Life, standing adjacent to a blown-up map of Stony Brook's campus when it was fairly young and less developed. "This map was here when I moved into this office, and I like to keep it here because it reminds me of how far we've come as a university."

DiMonda noted that the present construction has no relationship to the current budget deficit. "This project was approved before the budget cuts took place and the money has been coming in for this project for years," she said of the \$37.5 million dollar budget. "We have discussed this project with SUNY legislation since 2000."

Although the new construction has obstructed the walkways from the stadium to John S. Toll Drive, DiMonda said it will benefit students in the long run. "The benefit outweighs any inconvenience," she said.

According to DiMonda, when construction is

complete, one pathway will remain between the stadium and sports complex. The new facility will form a triangular community juxtaposed between the Union and Sports Complex.

DiMonda also said the new facility will double the amount of student jobs available on campus, with eight students working at the facility per hour. The building will be open for students seven days a week from 6:00 a.m. until midnight.

Senior Dan Burns, biochemistry and philosophy double major who has worked for Campus Recreation as an intramural coordinator since his freshman year, said the new facility will enhance current programs. "When you look at other places, you get a hint of jealousy," said Burns with a laugh. "It will give students the space to enjoy opportunities."

At 85,000 sq. feet, the new recreation facility offers more space for recreation than what currently exists on campus. A far cry from the existing wellness center, the new facility will be almost six times the size of the wellness center, which sees approximately 800 people per day.

Whereas the wellness center has 3,000 sq. feet for weights and fitness, the new recreation center will have 3,562 sq. feet on the first floor and 13,437 sq. feet on the second floor.

According to Marie Turchiano, associate director of Campus

See **CAMPUS** on 3

## Bioterror: When An Antidote Can Strike Back

By **ANDREW ZAJIC**  
Contributing Writer

One gram of botulinum neurotoxin has the potential to kill millions of people.

Stony Brook University and Brookhaven National Labs are working together, for the first time, to create an antidote. The Defense Threat Reduction Agency granted the research project to assuage bioterror success of botulinum toxin. In a recent press release, the project carries the title, "Structure-Based

Discovery of Pan-Active Botulinum Neurotoxin Inhibitors."

"It is a competitive research project. We have the experts. We are pretty confident that in two years we can get the preliminary structure for an antidote," said Dr. Iwao Ojima, director of the Institute of Chemical Biology & Drug Discovery, or ICB&DD, at Stony Brook University. "This is our first target. The ICB&DD has not researched antidotes to neurotoxins before."

Although experimental vaccines to the toxin

have existed as early as World War II, vaccines, traditionally based on antibodies, would not be effective once the toxin entered the cell.

By clogging up the nerve endings that signal the muscles to contract, the botulinum toxin paralyzes a person. In the event of botulinum bioterror, the paralysis of respiratory muscles would leave millions unable to breathe.

"One nanogram can kill one person. 100 milligrams can kill a million people," said Dr. Subramanyam

Swaminatham, a Brookhaven National Labs biologist who leads a research team in botulinum toxin.

Vaccines employ antibodies against the bacteria, not the botulinum neurotoxin. "Once you are infected with the toxin, there is no cure available," Dr. Swaminatham said.

Stony Brook University and Brookhaven Labs plan to research chemical therapy as the possible neurotoxin antidote.

See **ANTIDOTE** on 3

### IN THIS ISSUE

#### "Groovaloo" has audiences dancing

The music pumps to the very core of your body from start to finish.

You can't help but get wrapped up in the movement of the group of the 14 dancers you watch on

stage. They relay their stories to the audience through music and dance about the struggle they went through in order to be professionals...

See **DANCING** on 4

#### A wrench thrown into legislation

It is becoming increasingly clear that something needs to be done about the US Senate's "rule" that requires the consent of at least 60 senators to get just about

any piece of legislation through.

The filibuster (literally: "talking out a bill") does not appear in the...

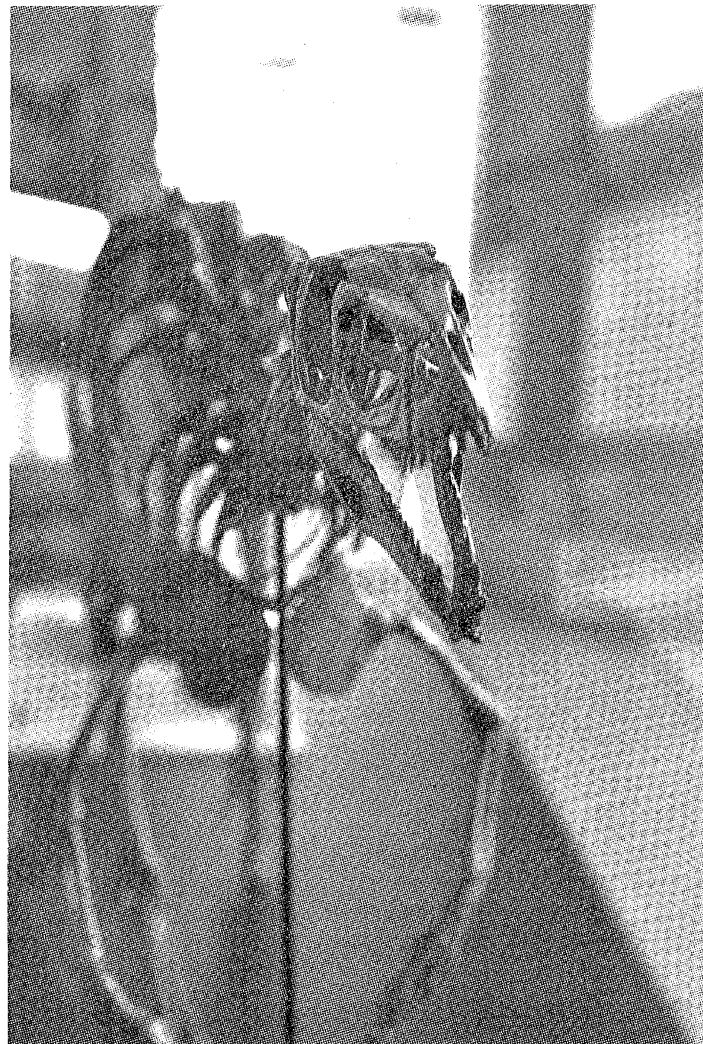
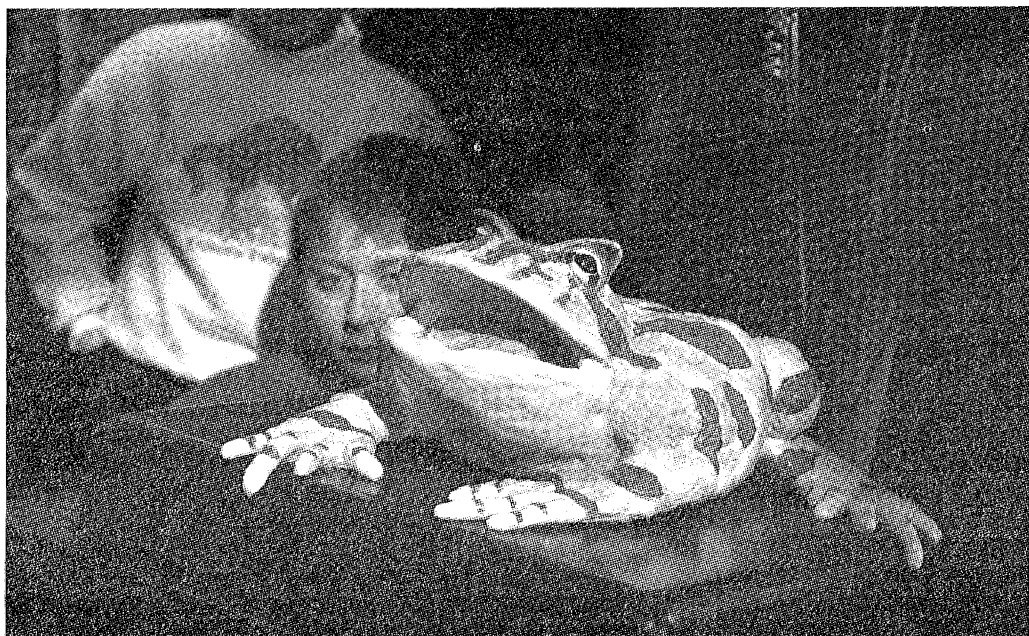
See **LOVE IT** on 5

### INDEX

News.....	3
Arts.....	4
Opinion.....	5
Sports.....	7



NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS



PHOTOS BY: ALEEF RAHMAN

(Right) Masiakasaurus knopfleri (Above) Beelzebufo ampinga, or the "Devil Frog," the largest known frog to ever exist. Both fossils are on display in the lobby of Stony Brook University Medical Center.

colleges for change

Changing the social acceptability of tobacco in the college community.

who we are

The Colleges For Change Program is grant funded by the New York State Department of Health Tobacco Control Program. The grant covers seven Colleges For Change grants statewide.

The grant has been designed to engage young leaders to work on and off college campuses to limit where and how tobacco products are promoted, advertised and sold, and to advance local and statewide policy advocacy approach to creating communities that support and reinforce tobacco-free norms.

Colleges For Change Programs focus efforts specifically on those aspects of the community and college environment that most influence tobacco use among young adults.

what does that mean?

1. TOBACCO INDUSTRY SPONSORSHIP AND PROMOTION:

- Work with college student groups, community based organizations, sporting groups, local venues and community bars/night clubs to develop policies which prohibit the acceptance of tobacco industry support (both endorsement and financial), and prohibit sponsorship of events on their property.
- Develop and implement policies that completely ban the distribution of free tobacco products on campus and at community events.
- Educate the colleges and local community about the impact of tobacco industry sponsorship and promotion.

2. SMOKE-FREE MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS:

- Work with management of college off-campus housing to enact smokefree policies.
- Educate target audiences about the impact of secondhand smoke and benefits of living in smoke-free housing.

3. OUTDOOR TOBACCO-FREE POLICIES:

- Advocate with school and municipal offices and adopt binding policies, ordinances, etc. prohibiting tobacco on campus, local beaches, parks, and playgrounds.



what can you do?

Support and participate in tobacco control efforts on your campus.

Make changes to your group or organization by saying "no thanks" to Big Tobacco and enacting a policy that prohibits tobacco company corporate giving, sponsorship, and promotion.

Encourage students, staff, and peers to make healthy lifestyle choices not only to protect themselves but to protect those around them.



FOR ASSISTANCE IN QUITTING CALL:

THE NEW YORK STATE SMOKERS' QUITLINE  
1-866-NY-QUITS (1-866-697-8487)

\*Free Nicotine Replacement Therapy for qualified candidates.

for more information

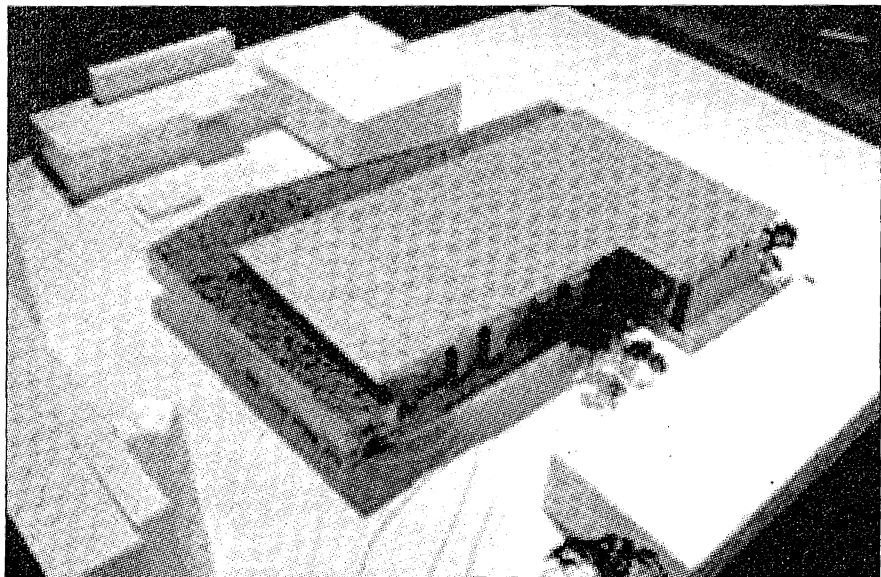
Randi Zito  
Colleges for Change, Program Coordinator

YMCA of Long Island  
2545 Middle Country Road  
Centereach, NY 11720

RCYMCA@aol.com  
C: 631-235-4940



# NEWS



MEDIA CREDIT: STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

A Model of the Recreation Center slated to open in 2012.

## CONSTRUCTION ON CAMPUS RECREATION CENTER HAS BEGUN

From **CAMPUS** on 1

Recreation, being turned down due to capacity will be a thing of the past for students.

"Our goal is to make sure we always have enough space," she said. "It will have a tremendous impact on student life and mentality."

The access to larger

space will offer more opportunities to students.

"We will have a broader range of programming and will be able to think outside the box," Turchiano said. "It is a building for students."

The new facility will be equipped for wireless internet and will also have two lounges for students, a fitness studio, a multi-activity court, and a multi-

purpose room among other amenities.

Although a specific date is unavailable at present time, officials say the unnamed Campus Recreation Center is projected to be completed by the end of 2012. "We can see the light at the end of the tunnel," Turchiano said excitedly. "Students will finally have a facility that is for them and them alone."

## Bioterror: When An Antidote Can Strike Back

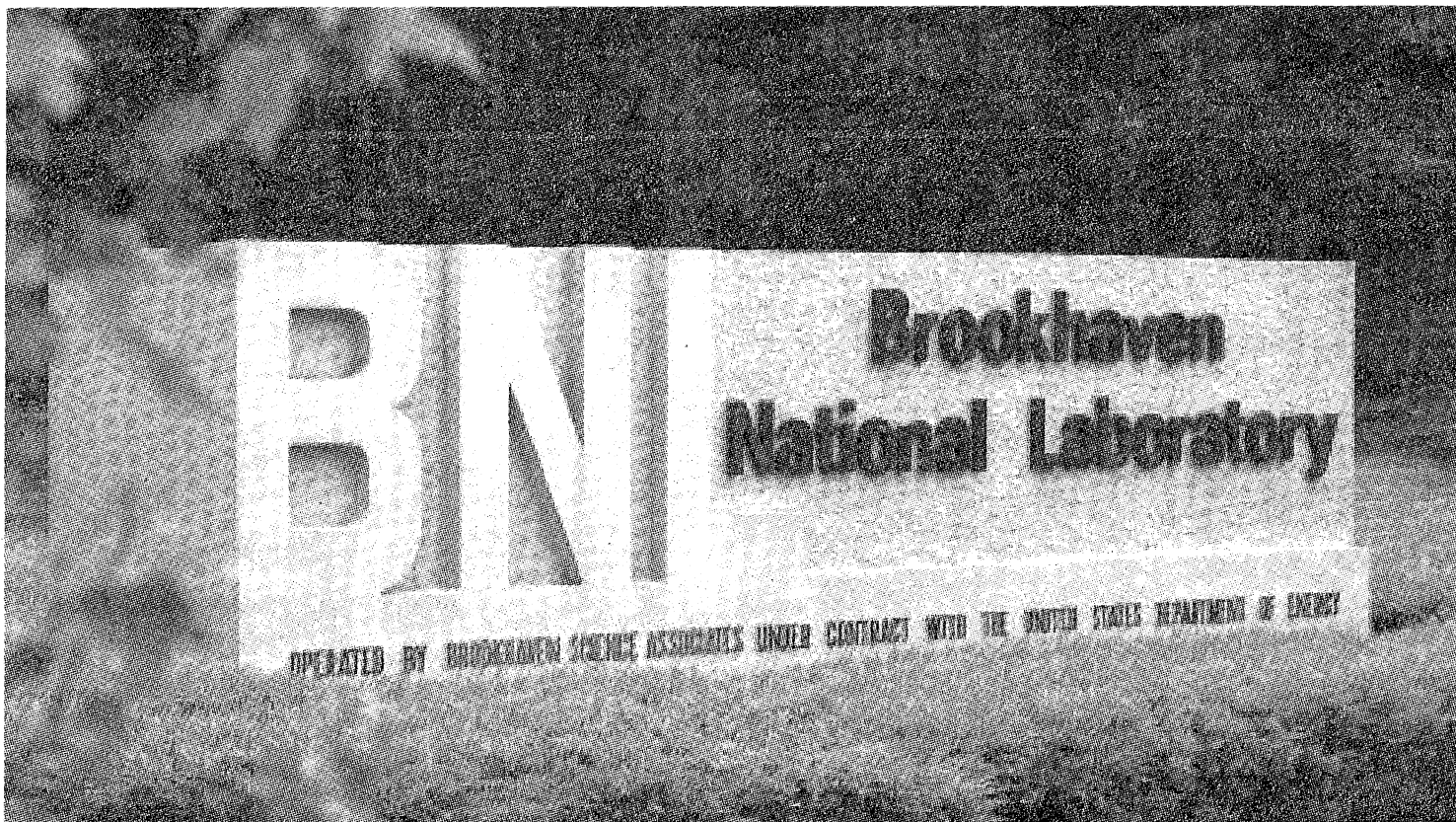
From **ANTIDOTE** on 1

In the press release, President Dr. Samuel L. Stanley Jr. called the project a critical area for biodefense and public health.

According to Dr. Swaminatham, the neurotoxin is not difficult to produce in a lab. The research project will need clearance from the Center of Disease Control, or CDC, in order to produce it for antitoxin research. Terrorists do not need sophisticated labs or top-class scientists to produce the botulinum toxin.

Poorly canned goods made botulism more of a household word. Manufactured botulinum neurotoxin, if for bioterror purposes, could be embedded into food and water supplies. Bioterrorism is a much quieter terror method, compared to explosive chemicals and nuclear bombs.

The recent news of the Christmas Day bomber Abdulmutallab revealed that the US lightly handled a threat to national security. The father of the would-be bomber warned a US Embassy in Nigeria about the "extreme religious views" of his son. The warning was not considered serious enough to put Abdulmutallab on the no-fly list, which brought danger to those



MEDIA CREDIT: BROOKHAVEN NATIONAL LABS

Brookhaven National Labs and Stony Brook University will work together to create an antidote for botulism.

airline passengers flying into Michigan.

While Obama administration officials quarrel with critics over thwarting Abdulmutallab from boarding the Michigan-bound plane, terrorism threats are far from over in the US. A month after the Christmas Day bomb attempt, a commission gave the Obama administration an "F" grade for rapid and effective response in bioterrorism. It was one of

three "F" grades that came from the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism.

The commission also gave a "D+" on the US government's oversight on high-containment labs. In a press release, it maintained that a bioterrorist attack will happen between now and 2013 if the Obama administration does not strengthen efforts in

these fields. The grades come a year after the commission's threat first assessment report, "World at Risk."

"The main premise for botulinum research was Saddam Hussein. His weapons carried botulinum toxin," said Dr. Swaminatham, in a telephone interview. In the 1990s, Iraq admitted to the United Nations that it produced almost 20,000 liters of botulinum toxin at the Al Hakam

factory. Much of the toxin was loaded onto R-400 aerial bombs, which the UN safely destroyed.

The Stony Brook University and Brookhaven National Labs research project marked an attempt to improve safeguards against at least one form of bioterrorism. Dr. Subramanyam Swaminatham and Dr. Iwao Ojima both reflect that the project might improve the "F" grades the Obama

administration received. The Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism did give the administration an "A" grade for advancing bioforensic capabilities.

"This project is multidisciplinary, and will be a combined effort of experts from different areas to find the botulinum antidote. I'm pretty confident about it," assured Dr. Ojima.

# ARTS

## "Groovaloo" has the Audience Dancing

By SAMANTHA BURKARDT  
Staff Writer

The music pumps to the very core of your body from start to finish.

You can't help but get wrapped up in the movement of the group of the 14 dancers you watch on stage.

They relay their stories to the audience through music and dance about the struggle they went through in order to be professionals. You can't help but cheer when they flip, head-spin, break dance, pop, tap and almost fly. You'll get trapped in the world that is "Groovaloo" once you see what it's all about, and you'll keep wanting more.

On Saturday, Feb. 13, the winners of NBC's "Superstars of Dance", Groovaloo, took the Staller stage by storm.

The stage was decorated with a new set painted with graffiti, new flashing lights and smoke machines while hip-hop, rap, pop and other energizing music blasted through the amps.

The audience was already dancing before the sold out 8 p.m. show began.

The dancers of "Groovaloo" have also appeared on "So You Think You Can Dance,"

"The Wayne Brady Show" and "The Ellen DeGeneres Show."

After their Saturday night appearance, it was clear people wanted to see more of them at Stony Brook.

Energy is the best word to describe every aspect that is Groovaloo. From the music to the dancers, you can't help but get lost in their constantly moving world. The show was infused with so many dances and stories that the 85 minutes flew by.

The crowd cheered most when there was a mirror performance. Two of the guys in the crew danced together and replicated each other's moves as if they were looking into a mirror at each other. Every move they made was on point. The audience was eating the performance up and they wanted seconds and thirds.

The story lines that the performers were dancing to, were real-life stories from some of the members of the group.

Steven "BoogieMan" Stanton had one of the most challenging struggles of all. He was shot in his lower back and was told by his doctors that he would never be able to walk again, let alone dance.

His mom always reminded him of the power of mind over matter and



GROOVALOO.COM

The "Groovaloo" dancers performed to a sold out show at Stony Brook's Staller Center this past weekend.

with the support of his friends, BoogieMan was on stage. Dancing,

Groovaloo's founder, Bradley "Shooz" Rapier, said that their show is meant to inspire anyone to celebrate their passion and purpose.

Shooz has won many awards and honors for his choreography, but when he was younger, he studied to be a doctor so he could open a practice with his father. Instead he followed his passion and wants to send

that same message to anyone who will watch and listen.

After an antsy audience had been listening to the body shaking music for over 20-minutes, they were ready for the show.

From backstage came

the man who would give the audience what they wanted. He stood in the middle of the stage and said, "Everybody please clap your hands and scream for GROOVALOO!"

The show began.

## Arts at the Brook

This is a new section in Arts & Entertainment that will announce the weekly events on campus to keep the student body informed on the latest in music, movies, theatre, dance and art at Stony Brook.

### MUSIC:

The University Cafe is hosting RockYoFaceCase Monday Feb. 15. Mother F'Nature, Mania in Urbania and Frontier Brothers are set to perform that night.

The Tabler Arts Center

is hosting its first Open Mic Night of the spring semester on Tuesday Feb. 16 from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. in the cafe area of the TAC.

### ART GALLERIES:

The Univery Art Gallery is hosting the "MFA Thesis Exhibition 2010" on the first floor of the Staller Center for the Arts through Feb. 27. The exhibition is showcasing the artwork of MFA students, Joseph Andrew Esser, Julianne Gadoury, Kristine, Elizabeth Dee Heifferon and Danielle Rago.

### MOVIES:

The Wang Center is hosting "Flesh and Soul: Dance on Camera Films," a showcase of six films that interpret dance through

cinema and cinema through dance throughout the world.

The event will present the following movies: "Horizon of Exile," "Mysteries of Nature," "Caught in Paint," "Reincarnation," "La Vie Est Belle" and "Bahudha on" Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.

### TELEVISION:

SBU-TV, channel 20, is continuing its celebration of Black History Month with a presentation of "The Strange Fruit". The documentary, based on Billie Holiday's classic song of the same name is airing daily starting Feb. 14 to Feb. 28, 4:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m.

"Race- The Power of an Illusion" is airing throughout the month daily at 12:30 a.m.

### THEATRE:

The Vagina Monologues return once again to Stony Brook. this Thursday Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. and on Feb. 18 at 9 p.m. The presentation is based on Eve Ensler's

play of the same name is part of the V-Day event which is part of a global movement to end violence against women and girls.

### DANCE:

The Martha Graham

Dance Company, the oldest contemporary dance company, which was founded by Martha Graham, is performing at the Staller Center's Main Stage this Saturday, Feb. 20 at 8 p.m.

## Comics

### PHD COMICS BY JORGE CHAM



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM



# OPINION

## A Wrench Thrown Into Legislation

the stony brook  
**Statesman**

**Editors-in-Chief**  
Bradley Donaldson  
April Warren

**Opinion Editor**  
Ravneet Kamboj

**News Editor**  
Frank Posillico

**Arts & Entertainment Editor**  
Ivanna Avalos

**Sports Editor**  
Sarah Kazadi

**Photo Editor**  
Kenneth Ho

**Copy Editor**  
Yasmeen Tamoor

**Business Manager**  
Frank D'Alessandro

**Accountant**  
Arthur Golnick

First issue free, additional issues cost 50 cents.

**GET INVOLVED**

The Statesman encourages readers to submit opinions and commentaries to the following address:

Stony Brook Statesman  
PO Box 1530  
Stony Brook, NY 11790

Phone: (631) 632-6479  
Fax: (631) 632-9128

Email: [comments@sbstatesman.org](mailto:comments@sbstatesman.org)

To view previous issues, extra material, and to learn about how to get involved with the Statesman, visit our website at [sbstatesman.com](http://sbstatesman.com).

For advertising inquiries, call us at (631) 632-6480 or visit us online at [sbstatesman.com](http://sbstatesman.com).

**WHO WE ARE**

The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Socolian" in 1957 at Oyster Bay, the original site of Stony Brook University. In 1975, The Statesman was incorporated as a not-for-profit, student run organization. Its editorial board, writing, and photography staff are student volunteers while its business staff are professionals.

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

*Disclaimer: Views expressed in columns or in the Letters and Opinions section are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Statesman.*

All content Copyright 2010.

By FARJAD FAZLI  
Contributing Writer

It is becoming increasingly clear that something needs to be done about the US Senate's "rule" that requires the consent of at least 60 senators to get just about any piece of legislation through.

The filibuster (literally: "talking out a bill") does not appear in the Constitution. Instead, it is a self-imposed decree which dates back to the founding fathers.

As part of the Great Compromise at the 1787 Constitutional Convention, the House of Representatives was made to be the popular body representing the will of the people, while the Senate would protect small states and minority views.

For more than a century, this meant that every senator had an unlimited right to speak. If a senator desired to end a debate, they needed to conduct a vote and gather the approval of every member. In 1917, President Woodrow Wilson wanted to get around a few senators filibustering his efforts to get America ready for World War I.

His supporters in the Senate adopted Rule 22, which allowed for an end to a filibuster if two-thirds of the Senate members present agreed. Known as the "cloture rule," it was changed in 1975 to allow three-fifths of the Senate to end filibusters. Thus we arrive at the magic number: 60.

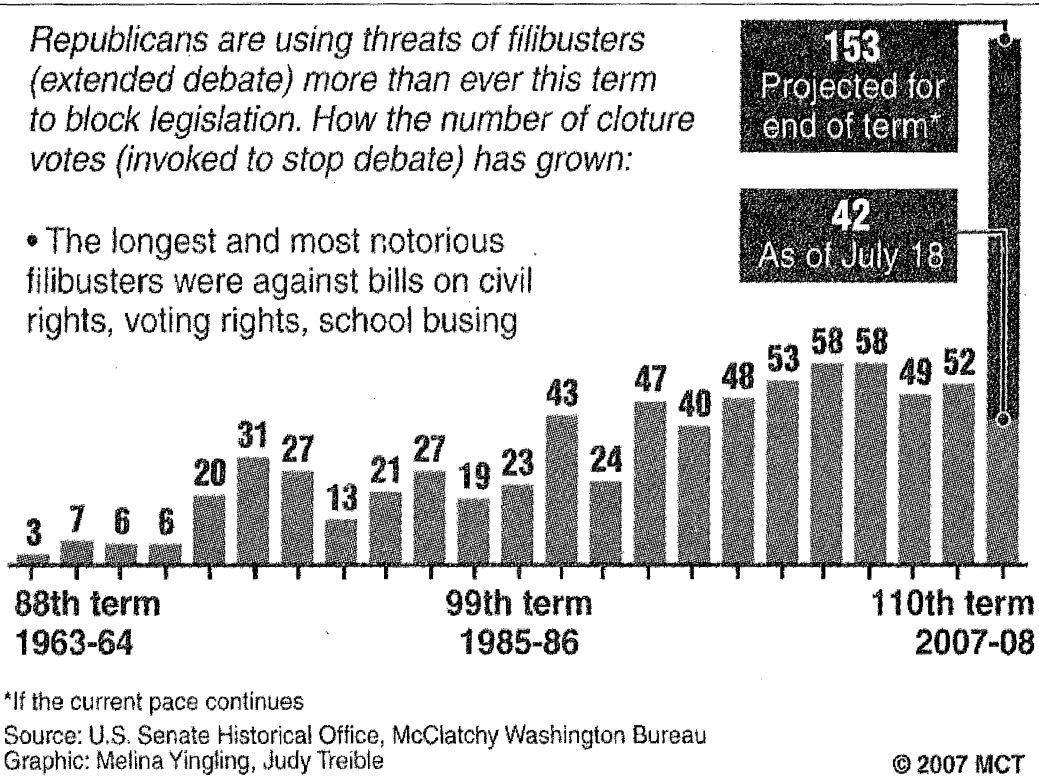
For most of the country's history, filibusters were few and far between. When they did occur, though, it was quite a spectacle. Senators from the filibustering party would stand up and talk for hours, even days on end, about completely irrelevant topics.

They would tell tales from their childhood and read from the dictionary, just to kill time until the other party gave up or the session came to an end.

In recent times, however, the mere threat of a filibuster has become as powerful as a filibuster itself. So nowadays, instead of

Republicans are using threats of filibusters (extended debate) more than ever this term to block legislation. How the number of cloture votes (invoked to stop debate) has grown:

• The longest and most notorious filibusters were against bills on civil rights, voting rights, school busing



[www.mcclatchydc.com](http://www.mcclatchydc.com)

needing a group of determined senators to hold the floor by rambling for days, certainly not an easy task, all the opposition needs is 41 members on its side.

To be sure, some kind of check is needed against majority tyranny, and that is what the filibuster does in theory. But in modern practice, it has essentially given the minority veto power: all they need to do to kill any measure is disagree with it.

Since Democrats retook control of Congress in 2006, Republicans have used the threat of filibuster far more than at any other time in history.

It has become a part of the standard operating procedure. Aptly named the "party of no," the GOP has done everything in its power to delay and obstruct any kind of major legislative progress. The filibuster has become a serious threat facing effective governance.

Case in point: Last week, Republican Senator Richard Shelby of Alabama placed a unilateral "blanket hold" on 70 of President Obama's nominees for various positions in the federal government.

He is blocking these qualified individuals, some of whom would work at vital national security posts at the Department of Defense, until he is sure that his home state of Alabama will get a lucrative \$40 billion contract to build new aerial refueling tankers for the Air Force.

He also wouldn't mind getting construction started in Huntsville, on the FBI explosives lab he earmarked \$45 million for back in 2007.

Under the current filibuster rules, a supermajority of, you guessed it, 60 votes is required to lift the hold on each individual nominee, a tedious task to say the least. If something like this happened anywhere else outside the government, it would be called extortion.

Up until last week, the Democrats did have exactly 60 votes in the Senate. Why then, couldn't they get anything done? It was difficult to get all 60 to agree on any one thing.

There are variations along the left end of the political spectrum, after all. That was the issue when trying to pass health care reform: a handful of conservative

Democratic senators had tremendous negotiating power and were able to delay voting until they got exactly what they wanted.

One thing the Republicans were quick to do recently was the swearing in of Scott Brown, their newly elected senator from Massachusetts, and the 41st member of their caucus. Thus, the count in the Senate is now 59-to-41, and there is even less chance of making progress.

So what can be done about it? Why hasn't there been a populist backlash against this clearly unreasonable legislative rule? For starters, the public needs to be informed.

The latest study from the Pew Research Center found that only 26 percent of Americans know that it takes 60 votes to break a filibuster.

If enough people demand action from their senators, it is possible that the "rule" could be changed, via a simple majority vote on the first day of the next session.

It could also be changed through legislation now. However, such a bill would, most likely, be filibustered.

### Guidelines for Opinion Submission



Letters to the editor or op-ed contributions can be submitted by e-mail at [Op-Ed@sbstatesman.org](mailto:Op-Ed@sbstatesman.org), on our online submission tool at [www.sbstatesman.org](http://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.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## FOR RENT

**STUDIO APT** starting \$600 and **1 B/R apt** starting \$900. In the heart of Port Jefferson Village. All utilities included, cable, water and heat. Free wireless internet. Parking and bus stop across the street. By appointment only. 631-473-2499.

## HELP WANTED

**BARTENDERS NEEDED.** No experience required. Earn \$250.00 per shift. Call us at 917-628-2820.

**DOMINOS PIZZA DELIVERY DRIVERS AND INSIDE HELP WANTED.** Flexible hours, great pay, need your own car for delivery. 631.751-0330

## SERVICES

**THE CARPET SPECIALIST.** Installations, repairs, & restretches. Free estimates. Over 30 years experience. No job too small. 631.567.1426

**FAX SERVICE.** \$0.50 PER PAGE (including cover sheet). Call 632.6479 or come to Room 057 in Student Union.



(631) 471-8000  
1-800-HOLIDAY  
3131 Nesconset Highway  
Stony Brook, NY 11720  
www.stonybrookny.hiexpress.com

**The Holiday Inn Express Offers...  
Spacious One & Two Bedroom Suites With...**

- FREE** Hot Deluxe Breakfast (Hot Coffee 24 hours/day)
- FREE** High Speed Wireless Internet
- FREE** Health Club Membership/Indoor Pool
- FREE** Shuttle Service

The management team at the Holiday Inn Express Stony Brook would like to thank you for your continuing business.



**I have been alive for 8 weeks.**

- After 18 days, you could hear my heart beat.
- After 40 days, you could measure my brainwaves.
- After 45 days, I felt pain and responded to touch.

**Please choose life for me.**

**Alternatives to Abortion.**

Free pregnancy testing, information, counseling and assistance.

Call 243-2373 or 1-800-550-4900

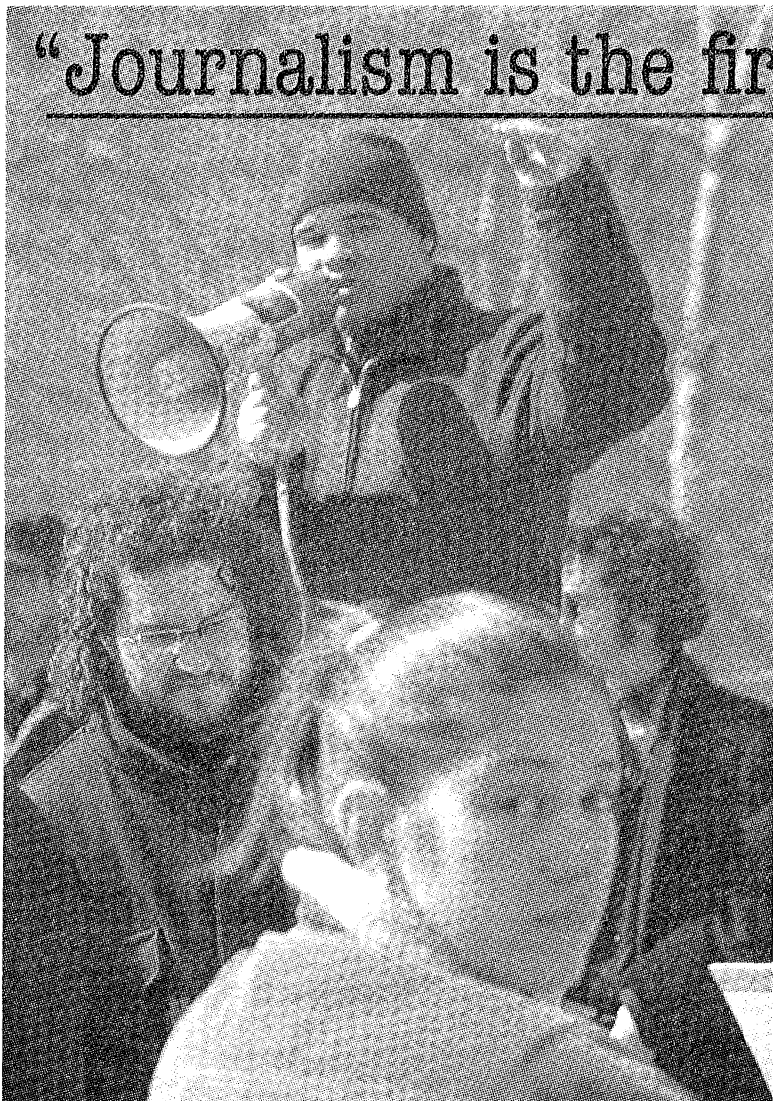
you could pick it up on the way to class...  
...but sometimes that's just too much effort.

**www.sbstatesman.org**

*Stony Brook's only twice-weekly paper also available online*

# “Journalism is the first rough draft of history”

-Donald Graham



“Students staging a protest against the war in Iraq,” Spring 2005, *Statesman*

## Help write Stony Brook's history.

Join the Statesman,  
reporting SB history since 1957.

**Call Us:**

631-632-6479

**Get Involved online:**

www.sbstatesman.org





# Women's Hoops Rolls Past Maine

By DAVID O'CONNOR  
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook women's basketball team (7-17, 5-7) defeated Maine (7-17, 3-9) yesterday 59-47, fueled by a solid effort from the bench and a career night from junior guard Cassie Klockgether (San Diego, CA.). The Seawolves have swept the season series against the Black Bears, who have now lost five games in a row.

"We've depended on everybody all year," said Coach Michele Cherry. "Jeter commands a lot of attention."

Cherry added that her leading scorer's skills have drawn defenders to her, opening up the other players on the court.

One such player on Saturday was Klockgether, who scored 17 points, a career high and a game high for both teams. She also nailed five of her nine three-point shots.

"That was a huge boost," said Coach Cherry, about Klockgether's performance, which was made a little

sweeter knowing how hard she has fought against constant injuries. Klockgether sat out most of last season with a bad knee.

Maine secured the ball at tip-off, giving the small contingency of fans who made the trek down to Long Island the first and one of the last things that they would celebrate that game.

After the Black Bears tied the score 1-1 with over 16 minutes left in the first half, they would not have a share of the lead for the rest of the game.

The game got off to a slow start, with both teams committing numerous turnovers.

Coming off 28 turnovers in their last game, the Black Bears turned the ball over 21 times in the first half.

However, the Black Bears would fight back. They would enter scoring sprees throughout the game, leaving the Seawolves fans to wonder if the momentum had shifted against them.

Meanwhile, Coach Cherry kept her team motivated.

"We just said that we've

got to buckle down and get stops," she said.

And get stops they did. The Seawolves would turn back Maine's surges with scoring tears of their own.

Though they were outrebounded by game's end, Stony Brook made more out of their opportunities, scoring 23 points off turnovers compared to the six scored by Maine.

The bench factor leaned in Stony Brook's favor as well. While the Black Bears' bench only scored three points, the Seawolves' bench amassed 30 points by the final buzzer, over half of the team's total points.

The Seawolves concluded the game with a 9-3 run, capping off a close game.

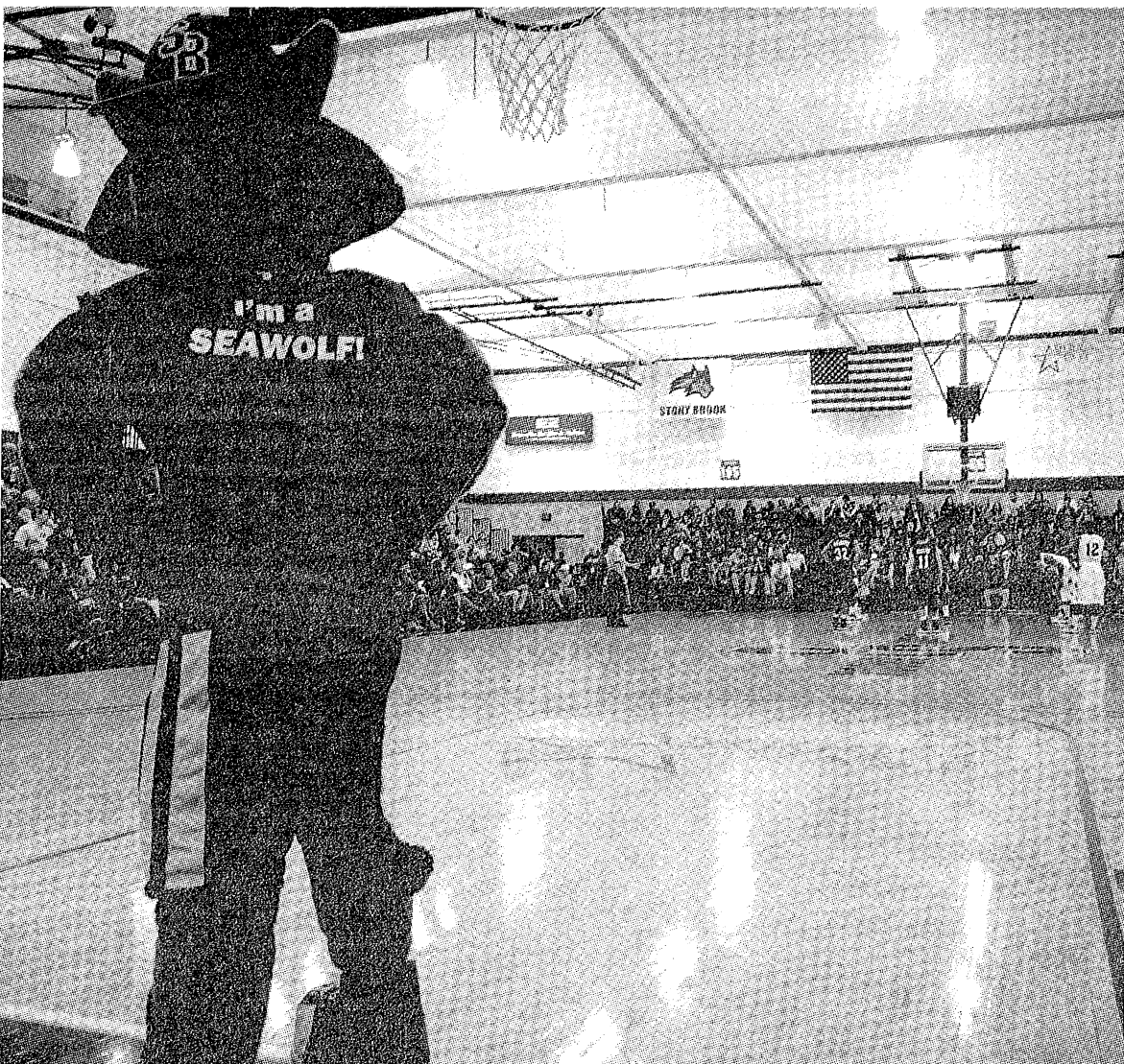
"We had some rough spots, but overall I think we played a pretty good game," summed up Coach Cherry, after the game that moved her team to the fourth spot in the America East Conference.

The Seawolves head to Boston on Wednesday, taking on a Terrier team that routed them early in the conference season. Tip off is slated for 7:00 p.m.



SAMANTHA BURKARDT / THE STATESMAN

Seawolves senior Crystal Rushin scored 13 points and grabbed 9 boards to help Stony Brook seal the deal.



SAMANTHA BURKARDT / THE STATESMAN

Wolfie stands tall in a sold-out Pritchard Gymnasium, while the Seawolves grab another win.

## Seawolves Country Riding Men's Hoops Wave

Cont. From Page 8

But he has this team playing as if every game is a tournament game. He has Stony Brook not only winning, but winning by double-digits. He has a relatively young and small Seawolves basketball team competing with-- and beating to a pulp-- bigger, more experienced teams.

What stands in their way? Three away games and one home game before the playoffs. The away games are against the three worst teams in the league-- UMBC, Albany, and New Hampshire.

The home game may be the single most important game the Seawolves have played up until this point. The Vermont Catamounts, in first place until the Seawolves defeated them on January 21, now sit in

second with a 9-3 conference record. But they are forced to approach an away game at Stony Brook with caution, something America East foes are unfamiliar with.

Wolfie can smell the fear. And should, by some strange twist of fate, the Seawolves not win the conference, there's always next year for four of the five players in the starting lineup. That is not a team built to win for this year. That is a team built to win for as long as you're here.

So it is time to take pride in being a Seawolf, Stony Brook. Join the movement now, before anyone can call you a bandwagon fan. You'll want to be able to say you were there before the championship. Get to Pritchard Gymnasium on February 24. And if you want a piece of bleachers to stand on, you should get there early.

# SPORTS

## What's A Seawolf? I'm A Seawolf!

### Seawolves Country Riding Men's Hoops Wave

By SAM KILB  
Sports Commentary

Do you hear it too? That slight buzz?

That is, for the first time in as long as anyone can remember, excitement over a sports team on campus.

While no one but the diehard sports junkies were watching, Steve Pikiell put together one heck of a men's basketball team. The Seawolves are on a seven-game win streak, having lost just two of their last 13 games. Stony Brook is top of the America East with a 10-2 conference record. And the team has lost just one game in the historic and intimate confines of Pritchard Gymnasium.

The Pritchard Gymnasium became so intimate that Saturday night's sellout of 1,630 people included a standing-room only section in the

corner near the student entrance. The stands were full before tip-off for what would seem to be the first time. Security personnel were forced to double as ushers before the game.

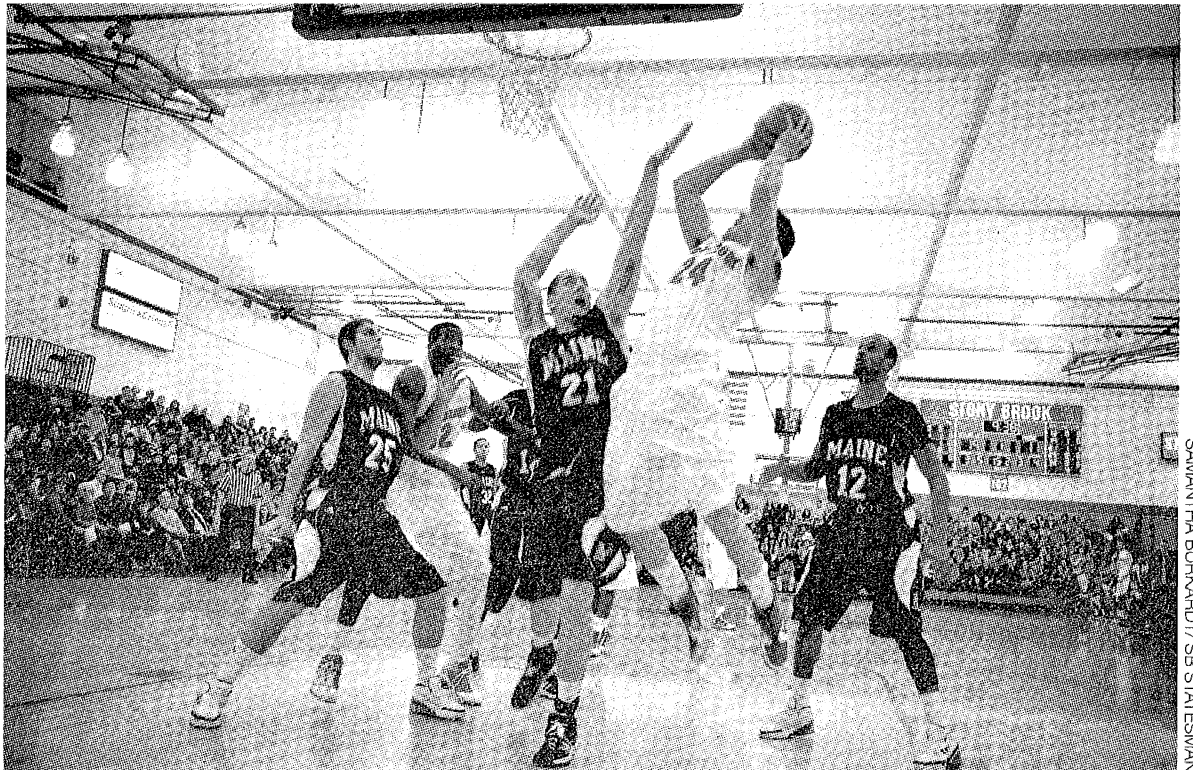
So it's time Stony Brook. It's time to care. Buy a Seawolves sweatshirt. Admit that "I'm a Seawolf!" is at least an indomitable comeback to "What's a Seawolf?", if not an actual definition. Learn how to pronounce the names of the players and memorize their jersey numbers. It doesn't matter if you're a commuter.

And most importantly, get to a game.

Now is the time. The team is poised like never before to make a run to—dare I say it—the NCAA tournament. Yeah, that one: March Madness.

Coach Pikiell would never say it. He's taking it one game at a time, as he always has.

Continued on Page 7



The Seawolves trumped Maine Wednesday night (above), and followed up by blowing out Binghamton Saturday, behind a career night from senior Muhammad El-Amin (below).



## Seawolves Rout Bearcats, Stay In First Place

By DORIC SAM  
Staff Writer

Senior Muhammad El-Amin (Lansing, Mich.) scored a career-high 31 points to lead Stony Brook's men's basketball team to a 81-61 win over the Binghamton Bearcats on Saturday night.

It is the seventh straight win for the Seawolves, who now move to 18-7 overall and a conference-best 10-2 record in the America East.

"What a terrific win for our team, we really played together and our defense

was outstanding all night," said head coach Steve Pikiell. "Our guys really fed off the energy of the crowd early and Muhammad really gave us a great lift."

Saturday's victory gives Stony Brook a win over every team in the America East, something they haven't done since joining the conference in 2001-02.

The win also set a school record for wins since moving to Division I in 1999.

El-Amin scored 19 of his 31 points in the first half and finished the game shooting 53 percent from the field and a perfect

8-for-8 from the free throw line. Sophomore Tommy Brenton (Columbia, Md.) recorded his fifth double-double of the season with 11 points and a game-high 14 rebounds.

Binghamton, now 11-16 overall and 6-6 in the America East, trailed by double digits for most of the game.

Greer Wright led the team with 28 points. Coming into the game second in the conference in field goal percentage, the Bearcats were held to 34 percent from the field.

The Seawolves jumped

out to an early 10-point lead on back-to-back three pointers from freshman Marcus Rouse (Upper Marlboro, Md.). They then traded baskets with the Bearcats to make it 19-9, and from there they never looked back.

El-Amin and sophomore Bryan Dougher (Scotch Plains, N.J.) hit back-to-back three pointers to push the lead to 14 with just under 10 minutes left in the half.

The Bearcats were able to dwindle the lead to 10 on a Moussa Camara three with four minutes left, but Stony Brook answered with 10-4

run to close out the half with a 47-33 lead.

Binghamton was able to cut the lead to 56-46 early in the second half. But a deep three pointer from El-Amin sparked a 14-0 run to push the lead to 24 with under 10 minutes to go.

The lead eventually grew to 25 on a put back from sophomore Danny Carter (London, England) with eight minutes left.

The Seawolves played stellar defense and the Bearcats got no closer than 18 throughout the rest of the game.

The starters were able to

leave to a standing ovation from the sold out crowd in the Pritchard Gymnasium as Stony Brook defeated Binghamton for the first time since 2006-07.

Stony Brook shot 50.9 percent from the field, eclipsing the 80-point mark for the fifth time this season.

This is the fourth straight double-digit victory for the Seawolves, who lead the conference in scoring margin.

The team will travel to Maryland for a matchup against the UMBC Retrievers on Tuesday night. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.

SAMANTHA BURKARDT/SB STATESMAN

MEGAN DWYER/SB STATESMAN