



SAMANTHA BURKARDT / THE STATESMAN

After years of being red and white, the zebra path has finally been painted back to its original colors.

Statesman Faces USG Supreme Court

Ruling grants paper budget hearing

BY JENNIFER LONG
Staff Writer

The future of the Statesman is no longer black and white.

According to an article in the New York Times, 2009 was the worst year for the newspaper business in decades. Advertising revenue dropped over 27 percent. Papers such as the Rocky Mountain News were forced to close. The Christian Science Monitor and the Seattle Post-Intelligencer became online only publications.

Last year was no different for the Statesman. In 2009 its ad revenue dropped nearly 50 percent. According to April Warren, the paper shortened issues, cut back on color and reduced circulation by 1,000. But like many newspapers, the Statesman is still losing money.

"The Statesman is struggling with the same problem every former print media has—from the New York Times to the New Yorker," said Charles

See COURT on 3

Back in Black Zebra Path Resorted

By ALESSANDRA MALITO
Staff Writer

The historic zebra path, which was created in 1981 for an art project, is being changed back to its original black and white design after it was repainted in 2007 for the university's 50th anniversary.

The repainting to the original colors started on Tuesday evening, but the desire for the change has lasted for much longer.

"The zebra path is part

of our tradition," said Undergraduate Student Government Sen. Craig R. McCarthy. "Right now, I'm leaving and a lot of students who saw it originally in black and white are going to be leaving. Next year only people in our school will have seen it as red and white and people won't really understand the history of it."

McCarthy wrote the resolution that was passed in December to repaint the zebra path after Rian Shah, a student at Stony Brook,

came to him for help. Shah is also the creator of the Facebook group "Restore the black and white Zebra Path," which has almost 600 members.

The path was first created three decades ago by Kim Hardiman during spring break for an art project in Professor Mel Pekarsky's class. Although she was told the university attempted to contact her, she never knew they were repainting the path, she said.

"It was a shock — they supposedly lost my

address," she said, adding that she found out from a newspaper. "I understand why people did it for the 'red hot' anniversary but the initial feeling is you never change an original artist's painting. It's like changing Mona Lisa's smile."

Hardiman spent a week painting through inclement weather and a truck driving over her work — using kneepads to paint the path.

It was originally painted to have geometric sharp-corned lines, although

since the red and white repainting, the lines have become "wiggly," Pekarsky said.

"That's not what she did," he said, explaining that she used a chalk snap line tool to make the lines sharp and into a pattern. "It was an optical effect."

Hardiman, who is a fan of Shah's Facebook group, is glad they'll be changing her work back to what it once was and hopes they pay more attention to her original design, she said.

"I didn't want to put colors because color affects people," she said. "Every time you add color it's going to affect people. Black and white is very neutral and when you think of it, black and white in photography is very strong. If you add color, it takes away the feeling."

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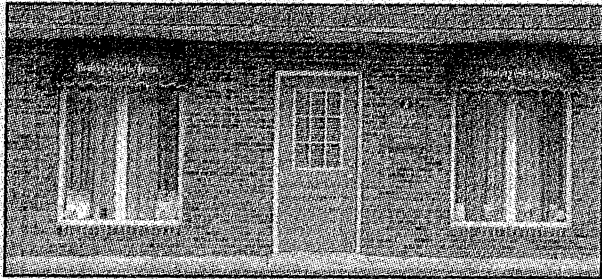
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NEWS

Statesman Faces USG Supreme Court, Ruling Grants Paper Budget Hearing

From COURT on 1

Haddad, a journalism professor at Stony Brook University.

In addition to its losses in advertising revenue, the Statesman received a 91 percent cut to their proposed Undergraduate Student Government or USG, funding in the 2010-2011 budget passed by the senate, which has since been rescinded due to the Southampton campus cuts. This decrease of approximately \$25,000 could lead to drastic changes for Stony Brook's oldest newspaper.

Moiz Khan, USG treasurer, explained the reason for the cut was fiscal irresponsibility. Under USG financial bylaws, the budget committee must "review whether the organization has been fiscally responsible with its budget in the past" and the "fiscal prudence" of funding the club. After a review of the Statesman's audit reports, the budget committee found that the Statesman ran a deficit of almost \$30,000 in the past two years.

"If USG continues to fund the Statesman and the Statesman keeps losing that money, is it responsible for USG to keep funding it," Khan said. "It's throwing student money down the drain."

April Warren, the

editor-in-chief of the Statesman, did not deny that the Statesman has been running on a deficit. According to Warren, the deficit has been paid off using reserve funds. For example in the year 2008, the Statesman had a surplus of nearly \$15,000.

Further complicating the understanding of its budget, the Statesman is a hybrid, receiving money from both USG and from outside revenue. This makes Statesman Association Inc. different from other clubs on campus. They file both state and federal taxes, and pay privately for yearly audits and business insurance. However USG funding strictly covers the cost of printing each year, News Editor, Frank Posillico said.

Because the Statesman receives USG funding, it is considered a campus club. According to Isobel Breheny-Schafer, assistant director of Student Media, the Statesman is a "necessary publication on campus and a place for future journalists to learn and perfect their craft."

Haddad also added that the "Statesman's number one role is not to be a business." He said "it's an opportunity for students to practice journalism."

In response to their proposed budget cut, the Statesman petitioned what they said was an "unfair budget" to the

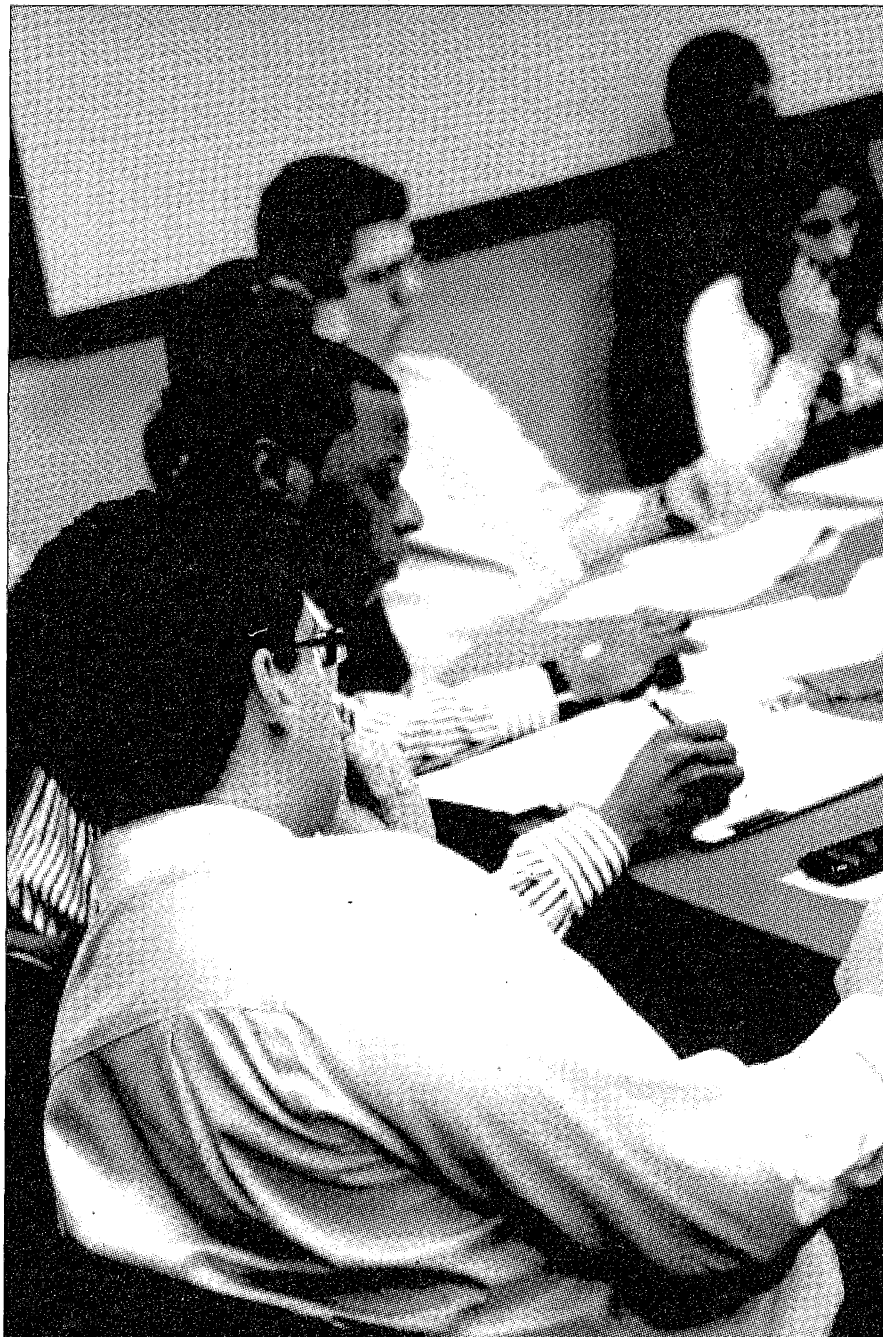
USG judiciary on the basis that they were unfairly denied a budget hearing.

On April 14 during campus lifetime, a court hearing was held to determine whether the USG Constitution was followed when Khan and the budget committee allocated the Statesman's budget.

The court ruled in favor of the Statesman, giving them a chance to discuss their funding with the budgetary committee—something they hadn't been able to do before the proposed budget was passed by the senate.

In the hearing, Warren argued that the Statesman was never contacted to set up a budget hearing. The USG Constitution states, "the budget committee must set up budgetary hearings with the clubs and organizations before it decides on a draft budget. The Office of the Treasurer shall schedule such hearings." Warren explained that, according to this year's USG budget workshop packet, budget hearings were not mandatory and because the treasurer did not contact them, a budgetary hearing was not scheduled.

Khan argued that yes, budgetary hearings are not mandatory, but it is not the responsibility of the treasurer to set up budgetary



KENNETH HO / THE STATESMAN

From left: Chief Justice Geordan Kushner, Kevin Breerton, Katie Krynicki, Greg Bernardi and Amanda Mayo.

meetings. Rather, the burden is placed on the organizations. According to Khan, it is "meant to be a positive power to get clubs more involved in the process."

If that Statesman's budget stays at \$2,500 dollars for next year, Warren says there will be no guarantee the organization will print twice a week as they do

now. Since the verdict, the Statesman attended a budgetary hearing on April 20 to discuss their finances for the 2010-2011 school year.

A Walk Through the Red Dragon

By SEAN CAFFREY-AGOGLIA
Staff Writer

Near the woods behind the Wang Center, Vishnu Rajan slowly walks around in a circle of red mulch. With his head tilted downward, he looks as if he is searching for his cell phone in the grass. Rajan may have been searching for something, but it is

certainly not a tangible object.

"I come here to walk and clear my head before class sometimes," said Rajan, 20, a sophomore and engineering major. "Sometimes I'm looking to relax and other times I'm just trying to sort things out."

Faculty and students like Rajan come to walk the Red Dragon Labyrinth on Stony Brook's West Campus to

mediate or to pray. Even local high school student groups walk the rings in pursuit of its potential mental health benefits.

The Red Dragon Labyrinth is between Mendelson Quad and the Student Union. It is formed by spiraling rings of red mulch with a grass border. The total length of the spiral from the entrance to center is 54 feet. It is almost impossible to see the

red coils because the mulch bed sits just below the grass.

The idea of a labyrinth is often confused with a maze, but the two are distinctly different. A labyrinth has one entrance and only one path to the center. A maze may have multiple entrances, exits, paths, and dead-ends. A labyrinth contains no dead-end paths or tricks.

Ed O'Connell created the Red Dragon Labyrinth

in 2005. O'Connell, both a radiation safety officer and a union grievance officer at Stony Brook University, first introduced to labyrinth walking at Little Portion Friary in nearby Mount Sinai. He was baking bread once a week with the Episcopal Franciscan brothers when he started to walk the labyrinth at the friary.

"I was very intrigued by the whole process,"

he said. O'Connell decided that meditative walking is something that his colleagues should experience. After waiting a year for permission from the university to build a labyrinth, O'Connell and Brother Maximilian Kolbe of Little Portion Friary spent three days digging up

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SPORTS

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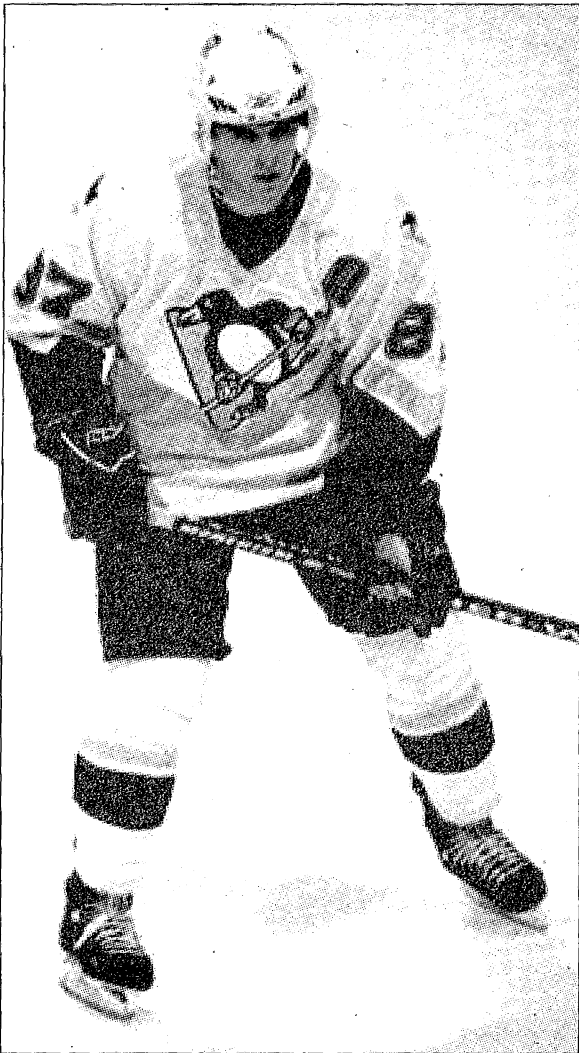


Photo: karnowski.wordpress.com

Sydney Crosby (above) will try to carry his Penguins to the Stanley Cup.

From NHL on 11

It took two overtimes but Boston found a way to win again in game four, after a Miroslav Satan goal sealed the deal.

Outlook: The Bruins have more experience and depth, but the Sabres have Miller. If he can hold up, the Sabres can take this in seven. If not, the Bruins will have an easy ride to the next round.

Pittsburgh Penguins v. Ottawa Senators (PIT leads, 3-1)

The only thing scarier than an in-form Sidney Crosby is an in-form Ovechkin, but only one of them is at his best right now, and he wears the black and gold of Pittsburgh.

Crosby scored twice in the Penguins' 7-4 victory over the Senators on Tuesday, giving Pittsburgh a commanding 3-1 series lead heading back to the Igloo in Pittsburgh.

Outlook: The Penguins are playing well and Ottawa isn't. Crosby and company punch their ticket to the next round on Thursday night in game five.

Western Conference

San Jose Sharks vs. Colorado Avalanche (Tied at 2)

Every game in this series has been decided by one goal, and in three of those games it took the teams overtime to come up with the game-winner.

The closest playoff series in this opening round, the Sharks, who finished in first place in the Western Conference, have been forced to work hard against the last-seed Avalanche.

In game four Tuesday night, Joe Pavelski scored in OT to even the series for the Sharks as they take it back to San Jose for game five Thursday night.

Outlook: Too close to call. This is what playoff hockey is all about. You play the hardest when you have something to prove. Colorado will move on in seven games.

Chicago Blackhawks vs. Nashville Predators (NAS leads, 2-1)

This has been a roller coaster of a series. The Preds took game one, 4-1. But Chicago wasn't phased and

responded with a 2-0 game two win. Then Nashville came back and pounded the Hawks again, 4-1.

Yet another playoff series where the lower seed has taken the initiative, Chicago will be forced to play much better hockey if they want to escape this playoff round.

Outlook: Chicago responds, but in the end underestimated the Predators. Nashville advances in seven.

Vancouver Canucks vs. Los Angeles Kings (LA leads, 2-1)

It would be news if every other series was going according to seed, but (surprise, surprise) it's the lower seed that has the upper hand.

The Canucks believe this is their year, and with Henrik Sedin to score and Roberto Luongo to keep the Kings from scoring it would seem they have a point.

But Los Angeles finished only three points behind Vancouver in the regular season, and with a few veterans on the squad are primed for an upset.

****At press time, LA is leading Vancouver 1-0 in the**

first period.

Outlook: If Luongo recovers his form, the Canucks could be legitimate contenders. But with shaky goaltending, the Canucks will let the Kings hang around for too long and eventually, LA will nip the series away. Kings in seven.

Phoenix Coyotes vs. Detroit Red Wings (Tied at 2)

Hockeytown breathed a collective sigh of relief on Tuesday as Jimmy Howard and the Wings blanked Phoenix, 3-0, to even the series at two games apiece.

The Coyotes, who many speculated would vacate Phoenix for icier pastures in Canada, stepped in and stole game one in yet another first round upset.

The Red Wings responded by winning game two and then falling asleep in game three to allow the Coyotes a series lead.

The Wings were red hot in the last few weeks of the regular season, and will be looking to pick it back up in game five.

Outlook: Detroit forgot who they were for a second, but they will be okay. Wings in six.



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To view previous issues, extra material, and to learn about how to get involved with the Statesman, visit our website at sbstatesman.com.

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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.

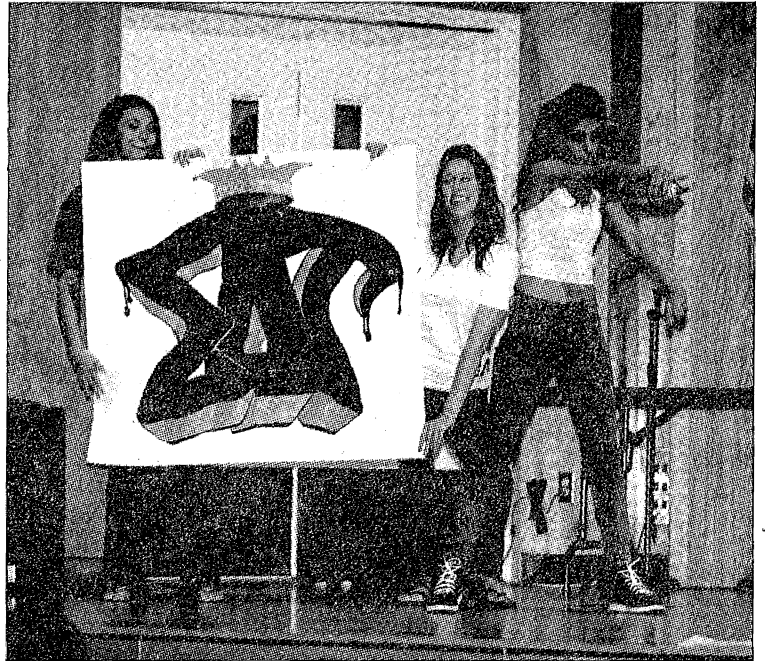
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Inter-Fraternity Sorority Council Pageant

Photos By Kenneth Ho



The Magic of Being a Mascot, The Life of Wolfie

By JOSH SEIDMAN
Staff Writer

The spirit and pride teams – marching band, dance team, cheerleaders, color guard – take the field for the halftime show, and he is the central focus. At six foot eight inches tall, he towers above his neighbors. However, it is not his height that distinguishes him from the group. Instead it's his wool paws, wagging tail sticking out of his basketball shorts and oversized red SB hat that attract people.

Then the music starts, "Thriller" by Michael Jackson. Surrounded by more than 125 marching band and dance team members of Stony Brook University, he begins moving. His arms flail, his head nods and his legs glide, always in rhythm with the song, always in unison with the dance team, always entertaining. To see anyone maneuver like that, let alone someone in a Seawolf costume wearing a 20-pound wool coat on his chest, is impressive. He does it for nearly a minute. The music ends.

All but 16 of the spirit and pride members remain on the field – four from dance team, two from cheerleading, two from color guard and eight from band. These are the senior members of their respective squads. Since today's football game – the final game of the season – is senior day, these 16 people are to be honored in front of the nearly 4,000-person crowd inside Kenneth P. LaValle stadium. As the public address announcer prepares to read off each person's name, the Seawolf slips unnoticed into the background.

He inhales trying to catch his breath from the routine that took him three weeks to learn. Though he has a backup mascot waiting in the entrance tunnel, he wants to remain on the field, especially for this. Each senior is announced and the crowd applauds them for their service to the university, perhaps none more deserving of praise than the one in the mascot uniform off to the side. Once all the names are finished, he returns to take a picture with the seniors. A memento of the time they've



spent on this field. Another round of applause erupts from the stadium.

What the crowd doesn't know is that he's a senior too.

The crowd can't know he's a senior. They can't know about the three years he's devoted himself to transforming the university's mascot from a mere character into a symbol.

They can't know about the debate members of the Stony Brook University athletics department had over whether he should be honored with the rest of the seniors. They can't know about his refusal to perform at all on his senior day if it was decided that he should take his head off.

For him, that's what it means to hold 25,000 students in the palm of his paw, to be the representative of an entire university.

For him, that's what it means to be Wolfie.

He put on the suit for the first time in fall 2007, his sophomore year at Stony Brook. His roommate at the time had been Wolfie during the previous year, but had to step down from the position because of an internship he'd

received with athletics. At this point, the university needed only one Wolfie.

"He turned to me one day and asked if I wanted a job in athletics."

"I said, 'Sure. What is it?'"
"You're gonna be Wolfie. Go be Wolfie," the roommate said with a half-serious, half-joking smile.

"A few days later I was Wolfie," said "Conall" as he will be known throughout this story to preserve his anonymity. While he grew up in Floral Park, his family's roots can be traced back to Ireland and Scotland. In both of these cultures, the word "Conall" translates as "strong wolf."

The name Seawolves had been associated with Stony Brook University for 13 years before he first put on the suit. During the 1994-95 academic year, Dr. John H. Marburger III, then the university's president, made the Seawolf the school's official mascot. This was the fourth mascot in the university's history, following the Soundmen, the Warriors, and the Patriots. During these first 13 years, Wolfie was far

removed from the "Thriller" dancing, chest pounding, summersault-rolling mascot the Stony Brook community sees today.

"Wolfie was always a cute character," said Jeffrey Barnett, the assistant dean of students at Stony Brook, who graduated from the school in 2000 with a Bachelor of Science in psychology. "And he still is. He's still an attraction for young children." Barnett added that Conall "in particular has helped the image of Wolfie evolve from that cute character into a symbol of pride for the university."

The next step after his roommate got him the Wolfie job was to get into the uniform. On the outside, Wolfie embodies Stony Brook University. He's a walking red zone. The suit is blanketed with red attire, from his hat and sneakers to his shorts and t-shirt. His mouth is always open, allowing fans a glimpse of his 12 teeth – eight regular and four fangs – and of course, his red tongue. Even his eyes are red.

Inside the suit, the only thing that's usually red is

Conall's face. He put the body on first, which is a one-piece with a zipper in the back. Then he strapped on the head, which is a baseball style helmet with a chinstrap that keeps it from moving out of position or falling off. Once secured, he was engulfed by wool. He immediately felt exhausted from the suit's temperature, which is rumored to be around 125 degrees Fahrenheit. If true, that means the inside of the suit would be hotter than the hottest day ever recorded in all but three states – Arizona, California, and Nevada.

Regardless of the exact temperature, the desert-like heat is caused by the suit's design, which has very little ventilation other than the net screen of Wolfie's mouth. Besides being the only opening in the uniform when it's fully on, the shape of the mouth permits only a faint tunnel for Conall to see out of and navigate his way around sidelines, bleachers and half-time shows. At first, he tripped and stumbled constantly. The dimensions of the suit were awkward and stairs became a tough

challenge. Over the years, the suit has been involved in hundreds of football and basketball games and the lack of ventilation has stamped it with its own distinct aroma. Even though the suit is frequently washed, the aroma was difficult for him to get used to.

"That's your basic Wolfie environment," says Conall, a senior biology student. "It's like wearing the heaviest, thickest wool coat you could imagine as a one-zec."

Conall ultimately mastered a flight of stairs and grew accustomed to the narrowed vision and unique scent. He also learned that in the costume he has to exaggerate every body movement, including the way he walks and how he waves hello. This is because the first of the 10 mascot commandments is "do not speak when in costume." If the voice behind the mask is heard, it effectively ruins the mascot's magic.

Anonymity is vital. With this and the other mascot commandments in mind, Conall was ready for his first live performance, a home football game during

Photos by: Aleef Rahman

the 2007 season. He checked to make sure his Wolfie head was strapped on and then ran out of the tunnel, followed by more than 80 football players. While Conall doesn't remember the exact game in which he debuted, he certainly remembers how he felt.

"I was nervous and timid and pretty much shocked by the whole experience," says Conall, who played goalie for his high school's roller hockey team. "But after the first few minutes I reminded myself that nobody knew who I was, so I should just have fun. After that, each minute that went by I became more comfortable in the suit. I made the fans laugh and clap and I thought 'okay, I can do this.' I'm at the point now where I'm almost more comfortable in the suit than I am out of it."

Outside of the wool ensemble, Conall is aspiring to become either a New York City police officer or a high school science teacher after he graduates from Stony Brook in May. The appeal of the former comes from his family. His grandfather and two of his uncles are New York City firefighters and his grandfather's two brothers were respectively a lieutenant and a captain with the NYPD. Conall attributes the latter career possibility to the science teachers he had in high school. "Because of them, science meant more to me than just two plus two equals four. I love learning about the world we live in and how it works." If this is the path he decides upon, Stony Brook might have his mascot services for another few semesters.

Andrea Lebedinski, the coordinator of merchandise and branding for the department of athletics, said she'd love to see Conall go to graduate school at Stony Brook. "He's helped develop a lot of the moves – the strut, the chest-pounding, the point to the crowd – that people now associate with Wolfie."

One of the talents Conall has brought to his job as the Stony Brook mascot is his feel for music. He plays five different instruments – guitar, bass, drums, trumpet and violin. His favorite instrument is the guitar, which he taught himself to play nine years ago. "It's kind of my therapy," Conall says referring to playing the instrument after an exhausting day of school, performing as Wolfie or both. As Wolfie, he played the drums at almost every home basketball game during the 2009-10 season.

Besides playing drums, Conall's added a dancing element to Wolfie's repertoire. Each time he executes dance moves that were trademarked by the king of pop – either from "Thriller" or the newly added "Smooth Criminal," half of the crowd explodes in wild cheers and the other half is stunned by the fluidity of his movements. But, when asked about the routine and whether he considers himself a skilled dancer, Conall replied with a resounding "No, no, no. Not at all!"

Other than his moonwalk, which he admits is decent, Conall gives all of the credit for pulling off the routines to the university's dance team. He learned each routine over a three or four-week period in which he practiced with the dance team twice each week for two or three hours. The dance team captain, a blonde, five foot four inch native of Chicago, recalls that Conall's major challenge was not learning the actual steps, but remembering the order in which to perform the steps. "The first time we do it perfectly is usually live at the game," Conall says.

This perfection does not solely come from practice. It is also fueled by the off-court personal relationship between Conall and one of the dance team's leaders.

The two first met in 2007 – her freshman year – when Conall was wearing his Wolfie costume. She told him her name, and, through a third party, he was introduced to her as Wolfie.

More than two years have passed since they met, and over the last several months the two have become romantically involved. When Conall is outside the costume, the two enjoy New York Ranger games and salmon dinners. When he's inside the costume, the two feel that their relationship

increased flare and recognition can be attributed to Conall's perseverance, personal relationships and skill set. Lebedinski has also played a major role in promoting the name beyond the three-mile radius of Circle Road. After graduating from Stony Brook with a degree in business management in May 2008, she became a full-time member of the university's faculty. Since that time, she's taken over the

Twitter, YouTube and Blogger accounts. She's also created a Wolfie contact sheet – complete with a telephone and fax number and an email address – and a Wolfie contact sheet that interested parties can use to hire the mascot for an event.

Over the last two years the number of events Wolfie has participated in has grown from around 50 in 2007-08, most of which were football and basketball games, to more than 115 in 2008-09, with the intention of finding someone else to replace Conall.

"It shows you how his image and name have grown over the last two years," Lebedinski said. "Two years ago we asked most of the venues if we could attend. Now we're so booked that when people want to reserve Wolfie, I have to check my schedule to make sure we can fit it in."

Her colleagues around the university have deemed her "Wolfie's mother," which isn't far from the truth. At most of the more than 250 events that Wolfie has been a part of since the 2008 summer, the five foot three inch Lebedinski, carrying a digital camera and dressed in red attire, isn't trailing far behind.

While some of Wolfie's



"I'm at the point now where I'm almost more comfortable in the suit than I am out of it."

responsibility of spreading Stony Brook's name to the Long Island community. She determined early on that the best way to do this was by marketing Wolfie.

"Wolfie is the best way to physically represent our university," Lebedinski said. "He's just a likeable character and we can use him as a focal point for spirit and pride."

In less than two years, Lebedinski built and nurtured Wolfie's Facebook,

networking and his entertainment, the university now has three Wolfie costumes and three students, including him, who are willing and able to perform as the mascot. The additional two "Wolfies" were selected last summer during a tryout session, which featured four students. Another tryout is being hosted this April 28, with the intention of finding someone else to replace Conall.

With the number of students who earn the right to dress-up as the university's mascot increasing, keeping Wolfie's identity a secret will be an even greater challenge in the coming semesters.

"Imagine you see a really good magic trick and you have no idea how it's done," Conall said. "Then all of a sudden you find out how it happens. You learn the secret and the experience is ruined. That's what it is with Wolfie. He's a character, he's a symbol. If you find out who he is it ruins it all."

For the young man with the wool tail wagging out of his basketball shorts, that's what it is to be Wolfie.



colleges for change

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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.
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A Walk Through the Red Dragon

From **DRAGON** on 3

the grass and laying down the mulch.

Once a month, O'Connell coordinates a labyrinth walk for members of his union, United University Professionals. In addition to reducing stress, "it changes ones point of view," he said. According to O'Connell, typically 10 to 15 people show up for the walk.

Pam Wolfskill, the assistant chairwoman to the political science department, has gone on a couple of O'Connell's walks. "I mostly walk for clearing the mind and centering," she said. "I would stress that the walk is different each time."

O'Connell said he invites students who are passing by to join him on his monthly walks. "If you have a big midterm or a final coming up, I think walking the labyrinth could help your performance," he said. O'Connell said he would welcome requests to lead labyrinth walks for student groups or organizations.

Although campus organizations may not have found their way to the red mulch, a high school group has. A

program run by the Stony Brook University Medical Center helps exemplary high school students from disadvantaged communities to strive for an education and a career in the health care field. Catherine McWilliams, who works for community related projects for at the hospital, brought a group of high school students to the Red Dragon Labyrinth.

"The students in our program are taking rigorous classes and are involved in a lot of activities," McWilliams said. "Walking the labyrinth gave them a rare opportunity to take time out of their busy schedules to relax."

For O'Connell and others, labyrinth walking is a way to clear their minds, but for some it is a profession. Linda Mikell is a labyrinth facilitator and is certified by Verditas, a nonprofit organization that promotes labyrinth education. When she's not running labyrinth programs for the Unitarian Universalists Fellowship in Stony Brook, Mikell travels with a canvas labyrinth, so people without access to a labyrinth can experience the walk.

At a lecture at Stony Brook University, Mikell



SEAN CAFFREY-AGOGLIA / THE STATESMAN

Vishnu Rajan gazes upon the Red Dragon Labyrinth in between Mendelson Quad and the Student Union

began by describing the three stages of labyrinth walking: releasing your stressors or harmful thoughts as you enter the labyrinth, receiving new perspectives on life in the center and returning back to your day with a clear mind as you walk out. According to Mikell, the spiral shape

of the labyrinth allows for a shifting of thought from the imaginative right side of the brain to the logical left side of the brain.

"There is not a right or wrong way to walk a labyrinth," Mikell said, despite the itinerary she recommends. "It is whatever you want it to be."

In addition to relieving stress, labyrinths can create camaraderie. "You get a sense of community when you're walking with a lot of people," Wolfskill said. Since there is only one path, walkers have to yield to each other and let others pass if they are walking at a quicker pace.

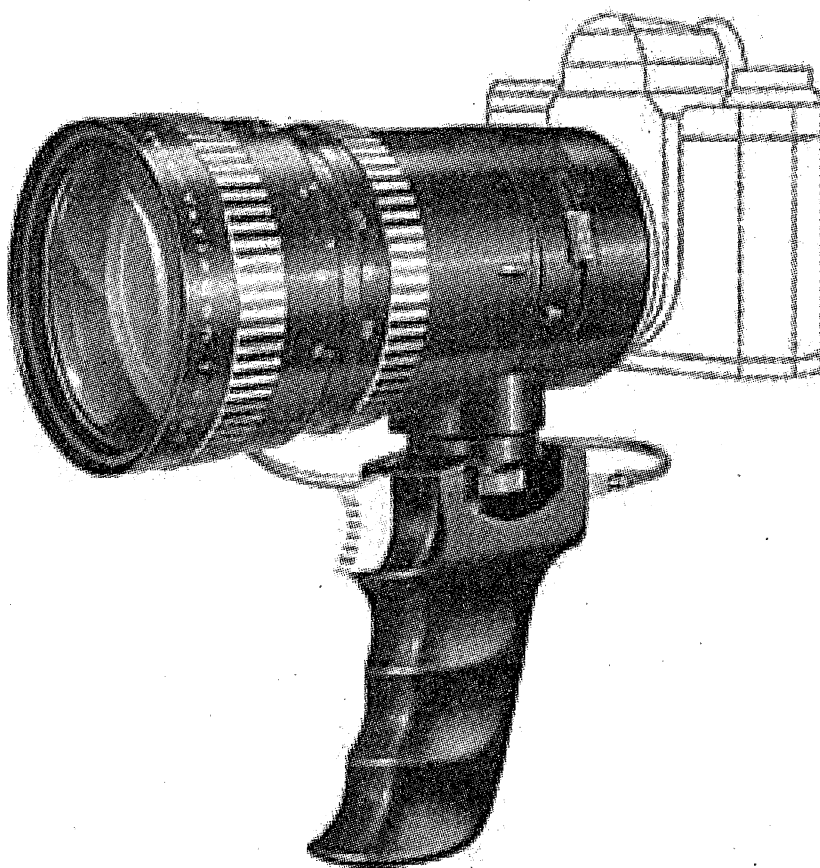
Maryann Areostatico, who is a manager for the environmental safety department, is a frequent walker of the Dragon. "Everyone should at least try it," she said. "It may feel awkward at first but in the end most people will feel a sense of unity with oneself and the world around you."

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Breaking Down The NBA Playoffs:

Analysis + Statesman Picks

From NBA on 12

Eastern Conference

Cleveland Cavaliers (1) vs. Chicago Bulls (8) (Cleveland leads 2-0)

Cavalier fans still remember the days when Michael Jordan and the Bulls used to torment them in the 90's. Now the number 23 is on Cleveland's bench in the form of LeBron James. The Cavaliers dominated game one and held off Chicago in game two. LeBron scored 40 in the second game, trying to assert the Cavs as the team to beat in the playoffs.

Outlook: The Cavaliers clinch the series in game five in front of their home crowd.

Orlando Magic (2) vs. Charlotte Bobcats (7) (Orlando leads 2-0)

Dwight Howard proved in game one why he deserved to win his second consecutive Defensive Player of the Year award. He had nine blocks as the Magic went on to win the series opener. The Bobcats are an up-and-coming team, and their new owner, some guy named Michael Jordan, will continue to push them in the future.

Outlook: The future isn't now for the Bobcats, and the Magic will win the series in six games.

Atlanta Hawks (3) vs. Milwaukee Bucks (6) (Atlanta leads 2-0)

Though young, many of the Hawks aren't rookies in the postseason. Their first challenge is a rookie, however. In his first year, Brandon Jennings has brought Milwaukee to the playoffs. The Hawks captured the first two games

in front of their home crowd.

Outlook: The Hawks will also finish the series in front of their home crowd in the fifth game.

Boston Celtics (4) vs. Miami Heat (5) (Boston leads 2-0)

This series took a sour turn in game one when Celtics and Heat forwards Kevin Garnett and Quentin Richardson, respectively, got into a brawl over a scene of an injured Celtics forward, Paul Pierce. Garnett was suspended for the second game, but the Celtics massacred the Heat despite his absence. Boston hopes to keep the momentum going in Miami for the next two games.

Outlook: The Boston Celtics win yet another playoff series for the record books, clinching it in game six.

Western Conference

Los Angeles Lakers (1) vs. Oklahoma City Thunder (8) (Los Angeles leads 2-0)

The battle between the Lakers and Thunder began before the series did when Lakers coach Phil Jackson, winner of a record 10 finals series as a coach, said that the referees give Thunder forward Kevin Durant superstar treatment by giving him free trips to the foul line. Thus far the Lakers have been able to back up Jackson's talk by winning two tightly contested games in L.A.

Outlook: The young Thunder can't stop the Lakers, who win the series in five games.

Dallas Mavericks (2) vs. San Antonio Spurs (7) (Dallas leads 1-0)

(**As this went to press,

the Spurs led the Mavs at halftime of game 2, 58-46.)

The Mavericks and Spurs aren't unfamiliar playoff foes. These two "Lone Star State" rivals met in the 2006 Western Conference finals, which Dallas won. The Mavericks have already taken a one game lead in this series, and their owner Mark Cuban rubbed salt on the Spurs' wounds with choice insults.

Outlook: The Mavericks don't make Cuban look like a fool and take the series in six games.

Phoenix Suns (3) vs. Portland Trail Blazers (6) (Series Tied 1-1)

Phoenix continues to feature the players that made the Suns great a few years ago such as Steve Nash and Amare Stoudemire. The Trail Blazers have a young squad that has some key pieces missing at an inconvenient

time. Guard Brandon Roy and center Greg Oden will both be missing for the series. Thus far, the Blazers were able to split the two games in Phoenix.

Outlook: The Blazers will miss the absence of their stars, and it will cost them the 6 game series.

Denver Nuggets (4) vs. Utah Jazz (5) (Series Tied 1-1)

Denver and Utah square off in a battle of the Rocky Mountains. The Nuggets have star players such as guard Chauncey Billups and forward Carmello Anthony, and the Jazz have the Energy Solutions Arena, which is a solution that few away teams have been able to solve. The mountain rivals split the first two games, the Jazz having won the second game as they head home.

Outlook: The Nuggets win a decisive game seven and move on.

Inside The NHL Playoffs:

Series Breakdowns + Statesman Picks

From NHL on 12

Eastern Conference

Washington Capitals vs. Montreal Canadiens (WAS leads, 3-1)

The Capitals had their brooms out before the series even started. It looked like an appetizing opening round for superstar forwards Alex Ovechkin and Alexander Semin, a walkover to prepare for the conference semifinal round.

But the Canadiens had other plans, and in the opening game in the nation's capital took Washington to overtime and won. Ovechkin didn't even take a shot, much less get a point. Semin was also held pointless.

But there are consequences to making (arguably) the world's best player angry, and Ovechkin responded with a goal and three assists in game two. Still the Caps had to work for it, edging the Habs 6-5 in OT to earn an important split in the first set in Washington.

Game three was the series as expected, as the Capitals woke up and pounded Montreal, 5-1.

Washington followed the same procedure in game four, scoring late to grab the 6-3 win.

Outlook: The Caps recovered well from the hiccup of games one and two, and will take it in five back in D.C.

New Jersey Devils vs. Philadelphia Flyers (PHI leads, 3-1)

Yet another upset in a bizzarro playoff world. The Flyers, who snuck into the postseason courtesy of a two-game sweep of the Rangers in a de facto playoff series, have taken it to the Devils, pushing them to the brink of elimination.

Martin Brodeur, New Jersey's puck-stopping legend, got sunburned from the red light being on in game four, as the Flyers turned up the heat on the Devils, winning 4-1. The Devils were outplayed and will be looking to turn things around as the teams head up the turnpike to Newark for game five.

Outlook: New Jersey is a better team, and Brodeur, while past his prime, is still an elite netminder. The Devils will take game five, but with their backs against

the wall, won't be able to win on the road. Philly in six.

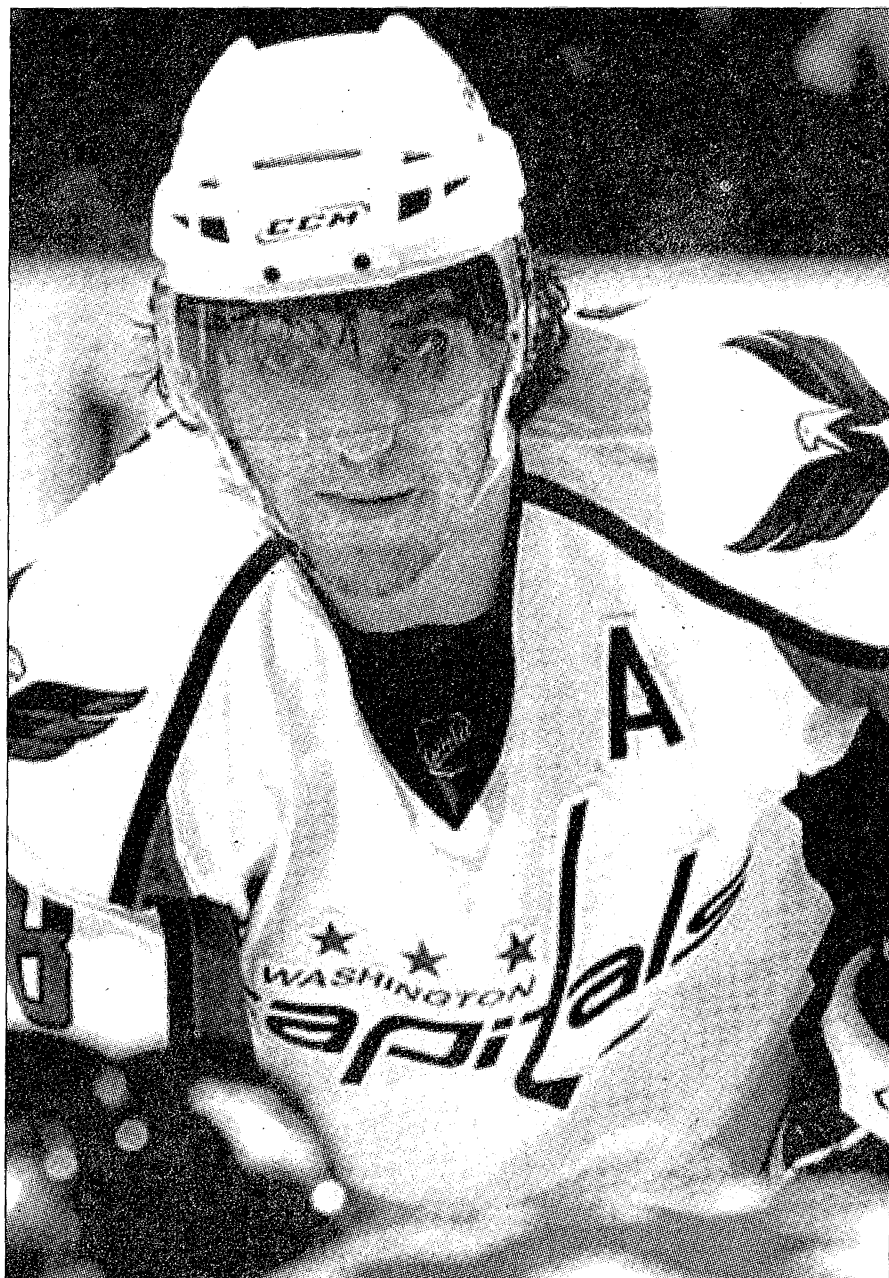
Buffalo Sabres vs. Boston Bruins (BOS leads, 3-1)

There is only one team from New York State in the NHL playoffs this season, and that team is the Buffalo Sabres.

But the Sabres are young, and have been carried all year by a brick wall between the pipes in the form of Ryan Miller (sound familiar, Team USA Olympic hockey fans?).

With scoring threat Thomas Vanek out in game three, the punchless Sabres couldn't beat Boston's Tuukka Rask more than once, while the Bruins managed to beat the world's best twice to take a 2-1 series lead.

The Sabres won the fight in the third period though, and if you're looking for bruising, classic hockey, this is the series to watch. Division rivalries have a way of compounding themselves in the playoffs, and this series is no exception.



JIM MCISAAC/GETTY IMAGES

Alex Ovechkin's late goal helped the Capitals take a commanding 3-1 lead over the Canadiens Wednesday night.

See NHL on 4

SPORTS

Breaking Down The NBA Playoffs



Photo: alltalksports.wordpress.com

By DAVID O'CONNOR
Staff Writer

Many New Yorkers have the 2010 NBA free agency in mind, fantasizing about whom the Knicks may pick up over the off-season. However, they will have to wait, for there are playoffs to play, and each of the 16 teams is dreaming big.

See NBA on 11

Inside The NHL Playoffs

By SAM KILB
Assistant Sports Editor

No Rangers. No Islanders. The NHL playoffs seem meaningless to the New York puckhead this year.

But the action on the ice has made up for the lack of hometown teams, with all the drama, upsets, hits and goals expected of playoff hockey.

Here's a look at how the pursuit of Lord Stanley's Cup has unfolded so far, and a glimpse of what's to come.

See NHL on 11

Pikiell, El-Amin Win All-Met Honors

By SARAH KAZADI
Sports Editor

More than a month after its season ended, the Stony Brook University men's basketball team is still finding ways to win.

The National Invitation Tournament (NIT) announced that Head Coach Steve Pikiell was this year's Met Basketball Writers Association (MBWA) Peter A. Carlesimo Coach of the Year. The award comes after Pikiell received Coach of the Year honors from the conference and was also named America East Coach of the Year by the Sporting News.

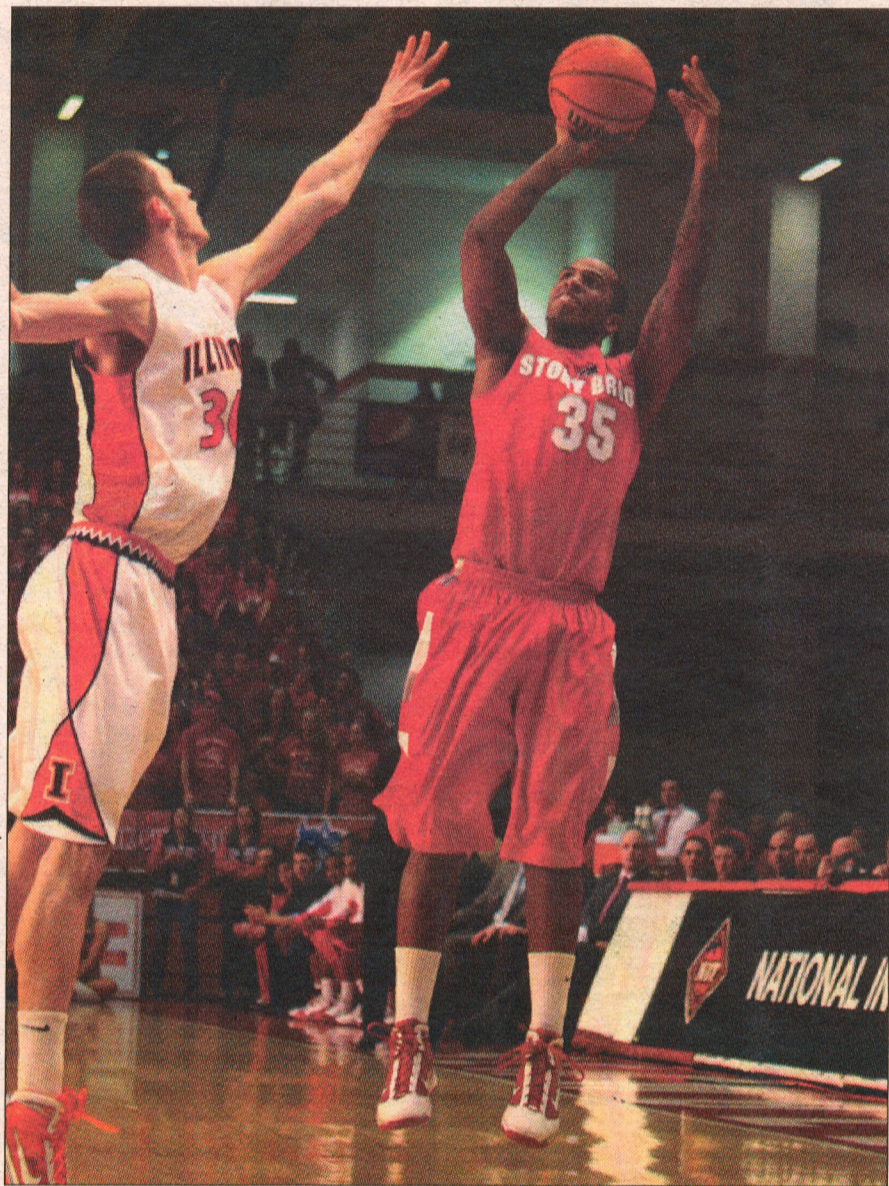
Seawolves senior guard Muhammad El-Amin was also recognized for his efforts this year. El-Amin received Division I All-Met first team honors, the first Stony Brook player to do so since D.J. Munir was a third team selection in 2003-04. In early April, El-Amin was an AP All-America Honorable Mention, another award added to the many he's received this year.

"I couldn't be prouder of Muhammad; he has worked hard at making himself a better player and I'm happy that he could be recognized for his hard work," said Pikiell

in a statement on the team's website. "I'm also extremely honored to be recognized among all the great coaches in this area. Our program could not have had the success we had this year without the great support of [Stony Brook Director of Athletics] Jim Fiore, our athletics' administration and the entire University community," he added.

The accolades reflect the kind of season the Seawolves had. Led by Pikiell on the sidelines and El-Amin on the court, the team grabbed its first America East Conference title and posted a 22-10 record, the best in team history. The Seawolves also tasted postseason basketball for the first time, falling in the first round of the NIT to the Fighting Illini of Illinois.

Though El-Amin will be gone next year, Pikiell will still be at the helm trying to steer the Seawolves to another successful season. With four starters returning to the line-up, Stony Brook will be expected to not just duplicate but surpass this year's achievements. The team is currently conducting postseason workouts in preparation for the tough task ahead. The 2010-11 season kicks off in mid-November.



KENNETH HO / THE STATESMAN

Seawolves guard Muhammad El-Amin (right) rises up for a jumper in the Seawolves NIT debut against Illinois.

SBU BATS FALL SHORT



KENNETH HO / THE STATESMAN

Seawolves pitcher Alyssa Struzenberg (above) struck out four in three innings of relief but it wasn't enough to lead to a SBU win.

By SARAH KAZADI
Sports Editor

Stony Brook University's baseball and softball teams were both in action Wednesday. Baseball made the short trip to Hofstra University to take on the Pride, while softball hosted the Long Island University Blackbirds. When it was all said and done, both Seawolves teams found themselves on the wrong end of the scoreboard.

Despite freshman Maxx Tissenbaum's three hits and four runs scored, the Seawolves dropped a close one at Hofstra's University field, falling 12-10. Though it held a 6-4 lead in the fourth inning, Stony Brook watched its lead slip away, as the Pride put together

a four-run seventh inning that gave Hofstra the lead for good. The Pride eventually closed it out after a late Seawolves threat, winning 12-10.

Back at home, the softball team fell victim to a no-hitter, falling 3-0 after a stellar pitching performance from Blackbirds' senior Blaire Porter. After Long Island homered in the bottom of the third, Stony Brook could not manage to close the gap, falling by the same margin.

Both teams will be back in action this weekend, looking to get back in the win column. Baseball will trek to Albany to kick off a four-game series against the Great Danes Saturday, while softball will host the Great Danes in a three-game series also starting Saturday.