

News

Across the World

Studying abroad in college can be the first chance one has to be immersed in a foreign culture. Stony Brook University offers a variety of diverse summer study abroad programs, which tend to go unnoticed. The summer study abroad "semester" is one month long, and students can choose from 11 countries.

» page 3

Opinion

Health Care... Who Cares?

Perhaps the most pressing issue of the day, the future of our health care system, is being largely ignored by those who will live with its consequences: the youth. The medical treatment of America's future generations is being decided now, and we must take an active role in the process.

» page 9

Health Care: Reformation and Reclamation

Health is a science; health care is a business. There are innumerable intermediaries between the patient and his care: insurance policies, pharmaceutical companies, technicians and technology, doctors and hospitals. To what extent is it wise to further incorporate the government, in the progression from sickness to health?

» page 9

Sports

Seawolves Drop Thriller

Visiting their Long Island rivals, the Seawolves dropped a 5 set nail-biter to Hofstra on Tuesday night. After countless lead changes and a barrage of kills from both squads, Stony Brook fell to the Pride 3-2, losing its seventh despite stellar play from upper classmen Lindsey Gordon and Ashley Headen.

» page 12

Students Bear the Burden of Loans

By AISHA BRELAND-HENRY
Contributing Writer

Before a player can start the board game "Life," one of two paths must be picked. If the career path is chosen, the player can pick a job to take on for the rest of the game. If the college path is chosen, the player must borrow money, setting them back 15 extra tiles before they can pick a career.

Although students can't really finish obtaining their education as quickly as they could in "Life," borrowing money still remains the same. Student reliance on loans is putting more undergrads into debt during hard economic times and rising tuition costs.

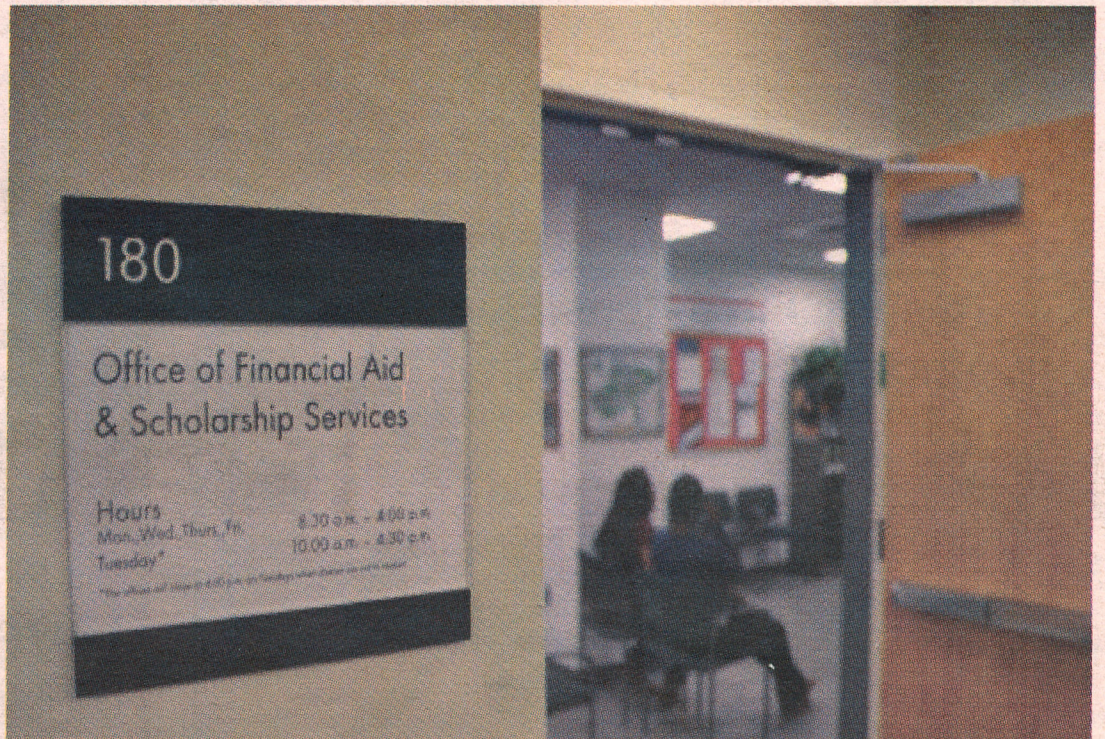
"In 2008, 62 percent of students borrowed," Jacqueline Pascariello, the director of Financial Aid and Scholarship Services, said.

"The average indebtedness for students who graduated in the same year was \$17,375."

Though Stony Brook University students faced an average debt \$4,000 less than New York student's average debt, the consequences are similar.

"We received over a 30 percent increase in average financial aid applications for this summer than last summer," Pascariello said. The cost of education is increasing as funding dwindles. Students need money and the only option is to borrow.

Sophia Milito, a junior at Stony Brook University, is taking out loans for the first time. Milito said her reasons for getting a loan are not getting enough aid and not having enough money.



Frank Posillico / SB Statesman

The Financial Aid Office, located on the first floor of Administration, offers financial guidance to SBU students.

"My mom offered to help by putting in a few hundred (dollars), but it's all on me third year," Milito said.

According to Milito, her \$2,000 in financial aid is not enough to cover her tuition. Despite the set back, however, she feels she can manage enough that she won't need to take out a private loan. Milito already suspects she will have to take out loans for graduate school.

Next year, Stony Brook University is changing to Federal Stafford and PLUS Loan Processing. Now, the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program will let students borrow directly from the federal government, as opposed to the previous program,

which relied on private banks, credit unions and other financial institutions as funding sources. However, with the changing of loan programs and Stony Brook University being one of the lowest tuitions in the country, student debt is prevalent.

Mahubur Rahman, a graduate of Stony Brook, chose to go into the post-grad pre-med program. He owes \$25,000 in loans from his undergraduate years. After graduating Rahman must start paying \$200 a month.

"I'm not considered an official graduate student, because the post-grad pre-med program is not a degree program," Rahman said. "So my loans are no longer deferred."

In addition to that, Rahman took out another \$10,000 for the year. "That's why I'm an RA," Rahman said. "I can't pay an extra \$7,000 for the room."

Students like Milito and Rahman are working to make up for their financial debt. "Students are hard workers and make up the money," Pascariello said.

If loans still seem overwhelming, the Project on Student Debt suggests ten tips for recent graduates. "Know your loans, know your grace period, pick the right repayment option, and stay in touch with your lender," are just a few.

"Whether the economy is good or bad there will be student debt," Milito said.



Belly dancers at RHA block party.

Samantha Burkardt / SB Statesman

RHA Shakes Up Students at Block Party

By SAMANTHA BURKARDT
Assistant Arts and Entertainment Editor

It was a night filled with entertainment as far as the eye could see. There were belly dancers, inflatable obstacle courses, ring tossing games and so much more. With about one thousand guests, the Residence Hall Association Block Party at the SAC on Sept. 4 2009, was deemed a success.

It's a yearly event that we have for every kind of student," SBU Communications Coordinator, Colin Bedell, said. "—from commuters to the residents on campus." Bedell,

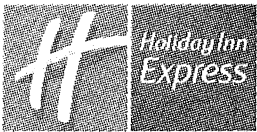
who is a junior at SBU, also said that the most popular game of the night was the inflatable obstacle course.

The block party has been an annual event since 2006, and was deemed successful by Bedell.

"The free food gets a lot of people to come," he said. "We've been giving out free prizes all night too, such as free t-shirts, tattoos, whoopee cushions, Frisbees, balloons and the photo booth was a really popular station as well."

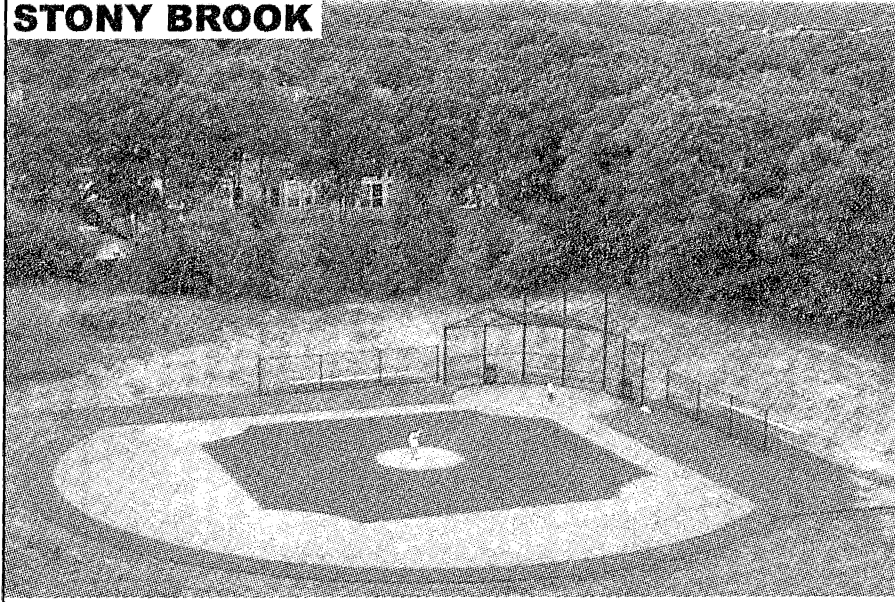
Seniors, Tionne Lovelace and Crystal Hamilton, were enjoying the

Continued on page 3



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RHA Shakes Up Students at Block Party

Continued from page 1

night by eating popcorn and dancing to the music that blasted through the speakers.

"I really like the fact that there's something for everyone to do here," Hamilton said. Lovelace agreed, saying that her favorite game of the night was trying to knock down bottles to win a free t-shirt.

Aside from the games and free prizes, there were also performances that really wowed the crowd. Contortionist Jared Rydelek had some of his audience members cringing as he put a screwdriver into his head through his nose, fit his whole body through a squash racket and a tennis racket, escaped from a straight jacket and even walked on glass.

"I've been performing since I was

seven years old," 23-year-old Rydelek said. "I started out with magic, and then I wanted to do something real, not just tricks anymore." Rydelek was a contortionist for two years, before performing as a professional.

The Belly Dancers Club also put on a show for their audience and even had some people dancing in the crowd along with them. There were several students flashed their cameras, capturing the seductive dance on film.

Wolfie was around to add to the school spirit that night, along with RHA volunteers, to make the event run smoothly for their guests.

"This event is for the students to enjoy themselves," Bedell said. "It gets better every year and people always seem to have a good time."



Samantha Burkardt / SB Statesman

Jared Rydelek, tangled in a straight jacket, entertained students with his act as a contortionist.

Red Watch Confronts Toxic Drinking

By RJ HUNEKE
Contributing Writer

The Red Watch Band Organization is a national campaign that trains students to diffuse alcohol related emergencies. Despite the extensive alcohol prevention that all universities -- including Stony Brook University -- already provide through a mandatory program for freshmen, the new Red Watch Band takes an active approach to prevent alcohol-related sickness and death.

As Director of the National Red Watch Movement Lara Hunter said in a press conference Wednesday, "the program empowers students." Students who volunteer for the four-hour training program are given the tools, knowledge and courage to act in inevitable situations that arise in every college

environment.

The Red Watch Band is one of the most innovative alcohol prevention programs to date and one of the only programs to take a practical approach toward college drinking. The program recognizes that in such an environment drinking will take place, and emergencies that arise from binge drinking will need to be addressed so as to prevent deaths.

The Red Watch Band was founded in 2008 after a Stony Brook University faculty member lost a loved one to alcohol overdose. An education campaign was formed to get students involved, as peers tend to influence each other in a positive way. Since the organization was formed, the training programs continue to fill up at astounding rates. The free training program has already run out of

spaces for September. Though space is still available for October, the twice a month sessions are going fast.

As the Dean of Students and Vice President of Academic Affairs Jerrold L. Stein said at the press conference on Wednesday, "the big problem is changing college culture." He refers to the most common cause of death on college campuses: alcohol.

The Red Watch Band students receive a red watch to signify their completion of the training, and once those bearing the watches -- at the helm of a potentially sinking ship involving a fellow student, or friend who has drank too much -- can prevent death. The trained students know what to do and when to bring someone to a hospital, or when to perform CPR, which is also taught and certified in the Red Watch Band training.

This campaign began in Stony Brook and has received national acclaim, as not just the SUNY schools, but universities all over the country are adopting it. To date, there have been 90 students trained in the 2008-2009 school year and another 120 in the 2009 Summer Session.

The Red Watch Band has even taken a direct approach at the infamous Anheuser-Busch campaign wherein Bud Light cans sport school colors. Clare Rose, the distributor for Bud Light on Long Island will not deliver these cans to any place within the Stony Brook community. Anheuser-Busch has also agreed not to distribute the "school-colored" cans to any community where schools have complained. With the Red Watch Band, the campaign for safe students in the midst of alcohol has now become a lot stronger.

Across the World

By ANGELICA FUSCO
Contributing Writer

Studying abroad in college can be the first chance one has to be immersed in a foreign culture. Stony Brook University offers a variety of diverse summer study abroad programs, which tend to go unnoticed. The summer study abroad "semester" is one month long, and students can choose from 11 countries such as China, South Korea, Madagascar, Russia, England, France, Spain, Italy, Tanzania, Japan and East-Central Europe.

The summer program provides students with the opportunity to learn a foreign language while exploring rich histories and ancient cultures. They appeal to many Stony Brook students because they are less expensive and require less time away from the main campus than exchanges. Spending an entire semester in a foreign country raises concerns about delay of graduation, because most study abroad classes fulfill only DEC requirements rather than major requirements, but for students with such concerns, summer study abroad is a better option. New additions to the summer programs, such as Poland, Berlin and Prague

make them an even more desirable choice.

"This year 25 more students participated in our summer programs than last year," said William Arens, dean of International Academic Programs. The programs are well-organized and faculty-led journeys. In four weeks students receive about 90 hours of class time, either in a classroom setting or on excursions to cities and museums. Students are taken out of their comfort zones and get first-hand experiences with different foreign cultures.

In Japan, students learned that respect for elders is taken seriously. In youth-obsessed America, asking someone's age is generally frowned upon. In Japan, however, it is considered a sign of respect because it allows a person to know how to address and how to interact with someone else. Bowing is another way to show respect in Japanese culture. It is similar to shaking hands or saying thank you in Western culture. The summer program in Japan included a weekend trip to Tokyo and an excursion to one of Japan's most breathtaking cities, Kyoto. Students stayed in Mishima, visited a police station where students actually participated in their training, and visited many local museums and museums in cit-

ies close by. "I had the most unbelievable and humbling experience in Japan. I held a 13th century samurai sword in my hand and saw my own reflection in this piece of ancient art," Sam Anzer, a senior at the university, said.

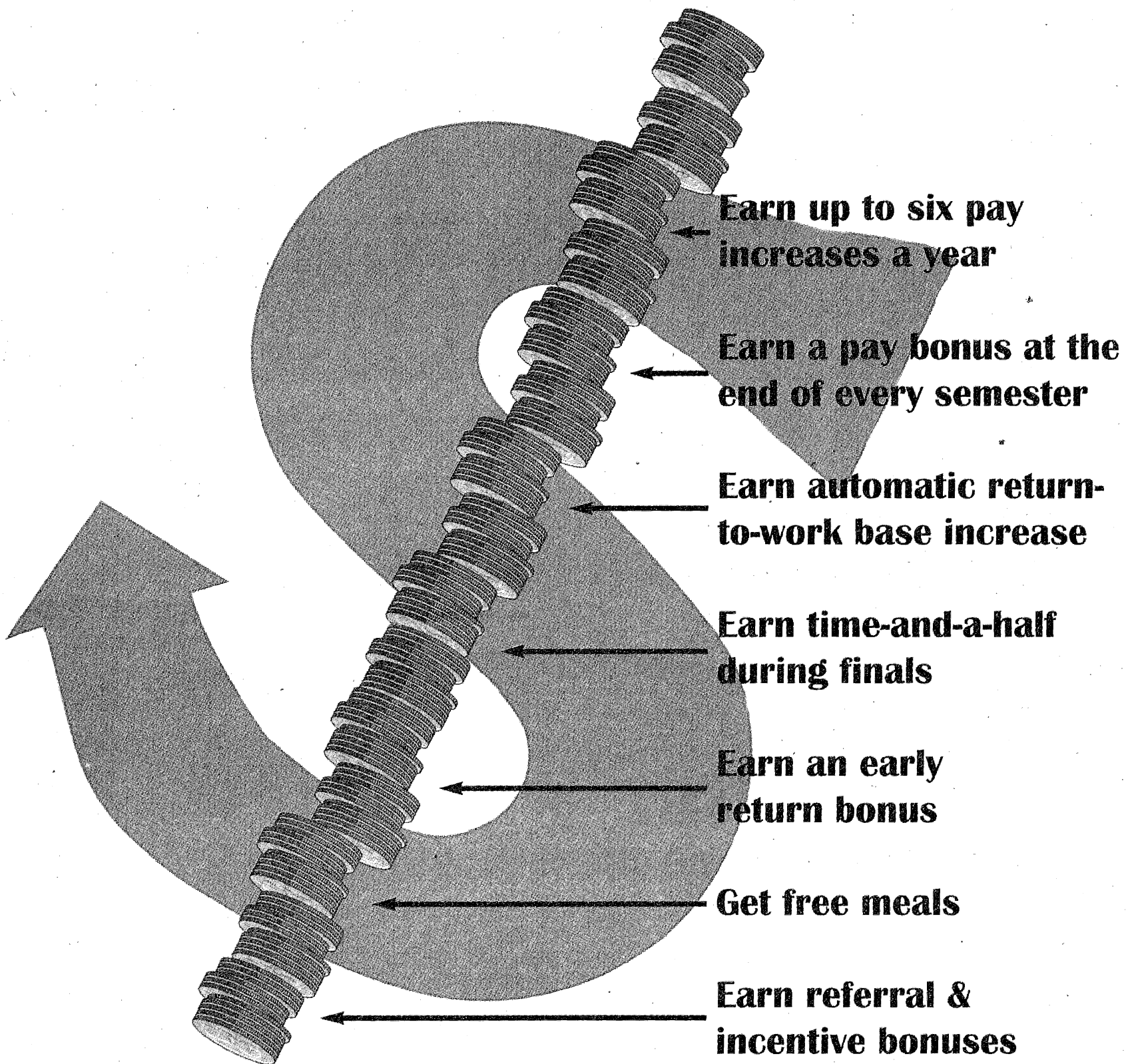
Students who traveled to Tanzania got first-hand experience living in a developing country. There were field trips to the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, bike rides into the Great Rift Valley, the world's largest valley, and visits to orphanages for children whose parents abandoned them or have died of AIDS. "One day I bought a stalk of bananas, which weighed about 50-60 pounds, and carried it for a mile down the dirt road to an orphanage. The children were just so happy that I visited them and brought a gift," Mary Rydzeski, a sophomore, said. Similar to Japan, respect for elders is taken seriously in Tanzania. It is considered rude to not say "Shikomo" to elders as a sign of respect.

In the south of France, students enjoyed the beautiful Mediterranean while attending weekly music and wine festivals like "Les Estivales de Montpellier." The wine festival is a community event where

people come to taste local wines and, for four Euros, receive a wine glass and access to free wine tastings at any local vendor. Food is an important part of French culture. Restaurant tables and chairs face the square, while people enjoy their food and watch people pass by. Rushing to eat dinner is uncommon in France and much of Europe. People will sit for hours socializing with each other, chatting and enjoying their meal. Classes in Montpellier brought students from different countries into the same classroom. "My French teacher, Aurielle, did not speak English, which I loved because it forced me to speak and to gain confidence when I used my French outside of the classroom," Danielle Otto, a graduate of Stony Brook University, said.

Studying abroad allows students to make memories and friendships that last a lifetime. In just one month, students got a first-hand look at different cultures and many were surprised by how much they learned in such a short period of time. With the help of faculty members, Dean Arens would like to add either a summer or winter program to Ireland, where the classes offered will focus on political science or history.

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Movies

Mankind's Last Hope

"9," a Dark Animation Where Stitched Life-forms Save Humanity

BY IVANNA AVALOS
Arts & Entertainment Editor



Media Credit: Google Images

Director Shane Acker, and screenplay writer Palmer Pettler collaborate with producers Tim Burton and Timur Bekmambetov to create "9," this fall's apocalyptic tale that leaves humanity on the losing team.

In "9" humanity is wiped out after a large, and intelligent machine called "The Great Machine," which was originally created to help society, falls into the hands of a dictator who uses the machine as a military weapon. Eventually the machine, which was designed to create machines in its own image, begins to destroy everything in its path.

It's the same age-old story: What would happen to society if everything we worked so hard to create, turned against us? Only this time, it isn't humans who come to the rescue, but instead nine miniature life forms, a scientist's latest experiment, that each holds pieces of his soul. It is the same scientist who created "The Great Machine," and he uses the nine experiments as his last attempt to right the

wrong that he created.

The 79-minute film follows 9, the protagonist, as he meets the other stitched life-forms, the only remaining living creatures, that came before him and his adventurous mission to restore humanity and finally destroy "The Great Machine."

The nine life-forms travel back and forth between a small ruin-filled grounds area that, through their eyes, appears to span a much larger battlefield.

Animator Shane Acker creates this beautifully dark landscape battlefield with the use of dark color schemes, such as browns, blacks, and dark toxic greens. To compliment this dark atmosphere are even darker beings, such as the metallic monsters that are pieced together with the remains of what was once a part of humanity. One frightening looking creature created in the film is one with a serpent-style body, with a "stomach" that opens to store the nine as it attempts to kill them, and topped off with the head from a child's doll.

The nine life-forms created by the sci-

entist, whose names are simply the numbers painted on their backs, follow human mannerisms so well you tend to forget that they're not people, which shows how much detail the animators put into this film.

The movie works as a puzzle, not revealing until almost the end exactly what was the downfall of the human race, a puzzle in which 9 is hoping to solve even though some of his fellows life-forms don't want him to.

The movie may not go in the direction that most might expect, but it does not disappoint. It ends on a bittersweet note that leaves the audience optimistically wondering what will happen next.

For those who enjoy dark animation with a message that is sure to go over the heads of younger audiences, be sure to catch "9."

Running Time: 1 hour, 19 minutes

Rating: PG-13

Starring: Elijah Wood, Jennifer Connelly, John C. Reilly, Crispin Glover, Martin Landau, and Christopher Plummer.

"Office Space" Director Returns With "Extract"

BY R.J. HUNEKE
Contributing Writer

A+ Laughter is director Mike Judge's business. In this film everything comes together: brilliant writing, directing, and acting.

Infamous scenes are formed that will stay with you long after seeing this look into the life of a man who just wanted to lead a successful life, based around the utterly amazing chemistry of extract, while still

having a sex life to speak of. We see into the mind of a struggling business owner, Joel (played by Jason Bateman), who has to work long hours and fight to try and get to his wife, before the dreaded sweatpants go on (sealing his sexually-frustrated fate).

The director of "Extract" once delivered one of the all-time funniest films addressing corporate structure - a staple of American business stereotypes and humor - in "Office Space" and now he has followed up the cult hit with another powerful excursion in raucous laughter. The cameo from KISS frontman Gene Simmons, as an outspoken lawyer, offers a great look into what it means to be a man, and more fall-out-of-your-seat humor follows him.

There are characters in this movie that we all have met in our lives - including the utterly gorgeous Mila Kunis (Cindy) who is the cunning hot girl who always gets her way - and one of the many morals that emerge after seeing this is to not do the many things that your best friend might suggest amidst the smorgasbord of drugs that he is continually sifting through.

The drug scenes alone (all of which will have you raving about this movie, and they never lead to anything good...only stupidity, pain and hilarity!

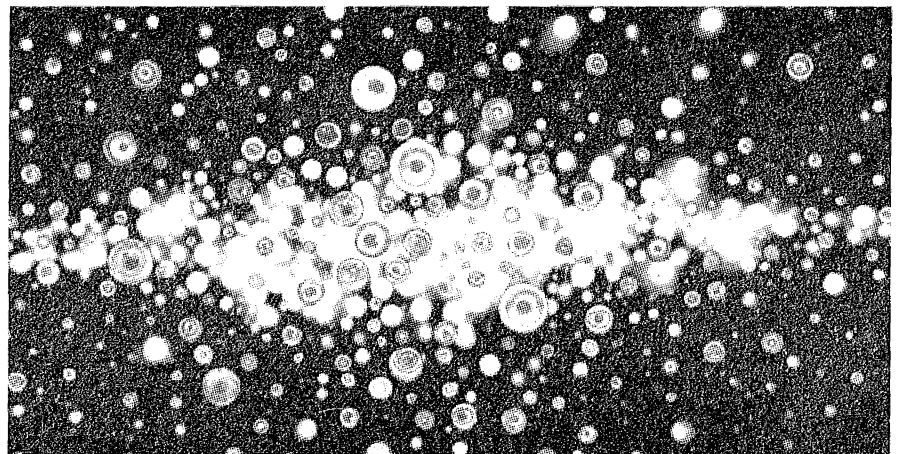
Running Time: 1 hour, 32 minutes

Starring: Jason Bateman, Mila Kunis, Kristen Wiig, Ben Affleck and J.K. Simmons.



Media Credit: Google Images

Phish's Joyous Return



Media Credit: Google Images

BY R.J. HUNEKE
Contributing Writer

A+ "Joy" is not just the name of the new album from the reunited band Phish, but it is also the pure feeling rummaging through your ears and brain as you listen to the songs. From the opening track, "Backwards Down the Number Line," to the final throws of the last song, "Twenty Years Later," Phish has rejuvenated not just the spark that sets them apart as one of the greatest, most intelligent and innovative live acts to ever put forth art into the world, but for the first time -- arguably ever -- they have created an album of music every bit as sharp as their inventive instrument expressions are live.

This album is clean, concise, and full of emotion. It sounds as a piece of art should: direct, poetic and original -- not unlike the "Dark Side Of the Moon" re-

cord from Pink Floyd (if you will forgive the comparison)

Even when played live the songs all -- "Time Turns Elastic" aside -- translate tremendously. Part of really experiencing this musical quartet is to see Phish in concert, but here is as good a reason to listen to their studio results as you will ever get. The composition, lyrics, vocals, and funky grooves mark "Joy" as the best grouping of songs that Phish has released in a number of albums.

As much as I enjoy listening to their past records, I think "Joy" is the first one where the band really utilized the studio to the advantage of their amazing songwriting.

The band is fresh, and clearly these songs have to be the mark of Phish's triumphant return. As guitarist Trey Anastasio sings in "Stealing Time From the Faulty Plan": "I've got a blank space where my mind should be!

around the brook farmers market



The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, September 10, 2009

photos by frank posillico

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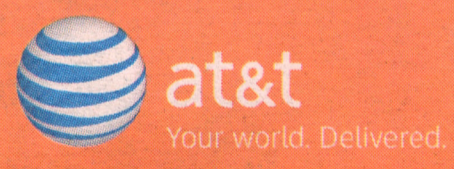
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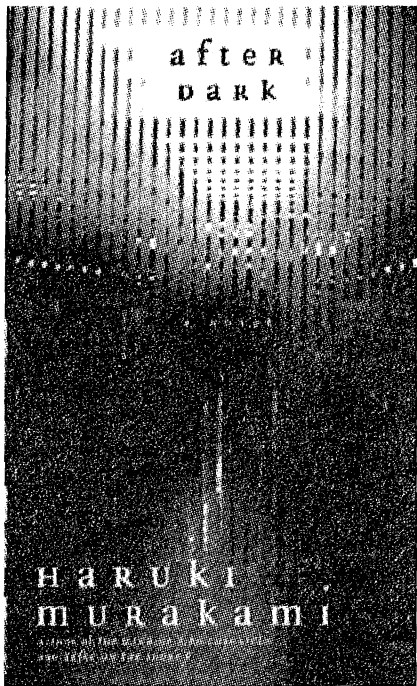


Books

Dusk to Dawn

Book Review: "After Dark"

By YI-JIN YU
Editor Emeritus



Media Credit: Google Images

A certain aura begins to develop when night falls and the darkness descends. This affects many, if not all of us, as people begin to adjust to the wavering light, and its effects on the surrounding environment. Haruki Murakami focuses upon such nighttime psyches in his book "After Dark." The short novel was originally published in Japan in 2004. It was later released by Alfred A. Knopf in the United States in 2007, with a translation by Jay Rubin, who has worked on Murakami's stories before.

"After Dark" is a glimpse into two sisters' lives over the course of one night in Tokyo, from 11:56 p.m. to 6:52 a.m. Eri Asai is the older sister who spends the night sleeping in her bedroom at home, while Mari Asai, the younger sibling, seeks refuge outside, wandering around the city. Their stories are disconnected at first, as Murakami methodically switches between the two concurrent plots with each linking chapter.

Mari's story is a straightforward and dynamic narrative that is rich in both locales, from a local Denny's restaurant to a "love hotel" named Alphaville, and eccentric characters, such as the jazz trombonist Tetsuya Takahashi and the Alphaville manager Kaoru. It is inevitable that the sisters' lives will converge once again as the night draws to a close, but before Mari returns home, she will discover more about herself and her sister through each unpredictable encounter and episode.

The novella's postmodern characteristics are more prevalent throughout Eri Asai's surreal story. Although there is less action in her story, it is filled with philosophical speculation and a bizarre undertone. The reader serves as the main channel throughout Eri's story, playing a vital role as the observer.

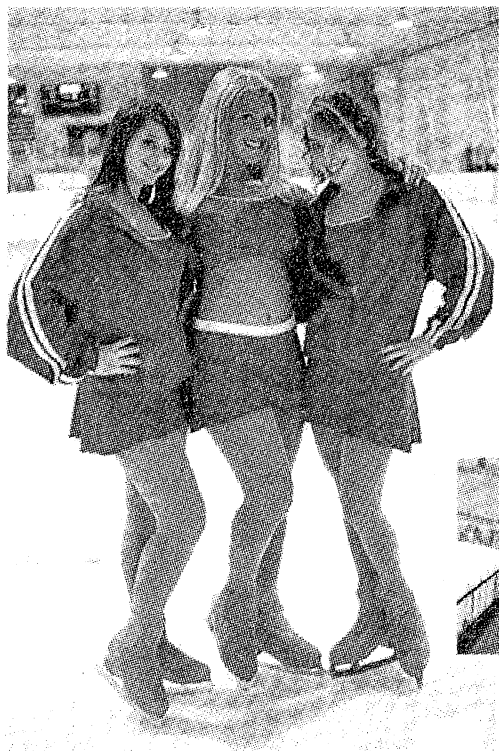
Eri is transported from the comforts of her bedroom through a television set into another dual reality: a barren and desolate office. This same office appears in Mari's storyline, but the

main character here is the criminal Shirakawa. He is an unsuspecting salaryman, working for the company Veritech, who has violently assaulted a sex worker at Alphaville. The connection here is uncanny and seems to place Eri in harm's way. The reader is left to wonder if Eri will ever be able to wake up from her deep, dreamless sleep.

Yet, as Mari's story progresses, she manages to unearth some newfound hope in reconnecting with her sister. Korogi, an employee at Alphaville, helps Mari in that search when she says that "people's memories are maybe the fuel they burn to stay alive. Whether those memories have any actual importance or not, it doesn't matter as far as the maintenance of life is concerned."

It is these short snippets that display Murakami's memorable writing. His words can be striking at times, a rewarding experience when the speculation gets tiresome. On the other hand, the next chapter will return to Mari, and soon, the new day will dawn.

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Health Care... Who Cares?

BY NAJEE SIMMONS
Contributing Writer

Perhaps the most pressing issue of the day, the future of our health care system, is being largely ignored by those who will live with its consequences: the youth. The medical treatment of America's future generations is being decided now, and we must take an active role in the process.

Our generation must move

with the knowledge that reformation is an involved, painstaking and lengthy process. The adults vociferously protesting or supporting reform outside of the numerous public debates may never see its completion. Their enthusiasm is appreciated but we need to be ready to carry the torch.

We don't allow our parents to tell us how to dress and we scoff at the idea of anyone telling us what

to do. We must adopt a similar attitude in the struggle for health reform. It is our struggle. The media are working to give us the information that we need to decide. We are at an apex of technology, where information is more accessible than ever. There is no valid excuse for lack of participation.

Once legislation is passed, the prospect of change is daunting, the chances of repeal, dim. Whether

you subscribe to, conservative, liberal, or independent political philosophies, you must express your concerns and opinions. Write letters, make phone calls and contact your local public officials. When the debates are over, and new legislation has been passed or old legislation on remains, I want to be able to say that the battle was well fought, and that you and I were a part of it.

Health Care: Reformation and Reclamation

BY ZEB A AHMAD
Opinion Editor

Health is a science; health care is a business. There are innumerable intermediaries between the patient and his care: insurance policies, pharmaceutical companies, technicians and technology, doctors and hospitals. To what extent is it wise to further incorporate the government, which is ailing itself, in the progression from sickness to health?

On the White House website, the health care debate is addressed as "health insurance reform." Insurance reform is only a small part of our health care: we ought to ascertain that Obama has changes in mind for the health care providers as well.

Health science has reworked itself to profit most from the currently unsustainable business model. By this time, the technical side of a once noble profession has become just as unworkable as the business itself. Treatment is more accessible than preventive care, and Americans are suffering from high blood pressure, diabetes, morbid obesity, pharmaceutical addiction, depression leading to suicide and other diseases which can often be prevented.

As a prosperous and established nation, we should take pride in the wide availability of clean and healthy food in our restaurants and grocery stores; unfortunately, we've learned to seek out the high-sugar and high-fat options, which are usually cheaper. Americans are informed consumers of cars, houses, electronics, and clothing, legal advice and more, but still trust health care professionals blindly.

Our hospital environments are unhygienic and hazardous--not because supplies or staff aren't abundantly available, but through laziness, presumption and inattention. Doctors order tests unnecessary to diagnostic procedure--sometimes reflexively, and sometimes with profit in mind. That profit is extremely unreliable; physicians are expected to provide care for Medicaid patients at 30 percent below cost, or are overpaid by thousands of dollars from patients with out-of-

network insurance benefits. We are no longer naive enough to believe that these people receive equal levels of care.

If their drugs prove ineffective for long term care of an illness, pharmaceutical companies resort to misleading advertising campaigns to create patient demand--or compensate doctors for encouraging off-label usage to their patients, perpetuating and initiating lifelong addictions.

These failures have entered public awareness, and few advocate the status quo. Here lies the government's role in health care: to research, establish and maintain effective preventive care, including regular check-ups, as a promotion of wellness and an ultimately cost-cutting measure. However, looking to the government for further help than that will be expanding its role in a way that will cost us more and grant us a lower level of care in the long run.

We conceived of this government to create and enforce legislation. We've since expanded its role to include our quality of life, expecting the government to facilitate our access to the best resources available, including our schools, our post offices, Social Security and, of course, Medicare/Medicaid.

The case for "government takeover," or the slightly more likely nationalization of health care, is compelling enough. To keep this nation running well and productively we need our society's collective body and mind to be in optimal condition. We want to know that our families will be taken care of, and not just because of their earning potential. Having access to good health care should not be associated with the same sort of guilt and resentment that honest business profits inspire. We owe care to veterans who have sacrificed their health for our safety.

With all this goodwill it's easy to overlook that those who earn the money to afford it will always, and ought to, have greater access to options for care and technological resources for themselves or their families. Anti-"socialist" campaign-

ing is not just about seeking profits for insurance companies; it's about granting us the right to pay for what we need. Elective procedures including elective abortions are consumer products, not a basic triumph of civilization whose cost should be borne by all, or that those who can afford it should be deprived of. We should hesitate to accept or advocate government aid, not least because they have yet to emerge with a workable solution.

Incorporating the government as a cost-cutting measure is counter-intuitive, to say the least. We don't want to burden our grandchildren by incurring further debt, but we don't want the "fast and cheap" solution either. This issue deserves our productive deliberation, and the sense of urgency that President Obama constantly instills his audiences with, or creating a long term plan based on our current economic situation, is shortsighted.

His ability to appease the public and the opposing party may have won Obama the election, but he needs to drop that strategy now that he's president. The immature back-and-forth surrounding this debate makes it clear that the strategy is not working. Legislators are susceptible to are vocal and special interest groups, and the Republican Party has resorted to a singularly immature and reprehensible tactic; to promulgate obstructionist measures as part of an extended temper tantrum that's lasted since January.

An article in the Washington Post suggested that Obama would advocate the public option; that patients would be allowed the choice between traditional, private insurance companies and a government run option, which would provide competition.

If this option is chosen, there will be a whole new set of concerns. Internally, who monitors the quality and data available on the public option; which is sure to run more like a bureaucratic Medicare-type program for "the rest of them" than a competitive plan? How can we ensure that insurance companies won't resort to poorer standards of care in hopes of matching their costs, or that they'll be more selective with the patients they choose to cover?

Whatever strategy Obama chooses, he shouldn't be vain enough to commit the nation to it for too long. The market, the physicians, and the technology are constantly changing. Saddling ourselves with a 900 billion dollar plan that we have to pay off in ten years, when updates to care and illness abound, is unfair.

Both patients and physicians are losing out in the current system, having to deal with third- and fourth-parties to get medications and procedures. However, we have to avoid a system that will cost too much, last too long, or provide a lower level of care to each in hopes of making care available to all.

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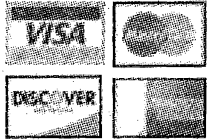
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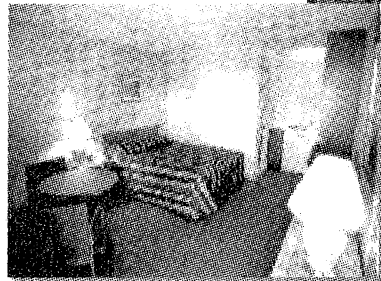
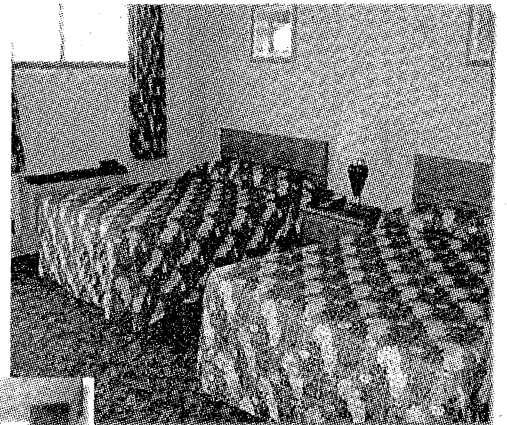
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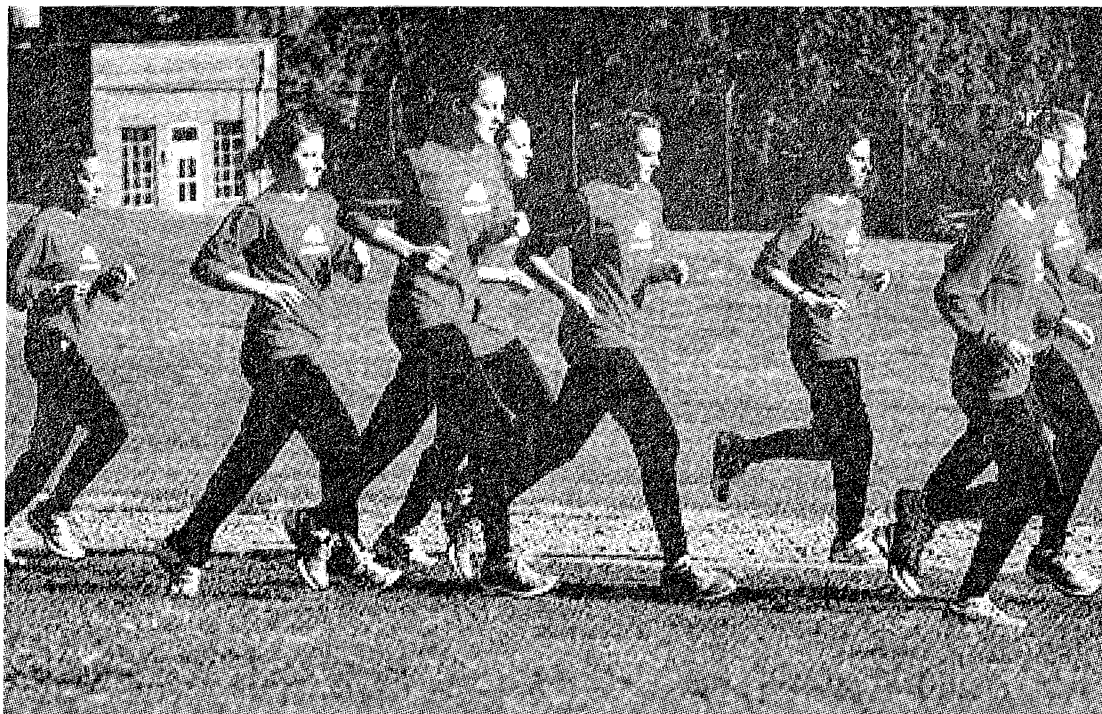


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Hitting the Ground Running



Media credit: goseawolves.cstv.com

The Seawolves Women's Cross Country team.

By SARAH KAZADI
Sports Editor

The Stony Brook men's and women's cross country teams kicked off the 2009 season in stellar fashion on Saturday. Hosting the Seawolves Invitational, the home teams performed at the top notch level that earned them high rankings in the America East Preseason Coaches' Poll.

The women's team, led by senior Laura Huet (Wellington, New Zealand), won the Invitational, and the men's squad came in a solid second.

The women's squad cruised to a first place finish by dominating the competition, ending well ahead of Quinnipiac, Iona, and Manhattan. Huet took the

individual title on the women's side by completing the 4, 100 meter course in 14:56.49, nearly 16 seconds ahead of the next runner.

Stony Brook went on to take the third, fourth, and fifth place finishes also, courtesy of standout performances from various Seawolves. Junior Carolina Cortes (Woodmere, N.Y.) took the third spot (15:16.08), sophomore Kristal Conklin (Middletown, N.Y.) came in fourth (15:18.95), and junior Lisa Voltaire (Stockholm, Sweden) rounded out the top five.

Running a lengthier course, the men's 6, 200 meters were won by Manhattan, with Stony Brook recording the second place finish. Senior Daire Birmingham (Portmarnock, Ireland) took

the men's individual title by completing in 20:13.47, being the only Seawolf in the top three. Gerard Harley (Setauket, N.Y.) finished fourth for Stony Brook in 20:52.23.

With the first meet in the books, both squads are looking forward to another impressive season, and the bar has been set high. The women's team was selected to finish atop the America East rankings in preseason polls. The men were picked to finish second. Both squads are returning key players, and eager to live up to the high expectations.

Off to a good start, both teams look to continue their winning ways in Boston on Friday, when they face off against Harvard and Iona, beginning at 4:00 p.m.

RUGBY? YES, RUGBY.

By SAM KILB
Staff Writer

There's no time like the first match of the season to make a statement. The Stony Brook rugby team did just that in their season opener last Sunday against Seton Hall, defeating the Pirates by a lopsided 61-5.

Head Coach Daniel Yarusso was impressed with his side's effort. "We definitely have the potential to be a championship team," Yarusso said. "It's going to be an exciting year for us."

The Seawolves, who trained throughout the summer in preparation for this fall's campaign, opened the scoring just a few minutes into the match on a 20-meter run from junior Joe Garlow.

There was no looking back. Stony Brook received scores from eight other players, conceding just one try on the way to routing the visitors.

Senior Jasper Wilson, who spends his weekdays as the president of Stony Brook's Undergraduate Student Government, led the team with 14 points.

Coach Yarusso touted the result as a sign of things to come.

"It's been a long process for us," he said. "We're starting to turn the tide in our division."

Seawolves rugby is next in action at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 13, when they host the Iona Gaels.

Seawolves Soccer Recap



Media credit: goseawolves.cstv.com

Sophomore midfielder Holly Razzaghi

By SAM KILB
Staff Writer

The men's and women's soccer teams each returned from a two-game road trip, with only one win between them, as the men defeated Bryant (0-3), 3-0.

The Seawolves (1-2) were led by sophomore Wilbur Bonilla (Brentwood, N.Y.), who found net twice against Bryant, off of assists from sophomore Kevin Zalewski (Parsippany, N.J.), and freshman Berian Gobeil (Montreal, Quebec).

Gobeil also scored, utilizing an assist from freshman Leo Fernandes (North Babylon, N.Y.). Freshman Stefan Manz (Bronx, N.Y.) recorded the clean sheet in his first career start.

The win for the men came just two days after a 4-1 loss at Harvard (2-0). Gobeil scored in that game as well, the first goal of the season for both him and the team. Senior James Palumbo (Carmel, N.Y.) as-

sisted the score.

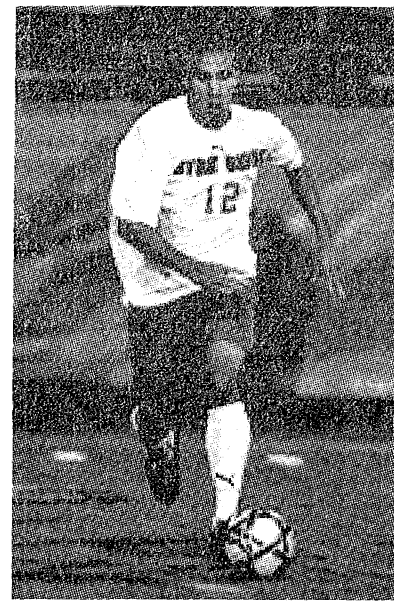
The men play next on Friday, Sept. 8, visiting a St. John's team ranked fifth in national preseason polls.

The women suffered two losses on their stint away from home, conceding seven goals and scoring only one.

The goal for the Seawolves (0-3-1) came in their Friday night matchup against East Carolina (3-0). Sophomore Gabriella Petralia (West Hempstead, N.Y.) scored her first career goal, after receiving a pass from freshman Sa'sha Kershaw (Baltimore, Maryland). Senior shot-stopper Marisa Viola (Cutchogue, N.Y.) had eight saves.

Two days later, the women fell to North Carolina State (4-1) by a score of 4-0. Viola recorded another five saves in 70 minutes. The Seawolves managed three shots.

The women are next in action at home on Sept. 10, when they host Quinnipiac at Laval Stadium.



Media credit: goseawolves.cstv.com

Freshman Berian Gobeil, America East Rookie of the Week

STATESMAN SPORTS



Seawolves Drop Thriller



Kenneth Ho / SB Statesman

The Seawolves notched a few key blocks but still dropped the thrilling five set match.

By SARAH KAZADI
Sports Editor

Visiting their Long Island rivals, the Seawolves dropped a 5 set nail-biter to Hofstra on Tuesday night. After countless lead changes and a barrage of kills from both squads, Stony Brook fell to the Pride 3-2 (25-21, 24-26, 25-18, 21-25, 15-13), losing its seventh despite stellar play from upper classmen Lindsey Gordon (N. Patchogue, N.Y.) and Ashley Headen (Alexandria, Va.).

From the first serve, the competitive nature of both teams surfaced. In the first set alone, the squads tied the score 15 times and exchanged the lead five times. After going up 13-10, the Seawolves relinquished the lead shortly after, finding themselves down one at 15-14. After the Seawolves battled back to tie things up at 21 all, Hofstra sealed the set by scoring four consecutive times and grabbing the

25-21 victory.

The Seawolves jumped out to an early 7-3 lead in the second set, riding the wave of three powerful kills from Headen. The two teams traded scores until junior Jeanette Gibbs (Port Jefferson, N.Y.) put the Seawolves well ahead at 13-8, notching back-to-back aces that kept the Pride defense on its heels. However, the home team rallied to even the score at 22, making the Seawolves work a little harder for the win. They did, scoring on back-to-back kills from freshman Greta Stenger (Woodbury, Minn.) and senior Harmonie Calinda (Huntington, N.Y.) to grab the second set, 26-24.

The third set did not live up to the intensity of the others. After the Seawolves grabbed an 11-10 lead, the Pride kick started a 10-1 run that pinned Stony Brook's back to the wall. Down eight points, the Seawolves tried to battle back but could not get any closer than six, eventually

dropping the set 25-18.

But the fourth set saw a reenergized Stony Brook team, which grabbed an 11-7 lead and seemed on pace to even the score. But the Pride battled, and the teams found themselves all tied up at 17. But, with the help of three kills from Calinda, the Seawolves kick started an 8-4 run that put them ahead and sealed the victory, sending the game to a fifth and deciding set.

The final set saw the teams go back and forth and eventually be knotted at 10-10. The Seawolves managed to build a slim 12-11 lead on a block by sophomore Kelsey Sullivan (Hamilton, Va.) and Headen, but it would be their last. The Pride strung together three crunch time kills to grab the lead, the set, and ultimately the win.

The Seawolves try to get back on the winning track on Friday, when they partake in the Columbia Invitational. Stony Brook faces Quinnipiac at 11:30 a.m. and Iona at 4:30 p.m.

Football Falls In Season Opener

By SAM KILB
Staff Writer

A late Stony Brook rally fell just short on Saturday, when the Seawolves travelled to take on Hofstra at James H. Shuart Stadium, falling to the Pride, 17-10.

The game-winning score came in the fourth quarter, when Hofstra quarterback Joe Sidaras was stripped of the football in an attempt to score on third-and-goal, but the ball fell to left tackle Brian Frederick (Dracut, Mass.) who was credited with the touchdown.

In front of a large contingent of red-clad Stony Brook fans, the Seawolves drew within one score with four minutes to go in the game, when sophomore quarterback Michael Coulter (Yorba Linda, Calif.) capped an 82-yard drive by finding senior wideout Stephan Towns (San Diego, Calif.) in the back right corner of the end zone. Coulter threw for 188 yards, with one touchdown and an interception, in his first start for Stony Brook.

Stony Brook's rushing duo of Eddie Gowins (Bellport, N.Y.) and Conte Cuttino (Uniondale, N.Y.) rushed for a combined 66 yards.

The Seawolves defense was led by junior Stephen Schwicke (East Patchogue, N.Y.), who recorded a career-high 13 tackles.

Stony Brook's next game is on Saturday, Sept. 12, when they travel to meet the Colgate Red Raiders (1-0).



Media credit: goseawolves.cstv.com
Senior running back Conte Cuttino.