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A Glance Into the Life of Stony Brook's New President

Samuel Stanley doesn't always stick to the plan. He often discards pre-scripted speeches to better connect with his audience, doesn't always have time to finish meals served in his honor and traded in the title of physician for president.

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Sports

Seawolves Hoops Preview

Coming off of its best season in 10 years, Stony Brook's men's basketball team is preparing to continue that success this year. The team was selected to finish fourth in the America East Conference Preseason Coaches' Poll.

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Students Line Up For Second Day of Swine Flu Shot, Campus Runs out of Vaccines

By ERIKA KARP
Assistant News Editor

Immersed in a book and propped up against the wall in Ballroom B at the Student Activities Center, Virginia Castracane planned to wait on a line, which stretched down the hall from the Traditions Lounge, for her H1N1 vaccination until she was turned away.

Castracane, a junior and business management major, is one of over 600 Stony Brook students who have received free H1N1 vaccinations, since the university started administering the vaccines at Points of Distribution (PODs), on the 21st. On Monday, another POD was set up for 12 hours in the SAC auditorium. The vaccine was available to students with Stony Brook IDs and between the ages of 18-24.

According to Larry Zacarese, assistant Chief of Police and POD coordinator, the university has ordered the maximum number of vaccines that are available at



Erika Karp / SB Statesman

On day one of free swine flu injections more than 400 students lined the halls of the SAC.

this time.

On Monday, the supply of injectable vaccines was exhausted due to the large turnout, but intranasal vaccines were still available to those students who qualified.

The two PODs were coordinated by University Police, Student Health Services and student volunteers. Unlike the seasonal flu vaccines, which were offered by Student Health Service for 10 dollars, the university decided to offer the injection for free in order to encourage students to get vaccinated, according to Rachel Bergeson, director of Student Health Services.

Offering the H1N1 vaccines is the university's latest effort for combating the H1N1 virus,

which has been targeting people in the 18-24 year old age group. According to the Center for Disease Control, 53 percent of H1N1 hospitalizations have fallen in this age group.

Jillian Kirk, a sophomore and psychology major, was first on the line to receive a vaccination on the 21st. She said that she always gets vaccinated and found it especially important to do so this year, since the virus is affecting young people.

According to Bergeson, there have been confirmed swine flu cases on campus and the clinic has been seeing anywhere from zero to three cases daily.

"Wash your hands a lot, cough into your elbow and stay home,"

said Christina Shen, a volunteer at the first POD and member of the Flu Task Force. The Flu Task Force is a group of students on campus who serve as peer educators on flu prevention.

Elizabeth Fievisohn, a biomedical engineering major, said she usually does not get vaccinated for the seasonal flu, but received the intranasal vaccine this year.

According to Bergeson, they are pushing the intranasal vaccine because it is shown to prevent the seasonal flu, as well as the H1N1 virus.

"This is a big deal," Fievisohn said on day one of distribution. "I am a senior and I want to get out. I don't want to mess it up."

New Student Dorms to Open Spring '10

By ALEXA GORMAN
Contributing Writer

Alex Timofeyev has a different type of alarm clock. It's known as the Kelly construction project located in Roosevelt Quad. "At 9 a.m. pronto it wakes me and basically everyone I know up," Timofeyev said. "The construction is literally about 30 yards away from where I sleep."

Plans for the building began over a year ago. First, plans and architectural sketches had to be drawn before any shovels hit the ground. Traditionally, the process of a construction project with this



Frank Posillico / SB Statesman

Workers at the construction site. New dormitories hope to alleviate tripling.



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New Student Dorms Scheduled to Open Spring '10

Continued from page 1

magnitude begins with sketches and is followed by companies placing bids on the project. Goshow Architects began drawings for this 173,000 square foot project in 2007.

According to John Sparano, director of Residential Operations, the "bid submission and executed contract started in March of 2008." J. Kokolakis Construction won the bid and became the primary company on the job, followed by \$600,000 added into the 2009-2010 budget. Initial foundation work began in March, but construction itself did not officially begin until August of 2008.

"Right now, about 800 students are tripled. We are over capacity," Loughren said. The decision for the building to hold 600 students was determined based on incoming numbers of students, as well as reducing the amount of students living in forced triples. Officials planning the project met with students in the

Residence Hall Association to discuss student needs.

Students from Roosevelt and Kelly Quads will reside in the new building, splitting the count to 300 for each quad. These suite-style rooms will host six students each, with three double bedrooms, one bathroom, one shower area and one common room.

It was rumored that the cost of construction would affect tuition costs for next year, but this is untrue. Loughren quashed these rumors by noting that the building will pay for itself once new students come in. All construction and maintenance costs while the building is being put up is paid for strictly by the residential budget, and will not affect tuition costs at all.

As of right now, progress is behind by about one semester. "If everything had gone perfectly, we would have wanted it to be open in the fall of 2009...right now it looks like it will be open by the spring of '10," Loughren said.



Frank Posillico / SB Statesman
Construction in Kelly Quad. The new building will not raise tuition.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

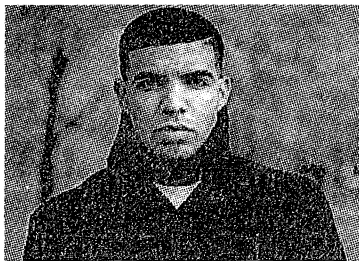
October's Very Own

By JIHAN ANTOINE
Contributing Writer

For this fall, a star has risen. Aubrey Graham, 23, better known as the lyrically inclined rapper Drake, has made his signature stamp of approval on some of the biggest hits of today. Effortlessly talented, with a confidence that could be construed as cockiness, is well-deserved knowing the he has accomplished so much, so soon.

Born on Oct. 24, 1986, Drake originally became known for playing Jimmy Brokes on the hit high school television series *Degrassi: The Next Generation*.

Through showcasing his talent as a serious actor while being confined to a wheelchair, it was apparent that he had a quest for more. As an entertainer, Drake has managed to captivate his listeners with intense, tongue-twisting lyrics and a natural ability to tell a story in mere minutes.



Media credit: www.brokencool.com

His music could very well be described as chapters in his life that music lovers keep turning the pages to. With collaborations featuring the top hitmakers, such as Kanye West, Lil Wayne, and Trey Songz, Drake is not far behind to becoming one of the best of all time.

His formula? Mixtapes, which in a split second transformed him from an unsigned newcomer to a mainstream maven with a record deal.

His music alone has managed to embody a musical rollercoaster that fans can't seem to get off. From one end, his smooth ballads can captivate the hearts of many women to harsh hip-hop interludes that

have men putting his music on repeat. This year alone, he has added his signature style with some of the biggest names in music such as Jay-Z, Kanye West, Mary J. Blige and Jamie Foxx.

In early February of 2009, Drake released his third official mixtape, "So Far Gone," featuring Drake's mentor Lil' Wayne, Lloyd, and close friend Trey Songz. Two of the top singles, "Best I ever had" and "Successful" had a very popular reputation on every radio station.

"Best I ever had" was taken from the "So Far Gone" mixtape and became, arguably, the top summer jam of 2009.

Taking music lovers for a whirlwind,

Drake encompasses both raw but detailed appeal making his music undeniably attractive for every eclectic palette. Drake's anthem "Successful" still holds the number one spot on music lovers charts. Through a back-to-back ongoing competition with label boss Lil Wayne, Drake

manages to keep up with him on almost every track that they do together. His rapping style: incomparable to most. His messages: undeniably brainwashing fans that know every lyric line by line.

With a combination of the various influences he has come across, Drake is on a successful path all on his own. The memorable, constantly surprising lyrics and addictive flow in addition to the catchy hooks and beats, Drake has come so far, so soon in music.

After a ferocious bidding war, Drake ended up signing with Universal Motown and has begun to make his place in musical history.

Little Girls' "Concepts"

By IVANNA AVALOS
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The streets of New York City's Lower East Side were loud and abuzz as groups of people made their way from bar to bar throughout the night, trying to catch this year's performances at the CMJ Music Marathon and Film Festival.

Among the hundreds of bands performing at the week long annual CMJ festival, first established in 1978, was the Toronto based band the Little Girls.

The Little Girls performed their 25-minute set on a rainy, cool fall night this past Saturday, to a small crowd in one of the intimate show rooms at Piano's, a popular downtown bar and music venue.

Little Girls is the brainchild of lead singer Josh McIntyre, 22, along with three friends who perform with him on stage, each of whom were a part of other bands in Toronto. He first developed the band as a side project while he was in the band, Pirate/Rock.

As part of Pirate/Rock, McIntyre says he didn't have all the control of the music, playing only the drums and providing background vocals. He recorded a few songs on his own early this year and decided to post them on Myspace under the name Little Girls in an attempt to find unbiased opinions from his friends and family—it worked.

His side-project started to gain attention and McIntyre then turned his full focus onto developing the Little Girls.

With Little Girls he has had the opportunity to do more. For his latest band,

McIntyre provides lead vocals and does the recording and producing.

"It's all me, I am sort of at the forefront of everything."

The self-proclaimed post-punk singer is just that, sounding reminiscent of the London punk-rock scene of the 80s.

His musical style is surprising, considering his musical influences—Hip-Hop.

"It boggles people's minds," he said half laughing and half smiling, adding "I listen to hip-hop all the time."

On Oct. 13 McIntyre released his new album "Concepts" with Paper Bag Records, including his first recordings under the name Little Girls and some new material. The 11-track album is an easy listen, with most tracks no longer than two and half minutes, each song flowing effortlessly into the other in a melancholy key.

What is interesting about Little Girls is that most of his songs sound as though they are purely instrumental. When this point was brought up to McIntyre he smiles with a youthful expression.

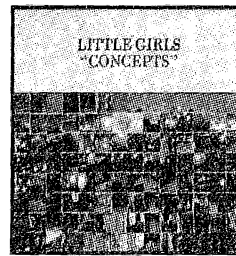
"The vocals are very buried in the mix," he said.

One thing is clear from watching McIntyre on stage—he is a dedicated musician who loves to give the audience a heart-felt performance.

At Saturday's performance he ended his set with high-energy and enthusiasm, showing off just how strong his voice is.

Though McIntyre currently lives in Toronto, he has hopes of moving to the New York.

"At some point I plan to, when the time is right."



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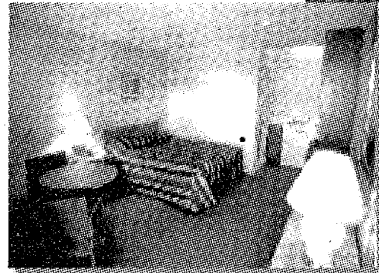
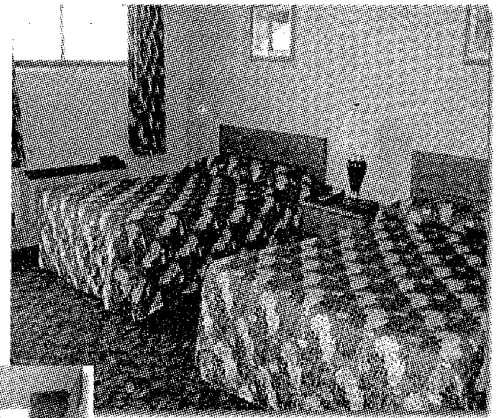
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The Statesman encourages readers to submit opinions and commentaries to the following address:

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WHO WE ARE

The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Sycollan" 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.

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Nobel Intentions

By **RAVNEET KAMBOJ**
Contributing Writer

As President Obama stepped out onto the podium he was met with a wall of applause. As he began to speak the crowd fell silent, hanging to his every word. Entranced by his speech, they broke into cheers every time he paused. Surprisingly this scene took place not when Obama won the presidential race but rather on the campaign trail. This scene recreated itself time and time again throughout his tour of the continent. He was effectively showing the world and America that he could command respect at home and abroad. Fast forward to 2009 and President Obama is awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. While coveted and prestigious, the award has a history of controversy and this would be no exception.

President Obama was awarded the prize "for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples." The Nobel Prize is usually presented to someone based on the merits of their accomplishments. This raises a very fair question of whether or not Obama deserves the award so early in his career as a major world player. Perhaps it is best to examine how Obama has affected the global atmosphere thus far.

It is no secret that over the last eight years America's reputation

has not been the best around the world and that there was no love lost between former President Bush and the global community. President Bush was viewed as a corrupt and immoral person who swung around the might of America without considering how it might affect others. Fair or not, the world's perception

been looking for.

Whether one agrees with this sentiment or not, it is hard to deny that the newfound love and appreciation of the United States and its people by the rest of the world has made diplomatic issues easier to resolve and cooperative action easier to take. The world now views its relationship with

[The Nobel Prize] is very much a political tool that... has been used in the past to make a point.

of President Bush was projected onto the entire United States and its people. This led to a great amount of animosity and distrust between America and the other major players on the world stage.

It is in this climate of distrust and anger towards the United States that President Obama first arrived. Even while he was only on the campaign trail, the rest of the world and especially Europe became hugely fond of him. To them he was the complete antithesis of President Bush. They view him as someone who was smart, intelligent, fair, and understanding of global issues. The world embraced President Obama's image and personality and hailed him as the world leader they had

America as one of mutual respect and mutual exchange of favors and ideas. The United Nations has made passing resolutions much easier as other countries are not as quick to block initiatives forwarded by the United States.

The United States has always felt a sense of isolation from the global community, and during the Bush years this feeling of American isolation only grew. It is safe to say that President Obama has allowed the United States to join the global community as a respected member.

The Nobel Prize itself should not be viewed as an award based solely on one's merit. It is very much a political tool that can be and has been used in the past

to make a point. The Europeans obviously made the point that they thoroughly and completely despised President Bush, so much so that they would be willing to give President Obama who has not as yet accomplished any physical or tangible goals the award. The Nobel Committee has effectively placed their reputation on how Obama continues to perform as a global leader.

President Obama has his work cut out for him. He must prove that he can do more than just change the image of the United States. He does have the very real opportunity to change a lot in the world. From domestic issues to foreign policy, he may very well prove to be one of the most influential presidents of all time.

Let's hope that he really earns the prize he was awarded and makes good on his promises. For now though we can rest a little easier knowing that the world once again looks to us and feels some measure of brotherhood rather than just disgust.

While being true to our nations ideals is important we cannot achieve the goal of liberty for all if we do not cooperate with all the other nations that inhabit this planet. The Nobel Prize may serve as the instrument that spurs the United States to action and at the same time lowers resistance to our actions from the rest of the world.



THE BUZZ WITH THE BIZZ Prospect's Black

By **JOHNNY "BIZZ" COFARRO**
Columnist

Advertisements for Taco Bell's new taco concept have been on television over the last few weeks. It's called the "Black Jack Taco" because of its outer black shell. On the main page of Taco Bell's website is a food box that includes a regular crunchy taco, a burrito, cinnamon twists, and the infamous black taco served with a huge Mountain Dew beverage. The black taco, which is sold for less than a dollar, is advertised as a relatively high-brow product that is fit only for the upper-middle class individual. According to the commercial, it is supposed to look very fierce and sophisticated but made for the everyday person. The

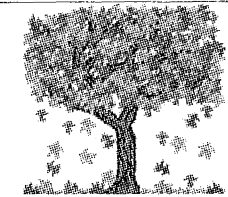
description of the Black Jack Taco that Taco Bell gives the product is "a crunchy black taco shell filled with seasoned beef, zesty pepper jack sauce, shredded lettuce, and a blend of three cheeses- cheddar, pepper jack, and mozzarella." Sounds appetizing, right?

Past issues that the Taco Bell franchises had to face were all the problems since late fall 2006 with the E. coli outbreaks and the salmonella outbreak in early fall 2008 semester. The E. coli outbreak started in New Jersey and led to the closing of four Taco Bells in Suffolk and Nassau Counties back in December 2006. The salmonella epidemic was when tomatoes produced by the restaurant company Yum! Brands, Inc. were alerted by the federal government that there

was a salmonella problem developing. Other companies that suffered because of this issue were KFC and Pizza Hut.

After Taco Bell's famous 'Volcano Taco' I thought that Taco Bell was getting a little better. Guess not. A black taco? Seriously, the marketing research team needs to double-check their data. As of now I do not know anyone who actually did buy and consume this odd looking product. They probably have the same condescending views about the Black Jack Taco like I do. Taco Bell needs the Taco Bell dog back, but too late now since Paris Hilton made the little Chihuahua an accessory. The semiotic meaning of it is long gone.

Stony Brook student Joseph Stokes has a different perspective



on the Black Taco. Stokes explains that the black taco strikes curiosity based on its taste. The element of the product that Stokes finds alluring is the pepper jack sauce. Stokes is also a fan of the commercial, saying that it is funny.

The black taco is interesting, yes, but does not amuse me. Like Stokes, I am also curious about the taste, but I would leave that up to another consumer. The commercial is funny but I can predict the next one. Imagine Jack Black dressed in black with a black eye advertising the Black Jack Taco as he wears his black shades. Plausible, isn't it? There are obviously split views on the product like between Stokes and I, but only the future could tell us about the fate of the Black Jack Taco.

Opinion Submissions

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A Glance Into the Life of Stony Brook's New President

By APRIL WARREN
Managing Editor

Samuel Stanley doesn't always stick to the plan.

He often discards pre-scripted speeches to better connect with his audience, doesn't always have time to finish meals served in his honor and traded in the title of physician for president.

But if his performance in a recent pickup game of basketball is any indication – he has an aggressive, no-nonsense demeanor, and even took a shot from the three-point line and scored – he may be the right person behind the wheel to steer Stony Brook through a gale of budget cuts, faculty shortages, and campus community opposition.

Reaching Out

The placid waters of West Meadow Creek sparkle like cut glass catching the rays of an October sun as the area's socialites sashay into the white Old Field Club. "We want to move it along when the president comes," says Janette Handley, secretary for the Three Village Chamber of Commerce, to guests as they enter through double French doors. She cautions every visitor to just say their name and organization in the first round robin and leave the rest for after the president leaves.

This is the first time the president will meet with the chamber. According to Handley, 72 reservations were made for the luncheon. Usually there are just 15 placed in advance and the rest filter in unannounced.

"People are interested in meeting him, and the chamber wants to work him into the community," says Handley while passing out flyers the same color as the pumpkins lining the slate steps. "Without the university, this area would be dead in the water."

Stanley arrives fashionably late with Vice President of Facilities and Services Barbara Cherno, and enters the one-room ballroom filled with realtors, lawyers, bankers and Stony Brook staff, and tables dressed in antique white linens. "I don't think I could even afford to be a member," Stanley jokes of the club.

After exchanging pleasant-

ries with members of the chamber, he strides over to the bar and orders a Diet Pepsi with a lime wedge, a favored drink of his. After just a few sips he is interrupted with a gift – a letter from the Three Village Inn lending support for the new campus hotel. The hotel receives several inquiries and questions are deferred to a separate meeting that may take place in the future.

During the lunch Stanley rises from his dais table seat, turns his back to the brilliant fall foliage, reflecting on the water, and addresses the crowd already on their feet. "This is my first standing ovation and it could be my last as far as I know," the president jests.

He then discusses his campus's highlights, meetings with legislatures and his vision for the future including the hotel, which raises a few eyebrows as well as questions such as if the campus grows into a self-contained city will students be less likely to travel off campus and feed the local economy. Stanley explains increasing campus bus trails off campus is an option – currently buses do run off campus to Smith Haven Mall and other locations along Nesconset Highway.

Over the years the university has tried to increase involvement on campus in the hopes of deterring the Friday afternoon exodus. "He really has to figure that out for himself," Handley said.

Physician to President

Back on campus, the president strolls to his office in the Administration building with a photographer, reporter and aid in tow. Chatting about his life, the president explains that he didn't always have administrator in mind as a career goal.

Born in Seattle, Stanley moved to Jakarta, Indonesia with his family at the age of 4 while his father Samuel Stanley Sr., 86, who holds a Ph.D in cultural anthropology, researched the structure of villages

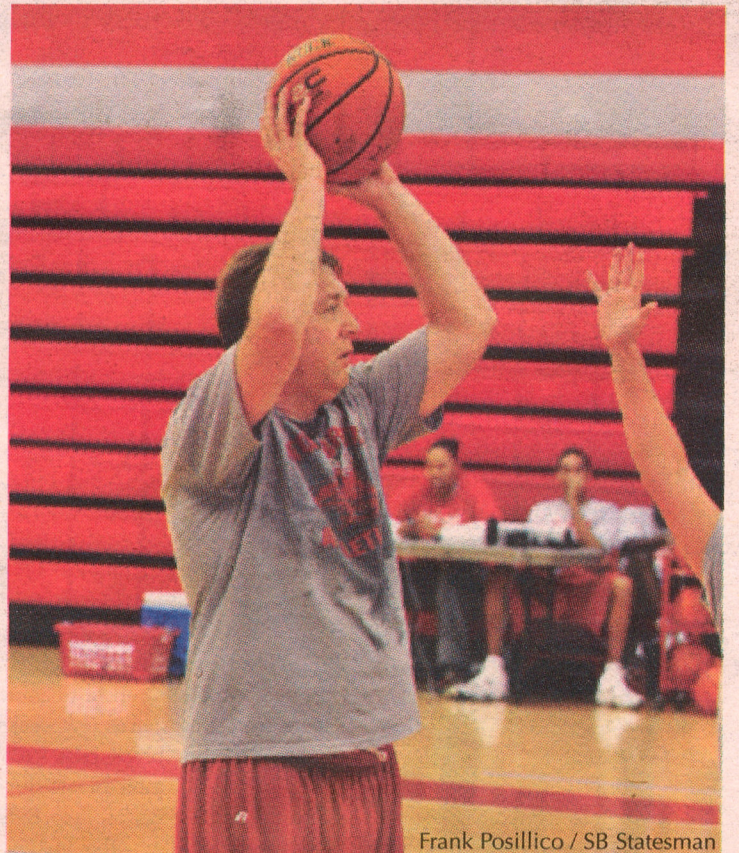
for two years. "I admire my dad," Stanley said. "I grew up in a house where anthropology was the most important thing in the world."

After graduating with a



Frank Posillico / SB Statesman

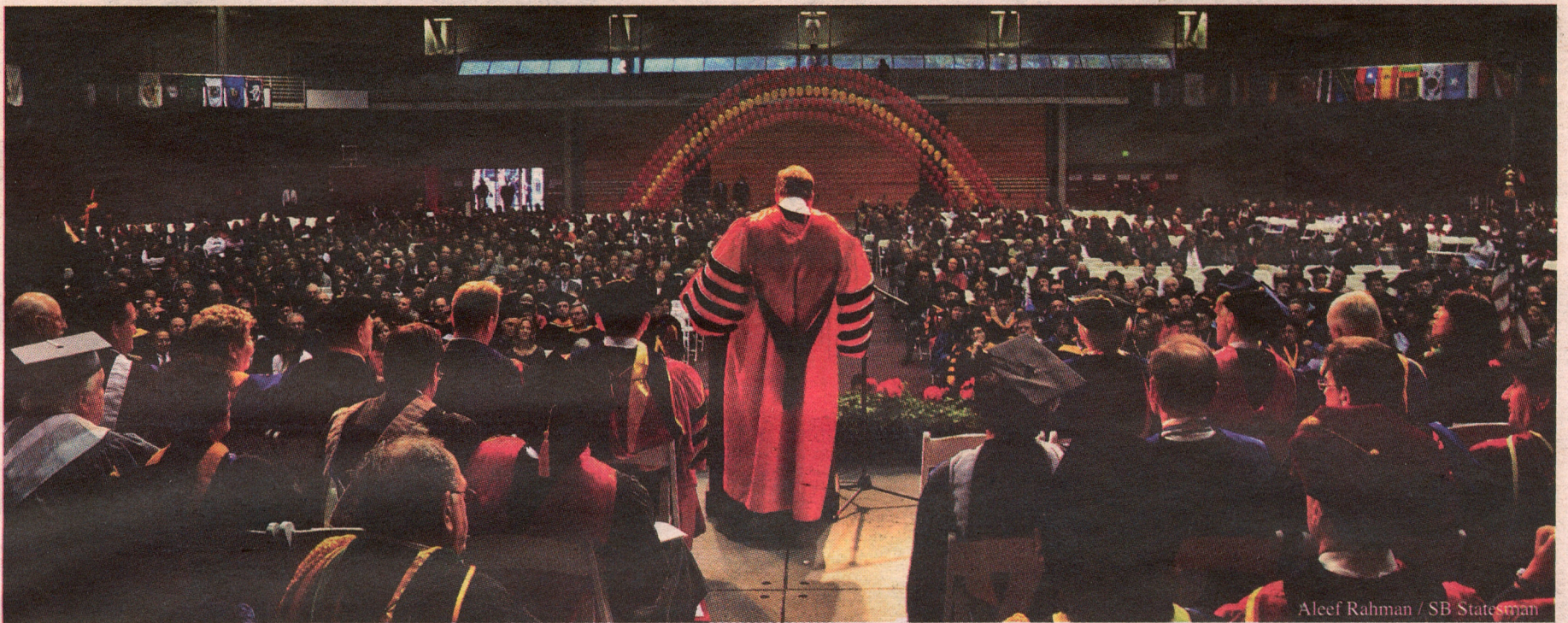
Right: The president takes a break from his day to have a pick-up basketball game with students, a hobby he usually enjoys with his son, Sam Stanley III, 14 (pictured above).



Frank Posillico / SB Statesman



April Warren / SB Statesman



Aleef Rahman / SB Statesman



April Warren / SB Statesman

Stanley observes the artwork of Stephanie Dinkins.

Continued from page 6

malaria only to have a new case pop up in a few days.

He decided to try and tackle the problem head on. "Research can make a global difference," Stanley said.

Now, one of his main quests is to help increase research grant money to the university to help offset the \$28 million budget shortfall.

Not Just Science

Graduate art students congregate in groups of three or four, exchanging sleepy hellos as the smell of coffee and eggs permeates the air inside the Staller Center lobby one Thursday morning. They are awaiting the opening of a new exhibit by Stephanie Dinkins entitled "This Land is My Land."

The president walks in and many people in the crowd swivel their heads and stare with curious looks on their faces.

Stanley politely declines several offerings of coffee. An early riser, he already ate at 5:30 a.m. He inquires about the artwork of Mel Pekarsky, a retired professor, but because of understaffing, he is back from retirement as a visiting professor. A new show opening in November will feature

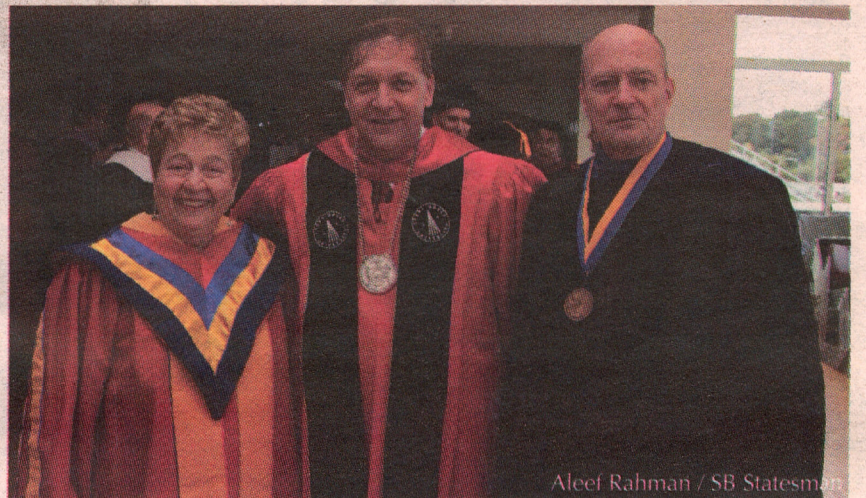
35 years of his work. "They're cheap for presidents," Pekarsky says, half-kidding. "I'll give you a discount."

The tall gallery doors open and Stanley slips unnoticed into the vast white space. He stares at over 1,000 pages of Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man," waxed and ironed together to create a canvas for a moving video of Dinkins, balancing above a canyon while resisting the wind. "I've been trying to get her to market it as a shower curtain," says Rhonda Cooper, the art gallery director, to Stanley as he leans in closer to the canvas.

Once again Stanley takes to the podium. Although his background lies in science, a contrast to former President Shirley Strum Kenny's background in the humanities, he recognizes the need for both. "It's about the way we interact and the way we add value to each other's disciplines."

One female graduate steps out from the crowd to poke at the impending budget cuts. "Is there any way our students can help each other?"

For now, that is a tough question to answer. On Oct. 15 Gov. David Paterson announced another statewide budget cut that would slash higher education by \$62 million. "I don't know how much of it will come to Stony Brook but it won't be small," Stanley says, his voice softer than usual.

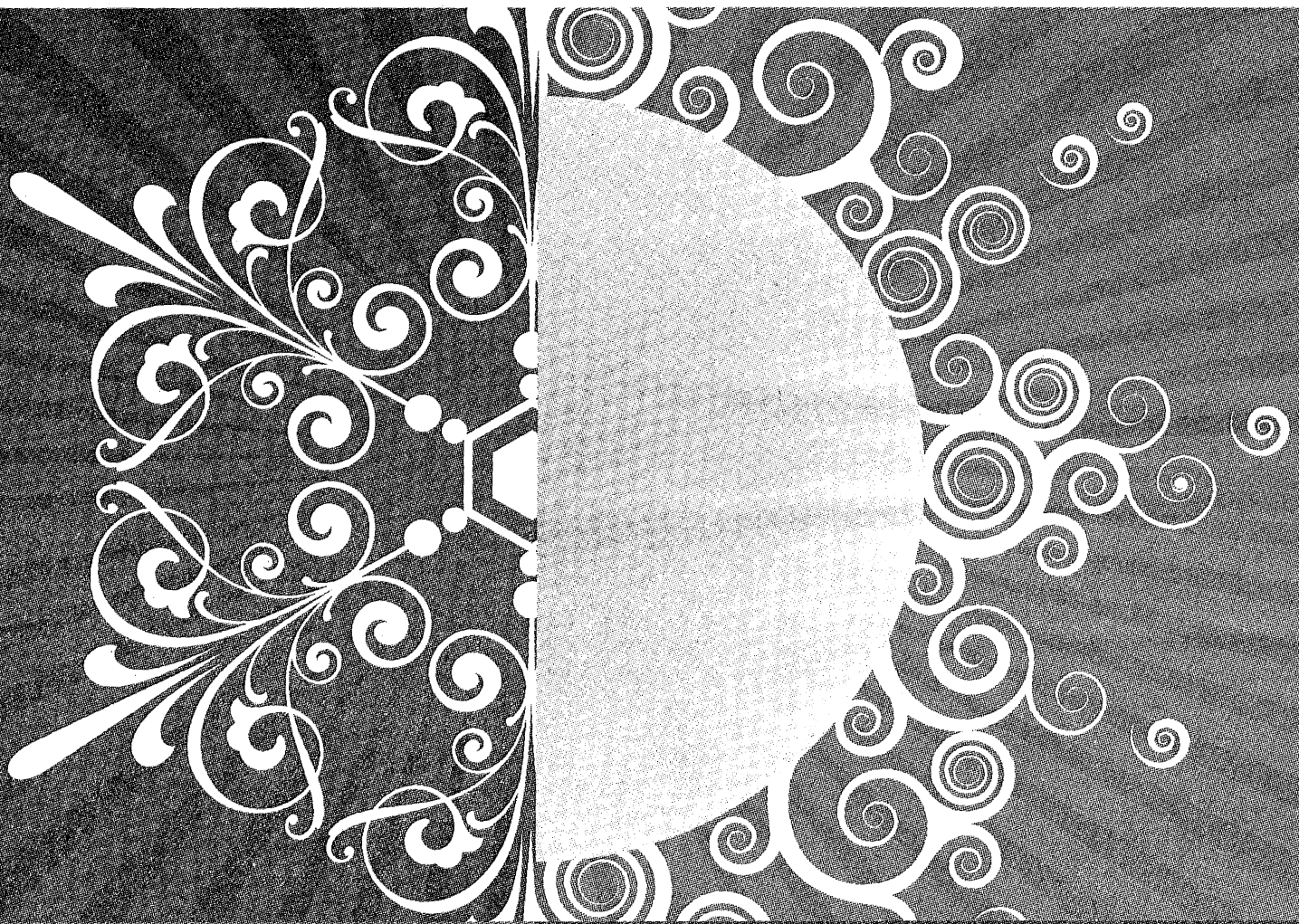


Aleef Rahman / SB Statesman

President Stanley with former Presidents Kenny (right) and Marbuger.

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First-Year Reading's Author Talks About Life, Perseverance



Karina Rose / SB Statesman
Da Chen, author of the undergraduate first-year reading book, "Sounds of the River."

RHODA FENG
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 21, a group of freshmen from Honors College, University Scholars and Women in Science and Engineering congregated in the Wang Center Theater lobby to hear Da Chen speak. This segment of the Undergraduate College Commons Day reception of the author of the first-year reading, "Sounds of the River," commenced with breakfast.

As students helped themselves to coffee, parfait and bagels, the torpor imperceptibly gave way to animated conversation. When the author showed up in a trim, nondescript black suit, a frisson of distending interest became palpable. As he slowly made his way to the speaker's podium, variant whispers ("Look, Da Chen's here," "He looks just like he does in the photos") suffused the atmosphere.

Da Chen began his oration by declaring, "You guys are the highest achieving students. I can feel the vibe here... in the way you eat your breakfast," which immediately elicited an appreciative laugh from the audience. In another display of his wit, Chen facetiously asked, "Have you guys found a brook yet? Is there a stony brook somewhere nearby?"

Then, trading his mirthful gaiety for a more somber repose, Chen gave an account of his formative years. Growing up, he didn't think much about becoming a writer; his turbulent milieu arrested the formation of any artistic ambitions.

Chen grew up during the Black and White years of the Chinese Cultural Revolution. As he recounted, his childhood was marked by starvation and persecution of his father and grandfather. "What I witnessed during the Revolution was horrendous," Chen said. "I have seen my father hung by both thumbs, his feet barely touching the floor."

For a long time, however, Chen was "ashamed of being ashamed" of the humiliating scourge that his family had to endure. It was not until one day, when his daughter

asked him, "Daddy, are you really an alien?" that he decided it was time for him to "confess" and tell her the "story of my childhood." Thusly was he driven to write his memoirs, first "Colors of the Mountain" and then "Sounds of the River."

All of us consciously craft identities that ineluctably lack verisimilitude to who we truly are. Chen opined that the greatest challenge is revealing our true personalities by tearing away the multitude of fragmentary facades we put up.

"Every single one of you is stronger than any negative force coming at you. And there will be many negative forces coming your way, but you should not bow to them. The most important thing is to find yourself, find your own footing and don't be defeated by what seems strong. Know your own strength." As Chen pointed out himself, the fact that he, a serious student with the soul of an artist, was able to thrive in a callous and tenuous world marked by internecine strife bespeaks the power of the will.

When Chen was kicked out of school at age 9 because of his family background, he despaired of breaking from the chains that shackled him to a bleak, ubiquitous fate. He spent a year as the youngest farmer on a Chinese Communist farm where he routinely picked up cow manure to be used as fertilizer. This connection with the soil and nurturing earth is a perennial theme in his memoir.

In an approbatory statement that lent much gravitas to his speech, Chen exalted, "You are the chosen ones and as chosen ones you have a responsibility to this world - to lead this world and help those who need help."

Chen then dedicated an ineffably supernal bamboo flute melody to the audience. "You are welcome to close your eyes and follow me to China for a little bit," Chen said. The diaphanous cadence of the song entranced the students as some of them closed their eyes while others were wholly transfixed to the artist.

In the question-and-answer portion of the event, Chen responded to questions students had written down on scraps of pa-

per. His censure for the society into which he was born was underscored in such statements as: "In our culture, we take everything upon ourselves. If you have a tragedy, it's all thought to be your own fault. Fortunetellers will tell you that, your parents will tell you that and your neighbors will tell you that. Some traditions try to undo you at the very beginning of your life and blame everything on you rather than emphasizing the positive aspects of your life."

Furthermore, Chen related how anti-theatrical influences shaped his adolescence. The mercenary teachers were "marginalized" in his mind by "the grandeur and glory of kind people who could not afford to be kind, like Professor Wei who taught me English in my teens."

In a wistful threnody for an archaic existence, Da Chen limned the abject state of his childhood village of Yellow Stone. Its once capacious rivers are now yellow puddles of industrial waste and its formerly monolithic mountains have been razed in the process of gentrification.

In response to a student's question about his work ethic, Chen admitted that fear motivated him to achieve the best grades in college. The author claimed that to this day, he has nightmares of failing exams and being sent back to the farm to labor as a prole. "But fear is actually good for you," Chen averred. "The extent of your success is based on the

reach of your ambition. You wish for more and you will achieve more."

In closing, Chen expressed allegiance to the American paradigm of enduring nationalism. "Every moment that I'm here in America, I feel fortunate. This is by far the best country in the world," he said with brio. "Don't let the French tell you otherwise."

The author relayed an anecdote of a "great American moment." When he took his 11-year-old son to the Sundance Film Festival during the week of President Obama's inauguration, the writer made it a point to imbue his son with a sense of reverence for the ideals upon which this nation is predicated.

As they entered an ice cream shop and watched Obama being sworn into office on television, Chen told his son, "This is the reason your father is here. This is the reason millions of mothers and fathers come from faraway lands to be here. If the son of an African, an immigrant, a foreign student, can become the president of the U.S.A., this is the greatest country because your achievement is based on the content of your character."

Chen asserted that achievement is not simply a matter of "redeeming oneself," but also of redeeming one's heritage. When asked about the "main message" that undergraduate students should carry away from "Sounds of the River," Chen replied with one word, of which he is an apotheosis: perseverance.

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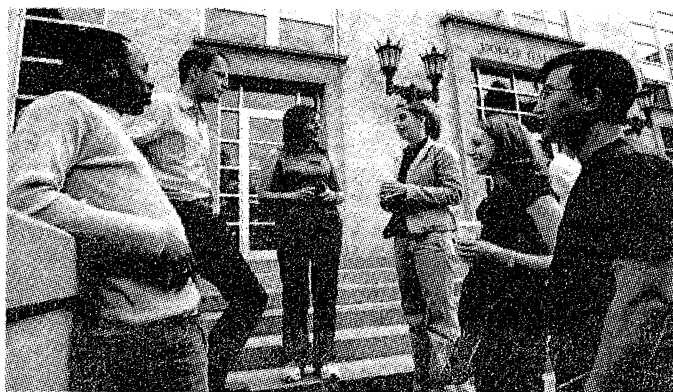
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For Women's Hoops, "Focus" Is On Victory

By DAVID O'CONNOR
Contributing Writer

The Stony Brook University Women's Basketball team practiced Tuesday in Pritchard Gymnasium from noon to 3:00 p.m., gearing up for the start of the season on November 13th.

"It's pretty optimistic," said Head Coach Michele Cherry when asked about her outlook on the season this year. "We've got a good mix of new and veteran players. We also have a favorable schedule."

On the non-conference schedule are the University of Maryland and UNC-Wilmington, both possible statement games for the Seawolves.

There are five freshmen on the team this year, new faces hoping to take the team to new heights.

"We've got more depth," said Cherry. "One thing that people will notice is better perimeter shooting."

Seawolves junior Kirsten Jeter (Elmont, NY) is only 350 points shy from 1000, a milestone that would be another accolade to her stellar Seawolves career.

At the end of Tuesday's 3 hour long practice, Cherry drew the players in for a short talk, and the girls broke for practice cheering, "Focus!"

When asked about this choice of word, Cherry said, "Our captains have something that they'll cheer about. We told them that we're doing new things that they'll have to focus on."

One main "focus" of the team was defense. Cherry agreed that there was a strong defensive presence on the team.

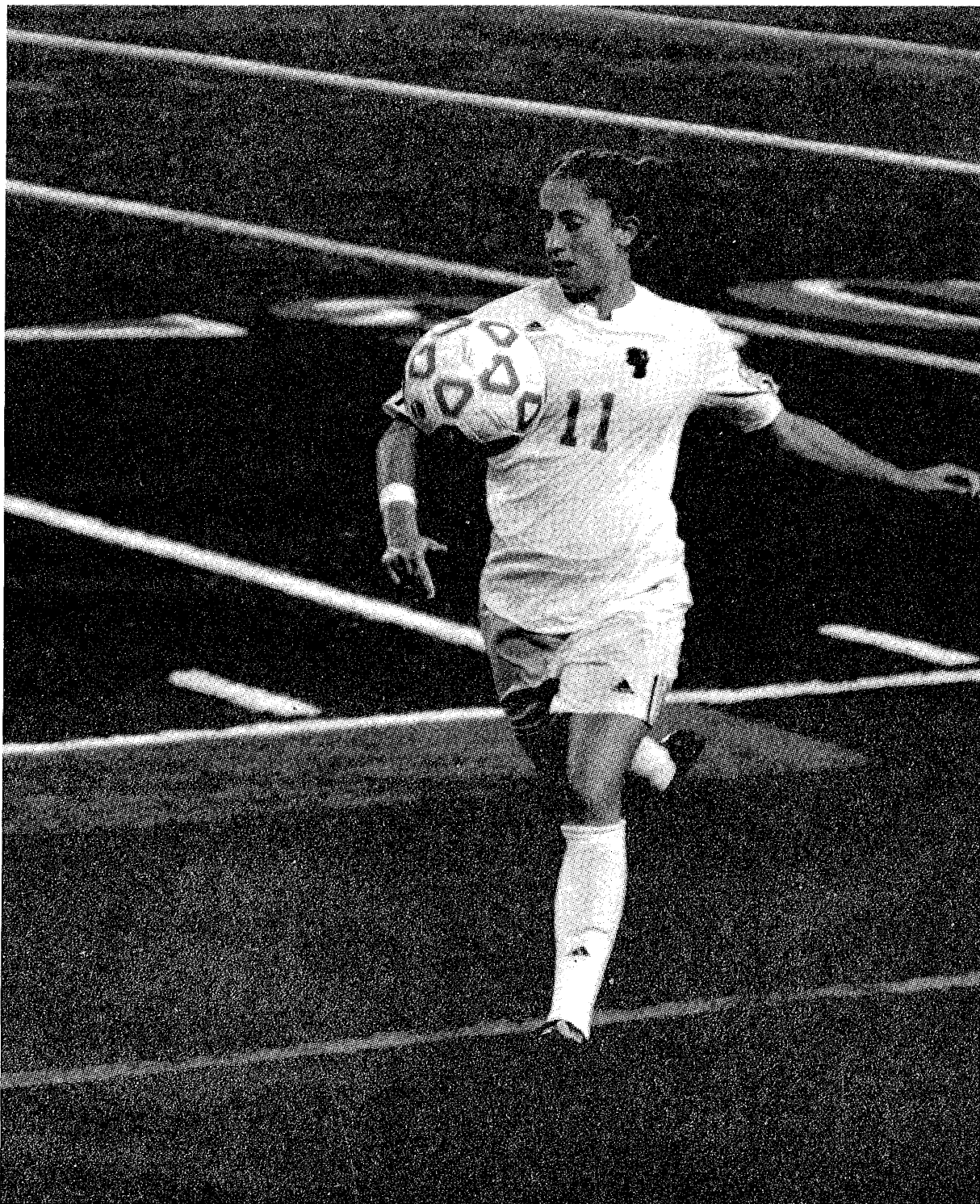
"Defense always comes a little quicker than offense. It's more about effort and heart."

The America East Preseason Coaches Poll selected the ladies to finish seventh in the conference, the same spot in which they finished last year.

The season kicks off with a match up against the Princeton Tigers on November 13th, the first time the two teams have met since the Tigers' 40 point defeat of the Seawolves last year.

However, if things go as planned, the Stony Brook should have better fortune this year with its revamped emphasis on defense. Tip off is slated for 7:00 p.m.

Women's Soccer Ready For Postseason



Kenneth Ho / SB Statesman

Seawolves senior midfielder Alexandra Teti will participate in her last postseason starting Thursday evening.

By SAM KILB
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook women's soccer team kicks off America East tournament play at 7 p.m. Thursday when they host the Albany Great Danes in the quarterfinals at Laval Stadium.

The Seawolves are 5-2-1 in America East play, and are seeded fourth in the tournament. Albany is the fifth seed.

Stony Brook will be looking for a big game from senior goalkeeper Marisa Viola (Cutchogue, N.Y.) and freshman striker Meghan Gilley (Muncie, Pa.). Viola, who also holds the school shutout record, recorded four

shutouts during conference play and has played every minute of every game for Stony Brook this fall. Gilley leads the team in goals with five.

Freshman midfielder Sa'sha Kershaw (Baltimore, Md.) has also been a key contributor, scoring four goals and assisting two others.

The Stony Brook defense will be keeping an especially close eye on Albany's Chelsea DeVerna, who leads the Great Danes with six goals and three assists. The Great Danes' Rebecca Lee assisted both goals in the last meeting between the two teams.

After starting conference play with a six-game unbeaten streak, Stony Brook is looking to recover from two

straight defeats in which they failed to score a goal.

The first loss came at the hands of the same Albany team the Seawolves face Thursday evening. The Great Danes utilized two first-half goals to beat Stony Brook, 2-0.

The Seawolves then rounded out their regular season with a 4-0 loss at Maine.

Before those two games, Stony Brook was at the top of the table, having just beat rivals Boston University.

Because this is a playoff game, admission is \$8 for ages 15 and up and \$5 for children. Stony Brook students get in free by presenting their student ID.

STATESMAN SPORTS

Seawolves Hoops Preview



Seawolves freshman guard Preye Preboye spending time above the rim during Basketball Madness night in Pritchard Gymnasium.

BY DORIC SAM
Contributing Writer

Coming off of its best season in 10 years, Stony Brook's men's basketball team is preparing to continue that success this year.

The team was selected to finish fourth in the America East Conference Preseason Coaches' Poll.

Stony Brook returns nine letterwinners, including four starters who led the team to its best record since joining the America East Conference. The 2008-2009 season saw the team finish 16-14 overall and 8-8 against conference opponents, tying for fourth place in the conference at the end of the season.

Returning Seawolves

Senior guard Muhammad El-Amin (Lansing, Mich.) returns after leading

last year's team in scoring with 15.7 points per game. El-Amin earned national honors as he a 2009 All-America East second team selection.

Sophomores Tommy Brenton (Columbia, Md.) and Bryan Dougher (Scotch Plains, N.J.) are back after being named to the America East All-Rookie team a season ago.

Brenton started 29 games for the Seawolves and led the team in rebounds with 8.9 per game, ranking second in the conference. He also led the America East in rebounds during conference play (9.7). Dougher was one of 20 freshmen in the country to start every game for his team. He was third among America East freshmen and second on the team in scoring (11.2).

Fresh Faces

The Seawolves added four freshmen

who all earned honors during their high school careers.

Preye Preboye (Springfield, Mass.) earned first team All-Western Mass. honors as a senior and was named team MVP while playing for Springfield Central High School.

Eric McAlister (Hightstown, N.J.) averaged 22.7 points, 10.1 rebounds, 4.3 blocks and 4.1 assists as a senior at Apex Academy. He was a 2009 third team Prep All-State selection.

Marcus Rouse (Upper Marlboro, Md.) led Dematha Catholic High School to a 32-4 record and a No. 7 ranking in the final ESPN RISE FAB 50 boys' basketball rankings. Rouse was a 2009 second team All-Washington Catholic Athletic Conference selection.

Leonard Hayes (Voorhees, N.J.) was a three-year starter at Lawrenceville Prep and eclipsed the 1,000 point bar-

rier as a senior. He averaged 17.5 points per game and was a 2009 All-MAPL, Trentonian All-Prep and Trenton Times All-Prep first team selection. He was also a 2009 McDonalds All-American Nominee.

The Schedule

The Seawolves will begin on the road against Maryland Eastern Shore on Nov. 13, and then return to Stony Brook for their first home game to face Mount Saint Mary on Nov. 16. They will play 13 home games with eight of them against America East opponents, including Vermont, Albany, and Boston University.

Stony Brook also faces a competitive non-conference schedule, including road contests against Big East opponent St. John's and Atlantic-10 opponents Rhode Island and Fordham.