



Students gathered in the Academic Mall to raise awareness for environmental causes at Earthstock 2005.

Chris Lonardo/Statesman

Earthstock '05

By ANABIA HASAN
Contributing Writer

Lines of tables and booths crowded the academic mall for Stony Brook University's second annual earth day. The day was packed with many activities beginning with an environment awareness festival. The fair included rows of environment friendly products. Students were asked to sample organic fruits and an array vitamin enriched organic usage teas. There were also a number of fuel efficient cars and buses. These included electric golf cars, a police car running primarily on natural gas, and buses that can run on kitchen fuel with the use of a special adaptor.

The event, which occurred on April 12th, 2005, was put together by eight subcommittees who had

worked since mid-November. The committees consisted of volunteer students, faculty, and staff. "We hoped to educate students about environment in an engaging and enjoyable way," said Molly Hastings, a committee member and environmental scientist who recently graduated from Stony Brook, "these days people take for granted the material in life, and we hope to educate the vulnerability of our environment."

The event coordinator, Michael Ballman said that the fair had a great turnout especially in comparison to last event. Ballman discussed a new university wide project which plans to bulldoze a large part of land by university's main entrance. "There is no legitimate reason for this action and we are actively fighting against such a measure" He also hoped that the

fair would raise awareness about Ashley Schiff Park Preserve. The park, located on South campus, serves as a living laboratory for students and many of the universities departments.

While the present administration has declared it will leave the land intact, there no guarantee that it will be protected under future regimes" stated Ballman. He said a board entitled Friends of Ashley Shift Park Preserve is currently fighting for a permanent to legal contract to prevent the park from ever behind destroyed. Mary Woodward, the current acting head of the board, said that the board plans to offer a new scholarship program for environmentally interested and conservation-minded students.

The festival was concluded with dance and drumming per-



Chris Lonardo/Statesman

formances by taiko tides Asian drums, Native American dances and drumming, and an African dance drumming segment. "We don't really recognize our environ-

ment, this fair serves as a reminder that we should value a constantly decline resources" stated Ballman. He hopes that next year's event will just as successful.

Prisoner of Conscience

By RADEYAH HACK
News Editor

Curious students and staff members gathered in the Interfaith Room last Tuesday to listen to Shirley Way, a proud prisoner of conscience, tell her story.

Sponsored by the Catholic Campus Ministry, the Protestant Campus Ministry and the St. James Conscience Bay Friends, the lecture was intended to not only inform the campus about the plight of the prisoners, but also about an important social issue that is relatively unknown among mainstream Americans.

Way and her fellow activists are members of the School of the Americas Watch, a grass roots organization that is working feverishly to close the controversial School of the Americas. Funded by American taxpayers, the School of the Americas was designed to train Latin American soldiers in psychological warfare and interrogation techniques.

"54,000 Latin American soldiers graduated since 1986," said Way. "These soldiers are known to commit atrocities and execute torture techniques."

Located in a military base at Fort Benning, Georgia, the School

of the Americas trained citizens from Latin American countries such as Honduras, Nicaragua, Columbia and Panama in terrorist tactics to protect the governments of oppressive regimes.

However, fifteen years ago, activists from various denominations came together to form the School of the Americas Watch. Members of the organization conduct acts of civil disobedience by walking onto the grounds of Fort Benning during the second week of November. Protestors who choose to commit this act of social protest face up to \$10,000 in fines along with a penalty of six months in jail.

In November of 2003, Way decided to take the next step in activism and cross onto the grounds of Fort Benning. She served three months at Danbury Federal Prison and was fined \$500.

As part of her presentation, Way showed a film documenting the sentiments of other activists who chose to cross on the grounds and face spending time in prison. She also passionately discussed her experience as a prisoner of conscience. Way described being treated civilly by the prison guards and displayed pictures of her relatives when they visited at the prison.

Blackout Across Campus

By RADEYAH HACK
News Editor

The lights went out around 10:45 pm last Tuesday night with various quads and buildings affected. This was no surprise, however, for many students, since blackouts have become a frequent occurrence on campus lately. "It happens all the time," said Brita Merwin. "I live in Grey and it's happened at least three times this semester."

Last Tuesday's blackout occurred not only on quads and campus buildings this time, but various parts of the East campus were also affected. "The Basic Sciences Tower, along with HSC, experienced power outages," said Winston Wakefield, manager of campus operations for HSC and BST. "A high voltage feeder failed, but we immediately switched to

backup feeders and emergency generators," he continued.

According to Doug Little, chief of campus police, the University hospital was unaffected by the power outages. However, Nicole Dulmer, a junior at Stony Brook, who was in the Emergency Room at that time, recalled all the lights and computers going down. "It was pitch black in the ER, but the generators came on a minute or two later," she said.

Despite the darkness, the campus was unruffled by the power outages. "Our main concern is to make students safe," said Chief Little. "They [students] handled the situation extremely well, there was a lot of cooperation from people," he continued.

Contractors from the physical plant are continuing to try and figure out the reasons behind the power outages.

Circling Saturn: Prof. Peterson lectures on NASA's Cassini

By LIANNE HONG
Contributing Writer

It is an age-old question that has yet to be answered: What is our place in the universe? This conundrum has puzzled people for ages but it's on the verge of being solved. With the Cassini orbiter tracing Saturn's gravitational orbit, employees of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the European Space Agency and the Italian Space Agency are collectively gathering promising data that could answer this very question.

The results of the approximate \$3.3 billion Cassini-Huygens mission to Saturn has the "potential to put together pieces of the puzzles of how the solar system evolved," Deane Peterson, associate professor of astronomy, said earlier this month during a lecture at Stony Brook University on the mission's latest findings.

Peterson, who received his master's degree from Yale and his doctorate from Harvard, smiled as he told the assembly that Titan, Saturn's largest moon, has an atmosphere that is "mostly Nitrogen, reminiscent of some other planet." Nitrogen makes up a majority of Earth's atmosphere, about 78%, as well.

Scientists launched the spacecraft Oct. 15, 1997. Standing about 13 feet tall and 5.5 feet wide, Cassini-Huygens is about two-thirds the size of a Volkswagen Beetle. It took seven years, until July of 2004, for the spacecraft to reach Saturn. Although the Cassini orbiter will remain in Saturn's gravitational orbit for a four-year study period, scientists released the Huygens probe in January. During its 20-day descent, Huygens provided scientists with information on the moon's surroundings. After it landed on Titan, however, the probe had less than one hour to capture data on the moon's surface because of its short lifespan. Huygens made the first exploration of Titan's grounds.

Although the probe was scheduled for release when the spacecraft first entered Saturn's orbit, the Huygen's descent was postponed for six months. Had the probe been released as pre-

viously scheduled, the distance between Cassini, still in motion in Saturn's orbit, and Huygens would have interfered with data transmissions. Peterson said the delay is a result of Doppler effect. He compared the situation to a train at a railroad crossing and drew attention to the fact that a train's whistle is louder when it passes by a person standing at the crossing than when the train is at the end of the track. It's not because the pitch is different, Peterson said, but because the frequency is different. Sound waves must travel a longer distance when the train is further away from the observer. The same reasoning applies to Cassini and Huygens, he said. The further the distance between the two, the less likely transmissions could be sent from the probe to the orbiter. Peterson also said credit is due to the scientists who caught the problem before it happened. The six-month adjournment allowed for a more favorable positioning between Cassini and Huygens, he added.

Peterson's lecture included a PowerPoint presentation with pictures taken from the probe. These images could be a clue to what Earth looked like in its early developmental stages. Huygens captured pictures of earth-like terrains, Peterson said, pointing to images of river-like systems, tributaries, lowlands and possible oceans. And yet, Peterson said, water on Titan could never be in vapor or liquid form. Titan's temperature is 94 Kelvin, or about -290°F. For those who didn't know exactly how cold 94 Kelvin is, Peterson said: "Well, scientists would call that really, really cold." He added that the rivers and oceans on Titan are probably composed of methane.

Titan also has a weather cycle, much like Earth. Peterson explained the mixture of methane, nitrogen and sunlight in the moon's atmosphere yields clouds, which leads to rain, erosion and transportation of materials on the surface.

Instruments on Cassini-Huygens are highly sensitive. Direct sensing instruments capture data through contact. The Cosmic Dust Analyzer, for example,

measures the size, speed and direction of dust particles near Saturn. According to NASA's Web site on the Cassini-Huygens mission, when the particles impact a special surface inside the Cosmic Dust Analyzer, the tiny grains vaporize and create a puff of gas that is then analyzed.

Remote sensing instruments, on the other hand, do not require direct contact. The Imaging Science Subsystem, for example, takes pictures of Saturn's surroundings to observe the atmosphere and cloud turbulence. NASA's Web site says the Imaging Science Subsystem's high resolution is so sensitive that the camera can see a penny from 2.5 miles away.

Scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. oversee the Cassini mission. In a February news release from the laboratory, J. Hunter Waite, a principal investigator for the Cassini mission who focuses on the environment of Saturn's rings and satellites, said Cassini made a surprising find of molecular oxygen ions above Saturn's ring plane. Waite said, "This may have important consequences for the identification of spectral features to use in the search for life on extrasolar terrestrial planet systems."

Peterson said he was more shocked at Waite's surprise than at the discovery of oxygen molecules.

Saturn's rings are made of water ice and Peterson compared them to a long ice cube slab surrounding the planet. He explained that ultra-violet rays from the sun hit the rings of ice, which cause molecules to shift around. This movement knocks apart the oxygen molecules from the hydrogen ones, he said. Peterson added, "There's nothing Earth-shattering, no pun intended."

The Cassini mission may not have an immediate impact on the general public, Peterson said, but "the more confident you are that you know what happened, the more confident you are that you can make predictions on solar systems, other stars, other worlds. It gives people a place in the universe."



Radeyah Hack/Statesman

Educating the Young

By RADEYAH HACK
News Editor

Members of the Muslim Students Association took time out from their classes last Friday to participate in Kings Park High School's annual Global Cultural Awareness Day. Sponsored by the Long Island Multi-Faith Festival, representatives from various religious organizations gathered to educate high school students about religions such as Jainism, Unitarian Universalists, Hinduism, and Islam, in the hopes of promoting unity

and tolerance.

"It's important to inform students about the various faiths and clear up whatever misconceptions they have towards particular religions," said Widaad Zaman, secretary of the MSA and one of the participants.

Zaman and her peers answered questions about Islam while applying henna on the hands of curious high school students. Students were also given the opportunity to have their names transliterated into Arabic calligraphy while they observed religious representations such as the Qur'an.



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Statesman production meetings are held throughout the day on Wednesdays and Sundays in Rm 057 in the basement of the Student Union. Anyone wishing to contribute to the newspaper is welcome to attend these meetings.

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

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Email us at:
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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.org.

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WHO WE ARE

The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Sucolian" 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 Stony Brook Statesman is published twice-weekly on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the fall and spring semesters.

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USG Elections- Why bother?

When a government holds elections, it is expected that there is competition for the job of representing a people. Undergraduate Student Government (USG) is holding elections this week on all positions on the Solar System, only there is no contest, literally. Many students are running unopposed for important positions, including Vice President of Student Life, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Treasurer, and all senators. This is not the way a government should run. The entire senate,

along with these other positions, was selected when the ballot was made up: they simply want us to validate them by clicking off the boxes. Do not feed into this when you go to the ballots this week. Vote when there is a contest, and abstain when there is not. By voting when your voice cannot be heard, you are diluting the democratic process.

To be fair to those running, it may have been difficult to get people to fill the positions. Every club has these problems from time to time, and there is some

level of understanding attached to it. USG, however, is not a club: It is government. It is a sad day when the government is chosen with marginal input from the people that it represents, the undergraduate student body.

Voting, in this sense, is not really voting at all. They want you to make them legitimate. As it stands, there are not enough people running with different agendas to give you a choice, in the most literal sense. Voting is necessary for any democracy to function, but not this way. Do not

vote unless you have something to gain from doing so. Simply voting for voting's sake is against the spirit of student involvement. Send a message to the USG and your fellow students by not supporting this farce of the democratic process. USG representatives stand to lose nothing: they are going to be elected whether you vote or not. Let them attain their jobs by the lowest margins possible and maybe the student body, as a whole, will wake up and understand the dilemma that befalls us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

As a college student and campus leader, it is expected that I be able to make my own decisions, be responsible for my personal choices, and conduct myself appropriately. I take this responsibility seriously, and want to be sure that I am making choices that are well informed and making the best decisions for my life. That's why I'm glad I can rely on my education, my experiences, and my upbringing to help me make difficult choices each day. They range from which classes to take to which campus groups to support to whether to stay out late with friends or spend the evening working on a paper.

Many students, such as myself, struggle with their new freedoms and responsibilities, and try hard to make the choices that are best for us, about whether or when to have sex. Dating

is a daily part of the social atmosphere on campus, and most consider it to be one of the most fun parts of college life. However, I know that it is critical to be armed with the tools to make decisions, and more specifically to be educated regarding safe sex practices and information about the consequences to having unsafe sex.

Through my work with Students for Choice and Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic (PPHP), I've learned a lot about how comprehensive sex education can make these tough calls less scary and much safer. Young people need to know about a full range of reproductive healthcare options, because telling us to "just say no" won't work and only makes sex riskier for those who do choose it. We want to make healthy, informed decisions and need to know how to avoid unintended pregnancy, STD's, and AIDS. That's why

comprehensive sex ed programs in schools are so crucial; it's better for us to get accurate, complete information from teachers we trust, rather than to try to find out things on our own from inaccurate sources, such as the Internet or Cosmo.

I recently joined other college students and PPHP in lobbying lawmakers in Albany on the importance of responsible and age-appropriate sex education. The fact that there were nearly 40,000 teen pregnancies in New York State in 2003 and that the highest rates of gonorrhea are among 15-to-24 year olds shows we must teach teens how to avoid unintended pregnancy and STD's. I was surprised at how easy it was to talk to the legislators about facts such as these, about our own personal experiences, and how open they were with their own experiences. I was also surprised at how easy it was to be able to

relate to them.

I hope that by having heard our personal stories, legislators will realize how important comprehensive sex education is, and I hope that they will support the Healthy Teens Act currently making its way through the legislature. This bill would provide funding for programs that educate teens and encourage them to openly communicate about sexuality with their family and/or other people they trust. Please join me in asking those in Albany to support the Healthy Teens Act, which would help New York's young people to make responsible and healthy decisions for themselves.

Sincerely,

Saima Anjam
Pres, Students for Choice/VOX
SUNY-Stony Brook
Board Member, Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic

Have an opinion?
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POSTMARK



Recycled Percussion Plays for Fans

By JESSICA GROSSMAN
Staff Writer

It was the perfect way to start off Earthstock, Stony Brook's festival for Earth day—Recycled Percussion uses garbage to perform in amazing concerts. Thursday night at 9pm in the SAC, the group kicked off the show by throwing out free band t-shirts into the audience. All this band needs are drumsticks and garbage cans to make the audience's bodies rock. On stage they had a drum set, buckets, tin trash cans, plastic trash cans, even a kitchen sink. They used drumsticks, jackhammers, grinders, chainsaws and baseball bats on the sheet metal hanging from the set.

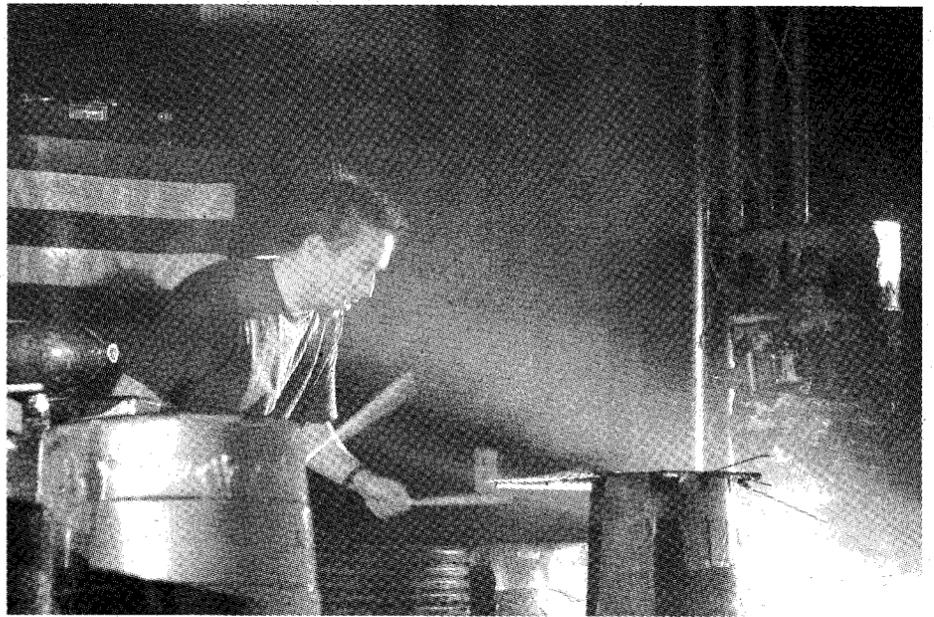
Brian Stockard, Justin Spencer, Greg Kassapias captivated the audience with their amazing talent for drumming. Accompanying them was Jeremy, who is also known as DJ Dirty Soul. Recycled Percussion has been playing together for ten years since Justin and Greg started playing on their tin cans, later starring in their high school talent show. They met Brian a few years later through a similar drumming group in San Diego. Since then the band has been inseparable. They play an average of 250 shows a year. They have played in NBA half time, Las Vegas and New York City. They have already put out one DVD,

which is self titled Recycled Percussion, and there is a forthcoming DVD this summer under the genre of Junk Rock.

The room was packed with stony brook students cheering and screaming for more. While on stage the band provided music and entertainment. They played Simon says with each other and even got the audience involved. They would drum different patterns and then the audience would reply by clapping back the same pattern. At one point when the room fell silent a girl from the back screamed out, "You're hot" to one of the band members, and the room erupted with laughter.

The energy in the room was electric and exciting. There were no lyrics with the music but DJ Dirty Soul plays background music and sound clips from famous movies. DJ Dirty Soul played two sound clips during the show, one from Fight Club and the other from Napoleon Dynamite. The audience loved it; they screamed and shouted while repeating the words along with the clips. The lights flashed around the room as the crowd clapped and cheered for the band to continue their crazy antics.

After the show ended, the band stood to the side and signed autographs and took pictures with their fans. A group of girls came up to the band and asked to



Joy Dutta/Statesman

have their chests signed, the band obliged greatly. Brian mentioned that a song he finds very inspirational is *Little Wing* by Stevie Ray Von. Over ten years of performing together they have become best friends, Greg mentioned, "We Eat, Sleep and Breathe together".

Recycled Percussion has toured all over the states and have been into Canada, but have aspirations of traveling overseas in the future. When asked what they like

most about traveling, Justin replied, "I like the excitement of everyday living on the road." They all said that enjoyed being close, "unity of the band" and "having a brotherhood in the band". When leaving I over heard a student named Danny in back of me talking about the show, he said, "It was awesome, I've never seen anything like it!" If any one is interested in learning further about this great band go to rprocks.com.

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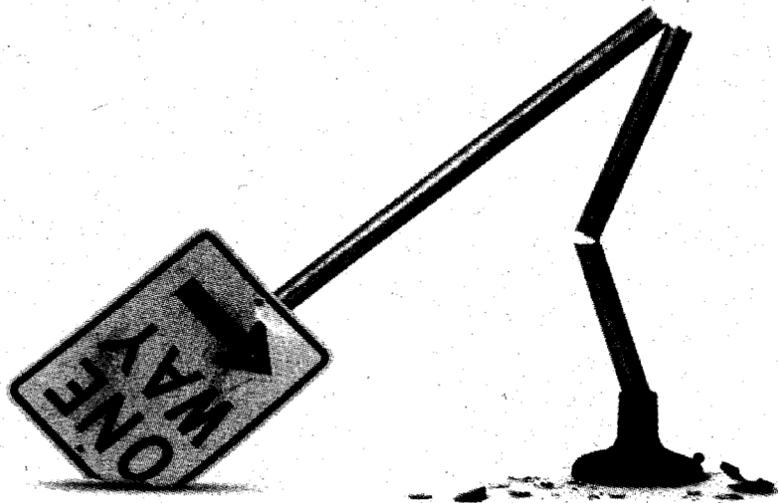
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Students Take Crushing V-Ball Defeat, End Student/ Faculty/Staff Series

BY MANSOOR KHAN
Contributing Writer

Stony Brook students got a chance to see how it feels to send a speeding volleyball at their favorite staff member last Friday, except they did not do it very well. In the second of three Student/Faculty/Staff sports competitions this month, the students took a disheartening defeat, 30-14, which essentially resulted in their shutout from the series: 2-0.

Among the players were Dean of Students Jerrold Stein, Richard Wolcott, director of operations for the Student Activities Center, and several others volleying from the staff side. Sophomore Amol Amin and Senior Allison Engallena were just

two of the students behind the devastating loss.

And while all in company seemed to enjoy the game, the event was a bit soured by what one anonymous source called "gender-inequitable game play." Among the rules of the volleyball game, set by Sue DiMonda of Campus Recreation, was one that allowed the volleyball to be hit twice consecutively by women, but not men, and then sent over the net.

Still, members of the student team concede that despite this rule, which peculiarly affected their team much more than the staff/faculty team for some unbeknownst reason, their loss was still a crushing, definitive one that would have taken nothing short of a miracle to reverse.

Terence Blanchard, Jazz Trumpet Star, Coming to Staller Center

Saturday, April 30
8:00 pm

A fabulous night of jazz awaits at Stony Brook University's Staller Center Recital Hall, as Terence Blanchard, jazz trumpeter, and his band take the stage on Saturday, April 30 at 8:00 pm.

Blanchard has worked on Hollywood film scores for directors including Spike Lee and is considered one of the most influential jazz composers and play-

ers of his time. He has composed scores for many films including Spike Lee's Malcolm X, Get On The Bus, Bamboozled, Clockers, and Crooklyn, and served as the Artistic Director of the famed Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance at University of Southern California.

He signed with Blue Note and now joins a jazz legacy that is shaping modern jazz today. He has a unique style, incorporating his own techniques and works with the work of others

This evening of jazz at Staller Center is sponsored by Renaissance Technologies, which support the Renaissance Jazz series at Staller Center for the Arts.

Although tickets are originally \$34, students can get tickets for as low as \$7. Call the Staller Center box office at 631-632-ARTS (2787) or go online to order at stallercenter.com.

The Staller Center for the Arts contributed to this article.

Paul Taylor Dance Company Takes the Stage at Staller Center

Sunday, May 1
7:00 pm

The Staller Center for the Arts at Stony Brook University is excited to be presenting The Paul Taylor Dance Company on Sunday, May 1 at 7:00 pm. The Paul Taylor Dance Company celebrates its 50th anniversary with a nationwide tour, presenting treasures from their vast repertoire. The Staller Center program will include "Musical Offerings" from 1986 set to the music of J.S. Bach; one of their mega hits, "Funny Papers" from 1994, a dance dedicated to the

comics; and "Piazzolla Caldera" from 1997, a dance that "seethes and flares with sexuality."

Paul Taylor has been called a genius, a legend, and a cultural icon. Time calls him "the reigning master of modern dance," and the San Francisco Examiner declares him "without question the greatest living American choreographer." But Paul Taylor considers himself, above all else, a reporter, whose job is to observe us and record his impressions. Celebrated for uncommon musicality, he has set dances to Ragtime and reggae, tango and Tin Pan Alley, time

recordings and loon calls; turned elevator and novelty tunes into high art; and found particularly cooperative collaborators in J.S. Bach and his Baroque brethren. Established in 1954, the Paul Taylor Dance Company is one of the world's most sought-after dance troupes.

Although tickets are originally \$34, students can get tickets for as low as \$7. Call the Staller Center box office at 631-632-ARTS [2787] or go online to order at stallercenter.com.

The Staller Center for the Arts contributed to this article.

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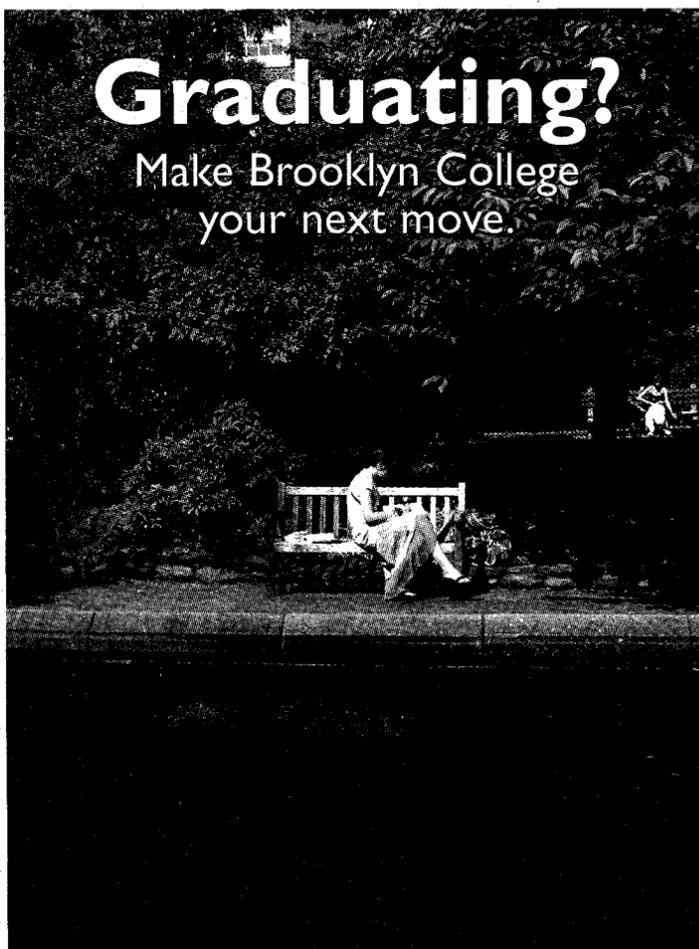
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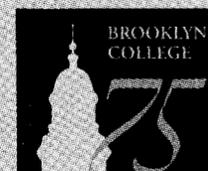
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SBU Blowage Festival Satisfies Audience Members

By ROSIE SCAVUZZO
Entertainment Editor

The joint was jumpin' at the Staller Center where jazz aficionados and performers alike came together to share a common passion. Friday night, the Stony Brook Jazz Band, affectionately known as SBU Blowage, performed their annual concert.

The C.W. Post Large Jazz Ensemble opened the evening under the direction of Chris Culver. In comparison to Blowage, the Post ensemble was amateurish at best. Even with professional musicians including Vanguard trumpeter Mike Carubia, the band could not withstand the exuberance of SBU Blowage.

SBU Blowage, led by Jazz Studies Director Ray Anderson, kicked off their set with "Big Chief (Traditional)" a head tune that featured each performer as a soloist. This showed the audience that each member of the band could jam solo. Other pieces including Ellington tunes such as "Such Sweet Thunder," "Ko-Ko," and "Rockin' in

Rhythm" featured specific players, while building the audience energy and excitement.

The Stony Brook Jazz Festival welcomed guest trumpeter Lew Soloff, who had recorded with Anderson for Alligatory Records. One of the most exciting moments was when Anderson and Soloff dueled with an improvisation session played above the tune. Anderson, deemed the best jazz trombonist in the Down Beat Critics Poll, demonstrated a unique style that sounded like he was speaking with his instrument. Using pitch and rhythm Anderson is able to create a truly dynamic sound. Soloff also had a great, big sound that showed great dexterity and range.

The SB Jazz Festival also welcomed singer Barbara Branca and tap dancer Chris Scott. Branca had great stage presence, interacting with the players and the audience. Still, I would have liked to hear better scat singing skills and a greater range. Tap dancer Chris Scott graced the stage, or rather a small wooden platform on the stage, with his great skills and

performing techniques. "Hoo-fin" to several pieces, Scott employed a tapping style similar to tap genius Savion Glover.

SBU Blowage concluded the evening with their self-composed annual tradition "Blowage '05." This piece was a head tune that led the group across the stage and through the audience. This was especially exciting and brought the audience right into the energy of the evening.

Many people on campus are not even aware that Stony Brook has jazz groups on campus.

"We have jazz?" said senior Eugene Kozlovsky, "I missed that after four years here. That sucks." In order to create a new jazz tradition on campus, Ray Anderson has led the band playing and shouting through the streets of the campus on several occasions.

Want to hear more jazz on campus before the semester is up? On Wednesday, May 4, at 12:40 PM, come to the Staller Center Recital Hall to hear Stony Brook Jazz Combos kick off the Chamber Music Festival with a bang!



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Gerry Oginski

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The key question that typically goes unasked— and unanswered— by students during their college years, is whether there is any “ship” that they can anchor to, for launching a series of future successes.

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"Three Sisters" presents interesting but faulty entertainment

By JEREMY FALLETTA
Contributing Writer

Stony Brook's theater department's production of Anton Chekov's "Three Sisters," despite momentary flashes of brilliance, was very inconsistent. Some of the acting was superb, especially in some scenes, but most of it was very lackluster. On a more positive note, the translation and dramaturgy were commendable and nicely tweaked for the sake of modernity and a western audience.

The play opened with a monologue from Sophie Vanier, playing Olga, who seemed to have far fewer lines than the other two sisters throughout the rest of the play. Though her costume was a little too big on her, she delivered her lines faithfully more from her would have been nice. Irina, the youngest sister, played by Ashley Hurst, was

slow to find her confidence in the first two acts, but staged an excellent neurotic breakdown in the third act, following intermission. It was her finest moment. Perhaps a little too much screaming was employed, but that can be forgiven.

Masha, the middle sister, played by Louisa Johnson, was excellent. She was one of the high points of the play — all of her lines were delivered with the biting wittiness and sarcasm that was appropriate to her character, and her breakdown in the fourth act was, while a little overblown, gut wrenching nonetheless. When the Colonel, played by David Blondell, left her after a passionate farewell, the emotion crackled through the atmosphere like electricity. Finally, Natalya, played by Kat David, was very exciting. She had a very overt stage presence that supplanted everyone else

during her, for the most part, brief lines.

The male leads, too, had their moments, despite the general mediocrity going on around them. Brendan Riker, playing Andrei, brother to the three sisters, conveyed the humanity of his character very nicely. He was easily the most conflicted of the characters, and made the audience feel for him, in his plight. However, there were moments where he seemed to be trying far too hard, and his performance suffered from the overdrive. The Doctor, played by Brian Pringle, also had a very commanding stage presence. His dramatic, thundering baritone combined with his alternately comical and sorrowful lines resulted in quite a solid performance. He and Masha were the two most consistent characters in the play, performance wise. Robert Walsh, playing Masha's

husband, was far too thespian to be believable. His lines were delivered to be comical even when it was not appropriate. Finally, the Colonel, mentioned above, was entertaining, if not especially skilled. He was, overall, loud. A little refining and his part would have been improved greatly.

Of the minor characters, Sergei Fyodorov, playing Vasily, and Jonah Rosenberg, playing Ferapont, were the standouts. Fyodorov was clearly suited to his role, being Russian, and delivered his lines with the precise attitude needed to make his character lovable (to the viewers, not the other characters). Rosenberg, with the very minor role of the courier, was hilarious. His character had a hearing problem, which he executed brilliantly. Jason Zheng, playing the Baron, made an excellent effort, but his acting

lacked any convincing quality. His intonation was faulty, at best. The maid, too, played by Danielle West, was good. She may have been well suited to a bigger role.

To sum everything up, the play was worth seeing, but nothing to rave about. There were a few moments, typically toward the end of an act, that were touching, and in which the actors portrayed very human characters that were easy to identify with. Although the translation was very good, one of the biggest problems was the fact that almost none of the characters worked on their Russian accents or pronunciation enough to be passable. The play lost a lot of its original flavor because of this. Since it is a very hard play to comprehend or interpret in the first place, this loss of color made things even harder to pass judgment on.

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Softball:

Shoulda, coulda, woulda

By EUGENE KOZLOVSKY
Sports Editor

The Softball team kicked it up a notch as they took the series against UMBC two games to one to boost their record to 17-28 overall and 7-6 in America East play. The Retrievers fell to 23-24-1 and 6-7 in the conference. The Wolves should have had the clean sweep but just could not close in game three as they stranded 13 runners.

In the opener Sunday morning, Stony Brook shut out UMBC 7-0. The Seawolves did not dominate but they played softball scattering runs as Sarah Hoffman picked up her third shut out of the season. The attack started in the first as Stony Brook jumped ahead 2-0 on a Hayley Durham home run. A walk, an error and a hit later, the Wolves doubled their lead to four in the second. It was looking good until things got heated in the fourth as the Retrievers loaded the bases with zero outs. This would not phase Hoffman though, as she induced

two pop ups and a fly ball to left, closing out the inning. Her performance this game was nothing to sneeze at as she allowed seven hits, struck out three and walked none over seven innings.

The nightcap was definitely a thriller as the Wolves came back from a five run deficit to take the win 6-5. They started to let the game get away in the first, as they seemed to still be celebrating their morning victory. The tables turned this game as UMBC took a 2-0 lead in the first. By the end of the fifth, they were down by five. In the sixth however, the Wolves got their second wind. On three singles and a double, the Seawolves picked up three runs, tied the game and knocked the started off the mound. The Seawolves managed to load the bases with the help of an error and after Brust popped out to second, Durham drew a walk to force in the winning run.

It is almost a shame to take a loss in a close game when you out hit the other team but that's just what the Seawolves did. They had 11 hits to the Retrievers'

10 and still lost the game. Stony Brook jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the second but in the next frame, the Retrievers answered with three runs of their own. Still in the third inning, Brust doubled and later scored to cut the lead to 3-2. The fourth inning was uneventful but in the fifth, the Retrievers' Reilly Ward hit a two run blast to push their lead to 5-2. Stony Brook had a few more hits and scored two more runs but their efforts were to no avail as they took a loss in the contest 5-4. The pitcher of record was Sarah Hoffman, taking the loss after giving up five runs, four earned, on eight hits as she struck out only one in 4.2 innings.

This was a thrilling series and the only thing that could have made it better is a sweep. We did not get one however as the Seawolves faltered in the final game, picking up an error while only scoring four. If the team just worked a little on consistency and keeping their mind in the game, long win streaks would not be out of the question.



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Statesman SPORTS

Baseball 2-1 in Albany series

By EUGENE KOZLOVSKY
Sports Editor

The weekend of April 22nd through the 25th was a busy one for the Seawolves baseball team. With the Saturday game being rained out, it was only natural to host a double header against Albany on Sunday and conclude the mini series on Monday. On Sunday, Stony Brook was able to progress to 15-20 this season, and in America East become 4-4. Albany fell back to 10-13, and 2-6 in the America East. Unfortunately, by the third game, on Monday, Stony Brook fell back to 15-21 and 4-5 in the America East, while Albany kicked it up a bit going to 11-13, 3-6.

Amid high attendance at game one, the Seawolves were able to excite fans early on with their 8-4 win. Stony Brook was able to take a three run lead in the bottom of the second inning, with both DiBiaso and Theoharis scoring homeruns, enabling Fortuna to score off of DiBiaso's homer. Albany attempted to make a quick comeback at the top of the third, but only was able to score two runs, tying the game early on. Good for Stony Brook, bad for Albany.

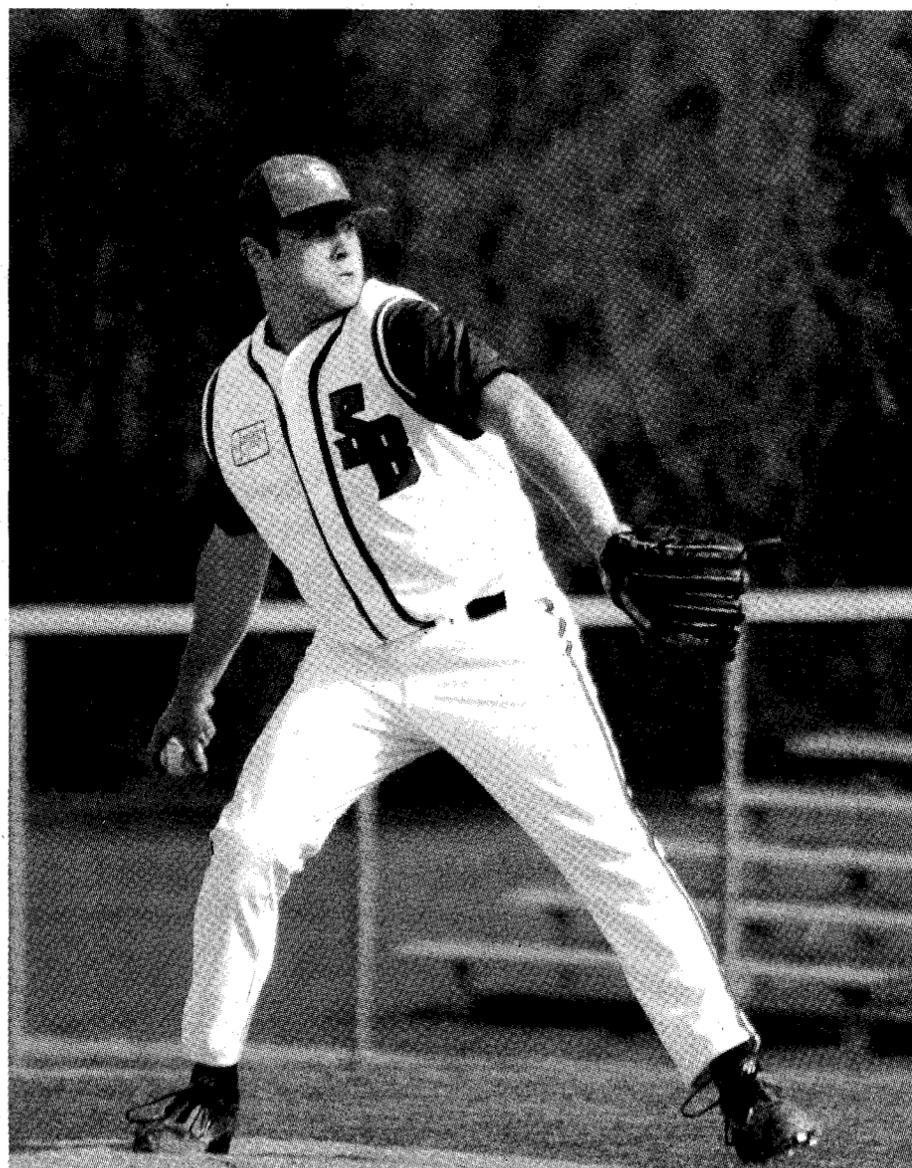
Stony Brook pulled further and further ahead scoring three runs in the 5th and two runs in the 6th inning. Albany wasn't able to make as good of a go and only able to score one run at the top of the 7th inning. Thus allowing Stony Brook to win the first game. Even though Stony Brook wasn't able to score again after the 6th inning, it was still too little too late of a defense effort upon

Albany's behalf.

Stony Brook's luck stayed with them in the second half of the double header. With an 8-2 win against Albany it looked like Stony Brook was untouchable. The Seawolves took an early start to scoring two runs within the 1st inning. However the real excitement came around the 3rd inning with a four run take over lead by DiBiaso's home run, which gave Pennino and Devins to make it home and score for the mighty Seawolves. By the end of the 4th inning it was over for Albany as hard as they try, they had been defeated by Stony Brook with no hope of recovery.

Regrettably, Stony Brook's luck was not to stay with them on Monday. Albany was out for blood, and blood they got! With a 16-5 win for Albany, humiliation was in the air for the once walking on the clouds Seawolves. As Stony Brook attempted to stay in the game it was all over for them at the top of the 6th when Albany slaughtered the competition with 6 runs, leaving the Seawolves to sit in their dugout and hold their heads sunken in shame. Either the Albany team got reamed by their coach to step it up, or the Seawolves got too cocky for their own good. Whatever way you put it, it was a sad day for Stony Brook Baseball.

If you win some or lose some, you should always put some effort into the game and never relax until the game is over. Hopefully Stony Brook will have learned their lesson and not become too cocky of their talents and become the New York Yankees of the 2005 baseball season as of late, more so the great team we know and love from 2000.



Nicole Dulmer/Statesman

Men's lax loses

By MARY VANDERHYDE
Staff Writer

Tuesday, April 26th's away game against Hofstra was a mixture of good and bad comings for the Stony Brook Seawolves. The good news, sophomore goalie Brendan Callahan, after his tragic injury against the Army earlier this month, on April 5th, was able on Tuesday, to return to the game, posting nine saves in 27

minutes of action. The bad news.... we still lost 13-5.

Stony Brook's four game winning streak was unable to hold out even though the best of efforts were attempted. Sean Chamberlain making two goals early on and, was also joined by Owen Adams, Ryan Maehr (all playing middle) scoring in the game, none were about to back down from Hofstra's Junior attack, Chris Understein's quick and vicious plays. Assists

were given by Jason Cappadoro and Adam Marksberry in the game whom without, the goals might not have been made possible. Freshman goalie, Matt Ural made seven saves in the first 30 minutes of the game. Hopefully things will look up on this Saturday's home game (April 30th) at three o'clock against Binghamton will fare better for them. Most likely this is only a minor set back for the Seawolves Men's Lacrosse team. Good Luck!

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