

# THE STATESMAN

Volume 52, Issue 44

Wednesday, March 32, 2009

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Creates First Out-of-State SUNY Campus  
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President's online column urges commitment to Higher Ed  
Via influential blog *Huffington*



President's online column urges commitment to Higher Ed  
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#### In the Spotlight



**Catch Up, Get ahead, Think Summer!**  
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#### Upcoming Events

**Apr 2** Emerson String Quartet at Staller Center  
**Apr 4** Humanities Institute sponsors Freud Conference  
**Apr 6** "Deadly Medicine" exhibition opens  
**May 8** Alumni Association Scholarship Golf Classic

## University Unveils New Expansion Plans

Stony Brook University Miami to open its doors in Fall 2010



## Competition Among Student Media May Have Provoked Attack

THE STONY BROOK  
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## ACTUALIDAD

# Competition Among Student Media May Have Provoked Attack

By MELISSA MAYONNAISE  
Contributor

When sophomore Bunshale Magee woke up Monday morning, he had no idea he would be bound, blindfolded and gagged for almost 12 hours that day.

Magee, the food editor of The Statesman, an on-campus newspaper, was hit over the head and stuffed in a utility closet in the Stony Brook Union for half a day, university police said.

Police found Magee and three other Statesman editors locked in the abandoned room after a phone call from the office of the Stony Brook Press notified the police of their whereabouts.

Police found this activity suspicious, and after thorough questioning said they determined that a member of the Press was responsible for the group's quasi-kidnapping.

"We received information that a member of the Stony Brook Press hit the students over the head with a blunt object and stuffed them in the room," Acting Chief of Police Mickey Mice said. "We have confiscated the weapon and are currently testing it for prints."

While in the room, which smelled of old paper and cheese according to Magee, the Spanish major thought his last moments would be spent pondering his favorite subject: food.

"I thought to myself, 'Is [that smell] from cheddar? No. It's definitely gorgonzola,'" he said. "Then I thought, god, what a sorry life I must live if I'm contemplating cheese when I'm very well about to die."

But Magee and the three other people he was tied up with survived with minor injuries to the head. They were taken to Stony Brook University Medical Center for treatment.

Police identified the blunt object used to strike the students as a slab of uncooked meat. Traces of beef were found in the hair of all four students, and the meat was later found hidden under a couch cushion the Press' office.

Police said fingerprints matched a staff member from the Press, but an arrest has yet to be made.

"We're still in the questioning process, but we have a strong lead," Mice said.

Members of the Stony Brook community, however, are not



Media Credit: Melissa Mayonnaise / SB Statesman

The Statesman editors were bound by electrical cables and computer mice for little more than 12 hours.

pleased with the police's inaction.

"A student clobbers four people, hides them in a broom closet and leaves them there for dead, and the police do nothing?" Donald Weasley, president of We're Here Against Cases of Clobbering Kids (WHACK). "It's crazy."

A not-so-silent and long-lived competition has existed between the two campus papers for years, and it is not known whether this fuelled the attack.

The "kidnapped" editors, however, plan to bring a class-action lawsuit against the university if the student is not arrested.

"I never want to go through something like that again," Yamille Plotz said under his breath.

"The worst feeling in the world is the feeling that you're going to die," he mumbled, his eyes shifting to the side. "And you have no control over it."

Members of the Press declined to comment.

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## A&E

### Star Bores

It has been ten years now since "Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace" was released in theaters, and I think I am finally ready to talk about how disappointed I was with all three of the new Star Wars movies. I don't see how one can even place these three films (episodes I-III) in the same category as the original trilogy (episodes IV - VI).

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## OPINION

### April Fooled

Ever seen those ads asking if you're "pregnant and scared?" Imagine for a moment that you were pregnant and scared; this might seem like the perfect place to turn to. With little money or resources, you would go to this clinic where they could provide you with assistance navigating the options you're considering. Unfortunately, the chances are you'd be fooled.

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### President Obama Concedes Presidency

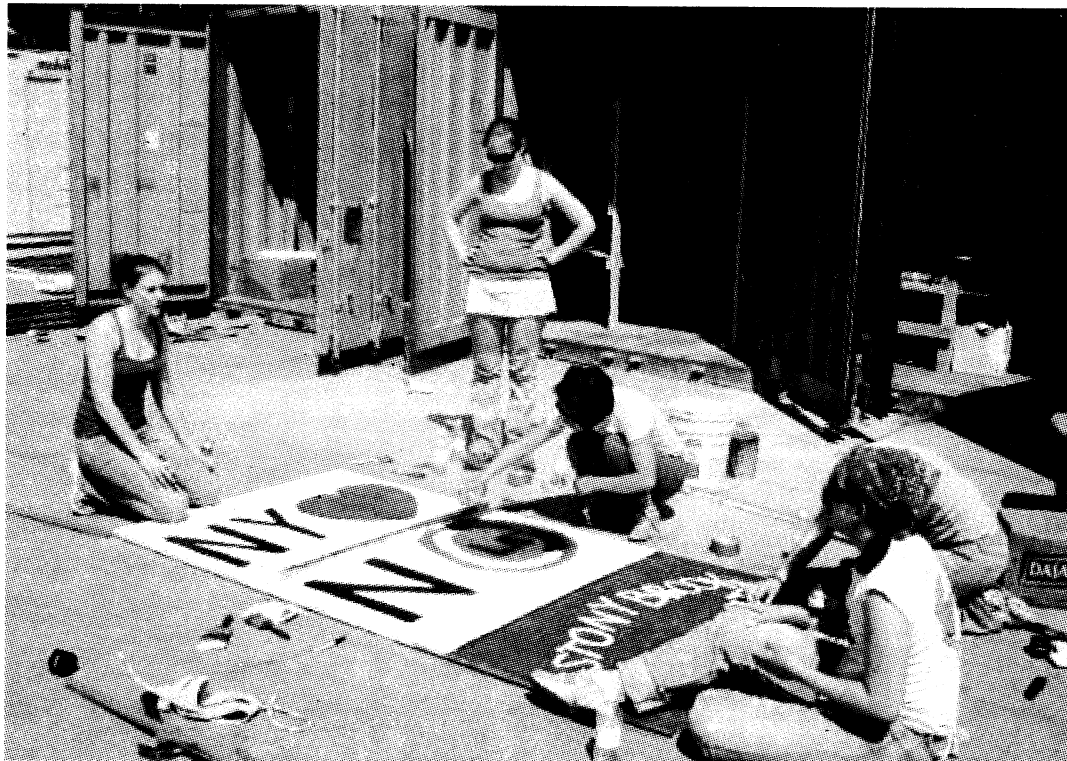
In a move that, I'm sure few of us saw coming, Barack Obama has conceded the presidency to, in Obama's own words, "The only man in Washington who truly understands the nature of the current economic crisis... Congressman Ron Paul."

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### Friday Should Be Opposite Day

In order to shake things up a little and foster school spirit, I propose that, from now on, all Fridays should become "University Opposite Day." Anything occurring on campus during a Friday should be switched to its opposite, according to certain rules.

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Instead of a conventional spring break these students chose to help build houses in New Orleans

Statesman File Photo / Jenna Browning

## Rate My Professors May Influence Scheduling Decisions, With Some Risk

By FRANK POSILICO  
Assistant News Editor

It's time yet again for students to crack down, get out their dusty old copies of course selection books, and somehow put a schedule together for next semester. Many things factor into making a schedule such as time and location. One thing that plays a big role into a student's choice, however, is a professor's rating on RateMyProfessors.com.

One of Time magazine's 50 Best Websites of 2008, Rate My Professors draws in millions of inquiring students each semester looking to see what others think of a professor before registering for a class. Since its inception in 1999, the site has gathered more than 6.8 million ratings, of about 1 million professors, and representing more than 6,000 schools in the United States, Canada, England, Scotland and Wales.

The ratings on the site range from absolute admiration, to fierce loathing. Grading professors on easiness, helpfulness, clarity and even a rating to whether the professor is "Hot" or "Not."

In particular, Stony Brook is ranked ninth for the best faculty. Since mtvU, which is owned by Viacom, bought the website in 2007, professor rebuttals became a new feature on the website. Professors can now respond to the comments made about them on the site. There is also a separate site that has videos of professors responding to comments made about them.

Although many students seem to find the web site useful, not everyone is a fan of it. Anastasia Zannettis, an academic advisor for the Undergraduate College of Science and Society, is one of those people.

"It doesn't get the full range of the spectrum, it just gets

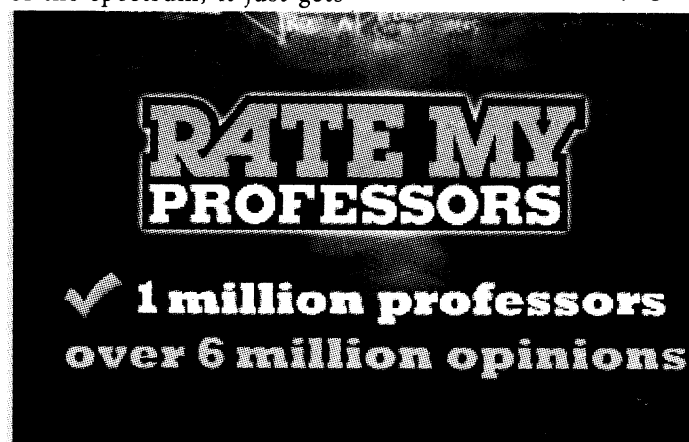
the two ends," Zannettis said. "It's the people that really hate this professor, or the people that really really love this professor."

Calls to Rate My Professors were not returned.

However accurate or inaccurate the ratings may be, they are not representative of the whole class. According to Zannettis, if there is a class of 100 students and three of them go online and rant about how terrible or wonderful their professor may be, it only represents the opinion of 3 percent of the class.

However, students may still

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Media Credit: Facebook

## Not Your Average Spring Break

By CAITLIN STEIGER  
Contributing Writer

Warm sandy beaches, rolling waves and glowing sunlight are just a few characteristics of a spring break island getaway.

However, storm surge, gusting winds and rising floodwater from Hurricane Ike in September 2008 swept homes and businesses off their foundation, leaving thousands homeless and causing billions of dollars in damage to Galveston, Texas. Students from Stony Brook University are traveling to the Gulf Coast, at the expense of an exotic yet typical Spring Break, to give aid to a devastated community.

For the past three years, Stony Brook has helped the New Orleans community, where the most destructive hurricane in United States history was recorded in 2005, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. On Apr. 4, 40 students involved in the Alternative Spring Break Outreach program will travel to Galveston to rebuild a community washed away by a hurricane 600 miles wide, nearly the size of Texas.

"Because of our group's size and age, we were needed most in Galveston, where the less skilled but major work still needs to be done," said Kelly Reeve, 21, the president of Alternative Spring Break Outreach. She has participated in the program since 2006. "We met so many people down in Musician's Village, New Orleans willing to share stories and inspire everyone around them," she said. "The people of Musician's Village were leaders in their own right, inspiring a common vision and enabling others to act."

Developed by students of the Stony Brook University

Continued on page 7

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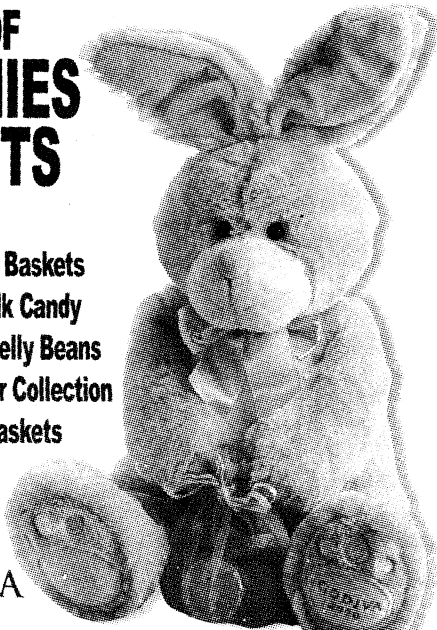
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First issue free, additional issues cost 50 cents.

Happy April Fool's Day!

#### GET INVOLVED

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:

Stony Brook Statesman  
PO Box 1530  
Stony Brook, NY 11790

phone: (631) 632 - 6479  
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Email us at:  
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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 Statesman is published twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the fall and spring semesters.

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## Letters: April Fooled

Ever seen those ads asking if you're "pregnant and scared?" Imagine for a moment that you were pregnant and scared; this might seem like the perfect place to turn to. With little money or resources, you would go to this clinic where they could provide you with assistance navigating the options you're considering. Unfortunately, the chances are you'd be fooled.

In reality, many of these centers attempt to coerce and intimidate women out of considering abortion as an option, and prevent women from receiving neutral and comprehensive medical advice. They are Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs), sometimes operating under names like The Women's Health Center or Pregnancy Resource Center. Unlike comprehensive women's health centers, these clinics are typically operated by anti-choice or faith-based organizations, staffed only by untrained volunteers, and commonly disseminate medically inaccurate information tainted by their strong opposition to abortion and birth control.

CPCs tend to target their advertising on college campuses across the country, and often misrepresent their services to make young women believe the CPCs

offer professional counseling, prenatal care and other options. The anti-choice organizations running these clinics commonly offer free pregnancy tests and counseling, but rarely offer medical care or have actual medical personnel on staff. In addition to the fact that the volunteers do not offer comprehensive options as a part of their counseling, the time and resources it would take for a young woman to go to this clinic could risk her health, and potentially compromise her pregnancy.

According to a 2008 survey conducted by the Feminist Majority Foundation, 48% of responding Campus Health Centers include CPCs on their referral lists for students facing unintended pregnancies. Generally, the referrals do not specify the services offered, and thousands of women each year are referred to these clinics under false pretenses.

The deception doesn't end there though. A 2006 Congressional investigation of CPCs receiving funding through President Bush's faith-based Compassion Capital Fund revealed that 87% provided false or misleading information about the health effects of abortion. Some of the medically inaccurate information included claims that abortions in-

crease the risk of breast cancer, result in sterility, and lead to suicide and "post-abortion syndrome." After visiting CPCs, many women report they've been told that condoms and other contraceptives are ineffective and there are reports of false results from pregnancy tests, putting the health of these women at great risk.

Over the last ten years, Congress has funneled over \$1.1 billion in federal dollars to failed abstinence-only education programs and so-called crisis pregnancy centers. These clinics received a boom in funding through the 1996 welfare reform act (Title V), which allocated \$50 million a year in state block grants to fund abstinence-only programs. Under the Bush Administration, there was another dramatic increase in abstinence-only funding; in 2008, over \$176 million was appropriated to these organizations, including CPCs, despite studies commissioned by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services showing abstinence-only programs to be ineffective. Beyond our borders, President Bush mandated that at least 1/3 of the \$15 billion initiative to combat HIV/AIDS globally in 2003 be spent on abstinence-only and faith-based programs.

More recently however, Congress passed the 2009 Omnibus spending bill which reduced federal funding for domestic abstinence-only education, some of which goes to "fake" clinics, by \$14 million. However there is still plenty of work to be done. Regardless of ideology, we must work together to expose these so-called health centers that are putting young women's lives and health at risk. Several states are considering bills that would specify that these centers are not medical centers, and these legislative efforts would further establish a set of standards that must be met in order for any facility to represent itself as a medical center. The ultimate goal, however, is to allow the scientific and medical facts to speak for themselves - that these clinics are dangerous and ineffective, and the stream of federal funding to all abstinence-only programs must be stopped.

Have you been fooled? Share your story and help protect our community! The Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance meets every Tuesday at 8:15pm in the Stony Brook Union, room 223.

- Stony Brook University's Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance

## OPINIÓN

## Barack Obama Concedes Presidency to Ron Paul Takes up Career as Gangsta Rapper

By ZACHARY KURTZ  
Mister Mischief

In a move that, I'm sure few of us saw coming, Barack Obama has conceded the presidency to, in Obama's own words, "The only man in Washington who truly understands the nature of the current economic crisis... Congressman Ron Paul."

I must applaud Barack

Obama's initiative and foresight during our country's time of need. Furthermore, Obama's realization that his special brand of central economic planning, which involved implementing reactionist regulatory policies, caused just as many problems as they were supposed to have solved, and ultimately just doesn't work. In contrast, Congressman, soon to

be President, Ron Paul, understands that markets are better left to themselves.

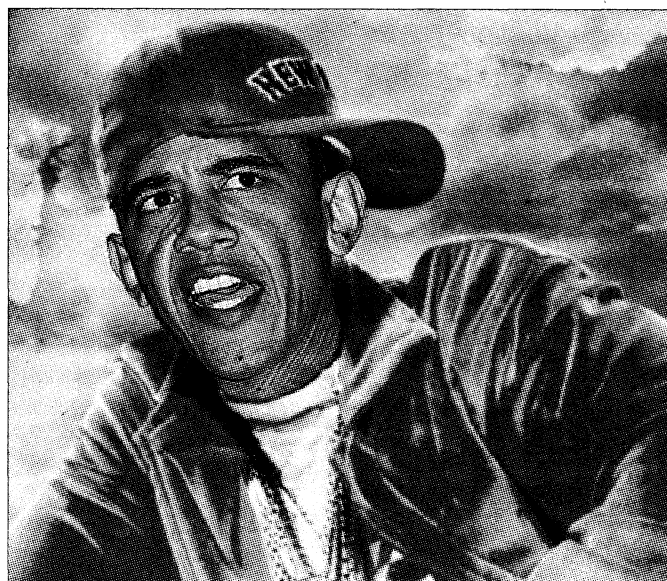
"When Government underwrites the risk, investors make mistakes" explains the country's new leader, "Credit expansion by the Fed and moral hazards help create speculative bubbles. Sure, markets aren't perfect, but would you have millions of actors making mistakes in lots of different directions, or a few central planners making giant mistakes, which

bring whole markets down?"

Paul's point is that the 'invisible hand' of the market - lots of people acting in self interest - produces a more efficient outcome than letting an individual, who may be corrupted by special interest groups, make economic decisions.

Constitutional lawyers are looking into the matter; if a sitting President can resign an ap-

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Ex-President Obama poses for his new album cover.

Photo Courtesy of Big-D Records

### Guidelines for Opinion Submission

Letters to the editor or op-ed contributions can be submitted by e-mail at Op-Ed@sbstatesman.org, on our online submission tool at www.sbstatesman.org, by hand at our office in the Student Union Rm 057, or by mailing it to us at the address in the left column. They must be received at least two days before the next printed issue. The Statesman reserves the right to edit or not print any letter based on appropriateness, length, timeliness, or other reasons at the discretion of the editorial board. Letters should be no longer than 350 words, and opinion pieces should not exceed 550 words. Please include your full name (which we may withhold if you request it), phone number and email address for verification. Phone numbers and e-mail addresses will not be printed. Letters submitted anonymously or under false names will not be considered for publication.



## THEATRE

# It's a Bird... It's a Plane... It's a Chinese Acrobat?

By CHANTEL JARVIS  
Contributing Writer

"I still can't believe it," said an audience member as the National Acrobats of China came to an end on Sunday night at the Staller Arts Center. And it's true: The National Acrobats of China really did give an impressive and jaw dropping performance.

The performing troupe, comprised of 38 young acrobats who continuously kept the audience entertained with

combinations of simple dance moves and acrobatic feats. The Chinese acrobats were enigmatic performers with their spinning plates and great acts of strength and flexibility.

Their repertoire is nothing stingy. The National Acrobats of China was founded in the June of 1956 and is currently under the direction of Mr. Tian Zichun and Mr. Jianguo Yao. The group's members have participated and won numerous awards including the coveted Golden Award at the National Acrobatic Competition of China, the Gold Award at the 2007's Cirque de Demain Festival in France, and the Golden Clown Award at the Monte Carlo International Circus Festival.

The troupe's two-hour production offered much to admire. Their score, a blend of traditional Chinese and modern songs, were

as diverse as their performances. The transitions from high-energy beats to calming harmonies were welcomingly unexpected. Similarly, the costumes were a blend of traditional and modern day fun. Decked out in bright colors and sequins, the costumes added

nant throughout, as the acrobats used their skills to perform different tricks with accompanying music.

In one act, 16 female acrobats balanced on one moving bike. In another, 12 male performers jumped, dived, and tumbled

through hoops over seven feet high in the air. Finally, during one of the troupe's more traditional Chinese circus acts, a group of female acrobats balanced on benches held in mid



Media Credit: Staller Center for the Arts

a bold ingredient to the production. Who needs a big set when you have interesting costumes



Media Credit: Staller Center for the Arts

and scores?

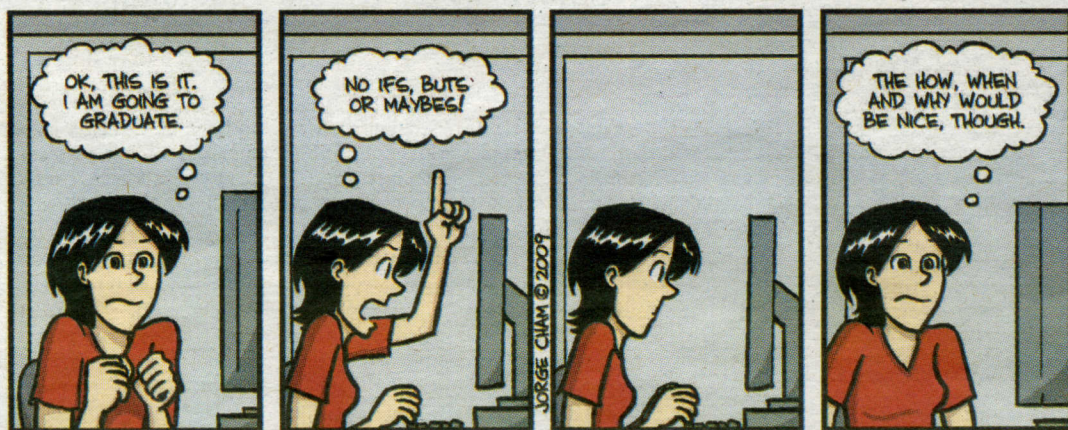
For the most part, the dancers held their perfect form as they exited and entered the stage. Uniformity and grace were predomi-

contorted their bodies into different combinations. It's no wonder that many of the audience members left feeling exhilarated - even puzzled - by many of the counterintuitive stunts.

But what grabbed the audience the most? With magnetic smiles and giddy voices, the answer was apparent: the finale. During this 20 minute set, each member of the troupe preformed a small stunt highlighting his or her personality. This act of modesty accentuated the troupe's dedication and teamwork, an attribute that was appreciated by the crowd.

The National Acrobats of China didn't feel as if it had much to do with complicated dance, as it had to do with stunts. Their elegant performance overall made one thing clear to the audience: The National Acrobats of China play by their own rules.

## PHD COMICS BY JORGE CHAM



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## MOVIES

# STAR BORES

By JOSH GLAZER  
Staff Writer

It has been ten years now since "Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace" was released in theaters, and I think I am finally ready to talk about how disappointed I was with all three of the new Star Wars movies. I don't see how one can even place these three films (episodes I-III) in the same category as the original trilogy (episodes IV - VI).

The first trilogy was groundbreaking from the very start, stunning film viewers with powerful imagery and themes that are almost impossible to entirely pin down in words.

But the latest three films belong with the majority of

worst performances I have ever seen in a blockbuster film. This is the director's fault. Why did he have her talk in a monotone throughout the whole movie? Are we really supposed to believe that this bland young woman is a galactic ruler?

The rest of the new trilogy continues the trend, failing to be original, creative, or interesting at all. I am sure many fans found the extended light saber duels entertaining, but modern special effects are so big now that I think actors are not trying as hard anymore. The expressions on the light saber fighters' faces are so artless, and the stories are so thin, that I can once again see the blue screens.



Media Credit: Google Images

action films made today - as almost complete garbage. There is no wonder. There is no epic battle between good and evil. There are no great characters. Well, I guess you could say that these elements are there, but they are woven together with the same artistry as, say, "The Fast and the Furious." Entertain the kids, have some special effects, hire some big name actors, and voilà! We have a movie. I am sorry, but it just does not work that way.

Regarding the first new installment, I do not think you can build a successful movie around a small child unless it is something very special. So what if he is cute? He is a kid; he doesn't know how to act! Yet the whole movie revolves around the importance of this character. I cannot help but see the ten year old sitting in front of a blue screen with joysticks in his hands as the crew film the 'exciting' racing scene.

Next, Natalie Portman's acting is probably among the

Finally, I believe that Vader's tragic rise to power would have remained better untold. I think that story, and that of the death of every other Jedi, would have served us better as a vague myth, deep within the Star Wars legend. In film form, they were a disgrace, in just about every respect.

The original trilogy was exceptional, epic, and immortal. I grew up to it, and it still frames my philosophy of life in many ways. Even today, I can find huge insights in the story and films. But to my eyes, the latest three movies (episodes I - III) were just a marketing ploy, and not real art. Yes, it was successful, and made a lot of money. But it was a textbook example of "selling out." There was no beauty or truth in those movies, only glamor. It would have been much better to do a trilogy on what happens after episode IV, when Luke has become a Jedi and will probably start training new ones.



# Rate My Professor May Influence Scheduling Decisions, But With Some Risk

Continued from page 1

shy away from a particular class, or section of a class, if the professor has a bad rating.

"I had to chose between two French classes," said Rob Mathrock, 18, a student at Stony Brook University. "One professor had a good rating and the other had a bad one so I went with the good one."

However many positive or negative ratings a professor might have doesn't necessarily mean that the class will be a breeze. According to Zannettis what teaching methods one student responds to in a class is not necessarily the same for others.

"I think a better venue for selecting classes is asking other students that you know have the same kind of learning style as you," said Richard Lee, 24, a graduate student in the Earth Science Teaching program. "You don't know what the background is of the other people using that web site."

"Different students have different ways of learning," agreed Courtney Norman, 20, an Art History major. "Sometimes it works for you some times it doesn't."

Paul Kaplan, a professor of Psychology, has acquired the most ratings of any professor at Stony Brook on the web site, totaling in at 166. Kaplan, who is unfamiliar with the website, agrees that students have the right to communicate with each other about their professors but it should be moderated. "We should be teaching students how to write and speak assertively, but with temperance," Kaplan said.

The main problem that both students and professors agree on is that you don't know who is posting on the web site. You don't know if they went to class, if they went to professor's office hours, if they did the homework, if they studied and overall what grade they got.

"If you were to take a group of students who got a B and above, their evaluation would be differ-

ent then those who got a D," said Kaplan.

Other professors, such as Richard Hornik, a professor of News Literacy at Stony Brook University, have admitted to looking at their ratings.

"I thought it was a valid comment," Hornik said, addressing a comment on the site by a student in his History and Future of the American Press class that said if you could not get an A in the class that you should drop out of college. "I was a little shocked when I first read it because I don't think of myself being an easy grader, but it was qualified in a way that I thought was useful."

All students have different ways of learning and different ideas of what a good class is as Hornik said, "You may like a course in which all you have to do is memorize in order to get a good grade and I might like a course where I don't have to memorize at all but be able to show that I have analyzed and am able to present

my ideas."

Rate My Professors is not the only way professors are evaluated each semester. As all students know, at the end of each semester evaluation sheets are distributed that ask the same questions as Rate My Professors. These forms also include questions about what was good and what could be done better.

"I think those are more valuable," said Kaplan, "because every student who is present that day will have a say."

As a way of sharing thoughts, the web site succeeds, but according to students and professors it should not be a one-stop source for making your schedule.

"That just shows that they haven't taken News Literacy, who in their right mind would believe one comment? You need multiple sources," Hornik said about students who use the site as their only resource.

Students should do more research into a class, by looking at

the course description, looking into the professor's research, and even going to the professor and asking them about the class.

"I have students who come in asking for next semester's syllabus," said Kaplan, as two students were waiting outside his office, "I love when students come in."

Along the lines with Rate My Professors are web sites such as Aggie's list, which lets people rate over 250 types of services such as painters, landscapers and plumbers. There is also Trip Advisor, which offers ratings on different hotels and restaurants. Rate My Professors also has a little sister in the form of Rate My Teachers that compiles ratings of middle and high school teachers.

"I worry that students might take a class because the time is good and professor got three chili peppers on the web site," said Zannettis. "This is important, this is their education and I wish sometimes that they put more effort into it."

# Not Your Average Spring Break

Continued from page 1

Annual Student/Faculty/Staff retreat in 2005-2006, Alternative Spring Break Outreach is a student-run community service program. In the past, the group worked with Habitat for Humanity. This year, they are working with Community Collaborations International, a nonprofit organization that works with universities and other groups to provide support for service-oriented travel in the United States and abroad to volunteer where help is needed most.

"New Orleans' atmosphere is amazing," said Sana Hashmi, co-president of Alternative Spring Break Outreach and participant for the past two years. She said the island environment of Galveston would present a "different atmosphere" and create more of a group experience than in the past.

"The poverty here [in America] is unbelievable," Hashmi said, and is so starkly spread out that across from beautiful mansions there's rubble. Residents will stop volunteers on the street to say thank you, she said, "People are really, really grateful."

In deciding the destination for this year's community service, Reeve and Hashmi considered three questions: With what organization will the group be working, where are other schools going and where will the group enjoy going the most? Other destinations considered

were Memphis, Tennessee and West Virginia. Ultimately, leaders of the student group spoke with several volunteer organizations and decided Galveston needed the most assistance.

"When deciding to help others, I think it's important to keep in mind their needs, not just what you think their needs are," Reeve said. "It's easy to see a need. It's quite another to be able to pinpoint exactly what that need is."

Forty-one students are signed up for the program, 50 being the limit, including two advisors, Chris O'Brien of Athletic Training and Ellen Driscoll of the Center for Prevention and Outreach. Each student pays \$500, which covers the volunteer organization and transportation. The group will stay at a volunteer center in a school. Fundraising, donations and contributions from charities raise money for the project. This year, they raised \$396 from a bake sale.

Given that the group went in New Orleans in the past, Hashmi said it was time to try something new, to "branch out and work with new communities."

In August 2005, Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans resulting in 1,500 deaths and damages of \$81 billion, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Katrina was a Category 3 hurricane when it made land fall in Louisiana while Ike was a Category 2.



Each year during Spring Break some students chose to helpout building houses.

Media Credit: Facebook

Hurricane and wave expert Steve Lyons of The Weather Channel said Ike is likely to become one of the top five costliest hurricanes in history, possibly climbing into the top three, with Katrina at the top of that list.

Galveston is "a place many don't remember as being devastated by Hurricane Ike and even fewer realize still needs tremendous help," Reeve said. "I hope the work will open students' eyes and the place and people will inspire them to continue a life of service."

At Stony Brook University, Alternative Spring Break Outreach

strives to provide community service to communities in need. Its purpose is to connect students and community members while encouraging growth, mutual awareness and life long learning.

"I think as inhabitants of Long Island, it's sometimes easy for us to forget what the elements are really capable of. In the past, students have wondered why residents of New Orleans would want to continue to call a place prone to disasters home," she said. "After their trip, they have a better understanding and can empathize with residents wanting to remain in the place they call home."



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## ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

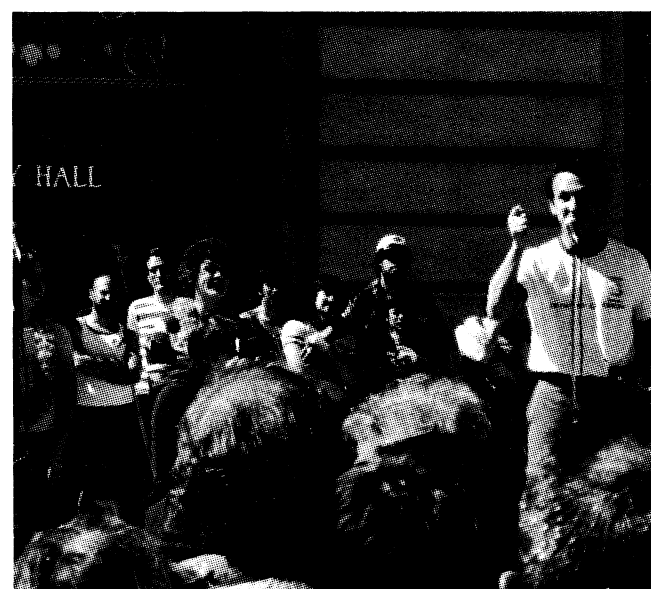
### MOVIES

# Van Sant's Stirring Biopic

By REBECCA NEWMAN  
Contributing Writer

"Milk" is a film that every film should strive to be. It was compelling, educational, interesting, and entertaining all at once. I learned a lot about American history, particularly the concerns and state of homosexuals in America in the 1970s. Real footage of gay men being arrested in bars accompanied the opening credits, setting a shocking tone of a depressing reality.

I think it is a travesty that I learned more about the political and social hardships of the gay community watching this movie



Sean Penn, as the Harvey Milk, in Gus Van Sant's "Milk."

than I did in a history class. I couldn't help but wonder if the decision to keep political issues like Proposition 6, an initiative banning homosexual teachers and their supporters from teaching in California public schools, or figures like Anita Bryant, the famous religious singer who vigilantly opposed the 1977 civil rights ordinance that

were purposefully kept out



Harvey Milk takes his oath of office after being elected to a seat on the Board of Supervisors in San Francisco.

of textbooks. Both of these issues were explored quite well, and I am assuming, quite accurately in this movie. Director Gus Van Sant also included actual media footage of both of these cases as well as footage of the gay community in the 1970s. The inclusion

of this footage is important in that it emphasized that all events in "Milk" actually happened and that it isn't an exaggeration of history.

Sean Penn did a terrific job portraying the first elected politician who was openly gay, Harvey Milk. My one bone to pick with him was that his accent was a bit hard to understand at times, although this accent and other mannerisms only made his

portrayal of Milk more real and less a put-on. He was joined by a stellar cast, all portraying real people who are still advocating for gay rights today. Milk was a truly inspirational person, particu-

larly since he had many obstacles standing in the face of his dream to make a difference in politics. I couldn't help but think about Barack Obama watching this film. Obama and Milk are both figures that speak to their respective minority communities (as well as other communities) and they inspire young people to speak out and not let barriers stand in their way.

I am not usually extremely affected by movies that are distant from me personally or emotionally.

However, "Milk" was extremely compelling and thought-provoking and I continue to think about it to this day. I can only hope that we will continue to educate people about the history of gay rights, and that films like "Milk" continue to be made.

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# Illegal Aliens on the Loose

By XENOPHOBIC MCGRAIG  
Columnist

There's one issue that threatens the security of the United States above all others. Illegal aliens have been a major problem for our country for many years now. Their numbers are rising and they aren't afraid to show themselves like in decades prior. The American government's refusal to reform their policies regarding these law-breakers has only increased the already tense situation. The question now is: are we going to sit back and let these illegal aliens take over our nation? I adamantly say: no.

Illegal aliens have been an issue in many other nations throughout history. Even ancient civilizations had to deal with these mysterious strangers. With the advent of modern technology however, we're able to recognize these foreigners with precision unimaginable to our ancestors. We can identify, track down, and ultimately prosecute

these trouble-making ne'er-do-wells.

Last year, the British government released all of their secret files regarding illegal aliens within their country. This was an important step in the right direction. Only through admitting and sharing such information with others can any nation hope to crack down on these criminals. They've been allowed to roam free for far too long without widespread societal recognition of their lurking existence.

Despite public outcry, the United States government has yet to release their classified files regarding illegal aliens. This is a major problem in the war against these trespassers. How are we supposed to deal with or fight them if we don't even admit they exist within our borders? The United States government needs to wake up to reality if we are ever going to deal with this ever-growing problem.

Not everyone has called for the

expulsion or arrest of these aliens however. Some believe that we can actually work with these individuals; maybe even learn to coexist with them. These lefty-liberal-neocommies are foolish enough to think that these invaders of our native lands have goodhearted (if they had hearts) and peaceful intentions. There can be no doubt that the illegal aliens have been sent by their home governments to gather intelligence to be used for a later overthrow of our nation. Why else would they travel all the way here?

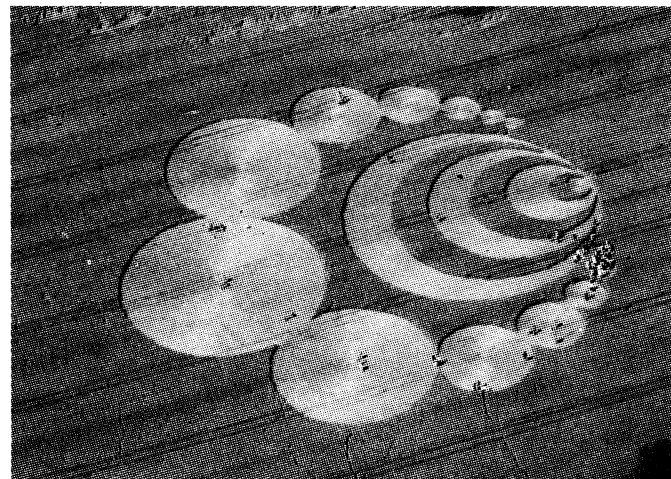
These aliens steal our children, probe our women, and destroy our crops for fun. Their actions are undeniably sadistic. They have been planning for years and soon their true purpose and faces will be revealed. Despite their clever disguises, they are clearly preparing to destroy America.

Maybe its pure paranoia, maybe its deflection of the many horrible things I've done in my own life, but the truth is that these il-

legal aliens must be dealt with, and quickly. We cannot let these invaders to continue wandering around within our borders. It is the highest matter of national security.

The United States government should release all of their files regarding sightings of illegal aliens immediately. American citizens need to be warned about these creatures lurking in our towns,

our woods, and in the night. Only through detailed confirmation of their existence can the vigilant American be prepared to shoot any alien they find on the spot. We are here by legal birth right, not they. It's time that we take matters back into our own hands and remember the God given truth that America rules the universe and that no aliens are going to mess that up.



Illegal aliens have been threatening American's jobs, especially in agriculture

## Friday Should Be University Opposite Day

By YON YONSON  
Contributor

In order to shake things up a little and foster school spirit, I propose that, from now on, all Fridays should become "University Opposite Day." Anything occurring on campus during a Friday should be switched to its opposite, according to certain rules. These rules will be posted in the basement of the yet to be constructed Pinball Research Center, which will be located atop Roth pond as a floating island.

For example, on an Opposite Friday all classes being taught

would instead be instructed in the opposite subject. In the case of biology, creationism will be the topic. For history, alternate realities will be discussed, and so on. Additionally, the professor shall select one student to teach for that day, and will then sit in to take notes.

At the university registrar, any transaction made will be reversed. Therefore, any payment that should have been owed to the university will instead be made as a payment to the transacting student. The workers in the administrative offices will be at their own advisement to

switch supervisory and worker roles accordingly. Any necessary training will be done by googling the subject on the internet.

In honor of Opposite Day, a rock concert will be held each Friday in front of the Student Activities Center. The band will be selected by a committee to be created hence. The band will play for 24 hours, from midnight to midnight, covering all hours of the Opposite Friday. In the area between the Administration Building and Earth Sciences, any and all actions will be held to be legal. This will effectively constitute a no-fly zone for any

personnel of authority, so any revelers are encouraged to be as flagrant in their actions as possible during that period.

Why, you may ask, should we go to such great lengths to create Opposite Fridays? I asked senior biochemistry major, Richard Wadd, what he thought of the proposal, and he supported it immediately. "This university needs a little kick in the butt, if you know what I mean," Wadd said. "Stony Brook can seem a little too quiet sometimes. Maybe an 'Opposite Day' would spice things up in just the right way."

CARTAS

## Obama Concedes, Starts Rap Career

*continued from page 5*

point a replacement. But, legislation passed by Obama himself, the "Chief Executive Regulatory-Stabilization Act", should make everything nice and legal.

Paul responds to the matter; "I'm not one for changing the nature of the constitution, but if Mr. Obama can replace CEOs of private companies with a wink and a nod, why not executives of the country as well?" Paul adds, "My first act of office will be to get that little number repealed."

This author is excited about the changes in store for this country - at long last true free market capitalism will be given a try (No, Virginia - despite what the socialist protesters tell you, 'unfettered' capitalism didn't cause the economic collapse).

I'm slightly less excited about Obama's new found passion; gangsta rap. However, all over the country, 12 year old white girls are lining up at the record stores waiting for "Barry-O's" first record to be released - despite the fact that he hasn't recorded it yet.

When asked about the career move Obama said, "I'm doing it for the money, fame and power, but mostly the money. Being a President has its perks, but even being the commander-in-chief of the entire world's economy isn't as lucrative as dropping mad rhymes."

## Marijuana Can't Save Us

Dear Mr. Statesmen,

I can't believe such drivel as "What Happens to a Weed Deferred?" was ran this week (Joel Foxe, 3/30/09).

An issue that has already received way too much attention appears in my local paper. I mean, what is the big deal about marijuana legalization? The whole point of that meeting was to address the prevalent social and economic problems facing America.

People need to be more focused on the trillions of dollars being created in the countries

best interest, not a blighted market that we can't get rid of nor endorse. The only way to get rid of this problem is to order mandatory jail time and the darkest of marks on your record. If you think a stinky weed is worth your entire future then go ahead, someone will get you. Honestly how is getting everyone stoned going to help anyone other than Oreo sales and stoner flick revenue? President Obama is right. This can't help the economy.

- Baby Morel, N.Y.

## I-CON 28, Stay Away

Dear Editor,

I've heard of I-CON going on regularly, but all it means is I avoid the main campus for those three days. ("Where's I-CON28?" by Zachary Kurtz, 3/30/09).

Every year they crowd the grounds, block the roads, make studying outside or even with the window open freaking impossible. At the risk of sounding like a nerd-hating jock, what purpose do they really serve?

At least sports-team oriented or other activities instill

morals, self respect and in some cases teamwork skills necessary in the real world.

I can't see what good a bunch of foam bat swinging or dress-up will do these individuals, the community, or Stony Brook.

I'm really supposed to believe that a room full of overpriced trinkets of the most esoteric value is beneficial to the average student? I say build more, larger gyms.

- Cottonwood P. Thunderlog, Class of '09



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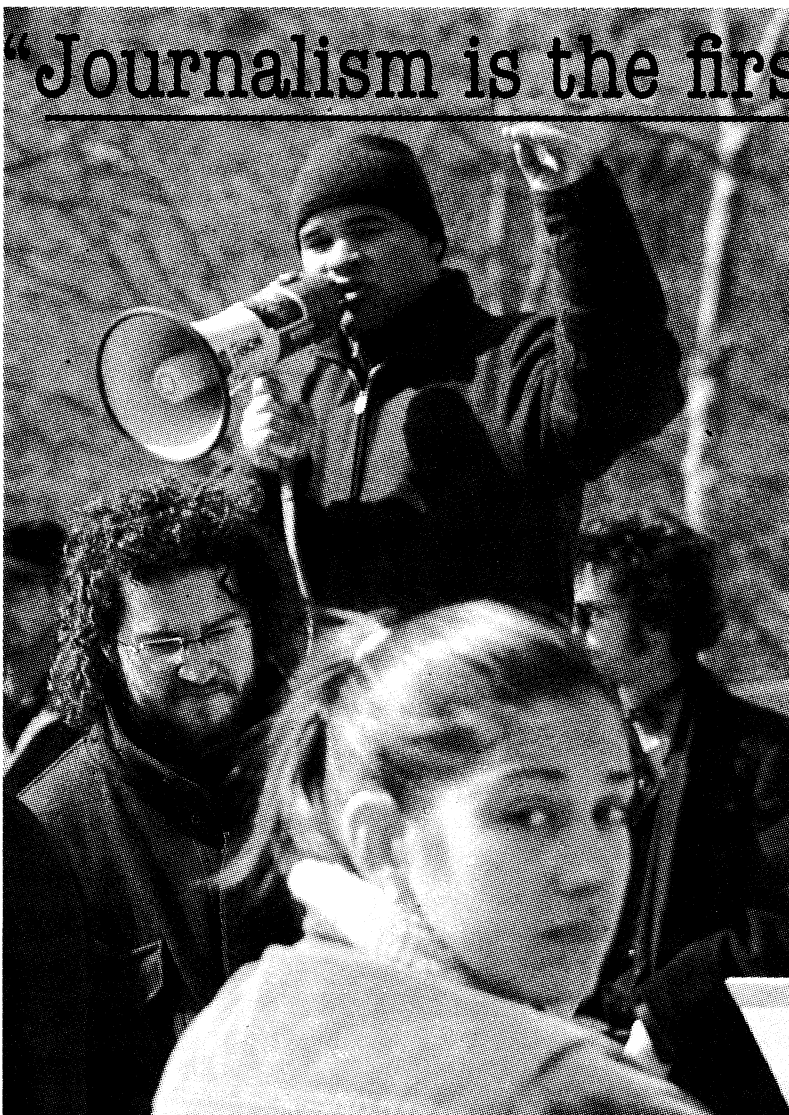
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"Students staging a protest against the war in Iraq," Spring 2005, *Statesman*



# Brian Morgan's NBA Playoff Predictions

## Eastern Conference

Well it's that time of the year. Of course I'm still feeling the lingering pain of my prediction that Toronto will win the East, but they obviously sand-bagged to make me look bad. Anyway, I correctly predicted fourteen of the sixteen playoff teams in my October articles including the collapse of the Detroit Pistons so I still have some credibility. Right?

Here are my predictions for the rest of the regular season and playoffs:

- 1. Cleveland Cavaliers
- 2. Orlando Magic
- 3. Boston Celtics
- 4. Atlanta Hawks
- 5. Miami Heat
- 6. Philadelphia 76ers
- 7. Chicago Bulls
- 8. Detroit Pistons

### 1st Round

Cleveland vs. Detroit- Cleveland wins 4-1  
Orlando vs. Chicago- Orlando wins 4-1  
Boston vs. Philadelphia- Boston wins 4-1  
Atlanta vs. Miami- Atlanta wins 4-3

I had to go with the teams with home court advantage for this round. Miami has the best chance of pulling an upset but Atlanta is 29-9 at home, while Miami is 13-23 on the road. Not exactly a recipe that equals success for Miami.

### 2nd Round

Cleveland vs. Atlanta- Cleveland wins 4-1

Orlando vs. Boston- Boston wins 4-2

Cleveland is unstoppable at home and should be able to pull off a win in Atlanta. I'll give Atlanta one win only because I have a man-crush on Josh Smith.

The Boston vs. Orlando series was much more difficult to predict. Orlando has been playing great lately and Kevin Garnett was just shut down to get his health in order. So why did I pick Boston? I took a look at the last game and even with a hobbled Garnett, Orlando barely won, in Orlando. Paul Pierce and Rajon Rondo were both +2 in that game, and Garnett should be healthy by round two and his -10 should be closer to Pierce and Rondo's numbers.

### Eastern Conference Finals

Cleveland vs. Boston- Cleveland wins 4-3

Whenever Cleveland and Boston play, it's safe to say the home team will win. So why should this series be any different?

### NBA Championship Finals

Cleveland Cavaliers vs. San Antonio Spurs- San Antonio wins 4-3

The Spurs have to continue their trend of winning every other year. They have to. Otherwise Cleveland will win and LeBron James will want to stay in Cleveland and not come to my Nets. On a serious note, I did say that the Spurs would collapse this season in my October 27th article, but they proved me wrong and Roger Mason Jr. has really impressed me this year. I was worried about their depth early in the season but with the combination of Mason Jr., Drew Gooden, Kurt Thomas, and Courtney Lee, I feel like they have enough to match-up with Cleveland. Logic says I should have picked the Lakers to be in the Finals, and then Cleveland to win it all, but anything can happen in the playoffs, and I really, really, really don't want the Cavaliers to win.

## America East Baseball Standings:

|    |             |       |
|----|-------------|-------|
| 1. | Maine       | 13-12 |
| 2. | Stony Brook | 9-9   |
| 3. | Binghamton  | 7-9   |
| 4. | Albany      | 5-15  |
| 5. | Hartford    | 4-13  |
| 6. | UMB         | 4-14  |
| 7. | Vermont     | 4-14  |

## Western Conference

- 1. Los Angeles Lakers
- 2. Denver Nuggets
- 3. San Antonio Spurs
- 4. Portland Trail Blazers
- 5. Houston Rockets
- 6. New Orleans Hornets
- 7. Utah Jazz
- 8. Dallas Mavericks

### 1st Round

Los Angeles vs. Dallas- Los Angeles wins 4-1  
Denver vs. Utah- Utah wins 4-2  
San Antonio vs. New Orleans- San Antonio wins 4-2  
Portland vs. Houston- 4-3

There's not going to be a major difference between the second and seven seed in the West so there's definitely going to be longer series and no upsets. I picked Utah to beat Denver because I don't see Utah losing at home and the Jazz matchup up well defensively against the Nuggets.

Portland vs. Houston will be a great matchup. The outcome of this series depends on where each team finishes in the regular season standings. As of Wednesday, April 1, Houston is third in the standings. But they have a difficult schedule to finish the season, and they're only one game ahead of Portland who's in fifth.

If Portland does pass Houston in the standings and they finish in the fourth and fifth positions, the outcome will solely rely on home court advantage. Portland is 31-7

at home while Houston is 30-8. Houston is also cursed as long as T-Mac is a part of its franchise and therefore will never get out of the first round, even if they were going against the NJIT Highlanders.

### 2nd Round

Los Angeles vs. Portland- Los Angeles win 4-1  
San Antonio vs. Utah- San Antonio wins 4-3

The San Antonio vs. Utah series will be a hard fought battle. I still don't think Utah will lose at home, but they are so awful on the road 14-22 and the Spurs mean business in the playoffs.

### Western Conference Finals

Los Angeles vs. San Antonio- San Antonio wins 4-2

This will be an illogical, gut-feeling pick. I watched the Lakers in person recently when they played the Nets in Jersey. I didn't like what I saw. Granted, they probably weren't playing hard and Andrew Bynum is apparently coming back during the regular season, so he should be ready for the playoffs. I just don't think they'll be able to win unless Kobe has a spectacular game every night and the Spurs won't let that happen every game. Finally, the Spurs won the championship in 2003, 2005, and 2007. It's the Spurs' destiny to win this series.

## America East Softball Standings

|    |             |     |       |
|----|-------------|-----|-------|
| 1. | Stony Brook | 3-0 | 19-3  |
| 2. | Hartford    | 3-0 | 9-9   |
| 3. | UMBC        | 2-1 | 20-11 |
| 4. | BU          | 1-1 | 20-8  |
| 5. | Albany      | 1-1 | 16-8  |
| 6. | Maine       | 1-2 | 21-15 |
| 7. | Binghamton  | 0-3 | 3-17  |
| 8. | Vermont     | 0-3 | 3-21  |



# STATESMAN SPORTS



## T.I. Plays In Charity Game At Pritchard

Stony Brook, N.Y. - Before heading off to jail for a year, Clifford Joseph "T.I." Harris and fellow multi-platinum selling artist Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson played in a charity game at Pritchard Gymnasium on the campus of Stony Brook University to support awareness about gun violence among young people. The event was well-received, and a few celebrities, including Megan Fox were spotted among the packed crowd.

## Men's Basketball Head Coach Steve Pikiell Headed to Memphis



Pikiell is headed to Memphis to replace John Calipari.



Pikiell is taking his motivational clapping to Conference USA.

By GENE MORRIS  
Mister Jelly

Memphis, Tn. - University of Memphis Athletic Director R.C. Johnson announced late last night that the school has hired former Stony Brook men's basketball head coach Steve Pikiell to replace the departing John Calipari.

"This was a great opportunity to land a young head coach who exudes energy and passion," Johnson said in a phone conversation. "I actually happened to catch one of the Stony Brook Basketball games late this season, and his unbelievable ability to rally his players with his clapping was amazing. I can't wait for him to be clapping on the sidelines of the FedEx Forum."

Pikiell led the Seawolves to their best ever season as a Division I program and had just recently signed a five year contract extension to stay at Stony Brook. But that deal was littered with opportunities for Pikiell to leave Long Island for a job at a bigger school.

"I loved my time here at Stony Brook," Pikiell said. "I loved the atmosphere, but I

could not pass up this chance to take over a national powerhouse."

With Calipari jumping to Kentucky, two of his top recruits, Xavier Henry and DeMarcus Cousins, will no longer be attending the school in the fall. It is believed that Pikiell will be bringing point guards Bryan Dougher and Chris Martin to lead his new team.

Sources inside the basketball program have said that 6-9, 330 pound Desmond Adedeji has been working out hard early in the off-season in preparation for his move to point guard. Adedeji hopes to lose about 100 pounds over the summer.

Assistant Coach Jay Young expressed the team's new philosophy in the wake of the departing players. "We plan on being the biggest team in the America East. With Des at the one, Tommy (Brenton, 6-5) at the two-guard, Danny Carter (6-9) at the three, and Goba (6-9) and Dallis (Joyner, 6-8) in the front court, we should be able to pound teams in the post."

"Although we may have trouble with Binghamton's three-guard offense," he said. "It's a work in progress."