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Acclaimed Duo Performs at Staller

The internationally acclaimed musical duo Viktor Valkov and Lachezar Kostov performed again earlier this month on Mar. 3 at the Staller Center. This performance was comprised of pieces arranged specifically for the piano and cello.

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Closing the Gap in the New York State Budget

You've got to hand to Governor David Paterson -- he's good at coming up with revenue-generating ideas during a time of crises. Some of these ideas I don't like, such as his proposed tax on non-diet soft drinks. However, at least one of his other ideas ring with the sound of free market logic.

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Republicans Need Moderation, Too

It's never too early to start thinking ahead, and for the Republican Party, they haven't hesitated in throwing punches at the new president. Not that criticism of the president and those in power isn't warranted, but Republicans seem more interested in bringing down "liberal" policies and those associated with them than they are with restructuring and redefining themselves.

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Thank You, Phish

Phish's reuniting for a mini-tour during Mar. 6, 7 and 8 at Hampton Coliseum in Hampton, Va., was an ecstatic success. The band sounded better than ever to this listener, and I have been an avid fan for over 10 years, and have been to over 30 shows.

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In their grief, one family is troubled by posters' comments.

Lauren Cioffi / SB Statesman

Journalists Discuss Future of the Press

By Erika Karp

As day two of the News Literacy Conference winded down on Mar. 12, Dean of the School of Journalism Howard Schneider, introduced the speaker of the evening. An avid rock climber, motorcycle rider, Outward Bound participant and ultimately chairman and publisher of The New York Times, Arthur Sulzberger Jr. took to the stage for his keynote address.

"Six men have led the company," Schneider said in his introduction, "None of his predecessors have faced these challenges."

The grim details about the journalism industry were brought to light -- major cities left without competing newspapers, confused news consumers and a business model that is not profiting in ways seen in the past. But, even with these obstacles, Schneider pointed out Sulzberger's grandfather saved The New York Times, his father stared down the Nixon administration and now, to many, The New York Times remains one of the most influential newspaper companies in the world.

According to Sulzberger, the crisis that the journalism industry is experiencing is a little like the banking crisis. "We all know there are answers, we just can't find them," he said.

The "volcanic explosion of the Internet," as Sulzberger put it, has played a key role in the way journalism is changing.

"I was the one who was there," said Dexter Filkins, a New York Times Baghdad correspondent, in a video presented by Sulzberger. "You can blog all you want but in the end you don't have much to say."

Even so, Sulzberger recognizes that Internet journalism is compelling and refuses to dwell on the way journalism used to be. "How people get the quality news will continue to evolve," he said.

The quality of news on the web is something that Sulzberger sees as being very important and comes into play with the News Literacy Initiative. According to a video on the School of Journalism's web site, news literacy is "training the next generation of news consumers to think critically about what they read, see and hear."

Sulzberger recognized the importance of the news literacy initiative.

"Your conference on news literacy sends a strong message that the journalistic and academic professions must do all that we can to keep our audiences, especially the younger generations, well-informed," Sulzberger said. "Ensuring that our children not only follow the news, but understand what is happening. Our children need real journalism. The New York Times is proud to be part of your initiative."

And while Schneider noted in his introduction that everyone had been locked in the Wang Center for the 12-hour long conference, some didn't mind. "The conference has been terrific," said Harriet Copel, a

teacher from Shoreham Wading-River High School. "It should have an impact on the way we structure journalism classes in high school and middle school."

The Center for News Literacy at Stony Brook is working to spread the initiative to high schools. The program, planned for this summer, is looking for high school teachers to participate in the two-week intensive program about news literacy.

"I do [conferences] with reservation," said Stuart Loory, a professor at the University of Missouri School of Journalism located in Columbia, MO. "I think that this conference was one of the best, if not the best. The subject matter looked into the future and there was not a dull moment."

When asked about the News Literacy Initiative, Loory continued, "That is what made it so interesting. Not much is being done, what is being done here is novel and avantgarde."

While some are truly pessimistic about the future of journalism, Sulzberger isn't about to give up. "I am tired of reading about the death of -- take your pick -- journalism, newspapers, engaged readers," Sulzberger told the audience. "What we offer is quite unique and will endure."

And while Sulzberger realizes the immediate future does not look too promising, he knows that there will be answers. "We know where we are and we know where we are heading. What we do not know is what's exactly around each bend."

Haunted by Comments, Even In Death

By Lauren Cioffi Staff Writer

Two days after her brother's death, Brittani Stern sat down in front of her computer to read the accident reports on Newsday.com. She never thought the comments left by anonymous posters would cause her more heartache than the story.

"There was a picture of Robert's car getting dragged out of the water," said Stern, sister of accident victim Robert Ungerer. "I didn't know there were comments until I looked at the articles," said Stern. "I was outraged and angry that people would post such things."

In 2008, Ungerer's car was found submerged in the water off Old Dock Road in Kings Park. He and his friend Ryan Colvin were returning from a local diner when the lost control of the vehicle. The car was found the next morning. Newsday never mentioned Ungerer's name in the reporting of the story.

Ungerer was pronounced dead when his body resurfaced more than a month later. Although Ungerer is gone, the comments that followed below news reports would live on for years in the Internet realm and in the minds of the family.

Whether the rights of anonymous posters outweigh the rights of the subjects of news stories is an ongoing battle. The Civil Media Law Project shows that lawsuits involving anonymous posting in commenting forums increased 75 percent in 2007 alone.

Stern, a 20-year old college student, feels that filing a civil suite wouldn't be worth the struggle. All she can do is decry the "lack of respect" the people who posted the vial comments have.

In the story of Ungerer's accident, one anonymous poster wrote, "All New Yorkers please follow this guy's lead!!! Drive into a lake!" Another commenter on the forum clarified, "Cars are not boats. This concept can be lost with drugs and alcohol." Stern cringed

Continued on page 10



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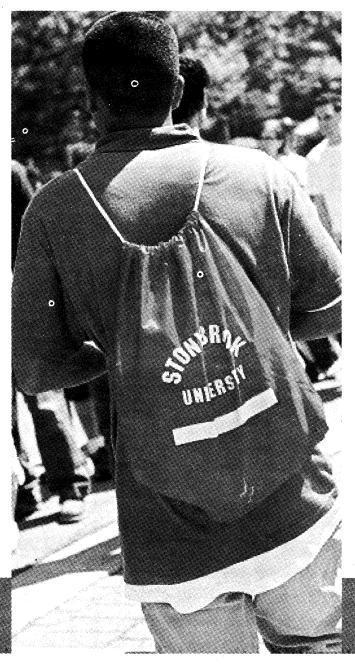
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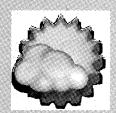
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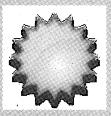
Student Forecast

Mar. 23 - Mar. 27



Monday:

High: 41°F Low: 21°F Windy with sunshine and patchy clouds.



Tuesday:

High: 42°F Low: 32°F Windy with sunshine.



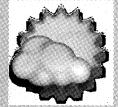
Wednesday:

High: 48°F Low: 44°F Mostly sunny.



Thursday: High: 46°F

Low: 42°F
Mostly cloudy.



Friday:

High: 56°F Low: 53°F Party sunny and not as cool.

From accuweather.com

Bollywood at the Brook

By SHIREEN JAYMAN Staff Writer

Lights. Camera. Action. Cue colorful song and dance.

The Hall Council of Gray College in Mendelsohn Quad held their second Bollywood Night Thursday, offering South Asian cuisine and showcasing a classic Bollywood movie.

After the movie the Hall Council raffled off a gift card to the Curry Club, who also catered the event. During the night attendees received temporary henna tattoos in designs of their choice.

Bollywood Night is meant to spread "cultural awareness, because not a lot of people know what Bollywood is," said Melissa Nuruzzaman, president of Gray College Hall Council. "Bollywood night is a place where you can interact and talk about South Asian culture."

In light of "Slumdog Millionaire" winning four Golden Globes and eight Academy Awards, the Western world has become more exposed to Bollywood and South Asian cinema. Shah Rukh Khan, an actor in

South Asian cinema known as the "King of Bollywood," spoke at the 66th annual Golden Globes Awards, signaling a merge of Bollywood and Hollywood.

"Movies like 'Slumdog Millionaire' and 'Bride and Prejudice' and the newest 'Pink Panther' movie are slowly merging the two industries together," said Nuruzzaman. "It's a South Asian thing, it's not just India. Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, they all love Bollywood."

The Oxford English Dictionary has an entry especially reserved for the phrase "Bollywood," which is described as "the Mumbai-based Hindi-language film industry" and lists the populations of the various Asian countries above as the fan base of Bollywood movies.

It's a melodrama musicale. South Asians don't refer to Bollywood films as musicals, but music is an integral part of every movie.

"The song of a Bollywood movie is the emotion, tenfold," said Nuruzzaman. "If they're falling in love, bam, they're in the Alps, expressing that love." "Bride and Prejudice," an English movie with Bollywood actors and actresses that was released in the United States in 2006, showcased songs with scenes shot in various locations around the world.

Bollywood Night is the latest cultural element in a rush of South Asian festivities that have hit Stony Brook this semester. On Mar. 11, South

Asian students celebrated the holiday Holi, the Festival of Colors

Hindus believe that Prahlad, a devotee of the god Vishnu, was carried into a bonfire by a demoness named Holika, and escaped unharmed because of his belief and devotion.

Holi is usually celebrated with a free-for-all of color, where people throw bright colored powder at each other.

"In India there is a bonfire the night before you play with the colors," said Meenakshi Srivastava, a senior at Stony Brook University. "In the morning everyone plays with colors, they eat sweets. Whether you're Muslim, Hindu, Christian, everyone comes together to play in this festival, to enjoy it."

"Theres a phrase 'Don't mind, it's Holi!' you can color anyone and no one will be upset," said Srivastava.



Shireen Jayman / SB Statesman

Students enjoyed ethnic foods, such as chicken club masala.

HIGH TECH BEALW

By Charles Costa

Back in 2004, when MySpace first gained popularity with my classmates, I remember seeing my friends' MySpaces and thinking to myself, "Okay, so what exactly is the purpose of having a publically visible, ad-infested page with information about you?"

Unfortunately, within two weeks of initially hearing about MySpace, I caved in to my friend's requests and created a page. Heck, I even created a second MySpace page soon after to promote a series of viral videos I helped produce.

Of course, after creating my MySpace pages, I told a bunch of my friends to join so I could add them to the "Top 8" on both pages. Despite my initial apprehension towards the service, the video MySpace page made my videos so popular that my friends and I were recognized when we hung out in Huntington Village, a major hangout spot for students in most of the school districts nearby.

Still, despite the publicity gained from the service, I always questioned the purpose of such a system, where the user views pages which blast heavy metal without warning, have enough "You have won!!!" banner ads to cause seizures, profile backgrounds showing off Glocks and AKs, and other variants of digital trash.

Basically, MySpace was (and still is) the vomit of the Internet. Two years later, I discovered Facebook, and soon after creating an account, I was finally able to enjoy social

networking without having a hypocritical love/hate relationship with the service.

Still, while Facebook is primarily for socializing, it also happens to be an essential tool for protecting your identity. According to a recent report published by security firm Aladdin (http://www.aladdin.com), "Attack Intelligence™ Research Center Annual Threat Report 2008 Overview and 2009 Predictions," social networks are now essential to protecting your identity.

According to the report, the large amounts of user information on social web sites such as Facebook, MySpace, and LinkedIn (linkedin. com), have made it easier to impersonate and/or falsely represent people and businesses via the Internet. Aladdin refers to this threat as "web identity hijacking."

Despite the simplicity of web identity hijacking, the report lists it under their "Key Predictions for 2009," meaning it has yet to become common. Despite this bit of relief, an article from ReadWriteWeb titled "Fake Social Network Profiles: a New Form of Identity Theft in 2009" mentions the Lori Drew case, in which a mother created a MySpace page to pose as a boy the victim (a rival of Drew's daughter) had a crush on. The bullying ultimately caused the 13-year-old victim to commit suicide.

While there is no way to completely control what is said about you on the Internet, there are a few simple steps you can use to protect your identity.

and soon after creating an account, I was finally able to enjoy social alert for your full name. For exam-

ple, many search engines such as Google allow you to set alerts for when specific terms are added to their database. Due to their size and status as the number one search provider, Google is a must for any alert; however Yahoo and MSN also have similar features in place.

Google's alert page can be found at http://www.google.com/alerts. To set up an alert for your name, you simply enter your full name and then complete the rest of the form.

While this technique will alert you to many mentions of your name in cyberspace, it's important to note that should someone defame you, in most cases there are few practical options for legal recourse.

If someone is committing crimes such as impersonation, however, then you have more options, as long as the criminal is not offshore (which is very rare for cybercrimes).

While it's helpful to know what is being said about you in cyberspace, it's even better to be the one spreading information about yourself. With the rise of discount domain retailers such as GoDaddy.com, having a domain name is a must in the modem world.

In particular though, it's best to reserve the .com (or .net, .org) version(s) of your name. For example, if your name is Joe Smith, you would reserve the name JoeSmith. com. On that web site, you could put your resume, a personal blog, links to your social networks, and so on. Just make sure the site is professional because in today's day and age, you basically are what a Google of your name turns up.

Employers are increasingly using Google to run background checks on employees, and in most cases, they base their decisions on the top 10 results provided by Google.

On a related note, Radu Sion, a computer security professor at Stony Brook University, suggests creating a central hub for your digital identity where you publicize the fact you don't use any services/sites other than the ones mentioned on that page/site.

After building your personal website it's important to get your name out in cyberspace. While Facebook is a must for anyone's social profile, getting a LinkedIn is essential for anyone who plans to get a job, now or in the future.

LinkedIn is essentially the business equivalent of Facebook. Even if you don't presently have a job, getting a LinkedIn is a must because it allows you to build business connections and also "sell yourself" to employers. Still, you must be over 18 to create or have a LinkedIn.

Creating a LinkedIn is basically the same as creating a Facebook, however, it's important to remember LinkedIn is for business so it's always a huge plus if you act professionally on the service.

While "getting your name out" sounds like a lot of work, Radu also suggested "parking" your identity on various Internet services. In other words, it's a good idea to register accounts related to your name on various services, and you either fill them, or leave them empty. Regardless of your actions, "parking" the name makes it harder for someone to impersonate you on that service.

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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, March 23, 2009

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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.

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Closing the Gap in the New York State Budget

Understanding Alcohol and Drug Markets

By Zachary Kurtz

You've got to hand to Governor David Paterson -- he's good at coming up with revenue-generating ideas during a time of crises. Some of these ideas I don't like, such as his proposed tax on non-diet soft drinks. However, at least one of his other ideas ring with the sound of free market logic, and could stand to benefit both consumers and the state in the face of New York State's \$13 billion deficit. And another one his ideas could help New York State revisit its non-violent drug user laws, which make little sense in the context of individual liberty.

The first refers to a proposition included in Gov. Paterson's budget that would allow wine to be sold in grocery, drug and convenience stores. According to Paterson, the measure could translate into more than \$100 million in revenue for the state during the first two years, due to the licensing fees that the state requires that grocers have to purvey of different types of alcoholic beverages. The bill has the added

benefit of reducing price tags for wine consumers during tough times and opening new markets for New York's vineyards -- big business in upstate New York and Long Island's East End.

Sounds like a good plan so far. Grocery stores, particularly big chains, can integrate wine shipping and delivery into their existing supply chains, lowering costs at the retail end -- this is what's commonly known as the "Wal-Mart effect." Efficiency of the "big box stores" is often at the expense of smaller, less efficient businesses, but the result is good for consumers.

As of now, New York State law grants a monopoly of liquor and wine sales to small liquor stores. Most of their profits currently come from wine, because of the large excise taxes on liquor makes it less profitable. Opponents of the plan -- mostly liquor store owners -- claim that thousands of jobs will be lost, because grocery stores can start selling wine without adding more employees. So, should we accept this plea, and allow liquor stores to keep

their monopoly?

Let's examine the argument from a historical context. Technological advances are, most often, a product of profit-motivated innovation. Henry Ford did not invent the car, but his assembly line manufacturing process delivered a death-blow for the horse-drawn carriage industry. Does anyone, today, curse the Model-T for destroying an entire industry? My great-grandfather owned a small fruit store in Brooklyn. Were his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren poorer due to the advent of the supermarket?

The development of the sophisticated supply chain is a technological achievement in its own right, but our state government grants a monopoly to some stores over others, neglecting consumer preferences. Not to mention, small, family-owned grocery stores also stand to benefit from the policy change.

Remember in your high school economics class, when your teacher told you that it is the government's job to break up harmful monopolies, which illegally stifle healthy

competition out of greedy, profitmotivated self interest? I bet you weren't thinking of small businesses at the time, or that, this time, its the government that is ensuring the monopoly is allowed to exist.

Even though there are 34 other states that permit the sale of wine in grocery stores with few horror stories to report, the "liquor store opposition" insists that New York's economy can't deal with change -- even though freeing up markets always winds up benefiting the economy as a whole. It's the special interest groups, which must "adapt or perish," that lobby the government for favors and monopolies -- at the expense of everyone else.

The liquor stores purposefully ignore how the bill will help the vineyards -- the growth of the retail market will provide more employment opportunities at the supply side. While liquor stores must adapt, competition provides the opportunity for the cream to rise to the top. Smaller stores will

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Republicans Need Moderation, Too

By Joseph Labriola

It's never too early to start thinking ahead, and for the Republican Party, they haven't hesitated in throwing punches at the new president. Not that criticism of the president and those in power isn't warranted, but Republicans seem more interested in bringing down "liberal" policies and those associated with them than they are with restructuring and redefining themselves.

Democrats might be painted as spendthrift liberals, but at least they have an association that both supporters and opponents can stick to. After eight years of a disastrous Bush administration and eventual rejection of "neocon" ideology, what is a republican at this point?

There's no denying that their party is fractured, fleeting, and failing to create unified identity of core values. Perhaps the problem lies in the fact that there are too many factions within republicanism that are just as contrasting in political philosophy as they are to their liberal counterparts. Within the Republican Party there are really at least three other sub-parties. They are:

1. Neocon: As was seen with

the past Bush administration. Big government, strong military and warmongering, economic support big business and an unregulated financial sector.

- 2. Religious Right: A large part of the Republican Party, made up mainly of evangelical Christians. Very concerned about social issues and "morality". Emphasis on issues like abortion and making sure to keep science out of science classrooms.
- 3. Libertarian: Although a separate party itself, libertarians retain many of the old values of traditional conservatism, and often vote for GOP candidates. Fiscal conservatives, they believe in cutting spending across the board, low if any taxes, and deregulate industry. Also believe in avoiding foreign intervention in other countries and seek less federal control and more state control over rights such as abortion, gay marriage, drug laws, etc.

The problem is that these three factions are at odds with one another. While republicans might agree on some overall values, the difference in ideology between a Christian republican and a fiscal libertarian can be immensely different.

Also keep in mind that

Democrats already make up the majority of registered voters besides for non-affiliated voters. If Republicans are going to have a chance at getting moderates on board, let alone win any future elections, they are going to have to restructure their base, starting by defining what their core ideology is.

Much of the problem with Republicanism right now is that many of their politics are both polarizing and souring to the average American. People care more about getting things done than the ideology and political quibbling that politicians often debate about more than the actual issues. Think of the 2008 election. Regardless of your political affiliation, you can't ignore Obama's brilliance at playing towards the center of the political spectrum. People care more about healthcare, gas, education, and their mortgages, than they do about overarching political philosophies. While McCain was

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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 withold 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.

fhe Stony Brook Statesman Monday, March 23, 2009

TV Review: "Castle" Needs a Moat to Protect Itself From Boring Crime-drama Conventions

By Carolyn Klarecki Michigan Daily/ UWIRE

It's hard not to cringe when hearing the phrase "crime drama." The words conjure images of urban settings, choppy editing, cheesy one-liners, melodramatic music, poor acting and plots no one cares about or understands.

ABC's "Castle" is a crime drama with all the fixings, but its unique premise may just be powerful enough to set it apart from the tired genre.

Crime fiction novelist Richard Castle (Nathan Fillion, "Waitress") is a successful, arrogant womanizer suffering from writer's block. When a series of murders pop up that are imitations of the murders in his novels, he is enlisted by the smart, no-nonsense NYPD detective Kate Beckett (Stana Katic, "Feast of Love") for help in the investigation.

Though Beckett prefers to work without interference or distractions, Castle can't help but give his input — whether or not it's desired. When Castle's sense of narrative helps him discover the police have arrested the wrong guy, Beckett is convinced to put aside her differences with him. Once she does, the duo works wonderfully together and manages to bring down the real imitator. In the process, Castle gets inspiration for a new character based on Beckett, and he'll spend the rest of the season working with her as "research" for his book.

The show's most nauseatingly conventional element is Beckett and Castle's relationship. He flirts shamelessly and makes blatant advances while she turns him down she's a fan of his books, and it's obvious she has a soft spot for him when him all the time. Some subtlety and the worn-out genre.

originality would've been useful.

Fortunately, Castle's relationship with the rest of the cast is refreshingly unique. His mother, Martha Rodgers (Susan Sullivan, "The Nine"), is a lively retiree who chases men as though she were 40 years younger. Serving as a foil to Castle and his mother's carefree attitude, Castle's teenage daughter Alexis (newcomer Molly C. Quinn) is grounded and sensible even with her less-than-ideal role models.

Despite disapproving of their ways, Alexis still maintains a loving relationship with her guardians. Because of these mixed-up roles, there's virtually no hierarchy in the Castle family. With three different generations of Castle treating one another as peers, the interactions are refreshingly colorful.

With that in mind, there should've been more screen time devoted to these unique supporting characters. Instead, "Castle" focuses on the police force, where it rehashes the stereotypical detective roles complete with obnoxiously cheesy writing - bad one-liners are the most common form of dialogue in the hour-long program. The NYPD detectives make unnecessary jokes at every occasion, especially crime scenes. But thankfully, while this type of conventional crime drama humor dominates the show, there are still a few genuinely funny and original moments. Just not enough.

"Castle" is a crime drama, and it embraces all the conventions the genre has become infamous for but it still has a chance to succeed. Though its romantic sub-plot is too prominent and the writing is often contrived, the show still has potenwith snide and witty retorts. Yet tial. The upcoming episodes need to focus more on Castle's writing career and the refreshing supporting the camera catches her staring at cast if "Castle" is to be saved from

Internationally Acclaimed Duo Perform at Staller Center

By Nader Nouraee

The internationally acclaimed musical Mar. 3 at the Staller Center. Following their recent recital last October, this performance was comprised of pieces arranged specifically for the piano and cello, the pair's respective instruments.

during which they played several pieces arranged by the late Soviet modernist and Camille Saint-Saens' Sonata for Cello

composer Nikolay Roslavets. The composer, known for his defiance of the proletarian musical creed and the controversy that followed, faced much criticism by his enemies that eventually amounted to a professional prohibition of his works. Though many of his pieces are believed to $\overline{_{\text{Duo Viktor Valkov and Lachezar Kostov}}}$ be lost, quite a few have performed at Staller Center. Media Credit: Viktor Valkov to be discovered.



two musicians played beautifully. Valkov, lievable. deemed "lion of the keyboard" by critics, is always phenomenal on the piano. The variety of his pace of playing - soft and flowing one moment, loud and powerful the next - is a true testament to his skill and patience as a musician.

Valkov's colleague matches him wonderfully on the cello, and his passion is be sure to attend!

extremely evident. Whether it manifests itself in sharp breaths or quick sawing motions with his bow, Kostov's dedication to duo Viktor Valkov and Lachezar Kostov his instrument is astonishing. He can hold performed again earlier this month on a note for an incredible amount of time, drawing his bow slowly and evenly across the strings of his cello to set a tone that demands attention.

The pieces played were Ellen Taafe Zwilich's "Lament," followed by Roslavets' Previously the musicians gave a recital Sonata for Cello and Piano n.2, Dmitri Kabalevsky's Sonata for Cello and Piano,

and Piano n.2, op 123.

As usual, the musicians opened by introducing themselves, greeting the audience (which they warmly regard as their personal guests), and starting a brief discussion of the works to be performed. It's always a pleasant experience to attend a Valkov/ Kostov recital, as although they take their work very seriously, they express a sense of humor and establish an inviting mood. And, of course,

During their last performance, the the quality of their performances is unbe-

On Mar. 10 they played a very important concert in Zankel Hall at Carnegie Hall, and they recorded a set of Roslavets pieces for the prestigious NAXOS recording label last year. Admission to their recitals is free and they always welcome viewers, so if you're available to see one of their performances,

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Is "Knowing" Worth It?

By Samantha Burkardt
Assistant Arts and Entertainment Editor

"Knowing," starring Nicholas Cage, started out with a great story line, but it continually grew cheesier and the bad acting did not help.

A young girl named Lucinda during the late 1950s was given an assignment by her teacher, along with the rest of the class, to draw a picture about what they thought the future would look like and their pictures would be put into a time capsule.

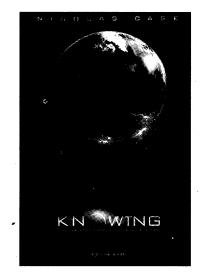
While the rest of the class was drawing rocket ships and flying cars, the young girl was writing down a series of numbers on her piece of paper that strange voices in her head were telling her. To the teacher it was just random numbers written down by a disturbed child, but when investigated, the numbers were actually dates as Ted Myles (Nicholas Cage) would find.

The numbers weren't only dates, though. They were dates of catastrophic events, with the death toll and location where it happened. The numbers dated all the way back to the 1950s and ran on into present day where Cage would find the date for the end of the world.

Sounds good, right?

How will Cage prevent the end of the world? Who will believe that he knows when it's going to happen? It was all great, until it started to unveil that aliens were involved in the movie.

Ted's son Caleb starts to hear the voices that Lucinda heard, and soon enough those who have been speaking to him show themselves. They make it clear that they are always watching and following Caleb where he goes. While that is going on, Cage is busy trying to figure out how to prevent the



Media Credit: Google Images

world from ending. Plane crashes, car accidents, and subway collisions were all disasters he tried to stop, but the numbers kept playing out without his being able to stop them at all.

He constantly asks, "Why was I given these numbers if I can't help anyone?" The real reason was to protect his son. All the events led up to the end of life on earth, but some, called "the chosen ones," were saved to start life again on another planet.

In this movie, the aliens turned out to be the good guys. They were there to save some of us while the other millions burned alive. The ships in the movie were huge, too, but they only carried two children (and two bunnies) that Cage was taking care of in the end. The ending was horrible. It looked like they were trying to make the kids the new Adam and Eve.

to him show themselves. They make it clear that they are always watching and following Caleb where he goes. While that is going on, Cage is busy crashed.

I'll give this movie two stars for the beginning. It was a great idea, but it lost what it had when the plane crashed.

Fueled by Ramen Newbie Releases EP

By Ivanna Avalos

Assistant Arts and Entertainment Editor



VersaEmerge released their latest EP in February, their first EP under their new label. The Fueled by Ramen newbie's self-titled EP is made up of six tracks, including a re-recording of Clocks their "Perceptions" EP that was released last summer.

The EP starts off with an intro track properly titled Theatrics. The 39-second track features a powerfully dark and mesmerizing piano solo that builds an excitement to the start of the next track, The Hider.

The Hider does not skip a beat, immediately beginning with the lead singer's Sierra's vocals as though the first two tracks were one.

The third track, Past Praying For, is a strong rock track with thundering drumbeats and equally strong powerful guitar rhythms. With such vibrantly loud instruments the lead singer's one matches their intensity very well, not letting her vocals become overshadowed by them.

Throughout the next three tracks Versaemerge continue the momentum they started with.

Their last track is Clocks, which was previously recorded when they unsigned. The only difference was the tempo of the track that was slowed down a bit.

Since signing to Fueled by Ramen and the release of their latest EP, Versaemerge have kept busy touring and make themselves known to larger audiences.

They are currently on tour with Craig Owens, The Color Fred, The Gay Blades and Ace Enders. In April they will go across seas to the United Kingdom and even a one-day event in Belgium. They will continue touring until the end of the summer as part of the Vans Warped Tour starting in California in late June.

With all their touring this year Versaemerge is bound to create a good name for themselves among the crop of young rock musicians pluck from Myspace obscurity.



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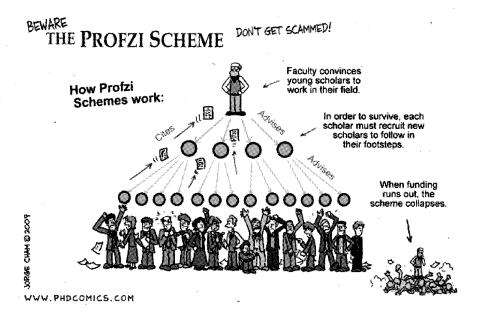
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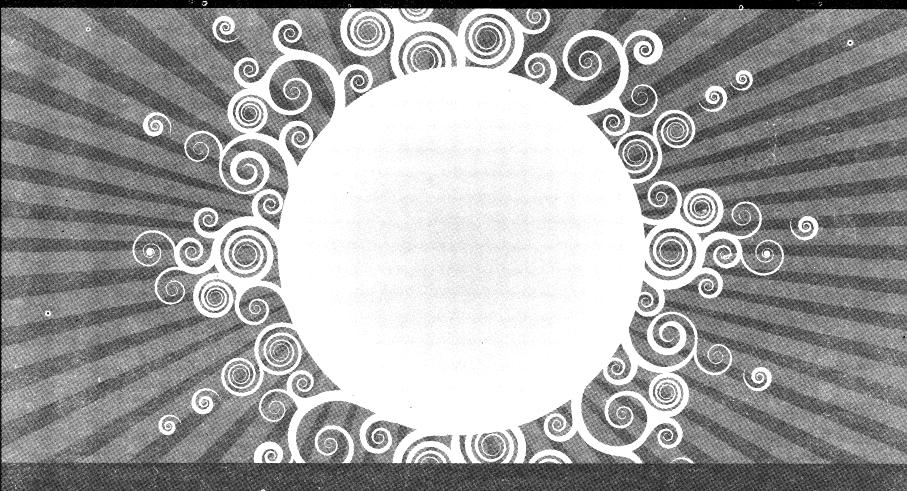
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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, March 23, 2009

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Thank you, Phish

ByJosh Glazer

Phish's reuniting for a mini-tour during Mar. 6, 7 and 8 at Hampton Coliseum in Hampton, Va., was an ecstatic success. The band sounded better than ever to this listener, and I have been an avid fan for over 10 years, and have been to over 30 shows. I am not the most hardcore fan - far from it. Some Phish heads have spent entire seasons on tour with the band, selling grilled cheeses and t-shirts for food money, and have over 100 shows under their belt. But I believe myself to be as close an analyzer of Phish's work as almost any fan, so I feel comfortable holding forth on the momentous event of Phish's coming back to play after five long years.

Phish toured from the late '80s all the way up to 2004. Starting from a college band at the University of Vermont, they never become a top charted band or sold millions of studio albums, but instead built their fame from a rabid group of fans that followed them every-

The heart of the band is guitarist Trey Anastasio, who has written most of the band's music. His song writing and guitar playing are virtuoso. I have played guitar for over 15 years, and when I listen to Trey I can only feel awe.

As a whole, Phish's musical catalogue is diverse, innovative, complex, and at times genius and full of joy. Some songs have only been played live, which adds to their rarity and the excitement fans feel when they get played.

As a fan, I have to say that the last several years of Phish's live playing before their "breakup" in 2004 were not as great as I wished. Going to a Phish concert is like entering a circus, but for me the music was always the most important part. At the end, though, I often felt lost during jams at shows. I constantly wondered, why did Phish let their live playing wander so far from the powerful centers of their songs?

When I heard the band was calling it quits, I went to one last show in Brooklyn, but my heart was not in it. I knew the band needed a break, and I was getting too old for that scene. It was sad, like a bad relationship you still did not want to end. At least we had the countless live shows circulating (with the band's consent, as long as they were distributed free) along with the band's number of studio albums.

With these last three shows at Hampton, however, Phish has returned far stronger than they ever

were before. The band mixed the shows overnight in mobile ministudios and then released them the next day for free downloading at their website, livephish.com. Yes, that's right. Free. I still can hardly

To sum up the experience of listening to these shows the next day for free, I can only say that it was wonderful, like Christmas in July. I had the luck of being at the "Hampton Comes Alive" shows in 1998, which were later released on CD by the band, where I saw the guy next to me throw the glowstick that Trey caught during the middle of the pause in "Divided Sky." But it would have been impossible for me to attend these new shows. Not only am I entrenched in my academic life here, but tickets were going for about \$1,000 secondhand.

They opened the first night with

"Fluffhead," one of their greatest songs, and they played straight through into the complex second part, "Fluff's Travels." This showed that Phish was back and meant business. Their playing over the three nights was solid, focused, and just pure vintage Phish, but better. Every jam was on point, and their set list design was pretty much flawless. Each Phish head has their own tastes, but to my mind, the first night was the best show I have

Altogether, I am glad Phish is back, and I applaud them for their exemplary playing at Hampton, Va. Trey has been through a lot of changes over the years, but he has come out of the fire a stronger performer than he was before, and as the band leader he has led them all into a new and better age of Phish.

Letter: Help Us Adopt a Platoon

For those of you who are interested in doing something for our brave men and women in the armed forces, we at The Enduring Freedom Alliance, better known as the publisher of The Patriot newspaper, have joined a soldier support group Adopt-A-Platoon, through which we write letters and cards to our brave troops overseas.

We also send care packages every once in a while, consisting of magazines, playing cards, soap, shampoo, candy, Chap Stick, and hand sanitizer. I mail a batch of letters every week.

If anyone is interested in writing letters to the troops you can e-mail them to us (sbpatriot@gmail.com), drop them off on the door of the Honors College Office on the third floor of the library, or come to our meetings Monday nights at 6:00 p.m. in SAC 308.

If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail sbpatriot@gmail.

Thank you, Derek Mordente

Redefining the GOP

continued from page 5

mumbling about \$5000 tax credits so that you could buy healthcare if you wanted to. Obama was preaching about how he'd guarantee every American access to universal healthcare. Simply said, the Republican ideal that everyone has the right to pursue happiness, but if you fail then too bad because we gave you a fair chance, has collapsed.

Not that this kind of declaration mandate doesn't have a future in American society, but after 8 years where many felt as if the rich got richer at their expense, this mindset needs an overhaul. It's possible that the libertarian wing heads stand the best chance at recapturing the white house in 2012, under the condition that they can come together within the Republican party and truly show how their economic principles of free market deregulation and state rights over federal mandates are better than that of Obama's policies.

This might all be moot however,

depending on how the next couple of years go. If Obama does get the economy functioning even semicompetently again, then there's little chance that he'll lose reelection. Republicans need to be patient and think ahead years down the road.

There should be hope, but then again the early republican debates last year hardly ever let the most libertarian and levelheaded of the candidates - Ron Paul - have his fair say on the issues without being booed by the crowd. Maybe after eight years of neocon, religious control, and another of lefty-liberalist, the republicans will be able to unite behind a more sensible option. It's hard to say as a lot can change within the next 4 years. The main question though is will the party fracture or remain intact? They still have some time to figure things out, but if they nominate someone like Palin or Romney for 2012, it's not going to be pretty. Let's hope they can redefine themselves before then for everyone's sake.

The Economics of Booze and Drugs

continued from page 5

have to focus on playing to their strengths -- supplying specialty items to the connoisseurs. While grocery stores tend to focus on the popular but cheap, smaller stores attract customers who want more choices and are willing to pay for obscure, but quality, names.

In the face of massive budget shortfalls, Paterson has no choice but to support this act. It's good the economy and the economic freedom of consumers and distributors

Speaking of freedom, the economic crises has another unintended effect on individual and economic freedom. And that's America's antiquated "War on Drugs." Most Americans detest drug use, but don't realize that keeping drug-related criminals in prison is very expensive.

Paterson's proposal to close down several upstate prisons will save about \$26 million for the state. Oh, but what will we do with all those dangerous drug

In reality, most of the inhabitants of New York's prisons in for drug-related crimes are nonviolent and first-time offenders. In addition, crime rates are falling around the country and people are beginning to think of drug use as less of an activity pursued by criminals and more as people with a medical problem.

Obama's recent announcement that raids on medical marijuana distributors will stop

and the question of legalizing marijuana use in California is being tentatively raised. While these things are being posed for economic considerations, its also an important gain for individual liberty.

Although I in no way advocate drug use, the social anachronism that alcohol and cigarettes are legal, while marijuana remains taboo, is inane. Drug laws, which forbid the ingestion of "controlled substances" into your own body in the privacy of your own home, is invasive and border-line unconstitutional. Individuals should have the choice to partake in an activity that doesn't infringe upon the basic rights of anyone else, without worrying about the moral code of the majority

The contrast between alcohol and marijuana is, perhaps, overplayed but apt. Alcohol is more addictive, more socially disruptive but socially acceptable than marijuana, but legal. Allowing the legalization, or at least the decriminalization, of drugs has important economic implications as well. While drug laws have never prevented drug users from using, they have helped the drug cartels monopolize and criminalize the drug trade. Despite common perception, the fact that marijuana is illegal has driven its distribution into the hands of violent gangsters and criminals, which puts its users in even more danger. Pot users are not generally dangerous or violent themselves, but laws that have driven drugs underground has exposed innocent people to violent conditions.

Legalizing drugs will keep them off the streets, where the rules of the free market don't apply. Street values for drugs are incredibly marked up, driving already addicted users further into poverty. Instead of reducing prices to compete for consumers, rival drug gangs help keep profits up violently. Meanwhile, the social stigmatism surrounding drug users prevent them from seeking much needed treatment -- even when the opportunities for treatment are freely available. In addition, because the drug trade has been driven underground, it has been the source of corruption in governments and, because its not openly traded, cannot be taxed.

Revisiting our most fundamental ideas about the nature of drugs, and our right to use -- or even abuse -- them is a positive move for our country. The economic implication of drug trade reveals something important about markets in general: markets produce growth when they are competitive. This is true whether we're talking about a monopoly created from a state law restricting where wine can be sold, or by laws which forbid a legitimate market from forming.

While, for some reason, the growth of alcohol markets is considered a good thing but the growth of marijuana markets is considered bad, the current economic crisis has given us something to think about -- the power of consumer choice and personal and economic freedom.

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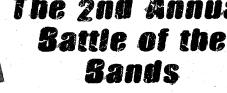
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Haunted by Comments, Even In Death

Continued from page 1

when repeating a sexual reference made about her 24-year old brother in the news commenting forum. "People shouldn't be allowed to do this."

The rise in number of lawsuits may compromise First Amendment rights for net users and bloggers. Anonymous user generated content is protected by the First Amendment under free speech. Due to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, no network is responsible for what is published under their site through the network users. However, victims of online defamation have sued news organization for libel and the release of names and IP addresses of those who have written defamatory statements.

There has been an increase in the number of lawsuits the media according to Lawrence G. Walters, a Media Law attorney.

"Usually we worry about censorship from the right, but there has been a particularly large increase in claimant primarily from the left," said Walters, former chair of the First Amendment Law Committee. "We are seeing a market increase in the percentage of claims in media organizations and especially websites that offer forums or blogs."

Koxville Media is currently involved in a lawsuit that will weigh the First Amendment rights of Anonymous posters, and the Sixth Amendment Right to a Fair Trial.

The Tennessee news media organization reported several stories about a current carjacking trial. The anonymous comments posted have tainted potential juis facing because of third part rors. Of the 105,108 comments on participation and blogging in-

content and anonymous posting, News Sentinel Websites this year, stead of publishing and personal bounder." 1,025 have been removed. The lawsuits will determine whether the IP addresses of the posters should be released and if the anonymous comments should be banned

The story of Ungerer's accident and the comments that follow will remain in Topix.com's search engine for years to come. Topix.com, the commenting forum used by Newsday.com, is an "easy to use publishing system with a built-inaudience to turn passive news into active dialogue," according to it's 'About Us' page.

Giving readers the option to post comments was not always the norm for news providers. According to Topix.com "Visitors wanted more: they wanted to tell us what they thought about the news."

Today, the website uses the 2.0 model of the web to emphasizes

websites. According to Compscore Topix.com reached top 25 newspaper websites in 2007 and shot to the top three, only 500 points away from beating USA. today for second place.

"Man Found Dead in Submerged Car off Kings Park," is the only information left online from Newsday's reports on Topix.com. The forum has 189 comments.

These types of comments are what David Denby, refers to as 'Snark comments." Denby, the author of the essay 'Snark,' explains the difference between defamation in the press, and defamation anonymously. If someone is defamed in a newspaper, that person can call a lawyer. According to Denby, this is because "The attack is direct and present even if the author was not serious." Denby of her red Honda Civic. "Robert

In the year that has passed since Ungerer's death, according to David Lopez, the Breaking News Editor of Newsday, the website developed more precaution in allowing the option to comment. Lopez said that when the option to comment is available, "it functions as a way to provide news tips." The freedom of Speech and the option to leave an anonymous comment "gets the reader involved," Lopez said.

Repots of Ungerer's death are inaccessible in the online archives, but the comments still remain. Stern will occasionally check Topix.com that is now comprised of over 500 comments about the death of her brother. Though she has not made her mark in the Internet realm, she posts her own anonymous comment on the back explains, "Anonymity protects the and Ryan, Brothers for Life."

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, March 23, 2009

Seawolves Sweep Le Moyne on Saturday

By Sarah Kazadi

The Stony Brook Seawolves baseball team defeated the Le Moyne College Dolphins twice Saturday afternoon, kick-starting a four-game series. In the first two home games of the season, the Seawolves used timely hits and solid base- running to maintain leads, then relied on their pitching to secure the victories. Senior left-hander Marc Brown (Lancaster, P.A.) and freshman right-hander Nick Tropeano (West Islip, N.Y.) recorded the wins, which improved the Seawolves' record to 4-7.

"These two wins were huge," said junior first-baseman Rob Dyer, "The season hasn't been going the way we liked it, and today was a great way to start a turnaround."

The first game was a 7-inning affair that started off slowly for the home team. The Seawolves gave up 4 hits in the first period, allowing the Dolphins to build an early 2-0 lead. But the home team quickly knotted the score in the

RBI's from seniors Keith Fier (Armonk, a 1-0 lead early in the 3rd inning. The N.Y.) and Brian Witkowski (Lindenhurst, N.Y.). The teams stayed even until the Dolphins scored in the 4th and 5th innings, extending their lead to

Senior right-hander Mike Errigo (Bayside, N.Y.) pitched 5 innings and recorded 2 strike-outs before being relieved by Marc Brown in the top of the 6th period.

But the road team would not score again. A two-run homer to left field from Senior Michael Tansey (Valley Stream, N.Y.) tied the score in the bottom of the 5th. A Keith Fier double to right field in the next inning brought Steven Mazzurco home and ignited a Seawolves scoring spurt. The home team recorded a total of four runs in the inning, stretching their lead to 8-4. That proved to be the final margin, as Brown notched the win by pitching 2 innings and improved his record to 1-1.

The second game started shortly afterwards. The first score came on a sacrifice fly ball that sent the Dolphins' bottom of the second, on a couple of Rich Brown home, giving the road team

Dolphins would score again in the 4th, extending their slim lead to 2-0.

The home team got a break when a walk advanced runners on base and allowed Junior DH Mike Stephan to walk home, slicing the deficit to 2-1. The road team did not score again, primarily due to a solid pitching performance from Tropeano. The right hander threw 7.0 innings, only allowing 2 scores and striking out 7, boosting his record to 2-0 with the win.

The score remained at a standstill up until the 7th inning, when the Seawolves' Brian Witkowski and Nick Thode (Huntington Station, N.Y.) scored on Dolphin errors and put the home team on top, 3-2. That was the final score, as Junior right-hander Jeremy Nowak came in to pitch 2,0 innings, striking out 3 and notching his first save of the season.

Today, we came together and played the way Stony Brook baseball plays," said Mike Errigo, "A team that doesn't give up and always plays hard."



Sports 'round the Brook

Softball Win's Stony Brook Invitational

By Gene Morris, and Amir Khan

In the first game of the Stony Brook invitational the softball team used strong pitching and a dose of power to beat Fairfield 7-2.

Reigning America East pitcher of the year, Alyssa Struzenberg struck out 14 over five innings to get the win, and Casey Jacobs was perfect over the final 2 to get the save.

Stony Brook pulled away in the bottom of the 6th after a 3 run home run by Marissa Fluery.

Stony Brook's Colleen Matthes and Casey Jacobs combined to pitch seven excellent innings in the win Saturday over Holy Cross, the second game of the invitational

The Seawolves jumped ahead early, scoring three runs in the second inning. Molly Kestranek doubled and scored on a groundout by Katelyn O'Donnel. Later on in the inning, Vicki Kavitsky knocked a two run homer, giving the Seawolves a 3-0 lead.

In the top of the 3rd, Matthes got into some trouble, allowing three runs to tie up the game. However the Seawolves struck back, scoring three more in the bottom of the third on a wild pitch, a homerun by Marissa Fleury, and a single by Kendall Blumenthal.

Matthes was replaced by Jacobs in the fourth after pitching to two batters. She gave up a home run and a single, but Jacobs was able to come in and limit the damage. Jacobs pitched the final four innings, allowing only one hit and no runs in picking up the save. The final score was 6-4.

In the third and final game of the invitational, Stony Brook defeateed Quinnipiac 5-1.

The Seawolves have won eight straight, and finished the tournament 3-0.



Alyssa Struzenberg

...Split on Sunday

By Sarah Kazadi

The Stony Brook Seawolves baseball team split a doubleheader with the Le Moyne College Dolphins Sunday afternoon, concluding their 4-game home series. The home team used a barrage of hits and stingy pitching to win the first game, but struggled to make up for a bad start in the second. Junior right-hander Matt Harloff (Valley Stream, N.Y.) recorded his first win, while sophomore right hander Evan Stecko-Haley (Coral Springs, Fl.) took the loss and dropped to 0-2. The Seawolves' record is now 5-8.

We played the way we're capable of playing this weekend," said Head Coach Matt Senk, "We're looking to be consistent and continue to play at a high

The first game started off at a fast pace, with the visiting Dolphins jumping out to an early 2-1 lead by the end of the 1st inning. But the home team's defense tightened up afterwards, not allowing another score until the top of the 7th inning.

Sophomore right-hander Joe Goglia (Branford, Conn.) made it difficult for the Dolphins to convert their hits into runs, limiting the road team to 2 runs during his 3.1 innings on the mound. Matt Harloff relieved Goglia early in the

3 in 3.2 innings of work.

In the meantime, the Seawolves built a comfortable lead. They scored three runs in the third period, including an impressive bunt from senior Keith Fier (Armonk, N.Y.) that led to a RBI. A sacrifice fly brought senior Michael Tansey (Valley Stream, N.Y.) home to score and extended the Seawolves lead to 5-2 in the bottom of the 5th inning. Then, the home team unleashed a flurry of hits in the bottom of the 6th, which led to three more runs and a comfortable 8-2 margin. During that stretch, freshman Pat Cantwell (West islip, N.Y.) stole both 3rd base and home plate, en route to scoring 1 of his 2 runs of the game. Despite a late rally from the Dolphins, who notched 3 hits and a run early in the 7th, the Seawolves maintained the lead and held on for the

The second game was a bit more challenging for the home team. The Dolphins jumped on Stecko-Haley early in the first inning, which ended with the Seawolves facing a gaping 7-0 deficit. The Dolphins ballooned the lead on an inside-the-park homerun from junior Rich Brown.

They earned their runs," said Coach Senk, "And, this inning, we just made too many mistakes defensively." Offensively, the Seawolves struggled to hit

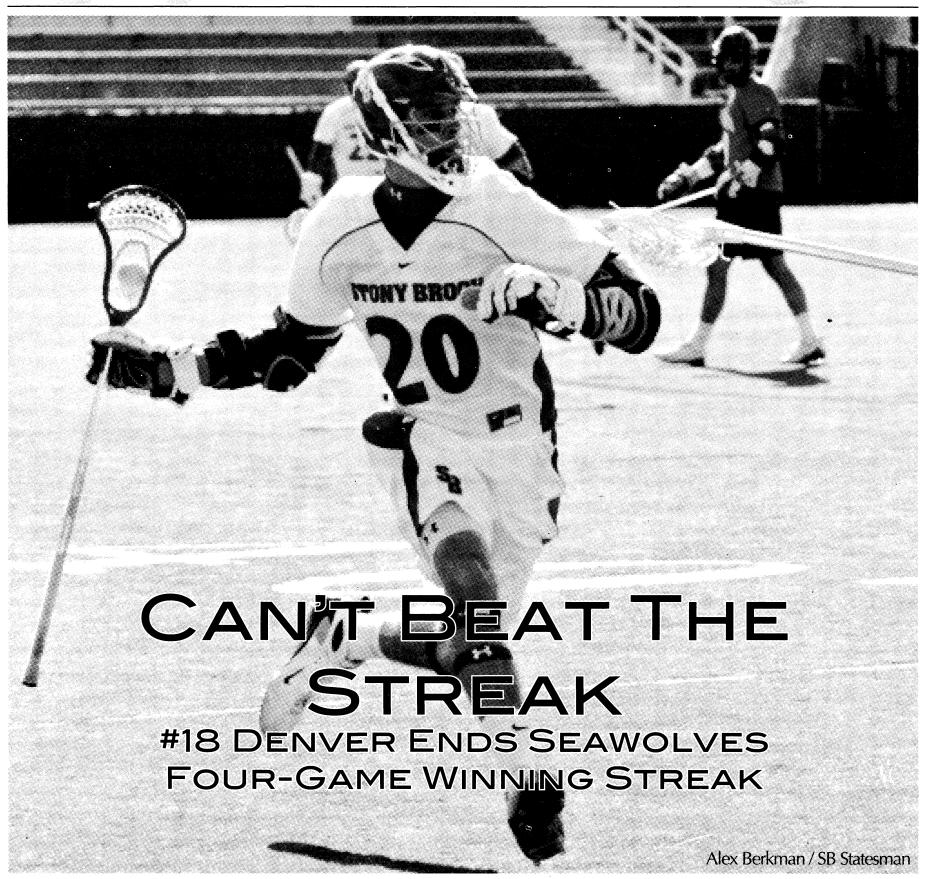
4th and sealed the victory by striking out right-hander Derek Zielinski's array of pitches. By the middle of the third inning, the score was 8-0 in favor of the visiting team.

> But the Seawolves would rally to close the gap. After scoring 2 runs in the third, the Seawolves added 5 runs in the fourth inning to almost eliminate the deficit. Senior Brian Witkowski's (Lindenhurst, N.Y.) grand slam was followed by a Chad Marshall (Paris, Ontario) solo homerun. shifting the momentum and drawing cheers from the nearly 275 fans in attendance. The lead was sliced to 8-7.

> But that would be as close as the Seawolves would get. Dolphin relief left-hander Tom McDermott checked in to pitch 5.0 innings, recording 4 strike-outs and allowing only 1 hit and no runs. Junior right-hander Jordan Purington (Westbrook, Maine) relieved Stecko-Haley in the top of the 6th, but the Dolphins still managed to add two more runs, stretching their slim lead to 10-7. That proved to be the final margin, and the Seawolves missed the chance to record their first series sweep of the season.

> The Seawolves will be in action again on Wednesday, facing off against the Fordham University Rams at 3:30pm in their fifth consecutive home game.

MSTATESMAN



By Keith Kobasiuk

Senior Writer

After winning four straight, the men's lacrosse team ran into #18 Denver.

The Seawolves had a 6-2 lead after the first quarter in another quick start. They would take a 7-6 lead into the half. Sophomore Jordan McBride tallied 3 goals and 2 assists in the half. He finished the game with 5 goals. Sophomore Adam Rand had an outstanding half on face-

McBride would lead off the second half with another goal. Stony Brook was up 9-6 half way through the third quarter before Denver began to overtake them. The Pioneers scored 5 straight to take an 11-9 lead to finish up the quarter.

Denver continued to find the back of the cage, scoring 6 more times in the fourth quarter. The Seawolves didn't come much closer, scoring three in the before you can play offense."

quarter for a 17-12 loss.

the day. The Seawolves were out shot 42-33, and turned the ball over 30 times, 19 in the first half. "I thought it would be a battle but man, that first half was quite a performance by Adam (Rand)" Sowell said to Inside Lacrosse. "We got good play from our wing guys too. But it does no good to win them and then turn it over

The Seawolves will begin American Rand finished 21-33 on face-offs for East play and host the 2009 Lacrosse for Autism event on Saturday when the host #6 UMBC. The Retrievers are 5-2 on the season, with key wins over Ohio State, Rutgers, Colgate, and Maryland.

Also on Saturday, #8 Duke will take on Dartmouth in a doubleheader at La-Valle Stadium. The Duke/Dartmouth game will begin at noon, while the Stony Brook/UMBC game starts at 2:30.