

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT: 5

Comic Strip: Anyone's Game

SPORTS : 11

Statesman Picks! NBA Teams-
who did best before deadlines

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT: 7

Staller Style: Love alla Italiano

SPORTS : 12

Seawolves Baseball Eyeing
Run at Championship

NEWS

Former Math Chairman Donates \$60M to Stony Brook University

Dr. James H. Simons, a former math professor at Stony Brook University, has been working with numbers all his life. Now, he is giving the University a new number to deal with- \$60 million. This is the largest donation given to any public school in New York, exceeding Charles B. Wang's donation to the school of over \$40 million.

>>PAGE 1

Campus Voices: Reactions to Mon- day's Security Incident

>>PAGE 3

Timeline of Events on Monday: From reported crime to SB Alerts sent out to the campus

>>PAGE 2

Intial Reports of Gunman Are Inac- curate

After a two-hour search by police, an "all clear" message was sent to students through the SB Alert system.

>>PAGE 1

Opinion

Letter to President Kenny Re: The Gunman Incident

>>PAGE 9

Former Math Chair Donates \$60M to SBU

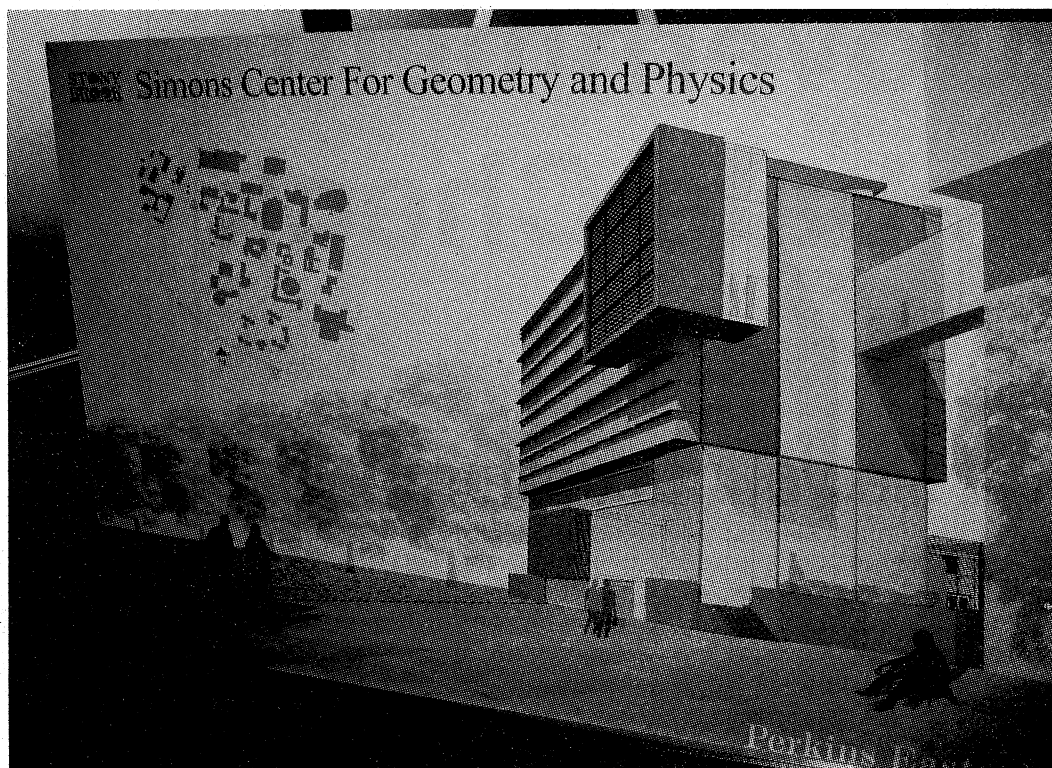
By SANHITA REDDY
Staff Writer

Dr. James H. Simons, a former math professor at Stony Brook University, has been working with numbers all his life. Now, he is giving the University a new number to deal with- \$60 million. This is the largest donation given to any public school in New York, exceeding Charles B. Wang's donation to the school of over \$40 million.

On Wednesday morning, New York State Governor Eliot Spitzer, accompanied by President Kenny, welcomed the gift to the university from Dr. Simons and his wife, Dr. Marilyn Simons.

The money will go towards creating the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics, which will be located behind the Physics and Math buildings. It will be used to recruit professors and fund graduate and research programs.

"Jim Simons is a man who knows a good investment when he sees one, and through this generosity he acknowledges the great potential of SUNY Stony Brook," Gov. Spitzer said of the university and its position as a flagship



Sanhita Reddy/ SB Statesman

Stony Brook Simons Center

school for the SUNY system.

As he addressed the media, distinguished faculty and a select group of Stony Brook students who attended the press conference Wed. morning, Gov. Spitzer said, "This is a stunning gift...and I am tempted to say it will spark a renaissance at Stony

Brook...it has reminded me that on one level I wish I had studied my geometry a bit more."

Dr. Simons, who is President and Founder of Renaissance Technologies Corp., worked as chairman of the Mathematics Department at Stony Brook from 1968 to 1976. Under his su-

pervision, the department grew to become the influential and prestigious department it is today, according to a press release.

During his time at Stony Brook, Dr. Simons' research involved geometry, and his assistance in the discovery of the Chern-Simons formula is used



Sanhita Reddy/ SB Statesman

Intial Reports of Gunman Inaccurate

By LYNN HSIEH
Editor-in-Chief

Reports of a gunman on the loose left some students and staff confused and shaken Monday afternoon. University officials sent out a series of text messages and phone calls to students alerting them of the potential danger.

After a two-hour search by police, an "all clear" message was sent to students through the SB Alert system.

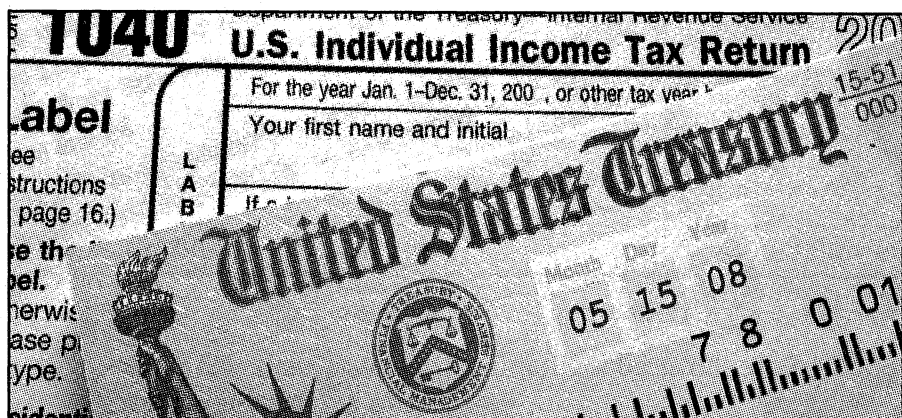
The suspect has not been found and a current inves-

tigation is still in progress.

A Faculty Student Association (FSA) employee in the Student Activities Center cafeteria approached the individual, who police describe as a 5' 9" male between 25 and 28 years of age with a tattoo on his right hand, after it was determined that he was trying to steal food.

President Shirley Strum Kenny told reporters in a press conference "at that point, the perpetrator showed what ap-

Continued on page 5



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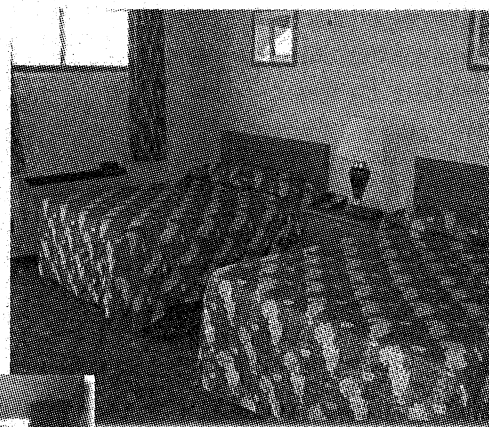
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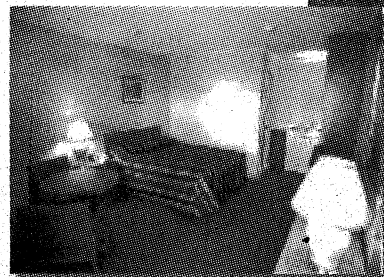
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Campus Voices

Reactions to Monday's Security Incident

COMPILED BY APRIL WARREN
Staff Writer

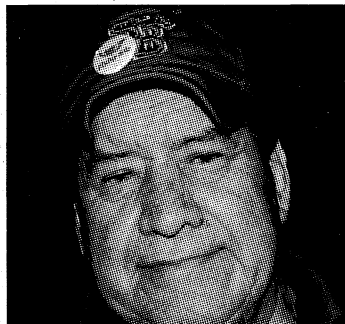
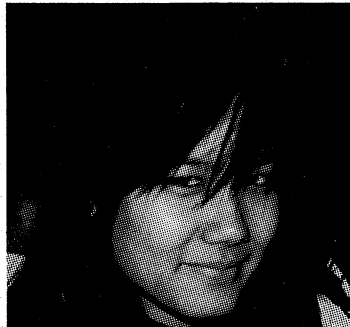


Wingsie Wong
(Student)

"I was in class and staff came in and told us we were in lockdown but they didn't tell us anything else. I found out from [other] people around. They should have made things more clear."

"I was in the library. Everyone started to freak out in class so I called a friend and I was really scared. But I had to go to my next class because I had a paper due."

Arlene Yu
(Student)



Andrew
(Staff)

"[There was] no scare in [the Union]. The inside was safe."

"I am glad it was not an actual emergency. The media students did a good job covering [the incident]. In the Union, everything went well. Some things could have been handled better."

Isobel Breheny-Schafer
(Media Advisor)



Initial Reports of Gunman Inaccurate

Continued from pg 1

peared to be a gun," Kenny said. However, in the latest update from President Kenny, "the initial report given to our University Police by an individual working in the SAC Dining Hall was not accurate [and] after a thorough investigation by our University Police and the Suffolk County Police, a number of inconsistencies were found in this report."

Eyewitnesses reported seeing the suspect fleeing the Student Activities Center (SAC) and run towards the back of Harriman Hall between the Old Chemistry and Chemistry buildings at around 1:30 pm.

Mario S., an exchange student, witnessed the event. He and his friends described the suspect as a black male dressed all in black with a long coat and dark boots with a red-green pizza box in his hands.

The security personnel chasing the man yelled, "Stop. I won't touch you," Mario S. said.

Assistant Chief of Police Douglas Little said the security guard, who works as a "greeter" for the Faculty Student Association, "backed off and called police."

Police arrived minutes later.



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Timeline of Events

February 25, 2008

1:33 pm - A report of a gunman on campus is reported to university police.

1:37 pm - University police arrive on scene.

1:58 pm - About the time the first text message (11,000) sent to students, faculty, and staff, informing them of the situation. (Messages are distributed on a rolling basis. E-mails and voice mail on cell phones are distributed as well.)

2:51 pm - Stony Brook updates its website with details about the incident.

3:55 pm - Web site is updated, giving the "all clear" after police determine there is no longer an immediate threat.

6:35 pm - University updates the website for a third time. Promises to keep students updated with the ongoing investigation.

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Information Revolution

The Music Industry in a Digital Age



COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

By ZACHARY KURTZ
Staff Writer

Reviews of 2007 sales show that through iTunes, Apple, Inc. is now the number two music retailer in the country, beating out Best Buy and Target, but still lagging behind Wal-Mart. In 2007, ten percent of legally obtained music was downloaded, a 6% jump from 2006. Meanwhile, the average American spends \$4 less per year on music and approximately 1,000,000 Americans stopped purchasing CDs.

These statistics speak volumes about the way the music industry is changing. Apple, originally a computer and software company, found a niche in the market for portable music devices, in the way other companies were developing slimmer cell phones and digital cameras at the beginning of the century. Apple was able to successfully advertise the iPod and its accompanying software, iTunes, and still largely com-

mands the market on portable music devices.

However, portable music players are nothing new, so why is the iPod revolutionizing the music industry? What separates the iPod from the Sony Discman, and the Walkman before it, is that the iPod is completely dependant on computers in order to function.

The rise of the iPod has coincided perfectly with the rise of the Internet. People are getting used to transmitting information and communicating through the internet, so transmitting music is the next logical step. Transmitted digital music is cheaper, more efficient and less wasteful than CDs.

Through iTunes, Apple has 50 million customers and has sold four billion songs -- and that is just music obtained legally through one music-purchasing program.

Leaders of the digital music industry and major record label

execs gathered at the Digital Music Forum East, held in New York City on Feb. 26 and 27. They discussed the state of the music industry, such as falling CD purchases, and how to stop illegal music downloads. The overall theme of the event was to discuss how new digital and old physical media companies can coexist.

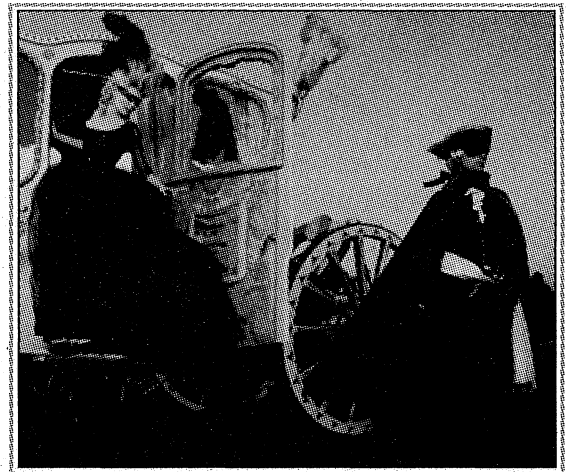
Most old media companies have held a lock on the music industry since the days of vinyl LPs. The newcomers are mostly web-based and offer cheaper alternatives to consumers. Artists prefer the new digital music market because it allows them to access to fans more easily. According to David Del Beccaro, founder and president of Music Choice, can collect 85 percent on products sold through digital music platforms after costs, while 40 percent is collected by artists from traditional media sales.

Independent artists are

Continued on page 7

Style Note

Fashion in Film



COURTESY OF STYLE.COM

By SANHITA REDDY
Staff Writer

On Saturday, in the midst of the Garment District, a crowd of young, old, and fashionable (or lack thereof) assembled at Stony Brook Manhattan to hear a variety of speakers talk about fashion in film.

The symposium turned out to be quite the event -- practically every seat was taken, and the trays of sushi and skewered chicken that were served for lunch were gone in the blink of an eye. But beyond the talks and the implications they held, it was hard not to leave from the event with a sense of astonishment to the impact fashion in film.

Before you go out and rent "Streetcar Named Desire" or pull out the ever-classic "American Gigolo," it might be worth your while to think about the styles that came out of the movies, and how they have held on through the years. Armani suits became a cult favorite after "Gigolo" and runways immediately following the movie captured the dynamic change in the viewpoint of menswear. But lesser known is the lasting effect of style from "Desire."

Though one may not realize it, the t-shirt phenomenon was probably started by Brando himself. The famous scenes where his shirt effortlessly tucked into his pants, the creases of the shirt worn in under the sleeves (the designer hand-creased it), and the cut of the sleeves showing off his strong biceps, were the start of a lasting trend, a fashion cult that has yet to stop. We are constantly of the hunt for the perfect tee, and now we know why.

In addition to the realization of the styles that have spurned from the silver screen, the symposium, which was cre-

ated by E. Ann Kaplan, founder of the Humanities Institute at Stony Brook, drew attention to the symbiotic relationship of designers and film.

Designers turn to films for inspiration -- "Marie Antoinette" being the perfect example, and also the subject of a lecture from the event. Immediately following the production of the film, designers took note, producing perfume ads, like Viktor and Rolf's Flower Bomb, to clothing ads like Juicy Couture, to perhaps the most beautiful editorials that Vogue has ever produced -- Kirsten Dunst at the Palace of Versailles, wearing outfits inspired by and made for the film.

But don't be fooled. The magic of Hollywood depends on fashion as much as fashion depends on it. Many famous designers get their start as designers for films. In addition to Armani and his suits for Richard Gere, very few people had heard of Manolo Blahnik until "Sex and the City" put him on the screen. Now Manolo is on a first name basis with a huge part of the developed world.

Films depend on clothing to show what dialogue cannot -- fashion is the perfect medium to do by, and judging by the relationship they have with each other, it's hard to see how one could succeed without the other.

So while we may not run around in haute couture gowns and where poufs that symbolize our current state of affairs (a voting poll miniaturized on your head, anyone?), fashion and film have both gained from each other, and thus have influenced us. Don't believe it? Then try explaining why we still think Armani makes the best suits, Manolo's are a girl's favorite shoe, and why we are still on the hunt for that perfect t-shirt.

The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, February 28, 2008

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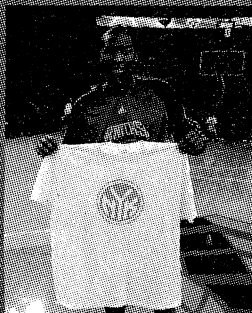
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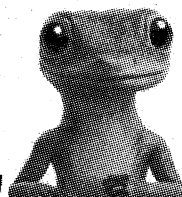
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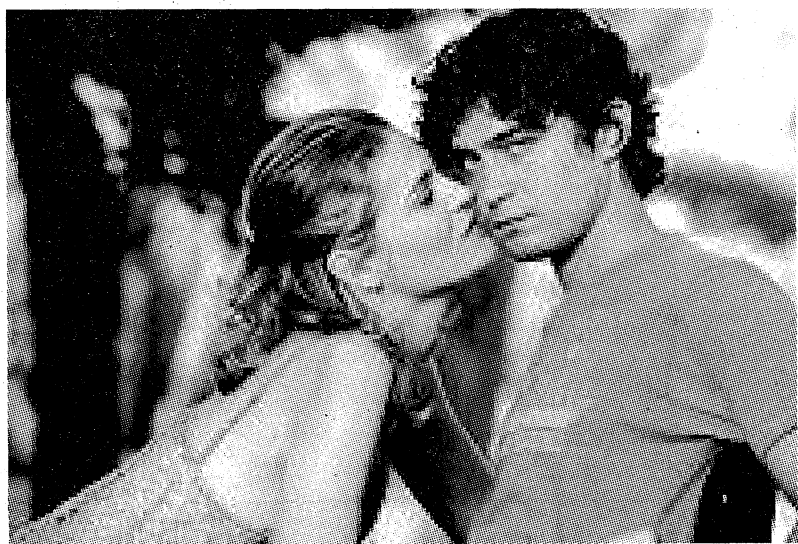
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STALLER STYLE

Love alla Italiano



COURTESY OF STALLER.SUNYSB.EDU

By ULA LUKSZO
Staff Writer

It is hard to judge a sequel when you haven't seen the much-lauded original. Such is the case with "Manual of Love 2," the continuation of the 2005 Italian hit, "Manual of Love," which won critical acclaim at film festivals and 11 Italian Oscars.

Like the original, the continuation that aired this past weekend at the Staller Center was comprised of four disparate stories on various themes related to love: eros, motherhood, matrimony and "extreme" love.

The stories are sweet, cheesy, and at times painfully embarrassing in their attempts to be light-hearted on themes that are anything but. The film encompasses stories such as an infertile couple's attempt at in vitro fertilization, a gay couple's rejection by one man's father, and a young man recovering from a debilitating car crash. Given the film's surface treatment of most of these stories, there is no doubt in our minds that the young man from the car crash will walk again or that the infertile couple will have

their desired child even before the movie shows us that this is so.

The film succeeds in the moments when it aims for sheer comedy, such as in the last story about a working-class, middle-aged man who has a passionate love affair with a lithe, twenty-something young woman from Spain. At the same time, however, his "lessons about love" that he phones in to a radio show that connects all the characters in one way or another are all about love for and sacredness of the family. Mussolini would be proud.

The actors should be commended for doing their best with a script that could have been lifted out of practically any sitcom. For many, undoubtedly seeing the eternally beautiful Monica Bellucci, a modern legend of the Italian cinema, will be enough to make the film worth watching.

A look at the directing and writing credits of Giovanni Veronesi, the film's director, is revealing. "For Love, Only Love," "Viola Kisses Everybody" and "Suddenly Paradise" all attest to

the writer/director's desire to deal in fantastic love stories that leave everyone feeling gooey and mushy inside at the end, not unlike "Manual of Love 2."

On the other hand, it is hard to characterize "Manual of Love 2" as completely uplifting or mushy. Though the young man at the center of the "eros" story walks again after his car crash, his roommate in the hospital doesn't. Though the infertile couple succeeds in getting pregnant, we are first subjected to all the trials they go through in hormone therapy first. And though the gay couple end up getting married in Spain, where it is legal, they do not reconcile with the estranged father.

It is difficult, therefore, to understand exactly what Veronesi wants to say by this strange mixture of harsh reality, slapstick comedy, and campy love stories. On the other hand, the film isn't nearly good enough to warrant taking the time to ponder. Either "Manual of Love" the original is a much better film, or the Italian populace is simply starved for romance.

Information Revolution:

The Music Industry in a Digital Age

Continued from page 5

using the Internet through sites like MySpace and YouTube to reach large, international audiences. Offering digital music to web users increases exposure and decentralizes the music industry from corporate controlled to the consumer.

However, with the digitization of music comes piracy and illegal downloads. Peer-to-peer, or P2P, software allows users to share files, often music and videos, directly. Programs such as BitTorrent allow users to share music more easily distributing the costs of hosting and bandwidth, by splitting up files letting many users "time-share" resources. With this comes the ensuing controversy of copyright violation.

The Recording Industry Association of America is a trade group that represents old media corporate record labels and distributors. The RIAA is the toughest opponent to illegal file sharing, which it has claimed costs it \$4.2 billion annually. As of July, 2006 the association filed about 20,000 lawsuits against American filesharers. In 1999 it bankrupted popular P2P provider Napster for allowing users to distribute copyrighted material.

The association is often at odds with civil liberties and pro-internet freedom groups for the way they conduct lawsuits. Typically, the RIAA seeks \$750 per song illegally downloaded, roughly 1000 times the actual cost of a legally downloaded song. The RIAA has also been known to file lawsuits against the deceased and children as young as 12.

Opponents of the association often point out that an illegally downloaded song does not necessarily correspond to a loss of a sale, for it assumes that all illegally downloaded music would have been obtained legally if it wasn't for the availability of illegal methods. In actuality, many people who download music illegally would simply choose not to purchase music if it was not obtainable for free. Therefore, actual losses due to illegal downloading cannot be appropriately determined.

In fact, artists can benefit from this type of music transfer, because it can increase their exposure to

larger audiences. Bands who offer free music often make up for their losses by asking for donations or by selling more music later, to a bigger fan base.

Rapidly developing technology will only cause the price of music to keep dropping, and remove control of the industry from the hands of old media corporate entities. It is allowing artists to collect revenue and to communicate with their audiences. The globalization of the Internet is creating new digital markets overseas, giving rise to a wider variety of content.

While companies are seeking new ways to profit from these markets, they are learning how to integrate new technology and new distribution techniques and older business models. This has caused the music industry to become more Internet- and computer-oriented, giving even more control to consumers.

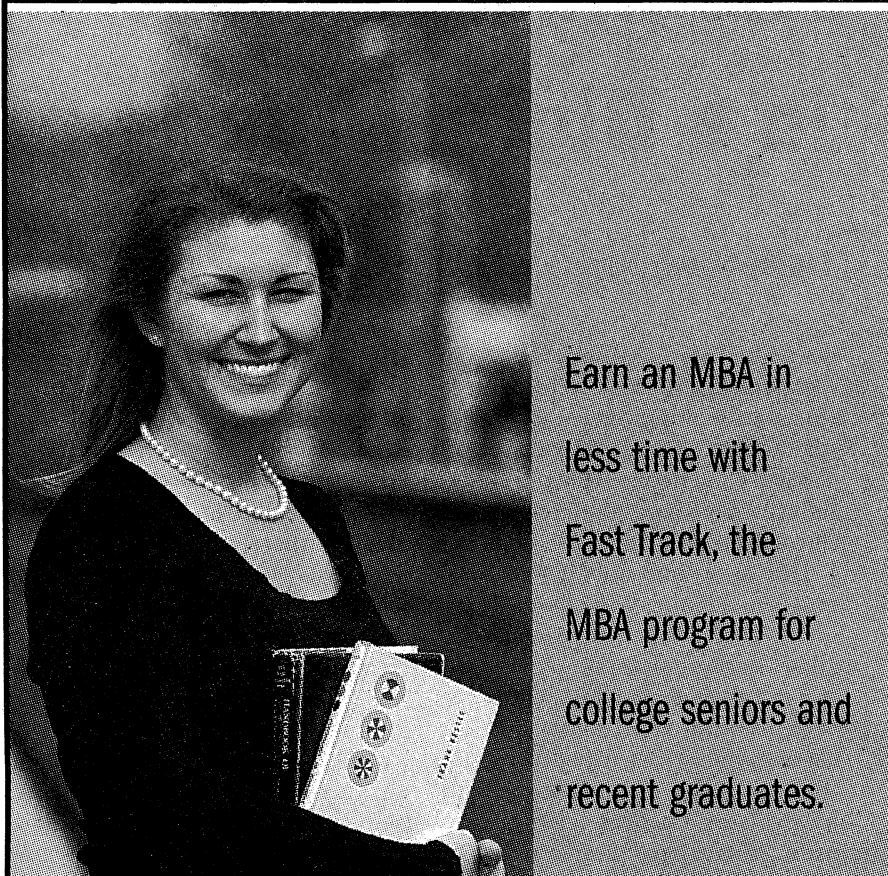
The world is coming upon a new horizon in the music industry. A computer company becoming a leading retailer in music tells us that not only are we changing the way music is transmitted, we are changing the way we think about art in general. Since music can now be digitized and sent as information packets across a cable or through space, we treat it as another form of information. We are used to paying for art, but information is a collaborative effort in our society, from libraries to Wikipedia.

People love to share information, especially when the cost of transmission is cheap. Musical information, and the way it is transmitted, can reveal a lot about our society. Decisions about royalties and ownership versus the cheap cost of transmission will be all important in the coming years, especially as newly elected policy-makers take office. These decisions will decide whether we want to be a society that allows the cheap access to information, based on its demand, or whether we will restrict access to information for the benefit of corporate profits.

In the past, information has always been supplied based on the route of consumer demand. I strongly suspect it will do so now, and old media corporations will have to adapt or perish.

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—KRISTEN BORKOSKI

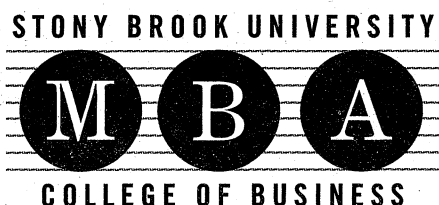


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the stony brook Statesman

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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.

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Letter to President Kenny

Re: The Gunman Incident Monday

Dear Dr. Kenny,

I hope this e-mail finds you doing well. My name is Andrew Bruskin, and we are on the University Senate together. I would like to give you my analysis of the situation that occurred on Monday, Feb. 25, and what the university can do to improve their efficiency and performance in case there is a "next time."

The events that happened on Feb. 25 startled everyone and served as a reminder that a potential campus shooting can happen very, very close to home. While messages were sent out in a timely manner to the majority of students on campus, there were some parts of the day that I would like to bring up and critique.

The main problem that needs to be addressed is the efficiency of Stony Brook University to take preventive measures in case the unthinkable happens: an armed suspect starts shooting people on campus. Since the suspect was still at large after the attempted robbery at the Student Activity Center, the university should have immediately ordered a lockdown of the entire campus, post a bulletin on the website and canceled classes until we heard from campus police that it was safe to resume with normal business.

While this would be a detriment to educational learning, safety and security is obviously of paramount importance. These preventive measures are extremely important, given the latest string of school shootings on college campuses. Our motto should be this: better to be safe rather than sorry.

Right after the administration receives word of an armed suspect on campus, the university needs to immediately communicate with all departments to ensure everyone is safe, secure and is in lockdown mode. These first few minutes are vital. Every minute that goes by is another opportunity for the gunman to potentially harm a student on campus. While people may claim this is over exaggerating, nothing can be further from the truth

when it comes to people's security.

Unfortunately, these safety measures did not happen on Feb. 25. The bulletin on the website came too late and the cell phone texts were only a half-security measure. If the gunman came back onto campus with the intent to kill, he could have easily shot students who were outside and still scattered across campus.

Besides ordering an immediate lockdown on campus when there is word of an armed gunman, there also needs to be communication with the media. News 12 was covering this incident and they never received any word of what Stony Brook University was planning to do.

When I phoned other administrative offices on campus, they also did not know exactly what to do. Should we cancel class or not cancel class? Should we order a lockdown or not? All of these key decisions were on a department by department, faculty by faculty and professor by professor basis. It was also at the student's discretion if they should stay in their rooms or attend class. This created confusion among students on campus. This is the main reason why these decisions need to explicitly come from the president's office and the provost's office. Once the campus is aware that there is a lockdown, the local media should be informed, since there are students and residents of the surrounding community listening in as well.

This day should serve as a tremendous wake up call for the campus. Luckily, we dodged a major bullet and the situation could have been much, much worse. I sincerely hope the administration take these precautions into consideration for the future and learns from these mistakes.

Thank you for reading my analysis of the situation. I am sure there will be much discussion of this event in the next few weeks, and I will gladly discuss this matter with you when you are free.

Sincerely,
Andrew Bruskin

Former Math Chairman Donates \$60M to Stony Brook

Continued from pg 1

in physics to this day. Dr. Simons also worked closely with Dr. Chen Ning Yang, the first Chinese man, and Stony Brook professor, to win the Nobel Prize in Physics. It is no surprise, then, that the new center is trying to emphasize research in the relationship between math and physics. "This center will make an amazing difference in terms of our understanding of this very interesting nexus between geometry and physics," President Kenny said to the audience.

The Simons family and their foundation have already donated over \$85 million to Stony Brook University. The Simons Foundation is an organization focused on funding "advanced work in the basic sciences and

mathematics," concentrating on autism research, the foundation's web site said.

With the 50th anniversary in full swing, and Gov. Spitzer's announcement of a \$4 billion endowment to the SUNY system, Stony Brook University is closer to meeting the \$300 million goal of its current capital campaign, "The Emergence of Stony Brook." So far, the University has raised \$260 million.

Dr. Marilyn Simons, who holds a B.A. and Ph.D. in Economics from Stony Brook, said through tearful eyes, "Going to Stony Brook changed my life in so many ways. I met my wonderful husband, and I got a wonderful education that opened the world to me. I'm so pleased to give back to the university that has given me so much."

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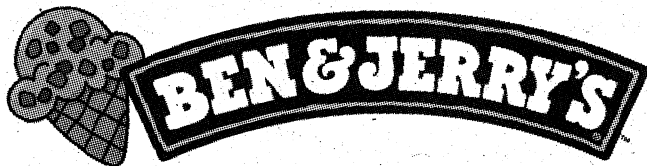
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Statesman Picks: NBA Teams Who Did Best Before Deadline

Continued from pg. 20

Adrian Carrasquillo, Asst. Sports Editor: CAVALIERS

Who won the trade deadline you ask? I'll answer that with a question. Who is the best player in the league? It's LeBron. So making the trade for Ben Wallace, Wally Szczerbiak, Joe Smith and Delonte West wasn't the biggest deal because of the seminal talents they received but because it was a show of good faith for LeBron. Cavs management showed that they were actively trying to make the team better and this doubled as a pat on the rear to LeBron that says "Become absolutely unstoppable in the playoffs."

This might seem like a bit of an exaggeration but look at a situation last year in a different sport. The Minnesota Twins were doing a pretty bad job at being a mediocre baseball team but you didn't hear a peep from their star pitcher Johan Santana. Then they traded their second baseman Luis Castillo and all hell broke loose. All of a sudden the reserved Santana was expressing his displeasure with the team. It's not that Castillo was any type of star, but to Santana it was akin to waving a white flag.

Basically the trading deadline for the Cavs was like this, but the exact opposite. The players they got are good pieces. Big Ben can still be a rebounding presence, Szczerbiak can shoot, Smith can replace a lot of Drew Gooden's numbers, and West can handle the rock, but make no mistake the best player the Cavaliers received in this deal is new and improved LeBron James. The league can now begin quaking in their boots.

Matt Ehresman, Staff Writer: MAVERICKS

The Dallas Mavericks have improved their team by leaps and bounds with the acquisition of Jason Kidd. While the Mavericks have been competitive with the group they've had for the past few years, Kidd should take them to the next level. Dirk Nowitzki no longer has to carry and lead this team by himself. Kidd is not the player he was five years ago, but he is still a top five point guard. While Devin Harris is a good young player, he is not the type of point guard who will win you an NBA championship. Kidd will bring poise and leadership that Harris doesn't yet possess in his young NBA career.

Kidd has never been known as a great shooter, but his ability to penetrate should open things up from the perimeter for Nowitzki, Jason Terry, and others. Kidd got to the NBA finals twice with teams that had far less talent than the Mavericks have now. His perimeter defense and rebounding are skills that many guards in the NBA don't have, along with his ability to run the court. For an offensively

based team such as the Mavs, Jason Kidd is the perfect fit. With no true distributor of the basketball this team has won 60 games two seasons in a row.

Getting out of New Jersey will most definitely rejuvenate Kidd. After playing in front of 6,000 snoozing fans in the Meadowlands, getting a chance to play in the heated playoff atmosphere of the Western Conference should inspire Kidd for possibly his last run at the NBA title. The addition of Jason Kidd makes the Dallas Mavericks a serious contender.

Brian Morgan, Senior Writer: NETS

When looking back at all of the trades, the clear cut winner is the New Jersey Nets. Although they won't win the NBA championship this season, they took a big step forward in improving their future. They added a young point guard in Devin Harris before the deadline, who will be fairly cheap for the next four seasons if he plays to his potential. Combined with Richard Jefferson, Sean Williams, Marcus Williams, and Josh Boone, Harris will be a part of a team that has a lot of talent, and potential. Besides the young talent, Vince Carter will also be around for the next four seasons. Yet, I haven't even mentioned the real reason why I feel the Nets were the winners. Besides picking up a premier point guard, they also received Keith Van Horn, DaSagana Diop, Trenton Hassel, and Maurice Ager.

Combined, those four players equal approximately 12 million dollars in expiring contracts, which means they will have money to spend in the future. Two words, LeBron James. Unlike the Cavs or Knicks, the Nets will be one of the few teams that will have real talent already on their team, and money to spend when he's a free agent. With the Net's plan to move to Brooklyn in a few years, LeBron's New York dreams don't have to be fulfilled by the Knicks anymore. Another fact is, they weren't going to win the championship with Jason Kidd anyway, so trading him while he still has a lot of worth was the best decision. They greatly improved their future outlook. In a couple years this deal will really show its colors, and teams like the Lakers, Mavericks, and Suns will be crippled by their "win now" trades.

Carl Carrie, Contributing Writer: LAKERS

When Andrew Bynum comes back from his injury, the Lakers will have the most dominant starting five in the NBA. On any given night, Kobe, Paul Gasol, Lamar Odom, Bynum and even Derek Fisher can drop 20. Also by making this trade, they also strengthen their bench by moving Luke Walton and Rony Turiaf to their proper roles. The Lakers have to be the favorites now to win the Western Conference.

Fantasy Baseball Prose-ings

By ADRIAN CARRASQUILLO
Asst. Sports Editor

In the last fantasy baseball article I looked at how the addiction comes around slowly for many people, including myself. You dust off your favorite websites or buy your glossy new mag and dive in to a similar but ever-changing world. You lolly-gag and drag your feet with an, "If there's still snow outside then there's no use getting all excited" attitude. "Spring is coming, but it's not here yet," you think.

And that's all well and good. But if you actually want to win some leagues that mindset better wear off quicker than you can say, "pitchers and catchers report." I took a look at my casual keeper league last time so now it's time for my yearly redraft league, not so cleverly titled "Winners Winners League." It's fantasy baseball, not an exercise in creativity.

One of the keys to fantasy baseball is getting information from varied sources. If you read the same tried and true analysis and prognostications you might strike it rich one season but perform miserably another time. So for a while I used the Yahoo! Fantasy baseball message boards to see what other people were saying and more importantly, thinking. It helps to know what the general idea on players is. Two years ago I was on the board looking for a league to join when I saw that someone was advertising a competitive winner's league. The way the individual made it seem, prospective candidates were going to be put through the ringer and challenged to prove that they could cut it in this league. On top of that we were going to need a strong Yahoo rating to prove that we consistently perform well.

Now, all existing and implied nerdiness aside, that was an exciting challenge. I sent an e-mail that told the story of my usual fantasy baseball dominance and after a couple back and forth emails I was in. My rating wasn't particularly outstanding because I joined a couple leagues just to draft my team and never paid attention, but this was because I wanted practice for my important leagues.

The league was and is the most competitive one I have ever been in. The teams are routinely clustered together and any bad move or unfortunate injury can send your team plummeting in the standings. The guy that came in second in the first season, lost by half a point and the next season he drafted three under-performing stars. He spent most of the season in last place

because of it.

Two seasons have run their course and each time I've been shocked by how quick the guys are to the waiver wire. There have been times when I think I've heard "exclusive" news about an injury that opened up playing time for a guy and when I check he was picked up at 6:00 AM.

Long story short, I spent most of the first season in fourth only to falter in September (the six month commitment kills me with school and fantasy football starting) and finish eighth. Last season I read more and improved my tactics but the rest of the league improved with me. I spent a large portion of the season in fifth and then Gary Sheffield got hurt. And my pitching, which I believed to be middle of the pack proved to be a mirage. And I traded Jimmy Rollins for Troy Tulowitzki, J.J. Putz and Matt Garza but that didn't get my struggling staff going. A late season swoon seemingly dropped me one place in the standings a week and by the end I was disheartened. I finished the season in 10th and my team was called Nightmare when it was all said and done.

Regardless of the fact that "I said long story short" and then produced the longest paragraph of the piece, the important thing to take away is that each league is different. When you're dealing with very good managers year in and year out, you start to notice trends. The impetus is on you to take advantage of what you learn. I learned that saves and steals are like an open fire hydrant to someone dying of thirst in this league. Exaggerated analogy you say? Spot on analogy I say. These people are maniacs. It's scary.

I had to trade away the MVP of the national league in Rollins because my patchwork group of relievers faltered big-time. There are many more reasons but I don't know if they will give me the whole sports section this issue, so I have to cut it short somewhere. In the end, adding J.J. Putz but losing J-Roll's steals was like running in place.

So I'm building up to the "know how" I need to be successful in this league. I started with my easy keeper league and I have another keeper league along with the first inaugural Statesman Fantasy Challenge, which should be tougher. They will all get me up to speed for my battle with the big boys. Wish me luck. Oh and if you haven't started getting ready for your leagues... you're in trouble.

Contact Adrian at adriancarrasquillo@gmail.com to sign up.

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STATESMAN Sports

Track Takes on America East

BY MIKE FODERA
Senior Writer

The Stony Brook Seawolves' men's and women's track and field teams recently took part in the America East Championships. The women's team finished a very respectable fourth out of nine conference teams, and the men took the sixth spot out of nine teams.

The women's team had three second-place finishes on Saturday. Freshman Lucy Van Dalen from Wanganui, New Zealand, placed second in the mile with a time of 4:46.73 and sophomore Laura Huet of Carrickmines, Ireland, did the same with a time of 9:46.48 in the 3,000-meter.

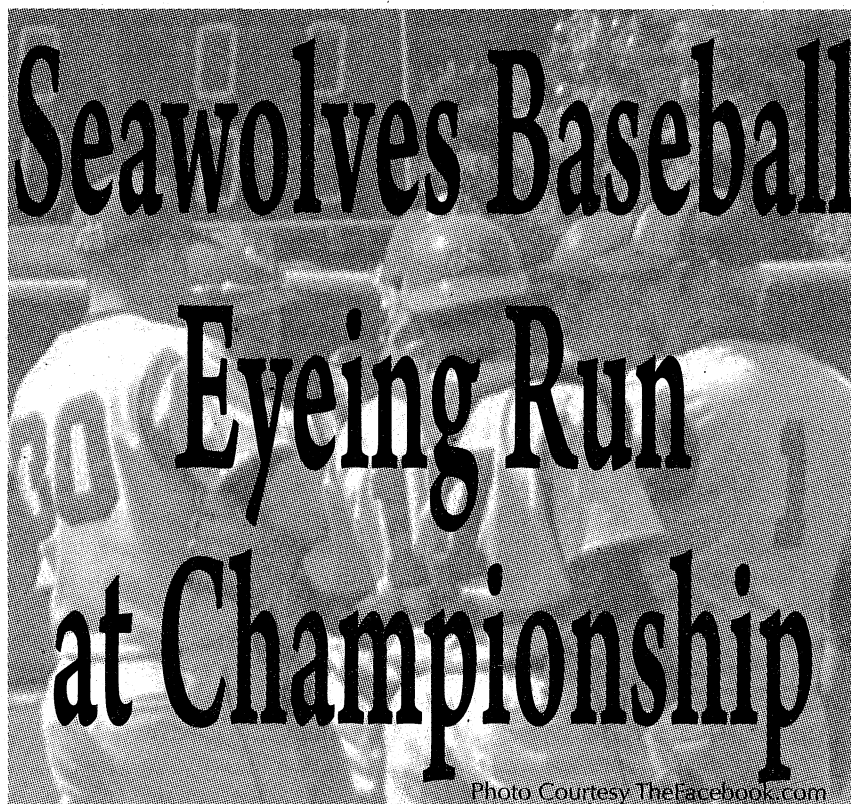
Rounding out the second place finishers was the 4x800-relay team, which consists of Van Dalen, sophomore Lisa Voltaire, freshman Jessica Hampson and freshman Holly Van Dalen. With a time of 9:09.12, the team just missed a first place finish behind the Boston University Terriers, who finished two seconds ahead.

The 3,000-meter proved successful as Stony Brook had three other women place in the top ten along with Huet. Senior Dana Hastie finished fourth with a time of 9:52.52. Freshman Ruth Gillespie finished five seconds later in fifth with a time of 9:57.60 and senior Kerry Salzano placed seventh with a time of 10:01.02. For the women, Holly Van Dalen crossed third in the mile with a time of 4:51.67, just a few seconds after her twin sister. Lisa Voltaire placed fourth in the 1000-meter (2:55.66) and freshman Carolina Cortes finished with a time of 2:57.24, finishing in seventh place.

The men's team was led by sophomore Tim Hodge who won the 3,000-meter with a time of 8:13.62, just missing a new school record. Senior Melvin Genao finished second in the 500-meter preliminaries with a time of 1:05.75 and again took second in the finals with a time of 1:04.8. Junior Gary Chan finished fourth with a time of 2:34.74, freshman Alexander Felcier finished in seventh with a time of 2:38.46 and senior Chris Roertgen placed eighth with a time of 2:42.99.

Stony Brook also earned points in the mile as sophomore Daire Birmingham finishing third (4:14.58). In the 800-meter, sophomore Brandon Leung placed eighth (2:00.37). In the 4x400-relay, the team of Genao, Leung, junior Merlon Pinnock and senior Mubaarak Muhammad finished sixth with an overall time of 3:22.11. Last but not least, in the triple jump, Muhammad placed fourth (13.93-meters).

The track and field team will be back in action on Friday, Feb. 29, at the NYU Last Chance Meet in New York City.



Seawolves Baseball Eyeing Run at Championship

Photo Courtesy TheFacebook.com

BY ADRIAN CARRASQUILLO
Asst. Sports Editor

Two years running the Stony Brook baseball team went into the America East tournament looking to win the championship and both years they have come up short. Last year Stony Brook lost to Maine 13-8 in the double elimination tournament. With a preseason coaches poll picking them to win the conference championship this year, the team is focused on one goal, and one goal only.

"We're hungry, especially my class," said catcher Justin Echevarria. "We went to the tourney and came up empty handed. But we have that experience now and our goal is to win the championship."

Stony Brook's experience is one of the top reasons they're favored to win it all this year. The Seawolves return the top two starters from last year's conference leading staff. America East pitcher of the year Gary Novakowski and senior Tom Koehler are a formidable one-two punch. Of Koehler, Coach Senk said. "He has tremendous stuff, with a low to mid 90's fastball and a great curve, I'm surprised he wasn't chosen in the draft."

Offensively, the Seawolves lost their big bopper Brian Leonard but say they will replace his stats as a team. "Anytime you lose numbers, nine guys need to improve to make up for those totals, it has to be a team effort," said Senk. But he truly believes his offense will make the necessary adjustments to be successful. "Our offense has the potential to be stronger than last season," he said.

Senk said that his pitching has depth and that his bullpen has pitchers who can get the job done and fill in very well. But last year there were games where they didn't need to move all game. "We have 7-inning double-headers throughout the

season and last year we swept all of them because of the strength of our starters."

Senk's offensive philosophy is to keep opponent's guessing about what the Seawolves might do next. "We hit-and-run, bunt-and-run, and have really good runners. Half the team are sub-seven runners," he said speaking of their time's to first base.

The Seawolves start the year with their non-conference schedule. Last year it wasn't kind to them as they started the season 0-6, but they hope to do better this year. "We need to hit right out of the gate," said Echevarria. "Early in the season you need to find out what works for you. We need to do that sooner this year."

Echevarria had a strong season last year batting .287 and was a defensive presence as well. He was voted the best defensive catcher in the conference by the coaches. Asked about how he wants to improve this year he said he wants to throw runners out at an even better clip, maintain a .300 average and hit a couple more home runs. But it all comes back to his defense. "I take a lot of pride in my defense, I always want to get better and stay humble because it can all be taken away easily."

Senk calls his team's first opponent, Charleston Southern, who they play for a three-game series "a good team with a couple strong lefties who are top five in their conference," but he admits that he doesn't know too much about them. But this is entirely by design. "My biggest concern is us and how we play against our opponent. We do scouting but our play will dictate things."

And though he expects the battle for the conference to be a "dogfight", one thing is very clear. This year the Seawolves destiny is in their own hands. And no one can take that away.

Best Deadline Deals in the NBA-Staff Picks

Shonto Olander, Sports Editor: SPURS

The best team last season made two quiet moves that (a.) are low risk and (b.) immediately strengthen their bench and front court. Signing Damon Stoudemire and trading for Kurt Thomas backs up their two strongest positions, and gives them a major boost as the Western Conference race gets even more unsettled after the major moves by the contending West teams. Stoudemire's defection from Memphis really helps as Tony Parker has been playing through an ankle injury all season, and gives them an upgrade from Jacque Vaughn as the second pg. Kurt Thomas is a smart player that makes up for his lack of athleticism with his jump shot, rebounding and toughness. He can spell Duncan when guarding the beasts that roam the West's front courts.

Aside from immediate help, these moves help San Antonio in 2010, as both Thomas' and Stoudemire's contracts, along with every other player but Duncan and Parker, are cleared from the payroll. The Spurs will then have the room to make a run at a free agent crop that includes LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, Dirk Nowitzki, Tyson Chandler, Tracy McGrady and Amare Stoudemire. So whether judged on the now or later, nobody helped themselves more than San Antonio.

Gene Morris, Asst. Sports Editor: SUNS

After seeing Shaq run up and down the court at full speed in his first few games in a Suns uniform, my view on the trade has changed. An in shape, motivated Shaq gives the Suns a different look. It opens up space for Amare Stoudamire, and adds another veteran leader who has been through the post season wars.

Shawn Marion was a perfect fit for the Suns on the court. But with only one year left on his contract, he was apparently becoming a problem in the locker room. As Bill Simmons wrote in ESPN the Magazine, Marion was happy to get a fresh start in Miami and have the ability to become more of a scoring threat. The problem with that? Miami is the worst team in the league. Marion would rather put up numbers than win. No one can say that about Shaq.

Give credit to Suns GM Steve Kerr. The Suns have been contenders for the last few years but couldn't get over the hump. Whether the Shaq deal gets them there or not, at least he tried something and gave his team a real shot.

Continued On Pg. 11