

Arts & Entertainment: 7
Memorable Eurydice

Sports: 16
Big South Battle in Carolina

Arts & Entertainment: 7
Stumbling Salome

Sports: 15
Women's Cross Country Team Has
Strong Showing In Indiana

FEATURES

John Bul Dau, a Lost Boy of Sudan, Speaks Out

The author of the book "Good Grew Tired of Us," John Bul Dau, spoke yesterday at the Staller Center to a large number of students about his struggle growing up as one of the lost boys of Sudan. From the eruption of applause and cheers that came during the beginning and end of the speech, it was easy to see that the students were happy to have him there.

>> page 3

OPINION

It's Cold Out There

As Wall Street goes, so goes New York State. New York City's financial district, known as Wall Street, plays home to five of the largest stock exchanges in the world; NYSE, NASDAQ, AMEX, NYMEX, and NYBOT. This represents a significant chunk of employment and income of New York City and, by virtue, tax revenue which supplies New York state's budget. Wall Street's volatility, which translates to market downturn, effects city and state income.

>> page 11

Bad Veep Picks on Both Sides

When it comes to the vice presidential candidates for the 2008 presidential election, there really is no better choice between the two nominees. Sarah Palin and Joe Biden are both so bad that I think even the average 12-year-old could be a better vice president. Honestly, if I had a quarter for every time I heard someone say, "Palin's an idiot!" or "Biden's a moron," I'd be rich and on my way to Hawaii by now.

>> page 13

University Hoping To Catch Up On Lagging Wireless Internet

By JOE TROLLO
Contributing Writer

Freshman Niccolo Pagano just finished moving in on his first day. After having set up his laptop -- power cord and all -- Pagano attempted to connect to the Internet. No such connection could be made.

Pagano expected to find a wireless network in his dorm, and so he did not bring the necessary cable with him. "I was lucky [my roommate] had an extra cable," he said. "Otherwise I would have been without Internet until I had the chance to buy my own." It was just one more thing Pagano had to worry about on his first day.

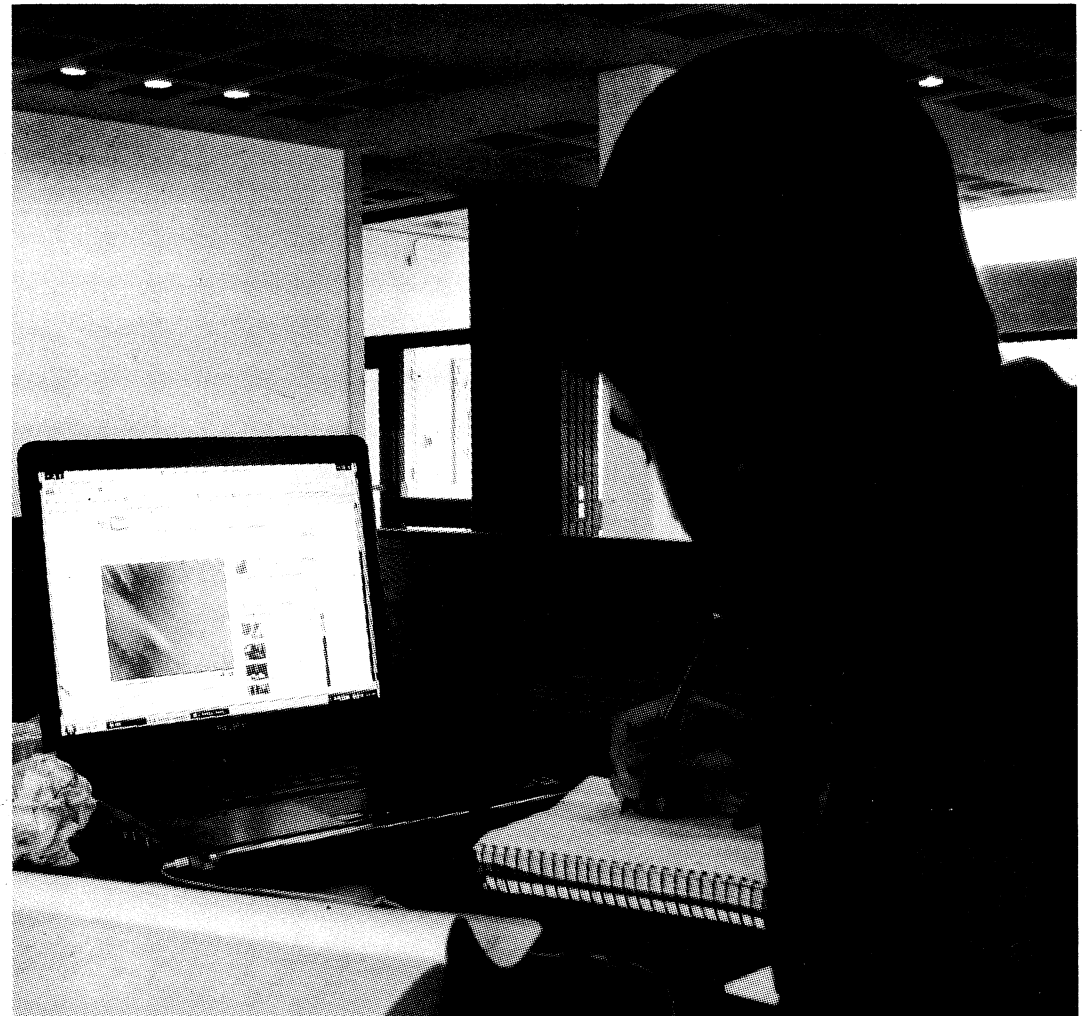
As hopeful students searched for wireless networks on move-in day, their computer discovered an issue: 'No wireless networks available.' Today, some students expect wireless, some even consider it when choosing their college, leaving them asking the question, "Why is there no wireless?"

Stony Brook University does have wireless on campus, called AirNet, but it is only available in certain, though many, locations. AirNet is currently available in many of the popular locations around campus, such as the Student Activities Center, the Melville Library, and the Kelly Cafe.

The residence halls, however, do not yet have wireless.

On Oct. 1, Kelly Quad began installing wireless routers in Residence Hall suite rooms in Hamilton College. Quad Director Dave Scarzella said the residence halls are starting a wireless residence hall system in the near future.

Although it's easier to use Ethernet cables and jacks -- which physically connect computers together -- in dorm rooms, it still ties students down. Classrooms



Annie Friedman / SB Statesman

Tournament winners Theta Phi Alpha and Delta Sigma Phi.

do not have the same ability to use Ethernet connections, as every computer would require its own cable and jack.

"The Ethernet cables are irritating," said Malisa Ali, a freshman living in Benedict College. "It's a hassle to connect and disconnect them. I want to just take my laptop and go."

Other students agree. "They flaunt us as one of the top research universities, yet we're still living in the Stone Age," said Marcus Dean, a junior living in Langmuir. "Even the hard-wire connection is frustrating. If there's more than three devices in a room, you'll need to buy a switch to connect them all." Dean said that he might be jaded, having transferred from Brooklyn Polytechnic that does have wireless Internet in its dorms.

Schools such as Hofstra University or the tech-savvy Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts, have wireless across their entire campuses. These schools offer the added option of wired connections in the dorms.

Hofstra and Bryn Mawr Col-

lege in Pennsylvania even offer wireless Internet to guests and visitors through a separate network, as opposed to the student network, which requires specific credentials to connect to. Stony Brook has something similar, called GuestNet. This network requires users to log in with a username and password in order to connect to the Internet, however, and this login information.

These three schools have fewer students and less land than Stony Brook.

With over 1,000 acres of land to cover, blanketing the campus with wireless coverage may seem to be an epic task. Chief Information Officer for the Department of Information Technology Richard Reeder said, "Presently, we are piloting some new wireless hardware in West Apartments... While the technology is not cutting edge at this point, the price point for the new hardware is considerably cheaper than the generation of equipment that is currently being used. If the new equipment proves to be satisfactory, we could potentially expand

wireless coverage."

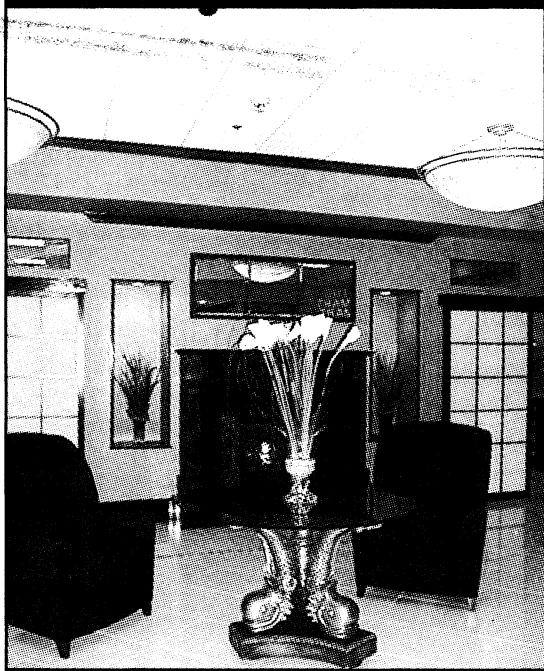
The university has continued installing wireless technology in Dewey College, in Kelly Quad. Muhammad Habibullah, a Resident Assistant in Dewey, said he enjoys the wireless. "I can work in the common area or in a friend's room," he said. "I really like that my roommate and I can work in separate rooms now, and not distract each other." Habibullah mentioned that he sometimes watches TV while working, which some persons may find bothersome.

Reeder mentioned that the expansion on campus has been continuous, and he projected that all classrooms will have wireless within two to three years.

Because additional budget cuts have yet to be confirmed, Reeder had no information regarding either the effect of the cuts on expanding the network or the possible effects they would have.

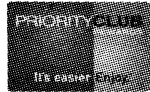
More information about AirNet and GuestNet is available on Stony Brook University's website.

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Diwali: Indian Festival of Lights

By SHRUTHI RAJAN
Contributing Writer

The atmosphere in the Wang Center auditorium was similar to that of an episode of America's Got Talent at the first Diwali Show at Stony Brook University.

Among the notable performances were a group of 13- year- olds dancing to traditional Indian music and a child protege playing a musical instrument.

Diwali, also known as the festival of lights, is an Indian festival celebrated usually during the month of October. Diwali, meaning light of good deeds, is a Hindu festival, which originated in India. On this day Hindus pray to better themselves. During the evening hours lamps are lit to symbolize victory of good



Dancers perform during the Diwali celebration.

Amanda Cressotti / SB Statesman

over the evil within every human being.

The event started off with the singing of both the Indian and the American national anthems, followed by the lighting of the lamp ceremony - a traditional ceremony done to represent light as a symbol of knowledge. In the Hindu culture, events -- including Diwali -- are meant to bestow knowledge on the audience.

The first half of the show included nine performances. Different cultures from all over India were por-

trayed thought various types of motions. Included were Bhangra- a folk dance from Punjab, and Bharatanatyam - a classical dance from the south of India.

Professor Harsh Bhasin, the chief guest of this event, gave a speech on how Indians all around the world have managed to hold on to their cultural roots. "You can take an Indian out of India, but you can not take India out of an Indian," he said.

The event had a surprise visit from Vishal Bhalla, a finalist in the Zee TV show

'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Challenge USA 2008', which is a show similar to American Idol. Bhalla expressed his joy "in encouraging children to pursue their hobbies in song and dance."

During intermission, tea and traditional Indian snacks were served in the theater lobby. Curry Club, a local Indian restaurant, provided catering.

The second half of the event was kicked off by two 13- year- olds performing a Kathak dance- a classical dance from the northern

parts of India. The two girls, Naqya Choonwala, and Ar-dha Joshi put hard work into their performance. "We practiced for six months," Choonwala said.

Teja Tope, known as the child protege dazzled the audience playing the tabla- an Indian drum like instrument. His sister and Pooja Deshpande who sang a Marathi song later joined Tope.

The event ended with a colorful and vibrant dance that every performer who had participated in the event performed.

NY Times Reporter Discusses Economy

By AISHA AKHTAR
Photo Editor

New York Times labor reporter, Steven Greenhouse, talks about the current day American economy in his book, "The Big Squeeze."

On Tuesday, he shared his thoughts and experiences as a writer, and as an advocate for the rights of workers with students.

"I wrote this book to show the lives of factory workers and blue collar workers and how hard it has become in our generation," he said.

Greenhouse uses the phrase "big squeeze" to express the constraints on the labor workers. He described some of the main problems that exist today for the working class. These include a falling economy, a dearth of benefits, and working long hours.

"In what I call a 'time squeeze,' Americans are working 1,800 hours a year and trying harder and harder in order to cling on to that middle class status," said Greenhouse, "European places

are nothing compared to this."

There has been an increasing lack of respect in the work areas as well.

"A computer engineer took his daughter for 'take your daughter to work day,' but ended up getting fired right in front of her for doing so," said Greenhouse.

Another concern is how companies cheat their workers, for example by using a system of "shaving hours" where companies erase the hours worked by their employees. Wal-Mart also cheats their workers another way.

"Wal-Mart made a lot of workers work off the clock," said Greenhouse.

What is the cause for all these problems?

"One reason is globalization," said Greenhouse, "with outsourcing there is an inequality in wages," he said.

"With competition from global companies in the 1980s, we started to see lay-offs," he



Steven Greenhouse with Professor Michael Zweig.

Aisha Akhtar / SB Statesman

said.

Another reason is a decrease in the Nation Union sector. "The union used to be strong and treat their workers better," said Greenhouse.

Greenhouse's journalism beginnings were in Massapequa, where he was the sports editor of his high school newspaper. While attending Wesleyan University, he was the editor-in-

chief of the campus paper.

After school, Greenhouse served as the copy boy at The New York Times. "I literally ran over to the typewriter and transported the story to the editor," said Greenhouse.

Following his job at The New York Times, Greenhouse returned to school to get his masters at Columbia in 1975. Afterwards, he began working for

smaller papers before returning to The New York Times.

"They took a chance on the copy boy," said Greenhouse, "I began on a beat that exploited stories on immigrants and soon enough I became the labor reporter for the metro section and then finally the national labor reporter." He is currently one of three national labor reporters.



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John Bul Dau, a Lost Boy of Sudan, Speaks Out

By SAMANTHA BUURKHARDT
Contributing Writer

The author of the book "Good Grew Tired of Us," John Bul Dau, spoke yesterday at the Staller Center to a large number of students about his struggle growing up as one of the lost boys of Sudan. From the eruption of applause and cheers that came during the beginning and end of the speech, it was easy to see that the students were happy to have him there.

Dau was born in the Dinka tribe of Sudan and at the mere age of 13, was forced to flee when troops attacked his home. He was not the only one going through this pain. He joined thousands of boys on foot to walk all the way to Ethiopia.

"I ate mud, so I could stay alive. I drank human urine, so I could stay alive."

On their journey there the boys faced starvation, dehydration, unbearable weather, wild animals, disease and they were always being pursued by armed soldiers. "After almost three days we found amudro which is a root," Dau said. "That was our first food after almost three days. In the United States people say, 'If I go one day without food I'm gonna die.' It didn't happen."

Dau had to grow up quickly. When they got to Ethiopia, the boys were put into groups of 50, and because he was taller than the rest of them, he was put in charge. They were between the ages of five and 15.

The group soon grew to almost 200 boys. "I remember the boys in the group would all cry for their mothers. They want to see their fathers, and they want to drink milk. But there was nothing you could do but say, 'Okay, today is bad, but tomorrow may be better.'"

Boys were dying around him from diseases as well, and he had to help bury them. "We'd find the bodies from yesterday eaten by hyenas or other wild animals from the night," he said.

"It was very graphic part of our life stories, but we didn't give up. We kept pushing on with life. And then later the UNHCR (United Nations High

Commissioner for Refugees) was bringing us food, blankets, and soap. Life was getting better in Ethiopia."

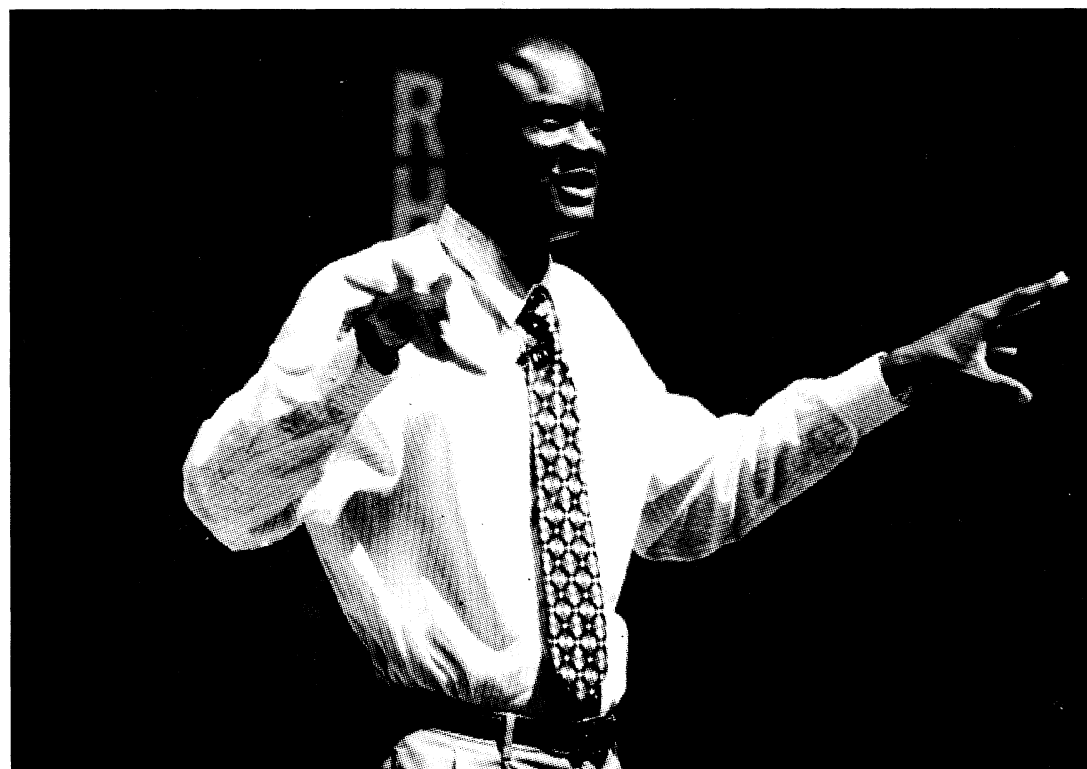
After four years in Ethiopia, things were finally looking up. When their lives seemed to have some order and structure again, rebels overthrew the government and told the boys they had one week to leave the camp. 18,000 lost boys, and some girls, fled across the Gilo River back to the Sudan.

There were many crocodiles in the water and so many of the boys couldn't swim across. They had no choice but to cross the river because they were being shot at by the rebels. Thousands of boys were shot, eaten, drowned, or captured. 1800 survived.

It wasn't long until the Sudanese government found out that the boys had returned. The boys' camps were bombed twice a day by aircrafts that the government would send to get them out. They started to move again to a different refugee camp in Kenya where Dau would spend the next 10 years.

There, at the age of 17, Dau began his formal education of writing letters and numbers with sticks in the dirt. "By the time I finished third grade I was 20 years old," Dau said. "I was like you, but in my third grade years."

In 2001, he was one of 3,800



John Bul Dau discusses his experiences with students.

Kenneth Ho / SB Statesman

refugees resettled in the U.S. and one of 140 that were brought to Syracuse, New York. "One of my friends was telling me, 'You know it's okay to be lazy in America because if you go to a restaurant and tie a green card around your neck, you can eat for free,' he joked as the audience laughed."

"One of the other guys said, 'If you go to America, they have very good technology. If you go to a restaurant you don't need anybody to serve you.

What you have is a big table in front of you. On that table are buttons. You have a chicken button, a beef button...' so lets say I wanted the chicken, I just push the chicken button and it will appear and be cooked in front of me."

Dau played with the audience a lot like this throughout most of his time with them. "Another one of my friends was telling me, 'If you go to America, be very careful because the American girls are crazy,'" he

said as the audience became even more engaged with the rise of laughter.

"He said, 'They always carry a small bag around with them. And in their bag, there is a gun. So you better not mess with them or they will shoot you.' I said, 'What can I do? This is a country where you have chicken buttons and girls killing people...' I'll just stay away from the girls."

America was a very big culture shock for Dau. He had never used electricity, never been in huge supermarkets filled with food, and there are women driving cars.

With all of this accounted for, John Bul Dau is proud to say that he is living the American dream and knows he's doing something very useful with his life which is always helping others. He has founded three non-profit organizations, working to raise funds for health and education projects in southern Sudan.

He captivated the audience with his experience. "I ate mud, so I could stay alive. I drank human urine, so I could stay alive. I seen my brothers die here and there, but I survived. I survived because of two things: One, the Almighty God. God helped me. Number two, because I didn't give up. I stayed the course, I persevered, and that's why I survived. I came to your school to convey one message. That is to never give up. Never ever give up."



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In the Sudan, many children wait for long periods of time before seeing a doctor.

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STUMBLING SALOME

By ULA LUKSZO
Staff Writer

"Salome" is the story of an overindulged, sensuous and ultimately corrupted young woman of biblical proportions.

STALLER MAIN STAGE The Metropolitan Opera's production, a revival of the 2004 version, starring Karita Mattila in the titular role, falls quite short of the order.

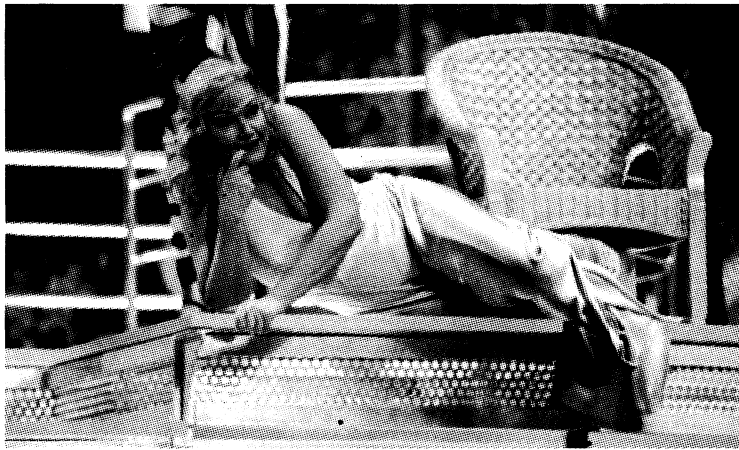
On Oct. 12, "Salome" aired at the Staller Center as part of the Met's "Live in HD" series of streamed productions into various theaters and cinemas around the country. For those of us unwilling or unable to schlep out into the city and shell out upwards of \$30 or much, much more, the series is innovative and ingenious.

Unfortunately, this production of "Salome" is not. One of the great advantages of the "Live in HD" experience—as well as its downfall—is the film techniques that bring the faces of the actors into the fore-

ground of the screen. We have, as it were, the proverbial "best seat in the house"—or do we?

Up close, it is all too easy to notice that Karita Mattila is pushing the age envelope as Salome, for she seems nearly as

ous woman. The Dance of the Seven Veils, supposedly shocking, becomes nothing more than a burlesque strip tease that is all the more embarrassing due to Mattila's age and her lack of agility on the stage.



Ron Howard / Metropolitan Opera

Karita Mattila as Salome, the 16-year-old title character in "Salome".

old as her "mother," Herodias, performed by Idiko Komlosi. Though Mattila's vocal performance was flawless, she is not credible as Salome.

It is painful to watch her traipsing around the stage in the parody of a young, impetu-

However, her voice soars and quivers at all the right moments, delivering a performance that is worthy of its fame. Regrettably, it seems lost in an opera that does not contain any truly breathtaking arias or heart-thumping

choruses.

The cacophony of Richard Strauss's music is no match, however, for the cacophony of the set and costumes. Both designed by Santo Loquasta, they lack any harmony or sense.

The palace guards appear in someone's notion of Middle Eastern military garb, complete with turbans, while Herodias, Salome, Herod and the other palace guests appear in contemporary formal wear.

The set itself is innovative and stunning, half of it mimicking the ridged sand dunes of the desert, the other half a ruby-colored mosaic of palace walls. In the midst of all this, however, is a platform of clear plastic or plexiglass on top of a metal frame that completely detracts from the rest of the set.

The "cistern" in which Jochanaan, or John the Baptist, is kept, appears as a crack in the ground with a crude pulley system in place overhanging it. On top of this, Salome and her

mother stumble around the set with wine bottles and glasses, climb on top of the cistern and precariously balance on a piece of wood. Instead of enjoying the impeccable singing, the audience is left to worry that the performers may, at any moment, fall off the stage.

Jochanaan himself, the formidable Juha Uusitalo, is barely on stage, and when he is, his large frame becomes a joke when Salome sings "He looks so wasted." Though their vocal abilities are up to the task, neither Mattila nor Uusitalo seem to quite fit the bill.

"Salome" itself, though a fascinating story, is a heavy-handed opera, and though it only lasts about an hour and a half, it seems to go on forever—in the bad kind of way. And while it can be refreshing to see "the same old story" given a makeover with some new dramaturgy, sometimes a little innovation can go a long way. A word of advice: stay home on this one.

Memorable *Eurydice*

PLAYING THURSDAY THROUGH SATURDAY AT 8 P.M. AND SUNDAY AT 2 P.M.; STUDENT TICKETS \$8, TICKETS AVAILABLE AT STALLER BOX OFFICE

By MICHAEL AUSTIN
Contributing Writer

When you first walk into a theater, one of the first things you notice is the stage set. In "Eurydice," the stage is especially striking, as an illusion of a hill emerges over the audience. This creative and innovative set adds to the entire dramatic setting of the play that is currently running in Theater Two of the Staller Center until this Sunday. The stage also captured the essence of the story written by play-



Courtesy of Google Images

The critically acclaimed playwright of "Eurydice", Sarah Ruhl.

wright Sarah Ruhl, based on the Greek myth about Eurydice and Orpheus.

The Stones -- Katelyn Gleason (Small Stone), George Edwin Hutchinson (Tall Stone), Rob Shilling (Loud Stone) -- are the funniest and most dramatic characters in the cast. Their unemotional and grumpy personas are reminiscent of Ricky Gervais, who played the grumpy dentist, Bertram Pincus D.D.S., in "Ghost Town." The Stones lighten up the mood whenever

Orpheus (Matthew Willings) is lamenting Eurydice's death and his failed attempts in finding her. One notable scene is when the Stones complain about the happy conversations between Eurydice (Kaitlin Burke) and her father (Joshua Schubart), saying, "Stones are way too busy for conversations because we are too busy being stones." At the climax of the drama, where both Eurydice and her father dive into the underworld river to forget about the painful memories of living, the

Stones also comment amusingly, "Oh, the conversations have finally stopped!"

The talkback after the Oct. 19 matinee performance opened into Ruhl's central theme of memory and how it affects the living. Adrienne Sowers, the Dramaturg, brought up a great point about how we can choose to remember and forget about things in our life. In the process, however, we lose part of our personality and our conscience. We see this with Eurydice when she first enters the underworld in the play. She has no sense of self and seems lost. Finally then, you have to "enter the river" and forget everything you ever felt, known, or saw before "Eurydice" in order to fully appreciate its uniqueness.

PHD COMICS BY JORGE CHAM



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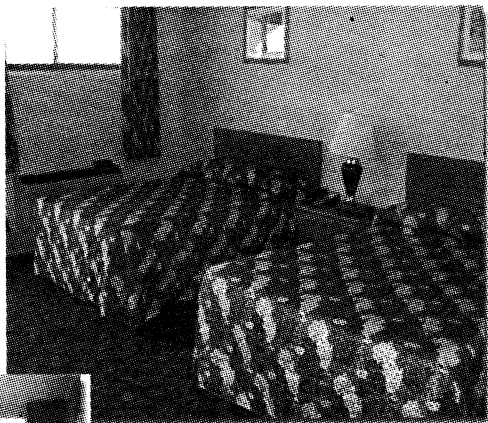
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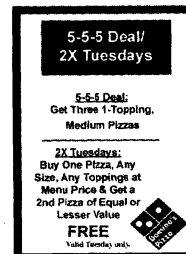
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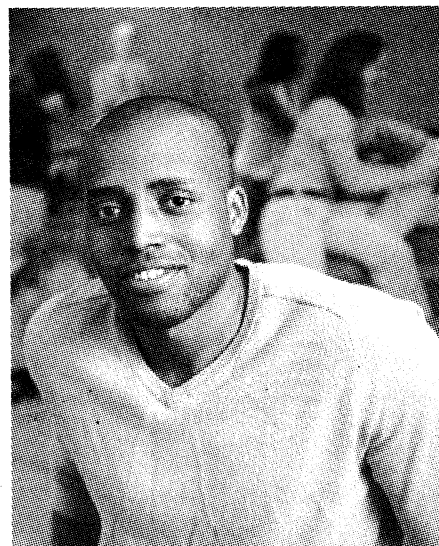


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WHO WE ARE

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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It's Cold Out There

Hiring Freeze and Budget Shivers

By ZACHARY KURTZ
Opinions Editor

As Wall Street goes, so goes New York State. New York City's financial district, known as Wall Street, plays home to five of the largest stock exchanges in the world; NYSE, NASDAQ, AMEX, NYMEX, and NYBOT. This represents a significant chunk of employment and income of New York City and, by virtue, tax revenue which supplies New York state's budget. Wall Street's volatility, which translates to market downturn, effects city and state income. In addition, people tend to hold on to their money when they fear economic downturn. When credit isn't flowing, governments feel the pinch of less tax revenue. A major source of tax

income is when money, goods and services are exchanged.

This has resulted in a deficit in the state budget. Governor Paterson has to decide where to make cuts, because the state won't be able to operate on the currently approved budget; the funds just aren't there. A special legislative session was held in Albany on October 3rd where Paterson asked to cut \$2 billion from the budget to account for a \$4.6 billion dollar deficit. Inevitably, the state is looking at the state university system to absorb \$200 million of that cut, with SUNY Stony Brook to take \$25 million of that. This is in addition to the \$7.5 million cut the school is already undergoing.

According to a recent

continued on page 13

An Obamarama Rally

By JOSEPH LABRIOLA
Columnist

I attended an Obama rally at Eisenhower Park, right down the street from Hofstra University, just hours before the third and final installment of the 2008 debates. I was interested to see if the hype I've been reading about in articles and watching on television really lived up to the real thing. Would this Obama rally truly be an event about a real vision of "change"? Or would his supporters turn out to just be sheep flocking to a popular call.

Of course Obama was nowhere to be seen, which was understandable with the debate set to take place shortly after sunset. I was hoping that maybe someone of somewhat elevated importance might appear. But as one savvy ob-

server pointed out, this was an unlikely scenario as there was no bag check, or entrance fee for that matter. However, there were some figures who looked notable at the rally, even though I cannot recall their names. At the time, it didn't seem worth the energy to actually take my notepad from out of my backpack and scribble down information about the slew of speakers that flooded the stage of the Harry Chapin Lakeside Theater in-between musical sets. The were mostly Obama organizers and campaign members, as well as Nassau county officials, and representatives of various labor unions that I've never heard of.

After I had listened to the barrage of podium pounding

continued on page 13

Facebook Usage Guide: Creepiness Avoidance

Courtesy of Facebook.com

By HIRA AHMED
Assistant Opinions Editor

The social online forum has become a cornerstone of social interactions of all age groups (dauntingly enough, even for our parents) over the last couple of years. The networking website has left next to no one untainted by its ways. Almost all people find themselves, at some point, reading other people's walls, raiding others' pictures and the associated comments. In a forum in which we are so prone to sometimes violating the privacy of others - assuming the pretense of privacy exists on Facebook -- how do we prevent breaching the lines of proper etiquette? What follows are some of my suggestions of how to avoid becoming a 'Facebook creeper.'

If you find yourself prefacing a comment with, "I don't mean to be a creepy Facebook stalker, but..." or "I noticed on my news feed that..." you're probably being a creep. The best course of action would be to first acknowledge what a creeper you are, and then try to hide it. Don't post the comment - just don't do it.

Being a self-professed Facebook fiend is fine, it happens to the best of us. But if you have a tendency to be online a lot, you may not want everyone to know about it. The new Facebook chat application lets other people know when you're logged in, but you can set it to appear as

away or offline. Just click on the little face image on the bottom right of the page and nobody will be any the wiser that you're currently lurking through your friend's cousin's European roadtrip photos. By being unavailable to chat, you both avoid Facebook instant messages -- which are almost as archaic as "aim" itself - while simultaneously hiding the fact that you spend your life on Facebook. Two birds. One stone. Aim carefully.

If you leave a comment on someone's wall once and they don't reply, shame on them. Comment twice and they don't reply, shame on them. Comment a third time and they still don't reply, shame on you! That person probably thinks your creepy, so don't be surprised if you get 'de-friended.'

The matter of friend requests is a very serious one. You may feel like you know someone because they associate with a mutual friend, and you've seen enough of their pictures tagged on a friend's page or because you their profile picture is sexy. You may feel like you know someone because you've seen them around. Other instances of familiarity may include but are not limited to, having formerly been in the same vicinity as someone, being mother's friend's sister's daughter. None of the above are excuses to friend request someone. If it



seems like the person you have friend requested, will be unsure as to whether or not they know you, resist the temptation of preying on a new person to cyber stalk. Don't be afraid to salvage your dignity.

Don't think everyone wants to know every detail about your life. Save your secret thoughts for your old livejournal account, people may actually read your Facebook notes, so try not to freak your friends out. Along those lines you don't have to update your Facebook status more than twice a day - and even that's pushing it. If anyone

actually wanted to know about your daily itinerary, they would ask. If you think people care otherwise is creepy

Of course, the majority of people on facebook are non-creepers, unlike Myspace. This means, however, that the creepers are extra noticeable. Once others identify you as a facebook creeper, they probably won't like you in real life either, so that makes it all the more important not to stand out. If you happen to be a creeper, the least you can do is take the above steps to obscure this fact.

Happy networking!

Guidelines for Opinion Submission

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

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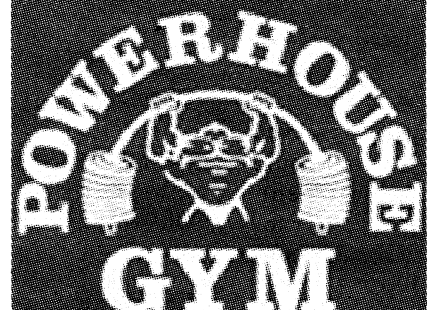
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Bad Veep Picks on Both Sides

By JESSICA THOMAS
Contributing Writer

When it comes to the vice presidential candidates for the 2008 presidential election, there really is no better choice between the two nominees. Sarah Palin and Joe Biden are both so bad that I think even the average 12-year-old could be a better vice president. Honestly, if I had a quarter for every time I heard someone say, "Palin's an idiot!" or "Biden's a moron," I'd be rich and on my way to Hawaii by now.

Both candidates have severe flaws and are not ready to be in a position of high power. To put it simply, there are many other people in this country who are way more qualified than these two, like any 12-year-old. For starters, both have said the most ridiculous things at crucial times during their election campaigns.

Let's start with Biden. He talks way too much for his own good, and there are many comments he has made over these past few weeks which could easily embarrass him. I could not believe that he actually said during a campaign rally a few weeks ago, "Hillary Clinton is as qualified or more than I am to be vice president of the United States of America... Quite frankly, she might have been a better pick than me." Biden himself clearly does not even think he should be VP,

so why is he even a nominee? It surprises me how people can even take him seriously. On top of that, he makes some of the most racist remarks I have ever heard. I know it has been a long campaign period, but does anybody else remember when Biden actually referred to Barack Obama as the "the first mainstream African-American who is articulate and bright and clean and a nice looking guy" during an interview with The New York Observer during in January 2007. What was Obama thinking by choosing Biden?

Now, to further demonstrate my point that both candidates are imbeciles, Sarah Palin is, without a doubt, the most unqualified person to ever run for vice president. It makes me wonder whether McCain was really that desperate to find a running mate that he actually had to scrape Palin's name out of the bottom of the barrel. It is incredible how she actually thinks she can do this job. For example, when asked by Katie Couric, of CBS News, to name a single newspaper or magazine that she reads, she responded



Palin Shrugs.

Courtesy of PressTV.com

by saying, "All of 'em, any of 'em that have been in front of me over all these years." During that same CBS News interview on October 1st, Palin said, "Well, let's see. There's -- of course -- in the great history of America rulings there have been rulings" when asked to name a Supreme Court decision she disagreed with other than Roe vs. Wade.

These two candidates really make us look bad as Americans. They give themselves and the Presidential candidates such bad names that I am truly embarrassed for them. I feel bad for McCain and Obama who have made such poor decisions in selecting their running mates. I guess what I'm trying to say is that in a country as great as America with so many opportunities, is this really all we have to choose from? How could there be no other options for us?

An Evening at an Obama Rally

continued from page 11

speeches, I realized that there was more than one motive at stake for the man chanting, "Obama! Obama! Obama!" repeatedly into the microphone. It wasn't a question of if this man supported Obama but why he supported him. Two words came to mind. Job security. These politicians were not only proponents of Obama fandom but also of democratic dominance of both local and national offices. I wouldn't call their energetic support of their comrades cronyism, but their allegiances were clearly shouted. "Vote democrats down the line on November!"

Still, there's something to be said about a political rally for a candidate that can bring people of all ages and races together to sup-

port a common purpose. Whether you agree with Obama's ideology or not, you have to appreciate the enthusiasm he's sparked amongst those who previously turned a cynical eye to the realm of politics. The Obama organizers know this and use it to the upmost effectiveness. At one point for example, one of the speakers asked, "For how many of you is this your first political rally?" I had expected no more than a quarter of the hands to go up, however more than half of those present, including myself, found themselves waving their arms up in the air.

The long lasting pro-participatory effects from this campaign are a positive step in the right direction for future elections. Too many Americans have sat idly by for too long not utilizing the

potential power that the system allows them in regards to having their say in government. I have to assume that the Obama craze (again, whether you agree with his views or not) has inspired many of the first time voters this year to register. Some people argue that they don't like either of the two choices for president, but one of the great things about democracy is that if enough people believe in a candidate, then they can change the status quo. This is being seen with Obama's success and will be proven if he wins next month. Hopefully this new wave of civic participation will continue to grow so that maybe one day we can evolve into a democracy where there are many more choices other than just the two that people complain about.

Stony Brook Needs to Bundle Up

continued from page 11

Statesman article, Stony Brook has had to respond by freezing the hiring of all new faculty positions. President Kenny sent out an email saying that unless an offer has already been made, no new offers can be extended to faculty who would be paid out of the state budget.

This is an unfortunate reality we are presented with. Virtually all functions supported by state funds will face the same situation and work to protect their own funds--no one wants to be the first to be cut. We all complain when the government, whether it's local, state or federal, tries to operate on a deficit, because that hurts the economy more than it would to tighten our belts now. However, when it comes time to practice what we preach, we complain even more, rather than making the necessary sacrifice.

The university can look at this as a unique opportunity to improve efficiency. Instead of complaining to the state for more funds, we can try to find other ways to raise money and, if that doesn't work, trim the fat we all know exists. From the professors who should have retired years ago to non-essential beautification projects, we can all find things we can do personally and departmentally to save money.

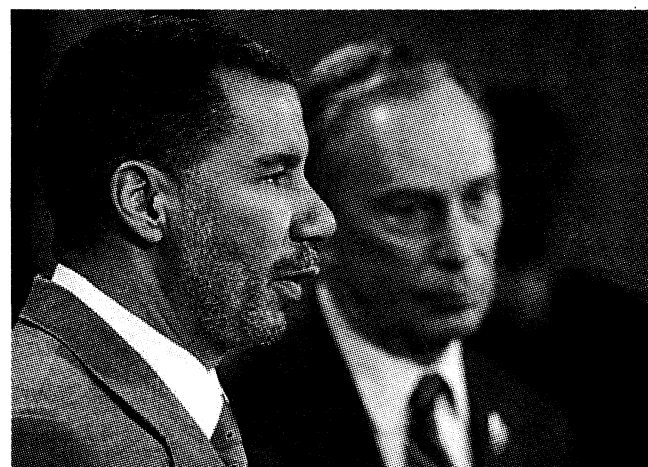
Students and faculty will complain, but the university should think of this as a blessing in disguise. We will all benefit from improving efficiency rather than just accepting funds that will just go to waste. The assumption that more money equals more suc-

cess is false, particularly when government is concerned. If we can improve the quality of Stony Brook's education, by pushing students and faculty harder, to do more with less, we don't necessarily need more money. Faculty and professors should be worried about keeping their jobs. Theoretically, the good professors should be the ones left standing in a competitive environment.

This will be an abject lesson for students as well, who will benefit from learning the lessons of hard work to compete in professional life, after college. Current students, who will soon be Stony Brook alumni, will know what it means to make sacrifices in the face of shortage. Even if that means taking out loans or finding a job to pay for a tuition hike. This will make Stony Brook students stand out, because we will know what it means to do more with less.

Inevitably, Stony Brook staff and students will not like this. And, despite my confidence that we will all survive and even thrive in a post-budget cut environment, I don't like the idea of sacrifice any better than anyone else. This violates my sense of entitlement, because I believe Stony Brook students deserve to be well funded.

However, like it or not, this is what's in store for us, and it's coming sooner than we'd like to think. We can complain all we want, but eventually we'll have to grit our metaphorical teeth and bare it. I wish all of us luck, but I know we will do well, because its going to get cold out there, and the hiring freeze is just the start.

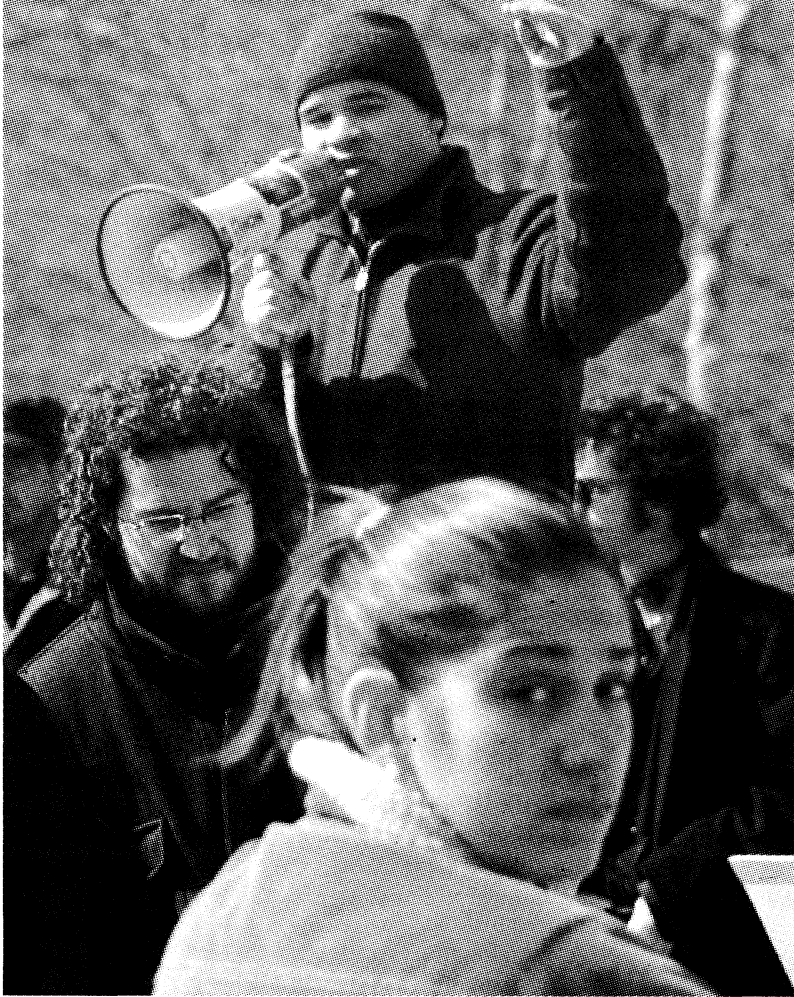


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Women's Soccer Downed by Defending Conference Champs

Viola sparkles, but Team Drops 2-0 Decision to Boston Unveristy

By SHAWN BROWN
Staff Writer

The Seawolves returned from their three game road trip with two big wins, but suffered a tough loss (2-0) to Boston University, the defending conference champions.

Seawolves goalkeeper Marisa Viola started for the first time since suffering a separated shoulder against Hartford on Sept. 28th. Any question of Viola's health were erased when she recorded 14 saves in the loss. Viola denied the Terriers on all but two of their 16 shots on goal.

"I thought Marisa had an outstanding game, one of the best I've seen her play during her career here at SBU," assistant coach Steve Welham said. "I personally cannot recall in a college soccer game, male or female, when a goalkeeper saved two penalty kicks during the flow of the game. A shoot out is one thing, but to do it twice in 90 minutes is something completely different. Point blank, she produced one of her best games ever."

Viola currently leads the America East Conference with 94 saves, while averaging nearly eight saves per contest, according to conference statistics. Viola's 14

saves were also a conference single game high, surpassing the 12 saves she made at Hofstra on Sept 18th.

With road wins in the two prior games before playing B.U, the Seawolves managed to move within one percentage point of Hartford, who is in third place in the conference. The Seawolves will have an opportunity to move up in the standings, as only six of the nine teams make the playoffs.

The Seawolves will finish the final two games of the regular season at home against Maine and Binghamton, who rank fifth and sixth in the conference. Although the playoffs are in sight, the team is preparing for Thursday night's game against Binghamton.

"Anyone is capable of beating anyone, as some of the results indicate throughout the course of the season," Welham said. "So we know total concentration and team effort will be paramount in each game as we head into the final home stretch. You always need to respect your opponent and more, respect the game. We expect a battle from Binghamton and we will do everything we can to beat the 'other' SUNY in New York."

Big South Battle In Carolina

Continued from pg 16

Wide Receiver Brandon Whitley provides MacDowall's deep threat. He has 20 receptions and three touchdowns, including a long of 63.

Senior Trent Usher provides a steady target. He has 23 receptions for 313 yards and two touchdowns.

The Seawolves Dayne Hoffman improved his overall numbers this season with his impressive showing on homecoming. Hoffman now has 1,022 pass yards to go along with six touchdowns and seven interceptions.

Dwayne Eley has led the Seawolves receiving corps this year. He has 28 receptions for 316 yards and one touchdown. Donald Lee has helped Hoffman stretch the field when he has time in the

pocket. Lee has only 16 receptions, but he has compiled 251 yards and one touchdown. His long reception is 49 yards.

Sophomore safety Keon Cunningham is the most dynamic player on the Coastal Carolina defense. He has 25 total tackles, and leads the team with three interceptions, which he has returned for a total of 51 yards. He also has recovered a fumble and broken up four opposition pass plays.

The Seawolves defense is led by linebacker Tyler Santucci. He leads the team with 52 total tackles, six tackles behind the line of scrimmage, and he also has an interception.

The Big South battle takes place at Brooks Stadium. Kickoff is scheduled for 7:00pm.

Women's Cross Country Team Has Strong Showing In Indiana

Team Led By Van Dalen and Hampson

By MIKE FORDERA
Senior Writer

Coming off strong finishes to impress the NCAA athletic board, the Stony Brook Seawolves women's cross country team has risen to the very top, overtaking the Providence Friars in sole possession of first place. Equally as impressive was the ranking the women were given coming into the Pre-Nationals this past week in Terra Haute, Indiana. The Seawolves were ranked 12th in the nation after being originally ranked 30th in the nation.

The men have also begun making headway in the regionals, placing thirteenth, one ahead of heated rival Binghamton Bearcats and one behind New Hampshire. Heading into the Pre-Nationals this weekend, the women looked to uphold the top ranking by making a name for the program nation-wide, even possibly gaining more ground in the nation and cracking the top ten.

The 6K course was held in Terra Haute, Indiana on Saturday afternoon on a chilly, brisk day.

Thirty-nine teams toed the starting line, all with hopes of finishing first. The women were off to a fast start, looking poised and confident competing on the national stage for the first time this season.

By the time all thirty nine teams crossed, the Seawolves were led by sophomore Holly Van Dalen, who finished the course with a time of 21:12, good enough for 37th place. Van Dalen, who hails from Wanganui, New Zealand, paced the Seawolves with their first finisher for the second time this season, the first coming earlier this month at the Notre Dame Invitational.

Eight seconds later, Junior Jessica Hampson from Smithtown, NY finished

in 46th place, with a time of 21:20.

Five spots later, Lucy Van Dalen, Holly's sister, finished in 51st place, with a time of 21:23.

Finishing up for the Seawolves was freshman Hayley Green, from Wellington, New Zealand, who took 56th in a time of 21:29, junior Laura Huet, Carickmines, Ireland, crossing 75th with a time of 21:40 and sophomore Carolina Cortes, hailing from Woodmere, N.Y., who finished in 22:41.

All in all, the Seawolves walked away in 8th place out of the aforementioned thirty nine teams, beating last year's mark by seven spots.

Walking away from the weekends top ten finish, the women found that they are still ranked first in the Northeast Region. Not one of the Seawolves were complaining, however.

Coach Andy Ronan spoke for the team, saying "We are excited to be ranked among the top-25 teams in the country... I feel No. 22 is a more accurate ranking for our team at the moment, while we strive to be in the top-15, we have to be realistic and patient as we work towards that goal."

The team will be working harder than ever to maintain the top spot in the region, knowing they will have to compete against hungry and trailing teams like Providence and Boston College.

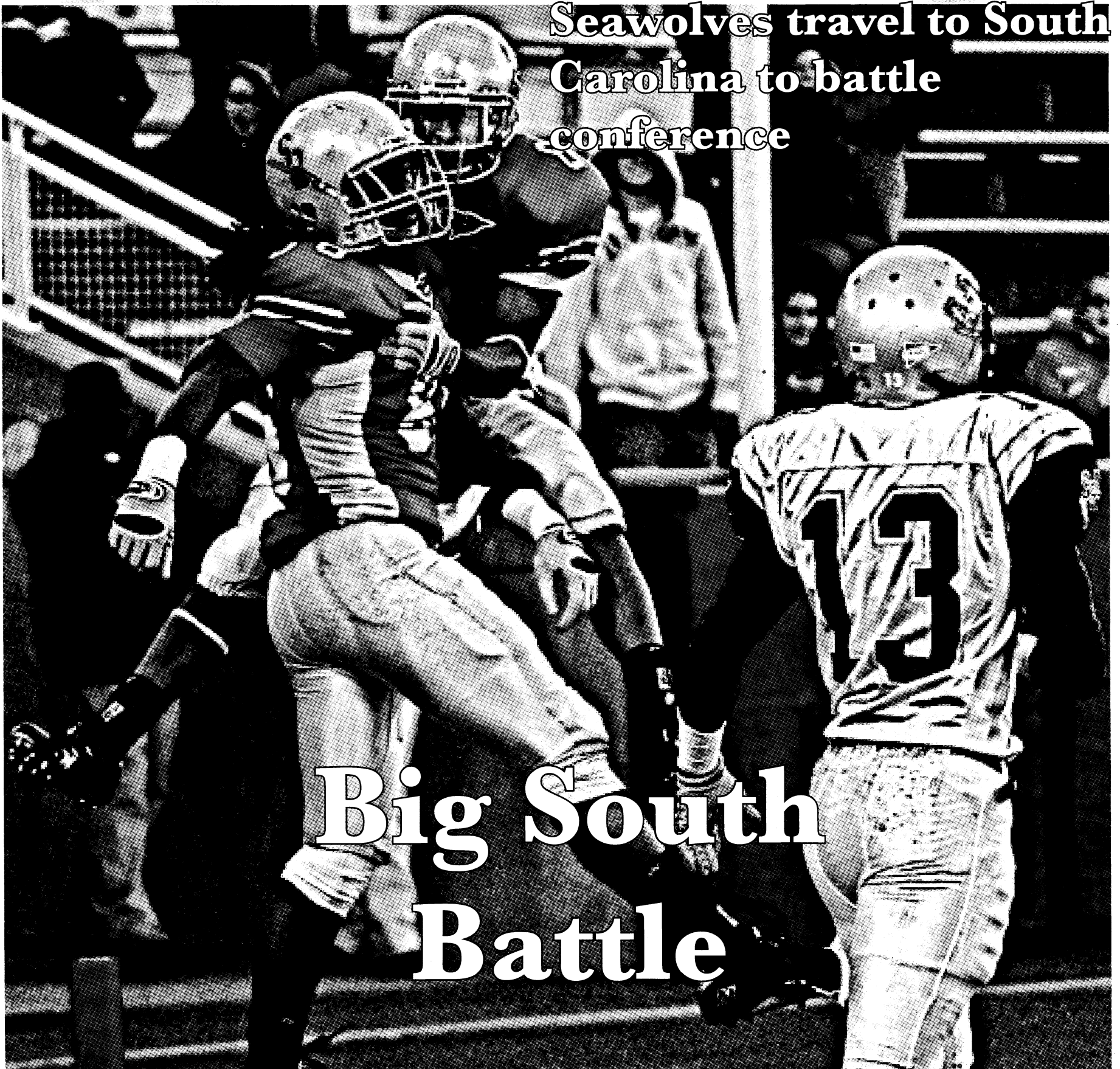
The next challenge will be this weekend at Central Connecticut, although many people are looking ahead to November 1st, where the men's and women's team will be competing in the America East Championships in Baltimore, Maryland. The women will be defending their title while the men will be looking to top last year's second place performance with a first place finish of their own.

Check Out the Statesman on Monday, October 27 for results and analysis of all the Seawolves sports action this weekend.

If you're interested in contributing to the winning team, send an e-mail to sports@sbstatesman.com or drop by the Student Union Room 057 on Sunday or Wednesday nights!

STATESMAN SPORTS

Seawolves travel to South
Carolina to battle
conference



Big South Battle

By GENE MORRIS
Sports Editor

After a big homecoming victory, the Seawolves look to stay on a winning track in the Big South Conference.

The Seawolves head to Conway, South Carolina to battle the Coastal Carolina Chanticleers. Stony Brook. The game is Coastal Carolina's homecoming, and the Chanticleers are sure to be fired up for the big game.

Coastal Carolina comes in with a 4-4 record, and they are 0-2 in the Big South. The Seawolves stand at 2-5 overall, but are 1-1 in conference. A win for Stony Brook would propel them into serious contention for a Big South regular season title.

The Chanticleers come into the game averaging over 177.8 rushing yards per game. The running game is led by three talented backs. Senior Arthur Sitton

leads the team with 386 rush yards on 53 carries. Sophomore Eric O'Neal leads the team with 60 carries for 339 yards. Senior Jamie Fordham rounds out the trio with 301 yards on 49 carries. All three backs have accounted for seven combined rushing touchdowns.

The Seawolves will be looking to the legs of its talented running backs to carry the load on Saturday. Edwin Gowins leads the team with 564 rush yards and

three touchdowns, while Conte Cuttino has 514 yards and a touchdown while carrying the ball 32 more times than Gowins.

Quarterback Zach MacDowall provides a dual threat to round out the Chanticleers offense. He has gained 236 rush yards on 48 carries. He is also 92 of 163 for 1,258 yards and 10 passing touchdowns, and has also thrown only six interceptions.