

Arts & Entertainment: 7
Welcome to Hollywood's Western

Sports: 11
Women's Soccer Starts Off Field Trip With a "W"

Arts & Entertainment: 9
"Max Payne" Stars Sound Off

Sports: 12
Key to a Homecoming Victory

FEATURES

Film Festival Celebrates Taiwanese Culture

The collapse of the Qing Dynasty began with the Wuchang Uprising on Oct. 10, 1911 and ended with the defeat of imperial rule in China, thus establishing Asia's first republic. Now, Oct. 10 is called "Double Ten Day" because the Republic of China, more commonly known today as Taiwan, formed on the tenth day of the tenth month of 1911 and Stony Brook University is honoring the celebration with a film festival.

>> page 3

OPINION

Clean Campaigning

When your candidate for vice president invokes mass cheers while claiming your adversary, "pals around with terrorists," you need to stop and think about what you're doing. When your own supporters openly boo you for defending your opponent when you say, "I will respect him," you need to stop and think about what you're doing.

>> page 11

The Benefits of Big Government

David Brooks, a columnist for The New York Times, warned readers of the dangers of a full-fledged liberal revival in American politics over the next few years in his Oct. 14 article "Big Government Ahead." After a long list of assumptions he made about an Obama administration that would revive Keynesian economics, he concluded that the liberals will inevitably take advantage of the economic crisis and dramatically increase spending and the deficit. Where's the problem?

>> page 13

University to Freeze Hiring as Concerns for More Budget Cuts Grow

By FRANK POSILICO
Contributing Writer

Stony Brook University is once again feeling the effects of the New York State budget cuts according to a press release issued from President Shirley Strum Kenny. As a result, the university will put a freeze on hiring of all staff and faculty.

The freeze is in response to the New York State budget deficit. Oct. 3, Governor Paterson, called for a special session of the New York Legislature, and is asking them to cut another \$2 billion from the state budget to compensate for the \$4.6 billion New York State deficit.

According to Dan Melucci, Associate Vice President for Strategy, Planning and Analysis "SUNY could get a cut in the \$190 - 200 million range and Stony Brook could get as much as \$25 million of that amount."

Just over a month ago Stony Brook took a \$7.3 million budget cut. With the dire economic situation, however, the university will be called to cut more. "We don't know what Stony Brook's share will be," Melucci said.

Melucci also said that the reasoning behind the freeze on hiring is so the university would not have to lay off as much staff in the future, and so the overall payroll doesn't decline.

The university will be putting a freeze on all positions

Continued on page 3



Hopeful students compete in Stony Brook's Homecoming contest.

Alex Berkman / SB Statesman

Hospital to Implement Smoking Ban Employees and Visitors Urged to Stomp Out Habit

By PAIGE EASTWOOD
Contributing Writer

Beginning January 2009, Stony Brook University Medical Center will completely smoke free. An upcoming smoking ban will soon cover all of the East campus west of Health Science Drive.

"This is a health care institution," said Lauren Sheprow, public relations director for the hospital. In order to provide the best care for patients, the hospital decided to get rid of cigarette smoke.

"The decision to make the hospital smoke-free will [have] a positive impact in the community," Sheprow said. If the hospital did not institute the policy, it would be in jeopardy of falling behind other hospitals.

Hospitals located in the Midwest have already implemented a smoking ban on the hospital campuses there, according to mdhospitals.org.

Many hospitals achieved this goal by using cessation programs such as meetings or even assistance on a cd-rom at no extra charge like the University of Michigan Hospital has done to rid smoking in their area.

But smoking can have deadly results. Cigarettes contain over

4,800 chemicals and 69 of those are carcinogens, according to the American Lung Association. Smoking represents over 90 percent of lung cancer deaths and emphysema deaths, and 8.6 million people suffer from cigarette illnesses.

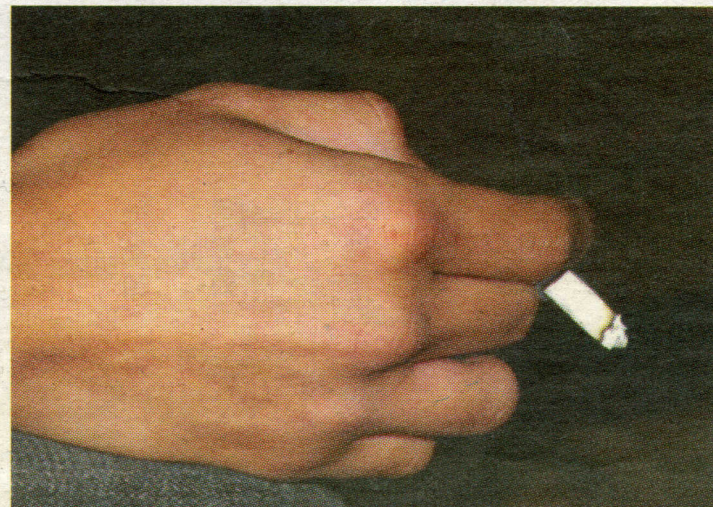
Chronic lung disease accounts for 73 percent of smoking-related conditions and even after quitting it accounts for 50 percent.

But some employees and hospital visitors may have to change their routine. With the new smoking ban, smoking breaks for employees will be out of the question,

and any sense of relief they may have provided will have to be achieved some other way.

Aage Dendenin, a university officer stationed at the emergency entrance, said the smoking ban is unreasonable for employees, patients and guests.

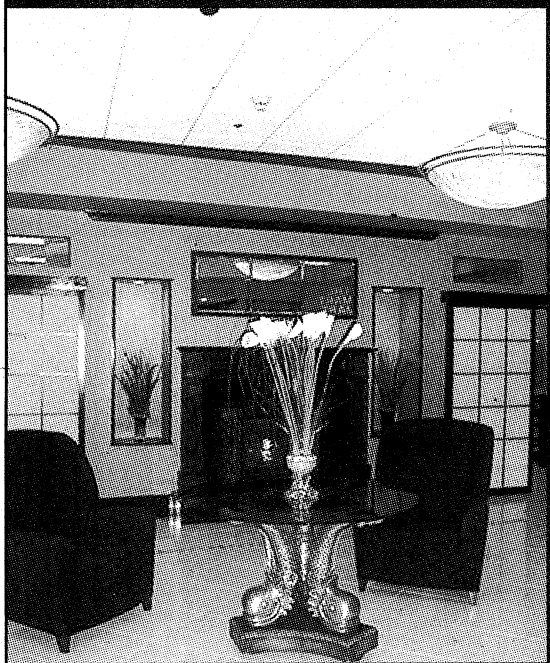
He said the ban would alter the lifestyles of employees that have been there for many years. He went on to say that despite the smoking cessation programs that will be offered through the hospital, no one is going to quit if they do not want to.



Aisha Akhtar / SB Statesman

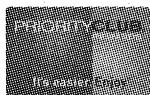
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University To Freeze Hiring As Concerns for More Budget Cuts Grow

Continued from pg 1

supported by state funds. These funds are charged to direct research grants, income fund reimbursable accounts, and the residence hall fund. The university hospital and Long Island Veterans Home will not be frozen.

The journalism department is one area of the schools that could suffer the most from the cut, being one of the newer additions to the

university.

"It is too early to know the real impact of the freeze," said Howard Schneider, the dean of the school of journalism. "We hope that we can continue to grow rapidly and that the freeze will be lifted."

"There are so many unknowns right now," Mr. Melucci said. Overall what we can expect from this cut is fewer faculties, and what students have feared, an eventual tuition rise.

King and Queen Contest Kicks Off Homecoming Week

By JASMINE FRANKEL
Contributing Writer

Red Hot cheers accompanied dancing and singing as participants rang in the spirit of Stony Brook, a kickoff to Homecoming weekend Wednesday night in the Student Activities Center Auditorium.

The Homecoming event allowed the candidates to present themselves to a panel of six judges and audience members who later voted for their favorite candidates.

Homecoming king and queen are viewed as leaders representing and guiding the Stony Brook student body.

The event drew a crowd of approximately 450 students, an increase since 2004 when audience members were allowed to attend the contest. "This is the biggest turn out of people we have had," said Sarah Young, the coordinator of Homecoming events.

The contestants, five males and five females dressed in formal attire, were each asked two questions by a panel of six randomly selected judges made up of faculty and staff.

The questions consisted of what each contestant's goals were as a leader and a question about their personal achievements.

Following the Q&A section of the event each participant expressed a visual image of their leadership by

performing a talent to personalize their attributes in something called "Creative Explosion."

The performances even swayed some voters. Zaid Hasan switched his vote because "[The Creative Explosion] influenced my vote for the Queen."

All audience member ballots were collected at the end of the event, counting as the seventh judge.

Standing apart from the other contestants, Sunny Makhijani, performed karate as a Seawolf against a student representing Charleston Southern University, which is the school that SBU will be competing against in the Homecoming game. Makhijani then played the drums and ran into the audience.

"It only takes one person to make a difference in the world," said Makhijani. "Imagine a difference it would make if we all work as one." With his self proclaimed motto he wants to "Help spread the message."

All 10 contestants are required to have a minimal standing point of a 2.5 GPA, experience in leadership, and an essay reflecting a personal experience. The winners will be announced this Saturday at half time during the Homecoming game.

"I loved it, it was out there," said Deidre Flores, a student. "It hypes up school spirit."

Film Festival Celebrates Taiwanese Culture

By JASON VAN HOVEN
Contributing Writer

The collapse of the Qing Dynasty began with the Wuchang Uprising on Oct. 10, 1911 and ended with the defeat of imperial rule in China, thus establishing Asia's first republic.

Now, Oct. 10 is called "Double Ten Day" because the Republic of China, more commonly known today as Taiwan, formed on the tenth day of the tenth month of 1911 and Stony Brook University is honoring the celebration with a film festival.

In celebration of the 97th anniversary of Double Ten Day, the major national holiday in Taiwan, a Taiwanese film festival began to showcase films in the month of October at Stony Brook University's Charles B. Wang Center to provide a bridge between two cultures.

Co-sponsored by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in New York and the Taiwanese American Association on Long Island (TAALI), the festival -- which screened its first film on Oct. 1 -- will screen two more Taiwanese films in the fall 2008 semester.

"We have had other film series, but this is the first time we are doing Taiwan," said Sunita Mukhi, director of Asian and Asian American programs at the Wang Center. A myriad of cultural film series from previous semesters has been showcased,

including a series of three Aboriginal Australian films in fall 2007, and a series of two Japanese films in fall 2006, before the Taiwanese film series this semester.

The first film, previously shown on Oct. 1, is called Three Times, which featured three tales of romance during three different years in Taiwan using the same two actors.

The second film, which will be shown on Oct. 29, is called The Shoe Fairy, a paradoxical fairytale about a girl named Dodo who is unable to walk yet, at the same time, is obsessed with shoes.

The third film, which will be shown on Nov. 5, is called Chocolate Rap, a new take on an old martial arts film where breakdancing replaces kung fu. It follows the story of Chocko, a boy with a bright breakdancing future, who gets into a car accident, and must regain his confidence in breakdancing.

"The films are about teenagers in Taiwan," said Carol Li, executive press officer of TECO. "We hope this will help introduce American teenagers to the culture of Taiwanese young people. We also hope that after seeing these films, American students will be inspired to learn more about Taiwanese culture, history, and film."

The Press Division of TECO in New York is one of more than 50 overseas offices of the Government Information of Taiwan. It promotes Taiwanese

culture through publications, audio-visual materials, and the Internet.

"With English subtitles, American moviegoers would be able to understand more closely than simply the facial expressions from the actors and actresses," said Jerry Chen, president of TAALI. "Before and after the showing of the films, all moviegoers, American and Taiwanese, can discuss the themes, plots, and all aspects of the movie. The Taiwanese Film Festival is a great opportunity to gather people in celebrating the beauty of culture exchange."

TAALI is a non-profit organization incorporated in 2006 that was formed in 1975 by Stony Brook University Taiwanese students under the name of The Taiwanese Organization of Stony Brook. Because demographics shifted in the 90's, they matured into TAALI. One of TAALI's purposes is to educate young Taiwanese Americans and the general public about Taiwanese heritage and culture through workshops, seminars, and large cultural events.

"Film is a very good messenger," said Wei Hu, 23, a second-year computer science graduate student. "Through it, we can watch a new style. We can watch a new culture. So, I believe that because of the film festival, Americans can understand the Taiwanese culture, or even bigger, the Asian culture."



Students performing at the Homecoming King and Queen contest.

Alex Berkman / SB Statesman

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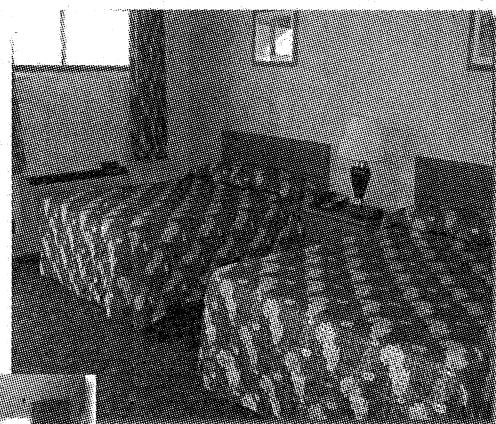
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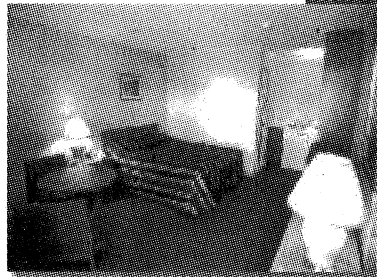
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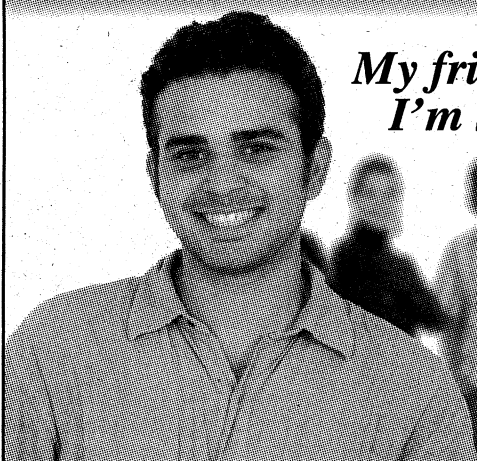
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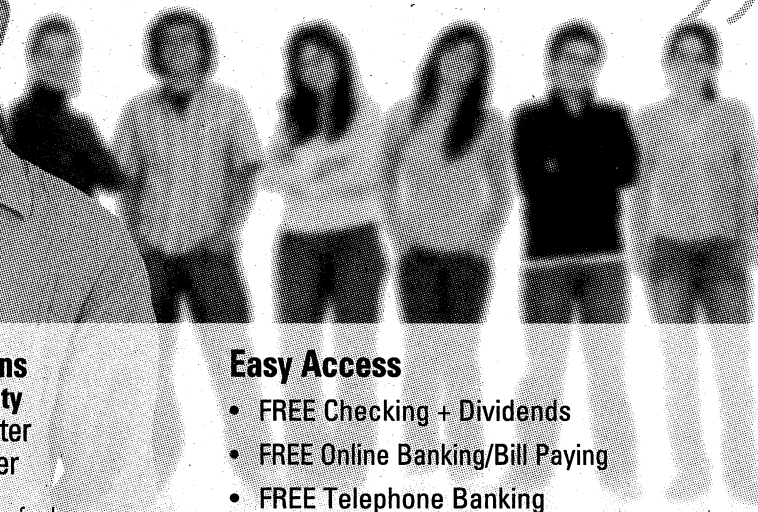
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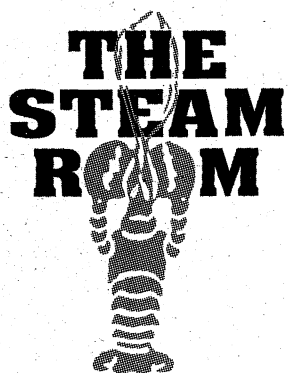
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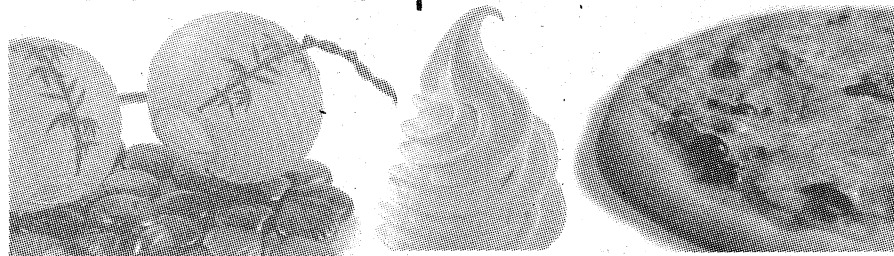
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WELCOME TO HOLLYWOOD'S WESTERN

By ZACHARY KURTZ
Opinion Editor

I grew up watching Westerns. Nothing gives me more pleasure than watching the Duke, the prototypical man's man, in classic Westerns, like "True Grit" or "The Alamo." Although more politically correct, modern Westerns just don't do it for me in the same way.

Ed Harris's "Appaloosa," a film based off the novel by Robert B. Parker, is an example of a modern Western that has merits, but cannot really compare to the classics. The cinematography is good, the colors of the western landscape coming off of the screen really help viewers get into the movie. Ed Harris, who directed the movie and plays the role of the protagonist, Virgil Cole, looked very much the strong, stoic hero that we expect from the lead "cowboy."

However, the psychology of the character is much different from the cool confidence that John Wayne is known for. Virgil Cole does not back down in the face of danger, but he certainly weakens himself out of some misguided infatuation with the femme fatale, obnoxiously played by Renée Zellweger. In the end, Harris's character could best be described as annoying, losing much of the "bad-ass" attitude he displays earlier in the film, and which more worthy cowboys are never without.

Two actors managed to salvage the movie. Jeremy Irons, in his usual villainous role, fits the part of the lawbreaking, murderous rancher perfectly. Irons manages to scare an entire town into signing itself over to a new Marshall (Virgil Cole) for protection, escape from the hangman's noose, get pardoned for the murder he was originally convicted for and re-ingratiates himself and takes control over that same town. All of this is done over the course of

the movie in the style I would expect from classic Westerns.

Viggo Mortensen manages to take up the slack for the pansy Virgil Cole. Mortensen plays Everett Hitch, the cool and intelligent sidekick to Harris, and

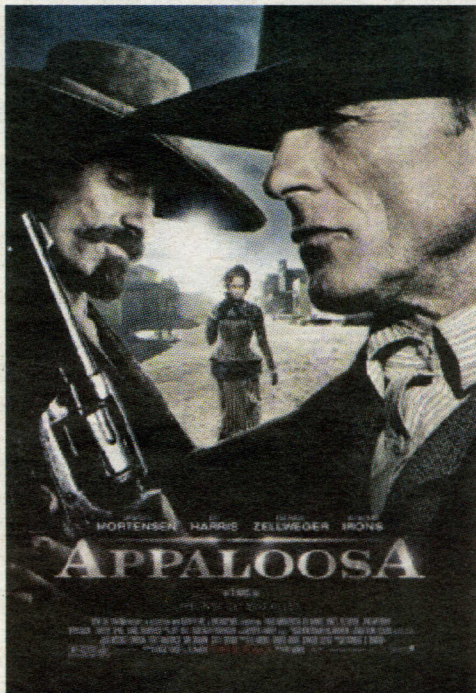
As a result, the bad guy got away every time.

The point of this was to demonstrate that adherence to the law is the true good. Cole, who refused to break the law, is rewarded with a stable life and a beautiful woman. Mortensen, who ultimately broke the rules to save the town and bring a murderer to justice, is forced to continue his unsteady life on horseback.

However, adherence to the law at all costs, is no virtue in the context of the Wild West. When the outlaws are smarter and outnumber the law enforcement officials, the officers have to be even more ruthless than the criminals, and relax their sense of morality to get the job done.

In real life, in modern times, this is obviously not the case.

I don't see westerns to experience a world like my own. I want to see a world in which the hero will do anything it takes to take care of the problem, and not quibble on meaningless moral dilemmas like "right and wrong." I don't want to see characters keeping the peace with obvious villains or appease enemies. I see enough of this in the real world in modern day conflicts. When I watch a Western, I want to feel inspired to pick up a six-shooter and a ten-gallon hat and ride away on my Appaloosa horse, become a tough man of the land and fight gun battles with vicious criminals. Sadly, Appaloosa doesn't do it for me. It is too realistic and its characters have too many of the wrong flaws to feel like a real western.



Courtesy of imdb.com

who is probably the true focus of the film. Hitch saves the plot and the movie by extension, when he keeps Cole's love interest faithful, feeds him the right words and fixes his other mistakes. If you combine Cole's ruggedness and Hitch's intelligence, you would get one semi-decent cowboy.

The movie itself is a bit of a bore. The plot is interesting, but it also drags on unnecessarily. The story can be told with more intensity in about half the time. (The run-time of the movie is 114 minutes.)

Where the movie seriously deviated from the classics was in its conceptions of good and evil. In the Wild West, where the rules are fuzzy and the law is what you make of it, the antihero is supposed to break all the rules to catch the "bad guy." Virgil Cole bent the rules where it suited him, but refused to go beyond that.

"MAX PAYNE" STARS SOUND OFF

By HENRY SCHILLER
Contributing Writer

In a marketing venture for the upcoming movie "Max Payne," Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation set up a conference call in which I, and other college writers, were able to ask questions to the stars of the film: Mark Wahlberg, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, and Mila Kunis. All three actors seemed relatively enthusiastic to participate and provided those involved with a great deal of information regarding the film.

"Max Payne" is a neo-noir film based on the PlayStation 2 video game of the same name. While most of the game's action is based around the trials and tribulations of a renegade cop during a crippling blizzard in New York City, the film seems to depart from the game's somewhat sullen overtones, in favor of a more action-packed affair.

Mr. Wahlberg, who first rose to fame in the 80's as an underwear model and "rapper," claims to have read the script with no knowledge of its video game origins. He was so enthralled by its intensity that he immediately jumped on the project as the film's title character. Wahlberg stated that on merely aesthetic terms, he seemed to be an odd choice for the part of a middle-aged, chain-smoking detective. However, he has, in the past, been able to fully embrace more challenging and diverse roles. He mentioned that he is always cast as either a hero or anti-hero, but many probably remember his fantastic performance as a firefighter going through an existential crisis, in the film "I Heart Huckabees." When it comes to tackling tough roles, Mr. Wahlberg is no lightweight.

As to Mr. Wahlberg's recent public "lash out" against "Saturday Night Live," the actor stated that he never participated in the show, despite multiple invitations to host from creator Lorne Michaels, because he had no intention of engaging in "buffoonery for free."

Mr. Bridges took the conference call as an opportunity to promote his new album. However, because he has not made anything artistically viable

in roughly 10 years, I'm not going to do him the favor. The man formerly known as Ludacris expressed more genuine interest in the film's source material than his costars. He pointed out the irony in his playing an internal affairs officer in a film being released at roughly the same time as Guy Ritchie's new movie, "Rockn-Rolla," in which Mr. Bridges plays a man on the other side of the law.

Ms. Kunis had to respond to a volley of questions regarding her transition from comedy to action; she plays opposite Mr. Wahlberg as a sort of anti-hero love interest. She commented on

the highly energetic atmosphere on the set of the film and even answered a few questions about the new Ludacris album. All three actors seemed genuinely thrilled about the movie's release. A blockbuster action film being released this late in the year, however, is not a good sign, and may even indicate that the movie is seriously flawed. Nevertheless, Mr. Wahlberg wants you to see the movie, so you probably should, because he has a terrifying voice.

Editor's Note: "Max Payne" opens in theaters Friday, Oct. 17.



Courtesy of imdb.com



Courtesy of Google Images
Mark Wahlberg stars in "Max Payne" as the title character.

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WHO WE ARE

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Clean Campaigning

By JOSEPH LABRIOLA
Columnist

When your candidate for vice president invokes mass cheers while claiming your adversary, "pals around with terrorists," you need to stop and think about what you're doing.

When your own supporters openly boo you for defending your opponent when you say, "I will respect him," you need to stop and think about what you're doing.

And when members of your core constituency are crying out things like "terrorist," "treason" and "kill him" you really need to stop and think about what you're doing.

I guess this is what happens when you're down by over 10 percentage points, according to some of the latest national polls. What happened to the clean campaign John McCain once promised to the American people? I thought we were going to focus on the issues.

It's amazing, but it seems as if McCain has been played by so-called "Washington politics." His television advertisements that question, "Who is Barack Obama?" are clearly aimed at skewing public perception away from the issues and onto ridiculous guilty-by-association claims like the whole William Ayers foofaraw. I'm not saying that attacking someone's credentials, character, or temperament isn't fair game, but in a time when voters are most concerned about real issues like the economy, energy, and foreign policy, trying to connect Senator Obama to absurd assertions of palling around with domestic terrorists for the sake of riling up the core base of conservatives is not only wrongful campaigning, but also dangerous as well.

I actually applaud senator McCain's rebuttal of the remarks made by his own attack ads only a day after they were launched on television. This shows that he's out of touch with the rest of his campaign and that he needs to stop this negative advertising. Somebody's pulling the strings in the advertising department, and it's definitely not McCain. If he's going to have any chance at winning this election, he needs to show that he can get his own camp under control before he has a chance to manage the entire country.

If you want to know how McCain really feels about all of this, just watch the expression on his face when a woman in the audience of his Oct. 10 rally in Minnesota famously called Obama an "Arab" after saying how she didn't trust him. Despite McCain's horrifyingly politically incorrect response that Obama was "...a decent family man," it was reassuring to see him finally rebuke the empty character attacks of recent days.

And kudos to Senator Obama for not engaging in the same negative campaigning and instead continuing to focus his rallies on the economic crisis plaguing this nation. Besides playing a fair game, Obama's refusal to engage in the same smearing is just good political science. The majority of Americans want to hear about the real issues, and McCain's setting Obama up perfectly to do so, while he's stuck defending the unwise words of his out of control campaign.

The fact is that at the end of the day, Senator McCain, his campaign - or whoever is truly responsible - is putting the Republicans in a lose-lose situation for Nov. 4. Backing off on the attack ads now will show weakness and frailty to many of the hardcore Republican backers while remaining focused on character rather than issues will alienate McCain from the moderates and non-affiliated voters, like me, that he needs to sway in order to have even a remote shot at winning the election. Whatever path he chooses, McCain needs to grab hold of the reigns to get his campaign staffers and Sarah Palin in line and on the same page on with what the message of this race should really be about.

Back in 2000, McCain said, "Sooner or later people are going to figure out that if all you run is negative attack ads, you don't have much of a vision for the future, or you're not ready to articulate it." I would suggest that he heed his own words and follow his advice. Surely the Republicans can come up with a sound policy that offers some sort of substance to the average American voter.

We'll see in the coming days if this change in rhetoric happens, because if not, then I guarantee that Obama's popularity and polls numbers will only continue to grow.

Benefits of Big Gov't

By HIRA AHMED
Assistant Opinion Editor

David Brooks, a columnist for The New York Times, warned readers of the dangers of a full-fledged liberal revival in American politics over the next few years in his Oct. 14 article "Big Government Ahead."

After a long list of assumptions he made about an Obama administration that would revive Keynesian economics, he concluded that the liberals will inevitably take advantage of the economic crisis and dramatically increase spending and the deficit. Where's the problem?

The stigma associated with liberals and "big government" never ceases to surprise me. The "big spender" reputation liberals have earned is rooted in entitlement spending. It is deficit spending that, during the first term of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, led to immediate economic relief. The creation of programs such as the Works Progress Administration created two million jobs, and the Social Security Act remedied the dire economic conditions the country was in.

Ironically enough, it is the conservative administration of the past eight years that have driven a \$559 billion surplus into a \$400 billion deficit. But as long as the deficit isn't caused by the untrustworthy government getting its dirty hands into the lives of Americans to give them scary things like social security and healthcare, deficit spending is fine.

According to a New York Times op-chart, "Bulls, Bears, Donkeys and Elephants," the S&P market index under each the of past Republican and Democratic presidents showed that over 39.9 years an invested \$10,000 would grow to \$300,671 under the Democrats, while under Republicans it would grow to \$11,733. Clearly, Democratic presidents do not warrant the reputation they have of poorly managing the economy.

Brooks mentioned in "Big Government Ahead" that Obama promised various tax-credits, such as \$4,000 a year for college tuition, \$3,000 for childcare, \$7,000 for a clean car, and a mortgage tax credit. Although his tax credits and his tax policy -- that "isn't as irresponsible as McCain's" -- may appear to reduce revenues, his investment in the middle class may do the exact opposite.

A couple of thousand dollars a year spent on each family to improve their educational opportunities and quality of life can only benefit the government. It is in the interest of the government to have an educated populace that can excel in math and the sciences to reposition America at the forefront of technology. It is in the interest of the government to give tax breaks to middle class Americans who are suffering from wage stagnation and would probably spend whatever they save in tax breaks as consumers anyway, because the money they receive from tax breaks is not the kind you invest in savings.

The popularity of small government in America always rested in the idea that such decentralization of power is what would keep Americans autonomous, and the economy prosperous. The past eight years of Republican debauchery, however, have been a testament to the fact that mere government deregulation cannot sustain the economy.

Maybe big government is what America needs now, just as it did after the Great Depression. Maybe big government in America is what the world needs now, after countless countries are finding themselves in economic trouble as a result of American economic faux pas.

It is just weeks before the election, and it is no time to play on stereotypical fears of Democratic big government and big spending. As David Brooks says, "overreach is coming," and it's about time.

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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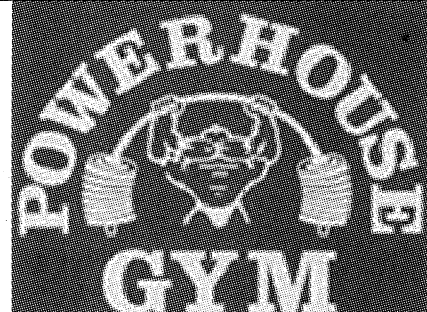
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Women's Soccer Starts Off Road Trip With a 'W'

By SHAWN BROWN
Staff Writer

The Seawolves (7-6) started its three game road trip with a 2-1 victory over UMBC. The Seawolves goals came from midfielders Brook Barbuto and Holly Razzaghi, who combined for five of the team's nine shots on goal. Barbuto scored in the 25th minute, recording her third goal of the season. The game remained tied at one, until the 57th minute when Razzaghi gave the Seawolves the edge with her first goal of the season.

"Yes, it is a good win," assistant coach Steve Welham said, "An away conference win is always big especially when three points are at stake. Our goal is to separate ourselves from the rest of the pack and to earn a top two seed for the conference tournament."

The defense was also solid behind goalkeeper Amanda Hemme, who allowed one goal and recorded four saves in the win. Hemme started in goal for the third straight game, replacing Marisa Viola, who separated her shoulder on Sept. 28th against the Hartford Hawks. In Viola's absence, Hemme has only al-

lowed four goals in three games; three of those goals came in her first start when the team lost to New Hampshire.

The Seawolves victory was only their third road win in seven games. In the four road losses the team has allowed 11 goals and has only put the ball in their opponents net twice.

"Playing on the road especially in conference is always difficult, but most of the time it comes down to proper preparation and mind set which I know our team has learned," Welham said. "We are excited about our next game."

Despite the team's struggles on the road, they have won three out of four games in the American East Conference. The team has also performed well at home (4-2), scoring a total of six goals and allowing no more than a single goal in each of the victories.

The Seawolves will look to repeat their winning performance and improve their road record with the next two games at Albany and then at Boston University. The team could also be at full strength, as the coaches are hopeful that Viola will be healthy enough to rejoin the team in less than a week.

Hockey Weekend Wrap Up



Alex Berkman/ SB Statesman

By GENE MORRIS
Sports Editor

Stony Brook Hockey traveled to Westchester, Pa. this weekend to take part in the America Collegiate Hockey Association national showcase. The Seawolves dropped all three weekend games, to #22 Michigan-Dearborn, #20 Robert Morris (PA), and Adrian College. All three games were separated by one goal late into the third period.

"The games were all very close," Goal-tender Derek Stevens said in an e-mail correspondence. "The games will probably affect us in the short term rankings, but I see us coming back strong," Jack Dagnese got his first start in game number one against

Michigan-Dearborn in the 5-4 lose. Angelo Serse led the offense with a goal and an assist. Tom Pacifico, John Passantino, and Chris Ryan also scored.

Serse scored two goals and had an assist in Stony Brook's 7-5 loss to Adrian College. Freshman Chris Ryan made a big impression in the game with four assists. Dan Cappizuto contributed with a goal and an assist. Adrian scored an empty net goal when Stony Brook was pressing to score the timing goal late in the third.

On the final day the Seawolves dropped a 6-5 game to Robert Morris. Serse once again led the way, picking up a goal and an assist. Derek Stevens was in goal and made 25 saves.

Tragedy Strikes Ranger's Prospect

By GENE MORRIS
Sports Editor

On June 23, 2007, the top ranked amateur European hockey player, Alexei Cherepanov, began his journey towards a National Hockey League career. Touted as the next great Russian phenom, Cherepanov was expected to go high in the draft.

Instead of being one of the top picks, Cherepanov dropped all the way into the lap of the New York Rangers at #17.

Teams worried Cherepanov would be stuck in Russia. The NHL had a transfer agreement with other nations to allow its brightest young stars to come play on hockey's biggest stage. But Russia relented.

But the New York Rangers, on America's biggest stage, in America's biggest market, gambled that the young Russian would find his way to "The World's Greatest Arena," Madison Square Garden, to eventually replace aging superstar Jaromir Jagr, who had just returned the Rangers to respectability.

Ironically, Cherepanov would go onto become Jagr's teammate. Unfortunately, he would never make it out of Russia, transfer agreement be damned.

... The third period comes to an end. On the board is 17:35. Omsk is losing 4:5. The referee suddenly stops play, and everyone goes to the Avangard bench. On it visiting forward Alexei Cherepanov lays on the floor, and the other players and coaches crowd around him. The Vityaz players approach the bench. Hockey has come to an end. The doctor brings ammonium chloride to Cherepanov's nose, trying to bring him around. It's useless. Nobody can understand what has happened. For three minutes the doctors work with Alexei. The boy regains consciousness, goes out again.

- K. Velyakov of Soviet Sport, as translated on www.beyondtheblueshirts.com.

The chilling, crudely translated accounts out of Chekhov, Russia paint a picture of chaos and horror.

"It is terribly painful for me to talk about it," Jagr said to Czech publication MF DNES. "It's terrible. It's a shock, which can't be described. I was very close to him."

"Everything happened suddenly and very quickly," he said. "Lesha (Cherepanov) left the ice, sat on the bench. And died."

... This season there has been an important event - the arrival of Jagr. I generally consider him my fourth coach. He always gives me advice when something doesn't work out. After practice we often remain with him and work on

shooting. And he's always ready to come to the aid of the other guys. Everyone sees that he's very experienced in the game and wants to become a champion.

- Cherepanov's first and only blog entry for Komsomolskay Pravda, as translated on www.beyondtheblueshirts.com

The death of an up and coming 19-year old superstar hit people from all over very hard.

"I've been a die-hard Devils fan since the day I was born," wrote Katie Belusa, a senior at Chatam High in New Jersey. "When I found out Cherepanov died I was actually really upset."

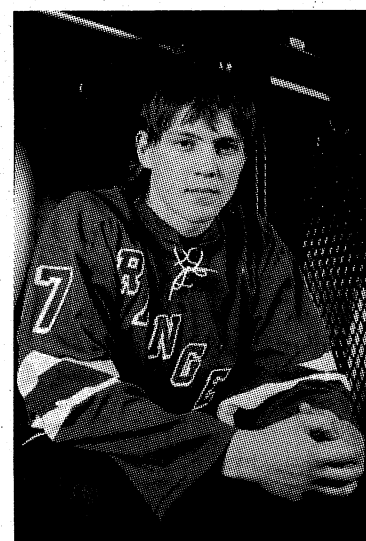
"No matter how intense the rivalry of Devils-Rangers is, a player's life overshadows the hatred between teams," she wrote.

"Uniforms don't account for much when it comes to tragedy," said Devils fan Dillon Tripp. "We are all hockey fans, and the sport dims when such a young, promising talent is lost," he said.

Seeing any healthy, athletic 19-year old drop dead doing the thing he loves is a tough pill to swallow.

Velyakov had these final words to say about the incident:

The doctors put Cherepanov on a stretcher. Try to breathe life into the boy. Perform CPR. It is useless. Blood starts to trickle from Cherepanov's nose. Two hundred fans surround the ambulance. Everyone is silent. Anton Kuryanov, flying out to the street directly from the shower, can't hold back tears. In his eyes four hospital attendants enter the ambulance with Alexei on a stretcher. The door is closed. The sirens are turned on. The ambulance speeds away to a Chekhov hospital. The people watching the scene for a long time stand numb at the side of the arena.



Courtesy of Getty Images

STATESMAN SPORTS

Win One For Wolfie

Key to a Homecoming Victory

By CARL CARRIE AND GENE MORRIS
Sports Editors

Here are areas that the Seawolves must improve on if they hope to win on Saturday.

Score an Offensive Touchdown- The Seawolves have not scored an offensive touchdown in over 220 minutes—spanning over four games. For them to even have a chance against a Charleston Southern team that has averaged 22.6 points per game they will have to score.

Don't Fall Behind Early- Because of their inability to score, the Seawolves have fallen behind early and have been playing catch-up. In the first quarter alone, they have been outscored 64-21. The strength of the Seawolves is their running game, and they haven't been able to establish it because of the score.

Pressure the Opposing QB- The Seawolves defense only has seven sacks, led by James Harris's three. The other team has had plenty of time to throw, connecting on over 60% of their passes.

Find Consistent Quarterback Play- The coaches might have thrown redshirt freshman Dayne Hoffman into the fire too quickly. He has completed only 47.1 % of his passes, and does not have much mobility behind a shaky offensive lane. Maybe its time to see if senior Dan Sweeney can lead the team to a few victories, or if transfer junior Matt Dardenne, who threw 50 touchdown passes over two seasons at Laney College in California, is a better option at quarterback.

Play Good, Fundamental Football- Stony Brook must play turnover free football. Fumbles in consecutive games by freshman RB Edwin Gowins have led to opponent touchdowns that put games out of reach. Holding penalties have negated long runs, pushing the Seawolves anemic offense even farther back.

Convert on Third Down- The Seawolves have only converted on 27% of their third downs. They must do better in this area, but first they have to get significant yardage on first and second down to keep them out of third and long

The game is on Saturday, 3:00 p.m. at Kenneth P. La Valle Stadium.

Alex Berkman / SB Statesman