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FEATURES

Facebook and Myspace Fair Game For College Admissions Officers

According to the recent article, "Poster Beware: More bosses watch applicants' social spaces," published on the website ArsTechnica.com, and a related article titled "Social-Networking Sites Viewed By Admissions Officers," published by The Chicago Tribune, the number of schools and corporations Googling applicants is on the rise.

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APD Classic A Hit

On Saturday, Alpha Phi Delta fraternity hosted its first annual APD Fall Classic, a charity softball tournament for the Starlight Children's Foundation.

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OPINION

Obama and McCain Face Off

The first presidential debate of 2008 had all the hype and drama one could hope for. After it was confirmed that all parties involved would be physically present, the floor was set for an evening of intense discourse between senators Barack Obama and John McCain.

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The \$700B Bill... Don't forget to tip Congress

The recent economic unsteadiness has sparked a public outcry for government intervention. Main Street's desire for someone "in charge" to fix the economy has forced the government to try and fill a large order.

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Still No Suspects In Campus Robbery

By SHIREEN JAYAM
Contributing Writer

Two robberies and one attempted robbery that occurred during September are all still under investigation, said university police.

Campus awareness and security has been heightened after the two attempted and one actual robberies that occurred on and off campus during the first month of classes, according to Douglas Little, interim chief of police.

The first attempted robbery happened at Wagner College in Roosevelt Quad on Sept. 6, when three men threatened a male student and then fled in the direction of Kelly Cafe.

Less than two weeks later, three men wearing dark clothing and skeleton masks approached a male resident between the Computing Center and Circle Road at 11:50 p.m. and took his backpack.

Forty minutes later, two female residents were walking adjacent to Route 25-A when a male in a black hooded sweatshirt approached them, attempting to steal one student's purse then running towards Cosmo's Cafe and entering a black sedan, which sped off in an unknown direction.

Little hopes that in situations involving crime in the campus community, anyone with knowledge of the crime or who witnessed it, notify police. "There are not a lot of solvability factors here," he said.

He also urged students to utilize services that are provided by the university such as the ride program (dial 632-RIDE) and the Residential Safety Program (dial 632-WALK). Little also encouraged anyone who has information about a crime to call Suffolk County Crime Stoppers, at 1-800-220-TIPS or by calling 2-TIPS on campus.

"By communicating to the community in a timely fashion, we put the many good people on notice...that there are thugs out there," said Little. He stressed the details of the cases, making sure that the campus community is aware of the fact that one crime involved three men in skeleton masks.



Amanda Cressotti / SB Statesman

Hole in the wall of Baruch College in Kelly Quad.

Campus-wide awareness may have attributed to the decrease in robberies from six in 2006 to three in 2007, according to the Stony Brook University Annual Security Report, available online for free at the university web site.

Lack Of Water Continues To Plague Students

By AMANDA LAIKIN AND
RICHARD STEIN
Contributing Writers

Showers and sinks in Kelly Quad, Roosevelt Quad, West Apartments, and Schomburg Apartments ran dry for over 12 hours on Tuesday after the water was shut off -- forcing students in 20 buildings to trek to the sports complex or Student Activities Center for their hygiene needs.

Freshman Brittany Swiderski, a resident of Wagner College in Roosevelt Quad, understood that pipe maintenance needed to be done, but still felt inconvenienced by the lack of water. "Walking a mile to the SAC to take a leak was not exactly my idea of fun," she said.

This is the not first time this semester water in residence halls was turned off. Several weeks ago, the hot water in three buildings within Kelly Quad was shut off, forcing hundreds

of students to take unpleasantly cold showers for two days.

The water shut off's on Tuesday can be attributed to a project replacing hot water pipes on Campus. The initiative is to replace high temperature water pipes that are more than 30 years old.

Campus Residences officials would not comment on details of the project or the inconveniences faced by students in the residence halls.

Flyers posted inside dorm buildings alerted students to the dates and times the water would be shut off, but without an explanation as to why.

The flyers also stated when residents could expect to have running water restored. However, in many buildings water started flowing hours after the expected time.

Students in Kelly Quad received flyers telling them the water would be off on Sept. 30, between 7:00a.m.-7-p.m. - the water did not come back on until just past 9pm.

Sophomore Rupal Patel is a resident of Baruch College in Kelly Quad, an area that has been affected by the pipe work twice this semester. "We had cold water for three days and no water for one, and we've only been here for a month. I think it's ridiculous." Some students are wondering why this particular construction is taking place now, as opposed to during a holiday break, or over the summer, so that it would not affect so many students.

When the water was turned back on, some students experienced flooding. "Our bathroom flooded, our

toilet overflowed, our shower drain backed up and we had to put towels at the door to make sure it wouldn't seep through into our common room," said Vipul Singh, a sophomore living in Kelly Quad.

Many students living on campus, not just in the aforementioned quads, have complaints relating to things other than the occasional droughts. The residence halls spark many different opinions among the students living in them. Some appear to be happy and comfortable where they are, while others are more than ready to complain about the magnitude of things that have gone wrong in their dorms or suites, such as electrical issues or utilities constantly breaking.

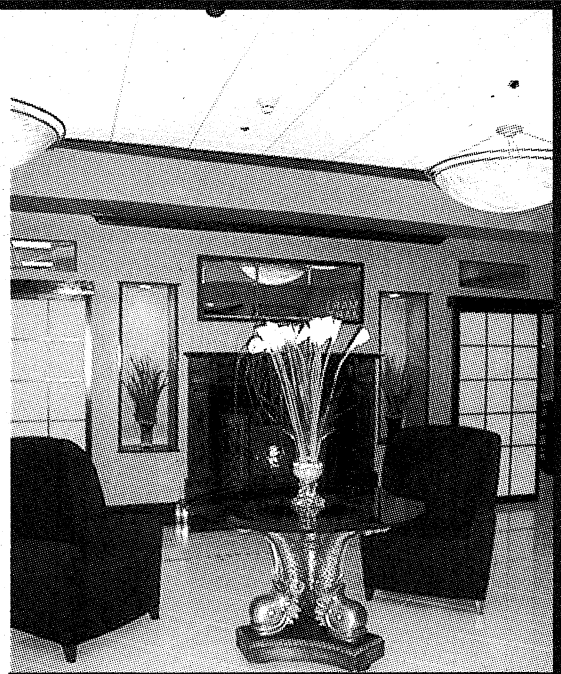
Students can fill out a work order - an electronic form alerting the university to a maintenance problem in their dorm room -- for items ranging from a lock repair to a light bulb outage but for situations such as bursting pipes and water outages this is not an option.

Still other students feel the maintenance staff is on top of most problems.

"The maintenance manager came in 15 minutes to help us out, as soon as he finished the other rooms and when he cleaned up, he put disinfectant sprays and made sure it was as clean as possible," said Singh.

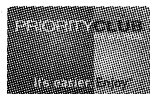
The construction occurring at many of the dorms, like the entire Roosevelt quad and some select dorms in Kelly, has led to the students nicknaming these places "The projects."

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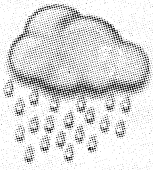
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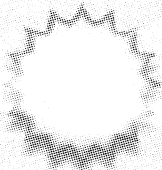
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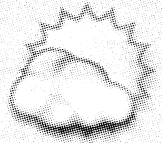
Oct. 6 - Oct. 12



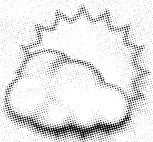
Monday:
High: 68/Low: 51
Scattered showers



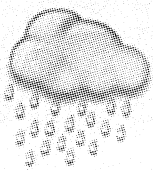
Tuesday:
High: 63/Low: 48
Sunny



Wednesday:
High: 67/Low: 53
Partly cloudy



Thursday:
High: 69/Low: 59
Mostly Cloudy



Friday:
High: 66/Low: 57
Showers



Saturday:
High: 65/Low: 54
Mostly cloudy



Sunday:
High: 67/Low: 53
Showers

Courtesy of Weather.com

Facebook And MySpace Fair Game For College Admissions Officers

By CHARLES COSTA
Contributing Writer

According to the recent article, "Poster Beware: More bosses watch applicants' social spaces," published on the website ArsTechnica.com, and a related article titled "Social-Networking Sites Viewed By Admissions Officers," published by The Chicago Tribune, the number of schools and corporations Googling applicants is on the rise.

This increase is blurring the line between people's online and offline lives.

A study conducted by CareerBuilder.com does not show any surprises, the main Internet-related reason for managers rejecting job candidates is incidents involving drinking and drug use. The posting of provocative photos or information took second place by only one percentage point. The CareerBuilder.com study also states that 22 percent of employers use social networks to research candidates. While not a majority, it still is a sizable number.

For those planning to further their education, The Chicago Tribune article mentions that 10 percent of admissions officials at "prestigious institu-

tions" check social networks to research candidates. Although 10 percent is a small piece of the pie, as with the CareerBuilder.com study, the survey results are anonymous, so users are unaware who is Googling them.

Stony Brook University officials did not return calls by deadline.

In the case of academia, one reason comes from Christopher Watson, dean of admissions at Northwestern University, who said that his department "...consider[s] Facebook and MySpace [the applicant's] personal space," going on to say that to view the applicant's profiles would "...feel somewhat like an invasion of privacy."

Despite Watson's pro-privacy view, there are no set rules governing how far employers and schools can check the Internet for information on candidates.

Jeff Olson, head of research at Kaplan's test preparation program summed up the issue perfectly: "Today's application is not just what you send... but whatever they can Google about you." Right now, it is safe to assume that if it is on the Internet, it is fair game to be considered in an application, even if the content is intended to be private.



Annie Friedman / SB Statesman

APD Classic A Hit

By ANNIE FRIEDMAN
Contributing Writer

On Saturday, Alpha Phi Delta fraternity hosted its first annual APD Fall Classic, a charity softball tournament for the Starlight Children's Foundation.

The Starlight Children's Foundation is a national organization which provides an array of in-hospital, outpatient, school and home-based programs and services to children and their families during an illness and recovery.

Michael Attard, a child life specialist from the Stony Brook University Hospital, said the money donated from the softball tournament will provide amenities for the hospital, such as a fish tank in the pediatric waiting area, as well as laptops and video games for the children.

Proceeds for the tournament were donated from local and national businesses as well as ticket sales. PepsiCo., Dunkin Donuts, Collegiate Greek and Metromint helped sponsor this event by donating food and drinks to players and spectators.

Anton Pagi, a brother of Alpha Phi Delta, came up with the idea for the APD Fall Classic.

"I wanted to help children and get everyone involved while doing it," Pagi said. "The Starlight Foundation was very helpful and through this event we've raised around \$4,000."

Alpha Sigma Alpha, Epsilon Sigma Phi, Alpha Chi Rho, Theta Phi Alpha, Sigma Delta Tau, Delta Sigma Phi, Phi Iota Alpha and Alpha Phi Delta participated in the softball tournament.

Performances by the Stony Brook Dance Team and Stony Brook Color Guard kicked off the game.

Theta Phi Alpha and Delta Sigma Phi played Alpha Sigma Alpha and Alpha Chi Rho in the first game, with a score of 21-2; Theta Phi Alpha and Delta Sigma

Phi were the winners of the first game.

Keith Mojavi Wright, director of fraternity and sorority life at Stony Brook University, attended the softball tournament and said the event was a fantastic display of different organizations working together.

"To bring organizations from different councils together is something we should have done from the start," Wright said. "Alpha Phi Delta should be commended for such a successful event."

Sunil Seoparson, tournament player and brother of Delta Sigma Phi, agreed with Wright.

"I really respect Alpha Phi Delta for getting this event together and getting people more involved," Seoparson said.

In the second game, Epsilon Sigma Phi and Alpha Phi Delta played Sigma Delta Tau and Phi Iota Alpha, with Epsilon Sigma Phi and Alpha Phi Delta securing the win with a score of 12-6.

The final matchup was Theta Phi Alpha and Delta Sigma Phi against Epsilon Sigma Phi and Alpha Phi Delta. Theta Phi Alpha and Delta Sigma Phi won the tournament with a final score of 12-4.

Stephanie Leonette, tournament player and sister of Theta Phi Alpha, came out to play softball for a good cause and to promote good relations with other Greek organizations on campus.

"People tend to stereotype fraternities and sororities, and an event like this shows that we do good things for the community and for others," Leonette said.

Wright felt the event should be the "benchmark" for Greek life and different organizations working together only increased its success.

"This event showed that no matter how different the organization is, culturally or socially, they are more alike than they think," Wright said. "This is only a sign of greater things to come."



Annie Friedman / SB Statesman

Tournament winners Theta Phi Alpha and Delta Sigma Phi.

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Obama and McCain Face Off

The First Presidential Debate

By JOSEPH LABRIOLA
Columnist

The first presidential debate of 2008 had all the hype and drama one could hope for. After it was confirmed that all parties involved would be physically present, the floor was set for an evening of intense discourse between senators Barack Obama and John McCain.

By the end of the program, opinions were already swirling on the major media channels over whom may have "won" the war of words. The overall consensus seemed to conclude that there was tie, however, any given news source could rightfully credit one candidate a "win" over the other based on varying columns of criteria.

What I think is most important in judging who emerged as the victor from this whole thing is to look at the status of each man going into the debate, analyzing what was at stake and what they needed to accomplish, and deciding how successfully they ended up achieving their goals.

I think it's safe to say that John McCain had much more on the line going into this debate than Barack Obama did. Since his convention bump at the beginning of the month, McCain has seen his favor falling among voting Americans in various national polls.

McCain led by six percentage points according to Gallup's Sept. 6 poll. That number nearly flipped in a Sept. 26 Gallup poll, where Obama led with 49 percent and McCain behind five points with 44 percent.

Granted, something like a convention bump was bound to deflate, especially once the shock of Sarah Palin for vice president receded and people began to shift their focuses back onto the man at the head of the ticket. This coupled with McCain's image of not being able to handle an economic crisis only further added to huge hole that he would have to dig himself out of.

Barack Obama had a distinct advantage in the fact that national polls showed him ahead of McCain on various issues going into the debate. The true reason behind his regaining of the lead could be anything from his continuous promises of change in a time when Americans are greatly distressed with their current government's failure to help them, to some of McCain's recent gaffes on the campaign trail. Whatever the case, the numbers clearly showed that prior to their first exchange, Obama was the leading preference for the 2008 presidential election.

McCain's had several goals going into the debate. Probably

his broadest and most critical objective was to pose himself as a wise leader -- a man of courage, knowledge, and understanding, while simultaneously presenting his rival Barack Obama as an immature product of popularity. Only through this kind of characterization could he hope to win the emotions of millions of Americans watching at home on their TVs.

Another goal was to avoid offering any real solutions to some of the nation's biggest concerns particularly regarding domestic issues such as the economy, education, and reducing health care costs. His most important job was to keep as far away from internal worries as possible and keep the focus on national security, foreign policy, and oil.

Obama went into this debate with the vague hope of shutting McCain out of the picture for serious contention for the remainder of this election campaign. That was his reach goal, his safe goal of course being not slipping out of the lead in the national polls. Pretty much all he needed to do was to make sure to avoid any traps or gaffes and keep calm and consistent when reinforcing his plans and strategies. Obama needed to present his points and try to pitch his case through the specific details of how and why

his plan is the best and right one for America.

So who had the best execution then? If I were judging on pure debating technique, I might call it a tie. Obama absolutely destroyed McCain in the first five minutes while focusing all about the economy. Listing his ideas and following them up with numbered explanations left McCain's "we're in crisis, the American worker, blah, blah," counter spiel in the dust.

As the debate wore on, however, particularly by the middle, it was clear that the cool and collected McCain was getting underneath the skin of Obama. Obama interrupted his opponent at various points, McCain usually waiting until the end of his opponent's speech to raise his objection. This was especially successful later on when the talk turned specifically onto foreign policy.

Furthermore, Obama repeated several times that McCain was "right" in regards to certain topics. I don't remember hearing McCain mention that about his counterpart once, although I do clearly recall him saying that Obama "doesn't understand" several times.

Of course, there's a lot more deeply woven within the words of each candidate, but I think the overall theme was thus: McCain

kept his rhetoric crisp and concise in order to captivate American hearts, while Obama's explanations were detailed and drawn out in order to convince American minds.

At the end of the day, I might award the edge to McCain, simply because Obama failed to shut the door on his fledgling rival. This said, however, Obama was impressive for holding his own in a one-on-one debate with a Republican, but I'm still more lauding to McCain's cool demeanor despite being down in the polls, than by Obama's sometimes bumbling attempts to list every last policy he wishes to enact as president of the United States.

Whoever the winner, this debate was a success in highlighting the stark political differences between both candidates and showing America what they have to look forward to for the next four years. That's what it's all about anyway, illustrating to the American people the two choices they have for the next ruler of one of the most powerful and influential countries in the history of the world.

So who will it be, then? There are two more debates remaining that's sure to impress. It seems to me like the fun, and deciding, has only just begun.

Baring Arms Isn't Right

By STEVEN MROZIK
Contributing Writer

The founding fathers bestowed many unalienable rights. They are most commonly known as part of the "Bill of Rights." One of these unalienable rights is the second amendment of the U.S. Constitution -- the right to bare arms.

The right to bare arms means the right to own a weapon, which is generally assumed to be firearms. A gun can be a tool of death and destruction in the hands of the wrong person, and a lifesaver in the hands of the right person. While the line between the wrong and right is often gray, we can still agree that many people who own firearms have no need for them.

The founders of our nation lived during a completely different time and had lived in a different culture in different circumstances than we do today. Guns were a huge part of their lives. They carried rifles to hunt their food and to protect them from wild animals that could attack them. They

defended themselves from native inhabitants of the Americas.

The times they lived in were treacherous, you fended for yourself in the wilderness. There weren't cities and developed areas everywhere; it was forests and plains. The need for weapons was obvious and it was that need that directly influenced the second amendment.

What we must realize now is that the writers of the Constitution also wrote it in such a way to prevent the abuse of the rights given to us.

The Constitution states that a "a well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." This same rule doesn't apply to every person as many claim it to be. According to the Constitution, guns are to be used to protect the citizens from danger, and that the people in charge of protecting us oversee the "militia" and make sure no one is infringing on others' rights by misusing the weapons they

were given.

These firearms can be found across America in thousands of homes, many of whom have little or no proper training with them. If the use of firearms was limited to police officers and military servicemen, we could prevent thousands of gun-related crimes every year and create a safer and more peaceful society. With reduced crime would also come less of a need for firearms as a means of protection. The people who acquire guns to steal and kill wouldn't have them to commit such heinous acts in the first place.

This amendment should be more stringently interpreted to the means in which the founding fathers intended it to be. Many people and groups, such as the National Rifle Association, promote the use and ownership of firearms for protection and claim it is our Constitutional right. I say that once the option of using firearms is eliminated, we are ensured the right our forefathers gave us: protection.

A \$700B Mistake

continued from page 9

* Income averaging for amounts received in connection with the Exxon Valdez litigation

* Inclusion of cellulosic biofuel in bonus depreciation for biomass ethanol plant property

* Transportation fringe benefits to bicycle commuters

Besides for the millions of dollars this pork will cost outright, it will take a financial toll on businesses in the years to come in the amount of billions per year. In addition, the resulting federal intrusions from everything to health care to bio-fuel will have far flung economic impacts.

So, in acting with the sole purpose of being able to pat themselves on the back for doing something, Congress and the president, who signed the bill, has sentenced the taxpayers for many hard years to come.

The tragedy is, of course, that we all wish the government could do something about the economic crisis. We wish the government could just snap its fingers and remove the mess that we have been slowly sinking into over the last decade. However, this is a mess that government created for us in the first place and it's a mess that politicians don't understand and couldn't possibly get us out of using their old tricks. You can't tell a politician that we can't spend our way out of this one, and a politician won't tell a voter that only slow acting policy changes will fix the underlying problems.

Its easy to charge Congress with the task of "doing something to save the economy, corporations and homeowners." It's quite another thing for them to accomplish that task, especially when they don't have the right moves in their playbook.



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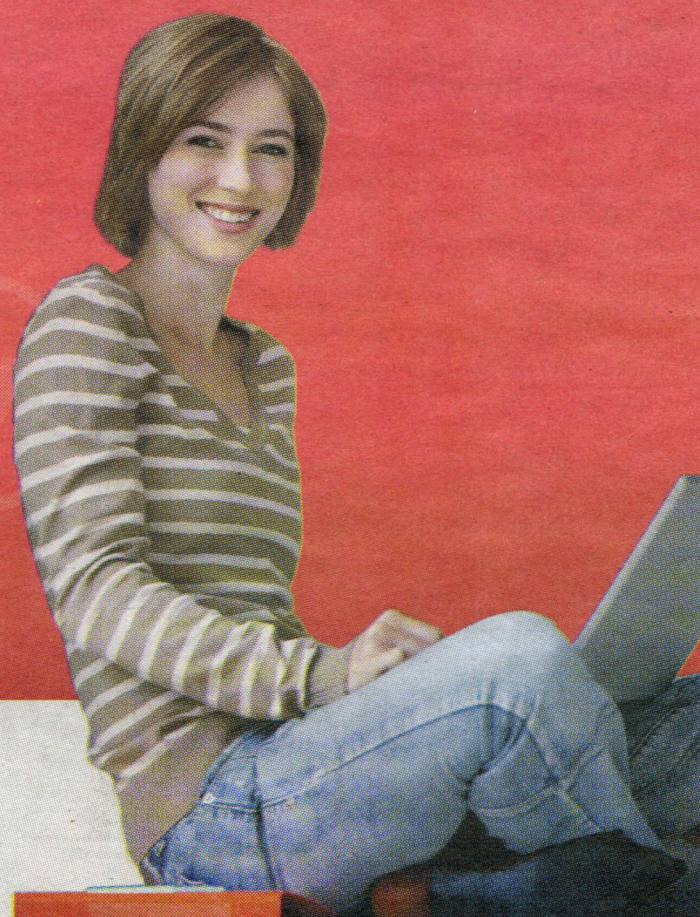


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Another Sunny Season for "IT'S ALWAYS SUNNY IN PHILADELPHIA"

BY AIDA LUU
Contributing Writer

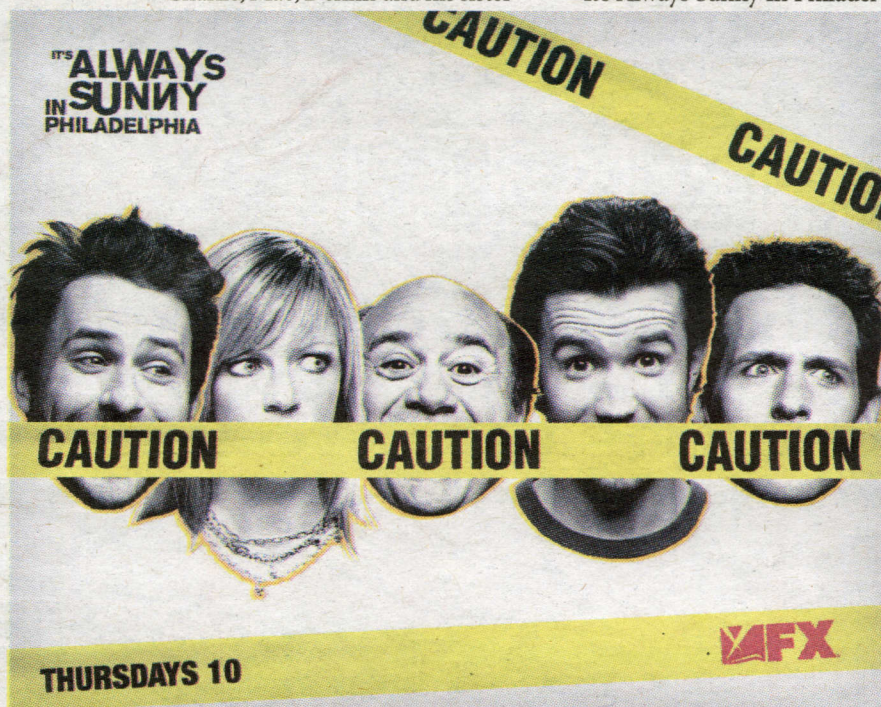
Described as "Seinfeld on crack" by its creators, "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," a comedy on FX, started its fourth season on Sept. 18. The clever, or some may call crude, ads promoting the fourth season will definitely spark an interest and draw you into the show.

The ad campaign contains slogans like "It's like an STD for your television," or "It's normal to feel dirty afterwards" were intriguing, to say the least. I started watching some episodes online after recommendations from several friends and realized this show is comedy genius.

The show revolves around four

middle aged main characters who own an Irish pub in Philadelphia. Charlie, Mac, Dennis and his sister

and schemes they come up with are nothing short of hilarious. "It's Always Sunny In Philadel-



"It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia" first aired on Thursday, August 4, 2005. Currently in its fourth season on FX, the show stars Charlie Day, Danny DeVito, Glenn Howerton, Rob McElhenney, and Kaitlin Olson.

Courtesy of EntertainmentWallpaper.com

Dee are definitely hedonistic jerks in their own right, but the antics

phia" touches upon topics such as homosexuality, racism, abortion,

cannibalism, incest, prostitution, the mentally challenged, and using crack to receive welfare. Basically anything else that can be categorized as controversial is fair game.

In addition to the main four, Danny DeVito stars as Frank, Dennis and Dee's father who is equally egocentric and wants to be in the gang. He fits right in with the rest of the characters because of his selfishness, and is even willing to compromise his own children if it means getting ahead. Taylor Owen describes the characters as, "Oh so evil, but that's what makes the show so good."

There really is no main plot, but every episode centers on the gang getting into some sort of crazy shenanigan, and culminates in the end with an ironic twist, much like "Seinfeld." The gang's many "get rich quick" schemes and their derision from seeing others suffer make up a lot of the storyline, but the results are always humorous and unexpected.

Their many recurring characters also make the show what it is, like the recovering alcoholic waitress who Mac tries to sleep with, although Charlie has harbored

obsessive feelings for her since the show has started. There's also Cricket, a homeless guy who used to be a priest, before Dee exploited the fact that he used to have a crush on her in high school. The characters are so horrible but it all adds up to comedy gold.

Dedicated fan and freshman, Jesse Lederman, says, "It's not even just funny. It's an 'out there' kind of funny that words can't even describe, only laughter can."

The fourth season has gotten even better. The gang becomes cannibalistic, hunting humans as a sport, and they also buy and try to profit from selling gasoline from the back of their van. All in all, the characters in season four have become even more horrible, which only adds to the humor of the show.

"It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia" airs Thursdays at 10 p.m. on FX.

Editor's Note: The image of Linwood's album, "Burn Effect" went unattributed in the Oct. 2 print issue. It is courtesy of Google Images.

A DREAM DEFERRED

BY ULA LUKSZO
Staff Writer

There really is no good way to make a movie about immigration.

Some films, like "Maria Full of Grace" (2004), come close. But this is clearly a case of "the exception proves the rule."

This past Friday's 7 p.m. Staller selection, "The Visitor" (2007), begins hopefully, with understated charm and humor. Very quickly, however, it begins to sink under the weight of the "immigration film" paradigm.

Professor Walter Vale, played by Richard Jenkins, who recently appeared in "Burn After Reading," is a dejected, unhappy college professor in Connecticut, who has been teaching the same course on political science for the past 20 years. He is also a widower, possibly a very recent one.

So when he is sent by the dean to present a paper he co-authored at a conference at New York University, Walter goes unwillingly. He brings his constant companion -- a bottle of red -- with him to his New York apartment, only to find his apartment has been illegally sublet to a Syrian young man, Tarek, and his Senegalese girlfriend, Zainab.

Once the mix-up is explained, Walter invites the pair to stay in his apartment until they can find another place. An unlikely friendship

forms between the self-conscious Walter and the out-going, drum-playing Tarek.

The film excels in presenting their friendship in funny yet convincing terms, with Tarek giving Walter drum lessons, while Zainab rolls her eyes in the background.



Courtesy of Google Images

Undoubtedly the highlight of the first half of the film is a scene where Tarek brings Walter to Central Park and they join a row of men from across the globe who have convened to make music together.

This however, is one of the few rays of sunshine in the film. In the subway later that day, Tarek is cornered by undercover NYPD cops. He is arrested and turned over to an

immigration holding facility where he is incarcerated indefinitely.

It is here that the film takes on a heavy, melancholy air, as it trudges through the trenches of films that protest America's treatment of immigrants, illegal or not.

It is evident that Tarek has been targeted because of his obvious Middle Eastern appearance. The camera lingers over shots of American flags, the Statue of Liberty, and 9/11 murals, to the point that it feels like the film is hitting the audience over the head with a sledgehammer.

And certainly, the story of what happens to Tarek is deeply moving and unfair. His treatment, and the treatment even Walter receives at the hands of the INS lackeys, is abominable. We are moved by Zainab's grief, as well as the grief of Tarek's mother, Mouna, who comes to New York even though she is helpless to get Tarek out. Both she and Zainab are also here illegally.

Ultimately, however, the film sacrifices its plot and characters in favor of its message. Its message, though a worthy one, would undoubtedly have been better put to use either in a documentary, or as a back story concerning perhaps a friend of Tarek's, rather than Tarek himself.

The end of the film leaves the audience wondering what will happen, now that Tarek is gone and

his mother with him. Walter, who appears to have come alive with the appearance of the stately and beautiful Mouna, is left alone again, and we don't even see Zainab after hearing Tarek's sentence.

The characters, instead of finding apotheosis in new-found friendships

and relationships, are left as bureaucratic carnage of the post-9/11 era, and we, the audience, are left with only one message: America and its "freedoms" are tainted by this country's inhuman treatment of people who come here with the hopes of an American dream fulfilled.

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Don't be a PC?

By JOSH GLAZER
Contributing Writer

It's hard to believe how bad Microsoft's new "PC" commercials are. I find it hard to believe how a giant corporation like Microsoft can be so bad at marketing.

Surely, someone in the company must realize how ridiculous the ads make Microsoft look. However, since the TV spots were made and continue to air on several channels, the answer ultimately must lie at the top, with current CEO Steve Ballmer. It is the leader of a corporation whose vision filters down to every aspect of the company.

Additionally, a quick look at the bio of Ballmer on Microsoft's website shows that he was hired as a business manager and has no technical training or expertise. Judging from my own familiarity with technology companies, when business managers are put in charge of engineers, the company starts to go down the tube.

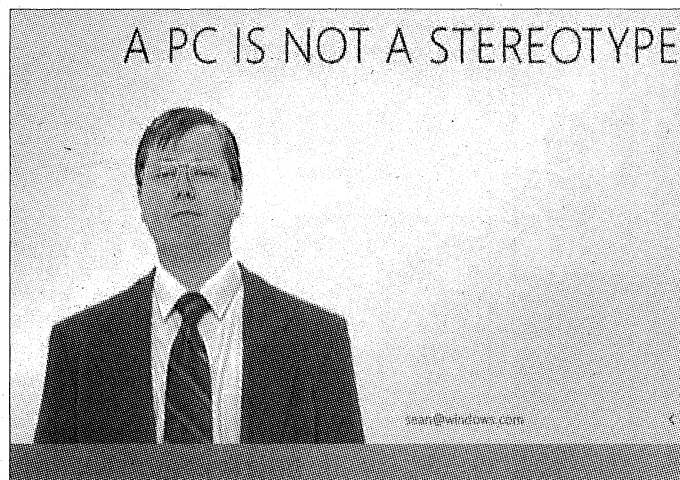
Take Microsoft's rival, Ap-

ple and Microsoft reflect the overall tenor of those companies.

To add irony to embarrassment, in preparation of writing this article, I saw a bump on the Adult Swim segment of Cartoon Network that revealed that Microsoft's new "PC" commercials were made using Macs.

This was, apparently, discovered by the pseudonymous "LuisDS" and published on his flickr page, a combined photo and video hosting and online community website. LuisDS cleverly checked the metadata on pictures of the ad campaign on Microsoft's own website, which showed the image was created on Macs running Adobe Creative Suite 3 and not on Microsoft's own Expression Studio software.

This must have caused Microsoft at least some small amount of embarrassment. Even though the diversification of production tools must occur all the time in the computer world, to have it revealed so publicly is just another blow to



"I'm a PC" images were designed on Macs, Courtesy of lifewithoutwalls.com

ple, for example. Its products are fresh, and are accompanied by diverse and hip advertising. The commercials featuring the guy from "Die Hard 3" and the PC guy from "Saturday Night Live" fame are clever, and one reason they succeed is because they use talented actors who immediately reach their viewing audience in a fun way.

In contrast, Microsoft's "PC" commercials use either "real people" or the un-funny duo of the over-the-hill comedian Jerry Seinfeld and the retired Bill Gates, the stereotype of nerdiness. It's no surprise that experienced actors are better at getting the message across, but why can't Microsoft understand such basic truths of advertising? The advertising decisions made by the two different teams of

Microsoft's self esteem.

Although, in real terms, the poor advertising campaign might not make a difference to sales. The morale of the companies and customers involved, however, will definitely be affected.

Microsoft may still be the main supplier of operating systems for manufactured PCs, but the most talented computer engineers of the next generation will want to work for companies that have a positive image, which Microsoft is slowly losing.

Only the future will tell whether companies with stronger managements will take Microsoft's place as the main provider of PC operating systems and software.

The \$700 Billion Bill

Don't Forget to Tip Congress

By ZACHARY KURTZ
Opinion Editor

The recent economic unsteadiness has sparked a public outcry for government intervention. Main Street's desire for someone "in charge" to fix the economy has forced the government to try and fill a large order. Congress and the Federal Reserve have been charged with saving the failing banking and insurance institutions, while preserving the housing market, keeping sub-prime mortgage holders in their homes all while insuring unemployment and inflation remains low.

I've written before about how politicians who don't understand how monetary policy inevitably

create policy that contributes to the dreaded business cycle, where markets boom and bust, leaving uncertain volatility on Wall Street. We've demanded renewed government oversight over the housing market to keep lenders and borrowers in line, but have forgotten how the government and the Federal Reserve's -- technically a private entity -- policy of keeping interest rates low and credit freely available caused the boom in the first place, and hence the inevitable bust.

Congress, the senate and the president, who are largely ignorant of these important details, are floundering in their response. Several days ago, the House passed a \$700 billion "bailout bill" by a margin of 263-171.

Congress is confused because they can only imagine a scenario in which government inaction will result in economic catastrophe and so revert to the only job that they know how

to do: spend lots of taxpayer dollars. To congress, government action means government spending. Congressmen and women know that if they tell voters to tighten their belts and adopt more intelligent monetary policy that frees up the money system to avoid the business cycle, they might not get re-elected.

Instead, the government will borrow and print money to buy up shares in these insolvent businesses. This only serves to increase the already staggering national debt and devalue

the dollar by causing inflation. Simply put, American taxpayers will not be able to han-

dle the \$700 billion check that Congress is asking us to pick up.

Not to mention, some of the items on that bill, I don't even remember Congress ordering.

The behemoth, 451-page bailout bill is stuffed full of unrelated pork. It's obvious that a lot of our legislators decided to take advantage of the bill that was going to be hurried through the voting process, hoping that it would be passed before taxpayers realized what they were being asked to pay for. Here is a tiny sampling of the earmarks in the bill:

* Exemption from excise tax for certain wooden arrows designed for use by children

* Seven-year cost recovery period for motorsports racing track facility

* Increase in limit on cover over of rum excise tax to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands

Continued on page 9

Guidelines for Opinion Submission

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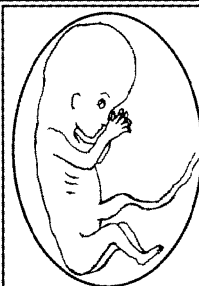
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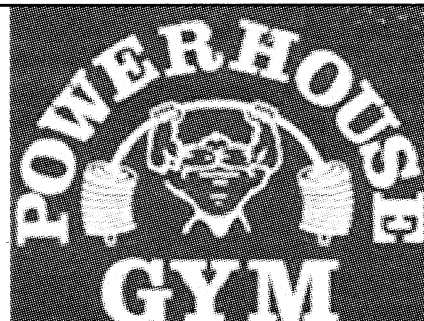
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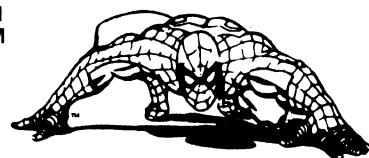
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Ice Hockey Looks to Get Back On Track After Battle With #4 Liberty

Continued from pg 1

he said. "But we took too many penalties and our penalty kill [hurt us]."

Sloppy play in the defensive zone cost the Seawolves in the second period. After a bad turnover resulted in a 2-on-0 break and a goal for Liberty four minutes in, they nearly scored again on a breakaway after another turnover, but Stevens was able to bail them out.

Serese came to the rescue again midway through the second, scoring the teams lone power play goal after his centering pass banked off the goalie.

Serese seemed to be amped up all night. At the end of the first period he fired a slap shot on goal and followed the play behind the net, hitting a Liberty player into the boards well after the puck had been moved.

"I was trying to do something," he said. "Trying to get something going."

Apparently it wasn't enough to fire his team up. "We gave up" in the third period, he said. "We took stupid penal-

ties, couldn't stay out of the box."

After Serese's goal Liberty used its size and strength advantage to grind out the third period and keep the Seawolves pinned in their own end.

Even though his team lost, DeSChamps, making his Stony Brook coaching debut, sought positives after the game.

"It was our first game of the season," he said. "That's one of the top ranked teams in the country, I think we fared pretty well. We'll go home gets a good nights sleep, take another go at 'em in the morning."

Notes: The Seawolves fell again to Liberty on Sunday morning, this time by a score of 6-2. Serese scored the first goal and assisted on the second by Tom Pacifico. Derek Stevens was in goal again and did well to keep his team in the game. The Seawolves season continues this weekend when they travel to Michigan-Dearborn on Friday night.



Liberty used its size advantage to defeat the quicker Seawolves.

Alex Berkman / SB Statesman

Cross Country Continues Run Towards NCAA Championships

By MIKE FODERA
Senior Writer

We are right in the middle of cross country season here at Stony Brook. The air is getting chilly, the leaves are starting to fall, and the Seawolves' men and women cross country teams are alive and kicking.

The latest action had the Seawolves split across the country, with the women competing in the Notre Dame Invitational in Indiana and the men competing in the Paul Short Invitational in Lehigh, Penn.

The women finished fourth in front of eight teams, including two teams that are ranked ahead of them in the Northeast Region, Providence and Boston College. Even more reason to believe this was a great effort for the women is the fact that the eight teams that were beaten by Stony Brook were all ranked in the top thirty in the NCAA.

The men finished in a less-than-desirable spot, finishing 19th in a field of 45 colleges.

The women, who came in to the season ranked number three in the northeast, have placed amongst the top of colleges, but have not yet placed a top finisher. The women's highest finisher was Holly Van Dalen, the sophomore from Wanganui, New Zealand, who crossed 20th with a time of 17:08.

It has been a very productive season so far for Van Dalen, who has consistently been one of the team top finishers amongst the Seawolves. Following suit in her sister's steps has been Lucy Van Dalen, who finished 22nd, also with a

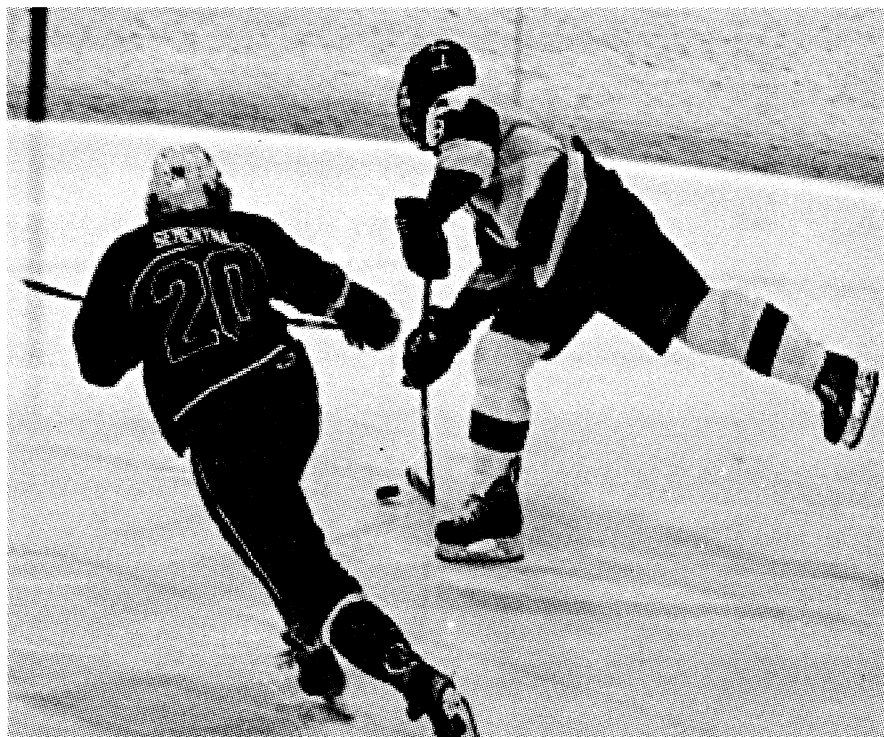
time of 17:08.

The local girl from Smithtown, Jessica Hampson, crossed the line right after Lucy, in 23rd place. Freshman Hayley Green from Wellington, New Zealand, took 35th place with a time of 17:18 and junior Laura Huet, hailing from Carrickmines, Ireland, crossed the finish line in 56th seventeen seconds later.

The men came into the season and the race being ranked 10th in the northeast region, but have faced some tough competition from participating colleges. The latest roadblock to a successful season came at the Paul Short Invitation, where the men finished 19th out of 45 colleges.

Top finisher sophomore Tim Hodge from Tawa, New Zealand, finished 11th with a time of 24:07. The next top finisher for the men was junior Alex Felce from Stroud, England, who finished 27th, 17 seconds later. Daire Bermingham, a junior from Portmarnock, Ireland, finished 50th with a time of 24:43. The men can take solace in the fact that they beat perennial rival Binghamton University and Marist College.

Head coach Andrew Ronan was optimistic his teams' efforts will begin to pay off in the standings. It's not as if the players are slacking, but their fortunes will turn and the players must lick their wounds from the previous race and look ahead to the next event which is the pre-NCAA meet in Terre Haute, Ind., an event the Seawolves have recently come to own with dominating performances. The race will take place Oct. 10.

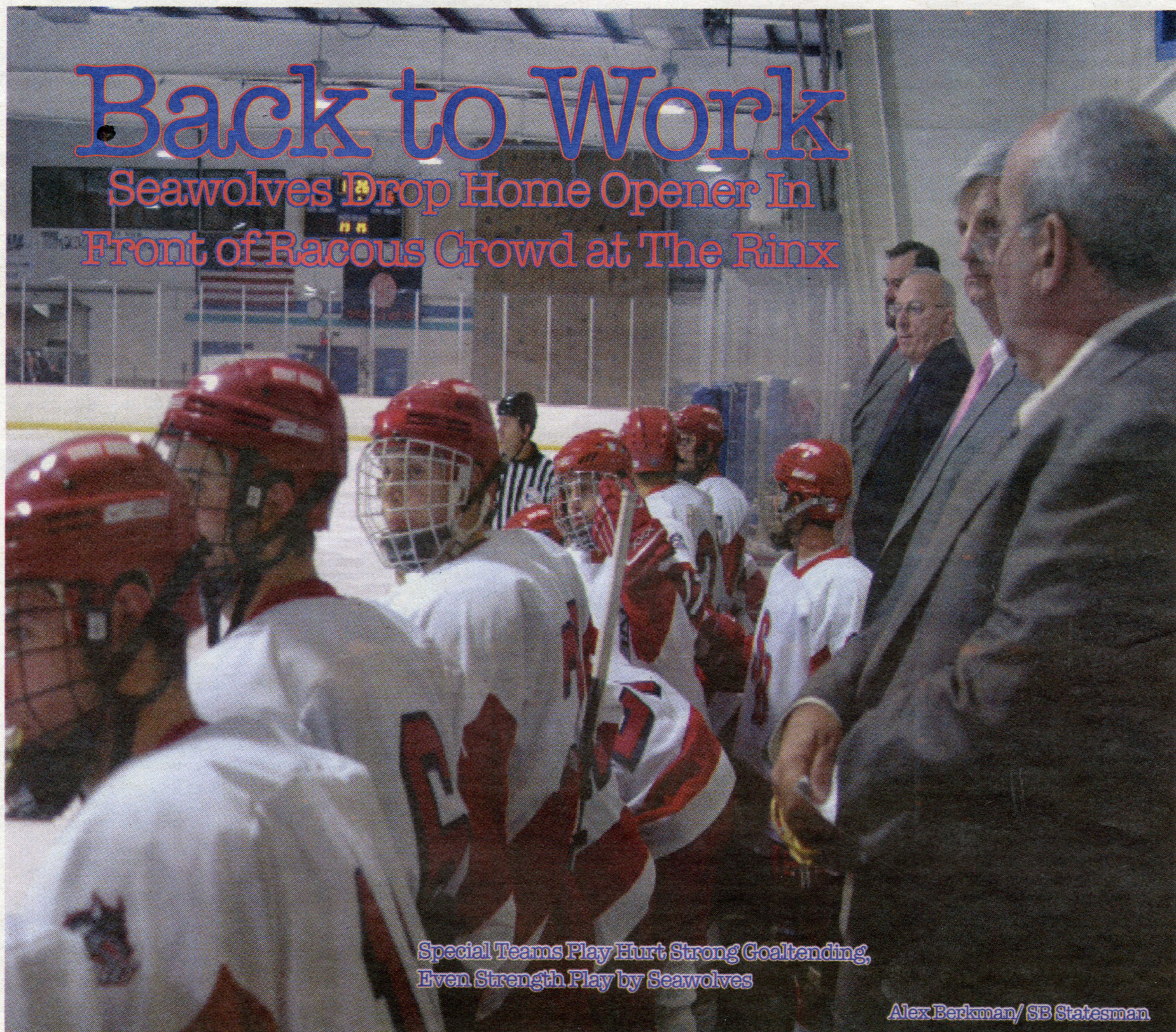


Angelo Serese leads the team with three goals after two games

Alex Berkman / SB Statesman

STATESMAN SPORTS

Back to Work Seawolves Drop Home Opener In Front of Racious Crowd at The Rinx



Special Teams Play Hurt Strong Goaltending,
Even Strength Play by Seawolves

Alex Berkman/ SB Statesman

By GENE MORRIS
Sports Editor

Students and fans of all ages packed The Rinx in Hauppauge on Saturday night to see the Stony Brook Seawolves ice hockey team return to action against highly ranked Liberty University. The game was tightly contested throughout, but in the end sloppy defensive play and too many penalties led the Seawolves to drop the game 6-3.

"During the game we played well, we out shot them," said Seawolves head coach Buzz DesChamps. "We just made some major mis-

takes taking stupid penalties."

The key all night for the Seawolves was special team play. Stony Brook had numerous 5-on-3 power play chances and failed to convert.

A five-minute span late in the second period was the turning point of the game. Liberty was whistled for four consecutive penalties, giving the Seawolves ample time with the two-man advantage. They were unable to convert, and Liberty scored what ended up being the game winning goal shortly after killing off all the penalties.

But the Stony Brook faithful were loud and energetic from the start. They got a boost when forward Angelo Serse scored the season's first goal just 34 seconds in. Serse came in on a partial breakaway and beat the Liberty goaltender with a low wrist shot just inside the post.

Liberty came back with a goal of their own a little less than five minutes later, but Stony Brook jumped back in front shortly after. Kris Deckenback and Mauricio Torres broke in on a 2-on-1 break but got to fancy with their passing. The puck ended up loose in front before Tom Pacifico swooped in and batted it to the

back of the cage.

Liberty was able to tie the game at two late in the first period. The Flames were awarded a penalty shot while they were already on the power play with 3:50 to go. Goaltender Derek Stevens turned aside the shot, but Liberty scored a power play goal just 11 seconds later.

Assistant Coach Pete Hall expressed his disappointment in the teams special teams play. "The goalie was outstanding tonight,"

Continued on Page 11