



EZRA MARGONO / THE STATESMAN

One Stony Brook student's family prepares for a spring celebration over the weekend.

Aetna Comes Back To Stony Brook

By JEANINE RESCIGNO
Contributing Writer

Stony Brook University Medical Center and Aetna have agreed on a new contract, ending the month long stalemate between the two organizations and restoring the hospital as an in-network provider.

The agreement was made on March 17, after the original contract expired on Feb. 15.

"We could not rest until this negotiation was concluded and I am extremely gratified that we have been able to reach this agreement, restoring access to Stony Brook University Medical Center and its many services unique in Suffolk County to Aetna's members," said Steven L. Strongwater, chief executive officer of the hospital in a statement.

Aetna provides approximately 4,500 students with health insurance through the Student Health Insurance Plan, known as SHIP.

When the original contract expired on Feb. 15, Aetna and the hospital included a stipulation that SHIP benefits would not be affected until Aug. 16, 2010, at which time the university would have had to implement another student plan. The stipulation considered the hospital in-network for members of SHIP.

According to Lauren Sheprow, a university spokesperson, SHIP benefits were a substantial factor in the previous negotiations.

The new contract expires April 30, 2011.

One Student: Called Back to Afghanistan

By ALLISON WHITNEY
Contributing Writer

Brian Jaramillo was visiting relatives in Queens when the call came. At first, he could barely process it.

"It hit me a couple hours after I got the call. Just because, I had plans, you know? It's just all bad timing," Jaramillo said.

Brian was talking about the rest of his life. He's a student at Stony Brook University, who is majoring in technological systems management. He is also a veteran who spent

seven years in the U.S. Navy. After leaving the service, he joined the Navy Reserve thinking that he would have ample time to finish college before being called to active duty.

The call, which came in January, informed the 26-year-old vice president of the Veteran Students Organization at Stony Brook that he was wrong. He was being deployed to the Middle East.

He's going to Afghanistan as part of President Obama's orders to send 30,000 troops there. He dropped all of his classes in order to

fulfill his duty overseas, but he's not complaining. His story is one of a life interrupted but it is also a story of patriotism.

When Brian came back to the U.S. after finishing seven years in the Navy, he spent six months in Teaneck, N.J., at his parents' house searching tirelessly for a government job. But, he couldn't find anyone who would hire him without a bachelor's degree.

And, he couldn't forget about the Navy. He rejoined the Navy Reserve on Oct. 21, 2009, in Amityville to be close to

Stony Brook.

"I thought I was never gonna get back in. I was out for good. But in those six months, I don't know what it was, but this patriotism just really grew, got a lot stronger, much more love for the Navy. I decided to join again," Brian said.

Brian started taking classes at Stony Brook University and moved into a dorm room in the spring semester of 2009. He was looking forward to starting a new chapter of his life without interruptions—confident that it would take at least two years for

him to be called to active duty. He was determined to graduate by the spring of 2011.

Brian was at his Aunt and uncle's house on Jan. 6, in Queens, when he got the call from a Navy personnel specialist notifying him that had received orders to deploy to the Middle East.

"They told me I was 'mobilizing,' he said. 'But, 'mobilizing' means anywhere. And he said, 'Could be Cuba, could be Kuwait, could be Iraq, could be Afghanistan.'

See **STUDENT** on 5

IN THIS ISSUE

New play fails to portray depth

When Mr. Fitch was proclaimed a hero by Mrs. Fitch and the stage went dark, I could only hear screams of "BOOs" erupting from the orchestra and mezzanine. "BOOs" echoing

from the set on stage, "BOOs" emanating from the play itself. "BOO! BOOO! BOOOOOOURGEOUS BUNK!"...

See **BEANE** on 6

The Texas textbook massacre

"Let me control the textbooks and I will control the state," so quoted the once Fuehrer regarding the changes he and Joseph Goebbels, his head of propaganda, had made to

the textbooks of Germany. Nothing that was detrimental to the reputation of the Nazi party could be published in case...

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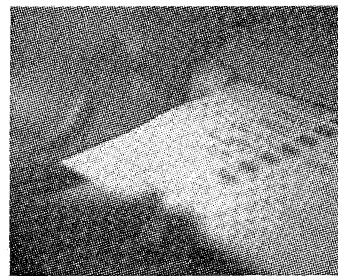


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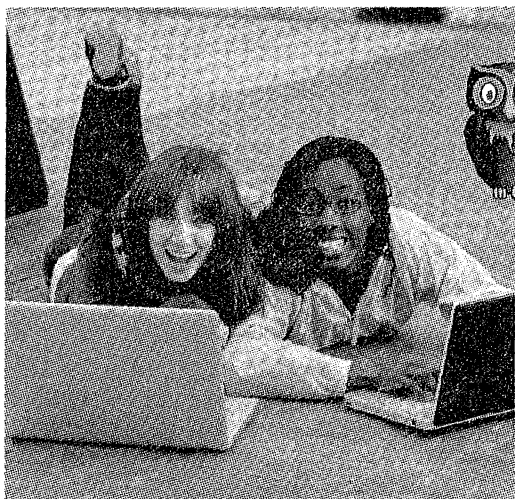


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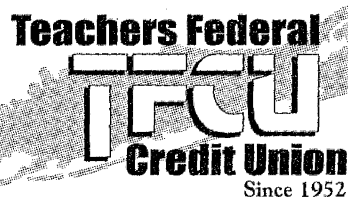
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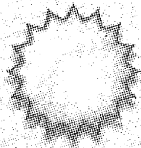


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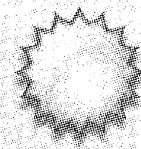
NEWS

Student Forecast

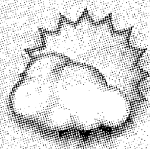
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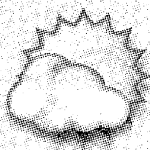
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From weather.com

Textbook Rentals: An Alternative to Expensive Books

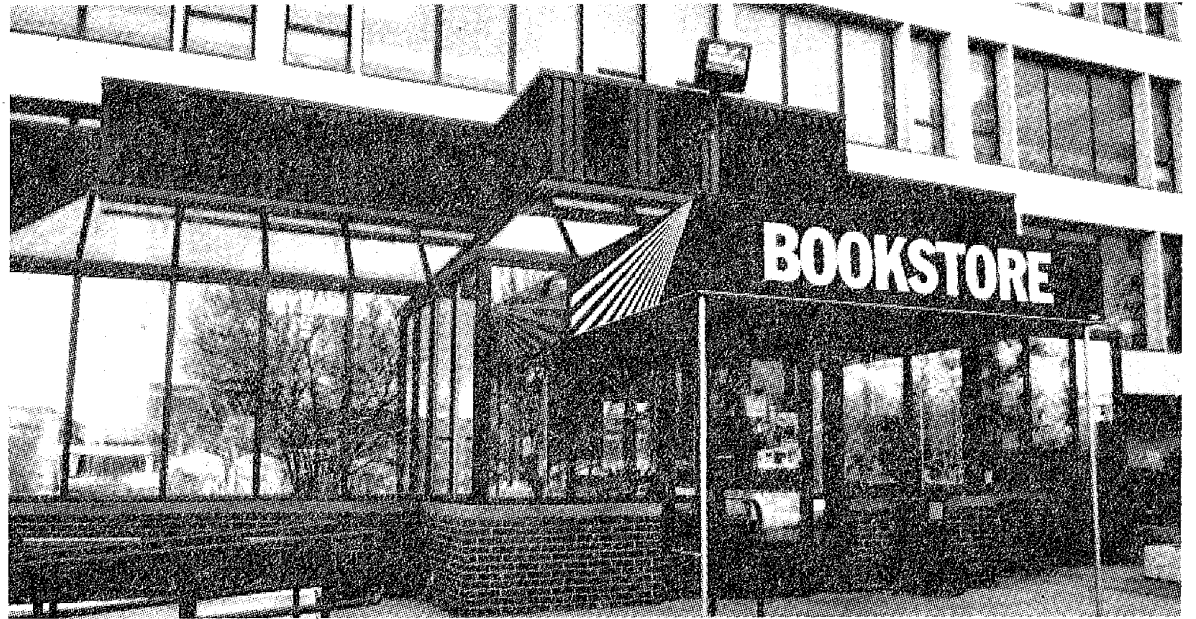
By MARY REILAND
Contributing Writer

As David Melendez, a sophomore business major, picked up his check from Target, he knew exactly where his hard earned money was going to be spent—at the Stony Brook bookstore on expensive college textbooks. But on the first day of classes, he was surprised to hear about a new money saving option—textbook rentals.

Students who no longer wish to keep their textbooks or waste precious studying time by waiting on long lines to sell them back—for a fraction of the original cost—may want to consider the new program.

The program which launched this past spring semester is part of a pilot program by Barnes & Noble initiated at 25 schools across the country. SUNY Stony Brook and SUNY Brockport were among the 25. The option to rent a text is available in many classes but not all.

“We have always been committed to finding ways to help make textbooks more affordable for students,” said



SAMANTHA BURKARDT / STATESMAN FILE PHOTO

Karen DiScala, manager of corporate communications for Barnes & Noble College Booksellers. “We are delighted to be able to offer students another cost-saving option.”

According to the National Association of College Stores, students spend an average of \$702 on books and course related materials. The textbook rental program offers a significant upfront savings.

The cost of renting a book is 42.5 percent of the book’s retail cost. For example, a book that would cost \$100 would instead cost only \$42.50 under the new program.

Melendez spends about \$300 a semester on books. This semester he was able to rent a textbook for his Technological Trends in Society course. “As long as renting is the cheaper option,

I’d rather do it because I sell all my books back anyway and lose money,” Melendez said. This semester he saved \$60 by renting just one book.

Renting the books is easy. Visit whywaitforbooks.com and input state and school information or go to the school store. While the books can be paid for upfront with cash, a credit card is necessary to be held on file in case the

book is returned after the due date or damaged.

And although Melendez is a proponent of renting textbooks, he said the savings do not make up for the increase in tuition over the past few years. “Tuition has increased by hundreds over the past few years and even though renting textbooks will save money, the savings don’t really even out” Melendez said.

H I G H T E C H N I C A L D R E A M

Make Your Voice Heard

By CHARLES COSTA
Columnist

Today, we are in an era of uncertainty and turmoil. From the battles in the Middle East, the debate over health care, issues with the global economy, and plenty more, politicians have taken on an ever increasing importance of what appears to be a life or death decision of the world as we know it.

While politics is far from the favorite conversation topics of many – I myself tend to be drawn to political polls, provided you don’t have to participate in a heated debate over your reasoning. Now while the country has long allowed citizens to participate in the election of politicians,

a new application for the iPhone, Blackberry, Android, Facebook, and the web allows you to vote on the same bills your members of Congress are considering or even the bills passed or rejected.

From the question of passing health care, to mandating background checks on firearms purchased at gun shows, the stimulus bill, stem cell research, and my favorite – the fair tax act of 2009. All of which are up for voting by you, the citizens of the USA.

Signing up simply requires a name, email, zip code (to locate your politicians) and a few

other fields. After you complete the signup, you simply select the bills you want to vote on, and you either give a yes, no, or don’t care. Visible Vote also provides links to news coverage of the bills (if

every week, the members of Congress are sent their constituents bill ratings from Visible Vote, so unlike those polls on random websites there’s a much greater chance your voice will be heard.

As mentioned earlier, Visible Vote exists as an application for the top smart phones, so when you have a minute or two to spare, you can always place a vote or two.

It’s certainly much more enjoyable than waiting outside your lecture hall or class room for the room to empty out. Also, Visible Vote now allows you to make your voice heard even if you’re not able to vote in the traditional

elections.

On a side note some states even require employers to provide for an hour or two of paid leave to vote in an election provided you’re working during the polling hours, however that’s a topic for your states election boards – Visible Vote provides a simple yet effective way to make your voice heard, without needing to be heavily politically active.

Also, while on the topic of elections, Visible Vote tracks how well your votes match up with those of your politicians, providing you with a percentage of “agreement.” This is an invaluable tool to help you pick who to vote for, while cutting through the mess of campaign ads, and also saves you plenty of research since everything is in one place.

“Visible Vote doesn’t allow you to place an official vote on Congressional bills as that’s the job of Congress.”

available) along with links to the actual text, and generally plenty of user comments.

Although Visible Vote doesn’t allow you to place an official vote on Congressional bills as that’s the job of Congress,

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One Student: Called Back to Afghanistan

From **STUDENT** on 1

After the presidential order, it seemed most likely that I was going to go to Afghanistan."

His cousin, Alex, was sitting next to him when Brian hung up with a look of disbelief. He told Alex cousin the news and that he had to keep it a secret from the rest of the family until Brian was ready to tell them.

Then he told his father.

"I asked him, 'Dad, how would you feel about me going to the Middle East?'"

"Well son, I know you love the military and I support you in anything you want to do, said his father. "But if there is another option, look into it."

"Well, what if I don't have an option?" said Brian.

"Well what do you mean?" said his father.

"I said, 'I got the call. I gotta go.' He didn't really believe me."

It took one month and three days of waiting after the call for Brian to find out that he was officially going to Afghanistan. He said that it usually takes five days to find out the location of deployment after initial notification but due to an administrative issue, he had to wait much longer.

His father, Luis Jaramillo, who everyone calls "Fernando", served one year in the Columbian Army when he was 17-years-old. Fernando says he is not happy that his son is going to Afghanistan and that his wife is worried.

"Everybody's affected," Fernando said. "My friends, my family, my little kids. They're thinking about him. But, well, it's one of those trips that we always hope that he's going to come back. And that's the major thing, you know?"

The first few weeks of the semester were mentally hard for Brian to endure because he had many unanswered questions running through his head.

"When I'm in class and I can't concentrate, my mindset's just not there. I wish it was just one thing. There's just too many things in my head to even pay attention. What am I gonna do when I get back? Am I gonna come back in time? Am I gonna come back alive? What should I tell my teachers? Should I just take advantage of this and just hang out in my dorm?"

Brian is the vice president of the Veteran Students Organization at Stony Brook University. Byung Sa, the president of the club, said that they are planning on sending care packages to Brian while he is away in Afghanistan.

Brian, who was born in

Queens, lived in Columbia from age three to 13. He moved back to America with his father and step-mother, both of whom currently live in Teaneck, N.J. He graduated from the New York City Museum School in a class of 26 students, none of whom enlisted in the military.

Brian was only 17-years-old when an advertisement for the Navy at a Lowes Multiplex Cinema in Manhattan, sparked his interest in the service. The advertisement offered the chance to travel the world, make money and have his college tuition paid for after he finished. To Brian, it was an offer he couldn't refuse. A year later, he enlisted in the Navy and was sent to Japan shortly after. He traveled to more than 14 countries as a sailor and the G.I. bill is paying for him to attend Stony Brook.

Brian never had to carry a gun during his prior seven years while in the Navy, but believes that will change when he goes to Afghanistan. He also said that he will undergo a month of extra training before he deploys.

He would not reveal what tasks he will be performing as an operation specialist in Afghanistan and he won't tell his family either. Instead, he said he'll reassure them that they have no reason to worry.

While Brian is away at his tour, he'll miss his 14-year-old sister, Liza's 15 birthday and the birth of his goddaughter. He will also celebrate his 27th birthday in the Middle East.

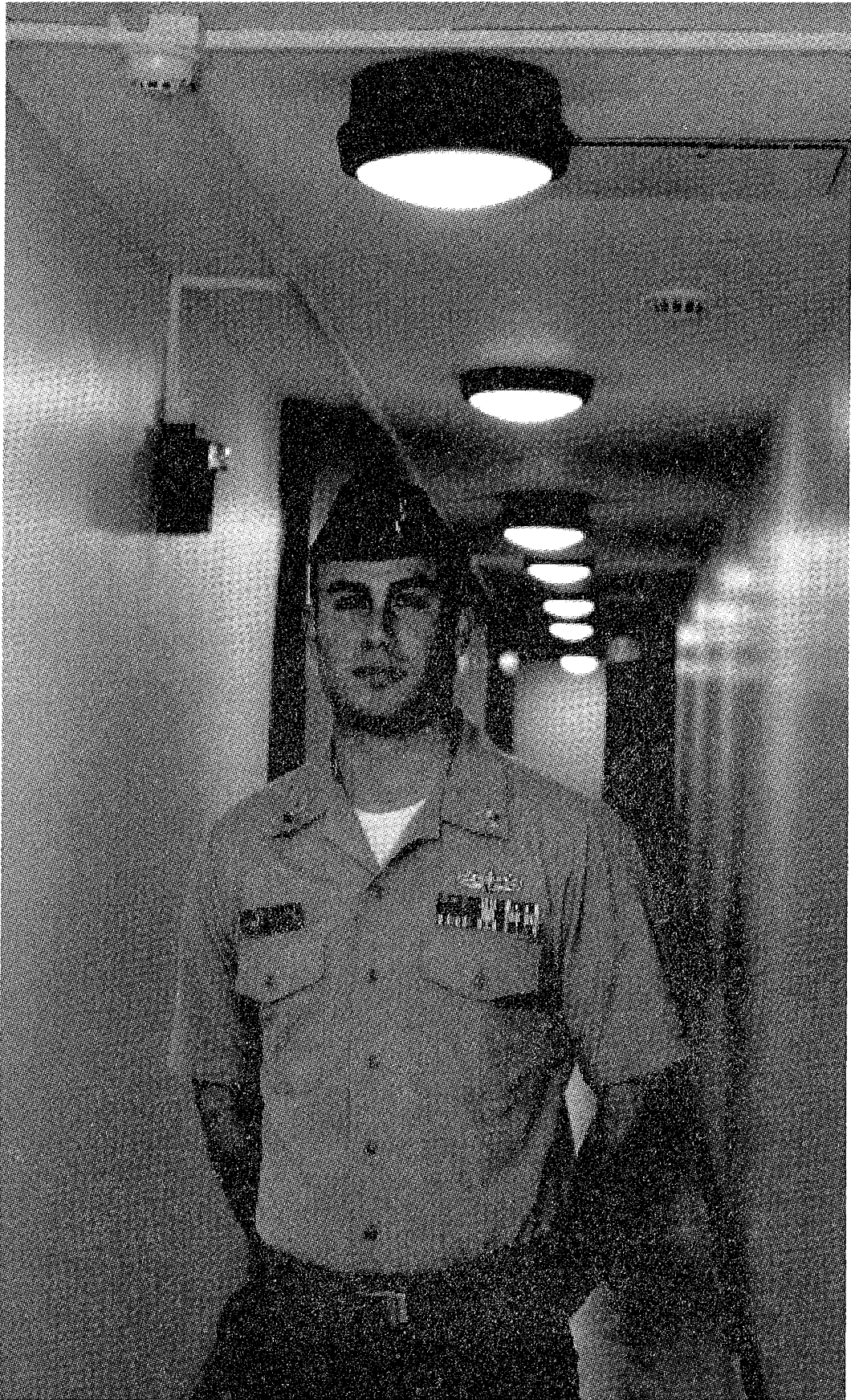
Liza Jaramillo was planning on having a quinceañera—a Latin American celebration for a girl's 15th birthday—in November, but now she's changed her mind.

Brian said that when he told Liza that he was going to Afghanistan he asked her, "Would you consider doing a sweet sixteen instead?" And right away she said, "Yes." And that was just... I love her. Now, I'm going to make sure she gets her super sweet sixteen."

Liza said that she felt that her quinceañera, which is usually a family celebration, would not have been the same without him and that she will miss her brother while he is away.

"Usually when I call him, I need advice or something. He's always there for me. And, he's really funny. He cheers me up a lot. I'm gonna miss him and hopefully he will be safe over there."

Fernando says the family will be able to celebrate Liza's birthday once Brian returns. "We missed out on six or seven major holidays without him. But, one more? Well, if he



KENNETH HO / THE STATESMAN

Brian Jaramillo will have to give up classes at Stony Brook and head back to Afghanistan soon as part of President Obama's plan to send more troops there.

comes back alive, that's the best holiday we can have." Fernando said.

And, Brian's best friend, Ernesto Casado and his wife, Sara, of C.A., are expecting their second child to be born on March 23. Ernesto said that Brian will be the godfather of their daughter and they plan on waiting to baptize her until he returns home.

"Our prayers go out to him and we're going to miss him but

I have faith that he's going to be alright and he'll make it back. Then, we can sit back and drink a nice bottle of pinot grigio and reminisce."

Jaramillo, reactivated in Amityville on March 5 and left for training a few days after. He hopes to return to Stony Brook University for the spring semester in 2011, which is the semester that he originally planned on graduating.

After graduation, Brian hopes

to enter the Navy as an active duty, full-time, officer and serve a full 20 years until he can retire.

Despite the phone call that changed all of Jaramillo's plans, he said that would not have it any other way.

"The best decision of my life was joining the Navy," he said. "If I had to do it all over again, I'd do it the same way, without a few hiccups along the way, but it's all part of maturing and growing up."

ARTS

Playwright Douglas Carter Beane Fails to Portray Depth in Mr. and Mrs. Fitch

By JAY LEHMAN
Contributing Writer

When Mr. Fitch was proclaimed a hero by Mrs. Fitch and the stage went dark, I could only hear screams of "BOOs" erupting from the orchestra and mezzanine. "BOOs" echoing from the set on stage, "BOOs" emanating from the play itself. "BOO! BOOO! BOOOOOOURGEOUS BUNK!"

My strident, stuttering thoughts finally demurred, as the audience surrounding me applauded the same production I had just witnessed.

The action takes place in the Fitch's loft. The set design and lighting achieved a realism that made a convincing lived-in home for our forenameless protagonists.

Large abstract and cubist-avant garde art movement-canvas hang on a high wall adjacent to a towering

library.

The characters Mr. and Mrs. Fitch, most excellently brought to stereotypical life by John Lithgow and Jennifer Ehle under the direction of Scott Ellis, are two carefree, well-read idiots who concoct a fictitious celebrity to sustain Mr. Fitch's dwindling gossip column career.

When their creation takes on a life outside of their writing they feel forced to confront their own social guises and pursue the literary goal of uncovering the "truth."

This is playwright Douglas Carter Beane's frivolous attempt to inject some seriousness and relevance into his comedy, which otherwise consists of one wordy witticism after another referring to pop and high culture that are rattled off at the audience like a benign alcohol buzzed Gatling gun. "High-education" does not mean high-intellect.

The Fitch's purposelessly

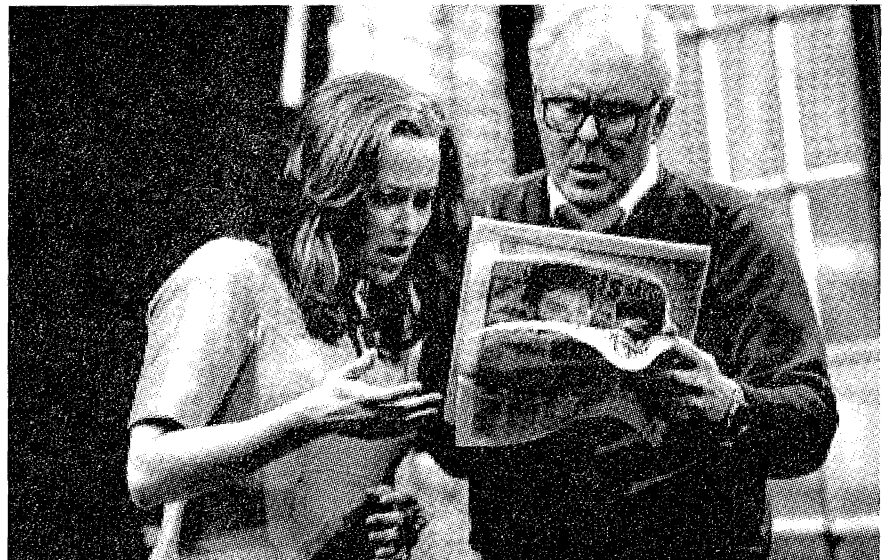
invoke Shakespeare, Whitman, Eliot, Twain, Proust, Hemingway, and Beckett-- to name only a few-- while expressing their frustrations with such timeless subjects as the Kindle.

But the textual juxtaposition of Mr. and Mrs. Fitch's ambivalence to modern technological and celebrity obsessed society to their affinity to literary figures of yore misses the target completely. The target is, of course, superficiality.

The superficiality that runs deep in the bones of Mr. and Mrs. Fitch the characters, and the culture they write about. But Mr. & Mrs. Fitch the play fails because it does not penetrate this in the slightest due its own yawning shallowness. The play is wholly carried by these characters and never escapes the culture it attempts to satirize.

Besides an anecdote

See Fitch on 8



John Lithgow and Jennifer Ehle wonderfully portray Mr. and Mrs. Fitch, a carefree couple who perfectly embody the characteristics of modern society they attempt to mock, in the Scott Ellis directed play "Mr. and Mrs. Fitch."

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Comics

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OPINION

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The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Sycolian" 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.

The Statesman is published twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the fall and spring semesters.

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The Texas Textbook Massacre

BY LAMIA HAIDER
Contributing Writer

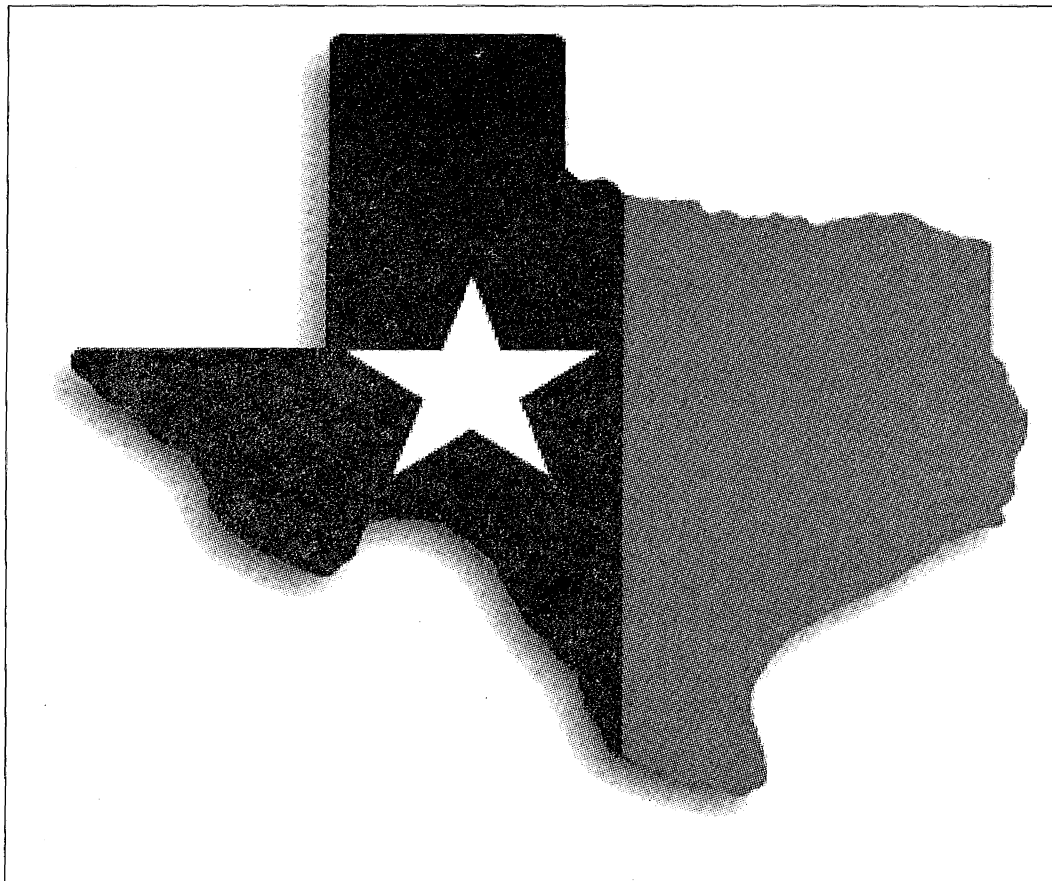
"Let me control the textbooks and I will control the state," so quoted the once Fuehrer regarding the changes he and Joseph Goebbels, his head of propaganda, had made to the textbooks of Germany.

Nothing that was detrimental to the reputation of the Nazi party could be published in case it affected the impressionable minds of the German youth.

This was because Hitler was fully aware that molding the minds of the youth to his liking would aid in shaping the future in his favor as well. The Hitler Youth was what came to mind when reading about Texas's textbook rewrite. Obviously the Nazi regime was much more serious business, but Texas's alteration of significant historical facts that have been taught to generations is disturbingly reminiscent of Hitler's censorship of textbooks.

Though there was much debate over such a decision, in the end the Texas Board of Education permitted for major alterations of the state curriculum to take place. To discern the reason for such a critical event one merely has to look at the political leanings of the Board members. The Texas Board of Education is comprised of 15 officeholders, seven of whom are highly conservative republicans while three are members who are moderately so. Naturally due to the Republican's ultra conservative clout the vote was highly skewed in their favor at 10-5.

What does this imply for the material that will be taught to pliable pupils in Texas and all over the nation? Their textbooks will have highly Christian leanings, diluting their neutrality even further. The reformers seek to dismiss the idea of 'separation of church and state,' a phrase originating from Jefferson. Perhaps him coining such a term has something to do with the fact that he has been excluded completely as one of those who inspired revolutions with his literature. Instead they are replacing him with St. Thomas Aquinas, John Calvin and William Blackstone, all who are palatable



politicalconferences.org

to the Conservatives due to their adherence to Christianity. Rather than turning a historical microscope towards figures of a variety of opinions they choose to merely focus on those that agree with their own. This tendency put figures like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., César Chávez and Thurgood Marshall in danger of deletion if it were not for strong public opposition. However, their role in spurring revolutions is fairly negated because as Barton, one of the so-called consulted experts (he has a bachelor's degree in religious education but no qualifications in history) stated, "Only majorities can expand political rights in America's constitutional society."

Downplaying the effort and the sacrifices these historical figures made to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles is an odious action to take, however that is just the beginning.

Not only are there exclusions of important historical figures that may have left a bad taste in conservative mouths but modifications have also been made to events so that they shed a kinder, less critical light on conservatives

and America as a whole.

Remember learning about slavery in grade school and how it was still prevalent in America a few decades after it had been abolished in Britain? According to these textbooks we are going to blame slavery on the English and claim that it was a residue of British colonialism that America had been fighting from day one. The word "capitalism" will also be changed to "free-enterprise system" in all these books. Terri Leo, one of the conservative members, said "Capitalism does have a negative connotation," as justification for this.

Creationism is touted as more scientifically sound and Darwinism is made practically extinct in this intrinsic story of conservative creation.

All in all, two facts about this whole debacle are especially bothersome. Firstly, none of the Board members had any expertise in the subject of history. They based their decisions on political, religious and personal factors. Not only is this highly unprofessional, but it leaves history at the mercy of conservative claws, which have

apparently whittled history down to a shape of their liking. Secondly, though this has all occurred in Texas it is bound to leak out of its borders. Texas happens to be the nation's second-largest textbook market.

It selects which books schools can purchase rather than allowing them the freedom of having the local district choose. Since publishers will mold their products to please the most profitable customer, Texas has a lot of weight in the matter. This means that it definitely has major influence over what is read in classes all over the nation.

Though history has always had a tendency to be somewhat subjective, this sort of change is ludicrously so. To make such blatantly biased changes to American and world history, then feed it to children as "academics" is a moderate form of what could be called brainwashing. History should not be subjected to the whims of a select group of people, and trimmed accordingly. If this is the case then what makes such a case different from Hitler and his textbook rewrite?

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.sb-statesman.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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Alternative Spring Break: A Lifetime Of Lessons

By RAVNEET KAMBOJ
Opinion Editor

Spring Break 2010 a group of 50 Stony Brook students loads on to a bus headed for Atlanta, Ga. As I loaded my suitcase on to the bus I had no idea what to expect. It turned out to be a week of community service, self exploration, school spirit and making amazing new friends. The Alternative Spring Break program is relatively new on the Stony Brook campus having been around for only five years. I got my chance to go to Georgia when I received an email informing me that a student had dropped out of the trip. I quickly jumped on the opportunity as I had been on a waiting list in case of such an occurrence.

To be honest it felt a little odd committing to a week long trip to a state I had never spent any time in with 50 people I had never met, this fact was enhanced for me by the fact that I was a late on comer to the program and had not had the chance to attend many of the team meetings in the months leading up to the trip. As we arrived, we pulled up to a church in the suburbs of Atlanta. It had been converted into a temporary volunteer center equipped with many cots and a

dining area for volunteers to eat. We all got situated in our rooms and then headed to the middle floor for a meeting where we learned that all the Stony Brook students would be supervised every day at different work sites by AmeriCorps NGCC members. We took the rest of the first day to set up, relax and get familiar with the local area.

Later in the day we took a walking tour of the neighborhood where we were staying. I quickly learned that it was the neighborhood of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and that we were going to see his home as well as his grave. This walking tour showed us how a town and community effort had worked in cleaning up and building up an under-served neighborhood.

As we approached his birth home I began to think of how I was so indebted to him as well. Without him and the social equality that he helped create in this country there is no way that I would be in the great country today and walking those same streets.

The tour group grew quiet as we approached his grave site. His tomb was above ground in the middle of a reflecting pool, next to him lay his wife. This experience was a precursor to week and foreshadowed the personal journey of realization I would take this week.

At night being the college students we are, the group headed out to a local spot called Five Points. I was pleasantly surprised at the atmosphere, small open air lounges, bars and music stores accompanied the myriad hipsters trudging about with instruments. The area was very lively and full of young people, as I soon learned Atlanta is a major college town.

As the first night progressed about five or six of us who had previously never met explored the area and became good friends, at the end of the night it felt like we had known each other for much longer. The first work day arrived and we awoke at 6:40 a.m.

We ate and were all transported to a local children's home that had burned down. This was it, what we came to Georgia for, to help people. We spent the day cleaning up the worksite and moving broken bricks and rocks away from the work area, we then sanded and compounded sheetrock, the day was topped with a giant seawolf mural signed by everyone on a wall inside the house. It was painted over later of course.

This experience made me personally realize how much I had been missing out on school spirit in my college career. Like a lot of Stony Brook students I did not particularly identify with "being a

seawolf" but as the week progressed I realized more and more that I relished sharing this common thread of school spirit with the 50 other students in Georgia.

Every day of the week brought new opportunities for volunteering, from preparing meals for those who could not afford to eat, to working under the Georgia sun in a community garden. At night people would stay up to talk and play cards and every morning we would all wake up tired but happy. The experience at the food preparation center called Open Hands really opened my eyes to all the work it takes in order to keep a project like that running. They produce and deliver 5000 meals a day, most of it done by volunteers and a few dedicated staff members.

The people that I met at all these organizations who spend their entire lives trying to help others truly have me a new sense of humanity. Day by day we all grew closer as friends. When the last two days eventually rolled around we began to feel the pangs of sadness that came with the end of the trip. It was a week away from everything, no school work, no internet, no stress.

The last two days were spent working hard and truly enjoying everything Atlanta had to offer. On the last day we went to a southern

restaurant, my whole table ordered short ribs, I had collard greens and candied yams as my two sides. There was no way I was losing any weight on this trip.

On the last day the entire volunteer center at the church had to be dismantled. We all loaded the heavy bed frames and mattresses into the back of a large truck, then 6 or 7 of us rode with some of our supervisors to an aid distribution center where the items were borrowed from.

We spent the next hour and a half or so unloading the truck, hard and heavy work. Even though we were all sore and tired we were having a great time perfecting an assembly line like system to transfer bed frames from the truck up stairs onto a cart then about 100 yards deep into a warehouse and then stacked up against a wall at the back of the warehouse.

We once again loaded up on to the bus and on the way back to New York I reflected on what I had learned. A new appreciation of being a student of Stony Brook; a new understanding of what it takes to help others, how just a week can turn strangers into close friends and most of all how much of a difference donating some of your time can make to both you and the people you are helping.

Play Mr. and Mrs. Fitch Fails to Portray Depth

From Fitch on 6

about Pompeii related by Mrs. Fitch and one concerning a dictator threatened by a song by Mr. Fitch, there is not even a glance at anything substantial at all.

They only fall back on their flimsy dream of writing a novel when it is convenient to do so. There is no urgency, no desperation, danger or dedication.

If the play did indeed succeed in lampooning the empty culture it depicts it would lose its audience. It had potential: evidently most of the people in attendance saw themselves—or even wanted

to see themselves— in Mr. and Mrs. Fitch.

But Mr. and Mrs. Fitch held up this cultural mirror and did nothing more than gently poke self-adoring fun of the reflection. The play was familiar, conventional, commercial, and safe.

The humor and ticket price made it highbrow enough to wear one's best for such a cozy outing to the Second Stage Theater in Times Square.

Was I the only one who was not daunted by the literary references? A high price of ticket doesn't make the laughs any less cheap. The closest thing to self-awareness that this experience provoked in me was the holes in my clothes.

I had not seen so much fur in such a confined space since I went to the Bronx Zoo — and here I felt like I was on the wrong side of the walls.

When Mrs. Fitch proclaims Mr. Fitch a hero, he says something to the effect of, "if I'm a hero, what a world is this."

What a world indeed. Perhaps if I felt that Beane was delivering this endnote with an overdose of irony I could swallow it, but, instead it smacked of a non-nourishing after-dinner dessert.

If theater is still supposed to have some sort of significance, or some sense of immediacy, Mr. & Mrs. Fitch lied to us. And I didn't like it.

Arts at the Brook

UNIVERSITY CAFE:

On Thursday, April 8, The Antlers with Aeroplane Pageant and DJ K3NYON will perform a free, 21 and over show in the University Cafe at 8:30 p.m.

STALLER CENTER:

The Stony Brook Department of Theatre Arts is presenting a performance of Figaro Figaro, Eric Overmyer's adaptation of Beaumarchais' "The Marriage of Figaro" and Odon Von Horvath's

"Figaro Gets Divorced" at 8 p.m. in Theatre 2 of Staller Center.

The show will begin Thursday April 8 and run on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays until April 18.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows will begin at 8 p.m. Sunday shows will begin at 2 p.m.

The Stony Brook Opera is performing Pier Francesco Cavalli's Eliogablo starting Friday, April 9 at 8 p.m. There will be a second performance on Sunday, April 11 at 2 p.m. in the Recital Hall in Staller Center.

WANG CENTER:

"Autumn Gem," a film about the life of a Chinese heroine and women's rights activist, Qiu Jin will air on Thursday, April 8 at 4 p.m. in the Wang Theater.

SSK FESTIVAL:

The annual Shirley Strum Kenny Student Arts Festival starts Wednesday, April 7 and will end Friday, April 23.

WEDNESDAY, April 7:

To kick off the festival, the university is holding a street fair in the SAC Plaza from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday.

The finalists in the Stony Brook Idol Finals Competition will perform on the Staller Steps during campus lifetime.

The University Bookstore is hosting a publisher's fair in the main lobby of the Wang Center from 12 p.m. until 2 p.m.

At 8 p.m. in Tabler Arts Center there will be a performance of Pocket Theatre.

In SAC Ballroom B there will be a program entitled "To the Left 'Open Mic'" at 8 p.m.



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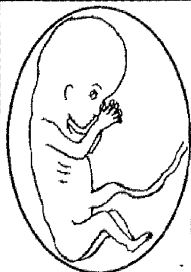
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colleges for change

Changing the social acceptability of tobacco in the college community.

who we are

The Colleges For Change Program is grant funded by the New York State Department of Health Tobacco Control Program. The grant covers seven Colleges For Change grants statewide.

The grant has been designed to engage young leaders to work on and off college campuses to limit where and how tobacco products are promoted, advertised and sold, and to advance local and statewide policy advocacy approach to creating communities that support and reinforce tobacco-free norms.

Colleges For Change Programs focus efforts specifically on those aspects of the community and college environment that most influence tobacco use among young adults.

what does that mean?

1. TOBACCO INDUSTRY SPONSORSHIP AND PROMOTION:

~Work with college student groups, community based organizations, sporting groups, local venues and community bars/night clubs to develop policies which prohibit the acceptance of tobacco industry support (both endorsement and financial), and prohibit sponsorship of events on their property.

~Develop and implement policies that completely ban the distribution of free tobacco products on campus and at community events.

~Educate the colleges and local community about the impact of tobacco industry sponsorship and promotion.

2. SMOKE-FREE MULTI-UNIT DWELLINGS:

~Work with management of college off-campus housing to enact smokefree policies.

~Educate target audiences about the impact of secondhand smoke and benefits of living in smoke-free housing.

3. OUTDOOR TOBACCO-FREE POLICIES:

~Advocate with school and municipal offices and adopt binding policies, ordinances, etc. prohibiting tobacco on campus, local beaches, parks, and playgrounds.



what can you do?

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Men's Lacrosse Grabs Conference Opener Over UMBC



From LAX on 12

McBride took over in the second, scoring four times in the period to give the Seawolves a 9-4 advantage.

But UMBC answered back, going on a 4-0 run that stretched from the second to the third quarter to pull back within one.

McBride ended the Seawolves' drought with 7:34 to go in the third, scoring his 36th goal of the season. He and Belton would both add another, and Crowley would add a pair, before the final horn.

McBride leads the team with 37 goals, averaging an NCAA second-best 3.88 goals per game. Compitello has a team-leading 21 assists.

The win was Stony Brook's second straight. The Seawolves have a week off before hosting the Hartford Hawks at LaValle Stadium on April 10 at 7 p.m.

Photo: KENNETH HO THE STATESMAN

Jordan McBride (left) picked up six goals for the Seawolves



Media Credit: goseawolves.org

Baseball Struggles In Last Stretch Before Conference Play

From BASE on 12

The squad then returned to New York to play LeMoyne University in Syracuse for a four game series that wrapped up on Sunday. Stony Brook won both games on Saturday,

taking the first game 10-4 and the second 8-7. But Sunday, the Dolphins blew the Seawolves out of the water, sweeping the doubleheader by following an 8-2 win with a 7-0 shutout.

The losses dropped the Seawolves' overall record to

10-14.

The team will now break into conference play.

After a four game set in Binghamton on Saturday (6-12-0), the Seawolves will play on their home field for the first time in 16 games against UMBC (4-15-0) next week.

El-Amin: Honorable Mention All-American

By SAM KILB Assistant Sports Editor

Stony Brook senior Muhammad El-Amin added another award to his trophy case as he was named an Honorable Mention All-American by the AP on Monday, the first ever Seawolf to gain postseason All-American honors.

El-Amin was named the America East Player of the Year back on March 5, the first Stony Brook player to do so, following a stellar year for the Seawolves.

El-Amin led the team in scoring with 19.1 ppg during conference play, and finished his career just 29 points away from 1,000. He also set a program record for points in a season with 517.

Stony Brook won its first-ever regular season America East championship in 2010, setting records in overall wins (22) and conference wins (13).

The Seawolves played in the postseason for the first time in their D-I history, hosting Illinois in the NIT tournament.

El-Amin joins the likes of Andy Rautins of Syracuse, Kyle Singler of Duke and Gordon Hayward of Butler as an Honorable Mention.

Both Hayward and Singler have taken their team to the NCAA Final Four this season.

El-Amin was the only America East player to be awarded the honor.

Photo: KENNETH HO THE STATESMAN

Senior Muhammad El-Amin (right) driving to the hoop.



SPORTS

WHILE YOU WERE OUT...

Baseball Struggles In Last Stretch Before Conference Play



Media Credit: goseawolves.org

Senior Robert Dyer will try to help the Seawolves pick up steam in looming conference play. The first baseman leads the team in RBIs with 23 on the season.

BY DAVID O'CONNOR
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook baseball team (9-12-0) played average baseball over Spring Break, winning four of their eight games and being slated second in America East standings.

The Seawolves are three games behind first-place Maine and three games ahead of third-place Binghamton, whom they will play in a four game set starting April 10.

Stony Brook began the break with a road series against Pepperdine University in Malibu California, winning one of three games. The Seawolves won the first game 7-5, with senior first baseman Robert Dyer securing two runs-batted-in on a 2-for-5 day.

The next two games were not nearly as offensively overwhelming. Pepperdine shut out Stony Brook in the second game, 3-0, with pitcher Matt Bywater throwing a six-hit complete game. Pepperdine won the third game, 4-2, to finish the series.

The Seawolves migrated south for their next series against San Diego State University, where aspiring Washington Nationals pitcher Stephen Strasburg pitched for his college career.

Each game was an offensive spectacle, with both teams reaching double-digits on the scoreboard in both games.

San Diego State won the first game, 11-10, but the Seawolves would not let them get comfortable. Stony Brook struck back the next day in a 14-inning shootout. The Seawolves won the game, 18-14, and tied a season record with 24 hits.

Stony Brook would play one more game in California, losing to Cal State Bakersfield in a 14-2 rout.

The squad then returned to New York to play LeMoyne University in Syracuse for a four game series that wrapped up on Sunday. Stony Brook won both games on Saturday, taking the first game 10-4 and the second 8-7.

See BASE on 11

Men's Lacrosse Grabs Conference Opener Over UMBC

BY SAM KILB
Assistant Sports Editor

Led by six goals from junior Jordan McBride (New Westminster, British Columbia), the #19/20 Stony Brook men's lacrosse team began its march for an America East title by beating the UMBC Retrievers, 14-11, in Baltimore on Saturday.

It was the first time Stony Brook (6-3, 1-0) had defeated UMBC (1-6, 0-1) since 2005.

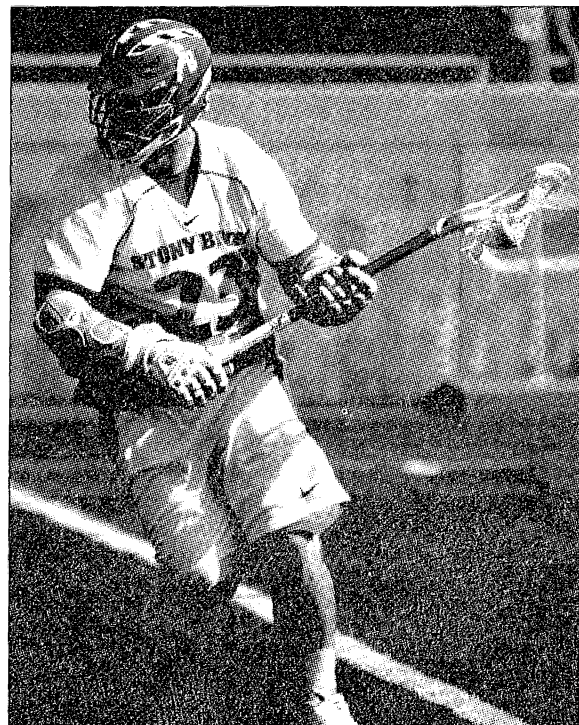
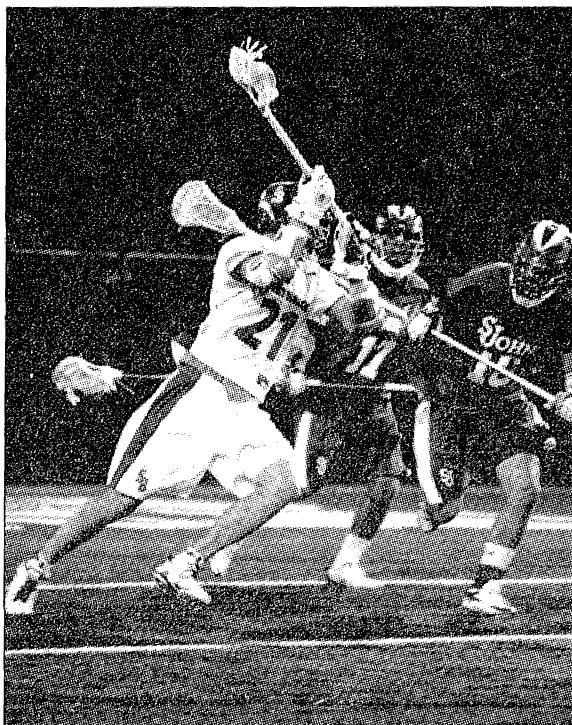
The Retrievers had beaten the Seawolves five straight times, including in last year's America East championship game.

Stony Brook was opening conference play with a 5-3 record, its fourth consecutive season with a winning record in

non-conference meetings, which this year included a match with perennial powerhouse Cornell and top-ranked Virginia.

The Retrievers were 1-5, having played a difficult non-conference schedule after being named preseason co-favorites, with Stony Brook, to win the America East crown.

The Seawolves controlled play for much of the first half, jumping out to a 3-0 lead courtesy of goals by junior Kevin Crowley (New Westminster, British Columbia), senior Tom Compitello (Hauppauge, N.Y.) and sophomore Kyle Belton (Langley, British Columbia). Stony Brook finished the quarter with a 5-2 lead.



KENNETH HO / THE STATESMAN

Junior Kevin Crowley (left) and senior Tom Compitello (right) chipped in to Jordan McBride's six goals to help the Seawolves pull out the win.

See LAX on 11