

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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sbstatesman.com



KELLY ZEGERS / THE STATESMAN

Wolfie, the Stony Brook University Athletics mascot, joined students at a Dec. 3 protest outside the Student Activities Center against the grand jury decision to not indict police officer Darren Wilson for the Aug. 9 shooting death of unarmed teenager Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. Adam Gutes, the assistant director of athletic communications, said in an email that it is "not our practice for any athletic department representative to engage in a rally or a protest."

Suffolk County Police Department: "non-criminal" death outside Stimson College appeared to be a suicide

By Arielle Martinez
Assistant News Editor

The Suffolk County Police Department ruled a male student's death outside Stimson College in Roosevelt Quad on Tuesday, Dec. 2 to be a "non-criminal death" that appears to be a suicide.

Chief of University Police Robert Lenahan sent an email Tuesday afternoon to the campus community saying UPD was investigating a medical emergency "involving a student who fell in the vicinity of Stimson College in Roosevelt quad."

In the email, which was sent at 2:30 p.m., Lenahan said "there is no danger to the campus community at this time and further details will be provided as they become available."

The Suffolk County Police Department Public Information Office said the incident took place at approximately 1:53 p.m.

The PIO also said SCPD did



BASIL JOHN / THE STATESMAN

Police investigated "a medical emergency involving a student who fell" near Stimson College, according to a UPD email.

not make any on-the-record comments that the student allegedly jumped from a window.

SCPD does not release details about non-criminal deaths.

President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. sent a campus-wide email Tuesday evening stating that the male student involved in the incident at Stimson College died of his injuries at the University Hospital.

The email stated the student was found unresponsive and "all reports seem to indicate that there was no criminality involved."

"Additional details regarding funeral services have not been determined as we await the family's wishes and intentions," Stanley said in the email.

Hanaa' Tameez and Kelly Zegers contributed to reporting.

Stony Brook Football player taken into police custody outside Javits

By Cameron Boon
Assistant Sports Editor

Calvin Daniels, a freshman tight end on the Stony Brook football team, was brought into custody Thursday, Dec. 4 at approximately 8 p.m. by Stony Brook University Police at the Jacob K. Javits Lecture Center after an incident that occurred on the night of Nov. 15.

The 18-year-old was seen climbing over the fence out of the construction site on Toll Drive with beer on his person, according to UPD Chief Robert Lenahan.

After officers started to question him, he proceeded to shove an officer and run away, sending the officers into pursuit.

Lenahan said Daniels got away that night, but they were able to identify him since the encounter and made the arrest on Thursday, Dec. 4.

He was brought into custody without incident. Daniels did not play this season because he was redshirted.

In a statement, Assistant Director of Athletic Communications



HEATHER KHALIFA / THE STATESMAN

The construction site on Toll Drive is where the initial confrontation occurred.

Adam Gutes said "we are aware of the situation and [are] gathering the facts."

At this time, any potential charges to be brought against Daniels are unknown.

Krysten Massa, Joe Galotti and Nicole Falletta contributed to reporting.



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How Stony Brook handles Title IX
What SBU does to educate students.
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Arts & Entertainment
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Gift ideas for college students on a budget.
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Sports
Seawolves continue non-conference play
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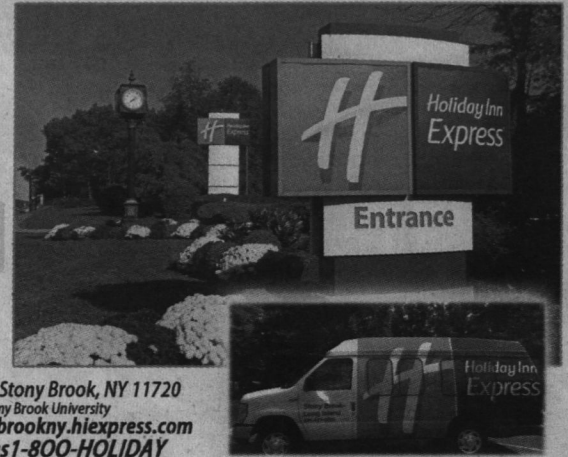
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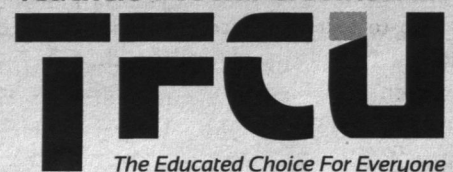
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NEWS

Course evaluation data now available to Stony Brook students on new website

By Rachel Siford
Contributing Writer

Stony Brook University Teaching, Learning & Technology designed a new website for students to view previous course evaluation data.

This new website, classic-evals.stonybrook.edu, gives students the opportunity to view course evaluation data from previous years to aid in picking their courses.

The SUNY University Faculty Senate made the decision to allow this several years ago, but the Division of Information Technology needed time to develop the software.

Comments from all class evaluations with information on the course are shown.

"This is a great way for students to see if a course is a good match for them," Diana Voss, the manager of academic technology services, said. Voss is in charge of all technology support on campus.

This new software depends on students filling out course evaluations.

Before 2010, students were given class evaluations in class on paper. They had nearly a 70 percent response rate, according to the DoIT website.

Spring 2011 was the first semester course evaluations were available online in the hopes of making it easier for students to complete them in the digital age and in order to collect data more easily.

However, after this switch, the response rate fell to about 36 percent.

"If we really want this system to work, students need to complete their course evaluations," Voss said. "This way, over time, data will become more well-rounded."

The Classic Evaluation Explorer system also shows how many students have responded to each course, so viewers will know if a low percentage of people responded.

"I think this system would definitely encourage more people to fill out evaluations," sophomore economics major Antara Rabbani said. "It's a really good idea. This is a school and if they want their students to succeed,

students should be able to pick suitable classes."

The new data system will not show comments about instructors specifically because the Faculty Senate would not be able to monitor that efficiently, so the senate was uncomfortable with that, Voss said.

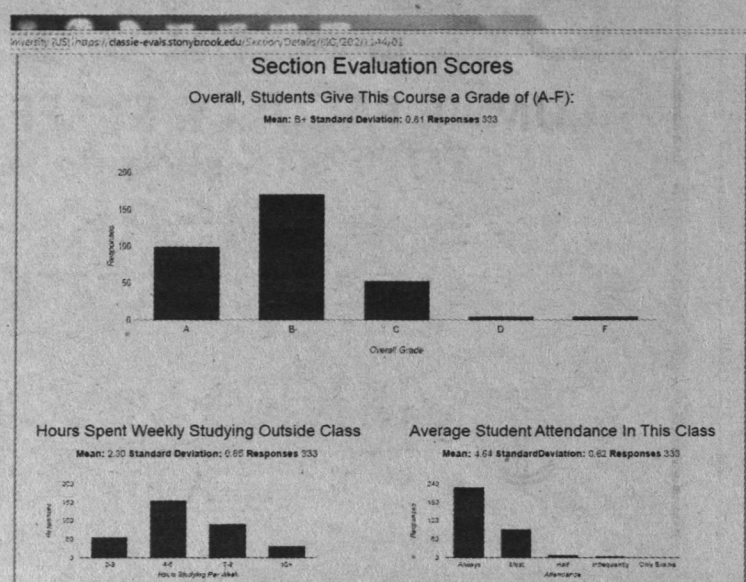
The site focuses on the class sections.

"Last week, I showed this new system to my students," Voss said. "They were surprised at some of the information because they didn't think that way about a certain class, which is why I told them this is why they need to fill out course evaluations."

According to the DoIT website, DoIT has been trying to increase response rate for some time now.

TLT and DoIT have considered making it mandatory for students to fill out the evaluations, but they think that although the response rate would go up, the quality of the data will go down.

They also reported how faculty feel since course evaluations



MANJU SHIVACHARAN / THE STATESMAN

Students can now view course evaluations through a new website, above, designed by Teaching, Learning & Technology.

are now online, quality of responses they receive in the written data has increased.

"I think a lot of students are lazy so they don't want to fill out course evaluations," sophomore English major Joanne Powell said.

TLT and DoIT want to encourage as many people as possible to fill out course evaluations

because instructors view course evaluations as very valuable, Voss said.

"I think the new website to view past evaluations is a very good thing," Powell said. "It should be very helpful because we make our own schedules and we could see what classes we would want to take much more easily."

The proof is in the pink: Women-only fitness program teaches boxing and fitness

By Megan Miller
Contributing Writer

Six women sat on the glossy, wooden floor in Studio 216 of the Stony Brook University Campus Recreation Center and dutifully wrapped their hands in long ribbons of black fabric, talking and giggling above the thrum of trendy music.

At promptly 6 p.m., SBU's newest Pink Gloves Boxing instructors, Krista Pullen, a sophomore double majoring in biology and applied mathematics, and Estelle Gyimah, a junior majoring in health science, joined the group of women.

"Where is your favorite place you've ever traveled?" Pullen asked.

This is how the instructors of Pink Gloves Boxing, a women's-only fitness program that integrates competitive boxing moves into a weekly cardio regimen, begin each hour-long class session—with a question, any question to elicit an engaging discussion intended to bring the boxers closer together.

Adopted by SBU last spring, the program's main goal, according to Dean Bowen, a Campus Recreation official and male Pink Gloves Boxing instructor, is not only to provide women with a space to exercise without inhibition, but also to foster a sense of camaraderie.

"It's a women's boxing club, but we create a community," Bowen said. "We see the same women every class and it has a different feel than any other fitness class."

Founded by personal trainer Garret Garrels in 2006, Pink Gloves Boxing evolved into a



MEGAN MILLER / THE STATESMAN

Pink Gloves Boxing, a women's-only fitness program, integrates competitive boxing moves into a weekly cardio regimen in Studio 216 of the Campus Recreation Center.

seven-tier system designed to give participants "the direction and motivation to accomplish [their] fitness and personal goals," according to the official PGB website. Stony Brook currently offers three tier-one and tier-two classes, but Bowen said the focus for the upcoming spring semester is mainly on introducing more of each.

Since new material is taught in each class session, attendance is mandatory to reach the next tier. If that expectation has been met at the semester's end, Amanda Turnbull, a manager of fitness and wellness programming at Stony Brook who also instructs PGB, said students are awarded

the opportunity to "test out and tier up" by accurately performing a series of exercises learned throughout the term judged by their instructors.

When Pink Gloves Boxing was first launched at the university, only one class was offered with an entrance fee of \$50 for undergraduates and just 23 available spots for the semester. Bowen said based on its projected demand and popularity, Stony Brook was given funding for the program by the Stony Brook Foundation extending through the next two years.

Consequently, undergraduate, graduate and faculty women could enroll in one of the three

Pink Gloves Boxing classes offered during the Fall 2014 semester free of charge. According to Bowen, it took less than 12 minutes to fill the 60 available spots when registration opened online.

There are currently four independent Pink Gloves Boxing facilities and eight gyms that host the program across the country since its founding. Garrels and his business partner, Nick Milodragovich, are looking to double their present four locations in Sweden and possibly expand into Norway in 2015.

Within the United States, Pink Gloves Boxing has also been introduced at seven universities.

Five, including Stony Brook, implemented the program during the fall and spring semesters of last year and six more universities are preparing to introduce Pink Gloves at the start of 2015.

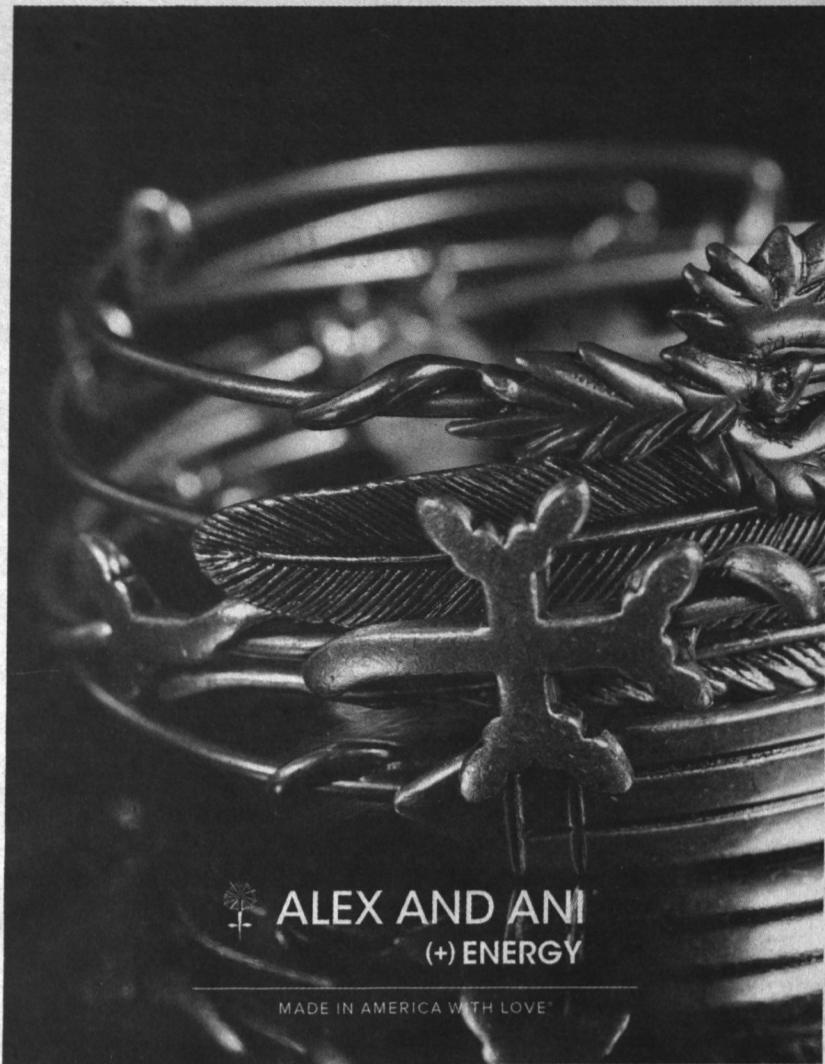
"I enjoy the program because I have excellent instructors," Zoe Sumner, a sophomore majoring in English, said in an email. "They are kind, patient and just a lot of fun. The people in my class are also very friendly and we have gotten comfortable around each other so that also helps."

Garrels said national expansion of the program was "redirected" to focus on university recreation centers where "fitness is a way of life rather than just a business."

The Pink Gloves Boxing website tells the story of the program in a letter signed by Garrels. In 2006, Garrels received a call from a woman who had just fired her personal-fitness trainer because he had compared her to his other clients, and the comparisons were often negative. As her new instructor, Garrels vowed never to demean her.

At one session, in an effort to mix up his client's workout, he brought gloves and punch mitts. This exercise was a success, and his client asked to bring a friend. Friends brought more friends, Garrels went from training one woman to training 10, and Pink Gloves Boxing was born.

"Because there are no other programs to compare PGB to, it's something that people have to experience," Garrels said in an email. "By combining mental, emotional, physical, and social aspects we hope to build communities that celebrate individuality. Communities where it is safe to be yourself."



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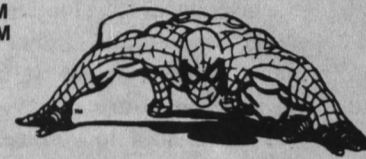
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Under the microscope: Biomedical engineer wins 2014 Collegiate Inventors Competition

By Ricardo Raudales
Contributing Writer

Depending on who you ask, needles are either a minor inconvenience or a socially acceptable sadistic ritual. Still, vaccination remains one of the most effective safeguards against the spread of disease. Thanks to one Stony Brook scientist, a new type of needle-free vaccination may soon be possible.

Biomedical engineer and recent Stony Brook PhD graduate Katarzyna Sawicka won first place in the graduate division of the 2014 Collegiate Inventors Competition for her invention of Immuno-Matrix. Applied like a Band-Aid, Immuno-Matrix uses nanofibers to hold and deliver vaccine particles through skin in a non-invasive manner.

"The question for me was: how do you bring large molecules into the skin?" Sawicka said. "Most other technologies rely on some form of mechanical disruption of the skin. The patch that I helped develop does not require any abrasion or penetration of the skin, but instead works by exchanging moisture across the top-most layers of skin."

Unlike conventional vaccines, Immuno-Matrix is painless, can be self-administered and does not produce biohazardous waste. Yet it still has all the advantages of a skin delivery system.

"What's great about skin is that

it is the largest organ in the body," Sawicka said. "One of skin's main roles is to protect. Yet the way it does this involves more than just posing as a physical barrier. It is also an active process."

"Scientists noticed that by delivering antigen into skin, you needed a lot less antigen," she said. "It turns out that skin is equipped with an extensive lymphatic system. Skin is very immuno-competent, so that you don't have to worry about trying to find an immune cell—they are all right there."

Vaccines work by introducing an immunogenic particle (antigen), often part of a dead or weakened virus, to "teach" the immune system. The antigen serves as a kind of mock drill, so that if the particle is encountered again, say on the capsule of a live virus, the body can mount a rapid and effective immune response.

The challenge for researchers worldwide has been in finding new ways to engage the skin's local environment in order to initiate a global immune response.

"When I first started, I was told that 500 daltons was the maximum size of particles that could be absorbed through skin," Sawicka said. "With Immuno-matrix we have delivered particles 250 times that size, all without the use of microneedles or mechanical penetration."

To reduce the volume that must be injected, Immuno-matrix deliv-

ers what is called a subunit vaccine, which contains only the most immunogenic part of the pathogen, typically a protein.

"What we've been seeing so far is that Immuno-Matrix seems to be as effective as intramuscular injections in conferring immunity," Sawicka said.

To date, Sawicka and her colleagues have successfully tested the delivery of whooping cough antigen *in vivo* as well as influenza and anthrax *in vitro*. Over the next few months, Sawicka will continue to look at data for a variety of other antigens and macromolecules.

In the meantime, Sawicka, who was once a Stony Brook undergraduate studying engineering chemistry, reflected on the years of perseverance and interdisciplinary learning that led up to Immuno-Matrix.

"When I first started my PhD I realized I wanted to learn something new," Sawicka said. "I don't think I would know about both the immune response as well as the structure of skin had I not ventured into a more biologically relevant field."

"When you sit on something for so long, you tend to only see from one perspective," she said. "However, if you can somehow translate information from your field by working on something completely different, it's very exciting. Whether by accident or not, it's been the story of my career."

Police Blotter

On Monday, Nov. 24, an individual reported scratches on the hood and fender of a vehicle in the University Hospital parking lot. The case is still open.

On Tuesday, Nov. 25, a resident assistant in Lauterbur reported that an exit sign was on the floor in the building. The case is closed.

On Wednesday, Nov. 26, an individual reported leaving a pair of pants with a wallet in a restroom in Suffolk Hall overnight. In the morning this individual was unable to locate the pants, and they were not turned in. The case is still open.

On Friday, Nov. 28, a report was made at the University

Hospital regarding a broken elevator panel screen. The case is still open.

On Saturday, Nov. 29, a referral was issued for marijuana at Benedict College.

On Sunday, Nov. 30, a valet attendant stated that a male made a verbal threat regarding a gun at the University Hospital. An arrest was made.

On Sunday, Nov. 30, a report made at the University Hospital states that there was a theft of an orange circular pill bottle containing hydrocodone pills. The case is still open.

Compiled by Kelly Frevele

Construction on Toll Drive results in destruction of 5.5 acres of woodland

By Michaela Kilgallen
Contributing Writer

The construction of the new residence hall on Toll Drive resulted in the loss of many trees, but Stony Brook plans to work toward rehabilitation of the environment.

At the Nov. 13 Undergraduate Student Government senate meeting, College of Arts and Sciences Sen. Taylor Bouraad gave an estimate that 5,000 trees were destroyed from construction, but Stony Brook University Media Relations found that although the trees have not been counted, at least several hundred were removed.

Alida Almonte, the manager of University Media Relations, sent an email to The Statesman with

information from Barbara Chernow, the senior vice president for administration.

"[A]lmost all construction projects on campus have involved cutting trees," Almonte wrote in the email.

Around 5.5 acres of woodlands were cleared for the construction of the new residence hall. The State Environmental Quality Review reported that the Toll Drive residence hall site contained around 3.2 acres of woodlands, and the parking expansion consisted of about 2.2 acres.

The loss of trees was a necessary step in the construction of the 759-bed residence hall and 60,000 square-foot dining facility.

AKRF, an environmental plan-

ning and engineering consulting firm, conducted a survey of the construction area. "They identified 4 'exploitably vulnerable' plant species," Almonte wrote.

One of the four trees, the flowering dogwood, was not re-planted because of its poor condition.

There were fewer than 10 dogwoods on the site. "One short one was selected as having the best chance of survival, but when the time came for transplanting even that one did not appear fit enough for transplant," Almonte wrote.

The remaining three of the four "exploitably vulnerable" trees were replanted in the R&D Park, where Campus Operations and Maintenance has a greenhouse to cultivate the plants and landscaping used

around campus.

"At the conclusion of the residence hall project new trees will be planted along the sidewalks of the parcel, but they will not be a recreation of a 'woodland,'" Almonte wrote.

Since 2006, Stony Brook has been working to increase tree inventory. In that year alone, the university planted 248 trees. From 2006 to May 2014, Stony Brook had successfully planted over 1,223 trees, 675 saplings, 2,286 bushes, 741 perennials and 383 varieties of all four categories, according to a May 2014 press release from the university.

Earlier this year, Stony Brook was designated a "Tree Campus USA" University by the Arbor Day Foundation for SBU's work toward

environmental sustainability and forestry management.

Stony Brook obtained this designation through the completion of five core standards, which include a Campus Tree Advisory Committee, a Campus Tree Care Plan, a Campus Tree Program with Dedicated Annual Expenditures, Arbor Day Observance and a Service Learning Project.

According to the Arbor Day Foundation, "Tree Campus USA" - universities have planted 110,785 trees in the past five years.

Stony Brook restores trees lost through construction as well as destruction from other circumstances. After Hurricane Irene hit Long Island, SBU replaced 24 trees lost in the storm.

SBU's environmental consciousness began in 1967 with the founding of the Environmental Defense Fund. Stony Brook has since become a partner at the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment.

Stony Brook's commitment to the environment has been rewarded with many accolades including the highest score possible in Princeton Review's 2015 Green Honor Roll.

The original 450 acres of West Campus were donated to the State of New York by Ward Melville, an active philanthropist particularly around the "Three Village" area. Originally 80 percent of the property was wooded with the exception of a few fields by the railroad line and North P Lot. Many woodland areas have been removed in order to make way for new structures.



MANJU SHIVACHARAN / THE STATESMAN

Several hundred trees were cleared for the construction of a 759-bed residence hall and 60,000 square-foot dining facility on Toll Drive. Three out of four "exploitably vulnerable" trees were replanted in the Research and Development Park.

COMMUNITY

Community Calendar

Featured

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Tuesday

Form and Fracture
12 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Staller Center

Wednesday

Midnight Breakfast
11 p.m. - 11:45 p.m. | Douglass

Thursday

Mao's Golden Mangoes
10 a.m. - 8 p.m. | Wang Center

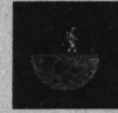
Friday

Luscious Peonies
10 a.m. - 8 p.m. | Wang Center

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The Walk ~~



Sudoku

		2				4		
		7	9		4	5		
5	8			2			9	1
	5			4			8	
		1	2		6	9		
	4			5			1	
1	7			6			4	5
		3	4		5	1		
		5				6		

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this week's puzzle

5	3	4	8	6	7	2	9	1
8	9	7	2	3	1	6	4	5
6	1	2	9	4	5	3	7	8
4	2	5	1	8	9	7	6	3
1	7	3	4	5	6	8	2	9
9	6	8	7	2	3	5	1	4
7	4	6	3	9	8	1	5	2
2	8	1	5	7	4	9	3	6
3	5	9	6	1	2	4	8	7

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last week's answer



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INTERN AT THE STATESMAN

The Statesman is looking for interns for the spring 2015 semester

GRAPHIC DESIGN

The Statesman's Web & Graphics section is looking for students with an interest in learning how to create graphics that easily convey information to our readers.

WEB DEVELOPMENT

We are looking for students to help us improve the look and functionality of our website and create a mobile application to better serve the campus community.

COPY EDITING

We are looking for students with a good command of the English language to assist in editing our articles and in creating captions and headlines for daily online publication.

ARCHIVING

The Statesman maintains a massive archive of past issues, photographs and photo negatives. We are looking for students with strong organization skills to continue collecting, maintaining and structuring *The Statesman's* history.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We are looking for students who have the skills to manage *The Statesman's* social media accounts—including Facebook, Twitter and Tumblr—as well as developing a social media strategy to further our presence.

All interns receive 1 to 3 credits based on project hours by registering for EXT 288 or 488 through the division of Student Life and the Career Center. An interview with *The Statesman's* student managers and Editor-in-Chief will be scheduled after we receive and review your application. Please send a cover letter with the following information to editors@sbstatesman.com: your year and major; relevant experience and skills; and a brief explanation of your interest in the internship. If you have work samples, please include them in the email.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

What are Seawolves doing during Winter break?

Freedom is almost upon us. Soon Seawolves will hit snooze without fear of losing study time or missing a class. Some students plan to use the time off to get away for a while. **Alexa Cohn**, a sophomore business major, is looking forward to traveling along California with her family. **Katherine Rowe**, a sophomore civil engineering major, has her eyes on the slopes for skiing and snowboarding. There is no break for **Biran Shah**, a freshman biochemistry and economics major. He will be taking six credits during the vacation. **Fahad Farooqui**, a freshman biochemistry major, will be volunteering at the hospital. **Frank Miranda**, a sophomore biology major on the pre-dental track, might also use the time to get away by heading to the Dominican Republic. **Magdalene Fogarasi**, a sophomore biomedical engineering major, will be catching up on sleep, something that many students are deprived of during the semester. Whether students have something big planned or choose to just relax, winter break will be more enjoyable than this long fall semester. Have a great break, Seawolves!

-Compiled by Chelsea Katz



Alexa Cohn
Sophomore, business major



Katherine Rowe
Sophomore, civil engineering major



Biran Shah
Freshman, biochemistry and economics major



Fahad Farooqui
Freshman, biochemistry major



Frank Miranda
Sophomore, biology major



Magdalene Fogarasi
Sophomore, biomedical engineering major

"The Imitation Game" leaves a lasting impression on viewers

By Chelsea Katz
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

As Adolf Hitler's Nazi forces spread throughout 1940s Europe, a group of the best cryptographers in Britain fought the war from a secret operations shed outside London.

Alan Turing and his team developed a machine to think for them. Years later, the British government forced Turing out of the closet and sentenced him to chemical castration.

He would commit suicide one year into his "treatment."

This is the basis for director Morten Tyldum's brilliant biopic of the father of computer science, "The Imitation Game."

The film opens on Turing (Benedict Cumberbatch) sitting in an interrogation room years after World War II.

Once the viewer gets over the shock that the "Sherlock" star is not solving crimes, Cumberbatch's performance is spot-on. He perfectly embodies the socially awkward scientist who is wholly set on his machine.

He is reminiscent of that guy that you never want to sit next to in math class because when you ask for help, he will probably call you an imbecile.

Turing manages to put himself

at the helm of the project with the British government to decipher the Nazis' communication code. He brings in Joan Clarke (Keira Knightley) to help.

Clarke is one of those stereotypical turn-of-the-century girls who wants to be something more than a housewife, but her parents are stuck in societal norms. She agrees to be a secretary and help at an arm's length.

Despite his secret sexual orientation, Turing offers to marry her to secure her a spot on the team. There was nothing wrong with Knightley's performance here—it was good—just nothing that was jaw-droppingly amazing.

The story is told in flashbacks. It does take a little while to figure out why Turing is sitting in an interrogation room.

It gets a little frustrating, since the reveal of why Turing is there—that he was caught being "indecent" with a man—does not happen until about halfway into the film.

It almost leads the viewer to think that Turing let out a government secret, but that is the only remotely weird part of the film.

The story also flashes further back to tell the story of Turing's first love, a friend with whom he went to



PHOTO CREDIT: MCT CAMPUS

Keira Knightley, left, and Benedict Cumberbatch dance in "The Imitation Game." Cumberbatch played Wikileaks' Julien Assange in the movie "The Fifth Estate" last year.

school. Those flashbacks were a bit less jarring.

Spoiler alert: one of the most powerful scenes in the film is a moment between Cumberbatch and Knightley after Cumberbatch's character has already started his

chemical castration "therapy" to rid himself of his homosexuality. The relationship is so honest and sincere that it is pretty hard to get your heart out of your stomach.

"The Imitation Game" is a limited release, so your best bet for finding it

would be in New York City.

If you can see it, you should. And if you can see it but choose not to, then you deserve to be that kid who sat next to Turing in math class and asked for help...not that that happened, but you get the point.

The thought and the project: gift-giving ideas for university students

By Cassandra Maddox
Contributing Writer

What is funny is when people expect gifts from a college student.

We are broke and struggling. In fact, I recall a drunk homeless man asking me for money for the train at Jamaica station to which I replied, "No sorry, but if you know someone who does, let me know."

It is also a shame that the season of gift-giving overlaps final exams, the dream killer of our GPAs and the nightmare that chases away a good night's sleep. But then, I remember my friends and family who stand by my side while I'm suffering.

When your meal points are low, who spots you? Who makes you ramen? When you're pulling an all-nighter and you get distracted, who's forcing you to focus? Who's right beside you aiding and abetting your procrastination?

The truth of the matter is we are all struggling, so if we look up from our overpriced textbooks, our hand-me-down pdf files on Dropbox, and our non-existent feasts, we will see whom we should be thanking.

There are ways to give gifts without having to dust off the cobwebs from our empty bank

accounts. Not to be cliché, but when it comes to gift giving, it's the thought that counts. So think about it and give a little.

Do It Yourself: Turn Garbage into Treasure

Members from Stony Brook University's Craft Center had a few ideas about DIY gifts.

Andri Achilleos, a member of the craft center suggested, "If you have something on your desk and you don't need it anymore, you can scratch the old paint from it, repaint it, personalize it, get creative. But to do these things you have to be somewhat artistic."

In other words, anything you no longer wear or use can be altered and decorated to serve an alternate purpose for someone else. You can cut fabric from the sleeves of an old sweater into mittens for your southern friend.

You can decorate old pencil holders with glitter and paint for your sorority sister. You can repurpose an empty bottle of Jack Daniels into a lamp stand for your night owl companions.

Start with Pinterest and work your way around a time-consuming project that friend's will appreciate.

Incorporate your Talents

If you have a hobby you do not mind sharing, show it off. Record a song. Write a poem. Make up a coupon that friends could use to claim one free tennis lesson.

If you tend to mooch food off your friends, cook them a nice dinner. The sky is the limit with this one, though if your talent is being photogenic I wouldn't recommend a selfie album like Kim Kardashian made for Kanye's birthday.

Keep it Cheap

If you are not too creative or talented or artsy, you can always hunt on eBay for cheap gifts less than ten dollars.

Wrapping it up

College students may not be the wealthiest gift-givers, but a personal touch always stacks up better than a gift card to Chili's every year.

The holidays are a time for heartfelt happiness and giving back to the people you have taken so much from already. Cheers to the one time a year your project does not get you a letter grade.



GISELLE BARKLEY/THE STATESMAN

According to History.com, Christmas became a federal holiday in the U.S. on June 26, 1870.

College gal cooking: homemade sweet bread



GISELLE BARKLEY/THE STATESMAN

Trinidadian sweet bread is also called coconut sweet bread. It is one of the few Trinidadian desserts without alcohol.

By Giselle Barkley
Arts & Entertainment Editor

There might be a few weeks until Christmas, but it is never too late to start thinking about breaking out old family recipes and baking.

Baking Trinidadian sweet bread is an annual tradition in my family. Simply put, it is a moist type of bread packed with candied fruits and grated coconut.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup grated coconut (fresh)
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- ½ butter
- 1 tsp cinnamon spice
- ½ tsp grated nutmeg
- 1 packet of yeast
- ½ tsp baking powder
- 1 container of red glazed cherries
- 1 container of green glazed cherries
- 1 container of black raisins
- 1 container of candied orange peel
- flour

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees so the oven can warm while you prepare the recipe.

For this recipe you will need to buy a whole brown coconut. The coconut is ripe if you hear the water moving inside the coconut when it is shaken.

First, add the grated coconut,

cinnamon spice and grated nutmeg together. Then add the yeast and baking powder to the mix. You can mix all five of these ingredients at the same time but I find it easier to mix the ingredients in parts.

Then, add the raisins, candied orange peel and the red and green candied cherries to the mixture. Once the ingredients are mixed together, add the sugar, eggs and small amounts of flour and mix until you can roll the dough.

When the dough is ready, put it into a greased bread pan and place it into the oven for 45 minutes. Make sure you check the bread periodically to ensure it does not burn.

After the bread is done cooking take it out of the oven and let it stand before cutting.

Sweet bread is a great treat and it is not just a dessert.

Occasionally, I have had a slice for breakfast because a single slice is very filling.

I find that the sweet bread tastes better when it is warm. To reheat the sweet bread, you can put it in a toaster or toaster oven for a few seconds.

You can spread butter on it to cut the sweetness or jams on the bread if you desire. Jam will amplify the sweetness but offer a different texture to the bread.

Regardless, Trinidadian sweet bread is one of my favorite sweet treats during the winter months and it is great with a glass of milk.

THE BOX OFFICE

1) "Annie" — It is a new take on the little ginger orphan who told us that although it might be a hard knock life, the sun will come out tomorrow. Quvenzhané Wallis, "Beasts of the Southern Wild," and Jamie Foxx star in the film that comes out on Christmas day.

2) "Into the Woods" — Stephen Sondheim's musical that mashes together fairytale characters stars big names Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, James Corden, Chris Pine, Anna Kendrick and Johnny Depp. The classic that warns you to be careful what you wish for hits the big screen on Christmas day.

FALL 2014 IN PHOTOS



The Stony Brook football team runs out of the tunnel just before the homecoming game against William & Mary Tribe on Sept. 27. (Manju Shivacharan / The Statesman)



Senator Kenneth LaValle came to the grand opening of the new Island Federal Credit Union Arena. (Basil John / The Statesman)



Stony Brook students came out in force for the homecoming game against William & Mary Tribe. (Manju Shivacharan / The Statesman)



Carson Puriefoy and Sabre Proctor of the men's and women's basketball teams pose during *The Statesman's* basketball photo shoot. (Hanaa' Tameez / The Statesman)



Men's soccer fell to the Binghamton Bearcats 3-4 on penalties in the America East Conference quarterfinal match. (Hanaa' Tameez / The Statesman)



Cirque Peking, The National Acrobats of the People's Republic of China, perform to a sold out Staller Center on Oct. 18. (Heather Khalifa / The Statesman)



Former President Clinton spoke at a rally to re-elect Tim Bishop just before the November Gubernatorial Elections. (Heather Khalifa / The Statesman)



Jules Mayard and Jaelyn Lattanza are crowned Homecoming King and Queen during the halftime of the homecoming game. (Manju Shivacharan / The Statesman)



Stony Brook hosted a baseball game with the Miracle League of Long Island—a baseball program for children with disabilities. (Saher Jafri / The Statesman)



Long lines during peak hours were a problem for university buses early in the semester. (Bridget Downes / The Statesman)



The Stony Brook Belly Dance troupe performs during this year's Seawolves Showcase as part of homecoming festivities. (Manju Shivacharan / The Statesman)



The Stony Brook football team devoted one of their season games to raising breast cancer awareness. (Heather Khalifa / The Statesman)



The Harlem Globetrotters perform for the grand opening of the new Island Federal Credit Union Arena, wowing those in attendance. (Basil John / The Statesman)



The campus recreation center, which opened last year, was renamed this semester to honor Walter Hawrys, who was a competitive race walker. (Basil John / The Statesman)



Stony Brook held its first Indian Fashion Show in the SAC Auditorium on Thursday, Nov. 13. (Bridget Downes / The Statesman)

OPINIONS

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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The Statesman is a student-run, student-written incorporated publication at Stony Brook University in New York. The paper was founded as *The Sucolian* in 1957 at Oyster Bay, the original site of Stony Brook University. In 1975, *The Statesman* was incorporated as a not-for-profit, student-run organization. Its editorial board, writers and multimedia staff are all student volunteers.

New stories are published online every day Monday through Thursday. A print issue is published every Monday during the academic year and is distributed to many on-campus locations, the Stony Brook University Hospital and over 70 off-campus locations.

The Statesman and its editors have won several awards for student journalism and several past editors have gone on to enjoy distinguished careers in the field of journalism.

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram @sbstatesman.

Disclaimer: Views expressed in columns or in the Letters and Opinions section are those of the author and not necessarily those of *The Statesman*.

The Statesman promptly corrects all errors of substance published in the paper. If you have a question or comment about the accuracy or fairness of an article please send an email to editors@sbstatesman.com.

First issue free; additional issues cost 50 cents.

SHENEMAN THORPE CONTENT AGENCY



PHOTO CREDIT: MCT CAMPUS

On reporting death: I am a Seawolf, too

By Hanaa' Tameez
News Editor

When you get a call saying that a fellow student may have committed suicide on campus, your heart drops.

It is an awful thing to hear. Your mind runs at a million miles a minute with all sorts of thoughts, but you keep asking yourself, "why?"

For Kelly, Arielle and I as news editors, it is no different. But then we run.

I was at the scene when University Police Department and Suffolk County Police Department officers were conducting the initial investigation at Roosevelt Quad on Tuesday, Dec. 2. The three of us took this very seriously, which is why we did not bother trying to find out who on our staff was closest in proximity. We went ourselves.

I saw students around us with tears rolling down their faces. I had to swallow the knots in my throat and bite the insides of my cheeks to keep my own tears from falling.

As the campus newspaper of record, *The Statesman* is obligated to disperse information to the campus community that affects the campus community. When I initially found out that a student may have possibly taken his own life at Stimson College, I felt what you all felt. But as a reporter, I have a responsibility to you, the readers, to find out what happened. This is not to say that I suffer more than you do; that is not true at all. But my experience is different, and it is one that is hard for most people to understand.

Kelly, Arielle and I know full well

that in a situation like this, the last thing a person wants to do is speak to a reporter. If you witness something like that, we know how terrifying and downright annoying it can be when a reporter asks you what you saw—you do not know if you know what you saw, much less how to talk about it for publication.

It is scary for us too. We know you are distraught and we never know how you are going to react to us. But we have to go for it because we are the only people who can humanize the story. When we ask you what you know about someone, we are not trying to fill space in our paper. We want them to be remembered as who they were and what they meant to you, not by how they left us.

Our angle is not that a person died on campus. It is that our community lost a Seawolf.

When publications like *Newsday* and *The New York Daily News* pick up a story like this, more likely than not, it was a slow news night for them.

At *The Statesman*, that is certainly not the case. We know how deeply an event like this resonates with the campus community. We know that you are counting on us for information because we are here. We are not in Melville, N.Y. and we are not in New York City. We are at Stony Brook.

We recognize that verification is crucial to journalism, particularly in sensitive matters. We know other news organizations have published stories that included speculation on details about the manner of the student's death—details that we know were not confirmed on the record by UPD or SCPD. We know those de-

tails were not confirmed because we asked the authorities. Several times.

This is one of the many reasons I value my working relationships with groups like UPD and SCPD. They understand better than most people how vital accuracy is and how detrimental a factual error can be. This is why Kelly, Arielle and I waited until we received official, on-the-record comments from them. We have been working with them for years and we trust them to do their job just as they, and hopefully you, trust us to do ours.

If we—Kelly, Arielle and I—were slow to get the information about this out to you, we sincerely apologize. We never want to keep you waiting. But know in a case as sensitive as this one, we decided that accuracy trumped timeliness and it was better to say nothing than to say the wrong thing.

We decided it was better to publish what you already knew from the campus-wide emails than to re-publish speculation from other organizations. We wanted to make sure that every word of every sentence that we put out was 1,000 percent factually and grammatically accurate.

Our job is to sift through, clarify and package this information so you do not have to. We in no way want to do any more damage than has already been done.

If you have any questions or concerns about the story we published, feel free to send an email to news@sbstatesman.com.

I know I speak for Kelly and Arielle when I say we are incredibly sorry for the loss of a fellow Seawolf. Our thoughts are with his family and friends in this trying time.

Have a response to an article published in *The Statesman*?

Send us a letter to the editor to editors@sbstatesman.com. Please limit your response to between 250-300 words.

In defense of officer Darren Wilson: he was doing his job

By Jeremy Kline
Staff Writer

As of November 24, the grand jury presiding over the shooting death of Michael Brown, Jr., reached the conclusion to not charge Darren Wilson with criminal charges for the shooting death of Brown on Aug. 9, 2014.

For months, coverage of the case has been plastered over every news station in America, and the verdict made its way into every home through American television screens and news networks on Nov. 24, 2014. And it is my personal opinion, after reviewing the evidence for the case, that the grand jury has made the correct decision in not indicting Wilson with criminal charges.

The main reason for this belief is rooted in the scientific facts of the first autopsy report conducted by the St. Louis County Medical Examiner's Office, which more accurately line up with Wilson's account of what happened than those of the people on Brown's side. The following accounts were mainly corroborated by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, a Missouri newspaper which utilized public documents, as well as an unnamed source, to help build the accounts of both sides.

With this in mind, let us begin with Wilson's account of the events that transpired that day.

The first autopsy report indicated that Brown was indeed shot six times which lines up precisely with Wilson's testimony of what happened that day. According to Wilson's testi-

mony, he first came upon Brown and his friend, Dorian Johnson, as they walked along Canfield Drive. After asking where they were going, with Johnson pointing in the direction past Wilson's SUV, the pair continued walking. While Wilson pulled away, he noticed Johnson was dressed in a similar fashion to someone wanted for a local robbery. He pulled back, parked the SUV and called for backup. As he went to get out of the car, Brown, who had reportedly cursed at Wilson moments earlier, punched him through the open window.

With his other weapons not accessible, Wilson drew his gun and

a struggle ensued, resulting in the gun discharging and hitting Brown in the hand area. According to the forensics reports, Brown's hands were pointed downwards when this occurred, clearly indicating a non-surrender stance. The gun had reportedly been fired more than once, but Brown's hand had blocked the hammer in the back preventing the gun from discharging.

After being shot, and with the struggle still ensuing, a second shot was fired, and Brown ran. Wilson, getting out of the SUV, chased Brown. Though Wilson did not remember saying anything, one can

assume that Wilson ordered Brown to stop. Brown, according to Wilson, then stopped, turned and with his left hand pointing downwards and his right clutching his shirt, charged Wilson. Wilson fired, and Brown stopped. Wilson reportedly stopped shooting, but Brown then resumed his charge, where Wilson then fatally shot Brown in the head, at a trajectory that indicated that Brown was charging at Wilson, matching up with autopsy reports.

The accounts of some eyewitnesses, who did not view the entire altercation, varied greatly. Some indicated Wilson chased Brown down,

shot him in the head and repeatedly shot him in the back, although the autopsy report clearly indicates Brown suffered no wounds to his back. Others, like Johnson, claimed that Wilson pulled the SUV back, nearly side-swiping the duo, and then tried to open the door, where it bounced off of both Johnson and Wilson. He then grabbed Wilson by the throat through the SUV, then his arm and tried to pull him into the SUV. Meanwhile, his gun was out and he shot Brown immediately before the altercation. While Brown was fleeing the SUV, Wilson chased him, shot him once then killed him as he was reportedly surrendering in a hail of bullets.

The only thing that all eyewitnesses agreed upon was that Wilson had fired shots as Brown fled the SUV, which is believable from the perspective of both stories. But that is where the similarities end. Most eyewitness reports vary on whether Brown was walking towards Wilson, stumbled and fell, or just fell over and died. Many have reported that Brown's hands were not raised when he turned. Others claimed they were. Some stated Wilson tried to grab Brown through the open SUV window. Others disagree. Ultimately, what can be made from all of this is that Darren Wilson, beyond the shadow of a doubt, killed Michael Brown, Jr.

However, I have multiple problems with the eyewitness accounts. Some "witnesses" were not there to



KELLY ZEGERS / THE STATESMAN

Stony Brook University students marched through the academic mall on Wednesday, Dec. 3 to protest the grand jury's verdict in the case of police officer Darren Wilson.

Continued on page 13

Black Friday: death for deals

By Jonathon Kline
Assistant Opinions Editor

"One worker trampled to death during Black Friday sales at Wal-Mart."

"Two dead after a shooting in crowded Toy 'R' Us in Black Friday shopping pandemonium."

"A Black Friday shopper who collapsed while shopping at a Target store in West Virginia went almost unnoticed as customers continued to hunt for bargain deals."

These weblines, depicting the death and injury of multiple people all across America, seem to be featured at the top of every single news organization's website on the Saturday after Black Friday, once the reported death and injury count have been tallied.

Sometimes, the counts are run on the evening news on Black Friday. We might even see some poor retail worker getting trampled live via Twitter, with new hashtags popping up faster than crushed pre-med hopes after a BIO 203 midterm.

The idea of expecting people to die on Black Friday is not only upsetting, but also quite alarming. As of now, there are seven reported deaths and 98 injuries due to Black Friday-related incidents, according to the website blackfridaydeathcount.com. This website is a stark reminder of the fact that people actually die on Black Friday.

What is even more shocking is that we expect to hear horror stories coming out of Black Friday. We expect to wake up on Saturday

morning and see that one or two people were killed over the last Tickle Me Elmo or that a man was trampled to death because that big flat screen television was close to 50 percent off.

It is absurd to hold the value of the price of some material item over a person's life, which truly puts the whole Black Friday craze into a very critical lens. The thought of people dying over deals is horrible - the fact that a person is literally willing to shoot, with the intent to kill, in a crowded shopping center over a toy is ridiculous. On top of this, the thought that some retail workers have given their lives in the name of corporate greed and commercialization is just downright upsetting.

What has come of our society that we willingly will go out and trample another human being, a person who has their own life and story, just to save some money? What can be said of people as a whole if they are willing to fight, shoot and kill each other just for some deals?

Personally, I do not go Black Friday shopping because I value my life and would rather go out in a more fashionable way, like getting food poisoning from the SAC cafeteria or dying at the age of 75 when I finally get to see West Side Dining's renovation completed.

However the majority of people will still contribute to the problem of "Black Friday" because they cannot resist the lure of buying more than they need, which in part will lead to the unfortunate harm and deaths of more people.

Independents should pick a point on the political spectrum

By Jasmine Blennau
Staff Writer

The last thing in the world that college students want to talk about is their political opinions. We are far more open about our classes, grades, love lives and future careers than we are about where we stand on the political spectrum. The second I brought up voting and politics almost everyone shied away.

There were, however, a few brave souls who spoke out on their political beliefs. Chris Hitzel is a sophomore applied math major who is making a decision that many people his age are. He identifies as a political independent, like fifty percent of the millennial population in the United States, according to a recent Pew Research Poll. Gallup announced that 42 percent of Americans identify as independents and that the number of independents has been increasing steadily since 2008.

Identifying as a political independent has become a way for people to completely avoid voicing their opinions. An "independent" is not obligated to do or say anything when a political discussion between friends becomes an all out debate.

Hitzel said that he registered as an independent in an effort to keep himself from getting too invested in one side. He said that it forces him to be intellectually honest with himself while weighing arguments.

"Being young is about being hip, and maybe being hip is being outside of corrupt politics," Hitzel said, regarding his generation.

He described identifying as an independent as "almost a sense of la-

ziness," and "taking a stand without taking a stand."

An "independent" can play both sides of the fence, or flip flop when it is convenient. They can side with one party when they win, but dislike that same party when they lose. Are these independents really independent, or are they sitting out because they are afraid to join in?

Professor Yanna Krupnikov, an assistant professor in the political science department at Stony Brook University, and fellow researcher, Samara Klar, wanted to know whether this influx of so called "independents" was an ideological shift of a large group or the result of many false representations. Krupnikov said that the research found that when people are reminded that there is disagreement among the parties, they want to be above it.

One reason this is occurring is because it is more socially acceptable to not align yourself with a party. Being politically correct is something that our generation values. Perhaps it is more polite not to argue your side.

American citizens associate the parties with polarized political figures whom they do not want to be associated with. The polarization of the parties is either making individuals join the fight or remove themselves from it entirely.

People are identifying themselves incorrectly to control the way that others perceive them. Identifying with a party makes others assume things about you - stereotypes flood our mind when we hear that someone is a Democrat or a Republican.

Nobody wants to be perceived as close minded or stubborn because they lean right, or hippie-like and open to all social change because they lean left. Expressing what you believe in is putting yourself out there to be judged.

By not participating, those who identify as independents are stepping back from discourse that occurs between family members and peers. Hiding one's true feelings on an issue allows them to remove themselves from uncomfortable situations and disagreements.

People may not choose a party for fear of how they will look if they change sides or if they do not hold all the ideas of a party. Not many people agree with everything the party represents because they are so polarized.

Both political parties being difficult to fit into because the extreme partisan views that the parties represent is a huge turn off to undecided or independent voters.

Jonathan Sides, a contributing writer to The Monkey Cage on the Washington Post Blog, says that there is very little difference between independent leaners and weak partisans. Data he has compiled from the American National Election Study shows that approximately 75 percent of independent leaners are loyal partisans.

In other words, people choose to identify themselves as independents although their policy preferences usually lean one way or another. Do not let your manners get in the way of your participation in our society. We should be proud to stand up for our beliefs.

Classifieds

Help Wanted

Pro bono accountant to oversee bookkeeping of college newspaper. 4-6 times a year for 2 hours. Call (631) 632-6480.

Ski Chalet For Sale

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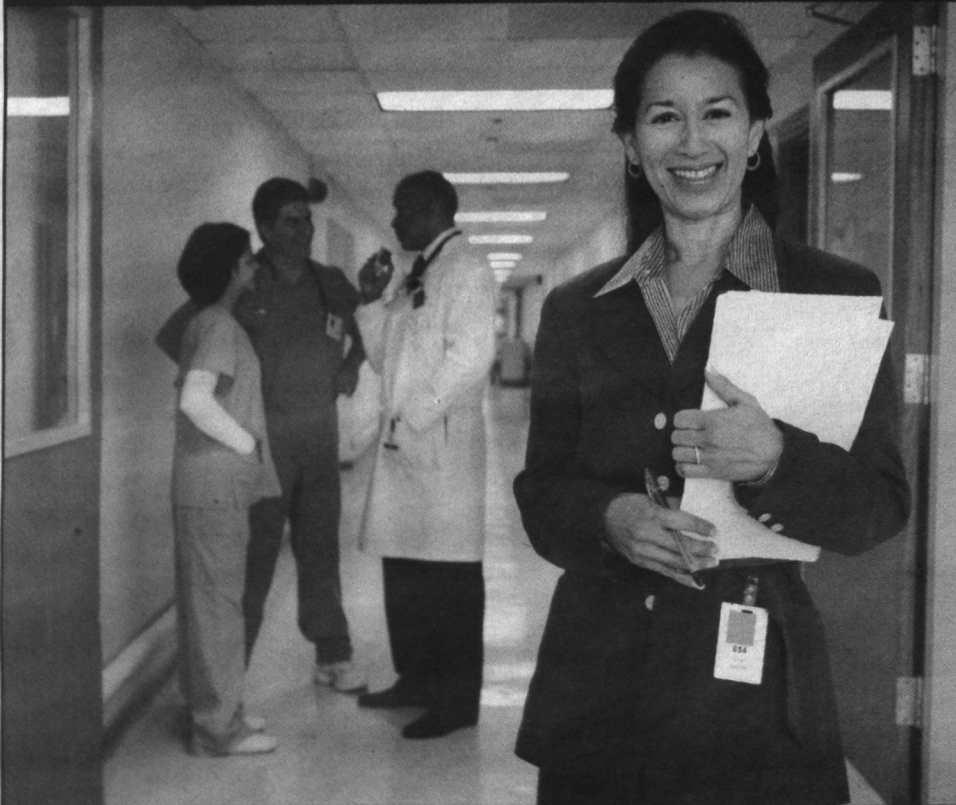
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Stony Brook University

Wilson: the correct verdict

Continued from page 11

actually witness the shooting and had reported what they had heard from friends and relatives. Even the eyewitnesses who actually saw what transpired had differing accounts of what happened. And through it all, Wilson's account of what happened, though probably without some fault, is the closest to what the autopsy report indicates which is rooted in proven, scientific facts, not some wild, crazy notion of a cop who decided to murder a teenager he passed on the street in cold blood simply due to the color of his skin, as many leaders of the Ferguson protests would have us believe.

And the thing that infuriates me about this whole case is how the media has handled it. From day one, the media has tried to spin this entire debacle into a race issue. While elements of racial tension between whites and blacks, particularly between young black men and police officers, is undeniable, the media has had a field day with spinning this into a purely white-versus-black issue.

It is not. It is a human issue. At the end of the day, a young man lost his life to a tragic shooting. A young cop has had his career, and most likely his mental health, ruined for life. And through it all, the only

thing these major television networks care about is ratings, not about the young man whose life was ripped away from him and the other who will engage in his own personal Hell for years to come.

We as a nation will have endless arguments over what happened on that tragic August afternoon. We will have experts weigh in from every angle, on every gunpowder particle and every memory of those who witnessed the shooting. But ultimately, what truly happened on that fatal day will be known by Wilson, Brown and God alone.

I urge, no, plead, with the American people to let loose these shackles of ignorance and hatred. While the ethnic, economic and political divisions in our country may help give us a sense of identity, let us never forget that we are all, first and foremost, Americans.

And while I maintain Wilson's innocence, it does not exclude a good, hard look at our justice system and ways we can help shape it to ensure more lives are not lost like that of Brown.

The only thing I can say with confidence is that I hope and pray that Wilson will find the strength to continue living his day-to-day life, that Brown's family can find it in their hearts to come to peace with their son's tragic passing and for true forgiveness for Wilson.

The meal point system is far from perfect

By Hunter Frederick
Staff Writer

We are nearing the end of the semester, which means the student body is silently splitting into two groups: those with 500 meal points left and those with only five. On Nov. 21, I squarely found myself in the latter category. The last thing I bought was a grande Iced Caramel Frappuccino from Starbucks. As it currently stands, I have \$0.58 left on my meal plan.

This leaves me with one of three options. I can either a) add more money to my meal plan, b) buy and cook food for the rest of the semester or c) depend on the kindness of my friends that fall in the "500-meal points-left" group.

But why is this even a predicament for students? Or better yet, why is it such a common one?

Personally, I believe that there are several factors on both sides that contribute to the end-of-year meal points struggles that plague the student body every semester.

The first issue is the one most students notice first; the food here is really expensive. As each day of the semester passes, I find myself closely watching what the cashier enters when they ring me up, not because I do not trust them (most of them are very nice), but because I want to see just what has me paying about \$8 each morning for breakfast. I do not know, perhaps I am forever doomed to compare food

prices at Stony Brook to the ever-affordable delis and bodegas I grew up with. Maybe there is some good reason for some of this food to be so expensive, but as of now, I do not see it.

Another thing that would help is being able to keep track of my meal points and how many I have left in my account. There are two ways to do this, but only one of them actually works.

The most surefire way to keep track of your meal points is to ask for a receipt from the cashier when you buy food; somewhere on the receipt it should say "BAL" and next to that should be your meal point balance. Compare your balance with one of the posters that shows you how many meal points you should have left and you are as golden as Ponyboy.

The other way would be using the Stony Brook Campus Card app for your smartphone. You know, when it lasts more than a few minutes without crashing. While the receipt method is sound and easy enough to do, it would be a great benefit to many students if we had a Campus Card app that worked reliably.

On top of the problems that we have with the meal point process alone, there is also the great mystery surrounding our meal plan: each meal plan level, from bronze to platinum, has a \$605 operating expense.

The Faculty Student Association website explains that this goes

towards renovations, like Roth Regatta Café and West Side Dining Phases I and II.

The website also gives a breakdown of each meal plan. While you may pay about \$2000 for the cheapest meal plan, you only get about 1300 meal points due to the \$605 operating expense. And then there is the infamous rumor that part of our meal plan is used to pay for stolen items. Whether this is true or not, I do not know.

What I do know is that our meal plan system might be in need of a renovation. Far too many students end up with too few or no meal points come finals week, which is possibly the most stressful time of the year.

No one wants to emerge from their room for the first time that day after watching Echos and highlighting and making flash cards and go to a dining hall only to find out that they have no more meal points left.

And it is not like this would be an impossible thing to fix - Campus Dining has actually been pretty good with trying to optimize things, such as getting the meal plan to roll over and the installation of the kiosks in the SAC.

Now, whether or not those worked out like they wanted is a matter of opinion. But maybe all we need is a meeting or two between some members of the student body and the FSA and we can have this problem fixed or, at the very least, clarified.

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Stony Brook University

Softball adds new talent for 2016 season

By Cameron Boon
and Mike Daniello
Assistant Sports Editor
and Managing Editor

Head coach Megan Bryant and her Stony Brook softball team inked five new players to their 2015 recruiting class, using both coasts to bring in a pitcher, two infielders and two outfielders.

These players will finish their high school careers this season before putting on the red and white for the Seawolves, beginning in the 2016 season.

California girls Lindsey Hughes and Irene Rivera get to make the trip to the east coast, while Danni Kemp, Katelyn Corr and Emily Acquaviva stay close to the Atlantic Ocean to play collegiate softball for the Seawolves.

Hughes posted a 1.34 ERA and .162 opposing batting average on her way to a 14-5 record in her junior season for the Saints at San Dimas HS in San Dimas, California.

The 2014 All-Valle Vista League pick was named a scholar athlete after sporting a 4.2 GPA.

45 minutes west of San Dimas, Rivera made her name in Sylmar, CA becoming a second-team all-league selection at Granada Hills.

The catcher batted .357 and hit six home runs in her junior season.

Back to the east coast, Kemp and Corr hail from Connecticut where both swung the bat very well and played travel ball together with

the Connecticut Charmers.

Corr was a power-hitter at Suffield HS. She earned All-State and All-Conference honors as a junior, hitting .575 with nine long balls and a whopping slugging percentage of 1.050.

The multi-sport athlete was also placed on the Connecticut Junior All-Select team.

She also earned all-conference and first team all-state honors, while hitting .446 for J.A. Foran HS last season.

In her three year career with the Lions, she has accumulated over 100 hits and 40 stolen bases showing herself as a threat both at the plate and on the basepaths.

The Empire State is the home of the final signee of 2015, as Acquaviva will bring her powerful bat down from New Hartford.

As an all-conference and second-team all-state selection in 2014, the scholar-athlete batted .499 on the season with six home runs and 31 runs batted in.

She also showed some speed, stealing 25 bases in her junior campaign.

These five players cannot take the field at University Field until the 2016 season, but as for the upcoming 2015 slate, it will be filled with tough tests.

In each of the last three seasons, Megan Bryant's club has earned 34 wins.

Accomplishing that feat this season could be tough, as eight teams on this slate finished last season in the top 100 of the final RPI rankings of the season. Six

teams also earned bids into the 2014 NCAA Tournament.

Two-time America East Pitcher of the Year Alison Cukrov, as well as two second-team selections in Bria Green, and Shayla Giosia return in 2015 to lead the Seawolves.

Cukrov is coming off of a 23-9 season, posting a 2.10 ERA and striking out 187 in 213 innings.

She held opposing batters to a .203 batting average last season.

Green led the team in slugging with a .660 average and a team-high 16 home runs. Jessica Combs was second with just seven.

They will start the season by travelling to the Sunshine State for a pair of tournaments.

The first one is the Florida Gulf Coast tournament and the following weekend Stony Brook will go to the North Florida tournament.

At the Invite at FGCU, they will play two of their top-100 RPI opponents, as the Seawolves will go toe-to-toe with Purdue (No. 73) and the Eagles of FGCU (No. 90).

In North Florida, they will play the Jayhawks of Kansas, who finished No. 37 in the RPI from last season, and North Florida who finished No. 86.

Stony Brook will face its toughest opponent of the season after they finish their stay in Florida, facing the James Madison.

The Dukes finished No. 24 in the RPI and No. 25 in the USA Today/NFCA Coaches' Poll last season, in the JMU Dukes Invitational.

Club hockey rebounding strong after heartbreaking loss to ASU

By Joe Galotti
Sports Editor

Last season, the Stony Brook hockey club put together one of the best seasons in its program's history, as they picked up 24 wins in 31 games, and won the Eastern States Collegiate Hockey League conference championship. But, the Seawolves year ended in devastating fashion, as they fell to Arizona State in the American Collegiate Hockey Association's semi-finals game.

Despite Stony Brook's difficult finish last March, head coach Chris Garofalo said his team felt confident coming into this season.

"I didn't look at last year as a negative experience," Garofalo said. "It was a heartbreaker, because we were leading by a goal going into the third period, but at the end of the day I took it as a motivation for us. And I think the guys feel the same way."

Stony Brook certainly looked like a motivated team during the first half of the season, as they have put together a 17-3 record and came into this weekend ranked as the fifth best club hockey team in the nation.

"The guys believe in each other," Garofalo said. "They have a lot of confidence right now. When you go into the games with that kind of confidence and belief it kind of propels your game to the next level."

During the offseason Stony Brook lost two of its best offensive players, when co-captains Dan Cassano and Wes Hawkins graduated. But the of-

fense has not dropped off at all this season as the team has 13 players already with double digit point totals this season.

"It's not just one or two guys who are putting the puck in the net," Garofalo said. "We've really spread out with our points productivity."

Ryan Cotcamp leads the team in scoring so far this season. He has 15 goals and a team-high 17 assists.

Vincent Lopes, Nick Barbera, Sam Brewster and JT Hall have all totaled over 20 points for the Seawolves this season. Andrew Balzafiore leads all defenseman on the team with 18 points.

On Nov. 8 and 9, the Seawolves got the chance for a rematch against Arizona State, when they welcomed the Sun Devils to the Rinx in Haurpauge for a pair of games.

SBU fell 4-0 in the first game, but was able to rebound with a 6-3 win in the second game. Garofalo said getting over the hump and finally taking the Sun Devils down was a good feeling for the team.

"When we finally beat them it felt like we got this monkey off our back," he said. "Every time we played them it was so close, and the games could have gone either way. And it finally went our way that second game we played at home."

Things continue to go Stony Brook's way this season, as they picked up another pair of wins this weekend over Delaware State.

The Seawolves are done with games for 2014, and will resume play Jan. 10 when they host Liberty University.

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Points in the Paint: Four takeaways from this week's SBU basketball action

By David Vertsberger
and Andrew Eichenholz
Assistant Sports Editors

Point #1: Turnovers are plaguing the SBU men's basketball team in the early going

As with the squad made up of mostly freshmen, Stony Brook made a habit out of shooting themselves in the foot in recent losses.

The Seawolves rank 287th in the country in turnover rate out of 351 schools, as per kenpom.

Nearly a quarter of SBU's possessions end in a giveaway, a number that, if remains come the post-season, will cost the Seawolves a chance at a tournament berth.

To no surprise, the main culprits are the freshmen.

Deshaun Thrower has given the ball away on 24.6 percent of his possessions, Roland L'Amour Nyama on 31.8 percent and Bryan Sekunda has thrown it away on 32.1% of his possessions.

The team leader, however? Junior Kameron Mitchell, who has started every game of the season.

39.5 percent of Mitchell's personal possessions have ended in a turnover as per kenpom.

Turnovers have only been a major problem in recent contests. Stony Brook did a relatively good job holding on to the ball in the season's first few games.

The Seawolves will have to clamp down on the giveaways if they want to get back in the win column.

This could very easily be a bump in the road that fixes itself.



HEATHER CANNON/THE STATESMAN

Freshman Tyrell Sturdivant (No. 12, above) has been a pleasant surprise for the Seawolves.

Point #2: Tyrell Sturdivant has loads of potential

After not playing until the third game of Stony Brook's schedule, freshman Tyrell Sturdivant went on quite a tear.

In his first contest playing legitimate minutes, Sturdivant went for a double-double in just 15 minutes of action.

Granted, this was against the Division III U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, but Sturdivant followed his breakout performance with a 10-point, five rebound night against Western Kentucky.

He is currently second on the team in both points and rebounds per 40 minutes according to

Sports-Reference.

He and Jameel Warney have shared floor time as a menacing defensive frontcourt.

Although Sturdivant is still on the raw side, his superb length and soft touch has made him effective down low on the offensive end.

On the flip side, Sturdivant is not the quickest defender on the roster, but uses his stature well as a rim protector.

Head coach Steve Pikiell has boasted about his freshman all season long and we finally got a glimpse of why.

Point #3: Non-conference tests do not signal failure for the SBU women's basketball team

Much like the men's team has done, coach Caroline McCombs and her Seawolves have faced a tough, nonconference schedule.

Contrary to the 8-3 start to last season's campaign, there have been more bumps along the way.

Yes, the likes of the Duke Blue Devils will do that to a team's momentum, but fret not.

It may be for the better of the team in the end.

Last year, Stony Brook and Albany were a couple of steps ahead of the rest of the America East Conference, and that may very well be the case again this year.

But after Stony Brook beat the Great Danes in their dynamic clash

at the end of the regular season, Albany regrouped and put on an absolute clinic in the conference championship game.

Perhaps it will be the schedule that McCombs and company go through during the early parts of the season that will prepare the team to go through bumps at the end of the year, when it matters most.

This time, with difficulty early on, they will hope to be ready for it in the big moments.

Point #4: How long will McCombs' small rotation last?

While men's basketball coach Steve Pikiell has played around a lot with his rotation, testing out many lineups with pretty much everybody on the team seeing significant time at some point, coach McCombs has done the opposite.

Only seven players on the team have seen on average more than 12 minutes of action per game.

Everybody else is below 10 minutes per game, with most of those being limited to the not-so-big moments.

It has been interesting to see McCombs' use of junior Kim Hanlon this season, after Hanlon got only rare minutes under former coach Beth O'Boyle last season.

She has had quite a few plays run for her to take three-point shots straight off of an inbounds pass throughout the season.

The question is, has McCombs seen what she wanted from this team, or will she start to change things up as America East play quickly approaches?

Seawolves volleyball completes successful season

By Chris Gaine
Contributing Writer

Despite losing in the first round of the America East tournament, Stony Brook women's volleyball had one of its most successful seasons on record.

The Seawolves finished with 17 wins, a seven-year high, and saw many players reach significant milestones along the way.

The season opened up with the Depaul Invite, where the team won two of its first three games.

After a loss to Hofstra in its fourth game, Stony Brook headed to the Big Apple for the Columbia Invitational.

The Seawolves went 1-2 at Columbia, but were able to win a home game against Fordham immediately following the invitational to stay at .500 for the season.

The Razorback Invitational would prove to be a difficult test for the Seawolves.

In Fayetteville, Ark., Stony Brook lost consecutive matches against SMU, Arkansas and South Dakota respectively, leaving them with a mere 4-7 record on Sept. 13.

Especially in a mid-major conference like the America East, the nonconference slate is never as important as conference play itself, making early season struggles more of a building block to



BASIL JOHN/THE STATESMAN

Stony Brook Women's Volleyball finished with a seven-year high 17 wins on the season and went 10-2 at home.

the end of the year.

Following this disastrous road showing down south, the team responded with seven consecutive wins, peaking when it mattered the most.

This run included a sweep of the Stony Brook hosted Seawolves Invite.

The Seawolves were dominant in front of a loud Pritchard Gymnasium crowd, where they swept Kennesaw State and St. Francis (NY), and squeaking out a down-to-the wire deciding fifth set against a solid Western Michigan team.

Stony Brook opened up America East play strongly, with a couple of key wins early on in the schedule against Hartford

and UMBC.

The Seawolves would not lose another game until Oct. 10, and followed up the winning streak by winning six of their next 10 games.

During this stretch, Stony Brook was 7-2 against America East opponents.

At this time, the Seawolves appeared to be on their way to a strong finish to the season heading into the America East tournament.

Stony Brook could not finish up strong, however, as they lost their final two regular season games against New Hampshire and UMass-Lowell to put them at 17-13 on the season.

Losing consecutive games to

end the regular season proved devastating for the Seawolves' America East hopes.

With all of their momentum gone, Stony Brook lost 3-1 to New Hampshire in the first round of the tournament, which was held in Durham, N.H.

After the tournament loss, the Seawolves suited up for one more game against Yale in New Haven.

This Nov. 25th contest went to the Bulldogs, as they won 3-0 to officially end Stony Brook's season.

On an individual note, senior Evann Slaughter wrapped up her collegiate career by leaving her mark on the program's record books.

She finished second all-time in blocks, block assists, third in total blocks and 10th in kills.

Slaughter will graduate as one of the best players in Stony Brook women's volleyball history as she looks to start a professional career overseas.

Likewise, team captain Taylor Gillie finished her Seawolves career third all-time in block assists and eighth in blocks.

Her 112 block assists this season were the second highest single season total in program history.

Senior Hannah Dolan ended her collegiate career with 1,330 assists, good for 10th all-time.

Upcoming SBU Sports Schedule

Men's Basketball

Saturday, Dec. 13
12 p.m. at Providence

Thursday, Dec. 18
7 p.m. at Canisius

Sunday, Dec. 21
2 p.m. vs. Loyola Maryland

Tuesday, Dec. 23
2 p.m. vs. Loyola Maryland

Women's Basketball

Saturday Dec. 13
7 p.m. at Morgan State

Friday, Dec. 19
7 p.m. vs. Lafayette

Sunday, Dec. 21
2 p.m. at Wagner

Sunday, Dec. 28
2:30 p.m. vs. Western Michigan

SPORTS

Seawolves' road struggles continue as they fall at Princeton

By Julius Lasin
Contributing Writer

On Saturday, the Stony Brook men's basketball team made their way to New Jersey to take on the Princeton Tigers for the first time in school history.

Despite coming into the game with a better record, the Seawolves once again failed to play to their potential on offense, losing another road game by the score of 77-64.

They are now 0-4 on the road this season.

Early on, it seemed like the Seawolves were destined to get their first win away from Island Federal Credit Union Arena this season, as they jumped out to a 9-2 lead behind a pair of junior Rayshaun McGrew jump shots.

But, after an encouraging start, the Seawolves offense began to slow down, due in large part to turnovers, which helped the Tigers inch closer.

In addition to the turnovers, the Seawolves had trouble keeping track of Princeton's sophomore guard, Steven Cook, who erupted for 17 points and five steals in the first half alone.

Cook's strong showing and the Seawolves' turnovers helped the Tigers rally, leaving the Seawolves facing a 38-36 deficit, despite shooting 63 percent from the field.

After surrendering their first half lead, the Seawolves dis-



Deshaun Thrower (No. 1, above) has averaged 4.7 points and 1.3 assists per game.

played resilience in the second half behind McGrew and junior Jameel Warney.

The two juniors combined for 11 of the team's first 18 points in the half, as they built a 54-46 lead about ten minutes into the half.

Nevertheless, after going up 54-46, the Seawolves committed seven turnovers, and sparked an 11-3 Princeton run to even things up 57.

After Princeton tied things up, Stony Brook went cold on offense, and watched Princeton build a 63-57 lead, before Mc-

Grew hit a lay up to pull within four points.

However, after McGrew's layup, the Tigers hit three-pointers on consecutive possessions to expand the lead to 10 with 1:40 left, which proved to be too much for the Seawolves to come back from.

In spite of the loss, the Seawolves once again, dominated in the paint, as they out-rebounded the Tigers 37-24, which also contributed to Stony Brook's 14-3 advantage in second chance points.

A New Jersey native, War-

ney was once again instrumental in controlling the paint as he notched his nation-leading eighth double-double behind 12 points and 13 rebounds.

Warney was not alone in that category though, as frontcourt-mate McGrew was able to earn his second double-double of the season behind a career-high 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Even though Stony Brook was able to get a ton of production from Warney and McGrew, the rest of the team faltered, combining for only 34 points on 33.3 percent shooting, in-

cluding 29.4 percent from the three-point line.

Furthermore, the Seawolves were not able to cover shooters for the second straight game, as they watched Princeton make 12 three-pointers on 46.2 percent shooting, four nights after allowing Cincinnati to shoot 63.6 percent from downtown.

But on this night, it was not Stony Brook's shooting or defending that hurt them most, it was their inability to hold onto the ball, as they committed 23 turnovers which led to 21 Princeton points.

As a result of the 23 turnovers, the Seawolves also had difficulty creating ball movement on offense, as evidenced by their pedestrian total of 11 assists.

Many of the woes that the Seawolves are experiencing on the road this season are on the offensive end of the floor, where the Seawolves are averaging 9.25 points less than at home.

The key to turning that around is creating continuity on offense by turning the ball over less.

Head coach Steve Pikiell and the Seawolves will have a week to work on that before heading to Rhode Island to face Providence next Saturday.

The Seawolves then round out their four-game road trip on Dec. 18 when they take on Canisius.

Women's basketball falls on the road to St. Francis (NY) and Iowa State

By Brandon Bennett
and Kunal Kohli
Staff Writer and Contributing Writer

The Stony Brook women's basketball team picked up another two losses in the midst of their five-game road trip, falling to St. Francis (NY) 57-55 and Iowa State 74-64.

On Sunday the Seawolves got off to a strong start in their game against Iowa State, but were unable to hang on to snap their losing streak.

Senior Sabre Proctor led the Seawolves with 16 points in the game.

Senior Jessica Ogunnorin picked up the slack after Proctor fouled out with 9:13.

Ogunnorin scored 15 points and collected eight rebounds.

Junior Brittany Snow also added 12 points in the defeat.

ISU senior Nikki Moody led all scorers with 24 points for the 5-1 Cyclones.

Connecting on six of their first seven shots, Stony Brook started the game with a 9-3 lead.

The Cyclones bounced back and reclaimed the lead with 10:37 left in the first half.

Although Iowa State looked to constantly pull away, but SBU managed to stay within reach.

Moody ended the half with 11 points, giving the Cyclones a 39-37 advantage at the break.

In the second half, we saw more



Sophomore Kori Bayne-Walker (No. 5, above) scored nine points in SBU's loss to Iowa State.

of the Seawolves matching almost every Cyclone point.

The back-and-forth affair would end at the 3:20 mark, when Iowa State was able to pull away for good.

Brynn Williamson hit a three-pointer and pushed the Seawolves deficit to five.

Moody followed up with a three-point play to give ISU an eight-point lead.

The Seawolves closed the gap to four, but Moody answered with another three. Johnson closed the game with a 3-point play to give ISU the win.

In their previous game against St. Francis (NY), the Seawolves went down to the wire and lost in a heartbreaker.

With six seconds left, the Bulldogs had the ball up one. Senior forward Jaymee Veney put up a shot from the baseline, but missed.

Bulldogs junior guard Leah Fechko grabbed the offensive board and kicked it out to the three point line.

Freshman forward Alex Delaney caught the pass and launched a prayer from deep with just half a second left in regulation. She hit

nothing but net, handing Stony Brook a 57-55 loss.

The game started out rough for the Seawolves.

After leading for a good portion of the first six minutes, the Seawolves let the Bulldogs go on a 9-0 run, making the score 15-9.

The Seawolves then went on a 6-0 run, led by redshirt junior guard Miranda Jenkins, who scored her first four points of the game during the run.

The tie didn't last long as the Bulldogs followed up with another 9-0 run, to take a 24-15 advantage.

The Seawolves only put up four more points as the first half came to a close, with the Bulldogs leading 31-19.

In the second half the Seawolves were sparked by Ogunnorin.

The senior guard scored eight of her 12 points in the second half.

Senior forward Sabre Proctor also scored 10 in the half.

The two seniors and Jenkins helped cut down the Bulldogs lead, and get Stony Brook back in the game.

St. Francis (NY) was still able to maintain the lead until Ogunnorin hit a layup with 21 seconds left to put SBU up 55-54.

The Seawolves were almost able to pull off the upset, but were then defeated by Delaney's buzzer beater.

Proctor lead the Seawolves with 20 points in the game.

She was followed by Ogunnorin who had 12 and Jenkins with 11 points.

Jenkins also led the team with six assists.

Junior forward Brittany Snow, led the team in rebounds with nine.

The Seawolves shot 50 percent as a team, but struggled from three-point land, making just one of five from behind the arc.

Stony Brook will finish of their road trip this Saturday when they take on Morgan State.

David Vertsberger contributed to this story.