

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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UPD enters pilot phase of body camera program

By Mahreen Khan
Assistant News Editor

On Sept. 12, the Stony Brook University Police Department entered the pilot phase of a new body-worn camera, or BWC, program, intended for on-duty officers to record interactions with suspected offenders.

The use of body cameras was listed as a recommendation in "The Final Report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing." Campus chiefs of police decided to take up the recommendation in August, deeming it a useful and necessary application of oversight.

"We want to always be a modern, forward thinking department and so we decided to adapt that recommendation," Assistant Chief of Police Eric Olsen said. "I just think it's a great thing to have for our campus community, to protect them should they encounter a police officer who's a bad seed and it also protects our officers from baseless allegations that we often see."

The department has narrowed its choices to three individual cameras out of the 25 that were initially surveyed. The three include the Taser Axon Body 2, the Viewu LE4 and the Viewu Mini. Each camera shows a blinking light on top of the device when recording to notify individuals that they are being recorded.

"There are a number of, as you can imagine, different camera models and manufacturers out there," said Steven Wong, lead programmer and analyst for University Police. "Based on the organization here and what we were looking to do with the cameras, I was able to pick the three that I thought best suited us. That was based on weight and size, capability and ease of use."

Given that the program is currently in its pilot phase, police are only turning their cameras on during vehicular traffic stops. This initial phase is intended to not only help officers determine what camera they prefer but also to examine video quality, battery life, privacy issues and community relations.

"An officer takes a model out every day on every tour and then fills out a critique sheet about what they thought of it," Olsen said.

One of the major issues, Olsen said, aside from the cost of the cameras – which the department pays for entirely on its own – is the cost



Stony Brook President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. delivers his 7th annual State of the University Address on Sept. 28 in the Staller Center. The address was followed by a ribbon cutting for the recently renovated Melville Library Reading Rooms.

JERROD WHITE / THE STATESMAN

of storage. The three camera models run between roughly \$500 and \$800 each, while video storage space can cost much more.

"If we're going to be storing [footage] for a long period of time, eventually we're going to keep accumulating data up to a certain point and that's going to give us a ballpark figure of how much storage we need, which will dictate how much money this will cost," Wong said.

Cloud storage solutions and hosted solutions are two possible storage options, Wong said. During the pilot phase, data is only being stored for 120 days unless it is flagged or contains any sort of evidence. This way, technicians and analysts like Wong, are able to estimate the expected costs and amount of space needed.

"[It's] \$800 per camera, six to seven officers a tour," Olsen said. "We would need double that to outfit every officer. So, we would need at least 14-15 cameras and a few backups."

He theorized that purchasing 20 cameras, to account for the number of officers, the necessary backups and so forth could run close to \$16,000.

"We think it should give the campus community some comfort to know that their police department wants to be transparent," Olsen said. "We want the interactions to be documented for the good of the campus community, for the good of our officers, for court reasons."

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Man convicted for 2014 weapons possession

By Michaela Kilgallen
News Editor

A Brooklyn man who was arrested in 2014 while in possession of an unloaded firearm and meat cleaver on Stony Brook's campus was convicted on Sept. 27, according to a news release from the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office.

Joseph Lloyd faces up to five years in prison for criminal possession of a weapon on school

grounds and menacing charges, the news release read.

It took the jury two hours to deliberate Lloyd's convictions.

Lloyd forcibly entered the Social and Behavioral Sciences building on Oct. 4, 2014, *The Statesman* previously reported.

There he threatened a former girlfriend and took her phone. He fled on foot but was apprehended shortly later by police.

Lloyd's sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 27.



SUFFOLK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY Joseph Lloyd, above, faces five years in prison for the charges against him.

SUNY trustees vote to remove criminal history from admissions applications

By Jill Ryan
Contributing Writer

Convicted felons, with the exception of sex offenders, will no longer be required to disclose their criminal history on State University of New York enrollment applications.

A vote from the SUNY Board of Trustees guarantees this change as of July 2017, according to a memorandum from SUNY Chancellor Nancy L. Zimpher.

Zimpher's memorandum went on to say that 62.5 percent of potential students did not finish SUNY enrollment applications when asked to disclose prior felony convictions.

"I think it's a good plan in the perspective of allowing students who have made a mistake in their past or have moved on and rehabilitated, to move on and apply for college," Stony Brook Dean of Admissions Judith Berhannan said. "On the other hand, residential institutions should collect that information in other ways."

This new policy, called "Admission of Persons with Prior Felony Convictions," also states that universities can screen for criminal histories post-admittance for programs such as campus housing, clinical and field experiences, internships and study abroad.

Those students who wish to not participate in any of the programs

listed will be free to keep their felony convictions private.

SUNY is one of 25 institutions to have signed the "Fair Chance in Higher Education Pledge" initiated by the Obama Administration and the Domestic Policy Council in June 2016. The agreement requests that schools refrain from asking about criminal history on applications.

Stony Brook University junior business major Ali Zaidi thinks that the new policy can give convicted criminals another shot at a normal life.

"This is a way they can get a second chance in life because they

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NEWS

Study shows felony convictions negatively viewed by admissions officers

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would be more comfortable applying," Zaidi said.

Some students are not convinced. Sophomore health science major Izzy Matthew thinks that universities have the right to ask applicants if they are convicted felons for the sake of campus safety.

"If they're convicted — obviously that's their business — but I think that it should be something that the school should be aware of," Matthew said.

For others, it is hard to determine the correct approach for universities when dealing with applicants who are convicted felons.

"One point is good because some criminals aren't that bad depending on what they did," freshman undecided major Stephanie Cevallos said. "But at another point, it's kind of dangerous because if they are a bad criminal, they shouldn't be admitted."

However according to a 2007 study by M.J.V. Olszewska, the assumption that criminal history screenings make campuses safer has no basis in evidence.

"...There is no statistically significant difference in the rate of

campus crime between institutions of higher education that explore undergraduate applicants' disciplinary background and those that do not," read Olszewska's study, included in a report by the Center for Community Alternatives.

A survey of 273 institutions conducted by CCA in collaboration with the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers found 90 percent of schools viewed any felony conviction negatively and 59.6 percent of admissions personnel who reviewed applicants' criminal history received no training on interpreting criminal records

It says 25 percent of the schools have "created at least some criminal justice-related automatic bar to admission."

The survey also found that the use of Criminal Justice Information in admissions decisions disproportionately affects applicants of color.

According to the report, the labels given to convicted felons do not always match their crimes.

"In New York State, for example, the theft of a bicycle from a garage attached to a house is classified as a violent crime even if the theft did not involve actual violence or any interaction with another person, and did not penetrate the actual home itself," the report said.



BRIDGET DOWNES / STATESMAN FILE

The State University of New York system, which includes Stony Brook (above), will no longer require students to disclose criminal history on enrollment applications.

Stony Brook sociology professor Jane Ely, Ph.D., agrees that labeling causes unfair treatment.

Under the Rockefeller Law, the possession or sale of drugs was considered a felony and resulted in harsh prison sentences. In 2009, the law was amended, Ely, who teaches Social Deviance and Sociology of Crime, said.

"It was the harshest drug law in the nation but you still have people in jail from those laws," Ely said. "It isn't fair."

From Ely's perspective, eliminating the question on the application allows everyone to pursue higher education, which is becoming increasingly important in obtaining employment. She believes that

criminals should be able to move on after paying for their crime.

"When you are labeled an 'ex-con,' that is a very sticky, strong label," Ely said. "[But] once you have served your sentence, you should be able to become a productive member of society and therefore not be afraid to apply for college courses."

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Students react positively to new police body cameras

Continued from page 1

Senior economics major Marc Cubahiro said the program gives the entire campus a chance to know exactly what is going on when students interact with police.

"...We can now see for ourselves exactly what's going on - extra evidence," he said. "And that's never a problem. How can somebody be against it? I guess you can say 'cost,' but it's the cost of justice. Justice is not free, so I think it's a great move."

Junior health science major Rodrigo Valenzuela said the program can help ensure that officers follow the same rules for public citizens.

"It puts the liability on the officers, so it makes them more aware of what they're doing in making sure that they abide by all the laws that are in place, not only for people to follow but for themselves to follow as well," Valenzuela said.

Most of the officers in Olsen's department are on board with the program, he said, and they understand how important it is for

their own safety and the safety of the public.

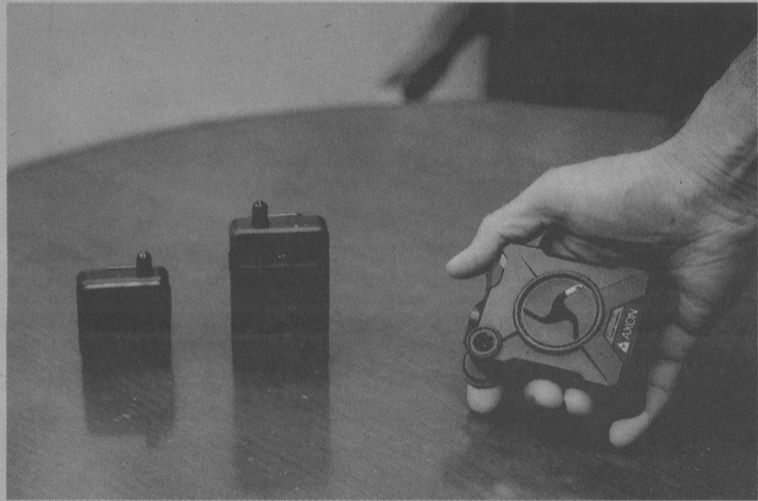
"I think anytime you present something that is a big change, it's going to be met with a little bit of cynicism by some of the officers," Olsen said. "But we think most of the officers are willing to wear it, and I think most of them understand that they'd rather have video of their whole interaction rather than somebody else's chopped up video of an interaction."

Robert Kasprovicz, a UPD officer with nearly 35 years of experience, is testing cameras for the pilot program.

"I feel very confident in it," he said. "I think it'll help us, and I think it'll help the public."

Olsen said that the department plans to train and supervise officers while maintaining student and staff privacy to ensure that all legal proceedings are seen through.

Other SUNY campuses, including the University at Buffalo and University at Albany, are employing body camera programs as well.



ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN

UPD's pilot phase for the BWC program has narrowed down a list of 25 possible cameras to three, shown above.

Gov. Cuomo commits \$5 million to Stony Brook Center for Clean Water Technology

By Nikita Ramos
Contributing Writer

New York State has committed to investing \$5 million in Stony Brook University's Center for Clean Water Technology to develop new filtration technologies for water suppliers to remove increasing contaminants in drinking water on Long Island.

"What's important about this work is that it enables water providers to get ahead of the curve in terms of drinking water protection," Jennifer Garvey, assistant director of the Center for Clean Water Technology, said. "We'll be testing out technology to remove contaminants beyond what is required and New York water providers can become models for providing advanced drinking water treatment."

This funding comes after the State Department of Environmental Conservation declared Gabreski Airport in Westhampton a superfund site on Sept. 12.

Long Island is a sole source aquifer, Garvey said, which essentially means that the island's drinking water sources sit underneath more than 500,000 septic systems across Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The aquifer delivers high concentrations of nutrients and other contaminants directly to groundwater, which is Long Island's drinking water source.

According to a press release from Gov. Andrew Cuomo in April, the DEC added perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, or PFOS, to the state's list of hazardous substances. PFOS, a chemical commonly used in stain repellants, can cause blood, immune system, thyroid and fetal growth issues.

Cuomo's release went on to say that only three months later, the DEC identified Gabreski Airport as a potential superfund site



KRYSTEN MASSA/STATESMAN FILE

Gov. Andrew Cuomo answers questions from media representatives at Stony Brook University on Feb. 18.

from the use of firefighting foam containing PFOS.

"...It is imperative that the Department of Defense and Air National Guard continue to work alongside state and local government to ensure that all impacted residents have access to safe and clean drinking water," NY-1 Congressman Lee Zeldin said in a letter to United States Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and Lieutenant General Stanley E. Clarke III of the Air National Guard.

Drinking water quality is guided by Maximum Contaminant Levels, which are standards set by federal and state guidelines based on data, Garvey said.

"The New York State Department of Health is committed to ensuring clean drinking water for all New Yorkers, and this new partnership with the Center for Clean Water Technology will further our efforts to combat the threat of emerging contaminants in drinking water, while DEC utilizes the superfund program to clean up contaminated sites like Gabreski Airport," Howard Zucker, Department of Health commission-

er, said in a press release. "I look forward to working with the Center to advance new research into emerging contaminants in order to quickly and effectively remove them from drinking water supplies across the state."

The problem with creating new water technology to decrease contamination is that new chemicals and compounds are constantly being made. This results in a lengthy process to identify the amounts safe for drinking water.

"Once a standard is imposed, water providers are obliged to meet it, which can be difficult and costly," Garvey said.

Piloting new water technology takes time because data is required to assure that a technology is working.

The center says the \$5 million provided for the pilot testing is vital to prove the capabilities of new technology.

"Beyond pilot testing, it's likely the center will also do some in-house [research and development], which could lead to new innovations emanating from Stony Brook as well," Garvey said.

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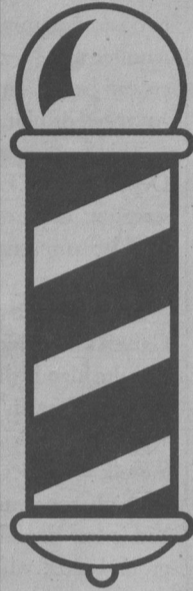
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

New York's first Starbucks truck finds home on campus

By Vivien Li
Contributing Writer

The Starbucks truck made its debut at the Student Activities

Center Loop Thursday morning, serving the franchise's popular beverages and food items to students on the go.

"We offer all hot and cold

drinks from the Starbucks menu, but we serve only a few breakfast sandwiches and pastries that are the most popular ones among students, given the

limited space in the truck," Angela Randall, Campus Dining's marketing manager, said.

A long line full of excited students formed at 9:30 a.m. Although the weather was chilly and windy, students still waited in line for their favorite Starbucks items before rushing off to class.

"I am so glad the truck is here," Ali Yuan, a sophomore journalism major, said. "It's nice to be able to have a cup of hot chocolate after getting off buses on a chilly day."

This Starbucks truck is the first in New York and one of only eight trucks in the country.

Others can be found at colleges across the country, including Rutgers University, California State University at Sacramento and Arizona State University.

Campus Dining worked with the school's Faculty Student Association and Starbucks to make this project possible.

"We have a great relationship with Starbucks and FSA, and we've been working on this since last semester," Randall said.

The truck fittingly arrived on National Coffee Day, which

promotes and celebrates the beloved beverage that Starbucks is best known for.

Having a Starbucks truck at the SAC Loop provides convenience for students since they may not have time to walk to a dining location for their caffeine fix between classes, Randall said.

"I am a commuter student and it has always been a struggle to get an espresso at Union or Roth in the early morning," Yuan said.

The truck can serve three hundred drinks before needing to be restocked.

The storage room is located in H Quad, where supplies like coffee beans, milk, lemonades and syrups are held.

"We have four people working in the truck right now: two student employees, one student manager and a general manager," a student employee said while he was giving out samples. "The place is cramped but we are very efficient."

The truck operates Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and again from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.. Dining Dollars, Wolfie Wallet, cash and credit cards are all accepted.



LUIS RUIZ DOMINGUEZ/THE STATESMAN

Students and faculty line up to order from the new Starbucks truck at the Student Activities Center Loop. The truck made its debut on campus on National Coffee Day.

All-star band brings traditional Cuban flare to the Staller Center

By Chereese Cross
Contributing Writer

The Havana Cuba All-Stars will bring their guitars, trumpets, congas and much more next week to Stony Brook — one of many stops during their first U.S. tour.

Inspired by the rhythms of traditional Cuban son, a style of music and song that originated in Cuba and is the root of most salsa music today, this 12-man band has been working for the past two years to bring the unique contemporary sound of Cuban traditional music to an American audience.

Their show "Cuban Nights" will be held on Saturday, Oct. 8, at 8 p.m. in the Staller Center for the Arts.

"For those in the audience who are Hispanic, the show is sure to make them proud, the musicians are world-class," Alan Inkles, the director of the Staller Center, said. "For others, it will reinforce or introduce an appreciation for traditional Latin American musical forms, like the Cuban son."

The band will be traveling all over the U.S. during their three-month Asere Friendship Tour, with over 60 scheduled concerts. Asere, which is the Cuban Spanish word for "friendship," is the core band of the Havana Cuba All-Stars.

Bandleader Michel Padron and his good friend Vincente Arenicibia, who leads vocals and plays the congas, formed the band 20 years ago.

Starting out as a seven-man band, Asere has been playing and touring together since 1998. Though they incorporated a con-

temporary style to their music, they kept true to their Cuban musical roots.

In 2011, they spent three months on tour in Europe. They brought nothing but their passion for music and delivered a special acoustic show to their European audiences.

Now years later, the band, with five additional members, is delivering a bigger and brand-new acoustic show to a new continent.

"We hope they will feel our heart and soul," Padron said of the band's American audience. "And

we hope they will join in with us in the dance and fun. We just hope to leave our American friends with the memories of our great music and we will leave with many memories and many new friends."

Born in Havana to a creative family, Padron became interested in playing music professionally at a young age.

He learned to play the piano at the age of eight and the trumpet at the age of 10, which eventually became his main instrument.

For the next few years, he advanced his musical talent and shared it with others.

"I was a teenager and just wanted to play music and have people enjoy my music," he said.

Padron is now a well-known trumpeter, educator, composer and music producer.

He has been around the world, performing at World Music and jazz festivals in over 20 countries and has collaborated with artists from various music genres and backgrounds.

Padron has collaborated with artists such as Toto la Momposina, Alexis Lefevre, Nayaband and Grand Big Band del Cabaret Tropicana.

The Stony Brook performance of "Cuban Nights" is just in time to help celebrate and recognize National Hispanic Heritage month, which is observed from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

During this month, the history, culture and contributions of Americans whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America are celebrated.

"The Havana Cuba All-Stars are energy on stage," Peter Dake, the company manager of Columbia Artists Management, said. "They represent Cuban music proudly and are great entertainers."



JORGE NONELL

The Havana Cuba All-Stars consists of 12 members who all contribute to the band's unique sound that combines traditional Cuban music with contemporary rhythms. The band will perform at Staller on Oct. 8 at 8 p.m.

OPINIONS

THE STATESMAN

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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.

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DAVID VAN DER MARK / FLICKR VIA CC BY-SA 2.0

The Tesla Model S, above, charges at a charging stop. All Tesla cars (aside from Roadsters) are built with an autopilot mode in which the car is able to drive itself.

The unfortunate reality behind self-driving and driverless cars

By Jager Robinson
Staff Writer

Picture this: you are driving along in bumper-to-bumper traffic, wishing your life would just progress beyond the paint of the lines and then all of a sudden, the traffic is gone. The road opens up, the cars are zooming by but you still aren't moving. You're still stuck in the mud. That doesn't sound fun to anyone, especially for the driver who is lagging behind. Luckily for us, we live in the United States and Federal Auto Safety regulators just determined that it would be safer for all of us to be behind the wheel of a driverless car; cars that are built with nascent technology that can tell the vehicle how to drive itself.

The "stuck in the mud" analogy is used quite a bit to describe driverless cars. Elon Musk has said it, several auto regulators have said it, but it is an issue that Americans don't seem to understand. Simply put, we need driverless cars to progress in our future and the ruling last week puts us one step closer to their reality.

We've already seen several auto-driving scenarios. All model Teslas (aside from the Roadster) have auto-drive. Toyota and Audi are toying with the idea; in reality, every car company is probably looking at the possibilities it presents to the driver. It has been proven to work, just look at Tesla.

Some of you may not be convinced, but how about no more traffic? Yep, driverless cars could help that. How about no more driver strain? Yep, driverless cars could help that too. According to a study done by Harvard Health Watch, the average American ends up spending nearly 4.33 years of their lifetime driving behind the wheel. I'd like to spend that 4.33 years doing other things. Honestly, the idea of spending 37,935 hours driving is almost nauseating.

If every car was driverless, and automated, we'd lose the ability to form traffic. It literally couldn't happen. Traffic is caused by human congestion and poor decision making. Removing the human from the equation removes the possibility of distraction. Much like an automated assembly line in a factory, robots and automated cars could easily work with one another in a way we cannot. Because we need traffic laws and guidelines, we use lanes and traffic stops. With driverless cars, we'd see open roads and cars zooming without thinking about direction, as all the cars are communicating with one another.

But here's the thing: we'll never get there in my lifetime. Heck, we probably won't get there in my children's lifetime. Driverless cars won't happen. My pipe dreams of not wasting my life behind the wheel of my 2006 Dodge Magnum are over before they even began.

The real issue of driverless cars boils down the human condition. We are bred to be selfish. We seem to focus on what we want and that's not necessarily a bad thing. But because of this instinct, we are forced to be shortsighted. Sure, some of us can see beyond our lifetime and those people are innovators, but for the rest of us, we are stuck in the mud.

So, in the grand scheme of things, driverless cars aren't way up on our list of priorities. Hypothetically, if you tell someone that driverless cars would reduce the traffic down to zero and their commute would be reduced from two hours to 10 minutes, they'd be excited. But if you throw in the information that they'd have to pay to get the program going via increased taxes and that it would be a good amount of time before they saw a true end result, they'd instantly say no. It's what we do.

Driverless cars would work if you could magically convince everyone to stop caring about driving. But I'd still like to drive my dad's 1989 Porsche 911 because I love the feel of the road when I'm behind the wheel. These issues, these impulses, are the reasons we won't see driverless cars. We will see augmented driverless vehicles. The Tesla motor revolution will continue, but don't expect to see fully integrated automated systems in the next 100 years, assuming the human race is still around that long.

High hopes for Mary Jane's future

By Michael Kohut
Staff Writer

It's been a rather slow year when it comes to changes in America's marijuana laws. As we approach 2017 and an election which has the potential to shift the outcome of legalization efforts in the immediate future, let's consider marijuana in 2016.

The biggest setback of the year so far comes from a likely source, the Drug Enforcement Association. The DEA announced last month that marijuana will remain a Schedule I drug, despite hinting toward the contrary in the past. This is very bad for legal progression in the near future.

Being Schedule I means that

marijuana will remain classified as equal to heroin and ecstasy in its potential for abuse. It also means that the federal government won't acknowledge that pot has any potential medical uses.

In contrast, this past Wednesday, Colorado, home to legalized pot and "South Park" fame, announced that it is likely to add post-traumatic stress disorder, also known as PTSD, to the list of things that would allow citizens access to that good kush, medical marijuana.

Dr. Joseph Cohen is a Colorado physician that supports the expansion of medical marijuana. "Cannabis treats all the multiple issues that are going on with PTSD like no other drug," said

Cohen in an interview with The Washington Post. Cohen recommends marijuana to patients for other ailments and testified in favor of adding PTSD to the medical program. The panel where Cohen testified went on to vote 5-0 in favor of extending medical access to PTSD patients, making Colorado the 19th state to do so, along with Washington D.C..

Polls from last October show that more than half of the U.S. population supports legalization. Earlier this month a Canadian official grilled U.S. border control for refusing admittance to a Canadian who admitted to smoking marijuana years ago. These two things shouldn't be happening at the same time. That's just backwards.

So what will 2017 bring for the issue? Legally speaking, I wouldn't expect huge changes at the federal level, since the DEA just decided it will remain a Schedule I drug and there isn't a movement for federal legalization with any steam at the moment. On the other hand, 2017 looks to be a good year for small changes that could add up. From the NFL to Memphis and Nashville, Tennessee, we're starting to see progressive change in places you wouldn't immediately expect.

A thaw in policy and opinion toward decriminalization and medical usage means that, over time, pot could quietly become a non-issue. We still have a while to go, but it's something to smile about.



CHUCK GRIMMETT/ FLICKR VIA CC BY-SA 2.0

Recent polls show more than half of the U.S. supports legalizing cannabis, which could lead to looser policies.

October deadlines: 2016 general election

As election day approaches, it is vital we ensure that every student that can vote does vote. Check out New York State voting application deadlines below and stay on track for election day on Nov. 8.

Voting registration deadlines:

October 14: Last day for mail in registration. Applications must be postmarked no later than Oct. 14, and received by a board of elections no later than Oct. 19 to be eligible to vote.

October 14: Last day for in-person registration. To be eligible to vote, your application must be received no later than Oct. 14.

October 19: Last day to notify of address change. Notices of change in address must be received no later than Oct. 19, by a county board of elections. **If you moved rooms on campus or are living in a different dorm or building, know that means you changed addresses and you must re-register to vote!**

Register to vote:

You may register/ re-register at your local board of elections or any state agency participating in the National Voter Registration Act.

You can also register/ re-register to vote on campus through Vote Everywhere. Information tables with voting registration forms are set up Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. in the Student Activities Center Lobby. Contact them at voteeverywhere@stonybrook.edu.

Voter registration forms are also available in the Dean of Students Office, or can be found online at <http://www.elections.ny.gov>.

You can check your voting registration status at <https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/votersearch.aspx>.

Additional information:

For more information on voting registration, deadlines and absentee ballot information, go to <http://www.elections.ny.gov>. or <http://www.stonybrook.edu/vote/>. Or contact your local board of elections at <http://www.suffolkvotes.com>.

Go vote!

Stuck in a mid-semester slump? Try talking to a stranger

By Andrew Goldstein
Assistant Opinions Editor

We're at that point in the semester when people start complaining about being lonely and sad. The weeks of easy homework and massive Thursday parties are gone. The first wave of midterms is underway. Suddenly, 15 credits seem like they are going to take up a lot more time than you originally planned.

It's during these weeks, leading all the way up to around Thanksgiving season, that socializing falls to a low and Stony Brook lives up to its reputation of being a social black hole. I remember reading posts on Stony Brook Secrets about people who claimed to have literally no friends, no social life and to be horribly sad.

There's a frustratingly easy solution put forth by Kio Stark, author of the book "When Strangers Meet: How People You Don't Know Can Transform You."

Talk to people.

It's even more frustrating knowing that Stark is a Brooklyn resident, so I can't claim her opinion shouldn't apply to me, an aloof New Yorker. She makes it clear that she's talking to New Yorkers in her TED Talk, which now has over a million views.

She cites one study where a group of commuters were split into three groups: One group was instructed to try to engage fellow commut-

ers in conversation, another group was told to enjoy their solitude and the third group was to act as they normally would. After, everyone reconvened to discuss who of each group had the most positive experience, and out of all the groups, the conversation group reported enjoying their commute the most. In a separate study done by the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Starbucks customers who treated their baristas like acquaintances reported more positive experiences than those who were told to prioritize efficiency when ordering their beverages.

According to Stark, these kinds of interactions can reduce racial bias, foster societal harmony and increase meaning and joy.

Obviously, this doesn't mean that you should attempt to have a deep, meaningful conversation with every single person running past you to class, nor does this mean that you should engage in conversation with someone who is clearly disinterested or uncomfortable. Also, I haven't seen any studies that compare these results between scientifically defined introverts and extroverts.

But generally, if you make an effort to smile and wave at that boy who passes you in the hall or to ask that girl sitting by you on Staller Steps how her day is going, you will improve both your day and theirs.



LUIS RUIZ DOMINGUEZ/ THE STATESMAN

Students eating inside Roth Cafe. Instead of eating or sitting alone, striking up a conversation with strangers may lead to increased happiness and sense of meaning.

From personal experience, I think people generally appreciate genuineness. If you can find something genuine to say to another person, everyone can gain from that conversation. It may seem uncomfortable at first, but people become really open once they sense that authenticity.

Compliment someone on their clothing. Ask someone for book recommendations. Offer free hugs. Invite someone to one of your club's events.

My favorite way to engage in a short meaningful interaction is with props. For only the cost of shipping, thedailysmile.com will send cards that say, "Keep smiling," "Happy by choice," "Be a good friend," "Be kind always," "Don't complain. Don't blame," and my personal favorite, "Did I tell you how much I appreciate you?" that you could hand out. They offer cards in 21 different languages. Their goal is to distribute 10 million cards by 2020.

This is Stony Brook, and we are going to have rough weeks ahead as the temperature drops lower, the classes get harder and the painful Olympics over whose major is harder continues.

You can't change the number of assignments, tests, papers or hours of class you have, but with a little emotional investment, you can improve your sense of meaning, enjoyment and happiness throughout the semester.

Talk.

Eisenberg, Avery lead way for Cross Country

*Men place 18th,
women come in 19th
in Paul Short Run*

By Christian Cangiano
Contributing Writer

In their first road tests of the season, both the Stony Brook Men's and Women's Cross Country teams ended with top-20 finishes in the Paul Short Run. The meet, which took place at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, featured a men's 8-kilometer race and a women's 6-kilometer race.

The men's team finished 17th overall out of 38 teams. It was led by freshman Cameron Avery, who finished with a time of 24:44, good for 84th overall at the meet. Avery "finished well after a slow start," head coach Andy Ronan said in a news release. Sophomore Nick Diaz finished 103rd overall with a time of 24:55.

Redshirt sophomore Danny Connelly joined the twosome across the line in under 25 minutes, while sophomore Bryce Hedman finished in 25:02.1.

Ronan had set a top-15 finish as a goal for the men's team.

Senior Christine Eisenberg, who came in 34th overall, finishing with a time of 20:42, led the women's team. After the run,



ERIC SCHMID / THE STATESMAN

Senior runner Christine Eisenberg, middle, runs in the Stony Brook Season Opener on Sept. 3 in Stony Brook.

Ronan had high praise for Eisenberg's effort saying that it was "probably her best cross country run to date."

Junior Annika Sisson also had a good showing, finishing 69th with a time of 21:07. Ronan commended her run.

"I felt Annika Sisson had a solid run considering she was not feeling well before the race," he said.

Senior Elizabeth Caldwell had a poor performance, compared with her typical lofty standards, finishing 180th overall.

The women's team finished 19th overall out of 44 teams competing at the event.

Ronan did come out of the meet disappointed in the overall performance of his team.

"Today was an eye opener for both squads," he said. "It was the first time we were really challenged and our response was less than I would like to have seen."

He did take an optimistic view on how the meet will affect both teams moving forward.

"Bottom line is we did not achieve what we set out to achieve this weekend," he said. "But the experience will make both teams better by the end of the season and that's what matters."

The teams will look to learn from the Pennsylvania meet and try to reach their goals at their next meet, scheduled for Oct. 15 at the Pre-NCAA Meet in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Men's Soccer loses late lead at UVM, falls in double-OT to open AE play

By Gregory Zarb
Staff Writer

A game-winning goal in double overtime spoiled the first America East conference match for Stony Brook Men's Soccer, as the team fell, 2-1, to Vermont Saturday night in Burlington, Vermont.

Vermont senior forward Brian Wright received a cross from graduate student midfielder Charlie DeFeo, netting a game-winning one-timer to the right side of the goal in the 106th minute of double overtime to give the Catamounts the win.

The Seawolves controlled play throughout the first and the second half. Offensively, they scored on a late goal, giving them the lead in the 74th minute of play.

After junior defenseman Danny Espinoza sent a cross to the top of the box, junior forward Vince Erdei chased the ball down and cracked it into the left side of the net for his fifth goal of the season.

Stony Brook went back to playing defensively after its goal, and continued to focus on reaching the 90 minute mark and escaping the match in a hostile environment with victory. That dream was crushed, ironically in the 90th minute.

They kept the top two scorers in the conference, senior forward Bernard Yeboah and Wright, scoreless until Wright's game winner. Despite giving up 24 shots, only nine were on target and it looked like the Seawolves were going to shut out the Catamounts.

With just 47 seconds left in the game, Vermont was awarded a penalty kick opportunity. Graduate student defenseman Loftur Eriksson buried the ball in the bottom right corner of the net, while redshirt junior goalkeeper Tom McMahon dove to the wrong side.

The final whistle blew and while Stony Brook hoped to leave the field with victory, the team had another task to face: winning in overtime. The rest is history, as the first overtime period had no goals.

Despite the loss, Erdei has been on a goal-scoring tear as of late. The go-ahead goal against the Catamount gave the Hungary native his fourth goal in three matches.

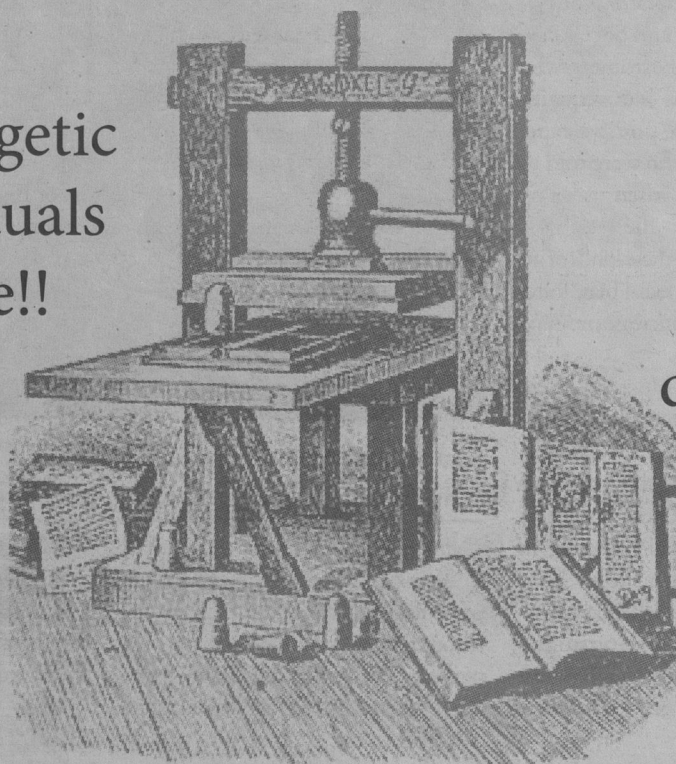
The Seawolves look forward to a week of rest and practices before lacing up their boots for their third home game of the season. They will continue conference play with a matchup against New Hampshire on Saturday, Oct. 8th at 7 p.m. at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium.



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SKYLER GILBERT/THE STATESMAN

Senior forward J.T. Hall prepares to play the puck against Rhode Island at The Rinx in Hauppauge on Sept. 30, 2016. Hall scored four goals in two games over the weekend.

Club hockey opens season with two victories

By Skyler Gilbert
Sports Editor

A persistent forecheck led the way for a pair of season-opening Stony Brook victories at The Rinx in Hauppauge over the weekend, where the club ice hockey team topped Rhode Island, 6-1 and 4-3, on Friday and Saturday nights.

In the second game of the weekend, senior forward J.T. Hall scored a hat trick, with the third and final goal capping off the win with 3:23 to play in overtime.

"J.T., he thinks the game really well," head coach Chris Garofalo said following Friday's game. "He takes charge when he needs to. He's a five-tool player, he helps us win in every area of the ice."

In overtime, played at 4-on-4 in the American Collegiate Hockey Association, the puck came into the offensive zone on a clean entry on Hall's stick. The captain had a pair of shot attempts — one stopped by the goalie, another stopped by the defense — before the puck ricocheted back to the blueline for a reset.

Senior defenseman Mike Cartwright started the play with a pass to his right to junior forward Chris Stemke, to whom the goalie committed to stop positionally. Stemke calmly returned the puck to the left, where Hall was waiting with a vacated net to end the game.

After the Seawolves had a 3-1 lead through two periods, the Rams forced overtime with a pair of third-period goals, including a tally with 5:50 to play in regulation.

Stony Brook survived a Rhode Island power play with under three minutes left to end the period tied, before Hall scored his third of the day, and fourth of the weekend, in overtime.

Friday's contest was not as competitive, as Stony Brook scored early and often.

The Seawolves' success was rooted in their strong play in the corners and along the boards. At times the home team was dominant physically, with sophomore forward Ori Benyamini — all 5-feet-6-inches of him — leading the charge.

"Even Ori," Garofalo said. "He's not big in stature but he throws big hits for his size. I was really impressed with his game."

Benyamini deflected in a goal in the second period to give Stony Brook a 4-0 advantage. All four lines scored in the game, as the Seawolves had a 42-33 edge in shots on goal.

In net, sophomore Tyler Huberty stopped all but one Rhode Island shot — the lone miscue coming on a dribbler with 2:09 left in the game — in his first game as the team's No. 1 goaltender, following the departures of Derek Wilms and Todd Scarola, who combined for a 27-1 record last season.

"He competes," Garofalo said of Huberty. "Every single shot, every single play, he's passionate and he competes. He knows the opportunity is ahead of him, having sat behind two seniors last year."

Stony Brook will play a pair of games on the road against Adrian College next weekend, before returning to Long Island for two against Niagara on Oct. 15 and 16.

Volleyball swept at New Hampshire

By Alex Blanc
Staff Writer

Poor defense led to the seventh sweep loss of the season for Stony Brook Volleyball, as the team fell to New Hampshire, 25-19, 25-15, 25-22, on Sunday afternoon.

The Wildcats' strong offense dictated the game, as did the Seawolves' failure to block any opposing strikes. Stony Brook was out-blocked, 13-3, in the contest. New Hampshire dominated the first two sets and did not let up any momentum. The Seawolves took a 16-11 lead in the third game, but a five-point Wildcats rally tied the score at 16-16 as the defending America East champions eventually completed the shutout.

New Hampshire's front line seemed to be too tough of a challenge, as Stony Brook lost the hard fought set 25-22.

Wildcats freshman hitter Kennedy Smith led the match with 14.5 points, and tallied 11 kills and 4 blocks in another impressive game for New Hampshire this season after posting 17 kills against Northeastern on Sept. 20.

Sophomore middle hitter McKyla Brooks led the team with 11 points, 10 kills and two blocks.

Stony Brook's assists leader this season, sophomore setter Morgan Kath, continued to put forth a good effort for her team, setting up her teammates a total of 27 times. She led the team with eight digs as well.

The rest of the Stony Brook attack was ineffective in the match, however. Freshman opposite-side hitter Maria Poole hit negative .286, while fellow freshmen Liz Pulver and Jordan Gels combined for seven kills and seven errors.

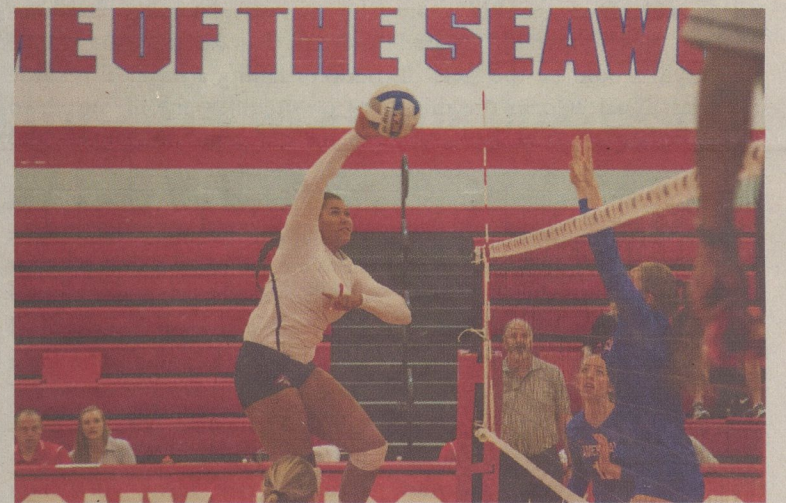
Stony Brook's 32 digs were the lowest since a Sept. 2 match against Auburn.

Kath was the only Seawolf with more than five in the match.

While the struggling Seawolves having lost seven of their last nine contests, head coach Coley Pawlikowski will look to get her players prime and ready for the remaining contests.

Conference play is still underway for the Seawolves, and there is still room for optimism for the team that has only played two road conference matches in the America East.

Stony Brook now awaits its next conference matchup at Pritchard Gymnasium against Binghamton on Friday, Oct. 7 and Albany on Sunday, Oct. 9.



ERIC SCHMID/THE STATESMAN

Sophomore middle blocker McKyla Brooks spikes a shot against American on Sept. 16 at Pritchard Gymnasium.

Defense wins championships: A look at the philosophy of Stony Brook Men's Soccer's backline

By Gregory Zarb
Staff Writer

In the crisp, cool September air, the Stony Brook Men's Soccer team finished up its final practice before heading up to Vermont to start conference play. The team ended practice with a scrimmage. The same four players took their positions at defense and keeper; it is routine at this point.

Graduate defenseman Lars Togstad, junior defenseman Danny Espinoza, senior defenseman Tavares Thompson and redshirt junior goalkeeper Tom McMahon have been the core players to start on the defensive side of the ball this season. They've been able to feed off one another, and not only help the team win games, but also keep shutting out other teams.

"Besides [Togstad], we've been here for three, four years and it's always been a major focus for us," Espinoza said. "Keeping shutouts and winning go together. If you keep a shutout, you get a win."

The Seawolves have been able to follow that motto strongly as four of their five wins have come from shutouts. In fact, they have already

surpassed last season's total number of shutouts: two. One shutout came during Stony Brook's season opening against Central Connecticut, the other was against then-No. 17 Hofstra. However, the team wanted more.

"Shutouts were a huge emphasis for us, carrying all the way back to spring training," McMahon said. "We played five spring games and we didn't give up any goals, and I think that comes from training. We made sure that it meant something to give up goals, even in practice."

In the Seawolves' five spring training games, in which they faced Columbia, Manhattan, Yale, Army and Rutgers, no goals were allowed by the back line and the keeper.

Before this season, it had been nearly a season since Espinoza and Thompson played with McMahon. After starting 16 matches for Stony Brook in the 2014 season, McMahon only started one match during the 2015 season, the shutout against Hofstra. Concerns about chemistry issues never stopped the defense its shutout objective.

"Danny and I played with him our freshman year, but it was the same

idea," Thompson said. "As long as everyone was on the same page in the back, that's all that mattered."

While Togstad, Espinoza and Thompson are all mainstays on the defense, the left defenseman is always rotating. The swapping of players in that position does not hinder the defense, it only makes them better.

"The guy who goes in left back knows that they have one job to do, and that's to protect the goal," Thompson said about the left defenseman position. "They know what they need to do, and they help us try and get a shutout, so it's not difficult."

With the Seawolves just coming off of a loss to Vermont, they look to surpass their achievements from the previous year. After hosting an America East playoff game, they were unable to find success and lost, 3-0, to Binghamton. This year, they are expecting a much different result.

"I think our mindset of not conceding and scoring that first goal is going to be huge for us," McMahon said. "I've been here for four years, and a vast majority of conference matches come down to 1-1, 2-1 games. Going up to Vermont and

their huge crowd is going to be tough, but we have 20-25 guys who are resilient. If we can come out of Vermont with three points then come home for conference play, it'll be a really great start for us."

For Espinoza, Thompson and McMahon, conference play is nothing new. As for Togstad, he is expecting a rough road going into conference play.

"Conference play is going to be a

new challenge for me," Togstad said as he looks to his first venture into conference play. "I physically know what it's all about. Everyone is against you on the road and it's going to be tough. But, I think we're going to do really well."

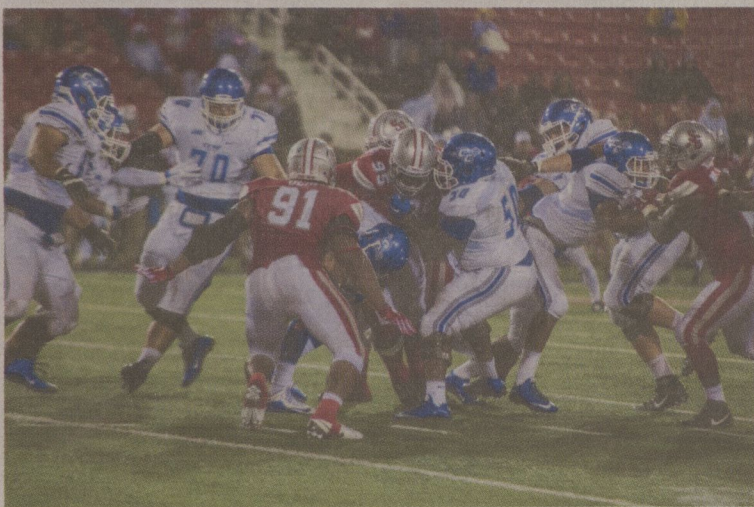
As the Seawolves start conference play, defense and shutout will be a top priority for them. There's an old sports cliché that teams live by that seems to be an unspoken motto: defense wins championships.



ERIC SCHMID/THE STATESMAN

Junior defenseman Danny Espinoza (No. 5) heads the ball against Iona on Sept. 14 at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium.

SPORTS



KRYSTEN MASSA/STATESMAN FILE

Victor Ochi (No. 91, third from left) prepares to make a tackle on Sept. 12, 2015 against Central Connecticut.

Ochi looks for his place in the NFL

By Kunal Kohli
Assistant Sports Editor

Stony Brook Football's all-time sacks leader Victor Ochi made his return to New York after signing with the New York Jets' practice squad on Sept. 13. The Baltimore Ravens had waived Ochi after the rookie spent the preseason with them.

"It felt good," Ochi said of the signing. "I'm just glad to be playing football again."

A former All-American, Ochi was slated to be selected in the 2016 NFL Draft. ESPN draft analyst Mel Kiper Jr. stated that Ochi would be the steal of the draft if selected in the third round or later. Instead, he joined the Ravens as an undrafted free agent.

"You got to understand how the business is played," he said. "Was I disappointed that I didn't get drafted? Yeah. But at the end of the day though, there was a possibility I knew I wasn't going to get drafted."

"Coming from a small school isn't easy, you know, to get your name out there like that," he added. That's why you gotta do your best with the opportunity given."

The Ravens tried converting the Valley Stream native from a defensive end to an outside linebacker. With a couple of All-Pro outside linebackers in Elvis Dumervil and Terrell Suggs, coupled with a lack of playing time in preseason, Ochi quickly became expendable and

Baltimore cut him when it shed its roster from 75 players to the season-standard 53.

"All I focus on is what I can control," Ochi said. "At the end of the day, I knew I had options... I knew whatever was going to happen was meant to happen, so all I could focus on was what I could do on the field."

It was originally announced that Ochi had signed to the Jets on Sept. 12, via a report from the team. The next day, the Jets tweeted that they had not signed Ochi, but he was there for a visit. Newsday later reported that he was not signed due to failing a physical because of a shoulder injury sustained in his last game in a purple and black uniform.

"I kind of knew that was going to happen," he said. "The way the rules are set up, you can't play for another team if you're not healthy and I knew I wasn't healthy. So I knew there was going to be some issues going into it."

As a member of an NFL practice squad, Ochi is technically a free agent. Any team may sign him at any point in the season, with the exception of teams playing the Jets in the immediate future.

"I'm doing the same thing that I've always been doing, just practicing against my opponent," Ochi said. "My role hasn't changed much, I'm just beating the man in front of me, just showing them what I can do in practice."



EVELIN MERCEDES/STATESMAN

Senior forward Amy Thompson makes a pass against Binghamton on Oct. 2 at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium. Thompson scored two goals in the team's 3-0 win.

Women's Soccer beats Binghamton in shutout fashion

By Tim Oakes
Staff Writer

The mood "wasn't great" following Stony Brook Women's Soccer's 4-0 loss to Albany last Thursday, according to head coach Brendan Faherty. However, the team made a point to rebound on Sunday against Binghamton at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium.

"We all felt it coming," senior forward Amy Thompson said. "Everyone said, 'Today is the day.' We were feeling it."

Thompson led the attack for Stony Brook, scoring a goal in each half, en route to defeating Binghamton 3-0. The rebound win was a display of resilience after the team suffered a four-goal loss to the reigning conference champions on Thursday. The Seawolves improve their record to 1-1 in conference play.

In the 12th minute, the 5-foot-2-inch Thompson leapt in the air over a taller defender to pound a header into the goal, giving Stony Brook an early 1-0 lead. Senior forward Raven Edwards and midfielder Priscilla Wiggins both registered an assist on the play.

Faherty made changes to his

lineup prior to the game, moving Thompson to the center forward position. "She did a good job of checking back, getting on the ball and obviously scoring two goals which is the most important thing," he said.

Thompson's second goal came in the 58th minute on an assist from junior midfielder Christen Cahill inside the box. Cahill leads Stony Brook with five assists this season. Sophomore forward Julie Johnstonbaugh was also credited with an assist on the play.

Impressive passing was a major factor in the Seawolves attack, using the team's success in the long-ball pass to its advantage. Junior defender Sydney Vaughn showed how accurate she can be in the 26th minute when she lined a pass from 30 yards out that gently landed in front of a charging Edwards. From there, Edwards connected for her fourth goal of the season, giving her team a 2-0 lead.

"I just anticipated the pass because I saw her look up," Edwards said. "I was able to beat my defender, relax and hit it in."

Stony Brook's offense outshot Binghamton 13 to five in the first half, allowing them to get a 2-0 lead, but also keeping the ball

away from Binghamton. This was the Seawolves best defense, and it took pressure off of their sophomore goalkeeper, Cara Gallagher.

Gallagher saved all five of Binghamton's shots on goal and continued to look sharp in goal. Her finest moment came in the 69th minute when Binghamton was set up for its best look of the game.

She dove left on a Binghamton shot attempt that nearly slipped into the goal following the save. She quickly tapped it away from the goal line when another Binghamton player rebounded the shot and attempted their own shot only to be met by Gallagher who had swiftly regained her footing.

"Cara didn't have a lot to do today because I thought we did so well with the ball, especially in the first half," Faherty said. "But when we needed Cara at the end (of the game), she was able to make two big saves and keep the shutout for us."

Stony Brook will host Vermont, who is also 1-1 in conference play, in a pivotal match-up on Thursday at 7 p.m.. The Catamounts defeated the UMass Lowell River Hawks, 1-0 on Sunday.

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