

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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GSO president detained at JFK under travel ban

By Michaela Kilgallen and Mahreen Khan
News Editor and Assistant News Editor

Stony Brook Graduate Student Organization President Vahideh Rasekhi was detained at John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens on Saturday under President Donald Trump's executive order banning travelers from several predominately Muslim countries from entering the United States, according to the Three Village Patch.

Rasekhi had spent her winter break in Iran before returning to the U.S., the Three Village Patch reported. BBC Persian journalist Bahman Kalbasi also confirmed news of Rasekhi's detainment in a tweet Saturday night. A follow-up tweet reported that she was scheduled to be deported to Istanbul at 11:40 p.m..

Rasekhi was pulled from a flight to Ukraine Saturday night after a federal judge issued a stay against President Trump's travel ban, The New York Daily News reported.

The plane was set to travel to Istanbul through Kiev, and it departed around 2 a.m. without Rasekhi. The flight was delayed for more than an hour so that Rasekhi could be re-

moved, according to The New York Daily News.

"We stand by Vahideh, our President, in her right to stay in this country and continue her education," the GSO said in a statement on Facebook.

Rasekhi was released from JFK on Jan. 29 around 2:30 p.m., according to Newsday.

President Trump's Jan. 27 order restricts citizens from seven predominantly Muslim countries including Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen from entering the United States.

The Three Village Patch reported that a 32-year-old Stony Brook graduate named Sahar, who declined to give her last name, was also barred from seeing her parents at JFK, after their flight from Iran landed on U.S. soil.

In an email to the campus community, Stony Brook University President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. advised students from the seven countries affected by the travel ban not to travel outside the United States "unless absolutely necessary."

An informational session on Visa and Immigration Services will be held on Feb. 1 from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Wang Center.



LUIS RUIZ DOMINGUEZ / THE STATESMAN

Eunjae Kwak, Sally Hwangbo, Momo Lin, Chris Garcia and Seoyoung Kim perform at the Asian Student Alliance's Lit Lunar Festival in the SAC on Thursday Jan. 26.

USG establishes director of diversity affairs

By Michaela Kilgallen
News Editor

Undergraduate Student Government President Cole Lee signed an executive order establishing a director of diversity affairs and an Undergraduate Student Government Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity.

"I wish that I could do more. And though I may not be able to do much, I can do this," Lee said in Facebook post announcing the executive order. "I can make a tiny difference in my community and in the lives of those around me. I can, hopefully, inspire, motivate, and empower those around me to continue to bring hope and change into our world — because you all are more important than

ever." Lee's Facebook post announcing the executive order received over 190 likes.

Prior to the executive order, USG had no formal position or committee with the purpose of diversity advocacy. The director of diversity affairs will be in charge of diversity programs at Stony Brook, aid with policy development, serve as a resource to students, and serve as USG liaison to the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity, among other responsibilities.

The decision to create a formal position was spurred by the recent spike in hate crimes and discrimination in the United States.

"I swear to preserve, protect, and defend the constitution of the United States so that we can love

whoever we want to," Lee said. "So that each and every one of us no matter who we are or where we come from, can dream about becoming whatever we want to."

The director of diversity affairs will also issue monthly reports to USG, updating students on any progress made by the Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity.

The search for an individual to fill the position will begin the week of Jan. 30.

"I may not be the President of the United States, nor will I ever be," Lee said. "However, I am the president of the greatest student body in the world and I represent a place that has a proud legacy as the progressive capital in higher education."



STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION

GSO President Vahideh Rasekhi, above, was detained at John F. Kennedy International Airport on Jan. 28.

Starbucks opens at Melville Library in time for the first week of classes

By Rebecca Liebson
Assistant News Editor

Students looking to get their fix of caffeine before a long day of studying can now do so without ever leaving the library. On Jan. 23, Stony Brook's newest Starbucks opened its doors to the public, permanently replacing the old location in the Student Union.

"I think they chose a great location," Christina Dorf, a sophomore environmental studies major, said. "It's a lot more



ERIC SCHMID / THE STATESMAN

The new Starbucks in Melville Library opened on Jan. 23. This location replaces the old one in the Student Union.

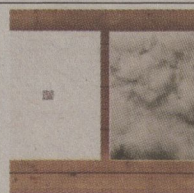
Continued on page 3



News
Sarah Tubbs launches GoFundMe.

The alumna looks to raise money for her SUNY lawsuit.

MORE ON PAGE 3



Arts & Entertainment
"ANTIFORM" debuts at Zuccaire.

The exhibit features work from three unique artists.

MORE ON PAGE 6



Opinions
Students deserve truth on Ecklund.

The university should be transparent with students.

MORE ON PAGE 9



Sports
Men's Basketball takes on Vermont.

Seawolves narrowly fall to the Catamounts.

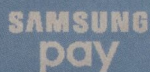
MORE ON PAGE 12

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NEWS

Union worries the repeal of Obamacare will create chaos at state hospitals

By Michaela Kilgallen
News Editor

United University Professions, a union of SUNY professors, released a statement on Jan. 27 denouncing President Donald Trump's promise to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare.

"Healthcare is a right not a privilege," UUP President Frederick Kowal, Ph.D., said in the statement.

"The Affordable Care Act provided millions with health insurance for the first time, and gave millions more a chance to strengthen their weak coverage. Repealing the ACA would cause a health care crisis, the size of which this country has never seen."

According to the news release, 153,000 people in Suffolk County are at risk of losing health insurance.

The UUP believes the elimination of the ACA would create chaos in hospitals across the country, especially in New York's state-run hospitals, which include Stony Brook University Hospital.

New York could potentially lose \$3.7 billion in federal healthcare funds, causing hospitals to cut costs while treating an increased number of uninsured patients. State-run hospitals do not turn patients away based on insurance.

About 22 million Americans will be affected by the elimination of Obamacare, according to a report by the Federation of American Hospitals and the American Hospital Association.

"This could become a perfect storm for our hospitals," Kowal said. "These institutions are a beacon of hope for hundreds of thousands of patients each year, many of whom are uninsured or underinsured."



ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN

The elimination of the Affordable Care Act by President Trump would cause state-run hospitals, like Stony Brook University Hospital, above, to make major cuts.

Newly opened Library Starbucks location offers extended weekday hours

Continued from page 1

convenient than going all the way to the Union."

Nestled in the back of the Shop Red West store in the basement of Melville Library, a wooden paneled entryway with the green Starbucks logo overhead opens up to reveal a full-service coffee shop.

"The space was chosen to create an exceptional student experience as part of a larger plan for a central hub close to the libraries, with street level access," Michael West, director of Campus Dining, said. "It offers the convenience of three services for students under one roof: the Amazon Pick-Up location, the Shop Red West store and Starbucks."

Aside from the location, the

most noticeable difference between the old and new stores is the size. Whereas in the Union there was additional seating available one door over in Wolfie's Lounge, the 2,500 square foot Starbucks in the library only has 65 seats and does not feature a similar alternative to the lounge.

Nicole Sukkarieh, a junior biology major, said that she preferred the old location for this reason, stating that it was "a better meeting space."

On the other hand, Chris Sutter, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, saw the decrease in seating as an improvement.

"It feels a lot more comfortable," Sutter said. "At the Union everything felt really cramped."

The new Starbucks has all the same beverages and other offerings that were available at the

Union location, but the hours of operation have been slightly altered. Weekday hours have been extended, with the new store opening at 7:30 a.m. and closing at midnight Monday through Thursday, and 8 p.m. on Fridays. The location is open on Saturdays from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday from 12 p.m. until 12 a.m.

"Our opening week has definitely been a success," Julissa Nuñez, the supervisor at Starbucks, said. She claims that the store has been packed with students wanting to check out the new space. "The goal for this store is the same as it's always been. We want to provide our customers with the best possible service. The students here work so hard, we want to make their lives easier and help them get their caffeine and get through the day."



TAYLOR HA / STATESMAN FILE

With the addition of the Starbucks in Melville Library, the location in Roth Quad, above, is now one of three Starbucks spots on campus where students can get their coffee fix.



HANAA TAMEEZ / STATESMAN FILE

Sarah Tubbs, above, in a news conference on March 10, 2015. She has raised almost \$18,000 on GoFundMe.

Sarah Tubbs launches GoFundMe campaign to cover costs in SUNY lawsuit

By Michaela Kilgallen
News Editor

Sarah Tubbs, the plaintiff in a lawsuit against the State University of New York for Stony Brook's alleged mishandling of her sexual assault case, has raised nearly \$18,000 towards her \$25,000 goal through the online fundraising website GoFundMe.

"Hi my name is Sarah Tubbs and I am a sexual assault survivor," Tubbs wrote in the page's description. "During my final semester of college, almost exactly 3 years to this day, I had my innocence stolen from me when I became a victim of sexual assault."

Tubbs launched the page on Jan. 23 and has raised over 70 percent of her goal thanks to 161 donors.

The money will be used to cover the cost of an expert witness in her case. The deadline to raise the \$25,000 is Jan. 31.

The larger donations include a \$5,000 pledge and two \$1,000 gifts.

Many donations included messages of support for Tubbs and her lawsuit.

The online campaign has some 925 shares on social media.

In the description of the campaign titled Help End Campus Sexual Assault, Tubbs recounts the process she experienced after her alleged rape in 2014.

"When I reported the crime to the police they interrogated me, questioning the tightness of my clothing and withheld information," the description reads. "Then they somehow decided my attacker committed no crime. After being turned away by the criminal justice system, I reached out to our college process and reported the assault to the University. And that is where the second rape continued."

Tubbs claims that she now experiences PTSD, including flashbacks, hypervigilance, nightmares and a loss of independence.

According to a university spokesperson, Stony Brook University does not comment on pending litigation.

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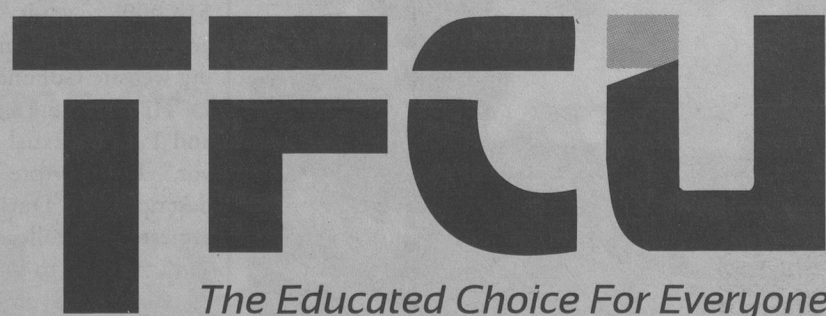


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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ANTIFORM: Zuccaire Gallery's first exhibit of the spring semester



JOHN ROS VIA CC BY-NC-SA 4.0

John Ros' untitled piece is featured in the "ANTIFORM" exhibition in the Zuccaire Gallery.

By Emily Norman
Contributing Writer

This Tuesday, Jan. 31, the Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery opened its doors to present its first art exhibition of the spring semester. The dimly lit yet vibrant exhibit, titled "ANTIFORM," features the works of experimental New York City-based artists Lindsay Packer, Mitch Patrick and John Ros, who use light to shape their artwork.

The term "antiform" was coined in the late 1960s as an art movement that went against the simplicity of the minimalism movement that came before it. Minimalism emerged in the 1960s with a focus geared toward minimizing the use of personal expression within art to keep it simple and literal. Unlike the austere look of its precursor, antiform art is meant to allow materials and objects to be themselves

and take on their own forms without restriction.

From Jan. 24 to Feb. 18, "ANTIFORM" will share its post-minimalist message at Stony Brook. Gallery curator and director Karen Levitov describes "ANTIFORM" as an exhibition crafted by three unique artists.

"These are artists who are working with found objects, video, 3D printing and projected light," to give the pieces more dimension, Levitov said.

Lindsay Packer, a self-proclaimed "visual ventriloquist," uses color and light as the focal points of her pieces. In one piece, she uses simple objects like brown paper bags to project colorful shadows at every angle.

Mitch Patrick takes a digital approach to his work, using video and 3D printing to create his pieces.

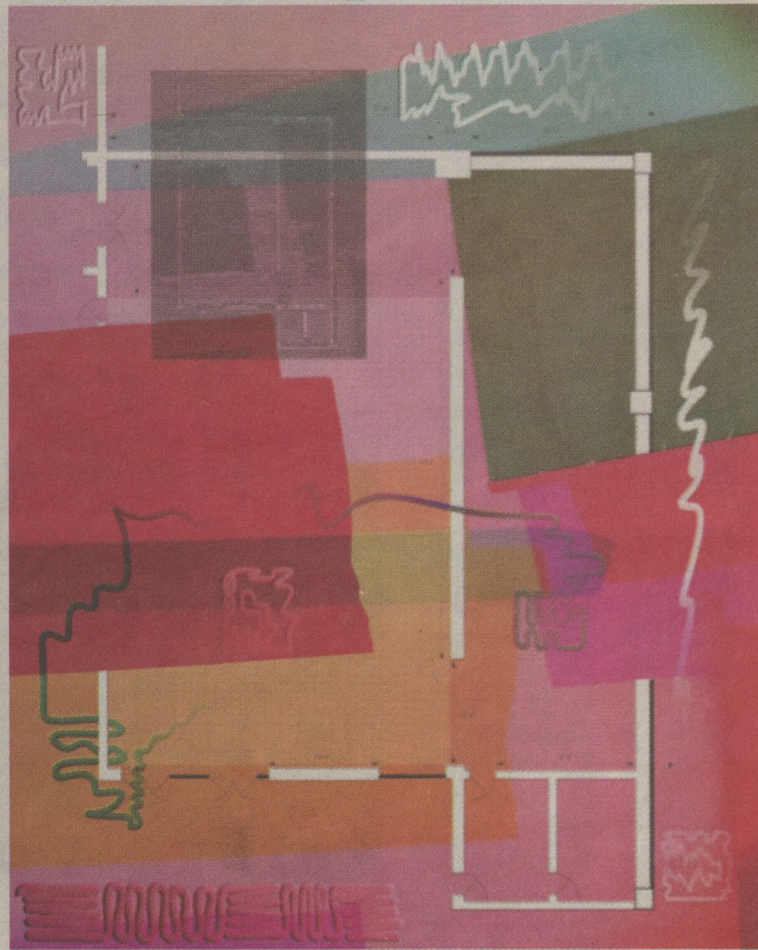
Toward the entrance of the gallery, a three-hour video is projected onto the floor tile. Only a few feet away, thin 3D-printed structures

hang from the ceiling and cast shadows onto the floor. However, one look through the arbitrary gaps can change the perspective of the other art works, depending on where you are standing.

As gallery curator, Levitov gets the chance to see each exhibit from beginning to end. For this specific exhibition, however, Levitov had no idea what the pieces were going to look like because they were created on set.

"To me, that's exciting," Levitov said. "It's a certain amount of risk but it's also a very exciting part of being a curator, seeing how the work develops."

John Ros, a long-time friend of Levitov, uses materials collected in the Staller Center as well as mixed forms of media to create his low-tech works. He uses old relics, some of which are found in the building and gives them new meaning, according to Levitov. Unlike past exhibitions, visitors can pick up a floor plan at the



STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

A collaborative art piece made by Packer, Patrick and Ros.

front door that labels each piece by number. The map is meant to serve as a placeholder for the labels that are absent from the wall of the exhibit, which is unusual for an art gallery. The floor plan contains the information that would have been provided on the labels such as the name of the piece and who created it.

Though the map numbers the pieces, Levitov said there is no required order to view the artworks.

"I didn't want to number it because I didn't want people to think they had to go from one, to two, to three," Levitov said, adding that visitors should instead point their focus to the message of the pieces.

"Really the artists want you to take it all in visually and think about

it in terms of perception," Levitov said. "The map is if you want a little help."

Another feature of the exhibit is a series of photographs taken by Ros on the exterior walls of the gallery. At first glance, they may look like simple photos, but they are actually pictures of the other side of that same wall. So, when you are looking at the photo of a stairwell, it is as though you are seeing right through the wall itself.

There will be an artist talk on Jan. 31 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. where the artists will give a tour of each piece and explain its significance. The gallery is also currently giving away free limited edition posters of an art piece that the artists collaborated on.

Next on Netflix: 'Frontier' is a flawed yet fun to watch series

By Ryan Williams
Contributing Writer

Following his dynamic performance as Khal Drogo on "Game of Thrones," and before his stint as Aquaman in the upcoming film "Justice League," Jason Momoa is headlining the new Netflix series "Frontier."

The show explores the wild and violent world of the 18th-century North American fur trade as numerous factions, ranging from the British Empire to a band of ragtag renegades, vie for power. Though the show boasts an intriguing setting and intense action, "Frontier" does little else to elevate itself above the recent crop of historical dramas.

Momoa stars as the ruthless Declan Harp, a half-Irish, half-Native American outlaw who wages war against the Hudson's Bay Company and their fur trade monopoly. Momoa's intimidating physical presence and natural fierceness are on full display, though his character lacks dimension beyond that physicality. That is, Declan appears as a force

of nature rather than as a fully realized character.

That choice may have been successful had Momoa been surrounded by compelling characters and strong performers. Apart from English actor Alun Armstrong, who plays the scheming Lord Benton, few actors give interesting or even competent performances. Still, that failure may be more applicable to the series' writers, as most of the characters are thinly-veiled stereotypes and archetypal cut-outs.

Like Momoa's previous series, "Frontier" is a panoramic sweep of action that follows a wide range of characters and storylines that often intersect. Given the relatively uninteresting nature of some of the characters and actors, several storylines can be a bore to sit through. Others are so far removed from the action that they can be even more tedious. Thankfully, the series' main conflict between Momoa's Harp and Armstrong's Benton is action-packed and engaging enough for absent-minded enjoyment.

While the cinematography and design of "Frontier" sometimes falter, temporarily turning its look into that of a poor History Channel reenactment, the show's visual depiction of the untamed New World is one of its strongest features, especially considering how little the era of North American colonization has been depicted

on the small screen.

Not only does "Frontier" shed light on an often neglected time in history, it does so with a unique atmosphere of political scheming and lively adventure.

Unfortunately, the show's focus on political deceit over moments of genuine human emotion can be overpowering at times, which

adds to the general unlikability of the characters.

Despite middling to lackluster reviews, "Frontier" has already been renewed for a second season. Hopefully, the series can maintain its cinematic quality while improving upon its many characters and plotlines in upcoming episodes.



GAGE SKIDMORE/Flickr VIA CC BY-SA 2.0

Jason Momoa speaking at Phoenix Comicon in May 2015. Momoa stars in the Netflix original series "Frontier" as Declan Harp, an Irish-born American outlaw.

The start of the Year of a Hundred Books: The Alchemist

By Andrew Goldstein
Assistant Opinions Editor

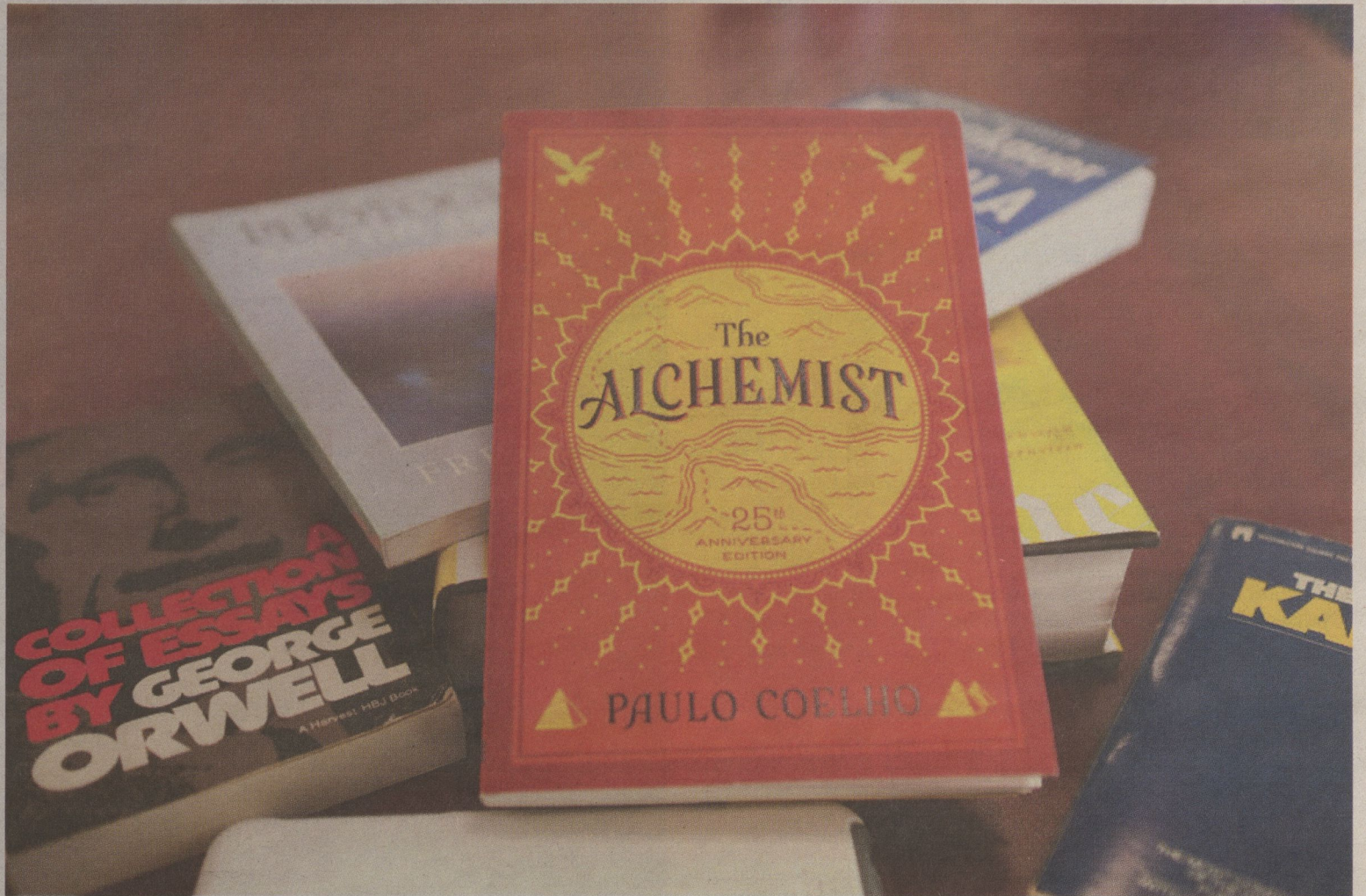
A story about a boy who follows his dreams by leaving his home to travel and learn about the world, "The Alchemist" is a wonderful metaphor for college, graduate school or any step toward achieving our goals we make.

As the new year and spring semester start, I decided to go back and read "The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho. Last year I set a goal to read 100 books and was able to read 87. This is one of the few books I reread as I renew my resolution to read 100 books.

"The Alchemist" follows the journey of a shepherd boy named Santiago to the Egyptian pyramids after a recurring dream where one of his sheep leads him to a treasure inside of the Egyptian pyramids. Later, a fortune-teller reveals the dream to be a prophecy.

On his way, he meets a king named Melchizedek who advises him to sell his sheep and follow his dream and discover his Personal Legend. Melchizedek explains that a Personal Legend is "what you have always wanted to accomplish. Everyone, when they are young, knows what their Personal Legend is... when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it."

As Santiago travels, he is faced with obstacles both natural and unnatural. He is robbed and has to avoid sandstorms and clashing armies. He meets characters who fail to achieve their Personal Legends for various reasons. One



ERIC SCHMID / THE STATESMAN

"The Alchemist," by Brazilian author Paulo Coelho, follows a boy trying to accomplish his dreams by exploring the world. The book was published in Portuguese in 1988 and still remains on The New York Times bestseller list today.

man has a Personal Legend just to have something to hope for, but in reality, he does not desire to achieve. One character only desires the treasures of his Personal Legend, but does not care to put in the effort to achieve the goal itself.

If I were a middle school teacher, I would have my class read this book. I've lent this book out to friends suffering from depres-

sion. It's spiritual and allegorical, yet so positively real. I challenge others to read through the roughly 180-page novel and tell me they aren't inspired to do something toward achieving their destiny. There are entire blog posts dedicated to lessons learned from "The Alchemist."

Coelho wrote "The Alchemist" in two weeks in 1987. In an interview with The Guardian

in 2009, he said the book was already written in his soul.

Since being published in 1988, "The Alchemist" has been translated into more than 80 languages, setting the Guinness World Record for most translated book by a living author. By 2014, it had sold more than 150 million copies worldwide and won 115 international prizes and awards.

As the spring semester gets underway, it will only be easier to

choose to read a bit less and loosen up on the goals we've set for ourselves. As January ends, how many of us have pretty much already given up on our New Year's goals to eat healthier, run more often or study more? These are the moments when books like "The Alchemist" are perfect catalysts for extra motivation to continue striving for our own Personal Legends.

ARTSY EVENTS

Tuesday, Jan. 31

Emerson String Quartet

The Emerson String Quartet is performing their January Program in the Staller Center. The show, which starts at 8 p.m., will include Mozart String Quartet in D Minor, K. 421, Ravel String Quartet and Brahms Sextet in B flat Major. Tickets are available for \$48.

Tuesday, Jan. 31

Arctic Winter Garden

This Craft Night hosted by Creative Arts is in Rom 306 of Student Activities Center from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Attendees can paint rocks to look like animals in order to decorate a winter-themed garden. Admission and materials are free for all Stony Brook students.

Thursday, Feb. 2

Love Locs and Liberation

Stony Brook alum Ella Turenne's play shows the connection between a black woman's hair to politics, culture and identity through 21 characters in the performance. The show is one night only and will take place in the Staller Center at 8 p.m. This event is part of celebrating Black History Month.

Sunday, Feb. 5

Super Bowl Extravaganza

Stony Brook's largest Super Bowl party comes to Student Activities Center Ballroom A to bring together the SBU community to watch the most anticipated football game of the year. Come and enjoy the 100 pizzas and 18 lbs. of wings that the Residence Hall Association is providing. It begins at 5:30 p.m., an hour before the game starts, and runs until 11 p.m.



B.JAVHLANBAYR WIKIMEDIA COMMONS VIA CC BY-SA 2.0

Late Jamaican reggae artist Bob Marley will be celebrated during a Caribbean Students Organization event at 7 p.m. on Feb. 6 as part of Black History Month.

Monday, Feb. 6

CSO Presents Bob Marley Night

This annual event will be held in Student Activities Center Ballroom B from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.. The Caribbean Students Organization is holding the event as a celebration of Black History Month. It pays tribute to the life and work of famous reggae singer Bob Marley. Past years have featured free food and performances.

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 Socolian* 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.

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First issue free; additional issues cost 50 cents.



JERROD WHITE / THE STATESMAN

President Samuel L. Stanley during his 2016 State of the University address on Sept. 28, 2016. An email was sent out to the campus community regarding the travel ban.

Stony Brook's response to travel ban was too slow and too quiet

By Andrew Goldstein
Assistant Opinions Editor

On Friday afternoon, President Donald J. Trump signed an executive order blocking entry into the United States for citizens of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, even if they carried green cards, according to *The New York Times*. On Saturday, Stony Brook Graduate Student Organization President Vahideh Rasekhi was detained at John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens according to the Three Village Patch. Rasekhi was scheduled to be deported on a flight to Istanbul at 11:40 p.m., according to BBC Persian journalist Bahman Kalbasi. She was pulled from the flight after a federal judge issued a stay against the executive order according to a report by the *New York Daily News*. Rasekhi was released from detention at JFK Sunday afternoon.

Two days after the executive order and about 15 hours after Rasekhi was pulled off the plane, the Stony Brook President's Office finally sent an email to the campus community about their support for diversity. In late November, Stony Brook President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. said, "In a world that seems to be retreating in ideals more than ever, it is important that Stony Brook University stands — stands for what is right."

The Undergraduate Student Government and GSO both issued statements about Rasekhi and the travel ban last night. USG President Cole Lee signed an executive order to create a director of diversity affairs position within USG to

"develop, implement, coordinate, collaborate, recommend, and monitor programs that promote diversity within USG and Stony Brook University as a whole." In his post about the executive order, Lee asked fellow students to take action by joining the USG Office of Diversity Affairs and standing up against intolerance throughout the country. Regarding Rasekhi he wrote, "We will work tirelessly to continue to drive out hate with love. It is my hope that the moment you are allowed your rightful re-entry to continue your education and your service to our University."

GSO posted on Facebook, "The President's Executive Order does nothing but discriminate, and deprive the rights of our friends, colleagues and students of this university [sic] and across the nation. We stand by Vahideh, our President, in her right to stay in this country and continue her education."

And while students rushed to protest the ban in Battery Park, Stony Brook administration, dean of students and Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity dragged their feet in sending any kind of response to students.

This morning, Sacha Kopp, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, sent an email to faculty stating that, "Provost Bernstein and President Stanley are engaged in this issue and are working with a SUNY immigration attorney on our student's behalf," and asking staff to "Please convey to your faculty and students that the university is very much cognizant and engaged on this issue and will have a response and more information by Monday."

This afternoon, more than 15 hours after Rasekhi's detention, President Stanley sent an email advising students to contact the Stony Brook University Visa and Immigration Services Office, located in room E5310 on the fifth floor of Melville Library, with any issues or questions about the executive order. Students can also email VIS@stonybrook.edu and include their name, student ID and contact information with questions. The Stony Brook Visa and Immigration Services should be posting updates to their Facebook page.

Meanwhile, the University of Michigan issued a statement about protecting the interest of international students. Princeton, Stanford and Chapman Universities sent emails to international students advising them to return to the United States and to stay until legal ramifications of the executive order are made clear.

In an action that is surprisingly constructive, Stony Brook will host an information session with legal experts from New York law firm Barst, Mukamal and Kleiner during Campus Life Time this Wednesday, in the Wang Center Theatre.

While it took longer than it should have, Stony Brook did the right thing sending an email to students before classes started this week. To show real support toward diversity and minorities on campus, to truly establish itself as a sanctuary campus and to signal serious commitment to American values, Stony Brook University should issue a public statement, not just a campuswide email, as a SUNY campus about the travel ban.

Editorial: Students deserve truth on Ecklund's departure

"I have a right to know."

It is a common phrase we have probably all heard before. In many situations, it is fair to demand information from others and question when it's withheld. Look at Watergate, the Edward Snowden case and the first week of Trump's presidency.

The search and demand for the truth is an essential part of journalism and democracy, but apparently, something that isn't similarly seen as a virtue by our university.

Timothy Ecklund, Ph.D., left his position as the dean of students, according to an email sent out by Vice President for Student Affairs Peter M. Baigent.

According to the email, Ecklund will be "leaving Stony Brook to pursue other opportunities," but no explanation of what that means or what those opportunities entail was provided.

The university is currently looking for a replacement for the position, and called on the former dean of students, Jerrold L. Stein, to return to the university and act as interim dean of students until a replacement is found.

Sound familiar? It should.

In 2014, Raúl M. Sánchez was the senior director for Title IX Risk Management for less than a year before he was replaced by Marjolie Leonard, the interim



MEGAN MILLER/STATESMAN FILE

Timothy Ecklund, above, was named the dean of students in 2014. On Jan. 20, 2017, it was announced via email that Ecklund was leaving his position with little explanation why.

director of the former Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action, now the Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity.

No explanation was provided for Sánchez's departure.

In 2013, Stony Brook Athletic Director Jim Fiore left Stony

Brook under the same swift and shady terms.

Fiore's departure was announced with no explanation;

meanwhile, Senior Associate Athletic Director Donna Woodruff was plugged in as the interim athletic director while the university searched for a replacement. When The Statesman reached out for a comment about the departure, Media Relations replied that "it is university policy not to comment on personal matters."

University policy should not be used as means to camouflage such important information. It is the right of the student body to understand why Ecklund, the dean of students, left.

Ecklund's position was no minor role at the university. The dean of students advocates for students' needs, works on co-curricular programs and advises the provost and president of the university.

Also, Ecklund earned upward of \$175,000 in his position in 2015 alone, according to See Through NY.

Stony Brook's silence on the dean's departure is another example of the university putting its reputation first before the transparency of information with its students.

Stony Brook should come forward and provide a better explanation for the dean's departure. The truth deserves to be told, and we have a right to know.

Sincerely,
The Editorial Board

Alternative facts say Sodexo is doing amazing



MANJU SHIVACHARAN/STATESMAN FILE

Sodexo's corporate headquarters in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The Faculty Student Association announced it would be seeking a new food vendor in response to complaints.

By Michael Kohut and Emily Benson
Staff Writer and Opinions Editor

Disclaimer: This article is satirical and not meant to be taken seriously. Michael Kohut and Emily Benson are not affiliated with Sodexo in any way.

Earlier this month, the Faculty Student Association announced it would be seeking proposals for a new food service provider in light of apparent student dissatisfaction at how the company has handled campus dining over the past 18 months.

Well, that's what I just can't wrap my head around. What problems could people possibly have with So-

dexo, now? As a Sodexo representative, I wrote a letter about a year ago when our company was still new here. It was to the students of Stony Brook, asking you to curb your demands regarding fair treatment for our employees and greater variety at dining halls. Since students continued to demand these sort of things, the higher ups here decided to implement the new swipe system, in an effort to cut costs and increase revenue, that is to say, to cut costs for you students.

Nevertheless, it was supposedly not well received. See, you students get your information from "fake news" outlets. While *The Statesman* may be an award-winning college newspaper, it's really just a bunch of

liberal garbage. The truth is Sodexo is the best dining service around, and I have the alternative facts to prove it.

A large portion of the student body opted to change back to the more traditional "dining dollars" and complaints about lack of quality food available campus-wide persist. Or at least that's what you probably think if you believe the "facts" presented to you by the media. Sodexo has actually found the opposite to be true.

Our sources find that students agree - the quality of the food is equally high everywhere on campus. There's certainly no massive gap in quality between East Side and other dining halls. We've also found that

the number of students who are happy and satisfied with the swipe system is increasing at a steady pace.

There has also been massive voter fraud conducted in a majority of student polls regarding Sodexo. While polls have consistently shown that Sodexo is extremely low in popularity, this is actually incorrect. A number of students who vote in these polls are illegal residents of campus (or "commuters") and don't have an actual meal plan. We are currently conducting an investigation into this matter, and while no evidence of voter fraud has come up, we are determined to use as much of your tuition money as possible until we find what we want to hear.

More importantly, we want to reassure the student body that Sodexo is here to stay. Even though FSA is accepting proposals for a new provider, we're confident that there's little chance that one will be chosen, given that we can simply hold onto the contract if nobody outbids us.

Sodexo has the best intentions at heart for the students of Stony Brook. We know that Facebook groups, Twitter feeds and planned student protests against Sodexo allude to disappointment and poor quality service, but these are just lies being spread by the fake media. It is a crucial time in our society to have the ability to recognize the difference between a lie and a fact. We do, which is why we advise that you follow our Twitter, @sodexofacts, to get the real, unbiased truth.

Don't worry, Stony Brook, we're not going anywhere, and we're going to make campus dining great again.

Have an idea for a story?

Have a response to a piece that you read?

Write for us!

Send us your story pitch to opinion@sbstatesman.com

Football promotes McIntyre to defensive coordinator



COURTESY OF STONY BROOK ATHLETICS

Bobby McIntyre (center) was named defensive coordinator of the Stony Brook football team after Lyle Hemphill left for Wake Forest after four seasons in the role.

By Skyler Gilbert
Sports Editor

The nationally-ranked defensive unit of Stony Brook Football will be under new leadership beginning in the 2017 season.

Bobby McIntyre, formerly the Seawolves' linebackers coach, has been named the team's next defensive coordinator, according to an announcement by head coach Chuck Priore on Monday morning. McIntyre will replace Lyle Hemphill, who was hired earlier this month as a defensive assistant at Wake Forest University. Hemphill held the defensive coordinator position at Stony Brook for the last four seasons.

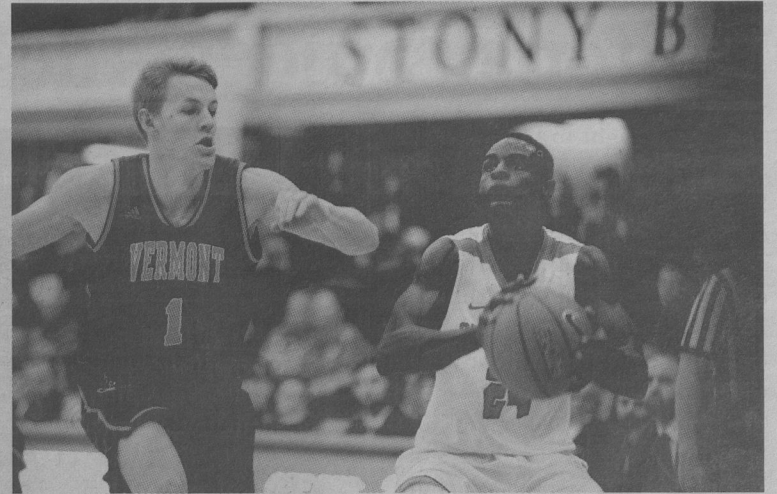
McIntyre was hired by Stony Brook in 2011 and has been a linebackers coach for the Seawolves ever since. An alumnus of Salem College, McIntyre began his coaching career in 1978 as a defensive coordinator at Perkins High School in Sandusky, Ohio. His tenure includes 17 seasons as the linebackers coach at Hofstra University.

"I am excited about Bob being in charge of our defense," Priore said in a news release. "He has been an integral part of our success over the past six years. Bob is a great teacher and motivator. He has great experience in our defensive scheme and

will allow us to continue to run our package."

The Seawolves have won five games in each of their last four seasons since joining the Colonial Athletic Association, failing to post a winning record in any of the seasons. But the team's struggles are more an effect of a deficient offense than an inept defense.

Stony Brook ranked third in the Football Championship Subdivision in total defense in 2016 and led the subdivision in the category in 2015. In all four seasons since joining the CAA, Stony Brook has ranked in the top two of the conference in total defense.



SAMANTHA MONTES / THE STATESMAN

Junior forward Roland Nyama (No. 24, right) takes a shot in a 71-64 loss to Vermont on Jan. 28 at IFCU Arena.

Stony Brook to play UNH Wednesday

Continued from page 12
scoring four points on the fast-break. The game was his best of the season, scoring a season-high 12 points, pulling down five rebounds and swiping the ball once.

"I was really happy for U.C.," Boals said. "He had been struggling and he's very, very capable. To be honest with you, I wouldn't think it would be inside the arc, I thought it would be outside the arc."

Smart passing was key for the Seawolves in the first half. Sturdivant started off the game assisting to a cutting senior guard Lucas Woodhouse off of the give and go.

Nyama led the Seawolves in assists for the game. With the Retrievers' defense, in particular guard Jairus Lyles, all over him, Nyama found open team-

mates throughout, even passing out of a turnaround jumper to Yeboah, who scored off of a bank shot.

Stony Brook will play a home game against New Hampshire on Wednesday in a crucial America East conference matchup. The Seawolves are the league's second place team with a 6-2 record, while the Wildcats lag slightly behind in third, with a 5-3 record, meaning the game has significant seeding implications.

Stony Brook beat New Hampshire, 59-56, in the teams' first meeting in the Granite State on Jan. 5.

"I told our guys, 'You're 6-and-2. You've won six games. Everyone's going to come at you now,' Boals said. "We're no longer the preseason number seven pick. We're the number two team in the conference. We're going to get everyone's best shot."

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From the shadows of a legend, Sturdivant rises to the occasion as post threat

By Tim Oakes
Staff Writer

When Stony Brook junior forward Tyrell Sturdivant floated in the game-winning layup to cap a 21-0 run in the men's basketball team's Jan. 8 defeat of conference rival Albany, his hard work had been realized.

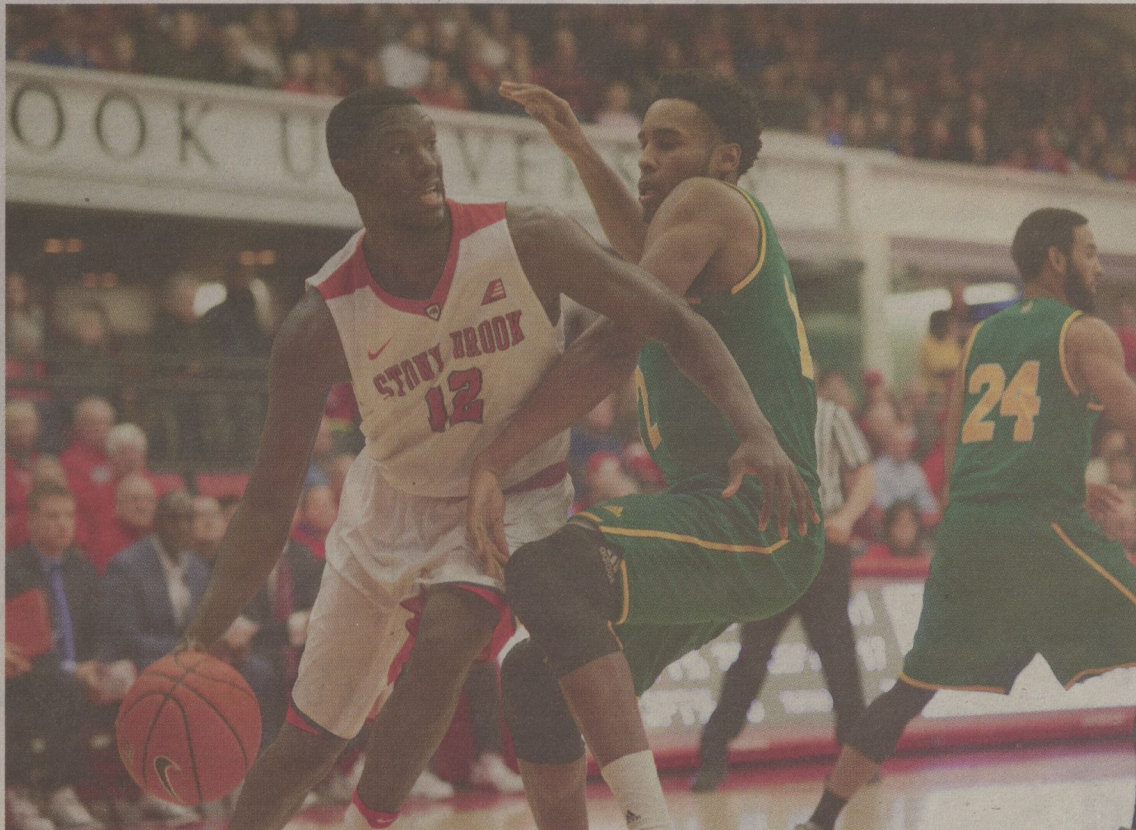
He had already established himself as one of the main options in the offense — scoring 10 or more points in eight of his first 14 games of the season — but this was different. This was the single largest comeback victory in program history. In fact, it was the third largest comeback in NCAA Division I history with less than 10 minutes left in the game.

“Growing up you always think of taking the last shot, being the guy in those clutch situations. I just embrace that,” Sturdivant said. “When I take a shot, I tell myself the moment is never too big for me.”

The shot serves as a testament to the dedication and hard work he put in during the offseason to prepare for what has been his breakout season with the Seawolves.

Sturdivant went from 252 pounds in the spring to 225 at the start of fall practice before the 2016-17 season. He changed his diet completely and did “extra conditioning every morning and after practice” during the summer.

After averaging 11 minutes in a bench role behind Seawolves legend Jameel Warney last season, Sturdivant has taken command of the frontcourt in his place. He is averaging career highs of 12 points, six rebounds



SAMANTHA MONTES/THE STATESMAN

Junior forward Tyrell Sturdivant (No. 12, left) drives to the hoop out of the post in a 71-64 loss to Vermont on Saturday Jan. 25 at Island Federal Credit Union Arena.

and 49 percent shooting from the field.

His former teammate and current member of the NBA D-League Texas Legends came to Stony Brook to work out with Sturdivant over the summer and they battled it out just as they had when they matched up at practice last season.

“We shot early, we ran early,” Warney said. “We were in the gym 2 or 3 times a day in the summer time. He really built himself up for this season.”

“I think it really helped his stamina,” head coach Jeff Boals said of the training and weight loss. “Last year he only went in there when Jameel or [Rayshaun McGrew] needed a break or they were in foul trouble. The role that we needed him to play this year was completely different from last year. He knows we’re gonna go to him.”

Since the start of America East play, Sturdivant is shooting 64 percent in eight games, averaging 15.3

points per game. He has also made a habit of having explosive second halves despite slow starts to games. This was on display in his 15 point second half against New Hampshire on Jan. 5 and against Albany when he capped off the 21-0 comeback.

“It’s funny, I call myself the microwave. I heat up real quick,” Sturdivant said.

He has become the go-to guy inside the paint for Stony Brook and also has found chemistry with team-

mate and senior guard Lucas Woodhouse. Sturdivant likes how easy it is for Woodhouse to set him up for a post-up situation, his confidence and the competitive nature he brings to the team.

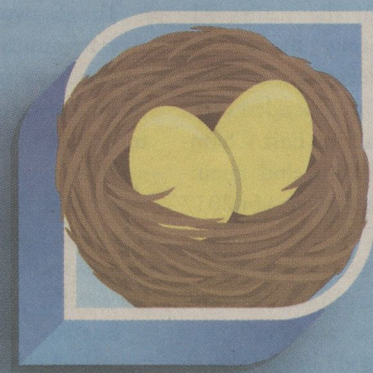
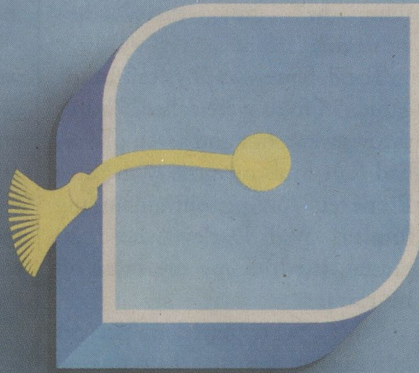
“He’s got a great knack for scoring and rebounding. Playing with a guy like that just makes the game easier,” Woodhouse said. “You can count on him to make a big play down the stretch which is important for us because we have been in a lot of really close games and he has been a big reason why we have been winning.”

Rutgers head coach Steve Pikiell — head coach of Stony Brook the previous 11 seasons — saw the potential in Sturdivant from the start, even if his ability was unable to be realized due to Stony Brook’s depth.

“I saw this all last year,” Pikiell said in a telephone interview. “He’s really good but he just so happened to play behind the best play to ever play at the school. He showed signs of it, every-day in practice he was battling against Jameel. This was that year to get that opportunity.”

Sturdivant took the offseason to prepare to take advantage of the void left by Warney’s graduation in the paint. Observing Sturdivant’s improved physical condition and newfound confidence, Boals was ready to entrust a large part of the team’s offense with him.

“He’s gotten a lot more comfortable, he knows the plays and he knows where he needs to be on the floor to get the ball,” Boals said. “That is sort of reflective of his 70 percent shooting that he is shooting now.”



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SPORTS

Vermont edges Stony Brook in AE title rematch



ERIC SCHMID / THE STATESMAN

Senior guard Lucas Woodhouse drives to the basket against UMBC on Wednesday. Stony Brook beat the Retrievers, 83-73, before falling to Vermont, 71-64, on Saturday.

By Skyler Gilbert and Kunal Kohli
Sports Editor and Assistant Sports Editor

Only one player seemed able to shoot the three-pointer at Island Federal Credit Union Arena on Saturday night. Luckily for the Vermont Catamounts, that player was theirs.

Ernie Duncan, Vermont's redshirt sophomore guard, made six three-pointers in the team's 71-64 win over Stony Brook. The Catamounts redeemed themselves against the team that handed them a loss in the America East Championship last season and maintained a perfect 8-0 record in 2017 conference play.

The Seawolves trailed by as many as 17 points in the first half, but crawled their way back to a 50-50 tie with 11:02 left to play in the game.

An erratic performance behind the three-point line plagued Stony Brook down the stretch; the team's 2-for-19 shooting from beyond the arc was its worst showing in the discipline all season.

"We knew watching the tape that, the way they play defense, we could get open shots," Stony Brook head coach Jeff Boals said. "Out of those 19 shots, I'd probably take 14 of them again. They were wide open looks."

Duncan totaled 22 points for the Catamounts in the game. His fifth three-pointer, with 2:24 remaining in the first half, gave his team a 39-22 lead. But the Seawolves showed resilience in a measuring-stick game against the conference favorites.

Senior guard Lucas Woodhouse rattled in a double-pump fadeaway jumper at the first-half buzzer to cap an 8-0 run and cut the score to 39-30. The point guard was stellar throughout the contest, recording 22 points and five assists, without committing a turnover.

"He's got the ultimate green light," Boals said. "I don't know what's greener than green... I tell

him, 'Just throw them up there — they'll go in.' When he's aggressive we're a completely different team. I thought in the first half he was passing shots up, which I think hurt us, but he's just not a selfish type of kid."

It was during a second Stony Brook run — a 15-2 span early in the second half — that Boals himself waved to pump up the crowd, and it obliged. Fueled by offensive rebounds and seven points by Woodhouse, the Seawolves made the score 50-50.

The Seawolves had 12 offensive rebounds in the game, with freshman center Jakub Petras and junior forward Junior Saintel grabbing four and two, respectively.

"Jake's just a high energy guy," Boals said. "He's really figured out what his role is, accepted his role and is really playing out his role very well."

But just as the Seawolves approached the precipice of a scoreboard advantage, the rim turned against them. Freshman forward Akwasi Yeboah missed six of his seven three-point attempts and junior guard Bryan Sekunda, who entered as the team's No. 2 shooter (behind Woodhouse), missed all three of his tries.

"It was just an off night," Woodhouse said. "They're a good defensive team, but for us to shoot that bad... I don't think we'll shoot that bad [against them] again."

Stony Brook was still within two points with two minutes to play in the game, but Vermont freshman forward Anthony Lamb scored a layup to put Vermont up four. On the next Catamounts possession, Saintel committed an ill-advised foul while trying to jump a passing lane, allowing Duncan to shoot a pair of free-throws to put his team up six and seal the Seawolves' fate.

In Wednesday's game against UMBC, by contrast, Stony Brook found ways to make timely three-pointers.

With only a two-point lead — down from 15 at halftime — the Seawolves needed someone to swing the game back into their favor, someone to jumpstart the offense.

Enter Sekunda from the corner for three with 11:39 left in the game, to push the advantage to 50-45.

The momentum swung as the Seawolves led by more than five for the rest of the second half. The game was firmly in Stony Brook's hands and the team defeated UMBC, 83-73.

"That's why we have him out there," Boals said. "Anytime he's out there, he's a threat."

The defense was physical. In the game, 56 fouls were called, 76 free throws were shot and seven players had four fouls or more with three Retrievers fouling out, including forward Will Darley whose 20 points tied him for the most on his team.

Darley, who played only eight minutes in the first half due to foul trouble, led a 16-1 run in the second to cut Stony Brook's lead to one.

Junior forward Roland Nyama, the fourth leading scorer on the Seawolves, was barely able to get the ball in the bucket. He only had three points on 1-for-5 shooting, the lowest scoring total he has had this season. With Nyama out of the picture offensively, redshirt Yeboah and junior guard U.C. Iroegbu took some of the scoring weight off Nyama's shoulders.

Yeboah played a particularly physical brand of offense that allowed him to get to the free throw line five times, converting four of his attempts in the first half. His play in the front court was much needed as the team's second-leading scorer, Sturdivant, did not score a single point of his 16 total until the second half. Yeboah also led the team in rebounds, grabbing 10 total boards for his first career double-double.

"My barber told me that if I get a double-double, I get a free haircut," Yeboah said with a laugh.

Iroegbu showcased his speed,



ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN

Senior forward Elizabeth Manner (No. 24, right) gathers the ball during a Nov. 22 game against Columbia at home.

Poor shooting plagues Seawolves

By Gregory Zarb
Staff Writer

With four minutes to go in the fourth quarter, the Stony Brook women's basketball team found itself on the brink of ending its three-game losing streak. With its game against Vermont being the final game of

the first half of conference play, the team did not want to go out with a loss.

The team looked like it was going to jump back into the win column, fighting an early Vermont lead to make it a one-point 43-42 deficit. However, more woes continued for the team as the Catamounts went on a 10-1 run in the final four minutes of play to down the Seawolves 53-43 Saturday afternoon at Patrick Gymnasium in Vermont.

Senior forward Elizabeth Manner was the only bright spot on Stony Brook. She put up a team-high 14 points on five-of-eight shooting, with 10 of her points coming in the second half. She was the only player to score in double figures for the team, as the team shot a poor 25.9 percent from the field. She was also very efficient in scoring, with 10 of her points coming from the paint with layups, post play and put-backs off offensive rebounds.

After trailing four points after three quarters of play, the Seawolves held the Catamounts to only six points in six minutes of play, while putting up nine points for themselves. At that point the momentum swing, along with the dwindling 43-42 lead Vermont was clinging to, made it look like Stony Brook was going to take over.

After some sloppy play with both teams missing easy layups, Vermont scored two layups to push the lead to five points. Sophomore guard Candice Wright found herself alone in the paint, while freshman forward Hanna Crymble scored on the fast break.

Manner was fouled on a layup and was only able to make one of her free throws after the Catamounts scored two from the charity stripe. It was the only point the Seawolves could muster in those final moments, as they continued to foul the Catamounts. Vermont converted four of six shots from the free throw line, while Stony Brook couldn't make shots to bring the game closer.

With Vermont opening the game on a 6-0 run, Stony Brook knew it could not fall behind quickly. A quick layup and free throw from senior

guard Kori Bayne-Walker, who had nine points on the day, opened the scoring for the team.

However, Vermont answered every Stony Brook run. Early in the second quarter, after the team tied the game at 14, Vermont went on an 8-0 run to push the lead to 22-14.

Vermont had three players in double figures, just like UMBC did on Wednesday night.

Heading into halftime, on Wednesday the Stony Brook women's basketball team ran into the locker room disappointed. Having only scored seven points in the second quarter and facing a 13-point deficit to UMBC, the team had its work cut out.

The Seawolves offense caught fire in the second half — scoring 24 points in the third quarter, including a 15-0 run — to tie the game, 55-55, with 3:36 remaining in the fourth quarter. The comeback was nearly complete.

But the Retrievers made late shots and were able to escape, beating the Seawolves, 67-61, at the Retrievers Activities Court in Baltimore.

Senior forward Pandora Wilson of UMBC led all scorers on the floor with 18 points. Senior guard Christa Scognamiglio led Stony Brook with a double-double, putting up 17 points and 10 rebounds.

The final three minutes of the fourth quarter were the closest Stony Brook came to winning the game. Manner made a layup with 3:36 left in the game to tie the score at 55-55, after UMBC had led the majority of the game by as many as 17 points.

Although they were only down 16-13 after they first quarter, the lid on the basket seemed to be closed for the Seawolves throughout the second quarter. The team was in a nine-minute scoring drought, while the Retrievers went on a 19-0 run that pushed the lead to 30-13.

But Stony Brook went on a 15-point run in the third quarter, including seven points by Scognamiglio. The offensive burst brought the Seawolves back into the game, tying the score 44-44 and putting the momentum on their side.

The Seawolves shot the ball poorly, only shooting 34 percent from the field. On the other side, the Retrievers shot 43 percent.

Stony Brook takes on New Hampshire on Feb. 1 at 5 p.m. at Island Federal Credit Union Arena.

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Continued on page 10