

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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LOOK INSIDE FOR THE
2017 JOBS ISSUE

Professor plans to resist income tax in protest of Trump

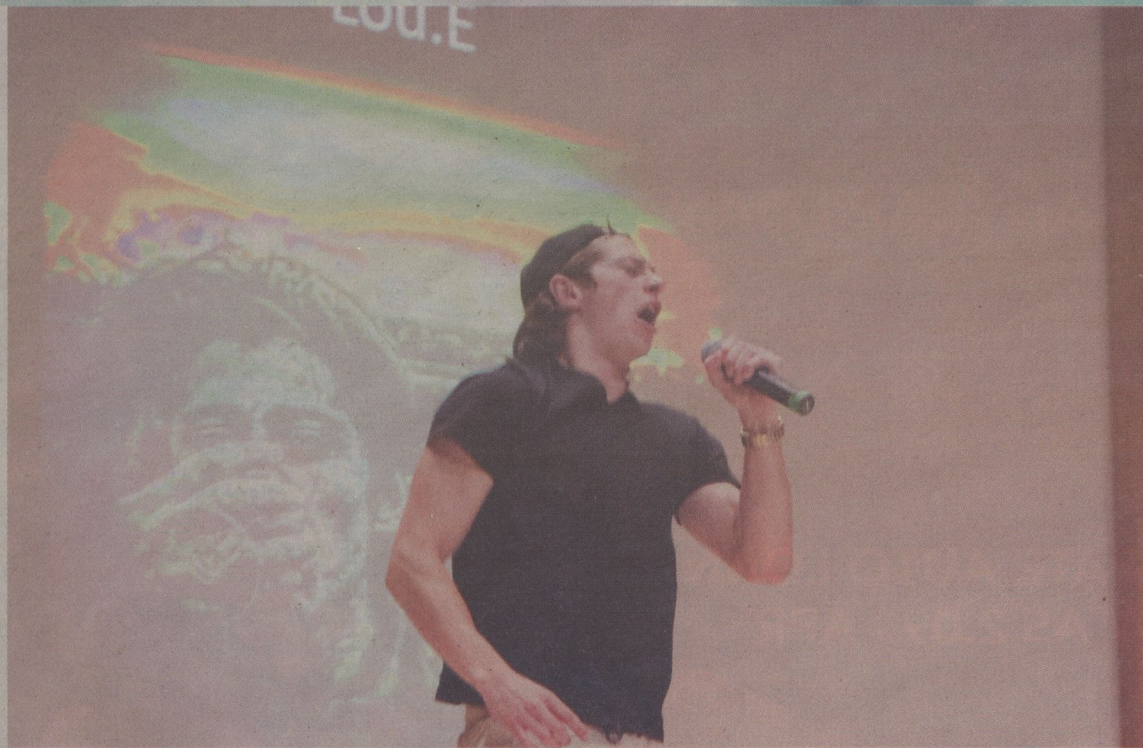
By Jill Ryan
Staff Writer

To protest the Trump administration, English professor Andrew Newman plans to resist paying his 2017 federal income taxes.

"I think paying taxes is a fundamental acknowledgment of the legitimacy of one's government," Newman said. "My planned tax resistance is my way of saying that I don't acknowledge the legitimacy of this government."



STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY
Newman, above, is refusing to pay federal income tax.



Stony Brook junior Eric Maxton performs at the Brookfest Artist Release Party on March 22. Maxton was chosen for one of two student opener spots for Brookfest on April 30.

MARIE MATSUNAGA / THE STATESMAN

He attended a workshop led by the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee (NWTCCC) and was given instructions on how to accomplish tax resistance. So far, he has legally reduced the amount of money that will be withheld from his paycheck. That money will result in a bill from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which is what he will resist paying.

"I hope that all that happens is that I get a bill, then I get a fine, which I can proceed not to pay. Ideally what happens is the taxes I owe and fines will accumulate for the next few years and then there'll be an administration in place that I could support and

hen I'll pay my back taxes," Newman said.

The NWTCCC was founded in 1982 and relies on a "national network of groups and volunteers that make up our coalition," Ruth Benn, who works part-time as the organization's coordinator, said. The organization's mission is to educate those who wish to practice tax resistance with proper protocol.

This is not tax evasion, Newman claims. The difference, he says, is that evaders try to pay as little tax as possible, while pocketing the profit. Resisters, though still committing an illegal act, are doing so as a form of political protest. He plans to donate his extra mon-

ey to causes he feels the Trump administration will not support.

"I'm going to donate the money I would be paying to the IRS to environmentalist causes or Planned Parenthood, things of that sort," Newman said.

Benn, who has resisted 100 percent of her federal income taxes for 13 years, also gives away the money she would be paying in taxes.

"I give the money away to groups that do good work and don't kill people," Benn said in an email.

Newman does not foresee a bigger penalty than being fined.

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Fate of Brookhaven Village uncertain

By Luis Ruiz Dominguez
Contributing Writer

With the contract between Stony Brook and Dowling College ending this year, current Brookhaven Residential Village residents are unsure of where they will live in the fall.

The university is pushing to maintain a lease with the dorms, located in Shirley, New York on the Dowling Brookhaven campus, according to RHA Senator Miguel Vargas. The facility is roughly 20 miles from Stony Brook's main campus. Vargas said administrators are awaiting a response from Dowling to keep the building open for the 2017-18 academic year after Dowling's closing this past fall.

When asked to comment, Associate Director of Residential Program Alan S. deVries, said that it was too early to discuss the issue.

Despite the opening of two new residence halls this past semester, a draft of next year's budget showed that more than \$1 million have been allocated for Brookhaven Residential Village, or BRV, in case it does remain open. The draft was given out to Residence Hall Association senators on March 7 at a meeting with Assistant Vice President for Campus Residences Dallas Bauman.

If the dorms were to remain open, transfer students would be given on-campus housing and students that do not secure a spot on the main campus could be offered a spot at BRV, Bauman explained at the meeting. This is a change from past years when BRV primarily housed transfer students. Nonetheless, if BRV were to close, transfers may not be offered housing since housing is not guaranteed as a condition of their acceptance and priority is given to incoming freshmen and returning residents.

Brookhaven Residential Village offers apartment-style suites with two to three double rooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen with basic appliances, a common area and individual heating and air-conditioning units. A shuttle bus that brings residents to and from Stony Brook and Brookhaven runs seven days a week for those who don't own cars or do not want to drive.

Although the distance can be an inconvenience, Jamilah Pierre, a junior psychology major and current

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Students urged to recycle during final week of RecycleMania

By Evelin Mercedes
Contributing Writer

Currently in its final week of the RecycleMania competition, Stony Brook is looking to finish as the top campus recycler of e-waste, or electronic waste, among colleges and universities across the country.

In 2016, Stony Brook ranked fifth out of 50 for the e-cyclemania competition, which is a special category that tracks the amount of electronics recycled.

"Our primary goal is to recycle as much as possible with a concentration on e-waste," Connell Friel, director of custodial and recycling operations, said. "This reduces their clutter, frees up valuable university space, and ensures all the hazardous material associated with e-waste does not end up in the regular waste stream, which, of

course, results in a cleaner and greener environment."

As of week six, the university was ranked 160th out of the 177 entries with a weekly recycling rate of 15.82 percent of cumulative recycling, including food and trash. The goal of the competition, which ends on April 1, is to promote waste reduction at college and university campuses, according to the RecycleMania website.

On campus, there are e-waste and recycling bins accessible inside lobby spaces in residential buildings and around the academic mall.

Some students believe that the university's efforts have made an impact on their willingness and motivation to recycle.

"The impact of recycling is definitely a big one, as it's something I see every day whether or not I actively think about it," Daniel Delgado, a junior computer science major, said. "All of the



FRANCIS YU / STATESMAN FILE

Recycling bins, like the one pictured above, are located across campus to promote a greener environment.

plastic bags, bottles and cans being made from recycled materials must amount to a large reduction in waste produced."

The Princeton Review currently ranks Stony Brook 16th of its Top 50 Green Colleges in the United States. The university also offers

majors such as environmental studies, sustainability studies and coastal environmental studies that engage students in studying the materials that interests them and

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NEWS

Police Blotter

On Saturday, March 4, at 11 a.m., a car parked in the Kelly P Lot was found with two dents on the front hood and a scratch on the bumper. The case remains open.

On Monday, March 6, at 8:50 p.m., tires on a parked car were found slashed at the O'Neill College P Lot. The case remains open.

On Tuesday, March 7, at 4:48 a.m., arrests were made after three signs at the South P Lot and Three Village Soccer Club were found damaged. The case is closed.

On Tuesday, March 7, at 1:35 p.m., the gate arm at the Radiation Oncology Parking Lot was defaced. The case remains open.

On Wednesday, March 8, at 11:51 p.m., a driver who was pulled over for a stop sign violation was found to be in possession of marijuana while traveling east on Shirley Kenny Drive. The case was closed after a referral was issued.

On Friday, March 10, at 1:15 p.m., a female stated that she had been choked by her boyfriend last semester at James College.

The case was closed after an arrest was made.

On Friday, March 17, at 2:38 a.m., a driver was arrested for crossing the median on Nicolls Road and for driving while intoxicated. The case is closed.

On Monday, March 13, at 1:59 p.m., a domestic incident occurred in which a female screamed at a male to drop charges from a previous domestic issue at Stony Brook University Hospital. The case was closed after an arrest.

On Wednesday, March 15, at 3:45 p.m., an arrest for speeding and larceny was made on South Drive. The case is closed.

On Thursday, March 16, at 4:33 p.m., a laptop at O'Neill College was reported as having been stolen over spring break. The case remains open.

On Sunday, March 19, at 6:32 p.m., a staff member at the Stony Brook University Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program discovered drugs on a patient. The case remains open.

Compiled by Matthew Yan

Despite flaws, Brookhaven residents look to keep sense of community at BRV

Continued from page 1

resident at the village says that she likes the facility, citing a laundry room on every floor, a full kitchen in every apartment and a mail room in the same building. When it comes to the negatives of living at Brookhaven, only one aspect stuck out to her.

"If possible, I would love for BRV to have more buses," Pierre said via Facebook Messenger. "Students make their schedules to fit with the bus schedule and not necessarily with the times they want, and often they also opt out of going to clubs because of large intervals between buses back to the village."

Sophomore economics major Yu Lin Margono agrees that more buses could make travel more convenient for students going back and forth from main campus. She also wishes that the building offered more recycling options, like those offered on main campus.

"I think it's hypocritical that the school is promoting and pushing hard for students to recycle for RecycleMania," Margono said. "What's the purpose of pushing students to recycle only at certain times when it's not a yearly thing offered here at BRV? That's



LUIS RUIZ DOMINGUEZ / THE STATESMAN

Students at Brookhaven Residential Village, above, have not been told whether the building will be open next year.

something that I hope changes if the building remains open."

Ava Dangol, a sophomore computer science major and BRV resident said that she actually doesn't mind the distance from campus.

"I'm definitely coming back if BRV were to be available again next semester," Dangol said. "It prepares me for a realistic lifestyle — commuting to work/school, shopping and cooking my meals. It gives me the opportunity to exercise my time management skills because I won't always be living five minutes away from where I need to be."

Although BRV is farther from campus than other residential options, many residents agree that one

of the benefits of living there is that it creates a close-knit community where everyone knows one another. Despite many students leaving the dorm for other housing options after the fall semester, the sense of community, although not as strong, remained.

"Everyone knows each other and is so friendly," Anecine Dalmeus, a junior biology major and former BRV resident, said via Facebook Messenger. "On campus everyone just does their own thing and no one really interacts with one another."

Vargas said that he would love to return to the village if it remains open next year.

"I enjoy the quietness of BRV," he said. "There's also a lot of space."

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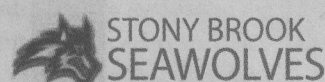


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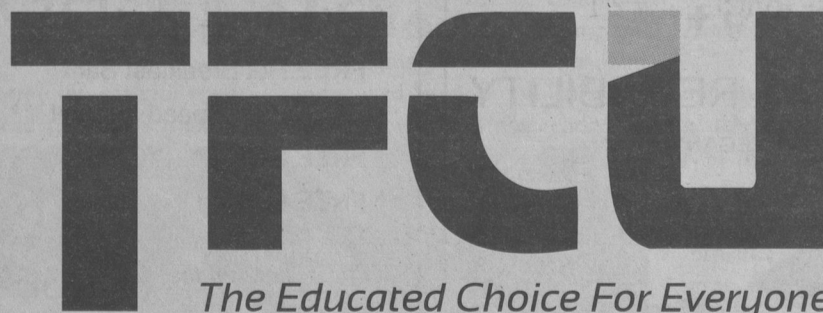


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Newman faces backlash online for tax resistance protest

Continued from page 1

However, he has received hate mail via Twitter and email.

"There's people calling me 'un-American,' which is the most historically blind accusation you could imagine, because America was founded on tax resistance," Newman said, citing the Boston Tea Party.

Newman teaches Native American and early American studies. He was inspired by American philosopher Henry David Thoreau's essay "Civil Disobedience," which his American Literature class read last semester.

"I definitely had it on my mind during the election, so I started thinking about tax resistance immediately after the election," Newman said.

He believes that taxes are being misappropriated by the current administration, pointing out the president's cabinet nominee choices as evidence of corruption.

"All the federal agencies are being basically devoted to the opposite of their missions. Betsy DeVos, in my view, is determined to destroy the mission of public education, and Scott Pruitt, he's an anti-environmentalist and a climate change denier who's been appointed to the head of the EPA," Newman said.

Benn said that the NWTRCC focuses on protesting war, the military budget and the militarization of our borders.

"Trump's victory has certainly felt like a turn backwards, but for many of us, Hillary Clinton was a strong war and military supporter, so we would still be doing what we're doing," Benn said. "We protest the misuse of money when it could be used to save the earth, give war reparations and fund human needs at home and abroad."

The environment is one cause Newman plans to support, and he does not plan to wait for the government to take action concerning environmental issues.

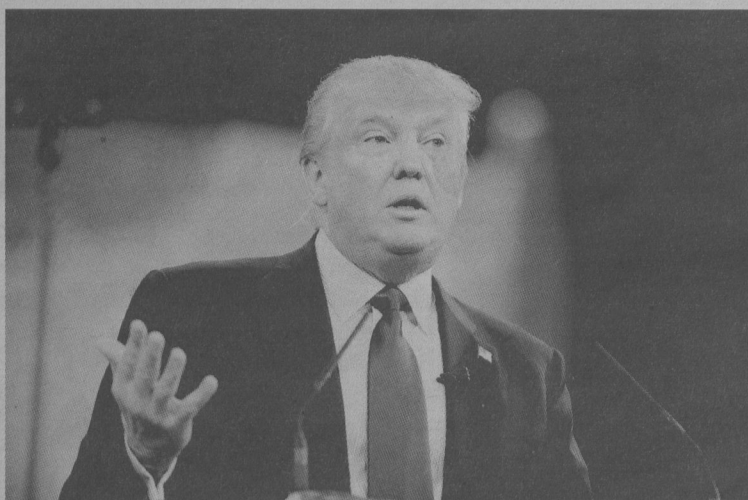
"I think that any administration that's doing more harm than good for the environment deserves to be resisted at this point," Newman said.

He thinks the best way to protest this issue and many others is to resist taxes. "Let them march all they want so long as they pay their taxes," Newman said, referencing a quote by former Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

"The premise of tax resistance is that insofar as the federal government wants our tax dollars, it's a form of resistance that could really get their attention," Newman said.

Benn agrees that tax resistance is a good way to be noticed by the government. However, she acknowledges that the IRS has made it harder for people to protest.

"During the 1980s, the IRS seized houses and cars more frequently and created a new rule, the frivolous penalty, to make it harder for people to resist in certain ways," Benn said.



GAGE SKIDMORE/FLICKR VIA CC BY-SA 2.0

Trump speaking at the 2015 Conservative Political Action Conference. Newman opposes the Trump administration.

The Frivolous Act, according to Forbes Magazine, states that if your tax position is found to be "frivolous" or "fraudulent" it can mean a 20 percent accuracy-related penalty and a 75 percent civil fraud penalty.

Newman says that his advocacy for tax resistance reflects his personal views and that he does not represent the English Department or Stony Brook University.

"I don't tell my students to vote in any particular way, and I certainly don't encourage them to practice tax resistance," Newman said.

He believes that the people who should practice tax resistance are those who are in stable professions like himself.

"I'm not just talking about being tenured," Newman said. "I think

that there's a lot of people who are very vulnerable to this administration, including undocumented immigrants and Native Americans and poor communities who don't have as much wherewithal, for example, to protect their environment."

He admits, though, that if it hadn't been for Donald Trump, it would not have occurred to him to practice tax resistance. However, now that he plans to protest, he is adamant that this is about more than just President Trump.

"Even if Trump was impeached that wouldn't change my mind about tax resistance in the upcoming year," Newman said. "It's not just about Trump. I feel that any Republican administration that would replace Trump is going to keep in place his harmful policies and their harmful policies."

Students show support for RecycleMania competition

Continued from page 1

helps the environment.

"Recycling on college campuses, and having good facilities that make it easy and accessible to do so, is extremely important," Emma McCauley, a senior marine vertebrate biology major, said. "The most important thing you can do to be a responsible steward is to focus on reducing your use of single-use plastics and other containers, and finding ways to reuse stuff you would normally recycle immediately."

In response to the past results of the competition, the university has been working with the New York Power Authority on conservation projects to expand recycling. They have installed 52,000 light fixtures, 4,800 lighting sensors, and improved air-handling systems and management upgrades across campus.

"I think if we did as well in this year's contest, it would be a remarkable achievement and a tremendous reflection on our university," Friel said.

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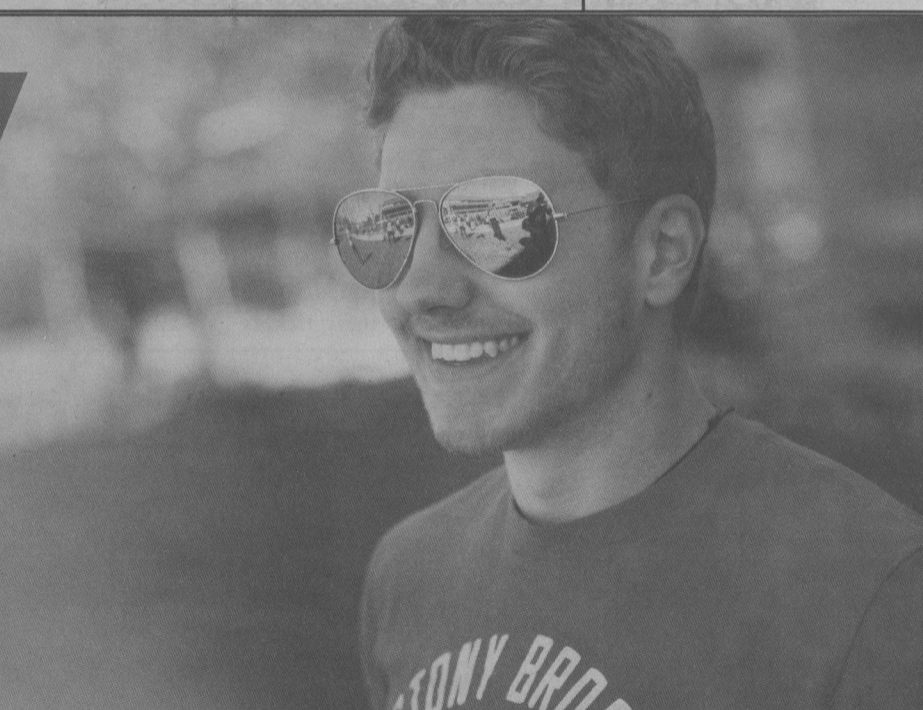
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Brookfest 2017: DNCE, Joey Bada\$\$ and Alison Wonderland to perform

By Jessica Carnabuci
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Undergraduate Student Government has announced DNCE, Joey Bada\$\$ and Alison Wonderland as the artists that will perform at Brookfest 2017 on April 30.

"[The] Student Activities Board chose these artists because we're confident each of them will satisfy a general student audience as well as the specific audiences of their specific genres," Maximilian Shaps, vice president of communications and public relations for USG, said. "We wanted a diverse group of performers."

This is the first year that Brookfest will feature three artists and take place in the Student Activities Center parking lot.

"When we polled the student body last semester about what they wanted for Brookfest, we got over 2,000 responses and they overwhelmingly voted in favor of an outdoor venue," Shaps said, adding that the SAC parking lot was the best option since Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium will be undergoing renovations.

The Student Activities Board decided to book more artists than usual because it saw the potential of an outdoor venue to feel like a music festival, Shaps said.

USG also plans on having food trucks for the concert, but further information cannot yet be provided, as the organization is still figuring out which food trucks will be coming and how they will work at the event.

Alison Wonderland will perform first, followed by Joey Bada\$\$ and then DNCE as the headliner. USG also picked two student openers based on stu-

dent votes at the Brookfest 2017 Artist Release Party, which was held Wednesday night in the SAC Auditorium.

This year, the votes for the artists were so close that USG decided to have two opening student performers instead of one.

The student openers are Eric Maxton and Chris Chan.

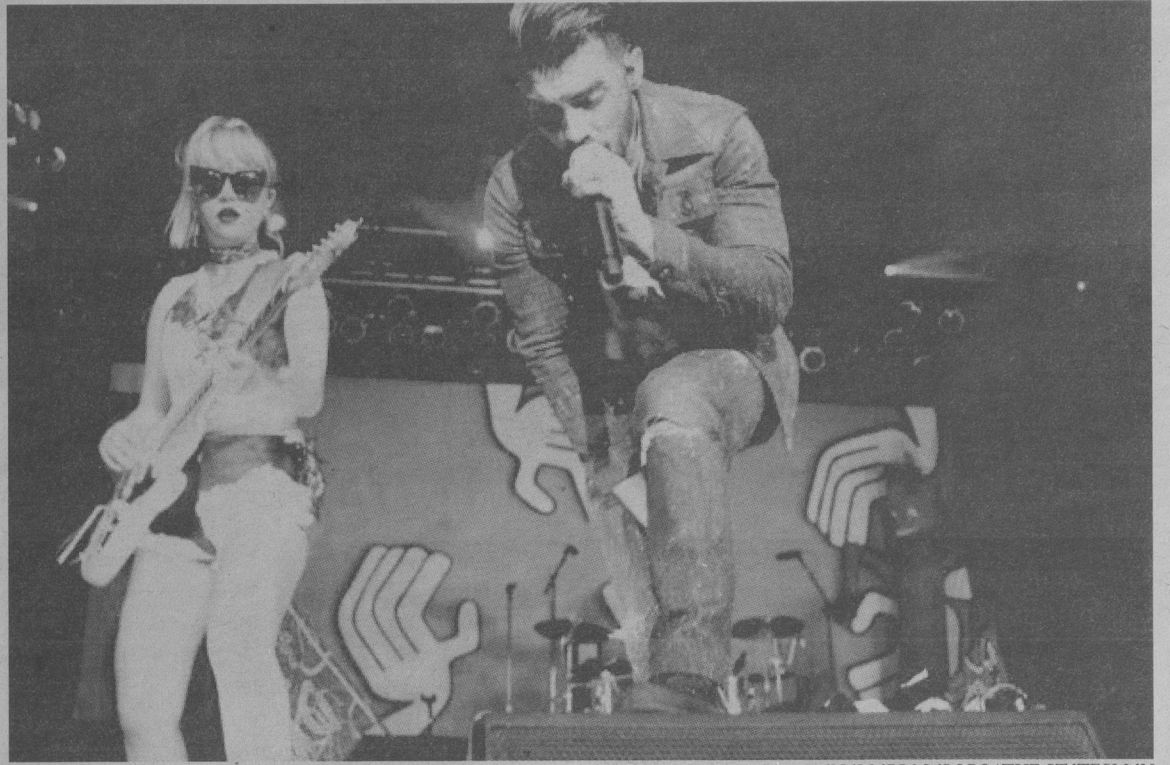
DNCE is a funk-pop and dance-rock band with well-known front man Joe Jonas and members Jack Lawless, Cole Whittle and JinJoo Lee. The band won "Best New Artist" at the 2016 MTV Video Music Awards and is widely known for its debut and double-platinum single, "Cake By The Ocean." The band recently performed at The Paramount in Huntington on Feb. 8.

Joey Bada\$\$ is a hip-hop artist who released his latest album "B4.DA.\$\$" in January 2015. His single "Devastated" has received more than 12 million views on YouTube and his upcoming album, "All-Amerikkkan Bada\$\$," is set to come out in April.

Alison Wonderland is an Australian producer whose debut EP "Calm Down" received two million streams on her SoundCloud account. She showcases a blend of pop, techno, trap and future beats, according to her website.

Doors for Brookfest will open at 1 p.m. and the show will start at 2 p.m.. According to an email sent out by USG, doors will close at 3 p.m. and no one will be allowed entry from that point on.

Tickets for Section A, which will be closer to the stage, are \$25 and tickets for Sections B and C are \$15. Students will be able to pick up their tickets at



ANAMARIA SALOBO/THE STATESMAN

DNCE lead guitarist JinJoo Lee (left) and lead vocalist Joe Jonas (right) at The Paramount in Feb. 2017. The pop-funk band will perform at Brookfest on April 30.



ELI WATSON/FLICKR VIA CC BY 2.0

Rapper Joey Bada\$\$ will also perform at Brookfest 2017.

the SAC Ticket Office after filling out the online ticket reservation form that USG has sent to all students. Only current Stony

Brook undergraduate students may attend the concert and student IDs will be checked at the gate, Shaps said.



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Artist Alison Wonderland.

Weekend Life Council hosts first pop-up art gallery

By Justine Josue
Staff Writer

Weekend Life Council hosted its first pop-up art gallery on Saturday night, March 25, in the Student Activities Center Ballroom B to showcase student-produced artwork and musical performances.

"Forty years ago, Stony Brook was much more heavily geared towards math and sciences," Sui-Fan Yung, a Stony Brook alumna from the class of 1976, said. "It's really great to see more opportunities for artists here now. We have very talented artists here tonight, it almost looks professional."

Twenty people were already lined up outside before the event started.

"I usually show up 15 to 30 minutes prior to [the Weekend Life Council's] events," Hing Li, a freshman history and economics major, said. "But one time, I showed up early and still had to be turned away, so I tried to come really early this time."

Once the doors opened, soft acoustic music and the aroma of complimentary hors d'oeuvres greeted attendees. At the same

time, eyes could feast on sculpture, photography, digital art and paintings that filled up more than half the ballroom.

"We got a lot more art than we expected, so some of the art is not on show, which is crazy," Dana Espine, a junior philosophy major and graphic designer for Weekend Life Council, said. This art gallery was the brainchild of Espine and fellow Weekend Life Council staff member Mei Pan, a junior applied math and statistics major.

Pan drew inspiration from an art gallery she attended where one of the artist's works had a paper next to it where viewers could write down their own interpretations of the piece.

"When people think of an art gallery, they might think it's really boring," Pan said. "So I wanted to add interactive aspects to it."

Instead of only observing the artwork, students could also make their own by contributing to a banner titled "Draw What Art Means to You!" Those who attended were also given sticky notes and markers to attach

comments to the artwork. Several of the artists walked around the ballroom and were able to read the comments on their own works.

"Art is my life," Juanwen Liu, a sophomore studio art major also minoring in creative writing and theatre arts, said. "Often when people talk about the major they are pursuing and the work they put into it, it sounds like torture. But for me, it only brings me joy. Art drives me forward."

Although Weekend Life Council could only feature a limited number of works, four of Liu's portraits made it to display, the most from any artist featured that night. Each painting used minimal colors with detailed shading to create a realistic portrayal of the model.

Athena Jacob, one of the models for Liu's paintings and a sophomore studying psychology and higher education, attended the event in support. Jacob sat for the portrait for over 15 hours over the course of about three weeks.

"After I saw [Liu's] work, it was easy to say yes to her," Jacob said. "I definitely wanted to be painted."



SHAO MEI PAN

Juanwen Liu, a sophomore studio art major, had four paintings (above) featured in the pop-up event.

Later in the night, students showcased their talents with live acoustic performances. The lineup included The Pipettes, Taqrim Sayed and Kevin An, and Alejandro Flores.

"It's a way to take people on a journey that I go on," Flores, a junior multidisciplinary studies major, said about his passion for music.

"It helps people understand my life and hopefully their own lives more."

Throughout the night, around 90 people attended the event to view the art on display. Although this pop-up art gallery was the first, it may not be the last. Rebecca Seifter, the council's graduate assistant, said that the organization would definitely be interested in hosting one again next year.

OPINIONS

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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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.

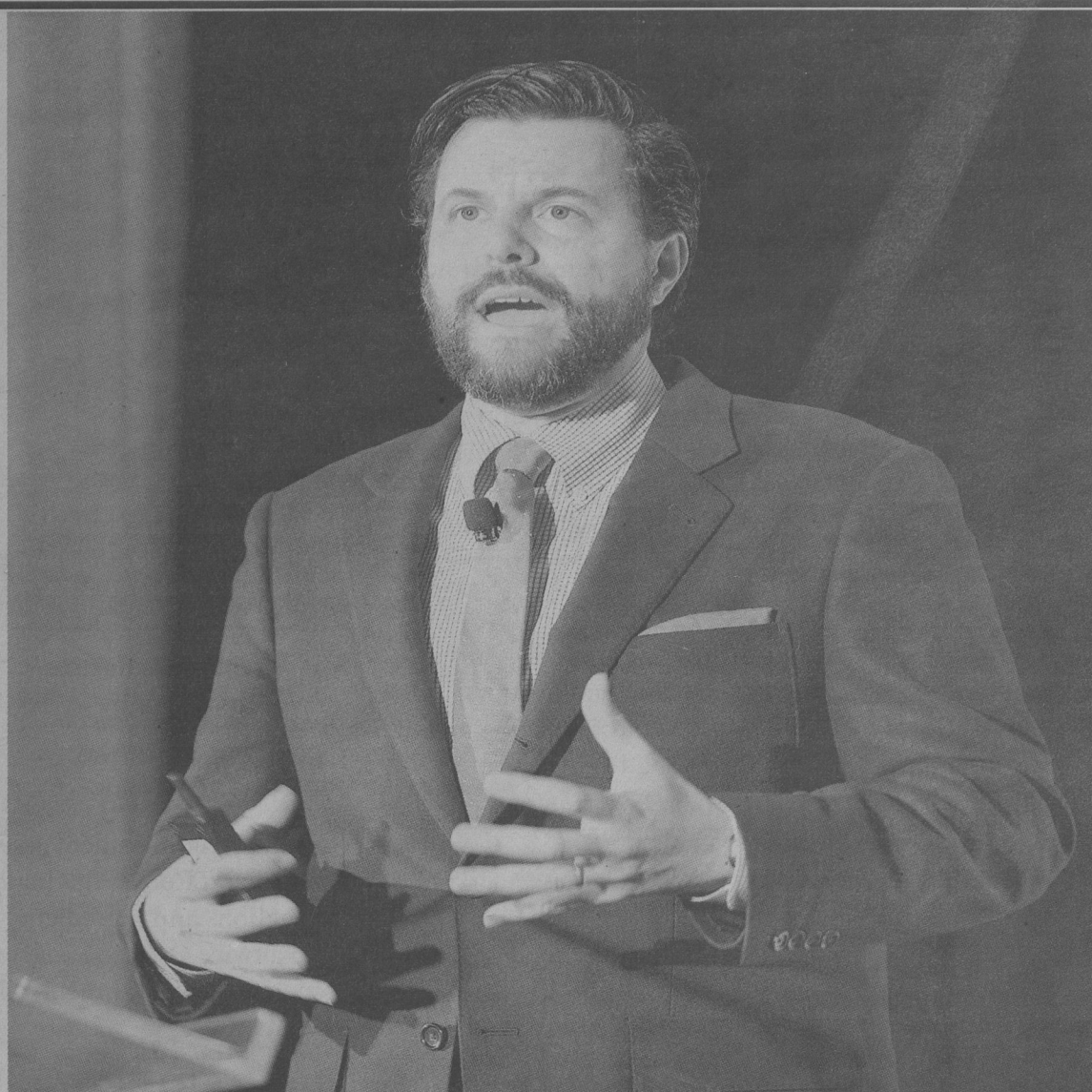
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The New York Times journalist Charles Duhigg speaks at the Ohio State University Center for Operational Excellence in 2013. He is the author of "The Power of Habit."

How we are sending ourselves into an identity loop

By Saffi Hadi
Contributing Writer

Decisions, decisions, decisions. We make thousands a day without even realizing it: Should I roll out of bed now or in five minutes? What am I going to wear? Do I want to actually buy this album? (No, it's always no).

So how do we do it? In my Intermed Microeconomic Theory class, a simple utility function was taught to understand decision making, but it's more complicated than that. A utility function is a concept in economics in which a certain equation, which differs from person to person, gives the expected utility output of a good, or in this instance, a decision. We then assume that a person will pick the good (decision) that gives the highest utility. In reality, the utility function is more prescriptive than descriptive – it's what people should decide to do, not what they actually do.

For example, how do we explain when students (*cough* me *cough*) sleep an extra half hour knowing they'll be late for class? This decision clearly does not produce the most utility. No one is suddenly charged with so much extra energy from that snooze that missing class is worth it. Still, everyone does it.

When we make decisions, we reflect on our vast lake of experiences and knowledge. How we act upon our knowledge and experiences is generally voluntary, variable and flexible from

person to person, but what isn't necessarily voluntary is the fact that we have them. I believe these experiences can give us a skewed view of ourselves, which in turn makes us react in a skewed way. This skewed reaction reinforces our skewed view of ourselves, creating a feedback loop. This feedback loop is what I call an identity loop. An identity loop can work in either a positive or negative way, reinforcing views of ourselves that we like or that we dislike. We must be wary in our lives to be not caught in this loop negatively.

Have you noticed that when you've been doing something often, such as sleeping in, it is much harder for you to stop doing it? We tell us ourselves that we are going to wake up early this weekend for once, but we never do it. Why? As we've all heard before, humans are creatures of habit. Charles Duhigg, a journalist at The New York Times and author of "The Power of Habit", says that a habit is a way for the brain to devote less mental activity to that decision, and the decision-making part of your brain actually shuts off. Habits are formed through cue and reward – we begin associating certain situations with that reward which pushes us to perform our habit.

Even when we aren't making a "decision," because it is a habit, we like to do things that are familiar to us; this is called cognitive inertia. Once humans have formed an assumption, we are re-

luctant to change those assumptions. Cognitive inertia is the basis of decision theories you have heard of, such as confirmation bias and belief perseverance. For example, if you know you like chicken alfredo, when you look at a menu you're drawn to it, even though the other unique items might be just as good or better.

If you see yourself as a person who sleeps in, when it is time to decide whether to sleep in or wake up early, what else will you do but sleep in? In a situation like this, the identity loop can be harmless but in others it can also be a dangerous fuel for addiction. The habit formation is one obvious part to addictions, but so is cognitive inertia. It's so much harder for alcoholics to quit drinking when they see themselves as alcoholics. When a vice becomes part of your identity, it makes it one of the hardest things to break.

Don't worry though. I said hard, not impossible. Just as this feedback can cause serious harm, it can be used for a cause of serious good. That's why it so easy for people to go to the gym every day when they have been already doing it. As I said, how we appropriate knowledge is voluntary. You need to remind yourself this vice is not part of your identity and fight that urge, slowly incorporating good habits into your life until they instead become part of your identity. It's a hard battle, but you can definitely win it. Good luck!

A plea to free me from Stony Brook's unexplained fees

By Andrew Goldstein
Assistant Opinions Editor

It's hard to complain about something you know nothing about, but I have no clue what a "college fee" is. And I'm totally clueless as to how it differs from an Academic Excellence & Success Fee. Yet, as a full-time student, I'm paying \$62.50 and \$187.50 this semester for those fees, respectively.

This falls right in that category of baffling yet unsurprising to me. In an attempt to do the bare minimum of research, I followed the link on the bursar's page claiming to have "detailed information regarding specific fees" and was greeted with a "Page not found."

In an attempt to unearth the meaning behind these fees, I found a policy from 1992 that in general terms states that SUNY colleges will have a college fee — priced differently for full and part-time students — without explaining why. The bottom of the page states that the College Fee was first adopted in 1963. I found documents from as late as 2011 but none of them state the purpose of the College Fee. The College Fee increased from \$12.50 to \$62.50 for full-time students from the '15-'16 to the '16-'17 academic year. This is a 500 percent increase. Multiplying this price by the number of full-time students enrolled according



MANJU SHIVACHARAN / STATESMAN FILE

According to the Stony Brook University website, the college fee increased from \$12.50 to \$62.50 for full time students in 2016. Little is provided to students on the fee's purpose.

to the Office of Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness, the College Fee grossed more than \$1,329,812.50 in the fall 2016 semester and \$1,265,562.50 in the spring 2017 semester. This does not include the thousands of part-time students who also

pay these fees, albeit with lower rates. These numbers are easily calculable minimums.

When asked about fees, President Samuel L. Stanley said, "This is the SUNY College Fee that is something that came out of SUNY, not Stony Brook per

say. I don't know all the rationale behind that. It's a really good question about where SUNY is budgeted and where they spend their money, so that's always a good question."

The Academic Excellence & Success Fee was introduced to fund

scholarships and hire new faculty according to a 2011 article in *The Statesman*. Then it was \$37.50 per semester. Now it has increased by 500 percent to \$187.50. Using the same enrollment numbers as above, the Academic Excellence & Success Fee cost students \$3,989,437.50 and \$3,796,687.50 in the fall 2016 and spring 2017 semesters, respectively.

There's a lot to unpack on the Academic Excellence & Success fee page. There are pie charts followed by a vague list of what the fee is purported to finance. The fee seems to pay for tutoring, advising, expanded financial aid and a whole lot more. But it seems like they're all things a university should be able to do without leveraging almost \$200 per full-time student. I'm all about academic excellence and success, but why are we paying \$250,000 for "online academics" when we already have a technology fee?

I can understand some of the fees associated with coming to Stony Brook. I will gladly pay my technology fee, campus recreation fee and transportation fee. We can haggle about the price but these are services I believe are worth supporting. But why should I be expected to pay fees that not even the president of the university can explain?

I demand to know where my money goes. I demand transparency.

Let them have their iced coffee and study too



TAYLOR HA / STATESMAN FILE

A coffee cup from Starbucks. While other drinks are permitted, there is a strict ban on bringing cups of coffee into the North and Central Reading rooms of the library.

By Emily Benson
Opinions Editor

Last week, I set off to the North Reading Room for a long study session. I packed my bag with every notebook, charger and highlighter necessary to take on my growing pile of work, but I wasn't fully ready until I ran into Starbucks and grabbed an iced coffee.

Then it hit me; studying in the North Reading Room wasn't an option, at least not if I wanted to bring my coffee in with me.

I stood before the doors of North like a sinner before the gates of heav-

en. I knew that if I tried to sneak my Starbucks in, I would eventually be found out and promptly removed from the beautiful study space. But that wasn't going to stop me from trying. I got as far as the table upstairs before I saw the approaching librarian. I didn't even bother to wait. I took my coffee, and started walking back down to the entrance, eyeing the woman as I passed. I said nothing to her as I trashed my coffee cup, but my facial expression was screaming, "WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? IT'S JUST COFFEE! DAMMIT WOMAN, LET ME LIVE MY LIFE."

No, I am not saying that students should try and think of more skillful ways to sneak their drinks into libraries. Rather, the North and Central Reading rooms should allow students to bring coffee cups in the first place.

I understand that the North and Central Reading Rooms are new, shiny and expensive, and that open container-drinks are a huge risk to the new carpets, sofas and tables. But what about the bottled drinks that students bring in? What about the brightly colored Minute Maid juices that could cause a stain much worse than my coffee could dare to

try? Yes, these bottles come with a sealed top much more secure than my coffee cup, but have some faith. The entire purpose of going to the library is so students can have a place to sit and do work.

We are not holding races throughout the library shelves; I am here to be as immobile as physically possible. My coffee cup lid is not a 10/10 in reliability, but it also doesn't need to be, given the circumstances.

I understand that Stony Brook tries to accommodate the issue of bringing food into the library with designated zones where dry snacks are allowed. But the library, across all zones, does not allow "non spill-proof containers" aka Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts or Jamba Juice cups. Despite this, there is a sign in the North Reading Room that says, "clear, covered drinks are permitted in all areas of the library." But what does that mean? And why does my clear, covered Starbucks cup not count?

I will admit, there are parts of the library zones and food rules that I do agree with. I like that they have silent zones for when I need peace and quiet to quickly write that paper I forgot about. I like that they have a sign that says "smelly foods" aren't allowed in, mostly because I think it's really funny, but also for the practical value it has. But why cut out coffee?

If students are already allowed bottled water, juice and other snacks, why can't I bring in the most necessary ingredient for my long day of studying?

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

Men's Lacrosse bounces back, defeats defending champs Hartford on road

By Raphael Tafuro
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook men's lacrosse team has struggled in each opening period this season; they have been outscored a combined 20-12 in the first quarter through the first seven games.

But senior attackman Ryan Bitzer made sure to curb that trend Sunday afternoon against Hartford, as he recorded a hat trick in the first quarter of play.

The playmaker recorded four total goals on the day and the Stony Brook men's lacrosse team downed the reigning America East Conference Champions by a score of 13-9 at Hartford's Al-Marzook Field for its first conference win this season.

Spinning off a defender to create some space, the flashy attackman went high and shot a laser past the right shoulder of junior goalkeeper Ryan Vanderford. The captain marked the score at 8-3 less than five minutes into the third quarter, giving the Seawolves their largest lead of the day.

Bitzer, the leading scorer of the game, netted four of his six shot attempts, leading his team to a win that ended a three-game losing skid. Stony Brook currently stands at an overall record of 5-3 and 1-1 in conference play.

The Seawolves offense has ig-



ANNA CORREA/THE STATESMAN

Senior attackman Ryan Bitzer pictured in a March 4 game against Fairfield. Bitzer scored three goals in the first quarter on Sunday to lead Stony Brook to a 13-9 victory.

nited in the second half all season long. Coming into this game, the Seawolves have scored 51 of their 82 total goals in the second half.

However, this game was different from the rest, as Stony Brook took the lead early and did not

look back, recording their sixth consecutive win against Hartford.

Freshman goalkeeper Michael Bollinger replaced junior goalkeeper Brandon Maciejewski in the loss against Hofstra Tuesday night. Bollinger re-

corded six saves in 34 minutes of play and was given the first start of his career against Hartford. Bollinger took advantage of the opportunity in between the pipes, registering 10 saves on the day.

Offense scores 31 runs throughout weekend as Seawolves open AE play strong

Continued from page 12

who eliminated Hartford in last year's America East Semifinal via walk-off fashion.

Sophomore starting pitcher Bret Clarke got the nod to start the first game of the weekend. He sailed through the first three innings of the game, not allowing a hit. However, Hawks sophomore outfielder Ashton Bardzell hit a two-run single in the fourth inning to bring his team within three runs. Bardzell also hit an RBI triple in the sixth inning, which was part of the three-run inning that forced Stony Brook to pull Clarke out of the game. Clarke finished the game allowing five runs (four earned) through six innings while striking out two batters.

The Seawolves lost despite walking 12 times, eight of which came against Hartford sophomore starting pitcher Billy DeVito. The Seawolves were able to rattle him, scoring seven runs before the end of the fourth inning. But the Seawolves bats were silenced once DeVito was relieved by sophomore pitcher Connor Lewis. Lewis was lights out in five innings of relief, allowing no runs and three hits.

Stony Brook was one out away from ending the game 7-5. But junior relief pitcher Teddy Rodliff extended the inning with a walk and an RBI double in the next two at-bats, putting the Seawolves in a dangerous position. Junior relief pitcher Aaron Pinto relieved Rodliff in a high-pressure situation

and he went on to surrender the go-ahead run.

Game 2 - Stony Brook 10, Hartford 5

Hartford may have gotten its revenge for the 2016 America East Playoffs in the first game, but the Seawolves bit right back. Senior shortstop Jeremy Giles, the same player who eliminated Hartford in the America East Playoffs last season, sent a three-run home run over the left field wall in the fourth inning.

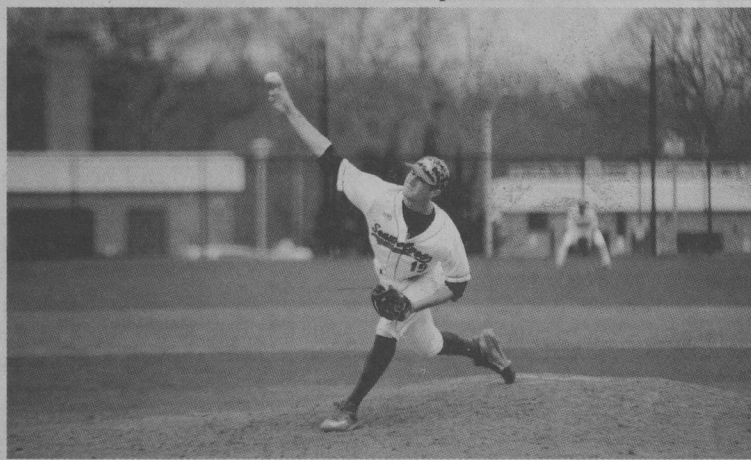
"It definitely felt good," Giles said. "I went up there with the approach to get a ball deep into the outfield so our guy could tag up. It is definitely nice to bounce back, after losing game one, to get a nice win."

Giles' home run gave his team a four-run lead and that was all that

the Seawolves would need, as the Hawks failed to score for the remainder of the game.

"It was huge for Jeremy to come up in that situation," Senk said of Giles' home run. "All of his career he has done it, but it was good to see him do that for the first time this year and hopefully there are many more to come."

Stony Brook freshman starting pitcher Sam Turcotte left the game in the third inning after a line drive struck him in the face. The impact, into Turcotte's chin, made his teeth lacerate his gum, and blood dripped from his mouth. He was immediately checked out by the team's trainer and umpires to ensure he could continue to pitch. Trainers stopped the bleeding temporarily and he continued the game. He completed one out before being pulled from the game and sent to Stony Brook University Hospital where he was tended to.



MARIE MATSUNAGA/THE STATESMAN

Freshman starting pitcher Brian Herrmann (No. 19) throws a pitch in Sunday's game against Hartford.

"Everything that needed to be done for his safety was done prior to having him put back into the game," Senk said. "He hung in there and he was super tough. He did the best he could after that."

Junior pitcher Kevin Kernan relieved Turcotte and pitched the rest of the game, earning his first win of the season. He allowed no runs in 4.2 innings pitched, allowing just two hits and striking out five batters.

Kernan's strong relief appearance was reminiscent of his clutch spot start in the 2016 America East Playoffs when he allowed two runs in six innings to help eliminate Hartford, despite never being in the weekend rotation last season.

Game 3 - Stony Brook 14, Hartford 0

The Seawolves carried the momentum into Saturday's rubber match against Hartford, scoring six runs in the first inning. Freshman starting pitcher Brian Herrmann had the team's best pitching performance of the season. He threw seven innings of shutout baseball, allowing three hits while striking out five batters as Stony Brook continued to pile on runs throughout the game.

"I felt I had a feel for my curveball today and I was able to get ahead in counts," Herrmann said. "I'm a very laid back kind of guy. I just try to keep the good vibes going on the mound."

Stony Brook made a statement in

The chance of a comeback looked slim, until the Hawks scored back-to-back goals in less than a minute in the fourth quarter.

Coming from behind the net, junior attackman Justin Huggins made a shot while falling directly in front of the crease with two defenders in his way at the 11:11 mark in the fourth quarter.

With 10:20 left to play, junior midfielder Griffin Feiner recorded his second goal on the day with a low bounce shot that sailed right past Bollinger.

As each side tallied another goal, the deficit stood at three with 2:34 remaining in the game. Overall, Hartford won the faceoffs 13-12, but senior midfielder Jay Lindsay won the most important one of the day for Stony Brook after the Hawks began to build momentum late.

Lindsay provided Stony Brook with some breathing room after defeating junior midfielder Dylan Protesto, who fell to the ground, in a faceoff. With a clear path ahead of him, Lindsay was able to score with ease as he approached the middle of the crease. The possession lasted just six seconds and extended Stony Brook's lead back to four, crushing any chance of a comeback for the Hawks.

The Seawolves will head home this week for more America East Conference action after going 1-1 on their two-game road trip when they host Albany at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium this Saturday, April 1 at 7 p.m.

its 14-0 victory over conference rival Hartford. Herrmann was the star of the show, having already entered the game with a conference leading 2.25 earned run average (ERA) among pitchers with a minimum of 20 innings pitched. His ERA dropped down to 1.74 following the game, further cementing his place as the most consistent starting pitcher on the team this year. The team improves its conference record to 2-1.

"We are excited to have him and he hasn't disappointed. He has been terrific all year and he was terrific today," Senk said. "The way he performed for us today is the way that he has performed all season."

His offense backed him up immediately, scoring six runs in the first inning. Once junior outfielder Andrew Gazzola worked a walk, forcing in the game's first run, freshman shortstop Nick Grande hit a two-run single to centerfield. Sophomore outfielder Dylan Resk hit a three-run home run in the bottom of the inning, his third of the season, to give his team a 6-0 lead. He led the team in RBIs on Saturday.

The Seawolves took full advantage of Hartford's pitching woes, who entered the game with a team-ERA of above 10, scoring 31 runs in the game, a commonality among Senk's teams through the years. His team once again leads the conference in walks.

Stony Brook will look to ride this momentum into Tuesday when they play host to Marist at 3:30 p.m.

Crowd of over 2,500 watches Women's Lacrosse defeat USC

Continued from page 12

At halftime the deficit was 8-5, then with 5:02 to play, the score was trimmed to 9-7 and USC won the draw to take possession.

"That's a legitimate final four contender and they went on a run," head coach Joe Spallina said. "Lacrosse is a game of runs. We went on a run, they went on a run."

With the contest on the line, the Seawolves were able to end the Trojans' run. USC had two shots on goal that could have cut the lead to one, but sophomore goalkeeper Anna Tesoriero stopped both, her eighth and ninth saves of the game, to secure the win.

In typical Spallina style, the coach chirped Tesoriero throughout the week of practice about the opposing goalkeeper, USC junior and Team USA starter Gussie Johns, and how she was the best netminder in the country. With that as motivation, Tesoriero out-saved Jones nine to four.

"I think she was the difference in the game," Spallina said.

Senior midfielder Kristin Yevoli had four ground balls, three caused turnovers and four draw controls in the win. The faceoff circle was a particular focus for the team against USC senior midfielder Michaela Michael, the NCAA active leader in draw controls.

"We knew she was good in the draw when the ball went [in her direction]," Yevoli said. "We wanted to get the ball out of the circle, to let me get a 50-50 scrap ball. I think we out-



ARACELY JIMENEZ/THE STATESMAN

Junior attacker Kylie Ohlmiller looks for a passing option against USC on Friday.

scrapped them today and it was our blue-collar mindset."

In the first America East matchup of the season, Stony Brook put on a dominant offensive performance, beating New Hampshire, 14-2, on the road Sunday afternoon.

From the get-go, it was apparent that the Seawolves offense would impose their will upon New Hampshire, winning twice as many draws and having a 24-5 advantage in shots on goal. In controlling the

possession, Stony Brook did not allow its opponent any opportunities to get back into the game once the Seawolves' scoring started to snowball.

The Seawolves scored 10 straight goals during the first half, with Taryn Ohlmiller scoring five herself.

Cutting across the 12-yard fan right-to-left, Kylie Ohlmiller fired a behind-the-back pass to her sister, who was running across the net mouth in the opposite direction. As the pass was received, Ohlmiller whipped a behind-the-back shot that beat the goalie over the shoulder to make the score

8-0 midway through the first half.

Kylie Ohlmiller recorded eight assists in the game, a career-high, to bring her season point total to 65, the most in the NCAA in 2017.

The Seawolves set a tempo that was impossible for the Wildcats to keep up with, which forced them to commit 21 turnovers. On top of the turnover issue, Stony Brook recovered nearly 66 percent of all ground balls forced.

Stony Brook will have two home games next weekend against No. 6 Colorado on Friday night and rival Albany on Sunday afternoon.

SBU	UNH
14	2

Upcoming SBU Sports Schedule

Baseball

Tue. March 28
3:30 p.m. vs. Marist
Sat.-Sun. April 1-2
Three games vs. Albany

Softball

Mon. March 27
2 p.m. vs. Monmouth
Wed. March 29
2 p.m. at Fordham
Sat.-Sun. April 1-2
Three games at Albany

Men's Lacrosse

Sat. April 1
7 p.m. vs. Albany

Women's Lacrosse

Fri. March 31
7 p.m. vs. Colorado
Sun. April 2
12 p.m. vs. Albany

Track & Field

Fri.-Sat. March 31-April 1
Colonial Relays
at William and Mary



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SPORTS



MARIE MATSUNAGA / THE STATESMAN

Senior third baseman Jeremy Giles takes a swing in a game against the Hartford Hawks on Saturday afternoon.

Stony Brook Baseball wins two of three games in series against Hartford

By Tim Oakes
Staff Writer

Stony Brook Baseball played host to conference rival Hartford this weekend at Joe Nathan Field to open America East play. The Seawolves scored 31 runs in the series en route to winning the series two games to one.

Game 1 – Hartford 8, Stony Brook 7

When Hartford junior shortstop Ben Bengtson drove in the go-ahead run in the top of the ninth inning to give his team an 8-7 lead that would stick, the Seawolves were at a low point. It was the second consecutive

game in which Stony Brook surrendered a lead of at least four runs.

“They are not making the pitches that they are more than able to make,” head coach Matt Senk said of his bullpen. “We made some mistakes [in spots] where they are more than capable of making good pitches. Unfortunately, it was against good hitters.”

The final inning comeback allowed the Hawks to unofficially exact revenge on the Seawolves,

SBU	HART
7	8

Continued on page 10



ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN

Freshman attacker Taryn Ohlmiller scores a goal against USC on Friday night.

Women's Lacrosse defeats No. 9 USC, UNH

By Skyler Gilbert
and Nick Zararis
Sports Editor and Staff Writer

At 4:30 p.m., the Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium parking lot was filled with people tailgating. By 7 p.m. game-time, the bleachers had thousands of Seawolves fans. After the game, young athletes — high school and youth-league players — waited in line for autographs from their favorite college athletes.

This was no college football game, but rather the hub of college women's lacrosse.

In front of the second-largest crowd in program history, the Seawolves held off the University of Southern California Trojans, 9-7, in a battle of the top-10 teams in the country.

Junior attacker Kylie Ohlmiller, who scored three goals and two assists,

noted that little girls were screaming her name from the concourse when she proceeded to greet them after the victory.

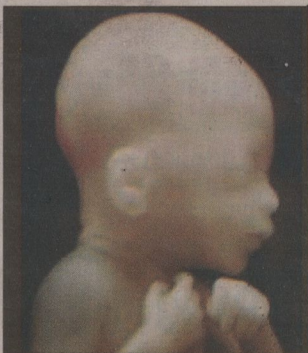
“The fans on Long Island are insane,” she said.

The No. 7 Seawolves started the game with a flurry of goals — taking a 5-1 lead as the No. 9 Trojans used a “face-guard” on Ohlmiller — but the road team clawed its way back into it.

SBU	USC
9	7

Continued on page 11

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always have enough content.
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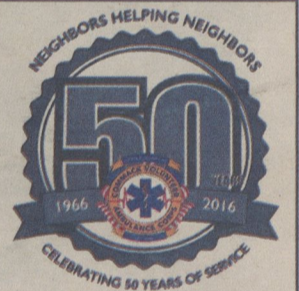
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JOBSS ISSUE

Author's Circle: Balancing Work and Writing

By Justin Lerner

You know them as the people who stand in front of the classroom, but did you know most of your professors are published writers?

When they're not grading your papers or preparing you for your future studies and career, you can expect your professors to be doing research, writing papers and crafting books based on their research and analyses.

Five professors at Stony Brook explained what they do, what motivates them and how they find a creative balance between their writing, research and teaching.

Celia Marshik, Ph.D., academic chair and professor in the English department, teaches and writes scholarly books on the culture and literature of the early twentieth century.

"Some semesters make sustained writing impossible — I may be able to work at it for a week or so, but then all bets are off," Marshik said, adding that when she finds that balance, she tends to write during the mornings for about 30 minutes to an hour for the majority of the week.

Marshik said that she can almost always find some time for writing and keep up her creative progress. This allows her to have a proper balance between her writing and her role as a professor. As rigorous as it is, her love for teaching literature and for contributing to discussions based on her field of study keeps her motivated to continue writing, researching and teaching.

For Wolf Schäfer, Ph.D., a professor of history and science and technology, most of his time is currently consumed by doing research. Schäfer came to the U.S. from Germany in 1989 and he has been teaching at Stony Brook for 28 years. He is currently dedicating all of his time to his most recent project, a book with the working title "Dark Words Plus Winds of Change," which will answer the question, "How did Donald Trump win the election?" When asked how much time it takes out of his schedule, he stated, "All the time when I am not teaching, and half the time when I am teaching."

Schäfer said that he balances his research and teaching evenly while engaged in both, but is currently dedicating his time to research.



Rowan Ricardo Phillips. Photo by Sue Kown

After about four decades of publishing books, teaching a wide range of courses and giving presentations around the world, Schäfer said he wasn't sure what has motivated him to keep going but that he loves doing what he does.

Rowan Ricardo Phillips, Ph.D., an English professor, said that his love for his craft keeps him at it. Phillips said that the motivation for his work is the same thing that motivates him to continue breathing. "It's what I need to do to be myself, what I need to do to be who I am," Phillips said.

He creates poetry in addition to writing essays and articles and tries to inspire his students to succeed in the future.

"Hopefully, I help prepare students for the world that awaits them after graduating from Stony Brook," Phillips said, adding how he feels that, "being literate, thoughtful, empathetic, a reader: this is the work of creating a citizen, which I think is at the heart of our objective as literature professors."

Instilling this message into students relates to his job just as much as his writing and research.

"Obviously, I'm not working on my own work while I'm teaching a course or grading papers," Phillips said, speaking to his ability to find equal balance between his own work and his teaching.

Justin Johnston, Ph.D., has been an English professor for five years at Stony Brook and has been hard at work on an upcoming book with the working title "Post-Human Capital: Biotechnology in Contemporary Literature." According to Johnston, his research "looks at the question of how the human is formulated, or thought about, described, imagined, figured, within literature."

In addition to teaching, advising dissertations and committee work, his writing has consumed a great portion of his weekends, evenings, nights and if he finds the time, mornings. Johnston said that balance is something that he has yet to figure out.

"Sometimes you can see the potential stakes of what you do — of intellectual work," Johnston said, stressing the

importance of, "the way people conceive and think of the world around them," and how that changes over time.

"Understanding how that has happened throughout history and trying to contribute to what the future could be through your work, through your research — I think is incredibly rewarding," Johnston said.

Michael Tondre, Ph.D., teaches English, does committee work, researches and serves on the editorial board for the journal, "Victorian Literature and Culture." Tondre describes writing as a large part of the job and contributes it to ongoing conversations in the field of Victorian studies.

He just finished writing "The Physics of Possibility," which, according to Tondre, is about Victorian scientists working with literary ideas and how novelists were contributing to and appropriating their works, and he is already working on his next book about oil culture. As this requires great dedication and planning, he tries to do some writing every day which gets him, "in the mode of constantly thinking about ideas."

To find balance, Tondre feels that sharing work with people, having firm deadlines and using a firm time table suffices.

"I think having a kind of community to share ideas with, regardless of one's occupation, is helpful in staying grounded and inspired to keep going," Tondre said.

After your professors finish their lectures, ask them about their research. You just may find somebody to collaborate with in the future.



Celia Marshik. Photo by Stony Brook University Communications

Enzo Zucconi: Equipment Manager, Jokester, Locker Room Psychologist



Photo by Tim Oakes

By Tim Oakes

Stony Brook Football was getting ready to fly up to Maine for a game that weekend. The team lugged several trunks filled with extra uniforms, helmets, cold weather gear, tape for trainers — the standard haul for a road game.

But the team was to fly on a smaller plane than they are accustomed to and would therefore not take all the trunks that they typically travel with. With their flight leaving soon, the athletics equipment department needed to find a solution immediately. In a display of quick thinking, Enzo Zucconi, director of equipment operations at Stony Brook University, decided to ditch the trunks at the airport and squeeze everything into garbage bags.

As per usual, Athletics' unsung hero came through in the clutch.

The Stony Brook Athletics equipment management

department is “putting out fires everyday” and Zucconi is right at the center, extinguishing each one. “You must be able to think on your feet,” he said.

Zucconi, an upbeat and outgoing Italian American, has held his position since June 2016. Before his Stony Brook stint, he served at Columbia's equivalent position for 16 years. As the director of equipment operations, Zucconi is responsible for designing attire, ordering equipment, cleaning uniforms and ensuring that equipment is safe for athletic use.

However, he brings more to the position than just dealing with equipment. His jokes and upbeat personality have become contagious throughout Stony Brook Athletics and are sure to serve as a locker room moral boost. Robert Schultz, the assistant director of equipment operations, has worked hands

on with Enzo for the past five months.

“He'll sing to himself and then we will throw out a random band he never heard of. He told us he went to a Fall Out Boy concert and he started singing,” Schultz said about Zucconi, who speaks with a thick Long Island accent. “But it didn't sound like Fall Out Boy to me.”

He takes great pride in treating every Stony Brook athlete the same. It does not matter if they are garnering national attention or if they play doubles on the tennis team; they are all getting bombarded by an equal amount of Enzo's jokes while he assists them.

“We are working with young adults here. They are all positive, all upbeat. It is kind of contagious,” Zucconi said. “I feed off their enthusiasm and they sometimes feed off of mine.”

Zucconi recognizes that the pressure to win will inevitably breed stress and head-butting for student-athletes and coaches. That is why he aims to make the equipment room a haven where coaches and players can stop in at anytime to chat or blow off steam.

“I have the couch down here, the rocking chair, because I want coaches to come down here and shoot the breeze a little bit,” Zucconi said. “Not even talk about sports. We talk about the game last night, we talk about our kids or what we did over vacation.”

He claims that Stony Brook Men's Lacrosse coach Jim Nagle and Women's Basketball assistant coach Dan Rickard, among others, will routinely stop by to take a breather from the day and even see what lays within Enzo's candy bowl.

“I'm always down there. He always has something good, but it's not just the candy bowl,” Rickard said. “He is like a psychologist, too. You can sit down and get a little mental break and he just always has something positive to say.”

Jason Headman, the assistant coach for the men's and women's cross country and track teams, will even stop by the equipment room and put in some work helping the staff if it means kicking back with Enzo. The Athletics family had nothing but kind words to say about him and the job he does.

“No one really understands the passion he has for the athletics dept, in making sure that athletes are feeling good,” Rickard said. “It starts by making sure you look good and that's a goal for him.”

Student-owned Streetwear Line Critic Clothing Gains Popularity

By Thomas James

Alec Simione is a Stony Brook student whose company, Critic Clothing, is rising through the ranks of the streetwear industry. Simione, a senior majoring in business management and marketing, has gone through life always looking for ways to make a name for himself. At the age of six, he took up skateboarding as a hobby and grew up immersed in the skateboarding culture. When he decided he wanted to create a clothing line, he infused his roots of skateboarding, a source of his favorite memories, into the brand. Since the fourth grade, Simione and his friends made their own small made up companies and started "sponsoring" each other by selling each other small items. However, this playful endeavor became serious

for Simione. He reached out to larger, established companies for sponsorship, but only started to hear back from them when he became a talented skateboarder. At that point, he received free boards and energy drinks. Simione grew up around skate shops. In fact, when he made the first designs for Critic, he sold them to kids he knew at the skate bar he worked at. Selling 50 shirts in the first month, Simione knew he had something special. He describes his brand as "streetwear that is skate culture based, mixed with hip hop and is, of course, New York influenced." The inspiration for his clothing designs came from other skate brands such as Emerica, which focuses more on footwear than

apparel. The company's professional style has also influenced how Simione runs his company. When he was little, he would email them and they would always email him back. One time, they even sent him two pairs of shoes and a hoodie. Now that he has his own company, Simione tries to carry that example forward, making his best effort to respond to kids that reach out to him whether it is by email or Instagram direct message. "I love it when kids reach out to me because I know what that's like," Simione said. Not only does he have the support of college friends, he has reached out and built good relationships with athletes in professional sports. Some of his friends in the NFL include

Orleans Darkwa of the New York Giants, Anthony Johnson of the New York Jets and Daren Bates of the Tennessee Titans. He reached out to some NFL rookies on Instagram and formed a close relationship with a few of them when they plugged his clothing on their Instagrams without asking for money. In return, Simione has always been willing to help them out, helping Darkwa put together a foundation camp and designing the website for it. MLB players like Mookie Betts, an outfielder for the Boston Red Sox, have helped Critic with promotion. Betts even wore the clothing brand on a Rolling Stone cover as a favor. Simione recalls when Betts sent him a link for the article and says it was "one of

the most surreal moments of my life." He travels to every interview for his clothing line with the same passion and love for what he does as he did the first day he started. Simione says he wants to be a role model to kids so he doesn't put any drugs or alcohol in his clothing brand because he knows all about the pressures that middle school and high school kids face. Simione's advice to anyone looking to start their own artistic business is to save up money, keep bouncing back from the failures and setbacks and just do it. "There's no sleep while dream chasing," Simione said.



Photo by Alec Simione

SBU Orchestra's Susan Deaver: A Conductor's Journey Through the Music Industry



Photo by Stony Brook University Communications

By David Pepa

Finding a job after college can be difficult, especially for those who are looking for a position in the arts, but the Stony Brook University Orchestra's conductor Susan Deaver is proof that it can be done.

Before she came to conduct the SBU Orchestra in 2000, Deaver received her bachelor's, master's and Doctorate of Musical Arts at the Manhattan School of Music and was planning to use those degrees for teaching music.

"When I was doing my undergraduate work, I was already working," Deaver said. "There were all of these little music jobs. I got hired to teach flute at two different places, one in Brooklyn and one in Westchester."

Just before graduating from the Manhattan School of Music, she prepared for auditions by conducting mock performances in front of others.

"If you're preparing for a teaching job, you might teach a mock lesson in front of people so they could see how you teach," Deaver said.

During her search for jobs in the music industry, she said she experienced performance anxiety and would prepare for auditions.

"Performance anxiety is for anybody looking for a job," Deaver said. "You have to learn to work with your own system and keeping yourself really calm and focused. You

have to be prepared."

Deaver also had to prepare for other job interviews in her field, some of which included flute auditions, where she recorded herself playing for the employers.

In addition, she had to build two resumes--one was for performances and the other was for conducting and education.

Her job search and practices landed her positions with groups like the Washington Chamber Symphony, the Bronx Opera Chamber Orchestra and the LIU Post Percussion Ensemble, all of which led to her four teaching jobs that she currently has today at LIU Post, the Manhattan School of Music Precollege,

the Long Island Youth Orchestra and Stony Brook.

"There are periods of time where you just feel like you're at a plateau and then suddenly there will be a breakthrough and you'll get called for something," Deaver said.

Deaver had been conducting since 1981 when her passion for music grew. She started studying conducting privately and also attended conducting master classes at Tanglewood, a music venue in western Massachusetts, and in Germany.

"When I'd be rehearsing in orchestras I would take a music score with me and if the conductor was working with the strings, I would look at the score to see what was going on

and I would study the scores," Deaver said.

"I got very interested in orchestra music since I was 19 when I went to music camp," Deaver said. "The way that I got into conducting was that I was playing with this chamber group and there was this one piece by Aaron Copland and there was no flute part and they had trouble keeping it all together. So, they all pointed to me and said, 'Come and conduct this,' and I did well."

Susan Deaver had to go through many rehearsals, practices and auditions in order to get where is today and she proves that finding work in the arts after college can be done.



Photo by Anna Correa

Tales of a Summer Library Assistant

By Matthew Yan

Getting punched in the face wasn't part of the job description.

Then again, not a lot of things I did that summer were.

My attacker was a ten-year old girl named Sarah, whose mother dropped her off at the library before heading off to work every day. A blithe and mischievous spirit, she had a love of pop culture and a distaste for authority that made her just as difficult to deal with as the mountains of books in need of sorting and shelving. That day, we had gotten into an argument over why I was able to tell her what to do, since I was "just a librarian" and said that she could "beat me up until I cried like a baby." While cleaning up after the mess left behind from crafting a butterfly-shaped collage, I half-heartedly told her to try. Of course, I underestimated the juvenile audacity of this girl who I practically babysat, and thus she wholeheartedly

delivered a right hook when I least expected it.

This was just one of many eventful days I had working at my local public library. To be honest, there's a lot that you don't expect while working as an assistant librarian. For me, this was only exacerbated by the fact that this was my first real job, as all of my previous library work had been restricted to volunteer work at my school libraries.

But contrary to what you might think, there's a lot to learn when you're working at the library. Like those working in retail, librarians have to deal with dozens, if not hundreds of customers a day. They'll ask if we have the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, where the bathrooms are, how to use the computers, and a million other things that you're expected to have the answers to. To get to as many as possible, I had to learn to answer them quickly and succinctly, which involves knowing where virtually everything

is. Origami books can be found anywhere between section 736 and 740.29, the popular books are lined up alphabetically by the conference room on the first floor, and biographies have their own section in the corner of the library by the CDs. Reciting information like this on a dime quickly becomes routine, but even then I had to get used to communicating with those who aren't fluent in English. You have to watch your tone when speaking as well, as your supervisors, co-workers, and your customers will all react differently to what you say and do. Let's just say that there are consequences if you don't, as Sarah was happy to prove to me.

This job will also try your patience and self-control at every turn. While helping to manage the summer arts and crafts program that was running at the time, I was dealing with anywhere between forty and a hundred and twenty children at once, all armed with glue,

markers, bits of paper, and their own voices. Three days a week, the library would be converted from a quiet sanctuary into a cacophonous circus where the ringleaders are just barely in control. I've had to deal with kids playing tag inside the library, customers who babble endlessly while trying to figure out what they're looking for, and the endless rows of books in need of being straightened again after looking away for just a few minutes.

There are also plenty of other tasks that need to be done aside from shelving books and making arts and crafts though. Cleaning the art gallery and making laminate name tags for the displays, setting up online accounts to help parents and children track their reading, decorating the walls with giant paper snakes, and taking calls regarding book reservations and our weekly events, especially the ever-popular movie night. I've even thrown birthday parties for

my co-workers and some of the regulars, music, cake, and all. You're always moving, always taking new requests from rowdy runts, concerned parents, and demanding bosses. This is not a job where you can just sit around and do nothing, but that makes your paycheck all the more satisfying after a long day's work.

It's natural for students like us to look for more "exciting" and "impactful" jobs in science research, engineering, and other rapidly growing fields. After all, it's what our esteemed university is famous for. But there are plenty of practical skills you can learn at any job you take up, even at institutions that are a little more mundane than what you're aspiring to be. Try taking up one at the library. Despite appearances, there's plenty you'll take away from it and I can assure you, it's never boring.

Eight Ways to Save Money While Living on Campus

By Emily Benson

Last week I sat in my dorm room, nibbling on Wheat Thins and staring at my computer debating which account I should check first: the balance left on my meal plan or the balance left in my bank account. In the end, I chose ignorance. I closed my laptop, ate the rest of my Wheat Thins and called it lunch.

I feel like there is a point like this for every student in the semester. A point where it pains you to see how low that seemingly infinite meal plan has gotten, or how quickly you blew through that last paycheck. A point where plowing through a box of CVS Wheat Thins is more affordable than going out to eat.

In hopes of avoiding chips for lunch for the rest of the semester, I began thinking

of ways to change up my budgeting and improve my spending habits. While there are a number of things you can try out to save money while living on campus, here are eight tricks that you can try out:

Cut the coffee: It pains me to say it, but cut down on the Starbucks. Not all Starbucks drinks are unbearable on the wallet; for example, a grande black coffee is only \$2.10. But when you start splurging on those \$4.45 grande frappuccinos daily, something has to change.

Set up a carpool: If you're a commuter, try setting up a carpool with nearby friends to campus. If you live on campus, find friends with cars that could drive you to get groceries, clothes and other commodities off campus for a lower price. If

you have a car on campus, set up a system with friends so each person takes turns driving others around. It saves money on gas, and who doesn't love a sing-a-long buddy in the car?

Budgets baby: It's college, and emergency wine nights are going to happen. Which is completely okay, as long as you plan for it. Set aside a certain amount of "treat yo 'self" moola for each week and work around that number. Some weeks you might be under budget, and you can roll it over into future weeks. Or maybe an unexpectedly bad midterm leads to a spontaneous trip down port, and now you're a little behind. It's okay, as long as you're watching your payments and keeping track of your spending.

Make a change jar: It's a small gesture, but keep throwing your pocket pen-

nies and found change from the dryer in there and you'll have a free Bagel Express meal in no time.

Meal prep in your room: No worries, you don't need to live in a cooking building to do some meal prepping. Take an hour or two out of your Sunday and prep some sandwiches or easy pasta for lunch a few times a week. It may not seem like much, but removing one meal a week from your meal plan will save a lot of money.

Make use of the free events: You don't need to go off campus to have a fun date night or night out with friends. Stony Brook has a lot of fun and free events on campus each month that you can try. Go see a show by the Stony Brook symphony orchestra, attend a movie night at Staller or go to one of the ever popu-

lar paint nights. If you're a gym bug, grab a friend and try one of the Rec Center's gym classes, or de-stress with one of the Rec's yoga sessions.

Nature is free, bruh: Just a mile walk away, accessible via a path behind West Apartments, is Avalon Park. It's a nature preserve, with gorgeous scenery, intriguing stone labyrinths and pathways to stroll through. It's a great place for a date, or just a day off from studying.

Keep trying new things: In the end, the best way to save money is to try new things and see what system works for you. Just be smart about your savings, don't splurge on Starbucks eight times a day like I do, and you'll be just fine.



Photo by Aracely Jimenez



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