

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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Eugene Hammond talks writing cuts

By Gary Ghayrat
Contributing Writer

In 1964, just as the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War began to escalate, 17-year-old Eugene Hammond entered the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. He was interested in pursuing a degree in engineering.

Everything changed the first summer after his freshman year when he was sent to the West Coast as a member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps. The proud son of a World War II veteran, he happily signed up to join the navy. He even wrote a paper for his writing class titled, "Conscientious objectors are lily-livered," criticizing people who resisted the draft. For young Hammond, the journey from his home state of Wisconsin to the foreign land of California was an unbelievable experience. But even more unforgettable was the look he saw in the hollowed out eyes of his peers returning home from Vietnam.

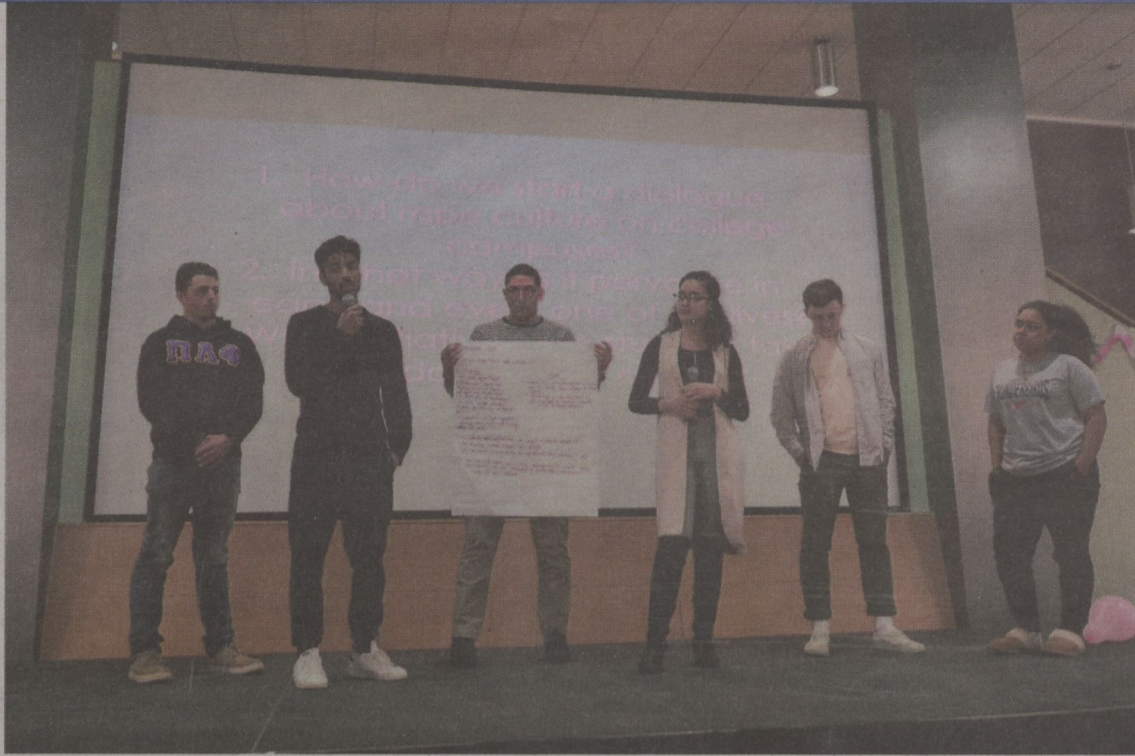
"It seemed like something about their inner vitality had been stripped away from them," Hammond said. "The eyes of those marines... just got to my soul. And I couldn't ignore that. And I've never met anybody like that before, growing up in a happy town."

When he returned to Notre Dame at the start of his sophomore year, Hammond experienced a huge crisis. The classes he was taking in statistics, thermodynamics and economics failed to provide him with any guidance on how to handle his relationship with his country and the war. In an English class, he read books by John Dos Passos and Erich Maria Remarque which he said provided him with unique perspectives on the realities of war. In a philosophy class, the works of Plato, Aristotle, Kierkegaard and Nietzsche led him to ask important ethical questions like, "What's good in life? What's beauty in life? What's just in life?"

About a week into the semester, he changed his major to English. "I think it's undoubtedly the most important decision of my life because that's when I started thinking about being a teacher," Hammond said.

Eventually, Hammond would go

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GARY GHAYRAT / THE STATESMAN

On Nov. 29, students, faculty and staff brainstormed at the annual "HeForShe Ideathon" to end gender-based discrimination. Videos were shown to raise awareness.

55 distinguished professors voice concerns about SBU admin.

By Rebecca Liebson
Assistant News Editor

Since the first cuts to academic programs were announced this spring, Stony Brook University has become engulfed in a wave of opposition. Various petitions and demonstrations have emerged at the forefront, but behind closed doors, Stony Brook's most prestigious faculty members have organized their own protest movement.

On Sept. 27, 42 Stony Brook professors with "Distinguished Faculty Rank" — the highest honor one can achieve in the SUNY system — sent a letter to SUNY Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson voicing their "profound concern" with the state of their university, calling it "exceptionally alarming."

Citing a "deep and pervasive lack of trust and confidence in the current leadership," the professors requested a meeting with Chancellor Johnson, which she politely declined in a letter sent out on Oct. 11.

The letter prompted President Samuel L. Stanley, Jr. to meet with a delegation of 25 distinguished professors on Nov. 3. Among them was Kathleen Wilson, distinguished professor of history and director of the Humanities Institute at Stony Brook.

"I've been here 27 years. There's always a budget crisis, there's always cuts. We always muddle through. But this is much, much much more seri-

ous," she said. "We tried to express to the president how low morale is and how upset we all are that our beloved university, our level one university, is now suddenly tumbling down."

Much of the discussion was centered on the idea that top university officials have not been transparent in communicating the details of the deficit.

"We wanted to find out more authoritatively what was in fact going on," Michael Schwartz, a distinguished professor in the sociology department, said. Although Schwartz was not present at the meeting, he has played a key role in mobilizing the professors and has been identified as the group's unofficial leader.

"We do not have any understanding of the logic they're applying because the public logic that gets expressed doesn't comport with their actions."

In an attempt to try and gain more clarity, the professors compiled a budget fact sheet outlining what they knew about the deficit and what discrepancies still remained. Many of the questions from the fact sheet were brought up during the meeting, but those in attendance said the president failed to provide a substantial answer. "He promised to address. But he never did," said one professor in attendance who requested anonymity out of fear of possible retribution.

Although the meeting gave the professors a chance to air

their grievances, the general consensus among them is that more still needs to be done. "The Nov. 3 meeting did not satisfy us on any of the issues that we have so far articulated," Schwartz said. "The underlying crisis may or may not have been created by administrative actions. We still have no clarity."

Eager to continue their correspondence with the administration, the group sent out a follow-up letter to the president shortly after its meeting. Schwartz said they never received a response from Stanley, even after he pledged to facilitate further collaboration and open communication with the professors.

When asked for his comment on the matter, President Stanley's office provided the following statement via email: "I appreciated the frank and candid discussion we had about the challenges the University is facing."

Although dialogue with the administration has temporarily stalled, Wilson said the professors have remained dedicated to the cause.

"I think crisis produces mobilization," she said. "There's an uncanny parallel between what happened in Nov. 2016 in the nation and the response since, and what's happening on campus. With all of this stuff you have to remain vigilant."

She noted that earlier this year,

Continued on page 4

New club promotes mental health

By Brianne Ledda
Contributing Writer

Four women sat around a desk in Frey Hall on Thursday, Nov. 30, preparing to hold e-board elections for the Peer Mental Health Alliance (PMHA), a new club at Stony Brook University that is trying to end the stigma surrounding mental health.

Founded by senior psychology major Allisa Fernandez last semester, the group's mission is twofold — to advocate that students with disabilities have access to necessary resources and to help destigmatize mental illness.

"The same way your eyes get ill, your fingers get ill, your feet get ill, you get diabetes, you get heart disease, your brain gets ill. And it's a part of us. Why is it then we're like 'Huh? Not the brain!'" Fernandez said.

PMHA has an active presence on campus, having run events and collaborated with other groups on programs such as the History of Mental Health Stigma, Suicide Prevention Awareness, Cancer Dance Off and Relaxathon. The event turnouts are successful, Fernandez said, citing hundreds of students in attendance. She estimates 350-500 students went through her group's Suicide Prevention Awareness Program.

"We are always looking to collaborate with organizations where we are least expected," Fernandez said, as a way to normalize the idea of mental health.

PMHA has worked with Stony Brook's Center for Prevention and Outreach (CPO) on a few events this semester, asking them to table at Suicide Prevention Awareness, and joining CPO in the annual Take a Stand/Walk with Me domestic violence awareness event. "PMHA created an array of cards with messages of hope and support for victims and survivors of domestic violence," Christine Szaraz, the coordinator of sexual violence prevention and outreach programs with the CPO, wrote in an email. "Such collaborations have been ex-

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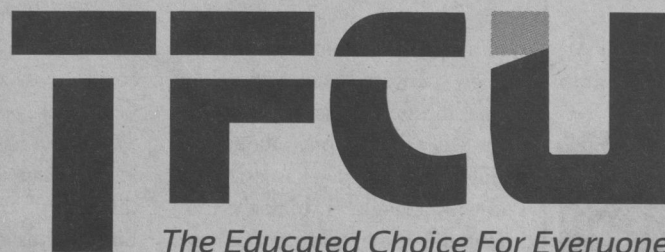
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NEWS

Professors speak out in letter sent to SUNY administration

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widespread faculty resistance helped to dissuade the administration from making major cuts to the department of Hispanic languages & literature and prevented three tenure track faculty members from losing their jobs.

While speaking out has proven to be a catalyst for change, Schwartz said professors who openly criticize university officials run a potential risk. "There is a general feeling that this administration has a long memory when it comes to people who oppose them and that that memory contaminates future interactions, especially around distribution of resources."

Despite this, the movement shows no signs of slowing. Since the original letter was sent out, the group of distinguished professors has grown to 55.

"I feel like we have to stop them," Schwartz said. "We're fighting for the university at this point, against its leadership."

The letter reads: "As faculty at Stony Brook University who hold the rank of Distinguished Professor, we are writing to convey our profound concern about the state of our university. Having many cumulative years of experience, we know universities undergo ups and downs. But the current situation at Stony Brook University has become exceptional in our view, and exceptionally alarming..."

Campuses across the nation and here in New York State face serious financial, political and institutional challenges. In such times, solid leadership is essential. In key areas, however, current leadership at Stony Brook appears to be failing the institution. We are concerned that without intervention the damage may become lasting.

The Stony Brook leadership very recently announced that the campus is facing a dire financial crisis, one that has apparently developed over the last several years and was not inherited from the previous administration. By its own account, current campus leadership has overspent on a scale that has exhausted Stony Brook

University's capital reserves. This situation was, it seems, recognized only recently. As a consequence, Stony Brook is now facing immediate and drastic cuts to programs and staffing. We do not see similar crises at the other SUNY university centers, making us question whether the finances of our campus have been prudently managed...

The current budget crisis comes at a time when there was already a gap in trust between the faculty and the administration. Last year, the Stony Brook University Senate conducted a survey of faculty opinion on a range of topics, including the performance of the President, the Vice Presidents, and the Deans. Although this survey was completed months before the current budget crisis was recognized, the results revealed a deep and pervasive lack of trust and confidence in the current leadership across the university. Since then relations between faculty and the administration have deteriorated to alarming proportions, a fact that has started to attract the attention of the local and national press."

We are deeply committed to the success of Stony Brook University. The current situation requires urgent and significant action. We therefore ask you to meet as soon as possible with a delegation from this group of Distinguished Professors to discuss how to return Stony Brook to a trajectory that will once again make us proud.

Sincerely,

Mark Aronoff	Distinguished Professor, Linguistics
Michael A. Bamhart	Distinguished Teaching Professor, History
██████████	Distinguished Professor, Molecular Genetics and Microbiology
██████████	Distinguished Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Science
██████████	Distinguished Professor, Philosophy
Vitaly Citovsky	Distinguished Professor, Biochemistry and Cell Biology
Petar Djuric	Distinguished Professor, Electrical Engineering
██████████	Distinguished Professor, Ecology and Evolution
██████████	Distinguished Professor, Ecology and Evolution
██████████	Distinguished Professor, Psychology
Paul Gootenberg	Distinguished Professor, History
██████████	Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Physics and Astronomy
██████████	Distinguished Professor, Cultural Analysis and Theory
██████████	Distinguished Teaching Professor, Physics and Astronomy
Richard Howard	Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Philosophy
Benjamin Hsiao	Distinguished Professor, Chemistry
██████████	Distinguished Professor, Physics and Astronomy
██████████	Distinguished Professor, Philosophy
██████████	Distinguished Professor, Psychology
James M. Lattimer	Distinguished Professor, Physics and Astronomy
Joseph Lauther	Distinguished Teaching Professor, Chemistry
██████████	Distinguished Professor, Mathematics
Robert K. Lazarsfeld	Distinguished Professor, Mathematics
Herman Lebovics	Distinguished Professor, History
Jeffrey Levinton	Distinguished Professor, Ecology and Evolution
██████████	Distinguished Professor, C.N. Yang Inst. for Theoretical Physics
██████████	Distinguished Professor, Neurobiology & Behavior
██████████	Distinguished Teaching Professor, Physics and Astronomy
██████████	Distinguished Professor, Mathematics
██████████	Distinguished Professor, Chemistry
██████████	Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Ecology and Evolution
Lorna Role	Distinguished Professor, Neurobiology and Behavior
Joel T. Rosenthal	Distinguished Professor Emeritus, History
Michael Schwartz	Distinguished Teaching Professor, Sociology
██████████	Distinguished Professor, Physics and Astronomy
Gene Spronse	Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Physics and Astronomy
██████████	Distinguished Service Professor, Linguistics and India Studies
██████████	Distinguished Professor, Computer Science
██████████	Distinguished Teaching Professor Emeritus, Sociology
Nancy J. Tomes	Distinguished Professor, History
Kathleen Wilson	Distinguished Professor, History
Eckard Wimmer	Distinguished Professor, Molecular Genetics and Microbiology

PMHA set to change view of mental illness

Continued from page 1

tremely meaningful and successful on a variety of levels, and we plan to build on our partnership with them in spring and into future semesters."

The group also works with many nonprofits, such as L.I. Against Domestic Violence and the Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk (VIBS), an organization that, according to its website, aims "to assist the survivors of domestic violence, rape and sexual assault."

In December, the group plans on collecting donations for Chapin Center, a nursing home in Springfield, Massachusetts, where members intend to spend the day with the elderly.

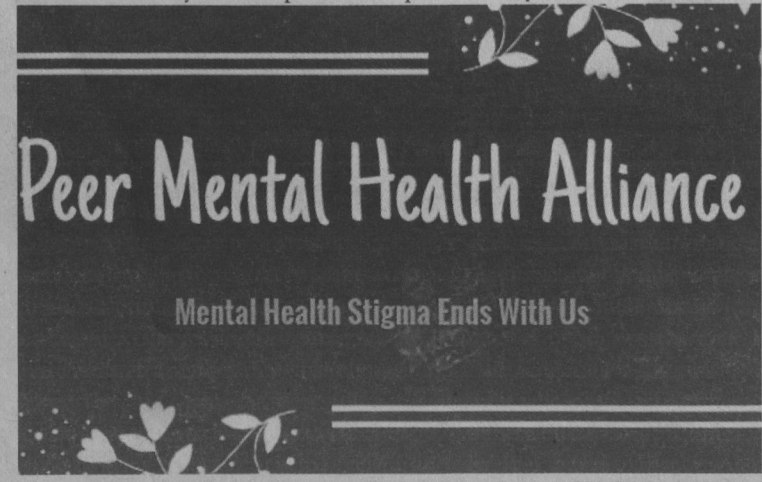
"I don't think a lot of people realize that by doing simple things like [donating clothes or toiletries], it provides a mental health service in itself. But we're always looking for ways to be of service, not only on campus, but

off campus as well, to provide for people's mental health in a positive way," Fernandez said.

"I can say that my own peer educators and outreach assistants, as well as the students participating in the events in which we've collaborated, have been really impressed with the work they are doing," Szaraz wrote in an email. "Their leadership is dedicated to the issues and the people affected by them, and they are taking collaborative, creative approaches to engaging all members of the campus community in their efforts."

There are many resources on campus for students seeking help for disabilities or mental health needs, including Disability Support Services (DSS), Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) and CAPS After Hours, whose liaisons can be reached at (631) 632-6720, outside of CAPS office hours.

The Peer Mental Health Alliance meets on Thursdays at 6 p.m. in Frey Hall 216.



Peer Mental Health Alliance
Mental Health Stigma Ends With Us

PEER MENTAL HEALTH ALLIANCE / FACEBOOK

The Peer Mental Health Alliance meets on Thursdays in Frey Hall. The group works to end mental health stigma.

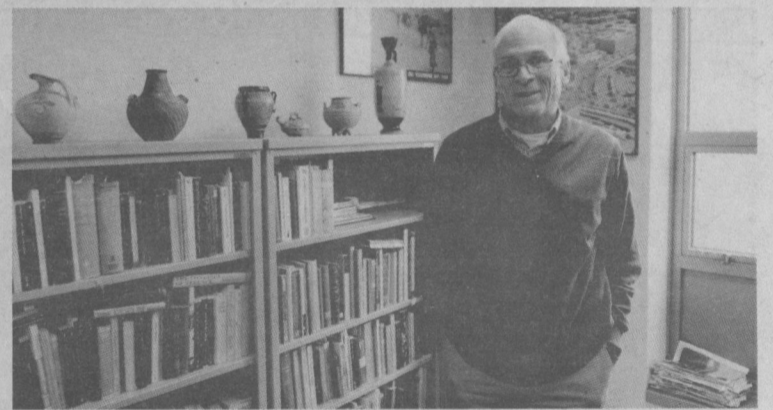
From engineering to English: Hammond's journey to SBU

Continued from page 1

on to become the director of the program in Writing and Rhetoric. Now 70 years old, Hammond has since left the position, but he continues to teach. Sitting in his office in the Humanities Building, Hammond said he is discouraged. With several adjuncts from his department at risk of losing their jobs, he said he has not heard any updates since last month. The writing program director from 1978 to 1984 at the University of Maryland, and later at Stony Brook University from 2008 to 2014, Hammond said he hoped his legacy would last longer at Stony Brook. As the director he fought for reasonable pay for adjuncts and higher portfolio standards for students.

He once described the writing program at Stony Brook as one of the best in the United States and bragged to his friends about how great it felt to be involved in a program with healthy competition and friendly rapport between faculty members. "Since the first of September, I haven't been able to brag about that, saying that the legacy has lasted," he said with a laugh. "I think the most important thing was morale, and that's what I think has been crushed," Hammond said. "The feeling that you can be dismissed at a moment's notice, and that a good chunk of our faculty was dismissed at a moment's notice hurts everybody else too, not just the people who are gone."

"This is actually a nationwide challenge," said Shirley Logan, a retired writing professor from the University of Maryland and Hammond's former colleague. She said there has always been discrimination against writing professors and it has always been a struggle to argue how valuable



GARY GHAYRAT/THE STATESMAN

Hammond, pictured, offered \$75,000 to help keep as many adjuncts as possible for the Spring 2018 semester.

they were and for them to be seen as "equal citizens of the department." Logan said Hammond had a strong voice and argued support for writing and composition at the University of Maryland too. "It's hard to believe even 20, 30 years later, we're still having this fight," she said. "It's kind of interesting that he's still having to do that same thing."

On Nov. 17, Hammond wrote an email to Sacha Kopp, the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, offering \$75,000 out of his own pocket to keep as many adjuncts as possible for the spring semester. Kopp thanked him for his message and generous offer, and said he would confer with the director of the writing department and will get back to him. As of Dec. 3, Hammond said he has not received a return email from Kopp.

Hammond's participation in education does not stop at the national level. Shyam Sharma, assistant professor in Stony Brook University's writing program, has worked with Hammond on an international level. In the summer of 2016, Sharma, Hammond and three other American professors voluntarily traveled to a small public school, Mid-West-

ern University, in the small town of Surkhet, Nepal. There, they taught faculty teaching methods on how to teach writing. "I was really fascinated how much he energized and inspired university administrators," Sharma said. Although Hammond has never been a university level administrator, "his philosophy came out, his vision came out and worked with those professors. They honored him for the work that he did." Sharma said Hammond constantly got lost in the mountains while exploring the area by himself. "He was one rogue traveler who wouldn't take up phone calls," Sharma said. "He didn't give a damn."

After spending a month or so in Nepal, Hammond traveled to Sweden, Northern Italy and Turkey during the 2016 military coup. He taught writing at SUNY Korea, and traveled to Japan, China, Vietnam, Myanmar, Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand that summer.

"Every time I go to a new country, I feel like I'm able to help people from that country more than I was before," Hammond said. "I feel like I can imagine what their life was like before they got here."

NY's 1st congressional district candidate talks tax reform

By Luis Sanchez
Contributing Writer



Perry Gershon, a congressional Democratic candidate running in New York's 1st district against Republican Congressman Lee Zeldin, visited Stony Brook University on Wednesday, Nov. 29 to discuss President Donald Trump's tax plan, and the impact it could have on Stony Brook students.

The United States Senate passed the Republican-led Tax Cuts and Jobs Act on Saturday, Dec. 2 by a vote of 51-49.

Republicans have said that this tax bill will lower taxes for the middle class and help stimulate the economy by cutting corporate taxes. Democrats, on the other hand, argue that the bill will only benefit the nation's wealthiest citizens, and that the middle class will end up paying higher taxes in the long run.

During his visit, Gershon repeatedly stated that the bill is not a tax cut for the middle class. "If you want a middle class tax cut, let's have a middle class tax cut," he said. "But don't pretend that a corporate giveaway is a middle class tax cut."

One highly controversial aspect of the bill is the effect it will have on state, local and property tax deductions. Currently, Americans are free to deduct all of these items from their federal taxes. Originally, the bill was set to repeal this process altogether, but the version that ultimately passed allows for itemized reduction of property taxes up to \$10,000.

Congressional candidate Perry Gershon running for the 1st district visited Stony Brook this past Wednesday.

KELVINSONG/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS VIA CCO

To Gershon, this is an issue that could have a devastating impact on students in particular. "The state is going to need to reduce state taxes in order to compensate," he said. "When the state reduces taxes, then they have to cut services to go along with those tax reductions. So, student assistance is one of the programs that is going to be at risk."

The reform would also impact graduate students who receive tuition waivers from their university for being research and teaching assistants. Currently, the tuition waivers are considered tax-exempt income, meaning students aren't taxed for the money they receive. If the bill becomes law, this practice will be reversed. Tuition waivers tend to amount to around \$25,000 per year. For many students, this money is their primary source of income. "If this new tax bill goes out for instance, that's a 400 percent increase on the taxability on a

Ph.D. stipend," Meelod Wafajow, a junior political science major, said. "I wouldn't be able to afford that."

According to the New York state 2018 fiscal year budget, taxes for the middle class are cut significantly and the top one percent is taxed, resulting in funding of the Excelsior Scholarship and other such programs in the state, including investing over \$800 million in prekindergarten.

Due to the tax bill, these programs, and students, are at risk. "In terms of undergraduates, it's taking the deductibility of student interest payment," Gershon said.

"I don't want anything to happen to [the scholarship] because I'm dependent on it to continue my education," Mulique Lawrence, a junior political science major, said. "It will hurt the middle class, and it's a bruise towards the program."

Police Blotter

On Nov. 17, at 5:53 p.m., a student referral was issued after a fight occurred on the second floor of Keller College. The case is closed.

On Nov. 26, at 8:01 a.m., the exit gate arm in the Radiation Oncology lot at University Hospital was damaged. The case was unfounded.

On Nov. 19, at 12:17 p.m., a driver was arrested after being caught in possession of marijuana and without a front plate at Roosevelt Drive. The case is closed.

On Nov. 26, at 11:57 p.m., an individual was found in possession of marijuana at University Hospital. The case is closed.

On Nov. 20, at 1:29 p.m., graffiti was found on bulletin boards in Harriman Hall. The case remains open.

On Nov. 27, at 6 a.m., a son with disabilities punched his mother at University Hospital. The case is closed as the victim refused to cooperate.

On Nov. 20, at 2:48 p.m., a student reported that his headphones were stolen from his room in Eisenhower College. The case is closed as the victim refused to cooperate.

On Nov. 27, at 11:21 a.m., a Kindle was reported stolen at University Hospital. The case was unfounded.

On Nov. 20, at 7:53 p.m., a Samsung cell phone was reported stolen at West Side Dining. The case was unfounded.

On Nov. 27, at 10:02 p.m., a patient on suicide watch ran from the emergency room at University Hospital. The case is closed.

On Nov. 24, at 8:35 a.m., an arrest was made at University Hospital after an employee reported that she was receiving unwanted texts and phone calls from an ex and that a third party was threatened. The case is closed.

On Nov. 27, at 10:12 p.m., a referral was issued after an odor of marijuana was reported at Keller College. The case is closed.

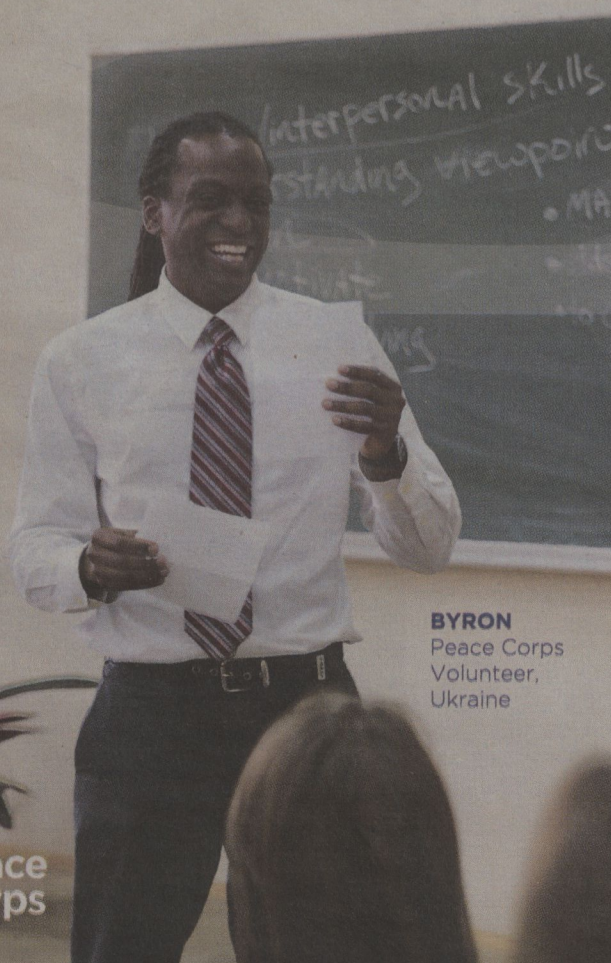
On Nov. 28, at 8:08 a.m., a purse was stolen from East Side Dining. The case remains open.

On Nov. 29, at 11:25 a.m., a window was broken at Dreiser College. The case remains open.

Compiled by Lisseth Aguilar

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Students create new festival to say "Thanks for Theatre"

By Joseph Konig
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

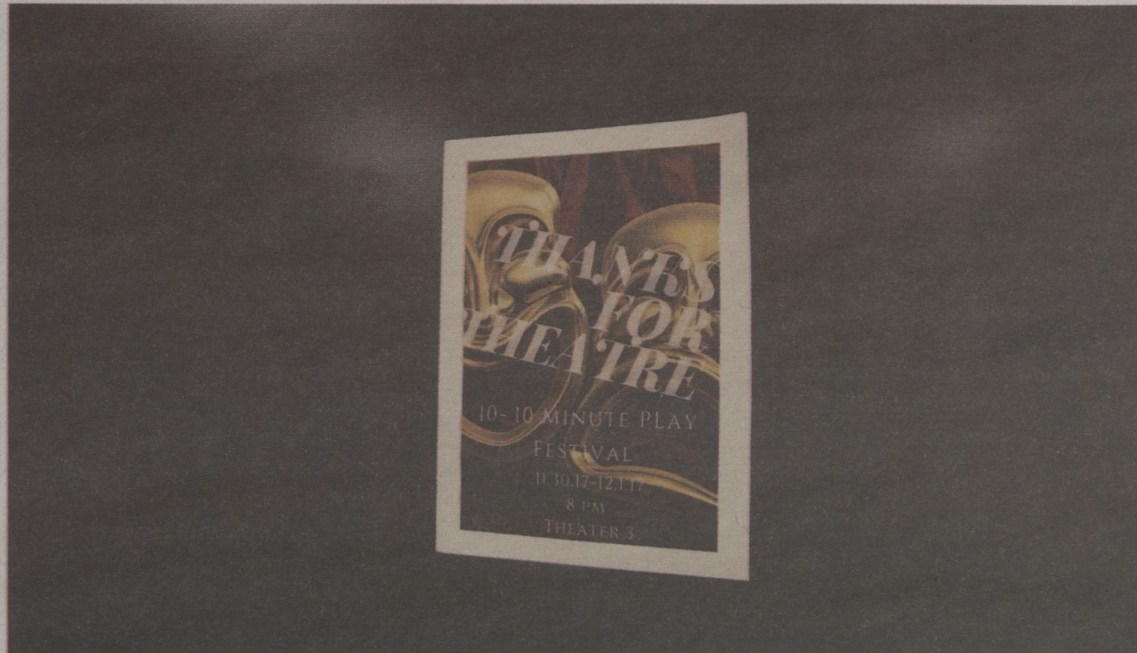
Kristen Spencer's time at Stony Brook is coming to an end. Shortly after the senior theatre arts major graduates next spring, the major program she called home the last four years will also come to an end within a few years. As a way of a proper goodbye, Spencer put together a showcase, the "Thanks For Theatre: 10-10 Minute Play Festival," was staged on Nov. 31 and Dec. 1 in Theater 3 at the Staller Center for the Arts.

"We felt very invisible as a student body on this campus, as theatre majors, when we were cut," Spencer said. "And we're like, you know what? If you actually knew what we do, you would know that this is the last thing you would want to get rid of."

Spencer came up with the idea for the festival last semester and began working on it with fervor this summer. She recruited five other student-directors — four of whom are making their solo theatrical directing debuts — and began the semester long process of putting the production together.

"I love 10 minute plays," Spencer said. "Mostly because they are so much harder to write than anything else... you have to hit a whole entire story within just a few pages. For me, if someone can do that, that's what talent is."

Featuring 10 plays, each 10 minutes long, from five student playwrights and five previous-



LUIS RUIZ DOMINGUEZ/THE STATESMAN

A photo of the "Thanks for Theatre" minute playbill. The production features 10 student-directed, 10 minute plays from five different student playwrights.

ly published works, the festival is entirely run by students on a shoestring budget of \$750, courtesy of the student troupe Pocket Theatre.

"I wanted a mix of people from different backgrounds and... different perspectives," Spencer said. "And because most of them are new at this, it brought a whole lot of different things to the table that I didn't think was going to happen with these scripts, but did, in a really good way."

The directors have creative autonomy, but Spencer — when not personally directing "Hello, My Name Is Dwight Howard," a play she wrote, and "A Tall Order," by Louisville playwright

Sheri Wilner — "has her hands in everything" and functions as an invaluable resource, according to those working on the festival.

"Whatever she can do to make this work, she'll do," said Jessica DiPaola, a senior theatre arts major. DiPaola is making her directorial debut with "Poof!" a play written by Lynn Nottage, a two-time Pulitzer-winning playwright. "[Spencer] helps every one of us out trying to figure out what things work with our shows... She's organized this whole thing. She's dealt with all the issues we've run into."

Throughout the process, Spencer balanced mentoring her fellow thespians without micromanaging.

"She's been very good at letting us have our free reign," DiPaola said. "She's come to rehearsals and hasn't said a word. But if we need help or if we're struggling, she'll come and help us."

The festival is new to the Stony Brook theatre community, so Spencer and the 40-plus members of cast and crew are operating without a roadmap. Yet, the production's supportive atmosphere was credited by numerous first-time directors and actors as instrumental in creating a positive experience.

DiPaola said the 40+ cast and crew is "all doing what we can do to help each oth-

er out." Junior theatre arts major Amanda Hanley, the director of "Mandate" by professional playwright Kelly Younger, echoed a similar sentiment.

"It's very collaborative," Hanley said. "It's 'oh, I'll help you out, you help me out' and 'yes, I can give you opinions on this...' We're all everywhere at once. It's wonderful because that's how we learn. It's a great learning experience."

Because of the budget cuts and the uniquely-energized Spencer's departure, students involved in the production were unsure if it would be an annual occurrence.

"I think there would be a desire to do it long term if we knew the department would be around long term," said Hayley Wink, a senior theatre arts major and the stage manager for "Poof!" "But with the department dismantling I don't really foresee this continuing even though I think that's a disappointment to all of us."

Despite the shadow of the budget cuts that will eliminate the theatre arts program's major and minor tracks in a few years, the students involved in "Thanks for Theatre" have tried to maintain a positive outlook and focus on the work they are creating.

"I think all of our attitudes is pretty much that we're going to do whatever theatre we can," Wink said. "Whatever is around, we're going to participate in while we can do it."

Jaden Smith's genre-hopping album "SYRE" is directionless

By Matthew Rainis
Contributing Writer

Jaden Smith fancies himself an intellectual. His attempts at being a great philosopher in the Twitter age, with such insightful tweets as "Most Trees Are Blue," launched him into the cultural discussion, but failed to reveal anything insightful. In reality, he is simply producing an endless stream of pseudo-intellectual nonsense that he hopes will make people believe him to be some sort of troubled artist that they should admire. He feigns an artistic aloofness, not concerned with the opinions of others, even though he seemingly acts the way he does to receive approval.

Now, even if one doesn't respect Jaden Smith's philosophy, you have to respect his hustle. He's worn many hats in his 19 years, including that of an actor, fashion designer, model and now, a rapper. His debut album, "SYRE," dropped on Nov. 17 after three years of construction, and the final product shows it. The production is crisp and sharp, making seamless transitions from genre to genre. The album sounds great, and Smith himself isn't a bad rapper in any sense.

However, it is the album's lack of direction that detracts from it the most.

His lyrics are very much reflective of his Twitter musings — mostly weak and often somewhat nonsensical — with gems such as "Man I'm artichokin', I'm artichokin' / I can't breathe, that's the art of chokin'" that are so bad that they distract from the song itself.

Smith seems to be going for a "The Life of Pablo"-esque, ambitious, multi-genre pursuit with the lyrical and philosophical impact of "To Pimp a Butterfly," and he falls short in both respects. He plays with different genres from the start, with opening track "B" having a gospel feel and "U" eventually turning into a full-on rock song, but never does so in a particularly clever or memorable fashion like Kanye West was able to on "The Life of Pablo" and "Yeezus."

While he touches on issues such as inner-city violence and racial injustice in "E" and "L," respectively, he never goes quite deep enough or provides any unique insight on the issues like Kendrick Lamar would. At times even his more legitimate messages are muddled by the more per-

plexing lyrics and even some 9/11 conspiracy theories in "Hope."

The album does have some strong songs. "BLUE," a four-part song separated into "B," "L," "U" and "E," is an exciting, if rambling jam that shows the full range of genres that Smith is willing to dip his toes into, with some memorable beats and hooks and even a rather impressive vocal feature by his sister, Willow, on "B." "Falcon" is an exciting back-and-forth between a fast-paced dance party feel and soft acoustic guitar and singing that shows a lot of potential in Smith's ambitions. "Lost Boy" is a somewhat hypnotic nine-minute long "bonus track" (according to Smith himself) that seems as if it was made to be the last song of the album, and likely should have been. Its placement in the middle of the album is perplexing. After that, the album gets a bit weaker and far less memorable, with only the unambitious but very fun trap banger "Icon" and the very mellow and deliberate "Fallen" sticking out as worthwhile tracks in the album's back half.

Overall, "SYRE" is an enjoyable listening experience most of the way through, even if the constant tone and tem-

po switches are exhausting at times. There's a lot of good within this overly long and ambitious, pseudo-intellectual album, with the production being a definite highlight. If you're

looking to listen to something weird and fun, and are willing to tolerate some self-indulgent stupidity and extremely odd decisions, this is a good album to look to.

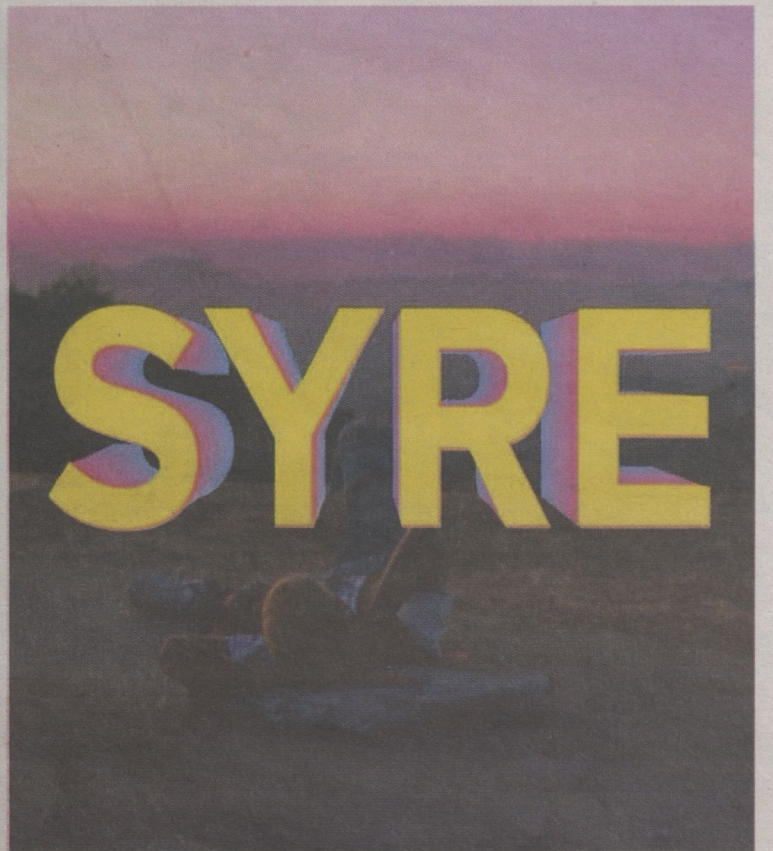


PHOTO COURTESY OF ROC NATION/MSFTS

The multi-talented son of Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith dropped his debut studio album on Nov. 17.

"Vikings" returns with power struggles and family drama

By Tim Oakes
Sports Editor

It is not often that four brothers see eye to eye, especially those who are trying to outdo the successes of their famous father, Viking legend Ragnar Lothbrok.

After avenging their father's murder by King Aelle of Northumbria in season four, Ragnar's sons take center stage in "Vikings" season five, which debuted Nov. 29 at 9 p.m. on the History Channel.

Division is the central theme of the new season of "Vikings," following the abrupt disbandment of the Great Heathen Army that formed in season four.

The largest Viking army portrayed on the show to date was comprised of the sons of Ragnar and their armies, who successfully stormed England. The tipping point that disbanded the Great Heathen Army was the murder of Ragnar's youngest son Sigurd Snake-in-the-Eye by his increasingly ambitious brother Ivar the Boneless.

Now, without a unifying purpose, the army and its leaders descend into infighting. As Bjorn Ironside, the eldest son of Ragnar, foreshadowed during the celebratory feast following the Great Heathen Army's victory in England prior to the end of last season, "the only thing that ever kept the sons of Ragnar together was the death of their father."

Ivar is a crippled Viking prince who obsessively seeks to prove that he can achieve even more fame than his three living brothers, who are all healthy and respected Viking leaders. He is conflicted at the beginning of the new season, after he killed

Ivar in a fashion similar to that of Heath Ledger's performance as the Joker in the 2008 film "The Dark Knight." Ivar proves to be an interesting adversary to his older, more brutal and forceful brother Bjorn.



JONATHAN HESSION/HISTORY

From left to right: Ivar the Boneless, Hviserk and Ubbe from "Vikings." Season five premiered this past Wednesday, Nov. 29 at 9 p.m. on the History Channel.

his brother Sigurd out of rage at the end of season 4B. Instead of succumbing to guilt, Ivar transforms his rage, depression and jealousy into a newfound determination to lead armies with a deranged ruthlessness and cold tactical prowess on the battlefield.

Much of the fifth season focuses on the evolution of Ivar and his journey fulfilling his father's prophecy from the previous season, "that one day, the world will know and fear Ivar the Boneless." Alex Høgh Andersen, who stars as the troubled son of Ragnar, portrays the angry and demented

lizes the time he has to explore the full lives of several Vikings, from the rise and fall of Ragnar to the birth and development of each of his sons as they pave their own paths.

When the average person thinks of Vikings, a group of seafarers rarely explored by Hollywood until now, it is commonplace to picture tall, rugged men raping and pillaging their way through Europe. This is the unfortunate result of the Norsemen's failure to record most of their history. Today, historians rely on Norse sagas, which

were based on stories passed down from ancestors and those of other civilizations that were subject to Viking raids. Because of that point of view, it is easy to picture the Vikings as bloodthirsty savages.

Instead, History's "Vikings" does a beautiful job of portraying Vikings from their perspective rather than painting them exclusively as uncivilized heathens. Hirst successfully illustrates the personal and not-always bloodthirsty mindset of Norsemen, as opposed to their depiction in British history.

It is common to picture Vikings with large helmets with horns, as seen in the NFL's Minnesota Vikings logo. However, they typically had long elaborate hairstyles rather than horned helmets. To be more historically accurate, the rare times the Vikings are seen wearing helmets on the show, they are sans horns.

"Vikings" also sheds light on the Vikings' vast reach across the continent of Europe. In the show, and in history as well, the Vikings had already explored Norway, in addition to traveling to England, France and a Moorish Spain. This season, the show will visit Iceland and Morocco, and it explores the Norsemen's adventures in these foreign lands.

While you wait for the final season of "Game of Thrones," get your fix of big-budget gore and familial power struggles by catching up on this thrilling historical drama. The first 10 episodes will air on Wednesdays between November and January, while the second 10 episodes of season five will debut later in 2018.

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Band with Stony Brook roots finds polished sound in new EP

By Zoya Naqvi
Contributing Writer

After releasing its second EP, "Finally Someone," local band "SWIM" has finally embraced its indie-pop roots.

"Our genre is exactly where it was to be all along," Daniel McCaffrey, the lead singer of the band, said.

The EP was released on July 17, shortly after the musical group

turned away from alternative rock to indie pop. "Finally Someone" gives off a light, happy vibe with soft melodies that represent what SWIM has become all about. The EP illustrates pockets of time, with all six songs portraying different phases of a new love. SWIM's organic and airy style reawakens the blurry nostalgic vision of a bright summer romance with honest and heartfelt lyrics.

SWIM's journey started two

years ago at The Bench, a bar just off Stony Brook's campus, where the band played their first gig. Since then, they have played at several venues across Long Island, including Revolution, the Chapin Rainbow Stage, House of Brews and 89 North.

Some of their proudest moments include being ranked as one of the top 10 best bands on Long Island in Newsday's Battle of the Bands and participating in Stony Brook's Brookfest music competition. The band members, McCaffrey, Nicholas Riviezzo (guitar), Pat Morelli (keyboard/bass guitar) and Brian D'Angio (drums), feel as though their fans are a source of encouragement, and without them, the confidence to escape basement jam sessions would have never existed.

"Our story has become just as much theirs as it is ours," Riviezzo said regarding their dedication to making each song relatable to fans.

The band's ingenious musical and lyrical structure has woven each song into a singular storyline. Originality peaks higher than ever in the second EP compared to SWIM's first un-

titled EP, which was released in November of 2015. The band is almost unrecognizable in the 2015 EP, which focused more on experimentation with effects like autotune rather than writing meaningful lyrics and finding a unique sound.

"Finally Someone" begins with "Intro," "Fall Into Me" and "Fever," songs that bounce off playful guitar riffs and high-tuned strings to resemble the exciting, raw and dreamy start to a relationship. The latter three songs, "Special," "Pieces of Your Heart" and "So Close" hit a more realistic note with lyrics like "let's go back to the start" and "my love was never enough" that speak about romantic fallouts, breakups and moving on to find yourself falling in love again.

Riviezzo feels like the band has a new attitude and are open to all sorts of genres. Morelli and D'Angio joined SWIM in 2015, bringing new elements to the group with their backgrounds in technical drumming and jazz. They have both been instrumental in allowing the band to explore sounds and concepts SWIM may not have visited without them.

"I more than ever have pushed myself to listen to things I wouldn't like," McCaffrey said. "We try to get a really wide background, and that's evolving us more than ever."

While experimenting with new genres this summer, Morelli said recording locations such as rooftops in Brooklyn and a cabin in Maine helped the band create new music that will be released later this year.

"Being by the lake in Maine this summer really helped us take our next step as a band," Morelli said. "The creative juices were really flowing cause of the kind of environment we were in."

From playing at family birthday parties to jamming on live Facebook sessions with over 12,000 viewers, SWIM's new philosophy has given the band a second chance. McCaffrey's soulful voice and Riviezzo's classic acoustic style provide a similar sound to bands like Neon Trees, The Black Keys and The Killers. Yet, it's the boys' radiant chemistry that makes its mark in 2017's EP.

"Finally Someone" is now available on iTunes, Spotify and Apple Music.



SWIM/FACEBOOK

Long Island indie pop band "SWIM," pictured here on a rooftop in Brooklyn, released its second EP on July 17.

OPINIONS

THE STATESMAN

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

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President Donald J. Trump speaking at the 2013 CPAC. Trump's proposed tax plan could be financially detrimental for graduate students, regardless of their program.

All graduate students will be hurt by the Republicans' tax plan

By Bryan Carroll
Contributing Writer

This past Thursday evening, I wandered into a pizza shop, folded myself into a counter seat and ordered two slices of coal-fired pizza with a glass of sparkling water to wash it down. I was hungry and in need of a distraction from the finals that I have not been studying for. Like most students around this time, I am busy with assignments and final presentations. This is where I was introduced to what was happening in the United States Senate.

"Did I ever do that extra credit assignment?" I asked myself, as the pizza arrived, steaming and delectable, with a crispy crust, fresh mozzarella, basil and shaved parmigiana all over a tomato sauce with a secret ingredient. For a brief moment, I thought the best approach to devour this slice was the De Blasio way of eating a pizza. In 2014, Bill de Blasio was just a mere candidate for mayor of New York City and used a fork and knife to maneuver his way.

"Hmm," said a friend, when asked about the mayor's prior fork use, uttering the onomatopoeia for "Yeah, that's totally the wrong way." There are multiple correct ways of eating a slice of pizza and by extension, resolving the problems that are being faced in the United States Senate and locally here at Stony Brook.

The United States Senate worked late Thursday night through early Saturday morning on the sweeping tax reform that would rearrange many parts of the roughly \$1.4 trillion federal budget and its 487 pages. This federal legislation would readjust the individual tax brackets at the expense of deductions and exceptions like the College Affordability Tax Credit or the student loan deduction. In addition, this weekend also saw a blistering condemnation from the Graduate Student Organization and the Undergraduate Student Government in a joint statement posted on Facebook that discussed the impact of these same reforms on student life, the affordability of higher education and the inherent

higher costs that would be seen by students if this legislation gets signed by the president. It should be noted that if this piece of legislation does get passed by the Senate, it would need to go to a bicameral legislative committee to unify the language and would face stricter scrutiny.

Good public policy stems from being responsible with the public's money. Beth Simone Noveck, a New York University professor of engineering and technology, once said, "Design solutions that do more with less. Instead of cutting a service to save money, ask if there is another way – such a prize or challenge to address the problem that both serves the needs [of the organization] and cuts costs."

This means that, to find inefficiencies in a budget, one must design a new way to approach its formation, whether that is on a national level, here at Stony Brook or in student clubs.

Be that as it may, my first impression of the joint statement released by the Graduate Student Organization and the Undergraduate Student Government on Nov. 30, is one of two different perspectives and two different audiences. A graduate student might even read the Graduate Student Organization section and come away with the impression that master's degree students have become de minimis by the language that was used. Master's students were not mentioned in the same fashion as doctoral students. Stony Brook is a large and diverse institution that serves the entire state of New York and the world. It enriches the local area not only by educating young leaders, but these same students also become practitioners who apply their scholarship to improve the quality of life and economic vigor to the greater community.

Many graduate students in master's degree programs also participate in financial aid programs, such as federal student loans and other departmental-sponsored programs that would be adversely impacted. While SUNY policy 7009 stresses that local college campuses have the

authority to use state operating funds and tuition revenue in support of scholarships and grants, it is up to the local college campus and through that, the department to define the requirements to use for said federal or state funds. For example, MFA students at Stony Brook who apply for the Graduate Council fellowship and similar Masters of Arts students would be impacted in the same fashion as doctoral students in terms of seeing a higher tax liability under the proposed national change. School of Nursing students would also face the same problem because they receive a similar scholarship. Most graduate students who would potentially receive a tuition waiver, scholarship or use federal deductions to reduce the overall expense of higher education would be impacted.

It might have not been the intent of the Graduate Student Organization to create the impression that doctoral students would be hit the most or any differently than master's students. And I hope their example was just to illustrate that there are many facets of student life experienced by similar groups of students impacted equally by the proposed change on the national level. However, I would remiss in mentioning that collaboration through engagement that invites participation does not cost more to do. A little messy but that's the fun of making a "pizza."

I don't mean to be dismissive of all student life decisions that occur in the chambers of the Graduate Student Organization or the Undergraduate Student Government, but a different approach might be needed to stress the importance of staying united in cause. Think of this local chapter of this important national dialogue process as a work in progress. What tools would you use to fix that problem? Who would you call? Perhaps Joe the Plumber or the famous pizza maker Chris Bianco might be inspiration for us, as graduate students, to unify and call for clarification.

I had a great Pretend to be a Time Traveler Day on Friday

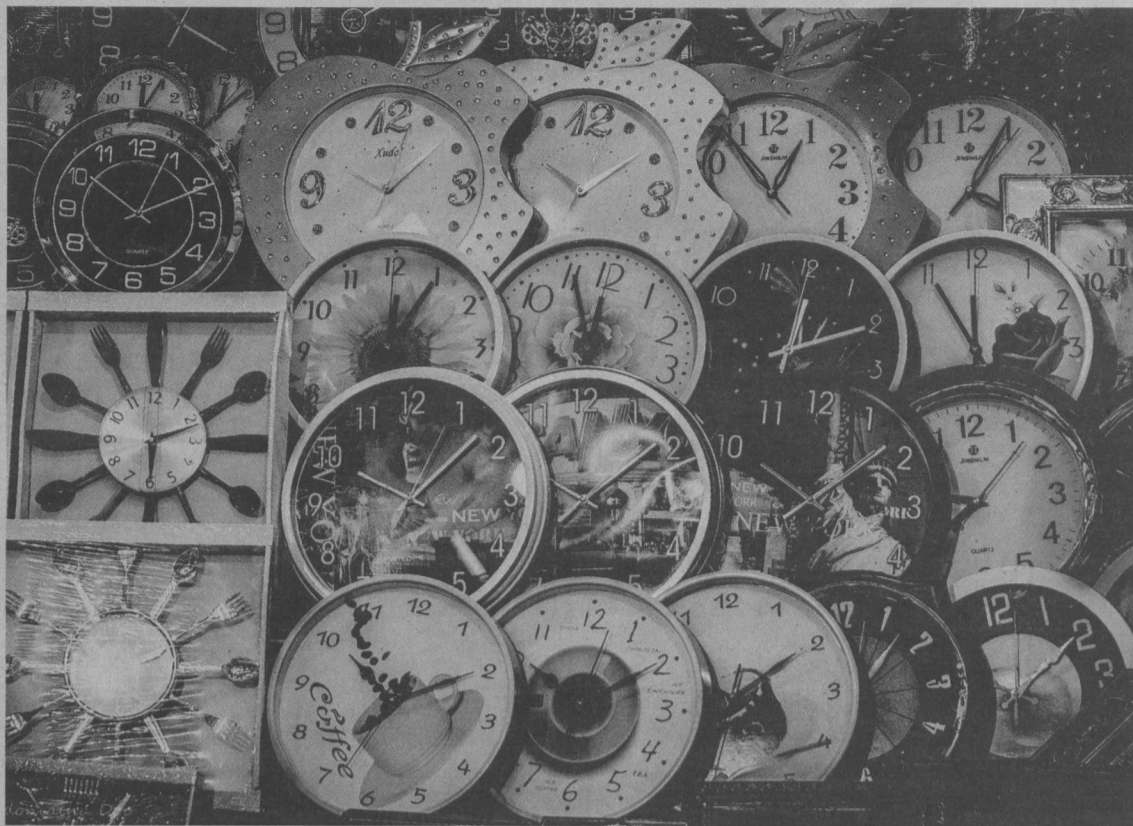
By Andrew Goldstein
Opinions Editor

This Friday, Dec. 8, is Pretend to be a Time Traveler Day and it was a blast. Now that I am back from the future, I thought I would give some advice on how to spend the day. Obviously, some sort of time machine is necessary to truly appreciate the day. I recommend using a few different time traveling implements in order to make the most of the day.

Using a time turner, I watched every episode of Doctor Who (David Tennant is my Doctor and I will fight you). Afterwards I watched "Groundhog Day," "The Terminator" series and all the "Back to the Futures."

Once I had completed my bingeing, I reserved table 42 at Milliways, the restaurant at the end of the universe, and stepped into my TARDIS. I flew through a wormhole to watch the Gnarb Gib and have dessert. There, I hotwired a DeLorean and drove at 88 miles per hour to Stephen Hawking's 2009 time traveler party. I told him to keep my visit under wraps because of all the paradoxes it would cause and so far he's honored my request.

All these parties and socializing left me feeling overextended. I scoured the libraries of history and picked out books like "The Time Machine" by H.G.



ANDONLAINA NAMBININTSOA/FLICKR VIA CC BY-NC-ND 2

Pretend to be a Time Traveler Day is held annually on Dec. 8 and was started back in 2007. Celebrants will pretend they are from different eras and watch movies with time travel.

Wells, the "Outlander" series by Diana Gabaldon, "11/22/63" by Stephen King, the "Magic Treehouse" series by Mary Pope Osborne and "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" by Mark Twain. I sat in my favorite hot tub and read a year's worth of books.

I dried myself off and got into Bill and Ted's phone booth

to make personal calls to my old relatives. Back in Zuromin, Poland, I spoke with my great-great-grandfather Yisrael Isser about how his descendants were doing.

Now that I'm back, here are some of my recommendations for which eras to visit and which to avoid. I would avoid early America. It felt like the Puritans

were looking for reasons to arrest people. For all the fun of the American 1920s, Prohibition was in full effect and the Depression came soon after. The smell of the Middle Ages might kill you before the Black Plague.

For all of you who aren't properly equipped for chronological voyage, there are other ways you can celebrate

Pretend to be a Time Traveler Day. Act as though you've returned from a 1984-esque future (AKA, Trump's second term). Look gravely on and tell your friends, "You don't know how soon everything will change."

Act as though you are from a utopian future. Hand someone a phone number on a piece of paper with the note, "Call in 2023." Ask, "Do the people now still think apples can ward off doctors?" Approach someone you don't know and ask for the date. When they respond, jump and yell, "It worked!"

You know how those costumes of 70s outfits are stereotypical to the point of ridiculousness? Dress that way in reference to 2017 style trends. Wear three corsets, Yeezy sockboots, a Gucci belt and carry a YSL bag.

Act as though you are from the past and talk to every computer you pass. When someone shows you a video on their phone, throw it away while screaming, "Devil's magic!" Spend the whole day operating automatic doors.

Of course, I don't really need to tell you how to act this Friday because I saw you already and you were crazy. Maybe you shouldn't eat that many cookies on a Friday afternoon. Don't forget to go back and correct all the mistakes you made.

If you can't grow a beard this November, shave instead

By Mike Adams
Assistant Sports Editor

I've gone through the same pattern for five straight No-Shave Novembers.

I shave for the last time a few days before Halloween, hoping my inability to grow a full beard might be mitigated with a little extra time. My efforts are rewarded for the first few days of the month with something approaching decent facial hair. Surely, I tell myself, this is the year my beard finally fills in.

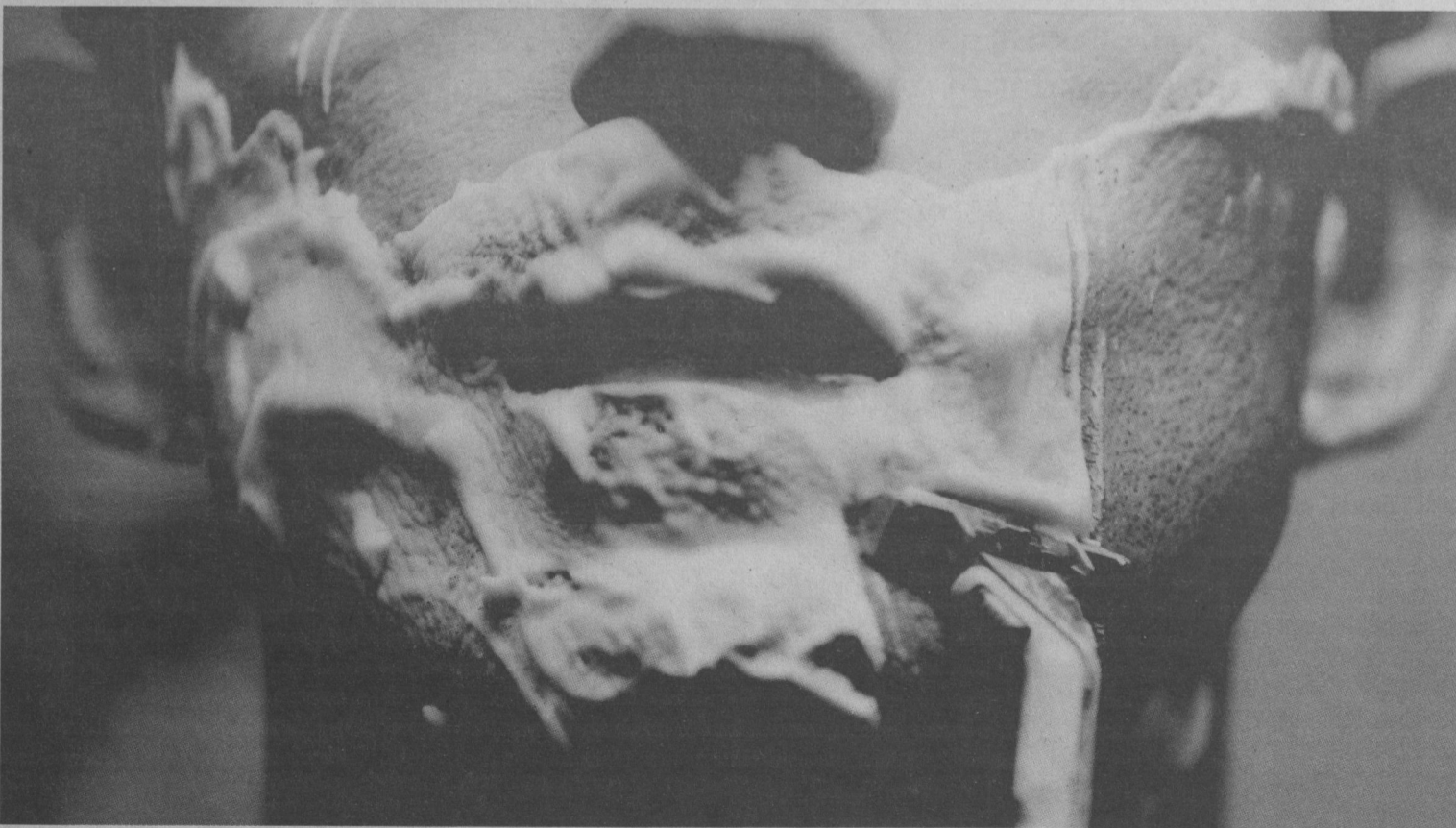
Then that dream, like all my dreams, is crushed by the merciless march of entropy.

Two weeks into November, I look like a mangy freak. ninety percent of my beard is just plain-old uneven, while the other 10 percent is busy burrowing its way into China. I shave, my groomed face an ever-present reminder of another defeat, my discarded hairs a glimpse into the abyss.

This is a plea to anybody who can relate to my plight: stop trying to participate in No-Shave November. No amount of scruff can ever cover your insecurities.

I'll make an exception for people growing their hair for selfless motives. If you're going unkempt for charity, you're cool. But for the rest of us spotty beta males, nothing beyond stubble will ever be acceptable.

Historically, the popularity of facial hair has waxed and waned in accordance with everything from the quality of razors to social views on masculinity. A quarter of all US presidents have sported some sort



SOBER RABBIT/FLICKR VIA CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

A man shaving carefully to avoid bleeding. No Shave November is a month-long journey in which participants forego shaving and grooming to raise awareness for cancer. If you can grow a beard, try shaving instead.

of hair on their face, most recently William Howard Taft from 1909-1913. James Harden, Yosemite Sam and Albus Dumbledore, arguably the three most influential men to ever walk the Earth, were all bearded as heck.

Modern America is more divided on the hairy face issue than ever before. After a hipster-led resurgence at the start of the decade, beards as a social trend have stagnated. Columnists proclaim the victory and

defeat of facial hair with equal fervor.

I'm here to tell you to stop worrying and love the shave. On a personal level, having a bad beard is like wearing a neon sign that says "I AM INSECURE ABOUT MY MASCULINITY." You deserve to let yourself be judged by your other qualities. Maybe you're a great breakdancer, maybe you moonlight as a serial killer. Maybe, just maybe, the Principality of Liechtenstein is searching for a clean-shaven version

of you to name successor to Prince Hans-Adam II. Until you shear your excess wool, how will anybody ever know?

Professionally, corporate America has given its opinion loud and clear: a resounding no. Forget whatever contrarian takes on workplace facial hair you have read over the last few years – the only companies you can run with a bad beard are based out of your mother's basement. Give up the dream. It's cramped down there.

So shave it all off, groom it, trim it. Do whatever you have to do to make yourself look as little like the guys on "Duck Dynasty" as humanly possible.

You'll thank yourself for that blessing when it's all over. Speaking from experience, no lumberjack fantasy or hidden double chin is worth the satisfaction that comes from not looking like a dweeb. Nobody likes a dweeb.

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THE STATESMAN

Football falls 27-6 to James Madison in FCS playoffs

By Joseph Konig

Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

One of the most successful seasons in Stony Brook Football history came to a sputtering end on Saturday against the reigning Football Championship Subdivision national champions, James Madison, in the second round of the FCS playoffs. The top-seeded Dukes picked off Seawolves junior quarterback Joe Carbone five times en route to a 26-7 victory at Bridgeforth Stadium.

"I thought we played hard to the final whistle," Stony Brook head coach Chuck Priore said in a post-game press conference. "The game was closer than the scoreboard in terms of how things went on the field, but we didn't perform up to our capabilities."

Everything that had worked for Stony Brook offensively this season stalled against a James Madison defense that allowed an FCS-best nine points per game entering the week. The Seawolves failed to execute consistently, getting shut out through three quarters even though the team's 311 total yards exceeded the Dukes' 304 total yards.

James Madison found the endzone immediately, needing only two minutes and 35 seconds of game clock to march down the field and score on the opening drive. Senior quarterback Bryan Schor kept the ball in the air the entire drive, completing all eight of his pass attempts.

For the next 15 minutes of game clock, the Colonial Athletic Association regular season champion Dukes and second place Seawolves traded



Junior running back Donald Liotine Jr. (No. 33) rushes in a game against Maine in November 2016. Stony Brook fell to top-seeded James Madison 27-6 Saturday.

punts. Despite receiving consistently favorable field position, the Stony Brook offense could not find its way on the scoreboard.

The Seawolves defense, however, played as well as it had all season. James Madison rushers ran for 49 yards and a touchdown on 38 attempts. Twice in the second quarter, Stony Brook's defense held the Dukes to field goals after Carbone interceptions gave the reigning champions excellent field position to capitalize on the Seawolves' mistakes. With a minute to go in the half, James Madison faced first and goal from the one-yard line and was forced to settle for a field goal.

Even though Schor finished with two touchdowns and 255 yards on 26-35 passing, Stony Brook defenders sacked him five times, including twice by junior outside linebacker Shayne Lawless. Senior safety Chris Cooper, sophomore nose tackle Brandon Lopez and junior middle linebacker Noah McGinty each had one.

Stony Brook's lone touchdown was a 37-yard pass from Carbone to graduate wide receiver Harrison Jackson in the fourth quarter. The corner-covering Jackson tripped and fell, leaving Jackson a wide open path to the end zone. The touchdown was the only score the team could muster.

On the day Carbone threw his 24th touchdown pass of the season, the third-most in program history. He also threw five interceptions. His performance on Saturday was a sharp contrast to what he showcased throughout the rest of his breakout junior season. After throwing four times as many interceptions as touchdowns in his first two seasons, Carbone threw only three all year and just one against FCS opponents entering Saturday.

The blame for Saturday's loss cannot be put entirely on Carbone, who finished with 207 yards on 15-36 passing. Two of the interceptions came off tipped passes. The fifth came

on a garbage time, desperation throw. Priore told the media after the game that Carbone's shoulder ailed him after he took a hard hit during the first drive of the game. Redshirt-freshman quarterback Tyquell Fields was pressed into service throughout the game for short stints.

One week after scoring six touchdowns and rushing for 370 yards against Lehigh, Stony Brook running backs scratched out 104 yards on the ground. The inability to establish a run game, a season-long advantage for the Seawolves, hurt the team on Saturday. Frequently faced with long yardage situations, Carbone rushed and miscalculated passes in an attempt to keep Stony Brook in the game.

Even though it ended with a loss, the Seawolves' 10-3 season was the program's most successful since 2012. The team's 10 wins this season was the first time Stony Brook has won more than five games in a season since moving to the CAA after the 2012 season. The Seawolves finished the regular season ranked No. 10 in the FCS STATS poll, the team's highest since the final week of 2012. The second round playoff exit also matches their previous trips to the FCS playoffs in 2011 and 2012.

At the beginning of the season, CAA coaches and media directors predicted the Seawolves would finish eighth out of 12 in the conference. Instead they finished second, behind James Madison, the reigning FCS national champions.

Stony Brook will travel back to Harrisonburg, Virginia next season on Oct. 27, 2018.

Women's Basketball falls in OT thriller to No. 25 'Cuse

By Chris Parkinson

Contributing Writer

Stony Brook Women's Basketball fell 81-70 to the undefeated No. 25-ranked Syracuse Orange in overtime in a thrilling match-up on Sunday afternoon. This marks Stony Brook's second-straight loss after starting the season with a program-best 5-0 record since being in Division I.

In overtime, Syracuse burst through early, with five points in the period's first two minutes to take the lead. Syracuse widened its lead in the paint, where two straight layups allowed for the team to go up 78-70, and ultimately win the game.

Despite the loss, head coach Caroline McCombs believes the game was a great experience builder for her team.

"I thought our team really responded well today, we got down early and fought back to make it a ballgame," McCombs said in a press release. "Syracuse is going to be an excellent team in the ACC and we were right there with them until the end. There are a lot of takeaways from this game. Closing out a game on an opponent's home floor will be very important for us as we move forward in the season."

The two teams came into the final quarter of regulation tied up at 55. Back-and-forth play ensued as redshirt-junior guard Isis Young nailed a three-pointer

to bring Syracuse in front. With just under 1:30 left in regulation, junior guard Shania Johnson, who led Stony Brook in points with 21, nailed a three-pointer to put Stony Brook up by five. After a defensive board on the next possession, sophomore guard Giolibeth Perez went to the line, looking to seal the victory for Stony Brook.

Perez missed both free throws and redshirt-junior forward Miranda Drummond took possession where sophomore guard Tiana Mangakahia put up a layup to keep her team within three points. Young then fouled Johnson, where she went one-for-two from the line. Mangakahia scored another layup to keep her team within two with 30 seconds left in the match-up. Syracuse forced a five-second violation as Stony Brook attempted to inbound the ball, giving the Orange an opportunity to tie the match-up.

With time winding down, Mangakahia drove down the lane and made her third consecutive layup in three straight Orange possessions with three seconds left. This would send the game into overtime tied at 69, where the Seawolves went on to lose.

Stony Brook started off the game at a slow pace, allowing Syracuse to take a 15-0 lead in the game's first four minutes. At the end of the quarter, Stony Brook was down 24-11, along with shooting 31 percent from the field.



Freshman forward McKenzie Busshee battles a defender in a game against Adelphi on Nov. 7. She scored 14 points in Stony Brook's overtime loss to No. 25 Syracuse.

The Seawolves found a way to shift the momentum with the help of freshman forward McKenzie Busshee and junior guard Jerell Matthews. The pair combined for 19 of the Seawolves' 23 total points in the quarter, erasing the deficit set by the Orange and going into the locker room with a 34-32 lead.

Matthews finished the game with a total of 13 points and eight rebounds. Busshee finished with 14 points, six boards and a team-best 78 percent shooting performance from the field.

The Seawolves defense held strong to complement its offensive outburst. Stony Brook didn't allow a single Syracuse point in eight minutes throughout the second quarter.

Stony Brook maintained an advantage on the glass throughout the game, and finished with 11 more rebounds than Syracuse. The team's 15 offensive rebounds allowed them to score 16 second chance points. Six of the offensive boards came from Busshee.

The second half saw more back-and-forth action, where the

two teams traded the lead a total of six times in the third quarter. Young gave Syracuse its first lead of the second half with her three-point performance. She drained three consecutive threes on three Syracuse possessions and finished the game with 12 points and four three-pointers.

With the loss, Stony Brook has now lost its past two match-ups, falling to a record of 5-2. The team returns home to the Island Federal Credit Union Arena on Wednesday, Dec. 6 to take on the Yale Bulldogs at 7 p.m.

SPORTS

Sturdivant caps off comeback win over Saint Francis

By Gregory Zarb
Assistant Sports Editor

With four seconds left on the shot clock and the game tied at 83, Stony Brook redshirt-sophomore forward Akwasi Yeboah drove toward the basket. The double team pressed him, and Yeboah passed the ball off to his teammate, senior forward Tyrell Sturdivant, who has been known to make clutch layups in the past. He took the shot, and a foul was called.

The layup counted, and the forward had a chance for a three-point play. The basket was the first time Stony Brook led all game since being up 4-0 one minute into the game. Head coach Jeff Boals wiped fake sweat off his brow during the post-game press conference and chuckled as he looked at the final stat sheet.

"Wow, wasn't that fun," Boals said.

Sturdivant converted a layup off Yeboah's pass with five seconds remaining in regulation to complete the comeback, after the team was down by as many as 18 points. The Seawolves won by a final score of 85-83 Saturday night at the Island Federal Credit Union Arena after Saint Francis' game-winning attempt bounced off the side of the rim.

However, Boals said the final play that resulted in the game-winning bucket was not meant for Sturdivant at all.

"The play was supposed to be a reverse backscreen lob to [senior forward Junior Saintel], and if he had the layup to take it," Boals said. "If not, we'd look for [Yeboah] coming off for a wide open shot. They did a good job defending it, and credit our guys. They didn't panic. To do what they did in four seconds, it was great on their part."

Sturdivant's heroics started way before making the layup. With the Red Flash on a two-on-one fast break opportunity, the forward put his body on the line, planting his feet, absorbing the contact and drawing a charging foul that lit up the arena with 39 seconds remaining.

"Down the stretch, you have to make game-winning plays," Sturdivant said. "As a senior, I have to sacrifice my body and my energy and our effort to make these game-winning plays. And I got a lucky call, because I thought I was in the charge circle."

Junior guard Jaron Cornish tied the game for Stony Brook after pulling up from beyond the arc with a defender draped all over him. Despite the poor shot choice, the ball swished into the net, tying the game for the Seawolves and giving Cornish his brightest moment as a member of the Seawolves.

"At halftime, as we came together, I realized that my teammates trusted me and my game," Cornish said. "It gave me the motivation and confidence to actually play harder and go score."

Stony Brook led the game for all of seven seconds because Saint Francis was firing on all cylinders. As a whole, the team shot 63 percent from three-

"Down the stretch, you have to make game-winning plays."

-Tyrell Sturdivant
Seawolves Forward



EMMA HARRIS / THE STATESMAN

Senior forward Tyrell Sturdivant shoots a free throw in the game against Saint Francis on Dec. 3rd. Sturdivant's layup with four seconds left gave Stony Brook the win.

point range and 60 percent from the field overall. The Red Flash were led by junior guard Andre Wolford, who had eight three-pointers for the game and ended the night with 26 points.

"They shot 64 percent from the field and 69 percent from three in the first half, then 57 percent from the field and 50 percent from three," Boals said. "So I don't know if it was us or them. Some of them might have been them and some of them might have been us. In the first half, our ball screen coverage extended us way too far out, which allowed them to throw the ball to the guy we were helping on."

Any time Stony Brook would attempt to go on a run and make a comeback, Saint Francis would either make a three-pointer or convert a shot and get fouled in

the process. This was the story of the first half, where the Red Flash led 46-31.

Boals said there needed to be a change in energy at halftime, which resulted in him starting Cornish and freshman forward Elijah Olaniyi over freshman guard Jordan McKenzie and Saintel respectively.

"Those guys are energy guys. They're energy givers," Boals said. "Both of those are getting better game-by-game, day-by-day. You have two new players into the system and they played hard. When you play hard, good things happen."

Olaniyi put in 13 points, his fifth straight game in double figures, while Cornish put in a season-high 18 points with five assists. Cornish also added in the

game-tying three-pointer with 40 seconds remaining.

Yeboah was one of the unsung players for Stony Brook Saturday night. He led the Seawolves with 19 points and one assist. His lone assist came on Sturdivant's game-winning layup.

Boals has loved what he has seen from his forward, considering how much his game has changed in a season.

"He's an inside-out threat. Last year, it was more outside, and towards the end of last year, he started going inside more," Boals said. "He's such a big strong kid that he's a difficult matchup, inside and out."

Stony Brook has a short turnaround, as the team will hit the road to take on LIU Brooklyn on Monday, Dec. 4 at 7 p.m.

Kylie Ohlmiller drafted No. 1 overall in UWLL Draft

By Kenneth Fermin
Contributing Writer

Capping off an already historic 2017, Stony Brook Women's Lacrosse senior attacker Kylie Ohlmiller was selected as the first overall draft pick in the United Women's Lacrosse League 2018 College Draft by the Boston Storm. Ohlmiller was one of seven players representing the Seawolves, who were the most represented program out of nearly 30 different colleges.

She had a record-breaking 2017 season, stepping up for the team after redshirt-senior attacker Courtney Murphy suffered a season-ending ACL injury just five games into the 2016-

17 campaign. Ohlmiller set the NCAA Division I single-season points record with 164 points, surpassing the previous record set in 2001 by Maryland attacker Jen Adams by 15 points. She scored at least five points in all but her first game, including a season-high 12 points against Bryant in the second game of the season.

Ohlmiller also set the new NCAA Division I single-season assists record with 86, topping Hannah Nielsen of Northwestern's 83 assists in 2009. She has led the team in assists for the past three years. The attacker is the first player in program history to have over 70 goals and assists in a single season.

Ohlmiller's performance in the 2017 season resulted in her being named the first women's lacrosse finalist in Stony Brook and America East history for the prestigious Tewaaron Award, which honors the top male and female college lacrosse player in the United States. Though she did not take home the Tewaaron, she was awarded Division I Attacker of the Year by the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association and ILWomen.

Other players that were drafted include Murphy, redshirt-senior defensive back Brooke Gubitosi, senior midfielder Samantha DiSalvo, senior defensive back Carolyn Carrera, senior midfielder Tiffany Zullo and

senior midfielder Emma Schait, who was the final pick of the UWLX draft.

Neither head coach Joe Spallina or Ohlmiller could be reached before publication.

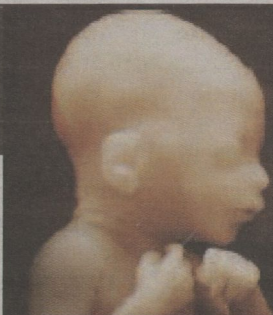


ARACELY JIMENEZ / STATESMAN FILE

Senior attacker Kylie Ohlmiller runs with the ball in a game against No. 9 USC back on March 24, 2017.

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