

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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sbstatesman.com

UPD finds "possible man with gun"

By Rebecca Liebson
News Editor

The Stony Brook University Police Department has concluded its search for a man believed to have a gun on campus.

At around 4:29 p.m. on Saturday, students received a text message and email alert regarding a "possible man with a gun" at Chapin Apartments. Students were told to shelter in place for an ongoing police investigation.

A second alert sent out roughly two hours later stated that the area had been searched and that there was no present danger, but police were now searching for a 2015 Toyota Yaris possibly driven by a white male in his mid-20s.

At 8 p.m., students received a final alert notifying them that the man in question was taken into custody with no incident. The message also noted that no weapon was recovered and that at no point during their investigation was a weapon seen.



ARACELY JIMENEZ/THE STATESMAN

Part of Jongil Ma's installation, "Simplicity Over Complexity," at the Charles B. Wang Center overlooks the outdoor garden. His sculptures of wooden strips combine tension and fluidity to make these colorful creations.

Foreign language departments combine amidst budget cuts

By Gary Ghayrat
Assistant News Editor

Three departments in the College of Arts and Sciences—European Languages, Literatures and Cultures; Hispanic Languages and Literature; and Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature—will be combined into one entity over the course of the 2017-18 academic year. The merger will alter language instruction in the coming year, beginning with the dismissal of at least three foreign language lecturers.

Full-time Russian lecturer Anna Geisherik is one of the lecturers who was notified last summer that her contract would not be renewed following this semester.

"I've given half of my life to the school, exactly half of my life," Geisherik said. She came to Stony Brook University as a graduate student in 1997 to earn her master's degree and doctoral degrees in Foreign Language Teaching, and would later go on

to become an adjunct before accepting her current position.

"I was hoping to stay here for my whole career," Geisherik said. "And I enjoyed the whole three years of a life that I've always wanted to have."

Although the College of Arts and Science's Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page states that there are no reductions planned for the school's language programs, Associate Professor of German Robert Bloomer said this is not the case.

After the Spring 2016 semester, admission to the German major was suspended when the second-to-last German professor retired. This left only Bloomer, another lecturer and an adjunct, to take on the course load. After Bloomer ultimately agreed to a reduced form of the major, it was reopened to new students.

Just days before the Fall 2017 semester, Bloomer said he was notified that the lone remaining adjunct had been let go. This left the other remaining lecturer, Birgit Viola, re-

sponsible for teaching the adjunct's courses. This also forced her to cancel two of her original classes.

Later in the semester, it was announced that Viola's contract would not be renewed for Spring 2018. In spite of her plans to retire in 2020 and receive her full pension, after 30 years at Stony Brook, Viola is forced to explore other career options or live off her savings for two years.

"I could work in a high school, but I would have to take a couple of courses to get a high school certificate," Viola said. "Who's going to hire a person for two years?"

Bloomer wrote, "knowing that it would be impossible to run the major or even the minor with only two persons let alone one, I immediately advised newly declared students to choose different academic paths, and guided students already in the program toward non-German electives as substitutes for the classes that were canceled and for those

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Patrice Nganang discusses Cameroon imprisonment

By Mike Adams
Assistant News Editor

For Patrice Nganang, returning home to Hopewell, New Jersey after spending nearly a month in a Cameroonian prison was a thrill he could barely put into words.

"I am simply happy, and filled with love and gratitude," he said. "I would have been in

jail today, and now I'm seeing my daughter play. I can't believe it."

The 37-year-old professor of the Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies program at Stony Brook was released from prison in Yaoundé, Cameroon by a court order on Wednesday,

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GEORGES SEGUIN/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS VIA CC BY-SA 3.0

After being detained in Cameroon for nearly a month, Nganang was released from prison on Dec. 27, 2017.



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GSO plagued with problems.

Encouraging more participation could curb them.

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Hockey ends losing streak with win.

Seawolves snap three-game losing streak in OT.

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Mascot
Stony Brook University

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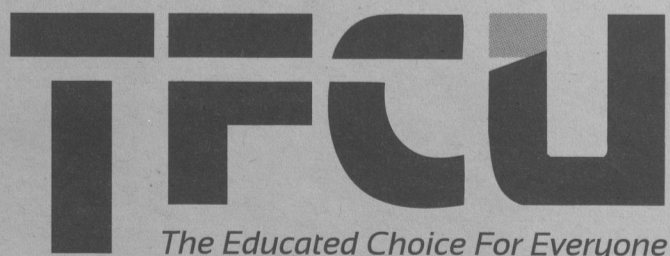
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Professor talks gov't discrimination in Cameroon

Continued from page 1

Dec. 27, after being detained by judiciary police since Dec. 6.

The official government account states that Nganang was detained for insulting Cameroonian President Paul Biya and issuing a death threat in a Facebook post. But the professor said he believes he was arrested for speaking out against Biya's treatment of the country's English-speaking minority in an article he published the day before.

"I was actually incarcerated because of my support for the English-speaking minority," Nganang said. "I spent three weeks in the Anglophone region and published a report. My interrogation was only about that report, what I did, who I met and what I talked about. That is the single thing I was interrogated about."

The split between Cameroon's English-speaking and French-speaking populations dates back to the country's founding. Before its independence, Cameroon's territory was split between two colonies, one French and one English. Cameroon's Francophone majority has held sway over the nation since the end of colonialism, but state-sponsored discrimination against the country's Anglophones only began with the 1982 election of Biya.

English-speaking Cameroonians feel they are treated as second-class citizens by their government, which has not hesitated to use the country's largely Francophone military to maintain order, often with violent results. In turn, Anglophone political resistance has occasionally led to deadly attacks against Nganang said it was Biya's response to a string of police killings in the region, and his orders for 15 villages to evacuate or be seen as accomplices of terrorism, that prompted him to write the article.

"It is so outrageous," he said. "The government inherited a country where this conflict did not exist at all and has manufactured a conflict over 30 years. To see the state waging a war against English-speaking Cameroonians, arresting them, that is really amazing. It simply doesn't make sense."

After spending several weeks with marginalized Anglophones, Nganang said he was prompted to write the impassioned Facebook post that supposedly landed him in hot water with Biya's administration.

"It was an emotionally charged piece from traveling three weeks in a region that is really under assault," Nganang said. "You see

the military everywhere, it is a totally occupied zone. I see the total misery of people in that region. The article I wrote for the French magazine was a normal report, but I had so much emotion from what I saw that I needed to write something to express that."

The professor's arrest kicked off a global protest campaign. An open letter from Princeton University calling for Nganang's release garnered signatures from hundreds of American professors, including Robert Harvey, the former chair of Stony Brook's Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature program. A GoFundMe page organized by Nganang's wife, Nyasha Bakare, to help cover his legal fees raised \$4,635 in 19 days. The professor's eight-year-old daughter Nomsa even wrote a letter that went viral about how her father might miss her birthday.

Amid the growing backlash against his arrest, Nganang remained oblivious to the attention he was receiving back home. In a prison cell roughly 6,000 miles away, the professor was afforded little contact with the outside world and spent his days reading once he convinced the guards to let him have books.

"I wasn't aware of it," Nganang said. "I was kept away from communication for very long. And after a while, I simply decided not to follow it so much... It was when I came out that I was briefed, and I saw all the headline and all the articles. I was really surprised."

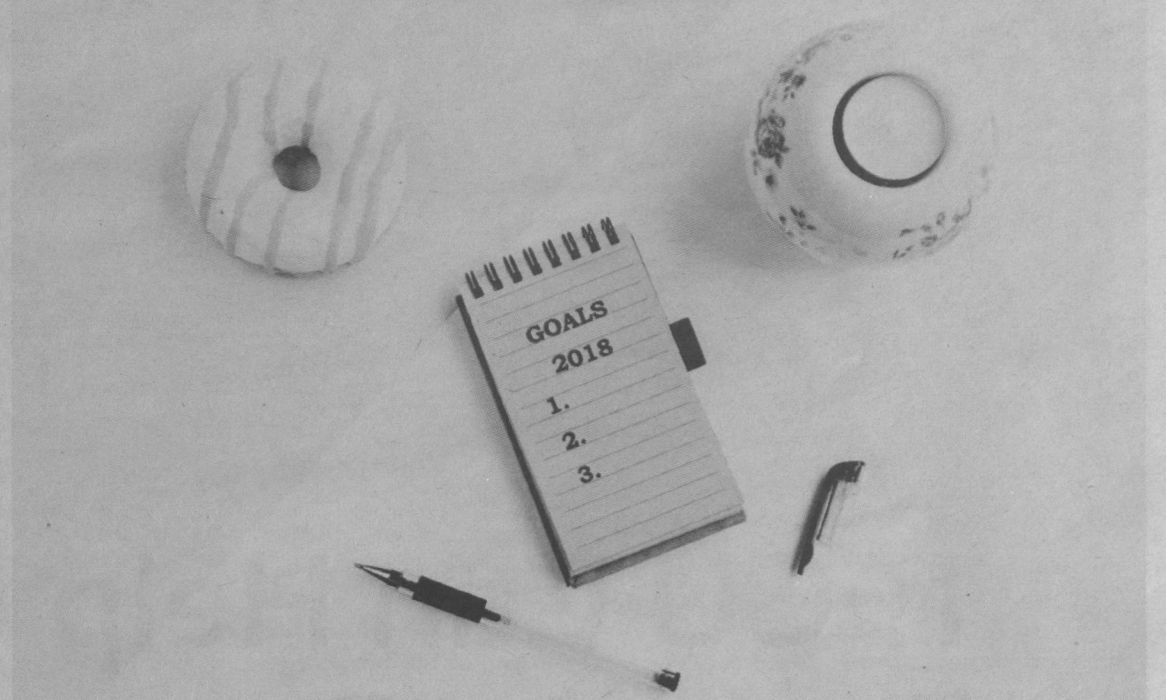
Nganang was jubilant when thanking the people who lobbied for his release, giving the protesters total credit for his ability to return home.

"It made such a huge difference," he said. "Thank you so much, that I would like to say to teachers, to students, to lawyers, journalists, to friends across the globe. Today I would have been in jail in Cameroon, literally. And now I am in the U.S. with my family. That is because of that campaign."

Emmanuel Simh, Nganang's lawyer, told reporters the professor had his passport confiscated while in Cameroon, and has officially been exiled from the country of his birth. Even so, the professor doubts the ban will last very long, and predicts the Biya administration will go the way of recently deposed Zimbabwean dictator Robert Mugabe.

"I consider it to be my exile, because I'm a writer anyway and exile is part of what writers endure," Nganang said. "The current government in Cameroon is going to fall anyway, so it is a matter of time and then I'll go back to Cameroon after there is change there."

New year, new me? The efficacy of the resolutions we make



MARCO VERCH/FLICKR VIA CC BY 2.0

Every new year, many people make resolutions. However, according to research, less than 10% actually feel like they were successful in achieving them at the end of the year.

By **Brianne Ledda**
Staff Writer

It's a familiar sight: the gym parking lot packed for the first few weeks in January, swarmed by people with shiny new resolutions for the upcoming year. But as the days grind on, the fervor slowly begins to ebb.

Most people do not keep their New Year's resolutions. According to Statistic Brain research collected in 2018, only 9.2 percent of people feel they have been successful in achieving past resolutions. So if we're not going to keep them, then why do we make them?

Dr. Jeffrey Romano, a psychologist with Long Island Health Care, said, "It's an attempt to start the year off on a more positive note."

Another answer may lie in tradition. The custom of making New Year's resolutions began about 4,000 years ago, with the ancient Babylonians. During a 12-day religious festival in mid-March, known as Akitu, the Babylonians would

pledge loyalty to their king and make "resolutions" to their gods to repay debts and return borrowed objects.

The tradition continued with the Romans, c. 46 B.C. The Julian calendar began the new year on Jan. 1, during the month named for the Roman deity Janus, their god of transitions. Double-headed, he was believed to have one face looking toward the new year with the other facing the previous. Romans would honor their god with sacrifices and resolutions of good conduct in the upcoming year.

Christianity later adopted a similar practice. The first day of the new year became time traditionally spent in prayer, reflecting on misdemeanors in the prior year and making resolutions to do better the next.

Now, the tradition has become more secular, with people mainly resolving to implement some form of self improvement, without deities or religious strings attached. According to a Marist poll rounding out 2017, 44 percent of Americans say that they are very

likely or likely to make resolutions this year.

According to the same Marist poll, the leading resolution, at 16 percent, was to be a better person, edging out the number two resolution, to lose weight, at 10 percent, for the first time since 2014.

"If you have a good resolution, it's all about meaning," Stephen Post, director of the Stony Brook Center for Medical Humanities, Compassionate Care and Bioethics, said. "People should have nobility of purpose and when they want to aspire to it in a resolved way, they tend to prosper, they tend to flourish and have more gratifying lives."

Post recommends writing resolutions down in a journal and coming back to them every day over a cup of tea, or during meditation.

"[Resolutions] should be challenging, but they should be plausible," Post said. He added that sharing your goals may help you follow through on them.

Romano suggested making resolutions with a group of people. "To do it in isolation results in failure very often."



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICE NGANANG

Professor Patrice Nganang (far right) in Cameroon's Anglophone region with Agbor Nkongho and other leaders of the country's English-speaking community.

Foreign language programs face personnel cuts in merger

Continued from page 1

that are not taking place in Spring 2018.”

“It frustrates me,” Micayla Beyer, a junior physics and German major, said. “I love the language. It’s like my escape from all of my hard classes is going to the German class, and it just boosts my mood.”

Since Beyer declared her major in Fall 2017, the school will let her complete the requirements, although not without considerable difficulties. Beyer was forced to reschedule her study abroad to her final semester so that she would be able to attend the last German classes being offered during Spring 2018.

According to the College of Arts and Sciences’ FAQ page “tenured faculty from the Department of Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies have been redirected into language-based majors. These tenured faculty have relevant training in language and literature instruction and

will continue the strength of these programs.”

During a SUNY Board of Trustees Meeting last November, linguistics professor Lori Repetti voiced concerns about this practice, adding that she and her colleagues were unhappy with how Sacha Kopp, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has managed the university’s so-called “financial crisis.”

“The personnel loss in the language programs has been so great that in order to cover even the most basic courses, the Dean has proposed that research faculty teaching these language courses,” Repetti said. “These faculty are trained to do that and it takes them away from what their primary mission is, which is research and specialized education.”

Sophie Leroy, associate professor from the Department of Cultural Studies & Comparative Literature, wrote in an email that she was reassigned to teach French courses instead of her usual comparative literature courses in the past semesters.

“I do not think literature



PHOTO COURTESY OF STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Sacha Kopp, has denied that there is a financial crisis at Stony Brook.

specialists should be reassigned to teach low-division language courses on a systemic basis,” Leroy said. “This is not why we were primarily hired at Stony Brook.”

When asked for Kopp’s comment on the matter, his office provided the following state-

ment in December: “The claim that the University is in fiscal crisis is inaccurate. All programs across the University are currently undergoing review and making staffing adjustments.”

John Bailyn, a professor in the department of linguistics and a member of the Steering Com-

mittee of the LLRC, said “it’s like a lose-lose because you lose the really good people whose lives are devoted language pedagogy from teaching these classes and you lose the research specializations of those research faculty who are now being thrown into that position.”

“Quality of the classes are affected,” Bailyn said. “And what about the class that’s not being taught by the professor who’s now having to teach this thing against his/her will and against all standards?”

Bailyn said organizing a strong language teaching program at a healthy research university is difficult, but it can be solved with creative administration and faculty without significant financial investments.

“I think the positive message is that Stony Brook could be and should be a leader in foreign language teaching, teacher training, pedagogy, research about learning languages, the range of languages offered. There are so many ways to do that,” uidgetailyn said. “And they don’t have to cost money.”

CAMPUS EVENT CALENDAR

Jan. 22

**FIRST
DAY OF
CLASSES!**

Jan. 24

STRIDE Brown Bag
Lunch: Navigating
Adobe Illustrator

When: 12 p.m.

Where: Institute for
Advanced Compu-
tational Science

Jan. 25

Chemistry Depart-
ment Seminar

When: 4 p.m. -
5:15 p.m.

Where: Chemistry
Building 412

Jan. 27

Imago Theatre — La
Belle — Lost in the
World of Automaton

When: 4 p.m.

Where: Staller Cen-
ter Main Stage

Jan. 27

Men’s Basketball
vs. Albany

When: 7 p.m.

Where: Island Fed-
eral Credit Union
Arena

Jan. 28

MET Opera — Live
in HD — TOSCA

When: 12:55 p.m. -
4 p.m.

Where: Staller Cen-
ter Main Stage

Jan. 31

Black History
Month Ceremony

When: 12:50 p.m. -
2:20 p.m.

Where: SAC Sidney
Gelber Auditorium

Jan. 31

Men’s Basketball
vs. UMBC

When: 7 p.m.

Where: Island Fed-
eral Credit Union
Arena

Feb. 1

UNITI Cultural Cen-
ter Welcome Back
Party

When: 8 p.m. - 10
p.m.

Where: SAC Room
169

Feb. 3

Men’s Basketball
vs. Hartford

When: 7 p.m.

Where: Island Fed-
eral Credit Union
Arena

Feb. 3

FELA! The Concert

When: 8 p.m.

Where: Staller Cen-
ter Main Stage

Feb. 5

Black History
Month: Hip Hop in
America

When: 4 p.m.

Where: Melville
Library

Feb. 5

Women’s Basket-
ball vs. Binghamton

When: 7 p.m.

Where: Island Fed-
eral Credit Union
Arena

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Cranberries' O'Riordan leaves lasting rock legacy

By Kayla Mckiski
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Men and women in pubs across Ireland toasted to the life of Dolores O'Riordan on Monday, Jan. 15. The Limerick-native and frontwoman of the alternative rock band The Cranberries was found dead in her hotel room at the age of 46 earlier that morning.

Known for her sweet airy voice and diary-like songwriting, O'Riordan's music was fitting for any '90s romantic comedy soundtrack.

The band's first hit song, "Linger," from its 1993 debut album "Everybody Else Is Doing It, So Why Can't We?" beautifully packages infatuation and uncertainty.

She sings, "But I'm in so deep / You know I'm such a fool for you / You've got me wrapped around your finger."

Around Valentine's Day of the next year, a polished version of the wistful track peaked at No. 8 on the Hot 100.

The lyrics, written by an 18-year-old O'Riordan, were inspired by a night she had at a club called Madonna's.

"This guy asked me to dance and I thought he was lovely," O'Riordan told The Irish Times. "Until then, I'd always thought that putting tongues in mouths was disgusting, but when he gave me my first proper kiss, I did indeed 'have to let it linger.'"

"I couldn't wait to see him again," she continued. "But at the next disco, he walked straight past me and asked my friend to dance. I was devastated. Everyone saw me being dumped, publicly, at the disco. Everything's so dramatic when you're 17, so I poured it into the song."

Like "Linger," the single "Dreams" (also from the debut album) epitomizes the dreamlike atmosphere O'Riordan's voice was capable of creating. Guitars twinkle as she sings, "And now I tell you openly, you have my heart so don't hurt me."

Singles "I Can't Be With You" and "Ode To My Family" from The Cranberries' 1994 best-selling record, "No Need to Argue," show off her brogue and soft sound centerstage. Notable songs like "When You're Gone" from the 1996 album "To The Faithful Departed" and "You and Me" from the 1999 album "Bury the Hatchet" also display her tender side.

However, O'Riordan's voice was not limited to sweetness; she proved to be an Irish firecracker.

The band's biggest hit, "Zombie," from its sophomore album, "No Need to Argue," catapulted The Cranberries into international stardom and showcased O'Riordan's ferocious side. There is an agonizing beauty in her voice as she howls the chorus over distorted guitars, "What's in



EVA RINALDI / FLICKR VIA CC BY-SA 2.0

Irish rock singer Dolores O'Riordan performing at the Enmore Theater in Sydney, Australia. The former frontwoman for The Cranberries passed away on Monday, Jan. 15.

your head, in your head / Zombie, zombie, zombie-ie-ie, oh."

The 1994 protest song was inspired by the deaths of two young boys killed in a street bombing by the Irish Republican Army the year prior.

In the first verse she sings, "Another head hangs lowly / Child is slowly taken / And the violence

caused such silence / Who are we mistaken."

More of O'Riordan's aggressive side can be heard in "Promises" from "Bury The Hatchet" when she growls about a divorce, "All the promises we made / All the meaningless and empty words I prayed." In the anti-drug cry "Salvation" from "To The Faithful Departed," she commands over

a brisk grunge-pop beat, "To all the kids with heroin eyes / Don't do it, don't do it."

Every contribution she made to The Cranberries in her 28-year career was pretty. Between her sugary delivery of lovelorn lyrics and bewitching primal screams, Dolores O'Riordan's talent will linger long after her death.

Review: "101 Secrets For Your Twenties" inspires the soul

By Taylor Ha
Contributing Writer

This past holiday season, the question asked of every college senior popped up at the dinner table: What are your plans after graduation?

Eleven pairs of eyes swiveled toward me as I cleared my throat and set down my fork.

"You know..." I began, trying to sound cheerful. "I'll basically be looking for jobs."

My aunts and uncles were just curious. But when you're a 21-year-old on the brink of graduating from college, that's one of the most terrifying questions you can ask because for many the answer is, "I don't know."

"101 Secrets For Your Twenties" by Paul Angone is a wonderful starting point to help answer that question. It is a 208-page, post-college version of "Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide."

Angone, a keynote speaker and the founder of All Groan Up, a millennial-targeted website, tackles juggling expectations with reality, the struggles of forging and maintaining meaningful friendships in adulthood, navigating the work world and the late night blues of social media. He shares these nuggets of wisdom with wit, self-deprecating humor and a down-to-earth attitude.

For a bit of humor, readers can look no further than Secret #5, "Don't ever, ever check Facebook when you're: A. Depressed. B.

Drinking. C. Depressed and drinking. D. Unemployed. E. Struggling with being blessed with singleness while some of your friends seem to be blessed with a Brad Pitt lookalike and that blazing white picket fence shining with the glory of the American Dream on steroids. OR - F. Anytime after 9:17 p.m."

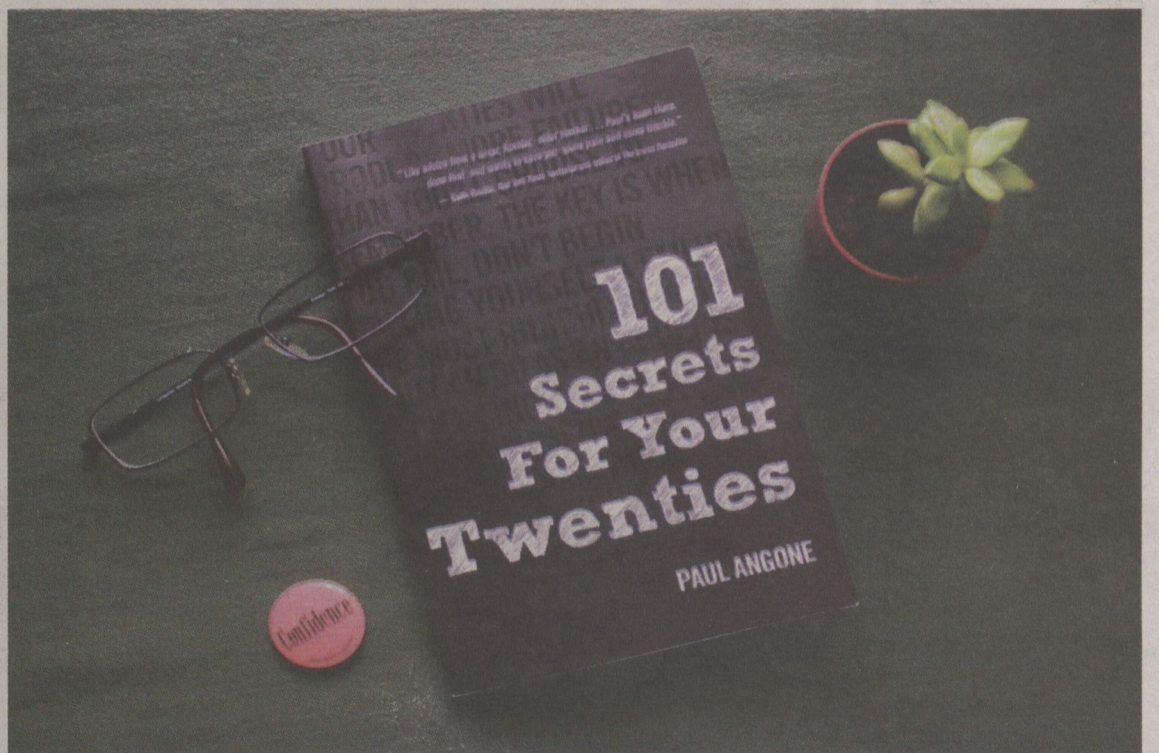
His 101 "secrets" are the chicken soup for the 20-something-year-old soul - witty, but firm reminders that they are not alone on this journey, and that they will be more than okay a decade from now. For me, they were the best 'chicken soup' I've ever tasted. (No offense, Mom.)

Secret #6 says, "Life will never feel like it's supposed to."

For me, life does not feel like it's supposed to. I've studied journalism for nearly four years, but my major feels more like a lover than a soulmate. And I don't have a job lined up after college like I'm "supposed to." I do know that I love to write narratives, capture life with my Canon Rebel t3i and travel. I'm positive that I can't stomach needles, calculus and computer programming. I've crossed dozens of careers off my list. One day, I'll find the best one for me. Not everyone follows the same clear-cut career path.

One secret in particular, Secret #25, hit home hard.

"Your 20s will produce more failure than you'll choose to remember," Angone wrote. "The key is, when you fail don't begin calling yourself a failure."



TAYLOR HA/THE STATESMAN

A photo of Paul Angone's "101 Secrets For Your Twenties." Angone mentions is that your 20's will be filled with failure, however, the key is to not call yourself a failure.

Last June, "failure" was the only word I could think of. I had applied to over 20 internships, but hadn't landed a single one. For a few weeks, I was an Internet-surfing vagrant. I sat in my bed, scouring Indeed, Mediabistro and LinkedIn for last-minute openings. I typed cover letter after cover letter in an attempt to feel optimistic rather than envious of all college students who had an internship. By mid-July, I ended up becoming an intern at two companies in Man-

hattan. But I'll never forget how I felt at the start of the summer: dejected, ashamed and defeated. Moral of the story: There's always a light at the end of the tunnel. Some people have longer tunnel lengths, but you'll get to the end.

For any reader feeling gloomy, Secret #41 is just what you need. It's a secret disguised as a zany, foot-tapping nursery rhyme that will remind you of Dr. Seuss's "Oh, the Places You'll Go!" The only difference is

that the Sneetches, the Whos and the Fox in Socks are not the stars of the show. The star is you, the lost reader, and Jeopardy! host Alex Trebek - the guy who seems to have all the answers.

Trebek/Angone says, "Just don't give up hope. That's what overcomers do best. No matter their failures, they rise above the unrest. Because the key is perseverance. It's not sexy, but it's true. And I swear, very soon, you'll know exactly what to do."

Student Perspective: "Master of None" parallels Ansari's reality

Thomas James

Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

On Jan. 13, Babe.net, a women's news and lifestyle site, published the story of a woman who accused actor and comedian Aziz Ansari of inappropriate sexual behavior after a date the pair had last September. The article came out six days after Ansari won a Golden Globe for his Netflix comedy, "Master of None." In the show, Ansari portrays a character who is unable to properly communicate in intimate scenarios in a way similar to Ansari's publicized intimate night.

In the beginning of season two, Dev Shah, played by Ansari, moves to Italy to learn how to make pasta, and becomes close friends with an Italian woman named Francesca. Later, Francesca and her boyfriend, Pino, visit Dev in New York City.

While her boyfriend works, Francesca goes on adventures with Dev and he quickly develops feelings for her. After professing his love, Francesca admits that she has feelings for him, but she needs time to decide what to do as it is a difficult choice for her.

In the season finale, "Buona Notte," Francesca's internal struggle is centerstage. Dev desperately tries coaxing her to be with him. Since Francesca has to go back to Italy soon, every conversation revolves around the ultimatum: Pino or Dev.

In the Babe article, the woman under the anonymous name, "Grace," recalls her distressing night with Ansari. In Grace's account of the night, real-life Ansari established an atmosphere that was comprised of constant sexual activity. Every time she refused one sexual act, Ansari tried convincing her

into another. Only after repeated attempts by Ansari at intercourse, the two sat on his couch to watch TV until Grace abruptly left out of sheer discomfort.

Similarly, in the beginning of "Buona Notte," Dev kisses Francesca despite her wishes and she leaves without saying a word. Later, when Francesca tells him that she doesn't want to hurt him, Dev accuses her of using him and asks her if she was being fair to him. Once again, she uncomfortably decides to leave.

As a champion for feminism and author of "Modern Romance," a book on dating etiquette, Ansari has not shied away from discussing these issues. Yet, today Ansari sits in the same boat as his own character.

Following the article, Ansari released a statement describing how he misread her signals and that he still continues to support the cultural movement to recognize inappropriate sexual behavior. Upon later reflection, Ansari acknowledged that she was clearly uncomfortable.

For Dev, charm and quirkiness are what he uses to seduce women. In serious moments with Francesca, Dev cracks corny jokes.

According to Grace, Ansari is guilty of the same issue. When he tried to push for sex, Grace responded with, "Next time." In response, Ansari offered to pour her another glass of wine and count it as their second date.

The true parallel between this episode and Grace's story is how crudely intimacy is built from seemingly nothing.

As the episode approaches its end, there is no direct communication between Dev and Francesca anymore. Dev makes a pro and

con list about why they should be together. Meanwhile, with her boyfriend nearby, Francesca scrolls through pictures and videos of her and Dev. In the next scene, and after no on-screen communication between the two whatsoever, the episode unceremoniously ends with Dev and Francesca in bed together.

Is Ansari leaving the details of how this enormous leap happened up to the audience? Or is he simply incapable of stringing together the actions that lead two lovers into bed? Dev and Francesca were at odds with each other the entire episode. Yet the final scene indicates

that flames suddenly emerged. The progression is puzzling and parallels the nature of Grace's story.

Ansari consistently created a sudden resurgence of passion without explanation. Grace describes herself as "feeling uncomfortable at how quickly things escalated." She complimented his marble countertops. And, as if by invitation, Ansari started kissing and undressing her within moments.

The depictions of sexual scenes on screen have the power to influence how a person expects sexual situations to develop in real life.

But on screen, this type of encounter intensifies within seconds, leaving important initiations subject to the viewer's imagination. Simple communication, like establishing verbal consent, isn't part of this medium's vocabulary.

Ansari is likely far from done in the entertainment business, so one can only wonder if his life will continue to imitate his art. As the world listens to more women share their stories of sexual assault, perhaps a shift in how society perceives intimate dialogues will change the way the it is developed in film and on television.



DAVID SHANKBONE/Flickr VIA CC BY 2.0

Actor and comedian Aziz Ansari at a red carpet in 2012. Ansari was accused earlier this month of inappropriate sexual behavior toward a woman he went on a date with.

The "Star Wars" of 60s France fails in the 21st century

By Claudia Motley

Contributing Writer

"Star Wars: The Last Jedi," the eighth installment of the famous space odyssey, recently had the second-largest opening of all time, grossing \$220 million domestically. The saga has won the hearts of millions since 1977, yet a similar story has been seen before, and it debuted in print nearly a decade before "Episode 4: A New Hope" made its premiere.

It all started in the mid-1960s in the French magazine Pilote, where the comic "Valérian et Laureline" was first published. It tells the story of two agents, Valérian and Laureline, who travel through the galaxy protecting interplanetary peace and humankind itself.

Many scenes in the original "Star Wars" trilogy appear to be carbon copies of panels from "Valérian et Laureline." The two agents travel in a spaceship similar to the Millennium Falcon, a staple of the "Star Wars" saga. The famous "Star Wars" scene where Princess Leia is held captive by Jabba the Hutt is a replica of the scene in the Valérian volume, "The World Without Stars." Thrillist lists not only these two accounts but a slur of others that would leave many "Star Wars" followers stunned.

Luc Besson, a director best known for his work on "The Fifth Element,"

"Taken" and "Lucy," alongside Jean-Claude Mézières, co-creator of the comics, discussed the idea of making a movie adaptation in the late 90s. Unfortunately, too much of the Valérian story required special effects, and computer-generated imagery

(CGI) was still in development. In 2009, the U.S. blockbuster, "Avatar," proved that CGI was at a stage where the Valérian dream could come true.

The execution of "Valérian and the City of a Thousand Planets," released summer 2017, was phenomenal, but

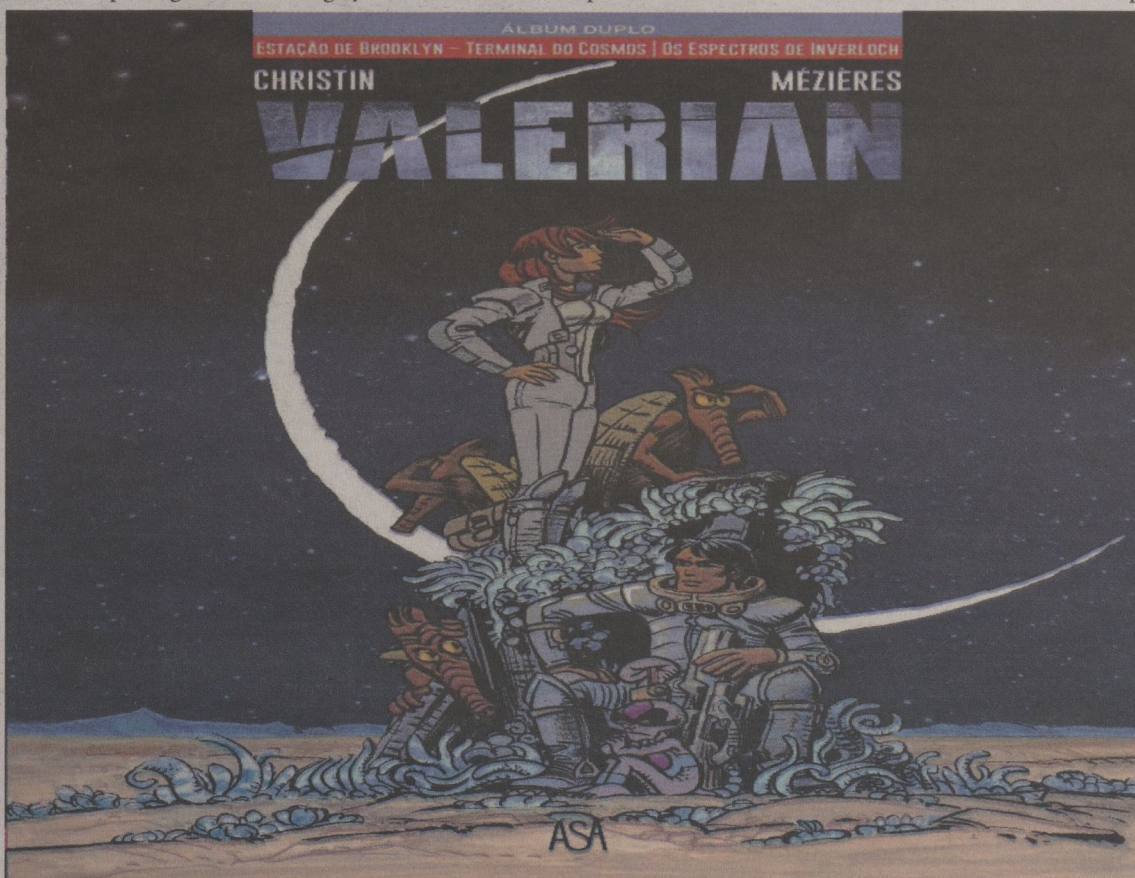
despite a solid storyline and visuals, the movie was a huge domestic flop. American moviegoers knew too little about the origins of the story, and as the Star Wars franchise was making its comeback, "Valérian and the City of a Thousand Planets" ended up

being overshadowed and, ultimately, unrecognized. Not only did it make very little in the U.S., grossing only about \$40 million, the movie made an 80% drop in China its second weekend. The box office turnout was not enough to cover the movie's hefty \$150 million budget (making it the most expensive French film ever made), and has left EuropaCorp, the studio in charge of Besson's reimagining of the comic, in shambles.

Despite the lack of success, Besson is not deterred from making the sequels.

"There [are] many countries where, actually, it was really good... It hurts in U.S., and it hurts for the rest of the world because of that, but I think that there is still lots of people who heard about the film and maybe want to see it... if it goes normally then, yeah, I want to do the number two for sure," Besson told entertainment website Collider. "Valérian" was the third-highest grossing film in France in 2017.

While "Star Wars" continues to soar in success, one of its sources of inspiration is facing a brick wall. Commercially, "Star Wars" is a domestic sellout, and it doesn't seem that U.S. citizens will be looking any other way but the way of the force until the hype softens. Until then, Besson's work remains, unfortunately, the universe's underrecognized gem in science fiction.



INTERGALACTIC ROBOT

A mock cover of the French science fiction mid-19th century comic, "Valérian et Laureline." The comic precedes the "Star Wars" trilogy despite little recognition.

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.

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

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GAGE SKIDMORE/FLICKR VIA CC BY-SA

Donald Trump at the 2015 Conservative Political Action Conference in National Harbor, Maryland. The president has been criticized for physical attributes.

Not all criticism is created equal

By Genie Ruzicka
Contributing Writer

Trump is a bigot who stoked the racist fears and prejudices of his base to engender support, a misogynist who has been accused of sexual assault by almost 20 women and a documented liar. All of the above are examples of verifiable criticisms rooted in facts and evidence that have bearing on his character and/or a substantive effect on policies and legislation that can affect the American people. However, there is a growing trend of criticisms of Trump that are the opposite of the above. These criticisms are not verifiable, do not have a tangible bearing on his character or policy decisions and seem to be rooted in malice rather than fact.

This type of criticism is often cloaked as either “humor” or “professional” opinions. You can see it almost every night on the “The Late Show with Stephen Colbert” when he shows pictures of Trump in tight-fitting clothes to mock his appearance, or in the guise of serious journalism on “The Last Word with Lawrence O’Donnell” when he repeatedly calls Trump words like “crazy” or “psycho” and convenes a panel of psychiatrists to “diagnose” Trump. These types of criticisms abound. Trump is criticized as fat, lazy, ugly, dumb, crazy, unstable, as having dementia or narcissistic personality disorder, or as having different types of kinks. These type of criticisms are usually found coming from liberal/progressive TV personalities who seem to want to prove just how much they are against Trump. The harsher they are, the more they are rebelling against the administration. Audiences see this as

speaking truth to power. The impulse to stoop to this type of criticism is powerful. People want someone who they see as doing harm to their country to be taken down a peg, or 10. This seems especially enticing in the wake of reports and TV appearances that suggest Trump has a need to be liked by others. However, in the effort to one-up someone seen as harmful, the people who resort to these types of criticisms actually end up doing more harm than good.

One reason these criticisms are harmful is because many of them have no actual bearing on Trump’s ability to be president, instead acting as a distraction to important policy issues. Most importantly, they can further marginalize those who occupy or are seen as occupying the identities that are recklessly placed onto Trump. Cultural forces such as fatphobia, mental health stigma and kink shaming are real and have tangible effects on those who experience them.

People who are seen as fat, in addition to being openly and routinely mocked in popular culture, are especially marginalized when it comes to medical care. Fat people are seen as inherently unhealthy and many times, when they go to the doctor, any medical issues they may have are attributed to their weight. This can lead to inadequate care and even misdiagnosis. Criticizing Trump as fat is, in many cases, equating his disgusting personality with his body type.

Mental health stigma is also real and pervasive. People with mental illnesses are seen as more violent than the rest of the population, when in actuality they are more likely to be the victims of crime. Mental illness is so often relegated to “craziness”

or “instability” that people who are actually suffering delay seeking help and getting treatment, or never end up doing so at all. Criticizing Trump as mentally ill can cause people to believe that anyone with a mental illness is unstable, unreliable and unfit for a powerful position.

Criticizing Trump for what he may or may not enjoy sexually can further the stigma against people with kinks. Trump’s supposed kinks are presented as evidence of a deviant personality, when in reality what you consensually enjoy has no bearing on your character. It is also mind-boggling that people criticize Trump more for allegedly liking golden showers than for allegedly assaulting, groping and raping women, which, in my opinion does reflect on his character and who he is as a leader.

One of my biggest objections to criticizing Trump in these ways is because it excuses why Trump is the way he is. Writing him off as ugly or crazy and using those as reasons for why he is racist or a liar lets the culture that created him off the hook. Trump is a rich, white man who received million plus dollar loans from his father and still claims he built his business from the ground up. He was ridiculously unqualified to be president but still won over one of the most politically qualified candidates in history. He got to where he was by abusing his power – a power that was left unchecked because of his privilege and position in society. He is a racist who was raised by an alleged member of the KKK. Calling him crazy is to excuse the racism this country was built on and the mindsets that are still prevalent enough today to get Trump elected.

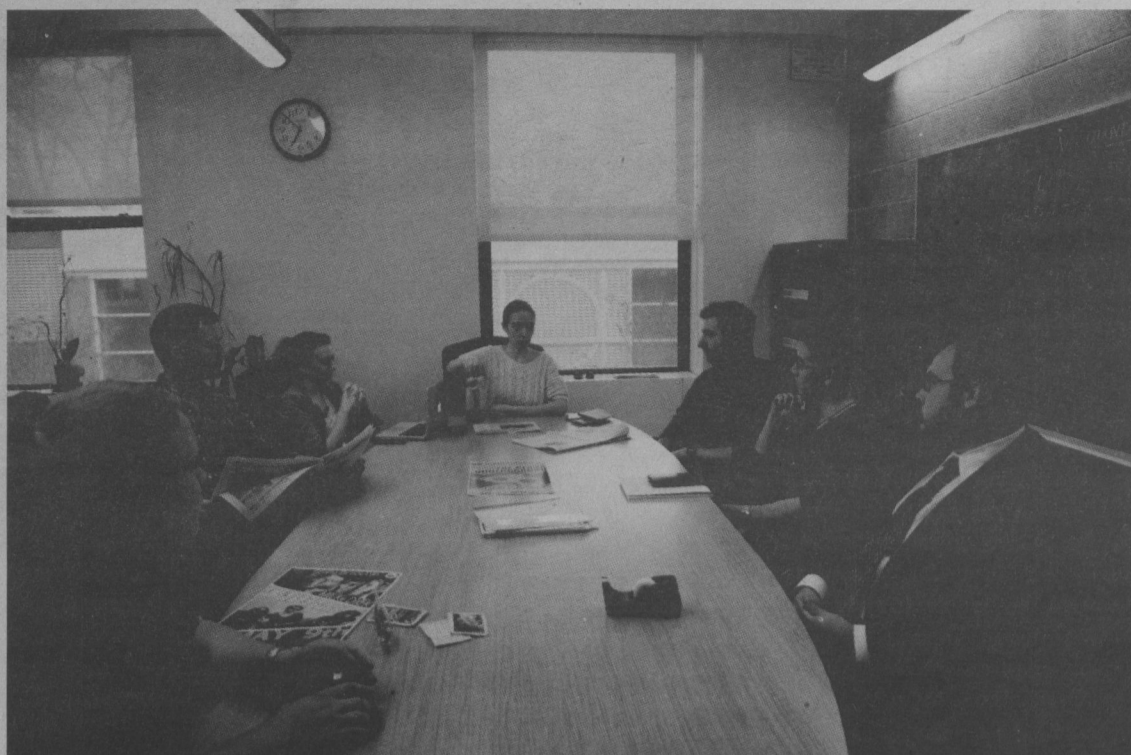
But yeah, he’s probably a bad president because he’s fat.

We need open meetings for the Graduate Student Organization

By Bryan Carroll
Contributing Writer

For three weeks near the end of the fall semester, the Graduate Student Organization's website went dark. It was not breached or impacted in the same manner as a certain political party's website on Long Island. The lack of access to the GSO's website was the error from poor fiscal planning by the Executive Committee for the Graduate Student Organization (GSO). Particularly, the GSO failed to pay its website hosting bill on time. In turn, the website was taken offline until the host provider received proper payment. Can you imagine that? A student group on campus that has a budget of close to \$662,000 could not pay a bill on time. It is a calamitous situation that an on-campus student organization run by stressed graduate students also needs to worry about hosting fees as well as their teaching assignments and studies all at the same time. It is also odd to fathom the reason why the campus has not guaranteed a certain level of help that it could offer to all student organizations. The institution where I did my undergraduate provided website hosting to the campus organizations at no charge because it was so minimal. However, the GSO is currently responsible for the maintenance and hosting of its website.

During this blackout, the graduate community's ability to download voucher forms necessary for reimbursement and their ability to de-stress during finals was severely impacted because they did



ANUSHA MOOKHERJEE/STATESMAN FILE

Graduate students at Stony Brook University in a meeting. Efforts should be made to promote involvement of graduate students in the Graduate Student Organization.

not know what was being offered by the GSO. As graduate students worried about finals, they could not find outlets for recreation because the website with that information was taken down. The GSO collects a student activity fee from every graduate student at the start of each semester and uses that money to hold events throughout the year. Although the Executive Committee for the GSO has published a public apology for the inconvenience on Facebook, I believe more work needs to be done to mitigate any similar issue from occurring again.

Therefore, the Executive Committee should take certain

actions that would remedy this in the future and invite more participation from graduate students. As a suggestion, the committee could adopt administrative policies that promote more graduate involvement in their daily operations by following a cue from the Stony Brook Council and list its executive committee meetings on its public calendar. Presently, the Executive Committee does not publish its meetings in advance nor does it allow for public questions during their meetings—executive or otherwise. To make matters worse, the GSO Senate adopted a policy that requires candidates running

for a student position to attend two meetings to be considered a valid candidate. However, there is no sign-in sheet for the general public (read: graduate students not previously involved). Are they worried that graduate students would show up and protest all at once? I pose this question not to poke fun but to raise a topic for discussion.

In 1977, the State University of New York (SUNY Wide) drafted a policy document that guides state-operated campuses to behave in a certain fashion. It determined that meetings on state-operated campuses that were held in a governing function should

be open for public participation. SUNY Wide further argued that state-operating campuses should promote public participation and transparency in their use of public funds by taking actions that would solicit public input. Therefore, SUNY Wide adopted Policy 6602. This policy requires state-operated campuses to follow a particular New York state law commonly called the Open Meetings Law (§§ 100–111). The legal directive defined how public meeting should be formatted whenever a quorum is present.

In 1995, The Statesman received a clarification from the New York Department of State that said student governments on campus must also follow the same law that the SUNY Wide policy was meant to address. The New York Department of State Opinion argued that, "a State University of New York student government's allocation of mandatory activity fee monies to a particular organization constituted a "state action." The opinion furthered this by saying, "Thus, the Polity organizations within each SUNY campus are the direct agents of the SUNY Trustees. And, they exercise Trustee power delegated to the Trustees under New York's Education Law (§ 355). They are therefore clearly and inescapably state 'agencies.'" The New York Department of State policy is clear and I hope the Graduate Student Organization heeds this call for action and in the spirit of transparency aligns itself with accustomed behavior for other governing bodies on campus. I think graduate students deserve better to be left out in the dark.

Why I am not returning to Stony Brook University this fall

By Chris Stubenrauch
Contributing Writer

It was unfortunate, to say the least, that I became so thoroughly dissatisfied with Stony Brook University that I felt I had to withdraw before even starting my first day as a graduate student.

Being a recent graduate of Stony Brook as of last May, you would think that I would be accustomed to the way the university goes about its business, and in some ways, I am. Stony Brook has indirectly taught me the value of patience and how to politely and professionally ask for help if and when I need it.

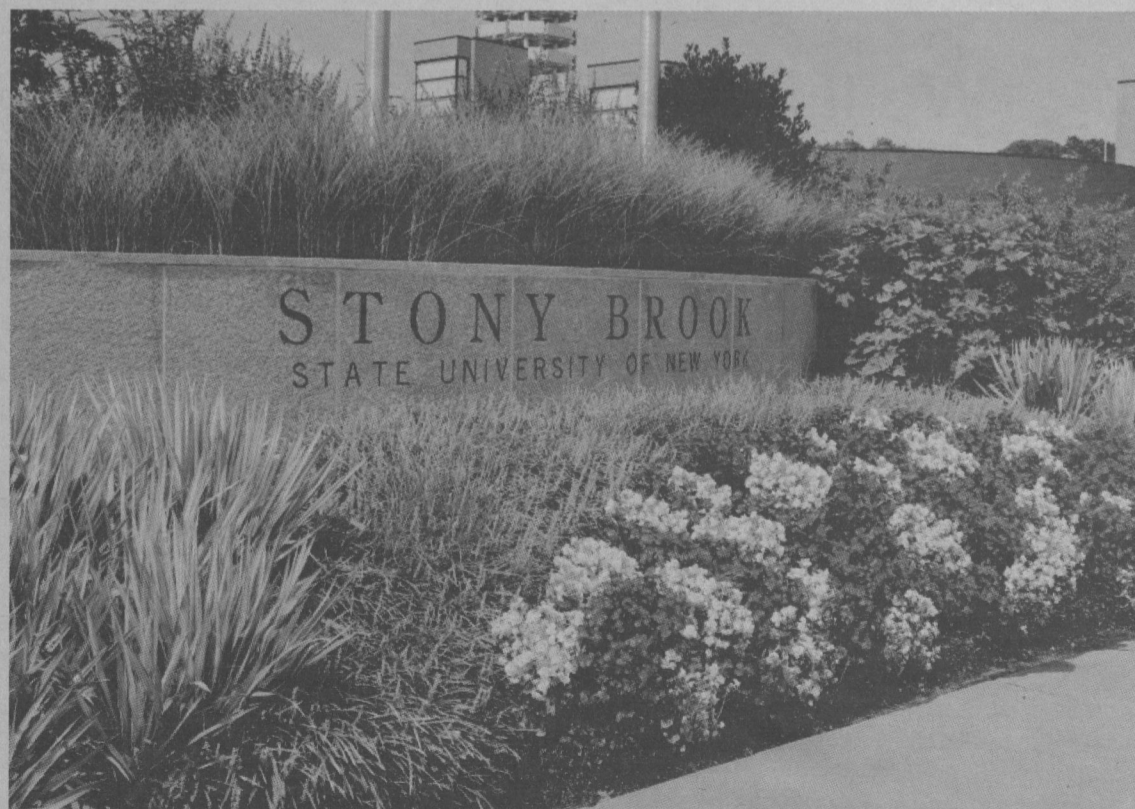
But maybe I've only learned those things as a result of the school marginalizing me: a result of a broken system that Stony Brook administrators have chosen to continue using. This system forces me into an uncomfortable exchange with my department about my not receiving financial aid (master's students don't get financial aid! Those lines are reserved only for doctorates! Was that not completely clear?). I am forced to fix enrollment problems generated by a computer on SOLAR, to sit through blatantly incorrect graduate orientation

videos that, for instance, tell me I can apply for an on-campus job through ZebraNet (which no longer exists) and to enroll in courses via email exchange because a professor wants to cancel his un-enrolled class. This system even makes me fill out a form if I don't want to attend their school anymore.

The list goes on and on, and it's sad, but mostly because I haven't even made the hour-long drive to set foot on campus yet.

I truly feel terrible for the incoming graduate students that don't know they're being lied to because the Graduate School is too lazy to properly fix their embarrassingly outdated orientation information. The new students are probably going to be so sad when they realize they can't chow down on a Final Exam sandwich at the Union Deli because it too doesn't exist anymore.

In my four years at Stony Brook, I've done enough complaining. All I'm saying is that it would have been nice to know, before I spent \$200 on my application to Stony Brook, that none of the seven earth science classes offered in the course manual were going to be being taught; that my Master's degree



MANJU SHIVACHARAN/STATESMAN FILE

Stony Brook University's graduate students have outdated orientation information. This, and other problems, has led to at least one student's decision not to attend Stony Brook.

in Earth and Space Science would merely be limited to courses in geology.

At the end of the day, and as I leave this university for good, Stony Brook, it is clear that you need my help and the help of thousands of alumni like me,

a fact that you regularly make evident in the barrage of emails you send asking us for donations.

Until you treat us not like dollar signs but more like the human beings that we are, until you take responsibility and attempt to fix your frustratingly

broken system, and until you give me back every penny of my \$200 application fee for entirely misleading me, I stand unable to do much more than laugh about your school with a complete stranger as we wait in line at the Administration Building.

Women's Basketball falls to UNH on last-second shot

By Mike Adams
Assistant News Editor

Stony Brook Women's Basketball held its own until the final moments of Sunday afternoon's matchup against New Hampshire at Island Federal Credit Union Arena.

The Seawolves trailed for the entire second half until a pair of layups from junior guard Jerrell Matthews netted the team a 50-49 lead with 2:18 left in the fourth quarter. Stony Brook battled to defend its one-point advantage, but New Hampshire senior center Carlie Pogue managed to create space inside and fire off a turnaround fadeaway with 0:02 left on the clock.

Pogue's shot found the net and sealed the Seawolves' 51-50 loss to the Wildcats after a last-second heave from junior guard Shania Johnson missed the mark.

After the game, head coach Caroline McCombs commended her team's resilience in the crunch-time defeat.

"I thought we showed a lot of fight in the fourth quarter to come back after being down by 10 points," McCombs said in a press release. "New Hampshire is a veteran team, and they were able to make one more play at the end. We've been in a lot of close ball games this season, and each one of them is an opportunity for us to learn."

Stony Brook opened Sunday's game with a solid 8-2 first-quarter

run that helped net the team a 14-10 lead through the opening 10 minutes. Momentum swung away from the Seawolves in the second, however, when the Wildcats more than doubled their opponents' offensive output, scoring 16 points to Stony Brook's eight. The Seawolves' 3-10 shooting performance in the second quarter proved to be a crucial misstep in a game that was ultimately decided by a single point.

While UNH only held a one-rebound advantage over

Stony Brook on the backboards, grabbing 31 total rebounds against Stony Brook's 30, the team dominated both the offensive glass and second-chance scoring opportunities. The Wildcats turned 12 offensive rebounds into 12 second-chance points, while the Seawolves earned just two points from six offensive boards.

The Seawolves outclassed the Wildcats on the interior with 32 points in the paint, 10 more than their opponents scored inside. However, UNH all but erased its

interior deficit with 19 points off 18 Stony Brook turnovers, while Stony Brook converted 15 UNH turnovers into just 10 points. Sunday's game was the second straight in which the Seawolves had more turnovers than assists.

While the Wildcats shot 35.2 percent from the floor overall in the matchup against the Seawolves' 44.4 percent team effort, an extra nine shot attempts and added production from their leading scorers helped put the visitors on top. UNH senior forward Kat Fogarty led all play-

ers with 18 points, while Pogue finished second overall with 17 points. Johnson, Matthews and junior forward Cheyenne Clark scored a combined 33 points, but were outmatched by Fogarty and Pogue, who combined for 35 points.

Clark's performance was a bright spot for Stony Brook in the loss. Her 11-point, seven-rebound effort put the Mohawk Valley Community College transfer just three boards away from what would have been her fourth double-double of the season.

Stony Brook's loss, which snapped a two-game win streak, drops the team's record to 2-4 America East play and 10-9 overall. New Hampshire's last second win advances its record to a conference-best 5-1 in America East play and a strong 14-5 overall record.

Despite the disappointing final result, McCombs thanked the energetic home crowd before looking forward to Stony Brook's next game.

"Our home crowd provided an awesome atmosphere today, and we look forward to playing in front of our fans again on Wednesday," McCombs said.

The Seawolves will look to earn their third win in conference play on Wednesday, Jan. 24, when they take on the UMass Lowell River Hawks. Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Island Federal Credit Union Arena.



ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN

Junior forward Cheyenne Clark dribbles around a defender in a game against Adelphi on Nov. 6. Clark scored 11 points in a loss against UNH on Sunday, Jan. 21.

Men's Basketball stumbles against New Hampshire

By Gregory Zarb
Sports Editor

Stony Brook Men's Basketball has had its fair share of come-from-behind victories this season. Matchups against Rutgers, Saint Francis, Hartford, Maine and Binghamton showcased the team's resilience in the final moments of games.

The Seawolves' game on Sunday afternoon against the New Hampshire Wildcats came down to the final moments once again, but the Seawolves found themselves on the losing side of the comeback.

Junior guard Jaron Cornish's final two shots missed as the Seawolves were unable to score in the final 2:36 of regulation, falling to the Wildcats 53-51 Sunday afternoon at Lundholm Gymnasium.

"We definitely battled today," head coach Jeff Boals said in a press release. "We didn't play smart in some stretches, but we were right there in it at the end of the game to give ourselves a chance to win and that's what you want on the road. We were up five at halftime, but they made their run in the second half to go up six. We kept chipping away and had a lead going into the final war. We had a chance to extend the lead but went 10-for-24 [from the line] and didn't do it."

Stony Brook gained possession after senior forward Junior

Saintel stole the ball from New Hampshire with 12 seconds left in the game. Saintel ended the game with 10 points and three steals.

Trailing 52-51, redshirt-sophomore forward Akwasi Yeboah received the inbounds pass, but quickly turned the ball over trying to score a layup. Boals screamed from the sidelines, calling for a foul to be called.

The Wildcats were fouled following the turnover, and senior forward Iba Camara made the second free throw to give his team a two-point cushion with eight seconds left. Stony Brook inbounded the ball and Cornish drove down the court and missed his first layup. His second-chance shot missed and bounced away from the rim as the horn sounded.

Senior forward Jakub Petras scored a career-high 13 points

and grabbed a season-high eight rebounds. He also played a season-high 25 minutes due to senior forward Tyrell Sturdivant's struggles. Sturdivant picked up four fouls in a scoreless eight minutes of play.

Yeboah struggled from the field as well. After shooting 10-of-15 and scoring 28 points and grabbing 11 rebounds against Binghamton, the forward only scored six points on an abysmal two-for-11 shooting from the field, grabbed six rebounds and tallied one assist.

Stony Brook ended the first half on an 11-0 run, putting them up 31-26 at the break. However, the team was never able to escape New Hampshire. The Seawolves faced a seven-point deficit with just under 10 minutes left in the game, but Petras gave his team a two-point lead with a layup with four minutes remaining.

Cornish was the last Seawolf to score when he hit one of his two free throws to put the team up 51-48 with just under three minutes remaining in the fourth

quarter. Cornish scored a game-high 16 points, while grabbing a game-high 13 rebounds as well and dished out two assists.

Stony Brook now falls to 3-3 in conference play, tied for fifth place in the America East standings with Albany, and hold an 8-12 overall record. Stony Brook was picked to place fourth in the America East conference before the season started. The team will hit the road again to take on UMass Lowell on Wednesday, Jan. 24 at 7 p.m.

"We didn't play smart in some stretches, but we were right there in the end."

-Jeff Boals
Men's Basketball Head Coach



ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN

Junior guard Jaron Cornish dribbles with the ball down the court in a game against Hofstra. Cornish missed two baskets in the final minutes of Sunday's 53-51 loss to UNH.

SPORTS

Hockey goes 1-1 versus Delaware



PHOTO COURTESY OF AZTEC PHOTOS

Senior defenseman Frank Sherding carries the puck down the rink in a game against NYU back on Dec. 12. Sherding scored a game-winner against Delaware on Saturday, Jan. 20.

By Peter Lupfer
Contributing Writer

Senior defenseman Frank Sherding skated into the Delaware zone all alone with the game on his stick. The captain was well aware that a goal meant more than just an extra point in the standings; it would also put the Stony Brook hockey team's longest losing streak in over a year behind them.

Sherding had one chance to put his team back on track, and he made the most of it.

"When I walked in the locker room, I said 'Your captain is a leader on and off the ice,'" head coach Chris Garofalo said. "Do you know why he's so successful? Because he plays with desperation every game. He plays with heart, pride and passion."

The captain's game winner was his second goal in the past three games, giving merit to Garofalo's previous assertion that Sherding would be "part of the solution." Another key to Stony Brook's 5-4 victory was the play of junior defenseman Frank Coscia, who scored four goals in the weekend set against Delaware, including both late game-tying goals.

"He played desperate and when we play desperate, we play better," Garofalo said. "I think he saw what was going on and that we had to win today. You can't lose to an unranked team two days in a row and we were going to do that if we didn't score that last minute goal to tie the game."

Coscia's late-game heroics may not have been necessary if not for a second period major penalty against sophomore forward Mi-

chael Kosina which resulted in his ejection. Though the Seawolves held a 3-1 lead when the penalty occurred, the Blue Hens were able to strike twice with the man advantage and tie the game before the second intermission.

"[The problem is] discipline," Garofalo said. "We go to the edge and then we fall off because we go one step too far. I think it was us being aggressive and not being able to control our aggression. I think it's a combination of that and their team not being strong enough to handle the aggression."

Midway through the third period, Delaware sophomore forward Colin Emerich found the back of the net to give his team a 4-3 lead which lasted 12:22 until Coscia tied the game with sophomore goaltender Richard Shipman pulled for an extra attacker.

Stony Brook and Delaware faced off on Friday, where a third period comeback came up short, giving the Seawolves their third consecutive loss since returning from winter break.

After erasing a 2-0 deficit in the final seven minutes of regulation and holding off the Blue Hens' 5-on-3 man advantage in the early stages of overtime, the Seawolves' night ended on a sour note when Delaware sophomore forward Chris Mazzella scored the game-winner, earning the Blue Hens a 3-2 victory.

"We were desperate [in the third period]," head coach Chris Garofalo said. "They know that these kinds of games can knock us out of playing in [the American Collegiate Hockey Association national tournament]. We

may have just killed our season by losing to Delaware who is an unranked team."

The game may not have made it past regulation if not for the efforts of Stony Brook junior defenseman Frank Coscia, who scored both goals to tie the game late in the third period.

"In the third period, we were a different team," Garofalo said. "It's just so frustrating that, we dominated them in the third period, but it took us until our backs were against the wall to wake up."

Shipman's solid performance gave his team the opportunity to fight back in the third. The sophomore stopped 31 out of 34 pucks thrown his way in the loss, including one in the extra frame.

"Shipman played great," Garofalo said. "I have no problems with the way he played. He kept us in the game and he gave us a chance to win. His team let him down."

Shipman, turned aside a combined 63 of 70 Delaware shots in the two-game set. Shipman will be the expected starter with sophomore goaltender Payne Yoder out for a few weeks with a lower-body injury, according to Garofalo.

Shipman currently leads the ESCHL with a .941 save percentage, but that number is sure to go down if the team in front of him can't find a way to stay out of the penalty box. Stony Brook committed ten infractions in the loss and was in the box almost two minutes longer than the division average.

Stony Brook hosts the No. 7 University of Colorado Boulder on Friday, Jan 26 at 9 p.m.

Women's Tennis competes in Owl Cup

By Gregory Zarb
Sports Editor

Stony Brook Women's Tennis traveled down to Florida Atlantic University to take part in the Owl Cup that started on Jan. 19 and ended on Jan. 21. Georgia Southern and Miami were also in attendance. The Seawolves won 10 matches in total during the tournament.

"It was a great week of practice and competition," head coach Gary Glassman said in a post-game press release. "This is something we will look to do every season moving forward. It really gave us a good head start on our dual match schedule, and a real indication of what we need to focus on before our Army/UConn weekend."

Stony Brook took on a different school each day during the Owl Cup. The Seawolves won one singles match and two doubles matches against the Owls. Junior Ana Rodriguez was able to take down redshirt-freshman JaCara Gillis 6-3, 3-6, 6-4. In the doubles bracket, the two teams of senior Elizabeth Tsvetkov and freshman Elizabeth Pam and sophomore Amanda Foo and junior Anne-Kathrin Hierl both won their doubles matches with identical 6-4 scores.

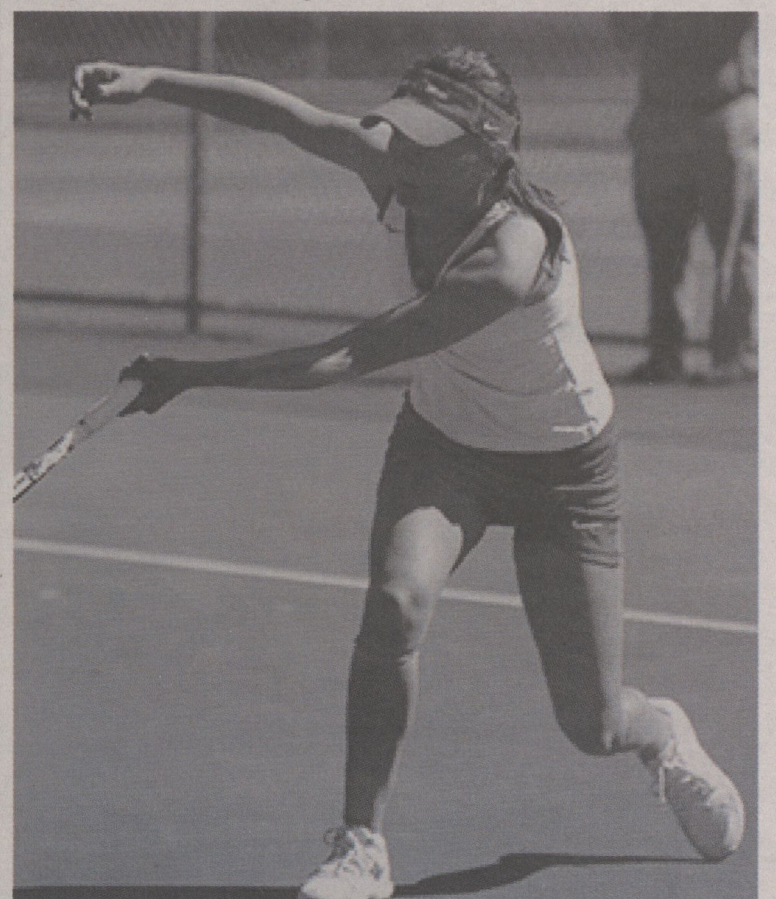
Stony Brook put on its most dominant display of the Cup when the Seawolves took on Georgia Southern, winning four

of their 10 total matches on the weekend. Three of the wins came in the singles bracket, with Tsvetkov, Foo and Rodriguez all winning their singles matches in straight sets. The lone doubles win came from the pairing of Tsvetkov and Rodriguez by a final of 6-3.

The Seawolves took on the Miami Hurricanes on the final day of the Owl Cup, and while the team was swept in doubles competition, the Seawolves won three games in the singles bracket. The trio consisting of Tsvetkov, Foo and Rodriguez once again won their singles matches. Foo won her match in straight sets, while Tsvetkov and Rodriguez went the distance and won in three sets.

This was the first tournament of the spring season for the women's tennis team, with Rodriguez and Tsvetkov taking home four of the 10 wins for Stony Brook. Tsvetkov is coming off an appearance in the ITA Northeast Regional Championships back in October. The senior was ranked 37th out of 64 other competitors and was granted a first-round bye. She won her second round matchup in three sets before getting eliminated from the tournament in straight sets.

The team will have an extended amount of time off before traveling to Army on Saturday, Feb. 10. The start of the matches is to be addressed at the time of the publication of this article.



KRYSTEN MASSA/STATESMAN FILE

Senior Elizabeth Tsvetkov playing in a match from 2016.

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