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The Tech Issue

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USG debate draws tiny audience

By Aleeza Kazmi
Assistant Multimedia Editor

The Undergraduate Student Government at Stony Brook University held a candidates debate in the Student Activities Center Ballroom B Tuesday evening ahead of its election next week.

USG represents more than 16,000 students according to its website, but only a little over a dozen students attended the event.

The debate, which was also live-streamed on USG's Facebook page, gave the candidates running for executive board positions a chance to inform the student body on their platforms. The executive board consists of a president, treasurer, executive vice president, VP of communications, VP of student life, VP of clubs and organizations and VP of academic affairs. This year, four of the seven executive board positions have uncontested candidates, compared to one uncontested race in last year's election.

"It is unfortunate that this year's candidate pool is a lot smaller than previous years," assistant to the Vice President of Communications, Kyriaki Sideris, stated via email. "However, the Executive Council does not foresee the candidate pool effecting the potential success of the following [academic year executive council]."



LUIS RUIZ DOMINGUEZ / THE STATESMAN

Candidates for Undergraduate Student Government offices debate each other in Student Activities Center Ballroom B. Around a dozen students attended.

USG election board member, William Eddy, said that engagement in USG is cyclical.

"Every couple of years you get really big surges of people who run for the elections, then it starts to die down after that because there are the [incumbents], and people get intimidated by that," Eddy said.

The only executive candidate running as an incumbent this year is Vice President of Academic Affairs, Nicole Olakkengil. She is running unopposed. During the debate, several candidates discussed how they would improve communication between USG and the student body.

"Not many are very notified of what exactly USG does," candidate

for vice president of communications, Bansri Shah, said. "Because the students pay so many fees for us to have better campus life, I think it is really important for students to know what they are paying for."

Neesan Haider, a junior biology major who attended the debate, said she went to find out what specific plans the candidates had for improving transparency.

"I believe the VP of clubs and orgs candidates talked about increasing awareness about different USG workshops that take place," Haider said. "Things like this could really help. USG has done a lot but definitely could do a better job in promoting their resources."

The candidates mostly focused on explaining their platforms rather than attacking their opponents during the debate. But one moment that garnered a reaction came from current Vice President of Student Life, Jaliel Amador, who questioned the fashion choice of presidential candidate Meelod Wafajow.

"Both of you said you were both aware of boards that you have to be appointed to if you became president, the fact that you are the leader of the executive council, the fact that you are the liaison to almost every department on campus when it comes to anything that's USG," Amador said. "You are the face, you are

Continued on page 4

Snow delay frustrates students

By Rebecca Liebson
News Editor

Stony Brook students hoping for a second snow day this week were met with disappointment after the school announced a delay on Thursday.

"Good morning SB," the Stony Brook University Emergency Management (SBUEM) Twitter account tweeted at 4:42 that morning. "All classes that begin prior to 10am are canceled. All classes that begin at or after 10am are being held as scheduled. Clinical rotation questions should be directed to clinical coordinators."

The tweet received 160 replies, most of which were from angry commuter students expressing their frustration with the decision.

One of these students was senior mathematics major Khalid Urysohn. In order to make it to class for a midterm, Urysohn spent an hour digging out his car from the snow and then drove from Massapequa on slippery roads.

"It was not safe to drive and the whole way I was disappointed they would force me to drive though that," he wrote in an email. "I don't think Stony Brook takes into account its commuters who live far away and they completely dropped the ball on this one."

Others, such as Twitter user ZhengGong6, shared pictures of unplowed roads and snowed-in cars to demonstrate the difficulties they would face in their commute.

The SBUEM account tweeted out its own photoset with pictures showing that most of the major roads had been cleared.

This tweet provoked responses from several more commuters, including sophomore biochemistry major Jillian Brauer. "This doesn't account for individual neighborhoods and time it takes to shovel 2 feet of snow to get to a 10am class. It also doesn't account for delays on the LIRR and communities that are not plowed by the town and have to wait for a private company to plow," she tweeted.

In a reply to Brauer's tweet, SBUEM stated it was acting in the best interests of the whole campus, not just the commuter students.

"We understand that people travel to Campus from a variety of locations. The LIRR is on or close to schedule. 11,000 students live on campus. Decisions to travel should be based on the individuals circumstances, we are a Campus of more than 50k people."

University Police Department holds active shooter drills

By Christian Wornell
Contributing Writer

Stony Brook University is taking measures to prepare students for an active shooter situation following last month's massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

The Stony Brook University Police Department (UPD) and Department of Residential Risk Management held the first of three active shooter trainings this semester on Thursday, March 1.

"I didn't realize that they were doing this program, and because of the recent events I thought that I should come out and see what I should do if anything like that were to happen here," freshman mechanical engineering major Thea Vijaya Kumar said.



NINA LIN / THE STATESMAN

Two University Police Department (UPD) officers standing next to a UPD police car. UPD is holding several drills to prepare students for an active shooter situation.

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NEWS

Stony Brook incubator helps start-ups develop

By Gary Ghayrat
Assistant News Editor

The Long Island High Technology Incubator (LIHTI), located on the Stony Brook University campus, has been a congregation spot for start-up companies, providing office and lab spaces with campus resources in close proximity.

Since the founding of the non-profit organization in 1992, it has been helping technologically migrate innovative ideas to the private commercial sector. According to its website, the LIHTI has been associated with more than 70 companies, contributing \$2.5 billion to the national economy and creating more than 500 jobs.

Thirty-five companies are residing in the LIHTI's standalone building located near Stony Brook Medicine, and a total of 55 companies are spread throughout four facilities: LIHTI, the Center of Excellence Wireless and Information Technology (CEWIT), the Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center (AERTC) and the Business Incubator at Calverton, Incubator Advocate at the Stony Brook University Office of Economic Development Dan Polner said.

Polner said while new research companies that join the incubator might be good at what they do, they don't necessarily have the experience needed to commercialize their product. The incubation process tries to make that transition for the companies easier.

"The main goal is to bridge the gap from fundamental research and development to commercialization," Polner said. "That is the fundamental reason for incubation to exist."

Additional resources on campus like the Small Business Development Center, the Center for

Biotechnology and an incubation team whose mission is "incubation instead of landlordship," come with research-oriented rental spaces, Director of Stony Brook University Incubation Matthew Stadler said.

"We get to see the future every day we come in to do this work."

-Dan Polner
Incubator Advocate, Office of Economic Development

"We can analyze businesses, and some of us had done this for years, and identify key steps they need to take," Stadler said. "And then we take resources from campus to meet some of those steps, and if we don't have resources for them, then we help folks find them outside of the University."

Stadler said resident companies at the LIHTI include fairly large and mature companies like Biocogent, a cosmetic products provider, and Softheon, a company that builds and manages software that supports health plans and government operations. There are also smaller companies like Mobileware, where the founder, Yun Zhang, and two Stony Brook University graduates develop mobile applications like the train schedule app onTime.

Zhang said he moved to the LIHTI space from his New York City office about two years ago for the space and access to talent. During the process, Zhang said he got more involved with Stony Brook University through teaching and mentoring a computer science advanced project course, where two of his employees were hired from.

"They do have programs, they do have seminars, but it's really

up to the individual company to really seek out for it," Zhang said. "Being here definitely helps."

"I am personally disappointed that our programmatic offerings are less comprehensive and systematic than I think they should be," Ann-Marie Scheidt, director of economic development at Stony Brook University, said.

She said in the future the organization will put more effort "on more systematically helping companies identify what their business model is and test it."

Stony Brook University alumnus Wei-Ting Lin, who now works at Mobileware, said he preferred working at a start-up instead of a mid-range company because he gets to accumulate a variety of skills instead of focusing on one facet.

"We need to do everything," Lin said. "We learn a little about marketing and we also learn a little about design. It's a good way to improve yourself."

Lin said he hopes to start his own company one day.

Scheidt said entrepreneurs are driven by a desire to impact the world, not the desire to make money, even though they often do want to make money.

"If you start an entrepreneurial venture because you think you're going to make a lot of money, you should have your head examined," Scheidt said.

Polner said working with start-ups is exciting because of the groundbreaking work that's being done within the companies residing in the LIHTI, including those that research cancer therapeutics.

"We get to see the future every day we come in to do this work," Polner said. "The therapeutic drugs that are being developed here won't be approved for use for 10 or 15 years. We get to see the early stage results of what these people are developing now, every day."

Students train for mass shooter

Continued from page 1

The hour-long presentation covered the "Run, Hide, Fight" method, which has been implemented in schools and universities across the nation. The method's name describes the order of the steps students should take to protect themselves against an active shooter. Their first resort should be to flee. If that is not possible, then they should hide. If all else fails, they should fight back.

Assistant Chief of Police, Eric Olsen, said he feels the "Run, Hide, Fight" protocol is the best option for students, faculty, and staff to follow in order to survive.

In addition to hearing from UPD Community Relation Officers Peter Thompson, Jared King and Joe Bica, students were shown a short video about "Run, Hide, Fight." One student was asked to come up and demonstrate the proper way to exit a building during an active shooting.

Many students posed hypothetical questions about what they should do in specific scenarios.

"Anything is possible," Thompson said to the crowd. "Every active shooter situation is different. This is not set in stone. These are the best options we are giving you. We are doing the best we can in trying to stop this active shooter."

Thompson added that UPD works closely with outside organizations, like the Suffolk County Police Department, to train its officers on how to handle an active shooter.

"I didn't really think that active shooters could be possible on campus, but seeing the video that the police officers made puts it in perspective that it could happen on campus," sophomore anthropology major Jhanelle Walker said. "It made me more worried that something like that could happen here, but at least now I know how to handle that situation."

King spoke about Stony Brook's emergency email and text notification system, SB Alert. There are several means of emergency communications built into the infrastructure on campus. For instance, there is a siren on top of the library that can sound to signal an emergency. There are also LCD screens located in buildings across campus that can display messages alerting students and faculty to any potential dangers.

Assistant Chief of Police Eric Olsen said he does not want students to fear the police or fear the potential that something may happen here at Stony Brook. Olsen praised UPD's response time and the "high-tech" defense that the campus has for active shooter scenarios.

The last training session of the semester will take place on April 23 at 7 p.m. in Room 22 of Roth Cafe.



COURTESY OF PC READY MARINES

The logo for the "Run, Hide, Fight" active shooter plan employed by the University Police Department.

USG candidates debate decor

Continued from page 1

the exemplification of the new era of USG. Do you think that it is professional for you to come in a hat to a board meeting, and/or a debate?"

Wafajow, who donned a snapback hat, defended his choice to wear it.

"I'm a man of style, I'm a man who likes to have a little fun, I have no problem making a statement," Wafajow said.

Wafajow went on to say that in more serious settings, he would not normally wear a hat.

Election board member Analisa Myer said she was taken aback by the exchange.

"I thought it was inappropriate for Meelod to wear a hat to

the debate, sure, but to put him on blast was equally inappropriate, especially coming from a member of USG," she said.

Amador stood by his question, calling it "fair and deserved."

"The Undergraduate Student Government is a self-sustaining 3.4 million dollar organization led by a President that is expected to carry themselves in a professional manner," Amador stated via email. "It is well within my right, as an audiencemember, student, and USG leader, to question a candidate's perception of professionalism."

Undergraduate students can cast their ballots on SOLAR beginning Monday, March 26 at 12 p.m. until Friday, March 30 at 12 p.m.



GARY GHAYRAT / THE STATESMAN

The Long Island High Tech Incubator (LIHTI) building, located down the road from Stony Brook Medicine. The non-profit organization aids technology start-ups.



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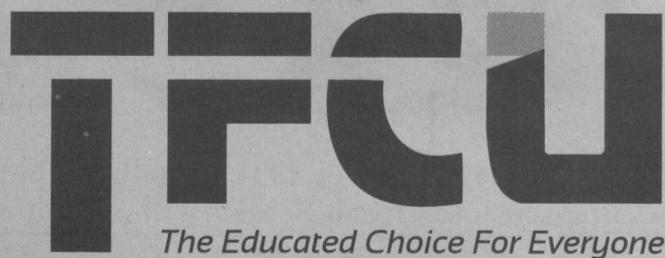
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

POTASIA celebrates the artwork of a household staple

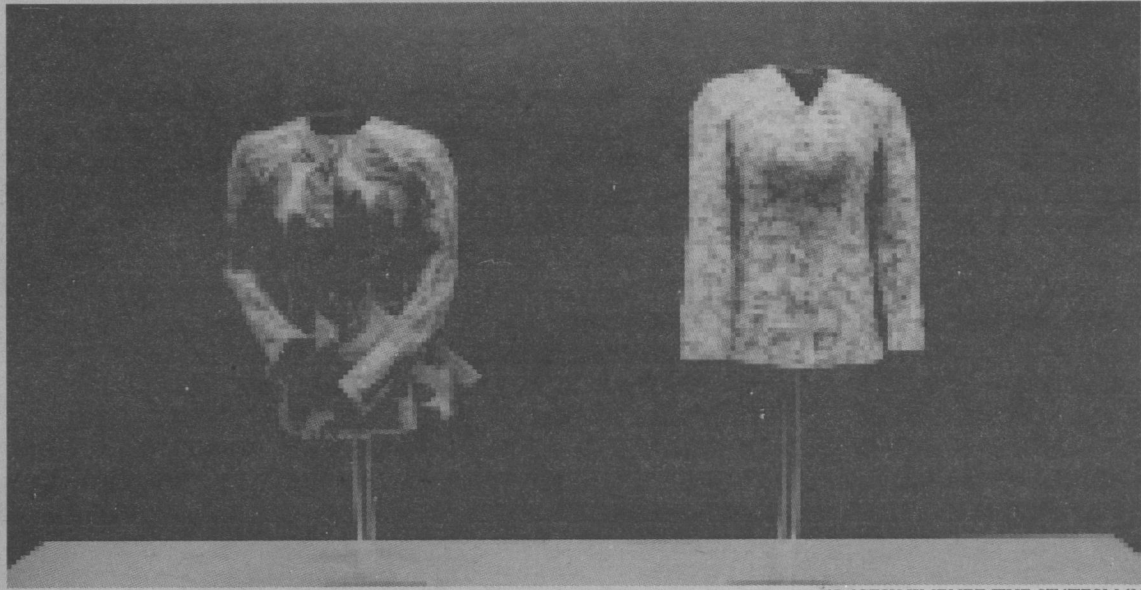
By Syreeta Yelverton
Contributing Writer

The Charles B. Wang Center's newest exhibit, "POTASIA: Potatoism in the East," showcases potato art. From the origins of the lowly spud to Korean Pop musicians with potatoes for heads, the celebration of the humble household staple started on March 15.

A world-class center of Asian and Asian American arts and culture, the Wang Center works to engage the Stony Brook campus and the neighboring Long Island community with programs that educate and unite people of all backgrounds. Curated by the center's Director of Cultural Programs, Jinyoung Jin, and American artist and professor of art history at Long Island University, Jeffrey Allen Price, this exhibit and its related programs explore "Potatoism," a term coined by Price in his 2003 writing: "The Dialectical Potato: Potato in Art, Art in Potato," in the East.

"I call it the 'Potato Spectrum.' On one end is the serious fact that the potato is the most nutritious, abundant vegetable in the world," Price said. "But on the other side of the spectrum is the hilarious side. Mr. Potato Head, couch potato, etc. I originally chose the potato because it is so approachable and easy to understand, which is not how a lot of contemporary art is perceived."

Today, the potato diaspora is worldwide. Indigenous to the Andes Mountains in South America, this food has quickly become a staple of the international food industry. Currently, potatoes are the fourth most



ARACELY JIMENEZ/THE STATESMAN

Anh Nguyen's work, above on display at the Charles B. Wang Center, features southern Vietnamese garments made out of potato paper bags and flowers.

produced crop following corn, wheat and rice.

"From my travels alone, potatoes were always a familiar food that you knew was nutritious and delicious," Laura Sweeney, an art contributor to this exhibit and Price's student, said. "It reminded me of home."

Featured in "POTASIA" are a total of 88 potato artworks by 19 artists from the United States and nine Asian countries including: China, India, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Lebanon, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam. The "Think Potato Institute," Mr. Price's personal collection of almost 6,000 potato artifacts, accounts for about 100 of the artifacts that are displayed in the exhibit, even though it is counted as one artwork.

Just like Mr. Price's "Potato Spectrum," "POTASIA" has two main functions: to educate and to prompt reflection. While visiting this exhibit, one can learn that there are almost 4,000 different species of potatoes that range in size, color, taste and more. But if you let it, the exhibit forces one to dig deeper.

"I am interested in juxtaposing elements that do not belong together to see what happens," Ginou Choueiri, the Lebanese artist of "Potato Portraits," said. "It worked well when combining potatoes with human faces as their porous skin is similar to ours. It wrinkles, it comes in different shades, it even has freckles, moles and scars. And it decays."

Exhibit contributors started experimenting with the potato to represent human life. At burial services, many people recite the words "ashes to ashes, and dust to dust." Many artists believe that as the human ego grows, we often need reminders that we are of this world just like the foods we eat, plants we pick, waters we swim in and grounds we walk upon.

"While potatoes started as a metaphor for a life lived, I have also used them as characters that connect us with the earth," Charles Yuen, an Asian Hawaiian artist, said.

Potatoes are used to play with the concepts of humans supporting, loving and learning from each other in artist Seongmin Ahn's work, "Multi-faceted Potatoes." Ahn pairs the crop with gilded peonies.

"Peonies represent wealth and prosperity and paper peonies are very fragile and easily destroyed," Ahn said. "Potatoes are a natural organic form, which grow, decay and experience an ever changing cycle. Gold represents materialism, capitalism and an unchangeable and eternal cycle. I would like to address the relationship between these elements. I want to experiment with how potatoes either survive or thrive in a given situation."

Artists also use potatoes to remember and connect with the past. Korean artist Manhee Bak grew up on a potato farm outside of Daegu, South Korea. With his work, he used the vegetable as a vehicle for nostalgia.

"Family time," Bak said. "We had a lot of great memories in those days playing around digging up soil to collect spuds. Now I live in New York. My father has moved into the city and we don't spend time together as we did in those days. I miss the time. My paintings are mono printed from floor dust as collecting memories."

In popular culture, the potato is so universal that Laura Sweeney's contribution to the exhibit was from her personal music collection. A copy of the Japanese rock publication Potato Magazine, is also featured. Not named because of culinary content or influence, but because the magazine demonstrates that the potato is a famous face everywhere.

Curators Jin and Price hope not only to educate visitors, but to help them see potatoes in a new, symbolic light. "POTASIA" will be on display through June 15.

Korean film "I Can Speak" shown for Women's History Month

By Claudia Motley
Contributing Writer

In celebration of Women's History Month this March, the Stony Brook Center for Korean Studies showed the 2017 Korean comedy-drama "I Can Speak," on March 8. The film delves into the status of comfort women from the era of occupation by the Imperial Japanese Army.

The movie follows the story of an elderly woman and a young civil service officer. They form a close bond when the woman begins taking English lessons from him. Eventually, the civil service officer learns her true reason for learning English: she was soon to go to the United States to testify against Japan as a surviving comfort woman.

"I Can Speak," directed by Kim Hyun-Seok, won a number of awards, including Best Actress (Mun-hee Na) and Best Director at the Blue Dragon Film Awards in South Korea.

"This is a comedy that touches our heart," Heejeong Sohn, senior lecturer in the department of Asian and Asian American studies and associate director of the Center for Korean Studies, said. "It makes us laugh and cry without compromising the message they want to deliver."

Japanese brothels, which had existed in the Japanese military since 1932, expanded following the Rape of Nanking, which occurred during Japan's attempted occupation of the Republic of China. During World



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Korean comfort women photographed in 1944 while being interrogated. The Charles B. Wang Center screened "I Can Speak," a film about comfort women.

War II, over 200,000 women from across the Asia Pacific were forced into prostitution by Japanese soldiers. Many surviving women ended up socially ostracized, and due to the mass destruction of Japanese records, their stories were ultimately buried. In the 1980s, women began to speak out, and in 2007 House Resolution 121 (HR 121) was passed to request a formal apology from the Japanese government for the abuse from the Japanese army.

Prior to HR 121, Japan provided an outlet for private donations to

victims through the Asian Women's Fund. The initiative halted operations in 2007, after many Korean activists demanded the Japanese government take more responsibility.

South Korean activists have pushed for more recognition of comfort women with memorial statues placed in 50 different public spaces across the country. Jessica Hartt, a senior linguistics major, visited the statues when she studied abroad.

"People in Korea do care about it... during the winter time, we would always see people put scarves

around them," Hartt said. "Around the world, it's not something that's talked about, but I feel like it's something that's really important."

Ophelia Liang, a senior biology major, had traveled alongside Hartt. "What I didn't know was that it wasn't often talked about," Liang said. "Not a lot of people know about comfort women."

Recently, there has been a huge movement in South Korea to strengthen the voices of the survivors. An additional statue was added to Seoul buses in 2017. Prior to

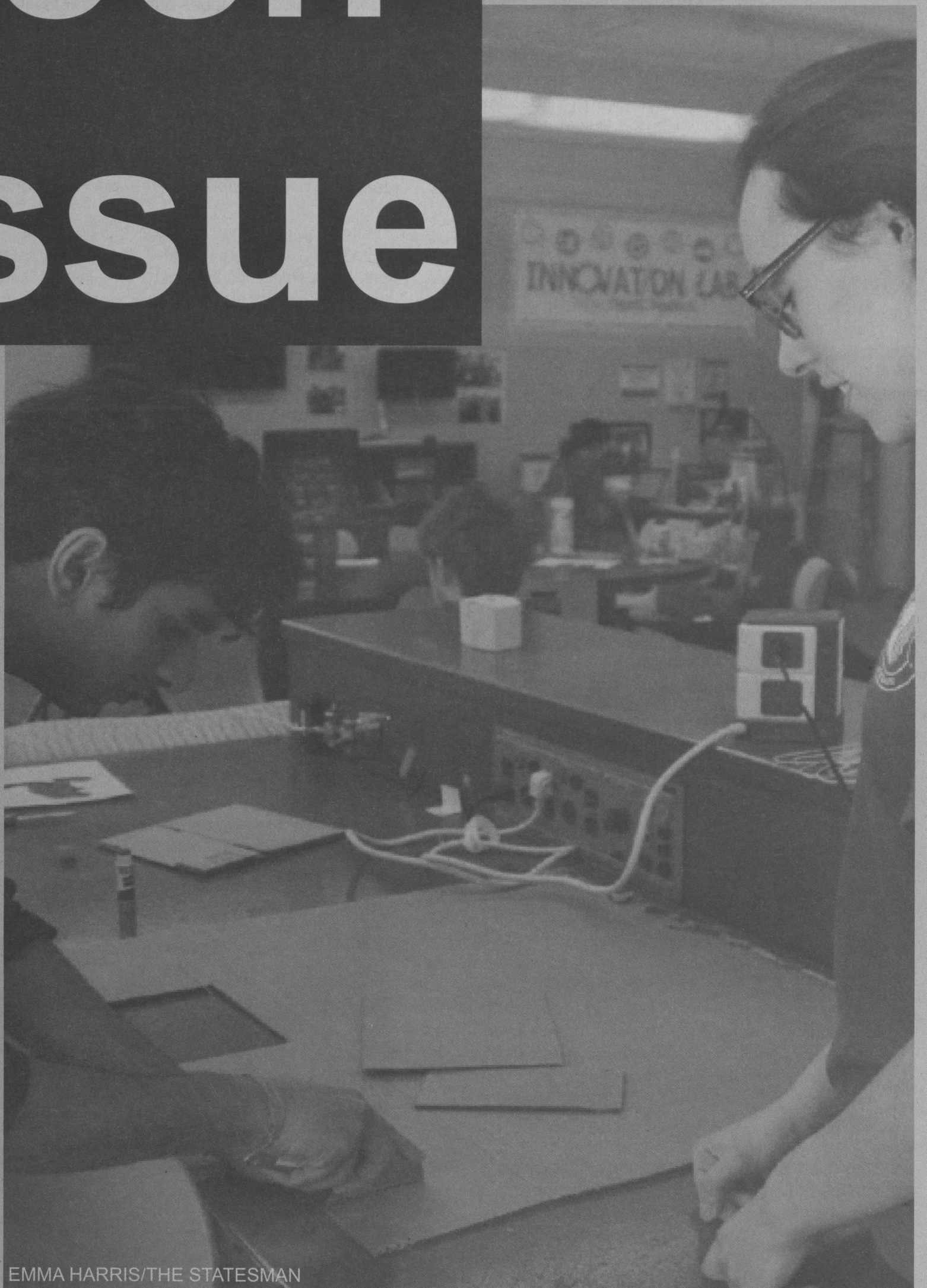
the Winter Olympics, South Korean President Moon Jae-in met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to renew the discussion regarding a 2015 agreement, which included an \$8 million donation and a vague apology from Japan.

The #MeToo movement, which has had massive traction in the U.S., was recently adopted and reimagined by South Korea. The country protests for stricter laws on sexual harassment and assault, and the movement has begun to target many prominent figures. In response, the Korean government announced it would combat sexual assault by increasing maximum prison sentences and statute of limitations. The movement has taken a dramatic turn, however, with the recent death of South Korean actor Jo Min-ki, who committed suicide following a number of rape and sexual assault allegations.

Many Asian women fall victim to a culture that is highly patriarchal, and although South Korea currently holds a low ranking in terms of gender equality, the #MeToo movement has provided a voice for many women silenced by oppressive gender roles.

"I Can Speak" sheds light on the status of women in Asia. Paired with recent events and discussions on gender inequality, the movie is a strong representation of South Korea's socio-cultural transformation.

The Tech Issue



EMMA HARRIS/THE STATESMAN

We can educate around automation

By Mike Adams

We need to talk about automation.

Unless you used to work in a steel mill, the prospect of losing your job to a robot might sound like the dissociated musing of some science fiction writer. For most Americans, automation is like the nuclear fusion of the job market: it's always coming, but it's never quite here.

That might already be changing. Last week gave the world its first case of an automated car killing a pedestrian, when a self-driving Uber was unable to avoid hitting a woman crossing the street in Tempe, Arizona on Sunday, March 18. Subsequent reports have suggested the crash was unavoidable, and Uber has responded by halting, but not necessarily discontinuing, its self-driving car tests in major metropolitan areas.

The key takeaway from this tragedy is in the public and private sector's reaction. The world's first death by automated vehicle is largely being treated as a bump in the road to self-driving cars and the benefits they promise. If death can't stop automation, nothing can.

Automation's effects are predicted to expand dramatically in the coming years. A 2017 report from the McKinsey Global Institute think tank anticipated that by 2030, up to 800 million people — one-fifth of the world's workforce — will lose their jobs to a machine.

Researchers from Oxford University released a report in 2013 that ranked over 700 occupations in order of their ability to be automated. Twelve of those professions, including cargo agents, sewing and telemarketing, were given a 99 percent chance of computerization, while over 400 jobs found themselves over the 50 percent mark. Predictably, the jobs rated as least doable by machines, like healthcare social work (.035 percent) or general dentistry (.044 percent) involve a great deal of thought, empathy or physical precision, qualities computers only possess in sci-fi movies.

But is it really safe to assume that machines won't be able to make up the gap in these areas soon? If a computer's capability is only limited by its programming and processing power, then surely automation's reach will extend far beyond the assembly line before long. There must be an algorithm complex enough to settle an HR dispute, to write a heart-wrenching novel or a nuanced opinion article. If we're only two years away from roads full of self-driving cars, like Forbes predicted, then who can anticipate what 30 or 40 years of development will bring?

After all, it only took one lifetime for computers to go from room-sized adding machines to the phones and laptops you can't imagine your life without.

So where does all that leave the young workers and college students who can expect to live out their whole working lives

beneath technology's growing shadow? If computers can do my job or your job badly now, will they do it better than us before we can retire? Will the skill sets we acquire in college even be relevant in a decade?

If we want answers to questions about how computerization will change our world, it might be best to ask the people who have grappled with these questions the longest: computer scientists.

I.V. Ramakrishnan, a Stony Brook professor and associate dean of the department of computer science, has been adapting to increasingly complicated computers since he entered the industry nearly four decades ago. His advice to educators struggling to teach in a changing world is simple: teach the core principles, not the latest techniques.

"In my department we don't teach [students] the latest technology," Ramakrishnan said. "What we teach them are the principles. Principles are always long lasting. Technology will come today and it won't be there tomorrow... As long as there is love for learning, they will be ok."

If the history of technological development has proven anything, it's that new technologies ultimately create more jobs than they alter or destroy. In a sense, automation is a centuries old issue dating back to the days of the first factories. Before the textile industry became mechanized, it might have taken one person days to weave a basket or sew a shirt. The power loom might have taken seamstress' jobs, but they created scores of factory jobs and even managed to introduce new skilled labor building and repairing machines.

Hindsight might one day prove that worrying about automation-induced unemployment was as short-sighted as worrying that newspapers would destroy the American social landscape. Sure, new technology has a way of replacing whatever came before it (I forget that I still have a landline) but the one constant is humanity's ability to adapt to change.

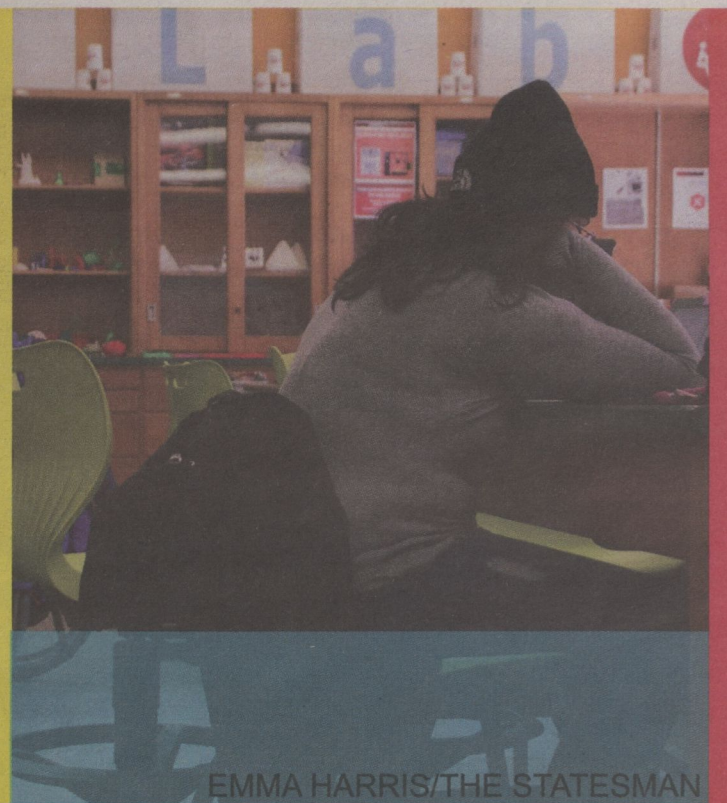
We are all perfectly capable of learning to deal with changing circumstances, whether it's a self-driving car or the automated factory that built it. If we weren't, we would be dinosaurs.



ICAPLANTS/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS
VIA CC BY-SA 3.0

Innovation Lab gives students tools to create

By Maia Vines



EMMA HARRIS/THE STATESMAN

Stony Brook University's Innovation Lab is a place where students can participate in laser cutting, 3D printing, digital design, fabrication and sewing. Located on the second floor of Harriman Hall, the Innovation Lab also offers student-led training sessions for the usage of the machines.

Just last year, the Research and Technologies Department was rebranded as iCREATE and partnered with the lab to provide students with a variety of creative workshops and access to innovative tools.

"Innovation and entrepreneurship have always been tied together," David Ecker, the director of iCREATE, said. "We wanted to give everybody a safe space to be creative, experiment and work. Every major can do this and you can be successful at it."

Angad Singh, a junior biology major and laser engraving trainer who has been working at the lab for two and a half years, said students used to have to talk to professors to find out who has a 3D printer, but now, students have access to the printers in the innovation lab.

"We're free for all students to use, so if they have some-

thing to 3D print like a gift for a friend or like design projects or something like that we're always there," Singh said.

Rhianna Ruggiero, junior engineering science major, an innovation consultant, started working at the lab last summer after taking a group of campers to visit the lab. She now trains students to use the sewing machines.

"I definitely wanted to work here because it's such a cool place," Ruggiero said. "I get to teach people how to sew and see what they create."

Fayaz Arif, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, said he visits the innovation lab regularly to 3D print.

Arif said he plans to receive a digital badge, which is earned by visiting the iCREATE spaces and learning different marketable skills that are recognized by future employers.

"At first I just used them for fun," Arif said. "But this semester I'm gonna have to use it for some of my classes, so it's really convenient to have access to the printers."



EMMA HARRIS/THE STATESMAN

Self driving cars are a window to the future

By Andrew Goldstein



DLLU/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS VIA CC BY-SA 4.0

I have an hour commute to Stony Brook each way. This is my first semester commuting (and my last semester at Stony Brook) so I don't know how long other students have to drive to make it to campus, but the drive is both pleasant and stressful. On one hand, I have an hour of free time to listen to podcasts or music or to just think. On the other hand, any traffic on the Southern State and I'm going to be late for class.

But there's so much more I would be able to do if I didn't have to actively drive. Coffee snob that I am, my first fantasy is that of a hot water urn built in so I can brew some French-pressed coffee and read ahead of my 100 book goal or do homework for class. Imagine installing a monitor to watch all of Monty Python. I would gain two hours a day back to waste on Facebook because I'm too lazy to delete it.

Driverless cars just make sense. Besides the time saved by not driving, I save even more when I don't have to park — I can have my car search for spots while I enjoy myself, and when I need it later, I can have it pick me up. On highways, my car would be able to communicate with others to drive faster with less traffic and more safety.

On Sunday, March 18, one of Uber's self-driving vehicles killed a woman crossing the street in Tempe, Arizona. And as is always the case when a new technology does something horrible, people started a lot of important conversations.

As with all new technologies, the regulations regarding self-driving cars aren't where they should be yet. That makes sense. As the United States continues to regulate safety, motor-vehicle related deaths per million vehicle miles driven have plummeted, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

There are philosophical issues like whether a car should protect the passengers or pedestri-

ans at all costs and how to program the car morally. While I would argue that it is impossible to teach a car morality, it should be possible to make the decisions beforehand and have the vehicles execute them when those situations arise. What do we consider important? The chances of survival? The age of those involved? The fame?

I had a conversation about a Rabbi who argued that the act of driving cars should not be permissible. He posited that there was a certain number of deaths by vehicles every year, so by driving, you tacitly agreed to be part of a system that gets you places faster at the expense of those deaths. But then you can get into the discussion of how many people are saved by cars because they are driven to hospitals. And then you can get into the discussion of public versus private transportation and nuances like the space parking lots take up and the cost of maintaining the subway.

At its core though, all of these conversations stem from the same place. Progress can be scary, it's full of bugs and mistakes and puts us in an ever more complicated system. But progress is generally good. Yes, my generation loses some level of patience because we don't have to navigate Encyclopedia Britannica, but Googling information is great. Yes we're addicted to our devices — I spent 43 hours and 9 minutes on my phone last week — but we're still productive.

We live in the future. We have flying cars and boat-cars that we've decided we don't want. We're worried about our space garbage falling back down on us. Technology is progressing quickly. But how many people have died in human vehicle crashes since the self-driving incident last week? And how many more lives will automated driving save in the future? It's up to us to perfect the system and move forward.

SBU partners with electronic vending company

By Mike Adams

Stony Brook students gained a new retail option earlier this month when nine electronic vending machines were installed in various locations around the campus on March 8.

The machines, created by the Bethpage-based company Vengo Labs, each offer a handful of small products like headphones and phone chargers in locations like Harriman Hall and East Side Dining. Vengo machines accept Wolfie Wallet and credit card payments, but do not take cash. Stony Brook received the machines through a contract with Canteen, Vengo Labs' vending partner.

Founded in 2012, Vengo Labs gained widespread recognition when founder Brian Shimmerlik secured a \$2 million investment on the entrepreneurial reality TV show Shark Tank in 2016. Shimmerlik pitched the machines as a convenient venue for selling small items and displaying video advertisements for the brands whose products they carry.

While the size of the machine limits what it can hold, the type of products a given Vengo machine carries are individually selected based on what the company believes will sell best in its given location, Vengo Labs Business Development Director Adam Gartenberg said.

"The idea is to put the right products in the right place at the right time," Gartenberg said. "We use the software that we have and the shape, size and form factor to put the machines in the best locations."

Most of the Vengo machines on campus are deliberately placed away from traditional retail venues on campus. The products and locations for Stony Brook's machines were selected with the help of data collected from 300 Vengo machines currently installed on other college campuses, Gartenberg said.

"We know that if we go into a library that a certain amount of products are going to sell well there," Gartenberg said. "If we go into an academic building, it's not going to sell the same items. If we go into a dorm it's going to be separate as well."

Both Vengo Labs and Angela Agnello, director of marketing and communications for the Facul-

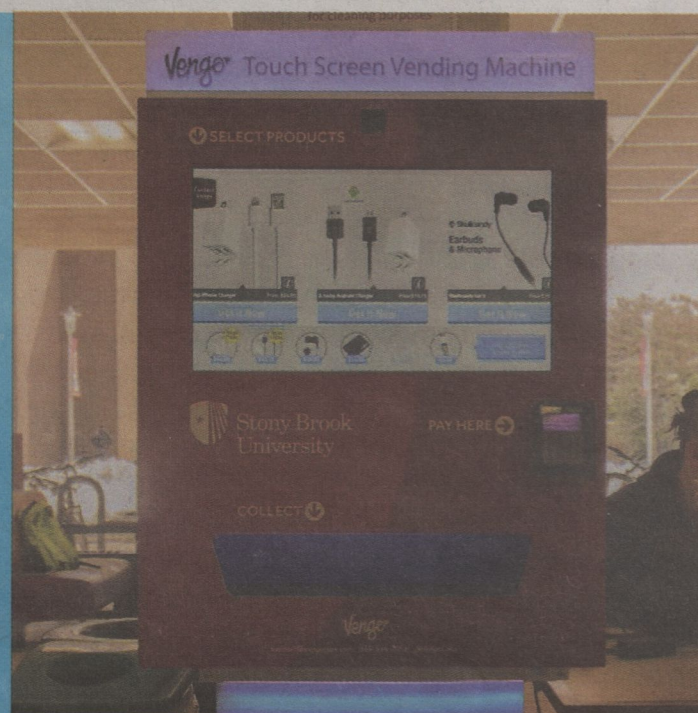
ty Student Association, argue that the machines do not compete with more traditional campus retail outlets like the campus bookstore because of their limited range of products and location away from most vendors. Agnello added that the Seawolves Marketplace located in the SAC will be converted to a coffee shop after the Fall 2018 semester, and will no longer serve as a convenience store.

"The Vengo machines are not competing with retail locations on campus as they carry only a limited number of items," Agnello wrote in an email. "While the machines have been mostly installed in locations away from traditional vendors, the Student Activities Center (SAC) was a good fit to feature a machine since it is located in the center of campus."

Chelsea Connor, communications and media relations director for the New York-based Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, which represents both retail workers and vendors, argued that automated retail options create more jobs than they take away when questioned about the machines' impact on the retail job market.

"Where one employee's job might be lost, a company that's operating machines is going to have to hire threefold," Connor said. "Somebody is going to have to build the machine, somebody is going to have to service the machine and somebody is going to have to field calls from customers."

Sales from the Stony Brook machines have been strong so far, Gartenberg said, and Vengo Labs plans to expand its operations on campus as soon as the Fall 2018 semester.



EMMA HARRIS/THE STATESMAN

Online dating is destroying our love lives

By Gabby Pardo

It's unfortunate that most of our communication is through electronic devices. We use chats and posts on Facebook and Twitter. We share pictures and videos through Snapchat and Instagram. I can admit I am a victim of this, but luckily I was raised to learn how to approach someone in person as well. This has become a common trend that I feel causes my generation (the Z generation) to forget or lack in-person communication skills. This lack of communication skills also impacts the dating world.

Humans are not objects. We have feelings and emotions. Whether male or female, we deserve to be approached in a proper and respectful manner. I would rather be asked out on a date or for my number in person than online. We deserve more than a swipe right with a pick-up line about having sex or someone pretending to be interested in us when their account is to spam people.

Apps such as Match, eHarmony and Plenty of Fish allow people to meet online. eHarmony states on its website, "eHarmony is committed to helping singles find love every day." These apps, however, sometimes don't match their intended purposes. I have seen cases where users create fake accounts to try and scam people for money. Also, everyone on these apps is looking for different types of relationships, whether it be casual or serious. The definition of these relationships should be the same for a couple, but people define relationships subjectively, which is why we can't fully depend on these sites.

While the dating site Match.com caters more toward people ages 30 and over, my generation leans toward using the apps Tinder and Grindr, which have the same general purpose as the other apps. I have friends who have Tinder to either see who thinks they're attractive or just to meet new friends. From my friends' experiences, it is apparently rare to see someone in my generation on Tinder looking for a real relationship. Tinder states on its website, "Meet new and interesting people nearby." Yes, the eHarmony statement mentions more about dating. But Tinder doesn't advertise that it is a hookup-only site.

I understand people want different things throughout romantic relationships. Plenty of Fish and other sites allow you to specify what you are looking for whether it is casual, open, serious or marriage. Some people might interpret open as friends with benefits while some might consider it as being committed to each other but sometimes seeing other people. Casual could mean a one-night stand or just looking for a friend. Serious and marriage generally have one definition and are the most sincere types of relationships. If they're so serious, then why are people using websites instead of in-person conversations to look for these types of relationships? Many will have the excuse of "not having any luck," but hiding behind a computer screen instead of going out to meet people lessens your chances.

What if you're not finding anyone who appeals to you online but there are five people at a nearby coffee shop or club?

Personally, I can't stand when a guy tries sliding in my DMs saying hey or putting an emoji to start a conversation. If someone does message me, I do answer to not be rude. But if I see an ounce of disrespect, I immediately stop responding. Online messages can be pre-planned, while in person conversations are mostly on the spot unless rehearsed a number of times. This is why in-person conversation, and flirtation, is more meaningful than online.

Besides online dating sites, Generation Z also uses social media to flirt. If someone doesn't send a DM, they can comment on a photo to show interest. I may be overreacting, but if a guy uses emojis to show interest in me, it's a little pathetic. It shows you're lazy or you don't care enough.

As much as I despise online dating, I have gone on a date before with someone who messaged me on Instagram. He wasn't a psychopath or anything unusual, but that's because I took the time to get to know him before I met him in person. People have used these sites to catfish people, as all of the new technology to edit and enhance features on photos is increasing the number of catfish situations.

Dating in person over online is the bluntest way to date. When you meet someone in person, you see what they look like and get a good impression of their personality. From here, you can get their number and go on a date whether it be dinner and a movie or Netflix and chill. The Z generation specifically should practice this more, because we lack the communication skills that other generations have.

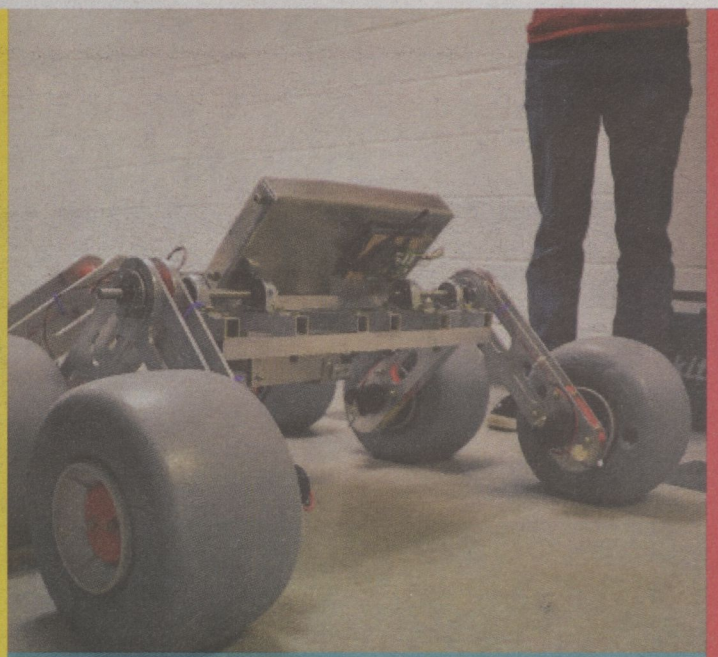
Because of online dating, I've noticed that boys look at me more as an object rather than as a human being. I am not worth an emoji or a corny message about my Hispanic background or photos on Instagram or Snapchat. I am worth an in-person conversation and possibly asked on a dinner date. If I eventually have to be forced to online date, at least have a conversation with me like I am a human being. Or, better yet, come start a relaxed conversation with me at Starbucks and see where it goes.



DENIS BOCQUET/FLICKR VIA CC BY-SA 2.0

Robot Design Team builds Mars rover

By Brianne Ledda



LE SI QU/THE STATESMAN

Stony Brook University's Robot Design Team is building a robot to compete in the University Rover Challenge, a competition to build a rover equipped to explore Mars.

The competition will take place at the Mars Desert Research Station outside Hanksville, Utah, where the sandy terrain is meant to mimic that of Mars. Rovers must be able to traverse the ground autonomously, complete an extreme retrieval and delivery task where the rover must pick up and deliver objects in the field, collect and analyze soil samples and pass the terrain traversal test, meant to assess the rover's suspension and design.

This marks the first year that the club will be participating in the contest. In the past, the robot design team has been limited to smaller competitions, such as ShepRobo Fest, where they fight in recreated sci-fi universe sceneries.

Club president and junior mechanical engineering major Le Si Qu said that last year's robot, Fred, was about one cubic foot.

"Our robot this year is almost 90 pounds," Qu said. "So we went from something I can pick up with one hand to something that weighs almost as much as me. It's insane how much the team has come in one year."

The robot isn't the only thing that grew in size — Qu said that the club has grown to include over 50 active members, in contrast to 30 last year.

The club runs several outreach initiatives, both on campus and across Long Island.

This past summer alone, the club presented at a free tech camp and the Eastern Long Island Mini Maker Faire, a venue for "makers," from artists to scientists to engineers.

"It's really important for us to reach out to the next generation and inspire the next generation of engineers," Qu said. "It's always good to get them inspired early and spread the word."

On campus, the Robot Design Team has a table at involvement fairs, presents in classrooms and makes an appearance on Admitted Students Day for mechanical engineering. It also participated in CommUniversity Day, an event meant to highlight the campus community through entertainment, discussions, tours and interactive activities.

Team leaders within the club are very willing to teach new members who come in with different skill levels. Some new members, like freshman computer engineering major Sasha Sokolov, started teaching workshops their first year. Others may come in with virtually no experience.

"We try to be as welcoming to beginner people as possible," said Joseph Cullen, software team lead and a senior computer engineering and applied mathematics and statistics double major.

The club hosts workshops throughout the year to teach basic skills to its newer members, and the executive board and team leaders hold office hours.

"I personally think a lot of people don't get this, but the important part of engineering is that you get actual practice," said Prangon Ghose, club member and freshman computer engineering major. "Because like the classes teach you stuff, but you're not really understanding, like if a professor talks about a motor, like what is actually a motor. You actually need to be working on it."

Qu described the club as a hands-on, collaborative experience.

"We are the largest interdisciplinary engineering design team on campus," she said. "No one has computer science, no one has computer science with electric and mechanical, and now science. You get this opportunity to work with different majors, and a lot of people in different fields and you're exposed to things you wouldn't normally be if you were just a mechanical engineer."

The Tech Issue

Alumna outperforms the competition on "The Voice"

By Joseph Konig
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

For Kelsea Johnson, the path to success has been all about timing.

In 2014, the Delaware native auditioned for the NBC singing competition, "The Voice," at an open call audition attended by thousands. The producers liked her performance enough to call her back for another round of auditions, but Johnson had a scheduling conflict.

"I ended up contacting The Voice and telling them 'hey, I actually got my acceptance letter to Stony Brook,'" Johnson said. "I think I want to get my degree first and then do music later."

Three years later, Johnson did just that. She graduated from Stony Brook with a double major in psychology and sociology in May and, over the summer, found herself once again auditioning for "The Voice." On March 20, she advanced to show's third televised round.

"I was like 'you know what Kelsea, maybe you should actually take things seriously for once,'" Johnson said. "This is what I'm going to use this year for and hopefully it turns into a lifetime instead of just a gap year."

For the show's season debut in February, the 22-year-old sang the Meghan Trainor and John Legend hit, "Like I'm Gonna Lose You," turning the heads — and chairs — of the show's coaches. On "The Voice," the panel of coaches face away from the stage as they listen to the per-

formances of prospective contestants. Then, if they want to recruit the singer to their team, they hit a big red button to turn their big red thrones around.

Johnson chose singer Alicia Keys over Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine and singer Kelly Clarkson. Keys praised Johnson throughout the process and, on Tuesday, chose her over Jordyn Simone, another Team Keys singer after a sing-off.

"Kelsea has something really, really special," Keys said. "Her voice has a warmth, a gravel. I had to go with Kelsea."

Johnson had similar praise for her chosen coach.

"The person she puts out to the world, the person you see on TV and Instagram and everywhere is who she really is," Johnson said. "[Keys] is such a great person and I can tell that she's really passionate about this. This isn't just another thing for her to do. She actually cares about her artists."

Johnson always sang, but her experiences before singing on national television were limited to the occasional YouTube cover, family wedding or Caribbean Student Organization event on campus. Recording "Like I'm Gonna Lose You" after her televised audition exposed her to a professional studio environment for the first time.

"It was really overwhelming because we recorded at Jim Henson [recording studios] and that's an iconic studio," Johnson said. "Like Michael Jackson, Justin Bieber, these huge people have recorded there... It was

just really amazing for that to be my first experience."

Despite her limited professional experience, "The Voice" was not Johnson's first singing competition. She competed in Stony Brook Idol in her final semester. While she did not end up winning, the video of her performance on the Stony Brook Idol Facebook page was the most viewed out of any performance, according to William Taylor, the Stony Brook Idol program coordinator and the residence hall director for Douglass College.

"On average our videos were [viewed by] about a hundred, couple hundred people," Taylor said. "But her video, when we posted it on Facebook, got about 1,600 views."

Johnson's friends long knew how talented a singer she was. Kian McKoy, a senior journalism major who served on the CSO e-board with Johnson last year, constantly promotes her friend on social media.

"She just always sang," McKoy said. "She would sing at Bob Marley night. She was in her room, she sang. She sang on Snapchat."

It was Johnson's singing on Snapchat that got her the attention of "The Voice" producers last year. The show held a mini-competition on its official Snapchat at the beginning of 2017 and Johnson entered.

"I just sent a little random clip of me singing," Johnson said.



PAUL DRINKWATER/NBC

Kelsea Johnson graduated from Stony Brook in May. This spring she is competing on NBC's "The Voice."

"And then they got back to me, telling me 'yeah, send some more. We like what you're doing.'"

Ultimately, the coaches passed over Johnson, but producers reached out again over the summer asking her to audition for the TV show version. She spent the next few months making her way through callbacks until she was chosen to perform for the show's blind auditions round.

The performance shown in the season's first episode filmed in October, leaving Johnson in the frustrating position of keeping her appearance a secret for five months.

"It was horrible," Johnson said. "You have this great news, you want to tell people, and it was even harder because I just graduated in May and people know that I moved to

California... but they're not seeing any results."

When she could finally tell the people in her life, it was a "huge relief," Johnson said. She received tremendous support from her friends, family and the Stony Brook community.

"My Seawolves are there for me," Johnson said. "They're posting me and reposting and downloading the song."

Johnson faces a long path to the finale, but no matter how it ends, she embraces the opportunity and is thrilled her "gap year" has been as successful as it has.

"I felt like everything I've been going through has been all about timing," Johnson said. "I just got my degree. I do have a year to spare. If not now, when would I do it?"

"Love, Simon" opens up genre

By Matthew Rainis
Contributing Writer

"Love, Simon," released on March 16, is a by-the-books teen romantic comedy, bar one key detail: the main character is gay.

The movie is the first major studio high school romance told from the perspective of a gay teen. Other than that, the film earnestly follows a familiar plot structure and contains tropes found in the decades of teenage love stories that came before it. Despite its lack of depth in some areas, the movie is a sweet, optimistic coming out story that leaves viewers with a warm, fuzzy feeling inside.

Based off the novel "Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda" by Becky Albertalli, "Love, Simon" is the newest film from teen drama veteran Greg Berlanti, best known for his work on "Dawson's Creek" and the CW's "Arrowverse" shows. Berlanti's experience in the genre is evident in the film and he does a good job supplementing the familiarity of the plotting with genuine, heartwarming emotion and some humorous dialogue, setting it apart from your usual teen movie fare.

The film follows 17-year-old Simon Spier, a closeted gay teen living in an Atlanta suburb. After seeing the anonymous confession of another closeted student from his school, Simon begins a long series of emails with the student who goes by the pseudonym Blue. Simon develops feelings for Blue and attempts to figure out who Blue is.

Things get complicated when Simon and Blue's exchanges are discovered by Martin, one of their



GORDON CORRELL/WIKIMEDIA COMMON VIA CC BY SA 2.0

Nick Robinson at the 2015 Toronto International Film Festival. Robinson stars in the rom-com "Love, Simon."

classmates portrayed by Logan Miller. Not ready to tell his parents he's gay, much less the entire world, Simon is forced to help Martin woo their friend Abby, played by Alexandra Shipp. When Abby does not reciprocate, Martin publishes the emails and outs Simon.

The positivity and normalcy the film portrays Simon's struggles makes it pleasant and watchable, occasionally tugging at the heartstrings a bit. However, the film lacks in depth in some capacities.

While the character of Simon feels well fleshed out, partially in thanks to a stellar performance by Nick Robinson, best known for his role in "Jurassic World," the rest of the characters seem somewhat paper-thin. The film expects viewers to become invested in the relationships and crushes of Simon's group of friends. However, that is hard to do because

they're all cardboard cut-outs of stereotypical teen movie archetypes.

While many of the heart-to-heart scenes feature well-written, heart-warming dialogue and quality acting, especially in one impactful conversation between Simon and his mother, played by Jennifer Garner, they leave you wishing the relationships between Simon and his friends and family have been developed further, so that those moments could be even more meaningful.

Overall, Simon's coming out story is handled with good humor and poise. Though not as intricate as similar recent films like "Lady Bird," the film's message of inclusion and acceptance makes it feel special.

If you're looking for some light, feel-good viewing for an hour and a half, "Love, Simon" should do the trick.

ARTSY

EVENTS

March 27

Potato Art Lecture

In conjunction with the Charles B. Wang Center's current exhibition, Potasia: Potatoism in the East, Professor of Art History Jeffrey Allen Price will give a lecture on the historical influence of potatoes as found in works of art from ancient Peru, through Modernism and the European avant-garde, to contemporary art around the world. Taking place in Lecture Hall 1 at the Wang Center at 1 p.m., this event is free, but an RSVP is required to attend.

March 28

Ways of Kneeling

On Wednesday at 1 p.m. in the Paul W. Zuccaire Gallery, artist Young Min Moon will present a series of images that honors a ritual performed to remember the spirits of ancestors and funerary rite of mourning for the deceased. The talk, entitled "Ways of Kneeling," focuses on repeated imagery of a back view of a kneeling man in a suit.

April 4

Brookfest

Featured at the Island Federal Credit Union Arena on Wednesday, April 4 at 7 p.m., Atlanta rapper 21 Savage will headline the annual Brookfest concert. Tickets for an alumni reception in the VIP Lounge before the concert at 6 p.m. are available online. Rappers Trippie Redd, Jay Critch and Crank Dat will be the opening acts for 21 Savage.

OPINIONS

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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

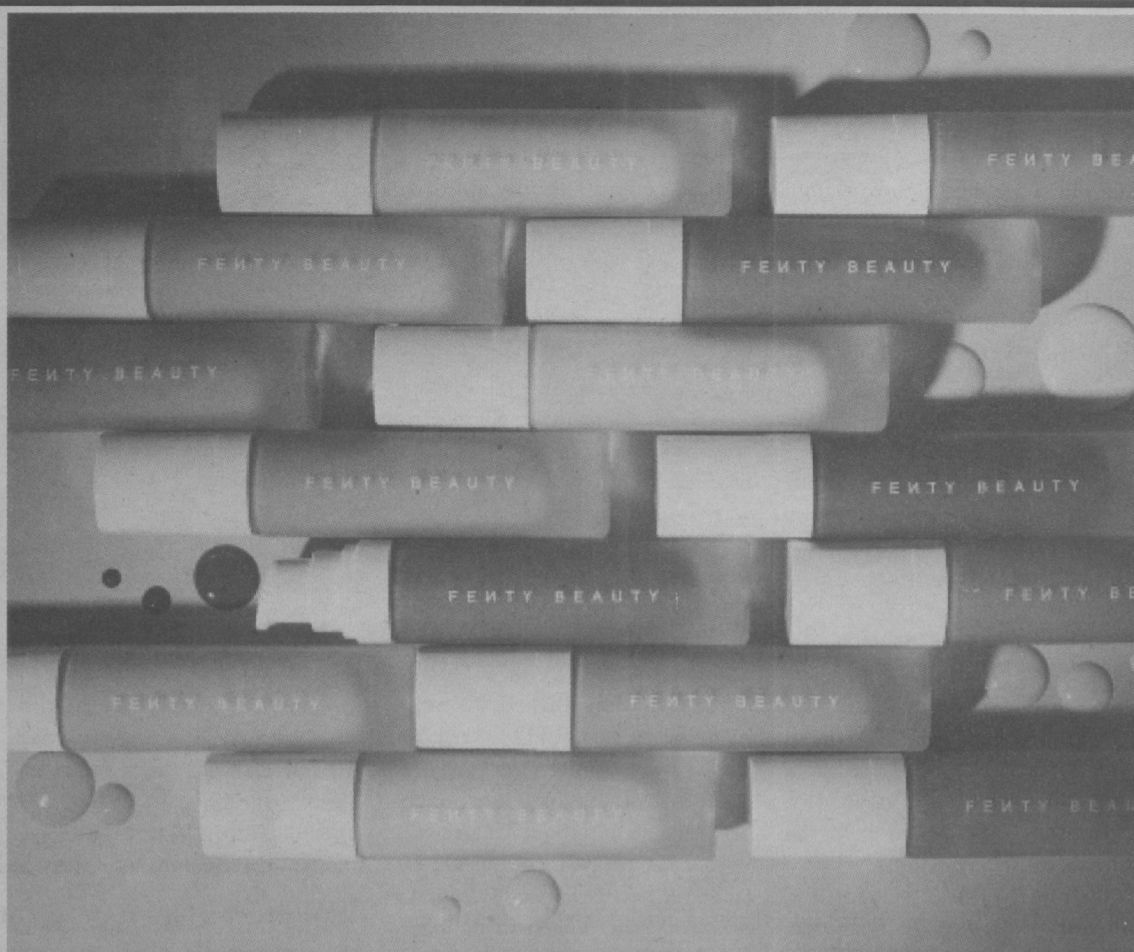
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First issue free; additional issues cost 50 cents.



FENTY BEAUTY/INSTAGRAM

Fenty Beauty by Rihanna is one of the few makeup brands that offers a variety of shades that cater to over 40 different skin colors. The makeup line launched its products in 2017.

Makeup brands need to represent more diversity in their products

By Samiha Ahmed
Contributing Writer

This spring break, I got the chance to meet makeup artist and YouTuber, Raye Boyce, whose YouTube channel is *Itsmyrayeraye*. She held a launch party at Ulta Beauty for her new products in collaboration with BH Cosmetics, where she promoted her new eyeshadow, highlight and contour palette and her new lip color that comes in three different formulas: lipstick, liquid lipstick and lip gloss.

After meeting her, I realized how important it was for me to have women of color as role models for makeup. People like me only have YouTubers to help us figure out which products will look nice because the models in the stores and on websites often only portray white and slim-faced models; there are barely any models portrayed in the makeup industry who promote tan and dark skin colors. A majority of the models who are chosen are fair skinned, making it difficult for people of color to determine if the product will look good on them. Looking at three different fair skinned models wearing the same golden highlight will not help me understand if the golden highlight will look the same on me, a tan-skinned girl.

I only watch YouTubers who have similar skin tones and skin types to me, so I know which products will work best for my skin. Watching videos of Kaushal Beauty, Nabela Noor, *ItsIsabelbedoya* and Sharifa Easmin-Kabir helped me learn techniques of how to apply makeup, options of products

that will look good on my skin and cheaper options of high-end products. There needs to be more diversity in the photographed models in makeup stores, so we can make better decisions when shopping for makeup.

Finding a foundation shade that matches my skin color is one of the most difficult things to do while makeup shopping because of the lack of colors that brands provide. Many people resort to mixing foundations from different brands to create the exact shade. We shouldn't have to buy more than one shade of foundation to create the perfect match for our skin, while others can go to the store and pick out their exact shade immediately.

The difficulty of finding tan, beige and dark skin colored foundations is slowly starting to change as new makeup brands are being released and makeup artists are coming out with their own products. For example, Fenty Beauty by Rihanna was released last year and created lots of hype because she came out with 40 shades of foundation that were inclusive of every skin tone. On the other hand, Tarte came out with their Shape Tape Foundation this year, which was met with a lot of disappointment because their foundation collection only contained 18 shades, of which 13 were light. Many customers reviewed the product and were upset that they were not able to find a match to their skin tone. Tarte, then, apologized on Instagram: "We wanted to get the product out as fast as possible, & we made the decision to move forward before all the shades were ready to go. We know there is no excuse, & we take

full responsibility for launching this way."

Some companies are choosing to expand their range of skin tones in the models that they hire to attract more customers: Covergirl chose Sharifa Easmin-Kabir as a model last year and Lancôme chose Lupita Nyong'o as their ambassador. However, just because they have models that are representing their brand doesn't mean the brand itself is providing the products that their customers need. In fact, recently, makeup brands only chose to expand their foundation shade range after they felt that their competition increased. After Rihanna's Fenty Beauty Pro Filt'r Soft Matte Longwear Foundation came out, many brands decided to advertise their darker shades even more and expand their collections.

Although some makeup brands attempt to create products that could work for the skin tones of people of color, they forget to think about the undertones. Many people find their skin color, but when applying foundation or concealer, they realize the undertones are off. Companies need to think about catering to the needs of people of color with warm, cool or neutral undertones.

Makeup companies need to expand their range of colors on foundation, concealers, contour shades and powders in order to attract and keep customers. Brands need to be more inclusive of people of color by representing them in their marketing and products. Hopefully, one day, I can go to a store that has models that represent my skin tone and find shades that fit my skin color easily.

All college students should have customer service experience

By Gabby Pardo
Assistant Opinions Editor

I've had two part-time jobs and one internship since I was 15 years old. I am now 19, working my third job. And no, I was not fired from any of them. Some people may feel 15 is a young age to start working. But because I started work at such a young age, I noticed that compared to my peers, I am advanced in communications skills and job interviews. I haven't had that "real job" yet, but the past two jobs and my current one all fall into the customer service field.

Having small customer service jobs before starting your career allows you to experiment and discover your work habits. My first job was as a counter girl at a bakery. At the time, I didn't even think about getting a job. I only took it because my brother's girlfriend at the time guaranteed I would get the spot. Being a counter girl isn't just tying boxes and looking cute. The job cured my fear of talking to strangers and inspired me to have more confidence in my speech. When I trained, I got constructive criticism on how I need to be louder and more open with customers. I worked at the bakery for three years, and I still go help out on holidays when I'm home. I also now have the habit of talking too much with my customers.

I took on my second job, along with my bakery job, when I was

17. I honestly feel I nailed my interview during this experience because of the skills I learned from my first job. My second job fell into the retail field instead of the food industry. I only applied for a second job because I needed some extra cash for prom and other senior year events. This was my first retail experience, but I depended on my friendly personality and customer service knowledge to guide me through adjusting to a new field of work. Although I was still working the register, I had to adjust to new types of customers, staff and procedures. Obviously, my customer service skills increased because I dealt with new types of people. But I learned how to adjust to change as well. Both of these skills are very basic but necessary for future careers.

I hated retail, so now I'm back at serving my favorite thing ever: food. Getting to work can be a challenge, and so can having limited availability because of my commute. I could take the Long Island Rail Road, which leaves me with a 20-minute walk to my job. Or, I could drag myself on the Suffolk County bus, which stops running after 6:40 p.m. Having this challenge builds determination and responsibility within me.

This applies to my workload, too. I flip crepes for a living. Cool, right? Not when you have to ring up people, make crepes and serve one person or eight college kids



OPEN-ARMS/Flickr VIA CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

A counter girl prepares an order at a French bakery. Customer service jobs can increase an individual's communications skills, preparing them for higher-level work in the future.

while prepping ingredients for the days ahead. I wouldn't be able to be composed in the workplace from all of the traveling to making crepes for two straight hours without a friendly smile, organization and motivation. These skills also apply to my daily routine of going to class and squeezing in time for extracurriculars.

Everyone comes from different economic classes, some more

fortunate than others. Some teens might have to start working at an early age and some might not have a job at all or won't get one until their early 20s. I may have earned minimum wage for four years with no benefits, but I did earn skills and knowledge that can be used for the rest of my career. I am always hungry, literally, but also to learn anything. Small customer service jobs provide

us with a source of income at a young age, a platform to discover our strengths and weaknesses and a safety net to catch our mistakes. Even if your mom and dad can afford to give you money every week, don't be lazy to the point where you suddenly wake up and do something with your life. Get on Handshake or visit local businesses to discover your path to growth.

The university should change the date of spring break

By Andrew Goldstein
Opinions Editor

Yes, it snowed on the first day of spring. Yes, global warming is a thing. Yes, all your Instagram photos of the school covered in snow were original and fantastic and I'll double-tap each of them.

But more annoying to me than missing a day and a smidge of class (I pay tuition to get educated, I will fight you) is getting a week off for spring break with winter weather.

If you're anything like me, this spring break was a mental exercise of knowing you have a lot of work, specifically not doing the work because this is your recuperation week, being bored about having nothing to do and then regretting spending a week doing nothing as you cram for tests and write essays up to those midnight deadlines.

One of the reasons I couldn't come up with serious spring plans was the snow. This was the third spring break in a row where there was a snowstorm that elicited an email from Stony Brook Emergency Management. Spring break wasn't even during spring.

To be fair, the placement of spring break makes logical sense. It takes place seven weeks after the start of the semester and seven weeks before the end of finals. And that's great. It's better than the fall semester plan of a two-day break for Labor Day and a three-day break for Thanksgiving. Thank God that's being switched up next semester.



ERIC SCHMID/STATESMAN FILE

Four bicycles buried in snow parked in front of Toscanini College. This has been the third spring break in a row where Stony Brook students encountered a snow storm.

But beyond being a week of respite from classes, spring break should be a week of mental rehabilitation. College is hard. Stony Brook is hard. And that's a good thing. But more mentally healthy than a week off, stuck indoors and cold during the last week of winter, would be a week of spring weather, blooming trees and general calm. How great would it be to hike and go to amusement parks or baseball games instead of being stuck inside with nothing to do except read

or binge watch *The Office* again while ignoring the mountain of homework looming around the corner?

The Stony Brook administration does not control the weather. They can't be expected to know, at the time of planning spring break, how much snow will fall. But three years in a row is a pretty clear reason to postpone spring break at least until after spring has sprung.

Enter Passover. I know I've written about this before. I know that Stony

Brook has a policy about giving off during religious holidays and I totally understand. But hear me out on this.

Passover is a weeklong holiday. One of its other names is "Holiday of the Spring," because the Jewish lunar calendar is rigged to make sure it always falls in the spring. Last year, it fell on the first week of 80 degree weather.

I will take off for Passover anyway. I'm legally allowed to and my family expects me to. This is

not a way to ask for extra days off. As it is, I get both spring break and Passover. I have worked holidays out with teachers in a myriad of ways: taking tests later, having other tests worth more credit, handing in homework early and more. In my experience at Stony Brook, professors have been incredibly respectful of my holidays.

I don't necessarily need Passover off this year. The days of Passover that I'd need to miss class for are over weekends (and a Thursday night). This year, Passover falls two weeks after spring break, the night of March 30. Last year, Passover was a month later than spring break. I understand that waiting a month after the halfway point wouldn't be the best way to schedule a week of recuperation. But Passover is a model of a "spring break system" that shifts to more accurately fall in the spring.

Maybe the adjustment made could be that spring break always falls on the week after March 20, the first day of spring. It might not always be the exact center of the semester, but the chances of having better weather are higher. Or maybe Passover or Easter or other springtime holidays can be taken into account when scheduling the break; if they can be included in spring break without shifting it too late in the semester then they are.

I hope some of these thoughts are taken into account in future semesters. Have a wonderful spring and good luck on finals.

Five suggestions to improve your dine-in experience

By Matthew Yan
Contributing Writer

Dine-in is a mixed bag. Sometimes the food can taste surprisingly good. Other times it's a dry, tasteless mess. But for the Seawolves stuck on the unlimited plan, East Side and West Side Dining are probably going to be their go-to spots for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Here are some tips to make your experience better.

1. Know your options

Hungry Seawolves should know all of the options available to them every day. The daily menus for all dining facilities on campus are available online on the Stony Brook University Campus Dining website to help you plan your meals. For a change of pace from the same old cereal and eggs, the Oasis Grill at both dine-in facilities can have radically different options from the usual breakfast offerings, such as kimchi or cajun okra and corn. East Side Dining also has its signature omelet bar, which offers custom omelets filled with your choice of vegetables, meats and cheese fillings to your liking. West Side Dining's Breakfast Grill serves up hot burritos every morning. It's also hard to go wrong with the daily fruit salad options available at both facilities. Seawolves who are living in Roth and Tabler Quads can also get one free meal per day with the meal exchange system at Roth Cafe if they're on the unlimited plan, giving them an extra option for lunch and dinner.



ZACHARY DYER/THE STATESMAN

West and East Side Dining are the best options for students on unlimited meal plans. Both dine-ins offer options such as hot burritos available for breakfast at West Side Dining.

2. Try something new

Weekly Wednesday dinner specials are becoming increasingly frequent at both dine-in facilities. The Guest Chef series brings in special themed menus like French, farm-grown and Korean options, allowing Seawolves to broaden their culinary horizons. I personally found kushari — a Middle Eastern dish consisting of long grain rice, lentils and pasta topped with chickpeas and crispy fried onions — to be addictively delicious. It's something I might have never had the chance to enjoy if I hadn't gone that night. Another one of these specials, Prime Night, allows dine-in goers to

try foods that would normally be out of their price range like steaks and crab au gratin with their meal swipes. Give it a shot if you're in the mood for something different.

3. Mix it up

The fastest way to get tired of dine-in is to eat the same things every day. Don't fall into the trap of grabbing the same meals over and over for lunch and dinner. While it's good to have a safety net of foods you can fall back on, it never hurts to visit another station you don't normally frequent. Dig into a grilled cheese instead of a burger, or a soup bowl instead of a salad. When you're bored with the

pork chops, try the falafel. Sample the strawberry squares instead of the chocolate cake. If you keep yourself guessing, it's a lot harder to get tired of what you're eating.

4. Be creative

Take advantage of the fact that you can freely visit all of the available options as much as you want. If you're in the mood for an icy treat, try filling a cup halfway with ice cream and pouring milk or soy milk over it for a DIY milkshake. If East Side Dining is offering smoky barbecue sauce at the Vegan Delights station, take some and spread it on whatever meats you like. If the chicken is dry, throw it

in a bowl of vegetable or meat soup to liven it up or sprinkle on some Tabasco sauce if you're feeling brave.

5. Let them know

If all else fails, then it's time to let your voice be heard by sending your complaints to people who can help you make a difference. You can send your feedback directly to Campus Dining with its feedback form. If you're social media savvy, you can also text "TellsBUEats" with your comments to 24587 or leave a message on the SBU Eats Facebook page. The Residence Hall Association (RHA) also holds town halls with Campus Dining and other major entities on campus, allowing you to ask your questions directly to the officials. Be sure to get in contact with your RHA senators for more details.

If you aren't comfortable with sending a direct message to Campus Dining, you can reach out to Student Voice on Campus Dining, an organization devoted to improving the dining experience on campus. They collect data and student feedback to bring directly to the Faculty Student Association, who in turn take it to Culinar in one of their scheduled meetings. Campus Dining itself also sends out sporadic surveys that often give Seawolves a chance to win free prizes if they fill it out, so make sure you check your email.

These are just a few tips to make your dine-in experience more bearable. While they aren't perfect, they're still worth trying to help make the best of your time here at Stony Brook.

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Men's Lacrosse wins conference game against Hartford

By Chris Parkinson
Assistant Sports Editor

Finding itself up by a single goal with less than two minutes to play in regulation, Stony Brook Men's Lacrosse looked to pull away from Hartford for itself second consecutive victory.

Head coach Jim Nagle called a timeout with little over a minute to play. Stony Brook then made a push toward the Hartford net. Sophomore attacker Tom Haun fired a shot past senior goalkeeper Ryan Vanderford just six seconds after the timeout to seal the Seawolves' victory 10-8 Saturday afternoon at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium.

"This was a great team win for us today, I'm really happy with the way the defense came together," Nagle said in a press release. "We competed at the faceoff circle for the first time and we were able to shut down a really explosive offensive team, holding them to only eight goals, so there were a lot of positives for us."

Haun scored two goals in the game, which now ties him with sophomore midfielder Chris Pickel, Jr., who also scored in the game, for the team's top-scoring spot at 11 goals.

The team's offense had been successful all day by maintaining possession and being able to get around the Hartford defense. The Seawolves led 6-5 headed into halftime and outshot the Hawks 18-12, along with competing in the faceoff circle by

winning six faceoffs out of 13. The Seawolves have a record of 3-0 this season when leading at halftime.

Both teams shared a back-and-forth type of play in the third period of play, as Hartford scored to level the score at 6. Five minutes following the equalizing goal, Hartford's leading goal scorer, senior midfielder Griffin Feiner, notched his 28th goal of the season and second of the game to put Hartford up 7-6 with 3:13 left to play in the third.

The Seawolves momentum was alive, as the offense made a strong push following the goal, as junior long stick middie Ryland Rees and freshman midfielder Patrick Kaschalk scored back-to-back goals in the span of 41 seconds to retrieve the lead for their team. Stony Brook would not relinquish the lead for the remainder of the matchup.

Pickel, Jr. continued his hot streak of scoring in the matchup, notching a man-advantage goal with 6:42 left in the first period. Pickel, Jr. has scored in seven of the team's eight games this season. Sophomore midfielder Wayne White notched his second multi-goal game of the season, as he scored back-to-back goals in the first period of play to tie the game at four.

A key factor in the victory was the ability to capitalize on man-advantage opportunities. The Seawolves scored on two of their three man-advantage op-

portunities. Hartford also was efficient with their single opportunity of the game, scoring a goal to claim the lead 4-3 with four minutes remaining in the first period of play.

The Stony Brook defense held the Hartford attack through the game, as sophomore goalkeeper Michael Bollinger made numerous stops, including four saves in the second period. Bollinger finished the matchup with 10 total saves, bringing his season total up to 52. When presenting a save percentage of 50 percent, the

Seawolves have won three games. Bollinger's decision record now improves to 3-2.

Haun led the team with four ground balls. Freshman attacker Jack Walsh and senior long stick middie Kyle Abdellatif followed with three ground balls each.

The game marks the seventh straight time Stony Brook has won against Hartford. The team has been off to a strong start in inter-conference play, winning their two games against America East teams. Stony Brook now claims the top spot in the Amer-

ica East with a 2-0 record and an overall record of 3-5. Stony Brook will travel upstate on Saturday, March 31 to take on in-state rival Albany.

Albany currently holds the number one national ranking as well as a undefeated record through eight game thus far. The last time the two teams met on May 4 of last season, Albany defeated Stony Brook 19-6 in the Seawolves season finale at Casey Stadium. The first faceoff for the match on Saturday is set for 4 p.m.



LUIS RUIZ DOMINGUEZ/THE STATESMAN

Sophomore attackman Chris Pickel, Jr. (No. 13, above) in a game against Brown. Pickel, Jr. scored a goal in Stony Brook's 10-8 victory over UMass Lowell on Saturday.

Men's Basketball alum Warney enjoys homecoming

By Gregory Zarb
Sports Editor

Stony Brook Men's Basketball alumnus Jameel Warney has learned to shine bright in some of the most important moments of his career. He led Stony Brook to its first ever America East championship during the 2015-16 season, scoring 43 points in the game. He recorded a double-double in the team's first trip to the NCAA tournament.

Playing at Madison Square Garden as a basketball player in the NBA quite possibly tops it all.

"It's been a great moment in my life," Warney said. "Hopefully I can find a way stick with it. I'm taking every day for what it's worth and I'm trying to keep on getting better and hopefully something will happen with it."

The New Jersey native became the first Stony Brook Men's Basketball member to play in the NBA when the Dallas Mavericks signed him to a 10-day contract on Sunday, March 11. He traveled with the team during the team's East Coast trip, which included a homecoming with games against the New York Knicks and the Brooklyn Nets.

The forward's first game was in Dallas, where he faced off against the Houston Rockets, who are atop the Western Conference. He played eight minutes in the game, scoring five points and grabbing four rebounds. Warney had his best game against the Knicks, playing 12 minutes and

scoring eight points while pulling down three rebounds.

"The kid is great, a solid player that's earned his shot," Mavericks head coach Rick Carlisle said of Warney. "I wanted him to get a chance to get in there early. He went in the first half and had three or four great minutes. He went in the second half and held his ground. He rebounds from his position and plays tough. He did a very nice job."

He went undrafted in the 2016 NBA draft but spent the last two seasons playing in the G-League for the Maverick's affiliate team, the Texas Legends. This was his first time playing in New York in an NBA setting. He most recently played on Long Island at the Nassau Coliseum as a member of the Legends taking on the Long Island Nets, the G-League team for the Brooklyn Nets.

"When I saw the schedule and I saw I was gonna be back in New York, it was fun," Warney said. "I got to see a lot of people from New Jersey and Stony Brook and Long Island. I know a lot of people are excited to see me play, but it's a part of my 10-day, so I need to be ready for anything."

Warney first heard about his 10-day contract through Twitter mentions and texts from friends before confirming it for himself.

"I woke up from my pregame nap and saw I had a lot of messages, but I didn't pay any attention to them," Warney said. "Then I went on Twitter and saw a lot of people congratulating

me on a 10-day. So I called my agent and he told me that I had a 10-day."

Warney joined a team that is one of the worst in the league this season. Aging veterans and rookies along with playing in the more difficult conference plagued the Mavericks, as the team currently holds a 22-51 record.

He also had a former Legend teammate on the team when he signed his 10-day. Forward Kyle Collinsworth was a member of the Legends earlier this season before getting signed to the Mavericks for the rest of the season. Warney and Collinsworth are close friends based off the videos of them posted all over social media, and Warney could not be happier to be back on the court with him.

"Oh yeah, he's been helping me out a lot," Warney said of his friend. "He's been telling me where I need to be at times, just giving me advice and just helping me out since this is my first 10-day. I don't really know what to do around here and [Collinsworth] and definitely been a helping hand."

Collinsworth played with Warney for two years on the Legends and continuously gave him advice on the NBA if they ever called.

"I just kept telling him to 'play to your strengths,'" Collinsworth said. "They didn't call you up to do different things, they called you up to do what you do. Take

it one day at a time and just have fun. It'll take care of itself."

However, Warney's 10-day contract expired, and the Mavericks did not re-sign the forward, and did not play in the final two games during the span of the contract. In total, he averaged 5.3 points with three rebounds per game and shot 58 percent

from the field while getting on the court in three games.

Warney is now back in the G-League with the Legends, where he has averaged 18.6 points per game and 8.8 rebounds. The team will prepare for its final regular season game against the Rio Grande Valley Vipers on Tuesday, March 27 at 7 p.m. central time.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NBA E/GETTY IMAGES

Stony Brook alumnus Jameel Warney poses for a head shot during media day for the Texas Legends.

SPORTS

Baseball uses dominant pitching in series sweep against Quinnipiac

By Ryan Pavich
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook baseball team wrapped up its first homestand of the season, playing three games against Quinnipiac. Stony Brook swept the series, led by strong pitching performances and plenty of run support.

The Seawolves set the tone early in the first game, pushing across four runs in the first inning. Sophomore outfielder Chris Hamilton delivered the runs with a grand slam to right field off Bobcats senior starting pitcher Chris Enns.

The team jumped on Enns again. Sophomore outfielder Michael Wilson drove in a run on a fielder's choice, and senior infielder Bobby Honeyman lifted a sacrifice fly to center field to score another, making it 6-0.

Enns was chased out of the game after two innings, and the Seawolves stayed hot. Sophomore infielder Nick Grande led off with a double and junior catcher Sean Buckhout reached base with a walk two batters later.

Hamilton put a ball in play to right field, and the catch was dropped, allowing both runners to score. The Seawolves capped off their scoring in the fifth inning, when Wilson doubled home two runners to make it 10-1.

Sophomore starting pitcher Brian Herrmann lasted two outs into the seventh inning. He gave up home

runs in the fourth and seventh innings. He earned his third win of the season, one less than he earned last season, as Stony Brook won 10-4.

Junior starting pitcher Brett Clarke was especially effective in game two. He earned nine outs off grounders, including a 1-5-3 double play ball to get the first two outs of the sixth inning that limited Quinnipiac's scoring opportunity.

The first two batters reached base, breaking Clarke's no-hit bid. Quinnipiac sophomore outfielder Andre

Marrero punched a single to center field to score a run, but Quinnipiac couldn't get any other runs across.

The Seawolves supported Clarke with a burst of runs. Senior outfielder Andruw Gazzola led off with a walk, and advanced to second on a Grande single. Wilson walked to load the bases, and a wild pitch allowed Gazzola to come home. Honeyman followed up with a single through the left side that put the Seawolves up 2-0.

Gazzola reached base with one out on a throwing error by the pitcher.

Grande singled to left field, scoring Gazzola. Wilson tripled down the right field line to bring home Grande, and scored himself on a ground ball from Honeyman that was misplayed by the third baseman. Senior closer Aaron Pinto came on in a non-save situation in the seventh up 5-1, getting the final three outs.

Stony Brook looked to secure the series sweep on Sunday. Quinnipiac worked its best start to a game in the series, getting its first lead of the weekend early. Sophomore infield-

er Dylan Lutz walked, and Marrero drove him home on a double.

Redshirt-sophomore starting pitcher Greg Marino shut the door on the Bobcats. Marino pitched his best game of the season, tossing seven innings and striking out seven while allowing two hits.

The offense picked Marino up immediately, scoring three runs in the bottom of the first to take the lead. The team executed a double steal with runners on first and third to score its first run, then Buckhout singled home the runner from second. Junior infielder Brandon Alamo singled Buckhout home to make it 3-1 Stony Brook.

The runs kept coming in the third inning. The first two batters reached base for the Seawolves in the inning, and Hamilton laid down a sacrifice bunt to advance the runners.

The Bobcats attempted to get the runner at second, but the throw was mishandled, allowing the lead runner to head home. A grounder by junior outfielder Cristian Montes and a single from junior infielder Brandon Janofsky pushed across two more runs in the inning, making it 7-1.

Sophomore pitcher Sam Turcotte came on in the eighth, and allowed an unearned run to score before closing the game out 9-2.

Stony Brook heads out for a single game on the road against LIU Brooklyn on March 27.



ARACELY JIMINEZ / THE STATESMAN

Redshirt-sophomore starting pitcher Greg Marino winds up for a pitch in a game against Quinnipiac. Stony Brook won all three games of its home series this weekend.

No. 1 Women's Lacrosse stays perfect in lopsided AE victory

By Gregory Zarb
Sports Editor

No. 1-seeded Stony Brook Women's Lacrosse opened the America East Conference playing in dominating fashion, defeating UMass Lowell 20-7 Saturday afternoon at Cushing Field.

The Seawolves caught fire early and did not let up offensively, scoring 16 goals in the first half alone. Senior attacker Kylie Ohlmiller recorded a team-high 10 points, scoring four goals and assisting on six other goals. Redshirt-senior attacker Courtney Murphy scored a team-high six goals on 10 shots and recorded one assist.

"Being 1-0 in conference play is a great place to be, I thought we came here and handled being on the road really well as a squad," head coach Joe Spallina said in a press release. "A lot of assisted goals, and the opportunity for us to play our entire roster today was great."

Stony Brook assisted on more than half of its goals on the day. Ohlmiller led the team, followed by sophomore attacker Taryn Ohlmiller, who scored four goals and had two assists. Murphy and three other teammates had one assist.

The contest started off as a back-and-forth affair, as the Seawolves led 5-3 after the first 10 minutes of action. The team came back down the field and senior midfielder Samantha DiSalvo fired a shot past River Hawks senior goalkeeper Courtney Barrett to kickstart an 8-0 run that lasted 12 minutes and put the Seawolves in front 13-3 with 7:39 left in the first half.

Stony Brook scored three more times to end the half with 16, the most the team has scored in a single half this season. The team scored four more goals in the second half to end the game with 20 goals, the most Stony Brook has all season.

Freshmen midfielder and attacker Siobhan Rafferty and Marlee Moon Gaddy scored the first goals of their Stony Brook careers. Rafferty was able to find the back of the net twice, while Moon Gaddy scored once and picked up an assist.

The Seawolves took 38 shots in the game compared to the River Hawks' 15. They were the more accurate team, recording 28 shots on goal compared to the River Hawks' 14 shots on goal. The team also forced 15 turnovers

while only giving the ball up nine times.

Stony Brook was nearly perfect in its clears, converting 14 of its 15 attempts. The team won the ground ball and draw-control game as well with 15 and 17 respectively.

Kylie Ohlmiller and Murphy both inch closer to NCAA records with each passing game.

Murphy will probably be the first of the two to break her record, which is career goals. The senior has 277 career goals and only trails the record holder, Temple alumna Gail Cummings, by 12 goals.

Kylie Ohlmiller needs to rack up 51 more points to break the career points record set by Maryland alumna Jen Adams, who

had 445. She also needs 28 more assists to break the record set by Northwestern alumna Jen Adams with 224.

Stony Brook will return home and continue the America East Conference play when the team takes on Vermont on Friday, March 30 at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium. The first face-off is slated for 7 p.m.



ARACELY JIMINEZ / THE STATESMAN

Redshirt-senior attacker Courtney Murphy in a game against Albany from the 2017 season. She scored six goals in Stony Brook's 20-7 victory against UMass Lowell.

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