

# THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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## Public forum addresses racism on Long Island

By Rebecca Liebson  
News Editor

Community members from across Long Island met at the Stony Brook Hilton Garden Inn to discuss structural racism and its impact on the region on Thursday, Nov. 29.

The event, organized by local racial advocacy group ERASE Racism, was the first in a series of public forums held across Long Island titled: "How Do We Build a Just Long Island?"

In spite of the name, most of the conversation dealt with the importance of acknowledging the systemic racism that exists on Long Island as opposed to brainstorming specific solutions.

"Many of the policies in our region that insulate and reproduce structural racism — now here I'm speaking particularly of our segregated schools, and towns, our lack of public transportation and other land use choices — are based on a false narrative of what Long Island was, of who it was for and a fear of where it is going," Abena Ampofo Asare, an assistant professor in the Africana studies department and panelist at the forum, said.



GREGORY ZARB / THE STATESMAN

**Pixelated images appear on a screen as rapper Travis Scott performs at Madison Square Garden on Nov. 27. The Houston rapper sold out MSG two nights in a row.**

The panelists explained how they believe racism has shaped Long Island's history. For instance, Chris Sellers, director of the Center for the Study of Inequality and Social Justice at SBU and professor in the department of history, pointed out that in the early 1900s, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory was headed by one of the pioneers of the American eugenics movement. Associate Professor in the department of sociology, Crystal Marie Fleming, pointed out that the hamlet of Yaphank was home to a Nazi colony in the 1930s.

"If we're going to build the kind of anti-racist change we seek, we need to be brave and talk frankly about these matters," Fleming said.

Another central theme was the persistence of segregation on Long Island in spite of its increasingly diverse population.

"Long Island is among the 10 most segregated metro regions in the country," ERASE Racism President, V. Elaine Gross, said. She pointed to data compiled by her organization which shows the number of intense-

ly segregated school districts (where the population is 90-100 percent non-white) more than doubled between 2004 and 2016, from five districts to 11.

"Folks become socially and culturally isolated from the realities of the society in which we live," Fleming said. "Research has also shown that the vast majority of Americans have no meaningful relationships with people of color."

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## Title IX Updates: What you need to know

By Brianne Ledda  
Assistant News Editor

United States Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos proposed several changes to Title IX regulations on Nov. 16. Among other things, the 1972 law requires schools that receive federal funding to respond to and remedy reported instances of sexual harassment and assault. If approved, DeVos' proposals would:

- Change the definition of sexual harassment to mean:

- A school employee is "conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the [school] on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;"

- Regardless of who the perpetrator is, "unwelcome conduct on the basis of sex that is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the [school]'s education program or activity;"

- Sexual harassment is currently defined as "unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature" that includes "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature."

- Schools would only be held responsible for investigating sex discrimination incidents that occur on campus or in connection to its own sponsored programs and activities.

- Title IX protections would be limited to persons in the United States, which would affect study abroad programs.

- Guarantee both parties the right to cross-examine each other.

- Direct cross-examination was previously discouraged because it could potentially retraumatize survivors.

- Allow the school to apply a stricter standard of evidence.

- Under current rules, schools are only able to apply the "preponderance of the evidence" standard, which is a lower legal standard.

- The proposal would give schools the option to apply the stricter "clear and convincing evidence" standard.

- If a school chooses to apply the "clear and convincing evidence" standard for cases that carry similar consequences to sexual harassment, they will be expected to use that standard for sexual harassment cases as well.

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## New market opens at West Side Dining after renovation

By Maya Brown  
Contributing Writer

The Market at West Side Dining reopened on Nov. 25 after being closed for renovations all semester.

"To focus on meeting the needs of students, FSA [Faculty Student Association] embarked on an eight-month construction project to build a brand new 2,100 square foot store," Angela Agnello, the director of marketing & communications for the FSA, said.

Aside from being almost seven times the size of the previous store, the new Market at West Side offers more variety.

New products at the store include toiletries like deodorant and baby wipes, cookware, school supplies, non-perishable goods, Hot Grab n' Go meals, Seattle's Best Coffee, Hershey's milkshakes and a larger fresh produce section. Students can use their Dining Dollars for food items, but non-food

items must be purchased with Wolfie Wallet, cash or card.

The Market also features a bagel bar in the morning and a salad bar in the afternoon and evening.

Charles Romoff, supervisor of the Market at West Side, said the new market is the first of its kind at Stony Brook. "If the model works, then this can become the epitome of all University markets."

Kathryn Musty, a junior marine vertebrate biology major said, "This new market definitely compares to the Emporium at East Side Dining, but it has even more selection and more produce."

Musty said she liked that the new market stocked more products that you might find in a grocery store. "The market is like a lifesaver for when I can't get off campus," she said.

As of Nov. 28, the market has had 1,600 transactions.

"The Grab n' Go items are probably the most popular right now because it's easy and conve-



NICOLAS PENNISI / THE STATESMAN

**The Market at West Side at Stony Brook University. The store reopened on Nov. 25 after renovations.**

nient for students," Jerry Pastrana, director of West Side Dining, said.

The Market at West Side is open Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 3 a.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 3 a.m.

"The hours are incredible because if I'm hungry at 2:30 a.m., then I can go to the new market and get food," Jeremy Gordman, a sophomore mechanical engineering major, said.



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# NEWS

## Professor finds evidence of smallest known ape

By Charles Scott  
Contributing Writer

New research by James Rossie, an associate professor of anthropology at Stony Brook University, and the late Yale University anthropologist Andrew Hill, may explain a missing link in the evolutionary history of primates.

A paper published in the December 2018 edition of the *Journal of Human Evolution* explores the reason behind why the world's smallest known ape species went extinct.

While researching in Kenya 14 years ago, Rossie uncovered teeth that belonged to what may be the

smallest ape species in history, according to the paper. He spent years traveling back and forth between the United States and Kenya, where the teeth are now placed in the National Museum in Nairobi, to observe and collect data.

The ape teeth may begin to tell a story of how small leaf-eating apes from the Miocene Epoch (ending about 5.333 million years ago) were replaced by small leaf-eating monkeys called colobines.

"Hopefully there'd be something about [the ape tooth fossils] that tells us, or at least gives us a clue, of why these apes went extinct," Rossie said.

Rossie's findings seem to illustrate that colobines were in evolutionary competition with Miocene apes like the ones whose fossilized teeth were found in the Tugen Hills. Though Miocene apes had crested teeth suited for chewing leaves, colobines' bodies were better suited for a leaf-eating diet due to their ridged teeth and stomachs suited for leaf digestion.

"They sort of act like scissors to shear up the leaves really well," Dr. Christopher Gilbert, an assistant professor of anthropology at Hunter College, said, referring to colobine teeth. Gilbert has an interest in colobines and leaf-eating primates, and has worked with both Rossie and Hill on previous papers.

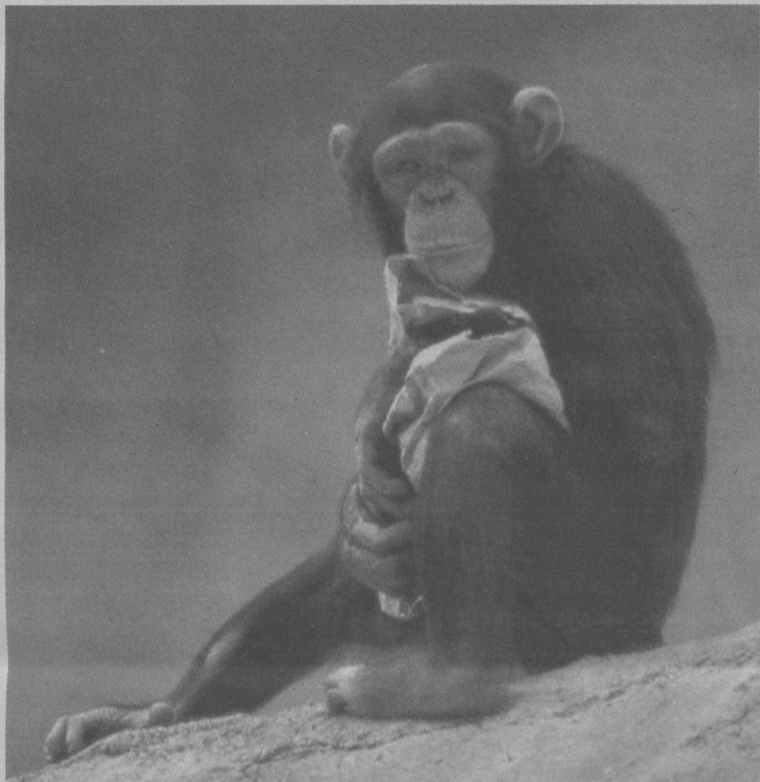
Yale University Professor of Anthropology David Watts, a colleague of Hill's, was surprised by the discovery. He sees the survival of a leaf-eating ape without specific digestive evolutions as unlikely.

"It couldn't afford to fill its stomach up with leaves and wait to digest them, and wait for the energy to come," Watts said, speaking to the slow digestive process of the tiny Miocene ape.

Rossie pointed out that there is much more to find.

"Ultimately, it's nowhere near as much as we need to learn. I hope this will encourage my fellow researchers to keep looking for Middle Miocene localities in Kenya," Rossie said.

He's hopeful that, through continued scientific work, more information about the fall of small Miocene apes may be discovered.



AARON LOGAN / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS VIA CC BY 2.5

**A chimp in the Los Angeles Zoo. An SBU professor published new research on the smallest known ape.**

## ERASE Racism holds forum

Continued from page 1

Psychology graduate student and panelist Miriam Sarwana explained why this segregation exacerbates racist beliefs.

"A white adult, let's say, has little to no interaction with African Americans," Sarwana said. "Starting in childhood, this person may be bombarded with distorted negative images of African Americans on television and in the news and be exposed to negative comments about people of color ... this input can lead to the development of unfounded negative attitudes about African Americans."

The panel took several questions from the audience. One woman, who identified herself as a teacher, asked how she can help her young students to overcome their preconceived notions about race.

"You have to give them another perspective so that they can be whole, especially for those students of color," Asare responded. "Give them the framework to question the world that they are living in. Give them the questions that they can ask. [With] any text, even for small kids, you can ask them 'How would this look different?' 'Whose perspective is missing?'"

Roughly 250 showed up to the forum, well over the amount that had registered. Instead of closing the doors, the organizers decided to let everyone who showed up stay and listen. But as a result, the event got off to a late start, leaving no time for the audience

to break off into smaller group discussions as was scheduled.

Although the event didn't turn out exactly as planned, Arti Logreira from Centereach said she was glad that she attended. "We are pretty new in the neighborhood and we heard a lot of

**"Long Island is among the 10 most segregated metro regions in the country."**

-V. Elaine Gross  
ERASE Racism President

stories about racism, discrimination and stuff so of course I wanted to learn and hear from the New Yorker's mouth how they feel about it and what they really experience," she said.

Thomas Muench from Lake Grove said he thinks it is important for white Long Islanders to educate themselves about race. "People have to start thinking about this," he said. "They have to stop thinking that racism is just a few people being mean to a few other people. They think that segregation just happens, not that it's them pushing their politicians to create laws that keep people segregated."

## Police Blotter

On Nov. 15 at 8:27 p.m., a patient attempted to spit on another patient at Stony Brook University Hospital. The case is closed as the victim refused to cooperate.

On Nov. 16 at 12:39 p.m., equipment was reported missing from Dutchess Hall. The case remains open.

On Nov. 16 at 4:12 p.m., the gate arm was found damaged at the Health Sciences Center parking garage. The case remains open.

On Nov. 16 at 4:13 p.m., a student referral was issued after the said student slapped a classmate. The case is closed as the victim refused to cooperate.

On Nov. 16 at 8:58 p.m., a dispute between motorists occurred by Building B at the West Apartments; the situation was settled. The case is closed by an investigation.

On Nov. 16 at 10:06 p.m., a student referral was issued after the odor of marijuana was reported at Langmuir College. The case remains open.

On Nov. 16 at 10:40 p.m., a spectator verbally abused a minor in the Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium parking lot. The case is closed as the victim declined to prosecute.

On Nov. 17 at 6:02 p.m., a nursing assistant was bitten by a patient at Stony Brook University Hospital. The case is closed as the victim refused to cooperate.

On Nov. 18 at 7:34 p.m., a two-vehicle accident occurred at the Traffic Circle on Marburger Drive. Three individuals were injured and transported to Stony Brook University Hospital. One individual was arrested for criminal possession of marijuana. The case is closed.

On Nov. 19 at 4:30 p.m., cash was taken from a backpack stored inside of a locker at the Campus Recreation Center. The case is closed by an investigation.

On Nov. 19 at 8:58 p.m., three student referrals were issued after the odor of marijuana was reported in Benedict College. The case is closed.

On Nov. 20 at 12:07 p.m., several pieces of motor equipment were stolen from the mechanical room at the Health Sciences Center. The case remains open.

On Nov. 23 at 5:21 p.m., a verbal dispute ensued between a male and his ex-wife in Building I at the Chapin Apartments; a domestic incident report and Title IX were completed. The case is closed as the victim refused to cooperate.

On Nov. 23 at 6:53 p.m., a patient damaged a door stop and the wall of his room at Stony Brook University Hospital. The case is closed as prosecution was declined.

On Nov. 24 at 1:21 a.m., an individual was reported smoking marijuana on campus property on Circle Road; they left without incident. The case is closed.

On Nov. 24 at 1:16 p.m., a visitor was arrested for trespassing after causing disturbance at Stony Brook University Hospital. The case is closed.

On Nov. 25 at 12:52 p.m., two patients were involved in a fight; there were no injuries reported. The case is closed as the victim refused to cooperate.

On Nov. 26 at 10:16 a.m., a credit card was stolen at the Administration Building. The case remains open.

On Nov. 26 at 12:12 p.m., a possible theft of kitchen supplies was reported at the Administration Building. The case is closed as the victim refused to cooperate.

On Nov. 26 at 1:26 p.m., cash was stolen from a locker at the Campus Recreation Center. The case remains open.

On Nov. 26 at 2:14 p.m., a backpack and its contents were stolen from a locker at the Campus Recreation Center. The case remains open.

On Nov. 26 at 6:20 p.m., a student referral was issued after an alarm was activated at Stimson College due to the student smoking marijuana in the room as well as tampering with the smoke detector. The case is closed.

On Nov. 28 at 4:17 a.m., a domestic incident was reported at Stony Brook University Hospital as well as another report of the unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. The case remains open.

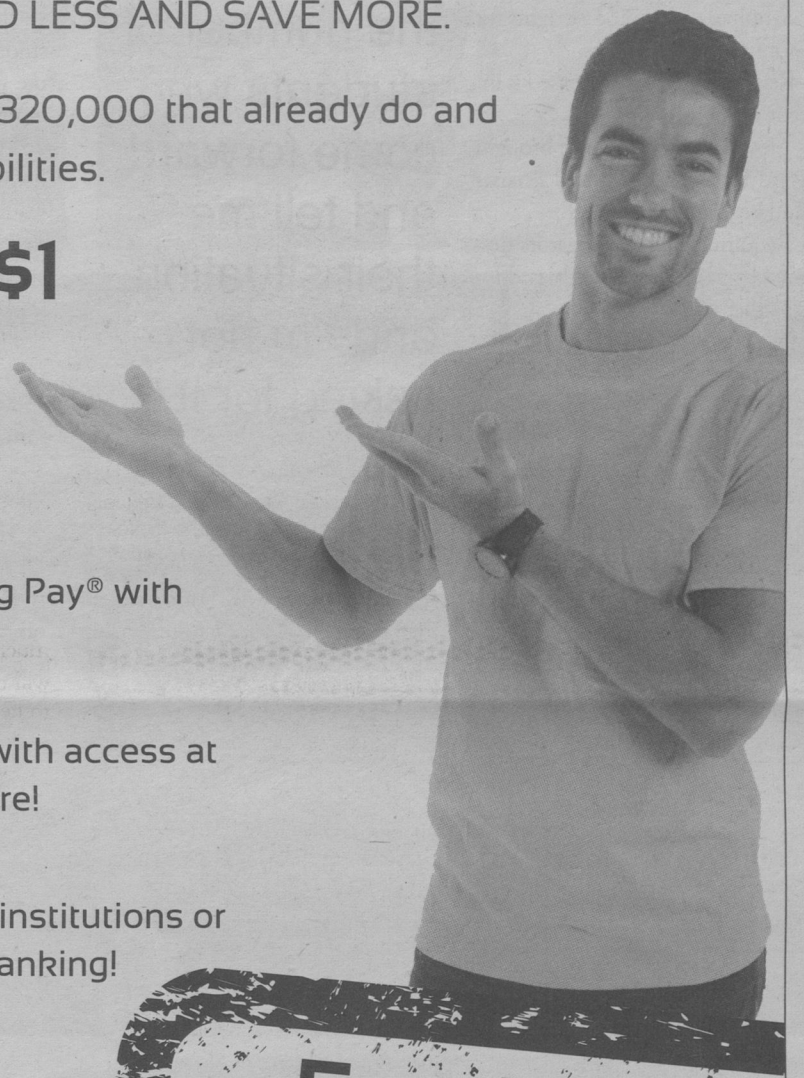
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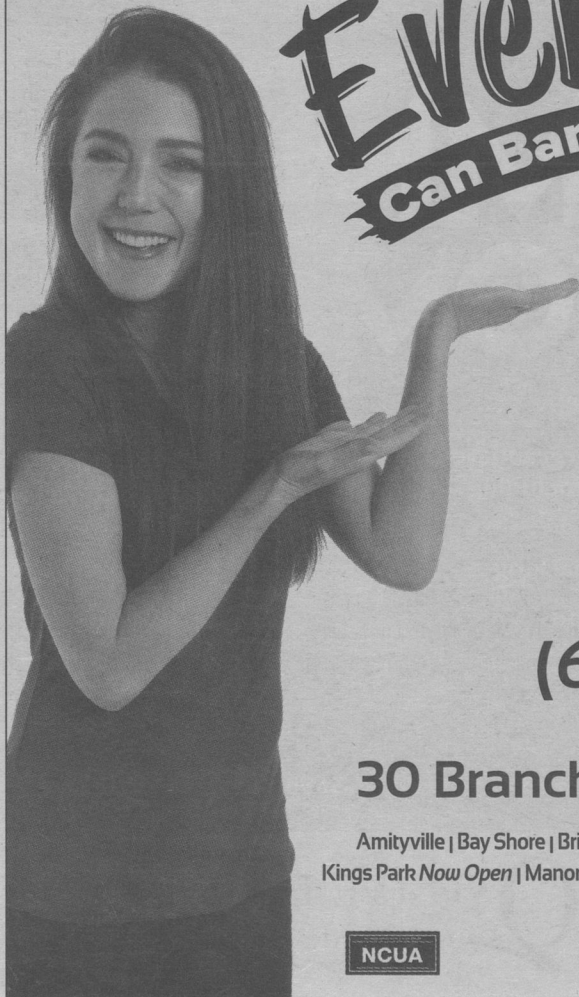
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# Sixty-day comment period for Title IX proposals opened to public

*Continued from page 1*

- Only require schools to investigate an incident if they have “actual knowledge of sexual harassment (or allegations),” which for colleges and universities is defined as, notice given to “an official with authority to take corrective action.”

- The complaint has to be made to the Title IX coordinator or an official who has the “authority to institute corrective measures.”

- Give schools the option to offer mediation or another informal resolution process, so long as both parties offer written consent.

- Under current rules, mediation isn’t allowed even on a voluntary basis for cases related to sexual assault and is discouraged overall.

- Emphasize due process rights for the accused. This includes:

- Reiterating that the accused is innocent until proven guilty.

- Affirming that evidence brought forward by the accused and accuser should be examined equally.

- Requiring that investigators designated by a school are not biased toward either party.

- Requiring that both parties be made aware of their rights and the resources and options available to them.

Senior Director for Title IX and ADA Coordinator at Stony Brook University, Marjolie Leonard, wrote in an email sent through the university media relations office that the proposed changes would not impede the Title IX office’s ability to function.

“As a SUNY institution, Stony Brook follows New York State law (see 129B, “Enough is Enough”) which is very comprehensive and equally protects the parties of any complaint,” Leonard wrote. “We take every opportunity, implemented multiple programs and introduced a variety of resources to educate and train our community to come forward, to ensure they understand resources and options available to them. In fact, this fall the University launched “ReportIt” to help people make a report and get information. We continue to cultivate an environment where people feel comfortable and safe enough to come forward.”

**“I can’t tell you the number of students who come forward and tell me their situation, and I’m not asking for it.”**

- Theresa Tiso  
Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Associate Professor

David Clark, vice president of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) on campus and a

senior applied mathematics and statistics major, said that FMLA is concerned that the proposed regulations regarding cross-examination and mediation could possibly retraumatize assault victims.

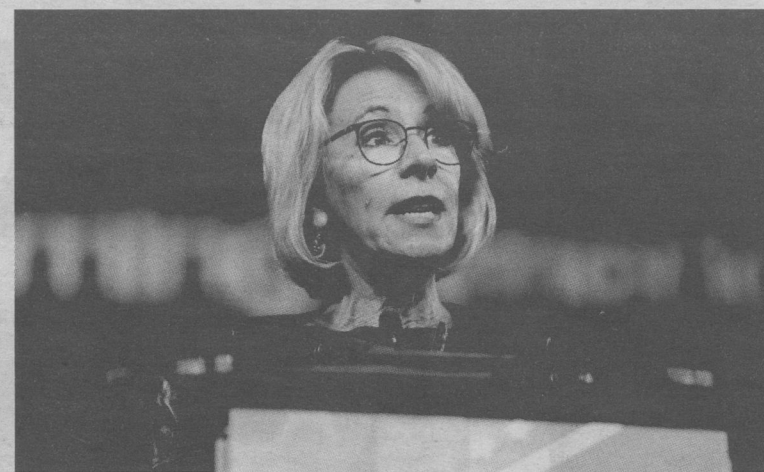
“I think it might discourage people from going through the disciplinary process, particularly if they have even less confidence that it will result in a good outcome for them and perpetrators actually being held accountable,” he said. “I think it is kind of a signal from a federal level that the federal government cares more about the institutional power of schools over the rapes of students.”

Theresa Tiso, an associate professor in the women’s, gender, and sexuality studies department, also believes that DeVos’ proposals could discourage survivors from coming forward.

“I can’t tell you the number of students who come forward and tell me their situation, and I’m not asking for it,” Tiso said. She credits the 2011 “Dear Colleague” letter for helping to increase the number of sexual harassment and assault cases that get reported.

The “Dear Colleague” letter, released by the Department of Education under former President Barack Obama, expanded Title IX’s scope and defined sexual harassment as a form of gender discrimination under Title IX that interferes with students’ right to an education.

The letter expanded schools’ Title IX responsibilities, including the responsibility to respond to violations off campus, to process all complaints regarding sexual misconduct, to take



GAGE SKIDMORE/FLICKR VIA CC BY-SA 2.0

**U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos speaking at the 2017 Conservative Political Action Conference.**

steps to protect students assaulted off-campus from further harassment or retaliation and to investigate possible harassment if the school knows or reasonably should know about it, regardless of whether a complaint is filed or action is requested. Many of the expansions established in the letter would be taken back under the new proposals.

Critics of the letter claimed that it did not adequately explain how to execute new regulations, and that it showed a lack of concern for due process. Senator James Lankford argued in 2016 that the letter’s regulatory changes didn’t go through the proper procedures, including a public commentary period, as required by the Administrative Procedure Act.

President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. released a statement on Friday, Nov. 30 acknowledging that the proposed changes at the federal level could

weaken Title IX protections, but assuring readers that Stony Brook follows New York Title IX laws and procedures, which includes protections for both parties.

“We are serious about keeping our students safe and free from sexual and gender-based violence,” he wrote. “We are paying close attention to the federal process and will make mandated adjustments once any federal changes are finalized. However, we will remain committed to having a robust process that protects the rights of the parties and supports our goal of having a campus free from gender-based violence.”

The proposals come with a 60-day comment period that opened on Thursday, Nov. 29, and won’t take effect until the commenting period closes. Comments can be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal or via mail.

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# MULTIMEDIA

## Men's Basketball dominates 2<sup>nd</sup> home game



The Stony Brook's men's basketball team maintained its lead for the whole game against Quinnipiac on Saturday, Dec. 1. The team finished off its second home game with a score of 71-61, bringing its overall record to 7-1. Redshirt junior guard Akwasi Yeboah led the team in points. Sophomore guard Elijah Olaniyi and senior Jaron Cornish also contributed to the victory.

Photos by Aleeza Kazmi  
Multimedia Editor



# OPINIONS

## THE STATESMAN

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

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

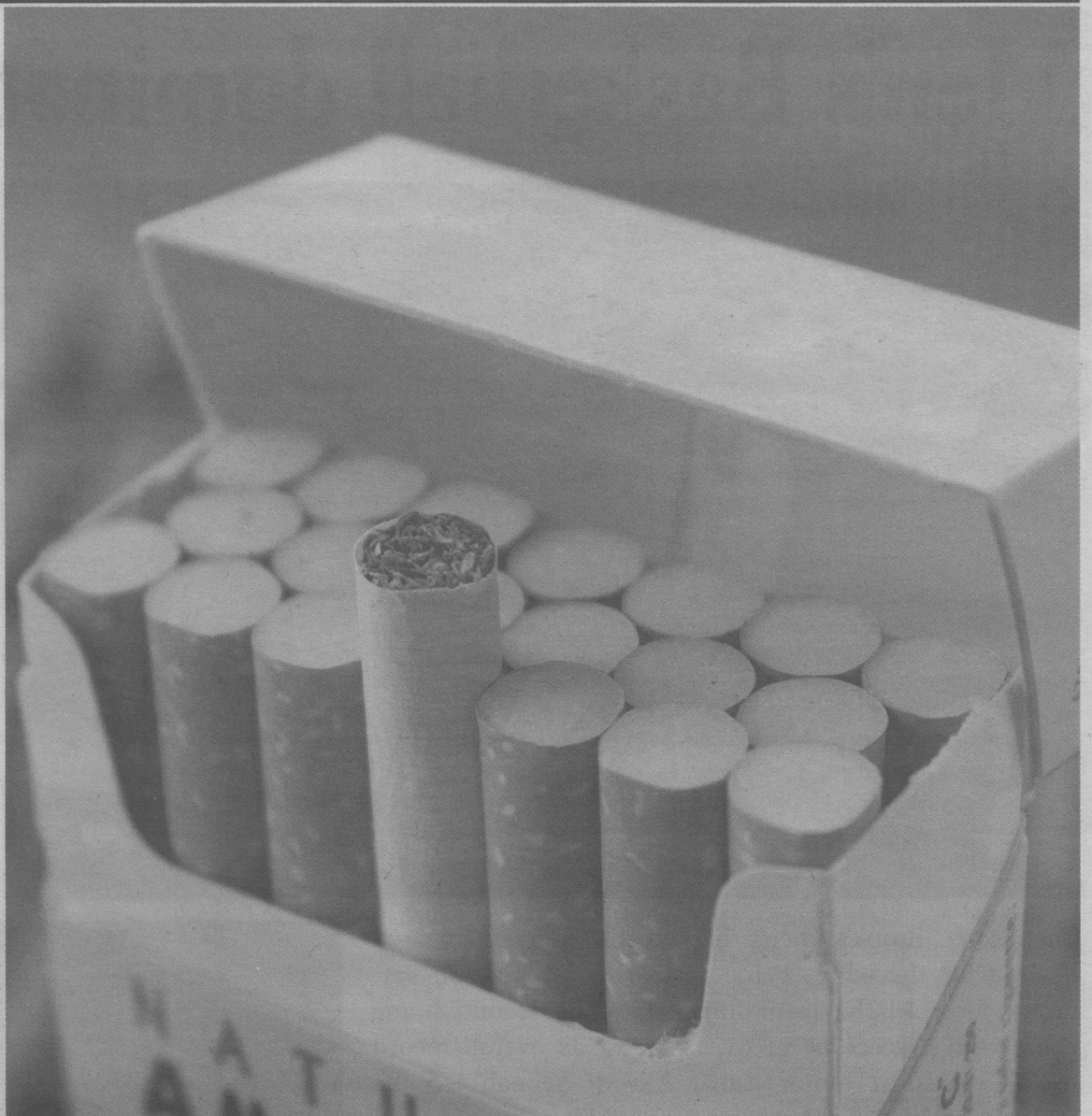


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**Tobacco can lead to severe health issues for long-term users and people exposed to secondhand smoke, but Stony Brook's tobacco ban has not kept its students safe.**

## Stony Brook shouldn't be tobacco free

By Mike Adams  
*Opinions Editor*

Stony Brook University banned the use of tobacco products on campus at the start of 2016. Still, the sight of students sucking down smoke around Frank Melville's old estate is far from uncommon.

What's more, it doesn't seem like anybody is enforcing this supposedly stringent tobacco ban. Ostensibly, being caught smoking by University Police is supposed to result in citations, warnings and even hearings for repeated offenders. But the same students keep lighting up in the same spots.

Honestly, that's fantastic. Banning tobacco products at Stony Brook was a ridiculously pretentious proposition. The university is right to leave its smoking-prone population alone, and it should seriously consider relaxing the policy.

Let's get this out of the way: smoking is a highly toxic habit. Routine tobacco use in any form can potentially doom users to years of health consequences. Shortness of breath is one thing, but emphysema and cancer will kill lifelong smokers just as well as a 50-story fall.

Smoking can even hurt people who don't smoke. The damages of secondhand smoke are well documented. Study after study has established that being near enough fumes from tobacco products can lead to almost all the same issues that plague regular smokers.

I grew up with two cigarette-smoking parents. I have no desire for the smell that stalks the Melville Library's west entrance to get any more overbearing.

But a total ban? Punishing addicts? That's ridiculous.

The American Cancer Society flatly states that there is no such thing as a safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. But here's the thing: Stony Brook students are still exposed to cigarette fumes on a daily basis, since people just light up wherever they think they can get away with it. Enforcing the ban more strictly might help reduce the amount of smoking on campus, but the idea that this school can be made entirely tobacco free is just unrealistic. If the university were to designate a smoking area or two on campus, fairly removed from most student traffic, that might actually keep non-smokers removed enough from their counterparts to reduce that exposure.

Another major downside of cigarette smoking that negatively affects the campus community is the litter it produces. As recently as November 2016, nearly two full semesters after the ban came to be, a tobacco cleanup effort gathered over two pounds of cigarette butts around the Melville Library. That's a far cry from the pre-ban numbers, but discarded cigarettes are still a common and ugly sight that makes Stony Brook's failure to truly eliminate tobacco use obvious to anybody on school grounds.

But even the litter can be taken care of if we just lift the ban. A community that understands some of its inhabitants smoke creates designated smoking areas and provides disposal options that aren't prone to catching fire from a half-extinguished flame.

If Stony Brook were to just take those two simple steps, it would place the onus for keeping the campus free of nicotine-related litter back on the students. Suddenly, throwing a cigarette butt on the ground would become a callous, inconsiderate thing instead of the closest thing to a rational option for disposal a smoker has on campus. Right now, it's litter or a risk for starting a fire, and I applaud the students who resist the temptations of pyromania when they're caught in the lowest ebbs of academia.

Stony Brook went tobacco-free to promote what they've called "an air of respect." While the ban has gone a long way toward reducing the amount of tobacco use and litter around campus, it has far from gotten rid of the problem entirely. Offering resources to help students kick their nicotine habits is a noble thing to do, but at some point the school needs to acknowledge it can't will people away from tobacco.

I implore university administrators to admit they've lost this battle. If the school decides to err on the side of humility, it can begin an honest dialogue on how to best manage tobacco usage within its confines. It can take the time to consider both the health concerns of the campus' non-smokers and treat the people who choose to deal with their stress through nicotine like human beings with respectable needs.

Maybe that adjustment would take some arguing to truly work out, but it would certainly be better than burying our heads in the sand and pretending we've already dealt with the problem.

# #HimToo is the #AllLivesMatter of the #MeToo movement

By Aleeza Kazmi  
Multimedia Editor

When the #MeToo movement went viral last year, opponents of the movement used false rape accusations as a counter-narrative. Recently, the #HimToo has been used by both male and female critics of the #MeToo movement to draw attention to instances of false accusation.

The #HimToo movement, if you can even call it a movement, is the #AllLivesMatter of the #MeToo movement. The way that #AllLivesMatter attempts to diminish the disproportionate amount of police violence black people face, #HimToo tries to take away the legitimacy of the #MeToo movement by drawing attention to the minuscule number of men who are falsely accused. The irony of the hashtag is that it was originally used to draw attention to male survivors of abuse, but around the time of the Kavanaugh hearings in early October, it was appropriated by critics of the #MeToo movement.

There is no harm in acknowledging that false accusations do happen. The problem lies in using them as a counter-narrative to the #MeToo movement. It creates a false equivalency between the two issues. When we continue to talk about harassment and false accusations in the same breath, it perpetuates the extremely harmful idea that women have used the #MeToo movement to “get revenge on a guy or give attention to themselves.” Statements like these show complete ignorance toward the obstacles survivors face when they



ALEEZA KAZMI / THE STATESMAN

**Protesters at the Women's March in New York City on Jan. 21, 2017. A man is more likely to be sexually assaulted than falsely accused of rape during his lifetime.**

come forward with their stories of harassment or abuse. Fear of reporting is so strong that only 12 percent of female college students ever report their assaults to the police. One of

the dangers of using false accusations to discredit accusations of sexual assault is that it scares people away from taking action on their cases of abuse and harassment. Reasons for

not coming forward are unique for each survivor, but research has shown that fear of not being believed is a key reason many sexual assault survivors stay silent.

There is very little research on how many accusations of abuse and harassment are false. One of the more recent studies used FBI data from 2006 to 2010 and found that “approximately 5 percent of the allegations of rape were deemed false or baseless.” This is on par with other kinds of crime. False accusations of rape are no more prevalent than false accusations of burglary. The reason people use these rare cases of false accusations to counter sexual assault rather than burglary should be blatantly obvious. It is the product of a culture where we are quick to question a sexual assault accuser and believe the accused.

“#HimToo is trying to take away the legitimacy of the #MeToo movement...”

-Aleeza Kazmi  
Multimedia Editor

If you want to talk about men in terms of the #MeToo movement, then let's talk about the one in six men who will be assaulted at some point in their life. Because a man is more likely to be sexually assaulted than be falsely accused of it.

## CAPS has helped me in the past; maybe it can help you too

By Joshua Blake  
Contributing Writer

Depression has been on my mind a lot lately. Specifically, I've been focusing on how I succeed and fail at attempting to cope with negative thoughts.

Having a disability doesn't make my depression any easier to deal with, but there are times where I can tell that this isn't at the forefront of these dark thoughts.

Sometimes I just have plain 'ole depression. Y'know, the vanilla kind. One moment I'm okay, and the next I'm just heartbrokenly sad for reasons I can't pinpoint. I'll be up in bed all night, sometimes into the early hours of the morning, pondering scenarios my mind fabricates.

I often wonder about conversations and arguments I've had years ago, and try to think of something different to say. Other times I just make up scenes about something that will never happen. Suffice to say, it gets slightly annoying, sad and kind of scary.

This is why I decided to seek counseling at the university's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) office. I've been there before, and it's opened a lot of avenues for me to explore — both within my mind, and outside of it.

A big issue I had for years was a negative self-image and feeling alienated from everyone around me. About five years ago, I was at a party where I connected with a girl who ended up seducing me... I'd yearned

for a connection with another for so long that I thought that in this moment, I felt secure with what was happening. After some time, I realized I didn't, and I felt helpless, to say the least.

Counselors at CAPS helped me reconcile with this. They aided me in taking medical leave from the university back in the fall of 2014 — my first semester — and even helped me connect with a psychiatrist outside of the university, who I saw for three years.

Despite having an amazing support system from friends and loved ones, it worries me that I still struggle with so much fear, doubt and self-loathing. That's where the counselors at the university can offer a neutral, professional perspective — a different one than I've heard time and time again.

There's something relaxing about sitting down with a counselor and starting at whichever point you feel is necessary. You don't feel coerced into beginning a session with what you ended the last one with. Because of the counseling, I am where I am today.

And even though I've struggled with mental illness, without these side effects, I wouldn't be the writer I am. I wouldn't be able to write poems or songs about my inner demons. I wouldn't have the perspective I do, or be the person I've become.

If I listened to those negative thoughts, if I really did give up, that's what true failure would look like. Failure is doing nothing in the face of

hardships. Struggling through a situation that's hindering you is not failure. And if you've ever felt that way, I promise you that it's not true.

Sometimes medication won't do the trick. Sometimes you need to talk to a professional in order to thwart your depression or anxiety. Maybe you're dealing with psychosis or bipolar disorder. There are resources here that can help you. The counselors at CAPS can even find licensed psychiatrists outside of the university if you're looking for long-term aid. Don't let your fear control you.

Even if you don't suffer from mental illness, I'd bet a pretty penny that everyone has something they need to talk to a psychiatrist about. You might have experienced a situation that changed you forever and you'll always struggle with it to some degree, like me.

I'm not a failure if I have negative thoughts about myself, or if I'm depressed and don't care about my well-being. I'm a failure if I do nothing to dig myself out of the pit those thoughts created in the first place.

And even though that's a lot easier said than done, I know I can still make that effort. I'd rather struggle through a situation and try to find a way to navigate my way out of it than just succumb to my fears.

Otherwise, it's all a waste.

It took me years to recognize that I needed to get help for what was ailing me, but not everyone has that kind of “aha!” moment. Sometimes you need others to help you, and then maybe you'll find out what it means to truly feel free from your demons.



STATESMAN FILE

**Counselors at Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) help students find licensed psychiatrists outside of the university if they are looking for long-term aid.**

# ARTS & CULTURE

## "Astroworld": Travis Scott's amusement park at MSG

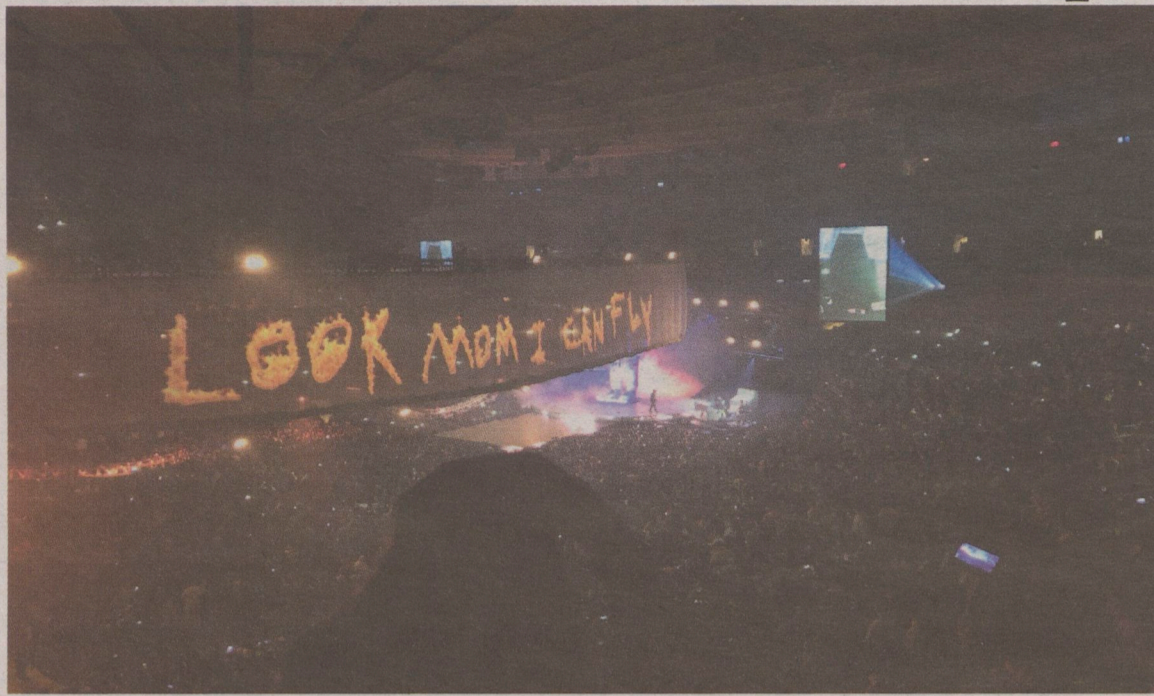
By Gregory Zarb  
Managing Editor

Whether you're directly in the front of the stage, in the midst of a chaotic mosh pit or even sitting in the nosebleeds, Houston rapper Travis Scott doesn't fail to get you hyped. Fresh off the release of his most anticipated and third studio album "Astroworld," Scott's "Wish You Were Here" tour brought together his longtime fans and newcomers for one night of ultimate raging on Nov. 27 at Madison Square Garden (MSG).

"Astroworld" has been in the works ever since Scott dropped what many fans consider to be his best album, 2015's "Rodeo." Scott said in an interview just before "Astroworld" was released, "I'm just finishing the saga I started on my first album. This is supposed to be my second album." Scott was rumored to drop "Astroworld" after it was announced in 2016, but he instead released "Birds in the Trap Sing McKnight" the same year.

Finally, after three years of waiting, "Astroworld" was released on Aug. 3, 2018 and a tour was announced mere weeks later. With openers like Harlem rapper Sheck Wes and Atlanta rappers Trippie Redd and Gunna, fans knew that every concert on the tour was going to be a thrill.

Scott has always said that "Astroworld" was inspired by Houston's Six Flags Astroworld, the amusement park that was closed down in October 2005. To bring



GREGORY ZARB / THE STATESMAN

Travis Scott's "Astroworld" concert in Madison Square Garden on Nov. 27. The Houston rapper is in the midst of his "Wish You Were Here" tour.

the feel of an amusement park to the concert, Scott had two roller coasters built for the tour — one on the secondary stage and one above the mosh pit. Fans were able to ride the roller coaster at random points throughout the show.

The openers helped get the crowd going for Scott's set. Wes performed cuts off his album "Mudboy" before ending with one of the biggest songs of the year, "Mo Bamba." Trippie Redd played several songs, including popular song "F--- Love" with the vocals of deceased Florida rapper XXXTentacion blaring through the arena. Gunna was

the longest opener, playing a majority of his recent hits while bringing out frequent collaborators Lil Baby and Young Thug to perform several songs as well.

A three-minute futuristic video opened the concert with some songs off "Astroworld" playing in the background. Once over, the beginning of the album's first song, "Stargazing," hit the speakers. Scott sang to the audience that he was behind them before appearing on the secondary stage as the beat dropped, ensuing chaos throughout MSG.

He immediately got on the roller coaster and continued run-

ning through his setlist. Some of Scott's most popular songs like "Mamacita," "Drugs You Should Try It" and "90210" were sprinkled in between new songs like "No Bystanders," "Carousel" and "Can't Say."

Scott had ultimate control of the crowd, whether it was screaming "bounce" over and over again as lights and speakers rocked MSG or getting the crowd to sing some of his most popular songs in unison. He is known to accept fans on stage, even if security tries to stop them — Scott will often let them up himself. His only rule is that

stage diving is the only way to get off the stage.

Scott has a tendency to bring out special guests for his shows; but, for the Nov. 27 show, he was the lone superstar. For every show on the tour so far, he has brought out fellow Houston rapper Don Toliver and one of his opening acts, Gunna, both of whom are featured on "Astroworld." Scott has brought out the likes of Drake, Kendrick Lamar and Young Thug during other stops of the tour.

As the concert came to a close, Scott took a few minutes to thank the crowd for sticking with him since day one and for being patient while he worked on "Astroworld." He continued to push people to stream "Sicko Mode," which currently sits at No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100.

He went on to ask the crowd to rage one final time for the night just before the horns to "Sicko Mode" played over the speakers. Every single person jumped up and down throughout the arena as Scott ran around the stage — shirtless — screaming the lyrics into his mic. However, he was barely heard over the crowd, who was singing at the top of their lungs.

The show ended with a mini fireworks display before Scott descended below the stage one final time — not before thanking every fan for coming to Astroworld, capping off a night of pure adrenaline, excitement and rage.

## Fetch Dog Boutique and Bakery is pawesome

By Anna Correa  
Arts and Culture Editor

Radar, a 2-year-old French Bulldog, came in for his yearly special treat: a birthday cake, a black collar with rhinestones and a grey shirt that read "Stud," which was meant to impress his girlfriend, Kona, a 1-year-old Brindle French Bulldog.

Radar was attentive to the people and things around him, with his ears pointed straight up and his eyes ogling the toys and people coming into the store.

"He's Houdini," Simone Smith, Radar's owner and a regular at Fetch, said after she took off his leash so he could get closer to the customers behind him. "He's-a lady's man. He just wants to mingle."

Fetch Dog Boutique and Bakery, in Port Jefferson, which opened in 2005, has a list of regulars, but its owners don't advertise. People learn about the store through word of mouth and recommendations from friends and family.

The boutique is set up like a bazaar, with winter sweaters, formal dresses, tuxedos and wedding gowns for dogs, hanging side by side off the ceiling on a string that runs across the store. Tables are stacked with more sweaters and jackets, cubbies are filled with shirts, leashes and collars hang on the walls and baskets

feature punny dog toys that say, "Chewy Vuitton Paris," "Grrrona Mexican Beer" and "Starbarks Frenchie Roast."

The store has clothes — which change seasonally — for dogs and cats ranging from 1 to 120 pounds. Every year, the store sponsors a Halloween pet parade that fills the streets of Port Jefferson with pets in costumes.

"You can go to Petco and things like that, but they have everything here," Smith said.

Pattie Lurz runs the store behind a clear counter filled with baked goods for pets. The bakery changes by holiday and sells dog treats, birthday and wedding cakes. Lurz occasionally goes upstairs to pick up dog food samples from specialty brands for picky pets to try out and feeds them treats from the bakery until they are satisfied, or sends some treats home for the dogs to eat later.

"We are a community here," Lurz said. "My customers are family to me, so anything I can help them with I do. It's so different than a regular store. It's so genuine, and the dogs know."

A troubled Maltese owner, Stephanie Boder, brought her friendly 5-year-old dog, Macie, into the store because she was told that she could get advice on feeding her. Macie, who was squealing around the store, is a spoiled



ANNA CORREA / THE STATESMAN

Fetch Dog Boutique and Bakery is set up like a bazaar, with different items of clothing for dogs hanging side by side on the wall across the store.

dog who got into the bad habit of solely eating bones and snacks.

"It's frustrating. She won't eat at all," Boder said.

Lurz gave Boder suggestions on how to get Macie to eat normally again, offering several kibble samples of Anna met Dog Food and Fromm Four-Star Nutritionals, as well as some wet food and human food suggestions.

"Use a multivitamin if you give her all human food," Lurz

said. "I'm not giving up on her. It can be expensive, but she's not getting any nutrition."

Lurz was looking for a happy medium for Macie, who also enjoys human food like waffles and chicken.

"It's like going to the vet without the bill," Scott Weir, a regular at the store who came in to pick up an order, said. "People are knocking the door down. It's like 'Cheers' for dogs. She becomes a dog bartender."

Weir used to sit in a chair in the corner of the store with Sophie, his Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, on his lap while his wife spoke with Lurz.

As the store needed more space, the chair was taken away, but Weir still longed for it.

"My house looks like the store," Weir said. He just left the store and was already planning on coming back next week to pick up more treats for his three Cavaliers.



# Behind the scenes: putting together a "My Life As"

By Melissa Azofeifa

Assistant Arts and Culture Editor

The "My Life As" speaker series, ran by the School of Journalism at Stony Brook University, has given students and faculty the opportunity to benefit from the experiences shared by prominent journalists such as Margaret Sullivan, Dean Baquet and Christiane Amanpour.

But what does it take to make one of these nights happen? Maureen Robinson, staff assistant at the School of Journalism, shared the details of this responsibility.

Robinson said that coordinating a "My Life As" lecture is a group effort. Her colleagues, Jennifer Carlinno and Erika Karpf, have helped out with the planning and organization of the events, which have hosted one to three guests every semester.

The "My Life As" program was started by Dean Howard Schneider. "The first 'My Life As' was back in fall semester of '06," Schneider said. "It just wasn't called 'My Life As' yet." The first event's guest was Moises Saman, a Peruvian-born documentary photographer, on Oct. 5, 2006.

At the beginning of the semester, according to Robinson, they



GARY GHAYRAT/THE STATESMAN

The Washington Post media columnist Margaret Sullivan during her "My Life As" lecture in the Student Activities Center on Tuesday, Oct. 16.

start identifying locations before even having guests lined up.

When it comes to inviting them, Robinson says they start reaching out to recruits about two months

in advance. "You have to be persistent just the same way a reporter has to be persistent," Robinson said.

Even though the faculty mainly recruits for this event,

students can also suggest who they would like to see.

"A student makes a suggestion and we may not have a personal connection with them,"

Robinson said, explaining why student suggestions have proven to be more difficult to bring in. "We've had a couple of recommendations, like the person who started or does Humans of New York. Students would be more likely to recommend someone from what may be considered non-traditional media because that's what they're following."

Donovan Alexis, a junior journalism major, shared his perspective on the program and his favorite thing about it. "I like the up-close setting that you have meeting these journalist and hearing their experiences," Alexis said. "It's a good chance to ask them questions that you wouldn't normally get to anywhere else."

Amath Thiam, a senior computer engineering major at Stony Brook University, said that this program paved the way for similar programs for engineering students. "I think it's cool that the University puts us in touch with such prominent people in our fields; their experiences are inspiring and motivating," Thiam said.

# "Bohemian Rhapsody": Story of the killer "Queen"

By Anna Correa and Melissa Azofeifa

Arts and Culture Editor and Assistant Arts and Culture Editor

Musical biopic film "Bohemian Rhapsody" brings Queen to a new generation while still staying true to original fans.

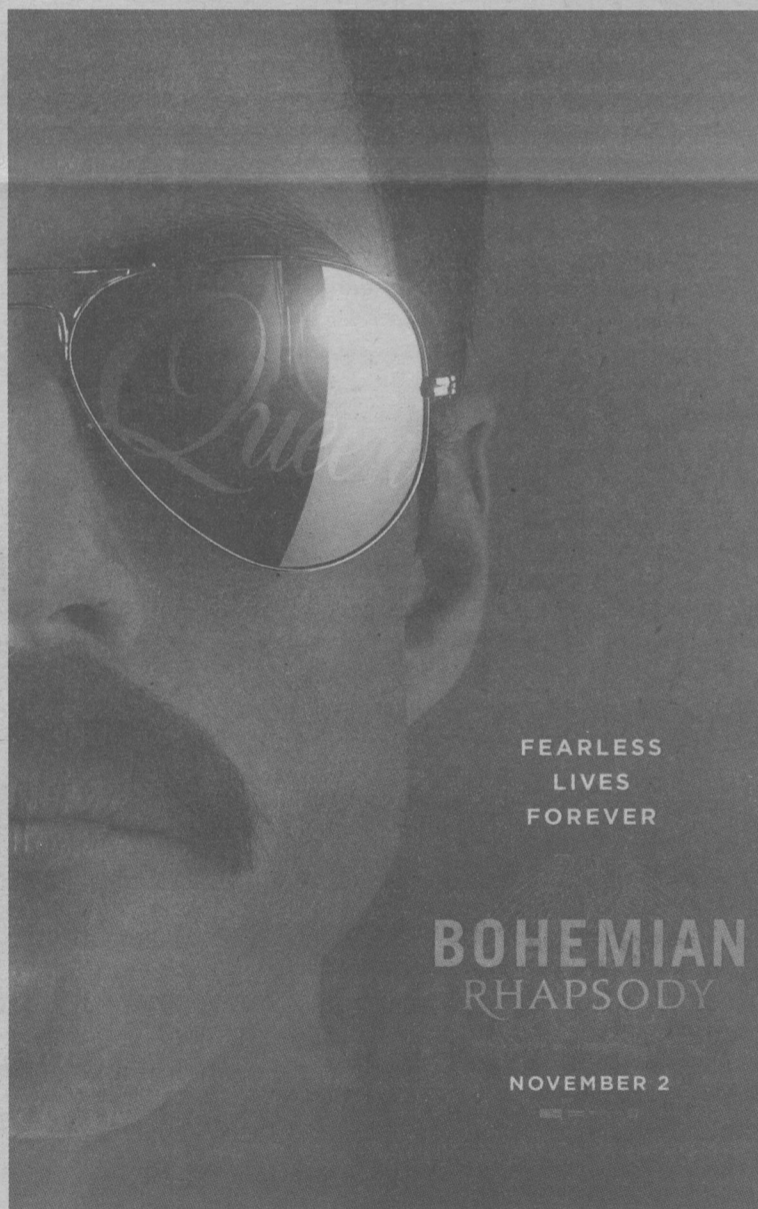
The film grossed over \$500 million worldwide since its Nov. 2 release date, with domestic sales grossing over \$375 million, and it is now the highest grossing musical biopic film ever made, topping the 2015 film "Straight Outta Compton," which grossed \$201.6 million.

Emmy and Golden Globe award-winning actor Rami Malek's performance as Freddie Mercury was surely Oscar worthy, from his accent to his body movement on stage. Although Malek wasn't the first pick for the role, which was supposed to go to Sacha Baron Cohen, he became Freddie through studying Queen and Mercury's mannerisms. He understood Mercury's character on a deep level which translated physically through the execution of his performance. In an interview on the Graham Norton Show, Malek said he had teeth made for the part to get Mercury's overbite and kept them in as long as possible on and off set so he could become Mercury.

Malek took over a year to study the role, which involved working with a movement coach to capture Mercury's essence correctly — from the way Mercury looked at other people, to his stage presence and how he behaved behind closed doors. In an interview with The Feed, Malek said he took piano and singing lessons for the part.

"One thing I did for this film is I wrote out all his lyrics, songs written by Freddie Mercury and you hear things like 'I get ever so lonely' and 'find me somebody to love.' It's just speaking down from his gut and his soul," Malek said.

Although Malek's performance stole the show, other characters were



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Rami Malek as Freddie Mercury on the poster for "Bohemian Rhapsody" released on Friday, Nov. 2.

certainly glazed over. The character of John Deacon (played by Joseph Mazello), the band's bass guitarist, rarely spoke and wasn't really developed. Brian May (played by Gwilym Lee), and Roger Taylor (played by Ben Hardy), both had personality, but the audience didn't get as intimate as they did with Mercury's character.

Some parts of the film completely rushed over the real narrative. The biopic was about Queen over a 15-year

period, the formation of the band and its 1985 Live Aid performance, but the movie also concentrated heavily on Mercury's character. This isn't necessarily a negative thing though, since the audience gets to see how the band created its music.

The movie shows how the band wanted to include the audience in its performances. Queen concentrated on making everyone feel comfortable in their own skin.

"Now we're four misfits who don't belong together, we're playing for the other misfits. They're the outcasts, right at the back of the room," Mercury said. "We're pretty sure they don't belong either. We belong to them."

Some of the most intimate moments in the film are when Queen

**"We're playing for the other misfits. They're the outcasts, right at the back of the room."**

-Freddie Mercury  
Bohemian Rhapsody

makes music. May, the lead guitarist, created the beat to "We Will Rock You," which was made to involve the audience in its performance, and Mercury made the lyrics for the song.

At some point in the film, Mercury lost himself in parties, drugs and relationships. Since the band members became a family, they weren't afraid to call Mercury out on being late, not being responsible, getting drunk and doing drugs. Mercury was persuaded to become a solo artist by Paul Prenter's character, played by Allen Leech. This caused an enormous fall out within the band; however, Queen came back together after realizing how much they all needed one another.

"I went to Munich. I hired a bunch of guys and I told them exactly what to do and the problem was, they did it," Mercury said in the film. "No pushback from Roger. None of your rewrites (Brian May), none of his funny looks (John Deacon). I need you and you need me."

May and Taylor were extremely involved in the making of the biopic. Despite the discrepancies in the timeline of events, you know you can trust the authenticity of the characters.

The film replicated certain events, music videos and concerts that made Queen legendary, such as the music video for "I Want to Break Free," which showed the band in drag, and one of its most popular performances — the 20-minute Live Aid concert.

Live Aid was a 16-hour benefit "super-concert" in 1985 at Wembley Stadium in London that was televised in 110 nations and had a billion viewers, with the goal of ending the famine in Africa. The concert raised \$127 million. The line-up encompassed some of the best musicians of all time, including performances from Phil Collins, Madonna, U2, Michael Jackson, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Stevie Wonder, Elton John, Paul McCartney and Run DMC.

The Live Aid performance was the first shot taken of the film, done in one take. Malek's, May's and Mazello's Live Aid performance captured Mercury and the rest of the original band's performance, including facial movements and quirks, to a T. In a side-by-side showing of the original Live Aid concert and the remake, you notice how precise the cast is. Not a detail was overlooked and the entire Live Aid performance was screened as part of the film.

The movie came full circle with the Live Aid performance, tying the Queen narrative together. Mercury's relationship with his parents, his dad in particular, is tense from the beginning of the film. But it gets closure right before Live Aid, since Mercury's father wanted Mercury to have a stable life, like every father would want for their child.

"Good thoughts, good words and good deeds," Mercury said. "Just like you taught me father."

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# SPORTS

## Volleyball caps off season with defeat at BYU in NCAA Tournament

By Ethan Tam  
Contributing Writer

Stony Brook Volleyball concluded its historic 2018 season with a three-set loss against the No. 4-seeded Brigham Young University Cougars in the first round of the NCAA Tournament on Friday, Nov. 30.

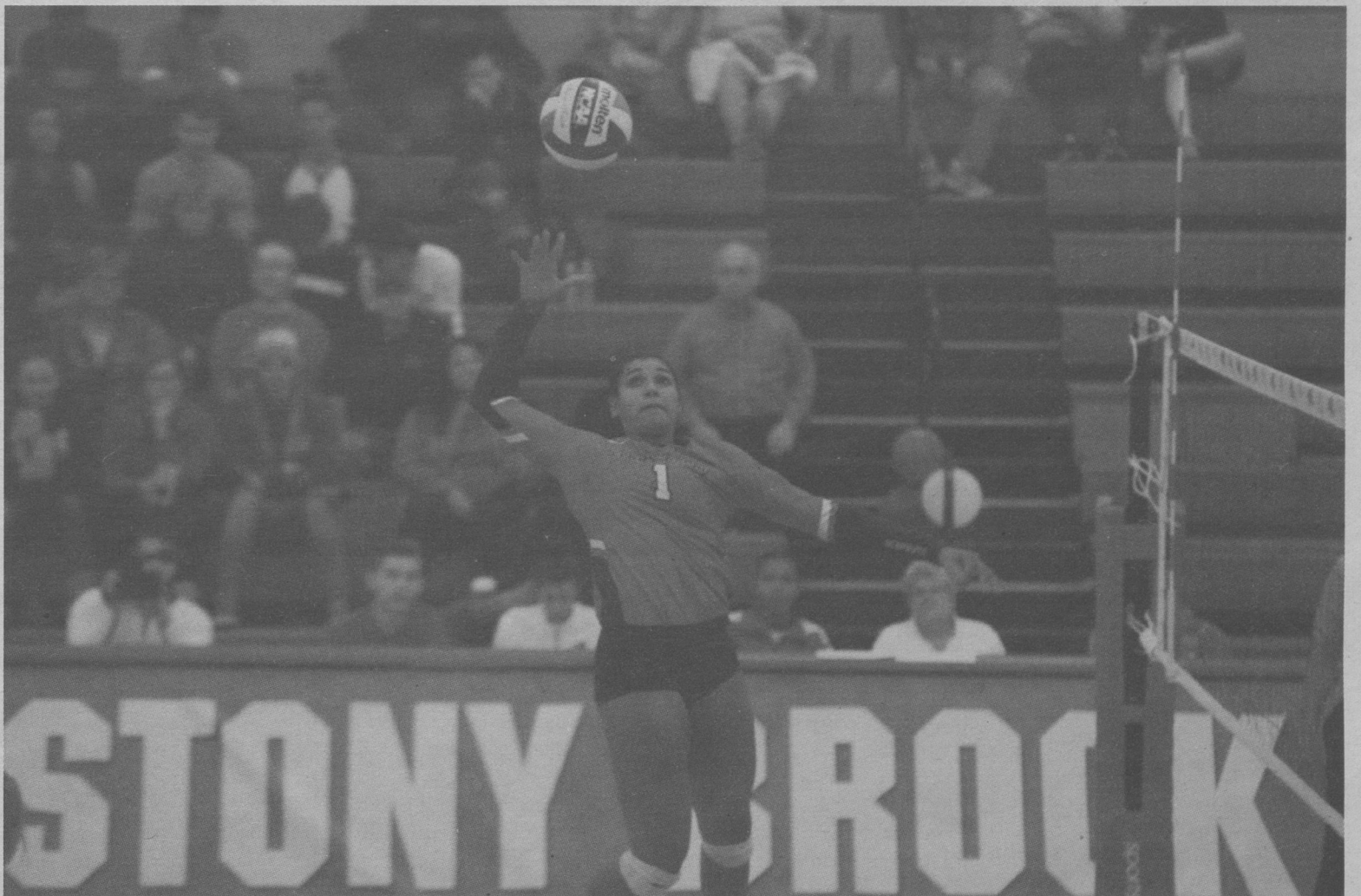
Although the outcome did not go the Seawolves' way, head coach Kristin Belzung is proud of the program in its most successful season in Division I history.

"I am incredibly proud of our group for walking in and competing with confidence from the start," Belzung said in a press release. "We could not get into any kind of offensive rhythm and credit BYU for stressing us at the net and scrapping in the back court. Proud of our defense for stepping up and working to extend rallies. Thank you to everybody back on Long Island for your incredible support all season."

Stony Brook suffered its first defeat since it fell to Bryant in a five-set loss on Sept. 14. The Seawolves followed up the loss by going on a program-record 17-game winning streak and concluded the season with a final record of 21-9.

The Seawolves looked to build off last year's first round tournament appearance against the eventual champion Nebraska Cornhuskers and use it to their advantage in another tough matchup. The Cougars ranked fifth in the NCAA RPI with a record of 27-1, but had lost star junior outside hitter McKenna Miller to an ACL injury earlier this month.

Stony Brook looked to make history in the first set by responding to a four-point BYU lead with a 10-3 run of its own, taking an 11-8 lead. An America East team had never won a set in the NCAA Tournament, much less an entire match, but the



Senior middle blocker McKyla Brooks jumps to spike the ball in a 2017 game against Binghamton. Brooks finished Friday's matchup against Brigham Young University with four blocks.

GARY GHAYRAT/STATESMAN FILE

Seawolves led for the majority of set one. Their lead lasted as late as 19-18, but the Cougars earned seven of the frame's last eight points and won the set, 25-20.

The match began to unravel from there, as BYU built upon its momentum and never relinquished it. The Cougars aggressively overpowered the Seawolves in the second set by utilizing well-placed blocks and high-velocity kills on the attack. Meanwhile, BYU's relentless defense held Stony Brook to a .250 hitting percentage and 11 errors as they handedly took the set, 25-13.

"I thought we looked timid, and we didn't really follow our game plan in the second set the way we wanted

to," Belzung said. "We've got to pass better to allow us to get into a better offensive rhythm, and then we've got to feel comfortable taking some swings and maybe making an error here or there and try to get BYU back on their heels a little bit."

Stony Brook entered the third set with their backs against the wall, but failed to respond as BYU jumped out to a quick 7-2 lead. The Cougars later followed up by scoring six straight points and ultimately won the set 25-12 off a service ace from senior outside hitter Roni Jones-Perry to finish the sweep.

Junior middle blocker Kendra Harlow led the Seawolves with five kills, seven points and a .214

hitting percentage. West Coast Conference Player of the Year Jones-Perry led the game with 17 kills, 21 points and a .297 hitting percentage.

Senior middle blocker McKyla Brooks finished her collegiate career with 1,206 total kills, the ninth-most in Stony Brook history. Graduate outside hitter Emily Costello led the Seawolves with 314 kills this season and was named the Most Outstanding Player of the America East Championship.

Although senior server Carla Souffront only played 25 sets for the team, she had an integral role acting as a player-coach by scout-

ing opposing teams and motivating her Seawolf teammates on the sidelines.

"[I am] thankful for McKyla, Emily and Carla's impact on the Stony Brook community and our volleyball program," Belzung said. "They are strong women who will continue on to incredible things in their future, and I am thankful to have gotten to coach them."

The Seawolves' 21 wins this season are the program's best since 2007, when the team finished with 24. Stony Brook bids farewell to its three seniors as they train for a potential threepeat next season.

# SEAWOLVES SCOREBOARD

 <b>STONY BROOK</b>	<b>MEN'S BASKETBALL</b> TUESDAY, NOV. 27 <b>79 - 73</b>	 <b>NORFOLK STATE</b>	 <b>CORNELL</b>	<b>WOMEN'S BASKETBALL</b> SATURDAY, DEC. 1 <b>61 - 63</b>	 <b>STONY BROOK</b>
 <b>NEW PALTZ</b>	<b>WOMEN'S BASKETBALL</b> WEDNESDAY, NOV. 28 <b>50 - 87</b>	 <b>STONY BROOK</b>	 <b>QUINNIPIAC</b>	<b>MEN'S BASKETBALL</b> SATURDAY, DEC. 1 <b>61 - 71</b>	 <b>STONY BROOK</b>
 <b>STONY BROOK</b>	<b>VOLLEYBALL</b> FRIDAY, NOV. 30 <b>0 - 3</b>	 <b>BRIGHAM YOUNG</b>	 <b>STONY BROOK</b>	<b>WOMEN'S SWIMMING</b> FRIDAY, NOV. 3 - SUNDAY, DEC. 26 <b>6th Place</b>	 <b>ECAC WINTER CHAMPIONSHIP</b>

# Men's Basketball notches fifth straight victory, defeats Quinnipiac 71-61



ALEEZA KAZMI/THE STATESMAN

Redshirt-junior forward Akwasi Yeboah in the game against Quinnipiac on Saturday. The Seawolves started the matchup with a 25-8 run in the first 9:40 of the matchup.

By Chris Parkinson  
Sports Editor

As Quinnipiac graduate guard Cameron Young stepped to the free throw line with 3:58 remaining, his team had closed the Stony Brook Men's Basketball lead to just four when they were down 20 in the first half.

Young's free throws brought the game within three, and his

point total to 29. The lead would decrease to two just 70 seconds later. Yet, the Seawolves turned up the same offensive pressure shown in the first half and finished the matchup off with a 10-2 run, securing their seventh victory of the season by a final of 71-61 on Saturday night.

Head coach Jeff Boals believes his team's style of play varied in the two halves.

"In the first half we were rebounding the ball well and shooting threes in transition and opened the [game] up a bit," Boals said. "In the second half I thought we tried to drive the ball more instead of pass and I thought we were trying to do a little too much. It was a tale of two halves."

Stony Brook went into halftime with a 42-28 lead, with redshirt-junior forward Akwasi Yeboah and Young both lead-

ing the half in scoring with 14 points.

"We talked at halftime and knew they were going to ramp up the pressure," freshman guard Miles Latimer said. "Because the only way they can score easy buckets is through turnovers and transition."

The Bobcats did just that, as the team forced two turnovers in the first two minutes of action. The team would then go on a 12-5 run, which brought the score to 47-40 with 13:50 remaining in the game.

The later portion of the game saw a back-and-forth style of play, with the Seawolves making a push with a sophomore center Jeff Otchere dunk to increase the team's lead to 12.

Young then took over for Quinnipiac, scoring six of the team's next 11 points to bring the margin to five with 7:31. The graduate finished the half with 15 points, a rebound, and an assist. Boals later praised the guard's effort in the matchup.

"Unfortunately we have to see him again in two weeks," Boals said. "We told our guys to stay down on his shot fake, and it's a great shot fake. He's a great player."

The matchup edged closer as freshman guard Tyrese Williams

scored a layup to bring the game within two with less than three minutes remaining. Just as the previous run, however, the Seawolves made a push to secure the lead and hold on for the win.

"We had confidence in ourselves," Yeboah said. "We had a great crowd out there too which boosted us. We were moving the ball really well which got us going against their defense and really affected them."

The Seawolves started the matchup with a quick 25-8 run in the first 9:40 of the matchup, with 16 of the points coming from Yeboah and sophomore guard Elijah Olaniyi.

The team dominated the offensive side of the ball through the first half, shooting 48 percent from the field and 60 percent from beyond the arc with nine 3-pointers made.

"We got off to a great start," Boals said. "We were moving the basketball, which the couple of games we've played [against] Rhode Island and Norfolk State we were moving the ball really well. When we have ball movement with player movement our offense has been better."

The Seawolves now ride a five-game winning streak and will face Manhattan College next on Wednesday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.

# Women's Basketball victorious over Cornell 63-61 in final seconds

By Jason Brancato  
Contributing Writer

Stony Brook Women's Basketball fended off the Cornell Big Red's late comeback attempt in a thrilling 63-61 victory on Saturday, Dec. 1.

"I thought that we came out a little slow compared to how we had been playing so I like how we were able to come from behind," head coach Caroline McCombs said in a press conference. "Cornell is a really good team. They were the tougher team today. [The Big Red] were really gritty in what they did and I feel fortunate we were able to come out with the win and get in a situation that will help prepare us for our upcoming games."

Cornell sparked a seven-point rally with 3:14 remaining in the fourth quarter, taking a 57-56 lead. Senior guard Shania "Shorty" Johnson fired back by knocking down a three-point shot, giving Stony Brook a two-point lead late in the game. However, junior forward Laura Bagwell-Katalinich tied the game for the Big Red off a layup with 45 seconds left.

Johnson commanded the Seawolves offensively, finding sophomore guard Jonae Cox inside the paint for the score and a foul

which gave them the lead for good. Sophomore forward India Pagan converted a free throw and gave the Seawolves a two-point lead, but also gave the Big Red one last chance. The game ended on a last second missed jumper that would've given Cornell then win.

Johnson played tight defense and affected junior guard Dan-

ielle Jorgenson's last-second missed jumper to ice the game for the Seawolves.

It was a back and forth first quarter due to the six turnovers committed by Cornell and the slow 29 percent field goal shooting percentage from Stony Brook. "I thought that we came out a little slow compared to how we had been playing

so I like how we were able to come from behind," McCombs said.

Johnson excelled on both sides of the court and pulled the Seawolves out of the fourth quarter slump. She controlled the tempo of the game with fast paced ball movement and her three consecutive three point shots energized the rest of the team throughout the contest.

"It most definitely gave me an extra level of confidence," Johnson said. "But I just came out there and just shot. We weren't scoring at the time so it was good that I made those threes to get my team hyped up."

Johnson led the team with 17 points and knocked down five three-pointers. Senior guard Jerrell Matthews recorded 15 points and tied Johnson with six assists. Junior forward Oksana Gouchie-Provencher helped out defensively, leading the team with seven rebounds and a block while scoring five points.

The gritty contest was closely fought throughout its entirety. There were only three lead changes, with Stony Brook jumping out to a nine-point lead late in the third quarter.

Stony Brook extended its winning streak to six games following the win. Johnson believes the Seawolves' confidence on the hardwood will determine how far the team could keep the momentum rolling.

"It's going to go on for as long as we can take it," Johnson said. "I can't predict the future, we just gotta come out there as hard as we can everyday give 110 percent every time we step on the court."

Stony Brook looks ahead to its next game versus the Sacred Heart Pioneers in Fairfield, Connecticut on Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m.



SASHA ROSIN/THE STATESMAN

Senior guard Shania Johnson in a game against the New Paltz Hawks on Wednesday, Nov. 28. Johnson finished the game vs. Cornell on Saturday, Dec. 1 with 17 points.

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