

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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GARY GHAYRAT/STATESMAN FILE

A DACA march that took place on Thursday, Sept. 7, 2017 at Stony Brook University. The Jose Peralta New York state DREAM Act was passed on Jan. 23, and will allow DACA recipients to apply for state financial aid.

Former student says she was unfairly expelled in lawsuit

By Rebecca Liebson
News Editor

A former Stony Brook student is suing the university and two of its employees, claiming she was unfairly taken out of her student teaching internship and expelled from the graduate English education program after she expressed concerns about her former student teaching supervisor.

The plaintiff, Danielle Sutton, is requesting a preliminary

injunction which, among other things, would allow her to return to Stony Brook to finish her degree and complete her teacher certification exams.

In a memorandum filed on Jan. 25, the university and co-defendants Charles Taber, vice provost for graduate and professional education and dean of the Graduate School, and Nicole Galante, program director for the English education program, argue that Sutton was dismissed due to her lack of professionalism and refusal to cooperate with

the program's requirements.

Sutton claims that in Fall 2017, her student teaching supervisor, Thomas Mangano, created a hostile learning environment for her after she repeatedly refused his invitations to meet off campus for breakfast both alone and with other students in the class.

Around Sept. 29, 2017, Sutton complained to Galante about Mangano's behavior and asked if she could switch supervisors, according to the suit. The suit states that two days after Sutton was assigned to a different supervisor,

Galante told her that she would not be permitted to finish her student teaching internship.

"Galante had a grudge against Plaintiff for speaking out against the Supervisor's 'Breakfasts' and was concerned Plaintiff might muddy the reputation of her program," Sutton's complaint stated.

In her complaint, Sutton also claims that she never received a formal signed letter explaining why she was being removed from her student teaching placement and

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DREAM act passes in NY

By Brianne Ledda
Assistant News Editor

The New York State Senate passed the Jose Peralta New York state DREAM Act on Jan. 23, which will allow DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients to apply for state financial aid and scholarships, including Excelsior and TAP.

The act, named for the late Sen. Jose Peralta who pushed for its passage, establishes a commission to take charge of scholarships and funding for students who are the children of immigrants.

"As a key part of our Justice Agenda, we look forward to finally making it law for all New Yorkers this year, for Sen. Peralta and the Dreamers," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said in a public statement.

Twenty senators voted against the DREAM Act on the floor. District 2 Sen. John J. Flanagan, who represents Stony Brook and excused himself from the vote, spoke out against the DREAM Act.

"By promising to provide a significant slice of state financial aid to illegal immigrants, Democrats are turning their backs on middle-class families," Flanagan wrote in a statement posted to his website. "By rejecting sensible amendments to provide additional financial aid for veterans and loan forgiveness for those raising their families in New York, Senate Dem

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Computer science professor uses Facebook posts to predict depression

By Jonnathan Pulla
Contributing Writer

A team of eight experts, including Stony Brook University Computer Science Professor Andrew Schwartz, developed an algorithm that might help predict depression using Facebook posts. The algorithm collects and analyzes the words in a person's Facebook status to detect symptoms of depression.

"For the first time, a large portion of people are digitally documenting a large portion of their life, and that can be used to help people," Schwartz said.

According to Statista.com, there were 204 million Facebook users in the United States as of October 2018.

The team analyzed six months of Facebook posts from 683 different patients who visited a large urban emergency room. One hundred and fourteen of those patients already had a diagnosis of depression in their medical records.

Once all of the information was collected, the algorithm counted how frequently each patient used terms associated with depression. Words that denote depressed mood, hostility, loneliness, pain felt in any part of the body or medical references were used to help the algorithm make predictions. Some of the most common things the researchers came across were words like cry-

ing, tears, pain, abbreviations like WTF and even the "less than three" emoticon representing a heart.

The researchers found that patients with a diagnosis of depression were more likely to type more words on Facebook. They would usually post an average of 10,655 words over the six months — 3,794 more words than patients without depression. Of that sample, 76.7 percent of individuals were female and 70.1 percent were African Americans.

The goal of the research is to give doctors and hospitals an additional tool for the screening of depression process. According to the resulting research paper,

primary care providers have as little as 15 minutes to "address many facets of health within a clinical visit."

"The assessment, once [patients] come in, is multifaceted," Susan Morin, director of Adolescent and Eating Disorder Partial Hospitalization at Mather Hospital, said. "The psychiatrists sees them, the nurse practitioner sees them, the social worker sees them. There's more than one assessment being done."

Identifying individuals who may develop depression through social media can be a part of this process and might save time.

"It will be a click of a button," Schwartz said.



News

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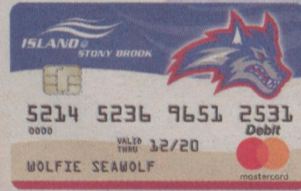


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NEWS

Cyclists connect at Freewheel Collective



FREEWHEEL COLLECTIVE

Stony Brook University's Freewheel Collective's shop in Sanger College in Tabler Quad. Students learn to maintain, repair and build bikes.

By Sanket Desai
Contributing Writer

Bicycle enthusiasts meet at Stony Brook University's Freewheel Collective's shop every Thursday night in Sanger College in Tabler Quad.

The Freewheel Collective is a club dedicated to teaching people how to repair and maintain bicycles. The club also encourages people to build bikes themselves.

The club president and a fifth year Medical Scientist Training Program student, Mike Gurevich, said he's been fixing bikes for as long as he can remember.

"Fixing bikes has always been a hobby of mine as early as elementary school. I was very happy to find this club when I was an undergrad and join like-minded people," Gurevich said.

Gurevich said that the club has several regular club members who are mechanics and come to help other people who come to the shop.

"We have other students and other faculty come by with other questions and so sometimes people come by because there is something wrong with their bike

or they want a checkup, and we'll help teach them how to do these things themselves so that they better understand how their bike works and they are able to fix it themselves," Gurevich said.

"I was very happy to find this club when I was an undergrad and join like-minded people."

-Mike Gurevich
President of the Freewheel Collective

The club also has a "bike grant" program, where they take in abandoned bikes. The University Police Department will donate abandoned bikes that haven't been claimed, which the club will let other people fix and use as their own.

"This is like a recycling thing," Suyash Bire, a graduate student and mechanic in the club, said.

The club organizes events as well — according to its website, the collective "encourages and celebrates bike riding as an ecologically and economically sound form of transportation." There are no dedicated club events scheduled currently.

Yousuf Nayeem, a junior sociology major who has been in the club since last semester, said that he had a great experience working in the shop and learned a lot about repairing bikes.

"It took me a while to actually fix this bike," Nayeem said. "Taught me some patience."

The amount of people who come to the shop varies throughout the semester. Bire said that they might see about 10 or 15 regular attendees early in the fall and late in the spring semesters, but only one or two during the winter months.

Gurevich encouraged all students who own bikes to check out the club. "I would argue that a basic understanding of bicycle function and maintenance is important for being able to inspect your own bike for safety before and during each ride," he said.

SBU supports DREAM Act

Continued from page 1

ocrats are betraying the trust of every law-abiding, taxpaying New Yorker."

A spokesperson for the university, on the other hand, said that Stony Brook is pleased with the legislature's decision.

"Stony Brook University has an unwavering commitment to creating a campus environment that welcomes all," they said. "As such, the DREAM Act has been on Stony Brook University's legislative priority list every year, and we support the Jose Peralta Dream Act legislation."

Diana Anchia, a senior biochemistry major on the pre-med track, is hoping to take advantage of the act in medical school.

"I didn't really know what was going to happen once I graduated," she said. "But my plans were to go to medical school." She didn't know how she was going to pay for it at the time, but she wasn't going to let that hold her back.

Anchia was supposed to graduate from Stony Brook in 2016, but she couldn't commit to being a full time student because she needed to work to pay

her tuition without taking out loans. Because she's a DACA recipient, she couldn't apply for state financial aid or scholarships to help with costs. Before the DREAM Act, New York allowed undocumented students who attended in-state high schools to pay in-state tuition at public universities.

The Long Island Immigrant Student Advocates group at Stony Brook University plans on creating a program on campus to educate students on how to apply for financial aid. Its president, sophomore political science major Evelyn Lopez Rodriguez, said that it would be a huge relief for undocumented students.

"NY Dream Act has been in the works for years, even way back when I was in high school. It was a program that was long due for many years and I am glad for the new generation of undocumented high-schoolers that can look forward to apply to college," Rodriguez said. "I believe we should not stop at this, there is still a long way to go. We still have bills like the Green Light NY to pass among others that will help our immigrant community."

Defendants deny allegations

Continued from page 1

that she was not given a hearing before being removed.

In their memorandum, the defendants contend that Sutton's dismissal was not the result of foul play, but rather her own behavior.

"Plaintiff continued to arrive late and leave early throughout her placement and had issues with attendance, preparation and professionalism," the memorandum states, adding that she received negative performance evaluations from both her advisor and cooperating teacher at the Sachem school district.

On Oct. 16, 2017, Galante sent Sutton a contract outlining her responsibilities as a student teacher, according to the suit. Sutton claims that she was the only student who received any such contract. According to the complaint, Galante told Sutton if she signed the contract before Oct. 25, she

would be allowed to continue student teaching in the spring semester, and that if she didn't sign, she would be dismissed.

After Sutton refused to sign the contract, her complaint states that she received a letter from Taber notifying her that she had been academically dismissed for "not meeting her program's milestones." Sutton's complaint also states that all milestones must be explicitly published in department policy and that the program Sutton was in had no published milestones.

Although Sutton tried to appeal the decision, she claims that Stony Brook mishandled her case and failed to give her the proper information about the appeals process.

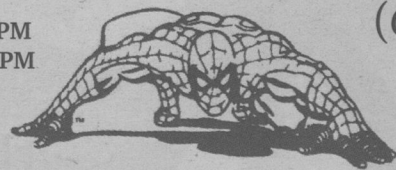
The defendants denied these allegations, claiming Sutton was informed about the appeals process and was given a fair chance at an appeal. They are requesting that the judge dismiss Sutton's complaint.

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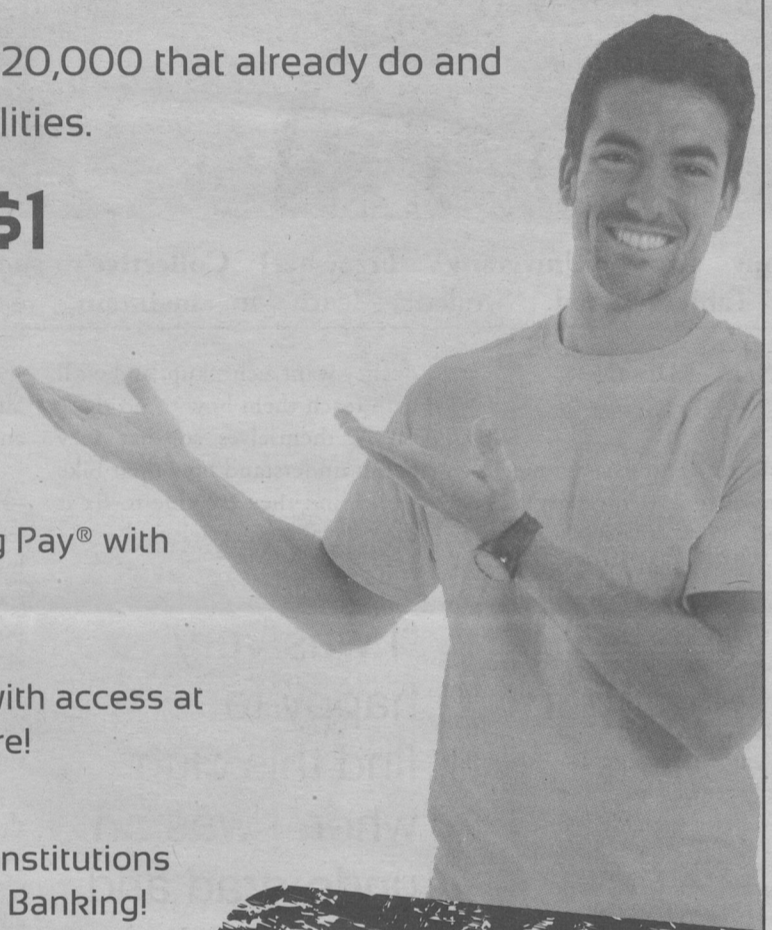
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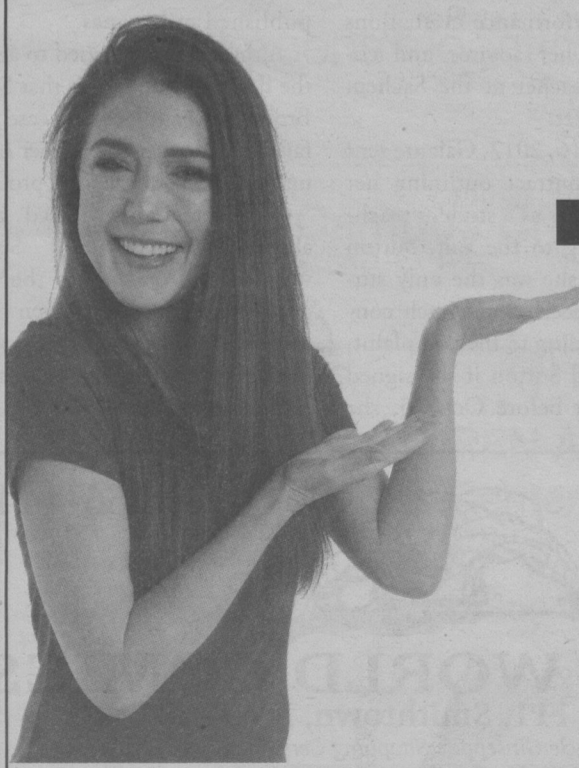
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ARTS & CULTURE

Upcoming and anticipated music releases of the year

By Benjamin Zimmer
Contributing Writer

With another year complete in the music industry, 2019 has another sleight of releases, some of which haven't yet been confirmed, that I'm absolutely ecstatic to hear.

The longest in-the-making, with five years, is "Bandana" from the hip-hop duo of rapper Freddie Gibbs and producer Madlib. "Piñata," the pair's 2014 release, is in the upper echelon of this decade's hip hop output. Madlib's clean and concise sampling paired with Freddie Gibbs' flow, one of the best in hip-hop right now, proved to be a complete success. So, hearing another of its kind will be highly anticipated.

Next is Kanye West. His upcoming album "Yandhi," which was originally slated for a September 2018 release. But, in the hectic controversy after his SNL appearance — wearing a MAGA hat and expressing his love for Trump — West decided to postpone the album, travel to Africa and finish chopping up the final draft of his ninth studio album. A lot of speculation among hip-hop fans surrounds this album, including how the album will sound sonically and what West will talk about, but I definitely expect it to come out in 2019.

Despite all of the controversy surrounding West in 2018, which

included a meeting at the White House with President Trump, and bantering back and forth with Drake, he still managed to thrive musically. He allowed the hate to fuel his motivation to crank out five albums that he had a hand in producing, including his eighth studio album "Ye." "Ye" is West's emotionally rawest release this decade, and it includes him opening up about his infamous TMZ appearance, the love he has for his wife and realizing that being a father is a lot tougher than he thought.

Although it's on the lower half of his discography, in my opinion, it doesn't discredit that "Ye" is still a strong album. The fact that West is still willing to discuss serious issues on his albums is the reason why I'm intrigued to hear what Kanye has to say in 2019.

Detroit MC, Danny Brown and Top Dawg Entertainment stand out, Schoolboy Q, are also near the top of my list for most anticipated 2019 releases as well. Schoolboy Q's "Blank Face LP" and Danny Brown's "Atrocity Exhibition" are some of my favorites from 2016, so hearing new work from both of them will be paramount.

In fact, Danny Brown is probably my pick to own 2019 in the same way Earl Sweatshirt dominated the end of 2018. Brown is without a doubt the most intriguing artist in 2019. Mainly

because I'm a strong believer that "Atrocity Exhibition" is one of the best hip-hop releases of the decade. Danny's unorthodox approach works so well on such a sonically experimental album. The beats are riddled with quirky samples and off-kilter production. They sound impossible to rap over, but Danny took on the daunting task with ease.

It's been almost three years since we've gotten another commercial release from him, and I can only speculate why; but, I can make an educated guess that it's because he has a lot in store for the upcoming year.

And finally, two of my last most anticipated albums aren't even necessarily going to come out this year, I would just really like them to be released.

The first is from Frank Ocean and the second is from Tyler the Creator. I'm so intrigued to see how both of these phenomenal artists follow their latest releases up. Ocean's 2016 release "Blonde" has aged so well, and his enigmatic presence has always been met with critical acclaim, receiving absolutely raving reviews from major media outlets like Metacritic, Pitchfork and The Guardian. The melancholic atmosphere that Ocean created on "Blonde" stemmed from his unique writing approach. So, if he decides to release more music in 2019, there could be cause for celebration among Ocean fans.



KANYE WEST / GOOD MUSIC/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS VIA CC BY SA 3.0

Cover of Kanye West's next album "Yandhi." The album was slated for a September 2018 release but was delayed.

"Flower Boy," Tyler's 2017 release, has grown to become one of my favorite albums of all-time, and I still believe he should've won the Grammy for 2017's "Best Hip-Hop Album" over Kendrick Lamar's "DAMN." While "DAMN." is enjoyable, to me, it's one of Lamar's weaker releases, and it falls flat compared to the likes of his previous album "To Pimp a Butterfly."

On the other hand, "Flower Boy" is a seminal piece in Tyler's discography because it shows the maturation he's gone under, both

musically and emotionally. The neo-soul-inspired production is absolutely gorgeous, not to mention Tyler's lyrical ambition that comes along with it. If he could follow that up with something that pushes his sound further in a new way, I'll be absolutely thrilled.

2018 was a great year for music, but I believe that 2019 has the potential to not only meet but surpass 2018 musically. The people I've mentioned are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to upcoming releases, so I can confidently say that music fans are in for a real treat in 2019.

FSA opens pan-Asian market in the Wang Center



SARA RUBERG / THE STATESMAN

The Jasmine Market in the Charles B. Wang Center opened the first day of classes of the spring 2019 semester. The market has international groceries and beverages.

By Melissa Azoifea
Assistant Arts and Culture Editor

The Charles B. Wang Center has a new attraction for lovers of Asian cuisine. The new Jasmine Market has been open and ready for business since the first day of classes this semester for students to stop by and shop.

Jasmine Market is located in a quaint spot in the corner of Jasmine food court, next to the Jasmine Tea House.

Angela Agnello, the Faculty Student Association director of marketing and communications, describes the new market as "a 550

square foot store featuring over a hundred new items comprised of international grocery items, snacks and pan-Asian beverages."

They have snacks like shrimp crackers, Kasugai roasted hot green peas, Thai coconut rolls, Japanese green tea flavored chocolates, Ko-

rean Choco Pie, lychee flavored foods, Asian fruits (dragon fruit and Asian Pears), spices, sauces and flavorings, as well as the stereotypical college favorite food — ramen — in several flavors.

"A majority of stuff could be cheaper, but there's a variety of things that I feel like a lot of people would like," Angel Lee, a junior computer engineering student that shopped at Jasmine Market, said.

Students like Jessica Ju, a senior double major in technological systems management and linguistics, hasn't purchased anything from the market but has browsed.

"It can be a really convenient thing for students to get things they need to cook and eat," Ju said.

It's not just about the delicious food. The market was created to the university demographics because the university has a significantly large Asian student population. As of Fall 2018, 36.4 percent of the university's students are Asian according to university enrollment data.

Agnello says the FSA was prompted by the student population to create the Jasmine Market on campus.

"The Faculty Student Association (FSA) and Campus Dining collect feedback through surveys, our website and social media channels, our texting program and daily contact with our customers at the dining locations. We have been hearing student requests for more variety,

more flavorful dishes and more authentic cuisines."

The FSA and Campus Dining are now prompting students to participate in their surveys again for next year.

"Plans are already underway for new options for next fall so keep the feedback coming! You can always submit feedback online to let Campus Dining know your favorite dining venues and menu options as well as discuss new items you would like to see featured," Agnello said.

"Plans are already underway for new options for next fall so keep the feedback coming!"

-Angela Agnello
FSA Director of marketing and communications

If you find yourself near the Wang Center, don't miss the opportunity to treat yourself to the wonderful food offered at the Jasmine Market. There are treats that besides being delicious are also aesthetically pleasing. They have cute sweet treats like Chocorooms, a mushroom-shaped chocolate cracker.

"They made a really conscious effort to try and keep us in touch with the culture. There's a lot of variety in there from what I saw and in the future, I'll definitely buy something," Ju said.

“Ted Bundy Tapes” looks into the life of a serial killer

By Emily Clute
Contributing Writer

No name is more synonymous with American crime than Ted Bundy. The 70s were a time of fear and caution as it seemed serial killers plagued the country; the Manson family, John Wayne Gacy, Son of Sam, the Zodiac Killer, the “Hillside Strangler” and, of course, Ted Bundy, hunted their victims across the country within a span of 10 years. It was the birth of the “serial killer” and the birth of the nation’s fascination with these gruesome characters.

Now, you can feed this obsession with the new docu-series on Netflix, “Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes.” Fair warning; the series is not for those with a weak heart, or a weak stomach.

Throughout the four-episode series, the audience gets to hear pieces of Bundy’s stories and confessions in his own words. In their interviews with Bundy as his appointed biographers, journalists Stephen Michaud and Hugh Aynesworth captured over 100 hours of audio tape.

The docu-series outlines Bundy’s life and crimes, including stories on his childhood, his personal relationships, his two escapes from imprisonment, footage of his trials and in-depth conversations about his execution in the Florida State prison system in 1989.

These very tapes are recounted and played throughout the new series, allowing the audience the chance to hear Bundy explain the crimes himself. Though he shares his stories in a “hypothetical” third person, there isn’t much that is more chilling than hearing a serial killer share their thoughts on their own crimes.

And if that isn’t gruesome enough, Netflix premiered the series on the 30th anniversary of Bundy’s execution date — Jan. 24, 1989.

So many viewers are getting freaked out, that Netflix has warned audiences not to watch the series alone.

Along with the audio tapes, the series contains a recorded interview with his ex-girlfriend, Liz Kloepfer, and archived footage of his mother and ex-wife. The series also features camera interviews with Michaud and Aynesworth, various law enforcement officers from multiple jurisdictions and others that have encountered Bundy throughout their life, such as close friends, and one woman who survived an encounter with the serial killer, Carol DaRonch.

Bundy was a serial rapist, murderer and necrophiliac. His crimes crossed state lines many times, going through Washington, Oregon, Utah and Florida. Some believe crossing jurisdictions in the days where law en-

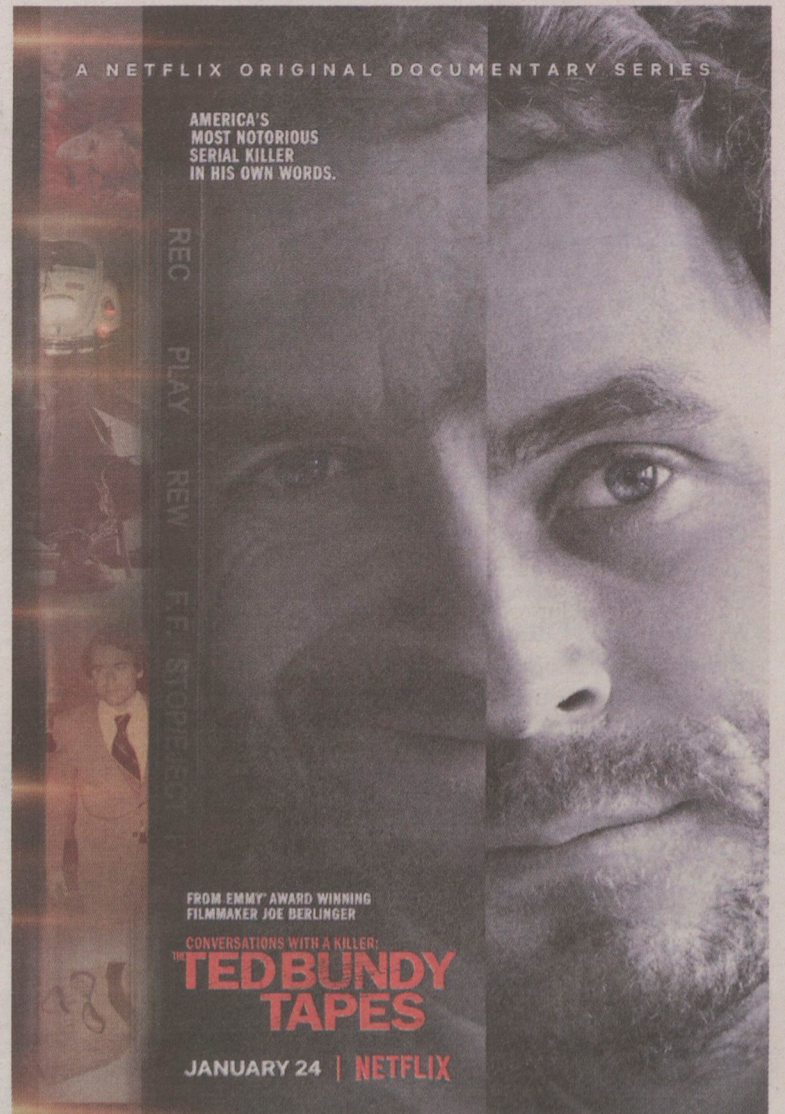
forcement didn’t have a system for sharing information is what helped Bundy escape capture for so long.

He primarily targeted college-aged women, but was charged and sentenced to death for the killing of 12-year-old Kimberly Diane Leach. Before his execution, Bundy confessed to the murders of 36 women, but some experts believe the count could reach 100 victims.

While Bundy helped define the idea of a serial killer, he also didn’t fit the usual profile of what we believed a serial killer was. He was educated, charming and good-looking. He didn’t fit the image of what people believed went bump in the night. He was a law student and participated in conservative politics. How could the boy next door turn into such a heinous villain?

The series is directed by Joe Berlinger, who also directed a biographical movie on Bundy’s life, “Extremely Wicked, Shockingly Evil and Vile.” The film stars Zac Efron as Ted Bundy, and has premiered at Sundance 2019. Though the film is currently amid controversy over glamorizing Bundy’s charming persona, Berlinger defends his film, stating that, “I certainly don’t think we’re glorifying him because he gets his due.”

Whether you’re a true crime fan or have never heard of Ted Bundy



PUBLIC DOMAIN

The poster for “Conversations with a Killer: The Ted Bundy Tapes.” The series premiered on Jan. 24, 2019.

before the internet began to blow up over him, there is something for you in this extremely bingeable docu-series. So kick back, hit the lights and let the viewing begin — just don’t forget your binging buddy.

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OPINIONS

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INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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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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GISELLE MIRANDA/STATESMAN FILE

Wolfie high-fiving an athlete at LaValle Stadium. The stadium is named after New York State Sen. Kenneth P. LaValle, who voted against a bill to ban gay conversion therapy.

Stony Brook must rename LaValle Stadium

By Mike Adams
Opinions Editor

New York passed a bill to ban gay conversion therapy in the state Friday, Jan. 25. The measure to strike the dehumanizing and controversial practice of “curing” people of their homosexuality from the state earned nearly unanimous support from the legislative community.

Only four senators voted against the bill — one of them was Kenneth P. LaValle, the representative for most of eastern Long Island and namesake of Stony Brook University’s sports stadium.

LaValle defended his vote to maintain a practice a study from the Williams Institute, a UCLA School of Law think tank, linked to “poor mental health” and increased “suicidality” as a matter of procedure, arguing through an email to *The Statesman* from his communications director that the bill circumvents traditional review methods for banning a medical practice. The senator, who voted against legalizing gay marriage in 2009 and 2011, said that while he personally opposes conversion therapy, he had “reservations about the legislature intervening in a medical disciplinary process that has served the public for many years.”

Voting to support conversion therapy is infinitely more harmful than voting to oppose gay marriage. Opening up marriage laws was a crucial matter of social equality, but conversion therapy attempts to deny LGBTQ people their right to exist. It is an

affront to basic humanity that has put nearly 700,000 Americans through hell, some of whom never came out the other side. Rejecting an opportunity to rid New York of the practice is unconscionable.

If this was a stab at a Cuomo-sponsored bill from the Republican senator, then it’s a sickeningly inhuman display of partisan politics. That doesn’t seem to be the case, but the real motivation might just be boilerplate bigotry.

While LaValle’s true motivations may be unclear, Stony Brook University’s response is simple and obvious: Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium needs to be renamed, and any financial ties the university maintains with the senator must be severed.

A webpage about the stadium on the Stony Brook Athletics website says the venue was named “in honor of the New York State Senator that was instrumental in making the stadium a reality.” There is no debate here; the school is honoring a man who at the very least voted down an attempt to allow gay people the right to be without pseudoscientific persecution. It cannot continue to do that and claim to support its LGBTQ students, staff and faculty.

“Senator LaValle decided to vote against the safety and well-being of queer and trans minors, instead supporting a practice which is tantamount to child abuse,” senior applied mathematics and statistics major and campus activist David Clark wrote. “Even within his

own party, he has extreme views, and Stony Brook University may wish to consider what message it sends to LGBTQ students as it continues to dedicate the football stadium to him, regardless of the state funding he has secured for the school in the past.”

There are a million different ways to call that “no” vote evil, but Stony Brook’s response could be held up by the millions of dollars LaValle has helped raise for the school over the years.

Every cent of that money is tainted by the scourge of conversion therapy and LaValle’s failure to help end it. No contribution could be worth the suffering the technique has caused.

The question the university needs to ask itself is simple: at what price do we offer our soul?

Rename the stadium later if you have to (naming it in honor of the 1969 Stonewall Riots in Greenwich Village that marked a major turning point for gay rights in America would be nice ... plus Stonewall Stadium just sounds cool) but get rid of the name now. Call it Stony Brook University Stadium for the rest of the year, name it after the Corned Beef Sandwich at Delancey Street, nobody cares. That’s not the important part.

Whatever needs to be done to completely divest from LaValle needs to be done as quickly and as strongly as possible. To do anything less would be a slap in the face to the campus’s LGBTQ community, a clear signal that the university values finances over respecting the rights of its student body.

This is bigger than money.

The humanities should continue to be appreciated more at Stony Brook

By Maya Brown
Contributing Writer

There are over 200 majors, minors and combined-degree programs at Stony Brook University. Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields contain some of the most popular majors at the university. In Fall 2018, 320 students were enrolled as English majors while 983 students were enrolled as computer science majors, according to enrollment data from the university's Office of Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness.

According to a report by Economic Modeling, in 2016, the number of STEM majors in New York shot up 45 percent, while humanities was stagnant. Humanities include majors involving ancient and modern languages, literature, philosophy, history, human geography, law, politics, religion and art. These majors foster curiosity, creativity and empathy within the students who study them.

In addition, the humanities also teach people real-world skills. The Washington Post reporter Valerie Strauss wrote in an article that studying the humanities "encourages reflection and provides one with an appreciation and empathy for humanity. This is why critical thinking done in the humanities goes beyond problem solving."

We need the humanities to understand other cultures, analyze human behavior and communicate effectively. After taking News Literacy, a fundamental journalism class, I learned not just how to be a smart news consumer, but also how to analyze certain human behavior in the

way that people consume news. In my Music Cultures From Around The World class, I am becoming more aware of the different cultures around the world and what kind of instruments people use to make music. This course has already given me a better appreciation for other cultures around the world.

In September 2017, cuts designed to reduce a budget deficit were being proposed directly toward the humanities. Students and faculty were incensed. It was reported that not only were there plans to make reductions in non-tenure-track faculty lines, but three assistant professors of cultural studies were told their contracts would not be renewed past 2018, according to an article by Inside Higher Education.

Many were actually so angered at the proposed cuts of humanities within the university, that 5,793

people signed a petition opposing them. One of the points the petition stressed was the fact that "the decision to suspend undergraduate majors, Ph.D. programs and merge departments without consulting the faculty and students affected is an attack on the Humanities and the Arts." According to Newsday, student admissions were suspended in comparative literature and several language disciplines were consolidated in 2017.

The Writing and Rhetoric adjuncts were also replaced by professors who weren't fit for the position, which wasn't in favor of the students or the adjuncts. According to *The Statesman*, "The adjuncts were told that full-time lecturers from other disciplines, including pharmacology and geology, would take their places." Not only were students going to be taught by unqualified professors,

but many adjuncts lost their jobs and were afraid of what would happen to their programs.

The two people closest to these cuts are the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Sacha Kopp and Provost Michael Bernstein — both of whom have either resigned or will resign after this year.

"We are building resources in key departments that have demonstrated academic and scholarly excellence," Kopp said in an interview with Newsday regarding the budget cuts.

This quote shows the opinion that STEM is better than the humanities, which isn't an excuse for the damage that was done. In an open letter to Kopp and Bernstein on Facebook, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Columbia University and President of the American Comparative Literature Association, Joseph Slaughter, said,

"It is the humanities discipline best equipped to help our students and our communities face the complex challenges of our time."

According to Inside Higher Education, after two faculty members in the theatre arts department received notices of non-renewal, the theatre arts major at Stony Brook also suspended admissions, effective Fall 2018. The department will transition into a "service department," where students will be able to take courses that fulfill curriculum requirements, according to a report by Michaela Kilgallen, former editor-in-chief of *The Statesman*.

Although Stony Brook doesn't have a strong reputation for its arts programs, it was unfair for the theatre arts major to be cut because of how unexpected the decision was for both students and professors. Also, the Staller Center for the Arts has a side dedicated toward theater, which doesn't hold any STEM classes. Without there being a theater major, the side seems to be a waste since it's not being used to practice the craft of theater, other than performances by student groups.

All majors should be treated with equal respect and be given the same opportunities. Being a journalism major, I fear that one day there could be cuts from the School of Journalism. Cutting humanities majors and professors sends a clear signal that the school neither appreciates nor considers them important. It's simply another way of saying the humanities means less than other majors and newsflash — they most definitely don't.



LUIS RUIZ DOMINGUEZ/STATESMAN FILE

Students gather at the Academic Mall to protest the suspension of the theatre arts department in May 2017. Stony Brook suspended admissions to the major in Fall 2018.

President Trump's proposed border wall will do nothing but divide

By Melissa Azofeifa
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

I was born in Costa Rica, but have lived in the United States for 21 years now — I consider it my home. Having said that, my parents never allowed me to forget where I come from and made sure I was still immersed in my culture. This gives me a unique perspective on the immigration issue.

I have seen and heard ghastly and tragic stories of people risking everything to try and make it into this country for a better life. But I have also seen cases in which immigrants do things that, as a taxpayer, I find wrong and help me understand why many Americans view immigrants negatively and want them kept out. However, I also believe there is a better way to deal with these issues than just building a wall.

President Donald Trump's most memorable campaign promise, building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, has proven to be very strenuous for him to keep.

Having just endured the longest government shutdown in the country's history, the president remains determined to get funds for this absurd, massive project that won't help with the problem of illegal immigration as much as he and his base would think.

A wall will not stop the influx of undocumented immigrants coming into the country. In fact, visa overstays have significantly exceeded illegal border crossings during each

of the last seven years, according to the Center for Migration Studies. The wall will not stop human trafficking either, because included in those visa overstays are victims of human trafficking.

It will also be ineffective to deter the flow of drugs since most of the drugs are smuggled in vehicles coming legally through U.S. ports of entry. The 2016 Drug Enforcement Administration report states how illegal drugs are smuggled in vehicles or blended with goods in tractor trailers.

The wall will be more expensive than its proponents estimate. Pres-

ident Trump originally claimed the wall will cost between \$15 billion and \$20 billion, but the libertarian think tank Cato Institute estimates it will cost around \$25 billion. Fox News itself reports that U.S. taxpayers would "foot the bill."

There are also legal obstacles that will have to be overcome to build the wall. The land on the border doesn't only belong to the federal government, so it would need to be bought or seized through the unpopular tactic of eminent domain. Part of the land where the wall would be built is also owned by Native American tribes and private in-

dividuals who control much of the borderland property. Most of the existing border fence is located in California, Arizona and New Mexico, since private parties own a large majority of the border in Texas.

Besides all the problems with the wall that were mentioned above, the real problem is the symbolism behind it. The idea that people that are foreign or not "American" aren't welcome enables disgusting treatment from xenophobic, racist, white nationalists to people that, for the most part, are innocent and have had nothing to do with the crimes that plague America. Less

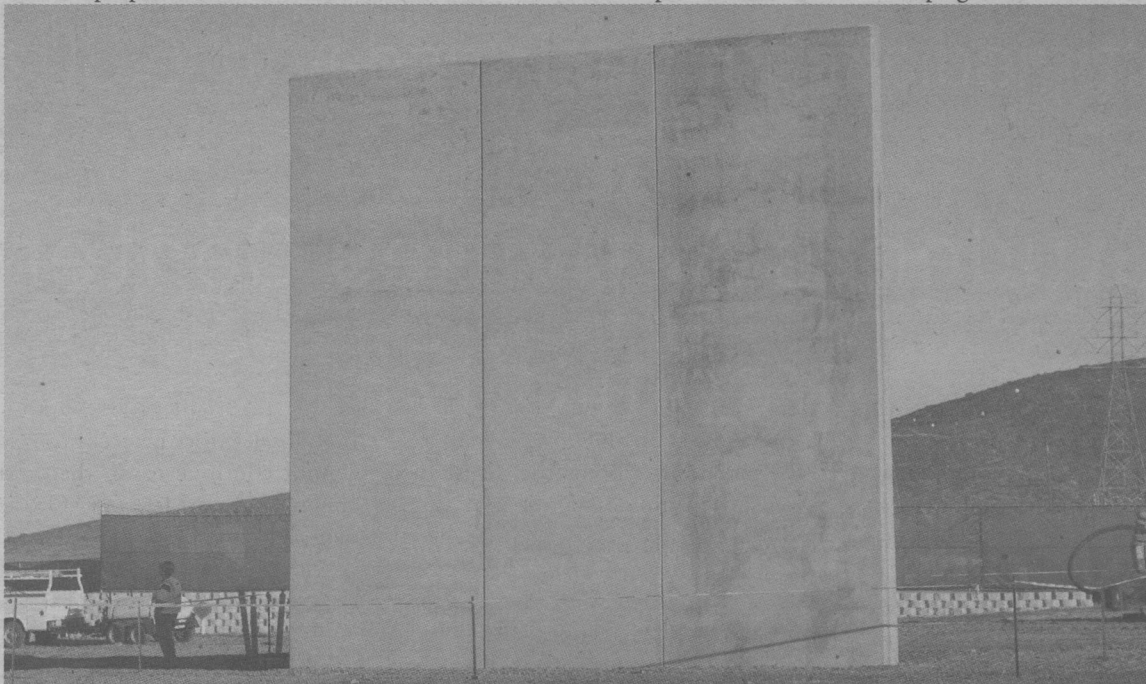
than 4 percent of the total prison population are not U.S. citizens, according to a report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Despite this, Arizona economist John R. Lott reports that undocumented immigrants in Arizona are 142 percent more likely to be convicted of a crime.

The United States is not the same place it was when I came here. So much has changed, especially the attitude toward immigrants. When I came to this country, being an immigrant was something to be proud of. It takes hard work and sacrifice to start a new life in a different country, and that should incite a feeling of pride.

Sadly, that status has become something citizens and immigrants alike fear. The fear has caused the environment to become toxic.

Citizens might fear illegal immigrants because they speak a different language and belong to a different social class. They keep their heads down and don't dare forget their place, because crossing the wrong citizen can mean they lose everything they have worked so hard to achieve.

Illegal immigration has been politicized to the point that the public is forgetting that immigrants are people, too, despite all the differences. Instead of creating a physical barrier to symbolize how divided this country has become, let's become stronger and try to remind ourselves all that we have in common.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

A prototype section of the proposed wall along the U.S.-Mexico border near the Otay Mesa port of entry in San Diego, California.

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Opinions meeting: Tuesday @ 6:30 pm

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Students Activities Center

room 307F

Track teams compete at Metropolitan Championship

By Kenneth Fermin
Assistant Sports Editor

Stony Brook Track and Field never had a Metropolitan Champion in the Pentathlon entering Friday, Feb. 1, but by the end of the afternoon, junior Alyssa Oviasogie immortalized herself in history by becoming the program's first champion in the race with 3,296 points.

Oviasogie's performance was the highlight of what was a tepidly average performance by both teams. The women's team finished sixth with a score of 58 while the men's team finished seventh with a score of 33. Rutgers bested out 14 other schools in both groups with a combined score of 367.5.

"Alyssa's performance was definitely the highlight of the weekend."

-Andy Rohan
Track and Field Head Coach

"I thought our performances yesterday were a little flat, not

necessarily unexpected as both squads are working hard right now," head coach Andy Rohan said in a press release. "Hopefully with some sharpening and freshness over the next few weeks we will get the bouncy back in our legs. Alyssa's performance was definitely the highlight of the weekend, she did a great job in all five of the Pentathlon events to win the title."

Senior Analise Kirby and freshman Jillian Patterson rounded out the top five of the Pentathlon, earning 11 combined points for their efforts. Senior Sarah Militano earned five points by hustling to a fourth place finish in the women's 60 Meters Finals with a time of 7.73 seconds. Senior Melissa Riback earned four points by finishing fifth with a time of 1:16.62.

Junior Clodagh O'Reilly finished second in the Women's 1000 Meters Finals with a time of 2:59.20, her collegiate best. The duo of seniors Courtney Warden and Nikki Fogarty sprinted to third and fourth in the Women's 60 Hurdles Finals, both in under 8.9 seconds.

Senior McKyla Brooks earned ninth place in the Women's Long Jump Finals with a top distance of 17'3.25.

Junior Ahmed Galal topped the men's performances by dashing to a fourth place finish in the

Men's 200 Meters Finals in 22.18 seconds, earning five points. Junior Sean Ideozu completed the Men's 400 Meters Finals in 50.09 seconds and sprinted to the fifth spot. Sophomore Luke Coulter earned one point by finishing eighth in the Men's 500 Meters Finals with a time of 1:05.94.

The freshman trio of Jeremy Chen, Miles Ryan and Joshua Titus hustled to a fourth, seventh and eighth place fin-

ish respectively in the Men's 60 Hurdles Finals, claiming eight combined points.

The Seawolves will return to the Ocean Breeze T&F Facility in Staten Island, New York when they participate at the Fastrack National Invitational on Friday, Feb. 8 beginning at 1 p.m.

This will be the team's last event before the America East Championships at Boston Uni-

versity on Friday, Feb. 22. The women's team placed second behind Albany by 97.5 points, while the men's team placed seventh in the championship last season.

The team looks to improve their performances with a return to Staten Island.

Rohan will be sending both men's and women's competitors for the matchup this coming weekend.



ERIC SCHMID/STATSMAN FILE

Junior Wayne Williams at a meet in 2017. Stony Brook Track and Field competed in the Metropolitan Championship on Saturday, Feb. 2.

Women's Basketball falls to Hartford on the road



JUSTIN GOODRIDGE/THE STATESMAN

Senior guard Jerell Matthews in a game against UMBC on Jan. 30, 2019. Matthews led the Seawolves with 16 points and three steals in a game against Hartford on Feb. 2, 2019.

By Ethan Tam
Staff Writer

Riding a hot streak coming off two consecutive victories, Stony Brook Women's Basketball looked to exact revenge against the Hartford Hawks Saturday, Feb. 2.

The Seawolves dropped their conference opener the last time

the two teams faced off in a 64-36 Hawks routing, exactly one month ago. Despite Stony Brook putting up a closely-fought first half, the Hawks took the game over and pulled away with a strong third quarter and beat the Seawolves 73-62, sweeping the regular season series.

"I thought our team was well aware of what to expect from Hartford today," said head coach Caroline McCombs in a press release.

"The challenge was then executing our game plan from start to finish. It starts with defending and taking care of the

ball and when we had lapses in those areas, they were able to capitalize."

The Seawolves fell behind early, yet ended the first quarter on a 14-3, taking an 18-13 lead which was capped by a three-pointer from senior guard Shania "Shorty" Johnson. Both

teams traded buckets in the second quarter, with the lead never growing bigger than four.

Sophomore forward India Pagan was fouled as the half came to a close and sunk both free throws, giving Stony Brook a 32-31 lead at the end of the frame.

The Hawks outscored the Seawolves 23-9 and carried a 13-point lead as the quarter ended. It was a hole that Stony Brook could not come out of.

Hawks sophomore guard Jade Young led all players with 21 points, while also leading her team with eight rebounds, four assists, and two blocks. Senior guard Jerell Matthews led the Seawolves with 16 points and three steals.

Despite the loss, Stony Brook continued dominating the boards with a plus-15 rebound margin, out rebounding the Hawks 40-25.

With an average of 38.5 rebounds per game, Stony Brook leads the entire America East conference in that statistic. The Seawolves average 5.9 more rebounds than their opponents, one of only three teams in the conference with a positive rebound margin.

Stony Brook will look to rebound from Saturday's loss when they take on the Binghamton Bearcats at home on Wednesday, Feb. 6th at 7 p.m.. The game has been designated as the team's annual Pink Game, which supports survivors and raises awareness for breast cancer.

SPORTS

Olaniyi leads Men's Basketball past Hartford 86-77

By Kenneth Fermin
Assistant Sports Editor

Stony Brook Men's Basketball sophomore guard Elijah Olaniyi deservedly gleamed as he entered the postgame press conference, coming off a 86-77 victory over Hartford on Saturday, Feb. 2.

Olaniyi followed up three consecutive lackluster single-digit performances by catching the hot hand early and piercing through Hartford's defense. However, the offensive catalyst felt hungrier for more even after earning a career-high 28 points.

"Man, I wish I had hit 30," Olaniyi said as he read the stat sheet.

Olaniyi's commanding performance was the boost Stony Brook needed after dropping two straight games, against Vermont and UMBC, for the first time this season. A third loss would have knocked the Seawolves to fourth place in the America East standings midway through the season.

The Seawolves entered Saturday night facing a challenging rapid-fire Hawks team which knocked down a program-record 19 shots from three in their prior game against Binghamton.

"We had two rough ones against UMBC and Vermont," redshirt sophomore forward Andrew Garcia said. We haven't lost a lot of games [this season] so

losing those really woke us up to a little bit of adversity. We knew we had to come into this game ready to play and come in with positive vibes- we were hungry."

Olaniyi jumpstarted the Seawolves offensively by earning the first seven points just three minutes into the first half. As Hartford tried battling back, Stony Brook continued turning to the guard as he torched the rival defense inside.

When he was double-teamed, Olaniyi countered by splashing back-to-back shots from well behind three, roaring to the thundering sea of Stony Brook fans as he put them up 24-14, 12 minutes through the first.

"I talked to [senior guard Jaron Cornish, redshirt junior Akwasi Yeboah and Olaniyi] after the losses and said 'When you are facing adversity, you gotta work harder,'" head coach Jeff Boals said. "You can tell Elijah has worked hard on his game. He had a couple of heat checks there in the first half and I pulled him over and said 'Hey, do you think you are Dwyane Wade in your prime?' He was phenomenal."

Stony Brook excelled defensively in the first half by holding Hartford below 28 percent shooting. The Hawks were far from replicating their impressive shooting on Wednesday and were held to 21 percent from three

in the half. Meanwhile, Stony Brook shot over 50 percent in the half and took a 41-28 lead entering halftime.

"Going in, we knew 50 percent of the shots and 50 percents of the points came from three," Boals said. "I thought sophomore center Jeff Otchere did a good job of clogging the lane, getting boards and altering shots. We were able to stay at home a little more and contest them." While Hartford struggled from the field in the first, it started the second half 4-5 and cut the deficit to single digits off a layup

by senior forward George Blagojevic. In response, Otchere, Garcia, Cornish and Olaniyi dominated inside and gained a 23 point lead midway through the second half.

"That segment right there showed off our immaturity as a team," Olaniyi said.

"We called a timeout and coach tried to settle us down. We know how to win games but we just have a problem of closing them out."

Stony Brook's 86 points is the most scored this season and the highest since the 86-75 on

Jan. 16, 2017. Both Yeboah and Garcia finished with a double-double, earning 16 points and 14 rebounds and 13 points and 11 rebounds, respectively. Hartford senior guard Jason Dunne led the team with 19 points.

The Seawolves improve to 18-5 overall and 6-2 in the America East, good enough for second place alongside UMBC.






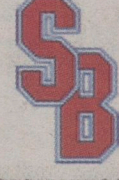






Their next game will be on Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. against Binghamton, a team which leads the conference in with 117 overall blocks.



ALEEZA KAZMUTHE STATESMAN


Sophomore forward Elijah Olaniyi in a game against Quinnipiac on Saturday, Dec. 1. On Saturday he earned a career-high 28 points in a victory over Hartford.


SEAWOLVES SCOREBOARD

 STONY BROOK	MEN'S BASKETBALL WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30 49 - 57	 UMBC	 STONY BROOK	MEN'S TRACK FRIDAY, FEB. 1 7th Place	 METROPOLITAN CHAMPIONSHIP
 UMBC	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30 44 - 57	 STONY BROOK	 STONY BROOK	WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SATURDAY, JAN. 26 62 - 73	 HARTFORD
 STONY BROOK	WOMEN'S TRACK FRIDAY, FEB. 1 6th Place	 METROPOLITAN CHAMPIONSHIP	 HARTFORD	MEN'S BASKETBALL SATURDAY, JAN. 26 77 - 86	 STONY BROOK

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