

Students organize conservative newspaper

By RADEYAH HACK
Statesman Editor

The conservative opinions on campus will soon be heard. The Enduring Freedom Alliance is in the works of producing a newspaper at Stony Brook that will provide campus news with a conservative viewpoint.

"We thought it would be a good opportunity to present an alternative," said Rachel O'Brien, managing editor of the paper and member of the Enduring Freedom Alliance. "This way we could have a paper that expresses our views better," she continued.

The paper is intended to focus on campus news, with editorials catered towards national events. "If students want to read a paper with national events, they know where to go," said Erik Berte, the editor-in-chief. "The New York Times, Newsday and other papers provide that resource."

The USG senate meetings are intended to be the major campus events that will be covered in the paper. Berte hopes to have a column entitled "Who's looking after you at USG," so that the student body will be informed about the campus political issues.

The Patriot, the name for

the conservative paper, is not intended to have a political connotation. According to Berte, the name of the paper is not about being patriotic. Modeled after the "patriots," the old Stony Brook mascot, the name of the paper refers to Stony Brook and not a political ideal.

Although the majority of staff writers for *The Patriot* are members of the Enduring Freedom Alliance, the paper hopes to attract a broader range of students and student interests. "We currently have six writers," said O'Brien, "but we're hoping to attract more after publication."

Even though *The Patriot* identifies itself as a conservative paper, it will not adhere solely to republican ideals, claims Berte. "We'll print articles that criticize republican policies, but we're not going to pretend we'll give equal coverage to both sides."

Berte also points out that one does not have to be conservative to write for *The Patriot*.

"The paper should strike debates on campus and offer different viewpoints, while informing the public about the campus issues," said Berte.

The Patriot is scheduled to be printed within a month and will be a monthly publication.

Campus Wide Tsunami Relief Efforts

By RADEYAH HACK
Statesman Editor

The deadly waves and earthquake that struck South East Asia and other parts of the world in late December left many homeless, stranded, and orphaned. With a death toll that seems to be exponentially rising, the tsunami catastrophe left countries such as Thailand and Indonesia in dire need of medical and financial assistance.

A global relief effort quickly went under way, with many developed nations making generous contributions to help lessen the tsunami's devastating aftermath. The U.S. alone provided over \$30 million in aid. Despite being hit by the tsunami/quake themselves, countries such

as India financially contributed to the international relief effort.

Like most university presidents across the nation, Shirley Strum Kenny immediately released a statement encouraging students and faculty members to make donations and volunteer their time for organizations like the American Red Cross and Action Against Hunger.

The Stony Brook community was immediately mobilized into action. Meetings between the administration, various departments and students were held over the winter break. Plans for a campus wide tsunami relief effort were hashed out and initiated.

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Chris Lonardo/Statesman

Kick off ceremony for Black History Month

By RADEYAH HACK
Statesman Editor

Rosa Parks, civil rights, freedom, even Barak Obama were among the numerous answers to the question "What does black history mean to you?" Every year the month of February is dedicated to acknowledging black history. In honor of this, the Black History Month Opening Ceremony was held on Wednesday to display the numerous events that will be hosted at Stony Brook.

"It [black history month] is a celebration of the African American heritage we have on campus," said Dean Stein. "It adds to the pride of our community and promotes understanding and tolerance."

Black, bold and beautiful was the theme of this year's ceremony. "Black celebrating all colors; bold symbolizing the need to be proud of your heritage and color; beautiful, because 'black is just beautiful'" said Valerie Sims, committee co-chair for Black History Month Planning.

The ceremony opened with a viewing of the mini-documentary "What is Black History to You?" The film featured Stony Brook students discussing the significance of the month for them. Most students

expressed discontent that black history is addressed only once a year, instead of being included as part of American history in general.

The Stony Brook Gospel Choir, followed by a performance by the Essence of Praise Dance Group, sang a melodious rendition of "The Black National Anthem". The ceremony showcased some of the interesting and unique forms of African American dances, such as step dancing.

"It [stepping] has remained in our hearts and has been passed down from generation to generation," said a dancer from Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

The guest speaker of the event, Brian Harper M.D., M.P.H. shared his wise and knowledgeable advice about how students of color can achieve their goals. Harper, who has recently been appointed as the first black Commissioner of Health for Suffolk County, is a graduate of SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse.

"Don't become discouraged and do not let failure keep you from progressing," Harper said. He encouraged students to develop relationships with their professors and to seek their advice so that they will be pointed in the right direction.

For Harper, being discouraged

was not an option. Both his father and grandfather desired to be physicians, but because of the political and social atmosphere of segregation, they were not giving the opportunity.

"The civil rights movement allowed me to enter into this profession," said Harper. Acknowledging the importance of the civil rights movement, Harper said the visions of Martin Luther King Jr. in the 1960's allowed his appointment as Commissioner of Health possible.

Realizing the need for better health care among the minority population, he plans on creating a specific division of the Department of Health in Suffolk County that is entirely devoted to minority affairs.

"There is a great disparity of health between minorities and the general population," said Harper. "The African American community particularly is at a higher risk for diabetes, heart disease and HIV/AIDS."

Stony Brook has scheduled over forty events this February to address the issues of Black History Month. Lectures addressing the origins of the civil rights movement, art galleries depicting black inventions, and discussions and workshops on hip hop are among the many things planned.

Snow Starts Semester with a Bang

BY AMANDA RUBENSTEIN
Statesman Editor

The past weekend's snowstorm caused a State of Emergency in Suffolk County and Stony Brook's Orientation Events, scheduled for Sunday, to be cancelled. With the start of the winter season, students and faculty must be aware of the process that occurs when a snowstorm is in the forecast.

The group on campus that decides whether a weather emergency is extreme enough to close the university is the Emergency Management Team.

They also coordinate the activities of the many other groups that are involved when a weather emergency arises.

Student Affairs, the University Police, Facilities Department and the Food Service Department all contribute to the functioning of campus during a snowstorm.

Pat Calabria, a member of the Emergency Management Team, said that there are multiple criteria that are important in deciding whether to declare a snow day.

"The things we consider are the counties that are currently in a State of Emergency because that means people cannot drive in those counties," says Calabria. "We also look at whether the weather is forecasting more snow and the condition of the university. We look at whether it is possible to clear the parking lots and roads on campus in time to open for the school day."

The weekend's storm provided a threat to Sunday's Orientation Events. "In terms of Monday's school day," Calabria said, "the State of Emergency was lifted, and all the roadways were clear, so the university was not closed on Monday."

The Emergency Management Team also works to get Stony Brook students help clean up the campus after a blizzard left over two feet of snow in some areas on the island.

their decisions out so that students and faculty will know what is going on. Students can call 2-SNOW on West Campus and 4-SNOW on East Campus to hear the latest on the state of the university.

In addition the Management Team notifies News 12, and they also keep student websites updated during the

storm through Jacob Levich, who is the Director of Web Content for the University.

Essentially, students may find out about school closings due to extreme weather by watching News 12, calling either of the snow hotlines on campus or paying attention to the Stony Brook website.



Chris Lonardo/Statesman

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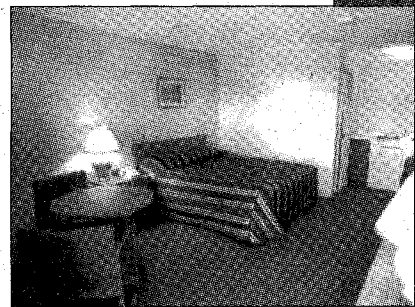
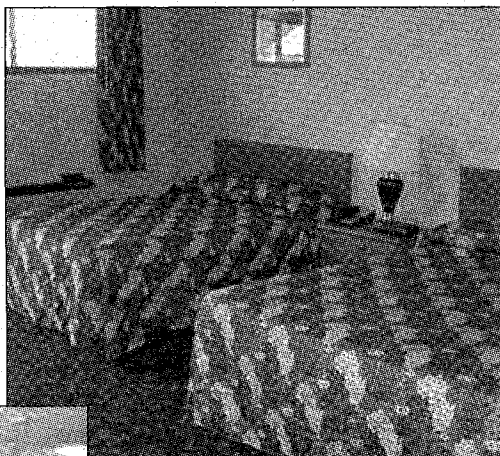
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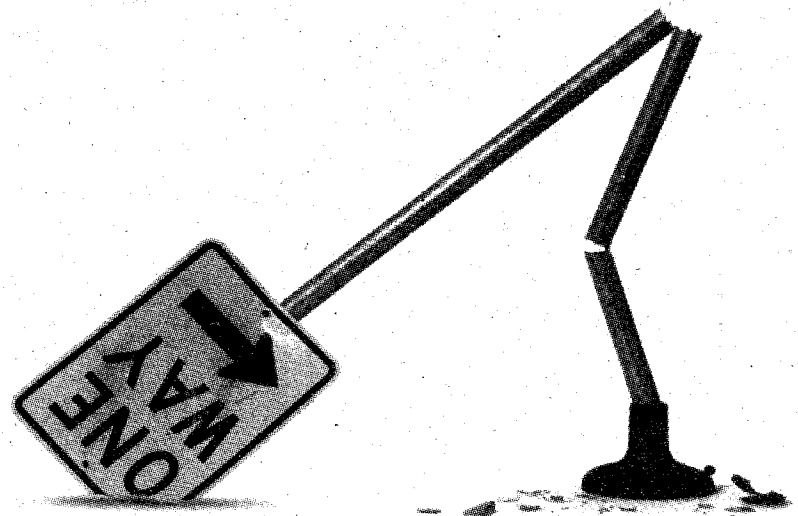


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Asian Pride Night '05



Photos by Joy Dutta/Statesman

Asian Pride Night featured live music and food as Stony Brook students celebrated the coming together of different cultures.

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GET INVOLVED

Statesman production meetings are held throughout the day on Wednesdays and Sundays in Rm 057 in the basement of the Student Union. Anyone wishing to contribute to the newspaper is welcome to attend these meetings.

The Statesman encourages readers to submit opinions and commentaries to the following address:

Stony Brook Statesman
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Stony Brook, NY 11790

phone: (631) 632-6479
fax: (631) 632-9128

Email us at:
comments@sbstatesman.org

To view previous issues, extra material, and to learn about how to get involved with the Statesman, visit our website at sbstatesman.org.

For advertising inquiries, call us at (631) 632-6480.

WHO WE ARE

The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Sucolian" in 1957 at Oyster Bay, the original site of Stony Brook University. In 1975 "The Statesman" was incorporated as a not-for-profit, student-run organization. Its editorial board, writing, and photography staff are student volunteers while its business staff are professionals.

The Stony Brook Statesman is published twice-weekly on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the fall and spring semesters.

Disclaimer: Views expressed in columns or in the Letters and Opinions section are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Statesman. All content Copyright 2005.

From the desk of the editor.

Welcome back, Stony Brook! Since we've made some important new changes this semester, I'd like to share them with you.

Writers will start out as Contributors to the Statesman. Contributors can accept assignments and submit articles for publication. Once a writer has three published articles of good quality, an editor can nominate that writer to become a Staff writer.

A second change is that we will be paying Staff writers \$5 per published article but will expect them to produce content on a more regular basis than Contributors. We've decided that, since we will rely on Staff writers for consistent content in our issues, it is appropriate to provide them with monetary compensation. Also, we will have no more Senior Staff positions this semester.

We encourage all students who are interested in writing to get in touch with us, regardless of their skill level. Students with little to no experience can come to the office (Union 057) and learn how to write, while accomplished writers can come to get their assignments.

Another change is that we have expanded and

strengthened our website, www.sbstatesman.org. We now have an online archive of all articles, since the middle of last semester, along with many other new additions. Also, photographs taken by Statesman photographers will be available for purchase through our website in the near future. Photographs that appear in our newspaper, as well as photographs which did fit inside the issue, can be modified and directly mailed to you. I encourage you visit our website for further access to some of our newest features.

The Statesman is adding an Entertainment section that will cover everything from music and movie reviews to arts and culture. We plan to cover more cultural events, as well as present a greater scope of article topics, to readers.

Feel free to email us any feedback you may have at staff@sbstatesman.org.

We greatly appreciate your suggestions and will gladly entertain any thoughts, suggestions, or recommendations. I look forward to a good semester and strongly encourage you to come and join us.

James Bouklas
Editor-in-chief



Chris Lonardo/Statesman

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Wellness center offers solutions to overcrowding

BY AMANDA RUBENSTEIN
Statesman Editor

Students have many choices when it comes to working out on campus, although some are more popular than others. The gym in the Student Activities Center seems to be the most popular—but with its popularity comes many downfalls.

"It's often crowded. At certain times it's impossible to get a treadmill or an elliptical," says Rosie Scavuzzo, who frequents the SAC gym, "I would wait between twenty minutes and a half an hour for the equipment." The waiting, Scavuzzo says, disrupts the continuity of the workout.

It also makes the workout longer in general. "You end up spending much more time at the gym than you had planned," Scavuzzo said, "and that ruins the rest of your day." However, the Wellness Center has undergone major changes during this past semester.

Now, instead of using the SAC Wellness Center, students are flocking to their residential fitness centers. Each quad has its own residential fitness center

that is open at convenient hours during the week. The equipment at these fitness centers is equivalent to that at the SAC gym, and many students declare them more convenient since they are closer and less crowded.

"Residents should live a healthy lifestyle," said Emanuel Gyamfi, who works to correlate the residential fitness centers on campus. "Students go from class to their dorm rooms, and they need exercise to keep their minds active in class." Gyamfi said that there are many benefits of using the Residential Fitness Centers, as opposed to the SAC's Wellness Center or the Fitness Center in the Student Union.

"First of all, the residential colleges are open later hours," Gyamfi said, "Most are open till later than 11 P.M." Gyamfi also said that the gyms provide an excellent opportunity for students to interact with their peers. The Residential Fitness Center is staffed entirely by students. Because of this, Gyamfi finds that students are less afraid to ask questions about the equipment, which has the potential to enhance their overall workout.



Chris Lonardo/Statesman

However, if it is professional fitness training the student seeks, the SAC's Wellness Center is the place to go, according to Allison Milano. Milano has been managing the Wellness Center at the SAC since its inception and asserts that it is truly a state-of-the-art facility.

"Health doesn't discriminate," said Allison Milano, who is the Wellness Manager at the SAC Fitness Center, "It is extremely important for students to keep fit." Students can buy sessions with the professional trainers at the Wellness Center for approximately \$40 each with packages ranging from one session to eight sessions with

the trainer. The sessions are available for individuals or pairs of students.

"The center focuses on all aspects of wellness," Milano said, "We focus on 8 dimensions of well-being: physical, emotional, educational, environmental, intellectual, spiritual, social and cultural." To achieve these goals, the SAC's Wellness Center offers everything from aerobics classes to nutrition counseling to stress management courses to crocheting. The Wellness Center focuses on all aspects of an individual's well-being, including behavioral, spiritual,

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Ants Marching

A Tribute to the
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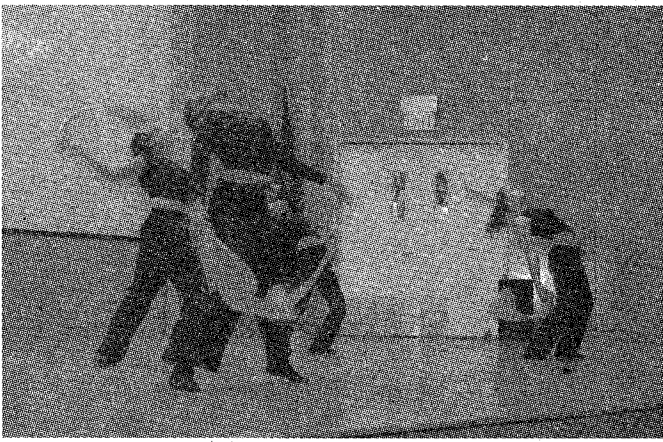
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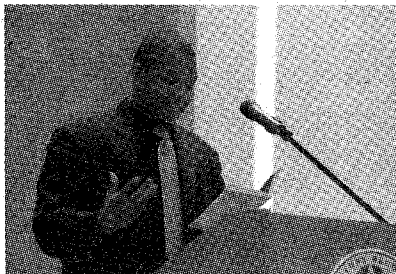
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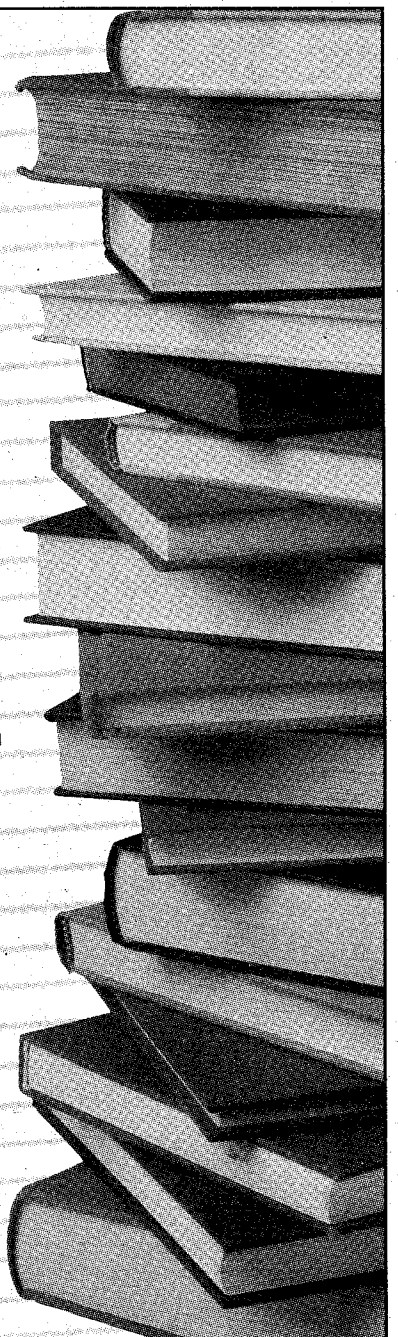
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Campus Wide Tsunami Relief Efforts...

Continued from page 1

A memorial service, organized by the Interfaith Center, is tentatively set for January 31. The details of the service are still being finalized, but plans are being made for prayers to be said that are tailored towards the victims of the twelve nations affected by the tsunami.

The Stony Brook chapter of Oxfam America, in conjunction with Chartwell's Dining Services, organized a meal plan donation fundraiser. The program, which begins on January 31, allows students to donate a portion of their campus meal points towards the tsunami relief effort. However, volunteers to sit at tables and encourage other to donate their points are still needed to make the fundraiser successful. Students interested in volunteering should contact Sr. Margaret Ann Landry in the Catholic Campus Ministry, located in the Union, room 265.

Inspired by the great outpouring of aid to tsunami relief efforts, Joici Job, a senior at Stony Brook, set up a committee called Students for Tsunami Relief to motivate the student community.

"Although these countries have received monetary aid for immediate care, they require long term resources to rebuild their devastated infrastructure," said Job.

Dedicated to long term relief, the committee hopes to include other clubs on campus in the relief effort by asking them to make announcements about the tsunami fund and ways to contribute at large events that they plan on hosting. The relief effort will be ongoing throughout the semester, with events such as a comedy show fundraiser, featuring the comedian Russell Peters, on March 18 and a fair on April 20 to promote awareness of the necessity of long term aid.

The Students for Tsunami Relief plans on establishing the committee as an official club by next semester, in the hopes of sustaining fundraising and awareness of tsunami relief for the next ten to fifteen years.

Students interested in joining the committee can attend the next meeting on Friday, January 28 at 3:15 p.m. in the conference room of the Dean of Student's office or contact Joci Job at joci.job@gmail.com.

Beijing Modern Dance Company to come to SB

ROSIE SCAVUZZO
Statesman Editor

The Staller Center for the Arts will kick off the spring semester with an exciting and innovative performance from the Beijing Modern Dance Company entitled "Rear Light." The company will be dancing to the music of Pink Floyd's "The Wall," a reason in itself to go and see it. The performance will "explore a world where most lead their lives without direction or aim." Artistic director, Will Taso, says that "Rear Light is meant to reflect the younger generation in China today - their fight to be free from tradition and their search for new challenges." The Beijing Modern Dance Company was founded in 1995 and contains some of the best modern dancers in China. According to Alan Inkles, "if there is only one show that the students of Stony Brook come to see the entire year, this is it." Since the company is reputed for its energy, excitement, and artistic style, it should really make for an incredible night. This great opportunity, and one that costs less than the price of a movie, is definitely not one to be missed. The Beijing Modern Dance Company will be performing on the Main Stage of the Staller Center on Friday, February 4, 2005 at 8 P.M. Tickets, which are on sale now, can be purchased at the Staller Center Box Office. Follow Incles' advice when he says: "you can't miss this!" Look for more information at the Staller Center for the Arts Website: staller.sunysb.edu



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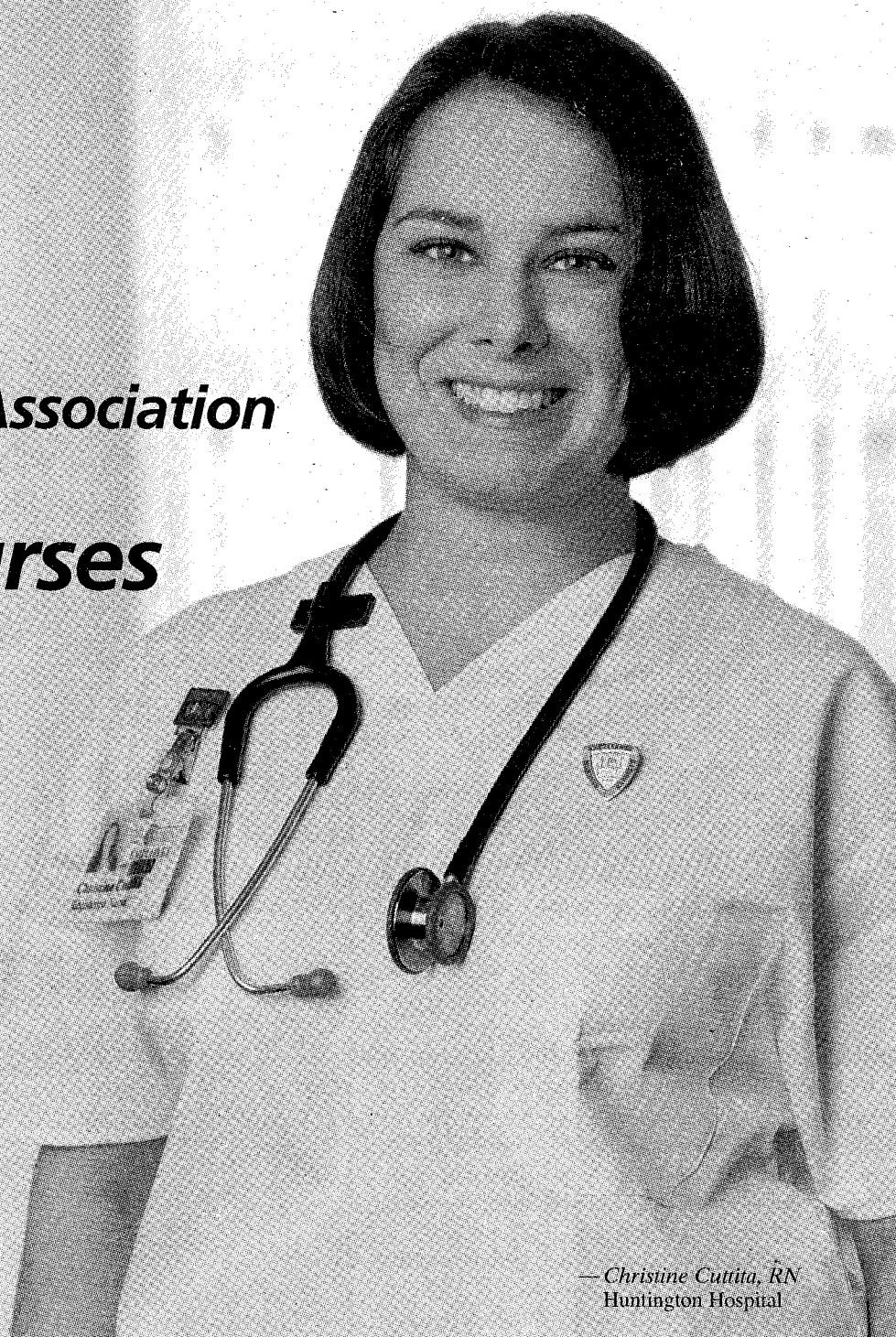
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Wellness center offers solutions to overcrowding...

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Continued from page 4

and physical well-being.

Because of the many different programs and opportunities for students at the Wellness Center, crowding is often an issue. As of now, there are 100,000 regular users of the gym at the SAC and 3,500 students involved in the other programs that the Wellness Center sponsors. "Sometimes we even have to turn people away from the aerobics classes and programs because they are too full," said Milano.

"It's a great thing that students are so conscious of their own well-being," Milano said, "What this campus needs is a recreation center. There shouldn't only be 3,000 square feet dedicated to wellness—students need 20,000 square feet." Plans for a new recreation center are currently in the works. The Wellness Center is just waiting for the legislators to pass the bill and then the new recreation center will be built.

In the meantime, Milano and her staff at the Wellness Center have implemented a new system to reduce waiting for machines. Students who come into the gym wanting to use treadmills, elliptical machines or the cardio bicycles must sign up for a certain machine before they use it. After they do this, the staff of the Wellness Center can make sure the student doesn't exceed the 30-minute limit on these machines.

"There are people who used to come at the most crowded times and stay on an

elliptical machine for two hours," Milano said, "they left everyone else who wanted to use the machines waiting. There is now a systematic process for using the machines, and the staff is cracking down on people who use machines for too long, prolonging the waiting time for others."

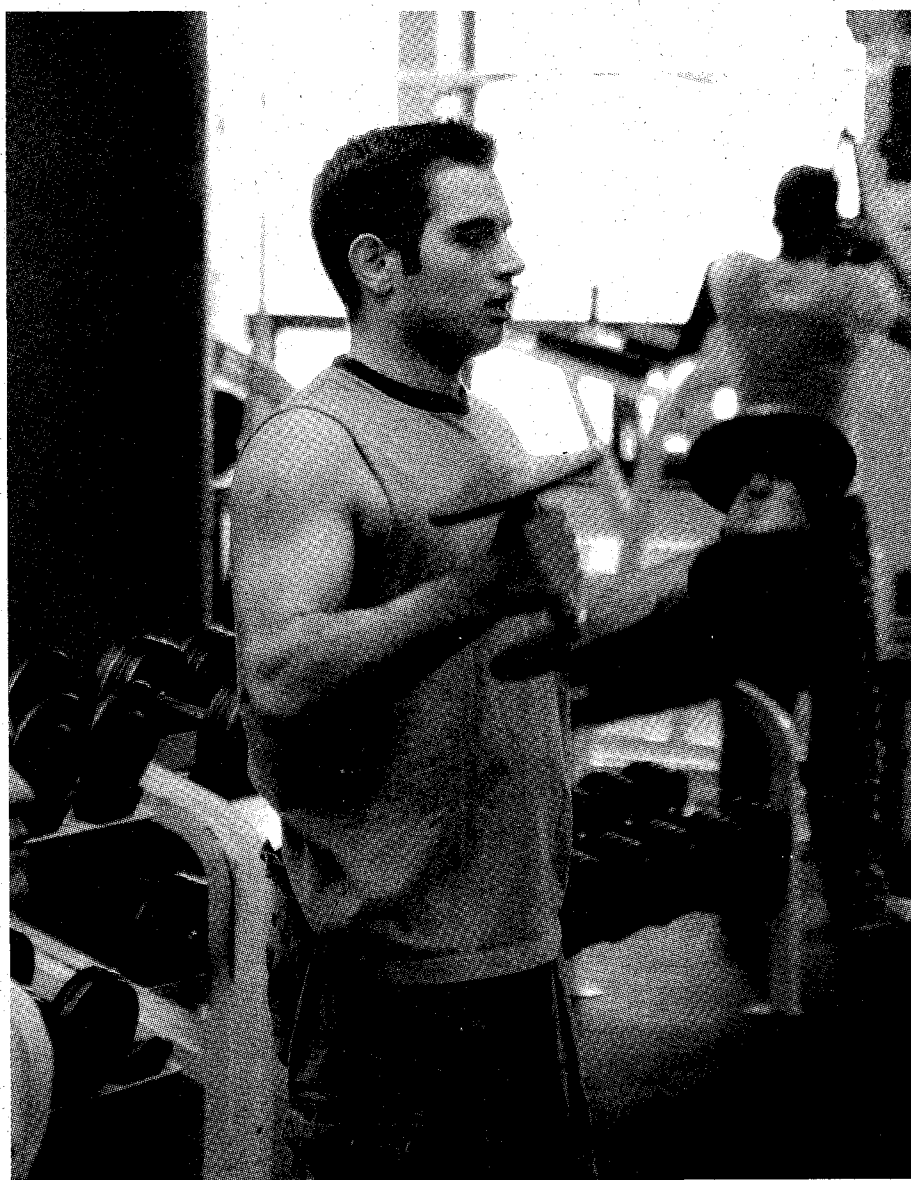
The changes to the system seem to be going over well with the students. Milano has received many letters saying thank you for the new organizational system that presides over the cardiovascular equipment at the SAC's Wellness Center.

"We are now the Gym of Choice for both commuters and residents," Milano said, "100% of the commuters who work out on campus use the Wellness Center." Although the center is trying to fight overcrowding, the numbers of students that use the facility seem to be ever-increasing.

"We are extremely aware of the crowds that plague the Wellness Center," said Milano, "but we find ourselves up against a wall with the growth of the University."

Although the circumstances are difficult, the newest change to the Wellness Center strategy is simply to make it easier for students to get gym access.

"During this past semester, the gym has been much more accessible," said Rosie Scavuzzo, "Either I'm just going at the right times, or the new organizational system for the machines is reducing the wait, and providing a better workout for the students who use the Wellness Center."



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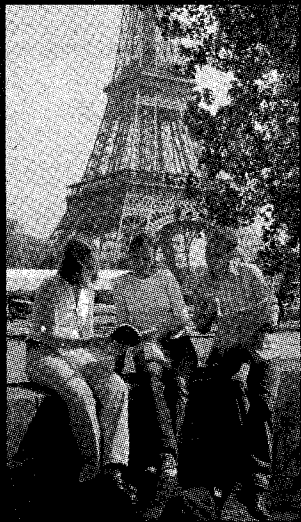
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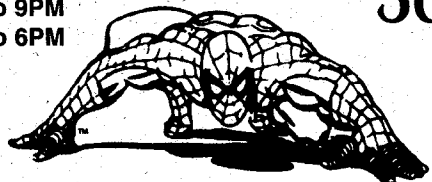
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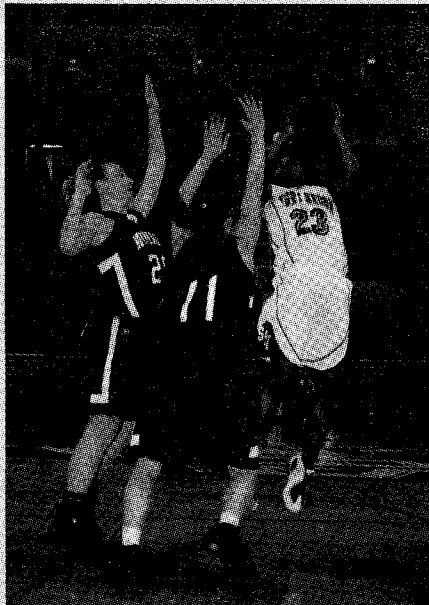


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W Basketball beats Northeastern



Joy Dutta/Statesman

In what seemed like practice for the Seawolves, the Women's Basketball Team broke their 5-game losing streak with a 77-66 win over Northeastern. Leading the team to the win were Mykeema Ford and Inbar Orion. Ford put up 24 points shooting 7-21 with 3 of 4 from three-point range in the second half. Orion shot a phenomenal 8-9 for a total of 18 points to go along with her 9 boards. Jessica Smith had her third double-double in 4 outings and Maralene Zwarich scored her game-high 25 points. This win is exactly what the Seawolves needed to come out of their slump.

Steroid Use in the MLB

By JAMES BOUKLAS
Statesman Editor

What happened to the good ole' days? The days when the only substances abused by baseball players were alcohol and tobacco? It seems that, with the arrival of performance-enhancing steroids, everything has changed. Players are bulking up illegally in hopes of breaking the next world record, or failing that, attracting fans. Does this constitute an unfair advantage? I believe it does. Do steroid-abusing athletes simply sit back and get stronger without exerting any effort on their own? No, which is where this black-and-white issue becomes much more nuanced.

In the time of Babe Ruth, baseball players weren't engaged in the type of conditioning that they are today. Talent had more place on the field. Today, talent is nothing without all the athletes' rigorous conditioning. Is this, in itself, a problem? Years ago, the Olympics were for amateurs—all professionals were excluded. This allowed the average

Joe's with talent, to shine. However, once professionals began training for more hours than they sleep, the talent became much less important than the practice.

Could we argue that steroids are just another level of athletic fine-tuning? Maybe. Some argue that steroids aren't that big a deal in light of all the other things that players do to better their game. Certainly, many athletes on steroids pump iron and train just as hard as those who don't pollute their body with these toxins. However, since steroids can bear a profound risk to the players, they must be avoided—even if only for health reasons. If it is fair to apply this rationale to cocaine, it can be applied to steroids too.

A more advanced version of this debate will probably take place in about thirty years from now in the form of a harmless performance-enhancing medical breakthrough. While one side will say that athletes should use all tools in their arsenal to improve themselves, the other will argue that it is false advertising. It's a debate I, for one, don't necessarily look forward to.

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Statesman SPORTS

Men's basketball: down but not out

BY RUPESH DAS
Statesman Staff

With 17 games under their belt, the Stony Brook Men's Basketball team has had a rough start to the season. To date, it is almost a mirror image of last season's performance. Stony Brook entered the America East Tournament as the number 8 seed with a dismal 5-13 division record. Entering the tournament as the underdog, Stony Brook upset the number 1 seed Boston University, the first time a number 8 seed beat a number 1 seed in 14 years. With a 7-10 overall record and a 2-6 division record, Stony Brook hopes to achieve the same success they had in last year's tournament.

With fresh faces like Antwan Hardy and Mike Popoko, the team's future looks promising. Hardy leads the team with an average of 12.5 points per game, and has logged 451 minutes in 16 games. Hardy led the team in points scored in seven contests, and has earned the Rookie of the Week award, given on January 17th, for his outstanding performance against

Hartford. At that point, Hardy had scored in the double digits for 10 straight games, and is second on the team with 21 assists, and 19 steals.

Popoko is the only member of the team to have started all 17 games to date, and is putting up solid numbers as a freshman. Behind these two strong freshmen, and well known members like Senior Cori Spencer, and Junior Bobby Santiago, we may see a repeat of last year's tournament success.

The team's weakness can be clearly pointed to their lackluster offense, ranking 8th in the division, out of 10 total teams, averaging only 62 points per game. Their defense ranks 6th, which is just about in the middle of the division. Though it is clear that if their offense can turn it on in February, they can be a real contender in the division.

Ten games remain, and all of them within the conference. No teams can be counted out yet, especially after seeing the Seawolves' performance at the tournament last season. It's going to be a fight until the end; look for Stony Brook to be right there in the mix when March rolls around.



Courtesy of Bob O'Rourke

Men's basketball is off to a rough start this season, but will keep up the good fight.

Seawolves striving to make comeback after halftime

BY SAMEER KHANJO
Statesman Staff

The Stony Brook Seawolves are in the midst of change. A new head coach with a history in the WNBA, a talented bunch of young players, and the hope of improving on a dismal record from last year has propelled the Seawolves into the 2004-2005 campaign. Although the season has started slowly, the Seawolves hold strong belief in their ability to win in conference play and secure a spot in the postseason conference tournament.

"We are obviously struggling," said Head Coach Maura McHugh. "But there is a lot to look forward to; we have a very young team and have been set back by a difficult schedule and injuries," added McHugh. However, with some minor adjustments it appears that the pieces will come together and there is hope on the horizon for these young Seawolves.

"There is a lot of parity in our

conference," said Coach McHugh. No one team is head and shoulders above the others; and this leaves the Seawolves with an equal opportunity of gaining the coveted NCAA tournament berth.

The Seawolves are heading into the meat of their schedule; entering the heart of conference play and beginning a stretch of games at home. "This is the first time we are playing two home games in a row," said Coach McHugh.

Though the Seawolves have had their share of injuries, growing pains and difficult opponents, the second half of the season looks promising. Despite the disappointing record there are many bright spots in the Stony Brook Women's basketball program; among these are the continued emergence of sophomore sensations Mykeema Ford and Jessica Smith and the development of freshman standout Dana Ferraro.

Along with this young talent the Seawolves tout a high scoring offense, averaging slightly

above 66 points per game and an improving defense. These facets, along with increasing confidence and fan support give rays of hope to the Stony Brook women.

The Seawolves are loaded with talent, but a little short on height; a problem which has plagued them in the past. The Seawolves have been picked by the conference coaches as 9th out of 10 teams in a preseason poll. Along with Ford, Smith and Ferraro, the team also sports a number of returning players who should help propel the second half charge and prove these coaches wrong. These Seawolves hope to take the conference by storm.

Playing with this youthful hope and for their pride, the Stony Brook Seawolves women's basketball team will continue their 2004-2005 campaign on Wednesday January 26th against conference rival Northeastern at Stony Brook. The Seawolves will try to bounce back from five straight losses, and a first half record of 3-12.



Courtesy of Bob O'Rourke

Women's basketball struggling, but look forward to better days.