

THE STATESMAN

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Nursing Educators in Short Supply

By MEAGHAN FOLK
Contributing Writer

Across the nation nurse educators are in short supply.

With registered nurses making at least 12 percent more than nurse educators who have been working for 15 or more years, many of them are reluctant to become nurse educators.

"We need to make educating nurses a high priority and devote more funding to this, or we will be in even more trouble down the road," said Dr. Paul Clark, professor and head of the Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations at Penn State University.

However, "down the road" may be sooner than anticipated.

Within the next decade the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services found that the shortage would increase by 41 percent to a 1.2 million deficit by 2020.

"It's a kind of domino effect for all nurses," Dr. Clark said. "We have a shortage, that causes understaffing in hospitals and creates tremendous stress on nurses. They burn out and quit, exacerbating the shortage, leading to worse conditions."

A 36 percent increase of faculty vacancy rates from 2002 represents this nationwide predicament. "Without working part-time in nursing or conducting extra workshops I make less than my graduating students," Darlene Clark, a nursing professor at Penn State University for the 15 years, said. This results in a decrease in faculty rates that has left universities struggling to expand nursing school enrollment.

Stony Brook represents many universities within New York State and across the country that are struggling. At SBU,

Continued on page 5



Downstairs in the Wang Center which is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year.

Aisha Akhtar / SB Statesman

The Wang Center Celebrates Its Fifth Anniversary

By APRIL WARREN
Staff Writer

Deep within the maze of the Wang Center's third floor, Sunita Mukhi bobs a teabag into a paper cup, reflecting on what the Wang Center has brought to Stony Brook.

This year marks the fifth anniversary for the Wang Center.

To celebrate the occasion, Mukhi, Director of Asian and Asian American Studies, scheduled approximately twenty events ranging from an artist specializing in Buddhist paintings to an

avant-garde musical group from Kazakhstan.

"The Wang Center is one of the best things that have happened to Stony Brook," Professor

FEATURE STORY

Shikaripur Sridhar, founder of the Center for Indian Studies and chair of the Asian and Asian American Studies Department, said. "The programs have created a sensitive, high-class, positive awareness of the beauty of Asian and Asian American cultures."

This awareness could be starting a movement. The Asian and Asian American Studies major is growing rapidly. In the past year, the undergraduate major increased by 48 percent.

"The Center allows Asian students a place to express their Asianess and [their] Americanness," Mukhi said.

President Kenny's five year plan also highlights expanding international curricula and connections by increasing the

Continued on page 3

SUNY Enrollment Increases Again

By YI-JIN YU
Asst. News Editor

Last Tuesday, Jan. 29, Interim SUNY Chancellor Dr. John B. Clark announced in a press release that student enrollment within the State University of New York (SUNY) system had increased, yet again, to 427,398 students, as of Fall 2007.

This 2.4 percent rise follows

the same record-breaking pattern that the SUNY system has been experiencing since 1997 and 1998.

Stony Brook University's own enrollment history illustrates a similar pattern in total student enrollment growth.

According to data from SBU's Office of Institutional Research, Fall 2007 enrollment added up to

23,351 students, an approximate increase of 3.67 percent from Fall 2006 figures. In addition, there were 2,692 freshmen, 1,266 West Campus transfer students, and 113 Health Sciences Center (HSC) transfer students in 2007, who were all new full-time matriculated students.

Continued on page 3

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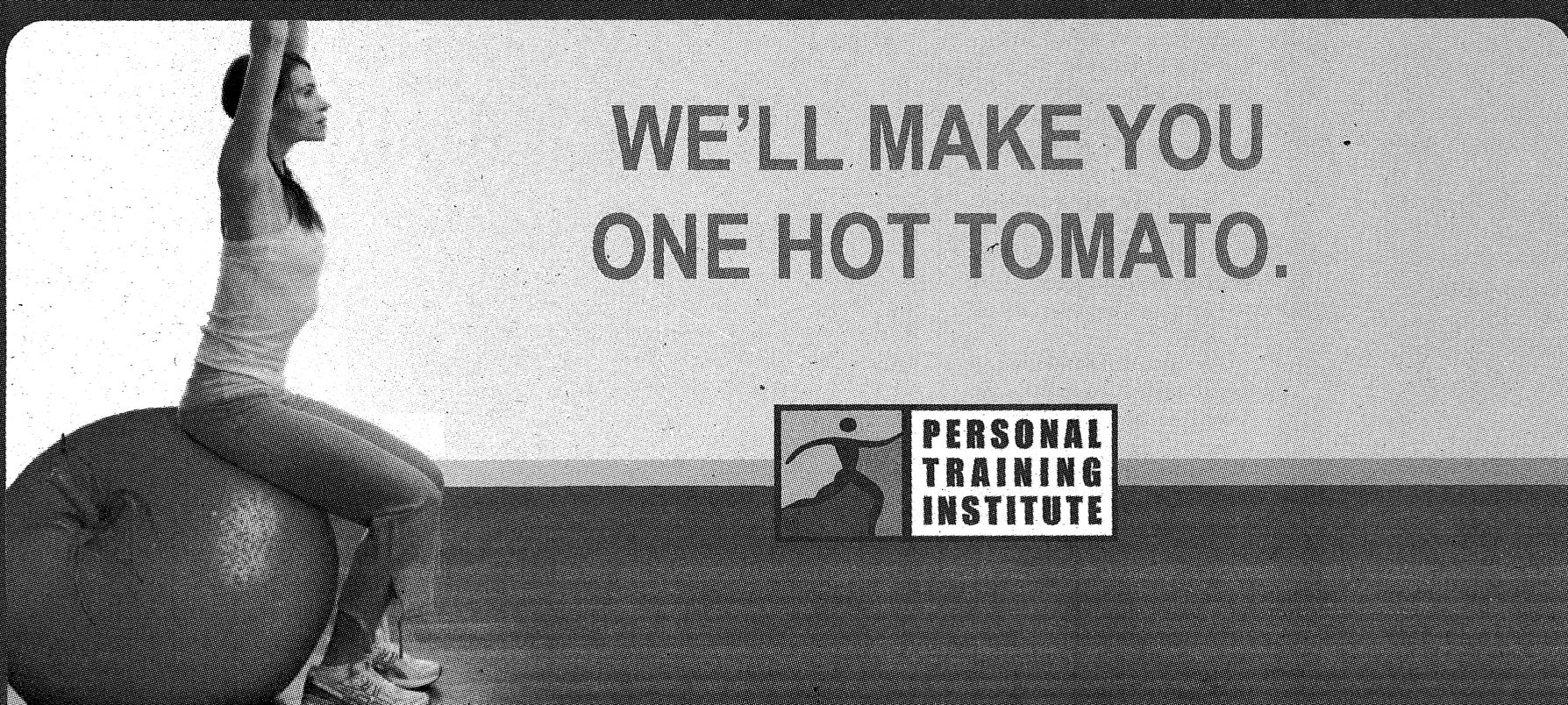


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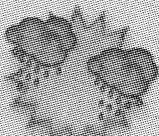
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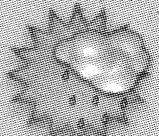
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Student Forecast:

Feb. 4 - Feb. 10



Monday:
High 45/Low 35
Mostly cloudy with PM rain showers



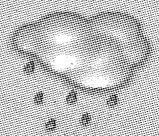
Tuesday:
High 49/Low 46
Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain showers



Wednesday:
High 53/Low 33
Mostly cloudy with AM rain showers



Thursday:
High 44/Low 30
Mostly sunny with some clouds at night



Friday:
High 43/Low 33
Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain showers



Saturday:
High 40/Low 30
Partly cloudy



Sunday:
High 40/Low 29
Partly cloudy

The week starts off wet as a warm front associated with an area of low pressure moves towards the region. Temperatures will be mild as the chance of rain remains through Wednesday, when a cold front moves through. An area of high pressure briefly moves into the region for Thursday until a cold front passes through on Friday, bringing some rain showers. Yet another area of high pressure enters the region for the weekend keeping temperatures at or slightly above normal.

by Alex Kahn

Record Increase in SUNY Enrollment

Continued from page 1

The SUNY system is the nation's largest comprehensive university system, with students in 7,669 degree and certificate programs on 64 campuses. Campuses include University Centers/Doctoral Degree Granting Institutions, such as SBU and Stony Brook Southampton, University Colleges, Community Colleges, and Technology Colleges.

The schools span the entire state of New York, from Plattsburgh in the north, to Fredonia in the west, to Downstate Medical Center in the south, and to Stony Brook Southampton in the east.

Minority enrollment has also risen 3.8 percent within SUNY since Fall 2006 to 85,023 students, which is almost 20 percent of the overall student enrollment.

The press release stated that the black student population at SUNY totals 37,088 students, which is 8.7 percent of the total

current enrollment and SUNY Hispanic student enrollment for Fall 2007 totals 26,702 students, which is 6.2 percent of the population.

SUNY's Asian/Pacific Islander student population represents 4.5 percent of the total enrollment or 19,172 students.

However, SBU's minority student population is a little more different than the entire SUNY system's statistics.

Our campus is proven more diverse with 8 percent of undergraduate students identifying as African-American, 22 percent as Asian-American, and 8 percent as Hispanic-American in 2007 out of a total count of 15,367 undergraduate students.

Out of 7,788 graduate students in 2007, 5 percent identified as African-American, 8 percent as Asian-American, and 5 percent as Hispanic-American.

On the whole, graduate students number 40,580 at SUNY, as of Fall 2007 and this is also a

record number of graduate students within SUNY since 1949.

Furthermore, women make up 55.1 percent of the SUNY population, outnumbering men, with a population of 235,641 students.

As of Fall 2007, Stony Brook's population is relatively equal among the genders in the undergraduate student pool, with 50 percent male and 50 percent female out of the 15,367 students. Of the 7,788 graduate students, 43 percent are male and 57 percent are female.

"High school graduates and their parents continue to recognize the outstanding value and high quality of a SUNY education," Interim SUNY Chancellor Clark said in the press release. "Overall and minority student enrollment continue [to have] strong upward trends, indicating that SUNY campuses remain highly accessible and help to provide a more diverse population on our campuses."

www.sbstatesman.org

FEATURES

The Wang Center Commemorates its Fifth Year at Stony Brook

Continued from page 1

number of study abroad programs, creating permanent Stony Brook overseas-semester sites in areas such as China, India and Korea, and adding a "global perspectives" requirement to the education curriculum.

Asian students make up 22 percent of Stony Brook's diverse undergraduate population.

The Wang Center is an "aesthetic vision," as Mukhi put it. It's "a place for students to sit, think, quite down, and chill out... in a more deeply spiritual way," Mukhi said.

Mukhi said that the unique interior of the building, accented with fountains and spiral staircases, allows the building to be not only functional but playful.

The architecture and atmosphere of the Charles B. Wang Center are intertwined.

The building's design is so vital that P.H. Tuan, the interna-

tionally recognized architect of the Wang Center, will be honored on Apr. 24 for his work. Tuan is the only honoree of the semester-long celebrations.

"The Wang Center should be a model for future buildings," said Kai Lee Huang, a Japanese Studies minor. "It's very well designed."

However, not all of the events will focus on positive aspects of

meaningful manner," Sridhar said.

A second documentary on Mar. 31 titled "Terror's Advocate," looks at the career of Jacques Verges, a defense attorney for "some of history's most vilified terrorists."

The events will show "so many ways we are similar," Mukhi continued. The programs hope

The Asian continent spans such a wide range, from the Pacific Islands to Turkey that Mukhi said that the goal is to enhance the campuses understanding of the continent in a three-dimensional way.

All the events will be in English, contain English subtitles or list program notes in English. "The idea is to give a memorable experience," Mukhi said.

Some of the musical performances will be in foreign languages, such as the "Chai Found Chinese Chamber Music Workshop", on Feb. 22, which will feature Chinese music. "But music is a universal language," Mukhi said.

The Wang Center's future is an ambitious one. Mukhi aspires to lift the Center to national and even international prestige. "I want the Wang Center to be Sundance," Mukhi said.

She said that she hopes the Wang Center will become a mecca for all things Asian.

"I want the Wang Center to be Sundance."

the culture.

On Feb. 25, the Center will show the documentary "Behind Forgotten Eyes." This 75-minute film, with English subtitles, talks about the sexual enslavement of 200,000 Korean girls and women by the Japanese military between 1910 and World War II.

"The programs continually highlight the issues in a concrete,

to bring together different ethnic groups. "Such as a Latino being able to relate to a Korean performer who talks about family troubles."

The goal is to show students of different backgrounds we are more similar than we are different because the programs are not only for people of Asian descent.

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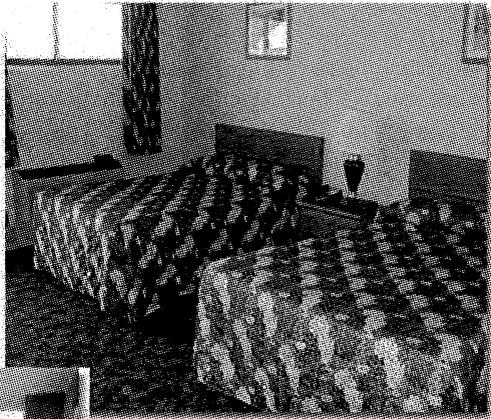
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Eli Manning at Superbowl XLII
(Image Courtesy of ESPN.com)

The Impossible is Possible

By ADAM PECK
Editor-in-Chief

The New York Giants stunned the country, especially Boston, after an improbable 17-14 victory over the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl XLII. The loss ends the Patriots' pursuit of perfection after going 18-0 in the regular season and postseason.

The Giants' defense held the highest scoring team in NFL history to just two touchdowns, the lowest scoring effort by the Patriots all season long.

Two of the biggest weapons in the Patriots' repertoire, Quarterback Tom Brady and Wide Receiver Randy Moss, were kept in check by a stellar Giants defense, while Eli Manning led the Giants down field twice in the final minutes of the game to secure the win.

With less than a minute to play, Manning sent a long pass

to Plaxico Burress who was waiting in the end zone. It was only Burress' second reception of the game, but it proved to be the difference.

Burress was a huge factor in the Giants' conference championship win two weeks ago over the Green Bay Packers but was covered well by the Patriots defense.

Brady, who has staked a reputation on his uncanny ability to march his team downfield in the final seconds of the game, let loose three 'Hail Mary' passes in the last 30 seconds but all fell harmlessly on the field.

Eli Manning was named Super Bowl MVP with 255 passing yards, one year after his older brother Peyton won the MVP trophy in Super Bowl XLI with the Indianapolis Colts.

Peyton was in attendance, and could be seen cheering on his brother.

Nursing Schools Suffer Educator Shortage

Continued from page 1

nursing students make up less than one percent of the undergraduate population.

"Our school's not big enough, we don't have more faculty because they don't get paid enough," Melissa Radivonyk, a senior nursing student here at SBU, said.

This year there were more than 350 qualified applicants and less than 52 spaces to fill. "I see President Kenny renovating the campus, and yes, it's beautiful, but she needs to allocate sources better. "We have outdated equipment that we don't even use anymore," Radivonyk said.

Stony Brook is one of SUNY's top research schools and has been ranked in the top two percent of all universities worldwide by the London Times Higher Education Supplement. SUNY Binghamton, also a research school, has a smaller enrollment -- 36 percent less -- but its Decker School of Nursing enrolls 89 percent more students than Stony Brook's

School of Nursing.

Binghamton's Local Lourdes hospital received Magnet Recognition in 2007, an award that recognizes excellence in nursing.

Since 2002, 16 New York hospitals have received this award. In early 2004 Stony Brook applied for the award, but did not meet the criteria.

As eligible nursing students are being denied an education, the nursing shortage continues to grow. The Center for Health Work Force Studies estimated that New York nursing schools turned away 2,200 qualified applicants in 2006. The primary reason was a lack of classroom space and funding for faculty.

Nurses make up the largest health care occupation in the United States, nearly three times the number of physicians and surgeons, a report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics said.

Dr. Lenore Lamanna has been a nurse for more than two decades and a professor at Stony Brook for the past 12 years. "I'd rather

be happy doing what I'm doing than be unhappy counting pennies," she said in regard to the discrepancy between educating and nursing.

There have been efforts to decrease this impending shortage. In 2002, President George W. Bush signed the Nurse Reinvestment Act into law. In 2004, 66 percent of the \$141.9 million was directly invested into education.

"There have been incentives over the past five years for nurses to become nurse educators but that money is drying up," Darlene Clark said. The Human Resource and Service Administration, which provides the Nurse Education Loan Repayment Program, was forced to turn away 82 percent of its applicants due to the lack of funding.

"You need a balance... you cannot over emphasize the finances," said Kathleen Bratby, assistant dean of nursing students. "If [nurses] make the money at the bedside, why would [they] move to faculty?"

Police Blotter Jan. 28 - 31

COMPILED BY BEN HAYASHI
Staff Writer

Stolen Item

On Jan. 25, at around 8:30 a.m., petit larceny occurred when a power cord was stolen from the ACP.

Marijuana

The smell of marijuana was found in O'Neil College at around 10:20 p.m. on the Jan. 25. The source was never found.

Child Crying

At around 4:05 p.m. on Jan. 26 a child was found crying hysterically with an adult male in the Staller Center. Adult and child were gone upon police arrival.

Car Accidents

Two car accidents occurred on the Jan. 27. The first occurred at around 10:00 a.m. in the Union parking lot, and the second occurred near the Main Entrance, at around 10:40 p.m. No major injuries were reported in both accidents.

Hand Accident

Around 8:09 p.m. on Jan. 28, hand trauma occurred in the Wellness Center in the Student Activities Center. SBVAC transported the patient to the University Hospital.

Candles in Roadway

Near the Stadium, candles were found in the middle of a road. The situation was corrected upon police arrival.

Non-Physical Dispute

Around 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 29, a male and a female were found in an aggravated dispute in Benedict College. Situation was corrected upon police arrival.

Drugs

On Exit Drive, at around 1:20 a.m. on Jan. 31, a male was arrested for Driving While Impaired. Male was transported to 6th PCT.

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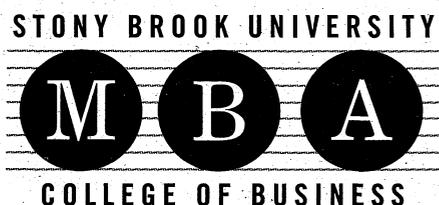
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Is the evergreens' History every trees History?

By **MADGESTIC**
Staff Writer

Towards the ending of fall

The majority of the trees ask the evergreen

'Why must you still be so green?'

The evergreen, did not want to lie

Not wanting to hurt in response he did not reply

Towards the middle of January

The same trees were there to ask again

'It's winter, relax your leaves evergreen'

'Reform, Conform, change into our uniforms'

'Comply, must we try to force you to reply'...

But, It must be told of trees History

In the fall, the winter, the majority of the trees

No tree knows for sure

But they loved these seasons the most out of four

Except for the evergreens For evergreens, they loved Spring and summer

There strands were greener and for God they looked humbler

Only wanting to stress History at best, I digress...

And so at the very beginning of February

The brave evergreen finally replies

'I must forever be green'

'To remind that in moments of spring'

'All of us truly look our best and for God us all are able to sing'

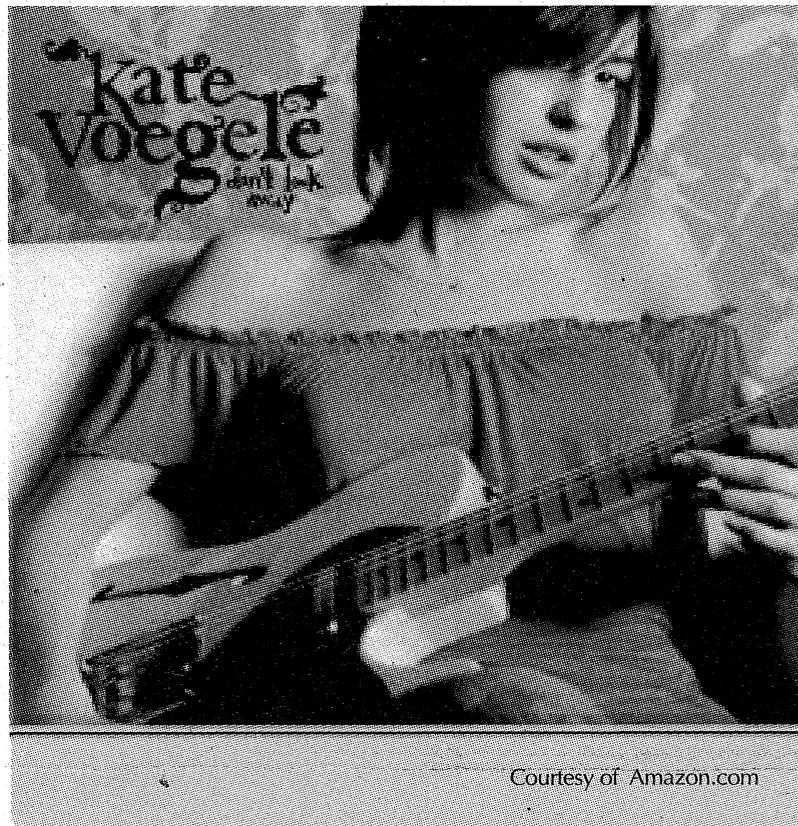
'In winter, although most convenient for you'

'For us few this isn't true'

'So to keep you humble, my dearest friends'

'For us all I will forever be green till the very end'

Kate Voegele- Don't Look Away



Courtesy of Amazon.com

By **IVANNA AVALOS**
Contributing Writer

The hit show "One Tree Hill" on the CW11 has had its fair share of musicians on the show, some who have also made contributions to the show's soundtrack. Such artists include Fall Out Boy, Jack's Mannequin, Michelle Branch, and Tyler Hilton. Now adding to the list is music newcomer and Ohio native Kate Voegele.

Kate Voegele released her first full-length album, entitled "Don't Look Away," on May 22, 2007. The 21-year-old singer-songwriter signed with MySpace Records in October 2006.

Tracks on her album range from catchy pop rhythms you can't help but bop along with, like "Chicago," to piano-based, soulful ballads like "Wish You Were."

I first learned about Kate Voegele while watching "One Tree Hill" and was surprised I had not heard of her sooner. In "One Tree Hill"'s fifth season, Kate Voegele first appears in the fourth episode playing the character Mia.

In the show Voegele plays Mia, the shy pianist in a rock band with an obnoxious lead singer, played by Kevin Federline. After Federline's character is fired from the band, Mia is given the opportunity to work on her own solo album. In the fourth episode of the season Voegele performs her own song "Kindly Unspoken."

I'm sad to admit that if I had not watched "One Tree Hill" I probably would have missed out on the talent of this young

artist. This contemporary singer-songwriter has a refreshing sound and a powerful, soulful voice you would not expect to come from a woman of her age. If her voice alone does not capture your attention, her undeniable piano skills in her single "Kindly Unspoken" will.

Many critics say Voegele is an old soul with a youthful spirit, and after listening to her album, I must agree. Her lyrics show she has a strong sense of who she is and that she has learned from her life experiences. Even when she sings about a breakup, Voegele never plays the damsel in distress, but rather a strong young woman.

Although all the songs on the album are great and noteworthy, I would have to say my favorites ones are "It's Only Life," "Only Fooling Myself," "Wish You Were," and of course "Kindly Unspoken." These four songs just spoke to me and I can't seem to stop singing them in my head.

With talent like hers I can see Voegele easily gaining popularity and gain an even bigger fan base. I think it's about time we heard more songs with genuine lyrics from talented artists rather than hear the same overdone, glittery, Britney Spears wannabe artists who are just looking for their 15 minutes of fame. If you're looking for something with substance, pick up this album.

If anyone wants to see Voegele try her hand at acting she is, according to her blog on MySpace, scheduled to appear in five more episodes of "One Tree Hill" every Tuesday on the CW11.

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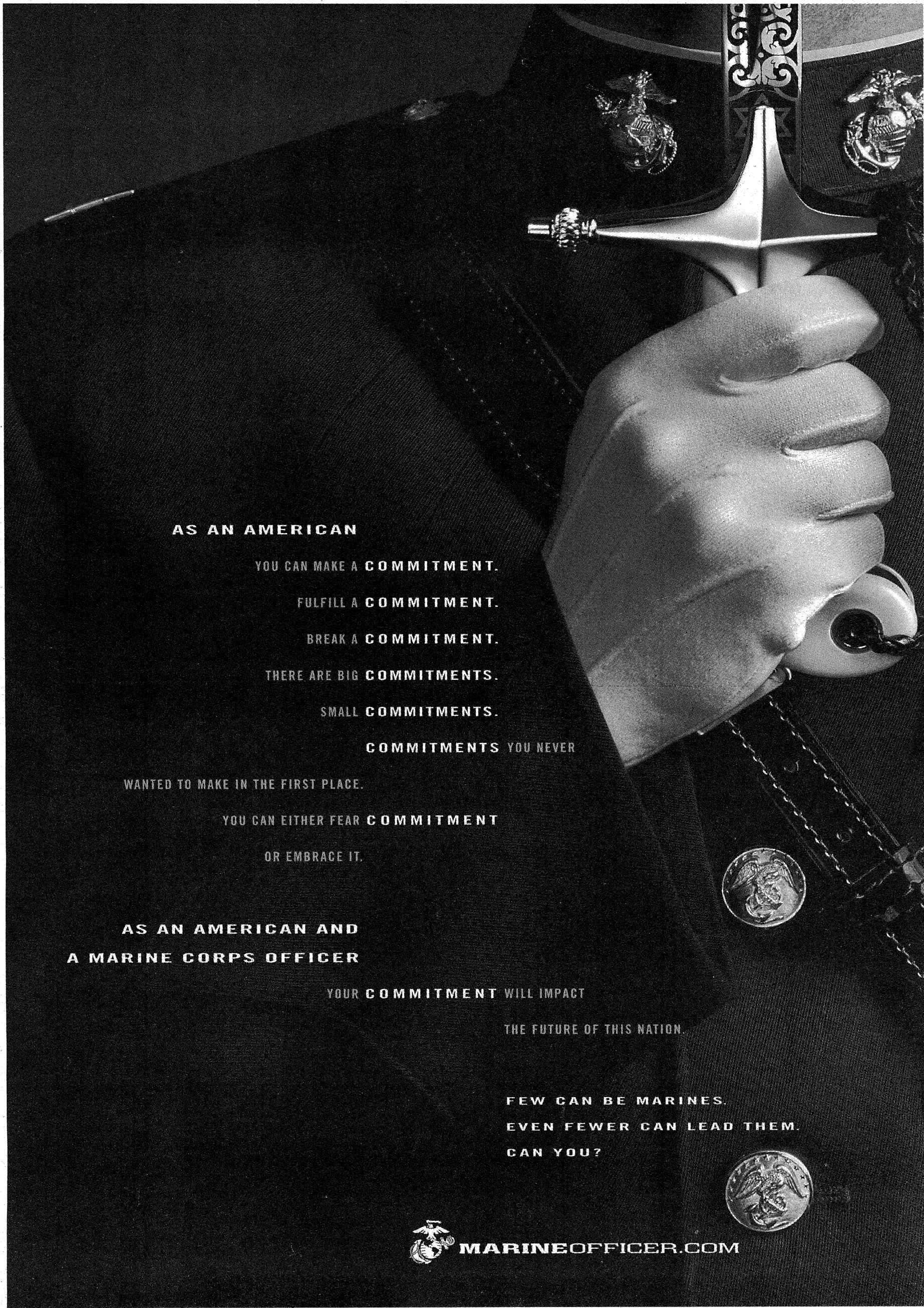
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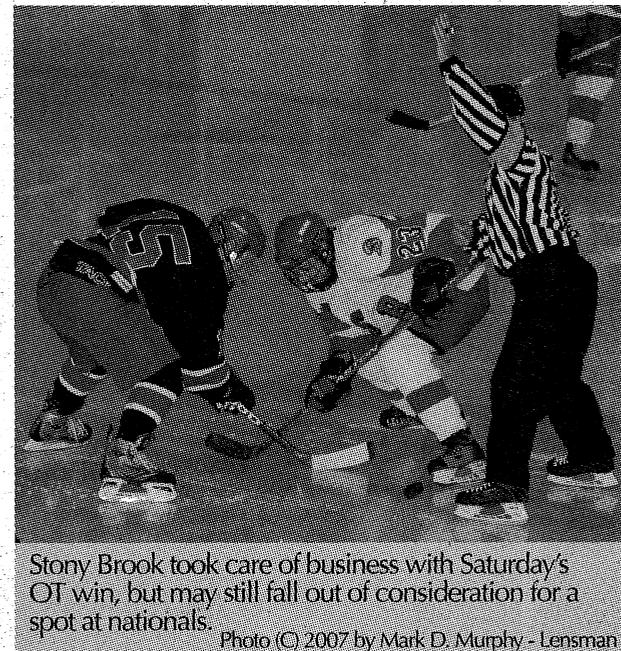
* \$60,000 is the total scholarship value for 20 students over a 3-year period. Each qualifying recipient receives \$1,000 per year for 3 years.

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National Tournament Destiny

Out of Their Hands



Stony Brook took care of business with Saturday's OT win, but may still fall out of consideration for a spot at nationals.

Photo (C) 2007 by Mark D. Murphy - Lensman

Continued from page 16

He was assessed two minutes for roughing and a 10-minute misconduct on the play.

"I lost my head a little bit," Serse said when asked about the incident after the game. "He slashed me, it was getting a little rough, it was something stupid. They're really cheap."

Santora reiterated a similar sentiment about the play of Wagner. "They got under our skin," he said. "That's kinda their game."

Mid-way through the second period Serse demonstrated his physical play in a legal manner, delivering a huge open ice hip check that sent a Wagner player tumbling through the air.

His first goal of the game came with seven seconds left in the second period. "I was going hard to the net," he said in describing the goal. "There was only a few seconds left, so I knew just go hard to the net, and it popped out on me, I just shot it and it went in. It was nice."

That goal came about 12 minutes after the Seawolves first power play goal by Hodkinson. After a face off win, Hodkinson controlled the puck and wheeled around the top of the left circle to the middle of the ice. He then fired a wrist shot that went top shelf, just over the goalies glove. That tied the game at two, getting the Seawolves out of the unfamiliar situation of playing from behind, especially against a Division II opponent.

"They're definitely one of the top teams in Division II," the goalie Santora said after the game. "We have a little history with them, and it's always a tough game. We're fortunate to get out with a 'W.'"

It was uglier than we would have liked," he continued. "We definitely didn't want to go to overtime with them."

Overtime may have been avoided if not for a sloppy first period that saw Wagner outshoot the Seawolves 8-7. Wagner jumped out quickly in the first two minutes, forcing Santora to make two very

good saves on a breakaway attempt.

Santora was unable to stop the multiple stuff in attempts directly in front of him though, when Wagner scored their first goal just 26 seconds after Stony Brook scored theirs. Wagner jumped out to a 2-1 lead with a power play goal a little over two minutes later.

"I think it got deflected," Santora said about the goal. It went off my defenseman's stick, it was going towards my chest and it changed directions. It ended up going through my arm, maybe a soft goal, wasn't a straight in soft goal, but fortunately we were able to get the 'W' anyway."

A sigh of relief was exhaled after Serse scored the overtime game winner off the assist from Hodkinson. "Hodsie passed it to me, it hit my stick and went it. I barely had to shoot it," he said.

But the less than stellar overall performance was not lost on Garofalo. "It hurt us a little bit, going into overtime with a D-II team can affect us in the rankings," he said. "We're already on thin ice."

Although Stony Brook beat Niagara twice at the Rinx a month ago, it seems likely that they will be the team to knock the Seawolves out of national title contention. Although Niagara is ranked 17th in the country, one spot out of a bid to nationals, and one spot behind Stony Brook, because they seem poised to win their conference, they would get an automatic bid.

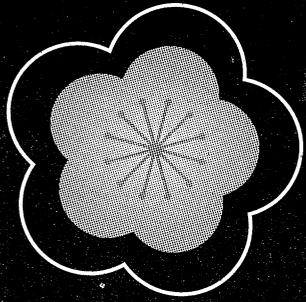
"They'll pop us out, we're 16, they're 17, as long as we don't move up to at least 15, and right now things aren't looking so good. If we would have won 4-3 in regulation that would have been much better than 4-3 in OT."

All that the team can control is how they play in the league playoffs, which take place after the rankings that determine which teams make nationals are released.

"We're going to the playoffs as the number two team in our league," Garofalo said. "We're excited about that, we'd love to make a statement there, and shut up all the ranking committee members that didn't send us to nationals."

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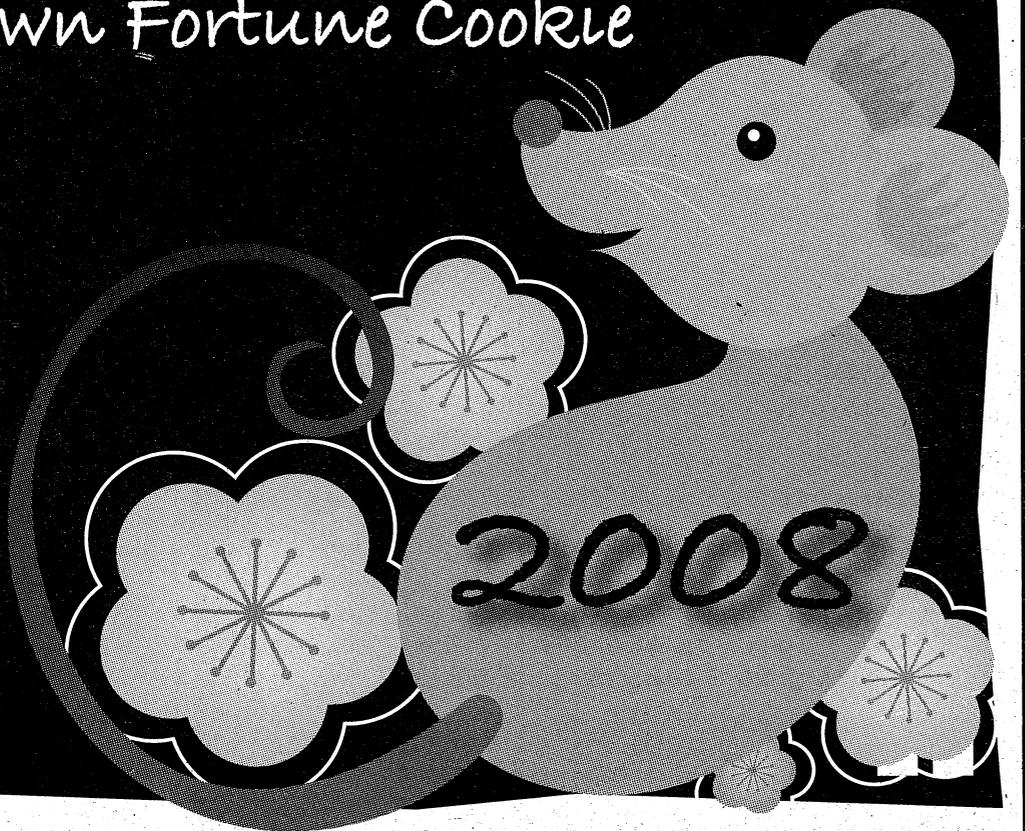
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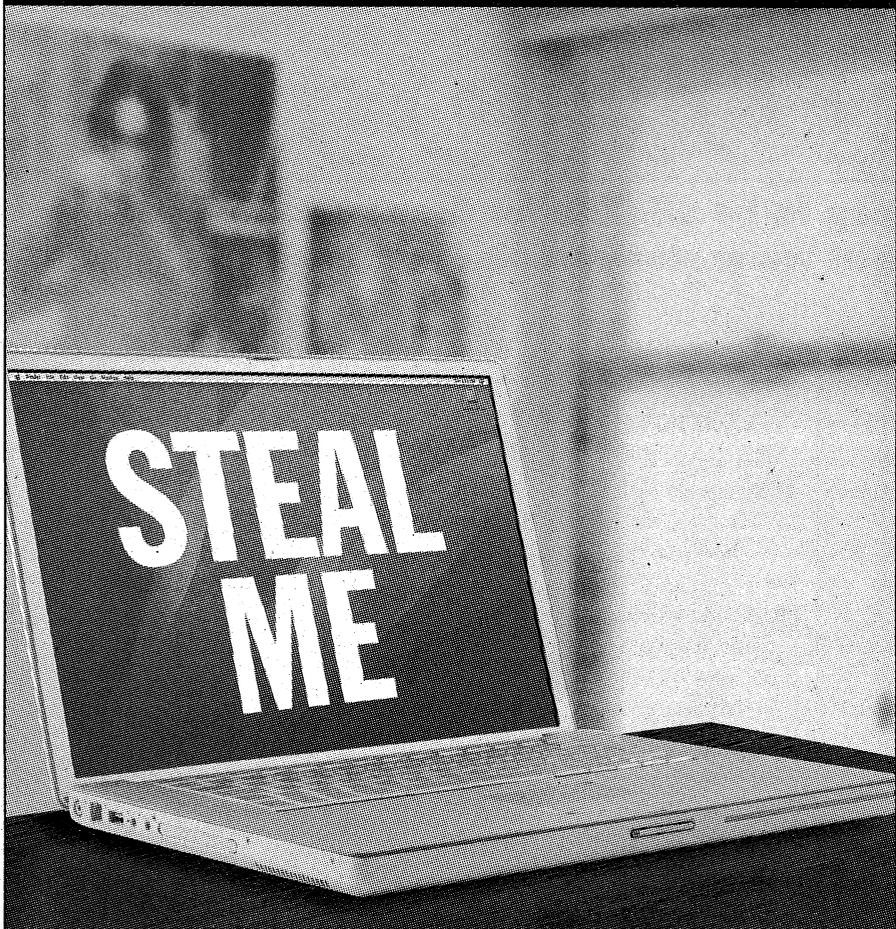
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The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Sucolian" in 1957 at Oyster Bay, the original site of Stony Brook University. In 1975 "The Statesman" was incorporated as a not-for-profit, student-run organization. Its editorial board, writing, and photography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

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Elections Ahead, Students Voice Their Opinions

Obama and Paul Get My Vote

By ZACHARY KURTZ
Staff Writer

Last week, the Statesman issued endorsements for Barack Obama and John McCain for the primary elections, in which New York heads to the polls on Feb. 5.

If you're registered Democrat, I agree that Barack Obama would be the best bet out of the candidates that are still running.

If you've listened to the candidates' speeches or watched the debates, you'll hear the word "change" thrown around a lot.

In Clinton's case, I think she's saying this to sound like an "agent of change" but in reality, she represents the "old guard" of politician; willing to sacrifice pretty much anything for power.

While Hillary might make for a decent President, I see her as way too comfortable with the lobbyists and corporate sponsors to truly represent the people. She's come too close to too many scandals, and while she hasn't been directly linked, it's a little too close for comfort.

The only thing dirty about Obama's past is some drug use, which I think we can all forgive, and a brief touch with some dirty-dealing landlord. However, I find the link between Rezko and Obama tenuous at best, and exactly the sort of thing the Clintons would hype in their game of dirty politics.

I see Obama as a unifier, a person who can reach across party and national lines, in eloquent and inspiring speeches. And although I don't agree with some of his policy, I trust that he would be a good leader, and someone who would listen to the people to make our nation a better place.

I cannot say the same about John McCain. With a platform centered on the Iraq War and a hawkish foreign policy, Sen. McCain is not a man who can dig us out of our current economic crises. We need a President who truly understands the economy and the affect that everything from foreign to fiscal policy has on the economy.

Ron Paul has studied and written books on the economy. He understands that our foreign

exploits overseas is not sustainable for economic growth.

Dr. Paul's policies call for the government to come in line with the constitution, and points out that many of the policies and tactics currently used by the government are unconstitutional and limit our freedoms.

The President is the Commander-in-Chief of the military, points out Paul, and not the economy. The role of government is to provide a stable monetary system based on solid capital. The current activities of the Federal Reserve and the IRS do not conform to these high standards. By allowing the free market to control fiscal policy, we can give power over the economy back to the people and not corrupt politicians.

Dr. Paul has the most logical foreign policy of any candidate in either party. You can't expect to maintain an empire overseas, says Paul. Every empire in history has failed, from the Ancient Greeks to the British. In order to maintain support for troops, the government has to weaken the money system, printing money which causes inflation.

We currently have troops stationed in over 130 countries, and a dollar that is weakening. Our current exploits in the Middle East is increasing the cost of oil which makes goods more expensive. With high inflation, unemployment rising and the value of the dollar weakening, this is a recipe for economic disaster. Yet, the current administration still has no problem with borrowing money from the Chinese in order to fund the war.

Paul's policies are considered "radical" by the mainstream, but clearly the definition of this word has changed over the years. Paul's libertarian conservative policies are taken directly from the constitution, and he understands that only a strict adherence to the constitution is the only way to save our great nation.

I think Barack Obama would make a great leader, but only Paul's vision of the United States returning to a constitutional Republic, is a sensible policy for the next President of the United States to have.

What the Giants And Barack Obama Have in Common

By ADRIAN CARASQUILLO
Assistant Sports Editor

I was in the supermarket a couple of weeks before school started and two men were debating whether the Giants could beat the Cowboys in the playoffs. The tone and substance of their conversation made it clear to me that they were your typical casual fan. They watch the games, maybe listen to a little sports talk radio and that's it.

Now I consider myself informed, I read multiple websites, listen to podcasts, and read the papers. I was fairly certain that the Giants could win. But then one of the men in the supermarket dropped the hammer.

In a way meant both to punctuate and end the conversation then and there, he said, "Look, I want the Giants to win as much as anybody, but they played the Cowboys twice and lost both times. They can't beat them." I realized that no one could argue with this man's simple logic. I felt that I know better, but who is to say that what I have read trumps the actual real-life results.

And I think this is a perfect analogy to the Democratic primary. That might seem contrived and silly but not if you look at how things often play out. Politics is like sports times 100. The same ferocity of opinion exists but the stakes are higher. You have Hillary Clinton, who represents the established Democratic party and Barack Obama, a new face to the party. I read about this election on a daily basis. I read CNN, Slate, The New York Times, Time Magazine, and the top stories on Yahoo! and Google News.

So I feel informed. I don't think there's any shadow of a doubt that Obama can win. But some people aren't so sure. My mother isn't so sure and neither are some of her co-workers. This makes me somewhat exasperated but then she throws out one of those logical bowling balls. "There has never been an African-American President. I don't think the country is ready." And she's right. At least about the first part.

In the history of the United States there has not been a black candidate that was this viable. The status quo is easy to maintain. Change is hard. I don't mean change like the increasingly dull buzzword adopted by every candidate after it resonated

with voters taken by Obama's campaign. But real change. A seminal moment when our electorate puts our country on a refreshingly new path.

But are we ready? The answer is a resounding yes. Consider what Obama has come back from. He faced a difficult situation when he was deciding if he should declare himself a candidate. Declare too soon and you appear to be opportunistic, someone who used the Senate as a stepping stone. Declare too late and you risk giving Hillary too much of a headstart. Despite starting late he raised \$103 million compared to Hillary's \$118 million in 2007. He raised a primary-record \$32 million in January of 2008 alone. He did it with lots of small donors, young people and lower income people. Hillary is doing it with fewer big-money donors.

People see an African-American man and worry about his electability in the general election but the myth of a racial disadvantage was dispelled on Jan. 2 by three words: Obama wins Iowa. A state whose population is 94% white said he was good enough to be their President. That works for me.

Recent polls show Obama closing the gap with Clinton. Polls have been derided for their dubious reliability but they can be helpful in highlighting trends. A Washington Post poll from Feb. 3 shows that Clinton is favored nationally by 47 percent and Obama by 43 percent. A lead that was once in the high double-digits is now at less than five percent. With Obama flexing his newfound financial muscle, the race appears like it will only get closer.

Many people mistakenly think that the results of Super Tuesday will leave us with a Democratic nominee. By all accounts, neither candidate will get enough delegates and this will be a protracted battle for the nomination. Hillary and Obama will continue to wage epic campaigns against each other. So vote on Tuesday, and if you think that Hillary is the best candidate then vote for her. But when evaluating Obama's candidacy look anywhere but to the past. Because the future is now. Obama can win.

For complete Primary 2008 coverage, check out the Thursday issue of the Statesman and the launch of our new blogs this week at sbstatesman.com

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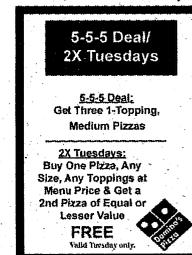
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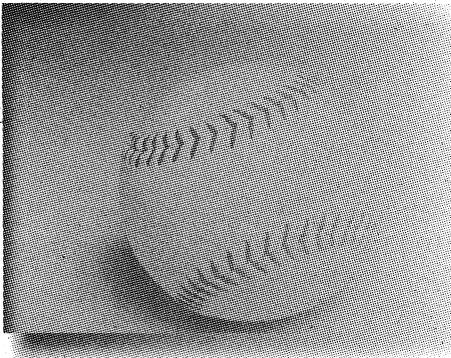
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Fantasy Baseball Challenge



By ADRIAN CARRASQUILLO
Asst. Sports Editor

Fantasy baseball is played by millions of people every year. The strategy involved in drafting a successful team, coupled with six months of decision-making makes it a tough game to continually dominate. Fantasy sports in general have changed the way people watch games. Before fantasy baseball, a Padres-Reds game during the dog days of summer barely registered on my radar. But now if I have Jake Peavy, I'm as interested about how performance as if my favorite team was playing.

Here at the Statesman we like to come up with ways to involve the readers, which is why we put our heads together and came up with a doozy, a way to put a challenge to the readers. So without further ado I present....The Statesman Fantasy Baseball Challenge! Its going to have some of your favorite Statesman sports writers like Gene, Shonto, myself and maybe others. As for the reader portion of the league I will be analyzing your applications with utmost scrutiny.

It will be a basic rotisserie league with 5 x 5 rules and 12 teams. I want it to be people who are competitive and won't quit the league. If you're worried about the level of competition let me assure you that our writers will bring the fire, as the young people say nowadays. I can't wait to see you guys in the virtual diamond that is the intensity of fantasy sports.

Weekly Sports Update

A Brief Look at Seawolves Sports

By JESSICA McCLINTOCK
Staff Writer

Swimming:

It's been a long season for Swimming, but it's far from over. The Stony Brook men's swimming and diving team beat Lafayette College with finalizing scores of 83-57 on Jan. 16, 2008. After this triumphant win, they picked up a loss to Binghamton University with a score of 75-65. As for the women's team, Stony Brook lost to Lafayette College with concluding scores of 107-33 and plunged their meet against Binghamton, 81-59.

The Seawolves managed several stand out performances by members for both the women's and men's team, with some distinguishing times and records set.

Junior Julian Acevedo (Long Island City, N.Y.) set a new team-record during the men's three-meter dive, by setting a score of 355.05. In addition, he won the one-meter dive as a result of a 316.25 score. Junior Rafael Labour, Jr. (New York City, N.Y.) and freshman Lukasz Ochmanski (Lodz, Poland) also won two events each. Labour crossed first in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 52.82 and 200-yard backstroke in just 1:56.50, while Ochmanski received first place points for the men's team in the 1,000-yard freestyle at a time of 9:39.69 and the 500-yard freestyle in 4:54.17.

The women's team continued hard with their competition throughout, and dominated the 200-yard breaststroke, with freshman Anastasiya Kiryushkina (Moscow, Russia) finished first with 2:33.14 and sophomore Liav Cohen (Reut Modi'in, Israel) moved in right behind her for second place at 2:34.60. Freshman Eric Gaffey competed in the 100-yard freestyle with 48.06 and the 400-yard freestyle relay team at 3:12.73.

The women's team is currently 2-8 for the entire season while the men stay even at 5-5 for the year. The America East Championships will be up in Maine this year from Feb. 14 - 17.



Both Men's and Women's basketball are riding losing streaks. The Women's team lost to both Hartford and Albany this week, both conference opponents.

Photo (C) 2007 by Mark D. Murphy - Lensman

By BRIAN MORGAN
Staff Writer

Men's and Women's Basketball:

On Saturday, Feb. 2, both the men's and women's traveled to conference rival Albany, for a double-header. Unfortunately for the Seawolves, both teams lost. The women's team played first and lost by a score of 77-65, and the men's team lost by 64-46. The loss increases the women's team current losing streak to four, and the men's team current losing streak to seven.

Notable players for the Seawolves were sophomore Kairsten Nunn who led the women's team with 23 points and freshman Kirsten Jeter who had 15 points. On the men's side, Ricky Lucas led the Seawolves with 11 points.

Next game (Men's): Wednesday, Feb. 6 against UMBC.

Next game (Women's): Wednesday, Feb. 6 at New Hampshire.

By MATI EHRESMAN
Contributing Writer

Track and Field:

On Saturday, Jan. 27, Stony Brook's men's track and field team finished in the top ten in three different events at the Terrier Invitation, hosted by Boston University.

Senior Justin Miller placed ninth and tenth in the shot put and weight throw, respectively. With their performance at the Invitational, Merlon Pinnock, Melvin Genao, and Daire Birmingham all qualified for the METS Championship. At the METS, Stony Brook had an impressive showing as seven members placed within the top eight.

Mubaarak Muhammad had a record setting performance as the senior broke the school record in the triple jump. Miller placed fourth in the shot put, with junior teammate Jeremy Vasquez finishing seventh.

The women's team also had a strong showing at the Terrier Invitational as they had two top 10 finishes in the 5,000, with senior Dana Hastie finishing fourth and fellow senior Kerry Salzano finishing sixth. Freshman Lucy Van Dalen, making her Stony Brook debut, finished ninth in the mile, with a time of 5:00.39.

Hastie, Salzano, Van Dalen, along with Laura Huet and Stephanie Vos qualified for the ECAC Championships. The women also performed well at the METS, with sophomore Lisa Voltaire finishing third in the 800 meter. The women's distance medley team, with Voltaire, Vos, Carolina Cortes, and Leanne Skrabacz also finished third.

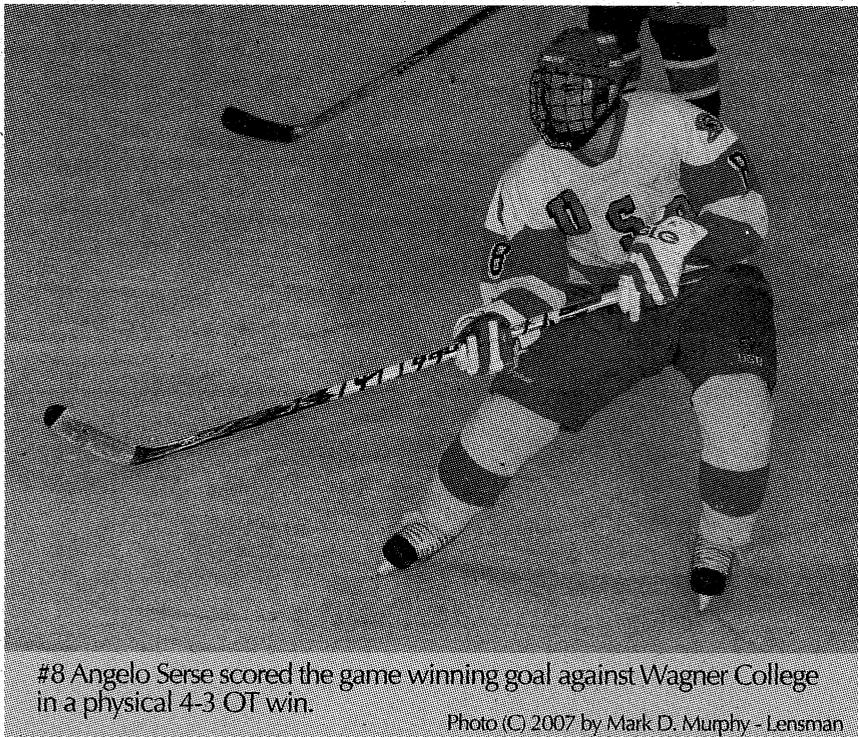
Next Meet: Valentine Invitational, Boston, Mass. on Friday Feb. 8 at 2:00PM.

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STATESMAN SPORTS

Stony Brook Hockey Closes Out Home Schedule With Win



#8 Angelo Serse scored the game winning goal against Wagner College in a physical 4-3 OT win.

Photo (C) 2007 by Mark D. Murphy - Lensman

By GENE MORRIS
Asst. Sports Editor

In a tightly officiated game that saw tempers boil over on multiple occasions, the Stony Brook club hockey team defeated Wagner College 4-3 in overtime on Saturday night at the Rinx.

Before the game, team General Manager Chris Garofalo and Anthony Fronzoni Jr., the father of Anthony Fronzoni III, a Stony Brook player who died in a car accident on Oct. 1, 2006, presented a scholarship award dedicated to the memory of the former Stony Brook player.

"He'll always be remembered as an outstanding athlete, but beyond that as a great person and friend," Garofalo said in a pre-game ceremony before the game. "Anthony was not only one of our leading scorers but also our captain. The Anthony Fronzoni scholarship fund will be awarded annually to the Stony Brook student who displays outstanding academic excellence and has made significant contributions to the ice hockey program."

The scholarship was presented by the Franzoni family. The recipients were senior goaltender Drue Santora, and sophomore forward Tom Pacifico.

Once the game began, the emotional sentiments turned to aggression, as both teams carved ruts to the penalty boxes through the first two periods. For the game both teams were whistled for 11 minor penalties each, and Stony Brook added three 10-minute misconducts on top of that.

"The officiating could have been stronger," Garofalo said after the game. "Usually we have pretty good officiating. I don't think he was consistent, that's what bothered me the most. In the 3rd he didn't call anything. Some of the calls were questionable, very questionable"

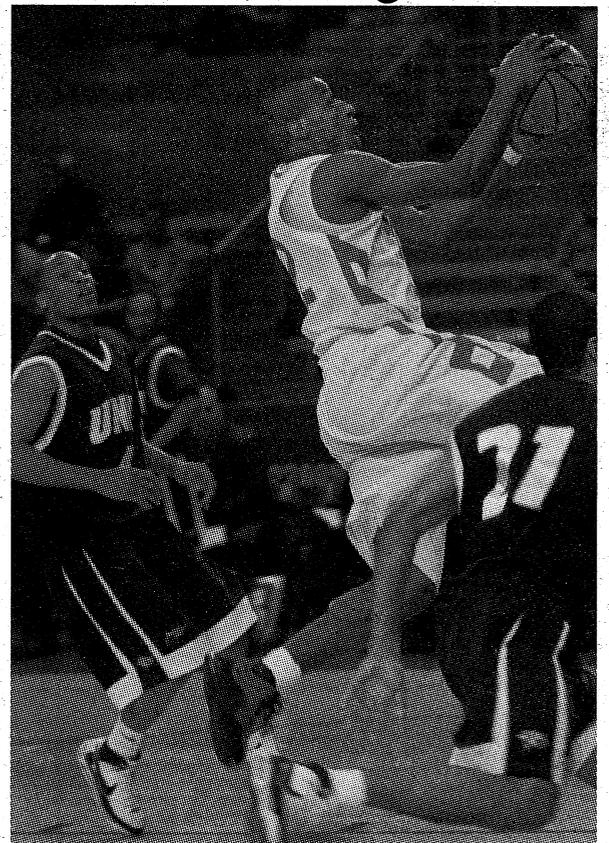
With the extended power play time Stony Brook was able to connect for two goals with the man advantage, while Wagner was only able to score once.

Junior forward Angelo Serse had one of the power play goals, and Ryan Hodgkinson had the other. Serse, was the best player on the ice for the Seawolves, except for the 12 minutes he was confined to the penalty box.

Thirteen minutes into the game, he got tangled up well behind the play with a Wagner player. As both attempted to get to their feet, Serse lunged forward, hitting the Wagner player in the head.

Continued on page 9

Men's Basketball's Late Rally Not Enough Seawolves Cut a 14 Point Lead Late in 4th but Held off by UNH



Mitchell Beauford and the Seawolves fell to another AE conference opponent on Tuesday at home.

Photo (C) 2007 by Mark D. Murphy - Lensman

By BRIAN MORGAN
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Jan. 30th, Stony Brook's men's basketball team hosted the University of New Hampshire. The Seawolves put up a good fight, but ultimately the Wildcats won the important conference match-up.

In front of a packed and excited crowd, emotion ran high for the Seawolves, as Stony Brook took an early 9-0 lead that held for the majority of the first half. Freshman Jermol Paul and Demetrius Young, pushed the Seawolves to a 17-10 lead with 10 minutes remaining. However, the lead slipped away and the Wildcats were able to take the advantage with six minutes left in the first half, a lead they never relinquished.

The score after the first half was 32-27 with New Hampshire surging. Both teams played fairly even on both the offensive and defensive sides of the ball, the only difference was rebounding. "Their offensive rebounding killed us," said Stony Brook coach Steve Pikiell. In the first half, the Wildcats were able to pull down ten offensive rebounds, while Stony Brook only grabbed eight defensive rebounds.

In the second half, New Hampshire built their lead up to 14. But Stony Brook's crowd rallied their team, and the Seawolves were able to pull within two points with less than two minutes remaining in the game. Stony Brook couldn't finish the rally, and ultimately lost by a score of 68-60. Disappointed with the loss, coach Pikiell had this to say about his team's performance, "we played poorly defensively at times, and we didn't make the lay-ups we should have made."

New Hampshire was carried by senior Mike Christensen. The forward scored 25 points off shooting 8-11 from the field, including 3-6 from behind the three-point arc. "I've seen him several times now and he always impressed me. He's tough to guard because he's a big guy that can shoot the three," said coach Pikiell about Christensen's performance.

Stony Brook's notable players were senior Ricky Lucas, who led the team in scoring with 22 points and freshman Jermol Paul, who had nine points and led the team with five rebounds.