

THE STATESMAN

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT: 9

TV Guide:
We Need Girlfriends

SPORTS : 15

Weekend Quick Hits by Gene
Morris and Jessica McClintock

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT: 11

Poet's Corner:
Tiny pieces of glass admist plastic

IN PICTURES: 5 & 7

I-CON 28 Lands at Stony
Brook University

NEWS

The Wang Center Gift Shop Opens

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>>PAGE 3

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>>PAGE 1

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>>PAGE 1

FEATURES

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>>PAGE 3

I-CON 28 Lands at Stony Brook University



A man selling merchandise at I-CON 28.

Zachary Kurtz / SB Statesman

BY ZACHARY KURTZ
Staff Writer

For the past 27 years, Stony Brook University has hosted I-CON, a three-day science fiction festival attended by over 6,000 each year, according to the I-CON website. This year, the festival was held from Apr. 4-6.

According to the I-CON website, it is "designed to encourage literacy, creativity and interest in science and technology through science fiction and its related genres."

Some of these genres include science fiction, fantasy, Japanese animation, medieval reenactments, martial arts, comic books, computer/console gaming, and role-playing and trading card games.

I-CON hosts these activities, and platforms are also set up for dealers to sell their related products and advertise.

Starting in 1982, I-CON was originally held entirely within Stony Brook's Student Union building. Since then, it has grown considerably, becoming the "Northeast's Largest Sci-fi convention."

This year, the convention was based within the Sports Complex, but related events took over buildings across the campus such as Harriman Hall, Psychology, the Student Activities Center, Javits Lecture Center, Computer Science, and the Earth and Space Sciences buildings.

Each year, media guests come to sign autographs and host panel discussions, and question and answer sessions.

This year, some guests included Billy West, voice actor from "Futurama" and other shows; Jeffery Combs, actor from the "Star Trek" TV series; Tracy Scoggins, actress from TV's "Babylon 5;" and, via teleconference,

Ray Bradbury, prolific science fiction author.

Three-day access to the convention cost \$55 for adults, \$48 for students and \$17 for children, though single day memberships were also available.

I-CON is hosted by ICON Science Fiction, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation staffed mostly by volunteers. The convention itself is helped run by volunteers who receive free access to the convention by volunteering for eight hours either over the course of the convention, or during setup and takedown.

Next year's I-CON 28 will mark a major change in the convention's history, as it will move from Stony Brook University to Suffolk Community College's Brentwood campus. According to I-CON officials, the move is happening because of "construction" on Stony Brook's West campus.

"My Life As..." With Matt McAllester

BY BRADLEY DONALDSON
News Editor

Award-winning journalist Matt McAllester met with Stony Brook students Thursday as part of the "My Life As..." lecture series, where he spoke about his experiences as a war correspondent.

In the lecture, McAllester shared stories of his time spent in Europe and the Middle East, but also spoke about the responsibilities of a journalist. Clad in a sports jacket and jeans, he used his stories to get across the roles journalists have.

McAllester first spoke about his coverage of the 2006 Lebanon War.

He described the war as "pretty scary," and it was during this war that he said he witnessed death for the first time. It wasn't the sight of a dead body that was new to him, but the passage of someone "from life to death." The man McAllester saw die was part of McAllester's convoy, and was attacked as he left his vehicle. It was right in front of McAllester's.

"I'm not going to do this again," McAllester said he told himself during the war. "This is the last war."

He was not foreign to dangerous situations, though.

In 2003, he was arrested by Saddam Hussein's secret police in Iraq, and held in Abu Ghraib prison for suspected spy activities. Luckily, he said, he was released one week later.

Although McAllester was not physically abused, the psychological pain he experienced was terrible, he said.

"Fear kept me pointlessly awake and alert, McAllester said in a speech he gave at Clark University in Massachusetts in 2003. "My fear was...unwanted, relentless, useless, and com-

Continued on page 5

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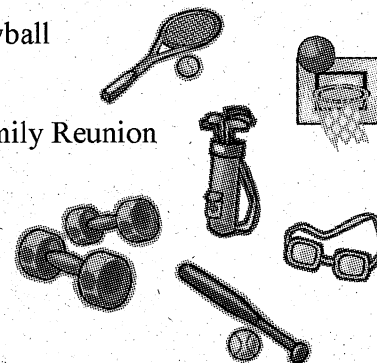
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Statesman production meetings are held throughout the day on Wednesdays and Sundays in RM 057 in the basement of the Student Union. Anyone wishing to contribute to the newspaper is welcome to attend these meetings.

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

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

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WHO WE ARE

The Stony Brook Statesman was founded as "The Socolian" 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 Statesman is published twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays throughout the fall and spring semesters.

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NEWS

"My Life As..." With Matt McAllester

Continued from pg 1

pletely boring." He recalled lying on the cell's floor saying, "I had a very poor choice of career."

The audience and he laughed at that remark, which he said casually.

Still, McAllester said being a foreign correspondent meant never stopping. He said that when journalists are covering dangerous situations, they have to ask themselves, "Am I prepared to die for this?"

"It is dumb. It's a stupid job," he said as the audience broke out in laughter. "You do the risk-analysis, and you learn to make those decisions." Some risks, though, were not worth it, and because of that he decided never to go to Iraq again. He said he was simply fed up with it.

Even so, "never stopping," is something a journalist needs to do, and he said that a journalist never finishes a story. "A journalist's role is simply to shed light where there is darkness," he said.

After about 30 minutes of speaking, McAllester took questions from the audience.

Questions included his views on embedded journalists and his thoughts of declining coverage of Iraq. He said that embedding journalists was "absolutely great," and with regards to coverage of Iraq, he said, "You cannot force feed people

what they don't want to read."

One of the more elaborate questions of the night was about his emotional attachment to the things he covered: "Seeing that you've covered so many wars, how do you remove yourself from them?" a man in the audience asked. "How do you detach yourself?"

"If you don't find someone being killed [horrific], then you shouldn't be doing it," McAllester answered. "You put it aside, to some extent." He went on to say that story written by someone who didn't care would be a boring, flat, story.

McAllester was also asked about how he dressed during interviews. The most important thing, he said, was to "be true to yourself."

Muath Bishawi, a Stony Brook student, said he found McAllester's speech "very good," and inspiring.

"It took me into the world of journalists, and showed me these journalists are actually human," Nicholas Issac, a freshman at Stony Brook, said. "I expected him to have more ready-made answers. I really enjoyed it."

McAllester wrote two books about his endeavors as war correspondent, and currently works as a contributing editor at Details magazine, according to the School of Journalism's website.

He is expected to visit Afghanistan in a month, which, he said, explained his "stupid beard."

Wang Center Gift Shop Opens

By STEPHANIE BRUMSEY
Contributing Writer

After a little over six years, much speculation and even more anticipation, the gift shop in the Charles B. Wang Center on campus has finally opened. Though expectations have run high on what the gift shop would bring, not all of the expectations have been met.

"It's just a lot of red Stony Brook sweatshirts," said Sean Law, a student at Stony Brook. "I just don't see the point when we already have a Seawolves Marketplace and a University Bookstore that sells that stuff. It needs to have arts and something Asia-related, but it doesn't. It just has red Stony Brook jackets."

The much anticipated gift shop currently sells Stony Brook bags and Red Hot clothing, as well as newly stocked Asia-themed jewelry. The store, which is located across from Jasmine restaurant, still stands half empty, indicating that more items are on the way.

"I think that they were trying to open the gift shop because they have a lot of conventions around here," student worker Jon-Erik Banninger said. "Visitors to Stony Brook or alumni could see the Stony Brook products and they could buy them."

"I know that they're waiting for a lot of inventory. We just got a lot of jewelry, and I know the manager said he was trying to get a lot of antiquity stuff."

The Faculty Student Association, which runs the gift shop, could not be reached for comment, but the student workers commented that Asia-themed items had been ordered and are currently on their way.

"I think the gift shop is wonderful," said Samantha Tata, a student from Stony Brook. "It just opened, and though there aren't any Asia-related items in it yet, that doesn't mean that there never will be. I'm excited to see what they're going to be selling."

FEATURES

Esperanza Project Gives Students Hope

By BRADLEY DONALDSON
News Editor

For some students at Flushing High School in Queens, the chance to come to Stony Brook, have lunch, tour the university, and listen to an award-winning poet speak -- all for free -- might have only seemed possible in one place: a dream.

But because of the Esperanza Project, spearheaded by the beta chapter of Phi Iota Alpha fraternity here at Stony Brook, that dream became a reality on Mar. 26. A reality not only for some students at Flushing High School, but also for some from Bayard Rustin Academy in Manhattan, Little Flower High School in Suffolk County, and DeWitt Clinton High School in the Bronx.

According to Anthony Nuñez, the fraternity member heading the project this year, the day, which started at 9 a.m., involved breakfast, tours around campus by the fraternity brothers, as well as performances by Anthony Morales.

Morales is a motivational poet who received both his bachelor's and master's degrees at Colombia University, his website site.

The students, about 150 of them, also received lunch paid for by the fraternity, and Stony Brook information packets. Representatives from the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program, Educational Opportunity Program, and the Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs also spoke with students.

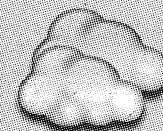
The purpose of the Esperanza Project, as Phi Iota Alpha's website put it, is to give guidance to disadvantaged high school students by providing them with the necessary information they need to succeed in college. This includes teaching them about the process, and providing them with a "buddy system" where they can stay in touch with the fraternity brothers.

The Esperanza Project is an annual event started in 2001, and each year a new set of schools are chosen from a random drawing. Students get to spend the day at Stony Brook free or charge, and learn more about the university and colleges in general.

"We will continue to strive for the continuing the success of incoming students through the Esperanza Project," the fraternity website said.

Student Forecast

Apr. 7 - Apr. 12



Monday:
High: 48/Low: 39
Mostly cloudy.



Tuesday:
High: 51/Low: 36
Mostly sunny.



Wednesday:
High: 57/Low: 43
Sunny during the day, with increasing clouds and a chance of rain at night.



Thursday:
High: 60/Low: 42
Mostly sunny with increasing clouds late at night.



Friday:
High: 58/Low: 45
Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain showers.



Saturday:
High: 53/Low: 43
Mostly cloudy with a decreasing chance of rain showers throughout the day.

By Alex Kahn

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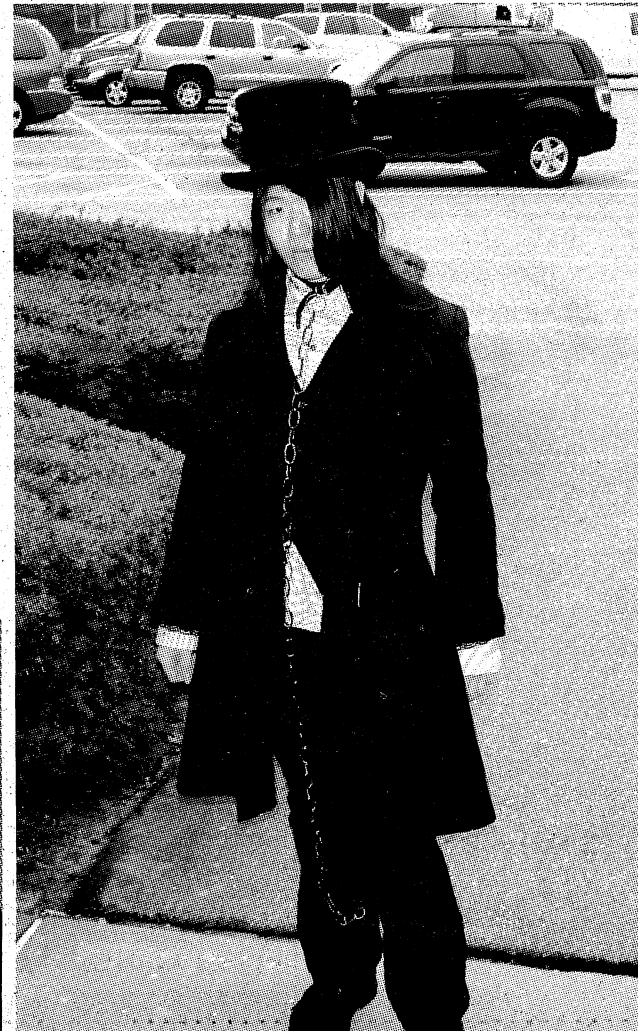
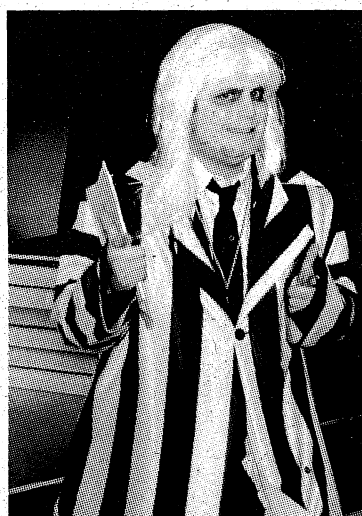
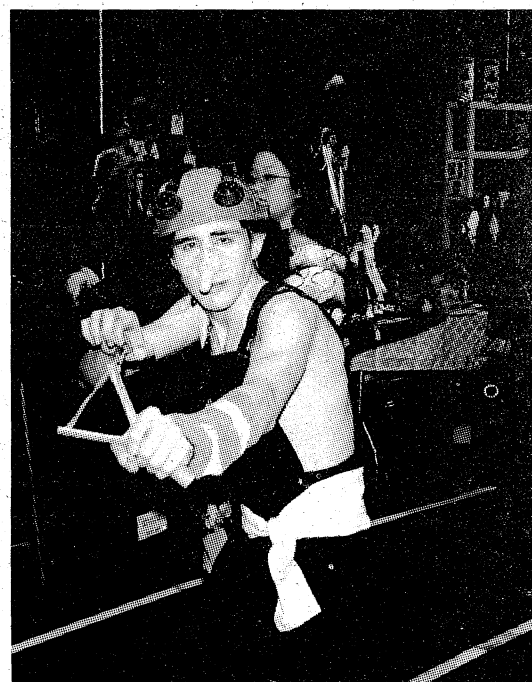
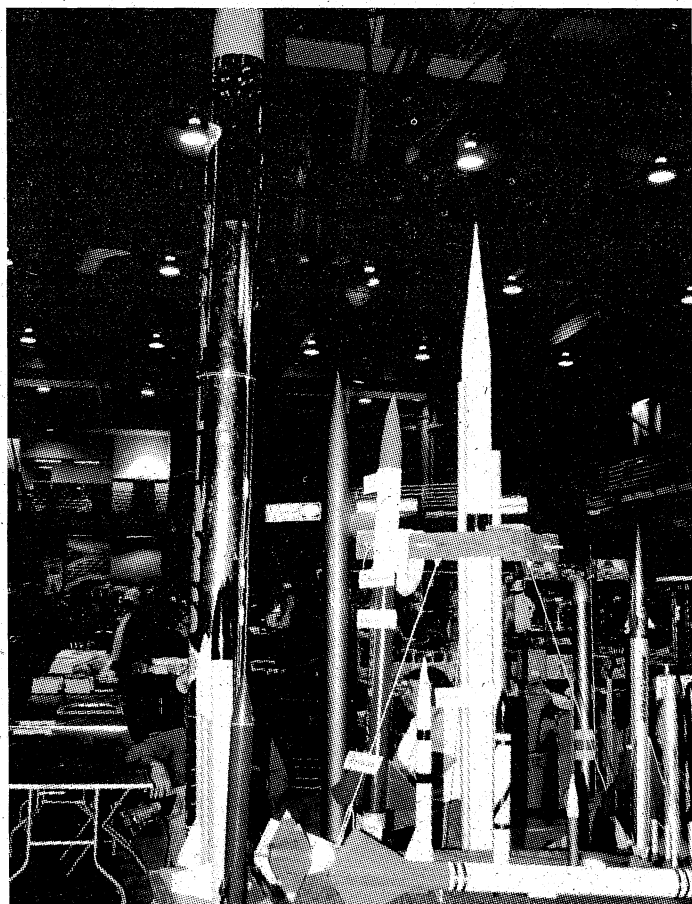
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I-CON 28 Lands at SBU

Photos by Zachary Kurtz / SB Statesman



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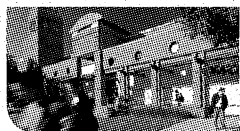


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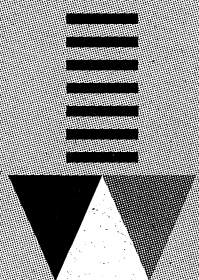
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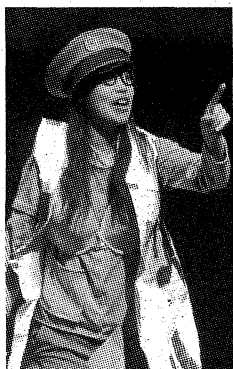


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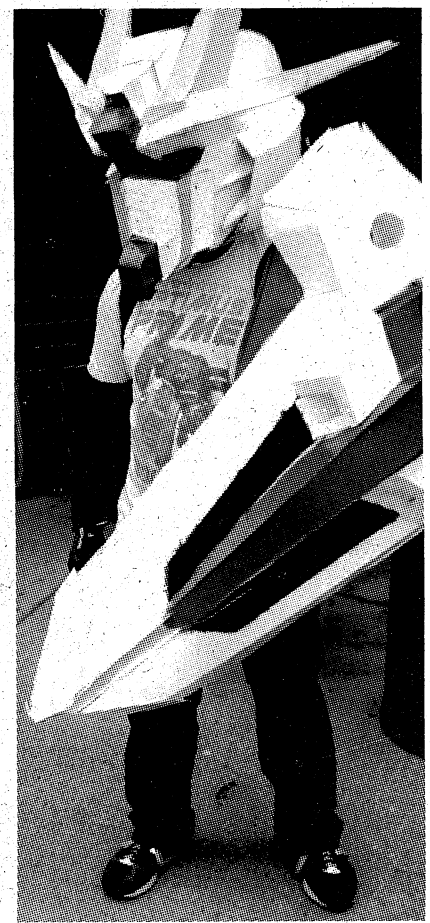
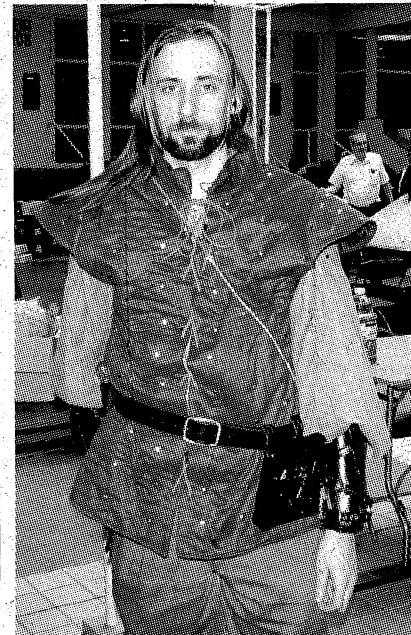
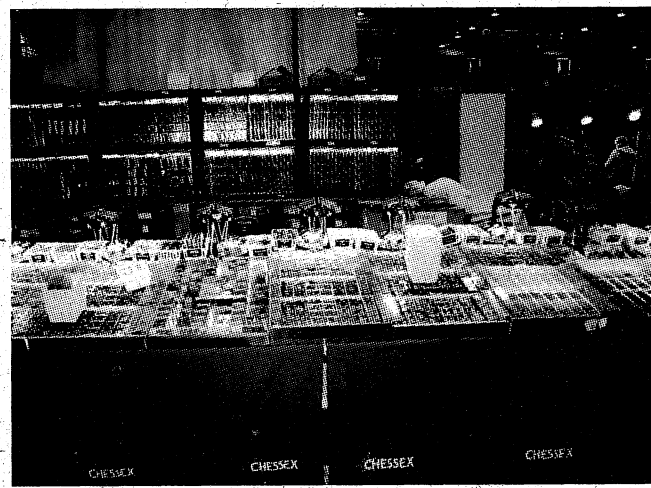
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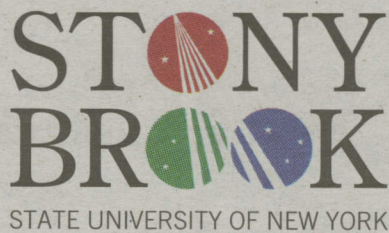
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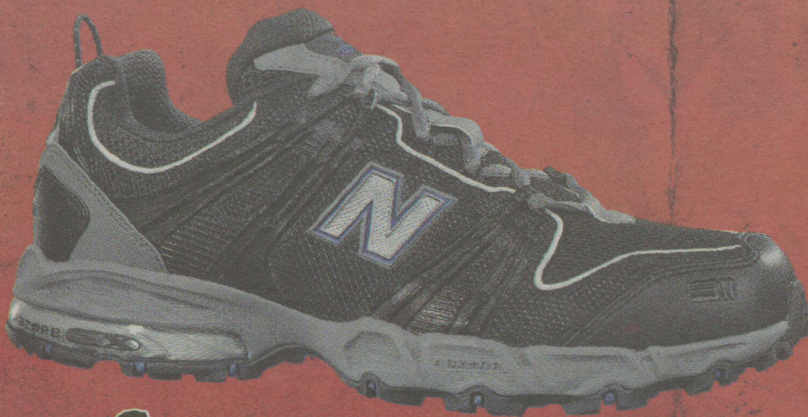
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TV Guide:

"We Need Girlfriends"



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FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, TOM (PATRICK COHEN), HENRY (SETH KIRSCHNER), AND ROD (EVAN BASS).

BY MAUREEN HINE
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Fans of *Flight of the Concorde* and the *Office* gear up for what will certainly be the next addictive television series. CBS has recently announced that they have purchased the online series, "We Need Girlfriends." The low-budget series is based on the lives of three real college roommates, Steven Tsapelas, Angel Acevedo and Brian Amyot, who struggle to uncover the mysteries of girls, dating and relationships.

The series chronicles the lives of three post-college guys living together in a small apartment in Queens. Each character, who represents Tsapelas and his roommates, brings a unique dynamic to the show that will quickly have you hooked.

Henry, (Seth Kirschner) who is somewhat the leader of the group, is the stereotypical nerd with thick-rimmed glasses and a passion for wrestling figurines. Tom (Patrick Cohen) is the tall, gangly sidekick who has just broken up with his girlfriend and is constantly perplexed about why girls aren't interested in a guy who likes to engage in intellectual conversation. The third roommate, Rod (Evan Bass) who never leaves the house

without his aviator sunglasses, is the master when it comes to seducing the ladies, or so he thinks.

In the 11 episode series, the guys spend their time trying to develop new schemes that will get them a girlfriend, or at least a kiss. In one episode, Tom is crushed when Rod and Henry wake him up in the middle of the night to tell him that his ex-girlfriend has just changed her Myspace status to "in a relationship." Upon witnessing Tom's desperate state, Rod and Henry attempt to help make his ex jealous by jazzing up his Myspace page and uploading new pictures of Tom awkwardly posing with random girls.

In another episode, Henry is finally about to make the first move on a girl. An envious Rod, who is in a constant competition with Henry over who is better, coerces Tom to crash a party with him so they can meet girls. Rod tells Tom to make random noises and sounds at girls but Tom sticks to his gut and perches himself against the wall waiting to strike up a long-winded conversation with the next girl who walks by. With all three guys spitting their best game, it is hilarious and at times almost unbearable watching who will fail first.

Episode 4 of the series, "Henry Vs.

Continued on page 11

Battle of the Bands:

Honus Wagner, Mother F'Nature, and Thursday Was Cloudy Make Finals



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FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: MIKE TAFFER, GARY JACOBELLI, AND JAMES PELOWSKI

BY IVANNA AVALOS
Staff Writer

What has two stages, six bands, and a room full of Stony Brook music fans? Stony Brook's Battle of Bands that's what. The ACH and SSO council hosted their first Battle of the Bands competition Thursday night in the Black Box Theatre located in the Tabler Arts Center in Tabler Quad.

Students gathered at 8 p.m on the second floor of the Tabler Arts Centers to watch their fellow school mates express their talents for the chance to be named ACH and SSO council's battle winners. Six bands performed and only three were chosen to move on the finals.

The bands that played on Thursday's semi-finals were The Gekko State, The Dan DeDora 5, Honus Wagner,

Mother F'Nature, Thursday was Cloudy, and Vector Red, respectively. Each artist performed three or four songs either all original tracks or a mix of original songs and a cover.

I personally loved the idea of Battle of the Bands and was really looking forward to going. There should be more places on campus where students can just listen to music without having to go off-campus and pay who know how much money. I also thought that the advertising done for this event was a lot better than most events that happen on campus and was impressed with the turn-out.

The bands each brought their own personal style to the stage. From The Dan DeDora 5's piano based song "Don't

Continued on page 11

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POET'S CORNER

Tiny Pieces of Glass Amidst Plastic

By MADGESTIC
Staff Writer

Maybe,
His initial thought was
'What of the texture of glass'
One Saturday, in RorriM town, his eyes accidentally caught a tiny glimpse of it
He recalled the sounds, and the break of it
And ever since then, of that indulgent memory, he couldn't get rid of it
He fantasized of it and of seeing through it
The mere thought of glass tantalized him
He dreamt of glass
Occasionally, he would wake up with slit fingertip cuts

Over time his peers came to give him recurring bottom lip cuts
His thoughts were, 'glass is tantamount to plastic...?'
He was verbose, while still questioning himself,
Of it, he spoke of the most
They all laughed, even his "friends" new that it was 'bad' to speak of, think of
glass
His mind consumed it as 'good,' he was perturbed that no one else saw it as
'good'

A month ago, in the sun he saw a pearl glass at the threshold
He ran to go and reach to it, of it he merely wanted to hold
We've never seen glass before that day, and we simply thought that our friend
was going through a silly phase
But, someone maliciously pushed him off the edge
And when we, his classmates looked off the ledge
All we saw was a mass of tiny pieces of glass
Glimmers smiling back at us in the sun
Light reflecting frolicsome
We've been doing him wrong for so long
We shouldn't have made him the cause of hateful songs

My story is at its end
And Eddie, who I now call my friend,
I guess now, he lives in shiny tiny broken pieces of glass
Where perhaps, I hope, I pray, he finally feels at home at last

Inspired by him,
R.I.P. Eddie Tilmond

"We Need Girlfriends"

Continued from page 9

Rod," is in my opinion one of the best. In this episode Rod's rather large ego and incessant antagonizing has finally got the best of Henry. The two friends start a battle that continues throughout the series over who is better. Rod even goes as far as making t-shirts that say "Team Henry" and "Team Rod" on the front and a picture of their heads smack in the middle.

Rod resorts to immature tactics like calling all three girls that Henry kissed in his lifetime and inviting them over to the apartment to show them Henry's wrestling figurine collection. On the other hand,

Henry's tactics seem to be weak but in the end, he just may be the one who succeeds.

The creators of "We Need Girlfriends" say that they got their inspiration from watching the guys of "Entourage" pick up girls left and right, while for them, even talking to girls was a struggle. But with a pilot episode in the works and a possible hit series on the way, finding girls should not be a problem for much longer. To check out episodes for free online log onto www.weneedgirlfriends.tv and be sure to keep a lookout for the public release of this fun loving series.

Honus Wagner, Mother F'Nature, and Thursday Was Cloudy Make Finals

Continued from page 9

Look Down" to the crazy guitar riffs of Honus Wagner's lead guitarist.

"It was awesome, there was a lot of energy, and a lot of people," said sophomore student, Marvin Parasram. "The three bands that were chosen played well, had good lyrics that all had meaning." He added "you don't find that in a lot of bands".

After about two hours of performances a decision had to be made, which three bands would make it to the final round? Honus Wagner, Mother F'Nature, and Thursday Was Cloudy have made past the semi-finals and will perform at 8p.m in the Black Box Theatre, Thursday April 23rd.

I must say I happen to think these three bands were well deserving of making to the finals. They each had great stage presence, worked the crowd well and trying to get them pumped up. They also were obviously very talented. I was actually surprised at how many talented musicians there are on campus, some even have demos out and merchandise like shirts on sale, and must say I was impressed.

SSO councils are planing to make Battle of the Bands an annual event but given the turn-out for the semi-finals, I think they should really consider it. I can see this easily becoming a very popular event on campus.

"It was a good turn out," said singer Patrice Zapiti, singer of Mother F'Nature, who has been playing with her band officially since mid December. "I'm pumped," added Zapiti when asked how she feels about making it to the finals.

The location of the event was big enough to house two stages and a substantial amount of people. Yet it small enough that you could get close to the actual stage and the band could interact with the audience if they wanted too, which I really liked, made it more intimate.

One audience member said he that although he thought the event went well, it didn't meet his expectations. "I expected the event to have more of a concert feel than an actual event. I thought the crowd would be more active," said Eric Ayende.

I am looking forward to the finals and want to see how hard it's going to be for the judges to decide between these three talented bands. I wish each band the best of luck.



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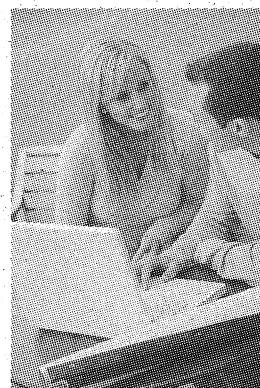
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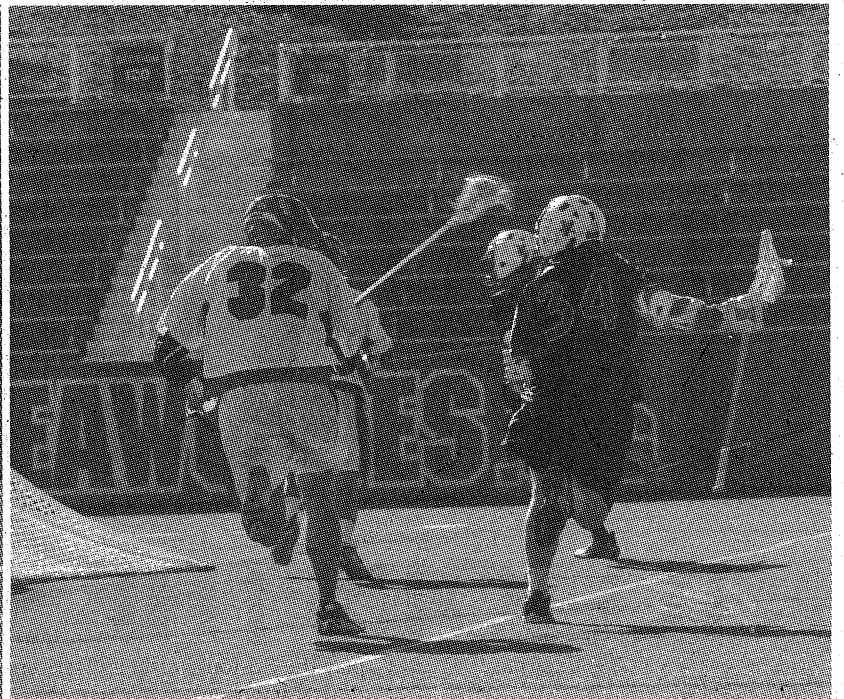
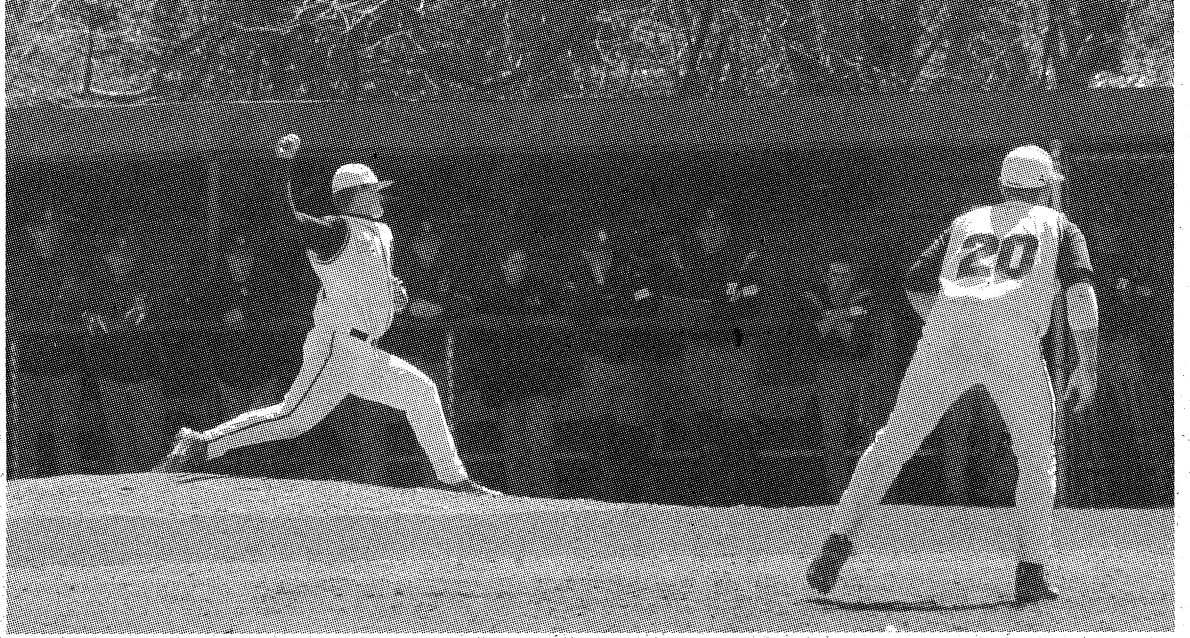


I WANT YOU

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In Pictures... Shots From Baseball, Softball and Men's Lacrosse

Shonto Olander/ SB Statesman



Men's Lax Shines in America East Home Opener

Continued From Pg. 16

off of an assist from Freshman Kevin Crowley. "Whenever we win the face-off, we have a chance to score," Sowell said. "Crowley is terrific with ground balls and is able to move up the field." Crowley added three more assists as well as scoring two goals. He led the team with six points on the day. Seniors Owen Adams, Bo Tripodi and Rhys Duch also added goals to cap off a 5-0 run which finished the first quarter.

After a Vermont goal, it was all Stony Brook. They went on a 7-0 run and took a commanding 13-3 lead. Senior Michal Trojanowski began the scoring half way through the second quarter. It was his first goal on the year. 20 seconds later, Freshman Jordan McBride scored his first goal on a man up advantage and totaled three on the day. Seniors Owen Adams and Bo Tripodi also scored on the 7-0 run.

Vermont would add six of their own to finish out the game. The Seawolves were surprisingly held without a goal for the last 21 minutes of the game. "We have to keep scoring," Coach said. "We had great fast break opportunities, but we couldn't finish. We got a little sloppy there, but we were able to tighten up on our end of the field."

The Seawolves continue their conference play on Saturday against Hartford. Hartford is 0-2 (0-10) on the year, but they will not be overlooked. "They played Albany to a 14-11 game, and were in it the whole time," said Sowell. "Their going to come in here confident just like they did last year. That game left a bitter taste in our mouths. That should be enough motivation." The game will start at 7PM at Laval stadium.

Weekend Quick Hits



Both Women's Lacrosse and Softball had uneven weekends. Women's Lacrosse suffered a tough defeat to New Hampshire Saturday afternoon, while Softball went 3-3 with wins against Fordham, Rutgers and Boston University.

Shonto Olander/ SB Statesman

BY GENE MORRIS
Asst. Sports Editor

Women's Lacrosse Toppled by New Hampshire

After jumping out to a 3-1 lead just five minutes into the game against #14 New Hampshire, the Seawolves eventually lost control of the game and ended the half down 10-4. The second half was relatively even, but the Seawolves were not able to make up for the poor first half and fell 17-10.

Jenna Celano, Elizabeth Montreuil and Kaitlin Leggio put the Seawolves up early. New Hampshire went up one with a three goal run over a seven minute span. Leggio scored her second of the game to even the score, but New Hampshire then went on another run, this one six goals long, to end the half.

The Seawolves were down as much as 17-6 late in the second half before scoring the last four goals of the game.

Jamie Carlson and Mickey Cahill split time in goal, making four and three saves respectively. Samantha Djaha led the offense with four goals.

The Seawolves next take the field on Wednesday, when they travel to Boston to play the Boston University Terriers. Game time is at 4:00pm.

BY JESSICA MCCLINTOCK
Senior Writer

Softball Emerges from Weekend Play 3-3

On Wednesday April 2nd, the Stony Brook women's softball team went to Fordham and won 4-2.

Thursday April 3rd, they had a double header at home against Rutgers in which they won the first game 10-5 and lost the second game 2-1.

Saturday April 5th there was another double header on the home field, but this time against Boston University. Unfortunately, Stony Brook fell in both games with scores of 1-0 and 2-0.

However, they picked it back up by winning their third game against Boston on Sunday April 6th with a score of 2-1. Sophomore Alyssa Struzenberg pitched all eight innings for the Seawolves, striking out nine batters while picking up her 10th win of the season.

The women's softball team will be back in action on Wednesday April 9th with a double header in Hartford, Connecticut.

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STATESMAN Sports

Men's Lacrosse Tames Catamounts 7-0 Run Demoralizes Visiting Vermont



Rick Sowell's Seawolves recorded their first America East win of the season, by winning faceoffs and getting to the net. By the end of the 1st half Stony Brook led 9-3, and would continue to dominate the rest of the contest.

Shonto Olander/ SB Statesman

By KEITH KOBASUIK
Senior Writer

Stony Brook was able to put points on the board, as they have all season. On Saturday, their defense also came up strong in a 13-9 beatdown of Vermont. "It feels good to get our first league win," Head coach Rick Sowell said. "Overall we played a nice game. We did a lot of good things." The Seawolves are 1-1

(5-4) on the year while the Catamounts fall to 0-2 (3-8).

The Seawolves took the opening face-off and capitalized 32 seconds into the game on a goal by Senior Bobby Trenkle. Vermont responded with two goals to take a 2-1 lead. After that, the goals started to tally up.

Off of another face off win, Senior Ryan Hughes was able to find the back of the

Continued On Pg. 15

SEAWOLVES SWEEP BINGHAMTON



Baseball played lights out with back to back sweeps of their Saturday and Sunday doubleheaders against Binghamton. Check out Wednesday's issue for more on Baseball's dominating weekend.

By ADRIAN CARRASQUILLO
Asst. Sports Editor

The Stony Brook baseball team swept Binghamton in double-headers on Saturday and Sunday to start off conference play 4-0. They won game one in a back and forth affair that had them up 7-1 at one point and down 9-7 in the eighth inning. The Seawolves took the lead for good in a four-run bottom of the 8th, keyed by junior Rob Dyer's two-run home run. The Seawolves won the second game of the series after being down 4-3 in the sixth inning. Home runs by sophomore Jeremy Nowak and freshman Nick Thode gave Stony Brook a 5-4 lead which was closed out by Nowak.

The Seawolves won the first game on Sunday 7-6 behind a seven-run outburst in the third inning. The scoring in the inning began with an RBI single by freshman Stephen Marino and a sacrifice fly by junior Brian Witkowski. Junior Keith Fier came around to score after a stolen

base attempt led the Binghamton catcher to throw the ball into leftfield. Nowak had an RBI double and the inning was capped off by a three-run home run by Dyer.

The Seawolves completed the sweep after junior Mike Errigo pitched eight and two-thirds innings of shutout baseball. He scattered seven hits and had seven strikeouts. Stony Brook scored five runs in the fourth inning. An error by the Binghamton third baseman allowed the Seawolves to score their first run and Marino followed with a two-run single. Junior Justin Echevarria who is playing with a bad shoulder, laced an RBI double to make it 4-0 and scored after a single by Witkowski.

The Seawolves had been 10-10 before this series but it was all in out of conference play where they faced strong competition from around the country. They have 20 America East games left and a 4-0 start bodes well for them going forward. We'll take a more in-depth look at the series and the Seawolves season in Thursday's issue.

More Inside...

Weekend Quick Hits Pg. 15

In Pictures- Stony Brook's Big Weekend Pg. 14