

## Feature

### A Conversation with Joanna Fowler

On Oct. 7, Joanna Fowler, a senior chemist and Director of the Radiotracer Chemistry, Instrumentation and Biological Imaging Program at the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory and adjunct faculty member in Stony Brook's Chemistry Department, was awarded the National Medal of Science.

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## Opinion

### Election 2009: A Declaration from Independents

Last week's voter turnout was low both on campus, with 1.6 percent of Stony Brook's registered voters participating in the election, and off-campus. To some extent, voting during a period of national transition is tiresome even for those who follow local politics. We know there are no "quick fixes" regardless of which party is in power.

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## Sports

### Seawolves Win On And Off The Field

Representing Stony Brook University daily through sports forces Seawolves athletes to stay on their toes, whether the whistle is being blown or a midterm is looming. Many find it difficult to balance the stress of being both a student and an athlete, but a few have managed to do it well enough to gain recognition, not only from Stony Brook, but the America East Conference as a whole.

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## Fewer Than 2 Percent Vote in Elections

### Low Turnout for Local Elections Not Surprising



Erika Karp / SB Statesman

Campus community voters were few and far between on Tuesday in the SAC Ballroom while the polls were open for local elections.

By ERIKA KARP  
Assistant News Editor

The voting machines were there. The volunteers were there. But one thing was missing from Ballroom B in the Student Activities Center on Tuesday: the voters.

A total of 72 people registered to vote on campus cast their ballots, but only 30 voted at the polling area set up in the ballroom. According to the Suffolk County Board of Elections, 1,858 people are registered to vote at the cam-

pus polling area.

According to John J. Sarno, a polling area coordinator for 18 years, the low turnout was not surprising because many people don't keep up with the local politics.

"I'm not up with the details," Victoria Farenga, a sophomore, who voted in the past presidential election. "I wanted to be a part of that... it was a big turning point."

Rhonda Glassgow, a senior and psychology major said although she knows it isn't right, she definitely pays more attention

to the presidential elections.

"This year was an off election year," Helmut Norpoth, a political science professor said. "The turnout was low for everybody."

Vivian Vilorio-Fisher for the 5th Legislative District County Legislator and Mark Lesko for the Town of Brookhaven Supervisor received the majority of votes on campus, reflecting the overall results of the local elections.

Those who did come out to vote agreed on one thing.

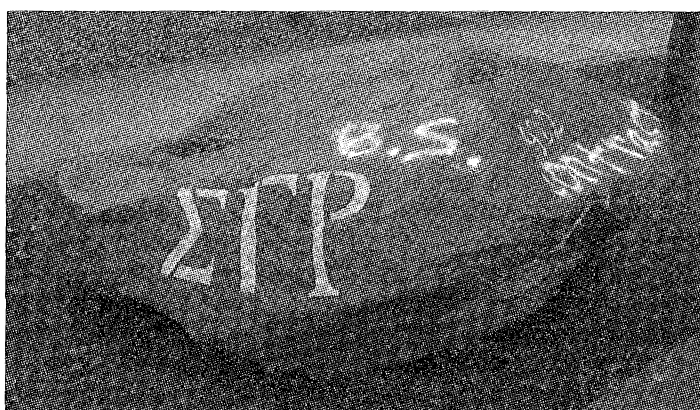
Micahael Choi, a graduate student, voted democratic and

said he felt it was important to vote because it was an opportunity to express his rights.

"It is important for our community," James Derby, a sophomore who voted the republican row said. "It is our responsibility as citizens."

According to Norpoth, you can't compare the local election to the presidential election. He did say, however, that the surge in general voters had a lot to do with President Obama.

"It is going to be very hard to surpass that," he said.



Joe Trollo / SB Statesman

Sigma Gamma Rho's rock was tagged with white spray paint. Above their greek letters was written "B.S.," and below their founding year "contract."

## Sorority Rock Defaced

By JASMIN FRANKEL  
Staff Writer

Sigma Gamma Rho's sorority rock, located in front of the Earth and Space Sciences Building, was defaced sometime between Sunday night and early Monday morning.

According to Lauren Sheprow, the Stony Brook University's media spokesperson, no police report had been filed. The sorority declined to comment.

Assistant Director of Fraternity and Sorority Life, Kimberly Stokely, said she does not know if the sorority will file a report, but they will paint over the graffiti.

"They want the rock to look nice again. It has a lot of meaning to them," Stokely said. "They don't suspect another sorority or fraternity did it."

The National Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho also declined to comment.

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# A Conversation with Joanna Fowler

## *Q&A with National Medal of Science Winner*

By RHODA FENG  
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 7, Joanna Fowler, a senior chemist and Director of the Radiotracer Chemistry, Instrumentation and Biological Imaging Program at the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory and adjunct faculty member in Stony Brook's Chemistry Department, was awarded the National Medal of Science.

**Q:** As Director of the Radiotracer Chemistry, Instrumentation and Biological Imaging Program at Brookhaven National Laboratory, what does your work entail?

**A:** Our group is multi-disciplinary and we cover a lot of different areas including chemistry, physics, pharmacology, psychology and medicine. We combine our individual expertises to solve specific problems. We are quite interested in understanding the relationships between genes, brain chemistry and behavior. Some of the members of our group are developing new imaging instruments. Others are developing rapid methods for incorporating short lived radioactive isotopes like carbon-11 (half life: 20.4 minutes) into organic molecules so that they can be used to track biochemical transformations and the movement of drugs through the body. We are also applying these short lived radiotracers as tools for energy and environmental research using them to map carbon and nitrogen cycling in plants.

**Q:** Did you always want to be a chemist?

**A:** I got interested in chemistry as an undergraduate and I have always been fascinated by chemistry itself and the breadth of interesting and important problems that can be addressed by chemistry. The field that I am in allows me to work with many different disciplines which is very enriching.

**Q:** With a host of honors to your name, how is the National Medal of Science different from any other awards you have earned?

**A:** I am honored and humbled by all of these awards as they recognize the impact of the tools we have developed here at Brookhaven on understanding brain chemistry and its impact of

brain diseases like addiction. The National Medal of Science was really a surprise for me. There was far more ceremony and publicity involved and meeting the President was quite a thrill. It also gives me the opportunity to communicate the central role that chemistry and knowledge in general makes on those things which make a difference to human beings.

**Q:** More evidence is linking tobacco smoke with diseases of the lungs, heart, kidney and spleen. What might the implications be for science and society?

**A:** I am fascinated by who smokes and why. Most of the cigarettes smoked in the US are smoked by people in mental health programs or those with a current psychiatric illness (including individuals addicted to drugs and alcohol, individuals with depression and schizophrenia). We need to understand the enhanced vulnerability of these individuals. There is evidence that smokers are self medicating, i.e. that chemical compounds in the tobacco including nicotine and the MAO inhibitors are alleviating symptoms. For example nicotine releases some of the same mood altering chemicals that are enhanced by antidepressant drugs; and the MAO inhibitors are effective antidepressants. Also the most toxic component of the cigarette is not the nicotine; it is the tars and the carbon monoxide that come from burning the tobacco. Yet nicotine patch or gum doesn't replace the cigarette, likely because the cigarette delivers the nicotine rapidly which is very important in reinforcement. It is all about chemistry and kinetics and how these modulate smoking behavior. Research on smoking behavior is crucial to developing effective prevention and treatment strategies particularly for that subset of people who can't stop.

**Q:** Scientists use short-lived isotopes in positron emission tomography (PET) to detect tumors (for which the radiotracer FDG is used), observe plant metabolism, research and develop drugs, and glean information on the brain as it ages. How else might these tracers be used?

**A:** We are hoping to learn more about the relationship between genes and behavior and about how environment affects gene expression through



Media credit: bnl.gov

Joanna Fowler accepts her award from President Barack Obama.

epigenetic transformations. We are hoping that some of these imaging methods or their combinations will allow us to predict disease earlier before symptoms develop and to use this information to develop interventions and protective therapies especially in degenerative disorders like Alzheimer's. Depression is predicted to become a major health burden by 2030 second only to AIDS. There is an urgent need to understand this disease and to develop treatments that work better and more rapidly. This would have a huge impact worldwide and imaging can be expected to play a role in understanding as well as in drug development.

**Q:** Brookhaven National Lab is often described as a haven for chemists, physicists and medical authorities to collaborate on research. How has being at Brookhaven for forty years contributed to your scientific work?

**A:** Brookhaven National Laboratory provides a remarkable opportunity for team science by respecting the need for individuals within a team to have the freedom to be creative and to be recognized for their creativity. This allows us to build a team with the best people and also to maintain the best facilities and instruments. I have enjoyed a very close collaboration with Nora Volkow who is now director of the National Institute on

Drug Abuse. We have worked on the development and application of imaging tools to study addiction since 1988. When I came to Brookhaven I worked with Stanley Seltzer on organic synthesis as a post doctoral fellow and then joined the group of Alfred Wolf who was started up a program to develop radiotracers for imaging for medicine. I have worked with dozens of different scientists throughout the years, to my great benefit. And our group has enjoyed the support of the entire Brookhaven community over the years.

**Q:** What is one under-published area of research that the public should become familiar with?

**A:** The most important assets we have as individuals and as a society are our brains. For me, the most crucial area of research is on the factors that contribute to a healthy brain. We work on this indirectly through our focus on brain disorders but it is important to internalize the fact that the solution to most of the problems that face society (health, energy, poverty) will require our mental capital, an educated cognitively flexible population. Also many of our problems in health are generated by behavior and decision making (overeating, lack of exercise, experimenting with cigarettes, drugs and alcohol). Similarly a large fraction of the total energy used by society is

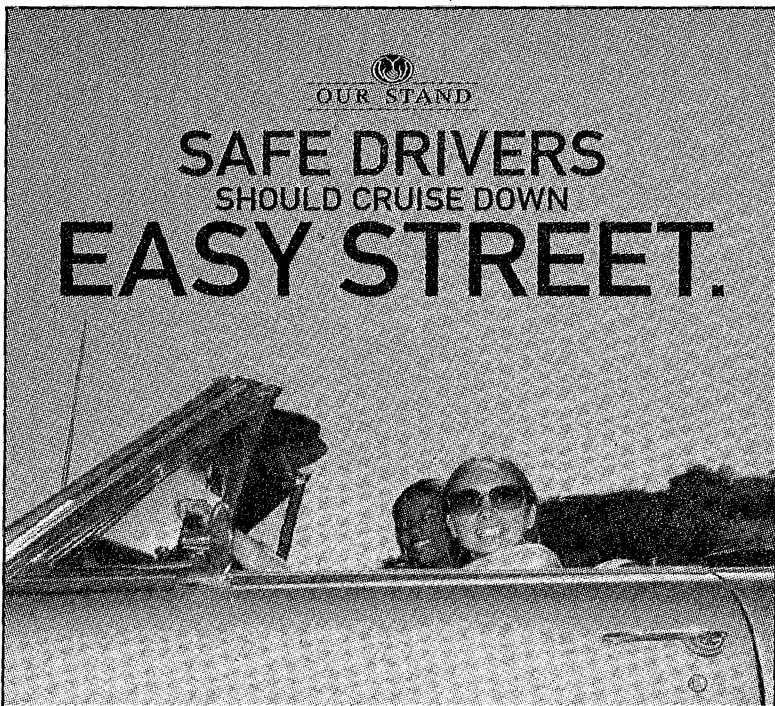
wasted, again by our collective behavior and decisions. We need to work on this.

**Q:** Do you think that as more women enter science they will ever be able to neutralize the quantity of men in the field?

**A:** Absolutely! But it is still important to be vigilant to be inclusive of all groups and to strive to have a work environment that values diversity and provides the opportunity for creativity from every individual.

**Q:** What is your advice to aspiring scientists at Stony Brook?

**A:** Work and study very hard and choose a field that fascinates you. I like to encourage people to work on health related problems and I particularly want to encourage the study of all of the problems related to addictive disorders. In my view if we could prevent and treat addiction effectively we would have a larger impact on public health than anything else we know of. A large fraction of the cancer and heart disease deaths are from smoking; HIV and AIDs comes largely through iv drug use and risky sexual behavior secondary to stimulant abuse; violence and accidents are associated with alcohol abuse; obesity from pathological overeating. All of these start with addiction, a disease of the brain.



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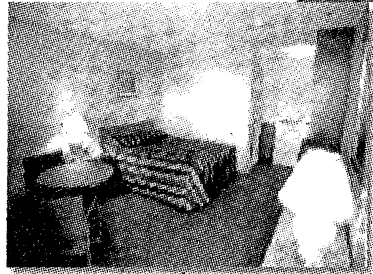
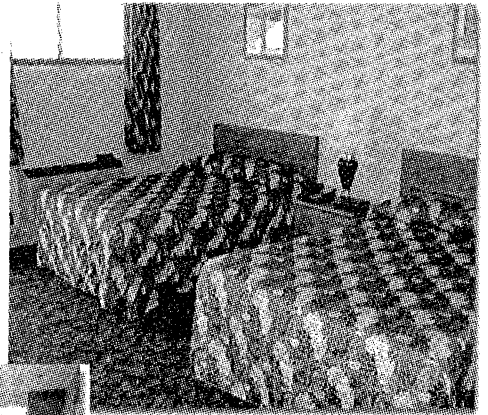
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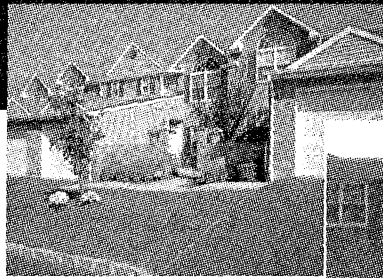
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**WHO WE ARE**

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.

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

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# The Buzz With The Bizz

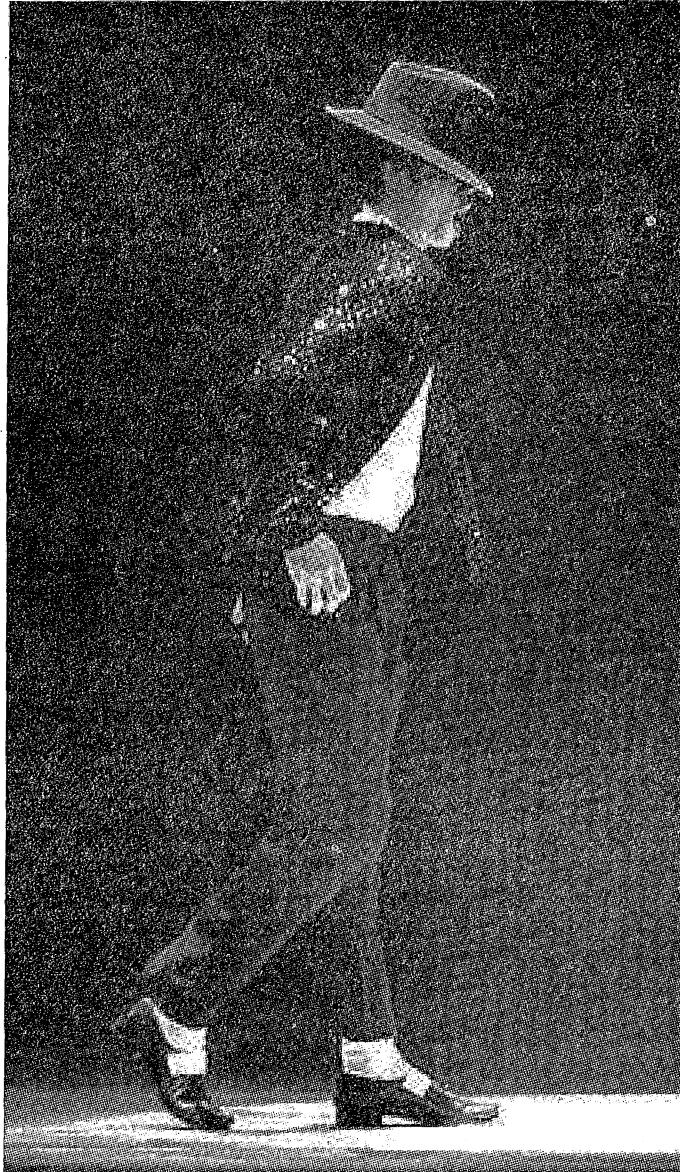
## "It's a Moonwalk"

BY JOHNNY "BIZZ" COFFARO  
Columnist

If you have been paying attention to what has been going on in the realm of films, there is a movie that came out not too long ago, titled "This is It." The film has behind the scene footage on the entertainment life of the deceased Michael Jackson. This film is also directed by Kenny Ortega. Yeah, the same director who worked on all three High School Musical movies. Sony Pictures Releasing was the company that distributed this film worldwide, mainly targeting obsessed Michael Jackson fans and those who feel associated with this controversial icon. The film was released to the public in the United States on Oct. 29th, which is about four months after Jackson's death. The movie is also shown in IMAX to make you feel like you are a part of the concert.

How do I feel about the showing of "This is It?" Well, it is obvious that, even after his sudden death, Michael Jackson's image is going to be a living commodity in our society. It's similar to how people perceive Elvis Presley's image with the slick hair, white jump suit, sexual dances, and his distinguished voice. The look Jackson portrayed during his lifetime was the white sparkling glove, the old school Gheri curls, his hat, the tacky suit, and the golden shin guards. Imitators will always mimic the deceased kings of America's distinct music culture because of the huge impact these two individuals made on society.

Of course despite the popularity and talents they had, Elvis and Jackson did have their backdrops. Elvis developed into the overweight alcoholic who died at the age of 42 years old of a drug



Media Credit: reemsaied.wordpress.com

overdose. Jackson was always suspected of constantly being 'under the knife,' which was obvious as his skin color changed as well, the court cases with child pedophile issues, and his unorthodox desire to be a kid again. Jackson also had family issues with his father Joe Jackson, the court case when he went to see the judge late in pajamas, and finally his death at

40 years old due to a cardiac arrest from a drug overdose.

A film that involves the life of Michael Jackson is too soon and will be a predictable success just because of the product, Jackson, being premiered in it. It's fast and easy money.

Even though Director Kenny Ortega and Michael Jackson had past relations when it came to

entertainment, I still believe that it's a way to get a great profit. If the people who edited these found footages really did care about Michael Jackson's existence as a person, then the movie would've been out a year or two in the future.

I am personally not a fan of Michael Jackson, but I do believe that the man deserves some sort of respect and needs to rest in peace.

To make comparisons between Jackson's life with Elvis's life, there was no movie dedicated to Elvis. There was a CD packet that came out four years after his death, but that was it. During his lifetime in society's spotlight, the character Conrad Birdie, from George Sidney's 1963 film "Bye Bye Birdie," was basically inspired by the popularity of Elvis and the fact that he was a sexual icon.

I made the title of this article "It's a Moon Walk" because of two reasons, the main one being that I feel Michael Jackson needs to rest in peace, but instead the media are pulling him back. The moon walk was Michael Jackson's signature dance move. Every time you see someone moon walk, or attempt it, you think of Michael Jackson.

The other reason is because this move was first executed in 1983 during his performance of Billie Jean, a song about an ill woman who caused some controversy stating that Michael Jackson fathered her kids. This can easily reflect not the controversy Michael Jackson had put on himself like in those court cases but others. These include mainly media-related persons, who create a controversial buzz about the popular Michael Jackson, which is what I feel like this new film is doing.

The King of Pop still cannot rest in peace!

### From the Editor: Introducing "SBstance"

Hello Statesman Readers,

Thanks for picking this issue up. I'm writing to announce a new concept for a column in this section based on NPR's "This I Believe" and the New York Times' "One in Eight Million" series. This periodic feature will offer us a brief statement of your perspectives--the ideas that guide the way you interact with people or dictate how you see yourself--in an informal, narrative style of 400 words or less. Check [thisibelieve.org](http://thisibelieve.org) for sample articles, and send your contributions or any questions to me at [op-ed@sbstatesman.com](mailto:op-ed@sbstatesman.com).

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# Ragtime Returns to Broadway This Fall

BY DENISE DEGENNARO  
Staff Writer

On Oct. 23, previews of the revival of the 1998 Broadway musical "Ragtime" opened at the Neil Simon Theater.

"Ragtime" is the story of three groups—the rich white families of New Rochelle, the black community of Harlem and the immigrants who inhabited the tenements of New York City—at the dawn of the 20th century.

Based on the 1975 novel by E.L. Doctorow of the same name, the complex story line intertwines fictional characters with real historical figures including Emma Goldman (Donna Migliaccio), Booker T. Washington (Eric Jordan Young), Henry Ford (Aaron Galligan-Stierle), J.P. Morgan (Michael X. Martin), Harry Houdini (Jonathan Hammond) and Evelyn Nesbit (Savannah Wise).

The lives of these characters, both fictional and real, and the chance encounters and interactions that bring them together make for an incredible story that questions justice, race and what, exactly, is the American dream.

Each of the three groups is comprised of a few principle characters and a small ensemble. The wealthy and white New Rochelle white community is represented by a family comprised of Mother (Christiane Noll), Father (Ron Bohmer), The Little Boy (Christopher Cox), Mother's Younger Brother (Bobby Steggert) and Grandfather (Dan Manning).

The very well off family's normal life is thrown off course when Father leaves to go on an expedition to the North Pole with Admiral Peary (also Michael X. Martin) and Mother finds a newborn black baby boy buried in her garden.

Though Mother is trapped in the private sphere and is generally subordinate to her husband, she takes the opportunity to take matters into her own hands while Father is not home. She decides to take in the baby and his mother, Sarah (Stephanie



Media credit: www.ragtimebroadway.com

Umoh). Mother is a woman who, though she is trapped in the household, is a sort of a revolutionary in the way she thinks and acts, as is her Younger Brother. Christine Noll did a fantastic job showing Mother's many emotions, and has a tremendous voice. I would go as far as to say that I think she deserves to win a Tony for her stellar performance.

As all of this is going on in New Rochelle, in Harlem, Coalhouse Walker, Jr. (Quentin Earl Darrington) is planning on going to court Sarah, who left him. He buys a Model T to impress her and drives to New Rochelle every Sunday to try to get her to take him back. He learns that Sarah has had his child, but she always refuses to see him. Mother decides to invite him in, and Coalhouse, a professional pianist, plays a new form of music, ragtime, for the family ("New Music"). When Sarah hears Coalhouse playing, she runs down to him. The reunited lovers dream about the future for their child ("Wheels of a Dream").

The beautiful, hopeful song is done

extremely well by the couple, whom are both making their Broadway debuts. I couldn't believe that they were not seasoned Broadway veterans, as they were absolutely fantastic. While all of this is going on, Tateh (Robert Petkoff) and his daughter, The Little Girl (Sarah Rosenthal), Latvian immigrants, are having a rough time getting adjusted to life in New York City. Tateh always dreams of success and a better life for his daughter, and will not stop working until he finds it.

Throughout the show, the families' lives intersect and each person is changed in some way. For these families at the turn of the century, old traditions and processes are challenged, as new ideas and lessons are learned through the experiences and interactions they have with each other.

Stephen Flaherty's score is powerful and intricate, with reoccurring melodies being an integral part of the story line. The cast did more than do the score justice. The vocals were powerful and filled the theater with the sound of "Ragtime". At first, I

wondered why the set seemed sparse. It was comprised of levels of iron scaffolding and moving staircases.

However, more set was definitely not needed. The levels were used to represent class, putting the wealthy real historical figures like J.P. Morgan and Henry Ford above the poor immigrants. Throughout the show, the level of some characters changed as they grew wealthier and more successful.

The actors' powerful vocals and amazing interactions filled in any gaps that there may have been in the set, forcing the audience to focus on the story. The piano Coalhouse played and the Model T were really only the skeletons of the objects. I interpreted the sparse set and props as further emphasis on the importance of the story that was being told, rather than allowing props and set to distract the viewer.

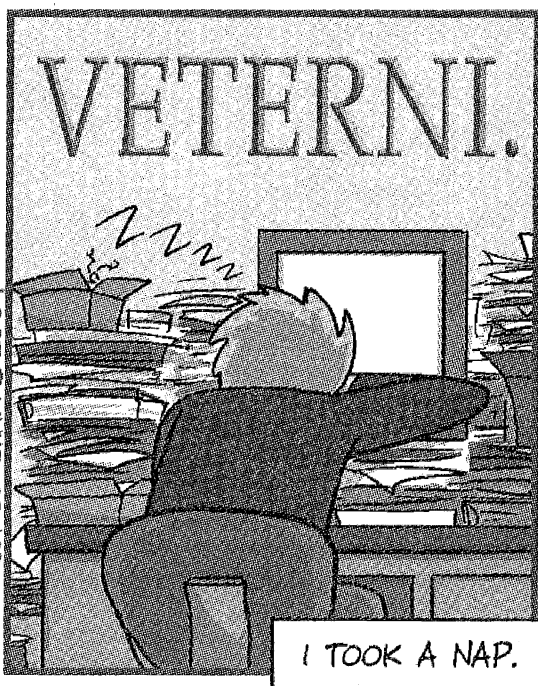
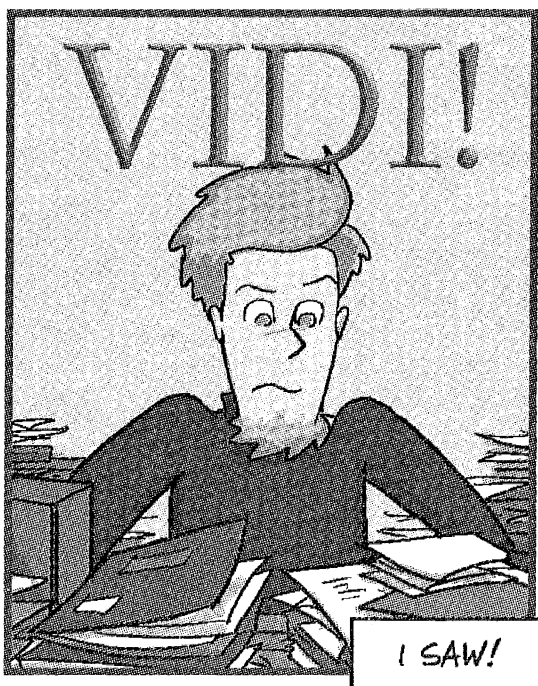
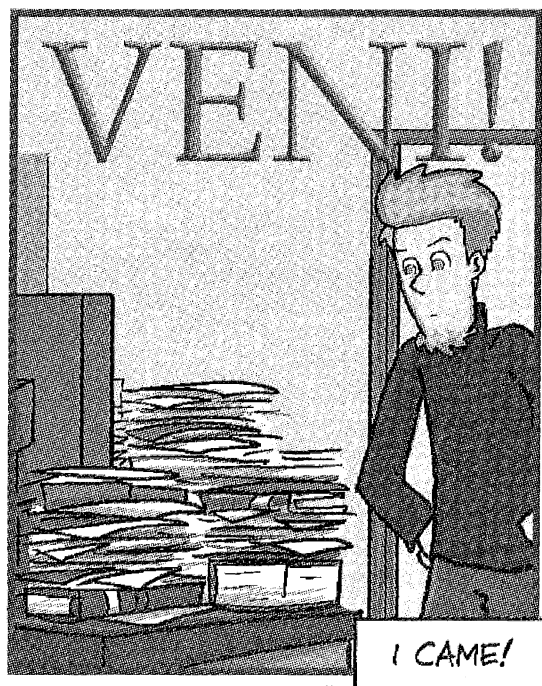
The story was also told through their costumes, beautiful period-pieces that hinted at the colors of the American flag with the New Rochelle whites in white, the people of Harlem in red tones and the immigrants in cooler blues.

"Ragtime" is an incredible story, and I'm so glad that it is being told again. The show is incredibly well done, to say the least. The cast was phenomenal in every sense. The rest of the audience agreed with me—they received a standing ovation as soon as they hit the last note. I've seen a number of musicals on Broadway, and never have I seen a standing ovation happen so quickly.

For an afternoon, I was transported from the year 2009 to the turn of the century, and experienced the emotional highs and lows along with the characters. I think that many of the issues explored in "Ragtime" still exist today. That may have been what director Marcia Milgrom Dodge was hinting at with the sort of modern set.

I hope that audiences will get to experience the incredible score and story that is "Ragtime" for years to come—the lessons to be learned from the show, in my opinion, are vital. The show opens officially on Nov. 15 at the Neil Simon Theater.

## Comics



PHD COMICS BY JORGE CHAM

# Breathing East Perform at RockYoFaceCase

## SBU Band Spotlight

By SAMANTHA BURKARDT  
Staff Writer

It was the biggest audience the RockYoFaceCase series has seen thus far.

"This big of a crowd has never come at 9 p.m. for the first band," Patrice Zapiti, creator of the show, said. She was right. The room was packed.

Breathing East set the bar high on Monday for the rest of the bands that followed, Trashed on Fiction and SlothBear. They hadn't played a show since the summer and all they needed was a couple of practices and a sound check to get right back into it.

Nerves struck some of the members before the show, but once they started playing those emotions were lost and all you could hear was their perfection. Their blend of rock and alternative can capture anyone's attention and make them fans for a long time.

The crowd gathered around the stage and everyone who hadn't heard of them before started dancing and cheering. The audience moved to the beat of the drums played by Conor Harrigan. Will Stevens, bassist, brought about 20 groupies with him and they danced and cheered the whole time. Guitarist Mark Standish let his music do the talking when he was on stage and the audience certainly enjoyed it. AJ McIntyre's, lead singer and guitarist, vocal range went through the speakers and proved that every member



Samantha Burkardt / SB Statesman

Breathing East opened this Monday's RockYoFaceCase.

of Breathing East is incredibly talented.

Breathing East wasn't the only new thing added to RockYoFaceCase. The show also had more entertainment for its guests between sets with a buffalo wings eating competition and sprite pong in the back. The winner of these competitions got a free t-shirt and their picture put up at the bar.

The band also had an unexpected treat for the audience. They brought junior Suzie Koneschusky on stage to sing for their song "Bird Watching."

"She sang on our CD for us and

she's super talented, so we've got to get her up here," Stevens said to the crowd. Koneschusky had no idea she was going to be singing that night and sounded beautiful nonetheless.

Not only are their instrumentals phenomenal but their lyrics are deep and original.

"It's too hard to forget her, and too much to regret her, but enough to keep me patiently waiting and waiting for your body to whisper," McIntyre sang.

Their performance was only 30 minutes long, but left a lasting impression.

Audience members went up to the band afterwards to congratulate them and ask where they could find their music. The guys were tired and sweaty from rocking so hard and had nothing but smiles on their faces.

Their music is not posted yet, but they announced that by the end of the month something will be. Add them on Myspace at [myspace.com/breathingeast](http://myspace.com/breathingeast), and for Facebook, type in Breathing East in the search box.

Trashed on Fiction followed Breathing East, and they were good, but unfortunately couldn't keep all the members that Breathing East brought with them. Those who stayed danced to their music and liked their indie, alternative mix. Their sound is original and you can find them at [myspace.com/trashedonfiction](http://myspace.com/trashedonfiction).

They kept more of a crowd than the last band SlothBear. Individually the guys are talented, but when they mix their sound together, it's just confusing. One audience member said, "I have no idea what's going on," to her friend when she was watching them play on stage. Shouting into the mic, off pitch, and riffs that just don't fit together is what audience members were listening to. Check them out if you'd like at [myspace.com/slothbear](http://myspace.com/slothbear).

On Nov. 16 the show looks promising with a lineup of R'mon-E, Mania In Urbana and PUI. Support your Stony Brook bands! Come out to these shows!

## Video Games As Art and History

By R.J. HUNEKE  
Staff Writer

Video games are their own art, and one can study them from a variety of different perspectives aside from just the historical one.

Professor Guins rifled off the "narrative [perspective], the play, interactivity, reflections of societal issues, the sound and the design process" without even thinking about the question.

"How do we understand histories of technology? How do we understand the very process of making sense of cultural histories?" These are just two of the many questions posed in the classroom by Raiford Guins, the professor of the Video/Computer Game History and the Video Games Culture courses at Stony Brook University.

"Games are the newest form of popular culture that the university is now taking seriously," says Guins. Across the country, some of the most academically acclaimed universities, "such as N.Y.U., U.S.C. and Georgia Tech offer degrees in [video] games, or interactive media" and S.B.U., M.I.T. and the University Of Michigan all offer rigorous courses based on video games.

Stony Brook University is on the cutting edge of the study of one of the newest

media forms in existence. As Professor Guins says about Stony Brook's video game classes, "we have five, we have the two taught by myself, we have two taught in computer science...there is also a games course in technology in society...it's an important medium...I would anticipate more games courses in the future."

As a member of Professor Guins Video/Computer Game History class, I proudly mentioned the course title to friends, family and fellow students on campus, and there were many questions posed about the legitimacy of a course centered on games. The reactions witnessed were actually 50/50: half of those told about the class openly scoffed at it. The other half of the people exclaimed cries of pure joy as the words video game were mentioned, like Kurt Zisa a graduate student at NYIT who said, "they have a video games history class at Stony Brook?" Most of the students, however, failed to hear the History part at all.

Professor Guins addressed the legitimacy of studying video games academically by saying that, "legitimization...is always an issue with popular culture," and he elaborated on the tremendous surge in the study of film media over the last couple of decades saying, "there is a hierarchy" and for a while television classes were not taken seriously despite the legitimate film

studies programs that provided them.

Video games are quickly earning the respect of the academic world, however, as the impact that games have had on popular culture and society cannot be denied, for they are seen everywhere (just look at what lies hidden in every cell phone's memory).

This puts a level of importance on the study of the history of video games, as many of the original games, systems, computers and yes, even arcades, have become extinct within a few short decades. Preservation of video game artifacts seems to have been overlooked, and Professor Guins is one of many who are now scrambling to preserve whatever knowledge and physical history can be salvaged, studied and taught.

Despite the relative newness of video gaming, the history course depicts ties that easily date back as far as claw machines in the 1800's. Nearly every household in the United States has some form of video game device, or at least has had children that were raised in part, by playing video games somewhere.

The Video Game History Class at Stony Brook University is a submersion into the process of historiography. This article will be the first in a multiple part series in "The Statesman" devoted to the news of Video Game History and Video Game Culture aptly providing innovative learning at



R.J. Huneke / SB Statesman

Video games and consoles from the 1970s to the early 1990s.

Stony Brook University on a truly versatile and culturally significant subject.

Raiford Guins is an Assistant Professor of Digital Cultural Studies at Stony Brook University, and a member of the Consortium for Digital Arts, Culture & Technology, and a founding Principal Editor with the Journal of Visual Culture (Sage). He is currently preparing to open a Video Game Archive at Stony Brook University, where students will have access to game consoles from the 1970s - early 1990s for research and academic purposes.

It's our pleasure to present the first column in the Statesman's new *SBstance* feature. Enjoy, and Happy Veterans' Day.

## *SBstance*: Courage and Constancy

BY LAUREN MALONEY  
Contributing Writer

Long before I begin nursing my morning coffee, I pause at my dresser and reach down to pick up a small golden pin emblazoned with the American flag. Rolling it between my fingers, the grooves for each of the stripes and the pinpoint for all the stars are a familiar braille against my skin. The edges prick my fingertips as I squeeze the pin between my thumb and fingers, bringing myself into reality.

As I clasp the pin in my palm I say a silent prayer for Private Maloney and his comrades in Arms. I pray for his protection, for the same protection this flag grants me. I pray for his service, for my understanding of the magnitude his mission bears. Every morning, as I poke the backing through the left breast of my shirt, I pray to have the strength of my younger brother as I face a new day with him in my thoughts.

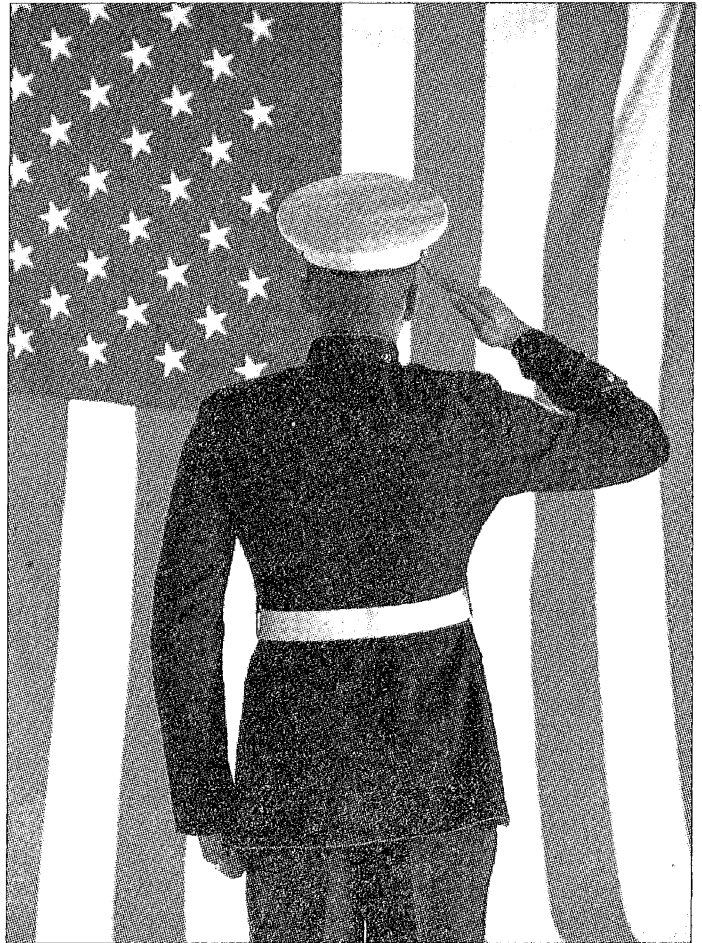
Coming to accept Bry's enlistment in the United States Army is a daily struggle. I am overwhelmed by both my pride in him, and by my constant fear of losing him to a destiny greater than my own. After he left for Basic Training, I searched for a way to cope with my emotions. I needed something tangible that would

unify my love and support of him.

I visited the Army Navy store where, as a child, Bry had spent his summer afternoons searching for Army patches, vests, helmets, and canteens. Tucked away in the back corner of the store was a case of pins arranged in a flurry of colors and crests. My eyes came to focus on the pin I now wear. Frozen in time, the flag's waving red, blue, and white enamels piece together my passion, tears, and thoughts of Bry. Watching the pin's gold outline catch a beam of light and sparkle as if in Bry's eyes made me understand his love for our country. I understand that my freedom is a privilege he gives me every day. I understand the courage he has to walk into the greatest dangers to defend our flag. I understand the cost of wearing those stars and stripes.

As I prepare myself for Bry's deployment overseas, I feel an unbreakable bond with him and all those who share a loved one with our country. My heart swells with respect for the duty Bryan has accepted as I wear the symbol of the life, liberty, and happiness which defines his character and spirit.

I believe in wearing my flag pin. By wearing my pin every day I have found a coping ritual that holds me together as I wrestle with my love and fear for him.



Media Credit: www.oregoncommentator.com

## Election 2009: A Declaration from Independents

BY ZEBBA AHMAD  
Opinion Editor

Last week's voter turnout was low both on campus, with 1.6 percent of Stony Brook's registered voters participating in the election, and off-campus. To some extent, voting during a period of national transition is tiresome even for those who follow local politics. We know there are no "quick fixes" regardless of which party is in power.

Last October, the political environment was defined by the divide between Democrats and Republicans. Unlike most other years, however, this oversimplification of policy and plan that most candidates rely on only to garner votes lasted long after the election. Perhaps because of this, both voters and candidates seemed a little less eager to jump to party lines.

Though it's unwise to make sweeping generalizations about the future or even the zeitgeist based on subjective interpretations of the results, we can use them to take a perfunctory temperature of the people who did choose to vote.

Per the results from New Jersey and New York, experience seemed to matter just as much as recognizability this time around. President Obama's endorsements didn't seem to affect voters, and individuals seemed to be selected over image. Fewer caricatures from either side of the political spectrum ran this semester, and

none were selected.

Several significant differences between this election and the last are another lens through which to analyze the results. With less at stake than in the last election, victors were likely to be chosen for leadership changes. Americans who voted for Obama were from across the spectrum; some were seeking just to replace the tradition of the previous administration, despite how they felt about Obama himself. There was less of a dramatic shift, so many of the choices were personal.

Last year's election also had an effect on this year's. Obama's transparency can add to our faith in our own power just as it convinces us of the opposite. Being more privy to our health care, economic, and foreign policy upheavals lends a sense of immediacy to our votes, but realizing how invasive and extensive those upheavals are lends to a sense of powerlessness. The last distinction is between image and reality: this time around, no one promised that simply voting for one person would solve all our problems. Even while running, candidates focused more on specific plans than their own images.

Different people have interpreted the results as per party, as per issue, and as per race, experience or gender, but as with all statistics, interpretation is key.

The cross-party voting has been analyzed up and down for meaning, but it's possible voters are demonstrating how

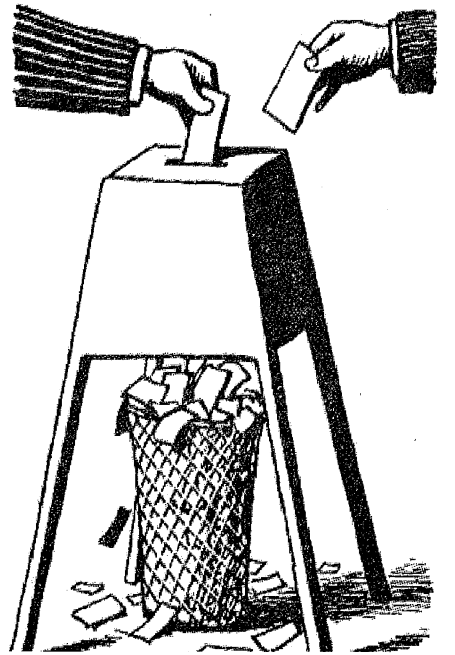
immature and unrepresentative the distinctions are. David Brooks mentioned in *The New York Times* that are more independents than republicans or democrats, and that those independents are right leaning. If Obama's greatest lesson was that we should vote, then this election's lesson is that voting independent is not "throwing your vote away."

We can't attribute their losses to many candidates' refusal to take a hard line, the decision to cross party lines, or in some cases, their resolutions to ignore the line. Blaming bad government on the republicans in power pushes us towards choosing democrats, and being disappointed in the democrats in power convinces us to vote Republican again.

Nate Silver finds no significant correlation between the results of gubernatorial and presidential voting records, even during the same election. As voters, we aren't just seeking to accessorize the Obama model. The fact that we recently had such a significant presidential election doesn't confirm the significance of this one. It may be that democrats are better for the vague, ideological higher positions and republicans better suited for the smaller ones. Local government policy is more about plans than ideologies, and so it follows that we choose a different tool for a different job. In the past, republicans have won when focusing on primary issues and presenting clear plans of action.

Even though what's going on in a state level is independent from what's going on nationally, Obama's progress reflects what voters expect from all democrats. Much of his policy was reflected in that of democratic candidates, and they voted against it.

What does this leaning mean for the upcoming midterm elections? If democrats fail to regain the independent and center vote, republicans will be at an advantage.



Media Credit: www.thereheis.com



# Women's Cross Country = DYNASTY



Photo Credit: goseawolves.org



Photo Credit: goseawolves.org

The women's cross country team has worked hard all season, and is now proving that the hard work pays off.

BY SARAH KAZADI  
Sports Editor

All collegiate athletic teams have the goals of winning a conference championship and, eventually, an NCAA championship high on their lists. These achievements validate the long hours, tough practices, and memorable games that go into accomplishing them.

The championship, however is only given to one team each year, forcing the short comers to go back to the drawing board and do better next season.

The Stony Brook University Women's

Cross Country has not experienced that bitter feeling since 2006. The team won its third consecutive America East Conference title on Saturday in Vermont, standing head and shoulders above the competition and cementing its name in the school's athletic history.

"I'm certainly pleased for our women's team to win its third straight championship," said Coach Andy Ronan.

Juniors Holly Van Dalen and Lucy Van Dalen (Wanganui, New Zealand) set the tone for the team, finishing second and third respectively. With Holly completing in 18:05.80 and Lucy in 18:20.80, the twin

sisters both finished in the top five for the second straight year.

Of the top 20 runners to finish the 5-kilometer race, seven were from Stony Brook. Various Seawolves chipped in, finishing in the top-10 and helping the university secure its third straight title. Senior Laura Huet (Carrickmines, Ireland) came in fourth, with a time of 18:33.80, and senior Lisa Voltaire (Stockholm, Sweden) finished seventh in 18:48.70.

Some of the perks of winning three straight championships are the rewards that the feat comes with. The Seawolves coaching staff, under the leadership of

Ronan, was once again named America East women's staff of the year, the fifth consecutive year that it has received the honor. Also, four Seawolves find themselves on the All-Conference team, as the Van Dalen sisters, Huet, and Voltaire get the well-deserved recognition.

After getting the conference title under its belt, the team gets back on the course on Nov. 14. The ladies, representing the America East Conference, will head to Boston to battle against stiff competition in the 2009 NCAA Regional Championships, taking place at Franklin Park.

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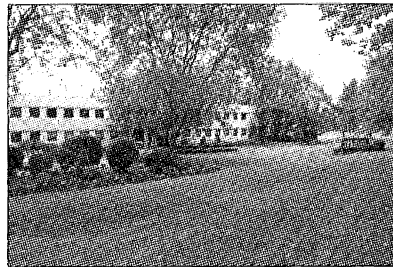
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## Seawolves Win On And Off The Field

By SARAH KAZADI  
Sports Editor

Representing Stony Brook University daily through sports forces Seawolves athletes to stay on their toes, whether the whistle is being blown or a midterm is looming. Many find it difficult to balance the stress of being both a student and an athlete, but a few have managed to do it well enough to gain recognition, not only from Stony Brook, but the America East Conference as a whole.

### Debbie Aller

A defender on the women's soccer team that reached the conference semifinals for the third straight year, Aller (Stony Brook) was recently named to the conference's All-Academic team. The anthropology and environmental studies major has made the Dean's List each of her four semesters at SBU, and has managed to keep a 3.57 grade point average as well. The junior is also involved in the university's Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities department, winning the department's "Researcher of the Month" award for September.



### Arin West

A safety on a Seawolves football team that is undefeated in conference play, West (Toms River, N.J.) was named Big South Conference Defensive Player of the Week for his stellar play in the team's defeat of Gardner-Webb on Saturday. Not only did he match a career high in tackles with 11, but the junior also recovered a fumble, transforming it to points by returning it 16 yards to the end zone. West forced another fumble and was a key contributor in disrupting the Gardner-Webb offense and limiting it to only six rushing yards in the third and fourth quarters combined.



### Leonardo Fernandes

Leading the men's soccer team with 6 goals and 14 points (combination of goals and assists) on the season, freshman midfielder Fernandes (North Babylon, N.Y.) recently received Rookie of the Week honors from the America East Conference. After kicking in the game-winning goal in the 1-0 win against Hartford last weekend and helping the Seawolves to a second seed in the conference tournament, the freshman is getting much deserved attention.



# Men's Soccer Playoff Preview



Sam Kilb / SB Statesman

In order to make a lengthy postseason run, the Seawolves will need freshman midfielder Leonardo Fernandes to continue his stellar play.

By SAM KILB  
Staff Writer

It has been a season of streaks for the Stony Brook men's soccer team.

After earning just one win over their first 12 matches, the Seawolves finished the regular season on a five-game unbeaten streak. The flood of points landed the team in second place, worthy of a first-round bye in the annual America East post-season tournament that determines the conference's representative in the NCAA national championship bracket.

The conference has been turned on its head over the course of a few weeks. At the start of conference play, both UMBC and Boston University were ranked in the top 25 teams in the nation. Now, they've earned the fifth and sixth seeds, respectively, in the six-team tournament.

New Hampshire holds the top seed, the only blemish on their record a 1-1 draw against Stony Brook. New Hampshire joins the Seawolves with a bye in the first round. The Wildcats await the winner of #4 Binghamton and #5 UMBC, while Stony Brook will play the winner of #3 Hartford and #6 Boston University.

Here's everything to know about the matchups ahead of the quarterfinals:

**#5 UMBC Retrievers at #4 Binghamton Bearcats, Scheduled for 7 p.m. on Nov. 7, Vestal, N.Y.**

It's been a roller coaster year for the Retrievers from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. UMBC was picked dead last in the preseason poll. Then the Retrievers came roaring out of the gate,

looking utterly unstoppable in September. This time last month, UMBC was ranked 25th in the nation, having won their first nine games of the season. Sophomore striker Andrew Bulls scored in each of those games, and finished the season as only the sixth player in Retrievers history to accumulate 40 points over the course of the season (15 goals, 10 assists).

Since then, the Retrievers' stock has plummeted faster than General Motors'. After that nine game streak, the Retrievers are 3-5 and finished the regular season in fifth place behind the similarly struggling Bearcats.

Binghamton has seen a more direct fall from grace. Preseason polls had the Bearcats pegged to finish second in the America East. But Binghamton finished with a conference record of 4-3-0, one point behind Stony Brook and Hartford and only good enough for a fourth place finish.

The last time these two met, the Retrievers headed back to Maryland with their tails between their legs, as Binghamton defeated UMBC 4-0. UMBC had started six freshman in that game due to injuries and suspensions. Binghamton leads the all-time series between the two, having gone 6-2-1, and it has been the Bearcats who eliminated the Retrievers in UMBC's last two playoff appearances.

The winner advances to play New Hampshire in the semifinal.

**#6 Boston University Terriers at #3 Hartford Hawks, Scheduled for 7 p.m. on Nov. 7, West Hartford, Conn.**

If anyone has fallen further than

UMBC and Binghamton, it is Boston. Picked to repeat as champions in the preseason poll, Boston spent much of September in the national top 25.

But after dismantling Stony Brook in its opening game of America East play, the Terriers lost four straight. Boston was only able to manage a playoff spot by defeating Vermont and Albany, the two teams that did not qualify for the playoffs, in the final games of the regular season.

Aaron O'Neal leads the Terriers with 11 goals and two assists. Michael Bustamante has recorded 2 goals and 10 assists on the season for Boston.

Hartford will make their eighth playoff appearance. The Hawks were picked to finish fifth in the league, but took advantage of the tight league to move up in the table, recording big victories against Boston, Binghamton, and UMBC. They finished even with Stony Brook on points, but Stony Brook won its final game of the season against Hartford, giving it the head-to-head advantage.

Hartford was led by Carlos Villa, who found the net 8 times and assisted on one goal over his 14 games played. Goalkeeper Nenad Cudic has four shutouts.

Both Boston and Hartford have added, in addition to this quarterfinal matchup, the Nov. 11 semifinal at Stony Brook to the calendars on their respective websites. Only Hartford has already scheduled ahead for the championship game as well.

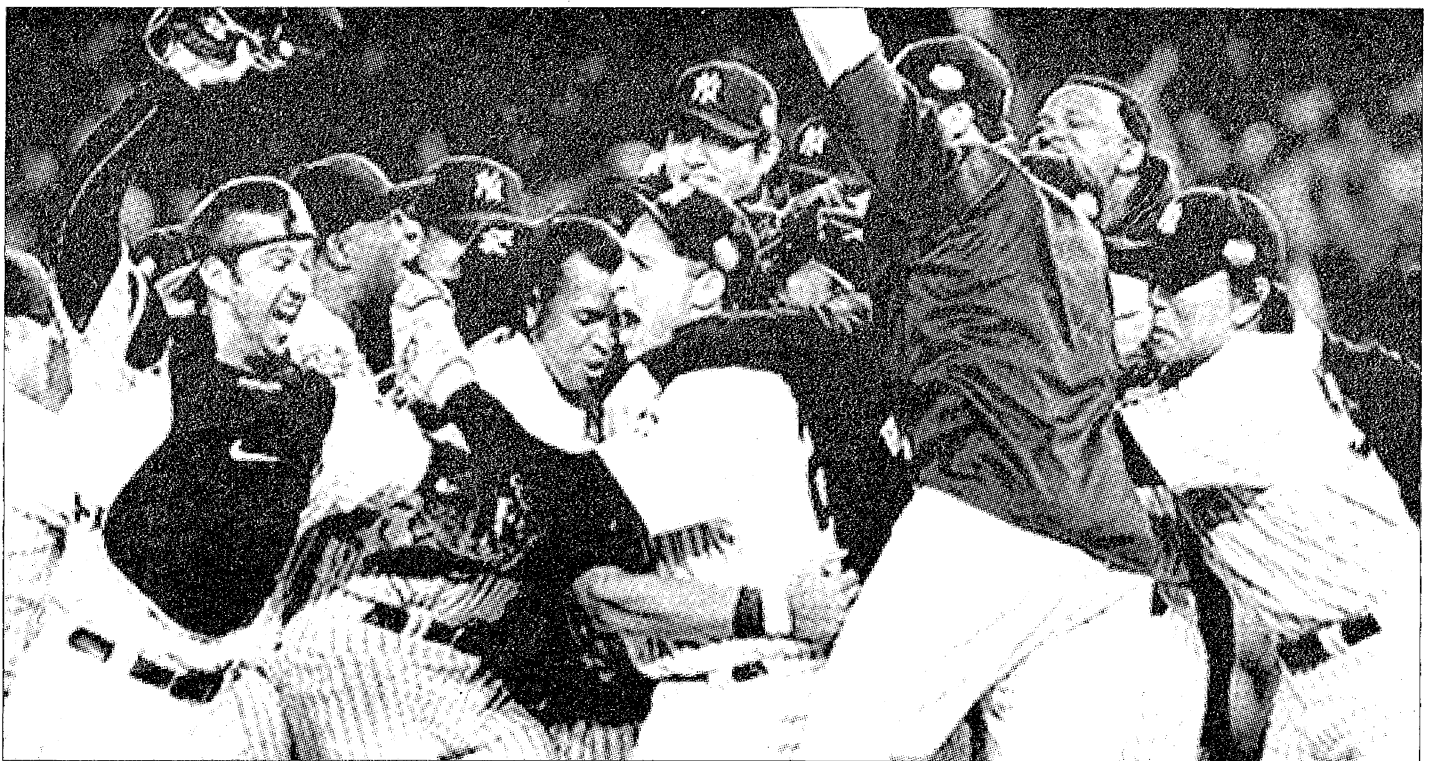
The Hawks collected all three points during the regular season meeting between the two, defeating Boston, 3-1.

The winner advances to take on the Seawolves on Nov. 11, a game that will be played at LaValle Stadium.

# STATESMAN SPORTS

## Back Where They Belong

### *Yanks Win 27th World Championship*



Nick Laham / Getty Images

The Yankees celebrate after securing their 27th World Series title in the Bronx Wednesday night.

BY JASON VAN HOVEN  
Contributing Writer

The team from the Bronx is used to this. This feeling—that of towering head and shoulders above the competition—is one they grew accustomed to, sometime between Championship number 1 and 26. On Nov. 4, after defeating the Philadelphia Phillies 7-3 in game 6, the New York Yankees once again stand as the best team in baseball.

This moment was a long time coming, and begs us to rewind.

Sunday, Nov. 4, 2001, was a day of historic implications for the two teams participating in the World Series. The 4-year old Arizona Diamondbacks were looking to become the fastest expansion team to win the Fall Classic. The experienced New York Yankees sought their fourth straight title since they recorded a four-peat from 1949 to 1953. It was the Bronx Bombers' core players—Jeter, Posada, Pettitte, and Rivera—alongside Chuck Knoblauch, Paul O'Neill, Alfonso Soriano, Tino Martinez, Mike Mussina and Roger Clemens that had its fans giddy with excitement. Another four-peat was not a far gone conclusion.

On the other hand, D-Back fans knew just how close they were from stunning the baseball

world. It would take a valiant effort to dethrone the kings in pinstripes, and, if one took a look at the Arizona roster, there were some rays of hope. Curt Schilling and Randy Johnson both had over 20 wins and earned run averages under three during the regular season. Luis Gonzalez, a fan favorite, had 57 regular-season home runs.

So, which team would capitalize on the momentum they had gained from winning the first two rounds of the playoffs? History said the Yankees would. Even when they were unexpectedly down 2-0, they came right back to win three on their home turf. The momentum was back in their favor but not for long. One game, a desperation sixth game, was all Arizona needed to get back into the thick of things and force a seventh one.

That would force Arizona manager Bob Brenly to start Schilling on three days' rest. The move backfired late into the game and, unconventionally, Brenly brought out Johnson, who had pitched well the previous night in game six. He took the mound in the top of the eighth with two outs to keep the Yankees, leading 2-1, at bay for the rest of the game. Once Johnson got out of the inning, Yankees skipper Joe Torre matched his opponent's move and

brought in closer Mariano Rivera in the bottom of the eighth for a two-inning save.

What was originally a blueprint for success was a recipe for disaster. Rivera had done the unthinkable: blown a save, the second of his postseason career. Although he blew one in 1997 in game four of the 1997 division series against the Cleveland Indians, he had saved 23 straight postseason games until 2001. Rivera cost the Yankees and allowed the Diamondbacks to defuse the Bombers.

From that point on, the Yankees have appeared in the World Series only once. In 2003, even with Aaron Boone's memorable walk-off, game seven home run against the Boston Red Sox in the ALCS, they could not surge ahead. The Yanks lost to the Florida Marlins in six games, losing at home for the first time since 1981.

They've also made some personnel changes. All the players mentioned earlier have either retired or joined another squad. However, the core four from the glory days still remains. Derek Jeter is not only the all-time hits leader among shortstops but also among all Yankees; Jorge Posada, alongside Yogi Berra, is the only Yankees catcher to hit 30 home runs in a season; Andy Pettitte

is the all-time postseason wins leader and series-clinching wins leader;

Mariano Rivera is the all-time regular season and postseason saves leader.

In 2004, the Yankees acquired Alex Rodríguez from the Texas Rangers, who switched from his natural shortstop position to third base to accommodate Derek Jeter. The 12-time all-star is tied for ninth with Mark McGwire in career, regular-season home runs. Other key players that have joined the team and are still on it include Johnny Damon, Robinson Cano and Hideki "Godzilla" Matsui.

Joe Torre, who managed the Yankees from 1996 to 2007, has moved on to manage the Los Angeles Dodgers. He left the team after refusing a contract that would reduce his base salary because of the Yankees' seven-year World Series title drought. Joe Girardi, a former Yankees catcher, has been manager ever since. In his first year as manager, the team missed the playoffs for the first time in 14 seasons.

Then the 2009 season rolled along. The Yankees shed about \$90 million from their payroll to acquire three big names: starting pitchers CC Sabathia and A.J. Burnett and first baseman Mark Teixeira. And, even though "The Boss" George Steinbrenner

handed control over to his son, Hal, money was still not an issue. The players' combined contractual salaries are just about \$424 million. New faces, new stadium, same fans.

After 162 games, the Yankees won a league best 103 and were the first team to clinch a playoff berth. Fans' worries about a season bust were put to rest. The Yankees finally had the dominant pitching and defense that they were missing in previous seasons to make a playoff run and take their place as baseball's champions once again.

They swept through the Minnesota Twins in the divisional round and beat the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, setting up a World Series matchup against the defending champions, the Phillies.

In the grand scheme of things, the Yankees played their cards right and hit the jackpot. They've overcome two slumps: getting to the World Series and winning it. A 7-3 final was the result of potent power and pitching, fueled by Hideki Matsui's WS record 6 RBIs and five and two third solid innings from Andy Pettitte.

For the first time in 5 years, the WS has reached 6 games, and for the first time in 7 years, the Yanks have reached the summit of baseball's treacherous mountain.