

THE STATESMAN

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Volume LVIII, Issue 21

Monday, March 2, 2015

sbstatesman.com



CHRISTOPHER CAMERON/THE STATESMAN

Students Sofya Pugach, left, and Ahmad Fordous, on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2014 at the third annual Bengalis Unite Mock Wedding. The ceremony aimed at giving Stony Brook University students a taste of Bengali wedding culture.

Cuomo launches campaign against campus assault

By Hanaa' Tameez
News Editor

In his latest effort to combat and prevent sexual assault on college campuses in New York, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced the new "Enough is Enough" campaign on Thursday, Feb. 25 "to push for the passage of the Governor's legislation combating sexual assault on college campuses," according to a press release.

"We must do more to address sexual assault and rape on college campuses, and this law will ensure that students at all colleges in the State are protected by the same uniform policies that SUNY adopted last year," Cuomo said. "New York must take a stand to combat the culture of sexual violence in higher education. New York should be a leader in the fight against sexual violence on college campuses."

According to the Governor's office, the effort is aimed at bringing the state's attention to the pending legislation, which would demand all public and private colleges and universities in New York to adopt an identical definition of consent; a policy to protect victims of a sexual abuse crime from being punished for a student code of conduct violation like underage alcohol consumption or drug use; and the Sexual Assault Victims' Bill of Rights, which would provide victims with his or her rights, a list of resources and steps for reporting the incident.

If a school does not comply with the policy after it is passed and codified in the state legislature, the school could risk losing the funding it receives from the state.

"Managing the work of 64 campuses to get this right and implement a consistent and uniform policy is really coming to fruition," SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher said at a cabinet meeting on Feb. 25 in Albany. "This will be an ongoing effort, lessons that must be enforced and most importantly requires a change in campus culture which is hard to measure but we know is absolutely necessary and of course we know that doesn't happen overnight."

"The 'Enough is Enough' slogan was generated because it seemed like an obvious tag

Stony Brook alumni elected into New York State Assembly

By Michaela Kilgallen
Staff Writer

Stony Brook graduates are making an impact in the New York State Assembly.

The recently-elected speaker of the Assembly, Carl Heastie, is a Stony Brook alum, along with three other Assembly members: Steve Englebright, Kimberly Jean-Pierre and Látoya Joyner.

Carl Heastie

Heastie became speaker of the Assembly after former Speaker Sheldon Silver was arrested on federal corruption charges.

A former budget analyst for the New York City Comptroller's Office, Heastie is New York's first African-American Assembly speaker.

At Stony Brook, Heastie earned a Bachelor of Science in applied mathematics and statistics in 1990. He later earned a Master of Business Administration in finance from the Bernard M. Baruch College in 2007.

In 2000, Heastie was first elected into the Assembly to represent the 83rd District of New York. He is a member of the Democratic Party.

His legislative record includes nine bills in three years, including actions to raise penalties for wage theft, increase minimum wage and add light green taxis for the outer boroughs of New York.

"I'm so very pleased that Carl Heastie is the new

speaker," Englebright said.

Steve Englebright

In 1974, Englebright received a Master of Science degree in paleontology/sedimentology from Stony Brook that helped his career in the Assembly.

"What we do everyday at the Assembly is try to solve problems, and that's what we did everyday at the State University of New York at Stony Brook," Englebright said.

Englebright is a member of the Democratic Party and represents the 4th Assembly District.

Towards beginning of his career, Englebright was elected into the Suffolk County Legislature in 1983 and the New York State Assembly in 1992.

In February, following the election of Heastie, Englebright was appointed chairman of the Environmental Conservation Committee.

During the 90s, Englebright authored New York's laws on solar and wind net-metering, a system where excess power from renewable energy generators is transferred onto the grid and the owners are compensated. In 2008, he pressed for the expansion of solar net-metering to include all utility customer classes.

"I've wrote and passed a number of laws that set the stage for the solar energy and wind energy, the renewable energy revolution that the state is now going through," Englebright said.

In the future, Englebright hopes to

address more environmental issues.

"I'm honored that Carl Heastie has appointed me to chair of the environmental conservation committee, and that committee will be a forum for taking on some of the major environmental challenges that we have at this time including a climate change strategy to deal will climate change is effecting our state," he said.

Kimberly Jean-Pierre

Assemblywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre was also excited for Heastie's latest accomplishment.

"It was not only an important time in the Assembly but also a historic moment in New York State's history as we elected the first black speaker which was truly remarkable," she said.

Jean-Pierre earned her Master's of

Science in public policy from Stony Brook in 2007.

She has represented the 11th Assembly District since 2014, and she is a member of the Democratic Party.

"With just two months in office, I have met with various groups on education to issues concerning quality of life," she said.

Before Jean-Pierre was elected into the New York State Assembly, she was a legislative aid for DuWayne Gregory of the Suffolk County Legislature. After two years working as an aid, she moved on to being a community outreach coordinator for U.S. Rep. Steve Israel.

In 2013, Jean-Pierre became vice president of properties at the Town of Babylon's Industrial Development

Continued on page 5



PHOTO CREDIT: STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
SBU President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., center, with alumni, Joyner, Heastie, Englebright, and Jean-Pierre, left to right.

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Chain stores targeted in herbal brand test

Attorney General orders supplements off shelves.
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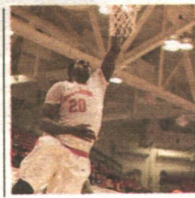
Arts & Entertainment Black History Month comes to a close

Looking at the evolution of the black experience.
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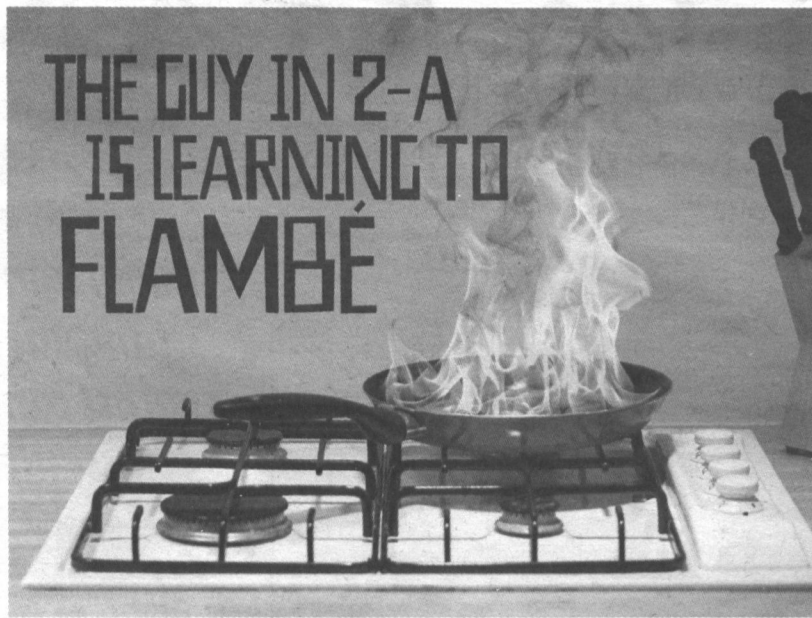
Opinions Asking more than what they are wearing

Why the #askhermore movement is a welcome sight.
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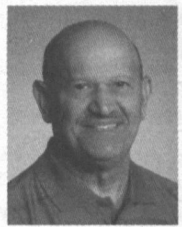
Sports Men's basketball wins home finale

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Senior VP of Administration Barbara Chernow leaving Stony Brook

By Kelly Saberi
Contributing Writer

After 16 years at Stony Brook University, Senior Vice President for Administration Barbara Chernow will return to her alma mater, Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, as its executive vice president for finance and administration.

"What's challenging is that we are delivering a service 24/7, whether it's police services, fire marshal services, or the bursar, human resources, construction, busing—making sure that the more than 10,000 students that live on campus are getting the services they need and want is a full time job," Chernow said about her various responsibilities.

In 1998, Chernow took on her first position in higher education by becoming Stony Brook's Assistant Vice President for Entrepreneurial Programs. Under this title, she worked on fundraising galas and developed summer camps for local kids and teenagers, both academic and recreational, to give students an opportunity to acclimate to college. These camps not only give local youth a summer activity, but also employ students from the university.

Before becoming Senior Vice President for Administration, she worked as Assistant Vice President for Facilities and Services in 2003. She was promoted to Vice president for Facilities, Services, and Special Initiatives in 2006. From 2007 to 2013, she was president of the Faculty Student Association.

After being appointed to the

position of Senior Vice President for Administration in 2012, President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. appointed Chernow to be the brain behind "Project 50 Forward," an initiative that works to improve all facets of the university, and consists of three separate branches: operational excellence, building for the future, and academic greatness.

"I am grateful for her assiduous efforts toward making Stony Brook University the outstanding facility it is, and helping us to move forward in many important areas," Stanley said in a statement to the Stony Brook faculty and staff.

Chernow works with focus groups made up of students, faculty, and staff to help drive Project 50 Forward into the next few decades.

"Figuring out the best way to do it—not for them, with them—and that's the fun part, working with students, faculty, and staff," Chernow said about enhancing the school. She also said that without the voices of the students and faculty, it would not be possible to foster a united university.

One of the accomplishments that Chernow said she is most satisfied with is the decrease in crime on campus. Compared to 2007, the crime rate has gone down by 87 percent.

"We have a reduction in crime while promoting a culture of reporting, encouraging students for counseling issues or whatever's bothering them, and to report," Chernow said.

Working with the Faculty Student Association, she made

changes to the dining experience to give students what they desired. When students craved more diverse food, her team introduced Jasmine in the Charles B. Wang Center. When students sought faster options, they had food trucks come to campus.

Chernow also worked to lower the university's impact on the environment. In 2006, the university saved more than \$34 million by tweaking things like light sensors and thermostat regulations, according to Stanley's statement.

With 500,000 square feet added to the campus in the last four years, energy consumption has actually decreased. Chernow also oversaw the expansion of the energy-saving initiatives such as Wolf Ride Bike Share, biodiesel-fueled buses, vehicle-charging stations and solar powered parking meters—just a few ways in which the university decreases pollution.

Even as Chernow packs up, her papers will be contributed to the "RecycleMania" effort on campus, as indicated by the massive recycling bin in her office. The university won the national competition for recycling the most e-waste in both 2013 and 2014.

Stony Brook recently made the Princeton Review's Green Honor Roll, putting the university among the ranks of Harvard, Stanford, Cornell and Columbia. SBU was one of 24 schools that achieved a perfect score out of the 861 schools total. Additionally, Stony Brook received Tree Campus USA recognition in 2014.

Building for the future is executed through the Facilities



PHOTO CREDIT: STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

Besides leading "Project 50 Forward," Chernow has been behind some key dining and environmental changes.

Master Plan. Chernow oversaw the development of an extensive list of facilities, such as the Island Federal Credit Union Arena, the Simons Center, Joe Nathan Field, the Dubin Family Center, the Walter J. Hawrys Campus Recreation Center, West Side Dining, Nobel Halls, Frey Hall and West Apartments.

In 2013, Chernow also pledged \$25,000 to introduce the Carol Chernow Memorial

Scholarship for journalism students on behalf of her mother, an advocate for improved language and writing skills.

Chernow has a passion for working with other people and will miss the people she had the pleasure of working with.

"I feel incredibly fortunate. I've had a great run here and it's really because of the great staff and I'm really proud of them," Chernow said.

SBU professor commends Attorney General's crack down on herbal supplements

By Rachel Siford
Staff Writer

The New York State Attorney General delivered a cease and desist letter last month to GNC, Wal-Mart, Target and Walgreens because store brands of herbal supplements did not contain the ingredients stated on the labels.

Tests show the products did not contain any of the herbs they said they did. Instead of medicinal herbs, they are said to have fillers like houseplants, powdered rice and asparagus.

The Food and Drug Administration has had little control over the supplement industry. The Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 exempts supplements from the FDA's approval process for prescription drugs since they are considered foods, not drugs.

Dr. Arthur Grollman, director of Zickler Laboratory of Chemical Biology at Stony Brook University School of Medicine, is considered an expert on the topic and was asked to comment.

"This study undertaken by Attorney General Schneiderman's office is a well-controlled, scientifically-based documentation of the outrageous degree of adulteration in the herbal supplement industry," Grollman said in the Attorney General's Feb. 3 press release.

Grollman has not done re-

search on this specific case, but has testified in the past to get Ephedra, a supplement that was linked to health issues and deaths, off the shelf.

"It took the FDA 10 years to get Ephedra off the shelf, but it took 3 days for the Attorney General to take these supplements off," Grollman said.

Since there is no approval process, it is very easy for potentially

dangerous supplements to reach the market and the FDA has an extremely limited control over supplements, Grollman said.

"There have been no penalties against these [herbal supplement] companies, which has allowed these type of things to happen," Grollman said.

Grollman has been a critic of the industry for some time now.

"I applaud the New York At-

torney General for taking the additional step of seeking to remove these products from the marketplace," Grollman said in the Attorney General's statement, "as they can cause serious harm to consumers unaware of the actual ingredients in the pills and capsules they ingest."

Since the cease and desist letters three weeks ago, the Attorney General announced that he would

be targeting the manufactures of these products. He is ordering manufacturers to report the process of creating their herbal supplements by March 13.

Schneiderman wrote a letter to four manufacturers, including NBTY, Inc., which is located in Ronkonkoma and produces Sundown Naturals, Nature's Bounty, Vitamin World and other brands.

"The scientific community, public health officials, and others have raised serious doubt about the steps taken to ensure the safety and efficacy of the herbal dietary supplements taken daily by millions of Americans," Schneiderman said in his letter.

Schneiderman also wrote that the New York Attorney General office will be conducting a broader investigation to see how retailers are going about representing and advertising their herbal supplements.

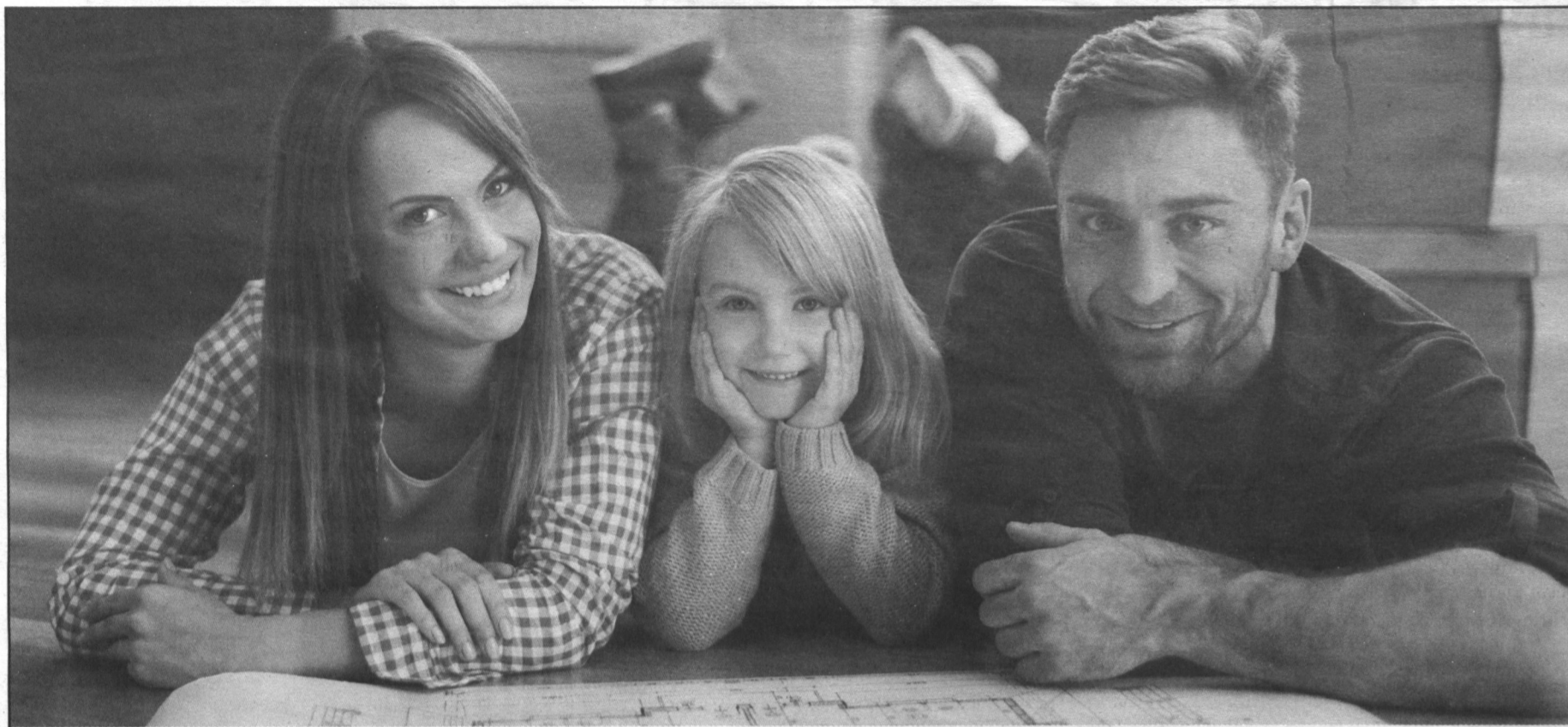
The current test used involves DNA, which allows scientists to identify plants and animals by looking for short strands of DNA and then comparing them to a national database. Some critics to this method say the companies use extracts of a plant's active ingredients that may not show up in a DNA test.

"This is going to be the most revealing part of this case," Grollman said about the mandatory reports on manufacturing.



CHRISTOPHER CAMERON/THE STATESMAN

Popular chains like Target were targeted because of faulty store brands of herbal supplements. Brands were pulled from shelves for not correctly listing ingredients.



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Campus briefing: Lacrosse budget fails

By Hanaa' Tameez
News Editor

A motion to move the Stony Brook University men's club lacrosse team to line budget status failed by a vote of 11-8-0 during the Undergraduate Student Government senate meeting on Thursday, Feb. 26.

Because the club was on line-budget status last year and was removed, its members asked to be reinstated from Special Services Council budget status at the second-to-last SSC Committee meeting, according to Treasurer Kathryn Michaud. When the committee denied this, the team brought the issue to the senate on Thursday.

Several concerns regarding the club were brought to the senate's attention, including outstanding balances which were due last spring. Additionally, the team only spent \$150 of its \$799.98 budget and failed to host an on-campus event in the fall semester.

The Veteran Students Organization, the Stony Brook chapter of Student Veterans of America, asked for a \$555 budget for when they host Veterans Awareness Week in the middle of April. Over the course of four days, the club would host a movie night, a veteran panel, a charity drive and a social. Vice President Dan Pilo said all of the events would be geared towards bringing together the campus community with its veterans.

"In case you haven't noticed, we're all fairly older than you guys. We have a different perspective on things," Pilo said to the senate. "By having those conversations and seeing those different points of view, we can open up a much bigger dialogue."

According to Senator Taylor Bouraad, VSO originally asked for a budget of \$800, but the SSC Committee had cut it down to \$555 at the committee meeting on Monday. Bouraad said that while the money the club was asking for was mainly for food, the committee made cuts in order to accommodate other SSC clubs during the semester. VSO had also asked for part of the \$800 to be spent on awards. However, as per the SSC bylaws, SSC-funded clubs cannot be granted money for awards.

The motion to approve VSO's

budget passed by a vote of 19-0-0.

The senate also passed the Appropriations Act 3, which would allow for the transfer of unspent money from Special Services Council-funded clubs to be put back into the SSC budget to be given out to other clubs during the semester.

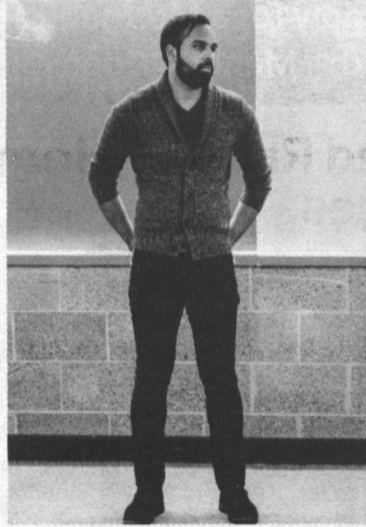
In President Garry Lachhar's absence, Executive Vice President James Alrassi stepped down to present the SUNY Assembly Spring Conference roster to the senate. The conference, which takes place once a semester, will be hosted in Binghamton from April 10 to 12.

Alrassi said that 16 members of USG, including Executive Council members, senators and agency members, had sent in nominations to attend. Of the 14 who were selected, only seven will be able to attend the workshops during the conference.

Alrassi explained that Vice President of Academic Affairs Steven Adelson and Director of Events Management Tyrik Jiang's nominations were not accepted due to prior circumstances.

When Lachhar arrived later, he said he would still accept nominations. The senate voted to table the vote so that those who were not approved or had not submitted a nomination yet could present their cases to the senate at a later date.

The senate tabled the votes on the Club Table Tennis' SSC budget and the Pre-Occupational Therapy Club's SSC budget because representatives from both clubs did not attend the meeting.



MANJU SHIVACHARAN/THE STATESMAN
President Garry Lachhar explains the conference roster.

Four Stony Brook graduates now in New York state Assembly

Continued from page 1

Agency. With the IDA, Jean-Pierre worked alongside the Babylon community to coordinate resources for residents.

"I never thought of running," Jean-Pierre said. "I enjoy being the hands-on employee but also understand that we need leadership that understands the concerns and the needs of the district."

Jean-Pierre currently sits on the Economic Development Committee, Mental Health Committee, Local Government Committee, Transportation Committee and Banks Committee. She is also part of the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus.

Latoya Joyner

Assemblywoman Latoya Joyner graduated from Stony Brook with honors and a bachelor's degree in political science and sociology. She also participated in Stony Brook's Educa-

tional Opportunity Program.

Joyner is a member of the Democratic Party and represents the 77th Assembly District. She was first elected into office in 2014.

Joyner interned with the office of then-state Assemblywoman Aurelia Greene and was eventually promoted to community liaison in Greene's district office.

After Joyner's internship she went on to attend the University of Buffalo Law School. Joyner interned with the New York State Division of Human Rights in the Bronx during her time at Buffalo.

Prior to being elected into the Assembly, Joyner served as a court attorney for a New York City Civil Court judge.

Joyner currently serves on the Aging, Consumer Affairs and Protection, Housing, Insurance and Social Services Committees.

Most recently Joyner introduced legislation that will work to end income-based tenant discrimination in New York.

Police Blotter

On Feb. 18, a resident assistant reported a marijuana smell coming from an O'Neill College dorm room. One student was issued a referral.

On Feb. 19, a resident assistant reported marijuana use in a Benedict College dorm room. Police responded and found no marijuana use within that room.

On Feb. 19, a resident assistant called University Police and reported the smell of marijuana coming from a Yang Hall suite. Nine students were issued referrals.

On Feb. 20, a complainant stated she heard a man and woman in a verbal altercation inside a Stimson College room. The woman inside was crying, and police arrested the male for criminal mischief.

On Feb. 21, a cell phone was reported stolen from the University

Hospital. Police have not yet been able to recover the reportedly stolen phone.

On Feb. 21, a car was stopped inside of the Long Island Rail Road parking lot. The individual stopped was under the influence of alcohol. The suspect blew a blood alcohol level of 0.16 on a Breathalyzer, twice the legal limit to operate a vehicle. The suspect was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated.

On Feb. 22, a University Hospital bathroom stall was damaged. The criminal mischief case is now closed.

On Feb. 22, a University Hospital patient was punched in the face by another patient. The suspect was arrested and charged with misdemeanor assault.

On Feb. 22, a desk was reported to be damaged in Irving College. The criminal mischief case is closed.

On Feb. 23, two Light Engineering computers were damaged with coffee. The criminal mischief case is still open.

On Feb. 23, a University Hospital patient spit at an officer. The officer declined to press charges, and the case is now closed.

On Feb. 23, a gun was found to be in possession of a University Hospital dementia patient. The patient was taken into police custody but did not face any criminal charges.

On Feb. 23, marijuana use was reported in a Hand College suite. One student was issued a referral.

Compiled by Daniel Moloney

Governor Cuomo launches "Enough is Enough" campaign to combat sexual assault on campuses

Continued from page 1

to go with the campaign and would show that in New York, enough is enough when it comes to sexual assaults on our college campuses," a spokeswoman from the Governor's office said in an email.

To further promote the new effort, Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul will visit colleges and universities around the state and meet with students, faculty, administration, service providers and advocates for survivors of rape and sexual assault, according to a press release.

In conjunction with the "Enough is Enough" campaign, New York State Police Superintendent Joseph D'Amico also announced a new hotline specifically dedicated to reporting sexual assault cases on college and university campuses.

"The hotline is run directly by the State Police, which will have dedicated members on-call 24/7 to answer and respond to calls," the Governor's spokeswoman said. "If a sex assault incident is reported to the State Police, state troopers will be responsible for handling and investigating it."

Stony Brook University Chief of Police and Assistant Vice President for Campus Safety Robert J. Lenahan said that although University Police has not received any "additional guidance" from SUNY in regards to the "Enough is Enough" campaign, he said New York State Police is still working on developing the protocols and training courses mentioned.

"I would say that as a general rule, additional methods for individuals to report they were a victim of sexual violence would be beneficial," Lenahan said.

The new campaign comes out as Stony Brook University faces a lawsuit filed by an

alumna on Jan. 23, 2015 for "deliberate indifference," in reference to the manner in which the university allegedly handled her sexual assault case.

On July 23, 2014, the United States Department of Education Office of Civil Rights opened an investigation into Stony Brook to look into possible violations of Title IX, a federal clause prohibiting discrimination based on sex at any federally-funded educational institution. The department ended its investigation of Binghamton University after announcing the investigation in May.

On Friday, Feb. 26, 2015 Vice President of Student Affairs Peter Baigent wrote an op-ed in The Journal News titled "In reply: Stony Brook respects Title IX," in which he described the hearing procedures in sexual assault cases. Baigent also said the university is unable to comment on the ongoing lawsuit as it would violate federal privacy laws that prohibit disclosure of student information.

"In accordance with federal policy related to Title IX cases, Stony Brook's process enables complainants to determine the level to which they participate in

the hearing," Baigent said. "They may choose to confront their alleged assailant (although neither party may directly question the other) or have a university representative present the case on their behalf. It is the complainants' choice to participate as much in the proceeding as they feel comfortable. Regardless of their initial choice they can change their mind at any time."

According to the Judicial Process Flow Chart on the University Office of Community Standards website, "The respondent(s), then the presiding University Official or hearing board members, may question the complainant regarding the opening statement and evidence." It also says "The complainant(s) then the presiding University Official or hearing board members may question the opening statement."

When asked for clarification on the matter, Director of Title IX and Risk Management Marjolie Leonard and Director of Office of University Community Standards Matty Orlich were not available for comment.

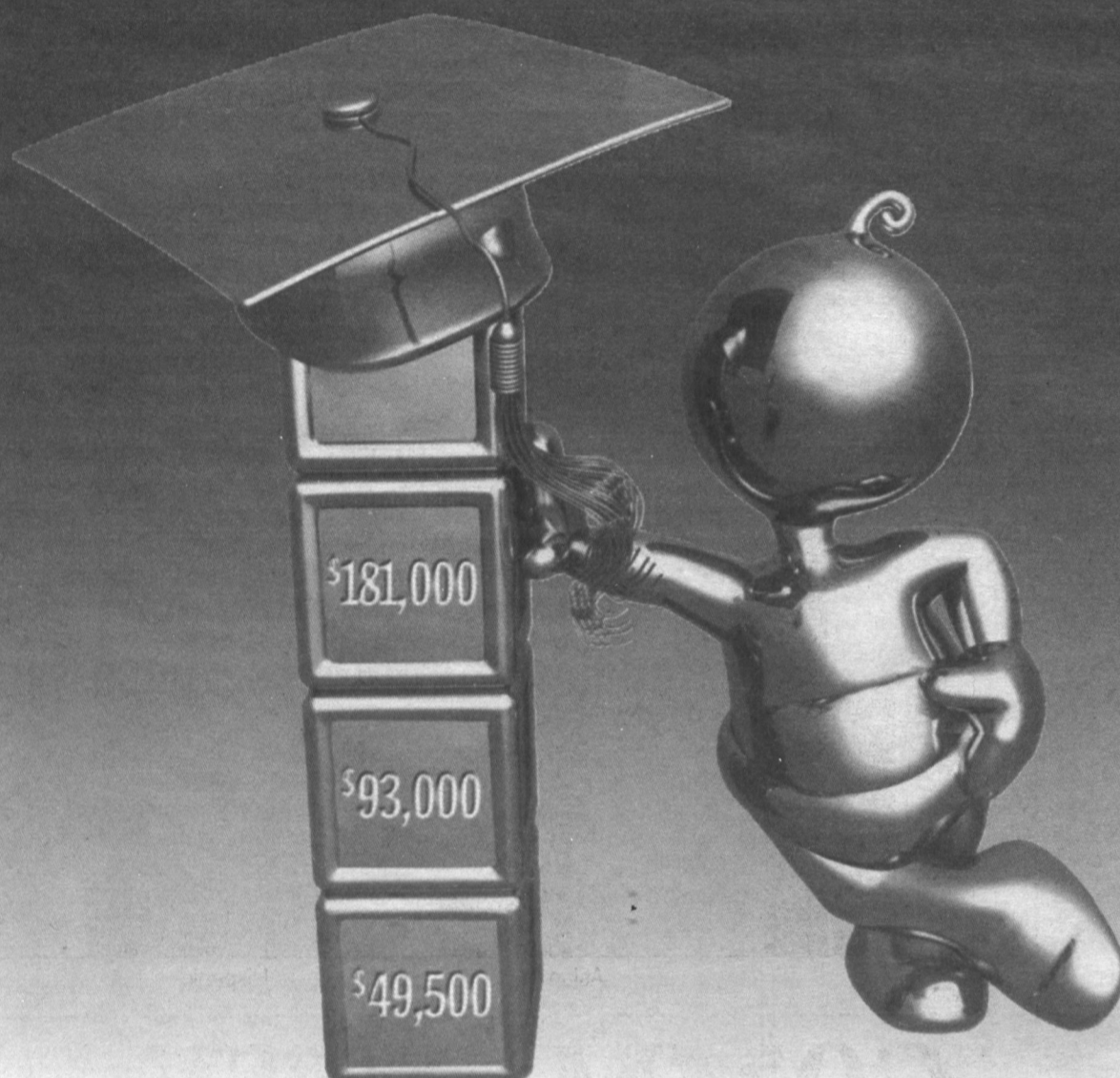
The Governor's office said that at this time, there are no plans to revise campus judiciary proceedings and protocols.



PHOTO CREDIT: GOVERNOR'S PRESS OFFICE

Cuomo's "Enough is Enough" campaign plans on unifying New York state universities in combating sexual violence.

Building blocks of Time Well Spent



According to a Forbes Magazine* article on what various college alumni earn, the median salaries that a Stony Brook University alum (with undergraduate degrees) earn:

- (\$49,500) for starting graduates, and
- (\$93,000) for mid-career alum, and
- (\$181,000) for the top ten percent of Stony Brook graduates.

Overall, Stony Brook University grads ranked a venerable #18 in the public college category ranking, while the top ten percent of SBU alum surpassed 10 of the top 20 public colleges!

While you are developing your career assets to realize your potential as an SBU grad, to help you through the leaner years, Campus Dining student jobs feature the **Excellerated Pay Program** which offers numerous ways to fatten your wallet:

- up to six pay increases a year
- end-of-semester bonuses
- automatic return-to-work base pay increases
- time and a half for each hour worked during finals
- early return bonus and early return paid housing
- referral and incentive bonuses

In addition, there are various other building blocks to help you stack up such as progressive learning and promotional opportunities, and expanding your network of contacts to help fatten your resume – now, and in the future.

Bridge the Gap

*FORBES JULY 30, 2008 EDITION
BASED ON STUDY BY PAYSACLE.COM

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AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY

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DATA ANALYSIS

Stony Brook more diverse than other SUNY schools, but less than New York State

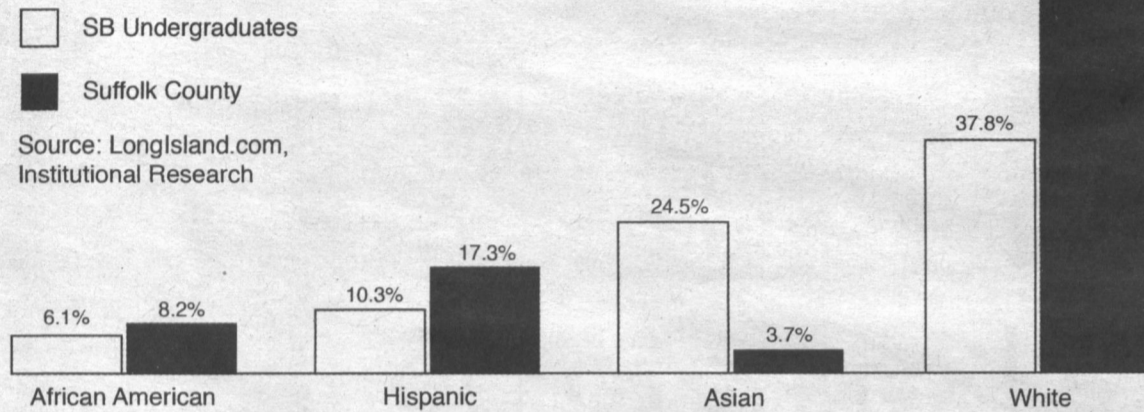
By Adam Pollack
Web & Graphics Staff

Stony Brook University has a more diverse undergraduate population than SUNY Buffalo, SUNY Binghamton and the total SUNY undergraduate student population, according to SUNY Common Data Sets. The least represented races on SUNY campuses are African Americans and Hispanics, each making up 10.1 percent of the total SUNY undergraduate population. In comparison, African Americans and Hispanics represent 17.5 percent and 18.2 percent, respectively, of the population of New York State, according to the 2012 Census.

As a percentage of total population, Stony Brook has a much larger Asian population than Suffolk County. Suffolk County's white population is nearly twice as large as the University's as a percentage of total population.

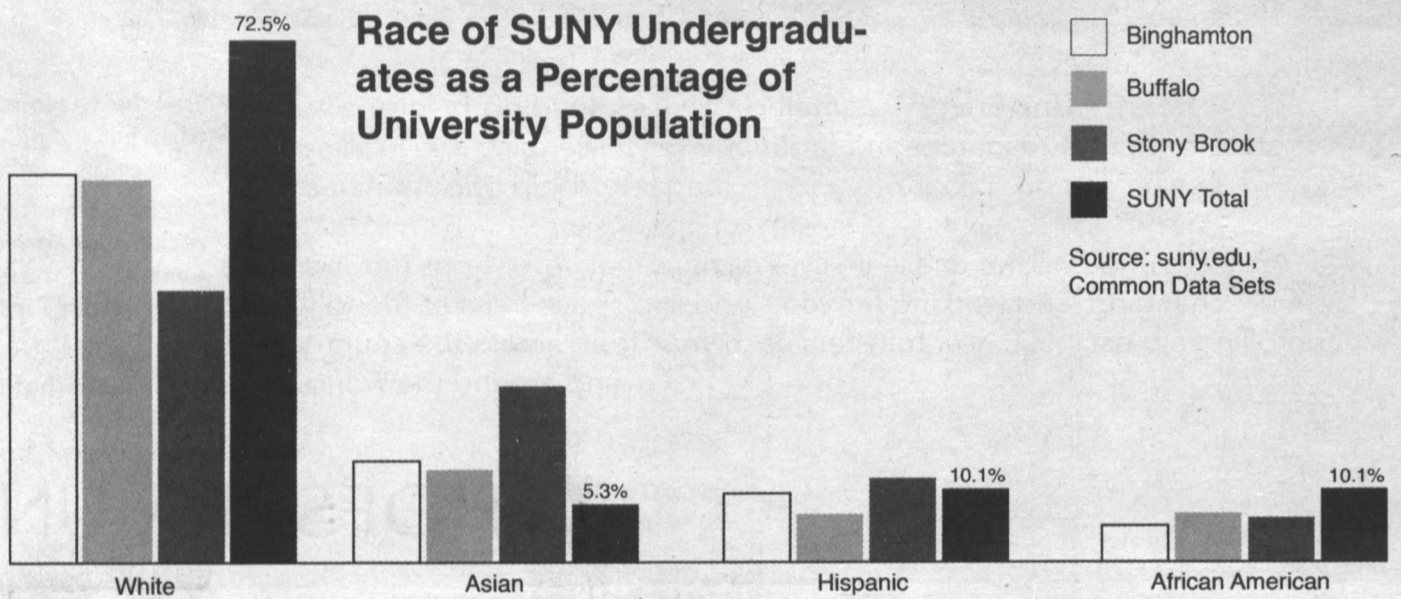
Nationally, the racial gap in high school graduates who attend college has narrowed. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 70 percent of white students continue on to college, compared to 65 percent of black students. Black students are still less likely to graduate with a degree. According to Department of Education data, of students who entered college in 2005, 62 percent of whites graduated with degrees in six years versus 40 percent of blacks and 51 percent of Hispanics.

Racial Makeup of Stony Brook University and Suffolk County as Percentages of Total Population



Source: LongIsland.com, Institutional Research

Race of SUNY Undergraduates as a Percentage of University Population



Source: suny.edu, Common Data Sets

COMMUNITY

Community Calendar

Featured

This Could be Your Club's Event!

Monday, March 2
Union Rm. 057

Contact advertise@sbstatesman.com to learn about featuring your event in the Community Calendar.

Monday

Royal Monuments in the Spanish Hapsburg Dominions
2:30 p.m. | Melville Library E4340

Tuesday

Family Orchestra Concert
7:30 p.m. | Staller Center

Wednesday

Theater of War: A Dramatic Reading from Sophocles' Ajax
3 p.m. | SAC

Thursday

Department of Theatre Arts Presents "Bike America"
8 p.m. | Staller Center

Friday

Healthcare and Human Services Job and Internship Fair
12-3 p.m. | SAC Ballrooms

Send your event to: calendar@sbstatesman.com. Titles must be less than 100 characters.



Weekly Instagram



@sbstatesman

The scene at Snowy Brook. #sbu #snow (@meggles5911 / THE STATESMAN)



Sudoku

1	4	2	6	8	9	7	5	3
8	7	6	2	3	5	1	4	9
3	9	5	7	1	4	2	6	8
9	3	1	4	5	7	8	2	6
7	6	4	9	2	8	5	3	1
5	2	8	1	6	3	9	7	4
6	1	7	3	9	2	4	8	5
4	5	3	8	7	1	6	9	2
2	8	9	5	4	6	3	1	7

last week's answer

this week's puzzle

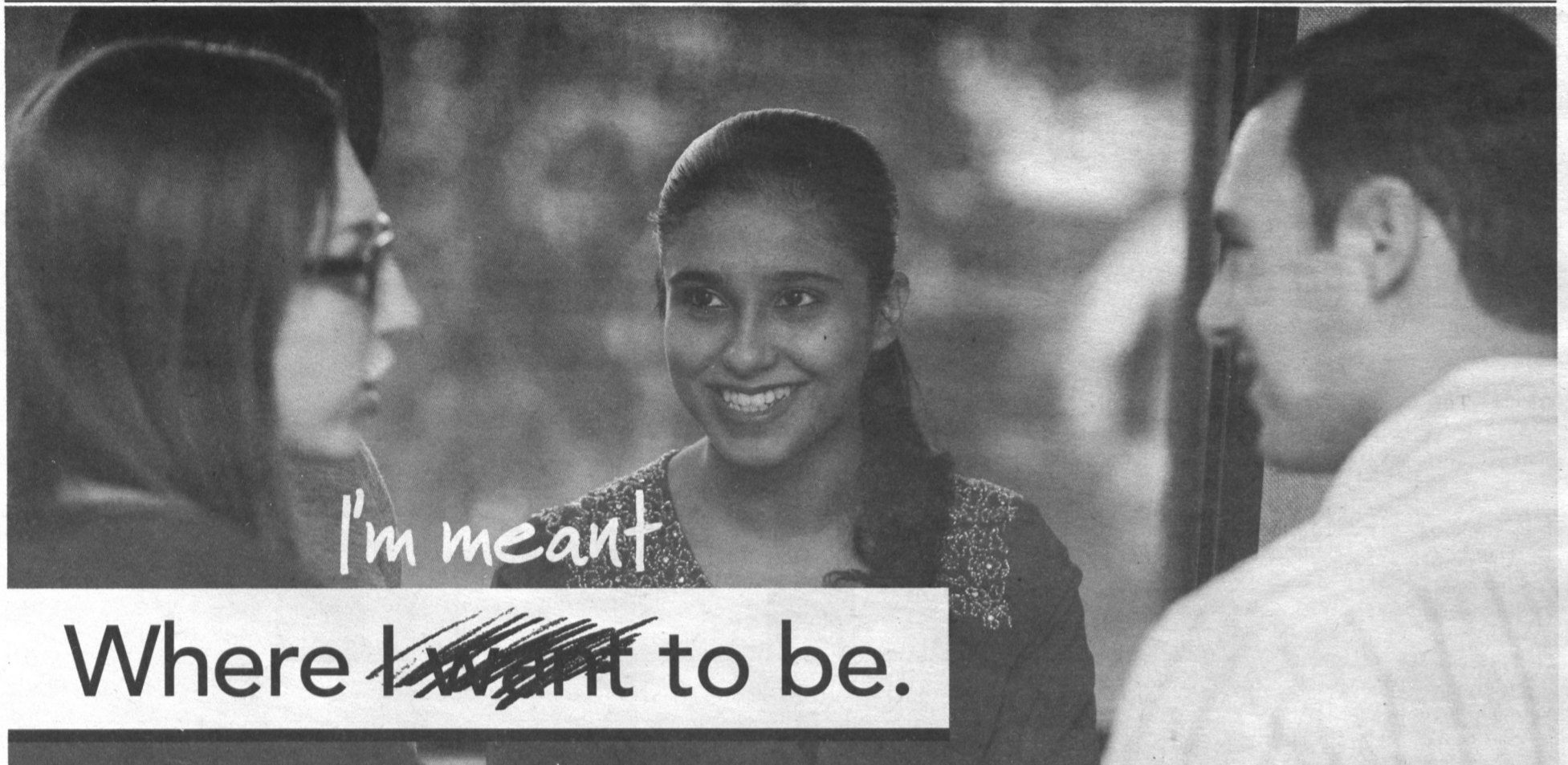
3								9
		9	8		7	1		
	5		3		6		8	
	3	8	5		9	2	4	
	7	2	1		4	8	9	
	2		7		1		3	
		3	4		2	6		
8								7

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Looking for an inside position starting at 5pm or later for a student. No experience necessary. Also looking for drivers with own car. Gas and car expenses paid. Flexible hours. Domino's Pizza (631) 751-0330.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SB's Bengalis Unite hosts Third "Mock Wedding"

By Rena Thomas
Contributing Writer

Bengalis Unite cordially invited everyone to the beautiful traditional "wedding" of Ahmad Fordous and Sofya Pugach on Saturday night.

It was a night to remember, as Fordous and Pugach took their fake vows in the lovely LDS center venue. Approximately 190 guests shared the night with the "bride and groom," enjoying good food, colorful performances and great company.

Bengalis Unite is a student group on campus. They want to share the traditions of Bengali and South Asian culture while bringing together people of all different backgrounds.

This is the third mock wedding hosted by the club. The event has previously won an Undergraduate Student Government award for best social event.

Bengali is comprised of the cultures from the Bengal region.

The Bengal region consists of the independent nation of Bangladesh and the Indian state of West Bengal, but is represented throughout the world and greatly represented on Stony Brook campus.

This mock wedding reflected a traditional South Asian wedding, from the attire to the rituals. A wedding is typically a several-day affair but was wrapped into one eventful night.

The lighthearted playfulness of the mock ceremony had the guests giggling in their seats. The bride, biochemical engineering student and Russian beauty Pugach, was adorned in a gold and red Bengali lehanga. The charming Fordous of Pace University in Manhattan looked dapper in a traditional Punjabi pajama.

The blushing bride and groom then exchanged garlands. In a real wedding the exchange of garlands is happening while the purohit, who officiates the wedding, chants mantras, representing the unity between one another.

After garlanding, the bride and the groom are made to look at each other in front of all their guests. This exchange of loving glance is called *shubho drishti*. No, kissing is not involved in this ceremony.

The guests were then treated to lively performances by the SBU Bhangra group, which danced to upbeat music associated with Punjabi culture and Indian fusion a cappella group SBU Yuva. Yuva performed a rendition of Indian music fused with some catchy Bruno Mars.

The big hit of the night was the

Continued on page 10

The Black Experience explored during SB's Black History month



KRYSTEN MASSA/THE STATESMAN

The word "Sankofa!" comes from the Akan language, which finds its origins in Ghana. It specifically refers to the Black Experience of those affected by the African Diaspora.

By Krysten Massa
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

The room was filled with round tables draped with black table cloths and decorated with purple and gold plates. Students filled the seats during the Black History Month closing ceremony last Wednesday, Feb. 25 in SAC Ballroom A.

Among the students was Zoe Sumner, a sophomore English major.

By the end of the night, Sumner was named the first-place winner of the Spoken Word contest.

This contest, which was held on Wednesday, Feb. 11, gave Stony Brook students the chance to recite an original poem in front of their peers.

This contest happens annually during Black History Month. The theme, like previous years, was "Sankofa!" The Evolution of the Black Experience.

For Sumner's winning performance, she focused on the theme of black femininity. She wrote about black women in today's society.

"The idea of a black woman has been commoditized," Sumner said.

In her poem she talked about features typical of a black woman—for example, a big butt—and how those features are only appreciated on people like Kim Kardashian and Beyoncé.

Sumner, who is also the step coordinator of the Cadence step team, said that this was her first year being really involved with Black History Month at Stony Brook.

"I definitely think that people from all races should come out to these events because it's not just about black people," Sumner said.

She added that black history is not taught as much in high school, so it would be good to see more students of different races come to the events on campus during the month.

Another popular event was the Black History Month forum on Feb. 19. Kevin Powell, a black political activist, led a discussion with student leaders.

Soledad O'Brien's talk at the Staller Center on Feb. 16 was another highly-attended event during the month of February.

The key note speaker at the closing ceremony was Dr. Allison J. McLarty, a cardiothoracic surgeon and associate professor of surgery at Stony Brook Medicine.

McLarty spoke about her struggles pertaining to her race and gender that she faced to get where she is now.

She talked about the power of education for students and about how her mother, a Jamaican native, always pushed her to achieve her dreams.

She opened her speech by talking about "Sankofa!"

"Loosely translated, it means that it is not wrong to go back to that which you have forgotten, or another way to look at it is that there is sometimes a need to reflect on the past, so that one can build a successful future," McLarty said.

She talked about how her grandmother told her mother that since McLarty's mother was the darkest of all of her children, she needed to study the hardest so that she could make her way in the world.

She then talked about how her mothers work habits rubbed off on her and helped her to become the person she is today.

When she was told that she could not be a doctor because she was a woman and because of her race, she listened to her mother who told her that she could.

"There is a lot of power in our choices and I think a lot more than we realize," McLarty said. "Each of us has the power to choose the path that makes our dreams come true."

She also talked about how inspiring it is to think of people like Oprah and Obama as icons of the black community.

She said that just their presence is liberating.

"I also think of what it took them to get to where they are now," she added.

She talked about how diligent people like Oprah and Obama worked hard to get to where they are today.

She said that it is this generation's job to make it easier for the following generation by minimizing racism.

"It is up to us to change things so that our children see a world where it is normal to be where you are, it is normal to be black wherever you are," McLarty said. "So that we are not a color, we are just a people collectively trying to become everything that we have been created to be."

The night was also filled with student awards for participation and achievements during Black History Month as well as vocal performances. The night ended off with a buffet-style dinner.

Dr. Zebulon Miletsky, an assistant professor of Africana Studies was one of the organizers of Black History Month at SBU this year. Miletsky said he received a lot of positive feedback on the speakers they have had at the events during the month.

He said that every event has been like an "ongoing dialogue."

Miletsky said this year, with the killings of unarmed black men like Mike Brown and Eric Garner, they wanted to make Black History Month resonate more with students and their own experiences.

"I think people are looking for answers. Everyone is looking for ways to weigh in on this national conversation," Miletsky said. "I look at Black History Month this year as a needed conversation and a needed healing too."

Cast of "Bike America" spins through Staller

By Michaela Christman
Contributing Writer

On Thursday night, award-winning playwright Mike Lew appeared at the Staller Center's first show of 2015 to watch his own play, "Bike America," in action.

"Bike America" took its audience on a colorful, laughter-filled journey across the United States as they watched its performers travel from Boston to Santa Barbara. They stopped in cities like New York, Austin and Memphis along the way during the performance.

Some playgoers were leaning forward on their seats, admiring how the playwright, director, technical crew and performers were transporting them throughout the states on such a small stage.

The crew was able to use lighting and sound to represent Penny, the play's main character, being hit by a truck driver.

Additionally, the lighting crew was able to represent each state the set was entering by flashing a bulb on a map; the audience was able to visualize the distance the story took the characters across the United States once each bulb was lit.

"I thought the character Penny had a love-hate kind of personality but I thought that the story was very relatable. At times I hated Penny [the main character], but then I loved her," Cristian Maraver, a student taking an introduction to theatre class at Stony Brook, said.

Members of the audience applauded the production.

The majority of the crowd remained seated after the show for a question and answer session.

Professor Kenneth Weitzman hosted the Q&A session. He began by opening up with a few questions touching upon Lew's influences, visions and expectations of the performance.

Lew said that there were some "aspects that [he] could still work on" and that his play has "changed a lot since the first draft." Lew was happy to notice that the performance included a lot from his original script that other directors sometimes choose to leave out.

Weitzman then opened up the interview to the play's director, Kara-Lynn Vaeni.

When asked about her original plan to incorporate bikes into the set, Vaeni said that her "first thought was to use stationary bikes," but after seeing people on them in the gym, she realized, "that was just so boring."

After brainstorming a few other possibilities, she arrived at the idea

Continued on page 10

Students joined in staged matrimony at Bengali wedding



Continued from page 9

club's Executive Board and friends performing a dance representing the bride and the groom.

Dance groups wowed the guests with their colorful and coordinated presence. SBU De taali, a south Asian a cappella song/dance group, SBU Raaswalas and the SBU Belly Dance Troupe hit the floor and left the guests wanting more.

Second year running President of Bengalis Unite, Business Management student Syed Abrar Hossain, said "We had this event three years back. We decided we should bring all the successful events back and give people a sense of what a Bengali and South East Asian wedding looks like."

When asked what makes this event special, he said, "Because we are a cultural club, we should show

what our culture is like. We don't see events like this on campus, something really unique, I want people to have a good time."

Aside from mock weddings, Bengalis Unite is involved in various charitable causes, like raising money for sports kits for orphans. The group's fundraiser last semester, "Soccer for Care," featured an organized soccer tournament at the Campus Recreation Center.

In a real Bengali wedding, by the end of the night, the couple would be preparing for the festivities to come the next day.

After about 18 rituals and about a weeks worth of celebration, the couple is officially joined in holy matrimony. Thanks to Bengalis Unite, in about three hours, the mock Mr. and Mrs. Fordous can now celebrate a lifetime of mock love and happiness.



Photos by Heather Khalifa and Rena Thomas

"Bike America" cycles around the country and into Staller



Continued from page 9

of just cutting the bikes in half. Reducing the size of the bikes seemed to work wonders for the set. Instead of riding bicycles across the stage, each cast member held on to the handlebars and one wheel of a bike that was cut-in-half. These props almost resembled unicycles, but the actors mimicked

riding a bike by moving their feet constantly throughout each act. When the script would have them speed up, they would lean forward on their bikes and run, when they were riding up a hill they would lift their bikes up, and when they needed to slow down, they would move their feet casually. Performing "Bike America" gave the university's actors the opportunity to work with and

perform in front of an award-winning playwright, something they collectively described as a "wonderful experience." "Bike America" performances will run until Sunday, March 8. The show plays on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for students with Stony Brook I.D. and \$20 for general admission.

Photos by Manju Shivacharan



FSA's free Food Show satisfies Stony Brook students' appetite

By Jessica Carnabuci
Contributing Writer

Campus Dining held its annual Food Show Tuesday afternoon, and it proved to be a huge success among students.

"As long as I get free food, it's awesome," Daud Khan, a sophomore astronomy major, said. He and many other students were amazed at what the 25 vendors located in the Student Activities Center Ballroom had to offer.

Companies either chose to showcase foods they already sell on campus or used the Food Show as an opportunity to try new ideas.

All of the vendors displayed during the Food Show "are in some variety, sold on campus," Marketing Manager of Campus Dining Services Carly Shephard said.

Shephard also said the event was a great way to "bring more awareness to the fact that we do have healthy items on campus."

Green Street, which is sold at the Student Union Commons on Mondays, chose to showcase quinoa bowls with a variety of vegetables.

Healthy beverages were also a trend at the show. Companies like Naked Juice, Tropicana, Honest Tea and Ito En were a big hit with the people who attended the event. Fresh apples, oranges and bananas were also available from J. Kings for students to try.

Students were offered Bibimbap, a traditional Korean rice-based

with vegetables and meat; Kimbab, sushi filled with either spicy squid, ham or beef, scallops with lima beans, corn and cilantro; and health-conscious cookies from Hampton Creek.

"I think that this event is helpful to see what food is offered on campus, especially because I commute," Erika Zevallos, a senior psychology major, said.

Other students said the event introduced them to foods they did not know Stony Brook offered. The locations of where certain foods sold on campus were posted alongside the respective samples at the event.

The show was also extremely beneficial from the vendor's point of view.

"You get to see what students like," a representative from Lays said.

It was a great way for vendors to try out new ideas and see how they would be perceived by the student body. For West Side Dining, the event proved to be very successful. They gave away approximately 4,500 sliders, a food they want to bring to campus for March Madness.

"I work for you. I'm your chef. So if you want sliders for March Madness, it's up to you. The only way it happens is if there's a lot of voices asking for it," Andrew Greene, production chef at Campus Dining Services, said.

Many of the vendors became so popular, they were running out of

supplies. Hershey's Ice Cream ran out of its own cups and had extra employee's scooping ice cream and frozen yogurt.

Boar's Head had the longest line at the show from start to finish and Hampton Coffee gave away hundreds of cups of coffee.

The Food Show took off this year mostly because of the social media build up.

"The notoriety is growing," Shephard said before the show even started, "there was a line out the door."

The Show was publicized earlier in the week on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. Students also received hints on social media about what they could win at the event.

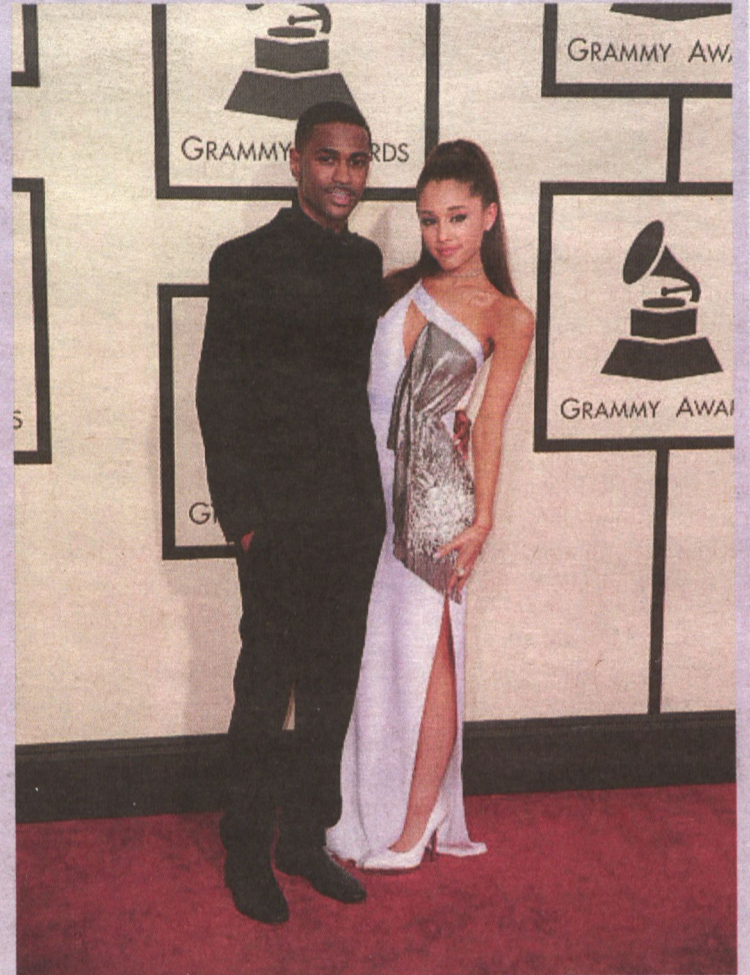
Seawolves were encouraged to enter a raffle by posting a picture on social media using the hashtag #sbueatsfoodshow. The winners of the prizes, which included a book bag, a flat-screen TV and a bike, were announced Tuesday night via social media.

Overall, students seemed to enjoy Tuesday's event.

"I think it's one of the best events Stony Brook has done," Erica Ferer, a sophomore biomedical engineering major, said. "Free food is good, especially when it's good free food."

Students left the event smiling with food samples in hand. One student, as he walked out with his food, said, "this is the greatest thing ever."

Big Sean's "Dark Sky Paradise" album shows that he can hang with the big boys



LOS ANGELES TIMES/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Big Sean, left, attended the 57th Annual Grammy Awards at the Staples Center in Los Angeles with Ariana Grande.

By Kunal Kohli
Staff Writer

Big Sean has evolved. He is no longer the butt-obsessed young artist yelling ad-libs or leaning on featured artists to get record sales. Instead, his third album "Dark Sky Paradise," released on Feb. 24, shows a rapper willing to dive into his thoughts and give meaningful content.

The album does not start in the usual Big Sean manner—a fast-paced staccato flow and lyrics that are braggadocio. Instead, we have a young, hungry Big Sean in "Dark Sky (Skyscrapers)."

This song demonstrates how he wants to become part of the discussion when it comes to who is the best rapper. He wants the most money. He wants success.

This theme continues into the single "Blessings," featuring Drake. After "Blessings," Big Sean moves on to his girl problems. After breaking off his engagement to actress Naya Rivera, he decided to throw shots.

The Kanye West-assisted track "All Your Fault," as well as standout single "IDFWU," are proof. Unfortunately, Big Sean reverts to his same old self in the latter half of the album.

Mispronunciation-for-the-sake-of-flow rapper is back in "Stay Down." While it is only a song, the reemergence of the "Finally Famous" Big Sean is never a good thing.

Also, one of his biggest faults is his flow never really changes up. It goes back and forth between his usual breakneck speed and a sing-song flow. He does, however, pick great production to help hide

his weaknesses. The tracks seem to be effortless to rap on, yet they still display complexity.

Big Sean's production comes from the hit-makers of 2014. That list includes DJ Mustard, Mike Will Made It and G.O.O.D. Music boss West. G.O.O.D. Music label-mate Travi\$ Scott also has a production credit in conjunction with the young, up-and-coming Wondagurl.

The signature horns and beat switch-ups by Mike Will Made It make Big Sean's tornado flow seem almost natural. And what album would be complete without the sound of DJ Mustard's bass synth and snare?

West's production does not show up until the outro of the album, where his sped-up samples make a beautiful comeback.

Producer Key Wane also had three production credits.

"Dark Sky Paradise" is the next step in Big Sean's path to greatness. No longer is he asking Nicki Minaj to feature on an over-sexualized song in order to get plays.

Now, he is calling out his ex-fiancée and even featuring his current girlfriend in the deluxe edition. His yearning for greatness makes the opening tracks great. While the middle tracks are forgettable, he ends the album on a high note with production from West.

This album is not album of the year, not even close, but it is a great one for Big Sean. If you are already a fan, this album is definitely worth buying.

If not, take a listen and respect the brother that G.O.O.D. Music's little facter can finally hold his own against legends like E-40 and West.



PHOTO CREDIT: AGNES LY

Bibimbap, above, was one of the foods featured at the Food Show. The Korean dish was a popular dish during the Chosun era, according to Asiart Jeonju, a Korean tour website.

Look out for College Gal Cooking's new video series this coming Saturday. Visit sbstatesman.com or see it on Facebook.

OPINIONS

THE STATESMAN

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New stories are published online every day Monday through Thursday. A print issue is published every Monday during the academic year and is distributed to many on-campus locations, the Stony Brook University Hospital and over 70 off-campus locations.

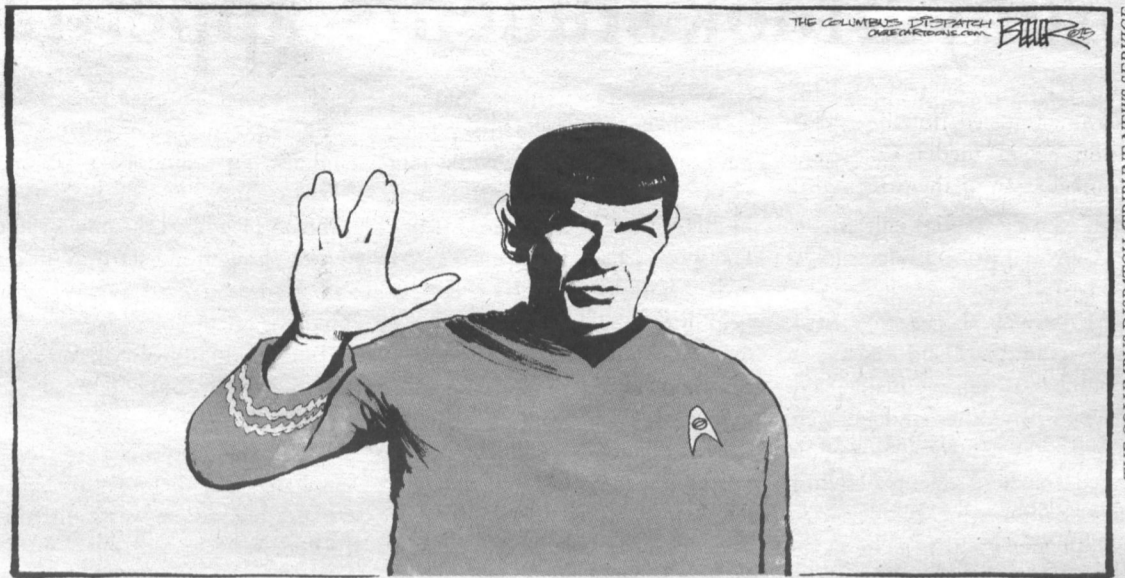
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First issue free; additional issues cost 50 cents.



LEONARD NIMOY ~ 1931-2015

THE KnoW

Perversion of religion no reason for murder

The issue and attack of Charlie Hebdo is a difficult topic to discuss out of fear of offending someone, betraying my own ever-changing values, or of the unfortunate circumstance of saying something I do not necessarily mean.

The topic is by no means a comfortable conversation to have with anyone. My final belief is Charlie Hebdo is an event that floats in a shade of grey, teetering between two very opposing sides. This in itself is a struggle to try and understand, especially when the world seems to be split so easily into two opposing sides.

Charlie Hebdo is a weekly newspaper filled with editorials, cartoons and pieces that make fun of everything and everyone. Past publications have caricatured Judaism, Christianity and Islam in unflattering tones, portrayed a former Pope as a Nazi Officer because of his past as a (forced) member of the Hitler Youth and blasted feminist ideals.

It petitioned to have one of its own national parties removed from the French government. It has been sued several times by religious institutions (mainly Catholic) and from 2006, by Islamic organizations as well for its insensitive cartoons.

The shootings that took place in Paris were brought on because Charlie Hebdo, the small, satirical publication of France, drew a caricature of Mohammad.

Though the Quran may not explicitly forbid drawings and visual depictions of the Islamic prophet, there are several supplemental teachings, or "hadith," that clearly do not allow a visual representation of him. In other words, it is forbidden.

The attack that killed eleven cartoonists and editors, and one police officer, on Jan. 7, 2015 was an extreme reaction to the publication of a cartoon which depicted Muhammad.

It is an extreme reaction to an insensitive cartoon.

In light of the state of affairs in the world, in light of the constant scrutiny and criticism that Muslims face living outside of the Middle East, in light of what can be seen as an oppressive majority's feeling towards a minority and in light of how important religion can be to an individual, the cartoon was insensitive. That is all that can be said about it.

Jimi Hendrix's 1967 album cover of him standing with his bandmates as various forms of Vishnu, a Hindu God, is insensitive to Hinduism. So is a Christmas episode of "Family Guy," where the characters try to get Jesus laid.

I cannot imagine orthodox Christians laughing here. Every holocaust joke, every politicization of the Jewish population, it is all offensive.

It is all a low blow to those who practice the respective religions.

But none of these incidents have the gravity to justify an attack like that which took place in France. Not even the cartoon.

To support the terrorist action or even just to say the publication should not have done what they did because they could not "poke the lion" of terrorism, is not the right train of thought. It puts Islam above all other religions, instead of on the same playing field as Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc.

Charlie Hebdo published so many offensive cartoons against Catholics and Jews, and the only thing those religious groups have tried to do is sue the paper. Modern-day life is offensive to nearly every faith, but people are not being shot for pre-gaming the football game or in defiance of religious views on premarital sex.

In a world that is losing its sensitivity to all faiths based on a lack of education and carelessness, taking personal offense to every slight against your respective religion cannot be the solution. When the Islamic community became defensive and condemned the publication for its cartoon as soon as the attack struck, it became so easy for governments and large populations to turn their backs against the community as a whole, catapulting the #JeSuisCharlie movement into something so much bigger than it had to be.

Suddenly, what started as the act of two independent terrorists ended up representing an entire faith. Suddenly, the only real "real Muslim" seemed to be the terrorist.

Tragically, we lost sight of the Muslim police officer who was also shot and killed by the same terrorists that opened fire at the Charlie Hebdo office.

The times where we see our personal ideals being attacked is not a time for movement and retribution. It is a time to open up a conversation and delve deep into discussion about why something is wrong, how it is offensive. Before this entire situation, I was unaware that drawing Muhammad was forbidden.

Several discussions with friends later, and now I understand the reasoning behind it as well.

The caricature was unflattering and rude to have published and in the eyes of the Muslim community—it was wrong. But nothing justifies the murders of the writers and cartoonists, especially in France, where publications like this dating back to the times of Voltaire were responsible for breaking the "Catholicity" of Christianity.

Life today is not dictated by an autonomous rule of religion that suppresses any movement against it. This is not Europe circa the thirteenth century.

The attack at Charlie Hebdo exists in a very uncomfortable realm of grey because to look at the situation carefully and understand it for what it is, needs you to have one foot in one ideal and the other in another. We can only begin to understand the moral complexity behind Charlie Hebdo when we understand why everything they have published is so offensive while continuing to support its right to do so.

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH
THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH/Tribune News Service

EDM, rap safe options for Brookfest

By Michael Kohut
Contributing Writer

The Undergraduate Student Government faced notable backlash on social media following the cancellation of the Streetlight Manifesto concert that was set to take place late last month.

It is the thought of many, including myself, that given the prominence of rap, hip-hop and EDM artists at campus concerts and in popular culture as a whole, rock music is often an afterthought when it comes time to decide the line-ups for campus concerts.

The largest of these, Brookfest, is no exception. Is that really a bad thing, though? I say no.

As a rock lover, I would be pleased to find out that a rock band was headlining Brookfest. Beyond my affection for rock, I am also a fan of dubstep and EDM, and even though I would prefer rock, it is best for those types of music and their artists to be given a degree of priority in the booking process simply because they apply to a broader demographic.

Yes, Childish Gambino and Diplo may have been a controversial choice in 2014, but unless you still consider Maroon 5 a rock

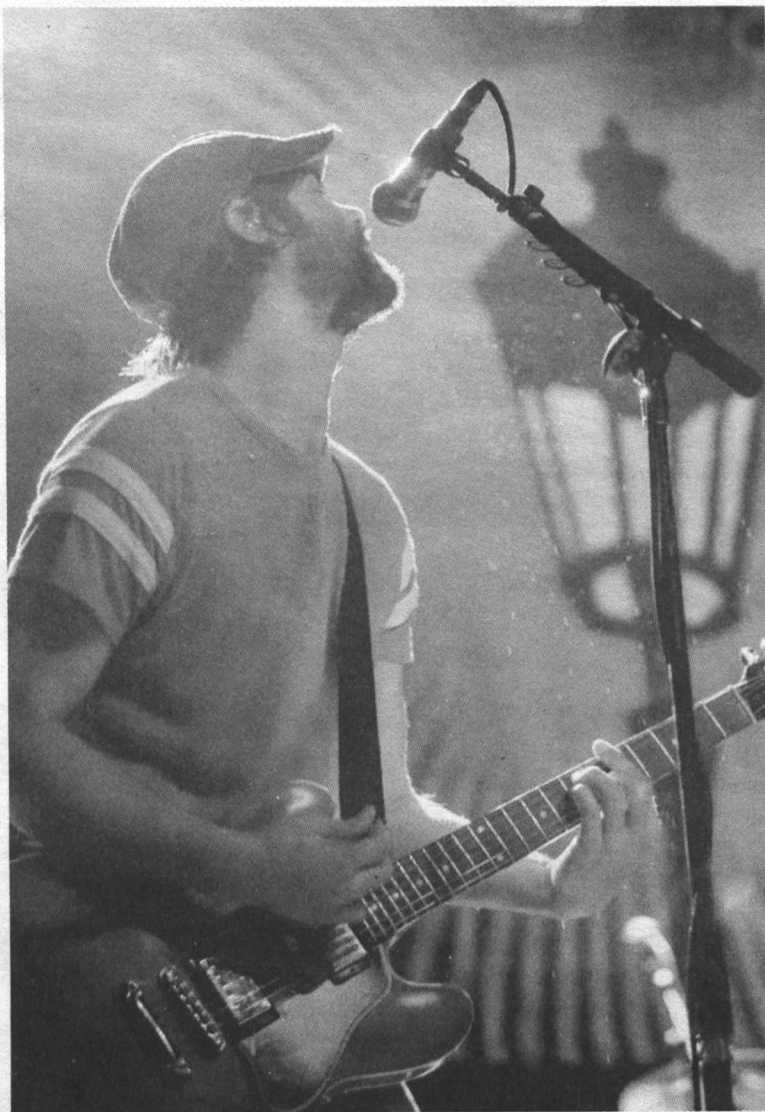


PHOTO CREDIT: JOE ABBRUSCATO

Rock groups, like Streetlight Manifesto, do not appeal to the greater student population like EDM/Rap acts do.

the cancellation of the Streetlight concert and would like to see more rock artists here in the future, but on the big night, LaValle should house a line-up that draws the biggest crowds and breeds the most excitement.

Nowadays, rock is just less likely to do that.

This is not to say that there are not massive problems in the selection process. In my opinion, the secretive nature by which USG decides the Brookfest line-up is what leaves a significant number of students feeling burned by the decision.

Fanning the flames further, USG even joked on Twitter "Diplo was great but in 2015, Nothing Was The Same so just Shake it Off."

It is one thing to pragmatically "shake" off the desires of a vocal minority of rock fans. It is

another thing entirely to patronize students with jokes like this when we are more than likely to be treated to another year of B-list rappers anyway.

Instead of joking and hinting about possible headliners, publicize the options.

The undergraduate community should be at least partially consulted.

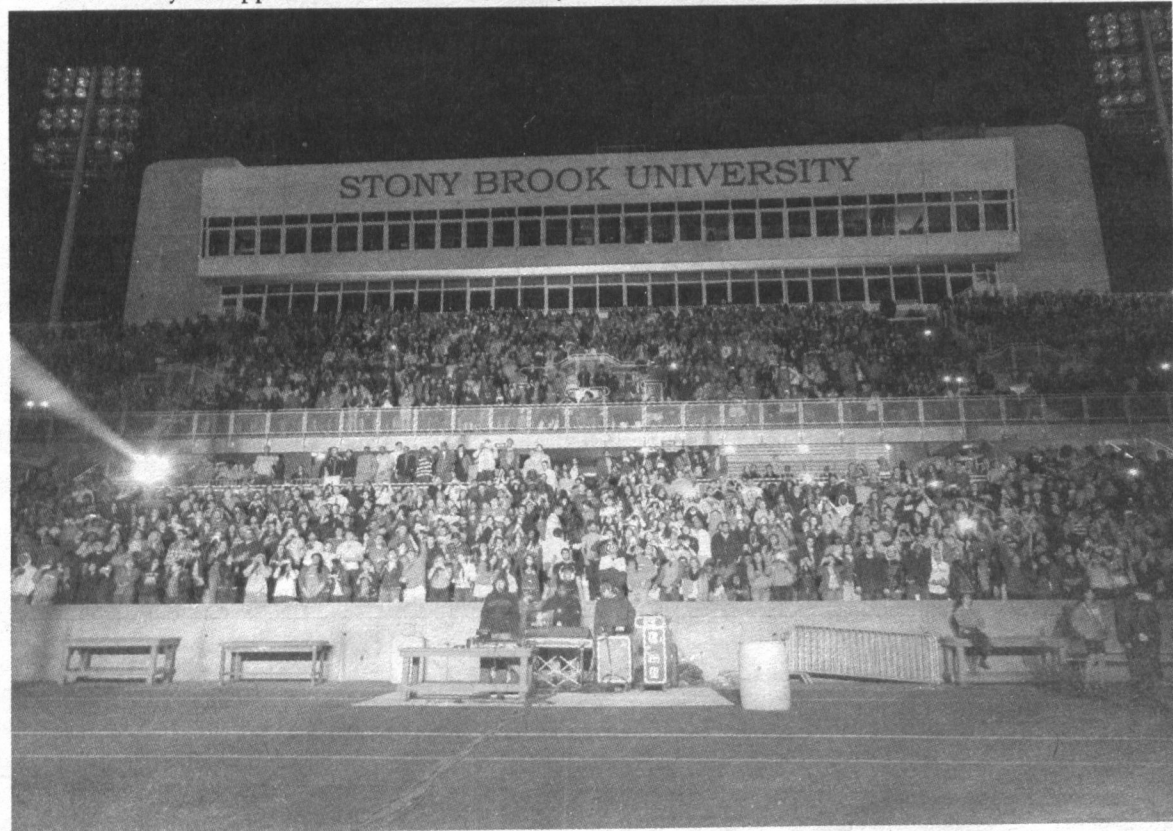
Maybe there exists enough of a following on campus that a number of rock artists could, and maybe should, headline the event, but until USG reaches out to the community at large, its decisions will only be criticized more harshly.

I think that rap, EDM and pop artists are a safe choice, but if you do not agree, you would be hard-pressed to find a way to influence the decision, and that is indicative of a bigger problem.

The secretive nature by which USG decides the Brookfest line-up is what leave a significant number of students feeling burned.

group and not a pop group, there are quite few rock artists in the broad public consciousness today that would fit the atmosphere of Brookfest.

I was sorely disappointed at



STATESMAN STOCK PHOTO

Students filled the stands at Brookfest last year, which featured Diplo and Childish Gambino.

#AskHerMore than who she is wearing at the Oscars



FRANCIS SPECKER/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Patricia Arquette, supporting actress winner, discussed wage equality and women's rights in her acceptance speech.

By Emily Benson
Staff Writer

Last Saturday, the Oscars fell upon us once again. To be completely honest, I did not even know the Oscars were happening. Yes, you can make fun of the fact that I live under a rock but at least it is cordial and cozy under there. Through make no mistake, I was made well aware that the Oscars were going down the second I opened Twitter and was bombarded with a timeline of Jimmy Choo shoes and Prada clutches. Much to my content, the greatest observation I made from the continuous stream of live tweets pouring in was the overwhelming presence of the hashtag, "#askhermore."

The #askhermore hashtag was a movement started last year to get red carpet reporters to ask women more intelligent questions rather than just trivial questions such as what is she wearing. The idea for the hashtag movement was started last year by the Representation Project, an organization that is trying to use films and the movie industry as a catalyst for overcoming limiting stereotypes in the media. If it was up to me, I would give them all the Oscars for starting this movement.

Watching the red carpet is like pre-gaming for the party: you do not necessarily have to do it, but you will feel like you are doing it wrong if you miss it. That being said, a lot of people tune in to watch their favorite nominees walk down this colorful rug. E!'s "Live from the Red Carpet" show gathered 3.1 million viewers this year alone.

And do you know what the hot, thought provoking question of the day was? "What are you wearing? We are all just dying to know!"

Seriously? You are given a starting platform of at least 3 million viewers and this is the direction we go in?

We should be using this opportunity to discuss social issues and concerns with these celebrities,

not what shoes they decided to wear to the nominations.

There is no denying that fashion is naturally a part of the red carpet, and it rightfully should be. I know for a fact that if I am walking around in high heels and tight dress, I will feel confident and radiant and that is something reporters should touch upon. Discussing what one is wearing is perfectly fine and entertaining to watch, but only to an extent; when somewhere along the way you make a woman feel like she is a walking, talking mannequin, that is when we have gone too far.

On the flip side, while men do receive questions about fashion and health like women do, it is not in the same objectifying manner. Also, showing this comparison of men as the source of intelligence and women as eye-candy so continuously creates a terrible mentality that even though these actresses are working with the same people on the same movie as other actors, they are still inferior. Instead of being asked a mentally stimulating question, women are instead asked to discuss their fashion, health, personal lives, etc.

I think that Hadley Freeman, a New York fashion columnist and writer, epitomized this whole phenomena perfectly: "This is a strange pocket of the western world where it is still deemed utterly acceptable to take smart, successful women and reduce them to beauty pageant contestants..."

Like all things in Hollywood, #askhermore was a bit blown up and dramatized, but perhaps that is a good thing. The fight for gender equality should not be done quietly.

#askhermore knocks down the stereotype that women are associated with having beauty, a butt and no brains in a way that girls everywhere can see the fight unfold and take part in as well.

Who knows, if this mentality somehow sticks among the crazy artificial nature of Hollywood, I just might remember what day the Oscars are next year.

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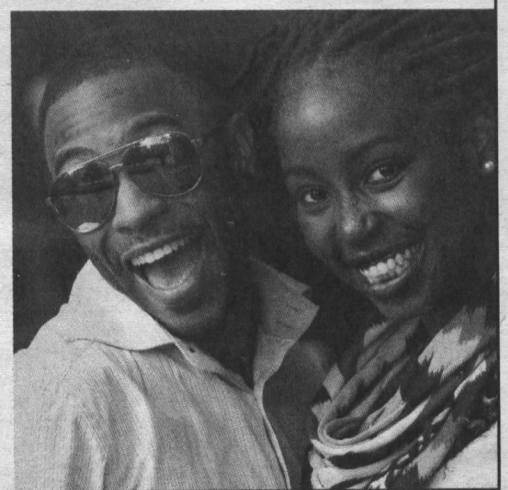
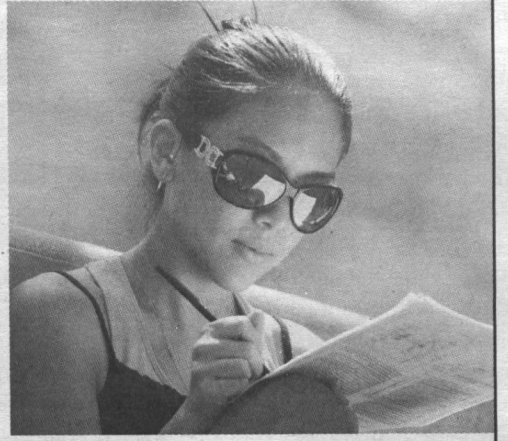
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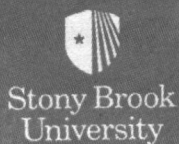
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The gay rights movement is still far from over

By Michael Newcomer
Staff Writer

Gays finally have something to celebrate: as of this article (yes, it is changing that quickly), 37 U.S. states and the District of Columbia now grant same-sex marriage licenses. Just one year ago, that number was less than half of what it is today. Images of gay and lesbian couples exchanging vows are a frequent sight in the media. We have become a much more progressive nation over the past decade.

We can finally declare ourselves a society of equality, right?

Let's not get ahead of ourselves. While we have made tremendous progress towards marriage-equality in the United States, 26 of the 37 states that have legalized same-sex marriage have done so through federal and state court decisions, and in most cases, it was the result of a homosexual couple suing the state for recognition of their union. Nine of the remaining states legalized same-sex marriage through state

legislation, and only two states were granted marriage equality through referendums up for vote by the public. 71 percent of the population now lives in a state where same-sex marriage is legal, but according to the latest Gallup poll performed in May 2014, only 55 percent of the U.S. population supports same-sex marriage.

Now picture this: we are rapidly approaching the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. Gender equality and equal pay for women in the workplace is still a topic of conversation and debate today. Race relations, immigration reform and civil rights for minorities have become hot-button issues this year. If we are still discussing black and women's rights in 2015, what will gay rights look like in 50 or 100 years?

Progress, by its very nature, tends to march forwards, and for a country that only 12 years ago ruled sodomy laws (the de facto ban on homosexuality) unconstitutional in the 17 states that still enforced them, the future does

look bright. But we as a society are not done yet.

30 states do not protect discrimination regarding sexual orientation and gender identity in hiring practices. 39 do not protect against housing discrimination. Homosexual men are still banned by the FDA from blood and tissue donation. Replace the word "gay" with "black" or "Hispanic" in any of these scenarios and the United States would seem like the most backwards and discriminatory developed country in the world.

That is the current situation.

It is easy and willfully optimistic to assert that we are entering a chapter in society where discrimination based on sexuality is coming to a close. But we should not be blinded to the struggle that still remains. We should embrace the momentum of these great strides forward and pray that we continue towards the resolution of the good fight and hope that one day, we can truly say that within the United States, there exists equality for all.



LANDOV/TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Alabama recently gave gays the right to marry, but 13 more states have yet to do so.

BRObama shows amiability in social media clips: An analysis

By Jacob Shipkevich
Contributing Writer

Having captured the youth vote for the past two elections, President Barack Obama is continuing to appeal to the college-age demographic through his collaboration with BuzzFeed. The video, "Things Everybody Does But Doesn't Talk About, Featuring President Obama," depicts us in the juvenile state we regress into when no one is around us, giving us the opportunity for self-liberation from the social norms.

It was an exceptional privilege to watch our president share his own activities during his leisure. In addition, it is an honor for me to analyze this video that features one of the most eminent figures of our time.

In the first clip, we see Obama's broad smile in front of a posh mirror. His smile exemplifies hope for salutary change in domestic and foreign policies. Pay close attention to the mirror and you would probably question why

it is grimy. There is one rational reason for this setup. It symbolizes our President's diligence and indefatigable efforts being made

We can be assured to say that our leader has a great sense of humor and is quite flirty.

for this nation. The second clip of him posing with his fist on his chin further gives the notion of the progress that has been made throughout his time in office.

As we get to the third clip, we can be assured to say that our leader has a great sense of humor and is quite flirty. I mean, who would want a lame and monoton-

ic president? In clip four, Obama does "the wink and the tongue." One might say he is making himself look foolish. On the other hand, being modern or staying current with trends is very crucial. This quality allures the youth. In addition to exhibiting majestic body language, we also can agree he has a sumptuous fashion taste, especially in shades depicted in the fifth clip.

Obama clearly shows he is not an egocentric man through the clips in which he takes "selfies." The selfie stick's purpose is to not only get the person trying to take a selfie, however with it one is able to set the right proportions of the environment around them and the subject itself. The greediness for one's self image is what Obama is trying to denounce in this clip.

Furthermore, we spectate the passionate dedication he has for the policies that will benefit the average American. So in order to announce his plans, he practices his speech and tries to make it as

clear as possible as so every syllable of the month "February" is pronounced perfectly. It is a

At the end of the day, Americans have to consider if Obama really deserves to be abhorred.

shame to see how many people actually condemn our President for the most absurd incidents. Even tripping and spilling coffee or not being able to dip a large oatmeal cookie into a glass of milk is now being blamed on Obama. Really? "Thanks Obama."

Anyway, we witness the next

clips that reveal Obama's hobbies. During his spare time, Obama indulges in sketching his wife, Michelle, holding a basket of fruit grown in the backyard of the White House. This not only shows love for his wife, but his ability to hold his own work at a high standard. In addition, his fervor for basketball is depicted in the next scene. The quintessentially parabolic motion set by his left arm with the follow through accentuates how great of a basketball player he really is.

At the end of the day, the Americans have to consider if Obama really deserves to be abhorred. The aforementioned rationalization should be sufficient enough to conclude that the two terms of Obama's presidency were successful. So do not forget, "The deadline for signing up for health insurance is Febroouary... Fevruery 15th. In many cases you can get health insurance for less than a \$100 a month. Just go to healthcare.gov to figure out how to sign up."

THE SEXWOLF

The new S-word

BY KATE VALERIO

I do believe feminists around the country have taken the liberty of beating the concept of the double standard into every head and skull throughout America. We are all acutely aware of the fact society celebrates men who are wildly sexually active and shames women who behave the same.

No man would dare argue against this for fear that a feminist would jump out from her hiding place in her own armpit hair and beat him half to death with her burning bra.

Please note this depiction of feminists is not accurate. Lots of us shave our armpits at a frequency that almost borders on often and appreciate what bras do for us when we run down stairs.

Despite the fact we are all aware of this double standard, very few of us actually do anything about this oppressing view. And I believe I'm friends with all of them. Most of us unfortunately propagate it.

I propose that we eliminate all the s-words and w-words that can't be printed in a university newspaper from our vocabulary and replace them all with a new term: "sexually liberated," the sex-positive adjective described someone who has freed themselves from the restraints of society's oppression. Whether or not this person involves themselves in other restraints is optional.

The negative words generally reserved for women who are sexually active without a significant datemate does much more than pit women against each other. It pits everyone against the idea of sex, both men and women. When society views sex as an activity men perform on women (speaking exclusively of heterosexual sex), men become the subject, treating women as the object. And so I propose the liberation of the idea of sex.

The consequences of such a simple but important change would be felt everywhere. Sex would not be such a taboo subject anymore. It would be something we are all free to talk about and question and enjoy. Maybe there wouldn't be sexually-active 24 years old who have never had an HIV test because it would be okay to ask for one.

Maybe there would not be women about to graduate college who do not know where their clitoris is because they would feel comfortable exploring their own body.

Maybe there would not be 13-year-olds who lose their virginity to someone much older because they would understand what was happening. Maybe there wouldn't be victims of date rape who are afraid to tell their story because society would stop blaming women. And maybe there wouldn't be celibate sex columnists.

I encourage all of you, my readers, those who read my column because I force you to, those who read it because the word sex makes you giggle, those who read it because you actually read the newspaper, and those who read it because you think I am Kathleen Valerio who works in student-health services, please change your perspective on the idea of sex. Let's change that s-word we call women to sexually liberated.

Hockey aims to take home first national title

By Jesse Borek
Staff Writer

Coming off its third-consecutive ESCHL conference championship, the Stony Brook Seawolves men's hockey team looks to reach their pinnacle—a National Championship.

A 30-5 regular season record earned the Seawolves the number five seed in the upcoming ACHA Tournament.

This means they will get underway on Saturday, March 7, at 7 p.m. from Cleveland, Ohio, against the University of Rhode Island Rams.

With it being a single-elimination tournament, it will quickly come and go; there will be no time for slip-ups or do-overs.

By Tuesday evening, a National Champion will be determined.

"Coming off our Final Four run last year," sophomore forward Bobby Guidal said, "we learned a lot of what it takes to ultimately win a National Championship."

That sentiment was echoed by junior goaltender Brendan Jones, who added, "If we won, it would be the greatest damn feeling I've ever experienced and I know that for a fact."

That is not to say that



HANAA TAMEEZ / THE STATESMAN

The Stony Brook hockey club will take on the University of Rhode Island this Saturday at 7 p.m. in Cleveland.

there is not the potential for some butterflies.

Guidal agrees, "Going into a huge tournament such as this is bound to bring out a whole bunch of emotions, but for the most part, I think we are a collected and confident group."

Jones brings a different perspective to the table, "my mind never wanders and I'm locked in from start to finish."

While the national tournament usually leads to opponents teams have never met, the Seawolves are actually quite familiar with their first-round opponent.

The Rams were one of three teams all season long to actually puncture the Seawolves' re-

cord, beating them 5-1 in their first matchup of the year back on Oct. 3.

From that game on, Stony Brook would win the next three against the Rams by a combined final score of 11-4.

The last time the Seawolves actually lost a game goes all the way back to over a month ago against the consensus number one team in the nation, the Arizona State Sun Devils, on Jan. 22.

The two teams met on three separate occasions during the regular season, with ASU handing the Seawolves two of their losses.

A potential collision with

the Sun Devils would come in the semi-finals on Monday, March 9.

It would be essential to get off to a quick start, as even in the game that Stony Brook took down the Sun Devils, they trailed from the get-go.

However, there will be a small chink in the armor, as Sun Devils netminder Robert Levin will miss the tournament with a torn ACL.

It was announced earlier this season that Arizona State would be transitioning to the Division-I level in the upcoming seasons.

This has invariably led to talks of the Seawolves and how they may fit into the same picture.

"If we were to bring the cup back to Stony Brook, I think the exposure and coverage that we would be getting would make it impossible for those talks to remain under wraps," Jones said, "You can only keep something tied up for so long until it gets so big it breaks free."

A new Division I team would be thrown into many discussions within the athletic department, as the expansion of Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium, which houses the football, soccer and lacrosse teams, seems inevitable.

After five months of fighting for respect from the rest of the country, the Seawolves have one last chance to seal the deal.

Lopes starring after transition

By Craig Petraglia
Contributing Writer

On paper, 5-foot-10-inch, 175-pound senior Vinny Lopes may seem unfit to play a sport as physical as hockey.

He may have the body of a baseball player, but Lopes possesses the heart of a hockey player.

"I was just always told that I was too small and I was too little, physically," Lopes said.

Due to his nontraditional hockey physique, Lopes heard this type of criticism throughout his upbringing.

Using his personal strengths to reach his ceiling potential, Lopes has forged an illustrious collegiate career for the Stony Brook men's hockey team.

Originally a defenseman, Lopes made a decisive change that proved an integral transition for his success on the ice.

"I made the conversion to forward just to use my speed and maximize my game. I overcame that adversity of people telling me I couldn't play defense," Lopes said. "I used it in a different way to play the forward position," Lopes exclaimed.

Playing with a chip on his shoulder, Lopes has evolved into a talented hockey player with a determination to win.

The senior from Staten Island, N.Y. led the Seawolves in scoring with 25 goals and 54 points this season, en route to the club's third consecutive ESCHL championship.

He also had a team leading seven game-winning goals this

year. But Lopes is quick to give credit to the whole Seawolves club for the success the team has had this campaign.

"We really came together this year," Lopes said.

After an overtime victory versus Delaware to claim the division title, the No. 5 ranked Seawolves will prepare to play the No. 12 ranked Rhode Island on Mar. 7.

Lopes is determined to bring Stony Brook its first national championship.

Lopes expressed the importance of going out in style prior to graduating and leading the program to victory in the 2015 ACHA Men's Division I National Championship.

"It means everything," Lopes said. "To leave here with a national championship and a ring on my finger would be the greatest thing that could possibly happen," he continued.

Born and groomed a hockey player, Lopes' passion for the sport has him considering playing beyond college hockey.

"Possibly I would think about going overseas," Lopes explained. For now he is intent on obtaining his diploma to pursue a career in financial advising.

Lopes described prioritizing and time-management as the most difficult aspects of a student-athlete's success in the classroom, and in the competition.

With nationals right around the corner, Lopes' love for the game has him committing his time to bringing the ACHA Cup home to Stony Brook.

Barbera's journey coming to close

By Skyler Gilbert
Staff Writer

For Nick Barbera, winning ACHA nationals would be the culmination of over twenty years of playing hockey. After being a semi-finalist on last season's Seawolves hockey team, Barbera knows what it will take to win it all.

"Nationals is really a different type of game. At nationals, you need to play more simple, you really just need to work hard," the senior winger said. "When all the guys on our team work as hard as we can, there's no other team that can match us with skill and talent."

Hard work has paid off for the Stony Brook hockey team all season long, as the club had a 19-1 record in the ESCHL en route to a third consecutive division title.

Barbera has been a major reason for his team's success, scoring 24 goals and 31 assists in 28 games played this season.

Barbera, a lifelong New York Rangers fan, says the NHL players he has been compared to the most are Rick Nash and Joe Thornton, first liners for the Rangers and San Jose Sharks, respectively.

"They're big, they're tall. They each have a long reach and are able to possess the puck and keep it away from opponents." Listed at 6'1" and 215 pounds, Barbera uses his size to his advantage in the offensive zone.

For Barbera, hockey has been an important part of his life from a very young age.

"Well my dad got me onto skates when I was about two. He used to just hold my hands

and skate me around the rink, and then ever since then I was hooked."

The Kings Park, N.Y. native played for the Long Island Royals, a junior hockey program, for over a decade throughout his childhood, winning the USA Hockey Junior B national championship in 2008.

After the sociology major graduates next winter, he may not be ready to hang up the skates yet. "A few people have contacted me about possible trying out for a semi-pro team in Pennsylvania or Florida. I'd have to think about that," Barbera said. "I would love to continue to play hockey as long as I could."

With a chance to add another national championship to his resumé in Cleveland, Ohio in a few days, the thought of a post-college playing career is the least of Barbera's concerns.

His focus is solely on earning the ACHA National Championship. "[Winning the championship] would mean everything to me. I know how much our coaches have been dying to win and they know that this year is our year to win. We just have the right players and we can pull it off this year."

For Barbera, the key to winning Nationals, in his mind, is all about effort. One quote he often thinks about is "Hard work will always beat talent when talent doesn't work hard."

Stony Brook hockey has the talent to succeed, and with leaders on the team like Barbera, its difficult to imagine that they will not put forth the hard work they need to on the ultimate stage.

The story behind SBU's "Green Line"

By Joe Galotti
Sports Editor

During practices, it is typical for hockey teams to assign each of their forward lines different colored jerseys. This has been the case for the Stony Brook hockey club. And while other players on the team have changed their jersey color multiple times over the years, forwards Vincent Lopes and Nick Barbera have always worn green.

There has never been a need for the two seniors to change practice jerseys. The pair has skated on the same line for their entire Seawolves' careers.

"I played with Nick Barbera pretty much my entire time here," Lopes said. "We have really good chemistry out there. I know where he is and he knows where I'm going to be pretty much all the time."

This season, Lopes and Barbera's chemistry has been stronger than ever, as the two linemates have combined for 114 points, and are a major reason why Stony Brook will have the opportunity to participate in another National Tournament this weekend.

"He's probably the best player in this league," Lopes said about Barbera. "Just having him on my line has helped me achieve what I've achieved this season and in my entire career here at Stony Brook."

Playing on the same line has forced Lopes and Barbera to spend plenty of time together, and a result of this has been the development of a strong off-the-ice relationship between the two.

Last week the two men could be spotted walking around the mall, alongside teammates JT Hall and Sam Brewster, just killing time together before practice.

"This year, we've really been hanging around a lot," Barbera said. "It's going to be sad once the season is over, because I'm really going to miss hanging out with Lopes and everyone."

"Off the ice he's my best friend here, so we carry that on the ice," Lopes added.

Over the years many players have rotated in and out as the third man on their line, and this year it has been Hall who has found a home with Lopes and Barbera. The sophomore forward has thrived in the role of the line's main distributor, leading the Seawolves with 38 assists this year.

"Once us three were put together, they couldn't break us apart. We just clicked so well," Barbera said. "I really think that our line in particular is what has gotten us going this year."

Next year there will likely be at least two new players donning green jerseys at SBU hockey practices. But, Lopes and Barbera will have an opportunity to cement their legacy in the program this March when they try and bring the club its first national title.

Skyler Gilbert and Craig Petraglia contributed reporting to this story.

Scognamiglio coming up big for Seawolves down stretch

By Drew Ciampa
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook women's basketball team has hit its stride. Winning eight of its last ten games has granted the Seawolves the third seed heading into the America East Playoffs.

Throughout the season, Christa Scognamiglio has found her place on the team by providing them with a significant deep threat shot and solid all-around play.

This was not always the case for Scognamiglio. She faced situations in which it was not easy to display her talents on the court. Beginning her college career at Fairfield, Scognamiglio felt she was not given the chance to make the impact she knew she could.

Eventually, things changed when she decided to change scenery and make a fresh start nearly two years ago, transferring out of Fairfield and coming to Stony Brook to be a Seawolf.

"It took a while to get here, but I just kept working hard and wanted to be on the court," Scognamiglio said of her transition to Stony Brook.

Through it all, some of the most influential experiences came earlier in Scognamiglio's career.

Basketball came into her life at a relatively early age. Introduced to the sport by her father, Scog-



BASIL JOHN / THE STATESMAN

Christa Scognamiglio's (above, no. 4) shooting has given the Seawolves a major boost this season down the stretch.

namiglio was playing in a CYO basketball league by fourth grade. It was there that she encountered the first taste of defeat and the disappointment that comes with it.

"When I was little, my Dad got me into basketball, starting out playing for fun. Then, in 4th grade, we lost our first game of the year 34-4," Scognamiglio recollected, "It was awful, I never wanted to lose like that again."

The worst defeat she experienced shaped her motivation to-

ward this goal, and it has been this same motivation that she has carried over to her journey in college.

Scognamiglio arrived at Stony Brook with the understanding that she would have to prove herself to gain playing time. She had to overcome the fact that no one on the team had seen her play first, though.

"I came into the season wanting to help and be a part of the team in any way I could," Scognamiglio said, "I did everything I

could to prove to the coaches and the team that I could play."

She has proven that she belongs here and her playing time reflects that.

Scognamiglio is averaging 7.9 points a night on 42.4 percent shooting from the field this season.

However, despite her success throughout the season, Scognamiglio is not only thinking about her college basketball career.

At the end of the day she has a life outside of college and a family to keep in touch with. Back at home Scognamiglio has her younger sister who plays basketball in a CYO League.

Along with talking to her sister about basketball, she enjoys hearing about her sister's life. After going through a similar process years before, she offers up her well-earned experiences and advice as much as she can.

"One of my sisters is nine and she's playing CYO now. So I love talking to her about it and her life. It's funny to listen to a nine year talk about her issues," Scognamiglio said.

Keeping in touch with her family helps Scognamiglio extend herself academically at Stony Brook. With a major in business, she one day hopes to incorporate her passion for sports into a job. Knowing what field she would

like to pursue, however, does not necessarily make the future much clearer. Like most college students, she finds herself in the awkward, yet common, "I'm not sure what I want to do in life," phase.

"I definitely want to stay in sports. I don't know if it will be in basketball, but it will be sports in business. Maybe sports management. Still thinking," Scognamiglio said.

For now, the focus will be set on the current season. She is now nearing the end of her first full year as a Seawolf. In that year Scognamiglio has earned her spot as a starter on a team that will be looking for her presence in the coming years.

With playoffs coming up, she hopes to make an impact and help lead the team to a championship.

"In playoffs anyone can take anyone in a game so we have to keep our confidence up and keep playing as hard as we have been," Scognamiglio said.

"We play Hartford Sunday, hopefully that will make it four wins in a row heading into the playoffs. I think that puts us in a really good position," she continued.

Whatever the result may be for the Seawolves this year in the playoffs, Scognamiglio will continue to push herself and drive to be the best.

Women's Lacrosse moves to 2-0

By Andrew Eichenholz
Assistant Sports Editor

It looked as if freshman Kylie Ohlmiller scored her first career goal in Stony Brook's women's lacrosse season-opener a week ago against USC. The referees thought otherwise, based on an illegal stick call.

She left no doubt when the Seawolves beat Drexel 8-4 on a sunny Saturday afternoon at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium, putting her name in the goals column for the first time at 16:05 of the second half and kickstarting what Head Coach Joe Spallina has said will be a memorable career.

"Awesome." That was what came to Ohlmiller's mind first when thinking about getting to see one of her shots hit the back of the net for the very first time.

"I definitely missed that opportunity the first game," Ohlmiller said. "It's pretty cool now."

She was cool in scoring the goal as well, taking a pass from fellow freshman Samantha DiSalvo off of a free-position attempt, faking the shot and than burying it. When many young student-athletes may be anxious to score their first, Ohlmiller was mature beyond her years.

"I try to not think about it, just leave it in the past, just move on and try to get the next one," the West Islip, N.Y. native said.

Ohlmiller did more than just score for the first time in college, however, feeding DiSalvo and sophomore Courtney Murphy for goals of their own.

In fact, DiSalvo joined the first-timers party, as her shot just 3:05 into the contest earned her first career goal as well.

Murphy continued the trend that

she has set throughout her young career by leading the team in goals. The Shirely, N.Y. native paced the team and freshmen throughout the country in scoring last season, led the Seawolves with two against USC, and notched three goals on Saturday.

Classmate Dorrien Van Dyke got in on the action as well, putting the game away in its waning moments by scoring her third of the season with 1:41 remaining.

Sophomore goaltender Kaitlyn Leahy kept the Seawolves ahead in the win, looking comfortable in her second career start. She made seven saves on the game, including fending off four of the five free-position shots that she faced. It did not hurt that the always-swarming Stony Brook defense not only forced 20 turnovers, 11 in the second half, but it was perfect on their 17 clear attempts against the Dragons.

"We played great defense," Spallina said, while not all too happy about his team committing 41 fouls on the game. "The thing that bothers me more is the 15 turnovers."

After controlling play with dominant defense in the first half, the Seawolves played even ball with Drexel in the second.

"You can't turn the ball over like that," Spallina said about 10 second-half turnovers. "You've got to be able to score more efficiently."

"Defensively, I think we're showing signs of being a championship caliber defense," Spallina said, more concerned with the other side of the ball. "Once we figure out the offensive side a little bit better, I think we'll be a force to be reckoned with."

Only two games in, Stony Brook has plenty of time to figure that out. The Seawolves face Villanova on Saturday.

Baseball swept in Gainesville

By Cam Boon
Assistant Sports Editor

The Seawolves baseball team took its talents to Florida this weekend for a three-game series with the No. 2 team in the nation, the Florida Gators. The team could not come away with a win against the Gators in its final trip close to the Gulf of Mexico this season.

In game one, it was a good, old-fashioned pitchers duel as Seawolves starter Tim Knesnik threw toe-to-toe with the reigning SEC Freshman of the Year Logan Shore.

Despite drawing three walks, a career high for the sophomore, the Seawolves were only able to muster one hit in 6.1 innings that Shore was on the mound, not giving Knesnik the run support he deserved in a 1-0 Gators win.

The junior threw five-plus innings, allowing only the one run on five hits.

The lone run was scored by Florida in the bottom of the sixth, when JJ Schwarz drove a double down the left-field line, scoring Harrison Bader from first.

Bobby Poyner went 2.2 innings for the save, allowing a miniscule two hits.

Game two was a completely different story, as the bats came alive, for one side at least. Johnny Caputo started the scoring with the third home run of his career, a three-run blast to give the Seawolves the early

3-0 lead.

After that, it was all Gators as they scored 14 unanswered runs in a final that looked more like a football score than a baseball margin, finishing 14-3.

The Gators plated five runs in their half of the first to immediately take the lead, and then scored at least one in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth innings to keep their distance from Stony Brook.

Seawolves ace Tyler Honahan had his worst outing of the season by far, as he was chased from the mound after allowing four runs on six hits in just 2.2 innings.

The sweep was finished on Sunday afternoon, as Florida took the matinee matchup 6-2.

The Gators scored a pair of runs in the second inning and did not look back, adding tallies in the third, fifth, seventh and eighth innings.

Florida used two long balls in order to get on the board, and held on from there.

The Seawolves scored their runs in the eighth and ninth, but it was too little, too late. Jeremy Giles laced a double down the left-field line to put Stony Brook on the board. Then, Malcolm Nachmanoff got his second hit of the afternoon with a base knock to left, scoring Caputo from third.

Baseball will finally come to Joe Nathan Field on Tuesday, when Stony Brook plays NYIT.

Upcoming SBU Sports Schedule

Men's Basketball

Wednesday, March 4
AE quarterfinals vs. Binghamton

Women's Basketball

Saturday, March 7
AE quarterfinals vs. UMBC

Baseball

Tues. March 3
3:30 p.m. vs. NYIT

Sat-Sun March 7-8
3/7 at Fordham, 3/8 vs. Fordham

Softball

Fri-Sun, March 6-8
James Madison Tournament

Men's Lacrosse

Tues. March 3
7:00 p.m. at Marist

Sun. March 8
2:00 p.m. at Rutgers

Women's Lacrosse

Sat. March 7
1:00 p.m. vs. Villanova

Club Hockey

March 5-10
ACHA Division I National Tournament
Cleveland, Ohio

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Men's basketball looks to finally earn chance to dance

By David Vertsberger
Assistant Sports Editor

Here we are. Stony Brook men's basketball is once again on the verge of taking on the America East for a shot at advancing to the NCAA Tournament. Will this season end in bitterness and shock like so many before it, or will the Seawolves finally go dancing in March?

It all comes down to an assortment of factors; basketball nuances that have appeared, disintegrated, evolved and regressed throughout the season.

They all come into play in the coming weeks, and here is how Stony Brook needs to take hold of these many facets and use them to achieve what they have long dreamed of achieving.

In all likelihood, following a win against Binghamton at home, Stony Brook will travel to Vermont for its second round matchup. If SBU wins there, it is on to Albany.

On the offensive end, the Seawolves ranked No. 234 in the nation according to Kenpom, a troubling number.

Jameel Warney has been nearly unstoppable and this team is much more willing and capable of shooting the three than last year's. However, there are still major concerns.

The scoring can not strictly come from Warney. The Seawolves are 15-3 this season when three or more players score in double-digits.

Others have to step up, especially since it is hard to imagine teams will not double Warney with im-



HEATHER KHALIFA/THE STATESMAN

The Stony Brook men's basketball team finished the regular season with a 21-10 overall record. The Seawolves will now look to take home their first America East Championship.

punity in tournament play.

Who and how is the question, though. Carson Puriefoy has not been consistent all season, even closing the season with a month where he only shot above 50 percent in two games. Rayshaun McGrew mostly thrives on open jumpers and offensive rebounds when it was expected that he could bully his way in the post against conference opponents.

Then, there is freshman Roland Nyama, who has come on as a scorer late in the season, but has only scored a combined eight points in four games against Vermont and Albany.

Puriefoy and Nyama need to be aggressive in looking for their shots, especially inside looks. Both

have a tendency to settle when lanes are not revealing themselves, but doing so usually does more harm than good. McGrew will have to knock down those baseline jumpers and take advantage of any mismatch he gets.

Bryan Sekunda and Kameron Mitchell will have to make their open threes, especially against zone defenses SBU will certainly face.

The ball has to keep moving, and under no circumstances can Warney have an off night. He is the team's go-to guy and will be the first name on each team's scouting report, but he must take that with perseverance and dominate as he has all season.

However, in the end, Stony Brook's offense merely has to be

solid with how good its defense has been this season.

The Seawolves ranks a remarkable No. 70 in the country in defensive efficiency according to Kenpom and have not allowed a team to score 70 points since mid-December. Simply put, if SBU is at its best defensively there is not much to worry about on this end.

Head Coach Steve Pikiell will likely not change up his schemes, but instead rely on his team communicating, and being a step faster and an inch higher off the ground.

Some individual matchups to be on the look out for are Puriefoy on Binghamton's Marlon Beck, Warney on Vermont's Ethan O'Day and McGrew on Albany's Sam Rowley.

Women's basketball enters conference tournament red-hot

By Joe Galotti
Sports Editor

The first two months of the season for the Stony Brook women's basketball team were anything but smooth. The team hit some early bumps in the road against strong out-of-conference opponents, while trying to adjust to playing under new Head Coach Caroline McCombs.

Once the new year rolled around, the team still struggled to find consistency as they started out 4-4 in conference play. During the month of January, the Seawolves suffered losses to New Hampshire, Albany, Maine and Hartford, teams that all finished in the top five in the conference this season.

The first 21 games of McCombs' Stony Brook tenure were rather disappointing, given the high expectations the team had coming into the season. About halfway through their conference schedule, the Seawolves found themselves in the middle of the pack in the standings. This came just a year after SBU had made it to the America East Championship game.

In the month of February, things changed for Stony Brook. The Seawolves found the consistency that they had lacked for the first three quarters of the season, and showcased the potential many had seen in the team before the season began.



BASIL JOHN/THE STATESMAN

The Stony Brook women's basketball team will take on UMBC in the quarterfinals of the America East Championship tournament. SBU is 2-0 against the Retrievers this season.

Stony Brook won six of its seven games in February, scoring 60 or more points in every one of its victories.

The most important of those six wins came on Feb. 22, when the Seawolves took down rival Albany at home. The victory helped SBU secure the No. 3 seed entering the conference tournament while also giving the team the confidence that it can beat top America East foes.

Stony Brook will begin its quest for the program's first America East title on Saturday night, when the Seawolves take on the

UMBC Retrievers in Vestal, N.Y. While no conference tournament games should be taken lightly, the Retrievers do present the Seawolves with a winnable matchup in their quarterfinals matchup. UMBC had a 11-18 overall record in the regular season, and was only 6-10 in America East play.

Defense has been the biggest problem area for the Retrievers this season.

Their 66.9 points allowed per game was the fourth-highest average in the conference and was nearly ten points

higher than Stony Brook's.

UMBC's poor perimeter defense is something the Seawolves will need to take advantage of on Saturday.

The Retrievers allowed opponents to shoot 33 percent from three-point range during the 2014-15 season.

Stony Brook took advantage of this in its most recent matchup with UMBC.

The Seawolves nailed eight three-pointers, in their 74-41 blowout win over the Retrievers, back on Feb. 11. Sabre Proctor and Christa Scognamiglio hit

The only real concerns for the Seawolves would be keeping out of foul trouble and being able to defend teams that can spread the floor five positions deep like the Catamounts and Great Danes.

Rebounding the basketball has also been an area in which SBU has been superb, finishing in the top-20 in the country in both offensive and defensive rebounding rates.

Binghamton, Vermont and Albany will all put up a strong fight on the glass however, once again calling on SBU's role players to help out the big names.

Whoever is playing the three spot must crash the boards, whether it be Nyama, King or anybody else.

Many of the wings on the roster can be a huge help in rebounding, but effort and wanting to leak out on offense have impeded their effectiveness.

This obviously has to be avoided. The last headline Seawolves fans want to read when the America East Tournament winds to a close is "Same Seawolves, Different Year," but trying to circumvent that will be a daunting task for a roster absent seniors and so reliant on freshmen.

It is fair to say that Stony Brook's youth would be a valid excuse for not going all the way this season, but it would not fend off the disappointment.

A safe bet would be to expect SBU to get knocked out of the second or final round, but they do not call it "March Madness" for no reason.

three each from beyond the arc in the contest.

One thing that has made UMBC dangerous at times this season is its ability to score the ball.

The Retrievers' points-per-game average ranked third highest in the America East, one spot higher than the Seawolves.

But, the Stony Brook defense kept UMBC's offense in check in their two matchups.

The Seawolves only allowed the Retrievers to shoot 37 percent from the field in their first meeting, than 34.6 percent from the floor in their second game.

SBU has done an excellent job in containing UMBC's Capree Garner, who is the America East's second leading scorer this season.

The junior is averaging 16.9 points per game this season, but has scored just 17 combined points in two games against the Seawolves. She shot 8-of-33 from the field in those contests.

If Stony Brook gets past UMBC, a matchup with Albany will likely be waiting for the Seawolves in the semifinals.

Taking down Shereesha Richards and the rest of the Great Danes will not be an easy task for SBU.

However, defeating the three-time defending conference champions seems much more possible now than it did a month ago for the Seawolves.

SPORTS

Seawolves end regular season on six-game win streak

By David Vertsberger
Assistant Sports Editor

Stony Brook men's basketball is heading to the America East Tournament with all the momentum the Seawolves could have hoped for after topping UMass-Lowell 75-60 and Hartford 74-59 to make it six-straight wins for SBU.

"20 wins. That's tough to do," Head Coach Steve Pikiell said following the UMass-Lowell victory. "I'm proud of these guys. Took care of business."

On Wednesday night, the Seawolves stumbled out of the gates in their final regular-season home game against the Riverhawks, falling behind 11-4 early. UMass-Lowell punished Stony Brook from deep, hitting three threes within the first five minutes. The River Hawks lead would be short-lived though, as SBU quickly responded with a 21-5 run.

The Seawolves collected 50 percent of available offensive rebounds and 56 percent of available defensive boards in the first half, which are astronomical rates.

"We have two of the best rebounders in our conference," Jameel Warney said. "We like to rebound the ball. That's a great way for second offense when our shots aren't falling."

The Seawolves' bigs would lock in on the stretched-out frontcourt of the Riverhawks and hold UMass-Lowell to just five made field goals for the rest of the period following the strong start.

Offensively, Stony Brook once again found a hot hand in freshman Roland Nyama. Coming off a 22-point night against Binghamton, Nyama scored 10 points in



HEATHER KHALIFA / THE STATESMAN

Junior forward Jameel Warney (above, no. 20) finished with 32 points, 18 rebounds and three blocks in Stony Brook's 74-59 win on Saturday over the Hartford Hawks.

the first half.

"Roland's getting better and better," Pikiell said. "When you watch the tapes, you really notice some of the things he does. He's just getting more comfortable, he has a lot of fun out there on the court and I like that. He's got a little swagger about him."

Adding to Nyama's contribution was not just Warney's usual dominance, but another standout performance from junior Scott King. He came off the bench firing, scoring nine points in the first half, including a four-point play.

"To Scott's credit we called his name and he's been ready to go," Pikiell said. "We're playing him at different posi-

tions too. He wasn't really a three man, we're kind of forcing the three spot on him a little bit. He's really picked it up quickly in practice."

The second half was more of the same for Stony Brook. UMass-Lowell attempted to play some zone in spots but in doing so allowed Nyama and King to knock down more threes. Eventually the Riverhawks tightened their grip on the shooters, which was when Warney went to work.

"We had a nice size advantage against them," Warney, who finished with 23 points and 12 rebounds, said. "My teammates did a great job looking for me and feeding me in spots that I can score in."

Nyama finished with 16 points on four threes. King added 12 and Rayshaun McGrew had a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds in the victory.

The Seawolves then traveled to Hartford for their final game of the regular season and continued the onslaught they delivered UMass-Lowell.

From the 17:37 mark to 7:51 remaining in the first half, Stony Brook did not allow the Hawks to connect on a field goal. Hartford was without leading scorer Mark Nwakamma, who exited the game three seconds into Senior Night to rest up for the postseason. This allowed Warney to

have a field day on both ends.

The end tally for Warney was 32 points, 18 rebounds and three blocks on 13-17 shooting from the field.

While the Hawks collapsed on any high-low attempt aimed at Warney in their last meeting with SBU, they did not show nearly the same pressure on Saturday night. Nyama and King's recent shooting exploits, along with Nwakamma not playing, likely caused this scheme change, allowing Warney to play his best game of the season.

The Seawolves seized control minutes into the game with a 24-6 run and held onto it throughout. Aiding Warney in his supremacy was fellow junior Carson Puriefoy, who had his second 20-point and second 50-percent shooting game in a month's time. Puriefoy finished with 22 points and three threes on 7-14 shooting from the field.

This contest was an impressive team effort when surveying the defensive end. The Hawks got few good looks and were relegated to 33.3 percent shooting on the night, including 5-of-24 shooting from downtown, where they normally excel. Stony Brook would coast to a 74-59 win, finishing the season with a 21-10 record, its fourth straight 20-win season and its fifth in six years.

The Seawolves will host Binghamton in their America East Tournament quarterfinal matchup of the on Wednesday, March 4.

"We just have to keep on playing. Have to go into the playoffs with good momentum," Warney said. "We can't limp into the playoffs and we can't take our first round game lightly because if we lose that then our season's over with."

Women's basketball locks up third seed

By Kunal Kohli
and Andrew Eichenholz
Staff Writer and Assistant Sports Editor

After sliding past Albany, the Stony Brook Seawolves locked up the third seed in the America East tournament, defeating Binghamton 68-59 on Thursday night in Vestal, N.Y.

The first half was a rough one to start. After going scoreless in the first five minutes and allowing a six-point run by the Bearcats, the Seawolves finally got their offense started with a layup by sophomore guard Christa Scognamiglio.

The Seawolves kept up the tempo by going on a 12-3 run led by sophomore guard Kori Bayne-Walker and senior forward Sabre Proctor. They were held in check as Binghamton's freshman guard Jasmine Sina got off the bench and helped jumpstart the Bearcats' offense.

Stony Brook managed to hold on to the lead for the rest of half ending taking a 30-28 lead into the break.

A minute into the second half, it looked like it was going to be more of the same. The Seawolves started 0-3 from the field and had two turnovers in the first three minutes. But, looks can be deceiving. Bayne-Walker came to play in the second, scoring 15 of her 23 on the night.

The Seawolves went on a 19-3 run, making the game 49-33

with 11 minutes remaining. After that, it was just smooth sailing for Stony Brook.

Whatever the Bearcats tried, Stony Brook had an answer for it. The game ended with Scognamiglio dribbling the ball out after collecting her fourth steal, giving the Seawolves a 68-59 win.

Just like she has been for most of the season, Bayne-Walker was the story of the game. Her game-high 23 points fueled the Seawolves all game long. She also dished the ball off well, tallying four assists. Proctor also had a great game with 16 points and six defensive boards.

Women's basketball team had nothing to play for but confidence on Sunday afternoon against the Hartford Hawks, being already locked into a Saturday night clash in the America East Championships against UMBC at 8:30 p.m.

However, in spite of a 56-49 loss to the same team that broke the hearts of Seawolves fans at Island Federal Credit Union Arena in a 60-58 loss on Jan. 29, Stony Brook has reason for optimism heading into the America East quarterfinals.

Stony Brook's two leading scorers during conference play heading into the game against the Hawks contest were senior Sabre Proctor and junior Brittany Snow, who had accounted for an average of 25.5 points per game. Against Hartford,

the duo went four for 21 from the field, for 12 points in the loss.

It was the worst performance for the duo in conference play, the next lowest point total being 14, again against Hartford. Yet, the Seawolves hung tough in a tough opponent's gym, pushing the game until the waning moments, when free throws by the Hawks sealed the deal.

One may wonder why the struggle of two of Stony Brook's best players in the last game of the regular season provides reason for optimism, but it is simple. Hartford is the only team that the Seawolves' forwards have mightily struggled against this season, and it is highly unlikely that they will see the Hawks again.

There is no reason to expect the duo to falter again, especially if the Seawolves should eventually find themselves against Albany in the semifinals, who they played great basketball against in ending the Great Danes' 30-game road America East winning streak.

In the loss, sophomores Kori Bayne-Walker, Christa Scognamiglio and senior Jessica Ogunnorin all reached double digits, as they totaled 12, 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Even though Proctor struggled from the field, she crashed the boards nonetheless, snatching 10 rebounds on the game.

Men's lax holds off Fairfield

By Chris Peraino
Staff Writer

With the stinging memory of a heartbreaking fourth-quarter collapse to St. John's in mind, the Stony Brook men's lacrosse team was able to fend off a billowing Fairfield team and take a 10-9 home win.

"It was good to pull away against a real quality team in Fairfield. [Fairfield was a] twelve-win team last year, so it's a really big win for us," Head Coach Jim Nagle said. "The guys have been working really hard and it's nice to see us come out. We've come out on the upsetting sides of those recently. It was good to get a big win in a close game like that."

The Seawolves came out of the gates aggressively, with sophomore midfielder Jeff Reh scoring his first goal of the year in transition off of a turnover and junior attack Brody Eastwood burying a shot after key ball movement opened up Fairfield's defense within the first three minutes of the game.

Mike Rooney dished an assist on both goals and finished the day with seven, surpassing a career-high of six assists in one game, which was set in game against Fairfield two years ago.

"I'm just getting it and passing it off to someone else for a shot," Rooney said. "Everyone can finish

on our offense and just moving the ball makes it easy."

Stony Brook led 5-1 at the end of the first quarter, but the Stags were able to grind their way back into the game and continued to chip away at the lead.

After recovering six turnovers in the second and successfully winning 14 of 22 total faceoffs, Fairfield was able to put away five goals, three of which came unassisted by way of senior attack Colin McLinden, in the second and third periods.

This set up a 8-6 Stony Brook lead going into the fourth.

Stony Brook successfully held on to its lead throughout the whole game due, in large part to a zone defense that disallowed interior play and forced Fairfield to take many ill-advised shots.

After a timely fourth quarter save by freshman goalkeeper Brandon Maciejewski, who notched nine total saves, Stony Brook held possession until junior midfielder Chris Hughes scored his third goal of the game with a Rooney assist.

Fairfield soon responded with a goal of its own at the 8:30 mark, making the score 9-8 Stony Brook.

Sophomore midfielder Ryan Bitzer then iced it with his second goal of the season with 5:20 left.

Next up for Stony Brook is a matchup with 2-0 Marist on Tuesday night at 7 p.m. On Sunday they will stay on the road to face Rutgers.