

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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LOOK INSIDE FOR THE
2017 SEX AND RELATIONSHIPS ISSUE



ERIC SCHMID / THE STATESMAN

Snow covers the walkway between the Staller Center and the Administration Building on Feb. 9. Classes were canceled one day in advance of the winter storm, which left much of Long Island with over 12 inches of snow.

University Senate passes resolution to protect immigrants

By Desiree D'Iorio
Contributing Writer

The University Senate passed a resolution on Feb. 6 calling on Stony Brook University's administration to adopt several policies aimed at protecting university community members who are undocumented immigrants.

The resolution was passed in response to President Donald Trump's Jan. 27 executive order preventing citizens from seven predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States. The travel ban prompted protests at airports across the country as travelers from the affected na-

tions were either prevented from boarding U.S.-bound planes, or detained at U.S. airports upon arrival.

"The University Senate felt that it was important to make a statement to protect Stony Brook students, faculty and professional staff who might have been negatively impacted by this executive order," said Edward Feldman, the University Senate president and an associate professor of clinical family medicine at the School of Medicine.

The resolution urges the administration to prevent Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, officials from carrying

out immigration enforcement activities on campus unless they present a warrant. It also states that the administration should direct campus police officers to issue tickets instead of making arrests whenever possible.

"An arrest, even for a minor traffic offense, may lead to consequences well beyond the intended punishment or law enforcement purpose for certain immigrant students, such as the issuance of an ICE detainer and possible immigration detention and removal proceedings," the resolution reads.

The resolution mirrors several statements made by Stony Brook

University President Samuel L. Stanley Jr.

"We do not share private information; once a student is enrolled we protect student confidentiality in line with federal and state law; and, our University Police Department does not inquire into nor record the immigration status of students or other persons unless they have been arrested," he said in a Nov. 18 message. "Also, it is important for us to understand that ICE policy characterizes colleges and universities as 'sensitive locations' — places where enforcement actions

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Professor named one of Vanity Fair France's 50 most influential

By Michaela Kilgallen
and Mahreen Khan
News Editor and Assistant News Editor

Vanity Fair France has named Sonia Harmand, an associate professor, one of the 50 most influential French in the world.

"I accepted the prize not only in my name but also the team working with me," Harmand, a professor in the Department of Anthropology, said.

In 2011, Harmand and Jason Lewis, a paleoanthropologist at Rutgers University, made a wrong turn in Kenya and discovered stone artifacts,



LUIS RUIZ DOMINGUEZ / THE STATESMAN

Sonia Harmand, above, discovered the oldest known stone tool artifact, dating back 3.3 million years, in 2011.

dating back 3.3 million years.

Before Harmand and Lewis discovered the artifacts on the western shore of Lake Turkana, the earliest stone tools only dated back 2.6 million years.

"I remember the excitement," Harmand said. "The excitement, the emotion of knowing that we had found something important, but at that time we didn't know the exact age of these stone tools. I called the rest of my team. ... Everybody came, and we spent a good hour looking around, and

Continued on page 2

Stony Brook basketball guard charged with rape

By Kunal Kohli
Assistant Sports Editor

Stony Brook men's basketball sophomore guard Blair Mendy has been charged with rape, according to the Stony Brook University Police Department.

"The Stony Brook University Police Department arrested a residential student in connection with an investigation on February 8, 2017," University Police said in a statement. "The suspect, identified as Blair Mendy, was charged with Rape in the 3rd Degree, Sexual Misconduct and Endangering the Welfare of a Child. The victim was not a student."

Mendy, a California native, is accused of raping a 16-year-old girl in his dorm room on Dec. 20, 2016, according to Newsday. Mendy pleaded not guilty to the charges. Judge Pierce F. Cohalan set Mendy's bail to \$2,000 during his arraignment on Thursday. His next court date is scheduled for March 6.

"The behavior of individual students does not represent or define our athletic program," Director of Athletics Shawn Heilbron said in a statement. "It was very disappointing to learn that one of our student athletes was arrested. We take this very seriously and will follow and adhere to the policies and procedures that are in place for all Stony Brook students."

Mendy, a transfer from the City College of San Francisco, has played in two games this season.

"As a team, we must continue to strive to be at our best at all times and take responsibility for our actions, both on and off the court," head coach Jeff Boals said in a statement.



EVAN YUSON / THE STATESMAN

Blair Mendy, above, has been charged with rape.

NEWS

Sonia Harmand earns Vanity Fair honor for archaeology work in Kenya

Continued from page 1

it was a shared excitement at that time. Also a shared responsibility.”

The artifacts proved that ancient hominins created sharp tools by “knapping” or breaking off pieces of stone nearly 700,000 years earlier than previously thought. Harmand published the discovery in the scientific journal *Nature* in May 2015.

“It took us a long time to publish our paper in *Nature*. It took us three years,” Harmand said. “But we made the cover, which is not also very often – especially when you talk about stone tools. The adventure is not finished because the site is still under excavation. So we’re still going every summer in the field to excavate the site.”

Vanity Fair’s 50 Most Influential French list also includes the likes of singer Christine and the Queens, computer scientist Yann LeCun, chef Dominique Crenn, architect Jean Nouvel and biochemist Rachel Auzely.

Harmand is only one of five archaeology professors listed on the Department of Anthropology website. She specializes in paleolithic archaeology, human

evolution, Africa, lithic technology, early hominin cognition and behavior, and primate archaeology within the department.

“She does very innovative work,” John Shea, fellow professor in the Department of Anthropology, said. “In a way, it’s interesting. She’s more American in her approach to stone tools than most of her French colleagues.”

Harmand has worked in Kenya for 18 years. She explained that East Africa is the best region to study human evolution and technology. Lake Turkana is the oldest archaeological site in the world.

The process to uncover these artifacts can be tedious, but the feeling Harmand and her team receive from unearthing history is well worth the wait.

“It takes a lot of minutes, sometimes several hours to carefully unearth the stone that is going to be, finally, a stone tool,” Harmand said. “And when you finally take it with your own hands from the sediment. I mean, you are the first one to take the stone tool in your hands. ... It’s a very emotional thing to me, and I have to say, probably everybody in the team.”

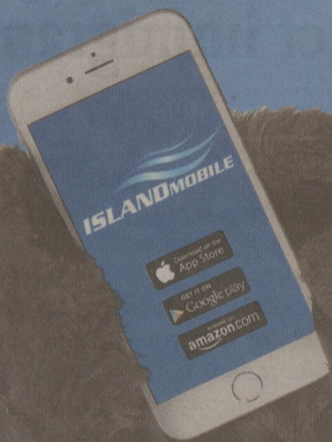
Rodger Tan contributed reporting to this story.



LUIS RUIZ DOMINGUEZ / THE STATESMAN

Sonia Harmand, above, was named one of the 50 most influential French by *Vanity Fair* France. The list also includes scientists, ballerinas, chefs, architects and entrepreneurs.

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Resolution urges SBU to prevent ICE from carrying out enforcement without warrant

Continued from page 1

should not occur outside of extraordinary circumstances.”

In a Feb. 2 letter, Stanley, along with dozens of other university presidents, urged Trump to reconsider his Executive Order because it threatens both higher education and American ideals.

“Their [immigrants] innovations and scholarship have enhanced American learning, added to our prosperity, and enriched our culture,” the letter to Trump reads. “This action unfairly targets seven predominantly Muslim countries in a manner inconsistent with America’s best principles and greatest traditions.”

Judith Greiman, chief deputy to the president, said at Monday’s University Senate meeting that Stanley’s office has received multiple inquiries about whether Stony Brook can be a sanctuary campus, referring to college campuses that adopt specific policies to protect undocumented immigrants.

“The SUNY Board of Trustees is the only entity that would have the authority to do that — not university presidents,” Greiman said. Stanley’s report was delivered by Greiman because he was in Albany meeting with lawmakers.

SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher urged the SUNY Board of Trustees in a Jan. 24 memo to adopt a similar resolution affirming support for undocumented students. The Board of Trustees has not publicly responded. SUNY did not respond to requests for comment.

Almost 200 Stony Brook University professors and graduate students have also signed the Academics Against Immigration Executive Order petition, including Charles Taber, who is the dean of the Graduate School, the vice

provost for graduate education and a political science professor.

In an email, Taber described the executive order as “discriminatory, detrimental to our national interests, and poses severe and inhumane burdens on members of our community. More important, I believe this executive order threatens the values of inclusion, compassion and cultural diversity on which our democratic nation was built and from which our institutions of higher education draw their strength.”

The petition echoes the Feb. 2 letter to Trump from the college presidents. In addition to calling

the executive order “un-American,” the petition also argues that banning students from the seven affected countries will damage research efforts.

“United States research institutions directly benefit from the work of thousands of researchers from the nations affected by this executive order,” the petition reads. “The United States academic community relies on these talented and creative individuals for their contributions to cutting-edge research.”

The petition was started by a group of academics across the U.S. and has garnered over 40,000 signatures so far, includ-

ing professors, graduate students, Nobel Laureates and members of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and the Arts.

Trump’s executive order and subsequent travel ban immediately affected the Stony Brook University community. Graduate Student Organization President Vahideh Rasekhi was temporarily detained at JFK International Airport from Jan. 28 to Jan. 29 after returning from Iran.

The two-week-old executive order banning travelers from Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Yemen, Somalia and Sudan has attracted near-constant attention and a fast-paced legal battle. A

Brooklyn judge issued an emergency stay on Jan. 28, just one day after Trump announced the order. Several states sued the government, and a Washington state judge issued a temporary restraining order on Feb. 3, suspending the ban. A federal appeals court denied the Department of Justice’s request for an emergency ruling to overturn the Washington judge’s decision but agreed to hear arguments from both sides on Feb. 7. The appeals court ruled on Feb. 9 to uphold the restraining order, indicating that the issue could now potentially be heard in front of the Supreme Court.



ANNA CORREA / THE STATESMAN

U.S. President Donald Trump's executive order prompted protests across the country, including the March for Unity at Stony Brook on Feb. 1. SBU President Stanley spoke later that evening about the importance of diversity on campus.

Police Blotter

On Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 4:12 a.m., a damaged elevator control panel was reported at University Hospital. A criminal mischief affidavit has been filled out. There are no suspects. The case remains open.

On Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 12:04 p.m., a male was arrested for unlawful possession of marijuana at Hamilton College. The case remains open.

On Wednesday, Feb. 1, at 5:30 p.m., a group of individuals were smoking in a room at Wagner College that set off the fire alarm. Multiple referrals were issued for smoking and possession of marijuana. The case is closed due to student referral.

On Thursday, Feb. 2, at 1:17 a.m., keys were reportedly sto-

len from an individual at the University Hospital. The case remains open.

On Friday, Feb. 3, at 9:45 p.m., a tip jar was allegedly stolen by an unknown female from University Hospital Starbucks. The case is now closed.

On Thursday, Feb. 2, at 12:13 p.m., threatening text messages were sent to an individual at University Hospital. The case is closed due to the victim refusing to cooperate.

On Thursday, Feb. 2, at 2:19 p.m., a department-issued laptop was stolen from room 5-360 at University Hospital. The case remains open.

On Thursday, Feb. 2, at 5:53 p.m., a domestic complaint at the

Health Sciences Center was made and the male subject was arrested at Tubman Hall for unlawful possession of marijuana. The case remains open.

On Friday, Feb. 3, at 2:46 a.m., a vehicle was driven through University Hospital’s valet lot gate. The case remains open.

On Friday, Feb. 3, at 10:33 p.m., a student reported that they suspected an unknown individual was in their room earlier that morning at Keller College. The case remains open.

On Saturday, Feb. 4, at 4:45 a.m., two females were reportedly impersonating physicians at University Hospital. One of the females has been arrested. The case remains open.

On Saturday, Feb. 4, at 10:47 a.m., money was stolen from a wallet in West D by an unknown individual. The case remains open.

On Sunday, Feb. 5, at 7:42 p.m., a white male allegedly threw a desk sign at a Hilton Garden Inn clerk. The clerk declined to press charges. The case is closed.

On Sunday, Feb. 5, at 1:23 a.m., four or five individuals took a sign from East Side Dining and proceeded to hit it with a crutch that one of them had in their possession. The sign was recovered. Prosecution was declined. The case is closed.

On Sunday, Feb. 5, at 9:49 p.m., a patient struck an assistant staff member at University Hospital. The case is closed due to declined prosecution.

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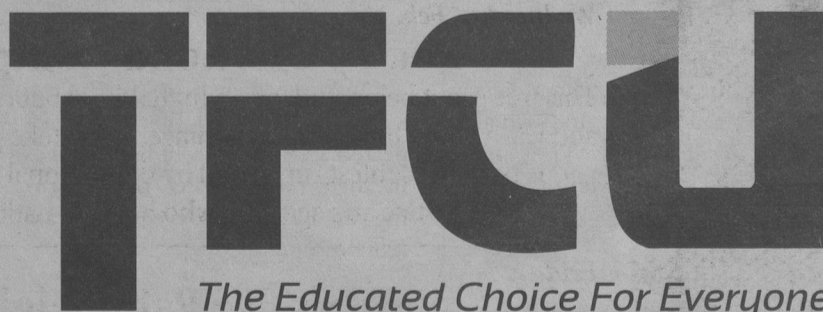


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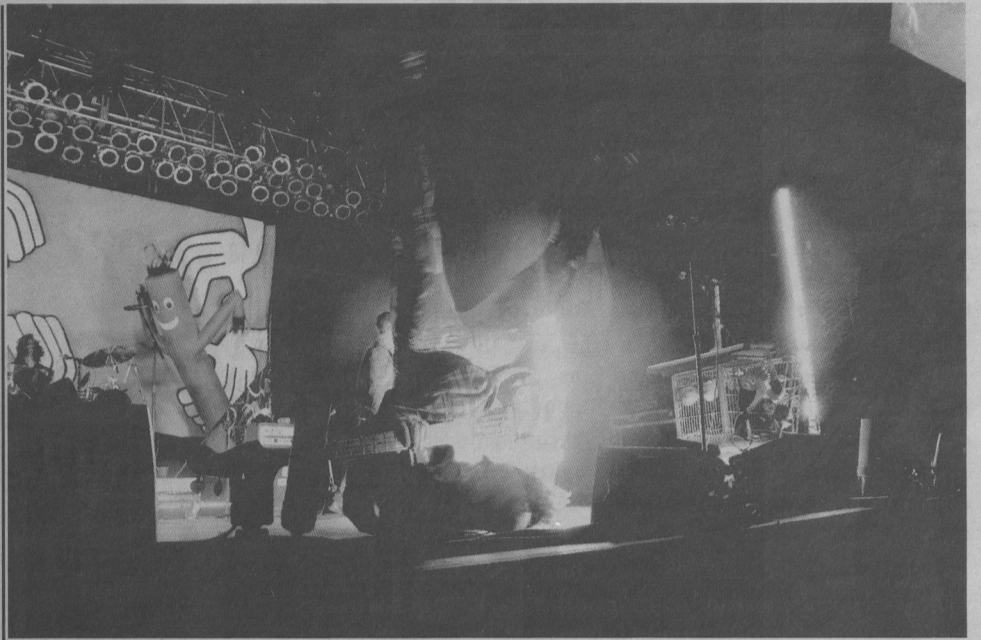


ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Concert Review: DNCE at The Paramount



ANAMARIA SALOBO / THE STATESMAN



ANAMARIA SALOBO / THE STATESMAN

DNCE band members JinJoo Lee and Joe Jonas performing at The Paramount in Huntington on Feb. 8 following the opening act, The Skins. Bassist Cole Whittle, pictured above, playing upside down. He also jumped into the crowd 20 minutes into his eccentric performance.

By Emily Norman and Anamaria Salobo
Staff Writer and Contributing Writer

You know a concert is probably going to be good when your Uber driver says you weren't the first person he's dropped off at the venue tonight.

And DNCE's performance did not disappoint.

On Wednesday, Feb. 8, DNCE turned its concert at The Paramount in Huntington into an epic party. When t-shirts weren't being thrown into the audience, dollar bills were.

The concert got its momentum going when the opening act, The Skins, took center stage.

The two vocalists, Bay Li and Kaya Nico, who is also the band's bassist, rocked the stage

with their riveting voices and pop-funk sound. They interacted with the crowd, including sing-alongs during parts of each song.

Following their performance, the music transitioned from sultry vibes to the Star Wars theme song as Stormtroopers emerged waving purple flags, introducing the headliner, who burst on stage donning Darth Vader masks.

After a brief lightsaber battle, the four band members took off their helmets and the already screaming crowd roared.

In an instant, the air was filled with cell phones, ready to follow the band's every move.

DNCE, led by former Jonas Brother, Joe Jonas, is a pop-funk band with an eclectic style famous for its catchy songs like "Toothbrush" and "Cake by the

Ocean," which earned the band a VMA in 2016. Both hits made it onto Billboard's Hot 100 list in 2016.

Formed in 2015, the band features four members, who at first may seem incompatible because of their individual styles.

While Jonas paraded around in a black denim ensemble, eccentric bassist Cole Whittle wore a reflective yellow vest with a plaid skirt and jeans underneath. A man with a mohawk on the side of his head and a mission to keep the audience entertained at all times, Whittle catapulted himself onto the crowd within the first 20 minutes.

The band's drummer Jack Lawless and guitarist JinJoo Lee had both performed with Jonas before they joined together to

form DNCE, according to MTV News. Lawless was the drummer for the Jonas Brothers from 2007 until its disbandment. Lee and Jonas' friendship began when she toured with the brothers during their 2009 world tour as a guitarist for one of their opening acts, Jordin Sparks.

With a discography containing raunchier lyrics than those from Jonas' days as a "Jo Bro," the subject matter has matured with the audience.

One audience member had been waiting since December for the concert.

"I got the ticket as a Christmas present but I love DNCE because of Joe Jonas," Anna Russo, 18, said.

"I have loved him ever since I was little."

Girls under 13 years old were also in attendance, proving that DNCE is a wizard at masking the true intent of a song's nature with clever innuendos and metaphors that distract parents and radio stations alike.

Either way, from the looks of the effervescent crowd, it seemed that the band was a hit with people of all ages.

In the center of the floor, a girl danced along with her friends, waving her cast-adorned arm in the air.

Saving its most popular song for last, the band played "Cake by the Ocean," and everyone sang their hearts out to the catchy lyrics. Confetti blasted from cannons, signaling the end of an eventful night — one fans will never forget.

ARTSY EVENTS



COURTESY OF JIMMY KATZ

Vijay Iyer, who will perform in the Staller Center, was named DownBeat Magazine's Artist of the Year in 2016.

Monday, Feb. 13

Surviving History, Making HERstory

As part of Black History Month, this event will discuss black women throughout history whose work has made an impact on today's world and the role of black women today. The event, which will take place from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. in Frey Hall, will also give out various awards to black women in the Stony Brook area.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

Meet and Greet with students from Italy

The Center for Italian Studies is hosting a reception where Stony Brook students can meet students from Italy who are involved with various programs at Stony Brook University. All are invited to the event, which will take place in the Center for Italian Studies Meeting Hall in the Melville Library at 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 15

Poetry Out Loud Competition

This free event helps students in high school build their public speaking skills, self-confidence and learn about their literary heritage. It will take place in the Wang Center Theater at 6 p.m., and is part of a contest supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation and U.S. state arts agencies who help the nation's youth learn about poetry.

Friday, Feb. 17

Winter's Eve Paint Night

The Office of Creative Arts and Weekend Life Council will be hosting a paint night in the Student Activities Center Ballroom A where guests will be able to paint "Winter's Eve" scenes. The class will run from 8 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. and mocktails will be available. There is a limit of 100 seats, so get there early to ensure that you'll get in.

Saturday, Feb. 25

Vijay Iyer in Concert

The Staller Center for the Arts will host the Vijay Iyer Sextet in the Recital Hall at 8 p.m.. Iyer's album "Historicity" was a 2010 Grammy nominee for Best Instrumental Jazz Album and was named the number one jazz album of 2009 by The New York Times, the Los Angeles Times and the Chicago Tribune. Tickets are available through the Staller Center's website.

Review: 'The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story'

By Ryan Williams
Contributing Writer

More than a year after its cable premiere, the FX show "The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story" has been added to Netflix.

The miniseries, which has garnered numerous awards and nominations, dramatizes the already dramatic and infamous O.J. Simpson murder case that riveted the nation in 1995.

With its powerful cast and never-ending deluge of excitement, "The People v. O.J. Simpson" is binge-worthy enough to deserve a spot in the Netflix library.

Developed by screenwriters Scott Alexander and Larry Karaszewski, the show chronicles one of the most publicized criminal cases in history from the perspectives of both the Los Angeles prosecution team and Simpson's defense team, which was known as the "Dream Team" for its collection of high-profile and powerful lawyers.

On the prosecution's side, "American Horror Story" actress Sarah Paulson stars as Marcia Clark, the head prosecutor who finds herself battling the media as well as Simpson's defense. Sterling K. Brown is particularly poignant as Chris Darden, a lawyer who joins the prosecution and becomes troubled by the racial controversy that surrounds the trial.

On Simpson's team, Courtney B. Vance is electric as the out-

spoken Johnnie Cochran, while John Travolta schemes as celebrity lawyer Robert Shapiro. Even "Friends" star David Schwimmer gives a devastating performance as Robert Kardashian, Simpson's close friend and defense attorney, who slowly begins to suspect him of being guilty of the murders.

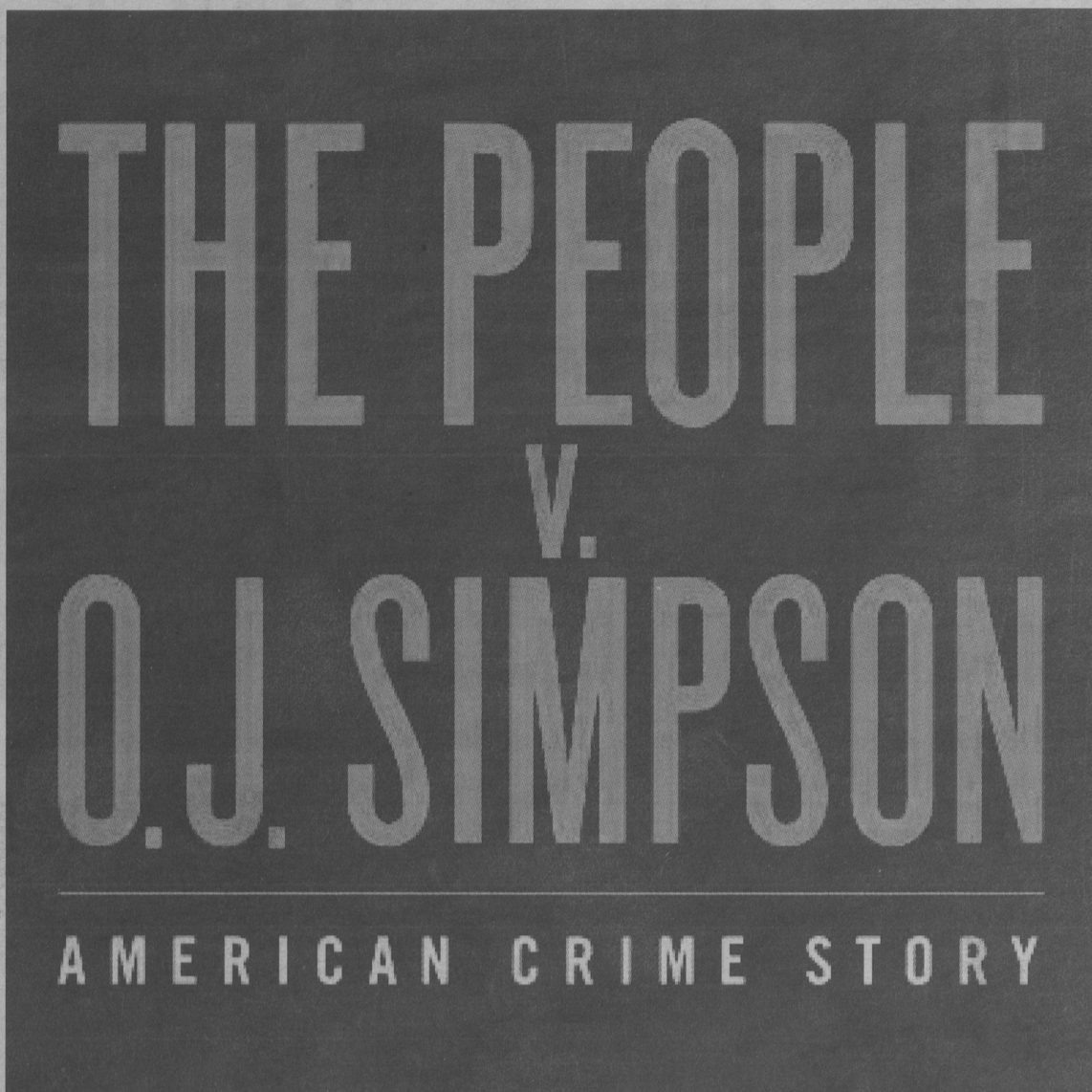
Although "The People v. O.J. Simpson" shines in its acting, some performances fell short of expectations. Cuba Gooding Jr. is not especially noteworthy as the charismatic O.J. Simpson, and Travolta's permanently scrunched face can take some getting used to.

While the first few episodes are full of suspense, focusing on the immediate aftermath of the murders, the twists and turns of the trial itself truly enhance the show's gripping and intense style of entertainment. In fact, some of the interplay and outbursts between the prosecution and the defense proved more riveting than Simpson's police chase.

What's even more compelling is that much of what the show depicts is true, although there are, of course, characters and moments that are fictionalized through heavy dramatization.

Overall, "The People v. O.J. Simpson" is an absorbing entry into the courtroom drama genre.

The first season, which is part of the crime anthology series "American Crime Story," proved to be a critical and commercial success, and three more seasons are currently in development. However, these next seasons will



PUBLIC DOMAIN

"The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story" premiered on FX in February 2016. The show garnered critical success, winning nine Primetime Emmy Awards.

not continue the stories of O.J. Simpson or those involved in this case. Still, several actors, including Paulson and Vance, are set to return for season two, which will

center on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, according to Deadline. Season three, which will be filmed almost simultaneously, is set to cover the assassination

of designer Gianni Versace on the steps of his Miami mansion, according to Deadline. You can check out all 10 episodes on Netflix now.

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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.

The Statesman and its editors have won several awards for student journalism and several past editors have gone on to enjoy distinguished careers in the field of journalism.

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First issue free; additional issues cost 50 cents.



ERIC SCHMID/THE STATESMAN

East Side Dining is the newest dining hall with accommodations for students with swipe and Dining Dollar meal plans. The location does not offer study areas for students.

I would like a dining hall with a side area to study in, please

By Andrew Goldstein
Assistant Opinions Editor

In honor of the abundance of caution Stony Brook had on Thursday, my roommate and I woke up late and spent our morning sharing breakfast and playing flash games in East Side Dining. At noon, he walked back to the room to get started on a few essays and I wandered through East Side looking for somewhere relatively quiet to charge both my phone and my laptop and join a Skype conference call. Even on a snow day, the only real place where I could find outlets and quiet was the Kosher dining area.

Look at the Central and North Reading Rooms in the library. Far beyond the nice new decor, there are enough outlets to charge full tables of laptops and phones. In the library Starbucks, there are even outlets running through the tables for ease of access. It too has an ambience conducive to writing essays, working on homework and collaborating with friends (source: where do you think I'm writing this article?) Clearly, those in charge of renovating and remodeling

buildings on campus understand the need for more study areas with better amenities for the more than 25,000 students this university holds.

But East and West Side Dining don't have room to get real studying done. You might be able to snag one of those tables near an outlet, or work at a table for as long as your computer battery lasts, but all around you are the boisterous goings-on of a proper dining hall. With all the space afforded to eat in East Side, it's a wonder no room was made for studying students who want to grab a snack and hit their homework. Imagine how busy a CoLA or three would be, especially as midterm season rolls around. Imagine how thankful students would be if there were those UFO-shaped power strips with outlets galore.

Beyond the simple benefit of more places accessible to study, having learning areas in East or West would de-cramp the library and other main study areas around campus.

It would be a shorter walk from the dorms, and it would mean that students don't need to awkwardly pace around the

North Reading Room until someone gives up their seat.

One of my favorite aspects of East and West Side Dining is the amount of natural light that shines through the windows. The study room in my building, James College, is below ground, window-less and generally feels like the place of my caffeine-addled nightmares. There are scientific studies that find natural light beneficial to sleeping patterns, improved performance and calmer minds. This makes the bright East and West Side Dining buildings scientifically advantageous places to study.

However, I realize it's possible I'm writing this a bit late. West was completed around my freshman year. East was completed this winter. The administration isn't going to go back and renovate these two new buildings, especially when there are new developments like the Union going on. But what I'm proposing should be relatively inexpensive. Pick a room or section of each building, wire a few more outlets and put up a sign asking for relative silence.

This midterm cycle, let's have our meals and study too.

Letter to the editor: President Stanley should hold office hours

By Bryan Carroll
Contributing Writer

Have you ever wondered why President Stanley does not offer office hours? If you have recently scrolled through the president of the university's website, you will not find any mention of the ability for students to talk with him or his staff during formally set office hours.

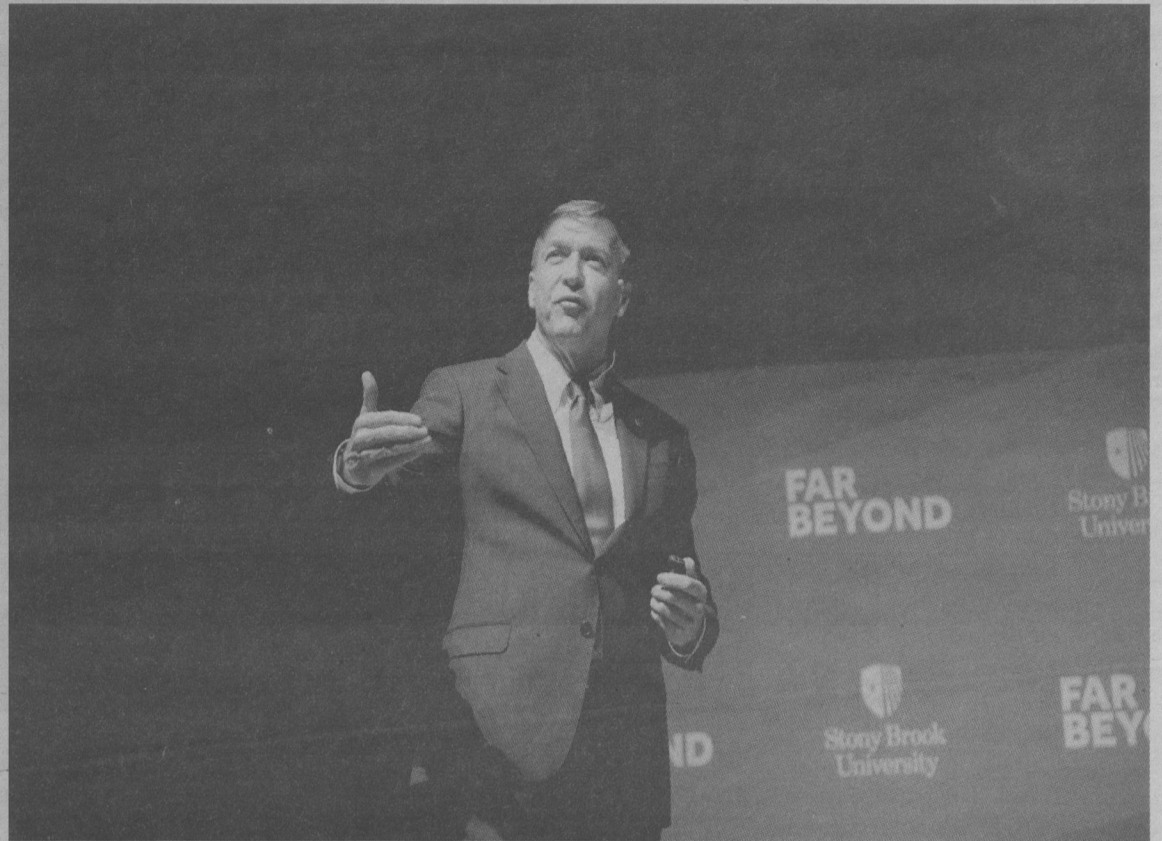
I wonder the rationale behind this decision. This potentially limits students' chances to discuss important matters that affect their academic development. Granted, some issues are better suited to be answered by the Dean of Students (recently left), or in the forum of University Council or by human resources. Other issues, like scholarship or campus involvement, can only be fostered by a dialogue between groups on campus that might otherwise feel disenfranchised.

On a cursory look through the Chronicle of Higher Education, a news source for college and university faculty and administrators, you will find several articles under the heading of "Leadership and Governance"

that discuss the importance of establishing a dialogue between the administration and students. One article interviews Lynn Pasquerella, the president of the Association of American Colleges and Universities, on the need for better communication on college campuses. Particularly, she notes, "...the best that we can offer students today is the capacity to work with others who are different from themselves in diverse teams... and to be adaptable and flexible in a world where the jobs of the future have not yet been invented."

Pasquerella stresses that communication among diverse groups is important in liberal education.

At several other universities, the chief executive offers individual meetings with students as a way for the campus community to discuss concerns, questions and thoughts that are important to them. While some presidents limit the appointment time to 15 minutes a student (due to attendance), others allow for more liberal amounts of time (45 minutes). The president of the University of Connecticut, for example, offers 30-minute appointments



JERROD WHITE / THE STATESMAN

President Samuel L. Stanley at the 2016 State of the University address on Sept. 28. While other colleges hold office hours for the university president, Stony Brook does not.

for students. I wonder how the Stony Brook community might benefit if President Stanley held office hours. Perhaps, the community might see positives in the

areas of developments on accreditation, funding sources and balanced faculty-student ratios to list a few. In tumultuous times like these, we need a united campus

with less barriers between us and our college administration. The worst thing a college administration can do is limit avenues of communication.

The paradox of the paraplegic on campus



FRANCIS YU / STATESMAN FILE

Architectural flaws in the Charles B. Wang Center make it unsuitable and inconvenient for handicapped students to easily gain access to the building and its dining area, Jasmine.

By Michael Kohut
Staff Writer

Being disabled comes with challenges – some obvious, and a few I've written about in the past. But situations where complaining can do you no good and where you don't have time to go on a crusade of justice are never discussed. For example, there is no handicap accessible entrance door to the brand new Starbucks in the basement of the library,

in case you haven't noticed. But today we'll focus on the Wang Center, and how nice it would be if the university was more conscientious of handicapped students, despite how difficult this may be.

This past Tuesday afternoon, my friend and I went to the Wang Center for lunch at Jasmine. I rarely go to Jasmine, maybe once or twice a semester because mango lassi is just that good. What isn't good is the layout. The nar-

row lines, which are the only way to order and pick up food, are very constricted and partially blocked by a wall. This causes extreme navigation difficulty in the cramped space for both the paraplegic and the surrounding population. Nobody wants that. But, it's an architectural flub in a restaurant without a lot of space, so we all collectively shrug it off.

Harder to shrug off was entering the Wang Center to find

a printed note on the only elevator apologizing for the inconvenience and asking me to take the stairs. Declining the request, my friend and I searched for a secondary entrance and, finding none, went to East Side.

It sucks, but a hard truth about being disabled is that sometimes, due to nonchalant oversight by others, you'll get screwed over. And sometimes, even if you could fix it, it's just not worth it, and mango lassi just isn't worth it.

These situations are hard to prepare for and react to. I think the reason is that one must realize that it's ridiculous to expect the general population to be conscious and considerate of disabled people all the time. Putting yourself in that frame of mind is difficult. If you rarely speak to people with disabilities you're unlikely to even consider when something you see or experience could be difficult for the mobility-impaired, much less point it out and try to change it.

The paradox of the paraplegic is that making such situations uncommon, and thus saving us the stress, would require a lifetime of labor and litigation to change the framework of education in architecture and civil engineering and ensure that attention is paid to us. Either that, or hopefully through media like this, and in interaction with those around them, the general population will learn to consider the disabled without even being asked.

I hope that's the case. Until then, at least East Side has good burritos.

Have an idea for a story?

Have a response to a piece that you read?

Write for us!

Send us your story pitch to opinion@sbstatesman.com

Late-game comebacks have become a theme of Jeff Boals' first season

By Kunal Kohli
Assistant Sports Editor

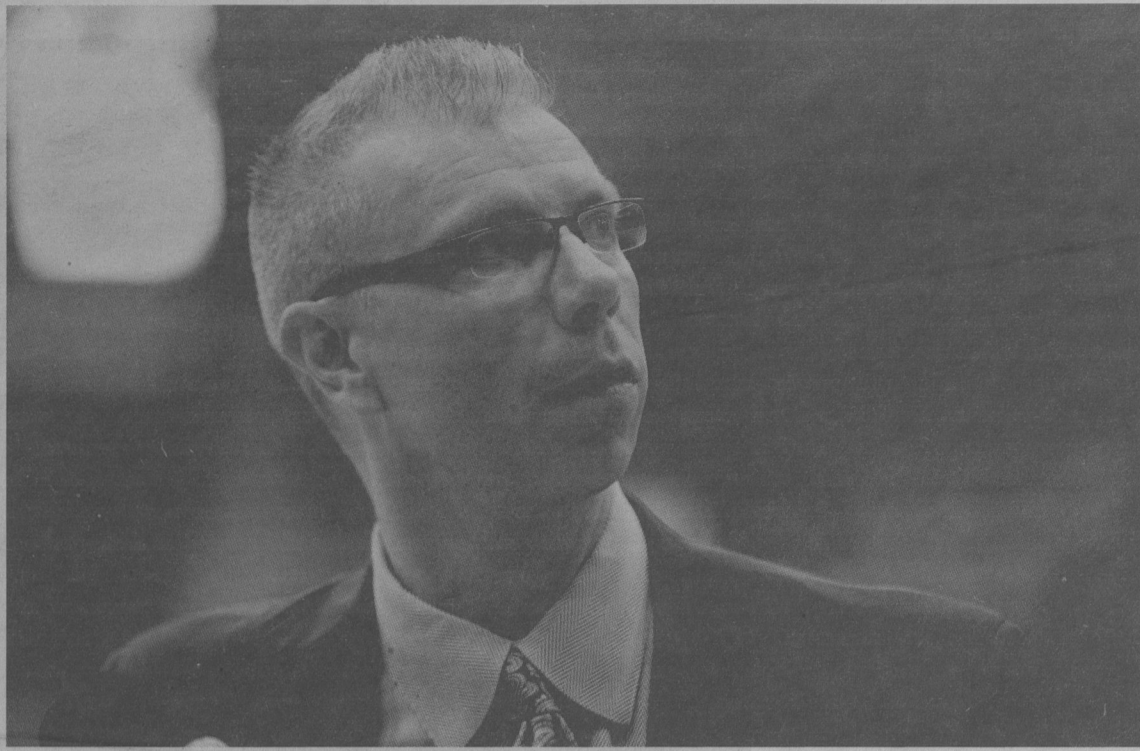
After Stony Brook Men's Basketball's 73-66 loss to Columbia, redshirt junior forward Roland Nyama stated that the Seawolves were going to defend the America East Championship. It was a bold proclamation, especially for a team that was ranked seventh out of nine teams in the conference preseason poll. Three games – all losses – later and the statement was almost laughable – how could Stony Brook defend its title if it continually gets blown out?

The fifth game of the season, in neutral territory against Hampton, looked as if it would be the same. The Seawolves were down 36-26 at halftime. They never led throughout the first half and Pirates guards Jermaine Marrow and Lawrence Cooks were both in double figures scoring and showed no signs of slowing down.

Stony Brook head coach Jeff Boals was frustrated. He signed a contract to coach a team that was coming off an NCAA berth, not one that was going 0-5 to start the season.

"As a coach, sometimes if you play well and you play the right way you can accept the outcome," Boals said. "But when you don't put the effort and attitude into it, you can't accept it."

Senior guard Lucas Wood-



Head coach Jeff Boals pictured in a Feb. 6 game against UMass Lowell. Boals joined Stony Brook before the 2016-17 season after assistant coaching at Ohio State.

ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN

house scored all 17 of his points in a second half comeback to secure the first win of the season. It was a signature Stony Brook moment harkening back to the Steve Pikiell era. After all, last season's championship-winning squad was a second half team, even coming back from a 36-27 halftime deficit to win the America East title.

Fast forward to Jan. 5 in Durham, New Hampshire. The Seawolves found themselves down 26-19 at halftime against

the No. 2 team in the preseason poll, the Wildcats. This time, Nyama and junior forward Tyrell Sturdivant took over, combining for 28 of Stony Brook's 40 points in the second half.

In its second conference game against Albany, Stony Brook had its greatest comeback of all time, going on a 21-0 run in the second half to squeak away with a 72-70 win off of Sturdivant's buzzer-beating layup. The run capped a 48-point second half for the Seawolves, the most points they

have scored in a half this season.

In five of Stony Brook's ten America East wins, the team has trailed at halftime. All five featured 40-plus-point second halves.

"It only helps our team and helped me," Woodhouse said of the late-game runs. "It gives our team experience, especially being a young team. It's good to play in those games because March is a crazy time."

The comeback wins and second half efforts are a testament

to the team's mentality. Rather than focusing on the big picture, Boals and his team have a one-game-at-a-time mentality. Each opponent is the team's most important.

"Every game is an opportunity for us to get better," Woodhouse said. That mindset has proved fruitful. Halfway through the season, Stony Brook has exceeded expectations by being 10-2 in conference play and No. 2 in the America East.

After the team's 83-72 win against UMass Lowell on Monday, Nyama repeated his claim from the season-opening loss against Columbia. The Seawolves were going to try and defend the America East championship. With a 9-2 conference record, it became a lot more believable.

"After the Boston College game, I told our guys that our goal wasn't to be 0-2 or 2-0," Boals said. "It was to win the America East and play in the NCAA Tournament."

The players have bought into that mentality. Rather than resting on their laurels, the Seawolves play each game like it's their last.

"We're still levelheaded," Sturdivant said. "We haven't won anything yet. It's good to be second in the conference, but our goal is to win another championship. We all believe we can do it."

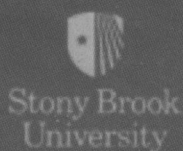
Friday, February 17
 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
 SAC Ballrooms A & B

**BUSINESS
JOB &
INTERNSHIP
FAIR**

**HEALTHCARE,
RESEARCH, &
HUMAN SERVICES**

**JOB &
INTERNSHIP
FAIR**

Friday, March 3
 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
 SAC Ballrooms A & B



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Career Center

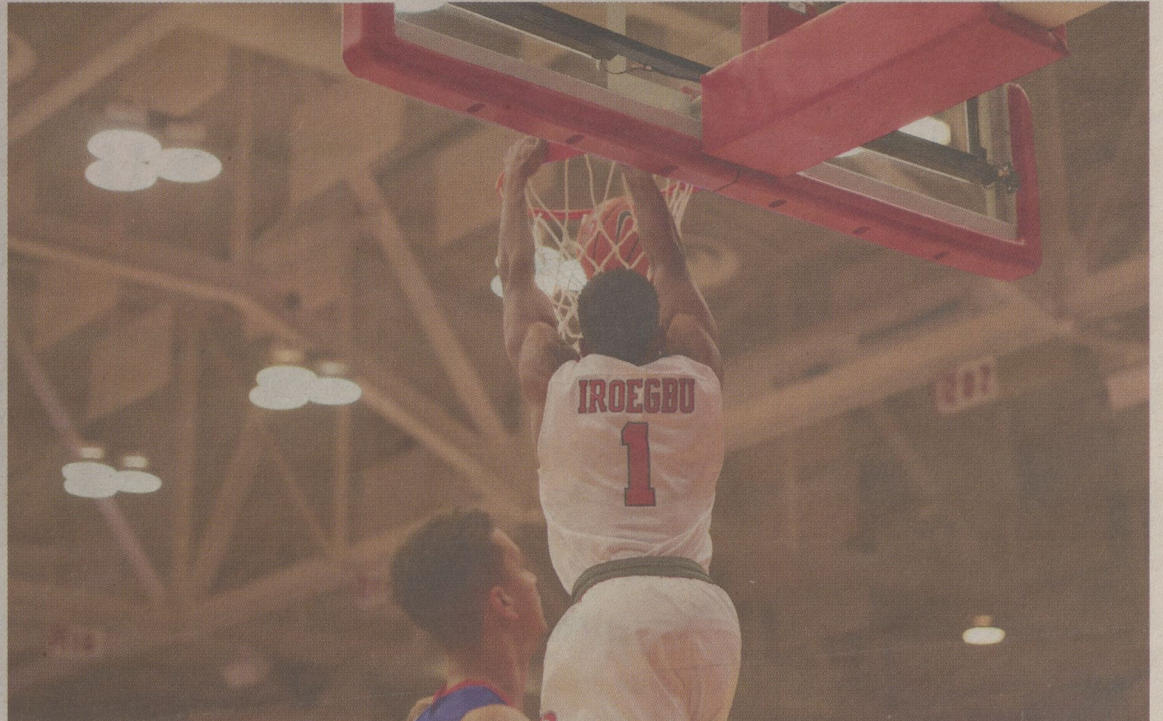
MEET US AT THE FOOT OF THE ZEBRA PATH

This week in photos: Seawolves basketball takes flight in pair of conference wins

Feb. 6 vs. UMass Lowell — Photos by Aracely Jimenez, Assistant Multimedia Editor



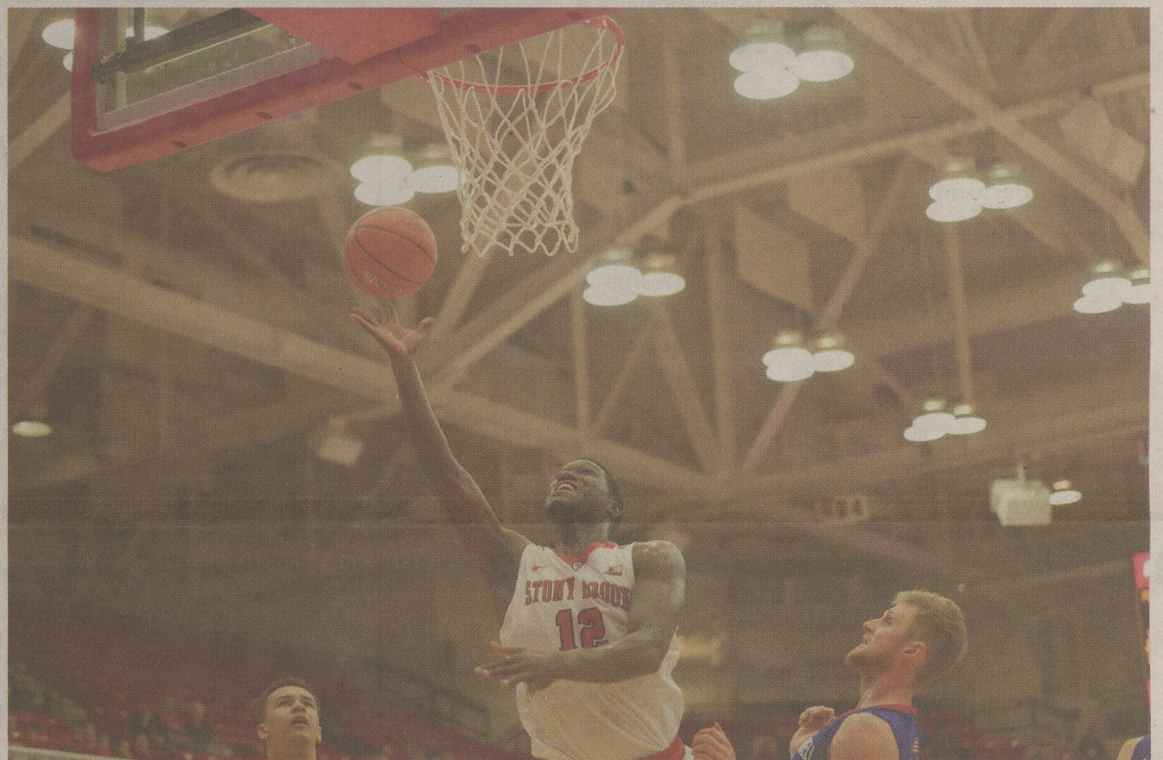
U.C. Iroegbu (No. 1, left) makes his way to the basket.



U.C. Iroegbu slams it after driving along the baseline. He had 10 points on Monday.



Akwasi Yeboah (No. 15, right) drives past his defender.



Tyrell Sturdivant (No. 12) reaches for a layup against UMass Lowell on Monday.

Feb. 12 vs. Maine — Photos by Luis Ruiz Dominugez, Staff Photographer



Lucas Woodhouse (No. 34, right) is fouled while shooting. He had 11 points on Sunday.



Akwasi Yeboah (No. 15, right) attempts to lay the ball up.



Bryan Sekunda shoots a wide open 3-pointer on Sunday.

SPORTS



LUIS RUIZ DOMINGUEZ/THE STATESMAN

Senior guard Kori Bayne-Walker dribbles in a Feb. 12 game against Albany. She scored 25 points on Sunday.

Seawolves force OT, but fall in road game at Maine

By Chris Peraino
Assistant Sports Editor

This season, Maine forward Sheraton Jones has a .600 shooting percentage from the line. If you account for her entire collegiate career, that number falls to .419, rendering her the ideal candidate for Stony Brook Women's Basketball to find at the charity stripe while down by one point with 25 seconds left in the contest.

Jones sunk the first attempt and Maine led 67-65. A two-pointer would tie; a three would win the game for Stony Brook.

SBU	MAINE
65	67

To the Seawolves' delight, Jones' second attempt bounced off the rim and was promptly gobbled by sophomore guard Davion Wingate. A quick timeout advanced the ball up-court. Maine responded with a timeout of their own in order to set a sound defense.

But that defense proved fruitless; senior guard Christa Scognamiglio tied the game at 67 with a timely layup, while the clock ticked down to seven. Maine failed to score at the other end and Wingate once again snagged the rebound: overtime awaited.

Despite late-game heroics, Stony Brook would ultimately fall to Maine in that overtime, 78-71, as the Bears rectified Jones' miss by sinking seven of their eight overtime free throw attempts.

Other than two blowout wins against a UMass Lowell team that has yet to win a conference game, Stony Brook's only other America East win came at home against Maine, who now sits fourth in the conference.

The contest remained close throughout, with Maine holding a slight lead — one that peaked at 12 points in the second quarter — for all but three and a half minutes of the game.

The Seawolves shot poorly from the field, 34.4 percent, but

well from beyond the arc, 44.4 percent. The converse was true for the Bears, who notched 49.2 and 31.3 clips, respectively.

After the two teams traded layup misses to commence overtime play, freshman guard Giolibeth Perez came into the game for senior guard Kori Bayne-Walker after the senior committed her fifth foul of the afternoon. Maine responded with two made free throws, establishing a 69-67 score.

Despite a Wingate offensive rebound off a missed three-point attempt, Stony Brook failed to capitalize on a second-chance opportunity and Wingate soon committed a foul of her own. Two made free-throws later and Maine boasted a four-point cushion.

For the remaining 2:46 left in overtime, the Bears held the Seawolves to four points and tacked on another seven of their own, culminating in a 78-71 victory for the women in blue.

With a mere three bench players allotted a combined 43 minutes of playing time, the Seawolves relied heavily on their starters, who accounted for 63 of the team's 71 points.

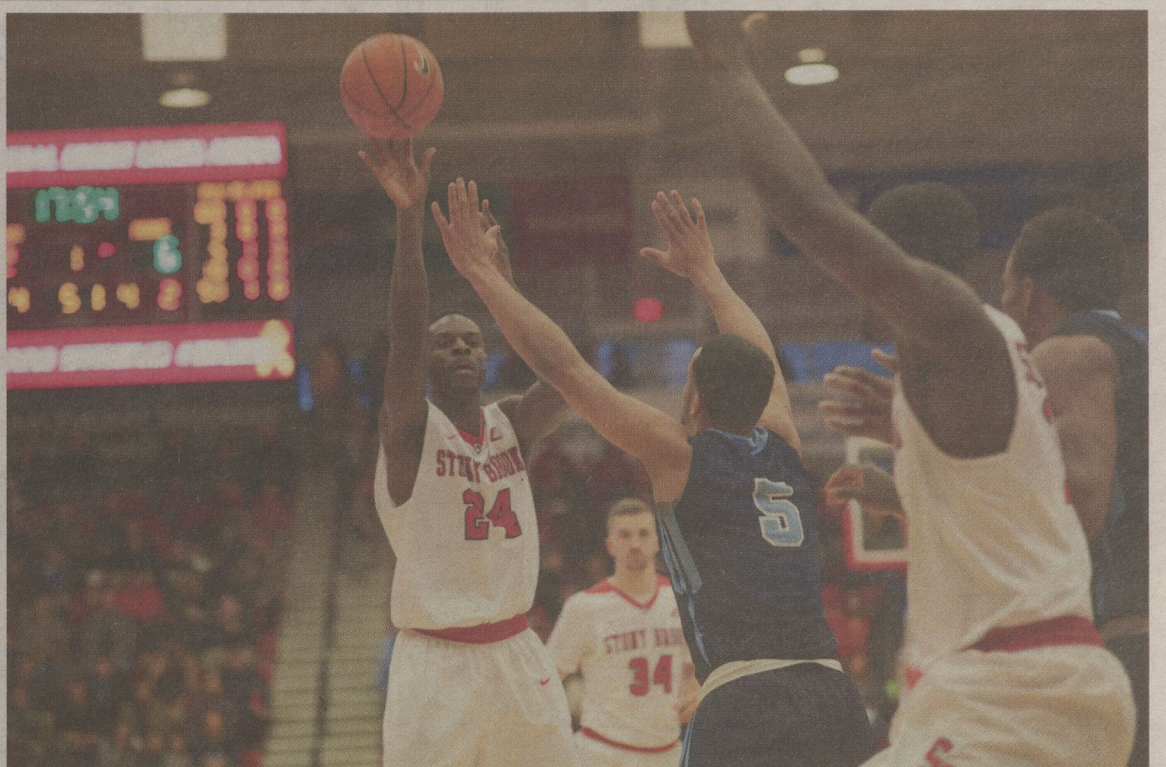
Bayne-Walker led all scorers with 25 points, going 8-17 from the field, 1-2 from three and 8-10 from the line.

Wingate had 19 points of her own on the heels of three three-pointers to couple five rebounds, including her overtime-solidifying board.

Junior guard Aaliyah Worley led her team with nine rebounds.

With the loss, Stony Brook fell to eighth of nine in the America East, sporting a 3-9 conference record to couple a 10-15 overall record.

Stony Brook will attempt to bolster its conference record — now 3-9 — before the America East Tournament. On Wednesday, the Seawolves will host the sixth-placed Hartford Hawks at noon. The Seawolves fell to the Hawks, 52-65, earlier in the season in Connecticut.



LUIS RUIZ DOMINGUEZ/THE STATESMAN

Junior forward Roland Nyama makes a lob pass against Maine on Sunday afternoon.

Nyama's career day, game-winning free throw save Seawolves in thriller over Black Bears

By Tim Oakes
and Kunal Kohli
Staff Writer and Assistant Sports Editor

The Maine men's basketball team inbounded the ball from its own baseline in a tied game with just 1.2 seconds left in regulation. Seeing as the Black Bears needed to accurately thread a pass to the other side of the court, finding a good look at a game-winning shot was unlikely.

Overtime was inevitable. Or so it seemed.

Maine senior forward Marko Pirovic launched a "Hail Mary" style inbound pass more than the length of the court, going out of bounds and giving Stony Brook a chance to seal it.

Junior forward Roland Nyama was fouled on an attempted game-winning layup in front of the rim on Stony Brook's final possession. With only five-tenths of a second remaining, Nyama hit the go-ahead free throw shot but purposely missed the second shot, exhibiting strategy.

The free throw sealed a 67-66 Stony Brook victory over Maine at Island Federal Credit Union on Sunday. The Seawolves won their fourth game in a row and improved their America East record to 10-2.

"With just point-five seconds to go, so I was trying to miss it in order for time to run out," Nyama said.

The final free throw brought Nyama's point tally for the night up to 26, setting a new career high for the junior. Nyama previously scored 24 points nearly two years ago to the day against the Black Bears.

"I had an O.K. game against Albany, a better game against UMass Lowell and I just wanted to keep the momentum going," Nyama said. "I want to be at my peak performance come playoff time." Nyama thrived in one-on-one situations, blowing past defenders with ease. This was effective in the first half in particular with his team down 22-14 with 9:57. Nyama went on a scoring barrage, dropping 16 points from that point to the halftime buzzer.

"He was phenomenal," head coach

Jeff Boals said after the game. "He's just another guy that brings a lot of energy to us. One assist, two blocks and he obviously made that big free throw down the stretch. He was definitely the player of the game."

His stellar play on Sunday could not have come at a better time. Senior guard and leading scorer Lucas Woodhouse struggled mightily. Woodhouse shot just 26 percent from the field on 15 attempts. He scored seven of his team's first 11 points in the game, but his shots were not connecting after that.

"Yeah I was frustrated, but Roland stepped up tonight and made a lot of big plays," Woodhouse said.

Nyama's big first half helped turn a deficit into a six point lead at halftime. But the Black Bears stormed out of the gate to begin the second half, going on a 10-2 run that was anchored by junior guard Wes Myers, who finished with 22 points, including 14 in the second half.

Junior forward Jakub Petras played with the starters for the majority of the second half due to foul trouble and struggles of junior forward Tyrell Sturdivant. Petras played a career-high 24 minutes, putting up nine points, five rebounds and a couple of big defensive plays late in the game.

"His energy level just gives us a great presence inside," Boals said. "I thought he made some big plays for us, his energy is infectious. I felt really comfortable with him in the game for us."

On Monday, Petras got the chance to stretch out his seven-foot wingspan. In his team's 83-72 home win over UMass Lowell, he took flight.

In the second half, Woodhouse found a cutting Petras on the way to the hoop, who threw down a monstrous slam. He then swiped the ball out of the hands of River Hawks sophomore guard Ryan Jones.

Seconds later, the 6-foot-11 Slovakian led the fast break and threw down his second dunk in 16 seconds, also the second of the season. Let that sink in.

"A fast break dunk for a center is

rare," junior guard U.C. Iroegbu said. "We were hyped up."

The Seawolves barraged the River Hawks with their dunks. Aside from the usually-grounded Petras, high-flying junior forward Junior Saintel, Sturdivant and six-foot tall Iroegbu all took to the air.

"My man has the highest vert on the team," Nyama said of Iroegbu. "No, second highest next to Junior, but Junior doesn't count."

Iroegbu's slam came at the end of the first half. He received the ball on the baseline and rose up to the hoop. He followed up the moment with a block at the halftime buzzer.

"I ripped through and I was like, 'oh, nobody's going to come over. Alright, let me try to get this dunk real quick,'" Iroegbu said. "The first thing I was thinking was, 'Alright, just forget about the dunk. Try to just focus on this defensive play and then you can celebrate a little bit at halftime.'"

Stony Brook played an inside-out game. When the team was having problems down low, its big men served as facilitators. Saintel, who played power forward, had four assists in the first half.

Junior guard Bryan Sekunda nailed back-to-back threes midway through the first half. He missed his third attempt from beyond the arc but Petras collected the offensive board and dished it to freshman guard Michael Almonacy for the corner three.

Nyama was the scoring leader for the Seawolves. He had 19 points despite only playing 21 minutes due to foul trouble. Woodhouse had 16 points and nine assists.

The two combined for back-to-back three-pointers early in the first half, when each made one from the corner just 30 seconds apart. Woodhouse shot 4-for-7 from three in the game, while Nyama made 3-of-5.

The Seawolves will look to extend its winning streak on Wednesday when they travel to Chase Arena and Reich Family Pavilion to take on the Hartford Hawks. The last time the two played, Stony Brook handily defeated Hartford 80-64, thanks in part to Woodhouse's 19 points.

SBU	MAINE
67	66

SBU	UML
83	72

2017

Sex and Relationships



THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

'Phubbing' Can Force Partners Apart

By Jill Ryan

While dating his last girlfriend, Andrew Nahmias, a sophomore psychology major, found that the only alone time he had with her was in the pool.

"One time we were in the pool so she couldn't have the phone on her, and we were in the pool for three hours and I was like, 'You know what? This is the longest conversation we have ever had. You know why? Because there's no phones involved,'" Nahmias said.

The third wheel that always separated Nahmias and his girlfriend was her phone. And even after pointing that fact out to her, he found that nothing changed.

This act of paying more attention to your phone than your romantic partner is called "phubbing," and it has put human relationships in difficult and uncertain circumstances.

A Baylor University study conducted by James Roberts, Ph.D., and Meredith David, Ph.D., concluded that 70 per-

cent of married couples fight over their partner's smartphone use.

"I believe partner phubbing is right up there with the 'big three' (money, sex and kids) in causing conflict in relationships," Roberts said in an email.

Roberts teaches marketing at Baylor in Waco, Texas. His research is primarily focused on the psychology of consumer behavior. He became interested in the obsession with smartphones after watching his teenage daughters.

"They were totally immersed in their phones and it really was a case of, 'Together, but alone,'" Roberts said in an email.

It isn't only his teenage daughters who experience this obsession. Sam Richards, senior biology major, finds phubbing annoying; however, she said she realizes that she has done it subconsciously to others.

"I didn't notice I was doing it,

and when I stopped, I realized the guy was watching me, just waiting for me to stop doing it," Richards said. "I think [phubbing] can be harmful in terms of relationships because you're distracted by something that is not there when the person is right there."

Roberts suggests couples make a social contract with rewards and consequences to combat phubbing. Katie Gregory, a senior marine science major, is trying just that.

"[Phubbing] bothers the heck out of me, so I have a rule with my boyfriend that if we're at dinner or something or out and having a conversation, both of our phones are away, face down, not looking at the screen unless it's like 'Oh, want to see this funny meme?' Because that's modern romance right there," Gregory said.

28-year-old Annette Kawire manages phubbing with designated times for her boyfriend and her phone.

"I have my time with him and he gives me my time with my phone," Kawire, who is taking a Stony Brook leadership class, said. "And now it's getting easier because there is basketball happening, so he's on his basketball and I am on my phone and we are very happy."

Communication is a vital component of successful relationships, Stony Brook sociology professor, Norman Goodman, Ph.D., said.

"Relationships are based upon trust and communication, and if you break down either one of those, it makes the relationship much more difficult," Goodman said. "How would you like to be talking to someone and they suddenly say, 'Well wait you're not important enough. I have something over here to do?'"

Goodman teaches two classes, Intimate Relationships and Social Psychology, and he believes that phones have become an issue for relationships now more than ever.

Cell phones allow users to constantly stay up to date, but they're getting in the way of human relationships.

"I think this is a quantum leap to what might have been a minor problem before," Goodman said. "My wife and I were at a restaurant. It didn't cause a problem, but before I left work I had some emails sent out and I wanted to see if there was a response, and she said 'Why are you doing that here at the restaurant? Why are you looking at it?' It was annoying to her."

Goodman is not a fan of social media when improperly used. He recognizes that the world is becoming more technologically immersed, but he hopes people will limit its use.

"As long as they have the phone, they feel committed to look at it," Goodman said. "There is almost an insatiable desire to keep up to date... I think it will damage relationships."



Suggestions for Sex Playlists

By Kunal Kohli



If your sex life is starting to feel stale, one of the quickest ways to heat things up is with music. Spotify has an entire category for romance and hundreds of songs can be found on Apple Music. Here are some songs for your own personal playlist.

“Pyramids” by Frank Ocean

Frank Ocean’s voice is like flower petals on silk. It’s soft, sensual and ridiculously sexy. While songs like “Pink Matter” from his 2012 album and “Channel Orange” and “Nights” on his 2016 release “Blonde” are designed for the bedroom, “Pyramids” is the magnum opus of Ocean’s romantic music. His crooning in the first half is sultry and the instrumental breakdown in the second half of the song is beautiful.

“Often” by The Weeknd

Throughout his career, The Weeknd has been known for his dark and sexy music. His earlier releases are all bedroom songs. However, much of the music from his mixtapes and his first album “Kissland” are shallow and nihilistic. Enter “Often” off his 2015 album “Beauty Behind the Madness,” a song that in essence is as cynical and superficial, but supersedes both characteristics at the same time. The Weeknd’s earlier works are observations of the world around him, and he invites you into that world in “Often.” If you are not a fan of the original version, the Kygo remix offers a reinterpretation that is just as sexy.

“All the Time” by Jeremih

Jeremih by himself is not as sexy as his hit “Birthday Sex” suggests. His lyrics are often muddled with drug references that seem hastily thrown in and the production is lackluster. While there are other artists featured on this song, Jeremih outshines them. Assisted by Atlanta crooner Natasha Mosley and rapper Lil Wayne, Jeremih gives us his best sex song to date. The creative use of FCC sensors on the track adds an element of naughtiness that most of his songs do not provide.

“The Bad Touch” by the Bloodhound Gang

This is the most literal song on this list. Have fun.

“At Your Best (You Are Love)” by Aaliyah

The opening moments of this song are just Aaliyah’s voice. It’s a beautiful, intimate moment between the artist and the listener. From there, that moment grows and suddenly, that intimate moment engulfs the environment around you. It is slow and passionate, perfect for love-making. In fact, most of Aaliyah’s discography is like this. It’s inherently sexy, which is why she should be on everyone’s sex playlist.

“Halo” by Beyonce

When I was in eighth grade, a friend of mine in tenth grade wanted me to download a bunch of songs for him off LimeWire. One of the songs on the list was “Halo.” His reasoning was that Beyonce’s rich voice made him go crazy whenever he had sex with his girlfriend. The rich instrumentation of the choir in the beginning coupled with the piano creates that same intimate moment that Aaliyah’s voice does. Beyonce’s voice adds to that moment.

Literally anything by Prince.

Prince was as close to a sex god as we will ever get. He changed his name to a phallic symbol. If that doesn’t scream “I’m into sex” then I don’t know what does. His guitar licks and voice are incredibly sultry. His entire discography is bedroom music.

Seawolves Confess to Their Sex Spots on Campus

By Kayla McKiski

Stony Brook students have taken sex out of the bedroom, and to illegal and invigorating heights.

Amid the blue lights on the computer science building rooftop, in between library bookshelves, behind the West Apartment storage units, next to the Physics building, on the Staller steps—students have confessed to getting it on all over Seawolf territory.

“I was working late in the print-making studio in Staller, and my girlfriend and I wound up having sex on one of the tables,” J, senior biology major, said. “Fortunately we finished without being caught!” In a Statesman survey conducted

last week that asked students if they’ve had sex in public places on campus and where, 39 percent of respondents reported doing the deed in a public location on Stony Brook’s campus. None of them reported getting caught.

“We wanted to take a study break, but since there isn’t much to do in the library we ended up giving each other head behind a shelf in the music library,” M, sophomore biochemistry major, said. “I definitely would go back and highly recommend the spot.”

“[A girl and I] noticed that the door to the rooftop was open, so we ended up going outside to take in the view which lead to us kiss-

ing, then making out,” B, junior psychology major, said. “There’s a blind spot all the way at the top of the staircase, so we hooked up there and she performed oral on me while there. We never got caught.”

“I got a blowjob from my girlfriend on the LIRR here right as we were pulling out of the station,” A, senior mechanical engineering major, said. “There were only a few people on the cart so I don’t think anyone noticed.”

Some students have even confessed to being repeat offenders. “I did it in a dorm kitchen during sophomore year — wasn’t caught, on the trail behind Tabler during

freshman year — wasn’t caught and outside a dorm room freshman year — wasn’t caught,” J, senior applied math and statistics and economics major, said.

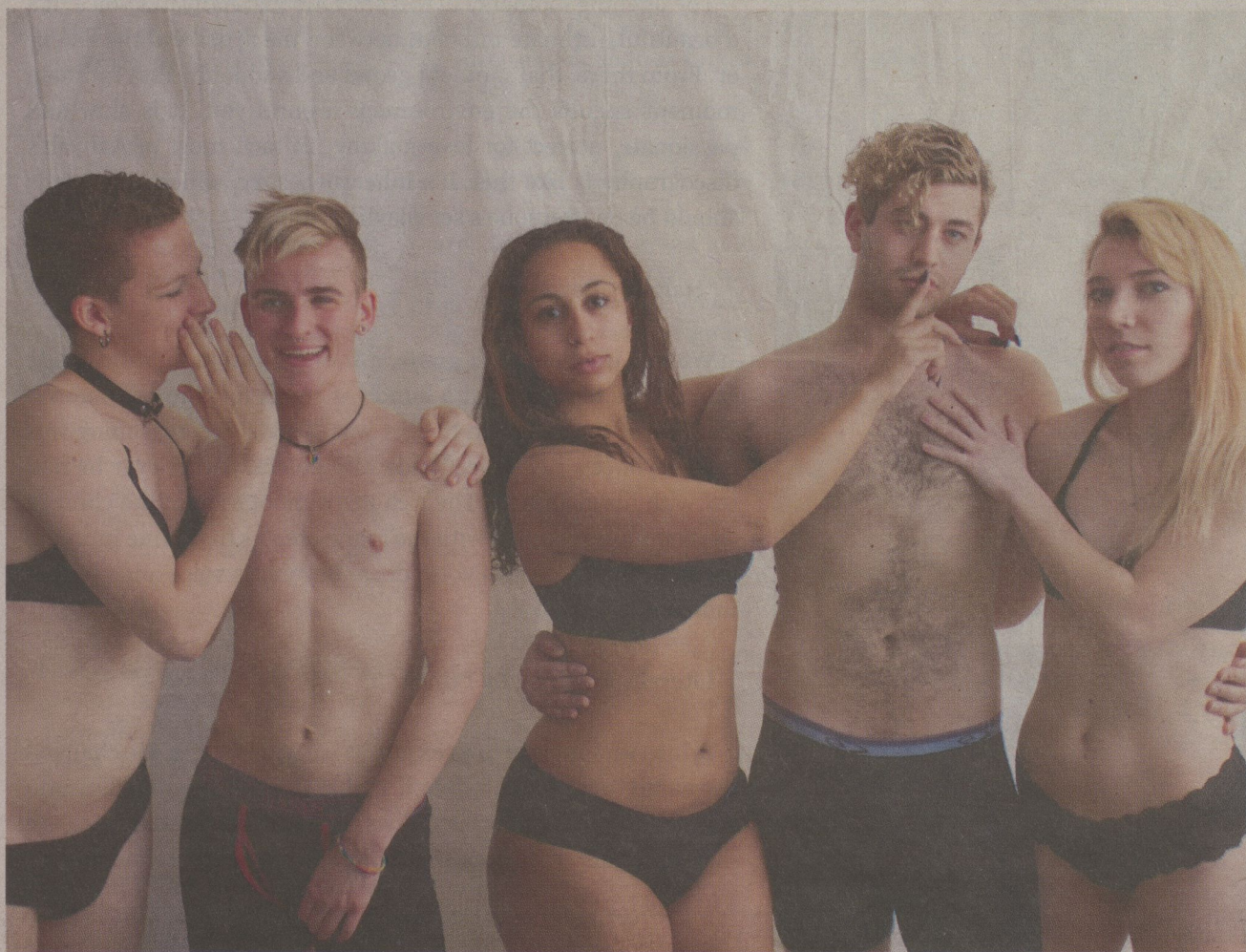
In New York state, public sex can be criminalized. Participants may face punitive action for indecent exposure or engaging in a lewd act, which are violations and misdemeanors respectively. Penalties can range from a few days to a few months in jail, and fines can be upwards of \$250.

Although not explicitly defined in the University’s Student Conduct Code, students caught could face varying punishments for sexual misconduct among oth-

er violations at the discretion of the Office of University of Community Standards.

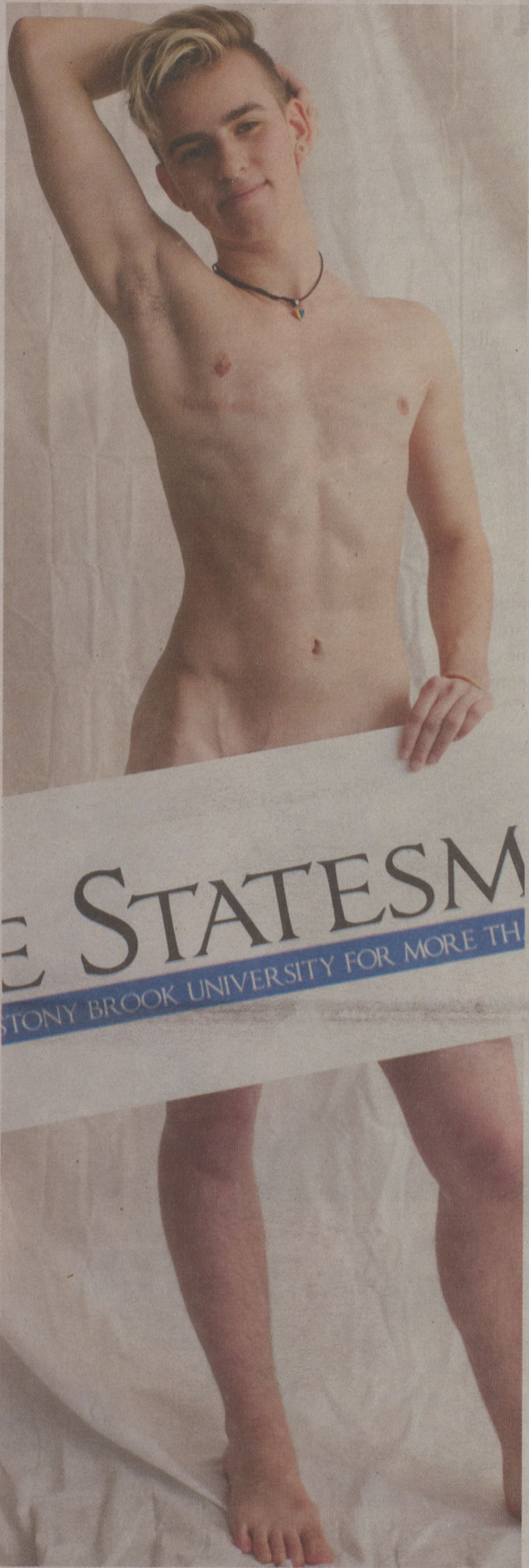
However, the possible implications have made it more thrilling for some students.

“I was in the Stadium parking lot because I’m a classy bitch,” K, sophomore political science major, said. “The possibility of being caught and getting in trouble made it a lot more exciting.”



Feature

The 2017 Sex & Relationships Issue Photo Shoot



The Motivations of Gift-Giving

By Peter Caprariello



Peter Caprariello is an assistant marketing professor at the Stony Brook College of Business. Caprariello conducts research on consumer relationship processes, and is interested in various processes affecting how consumers spend money in the pursuit of happiness for themselves and for others.

If you're at all like me, then when you walk into your local supermarket on Jan. 2, you are bombarded by red and pink messages, loud and clear. Get ready to show your partner some lovin'! Buy candy and chocolates and love! You know what to do! I sure do, you say that Valentine's Day is approaching. That means dinner dates, gifts and special attention. Thanks a lot, Hallmark! How am I going to get out of this one??

Not everyone is as cynical as me, of course. If you're like my wife, Valentine's Day is a joyful occasion. She doesn't buy into the Don Draper-esque notion that Valentine's Day is a "Hallmark Holiday." She gleefully anticipates the opportunity to spend date night with her hubby, to show-

er him with gifts and to express genuine love and care.

Do either of these perspectives resonate with you? When it comes to Valentine's Day, are you genuinely excited and happy? Or are you just going through the motions until February 15?

These different perspectives fascinate my research lab. But our interests don't stop there; we've been going one step further, asking questions like: Do partners accurately detect when we are just going through the motions, trying to "get out of jail free?" Or, do partners see us in the best possible light regardless of our intentions? Does accuracy matter? Over the last three years, my lab and I have been diligently trying to answer these questions, specifically with regard to gift-giving.

Here's how. For Valentine's Day 2014-2016, we hung flyers around campus recruiting romantic couples. Immediately prior to Valentine's Day, we surveyed both members of the couple. We first asked how satisfied they were in their relationships. Next, we asked what

motivated their own gift-giving, using one measure of obligation motives (an example of an item on this scale is: I'm giving a gift so that I don't feel guilty) and a separate measure of thoughtfulness motives (I'm doing this because I want to express affection).

Here's the catch, though. We also asked each person why they thought their partner was giving, using the same scales. In this way, we could compare whether couples were accurately detecting each other's intentions. Then the couples were free to go about their Valentine's Day as they would.

A few days after Valentine's Day, we followed up with our couples. We asked each person, "How happy were you with giving your gift to your partner?"

We first found that reasons for giving varied. Lots of people sounded like me: Just goin' through the motions, homie. Lots of people sounded like my wife: I'm expressing love, sweet love! More importantly, we found discrepancies between why people reported giving and why their partners thought they were giving.

In other words, people often inaccurately detected their partner's motives, and inaccuracies were not always charitable. What was going on?

We found that relationship satisfaction was a key predictor of inaccuracy. Regardless of the partner's actual, reported motivation, satisfied dyad members tended to see their partner as giving to them for thoughtful reasons (he's all about that love, sweet love!). For dissatisfied couples, perceptions tended to downplay thoughtfulness in favor of obligation (she's just goin' through motions, homie!).

Furthermore, inaccuracy mattered. The more you saw your partner as giving out of obligation, independently of their actual, reported motives, the less joy you got from giving! Your relationship dissatisfaction was literally sucking the joy out of giving! Of course, the opposite was also true, and is a far more auspicious story; the more you saw your partner as giving out of thoughtfulness, independently of their actual, reported motives, the more joy you got from giving.

So, the news is neither good nor bad. What it tells my lab is that gift-giving holidays can really affect couples, but that this depends on the relationship's strength leading into the holiday. Couples at risk are those who may be ignoring their dissatisfaction, trying to muster the strength to get through another holiday, despite internal discord. Conversely, couples that are satisfied, content, and committed are likely to benefit from the holiday.

Which brings us back to my wife and I. Even though my cynical views of Valentine's Day differ with my wife's romantic ones, this difference in opinion is not the real deal-breaker. Instead, I should focus on the state of our marriage in the days leading up to the holiday, so that our satisfaction during the holiday best colors our perceptions of each other and our intentions. This way, no matter how cynically I respond to those blazing pink and red messages from Hallmark, I can still respond to my wife in a way that she will see as working well. And that, my friends, is how you get out of jail free!

Open Relationship, Open Me

By Ashley Barry



I'm a bisexual, polyamorous feminist in an open relationship with my monogamous, high school-sweet-heart boyfriend. Let me say this right at the beginning: I am not trying to save a sinking ship, nor am I trying to compensate for what this relationship might be lacking. The short answer as to why I decided to open my relationship, after much healthy and thorough communication with my boyfriend, is: I'm a lot.

I have a lot of feelings, a lot of emotions and a lot of energy. I crave conversation and connection from all types of people, whether it be my best friend, a stranger on Tinder or that person I keep running into at Starbucks with the nice hair. While I could certainly socialize within a monogamous relationship, I was never able to understand the boundaries it would require. Even if I didn't technically cheat, what does it mean when I spend late nights in a friend's driveway, and the conversation gets just a little too deep, the atmosphere a little too intimate? The boyfriend and I had discussed future hypothetical threeways, but what about the woman that sits next to me

in class that I'd like to take a walk and hold hands with? I never acted on these loaded moments as a monogamous person, but there was the constant creeping fear that one day, my impulses would win and I'd break not only the love of my life's heart, but my own respect for myself.

Fortunately, I met people in college in happy, successful, nonmonogamous relationships. I was able to see the nuances of how these relationships work, and how the myths and misconceptions fall away when people can communicate and consent to whatever arrangement fits for them. While my sexuality was definitely a part of my interest, the overall vibe and philosophy of polyamory motivated me to seriously consider it a part of my identity.

Embracing polyamory felt like moving from an awkward family dinner to a conversation with your closest friends. I stopped constantly looking for the line I was afraid of crossing; the protocol established with my boyfriend allows for anything as long as I stay safe and keep him in the loop. When I meet a new person, I



no longer worry about whatever physiological reaction my body might have, whether it be a butterfly in the stomach, a tingling in the genitals or just an intellectual spark. Since I started, I haven't had many committed partners or torrid affairs outside of my primary relationship. However, I feel like the most authentic version of myself to date. I bring all of myself to every interaction, and allow my interactions with people to flow naturally.

As much as I enjoy other partners, the best part for me has been discovering different versions of myself. Being in a long-term relationship, I got comfortable in the specific dynamic I have with my primary partner. That dynamic is still as wonderful and important as it was six years ago when we started dating, but I like to flex other muscles with a new conversational partner. I tend to fall for ridiculously sarcastic people, and flirting becomes a battle of wits. More romantically inclined folks let me live out romcom fantasies that just don't happen with a serious long-term partner. I like people just as passionate as I am, so we trade roles as

student and teacher, respecting and enjoying our different areas of knowledge and experience. Of course, there are as many negatives in poly-dating as any other type of dating, but my journey has been exploratory and patient without too much heartbreak.

I still respect monogamy as a relationship style or identity, and I can imagine there will be times in my life when I choose to return to it. That being said, the ability to keep myself open to possibility and the potential of new relationships have been extremely rewarding as I learn new things about myself, my long-term partner and those around me. Also, people on this campus are cute as heck and now I can embrace all my feelings without guilt or shame.

A note on terminology: Here, I use nonmonogamy, open relationships and polyamory relatively interchangeably. There are distinctions to each that I don't feel to be an expert on, so please consult the Google.



Consent: An Ongoing Education

By Genie Ruzicka

I remember sitting at my freshman orientation in the fall of 2014 full of anticipation and excitement. I sat in the Staller Center while I learned what to expect here at Stony Brook University. However, that anticipation and excitement soon turned into anger and disgust when the program started addressing sexual assault. There was the requisite “Don’t have sex with people who don’t want to have sex with you,” “Don’t have sex with someone who is unconscious” and what to do if it happened to you. This was all fine and compulsory. However, what bothered me was a group of a few young men about one or two rows in front of me who started snickering and making jokes every time it was mentioned that drunk people can’t consent to sexual activity. I was filled with frustration. Something about consent felt trivial enough to them to ignore. Then it hit me. What if this was the first time that they were explicitly told that it was wrong to engage in sexual activity with someone who did not enthusiastically agree? That’s when I began to think. The educational portion of the orientation was fine... but it was not enough. If someone is being taught the dynamics of consent when they are entering college, it is too late. Whether they have already had sex, or are planning to in the future, their 17+ years of not having comprehensive education on the complexities of consent have already taken a toll that can be irreparable in our society. Let’s face it. We

live in a culture (for this article, I’m focusing on the U.S.) that does not exactly value consent. According to RAINN (Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network), someone is sexually assaulted every 98 seconds, 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men are raped or sexually assaulted in their lifetimes, less than 2% of rapists ever see a day in jail (some may even end up being president) and victims are routinely blamed for their own assaults. Additionally, we live in a society with a very limited idea of what consent is and what can be defined as assault. This didn’t all go through my head in that one moment. But one thing stuck out to me. We need to start teaching consent earlier. Much earlier. I thought to myself one day, “Why not from birth?” This elicits surprised and sometimes offended reactions from some people. “You’re going to teach infants about sex?” one person asked, as if I was going to teach a newborn how to roll a condom. For the record, no, this isn’t my plan. Mostly because I believe consent is not all about sex. It’s about controlling your body, what you do with it and what is done to it, and that should start from birth.

I support full bodily autonomy for people of all ages. This means, parents, please don’t pierce the ears of your young children who were assigned female at birth, circumcise the penises of your children who were assigned male at birth or force your intersex newborns to undergo corrective surgery. Don’t fix them into immutable

gender roles. No “Heartbreaker” onesies or “Ladies Man” bibs. When they are old enough to choose, or begin to explore clothes or toys, let them. Let them explore their gender, their names and their activities, if they want to. Don’t make them hug relatives if they don’t want to. Explain to them the real names of their genitals, how to keep them clean and the difference between a good and bad touch.

Hopefully this goes without saying, but sexual education as a whole needs to improve drastically. Abstinence education does more harm than good and should be defunded. Children from elementary school through high school

need age appropriate, evolving sexual education that focuses on pleasure and consent, while presenting all of the possible options (abstinence being one of them, masturbation being another, with many different options in between). There needs to be an expansion of what counts as sex and an acknowledgment of the validity of different sexualities, genders and relationship types. Older children need to be taught how to use different types of barriers and birth control, how to be aware of the different options should a pregnancy occur and how to communicate effectively with (a) partner(s), among many other things.

The ways to teach consent —

to instill the values of consent — from a young age and beyond are too numerous to list. But in order to fully address consent, we must also address people’s intersecting identities. In order to live in a society that truly values consent, and where every person has full bodily autonomy, we must also fight racism, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, whorephobia, ableism and other oppressions that affect how people can move through the world and navigate society. We need to teach that consent is no laughing matter. Most importantly, we need to teach and be taught that everybody and every body is of equal value.



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