

# THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

Volume LXII, Issue 15

Monday, December 10, 2018

sbstatesman.com

## Remembering student and runner Noah Farrelly

By Chris Parkinson  
Sports Editor

Noah Bernard Farrelly, born on June 6, 2000 in Binghamton, New York, passed away on the afternoon of Thursday, Dec. 6. The freshman student-athlete's death came two days after he was hit by a vehicle while out for a run, which left him in critical condition.

The son of Jim and Bridgette Farrelly, Noah was a student-athlete at Binghamton High School, where he competed as a member of the cross country and track teams all four years. Farrelly was named a Southern Tier Athletic Conference All-Star in 2015 and 2017 and was a 2018 Section IV Indoor and Outdoor Track 3,200-meter champion. He was also a four-time qualifier for the New York State Track Meet as a Patriot.

Farrelly continued his track and cross country careers following his high school graduation by signing a National Letter of Intent to Stony Brook on May 29, 2018. In the first run of his Seawolf career this season, the freshman ran a time

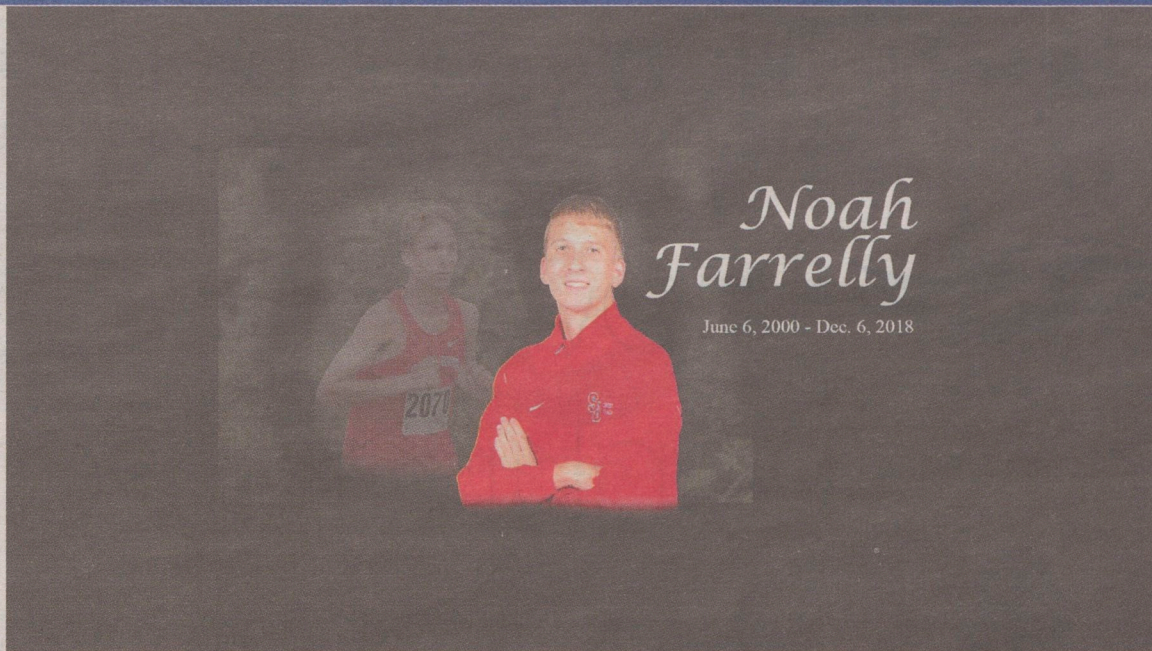


PHOTO COURTESY OF STONY BROOK ATHLETICS

**Stony Brook cross country runner, Noah Farrelly, passed away on Dec. 6 after being hit by a car two days prior. The student-athlete was a freshman at the university.**

of 19:34.15 at the Stony Brook Season Opener.

Away from the track, Noah was the oldest of three children, with a brother named Alec and sister named Margaret. He was an avid supporter of the NFL's New England Patriots and NBA's Oklahoma City Thunder. In the classroom, Noah was a member of the New York State Business and Marketing Honor Society at Binghamton High School. He was in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in psychology while enrolled at Stony Brook University.

Cross country and track and field head coach Andy Ronan saw Noah do what he loved to do best.

"The memories of his passion, drive, humor and warmth will guide

us through these difficult and dark days," Ronan said. "They will also sustain us as we move forward as a program."

His teammates considered him a brother and a friend who spread beautiful, unequivocal love. To those that were close to him, only kind words were used for the 18-year-old.

He is described as "the nicest, most genuine person you would ever meet; easygoing and friendly, but tough and driven at the same time. He will always shake your hand and congratulate you after a race, and you know he's out there giving it his all every time."

Noah will be remembered as a young man who "lived a life that was

filled with laughter and love."

"During his brief time at Stony Brook, Noah made a powerful impact that left a permanent imprint on our department," Stony Brook Director of Athletics Shawn Heilbron said. "We were all fortunate to have Noah enter our lives and he will forever be a part of our Seawolves family. His family, teammates and friends will remain on my mind and in my heart."

A passionate student-athlete, son, friend, teammate, and much more — the Stony Brook community mourns the loss of Noah. Seawolves will remember the life of Noah with a moment of silence at the men's basketball game on Wednesday, Dec. 12.

## Hazardous materials not properly controlled

By Rebecca Liebson  
News Editor

Stony Brook University failed to properly secure hazardous materials on campus, according to an audit released by the Office of the New York State Comptroller on Monday.

The audit examined the safety practices of seven different State University of New York (SUNY) campuses. It concluded that both Stony Brook and Buffalo did not properly control hazardous materials such as cadmium nitrate tetrahydrate — a toxic substance that can be deadly if swallowed — and arsenic oxide — which can cause blood abnormalities as well as kidney and liver damage.

"Weak oversight of hazardous materials could jeopardize the health and safety of students and campus communities," Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli stated in a press release. "SUNY needs to do a better job to ensure these items are kept under lock and key."

The auditors found that two restricted locations containing hazardous materials at Stony Brook could easily be accessed. "Despite locks on the doors, we were able to gain entry without keys," they wrote.

The auditors looked at a sample of 22 people at Stony Brook who had keys to areas where hazardous materials were kept. Twelve individuals could not prove that they were authorized to have a key and seven out of the 12 no longer worked for the university.

The audit also reviewed the university's Chemical Hygiene Plan. This plan lays out policies aimed at protecting workers from health hazards related to toxic chemicals and is required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

The auditors found that Stony Brook's plan was complete and met all the requirements. However, they noted that because the plan had not been updated since 2001, "it may or may not account for current conditions."

The audit also found issues with the inventory of hazardous

## Public-private partnership will add on-campus housing

By Rebecca Liebson  
News Editor

Stony Brook University has partnered with Gilbane Development Company and Provident Resources Group to develop a 500-unit on-campus housing complex located between the Stony Brook Long Island Rail Road station and Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium. The proposed project, "Campus Village," was announced at a University Senate meeting on Monday, Dec. 3.

"This is a concept that originally emerged in 2016," Dexter A. Bailey, senior vice president for Advancement and executive director of the Stony Brook Foundation, said. "This [is] recognizing the continued demand for housing on the campus both from undergraduates and graduate students."

This semester, approximately 500 freshmen were placed in forced triple rooms due to lack of bed space, according to a powerpoint presentation shown at the meeting.



LUIS RUIZ DOMINGUEZ / STATESMAN FILE

**A picture of Chavez Hall. Stony Brook University has partnered with a private company to develop a 500-unit on-campus housing complex.**

As of now, the project is slated to add 1,680 new beds for undergraduate and graduate students. The village would also include retail space, a faculty alumni cen-

ter and an outdoor promenade dubbed "Seawolves Square."

In order for the project to move forward, an environmental assessment and independent

housing demand study must be completed. Vice President of Gilbane, John D. Keegan, said

Continued on page 5

Continued on page 5



News

**Former child bride shares her story.**

Activist Naïla Amin speaks at Stony Brook University.

MORE ON PAGE 5



Arts & Culture

**JUUL use on the rise in youth.**

People under 21 are buying JUULs and pods online.

MORE ON PAGE 6



Opinions

**Tumblr bans all adult content.**

The ban limits artists' creativity, specifically NSFW.

MORE ON PAGE 8



Sports

**Women's Basketball victorious at home.**

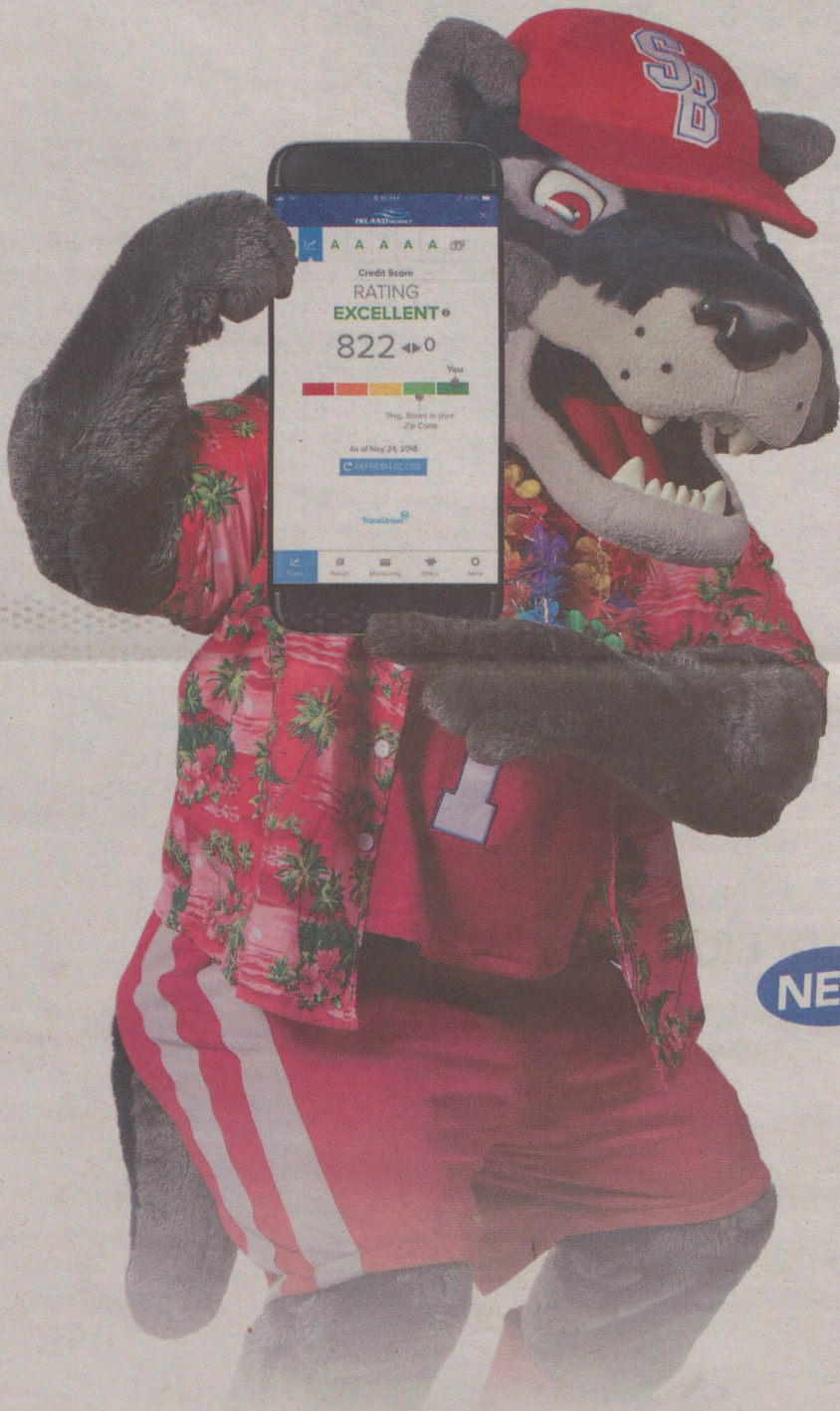
Seawolves defeat Fairleigh Dickinson for eight wins.

MORE ON PAGE 12

“Thanks, Island!



Now I can do my banking at school or at home.”

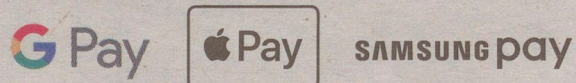


Wolfie Seawolf  
Mascot  
Stony Brook University

## Island's Free Mobile Banking App

**NEW** FREE Credit Score with **Credit Sense**<sup>SM</sup>

- Deposit Checks
- Check account balances
- Transfer funds between accounts
- Send or receive money via Popmoney<sup>®\*</sup>
- Pay securely where you shop



Find out more at our SAC Lower Level Branch, HSC Branch on Level 2\*\* or islandfcu.com.



islandfcu.com • 631-851-1100



### Catch the Wave to Better Banking

Island Mobile App available for iPhone and Android phone and tablet. \*Popmoney delivery fees apply. \*\*The Student Activities Center and Health Sciences branches are open to students, faculty, staff and alumni of Stony Brook University. Membership eligibility applies.

Federally Insured by NCUA

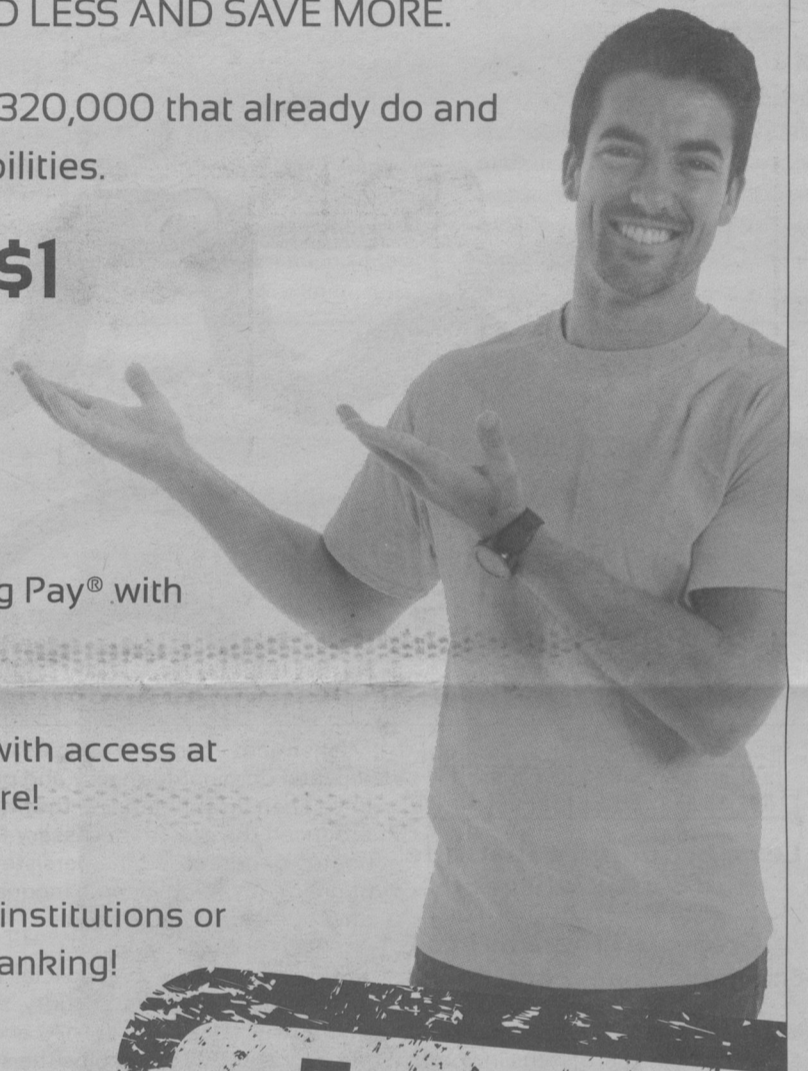
# The Credit Union For you!

Our members receive better rates, lower fees, free mobile banking, free checking and low-rate credit cards SO YOU CAN SPEND LESS AND SAVE MORE.

Everyone can bank with TFCU! Join the over 320,000 that already do and experience the possibilities.

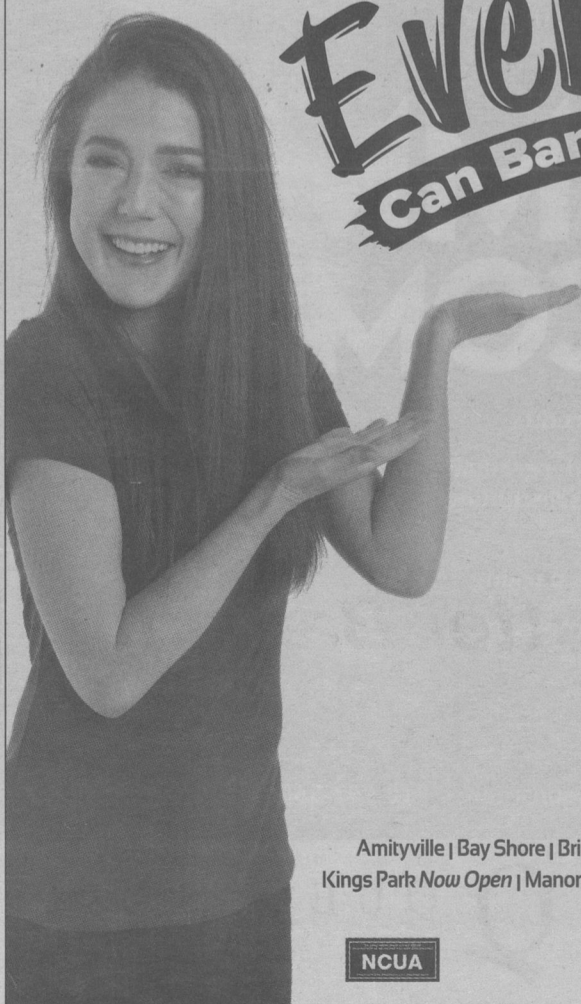
## Open a Savings Account for Just \$1

- FREE Checking & Visa® Check Card
- FREE Online Banking/Bill Payer
- FREE Mobile Banking
- FREE Mobile Check Deposit
- Mobile Wallet Use Apple Pay®, Google Pay® and Samsung Pay® with your TFCU Visa debit & credit cards!
- Check your balances on your Apple® Smartwatch
- Thousands of Allpoint® surcharge-free ATMs worldwide with access at Target®, Speedway®, Costco®, Walgreens®, CVS® and more!
- Fraud protection with CardValet®
- New Popmoney® Service - send money to other financial institutions or to friends & family outside TFCU right from your Online Banking!
- Earn more with our Debit Card Rewards Program
- New Solar Energy Loan Program



**Fee Free  
ATM Usage**  
at ALL  
Stony Brook ATMs  
on Campus!

**Everyone!**  
Can Bank with TFCU



**TFCU**  
The Credit Union For You

31) 228-1819 • TeachersFCU.org

es throughout Long Island, Queens and Manhattan

Amityville | Bay Shore | Briarwood (Queens) | Central Islip | Center Moriches *Now Open* | Commack | East Northport | Farmingville | Hauppauge | Holbrook | Huntington  
Kings Park *Now Open* | Manorville | Merrick | Nesconset | North Babylon | North Massapequa | Oakdale | Patchogue | Port Jefferson Station | Riverhead | Riverside (Manhattan)  
Rocky Point | Selden | Shirley | Smithtown | South Setauket | Wading River | Woodside (Queens)  
Stony Brook & East Meadow Branches COMING SOON!



EVERYONE HAS AN OPINION  
**SHARE YOURS.**

CONTACT: [OPINION@SBSTATESMAN.COM](mailto:OPINION@SBSTATESMAN.COM) FOR  
 MORE INFO



**Levy Economics Institute  
 of Bard College**

**Graduate Programs in  
 Economic Theory and Policy**

In societies around the world, the Levy Institute Master of Arts (MA) and Master of Science (MS) Programs in Economic Theory and Policy combine the strengths of Bard College and the Levy Economics Institute to offer training in research and policy analysis in the tradition of the Institute's Distinguished Scholars Hyman P. Minsky and Wynne Godley.

Recognizing of the program's potential for creating qualified thinkers to overcome 21st-century challenges, the MS degree has recently been reclassified as a STEM program, presenting students with enhanced opportunities for funding and postgraduate placement.



**Scholarships are available based on need.**

- Early Decision application deadline with scholarship preference: November 15
- Regular Decision deadline: January 15
- Spring deadline: March 15

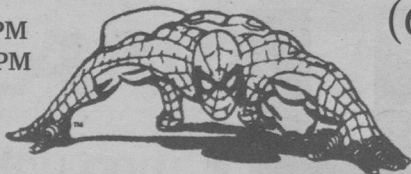
Mainstream economic policies that have recently dominated theory and practice have been disappointing—they have not produced the growth necessary to “lift all boats,” or addressed the persistent problems of unemployment, income inequality, and environmental degradation.

With the aim of creating policies that provide dignified jobs, financial security, and equality

[bard.edu/levygrad](http://bard.edu/levygrad) | [levygrad@bard.edu](mailto:levygrad@bard.edu)

 **Levy Institute Graduate Programs  
 in Economic Theory and Policy**  
 **@LevyEcoGrad**

**Hours:**  
 Mon. - Sat 10AM to 9 PM  
 Sunday 10 AM to 6 PM



(631) 366-4440

**FOURTH WORLD COMICS**

33 Route 111, Smithtown, NY 11787  
 (Uncle Giuseppe's Shopping Center)

NEW AND BACK ISSUES

STAR TREK • DR WHO • TOYS • STAR WARS  
 SCIENCE FICTION • POSTERS • T-SHIRTS  
 MANGA • MODEL KITS  
 MAGIC: THE GATHERING • ROLE PLAYING GAMES

**10% DISCOUNT W/ VALID  
 STONY BROOK ID CARD**



**Summer Session  
 Register Now!**

Four sessions: four, six,  
 or ten weeks

**SUMMER  
 IS COMING**

- Earn up to 15 credits
- Hundreds of undergraduate and graduate classes, including online options
- Free on-campus parking
- Low-cost on-campus housing available

[www.qc.cuny.edu/summer](http://www.qc.cuny.edu/summer) • 718-997-5600



## New construction to take about three years

*Continued from page 1*

both of these steps are currently underway and the results should be in by January.

Once construction begins, Keegan said the development will take about three years to build.

When asked how the university planned to pay for the project, Keegan explained that Gilbane would foot the bill. "We would envision financing this project largely through bonds," he said, adding that rents would be "in line with what students already pay on campus."

Several senators said they were concerned that faculty had not been consulted about the project beforehand.

"This is the first time we're hearing about this," Norman Goodman, distinguished teaching and service professor in the

sociology department, said. "This body has argued for years that the Senate needs to be involved in the planning of projects, not just the comment after it's done. What I see here is the reverse of that."

**"There are too many people and not enough space, so this is something that's really necessary."**

**-Jared Hoke**  
Freshman psychology major

Bailey insisted that the project had not been finalized yet.

"At this point, there's no ground lease, there's no contract, there's no shovel in the ground, there are no [subcontractors] hired, there's no architect," he said. "We will include the campus community as we move forward."

Jared Hoke, a freshman psychology major who attended the Senate meeting, said he thinks the village will receive strong support from students. "There are too many people and not enough space, so this is something that's really necessary for students to be comfortable. I would definitely be interested in moving into a space like this."

*Correction: Dec. 6, 2018*

A previous version of this story said that Stony Brook University is partnering with Gilbane Building Company. The university is actually partnering with Gilbane Development Company, a different entity under the Gilbane umbrella.

## Not all labs meet requirements

*Continued from page 1*

materials at Stony Brook. Out of a sample of 10 labs, only four met all of the inventory requirements included in the university's Chemical Hygiene Plan.

Lauren Sheprow, the university's media relations officer, stated that Stony Brook and SUNY do not agree with the report's conclusions, but she failed to refute any of the specific charges made by the auditors.

"Stony Brook takes safety seriously and has implemented physical security and other controls that meet or exceed legal and regulatory requirements to safeguard our students, faculty, staff, and the public from hazardous materials and waste," she wrote in an email. "University experts in the field of chemical, biological and radiological safety routinely evaluate and review opportunities for improvement to continue safeguarding our campus and communities."

The Comptroller's Office recommended that SUNY work more closely with institutions to improve security measures regarding hazardous materials.

"In response to the recommendations, SUNY System Administration will continue to provide guidance and support to the campuses regarding risks related to hazardous materials and waste and compliance with the numerous regulations to which SUNY is subject," Eileen McLoughlin, senior vice chancellor for finance and chief financial officer at SUNY, wrote in a letter to the Comptroller's Office. "As there is no higher priority than the Safety of our Campus Community, the campuses will also continue to identify and assess the risks associated with hazardous materials and waste, design effective controls to mitigate those risks, and proactively prepare for emergencies, and balance those needs with the need for appropriate documentation and controls on purchasing systems."

## Activist and former child bride Naila Amin shares her story with students

By Maya Brown  
Contributing Writer

Naila Amin never got to experience childhood. She was engaged to her cousin at 8 years old, married by age 13 and repeatedly raped by her husband until she was 15.

"My life was delayed and I was robbed of my health, freedom and education," Amin said.

Amin told the story of how she was forced into marriage, as a child, to students at the Tabler Black Box Theatre on Wednesday, Dec. 5. The event was hosted by Stony Brook University's chapter of "I Am That Girl," an organization aimed at empowering young women and giving them a space to discuss social justice issues.

"Through Naila's story, we intend to educate students about this issue and hope it inspires them to take action against it as well," event coordinator for "I Am That Girl" and a sophomore Spanish language and literature major, Daniela Robles said.

Amin was born in a remote village in Pakistan. She explained how the village had an "eye for an eye" mentality, which made life difficult for everyone, but particularly women. After her dad immigrated to the U.S., he was able to sponsor her, her siblings and her mother.

Amin came to the U.S. at the age of 4 and lived in Queens, New York. Four years later, her life would take a dramatic turn when she visited Pakistan to attend her cousin's wedding.

"The girls asked me, 'Haven't you heard that you're being given away?' and I was so confused," Amin said.

At 8 years old, Amin was forced to become engaged to her first cousin, a man 13 years her senior.

According to the U.N., 37,000 girls under the age of 18 are married every day.

At age 13, Amin went back to Pakistan to do her 'nikah,

a ceremonial Islamic marriage that is done without an official marriage license.

Amin's father applied to legalize the marriage and for an American spousal visa so her husband could become a U.S. citizen. She explained that this was one of the driving reasons behind their marriage.

"I was just a green card to them," Amin said.

Amin remembers signing some paperwork but was sure that officials would notice her age and throw the application out. That was not the case. Naila said, "I was so meek and scared when I was getting married."

After returning to the U.S. at age 14, Amin said she was constantly fighting with her parents. Ultimately, she ended up in a group home, which she found herself frequently running away from.

In January of 2005, Amin returned to Pakistan where she was legally wed to her husband against her will. She saw the ceremony as a "farewell to the old me, almost like a funeral for 15-year-old Naila," she said. "I remember the day of my marriage as the day where a part of myself died in which I will never be able to get back."

On the night of her wedding, Amin's husband came into her room and forced himself on her. She told him, "I don't want to do this" and even lied and said she was a lesbian — but he did not care. "I became his slave and I was forced to live with my rapist," Amin said. Her husband took her cell phone, her passport and kept her under tight control. She recalled one night when her father and husband started beating her together.

The 10th night of Amin's marriage was the first of many times when her husband would rape her. "I felt like I was being treated like a fruit basket," she said. Amin would try to come up with ways of getting out of sex. She even faked having kidney stones.

"It's almost like I became an actress because I didn't want him to touch me. He didn't know what consent was," she said.

One day, Amin received a call from Child Protective Services in the U.S. She was told that someone would eventually come to get her. "That phone call gave me life and it was like I had gotten a piece of my soul back," she said.

After she was retrieved by the U.S. Embassy and brought back to New York in 2005, she attended 10 years of therapy, where Amin learned to forgive her parents. She explained how she did not want to continue to live in misery. After returning and finally being free from her perpetrator, Amin explained that it was difficult for her to go back to normal, and to this day she still is not the same. Amin said she remembered asking her parents, "Why was I the lamb that had to get sacrificed?"

Juliette Kimmins, a freshman undecided major and member of "I Am That Girl," knows Amin personally after developing a relationship with her after she spoke at her high school in Bay Shore. She has been working with Amin for over a year now at the Naila Amin Foundation, an organization Amin started to help other victims of child marriage. Kimmins said, "Naila has had to come to terms with forgiving her family while also mourning a childhood that was cut way too short. She is by far the strongest person I've ever met."

From this experience, Amin explained how she felt that she had lost the girl she was before she had gotten married. "I'm sharing this story and being vulnerable and open, so we don't have another Naila born into this world," she said.

Kimmins believes child marriage is a topic that largely goes unaddressed, especially in the

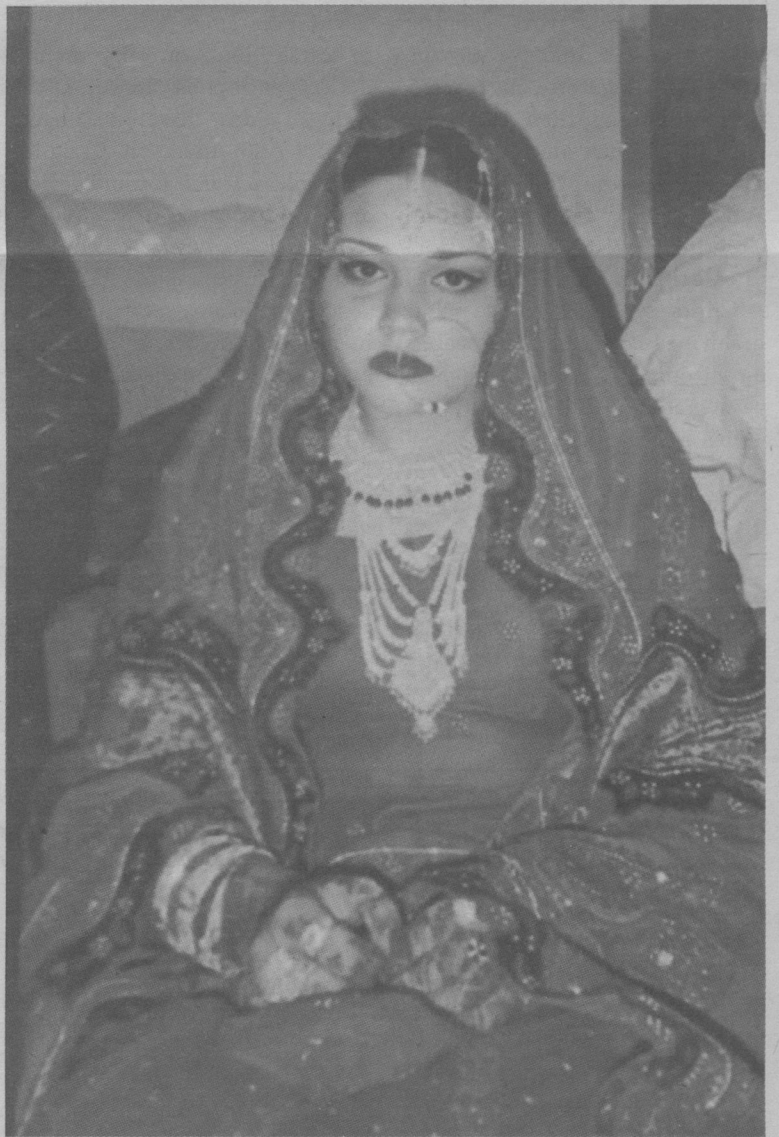


PHOTO COURTESY OF NAILA AMIN

**Naila Amin on her wedding night in Pakistan. Amin is now spreading awareness about child marriage.**

United States. She believes that most people assume that it must have already been outlawed decades ago.

"The reality is that it happens here and it's happening more frequently than most would think," Kimmins said. "In the U.S., child marriage happens in all states and in all types of communities."

Now, at the age of 29, Amin is looking to pursue a bachelor's degree in social work or psychology and then plans to go to law school so she can help other survivors of child marriage.

"One of my goals is to open up the first group home in order to house girls under the age of 18 who want to escape forced marriages," Amin said. Recently, Naila helped pass a bill in New Jersey that raised the minimum child marriage age to 18.

"I don't even hate my ex-husband anymore because I forgave everyone — for myself, not for them," Amin said.

When asked what words she would say to the one who caused her pain, she said, "I have no words for him. None at all."

# ARTS & CULTURE

## The rising popularity of the e-cigarette Juul on LI

By Rosemary An  
Contributing Writer

A sleek electronic cigarette resembling a USB drive has become a trend with both smokers struggling with addiction and people who have never smoked in their life.

Juul is an electronic cigarette introduced in 2015 created by Juul Labs. Unlike other e-cigarette companies that purport to help users quit smoking traditional cigarettes, Juul sales have risen meteorically since its launch. From 2016 to 2017 alone, Juul sales had a 641 percent increase, according to a report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

People under the age of 21 are prohibited from buying Juul devices and pods, but many find a way to get their hands on them anyway. "My friends would get fake IDs to buy them," Ashley Won, a high school student from Queens, said. "Or they would pay people of age to buy [devices and pods] for them."

Juul devices are sold separately from pods, which are cartridges filled with nicotine and flavored juice. These pods come in packs of four with flavors ranging from mint to mango. In the past year, e-cigarette use rose 75 percent among high schoolers and 48 percent among middle schoolers, prompting the Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb to call this trend an "epidemic."

Critics say Juuls are a public health menace — hooking teenagers on nicotine. "I always see them passing around their Juuls," Austin Tsang, a teacher at an after-school program for middle schoolers in Forest Hills, said. "It's ridiculous because they're 13-year-olds."

Organizations are conducting studies about e-cigarettes and campaigning to create change in policies and laws. Truth Initiative, a nonprofit tobacco control organization, launched a "SAFER

SAFE" digital campaign "to help combat the youth e-cigarette epidemic," Paula Kostiuik, a representative of Truth Initiative, said. The organization also conducted a study revealing 15 to 17-year-olds have a 16 times greater chance of becoming Juul users compared to 25 to 34-year-olds.

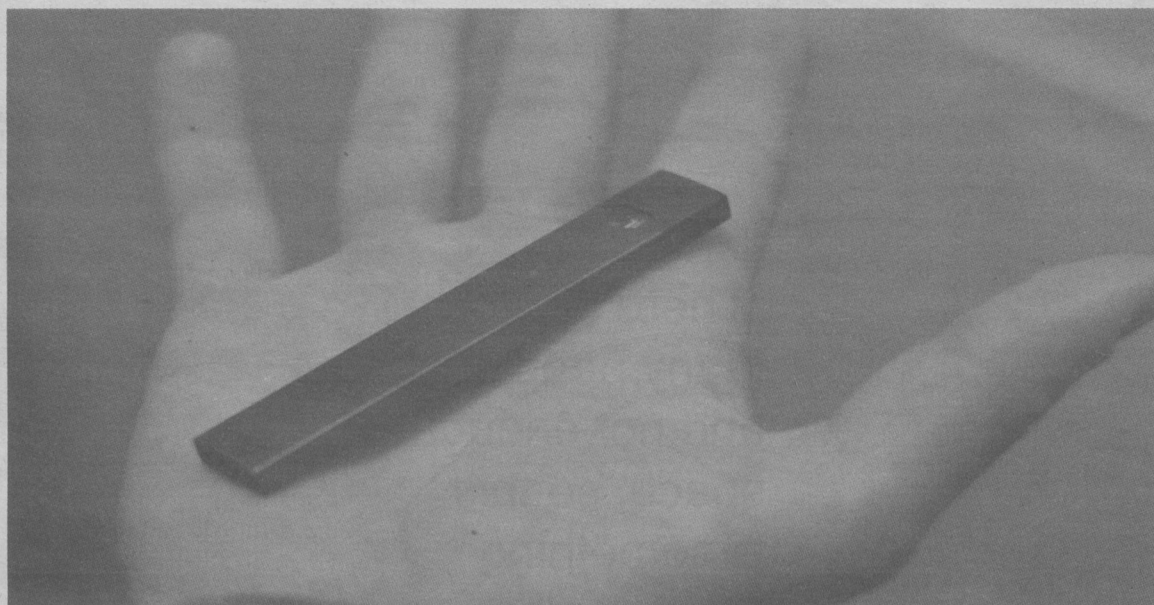
The FDA announced a Youth Tobacco Prevention Plan last month, placing a ban on the sale of most flavored e-cigarettes, with the exception of the mint and menthol flavors, in brick-and-mortar stores. Still, some believe there is no way to prevent all underage people from buying Juul products. "If something is prohibited, it creates a black market for that good or service," Daniel Schulman, an e-cigarette user from Port Jefferson, said.

On sites like eBay and Craigslist, underage users can quickly purchase a Juul and pods. In response, the FDA contacted eBay with concern, and the site allegedly removed Juul-related listings and "voluntarily implement[ed] new measures to prevent new listings from being posted."

However, users were still able to search "Juul" on eBay to find devices and pods; however, the listings didn't have the name "Juul." Also, users on Craigslist were able to search for Juul devices and pods as if no new measures were enacted. Since then, the listings have been removed.

Juul's popularity may come from its marketing tactics. "[They] show e-cigarettes in a way that's fun to use and not as dangerous," Becky Wexler, a representative of Tobacco-Free Kids, an advocacy group that pushes for policies to protect people from the harms of tobacco, said. "It looks like a lifestyle product and not a tobacco product."

On Nov. 13, Juul Labs announced it will temporarily stop distributing the mango, fruit, creme and cucumber flavors to all of its



MYLESCLARK96/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS VIA CC BY SA 4.0

People under the age of 21 are prohibited from buying Juul devices and pods, but many find a way to get their hands on them anyway.

over 90,000 retail stores. Instead, the pods will only be available on the Juul website, which will include additional age-verification measures like two-factor authentication by the end of the year, verifying "a user's identity through their phone number, and then requiring a code sent to that phone to create an account," Kevin Burns, the CEO of Juul Labs, said in the press release. "We will also add a real-time photo requirement to match a user's face against an uploaded I.D."

A major caveat to the flavor ban is that it only affects convenience stores, not vape shops. At a local bodega or gas station, all ages are welcome to enter. At smoke shops and stores like 7-Eleven, employees have the ability to control who enters the store. But if they aren't checking for I.D.s there is a gray area — underage users can get away with buying Juul products.

Juul Labs makes an effort to combat the issue of smoke shops selling to underage people. At a Centereach smoke shop that asked not to be named due to

fear of losing its distributor, two undercover representatives of Juul Labs bought pods. The employee said they looked well over the age of 21, so he did not ask for I.D. Weeks later, the shop received a warning letter from Juul Labs urging the employees ask everyone for I.D. prior to sale.

The FDA extended compliance deadlines that gives products like e cigars, e-cigarettes, hookah and pipe tobacco an extension for premarket review from Nov. 8, 2018 to Aug. 8, 2022. "Those deadlines are what we've been pushing to change. The cat is already out of the bag for Juul," Wexler said. "But we're worried about the next product that might appeal to kids."

Juul is also popular among college students. Stony Brook University is a tobacco and smoke-free campus, and to discourage the usage of e-cigarettes amongst students, the university provides programming such as service pets, around stress reduction and stress management, as it can often contribute to alcohol or drug use,

Kerri Mahoney, the alcohol and other drug outreach specialist for the Center for Prevention and Outreach, said. "This holistic approach allows students to see the connection between mind and body and find other means of relieving stress and anxiety."

There is some evidence suggesting e-cigarette use may help users stop smoking traditional cigarettes, but "definitive data are lacking," according to a study by the U.S. National Library of Medicine. "No e-cigarette has been approved by the FDA as a cessation aid," meaning these products are not guaranteed to help users quit traditional cigarettes.

For some users, the Juul is an effective alternative to smoking cigarettes. They rely on the different flavored pods and nicotine to "live a healthier lifestyle," Gabriella Roldan, a user in Queens who transitioned to Juul in hopes of quitting traditional cigarettes, said. "[Younger people] think it's a trend and they're ruining it for the rest of us."

## Tattoo artists reluctant to give trending face tattoos

By Erika Peters  
Contributing Writer

Face tattoos, once territory only entered by the most rebellious and serious about their ink, are being sought after by the younger generation.

Thanks to some of the biggest celebrities like Justin Bieber and hip-hop star Post Malone sporting face ink, the lines are blurred between face tattoos being taboo and the new normal. Many young people are asking tattoo artists to give them their first tattoo on their face.

Most tattoo aficionados heavily tattoo the rest of their body before venturing up the neck, but because of a new generation of aspiring rap artists born on the music platform SoundCloud, this rite of passage is being skipped over. Many of the rappers have gone straight to face tattoos in order to sell themselves and seem more transgressive.

"I think it's kind of like putting the cart before the horse," Chris Harris, a tattoo artist at Liberty

Tattoo Company in Smithtown, New York, said. "But now, it's more common."

While a number of tattoo shops in New York City don't keep track of how many tattoos they give in certain areas, tattooists are still able to say that face tattoos are being requested more than ever before.

"It's definitely a lot more than last year," Annabelle Scott, the bookkeeper at Fun City Tattoo, one of the oldest tattoo shops in Manhattan, said. "I couldn't say exactly how many, but I'd say we've given a couple dozen face tattoos this year, maybe more. It's a lot more often every year."

This number does not sit so high at other tattoo shops, who don't have the long-standing establishment that Fun City does. Other tattoo shops say that they have seen an increase in young people asking for face tattoos, but deny many of the requests, in fear of hurting their reputation. This disapproval from pro-

fessionals is sending face tattoo seekers to alternatives.

"I've done maybe six this year, but turned down like 60, way more than previous years," Jon Brady, a tattoo artist at Addiction NYC in Manhattan, said. "The only person who's going to tattoo someone's face who isn't heavily tattooed is a super unprofessional artist. It's my business — so if I ruin you, it's going to ruin my reputation and my business."

Lucius Chen, an artist at Clash City Tattoo in Manhattan, said he turned down most of the increasing face tattoo requests he received this year.

"I've only done maybe three face tattoos, but I've denied probably over 40," Chen said. "I'll only do them if I really like the aesthetic. People come in here wanting just a copy of what they've seen before. It's not McDonald's, where you can just order something off of the menu. Be original."

The moral repercussions of the tattoos and the hurt chances of employment for the client are the main reason why many tattoo artists will simply not give tattoos above the neck or on the hands either.

"I will not tattoo hands or faces on people that are not tattooists and have not been tattooing for a lot of years," Mike Martin, president of The Alliance of Professional Tattooists, a non-profit organization that addresses the health and safety issues facing the tattoo industry, said. "I see young people and wonder what they were thinking when they had a tattoo put on their face. Then, I wonder what the artist that did the tattoo was thinking."

Before their recent rise in popularity, face tattoos were the domain of gang members, Aryan Brotherhood members and convicts. But as young music fans see the allure of celebrities' face tattoos, it's evident that society hasn't changed much in respect to

the fascination with "slumming." To young aspiring musicians, the once lowly markings have come around to mean status — symbolizing dedication, success and a one-way trip into the lifestyle of their idols.

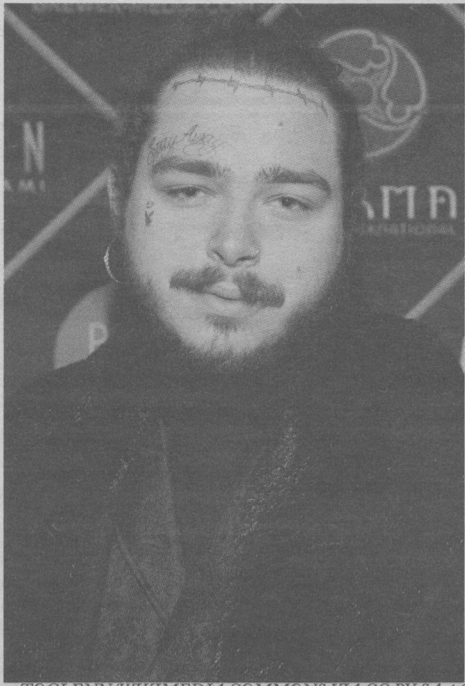
Datrion Warren, a 20-year-old SoundCloud musician who had the word "dead" tattooed under his left eye in someone's home, said the tattoo is a motivation to be successful in his music career, like many other SoundCloud artists.

"The music is the only option," Warren said.

Priscilla Fuentes, a tattoo artist at Andromeda Studio 33 in Manhattan, said that kids as young as 16 have come into the shop asking for tattoos mimicking the mainstream rappers.

"It's usually kids ages 16 to 24, asking me for things like a scorpion, the Ralph Lauren Polo logo, teardrops, dots," Fuentes said. "I denied them, but everyone has a different standard."

Continued on page 7



TOGLENN/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS VIA CC BY SA 4.0

**Thanks to big celebrities like Post Malone, face tattoos have become the new normal.**

Today, laser tattoo removal makes removing unwanted tattoos easier than ever before, and young peo-

ple who want to try the rebellious lifestyle have the luxury, though expensive and painful, of lasering them off. But that option still doesn't comfort tattoo artists.

"The minute you tattoo your face, you cross a line, where there's a spotlight on you at all times," Lalo Yunda, owner of House of Monkey Tattoos in Brooklyn, said. "There's a three-month waiting list to get a tattoo with me, so I don't really have impulsive clients that want face tattoos. But if they do, I'm most likely going to try to talk them out of it. Most of them don't realize what they've signed up for."

While that spotlight may be the goal for those seeking face tattoos, should a career

as a rap star fall flat, falling back on a corporate job most likely is not in the cards. Thirty-seven percent of HR decision-makers would be less likely to hire a candidate who has a face tattoo, a recent survey from CBS News showed. This situation is a reality for Warren.

"I've been off and on with jobs," Warren said. "I work through a temp agency. Sometimes I'm working, sometimes I'm just at home working on bettering my music." He said that he felt he had definitely been turned away from jobs because of his tattoo.

"Young people don't realize how corporate people think, and they think people will look past it during job interviews," Martin said. "That is not going to happen, and people with face tattoos will have a hard time getting a good job."

This notion doesn't make Warren regret the decision to tattoo his face.

"If you want something, just go for it," he said. "Life is too short."

## The Potluck

### The whimsical world of Wicca: Yule

It's that time of year again — as soon as the dessert cart from Thanksgiving is rolled away, the icicle lights and fir trees begin to pop up in houses, and you can't walk through a single store without hearing the familiar tunes of "Jingle Bells" and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." While many children wait with bated breath for the day when they can wake their parents up at the crack of dawn to see what Santa has brought them, Wiccans celebrate things a bit differently. Normally celebrated on the 21st of December, Yule, also known as Midwinter or the Winter Solstice, is a celebration of the return of light. It is said that the Oak King regains his crown from the Holly king to rule over the light for half of the year.

Wiccans can decorate their altars with colors of green, red and gold, with adornments of holly and mistletoe. Nuts, berries and red wine are commonly consumed by practicing Wiccans. Great gift ideas often include spells of joy, prosperity and good fortune to echo in the year to come. On this night, Yule logs would be lit, evergreen tree branches would be hung as wreaths on doors and gifts would be exchanged, as Wiccans acknowledge the shortest day and longest night as the wheel turns to the lighter half of the year.

# Put a little spice in your life: Spice and Tea Exchange



ANNA CORREA / THE STATESMAN

**Spice & Tea Exchange shop in Port Jefferson. The shop is part of a franchise that first opened in Florida in 2008 and currently has 68 stores.**

By Anna Correa  
Arts and Culture Editor

Every time a customer walks into the Spice & Tea Exchange in Port Jefferson, the ambrosial aroma of apple, cinnamon and mint wafts across their faces, welcoming them into a store filled with rows of spices, teas, sugars and herbs.

This past summer, the spice boutique, which promotes healthy eating and home cooking, opened its doors to customers, becoming like a grocery store for spices but taking it further by allowing customers to create their own special spice blends.

The Spice & Tea Exchange is a franchise that first opened in Florida in 2008. The franchise currently has 68 stores. The Port Jefferson store is the first and only one in New York and opened in July, and has hundreds of blends of peppers, spices, salts and seasonings.

The custom blends and seasonings are inspired by recipes from all around the world and feature seasoning staples such as Korean BBQ Rub, Thai and Indian curries and the Latin adobo. They don't have additives or fillers, which many grocery stores use to increase the shelf life of spices.

"We've had somebody from down in the Carolinas come in and looked at our Carolina Barbecue Spice Blend, said it was perfect," Diane

Wahne, co-owner of the Spice & Tea Exchange, said. "Right on the money. How she's used to having it down south."

According to a 2018 report by the market research company Prescient & Strategic Intelligence, the spice market is currently growing at a 6 percent rate because of an increase in awareness of the medical benefits of spices and will be worth over \$30 million by 2023.

Early civilizations such as the Chinese Empires, the Romans and Babylonians used spices and herbs for thousands of years and their descendants still use them today. The Silk Road traded spices throughout Asia and Europe. During outbreaks of major plagues and diseases throughout history, herbs such as oregano, camphor and garlic were used because of their medicinal benefits, such as germicidal properties.

"Spices have the power to transform everything we eat," Ethan Frisch, spice expert and co-owner of New York-based e-commerce spice company Burlap & Barrel, said. "They add flavor and health benefits, but they also connect other ingredients to deeper culinary traditions and provide a backdrop of global history, trade routes, conflict, commerce and exploration."

The American per capita intake of spices has more than tripled since

1966, going from 1.2 pounds annually to 3.7 pounds in 2015, since people are demanding more ethnic cuisines.

Customer Rahe Rudolphi said she likes the choices and variety of the teas and spices, which don't need additional salt or sugars to make them taste good since they have potent flavors. She goes to open markets, tea and cheese shops to purchase her goods as she prefers the freshness of natural teas and spices.

"A lot of the stuff you can't even get at the grocery store," Rudolphi said. "This place feels homey, and it makes you want to look around."

The 36 teas sold in the Spice & Tea Exchange are sold as loose-leaf tea in batches. "Tea bags are bad for making tea and don't allow the leaves to expand," Tianna Couch, an employee at the Port Jefferson location, said.

"We have a lot of people that come in that can't have salt, whether they have heart issues, diabetes, kidney issues. There's a lot of things that don't have salt in it," Wahne, a nurse, said. "It kind of helps knowing what you have and shouldn't have. You don't have to be a five-star chef to have a good meal."

Herbs and spices have antioxidants and anti-inflammatory compounds that are the most potent sources on the planet, Cynthia Sass, nutritionist, health expert and the sports nutrition

consultant for the New York Yankees major league team, said.

"I highly recommend incorporating fresh and dry herbs and spices into every meal," Sass said, listing examples like rosemary, cilantro and ginger. "In addition to adding flavor and aroma to meals and reducing inflammation, herbs and spices have been shown to help boost satiety [the feeling of being full], and increase metabolism. Some, like cinnamon, have also been shown to regulate blood sugar and insulin levels."

Some of the products in the store are fair trade, which abides by strict guidelines and certifications set to make sure local farmers around the world are paid decent wages and treated in fair conditions.

"There's a growing demand for fair-trade products since they're sustainably sourced and ethical," Rachel Spence, the communications and engagement manager at the Fair Trade Federation, said. Companies don't have to be organic to be fair trade. One of the fair trade principles promotes environmental stewardship, which goes hand in hand with the natural and organic movement.

"The mission behind it is to help with alleviating poverty in an equitable trading system," Spence said. "One of the reasons why it's very important is because it's a way to do international development that's very sustainable through helping folks with their livelihood in the long term."

More companies and markets are opening up to the idea of being fair trade and the products are on par with high quality and artisanal goods, which is developed through highly skilled craftsmanship and work. The products aren't necessarily more expensive since customers are paying for what they get.

In a 2017 interview with Food + Tech Connect, a food news website, Frisch said that the structure of the international spice trade is still very antiquated. It is centered around systems of colonialism that value Western middlemen more than farmers who have been growing these plants for several generations.

"Not only do the layers of middlemen drive down revenue for smaller holder farmers while driving up prices for consumers," Frisch said, "but

they lengthen the time it takes for spices to travel from the farm to our kitchens, which means our spices are stale even before they sit in a kitchen cupboard for three years. Under the current system, everyone loses except the middlemen."

Medicinal plant seller of e-commerce website Santo Products, Daniel Roman, uses holistic medicine. His knowledge is based on history, religion, and spiritual traditions. His herbs are made in his garden and he says that the herbal industry focuses more on quantity rather than quality to make a larger profit.

"We have realized that herbal medicine, teas, and minerals are non-invasive. Since we are what we eat/consume, when we consume living foods we feel good, feel alive, and a sense of well being is being energetically received and transmitted throughout the body," Roman said. "In a time of past, herbs were only collected by season. Modern man has learned to manipulate the environment. Fair trade is a sensitive subject. We in good heart attempt to pay for our goods (products) at a fare sustainable price. The overlooked situation is these herbal collectors are encouraged to produce more from the earth."

It has been contested whether or not certain spices and herbs that have been used for medicinal purposes actually have medicinal benefits. Between 2000 and 2008, a National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded collaborative study among multiple universities determined that the herb ginkgo didn't affect Alzheimer's disease in the elderly with symptoms of memory decline and dementia. Another study funded by the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine found that saw palmetto, which has been used as a popular alternative medicine to treat ailments of the prostate, didn't improve prostate health.

"A lot of spices do have wellness properties, but we don't say that any of our products are going to cure anything," Emily Dinges, quality assurance regulatory technician at the Spice & Tea Exchange, said. "We're just starting to get into that segment with our store owners, to kind of help them explain what different spices and herbs do for you."

# OPINIONS

## THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

Editor-in-Chief ..... Kayla McKiski  
Managing Editor ..... Gregory Zarb  
Managing Editor ..... Tess Stepakoff  
Managing Editor ..... Luis Ruiz

News Editor ..... Rebecca Liebson  
Arts & Culture Editor ..... Anna Correa  
Sports Editor ..... Chris Parkinson  
Opinions Editor ..... Mike Adams  
Multimedia Editor ..... Aleeza Kazmi  
Copy Chief ..... Stacey Slavutsky  
Assistant News Editor ..... Gary Ghayrat  
Assistant News Editor ..... Brianne Ledda  
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor ..... Karina Gerry  
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor ..... Melissa Azoifeifa  
Assistant Sports Editor ..... Ken Fermin  
Assistant Sports Editor ..... Chuck Hamma  
Assistant Multimedia Editor ..... Nico Pennisi  
Assistant Multimedia Editor ..... Emma Harris  
Assistant Opinions Editor ..... Gabby Pardo  
Assistant Copy Chief ..... Alexa Anderwkavich

Advertising Manager ..... Kara Marushige  
Assistant Advertising Manager ..... Brian Wong  
Technology Specialist ..... Carolyn Bremer

### Contact us:

Phone: 631-632-6479

Fax: 631-632-9128

Web: [www.sbstatesman.com](http://www.sbstatesman.com)

To contact the Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editors about organizational comments, questions, suggestions, corrections or photo permission, email [editors@sbstatesman.com](mailto:editors@sbstatesman.com).

To reach a specific section editor:

News Editor ..... [news@sbstatesman.com](mailto:news@sbstatesman.com)  
Arts & Entertainment Editor ..... [arts@sbstatesman.com](mailto:arts@sbstatesman.com)  
Sports Editor ..... [sports@sbstatesman.com](mailto:sports@sbstatesman.com)  
Opinions Editor ..... [opinion@sbstatesman.com](mailto:opinion@sbstatesman.com)  
Multimedia Editor ..... [multimedia@sbstatesman.com](mailto:multimedia@sbstatesman.com)  
Copy Chief ..... [copy@sbstatesman.com](mailto:copy@sbstatesman.com)

*The Statesman* is a student-run, student-written incorporated publication at Stony Brook University in New York. The paper was founded as *The Sucolian* in 1957 at Oyster Bay, the original site of Stony Brook University. In 1975, *The Statesman* was incorporated as a not-for-profit, student-run organization. Its editorial board, writers and multimedia staff are all student volunteers.

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.

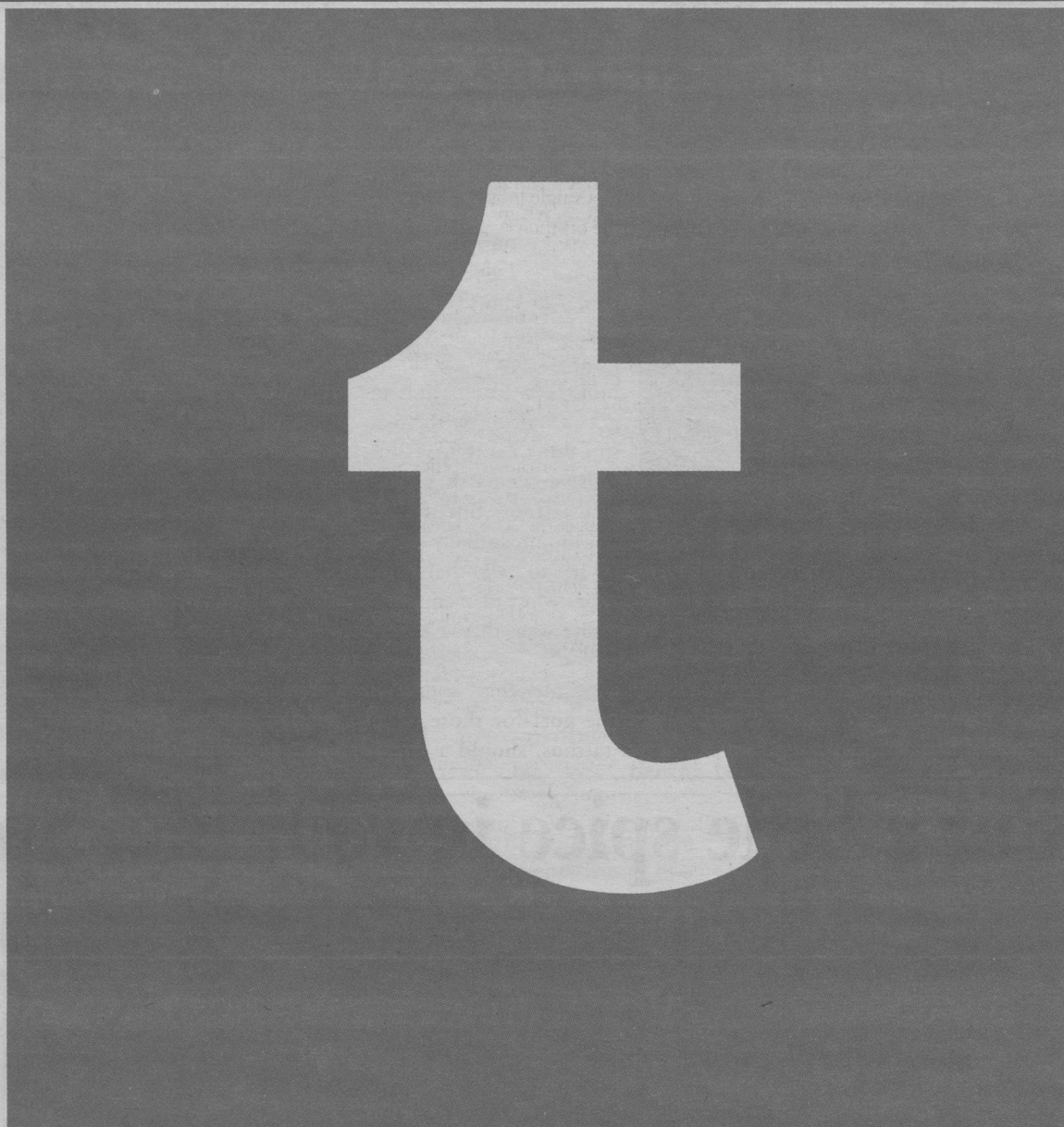
*The Statesman* and its editors have won several awards for student journalism and several past editors have gone on to enjoy distinguished careers in the field of journalism.

Follow us on Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat @sbstatesman.

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

*The Statesman* promptly corrects all errors of substance published in the paper. If you have a question or comment about the accuracy or fairness of an article please send an email to [editors@sbstatesman.com](mailto:editors@sbstatesman.com).

First issue free; additional issues cost 50 cents.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

The logo for Tumblr. On Dec. 17, Tumblr will ban all adult content defined as photos, videos and GIFs showing any real life human genitals.

## Tumblr chokes out artists with adult content ban

By Kayla McKiski

Editor-in-Chief

Within the last two weeks of 2018, the social media platform rooted in “creative expression, self-discovery, and a deep sense of community” will eradicate subcommunities. No folks, not the white supremacist blogs that are still alive and well (despite policy changes). The microblogging site, Tumblr, is banning porn.

Beginning on Dec. 17, Tumblr will prohibit all adult content. The company defines adult content as photos, videos and GIFs showing “real-life human genitals,” “female-presenting nipples” and any content depicting sex acts. The move comes a few weeks after the Tumblr app was yanked from the App Store after images of child pornography were found on the site.

Aggressively prohibiting child porn is a no-brainer, but thousands of sites are able to effectively moderate adult content. Though it’s unclear if the content-annihilation stems from pressure from Apple, the company is infamous for sanitizing content. As Steve Jobs said in 2010, “Folks who want porn can buy an Android phone.”

I imagine the site will take a hard hit after the rules are in full effect. About 20 percent of clicks are driven by “adult content,” according to a 2016 TechCrunch analysis.

Should users have to scroll through explicit images? Absolutely not, which is why the site

had incorporated a few key features into the platform prior to the most recent announcement. To use Tumblr, a user must be 13-years-old or over. Additionally, all users under the age of 18 have “safe mode” enabled, which filters sexually explicit material. Users over 18 also have the option to censor material for themselves.

Other social media platforms follow the idea of autonomy on the internet. A few months ago, the gaming platform Steam implemented measures allowing users to avoid certain content. Twitter’s policy permits some adult content too, as long as it’s marked as sensitive.

Since 2007, Tumblr has been a refuge for exploration. Sex-focused subcultures within both the heterosexual and the LGBTQ communities have lived in harmony with the rest of Tumblr. Users are able to curate their experiences through the use of tags, which allows them to search for content they want to see and avoid content they don’t.

Bottom line: GIFs of hardcore bondage, domination, sadism and masochism (BDSM) didn’t have to appear on your dashboard. But they could if you wanted them to; because there was the option.

I created a Tumblr for personal use when I was 16. Though I mainly reblogged photos exuding teen angst, I loved the platform because it was a place for me to explore my curiosities in private. When I came of age, it allowed me to explore them further. Nowadays, I don’t use Tum-

blr too much. But when I do, I’m reblogging art.

Some of the blogs I follow are not suited for work (NSFW) artists, like Ismael Guerrier. He draws and paints both provocative and sexually explicit scenes. Guerrier encouraged bloggers to follow him on Instagram if they want to keep enjoying his art.

Outlets for work like Guerrier’s are already slim and Tumblr is one of the last inclusive places on the internet. The new rules are going to undoubtedly restrict and choke these NSFW artists out.

About 150,000 people signed one NSFW artist’s Change.org petition to stop the adult content ban.

“Without Tumblr, many adult artists will have no way to share their work efficiently and safely, nor will they have a way to support the works of other adult artists,” the artist wrote in the petition.

I respect the content creators fueling that portion of the site and mourn the loss of their following.

For anyone interested in NSFW art, I guess you have to go searching through the depths of the internet now. If you don’t want to do that, don’t worry, you can still reblog written erotica and some nude art like Michelangelo’s 500-year-old sculpture “David.”

Communities shouldn’t be erased, and Tumblr users should be allowed to engage in adult content if they would like. But who knows ... maybe — like the hate speech on the platform — porn will prevail.



# Video game loot boxes encourage youth gambling and should be regulated

By Matthew Yan  
Staff Writer

How much would you be willing to spend to be able to play one character in a video game you enjoy?

For loot box and gacha game players, the answer can be hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

Loot boxes are a subset of gacha, a type of business model for video games named after a type of Japanese toy vending machine. Under this system, players can't buy characters and features directly from an in-game or online store. Instead, they purchase virtual grab bags full of random collectible items that can be obtained through gameplay or by forking over cash. This is called buying a loot box or "rolling" the gacha, as in "rolling" the lottery.

Loot boxes, and by extension gacha, made headlines last year after players raged against Electronic Arts (EA), an American video game company, for making loot boxes the crux of "Star Wars: Battlefront II's" progression system. The resulting outrage led to the single most downvoted comment in Reddit history.

What isn't getting attention is how profitable this system is. In 2018, gacha games are expected to bring in \$30 billion in revenue, more than a fifth of the expected \$138 billion that gamers spent on video games globally. At its peak, the Chinese mobile game "Kings of Honor" was earning as much as \$185 million a month until its value was shot down by comments from the Chinese government.

Players will push their luck in everything from "Overwatch" to "Pokémon Go" to get that one skin or character they want. They don't even have to be shady about it. To

keep their business in China, the world's largest gaming market, gacha games like "Kingdom Hearts Union Cross" will post the likelihood of obtaining the rarest and most desirable items from a single loot box or gacha roll in-game on their websites.

These rates can dip well below 1 percent.

They don't deter players from buying one loot box after another to get that one thing they want.

"I have spent about \$1,036.47 on FGO alone ... give or take," David Tong, a 22-year-old graphics design student at Laney College, said. He has played the U.S. version of "Fate/Grand Order," a free fantasy role-playing game and one of the highest grossing mobile games in the world, for two years. He spent his cash over time, trying to get four particular playable characters, but ended up getting none of the four he wanted. He is a relatively minor case.

A Japanese "Fate/Grand Order" streamer by the name of Sanyan

spent the equivalent of more than \$2,000 trying to get Merlin, a character considered the most powerful in "Fate/Grand Order," and failed to get him.

These aren't standalone cases either. A study by the University of York found that problem gamblers were more likely to shell out large amounts of money on loot boxes to get desired items. Therefore, problem loot box spenders also tended to be problem gamblers. The authors of the study admit that more research needs to be done before major conclusions can be drawn, but it's already starting to look incriminating.

In this business model, spending is rampant. The value of the purchase itself is almost completely random and the act of it is at least correlated to problem gambling.

Yet, the Electronic Software Rating Board, which is responsible for holding video game companies accountable in their marketing practices, said in a statement that

it does not see loot boxes as gambling, comparing them to opening packs in trading card games. Players are guaranteed to get something of value from their purchase, but not necessarily what they were looking for. Similar rulings were made in the United Kingdom.

While this definitely has an element of truth, the difference between loot boxes and trading card packs is that the latter is physical. That means there's a limit on how many packs a player can open at one time. And while unwanted cards can be sold or traded to other players, gacha games rarely allow players to trade their items.

This is especially true in online versions of card games like Activision-Blizzard's "Hearthstone." The cards can only be acquired from virtual card packs whose contents are completely random with the exception of one "rare or higher" card per pack. Similarly to "Fate/Grand Order," the chances of getting "legend-

ary" cards of the highest rarity hovers around 1 percent.

Unlike "Fate/Grand Order," the effects and abilities of cards in the game may be drastically changed or weakened at any point by the developers. Because of this, the value of any card in the game is tenuous at best, which can be painful to players who acquired said card through the \$50 booster packages or spend weeks or months of gameplay to get it.

In the end, loot boxes are only marginally less of a risk to the player than rolling a slot machine and hoping for a jackpot. Regulating them and curbing minors' access to them, as Belgium has done, should be a no-brainer.

But big business won't let it happen. The Electronic Software Association, the largest video game lobbying group in the U.S. which also runs the Electronic Software Rating Board, stands by its declaration that loot boxes aren't gambling. "Our position remains the same," Dan Hewitt, the Electronic Software Association's vice president of media relations and event management, said.

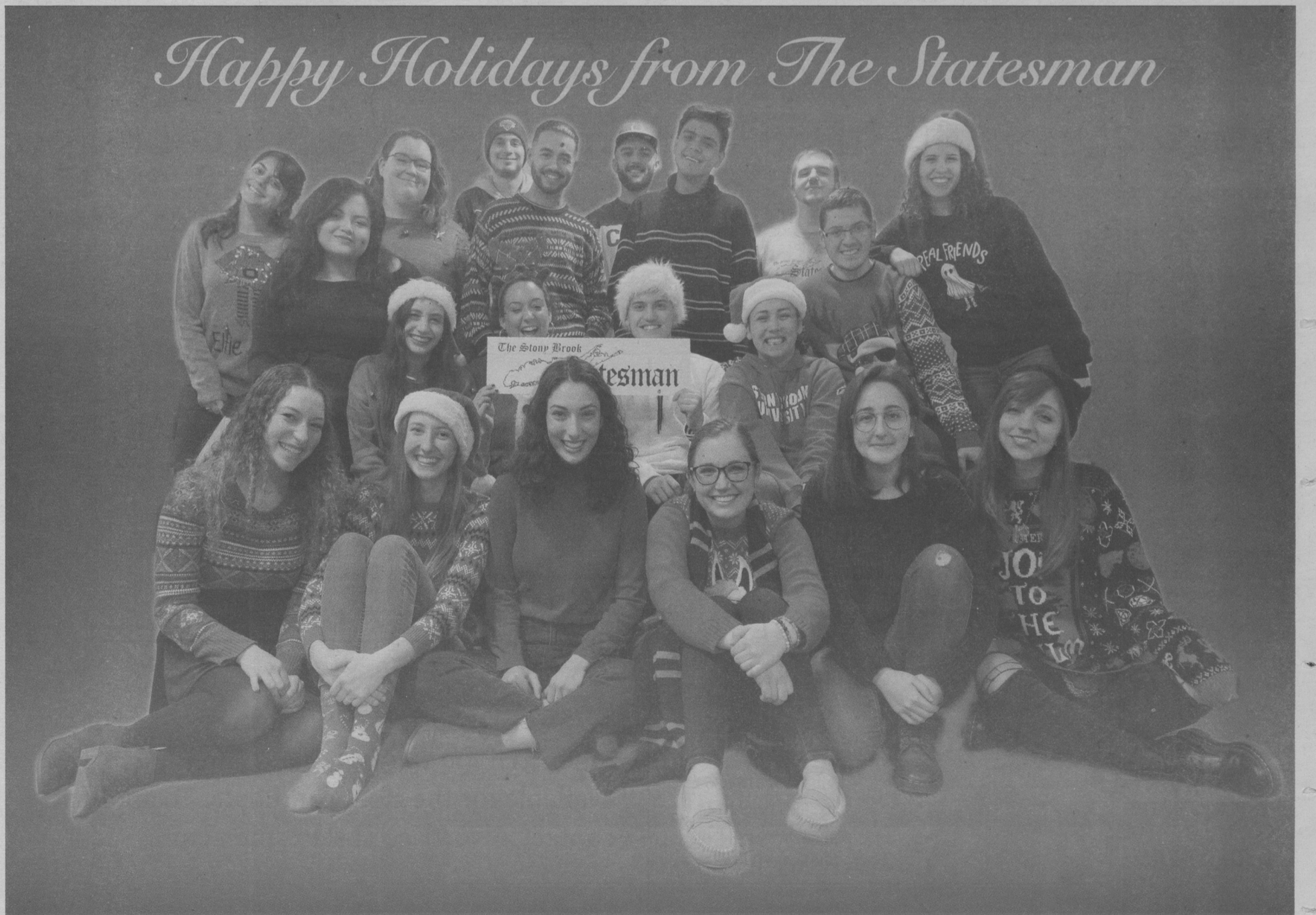
While they're clearly after their bottom line, regulating loot box and gacha games doesn't necessarily mean banning them outright. A potential fix would be to simply put an in-game cap on the amount one is able to spend on a single loot box or gacha opportunity.

"Granblue Fantasy," another top-grossing mobile game, implemented such a cap after a player spent \$6,065 in one sitting.

No matter what the industry says, loot boxes are in fact a form of gambling disguised as an in-game purchase. Like any other form of gambling, it should be closely monitored and regulated to prevent abuse.



An advertisement for an "Overwatch" loot box. These boxes are a subset of gacha, a business model for video games named after a type of Japanese toy vending machine.



# WINTER IS COMING.

BUT THE STATESMAN NEVER STOPS.

PITCHES AND SUBMISSIONS ARE ACCEPTED FOR OUR ONLINE PUBLICATION DURING WINTER BREAK.

EMAIL YOUR IDEAS TO EDITORS@SBSTATESMAN.COM.



*Looking for off campus housing?*

**CONTACT US, WE CAN HELP!**

*(Stony Brook, Setauket, Old Field and more)*

SALES AND RENTAL EXPERTS IN THE COMMUNITY FOR 30+ YEARS!



Cell: (516) 316-8864  
Fax: (631) 689-8124  
vineandsea@aol.com  
www.ddunleavyrealestate.com

**CLASSIFIED:** Adoption: Loving, kind, teacher, SBU Alumni, can provide a lifetime of love and security for your baby. Call or text 631-743-0834.

**WANTED:** Spring 2019 business/advertising intern for *The Statesman*. Credit and pay available for the right candidate. To apply, contact [advertise@sbstatesman.com](mailto:advertise@sbstatesman.com).

# Stony Brook students bring food catering service to Stony Brook Athletics

By Kayla McKiski  
and Greg Zarb

Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor

Whether it is post-workout or post-practice, the Stony Brook men's basketball team can be found eating together. For dinner, it might be chicken and vegetables; for breakfast, it might be protein cereal. But every time, it is catered by X-Factor Meals, a meal-prep business started by a fellow Stony Brook student and his friend.

Matt Riss, a senior business major, and Mark Ciaburri say the inspiration for the business stems from their days playing on a high school soccer team.

"There were multiple times we were eating at McDonald's or Golden Corral the night before our biggest games of the year," Riss said. "We struggled with nutrition and there was no immediate solution to the problem."

The company started as a vendor at sports tournaments on Long Island in 2016, selling meals for athletes to eat on premise. The pair built a relationship with Stony Brook Athletics and the Assistant Athletics Director for Athletic Performance, George Greene, developing the Fueling Station — a spot where athletes could grab a healthy snack in between their demanding schedules.



PHOTO COURTESY OF X-FACTOR MEALS

**Chicken dishes made by X-Factor Meals. The catering service has been used by Stony Brook Athletics and was created by a Stony Brook student and his friend.**

But Riss and Ciaburri wanted to expand more toward meal prep.

"We started with four friends and family as routine customers," Riss said.

Ciaburri took the role as head chef and created all of the company's menu options. While their snacks were processed at the Stony Brook incubator in Calverton, the move to meal prep meant

they needed something bigger and better.

Currently, Ciaburri and staff cook the meals themselves out of a large catering facility in Ronkonkoma.

X-Factor has over 1,000 customers and sells about 6,000 meals per week after starting only two years ago.

To date, they have made over half a million of

their "healthy versions of unhealthy meals."

"They provide high-quality, nutrient dense fueling option for our athletes," Greene said.

The General Tso's chicken, which Riss says is one of their most popular meals, sits at 411 calories with a whopping 38 grams of protein. Caloric demands do vary by athlete, but Greene has a solution for that.

"Our players wear heart rate monitors at practice," Greene said. "We can see the calories burned, which helps us give the athletes an opportunity to replenish what they just burned."

The calorie surpluses or deficits are tailored by athlete based on whether they need to gain, lose or maintain weight.

Josh Dacunha, a 22-year-old full-time college student and weekly customer of X-Factor Meals, says he is living proof that the meals can help people achieve their fitness goals.

"These meals legitimately taste like you are cheating on your diet, yet they are all super low calorie, low carb and high in protein," Dacunha said.

"This company makes dieting, one of the most difficult things a human being can do, fun and easy. You can eat chicken bacon ranch quesadillas followed by a cinnamon sugar donut, and still lose weight," he continued.

Riss and Ciaburri have certainly found their niche with their product.

"The food is great," Greene said. "And so is the convenience factor. The food is right there for [the athletes] when they're done. They eat and then they can take care of business outside of the arena."

## Johnson and Yeboah win Player of the Week honors for third straight week

By Jason Brancato  
Contributing Writer

Senior guard Shania "Shorty" Johnson and redshirt-junior guard Akwasi Yeboah have wasted no time taking the helm of the women's and men's basketball teams, respectively.

Both are averaging over 17 points per game and have already been recognized as America East Player of the Week for three consecutive weeks. Their play throughout the last week was a microcosm exhibiting the successful start to the 2018-19 season.

Johnson offensively dictated Stony Brook's tempo in the 87-50 blowout victory over New Paltz on Wednesday, Nov. 28. She led the team with a single-game conference record 15 assists and recorded 17 points en route to her third double-double this season.

She followed up the New Paltz performance against Cornell on Saturday, Dec. 1, recording 17 points, six assists, three steals and knocked down five shots beyond the arc.

Her assist to sophomore guard Jonae Cox gave the Seawolves' the lead for good in a 63-61 nail-biter win.

Johnson currently leads the team by averaging 17.6 points, 9.3 assists and nearly three steals per game. She ranks second in the America East in scoring with 123 total points.

Johnson has earned five total America East Player of the Week awards in her career and was named to the All-Conference team last season. Meanwhile, Yeboah led Stony Brook with 14 points



SASCHA ROSIN/THE STATESMAN

**Senior guard Shania Johnson in a matchup against the New Paltz Hawks on Wednesday, Nov. 28. Along with Men's Basketball redshirt-junior guard Akwasi Yeboah, both are averaging over 17 points per game.**

in the first half of play and contributed to a 20 point lead against Quinnipiac on Saturday, Dec. 1. He finished the game with 19 total points in the Seawolves 71-61 victory.

Before the slate of games that took place on Sunday, Dec. 2, Yeboah was just one of 21 players, nationally, that averaged 18 points and eight rebounds per game. Yeboah is now the second Seawolves player that has been

named Player of the Week three times since the start the season, alongside former player Jameel Warney in 2015.

Yeboah is currently leading Stony Brook with an average of 18.5 points and eight rebounds per game. He also tops the team with 19 three-pointers and is shooting 37 percent from behind the arc.

The men's team lost their most recent away matchup

against Brown 71-69 on Saturday, Dec. 8, while the women's team is on a eight-game win streak.

Both teams hold on to the best records in the America East with Men's Basketball on top with an 8-2 despite their most recent defeat and Women's Basketball topping the conference at 8-1.

The two teams will look to continue their hot starts as the women's team takes on the Iona

Gaels on Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 7:00 p.m., while the men's team returns home to Island Federal Credit Union Arena to face Long Island University Brooklyn on Wednesday, Dec. 12. Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. The next Women's Basketball home game will be against Wagner College on Saturday, Dec. 12. The highly anticipated basketball game is scheduled for 2 p.m.

# SPORTS

## Women's Basketball victorious against Fairleigh Dickinson for eighth win

By Kenneth Fermin  
Assistant Sports Editor

Stony Brook Women's Basketball defeated the Fairleigh Dickinson Knights 63-49, extending its Division I program-record winning streak to eight games. Although the Seawolves outscored the Knights 39-15 in the first half, head coach Caroline McCombs believes the team can improve by refining its defense in the second half of games.

"It was a good team win, but we want to be able to play [for] four full quarters," McCombs said. "I think we have struggled to finish the game when we get big leads so we are working on that now. It is a good challenge to have because that means we are up but it also means closing out the game and playing four quarters."

Part of Stony Brook's late game struggles came after losing its leading rebounder sophomore forward India Pagan early in the third quarter.

Pagan called for help after colliding into two Knights' players battling for a rebound and limped off the court.

She sat out the remainder of the game with ice wrapped around her right foot. No update about her condition has been given.

Sophomore forwards Kina Smith and McKenzie Bushee picked up where Pagan left off and combined for 10 points and three rebounds.

Bushee's layup inside the paint with under two minutes remaining in the third quarter handed Stony Brook its largest lead of the night, 57-29.

"We have very good post players," McCombs said. "McKenzie started half of the season last year and Kina has really proven to be dominant this year, as well. As India is a very good player, we



KARINA GERRY/STATESMAN FILE

Senior guard Jerell Matthews looks to make a pass in a game against Albany in February 2018. Matthews capped off the third quarter with a three-point shot, giving the Seawolves a 16-7 lead against Fairleigh Dickinson.

have others who can step up and that was their opportunity."

Fairleigh Dickinson chipped away at the overwhelming deficit and finished the game on a 19-6 run. The Knights shot nearly 43 percent from the field and made 71 percent of their free throws in the fourth quarter. The defense also held Stony Brook scoreless for the final five minutes of the game.

Stony Brook controlled the tempo of the first half defensively by holding Fairleigh Dickinson scoreless through the first five minutes of the game, ironically. The Knights' starters were unable to record a basket and turned over the ball five

times in the first. Senior guard Jerell Matthews capped off the quarter with a three-point shot, giving the Seawolves the 16-7 lead.

The senior guard tandem of Matthews and Shania 'Shorty' Johnson overwhelmed the Fairleigh Dickinson defense by recording seven straight points, two minutes into the second quarter.

Stony Brook remained persistent offensively by knocking down over 58 percent of its shots and outscoring 23-8.

Both led the team with 12 points each while Matthews tied Pagan in earning seven rebounds in the contest. Johnson earned

10 assists and recorded her fifth double-double this season. While she ranks high in several offense categories and leads the NCAA with 87 assists this season, the guard has remained adamant on contributing to the team's success in anyway.

"I don't think about that kind of stuff when I play," Johnson said. "I just go out there and play hard. I try to get my team as many points as possible."

The Seawolves eight-game win streak matches the record set in the Division II era 1988-89 season. While proud of the accomplishments, the team's focus has already shifted towards the next game against the Iona Gaels.

"It feels good right now but we take every [match] game-by-game," Matthews said. "We have to stay focused on finding out how they score and stopping it. Also focusing on ourselves and continuing to improve and get better every game."

Stony Brook now sits on top of the America East with the best overall record at 8-1. Maine trails the team by one game with a 7-2 record with four non-conference matchups remaining on the schedule. The team will look to extend its winning streak to nine games when it faces off against Iona on Tuesday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m.

# SEAWOLVES SCOREBOARD



**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
TUESDAY, DEC. 4

**73 - 58**



SACRED HEART

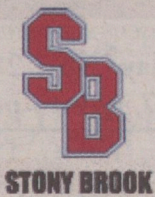


**MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
SATURDAY, DEC. 8

**69 - 71**



BROWN



**MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 5

**62 - 69**



MANHATTAN COLLEGE



FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON

**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
SATURDAY, DEC. 8

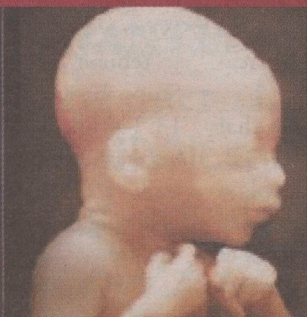
**49 - 63**



STONY BROOK

you could pick it up on the way to class...  
...but sometimes that's just too much effort

Find us online at  
[sbstatesman.com](http://sbstatesman.com)



They will tell you it's  
just a blob of tissue

But at 28 days her eyes and ears have  
already begun to show.

Education doesn't have to end  
because a new life begins.

Need help? Call 631-243-0066 24 hours, 7 days  
[www.aaapregnancyoptions.com](http://www.aaapregnancyoptions.com)