

THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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SBU offers creative writing major

By Gary Ghayrat
Assistant News Editor

Sitting in a harshly lit, squarish room at a round table too small for the group of 10 or so people, faculty and students from the creative writing program brainstormed ideas about the future of the department on the third floor of the Melville Library.

The announcement of a bachelor of fine arts (BFA) in creative writing came on Feb. 6, six years after the university started offering creative writing courses. Most of the classes will be taught by the same faculty who teach for the master of fine arts (MFA) in creative writing and literature at the Stony Brook Southampton campus, according to the press release.

"We're really just trying to get together and try to get the ball rolling on some kind of project to get people more aware of this program," Emmaline Horne, a sophomore who recently declared the creative writing major, said. "It's like a family."



A Persian New Year's table display at the Wang Center. The table held seven types of plants and foods: Sabzeh, Senjed, Sib, Seer, Samanu, Serkeh and Sumac.

Open mic nights, writing sprints, workshops and other literary events were among the many things the first few creative writing major students eagerly pitched to the faculty.

Tyler Penny, coordinator and self-proclaimed "key master" for the department who graduated from the MFA program, said the BFA program at Stony Brook University was the "brainchild" of many people.

"That was a long, long process," Penny said. "It started with a minor.

We worked through budget cuts, and lo and behold ... the word got out that creative writing minor is kinda a hot thing. That's what the students were missing. That's the creative outlet that they wanted to explore."

Penny recalled what drove him to pursue a degree in creative writing and literature during what he describes "the darkest year" of his life. He received a handwritten acceptance letter and had a con-

versation with the person who wrote it.

"It was then I knew that I found a type of family that I needed," Penny said. "It was the people that attracted me up here. And I knew I had to come."

The author of that acceptance letter was Julie Sheehan, now the director of the BFA program, who's been teaching creative writ-

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Students discuss divided government

By Maya Brown
Contributing Writer

With a Democratic majority in the U.S. House of Representatives and a Republican majority in the Senate, Americans are currently living under a divided government.

The Center for Civic Justice held a community dialogue on the topic of divided government on Monday, Feb. 25. Students, faculty and staff discussed some of the ways in which we can address the issue as a community.

The event opened up with an overview of the purpose and format of the event from Yark Beyan, event facilitator and senior political science major. "Everyone is encouraged to participate and all major options should be considered fairly," she said. "You are also encouraged to have fun in an open and respectful manner."

A video titled "A House Divided" was shown which spoke about three options for breaking the gridlock in Washington D.C.: "reduce dangerous, toxic talk," "make fairer rules for politics and follow them" and "take control and make decisions closer to home." According to the video, "Partisan divides are so bad that we [society] can't even talk to one another without being bitter or defensive."

As attendees entered, they were broken off into small groups where they had 20-minute guided conversations about the benefits, drawbacks, trade-offs and challenges of each of the three options.

The debate over option one, or to "reduce dangerous, toxic talk," centered on whether or not media, online companies and important institutions should have the power to not produce content that contains uncivil and abusive language. Other students thought those decision-makers shouldn't have the power to determine what people can or can't say about each other or about public issues. Regarding this option, students brought up topics such as censorship, the anonymity that the internet allows and whether people are too easily offended in today's society.

On the topic of censorship, freshman biochemistry major Michael Dilluvio, said, "We must first learn how to communicate with one another. We learn this from a young age and then lose it as we come to adulthood. The problem isn't with us not being al-

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Professors discuss the future of quantum computing

By Sara Ruberg
Assistant Multimedia Editor

Stony Brook University hosted a day-long Quantum Immersion Workshop in the Wang Center Theater on Monday.

The event highlighting new developments in quantum computers coincidentally came one week after Sen. Chuck Schumer announced his support for the statewide SUNY bid to host multiple national centers for quantum computing research.

Various software companies such as IBM, Microsoft and Google are attempting to program the first useful and accurate quantum computer. The new computation can operate a million times more efficiently than classical computers.

One of the keynote speakers, Seth Lloyd, a physics and mechanical engineering professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, specializes in quantum mechanics and is currently working to build these machines. He shared his expertise in developing quantum machinery and its importance for scientific research and real-world use.

"You can have a great idea, but if you can't implement it technologically then you don't know if it's go-

ing to work or not," Lloyd said. "So we're now at a really great stage of quantum computing because now people really are building large scale devices."

The secret of quantum computers' efficient operations is their use of qubits. Qubits are similar to classical computer bits which help operate and translate information on a computer using binary code (a coding system that uses the digits "0" and "1"); but, instead of translating the "0"s and one "1"s separately, qubits can use them both simultaneously. This gives quantum computers the ability to solve more complicated problems effectively, including linear algebraic problems, according to Lloyd.

Many of those who attended the event including researchers, developers and students from Stony Brook University, Brookhaven National Laboratory, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and IBM were already somewhat familiar with the technology.

Director of the Institute for Quantum Science and Technology at the University of Calgary, Barry Sanders, was another keynote speaker. He has studied and taught all over the world — Calgary, Canada; Shanghai, China; Bangalore,

India and more. Sanders explained, in the least technical way possible, how to build a quantum computer, and estimated when developers expect the quantum computer to complete useful tasks accurately.

"One constant I've found is that every expert says it's 20 years away ... come back to me in 20 years and I might still say it," Sanders said. "The investors tell me they feel there's a chance that in five years they will be able to use an optimization algorithm to solve a problem that has a billion dollar return."

Administration and faculty of Stony Brook were also present at the lecture series. The Director of the C.N. Yang Institute, George Sterman, had positive feedback for the speakers.

"I am very impressed with the level of commitment to this growing field and the extent to which Stony Brook has a chance to be a part of these potentially historic developments," said Sterman.

Even faculty not specifically involved in this research attended the event. William Kay, a proposal manager and writer for the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, felt he had a better grasp on the topic after attending.



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NEWS

Students learn to write books in new major

Continued from page 1

-ing classes at Stony Brook for more than a decade. She helped design the creative writing major and minor curriculum.

"In WRT 102, you learn how to write a proper academic essay that you're gonna use in your future academic classes," Sheehan said. "Creative writing is making books."

She said creative writing majors, unlike the minors who focus on producing creative pieces to enrich their most likely STEM undergraduate experience at Stony Brook, are expected to be invested writers who can manage their own projects and write a book manuscript by their senior year.

"Stony Brook could have great strength in the humanities and arts, and we would like to be leaders in the agenda of establishing Stony Brook as a powerhouse in the arts, in addition to a powerhouse in the sciences," Sheehan said. "And I don't see any reason why we can't do that."

Sheehan said the goal is to recruit 25 students each year who would otherwise not come to Stony Brook and maintain a small group of people who are going to learn more than writing.

"Most people are going to experience rejection as a writer," Sheehan said. "In the face of rejection how do you persist in the creation of a work of art?"

She said she hopes students learn "life skills around that that have to do with creative problem solving that have to do with understanding and building your own community, your own safety net."

Horne said it was difficult for her to let go of assured stability

in the future and convince her mom that creative writing was what she wanted to major in.

"She ended up really accepting it after I showed her my portfolio ... she loved it," Horne said. "And she's kind of a harsh critic."

She recently declared her major in creative writing and is expected to graduate in Spring 2021.

"I feel like I found my tribe, you could say," she said. "I actually feel like I belong somewhere."



GARY GHAYRAT / THE STATESMAN

The co-director of the undergraduate creative writing program speaks at an information session on Feb. 13.

Forum discusses Congress

Continued from page 1

rather the way in which we chose to do so."

In their discussion of option two, "make fairer rules for politics and follow them," students debated changes that would eliminate voter suppression, limit money in politics and allow non-partisan commissions to draw Congressional districts.

One student shared how she believed that polling should be more flexible so that the voter suppression rate decreases. "We should make longer hours for voting because many adults work all day, and may not find the time in their daily schedule," she said.

Finally, in discussing option three, "take control and make decisions closer to home," students deliberated the pros and cons of decentralized government versus centralized government. Some students felt that increasing the powers of state and local governments would be beneficial. Others argued that this would produce a patchwork of rules on major national challenges which would harm the country as a whole. In particular, they focused on the consequences this would create for welfare programs.

"No matter a local government or national government, either way, there will be some sort of corruption involved," freshman biology major John O'Hare said.

After all the options were discussed, each group was asked to put their differing views aside and come to a consensus on which option would be best for the nation to focus on in order to resolve the issues caused by a divided government.

"My favorite part of the dialogue was getting to know the people in our group and seeing how people got comfortable as the discussion progressed," Lakshta Kundal, a freshman geology major, said.

Each student was motivated to participate, as the discussion went in a circle. "My group had an insightful conversation and I loved hearing everyone speak. I also got to hear from the right-wing's view on the border wall, which was different," Sabrina DuQuesnay, a freshman political science major, said.

Students who didn't usually participate in discussions involving the government even found the discussion appealing. "I usually shy away from political talk, but it was nice to hear various views and agree on one option in the end. It was eye-opening," Eunice Kim, a freshman biology major, said.

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ARTS & CULTURE

A Fyre Festival exclusive: it wasn't a disaster for all

By Caitlyn McDuffee
Contributing Writer

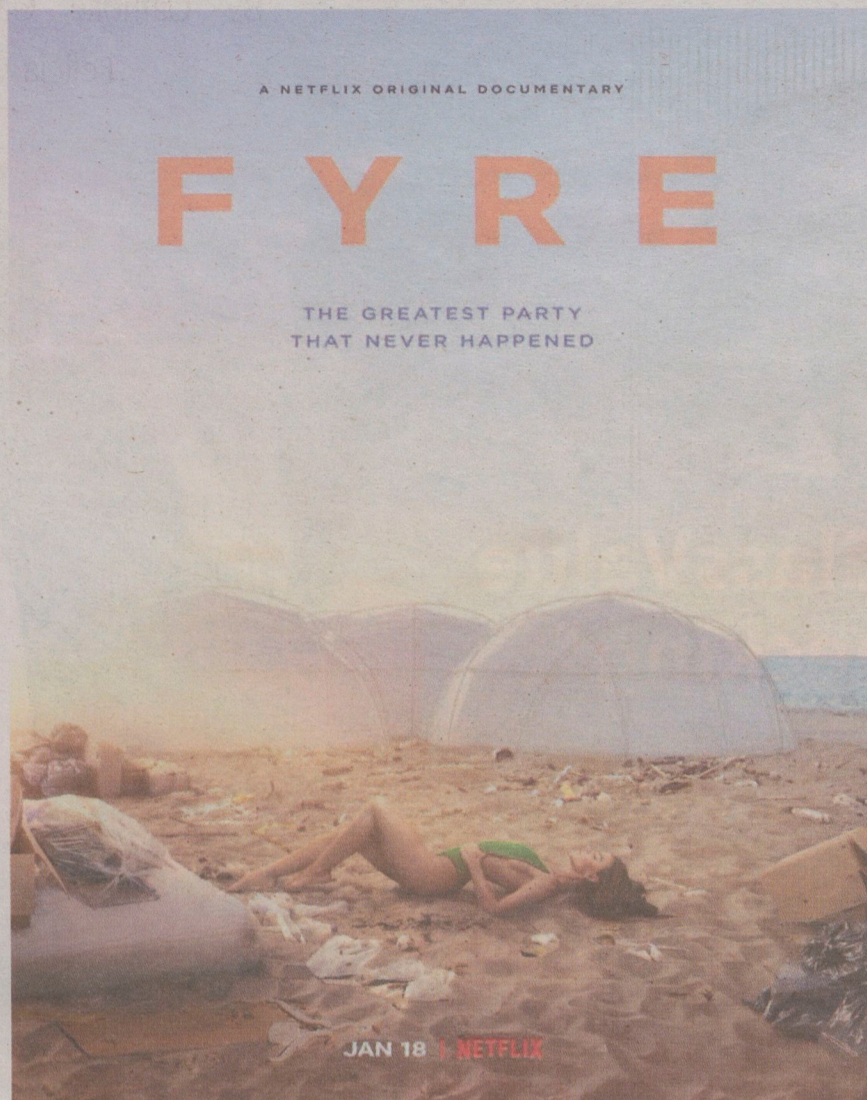
Rapper Ja Rule and entrepreneur Billy McFarland created what was promised to be a “millennials paradise,” an exclusive music festival in the middle of the Bahamas. When customers arrived at the “Fyre Festival” in April of 2017, their visions of this picture perfect instagrammable world was shattered.

Instead of luxury villas, guests were housed in flimsy tents with soaking wet mattresses from rain the night before. Along with having insufficient hygiene facilities there was a lack of running water.

“It was starting to get dark,” Tara Conlin, a producer at MediaMonks who attended the event, said. “All of our hangovers were setting in and we had eight girls so we had to try to find tents with beds, find our luggage and bathrooms. It was a pretty surreal moment and everyone was just freaking out.”

The festival had failed to meet the most basic of logistic requirements, such as having proper accommodations and transportation, and all of the music acts had canceled or didn't show up. Less than 24 hours after guests arrived, they were forced to leave.

“Fyre Festival set out to provide a once-in-a-lifetime musical experience,” the organizers put out in a statement. “Due to circumstances out of our control, the physical infrastructure was not in place on time and we are unable



The poster for a Netflix documentary on the Fyre Festival. This article is not a review of the documentary films.

to fulfill on that vision safely and enjoyably for our guests.”

Both Netflix and Hulu recently released an in-depth documentary uncovering the horrors of the event, showcasing how it spiraled out of control from beginning to end.

Seth Crossno is featured in

both documentaries and operates the Twitter account @WNFIV that posted much of the viral content from the festival. “It was dangerous,” the Raleigh blogger said.

“There was no security to be seen and so many people at the

event,” Crossno said. “I interviewed someone on my podcast who got second degree burns and had to be rushed to the hospital.”

Crossno spent \$5,000 to secure his ticket to the event and could be the first to receive legal compensation for the scam.

Crossno sued co-founder McFarland and won \$5 million, but still hasn't received any money.

“Knowing Billy and knowing he still hasn't paid back investors \$27 million dollars,” Crossno said. “I'm not holding my breath.”

Mitch Purgason, a 26-year-old clothing designer, spent \$1,200 on his ticket and made the most of his situation.

“The festival didn't happen which was disappointing,” Purgason stated.

“But I was still on the beach drinking as much as I wanted and was surrounded by hot babes listening to music on our phones.”

McFarland is currently serving a six-year prison sentence and will have to pay more than \$26 million in restitution.

He was sentenced for fraud-

“Knowing Billy and knowing he still hasn't paid back investors \$27 million dollars. I'm not holding my breath.”

-Seth Crossno
Blogger

ulent transactions between ticket holders and investors for the Fyre Festival and for selling over \$100,000 worth of fake tickets to other exclusive events like the Grammys and the Met Gala.

After serving the six years, he will have three years of supervised release and forfeit \$26 million in profits he made in his scams.

He also has several class action lawsuits against him from individuals who attended the Fyre Festival. As for Ja Rule, he plans to finish what he started. “[Fyre] is the most iconic festival that never was,” he said to TMZ last week. “I have plans to create the iconic music festival, but you didn't hear it from me.”

Ja Rule isn't facing any criminal charges but is named in many civil suits and has been the subject of ridicule on social media.

USG announces Brookfest 2019 artist lineup

By Melissa Azofeifa
Assistant Arts and Culture Editor

Brookfest 2019 will not be a repeat of “Back to the Brook 2018,” not only because Undergraduate Student Government took a poll to avoid it, but the line-up is sure to have students running to the box office to buy their tickets. The openers are Aminè and Lil Skies and A\$AP Ferg will be headlining the show.

Brookfest this year is going to be on Thursday, April 11 at the Island Federal Credit Union Arena. Students will pay \$30 for floor seats or \$15 for stand tickets. Outside guests will have to pay \$20 for stand tickets.

A\$AP Ferg was born as Darold Ferguson Jr. and hails from Harlem in New York. He originally pursued fashion and owned a boutique which printed shirts and logos for record labels. Eventually, he turned to music and became the second most famous member of A\$AP Mob, following A\$AP Rocky. Ferg's album “Trap Lord” shows off his electricity and wit that has been evident since his debut on A\$AP Rocky's “Kissin' Pink.” It is apparent that he has a lot of potential which will no doubt translate on stage when performing hits

Brookfest this year is going to be on Thursday, April 11 at the Island Federal Credit Union Arena.

Tickets:
Stands: \$15
Floor: \$30
Outside guests (stand only): \$20

like “Shabba,” “Plain Jane” and “New Level.”

Aminè's given name is Adam Daniel. He comes from Portland, Oregon. He went to Portland State University to study Marketing, but he would work on his music and plan his career at the same time. His debut album, “Good for you,” came after success from his hit, “Caroline,” which transported him from frustrated college student to hip-hop star.



The official USG Brookfest 2019 poster features artists Aminè, A\$AP Ferg and Lil Skies.

His exaggerated expressions and wide smile are elements that can be expected to be seen on

the Brookfest stage while fans enjoy songs like “Spice Girl,” “BLACKJACK” and “REEL IT

IN.” Aminè's music is enjoyable and is part of a rising sub-genre of rap that is centered on occasional silliness and enthusiasm. His approach has been compared by the New York Times to the likes of Chance the Rapper and Tyler, the Creator.

Lil Skies' birth name is Kismetrius Foose. He grew up in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, which is considered an unlikely locale to breed an up-and-coming hip-hop artist. Music has always been in his life since his own father tried a career in hip-hop. Rolling Stone has compared his music style to that of Machine Gun Kelly and Lil Pump. His music blends teen angst with the cocky hip-hop attitude that many people relate to, making his music entertaining. His hits are “Red Roses,” “Nowadays” and “I Know You.” His mixtape “Life of a Dark Rose” has proved to be successful, it peaked at number 10 on Billboards top 200 for two weeks last year.

He is also touring with Lil Pump starting in April according to Rolling Stone.

Although they all have very different approaches to their music, these artists will bring an energetic night of music for all to enjoy.

Netflix's "The Umbrella Academy" is dysfunctional at its finest

By Karina Gerry
Assistant Arts & Culture Editor

In the age of superheroes, Marvel has dominated the genre over the last decade. Netflix's new hit show, "The Umbrella Academy" has deviated from the classic superhero tale and comic giant, which might be the reason I'm dubbing it a must watch, but don't worry this review will contain no spoilers.

Best described as dysfunction at its finest, "The Umbrella Academy" is based on the comic book series of the same name by Gerard Way, best known as the lead singer of the band My Chemical Romance. The show starts with a flashback to Oct. 1, 1989, where 43 women around the world give birth, despite none of them showing any sign of pregnancy until labor began. Seven of the children are adopted by billionaire Sir Reginald Hargreeves and turned into a superhero fighting team. Hargreeves doesn't bother to give the children names, simply referring to them as numbers one through seven. Number one has super strength, number two is a knife-wielding badass who has the ability to curve the trajectory of anything he throws, number three has the ability to manipulate reality by saying "I heard a rumor," number four has the ability to communicate with the dead, number five can jump



The official poster for the Netflix original series "The Umbrella Academy."

through space and time, number six possesses monsters from other dimensions under his skin and number seven is just ordinary and the only one of her siblings who does not fight crime. After the death of one sibling, the disappearance of the other, and a lifetime of being ignored by their father, one by one the surviving children leave their home in pursuit of a better life.

The children, now adults, reunite at their childhood home for the funeral of their father

where they try to come to terms with their resentment for him, each other and their dysfunctional adult lives. After the funeral they realize their father died under suspicious circumstances and they try to solve the mystery of his death, at first on their own and then as a team, oh and stop the impending apocalypse and avoid being murdered by time hopping assassins. I could try to explain but I promised no spoilers and to be frank I wouldn't do it justice.

Look, I know what you're thinking. This show sounds super weird and not at all something you would be interested in, but don't let its odd premise detract you.

While the show is strange in many ways, like how a talking monkey assistant named Pogo is just accepted as normal, it's also extremely funny, heartwarming, thrilling and just plain entertaining. It's also a fresh

The Potluck Ash Wednesday

By Catholic Campus Minister
Felicia Viscusi

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the Lenten Season in the Catholic Church. The liturgical season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. It is a time to prepare for the suffering and death of Christ on Good Friday and for His Resurrection on Easter Sunday. The observance of this day involves receiving ashes in the shape of a cross on one's forehead. The ashes are a reminder to ourselves that we are sinners in need of repentance from God, our merciful Father. The shape of the cross reminds us that we belong to Christ, and that He shares in our suffering through His suffering on the cross. The words heard upon receiving ashes, "Repent, and believe in the Gospel," are a reminder for us of these truths.

Ashes will be distributed on campus throughout the day on Ash Wednesday, March 6. There will be short (5 minute) services celebrated at 8, 9, 10 and 11 a.m., and 1, 2, 3 and 4 p.m. Mass will be celebrated at noon. Mass and all services will take place in the Interfaith Chapel, found on the fifth floor of the Melville Library in room N5560.

look at superheroes, where the audience sees that just because they have these amazing powers doesn't mean they are successful, happy or functioning adults — they are screw-ups just like the rest of us and somehow it's a com-

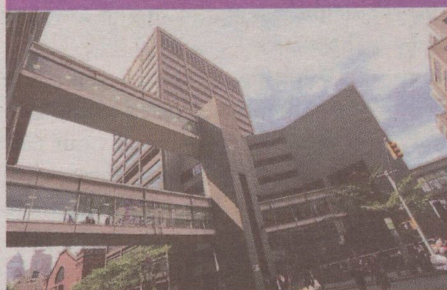
forting thought. Add on a killer soundtrack, two dance montages, Mary J. Blige as an assassin and relatable characters, you have a new obsession that will have you googling when the second season will be premiering, trust me.

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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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EMMA HARRIS/STATESMAN FILE

Demonstrators during March For Our Lives. Many gun control advocates have blamed the National Rifle Association and GOP politicians for preventing gun control legislation.

Conservatives can lead the fight for gun reform

By Andrew Infantino
Contributing Writer

On Feb. 14, 2018, a gunman walked into Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida and committed the deadliest high school shooting in the history of the United States.

Survivors of the massacre led a new surge of activism for gun control. This culminated with the March for Our Lives, one of the largest political demonstrations in the history of the United States, which itself spawned two tangential rallies for gun control here at Stony Brook University last year.

Many gun control supporters have blamed the National Rifle Association (NRA) and the GOP politicians that support them for preventing the passing of gun control legislation. Republicans are facing a tough challenge from the Democrat-controlled House of Representatives, and undue resistance to new gun regulation proposals would further harm their position. Instead of losing ground on the issue, they could propose their own gun reform bills that respect their voters' concerns while meaningfully promoting public safety.

While gun control typically aims to restrict the legality of certain firearms and firearm accessories such as AR-15s and high-capacity magazines, conservative gun reform would instead aim to restrict certain people — namely criminals and people otherwise ruled dangerous to themselves or others — from purchasing firearms. This would allow Republicans to gain public support for enacting meaningful measures against gun crime, especially through the reinforcement of existing gun policies, while upholding their long-held promises to support the gun rights of law-abiding and mentally healthy citizens. One such measure could be the nationwide introduction of gun-violence restraining orders, which would allow the immediate family members and cohabitants of mentally ill persons to petition a court — through

due process — to temporarily revoke said persons' gun rights if they are proven dangerous to themselves or others. This is especially relevant in the wake of the Parkland massacre as one of the perpetrator's adoptive families was aware of him attempting to bring guns onto their property without their consent and committing domestic violence.

Other measures should focus specifically on improving the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Last year, President Trump signed the Fix NICS Act, which will assist and increase the accountability of states and federal agencies in submitting criminal and mental health information to the NICS database. As the federal government cannot technically mandate state and local authorities to submit that information, it uses grant-based incentives to sway them into doing so voluntarily. Arguably, Congress should pressure (rather than coerce) states into legally mandating that and furthermore prohibiting firearm sales to persons convicted of stalking or any other violent crimes (as some states do not), just as it did historically to pressure all states into raising their drinking ages to 21. Congress could also close the so-called gun show loophole by either requiring background checks for all private firearm transfers or strictly re-defining the criteria for a private sale.

New law enforcement initiatives rather than new laws per se, meanwhile, could make a tremendous difference in reducing gun violence. Boston, Salinas, California and Jacksonville, Florida reduced their violent crime rates significantly by dedicating more resources to combating gang violence and community youth interventions. Richmond, Virginia saw sharp annual declines in gun homicide by enforcing harsher penalties against felons who commit firearm offenses. Kansas City, Missouri reduced its gun crime and criminal homicide rates by 49 and 67 percent respectively after reform-

ing its tactics for seizing illegal guns. Congress can bolster initiatives like this by increasing funding for local law enforcement.

While gun control proponents may criticize these policies as insufficient, stricter ones are unlikely to become law as long as Republicans control the Senate and the White House. Furthermore, the rights and concerns of both gun owners and their allies must be respected in order to muster sufficient political support for effective gun policy changes. Approximately 40 percent of U.S. adults live in a household with a gun. While public support for measures like an assault weapons ban peaked as high as 67 percent in the wake of the Parkland shooting, it has fluctuated frequently over the past decade.

Neglecting conservative views in the gun debate would foster voter alienation and resentment, which were crucial in Donald Trump's electoral victory. More importantly, the right to self-defense is fundamental to protecting one's right to live when law enforcement may not do so. While we can disagree over the propriety of certain weapons for that purpose and of restricting them in order to protect the general public, firearms are necessary in order to defend your life in certain situations where you cannot feasibly escape or fight by any other means.

Republicans need to seize this opportunity for the sake of both their party and their country. The United States has disproportionately higher gun crime rates than virtually any other developed country. Legislative action is a crucial step in lowering those rates.

While the Democrats could take credit for passing increased gun safety measures, Republicans can take the credit for making them while keeping their long-held promises to gun owners and gun rights supporters. Most importantly, bipartisan support for these proposals could calm political tensions while saving American lives.

Anti-Zionism is rooted in ignorance

By Yonatan Herzfeld
Contributing Writer

According to The Hill, incidents of Israel-related discrimination on college campuses more than doubled from 2015 to 2017. Students who are supportive of Israel face event disruption, exclusion, verbal abuse and destruction of property, even here at Stony Brook.

"It's when I first came to Stony Brook that I actually encountered pushback for my Israeli identity," Neil Dasgupta, a junior applied mathematics and statistics and philosophy double major and president of Seawolves for Israel, said.

Last spring, the Hillel office hosted a high tech fair that showcased Israeli business and technology professionals. Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) protested the event and likened Israel to Nazi Germany with a sign that read "Would you invest in a Nazi company? Why then would you invest in an Israeli company?" They harassed Gal Malka, the Jewish Agency Israel Fellow at Stony Brook, calling her a "baby killer," and intimidated students that came to participate in the event.

It's well accepted as wrong for someone to be harassed based on their identity, ethnicity, nationality or religion. But unfortunately, some didn't "get the memo," and push an

anti-Zionist ideology rooted in ignorance and misinformation.

"There is such widespread hate against Israel on college campuses in America because of ignorance and anti-Semitism," Eilona Feder, a junior biochemistry major from Israel and vice president of Seawolves for Israel, said.

Feder argued that organizations like SJP and Boycott Divest and Sanction (BDS) spread more hate instead of trying to promote peace. BDS boycotted SodaStream, an Israeli company that had a factory in the West Bank, because they felt the factory's location made it "complicit in Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights." The boycott caused SodaStream to move their factory out of the West Bank, and 500 Palestinians lost their jobs as a result. By believing and promulgating misinformation about Israeli companies being occupiers, instead of worrying about the welfare of Palestinians they claim to fight for, BDS harmed the Palestinian people.

Another serious example of anti-Zionist misinformation is the claim that Israel is an apartheid state. Apartheid is legal inequality — systemic segregation and discrimination on the grounds of race. But Arab citizens can vote in Israel, own any business and work in any profession, including politics.

Not only is Israel not an apartheid state, but Arabs in Israel have more freedoms than they do in neighboring countries like Saudi Arabia, where women can't open a bank account without a man's permission.

When studying at Bar Ilan University last year in Israel, I volunteered as an EMT with an Arab Muslim Israeli. We worked side by side, something that would never happen in an apartheid state. Calling Israel an apartheid state is simply incorrect.

"It's when I first came to Stony Brook that I actually encountered pushback for my Israeli identity,"

-Neil Dasgupta
President, Seawolves for Israel

People are more likely to support whoever is portrayed as oppressed and are quick to form radical opinions in the face of perceived injustice, even with little information to back them up. Justifiably, it's appealing to support a side being portrayed as oppressed, until one realizes that Muslim Arabs in Israel are not oppressed.

The media and academia has perfected appealing to viewers' and students' emotions to promote their agenda. Marc Lamont Hill was recently fired by CNN for using the phrase "Free Palestine from the river

to the sea." Hamas, an internationally-recognized terrorist organization, uses this phrase as a call for Israel to be wiped off the map. Temple University stood by Hill, despite his hate speech. This inherently disadvantages Israel by portraying it as an aggressive oppressor when it is the most liberal country in the region.

There are still many things you can do to educate yourself about the topic. Madeleine Doerr, a sophomore political science major, took this mission upon herself and chose to study abroad in Israel next semester. Since studying abroad in Israel is not an option for everyone, she recommends people watch documentaries — that's how she got started on her path toward educating herself.

"I wanted to see what it is actually like for citizens living there. I also want to learn about the rich history and culture of the Jewish people," she said.

Many people can learn from Doerr, a non-Jewish student, who is a perfect example of someone without an initial personal connection to Israel who took it upon herself to become more educated.

Anti-Zionism has become increasingly trendy, but only because many students do not look past their Facebook feed and do the bare minimum of their own research. Israel, the only true democracy in the Middle East, also engages in humanitarian aid. In addition to sending medical supplies to Gaza in lieu of shortages, Israel also treats thousands of Syrians injured in the Syrian Civil War.

Having spent last year in Israel, I can attest to the complexities of the Israeli statehood issue, but Israel is a thriving liberal democracy where its citizens have full and equal protection under the law. The rest of the world can learn from Israel's dedication to freedom and democracy, and I hope you can too.



GARY GLAYRAT / THE STATESMAN

Members of Students for Justice in Palestine protest Israeli Independence Day celebration on April 19, 2018.



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Men's Lacrosse splits matchups against Hofstra, Marist

By Ryan Magill
Staff Writer

The Stony Brook men's lacrosse team split its recent matchups, edging out Hofstra 11-10 on Tuesday, March 26. However, the Seawolves lost to the Marist College Red Foxes by a score of 10-5 on Saturday, March 3.

Stony Brook rebounded from surrendering a Hofstra score with a three-goal scoring run, capped by sophomore midfielder Patrick Kaschalk for the 3-1 lead midway through the second period. The Seawolves were in control offensively for most of the game, with junior attacker Tom Haun's goal extending the lead to 10-7 with nine minutes remaining in the game.

Although Hofstra was down, freshman attacker Whit Stopak dug the team out of the hole with three consecutive goals, the final one tying the match at 10 with 1:49 remaining. Although it seemed the momentum had swung firmly in the Pride's direction, Haun capitalized off a loose ball with a fiery shot through the back of the net and iced the game. Haun earned a career-high five goals in the victory, including an emotional game-winner.

"That was a special one," Haun said after the game. "Ob-

viously, it's a rivalry game and they beat up on us pretty good last year. Just to come out and get that win, I know it was a nail-biter, and it was just so much fun out there and I am so proud of my team."

Other solid offensive contributors included Kaschalk and junior midfielder Tom Dugan, who each added a pair of goals. Junior midfielder Connor Grippe and sophomore attacker Jack Walsh scored goals as well.

Junior goalie Michael Bollinger came up big by grabbing nine saves that kept the Seawolves in the game. The defensive effort was led by sophomore defender Danny Cassidy, who also came up big with seven ground balls and two caused turnovers.

In the match against Marist, however, the result didn't favor Stony Brook.

The game had been tied at 3-3 by the end of the first half. However, the third quarter saw the Red Foxes thoroughly dominate the Seawolves, scoring five straight unanswered goals and controlling possession throughout, with Marist junior faceoff Peyton Smith winning 15 of the 19 faceoffs and the team as a whole winning 34 ground balls to Stony Brook's 19. Marist's

offense was driven by freshman attackers James Lyons and Jojo Pirreca, who each scored three goals and were two of the six different scorers for Marist. For the Seawolves, junior attacker Chris Pickel Jr. had two goals, while junior attacker Tom Haun, junior midfielder Harrison Matsuoka and sophomore midfielder Mike

McCannell each added one goal.

"Their faceoff guy was real good," Nagle said. "I thought that that was an integral part of the game. I thought we could have come up with some of the loose balls. We didn't have a great day there. But it's like every game, you just gotta be ready to go at the faceoff, and I felt like

the ball was on the ground quite a bit that we could have gotten but we didn't."

However, Nagle remained optimistic about the team despite the tough loss.

The Seawolves host the Sacred Heart University Pioneers at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium on Tuesday, March 5.



SARA RUBERG/THE STATESMAN

Junior attacker Chris Pickel Jr. with the ball in the game against Marist on Saturday, March 2. Pickel Jr. had two goals in the matchup.

SPORTS

Women's Lacrosse snaps unbeaten home streak against Stanford 15-12



EMMA HARRIS/THE STATESMAN

Junior midfielder Ally Kennedy with the ball during the game against Stanford on Sunday, March 3. Kennedy led the team with four goals against the Towson Tigers.

By Kenneth Fermin
Assistant Sports Editor

Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium had been an unbreakable fortress of dominance for Stony Brook Women's Lacrosse over the last three seasons. The Seawolves

thrived off the energy from the Long Island faithful and converted it into victories, winning a program-record 33 consecutive home games.

Anticipation for the 2019 home opener against the Stan-

ford Cardinal with the expectation of winning helped draw fans to the stadium and hype up the team.

However, Stony Brook's triumphant home performance stretch screeched to a halt as the

Cardinal topped the Seawolves, 15-12, on Sunday, March 3. The home loss was the first since the 7-6 heartbreaker against No.3-ranked Florida on March 6, 2016. That was also the last time Stony Brook began the season 2-2 under head coach Joe Spallina.

"We were excited to be back on our home field," Spallina said. "Home is a place where we take pride in playing here and take pride in connecting with our community, who turn out to support our team. To have the opportunity to play in front of our home fans was something that the team was looking forward to. I think they might have been looking forward to it maybe a little too much."

Stanford sophomore attacker Ali Baiocco led the offensive charge throughout the contest and finished with six on the day. Baiocco's first unassisted goal extended Stanford's scoring run to three consecutive goals and resulted in an early Stony Brook timeout call.

"We called a timeout, we had to calm everybody down," Spallina said. "We were tight, we were

white-knuckling our shots, we just needed to relax and we did."

Stony Brook fell 5-1 after the timeout, but battled back with five consecutive goals through the closing minutes of the first half, taking the 6-5 lead.

When the Cardinal fired back with a score, the Seawolves responded with a last-second goal by senior attacker Nicole Baretta off the assist by sophomore attacker Jesse Arline and regained the lead.

Stony Brook kept the momentum early in the second period, but Stanford countered with four-straight goals and took the lead.

The Seawolves had one final offensive push, tying the game at twelve, but the Cardinal closed out the contest with three goals capped by Baiocco. The sophomore blazed through the Stony Brook defense and rocketed six shots through the back of the net for the game.

The Seawolves overall record is now 2-2, their first .500 start since 2016.

The team will begin a three-game road series, beginning with Princeton on Saturday, March 9 at 1 p.m.

Baseball swept in three-game series to No. 13-ranked Arkansas on the road

By Ethan Tam
Staff Writer

Stony Brook Baseball suffered a three-game sweep to the No. 13-ranked Arkansas Razorbacks in the final road trip to the southern United States this season, dropping their record to 3-6. The series was originally slated to have one game each on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, but concerns about frigid snowy weather on Sunday led to the scheduling of a Friday doubleheader and an hour-early change of Saturday's first pitch time.

"We have learned quite a bit about ourselves these first three weekends," head coach Matt Senk said in a press release, "We're very optimistic about our chances over the remaining three months of the season."

Redshirt-junior pitcher Greg Marino earned the start in the first game of the series, as he has done so all season. Marino dazzled early, taking a perfect game into the fifth inning by retiring the first twelve Arkansas batters. However, Razorbacks junior outfielder Dominic Fletcher doubled to right center leading off the bottom of the fifth, breaking up Marino's bid. Fletcher advanced off a single and a fielder's choice brought him home, giving Arkansas a 1-0 lead.

Marino was pulled in the sixth inning after surrendering a double and a triple gave the Razorbacks a two-run lead. Junior reliever Adam Erickson could not stop the push, allowing Marino's inherited runner to score on a wild pitch.

Meanwhile, Arkansas redshirt-junior pitcher Isaiah Campbell mesmerized the Stony Brook lineup by pitching seven strikeout innings and punching out 13 batters. The Seawolves got on the board in the top of the eighth when senior outfielder Dylan Resk homered to left field to cut the deficit to 3-1.

Stony Brook put up a fight in the ninth against Arkansas junior closer Matt Cronin after freshman infielder Evan Giordano led off the inning with a single to right field. Two batters later, junior outfielder Michael Wilson hit a slow dribbler to third to put men on first and second with one out. After sophomore catcher John Tuccillo struck out, senior infielder Brandon Alamo walked to load the bases. The rally was all for naught, as senior catcher Sean Buckhout went down swinging and handed Arkansas the 3-1 victory in Game 1.

Stony Brook's offense started out hotter in Game 2, scoring

two runs in the top of the first. Junior infielder Nick Grande hit a double down the left field line, advanced to third on a failed pickoff attempt, and was



ARACELY JIMENEZ/STATESMAN FILE

Junior infielder Nick Grande hit a double and was brought home on a sacrifice fly against Arkansas.

brought home on a sacrifice fly. Wilson then hit a two-out home run, his fourth of the season.

However, the Seawolves would give those runs right back. Junior starting pitcher Brian Herrmann coughed up two in the bottom of the second and another in the bottom of the third. In the top of the fourth, singles by Buckhout

and Alamo put men on first and third with no one out. Although Resk fouled out and Tuccillo went down looking, senior infielder Brandon Janofsky poked

Seawolves would again put the winning run in scoring position in the top of the ninth, Giordano struck out swinging with Tuccillo on third and Grande on second to end game two of the doubleheader.

Saturday's season finale was more of the same for Stony Brook. Although three hits by Grande, Wilson and Buckhout scored two runs for the Seawolves in the top of the first, freshman pitcher Nick DeGennaro allowed four runs on four hits in the bottom half of the frame.

DeGennaro, making his first career start for the Seawolves, gave up six runs in 3.1 innings pitched. After Stony Brook cut the lead to 4-3 on a bases-loaded fourth inning walk by Wilson, the Arkansas offense would explode for 11 unanswered runs to take a 15-3 lead. Four garbage-time runs scored by Stony Brook in the top of the ninth would bring the final score to a 15-7 defeat.

In the midst of a four-game losing streak, Stony Brook will now begin a six-game homestand, all against local opponents. Their next opponent is the Manhattan Jaspers, who currently have a 2-6 record. The game will begin on Tuesday, Mar. 5 at 3 p.m. at Joe Nathan Field.

Razorbacks sophomore outfielder Heston Kjerstad reached on a leadoff double to begin the fifth and came home after a groundout and a sacrifice fly to give the his team the 4-3 lead. The score would hold. While the

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