

ANYONE'S BID

The Race to Run Brookhaven National Lab is On

BY BEN VARGHESE AND PETER GRATTON
Statesman Staff

The bidding deadline for the management contract to the Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) was only minutes away. Set for 1 p.m. last Monday, SUNY Stony Brook, in conjunction with Batelle Memorial Research Institute (BMRI), seemed to be a lock to win the contract in light of the discovery that the only competition, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), unexpectedly dropped out that morning.

With Stony Brook and Batelle now running unopposed, the acquisition of BNL seemed inevitable. If Stony Brook was feeling confident however, it was overlooking one thing - there was still time on the clock. At 12:45 p.m. The Department of Energy (DOE) announced that it had decided to grant an extension to a last minute bidder, the Chicago based Illinois Institute of Technology Research Institute (IITRI).

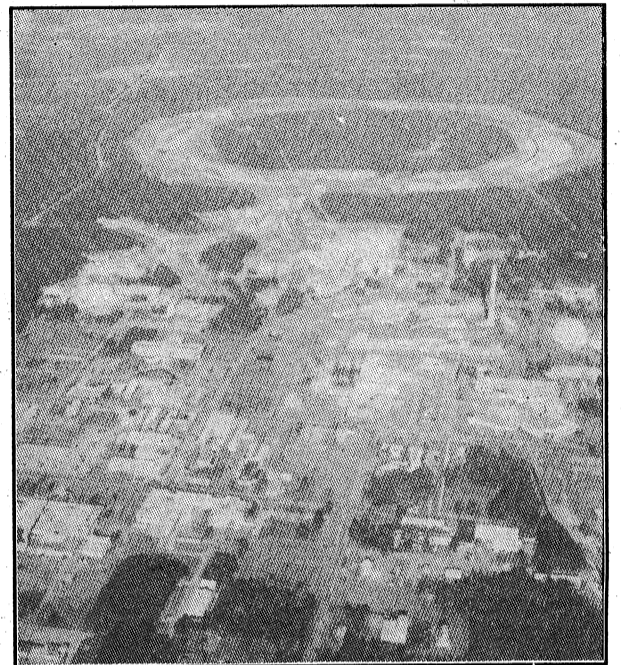
The last minute proposal by the previously unannounced potential bidder, IITRI in consortium with Westinghouse Electric Corporation, caused the DOE to officially extend the deadline for the bidding to 1 p.m. on the 22nd of September. The IITRI/Westinghouse consortium will use this two week period to put together

a formal proposal, while Stony Brook can take the opportunity to make any changes to its own.

After weeks of preparing its proposal, RPI, which was also bidding in conjunction with Westinghouse Electric Corporation, reversed its decision to submit a proposal the weekend before the deadline. Westinghouse wasn't out of the picture, however. Within 48 hours, Westinghouse reappeared as IITRI's bidding partner, a joint conglomeration, which could prove to be a formidable opponent this Monday. IITRI told the DOE that it could submit a bid rather quickly by capitalizing on the work Westinghouse had already achieved with Rensselaer.

This unprecedented delay may cost Stony Brook an irrevocable loss of the \$400 million a year operation. University President Shirley Strum Kenny said she was pretty shocked and frustrated about last Monday's transpiration's, but remained confident in the Stony Brook/Battelle proposal.

Stony Brook Deputy Provost Robert McGrath, who is directly involved with the proposal process, said he was surprised by the DOE's decision. "I've done a lot of science proposals in my career and they don't want extensions, on the other hand, the Department of Energy



Phot Courtesy Of Brookhaven National Lab

Aerial View of Brookhaven National Lab

wants to make sure that there is good competition on the part of offers to operate Brookhaven National Lab." McGrath said.

"We've thought each time there's been an extension. We've thought very carefully whether or not we want to modify our own proposal," he said. "We made it a little

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Convenient Cures at Reasonable Rates Seawolves Market Opens in the Student Activities Center

BY MARJORY THOMPSON
Special to The Statesman

The new Seawolves Market, located in the Student Activities Center, has a variety of items including traditional convenience store products such as snacks, beverages and personal items, as well as other products such as greeting cards and clothing.

The Market, which officially opened on September 1, even has a health section with various vitamins, minerals and other health products along with a guide chart that shows what products can be used for different ailments.

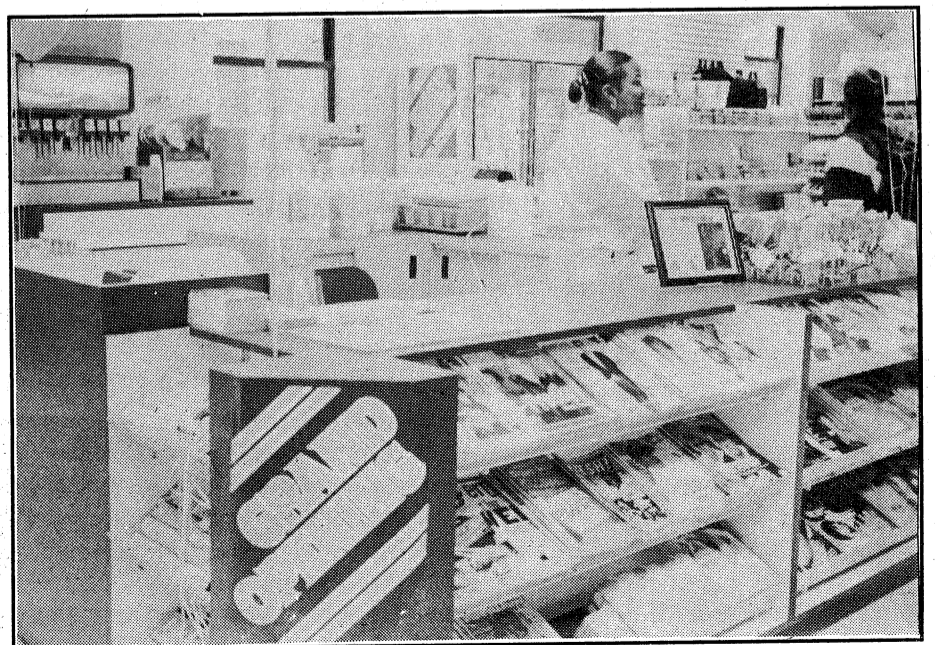
Manager Debbie Masterson has twenty years of pharmacy experience and puts her knowledge to use by showing students what basic over the counter medication to take for simple illnesses such as colds and the flu. Masterson says she has also given thought to the idea of having insulin available for diabetics, in

case of emergency, but the idea has yet to be discussed fully by her superiors.

Ivan Federoff, a transfer student, said he found the health section and chart to be "very useful and informative," while May Tang said she thought the prices were "decent" and that she hoped to see more of a variety of products in the future. Another student, Yin Lam, said she was surprised by some of the low prices on certain products such as cereal.

It should be noted, however, that the Seawolves Market does not accept meal plan cards.

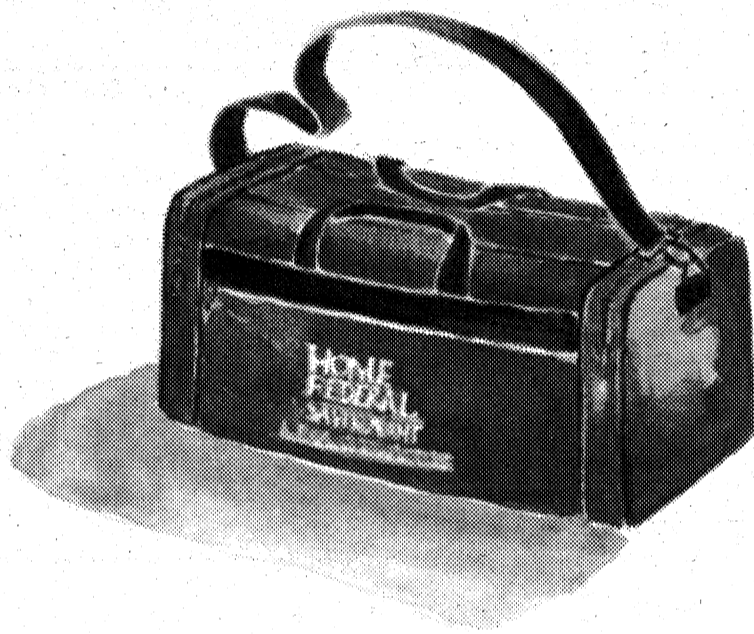
Since the store has recently opened its doors, it is still a learning experience for its staff, who are trying to accommodate and serve the population of Stony Brook as best they can. But employees like Nona Nourbakhsh seem happy. "It is clean, with good practical hours and has a variety of products that students may need," she said. □



Statesman / Tee Lek D. Ying

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT : PROFESSOR GAIL MANDEL 3

Stony Brook's Hottest Neuro Researcher Keeps Winning the Awards, and Recognition for the University

By BEN VARGHESE
Statesman Staff

Stony Brook has earned worldwide renown for its continual drive to remain a top-notch research university. The University's second highest ranking in the country owes great merit to its outstanding faculty. Among the major fields of research done at Stony Brook that has gained widespread recognition is Molecular Neurobiology. One distinctive faculty member in this field, Professor Gail Mandel, has also received recognition for her outstanding achievements and dedication to her research and teaching.

Professor Mandel earned her B.S. and Ph.D. in Neurobiology at the University of California at Los Angeles a post-doctorate at the university of California at San Diego and another post-doctorate at Harvard Medical School. She was also an assistant and an associate professor at Tufts medical school. Mandel came to Stony Brook, where she became a full professor, in 1989. Mandel said she came to Stony Brook because she was pleased with Stony Brook's excellent reputation in the basic sciences and Neurobiology and Behavior. Mandel's research focused on the regulation of ion channel gene expression.

Mandel's lab was one of the first labs to study the molecular basis for electrical excitability. "For many years, how your muscle contracted, how your heart beat, how you thought, was studied really beautifully at the biophysical level," Mandel said. During the 1980's the tools became available to try to get a molecular understanding for those excitability molecules. Mandel's lab started working on the project in 1986

in Boston. Mandel and her colleagues were among the first people to get primary structure on the ion channel protein that was responsible for excitability.

"Many people in the world study how these excitability proteins work, how they open and close in response to membrane potential and what goes wrong in certain diseases such as epilepsy and many other kinds of paralysis, which are based on mutations in these channels," she said.

What Mandel decided to do instead, was ask how a particular cell knows which kind of ion channel gene to make. An individual cell can choose between a couple of dozen or so different ion channel proteins. And if they express the wrong one, it can be disastrous. According to Mandel, there has to be some genetic mechanism that tells the cell how to sort through all this genetic information and pick a certain ion channel gene.

A couple of years ago, Mandel focused on a particular ion channel gene, called a sodium channel, because it allows sodium ions to enter the cell and causes a particular electrical impulse, allowing for a specific neural response. Mandel discovered in particular, that there was a very unique mechanism for how this channel is only allowed to be



Gail Mandel

Tee Lek D. Ying/Statesman

expressed in the brain.

"We expected, based on what other people have found, that there would be a positive reacting mechanism, in that there would be something in brain cells that would tell this channel to be turned on," she said. "And whatever that electrical substance was, it would be absent from non-brain tissue, such as muscles and the heart."

However, Mandel found just the opposite. She discovered that there actually was an electrical substance that was present everywhere in the tissues. But the substance acts as a repressor, or inhibitor, that turns the gene "off" everywhere, except in the brain.

In other words, all the tissues express the same gene, but its level of expression is dependent on these ubiquitous substances.

Mandel also pointed out that there are many genes expressed in the nervous system that are regulating this negative regulatory pathway. Mandel spoke of a colleague in California Polytechnic Institute, who conducted the same work on a different gene, not on an ion channel gene. It turned out that the genetic element that he discovered controlling this gene was the same as Mandel's.

"This was important because it

please see MANDEL page 13

IS YOUR LANDLORD or the BOOKSTORE RIPPING YOU OFF ?!

NYPIRG May Be Able to Help You

By SAMI AHMED
Statesman Editor

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), a student activist organization, offers two helpful services that students may not be aware of.

The Small Claims Court Action Center is an assistance program offered by NYPIRG that helps students file small claims cases.

"The main thing we get calls about is that someone's landlord has screwed them out of their security deposit and they want to know how they can get it back," said Vivian Berrios, the first-year representative of the Stony Brook chapter of NYPIRG. "That is very common."

NYPIRG's main focus, in offering this service, is to educate students of the overall procedure of filing the claim.

"Whether students are trying to get started, whether they are in the middle, or about to go to court, we just walk them through the process," Berrios said.

Most students are usually referred to the Small Claims Court Action Center program by a lawyer.

"We explain to them that you don't need a lawyer [to file in small claims court]," Berrios said. "This is not legal mumbo-jumbo. This is getting down to the facts."

The members of NYPIRG who provide advice are trained by a lawyer sent from NYPIRG's main office in

Albany. This service is offered free of charge by NYPIRG.

The other program that NYPIRG is trying to get students more involved in is its Book Exchange Program.

The service is easy to use. All you have to do is fill out a card and leave it at the NYPIRG office. From there, they try to find a match for the book you want to sell or buy.

"You buy a book for \$40 and when you try to sell it back, [the Bookstore] only gives you eight dollars," Berrios explained. "I find somebody who wants the same book that you want to sell and between the two of you, you work out a deal. The seller will be getting more and the buyer will be paying less."

NYPIRG is also looking into other ways to help students save money. Currently, research on why Stony Brook students pay so much for food and phone services is being conducted.

"I'm amazed at how much students here pay for their meal plan and phone services compared to other schools," Berrios said.

According to Berrios, other schools with Aramark do not have to pay the high rates that Stony Brook students do. She also stated that phone service is too high and should be lower.

NYPIRG is holding its first general meeting on Wednesday, September 24 at 8:00 p.m. in room 236 in the Union (not the SAC).



Nancy Laroche/Statesman

Vivian Berrios, head of the NYPIRG chapter at Stony Brook.

The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, October 17, 1996

4 The Race Is On For BNL

Continued from front page

bit better on the first extension, and we're right now in the process of thinking about refining it a bit. So we're certainly using the time to make better our oral presentations, which are given in Washington."

"We've extended it in part because we were approached by IITRI and asked if we could extend it for two weeks so they could participate," said Gary Pitchford, director of Communications at the DOE's Chicago Operations office. "We felt it was in the best interests of the government to enhance competition."

"It is understandable that Stony Brook is disappointed," said Steve Silbergeld, the department official in charge of studying the bids. "But competition is always desirable."

Energy Secretary Federico Pena reopened the contract to run the lab on May 1, when he terminated the former contractor, Associated Universities Inc., in light of considerable criticism from local environmental groups and community residents of reported radioactive leakage from BNL's nuclear reactor earlier this year. The

High Flux Beam Nuclear Reactor, which has been off-line since last December, may have been leaking radioactive tritium and strontium-90 into the soil and groundwater for as long as 15 years.

The contamination at Brookhaven Lab has evoked safety and environmental concerns. Accordingly, Peña has sought comments from the public, employees and other interested parties on how this selection would be carried out and what criteria should be implemented in selecting a new contractor this Monday.

The new contract, according to Peña, will have a five-year term worth \$2 billion with one five-year extension option. There will also be an "off-ramp" provision that will allow the DOE to replace the contractor after three years if performances in critical areas are not up to standard. The proposals to be submitted will have to detail the bidder's past performance, demonstrated success, and proposed management approach to meeting evaluation criteria. Some of the criteria will include the contractor's ability to carry out Brookhaven's scientific research missions, as well as protect the environment and achieve effective community involvement.

The University launched its bid as part of a consortium with Battelle possibly because of its previous contracts with the DOE in 1996. Battelle was awarded \$14.9 million for operating the DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratories including \$2.2 million in incentive fees. Battelle was awarded the incentive fees after earning an "excellent" overall performance rating for the '96 fiscal term.

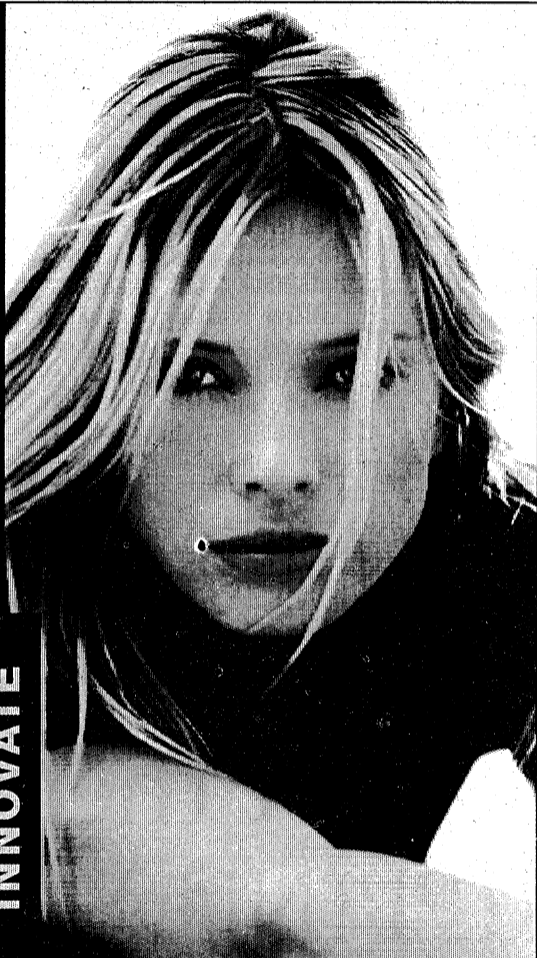
Before forming its partnership with Battelle for the bid, Stony Brook was approached by several unannounced potential partners. According to Kenny, the administration was most impressed by Battelle's previous experience in the field and its previous contracts with the federal government. Kenny specifically referred to Battelle's work in science and engineering at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratories, which involved working to develop science based solutions to environmental problems, such as the cleanup of nuclear waste.

"Battelle has over 50 years of experience and we just felt that they were the best overall," Kenny said. "They have been running the Pacific Northwest Lab with the Department of Energy for 30 years developing ways to solve pollution problems." □

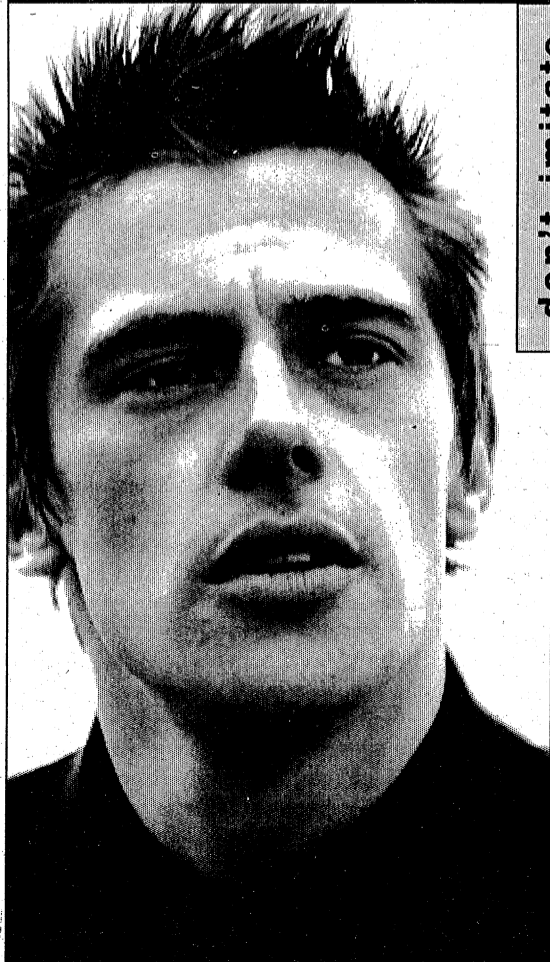
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Pollution Problems Of The Leaking Lab

BY BEN VARGHESE AND PETER GRATTON
Statesman Staff

On May 1, Secretary of the US Department of Energy (DOE), Federico Pena announced the termination of the contractor for the Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), and the Associated Universities Inc (AUI), thus ending a 50 year era of management which saw four Nobel prize-winning discoveries, lifesaving medical advances and all around research excellence.

The decision came in the wake of reports that the Lab was leaking radioactive contaminants into the environment. Tests run earlier in the year showed that radioactive tritium levels measured 40 times higher than acceptable levels in on-site ground-water.

In the mid-1980s tritium, a radioactive element, was detected in an on-site drinking-water well. This well was shut down but the source of the tritium was never investigated. Later BNL found levels of strontium, another radioactive element, at levels 150 times greater than the drinking water standard, in a 50 year-old single-lined concrete tank and did not take action.

In 1994 the Suffolk County Health Department advised BNL that the spent fuel canal, (believed to be the source of the current tritium contamination) did not comply with county code requirements. BNL took more than a year to install two monitoring wells south of the High Flux Beam Reactor.

Last October, BNL's routine sampling of wells near the High Flux Beam Reactor

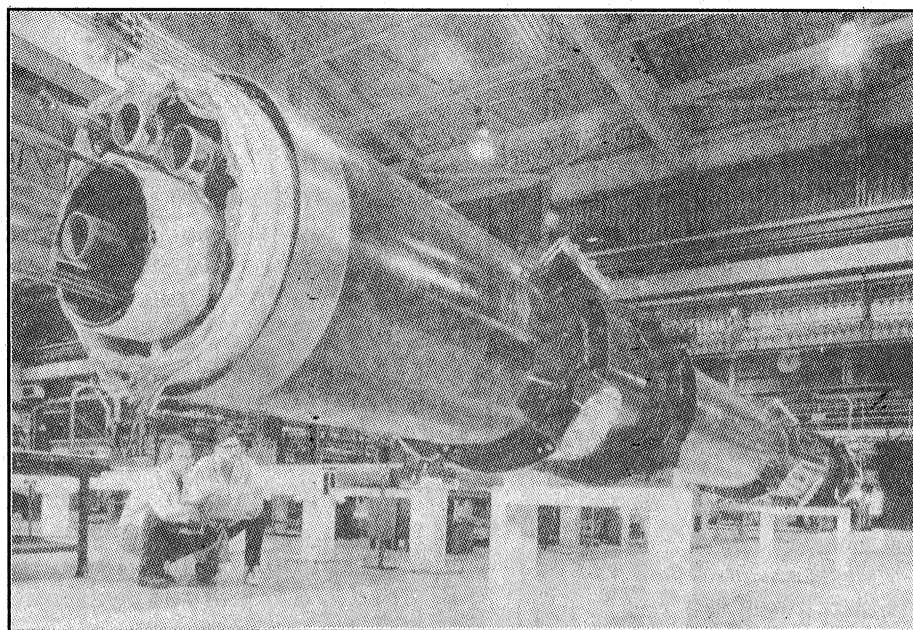
revealed tritium in the groundwater at levels increasingly beyond the safe drinking water standard - including one measurement greater than 40 times the acceptable level.

Throughout this period the DOE regularly gave AUI official evaluations of "Good" to "Excellent" in all categories and consistently graded AUI "Excellent" in overall management evaluations. In fact, the Department's Integrated Safety Management Evaluation (ISME) Report dated April 19, 1997 concluded:

"Although remaining weaknesses need not be resolved, the current Department of Energy and Brookhaven National Laboratory actions to eliminate the source and contamination have been aggressive and appropriate.

As Brookhaven National Laboratory prepares to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary, a renewed level of commitment to environment, safety, and health, when combined with the many improvement initiatives already in place and the momentum and cooperation resulting from the tritium plume recovery effort, could significantly improve safety performance, aid in restoring stockholder confidence and support, and help assure continuing the mission and contribution of this Laboratory to scientific and medical research into the twenty-first century."

The BNL's High Flux Beam Reactor was already taken off-line last December for suspected leaking of the radioactive tritium. Secretary Pena's May announcement stated that AUI could compete for a new contract to run BNL, but that in doing so it would



Phot Courtesy of Brookhaven national Lab

The Heavy Ion Collider is a high-intensity particle accelerator used for the production of unstable elements and the study of nuclear fusion processes.

face "high hurdles." On the same day, a report released by the DOE's Office of Oversight blamed the situation at BNL in part on the Lab's "university atmosphere." AUI would later decline to make a bid for the contract stating that the DOE's criticisms "made it impossible." AUI would, however, manage the Lab until the contractors take over.

On July 18, the DOE issued a Request for Proposals seeking a new contractor to operate BNL. The Request for Proposals

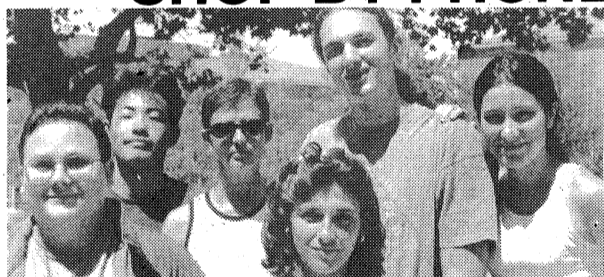
reaffirmed the DOE's previously proposed plan to seek a nonprofit organization to operate the Lab, and encouraged partnerships. An original proposal deadline was set for August 28, before it was extended to September 8, after Rensselaer (RPI) requested more time to polish its bid.

On September 1, District Congressman Michael P. Forbes released a statement stating: "There have been at

Please see **Leaking Lab** pg.11

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Editorial

Fighting For Your Campus!

Students wondering why it is so important that they need to be involved in the events on campus need look no further than the recent budget passed by the SUNY trustees two weeks ago. After a year of forecasts of upcoming tuition hikes and Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) cuts, the new SUNY budget calls for no raises in tuition, and an increase of over 34 million dollars in state aid for its 34 campus system.

Student groups on campus, such as Polity and the GSO, fought long and hard last year in order to protect the University system from the cuts called for in Governor George Pataki's budget proposals released early in the year. Local representatives in Albany, Steve Englebright and Ken LaValle deserve credit as well for their work for students' interests.

Continued student involvement is critical in order to protect SUNY from additional cuts next year. An active student

body last semester, which went to rallies and wrote letters, helped avoid costly cuts already.

However, SUNY trustees continued to be fractured along political lines. Pataki continues in his efforts to pack the trustees with his appointees, which will eventually leave no officials left over from the Cuomo administration. Within the next year the University system will be dealing with a variety of controversial topics, ranging from the integration of small SUNY colleges, such as Courtland and Cobleskill, into the larger University Centers. In addition, a variety of political groups have put forward proposals calling for a need-based tuition, where students pay tuition based on the income of their parents. An enlightened student body can let our representatives know our concerns on these and other issues facing the

University.

Already this year, onlookers around campus have noticed an increase in the number of students getting involved in student organizations. The area around the Student Activity Center, in the center of campus, is packed with students on a daily basis, where President Kenny's plans for a rejuvenated campus community appear to be working.

Unfortunately, it is a campus community that is threatened on a yearly basis with tuition hikes and state aid cuts. The proposed budget last year would have cost our University alone over seven million dollars. Each student, even graduating seniors, owe a responsibility to those that come after them to fight and protect the public university system, which has educated millions of New Yorkers since it was established during the Rockefeller governorship.

Letter to the Editor

The *dis*Advantage Card

To The Editor:

I would like everyone to be aware of the discrepancy that I (and many others) have noticed in the meal plan pricing system. The following is an explanation of how I calculated what we are paying for food on our Advantage Cards.

If you bought an Advantage Card for \$900, you got 220 "advantage dollars," or "points" put on your meal card.

To find out what you paid per point divide \$900 by 220 points. This works out to be \$4.09 per point.

So, to find out what you are paying for a particular item, multiply it's cost in points by what you paid per point. For instance, a pint of milk at the SAC cost .40 points. So (.40 x \$4.09 = \$1.63) the retail price (in other words, the price you would pay if you walked into the SAC and paid in dollar bills) is \$.93. So you just paid SEVENTY CENTS MORE THAN RETAIL!

The Advantage Card was advertised to us as a discount. It is not. It is a fee. At least part of the reason we end up paying more than retail is because we are

ensuring the existence of a number of services that are a luxury for the few who can afford a \$1200 meal plan and a financial burden for the rest of us. We might want to consider whether the assurance of campus delivery of the fine dining experience of EOB is worth paying \$3.50 extra for brunch at Kelly. Instead, either \$6 brunch or order out from a

restaurant that competes in a real market.

If you are concerned, please come to NYPIRG's meeting next Wednesday, September 24 at 8 p.m. in room 236 in the Student Union. If you can't make that, call Vivian Berrios at 632-6457. Your concerns can also be voiced to FSA at 632-6510.

Miriam Schussler

Editorial Cartoon





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Letter to the Editor

Social Security: Grand Pyramid Scheme?

To The Editor:

Social Security is often referred to as a Ponzi scheme. In 1920, Charles Ponzi established an "investment plan" wherein he would provide contributors 50 percent profit in 45 days. Ponzi, however, could not make enough money to pay what he promised. He was forced to reimburse the first wave of investors with the money from the new investors. The first recipients were quite happy, since they had a true windfall. Inevitably some later group would lose. Eventually, Ponzi's name became synonymous with pyramid schemes when he did not have enough to repay anyone and he was punished with a jail term.

Social Security works much the same way. For the past 60 years, the government has told the American people repeatedly that the money workers had paid into Social Security

was being saved in a "trust fund." Upon retirement, contributors would receive the money they supposedly paid into the "trust fund." Unfortunately, this is not the case. In 1939, the first generation of retirees who received Social Security benefits had paid little or nothing into the system. Just like Ponzi's plan, the initial beneficiaries enjoyed a veritable windfall. They contributed little and received a great deal. Moreover, the government never saved the first wave of tax revenues for Social Security. Thereafter, the government simply decided to transfer money from one generation to the other. Social Security funds have also been used to pay for other government operations.

The government falsely assumed that the population of the United States would keep growing and there would always be enough taxpayers to support the number of retirees receiving Social Security benefits. The Baby-Boomers have thrown a monkey wrench into those plans. There is no longer a large ratio

of workers-to-recipients. Recently, young people have started blaming the Baby-Boomers for the collapse of Social Security. The Baby-Boom generation is not the root of the problem. Why should that generation be blamed for simply being larger than others. In reality, the government should be the focus of the attention.

The Social Security system is in dire straits. The government will owe the Baby-Boomers their benefits when they retire, but it has no way to pay the bill. The government looks to Generation X to pay back what it has squandered. Yet, the Baby-Boom generation is simply too large and Generation X is too small. In 1950, there were 16 workers supporting every retiree on Social Security. In 1993, that number plummeted to three workers for every one retiree. By 2025, that number will fall to two to one!

The government will unlikely renege on its promise to pay the Baby-Boomers Social Security benefits. The government will attempt to pay regardless of the burden on the paychecks of younger generations. By 2012, present college students will be around 35 years-old, their prime earning years. In 2012, Social Security payments will exceed tax revenues. The government is going to find itself in a precarious situation at this point. It will be necessary for the government to find a way to pay Social Security beneficiaries and find money to pay for government operations which have previously used Social Security funds.

The money that the government needs is hardly a meager amount. By 2015, the government will be short \$55 to \$60 billion for Social Security. By 2020, the shortfall will increase to over \$230 billion. To raise the necessary funds the government can essentially raise taxes, borrow additional money, or cut benefits. All three of these options destroy young peoples' job prospects and the ability to support themselves.

Social Security taxes will take the heaviest toll on the young. Confiscating more than one-eighth of the income of young people, the Social Security tax eats at the earnings of new entrants into the job market. Furthermore, it is ludicrous that a 16-year-old receiving minimum wage should be forced to pay into a system that will provide a negative return on his investment.

Ponzi went to jail for a good reason: it was inevitable that honest citizens would be short changed because of his schemes. The same thing is beginning to happen with Franklin Roosevelt's Ponzi scheme. Who will be punished for pillaging the savings of millions of Americans? Unless there is a change, it will be Generation X.

*Patrick X. Coyle Jr.
is a Leadership Fellow at
Young America's Foundation*

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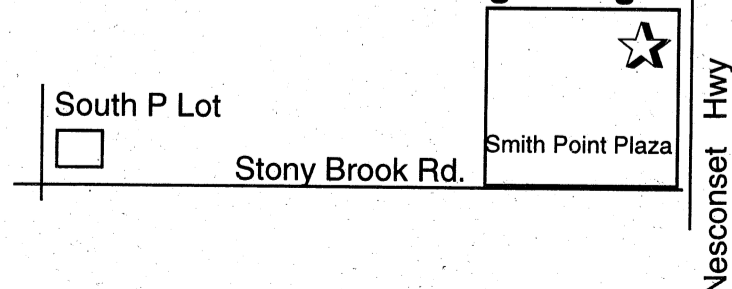
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The Trouble With The Leaking Lab

From pg. 5

least seven plumes detected in the soil and groundwater at Brookhaven Lab. Two contain radiological contamination from tritium and strontium-90. The remaining five plumes have assorted chemical contaminants, including a 25,000 gallon oil spill that dates back to 1977. In late July, it was discovered that tritium at more than three times the safe drinking water standard had leaked from the lab's sewage treatment plant into a dry river bed connected to the Peconic River and another previously unknown tritium leak existed in the groundwater."

On September 2, the week before the proposal deadline, Forbes and Senator Alfonse D'Amato introduced legislation calling publicly for the first time, for the permanent closure of the damaged nuclear reactor.

"After a long and thoughtful review of the environmental, health, and safety problems at Brookhaven National Lab, I have come to the inescapable conclusion that the High Flux Beam Nuclear Reactor must be permanently shut down," Forbes said. "All of the lab's resources and energies must be directed toward cleaning up the many sources of radioactive and chemical contamination on-site, and not toward restarting the High Flux Beam Nuclear Reactor."

"We have warned that the problems at Brookhaven Lab amounted to an environmental nightmare," Forbes said. "This Department of Energy report validates our concerns. Brookhaven Lab has been a dumpsite of indifference. It's about time they clean up this mess so that the drinking water supply of Long Island is not threatened,"

D'Amato also expressed concern for the direct safety of Suffolk County. "There is no doubt that the operation of this facility has caused a very real threat to the groundwater in Suffolk County," D'Amato said. "People have to be assured that the reactor will not pose a threat in the future."

D'Amato and Forbes's stance to shut down the reactor raises the question of whether RPI's subsequent decision to nullify its proposal was due to possible public relations or political pressures - or if that may have had an impact on other potential bids. Nancy Connell, a RPI spokeswoman, however, said that the Rensselaer decision had nothing to do with the shutting down of the reactor.

Stony Brook President Shirley Strum Kenny did not speculate on why RPI made its decision, but said she was not concerned about BNL's potential public relations problems. A week after IITRI and Westinghouse received a last minute extension to put in a bid, she remained staunchly enthusiastic about competing for BNL. Kenny also said she is not worried about any potential monetary problems associated with cleaning up the Lab if Stony Brook gets the bid. Kenny said that the cost of clean-up would not belong to Stony Brook, but to Albany. Kenny said that there are many positive aspects to running BNL.

"Brookhaven National Labs has many wonderful types of research going on," Kenny said. "They do a lot of medical research. They have radiology and pharmacology and many other things other than the nuclear reactor." □

- Dave Chow and Kenyon Hopkin
contributed to this story.

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Gail Mandel Explored the Pathways for Neuronal Gene Expression

13

MANDEL from page 3

really showed that there was a general mechanism and it was not just specific for one protein," Mandel said. "It was an unexpected discovery, but how widespread this mechanism and how important it is relative to all other mechanisms is still unknown."

Mandel's recognition partly stems from the different approach she took with her research.

"In theory, you could argue that a certain protein is important for helping a neuron decide to become a neuron," Mandel said. "We started out wondering how neuronal cells knew to choose a particular ion channel. And we ended up asking how does a neuron decide to become a neuron. So many genes are regulated through this pathway."

"So let's argue for a minute that this protein is a very key protein for helping a neuron becoming a neuron, a glial cell or muscle cell. So say you have a tumor, which has lost its ability to become a neuron. The argument would be 'can we vary expression of this key molecule which has a name, which we call "rest", a transcription factor that regulates expression of these genes."

"A cancer cell in the nervous system stops looking like a neuron after a while, because it starts growing and differentiating."

And you could make the argument in theory that you could manipulate levels of this transcription factor and get a cell to become more or less like a neuron. And if you can get a tumor cell to be more like a neuron, it will stop growing."

Mandel, however, said she does not see this discovery leading to a cancer cure.

"Honestly, I don't think that's the

way it's going to work out," she said. "It's a possible link, but it's no reason to think it's a real link and it's something we are testing under hypotheses. Because it was an unexpected discovery and widespread significance for nervous system development. It received a lot of attention."

Yet Mandel recently won three awards for her work. The first award was the McKnight Award, a three year award for research in the neurosciences. She is also the recipient of the Javits Award, a research grant from the National Institute of Health. Instead of funding for four years, Mandel will get uninterrupted funding for seven years.

According to Mandel, research laboratories receive a four-year grant and the renewal goes in after three years, and if it gets renewed, a fourth year is granted. However, researchers who have been productive and have received grant scores above a certain level, may be eligible for the Javits Award.

"It costs a lot of money to review grants. They have to fly 12 people to Washington, pay the hotel expenses while they review the grants and you get a \$150 honorary salary. The Javits Awards cuts down costs as well as bureaucracy," Mandel said.

Mandel will receive \$200,000 a year - approximately a 1.4 million dollar contract, which Mandel said she considers "pretty average for a professor."

But perhaps the most outstanding award that Mandel became recognized for was becoming a Howard Hughes Investigator for Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Washington DC. This will also be a seven-year grant for Mandel, which she will use to continue to conduct her excellent

research. Every university in the country submits two names and Mandel was among the distinguished names chosen.

Mandel also pointed out that she is an employee for Howard Hughes Medical Institute and not for the university. However, Mandel is still dedicated to her teaching.

"I don't have to teach, but I feel that it's part of my responsibility even though I'm technically not employed by [the university]," she said.

Mandel also likes to share her research with students. Mandel teaches Principles of Cell Signaling (BIO 317), a course jointly taught by Mandel's husband, Professor Paul Brehm, and Associate Professor of Biochemistry, James Trimmer.

"Instead of being a broad survey course where you kind of memorize all the different organelles, the idea was to focus on certain aspects of cell biology and expand them to bring in modern research that involves those specific topics," Mandel said. "They're not going to leave with an in-depth view because they're taking many other courses. What we expect the students to get out of this is to be able to pick up the science times section and understand what they read."

The course, which is now four years old, started out with an enrollment of only 25 students. BIO 317 now enrolls 100 students.

The course covers three areas:

-Fast electrical signaling - electrical excitability (Brehm)

-Slower signaling - receptors and G-protein mediated receptor signaling (Trimmer)

-Much slower signaling - Gene regulation (Mandel)

Mandel is looking forward to future discoveries in Neurobiology. "Science has changed a lot because of the technological advances," Mandel said. "The kind of things you can do in your experimentation hours are so different than 5-10 years ago. One direction that is very popular now and is receiving a lot of attention now, and is fascinating, is the molecular basis of animal behavior, one of the areas of the future. I would say molecular neurobiology is also a very popular field still, although it is being geared quite a bit from the perspective of trying to understand complex animal behaviors."

As far as medical applications, Mandel said she hopes to be able to discover the causes of debilitating diseases and turn them around. "We are making tremendous progress, particularly in terms of identifying genes which contribute to certain neurological diseases," she said. "There are many neural diseases now that have been shown to be linked to defects in specific ion channel genes. Single amino acid mutations can take a perfectly good ion channel and make it completely defective."

"Genetic diseases, such as Huntington's neural tumors have been elusive. We try to get to the molecular basis and we always hope that one of our discoveries will have medical applications," she said. "What I think people who don't do this kind of science don't understand too well is that you never know where the discovery is going to come from. In my opinion, somebody studying a paramecium is just as likely to uncover a cure for cancer than somebody studying a cancer cell. And I will argue that until the day I die." □

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The Stop Brook Satesman Thursday, September 18, 1997

Meeting the Opponent

An Interview With Pace Head Coach Greg Lusardi

By DAVE CHOW
Statesman Editor

The answer is yes. Pace is still running the Delaware-T - the system that is based on misdirection, with runs counters and screens ad nauseam. The offensive scheme which lines up three rushers in the backfield to make the set look like a wishbone has become almost synonymous with Setter Football and their Head Coach, Greg Lusardi, who implemented the system. The quarterback also runs with the ball quite a bit, so opposing defenses are kept guessing from which direction the ball will go next. Although Stony Brook beat Pace last year 27-21, the Seawolves, like many other schools have had their troubles defending the Setters.

"Other teams play up on the line because they know we are going to run," says Lusardi.

Pace is looking to continue its success under the fourth-year coach. The Setters finished 1996 with a 6-4 record, and completed back to back winning seasons for the first time since 1982-83.

On offense All-American quarterback Kevin Connor returns to the backfield along with fullback Brian Griffoul and halfbacks Damien Coleman, Paul Bonniello and Jason Leng. Halfback Paul Hart who rushed for 512 yards and a team high 5.9 yards per carry in '95, returns after missing '96 with an injury.

Coach Lusardi answered a few questions in the following in depth interview with Statesman:

Q : What's the synopsis?

A: "We have one game under our belt, I

think we played very well. Right now we are hoping to stay healthy and play hard. We played Umass-Lowell and we beat them, but they're not ranked very high. Certainly when Stony Brook and Southern Connecticut played, they both showed they are on a much higher level.

Without a question [Stony Brook will be used] as a measuring stick for Pace. A lot of people consider Stony Brook, if not the top team, one of the top two in the conference. I think one of the coach's preseason polls had Stony Brook ranked first.

Q : How do you rank Pace within the conference ?

A : Well I don't think we are as talented or as deep as a Southern Connecticut, American International. Stony Brook I think is just stepping into the class of those teams. I tell you what, we haven't beat you guys yet so we're always kind of chasing Stony Brook. We are aspiring to be Stony Brook. We are not quite as deep as [the Seawolves.] We don't receive any scholarships. We are in the same boat.

Q : What parts of the team will be strong this year, and what parts need improving?

A : Defensively we were quite strong last year. We were ranked sixth in the country in one category and fifth in another category. So we were a good defensive football team a year ago, and I still think we were a good defensive football team. I think potentially we could be better defensively than we were last year, but right now I would have to say we were better last year.

Offensively I think we are better than a year

ago, but you know all it takes is one or two injuries to change all that.

Q : How big is the return of halfback Paul Hart?

A : Oh it's very big. A halfback has to be able to do four things well and Paul does all four of those things well. He's a good runner, he's a good blocker, he's a good pass receiver and he carries out [his routes well].

Q : How has the Pace Football program grown since you've arrived?

A : Well I have to say there is excitement here, not just with football, but the entire athletic program is stepping up. It's all about competition and on Saturday I'm going to do my best to help my team beat Stony Brook and I'm sure Coach Kornhauser is going to do the same for Stony Brook. In the end, it's just us working as hard as we do to better each other. And it makes us better. We are a better team than we were three years ago but so is Stony Brook. But, what I'm trying to say is that we keep getting better, but I don't know if

we're good enough to beat Stony Brook because Stony Brook also keeps getting better. That's what competition does for you.

Some programs do lag behind and we've past some of them.

Q : What will Pace have to do to beat Stony Brook this Saturday?

A : Oh, I think it will take a couple of things. We have to play mistake free football. Be physical. Defensive Coach Caldiero really gets his defense revved up and they come after you offensively also.

The offense presents a good job of creating conflict, in other words putting our defensive players in conflict with their defensive duties. That's what good offenses do.

What we have to do offensively is sustain our blocks. We have to be balanced and not display a one dimensional offense. We can't just pass or just run. On defense we have to get into the quarterback's face a couple of times too. If we give Scott Meyer time he'll complete a few passes. □

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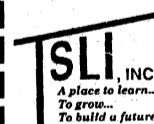
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WOLVES DROP HOME OPENER

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

began with Stony Brook in possession. After a USB flag for an ineligible man downfield, the Seawolves would receive a big scare as one of their most solid receivers, John Brady, was hurt on a play.

Brady was hit on the play and lay on the ground for a good five minutes as team physicians worked on his legs. To the relief of the crowd, he eventually got up and left the field with a little support from staff. What happened next was even more incredible.

Senior Greg Monfiletto came in to replace Brady and on the very next play, Meyer launched a 27 yard pass to the replacement for a touchdown.

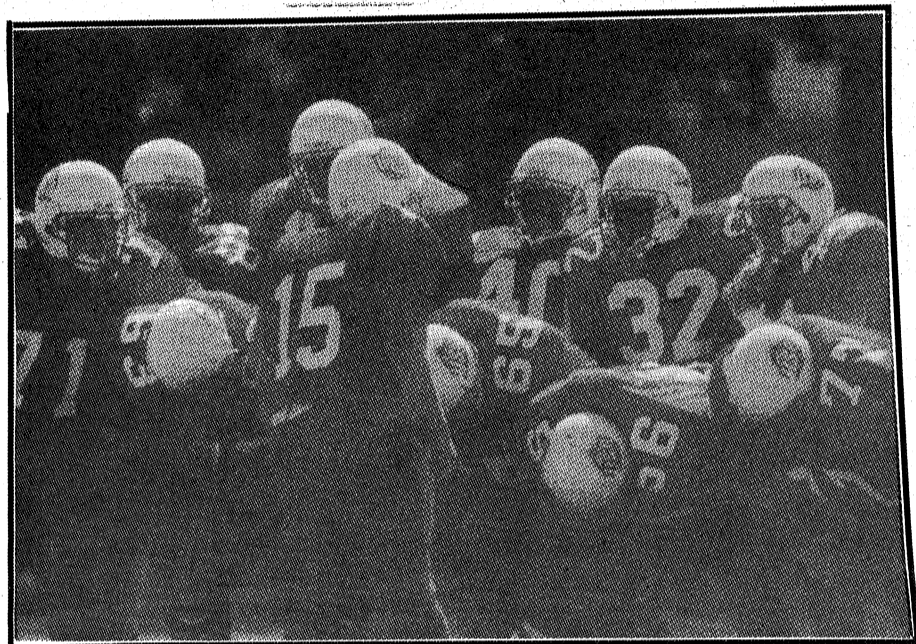
USB took the 13-12 lead and were looking poised to pull off the victory.

Southern took the ball back and immediately began their game winning scoring drive.

Keith McInnes and company tried to stop Southern, but they had control of the football and marched to the Stony Brook 10 yard line. Biancamano drilled the game winning FG with 9:33 left in the game. On USB's successive drives, Meyer was intercepted, and later went four and out to give Southern the 15-13 victory. USB now start the year at 0-1.

Next week, Stony Brook will travel to Pleasantville to take on the Pace Setters.

Will Scott Meyer get the starting nod again, or will Kornhauser go with Sophomore Anthony Gazzillo in order to have him face his first ever college football rival. We shall find out! ☐



The Seawolves will miss the three T's on the gridiron. Running back Ralph Thomas (top, third from right) was supposed to carry the torch of Bobby Kane for the 'Wolves this year before arcane legislation made him ineligible.

SHAFTED!!!

Thomas, Tozzi, and Thompson play sacrificial lambs in Seawolves move to Division I. *IS THIS FAIR????*
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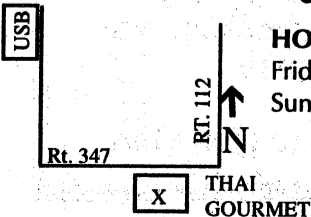
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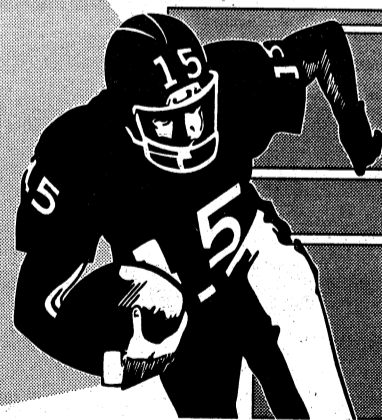
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Sports

Thursday, September 18, 1997

OWLS NIP 'WOLVES IN OPENER 15-13

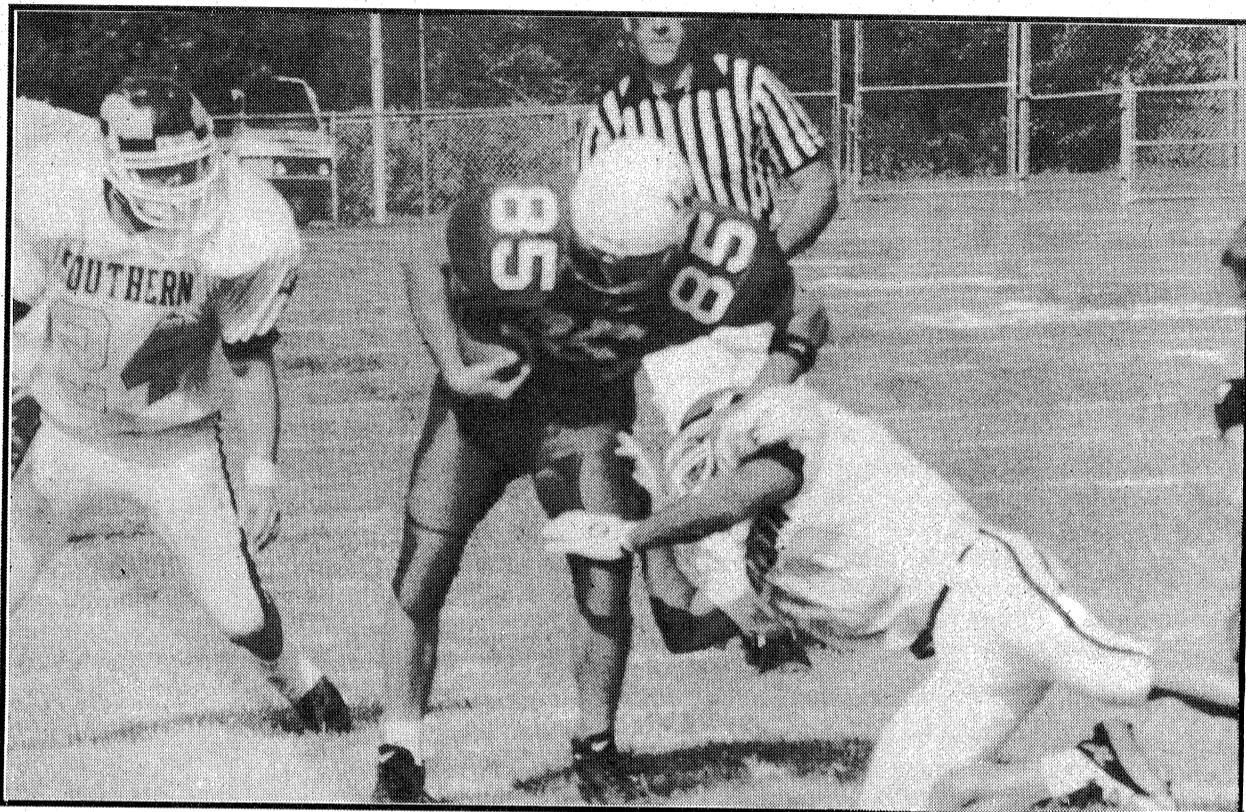
Biancamano's 27 Yard FG With 9:18 Remaining in the Game Foils USB's Comeback Bid

By MIKE CHAMOFF
Statesman Editor

The Stony Brook Seawolves began their 1997 campaign on sort of a sour note when they saw their 12 point comeback bid get spoiled by the Southern Connecticut Owls 15-13. Owls Kicker Frank Biancamano drilled a 27 yard FG with 9:18 remaining in the game to give the Owls the lead late in the fourth quarter.

The Seawolves got off to a slow start in the first quarter when they quickly fell behind 12-0. Reuel Parks got the Owls started with his one yard TD run. Very easy, Parks busted through a tough USB defensive line for the score at the 8:27 mark. The extra point attempt failed giving Southern a 6-0 lead. Andrew Wallace fumbled the football on the ensuing kickoff return setting up Southern's next scoring drive which was capped off when QB Tom Kleine lofted a 7 yd TD pass to Matt Hitchcock in the end zone. Once again, Southern wasn't having much luck with the point after attempt as Biancamano's kick was blocked. Southern was ahead 12-0 and seemed poised for the blow-out with 5:26 remaining in the opening quarter.

QB Scott Meyer who got the starting nod by Coach Kornhauser last week, started the second quarter on a bad note with two turnovers, one a fumble on an attempted run, and the other an interception, both recovered by Julio Gomez. However, Meyer would redeem himself when he connected with John Brady for a electrifying 79 yard pass for the TD. It was Meyers longest TD



Greg Monfiletto (85) scored the Seawolve go ahead touchdown, after coming in for an injured John Brady in the fourth quarter. The lead, however, did not last.

pass with the Seawolves. The lead was cut to 12-7, at the half.

The third quarter saw nothing in the way of scoring. There were, however, some unwanted USB

penalties which foiled some potential scoring opportunities. Southern stayed with the lead, but USB kept themselves in the game. The fourth quarter

Please See Wolves on Page 15

THREE SENIORS SHELVED

Ralph Thomas, Tony Thompson, and Ken Tozzi declared ineligible by NCAA Division I legislation.

By MIKE CHAMOFF
Statesman Editor

Just this past June, the University announced that in the 1999-2000 season, all Stony Brook Seawolves teams will no doubt be a Division I program. Now with that issue settled, Stony Brook will begin the preparations to become more definitively a Division I-AA quality football team. However, amidst the excitement that enveloped the Stony Brook Indoor Sports Complex celebration that June night, came a harsh reality. Stony Brook will now have to comply with Division I rules even two years before they play their first Division I game, and that meant a shot in the gut for USB football fans.

Two rules from NCAA bylaws that apply to Division I schools - rules 20.5.2.3 and 14.2.1 - have ended the careers of Ralph Thomas, Ken Tozzi, and Tony Thompson. The first one stipulates that Stony Brook must have

a two year transition period before becoming Division I, in which it must follow all D-I rules. The second rule, however is the one that has the biggest impact.

Rule 14.2.1 forbids student athletes from competing after their fifth year of college. According to the rule, to be eligible in Division I one must play their four seasons in a five year period. Under Division II rules athletes can compete up to 10 semesters without a time constraint. Thomas, Tozzi, and Thompson were eligible under the Division II rules, but since USB must follow Division I rules two years prior to their first D-I game, these three players are no longer eligible to play.

This hurts USB at the running back position where Ralph Thomas played along side Bobby Kane, who was a tremendous force in the Seawolves rushing attack, rushing for 922 yards and 14 touchdowns last year. Kane left

the Stony Brook after last year leaving the Seawolves in Ralph Thomas' fully capable hands. Thomas rushed for 628 yards, on 5.7 per carry in combination with Kane. But, with Thomas ineligible, USB will have to look for new blood.

Thomas went to Rockland Community College in 1992 after a stint at Delaware College where he also played football. He did not play his two years at Rockland, before transferring to Stony Brook.

"I love football," Thomas told Newsday in an interview. "Throughout my years at RCC, all I did was work out, run and do agility drills to prepare myself for a four year school where I could not only work for my degree but play football. My dream came true with Stony Brook. Now to see it just fading off, it's real frustrating."

Thompson played linebacker sparingly. He started his college football career at Western Connecticut.

Tozzi, a defensive end started his playing days at Buffalo in '93. He transferred a year later to USB.

Thomas spoke to Newsday about their predicament.

"I stayed out here on campus just so I could work out and lift," Thompson said. "All summer it's just been like: 'Am I playing? Am I not playing?'" When he finally heard the the final decision he couldn't believe his career was over. "I was just shocked, he said. "I couldn't believe it."

"These are nice kids and they work hard," said Head Coach Sam Kornhauser to Newsday. "I think most NCAA rules are placed there to prevent teams from getting a competitive advantage, and I don't think his anything to do with that."

Kornhauser and Dr. Richard Laskowski, Dean of Athletics sent an appeal to the NCAA on the rule. The appeals were denied earlier this month. They have since sent another appeal.