

Statesman

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Attack on America: The Day After

By CHRISTOPHER LATHAM
Statesman Editor

A day after the worst terrorist attack in American history, the nation grieved as it looked for answers, accountability and retribution.

Suicide terrorists hijacked four commercial jets Tuesday morning, transforming them into ballistic missiles that destroyed the twin towers of the World Trade Center (WTC), collapsed a large swath of the Pentagon and set part of the Pennsylvania countryside ablaze.

Like something out of a Hollywood movie, scenes of devastation were shown repeatedly yesterday on national television stations.

Metal and mortar hurling through the air. Panicked office workers jumping from windows to their deaths. Clouds of soot and ash enveloping citizens fleeing through the streets. Reports of fatalities that could reach into the thousands. And the scant pleas of survivors still

trapped in the wreckage.

But unlike a movie, there was no action hero to save the day. Instead, the government has begun to search for those responsible, while the average American attempts to cope with the tragedy.

"These acts of mass murder were intended to frighten our nation into chaos and retreat, but they have failed," President Bush said in an address from the Oval Office, Tuesday night. "We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them."

Osama bin Laden, the Saudi Arabian extremist believed to operate out of Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, denied responsibility for the assault. Officials said various signs make him the primary suspect.

Bin Laden hinted at a major attack on the United States just two months ago. He is also believed to have orchestrated the 1993 bombing on the WTC. Officials said tactics used in the



Courtesy of www.washingtonpost.com

The New York skyline, drastically altered without the twin towers of the World Trade Center.

hijackings resemble those that affiliates of bin Laden had boasted of preparing.

All of the hijacked planes were fully fueled for flights to California. They all departed within an hour and 40 minutes of each other. The first, an American Airlines Boeing 767 from Boston to Los Angeles, crashed into the north tower of the WTC at approximately 8:45

a.m. A United Airlines plane also from Boston to Los Angeles rammed into the south tower 18 minutes later.

Then came the attack on the Capitol. An American Airlines Boeing 757, leaving from Washington's Dulles International Airport to Los Angeles, hit the western part of the Pentagon at 9:40 a.m. Finally, a United Airlines

Boeing 757 from Newark to San Francisco crashed near Pittsburgh.

An estimated 266 people died in the four planes. More than 200 firefighters and 70 police officers remain missing in the wake of the carnage in Manhattan. And uncertain hundreds of civilians concealed by the remains of the WTC and

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Nation's Terror Touches Stony Brook



Statesman/Christopher Latham

University Police cordoned off the Union, Tuesday.

By CHRISTOPHER LATHAM
Statesman Editor

Heightened police security, mass prayer vigils and non-stop blood drives are but a few of the realities at Stony Brook University since Tuesday's terrorist attacks on New York

and Washington D.C.

Hours after hijacked planes slammed into the twin towers off the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, SBU campus police evacuated the Student Union. Concerned citizens reported suspicious luggage left

outside the End of the Bridge.

Officers soon discovered the bags contained clothing, however.

"Our main concern was protecting students, faculty and staff," Deputy Chief Doug Little said yesterday. "Given Tuesday's tragic events we felt the added precautions were necessary."

Little said that another alert about a suspicious package was reported in Roth Quad, Wednesday morning, but that too proved harmless.

Although no major incidents were reported on campus, police have been posted at entrance and exit gates since Tuesday.

A massive blood drive at SBU Hospital, which began shortly after the towers

collapsed, was in full gear at noon. The hospital had prepared to handle WTC patient overloads from New York, which never came.

Instead the halls were packed with students, staff, faculty and neighborhood residents willing to give blood. Two such volunteers were Shamika Brooks and Ti-Nema James, both students at SBU.

"I never gave blood before, but this was certainly enough to get me to come," Brooks said.

Like many of those there, the girls waited for hours before being allowed to donate. Eventually, the lines got so long that volunteers were turned away and asked to come back on Wednesday.

Patrick Calabria, SBU director of media relations,

advised volunteers to call 444-DONATE, to avoid extended delays.

President Shirley Strum Kenny and several campus chaplains attended a special prayer vigil in the SAC later that day.

"It is good at a terrible time

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C.R.P.

UN Ambassador Speaks to Honors College Students



Abassador Ahmad Kamal.

By CHRISTOPHER LATHAM
Statesman Editor

Courtesy of www.un.org

The Honors College students of Sociology 401 spent their first videoconference with Former Ambassador Ahmad Kamal, Sept. 6, discussing the responsibilities of international diplomats, the influence of the United States and the goals of the United Nations (U.N.).

Kamal began by explaining that the public image of the U.N. is far from the truth.

"The U.N. is by and large the victim of its own success," he said. "It has better name recognition than McDonald's. People aggregate to its powers more than it actually has. That

it is a kind of super world government. Nothing could be farther from the truth."

In reality, the U.N. is comprised of little more than 32,000 people worldwide, has a budget of only 1.2 billion a year and has no authority to pass or enforce legal rulings. A result of the post-WWII Atlantic Charter, the U.N. was formed by the allied powers, with the United States controlling much of the process.

"In effect, nothing can be done in the U.N. without the approval, knowledge and consent of the U.S.," Kamal said.

When asked what role ambassadors play in world policy, he offered a dual-sided approach.

Kamal initially portrayed the U.N. as a multinational confederation with the objective of promoting global communications, avoiding violent conflicts and preserving sovereignty. Eventually he acknowledged ambassadors as government agents assigned to push the best interests of their states. He ultimately settled on a balance, stating that most ambassadors try to form a consensus with their colleagues, then try to get their governments to accept the compromises.

"Have I ever tried to get my government to change its position [on a policy issue]?" he asked. "Oh yes."

Kamal's next videoconference, was scheduled to take place September 13. Due to the World Trade Center attack, however, the videoconferences could be postponed indefinitely.

Bartender's Academy



A graduate of the Bartender's Academy.

By ANA-MARIA RAMIREZ
Statesman Staff

Courtesy of www.bartendersacademy.com

Life for a college student typically evolves around studying and working. Many students take on traditional jobs at the university. However, some students venture on a more unconventional method of wage earning- bartending.

The Bartender Academy is located in Centerreach, Suffolk County. Joel Wichtendahl and Charles Ohlbaum established it two years ago. The Academy offers day and night classes to anyone interested in becoming a certified bartender.

Owners Wichtendahl and Ohlbaum also teach classes at the academy. Ohlbaum and Wichtendahl both were former teachers at the All-Star School of Bartending and then moved on to start a school of their own.

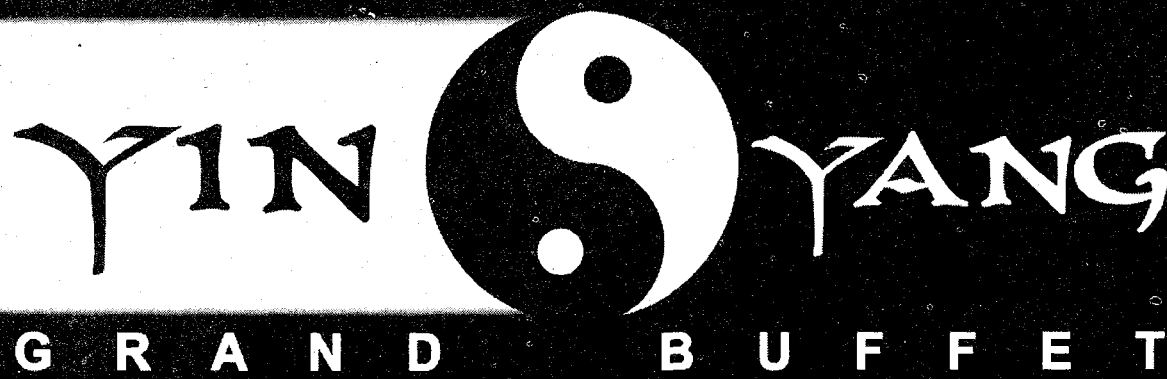
"I've been training students since 1988," said Wichtendahl, "They (All Stars) weren't ready to take it to another level."

The Bartender Academy has been popular with Stony Brook students, and other college students as well.

"I'd say around 25% of our students are from Stony Brook," said Wichtendahl, "We were busy right from the start." Although college students are the majority enrolled in the academy, there are still exceptions: "We also get a few

Continued on Page 9

The Statesman offers its most sincere condolences to those who lost loved ones in Tuesday's attack.



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A Thought From Rabbi Adam Attack on America



I know. We are all feeling it. It's a combination of shock and anger. Shock at the most horrible act our young generation has ever seen. And anger imbued with a thirst for revenge. But revenge is not the ways of the righteous. It is merely a retaliatory vindictive measure that accomplishes nothing but tit-for-tat. On the other hand, the making of peace is the greatest righteous deed a person can do. Therefore, any reaction to the tragedy of Tuesday's events must come from a true desire for a pervasive peace. However, when there are obstacles to peace, peace comes either by force, or, most effectively, by revealing a reality in which there isn't room for such an obstacle to exist in the first place. The latter goal is achieved by a mutual coming together- thereby leaving no place for the opposite of peace to exist. A forced peace is achieved by destroying the barrier to peace- the opposite warring party. President Bush's proposal "to bring those responsible to justice" is that of force. However, it is important to keep in mind,, that this must not be retaliation as a means of vengeance, but rather, as a road to peace- a removal of the obstacle to peace. The most effective peace, however, is when there is a mutual coming together, a mutual love. Now this type of peace is *humanly* impossible to achieve when the obstacle believes that they go to Heaven by blowing themselves up for a cause. Though such peace may be humanly impossible, but on the super-human level all is possible. For G-d is infinitely capable. And the Divine capability to create world peace and love is known as the Messianic Era when a spiritually endowed leader, the Moshiach (Messiah), will lead the world to a true eternal peace. For then there will be revealed a reality in which there is no such things as enemies that need to be destroyed, but only friends that need to be loved. Therefore we pray, "We want Moshiach NOW!"

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After Terrorist Strike, Students Search for Loved Ones

By CHRISTOPHER LATHAM
Statesman Editor

The havoc caused by Tuesday's terrorist attacks left devastating scars in New York and Washington D.C., but their effects have also been painfully evident here at Stony Brook.

Increased police security, emergency blood drives and impromptu prayer vigils are just a few of the most noticeable changes on campus. Less obvious is the emotional trauma some have had to cope with.

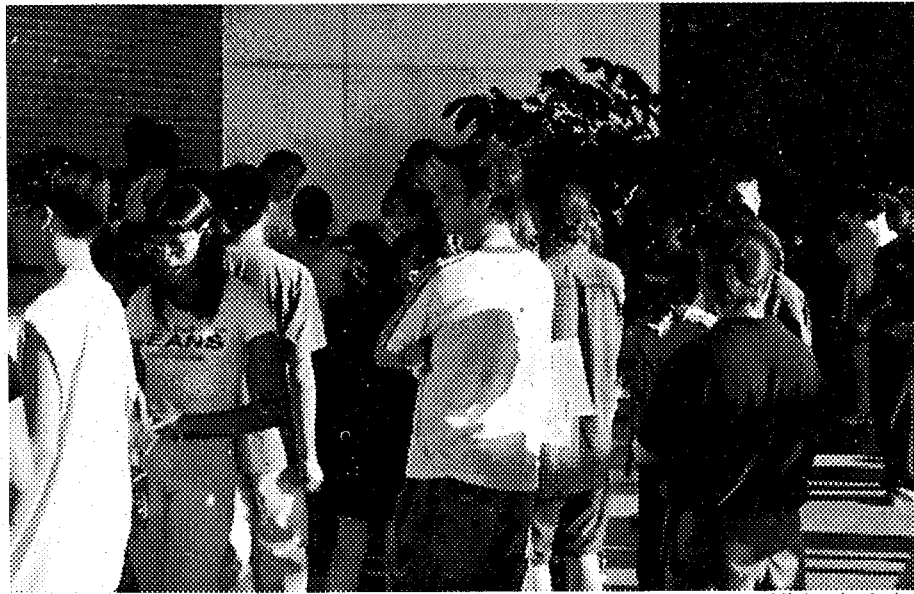
Freshman Erin Robertson and junior Ali Khan have never met each other, but along with countless others they are forever linked by Tuesday's terrorist attacks.

Like so many watching the news two days ago, they sat in near panic as the twin towers of the World Trade Center crumbled onto themselves, killing what might amount to thousands of people.

But for Robertson and Khan the disaster could not have been more personal. Both of their fathers worked at the WTC, and could not be contacted until hours after the planes crashed into them.

"I was in shock," said Robertson. "I saw the building collapse and I started to cry. Then my mom called around noon telling me he was all right."

Robertson said her father, who worked in the first building, escaped only



Statesman/Christopher Latham

SBU students flocked to the SAC Tuesday to watch news reports of the attack.

10 minutes before it collapsed.

"Firefighters were running up the stairs as he went down," she said.

Khan's father, who worked at 6 WTC, made it out after the first plane hit 1 WTC. He watched as the explosion shattered the building's windows. He was already on the street when the second plane hit.

"People were waving towels, and calling for help in the floor above the fire," Khan's father said. "All of a sudden I saw another plane approach. It picked up speed. Everybody was in awe as it hit the second

tower. We heard a big boom, and fire and smoke poured down."

Khan's father said he repeatedly saw the scenes of destruction in his mind, experienced constant shaking and could not sleep for 24 hours.

"I cannot believe what kind of traumatic experience this was," he said. "I just don't have the words to explain it."

Prominent campus figures also knew people caught in the attack. A former New York Police Department officer, University Police Chief Richard Young was among

those who lost many friends in the collapse.

"The cops who went into those buildings to save lives were his brothers," said Deputy Chief Doug Little. "He kept saying to me, 'Doug, I wish I was there.' He was simply inconsolable."

Though nearly impossible to calculate the number of people affected by the assault, it seems as if everyone knows someone who was in or near the towers Tuesday.

Precious Popoola, a sophomore, spent the day trying to call her best friend's mother, who worked at the Merrill Lynch office in the WTC.

Omar Moore, also a sophomore, spent the day waiting for his father, an electrician who was supposed to be working near the towers, to call him.

Sancia Simpson, a freshman, broke down crying in the SAC Tuesday morning because her mother works two blocks away from the WTC.

Ultimately, all of them were able to contact their loved ones, who either made it home safely, had the day off or were never in the area.

"I think I can stop crying now," Simpson said. "I cried all day."

Statesman writers Chris Hunt, Jeffrey Javidfar, Louis Lam and Carole Sierra contributed to this article.

Stony Brook University Looking to Buy Land from Neighboring Gyrodyne, Inc.

By Danish Nadeem
Statesman Contributor

Stony Brook is currently inquiring about 326 acres of land adjacent to the existing campus. The land currently belongs to Gyrodyne Co. of America, a lease seller of commercial and industrial real estate, based in St. James.

It is widely accepted that the university needs to acquire more land to continue growing and expanding.

"The land became available for sale earlier this summer," said Patrick Calabria, director of media relations here at SBU. "There's no specific usage for the land right now. The point is we're starting to get maxed out for space now. We know we're going to need space in the future, and land is available. It's definitely something we are looking into."

John Marburger, the former SBU president and director of Brookhaven National Laboratory, serves as Gyrodyne's director. Marburger was nominated by President Bush in June to become the next director of the Office of Science and Technology. The approval is expected to come later this month.

The company's major asset is the

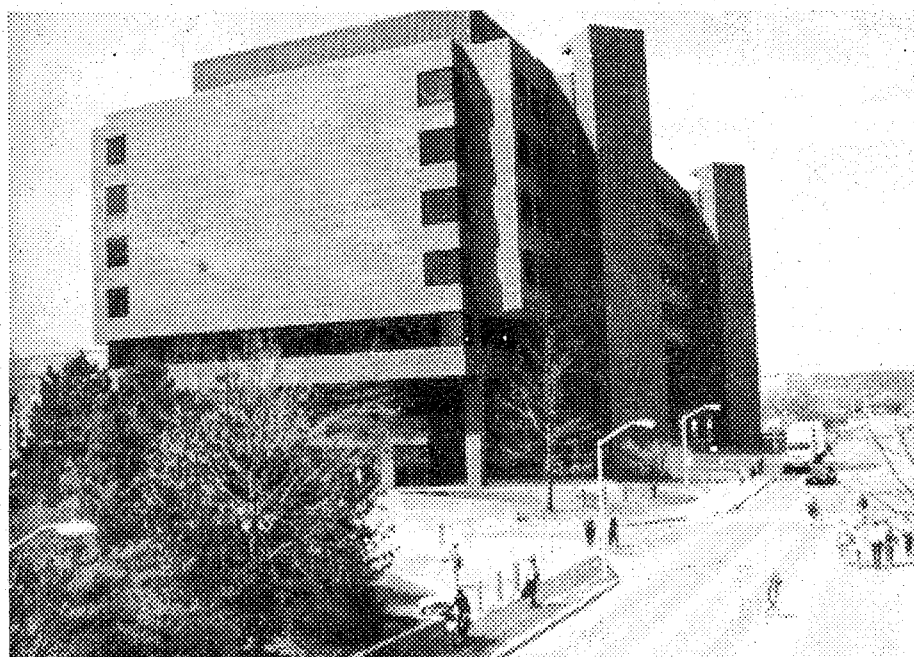
land that exists on the border of Smithtown and Brookhaven. The site consists of 202,000 square feet of industrial buildings. The rest of the area is tree-lined roads and meadows.

The land is zoned for light industry and is valued between \$30 million and \$60 million. It is considered valuable land because Gyrodyne reported it free of environmental problems and is an ideal spot for development.

According to Gyrodyne this is

not the first time that the university has expressed interest in that land. "The University has expressed interest in parts of the Gyrodyne site over the years for both student housing and to house its biotechnology incubator", former Gyrodyne president Dimitri Papadakos told the Three Village Herald last week.

The assessment of \$30 to \$60 million dollars is considerably more than the university might have to pay for the property.



Statesman Archives

With little land to build upon, the university has begun considering buying more property.

"I am not sure if the \$30 to \$60 million figure is accurate," said State Assemblyman Steve Englebright (D-Setauket), also to the Herald. "Some figures have been lower in the past."

The university has an edge over other possible purchasers of the property, when taking into account the needs of the surrounding community. Due to its dual role as an education facility and public institution, SBU has a strong interest in being more sensitive to effects on environment and impacts on the community.

When looking for reasons to acquire more land, one doesn't have to look further than a recent blemish on the university's image.

A guidebook released by the Princeton Review, "The Best 331 College Rankings for 2002," ranked SBU as falling short in qualitative experience in high education. Stony Brook was ranked highly in the "Tiny and Unsightly Campus" category.

University officials were less than convinced with the report's findings.

"I'm not sure how accurate Princeton Review was concerning the campus," Calabria said. "Many students at Stony Brook enjoy their time here. None of the students we spoke to about the poll agreed with their assessment."

4
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International

Problems in Afghanistan

By RALPH D'AMROSIO
Statesman Contributor

Eight foreign employees were arrested four weeks ago in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan under charges of subverting Islam, by attempting to convert Muslims to Christianity.

The group, which consists of two Americans, four Germans and two Australians, are members of Shelter Now International, a German-based Christian group. In addition, sixteen Afghans were also arrested, accused of converting to another religion.

The latter is the highest violation according to Taliban law.

The trial, though closed to the public, has attracted a great deal of attention from the international media.

Bypassing the lower courts, the case has been presented before an assemblage of 22 legal experts and religious scholars for the last three days in closed-door court proceedings. After all of the evidence is reviewed by the assemblage, the case will be turned over to an even larger group.

Here the accused will be

allowed to speak on their behalf.

The supreme leader of the Afghanistan government, Mullah Muhammad Omar, will make the final ruling on the case. The accused are not guaranteed an attorney or legal representation during the case but will be allowed to have representation if they experience any problems during the trial.

While Mullar Omar issued an edict that indicated that punishment for foreigners is three to 10 days in prison followed by expulsion, Wakil Ahmad Muttawakil, a foreign

minister for Afghanistan, said during a news conference in Afghanistan that this light term only applies to people accused of the crime.

"In this case, there is a difference," he said. "This is not just an accusation. There is proof."

The 16 Afghans could face the death penalty if they do not renounce Christianity.

A tremendous amount of politics encompasses the case.

The Taliban is only recognized by three nations. Afghanistan is subject to economic sanction as long as the

country allows accused terrorist Osama bin Laden to live in their country. The economic sanction compound the effects of war and weather disasters on Afghanistan's economy.

Apparently, farmers are banned from growing poppy plants but are not given much aide to grow other crops.

According to Muttawakil, "We believe in rights according to Islam, and if anybody is trying to impose their definition of the human rights on us, they will be sadly mistaken because this world is not a world of one culture or one religion."

National

U.S. Attacked: The Timeline

By The Associated Press

A timeline of the attacks in the United States on Tuesday, according to witnesses, authorities and media reports:

7:59 a.m. (1159 GMT) _ American Airlines Flight 11, carrying 92 people, leaves Boston's Logan International Airport for Los Angeles, according to Massachusetts Port Authority.

8:01 a.m. (1201 GMT) _ United Airlines Flight 93, carrying 45 people, leaves Newark, New Jersey, International Airport for San Francisco, according to airline.

8:14 a.m. (1214 GMT) _ United Airlines Flight 175, carrying 65 people, leaves Boston for Los

Angeles, according to port authority.

8:45 a.m. (1245 GMT) _ American Airlines Flight 11 crashes into north tower of World Trade Center.

9:03 a.m. (1303 GMT) _ United Airlines Flight 175 crashes into south tower of World Trade Center.

9:31 a.m. (1331 GMT) _ President George W. Bush calls the crashes an "apparent terrorist attack on our country."

9:40 a.m. (1340 GMT) _ American Airlines Flight 77, carrying 64 people from Washington to Los Angeles, crashes into Pentagon. Trading on Wall

Street called off.

9:48 a.m. (1348 GMT) _ The Capitol and West Wing of the White House are evacuated.

9:49 a.m. (1349 GMT) _ The Federal Aviation Administration bars aircraft takeoffs across the country. International flights in progress told to land in Canada.

9:50 a.m. (1350 GMT) _ Two World Trade Center _ the south tower _ collapses.

9:58 a.m. (1358 GMT) _ Emergency dispatcher in Pennsylvania receives call from a passenger on United Flight 93, who says: "We are being hijacked, we are being hijacked!"

10 a.m. (1400 GMT) _ United Flight 93 crashes 80 miles (130 kilometers) southeast of Pittsburgh.

10:29 a.m. (1429 GMT) _ One World Trade Center _ the north tower _ collapses.

10-11:30 a.m. (1400-1530 GMT) _ Government buildings around the country are evacuated, including the Capitol and the White House. The United Nations closed down. The Securities and Exchange Commission closes all U.S. financial markets for the day. New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani calls for evacuation of lower Manhattan.

11:40 a.m. (1540 GMT) _ Bush arrives at Barksdale Air Force

Base, Louisiana, from Florida after deciding not to return Washington right away. He later travels to U.S. Strategic Command at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

2:51 p.m. (1851 GMT) _ The Navy dispatches missile destroyers and other equipment to New York and Washington.

5:25 p.m. (2125 GMT) _ Seven World Trade Center collapses.

7 p.m. (2300 GMT) _ Bush arrives in Washington from Nebraska.

8:30 p.m. (0130 GMT) _ Bush addresses nation, says "thousands of lives were suddenly ended" in attacks.

Metro

Relief Aid Sent Upstate After WTC Attack

By MICHAEL VIRTANEN
Associated Press Writer

Hundreds of military, police and medical personnel have begun heading from upstate New York to Manhattan to help with rescue and relief efforts after terrorist attacks leveled the World Trade Center.

Rural/Metro Medical Services was sending 90 paramedics and emergency medical technicians and 23 ambulances to New York, including 20 people from Buffalo who were departing at 3 a.m. Wednesday.

"New York City police, fire and emergency service crews have been at the World Trade Center since 9 a.m. Tuesday morning," said

Michael Hughes, Rural/Metro public affairs manager. "Bringing in outside forces will help give the hundreds involved some much needed rest after the havoc that they have witnessed."

Tuesday afternoon, the Orange County chapter of the American Red Cross of Greater New York arranged for a bus to take 44 doctors and nurses into the city. The agency expected to send a second group of volunteers.

Tuesday night, President Bush issued a disaster declaration for the state, authorizing federal funds for emergency services, temporary housing and cleanup.

Gov. George Pataki, who

requested the declaration, ordered New York National Guard troops to duty stations. The Guard's Civil Support Team was sent Tuesday to help city emergency personnel identify hazardous materials, and 117 pieces of heavy equipment were en route to help clear the rubble of the two demolished skyscrapers.

Another 2,500 Guard troops were being mobilized to help with security and medical transport, according to Pataki's office. Meanwhile 200 State Police were in the city by Tuesday night, with another 300 expected overnight to help with medical transport, traffic control and the investigation.

People turned out Tuesday in large numbers at blood-donation centers from New York to Buffalo. At a center in Albany, would-be donors stood in a line estimated at almost a quarter-mile long.

On Tuesday morning, after a pair of hijacked jetliners hit the twin towers of the World Trade Center, Pataki had told CNN: "New York is under attack." Another hijacked jet hit the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C., and a fourth crashed in rural Pennsylvania.

Although there were no immediate reports of trouble Tuesday in upstate New York, planes were grounded, buildings

were evacuated and New Yorkers watched with a sinking sense of horror. Those with friends and family in Manhattan tried to verify their safety.

Some Amtrak service out of Penn Station resumed in midafternoon, and the railroad expected to run a full schedule Wednesday, a spokesperson said.

State government offices-including the state Capitol-shut down Tuesday as a precaution. All workers not involved in the emergency response were sent home.

Most state offices, except those in lower Manhattan, were scheduled to reopen Wednesday.

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Editorial

Truth, Justice and Humanity

Words are feeble in the wake of the horror that unfolded on American soil earlier this week. And yet words are all we have to communicate the loss, sorrow and anger that burn in the hearts of those who watched as thousands of innocent people perished in the name of terrorism.

There is the natural impulse to direct our emotions toward retribution. But before that emotion becomes action, America must look within to understand why such tragedy occurred at all.

This is no mere call to examine the lax security systems employed at U.S. airports, nor is it a rally in support of a national missile defense system—though both of those things must now be considered.

No, this is a call to recognize the arrogance and hypocrisy that much of the world believes the United States to have perpetrated for years.

People do not hijack planes and ram them into buildings for money. People do not commit acts of mass murder and risk world wars because their leaders order them to. These are the acts of massive quantities of highly organized people, who accept an ideology that cannot be shaken by

government decrees and economic sanctions. These are the acts of people who see the United States as an oppressive jackal, waving banners of freedom and peace and unity, while committing acts far worse than any terrorist ever could.

What could these heinous crimes be?

Constant interference in political, economic and social affairs completely outside American borders. Refusal to play neutral and unbiased roles in international peace talks. And an unswerving notion that the laws of the United States and its allies should be the laws of the rest of the world.

Are these accusations founded? Most definitely, yes. Does that lend any justification whatsoever to the attacks on New York and Washington D.C.? Not at all. And what of the retribution mentioned earlier? It will and should be swift and severe.

In an ideal world war is wrong. But in the real world there is no such thing as right and wrong, save the meanings and values people give them. In America, as in most other civilized places, it is wrong to willfully kill innocent people. Terrorism is the ultimate manifestation of that wrongdoing, and it cannot be tolerated.

The perpetrators of the World Trade

Center and Pentagon attacks will inevitably be revealed. When that day comes, woe be unto the forces that harbor those responsible. For if there is one thing history has taught us, it is that the United States makes no qualms about taking retribution to the extreme.

After all, are we not the nation that developed the atom bomb?

But retribution is the responsibility of the federal government. It is the responsibility of the masses to uphold compassion and unity. So in the name of all that is holy, let us please show understanding, tolerance and kindness to our fellows within the borders of this nation.

Whatever physical and ideological differences we might possess, we must respect the freedom of our neighbors to live peacefully in whatever manner they wish. Intolerance and bigotry have a powerful history in America. Now is not the time to rehash that legacy.

For, if we let those emotions of loss and sorrow and anger turn to rage and violence against those who bare us no harm, we become no better than the villains who inflicted such pains upon us.

So please, in the name of God, let us be human to one another.

Op-Ed

NYC's Unwavering Resolve

BY ADAM ZIMMERMAN
Statesman Editor

The Greatest City in the World. The City that Never Sleeps. New York. Noo Yawk. The skyline is still second to none.

Vegas may claim the title, but the Big Apple is the real City of Lights. I'm talking inner lights. Within the people. The firefighters, police officers, doctors, nurses, EMTs, blood donors, volunteers. They're all the Finest and the Bravest.

And how about the greatest mayor New York has ever known? Out there in his FDNY shirt and NYPD baseball cap. Coordinating relief efforts, visiting the sights, comforting his people. Rudy transformed NYC into the city it still is; a city of hope, a city of safety, a city of dreams, a city of life. A

*New York — to that tall skyline I come
Flyin' in from London to your door*

*New York — lookin' down on Central Park
Where they say you should not wander after
dark.*

*New York — like a scene from all those movies
But you're real enough to me, for there's a heart
A heart that lives in New York.*

*A heart in New York arose on the street
I write my song to that city heartbeat
A heart in New York — the love in her eyes
An open door and a friend for the night.*

*New York — you got money on your mind
And my words won't make a dime's worth of
difference
So here's to you, New York.*

city of eight million with one collective heart.

And that heart still beats strongly. No doubt, it took quite a blow on Tuesday. The heartache will get worse before it gets better. But it will get better. A few heartless scoundrels can take the buildings out of our city, but they can't take the city out of the buildings, which still stand tall and strong.

Almost 20 years ago, Simon and Garfunkel, the famous city boy duo from Queens, put on a memorable concert in Central Park, Gotham's heart and soul. At that concert, they sang a song entitled 3A Heart in New York 2. The lyrics of that song are below.

And they show why New York still towers over the world, and remains without twin.

Not the Islam I Know

BY ARIF RAFIQ
Statesman Editor

I will never forget the images from Tuesday of the city I was born and raised in: ablaze, covered by a giant cloud of dust, as its two largest buildings fell to the ground, taking thousands of souls along with it. I felt immense pain and sorrow as I witnessed my fellow Americans and fellow human beings perish in the worst possible way. I remained shocked in disbelief as I saw groups of people jump out of the 110-

story World Trade Center as the only means of escape from the monstrous fire behind them.

When I look again at the images of that horrible day, all I can see is the face of evil. The perpetrators of these horrible terrorist acts are not true followers of any faith—their message is not based on Islam, Christianity, or Judaism. It's a message of hate and the ultimate evil.

The word Islam in Arabic means "the peaceful path of submission to God". It comes from the Arabic root word, S-L-M,

and related words include the greeting "Salaam", which means peace. The personification of peace for Muslims is the example of the beloved Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

He was persecuted in Mecca, as the promoted the message of Islam amongst his very own people. There was a woman who would throw her trash at him every day when he passed her home. One day she did not, and became very concerned for her. So he visited her home to check

Continued on Page 7

On Truth: Truth By Sight

By **FREDDY DAVIS**
Statesman Staff

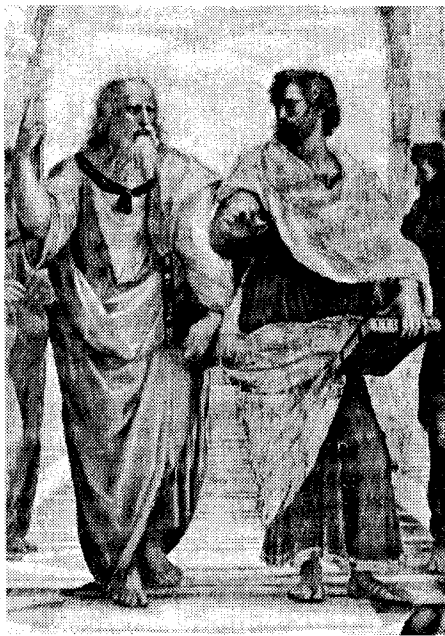
In this process we now enter I will begin to question the ideas you hold, what's in this package you hold on to, these abstract notions of reality we call ideas? I would dare not in the process insult your particular as others might, and as others have in this process of questioning, but instead I intend to come to question this claim to an absolute, these universals for in which I hold the particulars at a greater value for they are the unique, the true essence to a life, the defining characteristics of the individual that I treasure most of all. So dare not assume, but dare to think.

As what I say may not hold weight in your eyes but be open to such an interpretation to perhaps see the light of truth from another perspective, for if it is truth you hold so highly in your values than a difference of judgment or time or place shall not fade the extent of truth, but only serve as other examples of how truth transcends such and not just be a matter of opinion.

So what is truth then? What separates reality in our everyday lives from the extraordinary episodes of fame, fortune, and power physically and socially depicted on the television screen or as runs through our minds and fantasies?

Truth has been so broadly, as ironic as it may seem, defined as the propositions that accord with reality. Whereas in science the process is to discover which of these propositions posed correspond with reality, with truth as it may be, philosophy is concerned with discovering the nature of this property of truth and what is ascribed to it. It is not what is true that I want you in turn to question but what is truth.

There are multiple ways by which we define the nature of truth. Some hold



Truth is intrinsic to reality

that it is true beliefs that are useful in so much as they apply to the reality and the way things are as can in turn be used for as such. One such way is by a correspondence with what we see as true by which a trivial observation tends to justify the statement. As the blue sky is justified by a color, even this goes on some preconceived notion that we know the properties of this color blue, in that we are speaking of the same blue and not a light blue. Even this phenomenon of the color blue seems to depict a cultural attitude in a society, which might already infuse in us a prejudgment of such a characteristic of blue. For how do you explain color to a blind man, or with what words do you describe a sound to a deaf individual? How are such properties of this truth conveyed? Truth, to be such, must also be applicable to them too. Their loss of some faculty of perception could not make their access to truth that much limited, could it? Does this make it less true to them?

Stem Cell Controversy Revisited

By **GENE TULMAN**
Statesman Editor

The beginning of the 21st Century has witnessed a spark of a brand new ethical debate between the scientific and political realms. One of the most pressing issues in the United States has centered on stem cell research.

Ever since stem cells have first been isolated at the University of Wisconsin in the late 1990's, a novel controversy was born. Should the American taxpayers be compelled to pay for ethically questionable scientific research?

Most of the existing stem cell lines have been isolated from frozen human embryos that have been discarded by various fertility clinics worldwide. The ethical dilemma results largely from the fact that embryos must be destroyed in the process of isolating stem cells.

The majority of the scientific community holds that developmental stem cells have the capability of evolving into almost any type of cells. Those in favor of such research feel that it is ethical to "kill" *in vitro* (test tube) embryonic cells for the greater benefit of humanity. Such a stand necessarily follows from a belief that human life begins after birth.

Proponents of stem cell research are confident that an investigation of the various transformation pathways of such cells is not only beneficial for the theoretical advancement of biological science, but is also one of the most promising approaches to discovering cures for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and diabetes disorders.

On the other hand, opponents such as Catholic community leaders claim that the real origin of human life is at the time of conception. Thus, such theorists view the annihilation of embryonic cells as murder. In an intimate conversation, Pope John Paul II has urged President George W. Bush not only to prohibit federal funding for stem cell

research, but also to abolish such practices altogether in the United States.

On Aug. 9, following a lengthy decision-making process, President Bush finally announced his position on federal funding for studying stem cell cultures. His statement was aired on national television and elaborated on a number of significantly critical issues. Initially, the Bush administration identified some 60 existing stem cell lines around the globe. This estimate was later revised to reflect the respective qualities of such cellular cultures.

Secondly, in a somewhat explicit manner, he explained that federal funding would be extended only to those stem cell lines that have successfully been established prior to the ninth day of August of 2001. His implicit message to the American public was that no more embryos were to be sacrificed for the purposes of scientific research. So what actual position was Bush taking as he pronounced all these words?

The answer is apparently neither. By remaining neutral, Bush proceeded to avoid the real issue entirely. In the age of such tremendous scientific possibilities, he single-handedly managed to detain scientific progress in a manner that can accurately be described as cowardly. Without taking a stand, Bush played the role of a prototypical politician, with little regard for those people who perpetually contribute to the outstanding quality of life that most Americans take for granted.

Scientists have not only transformed our world from the caves of the Middle Ages to the brilliant metropolises of contemporary civilization, but have also significantly increased life expectancy for the entire human race. Thus, researchers deserve an enormous amount of respect and gratitude, instead of political jargon that masks nothing short of egoistic intent.

Terrorism: Against Islam

Continued from Page 6

up on her condition and found out she was ill. This woman treated him with such hatred and contempt, but the Prophet tolerated this and came to her when she was in need. He did this because he was a man of compassion, love and peace. This is the message he left for Muslims when he passed away, and these are the ideals that most Muslims strive to personify.

Unfortunately, our community, like all communities, has its bad apples. But we do not judge all Christians by the acts of Timothy McVeigh, nor do we judge all Jewish people by the acts of Baruch Goldstein. Likewise, we should not judge Islam, by the like of Osama bin Laden, whose campaign of hate and terror is only a quest for power, legitimized by a manipulated version of Islam.

The Qur'an states in Chapter 5: Verse 32: "We decreed for the Children of Israel

that whosoever kills a human being for other than manslaughter or corruption in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whoso saves the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind." For those of you from a Jewish or Christian background, this verse will be familiar, as it is similar to the verse in the Bible. Classical Islamic scholars are emphatic about the impressibility of attacking innocent civilians. According to Islamic law, one cannot even uproot plants and trees, let alone kill civilians!

These acts of violence have been condemned by Muslims in the United States and all over the world. The media will show you images of some Palestinians dancing in the streets, but that is an ugly aberration from the reaction of the majority of Muslims. The Muslim students at Stony Brook, whom you all attend classes with, live near, and are friends with, just like 99% of the 1.6 billion

Muslims across the world, have rejected the acts of these coward terrorists.

In fact, many of us were directly affected by the attack. Just Tuesday night, I was watching Fox 5's coverage of the attack and they showed two Muslim siblings live on air, looking for their missing relative, Timur Khan. Many of my friends have relatives who work in the World Trade Center, or go to Stuyvesant. They were all at risk. In fact, some of these Muslims perished in the attack.

And so I ask everyone to exercise caution in their judgments and reaction to the attack on our nation. We need prayer and solidarity—not scapegoating. I am an American—born and raised. This was an attack on my home, just like it was for you. I am also a practicing Muslim. Peace is my ideology, tolerance is my method, and brotherhood is my goal.

Let us continue to stand together,

as one community, and work to rebuild our great city and nation. I've been amazed at the amount of people working to donate blood. In fact, at least half a dozen Muslim relief organizations are also spearheading campaigns to come to the relief of the victims of the blast.

Muslim governments, organizations and Islamic scholars worldwide have condemned these brutal crimes. And as I stated before, the pain is as much our as it is yours. So if our nation is to rebound from this attack at our very being, we must not attack our very own.

In these times of crisis, let us show the world, that Americans, whether they be Muslims, Christians, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists or Sikhs, will not succumb to scapegoating and racism. We can do it and we must do it. Otherwise, the promoters of hate and injustice will have their victory over us.

Don't Tip Your Hats to "The Musketeer"

By ALI KHAN
Statesman Staff

The latest version of Alexandre Dumas' 19th century swashbuckler presents a dark view of a gloomy D'Artagnan (Justin Chambers) bent on retribution. It is at odds with the movie's would-be-flashy gimmick: Hong Kong-style "flying" action. This D'Artagnan

"Too often, however, the action feels interrupted."

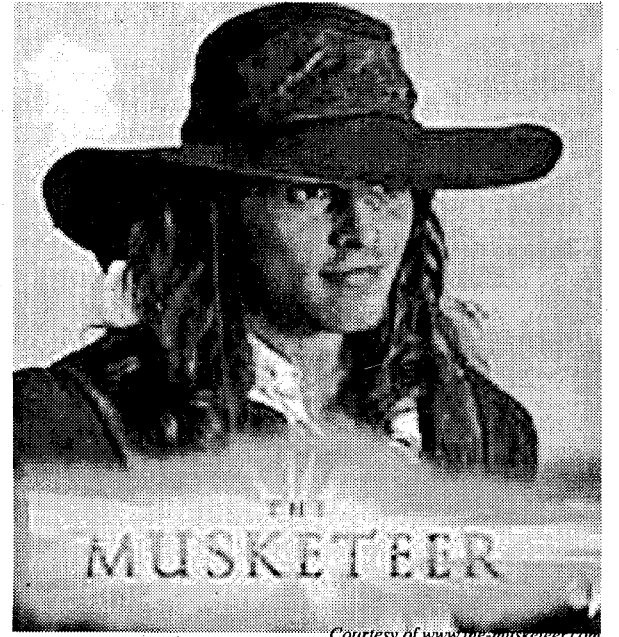
brings little bursts of arrogance to his fighting expertise, and the stunts seem awkwardly inserted into the movie. Head antagonist Tim Roth (no ape mask this time), Mena Suvari and Stephen Rea are all aboard, and Catherine Deneuve portrays the spunky queen.

A prologue that explains D'Artagnan's

vengefulness gets the movie off on the wrong foot, and one begins wondering whether the movie will be able to survive the somber start. It lacks the one thing that the classic "Three Musketeers" story can't do without: flair.

The traditional story of the immature, yet rough-and-ready, D'Artagnan, winning his spurs with the king's guard has been sidetracked, and with it went the rousing camaraderie that gives the story verve. Here, the musketeers are a demoralized lot that D'Artagnan must finally provoke to action as he pursues Cardinal Richelieu's henchman, Febre (Roth). The one time that the famous "All for one, one for all" slogan is raised, the goosebumps it brings is a harsh reminder of what the film is missing. In its place, Chambers' stunt double pulls off some sword-fighting back flips, twirls and acrobatics, including crawling like Spiderman across the ceiling. So where did he acquire this new fighting style?

Hong Kong of course. Hong Kong stunt choreographer Xin-Xin Xiong has been employed



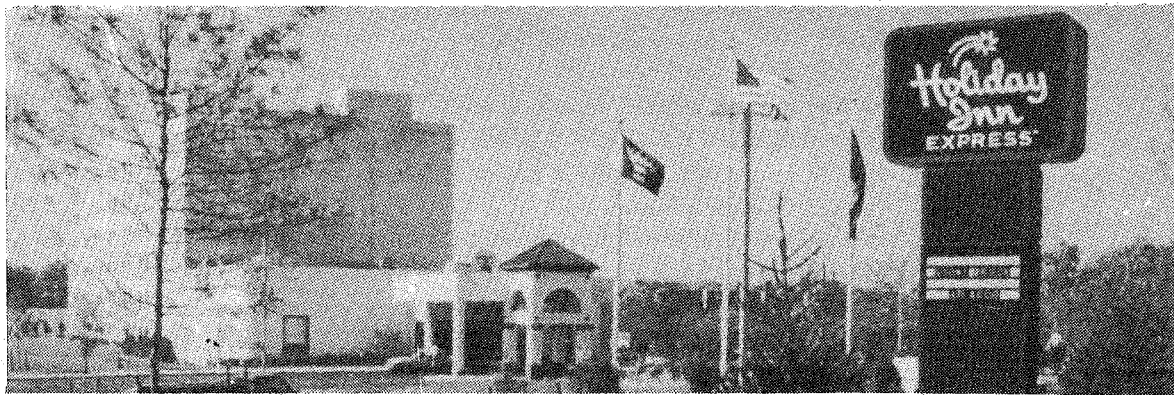
Justin Chambers stars as D'Artagnan in *The Musketeer*. Despite the intensely choreographed action sequences, the film is a disappointment.

in an effort to offer some "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon"-like action into the old swashbuckler format. At times it seems to work, but then it doesn't. Director Peter Hyams (*Timecop*, *End Of Days*) gives the film a dark-toned atmosphere, at times so much so that it's hard to make out what's going on. Probably the most entertaining sequence starts with D'Artagnan atop a horse-drawn coach that swerves into a forest, where he must dodge tree branches as well as opponents before leaping onto a horse, fighting them off and returning to the top of the still-moving coach.

Too often, however, the action feels interrupted. A terrific setup, involving swordsmen scaling a burnished castle turret on ropes and fighting while swaying in midair, just doesn't build. On another occasion, when the unarmed and disrobed D'Artagnan is surprised by a pair of armed men, nothing is made of the opportunity for a rousing two on one clash.

The final showdown with the evil Febre occurs in a barn filled with ladders on which the combatants leap and teeter, which is a good stunt, but also a good case of a stunt being done more for the sake of the choreographer than anyone else.

All in all I feel this film merits 2 stars out of 4. If you don't want to shell out the 9 bucks this film might cost you, watch the trailer, it has all the good parts.



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Bartender's Academy Raises Charity

Continued from Page 2

professionals and at night a few married couples, who have children and need jobs," said Wichtendahl.

The tuition is \$170.00 for two weeks. After students receive their certificates, the Academy help them locate jobs either in bars, restaurants or clubs. Many of the students stay in Long Island while some go to the city. There has even been some who have even found jobs out of state, like Arizona, Florida and Virginia.

"We keep in touch with the students for the first few months for our events," said Wichtendahl. "Then it's up to them." The Bartender's Academy organizes several events, which they invite their former students to attend. Events like Bartender contests and Guest Bartender Nights, where they and 10 of the students bartend at places like the Village Pub, the King's Club, and the Diesel Club.

Another event that The Bartender's Academy has participated in is the Annual Long Island Bartender's Ball. The Bartender's Ball is a fundraiser held by the Mather's Hospital, which raises money for both medical and social concerns.

Each bar or restaurant who participate have to raise as much money as they can by selling raffle tickets and tickets for the ball. The proprietors that sell the most tickets are nominated each year for the "Most Valuable Establishment" award. For this year's ball the money that was raised went to the Fortunato Breast Health Center at Mather's Hospital. The Bartender's Academy alone raised \$19,400 giving them this year's title.

Wichtendahl and Ohlbaum have already opened a new branch in Farmingdale last May. Wichtendahl believes that bartending is one of the most ideal jobs for students in college. "Bartending is one of the most flexible jobs out there, its more exciting than working at K-mart or at the mall."

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The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, September 13, 2001

SBU Clubs Offer Eclectic Cultural Opportunities

By BHUMIKA BALGOBIN
Statesman Staff

Are you interested in improving your social life and becoming more involved in activities on campus? This can easily be accomplished by joining one of the many clubs and organizations that Stony Brook has to offer. The clubs are diverse enough to satisfy just about every interest.

This week's club profiles will focus on cultural clubs on campus. These groups include, the Caribbean Students Organization (CSO), the Guyanese United Youths (GUY), the Latin American

Students Organization (LASO), and the Philippine United Students Organization (PUSO). All of these organizations have an exciting agenda of events planned for the coming semester.

The first major event that the CSO has planned is a "Welcome Back" party that will be held in the Pritchard Gym on Saturday, September 15, 2001 at 10 p.m. On September 25, 2001, the CSO will be hosting an educational discussion on "Sexuality in the Caribbean."

General body meetings of the CSO are held Tuesdays, at 9 p.m., in the Unity

Cultural Center at the Roth Quad Dining Hall. Topics that will be discussed at the meetings include financial management, career planning, and resume creation.

CSO is also planning the popular and anxiously awaited fashion show and after-party, which will be held on November 2, 2001. The fashion show will feature new designers who are looking forward to having their clothing lines viewed by the general public.

GUY will be holding a program called Career Night in late September that will provide students with the opportunity to

learn about possible career paths.

In addition, GUY is also considering having either a Service Auction or a Movie Night sometime in October. The Service Auction is a fund-raiser where students auction certain services, such as vacuuming someone's room or doing someone's laundry.

PUSO is another large organization on campus. It will be sponsoring a "Welcome Back" party on October 4, 2001 at the End of the Bridge restaurant, on the second floor of the Union.

During the weekend of October 26-28, the group will be hosting a conference for the Philippine Intercollegiate Network Dialogue. This weekend will be filled with Philippine cultural events, discussions, and mixers.

On November 15, PUSO will be hosting a Karaoke Night, and on December 2, PUSO and the Catholic Campus Ministry will be cosponsoring a Filipino Mass.

The first general body meeting will be held on September 25, 2001 in the Union Bi-level at 8:30 p.m.

On September 28, LASO will be holding an opening ceremony and dedication from 4 to 6 p.m. in the SAC Plaza to kick-off Hispanic Heritage month. Later that night, from 9 p.m. till 3 a.m. LASO will celebrate with Copa Cabana Night in the Union Ballroom.

Throughout October, LASO will have numerous guest speakers and workshops in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month. The "Weekend Salsa-Thon," which will be sponsored by WUSB 90.1 and held from October 12 - 15, is one such event.

In addition, the club will be throwing numerous parties such as the Salsa Extravaganza (October 2), the Golden Touch Party (October 5), and the Beta Gamma Jamma (October 26).

On October 31, LASO will have its Hispanic Heritage Month closing ceremony and awards luncheon from 12-2 p.m. in the SAC auditorium, and the Latin Masquerade Ball will be held that night.

The clubs mentioned here are simply a small sampling of the many organizations that reside on campus. Stony Brook has a diverse population, and our clubs represent this diversity, so, why not go out there and get involved?

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Administrative Spotlight: Interview with a Career Advisor

By GREGORY KANHAI
Statesman Staff

When you need help with your resume, you go to the Career Resource Center (CRC) and the person you see is Peter Burke. Peter has been at Stony Brook for about 21 years. When you go for help, you are seeing someone with plenty of experience in helping students with similar issues.

Peter helps students to review their gradual school essays and advises them on structuring their plans in college and beyond. He recommends that all students visit him to plan an effective school program, get information about job fields and internships, and get to know important people.

I first met Peter when I went to get some help with my own resume. I interviewed him for this column while I was taking classes last July. I told him that it would take only 30 minutes. However, chatting with him proved to be a very adventurous opportunity and the discussion flowed beyond the boundaries of my questions. His affable nature and eventful life contributed to an interesting conversation. Here's what he had to say:

Greg: Tell me what your job description is at the CRC?

Peter: My title is Career Employment Information Systems Specialist. Primarily my job responsibilities now are doing most of the resume evaluations with students, the primary workshops, resume writing, interviewing skills, and coordinating job listings that go to job track.

Greg: How long have you been here?

Peter: Since 1980. The first year that I was here I drove. That became a pain. I now take the rail-road. I read in the morning and socialize in the evenings.

Greg: What should students be aware of over their four years to improve their resume value despite their field of study?

Peter: Getting their lives together. A usual question is I graduated yesterday, what should I do now? Pursuing informational interviewing and getting to know what a job is really like. So, the earlier one begins the process, the better you are going to be by the time you are a senior. We have a couple of tools to help students decide what paths they might want to pursue and also where a major will

take a student.

Greg: How and why did you come to SBU?

Peter: I was running a Drug rehab in the city and I saw the posting for the job at SUNY and it seemed interesting. I think a lot of it probably had to do with me having been discouraged from pursuing higher education. Coming to work at an institution of higher education was pretty much telling those who had discouraged me previously "screw you!"

Greg: What qualities did you bring to the CRC that have improved its service?

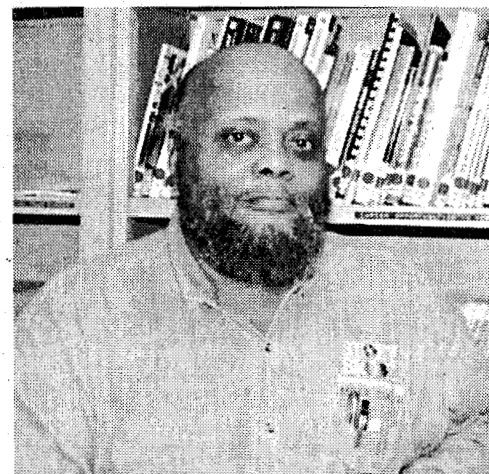
Peter: I never look at it as how I improve an office, it is how I impact a person's life. I am not a political person. What I feel great about is when I could help people get to where they want to be, and hear from them two or

three years later that they are doing great. It's the student contact that keeps me here at Stony Brook.

Greg: What are the major shortcomings of the CRC?

Peter: With some more money we could undertake some more publicity initiatives. We could possibly even have a summer edition of our bulletin geared to students and parents. With more staff we could undertake some different initiatives. Students always like our staff to come to the dorms, it is difficult but we do it because of our dedication.

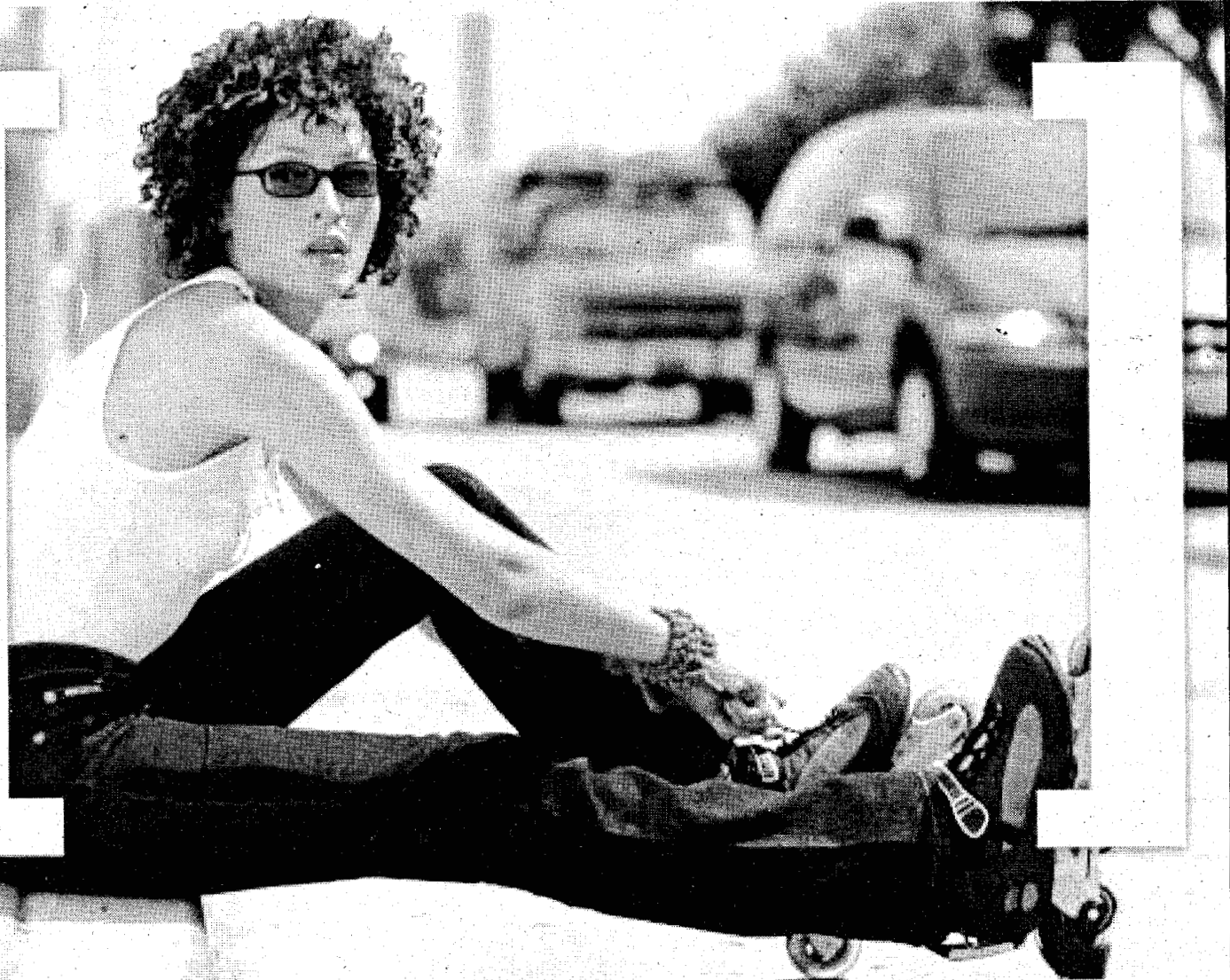
Peter says his ideal job would be to work with George Lucas on the film set. He adds that he plans to make three more career changes before he retires. Oh, and



Statesman/Greg Kanhai

Peter Burke works at the Career Resource Center before I go, next week meet our Deputy Chief of Police.

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America Attacked

Continued from Page 1

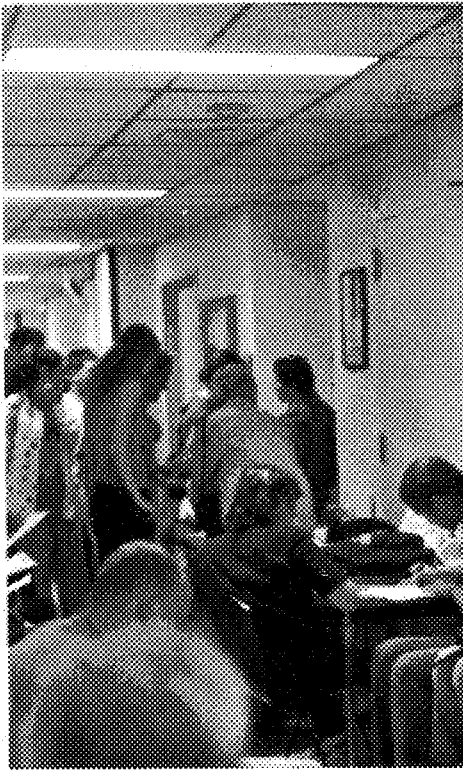
the Pentagon remain unaccounted.

Back in New York, efforts have primarily been focused on rescuing survivors and limiting more casualties.

"I have a sense it's a horrendous number of lives lost," said Mayor Rudolph Giuliani. "Right now we have to focus on saving as many lives as possible."

Police know some survivors trapped under the rubble have attempted to contact them through cellular phones, but so far only a small number have been rescued.

Civilians have been prohibited to go farther south than 14th street, in order to quicken rescue attempts and prevent accidental casualties. Police said trespassers would be arrested on sight.



Statesman/Marie Huchton

Hundreds of volunteers waited for hours at SBU Hospital before they could give blood, Tuesday.

Terrorist Attack Aftershocks at SBU

Continued from Page 1

like this to be together," Kenny said.

She assured the audience that SBU had taken the proper precautions to house all those unable to get back to the city, and that a crisis prevention center had been established for anyone in need of counseling. Kenny also made a plea for blood donors, especially those with Type O blood, the universal donor.

"We are a diverse community, and in our diversity is our strength," she said. "We must, as a community, be strong in the face of such a terrible tragedy."

Jewish chaplain Joseph Topek, Muslim chaplain Sanaa Nadim, Protestant chaplain Clark Berge as well as Catholic chaplains Sister Margaret Landry and Father John Fitzgerald all spoke at the ceremony.

"As the news trickled in this morning I think we all sat in a state of disbelief," he Topek said. "Disbelief that there might be human beings amongst us who could do such terrible things. Take so many lives."

After a series of prayers and reflections by other chaplains, Nadim offered her sympathies to those impacted

by the attacks.

"I give my condolences to the families who lost loved ones today, and I share the condemnation of all the Muslim and Arab world," she said.

Fred Preston, the vice president for student affairs, spoke last. He called the assaults a consequence of cross-cultural conflict run amok, and praised the "beauty" of the cross-cultural community here at SBU.

"It was all too real," he said. "The shock and disorientation will last for a few days before it really hits home."

Kenny issued the following quote after the prayer vigil:

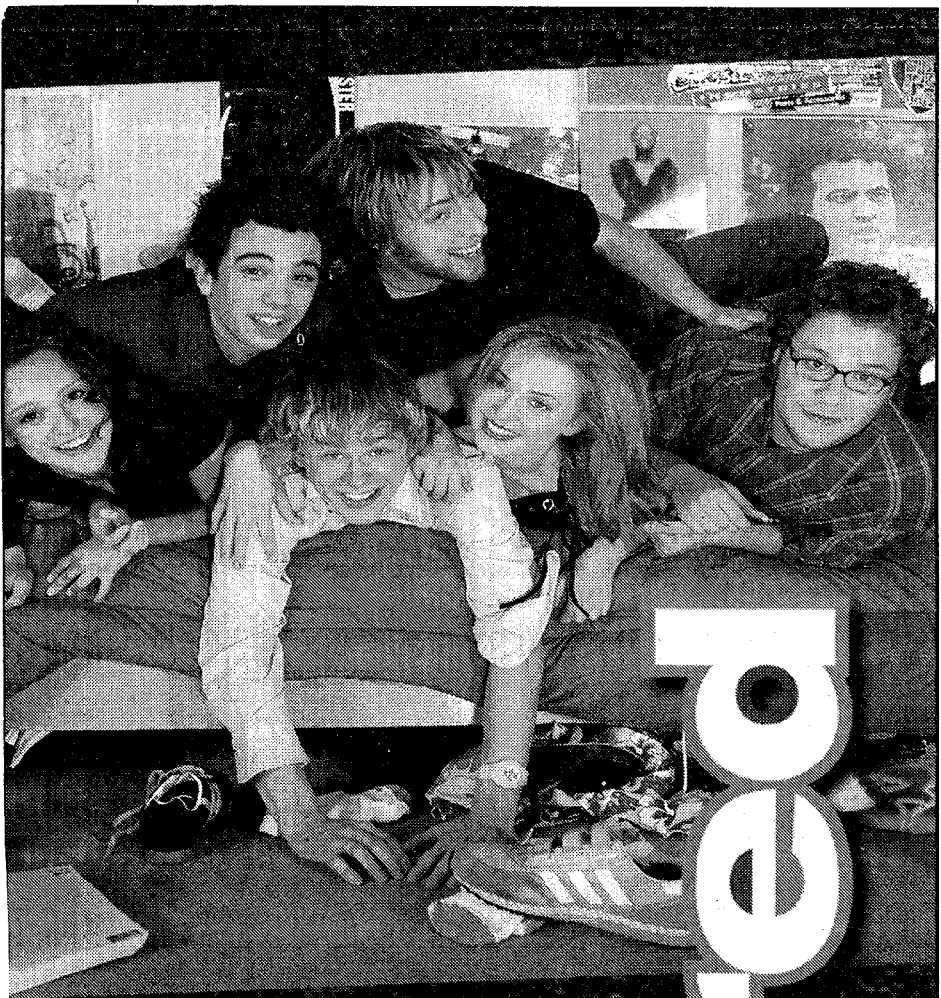
"I was of course devastated by the bombing and very fearful that our faculty, staff, and students will be involved in the losses. It was such a stunning, crazy act that I don't know if I really can absorb it yet.

But I know that it is very important for us not to start making conclusions about who did it, and certainly it's important for us to stay together as a community and understand that people at Stony Brook are suffering whatever their background, and that we really have to help each other now as much as ever before."



Statesman/Marie Huchton

Students gathered outside the SAC Tuesday for impromptu prayer vigils.



Co-ed dorms used to be prohibited.

This fall, find out why...

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Sports

Cross Country Opens Season With a Bang

By CHRISTOPHER HUNT
Statesman Editor

The Seawolves Cross Country team exploded into the America East Conference last Saturday, Sept. 5, with an impressive performance at the Central Connecticut Invitational. They put the conference on notice that Stony Brook is not the same team it has been in previous years.

The men's team placed second of 12 overall and the women's team, led by Jenny Payne, came in third out of the 11 teams competing. This year's season opener turned out to be, without question, one of the best collective efforts for SBU Cross Country in recent years.

"The team has stepped up a level from this time last year," Head coach Andy Ronan said.

The story of the meet, though, was senior Dave



Courtesy of www.goseawolves.org

Senior Dave deWolfe placed first in the five-mile race, establishing Stony Brook as a force to be reckoned with in the America East conference.

deWolfe, the overall winner. He ran 26:56.5 in the five-mile race, taking over with about a mile and a half left.

Coach Ronan's game plan was for neither deWolfe, nor anyone else to lead the race until after the first 3 miles. Ronan's

strategy worked perfectly as his top runners deWolfe and senior Mike Thompson were pulled through a blistering first mile of 5:04.

The mile splits and times weren't a concern to Ronan though. "Cross Country is not about time," he said. "It's about learning how to race individuals."

Shaped like a figure eight with two adjacent circles, the course at Central Connecticut is relatively flat, but traditionally slow, meaning that great times aren't frequently produced there. The race consists of five laps, and one hill that competitors climb on laps two and four.

The lead pack held five runners with deWolfe and Thompson fighting the other schools for position. In lap four deWolfe began to pull away.

"Dave started to do this shake like he wanted to go, and

once we hit the hill he just started to walk away from us," Thompson said. "He was in a different race than the rest of us. He was on a mission."

DeWolfe said that he came into the meet focused and his confidence never faltered throughout the race. "There was nothing easy about it," he said. "It was a hard effort."

Senior Jenny Payne also contributed a solid performance for the women. She placed second overall with a time of 18:58.07 in her 5K race. Payne said she felt tired and sluggish, but Ronan attributed her fatigue to hard training and it being still early in the season.

Another stellar performer on the women's side was freshman Laura Hixson. She placed ninth in her first meet, as a collegiate athlete, finishing in 19:27.88. On the men's side, Thompson followed deWolfe in fifth at 27:15.9. Jono

Brims fought through the finish line in 11th place at the 28:06.1 mark.

"The goal for both teams is just to be competitive in October, and to do that they just have to run and train hard," Ronan said. The conference meet, regional and the IC4A Championships all take place in October.

By their performance at the meet which included teams like UConn, Holy Cross, Wagner, and Rhode Island, SBU proved that it is capable of competing with any team in the Northeast region.

The men finished only behind Holy Cross, who placed first as a team. For the women, UConn won the meet and Holy Cross came in second, as SBU completed the top three.

"We were competitive with no one last year," Ronan said. "Now we've jumped ahead of all these guys."

Sports Events Put On Hold to Mourn Tragedy

By CHRISTOPHER HUNT
Statesman Editor

America screeched to a standstill as a result of the horrific events this past Tuesday. The sports world put all events and games on hold, and took the time to reflect on a reality outside the confines of the locker room.

The widespread effects have touched home in Stony Brook University. All games hosted by the university have been cancelled in the interest of safety for the athletes.

If not for the safety of all athletes who may be traveling, games have been cancelled to reserve the time for reflection and mourning. New York and the nation witnessed what was certainly the most devastating act of terrorism in American history.

"For the safety involving all of the athletes travelling to competition and out of respect for the terrible, terrible tragedies in our nation, we feel it would be best to leave this as a time for mourning," Dean of Physical Education and Athletics, Richard Laskowski said.

The Seawolves' Cross Country Invitational on Saturday has been



courtesy of sports.yahoo.com

Houston Astros look watch reports of the chaos during practice.

cancelled. The women's soccer team intended to host the Holiday Inn Express Tournament on Friday and Sunday, but that too has been cancelled. And the men's tennis team called off their season opener against Colgate.

Sports cancellations haven't been confined to SBU and the NCAA. Professional sports have also had a stoppage across the board.

place this weekend, but the NFL will make a decision some time today about the games this weekend. The championship bout between Felix Trinidad and Bernard Hopkins has been postponed. All golf tournaments were also put on hold. Major League Baseball ceased all play and the entire league schedule is on hold until Friday.

"It's a feeling of complete despair. You're angry. You're scared. You're in shock. And

America has put sports in the backseat where it belongs at a time like this. What has taken the forefront is the preservation of life. America has banded together in the relief of thousands of people directly affected by experiencing history in the making.

Most of the collegiate football games will take

you're pissed off," Mets catcher Mike Piazza told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. "For years, people took it for granted we'd never have a tragedy of this magnitude on American soil. It's a completely sad day for the victims—and everybody."

Many people left work and schools were closed because of this catastrophe. It's difficult for people to work when it seems that the country is crumbling around them. It's impossible to concentrate. Students are having trouble studying, while professors struggle to continue their lessons.

It's in the newspaper. It's on television. It's all over the Internet. It's everywhere. This is no time to play.

Everyone has to go back to work. Classes will go on. Athletes will have practice and will have to go back to competition. But, respect must be given to the people killed, injured or affected by this tragedy.

It's often said that athletes take the field ready for battle, or ready for war. These events are no metaphor. This is no catch phrase. It's no game.