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BNL Develops Anti-Terrorism Technology

By PAUL CONRAD
Statesman Staff

During and after the Sept. 11 attacks, heroic firefighters, police, and bystanders aided the victims. Now, nearly three months later, a new 20-member anti-terrorism group at the Brookhaven National Laboratory is working to develop technologies and approaches that will prevent such terrorist strikes from occurring again.

"Our scientists are determined to apply their skills to reduce the likelihood that the pain we experienced on September 11 is ever felt again," said Ralph James, Associate Laboratory Director for Energy, Environment, and National Security.

Combining most of the scientific disciplines within the lab, the group's efforts are developing science-based technologies that will help the nation predict, detect, and preempt terrorism. While emphasizing prevention, the lab is also developing state-of-the-art emergency response tactics.

Sensors are being developed for the detection of nuclear, chemical, and biological agents. Able to detect trace quantities of materials, these detectors could be used to check baggage at airports and other



At BNL, scientists are actively researching anti-terrorism measures.

transportation centers.

One system being tested uses laser beam that scatter patterns to locate chemical spills. It could also identify substances by their chemical fingerprints. Also under development are methods to detoxify nerve gas agents using an enzyme. This project could produce topical lotions that protect the skin. To develop vaccines and antidotes against biological weapons, scientists are

studying the structure of viruses.

In addition to chemical and biological technologies, building construction enhancements and security improvements are also under development.

These efforts include an award-winning jackhammer-like device that breaks up concrete and other debris in enclosed spaces. The working group is also designing a magnetic imaging tool to map iron structures

beneath debris. Material studies being conducted could lead to "smart-buildings" that are more resistant to explosive, chemical, and biological attacks.

To improve security at office building, airports, and other important infrastructures, scientists are using a weighted analysis of threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences. The Brookhaven Lab is exploring techniques to model and track aerosols and chemicals as they move through the air. In addition, scientists are developing training and role-playing exercises to help first responders prepare in advance for terrorist attacks.

With a holistic approach combining all science disciplines to prevent and respond to terrorist attacks, the Brookhaven National Laboratory is stepping up to the challenges imposed on our nation by the Sept. 11 attacks.

"The destructive and vicious attacks of September 11 created an enormous challenge to build an improved security framework for our nation...scientists at Brookhaven and elsewhere are now mobilizing to answer that challenge," concluded James.

Indian Dance Celebration Held at SAC

By ANJALI DOGRA
Statesman Editor

The Center for India Studies held its fourth annual benefit dinner on Dec. 1 at the SAC. The event, which had over 300 attendees, raised \$250,000 in pledges, in addition to the revenue from the tickets to the dinner.

Adjunct professor Kamala Narayanan who teaches dance at SBU and linguistics professor William Bright of the University of Colorado were honored for their outstanding India-related work. Dr. Azad K. Anand, the founder and president of the India Studies Foundation, was also an honoree of the dinner.

The night featured a classical dance performance and the release of the 80-page journal entitled "Dance Traditions of India." The journal, which was put together by members of the Center and displays ads from numerous individual and corporate sponsors, is another fund-raising effort.

"We would like to see if we can get some sort of state funding in the future," Associate Director of the Center, Kamal K. Sridhar said.

Currently, the primary source of

funding for the programs and courses offered by the Center are donations collected from events such as the annual dinner.

The Center, which will celebrate its fifth anniversary in April, is a relatively young department on campus. It has been very active in this time, however. It has sponsored numerous dance performances on campus and last semester, it organized a performance by sarod maestro, Amjad Ali Khan and his sons at Carnegie Hall.

Along with cultural performances, the Center has also sponsored a number of lecture series and panel discussions. It has brought in experts in language, literature, music, politics, and many other fields of study, and also works to bring educational programs to local school districts, libraries, and museums.

The Center has also served as a catalyst in the establishment of the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, which will begin functioning next year.

It grew out of a bottom-up process, not a top-down one. As such, its roots are in the curricular needs of students, the teaching and research interests of the faculty, and the values and aspirations of

the community," University President, Shirley Strum Kenny, said of the Center.

This is the result of a grass roots effort by the students to develop courses that studied disciplines ranging from philosophy to dance from the South Asian perspective.

Presently, the Center offers 14 courses, which can be used to fulfill its 21-credit minor in South Asian Studies. The number of students pursuing this minor has steadily increased since its inception.

According to Sridhar, the Center hopes to continue to bring in more expert scholars and run book discussions, intellectual panels, and lectures as well as expand its course offerings throughout the current academic year and in years to come.

President Kenny echoed Sridhar's optimism in her remarks at the benefit dinner. "The Indian community's support of the Center has been extraordinary. With this kind of support, I have no doubt that



Traditional Indian dance was a highlight of Saturday's festivities in the SAC.

the Center will grow from strength to strength."

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Student Senators Rage Against Polity Leadership

By ISAAC PFLAUM
Statesman Contributor

On Nov. 28 in the Union Bi-Level, Polity Senate fought yet another battle in its war for the Student Activity Fee. The word about the room was "decertification"; Polity's declared enemy was Fred Preston, Vice-President of Student Affairs.

But what is decertification, and why is such an important topic for Polity? The answer has everything to do with money, or more specifically with the control of over \$2 million in Student Activity fees.

Every student who attends Stony Brook pays a student activity fee (SAF). This money, approximately \$2.5 million annually, is the budget of Polity. All clubs on campus, with a few exceptions, get funding from the SAF. The Polity Senate, representing the student body as a whole, has the power to provide a variety of clubs with money to meet the interests of our diverse student body.

"Fred Preston is going to decertify Polity if we don't shape up," said Mike Bernardin, Vice President of the Commuter Student Association (CSA). "[Preston] is saying that we're not doing our jobs and that we're not being effective."

This year, Senate was several months late passing its budget. The budget was turned down twice by Preston before approval. One of the factors in the delay was the discovery that the financial information submitted to Senate by



Fred Preston continues to threaten decertification in face of Polity turmoil. *Statesman/Jeffrey Javidfar*

Council had gross errors within it.

Chris Balk cited low voter turnout as another irritant. Just over 10% of the student body voted in this fall's election; less than 2% voted in the subsequent run-off. "Low voter turn out is a big problem, but it isn't Polity's fault. Polity spend hundreds of dollars each election on advertising."

Balk asserted that the administration's restrictions on where fliers could be placed severely

reduced the effectiveness of advertising. Senator Mike Imprixis added, "There is no way that students can get word out without essentially standing on a soap box with a bull horn."

At the meeting on Wednesday, the Senate approved a motion to create a committee to a committee composed of at least 4 members from each branch of Polity that would come together on a weekly basis and discuss the problems of the

organization. Bernardin explained that Julius Shapiro, Polity Senator and Correspondence Secretary, met with Dr. Preston and came up with the idea. Shapiro did not respond to a request for an interview.

If this committee is unsuccessful in establishing open lines of communication among Polity members, Preston may go ahead with the decertification process. According to Bernardin, the effects on the student clubs would not be drastic.

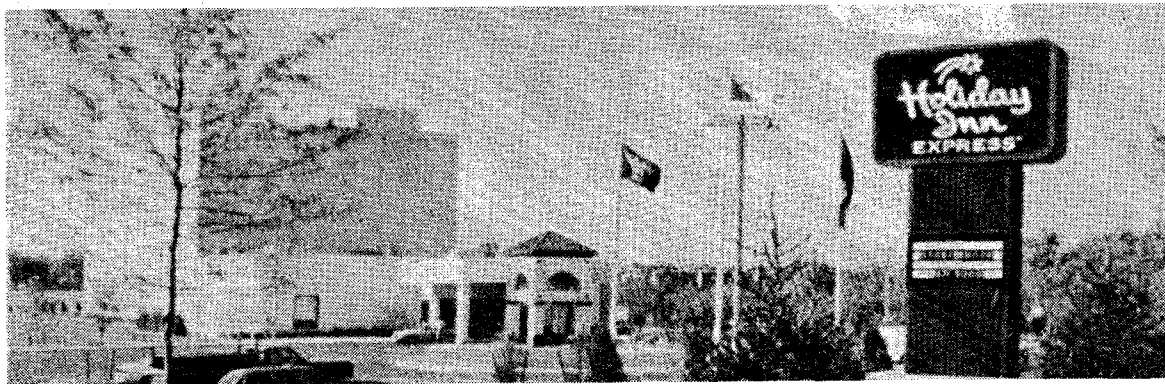
Imprixis agreed, and said that the government is decertified, groups would likely experience a brief lapse in funding.

The most drastic effects will be felt within Polity Corp. itself, added Balk. "The Senate will be a powerless body, and the students elected to Senate aren't going to have any power because they are going to be part of this defunct Polity Corp. "[Preston is] going to take the power to allocate away from Polity."

If Polity isn't going to have control of the SAF than who is? This question has yet to be answered. Preston, who declined an interview, has not publicly stated how he thinks this will come about.

Preston has received a lot of heat from Senators for his threats of decertification. "Preston is acting in his own interest because he thinks that it is in the students' interest, when in fact the students are speaking and he is not listening," said Balk.

The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, December 3, 2001



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A Thought From Rabbi Adam



There are two ways to look at everything. One could either approach a situation optimistically or pessimistically. In-depth or superficially. Similarly, a person can take a spiritual standpoint, or address the issue in a more pragmatic manner. Take, for example, the campus Good Campaign. The Good Campaign formed out of student reaction to the events of September 11th. It all began with an Oct. 16th Presidential speech that though "there's a lot of focus on our soldiers... there are other ways to be in the army... (for) one way to fight evil is to fight it with kindness". Consequently, students organized the Good Campaign to get as many people as possible to commit to doing a good deed in order to change the world for the good—a true war against evil. The Campaign itself, depending on how you look at it, consists of both secular realistic pragmatism and religious idealistic spirituality. For the pragmatic secular realist, the Good Campaign is a political grass-roots movement. For each person is registered with his/her good deed and when the Campaign amasses some 5,000 participants, the list will be mailed to the White House in the hopes that public encouragement will get the President to call a national good Campaign and spread the good. From this standpoint, the emphasis is on our own efforts, and, on that level, a grass-roots movement for good is politically achievable. On the flip side, the spiritually religious idealist sees the Good Campaign as a way of creating a world of good based on the concept of, "G-d bless America" - a world that reflects G-dly blessings through acts of kindness. From this standpoint, our efforts can only go so far, and the rest is up to G-d's blessing for a world of good—which, in traditional Biblical terms, is known as the Messianic Era. Where the pragmatic secular realist hopes for a grass roots mobilization for good, the spiritually religious idealist hopes for the heralding in of the Messianic Era. However, it is but two sides of the same coin—two different approaches to the same goal: a Good Campaign that will make a world of good.

SBU Students Discuss Islam

By GENE TULMAN
Statesman Editor

A discussion group entitled, "Understanding the Real Islam," focused on the differences between mainstream and fundamentalist forms of the Islamic religion. Alban Bailey, coordinator and leader of the session discussions, held a meeting of some thirty students at Dreiser College on Thursday night.

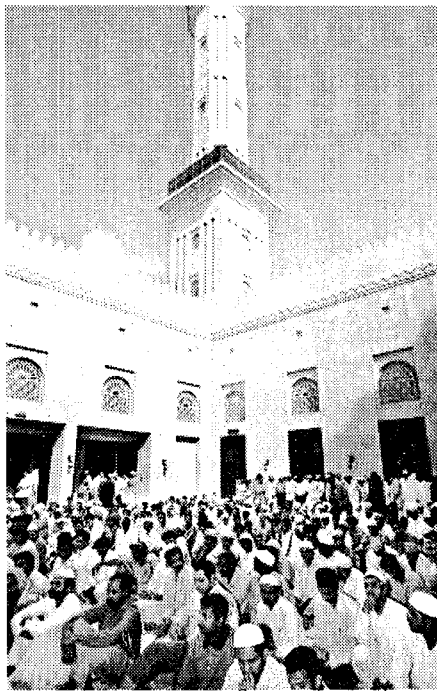
Bailey, a junior in the Honors College, verbalized a distinction between the types of Islam that are practiced under the Taliban government in Afghanistan and throughout the rest of the world. He summarized a few of the social injustices that the people of Afghanistan have experienced over the past two decades, noting such practices as public execution in the overall context of the Taliban predicament.

"It is important for people to realize that not all Muslims are terrorists," Atul Bahl, a senior student in the computer science program, said, referring to the widespread stereotypes about the members of the Islamic faith. "I think this discussion helped some people to realize the true nature of Islam."

Bailey showed a documentary film entitled, "Islam: There is no God but God," while serving pizza and refreshments as part of the evening's program. The film took the audience into the lives of a few Muslims, commenting on daily activities of those members of Islam who fully "submit" to Allah (Islamic term for God).

"One of the purposes of this session was to shine some light on the differences between the real Islamic religion and the Taliban's interpretation of Islam," Bailey said. "I wanted to convey to people that the real Islamic intentions are not very different from those of the other world religions, namely the belief in a superior God, respect for human dignity, and promotion of harmony in one's environment."

Following the movie, students from various religious backgrounds discussed the faith of Islam. Some people asked questions about the purposes of a man's beard as well as a woman's hijab (head covering) in the Muslim tradition. Some students, being members of the Islamic community, clarified some misconception about the religion, offering fairly detailed answers to the



A group of Muslims praying at a mosque, an Islamic place of worship.

questions of those students who showed interest.

Ali Khan, member of the Muslim faith, answered several questions about the laws

and traditions of the religion, elaborating on the major differences between Islam and Christianity. He explained that one important distinction is that Muslims consider Jesus Christ to have been a prophet, but not the son of God, whereas Christians believe that Jesus was in fact the son of God.

"I learned that Islam is not too far away in terms of its relationship with Christianity," Kentis Brown, a history student, said, following a discussion on Islam's place as a major world religion. "Many of the same things that I, as a Christian believe, Muslims also believe, and although there are some technical points that we differ on, the two religions are very similar in their ideals."

Khan went on to reinforce the film's theme, explaining that Muslims believe in one and only one indivisible Allah. He explained how a Muslim's relationship with Allah affects the quality of his or her afterlife in Islamic ideology.

"You can't stereotype cultures based on what some people do," Adam Schlagman said. "You can't blame all Muslims for the terrorist attacks on September 11th."

U.S. Economy Affects Holiday Shopping



Courtesy of www.yahoo.com

By KAREN RICE
Statesman Staff

Many Stony Brook students do not consider the United States' slowing economy a high priority this holiday season. Many students are choosing to spend money according to their own needs and not the needs

of their country.

"My holiday spending has nothing to do with the economy," said Tim Mucci, 25, a junior from North Massapequa. "It has everything to do with what's in my bank account."

Other students are choosing to expend more money this holiday, but for reasons other than the U.S. economy.

"I'm spending more this year," said Paul Drageland, 26, a senior from East Islip studying athletic training. "It's just because I know more people now."

Many business and economy students share in the apathetic approach towards America's suffering economy.

"If I happen to see [high] quality stuff then I will purchase more things," said Pradeepta Roy, 21, a senior from

Ronkonkoma studying business and economy. "But, if I see bargains then I will be just as willing to buy those."

Other students may not seriously concern themselves with the U.S. economy, but instead use it as a justification to buy more.

"I'm not going to spend more than usual this year and I'm not really worried about the economy," said Jessica Mabli, 22, a junior from Rocky Point studying English. "But, I use it as an excuse to get my boyfriend to take me out more and spend more money on me."

However, there are still a few students who are openly concerned about the U.S. economy but do not have the means to help repair it.

"If I had the ability to spend more money this year then I would be happy to spend more



Courtesy of www.yahoo.com

Several customers stand on line after some holiday shopping.

and help out," said Peter Hammarberg, 22, a junior from Bayshore studying English. Hammarberg wanted to help boost the economy but doubted the beneficial effect one student could have. "I'm just a broke college student, I'm not Donald Trump," he said.

Microsoft's Xbox Hits The Market

By TED LAI
Statesman Staff

With the holiday season approaching, many new games and toys can be found on the market. One of the newest choices this year is Microsoft's game console Xbox.

This game console sells for \$299 and faces stiff competition from the other electronic entertainment systems on the market. However, the Xbox seems to rise above the pack with what it can offer the typical video game player, as well as the average college student.

The clear and detailed graphics are noticeable as soon as it is turned on. The Xbox can also play DVDs, in addition to games, allowing it to provide two forms of entertainment for the user.

It features Dolby 5.1 surround sound, an 8 GB hard drive, and a built-in Ethernet port, which will allow users to utilize high-



Courtesy of www.startcollecting.com

Microsoft's Xbox is being sold for \$299.

speed Internet connections when the Xbox's online network launches. These features allow the Xbox to stand out as an advanced and unique system as compared to other game consoles currently on the market.

"Xbox is one of the great new systems

out there," said Junior Lily Vuksanovic.

"If you have seen the graphics or played a game, you would have thought you were watching a cinema instead of playing an ordinary video game."

The Xbox is basically a miniature computer. It runs on a 733 MHz Intel processor, has 64 MB of RAM, and a state of the art video card from Nvidia. A PC with similar features would retail anywhere from \$500 to \$700, so the \$299 price tag is a lot lower than compared with the usual.

Games run for approximately \$50. Some of the roughly 20 games now available include "Dead or Alive 3," "Halo," and "Shrek." By the end of the year, 30 games are expected to be in circulation.

The games that run on the Xbox are extremely realistic. One game still in development is "WWF War is Raw." In addition to the basics such as Tag team

matches, 1 on 1, and Royal Rumble, one of the catching features of this game is in its game-play depth and realism.

The very basis of the game and the wrestlers themselves are designed very graphically, as is the standard for the usual Xbox's hardware. The wrestlers look exactly as their real life counterpart and act like them too.

That means that you can see the Rock and people's eyebrows, Undertaker's motorcycle entrance, and Kane taking five minutes to get to the ring.

To add even more realism, the wrestlers are accompanied by their managers. Once you are about to end the match and win the title, the opponent's manager could distract the referee. Then, you'll have to beat that manager up. Through these kinds of graphics, the game tries to capture as much of actuality as possible.

President Shirley Strum Kenny
 invites the Stony Brook community
 to the first presentation
 in the 2001-2002 Presidential Lecture Series.
 Celebrating Diversity

* * *

“War and Peace and the World Religions:
 Indic Contributions to the Dialogue”

Robert Thurman

Author, Scholar-Activist, Advisor to the Dalai Lama,
 will discuss insights on India's cultural experiences and religious traditions
 and their contributions to world peace.

* * *

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Campus Life Time

12:40 p.m.-2:10 p.m.

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To Glimpse the Inner Workings of the UN

By ARIF RAFIQ AND FAIYYAZ ALLOO
 Statesman Editor and Contributor

New York City was under high security
 early this November as the 56th United
 Nations General Assembly session, originally
 scheduled for late-September, finally
 convened after being postponed in response
 to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade
 Center and the Pentagon.

It was in the midst of this highly exciting
 environment that a group of approximately
 30 Stony Brook University students,
 predominantly from Prof. Hermann
 Kurthen's Federated Learning Community
 in Globalization seminar, paid a visit to the
 UN and met with one of its more notable
 figures.

We arrived near the United Nations
 building mid-morning, where we had to pass
 a roadblock surrounded by New York City
 police officers and Secret Service agents to
 enter the building. Once inside, we underwent
 a light security check. The visitors from Stony
 Brook were split into two groups and went
 on separate, but identical, tours of the historic
 landmark.

One of the major parts of the tour was
 the viewing of the mosaic based on Normal
 Rockwell's famous painting, "The Golden
 Rule." It was donated to the UN in 1985 by
 First Lady Nancy Reagan on the occasion of
 the organization's fortieth anniversary. The
 mosaic depicts people of a wide array of
 ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds, and



Courtesy of www.un.org

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General, above.
 reads, "Do unto Others as You Would Have
 Them Do unto You." Rockwell sought to
 stress this moray as the common theme of all
 major faiths.

We were also able to view sessions of
 the Socio-Economic Council and the General
 Assembly, which was holding a session to
 discuss the UN Year of Dialogue Among
 Civilizations. At the same time, the Security
 Council was in session deliberating on issues
 concerning the Democratic Republic of
 Congo.

We spent our last hour in a frank and
 intimate discussion with Ahmad Kamal, who
 formerly served as Pakistan's ambassador to
 the UN and is the current president of The
 Ambassador's Club at the United Nations.

Ambassador Kamal began with a brief
 introduction of the UN, in which he stressed
 the relative parity between member states, and

Continued on Page 7

NATO, Russia Getting Closer Together

By RALPH D'AMBROSIO
Statesman Staff

When NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, was created over fifty years ago, it was designed with one major purpose: to curtail the spread of communism from the former Soviet Union. Perhaps further demonstrating the end of the Cold War, and a major shift in the concerns of world powers, there is serious discussion on offering Russia an equal voice on some NATO policies.

Among other things, this would imply that Russia would possess veto power over some policy decisions made by NATO. This proposal was made by the Secretary General of NATO, Lord Robertson. Lord Robertson claims that this proposal has the support of President Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and other leaders of countries that are already in NATO. If the proposal carried out, it would cause Russia to become a full partner with the West.

No official word has come from

President Bush's administration concerning this proposal. A spokesman of President Bush, however, has referred to earlier comments that Bush has made when President Bush and President Vladimir V. Putin met last week. President Bush said that NATO should build an "avenue of cooperation" between Russia and NATO. At that time, President Bush had also mentioned that NATO members and Russia are working together to fight terrorism, regional instability, and other problems of the world.

It goes without saying that the terrorist attacks on September 11 and Russia's commitment to fighting terrorism had caused an increased willingness of cooperation between the West and Russia. Mr. Putin, when speaking at a meeting of the Russian Parliament, said that these agreements are not meant to be short-term and this desire for cooperation has been influenced by "changes in the world."

At present Russia has an advisory role



Courtesy of www.putin.ru
Russian President Vladimir Putin has been improving connections with NATO.

on NATO policy as part of a joint permanent council. The Kremlin had argued that NATO was determined in "containing Russia", and that the council opposed Russian interests as a single body. In other words, it was NATO (as a single entity, not 19 separate countries) against Russia.

At one point, Russia had boycotted NATO's spring parliamentary assembly due to a possibility of NATO expanding into the Balkans. Now, this may be a dead issue because there is some indication that Russia may allow the alliance into the Balkans, close to Russian borders.

The number of issues in which Russia would have an equal say with other members of NATO still needs to be determined. These issues will most likely include antiterrorist activities, theater missile defense, and practical military cooperation. Russian officials have also suggested that Russia may want a say on combating organized crime and drug trafficking.

From The Caves of Afghanistan

By MARC NEWMAN
Statesman Staff

Many perspectives on the "situation" in Afghanistan have emerged since the Sept. 11 attacks. Few opinions have emerged from the Middle East, and even fewer from those who have lived in what is now the focus of US military action. Sponsored by the GSO organization on campus, Fahima Vargetts briefly retold her story of growing up in Afghanistan last Wednesday in the Student Activities Center.

Part of the International Focus Lecture Series, Vargetts gave a one-hour account of her life in Afghanistan, and why she chose to flee the country in 1979 for the United States. Vargetts began her lecture explaining that "Women have been used as targets to promote violence."

Vargetts spent half of her lecture time explaining that Afghanistan was not always a symbolic oppressor of women. Veils were optional in the 1950s and women were part of parliament and members of the presidential cabinet by the mid-1960s. Medicine, teaching, engineering and law were common female

professions.

Vargetts worked as women's rights activist shortly after graduating from The University at Kabul with a degree in chemistry. When the then USSR took control of the country by 1978, Vargetts efforts as women's rights activist were greatly hampered. She described this era in Afghanistan as "a dark page in its history."

In an attempt to battle the communist takeover, the United States, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia funneled, what Vargetts estimates to be nearly 40 billion dollars into "fundamental religious groups". This included the likes of the Taliban and the Northern Alliance.

When in 1989 the USSR's communist interests faltered, it gave up its battle with the religious fundamentalists and pulled its military out of the region. Not soon after, the King of Afghanistan was overthrown by one of the religious fundamental groups in Afghanistan, the Taliban.

Here, Vargetts retold stories of members of her own family and other women who had acid thrown on their faces, among other horrid acts that

prevented them from leaving their homes. One story she recalled was of a family's six year old girl and her 70 year old grandmother being raped before their family by a member of the Taliban, before both were killed.

"The world did not listen to the woman's cries," Vargetts explained. "Even today, we talk of human rights, but not women's rights in Afghanistan." To read more about some of the 50,000 women needlessly killed since the Taliban took power in 1992, Vargetts suggested visiting the website www.hawca.org.

Vargetts ended by suggesting that there will be no peace in the United States until there is peace in the Middle Eastern region of the world. "Every single day we're living with Sept. 11, what lasted only 18 minutes here." A member of a world peace group, Vargetts suggested that US Military action was inappropriate, and that the US need look at more developed foreign policy to prevent future military funding mishaps such as this from happening in the future. She stated "American foreign policy cannot see ten years from now."

She noted however that "There is no negotiating with these men with guns...they had gone to schools to train them to blow things up." She also hoped that the UN Conference in Bonn, Germany looking to rebuild Afghanistan would do so without the involvement of the Northern Alliance, and would include more women voices in its construction. Overall, she wanted the former king installed in Afghanistan and saw it as a "welcome change."

Reactions to Fahima Vargett's speech were met with applause and occasional laughter of support. One student, Ronen Akkavy, explained that he had come to the lecture because "American political figures didn't contribute to my understanding of this war." Vargetts speech made Akkavy, "feel comfortable in [his] understanding."

Other students were even harsher critics of typical information they received in the US. Renee Dirsta explained that "The US government has been disgusting in the Middle East." Vargetts provided for her "a reliable and interesting perspective," that Dirsta described as "mostly accurate."

Suicide Bombings Stir Arafat to Act

By KARIN LAUB
Associated Press Writer

A series of weekend suicide bombings against Israel killed 25 people and wounded nearly 200, prompting Yasser Arafat to order dozens of Islamic militants arrested and to promise harsh action. But Israel was deeply skeptical, with hard-liners calling for the removal of the Palestinian leader.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon cut short his U.S. trip to rush home after meeting with President Bush, who denounced the bombings as "horrific acts of murder."

Bush and other world leaders pressed Arafat to crack down on militants. The Palestinian leader "must do everything in his power to find those who murdered innocent Israelis and bring them to justice," Bush said.

Images of bodies lying on sidewalks and blood-smeared survivors crying out in agony filled TV screens, and Israelis had a growing sense that 14 months of Israeli-Palestinian fighting had reached a crossroads.

"It must be understood that we are at a turning point," said Cabinet Minister Matan Vilnai. He did not say how Israel would retaliate but warned the Palestinian Authority was "endangering its existence" by not cracking down on militants.

The carnage began in Jerusalem just before midnight Saturday, when two suicide bombers set off their nail-filled bombs on Ben Yehuda street, an area of cafes and bars packed with young Israelis. Ten people, mostly teens, were killed, and 150 were wounded.

At noon Sunday, a third Palestinian blew himself up in a bus in the northern port city of Haifa, sending bodies flying and destroying the vehicle. Fifteen people were killed and 40 injured.

The Islamic militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for the bombings, in retaliation for Israel's slaying of a Hamas leader nine days ago. Three suicide attackers were killed in the bombings. Hamas said its gunmen were behind the shooting Sunday of an Israeli driver in the Gaza Strip. Israeli soldiers killed the two gunmen in that attack.

Near the West Bank city of Jenin, the army said troops shot and killed four armed Palestinians. The four approached an army position with the intention of carrying out an attack, the army said.

Arafat promised to take harsh action against the militants and declared a state of emergency in the Palestinian areas. Palestinian police, accompanied by journalists, began rounding up Islamic militants.

An official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said 90 militants have been arrested, including senior Hamas leaders Ismail Abu Shanab and Ismail Haniya. Security chief Jibril Rajoub said those involved in the bombings "would pay the price."

Skeptical Israelis pointed to a string of past broken promises. "Arafat will be judged according to his actions, not his declarations," said Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

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The Stony Brook Statesman welcomes letters, opinions and information about events and issues on or around campus. Write to:

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PO Box 1530 / Stony Brook, NY 11790
or: Room 057 / Student Union / Campus Zip 3200
Phone: (631) 632-6479 Fax: (631) 632-9128

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Editorial

Thank Goodness for Tattletales

Amid all the bombs erupting in Afghanistan and Palestinian suicide bombers taking too many innocents with them in Israel, let's take a minute and examine some planned explosions which never went off.

Five students of New Bedford High School in Massachusetts were recently arrested for allegedly plotting to kill students and teachers. According to New Bedford Police Chief Arthur Kelly, the students "talked that they were going to try to outdo Columbine, that they were going to detonate an explosive device, that they were going to shoot students and faculty, and eventually commit suicide."

The students (four males and one female), ranging in age from 15 to 17, were all arraigned on charges of conspiracy to commit murder, conspiracy to commit assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and possession of ammunition.

What stopped the attacks from occurring? On October 17, a fellow student tipped off a teacher about a possible attack against the school. Three days later, a school janitor discovered a letter "explicitly outlining [an attack involving] explosives, weapons, and injuring or killing students and faculties", according to investigators.

A search of the school followed, and arrests were eventually made.

That sigh you just heard belongs to an America relieved

that such a vicious attack never became reality, as all signs pointed to a carefully coordinated, meticulously calculated massacre. Thankfully, the students involved have been removed from school.

So what do we take away from this? The student who tipped off a teacher and set the investigative wheels in motion is nothing short of a hero. Too often, students choose not to come forward with information about a potential attack. As we have seen, this can literally be a decision between life and death.

In light of this fact, it is prudent to remind the campus community about SBU's protective resources. Any suspicious or criminal information should be reported to the CRIMESTOPPERS HOTLINE, 632-TIPS (632-8477). All calls are completely confidential. In addition, if a tip results in an arrest and conviction, the caller may be eligible for a financial reward.

Moreover, emergencies may also be directly reported to University Police by simply dialing 333 from any campus extension. An officer is available 24/7 to field any such calls.

Everyone on campus should take note: it is far better to dial these numbers too frequently than too rarely. Any threat, however harmless it may sound, is still a threat. Take advantage of our resources, and help keep this campus safe.

Cultural Commentary

EducAsians and ImaginAsians across GenerAsians

By JOANNE YOUNG
Statesman Contributor

On Tuesday, Dec. 4, the Muslim Student Association will feature Shaykh Samer Al-Raey speaking about Prophet Muhammed: the Seal of the Prophets. The talk will be at 5:15 p.m. in the Union Bi-Level.

Also on the 4th, there will be a Self Defense Workshop: Mind and Body, led by Karina Kim and Ruth Rivas of the Counseling Center. Safety tips will be given by Campus Security (the most underpaid employees on campus!) The workshop will be in the Union Bi-Level at 10 p.m.

Robert Thurman, scholar in Tibetan Buddhism and the

first American to be ordained a Tibetan monk, will be the kick-off speaker for the President's Lecture Series on Diversity on Wednesday, Dec. 5 during Campus Life Time in the SAC Auditorium. His lecture, "War and Peace and the World Religions: Indic Contributions to the Dialogue" is free and open to the public. An advisor to the Dalai Lama, Thurman was chosen by Time Magazine as one of the most influential Americans in 1997.

This column from EducAsians SBU will be published in Statesman on Thursdays as a public service. It will include event information, and if there is space, news, reviews, art and lit.

Letter to the Editor

We Are As Diverse As Diversity Gets

Dear Editor:

The Distinguished Brothers of Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity, Inc. of the Theta Gamma chapter at Stony Brook University would like to extend its deepest apologies to anyone that may have been offended by the actions of a few select individuals.

On Nov. 7, a few members who were a part of this organization at the Auburn University campus in Texas demonstrated deplorable behavior. The article describing that was printed in *The Statesman* on Nov. 8. The Brothers of Delta Sigma Phi at Stony Brook condemn the actions of these individuals as disgusting and reprehensible. Their irresponsible and childish behavior has earned them no respect and actual suspension from the Fraternity. In fact, as of Nov. 13, the Auburn's charter as a Chapter was revoked. Jon Hockman, Executive Director of Delta Sigma Phi, said, "We realize the negative and lasting effects that these actions have fostered. The closing of this chapter is a categorical statement that our organization will not stand for behavior such as this."

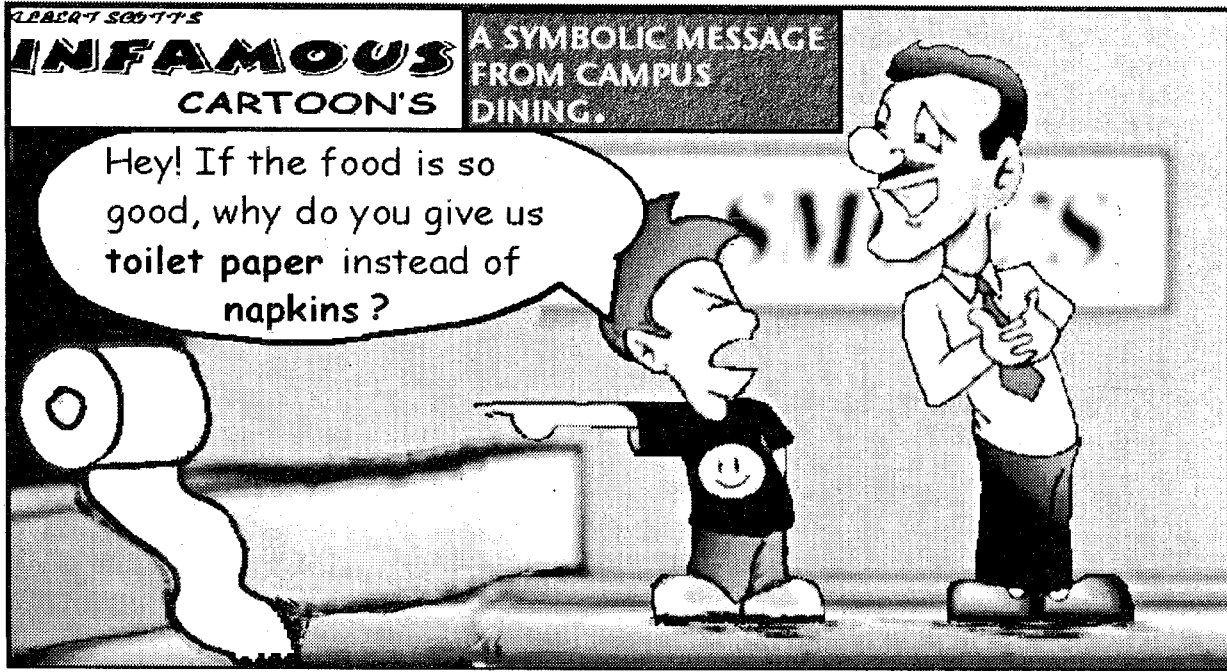
Delta Sigma Phi does not adhere to any of the beliefs displayed by those at Auburn. We also understand that some may have been offended by their actions. Again, we extend our apologies. The very tenet of Delta Sigma Phi is diversity. The letters of Delta Sigma Phi, DSF, stand for Change the Sum of Brotherhood. The former President of Delta Sigma Phi at the Theta Gamma chapter of Stony Brook, Ramy Ramadan Nassar, said, "We want to make it clear that the Brothers of Delta Sigma Phi believe in the true meaning of diversity and uphold it to the fullest. We condemn the actions of the selected few at the Auburn campus."



SBU's chapter of Delta Sigma Phi.

I take great pride in my letters and, Lord only knows, I worked hard for them. Those of you who know us know we are all about diversity. Just by taking a look at the Brothers, you will see faces from all regions of the world and multiple ethnicities. We do not discriminate. The Founding Fathers of our Brotherhood were of the Christian, Jewish, and Islamic faiths. We are as diverse as diversity can get. We will redouble our efforts to ensure that every member appreciates and respects all human beings. Today, Delta Sigma Phi maintains its commitment to all mankind. As the Delta Sigma Phi Policy of Diversity states, "Membership is open to all men without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, ancestry, citizenship, marital status or any other classification protected by law or ordinance."

Jahangir "Jigga" Zaheer
Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity, Inc.



Letter to the Editor

Freddy Fan Speaks Out

Dear Editor,
I am a French exchange student and would just feel better about letting you know how much I appreciate your student paper here at Stony Brook. Especially the part you call "On Truth". I think of this section as, how do you say—very insightful. In particular, the article of Nov. 15, called "Where does fulfillment lie" reminded me very much of one of our own favorite philosophers—Henri Bergson.

Where Mr. Dav's talks about "...what really is this position of fulfillment is this satisfaction with life, it is something that comes about by an actualization of life, through action in, it, an action that, we will come to see, is by an underlying desire", I not only inspect an underlying Bergsonism, in a not so covert belief in the "elan vital" [the vital life force itself], but also, I would add, a desire to better understand one of Freud's great legacies, Jacques Lacan himself.

Thinking and feeling without their intellects, anyone but these American philosophers could see that life lies outside the narrow double yellow lines of intellectual introspection. I remember the American movie Fight Club, and the so-called Sokol affair as good examples of why American philosophers should never pretend to be making soap while really just dirtying themselves in their own filth.

Don't be beaten down by this, as my countryman Gilles Deleuze might say, hierarchical tree-thought. Good thought always lies at its own grass roots. There is power in the people. Even in America! Thank you for letting me have a piece of the American pie.

-Jachere

SBU Visits the United Nations

Continued from Page 4

then answered a long series of questions put forth by the Stony Brook students.

The first question was in regards to the UN Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations. Ambassador Kamal responded by emphasizing the necessity of this initiative, in light of the events of Sept. 11, as a preventative measure against a "clash of civilizations."

Another student asked how the United Nations sought to further institutionalize the involvement of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in its proceedings. The Ambassador spoke of the strong opposition he received when he proposed measures of this sort, and said it was

unlikely that any tangible results would come in the near future.

A meeting with an articulate and high-profile representative of the United Nations, combined with the exciting pre-General Assembly environment, helped demonstrate the relative importance of this world body in the field of international politics.

Despite the criticisms of the United Nations as an archaic or ineffective organization, it maintains an integral role in settling global conflicts and promoting global cooperation and integration. The discussion of the nature and role of the United Nations is a significant component of the Federated Learning Community in Globalization program.

Lesbians



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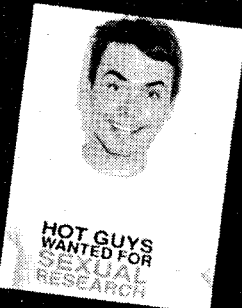
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And You Thought Star Wars Fans Were Bad

By CYNTHIA OFUNDEM
Statesman Staff

Normally, when writing movie reviews, the tendency is to talk about the details--the acting, the storyline and style of the movie. For the first time ever, I feel if I only do that, you may not quite get a sense of the Harry Potter experience.

First off, I have never read the book, but have been planning to for a very long time. I think just about every other person I know is a huge fan. When I initially found out there was going to be a movie, I knew it was going to be huge. However, I do not think anyone knew just how big.

The first thing that startled me was that this film was made with relatively no star power, and yet had a budget slightly over \$110 million. I assumed that the money was spent on special effects—and



Courtesy of Peter Mountain/Warner Brothers (NY Times)

Harry Potter and his two friends shine in the first movie installment of the best-selling book series.

I was right, for a change.

Believe it or not, I tried to get tickets on Thursday to see the movie open in Times Square, and discovered that it was sold out for the next 3 days. This was definitely going to be bigger than "Star Wars." Sorry, George Lucas.

I finally got tickets after waiting a little too long, and my friends and I walked (in all honesty, it was more like

ran) into the movie theatre and grabbed our seats.

I have never seen so many adults fighting for seats and demonstrating such childish behavior. It was 11 p.m., and I am almost certain there was not a single kid in the audience.

As soon as the lights went out, it was total chaos. Everyone was excited. Some people whispered

loudly, while others yelped with joy as if they had been waiting for this moment their entire lives.

As the movie opens, we see a sign in a residential area, a sign which reads "Privet Drive." Simultaneously with the appearance of these words, there was a roar of applause. Harry Potter had just begun.

I should probably now

get into the usual routine and give you the details of the movie, flooding you with reasons why you should see or skip this one. But I'll simply say that this is a definite see.

This movie is for the kid in everyone. It's for the people who wish they could be magicians, and who wish that wishes could come true. It's for those who always wanted to fly, and for those who believed in superheroes.

This is a movie for all ages, with terrific child actors who do not simply act the parts, but become them. I would tell you so much more, but I do not want to ruin it for you.

Walk—or run, if you like—to the movie theatre. All I have to say is that after seeing the movie, the first thing I did was buy the entire Harry Potter collection. If you have not read the books yet, watch the movie and you will be at the bookstore, too.

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The Stony Brook Statesman Monday, December 3, 2001



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National Student Exchange Information Sessions for Fall 2001, in SAC 309; Thursday 11/1 at 2:30; Wednesday 11/7 at 1; Friday 11/16 at 1; Wednesday 11/28 at 4; Tuesday 12/4 at 5. For more information call Barbara Fletcher 632-6712

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Faculty Student Association

Press Release

Meal Plan Resolutions Committee investigates customer concerns about take out containers

Stony Brook, New York, November 30, 2001: It was brought to the attention of Campus Dining Services that the take out containers offered to customers were (1) considered flimsy and (2) the portion sizes in take out containers was not consistent. Campus Dining Services brought this customer concern to the FSA Meal Plan Resolutions Committee. The FSA Meal Plan Resolutions Committee is comprised of students, the dining service contractor senior management, campus Administration, and the FSA Board of Directors.

Starting on November 26, the Resolutions Committee offered customers new containers for their take out items. Customers have been concerned that they may be getting smaller portions with these new containers. Prices for takeout items were made based on the size of an actual paper plate. The new container is equal in portion size to the paper plate. Campus Dining Services wants to meet the needs of students and would like to hear your feedback. Please visit our website at www.campusdining.org and fill out our short survey telling us what you think.

The next Meal Plan Resolutions Committee Meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 5 at Campus Dining Service's office at the Kelly Dining Center. Please submit your feedback prior to this date so that the committee can review it.

Make Important Decisions About Stony Brook's Dining Program

Meal Plan Resolutions Committee Accomplishments

Additional Beverage Selections Approved

Planet Java
Additional Powerade Flavors
Glaceau Vitamin Water (Variety of Flavors)
Mitts Natural Fruit Nectars
Yoo-Hoo Chocolate Drink
Bawls

New Healthy Food Option Approved

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The Meal Plan Resolutions Committee is seeking new student members!

Call Ken Johnson
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632-6509

SBU Captures HIE Tourney Crown

Jordan's MVP Performance Powers Seawolves to a .500 Record



Courtesy of www.goseawolves.org

Sherry Jordan was named the HIE tournament MVP.

By JEFFREY JAVIDFAR
Statesman Editor

November 30, 2001—En route to capturing tournament

MVP honors, sensational sophomore Sherry Jordan notched her second consecutive double-double, helping Stony Brook edge heavily favored Loyola Marymount 67-61, in the championship game of the Holiday Inn Express Invitational on Saturday afternoon.

"This was a big win for us over a very good team," said head coach Trish Roberts. "Coming back and playing in front of our home crowd after a tough road trip to California was a big help"

Although the Seawolves were 13-1 at home last year, Loyola were the favorites to win the championship game having entered the tournament coming off of a huge win over Pac-10

powerhouse Arizona St.

"Loyola thought they were just gonna come in here and take the game," said Jordan. "We showed them wrong. It was a real big win for us."

On a day when SBU shot 60% from the foul line and made only two three-pointers, coach Trish Roberts' defense first philosophy was key to the Seawolves' protecting their spotless home record. The tournament hosts took advantage of their 13 steals to score several easy buckets in transition.

The Seawolves' sophomore trio of Jordan, Theresa LoParrino, and Danielle DeGiorgio were also instrumental in the upset as they poured in 46 of the

Seawolves' 67 total points and grabbed 28 of the team's 41 rebounds.

The Seawolves took advantage of a 16-6 run during a six-minute stretch in the second half, to break a 49-49 tie and stake themselves to an eight-point Stony Brook lead with just 42 seconds left in the game. The Lions could get no closer than four in the final seconds, as Erika Shipley and LoParrino each hit key free throws to ice the game.

LoParrino, who was named to the All-Tournament Team, cited a speech given by Roberts during a 30-second timeout as the turning point in the game. "We didn't want to loose [the game]," said LoParrino. "Coach told us that

the next five minutes of the game will determine what happens to the outcome."

Jordan, who was running on fumes the entire game after playing 37 minutes in the late game the night before, still managed to capture HIE Tournament Most Valuable Player honors. In the two-day stretch, Jordan was in particularly good form as she posted 45 points, 33 rebounds, 12 steals, and 4 assists.

"It was a whole team effort," said Jordan, MVP trophy in hand. "You play hard and do what you have to do. To tell you the truth I think 'T' [LoParrino] should have won it."

Sophomores Torches Penn in HIE Tournament

By CHRISTOPHER HUNT
Statesman Editor

November 29, 2001 — It's a wonder smoke alarms weren't wailing in the Indoor Sport Complex on Friday night. Sophomore forward Sherry Jordan had enough fire in her game to scorch the University of Pennsylvania, leading SBU to a 77-56 win.

Jordan tortured Penn in the post. She hit jumpers. It looked like she was involved in every play. "I just went out there and did my job," commented Jordan.

Jordan worked overtime, finishing three steals shy of a triple double. She racked up 30 points, 11 rebounds, and seven steals, and played all but about two minutes of the game.

"Sherry is a great player," senior captain Jill George said. "No one can stop her. She's athletic in every sense of the word."

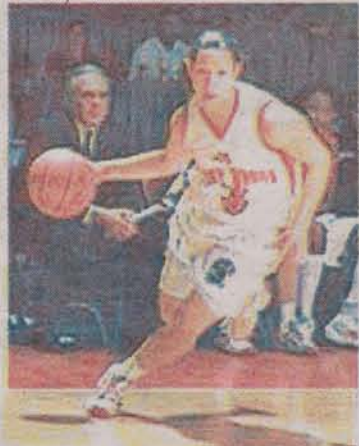
SBU hosted the Holiday Inn Express Tournament coming off a three-game losing streak, the most disappointing to the Long Island University

team. The Seawolves recently have kept games close until halftime, then usually seemed complacent in the second half.

Head coach Trish Roberts told the team before the tournament that the first five minutes of the second half would determine the outcome of the game.

At halftime SBU trailed 28-25 but in those first five minutes of the second half the Seawolves went on a 13-5 run.

"We had to be enthusiastic just to get back on the right foot," Jordan said. "This is



Courtesy of www.goseawolves.org

Erika Shipley and the Seawolves stunned Penn on defense.

home court and you got to protect your home. It was a needed win."

Shooting troubled Stony Brook in the first half. They shot only 32.1 percent from the field. But in the second, their shooting percentage rose with their defensive intensity.

Jordan's shooting touch was contagious in the second half, as the team shot 56.3 percent from the field.

The 2-3 zone they played looked impenetrable and when it seemed like Penn found a way to score, SBU threw out something different.

They flashed a 1-2-2 zone, where Jordan faked like she was dropping back into the 2-3 then she would race to the top and help trap the ball handler.

They pressured the Quakers into turnovers that translated into fast breaks for the Seawolves.

Penn tried to force SBU to shoot from outside throughout the game but when the Seawolves continued to nail jumpers, Penn switched their defense and tried to run a zone

full-court press. This, however, only created more easy baskets for Stony Brook.

Point guard Theresa LoParrino can attest to the ease with which SBU scored. She turned in a breakout performance emerging from her recent offensive slump.

LoParrino scored 15 points in the second half finishing with 22 points and five assists.

It seemed that every time Jordan didn't have a big play, she did. She nailed five three-pointers in the game, four of them in the second half. If she wasn't feeding Jordan in the post, she was hitting jumpers.

LoParrino hit back-to-back three-pointers in the closing 5:36 of the game that sparked a 13-2 run to end the game.

SBU's defense handcuffed Penn's leading scorer Jewel Clark. She averaged 17.8 points per game and 8.5 rebounds heading into the HIE tournament.

Clark shot 0-4 in the second half, finishing with six points and five personal fouls.

The Seawolves advanced to the championship game



Courtesy of www.goseawolves.org

Point guard Theresa LoParrino scored 22 points in SBU's win.

against Loyola-Marymount played on Saturday.

Seawolves Notebook:

Danyelle Ingram dislocated her shoulder in her first few seconds of play. It is the second time she dislocated her right shoulder and she is out for the rest of the season. Ingram came off of her best collegiate game against JMU scoring 12 points with three rebounds.