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Child Care Center Ends Inaugural Semester



Courtesy of www.sunysb.edu

The Chapin Care Center will have 34 full-time workers to look after the 97 children.

By CHRISTOPHER LATHAM
Editor Emeritus

In some form or another, nursery services have been available at Stony Brook for nearly 30 years. This semester marked the opening of the Stony Brook Child Care Center, the first campus

facility designed specifically for youth day care.

Though plans had been in the works for the last four years, the new building, located on South Drive across from the South P Lot, officially opened its doors on Sept. 12. Program director Lucille Otto said it was an emotional time for the staff.

"This was a very big project for all of us," she said. "Everyone moved in the weekend prior to Sept. 11 and we had our final inspection the day of the attacks. Obviously, we didn't have a huge celebration."

Otto assured that the center has been operating business-as-usual since then. With a staff of 34 full-time workers, 20-30 part-time student assistants and various interns, there are more than enough eyes on call to look after the 97 children in the program. The center also offers a number of family oriented parenting-workshops, on topics such as child discipline, sibling rivalry and juggling schoolwork with parenting.

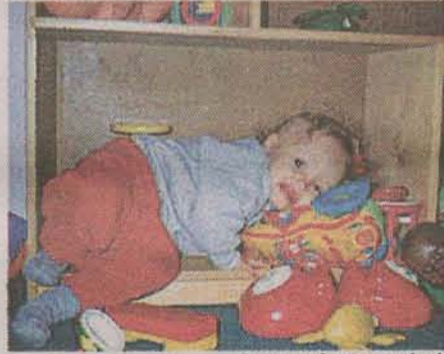
Almost half of the parents with children in the program are also students.

The rest of the children belong to faculty and staff. To be more affordable to the campus community, the center uses a sliding fee scale where parents pay according to income.

"Many of the student parents are very young, but a lot are also older or are graduate students," Otto said.

The Stony Brook Child Care Center accepts youth of up to five years of age. The biggest demand, and the longest waiting list, tends to be for infants from birth up to three years of age, however.

"Something that many people don't know is that we're nationally



Courtesy of www.sunysb.edu

The Care Center is located across from the South P Lot.

accredited," Otto said, referring to the distinction given by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs. "Only one in seven organizations have that rank because there are certain criteria that must be met," she said.

According to the facility website, the center is open Monday through Friday, from 6:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. It serves the university, the hospital and the Health Sciences Center. The center is partnered with the university's academic departments. In order to maintain a low child to adult ratio, students who have completed the Child and Family Studies Program are often employed as additional paid assistants. The student-teacher ratio in the three-to-five year-old wing is 6 to 1, and in the Infant Center it is 3 to 1.

The website offers the following mission statement:

"Our staff foster a positive, nonsexist, nonviolent and nonauthoritarian, multicultural environment. Children are encouraged to express their feelings and needs verbally

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Safety Measures to Increase at MacArthur

By CHRISTOPHER FECAROTTA
Statesman Staff

United States Senator Chuck Schumer recently met with Islip town officials, MacArthur Airport personnel and representatives from the Suffolk County Police Department to discuss the new Airport Security Law and its implications.

Those present included Islip Town Supervisor Peter McGowan, MacArthur Airport Manager Al Werner, FAA Northeast Air Space Branch Manager Mike Sammartino and Southwest Airline Northeast Regional Director Jeff Haag.

Schumer, claiming that MacArthur Airport Security will greatly improve as a result of the new bill, pledged to fight for new federal funding to help pay for the needed changes in airport security. In addition, the senator emphasized that a heightened security system will not result in unreasonable inconveniences when checking in for a flight.

"Now that we've passed an airport security bill, air travel will be safer, but it will also be different," said Schumer. "At the same time, ensuring our security



Courtesy of www.yahoo.com

New York Dem. Senator Charles Schumer.

shouldn't automatically translate into dramatically longer waits and infinitely more complex procedures. The key now is to figure out first how to make our airports as secure as possible and then do whatever we can to minimize waits and inconveniences for passengers."

The new Aviation Security Bill puts the responsibility of overseeing all aspects of airport security in the hands of the federal government. Implementation of better training programs for screeners, more stringent hiring and performance standards, strict background checks on all prospective employees and enhancement

of airport perimeter and access security are all included in the government's new plan.

After three years of federal regulation, those airports meeting the standards will have the option of using either local law enforcement or private security firms.

Since the attack on the World Trade Center, the airline industry has lost substantial business. Nationwide air traffic has declined by about 15% and the number of non-stop domestic routes has declined 6%. More than fifty airports across the country have lost service by at least one airline. The hardest hit airports have been those serving New York State, particularly JFK, LaGuardia, Newark, Westchester and Rochester.

Passenger counts at MacArthur were down 28% from September 2000 to September 2001 and 6% from October 2000 to October 2001. One of the airport's short-term parking lots was also shut down due to a new rule requiring unattended vehicles to be a minimum of 300 feet from the terminal. In addition, MacArthur has averaged \$3,000-5,000 per week in

overtime costs since Sept. 11.

Schumer expressed relief that the first steps towards safer air travel have been taken. He emphasized, however, that the new security measures need to be executed in an effective and efficient manner.

"Although the first step towards making air travel more secure is finally complete, the hard part is just getting started," Schumer said. "That's why it's important for federal officials and local airport officials to figure out how to take these ideas and implement them in a way that's effective, efficient, and works not just on paper, but here at the airport, day in and day out."

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Bird Song: Composition Twelve

By KRISTOPHER LEE
Statesman Staff

The house was very nice. I walked around looking at some of the pictures around the room. She had a normal life growing up from what I saw. She had, a mother, father, a little brother, and a twin sister. It hit me like a hawk diving upon its prey. I could feel cold icy talons sink into my heart as I tried to make sense of this new piece of information.

"Crista...she had a twin sister?"

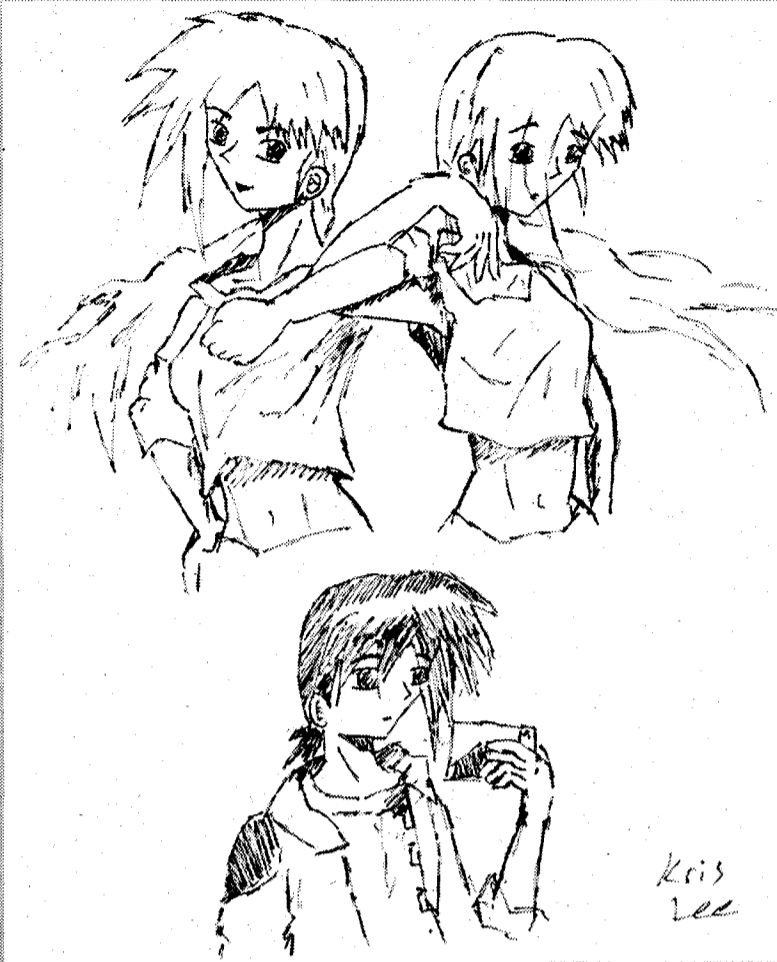
Mike looked up from the plate of cookies he was munching on. He cocked an eye at me and gave me a funny look, "Of course she had a twin sister. How close were you really?"

As I turned to look back at the photo I muttered, "Not close enough."

"Tell me more about her sister. Crista never talked much about her family to me." It wasn't a lie. I truly wanted to know more, but it was hard saying it. Maybe because I had to sneak around and gather information from a twelve year old kid.

"Well she was around a lot more then Crista, but lately April hasn't been around since-."

I didn't hear anything after April. Her sister's name, or perhaps Crista was April. Her driver's license did say her name was April, and all her coworkers called her April. But why did she let me call her Crista? All I had were more questions, and any answers I did get did not turn out to be the answers I sought.



I decided to give in and ask the one question I didn't want an answer for, "How...how did Crista die?"

He hesitated as I expected, the pain showing in his eyes cut through me as they asked you had to ask me that? He swallowed hard as he blinked away the tears forming there. I just looked down and pinched the side of my leg for asking such a painful question.

"I'm sorry, you don't have to answer that."

"No it's all right. She was never around much anyway. The truth is I ask that question every time I visit her."

"What do you mean?"

"The night she died, April called us and told us that Crista was found murdered in an alleyway. She was hysterical and wouldn't tell us why. The police think that it was because of a story that she was researching."

"Crista was a journalist?"

"Yeah but she was a better artist than writer. Anyway, the cops never did find out who did it and Crista's notes were all gone. Whoever killed her got away with the perfect murder."

The tears came freely this time and I turned my back to give him his moment as I cursed myself for bringing up this painful memory. This information didn't help me either. If I was ever going to get a straight account of who I loved. I'd have to confront and ask Crista myself. There is never an easy way out when you know what must be done.

I thanked the kid and apologized for not being able to wait for his mother to return. I had to get out of that house. Thinking about it now I guess it was the truth that was hurting the most, that the woman I had loved these past seven months turned out to be a lie. I was fooling myself and ignoring the most important thing about a relationship, the past. I went back to the graveyard one last time to drive home the fact that I don't know who I've been in love with. Or maybe it was to say good bye to the woman I loved.

Ashcroft to Face Senate on Tribunals

By JESSE J. HOLLAND
AP Writer

Attorney General John Ashcroft may not find a friendly welcome from his former Senate colleagues when he testifies Thursday about the Bush administration's anti-terrorism measures, such as military tribunals and

listening in on conversations between prisoners and their lawyers.

Some senators are unhappy that the White House and Justice Department acted without telling most members of Congress in advance.

Ashcroft was to appear before the Senate

Judiciary Committee (on Thursday morning.

"It's surprising that the attorney general didn't consult with any member of this committee, considering he used to sit on this side of the room," said Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., a panel member.

Ashcroft's relationship with the

committee has been rocky all year. He cut short an earlier appearance when he was expected to explain the new anti-terrorism laws, something Democratic senators have not forgotten.

"I hope this time he will be there long enough for all senators to ask questions," Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said.

Justice Department spokeswoman Mindy Tucker did not immediately respond to a message Wednesday. Senate aides said Ashcroft was expected to stay for about three hours, which would give each senator chance to ask questions. He appeared for about 90 minutes during his previous appearance.

When Ashcroft left the Senate in January

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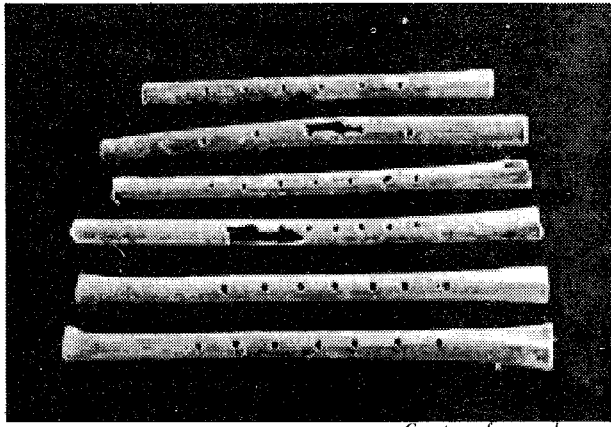
BNL Scientist Awarded for Contributions to Archeology

By EMY KURIAKOSE
Statesman Staff

The 2002 Archaeological Institute of America's Pomerance Award has been awarded to Garman Harbottle, the senior chemist at U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory. On Jan. 4, Harbottle will accept the Pomerance medal at the Institute's annual meeting. It is one of the two highest distinctions awarded by the Institute.

This high honor comes after Harbottle's world-renowned work, which focuses on dating and authenticating historically relevant items. He has spent 52 years at Brookhaven National Laboratory conducting research on dating methods and archeological findings. In the late 1970s, Harbottle and two other retired Brookhaven scientists pioneered the research which made the modern carbon dating method a reality.

"It's been exciting to follow my interests in nuclear chemistry and in archeology and



Courtesy of www.yahoo.com
Harbottle excavated six crane-bone flutes that are between 7,000 and 9,000 years old.

art history, and it's particularly rewarding to solve archeological puzzles using scientific methods," said Harbottle.

With his team, he has identified artifacts whose origins have long been mysteries to the archeological society. For example, he has found the geological origins of famous limestone sculptures created in France during

the Middle Ages, and has mapped pre-Columbian turquoise trade routes which transported religious jewelry from the American Southwest to markets in Mexico. His projects at the Laboratory have created ties to more than 33 museums in the United States, France, and Great Britain.

Harbottle is most known for his work with the Jiahu research team at archeological digs in China.

There, he uncovered and dated what may be the world's oldest playable instruments. The excavation, completed in the late 1990s, produced six complete crane-bone flutes between 7,000 and 9,000 years old, and 30 other flutes at the Neolithic site of Jiahu, in the Henan Province of China.

Harbottle graduated from Columbia

University in 1949 with a Ph.D., and soon after joined Brookhaven's Chemistry Department.

"Brookhaven has been a wonderful place to pursue interdisciplinary research," he said.

Through the years, he has joined various research facilities and universities, including Cambridge University and American University at Beirut, and has directed the Division of Research and Laboratories at the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

Previous medals awarded to Harbottle include the 1983 George Hevesy Medal for outstanding accomplishment in radio analytical chemistry, won with Edward Sayre, and the 1994 Society for American Archeology's Frywell Medal for interdisciplinary research. He has also been recognized for developing peaceful uses of nuclear energy with the American Nuclear Society's Seaborg Medal in 1995.

Chinese Diplomat Speaks to SBU Students

By REETI CHAWLA
Statesman Staff

Su Hao, a scholar at Columbia University visiting from the Foreign Affairs College in Beijing, recently came to SBU to speak on a number of Chinese foreign policy issues. He addressed members of Les Paldy's Honors class, a course in weapons of mass destruction.

The Chinese diplomat began the dialogue with a broad overview of Chinese diplomatic strategy. Professor Hao explained that the world is currently in a time of relative peace and development. He asserted that the Chinese government is striving to improve the living standards for millions of its citizens by attempting to improve China's economic situation.

"Chinese foreign policy is focused on the good global economic climate in order to build China's economy," said Hao.

He contrasted American objectives and priorities, which he cited as currently

centering on national security, with those of China. The primary Chinese concern is economic development.

Professor Paldy's students also had the unique opportunity to ask Professor Hao questions regarding Chinese foreign policy. He fielded questions on a number of issues, ranging from China's relations with Taiwan to China's position on nuclear disarmament.

Hao explained that the United States and China differ sharply on a number of issues, such as the policy towards Taiwan, human rights violations, and national missile defense. China is firmly opposed to the United States desire to develop a national missile defense statement, viewing it as a step backward in the move for nuclear disarmament.

On the issue of human rights, Hao explained that China's top priority at the moment is to improve the quality of life for its citizen via economic methods. Once they achieve such a goal, the government will be ready to address domestic social issues.

According to junior Alban Bailey, "I thought Professor Hao would feel uncomfortable answering questions about sore points in Chinese foreign policy, like the Taiwan issue and the human rights violations, but he answered us very calmly. We really benefited from having an expert in Chinese foreign policy come speak to us."

Despite the differences, however, Hao maintained that the United States and China share a number of values, such as dedication to fighting terrorism.

Hao spoke of his regrets about the Sept. 11 attacks, and claimed that terrorism is a problem to which China is not immune, either. China shares its eastern border with Afghanistan, and on several occasions, fundamentalists have entered the country and threatened local



Courtesy of www.yahoo.com
Jiang Zang, the President of the People's Republic of China and the Chairman of the Communist Party.

Chinese governments.

Additionally, Hao highlighted the fact that the United States finally supported China's entry into the World Trade Organization, which he said will have positive consequences for China's economy in the near future.

Great Women in Islam: The Truth Unveiled

By EISHA BASIT
Statesman Staff

The Muslim Student Association sponsored the event, "Great Women in Islam: Their Contributions to Islamic Civilization," this past Monday at 5:30 p.m. in the SAC Auditorium.

The event focused primarily on the role of women in Islam, and sought to expunge false notions of how women should be treated in the Islamic religion.

"It's sad the misconceptions this religion is based on in the eyes of the West," said Vice President of the MSA, Sarhan Sarhan. "One of the main things we try to clarify is the role of women in Islam. The way Islam...the true Islam, should treat women will be shown tonight. In the eyes of God, men and women are equal and they're only judged by their actions and deeds."

The event featured three lectures. The key speaker was religious scholar Imam Abdul Malik. Imam Malik chose



Courtesy of www.yahoo.com
Some of the misconception regarding women in Islam were addressed in a Muslim Student Association sponsored event held in SAC.

to focus on a topic that he said was a concern for many people: the status of women as compared to men. He immediately proclaimed that Islam does

not advertise the inferiority of women in any form, whether it is in their professions, their marriages, or even their prayers.

He stated that the Quran explicitly calls all of mankind to the religion of Islam, despite their ethnicity, color, and most importantly, their gender.

"The Quran says, 'O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise each other). Verily the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things).'"

He continued with examples from the Quran, revealing women that acted according to Islamic traditions. Imam Malik discussed the birth of Prophet Jesus through the virgin Mary, relating the courage of Mary in standing up for her innocence and submitting to the will of God. He stated that God would not have chosen Mary for his revelation of

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More Violence in Middle East

By RALPH D'AMBROSIO
Statesman Staff

Terrorism and bloodshed continued in the Middle East last week when a Palestinian bomber blew himself up while riding a bus in the Northern Israeli town of Hadera. The bombing killed three people and wounded at least nine others. The bomber was identified as Samar Abu Suleiman, 32, an Islamic Jihad member from Jenin, a city located in the West Bank.

The blast took place while Anthony Zinni, a United States envoy, was meeting with security officials in the West Bank in order to end the bloodshed that has been going on for the last 14 months. This attack may have serious repercussions for the United States peace mission that is going on in the Middle East.



Courtesy of www.yahoo.com

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Avi Pazner, spokesman from the Israeli government, said that these attacks show the Palestinian Authority was trying to undermine Zinni's effort by doing nothing to stop terrorism.

Furthermore, this act may increase debate over Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat's involvement in the violence that has been going on in the Middle East. Some have suggested that either Arafat is directing or allowing terrorism to occur or may be powerless to stop the violence.

Dan Meridor, a minister to Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Prime Minister, claims that they need a partner who can control the use of weapons on the Palestinian side. If Arafat can not or will not do this, he can not be a partner.

Palestinians in Jenin were seen celebrating this attack. The people of Jenin were also seen celebrating an attack that took place on Tuesday, Nov. 27, when two Jenin gunmen went on a suicidal killing spree that left two Israelis dead and wounded

10 others.

The Palestinian Authority did say in a statement that it does condemn the attack and is working to end all attacks on Israeli civilians, however. Officials also argued that the Israeli government also provoked such attacks.

The Israeli government had killed the top West Bank military leader of the Hamas, a militant group, shortly before Mr. Zinni arrived in the Middle East.

There have been several acts of violence in the Middle East prior to the bombing of the bus. At an Israeli checkpoint near the Jordan Valley in the Northern West Bank, a driver who was trying to flee an inspection was shot and killed. A motorist in another vehicle was killed by a stray bullet as well. At another checkpoint, Palestinian gunmen killed one soldier and wounded a second.

Globalization Minor Featured by FLC

By DENNIS KIERNAN AND MATT KARL
Statesman Contributors

The Federated Learning Community (FLC) is now offering classes for the spring semester. It is not too late to register to be a part of the globalization community here at Stony Brook. Globalization is the growing trend toward the interconnection of different countries through economics, politics, information, communication and people. The FLC courses are taught in discussion format with no more than 25 students in each class, maximizing interaction between students and the professor.

The FLC offers a minor in globalization. This is obtained after receiving 24 credits, including two core courses — FLC 301 in the fall and FLC 302 in the spring.

The remaining credits can be obtained through other informative federated classes from various departments. Some of these classes include Global Sociology, Problems in International Relations, Global Techno-Science and Pollution/Human Health. Students do not need to be enrolled in the minor program to take these courses, however.

Aside from becoming a more cultured individual, the benefits of this program are many. The FLC minor can help SBU graduates add weight to their resumes, and the electives that fulfill the minor can be used to satisfy DEC requirements.

In addition, those who register for the FLC 302 class can be involved in a number of fun activities, like a trip to the United Nations, pizza parties, participating in diversity events, designing a web page, preparing brochures and conducting surveys.

For additional information, please

email the FLC Director Hermann Kurthen at hkurthen@notes.cc.sunysb.edu. You can also contact Maxine Zandieh in the Learning Community Program office (Library N-3007, phone: 632-4378). The FLC spring class schedule can be accessed under the website, log on to <http://www.sunysb.edu/flcglobal>. Students who are already enrolled in the program will be inside the Student Activities Center, on Friday Dec. 7, from 1:00-3:00 p.m., handing out flyers and answering any questions relating to the globalization minor.

SBU Day Care Center

Continued from Page 1

and to respect those of others.

We also help children build positive self-images. Each child is regarded as an individual, as is each parent. We are a source of emotional support, and an educational resource for the problems of everyday child rearing. Parents are encouraged to take part in parent activities,

to join various committees of the Child Care Board, and to attend meetings to enhance open communication between parents and staff."

For more information call the Stony Brook Child Care Center at 631-632-6930, or visit <http://naples.cc.sunysb.edu/Admin/childcare.nsf>.

U.S. Senate Hearings

Continued from Page 2

after losing his re-election bid, the chamber was still in Republican hands, and that enabled his confirmation as attorney general to squeak through by a 10-8 Judiciary Committee vote. Final confirmation was 58-42.

Since June, the Democrats have been running the place.

Democrats, including Senate Judiciary Chairman Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., are especially upset about some of the administration's plans because no one from the administration mentioned them during weeks of negotiations between Ashcroft and Congress to expand police powers in response to the Sept. 11 attacks.

The Democrats see their questioning of Ashcroft as protecting the integrity of

the constitutional separation of powers.

"This administration has preferred to go it alone, with no authorization or prior consultation with the legislative branch," Leahy said. "This is no mere technicality. It fundamentally jeopardizes the separation of powers that undergirds our constitutional system."

Ashcroft will get strong support from most of GOP senators, however.

"President Clinton never consulted Congress on hundreds of orders he imposed," said Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala. "If you have a power, you utilize it. I think that whining about consultation is an indication of weakness in their fundamental argument. They now concede that there's no real fundamental problem here, so they've fallen back on the argument that they weren't consulted."

Unveiling Islam

Continued from Page 3

a miracle if he felt she was a lesser creature than man.

"How many people would believe their daughters if they came home saying, 'Mom, I was at that church, that mosque, or that synagogue, and I don't know how it happened, but I'm having a baby'? How many would have the faith and courage Mary had to stand strong? Do you know what the mother of Jesus had to go through to prove her innocence?"

Imam Malik explained that the first person to accept Islam was the Prophet Mohammed's wife, Khadija, and that the first person to die for Islam was also a woman. He went on to emphasize the great achievements of women of all religions.

The two other guest speakers included SBU student Humaira Syed and special guest Farkhanda Manzoor Malik. Both speakers went into considerable depth to explain the purpose behind the wearing of hijab, which is the outer veil worn on the head by Muslim women.

"Islam does not want women to be seen as an object of adornment, but one of intelligence. It does not have

anything to do with inferiority," said Farkhanda Malik.

Syed further expounded on this explanation by stating that the hijab, among other practices such as lowering ones gaze and avoiding physical contact between the sexes, allows humans to live in greater purity.

"To achieve this objective, Islam has a code of behavior which depicts kindness, virtuousness, goodness and justice," added Syed.

Imam Malik ended the forum by calling all of those present to defy ignorance and instill in themselves the desire to learn more about subjects on which they are uninformed.

"Remove your perception of Islam from your sources of information. Pick up a the holy Quran or pick up a simple book by a Muslim...if nothing else, even if you don't accept Islam, it's intelligent to know, because more than 1.5 billion people in the world are Muslim. Do your very best to stand up for justice and be fair. Let not women be denied their privileges that God has bestowed on them, and let not men think they are inferior."

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Editorial

Make Them Work For Us

Perhaps the biggest problem at Stony Brook isn't apathy. Perhaps it's really just a serious lack of communication.

For example, how many people know that President Kenny routinely holds luncheons with students to hear their concerns and complaints? How many people know that Rabbi Adam Stein has created a new "Good Card" campaign to promote charity and good deeds in the local community? And how many people know that the Commuter Student Association is holding its annual Mood Indigo semi-formal at the SAC this Saturday?

Most likely, relatively few people are aware of these things. There are certainly a great many people who would probably like to attend campus events but will never know these things are even taking place.

So who is ultimately to blame for this obscene oversight?

Simple: the administration.

SBU desperately needs a central information distribution department, and it needs to be run by the administration. Its job would be simple: to make sure students, faculty and staff are aware of campus events.

A central information department would contact organizations and list their upcoming activities. It would then distribute fliers, send out mass phone mails, event-notices on the Internet, and send student representatives to speak in building LEG's. Basically, it would do what hundreds of disorganized, overworked and apathetic students cannot: it would make sure the student body has an active campus life.

For this to happen, however, the students must be heard. So get the message out and make the administration earn your tuition. Demand a central information department.

Letter to the Editor

Karen Rice writes (U.S. Economy Affects Holiday shopping): "Many students are choosing to spend money according to their own needs and not the needs of their country." The argument here, I guess, is that in capitalism, their own needs ARE the needs of their country. The statement would probably be more appropriate in China or Cuba. It is no secret why students are "apathetic" anyway. One only needs to look at the article below

(Microsoft's Xbox Hits the Market): "You can see the Rock and people's eyebrows, Undertaker's motorcycle entrance, and Kane taking five minutes to get to the ring." Big deal! Looks like we won't be anxiously waking in the early morning to look under our trees this year.

Thanks,
Oliver Turque

Op-Ed

Government for the Students

BY ADAM ZIMMERMAN
Statesman Editor

At November 14th's Polity Senate meeting, Dr. Fred Preston threatened to de-certify the entire Student Polity Association. Make absolutely no mistake about this: Dr. Preston's decision to make this threat, even if it never comes to fruition, was a very wrong thing to do.

Nobody expected this bombshell from our Vice-President of Student Affairs. Representatives from all three branches of government in attendance that night were stunned to hear the announcement. We were shocked.

Why would he issue such a warning? Dr. Preston specifically cited the disturbingly low voter turnout for our most recent runoff election. Only 154 students out of 13,000 eligible voters cast ballots for the undecided positions of President and Sophomore Representative. So in addition to throwing out the election itself, he put forth the decertification alert.

"I am not going to accept an election that 154 students

voted in as a credible election," he said. "I'm going to give Polity until the end of the semester. Or I will decertify Polity as the representative student government for the administration of the student activity fee."

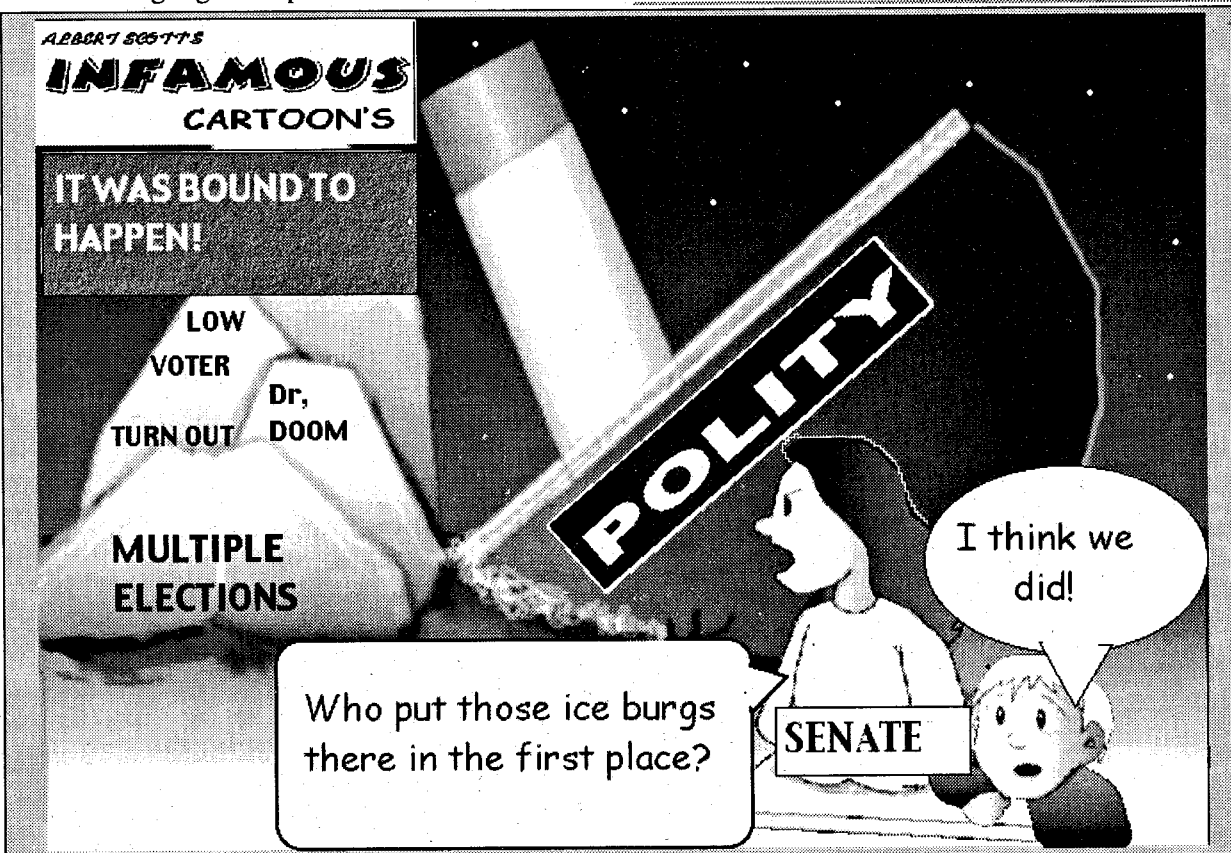
What's ironic is that many in our government agreed with Dr. Preston's assessment of our latest election, insofar as the turnout number was concerned. We were all hoping for more than the one percent turnout we received.

Nevertheless, turnout for runoff elections has historically been this low. Indeed, fewer students voted in a runoff election held in the Fall of 2000. Those results, however, were permitted to stand, and Student Polity heard not a word of decertification.

When called to task on the glaring inconsistency, Dr. Preston could only say that he "missed that one."

When it comes to legitimate government, we should always go by the rule of law. Yes, the turnout was unfortunate, but it is by no means unconstitutional. The independent

Continued on Page 7



Truth By Confrontation

By FREDDY DAVIS
Statesman Staff

One cannot fully claim something to be true if it is not first tested. The theories must be confronted and examined in the mist of reality for such truth to be found in them. It must come up against a challenge and still hold its validity. Though what confrontation has been posed to the ideas I have set forth in this forum? The only response that was obtained to offer any debate and hopes of rational towards the light of truth was in a recent contributor to our letters to the editor section.

Though even here in this recent response we seem to have come up short, for what is in question here is not a debate at all but mere criticism and not of what has been said but of how. It is a grievance over the expression of the thoughts and not the claims themselves. Perhaps the problem does lie in how such ideas are expressed, for if it is unclear what is said there can be no discussion at any greater level. There can be no understanding to the what being claimed to which behind that will hopefully eventually touch upon the why that we are aiming at. Though at times a wording out of the ordinary, even improper, will in turn require one to question the validity of what is coming across from it. In the obscure wording and unfitting sentence structure one would come to question just what exactly is being said. In this process you question both the material being read and your understanding, and this is what I intend for the most part. Not that every word written here is to be taken for a fact but instead denied and challenged with initial beliefs so that in this confrontation truth is obtained or at least a step in that direction has been taken. Merely question that which we hold to be true. To



Truth by confrontation

ask the initial question I set forth here in the forum, as to why we do what we do and the truth we have find in it to stake our faith? Ask where do we get the fire to do what we strive to do?

In criticism though we get nowhere, we must take on this challenge with an open mind to justly weigh both sides of the argument, if there is even one to be made. Again, I thank our recent contributor for his comments and the chance to explain the position he might have overlooked; in the process he has helped clarify the goal intended for this forum. It is only through such expression and debate can any progress be obtained and I encourage more to do the same if not with me then in your everyday lives. For the paradigms of truth we do hold must be tested to find those that hold up to reality and those that don't and need restructuring to better understand our position and stance in life.

Student Polity Association

Continued from Page 6

organization which oversaw the election certified the process and results as completely valid, and those who did cast votes did so in good faith.

While the quantity of voters was low, the legality of procedure, a major foundation of legitimate government, was high. The election should stand as should our government.

What has Polity accomplished this semester? Our greatest triumph, in my mind, was the candlelight vigil held in the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks. Several members of our government planned and participated in the ceremony, which was attended by over 1,000 Stony Brook students. The event really brought the campus together, a tremendous accomplishment in such a diverse community.

Since September 11th, we have looked to all levels of government for leadership, support, and action. As a Senator, I'm proud to say that Polity has contributed in a positive manner, with the vigil as well as the approved budget.

Students expected it from us (as well they should) and we responded in kind.

Dr. Preston has actually played a role in each of our successes. He spoke eloquently at the vigil and approved the budget we passed. In fact, he has played a pivotal role in Polity for the better part of 20 years. He is a good man.

But even good men sometimes err in their judgment. I would be the first to admit that there is more we can do and there are flaws in our system. But this is not a time for the threat of dissolution of government. Government, even our student government, is not part of the problem. It is a part of the solution.

To my fellow students, I say that Polity will continue to work hard and fight the good fight. To my fellow Senators, I say that we have a lot to be proud of, and it is an honor to serve with you. Finally, to Dr. Preston, I request not only a public retraction of the decertification threat, but also that you continue to work with and stand by us. Because we need you.

And this school needs us.

Changing Old Habits

By ARIF RAFIQ
Statesman Editor

I was a procrastinator for much of my life. My childhood memories are replete with incidences such as the time where I began an entire science project at 11 p.m. on the night before it was due. I seemed to always remember that I had a book report to begin just when it was to be turned in the next morning.

Over and over my parents and older siblings lectured me about the trouble that would arise from delaying the completion of assignments. Thankfully, I began to heed their advice and that period of reckless procrastination is long gone. But I can't say the same for our government.

I understand the need to eliminate Al-Qaida, to unseat the Taliban, and to topple Saddam Hussein. In fact, I support these initiatives, as do most Americans. But what angers me is the fact that these tasks could have been either completed earlier or prevented altogether.

Our government missed its opportunities to nab Osama bin Laden and his cohorts, to prevent the ascendancy of the Taliban, and to topple Saddam Hussein. I have gotten my act together but the government has not. And so while Bush repeats the same line over and over, "We will not waver; we will not tire; we will not falter; and we will not fail," as if those are the only words in English he knows, my hope is that he will not repeat the

foolish mistakes of administrations past.

Vanity Fair is expected to reveal in its January 2002 issue that the Clinton administration rebuffed offers by the Sudanese government to provide the United States with sensitive information about Osama bin Laden in 1996. Mind you, this was prior to the Dar us Salaam and Nairobi embassy bombings, the attack on the USS Cole, and September's day of horror.

In fact, the files the Sudanese government was ready to provide had information on individuals like Fazul Abdullah Mohammed, who is on the FBI's most-wanted list for his role as a conspirator in the Nairobi embassy bombing. The Clinton administration was foolish in rejecting the overtures by the Sudanese government. Yes the Bashir government's human rights record is deplorable, but the benefit in this one instance of cooperation certainly outweighed the harm.

We could have probably nabbed bin Laden and September 11, 2001 would probably have been as routine a day as September 10th, 2001.

Bin Laden's hosts, the Taliban, rose to power in the period between 1994 and 1996 as a result of the vacuum created by various mujahideen factions who spent their time fighting over and shelling cities like Kabul and over the innocent boys and girls they kidnapped and raped. It was a sick period in Afghan history, and at the time the Taliban

Continued on Page 11

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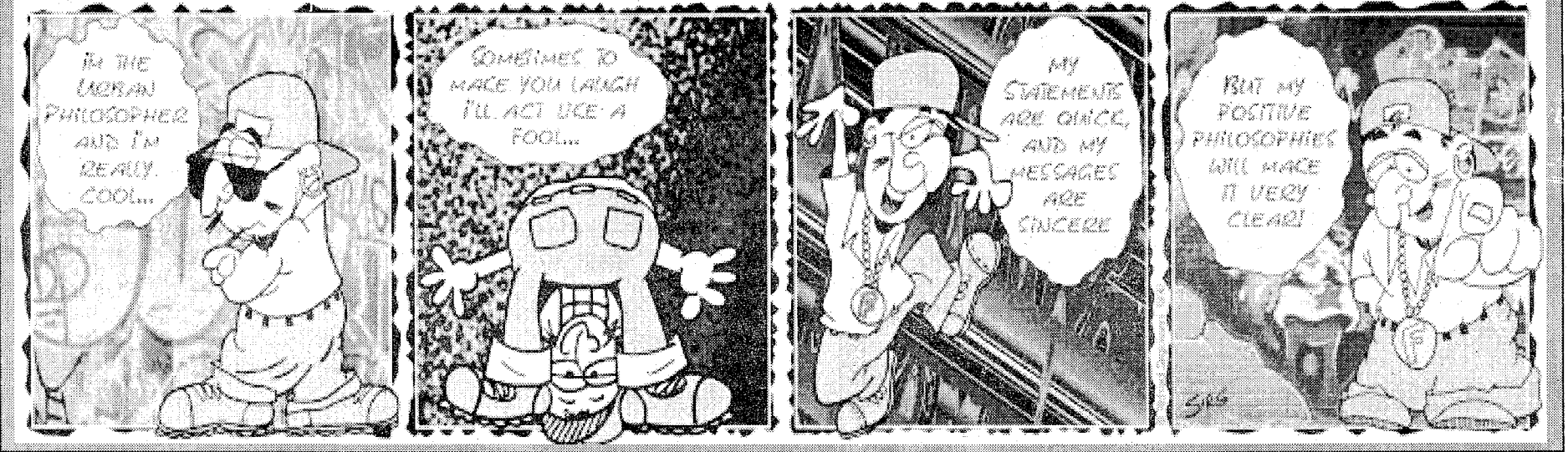
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Urban Philosophy: Positive Messages with An Attitude

By R.A. SIRGIOVANNI
Statesman Contributor



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The Man Behind the Strip

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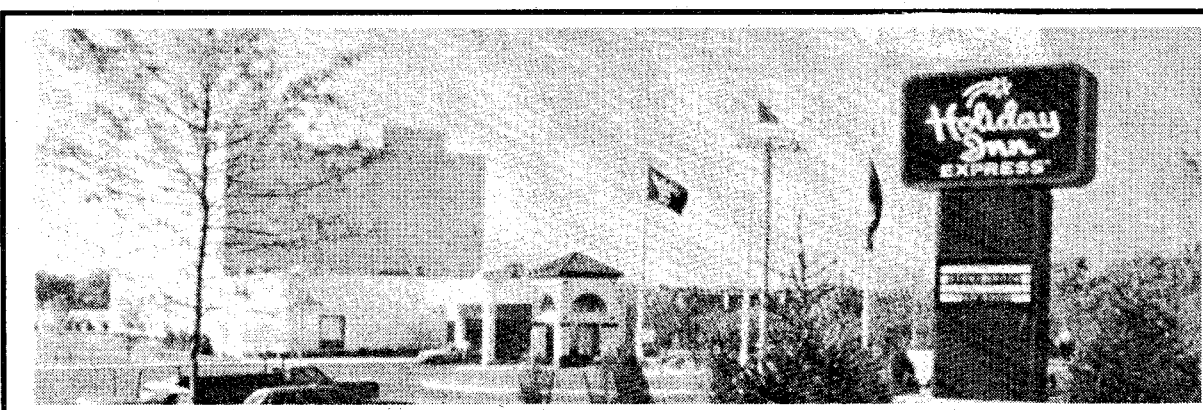
You might not think that a steady diet of fifteen-hour days and late-night infomercials would serve as a potent stimulus for creativity, but that's exactly what it did for writer and cartoonist R.A. Sirgiovanni, who found himself in that all-too-familiar situation late one night in the winter of 1997. A father of three school-aged children, Sirgiovanni was dissatisfied with the quality of entertainment targeted at today's youth. "Having spent my share of sleepless nights watching motivational speakers advertise the virtues of positive thinking to an increasingly jaded adult population, I wondered if there was a way to prevent the pessimism that seems to define today's young adults before it could take hold," Sirgiovanni recalls.

Inspired by the eastern philosophies touted by such late-night infomercial staples as Dr. Wayne Dywer and Tony Robbins, Sirgiovanni created Urban Philosophy to promote positive energy and spiritual edification among young people in a language they could understand. "I want to speak to kids, not preach to them," says Sirgiovanni, who describes Urban Philosophy's main character, Faboo, as a street-wise, fashion-conscious, hip-hop dude with attitude, good intentions, and a lot of soul. "Faboo is the Urban Philosopher. He speaks to kids with the wisdom of Old World philosophers but in his own street lingo."

A Queens native, Sirgiovanni began drawing and creating cartoon characters at the age of ten. His love of drawing evolved into a full-time pursuit, as Sirgiovanni chose to attend Manhattan's esteemed School of Visual Arts, where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1979.

For this latest project, Sirgiovanni has chosen to exploit his creative talents to fill the void he believes exists in children's entertainment. "Kids today are exposed to so much negativity on television and other media. I feel that many of the programs kids consider cool are not only inappropriate, but downright raunchy. I created Urban Philosophy because I thought it was time something new came out," says Sirgiovanni, who believes that positive energy is a powerful force that should be instilled in the minds and hearts of children at an early age.

Urban Philosophy and Faboo have been featured on ABC's Eyewitness News and have appeared in *The Newark Star Ledger*, *The Daily News* and in various community newspapers.



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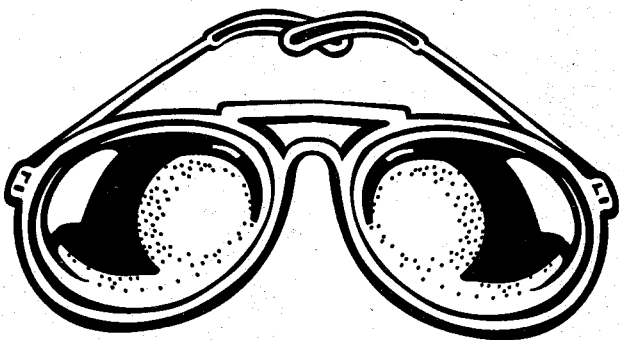
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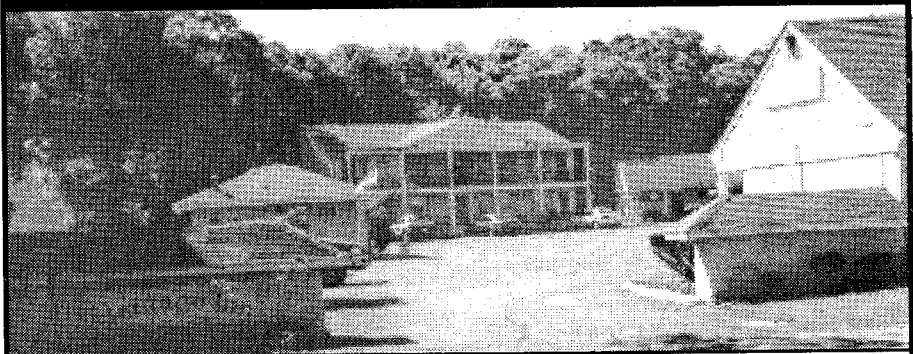
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Ten Things I Hate About Clueless Road Trips When I Can't Hardly Wait to Be Kissed

By ALI KHAN
Statesman Staff

The people who brought you "Scary Movie" and "Scary Movie II" are at it again. No, don't worry, they aren't looking to release "Scary Movie III", at least not anytime soon, thankfully. The movie we're talking about is "Not Another Teen Movie".

Originally entitled "Ten Things I Hate About Clueless Road Trips When I Can't Hardly Wait to be Kissed", the film is the big screen debut for director Joel Gallen. Look for the film to follow in the footsteps of the aforementioned projects ("Scary Movie I and II") as screenwriters Buddy Johnson and Phil Beaman once again offer their satirical expertise.

Rather than spoof the horror film genre, however, Beaman and Johnson have shifted gears. This time, the point of focus is the slew of teen films that have pervaded pop culture during the 80s and 90s. Gallen is also no stranger to creating spoofs. In fact, many may recognize his work from the MTV Movie Awards where he directed the spoof



Courtesy of Columbia Pictures

Not Another Teen Movie, which will parody the plethora of teen movies from the past decade, is set to hit theaters on December 14.

shorts "Sex and the Matrix" and "Being Tom Cruise".

The film stars a number of relative no names, which may be good for the film, as expectations may not be as high. Some people you might recognize are Jaime Pressly, Randy Quaid, Sam Huntington and Mia Kirshner.

A main point of the film's trailer has

been the blatant characterization of each person in the film into a distinct stereotypical category. There's the "Pretty Ugly Girl" (Chyler Leigh), "The Popular Jock" (Chris Evans), "The Bitch Cheerleader" (Jaime Pressly), "The Cruellest Girl" (Mia Kirshner), "The Cocky Blonde Guy" (Eric Christian Olsen), "The Token Black

Guy" (Deon Richmond), along with many others. Don't worry, your favorite character from your favorite teen movie will in some shape be represented.

As for the premise of the film, not much has been released regarding the storyline. However, judging from the trailer, expect a lot of spin-offs from key scenes of practically every teen movie you can think of.

The list of films parodied in this movie is extensive. As the original name for the movie suggested, expect satirical scenes from movies such as "Ten Things I Hate About You", "Clueless", "Road Trip", "Can't Hardly Wait", and "Never Been Kissed". Other films that get mocked include American Pie I and II, Bring It On, She's All That, Cruel Intentions, Breakfast Club, Varsity Blues, and just about every other teen film that crosses your mind.

The film is set to be released on Dec. 14. Expect a pointless film, much to the effect of Scary Movie II. If nothing else, you can be guaranteed a film full of crude jokes, slapstick humor, and chiding jabs at what definitely has become a force in the movie industry: the cheesy teen love film.

U.S. Foreign Policy Changes Too Late

Continued from Page 7

was seen as a better alternative by many Afghans (in particular, the Pashtuns). But if our unelected bureaucrats were better decision makers, the Taliban probably would have never existed.

Now to Iraq. Saddam Hussein was our friend in the 1980s. We supplied him with weapons so he could destroy Iran, which the Reagan administration deemed as a greater evil. Saddam became a bad guy when he invaded Kuwait in 1990 and was routed in a video game-like war. Despite the fact that George H.W. Bush decided not to oust Saddam (even though he could), he and Clinton maintained an intention to oust Baghdad's dictator. But were they really serious about it?

In 1991, the Kurdish rebels in the North and the Shiite rebels in the South were on their way to removing Saddam's control in 14 out of 18 provinces and thought they had American support. But no, once Saddam was on the verge of defeat in these areas, our government, according to Iraqi opposition leader Ahmed Chalabi, "deflected the uprising and permitted [Iraqi] armed helicopters to fly and kill people and shoot them."

They were the most significant factor in the suppression of the uprising. They made it possible for Saddam to regroup his forces and launch a devastating counterattack with massive firepower on the people." Saddam easily crushed their rebellion and along with it, our legitimacy as a principled player in the region.

The procrastination has to end. The solution to these so-called perpetual

problems lies in precise and targeted responses to "evil-doers" - not in placing cruel sanctions that have resulted in the deaths of over a million innocent Iraqis, or in lobbing cruise missiles at a pharmaceutical factory in Khartoum.

Nor is the solution detaining random Arabs and Muslims in this country. A dozen or less of the thousand plus detained are linked to Al-Qaida, yet most of these men are denied the civil liberties which distinguish our government from that of the "evil-doers". There has been one case of death and scores of incidences of abuse and torture. The policy makes no sense - it's immoral, inefficient, and it's unconstitutional.

The real solutions are to eliminate the causes of terror - oppression, political and social discord, poverty, and unresolved disputes which we have helped create, and to deal with criminals right from the start and thereby not enable them to grow in power and prestige. And so while trigger-happy Paul Wolfowitz may get his way and another war with Iraq may ensue, let's keep in mind our moral objectives and long-term considerations, otherwise Saddam will still be in power by the time I'll have a Ph.D or two.

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The Stony Brook Statesman Thursday, December 6, 2001

Seawolves Slay Vikings in Home Opener

By **JEFFREY JAVIDFAR**
Statesman Editor

For Nick Macarchuk's men's basketball team the adage held true. There is no place quite like home.

Playing a schedule which features 10 of their first 11 on the road, the Seawolves took advantage of their sojourn to nurse their wounds, patch up their tattered pride, and try to right the ship after starting the season 0-6.

In the friendly confines of the Indoor Sports Complex, where they posted a 13-1 record last year, Stony Brook University used one great half of basketball to save their season, beating legendary coach Rollie Massimino. The Seawolves, led by sophomore sensation D.J. Munir's 21 points and five-assist performance, beat heavily-favored Cleveland State 64-56, for the first time in four tries.

"It certainly is a relief to

have the monkey off our backs," Macarchuk said. "I'm really proud of the players. They played with great heart and desire. This is one of the best wins we have ever had since I've been at Stony Brook."

On a night when the two most successful coaches to have ever coached at Stony Brook



Courtesy of www.goseawolves.org

In the second half, the Seawolves shot an impressive 58.8 percent from the field.

were on opposing benches, Macarchuk and his ten "Coach of the Year" honors showed himself to be the better.

When second leading scorer Mike Konopka was relegated to the bench after picking up his fourth foul with five minutes left in the second half, and the score tied at 50, Macarchuk switched to a three-guard lineup.

The strategy paid off. The Seawolves did not allow the Vikings to utilize their size advantage. SBU's tenacious defense, helped by a 3/4-court press, allowed only two more baskets in the remaining minutes. Munir drew the Seawolves level at 54 with two free throws.

After two empty trips down the court, Macarchuk took a time-out. The Seawolves came out of the huddle a little late, but the extra explanation worked in their favor.

After the inbound, Jairus McCollum received the pass, and with nine seconds on the shot clock, slashed to the basket through three Vikings and scored the go-ahead bucket with 1:55 left in the game.

"I was the second option on the play," McCollum said. "I was either scoring or getting fouled. There was no question in my mind. We needed the points."

McCollum's lay-up keyed a 12-2 run and SBU never looked back.

Clutch free throw shooting by Munir put the game out of reach, as the Stony Brook's 90% shooting from the charity stripe ended up being the difference in the game.

On this night, it was clear that for the Seawolves everything starts and ends with Munir.

"He's got tremendous pressure on his shoulders," Macarchuk said. "He's got to



Courtesy of www.goseawolves.org

Sophomore point guard D.J. Munir scored 21 points in the win against Cleveland State.

carry the offense, but tonight [the rest of the team] stepped up and helped."

SBU got a huge boost from the bench, thanks to McCollum, Mike Orfini, and JonPaul Kobryn, who combined for 31 points and 13 boards.

"Without a doubt this is the biggest win in the history of our program ever," McCollum said. "Ever."

Camby: The Most Wanted Man in New York

By **CHRISTOPHER HUNT**
Statesman Editor

With a thunderous two-handed dunk on the first play of his return from a foot injury, Marcus Camby rekindled the fire that burned within the New York Knicks.

Camby tallied 18 points and 10 rebounds in that game against Atlanta. But it's his presence and not his point production that transformed the Knicks into a team that doesn't resemble the Knicks that were nearly getting booed out of the Garden with a 5-8 record.

Camby, not a franchise-type player, never carried the team but he seemed to elevate the play of his teammates.

He draws attention. He takes away that extra inch that defenders could cheat off the Knicks' post players to double-team Latrell Sprewell and Allan Houston.

New York lacked an intimidating post defender before Camby's return. Now they have his entire 6'11" frame, with long arms included.

Camby changes shots. He deters players from the thought of driving into the paint. He makes a defensive-orientated team better even defensively.

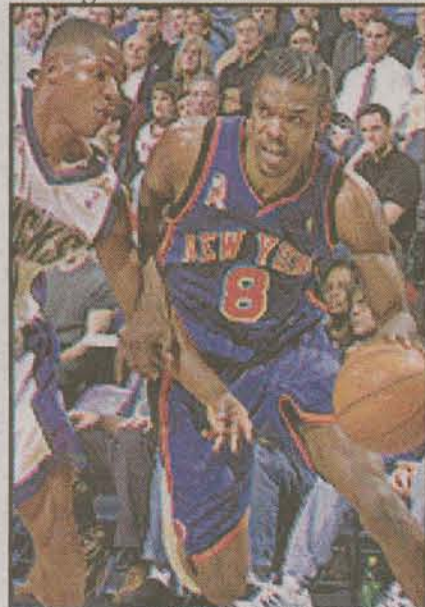
He also affected the offensive makeup of the team. Not only does he create second opportunities with offensive rebounds but he's able to finish around the basket and creates space for the scorers on the team.

Sprewell has flourished since Camby's comeback. He scored 20 or more points in every game that Camby suited up and is averaging 24.5 points in the last five games.

Sprewell exploded for a season-high 29 points in Camby's first game.

Houston, also playing with more aggression, is scoring 21.5 points per game since Camby's return.

Camby provides a bigger target for Mark Jackson's passes. The point guard has averaged 10 assists in



Courtesy of www.sports.yahoo.com

The Knicks' Sprewell has flourished since Camby's comeback.

Camby's five games. Jackson even provided a season-high 17-point outburst against Atlanta.

New York nearly controlled every game that they've played with Camby in the lineup displaying play that shows fans what the Knicks are capable of.

The Knicks built considerable leads in every one of their last five games, showing that they have the ability to compete with the best teams in the Eastern Conference.

Even in their loss to Detroit, when allowed a 32-5 run, they came back in the fourth quarter and almost salvaged a win.

The Knicks are undersized, undermanned and may not be able to match talent with many

of the teams just in the East. But the Knicks have shown that if they put together a solid 48 minutes of play they can be competitive with nearly any team in the entire league.

It's not to say that Camby is the savior of the Knicks organization, but something has changed since his return.

Maybe the team just decided to get it together on the day that he came back. Maybe coach Jeff Van Gundy finally got the message across to his best players that the team depends on them.

Maybe New York found their identity and realize they are a team that has to fight every minute of every game to be successful.

Who knows? All New York and their fans know is that they are winning, and in New York that's all that matters.